THE RUTLAND MAGAZINE AND COUNTY HISTORICAL RECORD

VOL. II.

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AN ILLUSTRATED QUARTERLY JOURNAL · DEVOTED TO THE HISTORY ANTIQUITIES · BIOGRAPHY · DIALECT FOLK-LORE · LEGEND · GENEALOGY · TOPOGRAPHY · NATURAL HISTORY · ETC OF THE COUNTY OF RUTLAND

EDITED BY G · PHILLIPS

The Rutland Magazine

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ERRATA.

Page 5 last line but two *for* "dec." *read* "resignation" of W. Wales.
„ 21 line 15 *for* Nully *read* Nutt.
„ 220 „ 10 *for* 1857 *read* 1827.
Illustration facing p. 193 *for* South *read* North porch.
p. 194 last line but one *for* 1849 *read* 1894.

Photo by] UPPINGHAM CHURCH. [*W. J. W. Stocks.*

VOL. II.—NO. 9.

THE

RUTLAND MAGAZINE

AND

COUNTY HISTORICAL RECORD.

UPPINGHAM.

THIS town is in the Hundred of Martinsley. It is 6¼ miles south from Oakham, 12 west south west from Stamford and 19 east from Leicester. It is so called, according to Camden, from the height of its situation. Gibson, however, in his additions denies this, saying that although the ground on which it stands is something above a level, yet it will hardly amount to a hill. The Editors of the *Magna Britannia* conclude that its being on an ascent of any kind will justify Camden's expression. It would appear that these commentators did not take the trouble to look at the places about which they disputed, otherwise, as in this case, they would have come to the conclusion that the name Upp-ing-ham, *i.e.*, the upper meadow home, was one of those names indicating position or situation of which we have several examples in the place names of the county.

The town does not appear to have been of such importance as to be mentioned in Domesday Book, but was probably one of the seven hamlets then included in Ridlington Cherchsock. There is no particular notice of it until 50 Hen. II. (1265) when Sir Peter de Montfort, one of the retinue of his kinsman, the great Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, the founder of the House of Commons, both of whom, with many other Barons fell in the Battle of Evesham in 1266, gave it to his second son William de Montfort.

William, dying without issue, the manor returned to Peter his elder brother. The grandson of Peter, Guy de Montfort, married one of the daughters of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in the reign of Edward III. and the manor, with the rest of the Montfort estate was settled upon Guy with reversion to the Earl of Warwick and his heirs.

Guy de Montfort died soon after the 22 Edward III. (1347) without heirs, whereupon this manor went to the Beauchamps, after the death of his father, Sir Peter de Montfort, who had survived him. The Earl of Warwick then settled the reversion on his son Thomas who succeeded as 4th Earl of Warwick in 1369.

It is a curious fact, notwithstanding the statements made by Wright and other historians, that the manor was actually the property of the Beauchamps at an earlier period than is recorded by them, for on examination of the *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem,* Vol. I., p. 276, it appears that in the time of Edward II. (1307-27) this manor, with almost the whole of the southern portion of the county, belonged in one fee to Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

We find by an inquisition held at Uppingham, before Robert Haldenby, Esq., on June 9th, 1400, that Thomas, late Earl of Warwick, held at his death to him and the heirs male of his body, the manors of Berghdon (Barrowden) and Gretham (Greetham) and the Hundred of Wrangdyke by virtue of a fine, 18 Edward III. (1343-4) between Thomas de Bellocampo, then Earl of Warwick, plaintiff, and John de Melbourne and Roger de Ledebury clerks, deforcients, that Thomas, the said Earl, held at his death the manor of Preston and Uppingham, cum pertin; by five anno 35 Edward III. (1360-1), by license of the King; and that Richard II., late king of England, granted to the said late Earl for his good services that his executors should enjoy all the profits of the premises for one year after his decease.

Thomas, Earl of Warwick, is a well-known character in English History. He was eminent both as a soldier and statesman but happened to fall under the suspicion and displeasure of Richard II. by whose order he was arrested at a feast to which he had been invited: and being accused and found guilty of treason, his estates were forfeited and he was banished for life.

Wright and the other county historians state that on the banishment of Thomas, Earl of Warwick, the Manor of Uppingham was granted to Thomas Mowbray, Earl of Nottingham and Duke of Norfolk—a well-known character introduced by Shakespeare in his tragedy of Richard II.—who in the same year in which he obtained possession of the manor was banished for life and died at Venice. We, however, can find no trace of this ownership. It appears from an inquisition held at Uppingham 18 Henry VI. (1439) before Robert Isham, Esq., that Richard de Bellocampo,

Earl of Warwick, held on the day of his death, the Hundred of Wrangdyke, which was held of the King by 100th part of a knight's fee, and was worth per annum 10 marks; that he also held the manors of Preston and Uppingham by fine levied 35 Edward III. (1360) before Robert de Thorp.

Henry de Beauchamp, 6th Earl of Warwick succeeded and held the manors of Uppingham and Preston, which were then valued at £20 a year. It appears by the inquisition that he was only fourteen years of age upon the death of his father.

By another inquisition, held at Uppingham, 16 Nov. 25, Henry VI. (1446), before Henry Steward, Esq., it appears that Henry, Duke of Warwick, held on the day he died as of fee to him and his heirs of his body issuing the site of the manor of Essyngden, with the water mill, lands, meadows, &c.; in County Rutland, parcel of said manor by virtue of a grant by Hugh de Calt and William de Castleford to Edward le Despencer and Anne his wife, by charter dated 12 Edward III. to Edward and Anne the heirs of their bodies—that the manor of Essyngden was held by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, as of his castle of Oakham, by knight's fee, and that the premises were worth 40s. per annum. It recites the fine of the Hundred of Wrangdyke, 18 Edward III. and the manors of Preston and Uppingham and states that the Duke died 11th June last, and that Anne, Countess of Warwick, is his daughter and heir, and was two years of age and upwards on the feast of St. Valentine last.

By a further inquisition held 29 Henry VI. (1450) it appears that Anne, daughter and heir of Henry, Duke of Warwick, died 3rd June then last, and that Anne, Countess of Warwick, the wife of Richard Nevyle, then Earl of Warwick, was her cousin and heir, and that Anne, the then Countess, was 21 years of age.

This Richard Nevyle or Neville, son of the Earl of Salisbury, created Earl of Warwick in 1449, became possessed of the manor of Uppingham through his wife. He was of a turbulent, factious and high spirit, and threw himself into the broils between the two houses of York and Lancaster. When he espoused the Yorkists, Edward IV. was set up king, and when he espoused the Lancastrian side, Henry VI. was restored. He is known in history as the "King-Maker."

> Thus fortune to his end the mighty Warwick brings,
> This puissant setter-up and plucker-down of kings.
> *Drayton. Polyolbion.*

On April 14th, 1471, the Battle of Barnet was fought which brought to an end the intestine war between the partisans of the Houses of York and Lancaster. Says one writer:—"It closed for ever the Age of Force, the potentiality of the barons, and opened the new era of trade, literature and public opinion. Here fell Warwick the 'King-Maker,' 'last of the Barons'; and thenceforth the King had no

peer, but King was *King*, lords were *lords*, and commons the *people*."

An iniquitious Act of Parliament deprived the Countess of her inheritance and the estates were settled on her two daughters; Isabel, married to the brother of King Edward, George, Duke of Clarence; and Anne, wife of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III. Left in such a deplorable condition, with insufficient means to support life, much less her honour, the Countess was forced to take sanctuary in the Monastery of Beaulieu in Hampshire, and here she stayed for some time, at length retiring into the North where she underwent many hardships until Henry VII. came to the throne.

This monarch knowing that the Countess had a just title to the estate and wanting to get it into his own power—both her daughters were dead without heirs—caused a new Act of Parliament to be made, first repealing the former Act "As against all reason, conscience, and the course of nature, and contrary to the law of God: and secondly, in consideration of the allegiance she always bore to King Henry VI. and the line of Lancaster," which restored her to possession of the estates. Out of gratitude to the king she, by her deed dated 13 December, 3 Henry VII. (1487), conveyed all her property in this county to the king, entailing it on the issue male of his body with reversion to herself and her heirs.

King Henry VII. granted the stewardship and the lordships of Uppingham, Preston, Barrowden, Essendine and Greetham to Simon Digby, second son of Sir Everard Digby of Tilton, Co. Leicester, who with his father and brother had fought for him on Bosworth Field. He was afterwards a Commander at the Battle of Stoke and carried himself so well that the king bestowed several offices and estates on him. His posterity grew so much in favour with succeeding monarchs that Robert his grandson was created Lord Digby of Geasil, and his brother Lord Digby of Shirburne, and at length Earl of Bristol, September 15, 1622. From the Receiver's Book in the Court of Augmentations it would appear that the manors of Uppingham and Preston were, at some time in the early part of the sixteenth century, alienated to the Crown, for King Henry VII. granted the rents and profits, which amounted to the sum of £80 3s. 6¼d. a year, to his sister, Elizabeth, and that Queen afterwards granted the manors to the then Earl of Exeter, from which family they went in marriage to the Earl of Stamford, who married Anne, one of the daughters of William, Earl of Exeter.

The manors of Uppingham and Preston were then purchased by Edward Fawkener, Esq., a wealthy citizen and mercer of London. He was the son of Kenelmus Fawkener, of Stoke Dry. The manors remained in this family for some time but they afterwards became the property of the Noel

family, the present holder being the Right Hon. the Earl of Gainsborough.

INSTITUTIONS TO THE RECTORY OF UPPINGHAM.

Date of Institution.	*Rector.*	*Patron.*
1270	Majr. REGINALD DE CROIDENE on resignation of Doms. HENRICUS DE BORHAM	Abbot and Convent of Westminster.
1273	"On the 5th day of March the Lord Bishop Gravesend commended to the devout prayers of the Abbot of Westminster, Patron of the Church, the said church to which Majr. REGINALD DE CROINDENE had been presented	
1281	John de Brugges, deacon, on resignation of	do.
1289	Majr. William de Bray, on resig. of above	
1320	Adam de Baldock, on resig. of above	
1333	John de Grimesby, acolite	By the King (Edward III.) in right of the vacancy of the Abbacy of Westminster
——	William de Clee	
1350	Philip Frank, on resig. of above, exchanged to Waltham juxta Grymesby	Westminster Abbey
1354	Majr. John de Kelleseye, on resig. of above	do.
——	Majr. John Frensch, Rector of Witteneye, on exchange with above	do.
1390	John Hereford, on dec. of above after suits as to advowson	John Ryder exchanged Tr. of Landaff, for Rec. of Uppg. Nov. 29, 1402, with John Hereford, als Carpenter. See Fasti. Eccl. Ang.
1402	John Hereford alias Carpenter, treasurer of Llandaff on exchange with John Ryder	
1405	Majr. David Bradewell dean of Collej Church of Westbury, Worc. Dio. on exchange with John Ryder	
1407	John Colet, Rector of Buckley, on exch. with above	Westminster Abbey
1408	Robert Deye, Rector of Wymewyk, on exch. with above	
1428	William Osevelston on resig. of above	do.
1438	Edward Clayton on death of above	do.
1481	John Vernam on resig. of John Derman exch. to Ashwell.	do.
1482	Thos. Alford on resig. of above	do.
1485	William Porter, M.A., on dec. of Thos. Alford	do.
1494	William Porter, M.A., on resig. of above	do.
1504	James Whitston, L.L.D., on resig. of above	do.
1511	William Mowldar on dec. of above	do.
1526	Peter Burnell, on resig. of above, pension £4	
1528	Edmund Boner, L.L.D., on dec. of above.	do.
1541	John Gybbes on the promotion of above to Bishopric London	The King
1554	(2 Aug.) John Wymesley on deprivation of above ...	Edmund Bonner, Bp. of London
1560	(14 Aug.) Bernard Brandon on deprivation of Thomas Collier	do.
1567	(13 Dec.) Henry Fletcher, B.A., on dec. of above ...	Edmund Grindel, Bp. of London
1586	(6 May) William Chattburne on dec. of above	John Aylmer, do.
1598	(2 Nov.) Thomas Rowlett	
1631	(11 Oct.) Edward Marten	William Laud, Bp. of London
1637	(23 Mar.) Jeremiah Taylor, on resig. of above. In 1642 Jeremy Taylor was called upon to attend Charles I. in his capacity of chaplain at Oxford and was then honoured with a doctor's degree. In the same year his living at Uppingham was sequestered by Parliament.	William Juxon, do.
1660	(21 Dec.) John Allington, M.A.	
1682	(20 Oct.) Thomas Stockman on resig. of above ...	Henry Compton, Bp. of London
1684	(15 April) George Barry, M.A. on dec. of above	do.
1689	(11 Oct.) William Standish on resig. of above	do.
1743	(8 May) John Jones, L.L.B. on resig. of above	Edmund Gibson, do.
1752	(7 Dec.) James Harwood, M.A. on dec. of above	Thomas Sherlock, do.
1755	(17 Nov.) Edward Darell, B.L. on secession of above ...	do.
1786	(22 Feb.) Edward Jones, M.A. on dec. of above	Robert Lowth, do.
1815	(1 April) George Hutchinson, M.A. on dec. of above ...	William Howley, do.
1817	(1 Nov.) John Giles Dimock on dec. of above	do.
1858	(21 Dec.) William Wales on dec. of above	George Davys, Bp. of Peterborough
1879	—— C. A. Yate on dec. of above	do.
1890	(July 12) Reginald Prideaux Lightfoot on dec. of above	W. C. Magee, do.

To be continued.

THE RUTLAND SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL.

"Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori."

PEACE was signed at Pretoria at 10.30. p.m. Such was the welcome news which flashed along the wires on Saturday evening, May 31st, 1902, a day to be numbered among the red letter days in the history of our country. The incidents of the war in South Africa are fast becoming things of the past, but the courage, devotion and bravery of those who fought in that great campaign will be long remembered, while the names of those Rutland officers and men who nobly sacrificed their lives for monarch and country will ever remain green in the memories of the inhabitants of this little county.

No more fitting tribute to the memory of the men, from this county, who fell in the South African war could have been devised than the tablet which was unveiled in All Saints' Church, Oakham, on Sunday, November 13th, 1904. Erected on the west wall of the noble building it is the most conspicuous and will be the most cherished of the many memorials to be found in the church. The tablet is composed of polished statuary marble, supported on each side by fluted columns, surmounted by a frieze carved and draped with laurel leaves. Above this is a cornice, bearing a shield with the County Arms, and a scroll containing the inscription "South African War 1899-1902." We refer our readers to the illustration for particulars of the text.

At a public meeting called for the purpose of expressing, in some tangible form, the patriotic sentiments of those who wished to honour the men who so gloriously laid down their lives for their country, the following committee was appointed: Chairman, D. N. Royce, Esq. Vice-Chairman, C. K. Morris, Esq. Committee, W. N. Baines, H. Hassan, Rev. H. A. Jerwood, G. Phillips, G. W. Peasgood, J. Royce, W. L. Sargant, F. Sleath, W. Swift, J. R. Turner, F. Whittle, and J. E. Whitehouse, with Mr. J. C. Kernick as Honorary Secretary. An appeal for funds resulted in the sum of nearly £80 being subscribed, contributions coming from almost every village in the county. To Mr. J. C. Kernick, who undertook the arduous secretarial duties connected therewith, the greatest praise is due. Mr. Kernick, who is himself an enthusiastic volunteer, was most assiduous in promoting the object of the memorial.

Messrs. Nichols Bros., of Oakham, were entrusted with the execution of the work and carried out the wishes of the Committee in a manner which reflects upon them the highest credit.

The unveiling ceremony was performed by General Sir Bruce Hamilton, K C.B., an officer who, in the South African campaign, covered himself with distinction, and the event brought together a large number of people from all parts of the county who demonstrated their loyalty and respect by the intense interest they took in the proceedings.

The presence of both Yeomanry and Volunteers, as well as a number of Reservists who had taken part in the campaign, lent a decided military aspect to the scene. The Yeomanry was represented by the members of the "A" Squadron of the Leicestershire Imperial Yeomanry, which contributed one of the earliest of the active Service Yeomanry Companies, and the Volunteers by the Company of the 1st Volunteer Battalion Leicestershire Regiment (embracing Melton and Oakham) and also the Uppingham detachment of the Lincolnshire Volunteers. The Railway Station was made the rendezvous for all the troops taking part in the ceremony and the band of the 1st Volunteer Battalion Leicestershire Regiment accompanied them to the church.

The officers present, in addition to General Sir Bruce Hamilton, were General Lord Chesham, Colonel F. G. Blair, Colonel Norcott, Major Braithwaite, Captain and Adjutant Yorke, Captain the Hon. P. C. Evans-Freke, Captain Jones, Captain Sharman, Lieut. Richardson, Lieut. Shouler, Quartermaster W. H. Julian, together with Reg. Sergt.-Major Ewart, Sergt.-Major Dickens, Sergt.-Instructor Milton and other non-commissioned officers. On the march to the church (the bells of which rang a half muffled peal prior to the service) the Reservists, numbering twenty-five, in charge of ex-Sergt.-Instructor Gibson, of Twyford, came first and were followed by the Yeomanry, the Volunteers, and the Oakham Church Lads' Brigade, under Lieut. the Rev. H. A. Jerwood.

General Sir Bruce Hamilton was received at the church by a guard of honour composed of Oakham and Uppingham Volunteers, under Captain Jones, and immediately upon his arrival the service began. The clergy present were the Vicar, the Rev. J. Hamilton Charles, the Rev. E. V. Hodge, Rector of Normanton, Rural Dean, the Rev. C. J. B. Scriven, Rector of Manton, the Rev. U. H. Allen, Rector of Hambleton, the Rev. H. A. Jerwood and the Rev. J. W. Marsh, of Oakham.

The order of service was specially printed and formed a souvenir of the memorable occasion. It began with the processional hymn, "Fight the good fight," and was followed by an abbreviated form of evening prayer which was taken by the Rev. H. A. Jerwood, the Vicar reading the lessons, Ephesians vi., v. 10-18. The proper Psalms were the 23rd and 122nd; then followed the hymn "The Son of God goes

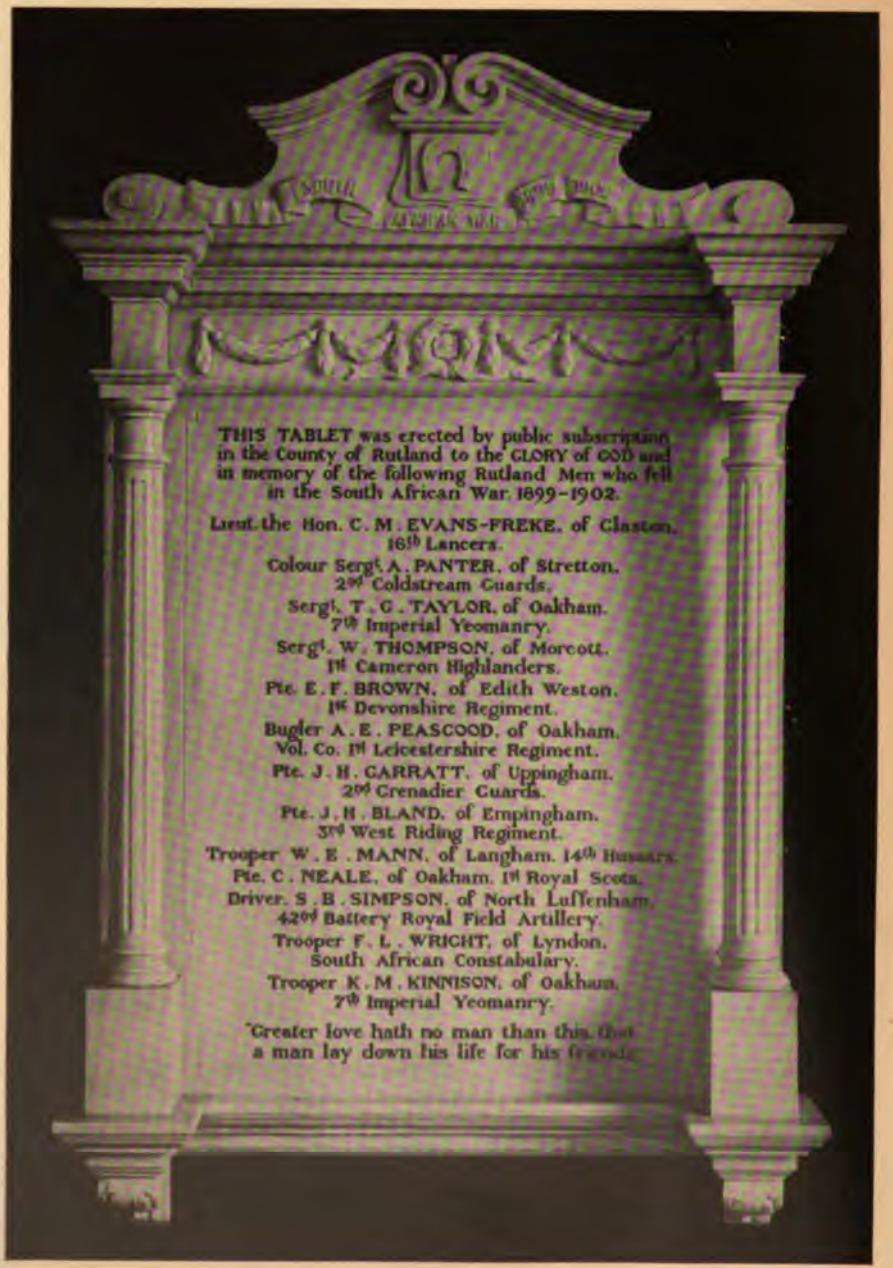

Photo by] RUTLAND WAR MEMORIAL. [*H. P. Holt.*

unmanly and unchristian point of view. It does not need fifty or sixty, or seventy years to make a life. Men's lives, however short, are complete when they have honourably finished their work, and spent themselves to the very end. Besides, they are still living in our minds. Their example stands before us; their example will move us and our descendants to the same devotion to duty. It will also be a standing warning to us if ever we seem likely to flinch, and prefer our own comfort and ease, a peace without honour. We have lost these men, indeed, some young, some in the prime of life, all good men and true, who showed their determination in the last extremity. Some may seem to have had more to lose than others, Some may have had great possessions, or great chances in life, which they willingly hazarded; but all, however poor, had one thing which all men value, and that is life: and this, when it was their only treasure, they willingly sacrificed for the public good. But while they thought that they were giving up all, they have left one thing behind them, and that is a call—a call to us to bring up another generation worthy to fill their place, and maintain the honour of the Empire. This is a great task, not to be lightly set aside; not a matter of words, but of deeds. There must be pain and self-sacrifice, not so much for those who take up the cause for themselves, as for all those fathers and mothers whom duty calls one way and feeling another. Let us not forget that if we neglect or shrink from this task, we are dishonouring the memories of these men to whom we are here setting up a token of gratitude. Many of the great fighters in the past have been men of religion; many of the great seamen of Queen Elizabeth were serious men, who thought they were fighting for their faith as well as their Queen; many of the stern Puritan captains who fought under Cromwell were doubtless men of the deepest religious feelings and the most conscientious lives. We need men like these to defend our cause, men of clean hands and pure hearts, men who will go into battle with a prayer on their lips, and a cool unostentatious courage which must always be the mark of the true Christian soldier. For our country, we want no selfish seekers after military glory. Such men embroil the nation, and involve it in wars which it will afterwards repent of. But we want men who will take up the honourable profession of arms, not only as an interest, but as a duty; men who will be content to spend year after year, perhaps, in laborious preparation for what may never happen; men who will never be weary of perfecting themselves in their art, though they may never have a chance of showing their skill in it. While we have such men, and I believe that we have never had more than at the present time, then when the crisis does come, we may be sure that the fortunes of our country will be in safe hands. There is one more point to which I would call your attention. Each regiment in our Army has its own flag, its own character, its own traditions, its own feelings, its own home. Yet all fight side by side against the enemy. There are no private ambitions, no secret jealousies in the day of battle, all stand as comrades with unbroken lines. The only rivalry is, Who shall be first to enter the fort? Who shall bear most of the burden and heat of the day? Is this not an example for the army of Christ? There will be different regiments amongst the followers of Christ till the end of the world, men fighting under different flags, but all for the same cause; men with different characters and different feelings. Is it right that we should ever hinder one another? Are there not difficulties enough without that? We all agree what our common enemies are. They are sin, the world, and the devil. We all intend to fight against them, no one doubts that, but let us not be turned aside from the main issue by little regimental differences. To-day we are setting up a memorial to those who showed their patriotism by their devotion and sacrifice of themselves. May it not remind us and encourage us all to show the same devotion and the same patriotism in the cause of Christ? We meet here as the professed soldiers of Christ to pay the honour that

is due to Christian courage and endurance in our behalf. Surely everyone who dies for his country in his humble way imitates the One Who died for us all."

At the conclusion of the sermon, the clergy and military authorities proceeded to the memorial tablet, which was covered by a Union Jack, and General Sir BRUCE HAMILTON then unveiled the tablet with the following words :—

> **To the Glory of God and in memory of Brave Men, Inhabitants of Rutland, who gave their lives for their Sovereign and Country during the War in South Africa. I unveil this Memorial Tablet, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.**

General Sir BRUCE HAMILTON, K.C.B., then gave a brief address, in which he said :—

I regard it as a great honour that I have been asked to unveil this memorial. The names which are inscribed upon it includes representatives of almost every branch of our Army, and I think it is therefore evident that I cannot here refer to the numberless actions and battles in which they took part, as to do so would almost include a complete history of the war. I will only refer to the circumstances under which Lieutenant Evans-Freke, of the 16th Lancers, met his death, as it is a fine example of the daring enterprise which our soldiers are always ready and eager to undertake. He was one of a small party of picked officers and men who were selected by Lord Roberts, during his advance from Bloemfontein to Pretoria, to endeavour to work round the flanks of the Boer Army, and to blow up the railway line in the rear. The party to which he belonged marched all night, and towards dawn they met a large Boer commando. Our men had to fight for their lives, and eventually succeeded in getting away, but not before Lieut. Freke had received the wound from which he died. I think we can imagine no nobler end to our lives than that which was the fate of this brave young officer. But in addition to reminding us of the gallant men whose names are inscribed upon it, I think this memorial has a meaning of a wider kind. We see here on our list not only the names of members of our regular Army, but also of the Yeomanry, Militia, and Volunteers, and I think that that fact should serve to remind us of something of which every Briton must be proud. I refer to the splendid way in which the country rose to the occasion at the commencement of the South African War. The Army in South Africa was at first composed of regulars only, whose profession it is to serve and fight abroad as well as at home. But it was soon seen that their numbers were quite insufficient for the very serious task they had before them. This was realised at home, and it was then that a great wave of patriotism roused the country. Men offered their services from every corner of the Empire and the necessary reinforcements were quickly raised. When we remember how those reinforcements were recruited from men who, up to that time, had been living a peaceful life, and who, when success had rewarded their courage and endurance, returned again to a life of peaceful citizenship, and whose operations covered an extent of country more than six times as large as England, and six thousand miles from their home—when we remember how our Army was thus reinforced, and how much it achieved, we must all admit that it is a striking example of what the patriotism of a great nation can accomplish when its spirit is fairly roused. We have recently seen in the Far East what great results have been obtained by the systematic teaching and cultivation of sentiments of patriotism and loyalty in Japan. Perhaps never before has self-sacrifice for some higher cause been so freely exhibited by a whole nation. Everyone, from the highest to the lowest, seems content to efface themselves for the honour and welfare of their fatherland,

and the deeds which they accomplish, their modesty, their devotion, are one of the wonders of the world. I am sure that many of you who are here to-day, and who mourn the loss of some dear relative or friend who went to that far country in South Africa never to return, and others of you who served in South Africa, and who cannot forget the brave comrades whom you left behind, I am sure that you all must derive some consolation from the thought that we remember them with pride and veneration, and though they are no longer here among us, their actions still live in our hearts, and their lives have not been given up in vain. Their dead bodies are like the foundation stones on which the character of the Empire stands; and it is by thinking of the sacrifice which they and others like them have made, that our children of the future will be roused to act a noble part in life, and think of something higher than their own private interests and personal ends. I am sure that in this Church there is no memorial which will be more valued and appreciated in years to come than that which we have unveiled to-day.

A dedicatory prayer was offered by the VICAR, following which the collect for All Saints' day was said, and then, the congregation remaining standing, the band gave an exquisite rendering of Chopin's "March Funebre." Immediately afterwards four buglers sounded the "Last Post," inside the church, and then outside, at the west door, the effect of this being singularly impressive. The hymn, "On the Resurrection Morning," was sung, and after the Blessing, two verses of the National Anthem were fervently rendered. The concluding voluntary played on the organ by Mr. Hy. Nicholson, A.R.C.O., was "I know that my Redeemer liveth," the beautiful pathos of the piece appealing to all present, and the service concluded with another Funeral March. The troops, including the Boys' Brigade, after leaving the Church were inspected by General Sir Bruce Hamilton, and they then marched, headed by the band, to the Market-place, where they were dismissed.

Through the courtesy of the relatives we are enabled to present our readers with portraits of those whose names appear on the tablet and herewith we give some short biographical details.

Lieut. the Hon. C. M. EVANS-FREKE, of Glaston, received his commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the 16th Lancers, April 7th, 1897, and was promoted to 1st Lieutenant, October 13th 1899. He served in India and was invalided home but went to join his Regiment which was ordered to South Africa from India. He sailed from England 15th January, 1900, and took part in the Relief of Kimberley and fought at Paardeburg. He was also with General French in the advance on Bloemfontein and the march to cut off the Boers after the Relief of Wepener. Subsequently he took part in the main advance on Pretoria and received a wound in the Hunter-Weston Expedition on June 2nd, at Bapsfontein, from which he died at Boksburg on June 15th, 1900, aged 23. His medal has the clasps for Relief of Kimberley, Paardeburg and Johannesburg.

Colour-Sergt. A. PANTER was a native of Stretton. He enlisted in the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, April 5th, 1888. He sailed from Southampton for South Africa on October 21st, 1899, took part in some hot work and was awarded the medal with clasps for Diamond Hill, Johannesburg, Orange Free State, Modder River and Belmont. An

attack of rheumatism, brought on by swimming the Modder River in order to turn the Boer right, led to Enteric Fever from which he died in the Royal Hospital at Pretoria, July 15th, 1900, aged 34.

Sergt. T. G. TAYLOR was a native of Oakham, where he had a very flourishing saddlery business. He had been a member of the 7th Imperial (Leicestershire) Yeomanry for about twenty-two years, and when the call for volunteers came was one of the first to respond. Being taken ill on the voyage out he was invalided home and died at sea of Pleurisy, May 6th, 1900, aged 52.

Sergt. W. THOMPSON was a native of Morcott. He joined the 1st Cameron Highlanders on May 27th, 1878, and was in the service 23 years, 18 of which were spent abroad. He was in the East Indies twice, and in Egypt, Malta, Gibraltar and South Africa, and was in possession of seven medals. For operations on the Upper Nile in 1885-86 he was granted the Egyptian Medal and Khedive's Star, Nile Expedition Medals 1898, Soudan and Khedive's Clasps, Khartoum and Albara. He also gained the South African War Medals 1900-01-02, Queen's and King's Clasps, Cape Colony, Johannesburg, Diamond Hill and Wittebergen. While in Gibraltar in 1895 he received the Medal for long service and good conduct. He died of Dysentry at Elandsfontein, April 1st, 1902, aged 42.

Private E. F. BROWN was born December 17th, 1877, at Edith Weston. The only available portrait was taken when a youth. He enenlisted in the 1st Devonshire Regiment in October, 1895, and sailed for India in September, 1896. The regiment was stationed at Jullundur and was engaged in the Tirah expedition. Leaving India for South Africa in 1899 he took part in the Battle of Elandslaagte, October 21st, 1899. He met his death in the charge of the 1st Devons on Wagon Hill, Ladysmith, January 6th, 1900, aged 22 years.

Bugler A. E. PEASGOOD was a native of Oakham. He joined the Volunteers on the formation of the Oakham Detachment and was a member of the band of the Melton Company to which the Oakham contingent is attached, being a proficient cornet player. He volunteered for active service and went out with the Imperial Volunteer Detachment of the Leicestershire Regiment in February, 1900. He died of Enteric Fever in the Hospital at Modder Spruit, May 26th, 1900, aged 25. His medal bears the Natal Clasp.

Private J. H. GARRATT, of Uppingham, joined the 2nd Grenadier Guards on July 24, 1894, for three years. As a Reservist he was called up and sailed for South Africa March 18th, 1900. He was killed in action on May 29th, 1900, at Biddulphsburg, Orange River. Age 27. His medal bears the clasps for Orange Free State and Cape Colony.

Private J. H. BLAND, of Empingham, was formerly in the Grenadier Guards. He joined the 3rd West York Regiment on the outbreak of the war and was sent to South Africa early in 1900. He was engaged at Simonstown guarding Boer prisoners, among whom were Cronje's men captured at Paardeberg, and afterwards was at Victoria West guarding the line of communications. He was detailed for garrison duty at Beaufort West during the guerilla warfare and there contracted Enteric Fever from which he died, after three days' illness, on April 25th, 1902, aged 25.

Private W. E. MANN, of Langham, joined the 10th Hussars in August, 1891, and having served seven years went into the Reserve. He was called up in October, 1899, and sailed for South Africa with the 14th Hussars. He took part in some severe fighting and had a narrow escape at the Relief of Kimberley, his helmet being riddled with bullets. In a skirmish near Pretoria he was wounded and died two days afterwards in the Hospital, July 15th, 1900, aged 27. His medal bears the clasps for Diamond Hill, Johannesburg and Relief of Kimberley.

PORTRAITS OF THE RUTLAND OFFICERS AND MEN
WHO FELL IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

the Royal Mints, for we now find the weights of the half-crowns and shillings ordered to be considerably reduced, though the face values remain unchanged, and in June all the half-crowns coined previously to the reduction just mentioned, are, by a further proclamation, called in and, after being re-stamped with the die used for the white metal crown, are re-issued as five shilling pieces. The gun money crown differs from that of white metal in not having the words "MELIORIS TESSERA FATI" round the edge.

Apparently the process of re-stamping the half-crowns with the design for the crown was not always entirely successful, for in one specimen in the writer's collection the old date 1689 is still quite legible on the obverse while the surrounding inscription is an unintelligible mixture of the old and new legends. On the reverse a considerable portion of the king's bust is still visible and the only portion of the motto "CHRISTO, etc.," which has become impressed is ". . .STO VIC . ."; the new date, however, 1690 can be made out in the field of the coin.

And now the decisive crisis was fast approaching. On the 14th of June, King William landed at Carrickfergus and proceeded to Belfast. By the 24th his troops were collected and the march towards Dublin began, but it was not till the river Boyne was reached that the army of James could be induced to give battle. On July 1st, 1690, the battle of the Boyne was fought and James and his soldiers were put to flight.

James himself escaped to Dublin and thence to Waterford, where he embarked on board a French frigate for Brest, and on Sunday, July 6th, King William entered Dublin in regal state aud attended a public Thanksgiving Service in the cathedral.

On the 10th he issued a proclamation whereby the gun money and white metal coins of the vanquished James were reduced to something like their actual value.

The crown and large half-crown were to be current for a penny, the small half-crown for a halfpenny, the shilling and sixpence for a farthing, while the white metal penny and halfpenny were to pass for a halfpenny and a farthing respectively.

Finding that even this was not sufficient to put a stop to the mischievous results of the issue of this debased coinage, William, on the 23rd of February following, declared the whole series to be no longer current.

When it is stated that by a moderate computation it has been calculated that the whole issue amounted to £2,163,237 9s. 0d. in face value, while the actual worth of the metal was £6,495, some idea may be formed of the magnitude of this royal fraud.

In other words, the Gun money was current at considerably over 300 times the intrinsic value of the metal in which it was struck.

At the extent of the loss suffered by the Dublin tradesmen, who were mostly Protestants, as well as by the soldiery of James, we can only make a guess. Any refusal to accept payment in the base currency was only met by prompt punishment at the hands of the magistrates, and we can hardly doubt that many a ruined merchant, while he struggled, during the years that followed, to regain the position which he had lost in those eventful months of 1689 and 1690, under circumstances for which no blame could attach to him, cast from time to time thoughts that were none too charitable to the author of his calamities then living out his life in exile at St. Germains—the misguided James Stuart of England.

V. B. CROWTHER-BEYNON, M.A., F.S.A.

ANSWERS TO QUERY: BREDCROFT.—In reply to A. W. J.'s Query re "Bredcroft" in the January Number of the Rutland Magazine, The Rev. C. Nevinson, M.A., in his History of Stamford (p. 84) says:—"Some broken ground on the meadow beyond an old inclosure, on the southern side of the King's Mill Stream, is said to mark the site of the Sessions Hall." . . . . . and again "Beatricia, widow of Joseph le Ferrour, burgess of Stanford, sold to William de Apethope, likewise burgess of Stanford, her houses with a croft and . . . . curtilages situate in the village of Bradecroft, between a tenement of the Nuns of St. Michael, west." Also:—"John Lyndesy, clerc, gave to Robert Clerc and Isabel, his wife, a certain toft, with a dove-cot in the same, situate in Bradecroft in S. Peter's Parish, with a certain piece of meadow beneath the toft aforesaid, as it lies between the way wherein you go from Staunford to Broding, and a certain mill of Richard, Duke of York, commonly called Bradecroft mills, &c., which toft was John Jakes'." Also:—"In Peck's 'Annals' under the date March 21st, 33rd of Edward I., we read 'Hugh Pert of Bradecroft sold to Beatricia, late the wife of Joseph le Ferrour, burgess of Staunford, his houses in the village of Bradecroft, situate between an house of the Nuns of St. Michael, west, and a house of . . . east, as they extend themselves from the King's highway north, and the Mill-dam of Bradecroft south.'"

By these extracts you will see that the village of Bredcroft was not *in the county* of Rutland but *just outside.* J. B. CORBY.

"A. W. J.," who made enquiry concerning the situation of Bredcroft will be interested to learn that this was a hamlet or suburb of Stamford, and lay to the west of that town on the line of the Roman road. No trace of Bredcroft is now to be seen, but some broken ground in the Stamford, or Bredcroft meadow (in which the writer, as a Freeman of Stamford, has an interest), to the south of the King's Mill Stream is supposed to denote the site of the old Sessions Hall. There was a chapel here; also a public oven, one of those which in former days were "appointed without great towns to prevent the "danger of fire." (Peck). Leland refers to the possible origin of the place-name when speaking of the west suburb of Stamford, he says, "Mark here that in this suburbe is a parcelle of grounde caulled "Bradecroft, because that bakers sold their brade in that part of the "suburbe." A. J. WATERFIELD.

SOME DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY OF GEORGE VILLIERS, 2ND DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.

FOR choosing a somewhat dry subject an apology is probably due, but as the Buckinghams were connected with Rutland in by-gone days, I feel I may be justified in so doing.

To begin with, the Villier's were Leicestershire squires. The first Duke had raised himself, by his personal beauty alone, to a position almost unequalled before or since in history.

Clarendon says of him: "Never any man in any age, nor I believe in any country, rose in so short a time to so much greatness of honour, power or fortune, upon no other advantage or recommendation than of the beauty or gracefulness of his person." Surely some charm of manner must also have helped him in his rise. King James and his son Charles could not do enough for the handsome favourite. Land and titles were thrust upon him, and great positions, many of which he was totally incapable of filling. No man was better hated both by nobles and people, and Sir John Elliot's impeachment of him is one of the most impassioned speeches ever delivered in Parliament. Buckingham made a rich and powerful alliance, for he married Lady Catherine Manners, daughter of Francis, Earl of Rutland. She was a Roman Catholic, but on her marriage joined the English Church. Buckingham's connection with Rutland is this, he owned a great part of Oakham (if not the whole), Hambleton, Egleton and Leigh Forest. The Castle of Oakham belonged to him. The two great oak beams in the roof were put in by him. He also built the old gateway. He had besides a fine place at Burley, having purchased the lands and house from Lucy, Countess of Bedford, daughter of John, 1st Lord Harrington. This house, known as "Harrington Burley," he enlarged and beautified to such an extent that it was termed a second Belvoir. Small part of his time was spent at Burley, but he entertained King James I., and later his son Charles there. It was during the visit of the latter that the dwarf, Jeffrey Hudson, was served up in a pie, and presented by the Duchess to Queen Henrietta Maria. It is, however, with the 2nd Duke of Buckingham that I have more particularly to deal, for the rent rolls, quoted later, were taken in his day.

He was born January 30th, 1627, at Dallingford House. The bells of the Abbey and St. Martin's in the Fields were rung in honour of the event. At his christening King Charles stood godfather, "dressed in a soldier's coat all covered with gold lace, and his hair gauffered and frizzled which he never used before." The other sponsors were the Queen and the Earl of Suffolk, so the child started well in

the pomps and vanities of the world. On the assassination of his father, the second Buckingham was only a year old. The news was brought to the king when he was at his prayers, but with the punctiliousness he always evinced where religion was concerned, he betrayed no emotion until the service was over.

That day he hastened to the forlorn widow and promised to be "a father to her children." The family were left in great impecuniosity, for Buckingham, to do him credit, had pledged lands and jewels in his endeavour to help his royal master to carry out his (Buckingham's) own wild policy. Luckily there remained to the Duchess and her children some fine pictures by Rubens and other great masters, and the King and the Earl of Northumberland purchased them.

The young Buckingham and his brother Lord Francis, were noted as children, and indeed throughout their life, for their remarkable beauty. There is a most charming picture of them by Vandyck at Windsor. When Lord Francis was but a few months old, the Duchess reverted again to the Roman Catholic Church to the intense annoyance of the King, who removed the two boys to Court and brought them up with his own sons. In 1635 the Duchess married again, this time the Earl of Antrim.

The Duchess was Lady Catherine Manners, daughter of Francis, 6th Earl of Rutland, and an heiress.

The Duke was but seven years old when the inventory of his lands was taken. It is a curious manuscript book, bound in vellum and written in the old Court and legal hands, a mixture of both being employed. It is dated 1636, and is headed with the following description :—

"The index or Calendar of the Inventories or Properties assigned to the Rt. Hon. George nowe Duke of Buckingham, for the present maintainance of his grace and his noble brother Frauncis Lord Villiers, with index therewith. The names of the Counties, Manners, Lands, rent charges, etc., with their Value *prima facie*, and the folios or scales wherein they are hereafter entered in this Booke."

Counties.	*Manors.*	*Lands, Rent Charges, etc. Values, Prima Facie.*		
		lbs.	s.	d.
Rutland	Okeham	151	1	10
	Hambleton	335	0	5
	Greetham	151	0	5
Buck.	Biddlesden	451	14	10
Darby	Hartington	191	19	5½
York	Kirby Moorside	280	19	2
Essex	Thremhall	717	1	8
London	Creacon Money	103	6	8
Middx.	Chelsey	150	0	0
Hereford	Leominster	66	13	4
York	Hatfield, Fishlake, etc. ...	485	0	0
Rutland	Leefield	155	0	0
	Woughborough Grange ...	50	0	0

siderable variations in shape and size, but these differences are not so great as those between typical skulls of widely opposed races. In examining a skull, there are several points which we look for.

Firstly. The size and shape of the Cranium, as an index to the mental capacity. It may be generally assumed that in the higher civilised and cultivated races we find a greater cranial capacity. To estimate the cranial capacity of a skull, we fill it with some suitable material, such as shot, and estimate the cubage from this. By this method we can separate skulls into three groups, for purposes of classification:—

(1) *Micro-cephalic* or small headed, with a capacity below 1350 cubic centimetres, such as Australians and Tasmanians.

(2) *Meso-cephalic* or medium headed, between 1350 and 1450 cu. cm., such as American Indians and Chinese.

(3) *Megalo-cephalic* or large headed, with a capacity over 1450 cu. cm. To this class belong mixed Europeans.

Secondly. We come to the general contour of the cranium. This is expressed by the cephalic index and is the proportion of the maximum length to the maximum breadth, assuming the maximum length to be 100. We may again classify skulls according to this method, and we have again three groups:

(1) *Dolicho-cephalic* or long headed, with a cephalic index below 75, that is, the proportion of the breadth to the length, when the length is taken at 100, is 75. Australians, Negroes, Eskimos.

(2) *Mesati-cephalic* or medium headed, with an index between 75 and 80. Europeans and Chinese.

(3) *Brachy-cephalic* or short headed, index over 80. American Indians, Malays, Andamanese.

We see that this method does not correspond to the former in its classification.

Next we come to the skeleton of the face. It is here that we get the most characteristic skeletal features of the race and a good idea of the form and proportion of the living face. The form of the face, like that of the cranium, differs in different races. As a rule a long face accompanies a long head and a short face a short head. Again we get various degrees of projection of the face, an extreme case of which may be seen in Negroes and Australians. In Mixed Europeans we do not find this projection, they are, therefore, called Orthognathous or straight faced *(Fig 3)*, and those with projecting faces are known as Prognathous *(Fig 4)*.

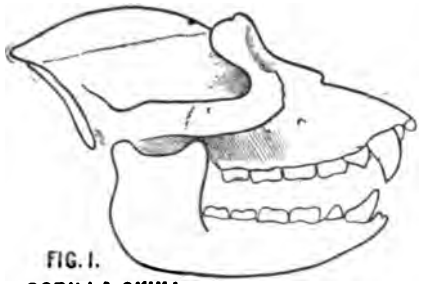

FIG. 1.
GORILLA SKULL.

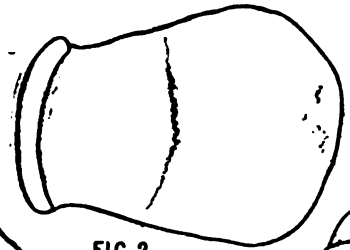

FIG. 2.
NÆANDEOTHAL MAN.
SKULL FROM ABOVE.

FIG 2a
FRONT VIEW OF SKULL.

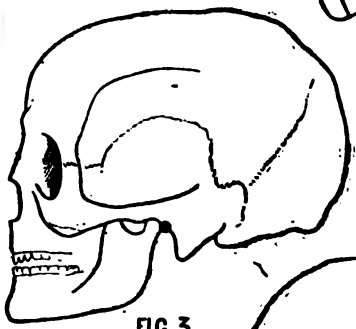

FIG. 3.
ORTHOGNATHOUS SKULL.
EUROPEAN.

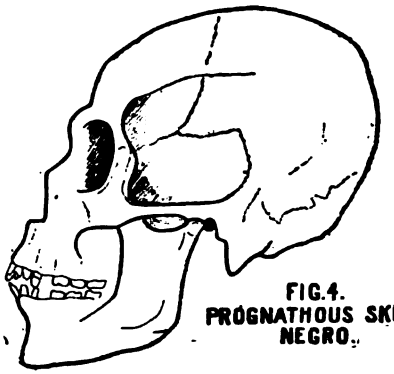

FIG. 4.
PROGNATHOUS SKULL,
NEGRO.

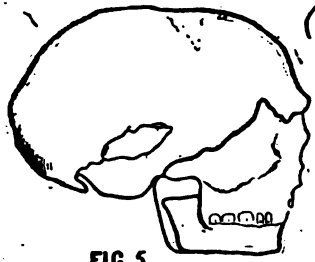

FIG. 5.
SKULL OF GALLEY HILL MAN.

FIG. 2a
SIDE VIEW OF SKULL.

Wardley, Thos. Lord Brudenell for his manor at Wardley, 2s.
Thomas Haslewood, Esq., for his manor at Belton, 3s. 4d.
Edward Chiseldon for his manor at Branston.

The Chiseldons have left their name to Chiseldon Coppice, near Braunston.

Tenants at Will.

John Oliver for ye Hart in Okeham and ye shopp and 8 yard lands and ye oxen yard, £9 11s. 9d.
Mark Wayte for a shopp and two shooemakers stalls, 16s.

Wayte is a Rutland name.

George White for a messuage called the Bell with a garden and a close, £3 3s. 3d.
Thomas Holliday for a shopp in the Market Place, 21s. 8d.

There are besides, Butchers "under the shambles" and without shambles and shoemakers and others as paying rent for their stalls.

In number there were 18 Butchers, 10 Bakers, 13 Shooemakers, 2 Smythes, 2 Fishmongers and 2 Glovers.

From this we may conclude they sold their goods on stalls as do the costermongers in London now.

The Butchers, Bakers and Shoemakers appear to be a large number, but we must take into consideration that all shopping was done in the market town, a village baker or shop being unknown.

Other names occur for Oakham such as Williamson, Wakefield, Wright, Winter, Manton, Ellingworth, Fowler, Sharpe, all names to be found in Rutland to this day.

For the Manor of Hambleton we have the following names as paying rent:—

Henry Cunnington of Egleton for part of Lyndon meadows, 13s. 4d.

There is a Cunnington working on the Burley estate now.

Widow Lister for the rent of the Hovell heretofore, 4d., (mended) which is now decayed, 2d.
Abel Barker and Roger Fflowers and others of desmesne called Berry Hill, and Bussecrosse with the Windmill, £45 10s.
Mr. Thomas Hipplesley for a close of pasture belonging to Hambleton and Egleton lying within Burley Parke, £13 6s. 8d.
William Winge for a tenement and yard land, 20s.
William Tomlin for a cottage, 20s.

There are Tomlins at Hambleton now and two men of the name working on the Burley estate.

The Rectorie of Hambleton being a lease for yeares from the Deane and Chapter of Lincoln.
John Ireland for a cottage, 10d.

There are Irelands at Hambleton now and one of the same name at Burley.

Mr. Thomas Hippesley for the Parsonage, £50.
The Rent of the Rectorie due to the Deane and Chapter of Lincolne, yearly, etc., £2 6s. 8d.

There are also other names such as Baines, Bristowe, etc., which are to be found in the County now.

Manor of Greetham.

John Lisson for 2 capons and 11 hens, 2s. 6d.
The same for 10 hoore (hour) workes, 5d.
The same for 1 load of coles, 10d.

Other names such as Longfoote, Hand, Christian, names to be found in Greetham now, Swift, Allingson, Holliday, Hill and Hardie, are all names to be found in Rutland at the present day.

Thus I must end this rather prosaic and dry list, trusting the readers of it may not be bored, though fearing it is more than possible they may be.

But the names have surely a fascination of their own, they bring the past forward to the present. They are a record of stability during so many changes. Nor can I close this account without some further reference to Buckingham. At the age of seventeen he and his brother were sent to Trinity, Cambridge. When the Civil War broke out the youths hastened to join the royal army, and served under Prince Rupert and Lord Gerrard. They saw some sharp fighting to the intense indignation of the Duchess, who did not appreciate the danger as they did, and wrote to remonstrate with Lord Gerrard. The King shared her disapproval and sent the boys abroad with Lord Carlysle, where they lived in great style as princes. In 1648 the brothers returned to England, and were present at the Battle of Kingston. In this engagement Lord Francis had his horse shot under him, and stood with his back against a tree defending himself until he fell, wounded in seven places. His brother in later life may have envied his early and heroic death. The tree still remains and has the letters "F. V." cut upon it. On the complete failure of the Royal cause Buckingham again went into exile, spending most of his time with the Prince of Wales, and their frolics and amusements were none of the best; in fact much of the evil in the subsequent career of Charles II. was attributed to the bad influence of Buckingham in his youth. It was during his sojourn abroad, that Buckingham's estates were confiscated by the Parliamentary party and Burley became a garrison for their soldiers. They burnt it to the ground. Fairfax, the famous Parliamentary General, subsequently obtained the whole of Buckingham's property. On the latter returning secretly to England, he wisely sought out the General and, curiously diverse as they were in character, so completely subjugated him with his charms, that Fairfax permitted him to marry his daughter Mary, a good but sadly plain young person, described as, "a little round crumpled woman very fond of dress." She too, like her father, fell a victim to Buckingham, reported, "as the most graceful and beautiful

person that any Court in Europe ever saw." Nor did his subsequent behaviour estrange the affection of either his wife or father-in-law. With Mary Fairfax, Buckingham again obtained most of his property. Stability of character was not, however, one of his attributes. That he was a man of great ability there is no doubt, and he wrote many poems of a somewhat coarse nature, and even a play called "The Rehearsal," a work of considerable merit. But as before stated, he lacked ballast, and brains without ballast are of little worth. Dryden says of him :—

Stiff in opinions,
Always in the wrong,
Was everything by starts,
And nothing long.

He was one of the members of the famous Cabal, and his name, with those of three other members, is preserved on some Council orders now among the MSS. at Burley-on-the Hill, Lauderdale's name being the only one missing. Buckingham was for long the boon companion of the "Merrie Monarch," and in many ways they were birds of a feather. Charles loved the wit and gaiety of the Duke, his mad pranks, his love of masquerading and bonhomie. Here, for instance, is one of his doings in the House of Lords, which shows us that that dignified house was quite as rowdy then as is the House of Commons sometimes in our day. Buckingham when sitting next the Marquis of Dorchester, rested his elbow on the latter's chair, which he resented saying, "He oughtn't to crowd him so, he was as good a man as he"; a scrimmage ensued in which Buckingham pulled off Dorchester's wig, and Dorchester pulled out handfuls of Buckingham's hair.

On the occasion of another row in the House of Lords, Phillip, Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery hurled a heavy silver inkpot at Lord Mowbrey's head. Truly the ways of the "Upper House" were strange.

Buckingham's day, like that of many another favourite, waned at last. Charles tired of and quarrelled with him, while his instability of character made him unfit to hold any government office long. He was, besides, quite ruined, though once the richest man in England. Finally he became almost penniless, chiefly through his own folly and extravagance, and sold all his estates.

It is said that on his banishment from Court he spent some part of his time at the White Horse Inn, Empingham, for hunting, of which he was passionately fond. He was on very intimate terms with the innkeeper. On one occasion, it is related, that he called somewhat impatiently for a pot of ale, to which the landlord replied, "Your Grace is in a plaguy hurry, I'll come as soon as I have served my hogs." This reply so delighted the Duke that he thereupon wrote the following lines :—

"Some ale, some ale, the impetuous Villiers cried;
To whom the surly landlord thus replied,—
Plague on your Grace you treat me as your dog,
I'll serve your Lordship when I've served my hog."

Buckingham's end was a sad one. He died alone, almost untended in a Yorkshire inn. On his death bed he wrote the most piteous letter to a clergyman near. In it he says:—"Oh! What a prodigal I have been of the most valuable of all possessions—time. My distemper is powerful, come and pray for the departing spirit of the poor unhappy Buckingham."

There is tragedy in these last lines.

PEARL FINCH.

EXTRACT FROM THE GAOL DELIVERY ROLLS, PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE.

MURDER AT MARKET OVERTON, 1358.

(Translation).

Before Henry Grene & William Wade Justices of the King at Okham Gaol on Thursday before the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle 32 Ed. III.

Rutland. William Warner of Overton taken for the death of Mathew the Welshman, feloniously killed at Overton on Thursday the feast of St Bartholomew the Apostle in the thirty first year of the reign of the lord the King of England, who now is, whereof he was indicted before the coroner of the lord the King of the county aforesaid. He comes led by the sheriff, and asked by the justices, how he wishes to acquit himself of the death aforesaid, he says that he is by no means guilty of the death aforesaid and for good and evil puts himself on his country. Jurors of the venue aforesaid, elected and sworn concerning the premisses say upon oath that on the day and year and at the place aforesaid, the aforesaid Mathew attacked the same William with a certain sword drawn in his hand and beat him and seriously wounded him. And the aforesaid William avoiding the malice of the the same Mathew, fled as far as a certain dike beyond which he could by no means flee. And the aforesaid Mathew had pursued him so closely that he overtook him there. And the aforesaid William seeing danger of death to be iminent to himself and that he could by no means flee further drew his knife called a baselard to defend himself, and for the cause of avoiding his own death. And herewith he struck the aforesaid Mathew a single blow in the left part of the side, to the heart, whereof he died. And so they say that the aforesaid William felled the same Mathew not from any premeditated malice or felony, but in defending himself and for the cause of averting his own death. The same jurors asked if the aforesaid William could not have escaped thense alive by any other means say positively not. Thereupon the same William is sent back to prison in the custody of William de Overton, sherriff of Rutland and to await the grace of the lord the king in this matter. He has no chattels. W. H. WING.

MORE RUTLAND GHOSTS.

A YEAR ago I made the unfounded statement that Rutland as a ghost county was not prolific; now, however, I beg to modify that statement. It is true Rutland is a county of substance, nevertheless it also contains the shadow, and, in the last twelve months, some more ghost stories have been added to my collection.

Here is the tale of an Eighteenth Century Ghost, with which Mr. Stocks, of Uppingham, has kindly supplied me. I only wish our modern ghosts would take an equal interest in the family income. It is an extract from *The London Chronicle* or *Universal Evening Post*, from Saturday, June 23rd to Tuesday, June 26th, 1764.

"*Cambridge, June 22.* The following odd circumstance we received from a gentleman of credit:—About three weeks ago were found in the house of Cornelius Nully, at Uppington, (Uppingham) in Rutlandshire, near 200 pieces of ancient silver coin, some of them very valuable. The manner in which they were discovered is very remarkable. The man's daughter, a young woman about eighteen years old, says a ghost appeared to her several times, and informed her that something of value was hid in the house. Accordingly she told her father what had happened, on which he took up some of the stones of the floor, but could not find anything. The ghost still continuing to appear, she went to a man who was at work near by the house, and desired him to take up a particular stone which she directed him to; and digging under it they found a black pot with the coins as above, which by its appearance must have been there a considerable time. The man intends to go to London next week with his treasure, when he hopes to make a considerable advantage of it, having been offered a guinea apiece for them at home. We would advise this girl as well as the ghost to keep their conversation to themselves, lest they should be brought to Westminster Hall."

The apparition seen at Lyddington nearly a quarter of a century ago cannot be classed under the heading of orthodox ghost; it is rather one of those "mis-fortune-tellers" over which psychists love to wrangle. At Lyddington, near Uppingham, there is a beautiful old building which goes by the name of Bede House. It was formerly a Bishop's Palace,—a half-way house for the once huge diocese comprising Peterborough, Ely and Lincoln,—but is now inhabited by pensioners of the Lord of the Manor. The warden occupies the larger rooms on the first floor. To get at these, after ascending a quaint old staircase, it is necessary to cross a noble room—once the refectory—the great charm of which is its beautiful

old carved oak. There is a yawning open fireplace, a thick slab of oak on trestles forms the table, and oaken benches range along one wall, otherwise the room is bare.

Some twenty-three years ago the warden's son George lived with his parents in these interesting apartments beyond the refectory. One autumn evening he was returning from work when he saw in front of him a man walking. The man preceded him through the churchyard, under a narrow passage leading to the cloistered path on one side of the building, through these cloisters, up the stairs into the old refectory, to the middle of the floor. There, without word or sign, the figure suddenly vanished. The next day came word that George's brother had been killed on the railway. The family always look upon this apparition as a premonition of death.

Not far from this neighbourhood, thirteen years ago, there lived a kindly gentleman—a bachelor given to hospitality—whom we will call Mr. A. Mr. B., the assistant in his work, lived three miles away. One cheerful evening in the spring Mr. B. and his wife dined with Mr. A. What with music, merry talk and a raconteur's tales, the hours slipped past, and at about eleven o'clock the B.'s said good night and went away. They drove in a covered waggonette, the coachman a steady old servant, the horse a steady old chestnut, with no nonsense about either.

Half way home the horse began to start and shy, now to one side, now to the other. Mrs. B.—not at all a nervous woman—began to get frightened, and begged her husband to ask the coachman what the matter could be; but Mr. B. calming these nervous qualms persuaded her to leave horse and man alone. At the entrance to their own little village the carriage stopped dead for two minutes, still Mr. B. took it very quietly; and only after their safe arrival home enquired the cause of this erratic driving.

"Why, Sir," said the man, "all the way from the turnin' right up to the village there was a man in front of us quite close to the 'orse's 'ead, and 'e was that frightened I could do nothing with 'im. I couldn't pass 'im, and I couldn't get Marmy (the horse's name) to *try* and pass 'im. 'E's been snortin' and shiverin' and a-sweatin' ever so; and when we got to the village we was right on to this man, so I pulled up to see what 'e was, and 'e just went! I never *seed* 'im go, but 'e was just gone,—vanished!"

The next morning before Mr. B. was up, Mr. A.'s man came galloping over to summon him to his master's bedside as he had been suddenly taken ill. When Mr. B. reached the house Mr. A. was dead.

The B.'s subsequently went to live in the A.'s house. It was a modern villa-looking house built about fifteen years before; but the newness and conventionality of the dwelling

was no bar to mysterious visitations. Mrs. B., a quiet fearless woman, was generally at home alone during church time on Sunday evenings, with no one in the house but her babies. Three times she heard the back door, which was securely locked on the inside by the servants, unlocked, heavy footsteps walk down the stone passage leading to the kitchen, and heavy footsteps in the kitchen. Neither alarmed at the thought of burglars nor ghostly visitants, Mrs. B. and her little child went to the kitchen to see who had come in. There was no one there. The back door was securely fastened with the key on the inside, and no one in the house. With careless surprise Mrs. B. asked her husband and the servants on their return who the visitor could have been, but only to be assured that nobody could possibly have entered by that door.

On three different occasions the same thing occurred. At other times the servants also heard the tread of an invisible foot and some of them were much frightened thereat. However, one intrepid woman, in the dead of night, hearing the footsteps going down the stairs, jumped out of bed and for two hours stood at the head of the staircase listening. The heavy man's tread sounded on each stair and could be heard crossing the tiled hall; the sound of the study door opening and shutting followed, then—silence. There she stood, but heard no other sound. The maker of the footsteps moved no more. Finally the servant went downstairs with a candle in her hand, but there was no sign of this disturber of the peace.

The coachman has seen a dark figure walk round the house, stand listening at the back door, and then glide away and vanish into the autumn twilight, but this of course might be a mere human being of flesh and blood, and other than ghostly counsels the reason of his wandering. It is a curious story, and suggestive by its very barrenness. It is the type of tale which makes good folk shiver in the gloaming as they draw up to the cheerful blaze and pronounce that wide-embracing word "uncanny."

In connection with the B. family one other strange event deserves record. Two or three years after the B.'s went to live in the late Mr. A.'s house, Mrs. B. and a girl-friend were driving home from the little market town a few miles off. It was about four o'clock on a winter's afternoon, and twilight was coming on. They passed a spot where four roads meet, and half a mile or so beyond this there is a steep hill. From the cross roads to the top of the hill, according to the girl's story, the figure of a man preceded them, walking faster when the pony trotted and slower when the pony's pace slackened. At the top of the hill, so close was the pony's nose to the back of the man, that the girl in terror seized her hostess's arm, exclaiming :—

"Oh take care!" then suddenly "Why! where has that man gone?" she said in a voice of amazement.

What man?" her hostess asked in laughing surprise.

"The man who has been in front of us from the cross roads," cried her friend.

"The man! There's been no man!" replied Mrs. B.

"How *can* you say that!" said the other, "when he has been in front of us for nearly a mile, and you almost drove over him too. When I caught hold of your arm just now you were so close to him that I was going to call out, "'do mind that man, he's deaf, you'll knock him down!'"

The two ladies gazed at each other, consternation on the one side, amused disbelief on the other; and not until they were nearly home did Mrs. B. begin to realize that her friend had really seen some kind of apparition, and was genuinely frightened.

"We'll ask the coachman," said Mrs. B. consolingly, "he knows all the ghosts in the county."

"James," they enquired as he came to take the pony, "is there anything that walks on Galley Hill?"

That is the conventional way to speak of the Unknown in these regions.

"Oh yes'm," and James' face beamed with intelligent interest, "have you seen anything? There's a old witch been there this long while, she lives in a tree; but I don't think as how it would be her, for she would not let you by, she hangs on to the wheels. Besides she's been charmed down for a hundred year, and her time ain't nearly up yet. But there was Mr. Stubbs as shot hisself by a still near up there. He walks sometimes; that's who it'll be."

As no enquiry nor argument brought them any nearer to a solution of the mystery James' explanation remains unchallenged, and the two ladies suppose that it was Mr. Stubbs who appeared to the girl, but that Mrs. B. is incapable of seeing ghosts. In that part of Rutland it seems evidently the correct fashion among ghosts to act as *avant-courrier* to vehicular traffic.

These are all true stories told by the seers of these strange sights. They can be authenticated by the friend to whom I am indebted for this account; who, indeed, is one of the people in question.

MARY G. CHERRY.

QUERY: BREDCROFT.—Leland says that "in the reign of King Henry VIII. the Sessions for Rutland were kept at *Bredcroft*." Can any reader say where this place is? A. W. J.

NOTES ON OAKHAM CHURCH RESTORATION.

THE Vicar, the Rev. Heneage Finch, the Parishioners, and County Residents, had long been anxious to effect the Restoration. Through the Rev. C. Ellicott, Rector of Whitwell and Rural Dean (Father of the Bishop of Gloucester), I was invited in 1850—my health having broken down with the arduous work for five years as Senior Curate of Kensington under Archdeacon Sinclair—to undertake the Curacy of Oakham, for the express purpose of endeavouring to bring about the Restoration.

On going into residence, however, I soon found that the state of things in the Parish was such that any hasty attempt would certainly result in a disastrous failure. I therefore, with the approval of my kind friends, Mr. Ellicott, and the Rev. T. Kerchever Arnold, Rector of Syndon and Secretary of the County Societies, proposed to the Vicar to try first to carry out a much smaller, but very important and pressing work. The Vicar accordingly consented to postpone the Restoration queston until, if it might so prove, the establishment of a large model block, in place of the existing totally inadequate and inefficient School for Boys and Girls, and a small Dame's School for Infants in Finkey Lane, should be attempted.

By the aid of Grants from the Rutland Societies, the National Society, the Cholmondley Fund, and a large Grant from the Commissioner of Privy Council of £590, and liberal donations from County and Parish residents, the sum of £2,363 was raised, and the Schools built on a site given by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster. (The population of Oakham and Egleton was then 2,864, as against 3,639 now, Census 1901).

After an interval, I suggested to the Vicar, that with the concurrence of my advisers, the agreed experimental step having been so successfully carried out, the time and opportunity had now come when the long looked for greater work of the Church Restoration might be undertaken. But he then told me that, on acconnt of his advanced age and other reasons, he had determined to give up his long cherished hope altogether, and to leave it to his successor to undertake. As this decision, from which no persuasion could move him, placed me in a wholly false position with everybody, I had no alternative but to retire from it, and to return to my proper Diocese of London.

I then undertook the Curacy of St. Margaret's, Westminster, with the care of the district of Petty France, once the "Slums of the Parish." After two years, attending the dis-

tressing case of a dying man, I caught from him the small-pox, and was obliged to give up the post and go into the country to recover my health.

After some months I was astonished, on the 1st of January, 1851, by receiving from the Rev. T. James, Vicar of Theddingworth, Rugby, and Secretary of the Northampton Architectural Society, as intermediary, a letter informing me that the sum of £800 had been anonymously offered for the restoration of Oakham Church, but coupled with the *sine quâ non* condition that I would return to Oakham to endeavour to effect it; to which was added an expression of a wish from the Clergy of the County that I would do so, and at the same time an invitation from the Vicar to resume my former post as Curate. Naturally demurring at first, the assurances given by Mr. James, and the consideration that I had not yet taken any fresh engagement, seemed to amount to a call, which I could not refuse, to put my pride in my pocket and come. So I returned and had no reason to regret doing so, either as regarded the Vicar's support, or the kindness of the Parishioners and County residents throughout.

Then followed the engagement of Mr. (Sir G. G.) Scott, and his report as given on page 76 of the *Rutland Magazine*. He gave us the advantage of a Clerk of the Works, Mr. Chick, a man of remarkable ability, and an invaluable adviser in one of his own staff, Mr. Burlison. Without the special assistance of these gentlemen, under the management of the General Commissioners, with Mr. George Finch or Colonel Lowther, as Chairmen, and without the ever-ready skilled advice of Mr. James, the work, with its many difficulties, could not have been carried out. Mr. Ruddle, senr., too, who held the contract, himself took special interest in the work, for which he was well aware he could derive no pecuniary profit. He *would* have the work, he said, at any cost; and made his tender accordingly, and did his work admirably. Alas! all these, and almost every donor to Schools and Church, have passed away. But, as the sole survivor of those directly concerned in the work, I have a strong wish that these names shall be specially recorded. So should those of the primary promoters of the undertaking. The £800 at first offered anonymously, was given by the four daughters of Dr. J. E. Jones (deceased 1852) of Oakham. Even to the last they were modestly unwilling to let their names appear as donors of the full amount. They were Mrs. Doria, Mrs. Bicknell, Misses Mary Ann and Eliza Jones. Of course, upon their generosity the whole movement hung.

Subscriptions flowed in liberally, and matters followed as described in p. 78.

The Petition for the Faculty (p. 78) was drawn by myself, approved by vote of the Vestry, and adopted verbatim in the Bishop's Decree.

During the progress of the work, I had declined the offer of two livings, as it was impossible to leave it, especially under the circumstances of my invited return, until it had been completed. But the offer of a third living in Kent, after the circulation of the Restoration accounts, led to my quitting Oakham in 1860.

In May, 1860, I had obtained an estimate from Taylor, of Loughborough, for the addition of two Treble Bells. It was kindly proposed to recognise my work in the Schools and Church by putting my name upon them. But this, as well as any other testimonial, I declined. My wife and I had not worked for that. It was, however, known that we were especially desirous of having the parvise screens, north and south of the Chancel, completed, according to drawings I had obtained from Mr. Scott. It was therefore proposed to gratify us by a special subscription for the purpose. We could not but accept the compliment so put, and in May, 1861, Dr. Wood wrote informing me that both the Bells and Screens were fixed, by a joint subscription (the List now before me) of £250.

Before quitting Oakham I had presented and inserted, at Mr. Scott's suggestion, a Devonshire marble shaft in place of one rotted away, in the Porch Arcade, in hopes that it would suggestively lead to the other shafts being similarly supplied by other donors. I do not know whether there have been any such results.

I here make a few remarks upon the history which appeared in the first four issues of the Magazine.

Late one Saturday night, when the roofs were all off, and when the workmen had nearly all left off work, Mr. Chick, the able Clerk of the Works, came to me in great perturbation. The foreman had gone to him and reported that the N.E. pier of the tower was showing signs of giving way, owing to the withdrawal of the side roof timbers, which had acted as a buttress. Mr. Chick had at once communicated with Mr. Ruddle at Peterborough, and by midnight the latter had sent over forty men. The pier was underpinned and otherwise made safe before morning. A small crack, above where the Font appears now to be, on the east face of the pier, was left unfilled up, and I was warned to have this watched for some time, as its enlargement would indicate danger. No enlargement, however, occurred. The underpinning and replacing of the buttress roof timbers had made all secure, but it was rather alarming.

P. 78. There was a singular slip in Mr. Scott's report as to his having found remnants of old Screen work and ancient seats in the Church, for when he surveyed the church no remnants of the sort had been found. It was not until long after, when the old deal pews were being removed, that

underneath the flooring in front of the Chancel four or five pieces of the old Chancel Screen, with deep cut mouldings and still bright colours, were discovered. It was a curious mistake, anticipating what actually occurred. It arose, no doubt, from complication of his notes with those of some other church. The pieces were put in the Vestry for preservation. No seating, however, was ever found other than the wretched deal pews. With respect to the seats, Mr. George Finch, the Patron, had given a handsome donation of £800, I think, for the restoration, but he most strongly insisted upon the new woodwork being of plain deal and of the plainest character. This did not at all accord with the views of Mr. Scott, or of the promoters of the work. However, nothing was said. Afterwards, but before the Church was empty, a carved back and end with poppyhead, in oak, was noticeable, placed unobtrusively against a wall, supposed to be Ruddle's work for some other church. Mr. Finch, who often came down to see how things were going on, spotted these. "Ah," he said, "if all the woodwork could be carried out like this, I would give another £500 for the purpose." And he did. And he never spoke about plain deal work again. The specimens were retained and put up.

P. 83. It, of course, "goes without saying," that the success of the whole undertaking was essentially due to Mr. Scott's transcendent ability. One peculiar trait in him, not always paralleled by other Architects, was his generous readiness to consider, and if possible adopt, suggestions tendered by less skilled, or wholly unskilled, individuals. The advance of the Chancel area with the Nave binding them together was a remarkable instance of this.

P. 107. I am told that the Organ has been placed at the East end of the South Chancel Aisle. The position to be occupied by the Organ was largely discussed; and the opinion of all experts was, that, in that situation the background of the large glass window would be fatal to the telling out of the Diapasons and Organ generally. It was agreed that its proper place would be at the third bay. But this passed into other hands.

P. 108. The statement of the "indiscriminate use of the monumental slabs in place of tiles" and of their having "now" become worn and undecipherable, is absolutely incorrect. Every slab with an inscription when taken up was carefully marked and its place recorded, and every one, unless quite defaced, replaced in its former situation. The intervals, as directed by the Faculty, were filled with tiles. It is quite unjust to attribute their condition now to the Restorers. They covered the whole of the passages with matting, of which I have before me the account for £21.

P. 111. It appears that the Tenor Bell was recast in 1875. It was perfectly sound in 1860. Has anything happened since? Partly by Rate, and partly by Subscription, a new Clock with skeleton faces by Dent was provided, with the chimes of St. Mary's, Cambridge. These chimes should not be called by the somewhat contemptuous term of "Quarter jacks," a name usually confined to "ding dongs." I should much like to know whether the clock, which was of special construction recommended by Mr. E. Beckett Denison (Lord Grimthorpe), has done justice to its inventor and maker during its 45 years use.

P. 113. REGISTERS AND PARISH BOOKS. I cannot at this distance of time charge my memory with the character of the books from which they were taken. I think they were *not* the Registers, but I have extracts as far back as 1652, the entries running for several years after, of a rather important fact, *viz.*, that of the several sittings or places (the 1st and 2nd, etc.), in the seats or benches being systematically "appointed and recorded to the use of individual persons by the Minister and Churchwardens, or by the Churchwardens with consent of the Minister." It would be very desirable that a set of extracts should be made and published, as bearing upon the now vexed question as to assignment, allotment, or appropriation by Churchwardens. The Oakham practice, though in Puritan times was, I believe, the true legal action and its evidence is important. I have never met with similar records.

P. 114. A paragraph here requires special notice. Previously to the Restoration, there was a large mound of grass-covered earth opposite to the South Transept and Vestry. Its origin was, I believe, never ascertained, but it probably was due to earth being removed at some time from the walls of the Church for drainage reasons. Old Dunston (Sexton in 1850, aged 80), had never known it otherwise. The rest of the churchyard was studded with headstones of the usual hideous character. The effect of the mound and headstones was to throw the Church into a hollow.

The date of the "Old Print" from which the drawing in Part 3 is taken, is not stated. In this drawing the mound is scarcely shown. But in an engraving by Greenwood, published by G. S. Cunnington, of Oakham, about 1850, it is a prominent feature; though the headstones, no doubt for artistic reasons, are omitted in both prints.

Towards the close of the Restoration work, a strong feeling arose in both Parish and County, that it would be incomplete unless the Churchyard were restored to its ancient level condition, the eyesores of the erect headstones and mound removed, and the church shown in its full original elevation. The levelling had been approved both by the Vestry and the Bishop's Faculty. It was, of course, a some-

what delicate question to deal with, but the very able carrying out of the main works by the clerk had raised so general a confidence that, when it was stipulated by the General Committee that he should be present at all the levelling proceedings, no objection was raised; and when the levelling was completed no single complaint was made as to the details in carrying it out. In point of fact, Mr. Chick was present as directed, and, residing in the old Vicarage close by, I was myself frequently present. From what he reported, and what I saw myself, I am confident that in levelling the surface, not a single grave was disturbed, nor coffin reached. The depth of the superficial accumulation from worm action (Darwin on worms) and other causes, and the distribution of the mound earth, made it unnecessary. The headstones, which really ought never to have been introduced, were laid flat in situ. To call it a "spoiling of picturesque beauty" to remove such excrescences and eyesores is really preposterous. Hence too, the "extraordinary tales" quoted from the *Leicestershire Gleaner* of a body found on its face, of a young lady buried with her jewellery, of a gold watch found and sold for £5 to a travelling hawker who opportunely passed by, are obvious and ridiculous falsities. The date of neither the *Leicestershire Gleaner*, nor of the tales is stated. It would perhaps hardly be expected that anyone would now survive to give them so flat a contradiction as I now, in defence of the memory of those concerned in the restoration, am able to do. I, however, think that the feelings of the present families of deceased parishioners buried in the churchyard, if any, ought not to be disturbed by currency being given to such idle tales in a County Magazine.

At the East end, immediately over the Altar is a recess, roughly of about 18″ × 10″ × 8″ (?), the purpose of which was deemed doubtful by the antiquarians. It had no provision for doors, and was therefore voted not to be of the nature of an aumbry. I have once since seen one exactly similar, at Melrose Abbey, but never elsewhere. This must now be wholly concealed by the new Reredos, but its existence ought to be recorded.

I am rather puzzled by finding the Font placed in the engraving (Part I.) in the N.W. corner. I thought it had been replaced on the S. side of the middle aisle, in its old situation, as shown in my ground plan. To my memory, too, the shafts of the East Window seem to me too high in relation to the tracery work above. But I suppose the drawing is from a photograph and must be correct.

C. A. STEVENS,
Late Curate of Oakham.

1st October, 1904.

ASHWELL.

Extracts from Bishop Kennett's Collections at the British Museum relating to Ashwell.

1700. 13 Will. 3. Lord Mayor of London. Sir Richard Levet, Haberdasher, son of the Reverent Richard Levet of Ashwell, in the county of Rutland.

1624. I Gilbert Castline of Ashwell in the county of Rutland, yeoman, my body to be buried in the parish church of Ashwell in the middle Alley. I give to the parish church of Ashwell twenty shillings—to the poor of Ashwell ten pounds to be put forth to the use of the poor and the yearly rent thereof to be given to the poor upon the same day of the month that it shall please God to call me out of this life to be distributed according to the discretion of Daniell Cooke now Parson, John Heard and my Executor Francis Castline of Ashwell my sole executor.

1491. (Translation). I Richard Dyng of Ashwell my body to be buried in the church yard of Ashwell. Item I leave for the present mortuary my best animal. Item I leave one pound of wax to be burnt round my funeral (*circa funus meum*) on the day of my burial (*in die sepulcure mee*).

Item I leave to the mother church Lincoln *vid.* Item I leave to the church of Ashwell 4 pecks of malt. Item I leave to the church of Stapulford xx*d.* Item I leave to the church or chapel of Burton xx*d.*

1553. xv. Marche 7 Ed. VI. I Thomas Redmyle of Ashwell in the county of Rutland husbandman—my soul unto allmighty God my maker & redeemer and my body to be buried in the church of Ashwell and for the same I bequeth to the reparation & makinge of the glasse windowes of the soweth side of the church vs. & for my mortuary as the Law requireth & for forgotten tythes xiis. to Hynes my wife my coppye house. Thomas & John my sonnes their Brother Robert & Richard wytnes Robert Wylbroke & Willyam Sharpe Sir John Fenyman and John Smith.

1590. viii Sept. I Leonard Batson minister of God's holye worde and sacraments parson of Ashwell in the county of Rutland. My body to be buried where it shall please Almighty God. First I give unto the poor of Ashwell xlb. Item I give unto Mr. ffrancis Paulmes Esquire my good patron xxlb desiring him to be assistante to my executors and to see that they have no wrong done as my hope is. Item I give to my young Mr. Paulmes my cubbard in the parlour—to William Bateson eldest sonne to Peter Bateson deceased several lands & tenements within the Lordshippe territories of Yeaden in the parish of Gyselly within the county of Yorke—the rest of all my lands & purchases unto Andrewe Baytson and Abraham Baytson sonnes of the aforesaid Peter Baytson. Item I give to my Patronesse Mrs. Palms my ambling baye colt—to Bridgitt Baytson to make her porten one hundred marks. To Joan Baytson her sister xlb to Christopher Baytson hir brother xxlb to Timothy Baytson one hundred poundes to Gyles Baytson vlb. I make my nevye Thomas Cave Thomas Orten & Ames Orten executors and I give to Thomas Cave for his paynes to be takyne herein xxlb in goulde and my bookes and to have his charges borne in all his travells per me Leonard Baytson parson of Ashwell in the presense of me Richard Basset Richard Lyster Robt Wilcocks & William Sharpe.

Photo by UPPINGHAM CHURCH. *W. J. W Stocks.*

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THE

RUTLAND MAGAZINE

AND

COUNTY HISTORICAL RECORD.

UPPINGHAM—*(continued).*

THE CHURCH, which is dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, stands conspicuously on the very brow of the steep ascent at one end of the Market Place. Leland visited the church about the year 1540 and described it as "a very meane churche," but whether he referred to its dilapidated condition or to its size we have no means of ascertaining. While there are no features of special interest the fabric must, in Leland's time, have been far from deserving such a contemptuous description.

Originally of Norman foundation it was almost entirely rebuilt in the reign of Edward I. In the course of the restoration in 1860-61, fragments of a Norman Church were found. Four carved figures were among the fragments, and they have been inserted in the walls—two in the north aisle and two in the north transept. A stone coffin lid (coped) of the 13th century was found at the west end of the south aisle, the upper part, which probably consisted of a cross, having been broken off. There is a piscina of eight foils in the south wall and another (trefoil headed) of four foils in the south pier of the chancel arch; an aumbry also is in the north pier of the same arch. Several stone steps by which the rood-loft was reached were found. The frieze on the north side of the church is enriched with dog tooth, ballflower, rose

and grotesques, a combination of ornament which proves the fabric to have been rebuilt between the latter part of the 13th century and the beginning of the 14th, or during the transition from the Early English to the Decorated style of architecture.

In 1860 the fabric consisted of a nave, about 41-ft. long by 21-ft. wide, separated by an arcade of three arches from aisles on the north and south, the former 12-ft. by 61-ft., the latter 13-ft. 6-ins. by 63-ft. A chancel 16-ft. wide by 37-ft. long. At the west end a bold unpretending tower and spire. The whole of the two aisles were covered in by heavy galleries projecting into the nave. The caps of the columns and part of the shafts were entirely cased in; the galleries were also continued round the west end, blocking up one-third of the total length of the nave, entirely concealing the west arch, and cutting off from view the upper part of the windows. The whole building inside was covered with whitewash, discoloured in places with green mould, and the ceiling, which had been placed in such a manner as to cut off the apex of the chancel arch, was dropping from rottenness and decay. The tower was shaken in consequence of the injudicious and improper manner in which the bells were hung, and the lower part of the west doorway buried some distance below the surface. The church was entered through two miserable porches by a descent of several steps.

Such being the state of affairs the Churchwardens and inhabitants determined to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the appointment of a new Rector, to endeavour to bring about a much needed restoration. He, fortunately for them, was the Rev. W. Wales, Chancellor of the Diocese, a most active member of the Diocesan Church Building Society, and one who had long taken a leading part and deep interest in such matters, and, therefore, no time was lost in taking preliminary steps. A meeting was held, at which the Rector and Churchwardens were empowered to call in a competent Architect to report and advise on the subject. Mr. Henry Parsons, F.R.I.B.A., of London, whose restoration of the neighbouring Church of Ridlington was then drawing to a satisfactory completion, was requested to furnish a report, which was adopted, and a Faculty was applied for of which the following is a copy:—

> Faculty for repairing, restoring, and making other alterations in the Parish Church of Uppingham, in the County of Rutland and Diocese of Peterborough.
>
> George, by Divine permission, Bishop of Peterborough. To all to whom these Presents shall come, or shall or may in anywise concern. Greeting, whereas it hath been represented unto us in and by a certain Petition under the hands of the Reverend William Wales, Clerk, Master of Arts, Rector of Uppingham, in the County of Rutland, and Chancellor of our Diocese of Peterborough, and of William Compton and John

Baines Mould, the Churchwardens of the said Parish. That the present dilapidated state of certain parts of the Parish Church of Uppingham aforesaid, and the inconvenient and insufficient accommodation for the Parishioners therein are such as to require the immediate repair, restoration and reseating of the said Church.

That a meeting of the Inhabitants of the said Parish was held in the Grammar School on Tuesday, the twenty-fourth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and sixty, pursuant to due notice, at which it was unanimously resolved that the plans then presented by Mr. Henry Parsons, Architect, of London, for the enlarging, repairing and reseating of the said Parish Church be adopted, and application made for a Faculty to carry out the same.

That at a Vestry Meeting of the Inhabitants of the said Parish, held on Thursday, the twelfth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixty, pursuant to due notice, it was unanimously resolved to close the footpath now in use by the North Aisle wall round the east end of the said Parish Church in order that the extension of the Church and the widening of the North Aisle may be effected. That the estimate for the said works amount to the sum of three thousand seven hundred pounds, which it is proposed and intended to raise, by voluntary subscriptions, to the intent that the Parishioners shall not be called upon for any extraordinary rate for the purposes aforesaid. And that upwards of three thousand six hundred pounds hath been already subscribed or promised to be paid.

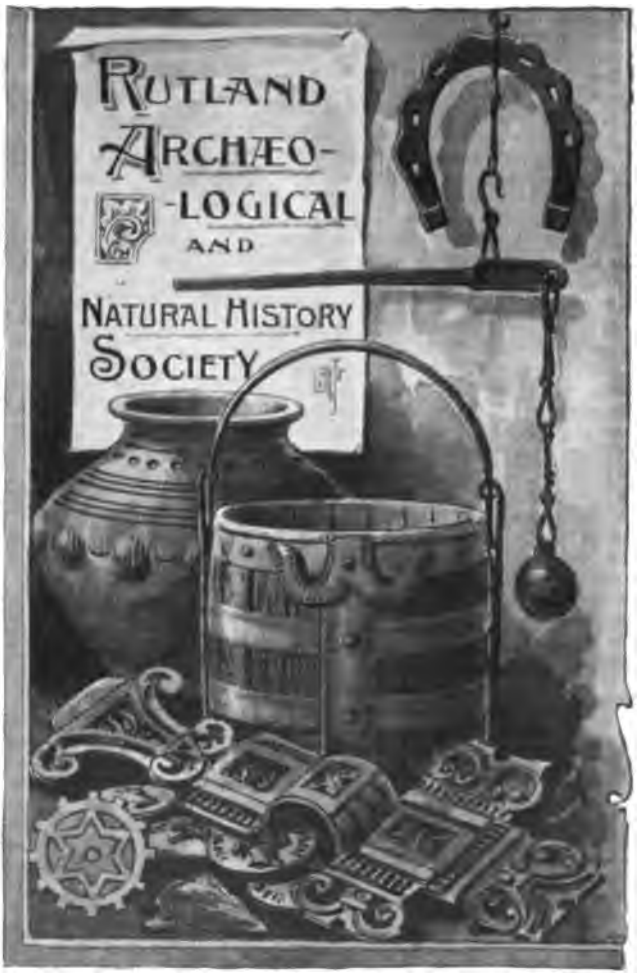
That the population of the said Parish is upwards of two thousand one hundred souls, while the Church in its present state affords accommodation only for five hundred and twenty, and sixty additional sittings will be obtained.

Wherefore it is humbly prayed that our License or Faculty may be granted to our Petitioners, the Rector and Churchwardens, for the time being of the said Parish of Uppingham to carry into effect the before-mentioned works of enlargement repair, restoration and reseating of the said Church according to the Plan hereunto annexed, and closing of the said footpath; and in the execution thereof to remove (if necessary) any mural or other monuments, tablets, head or foot stones, or any coffins deposited either within or without the walls of the said Church, and to replace the same in their present or some other suitable position (as nearly as circumstances will admit or may require), to use in the said proposed works so much of the old materials as can be used with advantage, to sell the residue and expend the money arising from such sale towards defraying the expenses of the said works. And also that our License and Faculty may be granted to appropriate and from time to time set apart, the pews or seats to be erected to and for the use of such person and persons and their respective families as shall be Parishioners and inhabitants of the said Parish of Uppingham according to the discretion of the Ordinary and Churchwardens, due respect and preference being given to such person or persons, inhabitants of the said Parish of Uppingham, who may have right by Faculty or prescription to any pews or sittings in the said Church.

And whereas The Reverend Charles West, Clerk, Master of Arts, our Surrogate lawfully appointed, having duly considered the premises and rightly and duly proceeding therein, did at the Petition of Britten, the Proctor for the said Rectory

and Churchwardens of Uppingham aforesaid, decree all and singular the Parishioners and inhabitants of the Parish of Uppingham in special and all others in general having or pretending to have any tithe or interest in the premises to be cited, intimated and called to appear in judgment on the day at the time and place in manner and form and to the effect hereinafter mentioned (Justice so requiring). And whereas we did cite or cause to be cited peremptorily all and singular the Parishioners and inhabitants of the said Parish of Uppingham in special and all others in general having or pretending to have any right, title, or interest in the premises to appear personally or by his, her, or their Proctors or Proctor, Solicitors or Solicitor, duly constituted before us or our said Surrogate, or some other competent Judge in that behalf and shew a good and sufficient cause if they, or any, or either of them had or knew any why our License or Faculty should not be granted to the said William Wales, William Compton, John Baines Mould, the Rector and Churchwardens of the said Parish of Uppingham, for the purposes in the therein and herein before recited Petition particularly mentioned and set forth, and for ratifying and confirming the same when completed. With intimation to all and singular the said Parishioners and inhabitants of the said Parish of Uppingham in special and all others in general having or pretending to have any right, title, or interest in the premises that if they, some, or one of them did not appear on the day at the time and place and took the effect in such citation with intimation mentioned and appointed or appearing did not shew a good and sufficient cause concludent in the Law to the contrary, we or our said Surrogate, or some other competent Judge in that belief, did intend to proceed and would proceed to decree and grant such our License or Faculty to the said William Wales, William Compton, John Baines Mould, the Rector and Churchwardens of the said Parish of Uppingham, for the purposes to the effect and in manner aforesaid the absence or rather contumacy of the persons so cited and intimated as aforesaid in anywise notwithstanding. And whereas our said Surrogate on the due execution and return of the said decree or citation with intimation and on calling all and singular the Parishioners and inhabitants of the said Parish of Uppingham in special and all others in general having or pretending to have any right, title, or interest in the premises so cited to appear and none of them appearing, but contumaciously absenting themselves, did pronounce them to be in contempt and on pain of such their coutumacy did decree that no obstacle appeared to prevent us from granting a License or Faculty for the purposes in the said citation with intimation and in these presents above mentioned and set forth as in and by the proceedings thereupon had and made and now remaining in our Registry it doth and may more fully appear.

We, therefore, the Bishop aforesaid, well weighing and considering the premises, do by virtue of our Authority, ordinary and Episcopal, and as far as by the Ecclesiastical Laws of this Realm and the Temporal Laws of the same we may or can ratify and confirm whatsoever our said Surrogate hath done in and concerning the premises. And we do hereby give and grant our License or Faculty to these the said William Wales, William Compton and John Baines Mould, the Rector and Churchwardens of the said Parish of Uppingham, for the several respective purposes mentioned and set forth in the hereinbefore recited Petition. In testimony whereof we have



BOOK PLATE OF THE RUTLAND ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

carved stone bracket surmounted by a crocketed canopy. The wall face at the back, between the shelf and canopy is slightly recessed and enriched with carved diaper work. On the opposite wall is a sedilium. A dwarf wall of polished serpentine separates the nave from the chancel, which is approached by a flight of three steps through the wall. The wall is surmounted on both sides by a wrought iron cresting. The chancel is laid with Minton's encaustic tiles.

The roof is of oak and consists of three arched ribs, deeply moulded, springing from carved oak corbels, consisting of figures of angels in various attitudes of prayer. Upon these ribs are supported moulded purlins, the spaces between being filled in with panelling enriched in each angle by a leaf termination. There is a deep cornice extending between the corbels, finished by a brattishing above and a pendentive enrichment underneath.

The roof of the nave is of oak, with deeply moulded ribs, collar-beams, and hammer-beams, the latter terminating by carved figures of angels supporting various emblems. The north aisle is covered by an oaken roof consisting of moulded principals with collar ties and curved bracket pieces against the wall, the cheeks of which are finished with carving. The intermediate principals terminate upon carved oak corbels. The south aisle is covered by a plainer but massive oak roof.

The body of the church throughout is seated with oak benches (previous to the restoration it was filled with high backed pews), the ends of which are square, finished with a deep moulding with ball flower ornament. About one-third of the face of the bench end is decorated with elaborately carved diapery of different designs. Every fourth bench is, however, relieved by a trefoil or quatrefoil, containing the emblems of the Evangelists, the Holy Trinity and Monograms. This is the work of Mr. Irving, of Leicester, who executed the beautiful carving in All Saints' Church, Stamford.

(To be continued).

WHITE'S SELBORNE AND THE RUTLAND RAINFALL.—I do not know how many persons there are in Rutland who are aware that Gilbert White had a correspondent who lived in their county. I do know that, to those who are unaware of this interesting fact, the following, (which appears as a footnote in my copy [Bennett's Edition] of the truly delightful claim in question) is likely to prove of some interest.

A very intelligent gentleman (Thomas Barker, of ancient family in the county of Rutland) assures me, and he speaks from upwards of 40 years' experience, that the mean rain of any place cannot be ascertained till a person has measured it for a very long period. "If I had only "measured the rain," says he, "for the first four years, from 1740 to 1743, "I should have said the mean rain at Lyndon was 16½ inches for the year; "if from 1740 to 1750, 18½ inches. The mean rain before 1763 was 20½; "from 1763 and since, 25½; from 1770 to 1780, 26. If only 1773, 1774 "and 1775 had been measured, Lyndon mean rain would have been "called 32 inches."—G. W. A. J. WATERFIELD.

THE GUN MONEY OF JAMES II.

THERE are, as it has been said, two ways of regarding coins; they may be looked upon as monuments of Art, or as evidences of history. It is not easy to say which view is the more likely to appeal to the mind of the ordinary individual; probably, I think, the latter.

The study of numismatics seems to be so indissolubly interwoven with the history of the countries to which the various series of coins respectively belong that it is difficult to understand how the numismatist can fail to regard history as an essential part of his science, or the historian (though, perhaps, in a less degree) to realize the value of numismatics as an aid to his researches.

A notable instance of this close union between numismatics and history is supplied by the series of coins issued by James II. in Ireland in the years 1689 and 1690 and known to collectors by the name of "gun money."

I propose, then, to give a brief account of this interesting coinage and at the same time to glance shortly at the circumstances connected with its issue.

It will be remembered that the luckless monarch, James II. of England (during the few years he occupied the throne) by means of arbitrary curtailments of that chief treasure of every Briton—the "liberty of the subject," as well as by attempts to force Popery upon an unwilling nation, had succeeded in alienating from himself the affection and loyalty of a large majority of his subjects, and at length, in December, 1688, found himself obliged to seek refuge under the protection of his patron and co-religionist, King Louis XIV. of France, at St. Germains.

In the following year, however, we find him preparing to make a desperate attempt to recover his lost crown, with the aid of his powerful ally.

In Ireland, at this time, the chief power, both civil and military, was in the hands of Papists; moreover, owing to the bitter enmity between the Irish and English, the former were, for the most part, only too glad to make common cause with James against the hated English power now personified in William of Orange, James's son-in-law and successful rival, to whom the English crown had been offered by Parliament in February, 1689. Ireland, therefore, was selected by James as the most favourable field in which to make his final bid for power.

Landing at Kinsale on March 12th, 1689, with an army furnished and equipped by the French King, he made a triumphant entry into Dublin on the 24th of the same month.

From the very outset, lack of the sinews of war was one of James's chief hindrances, and among his first acts was a proclamation raising the value of all the coins then current in Ireland, as a means of replenishing his exhausted exchequer.

Finding, however, that this expedient was insufficient for his purpose, James, with a folly and short-sightedness born of desperation, conceived that he could (as Macaulay puts it) "extricate himself from his financial difficulties by the simple process of calling a farthing a shilling"; in other words, he now commenced the issue of what, for reasons which will appear, has since been called the "gun money."

The first of these coins to be struck were sixpences of brass and copper, bearing on the obverse a laureated bust of James, to the left, surrounded by the legend: "JACOBUS II. DEI GRATIA"; and on the reverse two sceptres in saltire through a crown, between the letters J.R., with VI. (for sixpence) above, and the month in which the coin was struck, below, the whole surrounded by an inscription, which, by extending the abbreviations appearing on the coins, reads :—MAGNAE BRITANNIAE FRANCIAE ET HIBERNIAE REX. The year of issue appears above the vi. and between the words REX and MAG.

By a proclamation dated June 18th, 1689, this money was made current for all payments with a few specified exceptions; all persons refusing to receive the same were to be severely punished; and the king's pledge was given that when "the present necessity" was past the said money would be redeemed and full satisfaction given to the holders in current money of the realm.

In order not to impede the circulation of this new money, a patent for coinage granted in 1685 to Alderman Knox and held at this time by Colonel Moore, was revoked and mints for the issue of the king's money were established at the Deanery in Limerick and in Capel Street, Dublin, where coining was carried on both day and night.

Even then the demand exceeded the supply, and on June 27th, a proclamation was issued by which half-crowns and shillings, struck in similar metals to the sixpences, were declared current under the same penalties as before.

The only difference of type in these coins was the substitution of xii. and xxx. on the shilling and half-crown respectively, for the vi. on the sixpence.

The material of which this debased coinage was made was both varied and remarkable. In Ruding's "Annals of the Coinage" we read that an order was sent by the Secretary of State to Lord Mt. Cashel, Master General of the Ordnance, to deliver to the Commissioners of the Mint two brass cannons then lying at Dublin Castle; while

Henfrey ("Guide to English Coins") mentions the fact that a cannon presented by Louis XIV. furnished the metal for a large number of these coins. Here, then, we find the origin of the term "Gun money" which has been applied to this coinage. In addition to guns, copper and brass in any obtainable form was requisitioned by the agents of King James, and recourse was even had to the kitchens of the citizens of Dublin, whence kettles, pots and pans all found their way into the royal mint and re-appeared in the shape of money.

Meanwhile, the fortunes of King James were on the wane. A miserable caricature of a Parliament had been summoned at Dublin and occupied itself mainly in passing barbarous enactments against the persons and property of the Protestants, chief among which was the Act of Attainder, whereby a large number of persons were condemned unheard and unconvicted. At Limerick and Newton Butler the king's cause received crushing blows in July, 1689, at the hands of James's opponents, and by the autumn large portions of Ulster and Leinster were either laid waste or fallen into the hands of Schomberg, the General of William's Army.

The need for money wherewith to pay his soldiers became more and more pressing, and in February, 1690, James was obliged to remove the limitations laid down by the Proclamation of the previous 18th of June, and the gun money was henceforward available for all payments without exception.

In the March following, pennies and halfpennies of white metal were issued, and in April a crown of the same material was added.

The crown bears on the obverse a spirited figure of James mounted on a horse trotting to the left; the King is in armour, bare-headed, and carrying a drawn sword. Surrounding the figure is the inscription "JAC. II. DEI GRA. MAG. BRI. FRA. ET HIB. REX." The reverse has a large crown in the centre and the arms of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, each in a crowned shield, arranged crosswise. In the field, above the crown and divided by the English arms, are the words "ANO-DOM," while below the crown and divided by the French arms, is the date "16-90." The encircling inscription consists of the motto "CHRISTO VICTORE TRIUMPHO." Round the edge were the words "MELIORIS TESSERA FATI," "a pledge (or token) of better fortune"—an aspiration destined never to be fulfilled. Specimens of this crown are of considerable rarity, but neither they nor the pennies and halfpennies mentioned above can be strictly classed with the gun money proper.

As we watch the career of the ill-starred James during this period it seems as though the waning popularity and declining fortunes of the King are reflected in the events at

window, which contains very heavy flowing tracery carried down much out of proportion to the height, gives a very sombre appearance to the chancel.

> "To the Glory of God and in memory of William Wales M A Rector 1859-1879. Chancellor of the Diocese 1850-1888."

is the inscription. A brass states that

> "The centre light of this window is the gift of near relatives of Chancellor and Hon. Mrs. Wales."

A four light window on the south side contains, under canopies, scenes from the life of Joseph, and underneath these The visit of the Magi; The flight into Egypt; The miracle of the loaves and fishes and the betrayal by Judas. It is dedicated

> "To the Glory of God, a thankoffering for mercies received by William Southwell, now at rest, A.D. 1904."

The three light window in the west wall, south of the tower arch, is called the "Children's Window," the funds having been subscribed, from week to week, by the Sunday School Scholars. The Purification; Christ blessing little children; The Good Shepherd; Mary and Child and a crowned figure with orb in left hand are the subjects. In the tower is a two light window containing representations of S. Catherine and S. Celilia, the gift of W. M. Compton, Esq., in the year 1904.

The west wall, north of the tower, contains an excellent example of an Early English three light window, with pierced spandrils, filled with stained glass. The dedication is

> "To the glory of God and in loving memory of Sarah Ann White, Died 1879. Mary Ann White, died 1886 and Ann Severin Tatem, died 1890."

The subject is the raising to life of Dorcas by Peter.

JEREMY TAYLOR'S PULPIT.—We give an illustration of this interesting memento of an illustrious divine, who for a few years was Rector of Uppingham. Restorers have done all they can to spoil this invaluable relic, by robbing it of its sounding board, lowering it and putting it on a base of polished serpentine quite out of keeping with its arabesque oak wainscot sides; but the body of the pulpit is as it was in Taylor's days, and is shown to the curious visitor as Jeremy Taylor's pulpit. In our last issue we gave some particulars of his life under the heading of "Rutland Authors and their Books."

CHURCH PLATE.—The plate consists of two cups, three patens, a flagon, and a brass lacquered alms dish.

The two cups are alike, $8\frac{1}{4}$-ins. in height; the diameter of the mouths of the bowls is $3\frac{1}{2}$-in., of the feet 4-ins.; the depth of the bowls is 3-ins., and the weight 11 ozs. The bowls are half-egg shaped, gilt inside, and on each of them is inscribed "Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Uppingham."

One of the patens is 1¾-in. in height; the diameter of the top is 6¼-in., of the top 3-in., and the weight 8-ozs. It is an ordinary plate with a flat rim, and stands on a short stem. On it is inscribed "Deo et Sacris Ecclesiæ Parochialis de Uppingham."

The two other patens are alike in all respects excepting the weight, one of them weighs 4 ozs. and the other 5 ozs. In the centre is engraved the sacred monogram, surrounded by a circle of flames. They each bear the inscription, "Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Uppingham," as on the cups.

The flagon is 11-ins. in height, the diameter of the top is 3¼-ins., of the base 4-ins., of the broadest part 5¼-ins. It is a tall plain tankard, with moulded lid and base, a handle and spout. The inscription is the same as occurs on the cups and paten. The above was supplied by Messrs. Lambert & Co., Goldsmiths, London, in 1871.

It would be interesting to know what became of the old plate mentioned in the churchwarden's books. As this is a very interesting item we give it here in full:—

May the 10th Anno Domini 1639.
These things dedicated for the Church of Uppingham by the Right reverend father in God the Lord Bishop of Peterborough in the Cathedral Church.
One chalice with a cover silver and gilt.
2 Patins silver and gilt.
2 Pewter flaggons.
1 Diaper napkin for a corporall.
1 Bible.
1 Booke of Common Prayer.
1 Alter Cloth of greene silk Damaske.
2 Alter Cloths of Diaper.
1 Long cussion of crimson velvit lin'd w^th^ crimson seargе w^th^ 4 grate tassils of crimson silke.
1 short cussion of the same.
1 Tippit of tafferty sarcenit.
1 Surplice.
2 Blacke hoods of seargе lin'd with tafferty sarcenit.

The brass alms dish is one foot in diameter. It is ornamented in the centre; round the rim is the inscription, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and on the inside is "XAD.M.G.X in usum Ecclesiæ Uppinghamiae D.D. F.H. Richardson X Fest March MDCCCLIX."

Bells.—There are eight bells with the following inscriptions:—

1 & 2. PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT 1773.
3. PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT 1772.
4. MATTHEW CATLIN AND RICHARD WADE JUN^R^ CHURCHWARDENS. TAYLOR ST. NEOTS FOUNDER 1804.
5, 6, 7. PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT 1772.
8. YE RINGERS ALL WHO PRIZE YOUR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS BE SOBER MERRY WISE AND YOULL THE SAME POSSESS
PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON
WALTER ROBARTS CH. WARDEN, 1772

The churchwardens' account books contain numerous items relating to bells and bell-ringing. In the year 1634 £54 6s. 8d. was paid for re-hanging the bells. The ringing of the church bells on the occasion of any public event or in commemoration thereof is always accompanied by a payment. The following items appear:—

1638.	It. given ye ringers for ye King's happy return from Spane	0	1	6
	It. to ye ringers for ye Kings day	0	1	0
1639.	Itm. to the Ringers on the fift of November ... (This item occurs every year).	0	1	0
1676.	Paid the ringers May the 29th	0	1	0
1680.	Pd to ye ringers Coronation Day and ye 5th November	0	2	0
1688.	Pd at proclaiming the King for ringing and bone fier, &c.	0	17	0
1702.	To the Ringers on the day of Thanksgiving for destroying 40 ships men of warre of the ffrench & Spanish Galleons at Vigo	0	10	0
1710.	June 21. Paid for ale ye ringers had uppon ye news of Deray being taken	0	02	0
	Aug. 21. pd for ale ye ringers had upon ye Surrender of Bethune	0	02	6
1721.	June 22. Pd the Ringers for ringing for a peace with Spaine	0	3	0
1722.	July 21. Pd to ye Ringers when the L^{d} Bp was here	0	7	6

The following, while not relating to bells, is curious. It relates to the same event, *i.e.*, the visit of the Bishop.

July 22. Pd to ye men y^{t} stop't off the crowd	0	5	0
Brandy & Sack to ye Bp and his officers ...	0	5	6
The Bps Ltr for ye Confirmacon	0	2	0

THE ORGAN was originally built by Holditch (an old Uppingham School boy) and was re-constructed and enlarged in 1892 by Nicholson & Co., Gloucester, who then added the stops marked with an asterisk, and in addition provided a new set of overhanging keys and a new pedal board, built on the recommendations of the Royal College of Organists.

The stops not marked with an asterisk formed the old organ, and there were only one-and-a-half octaves of pedals.

The entire cost of reconstruction, nearly £400, was met by the late W. C. Compton, Esq., who was for many years churchwarden, and took a keen interest in the church.

GREAT ORGAN.		CHOIR ORGAN.	
Open Diapason	8 ft.	Stop Diapason	8 ft.
Stop Diapason	8 ft.	Dulciana	8 ft.
*Keraulophon	8 ft.	Principal	4 ft.
Principal	4 ft.	Flute	4 ft.
*Harmonic Flute	2 ft.	*Clarinet	8 ft.
Tierce	2 ft.		
Sesquialtera	2 ft.		

SWELL ORGAN.

Open Diapson.....8 ft.
Stop Diapson .....8 ft.
*Gamba .....8 ft.
*Voix Celeste .....8 ft.
*Wald Flute .....4 ft.
Principal .....4 ft.
*Piccolo.....2 ft.
Trumpet .....8 ft.

PEDAL ORGAN.

CCC to F.

Bourdon .....16 ft.
Open Diapason.....16 ft.

COUPLERS.

Swell to Pedal.
Great to Pedal.
Choir to Pedal.
Swell to Great.
Swell to Choir.

Three Manuals.
Three Composition Pedals each to Great and Swell.
Tracker Action throughout.

Monuments.—There are no monuments of ancient date or of any antiquarian interest except the one in the south transept to the memory of Edward Fawkener.

Memoriae Sacrum.

Viro honoratiffimo Everardo Fawkener Armigero in hoc Comitatu olim Vicecomiti, qui obiit 2. die Maii An. Dom. 1653. Anno que Ætat. sui 75.

Clarus ab ingenuis jacet hic Fawkenerus Avitis
Quem magè virtutum nobilitavit Amor.
Geftantem fummos Rutlandia vidit honores
Quos ambit juris militiaeque Decus.
Spectat ab Aurora quay; Uppinghamia Templum
Sumptibus illius compita ftrata nitent:
Promptior at Caelum qua nos gradiamur ad altum
Et conftipato fit via Munda foro
Pauperibus Solamen erat; Juvenumque folebat
Anguftam larga fpem relevare manu.
Lector, ne luges; nec vos legetis Amici,
Poft hæc en fupereft nefcia fama mori.

In grati animi Teftimonium Edvardus Fawkener Armiger in hæredem fibi afcitus hoc mærens pofuit Monumentum.

East end. Surmounted by coat of arms.

"This monument was placed here by the rector of this parish in memory of his beloved wife Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, with whom he lived near twenty-five years in ye most perfect friendship and all that Happiness which mutual love could give. She possessed as many virtues as ever adorned a private life. She was a most affectionate wife, a fond and tender mother, a faithful friend, an easy and indulgent mistress. Being of a meek, a quiet and an humble disposition of mind. She lived respected and died universally lamented by all her acquaintances 22 Feb. 1744 in the 54 year of her age."

South wall.

"Sacred to the memory of Elias John Lafargue Esquire, whose remains are deposited in a vault near this place. He died the 29th of April 1828 aged 52 gears. In pace quiescat. Also of Mary relict of Elias John Lafargue Esquire who died August 1st, 1842.
Resurgam."

"Near this place are deposited the remains of James Hill, who died on the 16th of November 1811 aged 60 years and of his wife Hannah Margaretta who departed this life on the 2nd of June 1814 aged 55 years also of their son William Hill who died on the 20th of June 1810 aged 27 years and of his wife Julia the daughter of William and Elizabeth Drage of Buntingford, who died on the 18th

of February 1810 in the 24th year of her age. This family were respected inhabitants of the town of Uppingham for nearly 40 years. From dutiful and affectionate regard to the memories of the deceased, this monument was erected by the only surviving child of James and Hannah Margaretta Hill, Mary the wife of William Wyld of the City of London."

"Near this place are deposited the remains of Ann wife of Henry Larratt and daughter of Robert and Sarah Stafford late of this place who died the 1st of June 1813 in the 51st year of her age. She lived beloved and died lamented."

West wall.

"Sacred to the memory of Leonard Bell who was born Nov. 23rd 1766 and died Dec. 26th 1849. Also of Jane his wife, daughter of the Revd David Walker of Deeping St James. She was born May 8th 1769 and died August 4th 1836. Their mortal remains are deposited in a vault at the west end of this church. Their three surviving children have erected this tablet to perpetuate the memory of their revered parents and in testimony of their deep affection and gratitude."

North of Chancel Arch.

"Near this place are deposited the remains of Kathleen Warren, wife of Bentley Warren who died on the 14th of Nov. 1803 in the twenty fourth year of her age regretted inexpressibly by all to whom she was known.

It is humbly hoped that she so passed through things temporal as not to lose finally the things eternal."

"Sacred to the memory of John Smith M.D. who after a life spent in the honest discharge of the medical, social and Christian duties was removed from this mortal state and put on immortality Aug 10th 1808 aged 74 years. Elizabeth the wife of Jn. Smith who died May 21st 1790. Aged 41 years."

"In this Chancel are interred the remains of Ralph Hotchkin Esq. beloved and revered as a husband and father respected as a neighbour valued as a friend charitable and resigned as a Christian he died Feb 13th, MDCCCXVIII aged LXVII. His widow and children erected this monument as the last sincere tribute of affection and esteem.

Mary his widow died January the XVIII. MDCCCLI aged XCI years."

"Beneath this marble are deposited the remains of Mr. Joseph Hotchkin sixth son of the Rev. John Hotchkin formerly of this place. From a most sincere and tender regard to his memory and to the many amiable qualities of his heart his affectionate widow hath caused this monument to be erected. Also Ann Hotchkin the wife of Mr. Joseph Hotchkin and eldest daughter of Mr Robert Heynes of Alverchurch in Worcestershire who died on the 19th of April 1781 aged 63 years."

North Transept.

"In memory of Thomas Barnes Esquire who died December 14th 1849 aged 67 years. Also of Catherine, his wife daughter of the late Ralph Hotchkin, Esquire and Mary his wife who died October 24th 1806 aged 59 years. Also of her sisters Caroline Ann Hotchkin who died December 6th 1843 aged 44 years Mary Elizabeth Adderley, widow of the late R. C. Griffith, clerk, Rector of Corsley, Wilts, who died March 24th, 1846. Aged 52 years."

"Near this place lyes ye body of Thomas Stockman and Mary his wife. He was Minister of Uppingham and Master of ye Free School. He dyed Feb. the 13th, 1684. He survived his wife but

just three months. They left three sons Thomas, Francis and Charles, who erected this in memory of them."

"Sacred to the memory of Robert Hotchkin Esqr who died on the 16th of May 1770 aged 64 years, also of Mary his wife only daughter and heiress of William Bevil Esq^{r} of Oxney in the County of Northampton who was buried on the 2nd of November 1756 aged 26 years. Likewise of Alice his mother, wife of the Rev. John Hotchkin who died on the 19th of May 1727. In respect to the many virtues of her much honoured Parents Mary their only daughter with filial piety inscribes this stone."

Brass in South Aisle.

"Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of the Rev. Robert Macfarlane A M Curate of Oakham who departed this life April 18th 1821 in the 32nd year of his age."

We here give some interesting items from Bp. Kennett's Collection in the British Museum.

Lansdowne MSS. 1028, p. 84.

1663. I Everard Falkener of Uppingham in the County of Rutland, Gent. I will and devise that yearly after my desease & during the life of my beloved wife Elizabeth (whom I make my sole executrix) she shall buy and provide two or one milsh beasts or kyne and suffer the same to be depastured yearly upon the cow pasture in Uppingham belonging to my lands from May-day to Michaelmas during all the time. I will that two poor householders or people in Uppingham shall have & enjoy the milk of the said kyne daily and sucessively one after another beginning with the poor at one end of the toune & go through-out untill all the said poor people shall in their order & turn receive and enjoy the said milke the order & disposition whereof according to this my will I wholly refer to the discretion of my said executrix with direction & advice if need be shall be of my overseers—my beloved friends & kinsman William Askew of Burton Cogles in the county of Lincoln clerke & Edward Chesyldyne of Overton and the county of Leicester Gentleman.

Lansdowne MSS., page 269.

1557. 28 Aug. I Henry Hill of Uppingham—my body to be buried in the church of Uppingham before my seat wherein I sit—to the high aulter of Uppingham for forgotten tithes viiid. to my mother church iid. Agnes Hill my mother & Joan Hill my wife executers Edmund Goodwin Overseer Witness me Bernard Brandono Cleric.

Lansdowne MSS. 1027, p. 63.

A Terrier of the Restory of Uppingham taken & made the xiii day of January Anno Dni 1634 subscribed

Peter Hansted curate Tho Sarneby } churchwardens
Anthon: Fulkener }

The Pension or out Rents yearly due & payable out of other places and personages unto the said Rectory of Uppingham Of the Parson of Wing xxs. Of the Parson of Preston xxs. Of the Parson of Martinsthorp xs. Of the Parson of Bisbrooke xxvis. viiid. Of the Parson of Ridlington xls.

For the tithes of Lee Lodge viiis. ffor sheep wealde in fforest of Lee xs. Of the Lord of Stokeston for Preston Lodge iiiis.

We have to thank the Ven. Archdeacon of Oakham for allowing us to take exercpts from the Churchwardens' Accounts, and also Mr. Watts for the specification of the organ. Our thanks are also due to Mr. W. J. W. Stocks for the use of his photographs from which our illustrations are taken.

THE EDITOR.

THE RUDKINS OF RUTLAND AND THE COUNTY CARLOW: AND LINKS BETWEEN RUTLAND AND IRELAND IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH AND AFTER.

THIS subject is suggested by a valuable article which appears in *The Genealogist* for the month of January last by Sir Edmund Bewley, M.A., LL.D., of Dublin, entitled "The Rudkins of the County Carlow."

It will be well to quote from the earlier paragraphs of this article, and then to follow with any remarks which may be suggested by them.

Sir Edward Bewley says: "The Rudkins, at one time well known amongst the resident landed gentry of the County Carlow, have now disappeared from the county and from Ireland. But the connexion with the county has not been wholly severed, and a portion of the principal estate is still in the possession of the representative of the elder line of the family.

One branch of the family was seated at Corries, in the parish of Lorum, and another at Tinnegarney, in the parish of Wells, near the western boundary of the county.

In the *History and Antiquities of the County of Carlow,* by John Ryan, ESQ., M.R.S.L., (Dublin, 1833) there is a chapter headed "Some account of the respectable families who have been long resident in the County of Carlow and who possess property in it," and in this the following statement is made as to the Rudkin family:—

> RUDKIN.—Two brothers of this name (or rather Rydkins) natives of Germany, settled in our County in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. One of them fixed his residence at Wells, the other at Corries. The burial place of the former is at Old Leighlin, that of the latter is Lorum.—(p. 371, *History of Carlow).*

This is followed by a short and imperfect account of the descendants of Henry Rudkin of Corries, and of Henry Rudkin of Wells, the former of whom (as will be seen by the pedigree of the family *infra*) died in 1777 and the later in 1815.

The paragraph as to the origin of the family above cited contains several errors. There is no trace of any Rudkin having settled in the County Carlow or elsewhere in Ireland before the time of the Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland, nor before it was being carried out in the reign of Charles II. The division of the family into two branches took place in the reign of Queen Anne, when Mark Rudkin, the eldest son of Henry Rudkin, or Rydkins, of Wells, acquired the Corries property, and the Wells property was settled on his brother Henry. The suggestion that the first Rudkin settlers in the

County Carlow "were made in Germany" is absurd; and there are the strongest grounds for believing that the Carlow Rudkins were an offshoot of a family of that name that can be traced in the public records in England for about six centuries, and that for at least four centuries has been established in Rutlandshire, and parts of the adjoining counties.

A subsidy Roll[1] for Rutland of 18th Eliz. shows that a Henry Rudkyn then held lands in Morcott, and that an Edward Rudkyn was resident at Wardley; and subsidy Rolls of 16, 17 and 18 Chas. I.[2] give the name of many Rudkins holding lands or livings in Preston, Morcott, Lyndon, Whissendine, Langham, Barlithorpe, and Wardley, within the County. Judging by the amounts of the assessments, these were all of the yeoman class.

Camden's visitation of Rutland in 1618-1619 states the marriage of a daughter of one of the Rudkins of Preston with a member of the Catesby family; and his Visitation of Leicester in 1619 refers to the marriage of a Rudkin of Whissendine to Mary Wilcocks, of Knossington.

Add. MS. No. 29,734 in the British Museum contains an interesting collection of documents relating to the levies made in the parish of Preston, in Rutland, for the support of Parliamentary troops from 1644 to 1660, and a couple of levies made for Charles II. after the Restoration. In these the name of Rudkin constantly appears. Andrew Rudkin, though not described as an "Esq." or "gent." appears to have been a person of some importance in the parish or constablery of Preston, and during the time of the Commonwealth was almost always one of the collectors or assessors of the tax. After the Restoration he appears to have acted as a kind of Commissioner, and issued warrants under his hand to the constables of Preston to make the levy. The assessment was sometimes made at the rate of 6s. 8d. the yard land, and if this was equivalent to 40 acres, Andrew Rudkin would appear to have held 60 acres, while William Shield, Esq., the squire of the parish, held about 250 acres.

The earliest of these levies was made in kind, and the warrants for them were addressed to the constables of Preston. Amongst the documents in this collection is the following receipt:—

April 29th 1645.

Received of Mark Rudkin for Preston a qter (*i.e.* a quarter) of oates for the use of the vse of (*sic*) Maior Leefeilds troope.

Received by me
John Payn.

Having regard to the form of the receipts which precede and follow this, it would appear that Mark Rudkin was

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1 Public Record Office, Lay Subsidy Roll, No. $\frac{165}{157}$

2 Lay Subsidy Rolls, Nos. $\frac{165}{180}$ $\frac{165}{192}$ $\frac{165}{193}$

either one of the constables for Preston—on office of some importance at this period—or was authorised in some way to represent the parish.

The Parish Registers of North Luffenham in Rutland, which is not many miles from Preston, shew that a Mark Rudkin married Sarah Swan on June 30th, 1634, and that Mark, the son of Mark Rudkin and Sarah his wife, was baptised on January 7th, 1637-8, and Henry, another son of Mark and Sarah on September 3rd, 1643. But if the pedigree of the Rudkins of the County Carlow *infra* be examined it will be seen that Mark was essentially a family name, and was borne by the eldest son of the first Rudkin of whom there is any trace in the county. Under these circumstances when we find that Henry Rudkin, who appears (as stated afterwards) to have settled in the County Carlow in the latter part of the seventeenth century, gave to his eldest son the name of Mark, and that at the same period Mark Rudkins were resident in Rutland, and that this striking combination of names has not been met with in any other place, we are naturally led to the conclusion that this Henry Rudkin was a member of the Rutlandshire family. But for the monumental inscription given on p. 8 *infra*—the accuracy of the statements in which is open to doubt—one might suggest that he was in fact the before mentioned Henry, son of Mark Rudkin and Sarah Swan.

The name of this Henry Rudkin suffered much ill-treatment after his arrival in Ireland. It appears first as Rickins, then as Redkins and Ridkins, sometimes as Rutkin, often as Rudkins, and on his gravestone, as will be seen presently, it figures as Rydkins. Even at the present day the name of the family is pronounced by the peasantry in the neighbourhood of Wells as "Rickens." Some of his descendants seem at times to have used the name of Rudkins, and his son Mark is called in his father-in-law's will, Ruttkins.

The first documentary evidence of the existence of one of the family in Carlow is afforded by the charter of the Borough of Old Leighlin, dated 4th July, 4th James II.[3] (1688). Amongst the burgesses therein named of the newly incorporated borough is "Henric Rickins, Gen."

Henry Rudkin, to call him by his correct name, was no doubt at this time tenant of some lands afterwards held by him in the Manor of Old Leighlin and parish of Wells.

Then Sir E. Bewley goes on to say that as the name Rudkin is not to be found in the Hearth Money Rolls of the County Carlow[4] for the years 1663-4, 1666-7 and 1668-9, which contain the names of *all* the householders in the county, therefore, his settlement in the county must have

3 Patent Rolls, 4 James II., part 4, M. 21.

4 In Public Record Office, Dublin.

been sometime between the 10th January, 1669, the limit of the last Hearth Money Rolls, and the 4th July, 1688, the date of the Charter of Old Leighlin. Later on he tells us that by the will of Mark Rudkin, the eldest son of this Henry Rudkin, a small legacy is given to "Charles Shearman, my uncle," indicating thereby that Henry Rudkin had married a Miss Shearman, and Sharman or Sherman is a Rutland name. It is of frequent recurrence in Registers of Baptisms of the parish of Exton, as for example in 1725, 1728, 1730 and 1731. And there is or was a Sharman's Lodge in the parish of Greetham.

So Sir Edward Bewley has successfully made out a connection between the Rudkin family of Old Leighlin in County Carlow and the County of Rutland.

MESSING RUDKIN.

(To be continued).

STAMFORD: AN IMPRESSION AND SOME FACTS.

FROM the days when I could not write myself man—by Act of Parliament—and ever since, the mention of Stamford has, at all times, stirred my heart like a trumpet.

This may not seem remarkable when it is stated that there is situate my "old home of homes," to borrow from Clare. But, to lose sight of that interesting circumstance, I can say, along with a recent writer who has picked his words with a fitting grace, that I came to Stamford, I saw—and I was conquered by the quiet and yet romantic beauty of the place. Moreover, another authority has put on record his opinion that Stamford is the most beautiful town in England, after Oxford and Cambridge, and in some respects even surpassing them.

This writer, Mr. C. G. Harper, who by his ardent study of the lore of coaching roads in England, has made the subject almost unassailably his own, adds in a letter to me: "Stamford I treat of in the *Great North Road* quite sincerely, and think it one of the noblest towns for architecture I have ever seen—and I have seen many."

Probably no apology is necessary for dealing with the history of the Lincolnshire borough of Stamford and its Northamptonshire suburb—Stamford Baron, or Stamford beyond the bridge—in the pages of the *Rutland Magazine*. The border line of the county last named passes so close to the town that to meet the purpose in hand, we might accept the words of Elihu Burritt, who in *A Walk from London to John O'Groats* (1864), says "Stamford, a good solid old

English town, sitting on the corners of three counties, and on three layers of history, Saxon, Dane and Norman." But should the reader require evidence of a closer connection between the town and county, then one or two facts could be named. *Primus*, that the first king's subject to be lord of the manor of Stamford was also sheriff of Rutland, 1164-1180 (and had also, says Dugdale, the gift of Ketton lordship). Secondly, the Rutland Archæological and Natural History Society evinces a disposition to keep in close touch with Stamford, properly and happily so, we think. A further solid and enduring link between town and county consists in the fact that many of the houses in the former are composed of stone quarried in Rutland, whilst a connection of a more sentimental kind is to be found in the circumstance that the two places between them possess a *King* and a *Queen*—of the church spires of the district.

I propose now to set before you a recital of the main or outstanding events in the history of Stamford. In this it is further proposed to be brief, because though it will be necessary, as a matter of course, to draw on the store of information, garnered by the local historians, there is also in the mind of the present writer, an intention to bring into his sweep-net as many outlying facts suited to the present purpose as can be conveniently obtained. As Mr. Froude once remarked at Oxford, "we are all fond of our peculiar methods."

There are few places on the sacred soil of Mother England, that can trace their antiquity with more certainty than Stamford. The legendary history of the town goes back a long time prior to the commencement of the Christian era. Setting aside conjecture, the first authentic notice is by the chronicler Henry of Huntingdon, who records a battle here in the year 449 A.D. In that year the British chief Vortigern and his Saxon allies under Hengist, fought and defeated the Picts and Scots, who had ravaged the country as far as Stamford. In 880 King Alfred was here to oppose the Danes who later became possessed of the town and made it one of the five principal cities of the kingdom which they established. Stamford was finally wrested from them in 942. Thirty years later King Edgar granted a charter to Stamford which was then become both a market town and a royal borough, and was presently to receive due notice in Domesday Book. Under the charter of Edgar a mint was established and continued its operations until the reign of Henry II. An able and interesting paper on Stamford Mint was read not long ago before the members of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society by the President, Dr. Marten Perry, who stated that amongst the number of examples of Anglo-Saxon coins of which the late Mr. Samuel Sharp, a well known authority, had cognizance no fewer than 765 were Stamford minted.

The body of Saint Hugh of Lincoln, who died in London in 1200, was rested here on its way to Lincoln for interment, when various wonders are reported to have occurred.

In Plantagenet days there were kings, parliaments and councils at Stamford, which was also licensed for tournaments. The confederate patriots who wrung from John the Magna Charta and the Charta de Foresta on June 15th, 1215, assembled here in the Easter week previous. Most of us, it may be, have heard at one time or another of the signing of Magna Charta, at least it was an illusion of my childhood. But a visit to the British Museum, where is a valuable copy of the original instrument, shows it to be altogether a myth. The charter was not actually signed by John but was granted under the royal seal. In this reign was begun the exciting custom known as the Stamford Bull Running. This took place on each 13th of November and was continued down to the early years of Queen Victoria's reign. Quite a literature has gathered around the celebration of the custom.

In the days of Edward III., Stamford bade fair to become a serious rival to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Owing to dissension between the Northern and Southern men at Oxford, between 2,000 and 3,000 of the former, masters and students, many of them of Merton College, seceded and came to Stamford. There was some aptitude in their choice of this town, which had long been celebrated as a place of liberal instruction, owing to the establishment of schools, to which a kind of University character became attached, in connection with the various monasteries. Brasenose was one of the Stamford colleges, and the prophecy of the old British writer, Merlin, was apparently fulfilled:—

> That studious throng which Oxenford doth cherish
> In time to come the Stony-ford shall nourish.

Spenser refers to this subject in the *Færy Queene*. Oxford, jealous of its privileges, complained to the king, and an order went forth for the expulsion of the scholars, but it is said that before it could be carried out Edward himself had to come here to add force to his own words. It was afterward made a statute that no Oxford man should take a degree at Stamford. We ought to add here that the glory of Stamford, as a seat of learning, does not seem to have come to an end until about the time of the dissolution of the monasteries.

The late Justin Simpson, an indefatigable worker amongst local records, brought to light the interesting fact that the captive king, John II. of France and his son Prince Philip, stayed here two nights on their journey from London to Somerton Castle, Lincolnshire, in 1359. While at Stamford the king gave five nobles (33s. 4d.), a munificent sum in those days, to the preaching (Black or Dominican) friars of

Stamford. It was here that Richard II. resolved on the abolition of the office of Mayor of London, the citizens there having refused him a thousand pounds.

The most disastrous days in the history of the town befell in the fifteenth century, the year 1461, the month February. The army of the Red Rose having triumphed over the Yorkists at Wakefield, sped south on its way to St. Albans. The lord of the manor of Stamford was Edmund, Duke of York, and the town was of course attached to his cause. The northern army, therefore, with a destroying rabble in its train, came down on Stamford like the rush of a torrent, with the fury of a tempest. Overcoming the resistance at the town gates the Lancastrians burst in and ravaged the place with fire and sword. Several of the many churches were despoiled or destroyed, and many of the principal buildings suffered great havoc. The charters and many other records were lost; what had been, on the whole, four centuries of progress since the Conquest received a deadly blow. Leland, the King's Antiquary, records that "the northern men brent miche of Staunforde tounne," and Camden says, "nor could it ever after recover its ancient dignity." Later in the same year Edward IV. granted a charter of incorporation by which the chief magistrate was constituted the king's own immediate lieutenant within the borough, and within the same the second man in the kingdom, immunity from all external jurisdiction being granted at the same time. And when, in the year 1470, the Lancastrians were defeated by Edward IV. at the battle of Horne Field, near Empingham ("Loose-coat Field"), for the help then afforded by the men of Stamford, permission was given to quarter the royal arms on the escutcheon of their town, a privilege which no other town rejoices in but Windsor.

The medieval aspect of Stamford prior to the evil days of 1461, was one of great beauty and interest. In the suburbs, that is to say without the walls, were the churches of the Holy Trinity and S. Stephen, All Saints' beyond the bridge and S. Martin. Saint Leonard's Priory, the Grey, White, Black and Austin Friars Monasteries, each with its church and conventual buildings, its gardens and orchards; the Nunnery of Saint Michael; the Knights Templar's House of the Holy Sepulchre and S. Mary Magdalene Chapel, the Hospital of S. John and S. Thomas. These, and these alone, must have constituted a spectacle that once seen was not likely soon to be forgotten. But behind and within this girdle of architectural beauty there was the town itself, encircled by its walls, on which stood at due intervals eleven towers, whilst there were seven principal and two postern gates. The spires or towers of eight or ten churches appeared above the roof-line of the houses. The Castle, the College of Brazenose, the Schools of the Carmelites and the

Gilbertines, various hospitals and a heterogeneous mass of gabled dwellings, all these went to complete a view at once eminently picturesque and imposingly grand. The late Reverend W. Hiley, the penultimate predecessor of the present Rector of S. John's—no mean authority—describing the town of this period said "the little town with its churches, monasteries and gabled roofs yielded a view more suggestive of Mecca or the holy city of Jerusalem, unrivalled probably in the whole of Western Europe."

Resuming the record of historic events we find that in 1480 the Norman castle was taken down and the material used in the repairing of the White Friary. A wall and other slight but interesting remains of the castle are still to be seen. Following the dissolution of the monasteries, the number of churches was, by an Act of 1547, finally reduced to five, corresponding to the number of wards. S. Martin's, Stamford Baron made a sixth, and so the number remains to the present day.

In 1550 Latimer, the martyred Bishop of Worcester, preached here twice on the same day. The following passage from one of the sermons cannot reasonably be said to be open to the charge of ambiguity and shows us, at the same time, a glimpse of the manners of the 16th century. "But what do you patrons? Sell your benefices, or give them to your servants for their service, for keeping of hounds or hawks, for making of your gardens. These patrons regard no souls, neither their own nor other men's. What care they for souls, so they have money, though they go to the devil?"

More than seven hundred persons, being a third of the inhabitants, died during an outbreak of the plague., 1602-3.

The unfortunate but interesting monarch, Charles I., was at Stamford on several occasions. Stukeley says that "the last night Charles may be said to have slept a free man was at Stamford." This was in the month of May, 1646, and the house where the King stayed was that of Alderman Wolph, on Barn Hill. The house still stands. This brings us to the time of the Civil Wars and to the last of our historic happenings, for there has not been over much commotion in the town since. But although its subsequent history has been generally peaceful, and we are likely to be reminded of the proverb concerning the happiness attendant on the lack of history, yet the later life of Stamford has been by no means uneventful. It has witnessed the flutter of excitement consequent on an occasional royal visit—to Burghley, we ought to add; it has seen the noisy humours of a parliamentary election, before the hustings went out of fashion—and after; the wild scenes generally associated with the old Bull Runnings; and the bustling breezy days of the holding of the old Stamford Races. Nor must we forget to name

other such events as the opening of the railways and the subsequent closing of the Welland navigation; the enclosure of Stamford Open Fields, and the occurrence, now and then, of an extraordinary flood, none of which, however, during the particular period under notice, attained the height and dimensions of the memorable inundation of the year 1880.

Drakard say "few towns were so fortunate as Stamford during the Civil Wars, owing to its incapability of being garrisoned; for we are told that the most skilful engineers, after having carefully surveyed it on every side, could find no means to make it tenable for either offensive or defensive warfare." In July, 1643, Cromwell was before Burghley House against which he planted his cannon. After some hours firing had proved ineffectual, three squadrons of musketeers were drawn up to the house, and it was not until after a severe struggle that the defenders were compelled to yield to superior numbers and to surrender themselves as prisoners of war. In a skirmish in the neighbourhood between the Cromwellians and a force of Cavaliers on their way to assist Burghley fifty of the latter were cut to pieces. The majority of the prisoners taken at Burghley were sent to Cambridge, but when the scholars there and the captured royalists were found to be carrying on a correspondence, the latter were sent up to London. It is interesting to note that amongst them was the Sheriff of Rutland. "Burleigh House by Stamford Town," [I fancy this must be an anachronism] was fortunately spared, it is said on the entreaty of Miss Wingfield, a relative of Cromwell, but the Queen Eleanor cross that was erected here, was ruthlessly destroyed by the parliamentary soldiers. The King had many adherents in the town. The "Alderman of Stamford" must have been of the opposite party, for on no fewer than three occasions was the person of that gentleman seized by Cavaliers and carried off as a hostage. We are told that "the clergy of Stamford appear to have been pretty solid for the King: the parson of S. Nicholas (?) and another, Mr. Salter, were found in Burghley House when it was taken, while Mr. Holt, of All Saints' fled to Newark and Oxford," the King's strongholds.

The chief magistrate was styled Mayor in 1663. The Corporation regalia is one of the finest in the country.

The history of mankind, says Carlyle, is the history of its great men. With this aphorism to point a direction to our present scheme, we will proceed to set down a list of famous and distinguished people connected with Stamford either by the pride of birth or the pomp of burial, or by the fact of residence. Incomplete it may be, incomplete it must be if it be true that "the world knows nothing of its greatest men" [and why the author of that fine dramatic romance *Philip van Artevelde* might not have gone further and added

Photo by *Mrs. Nichols, Stamford.*

THE "WATERFIELD" HOUSE, STAMFORD.

Pulled down in 1886.

women—I know not]. But let me, without further preamble, advance to the matter in hand, since, to quote the author of the Book of Maccabees, "it is a foolish thing to make a long prologue and to be short in the story itself." The first name in our muster roll of notables is that of a lady, Joan, "the Fair Maid of Kent," the wife of Edward the Black Prince and the mother of Richard II., who was buried in 1385 in the Grey Friars church, the site of which is now a pasture. There is no stone to mark the place of interment.

William Bruges, the first Garter King-at-Arms, who lived in the 15th century, and who was probably a native, is buried in St. George's Church.

William Browne, the founder of Browne's Hospital or Almshouse, a work of pious munificence on the part of this influential Stamford merchant. It is one of the most important secular buildings in the land, and escaping spoliation in the reign of James I., remains to this day one of the boasts of the town. In the interesting chapel there is some lovely painted glass. William Browne, who died 1488-9, was buried in All Saints' Church, the fine spire of which was raised at his expense.

William Radcliffe, several times chief magistrate, founded the Grammar School, giving all his property for its maintenance. Died 1530. George Gascoigne, soldier and Elizabethan poet, died at Stamford in 1577, and was buried in St. Mary's parish.

The Lord High Treasurer Burghley (1520-1598) lies under a stately canopied tomb of alabaster and marble in St. Martin's Church. His grandfather, David Cecil, lies in St. George's Church.

William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, when in his 34th year, was inducted on the 13th November, 1607, into the vicarage of St. Martin, being his first ecclesiastical preferment. Robert Johnson, Archdeacon of Leicester, and founder of Oakham and Uppingham Schools, was born here. He died at North Luffenham and was buried in 1625. Tobie Norris, a famous bell founder, who died in 1676, lies in St. George's Church. The Stamford Bell Foundry was closed in 1708.

Thomas Emlyn, V.D.M., a well known and learned dissenting divine, generally respected for his excellent character and amiable disposition, was born here in 1663. He lived to be nearly eighty and was buried in Bunhill Fields Cemetery, London. In 1687 William Wissing, the Dutch portrait painter, died at Burghley and was buried in St. Martin's Church. Prior says of him,

> "Wissing and Nature held a long contest,
> "If she created, or he painted best."

The Reverend Thomas Seaton, divine, hymn-writer and founder of the Seatonian prize for sacred poetry at Cam-

bridge, first saw the light here about the year 1684. He became vicar of Ravenstone in Buckinghamshire, and died and was buried there in 1741.

Richard Cumberland, vicar of All Saints' was elevated to the episcopal bench in 1691. The manner of his appointment to the Bishopric of Peterborough is not generally known. "The king was told that Dr. Cumberland was the fittest man he could nominate to the Bishopric of Peterborough. Thus a private country clergyman without posting to Court—a place he had rarely seen—without suing to great men, without taking the least step towards soliciting for it, was pitched upon to fill a great trust, only because he was fittest for it. He walked after his usual manner on a post-day to the coffee-house, and read in the newspaper that one Dr. Cumberland of Stamford was named to the Bishopric of Peterborough, a greater surprise to himself than to anybody else."

Francis Peck [1692-1743], the well known antiquary, was born in Saint John's parish. In 1727 he published his valuable local work entitled "Academia Tertia Anglicana; or the Antiquarian Annals of Stanford [Stamford] in Lincoln, Rutland and Northampton Shires; containing the History of the University, Monasteries, Gilds, Churches, Chapels, Hospitals, and Schools there," etc. A perfect copy is worth nearly three pounds. Peck also wrote, among other learned works, the "Life of Milton," "Memories of Cromwell," and "Desiderata Curiosa," the latter a collection of historical tracts. He obtained the living of Godeby Marwood, Leicestershire, and died and was buried there.

Another antiquary, also born in Lincolnshire, the celebrated William Stukeley, held the living of All Saints' from 1729 to 1747. He lies, I believe, in West Ham Church, Essex. Stukeley was a member of the Royal Society and had many influential friends. One of them, William Warburton, Bishop of Gloucester and author of the *Divine Legation of Moses* (a stupendous work written in Lincolnshire), it is interesting to note, went to Oakham School and was there under two headmasters the Reverend Mr. Weston and Mr. Wright. It is worth recording too, in this connection, that the recently retired venerable Bishop of Gloucester, Dr. Ellicott, also attended Oakham and Stamford schools.

Michael Tyson, F.R.S., etcher, painter and *litterateur* was born in All Saints' parish in 1740. He became rector of Lamborne, Essex, and died and was buried there in the year 1780. Cyril Jackson [1742-1819] who became subpreceptor to the Prince Regent (George IV.), and Dean of Christchurch, was a native. He had declined the Bishopric of Peterborough. He was buried at Felpham, a village in Sussex. William Jackson, brother of the preced-

ing, became Bishop of Oxford, and died in 1815 at the episcopal palace at Cuddesdon.

In S. Martin's burial ground lie interred the remains of Daniel Lambert, the most astonishing in respect to personal magnitude, of any human being upon record. He died here suddenly in 1809, in his fortieth year having attained the weight of 739 pounds!

Sir Hudson Lowe, Governor of St. Helena during the exile of Napoleon in that island, had relations here and spent many of his early days in the town. He was born at Galway, in 1769, and not, as some suppose, at Stamford. He died in 1844, and lies in S. Mark's Church, North Audley Street, London. The inscription to his memory says, "history will do justice to a brave and zealous officer." It is satisfactory to find that these words have borne fruit, and that before the tribunal of present day public opinion this gallant soldier stands perfectly acquitted of the serious charges brought against him in connection with the treatment of his famous charge.

Robert Dale Owen (1771-1858) the dreamy philanthropist and the founder of Socialism, served his apprenticeship to a Stamford draper. Owen speaks with pleasure of the many hours spent in Burghley Park, often seeing the sun rise, and after the day's work was done, seeing it set.

Octavius Gilchrist (1779-1823) a learned Stamfordian, the friend and patron of John Clare, the Northamptonshire Peasant Poet. He wrote for the *Quarterly Review*, and entered the lists, along with Byron, Campbell and the elder Disraeli, against the Rev. W. L. Bowles in the famous Pope and Bowles controversy.

Thomas Cooper (1805-1893) the Chartist poet, author of the *Purgatory of Suicides,* was once on the staff of the *Stamford Mercury,* a newspaper, the extraordinary long career of which is a just source of pride to the inhabitants of the town. First started in 1695, it has been issued weekly without a break since the reign of Queen Anne, and exhibiting no signs of time-wornness, it bids fair, like the Brook, to go on for ever.

The Countess of Exeter, the subject of Tennyson's ballad "The Lord of Burleigh," died at the early age of twenty-four, on the 18th of January, 1797, and (arrayed in her cottage dress) was laid to rest in St. Martin's Church. Her husband, Henry, the tenth earl and the first Marquis of Exeter, followed her seven years afterwards, and they rest in peace, side by side.

The late Mr. Joseph Phillips, F.S.A., once told the present writer that Mr. Froude has been to Stamford, and used to stay at a house in Saint Martin's and there my informant had met the historian.

Nevinson in his short but learned history (1879) refers to the ancient borough, which from the birth of parliaments had always spoken with a double voice, and which could point in recent times to the honoured names of Granby, Herries, Thesiger, Cranborne, Northcote and Hay. Mr. M. C. Buszard, the present day Leader of the Midland Circuit and Recorder of Leicester, succeeded Admiral Sir John C. D. Hay, and was the last member returned for the Borough of Stamford. This was in 1880. The names here recorded, all of them of distinguished men, will, it is confidently expected, be admitted to testify that the parliamentary borough of Stamford, which owing to the smallness (in numbers) of its population, had been through the progress of reform, doomed to lose one and then the other of its members, did at least die, it may be said, in the full meridian of its political glory. Specially interesting is it to find that during the eight years 1858-1866, the late Lord Salisbury and Sir Stafford Northcote, the one to become Prime Minister the other Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the Conservative Party in the House of Commons, sat together for Stamford.

Sir David Brewster, the biographer of Sir Isaac Newton, mentions an interesting fact, unnoticed, I believe, by any local writer. "In 1689 Benjamin Smith, the half-brother of Newton, had been seized, while at Stamford, with a malignant fever. His mother who had hastened to attend his sick bed, was taken ill with the same complaint, and Newton (always devoted to his mother) left his duties and his studies to watch at her couch. He sat up with her whole nights, administered with his own hands the necessary medicines, and prepared and dressed her blisters with all the dexterity of a practitioner. His skill, however, was unavailing. She sank under the disease, and her remains were carried to Colsterworth and deposited in the church there." Sir Isaac's mother was a daughter of James Ayscough of Market Overton.

It seems to be undeniable that the subject of treasure trove is one that invariably proves to be interesting, not to say fascinating, and this is some indication, I think, that the antiquarian spirit is in all of us, more or less. In the year 1866, a Stamford workman named Christian, was digging in the rear of a house on the east side of S. George's Church, when a blow of his pick-axe suddenly brought to his astonished gaze a pot or jar full of silver coins. On examination it was found that there were no fewer than 3,000 pieces, nearly all of them groats of the several kings who were prior to 1461. There is little doubt that the original owner had thus hidden his treasure during the stormy days of the year just named (when Queen Margaret's army passing down the Ermine Street, after the battle of Wakefield, sacked Stamford from roof to cellar) but did not survive

to recover it. The coins were forwarded to the Lord of the Treasury, and the finder was allowed a sum of ninety-five pounds three shillings, being the value of the silver of which the coins consisted. A curious feature of the affair was that the house was reputed to be both haunted and to contain hidden treasure.

In the best days of the Coaching Age the time occupied on the journey between London and Stamford—90 miles—was a little more than nine hours. A splendid example of the old coaching inn is the "George" at Stamford, with a multitude of memories, whilst the "Bull and Swan," another old hostelry should not be forgotten. In the year 1810, a Mr. Milton engaged to ride from the end of Dover Street, Piccadilly, to Stamford in five hours. On Thursday, December 27th, he started from the metropolis at eight o'clock in the morning, in a violent shower of rain; at the end of the first hour he had travelled more than twenty-three miles! With relays of horses he arrived here at twenty-five minutes past twelve, thus winning the wager by thirty-five minutes.

This imperfect sketch of Stamford would be more imperfect if we said nothing concerning the modern aspect of the town, its present day status, condition and outlook. The plan of the place, in brief, is this. Situate on the Great North Road, a bridge of stone carries the famous highway across the Welland, and so connects the Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire parts of the town. On either side of the stream the street ascends somewhat steeply, and at about equal distances from the river rise two noble churches, S. Mary's crowning a hill on the north, S. Martin's on the rising ground to the south. North of the bridge two short turns, one to the left and the other to the right, bring one to the market place flanked by two more fine churches and sending out seven or eight branches to connect with all parts of the town, one of them being the High Street whose direction is parallel with the river.

The view as seen from the bridge was declared by Sir Walter Scott to be the finest prospect on the road between London and Edinburgh, and it is said that he always took off his hat when passing the beautiful decorated steeple of Saint Mary's, as a tribute to its dignified aspect. Here with deference be it spoken, that the ancient and picturesque bridge of Sir Walter's day was taken down to make way for the present structure. The famous landscape painter J. M. W. Turner was here in 1829, and depicted on canvas the town as it appeared from Saint Martin's. On which occasion he found the aspect of the place to be so responsive to the needs of the true artist, the natural grouping to be so excellent that he took little if any liberty with the buildings, or the composition of the subject. It is in accord with the natural fitness of things that Turner's original picture is now safely housed in Stamford. The engraving by W. Miller is not often met with.

The houses of Stamford for the greater number, are built of a grey stone quarried locally, and to this circumstance the town owes much of its stately appearance. It has been said that there are here a sufficient number of examples, and those of the best, to illustrate a complete work of English architecture, and there is wit as well as humour in the statement that Stamford can show architecture apparently of every century but the present. In many parts of the town the old-world aspect is so much in the ascendant that the visitor will have forced on him the conviction that he is "looking down the throat of old time"; that he is living in the England of Chaucer's day.

The churches of Stamford will be found to possess much merit and interest. We may here name only a few of the leading features; the architectural beauties are too abundant for us to describe adequately. All Saints and St. Mary's rank in the front row among English parish churches. All Saints' a well proportioned structure and one of the ornaments of the town has some good brasses. The S. porch is engraved in the *Glossary of Architecture*. Some of the capitals of the chancel arcade have been declared to be equal to the sculpture of ancient Greece. S. John's Church is an excellent example of late Perpendicular, and will be found to possess an interesting interior. S. Mary's broach spire has a wide fame on account of its dignity and beauty, as a whole and in all its parts. Here is a richly worked monument set up by the Lady Margaret, Countess of Richmond and mother of Henry VII., to the memory of Sir David Phillips of her household at the neighbouring village of Collyweston. The west doorway is exceedingly good; the Rev. Canon Benham, well known as an archæologist, has told me that he has a particular regard for it. S. Martin's is a splendid Perpendicular church. It contains the tombs of the Burghley family. There is a memorial here to one who was "a rare cricketer and a good man." The interior of the building is lofty, grand and impressive. The church of S. George has undergone much alteration and to-day forms an interesting study for the ecclesiologist. It contains monuments to members of the Cust family.

The church of St. Michael is modern. An earlier structure, dedicated to the same Saint, and which stood on the same site, was undergoing alteration in 1832 when, one night, the fabric collapsed and fell.

Not long ago I read in a London journal, that the recognised best work, a recumbent figure with angels in relief, executed by Mrs. Thornycroft, a lady who attained a European reputation as a sculptor, the mother of Mr. W. Hamo Thornycroft, R.A., was in "Stamford Church, Lincolnshire." I should be glad to receive information more definite as to its whereabout.

As in its ecclesiastical, so in its domestic architecture Stamford comes out strongly. Old houses, mullion-windowed and of varied character, ancient gables and old street fronts abound. Curious old dormer windows too, doors with projecting canopies, weather-toned gateways and stone portals spendidly ornate, these also are here in some profusion. Some of the street views are exceedingly fine and bound to impress the mind of the visitor, whilst the 17th and 18th century stone fronted houses are as good examples of Later Renaissance architecture as can be found anywhere. The many almshouses constitute another picturesque feature of the place, whilst mention of the vaulted crypts and groined cellars which occur here and there, ought not to be left out of the account. Stamford is a very paradise for the antiquary and ecclesiologist who will find matter of interest in almost every street.

Undoubtedly the most important ruin situate in or close to the town is that known as S. Leonard's Priory. The monastery of S. Leonard was founded about the middle of the seventh cent., but the portion which remains is of the 11th century. It comprises a fine western front and five arches of the nave. Despite the fact that the stone of which the enrichments of this fine Norman chapel are carved is of almost perpetual endurance, its present unprotected state is a matter for earnest regret.

I have lately been dipping into the pages of *A Tour through Great Britain, originally begun by the Celebrated Daniel De Foe,* etc, [1778]. Therein I find an allusion (to be met with elsewhere) to the appearance of Stamford as resembling that of a cathedral town owing to the circumstance of the spires, or steeples of All Saints' and S. Mary's churches "seeming at some distance, as one approaches the town, to belong to the same building, which appearance raises the idea of a cathedral in the mind of the spectator." The steeples are thus finely viewed from Burghley Park, from the avenue of elms and oaks which so delighted Elihu Burritt and styled by him, "the Cathedral of Nature," "this sixty columned temple," from the circumstance of the leafy branches meeting "high up in the blue sky," and so forming a continuous arch of the Gothic order. If Stamford has not a bishop-stool it possesses a Dean, the first of whom was appointed head of a chapter, composed of the clergy of the town at a time when Stamford was full of religious houses.

What for want of a better term, may be called the "neglect" of Stamford is a subject that has been spoken of from time to time. How, lying in an extreme corner of the county of Lincoln and encompassed on several sides by two others, and being away also, from the trunk line of any railway the town is—or shall we say *was* until the advent of *Murray*—comparatively unknown to the outside world.

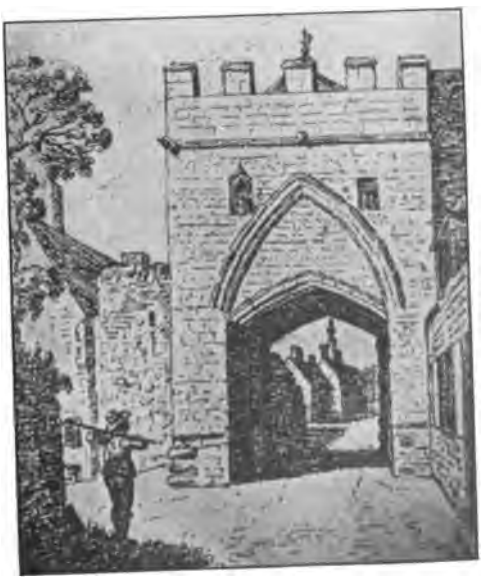
Its healthy and pleasant situation amid a landscape of simple English beauty may be "out-of-the-way." All the same Stamford was not the town (*sotto voce*—but it was another Lincolnshire town) that Rousseau fixed upon, in 1764, as the most out-of-the-way place in the kingdom and wrote to the Lord Chancellor for a guard to escort him to Dover. The Chancellor replied that "the nearest postboy to whom he could apply was as safe a guide as the Lord Chancellor could appoint." Evidently the distinguished occupant of the Woolsack had not heard of the postboy of whom it is recorded, that being told to keep the light of Dunston Pillar on his right hand on his way home, drove round and round the pillar all night! Dunston Pillar, a shaft 100 feet high, was built as a *land lighthouse* in 1751, for the purpose of directing travellers across Lincoln Heath.

Going back to the subject of the "neglect" of Stamford, we find in the pages of the *Quarterly Review* (1891), an expression of "wonder that so beautiful and so interesting a town should not have been more visited." On the other hand, Britton in the *Beauties of England* (1807), says "there is scarcely a town in all England that has been more illustrated by local historians than Stamford." The town is indeed particularly fortunate in having the histories of Butcher (1646 and 1717); Howgrave (1726); Peck (1727); Harrod (1785) and Drakard (1822), whilst among writers of later valuable handbooks, the names of the Reverend C. Nevinson, Precentor Mackenzie Walcott and the Burtons stand out. So that any "neglect" has not been from within. Neither did Shakespeare overlook the fact that there was in existence such an institution as Stamford Fair, as readers of Henry IV. will know.

Drayton, in the sixteen thousand line poem, the *Polyolbion*, speaks of Stamford, "Which so much forgotten seems to be." This was in 1613, when Stamford had neither forgotten nor recovered from the ravages of the Lancastrians 150 years before. It is indisputable that the history of the town during a long period subsequent to the events of 1461, partook largely and of necessity, of the nature of a decline, a decline which was assisted by the closing of the schools for which Stamford had long been celebrated. At the same time there were taking place the uprising and growth of other places, so that considering all the circumstances, it is not altogether surprising that some, even a considerable degree of attention, should have been detracted from Stamford and that its relative importance should thereby have been lessened. It became the fashion therefore to speak of the town as of any backwater off the stream of progress. I am, however, emboldened to think, and if need were to assert, that the later life of Stamford, say from the seventeenth century, will be found to show that she has kept her torch of progress steadily

OCTAVIUS GILCHRIST.

From an old print.



ST. GEORGE'S GATE, STAMFORD.

Taken down in 1846.

From pen and ink sketch by Carter.

aflame. I am not overlooking the fact that a recession of the great tide of social and mercantile life followed the opening up of the railway through Peterborough to the north when the stage coaches were run off the highway. In many matters the town has kept abreast of the times, and at the present day there are not wanting indications of an active municipal life. Further, if an increased population is not a sign of a waning prosperity, and economists tell us that it is not, then Stamford cannot be said to be losing ground under the shifting conditions of modern life. The population of the town to-day is about as large as ever it was, and is four or five times greater than in medieval times.

There are those amongst us who will never cease to regret what the year 1461 had in store for Stamford, but there is also a feeling of thankfulness that so much has been spared. For we who live in the present day have inherited a by-no-means inconsiderable share of the ancient architectural glory of one of the most interesting towns in England, and the associations connected therewith. Thus our town is possessed of a sentimental value, in itself not the least important, and which in these days of easy travel and sight-seeing, means that the material well-being of the place is contributed to. It is on this account that it seems to us desirable that the governing body and the force of public opinion should always combine to discourage the demolition of ancient buildings where public considerations do not call for it.

The last of the old town gates—St. George's—was taken down barely a hundred years ago, and there were many who regretted its destruction, which was hardly necessary if we are to believe the statement that when standing it offered no obstruction to traffic. Its retention would have made Stamford even a little more interesting than it is. Evidently those who were responsible ignored altogether the scriptural injunction to "Remove not the ancient landmark." Nothing helps more to educate mankind than the sight of historic monuments, relics of the past, and on that ground alone their destruction is always to be deplored.

Of the old town walls one or two remnants are left and on the west a military round tower remains. These, as also the shot-marked wall of the old castle, ought in my opinion to be inscribed or labelled so as to impart to the passer-by something of their real significance. This is done at various places, as I have seen. I would also place on the face of the wall skirting the north side of the old Grey Friary, some sort of tablet setting forth the fact that a Princess of Wales, the mother of an English king was buried there. The history of Stamford, eventful as it is, should form a subject of regular tuition in the local schools, and the experiment of appointing a town guide (or two) for the convenience of visitors might be tried by the Mayor and Corporation. A. J. WATERFIELD.

Some Rutland Authors and their Books.

(continued)

THE next Rutland author with whom I shall deal is Vincent Wing. The ancestors of the Wing family came out of Wales in the time of Henry VII., and the grandfather of Vincent settled at North Luffenham during the reign of Henry VIII. The first authentic record of the family is that of the father of Vincent who, according to the register, was baptised at North Luffenham, 24th March, 1587, and was buried there 20th February, 1660, aged 73 years.

Vincent was the elder of four sons, and the progenitor of a long line of men, many of whom have left their mark in the annals of the Church, the Army and the legal profession.

In order that there may be no confusion, it may be here remarked that Tycho Wing, the philosopher and astronomer, whose portrait adorns the Hall of the Stationer's Company, London, was a descendant of Moses Wing, the younger brother of Vincent.

While still young, owing to his natural ability, Vincent, by his own industry and study, made himself master of Latin, and had a good acquaintance with Greek and Astronomy. Evidently born a scholar, although not having the advantage of an University education, he was able to hold his own with the best men of the day in mathematical and astronomical subjects. At 18 years of age he had mastered the art of dialling, and constructed several of those instruments for measuring the fleeting hours—a method more ancient than the time of Ahaz, who reigned over Judah 742 B.C. This subject, under the title of *Genomics* was taught in works of deep mathematical calculation, especially in the 17th century. In all probability Vincent Wing was quite at home with the subject. The first five books of Euclid would be light reading after a perusal of one of these works.

He was very clever at land surveying and measuring heights and distances. He made a survey of the whole of North Luffenham. The late Mr. W. R. Morris, of that place, had in his possession a book of MS. written by Vincent Wing, which gave the measurement of all the land in the parish, with the names of the owners. The title page of the book read as follows :—

> "The survey of the fields of North Luffenham, wherein is contained a particular of all the lands, leyes, meadows, pastures, and enclosed grounds, according to an exact mensuration had and made of every man's ground there, by ye perch of 16½-ft. according to ye *statute de terris mensurandis.* By Vincent Wing. 1660."

Apart from the book being in the handwriting of such a celebrity, it is a very interesting record of the lands of the parish.

His friend and biographer, John Gadbury, speaking of his character, says,:—

> "He was a person of ready, ripe and pungent wit, and had good judgment and memory thereunto annexed. He was nothing ambitious or insulting, but rather meek and humble and always apt to depreciate himself. He was never distrustful of others, because free from the taint of these qualities himself and always virtuous and true hearted. All Rutlandshire, Northamptonshire and the countreys round about gave this general good and commendable character of him, as any that please may more particularly informe themselves from any of the Gentry of those Countreys, as I myself have before the writing hereof. Mr. Wing was not only capable of knowledge and understanding but was therein very communicative and diffusive. He hated to hide his talent in a napkln, or covetously to cloyster up that science which he so happily attained unto. He was freely willing and ready to impart anything, be it never so curious and choice a secret, to any ingenious person and hath often publicly professed that it was his great discontent and trouble if at any time in his writings he thought he had not been plain even to the meanest understanding."

Like Kepler and most of his contemporaries, Wing believed in astrology. He lived in a credulous and superstitious age. As I pointed out earlier the so-called science of astrology, was in great vogue . Henry, in his *History of Great Britain*, speaking of astrology, says :—" Nor did this passion for penetrating into futurity prevail only among the common people, but also among persons of the highest rank and greatest learning. All our kings, and many of our earls and great barons had their astrologers, who resided in their families and were consulted by them in all undertakings of great importance." "The great man," he observes, kept these "to cast the horoscopes of his children, discover the success of his designs, and the public events that were to happen. "Their predictions," he adds, "were couched in very general and artful terms."

It is not then to be wondered at that, with his knowledge of astronomy and mathematics, Vincent Wing should find his conception of the working of the universe so excellently fitted to the doctrine of "aspects" and "influences," a belief which, doubtless, enabled him to write with sincerity on a subject productive of much imposture and fraud but, at the same time, attended with such excellent financial results. Although he limited his prophetic pretentions to the estimate of tendencies and probabilities, his forecasts were none the less in demand, for his almanacs were published by the Stationers' Company, who considered a sale of 50,000 copies a year an indifferent one.

There is no doubt that shrewd sense and a considerable knowledge of the world came to the aid of stellar lore in the preparation of his "prognostics" which, not unfrequently hitting off the event, earned him as much credit with the common people as his astronomical speculations did with the learned.

Wing drew his own horoscope. Whether or not the prediction of his death came true we have no means of ascertaining. The only confirmation of it appears in Gadbury's life of him, where the following statement is made :— "As Mr. Wing's life did not cross or contradict the influences of the stars, neither did his death."

It is curious to note the resuscitation at the present day of beliefs, which seemed, at the opening of the 19th century to have died a natural death. The subject of astrology once permeated all sciences—in fact, it may be said to be the mother of astronomy—all religions, all politics, and it is, therefore, not strange that traces of it should crop up where we least expect them. To astrological politics we owe the theory of heaven sent rulers, instruments in the hands of providence, and saviours of society. The science still lives in our language. We still *contemplate* and *consider*. We still speak of men as *jovial, saturnine* or *murcurial*. We talk of the *ascendancy* of genius, or of a *disastrous* defeat. But when it comes to a hard-headed business man at the present day declaring that he has spent over £2,000 in horoscopes, that he never takes any important step, or makes any long journey, or enters into any contract without first seeing which is the most propitious day and hour on which to act, and that all his business transactions are guided by the verdict of astrology; that during the six years he has been engaged in buying and selling goods, engaging servants, and doing the thousand and one things necessary to the conduct of a large business, he has never made one mistake, it gives us pause, and we are quite ready to agree with *Hamlet* that "there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy."

I have a copy of Wing's *Ephemeris (Astronomical Almanac)* for thirty years, together with his *Computatio Catholica*. The rest of a title, which is rather curious, reads as follows :—

> "A General Computation, furnished with variety of plain, easie, and most necessary Rules, Tables, and Observations, as well Ecclesiastical and Oeconomical, as Legal, Mathematical and Meteorological. Fitted to the Capacities of all sorts of men, though more principally intended for the use and benefit of the plain and honest Countryman. By Vin. Wing. *Unius labor multorum laborem allevat.* London. Printed by J. C. for Tho. Rooks at the Lamb and Ink bottle neer the entrance into the Exchange from Bishops Gate Street; who makes the best ink for Deeds and Records. MDCLXIX."

VINCENT WING.

From an old print.

This book, which was in the press at the time of the author's death, contains a mass of information on astronomical, astrological and mathematical subjects, and is said to have been the most exact of the many books dealing with such subjects published at that time.

The *Computatio Catholica* is a dictionary of dates beginning with the Creation and extending to the year 1665, giving the most remarkable accidents, occurrences, etc. Some of the entries are very curious. I give you a few extracts :—

"Year 1. The Creation of the World (Gen. 1) which some suppose to be in Autumn, but (upon good arguments) most truly thought to be in the Spring—Æquinox. Adam created the 6 day."

"2843. London built."

"2961. York built."

"3000. Leicester built."

"3058. Canterbury built."

"3087. Stamford built." [This was 100 years before the Prophet Ezekiel was born. The date agrees with that in *Peck's Annals of Stamford* which was published in 1727.]

A.D.

"1077. A blazing star on Palm Sunday neer the sun."

"1105. Four circles and a blazing star appear about the sun."

"1116. The moon seemed to be turned into blood."

"1128. Men ware hair like women."

"1173. Leicester burnt."

"1346. The great Battel of Cressy, Aug. 26 where the French were beaten. There were killed 12 Princes, 1200 Horsemen, 30,000 Footmen, and the English became victors."

"1361. Fiends were seen to speak unto men as they travelled."

"1388. Men with long gowns rode on side saddles like the Queen of Bohemia, that brought side saddles first to England, for before they rode astride."

"1555. Coaches first used in England."

"1607. An insurrection in Northamptonshire and in the adjacent parts, about inclosures."

"1618. A great blazing-star seen in September very terrible to behold."

"1643. July 24, Burleigh-house stormed by Cromwell."

"1645. Feb. 26th. Colonel Rossiter defeated near Melton Mowbray by Sir Marmaduke Langdale, who speedily marches into Yorkshire, beats the enemy at Pomfret and relieves the Castle, Mar. 1."

"1645. May 30. The main body of the King's Army, Horse and foot besieged Leicester, where after a sharp contest a whole day and night (in which time they had made great breaches with their canon) they came at last to push of pike, and on Saturday at three o'clock they storm'd the town, and in hot blood many were put to the sword."

"1646. Feb. 3. Belvoire-Castle, after three months siege surrendered to the Parliament."

"1666. Sep. 3-4-5. The sad and lamentable firing of the City of London, wherein was burned to the ground 87 Parishes within the walls and much building without; which, (if a Plot, as generally reported at the time of my writing hereof) was the most wicked and diabolical act that ever was hatched and brought forth in the world."

In addition to numerous tables showing how to find various feasts, is a primer of astronomy giving the motion of the heavenly bodies, tide tables, and tables showing the time of sunrise and sunset.

Next comes a discourse on the properties and natural effects of the planets, on clouds, rain, snow, hail, frost, dew, the rainbow, thunder, lightning, earthquakes, comets and rules for weather prognostics.

Some of these descriptions are very quaint, but while well seasoned with astrological precepts, invariably agree with the accepted ideas of to-day. We may smile at the following description of a comet, but we must remember that even to-day, as Sir Robert Ball states, "although their movements are now to a large extent explained, and some additions have been made to our knowledge of their nature, we must still confess that what we do know bears but a very small proportion to what remains unknown."

Vincent Wing's description of a comet is as follows:—

"A comet or blazing star is an exhalation hot and dry, and of a thick, fat, and gross matter, great in quantity and hard, compact together like a lump of pitch; which being carried into the highest region of the air, is by excessive heat of the place set on fire, and appears like a great star, with a long Tayl ofentimes, and so burneth until the substance is consumed. They are signs of Drought, Dearth, scarcity of fruit, sickness and epidemical diseases, as also (as many affirm) they are said to betoken earthquakes, winds, warlike stratagems, seditions, changes of government and the death of Kings, Queens and potentates."

The book also contains a chapter on land surveying, the measurement of timber, the assize of bread and ale, etc. It has been dealt with more fully than it perhaps deserved, but this has been done in order to give some idea of the class of work published in the 17th century, called almanacs, and which had a very large circulation.

Mr. Wing was a prolific writer. In 1648 he became known as the joint author, with William Leyhourne, of *Urania Practica* or Practical Astronomy.

In the following year he published independently *A Dreadful Prognostication, containing Predictions drawn from the effects of several celestial configurations.* His *Harmonicon Caeleste,* or the Harmony of the visible world, appeared in 1651. This was followed by *Ephemerides of the Celestial motions for 20 years with an introduction to the knowledge of all Mundane alterations.* A treatise on

surveying came next. His chief and most useful work appeared in 1652, entitled *Astronomica Brittanica*. This was a complete system of astronomy on Copernican principles, and included numerous and diligently compiled sets of tables. A portrait of the author was prefixed, copy of which is reproduced. It was followed in 1656 by *Astronomia Insturata,* and in 1665 by *Examen Astronomia Carolinæ,* exposing the alleged errors of Thomas Streete, a contemporary astrologer, who promptly retaliated with *A castigation of the envy and ignorance of Vincent Wing.*

The publication of his almanacs was continued by his descendants at irregular intervals until 1805. He attended to his business of land surveying, riding early and late in all kinds of weather, and contracted consumption of which he died on September 20th, 1668, aged 49. He was buried at North Luffenham on September 21st. His will, dated a fortnight before, was proved at Peterborough, December 28th, 1668. G. PHILLIPS.

(To be continued).

RUTLAND SUPERSTITION.—UNLUCKY EGGS.—There are many farmers' wives, even in the present day, who would never dream of allowing eggs to be brought into the house, or taken out of it, after dark, this being deemed extremely unlucky. "Cuthbert Bede" mentions the case of a farmer's wife in Rutland who received a setting of ducks' eggs from a neighbour at nine o'clock at night. "I cannot imagine how she could have been so foolish" said the good woman, much distressed; and her visitor, upon enquiry, was told that ducks' eggs brought into a house after sunset would never be hatched.

C. G. LELAND, *Gypsy Sorcery and Fortune Telling.*

THE RUTLAND ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

On May 27th, the Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Oakham, when the Accounts and Annual Report were presented and passed. These have since been circulated among the members. The Report showed the Society to be in a flourishing condition, the membership roll amounting to 110 (an increase of 9) and the balance in hand at the end of 1904 being £45. The various officers were re-elected with the addition of Mr. J. C. TRAYLEN, A.R.I.B.A., as Architectural Sub-Secretary in succession to the late REV. M. BARTON. The business of the meeting accomplished, an inspection of the grand parish church of Oakham was made under the guidance of MR. TRAYLEN. As this building has already been described in the pages of this magazine it is unnecessary to dilate further on its many points of beauty and interest.

The first of our Summer Excursions was made on June 16th, when an enjoyable day was spent in the more accessible portion of the Fenland. Driving from Helpstone station the party first visited Northborough where the beautiful old 14th century Manor House was inspected. This was the home of Elizabeth Claypole, daughter of Oliver Cromwell and the place where the Protector's widow spent the last days of her life. The Church was also visited. It is an instructive building to the Ecclesiologist, containing as it does examples of Norman and all the succeeding Gothic styles, the Decorated being the most prevalent. From here the party continued their drive to the famous Abbey of Crowland where there was much to be seen and admired. Considerable time was spent here in an inspection of the building and the adjacent ruins, as well as of the unique "Triangular Bridge." The return journey was made *via* Peakirk, where after an examination of this interesting little Norman Church, the party were hospitably entertained to tea by the RECTOR, CANON JAMES, before departing to catch the 5 o'clock train from Helpstone.

The next fixture was on June 29th, when the House and the Church at Burley-on-the-Hill were visited. MISS PEARL FINCH kindly conducted the party over the house and explained the many objects of interest therein, pictures, tapestries, historical documents and furniture all receiving their share of attention. After examining the Church (which contains some fine architectural details judiciously replaced at the time of the rebuilding in 1870), and visiting the stables and kitchens, the party enjoyed a bountiful tea by the kind invitation of MRS. FINCH, before departing homewards, having spent a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon at this historic spot.

We may briefly allude to a two days excursion to Cambridge, on July 4th and 5th, when the Leicestershire Architectural Society courteously agreed to a joint excursion for the two sister societies. The trip was very successfully carried out and was much enjoyed by those present, but the Rutland Society was represented by only two members and it is open to question whether the arrangement, which was in the nature of an experiment, has proved sufficiently successful to justify a repetition next year. We would, however, take this opportunity of thanking our Leicester friends for so readily agreeing to our suggestion to join them in their Annual Outing.

On July 13th, a very pleasant afternoon's expedition was carried out under most favourable conditions. The contingent from the Oakham side travelled to Harringworth station, and a visit was paid to the church and the picturesque cross standing in the village. A brake picked them up at the church and after calling at the Seaton station for the members arriving from the Stamford side, proceeded to Stoke Dry. Here the Rector, the REV. G. THURSTON read a most excellent paper on the parochial history of the place and the architecture of the church, giving some interesting information of the connection of Stoke Dry with the Gunpowder Plot, Stoke Dry being one of the homes of the Digby family. After a tour of inspection the party made their way to Lyddington where the REV. S. R. POCOCK took charge of them and explained the history of the church and the adjacent "Bede House" which was formerly a summer palace of the Bishops of Lincoln, at the time when that Diocese embraced the greater part of the Midlands. The kind hospitality which seems never to be lacking when this society takes its walks aboard, was again forthcoming, and in the beautiful upstairs Dining Hall of the Old Palace the party sat down to a sumptuous repast provided by the kindness REVS. G. THURSTON, S. R. POCOCK and F. S. EDMONDS. After a vote of thanks to our hosts, the return journey to the stations at Seaton and Harringworth was made and a most enjoyable day brought to a close.

Photo by] **RIDLINGTON CHURCH.** [*G. Phillips.*

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THE

RUTLAND MAGAZINE

AND

COUNTY HISTORICAL RECORD.

RIDLINGTON.

THIS village is situated 2¼ miles north-west from Uppingham, in the Hundred of Martinsley. The parish contains 2,081 acres and a population of about 250. The soil is half red land and half poor clay.

The name, which appears in Domesday Book as Redlinctune is, according to *Kemble, The Saxons in England*, of Scandinavian origin under the form of Hridlan or Hridlan's town, the district being an ancient Mark. *(See Rutland Magazine, Vol. I., p. 256).* In Domesday Book the Manor is described as follows:—"In Redlinctune Churchsoke with its seven Berewicks Queen Editha had four carucutes of land rateable to gelt; the land is sixteen carucutes. The King has there four carucutes in demesne, and one hundred and seventy villeins and twenty six bordars who have thirty carucutes; also two sokemen with two carucutes. There are two priests and three churches, and two mill-sites and forty acres of meadow. The wood, containing pasturage in places, is two miles long and eight furlongs broad. The annual value in King Edward's time was £40. The whole manor with the seven Berewicks is three miles and seven furlongs in length, and two miles and two furlongs in breadth. Albert the Clerk (who held also,

under the King, the churches of Oakham and Hambleton) has one bovate of the above mentioned land, and has a mill there worth 16d yearly."

From the above it will be seen that the extent of the parish is only about two-fifths of the area of the manor at the time of the Conqueror's survey. It then contained seven "Berewicks" or hamlets. Uppingham, Ayston and Preston being included in this churchsock, it is not unreasonable to suggest that of the three churches named in the record, no trace of any other than the one now standing have been discovered, two were in other parts of the Manor, and may possibly refer to either Uppingham, Ayston or Preston.

It may be interesting to refer in detail to the people who played a part in the old village communities. The *villeins,* who corresponded to the Saxon *ceorls,* were tenants of the lord of the manor and each held about thirty acres. He supported himself and his family, and in return was bound to render certain services to the lord of the manor, to work on the home farm, and provide two or more oxen for the manorial plough team. He was not a free tenant, could acquire no property, and his lord's consent was needed for the marriage of his daughters.

The *bordars* came next to the villeins. They lived in *bords* or cottages, boarded or wooden huts. They ranked as a lower grade of villeins, and held about five acres of land, but provided no oxen for the manorial plough. Below them were the *cottarii*, or cottiers, who were bound to do domestic work and supply the lords' table. They corresponded to the modern labourer, but lacked his freedom.

The *sokemen* or socmen, were the yeomen, who abounded chiefly in the Danish districts of England. They were inferior landowners who had special privileges, and could not be turned out of their holdings, though they were required to render certain services to the lord of the manor.

The earliest known lords of Ridlington were Robert de Hoyland and John de Wynill, 9 Edward II. (1315). How long they or either of them held it is not known, and when they parted with it or to whom there is no trace, but in the reign of Philip and Mary, Christopher Smith obtained a license dated 17th May, 1688-9, to "alienate the manor, with the appurtenances, late parcel of the possessions of Henry Fitz-Roy, the natural son of King Henry VIII., Duke of Richmond," to Sir John Harrington, Knight, who was found by an inquisition taken at Oakham 13 James I. (1614-15) to have died, "seized of the Manor of Ridlington, which he held of the King in socage by fealty, and the rent of twelve shillings, and one pound of pepper yearly."

These ancient tenures are very curious. William I. and other feudal sovereigns, although they made large and numerous grants of land, always reserved a rent or certain annual payments, which were collected by the sheriffs of the counties in which the lands lay, to show that they still retained the *dominium directum* in themselves.

A similar acknowledgement, viz: one pound of pepper and fourpence annually was made in the year 1203 by Roger de Colvile for land at Castle Bytham, Lincs. A farm at Brookhouse, in Langsett, Co. York, was held by payment of a snowball at Midsummer and a red rose at Christmas.

The manor continued in the Harrington family until it was conveyed by the heirs of the last John, Lord Harrington to Sir Edward Noel who had a seat at Brook. Sir Edward was created a baronet 29th June, 1611 and advanced to the peerage as Baron Noel of Ridlington, 23rd March, 1616-17. The remarks on the owners of Langham, in (*Vol. 1., page 140, Rutland Magazine*), apply equally to Ridlington and therefore need not be repeated. The grandson of Sir Edward was created Earl of Gainsborough and the Manor of Ridlington has since remained in the Gainsborough family, the present Earl having as his third title, Baron of Ridlington.

In the year 1531, it was found by inquisition that one John Calcot held, within the manor of Ridlington, two messuages and three cottages, with their appurtenances, of the king, as of his manor of Preston, but by what service was not known.

The Church is dedicated to St. Mary Magdelene and St. Andrew. This is an uncommon dedication, it being the only one in the diocese, which contains 845 churches.

Probably Andrew is a corruption of Andresgil, a saint whose day is the same as that of St. Mary Magdelene, July 22nd, the village "Feast." St. Mary Magdelene is usually depicted with a tomb in the background, and two angels in white seated above it. Before the tomb, Christ stands holding his mantle in one hand; in the other he carries a scroll, on which is written; "Mary, touch me not!" Mary, kneeling before Him, prays that she may touch His feet.

St Andrew is depicted in Christian art as an old man with long white hair and beard, holding the Gospel in his right hand and leaning on a cross like the letter X, styled a cross decussate. It is supposed that this was the form of cross on which he suffered, but, if we may believe the relic in the convent of St. Victor, near Marsailles, the apostle was crucified on one of the ordinary shape. The error arose from the way in which the cross is exhibited, resting on the end of the cross beam and point of the foot.

RECTORS OF RIDLINGTON.

Date of Institution.	*Rector.*	*Patron.*
1217	Robertus de Brachele, Clerk	Dominus William de Cantelupe
1218	Willielmas de Menton	do.
1221	John de Einwell, Clerk	do.
	Edward de Westminster, deceased	... ...
1264	Giles de Audenarde, Subdeacon	King Henry III.
	Magister Milr. Brokedis, resigned	... ...
1284	Magister Alan de Hanley, in minor orders, deceased	Sir Peter de Montfort, Knt.
1300	Geoffrey de Hampton, Chaplain	Matilda de Beauchamp, Countess of Warwick, and others.
	Geoffrey de Cropthorpe, deceased	... ...
1317	Magister William de Welnesford, Chaplain, deceased	Sir Peter de Montfort
1339	Richard de Wadeford, Priest.....	do.
	Richard de Bideford, resigned	
1349	Thomas, son of John de Hacton, Acolyte	do.
1405	William Gunby, Priest	Margaret, Countess of Warwick
1406	Thomas Haggley, Rector of St. Nicholas, Worcester (exchange), resigned	do.
1406	John Mayn, Chaplain	do.
1408	John Driffield, Vicar of Chyckwell, dio. Lond. (exchange)	... ...
	Walter Coke, deceased	... ...
1416	William Pulley, Clerk, resigned	Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick
1417	William Bretayne, Priest, deceased	do.
1433	John Parker, Clerk	do.
	William Lyttester, resigned	
1469	Simon à Kirk, Priest, deceased	do.
1471	William Lyttester, Priest, deceased	George, Duke of Clarence
1473	Thomas Kell, Priest	do.
	Thomas Heal, resigned	... ...
1482	John Luffenham, Priest, resigned	King Edward IV.
1489—90	John Pers, Chaplain, (?) deceased	King Henry VII.
1521	Thomas Skelton, Clerk, resigned	King Henry VIII.
1522	Dominus Richard Moyne, (?) deceased	do.
1532	Dominus Simon Sheppard, Priest, resigned ...	do.
1546	Dominus David Jones, Priest	do.
	Living Vacant on account of a certain Act of Parliament.	
1548	Dominus Miles Benns, Clerk, deprived	King Edward VI.
1554	William Cox, deceased	Queen Mary
1576	Thomas Gibson, Clerk, deprived	Sir James Harrington
1605	Thomas Gibson, junr., Clerk, M.A., deceased ...	John, Lord Harrington
1660	James Watts, Clerk, M.A., deceased	Baptist, Viscount Campden
1684	Alexander Bruce, Clerk, M.A., ceded...	Edward, Earl of Gainsborough
1690	William Noel, Clerk, M.A.	Wriothesly Baptist, Earl of Gainsborough
1710	Culpepper Tanner, Clerk, deceased	Baptist, Earl of Gainsborough
1725	Cornelius Belgrave, M.A., deceased	do.
1757	Cornelius Belgrave, B.A., deceased	do.
1777	Cornelius Belgrave, B.A., deceased	Henry, Earl of Gainsborough
1804	Charles Swann, M.A., deceased	Gerard Noel Noel, Esq., of Exton
1846	William Drayton Carter (exchange), resigned ...	Charles Noel, Earl of Gainsborough
1858	Charles Rae Hay, M.A., deceased	do.
1870	Willoughby Willey, deceased	Earl of Gainsborough
1889	Christopher Hope Formby; B.A., deceased	do.
1895	Arthur Swire (exchange), resigned	Earl of Gainsborough's Trustees
1897	Philip Stocks, M.A.	do.

The plan consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, west tower and south porch. When the Rev. C. R. Hay entered upon the living in 1858, he found the church in a very unsafe and dilapidated condition and was exceedingly anxious that a restoration should be affected. With this view he consulted Mr. Henry Parsons, Architect, of Gresham House Chambers, London, who ultimately received instructions to examine the fabric. We cull from his report the following particulars. The chancel was found to be absolutely unsafe. There were large rents and fissures in the walls, one having been occasioned by a doorway having been cut in a reckless manner in the south wall. The jambs of this door were of brick and a part of a

curious tympanum was used as a lintel; the remaining portion had been applied for the purpose of a window sill. The roof was a rude and comparatively modern affair, cutting across, and obscuring the apex of the east window. On the north side were two windows, one square headed, and the other two-centred, both of a Decorative character, although very plain and not unusual in design. On the south side was a window of much later date, and of very rude workmanship. The ivy had penetrated through the walls and windows, and hung down in festoons inside the church. The north wall of the north aisle was more than a foot out of the upright and bulged in every direction. The windows in it were common wooden cottage windows. The roof was a rude lean-to. The south aisle was nearly as bad; lighted by common square headed windows of a late date, rudely executed and repaired with wood. The roof was the same as that over the north aisle. A very unsightly porch had been built, probably towards the latter end of the reign of George II. The doorway into the church inside the porch was Perpendicular, of a very poor design, apparently coæval with the square headed windows in the north aisle and south wall of the chancel. The nave was covered with a flat ceiling, and the west end blocked up with a very unsightly gallery. Everything was covered with whitewash, half-an-inch thick. The desk and pulpit were introduced towards the latter end of the eighteenth century. The seating was made up of odds and ends.

It was advised that the chancel should be re-built, the old windows restored and re-used where practicable, the north and south aisles re-built; the nave restored, and a new roof to it, and new furniture throughout.

Mr. Halliday, of Greetham was asked to do the work without any competition. His estimate came to £806, which was a few pounds less than Mr. Parson's estimate. The Rector and Churchwardens set to work, and the result of their endeavours justified them in going on with what was really necessary to be done, and also effecting some additional improvements; for instance, the old chancel windows were found to be in a local stone, and crumbled under the touch, a state which rendered it necessary to have new ones, at a cost of £30 extra. There were also provided stone jambs, arches, and sills inside the windows (instead of plaster), heating apparatus, seating in the chancel, prayer desk, pulpit, centering and shoring nave arches and underpinning the columns, carving, ground work outside, etc. Altogether the outlay was about £1150.

(To be continued).

THE RUDKINS OF RUTLAND AND THE COUNTY CARLOW; OTHER LINKS BETWEEN RUTLAND AND IRELAND IN THE TIME OF QUEEN ELIZABETH AND AFTER—*(continued).*

IT seems probable that after all Ryan is right when he places the arrival of the Rudkins in Ireland as far back as the reign of Queen Elizabeth,[1] for it can be shown that there was a most intimate connection between the County of Rutland and that part of Ireland now included in the counties of Carlow and Wicklow in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. A reference to the Carew State Papers, and the Calendar of State Papers, Ireland, will show that Captain Henry Harrington, afterwards made Sir Henry Harrington, was in Ireland as early as 1570. He was a son of Sir James Harrington, of Exton, who died an old man in 1592; his mother was Lucy, daughter of Sir William Sydney, Lord Deputy of Ireland, and his mother's sister was the wife of Sir William Fitzwilliam, who succeeded as Lord Deputy, but who was in Ireland as early as 1570. The Harringtons, as is well known, were a very ancient Rutland family and owned a large portion of the county. Sir Henry Harrington's elder brother was Sir John Harrington, created the 1st Baron Exton at the Coronation of James I., and his younger brother was Sir James Harrington of Ridlington, Co. Rutland. It was, probably, the appointment of his uncle[2], Sir William Sydney, as Lord Deputy that induced Henry Harrington to go to Ireland; and from that time he figures largely in the affairs of Ireland for a period of over 40 years. In 1576 his name occurs in the same documents[3] with Jacques Wingfield, Mackworth, and Baker, all Rutland names. There were scions of other noted Rutland families in Ireland during his time. In 1588 he administered the affairs of Jacques Wingfield. In 1600 he is associated with Sir Thomas Wingfield, in 1606 with Robert Wingfield as a Privy Councillor, in 1611 with Sir Richard Wingfield also a Privy Councillor and Marshall of the Army, and a Sir Edward Wingfield is referred to in 1608. In 1641 Sir Richard Wingfield becomes Lord Powerscourt of the County of Wicklow, whose descendant, the present Lord Powerscourt, is still regarded by the Wingfield family of Rutland as their head.

Again, the same State Papers reveal the existence of a Lieutenant Floure or Flower[4] commissioned in 1595, and

1 Ryan, 1, p. 371.
2 Carew State Papers, 1583.
3 Carew State Papers, 1576.
4 Journal of Sir W. Russell, Lord Deputy.

who distinguished himself at the Castle of Glyn by knocking a rebel from the top of the tower into the Shannon beneath. In 1599 Captain Flower is Sergeant Major of Munster and fights the rebels. In 1606 Captain George Flower appears in a list of Pensioners[5] in conjunction with a Captain Roger Orme and Lieutenant Richard Orme, and an Ensign, John Russon or Russen. In 1608 there is mention of Sir George Flower, and in the same year Captain Roger Orme is serving the States. These Irish Captains were frequently serving in the Low Countries fighting against the Spaniards. In 1587 Sir Henry Harrington was one of the few left in Ireland[6] at time of "fear of invasion of Ireland" by the Spaniards. Now here we have men, of well-known Rutland families, in Captains George Flower and Roger and Richard Orme, as also in Edward Sabthorpe (probably Sapcote), and Henry Flower granted 100 acres of land in 1611, near which a village was built (Dunrosse) of 14 houses and inhabited by English. The Flore or Flower family belonged to Whitwell and Oakham, but got rid of most of their property in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The "Magna Britannica," published in 1727, says that a Roger Flower built the spire of Oakham. But the family that disappeared from Rutland became distinguished in Ireland. George Flower became Governor of Ballyshannon 1604, and of Waterford 1608, was made Deputy Vice Admiral 1647, and his name and family are still perpetuated in the Peerage of Ireland under the title of Viscount Ashbrooke. The name Orme is still well known to the present generation of Rutlanders. It is not so certain that John Russon or Russen was of Rutland, but the name is suspicious, and may be one of the many variants of Rudkin.

It was the policy of Queen Elizabeth's time to get people of all ranks from the same district to emigrate and settle in Ireland. The State Papers under date 1585 and the heading "Plantations for Ireland of English," point out "the advantage to younger houses of English Gentlemen," and there is reference to '*Burghley Notes of Overtures for Grants of Lands.*" The cost of settlement to gentlemen is put at £278; for freeholders, farmers £70; for copyholders £28; for cottagers £6. And these were "to be drawn from the same Shire or County," "of one neighbourhood or familiarity," and they were to be planted "in Hundreds or Wapentakes." The object was to reproduce a bit of the home life in what was then a far distant country, so that the emigrants might not be tempted to return to England.

Now, Sir Henry Harrington had large and frequent grants of lands made to him. In 1575,[7] Lord Dep. Fitzwilliam desires that he may have his lands in reversion

5 State Papers, Ireland, 1606.
6 Calendar of State Papers Ireland (Longman's).
7 Calendar of State Papers Ireland.

renewed. In 1578 he is made Senescal or "chief ruler" over the country of the O' Byrnes and the O' Tooles, and had grants made to him by the Queen for his services. In 1579 he asks for and obtains the "Abbey of Fernes." In 1580 his new castle was attacked and burnt by Lord Baltinglas, a rebel, but was rebuilt and made "a strong castle." In 1582 he suffered great losses at the hands of the rebels, but in 1583 had granted to him "Baltinglas" at a high rent and subsequently receives it on improved terms, in response to his petition, with the "Abbey and Manor of Baltinglas" in 1587. In 1587 he received grants of lands of Kilruddy and the Commandry of Kilcloghan in fee farm and in 1596, Golmoorston in Co. Kildare. In James I. reign he has other grants in the latter county, and also at Shilealagh, where he was required to build a "stone castle" within five years. His "Captaincy" over the O' Byrnes and O' Toole's country, afterwards the counties of Carlow and Wicklow, and made "Shireland" gave him absolute power "to assemble the gentlemen, freeholders and inhabitants," etc.; and until he surrendered his patent of Captaincy in 1611, for which he was compensated, his "liberty" shut out the Judges of Assize.

Therefore it was to the interest of Sir Henry Harrington to people his newly acquired possessions with Englishmen, and where would he be more likely to look for them, than in his own native County and neighbourhood where his family for some 600 years had dwelt? In 1575[8] he visits his father, Sir James Harrington, of Exton; in 1579 he is in England, when he asks for certain livings including the Abbey of Fernes; in 1582 he is again in England, and in 1591. Again in 1592, when he is commended by letter to Burgley, for that his father was lately deceased; in 1593 he is at the English Court; and in 1596. In 1599, he goes to look after his "whole Estate in England of £10,000," which he complains his "younger brother" hitherto had enjoyed. This seems to point to Sir James Harrington, of Ridlington. We cannot imagine that, when on the occasions of so many visits to England, he would fail to influence his fellow countrymen of Rutland, whom he could so easily influence, to go back with him to become his tenants and soldiers at the same time.

Now, the conscript troops or pressed soldiers were of little use; they deserted. In 1602 Sir George Carew writes to Lord Deputy Mountjoy "your lordship knows how difficult it is to keep unwilling minds together, that are not inclined to be soldiers and how fearful the name of Ireland is to pressed men in England." Some under Lieut. Kyrton had deserted, but Sir Edward Wingfield held 200. It is stated somewhere, I believe, in the "Nugæ Antiquæ," by Sir John Harrington, of Kelston, that at a time when the conscript soldiers failed,

8 Calendar of State Papers (Longman's).

Sir Henry Harrington raised a corps of volunteers "sons of gentlemen," and others, and commanded altogether a company of 700 foot and 50 horse. The State Journals relate that in 1585 he planted at Baltinglas "20 able horse there and 80 foot," for, he says, he thinks "more of 20 who sit down and live on the soil than of 100 others." And what he did on his estate at Baltinglas we may assume he did elsewhere. In 1591 the Lord Deputy wrote to Burghley to pay Sir John Harrington, the bearer, £800 borrowed from him to pay the soldiers of Sir Henry Harrington, lately arrived from England. The State Papers make it clear that five out of every hundred soldiers were allowed to be gentlemen, and received the pay of gentlemen. In 1598 2,000 men were to go into Ireland as a reinforcement and levies were made, Rutland was required to furnish 50,[9] and again in 1601, 25 men.

Sufficient proof has been given by the references above to establish the point that there was a most intimate connexion between Rutland and Ireland in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and we cannot doubt that many Rutland men settled in Ireland, especially in the counties south of Dublin, comprised within the district, originally known as the "Pale," viz., the Co. of Dublin, Carlow, Wicklow, Kildare, etc.

In a breviate of grants of 1600 occurs the name of Sir Henry Harrington and George Isham. Isham may not be a Rutland name, but it belongs certainly to the neighbourhood of Market Harborough, hard by. Then in 1611 Sir H. Harrington is granted the wardship of the daughters of Richard Noble, of Dublin. Whether Noble is a name found within the limits of Rutland or not, it belongs to the neighbourhood of Melton Mowbray. In 1585 John Sharman, M.A., was a schoolmaster at Waterford, but returned to England failing to get sufficient pupils to keep him. In 1648 there is mentioned a John Sherman, a Quarter-master, and the paper of Sir E. Bewley couples the name of Rudkin with a Shearman. In the reign of James I. a grant of land is made to William Chapman, gent.

Other links appear in the names well known in Rutland, and found in past times or to-day, in the same vicinity in Ireland as Tighe for Teigh, Healey, Parnell, Burton, Hatt, Herring, Sisson, Hardy, Acheson, Wilcocks, and it may be others. This is a field for research, which is at present insufficiently explored.

The Rutland names Noel and Sherard are also met with in Irish records of those early times, and of Pickering, of Titchmarsh, Northants and West Langton, Leicestershire. Then there is the name of Judkin, which may be another form of Rudkin *(see Visitation of Rutland, 1618)*, and whose family had representatives at Heyford, Weedon and Brixworth in

9 Carew State Papers.

Northamptonshire, to which neighbourhood the Ishams belonged. *(see Visitation of Northampton.)* In 1586 a warrant for £1000 was conveyed to Ireland by John Harrington and others for the repeopling and settling of Munster. This same John Harrington was named by Queen Elizabeth to go with Lord Essex to Ireland in 1599, and was appointed to command a troop of horse in consort with the Earl of Southampton. Lord Essex made him a knight, which greatly displeased the Queen. He was the cousin of Sir Henry Harrington and Lord Harrington of Exton (*see Chart showing the relationship of the Harringtons*).

There are then ample grounds for believing that Rudkins of Preston, or Wing, or Ridlington, in all which villages the name was then found, went out to Ireland in those stirring times, and that the tradition of the Irish family evidently embodied in the remark of Ryan that they came into Ireland in the *time of Elizabeth* is most likely correct. And if any of them joined with the other English in Ireland to fight the Spaniards in the Low Countries, whence many returned to Ireland, there would be justification for the further statement that they *came from Germany*. The recollection of that event might have obscured their earlier arrival from Rutland. The State Journals mention in 1600 that Sir John Harrington gave a list of knights, made by Lord Essex whilst he was in Ireland. Some had been Low Country captains "41 in all, but all were not remembered." If so many captains had been in Ireland it would include other ranks with them. It is not conclusive that there were no Rudkins in Ireland until the days of Charles II. because the name is not found in the Hearth Money Rolls of Carlow. It is certain that in "Prendergast's Cromwellian Settlement," to which Sir E. Bewley refers, the name of Rudkin does not occur. It is not in the list of adventurers, soldiers or others who then received grants of land. The Rudkins may have been tenants of Sir Henry Harrington in some other portions of his dominions in Wicklow, Dublin or Kildare. The first recorded Henry Rudkin or Rickins, as it was written, and "Ricken's," as still pronounced by the country people around Wells, is not unlike "Rickies," who might have been spoken of as the "Rickieses." And in 1641 the State Papers refer to a "Mr. Rickies," also called "Rickesis" and Captain Abraham Rickesis, "a merchant of Dublin,"[10] who owed Lord Cork £1,300. He is mentioned on the same page with Captain Richard Wingfield and Captain Balthazar Creamer. The latter *was of German* origin, and in a later generation Oliver Cramer married Deborah Rudkin, daughter of Henry Rudkin of Wells, who became thereby sister-in-law of Lady Judith Butler, daughter of Viscount Lanesborough, married to

10 A merchant of Dublin: Life of the Great Earl of Cork, 904, by Dorothea Townsend, and House of Commons, Ireland, Journals (see Index).

Belthazar John Cramer, a cousin to Hester, wife of the Earl of Charleville.

Instead of supposing, as Sir E. Bewley does, that Henry Rickins or Rudkin, was the son of Mark and Sarah Rudkin, of North Luffenham (and the dates do not fit) it is better to go further back, and look for some common ancestor of this Mark Rudkin, married at Luffenham in 1643, and Mark Rudkin of Preston, in 1645. It is a striking combination of names, as is that of Henry Rudkin, so common in Rutland, and so common in the Irish family. Now, from the list of Northampton and Rutland wills 1510-1652, published in the Index Library by the British Record Society, it appears that the Will of "Rutynge John, of Wing," was proved in 1556-7 or in the reign of Queen Mary, and this John Rudkin appears to have been succeeded by Henry Rudkin, as the following extracts from the Court Rolls, furnished me by Mr. G. Phillips, of Oakham, will show: "Egleton with members—Extract of veiw of frank pledge with the Court of Queen Elizabeth, held there 19th May 4 Eliz. (1562) before Andrew Noell, Chief Steward there, Fine from Henry Rutkyn for a messuage of land in Wyng in the tenure of John Rutkyn." It seems far more likely that the Irish family sprang from this stock in the early part of Elizabeth's reign than from the North Luffenham family of nearly a century later, and it may have been the stock out of which the Luffenham family came.

It is to be observed that Ryan, who declared the settlement of the Rydkins to have been in the time of Elizabeth, was perfectly well aware that Henry Rickins, the first he names, was not born till the 1st year of Charles I. for he gives the record on his tomb in Old Leighlin Cathedral—

> "Here lieth the body of Henry Rydkins, who departed this life on May the 20th, 1726, aged 101 years."

Then is a coat of arms and a crest at the top. Then underneath is a further inscription :—

> "Also the body of his son Henry Rudkins, who departed this life April 6th, 1738. Aged 53 years."

Sir E. Bewley has thrown doubt on the accuracy of this inscription, partly on account of the great age of Henry Rydkins, but his grandson, the son of Mark, lived to be 92. Ryan published his Antiquities of Carlow in 1833, and may have obtained his information concerning the family from a third Henry in a direct line, the grandson of the second, who lived to the year 1836. Therefore, the statements of Ryan must be considered as having great authority.

There are several indications that the first Henry Rydkin was no recent settler in Ireland. Not only is he made a burgess of Old Leighlin in 1688, by the charter of James II., but he seems to be possessed of some property and of good social position. In 1711 he was presented by the weavers of

the district with a handsome set of table linen, with what appears to be a worked portrait of himself, with his name woven beneath "Henry Rudkin," and the date "1711." People of the ordinary yeoman class hardly used table linen of such sumptuous pattern and quality, and more often had none. Some portion of this table linen is still in the possession of a descendant, Dr. Rudkin, of Teignmouth. Then he appears to have left to his grandson, referred to in his son Mark's Will, "Eleven broadpieces of gould." It is true that some large gold coins of James I. and Charles I., called Unites of value 25s. or 23s., received the name of "broad pieces" in 1664, and these might be meant, but any very large coin might be called broad, and as such a bequest looks as if they were valued for other reasons than their current value, they may have been heirlooms, Spanish monies, mementoes of the days when the English fought against Spaniards in the Low Countries. Ruding in his Coinage of Great Britain says that Queen Elizabeth forbade the use of such money, but in the time of Charles II., "Outlandish coins were declared to be of value." Of Spanish coins we know there was the pistole (value 16s.), and the doubloon (value £1 12s.), and a quadruple pistole declared current of value in Charles II.'s reign £3 4s. There was also the Portuguese moidore (value £1 1s. 6d.) If these coins, mentioned in the will, were Spanish, they may be taken as witnesses of the early Elizabethan settlement. Broad pieces passed current until the 21st February, 1732-3, when they were forbidden. In the will of Mark Rudkin there is a bequest of £150 *to his father's relations and £150 to his mother's relations* in the event of his son Henry dying under 21 years of age, and he leaves £3 to "Mr. Charles Shearman, his uncle." This, one would think, points to the existence of known relations, and apparently residents in Ireland.

Then again it may be noticed from the pedigree appended to the article by Sir E. Bewley, that at the time "Henry Rickins" was made a burgess of Old Leighlin by the Charter of James II., 1688, he had a son Mark, and a grandson Henry, so there were three generations of them at that time, which hardly looks as if they were recent settlers.

It seems, as if he were a Roman Catholic. Ryan in his Preface says, that several of the ancient families of the County Carlow were originally Romanists. He complains that every Sheriff in 1687, with a single exception, who was admitted by mistake, was a Romanist and in referring to the Charter granted to Old Leighlin. "As usual the officers seem to have been Roman Catholics. Then he gives the list of names iucluding "Henry Rickins, Gent." (p. 232). He then adds: "the new Magistrates thus appointed acted with little or no regard to justice, when a

difference occurred between a Protestant and a Roman Catholic, it required but the complaint of the latter to obtain the committal of his opponent to prison." It is true that Henry Rickin was at last buried in a Protestant Cathedral, which would not have been unless at the time of his death he were a Protestant; but this may be accounted for by his conversion to the Protestant faith in his later years. And it is to be noted that Earl Fitzwilliam was a Roman Catholic until the year 1715, after which he was called to the Privy Council by George I. The question of the religion of Henry Rickins, who is assumed by Sir E. Bewley to have been a descendant of the Preston family of Rudkins, is interesting because the Visitation of Rutland, in 1618, shows that Alice Rudkin of Preston, was married to Kenelm Catesby. A comparison of that Visitation with the Visitation of Northamptonshire reveals the fact that Kenelm Catesby was the second cousin once removed of the Guy Fawkes Conspirator Robert Catesby. We may regret that Rutland men were in any way connected with such a diabolical conspiracy, and none may desire to be associated with such a determined villain, as Robert Catesby's portrait shows him to have been, as it appears in the Bodlean Library Oxford, and from that apparently in the history books—except that it is well to remember that it was drawn by his enemies—but it would be interesting to know whether those Preston Rudkins were Roman Catholics, and whether the early emigrants to Ireland were of the same religion.

MESSING RUDKIN.

(To be continued).

HOLY WELLS IN RUTLAND.—RYHALL.—"Just above Ryhall is Stableford Bridge, which, being an odd name upon the River Guash, this opinion is proposed about it. When we read of St. Tibba, we find St. Eabba, her cousin, along with her, another devout, retired person, who commonly lived with her. Hence, I conjecture, that the spring just above this bridge, northward on the brow of the hill, as it were, opposite to St. Tibba's Well, was consecrated by our pious ancestors to St. Eabba. Then this ford over the river, before the bridge was built would be called St. Eabba's-well-ford, corrupted into Stablesford. This same spring now is called by the shepherds Jacob's Well, and that, probably, is but a corruption of St. Eabba's Well.

"Saints Tibba and Eabba were of royal Mercian blood, and owned Ryhall. They were at first wild hunting girls, at last saints."—*Stukeley's Diaries and Letters*, III., 167-70; *Surtees Soc.*, Vol. LXXX.

A SEVENTEENTH CENTURY MASQUE AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL.

LOOKING at Burley now, with its imposing mass of buildings and huge courtyard, it is easy to picture in the mind the splendour of the festivities which were given there on such a generous scale by the first Duke of Buckingham. The mere extent of space round the house, in front and behind, made it an admirable stage for any open-air entertainment. Probably there are few places in England so fitted for the production of a masque. A masque at the end of the 16th and beginning of the 17th century was a kind of pastoral play without a plot; unity was given to the succeeding scenes and events by a common theme, the flattering welcome of some great personage. Queen Elizabeth in her "progresses" through the country, which so often almost beggared her hosts, was commonly greeted with a masque on her arrival. Her vanity was pleased with formal addresses in which she was invoked as a goddess; the learned allusions, in which masques abound, were quite to her taste, as she wished her scholarship to be put on the same level as her beauty; and above all her love of pomp and display was gratified by the lavish magnificence with which the scenes were enacted. The same love of masques was inherited by her successor on the throne. In the case of James I., it was a love of pedantry and far-fetched classical allusion which attracted him to masques more than a passion for prodigal display. He had some claim to be called learned, and he never allowed his courtiers to forget it. None could have ministered to this foible so well as Ben Jonson, who is, with the possible exception of Milton, more widely read in classical literature than any other English poet. The favour which James showed to Ben Jonson's masques saved the poet from poverty and started him upon an honourable career. His whole life was constantly embittered by quarrels, many of which were due to the failure of his plays. His position was only saved by his employment upon masques for the Court and the greater nobility. His first Court masque appeared as early as 1605, and he was at once successful. Inigo Jones himself was designer of the scenery for these entertainments until the famous dispute between him and the poet. It is one of the many masques composed by Ben Jonson, after he obtained constant employment at Court, that I shall now attempt to describe.

In 1621 the *Masque of the Metamorphosed Gipsies* was performed three times before King James and therefore must have been considered a success. It first appeared at

Burley, and the other two performances were at Belvoir and Windsor. The masque, as we have it now, contains topical allusions suitable to all three places; at Windsor especially the writer adds a considerable amount of local colouring.

The piece opens with "The speech at the King's entrance at Burleigh, made in the character of the Porter." The Porter receives King James with a loyal greeting.

cf 11-13 "Welcome, O welcome then and enter here
The house your bounty built and still doth rear
With those high favours....."
and 15 "The Master is your creature, as the place."

This is, of course, strictly true, for George Villiers had by his good looks, happy wit, and adroitness risen from comparative insignificance to the foremost position in England, and he owed his advance entirely to the favour of his king.

After this, by way of prologue, the gipsies enter in detachments with stolen children and stolen poultry as badges of their tribe. Their dialogue is largely carried on in the old canting language of gipsies, and this helps to make their remarks sometimes almost unintelligible. But, indeed, their object is chiefly to mystify their hearers into expectation of some remarkable feat; one of them actually says:—"If we be here a little obscure, 'tis our pleasure; for rather than we will offer to be our own interpreters, we are resolved not to be understood."

Then follows a song in which a gipsy describes the object of their visit and the feats they can perform:—

"Knacks we have that will delight you,
Slights of hand that will invite you
To endure our tawny faces."

This reminds us of the song of Autolycus, the "snapper-up of unconsidered trifles" in *The Winter's Tale*.

The gipsy goes on to promise that the fortunes of the company can be told:—

"Draw but then your gloves, we pray you,
And sit still, we will not fray (*i.e.*, frighten) you;
For though we be here at Burley,
We'd be loth to make a hurly."

The last two lines of course contain a kind of pun on the word *hurly-burly*, a tumult, as used by one of the witches in *Macbeth*:—"When the hurly-burly's done." Then enters the Patrico, or gipsy hedge-priest, and reels off a string of nonsensical jargon, loosely connected with the habits of gipsies, dishonest and otherwise, and their methods of earning a livelihood. Dance and a song by the Patrico lead up to the main business of the masque. The Captain of the gipsy band now comes forward and fulfils the promise made to tell the fortunes of the company by looking at their hands. And so we learn from the stage directions, as he goes up to

each member of the audience, what distinguished people were present. Indeed, it was a notable gathering; the people mentioned are either the highest court officials or near kinsfolk and friends of the all-powerful Villiers.

It is perhaps worth while stopping to take note of the characters who assisted at such a brilliant assembly.

1.—*The King.* The Captain advances first to the King and pretends not to know him as a sovereign but merely to infer his good qualities by the lines upon his hands.

The usual flattery of James' learning is not omitted:—

> "Your Mercury's hill, too, a wit doth betoken:
> Some bookcraft you have, and are pretty well spoken."

Finally, he discovers "in Jupiter's mount" that he is addressing a monarch and for a time withdraws. The interval is filled by a song, and then the Captain comes forward once more to pronounce over the King an eulogy which by reason of its sycophantic homage is to modern taste unpalatable. He begins:—

> "Could any doubt that saw this hand,
> Or who you are, or what command
> You have upon the fate of things,
> Or would not say you were let down
> From heaven, on earth to be the crown
> And top of all your neighbour-kings."

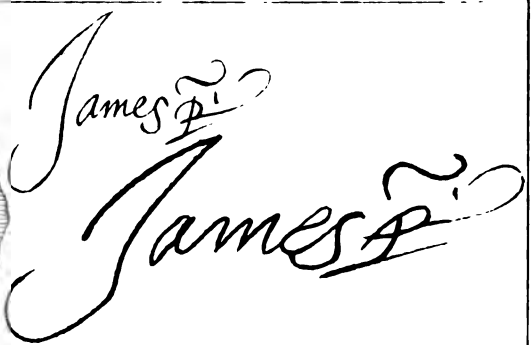
In these inferior verses the king is chiefly congratulated on his gifts as a peacemaker. This is chosen out for special mention among his virtues at an appropriate moment, as in this very year James had commissioned John Digby, 1st Earl of Bristol, to negotiate peace between the Elector Palatine, who had married the English Princess Elizabeth, and Ferdinand II., Emperor of Germany, then fighting the Thirty Years' War.

2.—*The Prince.* This is the future Charles I, as his elder brother, Henry, had died in 1612. In the verses devoted to Charles we get another curious sidelight on the politics of the hour. On a survey of the Prince's hand a gipsy exclaims:—

> "See what states are here at strife,
> Who shall tender you a wife,
> A brave one;
> And a fitter for a man,
> Than is offer'd here, you can
> Not have one.

This doggrel refers to an affair which at the time excited great public interest. The Elector Palatine had in 1620 been driven out of the Palatinate, and James was anxious to reinstate his Protestant son-in-law. He, therefore, aided and abetted by Villiers, began intriguing with Spain in the hope that Philip IV., a Catholic, might use his influence with the Catholic Emperor Ferdinand to restore the Elector. The intrigue took the form of a marriage treaty, in which it was

King James the I.



JAMES, MARQUIS OF HAMILTON.

proposed that Prince Charles should marry one of the sisters of Philip IV. From the lines quoted above it can be seen that Ben Jonson, as a Court poet should, approved of his master's scheme, though it was not by any means welcome to a large part of the nation. Jonson refers still more emphatically to the proposal a little later:—

"She [*i.e.* the Infanta] is sister of a star,
One the noblest now that are,
Courses even with the sun
Doth her mighty brother run,
For splendor."

The features of the "mighty brother," Philip IV., have been made familiar to us by his Court painter, Velasquez.

3.—*The Lady Marquess Buckingham.* Villiers was made a Marquis in 1618, and had not yet been raised to a dukedom. His wife, here mentioned, was Lady Katherine Manners—the gipsy addresses her easily as "dame Kate"—and the marriage had taken place in the year before this masque.

4.—*The Countess of Rutland.*

"Both your bravery and your bounty
Style you mistress of the county."

She was the wife of Francis, 6th Earl of Manners, and therefore related to Villiers by marriage.

5.—*The Countess of Exeter.* She was but newly married to Thomas Cecil, 1st Earl of Exeter, at this time in his 79th year. The omniscient gipsy refers also to this fact:—

"An old man's wife,
Is the light of his life."

He goes on to prophesy lasting good fortune to the Countess, but as a matter of fact the old Earl died in the year after his marriage. He has a further claim on our attention as being the founder of a hospital at Lyddington in this county.

6.—*The Countess of Buckingham.* She was the second wife of Sir George Villiers, of Brooksby, in Leicestershire, who was the father of the Duke of Buckingham. Though her husband had died a knight in 1606, she was created Countess of Buckingham in 1618, when her son George was advanced from an earldom to a marquisate. Her maiden name was Mary Beaumont, and she was probably related to a certain John Beaumont, who held various legal offices in Leicestershire, and was Master of the Rolls in 1550, and possibly to another John Beaumont, a poet, who obtained a baronetcy in 1626 by the favour of Buckingham. Jonson's tribute to her in this masque is more graceful in expression, and apparently more sincere in feeling than any lines dedicated to the rest of his audience.

7.—*The Lady Purbeck.* She was the wife of the 1st Viscount Purbeck, an elder brother of Buckingham, raised to the peerage in 1619. In 1620 he became insane, and in the year of this masque he was deserted by his wife.

8.—*The Lady Elizabeth Hatton.* I have not been able to discover with certainty the lineage of this lady. It is fair to guess that she was in some way related to Sir Christopher Hatton, the favourite and Chancellor of Queen Elizabeth. She is mentioned on another occasion by Jonson as having taken part in his *Masque of Beauty*, 1607, together with other ladies of the Court, and the Queen herself. It was not uncommon for the courtiers to take parts in these entertainments as well as professional actors. In this very masque there are several hints which make it appear nearly certain that Buckingham himself and one of his brothers were now disguised as gipsies. After the ladies come a train of ministers and Court officials.

9.—*The Lord Chamberlain.* Again, I must confess, I am doubtful who is meant. Possibly it was Henry de Vere, 18th Earl of Oxford, who was certainly admitted hereditary Great Chamberlain in 1619; but in the year of this masque he was sent to the Tower for a time at the instigation of Buckingham, to whom he had in some way given offence. However, his imprisonment may have occurred later in this year, because the masque was performed as early as August. From the lines given to him by Jonson one may infer that the Lord Chamberlain had literary talent, but this might be more appropriately said of the 17th Earl, Edward de Vere, who took a fairly high place among Elizabethan poets.

10.—*The Lord Keeper.* This was John Williams, Bishop of Lincoln, who in spite of his ecclesiastical position, was most strangely appointed Lord Chancellor in July of this year after the fall of Francis Bacon in May. Jonson refers to the honours so recently bestowed :—

"You do not appear
A judge of a year."

by which lines Jonson means that Williams had had no legal training before his sudden promotion to the Court of Chancery.

11.—*The Lord Treasurer.* Like others here mentioned, he was still new to his post. Henry Montagu, 1st Earl of Manchester, was made Treasurer in 1620, and owed his place to a timely gift of £20,000 to the King.

12.—*The Lord Privy Seal.* Edward Somerset, 4th Earl of Worcester, was Lord Privy Seal in 1616, and, as far as I can find, still held his post in 1621. Jonson's lines do not help much towards identification; they merely speak of him as "honest and old"; the second epithet, at any rate, is applicable to Somerset, as he was at this time sixty-eight.*

13.—*The Earl Marshal.*—This was Thomas Howard, 2nd Earl of Arundel and Surrey, who in this year, 1621, had been president of the Committee of Peers who had met to

* I should be grateful for further information about Lady Elizabeth Hatton and the Lord Chamberlain and Lord Privy Seal in this year.

consider the charges preferred against Bacon. His appointment as Earl Marshal also dates from this year. The art collection at Arundel House was started by this Earl, a fact which is not forgotten by Jonson:—

"What a father you are and a nurse of the arts."

14.—*The Lord Steward.* Here Jonson gives a curious clue to identify this official. The gipsy, scanning his hand, exclaims:—

"There's written *frank*
On your Venus' bank;"
"To prove a false steward you'll find much ado,
Being a true one by blood and by office too."

From these rhymes it is not hard to deduce that their subject was Sir Francis Stuart. I have no other information about him save that Jonson dedicated one of his most successful plays, *The Silent Woman*, to "the truly noble by all titles, Sir Francis Stuart."

15.—*The Lord Marquis Hamilton.* James Hamilton, the 2nd Marquis, was at this time High Commissioner to the Scotch Parliament. He died four years later and is said to have been poisoned by Buckingham.

This ends the fortune-telling. It is succeeded by the usual interlude of song and dance, during which several country clowns enter to see the sport. At first they are puzzled to know the identity of the dancers, till one, more experienced than the rest, exclaims:—"Why, thou simple parish ass, thou, didst thou never see any gipsies?" The countrymen, excited at the prospect of entertainment, call for music, and two pipers enter followed by a train of girls. While the pipers play for country dances, the gipsies quietly go in and out and pick pockets. Then comes more fortune-telling of a very rustic nature, till the gipsies suddenly make off for fear of "beck-harman," the cant term for constable. The country folk now discover their losses, but all become cheerful again with the return of the gipsies who restore their stolen goods amid general merriment. Both parties now become very friendly, and one of the countrymen, Puppy, wishes to be apprenticed to the trade of gipsy:—"I have a terrible grudging now upon me to be one of your company." Clod joins in with enthusiasm:—"I am sorry I had no more money i' my purse when you came first upon us, sir; if I had known you would have pick'd my pocket so like a gentleman, I would have been better provided." In answer to their inquiries as to what is needful for success in the gipsy profession, the Patrico quickly replies in a stream of doggrel, teaching them all the tricks of the trade. Amused at their astonishment, he promises something still more interesting:—

"Is this worth your wonder!
Nay then you shall under-
Stand more of my skill,
I can (for I will)

Here at Burley o' the Hill
Give you all your fill,
Each Jack with his Gill,
And show you the king,
The prince too, and bring
The gipsies were here, [*i.e.* who were here]
Like lords to appear."

This leads up to the incident which gives the masque its name, for now the gipsies re-enter "metamorphosed"; that is to say, the courtiers, who had disguised themselves to take part in the masque, now appear in their own rich apparel and dance before the king. The Patrico still remains with the rustics in disguise, though he promises to change them very shortly as well as himself:—

"Each clown here in sight
Before day light
Shall prove *a good knight.*"

The few actors left close their foolery with a kind of mock litany. They "bless the sovereign and his senses" from every sort of ridiculous misfortune that can be imagined: for example, they bless his "hearing" from "a lawyer, three parts noise" and "from a fiddle out of tune," his "smelling" from contact with tobacco,* his "tasting" "from an oyster and fried fish." Finally the masque ends with more solemn flatteries interspersed with several short songs, one of which I give as a token of the adulation fashionable at the time. Here is a picture of James I. four years before his death:—

"Look, look, is he not fair
And fresh and fragrant too,
As summer sky or purgéd air,
And looks as lilies do,
That were this morning blown?"

It seems lamentable that a man of Jonson's genius should have sunk so low as this, but allowance must be made for contemporary habit and the vanity of an exacting monarch. It is perhaps a more serious cause for complaint that Jonson's splendid gifts were wasted on the doggrel, of which this masque is largely composed, merely to provide the king with passing entertainment at Christmas revels, Twelfth-night shows, and in his "progresses" through the country. This masque on the whole deserves attention not so much for its own merits as a well-written work, as for the clear idea it gives of the amusements over which the learned James was pleased to unbend. The connection with Burley enables us by familiarity with the site to reconstruct in the mind with a wealth of detail the scene on such an occasion; and, last but not least, it is interesting to be able to revive, as it were, a 17th century house-party by gathering the guests from Jonson's pages.

H. S. VERE HODGE.

* James' antipathy to tobacco was notorious; he had actually published a pamphlet against the new-fangled practise of smoking, called *A Counterblast to Tobacco.*

John Williams Biſhop of Lincoln.

Jo: Lincoln.

The Vestry Books and Registers of St. John's Parish, Stamford.

PERHAPS the best plan to give an idea of the contents of the oldest of the three vestry books will be to take the first three pages, where are recorded the particulars of all the payments made by the Churchwardens for the year ending 18th April, 1588, and a statement of the Parish accounts rendered at the end of the year.

The first entry reads thus :—

Payd forth for riting at the larst account to Master Tompson		ij*d*.
Payd uppon Low Sunday for a pynt of Moskadyne and brede		vij*d*.
„ for hallf a pynt the Sunday following		iij*d*.
„ for mending the grett bell stay		ij*d*.
„ for ij load of sand for the pavements		xxi*d*.
„ for ij load of stone carrige		viij*d*.
„ for mending an irron pin for the grett bell		ij*d*
„ to the pavyer for his worke		vi*s*. viij*d*.
„ to the plumer for mending the leaydes		ij*s*. viij*d*.
„ for wood		i*d*.
„ the xxvijth of August for a quart of Moskadyne for the Communion		xiid.
„ to the bookbinder for mending the service book and the prayer book		ii*s*. vij*d*.
„ to the parritor for the carriage of the inventary to Lincolln		xii*d*.
„ to George Ellinton for harroing the Church land ...		iiij*s*.
„ for mending the bandrick of the seckond bell ...		iiij*d*.
Bestowed on the ringers on St. Thomas' Day in drink and brede		viii*d*.
Payd for mending the grett bell whell		iiijd.
„ for neilles		ij*d*.
„ for a pottell of Moskadyne on Chrystmas Day for the Comunion		ij*s*.
„ the xiiijth of January for a pynt of Moskadyne ...		vi*d*.
„ the xxith of January for a pynt of Moskadyne for the Comunion		vi*d*.
„ for mending the hookes of the Church door ...		iiij*d*.
„ for washing the surpllis and the tabell clothe ...		iiij*d*.
„ for ij horses to the vysitation		ij*s*. viij*d*.
„ for horse keep		x*d*.
„ for our dinners		ij*s*. vi*d*.
„ for making our bill		iiij*d*.
„ for mending the belt of the grett bell and irons ...		ij*d*.
„ to Goodman Goodlands for mending the great whell and stay		ij*s*.
„ for a pottell of Moskadyne for Pallmes Sunday ...		ij*s*.
„ for glass for the west window and ij guardes ...		viij*d*.
„ for vi strick of barly for sede		vi*s*. x*d*.
„ to George Ellinton for pllowing and sowing ...		iiij*s*.
„ for half a pynt of Moskadyne for Thursday ...		iij*d*.
„ for a quart of Moskadyne for Easter even		xij*d*.
„ for V pientes of Moskadyne for Easter Daye ...		ij*s*. vi*d*.

It is interesting to note the quantity of wine used at this period. viz., a pottell or four pints on Christmas Day and Palm Sunday; a quart was used on Easter Eve and five pints on Easter Day. These quantities are large, but I noticed in the account 40 years later, viz., in 1629, they were still larger, viz., on Good Friday two quarts and on Easter Day *six quarts* of wine were consumed.

Other payments interesting to the parishioners of St. John's are those referring to the cultivation of the church land, viz., for seed corn, ploughing, sowing and harrowing, as this land is still held by the Churchwardens though now let on a building lease and the rent used towards church expenses.

After the detailed particulars of expenses the following memoranduum is recorded, and it is interesting to notice the altered meaning of words.

> Memorandum that William Hutton and Matthew Southwell, Churchwardens of St. John's Parish, in Stamford, did gyve their accompt up the viijth day of April, 1588, for ye yeare before, before Tobye Loveday, Alderman of the Borough and Towne of Stamford aforesaid, Robert Meadowes, gentn; John Symon, John Yarwood, Geo. Hall, John Barnes, and others, in wch yeare their receipte came to xliiij*s.* ix*d.*, and their allowance came to liiij*s.* ij*d.*, so yt their allowance amounted their receipte ix*s.* v*d.* All wch accompt was brought in the Church stock, which at the accompt before was delivered to sundrie men as by the former accompt appeareth, and which Church stock with the increase comes xv*l.* xiijs.—say Fyfteen pounds eyght shillinge at which accompt the foresaid William Hutton, Senior Churchwarden, was dismyst, and John Musson was elected the chosen officer by the parishioners, at which time was delivered to the Churchwarden the sum of eight and twenty shillings and sevenpence, and there remayned to be putt to trust of the Parish the summe of xiii*l.* x*s.*, besyde xxxjs. for the two acres of barlye sold to John Barnes, to be payd at the next accompt, in the whole fyfteen pounds two shilling*s*. I say xv*l.* ij*s.*
>
> Delivered the said thyrteen pounde tenn shillinge into the hande, custodye, and keping of Tobye Loveday, Alderman, and Robert Medowes, gentn.

You will notice instead of their "payments exceeded their receipts," it is stated "their allowance amounted their receipts," and also that having fulfilled his duty and accounted for the balance in hand the senior Churchwarden was "dismyst," really meaning they awarded him a legal discharge from further responsibility.

In 1606 there is first entered a list of church goods which were formally handed over to the new Churchwarden, as follows:—

> A silver cuppe with a cover for the Comunion.
> An olde table clothe made of an olde cope.
> A fayer white table clothe for the comunion.
> A surplis.
> A Bible in the large vollume.
> Two Comunion bookes.
> A prayer booke for the Kinge's deliverance.

Jewell's Appologie.
Two bookes of Homelyes.
One other little booke of Homelyes.
Two bookes of Homelyes.
One other little booke of Homelyes.
A booke of Cannons.
A Homelye on the right use of the Lord's Supper.
The Register books.

In addition to the above, "A new bason" was given by one Anne Anthony in 1612, also two puter flagons and a boule for the Communion, given by Mr. Thomas Harrison of London, draper.

In the list for 1634, is added :—

A pewter cup for the bread. Four trenchers and a basket, and some additional books, viz :—
An old book of prayers for Wednesday and Friday.
A form of prayer with an order of Fasting.

The Remonstration of King James against Cardinal Perron and Erasmus' Paraphrase of ye Four Evangelists and the Acts of the Apostles, chained to a desk with two chains.

The four trenchers seem to point to a practice, similar to that of the Scotch Church at the present time, of handing the bread to communicants in their seats.

The Churchwardens appear to have regularly paid the ringers for ringing on the anniversary of the King's Coronation, on the 5th November, St. Thomas' Day, for the Bishop, &c., and it was interesting to note in the accounts of 1634 an entry, "Paid for ringing when the King came through the town, 2/," especially when on referring to the history of Stamford, I found it recorded that in May of that year "Charles the First and his Queen, after spending two days at Apethorpe, passed through Stamford, the Mayor bearing the mace before them."

The system of election of Churchwardens which ruled from 1588 to 1702 appears to be one which gave very many parishioners an interest in Parish work and might, I am inclined to think, be reverted to with advantage. Thus a senior Churchwarden, a junior Churchwarden and a sidesman being appointed, the next year the senior Churchwarden retired, the junior Churchwarden became the senior, and the sidesman became junior Churchwarden and a fresh parishioner was elected as sidesman.

In 1702, however, the present rule of a Parish Churchwarden and a Rector's Warden appears to have been introduced and the rotation system dropped.

In 1608 a sounding board appears to have been thought necessary for both reading desk and pulpit, for there is an entry

Paid for making new Reading seat and cover over it and for the pulpit cover 48/2

The Vestry proceedings of 1626 are interesting to Stamfordians, as there may be seen the signatures of two conspicuous men, Mr. Wm. Salter, who was three times Mayor, and also that of Mr. Jeremy Cole, who was Mayor in 1640, when the Council petitioned Parliament in favour of making Stamford a shire town by adding to it the County of Rutland, the Soke of Peterborough and the Hundred of Vess. He also desired to make the river navigable and obtain other privileges.

It appears to have been quite the usual practice at this period, 1630, to give the clergy occasionally officiating a complimentary present of wine, thus:—

Gave to Mr. Fish, Preacher, a quart of white wine and sugar 1/6
Gave Mr. Williams a pint of sack 1/-
Gave Mr. Millwood a pint of sack and a quart of claratt 2/-

and not only the clergy but the Bishop also was favoured thus in 1633:—

To the Bishop one pottell of sack 2/-

and again in 1634:—

Given to the Bishop the 7 Aug. in wine 3/8

Another visitor in 1652 appears to have fared even better than the Bishop, it being recorded

Sent Mr. How preaching at St. John's a pint of sack and a pint of white wine, he dining at Mr. Alderman's (that is at the mayor's house).

And at the end of the 17th century there are many entries such as the following:—

1673. Published and collected the brief for the great fire at Fordingbridge in Southamptonshire happening on Sunday, 23 June, 1672, upon which was collected ten shillings and five pence.

again, 1686:—

Collected in the parish of St. John's £7 : 14 : 4 for the poor distressed French Protestants.

Briefs are mentioned very frequently but without the object being named.

Archæologists would be interested in the records of 1695 when Robert Peck, the father of Francis Peck, the antiquarian and historian, was elected sidesman, and in 1696 and 1697 junior and senior Churchwarden in the usual rotation previously mentioned. Francis Peck was born in the parish in 1692, the Register recording his baptism that year thus:—

Francis son of Robert and Elizabeth Peck, born May 4th, bapd. May 12th.

In the inventory of church goods in 1717 there is an additional item to those mentioned in 1681. viz., a pulpit cloth, and I note this as this same old pulpit cloth, more than 200 years old (with the date 1701 handsomely embroidered upon it) may still be seen at St. John's Church, fixed up round the inside of the pulpit. Another difference in the two inventories is the omission in 1717 of "Twelve leather buckets" mentioned in an earlier list, at which time the church was apparently made use of as a fire station.

Under the date 16th April, 1729, is an account of what certificate men belong to the parish, with a list of thirty names following, and a foot-note dated 26th April, 1733 :—

> An account of Certificate men entered this day with 5 additional names.

Can anyone explain the term "Certificate men"?

Later in the same month at a meeting, the Vestry marked their disapproval of supporting the "Bull Running" proceedings out of church funds, as it was resolved :

> That the Churchwardens shall not be allowed to expend money at the Apparitons, or on Bull Running Day or at any other time without the consent of the parish, and no allowance shall in future be made for ringing on 23rd April.

This is St. George's Day, which used to be celebrated as a national festival long after and notwithstanding Queen Elizabeth's orders to discontinue the celebration.

I will only make one quotation from the last century's records, namely, in 1813. An agreement was made with Mr. Robert Taylor, of St. Neots, to re-hang the four bells and re-cast the second, for the sum of £42, carriage included.

The Registers of St. John's begin with the year 1561. The first records are from 1561 to 1634, written upon vellum. There is then a blank till 1664, from which date until 1705 they are continued. These two old registers were not put into bindings and were becoming very dilapidated. At my suggestion the then Churchwardens (Mr. Poole and the present Mayor, Mr. Higgs) had them put into a suitable cover, which will protect them in future. The next volume dates from 1706 to 1774 and the third from 1775 to 1812.

The first Register is headed thus :—

> All those that have been married, christened & bureyed from the first of St. Michael the Archangel in the year of our Lord God 1561, unto the end & terme of the same feast in the year of our Lord God 1562.

and the first entry is :—

> Married. Francis Tueson and Ellyn his wife 22 Oct. 1561.

This is a name still known in Stamford, and, indeed, in St. John's Parish.

Times do not appear to have been very prosperous in 1569 and 1570, as the record for both years reads :—

> Married this year—none.

It is an interesting fact to the present Rector, and especially to the inmates of Snowden's Hospital in Scotgate, that each page of the Register from 1561 to 1598 is signed by the Rector, Richard Snowden, the founder of that charity 300 years ago. Another memorial of this gentleman remains in the church tower where one of the bells bears the inscription : "Richard Snowden, Parson, Anno, 1561."

The entry in 1585 of the burial on 2nd January of Richard Bernard, the Bellman, reminds us of the old custom of the

1770, Thomas, son of John and Elizabeth Ratcliffe, basket maker, was baptised, and up to a very few years ago Mr. Ratcliffe carried on the business now continued by Mr. Friend.

Some of the occupations mentioned about this period are curious :—

Humphrey Jenkins, wire dancer.
John Johnson, silk throster.
J. Skeith, dish turner.
Sam Tabbener, horse courser.
Geo. Allen, post boy.
Israel Holford, hemp dresser.

In 1769 is recorded the burial of

Cassandra wife of James Whitley, player, aged 57. Buried 10th Feb.

I mention this as there is a monumental tablet on the north wall of St. John's Church to the memory of this lady, described as one "who possessed all the good qualities that accomplish the best of women," and judging by the monument, the shield of arms and crest, and the description of the husband as James Whitley, Gentleman, he was probably a man of means and a noted actor in his day, who had retired and settled in Stamford. It will be interesting to members of the Stamford and County Club in St. Mary's Street to know that this James Whitley it was, who with Mr. Alderman Clarke, built the old Stamford Theatre in 1768, at a cost of over £800, and which building was converted into the present Club Room in 1871.

After 1754 a separate Register was kept for marriages, and first used in August of that year, according to Act of Parliament. Whereas previously there was only the entry in the handwriting of the Registrar, in the new book both the contracting parties sign in the presence of two witnesses and the officiating clergyman as at present.

It is interesting to note that to the first 50 marriages there are 54 signatures and 46 marks, so that only about half the persons were able to write their names. The marks, however, are very interesting, not being ordinary crosses, but a printed initial P or T, a man's hat, fish-hook, half-circle, a square and many other things.

I will only give one more extract and that is for the year 1783, when on March 30th is recorded the burial of Wm. Pepper, victualler, aged 49, who, according to *Drakard's History*, aspired to be a poet. Upon his grave stone in St. John's Churchyard was inscribed, after the usual name and date :—

Tho' hot my name, yet mild my nature,
I bore good will to every creature,
I brewed fine ale and sold it too,
And unto each I gave his due.

T. SANDALL.

LOCAL PROVINCIALISMS—*continued.*

"They had used to *ramper* the roads," i.e., to make a foundation to them. [The word occurs in the Surveyor's Book, 1726.]

The land beyond an enclosure which marks a parish boundary is called a *mere* (Nuttall), e.g., Manton mere. Mear (Bailey).

In the book of Churchwardens' Accounts, dated 1726, occurs the name *Freebarrow* as a parish officer. Robt. Wignell (died 1900, aged 84) remembers the name of such an official at his native place, (Caldecote). The Freebarrow was employed "to see that water-courses were kep' open," so that the land was perfectly drained.

"There was a lot of *proud* (inflamed) flesh."

The ex-parish clerk (Thos. Cliffe) told me (2 Aug. 1900) that in his young days it was customary for men before they began work in the morning to say, "May God speed us well." In the summer of 1884, the rowers of our boat on a Norwegian Fiord greeted some haymakers with, "Segue arbeidet" (God bless your work).

"It's an old farmer's saying, 'One boy *is* a boy; two boys is half a boy; three boys is no boy at all.'"

"They say, if the wind's in the north Old Martlemas day (Nov. 23) it'll be in that quarter all winter."

A teamster says to his horses:—*Ait,* to the right, to the leader; *Yait,* to the shaft horse; *Come other whoa,* left, leader; *Worve,* shaft horse; *Come back whoa,*" when they are to come round.

"Valentine's day, sow your beans in the clay; David and Chad, sow your beans be the weather good or bad. Then comes Benedick, if you ain't sowed your beans you may keep 'em in the rick."

"A mottled sky, neither long wet nor yet long dry."

"March many weathers."

"April showers bring forth May flowers."

"February fill dyke either with black (rain) or else with white (snow)."

"In a dry time the oats don't *storven* out," i.e., swell.

"I saw a boy riding on the pole of a wood-cart, and it soon *wembled* him off." "I always *wemble* the saucepans," i.e., put them on their sides to drain.

The wheat is said "to go a-maying" when May is cold and wheat turns yellow. "Cold May, long corn, short hay."

"When yew's *frem* (growing) it don't hurt the stock; its only when it's *flagged* (cut some time) it poisons them."

"He's *drinking* (giving drink to) the calves: they've got an *oose* (sore throat), so he's *fasted* 'em all day."

"I get *frobbled* (confused) when I'm busy and folks are talking."

"There's a good second *blow* (bloom) o' roses this year."

"I lost a sheep; it went *sturdy*" (giddy). Animals, especially sheep, often suffer from water on the brain.

"My poor dear 'usband 'e were a beautiful reader; 'e went to work when 'e were eight, so he couldn't write, but when he went a *tenting ship* (tending sheep) on the common (Barrowden Heath) he learnt 'isself to read by drawing letters with a stick on the road."

"There wants a new *bartle,* hook and eye, some folks calls it," (iron staple on which the gate rests) "for the gate."

"One twenty-ninth o' June the *eccles* (icicles) hung on the hedges, and there was two or three inches of snow on the ground. Near upon 80 sheep died of the cold in Hambleton Lordship."

"When it's not cut, the grass begins to *spindle out* and go *benty-like.*"

"I only *piggled* 'em (new potatoes); well, *scratted* 'em out with my hands."

"Which is the *gainest* road to Edie Wesson."

"It *hayed* (dried) well yesterday."

"There's been nothing for the pigs except the pea *koshes* (pods).

"You want to *hardle* 'em," sc., the rabbits, i.e., cut a hole in one hind leg, and pass the other through it for convenience in carrying. "Hardle" was used by a gamekeeper from Somersetshire; the local term is "*legging* a rabbit," and in default of a knife is done with the rabbit's own teeth.

"It's Barnack *rag*, it's not like *flesh* (poor) stone."

"I shouldn't begin digging to-day; it's so *clungy*, *mauling* (sticky). Alias, "It *mauls* so."

"The land's been *runned* so long," i.e., cropped without any return in the way of manure.

"The wood's got the *wools* (weevils) in it."

"They say when the wind goes against the sun it's sure to rain," i.e., from west to east.

"The onions go *busson* if you sow 'em there; well, they swell out, and the roots die off."

"If you want to live and thrive, let the spiders run alive."

"Oh! he's a *banker*-mason; he works the fine stone. We call *them as* chops stone for walls and build the walls *choppers and wallers*. If you called a banker-mason a chopper-and-waller he'd *look awkward* (cross)."

The poorest specimen in a litter of pigs is called the *reckling* (? wreckling).

"Porkets begin to *bash* at their food; well, they *go-off*, and *look poor*."

"I lived there a good *mess*," (a long time).

"She were a poor *mess*," (creature).

"I don't go *neighboring* and gossiping."

"Them's nasty hills; they're so *steer*."

"He's the only man about here *as* can *burn* a pig, I don't mean scald it. They burn it (i.e., the bristles) with a bottle (bundle) o' straw, and it *tayses* (tastes) much sweeter."

"I'm going [to] Manton."

"They had to *tun* the drink down the { sheep / cow } out of a bottle."

"Candlemas—candle less" (days lengthening).

"Valentine's day—half your firing and half your hay" [are consumed.]

"A swarm of bees in May is worth a load of hay."

"She were like me, very *casalty*" (delicate).

"They're nice *soggy* (thick) pigs, what they call *cloddy*, not like some as grows *lanky like*."

"Friday flit, Saturday sit." If people arrive at a new home on Friday, they won't stay long; if Saturday, they will.

"If you wish to be the woodman's friend, stick the wood upon an end." Fagots are more accessible and keep drier when stacked upon end. A better solution is, "Stick your wood upon an end in the fire, and it will burn quicker."

"An { onion / apple } a day keeps the doctor away."

"She don't *shame her commons however*." Said of a person who is fat and well-liking. "However" is used, although no contrary opinion has been expressed.

"Where there's muck there's money." Cleanliness may be next to Godliness, but evidently is not allied to wealth.

"Nottingham's a *fly* (fashionable) place."

"I don't like it, it's so *battling*" (makes so much dirt). "Them battling boys."

"I reckon it means *similarly the same*."

"Yes, sure, she (a daughter) looked *pluffy*-like, but it warn't good."

"It were two o'clock time."
"The horse has got *lompers*," i.e., swellings on his gums.
"The moon begins to *sit*," i.e., to rise later, past the full."
"I used to do a good mess o' my work by the *gret* (piece).
"I warn't born on Pancake Day; my brains wasn't fried in the batter."
"The rain's come late; the clover's in *bottle* (bloom)."
"The workmen are making a great *rave* (mess) in the house."
"The milk goes *loppered* (sour) when there's thunder about."
"The donkey has a *pethy* toe."

On Wednesday, 24th September, 1902, six men and twelve horses in the employ of Mr. Miles, Stamford, started to remove a large ash tree, which he had purchased, from the bottom end of the Dingle in Lyndon Park. The tree was raised by *skidders* (props) on to the *drug* (wood wagon), but a chain breaking, it rolled off and down a slope. Again it was put on to the drug, when it *wembled* (toppled) the whole thing over, shaft horse included. By 6.45 it was dusk, and work had to be suspended for the day, the men and horses reaching Stamford at 9.35 p.m. The tree was then about opposite the Children's Garden at the Hall. At 10.30 a.m. next morning they began again, but in a short time one wheel sank *up hub* (18-in.) There was nothing for it but to pitch the timber off the drug and roll it over and over till they reached the old road to Manton, which, being *rampered*, was firmer. They then replaced it on the drug, and by continuing to *snatchblock* it (a chain with a pulley attached is fastened round a tree, the other end being made fast to the drug) from tree to tree, reached the Lodge at last by 3.15 p.m. The timber measured 28-ft. in length, 5-ft. 8-in. in girth, and was estimated to weigh 9 tons. The drug's weight was 2 tons.

THOS. K. B. NEVINSON.

THE RUTLAND ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

ON July 5th an excursion was made to South Luffenham and Morcott. At the former church the proceedings opened with an historical account of the village by the REV. E. A. IRONS, Rector of the neighbouring parish of North Luffenham. He gave interesting particulars of the manor and its successive holders, as well as notes of celebrated men who had held the living in the past. MR. TRAYLEN then gave the party a brief description of the architecture of the building, pointing out the late Norman north nave arcade as the oldest portion. The church contains some interesting tombs, and the crocketted spire is a well-known and pleasing feature of the landscape of the Chater valley. At Morcott, the Rector, the REV. B. C. HALLOWES, read an excellent descriptive paper of the Church of S. Mary. Here the oldest part of the fabric is the lower part of the tower, the western face of which, however, has been considerably altered in later times. The north arcade of the nave of this church was probably designed by the same architect as the corresponding part of South Luffenham church, as it would be difficult to account for their striking similarity on any other hypothesis. After viewing the church, the party was welcomed in the Rectory garden by MR. and MRS. HALLOWES and partook of a most enjoyable *al fresco* tea before dispersing.

The final excursion of the season took place on August 22nd, the arrangements on this occasion being in the capable hands of MR. W. H. WING. The objectives on this expedition were the fine Abbey Church at Bourne, and the Parish Church of Witham-on-the-Hill, both in Lincolnshire. MR. H. T. TRAYLEN made a welcome re-appearance at the Society's fixtures and most efficiently carried out the duties of guide at both the points visited. The nave at Bourne is a fine example of simple Norman work, the piers being cylindrical, surmounted by cushion capitals and square abaci. The west front, the design of which was apparently never completed, is another remarkable feature of this fine building. After visiting S. Peter's Pool a move was made to Witham-on-the-Hill. Here the church exhibits good examples of Transitional and Early English work, the gradual development of the foliage capital out of the Norman volute being well exemplified in the nave arcade. The Rector, the REV. L. H. COOLEY, very kindly and hospitably entertained the party to tea at the Rectory, when the examination of the church was concluded.

On October 7th, the Society held their first indoor meeting of the present winter, when the REV. C. J. B. SCRIVEN presided over a fair attendance of members. The two papers read were of an exceedingly interesting nature and the meeting was a successful and enjoyable one in every way. MISS PEARL FINCH took up the thread of a former paper dealing with the interesting collection of autograph letters and documents at Burley-on-the-Hill, the subjects on the present occasion being "Letters and Handwriting of the 17th century." In illustration of her paper, the writer had made tracings of a number of signatures and specimens of handwriting, and the Society is under a deep debt of gratitude for the time and care which must have been expended upon this part of the task. Examples of many types of letters were given, with explanatory notes by MISS FINCH. Among these were letters of Royalty, as represented by Charles II., James II., and William III.; Statesman in the persons of Lords Bristol, Northumberland, Arlington and Clarendon; and other historical celebrities such as Cloudesley Shovel and Capt. Rooke (afterwards Admiral). Most of these were addressed to Heneage Finch, 1st Lord Nottingham, Charles II's Lord Chancellor, others being to Lord Winchilsea and Sir John Finch. Some of the family letters were also of exceptional interest, containing allusions to such well known events as the Plague and the Great Fire. We are glad to know that this rich store of interesting matter is by no means exhausted and that MISS PEARL FINCH has promised a farther instalment, dealing with correspondence connected with the Jacobite Plots, for a future meeting.

We were glad to welcome the REV. J. D. GEDGE as a reader of a paper and we trust he will take a place among the all too small number of regular contributors. His paper dealt with the Place-names of East Anglia and the Midlands and the conclusions to be drawn from their comparison. He pointed out the general resemblance of the place-names of the two districts and gave many instances of identical or very similar names occuring therein. From the fact that place-names compounded of British, Danish and Saxon parts are met with, and that names of British origin frequently exist in close proximity to others of Danish or Saxon derivation, MR. GEDGE argued that the settlement of the Scandinavian and Continental races on our shores was of the nature of a peaceful immigration rather than an invasion. Rutland is, as was pointed out, somewhat deficient in place-names of an early type, a fact which MR. GEDGE accounted for by shewing that practicable waterways, which in these early times provided the only means of travel, were practically non-existent except on the borders of the County. Both the papers read on this occasion gave rise to a short discussion and the contributors were accorded a very warm vote of thanks at the close of the proceedings.

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AND

COUNTY HISTORICAL RECORD.

RIDLINGTON.—*(concluded).*

RESUMING our description of the church. The oldest parts of the present fabric are the tower, the pillars and arches on the south side, and the chancel arch, which are Early English (13th century). In the succeeding century the chancel and north aisle were rebuilt. In the 15th century the present clerestory was erected. The nave arcade has three arches on either side, recessed in two chamfered orders, and resting on columns and capitals; those on the south side being circular, having moulded caps and bases, while those on the north side have octagonal shafts. The chancel arch is Early English, similar to the nave arches. On the north side are the openings to the rood loft and several of the upper steps remain. At the west end there has been some wall arcading, the upper part probably used for figures, but in 1860 it was walled up.

Over the vestry door, at the west end of the south aisle, is preserved a very curious tympanum of a Norman doorway. It was taken from the south wall of the chancel. On it are portrayed two animals, a griffin on the dexter and a lion on the sinister side. The former has wings, a tail twisted round its body, and claws in front; the lion has a tail terminating in a kind of trefoiled leaf; with its fore paws it is touching one of the claws of the griffin. Below them is an eight-

spoked wheel, within a circle. Above the lion is some lettering, probably the word "John." Round the upper part and along the lower is a guilloche pattern terminating in a trefoil leaf. The symbolism is very obscure; but seems to be intended to convey a similar lesson to that on the tympanum at Egleton, namely, the never-ending conflict in this world between good and evil.

There is the remains of a cusped piscina in the north chantry. On the nave wall was formerly a painting of St. Christopher, with the usual gigantic figure of the saint carrying our Saviour over the water, in which some lobsters, of a bright red colour, were represented as disporting themselves.

The restoration of the church cannot be called a happy one. The Perpendicular leaded low pitched roof of the nave, of which the mark is still visible on the eastern wall of the tower, gave place to one of half pitch, covered with Collyweston slates, which, through the insufficiency of the pitch, lets the wet in whenever there is a heavy shower. The north and south aisle walls were lowered and small debased Gothic windows were inserted in place of the large square headed windows, which were wanted for light. The roofs of both nave and aisles were made with unnecessarily projecting eaves, which cut off much light from the already small windows. The clerestory windows were put in with a pointed splay, in place of the original square heads. The east window is said to have been rebuilt exactly as it was before the restoration, but sketches in the possession of the present Rector, made before that date, show clearly that this is not so. What was really an almost unique 14th century transomed window has been completely spoiled. Although the bar or transom was common in domestic buildings of that date, it was very seldom employed in ecclesiastical architecture before the 15th century except in long spire lights. The small arches resting on the transom, in each side light, were certainly never in the original window, and afford a curious specimen of the manner in which some modern church restorers introduce clumsy barbarisms.

We are informed that the old font is in a Roman Catholic Chapel at one of the Deepings, having been purchased, by a gentleman residing in the locality, from the contractor. The old Jacobean carved work was turned ruthlessly out of the church, and there is now only one fragment of it preserved in the reading desk. Most of the seats were spoilt by the addition of hideous and useless ends, and those at the west end are so uncomfortable that the villagers call them the "post and rail sittings."

The tower is perpendicular and the vane is just seen peeping from the very low roof. It has two light upper belfry windows and an ornamental panelled cornice. The

upper portion was rebuilt in 1903. The exterior walls have been spoiled by putting in bands of yellow stone, which present a garish appearance by the side of the old ironstone. The south porch was rebuilt in 1887 in commemoration of the Jubilee of our late Queen, the hoodmould terminations exhibiting heads of her late Majesty in 1837 and 1887.

Church Plate.—The plate consists of a cup and cover, a paten, flagon and alms-dish. The cup is 6¼ in. in height; the diameter of the mouth of the bowl is 3⅛ in., of the foot 3⅛ in.; the depth of the bowl is 3⅛ in., and the weight 8½ oz. There are four Hall marks. In a pointed shield, the London date letter for 1571; lion, leopard, and a monogram T.S in a shape. The leaf pattern is very gracefully interlaced round the cup. The cover to the cup appears to have had a new foot added to it.

The paten is 2¼ in. in height; 9¼ in. in diameter at the top, 4⅛ in. at the foot, and the weight is 22 oz. There are four Hall marks: an anchor; Brit: lion. The London date letter for 1709. On it is inscribed "The guift of Rich^{d} Watts Merch^{t} deceased to ye parish of Ridlington. Com: Rutland of w^{ch} his Father Iames Watts Clerk was formerly Rector."

The flagon is 12 in. in height; the diameter of the top is 3¼ in., of the base 6¼ in., and the weight 47 oz. The Hall mark and the inscription are the same as on the paten last described.

The alms-dish is 5¼ in. in diameter at the top, 2¼ in. at the base and 1⅛ in. in depth. The Hall mark shows the London date letter for 1637. It is fluted, with scalloped edges, and had two fluted ears for handles, one of which is now missing.

Extract from the will of Richard Watts, proved in London, 1707:—"Bequeathed to the poor of Ridlington the sum of fifty pounds sterling, and twenty pounds sterling for plate and utensils for the decent administration of the Lord's Supper." The paten and flagon were purchased with the above. We give an illustration of a leather case in which the cup and cover were formerly kept. A similar one is in use at Barrowden.

Bells.—There are three bells. The smallest was ornamented with a cross and Tudor rose, and had on it the letters ꝏ ꝏ ꝏ from which it would appear to have been the pre-Reformation Sanctus bell. The second bell had the inscription "J. Woodes 1671." The third or tenor bell was inscribed "Master Thomas Hazelrig," who probably gave the bell about the year 1596. He was the son of Miles Hazelrigg of Noseley, by Bridget, daughter of Thomas Griffin, of Braybrooke, Co. Northants. He was alive in 1605 and married Ursula, daughter of Sir Thomas Andrewes, of Winwick, Co. Northants, and was ancestor of the present

baronet. It was cast by Watts, of Leicester. The bells were re-cast by Taylor, of Loughborough, and re-hung in iron frames in 1903, the ancient inscriptions being preserved.

Monuments.—The oldest monument in the church is on the north wall of the chancel, and is one of those small but handsome alabaster monuments which were erected by the wealthy in the reigns of Elizabeth and James. It bears the following inscription :—

"Here lyeth entombed Iames Harington Esq the youngest son of S^r^ Iames Harington of Exton Knight, and Fraunces his first wife one of ye daughters and heires of Robert Sapcots of Elton in the Countie of Huntingdon Esq. by whome he had yssue sixtene children viz nyne sones and seaven daughters, wch said Fraunces deceased in September 1599 and the said Iames Harington deceased the 2 of February 1613."

The deceased Baronet and his lady (the former in plate armour) are kneeling *vis à vis* before a faldstool, with their hands upraised, in the attitude of prayer. By intermarriage the family of Harington is descended from the Saxon and Norman Kings of England, and allied to the Capetine Kings of France, and to the Royal blood of Scotland. Wright, in his *History of Rutland*, says that "on an examination of all the collateral branches of this noble family it appears that there have been descended from it, or nearly allied to its descendants, no less than 3 Dukes, 3 Marquises, 38 Earls, 7 Counts, 26 Viscounts, and 37 Barons, among which number 16 were Knights of the Garter." The first Baronet was High Sheriff of the County of Rutland in 35 Elizabeth (1592); he was created a Knight of the Garter on the first institution of the order.

Chancel, north wall :

"In memory of the Reverend Charles Swann M.A. forty-two years Rector of this Parish and also Rector of Edmondthorpe, Leicestershire, who died May 2nd 1846 aged 74 years and of Sarah his wife, daughter of the Rev. Robert Willan Vicar of Cardington, who died January 26th 1865, aged 81 years.

Frances Alicia seventh daughter of the above died Nov. 24th 1846 aged 20 years."

Chancel, south wall :

"In memory Francis Cheselden Esq. second son of Richard Cheselden Esq. late of Melton Mowbray died 2nd of April 1815 aged 67 years. Also of Katherine Dubar widow of Francis Cheselden Esq. who died April 4th 1816. Aged 63."

Chancel, south wall.

A marble monument Arg. a chev between three crosses moline gules. Crest, a spaniel couchant ermine eared gu. collared Or.

"Here under the Communion table lieth interr'd the body of Edward Cheselden, Gent. (younger son of Edward Cheselden of Braunston in the County of Rutland Esq.) who departed this life the 31st day of Aug. 1688 aged 71. Also the body of Joane relict of the above said Edward, eldest daughter of George Paule of Owston in the County of Leict. Gent. by Jane his wife who departed this life Mar the 30th 1703 in the 83rd year of her age."

Photo by] [*G. Phillips.*

THE HARINGTON MONUMENT, RIDLINGTON.

Photo by] [*G. Phillips.*

CHURCH PLATE: RIDLINGTON.

Photo by] [*G. Phillips.*

COMMUNION CUP CASE: RIDLINGTON.

South aisle. Arms as before.

"In memory of William Cheselden Esq. the second son of Edward Cheselden Gent. by Elizabeth his wife who died June 16 MDCCLIX in the 53 year of his age. Near this place also lies George Cheselden, Gent, third son of the above Edward Cheselden Gent by Elizabeth his wife who died July the 16th 1766 in the 58th year of his age."

South aisle. Arms as before.

"In the south isle of this church opposite to this monument lieth interred the body of Edward Cheselden, Gent, who departed this life the tenth day of August in the year of our Lord 1725, in the thirty eighth year of his age. He was the son of Edward Cheselden of this Parish, Gent, by Alice his wife who are both interr'd in this isle."

South aisle. On floor.

"Everard Cheselden lies here. Edward Cheselden died Mar. 23. 1716 son of the above Everard Cheselden."

North aisle.

"In memory of William Death Bullock who departed this life May the 4th 1837, aged 59 years. Also of Elizabeth his wife who died December 10th 1867. Aged 91 years and was interred in Thorney Abbey Churchyard, Cambridgeshire."

"Here in ye middle eyle lyeth inter'd the body of Christian Shipman daughter of Henry Sewell of this Parish and wife of Simon Shipman vicar of Thrussington in ye County of Leict^{r}, who departed this life January ye 19th 1718. Ætatis fuæ 54."

Registers.—The Registers date from the year 1559, and are fairly well kept. The entries are those usual in an agricultural parish, with interesting reminiscences of former times, *e.g.*, the occupations of a weaver, a forester, a woodman, a wood woman, wood people, a goose woman, a travelling woman, travelling people, and "a certain prisoner" name unknown, buried 1563.

From the *Lamb MSS.* it appears that in 1650 the living was "a Parsonage Presentative, with Cure, worth £200 per annum, received by Mr. Thomas Gibson, Incumbent, by presentation that he paid 40s. per annum to the Uppingham parson, which is desired for the Incumbent at Ridlington." Gibson was evidently an intruder.

The following will was proved at Lyddington, 31st August, 1517:—

"John Symes of Ridlington (directs) my body to be buried in Ridlyngton church, before the aulter of Seynt Nycholas. Third part of my goods to be bestowed for the welthe of my soule, the soules of my feyther and mother, and all Christian soules. To Clement Tyler, oon of my cotes. Dan. Agnes XLS. To sons John, Thomas and Charles my milne at Uppingham except any of them be made prest. Sister Agnes Lacy a noble durying here lyve out of the hows wherin she nowe dwellith according to my fatheres will. Executors: son Robert, and Thomas Shernia. Supervisor: W^{m} Symes of Okeham. Witnesses: Xpofer Lacy, John Wright, John Swynson, Thomas Tayllor, Henry Preston, and Clement Tiler."

The following will was proved at Lincoln (1544) :—

"I, John Swynson of Ridlington (direct) my body to be buried in the churchyard of Ridlington . . . . to the highe aulter of the same viiid . . . . to the sepulchre light iid . . . to the bells xiid . . . to the mother church of Peterborough vid . . Item to the common bere in the same iiiid . . . Hugh Tymson and Thomas Bulliver executors. Witnesses, John Nellye (?) William [. . . ?] with others. Item for my soule and all my good friends soules xxx masses by the syght of my executors and Sir John Dunmore my curate."

On the north side of the church, in a meadow, are some high walls supported by strong boldly projecting buttresses, which apparently enclosed a mansion, probably the seat of the Haringtons. From this raised ground a view of the great portion of the site of Leighfield Forest is obtained, and also a series of valleys, including Catmos, along two of which the waters of the Guash and Chater run in an easterly direction. The poet, Michael Drayton, who mixed with leading families in the country, may have been a guest of the Haringtons at Ridlington. His description of this part of the county, as seen from the village, would warrant that opinion. In his work, the *Polyolbion,* published in 1612-22, forming a description of England, the following lines appear:—

"Love not thyself the less, although the least thou art,
What thou in nature want'st, well nature doth impart
In goodness of thy soil; and more delicious mould,
Surveying all this isle, the sun did ne'er behold.
Bring forth that British vale, and be it ne'er so rare,
But Catmus with that vale for richness doth compare.
What forest nymph is found, how brave soe'er she be;
But Lyfield shows herself as brave a nymph as she?
What river ever rose from bank or sweeping hill,
Than Rutland's wandering Wash, a delicater rill?
Small shire that can'st produce to thy proportion good,
One vale of special name, one forest, and one flood!
Oh! Catmus, thou fair vale, come on in grass and corn,
That Beaver (Belvoir) ne'er be said thy sisterhood to scorn,
And let thy Ocham boast to have not little grace,
That her the pleased fates did in thy bosom place!
And Lyfield, as thou art a forest, live so free,
That every forest nymph may praise the sports in thee;
And down to Welland's course, oh! Wash, run ever clear,
To honour, and to be much honoured by this shire."

The Forest of Leafield or Lyfield, once occupied part of the Oakham Hundred, and Beaumont Chace, a part of it, once extended over a great part of the Martinsley Hundred. There were several hamlets within its confines, but they have now disappeared. It is supposed that this forest took its name from the *Manor of Leigh,* or *Lee,* which is nearly in its centre; but the house *Leigh Lodge,* which was formerly inhabited by the chief forester, would appear to be of comparatively recent erection, for there is no mention of it in Domesday Book, nor in any of the subsequent reigns, as the editors of *Magna Britannia* assert, until that of Edward II., when Theobald de Menyle or Neville was lord of the manor of Leigh. But this is incorrect; for though its origin

is uncertain, yet several parts of it were afforested in the reign of King John, which is fully proved by a perambulation made in the 28th year of Edward I. (1299) mentioned in a MS., whose date is uncertain, but which came into the possession of the Noel family on their purchase of its rights in the reign of James I.

This perambulation is stated as commencing at *Flitteris Corner*, in the field of Oakham, from whence it goes westward, including *Braunston High Meadow*, with the *Wisp* and *Withcote Sail;* thence it proceeds towards the southwest, taking in *Brittlewell Sail* and *Cockly Sail*, and so to *Steerwood*, where it takes in *Tinford Bridge*, *Belton*, and *Wardley* towns, and thence to *Beaumont Sail* and *Preston Underwoods;* from this station it proceeds by *Caldecot* to *Longbridge*, including *Caldecot* and *Snelston Fields*, and thence to *Lyddington*, having in its course taken in all *Uppingham Brand* and the *East Field;* after which, taking in *Ayston* common field, it proceeds by *Ridlington* to *Brooke*, thence up to *Brooke Mill* and so to *Flitteris* where it commenced.

From Theobald de Menyle (or Neville) already mentioned, the office of chief forester, which seems to have been attached to the possession of the Manor of Leigh, passed by inheritance to the family of Cheselden, who appear to have settled in Ridlington in the 17th century. They seem to have been a prolific family, Braunston, Belton, Melton Mowbray, Somerby and other places each having been homes of offshoots of the family. William Cheselden, the great surgeon and anatomist (1688-1752) was born at Somerby. At Ridlington they lived in the house now occupied as the Rectory, for which the old Rectory house was exchanged in 1827.

There is no evidence remaining as to the length of the tenure of the Cheseldens as Lords of the Manor of Leighfield. It is known that the property was in the Crown in the reign of Edward IV., as that monarch bestowed the grant of the Manor of Leigh and of the office of chief forester in Rutland, upon his great favorite and faithful adherent, William, Lord Hastings. This nobleman, having been murdered by the usurper Richard, and his lands confiscated; they were again restored by Henry VII. to his son Edward, Lord Hastings, whose son and heir George, was created Earl of Huntingdon. His son, Henry, sold it with the manor, to Sir James Harington, Knight, who was obliged, in the 24th year of Queen Elizabeth (1581) to apply for a pardon for having purchased it without a licence of alienation, it being held of the Crown *in capite*.

The last Lord Harington, in whom, by the death of his father, it became vested, settled the Manor of Leigh, and all the forest rights, &c., in the hands of trustees, in the 11th of James I. (1612-13), to be sold after his death for the payment of his and his father's debts; and his demise taking place

soon after, it was purchased by Sir Edward Noel, Bart., the fine for the same being passed in the ensuing year. Since then the Rt. Hon. G. H. Finch, M.P., has become the owner of 1,020 acres of Leigh Forest, and is Lord of the Manor. The Earl of Gainsborough and the Earl of Ancaster are the chief owners of the rest.

Leland, when speaking of this forest, in the reign of Henry VIII., says:—"from Wiscombe partely through woddy ground of the forest of Leafield, and so on to Rutlandshire, by woddy first, and then all champain ground, but exceeding rich of corn and pasture."

This description may be considered as strictly applicable at the present day, as there is not a tract of the same extent in England, which presents a richer prospect of wood and cultivation than this, when viewed from the rising grounds on the road between Uppingham and Wardley.

We have to thank the Rev. Philip Stocks, M.A., the present Rector, for much assistance and the loan of many notes, photographs and sketches, and also Mrs. C. K. Morris for excerpts from Wright's "History of Rutland," annotated by Blore, without which this history of Ridlington could not have been compiled.

The following works have also been put under contribution: Smith's translation of "Domesday Book," North's "Church Bells of Rutland," Hope's "Church Plate of Rutland," Wright's "History of Rutland," Cox's "Magna Britannica," Laird's "History of Rutland," "Calendars of State Papers," (British Museum), Gibbon's "Early Lincoln Wills," "The Antiquary" and "The Stamford Mercury."

THE EDITOR.

NORMAN TYMPANA AND LINTELS in the Churches of Great Britain. By Charles E. Keyser, M.A., F.S.A. London: Elliot Stock, 1904. *Large 4to, with over 150 Photographic Illustrations. Price 21/- net.*

This work contains, it is believed, a complete list, with descriptions and references to any published accounts, of the interesting and in many cases curious figures or symbolical sculptures, still or till recently remaining, which the Norman, and perhaps the earlier, builders were accustomed to place over the doorways of the Churches of Great Britain, no doubt for the instruction and education of the people of those times. Illustrations of about three-quarters of the whole number of examples, taken direct from the fine series of photographic enlargements belonging to the author, a duplicate set of which has been presented to the Art Library of the Victoria and Albert Museum greatly adds to the value of the work. Those of the only examples in Rutland, namely, Essendine, Egleton and Ridlington, appear. The author has, without doubt, gone to enormous trouble and expense which cannot possibly be recouped. It is, extremely gratifying to know that there are enthusiasts who, even at a monetary loss to themselves provide, as Mr. Keyser has done, an exhaustive treatise of one branch of a subject. The volume should be welcomed by all antiquaries and students of our ecclesiastical architecture.

RIDLINGTON CHURCH: BEFORE RESTORATION.

From pencil sketch in possession of Rector.

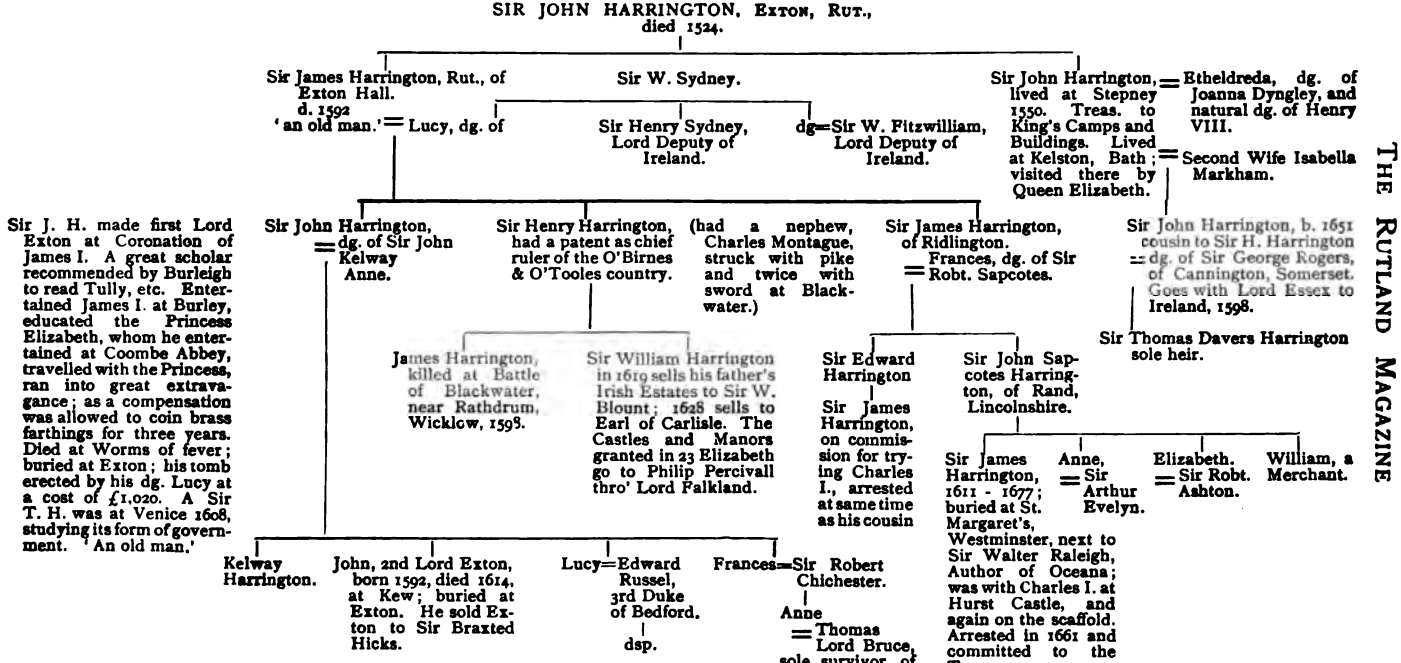
NORMAN TYMPANUM: RIDLINGTON.

The Rudkins of Rutland and the County Carlow: After Links, or an Irish and Rutland Romance—*(concluded).*

AND now I come to describe another link which appears to connect the two counties. Since the middle of the 18th century there has been resident in Rutland, until at any rate quite recently, a family of Rudkins, represented by the late Henry John Rudkin, of Langham Lodge, and his father Robert before him, who stood alone living in the midst of others of the same name, yet having no relationship with them, claiming none, and none being claimed of them. This isolation was explained by an old family tradition to the effect that about 1750, or earlier, an officer named Rudkin ran away from Ireland with a young lady, an heiress, and came into Rutland, and both died of fever soon after, leaving a young child Robert Rudkin, who was brought up in the house of General Bennett Noel. This tradition existed before any one in Rutland knew of any family of Rudkins in Ireland, and wonder was excited as to the reason of their seeking a settlement in the County. The earliest form of tradition seems to be that furnished by a member of the family, a native of Rutland, who left England about 50 years ago and has never since returned, now a Justice of the Peace for the colony of New Zealand, who says, "there came to Rutland a stranger who was known by the name of Rudkin—a name common in that part of the County, and some thought it was assumed. He was supposed to be an officer in the army, and when his regiment was quartered in Ireland, had eloped with a young lady of that country supposed to be a relative, sister, or daughter of Lord Roden, of Tullymore, who was then known as Sir Robert Jocelyn, her relatives chased them to the coast, pistol in hand. A subsequent version is that the "young lady was a Roman Catholic," and another version of the tradition from an older member of the family in England is that the young lady was "a daughter of Robert Bligh, Dean of Elphin." Now this is all very strange especially as coming from a family having no connection with or knowledge of Ireland. About the year 1860-4, a Captain Rudkin from Ireland visited Langham Lodge enquiring after a missing branch of the Irish family, and it was not until then that anything was known of a family of the name in that country. Henry John Rudkin was brought to believe that his grandfather was the missing relative, but being an old man and in failing health he took but little interest in the matter.

CHART GIVING SOME ACCOUNT OF THE HARRINGTON FAMILY AS GATHERED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, AND PUT TOGETHER AS CORRECTLY AS MATERIALS ALLOW.

The Harringtons succeeded the "Colepepers" at Exton, the Estates of the latter passing to them by marriage.
The Harringtons were in possession at Exton for 600 years. Magna Britannica, 1727.



Extract from John Chamberlain's letters of time of Queen Elizabeth:—

"Sir John Harrington means keeping a Royal Xmas in Rutlandshire, having the Erles of Rutland and Bedford, Sir John Gray, Sir Harry Cary, the Earl of Pembroke, and Sir Robert Sydney his guests.—23rd, 10 'ber, 1602."

MESSING RUDKIN.

The only certain thing is that Robert Rudkin was brought up by General Noel and Elizabeth his wife, whose memorial is to be found at the West end of the North aisle of Exton church, erected by Margaretta Ann Adam and executed by Nollekins. Margaretta Ann Adam was the only sister of Mrs. Noel and their father, the tablet records, was Robert Adam, Esq., formerly Governor of Tellicherry in the East Indies. There was an Irish family of the name. General Noel died 1766 and his widow in 1784. Robert Rudkin had in his possession heirlooms of unknown origin, as several oil portraits in silvered frames, old china and books, and a spear with which it was said General Noel had killed a tiger in India.

How it came about that Robert Rudkin was brought up by General and Mrs. Noel is not apparent. But it is to be noticed that it is said his mother was a daughter of Dean Bligh. If so, it is certain she was not a daughter by the second wife for every one of his children by her can be accounted for. He was a man of considerable property and inherited a fortune of £100,000 from his brother General Bligh, of Cherburg notoriety, and his eldest daughter by his second wife, whose name was Theodosia, married Robert, the 2nd Earl of Roden. Dean Bligh's first wife was a widow, the relict of one Charles Boyle, apparently an off-shoot of Lord Cork's family. Whether she had a daughter by either Charles Boyle or her second husband Robert Bligh does not appear. But it is a remarkable coincidence that Juliana, daughter of Henry Noel, of North Luffenham, the 2nd son of the 3rd Viscount Campden, married a Charles Boyle, the 2nd Earl of Burlington and 3rd Earl of Cork, and she died in 1750, at North Luffenham, but she was buried at Lanesborough, Co. York. General Bennett Noel was a nephew of Henry Noel and after the death of Lady Cork the house at North Luffenham probably came into his possession. Here is a striking link between Rutland and Ireland and if Robert Rudkin's mother were a Boyle, a reason becomes apparent why he was taken in there. In either case whether she were a step daughter or a daughter of Robert Bligh by his first wife, she might have been described as a sister of Theodosia, the wife of Earl Roden. But of this there is no proof. The other version that she was a sister of Sir Robert Jocelyn, afterward Lord High Chancellor of Ireland and Viscount Newport, whose son was created Earl Roden of High Roding, Co. Tipperary may have some foundation. The various records one has searched of the Jocelyn family do not seem to account for all the four sisters of Sir Robert Jocelyn—one was unmarried in 1754, a date that is too late, and another is named without any clear statement as to whether she was married or not. The tradition that this runaway lady was a Roman Catholic is quite contrary to the supposition that she was a Jocelyn at all, but it is not

unlikely that the description applied rather to the husband. He may have been a collateral relative of Henry Rickens, of Co. Carlow, for, from his son Mark Rudkin's will, it is evident that he had relatives. And if he were a Romanist, as there is reason to suppose Henry Rickens at one time was, and he ran away with a lady, whose family has always stood at the head of the Protestant interest, we can account for the fire and fury of the pursuit, and the name would be dropt from the pedigree of her family and as she died soon after, would be forgotten. It is a singular corroboration of this explanation, although no proof, that Ryan in his History of Carlow mentions that the Hon. Robert Jocelyn was M.P. for Old Leighlin in 1745, the place where the Rudkin family dwelt. It should be mentioned that the Parochial Records of the Co. Carlow were destroyed at the rebellion of 1798. The place and time would give opportunity for an acquaintance between these families, when the runaways may have met. Anyway there can be no doubt that there is truth somewhere in the tradition—which better knowledge may reveal.

Robert Rudkin was educated and started in life apparently by General and Mrs. Noel, and he married Elizabeth, the daughter of Mr. William Chapman, of Exton, who lived in the house now the Fox and Hounds Inn, but then a private residence. Mr. William Chapman was the nephew of the Countess of Gainsborough (formerly Elizabeth Chapman) and who on the death of the Earl married her cousin Thomas Noel, of Walcot Park, M.P., for Rutland, and brother of General Bennett Noel. All three are buried at Exton, and a handsome monument by Nollekins perpetuates their memory. Mr. W. Chapman was the means of building Langham Lodge, which he held at a pepper corn rent of Lord Gainsborough, until his place at Exton was filled by Robert Rudkin, when Mr. Chapman moved again to Exton into another new house built after the pattern of Langham Lodge, and now known as the Presbytery. Robert Rudkin followed to Langham Lodge where he died, and was buried in Langham Church just inside the church door. The stone over his grave was broken at the restoration of the Church in 1871 and no record was taken of the inscription.

Robert Rudkin had a daughter, Margaretta Anna, apparently named after the sister of Mrs. Bennett Noel, and whose sponsors were Ladies Anne and Mary Noel, sisters of Baptist and Henry, 5th and 6th Earls of Gainsborough, and who were living at North Luffenham as late as 1820.

It would be interesting to know where the parents of Robert Rudkin died and where he was baptised. It was thought the parish registers of Exton would make this plain.

His marriage is recorded there in the year 1790, "June 22, Robert Rudkin and Elizabeth Chapman," but there is a

marriage of another "Robert Rudkin and Elizabeth Harrison on July 29th, 1781." This is very confusing. There is a burial of a "Robert Rudkin in 1806" probably of him, "who was married in 1781." The other "Robert Rudkin" was buried at Langham. Then there is only one baptism of a "Robert Rudkin," which is perhaps that of the man married in 1781 and who died in 1806. He is described as "the son of John and Ann Rudkin," whose wedding is also found in 1741 as "John Rudkin and Ann Scott." The latter name is unknown to any of Robert Rudkin's family formerly of Langham Lodge. Therefore it may yet be that somewhere in Rutland the burial of his parents may be found near together in date, as also the baptism of their son Robert.

Information on these heads will be welcomed, and we might then prove or disprove the story of the above romantic wedding.

MESSING RUDKIN.

On Collecting, and the Neglected Field of Pencil Sketches and Drawings.

(A Paper read before the Members of the Rutland Archæological and Natural History Society).

ALL facilities are afforded for collecting now-a-days—excepting the needful supply of pocket money. In this paper I leave out of account those rich men who are above the ebb and flow of trade, and are ever ready to march up to Christie's with their thousands when something unique and magnificent is to be had. My humble remarks are intended to apply to those of us who, like Charles and Mary Lamb, have to think twice and thrice and even more before we dare bring home the counterpart of their famous Beaumont and Fletcher, some cracked Imari plate or much foxed engraving. In former days advertisement did not lay itself out to catch the small fry with ever so little to spend. They inherited perhaps a few heirlooms from old aunts or grandmothers, a Chippendale chair or two, a punch ladle, a tea-caddy or a sampler about which they knew little and cared less. They seldom added to or substracted from the primæval store of curiosities. The red and white ivory chessmen sent home from Cathay were accounted very precious, because, perhaps, like port wine, which I have seen advertised as having been twice across the equator, they had travelled so far. The stay-at-home bureau or inlaid long-

spring of an enthusiasm which in the maturing of the finished picture has been too often frittered away.

The relative artistic value of sketches to finished work sometimes depends upon the temperament of the artist. If he has the staying power of a Turner, the force of his enthusiasm will enable him to endure to the end, until the great picture is complete. If he is a David Cox, he will tire of big pictures—David Cox never painted anything larger than a four-footer, and very few so large—and the value of his slightest sketch in relation to his finished work will be immensely greater. There will be a felicity about the slightest sketches of lesser artists which is not always to be found in the greatest. I have lately noticed a good example of this. The possessor of a pretty little drawing in Turner's early bluish manner representing Hastings beach—a fishing boat and figures in the foreground with the old fishing town and church behind—was fortunate enough to light upon what is obviously the original pencil sketch for the water colour. One would have expected that in the easier medium of black and white the greater cleverness would have been shown. Not so in this case. The water colour is much more clever than the drawing, which is little more than a painstaking record of the facts, such as Prout in an uninspired mood might have produced. Turner was probably so intent on the end that the preliminary process was to him prosaic. It is possible that in this instance, and, from my recollection of the topography of Hastings I suspect it was the case, the pencil drawing was not an enthusiastic jotting from nature, but a subsequent transposition of boathouses and church to suit the purposes of a scheme of composition previously settled in his mind. But even so there is room for wonder that the pencil drawing does not show more than competent execution. It has just those little variations of figures and other details which show that it cannot possibly be a copy by another hand. It is unquestionably Turner, but without the water colour no one would have guessed it. That that great man could and did produce hundreds of the happiest inspirations in other methods than pencil goes without saying. It is difficult for the closest students to come to the end of his infinite variety of style.

To quote a more modern instance of a painter whose finished work has greater relative value than his sketches, the late Lord Leighton is a good example. There are in existence many scores of accomplished drapery and other studies done for his peculiarly conscientious pictures, but most people who saw the exhibition of his sketches sold at Christie's after his death must have felt, I think, that he was never at ease. He had not the breezy execution which delights us in the pencil and oil sketches of Constable. Trained and accomplished draughtsmanship takes the place

with Leighton of dashing, happy, vigorous execution. But how curious it is to see how the medium sometimes cripples the artist. Whereas David Cox was always greater as a water colourist than an oil painter, the masterly Constable, who could do what he liked, in landscape at least, with the pencil or the palette knife, was often a timid fumbler with the water colour brush.

Apart from such technical questions, and there are many of great interest, these slight sketches show us the artist enjoying himself on his holidays—though few landscape artists ever take the "complete rest" of the professional man. The eye is always on the alert for new impressions, new effects, happy groups or useful bits of detail. The work itself is a pleasure and gives the necessary change from the more arduous toil of the studio. Such continuous watching of nature accounts for the twenty thousand sketches of Turner which are kept in boxes in the basement of the National Gallery, or the scarcely smaller amount made by Edward Cooke, R.A., the marine artist, some of whose pocket sketch-book work I have brought here to-day. If I may give a personal reminiscence—it is interesting to me to recall his criticism of a drawing made by my father of the same classic ground of Hastings beach which so many painters have loved. I remember that he had great difficulty in getting the proper size of the great capstan which was, and is very likely still, used to haul up the larger pleasure boats. He drew it in and rubbed it out half-a-dozen times, and the final touch of the drawing was given to a small kedge anchor half embedded in the sand close by. Years afterwards the drawing was shown to Mr. Cooke when he was staying with my father. He pounced on the anchor so easily put in, at once, and pointed out that the flukes of anchors are seldom or never barbed like an arrow. The short shoulders of the fluke came out at right angles to the arm, and the practised marine artist had detected the error at once. As an aid to boat drawing he showed us how by an elongated figure of 8, drawn horizontally, you could get the sheer—or curve of the gunwale—of a row boat or a larger vessel at least trouble to yourself. He was an old man then, and being short-sighted used a kind of single-barrelled binocular, if so I may call it—or half an opera glass. This was popped up for a moment to his eye, and then what was seen was jotted down with unfailing correctness, just as if he was writing a letter, He rejoiced, as can be seen from the drawings, in a sharp point and smooth paper. Sometimes, indeed, he used the most highly glazed card there is in the market, that gilt edged kind which was used for little keep-sake scrap books, a material which would cause many a sketcher's pencil to skate at random over the surface. He was rather a notable instance of a man who had, as far as I

know, practically but one style in pencil sketching, that of the delicate fine line drawn with the point. The very opposite, this, of the broad chisel-shaped shading which Constable loves, or the wonderful black work of William Müller. I have drawings as early as 1855 and as late as 1878, but the style is the same. Edward Cooke was of course not a man of genius, though he was illustrating scientific works at the age of 12 or less, just as Sir Edwin Landseer was doing the quite wonderful stag drawings when he was a child. One here is dated 1812, when Landseer was no more than ten. But Edward Cooke was all the same a most competent marine painter in oils, and made many charming drawings in water colour, some of which may be seen at this moment hanging in the representative collection of the British Museun. It is most pleasant to follow him in his excursions to Holland, to Scotland, to Ireland, and see how his multitudinous sketches act as the most perfect diaries to mark the red letter days of human existence. For the pencil sketcher knows that there is nothing like trying to draw a scene, to fix it in the mind. Now-a-days people shirk the work and practise, and fire off half-a-dozen, or a whole roller of films in an afternoon. But my experience in both methods is that there is no comparison between the utilities of the two for recording in the mind, if not on the paper, our happiest days in the sunshine. The pure pleasure of a successful sketch achieved outweighs all the snapshots of the kodak. The camera, useful as it is in numerous ways, is a royal road for the neglect of drawing talents which are often unsuspected because they have never been tried.

Returning to our Hastings beach, here are the pencil notes of a man who was a great contrast to Cooke in the variety of his subjects and styles. Most of those who have studied the matter are familiar with the fruit and flower and bird's nest water colours of that original genius, William Hunt. Not so many are acquainted with his wonderfully realistic rustic figures in which the last word in water colour technique was perhaps spoken nearly half a century ago. At least I have seen nothing more consummate. Let me instance an example not so very far from here. The drawing of the laughing boy who is holding a hollowed out turnip-mask over a lighted candle in the Leicester Art Gallery, is a truly admirable example—a masterpiece made of a trivial subject, which admirers of the allegorical and bombastic would despise. Fewer people still have had the opportunity of studying Hunt's landscape sketches and drawings. No one could surpass him in astonishing delineation of the picturesqueness of tumbledown farmyard premises and old town-house backs. His early chalk drawings are masterly and his reed-pen drawings are the same. These little sketches here will enable us to walk by the seaside with the

little good-natured crooked-figured genius, and to see things with his wonderfully observing eyes. As he potters along crowds of children follow, and sometimes rudely cry out upon him for his deformity. But he does not mind them. He can tackle a crowd of children as easily as he makes a picture of a single one of them, and can rout them with an oddly flexible feature of his face. Writing to a friend he says, "I only have to turn round and shake my nose at them—and then they are afraid!"

The choice of examples brought here to-day has been somewhat dictated by exigencies of space. Uprights have been chiefly brought because they take up less room. I may point out that Edridge is the forerunner of Prout, that John Varley could count amongst his pupils no less famous a group than that which contains David Cox, William Hunt, Samuel Palmer, and John Linnell. Barrett and Cotman are well enough known to collectors. There is a drawing of Constable, and one of Peter de Wint engraved for "The Southern Coast." G. R. Lewis is a little known man, but the most artistic parent of a more famous son, John Lewis, R.A., the painter of Eastern scenes. G. R. Lewis, the father, had a phenomenal facility, and an extraordinary minuteness in architectural drawing. He worked for publications of Dibdin, the bookman. By the side of Lewis's architecture the view of Rouen Cathedral by W. Frome Smallwood, seems a mere unfinished sketch, elaborate as it is. Smallwood might have done great things but he died when little past thirty. The little vignette drawings—one of a Swiss chalet—are by Henry Bright, an Ipswich chemist, who forsook the pestle for the paint brush, and won a well-deserved position. Of Sir Edwin Landseer and Sir John Millais nothing need be said. Their names are familiar to us all.

F. S. ROBINSON.

BYGONE PUNISHMENTS: WHIPPING.—There is still in Oakham, as a link of the past, that bygone engine of punishment, the stocks. That a whipping post also stood under the Market Cross is evident from references in the County records.

Monasteries, before their dissolution, acted as a sort of casual ward where the poor were relieved, but no sooner had they passed away than vagrants became a nuisance, and steps were taken to put an end to begging. In 1530, by law, a vagrant, after being whipped, was to take an oath to return to the place where he was born or had last dwelt for three years. In 1535, on being convicted a second time, a vagrant was to lose the upper part of the gristle of his right ear, a third conviction was punished by death. In 1572 vagrants were punished by whipping, gaoling, boring the ears, and death or a second offence.

Milder statutes prevailed in the reign of George II., but public whipping was continued as a punishment for various offences so late as the year 1822. We have not come across, at present, any later records than 1765 in Oakham, when the following orders were made:—

April 18th, 1765.

Ordered that Mary Smith for a felony be publickly whipt at the Markett Cross in Oakham on Saturday next between the hours of 12 and 1.

Ordered that John Smith a rogue and vagabond be detained in the House of Correction ten days and severely whipt two Saturdays in the open Markett at Oakham during the time between the hours of 12 and 1.

July 18th, 1765.

Ordered that Elizabeth Spencer a rogue and vagabond be severely whipt next Saturday and the Saturday following at the Markett Cross in Oakham between the hours of 12 and 1 each day.

PAPERS AT BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL: RELATING TO YOUNG'S PLOT.

(A Paper read before the Members of the Rutland Archæological and Natural History Society).

THAT there were many plots in the reign of William and Mary is a matter of history and a fact known to all. It may be said, however, that the whole of this reign was a time of intrigue. Not serious, but enough to cause constant watchfulness and anxiety to the various ministers of the King and Queen.

The best known plot of this time, was that of Fuller, while one, less well-known, was that of Young, the subject of this memoir. All Jacobites were regarded with suspicion. The country lived in dread of King James' return, and with him the eternal fear of the English people, Roman-Catholicism.

Even in these days of religious tolerance, it is probable that this strong Protestant feeling remains with the bulk of the men and women of England. It explains, in this instance, the deposal of one monarch and the enthronement of the other. William was not personally popular, but his religion was. In English eyes he was the saviour of what they held most dear. James was undoubtedly their lawful King but, at a time such as this, strict justice was of no account.

Among the intriguers of whom, as has been stated, there were many, were those who honestly strove for him whom they considered their lawful master. There were, besides, numerous disreputable persons who "showed up" plots, and intrigued for their own personal advantage.

In the year 1689-90 Daniel Finch, 2nd Earl of Nottingham, was made one of the principal Secretaries of State to the new King and Queen. During the years 1692 and 1693 he filled this office alone. His position corresponded to that of Prime Minister now, combined also, to a great extent, with that of Foreign Minister. Lord Nottingham's State papers are preserved at Burley-on-the-Hill. They are of considerable interest and number many hundreds. Copies of his answers and also of the letters he received are to be found in five MSS. books.

The letters themselves cover different periods. Some were written in Ireland when King William was fighting there. Others are from the Netherlands where he fought later. Several are orders from William himself and bear his signature. Three are written in his own hand, whilst others are from such persons as Sidney, Russell, Cloudsley Shovell,

Portland (ancestor to the present Duke of Portland, who has in his possession Lord Nottingham's letters written to the Portland of that day), and others. These letters are in French as are also the answers. There are, besides, in the collection at Burley, many letters from more humble persons, some unsigned. No doubt a few were the handiwork of spies in Lord Nottingham's service. Others are from would-be spies. Amongst the latter are two from Young.

It is impossible to give these letters without referring to the man himself, and the occasion on which they were written. This shall be done as briefly as possible. For his history it is necessary to refer to Macaulay, that writer of minute details.

Young's christian name was Robert. Three nations disputed his nationality, namely England, Scotland and Ireland. They were none of them jealous of the honour. He called himself a clergyman of the Church of England. He was in reality merely a deacon. These orders, too, had been obtained by forged certificates of character and mental ability. He was a rolling stone gathering no moss, as the saying has it. Before the Revolution he held several curacies in Ireland. Scandal caused one move, riding on a borrowed horse and not returning it another (I fancy we should all like to borrow horses on that understanding), the third move was caused by bigamy. Notwithstanding his oddities his two wives loved him. One supported him in prison, and the other foreswore herself at the assizes. He was imprisoned at Cavan, from whence he wrote a letter comparing himself to the Psalmist, King David. He narrowly escaped hanging. On his release from gaol he wandered about England and Ireland, begging, stealing, cheating, personating and forging. He was imprisoned frequently, but under different names. In 1684 he was brought to trial at Bury, for forging the Archbishop's (Sancroft) signature, and imprisoned again.

On the Western insurrection breaking out, Young once more sprang to the front. He swore he knew of a plot to murder King James. This was proved false. After the Revolution, being again convicted of forgery, he was flung into prison. There his fertile mind conceived a new idea, namely, that it might pay to accuse the Jacobites instead of the Puritans. He wrote first to Tillotson, Archbishop of York. There was a dreadful plot against their Majesties, "a plot as deep as Hell." Some of the chief persons in the kingdom were implicated in it. Tillotson, as a Privy Councillor, thought it his duty to inform the King. William, always cautious and cool, pooh-poohed the whole thing. "I am confident," said he, "it is a villainy, and I will have nobody disturbed on such grounds." After that Young remained quiet for a while, but during this quiescent state he busily collected papers and signatures of eminent

persons. Some were stolen and some obtained by writing for characters for curates and servants. With these materials he drew up a paper, its purposes being the restoration of King James, and the seizure of William, either living or dead. The names appended were those of Marlborough, Cornbury, Salisbury, Sancroft, and Sprat, Bishop of Rochester and Dean of Westminster. The paper was to be hidden in the house of one of the pretended accomplices. Young was still in Newgate. He therefore secured the services of a villain named Blackburn, one who, for the fault of perjury, had had his ears clipped. He was not prepossessing in appearance and could also be easily recognised; neither was he a clever, plausible scoundrel like Young. He learnt his part word for word and could repeat it like a parrot. He was first sent to Sprat's Palace at Bromley. There he described himself as the confidential servant of a learned divine, and presented a letter to the Bishop on his bended knee. He was eventually taken downstairs and treated to drink by the servants. Later he begged to see the house. They dared not take him into the private apartments. The only room he did see was a small parlour (probably the housekeeper's room) near the kitchen. Into a flower pot standing there he dropped the forged paper.

Young then wrote to the King's Ministers telling them he had news of the greatest import. He was heard, and brought before the Privy Council. There he named the persons whose signatures he had forged. He said details of the plot would be found in Sprat's palace at Bromley. He begged them most particularly to search all the flower pots. The Ministers were alarmed. The country was at this time particularly unsettled. Marlborough had dealings with St. Germains, a fact which was known to Sidney and Nottingham. Cornbury was a tool of Marlborough, Salisbury a Roman Catholic, Tillotson was suspected of having invited the French to England; Sprat alone was the most trustworthy victim. He was fond of ease and plenty, and enjoyed both in his present position. The measures taken were these. A clerk of the Council and several messengers were sent by Nottingham to Bromley, with a warrant. Each room was examined, all papers read, every flower pot turned upside down. But the paper remained unfound. No one had thought to look in the small parlour. They returned to London, bringing the Bishop with them. He was allowed to remain at his Deanery. Here again his possessions were examined and a sentry posted at each door. The next day he was taken before the Council. Lord Nottingham examined him, it is said, with all humanity and courtesy. The Bishop denied all accusations, but declared himself willing to submit to the decisions of the State at this time of danger in the country. He was taken back to his Deanery and kept in easy confinement for ten days. It was at this time he wrote

the following letter to Lord Nottingham, the original of which is at Burley-on-the-Hill. It is dated from Westminster, May 17th, and runs thus:—

"My Lord

"I have all this while, according to my duty to their Mat^ies' Government, with patience and humility submitted to my confinement, under a guard of soldiers, and a Messenger; so fearing that my longer silence may be interpreted as a mistrust of my innocence, I think it becomes mee to make this application to y^r Lordship: earnestly intreating you to represent my condition and request, to the most honourable Board, where I was examined. I entirely rely on their justice and honour, that, if they find nothing against me, as God knows, I am conscious so myself they cannot, they will be pleased to order my enlargement. I am also forced to be the more importunate with y^r Lordship in this business, because it is very well known in what a dangerous state of health, I went out of Town, towards the latter end of the Session of Parliament: and I find my distemper very much encreased by this close restraint, in a time when I was entring upon a cours of physic in the country. My Lord, I am, y^r Lordship's most humble and most obedient servant."

Tho: Roffen:"

On the outside is written in Lord Nottingham's hand

"Bp. of Roch^r May 17 Re 16–92."

From this letter it will be seen the Bishop was a fair scholar. It is in a good clear hand, and the spelling is far more correct than that of most letters written at that time.

Meanwhile the paper had not been found. Young therefore devised a new scheme. He sent Blackburn to Bromley to fetch the paper and bring it to him. Then one of his two wives volunteered to take it back to the Secretaries' Office. She told a lie, invented by Young, to account for the paper being in her possession. Meanwhile the Battle of La Hogue had dispelled the fears of an invasion; Nottingham therefore merely wrote to the Bishop begging him to come and see him in Whitehall. There he was confronted by Blackburn, a man easy to mark on account of his clipped ears. The Bishop recognised him, and his Secretary confirmed his words. Blackburn could not disguise his terror. He was sharply cross-examined by the Council. Nottingham would be particularly able at this; he had much of the talent of his family and knew the law. Blackburn stammeringly repeated the lesson taught by Young. No ready lies came to his lips. Young had been mistaken in his tool. The poor wretch finally confessed his share. Not so Young, he played his part to the last. When confronted with the flower-pots he denied all knowledge. Nottingham and Sidney thereupon asked why he so particularly begged they might be searched. The whole council flew at him. With a courage worthy of a better cause he denied everything. He accused the Bishop and Blackburn but his defence was useless. In the ante-room later the Bishop found him calmly seated, amidst the stares of many people, quite unabashed. He returned to his old lodging, Newgate.

Later he invented another plot. It is said to have been founded on fact. It is probable the following letters refer to it, they are among the MSS. at Burley-on-the-Hill, and run as follows :—

Octobr 5th, 1902.

"Sr I humbly intreat you carefully to deliver ye enclosed to her Majtie for you I can trust: therefore I hope yr care will be vigilent in employing such of her Majesties loyal subjects for to search as you can confid in. And let all be done as privately as you can without mentioning of my name as yet, otherwise I shall be murther'd I am

Sr yor humble obedient servant
Rob: Young"

"Let this be done as speedily as possible and I am confident you'l meet with what I have given her Majestie a relation of."

On the outside is written—

"Mr. Dallone Secretary to the Queen's most excellant Majesty"
"These."

The second letter is addressed to Queen Mary and runs thus,--On the outside--

"For the Queen's most excellant Majestie"
"These—"

"May it please Yor most excellant Majestie

In all obedience to Yor Majestie's command I humbly informe Yor Majestie that in the Dutchis of Richmond's Hall below stairs, near ye fireplace will be found (by taking up three or four boards that lyes nighest the Fire) King Jame's advice and lettrs to yor Majesties Enemies, etc.

And if all be not found there, search ye Dutchis' bed-chamber, and likewise her waiting maid's (Mrs. Joan's) chamber, etc.

Now that God may preserve Yr Majestie from ye hands of violent Rebells shall be ye daily prayer of—

May it please Yor Majestie Yor Majestie's most obedient and most humble, and loyal Subject and servant, etc"

Rob: Young."

These two letters give a good insight into Young's clever humbugging way of expressing himself.

The man whom he tried to make his accomplice this time, failed him. He went straight to Lord Nottingham and told him all. Young was again set in the pillory.

His adventurous and shady career continued until the year 1700, when he was taken up for coining, tried, and hanged at Tyburn. As a consummate villain he compels admiration. He seems to have left no path untrodden :—"For this ill-behaved fellow was one of those necessary rascals that the world cannot dispense with. This reflection will furnish you with patience for a knave, a faithless person or any evil body."

PEARL FINCH.

MAY DAY AT STRETTON.

(By Lady Francis Cecil).

"THE Merry Merry Month of May" has alas! now become proverbially synonymous for a bitter East wind and every disagreeable sample of weather—but that "Garland Day," as the 1st is usually termed in Rutland, *can* be all perfection, the present writer can testify, and it is one of the dear old-fashioned mornings that one takes now as the setting for the following short sketch of the May Day Customs at Stretton.

The air is full of balmy ripples. A delicate veil of faint green is drawn across the underwood, throwing a mysterious glamour over well-known tracks and "hagways." Larches are waving their vivid tassels, beneath each of which lurks a rose-red floweret; birches are downing the filmy gowns through which their slender buds glear; white oaks and ashes, sulky enough as to hue, are puffed with almost bursting buds; the beeches are timidly stretching forth verdant finger-tips, soft sunshine dapples the tree trunks, the gaffingales' jocund laughter thrills through the woods, whilst the cooing of the wood pigeons, and the husky "goo *roop*—goo *roop*" of stock doves sounds from the fir trees.

Chaffinches perk on every bough, blackbirds and thrushes trill and gurgle—flute-throated; the cuckoo's triumphant challenge echoes over the fields, and the linnets and bull-finches and all the "tit-willow" tribe of little early migrants, whose name is legion, keeps up a soft chorus, like a back-ground of song.

The meadows are radiant in their spring glory of butter-cups and daisies—veritable Tom Tiddlers grounds—and fields of the cloth of gold and silver, dewdrops pearling each spear of grass and fringing the petals of every flower. The "clear shining after rain" is in the air—lo!

"God's in His Heaven,
All's right with the world."

And now, along the sunny terrace, in front of the old Manor House, comes a throng of children, the lads and the little lasses carrying banners and long staves, crowned with nosegays and ribbons, whilst the two oldest girls, with whom walks the May Queen crowned with her chaplet, bear between them, slung on a stout pole passed through quaint quadruple handles of osiers which are wreathed in blossoms, a large round open basket, lined with flowers and literally over-brimming with them. The osier handles join into an arch across the basket with a big nosegay depending from the centre, and below this floral canopy, either chastely veiled in

an antimaccassar, or hidden from the vulgar gaze by a clean pocket handkerchief, reposes, on a cushion of flowers, the May Dolly, a big wax doll, staring as to eye and meretricious as to countenance, resplendent in a stiff white muslin frock, and adorned with many rows of beads and kindred gewgaws.

Other villages round about send various "posses" of children, each "posse" with its own basket, and frequently there are four or even five May Dollies under one canopy, but Stretton adheres to the better rule of all the children joining together to decorate one large basket, containing one large doll.

Every flower to be found has been requisitioned for the canopy. Delicate primroses, slender blue bells, swaying anemones, glorious king cups (styled in the vernacular, "water-blobs") sprays of the unlucky blackthorn doing duty for her white sister, namesake of the month who has not ventured to unfold her snowy mantle, starlike celendines, cowslips with their sweet peppery scent, violets purple and white, a few early "milkmaids" (greater Stitchwort), some "ladies fingers," as the children call Orchis mascula, "lady-smock," all silvery white which they dub "Cuckoo-flower" —these are a few of the woodland treasures, whilst from cultivated ground come tassels of pink ribes, daffodills, arabis, velvety wallflowers, and Crown Imperials—yellow and orange, those haughty flowers, which, refusing to bend their proud heads in tearful homage in the Garden of Gethsemane are for ever weighed down with remorse, bearing a pearly circlet in each gorgeous calyx, and the gigantic Saxifrage—Megesea Cordifolia, only known to the writer for years as "The flower that grows in Grandger's garden."

Dump, down goes the casket—*floop*—down flops the flag—and then arises an "Aubade" of childish voices in a repertoire which ranges from "Queen of the Night" to "British Grenadiers," and includes such appropriate ditties as "A hunting we will go" (shade of our M.F.H.) and "Three little Pigs."

Apropos of a seasonable selection the writer once heard a Rutland choir sing: "Tell me Shepherds have ye seen my Flora pass this way" as a Christmas carol).

One village—not in Rutland—certainly, but scarcely a mile over the boundary line, makes a Garland Day specialite of a peculiarly Calvanistic hymn, with the refrain, to the tune of "Round the Mulberry bush."

"If we're going to live in a *life* of sin,
In a *life* of sin,
In a *life* of sin,
If we're going to live in a *life* of sin."
"It's better (with special ghoulish emphasis),
We'd never been born."

Probably this hymn is a survival of the following Mayer's Song" quoted by *Hone* in his "Every Day Book" (1823), when going a Maying was not apparently the innocent pastime it now is.

MAYER'S SONG.

Remember us poor Mayers all,
And thus do we begin
To lead our lives in righteousness,
Or else we die in sin.

We have been rambling all this night,
And almost all the day;
And now, returned back again,
We bring you a branch of May.

A branch of May we have brought you
And at your door it stands,
It is but a sprout,
But its well budded out
By the work of our Lord's hands.

The hedges and trees they are so green,
As green as any leek,
Our Heavenly Father, He watered them
With His heavenly dew so sweet.

The heavenly gates are open wide,
Our paths are beaten plain;
And if a man be not too far gone,
He may return again.

The life of man is but a span,
It flourishes like a flower,
We are here to-day, and gone to-morrow,
And we are dead in an hour.

The moon shines bright, and the stars give a light,
A little before it is day;
So God bless you all, both great and small,
And send you a joyful May.

Chambers, in his "Book of Days" quotes three verses, obtained from the Carols of May Day children in Essex, two of which are almost identical with the above, but the third one differs.

"So dear, so dear, as Christ lov'd us,
"And for our sins was slain;
"Christ bids us turn from wickedness,
And turn to the Lord again."

Also a Refrain, sung after each verse:

"Why don't you do as we have done,
"The very first day of May;
"And from my parents I have come,
"And would no longer stay."

He regards this as a very old ballad, probably Elizabethan, when it was the custom of the young men and maidens to go into the woods on May Eve, remain out all night, returning early in the morning with green branches and garlands of flowers, a custom much reprehended by the Puritans later on, who did all they could to abolish all May Day observances.

The Aubade at an end, the May Queen, after the May Dolly and her own wreath have been admired and praised, shyly holds out a little bag to collect pence for a tea for all the garland children, and the whole assembly falls to on bread and butter, and cake and jam, and great cups of frothing milk; and this feast concluded, the basket is picked up, the banners wave again, and the radiant-faced procession marches off in the soft sunshine to sing more ballads and collect more pence where it can, finishing up Garland Day with tea on the Rectory lawn. This is followed by races and "bobbing for apples" and quaint dancing games such as "Nuts and May" and "Old Roger" (a worthy who has nothing to do with his courteous namesake De Coverley—for we hear how "oop joomps Old Roger and gies her a thoomp") and "One poor Widow left all alone," which last, the forlorn female having found a new mate, ends with a prophetic chorus:—

"Now they're married, we'll wish them joy
First a girl, and then a boy."

till daylight wanes, and in the dark the sleepy little Mayers trot home to their beds.

March along lads every Garland Day, sing away lasses. Not an idea enters your little noddles that you are doing homagè to the ancient goddess Maia, Queen of flowers and Spring-time, with your nosegays and your wreaths; still less, that your pretty May Dolly is the remains of a far different worship, that of the Maiden of Bethlehem, to whom this month is dedicated. Twine your garlands, bedeck your May Dolly in her best frock, and prop her under her canopy of blossoms on a cushion of flowers. Wander through the woods and across the meadows. Dame Nature is pupil teacher under the Divine Master, you will learn from her (an' you will) many a lesson of endurance and clean living, and patience and unselfishness. God grant when you are old men and women, and your grandsons and granddaughters wave the banners and carry the garlands you used to wave and you used to carry, that each of you may still keep that, without which we cannot hope to see His face, the heart of a little child.

REFUSING TO CARRY BAGGAGE.—A curious item appears in the Quarter Session Rolls for Rutland under the year 1812 when Walter Williams and Nathaniel Clark, both of Bisbrooke, farmers, were summoned to appear before His Majesty's Justice of the Peace, and fined forty shillings each for refusing to go with their teams to carry the baggage of a party of the Tenth Dragoons to Melton from Uppingham.

RUTLAND MILITIA.

(Extract from the Rutland Records).

TO the Clerk of the Peace in and for the County of Rutland. To wit. I, Brownlow, Earl of Exeter, Baron of Burghley, Lord Lieutenant of the said County of Rutland, in pursuance of the Acts of Parliament for raising the Militia of in and for the several counties of that part of Great Britain called England. Do hereby certify that the Militia of in and for the said County of Rutland hath been raised five several times first in the year 1759, secondly in the year 1762, thirdly in the year 1765 and 1766, and fourthly in the year 1769 and fifthly in the year 1772 and that the same consist of two independent companies and that the number and rank of officers and men consisted at completing the same in the year 1772 of two Captains, one adjutant, two lieutenants, two ensigns, six sergeants, one of which is sergeant major, four drummers, one of whom is drum major, and 120 private men, six of whom are corporals. And I do further certify that in and for the said County of Rutland were trained and exercised on the 11th day of October 1773 and the 27 days then next following, being the second time of their exercising since they were raised the fifth time.

Given under my hand this 12th day of Dec. 1744.

EXETER.

This gallant little corps held an honourable record. During the Peninsular War it unanimously volunteered its services for Spain, being then under the command of Major Pierrepont. In a letter to the Adjutant-General on the subject, the gallant Major says:—"The privates of the corps under my command, *without exception*, have, in the handsomest manner, made an offer of their services to serve with me in Spain, should it be thought expedient to send a militia force into that country. I indulge the hope this instance of their zeal will be acceptable to the Commander-in-Chief." The Secretary of State, replying to the Lord Lieutenant of Rutland (The Earl of Winchelsea) said "I am commanded to acquaint your Lordship that His Majesty was pleased to express great satisfaction at receiving this additional proof of the zeal and spirit which have been displayed by the corps on all occasions."

The Rutland Militia was amalgamated with that of Northamptonshire on October 31st, 1860. At that time the Hon. H. Noel was Captain Commandant and Edward Costall, Lieutenant. They resigned their commissions and the career of the corps since that period is identified with that of Northamptonshire.

THE RUTLAND ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

There remains but one Meeting of this Society to chronicle since the issue of the October number of the Magazine. This was held in the Audit Room of Browne's Hospital, Stamford (by the kind permission of the Warden) on December 2nd, 1905. The papers were both of local interest, though widely diverse in subject. The first, which was read by MR. CROWTHER-BEYNON, dealt with a pre-historic find which occurred in August last in a stone quarry at Great Casterton, when a skeleton, showing strikingly primitive cranial features, was found imbedded in clay in a fissure of the oolite. A finely polished Neolithic Celt and other relics occurred in the same spot, the whole find proving of an interesting, if puzzling, character, and giving rise to some diversity of opinion as to its true interpretation. Another pre-historic find was also noted, consisting of an unpolished Celt found recently in Oakham. These two discoveries may certainly be pronounced the most valuable additions to our knowledge of pre-historic Rutland which have been hitherto noted. By the kindness of Mr. Woolston, of Stamford, and Mr. Higgs, of Oakham, the respective owners, the relics were exhibited at this Meeting. The Second Paper, which was furnished by MR. IRONS. was entitled "The Lady Bridget Noel's Visit to Town in 1685." This was another of those studies of local history of which the Society has already enjoyed several specimens at MR. IRONS' hands. It dealt with a series of letters written by Lady Bridget to her sister, Catherine, Duchess of Rutland, recounting her experiences and those of her sister Penelope, during a journey to, and a sojourn in, the metropolis in the days of Charles II. Her impressions of London and her comments on the manners, habits and dress of the world of fashion with which she came in contact, were set forth with a freedom and racy vigour in these letters, which gave a good insight into the minds of the habitues of a Society which has many points of resemblance to that of the 20th century.

Without desiring to anticipate the Annual Report of the Rutland Society, we may congratulate it upon another year of successful existence, shewing a record of work accomplished, at least, as satisfactory as that of any previous year. We cannot, however, close this account of its doings without briefly alluding to two sad losses sustained by the Society since our last issue. The death of MR. RICHARD TRYON has deprived it of a Vice-President and Member of the Committee, who has been from the first a most kind supporter of the Society, and whose familiar presence will be much missed at the Oakham Meetings, from which he was seldom absent. MR. R. P. BRERETON, of Oundle, whose long illness was put an end to by his death on January 2nd, 1906, was, perhaps, less well-known to the majority of our Members. Owing to the inaccessibility of Oundle to most of our places of Meeting, his appearances at our gatherings were rare. His interest in the Rutland Society, however, was very genuine, and many of those who have acted as guides in our architectural rambles have to gratefully acknowledge the help given by MR. BRERETON in the preparation of their descriptive papers. It may safely be said that no one had so intimate a knowledge of the Rutland Churches as a whole as he, and his storehouse of Architectural information was ever most generously and willingly thrown open to any who applied to him for assistance of this kind. Not only for his personal charm, but for his unique position as an authority on local Architecture, his death will prove an irreparable loss.

Photo by] [*W. F. W. Stocks.*

STOKE DRY CHURCH.

VOL. II.—NO. 14.

THE

RUTLAND MAGAZINE

AND

COUNTY HISTORICAL RECORD.

STOKE DRY.

THE village of Stoke Dry, or Dry Stoke, as it is sometimes called, is situate on the border of Leicestershire, from which it is divided by the little river Eye, a circuitous stream that empties itself in the river Welland, immediately after passing the village of Caldecott. The village stands on a lofty eminence, from which very extensive views of the adjoining counties of Leicester and Northampton are obtained, beyond which is seen a remaining portion of the ancient Royal Forest of Rockingham, the Norman Castle standing in the foreground.

The village is small, containing only about 60 inhabitants. It contains about 1,350 acres which is principally red land and considered of very good quality.

The name has given some trouble to the topographers. Wright, in his *History of Rutland*, suggests that it obtained its adjunct of *Dry* from its situation on the side of a hill, or the village without water. As was pointed out in an earlier number of the *Magazine* the name indicates the prevalence of the feudal system, and did we not know there had been a Norman Conquest, which changed the ruling classes, without making much impression on the great body of the people, we could read the event in such names as Stoke Dry, Stoke Say, Stoke Lacey. In Saxon and Norse, the general descriptive word is always placed last, while the Norman Lord's name is always appended to the English descriptive word. In this

we see the French habits of speech upon the descendants of the Northmen.

By a reference to the *Calendarium Inquisitionum Post Mortem* Vol. I p 180, we find that in the reign of Edward I. (1272-1306). "Thomas Nevill held Stoke Dry, together with fifteen acres of wood in Uppingham, and half of Lyddington"; whose son Theobaldus de Nevill was a knight of the shire in Parliament in 1304. In the reign of Edward II. (1307-27), the manor was the property of Roger de Morewood, whose posterity held it for many generations, one of whose descendants represented the County in Parliament in the years 1378, 1380 and 1384 and was also High Sheriff of Rutland in 1381.

The various county histories are silent as to the possessors of the manor from the time of the Morewoods to the Digbys; but Wright (*History of Rutland*) observes that of the latter time this place had been the habitation of the right ancient family of the Digbys; which family, though formerly blemished by Sir Everard Digby, drawn into the powder treason, yet still he thinks it has since been rendered famous to the Christian world, by the singularly learned Sir Kenelm Digby, eldest son of Sir Everard. He then adds, that his lordship, notwithstanding the attainder of Sir Everard for that treason, still remained in his posterity, he having, long before the treason was committed, conveyed this and many other manors, to the use of himself for life, and after to the use of his son and heir apparent in tail, with different remainders over to his other children; so that when afterwards he was attainted and executed, still he being only tenant for life, his estate remained to Sir Kenelm, his son, who being at that time under age, a point of law arose, "whether the King should have the wardship of the body and lands of the said Kenelm, or any part of the same?"—they being held of the Crown *in capite*. Much to the credit of the Judges, who were superior to court influence, it was resolved by the two chief justices, and the chief baron, as well as by the whole court of wards, that the Crown could not have the wardship, but only when there was an heir—general or special; whilst, in this case, there was not, the blood being corrupted, and the said Kenelm having no inheritable blood in him from his father; neither was he special heir in tail by form of the statute of Westminster; but came to the estate as a mere purchaser; and for the same reason had he been of age, the Crown could not have had the *Premier Seisin*.

Camden, speaking of Stoke Dry says:—"It is never to be forgotten, as being the ancient residence of the famous and ancient family of the Digbys; but branded with everlasting infamy by Everard Digby, who wickedly conspired, with other execrable incendiaries, to destroy his king and country at one blow of hellish thunder," and hence has probably arisen the interesting tradition that Stoke Dry was

the place, and the chamber, or parvise, over the north porch of the church, the room, in which the Gunpowder Plot was hatched.

We are afraid, however, that, like many of the cherished traditions which have been tenaciously held for centuries, this one will not bear investigation. A very cursory review of the facts leads us to the conclusion that there is no connection between Stoke Dry and the Gunpowder Plot beyond the fact that Sir Everard Digby was born at Stoke Dry and may have spent a few of his early years there.

Sir Everard was born May 16th, 1578. His father was Everard Digby, Esq., who died January 24th, 1591-2, when his son Everard was in his fourteenth year. He married an heiress, Mary, the daughter of William Mulsho of Gayhurst (formerly Gothurst) near Newport Pagnell, in the county of Bucks. on Feb. 9th, 1596, and was knighted at Belvoir by James I. on April 23rd, 1603. After her parents' death, Lady Digby and her husband entered the Roman Catholic Church under the guidance of Father Gerard. Father Gerard, who was suspected of complicity in the Gunpowder Plot, says of Mr. Mulsho that he was "a thorough heretic, and had his thoughts entirely occupied in hoarding money for his daughter, and increasing her revenues." He adds, that "his son-in-law (Digby) attended at Court, being one of the Queen's gentlemen pensioners; but in the country he spent almost his whole time in hunting and hawking." Gayhurst, where Digby and his wife spent their short married life, came to Digby through his marriage. There is little of interest of the Sir Everard Digby period beyond an oratory or priest's hiding place, which Lord Carrington, a former owner about the year 1860 altered almost beyond recognition. There is, however, an ancient and very curious dry well of some depth, which descends from one of the cellars into a subway, by means of which Father Gerard may on occasion have evaded discovery; but which, as usual in remains of this description, at present leads nowhere.

We can find no evidence in any of the records that the conspirators ever met at Stoke Dry. The idea of the Plot, as is well known, was conceived by Robert Catesby, of Ashby St. Legers, a place situated between Rugby and Daventry. Catesby and Winter met in Lambeth at the house of John Wright about the Lent of 1603 and discussed how best to serve the Catholic cause, and it was decided to blow up the Parliament House with gunpowder. Fawkes and Percy came into the plot about Easter. The conspirators, now five in number, resolved to take an oath of secrecy. According to Winter's confession they "met behind St. Clements, (this was Father Gerard's house in the fields behind St. Clements' Inn, also the secret resort of other priests, one of whom administered the Sacrament to the Conspirators on the occasion) Mr. Catesby, Mr. Percy, Mr. Wright, Mr. Guy Fawkes and myself,

and having upon a Primer given each other the oath of secrecy, in a chamber where no other body was, we went after into the next room and heard mass and received the blessed Sacrament upon the same. Then did Mr. Catesby disclose to Mr. Percy and I together with Jack Wright, tell to Mr. Fawkes the business for which we took this Oath, which they both approved."

The popular notion of Guy Fawkes is as erroneous as it is grotesque and absurd. He has not only come to be regarded as a melodramatic villain of the first order, and the embodiment of "outer darkness," but even his name, Guy, has become a substantive in our language, as when we wish to denote someone of abnormally peculiar appearance we say, "What a Guy!" There were bonfires and even fireworks before Guy Fawkes' time, but the word "Guy," as we use it, was then unknown as an expression of scornful ridicule amongst us. Guy Fawkes' father, Edward Fawkes, who was a Notary at York and Registrar and Advocate at the Consistory Court there, died before Guy was nine years old. There is no doubt that his family were, and remained, in highly respectable circumstances. In his examination Fawkes alludes to himself as one of the "seven gentlemen of name and blood" who worked within the mine. Although his parents were Protestants, yet on the re-marriage of his mother with a Catholic he was naturally brought up in that religion. He afterwards became a soldier of fortune in the Spanish Army, and saw a good deal of service in the Low Countries. He was evidently well known to the leading Catholics in this country, and their Continental agents, as a brave and trustworthy man, who, on occasion, would do what was expected of him. He was well skilled in military engineering, and it was to him that Catesby at once looked for practical assistance in the development of his Plot. At Ashby St. Legers there is a picturesque old half timbered gate house, the upper room of which is still known as the "Powder Plot Room," but which has no more right to the appellation than the parvise at Stoke Dry. It is doubtful, even, if Fawkes ever really occupied the room, as his general movements were traced and are indicated in the State papers; but no such visit or residence is recorded. He was at the Bell Inn, at Daventry, then kept by Matthew Young, on Oct. 14th, 1605, where he met other of the Conspirators (of whom John Wright, having been specially sent for to Lapworth, was heard to say that he would not for one hundred pounds miss seeing Fawkes) and remained for the night; and later he was at Gayhurst, with the Digbys for a few days. He may, of course, have gone to Ashby St. Legers, and have been lodged at the gatehouse instead of at the Hall, in order to keep his visit secret but there was certainly no general meeting of the Conspirators held either at Ashby St. Legers or Stoke Dry.

Photo by] [*W. J. W. Stocks.*

STOKE DRY CHURCH.

The continued postponing of the meeting of Parliament caused the funds of the Conspirators to run low. A meeting was arranged at Bath when they agreed "that the company being but few Mr. Catesby should have authority to call in whom he thought best." They, therefore, invited Sir Everard Digby, of Stoke Dry, Ambrose Rookewood, of Coldham, and Francis Tresham of Rushton, near Kettering, to join in the plot. Digby promised £1500 and Rookewood and Tresham £2000 each. Thomas Percy also promised all he could get of the Earl of Northumberland's rents, about £4000, and to provide ten galloping horses. Tresham it was who wrote the famous Monteagle letter, and it is pretty generally accepted now that it was sent to Monteagle as a ruse to conceal [a] previous betrayal of the Plot. This letter is still preserved in the State Paper office, and the following copy, in which the original spelling is adhered to, may not be out of place here:—

"my lord out of the love i beare to 'some] of youere frends i have a caer of youer preseruacion therfor i would advyse yowe as yowe tender youer lyf to devyss some exscuse to shift youer attendance at this parleament for god and man hathe concurred to punishe the wickednes of this tyme and thinke not slightlye of this advertisment but retyere youre self into youre contri wheare yowe maye expect the event in safti for thowghe theare be no apparance of anni stir yet i say they shall receyve a terrible blowe this parleament and yet they shall not seie who hurts them this cowncel is not to be contemned becauss it maye do yowe good and can do yowe no harme for the dangere is passed as soon as yowe have burnt the letter and i hope god will give yowe the grace to mak good use of it to whose holy proteccion i commend yowe.

to the ryght honorable the lord mowteagle."

From what has been stated it will be seen that Sir Everard Digby was not brought into the Plot until quite late and everything was ripe for the final dénouement. Although Catesby naturally did all he could to induce Sir Everard Digby to join him in the conspiracy, yet Digby's assent was of itself quite voluntary, and only given after his careful consideration of the nature of the proposal. It is stated, however, that, after the failure of the Plot, when Catesby arrived at Dunchurch, he made false statements to Digby in order to keep him with them, to the effect that, although the Plot itself had failed, yet, as the King and Lord Salisbury were dead, that was the time for Catholics to rise in arms successfully against the Government. Dr. Gardiner in his "History of England" states that "these falsehoods imposed upon the weak mind of Digby"; and Digby's descendant, the anonymous author of "The Life of a Conspirator" fiercely assails Catesby's veracity, and even heads one of his graphic pages with the startling announcement, "Catesby a Liar!" in his indignant reprehension of such conduct. He is not, however, intentionally unjust to Catesby, for it must be remembered that the grave charges of these falsehoods rests

solely on the statements of Sir Everard Digby as contained in his examination taken before the Council when he was in the Tower.

We have not space to enter into the controversy which has raged round the Plot. Nor need we dwell on the result of its disclosure. Fawkes was captured red-handed. The chief members of the band galloped for dear life from London, and arrived at Holbeach, much fatigued, about ten o'clock on Thursday night, Nov. 7th, 1605, the country with its *posse comitatus* gradually rising in pursuit about them. An explosion of powder, which had been "wetted" in fording the Stour and placed on a platter to dry before the fire killed two of the conspirators. The house was besieged by the Sheriff, Sir Richard Walsh, and his forces, and Catesby and Percy standing back to back at the entrance with drawn swords awaiting anyone who should come to take them, were both killed by a bullet from a musket.

A general stampede of the followers took place. Digby was soon overtaken, and yielded himself without further resistance. He was tried and duly gibbeted outside St. Paul's Cathedral. He was still alive when on the quartering block, and it is said that when the executioner, having ripped him open and plucked his heart out, held it up with the words, "Here is the heart of a traitor!" the poor victim exclaimed, "Thou liest!" So ended the life of a conspirator. Sir Everard Digby, it is believed, never met his wife after being taken prisoner, although later on she may have seen him being drawn on a hurdle to the gallows. Lady Digby never married again, but devoted herself to her two sons; the elder of whom was the eccentric Sir Kenelm Digby.

Sir Kenelm Digby, the elder son of Sir Everard, was one of the literary celebrities of his day; he was only three years old at the time of his father's death. Having finished his education at Oxford, he went abroad in 1621, and travelled in France, Spain and Italy. On his return he was knighted by Charles I., was created a gentleman of the bedchamber, a Commissioner of the Navy, and Governor of Trinity House. At the head of a small squadron, which he equipped at his own expense, he sailed in 1628 against the Algerines, and afterwards defeated the Venetians near the port of Scanderoon. During a brief stay in Paris he joined the Church of Rome. Having returned to England in 1638, he espoused the cause of the king, and was imprisoned in Winchester House, by order of the Parliament. He was, however, liberated at the request of the French queen dowager in 1643, and retired to France, where he was taken into the confidence of the Court, and enjoyed the friendship of Descartes and other learned men.

After the defeat of the Royalist party he again visited England but Parliament refused to allow him to remain.

SIR KENELM DIGBY.

(from an old print).

Banished from England upon pain of death if he returned, he resumed his residence in France, where he was treated with the highest respect, and was entrusted with an embassy to several of the Courts of Italy. He returned again to his native country during the Protectorate of Cromwell, and seemed to be more zealous for the advancement of the interests of the Commonwealth than befitted a staunch royalist. He used his influence to reconcile the Catholics to the Protectorate on condition of their being secured the free exercise of their religion. With Cromwell he was on terms of intimate friendship, the bond of sympathy being probably not so much politics as a common interest in the new-born science of physics. At the Restoration he returned finally to London, where he died in 1665, leaving one son, who dying without issue, that branch of the family became extinct.

He married Venetia Anastasia, the daughter of Sir Edward Stanley of Shropshire, "a lady of an extraordinary beauty and of as extraordinary a fame." His whimsical experiments to preserve her beauty by the invention of new cosmetics procured him as much notoriety as his sympathic powder for the cure of wounds at a distance. He was the author of several treatises dealing with religion and was appointed one of the Council of the Royal Society at the time of its first establishment, and took a very active part in its management.

The famous Ben Jonson lived on terms of great intimacy with Sir Kenelm and Lady Digby, and after her death he composed a long poem in honour of her entitled *Eupheme*, which occurs in his works, and from which the subjoined is an extract:—

"She was in one a many parts of life;
A tender mother, a discreeter wife,
A solemn mistress and so good a friend,
So charitable to religious end.
In all her petite actions so devote,
As her whole life was now become one note
Of piety and private holiness."

Sir Kenelm made his will on the 9th Jan., 1665, in which he styles himself "Sir Kenelm Digby, of Stoke Dry, in the County of Rutland, Knight Chancellor to Henrietta Maria, Queen Dowager of England" and mentions his intention of going to Paris for the cure of a malady. If he died in England he ordered his body to be buried in Christ Church, London, in his vault of black marble and copper, where his wife dame Venetia was interred, and desired that no inscription should be placed on his tomb. The following lines were written on Sir Kenelm by R. Farrar but were never inscribed on his tomb:—

"Under this tomb the matchless Digby lies,
Digby the great, the valiant, and the wise;
This age's wonder, for his noble parts,
Skilled in six tongues, and learned in all the arts.
Born on the day he died, the eleventh of June,
And that day bravely fought at Scanderoon.
It's rare that one and the same day should be
His day of birth, of death, of Victory."

(To be continued).

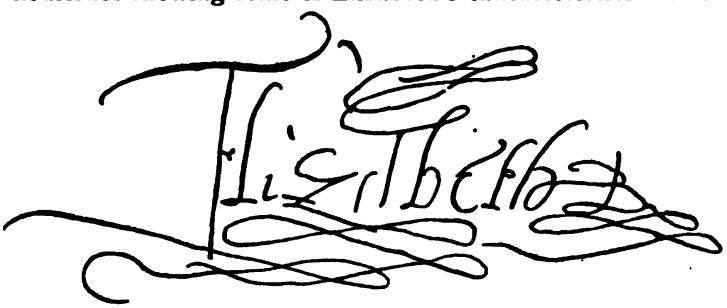
LETTERS AND HANDWRITING IN THE 16TH AND EARLY 17TH CENTURIES.

Illustrated by examples from the MSS. at Burley-on-the-Hill.

IN our day we scarcely realize the art or rarity of a letter written in the 16th or, in fact, the 17th century. Now-a-days people rush to pens and paper, and write ten or more letters a day; the result being, that letter writing is no longer a fine art or handwriting a matter of care. We are well acquainted with the sighs that greet the letters of friends whose handwriting it is almost impossible to decipher and whose sentences are so involved that it requires some effort of brain to arrive at the sense intended. In the 16th century to write a letter was quite an epoch in the routine of life. There was no penny post, and letters were sent by hand. Letter writing was, therefore, not to be lightly taken in hand, and writing itself was taught as a fine art. The paper used was exceedingly good, usually edged with gold, and of thin texture. A quill pen was used, the ink testifies to its goodness now, and the sand, which took the place of blotting paper, may still be seen shining on old epistles. Until the reign of James I. court or law hand was generally used; few people wrote as we do now. This old court hand has much of the character of German writing, it is difficult to decipher, and many of the words are shortened. The signatures are, however, frequently in ordinary writing, therefore, if handwriting is significant of character, we must take the signatures of this century as a test. People interested in old letters and wishing for earlier examples than those given here, should read the "Paston Letters," written for the most part during the Wars of the Roses. The book is a standard work. The letters are of great historical interest, giving as they do an insight into the domestic life and correspondence of that period. I must here apologise for taking my examples exclusively from the MSS. at Burley-on-the-Hill. Many of the letters were written by those who bore the same surname as myself, a statement which may look a trifle ostentatious, but I am glad to say that, scattered among them, will be found letters of great interest and written by people of far greater distinction than myself. It may, perhaps, be as well to mention the fact that few of the examples here given have been in print and hardly any are known to the general public.

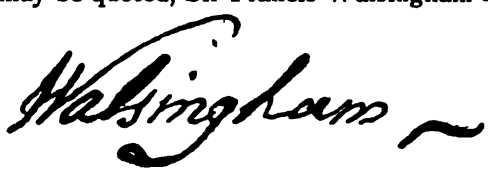
The first specimen I take is the signature of Queen Mary. She signs herself "Mary the Quene," a prettier and more simple mode than that of the modern Regina. She spells *Mary* with an *e* at the end, and

Queen, Quene. The writing is neat and self-contained, very different from that of her sister. I am, unfortunately, unable to give any examples of public or family correspondence in this reign. Mary's reign was a short one, and Sir Thomas Finch, who lived then and spent most of his time fighting, we are told was "untymely deprived of his life by a disastrous fortune and a miserable Shipwracke to the general griefe of his friends and country." We may, therefore, conclude that this gentleman had little leisure for writing, owing to his numerous wars and early death. I will now turn to the reign of *Elizabeth.* The signature of this great Queen is probably known to all, its bold character and numerous flourishes showing some of Elizabeth's characteristics. It is



(Reduced to half-size).

curious that nearly all persons living at that time, and more especially those living about the Court, signed their names in the same flourishing and conceited way. Two exceptions may be quoted, Sir Francis Walsingham and Sir Philip Sidney. As a type of formal letter, that of Lord Burghley to Sir Thomas Heneage is a good specimen.



"Sir,—the manners provoketh me to write what I have not before as I would only I com-md me to you and yours. I am occupyed in sending H. Cobton to the Duke of Alloa, & to ye Q. of Spayne. What the temper is, I will not say yt it is warm, but I doe not say so to any. We are in hand to raise more money of you for my Lord of ——— (undecipherable). Next Saturday I thynke we shall see you at Tynnygen. 16th Aug., 1570.

Yours Sincerely W. Cecille."

This letter is written throughout in ordinary writing, with very long tails to the *f, y, g,* &c. *I* is turned into *Y* as in *write* which is written *wryte*; in some cases the consonants are doubled and an *e* added, as *Cecil* which is spelt *Cecille.* A good example of a friend's letter is that of Lucy, Countess of Bedford, to Sir Thomas Heneage. It may be remarked that Lady Bedford was

daughter and co-heiress of the first Lord Harrington, the owner of Exton old Hall and Harrington Burley. At his death the property was divided, Lady Bedford getting Burley and the land belonging to it, which she eventually disposed of to Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. She was a woman of some note in her day about the Court of Elizabeth, and her extravagance is said to have led to the selling of Burley.

(*Letter from Lucy, Countess of Bedford, to Sir Thomas Heneage.*)

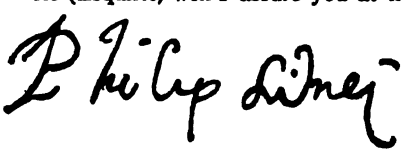
"Good Sir Thomas

I have received your letter whereby I reape no small comfort of yt contynuance of her highnesses great goodnesse towards my Lord and me being the only thynge we desyre by our lufe and service to maintayne and everye waye as occassion may geve us leve to encrease. And whereby you I fynd Her Highnesse care to thrust anew upon myne. It is a thing I more count if yo may be extreme than her favor upon myself, Whose years are not now long to continue by course of nature, and therefore would be glad to wyne in yt my happynesse; those who are better able to serve, and lykyer to contynue by her to be commanded. And so would be most glad yt it might pleas Her Highnes to accept My Lord Gray as one of mine, in whose estate is yt degree and standyng. Ye abylytie of ye man I will not speak of because he is so nere to me: tendering him as I doe, I cannot but be greatly grieved to see him want yt cumfort of her favor without ye which our lyves are loadsome unto us. Well I wil saye no more but leve ye success to God and Her Highnes' good pleasure. And for yourself I will forbeare to yeld thanks where deedes are fytter to be bestowed, restyng in good will every way as thankful to you as you are any way to be used by me. So praying yt I may be most heartilly commended to My Lady yr Wyf as to yrself, do forbeare further to trouble you, and bid you most heartily farewell,—From Exeter this 26th day of Dec. 1507. Your assured frende forever L. B. Bedforde."

She writes in ordinary writing, and in a very small neat hand. The spelling is somewhat vague. *Y* takes the place of *i* as in Cecil's letter, and capitals are used indiscriminately. We see the extravagant expressions then in vogue, by her references to the Queen. Doubtless Sir Thomas was intended to repeat them to his Sovereign.

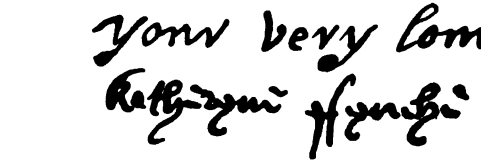
Sir Philip Sidney's letter which I give next is another good specimen. It is written throughout, with the exception of the signature, in the most beautiful Court hand. It is just possible that the Court hand was written by a clerk, but Sir Philip's character would lead us to suppose that he was a man who would take infinite pains to do everything well. He writes to Sir Moyle Finch whom he calls cousin; whether they were relations or whether this was merely a mode of address I do not know. The letter runs thus:—

"Cousin Fynche having now occassion for furnishing of my bands of horsemen to become a begger as unto many of my frendes for horses, I have thought amongst other to make bold with you. In praying you to pleasure me with a serviceable horse out of yr Squirie (Esquirie) wch I assure you at this time will be very welcome unto me and you shall fynd that I will desire this same at your hande. And so I committ you to God. From Penshurst this 22nd of December 1585. Yor very loving cousin Philip Sidney."



To turn to more familiar letters, that of Catherine Lady Finch to her son Moyle is a good specimen. It runs thus :—

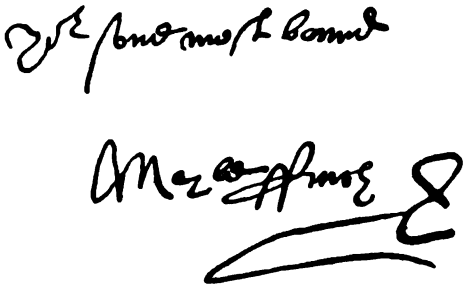
"Sonne Fynche I am most willing to be with my good daughter and to see My Lady Heaneag and my lyttle ones, but if tyme will Suffer I wold stay here untill aftr newe yeares day for that I do then apoynt god Willing to have dyvers of my Freandes and Neyghbours heare with me and therefore lett me have my daughters opinion by this berer, for setting all matters apart the Lord suffering I will not fayle to be with her: if this berer may have the mesure of your parler I will send you Hangings for the same or any other thynge in this house that may pleasure you; and so with the lord's blessing and myne and most hartie commendations to yourself and my good daughter from all your friends heare: I comitt you and all yours to hys merciful and continuall goodnes. From Estwell (Eastwell) this VI. of December, 1580. Your very loving mother Catherine Ffynche."



This is an affectionate and well expressed letter, but what strikes one particularly is its tond of simple piety, a characteristic to be found in most family letters of that time. It appears to be the natural outcome of simple religious feeling of which they were not ashamed. Her spelling is rather peculiar: for instance she spells Finch twice differently, each time with a *y* and an *e* at the end but once with two *f's* and once with only one. Take for instance *god* and *lord* which she writes with a small letter but *friendes, neighbours, would*, &c. with capitals. There appears to be no principle underlying the use of capital letters. Her handwriting is small, neat and in ordinary characters, though she signs her name in Court hand.

As a specimen of a son's letter a few extracts from one of Sir Moyle Finch to his Mother-in-law are here given. It is addressed

"To My honourable good Mother, The Lady Heneage, 1559.—I do greatly thank you as well for the good news I received as that you have changed your own time in favor of me. We are here where little goeth forward with much ado."—This is a really pithy sentence, we all know the bustle which attends very little result. He continues —"you might tarry at the Cort (Elizabeth's) without hurt or wold like to come hither without much trouble, because I am more troubled to thynk that while you should be at home which is so seldom I should not be with you, I beseeche you that the Parke may be remembered. I knoe that I should not be so cumbersum to you in it but because I see that tyme rather brings increase of trouble than any other occassion," etc. "And so with my humble remembrance to my Father and you I leave you to the Lord Jesus. Your sone most bound, Moyle Ffynche. I must not forgyt my



humble duty to my Father and you with my thanks for his rememberance of me"

The whole of this letter, with the exception of the postscript, is written in Court hand.

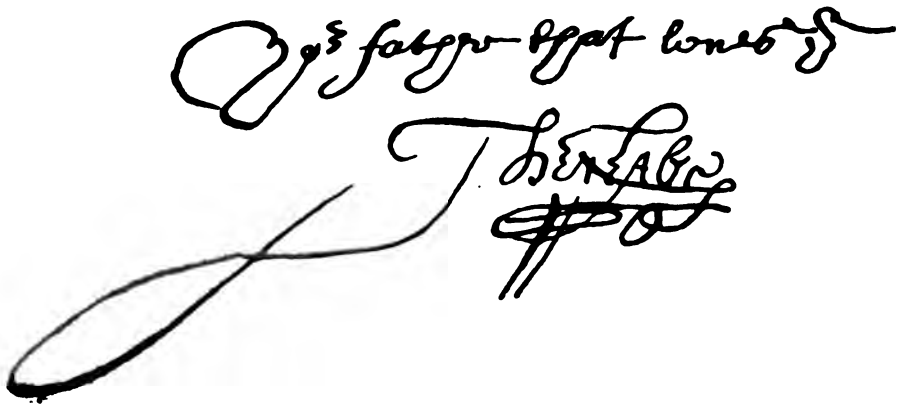
We find Moyle's wife also writing—

"To My very good mother the Lady Henneag at Corte"—She starts straight off without any preamble—"This night late Mr. Fynche recuied sum letters from his lawyers, that keeps him occupyed so he prays you pardun him that he writes not to you, we can send you no news but earnestly desier to hear something from you" etc. "I hope we should see you here where I think surely you should fynd very good swet (sweet) ayre, And so praying the Lord Jesus to kepe you ever, With Mr. F. and my humbyl duty to my Father and you. Your Humbyl daughter E. Fynch."

Elizabeth Finch does not spell as well as her husband. For instance she spells *sweet* with only one *e* which has a very curious effect and other words are equally remarkable. The handwriting is in ordinary characters, sprawly and very untidy.

As a last example of the family letter in the 16th century I give that of Sir Thomas Heneage. It is addressed—

"To my daughter the Lady Fynch at Eastwell."—Like hers it begins with no preamble—"I thank you my good Bess for your love. Countess My Lady Oxford most heartily commends you and prayed me to send you word she cared for her Bess. More I have no leisure for, but to wish me at Estwell. And so pray the Lord Jesus to bless you. Your Father that loves you T. Heneage.



There could be no prettier letter from a father to a daughter than this. The whole of it, including the signature, is in Court hand. Perhaps it may be well to explain before proceeding who the writers of these letters were. Sir Thomas Heneage was Vice Chamberlain to Queen Elizabeth and held other posts at Court. He was trusted by his sovereign and a favourite with her. In 1555 he was so high in her favour that it was thought he would outrival Leicester; it may be mentioned he was a handsome man which always pleased Elizabeth. She gave him many valuable grants of land, and amongst others the Manor of Ravenstone in Bucks., which property still goes with Burley. Sir Thomas had only one child, who was married, as we have seen, to Sir Moyle Finch. On the death of her husband she was created Viscountess Maidstone by King James, and later Countess of Winchelsea by King Charles. For these honours she paid £13,000 and an annuity of £500, a pretty considerable sum for mere titles. Moyle Finch, her husband, was a knight and baronet in the days when these titles meant a good deal more than they do now. He is said to have rendered considerable service to the crown though exactly in what way is not stated. His wife, however, received her titles partly in recognition of her husband's services and partly for those of her father. Catherine Finch, mother to Moyle, was a daughter of Sir Thomas Moyle who died in 1560. He was Member of Parliament, Speaker, and also a distinguished lawyer. Catherine was his only daughter and a great heiress; she had a place called Mote, in Kent. With her the law and Parliamentary element may be said to have been introduced into the Finch family for which they later became so famous.

Letters and Writing Tempo James I.

There are few specimens of letters of the time of James I. at Burley, which is a decided misfortune. There is no signature or writing of the King himself. One letter of a public nature gives an example of such at this time. It is a copy of his own letter and written in his own hand in his diary, from Sir Heneage Finch to the Lord Keeper. It is in answer to an offer of the Speakership of the House of Commons, and runs thus:—

"It may please yr good Lordship, I am and ever shall be confident of yr noble favor to me that I did hope my humble suite when I lately waited upon yr Lordship might for this tyme have prevented my nominatie to this Imployment. Nevertheless I must acknewledge myself most infinitely bound to His Maty. for his grace and goodnesse to me, yt in so Public and Important a service it pleased him to take me into his princely thoughts. And if my ability were suitable to my humble desire to doe his maty service I should with much cheerfulness undertake this." (The next passage is obscure; it contains some reference to Buckingham who appears to have had something to do with the appointment. The letter ends thus)— "And I hope it will be no difference to his Maty if otherwise I must in this as in all things submitt myself to his Maty's royal will and pleasure. Your Lordship's in all humbleness to be commanded. Heneage Ffynche Eastwell 29 Dec 1625."

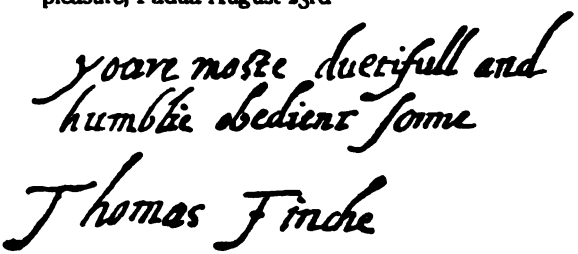
It would appear from this epistle that he wished to decline the office of Speaker, but later in the Diary he mentions that the Lord Keeper and Buckingham advised him not to try and dissuade the King from giving it him as he was His Majesty's own nominée. He, therefore, accepted and gives the heads of his first speech and other interesting information in his Diary. He writes in a species of crabbed Court hand, as if he intended to reconcile the old writing with modern; it is at any rate difficult to decipher.

As a specimen of the family letter of this reign, that of Thomas Finch to his father is a good specimen. The whole is not given as it is too long. It is addressed,—

"To the Right Worsh. and my verie loving Father, Sir Moile Finch Knight theise."

It is written from Padua where, doubtless, he was studying as was then the fashion at the University there. He speaks

"of the learning to ride with the favorable bestowage of the 20lb. extraordinaire for my purse besides my most humble thanks, my uttermost endeavours shall be ever studious to deserve it, as yett I have not begun to ride though I am in some form of agreement with an excellant rider in this town, which pleseth me much better than to turn back to florence or naples, since besides the charge and trouble of me moving to this place before seen. I shall be here in the equall hope of learning well and with much more commodities of my studies, for the best professors of the Cevill laws of Itallie leadinge. Shortelie in the schools I should willingly be the auditor, nevertheless reserving no other bill for myself than a desire to obey yr commands I shall rest in this place but till I hear yr further pleasure, Padua August 23rd



Your most duetiful and humblie obedient son Thomas Finche."

One cannot but be struck by the dutiful and submissive tone of children's letters to parents at this period, very different in tone from that of modern times. People may argue that these formalities allowed of little real affection or sympathy, but this was not the case, for history supplies many an instance of tender affection between husband and wife and parent and child.

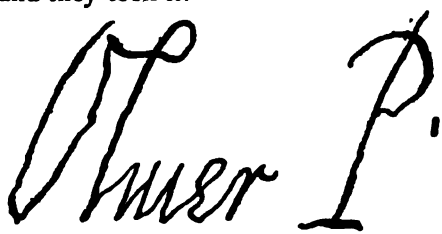
Thomas Finch wrote a very good hand, and used ordinary writing. He, however, signs his name in Court hand. His spelling is not so good as that of his brother Heneage or his father Sir Moyle; it is possible he was very young at the time of writing. He succeded his mother as Earl of Winchelsea.

LETTERS AND WRITING TEMPO CHARLES I.

Here again is an unfortunate blank in the MSS. at Burley, certainly in the shape of anything like a letter. This may

be acounted for by the Finches keeping very quiet during this troublous reign. They carefully abstained from taking any part in the rows with which their clever unscrupulous relation, Sir John Finch, the Lord Keeper, was mixed, and which eventually led to his having to fly the Kingdom. One interesting paper there is of this date, and that is a MSS. signed by Charles four months before he was beheaded, and another signed by the Commissioners of the Parliament. Charles wrote a very good hand, but the Commissioners sign their names all over the paper. They are for the most part untidy writers and even guilty of a large blot, and one name is quite undistinguishable.

During the Commonwealth there is the same unfortunate lack of correspondence. One can only account for it by concluding that the Finches were a very cautious race. They took no part, apparently, in the Civil Wars, and they would have nothing to do with the Commonwealth. They had, however, their reward, for with the Restoration came their chance, and they took it.



One signature is found of this date, namely, that of the Great Protector. It is at the end of a vellum MSS. to the Sultan of that day and concerns shipping. It is signed at the end "Oliver P." The writing is very shaky as if written in haste or fear.

PEARL FINCH.

THE BOOK OF OAKHAM SCHOOL.—Mr. Sargant has made an excellent beginning for a history of Oakham School by issuing, under the above-named title, many notes and much information relating to its past history. The book, which consists of 29 quarto pages of letterpress is interspersed with a number of excellent reproductions of photographs and pen and ink sketches, which make it much more interesting, the frontispiece being a copy of a sketch, by Mrs. Hassan, of the old Hospital which formerly stood on the site of the present school buildings.

Very little is said about the early history of the School prior to 1702, and we notice that the first list of Co-optative Governors is taken from Archdeacon Johnson's Will, 1623. The original charter of the School granted by Queen Elizabeth, containing a list of the first Governors, is, however, in existence, a copy of which we have handed to Mr. Sargant together with some interesting notes which will, no doubt, find a place in the contemplated second edition. A full list of the Governors 1710-1906, Headmasters 1585-1903, Ushers 1716-1864, and Exhibitioners 1706-1905 is included.

The ancient foundation of the School was reconstituted by the Charity Commissioners in 1872.

The seal of the School which is shown on the title page of the book is interesting It represents the schoolmaster with his usual and dreaded emblem sitting at a table attending to the instruction of his scholars, six of whom are depicted. The perspective is bad; but he is intended to be seen beneath a canopy and encaustic tiles from the floor of the school. Around the seal is, SIG - COM - GVBERN - SCHOLAR - ET - HOSPICIORVM - IN - OKEHAM - ET - VPPINGHAM - IN - COM' - RUTL.

Mr. Sargant is to be congratulated on his effort to bring together the scattered material for this portion of our local history and his hope that the book may attract more material which may be introduced in a second edition, to which we look forward with interest, will doubtless bear fruit.

The letterpress, paper, block printing and general get-up of the book reflects great credit on the printer, Mr. C. Matkin, and clearly indicates that there is no necessity to go beyond our own local press to obtain the very best specimens of typography.

NOTES ON SOME EDITH WESTON VILLAGE INSTITUTIONS.

THE *Rutland Magazine* has already done—and will doubtless continue to do—much to rescue from oblivion the many interesting and curious customs, phrases and institutions which our modern education is tending gradually to "improve" out of existence.

It is quite obvious that no time must be lost if we would preserve to posterity these local traditions, many of which even now exist only in the memories of the older inhabitants of our villages.

As a humble contribution to the collection of such local records, I offer the following notes in the hope that similar additions to our general store may be forthcoming from other villages before the opportunity for doing so passes away for ever.

I regret to say that of the three items dealt with, one only —namely the May-Day Song—still makes its annual appearance here; the other two have already disappeared into the shadows of the past, though only in the last few years, nor are the chances of their reappearing more than remote.

1. MAY-DAY SONG.

I have been tempted to include this in view of the interesting paper by Lady Francis Cecil in the last number of the Magazine. The song has been sung by the Edith Weston Mayers from time immemorial and it will be observed that it bears a sufficient resemblance to the version quoted by Lady Francis Cecil from Hone's *"Everyday Book"* to make its connection therewith evident, allowance being made for the inevitable variations due to the oral transmission of the words through many generations. I may add that it is now habitually sung (with delightful incongruity) to the tune *"The girl I left behind me"!*

We have been wandering all last night
And all last night we strayed,
Till we returning back again
Have brought you a branch of May.

A branch of May we've brought you here,
Before your door it stands,
It is the work that spreads abroad
The work of Our Lord's hands.

The gates of Heaven are open wide
To pass the deed of sin,
And when the Day of Judgment comes
The Lord will take you in.

And now my song is almost done,
I can no longer stay;
God bless you all, both great and small,
And send you a joyful May.

[N.B.—The second line of Stanza 3 has evidently become corrupted from its original version. It is suggested that it may have been "To pardon deeds of sin."]

2. "Rocksticks."

I have been unable to ascertain whether or not this annual celebration was ever universal throughout the county, but it certainly was in existence in this village until a very few years ago.

It carries us back to the early days of the old "Rutland Society of Industry" when part of the prizes given by that Society were for the encouragement of the art of Spinning. For the benefit of the uninitiated it may be explained that the "Rock" is the spinning-wheel and the "Rock-stick" the spindle from which the unspun flax or hemp is gradually drawn off by the operator with the aid of the wheel.

The competitors who had previously qualified to enter for the prizes, span for an hour and as soon as their "rocksticks" were cleared, the youthful "spinsters" would decorate them with ribbons and flowers and carry them round the village much in the manner of the May-Day Garland and with a similar object in view, namely, to collect money for a subsequent tea and jollification.

When spinning, as a home industry, died out and the spinning prizes were discontinued, "Rocksticks" (being considered too precious an institution to be lightly surrendered) continued to exist in a somewhat spurious form. The children who had been competing for the Industry Society's prizes for Shirt-making (which are still given, though the number of the competitors is decreasing) would, on the day on which their shirts were completed, decorate commonplace pieces of stick and perambulate the village therewith, requesting the benevolent to "remember the rocksticks." Though there was latterly an element of unreality about the affair, one willingly forgave this for the sake of its interesting associations. Since the children of this village ceased to compete for the Industry Society's prizes, the institution of "Rocksticks" has disappeared, I fear, for ever.

3. Morris-Dancers' Play.

Emulating the example set by Miss Cherry in vol. i. of the Magazine, I was fortunate enough to obtain the "book" of the Edith Weston Christmas Play just in the nick of time. The play has not been performed here for some seven or eight years and the member of the caste who kindly dictated the words to me has since left the village. Though several of his fellow performers have been able to furnish me with assistance in clearing up doubtful readings in certain passages, it is unlikely that anyone else would have been able to remember the whole of the Drama, and as it is improbable that it will ever be revived it is some satisfaction to have secured the words before they passed into oblivion. I have made no

attempt to "edit" the play, my endeavour having been to set it down exactly in the form in which I received it.

As an instructive example of the manner in which corruptions and variations creep in I may mention the word *Jamaica* in *King George's* second speech. My first informant gave me *Jimmy Coe*, and though he was unable to suggest any explanation of the words he insisted on their correctness. On referring to a second authority I was given *Jimaico*, while a third gave me *Jamaica*, which last agrees with the corresponding line in a version of the play published in Ditchfield's "*Old English Customs*," and is probably the original word. I subsequently learnt that *Jericho* was known as an alternative reading for *Jamaica*, a fact which might almost suggest that the author of the immortal "*Jabberwocky*" had been applying his "portmanteau" principle to the two words and had evolved "*Jemico*" therefrom!

To anyone who cares to compare the Edith Weston play with the Clipsham Plough Monday play or with some of the published versions of these Folk-dramas, it is quite evident that there is a strong general resemblance underlying the endless variations. *The Doctor* with his wonderful pills is an almost invariable feature, while the strange hybrid of *King* George and *Saint* George is another familiar character in the plays, as are also *Beelzebub* and the exalted personage usually referred to as the "*Proosia King*." I have failed to ascertain any derivation of the name *Albert Hart* and am inclined to think that as a character-name in Folk Drama he is new to science, though his counterpart under other appellations may be found elsewhere. I may explain that this play is not a Plough Monday Play but has invariably been performed at Christmas. The performers have always been known as "Morris-dancers," though "Mummers" would probably be a more accurate name for the actors in such a play.

EDITH WESTON MORRIS-DANCERS' PLAY.

CHARACTERS:—

King George.	Doctor.	Albert Hart.
King of Prussia.	First Man.	Beelzebub.

(Enter First Man).

First Man. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen all!
This is a merry Christmas that we have made bold to call,
Bold to call, I hope there's no offence;
As soon as our sport's ended we will begone hence.
I am the one that's never been before;
There are three merry actors that stand at the door,
They can both merrily dance and sing
And by your consent one shall walk in.

(Enter Beelzebub).

Beelzebub. In comes I, old Beelzebub,
On my shoulder I carry my club,
And in my hand a dripping-pan,
And don't you think I'm a funny old man?
My head is made of iron, my body's made of steel,
My knees are made of knucklebone, no man can make me feel.
Please walk in, King George.

(Enter King George).

King George. In comes I, King George, this noble knight,
I am come here to shed England's blood for England's right,
For England's right and for England's reason,
That has caused me to carry this unlawful weapon.
Please walk in, Mr. Prussia King.

(Enter King of Prussia).

K. of Prussia. In comes I, the real old Prussia King,
Many a battle have I been in
Both abroad and at home;
If you don't like to believe it you can leave it alone.

King George. I am King George, this Champion bold,
With my blood and spear I won three crowns of gold;
I fought the fiery dragon and brought him to the slaughter
And by that means I won the King of Egypt's eldest daughter.
I hacked him and smacked him as small as flies
And sent him to Jamaica to make mince-pies.
Mince pies hot and mince pies cold,
Mince pies in the pot, nine days old.

K. of Prussia (to King George). Pray, saucy fellow, hold your tongue
And tell me no more of your true lies!
Talk about hacking and smacking as small as flies
And sending to Jamaica to make mince-pies!
Pray, saucy fellow, hold your tongue
And tell me no more of your true lies!

King George. You will raise my blood, the first hearty thing;
I stand before you although you be a King.

K. of Prussia. No King am I, you plainly see,
But my sword-point shall answer thee.

King George. With your sword-point there is no doubt,
And if you like, we'll fight it out.
(They fight).

Beelsebub. Hullo! what's you two got fighting for?

K. of Prussia. Your honour.

Beelsebub. I never had any honour.
Fiddling and dancing is all my delight.
If you knock me down backwards you'll ruin me quite.

(King of Prussia and King George attack Beelsebub and knock him down).

King George (to K. of Prussia). Pretty fine job you've made of this poor fellow,
Killed him before you know what for!
Five pounds for the Doctor!

K. of Prussia. Ten to keep away!

King George. Saucy fellow like you to talk about Ten to keep away!
Fifteen pounds for the Doctor if he's not at home!

Doctor. (speaking outside). Sixpence for the first man that will hold my horse!
(Enters).

Doctor. In comes I, the Doctor.

King George. Are you the Doctor?

Doctor. Yes, I'm the Doctor—very good Doctor too,
Very well known both abroad and at home,
If you don't like to believe it you can leave it alone.

King George. Well done, Doctor where did you learn your education?

Doctor. France, Spain and many other foreign nations;
From the fire-side to the bed-side,
From the bed-side to the side of my old grandmother's cupboard,
That's where I've had many a bit of pie,
And that's the truth and no lie.

King George. Well done, Doctor! W'hat pains can you cure?
Doctor. I can cure the hicksy, picksy, palsy and gout,
Pains within and aches without,
Heal the sick and raise the blind,
And bring the dead to life again.
If an old woman tumbled down, fourscore and ten,
Broke her crookle bone or her arm, I could set it again.
King George. Well done, Doctor! Is that all you can cure?
Doctor. Well, no. Once when I was down in Derbyshire, there was an old woman; she tumbled upstairs. She grazed her shin-bone against her ankle and made her stocking bleed, and I cured that.
King George. Well done, Doctor! Well, I want you to try your experiment on this man. *(Points to Beelzebub)*
Doctor. Yes, sir; with your consent I will.
(Examines Beelzebub, putting on spectacles. Feels pulse and gives pills. Beelzebub moves).
There! I thought those pills would either bring him to life or send him further into death.
He's not dead, he's in a trance;
We'll raise him up and have a dance.
If he can't dance, we can sing,
We'll raise him up and now begin.
(Enter Albert Hart).
Albert Hart. In comes I, Albert Hart,
And I hope the Doctor's done his part.
For my Albert Hart and free goodwill
I am come here to drink his fill.
I haven't been here long, but still I'm here yet
With my large head and little wit.
My head's so great, my wit's so small,
But I can act the foolish part as well as them all.
(All march round and sing).
(1.) Good ladies and good gentlemen,
You see our Fool is gone;
We'll make it in our business
To follow him along.
We thank you for civility,
And what you've gave us here;
We wish you all good night
And another prosperous year.
(2.) [*Alternative.*]
Good masters and good mistresses,
You sit all round the fire
And think of us poor toiling boys
That have travelled through mud and mire.
The mud has been so very thick,
We've travelled both far and near;
We ask you for a Christmas box
And a little of your Christmas beer.

V. B. CROWTHER-BEYNON.

ANTIQUARIAN DISCOVERIES AT LEICESTER.—Antiquarian discoveries of considerable interest have been made during some excavations on the site of the old schools near St. Nicholas' Church, Leicester. Some three or four feet below the surface, the remains of an old wall were found, the fabric being about 12ft. in length and 3ft. thick. It is believed to be a relic of a Pagan temple, which, according to tradition, once occupied the site of St. Nicholas' Church. In close proximity was found the skeleton of a horse, together with three iron shoes, which despite their undoubted great age, have, curiously enough, a great similarity to those in modern use. A number of fragments of Samian ware, and a globular drinking bottle, probably of Saxon manufacture, have also been found.

Photo by] [*G. Phillips.*

BROOKE HOUSE: GREAT GATE & PORTER'S LODGE. (RUINS).

An Inventory of Household Goods and Farming Stock at Brooke House, Rutland. 1680.

INVENTORIES of the contents of old houses are not rare, those of modern ones very common. To-day houses and properties change their owners only too often, their contents are scattered to all the points of the compass, and a record of what they were remains only in such few copies of the catalogue as survive the sale.

Inventories are sad and silent witnesses of change, decadence and decay. The nobleman, the squire, the yeoman, mortgages his home and his acres to clear off debts, trusts, legacies or dowers, raises new loans to pay off old encumbrances, the embarrassed estate sinks deeper and deeper, and eventually the inevitable hammer falls.

Or again the owner goes to rest with his fathers, the executor steps in, with the auctioneer at his heels, and the accumulated furniture, plate and pictures of generations are dispersed to the four winds of heaven.

I have before me such an inventory, made apparently for Probate, of the effects left at Brooke House in Rutlandshire, on the death of Juliana, Viscountess Campden. This Lady was the daughter of Baptist, Viscount Campden, and married Lord Noel of Ridlington, who died in the Royalist garrison at Oxford in 1643. She survived him thirty-seven years and died at Brooke, aged 100, in 1650. She lies buried, with her husband, at Campden in Gloucestershire. Her grandson was created Earl of Gainsborough and from her are descended the present Earl and the Noel family.

This inventory is beautifully written on vellum, five inches wide, in pieces twenty-eight to thirty inches long each, which sewn together form a roll twenty-three feet six inches long. The ink is now a rich brown.

It is headed by a short preamble as follows. As is usual the spelling exhibits great variety, the same word being spelt in several different ways.

> "This inventory of all and singular the goods chattels and debts of the right honorable Julian Viscountess Dowager Campden late of Brooke in the County of Rutland widdow deceased taken valued and apprized in the yeare of our Lord God one Thousand six hundred and Eighty and in the two and thirtieth yeare of the Raiyne of our Soverayne Lord Charles the Second by the Grace of God of England Scotland ffrance and Ireland King defender of the faith ec by Thomas Marston Richard Mathews John Bennington and William Sharrard as follows. vizt"

N.B.—The years of the reign of Charles the Second may appear puzzling. This is because they are reckoned from the death of Charles the First in 1649, and not from 1661 when he actually ascended the throne.

The estimated values are shewn under the letters £ s. d. in Roman numerals.

Money at that time was probably worth about four times what it is now, so that the price of wool, put in this inventory at twenty shillings a tod, would be equivalent to about two and ten pence halfpennny per pound of our present money.

The silver plate is all taken at five shillings an ounce.

	£	s.	d.
Inpris. her wearing apparel Jewells and ready money valudd and apprized att	xx.		
Item a scarlett bed and furniture hangings chaires stooles and three trunkes of linen	cxix	x.	vi.
In the withdrawing room. Item a bed and furniture with chaires stooles drawers and Cabbinetts and other small things	lx.	ix.	iiij.
In the purple chamber. Item a purple bed and furniture with tables chaires stooles with other convenients	liij.	xij.	ix.
In the inner chamber to the purple room Item a bed bolster pillowes and other furniture.	xij.	xiij.	viij.
In the red chamber. Item red bed with a bedstead and all other furniture as hangings chaires stooles and other necessaries	liiij.	x.	
In the inner roome. Item a feather bed bolster and furniture and other implements	v.	iij.	xj.
In my Ladyes Chamber. Item two beds with chaires stooles and all other necessaries befitting the place with boxes drawers and other necessaries in the closett	c.	xij.	vij.
In the nursury. Two beds, bedsteads and all necessary furniture some pictures and a trunke	x.		
In the next room to it. Item a bed and a table with other necessaries	iij.	vj.	iiij.
In the Darning Chamber. Item a bed a couch a livery cupboard with chaires stooles and other necessaries	xij.		
In the inner roome. Item a bed bedstead and other utensils	ij.	xiij.	viij.
In my Ladyes Library. Item Two faire Bibles a curious large Herball with many other bookes and curiosities	c.		
In the great Dyninge room. Item a large Table with Chaires stooles Carpetts fire irons a cloth of silver Couch pictures and other necessaries and hangings	cij.	iij.	vj.
In the withdrawing roome to the dyning roome. Item a suite of hangings a chimney piece a couch a large looking glasse with chaires and stooles and other necessaries	liij.	iiij.	ix.
In the three bed chamber. Item three bed with theire furniture a table with a livery cupboard and a press wherein is a black velvet pillion cloth and two Turky worke carpetts a new feather bed Tick and bolster with vallence of guilt Leather and other Lumber	xij.	iij.	iv.
On the top of the staires. Item two old feather beds and chest and other lumber	ij.	x.	
In the two bed chamber. Item two beds and bedsteads a cupboard and other lumber	iiij.		

	£	s.	d.
In the baleifs chamber. Item a bed, bedstead and furniture with all lumber	ij.	v.	ix.
In the butlers chamber. Item two beds and bedsteads a little round table and other lumber	iij.	ix.	iiij.
In the Mayds chamber. Item two beds and bedsteads with their furniture and two airing panns	iij.	v.	iij.
In the Warderop. Item three bedsteads with feather beds and bolsters with other convenients	v.	ij.	ij.
On the top of the staires by the Warderop. Item a table a chest and a Trunke	j.		
In the Stewards chamber. Item a feather bed with bolsters pillowes curtains vallence a table and all other necessaries for the chamber	iiij.	ix.	iiij.
In Mr. Hall's chamber. Item a bed bedstead curtains and vallence two tables and other necessaries	iij.	ij.	ix.
In the Launderry. Item two tables six trunkes and a presse	j.	xv.	
In the low parlour. Item a bed and bedstead with all other necessaries	iij.	ix.	vij.
In the stillhouse. Item three stills three tables with all other conveniences	ij.	ix.	viij.
In the chaplains chamber. Item a bed bedstead a table with other necessaries	iij.	x.	xj.
In the pasterry. Item three tables a dresser and shelves with other lumber	j.	x.	
In the Kitchin. Item three dressers ten spits a jack and all other necessaries	vj.	x.	
In the Scullary. Item pewter dishes and trenchers plates candlesticks and other conveniences of pewter and brass	xv.		
In the dry larder. Item tables trays a seife and other lumber	j.	iij.	iiij.
In the wet larder. Item a leaden teshurne five tubbs two dressers and an old copper	iij.	v.	
In the Great Hall. Item three tables six foormes seaven furnishings a serving cupboard and twelve peices of Lanskipp and a clock with a great bible	xij.	iij.	ix.
In the Lower dyning Roome. Item a table two side bords a couch a great chaire sixteene stooles thirty pictures a great Bible Speeds Maps and his chronicle a suite of Arras hangings a great Turky worke carpett with other necessaries	xxx.		
In the withdrawing roome to the lower dyning roome. Item nineteen large pictures a table a couch a lookeinge glasse with chaires and stooles	lxx.	xj.	vj.
In the small beer cellar. Item thirtynine hogsheads with Tressels and other lumber	x.		
In the strong Beere cellar. Item thirteen hogsheads with Thralls and other lumber	iij.	x.	
In the Panterry. Item silver plate a Voyder and Voyding knife weighing one hundred and seventy three ounces and six penny weight at five shillings per ounce and four			

	£	s.	d.
dozen of silver trencher plates weighing twelve ounces and nineteen penny weight apiece and twelve silver saucers weighing foure ounces apeice a great silver salt seller weighing forty two ounces and twelve penny weight four silver Trencher salts weighing two ounces apiece two silver Tunns and two silver Bowles foure silver Forkes fourteen silver spoones weighing in all nine hundred and thirty four ounces at five shillings per ounce	cijxxx.	iij.	x.
Item two tables two glass cases a bread binne a churn and other lumber	j.	x.	
In the wine cellar. Item four hogsheads with runlets and thirty dozen of bottles	vj.	xv.	ix.
In the Panterry. Item more plate forty silver dishes and many other pieces of plate guilt wrought and plaine	cviilx.	vj.	x.
In the Store Chamber. Item six carpetts two feather beds a greate cheste an ould couch with other lumber	vij.	x.	
In the Territt at the greate gates being the porters lodge. Item a bed bedstead and furniture	j.	xviii	
In the Brewhouse. Item a coope five fatts and several other tubbs and other lumber	xx.		
In the boulting house. Item a boulting mill two bolsters and ceives and other lumber	ij.	v.	ix.
In the Brewers chamber. Item a bedstead with cloaths to fitt it	j.	xij.	v.
In the poulterry and in the severall roomes for the convenience of feeding pullen. Item panns and troughs	j.	ij.	vij.
In the dayry. Item a cheeze presse and foure brasse panns and divers other earthen and wooden vessells for milke	ij.	iv.	iij.
In the wash house. Item a Builing tubb a churn with other tubbs and lumber	iiij.	v.	ix.
In the Stable chamber. Item two beds and bedsteads and furniture and a sadle rack with other lumber	iij.		
In the Stables. Item foure sadle horses six coach horses with all necessaries thereunto belonging	cv.	iiij.	ix.
In the coachhouse an ould coach	v-		
In the little chamber next the corn chamber Item a bed bedstead and bed clothes	j.	iij.	
In the Greate Parke. Item fifty deare of Antter with dayrie numero seventeen and a Bull Stagg	liiij.		
In the Red deare Parke. Item nine Bullocks one and thirty sheepe foure Haycocks	xcvi.	xiii.	iiij.
In the neather grounde. Ten sheepe foure cows and foure haystacks	xxix.		
In the High Field. Item nineteen cowes and eighty Lambs and three haystacks	cxviiij.		
In the new field. Item fifteen beastes forty eight lambs one and thirty sheepe and two haystacks	cxviij	xij.	viii.
In Johnsons Close. Item twenty eight lambs and one haystack	xiij.	iiij.	

	£	s.	d.
In the ploughedd dale. Item three beastes twenty nine lambs and a haystack	xxiiij.	xij.	
In the ploughedd dale meddow. Item twenty lambs and a haystack	xxij.		
In the Barne close. Item ninety two lambs nine Beastes and five haystacks	xciij.	x.	
In the Raile Close. Item nineteen Bullocks three hundred and fifteen sheepe two cowes and one haystack	ciij.	xviij.	v.
In Lyfield. Item one hundred and fifty two sheepe and two haystackes	cvij.	vj.	viij.
In Lyfield meadows. Item seaven beasts two ewes and two haystacks	xxxiij.	xiij.	iiij.
In Panks his close. Item one hundred forty eight sheep foure heifers and two haystacks	cxiij.	xiij.	iiij.
In Panks his meadow. Item forty foure Lambs seaven beastes and two haystacks	xlvj.	xvj.	
In dry Hill. Item one hundred seaventy two sheepe and eight Beastes	cxix.	x.	
In Wards closes. Item sixty two lambs foure heifers and foure haystacks	xliij.	xiij.	
In fflitteries great great ground. Item three hundred and twenty two sheepe foure mares two foales three haystacks	ccxxiij.	iiij	
In fflitteries meadowes. Item eighty foure lambs one ewe five heifers three haystacks	liiij.		
In the Deare Barne. Item hay valued and apprized at		ij.	
Item timber lyinge in the Parke valued and apprized at		iiij.	
Item oates Wheate and Barley valued and apprized at	xx.		
Item the Wagons Carts ploughs Harrowes Ladders and other implements for husbandry valued and apprized at	xiij.		
In the Barne. Item hay and barley valued and apprized at	xxv.		
In the corne chamber. Item Wheate Barley pease oates and mault valued and apprized at	xxiiij.		
In the woole chamber. Item two hundred tod of woole valued and apprized at	cc.		
In the yard. Item fifteen swine valued and apprized at	vij.	x.	
Item a plough timber and other implements for that use valued and apprized at	iij.	vj.	viij.
Summa totalis hujus Inventarij	M C xxiiij ij	£. xxx.	s. xvij.	d. v.

(*i.e.* Twenty-four thousand, two hundred and thirty pounds, seventeen shillings and fivepence).

At the bottom is an endorsement in legal Latin which seems to run :—

> "Exhibitium fuit hermoi Inventarium vicesimo quinto die mensie ffebruary anno dni (Stylo Anglio) millimo Septemno et Octogemo p meum Johem Hill procurat pro Execut et pro veropleus ecxsecto Judris. et sub protestacions tamen de addendo ex sigt Marcus Cottle, Regs.tr."

W. F. N. NOEL.

The Great House,
North Nibley, Gloucestershire.

CONCERNING THE GILDED SHOE, "CLINKER," IN OAKHAM CASTLE.

IN the season of Lent, in the year 1873, I found myself toiling up a very steep hill in the Cotswold range behind a very old omnibus from which most of the male passengers had descended to ease the horses on the steep ascent. We had left the town of C—— some miles behind, where was the nearest railway station, and were on the road to one of the many old-fashioned market towns of Gloucestershire. On arrival at the summit, the passengers resumed their seats on the coach and then we began the descent. But, as seen from the box-seat beside the driver, the view which now opened before us was magnificent. The wide circle of hills were still covered with snow, and were resplendent with the golden sheen of the rising moon as it appeared over the distant hilltops, for it was late in the afternoon, and as we went forward, I wondered why English people went abroad to seek for recreation and scenery, while here, in their own country, were some charming quiet spots scarcely heard of or known by the general public. Until a few days before, I had never heard of the place I was approaching, or if I had read of it in the Early English Chronicles, the ancient form of the name had obscured its identity. Presently, its large, handsome parish church came in sight, and then I remembered to have read in a circular recently put out to solicit subscriptions for the restoration of the church, that more than a thousand years ago an abbey had been founded there, and Anglo-Saxon Princes had been in residence and Kings had held Court in that ancient parish. I was feeling deeply interested at all I looked upon as we entered the old fashioned town, containing about the same population as Oakham, when the omnibus stopped at the Rectory gate, for it was there I had to get down. I was invited to spend two or three days with the Rector.

The Rector received me very cordially, and he having been formerly a Naval Chaplain, I found in him a very entertaining host, and we had a very pleasant evening. We were not alone: there were present some other visitors and one or two leading parishioners. To my thinking, soldiers and sailors always make good company. Early next day we attended one of the special Lenten services at the parish church in which I took part. This gave me an opportunity of seeing the grand old parish church built in the Early English and Tudor styles. It was one of those fine sacred fanes which are the glory of our land. But this was by no means all to be seen in this interesting parish. A mile or less away from the little town was an ancient castle snugly

situated under the shelter of the adjacent hills, and belonging to it was another church, a perfect gem. This castle and its church we visited after the morning service. The castle had ceased to belong to the nobleman whose title was derived therefrom, and it had passed into the possession of one of our merchant princes. The more's the pity! But if our English nobility, by extravagance and folly, let slip their ancient demesnes, it matters little to the public, whereas it must matter much to them and to their descendants. Still no right-minded Englishman can regard such transfers without deep regret, for I believe that, as a rule, our countrymen are proud of their old nobility. The church, as I have said, was a perfect gem, and its series of beautiful stained-glass windows were of historic character, illustrating the lives of bygone saints and heroes connected with the abbey and manor. The Rector had much to be proud of, for surely the lines had fallen to him in pleasant places. And yet there was more to see. In the afternoon we visited another small hamlet, where was a brand new church of pretty design the walls of which, I remember, the Rector himself was decorating, for he was a bit of an artist. Altogether it will be seen that my host occupied a very unique position and was evidently widely respected.

It was in the evening of this second day, as we sat alone in his study the last thing before retiring, that he said to me, "I have gathered from your conversation to-day that you know Rutland." "Yes," I said, "I am a native of that county, although I have lived in it very little, yet I sometimes visit there." "Do you know the town of Oakham?" he enquired. "Oh, yes!" I replied, "Quite well." Then he said, "Did you ever hear the story of the Gilded Shoe?" "Do you mean," said I, "the shoe 'Clinker,' which was stolen many years ago, and then, after the lapse of many years, sent back?" "That's it," he said. "Yes," I answered, "I have heard of that."

Yes, I had heard of my forbears about that shoe, but it was before I was born that it was stolen. To be exact, as I have ascertained since, it was in the year 1840 that the shoe was given to the Castle by Lord Willoughby de Eresby, in compliance with the ancient custom peculiar to the town of Oakham, that the first time a peer of the realm passes through the town he must give a horse shoe, and this shoe was, I believe, taken from the foot of Lord Willoughby's favourite horse, Clinker, was gilded and then placed on the Castle wall, just over the doorway leading into the Grand Jury Room. In the year 1843 it was stolen, and, fifteen years later, in the year 1858, it came back by post, with the request that its arrival might be acknowledged in the "Standard" newspaper. It was thought at Oakham that the thief had mistaken it for pure gold, and then, after finding out his mistake, had found an opportunity of sending it back. This explanation sufficed to satisfy the simple-minded, but that was not the case. In

the same parcel with the gilded shoe was found a paper on which were written the following verses:—

"Go, golden shoe, from this my dwelling go:
I send thee back to Oakham. Go thy way,
And if, as I believe, affections grow
In lengthened absence, then will Oakham say,
Welcome, dear truant; welcome back with joy,
Softly each bright eyed damsel will exclaim;
Welcome, will shout each grown up man and boy;
Welcome, will lisp each venerable dame.
Thou'rt welcome back; yet fain would we unravel,
If we but could, thy intermediate history;
Where hast thou been? Where hast thou chanced to travel
Since you forsook us in such sudden mystery?
We must not part again: fearful and jealous
Of future separation, we will fix
Thy gilded form amongst thy glittering fellows
Firmer than ever through the wood and bricks.
There to remain, while Oakham lasts, I trusts,
"Vexata questio," to each sage old thinker,
Who'll wonder and will wonder, yet he must
But be as wise as ever about CLINKER!"

"Well," said my host, "if you will promise to keep the secret, I will tell you who stole that shoe." "Yes," I said, "I promise not to tell." "Well," said the Rector, after a pause, "It was I who stole that shoe." As I regarded the grave and reverend divine who sat before me, and thought of the story of 'Clinker,' I was greatly amused. I believe I laughed outright, and my interest was aroused to hear more. Then the Rector proceeded to tell how, that he was a boy at Oakham Grammar School, and he had with him a younger brother. One day they had been out to play cricket on the field behind the gaol (which institution has since been demolished, for, apparently, the morals of the people of Oakham, and of Rutland generally, have so improved that it was thought no longer necessary, and now only the older inhabitants will remember it). When on their return to the School House, they came through the Castle grounds, they observed that a window of the Castle was open. The temptation was great for them to make their way in, and, having accomplished this feat, they looked about for something they might carry away as a memento of their visit. The peg over the Judge's seat attracted their attention. I believe my host told me, it was used by the Judge to hang up his black cap, when occasion needed, prior to his passing sentence of death on any prisoner. But the peg was fixed so tightly that, with all their efforts, they could not get it out. It was put there when the British workman did his work well and didn't scamp it, and the peg is there to this day, having survived several generations of men. They had to give up their thoughts of capturing the peg. They next looked round for some other portable object and their eyes fell upon 'Clinker,' then glittering in its freshly gilded coat. It was not easy to reach, being over the doorway, but these schoolboys soon found a way to get it. One

mounted the other's shoulders, took it down, and it was carried home to the School House, where it was hidden away under a loose board in the dormitory, which gave a secret receptacle for many forbidden things. Should this meet the eye of the present Head Master, let him not excite himself with the thought that there may be such secret receptacles now, or deem it necessary to make a tour of the dormitories to examine each plank, for have I not said that the morals of the inhabitants of the town have since improved, and such ways are hardly followed by the present generation! It was when we were boys, and before our days, that such things were done. Schoolboys now are better. At least I am an optimist. But there were some bad boys in Oakham in those earlier days. I could once reckon up a dozen names of boys of about that generation, or a little earlier, who out of which dozen three made their way to the House of Lords, although born sons of country clergy only, and two, yes! two, with the same school and college opportunities, graduated on the treadmill and ended their days in a convict prison. Didn't a Bishop once tell me, and before I had heard the story of 'Clinker,' that when he was at Oakham he was a bad boy? He used to climb one of the water spouts of Oakham Church to get on the roof, and pelt with stones the passers-by, popping down to hide, immediately after, behind the parapet, while the passers-by wondered where the stones came from, and he, with others, delighted also to annoy certain old maiden ladies who lived in a corner house, facing the Church-yard, which had window shutters that buttoned back against the wall. These, the mischievous boys would unfasten and shut to, while the old ladies inside would stand litting their hands appealingly against being put in total darkness. But this bad boy became in after years a very devout Bishop, and his climbing propensities found scope on Alpine summits. Altogether, Oakham School turned out four Bishops, all of whom have, I believe, passed away. The boys who carried off 'Clinker' did not rise to any such eminence, but they attained good positions, and served their God and country in their generation.

There was a great hue and cry raised in Oakham town when 'Clinker' was found to be missing, and the boys of the Grammar School were not forgotten. The constable called, the boys were paraded in a body, the question was put to them, "Did anyone know anything about the shoe, 'Clinker'?" and there was silence, and the shoe lay quiet in its secret place in the dormitory for some considerable time, for years, until its possessor moved off to the University, and he took the shoe away with him. Having completed his course at the University, he was thinking of taking Holy Orders when the possession of the shoe troubled him, and he prepared to send it back. But his brother was also preparing to enter the Navy and he would not let him have it, but said

he would stick to the shoe. Years had passed away and the Crimean war came on. The hero of my story was sent away with the fleet to the Baltic, and, probably, his brother, and, whether it was the clerical brother or the officer I do not remember, but it was when the war-ships were off Bomarsund one evening at mess, the story of 'Clinker' was related, and George Tryon, afterwards Admiral of the Fleet, who perished so sadly in the Mediterranean as the result of his own mistaken command, was present, and declared he would split against them, by telling his father who was a Governor of Oakham School. Soon after, apparently, the naval brother came home and married, or settled down and then he bethought himself about the shoe and resolved to return it to Oakham. The two brothers then joined together in composing the above verses, and the shoe, 'Clinker,' was sent back. Its arrival created great astonishment, and it was, I believe, duly announced, as requested, in the "Standard" newspaper, and 'Clinker' was restored to its place and fastened, where it is to-day,

"Firmer than ever through the wood and bricks,
There to remain, while Oakham lasts, I trusts."

Some years later, in 1878 it was, I was visiting in Rutland with my wife, and we went to Oakham Castle. I saw the shoe and was telling her its story, and informed her that I knew the man, and, in fact she knew him too, as well as his brother, the Captain, who was a near neighbour of her father, when the keeper of the Castle pestered me sorely to tell him who it was, but, as I said, "I promised I would never tell." At our final departure, as we stood under the chestnut tree which grows in front of the Castle, and he was cutting me a slip, which he then cut obliquely below a joint and revealed a perfect impression of a horse shoe, for me to carry away as a memento, he urged me again to tell, but I said "No!"

More years passed, it was in 1900, after a sharp attack of illness, I was again in Rutland, and this time staying in lodgings at Langham with my eldest daughter, when we went down to see the Castle. The former keeper was gone, he was deceased, I was told, and his widow showed us over. I was telling my daughter the story, while standing under the gilded shoe, when I said I knew the man who took it away, and the widow of our former guide spoke up and said "The gentleman was here the other day, Sir." I asked his name but she could not remember it. Then she related how, that, not many days before, two clergymen came in and they both stood before the horse shoe, one a little in front of the other. They stood some time gazing up at it in perfect silence. Doubtless, the one was doing penance, like Dr. Johnson, who stood in the rain, in the Market Place of Uttoxeter, on the spot where he had once disobeyed his father, when the old lady volunteered the information that the shoe was once stolen. After a while, the clergyman standing behind put

his hand on the shoulder of his comrade and said, "This is the man who stole it."

I said "Can't you tell me his name?" "No," she could'nt remember it. I replied, "Then I can't tell you, for I promised I would never tell, but if you know his name and can tell me, I will say whether you are right. "Oh, mother," said her son, who was in another part of the hall, "I know the name, he said he was the Rector of ——," but no, the right name didn't come. "No, it was a peculiar name," said the young man, "and I don't just remember it." "Then I can't tell you," said I. "But, mother," he said, "I can find it, for they both wrote their names in the Visitors Book and I put a mark round them so that I should not forget." So we followed him across the hall to see the Visitors Book, espying in a corner as we went the ancient gallows, on which, sure enough, the gentleman would have been hanged if he had lived in an earlier generation and his theft had been discovered. After a brief search the names were discovered, placed in a cartouche like to the names of the Egyptian monarchs, and there was the name sure enough of my old friend who entertained me so pleasantly in the Gloucestershire town. And, yet I have kept my promise, for while I believe all the parties are dead, I said "I would never tell." Suffice it to say, that the one who took the shoe bore for a Christian name the surname of the other, and from my knowledge of the history of Leicestershire, I believe them both to have been descended from a very old Leicestershire family of noble character, if not of lineage.

I have omitted to say that on my visit to Oakham in 1878 I bought a photograph which gave 'Clinker' right in the middle of it, and I sent it to my friend and jokingly said it would remind him of the sins of his youth, which I hoped he had repented of, and he replied that he had repented of those sins long ago.

MESSING RUDKIN.

March, 1906.

PRE-HISTORIC RELICS AT STAMFORD.—MR. HENRY PRESTON, F.G.S., of Grantham, has made an examination of the pre-historic relics recently found in Mr. John Woolston's quarries at Casterton, Stamford. The curios included a skull and portions of a human skeleton, a stone celt or axe, some fragments of pottery, and several small slabs of stone, which appear to have been bored and used as sinker weights. MR. PRESTON says that the stone celt is made out of a fine-grained green slate or hornstone. It is of beautiful workmanship, and polished, and indicates a very late date in the Newer Stone Age. Seeing that the celt was found near the body, it may be well supposed that the two are contemporaneous, in which case the skeleton may represent an early inhabitant of this country, dating back to anything from 1,500 to 500 B.C. These discoveries, MR. PRESTON thinks, may represent some early searcher after the iron-stone concretions, who chanced to work on a weak place overlaying

an open fissure, and suddenly fell through. The body was discovered 27½ feet below the surface, in one of the fissures. The fragments of pottery all belong to a later date, one flat piece seeming to be part of a green glazed Mediæval tile, and there are a number of fragments of green glazed pottery of the sixteenth century type. All these fragments, as well as the sinker stones, have crept down in the course of years as solution has gone on, and to the same cause must be attributed the presence of glacial boulders which, together with the pot-sherds, were found in the clay immediately above the skeleton.

There is no true boulder clay in the immediate locality, the glacial boulders being the remnants probably of a covering of such clay which has long been removed by sub-aerial denudation.

MR. PRESTON thinks the discovery of surpassing interest, although difficult of full explanation, owing to the presence of a pre-historic stone implement, together with fragments of Mediæval pottery; but there is no ground for supposing an earlier age for any of the human remains than 1,500 B.C., and they might be much later.—*"Yorkshire Post,"* Oct. 28th, 1905.

THE RUTLAND ARCHÆLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

AT the first meeting of the present year, which was held at Oakham on February 10th, an interesting Lecture on "Examples of Saxon Church Architecture" was given by MR. R. W. WYLIE, and illustrated by lantern slides. These slides were prepared by MR. WYLIE from his own photographs, and provided a quite unique exhibition. They numbered about 140, and it is difficult to single out any special views where all were uniformly interesting and characteristic examples of the earliest types of ecclesiastical architecture in this country. Our best known local specimens (such as the Market Overton Tower arch, the tower of Barnack, etc.) received due recognition, while such far-distant buildings as Kirkdale (Yorks.) and Deerhurst (Glos.) were also shown. MR. WYLIE'S comments on the slides, based mainly on Prof. BALDWIN BROWN'S classification in his "Arts in Early England," were a great assistance to the audience in enabling them to appreciate the various points which each slide was intended to display, and altogether, the Society are under great obligations to MR. WYLIE for his kindness in delivering the Lecture at Oakham. MR. G. PHILLIPS kindly manipulated the Lantern on the occasion.

On April 7th, a meeting was held at the Mission Room, Ketton, (by permission of MR. HOLLINS) when an interesting paper was read by MR. G. PHILLIPS on "Horse-shoe Folk Lore." The speaker had much curious and entertaining matter to communicate on a subject which must ever have a special interest for Rutlanders. Doubtless, readers of the *Magazine* will, ere long, have an opportunity of reading this paper in full in these pages, so we refrain from summarising it in this column. The paper led to an interesting discussion, in the course of which MR. IRONS imparted some additional facts concerning the well known Oakham Horse Shoe Custom, and others contributed notes on the superstitious aspect of the subject.

The Annual Meeting of the Society will take place at Oakham in May.

INSTITUTIONS TO THE RECTORY OF STOKE DRY.

Date of Institution.	*Rector.*	*Patron.*
1220	Majr. Clement de Melchebourne.—Letters having been received from the King (Henry III.) who had recovered the right of patronage against Gilbert de Hannill, and Ralph de Wickham renouncing the right which he said that he had in the said patronage. Instituted "with the obligation of coming to the next Ordination that he might be ordained sub-deacon."	The Prior of the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem in England.
1237	Walter de Liwell, sub-deacon	do.
——	Elyas de Beckingham	
1277	Gilbert de St. Licyus, sub-deacon on resignation of Elyas de Beckingham	Brother John do.
1280	Robert de Sutton on resignation of Elias de Beckingham transferred to Warmington	Bro. Wm. de Hamele, Master of the Hospital of Jerusalem in England.
1282	Gilbert son of Richard on resignation of Robert de Sutton, inst. to a mediety of Claypole ...	The Prior of do.
1307-8	Richard son of David Jordan de Opington, acolite on dec. of Gilbert de Ketelby	do.
1341	William de Longedon, Vicar of Dowbrigge, Dio. Coventry and Lichfield on exchange with above.	do.
——	Robert de Belton	
1355	John de Belton, clerk, on resignation of above exchanged to a mediety of St. Bartholomew's Chapel, Thetford	do.
1366	John de Banneberg, presbr. on resig. of above exchanged to St. Peter's, Torksey	do.
——	William Snell	
1406	John Kyng, presbr. on resig. of above exchanged to Hocklyffe Hospital, Mar. 30	do.
1406	Robert Germethorp, presbr, on resig. of above exchanged to Woolverton Vic.	do.
1418	Bartholomew de Knipton on exchange of above for Hamerton Rectory	do.
	Vacant.	
1432	Thomas Walton, presbr.	do.
1438	John Dyconson, cler., by his proctor Thos. Brigg, cler. on resig. of above	do.
1446	Richard Atte-Kirke, presbr. on resig. of above ...	do.
1465	John Atter Kirke, presb. on resig. of above ...	
	Vacant.	
1473	Richard Smythe, presb.	do.
1505	Thomas Dalison, L.L.B. presb. on dec. of above...	do.
1513	Thomas Webster on resig. of above. Pension of 4 marcs.	do.
1529	Majr. Ermestede, S.T.B. on resig. of R. Repe ...	do.
——	William Dgbbys, presbr., ...	Richard Johns, Citizen and Scissors merchant of London, by grant pro hac vice from.
——	Ds. W. Wyllys	do.
1560	Nov. 21. Nicholas Swanne	do.
1571	Nov. 21. Johnes Whitehead	do.
1583	Mar. 7. Robert Rudd	Kenelm Digby.
1615	Jan. 4. Humfrey Stevens, M.A., on dec. of above	Andrew Knight, Yeoman, by grant from Lady Mary Digby, widow.
1615	Dec. 24. Humfrey Stevens, M.A.	Kenelm Digby, Knt.
1664	May 10. Ralph Ruddle, Cl.	do.
1689	Sep. 18. William Roose, M.A.	Catherine Roose, patroness for this turn.
1736	June 26. Benjamin Bonner, B.A., on dec. of above	John Conduitt.
1742	June 1. Montague Barton, B.A., on resig. of above	John Wallop, Esq.
1755	June 11. Charles Lawrence, M.A., on cession of above	Thomas Powys of Lilford.
1772	Feb. 29. Edward Whitwell, B.A. on dec. of above	do
1791	Mar. 4. Henry Shield. M.A. on dec. of above ...	Marquis of Exeter.
1840	Mar. 19. Charles Henry Swann, M.A.	do.
1854	Nov. 13. William Hamilton Thompson, M.A., on dec. of above	do.
1849	April 23. William Campbell, M.A.	do.
1903	Jan. 16. George Thurston, M.A.	do.

The patronage passed from the Digbys to John Conduitt in 1736, and successively to John Wallop in 1742, and Thomas Powys in 1755, who also presented in 1772. The next presentation took place in 1791, when Brownlow Cecil, Earl of Exeter, became the patron, and the living has since that time been in the family of the present Marquis of Exeter, who is lord of the manor and sole landowner of Stoke Dry.

THE CHURCH is interesting, though not very large. It consists of nave, with north and south aisles, chancel and south chantry chapel, north and south porches, the former having over it a small chamber or parvise, and small west tower.

The present church has examples of all the Gothic styles, but there is a large preponderance of Geometrical or Early Decorated, the church having been nearly rebuilt early in the 14th century. The rebuilding at various times appears to have been so extensive and thorough that much evidence of early work has been obscured if not destroyed and, therefore, the blanks have to be filled in mainly by conjecture. It is evident that there was, originally, a Norman church. The Norman work, however, seems to be of two periods. The string course under the window on the north side of the chancel is rude in the extreme. There is also a string course of the original church on the outer side of the south wall of the chancel, now inside the chantry. The pillars of the chancel arch are most laboriously and intricately carved and offer a striking contrast. This work can hardly be contemporary with the string courses. It appears from fifty to eighty years later. The string, perhaps, dates about 1100 and the pillars 1160 or 1170, but it is very uncertain whether either of the shafts or the strings are *in situ*.

From an antiquarian point of view the two shafts of the chancel arch are probably the most interesting objects in the church. They are covered with grotesque sculpture, pourtraying human figures, animals, foliage, scrolls, etc. The cushion capital, on the north side, which is richly ornamented, remains, as well as the upper half of the shaft. The lower part of the shaft has disappeared; it is said to have been destroyed to make room for a high backed pew. On the south side the early capital is missing, but the shaft is complete. The capital on the north side contains a winged figure, holding a book, and wearing what may be alb and chasuble. The shaft on the south side has a representation of a man ringing a bell. A writer on "The Grotesque in Church Art" says:—"We may expect in Norman grotesque some reference to ancient mystics; the forms are bold and rugged, such appearance of delicacy as exists being attained by interlacing lines in conventional patterns."

What the symbolical meaning of the figures may be we are unable to ascertain, but it has been suggested that the

grovelling figure underneath the ringer is intended for Satan running away from the Sanctus bell. Whether or not this may be the explanation, there can be no doubt that symbolism was accepted and believed to be of much importance at a very early period. Durandus, in the thirteenth century, attached a symbolical meaning to almost everything connected with a church, even down to the bell rope. He informs us that "evil spirits are much afraid of bells" and of the bell rope says, "The rope by which the tongue is moved against the bell is humility, or the life of the preacher, and the same rope also showeth the measure of our life."

The drawings on the next page show the suggested growth of the church. The original church (Fig. 1) consisted of a small Norman nave and a short square chancel. This is indicated by the string course, supposing it to be *in situ,* not extending the whole length of the present chancel.

Whether a Norman north aisle was the first extension of the church is uncertain. The present Decorated aisle is very narrow for one of that date (14th century) and it may have taken the place of the Norman one and be on the Norman foundations. Undoubtedly a north aisle would come first. (Fig. 2).

The next extension was the south aisle. This was, originally, Early English of the 13th century, as is shown by the pillars of the arcade still remaining. The responds are of the same style and the nave was as long then as it is now. (Fig. 3). There was probably no tower at this time; only a bell-cot, as in so many Rutland churches. The Early English west window of the tower was probably the west window of the nave and was moved when the lower stages of the tower were built.

Early in the 14th century, about 1320, such great changes and additions were made as to amount to almost complete rebuilding. The north aisle was built, (or rebuilt, if there was a previous Norman one); the south aisle walls were wholly reconstructed and probably much widened. The chancel was transformed to the prevailing style, and the fine south chantry chapel erected. The west front was also apparently rebuilt further west than the Norman nave west wall. The lower stages of the tower were probably then built. (Fig. 4). The west window, taken by itself, appears to be Early English, 13th century work, but the tower arch is 14th century and clearly contemporary with the lower stages of the tower.

The north porch, with parvise over, is a good and picturesque example of uncommon work in ecclesiastical buildings. It is very late Perpendicular of the Tudor period, probably of the beginning of Henry VIII's reign. It is of the last phase of Gothic work. The outer door of

Photo. *G. Phillips.*

PILLARS, CHANCEL ARCH: STOKE DRY.

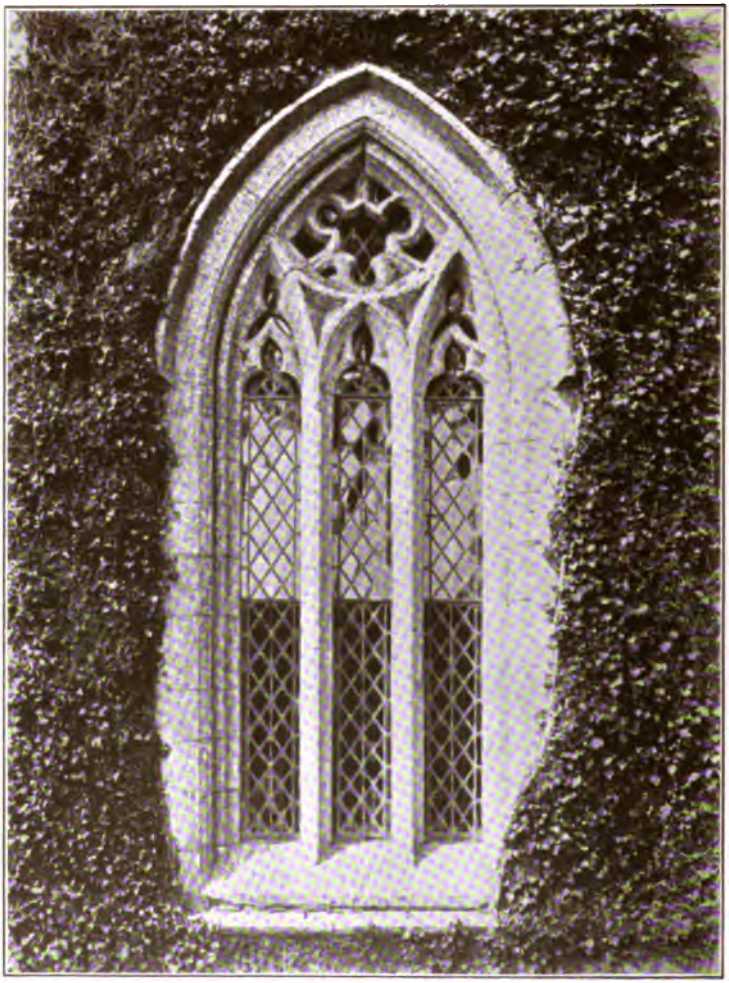
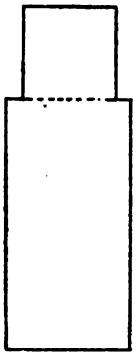
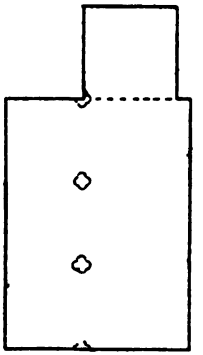


Photo. (copyright). *R. P. Brereton.*

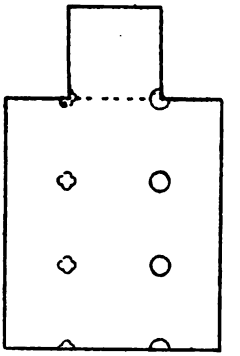
CHANTRY WINDOW: STOKE DRY.



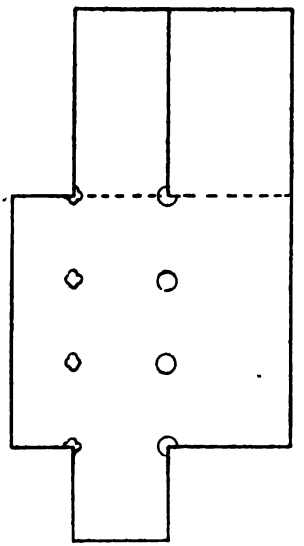
1. NORMAN NAVE AND SHORT SQUARE CHANCEL.



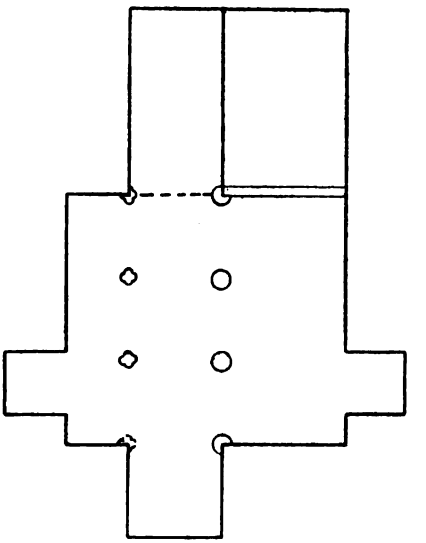
2. SAME WITH NORMAN NARROW NORTH AISLE.



3. SAME WITH EARLY ENGLISH SOUTH AISLE.



4. NORTH AISLE REBUILT, SOUTH AISLE ALSO AND WIDENED. CHANCEL RECONSTRUCTED AND LENGTHENED. S. CHAPEL BUILT. TOWER BUILT, IF NOT BEFORE.



5. SAME WITH LATER PORCHES ADDED; *THE NORTH FIRST*, THE SOUTH AFTERWARDS. CHURCH SAME AS NOW.

the porch is of Tudor form with octagonal shafts, having embattled capitals. The inner door has a returned hood. The chamber, which is reached by a narrow staircase close to the inner door of the church, is lighted by a trefoil headed three light window. It is supposed to have been occupied by a recluse. Probably, however, it is simply a Priest's chamber, used by the ministers who came from time to time, before there was a resident incumbent. Similar chambers are to be seen at Kettering, and at Finedon, both in Northamptonshire; the chamber at Finedon being over the south porch, and containing a library. This is the room in which the Gunpowder Plot was supposed to have been hatched, but as we have previously stated that tradition will have to be abandoned. Another tradition has it that a former Rector of Stoke Dry shut up a witch in the chamber, and starved her to death. The usual story follows, as a matter of course, that her ghost still haunts the church.

The clerestory was probably added, in the 15th or early 16th century, to the nave, the walls being raised for it and the flat roof took the place of the Early English one of high pitch, which, doubtless, went over both nave and aisles in one span. The featureless south porch is of the 17th century, and it is said that the belfry stage of the tower was added in the year 1694. Fig. 5 shows the Church as it is now.

The Rood screen has been fine, but is now terribly broken and mutilated. It is surmounted by a loft on the west side, with carved woodwork of the style of the magnificent fan-tracery in Henry VII's chapel, Westminster Abbey. The screen has an unusual feature in the octagonal lateral projections. In this respect it is said to resemble the screen at Sleaford in Lincolnshire. The rood always bore a figure, either in sculpture or painting, of Our Lord Crucified, and was usually accompanied by figures on either side, representing the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. John. Probably the projections referred to were for these figures. Access to the rood-loft was by means of a staircase, often circular, placed in the north pier of the chancel arch. No such staircase, however, appears to have been built. We are of the opinion that this screen was not made for the church. The stonework on either side of the arch has been cut away to make room for it, which would hardly have been the case had it been built for the position it now occupies. It is thought that the screen was at one time in Lyddington Church and was brought here when the present Lyddington screen was erected.

We may here remark that the purpose of the rood-loft has been very much misunderstood. Some suppose it to have been the place where the Epistle and Gospel were read or sung; but this idea is open to the objection that in small churches

the stairs are extremely inconvenient and circuitous, and we can hardly suppose that they would have been so built if the original intention was that suggested. It is probable that the rood-loft in large churches was the place where the Epistle and Gospel were sometimes chanted at High Mass, and where also the homily was delivered; but in very small churches, where the rood-loft was limited in size, and where the means of access were inconvenient, the probability is that it was simply built for the use of those whose duty it was to attend to the candles which, at certain seasons, were lighted before the rood, and for the decoration with green boughs and flowers.

The arcades of the nave are not uniform. There are three arches on each side; the north are Decorated, the piers of clustered shafts have moulded bases and capitals. The south are Early English, with circular pillars having good moulded capitals, one with the nail-head ornament. There is no trace of any altar at the east end of either aisle. The responds on the south side are semi-circular; those on the north side are very small to correspond to one of the clustered shafts of the pillars.

The tower arch is very narrow, once recessed and chamfered under a square headed hood. The inner order is supported on corbels borne by heads resting on the chamfered wall. A single lancet window, having a very wide splay, occupies the whole wall of the lower stage. There is not the usual entrance. The second stage is pierced by a small lancet and the third has a window of two lights. Under the embattled parapet is a band of quatrefoils.

The north aisle has no west or east window. It had two north windows of two lights, geometrical, square headed, but one light of the western window was blocked up by the stair leading to the chamber over the north porch.

In the south aisle there are two windows in the south wall; the eastern, a plain square domestic two-light with plain hood mullions taking the place of an earlier Decorated one. The western one is a Decorated three-light with perfectly straight mullions going through to the head of the window. The west window is a plain square-headed entransomed two-light. The clerestory windows are three-light, trefoil headed Perpendicular. Those on the south are wider than those on the north. The chantry contains a Decorated window of three lights with star in the head. It is of excellent design *(see illustration)*.

The chantry chapel was originally entirely separated from the chancel and formed part of the south aisle of the nave, of which it is merely a prolongation, the division between it and the aisle being marked only by an arch; but probably in 1574, when the new roof was constructed, it was divided off, a solid wall about five feet high being built across the lower part of

the archway, while the upper part was filled in with studwork plastered towards the aisle.

There is a curious ogee headed opening in the south wall of the chancel. Various suggestions have been made as to its use. That the light from the altar lamp might fall upon the face of the figure on the monument in the chantry; that the monument in the chancel might be visible to members of the Digby family worshipping in the chantry; that the window is a hagioscope enabling worshippers in the chantry to see the elevation of the Host on the High Altar, are some of the theories propounded. This last may also be the reason for the remarkable slope on the east of the chancel door, for worshippers in the churchyard, at the time when the present south wall of the chancel was an outer wall.

It is by no means improbable that the Kenelm Digby who made these alterations was a Roman Catholic, and it is quite likely that the complete separation, which was probably made by him between the chantry and the western part of the aisle, was carried out in order to make the chantry, over which the Digbys presumably had some special rights, a sort of private chapel to their house, which stood a few yards from the east end of the church.

There is a pointed piscina in the south wall of the chantry with a Norman abacus relaid for a drain slab. There is cable moulding underneath. In the west wall is a Holy-water stoup, possibly Post-Reformation.

In the south wall of the chancel, at the back of the Digby monument, is a large opening, The arch is not quite semi-circular, and has Norman roll shaped mouldings. It was probably intended for a piscina, undoubtedly a very large one.

On the north side of the altar, in the east wall of the chancel, is an Aumbry which, from its size and position was probably intended to hold the church plate. The iron staples for the door are still to be seen.

In the year 1898 the church underwent thorough restoration at a cost of £1200. The principal repairs consisted of re-boarding the nave roof and replacing with new ones those over the south aisle and the chancel. The woodwork of the north aisle roof was renewed. The chantry chapel was repaired and the tower was underpinned.

The church has been all plastered and white washed, but inside the chantry on the south wall and on the east wall of the chancel and also in the nave some interesting figures in fresco have been discovered to which we will refer later.

(To be concluded).

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The Siege of Luffenham Hall.

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THE earliest holder of the surname Noel who was connected with Rutland would seem to have been Andrew Noel, Esq., of Dalby-in-the-Wold, near Melton Mowbray: he appears as the purchaser of "the late priory or house of canons of the blessed Virgin Mary of Broke" with all its property in "Broke, Belton, Masthorp, Ridlyngton, Hameldon, North Luffenham, Okeham, Gunthorp, Braunston, Langeham, Ouerton, and Wytewell" in the county of Rutland, besides other lands in Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. Henry VIII. had sold the despoiled priory of Austin Canons to Sir Antony Coope in 1537, and this trafficker in Church lands disposed of the estates to Andrew Noel in December 1560, but as the latter died in 1562 he did not live long enough to carry out any plans he may have formed for dealing with his purchase. His son and successor, Sir Andrew Noel, married a certain Mabel Harrington, whose family was enjoying a period of shortlived prosperity after having grown suddenly rich upon wealth unrighteously gained. Sir Andrew died in 1607, and was succeeded by his son Sir Edward Noel, who further increased the family fortunes by marrying Juliana, daughter and heiress of Sir Baptist Hickes, first Viscount Campden: and on this Viscount's decease, Sir Edward obtained his father-in-law's title, being created second Viscount Campden with the subordinate style of Lord Noel and Hickes of Ridlington. An opportunity soon offered by which he saw his way to plant his family more firmly in the county: the Harringtons who dwelt at Exton had from a numerous stock dwindled down to a single representative in the direct line, John second Lord Harrington, and he ended a career of extravagance in 1613, after leaving directions by will for certain of his manors to be sold after his death for the payment of his own and his father's debts. Viscount Campden was thus able to purchase suitable estates for each of his two sons: Baptist Noel, the elder, born 1611, was settled at Exton, and Henry Noel, the younger, born at Brooke 1615, became resident at North Luffenham. No doubt the fact that he already possessed the Brooke Priory estate in this village influenced Viscount Campden in acquiring fresh lands here. Whether Mr. Henry Noel's house, which is always styled Luffenham Hall, was planned in Lord Harrington's time does not appear: the ground on which it stood is referred to in a terrier of 1631 as being in the tenancy of John Exton, so that if we suppose that the Hall was built about 1635 we shall not be far wrong. Mr. Henry Noel of North Luffenham married

his first wife about 1638: on the North wall of the sanctuary of the church at North Luffenham is still to be seen the bust of a young and beautiful lady within a circular-headed recess, with an inscription beneath engraved

TO THE SACRED MEMORIE OF MR^IS SVSAN-
NA NOEL, DAVGHTER AND HEYRE TO S^R
IOHN HOWLAND, OF STRETHAM IN THE
COVNTY OF SVRREY K^NT WHO WAS MARI-
ED TO M^R HENRY NOEL, SECOND SONNE
OF EDWARD LO^RD NOEL AND HICKS VISCOV^NT
CAMPDEN, SHEE DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 10^TH OF
OCTO^R AD: DO^MI 1640, HAVING HAD ONLY ONE
DAVGHTER SVSANNA THAT DIED THE THIRD DAY
AFTER SHEE WAS
BORNE

Above are the arms of Noel impaling those of Howland: the whole monument is of marble, and forms an interesting study for its period. We learn from the Register that the daughter Susanna was both baptised and buried on 10 July, 1639: the mother's body was laid to rest the day after her death on 11 October, 1640.

Things went on as usual for more than two years, when we find Mr. Henry Noel making a second matrimonial venture: in November 1642 he married Mary, daughter of Hugh Perry, Esq., in London, whereupon, to use his own words, "I soone after repaired with my wife to my house at Luffenham in Rutland where I was quietly settled."

By this time however the Great Rebellion had already begun, for the indecisive battle of Edgehill had been fought on 23 October, 1642: and a Royalist in Rutland was rather uncomfortably placed, as the King's partisans were in force no nearer than Oxford and Newark, whereas his opponents were gathered at Leicester and Grantham.

To continue Mr. Henry Noel's narrative, "I had not been many weekes there when some forces of my lord Grayes from Leicester marched to Okeham and from thence carried away 22^to barrells of powder and other Ammunition which had been long kept there for the countrie's use." This leader was Thomas Lord Gray, son of Henry Earl of Stamford, a good-natured young man then not more than twenty years of age, but of no eminent parts. He was early learning to tread the dreamy path of religious fanaticism which led to his presuming to sit in judgment on the king, from whom his family derived their social rank, and to sign the warrant on which his royal master was beheaded.

Besides this, "one Captain Wray with some troopers came from Grantham to a gentleman's house in Rutland whose horses he tooke and then he marched to my brother's house at Exton, where finding resistance by the coming in of the neighbours" he departed, threatening meanwhile the whole Noel family with baleful consequences in the future.

On hearing of these raids Mr. Henry Noel decided, after consultation with his friends, to take "a little Guard" into his house, and therefore, as he officially informed the Deputy-Lieutenant of Rutland chosen by the Parliament, and with this official's knowledge he gathered about 16 or 17 of his neighbours and friends who went in and out of the house as they thought convenient: these had no pay and were furnished with no other arms than some old guns of his own and his father's which he borrowed. This step was taken we are told as a measure of ordinary prudence and without the desire to "raise any forces to molest the country or to meddle with anie of their Armes." But—was it merely a coincidence that Mr. Henry Skipwith, a personal friend of Mr. Henry Noel's from Lincolnshire, chose this particular time to pay a visit to Luffenham Hall? Lord Gray evidently thought there was some purpose in it.

While all this was going on at Luffenham Lord Gray and Captain Wray had joined forces and marched to Brooke in the hope of taking Viscount Campden and his son Baptist Noel prisoners, but on reaching their destination they were unable to find either of those whom they sought, and were not best pleased at learning that the son had gone to join the king's forces at Newark, having carefully removed all the arms and ammunition in store. So after a diligent though fruitless search during the few days they stayed there they appropriated some horses and goods and started off for North Luffenham, the residence of the Viscount's younger son, to the great delight of the dwellers at Brooke, who had suffered considerable injury from their violence.

The number of men under Lord Gray's command was estimated by Mr. Noel at 1300 horse and dragoneers, whereas the Hall garrison is stated by Lord Gray to have been 200 men, of whom 120 were armed with guns and the rest with pikes and clubs. The small guard of 16 or 17 had clearly been reinforced by sympathisers gathered from the numerous tenantry of the Noel family in the neighbourhood.

Now that the house and most of its surroundings are no longer *in situ* it is not easy to estimate the strength or weakness of the besieged building: but from what followed the conclusion is forced upon us that Mr. Noel over-calculated the endurance of his own followers, and took too small account of the virulence of the opposing force.

Lord Gray disposed his men on a northern slope facing the Hall, with the Chatyr, a small stream at its base, separating

him from the opposite southern slope on which the Hall was situated. Villagers are still fond of pointing out the exact spots, at a range of about a furlong, where "Cromwell"—such is the penalty of an evil reputation—planted his cannon to attack the building.

Having taken up their position the rebels compassed round the house, and Lord Gray sent a trumpeter with a message to be delivered personally to Mr. Noel requiring him to deliver up his person, arms, and horses. To this demand the besieged gentleman replied that he had "neither Pistoll Carbine Great Saddle Buffecoate or anythinge that may give any suspicion or offence," only having some guns with which to defend himself from the violence of those that have threatened him. He promised however to disarm all those who were not members of his family before Lord Gray's face and to keep "not a Gunne more in my house than the feedinge of my hawkes require." But as regards surrendering any arms, "I desire his lordship's excuses if I do not deliver them."

The trumpeter returned with the answer and was followed by a gentleman who said, "Sir, If you will not instantly deliver up those arms you have, you nor yours shall have any Quarter." To this demand Mr. Noel refused to accede, on the plea that if he were to admit his house to be searched he should not only lose all his horses but expose himself to imprisonment, his goods to the extremity of plundering, and his wife (who was then in delicate health) to the danger of affright by the violence of the soldiers and of some commanders who had so much threatened him.

Lord Gray, in order as he somewhat cynically remarks "that the shedding of blood might be prevented." now made another proposal: he suggested that Mr. Noel should choose one of his, Lord Gray's, following who could come and discuss matters with the view of a mutual understanding, and that a suitable hostage should be given for his safe return. This arrangement was agreed to and Sir Edward Hartop, a former acquaintance of Mr. Noel's, was sent to parley with the besieged gentleman. Mr. Noel says, "This being yielded to I sent a gentleman to my Lord as a Hostage and meeting the Knight at my Gate I waited on him into my house and acquainted him with my condicon and intencons." This made so great an impression upon Sir Edward Hartop that, if we are to believe Mr. Noel, he returned and entreated his Lordship not to use further violence, and, failing to make the impression he desired, went away from the besieging army: meanwhile the hostage also came back bringing with him most unfavourable reports of the intentions of the rebels.

Hostilities now commenced in earnest: it must have been at this juncture that the hamlet of Sculthorpe lying somewhat to the S.W. of the besieged position and commanding the western flank of Lord Gray's army was, as village tradition

tells us, razed to the ground, very possibly to guard against a flank attack on the left—about seven houses were ruined in this way.

Immediately after the return of the hostage, even while Mr. Noel was conversing with him, a piece of ordnance known as a "Drake" was moved up closer to the house under cover of the more distant guns, and when it was at length exploded a general skirmish on both sides ensued. As a result of this attack Mr. Catesby, lieutenant to one of Lord Gray's captains, was shot from the house and died thereof. This officer was brother to another of the same name who was taken prisoner by the Royalists at Banbury, but has not at present been more particularly identified. However, the preparations for the siege and the fruitless negotiations which ensued had taken up the greater part of a short winter's day.—the assault began on 20 February, 1642—so that after about an hour's fighting the besiegers retired baffled in their effort to effect an entrance into the house.

On the following morning the siege was vigorously renewed, the besieged produced some execution by their fire, for the Burial Register tells of "A Souldier of the Parliament troupes, buried Feby. 21, slaine then at y^e^ fight in y^e^ Towne," an entry which gives us the exact day when the Hall was taken: and besides this unknown common soldier, Lord Gray states that some others were hurt. The number of those wounded within the house was two, and these perhaps not by the assailants if we are to place confidence in an old story current in the village many years ago, to the effect that a zealous but unskilful friend of Mr. Noel, having charged a butter churn with gunpowder and bits of old iron, thought to have done great execution upon the troops of Lord Gray of Groby: but the oaken canon bursting asunder in the first discharge seriously injured the amateur engineer and one or two of his adjutants. In order to aid the progress of their assault the rebels as they fought their way nearer to the house set on fire the outhouses, barns, and stacks of corn in the Hall yard, thus causing much consternation throughout the village—moreover the cannonade was so effective that the house was shot through. And this affrighted the poor inhabitants who were neighbours to Mr. Noel to such a degree that when their miserable cries came to his ears,—for it would seem that several of the cottagers were being burnt out of their homes either through the flames spreading or as some accounts say by being purposely ignited,—that Mr. Noel to prevent the effusion of blood sent out a fellow with a broken drum to tell Lord Gray that he little thought that he would have used that extremity: therefore to save his neighbours from utter ruin and to put an end to all mischief that might befall either side he would deliver up his guns.

The answer given was that if Mr. Noel had anything to say to Lord Gray he must come out to him himself. On the

former sending word that he hoped nothing would be required of him but the guns, the latter replied that if Mr. Noel would instantly come to him he would use him with as much courtesy as he expected.

Then Mr. Noel went out to Lord Gray, who said directly he was approached, "Come lett us goe into the house": but before assenting to this request Mr. Noel propounded four conditions to the rebel commander which were agreed to:

1°, that a gentleman escort should be accorded his wife to prevent her health being endangered by fright.

2°, that the fire might be quenched.

3°, that none but commanders might enter into the house.

4°, that all his men should have freedom to depart without further molestation.

Mr. Noel afterwards stated that none of these conditions were kept except the first, and Lord Gray admitted that on taking Mr. Noel and Mr. Henry Skipwith prisoners he with much difficulty saved their lives, for his soldiers were so enraged that he could not save their goods.

But those whom Lord Gray professed to lead were really riff-raff who could only by courtesy be styled soldiers—men who were in rebellion against their king were hardly likely to pay much attention to the commands of a lord. The house was in fact given over to a general pillage at the hands of those who did not scruple to style themselves by such titles as the "Host of God," "Champions of England," and "Christ's Army."

On entering the Hall these men met and insulted two of the maidservants, of whom one was dumb and but fourteen years of age: curiously the Parish Register mentions a dumb wench, Bridget Tailor, as being buried on 19 April, 1659, and that this same Bridgett, the daughter of Richard Taylor, was baptized on first April, 1627; this would make her 15 years and 10 months old at the time of the siege, near enough to corroborate the above statement. Another servant of Mr. Noel's we are told "maintained himself in his own lodging with his pistol in one hand and his sword in the other saying hee would fire upon any man that durst enter there, and so both he and all within his chamber escaped the pillage." The general plundering that went on however descended to such wanton mischief that they "cut the ticks of the beds and burnt the feathers." Mr. Noel tells us "my wive's Jewells were taken away, and all my goods, and twentie horses of very good value devided amongst the comon souldiers, and all my evidences burned, and bookes of accompt torn in pieces, and four barnes and a great stacke conteyning great quantities of corne (of wheate oates pease and beanes) and some tenn dwelling howses of my Tenants and neighbours were burned downe and all the inhabitants of the Town plundered of all

their goodes and all theire horses taken away, not one being left for tillage and not so much as a hawke or a dogg left unto mee. My oune losse in this business being above three thousand pounds in value besides the losses of my Tenants."

In days gone by it is said that in digging in the vicinity of the Hall vestiges of buildings subjected to the influence of fire have frequently been found.

The marauders next turned their attention to the church which stands close by; having effected an entrance they barbarously defaced the monument of Mr. Noel's first wife, which has already been described; the fingers of both hands and the nose still bear evidences of the treatment received on this occasion notwithstanding that it was carefully repaired thirty years ago. They completely smashed all the stained glass in the church and chancel windows, which had been referred to fifty years earlier as being "full of cotes of Scultrops Bassetts Digbies and others": they wrecked several other ancient memorials which offended Puritan susceptibilities. A memorial of what they did may be seen in various fragments of glass now gathered together in a single light, and a relic of what they destroyed is exhibited in a three-light window of 14th century glass now placed on the north side of the church, but which escaped destruction at their hands through being too high up at the east end to be easily broken without the aid of a ladder. After pillaging several other houses in the village Lord Gray managed to draw off his men, and taking Mr. Henry Noel and Mr. Henry Skipwith with him made for Northampton. On 2 March the two gentlemen were sent thence as prisoners of war to London and the next day were placed in ward in Aldersgate Street by order of the House of Commons; Mr. Henry Noel in the house of the Lord Peters, and Mr. Henry Skipwith in that of the Bishop of London, the former for being taken in actual war against the Parliament, and the latter for being taken actually levying such war.

But after eight days' imprisonment Mr. Noel petitioned the House of Lords to intervene in his case, and asked that he might be allowed to state his circumstances in person, whereupon the House ordered him to be brought before them on Tuesday, 14 March, when a small committee would hear what he had to say, and afterwards report. When the day came Mr. Noel made a presentment of his case, which was afterwards reduced to writing and entrusted to the Earl of Manchester on 29 March to be delivered in the form of a petition to the House of Lords, this document is still preserved in the Library of the House, it is beautifully written on the best handmade paper and fills two unfolded double folio sheets, supplying a very full account of the circumstances attending the siege from his own point of view. However, nothing was gained by this petition; the matter was referred

by the Lords to a joint Committee of both houses which met at Haberdashers' Hall about 19 June, when Major Griffiths, commonly known as "Prince Griffiths," who had been present at the siege, and is spoken of with respect by the Royalists, gave evidence which was apparently unfavourable to the prisoner, as on 4 July the keeper of Mr. Noel's prison was enjoined to keep him prisoner in such a manner as he may not go abroad with a keeper or otherwise. Probably this strict confinement and the adverse decision combined to affect unfavourably a temperament which appears to have been highly strung and chivalrous to an excess; especially as during the whole time of his imprisonment news was continually being brought him of his property being wasted and his rents left unpaid, besides another report that Lord Gray intended to reside in Luffenham Hall. But the end was at hand, for a month later on 19 July, 1643, an order was issued by the Lords for the conveyance of Mr. Henry Noel and his child to Campden in Gloucestershire, where we find that he was buried on 21 July, so that he must have died in prison: the Burial Register at Campden speaks of him as "The Noble Henerie Noel second sonne to Edward Lord Viscount Campden," but makes no mention of the child, a son whose body we infer must have been interred at the same time. Curiously under the same date is recorded the burial of Mr. Noel's maternal Grandmother, the Dowager-Viscountess Campden, widow of Baptist Hickes, the first Viscount: one of the reasons why Mr. Noel desired his liberty was, as he states, to attend upon this grandmother (who was in a very dangerous weakness and sickness) from whom he hoped for some addition to his fortunes. Mrs. Mary Noel, the widow, came back to North Luffenham after her husband's death, having on 11 August, 1643, obtained a protection from the House of Lords for the lands which she held in jointure in Rutland on promising to satisfy all payments demanded by the Parliament, and on 8 September, 1646, she was married to Sir William Farmor, of Easton Neston, Northamptonshire: thenceforth her name disappears from the village history though she continued to live at Luffenham Hall: her second husband died on 14 May, 1661, and very soon after another Mr. Henry Noel, nephew to his namesake and M.P. for Stamford, became the chief resident in the village.

The Noel family, cousins of Henry Noel, and their descendants continued to live at Luffenham Hall until the beginning of century xviii, when the property was sold to Bartholomew Burton: thence it passed to the Heathcote family. Soon after 1800 the house was demolished and its materials sold by Sir Gilbert Heathcote, the owner, for £500 to three tradesmen of Stamford: the dog-kennels and a few outbuildings are all that now remain.

TROIÆ ETIAM PERIERE RUINÆ.

E. A. IRONS.

LETTERS AND LETTER WRITING IN THE 17TH CENTURY.

Illustrated by examples from the MSS. at Burley-on-the-Hill.

IN my previous paper Letters and Letter-writing in the 16th and early 17th Centuries were dealt with, beginning with the reign of Queen Mary and closing with the signature of Oliver Cromwell. I then stated that the greater part of the MSS. at Burley-on-the-Hill are of the 17th century. There are, in fact, many hundreds of these papers and letters; some political, some friendly and some family. This may be accounted for by the fact that Heneage Finch, first Lord Nottingham, was Lord Chancellor in the reign of Charles II. His cousin also, Heneage Finch, sixth Lord Winchelsea, was Ambassador Extraordinary in Constantinople for four years. In a book, written by one of his contemporaries, there is the following description of this Lord Winchelsea.—"He was a jolly good Lord, extremely favoured by the good Vizier, Cuperli, having a goodly person and moustacheos, with a world of talk, and that all (as his way was) of mighty wonders. The Vizier delighted in his company." Sir John Finch, brother to the Chancellor, was also Ambassador at Constantinople for three years, and, finally, Daniel Finch, second Lord Nottingham, was Secretary of State to William III. for three years. Between them they collected a great mass of papers and letters of considerable interest.

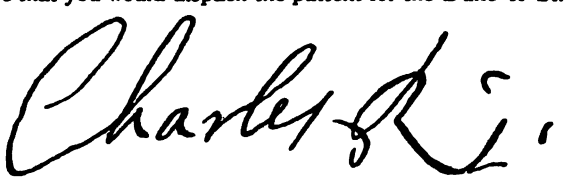
LETTERS AND WRITING IN THE REIGN OF CHARLES II.

As a first example, I take that of King Charles, which also serves as a type of formal letters of this time. It is written to Heneage, Lord Finch of Daventry, then Lord Keeper, afterwards Lord Chancellor and first Lord Nottingham. It is addressed outside in the King's hand:—

"For My Lord Keeper. Windsore, 8th August."—"My Lord Keeper, I desire that you would dispach the pattent for the Duke of St. Albans as soon as may be.—

I am your affectionate friend,"

CHARLES R.

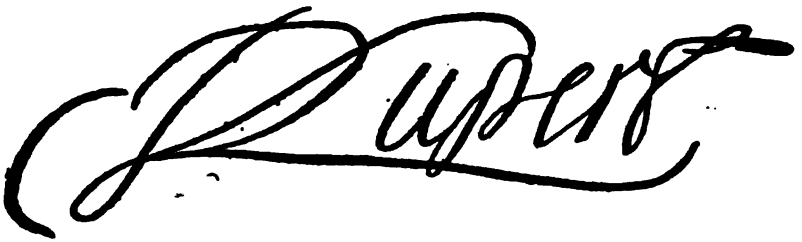


It cannot be said that King Charles wrote a good hand. It is very untidy and rather shaky, but it is possible he did not devote much time to writing. Two other letters from him in the collection at Burley are equally badly written. He spells 'Windsor' with an *e* at the end, 'dispatch' without a *t*, and 'patent' with two *t*'s in the middle.

As another type of formal letter, that from Prince Rupert is a good specimen. It is written to Daniel, Lord Finch, then one of the Commissioners of the Admiralty, eldest son of the Lord Chancellor and, afterwards second Lord Nottingham.

The letter runs thus:—

"Whitehall, 1672.—My Lord, as soon as any of His Maties' ships shall return disabled from the fight where they are now engaged, they are ordered to refit in Chatham River by which means many of the seamen having opportunity to goe ashore, will attempt to run away from the fleet. Wherefore I desire yr Lordpp. to cause strict guards to be set at several places and passages in the County of Kent, were they are most likely to intersept them and to cause such as shall be taken to be carryed with a guard and delyvered to the Governor of Sheerness,—I am your assured friend and humble servant, RUPERT."



This letter is not written entirely in the Prince's hand. All but the last six lines are in the hand of a clerk. The handwriting is large and untidy. The signature is written in a very bold hand. Indeed the writing is just what we should expect from the fearless, impulsive character of this famous cavalier leader. The war alluded to is the war with the Dutch; we see from this letter the unpopularity of the Navy and the results of the press-gang then in force in England.

As types of friendly letters the following are good specimens. From Lord Bristol to Heneage Finch on his being made Lord Chancellor:—

"My Lord,—had my leggs permitted it, noe man should have preceeded mee, in wayting personally upon yr Lordpp. to congratulate with you, and moste with the King our master, upon your promotion to the most Eminent place in his service. I wish you health of body to enjoy it long, proportionable (spelt proporconable) to the Eminent Tallent of minde wch God hath blest you wth, for the execution of it, so shall the publiq be happy in you and no particular person more concerned in all your advantages than My Lord, yr Lordpp's most humble and most affectionate Servant, BRISTOL." "For the Lord Keeper."

From the Earl of Northumberland to the sixth Lord Winchelsea. This letter is written from Petworth House, then the property of the Percys, Earls of Northumberland, and dated August 20th, 1663:

"My Lord,—living for the most part in the country, renders me of so little use unto yr Lordp, as it hath made me forbeare for a long time to trouble you with any of my letters, they being only able to tell you that the great distance at which fortune hath for the present placed us, lessons not my desire to serve you. All of this family are very much obliged

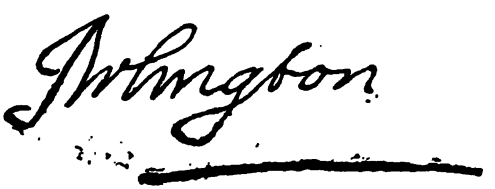
unto yr Lordp and yr noble lady for those favourable expressions of kindnesse received lately in yr Letter of the 13th of March last upon the occassion of my sons marriage, wch I doubt will prove as great a comfort and satisfaction to us as you are pleased to wishe, and I hope he will inherit the inclination of paying you those respects wch are owing to yr Lordp's affectionate and humble servant,—NORTHUMBERLAND."

The letter is exceedingly well written and well spelt, a contrast to that of Lord Bristol which is most peculiar in both writing and spelling. The next letter is from a very different person, namely, Arlington, one of the members of the Cabal. It is, however, worth giving as it shows this famous man in a very different light from what one would expect by reading history. It is written to the sixth Lord Winchelsea to condole with him on the death of his eldest son.

"Whitehall, 1672. My Lorde, I cannot let this gentleman goe from mee wthout telling yr Lordpp how senisble i am of ye losse you have sustained in my Lorde Maidstone partaking as I doe in all yr goode and ill fortunes and being for evermore yr Lrdpp's.—

My Lorde's most faithful and most humble servant,

ARLINGTON."



"For My Lord Winchelsea."

One could not wish for a more sympathetic or well expressed letter. The writing is, however, quite abominable and the spelling indifferent. Another extract from a letter from Arlington refers to the Plague. He writes:—

"the raging of ye Plague at London wch drove us from thence in June and hath hitherto continued to encrease soe much that wee are afraid it will be long before wee returne thither, for which reason his Matie hath appointed the Parliament to meet him at Oxford in ye beginning of October, purposing to remove his Court thither at the latter end of the month. I suwpose yr Exc. received long since the happy news of ye victory his R.H. made upon ye Dutch fleet in ye beginning of ye summer; and his matie having prevailed upon him not to expose his person the second time to such hazards, soe that if the fleet seemed goeing out, the command of it remaines with My Lord Sandwich."

Extracts from two letters of Clarendon are given next as they refer to interesting matters. They are both written in the hand of a clerk with the exceptions of the last few lines and the signature, which are in his own handwriting. There are several letters at Burley written entirely by him but the writing is worse than that of Arlington and almost impossible to read; he is likewise writing to the sixth Lord Winchelsea.

"My very good Lord,—I hope my last wch Mr. Sollicitor's favour

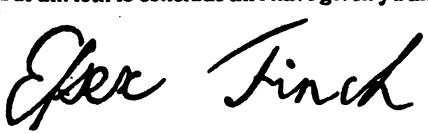
study to love and obey you and to be your most loving and obedient,
ELIZABETH FINCH.

This letter shows great affection and its tone of dutiful submission is touching. It would appear that wives were more submissive in those days than now.

Lady Finch, the writer of the above letter, was the daughter of a London merchant, called Harvey, she is said to have had money. She writes an exceedingly bad hand, very large and sprawly, and her spelling is rather peculiar. There are no letters from her husband to her as far as I know, but three from her to Sir Heneage; these were, however, only recently discovered.

Another good type of a wife's letter is that from Lady Essex Finch to her husband Daniel, Lord Finch, eldest son of the Lord Chancellor and, afterwards, second Lord Nottingham, and builder of Burley. She does not date her letter and it begins with no preamble, but starts thus:—

"I now write to you myself though up against yr dearest will, I cannot imagine I said anything in my last to give you so great a disterbance, i am sure I intended no such thing, yu may be sure if i had had ye Small pox yt yu should have been sent to in as much haste as yu sent to me, but to give a true account of myself I have been these four days much at one rate, never ill to an extremity nor free from a queerish indisposition, wch yr docter calls rather a feaverish Cattaar yn (than) a feaver, he wod not let me be bled because he could find my pulse weer as he said high enough, though he confesses yt to quick, I am as I used to be when out of order a very bad sleeper for which reason they have removed me down to my own chamber yt I may rest if I can in ye day when i dont get sleep at night. i should be loth to fetch yu in any haste before your necessary business is done, but i hope by Tuesday I may see yu wch wod I believe do me some good and so it wod if yu would write on Saturday yt ye coach might meet yu at St. Albans, ye weather being very ill i would not have yu expose yrself to much to it, and if yu should propose to come any other day, pray stay for a fair one, for the winds are very searching, I believe yu need not think of going to Newmarket from there by reason of ye Kgs (Kings) coming sooner yn he at first designed, for i am assured he will not start till ye Saturday before passion week, my Lord Hyde goes thither for tomorrow. I can give yu no account of what yu bid me ask my Uncle Deering for he knows nothing of ye matter nor does he hear of anything about ye Phenix to be paid off, the Kg. hath not declaired captains for these shipps. i hope my Lord is better but i have not seen him these last few days. he is I thank God prity well againe, and i hope may disapoint our fears of him. i have methinks writt a great, deal but am loth to conclude till i have given yu an assurance yt none of yr kindnesse shall be lost upon me, for i do love yu as well as tis possible and I shall to my last breath be yrs.



This letter is addressed—

"For ye Rt. Honble Lord Finch at ye Goat in Northampton."

There is something very pathetic in this letter of Essex Finch's; she was all her life a very delicate woman. In an old prayer book at Burley is a long account of her various illnesses, written by her husband; there is not the slightest doubt that she and Lord Finch were devoted to one another. She only lived ten years to enjoy happiness, and only one of her children survived. Her handwriting is exceedingly untidy and rather difficult to read, but she writes a better letter than her mother-in-law. Essex was a daughter and co-heiress of Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick. She came by her rather peculiar name through her godfather being Lord Essex. Her husband was so fond of her that he called one of his daughters by his second wife after her and the name is still borne by a member of the Finch family.

PEARL FINCH.

(To be continued).

COPY OF AN AUTOGRAPH LETTER FROM THOMAS BLORE, THE RUTLAND HISTORIAN.

THE following letter, written by Thomas Blore, the Rutland Historian to John Nichols, the Leicestershire Historian, has come into our possession and may prove interesting:—

1807.

Dear Sir,

I have been much concerned to hear of your sad accident and have only been prevented from writing earlier upon it by a desire not to disturb that tranquility which is essential to the recovery of health and strength in such cases. I sincerely hope that, notwithstanding the severity of a late protracted winter, you will soon be thoroughly recovered and enabled to resume and continue your Topographical labours and your other services to the republic of letters.

I have a birds-eye or full-faced drawing of the old monument of Digby, the cross legged knight, at Tilton, resting his feet on a lion one of whose forepaws is placed on the head of a man. This is not shown by the engraving at present in the History of Leicestershire, and if you would like to engrave this view I would communicate the drawing. On his shield are a Fleur de Lis (and in the sinister chief) a crescent both embossed; but there is no trace of the sun as in the engraving.

I shall be very much obliged to you to lend me *Stukeley's Itinerary* and any other of his printed works relative to this neighbourhood, which shall be safely and speedily returned. I shall also be obliged by any inform-

ation which it may be convenient to you to give to me relative to any af the following places, viz.:—Great Casterton, Little Casterton, Empingham, Essendine, Horne, Kelthorpe, Ketton, Pickworth, Ryhall, Tickencote, Tinwell, Tolethorpe or Woodhead, always excepting out of this and all other requests anything which may interfere with any plans of your own.

I have not seen our good friend at Slawston for more than twelve months. My purpose to have made him a visit during the frost has been interrupted by a severe illness which has not yet left me. If you can point out any communication I can make relative to the two next portions of your History you will have the goodness to do so.

I am, Dear Sir,
Your truly obliged Ser.,
THOMAS BLORE.

Stamford,
16th March, 1807.

SOME RUTLAND AUTHORS AND THEIR BOOKS.

(Continued from p. 95.)

AMONG my collection is one curious little book written by a native of Oakham. The title page is here reproduced:—

Medicina Mufica:
OR, A
Mechanical Effay
ON THE
EFFECTS
OF
Singing, Mufick, and *Dancing,*
ON
HUMAN BODIES.
Revis'd and Corrected
To which is annex'd,
A NEW ESSAY on the
NATURE and cure of the *Spleen* and *Vapours.*

By *RICHARD BROWNE,*
APOTHECARY in *Oakham,* in the County of *Rutland.*

LONDON,
Printed for JOHN COOKE, Bookfeller in *Uppingham;* and Sold by J. and J. KNAPTON, at the *Crown* in *St. Paul's Churchyard.*
MDCCXXIX.

The book is dedicated to the RT. HON. BAPTIST, EARL OF GAINSBOROUGH. Apothecary Brown would, doubtless, have answered Macbeth's question,

"Canst thou not minister to a mind diseas'd,
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,
Raze out the written troubles of the brain?
And with some sweet oblivious antidote,
Cleanse the stuff'd bosom of that perilous stuff
Which weighs upon the heart?"

by advising him to "Throw physic to the dogs" and take a course of Singing, Music and Dancing, which, says the author, is an enemy to melancholy thoughts and a pleasing promoter of mirth.

In the preface he further states that the essay on the spleen and vapours has been added

"Not only as it is a disease hitherto not clearly accounted for, but also as I have so particularly recommended Singing, Music and Dancing in the cure of it. I am very sensible that a surprizing diversity of symptoms renders the knowledge of this distemper vastly difficult to be attain'd to; but nevertheless, as I have suppos'd that singing, &c., contribute to the cure, only as they invigorate the spirits; I thought it necessary for the fuller proof of what I have there advanc'd, to endeavour to show, that the essence of what we strictly call the Spleen and Vapours does not, as is commonly imagin'd, consist of an orgasm, ataxy, or tumultuous hurry of the spirits; but on the contrary, in their defective secretion."

The author built his greatest hopes for the sale of the book on the favour of the fair sex for whom, he says, the treatise is principally intended, because

"Their tender and delicate constitutions render them most liable to the disease I have enquired into; and in the care of which the divertisements here treated of are of such admirable service."

On this account he considers he merits the recommendation and even applause of singing, dancing and music masters, as the book, he thinks, may tend not a little to the promotion of their interests.

My next item is a sixteen-page pamphlet containing a ballad reflecting on the doings of some of the residents of Oakham. The title page is shown on the next page.

The author, in his preface, explains his reasons for launching into print and, as a number of local allusions are made, I quote here from it. He says:—

"An extract from a speech delivered by me at a debating society, having been printed by Eaton, in his "Politics for the People," under the title of *King Chanticleer*, or the Fate of Tyranny, that intrepid bookseller was, in consequence, a third time indicted for sedition, and, as the public well knows, was a third time acquitted. Shortly after which, I took an opportunity of sending, by a passenger in the Stamford stage, a small packet of books to a brother-in-law who resides in Oakham, the county town of Rutland, containing, among other articles, some copies of this ludicrous story, and of the still more ludicrous indictment to which it had given birth. But a conspiracy to intercept my papers had been formed by the great men of Oakham (particularly Mr. John Combes, attorney at law, the Rev. Mr. Williams, who afterwards displayed the

critical accuracy of his optics by swearing to my t's and h's, in consequence of having seen me sign my name to the register of my marriage, and Mr. Apothecary Berry, who swore he would sell his whole estate but he would hang me!), and these books, by some accident or other being left at Biggleswade, the place where the passengers stop to change coaches, fell into Coombes's hands. The Oakhamites were in consequence all in a flame. Nightly meetings were held at "the Crown," which is the principal inn in Oakham; the house of my brother-in-law was broke open and rifled of papers, books, letters, etc., and lawyer Combes was posted to London to acquaint the great man in Downing Street with the wonderful discovery."

JOHN GILPIN'S GHOST;

OR,

THE WARNING VOICE

OF

KING CHANTICLEER:

AN

HISTORICAL BALLAD:

WRITTEN BEFORE THE LATE TRIALS,

AND DEDICATED TO THE

TREASON-HUNTERS

OF OAKHAM.

By J. THELWALL.

Rifum teneatis amici? HOR.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,

And published by T. SMITH, at the Sign of the POP-GUN, Corner of Portsmouth-Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

1795.

[*PRICE SIX-PENCE.*]

The Ballad is a skit, such as was used at elections a hundred years ago, in which the names and idiosyncrasies of prominent local politicians were handled with sufficient sarcasm to make the persons indicated squirm should they take the matter seriously.

"First, blustering Berry came, renown'd
For bolus, draught, and blister,
And from sedition vow'd to purge
All Oakham with a clyster."

"Next, Williams, trembling for his tithes
His royal zeal display'd,"

And so on.

JOHN BANTON, of Teigh, is the author of several items in my collection. He was the son of a day-labourer and received an education, suitable to that condition, at a village school, where, he says, he was never taught a grammatical lesson.

A collection of poems from his pen appeared under the title of "THE VILLAGE WREATH," followed by "EXCURSIONS OF FANCY" in 1824, consisting of pastoral, descriptive, and other poems. Ten years later he published "THE SULLIOT CHIEF," a dramatic poem, founded on an attempt, made by the notorious Ali Pasha, to subjugate the Sulliots, an independent tribe of modern Greeks; an account of which the author found in the Monthly Magazine.

In 1847 he published "GLEANINGS IN CARMEL," being thoughts and observations on select passages of Scripture and also "THE ISLE OF PROBATION," an allegorical poem.

The author was schoolmaster at Teigh for a number of years and died on January 17th, 1848, aged 55. His remains lie in Teigh churchyard. His verses indicate the possession of a vivid imagination, an excellent knowledge of the classics, and a facility of expression which, combined with rustic simplicity, enabled him to record the melodies which lie hidden in the heart of nature in pleasing prosody.

My next items are from the pens of two of the late Rectors of South Luffenham. "THE CHOICE: or Lines on the Beatitudes," by James Bush, M.A., Rector of South Luffenham and Curate of Plumbland, Cumberland (London, 1841), is dedicated to the inhabitants of the Chapelry of Buttermere. "SERMONS ON PRAYER," by C. E. Prichard, M.A., is dedicated to the Parishioners of South Luffenham. Printed at Stamford, 1855. The author of the first named volume was appointed Rector of South Luffenham in 1828 and resigned in 1849. The Rev. C. E. Prichard, M.A., was instituted there, June 17th, 1854.

The Rev. F. E. Gretton, B.D., who was Curate of Tickencote for twenty-five years, and second master at Oakham School, was appointed master of Stamford Grammar School. He contributes two items to my collection, namely, "Some of the Main Grounds of Protest against the Church of Rome; considered in a course of five sermons, preached at the Church of St. Mary, Stamford, December 23rd, 1851," and "A Sermon preached in the Church of St. Mary, Stamford, December 23rd, 1861, on the occasion of the Funeral of His Royal Highness, the Prince Consort."

A former chaplain of Oakham Gaol contributes "The Objective Character of Christian Faith," a sermon preached before the University of Cambridge, on February 5th, 1860, by the Rev. T. Byers, M.A. "Ritualism in Rutland" comes from the pen of the Hon. Henry Noel; printed in London, 1867. It is dedicated to the Parishioners of Ketton. In the parish church, the author found candlesticks and a cross *apparently* on the Commnnion table. Their existence gave him "grave offence" and, having failed to induce the vicar to remove them, put his protest in the form of a 28 page pamphlet.

"THE EVIL EFFECTS OF THE BALLOT, the Repeal of the Corn Laws and the Farmers' Golden Treasure," by W. H. Scott, a Rutland Freeholder, 1840 is a 38 page pamphlet devoted to a tirade against the Whig Government and their doings.

The last author with whom I shall deal is Edward Bradley, better known under the pseudonym of Cuthbert Bede. He was the second son of Thomas Bradley, surgeon, of Kidderminster, who came of a somewhat ancient Worcestershire clerical family. Edward Bradley was born March 25th, 1857. After being educated at Kidderminster Grammar School he went up in 1845 to University College, Durham, where he was a Thorp and Foundation Scholar. He graduated B.A. in 1848 and took his licentiateship of theology in 1849. Not being of age to take orders, he appears to have stayed at Oxford pursuing various studies, though he never matriculated. While there he formed a life-long friendship with J. G. Wood, the future naturalist. For a year or so he worked in the clergy schools at Kidderminster. In 1850 he was ordained by Bishop Turton of Ely, to the curacy of Glatton-with-Holme, Hunts. He remained there over four years, during which he described for the *Illustrated London News* the extensive work of draining Whittlesea Mere then being carried out by William Wells of Holmewood.

In 1857 Mr. Bradley was appointed vicar of Bobbington in Staffordshire. From 1859 to 1871 he was rector of Caldecote, Hunts. In 1871 he became rector of Stretton in this county where he carried through a much needed restoration of the church at a cost of nearly £2000. In order to raise the funds he gave lectures in the midland towns and was much in demand as an authority on "Modern Humourists," "Wit and Humour," and "Light Literature."

Mr. Bradley was a friend and associate of Cruikshank, Frank Smedley, Mark Lemon, and Albert Smith, for whose serials, *The Month*, *The Man in the Moon*, and the *Town and County Miscellany*, he began to write about 1850. He generally wrote for the press under the pseudonym of Cuthbert Bede, the names of the two patron saints of Durham.

His one marked literary success was obtained in 1853 when he produced "The Adventures of Mr. Verdant Green, an Oxford Freshman," with numerous illustrations designed and drawn on the wood by the author.

The greatest difficulty was experienced in finding a publisher, but Part I. was eventually issued by Mr. Cooke of the Strand, as one of his shilling books for the rail, in October, 1853. The second part appeared in 1854 and the third part in 1856. The three parts were then bound in one volume, of which 100,000 copies had been sold in 1870. Subsequently the book was issued in sixpenny form and the sale was more than doubled. The total amount Mr. Bradley received for

his work was £350. The three original parts in the paper covers are now scarce. In 1890 they fetched £5 5s. od. by auction.

In 1883, on the presentation of Lord Aveland, Mr. Bradley left Stretton for the vicarage of Lenton-with-Hanby, near Grantham. There, as elsewhere, he was indefatigable as a parochial organizer, establishing a Free Library, Mutual Improvement Society, etc. He died, greatly regretted by all who came in contact with his kindly personality, at the vicarage, Lenton, on 12th December, 1889, and was buried in the churchyard at Stretton which he had laid out during his incumbency there.

I have not been able, up to the present, to procure a portrait of him, but portraits have been reproduced in the *Illustrated London News, Boys' Own Paper,* and *Spielman's History of Punch.* As a young man, then closely shaven and very pale, Mr. Bradley was introduced to Douglas Jerrold as Mr. Verdant Green. Said Jerrold, "I should have thought it was Mr. Blanco White."

He was a frequent contributor to *Punch, All the Year Round, Illustrated London Magazine, The Field, St. James' Gazette, The Gentleman's Magazine, Leisure Hour, Quiver, Notes and Queries, Boys' Own Paper,* and *Illustrated London News.*

He contributed no less than 1157 Notes, etc., to *Notes and Queries* between the years 1852 to 1889.

His separate publications ran into 20 vols. and included:

Love's Provocations, 1855; Photographic Pleasures Popularly Portrayed with Pen and Pencil, 1855-1864; Medley, Prose and Verse, Grave and Gay, with cuts by the author, 1855; Medley, Prose and Verse, 1856; Shilling Book of Beauty, ed. and ill. by C. Bede, 1856; A Miscellany of Parodies (many of them his own), in prose and verse; Tales of College Life, 1856; Nearer and Dearer (a novelette), 1857; Fairy Fables, ill. by A. Croquill, 1858; Funny Figures, 1858; Happy Hours at Wynford Grange, 1858; Humour, Wit and Satire, 1860; Glencreggan, or a Highland Home in Cantire, 2 vols., 1861; The Curate of Cranston, with other prose and verse, 1862; Tour in Tartan Land, 1863; Handbook to Rosslyn and Hawthorndene, 1864; The White Wife, with other stories. supernatural, romantic legends, 1865; The Rook's Garden, Essays and Speeches, 1865; Mattins and Muttons, a Brighton love story, 2 vols., 1866; A Holiday Ramble in the Land of Scott, 1869; Fotheringay and Mary, Queen of Scots, 1886.

G. PHILLIPS.

PREHISTORIC REPTILE.—At a depth of sixty feet, in the hard Oxford clay of one of the Yaxley brickyards, near Peterborough, has just been unearthed one of most remarkable saurians or prehistoric reptiles which that extraordinary deposit of the waters of thousands of years ago has ever revealed. It is the fossilized body of a monster reptile, nearly twelve feet long, with a spiny crocodile body and tail over three feet long. The animal had apparently flappers and not feet, for hundreds of little bones, forming the framework of these flappers, have been gathered up. A prehistoric crocodile, according to Major Leeds, a local authority, would not have these. Unfortunately, the head is missing. One theory is that it is an ichthyosaurus, or fish lizard. This is extremely probable, but if so it is unlike any other yet discovered.

THE GILDED SHOE 'CLINKER.'—A SEQUEL.

To the Editor of the "Rutland Magazine."

Sir,

A most wonderful thing has happened. Whilst the last issue of your Magazine was in the printer's hands, wherein was recorded the story of 'Clinker,' the Government Education Bill was made known to the country. Its terms were so iniquitous and so unjust that, being overwhelmed with indignation, I gave a tremendous blast against it, the report of which seems to have reverberated right away into the "valleys that run among the hills" in Gloucestershire, and it awoke the dead. The next day I received a message from one, who, while lamenting his inability under his present conditions to engage in the fight, hoped I would go on; and, will you believe it, underneath was the signature of the very man who stole 'Clinker,' and who had been reported dead some years. It was evident also that he failed to recognise my name. They say "Speak of angels and they will immediately appear" and here was again the very man about whom I had been writing, and you were printing, who had come to life again.

I was utterly perplexed and felt glad that I had not divulged his name, and yet I thought I ought to communicate with him and tell him what I had done, and I did so. Then I received an invitation, if I was not afraid of a ghost would I come and meet him, and then he indicated a new way of approach by which I might come at him. I was never afraid of ghosts and so I resolved to go, and I went by the new way. The Principal of our University with a body of *savants* has long been searching for a new and scientific way to Ghostland, and I have found it. It was a lovely journey; for a great part of the way I travelled in a luxurious saloon, a self-moving car, with large plate glass windows giving full and clear views of the beautiful country through which we were passing. It was like the far-famed home of King Arthur, "the island valley of Avilion" which

> "lies
> Deep meadowed, happy, fair, with orchard lawns
> And bowery hollows crown'd with summer sea,"

but, as it was not yet summer, I must say, rather, they were crowned with flowers of spring, the primroses were thick upon the grassy banks and filled the woods and dells. At last the solitary car came smoothly to a stand. It was the terminus—the end of the journey, and there stood the ghost, my old friend, wonderfully changed, yet not pale like a ghost but fresh in colour as, I imagine, was King Arthur, and of some substance for a ghost, for he said he weighed, according to mortal reckoning, some thirteen stone. I was glad that in ghostland they did not forget that mortals must feed and so I found prepared a substantial meal, all the more palatable by reason of the freshness of the vegetables and fruits of that land of Avilion.

After the meal we fell into discourse on Antiquarian lore and my host produced a published copy of the "Landboc" of that ancient abbey which sometime stood near. It was interesting in many ways but not least because it was a monument of the great diligence and able scholarship of a native of Oakham, who has compiled this work from many ancient documents and deeds found in the British Museum. It was the work of the REV. DAVID ROYCE, M.A., Vicar of Netherswell, Gloucestershire. This MR. ROYCE received his education at Oakham Grammar School apparently in the third decade of last century, and he was a town boy. His father, 'old Mr. Royce,' the saddler, I remember, was once pointed out to me in my youth, a very stout old man who was then riding a shaggy white pony.

In this ancient "Landboc" there appears also the name, 'Gilbert de Rudingis,' in a deed belonging to, probably, at a guess, the 12th or 13th century. This name is the original of the Rutland 'Rudkin,' 'Rudking,' or 'Ruding,' which can be traced backwards in the records of the county for 400 years, and then back in the records of Warwickshire and Worcestershire for another 400 years, and here, apparently, also in the neighbouring county of Gloucester.

Our next move was to visit the grounds of the ancient castle. Since my former visit of 33 years ago this demesne has changed ownership. It has descended to the brother of a gentleman well known now in Rutland where he has a residence and rides to hounds in scarlet, and whom I saw a while ago, within a mile of Oakham, going to the meet, exhibiting in his person considerably more length than breadth. Many are the threads connecting, as you see, that Ghostland with Rutland, quite enough to enable the folk of Oakham to track and catch the thief if they will.

The castle is, in part, still occupied, and, in part, in ruins, much as the ruthless hands of Cromwell's soldiers left it. The adjacent chapel was destroyed but has since been restored. Within it lie the remains of one of England's queens, whose tomb was rifled, when the chapel was in a ruinous state, by a gang of loafers who frequented a neighbouring village public house. I heard, many years ago, that not one of these men came to a timely end, and this my ghostly guide corroborated.

This domain is now under the special protection of my guide. He has yielded up all authority over other earthly spots and this led, no doubt, to his supposed decease, but of this one place he claims to be Lord Rector.

It will interest the men of Rutland to know that the man who stole the gilded shoe was the godfather of that true patriot and famous Empire builder of British mould, Cecil Rhodes. This may help them to forgive the thief.

Two corrections I should like to make. The shoe was stolen in 1846. so was absent from Oakham for 12 years. Its hiding place in the school was an excavation under the study floor—not under the dormitory.

MESSING RUDKIN.

THE RUTLAND ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

THE Annual Meeting of the Society was held at Oakham on May 21st, at which the Annual Report was read and adopted. The Society was shewn to be in a flourishing condition with a good record of work accomplished during 1905. After the business was disposed of, MR. H. F. TRAYLEN, A.R.I.B.A., (who at this meeting was appointed Architectural Sub-Secretary on the resignation of MR. TRAYLEN, SEN.) read an instructive paper on "Bell-turrets; a feature of Rutland Churches." This was illustrated by a series of specially taken photographic lantern slides, the views including all the Rutland examples of Bell-turrets, as well as a few from outside the county for the sake of comparison.

On June 6th the Summer Excursion Season was successfully and pleasantly opened with a visit to the churches of Pilton and Lyndon,

which were described by MR. H. F. TRAYLEN. A large gathering of members and their friends took advantage of the gloriously fine day and an enjoyable afternoon was spent. The little church of St. Nicholas, Pilton, is a pleasing example of a village church, though not, perhaps, possessing any very unusual features. The earliest portion of the church, the nave arcade, may be ascribed to the end of the 12th century. The west end of the nave is furnished with a characteristic bell-turret, and there is a Perpendicular window in the north wall of the nave which is ornamented on the outside in a manner not very common. At Lyndon, the church of St. Martin (the only surviving church in the county with this dedication, since the demolition of Martinsthorpe) has been much altered by restoration, the earliest feature here being, probably, the font, which was found buried in the ground at the time the restoration was in progress. The designs on this are rude and curious both in conception and execution. The nave arcades are late 13th century and are among the few original features remaining in the church. Subsequently an adjournment was made to the Hall, close by, where tea was hospitably provided for the party by MR. and MRS. CONANT. Lyndon Hall is unusually rich in old deeds and other historical documents and these, as well as other objects of interest in the house, were kindly exhibited.

The second excursion took place on June 20th, when the programme included the churches of Edmondthorpe and Teigh, between which parishes runs the Leicester-Rutland county boundary. The former church was visited first and the Society enjoyed the pleasure of listening to a most interesting historical and architectural paper on the parish and church by the Rector, the REV. L. N. KNOX. The history of the manor and of the families connected with the parish was narrated, and much interesting information given as to the condition of the inhabitants in bygone days.

The oldest part of the church (which is dedicated to St. Michael) is the western tower, which is, in part, of Early English date. The nave, aisles and chancel are Decorated, the clerestory being, as usual, a somewhat later addition. The tracery of the windows, especially the east window, is good and characteristic of the period, and the church contains some extremely interesting monuments, chiefly to the family of Smith who held the manor in the 17th and 18th centuries.

At Teigh, the church of the Holy Trinity derives its chief interest from being one of the few remaining examples of a church of the 18th century. In 1782 the rector, Robert, Earl of Harborough, pulled down the existing church (with the exception of the lower stages of the tower which is of 14th century work) and erected in its place a plain building devoid of a chancel and of any good taste. The pews are ranged in tiers facing north and south; the pulpit is raised aloft over the western entrance and is flanked by two stalls at a lower level, intended for the minister and clerk. The altar stands in a railed-off enclosure at the east end and a stone font, the handiwork of a former rector, is by its side on the north. Another font, even more remarkable, is still preserved in the church. This consists of a small wooden vase, lined with zinc and fitted with a lid. This is supported on a brass bracket or arm which was originally fitted on the altar rails. Thus it will be seen that though from an æsthetic standpoint Teigh church cannot command great admiration, nevertheless as a curious and, probably in many respects unique, survival of its period, it has a peculiar interest from an archæological and historical point of view. By the kindness of the RECTOR, and MRS. NEWBY and MRS. WATCHORN, the party, which must have numbered close on fifty, enjoyed a bountiful tea at the Rectory, where, also, some interesting books, coins, and other curiosities were on view, having been brought by another resident in the parish, MR. BENNETT, for the inspection of the members.

Photo.] [*G. Phillips.*

STOKE DRY: MONUMENT OF KENELME DIGBY AND ANNE HIS WIFE, IN CHANCEL.

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THE

RUTLAND MAGAZINE

AND

COUNTY HISTORICAL RECORD.

STOKE DRY *(concluded).*

SINCE the meeting of the Rutland Archæological Society at this place, in July 1905, much has been learned about the paintings on the walls of the Church. As it is the intention of the Rector, the Rev. G. Thurston, to write a full description of them, which may find its way into the pages of this Magazine, we shall only briefly refer to them here.

MURAL PAINTINGS.—It would appear that at one time practically the whole of the walls in the nave and aisles, the chancel and chantry were covered with specimens of mediæval wall decoration. Those in the chancel and chantry were probably done in the 14th century, those in the nave are 16th century work. They were all subsequently whitewashed over. In the nave some texts and medallions have been uncovered, the latter bearing the emblems of the Twelve Patriarchs. The remains in the chancel appear to be the crucifixion of St. Andrew, while those in the chantry depict the martyrdom of St. Edmund and St. Christopher. In the first named, the saint is shown bound to a stake. On each side are archers in the act of shooting arrows into his body. The figure of St. Christopher, much obliterated, is depicted standing in a stream in which there is a large fish. In some instances, as at Ridlington, the artist has introduced a number of lobsters disporting themselves in the water and painted them red, totally oblivious of the fact that before they became that colour they must be boiled.

The legend of St. Christopher is as follows. Offero of Canaan, who was dissatisfied with heathenism, travelled far and wide seeking to hear more of Christ whose fame had reached him. An old hermit received him, taught him, and told him to go and dwell by the bank of a river where his faith would be tested. The time came. The night was dark, the waters swollen and the wind boisterous, when he heard the plaintive voice of a child calling from the opposite bank to carry him across. Strong as he was he hesitated to run so great a risk for a little child, but again and again the voice called; and, wading through the stream, he took the child upon his shoulders and carried it across in safety, to find, as he set down the little child on the ground, that he had carried Christ, and had earned the name henceforth of Christopher (Christ-bearer).

CHURCH PLATE.—This consists simply of a cup and paten, and a modern alms dish. The cup is 6½-in. in height, the diameter of the mouth of the bowl is 3½-in., of the foot 3⅜-in., and the depth of the bowl is 4⅜-in. Of the Hall marks the lion only is distinguishable. It is a plain bell-shaped cup, with the inscription two inches under the lip,

"Conyers Peach Churchwarden 1708 Stoke Dry in the Countie of Rutland"

The paten is 2-in. in height, the diameter of the top is 7½-in., and of the foot 3-in. The Hall marks are obliterated. There is a bold beading round the rim of the foot. In the centre are the arms, scollop shells and stars. To whom they belong is not known. It weighs 10-oz.

MONUMENTS.—There are three extremely interesting monuments and a fragment of a fourth in the church relating to the Digby family. Dealing with them in chronological order we must, firstly, refer to the fragment (found amongst the debris allowed to accumulate when the chantry was used as a coal cellar and a receptacle for various lumber) now standing on the sill of the chantry window. It shows part of an effigy in low relief, and is all that is left of the alabaster gravestone mentioned by Wright, in his History of Rutland, published in 1684, who gives the inscription as follows:—

> Hic jacent Ricardus Digbi et Agnes uxor ejus qui quidem Ricardus obiit xvii die mensis Octobris et Agnes obiit penultimo die mensis Octobris Anno Domini m.ccc Septuagesimo nono quorum animabus propitietur Deus. Amen.

The date of this inscription (1379) is the earliest record of the Digby family at Stoke Dry. The manor descended from this Richard Digby to Everard Digby, the husband of Jaqueta Digby, who lies under the tomb in the south aisle. It is a massive alabaster incised slab resting on freestone and depicts the lady in the costume of the period, with a number of children. It has been much disfigured by the

From rubbing by] [*E. W. Axtell-Gardener.*

STOKE DRY: INCISED SLAB, JAQUETA DIGBY.

irrepressible carvers of initials. We have, however, been able to obtain a rubbing and by painting out the initials (in one instance enclosed in the outline of a boot) give a reproduction of it. When will such wanton desecration of sacred monuments cease? There is not a square inch in this slab free from the marks, made by the knives, of individuals whose only claim to distinction could be for their excessive imbecility.

There are two shields, the first Digby (fleur-de-lis), the second bearing a dolphin, crescente parte per bend sinister counter-changed. The inscription is as follows :—

> Hic jacet Jaquela digbi quonda uxor Everardi digbi armigeri que quide obiit vicesimo nono die mesis Junii anno dni Mccccclxxxxvi cujus aie ppicietur deus Amen.

This lady was the daughter and coheir of Sir John Ellys of Devonshire and her husband, Everard Digby, of Tilton, as before stated, succeeded to the manor of Stoke Dry. He was returned by the King's Commissioners in 12 Hen. VI (1434) as one of the gentry of the County of Huntingdon, and in 38 Hen. VI (1459) was Sheriff of Rutland and represented the county in Parliament in the 28th and 38th years of that King's reign. He was killed at the Battle of Towton in 1461, and left issue, by Jaqueta, seven sons and one daughter, Baringold, who married Robert Hunt, of Lyndon, Rutland.

The seven sons, not forgetting the Lancastrian cause, fought resolutely at Bosworth against King Richard III.

Sir Everard, the heir, we shall deal with presently. The second son, Simon of Coles-Hill in the County of Warwick was ancestor to Lord Digby. Seeing the House of York getting the upper hand, he behaved so obsequiously to King Edward IV., that in 1477 he received the honour of Knighthood, with the annuity of ten pounds, issuing out of Retford Mills, in the County of Nottingham, as a recompense of his services. In two years after he had the forestership of Thornewoods, in the southern part of Sherwood Forest, conferred on him for life, with the fee of fourpence a day. But, no sooner did the Earl of Richmond appear in England, than he and his six brothers joined him and stoutly fought at Bosworth against King Richard III. On the Earl being crowned in the field, by the name of Henry VII, he rewarded the Digbys for their service and considering Sir Simon as the principal actor in that decisive battle made him, in the first year of his reign (1485), Steward of the Lordships of Uppingham, Preston, Barroughden, Esenden, and Gretham in the County of Rutland, with all the lands in the shire, which had belonged to George, Duke of Clarence, to hold for life and also made him steward and receiver of the manor of Bedale, in Yorkshire. He died on Feb. 27th, 1519, and was buried in the chancel of Coles-Hill church.

Sir John, of Eye-Kettleby in the County of Leicester, the third son, was knighted by King Henry VII. for his services on the field of Bosworth. He was appointed Knight-Mareschal of the King's household, steward of the Priory of Lewes, sheriff, in 1515, for the counties of Warwick and Leicester and served in that capacity for Rutland in the years 1491, 1517, and 1523. On the 18th of May 1511, he accompanied Sir Edward Poynings, captain of 1500 archers, in aid of Margaret, Duchess of Savoy, daughter of Maximilian the Emperor, Governess of Flanders and the Low-Countries appertaining to Charles, the young Prince of Castile, against the Duke of Guelders, when they succeeded in restoring peace to that country. In 1513 he attended King Henry VIII. to Calais and fought valiantly in the battle of Therouenne and died in 1533. There is a monument erected to his memory at Frisby and another at Melton Mowbray, where he lies buried.

Simon Digby, the fourth son, was pensioner to King Henry VIII and Sheriff of Rutland in 1548 and 1555. He died in 1561 and was buried under a monument on the south side of North Luffenham church.

Libæus, the next son, had a seat at Luffenham. The others, Rowland, Thomas and Benjamin do not appear to have been any further connected with Rutland.

Sir Everard, the eldest son of Everard Digby, Lord of Tilton and Stoke Dry and Jaqueta whose memorial we have described above was progenitor of the Digbys of Stoke Dry and Sandon in the County of Stafford. He was sheriff of Rutland in 1459, 1486, and 1499 and from the 25th to the 38th years of Henry VI. inclusive (1446-59) its representative in Parliament. He died in 1509 and is buried under a tomb in the church at Tilton. This Sir Everard is omitted in some pedigrees, as he is by Wright in his History of Rutland, and other copiers of him; but their mistake, occasioned by the name occurring three times in succession, is evident, if it be considered that, supposing him to be omitted, there is a space of seventy-nine years between the deaths of father and son, namely, Everard, killed at the battle of Towton 1461, and Sir Everard Digby who died in 1540.

The matter is, however, quite decided by his curious will which reads as follows :—

> "18 Jan 1508-9 My body to be bur. in the church of St. Peter at Tylton afore thymage of all the blessed saints at our ladys altar there. To the reparation of the church, 6s. 8d.; and a webb of lead which the churchmaster of the said church hath. To the high altar of St. Denis, Drystok, for tithes negligently forgotten. 2s.; and to the reparations, 6s. 8d. To my son John, for life, lands in Uppingham, Preston, Pisbrook, and Esynden, remainder to Eldest son Everard and his heirs. To my dau. Alice, land at Bowden and Foxton. To my dau. Kate, a nun at Sempringham, 20s.

Photo.] [*G. Phillips.*

STOKE DRY: EVERARD DIGBY MONUMENT, IN CHANTRY.

To my dau. Baringold, 2 kine and 2 ewes. To the church at Skevynton, 6s. 8d.; Weppyngton, 20s.; and of Liddington 3s. 4d. To the abbott of Wolton, 6s. 8d.; and to every canon of his house, 8d., if they be at my burial. I will that a priest be found to sing for my soul for 3 years after my dec. My son Everard sole exor. Witnesses, Sir Wm. Dallison parson of Stoke Dry; Wm. Skevington, Everard Darby, John Dallison, gt., Sir Robt. Kirkeby, Chanon of Welton, and Sir Thos. Northampton, Chanon of Launde.
Pr in P. C. C.
12 Feb, 1508-9."

The Everard mentioned in this will as eldest son and sole executor, whose grandmother was Jaqueta, whose monument is in the south aisle of the church, lies in the chantry under an elaborately finished tomb of freestone, which consists of a large pedestal, upon which is a full length effigy in plate armour. The head of the figure has, however, been chiselled away and the space left quite bare. The sides are enriched with quatrefoils containing shields of arms, two bearing those of Digby, and the centre Digby impaling a cross.

The inscription, now no longer decipherable, is given in *Wright's History of Rutland* as follows:—

Hic jacet Evarardus Digbi miles qui obiit undecimo die Aprilis Anno Domini Mccccccxl cujus animae propitietur Deus Amen.

He filled the office of Sheriff for Rutland in 1513, 1518, 1528 and 1532, and for Leicester and Warwick in 1521. He died in 1540. He married Mary, daughter of Sir John Heydon, and their eldest son, Kenelm Digby, was Sheriff of Rutland in the years 1541, 1549, 1554, 1561, 1567 and 1585. and represented the County in Parliament from 1 Ed. VI. to 14 Eliz. inclusive (1546-71). Kenelm married Anne, daughter of Sir Anthony Cope, of Hanwell in the County of Oxford, Vice-Chancellor to Queen Catherine, wife of Henry VIII. He died in 1590, and was buried in the chancel of Stoke Dry at the south side of the altar, under a magnificent alabaster table monument on which are two full-length effigies. The man is in plate armour, his head lying on a helmet, and holds something in his hand, suspended by a large double chain from his neck. The female figure lies with her head on a cushion, holding a book in her clasped hands. On the pedestal are eleven figures in effigy.

At the side is a man in armour, the eldest son, with a double chain like his father. He supports a shield bearing the arms of Digby, with a crescent for difference; impaling another coat, which is obliterated. On the other side of the shield is a man in a gown, a female figure in a frock and an infant swaddled. Four women with ruffs and a girl swaddled are on the other side. At the end is another shield, supported by two female figures, on which are impaled the arms of Digby and Cope. Around the shield is a garter bearing the

family motto, "NUL QUE VNG," "None but one." On the ledge is the following inscription :—

Here lyeth the bodies of Kenelme Digby Esquier which Kenelme deceased the 21 of April 1590 and of Anne his wife wch Anne deceased the ———

The remainder was never added but the Parish register shows that she was buried on May 22nd, 1602.

Kenelme and Anne Digby had three sons and one daughter. Everard Antony, of Ayston, who died childless; John, of Seaton, and Anne married in April, 1567, to Sir Edward Watson of Rockingham Castle. She died Feb. 17th, 1611, and was mother of Lewis, created Earl of Rockingham.

Everard, the eldest son, being educated in St. John's College, Cambridge, took the degree of M.A. and was fellow of his college. He was a person of learning, and published several books. He died at Stoke Dry in or about the year 1592.

His son, Sir Everard Digby, born in 1578, was the Gunpowder Plot Conspirator to whom we referred on pages 163, etc.

These monuments not only record the names of those who took a leading part in the affairs of the county "long ago," but recall some of the most momentous events in the history of the nation. We seem to hear the sounds of battle, the clash of arms, the shouts of the victors. Henry VI. is vanquished on Towton Field and made prisoner, and Edward IV. reigns in his stead. We watch the last Battle of the Roses when Richard III. fell on Bosworth Field. We hear him say when asked to fly :—

"Bryng me my battayl axe in my hand and set the crowne of gold on my hed so hye; for, by hyme that shape bothe se and sand, Kynge of England this day will I dye, one foote away I will not fle while brethe wyll byde my brest within."—*(Harleian MSS.)*

These events pass in panoramic view before us as we write—a chapter which may not inaptly be entitled National History in our Local Monuments.

On the floor of the chancel, near the chantry door, is a slab bearing the following inscription :—

HERE LIETH THE BODY OF DOROTHEY
STEVENS VIRGIN : AGE : XI : WAITING
FOR A JOYFVLL RESURRECTION :
NOVEMB : X : 1637.

This Dorothey Stevens was daughter of Humphrey Stevens, rector of the parish, who died 1641, to whose memory there is a small slab on the chancel floor, the inscription on which is now undecipherable.

The following are also in the chancel :—

"Helen Lawrence, wife of the Rev. Mr. Charles Lawrence, died Sept. 21st, 1774. Aged 79."

Brass.—"The Rev. Charles Lawrence, minister of this Parish, died 5th June, 1766. Aged 89."

"Sacred to the memory of Charles Henry Swann, fourteen years Rector of this Parish, who died August 21, 1854, aged 45 years, leaving a widow and eight children to mourn the loss of a most affectionate husband and father. Also of Elizabeth Anne his wife who died October 22, 1894, at Bromley, Kent. Aged 78 years. Sophia an infant daughter is buried near his grave."

"In memory of Conyers, son of Conyers and Lucy Peach, who departed this life Sep. ye 26, 1780. Aged 21."

"Elizabeth, wife of Benjamin Pane and daughter of Conyers and Elizabeth Peach, died Feb. ye 12, 1764. Aged 32."

"Conyers Peach departed this life April ye 20th, 1755. Aged 53. Also Elizabeth his wife died April 21, 1792. Aged 91."

"Sacred to the memory of Robert Peach, who departed this life March the 16, in the year of Our Lord 1828. Aged 66 years."

"Catherine wife of Robert Peach died Dec. 15, 1839. Aged 71 years."

"Robert Peach, Sep 17th 1841. Aged 35."

"To the memory of three sons of Conyers and Susanah Peach:

"Robert died April 24, 1832. Aged 8 months."

"Thomas died April 1, 1838. Aged 6 months."

"George Robert died June —, 1838. Aged 2 years."

"Here lyeth the body of William Goward, buryed ye 22 of April, 1676."

"Elenear, wife of William Goward, who died ye 5th of Octo., 1678."

A number of inscriptions cannot now be deciphered. The following are taken from MSS. notes written by Thomas Blore, the Rutland Historian.

On the floor within the Communion rail.

"Here lieth the body of the Reverend Mr. William Roos, Rector of this Parish 46 years and eight months, who dyed the 20th day of May, 1736, in the 78th year of his age. Nearer to the monument lies Briget Roos, wife of the said William Roos. She died the 22nd and was buried the 30th of April, 1748. Aged 68."

"Here near this place lies the body of Richard Roos, son of the Reverend Mr. William Roos by Briget his wife, who dyed June the 28th, 1697, aged 8 days.—And also of William Roos, another son of the said William and Briget, who died April 4th, 1698, aged 10 days.—And of Catherine Roos, daughter of the said William and Briget, who dyed August the 8th, 1712, aged 26 years.—And of John Roos, third son of the said William and Briget, who died June the 18th, 1719, aged 20 years and 18 days."

"Beneath are deposited the remains of Will. Roos, Esq., who died April 4th, 1789, aged 74 years."

"The Revd. Edw. Whitmell, Rector of this Parish, died Feb. ye 20, 1791, aged 68 years."

In the church are memorials for Andrew Bright. Mr. John Ayre, ob. 4 Oct., 1641. Millicent Bright, wife of Nicholas, ob. Dec., 1648, and Frances Aston, ob. 8 Apr., 1698.

STAINED GLASS.—In the north wall a three-light window. Subject: Christ blessing little children.

The arms of the See of Peterborough appear in one light and a shield with St. Andrew's Cross in the other.

To the Glory of God and in loving memory of William Campbell, M.A., Emmanuel College, Cambridge, Rector of Stoke Dry 1894–1902, by whose efforts this Church was restored in 1898. Erected by his widow and family 1904.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." Eccles. ix. 10.

In the south aisle a three-light window. The subject is Christ and the Centurion.

In memory of two most beloved sons: Quintin Hamilton, Lieutenant 2nd Battalion Suffolk Regt., died in India on 25th of August, 1877, aged 23 years.

Charles Chetwode, Captain 3rd Battalion Leicestershire Regt., died in Perak on the 2nd of July, 1883, aged 32 years.

This brass and window are placed by their parents, W. Hamilton Thompson, Rector of this Parish, and Anne J. Margaret his wife, in loving remembrance and to record this life long sorrow.

"The night is far spent the day is at hand."—Rom. xiii. 13.

BELL.—There is one bell bearing the following inscription:—

. . THOS : EAYRE DE KETTERING
FECIT, 1761 : . OMNIA FIANT AD
GLORIAM DEI : LAUDATE ILLUM
CYMBALIS SONORIS .·.·

Tradition says there were formerly two bells here within a steeple of wood. In the upper part of the present tower (built in the eighteenth century, which is very difficult of access) there is not room for more than the present single bell.

We have to acknowledge, with many thanks, the kindness and great assistance so willingly given by the Rev. G. Thurston, rector of Stoke Dry, who has not only lent a large number of notes, but been good enough to read through the proofs and offer many excellent suggestions. The notes of our friend the late Mr. R. P. Brereton, bequeathed to the British Museum, have been largely drawn upon for architectural details. Our thanks are also due to his executors for allowing us to use the photo of the chantry window. The list of Rectors is taken from the MSS. of the late Rev. M. Barton, bequeathed to the Rutland Archæological Society—an invaluable aid to our work. We have also to thank Mr. W. J. W. Stocks for the use of photographs.

The following works have been consulted:—Wright's History of Rutland, Murray's Handbook, Uppingham School Magazine, The Antiquary, Simpson's Sepulchral Brasses, Northamptonshire Notes and Queries, Leicester and Rutland Notes and Queries, Gentleman's Magazine, Associated Architectural Societies Reports, Leicestershire Architure and Archæological Soc. Transactions. Life of a

Conspirator, to the author of which we are indebted for allowing us to use the portrait of Sir Everard Digby. Catesby: A Tragedy of the Gunpowder Plot, Gerrard's Gunpowder Plot and Gunpowder Plotters, Collins' Peerage, Parkinson's survey of Rutland, North's Church Bells, Hope's Church Plate, Sir Stephen Glynn's MSS., Hawarden Library, State Papers, British Museum, Blore's notes in Mrs. Morris' copy of Wright's Rutland and the Stamford Mercury.

ERRATA:—Illustration facing p. 193, for "South" read "North" porch.
p. 194, last line but one, for "1849" read "1894."

THE EDITOR.

HORSE-SHOE FOLK-LORE.

AS a practical device for the protection of horse's feet, the utility of the iron horse-shoe has long been generally recognised. Into the origin of the horse-shoe, whether of bronze, iron, or of straw, I do not wish to enter; nor do I care to venture any opinion on the early form of such foot coverings for equine steeds. Those of my readers who wish to follow the subject from that point of view will find the matter dealt with in an exhaustive treatise by George Fleming, entitled "Horse-shoes and Horse-shoeing," their origin, history, uses and abuses; and in an exceedingly interesting paper by H. Syer Cuming in Vol. VI. of the Journal of the British Archæological Association.

My present purpose is to bring together examples of curious horse-shoe customs which have existed for centuries, in countries widely separated, in which it has been popularly used as a talisman for the preservation of buildings and persons from the wiles of witches and fiends, including, of course, his Satanic Majesty, and discuss some of the explanations which have found favour for the general adoption of the horse-shoe as an emblem of good luck.

No paper of this description could be written without something more than a passing allusion to the absolutely unique custom for which our little County town is celebrated. Visitors, I might almost say, from the four quarters of the globe have, of late years, owing probably to the appearance of illustrated articles in the magazines, been drawn to Oakham to feast their eyes on the curious collection.

What enhances both the collection and the custom is the fact that the old Castle Hall, the finest specimen of Domestic Architecture of the 12th Century to be found in this or any other country, still stands, and affords an appropriate setting for the ever increasing number of shoes, which range in size from that of the ordinary racer, to the Brobdingnagian proportions of a shoe seven feet long.

We are somewhat perplexed in endeavouring to ascertain the origin of the Oakham custom. Popular tradition dates it from the time when Queen Elizabeth passed through Oakham on her way to visit the great Lord Treasurer Burghley at Burghley by Stamford. The story goes that her horse cast a shoe in the street, and in order to mark the event the Queen there and then decreed that every Royal Personage or Peer of the Realm, on passing through Oakham for the first time, must give a horse-shoe to the Lord of the Manor. On refusal the bailiff was to have power to take one by force from the horse's hoof. It is quite certain, however, that the custom in vogue at Oakham is of much earlier date, for Camden mentions it as existing in his time (about 1533) and it is supposed to have come down from the Ferrers. It has been said that there is no other warrant for this conjecture than the fanciful play on the word Ferrers—whose arms were a Semeé of horse-shoes. In connection with this point I may mention an interesting discovery of early medieval relics of the potter's art made in 1862 on the estate of Lord Scarsdale, near Derby. During some excavations for drainage on the top of Burley Hill, in the parish of Duffield, a Norman pottery was unearthed. Among the remains was found a ewer shaped domestic water vessel bearing an heraldic decoration, a species of ornamentation unique on vessels of that period and undoubtedly the badge of the ancient lords of the soil on which the vessel was made. The badge is that of the horse-shoe, the distinctive bearing of the family of Ferrers, Earls of Ferrers, of Derby and of Nottingham, who held Duffield Castle from the time of the Conquest to the reign of Henry III., when the lands were confiscated. The vessel was probably made for castle use. It bears five horse-shoes and two buckles. The buckles, also a badge of the Ferrers, are the circular ones of the Norman period.

The origin of the Oakham custom is lost in the mists of the past, and as all the sources of information have been searched without result I feel somewhat diffident in putting forward what I consider may be the solution. The Parliamentary rolls at the commencement of the reign of Henry V. set forth a petition of the Mayor of Dover that he may take toll of every horse passing through the town to the amount of a half-penny, for the purpose of repairing the harbour, but there is no trace in the various records which have been consulted that such an allowance was ever accorded to the town of Oakham, or to any of its proprietors. The early existence of the custom, however, seems to have established it as a prescriptive right.

By an inquisition found in the Hundred Rolls, made at Stamford before twelve Jurors of the hundred of Martinsley in the 3rd Edward I. (1257) it seems that something analogous was then in existence. The Jurors declare on their oath that it appears to them that the manor of Oakham was

formerly in the hands of William the Conqueror and was worth £100 a year and upwards; that the King gave it to Hugh, to hold from him in Chief by fee for a half a Knight's service, who held the manor for him till Normandy was lost, and the successors of Hugh at that time rebelled against King John, who thereupon granted the manor to Isabella de Mortimer for her life, by the same service, and after her death it came into the hands of Henry, father of King Edward, who conveyed it, with the Castle, in fee dowry, to Senchia, wife of Richard Earl of Cornwall, to hold it from him in Chief by the aforesaid service.

The Jurors at Stamford also found that every bailiff of Richard, Earl of Cornwall, took at Oakham, as well in the time of King Henry as now, toll of carriages bought or sold, and of all other things there to the damage of £10 per annum, by what warrant they know not, and this unjustly. They also said that Peter de Nevill took ten marcs unjustly from the men of Oakham and Langham, by virtue of his office, and that they should not have their dogs lawed.

In the following year the Jurors returned that the County of Rutland, formerly belonging to the County of Northampton, until Henry granted it to the King of Germany (Richard, Earl of Cornwall) who they found had right of gallows, assize of bread and ale, pillory and cucking stool. And they said that the bailiffs of Oakham, in the reign of Henry III. and Edward I. took toll of carriages, horses bought and sold, and all other merchandise at Oakham, and they distrain men of their property who are not principal merchants nor sureties, they know not by what warrant.

From these records at least an insight is gathered into the practices, which, at various periods, have been countenanced by English monarchs and the highest Judicial functionaries.

That Walchelin de Ferrers was a truculent noble of the bold-bad-baron order is evinced by the fact that in 1176 (according to the entries in the great Roll of the Pipe) he was fined a hundred marcs for trespassing in the King's forests. In 1181 he paid a hundred shillings for a pardon, and in 1188 the sheriff returns him on the great Norman roll as fined in one hundred pounds because of "a duel upon a robbery which was ill kept in his court."

It requires very little stretch of the imagination to picture a Norman baron with such a record ordering his seneschal to "off with a shoe" from the horse of any other baron who dared to ride through his territory; and what probably began with a piece of ruffianism over seven hundred years ago has evolved into a curious custom which can be fully appreciated only by seeing the remarkable collection.

The toll has, of course, long been commuted by payment for a shoe to be made of such size and design as suits the taste of the donor.

Speed, who visited Oakham about the year 1600, mentions the custom and also gives a short list of the shoes. Speaking with Lord Harrington he says :—" that such homage was his due the said Lord himself told me, and at that instant a suit depended in law against the Earl of Lincolne who refused to forfeit the penalty, or pay the fine." There is no evidence that Lord Harrington won his case as the shoe is not in the collection, but his great grandson evidently did not dispute the custom, for a shoe was given in 1680 by Edward, Earl of Lincoln.

We have here a curious custom which carries us back to a remote period and tells us, not merely the history of Oakham, but the history and usages of our forefathers. We have but scanty materials from which a knowledge of such customs may be gathered and thence handed down for the instruction of posterity. So, long may the custom continue.

A curious custom regarding horse-shoes is still observed in the city of Lancaster.

It is stated in a number of the *Preston Pilot*, for 1834, that a large assembly congregated for the purpose of witnessing the renewing of the horse-shoe, at the Horse-shoe Corner, Lancaster, when the old shoe was taken up and a new one put down, with " 1834" engraved on it. Those who assembled to witness the ceremony were entertained with nut brown ale, etc. Afterwards they had a merry chairing, and then retired. In the evening they were again entertained with a good substantial supper. This custom is supposed to have originated at the time John O'Gaunt came into the town upon a noble charger which lost its shoe at this place. The shoe was taken up and fixed in the middle of the street; and has ever since been replaced with a new one every seventh year, at the expense of the townsmen who reside near the place.

In the town of Kelso, in Roxburghshire, there is a horse-shoe fixed in one of the streets, regarding the history of which nothing certain is known. There have been many guesses by local enquirers and speculations over its origin, but no satisfactory facts have been discovered, and no solution of the difficulty has been evolved. Some have suggested that the horse of an ancient King, and others that the horse of the Pretender, dropped a shoe at the spot, and that the shoe nailed to the street pavement is to commemorate the event. But this theory is not tenable, for the horse-shoe is found mentioned as a boundary mark, in title deeds of a date anterior, at least, to the Pretender's time. It has been suggested that it may have had its origin in the time when the belief in witchcraft prevailed and that it was a kind of village charm against the influence of that uncanny fraternity.

Photo.] [*G. Phillips.*

OAKHAM CASTLE: ROYAL SHOES, INCLUDING QUEEN ELIZABETH'S.

There are some strange superstitions allied with horse-shoes. It is impossible to fix the age of many of these curious fancies, but they appear to belong to the remotest antiquity, to be cœval, indeed, with the early mysteries, and to have held their ground long after these had disappeared, descending from one age to another, until they have even reached our own day. Finding a horse-shoe, and nailing it to a door or other place in order to keep away witches or ill-luck, is one of those psychological vagaries of the human mind not alone confined to the west, but ranging over a large extent of the earth's surface.

From various sources I have gathered a number of instances, by no means exhaustive, if one had time to search for them, of these curious horse-shoe customs.

It used to be the practice in Devonshire and Cornwall, to nail to the west doors of churches these old articles to keep off the malicious witches, one of whose special amusements it was

> "To untie the winds and make them fight
> Against the churches."

Church doors appear to have been rather favourite places for horse-shoes. Against the door of Haccombe church in Devonshire there were formerly fastened two shoes "in memory of a certain Earl of Totnes, who won a wager of a manor of land in consequence of his swimming his horse a vast way into the sea and back again."

A ballad, supposed to have been written by a master of Exeter Grammar School in the early part of the 19th century, graphically describes the event. After his victory the Earl rode straight to the door of Haccombe church

> "And there fell on his knees and prayed,
> And many an Ave Maria said.
> Bread and money he gave to the poor,
> And he nail'd the roan's shoes to the Chapel door."

There was to be seen at Ellrich, in Germany, in days long gone by, four horse-shoes, of immense size, nailed to the door of the old church. They astonished everybody; and when the church was destroyed, they were carefully preserved in the curate's dwelling. In very ancient times, so goes the story, Count Ernest rode one Sunday morning from Klettenberg to Ellrich, in order to contend, glass in hand, with the most intrepid tippler, for a chain of gold. He met a great number of rivals, and defeated them all: and having put the chain round his neck, he was returning, as conqueror. As he crossed the principal thoroughfare, he heard the vespers chanted in the Church of St. Nicholas, and, drunk as he was, made up his mind to enter the sacred building. So he rode in, through and over the people, up to the very altar; but scarcely had his horse put its feet on the steps to clear them, than all at once its four shoes were torn off, and it fell with its rider, both stiff dead on the floor. The shoes have been preserved for ages as a memorial of this event.

At Schwarzentein, about half a league from Rastenburg, Prussia, two large horse-shoes, says tradition, were to be seen hanging to the church walls, and this is their antiquated history. "Not far from the church dwelt a tavern keeper, who, in selling beer to the people, did not give them just measure. The devil came upon him unawares one night, and, before mine host could give the alarm, he was carried off to the village forge. His Satanic Majesty with difficulty wakened up the smith, and said to him 'Master, shoe my horse!' The astonished vulcan who was justly suspected of being in partnership with the publican in his fraudulent transactions, knew not what to do; but as soon as he drew near, the beer seller whispered in his ear, 'Partner, don't be in a hurry but work slowly.' The smith who had taken him for a horse, was greatly terrified when he heard the familiar voice, and the fright caused him to tremble in every limb; consequently the operation of shoeing was greatly retarded, and in the interval the cock crew. The devil was then obliged to take to flight; but the innkeeper was very ill, and did not recover for a long time after." If the devil were to shoe all innkeepers who give short measure, runs the moral of the tradition, iron would soon be beyond price.

Boyce, in his Occasional Reflections, 1665, p. 217. says—"The common people of this country have a tradition that 'tis a lucky thing to find a horse-shoe. And though 'twas to make myself merry with this fond conceit of the superstitious vulgar, I stooped to take this up."

Burnes, in a description of his travels into Bokhara, remarks—"Passing a gate of the city, I observed it studded with horse-shoes, which are as superstitious emblems in this country as in remote Scotland. A farrier had no customers. A saint to whom he applied recommended his nailing a pair of horse-shoes to the gate of the city. He afterwards prospered, and the farriers of Peshawur have since propitiated the same saint by a similar expedient, in which they place implicit reliance."

Aubrey tells us, in his Miscellanies, p. 148, that "it is a thing very common to nail horse-shoes on the thresholds of doors, which is to hinder the power of witches that enter into the house. Most houses in the west end of London, have the horse-shoe on the threshold. It should be a horse-shoe that one finds. He adds: in the Bermudas they used to put an iron into the fire when a witch comes in. Mars is enemy to Saturn. Under the porch of Staninfield Church, in Suffolk, I saw a tile with a horse-shoe upon it, placed there for this purpose, though one would imagine that holy water would alone have been sufficient. I am told there are many other similar instances."

Brand, in his Popular Antiquities, in alluding to Aubrey's remarks, says, "In Monmouth Street, probably the part of

London alluded to, many horse-shoes nailed to the thresholds are still to be seen (1798). There is one at the corner of Little Queen Street, Holborn."

The editor of Brand Antiquities, in 1813, counted no less than seventeen horse-shoes in Monmouth Street, nailed against the steps of doors. In 1841 only five or six remained.

Misson, in his Travels in England, p. 192, says :—"Having often observed a horse-shoe nailed to the threshold of a door (among the meaner sort of people) I asked several what was the meaning of it; they gave me several different answers, but the most general was, that they were put there to keep out witches. It is true that they laugh when they say this, but yet they do not laugh at it altogether, for they believe there is, or at least may be, some secret virtue concealed in it; and, if they were not of this opinion, they would not be so careful as they are to nail them to their thresholds."

To nail a horse-shoe, which has been cast on the road, over the door of any house, barn or stable, is considered to be an effectual means of preventing the entrance of witches in Cornwall and the west of England to this day. Instances have also occurred of the same custom in Kent.

It was considered a lucky omen to find a horse-shoe on the road; for one procured this way was far more potent against the illnatured old ladies than one procured otherwise. Sir Walter Scott, in "Red Gauntlet," alludes to the virtues of the hoof armour in this respect when he causes Summertrees to rail Crosbie with "Your wife's a witch, man; you should nail a horse-shoe on your chamber door."

Holiday, in his Comedy of the "Marriage of the Arts," among other good wishes introduced, gives one to the effect "that the horse-shoe may never be pulled from your threshold."

Butler, in his "Hudibras," says of his conjuror that he could

> "Chase evil spirits away by dint
> of cickle, horse-shoe, hollow flint."

Mason, in his Anatomie of Sorcerie, 1612, p. 90, enumerating our superstitions, mentions, as an omen of good luck, "If drink be spilled upon a man; or if he find old iron." Hence it is accounted a lucky omen to find a horse-shoe.

In Guy's fable of the "Old Woman and her Cats," the supposed witch complains as follows :—

> "Crowds of boys
> worry me with eternal noise;
> Straws laid across my pace retard,
> The hore-shoes nail'd (each threshold's guard).

One of the weaknesses of the late Duchess of St. Alban's, which was displayed in early life, and one which did not fail to operate upon her actions, was that of an excessive degree of superstition. To such an extent was the feeling carried

by the wealthy banker, Mr. Coutts, as well as by herself that when they went to reside at Holly Lodge, they caused two rusty old broken horse-shoes to be fastened to the upper step of the marble flight of stairs by which the house was entered from the lawn.

An elderly woman, named Keziah Brewin, who got her living by gathering watercress and blackberries and telling fortunes, died suddenly at Peterborough on September 17th, 1893. Her body was taken to the mortuary. Around her waist, beneath her garments, was found stretched a girdle on which depended a horse-shoe, from which, it is stated, the old lady believed proceeded much of her occult wisdom.

A writer in the Western Antiquary says :—" I have seen horse-shoes nailed to the doors of houses, barns and stables, but most frequently on the inside fittings of the majority of the boats lying on the sea beach at the various watering places which begem the coast. The favourite—that is to say the most convenient spot in a boat, is at the bow, inside the stern. I once asked a sailor and fisherman why he had put a horse-shoe in his boat? He smiled and said, ' It was to keep out the witches.' I have been told that it must be an old half worn out shoe, certainly not a new one, as that would not possess the charm."

I think I have cited examples sufficient to prove the wide-spread belief in the virtues of the horse-shoe as a talisman, and propose now to consider the various explanations which have found favour for its general adoption as an emblem of good luck. One is that the horse-shoe has an imaginary connection with the Jewish Passover. As the blood sprinkled on the lintels and doorposts of the house at the time of the great Jewish feast, formed the chief points of an arch, it has been conceived that with this memory in mind, the horse-shoe was adopted as an arch shaped talisman, and hence became emblematic of good luck. The same might also be supposed to underlie the practice of peasants in the West of Scotland, who train the boughs of the rowan, or mountain ash, in the form of an arch over a farmyard gate to protect their cattle from evil.

The theory has also been advanced that in ancient times the horse-shoe, in its primitive form, was a symbol relating to serpent worship, and that its superstitious use as a charm may hence have originated. There is a resemblance between a horse-shoe and the arched body of a snake, when the latter is so convoluted that its head and tail correspond to the horse-shoe prongs.

At Colney, in Norfolk, some Roman urns have been unearthed and a horse-shoe of uncommon form. It was round and broad in front and narrowed very much backward, having its extreme ends brought almost close together.

Beyer, in his Numismata Romanorum, figures a curious bronze medal, said to have been one of the relics found in

Photo.] OAKHAM CASTLE: PEERS' SHOES. [*G. Phillips.*

the battlefield of Alesia, where took place the final struggle between Julius Cæsar and the Gauls. On the obverse of this medal appear two snakes with their tails entwined and in the middle of the circle are two objects resembling horse-shoes. On the reverse is a laurel tree with the letters I O on each side of the trunk and the legend TRIVMP (triumph). He classes the medal among those of Julius Cæsar, but puts it under the head of "Numismata Incerta" and this uncertainty deprives it of much of the interest it might possess with regard to the subject of this paper. Beyer seems to have been puzzled by the medal, and could come to no conclusion as to its import. In a German work on farriery, a tail piece to one of the chapters shows a serpent encircling a well arranged and characteristic group of objects consisting of a horse-shoe, nails, hammer, pincers, buffer, rasp, and "boutoir" or "hufmesser."

The serpent occupied a prominent position in Oriental Mythology. It is symbolical of Deity, because, says Plutarch, "it feeds upon its own body; even so all things spring from God, and will be resolved into Deity again." It is represented as forming a circle and holding its tail in its mouth, this symbolizing eternity. It is also symbolical of guardian spirits and was thus employed by the ancient Greeks and Romans, and not unfrequently the figure of a serpent was depicted on their altars. In the temple of Athena at Athens a serpent was kept in a cage, and called "The Guardian Spirit of the Temple."

The reptile held a prominent place among the superstitions of the Druids, its eggs being looked upon by them as a most potent talisman. The Druids wore them round their necks, richly set, and sold them at a very high price. They appear, nevertheless, like many charlatans, not to have hesitated to substitute the shells of the echini or "sea eggs" when the genuine article could not be obtained. In front of a church in Crendia, a town in the southern part of the island of Malta, there is to be seen a statue having at its feet a protective symbol in the shape of a half-moon encircled by a snake. So much for the serpent theory.

The influence of the moon over mental and bodily diseases, its virtues in all magical rites, its appearances as productive of evil and good and matters of a like nature, were almost universally confided in as matters of useful and necessary belief in the fifteenth century, and it is stated on reasonable authority that the relics of this belief are, at the present day, to be traced among our rural population. Shakespeare has many allusions to these impressions. In Macbeth, Hecate tells the witches:—

> "Upon a corner of the moon
> There hangs a vaporous drop profound."

efficacious, it may be presumed, in the invocation of spirits.

From the earliest times the crescent moon has been thought by the ignorant to have an influence over the crops, and indeed, over the many affairs of life. Hence, doubtless, arose a belief in the value of crescent shaped or cornute objects as amulets and charms, and of these the horse-shoe is the one most commonly available and, therefore, the one most generally used.

In a work entitled "The Evil Eye," Mr. F. T. Elsworthy calls attention to the fact that the half-moon was often placed on the heads of certain of the most powerful Egyptian Deities and, therefore, when worn, became a symbol of their worship. The use of such symbols is not obsolete. The brass crescent, an avowed charm against the evil eye, is very commonly attached to the elaborately decorated harness of Neopolitan draught horses, and is used in the East to embellish the trappings of elephants. It is employed in the same manner in various parts of Europe and even in England.

Another explanation is that the horse-shoe has some resemblance to the Phallus, an emblem of the Phallic worship which was first established in Egypt The evidence, however, is very meagre and chiefly rests on amulets. In Greece, the Phallus was an universal amulet. It was thought to prevent every species of calamity, and was accordingly hung at the doors of houses, offices and workshops. It was visible in every situation, and was even suspended from the necks of children to preserve them from the effects of fascination.

The employment of a horse-shoe as a charm has also been ascribed to its resemblance in shape to the metallic meniscus, or halo, formerly placed over the heads of the Virgin and images of patron saints in churches and represented in ancient pictures. Such paintings on the doors of buildings would become in process of time nearly effaced, and the respect originally given to the whole picture would be continued to be paid to the metal meniscus, a prominent object which could not escape attention. Crescent shaped pieces of metal were sometimes nailed up at the doors of churches, especially in the South-West of England as it was believed that evil spirits could enter even consecrated edifices.

Among early Celts, Teutons and the Slavs, the horse was considered a sacred animal, and reverence for it formed part of the national religion. In the dark groves consecrated to the deities, whose all-pervading presence disdained the confines of a temple built with hands, white horses, uncontaminated by human labour, were fed at the public expense. Their neighing and their motions were carefully observed by priests, who accompanied them when yoked to the sacred chariot, and the omens drawn from them were received

with reverence and faith, not only by the people, but by the chiefs also, and even by the priests. They considered themselves but as the ministers of the Gods, whilst they looked upon the sacred horses as the confidants of their secrets. A horse-shoe would, therefore, have a certain inherent sanctity and holiness in early times. Remembering that in Europe, at least, it is the cattle, horses, and domestic animals in general which are thought to be specially liable to the hostile attacks of the "little people," and seeing that iron was considered a protection against the fiery darts of the evil ones, nothing is more likely to have come handier than a cast horse-shoe, having convenient holes for readily hanging it up over the door, shed or stable. In Northern India the horse is regarded as a lucky animal: thus when an equestrian rides into a field of sugur cane in the planting season the event is considered auspicious. In the same region the froth from a horses mouth is thought to repel demons, which are believed to have more fear of him than of any other animal. Conway, in "Demonology and Devil Lore," ascribes the use of the horse-shoe against the wiles of witches to the Scandinavian superstition known as Demon-Mare.

Some writers maintain that luck associated with horse-shoes is due to metal, irrespective of shape, iron or steel being considered traditional charms against spirits and goblins. In their view a horse-shoe is simply a piece of iron with seven nail holes and is a suitable talisman to be affixed to the door or dwelling or stable in conformity with a venerable custom sanctioned by centuries of usage. Of the antiquity of the belief in the supernatural properties of iron there is no doubt. In Morocco, iron is considered a great protection against demons and hostile spirits. Hence it is usual to place a knife or dagger under a sick man's pillow, his illness being, of course, attributed to demoniacal possession. In India, the mourner who performs the necessary but somewhat dangerous duty of putting fire into a dead man's mouth, carries a key or knife in his hand to keep off evil spirits. Pliny says that iron coffin nails affixed to the lintel of a door renders the inmates of the dwelling secure against the visits of prowling nocturnal spirits. To the same superstition may be ascribed the studding of a church door with nails. In short, a bit of iron seems to be a very useful thing to have about you at any time, if you desire to escape the unfavourable attention of the ghosts, the trolls, the fairies and the demons generally. Hence, I suppose, this is one good reason for buying a pocket knife and also a reason for nailing up a horse-shoe.

As a rule the degree of luck pertaining to a horse-shoe found by chance has been thought to depend on the number of nails remaining in it; the more nails the more luck. In Northumberland the holes free of nails are counted, as

those indicate, presumably in years, how soon the finder of the shoe may expect to be married.

The proper position for fixing a horse-shoe has often been debated. Fosbrooke says that the horse-shoes found in German barrows project not downwards but upwards. The talisman effectively bars the ingress of witches and evil spirits, but an entrance once obtained it is powerless to expel them. Hence the belief, prevalent in Germany, that a horse-shoe found on the road and nailed on the threshold of a house, with the points directed upwards, is a mighty protection, not only against hags and fiends, but also against fire and lightning, but reversed it brings misfortune. In Bohemia, there is said to prevail a superstition exactly opposite, namely, that whoever picks up a horse-shoe thereby picks up ill-luck for himself; a notable example of the exception which proves the rule.

On this point I may mention an amusing incident in connection with the projected issue of the *Rutland Magazine*. A Leicestershire clergyman to whom I sent a prospectus, on which were depicted some of the horse-shoes now in the Castle, wrote a strongly worded remonstrance against anyone professing the most elementary knowledge of archæology sending out a drawing showing the horse-shoes with the points downward. He predicted the greatest ill-luck for the Magazine. I replied, that Oakham Castle was still standing with its collection of one hundred and sixty six horse-shoes, with two exceptions all placed in position with the points downwards, and that the *Rutland Magazine* would doubtless survive his dismal prognostications.

Whatever may be the origin of the superstitious employment of the horse-shoe, its adoption as a token of good-luck appears to be comparatively modern, its earliest use having been for the exclusion of witches, evil spirits, and all such uncanny beings.

Before leaving the subject, an extract may be cited from an article contained in a periodical of the 18th century against the repeal of the so called Witch Act, wherein the writer offers the following satirical advice.

"To secure yourself against the enchantment of witches, especially if you are a person of fashion and have never been taught the Lord's Prayer, the only method I know is to nail a horse-shoe on the threshold. This I can affirm to be of the greatest efficacy, inasmuch as I have taken notice of many a little cottage in the country with a horse-shoe at its door, where gaming, extravagance, Jacobitism and all the catalogue of witchcrafts have been totally unknown."

G. PHILLIPS.

THE LADY BRIDGET NOEL'S VISIT TO TOWN IN 1685.

BAPTIST NOEL, third Viscount Campden, elder brother to the Mr. Henry Noel, who was besieged in Luffenham Hall, resided at Exton practically during his whole married life (1632-82): four times in succession did he enter the holy estate of Matrimony, and the offspring of these unions numbered at least nineteen; of the eight children of the fourth marriage with the lady Elisabeth Bertie daughter of Montacute Earl of Lindsey, three died in early life; one son Baptist married Susannah daughter of Sir Thomas Fanshawe of Cottesmore in 1682, settled down at Luffenham Hall, and died in 1690; another son John, who married Elisabeth (by birth Bennett) widow of Edward Ingram, finds occasional mention in the annals of Luffenham; but our interest now chiefly turns to three daughters of the Viscount by his fourth marriage, Catharine born in 1657 who in 1673 became the third wife of lord Roos and in 1679 by succession Countess of Rutland; Bridget, born in 1660, died unmarried in 1718, specially commands our present attention: and Martha Penelope, known as Pen in the family circle, born in 1666, married Mr. Dormer a kinsman on her mother's side, and died in 1692.

Most of the material upon which the following paper is based can be found in a Calendar of the Manuscripts of his grace the Duke of Rutland preserved at Belvoir Castle, and printed for the Royal Historical Commission: it consists chiefly of letters written by the lady Bridget to her sister the Countess and intended to be burnt after perusal, but which in some perverse way have been preserved until our own time. These letters give an interesting glimpse of a particular phase of the life of the later century xvii., and the incidents related in them which I have chosen for description took place during a visit which this lady and her sister Penelope paid to London in the winter of 1685, during the time they were resident with their brother and his wife at North Luffenham.

The lady Bridget Noel presents herself to us as a fashionable young lady of the Stuart period, very much interested in gaming, sporting and betting as well as in the other doings of the gay world of her time: she is a very bad speller in an age when little attention was paid to this accomplishment, yet this makes it easy to tell from the omission of certain letters (*e. g.* of *s* coming before *c*) that she spoke with a graceful lisp: she was devoid of culture, though quick-witted to an extreme, and through all her letters there runs a vein of strong common sense, by no means lacking the serious element: altogether we cannot

help having a regard for this young lady although a barrier of some two hundred years makes more friendly acquaintance impossible.

The arrangements for the journey to town began to take definite form on Sunday, 13 December, 1685, by which day her brother, Baptist Noel who was M.P. for Rutland at that time, had already reached his destination for 'my lord [1]Exeter came as far as Hatfield of Wensday last' to meet him. The ladies started the following week proposing to 'goe to [2]Bugdon the first night and the next to [3]Stevenig and the next to [4]Barnad and so for London and at night to Genkens' a large house near Barking 8 miles from London belonging to Sir Thomas Fanshawe, the lord of the manor of Jenkins in Barking; where she adds 'I shall not stor tell after Crismas and then but seldom.' In a postscript we are told 'My sister Pen has won you (*i.e.* the Countess of Rutland) a crowen and I plad at dice and won you half a giney and a crowen at cribedge, so if you ples I will play teel all the mony is gon or more won or if you will not venter any more I will return the mony'—all which throws a light upon home amusements at North Luffenham in James II's time.

However by Saturday, 19 December, 'after a very troublesome journey we got safe to Ingkens and in my opinion it is a very prety plas for I heard so ill a careter of it that I am surprised to find it half so good a hous as it is. Here is noebody with my lady Fansher but my cousin Amy and Mistress Margaret Fansher. My lady tells me it is very easy to goe up to town and see a play and come down at night. The way is very good between Ingkens and London. My lord Exeter met us at [4]Barnad and my [5]lady sent to desire us to dine with her in town so that we went from Barnad in lord Exeter's cotch and was set down at Mrs. [6]King's. We went in a hackney cotch to Mr. Cops and I bought a black manto of waved silk and lined it with black velvet, and black velvet bodys and petcot to it and black fringes round the petcot. I have bought a sett for my hed and slevs and rufels which cost me five pound, but it is not of the fine sort that is worn with gowns for ther is noe suts made of the sort for the hed it being so very deare. I had a shape for a gown bought me by M[rs] Meres the price of it was five pound without the slevs and rufels and tuker and pars. My sister Pen has bought a black velvet lining for her fine manto which she makes into a [7]night-gown and she has bought a [8]carlet and silver petcot which cost 35 shelens a yard and fringes

1. John Cecil, the fifth earl
2. Buckden, near Huntingdon
3. Stevenage
4. Chipping Barnet
5. Anne Cavendish, only daughter of William earl of Devonshire, and widow of Charles lord Rich, married John fifth earl of Exeter.
6. A hairdresser as appears by a later letter.
7. Probably what is now styled a morning or dressing gown.
8. Scarlet.

round it. [9]Sister Noel has bought a night-gown and petcot of a very prity silk of black and gold and [8]carelet: the price is 22 and 20 shelens a yard and it is lined with black velvet. I am told that they wayr petcots of the same as they make the linens of. Coelerd night gowns is mutch worn for few waers black. I am wondered at for bying a black petcot for they say black mantos is worn but colerd petcots with the mantos. My lady Exeter was in a black silk gown but it was coot in sleeps and set upon black [8]latstring. I never saw my lady look so well as she does now: she was to go play bassett with the [10]Prences it being the last night she plad at cards tell after Crismas. The King and Queen goes to san James tell after twal day and I heare ther is to be no more balls tell after that time. It is reported lord [11]Manchester is to be mared very suddenly to M[rls] Cotteler and lord [12]Notingam is to marry M[rls] Hatton and lord Hatton gives her 12 thousand pounds porshang which in my openon is a great dell for lord Notengam being he has a son and a dafter.' And by postscript 'It was reported in town that I lost a thousand pounds of the maer's match.'

The following Monday, 21 December, we learn that 'Mrs. King has cut all our haers but she has done it so very iell that I am resolved never to have her cut it more. The greatest news in towne is of the disbanded officers, I think some 15 captains, of which number my lord [13]Willeby and my two unkles makes up three. [14]Mr. Hamden's tryall which was to have been Friday is deferd tell Wensday come seneght before which time must suppose he will receive his pardon. My lord [11]Manchester has resigned his troop. I was told there was a ball at my lord Dumblane's of Saturday: how true it is I don't know. The Court removed a Saturday to saint James where they continue till after Crismas. It is sayd that the duke of [15]Albermarl refuses to go to Jamaica. It is talked that the Duke of Ormond

9. Susannah, by birth Fanshawe, wife to her brother Baptist.

8. A shiny kind of silk: black scarves worn by the clergy of this age were made out of it; 'within my memory the price of lustring is raised above twopence in a yard.' Addison, *Spectator* No. 21.

10. Anne, daughter to James II, afterwards Queen.

11. Charles Montagu, fourth earl of Manchester.

12. Daniel Finch, second earl of Nottingham, married Anne only daughter of Christopher, viscount Hatton, 29 December, 1685.

13. Lord Willoughby de Eresby son of Robert Bertie second earl of Linsey: the two uncles were Dick Bertie and Henry Bertie. A nephew, Percy Bertie, was also dismissed. This happened on 17 December.

14. John Hampden, grandson of the John Hampden of ship-money fame, pleaded guilty to treason in the matter of the Rye House Plot and was fined heavily.

15. Christopher, son and heir of George Monk the restorer of the Stuarts.

my lord [16]Newport and my lord [17]Mainard are to be removed very suddenly. If you have a mind to have a fals jeypan table to seat the tea upon I can buy you a very prety one for twenty shelens.' By postscript 'I am very sorry for the death of poor Mr. Hess for he was the sweetest yong man I ever knew. I desire to reseve the sacrement at Barken.'

On the Tuesday week following, 29 December, the lady Bridget writes: 'A Tuesday my sister Pen and sister Noel and my brother Baptist and I goe to town with an intent to watt of sister [18]Northampton and my brother [19]Gainsborow: we shall sup at lady Exeter's and after super go to the Mueseke meeting in [20]York Bildens where there will be a great dell of company. Lord [21]Northampton is gone down to watt of lady Conway and the [22]bishop of London with him. Lady [23]Dorset is in town but she goes don before Crismas is don and lady Northampton and sister Gainsborow with her, and lord Gainsborow goes to [24]Titchfield. The duchess of [25]Grafton is counted the finest woman in town and next to her lady Maery Foster. I hear the duchess of Grafton has lodgens in Whittall. M[ris] [26]Sideley is not out of favor for she has great presance, but in privat by what I hear the King his mutch more ammorous than ever he was. I hear the Queen looks very iell. M[ris] Botts rett to know which way they lays the petcots but as yet I cannot give you an account for I am told the las is not yused, and inded I have not seen any petcots but what has been ermen and made up just like your one ermen petcot. Three fringes is very much yused but they are not sett upon the petcot strat but in waves: it does not luke well and the fringes that is yused in that fashion is the plane twisted fring not very deep. I hear

16. Francis Newport second Lord Newport.
17. William Maynard baron Maynard Comptroller of the Household to James II.
18. Her half-sister Mary, dowager Countess of Northampton, who had married the third earl of Northampton, he died in 1681.
19. Her half-brother Edward first earl of Gainsborough.
20. Built on the site of the ancient town residence of the Archbishop of York: it came into the possession of George Villiers, duke of Buckingham, and in his memory was laid out in a series of streets called after him. GEORGE Street, VILLIERS Street, DUKE Street, OF Alley, BUCKINGHAM Street, now lying just west of the Charing Cross Railway Terminus, Westminster.
21. George Compton fourth earl of Northampton, son of the 'sister Northampton' mentioned above: the Earl was paying attentions to lady Conway at this time.
22. Henry Compton, youngest brother to the third earl of Northampton.
23. Mary Compton daughter of the third earl of Northampton, and second wife to Charles Sackville, earl of Dorset.
24. Near Southamton.
25. The Duke of Grafton married, 1 August, 1682, the lady Isabella Bennet, only daughter of Henry, Earl of Arlington.
26. Catherine Sedley, daughter to Sir Charles Sedley, the well known mistress of James II.

of some that has nine fringes cett in this fashon.' And here follows the significant postscript, 'I hope you are as just in burning all my letters as I am in not shoeing your verses.'

On Thursday, 31 December, Peregrine Bertie, cousin to the lady Bridget, writes: 'My cousins and the ladies have been in towne and I had the good fortune to see them at the musicke meeting for about three minutes. They told mee then they were to goe out of towne that night, but it seems they stayed tell to day's morning.'

Two days later on Friday, 1 January, Peregrine Bertie and his 'cousin [30]Dormer' joined the party at Jenkins. The rest of the company set 'cousin Dormer' on to make love to sir Thomas Fanshawe's sister: the result was pronounced very entertaining and calculated to yield the Countess of Rutland very good diversion had she been there to see it.

On Wednesday, 6 January, the lady Bridget reports 'Hear is but very littel news in town or ells I should not fail giving my dear sister the trouble of a letter every post, though I am not so hapy as to reseve one from you in a fortnight. I desire you to present my humble service to your lord and pay his lordship half a guiney. For last Tuesday I went to the Muesek meeting with lady Exeter and it was very late befor it was don and my brother perswaded us to stay in town all night and my lady Exeter engaged us to goe to a play with her the next day which was a Commity. The King and Queen was at it and the house as full as ever I saw it. All the town will be at the masquerade at [27]Mountague House and lord Devensher desires none to be theare but people of qualety. My brother John will be at all the masquerades. I was to watt of sister Northampton and I found sister Gainsborow with her but they was a goeing out so I did not stay long; lady Dorset was gon to the play I was with cousin [28]Fountain and she looks very well. Cosen Peregren goes to travell with lord Manchester. Lady Banbury's sister lady Francis is mared to Abell the singing master: her brother is extremely consarned at it. As soon as lord [29]Banbury knew of it he putt her out of the house. She was mared that night that the company was there which was a Tusday night and on Wensday night my lady Exeter and my lord Exeter and my brothers and sister and lord Banbury and lady Frances and sir Mortan and his lady suped at Mr. King's in the great room wher the musick plays of publick days and I could not perceive anything of love between them for she corted my brother as mutch as ever she used to do. I desir you will not take any notes of this tell you hear it in other leters for it is not known publickly

27. The British Museum now occupies its site.
28. Mary Noel, aunt to the lady Bridget, had married Sir Erasmus de la Fontaine, whose daughter would appear to have been this 'cousin Fountain.'
29. Charles Knollys, titular Earl of Banbury.

yet. I goe to towne of Thursday and intend to make some visits and at night to see a play and return to Jenkens at night. Sister Noel has bought a very fine manto of Mr. Sharod, it cost her 3 pound a yard; her petcot is of the same and lined with black saten. Lord Danby's family is not in town. I have gon (? halves) at baset but I have had but iell fortune, for I have lost at it but not mutch. It is a very pretty game. Sister Pen has sent for a new black and gould manto and petcot against Thursday, but it will not be a ritch one. Cosen Peregren is here and so is cousen [30]Dormer and my brother John. . . . . Mrs Hatton was mared last week to lord [12]Notengam, her porshan was but £1000 . . . . . My lord [31]Delamere is to be tryed on Wednesday senet.'

Three days later on Saturday, 9 January, the ladies of Jenkins, my lady Dorset, and my lady Northampton and my lady Gainsborough with their young ladies go to [32]Copthull, where they design to be very merry.

Word is sent to Belvoir on Friday, 22 January, that [33]Montagu House had been burnt down on the previous Tuesday, 19 January.

On Tuesday, 26 January, the uncle of the young ladies, 'honest [34]Charles Bertie,' their late mother's brother and father of Peregrine, writes to his neice at Belvoir to the effect that the Luffenham family are now in town: belated news, to say the least.

The same writer on Saturday, 6 February, relates 'this morning I returned from Jenkins where wee yesterday went to make a visitt to the ladies, your sisters, and were so kindly entertained by my lady and sir Thomas Fanshawe that wee playd at cardes all night and are but just now returned home scarce able to hold up our eyes for want of sleep. . . . . I wish we could prevaile with lady Bridgett to hearken to any fair proposalls of marriage, but I cannot say I find any great inclination in her to change her condition upon equall termes.'—We also learn from 'cousin Peregrine' under the same date that the Jenkins ladies will be at the play, Othello, to day.

30. A member of the family of the Earl of Carnarvon who had married as his second wife, Mary Bertie, daughter of the Earl of Linsey.

31. Henry Booth, Lord Delamere, charged with abetting Monmouth's rebellion and acquitted on trial, Friday, 15 January, 1685.

32. Near Chelmsford.

34. Secretary to the Lord Treasurer and on the death of Mr. Henry Noel, M.P. for Stamford, in 1677, was elected to fill the vacancy.

33. This night was burnt to the ground my Lord Montague's palace in Bloomsbury, than which for painting and furniture there was nothing more glorious in England. This happen'd by the negligence of a servant, airing, as they call it, some of the goods by the fire in a moiste season: indeede, so wet and could a season had scarce ben seene in man's memory.—Evelyn, *Diary*, 19 Jan., 1685.

Another account of the festive evening spent on Friday, 5 January, is given by Mrs. Susannah Noel, the mistress of Luffenham Hall, who writing on the Monday following tells us 'Uncle Charles and lady 'Ann Cook dined here on Friday last and playd at cards till 8 o'clock the next morning, and really I think I have not had three hours sleep this three nights. My sister Bridget sends compliments and says she does not write often because my cousin Peregrine writes every post.'

But amid all the gaiety, not even cousin Peregrine wrote letters regularly for on Thursday, 11 February, he tells the countess 'the reason why I omitted writing to your ladyship last post was my being at Jenkins. I saw the ladies at the Opera to day. I think they supp with my lord Exeter.'

When the lady Bridget on Tuesday, 16 February, finds time to write again, she says 'I am in a perpetual hurry for we go to Town three or four times a week and come doun so late that I am forced to be in bed all the next day. I have been with *Madame la Croy* the great fortune teller. One thing she told me which pleased me mutch was that I never should have the small pox.'

On Saturday, 27 February, the uncle, Charles Bertie, writes: 'Yesterday your brother and sisters dined with me. Lord Danby did me the honour to do penance with me also. After dinner I waited on the ladies and we went to see a fine marble statue of a Flora and it was highly commended in all their judgments and we went to see it below bridge. At our return and taking water at the [35]Bear of the bridge foot, your three sisters and I being in one boat, were all sadly frightened least our boat against our will should have slipped through the bridge by the waterman's missing his sett, but thank God we were only frightened and immediately got out of danger, though the women began to skreame. I hear on Wednesday next they intend for Rutland and my neice Bridget talks of waiting on your ladyship into Darbyshire.'

Peregrine Bertie informs his aunt on Tuesday, 2 March, 'My cousin Noells and the ladies set out to-morrow from Jenkins. I suppose they will be at home on Friday night.

And by this time they must have reached Luffenham Hall, for we find the Countess of Rutland there to meet them on Saturday, 6 March, and no doubt eager to talk over the many incidents of their memorable visit which had extended over a period of nearly three months.

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35. Stairs leading from the Thames to the Bear Garden, in Southwark, to the west of London Bridge on the southern bank of the river.

E. A. IRONS.

LETTERS AND LETTER WRITING IN THE 17TH CENTURY—*(concluded).*

Illustrated by examples from the MSS. at Burley-on-the-Hill.

CONTINUING from the last issue I now give some extracts from the letters of Lord Finch to Essex, illustrating a husband's letters to his wife. The first is dated from Ravenstone where he had property:—

"My most dear Lady Essex.—On Thursday I returned hither from Daventry, and sent my servant by way of Northampton in expectation of a letter from my dearest wch he brought me to my graet satisfaction till I had read it.

You can't think yt i have any kindness to yu if you doe not think also yt yr ilnesse would not give me greater pain than it gives me trouble and affliction, thus you see how i disquiet myself, and therefore I will make all possible haste home to my Dear who would need no other artist, had I half so much skill as I have tendernesse and affection. I am impatient till I see you and therefore my journey to Kimbolton I'll think of no more."

Again he writes:—

"My brother John has been at Bath and tomorrow will be at Tunbridge wth his charriot and six horses (flanders horses) and all things suitable thereto, so yt he will be ye chief spark there. my Dearest i pray for you and my little ones."

From Newmarket he sends the following letter:—

"I was yesterday wth ye King and in ye afternoon at ye races, then hunted wth my Lord Ailesbury; who has promised me a couple of his hounds wch are very good. I have sent my Father some few bottle of my small beer wch if fasting all day has not spoilt my taste i think will please him. I have this night spoke to Mr. Chiffinch for some warrants for does, wch he will give mee, and he has lent mee ye use of his Kennell in Hyde Park for my hounds. This afternoon a horse of Mr. Frampton's called Petlanb ran for 300lb. wth Sir Rowland Carr's horse called Trinker wch last was beaton. In ye morning i was coursing wth ye King and find the air of this place agrees wth me and gives me a very good stomach—the King goes to Cambridge on Tuesday, probably I may wait on him and take yt opportunity of seeing my brothers. he supped last night at ye Duke of Albemarles' he and all ye jockies wth him, in order to make some horse matches. My most humble duty to my Mother and father, my love to my brother Heneage and believe me my Dearest most affectionately and entirely yrs."

D Finch

He was evidently a great sportsman, and gives us a rather amusing glimpse of King Charles' easy freedom of manner, by describing him dining with all the jockies.

As a type of letters from parents to a son I give extracts from the letters of the Lord Chancellor and his wife to their son Daniel.

The Lord Chancellor writes to his son, who was at Christ Church, Oxford—

"Sonne—The verses you sent me are as good phylosphy as poetry and contain excellant sense in very apt and significant expressions. This seems to me to be an incredable improvement in yr parts in three months. I would have an account of all yr public exercises, wch i expect

you shall always perform in yr turn nor shall i admit of any excuse, for though others who are less disposed to study may take yr forwardness in ill part, yet i presume nothing shall weigh wth you more than the satisfaction of my desires. Bee sure to be present at ye disputations in the Hall to which ye fellow Commoners seldom came in my time, study well the question before hand.—My chiefe care and desires for you, are that you may prove a knowing and virtuous man, that wch ye towne calls a fine gentleman being to my understanding rather a libal than a reccommendation. Nothing can make me more happy in this world but a prospect of some virtue. I charge you to frequent ye publique prayers and study to reverence and defend as well as obey ye church of England. Dr. Bonewood at Norwood hath gotten a small token from mee for you, tis such as I had then about mee, a piece of good cut gold. In the last place i must advise you to that wthout wch all your study and yr life too is to no purpose. that is a serious care to serve God in yr heart who hath delivered you from so many sicknesses, bestowed so many blessing on you, and blessed you all your life before you knew what it was to seek him. Above all thing study to value and bless him for His spiritualle mercies wch will be a necessary meditation to prepare you for the sacrament. I hope you intend to receive the next opportunity.—So with my prayer to God for his blessing upon you, i rest yr ever loveing father,

Heneage Finch

This letter shows that an excellent understanding existed between the father and son so that they could write freely to each other even on religion. It is, doubtless, to his father's care and advice that Lord Nottingham, as he afterwards became, was not only an able, but an intensely religious man, and a strong supporter of the Church of England in whose cause he frequently got himself into trouble. There is one letter from his mother from which I give extracts.—She writes from Oxford, 1665.

" dear son I was mighty glad to get yr letter, and now you are come to yr Uncle and Dr. Baines my mind is at rest, for I am sure you will want nothing that can help you to it. i pray you remember me to yr uncle and Dr. Baines with great affection, and be sure to watch yrselfe that you do not stoop, for it is neither wholesome nor handsome. i hope to be shortly at Kensington for the sicknesse abates very much, there died last week but 652 of the plague, and this week but 300, but the worst is that it is still dispersed in every parish a ltttle, and God knows what it may come to again next summer. i goe next week to Radley to visit my Lady Conway, then I return hither and goe to London if it please God. where ever i am i shall not cease to pray for you that God may blesse you and make you a blessing to yr father and me. Your most affectionate mother, ELIZABETH FINCH."

Her letter is chiefly interesting from its reference to the plague. The uncle referred to is Sir John Finch, then minister to the Grand Duke of Tuscany. Dr. Baines was Sir John's great friend, afterwards Sir Thomas Baines. Kensington is Kensington House, now Kensington Palace, Lord Nottingham sold it to William of Orange. These letters of a family character would be incomplete were I not to give a few extracts from the Lord Chancellor's letters to his daughter-in-law, Essex.

" madam, i hope the Tunbridge waters have given you as much relief and the good company as much deversion as could be expected

from them. All here are as well as you left them, and as in your absence tis possible they should be. your little girle calls every day to see her Mother's letters and as often as she sees it kisses your hand. We have a thousand stories in reserve for you when you come home. In the meantime i pray heartily for you that God would give you all the blessings which you want and a long continuance of those you now enjoy for i am ever and every day more . more Your most affectionate Father." FINCH C.

Turning to the reign of James II, so far as I can ascertain, there appears to be only one letter and that from King James himself. It is an order or letter to Daniel Finch, 2nd Lord Nottingham, to attend his coronation. When it is remembered that James was King only four years, it is quite easy to understand the dearth of letters during this period. At the top of this MSS. is written the King's signature.

"Right trusty and right well beloved Cousin and Councillor we greet you well. Whereas we have appointed ye 23rd day of Aprill next for the solemnity of our royal coronation, then and therefore our will and command to you all excuses set apart that you make your personal attendance on us at ye time above mentioned, furnished and appointed as to your rank and quality appertaineth, there to do and perform such services as shall be required and belong unto you, wereof you are not to fail. And so we bid you heartily fairwell . given at our Court at Whitehall ye 23rd day of March 1684-5 In the first year of our reigne."

Coming now to the reign of William and Mary, I find such a large mass of MSS. to select from that it has been very difficult to find suitable specimens. The first letter I give is from King William himself, and runs as follows :—

"For the Earle of Nottingham our Principall Secretary of state at Whitehall."

"The reason of this express and of the letter enclosed to the Parliament is to prevent inconvenience by any hasty proceeding there, before our coming to London. We hope there will be no occasion to make up thereof but that the Houses will respectfully attend our coming and of themselves adjourne for a few days. But if you forsee the contrary then the letter might be delivered. given at our court at Kensington, this 7th day of September, 1690. in the third year of our reigne."

Then follows the letter enclosed to the Parliament which runs thus :—

"for the Lords and commons in Parliament assembled at Westminster" WILLIAM R. "My Lords and gentlemen, i have by God's favour had a very short passage from Ireland, and arrived here last night in health and safety. I shall loose no time to be in London and being desirous to be with you at the opening of the session of the Parliament, i shall be well satisfied, that the meeting which is for to-

morrow were for a few days adjourned, and so i bid you very heartilly farewell, given at our Court at Kensington the 7th day of September, 1690."

King William writes a good large hand with a fine signature. There are no letters from Queen Mary, but her signature appears on some papers, she signs herself "Marie R" It is a small neat signature.

As examples of formal letters of this reign I give those of Sir Cloudesley Shovel and Captain Rooke, two well known seamen. They are both written to Lord Nottingham, Secretary of State.

"For their majesty's esphsall service Ffor the rt Honble the earle of Nottingham Principal secretary of Statte London."

"My Lord By a messenger I just now received yr Lordships of the 20th instant and in order to comply wth it i have endeavoured at all possible dispatch. When we com hither we were all without provision mor especially bear for want of which we shall not be reddy to sail munday, by wch tyme i hope the ships designed for the Fleet will joyne us. For I am sure our disapearance in these parts will be a great discouragement to the enemy provided we can show superior to the French in these parts. i will with all expedition put ther Majesty's orders in execution, i remain my lord your Lordships most faithful and humble servant."

Cloudesley Shovel wrote a good hand but his spelling is very odd. 'Come' he spells without an *e*, 'ready' *reddy*, and 'beer' *bear*.

The letter from Captain Rooke is perhaps of more interest, for it is to inform Lord Nottingham that the seige of Londonderry is raised.

He writes from Deptford near Cape Canton, the letter is dated August ye 2nd, 1699.

"My Lord,—i think it my duty to send yr Lordship by way of expresse to tell you the seige of Londonderry is raised. Major General Kirke upon his arrival with his fleet had advice from the people of Derry that the enemy had drawne off all their cannon for Kelmore and the Boome, and that they were reduced to the last extremity and could defend themselves no longer without a supply of provisions, on which the major General returned immediately in the swallow with the three victuallers to Derry Lough, and wrott to me for a frigatt to continue them in their going up, wch he did resolve they should attempt, wth the verie first opportunitie on wch service I ordered the Dartmouth. On Tuesday last in the afternoone they weighed with the wind North Easterly and two of them happily got up to the Town Keye that night. they were opposed by cannon, both at Kelmore and at the place where the Boome was, wch had been borne away by ill weather. On Wednesday night the enemy decamped and stole away yesterday morning before day. I am of opinion they will endeavour to transport part of their force into Scotland, in wch i shall be very diligent to give them all the impediment i can. yr Lordp may hourly expect more particular account of this service from major General Kirke, this much I had from one Kelly, my Lord Dunkary's Cornett of Dragoons, whom the Portland's boat took last night making his escape from a small boat from the poynt of Ennishowen to Mackillon, the passage by land being cut off by the forces of Derry, who had already joyned communication with those

of Inch. I thought fit to advise yr Lordpp not knowing how far it may be useful to their Majesties service, being verie unwilling to omitt any opportunity that may approve my zeal and affection to itt. this being all I have to add I doe remain with great honour and respect,—My Lord, Yr Lordpp's most obedient and most humble servant."

This letter is most beautifully written, evidently in the hand of a clerk, but the signature is Rooke's, and it is a good signature. The many expressions of his zeal looks as if he hoped for promotion. As the seige of Londonderry was, to use Macaulay's words, "the most memorable in the annals of the British Isles," I thought it worth while to give this letter. There are, however, many very interesting letters at Burley, written to Lord Nottingham from Ireland during the time William was fighting there.

PEARL FINCH.

THE RUTLAND ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

THE latter part of the Summer Excursion Season has been no less successful and enjoyable than the earlier part chronicled in the July number of the Magazine.

On July 17th Preston and Wing were visited and a description of the buildings was given by MR. H. F. TRAYLEN. Both Churches have varied and instructive features, and the changes and additions made at intervals during successive centuries were duly explained by the speaker. At Wing, in addition to the Church, there is an ancient turf Maze to interest the antiquary. It is situated just on the border of the village and is a curious relic of considerable antiquity. Wing was also once the home of a somewhat celebrated quack medicine woman, Amelia Woodcock by name, known as the "Wise Woman of Wing," of whom MR. TRAYLEN gave some account. Tea was kindly provided for the party in the Garden of the Rectory. In the case of the two final excursions the arrangements were in the hands of MR. W. H. WING, to whom the best thanks of the Society are due.

On August 14th a visit was paid to the Churches of Cottesmore and Ashwell, when MR. H. F. TRAYLEN once more acted as guide. At Cottesmore again, there is the gradual development of the building to be noted, which adds so greatly to the antiquarian interest of the Churches and, as was pointed out, there are no less than eight different and characteristic kinds of arches to be found in the edifice. At Ashwell the Decorated Style is largely in evidence, though much of the Church is earlier than this. There are, moreover, some interesting monuments, including a recumbent wooden effigy temp. Edw. i., and of these an interesting account was furnished by MR. WING. The Rector of Ashwell hospitably entertained the party to tea after leaving Ashwell Church.

The closing Excursion was on Sept. 11th to Rockingham Castle, where the owner, the REV. WENTWORTH WATSON, kindly conducted the party over the Castle and Grounds. A volume might be—and indeed has been—written in description of this fine old place and its history, and to attempt to describe it here would be idle. The Castle contains many beautiful objects of art and a number of historical relics, but unfortunately the available time hardly sufficed to do full justice to the opportunity so kindly afforded by MR. WATSON to the Rutland Society.