






SOMERSETSHIRE
Archæological and Natural History Society.

PROCEEDINGS DURING THE YEARS 1863-4.

VOL. XII.



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Somersetshire Archæological

and

Natural History Society.

Proceedings

DURING THE YEARS 1863-4.

VOL. XII.

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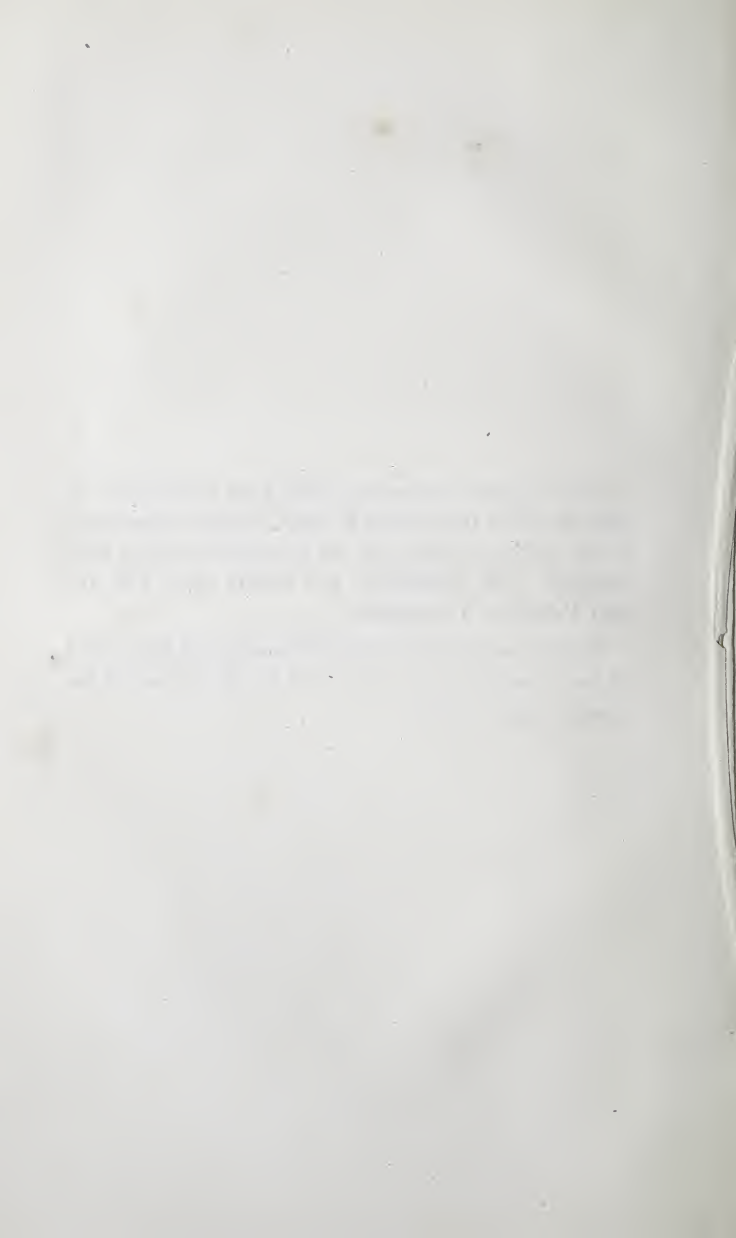
PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

PHYSICS 351

LECTURE 1

The Committee regret that they have been unable to issue the Wells Illustrations in this Volume in consequence of Mr. Parker's illness, and his subsequent absence from England. The Subscribers will receive them with the next Volume of Proceedings.

Various unavoidable circumstances, beyond the control of the Committee, have prevented the publication of the present volume earlier.



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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
DURING THE YEARS 1863-4.

PART I.

THE Fifteenth Annual General Meeting was held at WELLS, September 9th, 1863, the President, F. H. DICKINSON, ESQ., in the Chair.

The Rev. F. WARRE read the following Report of the Committee for the past year :

ANNUAL REPORT.

“Your Committee in presenting their Fifteenth Annual Report, have great satisfaction in repeating their conviction that the Society continues to prosper, and, to all appearances, maintains its position in the confidence and favour of the educated classes of the County ; and that its great objects have been pursued with vigour, and not without success, during the past year. That its proceedings have not been altogether unprofitable to the general cause of Archæological and Natural Science may be inferred from the fact that our Society is at the present time in communication and exchanging publications with no less than fifteen British and four Foreign Societies, while the many interesting investigations in Geology, and other

branches of Natural History, as well as the many communications on Archæological subjects, and presents of antiquities which have been received during the late year prove that in this County the interest taken in those pursuits has certainly not decreased. It must, however, not be lost sight of that its usefulness must in great measure depend upon the amount of its funds, and as they increase or decrease, so must the services of the Society to those branches of knowledge increase or be diminished in value.

“The number of members is well kept up; but in order to make the income of the Society equal to its requirements a continual addition to the list of members is absolutely necessary.

“It having been considered advisable to suspend the publication of a volume for one year, on account of economical considerations, your Committee have made great efforts to send out this year a volume which will fully make up for the unavoidable omission; and they doubt not that by the value of its illustrations and the interest of its contents, it will give satisfaction to the members of the Society.

“The only point in which there has been any apparent falling off is in the attendance at the *Conversazione* Meetings, held during the winter months in the Museum of the Society. On the whole, the prosperity of the Society during the past year, as well as those which have preceded it, is such as to enable your Committee to congratulate the Society upon its present state, and on its prospects of future success and usefulness.

“The very extensive and interesting collection of Mendip Cave Bones, made by Mr. Beard, of Banwell, having been offered for sale, your Committee feel that this is an

opportunity which ought not to be lost. By securing this collection, the value of that which the Society already possesses, would be greatly enhanced, and a collection formed illustrative of the Natural History of the county, which would be equal to, if not exceed in value, any other of the same kind in the kingdom. In order to provide funds for this purchase, a special subscription will be required. For this your Committee confidently appeal, on the ground that apart from the interests of this Society, the cause of science and the credit of the County, demand that a collection of such rare value and peculiar local interest should be secured for the County Museum."

MR. H. J. BADCOCK, Treasurer, presented the following Financial Statement:—

The Treasurers' in account with the Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

Dr.	£ s. d.	1862.	£ s. d.	1862-3.	£ s. d.	Cr.
To Balance of former account		19	10	1	By Expenses at Wellington	
„ Subscriptions - - -		137	10	0	Annual Meeting - - -	5 10 5
„ ditto to Illustration					Advertising - - -	4 2 0
Fund - - -		4	3	0	Stationery, Printing, &c. - - -	3 15 4
Entrance Fees - - -		3	0	0	Coal, Wood, &c. - - -	15 18 1
					Curator's Salary, 1 year to	
					August 3, 1863 - - -	25 0 0
					Repairs, &c. - - -	1 15 0
					Postage, Carriage - - -	7 19 3
					Rent (1½ years) to Mid-	
					summer, 1863 - - -	37 10 0
					Insurance - - -	1 2 6
					Gas Stove - - -	1 10 0
					Subscriptions to Papworth's	
					Ordinary of British	
					Armoriais - - -	2 2 0
					Fac-simile of Domesday	
					Book, Somerset, Wilts.,	
					Gloucester - - -	1 9 6
					Mr. May, (On Account of	
					Vol. XI. of <i>Proceedings</i>)	40 0 0
					Mr. Crump (drawings) - - -	2 0 0
					Mr. Tucker ditto - - -	5 0 0
					Mr. Ford (Printing illus-	
					trations) - - -	4 10 0
					Sundries - - -	1 3 4
						160 7 5
					Balance - - -	3 15 8
						£ 164 3 1
						£ 164 3 1

September 7th, 1863.

Audited and found Correct,
W. E. GILLET.

The Report of the Committee and the Treasurers' Account were unanimously received and adopted.

On the motion of the Rev. F. WARRE, seconded by R. N. GRENVILLE, ESQ., it was resolved: "That the Committee be empowered to make arrangements for the next Meeting, and for the appointment of President."

"Resolved that F. H. Dickinson, Esq., continue to act as the President for the current year, and that E. A. Sanford, Esq., be elected as Vice-President."

The Treasurers, General and Local Secretaries, were re-elected.

The following gentlemen were elected Members of Committee, to succeed those going out by rotation: Rev. W. R. Clark, Rev. W. T. Redfern, Messrs. Edwards Beadon, T. Meyler, W. P. Pinchard, and W. G. Rawlinson.

The PRESIDENT then called upon Mr. E. A. Freeman, who delivered an

Introductory Discourse on the General Antiquities of Wells.

He began by congratulating the Society on the presence of so many eminent antiquaries from different parts of the country, more probably than had ever been present at any local meeting. First and foremost, there was Professor Willis; he had often had the benefit of hearing the Professor's expositions of cathedrals and other great churches; but those had commonly been at the Meetings of the National Society, the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland; he was not aware that he had ever before done a purely local society the honour of coming to lecture at its meetings. [Here Professor Willis came on the platform, amidst loud cheers.] But, though Professor Willis was first, he was not the only one.

They saw again their old friends, Mr. Green and Mr. Dawkins, whose acquaintance they had so profitably made last year. And, among older men and greater strangers to the county, they had the pleasure of seeing among them Mr. George Williams, so well versed in the ecclesiastical antiquities of the East, and Mr. Stubbs, who knew every action of every bishop who had ever lived. Mr. Dimock, the learned biographer of St. Hugh, had also fully intended to be present, but had been unavoidably hindered at the last moment. Mr. Parker, having in a manner fixed himself among them, could no longer be looked on as a stranger. It was among these eminent antiquaries that the main and detailed work of the meeting was to be divided; the several antiquities of the city, of the cathedral, the palace, the vicars' close, &c., were parted out among them; what he himself had to do was simply to give a short introduction to the whole subject, sketching out the objects which were to be seen and their relations to each other, while he left the minute details and dates of each object to those who had specially taken that object in hand. He would give a sketch of the antiquities of Wells something like the view of the city itself from Tor-hill,—not the Glastonbury Tor, but the Wells Tor-Hill on the Shepton Mallet road,—the point whence the general aspect of the buildings, and their connection with each other, can be better seen than from any other point, though it is too far off to study any particular building in detail. From that point may be seen, all grouping together round the cathedral as the great centre, the palace, the cloister, the chapter-house, the vicars' close, the detached houses of the canons, the more distant tower of the parish church. Now that view, as far as his experience went, either in England or abroad, was perfectly unrivalled;

most of the buildings, taken separately, might be easily equalled or surpassed, but he knew not anywhere else of such group of buildings, forming such a perfect whole. The history of those buildings was the history of Wells, and, as they were wholly ecclesiastical buildings, it followed that the history of Wells was wholly or mainly an ecclesiastical history. Wells, in short, was a strictly ecclesiastical city; its whole importance was derived from its ecclesiastical foundations. The city had, as their friend Mr. Serel could easily shew them, a municipal history, but that municipal history was in fact part of the ecclesiastical history; the earliest Charters of the city consisted of grants of franchises by the Bishops. Wells had never had any military importance; it had no castle or town-walls to show; it had never been the seat of any great Earldom or provincial government; it had never had any commercial importance, like its neighbour Bristol; it was not the scene of any great event in English history; the name of Wells was, indeed, mentioned in the wars of the seventeenth century, and one of the members for Wells played a distinguished part in those wars; but the city itself was in no way prominent in that or in any other period of English history; it was not connected with any such associations as those which attach to the name of Lewes in one age and to that of Naseby in another. Wells was simply a city which had grown round a great ecclesiastical foundation, and whose whole importance centred in that foundation. Such, too, was Peterborough, such was Glastonbury, but those were towns which had risen round a monastery, while Wells had risen round a secular church. The ecclesiastical foundations of Wells had always been, from their beginning to the present day, in the hands of the secular clergy. It might not be too much to say that there never was a

monk in the place; there is no record of any monastic foundation, for, though there had been a building called the Priory, it had never been a religious, but only a charitable establishment. Wells was, in short, the best example which he knew of the arrangements of a great secular college. He knew of no other where so many of the ancient buildings remained, and where they were still so largely applied to their original purposes. Now, here came in one of the main differences between a secular and a monastic foundation. The monks in a monastery lived together, and had certain buildings in common, church, chapter-house, refectory, dormitory, &c., all arranged round the cloister as the centre of all and the connecting link between the several parts of the whole. The Abbot or Prior alone had his house distinct from the common buildings of the brethren. But in a cathedral or collegiate church served by secular canons most of these common buildings were not wanted; the church and the chapter-house alone were necessary, the cloister was a convenience, but it easily might be, and often was, dispensed with. The canons did not occupy a common refectory and dormitory, but lived, as they do now, each man in his own house. The position of a canon of Wells four or five hundred years back differed in nothing from the position of a canon of Wells, now, except that now he might marry while then he could not. It follows at once from this difference that it is much easier to preserve and use at the present day the buildings of a secular foundation than those of a monastery. When Henry VIII. turned an abbey into a cathedral, as at Peterborough, or put secular canons into a cathedral formerly served by monks, as at Ely, he found a number of buildings which were not needed in the new state of things,

while a number of buildings were wanted which were not there. The Bishop or the Dean might often be conveniently lodged in the quarters of the Abbot or Prior, but houses for the other canons could only be found by making them out of the common buildings of the monastery. This, of course, involved what were, in an architectural point of view, the most barbarous changes in those buildings, such as we see at Peterborough, Ely, Canterbury, and elsewhere. A refectory or an infirmary could not be made into a private house without utterly spoiling it. But Wells and its buildings never went through any such violent revolution. The bishopric and chapter retained, with some mere changes in detail, the same constitution which was fixed for them in the twelfth century. So, too, the buildings remained essentially what they were in the middle ages. Each officer of the cathedral, from the bishop to the organist, had his own house; those houses, for the most part, still existed, and are still most commonly occupied by their proper inhabitants. While at Ely or Peterborough, some very destructive changes were involved in the nature of the case, at Wells, as at Lichfield, Salisbury, and other secular churches, no change had ever been needed except that gradual change which effected everything. Thus, though a few needless acts of barbarism had been committed at various times, the buildings at Wells still remained in better condition than those of any other city that he knew. The bishop still lived in the palace, the dean still lived in the deanery, the canons' houses were still largely lived in by canons, the only great loss was the alienation of the archdeaconry, which still existed and retained some very fine portions, but which had long passed into private hands. This was the effect of the changes of the sixteenth century, which at Wells were merely a pas-

sing storm. Both bishop and chapter were grievously plundered under Edward VI.; the palace itself was for a while alienated, but while most of the other property was recovered under Queen Mary, the archdeaconry had never come back to its old owner. Wells thus presented in greater perfection than any other city, an unaltered picture of the arrangements of a great secular church in old times. There were the two essential buildings, the cathedral and the chapter-house; there was also a cloister, but it was an evident after-thought and was widely different from a real monastic cloister. The palace stood to the south, the deanery and archdeaconry to the north; the canons' houses were scattered about without any certain order, but most of them so as to enter into the general grouping.

It should not be forgotten, Mr. Freeman continued, that at Wells the chapter was, in a certain sense, an older institution than the bishopric. The chapter did not assume its present form till the twelfth century, but there had been a college of priests, in some shape or other, ever since King Ine in the eighth century, while the bishopric was not founded till the time of King Edward the Elder in the tenth. What King Edward did was really much the same as what had been done within our own memory in the churches of Ripon and Manchester; he planted a bishop in a church which already existed and possessed a collegiate foundation. The college of priests founded by King Ine thus became the chapter of the bishop. They were never at any time displaced to make room for monks, as happened in so many other cathedral churches, but a step was taken by Bishop Giso in the eleventh century which certainly looked like an attempt in a monastic direction. Giso, in the words of Bishop Godwin

“thought good to augment the number of his canons, and for their better entertainment built them a cloyster, a hall, and a dorter or place for their lodging. Lastly, he appointed one Isaac by the name of a provost to be their governor.” Now, these were not necessarily monastic arrangements, they might be only an attempt to enforce a stricter collegiate life; in themselves they did not amount to turning canons into monks; still they had a tendency that way, and, considering what had been, and still was, going on elsewhere, there was a great temptation to believe that this change of Giso’s was putting in the small end of the wedge, and that the next step might very likely have been to enforce monastic vows and so to turn the college into a monastery. If such designs were entertained by Giso, they came to nothing. Of the next bishop, John de Villulâ, we read that “the cloyster and other buildings erected by Giso for his canons, be pulled down, and in the place where they stode built a pällace for himsele and his successors, forcing them to seeke dwellings abroad in the towne.” This seemed to shew that either the cathedral or the palace had changed its site since John de Villulâ’s time, as they might be sure that Giso built his cloister and other buildings close to the church. In the time of Bishop Robert (1136—74) the chapter assumed the form which, with some mutilations in the sixteenth and some in the nineteenth century, it has retained ever since. In Bishop Godwin’s words:—

“He thought good to divide the landes of the church into two parts, whereof the one he assigned unto the chapter in common; out of the rest he allotted to every cannon a portion, by the name of a Prebend. He also it was that first constituted a Deane to be the President of the chapter, and a Subdeane to supply his place in absence; a Chaunter to governe the quier, and a Subchaunter under him; a Chancelour to instruct the younger sort of Cannons; and, lastly, a

Treasurer to looke to the ornaments of the church. The Subchauntership, together with the Provostship an. 1547, were taken away and suppressed by act of Parliament, to patch up a Deanery, the lands and revenewes of the Deanery being devoured by sacrilegious cormorants."

The continuance of the provost founded by Bishop Giso alongside of Bishop Robert's dean, was, Mr. Freeman said, an anomaly. The title of provost was found in some English and many German churches—whence, perhaps, the Lotharingian Giso might have imported it into England—but as far as he knew, where there was a Provost, he was the head of the chapter and took the place of the dean elsewhere. In some places indeed the offices of provost and dean co-existed, but in a reverse order of precedence. Thus he had lately visited the cathedral of Chur in Switzerland, and carried with him a letter of introduction to the dean. He had naturally expected to find his friend the head of the chapter, and was a little amazed to find him only the second in command, the highest place being held by a provost. It was hard to see what the duties of the provost could be after the foundation of the deanery and subdeanery. These two, with all the other offices instituted by Robert, except those suppressed under Edward VI., still existed. The architectural history of the cathedral he left to Professor Willis, and that of the palace to Mr. Parker. The next event which concerned him, was the foundation of the college of vicars in the fourteenth century. These were a body of clergy and laymen subordinate to the chapter in an ecclesiastical point of view, but forming in temporal matters an independent corporation. This position of the vicars, to be found in most of the old cathedrals, was a good instance of that love of local and corporate independence so characteristic of both civil and ecclesiastical bodies in the middle ages.

A town or a district thought it a privilege to be exempted from the ordinary authorities, either in church or state, and to set up some exceptional jurisdiction of its own. So the chapter, the bishop's council, made itself as independent as it could of the bishop; so the vicars, the assistants of the chapter, became as independent as they could of the chapter; so even each canon became, for some purposes, a separate corporation sole, independent of his brethren, with his own property, his own patronage, and often his own jurisdiction, under the form of a prebend. The vicars' close and the bridge, which was afterwards added to connect it with the cathedral, were among the most remarkable ornaments of the city, but he would leave their detailed description and history to those members who had specially undertaken them. Another addition to the ecclesiastical foundations of Wells was made by Bishop Erghum (1388—1401) who incorporated the chantry priests of the cathedral, fourteen in number, into a separate college. There were thus three distinct corporations attached to the cathedral, namely, the chapter, the college of vicars, and the college of chantry priests. Of these the chapter and the vicars still remained, but the college of chantry priests was suppressed, with other institutions of the like sort, under Edward VI., and its buildings no longer existed. Besides these there was the hospital, founded by Bishop Bubwith (1408—24) and enlarged by later benefactors. This also still existed, an example of that type of hospital in which the domestic portion opened into a chapel at the east end. The other hospital, known as the Priory, no longer existed. These were the different ecclesiastical and charitable foundations of the city. Beside them was the noble parish church of St. Cuthbert, which it would fall to his own lot to describe in detail at a later

stage of the meeting. As usual, the parish church was quite distinct from the cathedral. He was not aware of any strictly English example either of a cathedral church being, in the full sense of the words, a parish church, or of such a church being divided between the chapter and the parish in the way so common in monastic and collegiate churches.* On the other hand, of the four Welsh cathedrals, three are parish churches as well. The constitution of St. Cuthbert's church had some peculiarities which it was rather Mr. Serel's province to expound. Though the rectory and advowson belonged to the dean and chapter, the connexion of the church with the corporation of the city was singularly close, and they exercised a degree of authority over it for which it would be hard to find a parallel elsewhere, especially in the appointment of a churchwarden, contrary to the usual rights both of the vicar and parishioners. The only strictly municipal antiquity in the city was the old town-hall attached to Bishop Bubwith's hospital. Nor was there very much of domestic antiquities unconnected with the cathedral. A few fragments were scattered up and down, and a noble square had been begun by Bishop Beckington. But most of the houses had quite lost their ancient character, though enough remained through fragments peeping out, here and there a buttress or a shield of arms, to show what the design was.

The speaker wound up by expressing his earnest hope [to which the feeling of his hearers evidently responded] that this unrivalled collection of buildings would be preserved with the care and reverence which they deserved.

* This assertion was disputed by a friend after the meeting. But I do not think that the cases cited, Ely, Chester, and Norwich, are real exceptions. Surely the parts used for parish services in those churches have been so applied in modern times. Certainly there is no English cathedral *divided* in the same way as Dunster or Waltham.— E. A. F.

He was sorry to say that one ancient house had been wantonly destroyed the year before, and that another, that of the organist, was still threatened. He trusted that no such acts of barbarism would happen again. He deprecated all schemes for "opening" the cathedral, for "isolating" it, and so forth, schemes grounded on the merest ignorance of what our great ecclesiastical buildings were meant to be. A minster, like that of Wells, was never meant to be isolated; it was merely part, though the chief part, of a group of buildings, the perfection of which was marred by the destruction or mutilation even of the humblest. To mar such a collection of buildings as surrounded the cathedral of Wells was to destroy a portion of the history of our country. He had thus discharged his own duty of giving a general sketch of the antiquities of the place, introductory to the more minute descriptions which were to follow. "I will now," he ended, "make way for my master."

The Rev. PROFESSOR WILLIS then delivered an interesting lecture on

The Cathedral,

which was illustrated by numerous elaborate drawings and diagrams.

Professor Willis stated that in the year 1851, when the Archæological Institute visited Wells, the Cathedral was assigned to him, as was very often, if not always, the case at the meetings of that Society, and he then gave such an account of the structure and its history as he was able to do. At that time he had free access to the records of the place, and by comparing them with the structure he elicited a number of dates and facts which before that time had escaped attention. The particulars he was now about to give them were substantially the same as those he produced in 1851. It had given him much pleasure to

revisit the Cathedral, for it was inferior to none in the illustrations it afforded of the method of erecting ancient buildings. The Cathedral was a very complex structure, and the different parts were tied together in a way which required considerable attention and experience to explain. Most of the designs and plans he had to direct their attention to were those he prepared for his address to the Institute. The buildings in connection with the Cathedral were the cloister, the vicar's close, the episcopal palace, the deanery, the archdeaconry, the canon's house, and the chapter-house. The Cathedral was cruciform in shape. The nave, transepts, and lower story of the central tower, above its great arches, were as nearly as possible in the same style of architecture, and belonged to the first half of the thirteenth century, the principal exception being that three arches of the tower were obstructed by certain subsequent arches introduced solely for the purpose of sustaining the tower when it had come to a state of approaching ruin. But parts beyond the eastern tower arch were of a subsequent style, and were built in the first quarter of the fourteenth century.

The eastern arm of the cross was in the original structure in the same style as the transepts and nave, had three pier arches only, and was square ended. Thus far the eastern arm resembled the transepts; but there was an aisle eastward of this original square end, and probably chapels attached to it in the usual manner. When the present eastern parts were erected, the three original pier arches on each side were retained, but the wall above them was altered to suit the new design of the work, which extended three arches farther eastward than the old. An entirely new vault covered the whole. It must be remarked that on each side, the most easterly one of the old

pier arches so retained, rests to the west upon its original pier, but eastward on a new pier similar to those of the continuation.

The reason for this was, that as the old pier stood at the junction of the eastern gable of the presbytery with its side walls, it must have been a large compound pier to sustain the angle, and consequently of a form unfit to remain when the range of pier arches were continued eastward. The side aisles of these older portions were also retained, and afford evidence of the original disposition of this part of the building.

The polygonal lady chapel and the vaulted work which connects it with the presbytery, is a most original and unique piece of architecture of pure and beautiful design.

The Professor supported his view as to where the original church ended by convincing details respecting the stonework and its peculiarities, which cannot well be given without diagrams. The chapter-house, he went on to say, was one of the most beautiful examples of its kind. Returning to the nave, down which he said he would conduct his audience, from east to west, he stated that the character of its architecture was unlike that of any ordinary Early English building, and deserved to be called the pure Somerset style. It was very beautiful, and did credit to the county, and was manifestly the work of local masons. In specimens of the ordinary Early English style, the same mouldings and methods of building were used in all parts of England varied only by some difference of material, but showing the work to be of the same school of masons. All of a sudden, however, when they got to the west end of this Cathedral, they found a change, as if an architect had been then called in, like Mr. Scott of the present day, who would have his own way and his own style, and that was

the common Early English, and not the Somerset style. The two styles were mixed together at their junction in the most complicated way they had ever seen. If they examined the spandrils, or open wall spaces between the sides of the arches down the nave, they would see that three remarkable changes had taken place in the work. The work in his opinion was commenced, continued, and carried on from east to west in order of time, inasmuch as the stonework in the spandrils improved as it went on, the stones of the spandrils nearest the tower being small and indifferently set as compared with those nearest the west end. The west front was of somewhat later date. He fortified this opinion by explaining how the Somersetshire work abutted against the Early English, and was joined and interlaced with it, and the example of this was the most curious he had ever beheld. In some cases the Early English overlapped the Somerset, and was actually superimposed upon previously-erected plinth walls of that style, clearly confirming his view. The west front contained the finest collection of mediæval sculpture to be found in this country. The Cathedral was originally built by Bishop Robert, who lived up to 1166, but no part of the existing edifice could belong to him. The next Prelate that came architecturally upon the scene was Bishop Joceline, from 1206 to 1242, and the credit of building the present Cathedral was assigned to him universally, but with various phrases and qualifications. Joceline records in one of his statutes, that he pulled down the old church, which was in ruins, began to build and increase it, and by God's help was enabled to complete it, so far as, having furnished it with all the separate vessels, altars, and reliques necessary for the splendour of the service, to solemnly dedicate it. As to this dedi-

cation in 1239, it appeared from Matthew Paris and other sources, that it was one of the temples dedicated about the same time as a batch of others, just after the visit to this country of the legate Otho, who had been commissioned by the Pope to inquire into church abuses, and had reported one abuse to be the non-dedication of a great many churches for a long time after their completion. In the case of this Cathedral he (Professor Willis) believed the dedication was not a forced one, but took place at the same time as several forced dedications, because the building then happened to be ready. The difficulty with him was whether (as it was not always necessary that every portion of a church should be actually completed when it was dedicated) the west front was completed in 1239, when the dedication occurred. That date, however, was reconcilable with the phase of Early English which the architecture presented, but the sculpture might have been completed long after the tabernacles which received it. Amongst the records of the Chapter he found much information that had not before been observed. In 1851, he had been most liberally permitted to examine the records of the Cathedral, and had been fortunate enough to discover many particulars hitherto unknown in relation to the progress of the building in the fourteenth and subsequent centuries.* In 1286, a chapter meeting was called to consider the urgent necessity of completing the "nova structura" of the church long since began, and also of

* These records are contained in several volumes which are designated as follows in these extracts, by capital letters:—

R. *Liber Ruber.*

A. *Liber Albus.*

B. A book bound in white basil, entitled copies of various canon grants, statutes, and entries, &c., from 1270 to 1391.

X. *Registrum X.*

repairing the old fabric (B. 198. 6) ; and it was agreed that each canon should pay a tenth of his prebend yearly for five years. In 1299 (B. 220. 6), (R. 23), a similar tax was imposed for repairing the roof of the church. In 1318 (B. 143), receivers were appointed for the tenths, given in aid of the *new campanile*, and for the oblations to Saint William. This was Bishop William de Marchia, who died in 1302, and as the canon of Wells relates, "was buried against the south wall, between the cloister door and the altar of St. Martin, at whose tomb formerly many great miracles were worked." (His canonization is mentioned in Reg. x., pp. 171, 6, and 172 ; vide also p. 165). It appears therefore, that here, as elsewhere, when a church was undergoing great restoration and rebuildings, a saint was canonized in aid of the funds. In 1321 we find a grant from the clergy of the Deanery of Taunton, in aid of the roofing of the *new campanile*. In 1325 (B. 175. 6), the bishop gave half the proceeds of his visitation to the "*novum opus*" of the church at Wells, and an order was made that, because the stalls were ruinous and misshapen, every canon should pay for making his own new stall, and the dean sent to Midelton for boards to make the new stalls. In 1326 (X. 175), a grant of the land at the east end of the Cathedral, by the bishop to one of the canons, measures its length of fifty feet eastward from the wall of the *newly-constructed chapel* of the Blessed Mary.

We may now attempt to apply these dates to the existing buildings. Their architectural details enable us to conjecture that the works alluded to, belong to—(1), the chapter-house—(2), the lady chapel—(3), the aisles which connect it with the elongation of the presbytery, and lastly that elongation itself.

The chapter-house stands upon a vaulted substructure, by which its floor is considerably raised above the floor of the church. This substructure cannot well be called a crypt, for it is not sunk under ground, the springs of water in the soil forbidding such a building. It is entered from the side aisle of the choir by a doorway and passage. The floor of the chapter-house above is reached by a building attached to its western side, which contains a staircase, lighted by great windows of early geometrical tracery, and leading to the elaborate doorway of the chapter-house. The style of the chapter-house itself is so greatly in advance of the substructure and staircase as to shew that a considerable interval of time elapsed between the one and the other. The great windows of the staircase are in the earliest geometrical style, rather in advance of those of Salisbury and Westminster. Those of the chapter-house, although of geometrical tracery, have patterns of much greater intricacy, such as belong to the development of such tracery.

The "nova structura," said in 1286 to have been commenced long since, and then recommenced for completion, was consequently interpreted by the Professor to be the chapter-house, of which the lower story and staircase had been built about 1260, or 70, and the upper story now resumed, in 1286. Godwin, indeed, states that the chapter-house was built in the time of Bishop de Marchia, 1293 to 1302, by the contributions of well-disposed people. The *new campanile* which was in course of construction in 1318, and roofed in 1321, must be the central tower, the upper story of which corresponds to this period.

The *novum opus* in 1325, is explained by the allusion in 1326, to the newly constructed lady chapel (1). The styles of the elongation of the eastern part of the church,

shew that the lady chapel was built first, and the work carried on westward from that building to join the old presbytery. After this new portion was finished, the inner surfaces of the walls above the pier arches of the old work next the tower, were cased with an architectural lining in the style of the new. The *novum opus* of the Cathedral at Wells, is also the subject of an indulgence, dated 1325, 2 kal. Feb. (Harl. MS., 6964), and the phrase at this period must be held to apply to the whole work of the eastern elongation, from the lady chapel at the east to the junction with the choir, and the new fittings of the stalls, &c. We have no other allusion to this work until 1337.*

In 1337, a convocation was summoned to consider, amongst other matters, the raising of money by the non-residents for paying a debt of 200li. incurred for the restoration of the greatest part of the fabric. (B. 200.)

In 1338, another convocation was summoned because the church of Wells is so enormously fractured and deformed†, that its structure can only be repaired, and with sufficient promptitude by the common counsel and assistance of its members. (B. 201.)

To understand this, we have only to examine the central space of the Cathedral. It is evident that the weight of the upper story of the tower completed in 1321, had produced fearful settlements, the effects of which may still be seen in the triforium arches of the nave, and transepts

* Bishop Will. Bytton was buried in 1264, in *novâ Capella B. M. Virginis*. (Ang. Sac. 566.) But as his chantry was "in the *Capella B. Virginis infra claustrum*" (Liber B., p. 62,) the above passage does not apply to any lady chapel at the east of the Cathedral, but to the building of the other lady chapel which was in the east walk of the cloister in the position usually given to a chapter-house.

† "Enormiter contracta" "totaliter contracte & enormiter deformate."

next to the tower, which are dragged downwards and deformed, partly rebuilt, filled up, and otherwise exhibiting the signs so often seen under central towers of a thorough repair. The great piers of the tower are cased and connected by a stone framework, which is placed under the north, south, and west tower-arches, but not under the east. This framework consists of a low pointed arch, upon which rests an inverted arch of the same form, so as to produce a figure somewhat resembling a St. Andrew's cross, to use the happy phrase applied by Leland (*Itinerary*, v. 3. f. 85) to a similar contrivance introduced for a similar reason into the central tower arches of Glastonbury, by Abbot Bere, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, doubtless in imitation of the mother church at Wells, which being dedicated to St. Andrew, perhaps suggested the application of the name to the stone framing.

The Professor explained that the central tower above had been strengthened in a manner which was clearly shewn by drawings. The original high narrow windows had been fortified with later insertions, by way of bonding and stiffening the structure endangered by the sinking of its piers below, and producing on the outside a singular mosaic of styles in which late canopy and pannel work is inserted in the earlier openings.

These works probably occupied many years, and were added from time to time as fresh symptoms of failure exhibited themselves, although the first alarm is indicated by the convocation in 1338.

Professor Willis was frequently applauded during his lecture, and heartily at its close. The above sketch of his learned statement is necessarily much condensed.

The LORD BISHOP moved a vote of thanks to the Professor for his kindness in coming there that day, and

for the lucid and able lecture he had given them, as well as for the further information that he was to give them in the Cathedral itself. His remarks must have taught them that they must enter into the *minutiæ* of what they wished to thoroughly comprehend. The Professor himself seemed to have followed and examined nearly every stone of the building, and had given them a remarkably clear and perfect explanation of the manner in which the Cathedral was built.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

Professor Willis said he had made one great omission. He desired particularly to direct their attention to the fact that the building in question was entirely raised and sustained by a tax voluntarily placed upon themselves by the canons. He never found that system so completely developed as he had in searching through the history of this Cathedral.

A large number of the members of the Association were present at the afternoon service in the Cathedral, and after its termination Professor Willis directed the attention of a numerous audience to the points of interest he had noticed in his lecture. His descriptions, illustrated by the objects themselves, were listened to with much gratification, and occupied an hour and a-half. Both the inside and outside of the building were inspected, and we may mention that eminent archæologists, who had been before opposed to the Professor's theory concerning the erection of the structure, were converted to his way of thinking by his painstaking and thoughtful explanations. The lady chapel was pronounced by him one of the most beautiful and precious specimens of its kind. The chapter-house he conjectured to have been built in the time of William de Marchia, and said it was in the finest period of Early English decorated

style. The windows exhibited splendid tracery. The crypt was Early English, and remarkable for the way in which the arches were disposed without the introduction of ribs. The north porch he commented upon at some length, highly praising its sculptured work.

The evening meeting was held in the council-hall, and was numerously attended.

The Rev. PREBENDARY SCARTH, M.A., read a paper on the

Vestiges of Roman Villas which have been discovered in the neighbourhood of Bath.

He commenced by stating that the Roman remains found in Bath entitled it to the rank of one of the most elegant cities in Roman Britain; but the villas which had been discovered in the immediate neighbourhood gave a still greater idea of its opulence and security. These, although mentioned incidentally by various writers, had never been collected into one record; two or three had been described, but the notices of the rest are meagre. His object, then, was to give some account of the many that had existed within a radius of seven or eight miles of the city. The villas for the most part lie along the lines of Roman road which led to the city, and are generally not far distant from these main roads. He then enumerated them, but the lateness of the evening prevented his going into any particular description of each, or describing the many objects of interest found among their ruins. The following were enumerated:—Wellow, Newton St. Loe, Combe Down, Box, Warleigh, Farleigh Castle, Iford, Colerne, North Wraxall. At these places considerable remains had been found, and some beautiful tessellated floors perfect, or indications of such floors. Remains of villas had been found,

and some beautiful tessellated floors perfect, or indications of such floors. Remains of villas had been found at Cheney Court, near Box, Hasilbury, Langridge, Congrove, Grammers Rocks, Farmers Field, Hanham. At these latter places the remains were not so perfect, but sufficient to shew that they were Roman villas. Also at Camerton many Roman buildings had been laid bare, but these had been described in the last number of the Journal of the Somerset Archæological Society, just issued. After the villas had been enumerated, and a few of their contents noticed very briefly, Mr. Scarth went on to say that there are certain particulars in these villas which are worthy of notice. The regularity of their form—they were either built round a court, and formed three sides of a square, or else were oblong, often with a projecting portion at right angles to the main body of the building. They were all provided with a hypocaust and baths, and had tessellated pavements of elegant workmanship. They were accompanied with out-buildings, and enclosed in an area of some extent by a boundary wall. Interments are found within this boundary, and are of two kinds, cremation and inhumation. They were supplied with earthenware utensils of every description, and with glass, both for the windows and for domestic use. Coins are found in the greatest abundance, and to the latest period of the Roman occupation. The situations are well chosen, and the villas are for the most part represented at the present day by elegant modern country houses, in the same locality and near the same site. They were always well supplied with water, and the wells are of excellent construction. It would be a very interesting work to collate the patterns of the various pavements that have been laid open; out of the many that have been destroyed we have still some

designs of great interest. Thus in the villas around Bath we have Orpheus or Apollo playing on the lyre, we have the record of a charioteer, we have animals and birds of different kinds, as well as sea-monsters, lately found in Bath ; we have the figure of an elephant on the pavement at Watley, near Frome ; and the curious figures in the Pitney pavement with certain emblems in their hands, which have never been satisfactorily interpreted. All this gives us a great idea of the art and refinement of that period. The villas around Bath, however, do not seem to have equalled in dimensions those laid open in other parts of England, as at Woodchester or Bignor, nor the elegant remains which exist at Lydney, in Gloucestershire, the plan of which shews something of the luxury and art described by Pliny in his Laurentine villa. It is to be regretted that the remains found at Lydney have never been published, though accurate drawings have been made of them, and all the articles discovered there are carefully preserved by the owner of the property. These were exhibited at the Meeting of the Archæological Institute at Gloucester, in 1860. Mr. Wright, in a very interesting chapter of his "Celt, Roman, and Saxon," has given a sketch of the number of villas that must have met the eye of the traveller as he journeyed along the line of some of the Roman roads ; but his enumeration only partially describes what must have existed in Roman times, and his enumeration of those in Somerset is very limited and imperfect. The superstructure of these villas is a subject which has perplexed antiquaries, and on which they are not decided—namely, if the upper portions were constructed of stone or wood. "I am inclined to think," said Mr. Scarth, "that wood must have furnished the materials of the upper portions, and that the stone walls were only carried to a

certain height above the ground-floors. The remains seem to indicate that they were hastily plundered, and then set fire to, and that the roof and timbers fell in upon the floors, which are found often indented, and covered with burnt matter, and roofing tiles. After remaining in this condition, it may be for centuries, the portions of the walls still standing were afterwards used as quarries, when stone was needed for other buildings, or to make enclosures. The Saxon population left them in ruins, the Norman and medieval inhabitants used them as materials, and thus little is left to our time, except the foundation, and that which has happily been buried under their *débris*. But even what remains may still be useful to this generation, and may be made the means of conveying not only historical information, but practical knowledge. The consumption of fuel has of late engaged the attention of the British Association, and their President has remarked upon the waste of it in domestic uses. He says, 'In warming houses we consume in our *open fires* about five times as much coal as will produce the same heating effect when burned in a close and properly constructed stove. Without sacrificing the luxury of a visible fire, it would be easy, by attending to the principles of radiation and convection, to render available the greater part of the heat which is now so improvidently discharged into the chimney ;'—and surely examining the plan of these Roman villas may suggest to us some hints for carrying out this very desirable economy. If a whole house could be heated by the same quantity of fuel which is usually consumed in two or three grates, a great advantage would arise both in health and comfort. Would it not be possible now for our architects to contrive brick flues upon the old Roman principle, which should convey the heat through the walls of the several rooms,

and thus keep the whole house at a certain temperature, and be regulated by valves as was done in Roman houses? A fire in every bedroom is an expensive luxury in a modern house, especially when fuel is dear, but no one likes to enter a chill or damp bedroom after leaving a comfortable study or drawing-room fire. Surely modern science might here take a lesson from ancient art, and devise an inexpensive plan of warming a whole house, by dispersing the heat, now wasted in the chimney, through the entire building, by means of safely constructed flues. Any notice of Roman agriculture would extend this paper beyond a reasonable limit, but in treating of villas it must be borne in mind that they were generally residences with a farm attached, and all the appliances of agriculture, which was a favourite occupation of the wealthier Romans. Those who would study this very interesting subject cannot do better than consult Professor Daubeny's Lectures on Roman Husbandry, published in 1857, (Oxford: J. H. and J. Parker). He will find there brought together all that can be culled from the classic writers on the subject—a subject, too, which has, indeed, had their particular attention; and he will read the Georgics of Virgil with a very different appreciation of Roman knowledge and Roman agricultural attainments, to what he has hitherto had. At the present day, when agriculture has become a science, no well-educated gentleman should be without such knowledge, and it will greatly enhance the pleasure of his farming pursuits; and should he desire fuller and clearer ideas of what the rich Roman villas actually were, and would he fully appreciate the remains which are found even yet in this country, as at Lydney, Bignor, Woodchester, Cirencester, or Wellow, I would refer him to Mr. Castle's 'Villas of the Ancients,' a folio work of the last

century, of great merit, and an excellent aid to the study of Pliny's interesting description of his Laurentine villa.

“One word, in conclusion, as to the state of our island during a considerable part of the Roman occupation. We cannot suppose that the Romans began to build villas until their power was consolidated, and their dominion fixed and secure. It must, therefore, have been after the time of Agricola; and this idea the words of Tacitus tend to confirm. The earliest, therefore, probably date about the end of the first century of the Christian era; the latest, we have seen, indicate occupation to the date of the Romans quitting Britain. The frequency with which they occur in the southern counties, gives us an idea of the settled and secure condition of the country, and the ease and comfort in which the Roman population dwelt. But these villas, with their enriched floors and elegant refinements, are not found north of the River Tees. I am not aware of any having been found north of Yorkshire, though a few have been met with in that county. The southern and western parts of the island appear to have been in a state of security, whilst the northern portion was exposed to perpetual inroads, and required a strong force to protect it. In the principal towns and the stations along the main lines of road, garrisons were placed, and these secured the peace of the country; while the higher classes appear to have lived secure in their country villas, cultivating their lands, and occupied in the pursuits of the chase, and, as Sir R. C. Hoare thinks, on terms of friendly intercourse with the native inhabitants. It is pleasing to think that, notwithstanding the dark shade history has thrown over the Roman occupation of our island, there are yet signs of peace, comfort, civilization, and refinement, which indicate

that society in that age had its bright as well as its dark aspect, and that the Roman dominion brought with it much that compensated for the loss of former rude independence. In fact, if we may judge from a comparison of the Roman remains with the remains of medieval times, we must allow that they contrast very favourably. In medieval times we have the fortified castle of the baron, a petty yet almost independent power, holding dominion over the neighbourhood, where very little safety existed except within the limits of his stronghold; while under the Roman sway we have everywhere remains of elegant county dwellings, unfortified and apparently perfectly secure, very different from the moated grange or peel-tower, while the roads were well kept in all directions, and were open to traffic, and secured from depredators by having regular garrisons at proper intervals. If we may judge from the *vestiges only* which remain of these two periods, we must, I think, award the palm for comfort and security to the period of the Roman occupation."

The Rev. F. WARRE gave notice of the "Earthworks on Musbury Hill."

Mr. W. AYSHFORD SANFORD read a paper on the "Coal Formations of Somersetshire."

Mr. W. BOYD DAWKINS delivered an address on "some of the earliest traces of the Human Race, especially in connection with the Animals, whose remains are found in the Mendip Caves, and elsewhere."

The Rev. W. ARTHUR JONES gave an account of "Mr. Beard's Collection of Mendip Cave Bones," and submitted a scheme for the purchase of them for the Society, by a special subscription. This scheme was favourably received, and has since been carried out.

SECOND DAY, THURSDAY, SEPT. 10th, 1863.

This morning the members re-assembled in the Council-hall, the President in the chair.

Mr. J. H. PARKER delivered an address on the "Ecclesiastical Houses appertaining to the Cathedral," which is given in Part II.

The PRESIDENT made some comments upon the observations of Mr. Parker, and said that an American, who recently visited the palace, remarked that it would be a capital place of residence for Bishop Polk, who was now a General in the Confederate army.

Mr. FREEMAN reminded Mr. Parker that the state-hall was destroyed in the reign of Edward VI., when the palace was alienated to the Protector Duke of Somerset. "It was pulled down," says Bishop Godwin, "by a knight of the court that, for a just reward of his sacrilege, soon after lost his head." The person meant was Sir John Gates, executed in the next reign. The palace, with other possessions of the bishopric and chapter, were given back by Queen Mary. The state-hall was not so completely pulled down as Bishop Godwin's description might lead them to believe, inasmuch as a subsequent picture of it shewed that the walls were nearly perfect long afterwards.

Colonel PINNEY asked whether the state-hall was not originally a justice-hall, as was generally supposed?

Mr. PARKER replied in the affirmative. The bishop was a prince in those days, and it was always the custom in medieval times for the baron's banqueting-hall to be also the justice-hall. Mr. Parker then went on to describe

The Deanery,

which he said was of a much later period (it might have replaced an earlier building), and was built by Dean

Gunthorp in the latter part of the fifteenth century. In alluding to the Precentor's and Organist's Houses, at the east and west ends of the Cathedral, he remarked that those persons who wished to throw entirely open the space around cathedrals made a mistake, for the principal building appeared apparently insignificant when a great space around was unoccupied, whereas when other buildings remained near they served as measures to the eyes to guide it in judging of the size and grandeur of the cathedral. The precentor's and organist's houses served this purpose. He next referred to the canonical house, now occupied by Archdeacon Browne, of the old part of which little remained ; and then went on to speak of

The Vicars' Close,

built by Ralph de Salopia. Each vicar had his own little house of two rooms, which houses were repaired by the executors of Bishop Beckington. The close, in its ordinary design, very much resembled a college at Oxford or Cambridge. At one end of the oblong area was situated the dining-hall, and at the other end the chapel and library. A principal vicar lived at a house at either end ; one of which buildings, nearest the chain-bridge, he had purchased and restored. The bridge was a unique specimen—he knew of no other like it—and united the Cathedral to the vicars' close for the accommodation of the vicars, so that they might assemble in their hall and walk in procession under cover to the Cathedral. The windows of the hall were of the time of Edward III., and the gatehouse of the same period, with windows of the date of Henry VII. One could only regret that so magnificent an institution for the vicars-choral was not appreciated. To a certain extent it still existed, and he hoped the remnant of life left in it might be revived shortly. Bishop Beckington built

the market-house, and the houses opposite the Town-hall in the market-place were distinctly mediæval, but modernized and spoilt. The whole of the ecclesiastical city of Wells might be restored to the state it was in at the time of the Reformation, for there was enough remaining to make out every part of it. The gate called the Eye was in a bad state of repair, and something was required to be done with it. He hoped the example set of restoring buildings in Wells would at least tend to preserve those that remained.

Thanks were cordially voted Mr. PARKER, whose lecture was illustrated by large plans prepared by Mr. Hippisley, and admirably executed sketches were drawn by Mr. Albert Hartshorne and Mr. A. Clarke.

Mr. FREEMAN then read a paper by the Rev. J. F. DIMOCK, M.A., minor canon of Southwell, on

Vicars Choral and their Endowments.

He deeply regretted Mr. Dimock's unexpected and unavoidable absence, but one of the causes which hindered him was one which the meeting would be glad to hear of. Mr. Dimock was that day to be instituted by the Archbishop of York to the best living in the gift of the chapter of Southwell, to which that body had done their duty in presenting him, instead of any of them taking it for themselves.

Mr. DIMOCK's paper stated that the order of vicars-choral arose from a bad state of things—the non-residence of the canons. The despotic treatment of the canons was adverted to, and it was declared that the bishops, canons, and such bodies became almost useless when the king demanded their services. The sturdy opposition of St. Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, to the system of non-residence was narrated at length; and Mr. Dimock admitted that, though the evil existed to a great extent in Papal times in England,

pluralities and non-residence were never more rampant than after the Reformation. Poor vicars were engaged to do the canons' work—in some cases they were called minor canons instead of vicars. The vicars were introduced gradually. He could find no mention of them before the middle of the twelfth century. At first they were mere temporary substitutes for the canons, and the canons, if their consciences allowed them, could pocket all the money without even providing substitutes. St. Hugh took the initiatory step towards giving the vicars a distinct position. In course of time each canon was compelled to have a regular vicar. About the middle of the thirteenth century this became the rule—the canon nominated the vicar, who was instituted by the chapter. Vicars then formed a regularly organized collegiate body, became possessors of property, received benefactions from bishops and others, and separate houses were built for their accommodation.

In the course of the paper Mr. FREEMAN read to the meeting the passage of William Fitzstephen referred to by Mr. Dimock, and also a curious passage from Richard of Devizes, complaining of the non-residence of canons in his time.

At the end of Mr. Dimock's paper, Mr. FREEMAN said he wished to guard against a mistake into which some hearers might fall. When Mr. Dimock spoke of "canons," he was not to be understood as meaning the small body to which that name is, by a modern fashion, confined. Mr. Dimock used the title in its correct historical sense, a sense in which the church of Wells still had, not four canons, but fifty. Every prebendary of Wells, whether residentiary or not, was still installed into "the canonry or prebend" of So-and-so. If the non-residentiary canons of Wells had ever lost any of their ancient rights, it could

only be by virtue of the royal charter in favour of the residentiaries obtained in the time of the Queen Elizabeth. He did not profess to say what was the legal value of that document ; he left that to lawyers ; but, speaking as an historian, there was no doubt at all that, according to all ancient rule and precedent, the non-residentiary prebendaries were as much canons of the cathedral and members of the chapter as the residentiaries.

The PRESIDENT ;—"The Charter of Queen Elizabeth could not take away any rights which existed before it."

Mr. PARKER expressed his belief that St. Hugh of Lincoln originated the Early English style of architecture. He was first prior of Witham, in Somerset, about 1180. The present parish church of Witham was clearly the chapel of the priory, and there was great reason to believe it was built by St. Hugh. It was advanced transition Norman work. Lincoln Cathedral, also built by Hugh, was twenty years in advance of anything on the continent of Europe. Professor Willis thought Lincoln was French work. The best French architects who had visited it said it was undoubtedly English work, but they would not believe the date, as they had no such building in France of that date. That argument was a lame one, for the historical evidence of the date was as complete as it could be.

Mr. NEVILLE-GRENVILLE, referring to Mr. Freeman's remarks on the position of the prebendaries, said those eminent reformers, the ecclesiastical commissioners, were determined that prebendaries should not be oppressed, but suppressed altogether, and it was only by the interposition of the late Bishop of Rochester that the word "suspend" got inserted in the Act instead of the word "suppress." A great deal of interest was now being taken in that body

of men, and in their rights and privileges. This he was glad of, and he thought it would be an immense improvement if the prebendaries of this diocese would follow the example of their predecessors and restore their names to the stalls of the Cathedral. The stalls wanted a little colour, and the step would be a small one towards the recognition of the rights and privileges of the order.

The PRESIDENT was of opinion that they owed the non-suppression of the prebendaries, or non-residentiary canons, to the exertions of Bishop Denison of Salisbury, and not to the Bishop of Rochester.

Mr. SEREL said that one Bishop Hugh, of Lincoln, but not the St. Hugh whose name had been mentioned, was a native of Wells, and brother of Bishop Joceline. He remarked that the ancient statutes for the regulation of the schools of the choristers specified that, after evening prayers the boys should be put to bed, three in a bed, the two younger with their heads one way, and the elder with his head the other way.

The Rev. W. STUBBS agreed with the greater part of Mr. Dimock's paper, but thought he went too far in ascribing the rise of vicars-choral to the evil of non-residence. The present idea of canons was taken from what they saw of them now. In the Roman Catholic church the services were exceedingly numerous. Many of the junior canons might have been sub-deacons, or acolytes, and in that case six or seven might have been in residence without one being qualified to take part in the more solemn portions of the services. The canons founded minor prebendaries, who performed mass and other important services when there was no regular canon in residence to do it. Then the canons had also services in their own chapels, independent of the Cathedral services.

The PRESIDENT observed that those of the canons who could not sing would have had to appoint substitutes, necessarily.

The Rev. A. DU CANE read a paper on the

Vicars Choral of Wells.

He considered their institution was much more ancient than Mr. Dimock had stated. At first their chief remuneration consisted of food and raiment. Joceline first gave them a separate endowment, and incorporated them under the appellation of vicars-choral. In Joceline's time they were paid for their food one penny per day, which was then amply sufficient. One vicar was appointed for every canon and prebend except three, and there were originally fifty-two, though only forty-nine were mentioned in the charter. This number was not excessive, considering the incessant services then enjoined. Their functions were to sing the services of the church, and officiate in the absence of the canons. They were then paid a salary and certain fees. To Ralph de Salopia they were first indebted for separate habitations. Up to his time they had lived in various parts of the city, and his charter, among other reasons for the building of the Close, specified that the lay vicars were hated of the town, and that the dwellings were allotted them in order that they might live nearer to God, and more fellow-like. Ralph gave the vicars property, and he died just five hundred years ago. Mr. Du Cane enumerated the different benefactors of the institution, and said that Bishop de Beckington exceeded them all in munificence, and was regarded as their second founder. At the Reformation the vicars were dissolved as an incorporated body, their revenues were confiscated, and they existed on sufferance only. Queen Elizabeth restored them to their ancient position, and re-

founded them as a corporate body. They then numbered fourteen. The estates mentioned in the Elizabethan charter were still possessed by the body, but from the way in which they were let the income was uncertain. The vicars' houses were plundered at the time of Cromwell, were handed over to the towns-people, and the new possessors made great alterations. Shortly after the Restoration the vicars once more took possession of the Close, and so great was their poverty that they had no means of repairing the dilapidations of the buildings; they therefore petitioned the bishop for permission to lease the houses, each vicar to have two; the privilege was granted, and was still continued. Many of the rules framed by Bishop Beckington remained in force, and the charter-day (18th November) was still yearly observed. Mr. Du Cane acknowledged the assistance he had received from Mr. Serel in the compilation of his paper.

Mr. PARKER conducted the Members over the Bishop's Palace, where they were hospitably entertained by the Lord Bishop and Lady Auckland. The Deanery and other buildings were then visited under the guidance of Mr. Parker.

At the evening meeting, Mr. DICKINSON in the chair, the Rev. THOMAS HUGO read a paper on "The Priory of Mynchin Barrow," which is given in Part II.

The Rev. G. WILLIAMS, Senior Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, then read a paper on "Bishop Beckington," which is given in Part II.

Dr. DAUBENEY read a paper on "Agriculture."

By the invitation of Mr. PARKER, the members of the Society assembled at a *conversazione* in his restored mediæval house soon after nine o'clock. The hall, which was lighted by gas pendants of mediæval design, was crowded

by a numerous and fashionable company. Choristers from the Cathedral sang part songs and glees, Mr. Lavington, the Cathedral organist, presiding at the piano-forte. The host also provided refreshments for his guests in the upper chamber, and a very pleasant evening was spent by all present.

THIRD DAY, FRIDAY, SEPT. 11, 1863.

This morning the members again assembled in the Council-hall.

The Rev. J. R. GREEN gave a notice of two bishops of Wells—

Giso and Savaric.

The notice of Giso is printed in Part II. Savaric (Mr. Green observed) seemed to have been a relation of the Emperor Henry VI., and was undoubtedly archdeacon of Northampton and treasurer of Salisbury. When Reginald was about to be translated from Bath and Wells to the see of Canterbury, which he did not live to fill, he took particular pains that the archdeacon of Northampton should be promoted to the see he was about to vacate, and Savaric accordingly gained the preferment. Soon after his consecration, Richard I., King of England, returning from his crusade in the Holy Land, was made prisoner by the Emperor of Germany. The value of the royal prize was fixed at 100,000 marks as a ransom, and hostages were detained till the money was paid, one of whom was Savaric. Savaric, being a man of an avaricious and ambitious disposition, solicited the Emperor to obtain from the captive King the abbacy of Glastonbury, to be annexed to the see of Wells. As there was no vacancy, the scheme seemed impracticable. The crafty bishop soon found out a plan for effecting his purpose, in the following manner. The

see of Worcester was vacant. Henry de Suliaco, then abbot, was sent for by the King; on his arrival at the royal residence, he was informed of the King's pleasure to appoint him bishop of Worcester, and that resignation of his abbey was immediately required. This arrangement being acceded to on the part of the abbot, Savaric (who had ceded to the King the city of Bath, worth one hundred marks a-year) hastened to Glastonbury to take possession of his new dignity, having been confirmed therein by the Pope. The prior and monks, suspecting some private arrangement, stoutly resisted the union of the two dignities, and violent proceedings immediately followed. The monks were supported in their opposition by Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, and for four years Hubert kept Savaric at bay. Savaric had great influence with the Pope, Hubert was compelled to give way, and the bishop was ultimately inducted. The monks then tried another method: they sent one of their number, William de Pica, to Richard, in France, with a large sum of money. Richard, who was always in want of money, then found that he had conferred the abbacy when in captivity, and on this excuse retracted the gift, and nominated William de Pica to the post. Hubert inhibited the proceeding, and Richard conveniently kept the abbey in his own hands. King John, bribed by Savaric, issued orders for that prelate's induction, and Savaric thereupon took with him to Glastonbury a great band of canons and lay people. The doors of the abbey were forced open, and the canons, clothed in the robes of the monastery, formed the procession of induction. The bulk of the monks had retired to the refectory, were there locked in, and were so imprisoned a day and a night without food. They were then brought down to the chapter-house and compelled to submit; but they did not escape without

a public whipping. The monks lodged another appeal at Rome, and Savaric sent an embassy of canons to them to compel them to withdraw their appeal. The monks sought refuge in their church, put on their albs, one took the crucifix, and another the pyx. The canons and lay people forced their way into the church, seized the monks, dragged them out by the hair of their heads, and took them off to Wells in carts amid the scoffs of the populace. The monks thus captured were scattered among different monasteries. Savaric ordered the gates of the Glastonbury monastery to be closed, and no letters to be let out or in. Some who were left got away, and were pursued—the parson of Monkton was caught and thrashed to death. Martin de Summis escaped, and having connections at the court of Rome and being possessed of money, he quickly set his cash and his relations in motion. Innocent III granted an audience to Martin and William de Pica: it was recorded that they burst into tears and told him all, and thereupon Innocent burst out crying too, and promised them justice. Innocent did not care much about the Benedictines, but he cited Savaric to appear at Rome. Savaric received the letter in Flanders, pronounced it a forgery, and would not go; but at last had to comply. He had plenty of money also, and after considerable contention, Innocent, fettered with the grant of Celestine, decided that William de Pica's election must be quashed, that the whole thing should be put on a new footing,—Glastonbury to be merged into a new see, the bishopric of Bath and Glastonbury,—and the costs incurred to be paid out of Savaric's fourth share of the property. Savaric was ordered to persecute monks no longer, nor to prevent them appealing to the Pope. Soon after Savaric died, and Joceline succeeded to the see. Joceline gave up the joint bishopric, and the monks were allowed to choose their own abbot.

Mr. SEREL produced Savaric's original charter to the city for inspection, in which he is designated Bishop of Bath and Glastonbury.

The Rev. W. STUBBS observed that so many of the Bishops of Bath and Wells occupied important positions, that it would require a great deal of time to go through even the most salient points of their history. The custom of his own country which Giso said he introduced here, related to the canonical order. The canonical order was never received in its integrity in England. This country was converted principally by means of small mission stations, established by a certain number of the clergy, some of whom were under monastic vows, and some were not. As soon as they had done their work they began quarrelling, as they naturally would,—the monks wishing to make all the secular clergy monks, and the secular clergy wishing to make the monks of their order. Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury, anxious to make the chapters of cathedral churches live in communities, turned out the canons of most of the cathedrals, and replaced them by monks. That change was never imposed on Wells. With regard to Savaric, several theories might be supported: his (Mr. Stubbs') opinion was that he might have been a German by extraction, but he belonged to a family settled in England for some time.

The PRESIDENT said that Mr. Freeman was a great admirer of Harold's, and wished to know how he would get him out of this scrape.

Mr. FREEMAN at once quoted the contemporary character of Harold: "*Virtute corporis et animi præstabat in populo, sicut alter Judas Maccabæus.*" It was clear however that there was some grudge, on whatever ground, between the men of Somersetshire and the house of

Godwine. Everywhere else they were received as deliverers ; in the Isle of Wight, in Sussex, in Kent, men were ready "to live and die with Earl Godwine : " in Somersetshire, both before and after the conquest, his sons and grandsons were repulsed as enemies. There was no direct explanation given of this difference of feeling, but it was to be remembered that Somersetshire formed part of the government of Swegen ; what his administration was in Herefordshire was well known, and it probably was no better elsewhere. As to the alleged spoliation of Wells Cathedral by Harold, two or three points were to be considered. The popular account drawn from Bishop Godwin was an exaggeration of the narrative given by Giso himself : for instance, it was clear that Giso did not, as Godwin states, fly from the country and return only after the conquest. There was a charter of Harold's as King addressed to Giso, a charter of reconciliation, which of course implied the existence of some earlier quarrel, but which also distinctly set aside this part of the common story. It was not to be forgotten that these alleged robberies of churches were often done by the underlings of great men without any authority from their masters. Sir Henry Ellis had treated this subject at length in a note in his Introduction to Domesday, where several instances were collected, and where he gave a distinct warning that the complicity of the King or other principal was not to be taken for granted. There was no counter-statement on Harold's side, and there could be no doubt that the most legal transaction on his part would be represented by his Norman enemies as fraudulent or violent. At any rate, if he was looked on as a robber at Wells, he was looked on as a founder, and almost as a saint, at Waltham.

The Excursion.

The first point was the parish church of

St. Guthbert,

whose history was explained on the spot by Mr. Freeman. He said that he should have but little to say on some of the points for which the church was most famous, such as the images belonging to the transept-altars. These he would leave to those antiquaries within whose departments those objects came; they concerned himself only so far as they might sometimes help him to the date of some part of the building. That there had been a Norman church on the site was proved by the discovery of a Norman pillar-piscina (which was shown), which had been built up as old materials in one of the transept walls. This of course proved that there had been a Norman church, but it proved nothing as to its size and shape. The present church dated from the thirteenth century, and might be described as a church of that age thoroughly recast by gradual changes ranging from the fourteenth to the sixteenth century. Externally the building was almost wholly perpendicular, and, on first entering, the proportion and general effect were completely those of one of the great perpendicular churches of the county. But a second glance would shew that a large portion of an earlier fabric still remained, and that a large part of the recasting had been done in a very unusual way. The Early English church was probably built about the time of its confirmation to the dean and chapter by Bishop Joceline in 1240. It was originally one of those large cross churches with central towers, which were known in Somersetshire by the strange and unaccountable name

of "quarter-cathedrals." The central tower had however been removed at a very late date, a change of which he would say more presently. The nave was of the same length as at present, six bays ; the pillars still remained throughout ; the perpendicular builders, instead of rebuilding the nave from the ground, as they commonly did, had raised the pillars, preserving their old section in the part added, and had used the old capitals up again. The general effect of a perpendicular nave was thus produced. It was easy to see where the pillars had been patched, the new part being of a different stone and of longer pieces of stone. This sort of adaptation of old work, though by no means unique, was still far from common, and it should be carefully noted wherever it was found. The original height of the nave was marked by the gable-line still to be seen against the west wall. The original transepts also were lower than at present ; in the south transept the original plain buttresses could be seen, which had been ingeniously enriched and carried up in perpendicular times. Two windows of this date still remain, one in the east wall of the south transept, and one in the room attached to the church on the north side. Both are of incipient geometrical character. A general idea of the original building, a large Early English cross church, could easily be obtained. The process by which it had been changed into its present shape was a very gradual one. In elucidating it Mr. Freeman said that he had been greatly aided by the extracts from the parish records which had been kindly lent him by Mr. Serel, whose knowledge of the local antiquities of Wells they all knew and appreciated. Some of course among Mr. Serel's papers related to matters which did not come within his province, but from others he had obtained some most valuable dates, fixing in fact the most important points in the

history of the building. In other points he had to trust to the evidence of the building itself. The changes had been made at various times, and in some parts additions were built up against earlier work of exactly the same character. This was often the case; one addition in fact suggested another, and the second was often made very soon after the first, while the style in use was still exactly the same. Thus, in St. Cuthbert's, no difference in style could be seen between the south porch and the adjoining chapel, but the masonry clearly showed that the porch was completed before the chapel was thought of. Of course in an addition of this sort the evidence of the masonry was exactly the same, whether the two erections were separated by a year or by a century. The perpendicular reconstruction of St. Cuthbert's began very early in the style, and began in a part of the church which the perpendicular builders of Somersetshire often rather neglected. They had seen a great many churches throughout the county which retained earlier chancels, quite unworthy, both in size and character, of the splendid naves and towers with which they were brought into contact. But here a large and stately choir with aisles had been built in the very first days of the perpendicular period. The style of the choir, in fact, can hardly be called fully developed perpendicular; like so much Somersetshire work, the general effect is perpendicular, while much of the detail is still rather to be called decorated. It was doubtless a work of the latter part of the fourteenth century. It had, in fact, itself undergone changes at a later period of the perpendicular style, when the gable and parapet received their present form. The transepts must have been raised at the same time, a change rendered necessary by the height given to the choir-aisles. The arch between the

south transept and the south choir-aisle was clearly of this date, and must have existed before the Jesse altar. This transept, known as Tanner's or Coward's chapel, contained the altar of St. Mary, in honour of whom Tanner's chantry was founded in 1402, doubtless not long after the completion of this first instalment of the general reconstruction of the church. But the famous Jesse altar itself, with the splendid sculptures now defaced, was not erected till 1470. In the course of the later perpendicular changes a chapel had been thrown out on each side beyond the aisles. In the north chapel, the original Early English window in the east wall of the attached room on that side, and also the original perpendicular west window of the recast north transept, had thus become internal. It followed that no such addition had been thought of when the transepts were recast. But, leaving these minor matters of later date, he would return to the general course of the reconstruction. Next after the rebuilding of the choir followed the addition of the western tower. As usual in Somersetshire, the tower was built up against the original nave, and the recasting of the nave followed the addition of the tower. That this was the order was shewn by the roof-line already spoken of, and by other evidence in the masonry. No doubt, both here and elsewhere, the idea of the reconstruction of the nave was mainly suggested by a wish to bring it into harmony with the new tower. In some churches, as at Wrington, the nave was thus unduly cramped between the old chancel and the new tower, but no such result took place at St. Cuthbert's, where the nave was of ample size from the beginning. Of the tower, as a work of art, he would speak when he came to the exterior; he now mentioned it only as a stage in the history of the church. It opened, or should open to the nave, by a lofty panelled

arch, now cruelly blocked by an organ and other obstructions. Going out under this arch, they would see an Elizabethan man, removed, for he knew not what crime, from his tomb in the choir, and now left to lie about among the rubbish under the tower. Higher up, but now blocked off by a floor, was the fine vaulting of the tower. When the western tower was thus added, it should be remembered that the central tower still existed, and there seems to have been no intention of destroying it. The recasting of the nave then followed, effected, as had been already said, not, as usual, by complete rebuilding, but by lengthening the original Early English pillars, and adding the very fine clerestory and roof. The windows of the clerestory were four-centred, and were thus able to be made, as at Martock and Bruton, wider than in many of the other Somersetshire clerestories where the simple-pointed arch was employed. Both the clerestory and the aisle windows formed a noble range. The roof was not one of the local coved roofs, but a singularly fine low-pitched roof with tie-beams, a form not uncommon in the county where a clerestory is found. The last stage in the history of the building was that which obliterated all trace of its original outline. This, Mr. Freeman said, he would introduce in the words of a most important document for which he had to thank Mr. Serel. In the corporation records for the year 1561, occurred this entry :—

“That this tyme ther is appoynted a Colleccon by the M^r of the Towne for the Newe Makyng and Settyngge uppe the Church wher the Styple did stand.”

This entry in short was the key to the history of the building. No one could think that the “styple” in question, which had ceased to stand in 1561, had anything to do with the western tower, which was still standing in

1863. This entry proved, what might have been guessed without it, the former existence of a central tower and its co-existence with the present western tower. It thereby explained much that was puzzling in the appearance of the central part of the church. As it now stood the nave of St. Cuthbert's was a nave of seven bays, the seventh bay being separated from the sixth by a large piece of blank wall, interrupting the design both of the pier-arches and of the clerestory. Through this piece of blank wall, it might be observed, ingenious churchwardens had bored holes for the purpose of sight and hearing during the various wanderings of the pulpit, which holes might easily puzzle some future antiquary. These holes, he might say, produced a most unpleasant look of insecurity; whether there really was any danger was a point which he must leave to architects. Now these pieces of blank wall, much wider as they were than was needed merely for the arches between the aisles and the transepts, were in fact the supports of the central tower. Again the chancel-arch and the arches into the transepts, though presenting a superficial appearance of Early English work, had a most queer and ungenue look, and the masonry shewed that the chancel-arch was plainly later than the fourteenth century work in the choir. There could be no doubt that these arches were really the result of the order of 1561 "for the Newe Makyng and Settyng uppe the Church where the Style did stand." "Making and setting up the church" are words which implied something much more than mere everyday repair, and clearly pointed to some such large reconstruction as he was now speaking of. No doubt the tower fell, like so many other central towers, and, when it had fallen, it was determined not to rebuild it. The western arch of the lantern was therefore wholly

removed, and the old area of the tower thrown into the nave ; hence the pieces of blank wall on both sides. The other three arches were rebuilt, using up the Early English materials, so as to produce the appearance already spoken of. It followed from this that the eastern pair of clerestory windows and the part of the roof over them were of the date of 1561. This might seem startling at first sight, but good Gothic work, even in original designs, was occasionally found as late as that date and much later, and it would doubtless be still easier to find workmen capable of producing work of this kind in close imitation of the old work hard by. It might be perhaps thought, as there was no perceptible break inside, that the whole clerestory and roof ought to be assigned to the year 1561. Mr. Freeman, however, said that there was a palpable break outside. It was not very clear from below, at least not on the south side;* but he had gone up on the aisle roof that morning in company with Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Green, and they had then found a distinct break in the wall on each side of the clerestory, accompanied by a change in the details of the parapet, slight indeed, but enough to shew that there is work of two dates. The breaks are not opposite to each other on the two sides, doubtless because the tower, in its fall, did more damage on one side than on the other. There could then be no doubt that the eastern portions, but only the eastern portions, of the clerestory and roof, were really of the latter half of the sixteenth century, and very creditable they were to workmen of that date.

Mr. FREEMAN, having thus finished the history of the building, took the company outside, to a point lying north-

* Mr. Parker afterwards pointed out that on the north side there is a marked difference in the colour of the stone. In fact this difference may be seen a long way off.—E. A. F.

west of the church, for the purpose of discoursing on the surviving western tower as one of the grand series of Somersetshire towers. Its exact date he would not attempt to fix. He had found that the perpendicular style, especially in Somersetshire, was spread over so long a time with so little change in detail, that he had long left off guessing at the dates of these buildings. When he could find a documentary date, he was thankful for it ; when he could not, he was satisfied with saying, on the evidence of the masonry, that one part of a building was older than another part, without venturing guesses, which might turn out to be wrong, as to the exact date of either. Of this tower he would only say that it was later than the choir, which is very early in the style, and earlier than the reconstruction of the nave, which is clearly late in the style. He would however correct a mistaken notion which had led some people to attribute the tower to the reign of Edward III., as it was clearly later than that. This idea had taken its rise from some coats of arms in the west wall ; but these, as a very slight examination would show, had been built up again in their present place. They were fixed in distinctly decorated panels, and they had probably formed part of an earlier west front before the addition of the tower. Mr. Freeman then called the attention of his hearers to the grand outline which the church must have presented when both towers were standing. An approach to a grouping of two towers might be seen in some other churches in the county, as at Bruton and Wedmore, but here must have been the complete arrangement of a western and central tower, like Purton and Wimborne Minster. He then went on to speak of the design of the tower itself, and its rank among the other great towers of the county. He had long ago given it the second place among them,

and he saw no reason to depart from that judgment. The first place, he need hardly say, he gave to Wrington; the design of Evercreech was so nearly the same as that of Wrington that the two could not be separated in an estimate of this kind. He placed St. Cuthbert's in the first rank of towers, because it exhibited that arrangement which struck him as the grandest, that in which the whole upper part of the tower was thrown into one vast panelled stage. By this arrangement an unity was given to the whole design, which was not to be found in many of the towers of the Taunton type, where a stage could be added or taken away without greatly interfering with the general design. But, though he placed St. Cuthbert's in the first rank, he could give it only a secondary place in that rank, because, though the general design was the same as that of Wrington, it was by no means carried out with the same perfect elegance of detail. The large corner pinnacles might perhaps be thought too heavy, and there could be no doubt much was lost by the omission of the small central pinnacles, and by the substitution of a mere battlement for the beautiful open parapet of Wrington. There was a coarseness too about the details of the windows; they greatly wanted labels, and the division into stages was not well managed. At Wrington the height of the long mullions was broken by two transoms, mere transoms with parallel heads below them, thus making a good division, and breaking the height without making the horizontal line too prominent. At St. Cuthbert's there was only one transom, which made the two stages much too long, and the horizontal line was made needlessly prominent by the addition of a broad band of panelling. There were other minor points in which it would be easily seen that this tower fell short of the perfect elegance of

Wrighton. Still there could be no doubt that it was, in its general effect, one of the noblest towers in Somersetshire, and therefore one of the noblest parochial towers in England. As a parishioner of St. Cuthbert's, he felt proud of it, for he must explain to his hearers that he was a parishioner of St. Cuthbert's, though, when they reached his house, they would very likely think it a geographical paradox that he should be so. He had now done his part, and would hand over the next object, the neighbouring hospital, to Mr. Parker. "I will only," he added, "say thus much, that from where I stand I can just see certain stone seats in the hospital which, I suppose, gave some ingenious person the first idea of these stone stalls under which we now suffer in the choir of the cathedral."

Accompanied by Mr. Parker, the visitors proceeded to the hospital founded by Bishop Bubwith for poor and deserving inhabitants of Wells, adjoining St. Cuthbert's churchyard. Mr. Parker condemned the alteration which had been made, and which divided the beautiful open roof of the chapel by a screen wall, separating the chapel from the remainder of the edifice. The open roof ran all along the structure, and its fine appearance had been totally destroyed in this manner, and by the erection of cells above the original cells. These additions should have been made elsewhere. The old town-hall stood at the west end of the hospital. The visitors were shewn a rare and fine old painted chest, said to be the founder's chest.

Favoured by splendid weather, the company, to the number of sixty or seventy, next started on the only excursion of the meeting. The first halting-place was at

Wookey Hole,

and here Mr. DAWKINS acted as guide and lecturer. He

pointed out the caverns round the ravine in which the party were collected; informed them that these caves had been hollowed out by the action of water; and explained how it had been ascertained that the water, which ran into the Axe from the mouth of the cavern in the rear of Mr. Hodgkinson's paper-mill, flowed at least two miles, from north to south, through various other caverns. In his description of the cave known at the Hyæna Den, he stated that it was first cut into a few years back by workmen engaged in making a canal for the conveyance of water to the paper-mills. The workmen found it filled it with earth, and large bones and teeth. One workman sold 2 cwt. of rhinoceros' teeth to a bone-dealer in Wells as old bones: a greater piece of barbarism he had never heard of. He heard of the cave soon afterwards, and had been digging at it from time to time during the last five years. He gradually dug his way in, and in the course of his explorations he had found a most remarkable assemblage of animal remains. He found an enormous quantity of hyæna bones, three species of bear, two species of lion, one of wolf: and among other creatures upon which these fierce animals fed, he found the bones of three species of deer and two species of oxen. He also found certain traces of human occupation—flint implements, splinters of flint, a bone arrow-head, and bone ashes. The flint implements were like those found at Abbeville in 1847. These traces of man were discovered underneath the layers of bones, and afforded good evidence of the contemporaneity of man with the extinct *fauna*. The cave was now thirty-six feet above the level of the Axe, so that great changes had taken place since floods flowed into this cavern. Most of the remains seemed to him to have been borne into the cave by hyænas, because on nearly all the bones were

marks of their teeth. The sound bones found were invariably those which contained no marrow, and which the instinct of the hyæna would prevent him from cracking. Coins of Commodus and other Roman emperors had been found near the cave in digging for the canal. Six months back, while a gasometer was being laid, a human skeleton was found beneath a ledge of rock; the greater part of the skull was lost, and nearly all the bones, but from what remained he observed a depression inside the brow, closely allied to the Australian type of the present day; and it was singular, if nothing else, that the implements used by the Australian aborigines were more like those found at Wookey than the implements of any other race.

Mr. Freeman said that he would say here what ought to be said at some stage of the excursion, that during a great part of the day they were travelling along the line of Ceawlin's frontier, the frontier of England and Wales in 577. The Axe was the boundary from its source, and for a considerable distance from its source it was still the boundary of the parishes of Wells and Wookey. He was himself personally interested in the matter, as, at one point, this ancient frontier formed, for some way, the boundary of his own property. Where they stood now, in Wells parish, would in 577 have still been Wales; the other side of the stream, in the parish of Wookey, already in 577 was England. Along the border district several Celtic names were still preserved. The word Wookey, locally "Ooky," was, according to the Rev. W. A. Jones, the Welsh *ogo*, meaning 'cavern;' so that when they said Wookey Hole, they in fact said the same thing twice over, as was often the case. Ben Knoll, which they were about to visit, was a similar instance, *pen* being Welsh, and *knoll* English, for 'hill.'

The Rev. F. WARRE spoke of the discovery of skeletons at Worle Hill, which he believed to be the skeletons of a forlorn hope led by Ceawlin, the West Saxon conqueror, who made the Axe his boundary; and he said the skulls of those skeletons presented the very peculiarity Mr. Dawkins had mentioned.

Wookey Church

was the next place visited. It is a plain perpendicular edifice, with a good oak roof, a curious squint, and a fine monument to one of the Clarkes of Chipley.

Wookey Rectory, formerly the residence of the Subdean of Wells, and now ludicrously known as "Mellifont Abbey," is remarkable for the curious manner in which stone fragments of an older house have been used in the re-erection of the building. An oriel window has been built in over the porch, and the old corbels have been stuck into the walls. The house was thus rebuilt in 1730. The neighbouring Court, formerly a manorial dwelling of the bishops, and from which many of Beckington's letters are dated, was then visited. There remains an Early English doorway, exactly agreeing with the Palace and the west front of the Cathedral, and there are mullions of late Perpendicular date.

TO CASTLE HILL the company were guided by the Rev. F. WARRE, who pointed out that the original plan was threefold, the outer enclosure having been bounded by the river, the course of which is now changed, and analogous to that of Worle Castle, Neroche, and Windsor.

The party then journeyed to

Ben Inoll,

and here Mr. Warre maintained there had been a small fortified settlement in primitive days, of the type probably used before the Belgic invasion. The circular spots on the hill

had been covered with huts, and he had dug up from under one charcoal remains, which proved human habitation. The view from the summit of the Knoll is magnificent. Looking towards the Bristol Channel, it is skirted on the right hand by the noble Mendips, in the middle distance Brent Knoll, probably the head-quarters of the herdsmen, stands boldly up, to the left appears Glastonbury Tor, and at the back the architectural grandeur of Wells presents a striking feature in the landscape. The intermediate plain smiles with fertility, and was appropriately styled by the ancient Britons, according to Mr. Warre, "the laughing summer field." Mr. Warre is of opinion that the wide expanse visible from this Knoll formed an important settlement of the Cangi. Every knoll visible he believes was occupied by the herdmen of the day, who tended their flocks in the splendid grazing district surrounding them. Castle Hill he believes to have been the most strongly fortified place of the group, and a field below Ben Knoll, where skeletons have been found, he considers to have been the burying-place of the tribe.

After listening to an animated discussion between Mr. Warre and Mr. Dawkins as to the probability and improbability of Ben Knoll having been a dwelling-place of the primitive races, the excursionists proceeded to Summerleaze, the residence of Mr. E. A. Freeman, and were there most hospitably entertained. Before the members separated, the Rev. J. F. Dimock, the Rev. G. Williams, the Rev. W. Stubbs, the Rev. J. R. Green, and Mr. W. Boyd Dawkins were elected honorary members of the Society, and a vote of thanks was cordially passed to the Mayor and Corporation of Wells, and to the officers of the Association.

The Museum.

The temporary museum, formed at the Town-hall of Wells, was a small one, but it contained many objects of interest and value.

There were ancient charters of the Corporation of the city of Wells, dating from 1174 ; among them one granted by Bishop Reginald Fitz Jocelyn, conceding certain privileges to the burgesses of Wells ; also, charters granted by Queen Philippa, a curious charter of Bishop Savaric of the twelfth century ; charter of King John, constituting Wells a free borough ; a charter of Edward I. confirming King John's charter ; the ancient minute-books of the Corporation, commencing 1378, together with old charters of land in Wells, of which the Corporation possesses eight hundred ; a roll of mayors from 1378 to the present date ; and the Town Clerk sent a bundle of records dating from the 14th of King Edward IV. to the present period. The Bishop of the diocese contributed a beautiful collection of Indian and Chinese carvings ; and the Dean and Chapter exhibited an ancient pastoral staff of Limoges enamel, representing St. Michael vanquishing the dragon ; this staff is presumed to have belonged to Savaric, and if so, would be as early as the twelfth century. The Canon in residence, the Rev. Mr. Beadon, lent, in behalf of the Dean and Chapter, a choice collection of fragmentary sculptured work of the thirteenth century, selected from the crypt of the cathedral ; also a crucifix and two ancient chalices, a metal depository that encased a human heart, a beautifully executed alto-relievo of the Ascension, executed in alabaster from one of the altars of the side chapels ;

a portion of the original holy-rood cross ; two wonderfully fine carved oak misereres from the choir—one shewing a pelican in her piety, of exquisite workmanship, marvelously undercut ; a decorated bench-end ; and a good collection of encaustic tiles.

There were fragments of the west front and several encaustic tiles, sent by Mrs. Tudway, that were found during the demolition of an old prebendal hall in the Liberty. Fragments from the same west front were exhibited by Mr. Clarke, who also sent some rare pieces of encaustic tile of thirteenth-century date from Athelney Island, and some border tiles nearly as rare from Glastonbury.

The Rev. Arthur Du Cane contributed a very curious illuminated calendar ; also a few pieces of pavement from the demolished priory of St. John, Wells. Several illuminated missals were sent by Mr. Dickinson, who likewise exhibited a valuable seal from Glastonbury, Mr. E. H. Clerk sent several pieces of Roman pottery, and the insignia of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. Mr. Mayhew exhibited a funeral pall of mediæval workmanship, from St. John's at Glastonbury.

Mr. Munckton brought a collection of court rolls of Langport, Curry Rivel, Broadway, and the Forest of Neroche, Somerset, dating from the reign of Richard I. to that of Queen Elizabeth ; a manuscript account of a timber sale of the time of Richard I. ; a rent-book and accounts of Lord Strange in the reign of Elizabeth ; the rent-book of Henry Duke of Suffolk, father of Lady Jane Grey. Mr. Livett and Mr. Sheppard sent several ancient books. Mr. Halliday exhibited four good Flemish panels of fifteenth-century date. Mr. Serel sent a curious collection of old newspapers, from A.D. 1686 to

1716, including the "London Gazette," issued during the Monmouth rebellion; also some pieces of Samian ware found amidst the Priddy lead mines in the Mendips, which are now being worked from the *débris* of the old Roman workings. Professor Daubeny brought several flint implements from Abbeville and Amiens. Mr. Fletcher sent a small but good collection of Roman coins of Domitian, Hadrian, Vespasian, Faustina, and Trajan, that were found deposited in an earthen vessel in the fossway near Masberry Camp; also a prick spur found in excavating the present high road through the cathedral close, at a depth of seven or eight feet, east of the chain gate. Mr. Hippisley contributed some delicate tabernacle-work, shewing traces of colour from the priory of St. John in Wells. Mr. Bernard sent a few pieces of valuable old china and some fossils; and Mr. Sanford and Mr. Dawkins exhibited a good collection of bones discovered during their recent explorations in Wookey and Burrington.

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting.

THE Sixteenth Annual Meeting was held at BURNHAM, September 7th, 1864, under the presidency of F. H. DICKINSON, Esq.

The Rev. F. WARRE read the following Report of the Committee.

ANNUAL REPORT.

“On this our Sixteenth Annual Meeting, your Committee have again the pleasure of presenting to the Society a favourable Report of its present position and its future prospects.

“Your Committee have reason to believe that the Volume of Proceedings now in the Press, will be regarded in every respect worthy to follow the volume issued last year ; and they would refer to the high character and value of the literary matter supplied, and the superior excellence of the illustrations, as a sufficient evidence of the usefulness and success of the labours of the Society.

“Your Committee would congratulate the members on the position which this Society occupies among kindred Societies, as indicated by the attendance and co-operation of men so distinguished in their several departments as the Rev. Professor Willis, the Rev. G. Williams, the Rev. W. Stubbs, Mr. Parker, and others ; while the contributions made by ordinary and resident members prove that it commands the sympathy and support of men who are eminently competent to promote the objects for which the Society is established.

“It is with peculiar pleasure your Committee find themselves able to report that the large and valuable collection of Mendip Cave Bones made by Mr. BEARD, of Banwell, is now the property of the Society, and is deposited in your Museum. It is intended as speedily as possible to arrange and classify the collection, to make it available for the higher purposes of science. In conjunction with the series of Mendip Cave Bones collected by the late Rev. D. Williams, previously in the Museum, the County of Somerset may now boast of possessing the finest collection of its kind in England, and one of the finest in Europe. The Committee trust there may be no difficulty in obtaining further subscriptions towards making up the amount required for the purchase.

“Your Committee rejoice that the invitation of the Mayor and Corporation of Bath to the Council of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in which this Society concurred, has been accepted; and they venture to promise on behalf of this Society and its members, all the assistance they can render to promote the success of the meeting of the Association to be held in the City of Bath this month.

“Notwithstanding the losses by death and removal, the number of members has been well kept up; but your Committee would again urge upon those interested in the well-being of the Society, the importance of largely increasing the list of subscribers, in order that the income may be adequate to the demands made by the numerous and varied objects of interest supplied by this large and important County.”

Mr. R. G. BADCOCK presented the following Financial Statement :—

The Treasurers in account with the Somersetsbire Archaeological and
 Dr. Natural History Society. Cr.

1863-4.	£ s. d.	1863-4.	£ s. d.
To Balance of former account	3 15 8	By Expenses at Wells	6 12 1
„ Subscriptions	187 2 0	„ Advertising	2 11 6
„ ditto to Illustration		„ Stationery, Printing, &c.	8 7 5
„ Fund	76 13 6	„ Coal, Gas, &c.	13 6 1
„ Entrance Fees	15 10 0	„ Curator's salary, 1 year	25 0 0
		„ Repairs	7 9
		„ Postage, Carriage, &c.	4 16 8
		„ Postage and delivery of Vols.	4 13 0
		„ Sundries	1 1 5
		„ Insurance	1 2 6
		„ Mr. May, balance of account for printing Vol. XI.	60 19 6
		„ Subscription to Palaeontological Society, 1861-2	2 2 0
		„ Subscription to Papworth's Ordinary of British Armorials	2 2 0
		„ Jobbins, Printing Illustrations	2 1 6
		„ Webber, Photographs	5 15 6
		„ Expenses removing Beard's Collection	8 16 0
		„ Cash advanced in part, payment of Beard's Col- lection, to be repaid to this account	55 0 0
		„ Balance	78 6 3
	<u>£ 283 1 2</u>		<u>£ 283 1 2</u>
Balance in hands of the Treasurer	78 6 3	R. G. BADCOCK,	
Loan in part payment of Beard's Collection	55 0 0	Treasurer.	
	<u>£ 133 6 3</u>		

September 5th, 1864.

Audited and found correct,
 W. E. GILLET.

Both Reports were received and adopted.

On the motion of Mr. R. G. BADCOCK, seconded by Mr. R. NEVILLE GRENVILLE, it was resolved, "That the Committee be empowered to make arrangements for the next Meeting, and for the appointment of President."

The Vice-Presidents were re-elected, with the addition of E. A. Freeman, Esq.

The Treasurers, General Secretaries, and Local Secretaries, were re-elected.

The following gentlemen were elected Members of the Committee : Mr. J. R. Allen, Dr. Gillett, Dr. Kelly, Dr. Metford, Mr. J. F. Norman, and Dr. Pring.

The Curator, Mr. William Bidgood, was re-elected.

The PRESIDENT having delivered a short address, called upon the Rev. THOMAS HUGO to read his paper on "White Hall, in Ilchester." The following papers were then read :

By Mr. THOMAS SEREL, on "The Early Connection of the Wellesleys with the City of Wells," which is printed in Part II.

By Mr. R. K. MEADE KING, on some early documents relating to the ownership of King's Sedgmoor.

By the Rev. GILBERT N. SMITH on the Evidence of the Pembrokeshire Bone and Flint-knife Caves in regard to the Antiquity of Man.

In the course of the day Burnham Church was visited by the members and found to be probably of the transitional period between the Decorated and the Perpendicular.

The Excursion.

On the following day the members proceeded to

South Brent Church,

a building which presented a great admixture of styles. There were remains of Norman work : the moulding of the south window proved it to have been of the fourteenth century : the tower was of the Taunton type, only with all the ornaments cut away.

Hence they climbed to

Brent Knoll,

where the Rev. F. WARRE described the Earthworks as not purely military, but rather as the head-quarters of the Cangi, who were herdsmen.

On descending from the hill, the party was met by the Venerable Archdeacon Denison, who conducted them over East Brent Church.

Lympsam Church

was next visited, and the company was hospitably entertained at the vicarage by the Rev. J. H. Stephenson and Mrs. Stephenson, whose courtesy and kindness were duly acknowledged by the President on behalf of the members.

The company then proceeded to

Brean Down,

under the guidance of the Rev. F. WARRE, who gave the following account of the Earthworks, &c., on this interesting promontory :—

The promontory of Brean Down, on the south side of Weston Bay, as well as that of Land Point, on the north side of Sand Bay, appears to have been occupied at a very early period in connexion with the British stronghold on Worle Hill. On its summit there are still to be seen the traces of an ancient beacon, the approaches to which from east and west, have been strengthened by several ramparts, thrown up across the ridge of the hill at some distance from each other, as is frequently the case in British works. The whole of the north side of the hill appears to have been fortified with artificial scarps and terraces, and there are several well defined remains of hut circles still to be seen ; in some cases part of the side walls formed of dry masonry being still above ground. The beacon was probably intended to give signals to that on Land Point, from which notice might be given to the great landing-place of the stronghold on Worle Hill, which was situated at St. Kew's steps, on the north side of the hill, from which there is no view down the channel. At no great distance from the

eastern extremity of the hill, which has been much quarried, there is what appears to be the remains of a large entrenched camp or enclosure occupying the whole breadth of the hill from one cliff to the other. Only one side and one angle of this work now remains, but it seems to have been very strongly fortified towards the west. I do not think this is a British work, nor is it altogether like a Roman rampart; from its situation and great strength towards the west, it seems rather to have been intended to block up the passage from Brean Down to the land than to protect the promontory from attack from the east. Tradition says, that about the middle of the 9th century the Danes were defeated at Brent, and fled to Brean Down, where they were blockaded by the victors till they were taken off by the sea in their ships. It seems not impossible that this work was constructed at that time. It is supposed that the Roman town Axium was situated at Uphill, where many Roman relics have been found, and the marks of foundations are plainly to be seen. Many Roman coins, one of which is in my possession, have been found on Brean Down. The south side of the hill is very precipitous, and the space between it and the northern cliffs has been much mutilated by husbandry.

Second Day : Excursion.

The first point of interest was

Waldmore Church,

where the curious effigies attracted attention. In general character these would seem to have been of the 13th century, but the costume resembled that of the 15th. The

tower piers seemed to be early 13th, or very late 12th century work ; the transepts and chancel walls probably 14th ; aisles, 15th century.

Oldest Hay Floor.

The remains of the Abbot's road, which had been kindly laid open by Mr. Gabriel Poole, and also the Sand-banks containing sea-sand with recent sea-shells, were examined with great interest.

The following resolution moved by the President, was adopted :

“ That this Society is strongly impressed with the advantage to be derived from publishing the Exon Doomsday-book in fac-simile, and that Lord Talbot de Malahide, F. H. Dickinson, Esq., W. A. Sanford, Esq., the Rev. Fredk. Browne, the Rev. Thomas Hugo, and the Secretaries, be a Committee (with power to add to their number), to inquire into the matter, and report to the Society on the best means of effecting this object.”

The usual votes of thanks to the President and the Officers of the Society, having been passed, the meeting was brought to a close.

Conversazione Meetings.

1865.

January 9th.

On some Ancient British Coins, by the Rev. W. A. Jones.

On some Diatomaceæ, found in the tissues of the skin of a caterpillar, by the Rev. W. Tuckwell.

On Kingsley's *Water Babies*, by the Rev. W. R. Clark.

February 6th.

On the Eo-zöon, by W. A. Sanford, Esq.

On the Lost Continent of Atlantis, or the Garden of the Hesperides, by W. D. Crotch, Esq.

March 6th.

On Volcanoes and Rocks of Volcanic Origin in the Quantock Hills, by the Rev. W. A. Jones.

Notices of Somersetshire in the earliest English History, by E. A. Freeman, Esq.

On Traces of our Ancient Roads in Holway Lane, by W. F. Elliot, Esq.

The Museum.

The following additions have been made to the Museum since the publication of the last volume :—

An encaustic tile from the site of Athelney Abbey, by T. CHISHOLM ANSTEY, Esq.

An old firelock discovered in the thatch of an old house at Shoreditch, near Taunton, by Mrs. RENDELL.

Two molars of Rhinoceros ; pottery, iron implement, and bones, from Whitcombe's Hole, a small cave in Burrington Combe ; also charcoal, burnt bones, teeth of hyena, and chipped flint in matrix, from Wookey Hole, by W. A. SANFORD and W. B. DAWKINS, Esqrs.

Leaden heart-case from Merriot Church, by the Rev. J. H. EVANS.

Flint arrow-head found at Lydeard St. Lawrence, by the Rev. F. WARRE.

The red-throated diver (*Colymbus septentrionalis*), first year's plumage ; the dunlin (*Tringa variabilis*) ; portions of tessellated pavement and fresco, from the site of a Roman villa at Seavington ; Romano-British pottery from Norton Fitzwarren, by C. N. WELMAN, Esq.

A forged half-crown piece of Charles I. of copper, silver-plated, inscription CAROLLUS, found near Barton Grange, by F. W. NEWTON, Esq.

Old scagliola work from the ruins of an old house in East-street, by Mr. R. PARSONS.

Piece of wood bored by the teredo, from Guernsey, by Mrs. SMITH.

Roman Husbandry, by the author, Dr. DAUBENEY.

A very large specimen of *Anodonta cygnea* from a pond near Langport, by E. BAGEHOT, Esq.

Stag's horn found in King's Sedgmoor, by W. H. HILL, Esq.

Lyas cycad from Pepsbury Quarry, Langport, by the Rev. E. P. HENSLOW.

Coins, lance-head, and piece of iron ore found at Stoke Giffard, near Bristol, by the Rev. E. J. EVERARD.

Piece of lead pipe (Roman) from Honey Ditches, Seaton, by Sir W. C. TREVELYAN, Bart.

The lapwing (*Vanellus cristatus*); common gull (*Larus canus*); wild duck (*Anas boschas*) male; scaup duck (*Fuligula marila*); bald coot (*Fulica atra*); sparrow hawk (*Accipiter nisus*); in cases, by CECIL SMITH, Esq.

Silver coin of Edward III., found in Moorlinch Vicarage Garden, 1862, by the Rev. J. LUSCOMBE, jun.

The face of a female fawn in classic terra cotta, by W. E. SURTEES, Esq.

Memoir of Thomas Chard, D.D., last Abbot of Ford Abbey, by the author, Dr. PRING.

Photograph of mural monument to the Rev. Edward Byam, by EDWARD S. BYAM, Esq.

Fac-simile of Domesday-Book for the counties of Hampshire, and Wiltshire, by W. A. SANFORD, Esq.

Rubbing from monument on north side of Axbridge Church, by Mr. T. SEREL.

Aquæ Solis; notices of Roman Bath, from F. H. DICKINSON, Esq.

Three photographs of the quarry of igneous rock near Quantock Lodge, showing the axis of the cone of elevation, by Lord TAUNTON.

A "grey-beard," by the Rev. F. WARRE.

Brass rubbings, by the Rev. R. ADDISON.

A large specimen of aphrodite, by Mrs. BEVIS.

Deposited.

Two ancient British coins found at Nunney, and one Roman coin (gilt), by J. H. B. CARSLAKE, Esq.

Publications Received.

- Sussex Archæological Collections, Vol. XV.
 Wiltshire Archæological Magazine.
 Journal of the Royal Dublin Society.
 Journal of the Kilkenny and South East of Ireland
 Archæological Society.
 Journal of the British Archæological Association.
 Palæontographical Society's Journal for the year 1861,
 purchased.
 Collections of the Surrey Archæological Association.
 Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archæological
 Society.
 Proceedings of the Natural History Society of Dublin.
 The Archæological Journal.
 Transactions of the Historic Society of Lancashire and
 Cheshire.
 Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology.
 Report of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington,
 U.S., 1861 and 1862.
 List of Coleoptera of North America.
 New species of North American Coleoptera.
 Engleston's Catalogue of Minerals.
 Papworth's British Armorials, purchased.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

RECEIVED FOR THE PURCHASE OF

Mr. BEARD'S COLLECTION OF MENDIP CAVE BONES.

		£ s. d.			£ s. d.				
Mr. W. H. P. Gore			Mr. Edwards Beadon	1	1	0			
Langton, M.P.	..	5	0	0	Mr. J. R. Allen	..	1	0	0
Col. Pinney, M.P.	..	5	0	0	Mrs. Cecil Smith	..	1	0	0
Mr. W. A. Sanford	..	5	0	0	Sir W. Trevelyan, Bart.	5	0	0	0
Mr. Dickinson	..	5	0	0	Mr. T. Meyler	..	10	0	0
Dr. Prior	..	5	0	0	Mr. R. Easton	..	1	0	0
Mr. Hamilton..	..	7	0	0	Lord Ilchester	..	7	2	0
Mr. A. G. Lethbridge	3	0	0	0	Rev. J. Warren	..	1	0	0

72 SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR BEARD'S MENDIP BONES.

Mr. W. F. Elliot ..	2 2 0	Mr. H. Fiske ..	10 0
Rev. W. A. Jones ..	2 0 0	Mr. H. J. Alford ..	10 0
Mr. R. Neville Grenville	2 0 0	Mr. I. M. Paget ..	2 0 0
Mr. A. Seymour, M.P.	2 0 0	Mr. Watson Bagehot	1 0 0
Mr. J. Rocke Hoyte ..	2 0 0	Mr. Charles Harris ..	1 0 0
Rev. F. Warre ..	1 1 0	Mr. C. N. Welman ..	1 0 0
Mr. W. S. Hodgkinson	1 1 0	Rev. C. C. Parfitt ..	1 0 0
Dr. Gillett ..	1 1 0	Rev. J. R. Green ..	1 0 0
Mr. Gabriel S. Poole ..	1 0 0	Mr. W. B. Dawkins ..	1 0 0
Mr. H. Alford ..	1 0 0	Mr. Emanuel Green ..	1 1 0
Dr. Metford ..	1 1 0	Mr. R. M. King ..	5 0 0
Mr. Capel ..	1 0 0	Mr. T. B. Uttermare	1 1 0
Mr. Cecil Smith ..	1 0 0	Rev. J. H. Stephenson	1 0 0
Sir A. A. Hood, Bart.,		Rev. P. E. George ..	1 0 0
M.P. ..	5 0 0	Mr. C. Rowcliffe ..	1 0 0
Mr. R. G. Badcock ..	2 2 0	Mr. E. Whitmash ..	10 0
Lieut.-Col. Graham ..	1 0 0	Mr. R. Henderson ..	10 0
Mr. Surtees ..	1 0 0	Mr. C. J. Turner ..	2 0 0
Rev. C. King ..	1 0 0	Mr. Barter ..	10 0
Rev. F. B. Portman ..	1 0 0	Mr. H. Badcock ..	2 0 0
Mr. W. G. Rawlinson-	1 0 0	Dr. Kelly ..	1 0 0
Mr. F. W. Newton ..	1 1 0	Rev. G. W. Braikenridge	2 0 0
Lord Portman ..	5 0 0	Mr. F. J. Thompson ..	10 0
Mr. H. G. Moysey ..	1 0 0	Mr. Thomas Clarke ..	10 0
Miss Trevelyan ..	2 2 0	Mr. William Blake ..	2 0 0
Rev. J. A. Yatman ..	1 0 0	Lord Taunton ..	5 0 0
Mr. R. Walter ..	1 0 0	Mr. E. A. Sanford ..	5 0 0
Mr. M. F. Bissett ..	2 0 0	Lord Talbot de Malahide	1 1 0
Mr. William Barrett ..	2 0 0	Mr. E. A. Freeman ..	2 0 0
Rev. R. J. Meade ..	3 0 0	Rev. E. Cox ..	1 0 0
Mr. W. J. Braikenridge	2 0 0	Mr. W. B. Paul ..	1 0 0
Mr. J. Nicholetts ..	1 0 0	Mr. R. L. Jones ..	1 1 0
Rev. J. W. Ward ..	10 0	Rev. W. R. Crotch ..	1 0 0
Mr. T. T. Knyfton ..	2 0 0	Sir A. H. Elton, Bart.	1 1 0
Mr. W. H. Helyar ..	2 0 0	Rev. F. Lockey ..	10 0
Rev. H. H. Winwood	1 1 0	Hon. P. P. Bouverie M.P.	2 0 0
Rev. J. Bond ..	10 0	Mr. W. H. Harford ..	1 1 0
Rev. F. F. Moor ..	10 0	Mr. H. Warre ..	1 0 0
Mr. A. Trevelyan ..	1 0 0	Rev. H. Clutterbuck ..	10 0
Rev. R. Hill ..	10 0	Lieut.-Col. Raban ..	1 1 0
Mr. William Adlam ..	1 1 0	Mr. W. Long ..	10 0
Mr. A. B. Sheppard ..	1 0 0	Rev. J. S. H. Horner	5 0 0
Mr. Edward Bagehot	1 0 0	Mr. S. J. Brown ..	10 0

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
1863, PART II.

PAPERS, ETC.

Bishop Bekynton.

BY THE REV. G. WILLIAMS, B.D., SENIOR FELLOW OF
KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

IT is not without very serious misgivings that I have undertaken to read a paper before this Association on one of the most distinguished Prelates who has occupied the See of Bath and Wells, to whom this his cathedral city is indebted for some of the fine monuments of mediæval architecture which still adorn it, and whose memory is still revered as the liberal and enlightened benefactor of the town. I have had the opportunity of learning how deeply his name is engraved in the heart of one of your townsmen, and how fondly the recollection of his good deeds is cherished; as I have been permitted to examine the manuscript collections made by Mr. Serel, with whom it

has been a labour of love for many years past to gather together from all quarters whatever he could find bearing upon the private or official life of Bishop Bekynton. It is only because I believe that I have had the advantage of opening and exploring a new mine of matter concerning him, hitherto accessible to very few, that I presume, stranger as I am among you, to come to speak to Somersetshire men of a Somersetshire worthy, here in his own episcopal city, under the shadow of his own cathedral, in which, we trust, after his long and busy life of honest devotion to his King and his Church, "he sleeps well," though no longer, I am grieved to find, under that gorgeous canopy which the care of his executors erected over his recumbent effigy on the south side of the presbytery, but which modern *restoration*, as it is called, has dissevered from it and stuck up in an utterly meaningless position and *à propos* of nothing against the east wall of the south transept. I hope, too, that I may be able to extract from those large materials at my command some notices which may serve as interesting illustrations of the manners of the times, in connection with the personal history of Thomas Bekynton.

Born at Bekynton, in this county, and early brought under the notice of William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, the munificent founder of New College and Winchester, he so favourably impressed that worthy prelate that he directed John Morris, the first Warden of Winchester, to admit him as a scholar of that foundation. This was in 1403. There he remained three years, when he was transferred to New College, Oxford, where he soon realised the hopeful promise of his boyhood and attained great eminence in the University. He was collated to a prebend in York in

1423, was appointed Archdeacon of Bucks in 1424, Prebendary of Lichfield in 1436, of London in 1438. He was besides Rector of St. Leonard's-by-Hastings, Vicar of Sutton Courtney, Berks, Prebendary of Bedwin, Canon of Wells, Master of St. Katherine's Hospital, Dean of the Court of Arches, first Tutor and afterwards Secretary to King Henry VI., then Keeper of the Privy Seal, and finally, in 1443, promoted to the See of Bath and Wells, which he occupied until his death, on the 14th of January, 1465.

I must now proceed to fill up some parts of this outline. The materials to which I have alluded, and on which I shall draw almost exclusively for this paper, consist of a large collection of official and private letters written by Bekynton during the time that he was Private Secretary to King Henry VI., chiefly between the years 1438 and 1443, when he was promoted to the Bishopric of Bath and Wells. Of his official letters I shall say little, because, full of interest as they are for their bearing on the relations of the English Crown with the foreign sovereigns of Europe in the 15th century, and important in an historical view, they throw little light on the personal character of the subject of this biographical paper. I shall therefore draw chiefly on those which he wrote in his private capacity to his numerous friends, during the time that he was in close attendance upon his royal master, whose confidence he seems to have enjoyed in an eminent degree.

The first feature which it occurs to me to notice in this remarkable man is his extraordinary industry. He must have been one of the very busiest men of his time: and yet whatever he did was well and thoroughly done. The King's court and household seems to have shifted its

residence much more frequently in those days than it does in these ; although the means of locomotion were so very limited, even for royalty, compared with the facilities of modern travel : to say nothing of the state of the roads. So far as I can judge from the dates of these letters, King Henry VI. resembled the saints of old, as in other peculiarities so in this, that he "had no certain dwelling place." Windsor, Westminster, Eltham, Kennington, Shene or Richmond, and Reading Abbey, seem to have been equally and indifferently favoured by the royal presence, at no certain intervals and never for many weeks together. Bekynton must have been perpetually on the move, and instead of wondering at the indications of pressure occasionally, but rarely, exhibited by the word *raptim*, 'in haste,' at the close of his letters, the wonder is how he could find time for the due discharge of one tenth of his manifold duties. For he not only had to conduct the official correspondence with all the Courts of Europe, especially with the Court of Rome, during the time when the King's relations with Pope Eugenius IV. and many of the cardinals were of the most intimate and friendly kind; his presence was always in request for other services about the King's person. "I am appointed his reader," he writes in 1441, "nearly every day;" and from frequent allusions it is clear that he was often referred to as his confidential adviser in matters of deep interest to his royal patron, of whom, however, he always speaks to his most intimate friends, and in his most unguarded passages, in terms of deep reverence and affectionate respect; so that the adage concerning the natural tendency of familiarity was not verified in this instance. One approach, however, I have remarked to the formula "ego et rex meus" of another

mediæval statesman. In a letter to which I shall have occasion to refer more fully presently, addressed to a friend at Rome, he speaks of his intention of writing to the Pope with a present which he was preparing for him; "I purpose also," he adds, "that the King should write letters of acknowledgment for me and my friends to the same my most holy lord." But in order to appreciate his unwearied diligence, it must be remembered that Bekynton's duties at this time were not confined to the Court. He was during all this period Archdeacon of Bucks., Dean of the Arches Court, occasionally Prolocutor in Convocation, and Envoy on two or three long and important embassies to different parts of France—to Calais, Arras, and Armagnac.

It is clear that in order to get through such a mass of work he must have been what is called "a man of business habits," regular and methodical in his manner of transacting the complicated affairs of his various offices. And there is preserved in the Ashmolean collection of MSS. now in the Bodleian at Oxford, a curious record of his systematic method of conducting his correspondence as King's Secretary. This is a volume which contains, besides a large collection of State letters (which may have been preserved as models for others to be written under like circumstances), a kind of phrase dictionary and lists of words and sentences, together with longer formulæ, for all conceivable emergencies whether of official or personal and private correspondence, together with the proper designations and titles by which to address all possible princes, persons, states, and potentates, ecclesiastical and civil, within or without the realm. I will take the headings of some of these formulæ at random. Besides the *Colores Verborum* and the *Colores Sententiarum*, here we have the *Congé d'élire*, the "Royal assent," "Resti-

tution of Temporalities," "Licences" for all possible elections, "Missive Letters" on all possible occasions. Then there is the Certificate of the death of a Knight of the Garter, Summonses to Chapters of the Order, Narrations, Salutations, Warrants, Petitions to the same, according to their rank and dignity. How to address one's own bishop or abbat; how to address not one's own; how to address prelates in general; how to address a religious friend; how to address any friends whatever. The friends seem to demand more minute and particular attention, and the formulæ descend to details. Some are very curious. "A friend asks the sympathy of a friend." "A friend sympathizes with a friend, and promises succour, and exhorts him to be of good heart." "A friend seeks comfort of a friend." "A friend rejoices in the prosperous success of his friend." "A friend complains of a friend that he has forgotten friendship." "A friend blames his friend because he does not visit him." "A friend thanks his friend because he was willing to visit him." Curious specimens, it must be admitted, of the private correspondence of the 15th century, which must, one would imagine, needs have given a very uniform and official character to the private correspondence of the worthy Secretary, and have savoured strongly of the red tape and sealing-wax of the Circumlocution Office of those days; for I find abundant evidence in these letters that that venerable institution was not only in existence at that remote period, but was already fully developed; and that while its head-quarters were at Rome, its ramifications extended over the whole of Europe.

But fully occupied as Secretary Bekynton's time must have been at the best, there were methods long since discovered for lightening the duties of some of his offices;

and we shall presently find that he took care, like a prudent man, that his public duties should not interfere with his private interests; but be made rather to subserve them. In the Ashmolean volume is a royal letter to the Pope, praying that in consideration of his many arduous avocations he may be dispensed from holding annual visitations as Archdeacon of Bucks; and a brief correspondence with Bishop Grey, of Lincoln, indicates that the business of the Arches Court did not receive from the Judge that amount of supervision which would have been desirable, in order to obviate inconveniences occasioned by the conduct of its officials. The Bishop's letter is so curious as a specimen of the English of the day, and the tone of Bekynton's reply, which is in Latin, is so thoroughly characteristic of the man, that I am tempted to introduce them as an episode into my paper. The Bishop's letter is addressed to "that worshipful man master Thomas Bekynton, official of the Court of Canterbury and Archdeacon of Bucks, our brother:—"—

Wele belufede brother,—I grete yowe wele, mervayling gretely that on Fryday now laste when ye had dyned wyth me, and I as ye saghe toke myne horse for to ryde, even in my goying owte at my gate, came one to me and inhibited me by your auctorytee and cited me to apere afore yowe wyth ynne the fourtened day next followyng; of the which inhibicyon I myght neythere hafe syght nor copy at my costes to such tyme as I sent fro Colbroke to London for a cople; by the which I conceyved wol hit was in the matier of the Chapel of Boveny, in the parish of Burnham; the which matier and all other, as wele spirituell as temporell, bytwix those partyes, as ye wele knowe, were putt in compromyse. And syth ye be the juge of the hyghest Court spirituell in this lande, and to whome all the prelates of this provynce must hafe recourse, me thynk ye shoud be ryght wele advised what passed under your seal, and in specyal agayns a prelate; and therefore if ye hafe done me laghe to cite me to so short a tyme, wele be hit. Never-

thelesse, I wyll not disobey in no kynde, but by the grace of God, to apere at my day and do all that lagh wyll. Wherefore blames me not if I another day do as litell favor to yowe in your jurisdiction, if hit lyg in my powere, as hit shall ryght wele, I truste in God, who keepe you ever.

Wryten in my monastery of Eynesham under my signet the xvi. day of Feveryer.

W. THE BISSHOP OF LINCOLN.

Now, as it must be acknowledged that, according to the Bishop's representation, this was sharp practice on the part of the Dean of the Court of Arches, it is only fair to hear Bekynton's defence. It runs as follows, and is conceived in sufficiently strong language, as his manner was:—

The very aspect of your letter, venerable father and lord, sufficiently declares the perturbation of your mind, indignant against your son, who is altogether innocent. I wish, indeed, that reason had so tempered, discretion so bridled your indignation that you had not condemned before you heard, nor judged before you had cognizance of the matter. I call God to witness, and if I lie may I be struck with lightning and perish, that many times before, often, yea always, I have taken the utmost pains and diligence to oblige both you and yours. And now I see that one light, and evil, and groundless suspicion, which no sober man ought to entertain, since it cannot be founded on truth, is the only return I have for all my pains. I am altogether ignorant whether to ascribe the grounds of your indignation to your own weakness; or to certain whisperers about you of whom I know nothing, since I am not conscious of having offended any of your people; or to my detractors who may have murmured in your Lordship's ears something to my disadvantage. But, however I may be prejudged by you, I will not challenge you as my prejudiced judge. Rather I desire that you yourself, father, should be both witness and judge of my deserts or demerits. If ever so small an amount of blame or criminality can be found in me in the matter in question, I promise that I will pay whatever penalty you may choose to exact. The sum and substance of your complaint is this: You blame me because that immediately after I had been refreshed at your cheerful and well-furnished

table, with a joyful countenance and in the kindest manner, for which I return your paternity my most humble thanks, you were served on my authority with an inhibition touching Boveney Chapel ; and besides that, that you were cited on too short notice without having seen or had a copy of the tenor of the charges. You add that I, who, unworthy as I am, am Judge of the supreme Court of the whole province, ought to be well advised what issues under my seal, and particularly against any of the prelates. I begin from the last remark, and beg you to be well assured that I never have been, nor ever will be, so inconsiderate as to allow anything to issue under that seal, so long as I shall hold it, which has not been first seen and carefully inspected by my own eyes ; and what can and ought to issue according to the practice and style hitherto used in that Court, and the requirement of the law. But that the messenger of the Court served the citation at an unseasonable time, or gave too short notice, or refused you a sight or copy of the letters, supposing even he had cited you for the morrow, why on earth am I to be blamed for that ? It is altogether his fault, if there is any fault in the matter. He it is that injures you, not the Judge, who allowed in his letters a fitting time for your appearing. . . . I should wish to know how you would like to be blamed for the delinquencies of your underlings under similar circumstances ? I suppose no one would so far flatter himself as to imagine that I may not act on the depositions of any one subject to you, without exciting your wrath. Why in that case I should be guilty of downright perjury, who am sworn not to raise obstacles to the action of the Court. Yet, I say, for the singular affection which I bear you, I have refused or forborne to act against you or yours. . . . This one thing I venture to boast, whatever you think of me, father : I am not so foolish, so unmannerly, so brutish, as, when I am breaking bread at your table, to be meditating some ungrateful and sneaking proceeding against you. So far from it that, if I had had the remotest idea of anything of the kind, nothing should have induced me to cross your threshold. May I never see the face of the living God if, while I was at your table, I had any more thought of your citation than the babe that was born yesterday. The truth is, those letters were sealed long before you ever touched on the subject with me.

Now, most righteous father, assume the office of judge, and punish me, if in all this I have offended at all. If you absolve me, I ask nothing more; if your mouth condemn me, I appeal to my conscience. That certainly will acquit me. . . . I pray you, therefore, most loving father, to continue to cherish a favourable opinion of him who not only does not attempt, but not even meditate, any thing which does not deserve your favour and gratitude; and be so fair as not to suffer your violent passion to get the better of you, until your reason has examined the truth of the allegations. If you wish it, I am yours in duty and service. If you spurn my duty, still I will be yours in purpose and intention. I pray God grant you many happy years.

I pass on now to the circumstances under which Bekynton was promoted to the See of Bath and Wells. It will be remembered that at the time of which I speak the appointment to all the sees in England belonged to the Pope. The Crown exercised a right of nomination, indeed, which was almost universally confirmed by the Pope's appointment, when the Government was sufficiently strong to make a collision between the temporal and spiritual authority appear undesirable to the Pope's advisers. And in confirmation of this view of the Papal policy, I may remark in passing that, while I do not find in my volume a single example of the King's nominee being rejected by the Pope for any see in England or Ireland, I do not find a single instance of his nomination being accepted for any see in those parts of France where the kings of England had long exercised sovereign power, which was equally claimed by Henry VI. as by his predecessors, but where many disastrous reverses had now so weakened his tenure that the Pope could safely disregard his claims to jurisdiction in ecclesiastical matters. Bekynton, however, clearly judged that no harm would be done by conciliating the favour of the Pope and Cardinals,

in case his royal patron should ever take it into his head to nominate him to a bishopric. He proceeded, then, on this wise. In his capacity of Private Secretary to the King he was of necessity brought into contact with the Papal Nuncios, Collectors, and other envoys of the Court of Rome who resorted to England for any purpose during the time that he was attached to the royal household. He seems assiduously to have cultivated the acquaintance of these eminent foreigners during their sojourn in this country, and not only to have kept up communication with them by letters on their return to Italy, but also to have extended his acquaintance, through their instrumentality, among the Cardinals and other influential ecclesiastics connected with the Papal Court. One Angelo Gattola, in particular, a gentleman of the Papal household, who was the bearer of the Cardinal's hat and other insignia to Archbishop Kemp, appears to have formed a close intimacy with Bekynton, which was very serviceable to the latter a few years later. But, besides these foreigners whose affections he had thus engaged, he had also a staff of friends devoted to his service among the King's envoys to the Court of Rome, who had been delegated on special services to his Holiness, either to urge the King's suit for some coveted preferment, or to procure bulls of indulgence for his newly-founded college of Eton, or for some other religious purpose near to the heart of the pious and devout Henry. Among these, Andrew Holes, afterwards Archdeacon of Wells, Richard Chester, Vincent Clement, and Richard Cauton were those most addicted to Bekynton's interest; and there are certain mysterious allusions in several of his letters to them, which seem to be explained by some later letters to the same parties, of which I shall have to give a fuller account presently. But I must first mention another

method by which the ecclesiastics of that day sometimes sought to smooth the asperities of the path which led to the higher offices of the Church (according to the motto *per aspera ad ardua tollor*), or which they sometimes met with after they had attained the very summit. Thus, e.g., Archbishop Chichely, when hard pressed in his memorable controversy with Pope Martin V., in which he so nobly defended the privileges and liberties of the English Church, thought it wise to conciliate the good will of an influential Cardinal, and for this purpose proposed to place at the disposal of his Eminence (*in aliqualem mei memoriam*) a small annual pension of fifty nobles, for wine; and, in order to ensure its punctual payment, he undertook, with the utmost delicacy, to transmit it regularly through any merchant banker whom the Cardinal should designate, so long as the Archbishop retained his present dignity. A very considerable sum, when estimated according to the present value of money, which must have gone very far towards defraying the wine merchant's bill, however princely the hospitality of the Cardinal may have been, and which might well lead him to desire that the Archbishop's tenure of his dignity might not soon terminate, and incline him to use his best exertions to avert so great a misfortune. In a similar manner, though on a more modest scale, did Bekynton dispense his benefactions in the Papal Court; and my volume contains letters from Blondo of Forli, the Pope's Secretary, from Bartholomew de Rovarella, the Pope's Chamberlain, and from the Cardinal Treasurer of the Pope, acknowledging with thanks presents of cloth which they had received from him. I cannot give you full particulars of these presents, only I should guess that they were more valuable than the rings which he sent to Andrew Holes for distribution, ninety-

nine of silver and twelve of gold, as these must have been designed for persons of less eminence. I can happily furnish fuller details of his offering to the Pope, which are curious and interesting. He writes to his friend Richard Chester, under date May 14, 1441 :—

I am preparing for his Holiness a piece of the finest cloth (*pannum unum finissimum*), which, if I possibly can, I will send out by the Florentine galleys, and I will write further to you on the subject.

Accordingly, a little later (June 6), he writes :—

I have already written to you a letter in duplicate that you will receive from a Florentine galley a certain piece of white cloth, the very finest that can be procured here, which is to be dyed of a scarlet colour (*luteum crimesinum*) at Florence. I have sent also twenty nobles for the dyeing. Do not spare, I pray you, to have it dyed in the best possible manner, for whatever it shall cost more I will repay all. I do not wish, however, that that cloth should be presented to our most holy lord until you receive my next letter on the subject: for I intend that the King should also write his thanks for me and my friends. I also will write mine, as is meet, and together with these letters that cloth shall be presented.

And presented accordingly it was; and you may not now be unwilling to hear how it was received. And I dwell upon this the more minutely because I am hoping to shew that this piece of scarlet cloth had an important bearing on the fortunes of my hero. "A letter of the Pope concerning the affection which he bears to him to whom it is written" is the modest rubric prefixed to the following :—

Beloved son, health and apostolic benediction. We have understood what our beloved son Vincent Clement, our Sub-deacon, has expounded to us on your part, from whom you will learn what is our disposition towards you—which we affirm to be most favourable. But we have received your little present, and a handsome one it is, and sent, as we know, with this

design, that we might have in it a proof of your great affection and devotion towards us. We embrace, therefore, the devout inclination of your mind, and are disposed, when the opportunity offers, to reward your virtue according to its merits.

Given at Florence, under our secret signet, the 20th day of May, in the year of our Lord 1442, the twelfth of our pontificate.

His Holiness was as good as his word. Within a twelvemonth Bekynton's friend, Angelo Gattola, writes to congratulate him on his nomination to the bishopric of Salisbury, which had been procured by the unremitting exertions of Richard Chester and his own. He writes in great glee :—

How earnestly Master Richard, according to his pre-eminent virtue and singular prudence, has wrought with our most holy lord night and day with all his zeal, to increase your honours, is well known to myself, who have never at any time omitted any earnest exertion to accomplish the same object. From all which it has at length resulted, that our most holy lord has chosen your right reverend lordship to the bishopric of Salisbury. Therefore we are all consoled by so great a boon that no greater consolation or pleasure could possibly arrive.

And this he repeats again and again in almost identical words.

I must now explain how it was proposed to create a vacancy in the See of Salisbury in order to make room for Bekynton ; since William Aiscough, the actual bishop, did not vacate it until the year 1450, when he was murdered by the insurgents at the altar of Edyngdon Collegiate Church. A comparison of dates will shew that the voidance of the See of Salisbury was a matter of perfect indifference to Bekynton. Angelo Gattola's letter is dated Sienna, May 23, 1443, and would, under ordinary circumstances, be a month or six weeks on its way. It crossed on the road a letter from the King to the Pope, recommending Bekynton for the Bishopric of Bath and Wells, and letters

from Bekynton himself to all his friends at Rome, to Andrew Holes, Blondo of Forli, Bartholomew of Rovarella, and Angelo Gattola, to inform them of his nomination, and to tell them that now was the time for his friends to exert themselves to secure his promotion. The letters are dated the 27th of April, 1443, nearly a month earlier than that of Angelo Gattola informing him of his appointment to the See of Sarum. The explanation is this, and it will shew that Bekynton's friends at Rome were only too zealous in his service. On the death of Archbishop Chichely in 1443, April 12, John Stafford, Bishop of Bath and Wells (whom Chichely had nominated as his successor, when he contemplated resigning a year before his death) was recommended by the King to the metropolitan See; and it was in contemplation to translate Bishop Aiscough of Sarum to Bath and Wells, and to promote Bekynton to Sarum. Bekynton's friends, having learnt that such were the intentions of the King, set to work at once to give effect to them, with what success we have already heard. The only hitch was that Aiscough was not disposed to leave Salisbury; and the precipitancy of Bekynton's friends involved some inconvenience, as we learn from a letter of the King to Archdeacon Holes, his proctor at the Papal Court:—

Venerable and sincerely beloved in Christ,—Your diligence, and pains, and labours, which, with ardent desire and without delay, we know that you have industriously and effectually applied, concerning the translations of the Revd. Fathers in Christ the Bishops of Bath and Sarum, and the promotion of our entirely beloved clerk, Thomas Bekynton, according to our letters which we have many times transmitted on that matter, we are bound to acknowledge as extremely pleasing and praiseworthy; but that you have so hastily and precipitately expended the moneys of our clerk aforesaid, altogether before you had full and certain notice of the assent of the said Bishop

of Sarum, we cannot equally approve. For if these moneys, so laid out by you, cannot be converted into the firstfruits of the church of Bath, as reason and conscience dictate,—particularly since, as things now are, he cannot anyhow obtain the church of Sarum,—it is evident that our said clerk, owing to that too great haste of yours, after and above those very large expenses which he has already borne in our Embassy, will be by no means able to bear that loss. Neither indeed shall we ourselves bear it patiently or without displeasure. Strive therefore, trusty and beloved, to rectify all that has been done—earnestly and lovingly indeed, but without sufficient consideration; for we hope that if you take pains, those holy and devout fathers will by no means wish to retain what our said clerk has laid out to no purpose, and which cannot be retained with a safe conscience by any of those who have received it.

“From our Castle of Windsor, June 24, A.D. 1443.”

How this serious difficulty was overcome I am not in a position to state; but we may hope that the Cardinals, being such as they are here described, would not require our Bishop elect to pay his firstfruits twice over. It is certain that the King's nomination did take effect, and that, within four months of the date of the letter which I have just read, all difficulties were removed, and Thomas Bekynton was consecrated Bishop, under circumstances so interesting to all old Etonians that I shall translate this record as it is entered in his Register, which is preserved among the archives of the See. It is entitled—

The Register of the Rev. Lord and Father in Christ, Mr. Thomas Bekynton, Bishop of Bath and Wells, who was consecrated by the Lord Father in Christ, William, Bishop of Lincoln [Alnwick], in the old collegiate church of Blessed Mary of Eton, on the Lord's Day, viz., on the Feast of S. Edward, the 13th day of the month of October, A.D. 1443, the 13th year of the Pontificate of the most Rev. Father in Christ, Lord Eugenius IV., by Divine Providence Pope, the 7th indication. On which day the same Thomas, after his consecration, celebrated his first Mass *in pontificalibus* in the New Church of

Blessed Mary at the same place, not as yet half built, under a tent at the altar, erected directly over the place where King Henry VI. had laid the first stone; and there in the new building of the college, on the north side, while as yet the chambers below were not partitioned off, he held his banquet. On that day were present as assisting Bishops, William Bishop of Sarum, and Nicholas Bishop of Llandaff; on which day of the year the present Register was begun.

This beginning of the register should be the conclusion of my biographical notices,—for the history of his episcopate is, as I have already intimated, too wide a sea for me to embark upon,—but for a brief correspondence between our Bishop and the Abbat of Glastonbury, which I think may be interesting to the Meeting, not only from local associations, but as illustrating the old dispute on the subject of jurisdiction between the Bishops and the regular Clergy. It is, further, so thoroughly characteristic of Bishop Bekynton's tone and temper that I think I cannot better conclude than with an account of this controversy, which I presume took place in 1445, in the second year of his consecration, when Nicholas Frome was Abbat of Glastonbury (elected 1420, died 1456, as appears from *Dugdale's Monasticon*). I am led to give this date by two letters which I find in the Bishop's Register, one addressed to the Abbat of Glastonbury, warning him not to attempt anything to the prejudice of the pending Episcopal Visitation, dated June 10, 1445; the other, appointing a Commission for continuing the Visitation, which is dated July 18 of the same year. I have no doubt that the undated letters which I proceed to read have reference to this Visitation.

A letter of reprimand, addressed to the Abbat of Glastonbury, on his unkind interpretation of the acts of his Bishop on his Visitation, and wishes he may recover his wits.

My dearest brother in Christ,—I am certainly very much

surprised and astonished at what I have just, since my arrival, heard of the doings of your fraternity.

For it might easily seem from them that by some sinister interpretation everything that I have determined to do or to direct, in sincere zeal always for your honour and the good of your house, is represented in an unfavourable light; and I see that your choler is provoked, and that you are irritated and indignant at what, as the result will clearly show, ought to have earned me your favourable consideration. God and my own conscience are my witnesses that I do not seek, nor ever will seek, anything at all of you but what is for God's honour and your own, and the benefit of your house. That, I dare boldly assert, you shall feel and be sensible of, and see with your own eyes.

Do not, my brother, either on any light suspicion, or for the whispering of any men, put a slight on your father, whom for so long a time you have experienced to be faithful to your interests, and have found to be of approved honour, and diligent in your service.

If any evil spirit whatever is trying to sow anger or indignation between us, 'prove the spirits, whether they be of God,' and hear and prove me; do not render hatred for my good will. If a third tongue is busying itself to separate us from one another, I would it were cut off, whosoever it be. But that you may be able to make yourself entirely acquainted with me and my inmost feelings, I send you my chancellor; whom you will, I am sure, kindly and patiently hear, and give credit to the truth. I wish you heartily as good wishes as I should desire for myself.

Scribbled by my own hand at Evercreech, on this holy Sunday, 22nd of August.

Answer of the Abbat to his Bishop on the same matter.

Venerable Father and Lord, obedience, reverence, and honour.—We cannot write to you as we could wish, for the eyes of our outer man are darkened with sickness and old age. Yet, of old the Good Shepherd, Christ our Lord, who laid down His life for the sheep, took the lost sheep on His shoulders and brought it back mercifully into His fold. The wounded man

who had fallen among thieves He set on His own beast and brought him to the inn (in the bowels of His mercies), saying to the host that he should take care of him, pouring in oil and wine. To the penitent prodigal he gave the best robe and ring, for He had recovered him who had wasted his substance. Yet, beforetime the same Good Shepherd complained that the swollen wound was not bound up, nor anointed with oil, nor mollified with ointment. And, likewise, according to the measure of our lowliness, as conscience dictates, we may complain to you with agony because, if the wounds of sins have been, as you say, discovered amongst us, they have not been, under the long adjournment of your Visitation, purged out and corrected, as they ought to have been. Very probable it is that they will putrify, and, as one diseased sheep corrupts the whole flock, these will stain and corrupt the whole mass. And so we are forced finally to cry out with the rest to heaven, that our God will have mercy upon us; because, neither in the hastening of the feet, nor in the words of promises, nor in the fingers of writers, but in the hands of workers we put the anchor of our hope, desiring that a Visitation, instituted holily and righteously, should result in edification and not in destruction: for judicially we are ignorant what account we shall have shortly to render for the flock committed to us.

And therefore, among the other diversities of graces, we under the compulsion of necessity, most especially aspire to the grace of curing; because, by the dictate of our sacred rule, we are obliged to tear up by the roots the vices of those subject to us. But in other things which concern the right and defence of the law of our Church, according as the case demands and requires, we proceed by determination of our Council, and so will we proceed, as by mutual faith we are bound. And may He confer on you the grace of reigning together with Him who gives to you the power of governing the people.

Written at Pulton, August 27.

Reply of the same Bishop to the representations made against him, and justification of all those things which were alleged to have been done by the said Bishop.

Your letter, my dearest brother in Christ, has been in no small degree pleasant to me, but in deed and truth it would

have been pleasanter still if it had answered to the kindness and gentleness of my own. But, however it may be, I have put this law upon myself, that I will not, even under the provocation of the utmost ingratitude or abuse, wittingly do anything by which I can either offend God or violate the sanctity of justice, or go beyond the limits of moderation and fatherly affection. The blindness of your eyes, my dear brother, of which you complain in your letter, I, for my part, as I am bound by our ancient familiar friendship, am sorry to hear of; and I wish with all my heart that no disease of the sort may attack the eyes of your mind and inner man. Whilst you write, moreover, that our kind Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, brought back the lost sheep to the fold and set the wounded man on His own beast, and had him brought into the inn, and wine and oil poured into his wounds; please to believe that it is our desire and intention to follow the footsteps of our dear Lord in those matters, as power shall be given us from above. As for the charge of delay which you make against me, you ought to have known that he is not delaying who is detained by a lawful impediment. When the same our dear Lord went down to the healing of Lazarus, He found that he had been in the grave three days. All things have their time; there is still, I trust in the Lord a fit time to heal, whilst he who ought to be the healer has both will and power to go down personally to the patient and to apply with his own hands either fomentations or the knife, as shall be needed. Order, my brother, is confounded when the son is seen to judge his father, the subject to try his judge. The ruling of time, which is committed to the will of the superior, is unworthily called into judgment by the inferior. It is right, my brother, that what you claim from your inferiors you should yourself pay to your superior. As to the charge which you seem to allege, that the adjournment of my Visitation redounds not to the edification of regular observance, but to its destruction (which God forbid) I wonder that so prudent a man should be so foolish: for you know that I have never taken away from you the power of exercising and executing of all things that pertain to regular discipline; nay, that I have expressly, and with abundant verbal authorization, granted it to you. I believe, my brother, that if your mind were free from

anger and hatred you would neither have judged nor conjectured so about me ; for these dazzle the eye of reason and do not permit the mind to see the truth. If you have not understood me sufficiently well in my Visitation of the Monastery over which you are set, you might and may still acquaint yourself with me in all the Visitations which I have made in other religious houses, and learn whether I have anywhere committed any injustice. And yet I have accounted and do account myself a debtor to a greater extent to your place. As to what I wrote to you, I write it again in my whole soul and with firm conscience. God and my conscience are my witnesses that I ask nothing at all of you but what is to the honour of God and yourself and to the benefit of your house. And, indeed, I praise that desire of yours where you write that, among other diversities of graces you singularly desire the grace of curing ; but we, so to speak, desire the grace of healing also. There are many who cure ; but only very few are found who heal. Indeed, for curing a moment is sufficient ; but for healing we need both knowledge and time and Divine help to boot. We read, for instance, that Galienus cured a hundred, of whom not one recovered. But your conjuration, or rather threat, that you subjoin, namely, that 'in the other things which concern the right and the defence of the right of your church, you proceed, and will proceed by determination of your council,' I take in good part ; and I wish that the angel of good council may provide you with the best and most wholesome advice ; and I hope that you in your old age will depend upon and adhere to him rather than to your own fancy or affection, or to any little flatteries or slanders whatsoever. For that which is according to God will stand. But as far as concerns the defence of the right of your church, our desire is that this counsel or purpose of yours may turn out to the full benefit of yourself and your house, and that you will never run any risk of erring in your opinion in any point in which you are flattering yourself that you are defending and preserving the rights and privileges of your church ; nor may the thing itself and the result prove that you have really been acting prejudicially to the same. I, for my part, as I always have been, am now also ready and prepared to rise up with you and to exert myself to the utmost of my power for the defence of your church and

for the preservation of the rights and privileges thereof, as a matter very pleasing and desirable to myself. But, brother, I wish you would consider one thing, — that you are not bound to your church by any closer ties than I am to mine. But if, perchance, any one of my officials or commissaries has committed any grievance to you or to your house, which certainly I neither expect nor acknowledge, I wish to confer with you on everything touching the question, when you shall please, with a good will, patiently, and with the affection of a father, and to be clearly advised by you how the truth stands: and, consequently, if any matters rightly require reformation, willingly, and indeed thankfully, according to God and justice, to reform them all, and to shew myself a just and kind father in all things to you and yours; to whom I wish good health that shall last happily to a great age.

From our Manor of Woky, August 30.

It will be manifest from the specimens of Bishop Bekynton's correspondence which I have now given that there was at least quite as much of the *fortiter in re* as of the *suaviter in modo* in his official dealings; and the same fact might be further exemplified in his other relations by his correspondence with John of Wheathampstead, Abbat of St. Albans, with Dr. Millington, first Provost of King's College, Cambridge, and with Henry, Duke of Somerset, — which last at least shews that he was "no respecter of persons."

But it is time for me to bring these notices to a close, which I think I shall do in the manner most interesting to my audience if I give you a description of this city and its inhabitants during Bekynton's episcopate, by which you will be enabled to institute a comparison between its present aspect and condition and what it was four hundred years ago. It is, perhaps, rather highly coloured, as became a writer who was not only a native of the city, but a bosom friend of the Bishop, by whom he was

appointed Chancellor of the diocese of Wells in 1454.

It is in the form of an imaginary dialogue between this Thomas Chaundler, under the name of Panestinus, and a companion whom he calls Ferrandus, who has accompanied him from Oxford, and whom he purposes to lionize over Wells and to introduce him to his old acquaintance the Bishop.

Ferrandus had spoken of the place which they were entering somewhat disrespectfully as "a small town." Panestinus, jealous for the dignity of his native place, rejoins :—

You might more properly call it a city than a town, as you would yourself understand more clearly than day if you could behold all its intrinsic splendour and beauty. For that most lovely church which we see at a distance, dedicated to the most blessed Apostle of the Almighty God, St. Andrew, contains the episcopal chair of the worthy Bishop. Adjoining it is the vast palace, adorned with wonderful splendour, girt on all sides by flowing waters, crowned by a delectable succession of walls and turrets, in which the most worthy and learned Bishop Thomas, the first of that name, bears rule. He has, indeed, at his own proper pains and charges, conferred such a splendour on this city, as well by strongly fortifying the church with gates and towers and walls, as by constructing on the grandest scale the palace in which he resides and the other surrounding buildings, that he deserves to be called, not the founder merely, but rather the splendour and ornament of the church.

What honour, what liberality, what honesty of all kinds, think you, will you find in the noble and facetious Dean, and in the other prelates whom they call Canons? Monastic in their habits, clerics in life and honesty, illustrious for their hospitality, agreeable and affable to strangers, benevolent to all, such you may see them to be at the first glance, and then will find by experience that they are. For so pressing are they in their attentions to strangers and pilgrims, that they seem to vie with one another who shall invite whom and

provide for his entertainment. But besides all this, the inherent charity of the inferior clergy, whom they call Vicars, the orderly behaviour and unity of the citizens, the most just laws, the excellent police regulations, the delectable situation of the place, the cleanliness of the streets, the neatness of the houses, the thoroughly prudent people, the adornment, the beauty, the loveliness, the sweetness of all, perfect and duly decorate the city. Its name is Wells, so called by its ancient inhabitants from the gushing wells that are found there.

He concludes by inviting his friend to accompany him to the Palace, that he may introduce him to the excellent Bishop, who shows himself amiable to all, and takes excessive pains and diligence to secure the love of all; so that he courts the affections of men with all the ardour with which others pursue honour and riches, and endeavours above all things to win men themselves, being as he is a wise and prudent lover of peace.

If I cannot, as a stranger, speak from my own knowledge, and dare not presume to repeat the invitation of Panestinus, or ask you to test by experience the accuracy of my descriptions, I may at least express my conviction that those who have the privilege of access to the Palace, the Deanery, the Canons' residences, the Vicars' Close, or the tidy houses of the citizens, will bear their joyful testimony to the fact that the city of Wells, barring the defacement of its noble cathedral by the iconoclastic frenzy of the Great Rebellion, has undergone no deterioration, whether in its natural, or architectural, or ecclesiastical, or civic aspects, since the days of its good Bishop Bekynton.

The Ecclesiastical Buildings of Wells.

BY J. H. PARKER, ESQ., F.S.A.

IN the last volume of the Society's Transactions I gave a concise account of the Bishop's Palace, and I now proceed, as requested, to give a brief description of the Deanery and the other ecclesiastical buildings of the middle ages in the city of Wells. I wish, however, in the first instance, to add a few more lines respecting the Palace.¹ Since my account of it was written Mr. Williams has published his very valuable biographical notice of Bishop Bekynton, chiefly taken from a contemporary document printed in Wharton's *Anglia Sacra* (vol. ii., p. 357) and translated in a note in Britton's *History of the Cathedral* (p. 46). From this account of the buildings it is evident that he must have built something at the Palace in addition to his other numerous works in the city; yet it is certain that nothing now remains which corresponds with Bekynton's other buildings, except the entrance gatehouse from the market-place, which may be all that was meant, as this,

with the houses on each side of it, originally forming wings to it, was really an important building. It is, however, most probable that the corner tower and the domestic cloister with the inner gatehouse, which I have described as having formerly existed and having been entirely destroyed, were part of his work. The four-centered doorways pierced in the stair-turrets, which Professor Willis thought Elizabethan, may have been as early as the time of Bekynton. They are so extremely plain that there is nothing by which to judge of their age, excepting that they are certainly not early.

The DEANERY was rebuilt by Dean Gunthorpe (1472-1498), and, though a good deal spoiled by modern sash windows and other alterations, it is still nearly a perfect specimen of a nobleman's or gentleman's house of the 15th century, and has its own gatehouse and wall of enclosure. The principal apartments were all on the first floor, which was a very common arrangement in mediæval houses, the ground rooms being commonly cellars and storehouses, for the state of the country, the want of roads, the scarcity of shops, and the bad supply of the markets, made it necessary to keep a much larger quantity of provisions in store than is called for in these days. The saltinghouse, the bakehouse, the brewhouse, the spicery, and many other similar apartments were quite necessary in a large house, and the whole of the ground floor, was frequently occupied in that manner. In the Deanery the principal apartment was on the north, or in the garden front, or back of the house, on the first floor, and it is a valuable example of the transition from the earlier mediæval hall, with its lofty roof, to the more comfortable dining-room of later days. At the upper end it has two beautiful bay windows with vaults of rich fan

tracery, one at each end of the dais, but not exactly opposite, nor on the the same level ; the one at the south end of the dais is on the level of the dais itself, the other is at the foot of the steps on a level with the floor of the hall, this was to contain the sideboard for the use of the servants for carving, &c.; the other probably had the cupboard for the wine, and from this there would be a doorway leading to the wine cellar and to the withdrawing room. The same arrangement of two bay windows, and in the same position, occurs in Wolsey's Hall, in Christ Church, Oxford. Two buffets, or sideboards may have been required, one for the use of the guests at the high table on the dais, the other for the people in the body of the hall. At the lower end of the hall is a stone arch, of wide span, carrying a small chamber, probably for the musicians, curiously squeezed in, the want of height in the hall, owing to its having another story over it, not allowing of sufficient space for a regular music gallery ; this chamber is pierced with three small windows opening into the hall. At the north end of the arch is a staircase to the state bedrooms, or, as they would formerly have been called, the guest chambers. Under this stone arch is the lavatory, a stone niche with a water-drain at the bottom, similar to the piscina in a church ; in the niche was suspended on a hook, or fixed, a small cistern of water with a tap letting out a thin stream of water for the guests to wash their hands before they passed through the screen into the hall, according to the invariable custom of the middle ages. In those days people did not wash their hands in a basin, as we do, but let a small stream of water pass over and through the hands and washed them in that manner. The same custom is still common in France ; any traveller who

The ARCHDEACONRY appears to have been a house of at least equal importance with the Deanery, in fact, the hall of it is larger and more imposing, and in this instance it occupied the whole height of the building from the ground to the roof. The house was originally built in the time of Edward I., as is shown by the windows in the gable at the east end, and one of the doorways near to this end, which has a fine suite of mouldings on the exterior and a foliated arch within. This was the back door to the servants' court, the front door towards the Close was larger and more important, but only a part of the foliated inner arch can now be traced in the wall, the front of the house having been entirely modernised. The hall occupied about two-thirds of this part of the house and still retains a very fine open timber roof of the early part of the 15th century, probably of the time of Bishop Bubwith, as it agrees with the roof of the hall and chapel of his almshouse. In the east wall of the Archdeacon's hall are the three doorways of the buttery, pantry, and kitchen, as usual, showing that the offices were at the east end of the house, but have been destroyed. At the further end of the house, beyond the dais, it was divided into two stories, the cellar, or store room, or parlour below, and the solar, or lord's chamber, or withdrawing room above; this solar is itself a room of considerable size. The whole of the arrangements indicate that the Archdeacon was a person of considerable importance, and able to exercise hospitality on a grand scale, or the house may have been a sort of residentiary, where the Chapter exercised their hospitality as a body, like the Guests' Hall, recently destroyed at Worcester.

The HOUSE of the CHOIR-MASTER, at the east end of the Cathedral, is a small gentleman's house of the

15th century, tolerably perfect, with the roof and the upper part of the windows of the hall remaining, but disguised and concealed by modern partitions. The porch, with the room over it, remains perfect, and adds much to the picturesque beauty of the house, the rest of which is entirely modernised, and the original offices seem to have been destroyed, as is frequently the case.

The SINGING SCHOOL is over part of the west wall of the cloister and joins on to the south-west corner of the Cathedral. The ORGANIST'S HOUSE is close to this, and the original communication between the two remains, though now blocked up ; it is one of the smaller houses of the 15th century, the plan of which was that of the letter **T**, the hall forming the top stroke and the rest of the house the stem ; but the house has been almost entirely spoiled during the last century, vile additions having been made to it, encroaching on the small space originally left between the house and the cloister and destroying the outline of the house, which, when it stood clear, must have been extremely picturesque. The interior is also spoiled by modern partitions, now becoming more old-looking and more rotten than the original roof of the hall which remains.³

Most of the CANONS' HOUSES have been either rebuilt entirely or much spoiled by modern alterations, one of them to the north-east of the Cathedral has a good porch and a panelled battlement of the 15th century.

Another house rather farther to the east (now the school), is partly of the 14th century, with a good finial on the gable, and the moulded arch of a doorway of that period, evidently the chief entrance to the hall originally, but long blocked up. This hall has a fine timber roof with angel corbels, but quite concealed by modern lath and plaster ceilings ; the cellar or store room remains with

several lockers in the wall, and is now the school room ; the solar over this is modernised, but this also retains the old roof with its gable and coping. To this wings have been added in the 15th or 16th century, apparently to obtain additional bedrooms, and it is probable that at that time the original kitchen and offices at the other end of the hall were destroyed and new ones made in the new wing. Such a change as this was very frequently made in the 16th century.

The very remarkable and picturesque VICARS' CLOSE is so well known that it is not necessary to repeat any long story about it, but the outline of its history may be mentioned. The Vicars Choral formed part of the original establishment of the Cathedral and were incorporated by Bishop Joceline in the beginning of the 13th century, and, as he was a great builder, it is probable that he built houses for them, but all that we have remaining of his time are some fragments of beautifully sculptured ornament used up as old material, and built in the spandrils of the arches of the windows, and in the parapet of the chapel. These correspond exactly with his work in the Cathedral and with the remains of his palace at Wookey ; but they may have been brought from some part of the Cathedral now destroyed, and the original Vicars' houses may have been of wood only, as was very usual at that period. These were rebuilt by Bishop Ralph, of Shrewsbury, in the 14th century, and he expressly mentions in his will the houses that he had built for the Vicars, and the present houses are substantially his work, as shewn by the askew doorways and the mouldings of the few original windows that remain ; we have also of his work the hall, with its west window and side windows. The east end over the gateway was lengthened in the time of Henry VIII. by Richard Pomeroy. The houses of Bishop Ralph are on one uniform

plan, and several of these remain nearly perfect, though in many cases they have been altered, and two houses thrown into one; nor can we complain much of this when we remember that the houses were originally intended for bachelors only, and each consisted of two rooms with a staircase and closet at the back, but no offices. The Vicars dined together in their common hall, and required no kitchens in their houses. The Close was, in fact, a college, in which each student had a separate small house instead of living together in a large one. These houses were restored or repaired by the executors of Bishop Bekynton, late in the 15th century.

According to the original institution of the Vicars Choral they had two Principals, and it seems natural that each of these should be provided with a house of more importance than those of the other Vicars, and we find at each end of the long narrow Close, which, in this instance, takes the place of the square college quadrangle, a house of more importance, one attached to the west side of the chapel and library at the north end, the other to the hall at the south end. The house at the south end of the Vicars' Close has the kitchen belonging to the common hall on the first floor, level with the hall, and carried upon a groined stone vault, introduced in the time of Henry VIII. by Pomeroy at the same time that the hall was lengthened at the other end. This vault has evidently been introduced within the walls of the 14th century, and was left unfinished until the recent restoration of the house in 1863. This house had for a long period been converted into a brewhouse, and was in a very dilapidated state; it has now been carefully restored and decorated in the style of the period when it was built.

The very beautiful gatehouse and bridge over the road

from the Vicars' Hall to the Cathedral is part of the numerous works of Bishop Bekynton, one of the greatest benefactors of the city. The southern arch of this bridge, the one nearest to the Chapterhouse, has long been concealed from view on the east side by a wall, which has lately been removed ; on the west side by a building, formerly used as the County Record Office, and erected probably in the 17th century, but constructed of old materials so ingeniously put together as to deceive the eye at a very short distance and to appear like part of the original structure. This obstruction, I am happy to say, is about to be removed, and the arch left open, which will greatly improve the effect of this very remarkable bridge. I can see no reason for keeping the passage across this bridge always closed, or why the theological students should not be allowed to go across it from their library, formerly the Vicars' Hall, to the Cathedral, as the Vicars did of old. This would be, in fact, restoring it to the purpose for which it was built, for the present theological students much more truly represent the class of persons for whose use the Vicars' Close itself and the bridge were built, than the present Corporation of Vicars does. The degradation of the class of Vicars Choral generally, now called singing men, is one of the curses brought upon the Church by the change in the value of money.

The only other mediæval house in Wells is, I believe, BISHOP BUBWITH'S ALMSHOUSE, near St. Cuthbert's Church. This is remarkably perfect and interesting, though much spoiled about a dozen years ago. The original plan was a great hall, with a chapel at the end of it and with cells along the side for the almsmen, which were open at the top to the lofty and fine timber roof, so that each old man had the benefit of many hundred cubic feet of air, and

in case he became ill or infirm he could hear the service chanted daily in the chapel without leaving his bed, and so could always attend divine service however old or infirm he might be. At the opposite end of this hall there is a change of plan, the building is here of two stories, like the cellared solar of a mansion of the period. The upper chamber was the old Guildhall.⁴ In this apartment is now preserved a very fine money-chest of the 15th century, with the usual three locks and painted in the old style with a scroll pattern; this is supported on a stand, made for it in the time of James I., with some curious doggrel verses upon it.

It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to observe that the arrangement of the cells along the sides of a large hall is exactly the same as that of the dormitory of a monastery. This arrangement is the most economical of space consistent with an abundance of air, and has been adopted in the dormitory of Radley School and some other large schools where the masters are enlightened enough to profit by the wisdom of their ancestors. The same arrangement is also adopted in some of the public baths, lately erected in various places, and for the same reasons; the partitions of the cells give privacy without losing space, and, being open at the top to the roof, there is plenty of air. At Glastonbury an almshouse of this description has had the hall roof destroyed and each of the cells roofed over, so as to turn them into a little street of cottages. I cannot see the advantage of this change; when the old arrangement obtained, the almsmen or the monks were kept warm in the winter by hangings and an awning over the cell.

I have omitted to mention the Bishop's Barn, which is a very fine and perfect one of the early part of the 15th century, probably built by Bishop Bubwith, as the construction of the roof is the same as that of his almshouse, although plainer.

NOTES TO MR. PARKER'S PAPER
ON
"THE ECCLESIASTICAL BUILDINGS OF WELLS,"

BY MR. THOMAS SEREL.

¹ THE PALACE.

(From an old MS.)

"Bishop Barlow sold the Palace to the Duke of Somerset, upon whose attainder it came to S^r John Gates, who sold the lead and timber to the almost ruin of all, but totally of the Great Hall. He was a great Puritan and afterwards beheaded for joining Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, against the Queen. He destroyed an elegant Chaple, built by Bp. Stillington for his own monument, near the Cloysters, for the sake of the materials, so that there is no part of it left. Cornelius Burgis, afterwards, in the time of the Rebellion, got possession and stripped it, sold the materials of the whole, except the Gatehouses, which he let out to poor people. It continued in this ruinous state until the Restoration."

This sale to the Duke was made in 1550, and confirmed by the Dean and Chapter 29th December, 1550. The Manors of Wells and Westbury, the Hundred of Wells and Wells Forum, and Westbury Park, were included in the sale. There is an exception out of the grant of collations to dignities, prebends, and other benefices, the gift of Canons' houses and Close Hall. The money paid by the Duke was £400, with a grant of the Deanery House for the Bishop's residence. It is said that the purchase money originally agreed to be paid by the Duke of Somerset to Bishop Barlow was £2,000, but the Duke cheated the Bishop out of £1,600, making it up, in part, by the grant of the Deanery House, &c.

The 6th August, 6 Ed. VI., the Bishop recovered possession of the Palace, &c., and part of the arrangement was that the Bishop should give up the Deanery House, &c., and surrender a lease of Sharpham Park, &c.

THE CHAPTER HOUSE.

The Chapter House appears to have been granted to Dr. Cornelius Burges, as shown by the following extract from an old MS. in my possession :—

“The Chapter House was granted to Doctor Burges, Per Verbum Messuagium, and therefore they would infer it was no part of the Church.”

The MS. referred to is indorsed

“17 Junij 1650.

My deposition touchinge the Chapter house.”

The MS. relates to certain disputes as to the building the Chapter House, and the purposes for which it was erected.

2 THE DEANERY.

From a MS. in Dean Creswicke's writing.

“Edw ^d 3rd 1350	}	Dean Charleton builds the Deanery
61		(none of which is now remaining) and
1472	}	Dean Gunthorpe builds the Tower and
98		West Front, and improves the whole,
1497		where, after the defeat of Perkin War-
		beck, Henry the Seventh was entertained.”

The fact of the visit of Henry VII. to Wells is confirmed by a Record in the proceedings of the Corporation of Wells, under date 30th Sept., 1497, which may be thus rendered in English :—

“Item. On the same day after the hour of the reception of the said Lord Bishop, the aforesaid Nicholas Trappe and the Burgesses received the most serene Prince our Lord Henry the Seventh, by the Grace of God King of England, France, and Aquitaine, who came with ten thousand men in arms against a certain Perkyn Warbek, a rebel, and other rebels against the said Lord the King in the Counties of Cornwall and Devon, and others at Taunton, then being.”

The Bishop referred to is Bishop Oliver King, and this was the first time he came to Wells, though he succeeded in 1495. Nicholas Trappe was the Mayor and he was sworn on the same day.

The Bishop being non-resident and the Dean resident, it is probable that the Palace was not in a proper state to receive the King, who therefore went to the Deanery. The tradition as to the King having been entertained at the Deanery, there is good reason for assuming, is founded on fact.

The house on the east side of the Deanery was formerly the residence of the Chancellor of the Church of Wells. On a stone mantle-piece in the house could be seen, about 150 years ago, these words, "Ric'us Edgeworthe, Cancellarius, 1557." The Chancellor's house is now on the east side of the Vicars' Close. Early in the reign of James I. a house on the east side of the Deanery was occupied by Paul Methuen, and another on the west by George Upton, Esq., M.P. for Wells. Both these were then added to the Deanery; that is to say, the present eastern wing was added about this time, where there had only been a wall before, thus completing the quadrangle, with a small court in the centre, since unfortunately covered over and spoiled. The house on the west side must have been always a distinct building, as at present.

The Deanery House has been enlarged by several successive Deans. In the reign of Edward III. the King confirmed a gift of Bishop Ralph's to John Carleton, then Dean, of a house adjoining the Deanery, then much out of repair.

The Deanery of Wells was surrendered to the King by Dean Fitz Williams, with the Manors of Mark, Modesley, Wedmore and More, the hundred of Bempstone, &c., with the Rectory of Mark, More, and Prebend of Biddisham, the Vicarage of Mark and More, &c. Deed dated 16th March, 1 Edward VI.

Soon after this an Act of Parliament was passed, ostensibly for constituting a new Deanery, but really to confirm and strengthen the sacrilegious surrender.

The Act of Parliament here referred to was passed in the Parliament begun 4th November, 1 Edward VI., and continued to 24th December following. The Act contains curious particulars relating to the Deanery, as well as the Archdeaconry.

16 March, 1 Edw. VI.—Dean Fitz Williams surrendered the Deanery and its possessions to the King.

Parl. began 4 Nov., continued to 24 Dec., 1 Edw. VI. Act of Parliament recites that the late Archdeacon and Dean, by their several deeds (the Archdeacon 26 Dec., 38 Hen. VIII., the Dean 16 March, 1 Edw. VI.), granted to the King the Archdeaconry and Deanery, to hold to him, his heirs and successors; by which the dignities of Archdeacon and Dean were absolutely extinct. The Act confirms these arrangements and creates a new Deanery, with usual corporate privileges, and a stall in the Quire of the Cathedral, &c.

By this Act the new Deanery was made up of the Prebend of Curry, the Archdeaconry of Wells, the Provostship, and the Subchantership,—the Archdeaconry being extinguished, and it so continued united to the Deanery until 1556, when Bishop

Gilbert Bourne petitioned Queen Mary to restore the Archdeaconry to its ancient state which it was in before its dissolution consequent on Polydore Vergil's resignation; and to legalize this, May 10, 1556, Queen Mary, by her charter, new founded and endowed the Archdeaconry of Wells, and enabled the Bishop and his successors to collate to it as formerly.

The dealings between Bishop Barlow, the Duke of Somerset, and the King, &c., I need not refer to, as they are, of course, well known.

Jan. 7th, 1547.—The King granted the Deanery, as newly created, to John Godman, who was deprived in 1550 and restored in 1553, and again deprived in 1560.

24 Nov., 34 Eliz.—Queen Elizabeth's charter to the Dean and Chapter of Wells recites that "on account of the diversity of titles of the Dean and Chapter" appearing in the charters of her predecessors, it was no incorporation, and if it were, alleging nevertheless that on account of the surrender of Wm. Fitz Williams, late Dean, and the Act of Parliament of Edw. VI., the same was dissolved; the Queen (*inter alia*) created the dignity or office of Dean, to be for ever called "the Deanery of the Cathedral Church of Wells.

The first Dean, as named in the charter, is "John Harbert, Master of the Requests."

The Queen also grants to said John Harbert, Dean, the Prebend of Currie, with usual corporate powers, &c.; and to the Dean and Chapter, the Cathedral, &c., the Canonical Houses, then occupied by the Canons Residentiary. To the Dean, also, (*inter alia*) "all that Messuage with the appurtenances, in Wells, aforesaid, now in the tenure or occupation of John Harbert or his assigns, which Valentine Dale, late Dean of the Cathedral Church, aforesaid, in right of his Deanery had held or enjoyed," &c.

From a MS. History of the Cathedral.

The Duke of Somerset having obtained a Grant of (*inter alia*) the Deanery house, with the Gardens, &c., attached, at first settled upon the Bishop (who had been compelled to give up his Palace, the Deanery House, &c.), and then for the Bishop's maintenance, &c., he also settled on the Bishop the Manor of West Coker, with the Advowson thereof, the Borough and Hundred of Wellington, Stogursey, Wedmore, Park, the Vicarage of Mark, all of the annual value of 60*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*, besides a yearly rent of 17*l.* issuing out of the Manor of Glastonbury, and also a lease for certain years (if the Bishop's wife Agatha and his son William should live so long) of the Lodge and Park of Sharpham, near Glastonbury.

This Settlement is dated at Wells, 2nd December, 4 Edward VI.

Dr. Cornelius Burges refused to give up the Deanery to Dean Creighton (after the Restoration) and forced the Dean to bring an action of ejection, and to proceed to trial. Before he would give it up he printed and published his "Case," wherein he justified his buying Church Lands by alleging that he had lent the State £3,400, and having a wife and ten children to provide for he took such lands, &c., as the only means of repayment. It is said that Burges was a "Sot," and was so unwise as to refuse an offer of £10,000, made by Desborough about six months before the Restoration, for the Deanery, Manor, &c., of Wells, &c., &c. Burges, it is said, died (of canker and ulcers in his throat and mouth) in gaol where he had been put by the Corporation of Wells; the result of a lawsuit respecting some of the Bishop's possessions, which had been purchased by the Corporation.

As to this account there is evidently some truth. It is certain that lawsuits did take place between Dr. Burges and the Corporation. There are numerous receipts and disbursements in the Receiver's Book, examples of which here follow:—

"RECEIPTS.

1654-5	And of nine pounds disbursed by me in my travell to London in Trinitie Terme last about D'tor Burges	} ix ^l
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PAYMENTS.

1655-6	P'd to Mr. Standishe, by order, for the defence of the House about D'tor Burges at several times this yeare	} cxxx ^l
1657-8	P'd Mr. Smith and Mr. Salmon for £20 w'ch Mr. Mead rec ^d of Mr. Byrt against the time of the Tryall w th D'tor Burges,	} £20

RECEIPTS.

1661-2	And of Mr. Thomas, whoe rec'd an execucon levy'd on D'tor Cornelius Burges in Trin. 1657	} £80
	And for chardge in law against him already paid "	} £10

During Dr. Burges's residence in the Deanery he was appointed "Preacher" at the Cathedral. His sermons were not agreeable to the citizens, who annoyed him by walking up and down the cloisters "all sermon time." In 1652 he complained to the County Justices, in Quarter Sessions assembled, and an order was made that the Constables of the Liberty of

St. Andrew should stop the disturbance. In the order Burges is called "Cornelius Burges, Doctor of Divinity," and it is said of him that he had been appointed "by authority of Parliament to preach the Word of God in the late Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, in Wells."

King James, by deed of Confirmation to Benjamin Heyden, Dean, reciting Act of Parliament creating new Deanery, &c., sets forth that there had been added to the Deanery two houses, one on east side, then lately occupied by Paul Methuen.* Another on west side, then lately occupied by George Upton, Esq.†

CORNELIUS BURGES, &c.

The sacrilegious sale of Church property in Wells, including the Palace and Deanery to that fatanical puritan, Dr. Cornelius Burges, is well known.

The following extracts are from the Book of the General Receiver of the Corporation under date 1659‡—

"RECEIPTS

"Of Cornet Sam ^l Bridges for his second and last payment of his fine of £150 for his house wherein he himself inhabiteth in the Libertie, late Doct ^r Smith's, besides the interest due ever since the 30th of June, 1658, after the rate of sixe pounds per cent. for his £100	} £100 0 0
"Of Mr. Humph. Cordwent for his second payment of his fine for the house late call'd Doct ^r Webber's house in the Libertie, payable at Midsūmer, one thousand sixe hundred & fifty nine"	} £61 0 0

* Paul Methuen is named in Queen Elizabeth's Charter as Prebendary of Coomb 11th.

† This George Upton was M.P. for Wells in 1585 and 1601. He and his family afterward lived at the fine old mansion, at Wormister, one of the Wells Prebendal Estates.

‡ In recording the settlement of the account of the General Receiver the Corporation allowed him £5 extra for his "greater care and paynes taken about the Canons' Houses, and about the Estreats."

By a note in the margin of the book it appears that £10 17s. 0d. had been received for goods sold out of the late "Canons' Houses."

³ The Corporation of Wells obtained from Cromwell's Commissioners five of the Canons' houses, viz:—

- 1.—Dr. Wood's.
- 2.—Dr. Ward's.
- 3.—Dr. Walker's.
- 4.—Dr. Godwyn's.
- 5.—Dr. Smith's.
- 6.—Dr. Young's.

The Corporate body dealt with these houses as their own, in the following manner:—

- No. 1.—Let at Rack Rent.
 „ 2.—Ditto ditto
 „ 3.—Granted on Lease to Humphrey Cordwent, of Wells, who paid to the Corporation a fine of £85.
 „ 4.—Let at Rack Rent.
 „ 5.—Granted on Lease to “Cornett Samuel Bridges,” of Wells, who paid to the Corporation a fine of £150.
 „ 6.—Let at Rack Rent.

It is certain that one, if not two, of these Canons' houses, so obtained by the Corporation, was pulled down, and the materials sold to divers persons in the neighbourhood. The names of the purchasers and the sums received are all entered in the Receiver's Book. The following are examples of these receipts:—

	£	s.	d.
Rec ^d of sev ^l all p'sons for stones	2	2	2
Rec ^d of sev ^l all p'sons for tile	1	1	8
Rec ^d of Jn ^o Amer for 2000 of tiles	1	5	8
Rec ^d of Mr. Sam ^l Reed for stones and timber ..	3	8	6
Rec ^d for freestone windowes		15	0
Rec ^d of Mr. Bord, of Croscombe, for timber ..	3	0	0
Rec ^d of Rich ^d Brocke for timber	3	0	0
Rec ^d of John Greenslade for freestones		6	0

Besides these sales of old materials, the Corporation also sold a considerable quantity of household furniture, left by the Canons when they were forcibly turned out of their houses by the Commissioners, as the following extracts will prove:—

By a memorandum at the end of the Receiver's Account for the year 1658-9, it appears that he owed to the Corporation a balance of 16*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* On settling, the Corporate body allowed him “for his greate care and paynes taken for them the last yeare abowt the Cannons' Howses and abowte the Estreates,” 5*l.*; and then comes another “allowance.”—“M^{d.} At the day of this acc^t, Mr. Barrett the Receyv'r brought in another

acc^t for Goods soul'd by him out of the Cannons' Howses, w'ch came to 10*l.* 17*s.* 10*d.*, w'ch was likewise p'd over to Mr. Thomas the p'sent Gen'all Recyv'r. He alsoe broughte in a Noate of Goods w'ch he hath taken to his owne use, w'ch came to 27*s.*, w'ch the Howse did likewise allow him for his care and paynes."

THE ARCHDEACONRY.

Polydore Vergil, who is well known as the author of several books, amongst others a treatise *de Inventoribus Rerum* and a history of the reigns of Hen. VI., Edw. IV., and Rich. III., was collated to the Archdeaconry of Wells early in 1508 on the King's nomination, to whom the right had been granted by the Bishop, Adrian de Castello, a relative of Vergil. This man was remarkable in many respects, particularly as a confidante and one of the earliest tools of Wolsey.

His official residence in Wells was the house opposite the north porch of the Cathedral,—a spacious mansion, well befitting so high a dignitary of the Church.

In 1550 Polydore obtained the King's license to reside abroad, on the ground of his great age and infirmities, though the same instrument allowed him to retain the profits of his Archdeaconry. At this time he is said to have sold his house at Wells, but by what authority does not appear, and since then it has continued severed from the Church. In a memoir prefixed to a reprint of Polydore's history of the reigns of the three kings before mentioned, published by the Camden Society, is the following note:—

"Newcourt says he sold the perpetuity of the house at Wells at this time, which belonged to the Archdeaconry."

The house in question has been much altered and modernized. The chief author of this is said to have been Mr. Peter Taylor, father of the late, and grandfather of the present Sir Charles Taylor. This was done chiefly for electioneering purposes, the house being used as a kind of assembly room and place of meeting for the political supporters of the Taylor and Tudway interest. After the influence of these parties had somewhat failed the house became the residence of a brewer and still continues so. In electioneering phraseology the house was usually known as "The Salt Box."

After the original archidiaconal residence had passed from the Church, the Archdeacon had a house which stood on or near the site of the present Town Hall at Wells. This house was sold to the Corporation of Wells in 1779 for £700 consols, under the authority of a local Act of Parliament. The house

was taken down soon after to make way for the Town Hall. The yearly dividends of the £700 are still paid to the Archdeacon for the time being.

The Surrender was made to Henry VIII. about a month before the King's death. The Deed of Surrender is, or was, in the Augmentation Office, and is dated 26th December, 37 Henry VIII. It begins "Omnibus Xti fidelibus, &c., Polydorus Vergilius Archidiaconus Wellensis," &c.

Notes and Queries, Vol. 1, Third Series, p. 55.

Extracts from a Law Bill of Mr. B. Cox, formerly Town Clerk of Wells:—

Mich's 7, Car. I.

"For searching the First fruits office for the Archdeaconry of Welles and the p'ticulars of the Corp.	} iij ^s iiij ^d
For two Conslats or Composic'ons for the said Archdeaconry—one for Mr. Rugg, the second for Mr. D'cor Wood	} ciiij ^s iiij ^d
For searching for L'res Patent made vnto Polidor Virgill for life, of the Archdeaconry	} j ^s iiij ^d
For view of the Patent made vnto Polidor Virgill to absent himselfe from the Archdeaconry & to travell beyond the seas	} j ^s iiij ^d
For the search of the two Surrenders of Polidor Virgill w'ch was 26 th Decemb'r an ^o 38 H. 8"	} j ^s iiij ^d

THE CHORISTERS.

One of the statutes of Bishop Bekynton orders that the Choristers, when they rise in the morning, shall wash and dress, and go without noise into the school, and wait the Master, or Sub-Master, who was to instruct them according to their several voices in plain song, and those who served in the Choir were to be at the school until 11 o'clock, &c. As to their behaviour in "Hall," whether at time of refection, or dinner, or supper, they were to go into the Common Hall without noise, &c.

The Archdeaconry of Wells was restored to the Church by letters patent of Queen Mary. Dated 10th March, 3 Philip and Mary.

The Corporation of Wells contracted with Cromwell's Commissioners for the purchase of the Court of Record, the Royalty of the Borough, &c., &c., besides buying several of the Canons' houses, &c.

4 BUBWITH'S ALMSHOUSE.

The Hall at the western end of Bubwith's Almshouse was built by the executors of Bishop Bubwith, and given to the citizens of Wells as a Guildhall. In the record of certain disputes between the Bishop of Bath and Wells and the Corporation of Wells (15 Henry VII.), it is said :—

“And in the xvth yere of Kinge Henry the VIth the executors of the goode Lorde Bysshoppe Bubwith bilded a newe Hall oonlye for the Meetynges, Assemblies, and Besynesses of the said Burgess's, and for ther synguler plesour, by the curteyes assente of the late ther righte goode lorde Bysshoppe Stafforde, whoes sowle God reste.”

The meetings of the corporate body and the Parliamentary Elections, &c., were held in this hall until about 1779, when the new Town Hall was built.

The original Statutes of the Hospital required that the revenues of the establishment should be placed in a common chest with three locks and keys ; one to be kept by the Mayor of Wells, another by the Chaplain, and the third by one of the Chapter of Wells. The Chest now to be seen at the Almshouse is probably the same as that originally provided in pursuance of the statute here referred to. The chest stands on a frame-work of wood, and at each end there are four lines of doggrel poetry referring to the Almshouse of Bishop Still. The initials H. S. are on one end, and the date 1615 on the other. The initials are probably those of Henry Southworth, Esq., who was a man of much local influence in Wells about that time. He was the donor of the east window of the Library over the Chapel at the north end of the Vicar's close.

Mynchin Barrow Priory.

BY THE REV. THOMAS HUGO, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.S.L., ETC.,
HON. MEMBER.

FROM the chief city of Western England to the pleasant watering-place of Weston-on-the-Sea, the tourist in Somersetshire may travel by an ancient highway whereof every mile is rich in natural beauties or in picturesque memorials of olden days. Turning his back on the spires and pinnacles of the mercantile metropolis of the mediæval age, and leaving on his left hand the shrine where modern piety has reverently attempted to re-create for holy use the half ruined sanctuary of our forefathers, he first enters a green and lonely valley, and, after many shady windings, with gleams of sunlight through the trees illuminating the steep declivities and forests of the hills on either side, suddenly finds himself by the church of Long Ashton. Further on, and about six miles from Bristol, a lane of genuine Somersetshire character leads him by less than the distance of a mile to the wall of an extensive park, across the undulating level of which he can discern a small and unpretending village church, and closely adjoining thereto a large mansion of the age of Queen Elizabeth, flanked by some barns and other farm

buildings of an earlier period. By the time that he arrives at the site of these edifices he will have left the valley and have mounted to a considerable eminence above its level. The buildings, as he will find, are on the crest of the hill, and he will not fail to be delighted with the prospect which they command. His eye passes over the rich valley below him and encounters the wooded heights of Wraxall and Long Ashton, following the course of which he may descry the gilded vanes of the old city shining out clearly and sharply in the sun. The traveller then turns, we will suppose, to the peculiarities of the scene immediately behind him. With the exception of the tower of the church and some of the farm buildings already referred to there is nothing which strikes him as indubitably old. He finds that he is on a spot where strange hands have unhappily obliterated what earlier possessors delighted to adorn, and that, if he would conjure up the scene as it once existed, he must endeavour to learn its characteristics from descriptions of the place contained in statements not originally intended to serve such a purpose, rather than amid the hardly appreciable evidences of the ancient glory which sacrilege has yet permitted to remain.

On the spot now occupied by the Elizabethan edifice once stood a small and little-known Priory. Its history has to be gathered grain by grain from the vast aggregate of MSS. memorials contained in our national and ecclesiastical depositories instead of the meagre and unsatisfactory sketches which the press has hitherto disseminated. The place has been so little known to the writers of the last three centuries that one of them, to whom Somersetshire archæologists are under special obligations, the learned Archdeacon Archer, who furnished Hearne with his very imperfect but still valuable list of

Superiors, frankly admits that he could hardly associate the few facts which he had strung together with any particular locality—"ubi vero terrarum situs est iste conventus de Bargh haud certe scio."* Oblivion has all but buried the tale which in the following pages I have endeavoured once more to narrate, and has covered with an obscurity all but impenetrable the picture which I have attempted again to present, in as much of its original colouring as can now be recovered, for those who love the olden days of England's greatness and treasure the evidences of their true nobility.

It may appear to some an almost perverse exercise of research to endeavour, as I have done in the present and several former instances, to draw back the veil which has so long and closely covered the fortunes of a small and indigent community. Multiplicity of inmates, however, or of possessions, is but an indifferent criterion of the interest which attaches to such establishments. The smallest and poorest of them, as I hope I can show, is not without the means of furnishing, to the hand which knows how to gather, many and precious memorials of times over and gone. All were members of one sacred family, and presented in a greater or less degree the fair lineaments of the same gracious original. It may also be that the more obscure and little-known the subject the greater is the pleasure of throwing upon it the light which will avail to place it among the clearest and best understood. Added to which our present investigation supplies one of the two yet remaining gaps in the history of the Mediæval Nunneries of Somersetshire, whereof Mynchin Buckland and Canyngton have already been treated in a similar manner, and

* Chron., p. 236.

White Hall of Ilchester alone remains to complete the series. I would again plead in extenuation of the minuteness of my details were I not certain that I am inducing a considerable number of readers to estimate their value as I do myself, and to think that the particularity of the information which I furnish is a special excellence of my labours. Those only entertain a light opinion of such particularity who are either careless of the subject itself, profoundly unconscious of their own deficiencies, or having an evil purpose to serve in keeping others as ignorant as themselves.

The name of the founder of the House, which appears in the records as Mynchin Barwe, Barewe, Bargh, Barouwe, Barow, Barowe Gurney, &c., cannot be stated with certainty. It has been asserted, but entirely without reason, that to Gervase of Canterbury, sometime in the reign of Richard I., that honour is to be attributed. The founder was without doubt a member of the family of Gournay, or Gurney, Lords of Stoke Hamden. One of them founded the House of the Gaunts, at Bristol, and to the same generous hand Leland ascribes the establishment whose fortunes I am about to narrate. "Gurney," he says, "was one of the four chief Lords of Mendepe, Lord of Stoke Hamden, and ther he lyethe buryed in a Colegiate Chapell by the Ruyns of his Castle. He was chefe Foundar, as some say, of the Howse of Gaunts at Bristow. He was Foundar of the Priorye of Nunes in Somersetshire caullyd Barow Gurney."* This also, however, is an error. The period at which the Monastery in Bristol was founded is well known to be far subsequent to that of the foundation of Barwe. As we shall see presently, the latter must have

* Itin., vii. 82.

been in existence in the middle of the reign of King John, while the former did not figure among the Religious Houses of Bristol until late in that of Henry III.

The family of the founder, which gave to the Manor its distinguishing name of Gournay, is early mentioned as possessed of property within its limits. Robert Fitzharding obtained it by grant from William Rufus. Eva de Gournay, his grand-daughter and heir, married Thomas, son of William de Harptre in the time of Richard I., and died before the year 1230. She was the mother of Robert de Harptre, who assumed his mother's name of Gournay, and was the founder of the Hospital of Gaunts. It is by no means improbable that to the good Eva de Gournay, from whom her half-brother, Maurice de Gaunt, held the Manor of Barewe for his life,* the honour of founding a House for a religious community of her own sex may rightly be referred. Leland, as we have already observed, ascribes the foundation to a member of the family of Gournay, while Collinson says that one of the Fitzhardings was the founder.† In the attribution of the good work to Eva de Gournay both of these statements may be held to agree.‡

The exact date of the foundation cannot be recovered, but, as has been already stated, the House was in existence prior to the year 1212. To that period is referrible the bequest to it by Hugh Wallis, Bishop of Lincoln, of ten marcs, "domui Monialium de Berwe x marc." The Bishop's will was dated on the Feast of S. Brice, the 13th

* Cart. 16 Joh. Pat. 18 Joh. m. 1. Add. MS. B.M. 1985, p. 312.

† Hist. of Somerset, ij. 309.

‡ See Appendix No. I. for a pedigree of this branch of the Gournays. The history of the family at large has been written with great ability by Daniel Gurney, F.S.A., in his *Record of the House of Gournay*, 4to. Lond., 1848, 1858; but I regret that a few words at pp. 602 and 633 are all that he devotes to the history of the Priory.

of November, 1212, and was attested by John, Bishop of Bath and Wells; Master Helyas, of Durham; Master John, of York; Master Reginald, of Chester; Masters William, Roger, and Helyas, chaplains; Peter de Cicester; and William de Hamm; the two first-named of whom were the executors. He died on the 7th of February, 1234-5.*

The Priory, which was founded for Benedictine Nuns, was dedicated to the B.V.M. and to S. Edward, King and Martyr, and, also, as it appears by a document of an age not long anterior to the Dissolution, to the Holy Trinity.

As is the case with a large number of similar establishments, we are ignorant of the extent of its original possessions. They must have been very small, for I have been able to identify almost all its endowments with the benefactions of subsequent times. The land immediately surrounding the House was probably the source of its entire revenues.

In the 47th year of Henry III. an instance of the tenure by the Gournay family occurs in a most voluminous "extenta terrarum" of Richard de Clare, late Earl of Gloucester, where it is set forth that Robert de Gurney, the son, as we have seen, of Eva de Gournay, held xxj fees in Harpestre, Ferinton, Barewe, Westharpestre, Englescumb, and Haletre, in the county of Somerset, and in Sernecote and Dodington, in the county of Gloucester.†

This Robert de Gurney held, on the day of his decease, among other property, the manors of Barewe and Hinglescombe, with their appurtenances, by the service of twenty two and a half knights' fees, of the Earl of Gloucester in

* MS. Harl., 6968, pp., 19, 20.

† Inq. p. m., 47 Hen. III., n. 34 c. MS. Harl., 4120, p. 7.

chief. Anselm de Gurney was his son and next heir, and of full age.*

The Berkeleys were subsequently Lords of the Manor, as well as patrons of the Priory. Thomas de Berkeley, son of Maurice de Berkeley, was returned by the oath of a jury as Lord of Bacwell, Barwe Gurney, &c., and of all their free tenants, from ancient feoffment. The King's writ of enquiry, in answer whereunto this return was made, bears date, witness the King, at Trouern, the 3rd of June, in the 11th year of Edward I., 1283.†

The nuns obtained at a very early period a pension, payable from the Church of Twiverton, near Bath, of £1 6s. 8d. a-year, references to which will frequently come before us in the following pages. It is mentioned in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV.,‡ which was compiled about the year 1291. No mention is made in that record of the Church of Barrow, or of any other possessions of the Priory, either spiritual or temporal. For an account of the Taxation itself, I must refer the reader to my History of Canyngton Priory, p. 12.

Very shortly after this we have an interesting notice of the connection of the manor with the Gournay family, and a minute description of its extent and value. In answer to a writ, dated, witness the King, at Rokesburg, the 12th of May, in the 24th year of Edward I., 1296, Oliva de Gurneye, widow of John de Gurneye, and daughter of Henry, Lord Lovel, of Castle Cary, deceased, is stated, in an Inquisition made at Westharpetre, on the 8th of June following, to have held the manor of Barwe Gurney of the Countess of Gloucester and her heirs, by military service,

* Eschaet., 53 Hen. III., So. 23. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 9. MS. Lansd. 316, f. 21b.

† Inq. p. m. 11 Edw. I., n. 117, (olim 38).

‡ Tax. Eccl. P. Nich. IV., p. 199.

for half a knight's fee ; and that there was there a capital messuage, with a garden and dovecot, worth $vj^s viij^d$ a-year ; that the pasture in the park was worth $xij^s iiij^d$ a-year ; rents of assize, payable at Easter and Michaelmas, worth $iiij^li xij^s iij^d$; of arable land in the demesne, cc acres, worth $xvj^s viij^d$ a year, at j^d per acre ; of meadow mowing-land xx acres, worth xx^s a year ; of enclosed pasture in common, worth $xiiij^s$ a year ; and pleas and perquisites, worth $iiij^s$ a year. The jurors conclude by stating that Elizabeth, the first-born daughter of the said Oliva, is her nearest heir, and was of the age of twenty-one years and upwards at Michaelmas last past.*

At the same time the heir of Robert de Gurney held five fees in Fferinton, Babinton, Harpetré, Barwe, and Englescombe.†

In 1313, the heirs of John le Sor held one half of the vill of Bacwell, with one portion of the advowson of the church there, of Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, by the service of a half of one knight's fee. Richard de Rodeneye held the other moiety of the same. And the heirs of John Apadam held the manor of Barwe of the earl aforesaid, by the service of one knight's fee.‡

We are now introduced to the interior of the House. By a letter, dated at Chu, the 26th of June, 1315, Bishop John de Drokenesford directs the Prioress of Bargh, by virtue of her canonical obedience and on pain of excommunication and suspension from her office, to observe and cause by her nuns to be observed impartially and inviolably his injunctions, which follow. That they should

* Inq. p. m. 24 Edw. I. n. 28. MS. Harl. 4120, pp. 40, 42. See Appendix, No. I.

† Inq. p. m. 24 Edw. I., So. 107. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 42.

‡ Eschaet. 7 Edw. ij. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 71.

submit themselves obediently to the custodian of their affairs which the Bishop had appointed, or should appoint, and should be content with his decisions. That the Prioress should for the future cease to interest herself with worldly and secular matters, by reason of which the service of God would suffer postponement; but should above all things apply herself to the worship of God, and diligently and carefully to the government of her sisters. That the Prioress and the other nuns should eat and sleep together, unless hindered by ill health or other just cause. That the Prioress should not concede to any one of her nuns permission to go into or beyond the vill, except from great and lawful cause, and that then they should go in pairs, and in their nun's habit, and should not wander to places to which their leave did not extend, nor voluntarily absent themselves beyond the time of their leave. That silence should be observed, as their rule required. That the Prioress should not carry herself harshly towards her nuns, but should live in all charity, love, and unanimity. That the Prioress should take diligent and assiduous care that Divine Service should be devoutly performed according to their rule by all her nuns, and at the due hours. And that their rule should be read among them frequently, distinctly and openly, so that it might be understood by all.*

It is satisfactory to find that these injunctions, the result no doubt of an Episcopal Visitation, hint at the breaches of regular discipline, rather than at those grosser immoralities which are too often considered by uninformed persons to be inalienable from the monastic system.

This was followed a few days afterwards by a letter from

* Reg. Drok. f. lxxixb. Appendix, No. II. Abstract in MS. Harl., 6964, p. 27

the Bishop to William de Suttone. The writer begins his missive with the declaration that it is pious and consonant to right to succour the wretched, and to relieve them from their miseries in time of necessity. He then, with a compliment to his fidelity and prudence, both of which qualities were assuredly needed for the delicate and difficult duty, commits to him by those presents, and until he thought fit to revoke his license, the care and administration of the House of Nuns of Barwe, imploring him to show himself diligent in the work, and to consult him as often as should be needful about the matters appertaining to his office, so that he might deserve the thanks of Him who is the giver of all good things, and of himself the writer. The letter is dated at Evercrich, the nones, or 7th, of July, 1315.*

In the autumn of the following year the Prioress either resigned her office, or departed this life. Her name has not been preserved. The choice of a successor fell on Johanna de Gurnay, a Nun of the House. She was of the kin of the founder, and, I believe, a daughter of either Robert or Thomas de Gournay; in either case niece of Oliva and cousin of Elizabeth before mentioned, and, in the latter, sister of Sir Thomas de Gournay, the regicide.† The Bishop wrote to John de Godele, Dean, and Hugh de Pencery, Canon of Wells, empowering them in his stead to examine the election of Johanna, to confirm the person of the elect if canonically elected, and, after confirmation, to put her into corporal possession of the Priory and its rights, as the custom was. Of all these proceedings they were to certify him under their seal. The letter was dated at

* Reg. Drok. f. lxxx. Appendix, No. III.

† See Appendix, No. I.

Evercrich, the 4th of October, 1316, and the seventh year of his consecration.*

On the 20th of July, 1317, the chapel of the Bishop's palace at Banewell was witness to a scene of no little solemnity. On that day Johanna de Gornay, Agnes Sant de Marays, Milburga de Derneford, and Bacillida de Sutton, Nuns of Barwe, were professed by imposition of hands of the Lord Bishop.† We shall meet with these ladies on several subsequent occasions.

It was afterwards discovered that the election of Johanna de Gournay was null and void according to the constitutions of a general council, inasmuch as at the time of her election she was not a nun professed. In a letter to the Archdeacon of Bath or his official, the Bishop asserts that on the occasion of a late judicial visit to the monastery of Bargh, in the matter of that election, he had found that the said election was void for the reason above stated. That he had diffinitively so pronounced, and that the nuns had lost accordingly for that time the right of election. That he had found, however, that the said Johanna was fit for the office, and that, now that the canonical objection was removed, he authorised him to visit the Monastery in person and to induct the said Johanna into corporal possession of the same, with an injunction to all the nuns, by virtue of their religion, and on pain of excommunication, to pay her due and canonical obedience. The letter was dated at Hynedon, the 26th of October, 1317, and the eighth year of his consecration.‡

In the appropriation of the Church of Twyverton to the Prioress and Convent of Kyngton, the advowson of which

* Reg. Drok. f. lxxxix. Abstract in MSS. Harl. 6964, p. 37 ; 6985 B. f. 128.

† Reg. Drok. f. cl. Appendix, No. IV.

‡ Reg. Drok. f. clv. b. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964., p. 57.

belonged to them on the resignation thereof of Hugh de Alresforde, the rector, dated at Welington, the 16th of March, 1320, that church is stated to be granted to them and their successors, reserving to the Prioress and Nuns of Barwe the portion of tithes which the said Prioress and Nuns lawfully received, and have from old time been accustomed lawfully to receive, and saving the vicarage, to be appointed by him, and to be taxed according to his will and pleasure.*

The state of the Priory appears to have soon necessitated the adoption of stringent measures for its improvement. On the 6th of September, 1323, the Bishop wrote from Yatton to Adam de Burlee, rector of Chyu, and Henry, rector of Harpetre, that, inasmuch as the Convent of Barwe, by defect of counsel and aid—from which it would seem that the efforts at reformation of William de Suttone, some eight years before, had not been crowned with permanently beneficial results—was of late so depressed and pauperised that it was hardly possible that it should rise again, he, from a desire, as far as he could, with divine aid, to provide a remedy, had directed his attention to them, in whose fidelity and industry he had the utmost confidence, and, at the good pleasure of his will, committed to them and each of them by those presents the care and custody of the said House and the goods and possessions of the same, for the relief of its burdens. And it was further provided that they should not permit the Prioress of the said House, to whose bad management it is evident that the evil was attributable, to run about the country without reasonable cause and the consent of both or of one or the other of them, to the shame of her religion and the damage of the House aforesaid.

* Reg. Drok. f. clx. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 59. Chron. Well., f. 253.

The Bishop adds his will and command that this should be intimated to the said Prioress and to all whom it concerned.*

This was not long afterwards followed by a Visitation. On the 18th of January, 1324-5, the Bishop, at Banewell, commissioned his official to visit the Priory and Nuns, and to remove the Prioress from her administration if there should be urgent necessity; and also to correct, inquire into, and punish the excesses of delinquents in the afore-said Priory.†

It would undoubtedly appear that the ecclesiastics to whom the Bishop successively entrusted the work of reforming the Priory found the task to be above their powers. The office was at best a thankless and unpleasant one, wherein, if failure were a disgrace, success could hardly be considered an honour. On the 7th of February, 1324-5, the Bishop wrote to the Rector of Bacwell a long letter on the subject of the Priory and its troubles. He says that in consideration of the poverty of the Nuns and the insufficiency of the Prioress, and also of the near neighbourhood of Bacwell and Barwe, he had committed to him, of whose honesty, faithfulness, and industry he had full assurance, the custody of the House and its possessions. He firmly enjoins him by virtue of his obedience, that with the counsel of the Sub-Prioress, and of Basilia de Sutton, and the discretion given to him by God, he should dispose the said House and all its possessions for the advantage of its members, as he should think fit. Further, that he should entirely remove the burdensome retinue of servants and other persons admitted to board in the same House, which should to him seem useless, as often as

* Reg. Drok., f. ccvj.

† Reg. Drok., f. ccxxxiiij b.

there should be need. That he should restrain all opponents and rebels, if he should meet with any, by ecclesiastical censures. For the doing and expediting of all and each of the premises the Bishop adds his full authority and canonical power, until he shall think fit to revoke the same. The letter was dated at Wyvelescomb, on the day above mentioned.*

On the same day the Bishop addressed from Wyvelescomb a letter to the Prioress and Convent, expressing his paternal sympathy with their misery and poverty, and informing them that he had thought fit to commit by his letters the custody of their House and all their possessions to the prudent and honourable Rector of Bacwell, their neighbour, enjoining on him to take the oversight of the said House and their possessions, and providently to dispose the same for their use and benefit. He concludes by commanding them to pay all just obedience and submission to their custodian, as his officer.†

In less than three months after the date of the last transaction Prioress Johanna de Gurney resigned her office. It was, indeed, high time that a change took place in the government of the House. Her authority had already been practically superseded, and her removal from office was the proper reward of a long continuance of maladministration. A memorandum in the Register of Bishop John de Drokenesford records the fact that Johanna, the Prioress, accompanied by Agnes de Santa Cruce, Sub-Prioress, and Basilia de Sutton, appeared in person at Banwell on the next juridical day after the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, the 3rd of May, 1325, to-

* Reg. Drok., f. ccxxxv.

† Reg. Drok., ib. Appendix No. V.

gether with certain other Nuns of the aforesaid Priory ; and that, after the recitation of certain articles specially affecting the person of the Prioress, the said Prioress purely, spontaneously, and absolutely resigned her office in the presence of the Lord Bishop, then and there. The Bishop forbade, on pain of excommunication, any Nun then present to disclose to any others what had taken place ; and a day was given to the Nuns to elect a successor, namely, the Thursday or Friday next after the Feast of S. John before the Latin Gate, which two days were in that year coincident with the 9th and 10th of May, on which, according to canonical usage, they were to proceed to the election, and to provide for the Priory then desolate. There were present R. and J. de Wamberg, and Adam de Rushton, clerks of the aforesaid Bishop. The Prioress and Nuns submitted to this arrangement.*

The choice, as might have been expected, fell on the good Sub-Prioress, Agnes de Santa Cruce. The Bishop wrote to his official to investigate and report upon the election, and to confirm the elect if canonically elected. The missive was dated at Evercrich, the 4th of June, 1325.†

It would appear that the patron's permission had not been obtained for this election. A commission was addressed to Thomas de Retford, chancellor, Richard de Fforde, treasurer, and Robert de Wamberg, the Bishop's official, Canons of Wells, to examine the business and to report upon the same. The commission was dated at Wyvelescomb, the 5th of October, 1325.‡ A letter

* Reg. Drok., f. ccxxxix. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 94.

† Reg. Drok., f. ccxxxix b. Abstract in MS. Harl., 6964, p. 94, 6985 B. f. 131.

‡ Reg. Drok., f. ccxlj.

was directed on the same day to the commissaries, "a latere," under the Bishop's privy seal, advising them that, if it should appear by letter that the patron had refused his consent, after that consent had been duly solicited, they should proceed to the canonical confirmation of the elect, notwithstanding the opposition of the said patron, provided that there was no other obstacle to the election or the elect.*

The examination of the election of Agnes by Robert de Wamberg, Thomas de Retford, chancellor, and Walter Broun, Sub-Dean of Wells, was satisfactory, and they thereupon confirmed her in her office. The Bishop wrote from Blakeford, on the 9th of February, 1325-6, to the Archdeacon of Bath, to induct her into corporal possession.† And on the same day he addressed a letter to all and singular the Nuns of Barwe enjoining on them the duty of obedience and submission.‡

The notice of a commission which follows in the Register appears by the fault of some subsequent binder to have lost its proper place in the volume. It records the commission to Wamberg, Retford, and Broun, under which we have just seen them acting, revoking one to Richard de Fforde and L. de la Barr, and is dated at London, the 26th of November, 1325.||

The troubles connected with this vacancy were not yet over. Again the Bishop addressed a letter to the Archdeacon of Bath, expressing his surprise that his previous monition as to the induction of Agnes de Santa Cruce had not been obeyed. He says that although he had ordered

* Reg. Drok., ib.

† Reg. Drok., f. ccxlij.

‡ Reg. Drok., ib.

|| Reg. Drok., f. ccxliij.

the Archdeacon to induct the said Agnes, and to put down any opposition, a certain Johanna de Gornay,* a Nun of the said Priory, had nevertheless maliciously hindered him in the execution of his office, by pertinaciously resisting, and intruding herself in the stall of the aforesaid Prioress, and by occupying the said stall, against whom the Archdeacon had not fulfilled his order, whereat the Bishop is much astonished, "de quo vehementer admiramur." He commands him by virtue of his obedience and on pain of excommunication to enjoin on Johanna de Gurnay that she desist from her rash behaviour and show herself obedient; and adds that if this should fail of due effect he was to excommunicate her, and cite her to appear before him in the Church of Wyvelescumb on the third juridical day after the Feast of S. Gregory, Pope, the 12th of March, to answer for her contempt and disobedience. And he was, further, to certify to him that he had so done. The letter was dated at Wyvelescumb, the 19th of February, 1325-6, and was sealed with the seal of his official, as he had not his own at that moment at hand.† As we hear of no further opposition it is to be presumed that this was sufficient, and that at length peace was restored.

Prioress Agnes de Santa Cruce departed this life after a short conventual reign, thus unfavourably begun, of less than three years. The Nuns addressed a letter to the Bishop, informing him that on the 14th of October, 1328, the Priory being without a Superior through the death of Agnes de Santa Cruce, they had met in their Chapter House, had agreed to elect a Successor to the office, and

* I would remind the reader who may be struck with the diversities of orthography which this and other names present, that I invariably give them in the form which they bear in the particular document from which I am deriving my information.

† Reg. Drok. f. ccxlvij. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 101.

had unanimously elected Basilia de Sutton to be their Prioress by acclamation, “omnibus consentientibus alta voce et una clamantibus *fiat, fiat, amen,*” together with all other observances which belonged to a lawful election. They beseech him to accept and confirm the said Basilia, thus rightly elected. The letter was sealed with their common seal, and dated in the Monastery at Barwe on the Feast of S. Martin, Bishop, the 11th of November, 1328.* Annexed to this in the Register is a letter, written in French, from Thomas de Berkeleye, the patron, to the Bishop, “a treshonorable piere en dieux,” begging him to accept the said Basilia, and concluding “Sire, le Seynt Espirit soit garde de vous, et vous doint bone vie et longe.”† The Bishop granted their request, and at the same time was pleased to dispense with some of the usual formalities in the elections of Superiors, on account of the poverty of the House which was unequal to the burden. In the instrument of confirmation he says that, having respect to the small means of the Priory of Baruwe, on account of which the Nuns were not accustomed nor able to conduct the election, on a vacancy of the Priory, like other Religious of the Diocese who were the owners of ample possessions moveable and immoveable, he had been pleased to admit and confirm the elect, in agreement with previous custom and after receipt of their letters patent, and thus to relieve them from the loss and injury which a long vacancy would entail; and that the form employed was as follows: “In the name of God, Amen. Forasmuch as we have found the election of the Nuns of Baruwe of Dame Basilia de Sutton, Nun professed of the same House and of

* Reg. Drok., f. ccc b.

† Reg. Drok., ib.

our Diocese, to be Prioress of the same, the consent of Thomas de Berkeley, patron of the same place at this turn, having been in the meanwhile obtained, to be exactly and entirely celebrated according to the custom of the said Priory, we pontifically confirm the same, graciously supplying beforehand the defects, if there were any, in the form of the election aforesaid.”* The oath of canonical obedience which was taken by the Prioress was as follows:—
 “I, Basilia de Sutton, Nun of Barwe, elected and confirmed to be Prioress of the same House, will be obedient to you, venerable father, Lord John, by the grace of God Bishop of Bath and Wells, and to your successors in the see, and to your officials also acting in your behalf in lawful and canonical commands. So help me God and His Holy Gospels.”†

Bishop John de Drokenesford died on the 9th of May, 1329. His successor, Ralph of Shrewsbury, wrote from Dogmersfeld, on the 1st of March, 1329-30, to the Prioress and Convent of Barwe, requesting them, in the French of that period, to admit Elizabeth, daughter of Hamo le Fitz Richard, Knt., as a Nun of the House. This was done, it is affirmed in the Register, by a laudable custom by which the Bishop claimed the right. We have already seen in the History of Canyngton that the Prioress and Nuns of that House were similarly favoured at the same time, and that the ladies of both establishments had to thank the Bishop's dearest friend, the Prior of Bath, for this unwelcome addition to their numbers.‡

The Nuns shortly afterwards figure in a royal brief,

* Reg. Drok., f. ccc b. Appendix, No. VI. Abstract in MS., Harl. 6964, p. 132.

† Reg. Drok., f. ccclij. Appendix, No. VII.

‡ Reg. Rad. ff. xix b., xx. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 26.

dated at Westminster, the 6th of December, 1331. It was issued to collect the arrears of the disme, and among others contains the following names with the sums demanded of each :—The Nuns of Barwe, a pension, that doubtless from the Church of Twyverton, 2s. 8d.; the vicar of Montacute, 5s. ; the rector of Ceden, 6s. 8d. ; the rector of Monketon, 20s; and the rector of Wroxale, 21s. 4d.*

With the 13th year of Edward III. we have a singularly valuable notice of five generations of the Gourney family. Thomas de Gourney then came of age and petitioned for seisin of his estates. The jury presented that Anselm de Gourneye, some time Lord of the Manors of Inglescombe, Ffarnton, and Westharptre, gave these Manors to Thomas, his son, and his heirs. That after the death of the said Thomas these Manors came to Thomas, his son ; and after the death of this Thomas, the son of Thomas, the son of Anselm, then to Thomas the father of the present petitioner. That the Manors of Inglescombe and of Ffarnton were held of Thomas de Gourney, Lord of Estharpetre, each of them by the service of a rose on the Feast of S. John the Baptist ; and that Westharpetre was held of Lord Richard Lovell, by the annual service of twelve cross-bow shot.†

On the 17th of June, 1340, Prioress Basilia de Sutton was numbered with her predecessors. Milburga Dourneford, the Sub-Prioress, wrote to the Bishop on the 12th of August, from the Chapter House at Barwe, notifying to him the fact that the late Prioress had died on the day above-mentioned, and acquainting him with the subsequent proceedings in the election of her successor. She informs

* Reg. Rad., ff. xlviij b. Abstract in MS. Harl, 6965, p. 50.

† Eschaet. 13 Edw. III., n. 37. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 128. Appendix, No. VIII.

him that, after the burial of the deceased Prioress, and licence to elect asked for and obtained from Thomas de Berkelay, the patron, the sisters met in their Chapter House on the 9th of August, and appointed the 12th of that month for the election. They commissioned one of their sisters, Agnes Sauntemareys, to warn all and singular who were under suspension or interdict to retire from the Chapter House. After this, the same sister and Juliana de Groundy were chosen to be scrutators to take the votes, reduce the same to writing, and afterwards publish them. They found, after this process, that two parts of the sisterhood—the names of the ladies are unfortunately omitted—were for Juliana de Groundy, who is declared to be provident, discreet, in life and manners commendable, of lawful age, born in lawful wedlock, and in spiritual and temporal things most circumspect. Thereupon the said Agnes Sauntemareys at their command and in their presence solemnly announced to the sisters the election which they had made. The customary solemnities were then proceeded with. Te Deum was sung, the elect was carried to the high altar, and her election duly announced to the clergy and people assembled. Afterwards, about the first hour, the election was declared to the elect by the aforesaid Agnes and Agnes Balon, and her consent solicited. She replied that she desired to deliberate, and, being again questioned by the same sisters about the sixth hour of the same day, unwilling to resist the Divine will, declared her assent. The Sub-Prioress concludes her letter, dated, as aforesaid, on the 12th of August, 1340, by soliciting the Bishop's agreement with their act, and his confirmation of the person of the elect.* The Bishop

* Reg. Rad. ff. ccxj, ccxjb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 132.

issued a commission, dated at Evercrich, the 13th of August, to examine the election, whether the same were unanimous or opposed, and requested to be apprised of the facts of the case by the Monday next after the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.* The answer was favourable, and another commission, dated at Midsomeresnorton, on the 20th of the same month, was addressed to John de Carleton, canon of Wells, to install the said Johanna and induct her into corporal possession.† The confirmation by the commissary concludes the series of documents connected with the election, which, as in a very similar instance in the History of Canyngton, supplies us with a curious and interesting account of the ceremonial, and no less a proof of the care and precision with which these episodes in conventual life were at all times characterised.‡

In the ordination of the Vicarage of Twyverton, dated at Evercrich, the 11th of August, 1342, the claim of the Nuns to their ancient pension is allowed and enforced.||

Prioress Juliana de Groundy continued to govern the House until the year 1348. She either died or resigned before the 20th of October in that year, for on that day the Bishop at Claverton confirmed the election of Agnes Balun, whose name has been already before us, a Nun of Barwe, as Prioress of the House. It is evident from the terms of the memorandum that the form was resorted to, which, as we have lately observed, was generally necessitated by the smallness of the finances. The Bishop is said to have himself supplied the defects, if there happened

* Reg. Rad. ccxjb.

† Reg. Rad. ib.

‡ Reg. Rad. ib.

|| Reg. Rad. f. ccxv. MS. Harl. 6965, p. 152.

to be any, in the election, and to have committed to the elect the care, rule, and administration of the House. He further commissioned the Archdeacon of Bath or his official to install and induct her into corporal possession.*

Hugh le Despenser, who died on the 8th of February, 1349-50, was seised at the time of his death of fees in Bakwell, Barwe, &c. A jury returned this fact, and that Edward, the son of Edward the brother of the aforesaid Hugh, was his next heir, and was of the age of 12 years and upwards. The return was dated the 5th of March following.† Thomas de Gourny held of the same Hugh a half of one knight's fee in Westharptry and Inglescombe; and the heirs of John Apadam a half of one knight's fee in Barwe.‡

Twelve years after this, the Nuns received one of their most important benefactions. Richard de Acton, chevalier, obtained permission, by payment of a fine of ten pounds, to give and assign eight messuages, one shop, six tofts, ten acres of meadow and eight acres of pasture, with their appurtenances, in Welles and Barwegorney, to the Prioress and Nuns of Muncchenbarwe, to provide a chaplain for the celebration of Divine Service every day for ever at the altar of Blessed Mary in the Priory Church, for the health of Guy de Brian and the aforesaid Richard himself during their lives, and for their souls after their deaths, and for the souls of their ancestors, and of all the faithful departed. The letters patent conveying this permission, and authorizing the Prioress and Nuns and their successors to receive and hold the property for the purpose above-mentioned, were dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 14th of

* Reg. Rad. f. cccxxvj. Appendix, No. IX. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 191.

† Inq. p. m. 23 Edw. III., 2 pars, n. 169.

‡ Esc. 23 Edw. III., MS. Harl. 4120, pp. 152, 153.

October, 1361.* In Richard de Acton we may recognise, I presume, the rebuildler of Bathpool Mills, and, in Guy de Brian, one of judges in the suit between the Abbat of Glastonbury and his complainants, in the year 1382, in connection with those valuable establishments.†

In the same year Thomas de Berkele, who held the Manor of Barwe Gournay of Edward le Despenser, as of the honor of Gloucester, was succeeded by Maurice de Berkele, his son and next heir, of the age of thirty years.‡

The transaction to which I shall now introduce the reader will furnish him with an excellent specimen of the great particularity and careful minuteness with which in feudal times the transfer of property was effected, so as to preserve intact the legal liabilities of the donors. On the 20th of July, 1369, a writ was addressed to William Cheyne, the King's eschaetor in the county of Somerset, witness the King, at Westminster, on that day, commanding the verdict of a jury to be taken as to whether or not it would be to the harm of the King or his successors, if leave were granted to Sir Richard de Acton, knt., Hugh Penbrigg, John de Panes, Henry Fforde, John Torney of Wolvynton, Walter Laurence, Robert Scoville, William Scoville, Richard Ffraunkeleyn, Richard parson of the church of Wroxale, John parson of the church of Bakwell, and John parson of the church of Cameleye, to give and assign one messuage, seventy-two acres of arable land, and seven acres of meadow with appurtenances in Barouwe Gournay to the Prioress and Convent of Barouwe, for

* Esc. 35 Edw. III., (2nd nrs.) n. 20. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 178.

Pat. 35 Edw. III., p. 3. m. 30. Appendix, No. X.

† See the Author's History of Taunton Priory, pp. 49, 50; and his Ramble by the Tone, pp. 14-19.

‡ Esch. 35 Edw. III., n. 12. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 178.

providing a lamp which should be constantly burning in the Prioress's Church of Blessed Mary of Barouwe before the high altar, in honour of the Body of our Lord. They were further required, as usual, to state the tenure and service by which the said messuage, &c. were held, their value in all issues, the mesnes between the King and the aforesaid Richard and his fellows, and the lands that the donors would possess after the said donations, with their several ability of meeting the customary demands upon them in the shape of suits, views of frank-pledge, aids, tallages, &c. The inquest thus ordered was held at Bedmynstre, before the aforesaid Willam Cheyne, on the 10th of March, 1369-70; and the verdict contains a number of incidental particulars which can hardly be without interest to the Somersetshire historian. The jurors, Richard Cheyn, Thomas atte Mulle, William atte Pole, William Neel, John Bailly of Bourton, Thomas Ffair, John Sparkman, Henry Masseday, John Richeman, Richard Skappe, John Skut, and John Bysshopisworth, returned upon oath that it would not be to the harm of the King or his successors if such leave were granted. They further reported that the said messuage, land, &c. were held of John de Berkelee, son of Thomas de Berkelee, by military service; and that the said John held them of Edward le Despenser, by military service; and that the same Edward held them of the King in chief, by military service; that the lands were worth per annum in all issues forty shillings; that there were no more mesnes between the King and the aforesaid Richard, Hugh, John, Henry, and the rest: that there remained to the aforesaid Richard de Acton the Manor of Thornfaucon, with its appurtenances, held by him of John Mohoun of Dunsterr, by military service, and worth per annum in all issues x^{li}: that John de Panes held one messuage and one

carucate of land, with appurtenances, in Chattelee of John de Berkelee, by military service, worth per annum in all issues xl^s: that Henry Fforde held one messuage and one carucate of land, with appurtenances, in Fforde of the Prior of Bath, by military service, worth per annum in all issues lxxv^s viij^d: that John Torny of Wolvyngton held one messuage and one carucate of land in Wolvyngton of John Moigne, by military service, worth per annum in all issues lx^s: that Walter Laueraunce held one messuage and one carucate of land, with appurtenances, in Sprot-raggel of John Rodeney, by military service, worth per annum in all issues xl^s: that Robert Scovill held one messuage and one carucate of land, with appurtenances, at Claverton of Edward le Despenser, by military service, worth per annum in all issues four marcs: that William Scovill held one messuage and one carucate of land, with appurtenances, in Brokleghe of Robert de Asshtoun, by military service, worth per annum in all issues xxviiij^s iiij^d: that Richard Ffraunkleyn held one messuage and one carucate of land in Bacwell of John Rodeney, by military service, worth per annum in all issues xliij^s iiij^d: that these were sufficient for the customs and services as well of the aforesaid messuages, lands, &c., as of the other lands in their possession, and for sustaining all other burdens, as the writ required: and that no lands or tenements remained to the aforesaid Hugh, Richard parson of the church of Wroxhale, John parson of the church of Bacwell, and John parson of the church of Cameley, which were sufficient for sustaining the aforesaid burdens, as the writ required. In testimony whereof the jurors to this inquisition annexed their seals. Dated in the place, day, and year aforesaid.* The letters

* Inq. p. m. 44 Edw. III. (2 nrs.) n. 46. Appendix, XI. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, pp. 192, 193.

patent were granted accordingly, empowering both the givers and receivers to complete the transaction. They are couched in the usual language, and bear date, witness the King, at Westminster, the 12th of June, 1370.*

On the 9th of the following September, 1370, a writ was addressed, witness the King, at Westminster, to William Auncel, the eschaetor in the county of Gloucester, with the usual enquiries as to the gift by John Blanket, of Bristoll, of two messuages, two shops, and two gardens contiguous to the same shops, with their appurtenances, in the city and suburbs of Bristoll, to the Prioress and Convent of Nuns of Barwe, and their successors, for perpetually providing bread and wine for all masses at the high altar in the conventual Church of Barwe, and other works of piety for the health of the said John during his life, and for his soul after his decease, and for the souls of his parents and friends, and of all the faithful departed. To it were appended the usual questions relative to the service by which the lands were held, their yearly value, the mesnes, if any, the property still belonging to the said John, of whom held, and of what yearly value, &c. The inquest was held at Bristoll, on the 17th of the following month; and the jurors William Wike, Henry Godman, Robert Gratelee, Walter Stodleghe, Richard Carpenter, John Wattes, John Beste, John Pyntail, John Seymor, Thomas Graunt, Ralph Blanket, and Adam Stevenes, returned a favourable verdict. They added that the afore-said two messuages, shops, and gardens were held by the said John of the King in chief, by the service of free burgage, and that they were worth in all issues, according to their true value, lx^s a year. Also that John Blanket

* Pat. 44 Edw. III., p. 2, m. 23. Appendix, No. XII.

had tenements in Bristoll, beyond the aforesaid gift, which were held of the King in chief, by service of free burgage, and were worth c^s a year. That thus the said John had land and rents beyond the gift sufficient to meet all his customs, services and other burdens ; so that the country would not be damaged by his intended donation.* The letters patent were issued accordingly, empowering the aforesaid John Blanket to give, and the Prioress and Convent to receive the aforesaid property for the purposes above detailed. They are dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 4th of November, 1370.†

The Close Roll of the 49th year of Edward III. presents us with some additional information about the descent of the Manor of Barwe. I am particular in mentioning the various steps in the descent of this property, inasmuch as the Lords of the Manor were the patrons of the Priory. In the record now referred to it is set forth that John, son of Thomas Apadam, knt., remitted to Katherine Berkele, to John, her son, and his heirs male, and to Thomas de Berkele, Lord of Berkele, and his heirs, all right in the Castle and Manor of Beverston, and in the Manor of Overe, in the county of Gloucester, and in the Manor of Barwe, one messuage and four virgates of arable land in Tikenham, in the county of Somerset, and in the advowson of the church of Cherncote, in the county of Wilts.‡ The Manor of Barwe continued for upwards of a century with their descendants, the Berkleys of Beverston, and then passed into the family of Compton, as appears by

* Inq. ad q. d. 44 Edw. III., n. 7.

† Pat. 44 Edw. III., p. 3. m. 17. Appendix, No. XIII.

‡ Claus. 49 Edw. III., m. 34. MS. Harl. 1176, p. 102.

an inquisition, dated at Yevell, the 22nd of January, 20 Hen. VIII., 1528-9.*

Although not strictly in the line of our subject, yet, as illustrative of the place and neighbourhood, I may record the fact that the Bassets were at this period holders of property at Barwe, under the great family of Le Spencer. On the 12th of February, in the 5th year of Richard II., 1381-2, a writ was addressed, witness the King, at Westminster, to John Radeston, the eschaetor, and in pursuance thereof an inquest was held at Wells, on the Monday next after the feast of S. James, in the 6th year of the same king, which is coincident with the 28th of July, 1382; when the jurors, Henry English, William Sambrook, Henry Chaumpeneys, Thomas de Coumbe, John atte Fforde, John Warde, John Lyghtfot, Walter Haywarde, John Dorcote, Edward Badefaunt, Thomas Botelle, and Thomas Tomekyns returned a verdict that John Basset held lands on the day that he died in Wynflyth, in Salford, Dondray, Barwe, Bakwell, Hasell, Rochell, and Ashton, but by what title they were ignorant, with the advowson of the Church of Wynflyth, of Edward le Spencer, as of the honor of Gloucester, by military service; that the value was ten pounds; that Margary was the daughter and next heir of the said John, and that the said John died on Thursday next after the feast of the Epiphany, in the 35th year of Edward III., or the 13th of January, 1361-2.† As the information contained in this return was not sufficiently explicit, a more circumstantial account was ordered by writ of *certiorari*, dated at Westminster, the 24th of January, 1382-3; and a very similar verdict was

* MS. Harl. 756, p. 70.

† Inq. p. m. 5 Ric. II. n. 8.

returned by the jurors John Eyr, William Wyke, John Saymor, John Mey, Henry Mey, John Yong, John Cockes, John Praty, John atte Hele, William Kyng, and others, dated at Wellys, on Saturday, the feast of S. Mark the Evangelist, the 25th of April, 1383.*

The third year of the reign of Henry IV. found the Sisters involved in a new trouble. The first notice of the circumstance is not a little significant. A jury returned for their verdict that Gilbert Harelyve gave to Johanna Panes, late Prioress of Barwe, and her successors for ever, a meadow in a close called Chapelmeade, containing eleven acres of meadow, in Burghgorney, but that the donation had been made without the royal licence.† Not long afterwards the matter assumed a more serious form, and the King was solicited to grant letters patent of pardon and condonation for the legal delinquency of which the Prioress and Convent had unwittingly been guilty. This document sets forth that in the time of the King's grandfather, King Edward III, Sir Richard de Acton, knt., deceased, and others, had obtained licence to give one messuage, seventy-two acres of arable land, and seven acres of meadow, &c., to the Prioress and Convent, for the maintenance of a certain lamp to be kept constantly burning before the high altar in the Priory Church. We have already had the particulars before us. It then declares that subsequently to this transaction the Prioress and Convent supposing that a certain close called Chapelescroft, and one acre of land in Barouwe, which did not exceed the value of thirteen shillings and four pence a year, also given to the Prioress

* Inq. p. m., 6 Ric. II. n. 16. 13 Ric. II. n. 3., &c. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, pp. 215, 231. Rolls of Parliament, vol. iij. pp. 289, 461, 462, 463.

† Esc. 3 Henry IV. n. 8. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 305.

and Convent by the aforesaid Richard by his charter under the name of "all that land and meadow lying in a certain close called Chapelescroft in Barouwe Gournay with its appurtenances, and one acre of land with appurtenances in the same vill of Barouwe, which acre extendeth itself in length to the park of the said vill," were comprehended in the aforesaid licence, when they were not, had, under colour of such licence, entered upon, and held, and occupied the land, and appropriated the issues and profits thence accruing. That this had continued, until the King's late eschaetor, John Manyngford, had taken the aforesaid close and acre into the King's hands for the reason specified. Upon this, as the document proceeds to show, the Prioress and Convent humbly sued the King's grace in their behalf, and solicited pardon for their unlicensed appropriation and occupation of the land and receipt of its profits. The letters patent convey to them the King's condonation, and remission of the forfeiture of the property thus incurred, and his licence for the future possession of the close and acre aforesaid, together with all the issues and profits derived from the same, by them and their successors towards their maintenance for ever. The letters conclude with the usual reservations, and are dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 29th of November, 1403.*

Margery Ffitz Nichol was Prioress in 1410, but was then, as it would appear, of advanced age and precarious health. From a commission addressed by Bishop Nicholas Bubwith to John Hody, precentor of Wells, and John Tissebury, canon, we learn that she petitioned the Bishop, for certain true and lawful causes, to be released entirely from the care, government, and administration of her office,

* Pat. 5 Hen. IV. p. 1. m. 20. Appendix, No. XIV.

that she might be more free to serve God in quiet of spirit, and prayed his gracious consent to this her desire. He confided to these ecclesiastics the task of assigning and authorising a lawful and competent portion for her living and maintenance. The commission was sealed and dated in the episcopal Manor of Dogmersfeld, on the 2nd of September, 1410, and the third year of the Bishop's translation.* The government of this and similar establishments was by no means a work of ease, and the repugnance which we remark to have been oftentimes expressed to the acceptance of such appointments was no mere affectation of humility, but the genuine dislike of a position, the responsibility attached to which was more than commensurate with its dignity.

I presume that the report of the Commissaries was favourable, and that the Prioress's petition was granted. Little more, however, than a year and a half afterwards, the matter again assumes an unpleasant aspect, in the shape of a judgment pronounced by the same Bishop on the late Prioress Margery for neglect of her duties. It certainly looks as if she considered that with the surrender of her office of Prioress she could relieve herself of her responsibilities as a Sister of the House. The Bishop informs her that it had lately come to his ears that she had refused, and was still in the habit of refusing, to observe and obey the regular observances of her order and profession, and that she had slothfully neglected and still did neglect punctual attendance on the hours both of night and day, when she could conveniently be present, to the danger of her soul and the manifest violation of the rule of her order aforesaid. He therefore commands and strictly

* Reg. Bubwith, f. xlb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 17.

enjoins her that for the future she pay due and proper attention to the hours both of night and day, according to the regular observances of her order and profession aforesaid, when she is able so to do, and that she by no means allow her old age or weakness of body to furnish cause of absence. The missive was dated at Keynsham, on or about the 14th of April, (as the previous entry is dated the 13th and the following the 16th of that month,) 1412.*

In the 2nd year of Henry V., 1415, Thomas, late Lord le Despenser, who died on the 5th of January, 1414-15, is returned as having held one knight's fee in Barowe, which the heirs of John Apadam sometime held.†

In the year 1416 a return was furnished to the collectors of the King's disme, which gives us some idea of the poverty of the House at that period. We learn that the Church of Barowe, in the Archdeaconry of Bath and Deanery of Radecliffe, appropriated to the Prioress and Nuns of Barowe, is not taxed nor accustomed to pay the tenth, nor is there in it a vicarage endowed. The same Prioress and Nuns are stated to have a certain annual pension of xxvj^s viij^d in the parish Church of Twyverton, in the said Archdeaconry and in the Deanery of Bath.‡

A long series of similar proofs of the poverty of the House will be furnished by its constant exemption from the payment of the King's disme. In answer to a brief for this collection, dated at Westminster, the 22nd of December, 1417, the Nuns of Barowe are declared exempt, together with those of Canyngton and Ivelchester.§

To a similar commission, bearing date the 20th of September, 1421, the Priory of Barogh, together with

* Reg. Bubw. f. lvij. Appendix, No. XV.

† Esc. 2 Hen. V., n. 14. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 312.

‡ Reg. Bubw., f. cxxviiijb.

§ Reg. Bubw., f. cxxxviiijb.

those of Canyngton and Staverdale, and the Hospitals of Bristol and Wells, are returned as excepted.*

In 1426 the Church of Barwe Monialium was valued at £4, or six marcs.†

We have already noticed that the Berkeleys were the patrons of the Priory, in right of their possession of the Manor of Barrow. Full proof of this is afforded by various inquisitions taken on the decease of the successive heads of the family. These are documents of considerable interest, and well worth giving in detail.

In answer to a writ dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 10th of March, in the 6th year of Henry VI., 1428, the jurors, Thomas Blaneford, John Lemington, John Lyte, Richard Arnell, William Chambrelayne, John Brympton, Walter Parsones, Richard Samiores, William Hoskynce, George Rusceley, Thomas Broun, and Robert Bryse, in an inquisition held at Bruton, on the 4th of May, before John Gregory, the eschaetor, returned that John de Berkele, chivaler, was formerly seised in his domain as in fee of the Manor of Barwe Gurnay, with its appurtenances, and of the advowson of the Priory of Nuns of Mynchenbarwe; and also of one carucate of arable land, containing in itself c acres, x acres of meadow, x acres of pasture, iiij^{xx} acres of timber trees, xxx acres of underwood; and of x messuages, and xxx shillings of rent, with appurtenances to the same Manor appertaining. That some time previous to his death, the said John de Berkele had leased and granted the said Manor, &c. to one Thomas Norton of Bristoll, merchant, to Cristina his wife, to Walter, and Thomas the younger, his surviving son, and to Thomas his elder son,

* Reg. Bubw., f. clxxxvjb.

† Reg. Stafford, f. viijb.

now deceased ; to be held by Thomas and Cristina for the term of their lives for a rent of xj^{li} payable yearly to the same John, his heirs and assigns, at the terms of Hokkeday and Michaelmas, in equal portions ; reserving always to the said John, his heirs and assigns, the advowson of the Priory aforesaid, a moiety of the perquisites of the Manor Court, a moiety of all fines, and herietts, and underwood, a moiety of all "Wayf and Straye," happening in any way within the said Manor, or a moiety of their profits, and the fees and timber of the said Manor. That Thomas Norton the father and Cristina, yet surviving, held the Manor of Barwe Gurnay by virtue of the delivery and concession aforesaid, exceptis perexceptis. That John de Berkele died seised in his domain as in the fee of the said advowson of the Priory, and of the said various moieties and woods. That the advowson of the Priory was of no value per annum : that the moiety of the perquisites of the Manor Court was worth per annum, beyond reprises, xx^d : that the moiety of the fines, herietts, "Wayf and Straye" was worth per annum in all issues, beyond reprises, ij^s : and that the timber aforesaid was of no value per annum beyond reprises. That John de Berkele died on the 5th of March last past, and that Maurice was his son and next heir, and was of the age of xxx years and upwards.*

By virtue of a mandate, issued at Dogmersfeld, the last day of December, 1432, a subsidy of two pence in the pound was levied on all ecclesiastical benefices, for the Council of Basle. The pension of the Nuns of Barwe in the Church of Twyverton is duly set forth. †

* Inq. p. m. 6 Hen. VI., n. 50. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, p. 331.

† Reg. Staff. f. lxxxij. MS. Harl. 6822. f. 174b.

The same year witnessed a change in the government of the House. John Stafford, Bishop of Bath and Wells, addressed in very complimentary and gracious terms a letter to Johanna Stabler, Nun of the Priory of Barwe, expressly professed, informing her that he had received abundant commendation of her manners and deserts, and that he was thereby moved to show her liberal favour. He then proceeds to acquaint her that, by reason of length of vacancy, the right of nomination to the office of Prioress having devolved upon him by law, in conformity with the statutes of a Lateran Council, he, with an earnest desire to promote the good of the Priory and to prevent the evils of a still longer interval, conferred upon her the office, with all its rights and appurtenances, and committed to her the government, care, and administration of the House in spirituals and temporals. The letter was dated at the Bishop's Inn in London, the 20th of May, 1432.* The lady's name was not unknown to earlier ecclesiastical annalists. A William de Stabler was vicar of Englescombe on the 18th of May, 1315.†

The good Prioress was called to preside over a very poor community. Too certain evidence of this fact is presented by the frequent repetition of exemptions from payment of the King's dime. The House is thus returned in answers of the Bishop, dated at Dogmersfeld, on the 20th of April, 1435 ;‡ at his Inn in London, on the 6th of February, 1437-8 ;§ at the same place, on the 2nd of May, 1440 ;|| at Woky, on the 26th of September, 1450 ;¶ at the Palace at Wells, on the 1st of October, 1453 ;** at

* Reg. Staff. f. lxxvb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 43.

† Reg. Drok. f. lxxxxb.

‡ Reg. Staff. ff. cxjb, cxij.

§ Reg. Staff. f. cxlj.

|| Reg. Staff. f. cxlvijb.

¶ Reg. Bek. ff. cxvijb., cxviii.

** Reg. Bek. f. olxvb.

Wells, in reply to a writ of King Edward IV., dated at Westminster, on the 9th of August, 1461, where the King urges on the collectors the consideration of "the greet burthens and charges that resten upon us and daily must for the common weel," and that therefore they "certifie noon excepcions saue oonly suche as of verraye necessite and pitee most and oweth to be certified;"* and at the Palace of Wells, on the 11th of January, 1462-3.†

Isabella, late Countess of Warwick, held, 18 Hen. VI., one knight's fee in Barowe, which the heirs of John Apadam sometime held; and Henry de Beauchamp held the same at his death, 24 Hen. VI.‡

In the notice of a subsidy demanded of the Clergy in 1445, in aid of the King against the Saracens and Turks, the Nuns are stated to have a pension in the Church of Barowe, and that such pension was then taxed in two pence.§ We have already seen, and shall notice from a document to be subsequently offered to the reader, that the Church of Barrow was appropriated to them, though when so appropriated, and how served, there is no certain evidence to show.

We here catch another glimpse of the regular routine of conventual life. Quietness and order were with rare exceptions its common characteristics, jointly hallowed and enlivened by the occurrence of such solemnities as those to which the present notice introduces us. On the 3rd of February, 1462-3, Thomas Bekynton, Bishop of Bath and Wells, addressed from his Palace at Wells a Commission to John Erl, chaplain, rector of the parish Church of Bacwell, empowering him to receive, in his

* Reg. Bekynton, ff. cclxviijb., cclxviijb.

† Reg. Bek. f. cclxxxj. ‡ MS. Harl. 4120. pp. 350, 357.

§ Reg. Bek. f. xxixb.

stead and by his authority, on some convenient day which the said John was to determine, the professions of Sibilla Prest and Isabella Bacwell, Sisters of the House, and to see that these ladies were publicly and expressly professed, in accordance with the canonical statutes and regular observances of the said Priory.*

Collinson, in his sketch of the history of the place, gives the name of Agnes Leveregge as Prioress in 1463,† and the last Editors of Dugdale, who have done little more than copy his account, have taken him as authority for the fact. Unfortunately he does not furnish us with any reference for the accuracy of his statement; and it must, I fear, be considered doubtful, as the Episcopal Registers make no mention of her, and Tanner and Archer are equally silent.

Again we have certificates of exemption, in favour of the Nuns of Barowe, from payment of the disme, dated at the Bishop's Palace at Wells, on the 9th of January, 1463-4;‡ at his Inn in London, outside Temple Bar, on the 10th of November, 1468;§ at the same place, on the 3rd of August, 1472;|| at the same place, on the 21st of April, 1475;¶ at Wells, on the 2nd of June, 1485; ** and at the same place, on the 7th of May, 1487.††

The two following documents carry on the proof of the possession of the advowson of the Priory by the family of Berkeley. I scarcely need suggest to the reader their importance and value.

In obedience to a writ, dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 12th of May, 38th of Henry VI., 1460, addressed to the Eschaetor of Somerset and Dorset, an

* Reg. Bek. f. cclxxxij.

† Hist. of Somerset, vol. ij., p. 311.

‡ Reg. Bek. f. cclxxxviiijb.

§ Reg. Stillington, f. xxx.

|| Reg. Still. f. lxxxiiijb.

¶ Reg. Still. f. xcvij.

** Reg. Still. f. cxixvijb.

†† Reg. Still. f. cxlb.

inquisition was taken at Henstryge, on the last day but one of the same month, before Peter Baunfeld, Esq., and the jurors, John Henxtrygge, Thomas Sylver, John Lange, Nicholas Benett, William Gyldon, Thomas Russell, William Loote, John Brayn, William Letteford, John Sparowe, John Gybbis, and Henry Garnade, presented on oath that Maurice Berkeley, late of Beverston, in the county of Gloucester, knt., held on the day of his death the Manor of Barowe Gurnay, with its appurtenances, and the advowson of the Priory of Nuns of Mynchynbarowe, to the same manor appertaining ; and that the said manor was held of Edward Nevill, Esq., as of the honor of Gloucester, by the service of half a knight's fee for all services, and was worth per annum in all issues beyond reprises iiiij^{li} : that the said Maurice died on the 5th of May last past, and that Maurice Berkeley, of Bettesthorn, in the county of Southampton, Esq., was the son and next heir of the said Maurice, and was of the age of twenty-six years and upwards.*

The end of an interval of fourteen years saw another head of the family in his grave.

In answer to a writ dated, witness the King, at Westminster, on the 14th of May, in the 14th year of Edward IV., 1474, addressed to the Eschaetor of Somerset and Dorset, an inquisition was taken at Taunton, on the 31st of the following October, before Richard Vouwell, the Eschaetor ; and the jurors, John Hygons, Esq., John Gilbert, Esq., John Bonvyle, Esq., John Mauncell, John Irlond, Richard Crypse, John Rede, John Tracy, John Chafy, John Ffourde, John Walford and Thomas Walton, returned on their oath that Maurice Berkeley, of Beverston,

* Inq. p. m. 38-39 Hen. VI. n. 57. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, p. 369.

knight, held on the day of his death the Manor of Barow Gurney, with its appurtenances, in the aforesaid county, and the advowson of the Priory of Nuns of Mynchynbarow, to the same Manor appertaining; and also one carucate of land, containing in itself a hundred acres of arable land, ten acres of meadow, ten acres of pasture, eighty acres of timber trees, and thirty acres of underwood, with appurtenances, of all of which he had died seised; that the manor, advowson, and carucate of land, with their appurtenances, were worth per annum in all their issues, beyond reprises and burdens, vj^{li} xiijs ^{iij^d}, and were held of George Duke of Clarence, by fealty only for all services; that the said Maurice died on the 26th of March last past,* and that William Berkely, Esq., was the son and next heir of the aforesaid Maurice, and was of the age of twenty-three years and upwards.†

Barowe received another Prioress in the earlier part of the year 1501-2. On the 22nd of March in that year was exhibited, in the Conventual Church of the Priory of the Holy Trinity of Mynchon Barowe, the election of Dame Isabella Cogan, Sister and Nun of that Priory, to the place and office of Prioress of the House aforesaid. She was confirmed in her office by John Pykman, LL.D., the Bishop's Commissary. The elect took the regular oath of canonical obedience; and forthwith the said John Pykman, Archdeacon of Bath, installed the said Dame Isabella, and inducted her into real and corporal possession of the said Priory.‡ This is the only instance that I am

* In the inquisition for property in the county of Devon, it is, "on the Saturday next after the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M. last past," which was in that year coincident with the former date.

† Inq. p. m. 14 Edw. IV., n. 41. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, p. 392.

‡ Reg. King, f. 39. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 174.

acquainted with of the statement that the Priory was dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

Ralph Bee was curate of Mynchynbarowe, on the 1st of February, 1510-11, and was one of a jury which then gave a verdict in reference to the contested right of the patronage of the Church of Backwell.*

The Priory presented, on one occasion at least, a clerk for Holy Orders. On Ember Saturday, the 7th of March, 1515-6, at an Ordination in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister at Wells, "per Thomam Solubrien' Ep'm," Robert Durant, of the Diocese of Bath and Wells, was admitted to the Order of Sub-Deacon, "ad titulum Prioratus de Mynchynbarow," of the same Diocese.†

On the 16th of March, 1533-4, a transaction occurred to which reference will have to be repeatedly made. On that day Isabella Cogan, Prioress of the House of Nuns of Blessed Mary, Virgin, and of S. Edward, King and Martyr, of Mynchynbarowe, and the Convent of the same leased to farm to John Babor, of Chewestoke, their Rectory of Twyverton, and their tithe-barn, with all and every kind of tithes both of corn and hay as of all other tithes, oblations, obventions, and profits whatsoever appertaining to the said Rectory. The terms of the lease are suggestive of some previous loan on the part of the lessee. The said John Babor and his assigns were to enter on possession from the feast of the Annunciation next ensuing, and were to have and hold the property for and to the end of the full term of sixty years after the date of those presents. They were to pay to the Prioress and Convent every year during the first ten of the aforesaid sixty years, one penny at the

* Reg. Adrian, f. lxxxxiiij.

† Reg. Adrian, ad fin.

feast of the Annunciation, if it should be demanded. At the end of the ten years, and onwards throughout the remainder of the term, they were to pay yearly the sum of twenty shillings, of good and lawful English money, in equal portions at the two usual terms of the year, Michaelmas and the Annunciation, for all services save the service of the King. John Babor and his assigns, and each of them, were well and competently to repair the tithe-barn aforesaid during the term, at their own proper cost and expence. If the aforesaid rent of twenty shillings were in arrear in part or in all for fifteen days after either feast, and duly demanded, it was then to be lawful for the Prioress and Convent and their successors to enter into the said tithe-barn and distrain, and the distress so taken to carry away, and impound, and retain in their possession, until the rent with arrears, if any, should be fully contented and paid. If the rent were to continue in arrear and unpaid in part or in all for four months after either feast, and duly demanded, it should then be lawful for the aforesaid Prioress and Convent and their successors to re-enter on the possession of the tithe-barn, and totally to expel and eject from the same the said John Babor and his assigns, and to retain the property as they had done before, the present lease notwithstanding. The instrument concluded with the usual warranty, acquittance, and defence of the lessee against all persons whatsoever. Two copies were prepared, one, to which the Conventual seal was appended, to remain in the possession of John Babor, and the other, bearing his seal, to remain with the Prioress and Convent. It was dated in their Chapter House, on the 16th of March, in the twenty-fifth year of King Henry VIII, 1533-4. The lease was allowed, with the usual proviso against fraud on the part of the petitioner, by the Court of Aug-

mentations, in Michaelmas term, the 27th of November, 1542.*

Before the end of the same year the acknowledgment of the King's Supremacy was forced upon the Religious Orders. The document, however, by which the House declared its assent has not been preserved.

This would appear to have been the last official act of Prioress Isabella Cogan in secular matters before her resignation, which took place in the August of the following year. She has been incorrectly given as the last Prioress of the House, although, as we shall see, there is abundance of proof to the contrary. On the 30th of August, 1535, Katherine Bowle, the lady who had been elected to supply her place, and Convent gave a bond to the late Prioress, called in the deed "Elizabeth Cogan, nuper dicti Monasterii Priorissa," and to Sir Edward George, knt., obliging themselves, by a penalty of one hundred pounds sterling, to perform as follows. At this point the document proceeds in English, and I cannot do better than to let it speak for itself. "The condicion of this obligacion is suche that if the w^tinbounden Prioress and Covent and their successours or their assignes do paye or cause to be payde vnto the above-named dame Elizabeth Cogan or Edward George knight or to their executours or lawfull attorneys or deputies yerely duryng the naturall lyfe of the foresaid Elizabeth Cogan foure poundes st^rling money of Englund Within the p^yshe Church of Wraxall in the said Countie of Som^r's' in maner and fourme folowyng that is to saye at the feast of Seynt Michell tharchaungell twenty shyllinges† at the Natiuitie of our lorde Jesu

* Off. Augment. Miscell. Voll. n. 103. (Orders and Decrees, vol. XIII.) ff. 108, 108b. Appendix, No. XVI.

† The letters in italics are expressed in the original by marks of contraction.

Chryst twenty shyllynges and at the Annu'ciacion of our lady the Virgyn twenty shyllynges And at the Natiuitie of Seynt John the Baptyst twenty shillynges And so from yere to yere and from quarter to quarter duryng the naturall lyfe of the said Dame Elizabeth Cogan So that at euery payment the said dame Elizabeth Cogan or Edward George knyght or their attorney to delyuer to the forsaid Priores and Covent or to their successours or assignes a lawful and a sufficient acquittaunce for the paymentes thereof Then this present obligacion to be voyde and of no strenght nor effecte And if any defaulte of the said yerely pencion of foure poundes sterlyng to be vnpaide in parte or in all by the space of one moneth after any of the said feastes which it ought to be paide contrary to the fourme aforesaid if it be lawfully requyred or demaunded that then it shalbe leful to the said dame Elizabeth Cogan or Edward George knyght or their executours or assignes to enter into all and euery parcell of the demeanes to the said Monastery apperteynyng to distreyne and the same distresse to take cary and bere away vnto the tyme the said somme be fully contentyd and paide That then this present obligacion to stande in his full strenght and virtue" On due examination that this document was bonâ fide and genuine, the Court of Augmentations allowed the same on the 20th of October, in Michaelmas term, 1537, and ordered the said sum of four pounds to be paid yearly to the said Elizabeth during her life, together with four pounds for arrears due to the said Elizabeth for the year ending at the feast of S. Michael last past, to be paid by the King's Receiver of the issues, &c. of the lands and possessions of the late Monastery.*

* Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 92. (Orders and Decrees, Vol. II.) ff. 3, 3b.

With this act Prioress Katherine Bowle, Howell, Boule, or Bulle, inaugurated her Conventual reign, which, short though it was, was destined to witness so many and sweeping changes before its compulsory termination.

Before the end of the year the well-known "Valor" was taken of the Conventual property, which enabled the King to adjust with accuracy the amount of the pressure to be in the first instance inflicted on his victims, and, not the less, to estimate the value of the future spoil. The document is necessarily of considerable interest and importance, as exhibiting the precise state of the possessions of the House immediately before the Dissolution. I have, as before, given it in exact translation, and have arranged the items with more regard to modern eyes than as they stand in the original return.

DEANERY OF REDECLYFF.

PRIORY OF MYNCHYNBAROW.

Declaration of the Annual Value of all the Lands and Possessions, as well temporal as spiritual, to the aforesaid Priory belonging; namely, as they were taxed by Henry Capell, Knt., and the other Commissioners of our Lord the King as above, and in the time of Katerine Boule, now Prioress there.

MYNCHYNBAROW.

Value in Rents of all Tenants	}	£ s d
there per annum .. vij ^{li} iiijs iiijd		
Demesne Lands in the hand of the said Prioress remaining, as shown by iiij trustworthy men cjs iiijd		
So clear		

BRISTOW.

Value in Rents of all Tenants			
there per annum	..	lxxxj ^s xj ^d	
On the other side :—			
For a Rent resolute to the Mayor			
of the City there	..	vj ^s viij ^d	lxxiiij ^s ix ^d
For a Rent resolute “p’ long’ lez			
cabyll’ ” there yearly	..	xviij ^d	
So clear			

WELLS.

Value in Rents of all Tenants			
there per annum	..	iiij ^{li} xvj ^s x ^d	
For Twyverton	..	vj ^d	
On the other side :—			iiij ^{li} xij ^s iiij ^d
For a Rent resolute to John			
Brynscom, bailiff there	..	v ^s	
So clear			

SPIRITUALS, AS UNDER.

BAROW PARSONAGE.

Value in Issues or Profits of the			
Rectory there per annum,			
as in preceeding year	vj ^{li} xiiij ^s iiij ^d	£	s d
Oblations, with personal Tithes		vij	xiiij xj ob
and other Casualties falling			
at Easter, in common years	xlj ^s vij ^d ob		
Sum			

£ s d

Sum total of the value of the aforesaid
temporals and spirituals :— .. xxix vj viij ob

From this

FEES, WITH OTHER ALLOWANCES.

Fee of Edward Beynton, chief Steward	£	s	d
there		xx	
Rent resolute to the Prior of Criste- churche yearly			xviiij
Rent resolute to the Mayor of the City of Wells, per annum		iiij	iiij
Paid to the Bishop of Bath, as for pro- curations yearly		vij	vj ob'q'
Paid yearly to a certain Chaplain there celebrating Divine Service ..		iiij	
Sum of the Allowances aforesaid ..		cxij	iiij ob'q'
And so there remains clear after all deductions	£	s	d
		xxiiij	xiiij iiij ob'q'
The Tithe from thence		xlviij	v q'*

The next step will bring us to the outrage which con-
signed these possessions to other owners. But before that
step is taken, and while the old aspect of the House is still
before us, a few words on some of its characteristics will
not be out of place.

In my History of Canyngton Priory I endeavoured to
show the reader that the modern notion of the rigid and
perpetual enclosure of Nuns within the walls of their
House is altogether erroneous. Considerable latitude was
allowed in their intercourse with the neighbourhood, and
the only restrictions imposed on them were such as a due
regard to their safety and good name suggested and neces-
sitated. At a previous page this is clearly brought out in

* Val. Com. Somers. f. 56. Val. Eccl. j. p. 183. MS. Harl. 701. f. 104b.

the Bishop's injunctions to the Prioress, to which reference was made in the History of the Canyngton Sisterhood, where the reader will find an additional example derived from the records of a neighbouring Diocese, even more directly affirmatory of the fact.

I hardly need draw attention to the frequency with which ladies of rank and position were found in these communities. Mynchin Buckland and Canyngton have already supplied instances, and Mynchin Barrow was no less distinguished. This would, doubtless, be more fully proved by individual examples, had time shown greater mercy towards the records of the House. As it is, however, the fact is certain. Johanna de Gournay, Basilia de Sutton, Elizabeth Fitz Richard, and Isabella Cogan of Mynchin Barrow, were parallels to Isabella de Berkeley, Alianor de Acton, Katharine de Erlegh, Katharine Boucher, and Katharine Popham of Mynchin Buckland, and to Matilda de Morton, Johanna de Bere, Lucy de Popham, Avice de Reigners, and Cecilia de Vernai of the neighbouring Sisterhood.

The kind and vigilant supervision of the House by the Diocesan and his officials cannot possibly have escaped the reader's attention. The former, and the latter when deputed by him, had the power of visiting the Religious Houses, and appear to have considered it a duty of the greatest importance to make a frequent and minute inspection of their state. This occasionally resulted in those monitions, addressed either to the Superiors of the Houses themselves or to certain officers whom the Bishop selected in their stead, of which the Episcopal Registers furnish so many and interesting examples. It is, however, as I have observed on more than one former occasion, very pleasing to remark, that, although many and watchful eyes were

around these Communities, and no endeavour was made to conceal irregularities, but rather on the contrary to detect and expose them, fewer instances of the lower and grosser vices are observable, either than what might by many be supposed antecedently probable, or than what the ignorance and conscious laxity of modern times have studiously attempted to fasten upon them, and, let me not forget to add, have exhibited a foul delight when such endeavours have achieved a measure, how slight and miserable soever, of apparent success.

A comparison of the ceremonial in the election of Superiors given at an earlier page with that related in the History of Canyngton, would furnish the reader with tolerably certain proof, even in the absence of other authority, that the order observed on these solemn occasions was as nearly as possible identical. This may be briefly described as follows. On the occasion of a vacancy by death, the body of the deceased Superior was after a very brief interval consigned to the grave. Application was forthwith made by the Community to the Patron, who was either of the family of the founder, or his representative in office or descent of property, for licence to elect a successor. On the receipt of this, the officer highest in rank convened the members of the House, who then and there appointed a day for the election. On the day fixed upon they met in their Conventual Church, and the mass "de Spiritu Sancto" was sung, imploring Divine aid in their subsequent deliberations. Service over, they assembled in their Chapter House. After a preliminary exhortation, the names of all who had a right to vote were read over. One of the Community was then appointed their procurator, who accordingly conducted the business of the election. The hymn "Veni Creator" was chanted, and the procurator solemnly

commanded all who were under ecclesiastical censure or interdict to depart forthwith. Next came the reading of the patron's licence, then that of the twenty-fourth canon of the fourth council of Lateran, which orders that all elections shall be made either by scrutiny of votes; by compromise, or surrender by the members of their right of voting to certain of their community; or, lastly, by inspiration, unanimous agreement and affirmation. The first was of course the most usual, and in that case two or more of the members were selected as scrutators to take the votes, reduce them to writing, and read aloud the result. On examination of these, one of the scrutators announced to the House the election which had been made. "Te Deum" was then sung, the elect was carried to the high altar, and the election announced to the crowd of clergy and people commonly assembled on these occasions. It was then notified to the elect, and the assent of the same was requested. This was not immediately given, but, after a few hours' deliberation solicited and obtained, the Divine will, as signified by the previous election, was in general submitted to and the assent of the elect usually accorded. The official report of the proceedings by a notary was then forwarded to the Bishop and Patron for their approval and confirmation. A commission was thereupon ordered by the Bishop to examine into the circumstances of the election, and, if a favourable answer were returned, a day was appointed for receiving the oath of subjection to the Diocesan, which was immediately followed by confirmation of the elect, induction into corporal possession of the House, and a monition to its members to pay their new Superior due and canonical obedience.

So far as they can now be recovered, the names of the ladies who were thus distinguished were as follow. I refer

the reader to our earlier pages for the details relating to each :—

1. Johanna de Gournay, 1316.
2. Agnes de Sancta Cruce, 1325.
3. Basilia de Sutton, 1328.
4. Juliana de Groundy, 1340.
5. Agnes Balun, 1348.
6. Margery Fitz Nichol, 1410.
7. Johanna Stabler, 1432.
8. Agnes Leveregge, 1463 (?)
9. Isabella Cogan, 1502.
10. Katherine Bowle, Boule, or Bulle, 1535.

Agnes de Sancta Cruce was Sub-Prioress in 1325, and Milburga Dourneford in 1340.

So far as I can discover, there were no Vicars of Barrow, but the Church was served by a Chaplain, appointed by the Prioress and Convent. This would appear certain from the return made in the year 1416, already given, and from the notice of the Chaplain's stipend, with which also the reader has been furnished, in the "Valor" of 1535. Ralph Bee was Curate in 1511, and, probably, Robert Durant in 1516.

We will now proceed with the History of the House.

The "Valor," as we have seen, was taken in the later part of the year 1535. It was but one, and that a very short, step between the compilation of these tempting returns and the spoliation for which they furnished data at once accurate and complete. Mynchinbarrow, which from the smallness of its revenues was among those lesser Houses whose Dissolution was first decreed, had but a brief respite from the grip of the spoiler. On the 26th of May, 1536, as I have discovered from a most important

document presently to be submitted to the reader's notice, the King's Commissioners arrived at the Convent, and forthwith took into their hands the superintendence of the estates and revenues. From the same authority we learn that the formal act of Dissolution and Suppression took place on the 19th of the following September, 1536. Similar atrocities were being committed on all sides. The scene at Mynchinbarrow was re-enacted at Canyngton only four days afterwards.

In previous histories of Religious Houses I have recounted with more or less detail the odious doings of that horrible time, and to them I must refer those of my readers who choose to know either the events themselves or my estimate of the same.

I am unable to furnish a list of the Sisters at the period of the Dissolution. I have searched for it with no little care, but, unfortunately, up to this time in vain among the records of the Court of Augmentations, and have no hope of its existence. But I have found an order for a pension to the Prioress Katerina Bulle, by which she is to receive an annuity or annual pension of one hundred shillings sterling, from the time of the Dissolution and Suppression of the Priory, for the term of her life, to be paid by the hands of the Treasurer of the Court of Augmentations for the time being, at the feasts of the Annunciation and of S. Michael the Archangel in equal portions. The document is precisely similar to that which was made in favour of the Prioress of Canyngton, the original of which will be found in the Appendix to that History, No. X. It was signed by "Richard Riche, Tho. Pope, John Onley, and Robert Sowthwell," four names of evil notoriety, and

is dated the 14th of February, the 28th of Henry VIII., 1536-7.*

There is no mention of the Sisters—nor, indeed, of any Steward or other lay Officer of the House—in the Pension Book of Cardinal Pole ; but whether the Nuns died in the interim between the date of the Dissolution and the compilation of that Record, the 3rd and 4th of Philip and Mary, I am unable to determine. No doubt their troubles were severe enough to shorten lives more likely to be protracted and to weaken frames more vigorous than those of the unhappy and innocent sufferers, thus inhumanly consigned to a fate from which their previous existence would induce them to instinctively shrink with horror, and whose subsequent experience was one of interminable regret for a blessing departed and beyond recall.

I have already said that the King's Commissioners were in possession of the Estates for several months previous to the final act of Dissolution and Suppression. From the day of their arrival they had to keep an accurate account of income and expenditure, to be submitted at certain intervals to the new appropriator. The first document connected with these transactions has now to be offered in detail. It formed the groundwork of all subsequent proceedings in the transfer of the property, either by lease or by sale, and it is impossible to over-rate the importance of its statements. It possesses all, and far more than, the interest of the "Valor" previously examined, and supplies us with a multitude of minute details which the compilers of that return did not think necessary to include, but which have for us the greatest possible value. It is the "Ministers' Accounts," in other words the

* Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 244. n. 112. Appendix, No. XVII.

Return made by the Crown Officers of the state, value, tenants, &c., of the lands of which the Crown had lately taken possession, from the 4th of February, 1535-6, to the Michaelmas following. I have arranged it in something of a more easily intelligible form than that in which it is presented in the original, but I have endeavoured by close translation to preserve its archaic character; not only because nothing would be gained by modernising my authority, but also from a desire to make the reader acquainted with the manner in which ancient accounts of this kind are elaborated, and with the consequent minuteness of detail which is their precious characteristic. I hardly need repeat that the whole deserves a most careful examination, as furnishing a number of particulars which will be sought for in vain from any other document now extant.

THE ACCOUNT OF ALL AND SINGULAR BAILIFFS, PROVOSTS, FARMERS, and other Ministers of Account, of all and singular manors, lands, tenements, rectories, portions, pensions, and other possessions whatsoever of our Lord the King, as well spiritual as temporal, to the said late Priory now dissolved and suppressed pertaining or belonging, &c., by the authority of a certain Act of Parliament held at Westminster, on the 4th day of February, in the 27th year of King Henry VIII., &c., to the 14th day of April then next following: NAMELY from the said 4th day of February, in the said 27th year, to the feast of S. Michael the Archangel then next following, in the 28th year of the aforesaid King; that is to say, for half of one year, six weeks and six days, as below appeareth:—

PRIORY OF MYNCHYNBAROWE.

MYNCHYNBAROWE THE ACCOUNT of — Drewe, farmer
 MANOR WITH there.

RECTORY.

ARREARS.—None, as it is his first Account.

FARM Rent of xxviii acres of arable Land at
 OF SITE OF vjd the acre, xxvj acres of meadow at divers
 MANOR, rates, and rent of xlviij acres of pasture at
 WITH xij^d the acre, thus valued and leased by the
 RECTORY. Commissioners of our Lord the King, pay-
 able at the feasts of the Annunciation of
 the B.V.M. and S. Michael the Archangel,
 equally, as appeareth by the valor then taken
 by the same Commissioners examined with
 this account cjs^s iiijd^d

Farm of tithes of corn, wool, lambs, and
 other profits arising or increasing from the
 Rectory there, thus valued and leased by
 the aforesaid Commissioners, thus payable
 at the aforesaid feasts in equal portions, as
 appeareth, &c. .. viij^{li} xiiij^s xjd^d ob.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS aforesaid :—
 xiiij^{li} xvjs^s iij^d ob.

Of which he is disburdened as follows :—
 Of a moiety of the farm of the site and
 Rectory aforesaid, for half a year ended at
 the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M.,
 within the period of this Account; because
 Katerine Bowle, the late Prioress there, had
 and held the site of the aforesaid Manor, to-
 gether with the Rectory and all their com-
 modities and advantages in her own proper

hands for the use and commodity of her House there for the same time : so that no profit thence arrives to the hands of the said Accountant, as is sufficiently evident to the Commissioners aforesaid . . . vj^{li} xvj^s j^d ob q^d.

Paid to Thomas Arundell, Knt., Receiver of our Lord the King, of the issues of the farm of the site of the Manor aforesaid, with appurtenances, without bill, but by his own recognizance l^s vj^d

AND HE OWES :—iiij^{li} ix^s vij^d ob. q^d.

MYNCHYNBAROWE THE ACCOUNT of John Dawbeney,
COLLECTOR. collector of Rents there.

ARREARS.—None, as it is his first Account.

RENTS Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of
OF ASSIZE. John Crewe, per annum, payable at the festivals of the Annunciation of the B.V.M. and S. Michael the Archangel, equally, as appeareth by the renewed rental exhibited and examined with this Account xxxiiij^s iiij^d

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Margaret Crosse, per annum, payable as above xx^s

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Richard Stepheynes, per annum, payable as above xiiij^s

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Thomas Aleyn, per annum, payable as above v^s

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Walle, per annum, payable as above vij^s iiij^d

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Hithcok, per annum, payable as above iij^s viij^d

Rent of one tenement in the tenure of John Stepheyns, per annum, payable as above xvij^s

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Isabella Broke, per annum, payable as above xiiij^s iiij^d

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of — Leuerage, per annum, payable as above iij^s

Free Rent of John Broune, for his land, per annum, payable as above .. . iij^s

Free Rent of John Gawdys, per annum, payable as above vj^s iiij^d

Rent of one close, in the tenure of Thomas Hoorte, per annum, payable as above xx^s

Rent of William Phippes, per annum, for certain land in his tenure there iij^s

Rent of one grove, in the tenure of Robert Hoorte, per annum, payable as above vi^d

Sum :—vij^{li} xiiij^s vj^d

RENTS OF Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of
ASSIZE John Wilkes, alias Chapman, payable as
IN BRYSTOW. above xxvj^s viij^d

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Peter Panton, payable as above x^s

Rent of a certain house called Storehouse, per annum, in the tenure of John Haule, payable as above x^s

Rent of two tenements, in the tenure of Thomas Stapilton, per annum, payable as above xxxj^s iiij^d

Rent of one garden there, in the tenure of John Broune, payable as above $\text{iijs } \text{iiij}^{\text{d}}$

Rent of one house there, called Cornerhouse, at Sainte Mary Hill, payable as above $\text{vjs } \text{viiij}^{\text{d}}$

Rent of one close there, in the tenure of Arthur Kemys, called Tryne Milles, payable as above ijs^{s}

Rent of one tenement there, called Sainte Jamys Bake, in the tenure of Roger Peny, payable as above ijs^{s}

Sum :— $\text{iiij}^{\text{li}} \text{ xij}^{\text{s}}$.

RENTS OF
ASSIZE
IN WELLYS.

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Joan Stoky, widow, payable as above viijs^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Joan Alowne, per annum, payable as above vjs^{s}

Rent of one garden there, in the tenure of John Sadler, payable as above .. ijs^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Brymston, payable as above viijs^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Mawdlyn, payable as above $\text{iijs}^{\text{s}} \text{ iiij}^{\text{d}}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Henry Pecok, payable as above vjs^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Richard Smyth, payable as above vs^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Robert Kyngesborowe, payable as above $\text{xxvjs}^{\text{s}} \text{ viij}^{\text{d}}$

Rent of one house, called Chamhouse, in the tenure of William Rede, payable as above iiijs^{s}

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Elizabeth Tresorer, payable as above x^s viij^d

Rent of one tenement in the tenure of William Shurlok, payable as above viij^s

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of William Shurlok, payable as above x^s

Sum :—iiij^{li} xvij^s viij^d.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS :—xvij^{li} iij^s ij^d
Out of which,

RESOLUTION OF RENT. A Rent resolute to the Mayor of Brystoll, out of land in Bristoll, per annum, as paid in the year preceding .. vj^s viij^d

A similar Rent resolute to the Church of Brystoll, out of the land aforesaid, per annum, by ancient custom, cancelled because not demanded this year viij^d

A similar Rent resolute to the Bishop of Bath, per annum, out of land in Welles, cancelled for reason aforesaid .. iij^s iiij^d

Sum :—vj^s viij^d.

FEEES OR STIPENDS. Fee or Stipend of the Accountant holding the office of Collector there for the time aforesaid, for the exercise of his office aforesaid during the same time, namely, in allowance of the same both for the exercise of his office aforesaid, as for his keep and expences in coming to render his Account, and for the renewing of the Rental there, &c. xx^s

Stipend of the Clerk of the Auditor, the writer of this Account, as usually allowed to the Auditors of our Lord the King, according to the force, form, and effect of a certain

Statute or Act of Parliament, holden at Westminster, &c., the 4th day of February, in the 27th year of Henry VIII., for the Establishment of the Court of Augmentations, &c. ij^s

Sum :—xxij^s.

SUM OF THE ALLOWANCES AFORESAID :—xxvij^s viij^d.

AND HE OWES :—xv^{li} xvij^s vj^d.

Of which he is disburdened, as follows :—Moneys received by Katerine Bowell, late Prioress there, of the issues of the aforesaid office, received for the use and necessity of her House, for the first half of this year, and expended in the same House before the first arrival of the Commissioners of our Lord the King thither, which was on the 26th day of May, in the said 28th year ; as to the same Commissioners not only by oath of the said Prioress, but also by due examination then and there made, was sufficiently evident. And he is charged in the account of the said Prioress x^{li} x^d ob.

Like moneys received by the same, out of the issues of the same office, to the necessary sustenance of her House aforesaid, from the said 26th day of May, to the Dissolution of the said Priory, which was on the 19th day of September, in the same 28th year ; that is to say, for the space of twenty weeks, from her own recognizance in the book of her receipts

for the same time, with this account examined xxxj^s vj^d*

AND HE OWES :—iiij^{li} ij^s jd ob.

WHICH he has paid to Thomas Arundell, Knt., &c., without bill, &c.

AND IT IS BALANCED.

TWYUERTON. THE ACCOUNT.

PORTION OF TITHES. Of a certain profit or sum of money arising from a portion of the tithes of the Rectory of Twyuerton, to the amount of xl^s per annum, according to what it was ordinarily leased for in preceding years, no receipts. Because the said portion with all its profits is now leased to one John Babor, of Chewe Stoke, in the County of Somerset, for a term of sixty years, paying for the ten first years one penny in each year, at the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M., if duly demanded, and, after the end of the said ten years, then paying yearly xx^s at the feast of S. Michael the Archangel, and the Annunciation of the B.V.M., in equal portions ; as appeareth by an Indenture under the conventual seal there, dated the 16th day of March, in the 25th year of Henry VIII. The present year is the third of his term. Therefore the place of the Council of the Court of Augmentations aforesaid—ideo locū Concil' Curi' Augment' p'dict' quid inde qz suppo'it^r esse Collus.'—because some collusion is supposed to be ——— (?)

A process to issue against the aforesaid Farmer.

* Ministers' Accounts, 27-28 Hen. VIII. Of. Augment.

Sum :—not any.*

It would seem, from the imperfect and obscure minute with which the return concludes, that Mr John Babor either suspected others, or, more likely, was himself suspected, of an attempt to mislead the Court, or to tamper with some of its officials. If the latter, we may be tolerably sure, from the “*fiat p'cessus v's p'dict' fir'*” as a defaulter appearing against him in the margin, that his endeavours were ineffectual. But, from our previous knowledge of the transaction, as well as from the fact that the lease was allowed by the Court of Augmentations in 1542, we have no need to suspect him of any such attempt. For the other side, indeed, the same can by no means be said. With them the imputing of evil was strictly natural. Robbers have vigilant eyes, and are ever suspicious of their neighbours' fingers.

Returns of a somewhat similar kind, but lacking the minuteness which gives interest and value to this, were made at intervals until the property was finally disposed of.† It is to the particulars of this transfer that I have now to solicit my reader's attention.

On the 20th of March, 1537, the 28th of Henry VIII., the scite of the late Priory, with all its houses, buildings, granaries, stables, dove-houses, pleasure grounds, orchards, gardens, and lands, lying within the scite and precinct of the same, together with twenty-eight acres of arable land more or less, twenty-six acres of meadow more or less, and twenty-eight acres of pasture more or less, belonging and appertaining to the late Priory, were leased in fee farm to John Drewe, of the city of Bristol, Esq. All timber trees, and under woods, and all such buildings within the scite

* Appendix, No. XVIII.

† Ministers' Accounts, to 37 Hen. VIII. Off. Augment.

and precinct of the said late monastery, as should afterwards be ordered by the King to be overthrown and removed, were excepted and reserved. The lease was to run from the Michaelmas last past, ten days subsequent to the Dissolution, unto the full term of twenty-one years next ensuing, and the annual rent was to be a hundred and one shillings and eight pence of lawful English money, to be paid in equal portions at the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M. and Michaelmas, or within one month after either feast. The payment of all rents, fees, and sums of money whatsoever, issuing from the property, together with the repairs of the premises both in timber and tiles and slates for the roofs, were to be always at the cost of the King and his successors during the aforesaid term, but the other repairs at the cost of the farmer. The latter was also to have sufficient hedgbote, ffyrebote, cartbote, and ploughbote, that is, the use of wood sufficient for these purposes, growing on the estate, and to be used thereon and not elsewhere.*

On the same day was leased to the said John Drewe the Rectory of the Parish Church of Mynchyngbarowe, together with all tithes, oblations, profits, obventions, and emoluments whatsoever, to the aforesaid Rectory appertaining or belonging. The timber and advowson of the vicarage, &c., were reserved. The term was for twenty-one years, from the same date as that of the lease of the scite, and the annual rent was eight pounds, fourteen shillings, and eleven pence, of lawful English money, to be paid as aforesaid. The lessee was to have the same perquisites as those enumerated in the former instrument, but was charged with the pay-

* Enrollments of Crown Leases, Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 209. f. 49 b. Miscell. Books, vol. 205. f. 25.

ment of the annual stipend of a Chaplain, performing Divine Offices, and serving the Cure in the Parish Church of Mynchynbarowe, which amounted to vj^{ii} .* It will be observed from the references that I have found a transcript of each of these leases still preserved among the Records of the Court of Augmentations.

In a copy of the Particulars for lease, given in the Appendix, the auditor, William Turnor, omits the amount of this payment, and merely adds the "Memorandum that the same parsonage is to be charged w^t the Stipend of a preste there oute of the same somme of viijⁱⁱ vij^s xj^d yerely."†

Long before the end of the term, as it would appear that the lessee was either unwilling or unable to purchase, the property passed by sale into other hands. In the 35th year of Henry VIII., it was requested for purchase by William Clerc, gentleman; and, as the documents furnish us with an excellent specimen of the mode usually resorted to on these occasions, it will be well to exhibit the particulars of the transaction in some detail. The memorandum, which was the first step in the negociation, sets forth "that I William Clerc desire to haue of the Kinges maiestie by weye of grant and purchace the Scite and Demeanes of the late priorie of Mynchinbarowe in the countie of Somerset and other the premisses being of the clere yerely value of fiftein poundes eightein shillinges and a penny, that is to say, the tenth therof not deducted to the Rate mencioned in the particulars hereunto annexed. In witnes wherof I the saide William Clerc haue hereunto sett my hande and Seale the daye and yere

* Enrollments of Crown Leases, Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 212. f. 125 b.

† Miscell. Books, Off. Augment. vol. 205, f. 24. Appendix, No. XIX.

of the saide Rate. P' me Will'um Clerc." Next follow the particulars of a "Parcel of the Possessions of the late Priory of Mynchynbarowe," consisting of the farm of the House or Scite of the late Priory, together with all the houses, buildings, &c., as aforesaid, leased as aforesaid, and with the aforesaid exceptions, reservations, and conditions. The value of this is stated at cij^s ij^d. To this is annexed the farm of the Rectory of the said late Priory, together with all tithes, &c., as enumerated in the lease already given, excepting the Chaplain's annual stipend of vj^{li}. The value of the Rectory was viij^{li} xiiij^s xj^d; and, together with that of the scite, xiiij^{li} xvij^s j^d. Deducting the Chaplain's stipend of vj^{li}, the clear value, beyond reprises, was vij^{li} xvij^s j^d. There was yet a further addition in that of the Manor; whereof the Rents of Assize of the Customary Tenants,—as we have already seen minutely detailed, with the name and amount of each tenant, in the Ministers' Accounts, from which return it is quite clear that the details were mainly derived,—amounted to vij^{li} iij^s ij^d; the rents of the Free Tenants, similarly given, to x^s iiij^d; and the Perquisites of the Manor Court and other casualties in common years to vij^s vj^d. The sum total of this was viij^{li} xij^d; and the clear annual value of the whole property solicited for purchase was xv^{li} xvij^s j^d.

To this statement the Auditor, whose duty it was to examine, or indeed prepare, the particulars for the party desirous of negotiating, appended the following characteristic notices:—"What ffynes where gyvyn or wilbe gyvyn at the xpyracyon of the yerres ffor anye of the premyssys J knowe not. Also it is percell of no mano^r fferme gr^aunge or other hereditament of the Kinges graces excedyng the yerely value of xl^{li}. Parke fforest Chace or other Capitall Mancyon place wherunto the Kinges grace

nathe accesse at any tyme is none adioynynge to my knowe-
 lege. Ffurdermore J haue Delyuered the particlers of the
 Scite and Rectory aforesaid to John Drewe esquier who is
 ffermo^r therof. What woodes growith vpon the premyssys
 the Surveyour therof can certifie. P' Mathiam Coltehirste
 Audit." Next comes, though much obliterated, the results
 of the examination of the foregoing by the Crown Officer,
 beginning with a repetition of the values of the demeane
 lands and manor, as already given; and, after deducting
 the tithe, amounting to xxxj^s x^d, and setting forth the
 clear remainder of xiiij^{li} vj^s iij^d, continues thus:—"Wych
 is solde to the said William for the summe of clx^{li} to be
 payde the Kinges Ma^{te} to discharge the byer of
 all incumbrances excepte and except the
 tenth before rese^rved and except the Stipende of the preste
 of Mynchinbarowe. Rychard Ryche."

Not the least interesting is the certificate of the woods,
 with which the return concludes. Mynchynbarowe Grove
 is said to contain six acres, whereof two acres are of one
 year's growth, valued at xvj^d; one acre of two years'
 growth, valued at xvj^d; one acre of three years' growth,
 valued at iij^s; one of four years' growth, valued at ij^s viij^d;
 and one of six years' growth, valued at iij^s; amounting in
 all to xij^s iij^d. The spring of the wood or ground of six
 acres, yearly rated at viij^d per acre, or in all iij^s, amounts
 after twenty years' purchase to iij^{li}. To all which detail
 the Surveyor annexed the following notice:—"There be
 growyng in the seyde grove and about the scytuacons of
 the seyde late Priory and vij tenementes y^r and in the landes
 perteynyng to the sam be growyng CCC shorte shrubyd
 okes and ashes of xl or lx yeres growt most part vsually
 cropped and shru[b]de not valuyd but reseruyd to the
 ffermo^r of the seyde scyte and demeanes for hys housbote

hedgebote fyerbote ploughbote and Cartebote w^{ch} he hayth by couen^{ant} as appeareth by an indento^r sealed w^t the great seall of the courte of Augmentacons beryng date the xx daye of Marsche in the xxvij yere of the reign of o^r soueraign lorde Kyng henry viijth and for tymbre for to repayr the seyde vij tenementes w^{ch} the ten^{antes} there haue hade by theyr custom of olde tyme vsed and to repayr and maynteyn the hedges and fences aboute the seyde landes. P' me Will'm Cowper."* Such was the minuteness with which the transfer was effected, and such the care that the royal dealer might lose no part of his ill-gotten gains.

But little time was suffered to elapse before the bargain was concluded. The lessee, John Drewe, was probably unwilling to risk his money in the dangerous transaction whereby the irrevocable step was passed, and the lands were for the future consigned to strangers. The offer, accordingly, of William Clerc was accepted, and in the first month of the following regnal year the letters patent conveying the grant were issued. They commence by reciting the lease to John Drewe of the Scite, &c., of the late Priory, and then set forth that in consideration of the sum of one hundred and sixty pounds of lawful English money the King had granted to the aforesaid William Clerc, gentleman, the reversion and reversions of the House, Scite and other possessions aforesaid of the late Priory of Mynchinbarowe, &c., &c., with the houses, buildings, &c., &c., already enumerated; also, the aforesaid annual rent of one hundred and one shillings and eight pence; also, all the lands called the Demeane Landes, containing by estimation eighty-two acres, situate in Mynchynbarowe; also, the

* Particulars for Grants, 35 Hen. VIII., Clerc William.

wood called Mynchynbarowe Grove, containing by estimation six acres, parcel of the possessions of the said late Priory; also the Manor, Rectory and Church, with all and singular their rights, members, and appurtenances; also the advowson, donation, free disposition, and right of patronage of the vicarage and church of Mynchynbarowe, to the said late Priory belonging; and all and singular the messuages, granges, mills, tofts, cottages, lands, tenements, waters, fisheries, &c., &c., with the court-leets, views of frank-pledge, knights' fees, farms, annuities, pensions, portions, tithes, profits, &c., appertaining to the same—as fully, and entirely, and amply to be held and enjoyed as they had been by the last Prioress or any of her predecessors. The House, Site, Manor, Rectory, lands, &c., were valued at the clear annual sum of fifteen pounds, eighteen shillings, and one penny. The tenure was to be in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one Knight's fee, and an annual fee-farm rent to the King and his successors of thirty-one shillings and ten pence sterling, to be paid yearly at Michaelmas to the Court of Augmentations in lieu of all services and demands whatsoever. All the issues, rents, revenues, profits, &c., were to commence from Michaelmas last past. Further, the said William Clerc, his heirs and assigns, were exonerated and acquitted of all corrodies, rents, fees, annuities, pensions, and sums of money whatsoever, save and except the rent and service already reserved to the King and his heirs, the annual pay and stipend of the Chaplain performing Sacred Offices and serving the Cure in the parish Church of Mynchynbarowe, and all the other burdens which a farmer is bound to pay or in any way discharge. They were further to have, hold, enjoy, and convert to their own proper uses the said Rectory and Church of Mynchynbarowe, and all the land,

glebe, tithe, offerings, and other profits thereunto belonging, as fully and entirely as the last possessors. And finally, the letters patent were to be issued to the said grantee under the great seal of England, without fine or fee great or small. They were dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 22nd of May, 1544.*

In March, 1545, John Aylworth submitted a Request to purchase that portion of the property of the late Priory which was situated in the city of Wells. The Request slightly differs in form from that which has just been before us. It runs :—“ M^d that I John Aylworth doe requyre to p^rchase of the Kinges Ma^{te} by vertue of his graces co^mysion of sale the premysse, conteynyd in the perticulers herunto annexid, being of soche yerelye value as is comprysed in the same. Jn Wytnes wherof to these presents subscribyde w^t my hand J haue put to my Seale the iiiith of Marche, in the xxxvjth yere of the raigne of o^r Soueraign Lord Henrye the VIIIth by the grace of God of Ingland, ffrance, and Ireland King, Defendo^r of the ffayth, and in erthe Sup^rme hedd of the Church of Ingland, and also of Ireland. By me John Aylworth.” After this flourish, which clearly betrays the hand of the public servant, for John Aylworth was Receiver of rents of various kinds to the Court of Augmentations, the requested possessions are enumerated. They consisted of all the tenements, cottages, burgages, &c., situated both within the city of Wells itself and in the suburbs of the same, which, with the names of the tenants, &c., have already been fully described in the Ministers’ Accounts. There was a deduction in favour of Robert Reve, the collector of rents, of his fee of xl^s a

* Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 27. mm. 27 (24)—25 (26). Orig. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 9. r. xxxj. Appendix, No. XX.

year, for the exercise of his office aforesaid. Together with the property belonging to Mynchinbarowe, John Aylworth requested to purchase that situated in Wells which belonged to the Hospital of S. John in that city, and the parsonage of Locking belonging to the late Priory of Worspring. Of that with which we are more immediately concerned the auditor states that "All the said parcelles lyeth wⁱⁿ the Towne or Cytie of Welles forsaid. Also the Kinges grace hath no more landes or Tenementes there apperteynyng to any late Howse of Relygion wⁱⁿ my Circute. Ex^r p' Mathiam Coltehirste Audit." The remarks of the Crown Officers follow, dated the 24th of February, in the 36th year of Henry VIII., and consist of a detail of the data by which they were enabled to arrive at their valuation. The reader will have no difficulty in following them in their calculations:—

Free Rents of tenements, belonging to the Priory of S. John, per annum, the tenure in socage	..	..	xvijs viij ^d
Parsonage of Locking, tenure by military service	..	..	1 ^s
Sum :—	lxvijs	vij ^d	
Deducting tithe	v ^s		
Remaining clear	lxij ^s	vij ^d	

which, rated at twenty years' purchase, is lxij^{li} xiijs iiij^d

Tenements in Wells, belonging to the said Hospital, by the year	..	..	xxxix ^{li} vjs
Tenements belonging to Minchingbarowe, by the year	..	..	iiij ^{li} xvij ^s viij ^d
Sum :—	xliiij ^{li}	iijs	vij ^d

"Wherof abated for the balyes fee .. xl^s
and so remains .. xlvij^{li} iijs viij^d in socage

Which, rated at vij yeres p^rchace, ys cciiij^{xx}xv^{li} v^s viij^d

And so the hole Som'e for the perchace of all
the *premisses* ys :—ccclvij^{li} xix^s

Whereof in hand :—cc^{li}

And at Mydsomer next :—clvij^{li} xix^s

William Seint John.

Irro^r p' Joh'em Hanbye.

Edward North

Ric. Sowthwell."*

The letters patent were issued, witness the King, at Westminster, the 25th or 26th of March, 1545, and set forth that for the sum of £357 19s. 0d. of lawful English money, as aforesaid, the King granted to John Aylworth and Ralph Dukkenfeld all the messuages, tofts, cottages, burgages, lands, tenements, cartilages, buildings, granaries, stables, orchards, gardens, shops, cellars, solars, and waste places, now or lately in the tenure of the persons already mentioned, and all other tenements, situated in the city and suburbs of Wells, and lately belonging to the Priory of Mynchynbarowe, now dissolved. To this were added the aforesaid property belonging to the Hospital of S. John, and the parsonage of Locking. We can understand by the details above given how the next statement was arrived at, namely that the property of the Hospital was valued at the clear yearly sum of £40 3s. 8d.; of Mynchinbarow at £4 17s. 8d.; and of Locking at 50s. The lands in Wells were to be held in free burgage, by fealty only and not in chief; and the parsonage of Locking in chief, by the service of a fortieth part of one Knight's fee, and a yearly rent of five shillings of lawful money of England, to be paid at Michaelmas. The grant was to take effect from Michaelmas last past, and was dated on the day and year above-mentioned.†

* Part. for Grants, 36 Hen. VIII. Aylworth John.

† Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 11. m. 46. Orig. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 4. r. iiij^xvj.

A request was made by Henry Brayne, or, as he subscribes himself, "Harry Brayn," dated the 8th of July, in the 37th year of Henry VIII., 1545, to purchase so much of the property of the Priory as was situated in Bristol. To the enumeration of the tenements, tenants, and sums already given in the Ministers' Accounts, is annexed the following notice by Ralph Lambe, the Auditor's deputy:— "All the said Tenements lyeth within the Cytie of Bristoll forsaid & in the subarbs of the same where the Kinges highnes hath no more landes or Tenements other than ys abouesaid apperteynyng to any late howse of Relygion wthin my masters Circute. The Kinges grace ys also chargid with the Reperacions of the moste of the said Tenements Also theis be the firste perticlers that I haue made [to] any person of the same. Ex^r p' Rad'um Lambe deput' Mathie Coltehirste Audit." The Crown Officers reiterate the previously given value of *iiij^{li} xij^s*, and add:—"The teanure of all the premisses in Socage. Memor^d the Kyng must discharge the premisses of all incombraunces excepte leases & the xths being reserued & excepte suche charges as the ffermors ar bounde to discharge by force of there Indentures & also excepte such Rep^s as been contained within the perticlers hereunto annexid.

John Bakere Edward North Ric. Southwell.
Irror p' Joh'em Hanbye.*

The letters patent were hereupon granted, conveying to Henry Brayne, citizen and merchant tailor of London, and John Marsshe, for the sum of £739 15s. 2½d., divers possessions in Bristol, formerly belonging to the monasteries of Tewkesburye—"the Signe of the three Cuppes in Wyne strete"—Cirencester, Laycock, Braddenstok, the scite and

* Part. for Grants, Brayne Henry, sect. 2. mm. 5, 8, 9.

church of the Priory of S. Mary Magdalene in Bristol, S. James's Monastery in Bristol, Bathe, Keynsham, Henton, Witham, Clyve, Mynchynbarowe, and Canyngton; together with a tenement called "The Rose at Holborne Brige," in London, belonging to the monastery of S. Mary of Graces, and to that of Shene, &c. The property belonging to Mynchynbarowe is described, as we have already noticed, to be in the tenure of John Wylkes alias Chapman, Peter Panton, John Halle, Thomas Stapleton, and John Browne, the tenement called the Cornerhouse at Saynt Marye hille, one close called Tryne Mylles, now or lately in the occupation of Arthur Kemys, and a tenement called Seynt James Backe, with their appurtenances, together with all other tenements in Bristol or its suburbs, formerly belonging to the said late Priory. These tenements were of the clear annual value of £4 12s. 0d., and were to be held of the King, and his heirs and successors, in socage, by fealty only for all services whatsoever, and the grant was to take effect from the Michaelmas last past. The letters were dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 25th of September, 1545.*

The farm of a portion of the tithes of the Rectory of Twyverton, parcell of the possessions of the late Priory, leased to John Barbo^r, of Chewestoke, for a term of sixty years, and of which and the conditions annexed to it the reader has already had a minute description in the Decree of the Court of Augmentations, where they are recited, and in the Ministers' Accounts, from which the particulars are quoted, was requested for purchase by Sir Thomas Hennage. The Request bears the signature, declaratory of its accuracy, of the official auditor—"ex^r p' Mathiam Colte-

* Pat. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 5. mm. 38 (10)—34 (14). Orig. 37 Hen. VIII. p. 1. r. lxxvij.

hirste Audit.”* We have seen, however, that the bond of the Prioress and Convent in respect of this property was allowed to John Babor by the Court of Augmentations, on the 27th of November, 1542.

John Wyllyams requested to purchase a tenement with a water-mill at Mynchynbarowe, with all and singular its appurtenances, then or lately in the tenure of Margaret Crosse, widow, parcell of the possessions of the late Priory, and valued, as we have already noticed in the Ministers' Accounts, at a rent of xx^s a year. The particulars, however, although bearing the signature of Matthew Colte-hirste, are cancelled, and the “fiat dimissio” is made to John Peyton, or, as on the dorse, Robert Payton, for a term of twenty-one years, on payment of a fine of £5 to Sir Thomas Arrundell. Appended is the order of the Court Officer for this alteration—“p' fn^e v^{li} Rycharde Ryche.”† I have found another order for a lease of the same property to John Peyton, for a similar term, bearing the signature of “Rycharde Ryche,” with the particulars attested “p' Mathiam Colte-hirste Audit.”‡ I have also found the lease to John Peyton still existing among the Records of the Court of Augmentations. It bears date at Westminster, the 29th of July, 34 Hen. VIII., 1542, and sets forth that the premises are leased to John Peyton for the term above stated, commencing from the Michaelmas next ensuing, at a yearly rent of twenty shillings of lawful English money, payable at the feasts of the Annunciation and Michaelmas, or within one month after either. If the rent were in arrear in part or in all for one month and duly demanded, the lease was to be void and held for naught.

* Part. for Grants, Hennage Sir Thomas, sect. 2. membr. 43.

† Particulars for Grants, Hen. VIII. Williams, D. 14.

‡ Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 194, f. 63.

The timber-trees and underwood growing on the property were reserved. The King was to keep the buildings in repair during the term, in timber only, from time to time; the said John Peyton to do all other necessary repairs. The lessee was to be exonerated of all annuities, and payments whatsoever issuing from the tenements, &c., and to have hedgebote, fyerbote, ploughebote, and cartebote, sufficient for his use.*

This completes the history of the Conventual property down to the time when it had passed by force into the hands of strangers.

I have but a word, for it is beyond my province, about the vicissitudes of the place from that time to our own. It descended successively through the families of Clerc, James, Dodington, and Gore, until in the present century it reached that of Blgrave, a member of which is now its possessor. The most conspicuous features of the spot I sketched at the commencement of the History. The Conventual buildings have been compelled to give place to the existing edifice which was erected soon after the Suppression. It is a plain and uninteresting structure, of three stories in height, and is popularly asserted to be in the form of the letter M, from having been erected in the reign of Queen Mary. The windows are large and rectangular, with stone mullions. Portions of the edifice, as the main entrance, are of the age of James the First, but the rest appears to be of the latter part of the foregoing century. A few fragments of stained glass in some of the windows, especially one with the figure of a male head surrounded by a cruciform nimbus, may have come from its predecessor, or still more probably from the Church, but

* *Miscell. Books, Off. Augment.* vol. 215, f. 35 b.

no part of the original fabric itself appears to be preserved. Beyond the house is a building now occupied by a farmer, of two stories, with a few pointed doorways. Further to the south is a picturesque edifice, used as a stable, with a doorway bearing shields without devices in the spandrels. Neither of these, however, seems to be older than what is ordinarily called Henry VIII's Gothic, and consequently may have been erected by the first grantee.

The only building that can be assigned with tolerable certainty to an age prior to the Dissolution is a fine old barn, with a high pitched roof and transept for doors, similar in kind, but not equal in excellence to many of those noble examples of Monastic Barns with which the Somersetshire Archæologist is happily familiar.

The Church stands on the north side of the enclosed lawn in front of the Court, and within a few yards of the mansion. Of this structure the tower alone is of ancient work, the other parts of the edifice having been rebuilt in the vile taste of the execrable Georgian era about forty years ago. I am indebted to the courtesy of the present Incumbent, the Rev. J. W. Hardman, L.L.D., for the information that it originally consisted of a nave, chancel, and south aisle (probably the Nuns' Church), with a tower at the west-end. At the rebuilding the chancel disappeared, and the Church now consists of two parallelograms of nearly equal breadth, connected by an arcade of three arches of Perpendicular character, which Dr. Hardman does not believe to be original. The tower, which he considers of the Early English period, has a Perpendicular window inserted over the west door, with the hood moulding finished in the form peculiar, or almost so, to this district. It was divided by a lath and plaster screen into a kind of porch. This Dr. Hardman has judiciously removed, and has thereby thrown open a fine

arch which before was completely closed and hidden. A noble slab, with an elegant incised cross of fourteenth century work, was removed at the same time into the Church from the church-yard, where another, of the same age but less ornamental character and much decayed, together with the base of the ancient cross, is still to be seen. There are three bells in the tower, but not of early date; one bears that of 1607. The Church contains some interesting monuments, but all of post-dissolution times.

In reviewing the History of Mynchin Barrow, I would direct attention to the fact that we have here not only a picture of the numerous excellencies of the Monastic System, but also a specimen of those several blemishes which really constituted the defects of the female Communities of mediæval times. Even this latter peculiarity, however, is valuable, as it furnishes us with a knowledge of the actual state of such establishments, in contradistinction to those erroneous and distorted fancies in which the moderns have been pleased to indulge. For several centuries it has been sedulously endeavoured to be inculcated that the monasteries of mediæval England were so many focuses of impurity and iniquity, where lust and intemperance ruled supreme, and where the holy vows which preceded the abandoned life only made the contrast between each more fearful and repulsive. An examination of the annals which have been laid before the reader will tend to disabuse him of any such notion. The evils of the institution were such as perhaps may be inalienable from the institution itself. They were those which result from the inexperience of women in matters of secular business, and from the mark which the weakness of their sex naturally presents to the unscrupulous and aggressive. And their very worst features were ordinarily associated with that petty tyranny

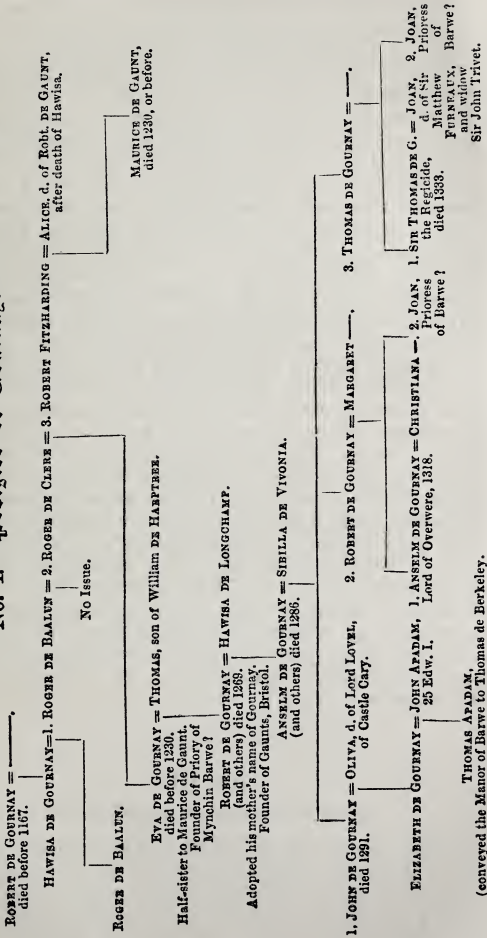
and love of dominion which some individuals, when placed in a position to exercise such powers, are unable entirely to forego. When, however, we have admitted so much as this, which is common to all times, places, and institutions, we have admitted all. The atrocities which the moderns are fond of charging on these Societies were of the most unfrequent occurrence. That they happened occasionally is possible, but that they were the ordinary character and condition of the system is altogether opposed to fact. There cannot be any reasonable doubt of the truth of this assertion. For, be it remembered, no attempt was made to conceal such delinquencies, whenever they were perceived to exist by the vigilant eyes around. The Episcopal Registers contain minute information of the circumstances of the diocese of every imaginable kind, and any idea of suppression of the truth was never in the remotest degree entertained. Accordingly, such researches as the present furnish us with both positive and negative argument, positive of the presence and negative of the absence whether of good or of evil. Hence, if no mention be made of irregularities, we may fairly conclude that they were not in existence. The only way of arriving at correct conclusions, and, indeed, the only honest mode of conducting the investigations which may lead to them, is that of patient and careful study of the original records, wherein alone is exhibited an undistorted reflex of the actual original. This is our duty, in agreement with every dictate of that honour and impartial love of truth which a research of such a nature demands. Modern notions are nothing to us. The memorials of contemporary ages can alone fill up for us the picture, and present us with the veritable lines of a living likeness. And the character which it portrays is at length, I am happy to think, receiving more

and more of the homage which is its due—the character of those “who forgave men their faults, and tried to expiate them in their place,—gentle, feeble beings who had the wretchedness of those who are punished, and the smile of those who are rewarded.” Men whose daily duties lie, like those of the writer of these pages, in the central depths of an enormous metropolis, can best tell the value of such an influence in directing the shameless to higher and better courses, in setting forth an example whereof the need is frightfully urgent, in showing that saintliness has charms with which no impure fascination may bear comparison, and in thus leavening the mass and staying the plague which is on every side. It is with a solemn sense of responsibility that I offer such a judgment, and feel as deeply that in these pleasant labours, illustrative of the working of the Divine Hand in the visible government of Holy Church, I am not only contributing to one of the fairest fields of secular literature, but, what is even and far better, am aiding the extension of sacred knowledge, the right interpretation of holy endeavour, and the reverent appreciation of the providence of God.

THOMAS HUGO.

APPENDIX.

No. I.—Pedigree of Gournay.



No. II.

[From Bp. Drokenesford's Register, f. lxxixb.]

Monic'o f'ca l'ratorie priorisse de Bargh & conuentui eiusdem dom'.

Joh'nes p'm &c. dilc'e filie d'ne . . . priorisse de Bargh n're dioc' salt'm gr'am & b'n. Mandam' vob' in v'tute obed'ie & s'b pen^a exco'is & suspensionis ab officio q^{atn'} infra sc'ptas iniunctiones n'ras obs'uetis & p' om'es moniales v'ras nulli parcendo faciat' inuiolabl'r obseruari. Vidz q'd custodi rer' v'rar' p' nos deputato seu deputando sitis intendentes & contente f'tis suis licitis & honestis. It'm q'd vos . . . priorissa de negociis campestrib' & hi' sec'larib' q'cq^{am} de cet'o no' intromittatis, ro'ne cui' s'uiciu' dei p'ponat' set p'ncipalit' cultui dei & regimini soror' v'rar' diligent' & sollicite vacetis. It'm q'd vos priorissa & cet'e moniales sim'l comedatis & dormiatis nisi impeditate fu'itis ex infirmitate v'l alia iusta causa. It'm q'd vos p'orissa no' concedatis cuiq^{am} monialiu' v'rar' licenciam eundi in villam aut ex^a villam n' ex magna & legi'a causa, et q'd tunc bine incedant & in habitu moniali, et no' ad alia loca q^{as} se extendit licencia seu diu'tant quoquo modo et vlt^a temp' licencie sue se voluntarie no' absentent. Et q'd silenciu' obs'uet' p'ut regula ear' req'rit. It'm q'd vos priorissa erga moniales v'ras vos moleste no' g'atis ut aliqua monialis alt'i. sz in caritate & dilecc'one vnanimit' viuatis. It'm q'd vos priorissa curetis diligent' & assidue q'd seruiciu' diuinu' sc'd'm reg'lam v'ram p' om'es moniales v'ras deuote fiat & debitis horis. Et q'd reg'la v'ra int' vos frequent' distincte & ap'te legat', ita q'd ab om'ibz intelligat'. Dat' apud chu. vj^{to} Kal'n Julij. anno d'ni sup^ad'co. [1315.]

No. III.

[From Bp. Drokenesford's Register, f. lxxx.]

Joh'nes p'm &c. dil'co in x'po Will'mo de Suttone salt'm &c. Quia piu' est & iuri consonu' p'sonis miserabilibz subuenire & eas in necessitatis tempore a suis miseriis releuare, considerata q' tua fidelitate & prudentia, tibi curam seu administraco'em dom' n're monialiu' de Barwe n're

dioc', quousq' hoc dux'im' reuocandu' p' presentes duxim' cōmittend', rogantes q^at'n' te s^t in p'missis diligentem exhibeas, nos q' quociens op' fuerit sup' hiis que ad d'cam c'am p'tin'e dīnoscut^r consulentes, vt ab eo qui o'im bonor' reru' dator existit & a nob' grar' acc'oes valeas p'm'eri. In cui' rei &c. Dat' die & loco p'x [apud Eu'c'z non. Julij anno d'ni suprad'co. 1315.].

No. IV.

[From Bp. Drokenesford's Register, f. cl.]

M^d q'd apud Banewell xij^o Kaln' aug'ti anno d'ni m^o.ccc^o. xvij^o. Et cons' d'ni Joh'is dei grā Bathon' & Wellen' Ep'i octauo. In capella d'ci d'ni Ep'i infra cur' suam ibidē, d'ne Joh'na de Gornay, Agnes Sant de Marays, Milburga de Derneford, & Bacillid' de Sutton moniales de Barwe, p'fesse fuerunt p' d'ci d'ni Ep'i manuū impositionē.

No. IV*.—Page 57.

[MS. Harl. 6964, p. 59.]

16 Mar. 1320. Eccl. de Twyverton de patronatu Johanne Durdent Priorisse de Kyngton & Convent. Sarum dioc. appropriatur illis p' resign. Hugonis de Alresforde rectoris ejusd. Salva priorisse & monialibus de Barwe dioc. B.W. porcione decimarum quam infra parochiam d'ce eccl'ie de antiquo perceperunt. & salva vicaria p' nos statuenda perpetuo pro n're voluntatis arbitrio taxanda.

No. V.

[From Bp. Drokenesford's Register, f. ccxxxv.]

Joh'es p'missione d'ina &c. P'orisse & conuentui de Barwe n're dyoc' sal'. gr'am & b'n'. Miserie & paup'tati v're pat'na aff'cco'e cōpacientes, custodiam dom' v're ac poss'onū v'rar' q'r'cu'q' viro p'uido & honesto d'no Will'o rectori ecc'e de Bacwell vicino v'ro l'ris n'ris duxim' cōm'tendā. Iniūgentes ei'dm q'd d'cam dom' & poss'o'es v'ras sup'uideat. et p' vt'litate u'ra p'uide disponat de eis'dm. Cui vt u'ro custodi pareat' & intendat' ut est iustū. Dat' ap' Wyuelesc' vij^o Id' ffebr.' a^o d'ni sup'd'co. [1325.]

No. V.*—Page 62.

[MS. Harl. 6964, p. 101.]

Xj Kal. Mar. 1325. cu' d'ns ep'us mandaverat ut Agnes de s'ca cruce installaretur Priorissa de Barwe, Johanna de Gornay monialis d'ce prioratus opposuit installaco'i ejusd. intrudendo se in stallu'. propter quod citatur.

No. VI.

[From B'p. Drokenesford's Register, f. cccb.]

Nos J. p'm' &c. Attenta d'ci p'orat' de Baruwe exilitate p'pt' qua' ip'i' p'orat' moniales no' consueveru't n° pot'unt elecco'em vacante p'oratu facere in scriptis ad instar alior' religiosor' n're dioc' possessiones amplas mobibes & immobiles optinenciu', p'pt' q'd elecco'em d'car' monialiu' de Barwe iux^a consuetudine' ear' hacten' f'cam p' easdem, nobis q'p' l'ras suas patentes more solito p'sentata', admisim' & ad electe confirmaco'em ne d'cus p'oratus p' diutina' vacaco'em pateret' dispendiu' & iacturam p'cessim' in forma que sequit' In dei no'ie am' Quia nos elecco'em monialiu' de Baruwe de d'na Basilia de Sutton eiusde' n're dioc' p'fessa in p'orissa' eiusde' p'orat' d'ni Thome de Berkeleye patroni eiusde' loci hac vice int'ueniente consensu inuenim' iux^a consuetudine' ip'i' p'orat' concordit' p' om'ia celebrata ip'am pontifical' confirmam', defectus si qui sint in forma elecc'onis p'd'ce eade' antea grac'ose supplentes. [1328].

No. VII.

[From B'p. Drokenesford's Register, f. ccij.]

Ego Basilia de Sutton monialis de Barwe in p'orissam loci illi' electa confirmata ero obedie's vobis ven'abili p'ri d'no J. dei gr'a Bathon' & Well' ep'o v'risq' successoribz & s'cis Bathon' & Well' sedibz . . officialib' ecia' v'ris & vices v'ras gerentib' in licitis & cano'icis mandatis. Sic deus me adiuvet & s'ca ei' eu'ngelia.

No. VIII.

[Eschaet. 13 Edw. III. n. 37. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 128.]

Jurat' dicunt q'd Anselimus de Gourneye quonda' d'ns m' de Inglescombe ffarnton et Westharptre dedit m' p'd'co

Thome filio suo et hered' de corp'e suo exeunt'. Et q'd post mort' ip'ius Thome, p'd'ca m' Thome filio eiusde' Thome. Et post mort' eiusde' Tho. fil' Thome fil' Anselmi p'fato Thome patri ip'ius Thome qui nu'e est. Et q'd p'd'eus Thomas nunc petens est fil' et heres p'd'ci Thome iam defunct' et etat' 21 Annor'. Et m' de Inglescombe [&] de ffarnton tenent' de Thoma de Gourney d'no de Estharpetre vtrumq' eor' p' sr' vni^{us} rose in fest' sc'i Jo: Bapt'i. Et m' de Westharpetre tenet' de d'no Ric'o Louell p' sr' duodene quarellar' p' ann'. So. 37.

No. IX.

[From B'p. Ralph's Register, f. cccxxvj.]

Xiiij Kal. Nouembr' anno quo sup' [1348] Dn's apud Clau'ton confirmavit elecco'ne' facta' de Agnet' Balun moniale mon' de Barwe monialiu' in p'orissam eiusd'm mon' cano'ice celebrata' supplens defectus si qui forsitan fu'int in ead'm Sibi q' cura' regimen & administraco'em eiusd'm mon' comitt'. Et demand' fuit Arch'o Bathon' v'l ei' offic' p' installaco'e & inducco'e in corporale' poss'io'em eiusd'm.

No. X.—1.

[Esc. 35 Edw. III. p. 2. (2 nrs.) n. 20.]

Edwardus dei gr'a Rex Angl' Dn's Hib'n & Aquit' dil'co sibi Joh'i de Bekynton Escaetori suo in Com' Som's salt'm. Precipim' tibi q'd p' sacr'm p'bor' & leg' hom' de ballua tua p' quos rei v'itas melius sciri pot'it diligent' inquiras si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' si concedam' Ric'o Dacton chiualer q'd ip'e octo mesuagia vnam shopam sex tofta decem acras p'ati & octo acras pasture cum p'tin' in Welles & in Barwegorney dare possit & assignare dil'cis nob' in x'po Priorisse & monialibz de Munechenebarwe h'end' & tenend' sibi & successoribz suis ad inueniend' quendam Capellanu' diuina singulis diebz ad altare be' marie in eccl'ia priorat' p'd'ci p' salubri statu dil'ci & fidelis n'ri Guidonis de Bryan & ip'ius Ric'i dum vix'int & a'iabz suis cum ab hac luce mig'auerint ac animabz antecessor' suor' & o'im fideliu' defunctor' celebratur

imp'petuu' necne. Et si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' tunc ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' n'rm & ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' alior' & quor' & qualit' & quo modo & de quo vel de quibz p'd'ca mesuagia shopa tofta pratu' & pastura teneant' & p' quod s'uiciu' & qualit' & quo modo & quantu' p'd'ca mesuagia shopa tofta p^atum & pastura valeant p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz iuxta veru' valorem eor'dem. Et qui & quot sunt medij int' nos & p'fatu' Ric'm de mesuagiis shopa toftis prato & pastura p'd'cis. Et que t're & que ten' idem Ric'us [sic] vlt^a donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas remaneant & vbi & de quo vel de quibz teneant' & p' quod s'uiciu' & qualit' & quo modo & quantu' valeant p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz. Et si t're & ten' eidem Ric'o remanencia vlt^a donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas sufficiant ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mesuagiis shopa toftis prato & pastura sic datis q^am de aliis t'ris & ten' sibi retentis debita faciend' & ad om'ia alia on'a que sustinuit & sustinere consuevit vt in sectis visibz ffranci plegij auxiliis tallagiis vigiliis finibz redempco'ibz amerciamentis contribuc'oibz & aliis quibuscumq' on'ibz em'gentibz sustinend'. Et q'd idem Ric'us in assisis iuratis & aliis recognico'ibz quibuscumq' poni possit p'ut ante donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas poni consuevit. Ita q'd p'ria p' donaco'em & assignaco'em illas in ip'ius Ric'i def't'm magis solito non on'et' seu g^auet' Et inquisico'em inde distincte & ap'te f'cam nob' sub sigillo tuo & sigillis eor' p' quos f'ca fu'it sine dil'one mittas & hoc br'e. T. me ip'o apud Henlee. xxix. die Julij. Anno r' n' tricesimo quinto. Burst'

 No. X.—2.

[Esc. 35 Edw. III. p. 2. (2. nrs.) n. 20.]

Inquisicio capta apud Bedmynstre coram Joh'ne de Bekynton Escaetore d'ni Regis in Com' Som's' die mercurij p'x' post festu' decollaco'is sc'i Joh'is Bapt'e anno regni Regis Edwardi t'cij post conq' Angl' t'cesimo q^unto virtute br'is d'ni Regis huic inquisico'i [consuti] p' sacr'm Rob'ti Champeneys Joh'is Hurlemere Walt'i Tyler Will'i Fflemynq' Joh'is in la Ffelde Whytyndon Joh's de Shepton Ric'i Ffrankeleyn Rob'ti Ffoul Will'i Whytsyth Walt'i Laurence & Joh'is atte Mulle qui dicunt sup' sacr'm suu' q'd non

est ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' d'ni Regis aut alior' licet idem dn's Rex concedat Ric'o Dacton chyualer q'd ip'e octo mesuagia vnam shopam sex tofta decem acr' p^ati & octo acr' pasture cu' p'tin' in Welles & in Barewegorney dare possit & assignare dil'cis d'no Regi in X'po Priorisse & monialib' de Munechenebarwe h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' p'ut br'e istud requirit imp'p'm. Et dicunt q'd p'd'ca mesuagia shopa & tofta tenent^r de Ep'o Bathon' & Wellen' p' s'uiciu' reddendi eidem Ep'o iij^s p' annu' p' om'i s'uicio Et q'd p'd'ca p^atum & pastura tenent^r de Margareta de Romesey p' s'uiciu' reddendi eidem Margarete vnu' clauu' geleofr' p' om'i s'uicio. Et q'd p'd'ca mesuag' shopa tofta p^atum & pastura valent p' annu' in om'ibz ex' iuxta veru' valorem eor'dem lxx s. Et q'd p'd'cus Ep'us Bathon' & Wellen' est medius int' dn'm Regem & p'fatu' Ricu' de mesuagiis shopa & toftis p'd'cis. et q'd p'd'ca Margareta & Edwardus le Despenç' sunt medij int' dn'm Regem & p'fatu' Ric'm de p^ato & pastura p'd'cis Et q'd remanent p'fatu' Ric'o vltra donacionem & assignacionem p'd'cas maneriu' de Cheluy cu' p'tin' in com' p'd'co quod tenet^r de Joh'ne Branboys p' s'uiciu' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' xx li. quod quidem maner' remanens eidem Ric'o vltra donacionem & assign' p'd'cis sufficit ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mesuag' shopa toftis prato & pastura sic datis q^am de t'ris & ten' sibi retentis debita faciend' & ad om'ia alia on'a que sustinuit & sustinere consuevit sustinend' p'ut br'e istud requirit. Et q'd idem Ric'us in assisis iuratis & alijs recognicoib' quibuscu'q' poni potest p'ut ante donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas poni consuevit. Ita q'd p'ria p' donaco'em & assignaco'em illas in ip'ius Ric'i def't'm magis solito non on'abit^r seu grauabit^r. In cu' rei testimoniu' tam p'd'cus Escaetor q^am p'd'ci iurati huic inquisico'i indendato sigilla sua alt'natim apposuerunt. Dat' loco die & anno sup^ad'cis.

 No. X.—3.

[Pat. 35 Edw. III. p. 3. m. 30.]

D' licencia dandi
ad manu' mortua'

R' om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Licet
&c. tamen p' decem libris quas
Ric'us de Acton chiualer nobis soluit

concessim' & licenciam dedim' p' nobis & heredib' n'ris quantu' in nobis est eidem Ric'o q'd ip'e octo mesuagia, vnam shopam sex tofta decem acras prati & octo acras pasture cum p'tin' in Welles & Barwegorney dare possit & assignare dil'cis nob' in xp'o Priorisse & monialib' de Munechenbarwe, h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' quendam capellanu' diuina singulis dieb' ad altare b'e marie in eccl'ia Prioratus p'd'ci p' salubri statu dil'ci & fidelis n'ri Guidonis de Brian & ip'ius Ric'i dum vix'int & p' a'iab' suis cum ab hac luce mig'auerint, ac a'iab' antecessor' suor' & o'im fideliu' defunctor' celebratur' imp'petuu'. Et eisdem Priorisse & monialib' q'd ip'e mesuagia, shopam, tofta, pratu' & pasturam p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fato Ric'o recip'e possint & tenere sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' capellanu' p'd'cm diuina singulis dieb' ad altare p'd'cm p' statu & a'iab' p'd'cis celebratur' imp'p'm, sicut p'd'cm est tenore p'senciu' similit' licenciam dedim' sp'alem. statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes q'd p'd'cus Ric'us vel heredes sui aut p'fate Priorissa & moniales seu ear' successores r'one statuti p'd'ci p' nos vel heredes n'ros seu ministros n'ros quoscu'q' occ'onent' in aliquo seu g'auent'. Saluis tamen capitalib' d'nis feodi illius s'uiciis inde debitis & consuetis. In cuius &c. T R apud Westm'. xiiij. die Octobr.

No. XI.—1.

[Esc. 44 Edw. III. (2 nrs.) n. 46.]

Edwardus dei gr'a Rex Angl' & Ffranc' & Dn's Hib'n dil'co sibi Will'o Cheyne Escaetori suo in Com' Som's' salt'm Precipim' tibi q'd p' sacr'm p'bor' & leg' hom' de balliua tua p' quos rei v'itas melius sciri pot'it diligent' inquiras si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' si concedam' Ric'o de Acton militi Hugoni Penbrigg Joh'i de Panes Henr' Fforde Joh'i Torney de Woluynton Walt'o laurence Rob'to Scouille Will'o Scouille Ric'o Ffraunkeleyn Ric'o p'sone eccl'ie de Wroxale Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Bakwell & Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Cameleye q'd ip'i' vnu' mesuagiu' sexaginta & duodecim acras t're & septem acras p'ati cu' p'tin' in Barouwe Gournay dare possint & assignare dil'cis nob' in xp'o Priorisse & conuentui

de Barouwe ad inueniend' quendam lampadem in eccl'ia ip'ius Priorisse b'e marie de Barouwe coram su'mo altari in honore corporis ih'u x'pi continue ardentem, h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & conuentui & successoribz suis ad inueniend' lampadem p'd'cam vt p'd'cm est imp'p'm necne et si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' tunc ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' n'rm & ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' alior' & quor' & qualit' & quo modo & de quo vel de quibz mesuagiu' t'ra & p'tu' p'd'ca teneant' & p' quod s'uiciu' & qualit' & quo modo & quantu' valeant p' annu' in o'ibz exitibz iuxta veru' valorem eor'dem et qui & quot sunt medij int' nos & p'fatos Ric'm Hugone' Joh'em Henr' Joh'em Walt'um Rob'm Will'm Ric'm Ric'm Joh'em & Joh'em de mesuagio t'ra & p'to p'd'cis et que t're & que ten' eisdem Ric'o Hugoni Joh'i Henr' Joh'i Walt'o Rob'to Will'o Ric'o Ric'o Joh'i & Joh'i remaneant vlt^a donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas & vbi & de quo vel de quibz teneant' & p' quod s'uiciu' & qualit' & quo modo & quantu' valeant p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz et si t're & ten' eisdem Ric'o Hugoni Joh'i Henr' Joh'i Walt'o Rob'to Will'o Ric'o Ric'o Joh'i & Joh'i remanencia vlt^a donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas sufficiant ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mesuagio t'ra & p'to sic d'atis q'am de aliis t'ris & ten' sibi retentis debita faciend' & ad o'ia alia on'a que sustinuerunt & sustinere consueuerunt vt in sectis visibz franciplegij auxiliis tallagiis vigiliis finibz redempco'ibz am'ciamentis contribuco'ibz & aliis quibuscu'q' on'ib' em'gentibz sustinend' Et q'd ijdem Ric'us de Acton Hugo Joh'es de Panes Henr' Joh'es Torney Walt'us Rob'tus Will's & Ric'us Ffraunkeleyn & heredes ip'or' Ric'i p'sone Joh'is p'sone & Joh'is p'sone in assisis iuratis & aliis recognico'ibz quibuscu'qz poni possint p'ut ijdem Ric'us de Acton Hugo Joh'es de Panes Henr' Joh'es Torney Walt'us Rob'tus Will's & Ric'us Ffraunkeleyn & antecessores ip'or' Ric'i p'sone Joh'is p'sone & Joh'is p'sone ante donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas poni consueuerunt Ita q'd patria p' donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas in ip'or' Ric'i de Acton Hugonis Joh'is de Panes Henr' Joh'is Torney Walt'i Rob'ti Will'i & Ric'i Ffraunkeleyn & heredu' ip'or' Ric'i p'sone Joh'is p'sone & Joh'is p'sone def't'm magis solito non on'et' seu g'auet' Et inquisico'em inde distincte & ap'te f'cam nob' sub sigillo tuo

& sigillis eor' p' quos f'ca fu'it sine dil'one mittas & hoc
br'e T me ip'o apud Westm' xx die Julij anno r' n' Angl'
quadragesimo t'cio r' v'o n' ffranc' tricesimo. Wynhop.

No. XI.—2.

[Esc. 44 Edw. III. (2 nrs.) n. 46.]

Inquis' capt' apud Bedmynstre in Com' Som's' coram
Will'mo Cheyne Esc' d'ni Regis in eod'm Com' decimo
die marcij anno regni Regis Edwardi t'cij a conq' Angl'
quadragesimo quarto virtute br'is d'ni Regis huic inquis'
consuti p' sac'r'm Ric'i Cheyn Thome atte Mulle Will'i atte
Pole Will'i Neel Joh'is Bailly de Bourton Thome Ffair
Joh'is Sparkman Henr' Masseday Joh'is Richeman Ric'i
Skappe Joh'is Skut & Joh'is Bysshopisworth qui dic' sup'
sac'r'm suu' q'd no' est ad dampnu' nec p'iudiciu' d'ni Regis
nec alior' licet id'm dn's Rex concedat Ric'o de Acton
militi Hugoni Penbrigg Joh'i de Panes Henr' Fforde Joh'i
Torny de Wolington Waltero Laueraunce Rob'to Scouyle
Will'o Scouill Ric'o Ffraunkleyn Ric'o p'sone eccl'ie de
W[r]oxhale Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Backwell & Joh'i
p'sone eccl'ie de Cameleye q'd ip'i vnu' mes' sexaginta &
duodecim acr' t're & septem acr' prati cu' p'tin' in Barouwe
Gournay dare possint & assignare dil'cis sibi in x'po
Priorisse & conuentui de Barouwe ad inueniend' quandam
lampadem in eccl'ia ip'ius Priorisse beate marie de Barouwe
coram su'mo altari honore corp'is ih'u x'pi continue arden-
tem h'end' & tenend' eisd'm Priorisse & Conuentui &
successoribz suis ad inueniend' lampadem p'd'cam vt p'd'cm
est imp'petuu' Et dic' q'd mes' t're & p'atum p'd'ca
teneant' de Joh'e de Berkelee filio Thome de Berkelee p'
s'uic' militar' et id'm Joh'es illa tenet de Edwardo le
Despens' p' s'uic' militar' et idem Edwardus illa tenet de
Rege in capite p' s'uic' militar' que quidem mes' t'r' &
pratium p'd'ca valent p' annu' in om'ibz exit' iuxta veru'
valorem eor'dem quadraginta solidos Et q'd non sunt
plur' medij inter dn'm Regem & p'fatos Ric'm Hugone'
Joh'em Henr' Joh'em Walteru' Rob't'm Will'm Ric'm
Ric'm Joh'em & Joh'em de mes' t'r' & p'ato p'd'cis. Et
q'd remaneant p'fato Ric'o de Acton maneriu' de Thorn-
faucou cu' p'tin' quod tenet' de Joh'e Mohoun de Dunsterr'

p' s'uic' militar' & valet p' annu' in om'ibz exit' x. li. et d'co Joh'i de Panes vnu' mes' & vnam carucatam t're cu' p'tin' in Chattelee que tenet' de Joh'e de Berkelee p' s'uic' militar' et val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' xl s. Et p'fato Henr' Fforde vnu' mes' & vnam carucatam t're cu' p'tin' in Fforde que tenent' de Priore Bathon' p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' lxxj. s. viij. d. Et p'd'co Joh'i Torny de Woluyngton vnu' mes' & vnam carucatam t're cu' p'tin' in Woluyngton que tenent' de Joh'e Moigne p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' lx. s. Et p'fato Waltero Laueraunce vnu' mes' & vnam carucatam terr' cu' p'tin' in Sprotraggel que tenent' de Joh'e Rodeney p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz exit' xl. s. Et p'fato Rob'to Scouill vnu' mes' & vnam carucat' t're cu' p'tin' in Broklegh que tenent' de Rob'to de Asshtoun p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' xxvij s iiij d. Et p'fato Ric'o Ffraunkleyn vnu' mes' & vnam carucat' t're cu' p'tin' in Bacwell [que] tenent' de Joh'e Rodeney p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' xlijs iiij d que sufficient ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mes' t'r' & p^{to} sic dat' quam de alijs t'r' & ten' sibi retent' debita faciend' & ad om'ia alia on'a sustinend' p'ut br'e istud requirit Et q'd null' t'r' seu ten' remaneant p'fatis Hugoni Ric'o p'sone eccl'ie de Wroxhale Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Bacwell & Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Cameley que sufficient ad on'a p'd'ca sustinend' p'ut idem br'e requirit In cui' rei testi'o'm p'd'ci Jur' huic inquis' sigilla sua apposuer' Dat' loco die & anno sup'd'cis.

No. XII.

[Pat. 44 Edw. III. p. 2. m. 23.]

P'Priorissa & Conuentu R' o'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm Licet de Barouwe &c. tamen p' octo marcis quas dil'ca nob' in x'po Priorissa de Barouwe Gournay nob' soluit concessim' & licenciam dedim' p' nob' & heredib' n'ris quantum in nob' est Rico de Acton militi Hugoni Penbrig' Joh'i de Panes Henr' fforde Joh'i Torney de Woluynton

Walt'o Laurence Rob'to Scouille Will'o Sconille Ric'o
 ffraunkeleyn Ric'o p'sone eccl'ie de Wroxale Joh'i p'sone
 eccl'ie de Bakwell & Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Cameleye q'd
 ip'i vnu' mesuagiu' sexaginta & duodecim acras t're &
 septem acras p^ati cum p'tin' in Barouwe Gournay in Com'
 Som's' dare possint & assignare p'fate Priorisse & eiusdem
 loci conuentui ad inueniend' quandam lampadem in eccl'ia
 ip'ius Priorisse b'e Marie de Barouwe coram su'mo altari
 in honore corporis Ih'u x'pi continue ardente' h'end' &
 tenend' eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui & successorib' suis
 ad inueni' lampadem p'd'cam in forma p'd'ca imp'petuu'
 Et eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e mesuagiu' t'ram
 & p^atu' p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fatis Ric'o Hugone Joh'e
 Henr' Joh'e Walt'o Rob'to Will'o Ric'o Ric'o Joh'e &
 Joh'e recip'e possint & tenere sibi & successorib' suis p'd'cis
 ad inueniend' d'cam lampadem imp'petuu' sicut p'd'cm est
 tenore p'senciu' similit' licenciam dedim' sp'alem Statuto
 p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes &c.— debitis & consuetis.
 In cui' &c. T R apud Westm xij. die Junij.

 No. XIII.

[Pat. 44 Edw. III. p. 3. m. 17.]

P'Priorissa & Conuentu R' om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm
 de Barwe Licet de co'i consilio regni
 n'ri Angl' statutu' sit q'd
 non liceat viris Religiosis seu aliis ingredi feodu' alicui'
 Ita q'd ad manu' mortuam deueniat sine licencia n'ra &
 capitalis d'ni de quo res illa inmediate tenet' : de gr'a
 tamen n'ra sp'ali & p' centu' solidis quos dil'ca nobis in
 x'po Priorissa monialiu' de Barwe nobis soluit concessim'
 & licenciam dedim' p' nobis & heredib' n'ris quantu' in
 nob' est Joh'i Blanket de Bristoll' q'd ip'e duo mesuagia
 duas shopas & duo gardina eisdem shopis contigua cum
 p'tin' in villa Bristoll' & suburbio eiusdem que de nobis
 tenent' in lib'um burgagiu' dare possit & assignare p'fate
 Priorisse & Conuentui eiusdem loci h'end' & tenend' eisdem
 Priorisse & Conuentui & successorib' suis ad inueniend'
 panem & vinu' p' om'ib' missis ad su'mu' altare in eccl'ia
 ip'ar' Priorisse & Conuentus de Barwe celebrand' & alia
 op'a pietatis p' salubri statu ip'ius Joh'is dum vix'it et p'
 a'ia sua cum ab hac luce migrau'it & a'iab' parentu' &

amicor' suor' & o'im fidelium defunctor' iuxta ordinaco'em eiusdem Joh'is faciend' imp'p'm Et eisdem Priorisse & conuentui q'd ip'i mesuagia shopas & gardina p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fato Joh'e recip'e possint & tenere sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' panem & vinu' pro om'ib' missis ad su'mu' altare in eccl'ia p'd'ca celeb'and' & alia op'a pietatis p' salubri statu ip'ius Joh'is dum vix'it & p' a'ia sua cum ab hac luce mig'auerit & a'iab' parentu' & amicos suor' & o'im fidelium defunctor' iuxta ordinaco'em p'd'cam faciend' imp'p'm sicut p'd'cm est tenore p'senciu' similiter dedim' sp'alem statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes q'd p'd'cus Joh'es seu heredes sui aut p'fati Priorissa & conuentus seu successores sue r'one statuti p'd'ci seu p' eo q'd d'ca mesuagia shope & gardina de nobis tenent' in burgagiu' sicut p'd'cm est p' nos vel heredes n'ros Justic' Esc' vic' aut alios balliuos seu ministros n'ros quoscumq' inde occ'onent' molestent' in aliquo seu g'auent'. Saluis tamen nobis & heredib' n'ris & aliis capitalib' d'nis feodi illius s'uiciis inde debitis & consueticis. In cui' &c. T R apud Westm' quarto die Nouemb'i

No. XIV.—1.

[Esc. 3 Hen. IV. n. 8. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 305.]

Henrici Quarti Anno tertio.

Jurat' dicunt q'd Gilb'us Harclyue dedit Joh'i (*sic*) Panes nup' Priorisse de Barwe et suc' suis imp'p'm vnu' pratu' in Clauso vocat' Chapelmeade, contin' 11 acr' prati in Burgh-gorney sine licenc' Reg' So. 8.

No. XIV.—2.

[Pat. 5 Hen. IV., p. 1. m. 20.]

P' Priorissa & Conuent' R' om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm
de Barouwe Gournay. Sciatis q'd cum dn's E nup'
Rex Angl' Auus n'r p' l'ras
suas patentes concessisset &
licenciam dedisset p' se & heredib' suis quantum in ip'o fuit
Ric'o de Acton militi iam defuncto vt dicit' & aliis q'd ip'i
vnu' mesuagium sexaginta & duodecim acras t're & septem
acras p'ati cum p'tin' in Barouwe Gournay in Com' Som's

dare possent & assignare Priorisse de Barouwe & eiusdem loci Conuentui ad inueniend' quandam lampadem in eccl'ia ip'ius Priorisse b'e marie de Barouwe coram su'mo altari in honore corporis Jhu X'pi continue ardentem h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui & successorib' suis ad inueniend' lampadem p'd'cam in forma p'd'ca imp'p'm Et eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e mesuagium t'ram & p'atum p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fatis Ric'o & alijs recip'e possent & tenere sibi & successorib' suis p'd'cis ad inueniend' d'cam lampadem imp'p'm sicut p'd'cm est licenciam similit' dedisset sp'alem Statuto de t'ris & ten' ad manu' mortua' non ponend' edito non obstante p'ut in eisd'm l'ris plenius continet' Ac postmodum p'fate Priorissa & Conuentus supponentes quoddam clausum vocatum Chapelescroft & vnam acram t're in p'd'ca villa de Barouwe que valorem tresdecim solidor' & quatuor' denarior' p' annu' non excedunt vt dicit' & quo p'd'cus Ric'us p' cartam suam p' nomen tocius illius t're & p'ati iacent' in quodam clauso vocato Chapelescroft in Barouwe Gournay cum p'tin' & vnus acre t're cum p'tin' in eade' villa de Barouwe que quidem acra t're se extendit in longitudine v'sus parcum ville p'd'ce eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui dedit & concessit h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis imp'p'm in licencia p'd'ca comp'hensa extitisse cum non extitissent eadem clausum & vnam acram t're colore licencie p'd'ce ingresse fuissent & ea tenuissent & occupassent ac exitus & p'ficua inde p'cepissent quousq' iam tarde p'd'ca clausum & vna acra t're p' Joh'em Manyngford nup' Escaetorem n'rm in Com' p'd'co seisita fuerunt in manus n'ras ex causa p'd'ca vt accepim'. Nos ad supplic'o'em p'd'car' Priorisse & Conuentus de gr'a n'ra sp'ali p'donauim' eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui t'ansgressionem qua' fecerunt acquirendo sibi & successorib' suis de p'fato Ric'o clausum & vnam acram t're p'd'ce cum p'tin' & ea ingrediendo tenendo & occupando ac exitus & p'ficua inde p'cipiendo licencia regia sup' hoc non optenta p'donauim' insup' concessimus & remisimus eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui forisf'curam clausi & vnus acre t're p'd'cor' cum p'tin' si qua ad nos occ'one adquisico'is ingressus & occupaco'is eor'dem p'tineat ac exitus p' ip'os vel p'decessores suos post ingressum p'd'cm inde p'ceptos Et vlt'ius concessimus p' nob' & heredib' n'ris quantu' in nob' est eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e clausum &

vnam acram t're p'd'ca cum p'tin' vna cum exitib' & p'ficuis inde p'ceptis reh'eant & teneant sibi & successorib' suis in auxiliu' sustentaco'is sue de dono & concessione n'ris imp'p'm Statuto p'd'co aut aliqua seisina siue forisf'cura inde f'ca seu aliquo alio iure vel titulo nob' in hac parte competenti vel competitur' non obstant'. Saluis tamen capitalib' &c.— consuetis. Nolentes q'd &c.— molestent' in aliquo seu g'uent' In cuius &c. T R apud Westm' xxix die Nouembr' p' ip'm Rege'

No. XV.

[From Bp. Bubwith's Register, f. lvij.]

Nich'us &c. Dil'ce in X'po filie d'ne Marg'ie ffitz Nichol moniali de Barwe nup' priorisse ib'm n're dioc' salt'm &c. Cum ad aures nup' n'ras p'uenit q'd tu obs'uancias tuor' ordinis & p'fessionis reg'lares obs'uare & subire nedū recusasti sicuti adhuc recusas, sz accidie dedita horis nocturnis et diurnis cu' com'ode pot'is int'esse distulasti & differs in p'senti In ai'e tue p'icel'm & regule tui ordinis p'dict' violaco'em manifest' Tibi igit' mandamus fir' iniungentes quattin' horis nocturnis & diurnis iux^a ordinis & p'fessionis tuor' p'd'ct' obs'uancias reg'lares cu' com'ode pot'is senio v'l infirmitate corp'ali absentandi causam nullaten' mi'strante de cetero iux' reg'lam & obs'uancias p'dict' debite int' sis p'ut decet in futur' Dat' ap'd Keynsha'.

No. XV.*—Page 85.

[Esch. 14 Edw. IV. n. 41.]

Inquisic'o capt' apud Taunton' in Com' Som's' xxxj^{mo} die mensis Octobr' anno rr' Edwardi quarti post conq'm Anglie quartodecimo coram Ric'o Vouwell Eschaetore d'ci d'ni Regis in Com' p'd'co virtute br'is d'ci d'ni Regis eid'm eschaetori direct' & huic inquisico'i consut' p' sacr'm Joh'is Hygons armig'i Joh'is Gylbert armig'i Joh'is Bonuyle armig'i Joh'is Mauncell Joh'is Jrlond Ric'i Crypse Joh'is Rede Joh'is Tracy Joh'is Chafy Joh'is Ffourde Joh'is Walford & Thome Walton Qui dicunt sup' sacr'm suu' p'dict' q'd Mauricius Berkeley miles in d'co br'i no'iatu

tenuit die quo obiit in d'nico suo vt de feod' man'iu' de Barow Gurney cu' suis p'tin' in Com' p'dict' et Advocaco'em Prioratus Monialiu' de Mynchynbarow eid'm man'io p'tin' ac eciam vnam Carucat' t'r' continent' in se Centu' acr' t'r' decem acr' p'ati decem ac'r pastur' octogint' acr' bosci triginta acr' subbosci cu' p'tin' ib'm et de tali statu idem Mauricius obiit inde s'situs que quid'm Man'iu' Advocacio & Carucata t'r' cu' p'tin' suis valent p' annu' in omnibz exitibz suis vlt^a repris' & on'a .vjli xiijs iiijd. Et q'd tenent' de Georgio Duce Claranc' p' fidelitate' t'm p' om'ibz s'uicijs Et vlt'ius Jur' p'd'ci dicunt sup' sac'r'm suu' p'd'cm q'd p'd'cus Mauricius Berkeley nulla alia neqz plura t'r' neqz ten'ta reddit' seu s'uicia tenuit de dict' d'no Reg' nec de aliquo alio in d'nico nec in s'uicio in d'co Com' Som's' die' quo obiit. Et dicunt sup' sac'r'm suu' p'd'cm q'd p'd'cus Mauricius Berkeley obiit vicesimo sexto die mensis Marcij vltimo p't'ito Et q'd Will'ms Berkeley armig' est filius & heres p'd'ci Mauricij Berkeley militis p'pinquior et q'd est etatis viginti triu' annor' & amplius. In cu' rei testi'om Jur' p'd'ci huic Inquisico'i Indentat' sigilla sua apposuer' Dat' apud Taunton' p'dict' die & anno p'dict'.

No. XVI.

[Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 103. ff. 108, 108b.]

Memorand' q'd t'mino sc'i Mich'is videl't vicesimo septimo die Novembr' anno regni d'ni Regis nunc Henrici octavi tricesimo quarto, Joh'es Babo' venit in Cur' d'ci d'ni Regis Augmentac'onu' reuenc'onu' corone sue, Et p'tulit ib'm quandam indentur' sub sigillo Conuentuali nup' monast'ij de Mynchynbarowe in Com' Som's' modo dissolut' fact' & sigillat', Et petit illam allocari cuius quidem indenture tenor sequit' in hec v'ba. Om'ib' x'pi fidelib' ad quos p'sens Scriptum indentat' p'uen'it Isabella Cogan priorissa domus Monial' b'e Marie virginis & s'ci Edwardi Regis & Martiris de Mynchynbarowe in Com' Som's' & eiusdem domus Conuent' salt'm in d'no sempit'nam. Nou'itis nos p'fat' prioriss' & Conuent' vnanimi assensu consensu & voluntate nostr' concessisse tradidisse & hoc p'senti Scripto n'ro indentat' ad firmam dimississe Joh'i Babo' de Chewestoke in Com' p'd'co totam R'coriam n'ram de Twyu'ton in

Com' p'dict' ac orriu' n'rm ib'm cum om'ib' & omi'od' decimis tam fructuu' granar' & feni q^{am} aliar' decimar' oblac'onu' obuenc'onu' & p'fic' R'corie p'dict' siue orrio p'dict' qualicumq' p'uenien' spectan' siue p'tinen', h'end' & tenend' R'coriam p'd'cam & orriu' p'd'cm ac cet'a p'missa sup'ius specificat' cum om'ib' & sing'lis eor' p'tin' p'dict' Joh'i Babor' & assign' suis a festo An'u'ciaco'is b'e marie virginis p'x' futur' post dat' p'senciu' vsq' ad finem t'mini Sexaginta annor' tunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend'. Reddend' inde annuatim nobis p'fat' prioriss' & Conuent' ac success' n'ris durante t'mi'o decem annor' p'd'cor' Sexaginta annor' p'x' & i'mmediate sequen' post dat' p'senciu' vnu' denar' ad fest' Annu'ciaco'is b'e Marie virginis tantum si petat' Et post finem t'mini p'd'cor' decem annor' Tunc reddend' inde annuatim nobis p'fat' prioriss' & Conuent' ac Success' n'ris durante t'mi'o resid' p'd'cor' Sexaginta annor' tunc futur' viginti solidos bone & legalis monete Anglie ad duos anni t'mi'os ib'm vsual' videl't ad festa s'ci Mich'is Arch'i & Annu'ciaco'is b'e marie virginis p' equales porco'es p' om'ib' alijs s'uicijs saluo s'uicio Regal'. Et p'dict' Johe's Babor' & assign' sui totum p'd'cm orriu' n'rm bene & competent' rep'abunt & quil't eor' rep'abit durante t'mi'o p'd'co sumptib' eor' p'prijs & expens'. Et si contingat p'd'cm redditum viginti solidor' aretro fore in p'te vel in toto p' quindecim dies post aliquod festum festor' p'd'cor' quo vt p'fert' solui debeat insolut' & debit' modo petat', q'd tunc bene licebit nobis p'fat' prioriss' & conuent' ac Successorib' n'ris in p'd'cm orriu' cum p'tin' intrare & distring'e & districco'es sic ib'm capt' licite asportare abduc'e effugare & imp'care & penes se retinere quousq' de p'dict' reddit' simul cum arreragijs si que fu'it nobis plenar' fu'it satisfact' & p'solut' Et si contingat p'd'cm redditum viginti solidor' aretro fore in p'te vel in toto p' quatuor menses anni post aliquod festum festor' p'd'cor' soluco'is p'dict' quo vt p'fert' solui debeat insolut' & debit' modo petat', q'd tunc bene licebit nobis p'fat' Prioriss' & Conuent' ac success' n'ris in p'd'cm orriu' cum p'tin' reintrare & p'dict' Joh'em Babor' & assign' suos inde tot'lit' expellere & amouere, vncum om'ib' alijs p'miss' p'dict' Joh'i Babor' & assign' suis p'concess' & ea vt in pristino statu n'ro retinere & reh'ere ista dimiss' in aliqua non obstan'. Et nos v'o p'fat' Prioriss' & Conuent' ac Success' n'ri R'coriam p'dict' & orriu'

p'dict' ac cet'a p'miss' p'concess' cum om'ib' eor' p'tin' p'd'cis Joh'i Babo' assign' suis modo & forma p'dict' durante t'm'i'o p'd'co & t'm'i's p'd'cis contra om'es gentes warrantizabim' acquietabim' & p' p'sentes defendemus. In cuius rei testimoniu' vni p'ti huius p'sentis Scripti n'ri indentati penes p'd'cm Joh'em Babo' remanen', Nos p'fat' Prioriss' & Couent' Sigillum n'rm Conuential' apposim'. Alt'i v'o p'ti huius p'sentis Scripti indentat' penes p'fat' Priorissam & Couent' remanen' p'd'cus Joh'es Babo' sigillum suu' apposuit. Dat' in domo n'ra Capit'lari sextodecimo die mensis Marcij anno regni Regis Henrici octau'i vicesimo quinto. Quequidem indentur' ac om'ia & sing'la in eodem content' & specificat' p' Concellariu' & Consiliu' Cur' p'd'ce allocant'. P'uiso tamen q'd si impost'um debit' modo p'bat' fu'it coram Cancellar' & Consilio Cur' p'd'ce p' tempore existen' q'd p'dict' Joh'es Babo' dict' dimiss' ro'ne & p'textu indenture p'dict' in forma p'dict' h'ere & gaudere non debeat q'd tunc hoc p'sens decret' vacuu' sit ac nullius vigoris in lege aliquo clauso siue artic'lo in eodem content' in cont'riur' inde non obstan'.

No. XVII.

[Off. Augment. vol. 244. n. 112.]

Rex omnib' ad quos &c. salt'm Cum nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarowe in Com' n'ro Som's' auctoritate Parliamenti supp'ssus et dissolut' existit vnde quedam Katerina Bulle tempore dissoluc'is illius et diu antea priorissa inde fuit nos volentes r'onabilem Annuaem Penco'em siue p'moco'em condignam eidem Kat'ine ad victu' & exhibico'em suam melius sustinend' p'uideri Sciat' igit' q'd nos in consideraco'e p'missor' de gr'a n'ra sp'iali ac ex certa sciencia & mero motu n'ris p' aduisamentu' & consensu' Cancellar' & consilij Cur' Augmentac'onu' reuenc'onu' Corone n're dedim' & concessim' ac p' p'sentes damus & concedim' eidem Kat'ine quandam Annuitatem siue Annuaem Penco'em Centum solidor' sterling' H'end' gaudend' & annuatim p'cipiend' eosdem Centum solidos p'fate Kat'ine & assign' suis a tempore dissoluc'is & supp'ssionis d'ci nup' Prioratus ad t'minu' & p' t'm'i'o vite ip'ius Kat'ine tam p' manus Thesaurarij Curie n're p'd'ce p' tempore existen' de thesauro n'ro in manib' suis de reuenco'ib' p'dc'is re-

manere contingen' q^am p' manus Receptor' partic'larium
 reuenc'ону' p'd'car' de eisdem reuenco'ib' ad festa Annu'ci-
 co'is b'e Marie Virginis et sancti Mich'is Arch'i p' equales
 porco'es omi'o soluend' Eo q'd exp'ssa mencio &c. In
 cui' rei &c.

Richard Riche

Tho. Pope

John Onley

Robert Sowthwell

Irro^r T xiiij die ffebruarij A^oxxviiij h viij

No. XVIII.

[From the Minister's Accounts, 27-28 Hen. VIII.]

Et debt—xvli xiiijs vjd D' quibz exo^r hic de xli xd
 ob—ut de tot den'ijs p' Kat'inam Bowell nup' prioriss' ib'm
 de Exit' Offic' p'd'ci—rec' ad vsum & necessit' hospic' sui p'
 prima me^{te} huius ann' & expendit' in eod'm hospic' ante
 primu' aduent' Comiss' d'ni R' illuc q'd erat xxvj die Maij
 d'co anno xxviiij^{uo} p'ut eisd'm Comiss' no' solu' p' sacr'm
 d'ce prioriss' set ecia' p' debit' exami'ac' inde adtunc &
 ib'm fact' sat' constab' ET Or' in Comp'o d'ce Prioriss'.
 De xxxjs vjd de consi'lib' den'ijs p' ip'am rec' de Exit'
 eiusd'm Offic' ad necc' sustend' hospic' s' p'd'ci a d'co
 xxvj^{to} die Maij usq' dissoluc' d'ci priorat' quod erat xix^{no} die
 Sept. eod'm anno xxviiij^{uo} sciz p' spaciū xx^{ti} Septim' ex
 recognic' s' in libr' Re^{te} s' de eod'm temp'e sup' hunc
 Comp'm exami'at.

No. XIX.

[Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 205. f. 24.]

Mynchynbarowe In declaraconib' siue Valor' capt' de
 in Com' Som's' terr' & Tent' ac al' possess' t^am sp'ual'
 q^am temp'al'int' al' cont^r sic ut sequit^r

vjli xiijs iiijd

vz

Rector' de Mynchyn- barow.	val'in	{	DECIM' lan' & agnell &	} viijli xiiijs xjd
			xljs vijd al' p'ficuis eid'm Rector' p'tin' Co'ib' ann'	

repris' in	{	SINOD' & p'curaco'b' ann ^{ti} sol' Ep'o	} viijs vjd
		Bathon'	

ET REM' clar' ult^a Repris' p'dict' viijli vijs xjd

Me^d that the same p'sonage is to be charged w^t the
Stipend of a p'ste there oute of the same so'me of
viijli vijs xjd yerely

resp^r p'cess'

Ex^r p' Will'm Turnor Audit' ib'm

fiat dimissio Joh'i Drewe de villa Bristoll ar'
Ir' &c. vt sup^a.

No. XX.

[Abstract of Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 27. mm. 27 (24)—25 (26)]

P' Will'o Clerk REX OMNIBUS ad quos &c. salt'm.
de con' sibi & hered' CUM nos p' quandam Indenturam sub
magno Sigillo n'ro Cur' n're Augmen-
taconu' reuenconu' Corone n're confect' gerent' dat' apud
Westm' vicesimo die Marcij Anno Regni n'ri vicesimo
octauo p' aduisament' &c. tradiderim' concesserim' & ad
firmam dimiserim' Joh'i Drewe de villa Bristoll armig'o
domu' & Scitum nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarrowe in
Com' Som's' auctoritate p'liamenti suppressi & dissolut'
vnacum om'ibz domibz edificiis orreis stabulis columbar'
ortis pomeriis gardinis terr' & solo infra Scitum & p'cinctum
dict' nup' Prioratus existen' Ac viginti octo acras terr'
arabilis p' estimaco'em siue plus siue minus inde h'eatu'
viginti sex acras prat' p' estimaco'em siue plus siue minus
inde h'eatu' & viginti octo acras pastur' p' estimaco'em
siue plus siue minus inde h'eatu' d'co nup' Prioratui spectan'
et p'tinen' Except' inde a nob' hered' et successoribz n'ris
om'ino res'uat' om'ibz grossis arboribz & boscis p'miss' ac
om'ibz talibz et huiusmodi edificiis infra Scitum et p'cinctum
dict' nup' Monast'ij que nos ibidem adtunc imposter'
prosterni & auferri mandauerim'. H'end' & tenend' om'ia &
sing'la p'missa cum p'tin' except' preexcept' p'fat' Joh'i &
assign' suis a festo sc'i Mich'is Arch'i adtunc vltimo pre-
terito vsqz ad finem termini & p' terminu' viginti & vnus
annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenarie complend'. Reddend'
inde annuatim nob' hered' & successoribz n'ris Centum
& vnu' Solidos & octo denarios legalis monete Angl' ad
festa Annu'ciaco'is beate Marie virginis et sc'i Mich'is

Arch'i vel infra vnu' mensem post vtrumqz festum festor' illor' ad Curiam p'd'cam p' equales porco'es soluend' duran' termino p'd'co p'ut p' eandem Indenturam int' alia plene apparet. Sciatis q'd nos p' su'ma Centum & sexaginta librar' legalis monete Angl' ad manus Thes' n'ri &c. p' dil'cm nob' Will'm Clerc gen'osu' solut' de qua quidem su'ma &c. exoneratos esse p' p'sentes de gr'a n'ra sp'iali ac ex c'ta sciencia & mero motu n'ris dedim' & concessim' ac p' p'sentes dam' & concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc reu'sionem & reu'siones p'dict' domus & Scitus dict' nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarowe ac p'd'cor' domor' edificior' ortor' pomerior' gardinor' columbar' stabulor' terrar' prator' pasturar' & ceteror' o'im & singl'or' p'missor' sup'ius p' p'd'cam Indenturam p'fat' Joh'i Drewe vt p'fert' dimissor' Necnon totum p'd'cm a'nuu' reddit' Centum vnus solid' & octo denarior'. Dam' etiam & p' consideraco'e p'd'ca p' p'sentes concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc totum domu' et Scitum dict' nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarowe ac om'ia domos edificia orrea stabula columbar' ortos pomeria gardina stagna viuaria terr' et solu' n'ra quecu'qz infra Scitum septum ambit' circuitum et p'cinct' eiusdem nup' Prioratus existen'. Necnon om'ia illa terr' prata pastur' et hereditamenta n'ra quecu'qz vocat' lez demeane landes dict' nup' Prioratus continen' p' estimaco'em octoginta & duas acras iacen' et existen' in Mynchynbarowe in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'co nup' prioratui dudum spectan' et p'tinen' et p'cell' possessionu' inde existen' ac cum p'd'co Scitu dict' nup' Prioratus p'fat' Joh'i Drewe dimiss' seu locat'. Ac etiam totam terr' n'ram et boscum n'rm vocat' Mynchynbarowe grove continen' p' estimaco'em sex acras iacen' et existen' in Mynchynbarowe in p'd'co Com' Som's' d'co nup' Prioratui dudum spectan' et p'tinen' ac p'cell' possessionu' eiusdem nup' Prioratus existen'. Damus vlt'ius et p' consideraco'e p'd'ca p' p'sentes concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc totum illud man'iu' n'rm de Mynchynbarowe Et totam Rectoriam n'ram & eccl'iam n'ram de Mynchynbarowe cum om'ibz et sing'lis eor' iuribz membris et p'tin' vniu's' in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'co nup' Prioratui dudum spectan' & p'tinen' ac p'cell' &c. Necnon aduocaco'em donaco'em liberam disposito'em et Jus p'ronatus vicarie et eccl'ie de Mynchynbarowe in d'co Com' Som's' d'co nup' Prioratui dudum spectan' et p'tinen' Ac om'ia & sing'la mesuagia

grangias molendina tofta cotagia terr' ten'ta prata pascuas
 pastur' co'ias vasta iampna bruer' mariscos aquas piscar'
 boscos subbose' &c. &c. Necnon cur' let' visus franc'
 pleg' catalla &c. extrahur' feod' firmas a'nuitates penco'es
 porco'es decimas &c. et om'ia alia n'ra p'ficua co'moditates
 emolumenta &c. situat' &c. in Mynchynbarowe ac d'co man'io
 et d'ce Rectorie et eccl'ie quoquo modo spectan' vel p'tinen'
 —adeo plene et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma
 p'ut vltimus prior dict' nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarowe
 aut aliquis vel aliqui p'decessor' suor' &c. h'uerunt tenerunt
 vel gauisi fuerunt &c. Que quidem domus et Scitus dict'
 nup' Prioratus' ac p'd'cm Man'iu' Rector' mesuag' terr'
 tent' et cetera om'ia & sing'la p'missa cum p'tin' modo
 extendunt^r ad clar' annu' valorem quindecim librar'
 octodecim solidor' et vnus denarij. H'end' tenend' et
 gaudend' p'dict' reu'sionem et reu'siones p'dict' domus et
 Scitus dict' nup' Prioratus &c. necnon p'd'ca man'iu' Rec-
 toriam &c. &c. p'fat' Will'o Clerc hered' & assign' suis
 imp'p'm. Tenend' de nob' heredibz et successoribz n'ris in
 capite p' s'uiciu' vicesime p'tis vnus feodi militis, Ac
 reddend' inde a'nuatim nob' hered' & successoribz n'ris
 triginta vnu' solidos & decem denarios sterling' ad Curiam
 n'ram Augment' reuenc'onu' Corone n're ad festum sc'i
 Mich'is Arch'i sing'lis annis soluend' p' om'ibz redditibz
 s'uiciis & demand' quibuscumqz p'inde nob' hered' vel suc-
 cessoribz n'ris quoquo modo reddend' soluen' vel faciend'
 Et vlt'ius &c. damus &c. p'fat' Will'o Clerc om'ia exit'
 redd' reuenco'es et p'ficua p'dict' &c. cu' p'tin' a festo
 Sc'i Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p'terito hucusqz p'uenien' siue
 crescen' h'end' eidem Will'o Clerc ex dono n'ro absqz
 comp'o seu aliquo alio p'inde nob' heredibz vel succes-
 soribz n'ris quouis modo reddend' soluend' vel faciend' Et
 insup' &c. exonerabim' acquietabim' et indempnes conserua-
 bim' tam eundem Will'm Clerc heredes & assign' suos q'am
 p'dict' man'iu' Rectoriam mesuag' terras &c. de om'ibz &
 om'i'od' corrodiis redditibz feodis annuitatibz penco'ibz et
 denar' su'mis quibuscumqz p'terq'am de reddit' & s'uicio
 sup'ius reseruat' Et p'terq'am de vadeo & stipendio vnus
 capellani a'nuatim diuina celebran' et curam obseruan' in
 eccl'ia p'ochiali de Mynchynbarowe p'dict' Ac p'terq'am de
 om'ibz aliis oneribz que aliquis firmarius p'missor' seu ali-
 cuius inde p'celle tenet^r soluere aut quoquo modo exoncrare.

—Et vlt'ius &c. concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc hered' & assign' suis q'd h'ebunt tenebunt & gaudebunt ac in vs' suos p'prios conuertent d'eam Rectoriam et eccl'iam de Mynchynbarowe ac om'ia terr' glebas decimas oblaco'es & cetera p'ficua eidem Rectorie & eccl'ie spectan' et p'tinen' adeo plene & integre &c. p'ut vltimus Prior &c. vel aliqui p'decessor' suor' &c. h'uerunt tenuerunt vel gavis' fuerunt aut in vsus suos p'prios conuertebant &c. Volum' etiam et p' p'sentes concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc q'd h'eat & habeat has l'ras n'ras patentis sub magno sigillo n'ro Angl' debito modo fact' & sigillat' absq' fine seu feod' magno vel paruo nob' in hanap'io n'ro seu alibi ad vsum n'rm p'inde quoquo modo reddend' soluend' vel faciend'. Eo q'd expressa mencio &c. In cuius rei &c. T R apud Westm' xxij die Maij
p' br'e de priuato sigillo

T. H.

Earl Harold and Bishop Giso.

BY THE REV. J. R. GREEN, M.A.

IN the History of the See of Wells, Bishop Giso must occupy a very conspicuous place. He was the first of the line of foreign prelates who ended in the Bishop-Abbot Savaric. He was the virtual founder of the Chapter. His own autobiography, singularly preserved to us, throws light not only on the peculiar history of his See, but on the general history of the Church of the Conquest.

Whatever interest however may belong to each of these aspects of Bishop Giso, his connexion with Earl Harold and the charges he brings against him are of far greater historical importance. Obscure as these charges are, and tedious as their minute examination may seem, no labour can be wasted which throws even the smallest light on the life of Harold. For there are few great Englishmen of whom we know so little, of whom the little that we seem to know is so darkened and perverted by the passions of the struggle in which he fell.

Not the least curious feature of these charges is their gradual growth from the days of Bishop Giso till their culmination in the pages of the County Historian. Giso (I shall presently give his story in extenso) states that on the death of his predecessor, Bishop Duduco, Harold seized

both the manors and moveables which he had bequeathed to his See. Throughout Eadward's reign he, Giso, kept thinking of excommunicating the Earl for this sacrilege, but more prudently confined himself to remonstrances which remained without effect till the death of the Confessor. Then, in the midst of his difficulties, Harold promised not only to restore what he had taken but to add yet ampler gifts to the See, a promise whose fulfilment was prevented by his death.

The next appearance of the story is in the History of the Bishops of Bath and Wells given in the *Anglia Sacra*; a work of the 14th century, and generally quoted as by "The Canon of Wells." On Giso's return from his consecration at Rome—says this author—he found the Canons reduced to mendicancy by the sacrilege of Harold, and begged for their sustenance Wedmore of the Confessor, and Mark of his queen. On his "invasion" of the Crown, however, Harold "at once confiscated the possessions of the said Giso and the Canons of Wells," which were only partly restored by the Conqueror.

The growth of Harold's one sacrilege into two, and the change of Giso's "promise of restitution" into the Canons' "immediate confiscation" seems bold enough, but it is eclipsed by Godwin. In *his* version, Giso complains of the sacrilege to the Confessor, but meets with "cold comfort," while on his death the Bishop is "faine to flye the land till such time as Harold the sacrilegious usurper being vanquished and slaine, William the Conqueror was a meane to restore not onely him to his place and country, but his church also to all that the other had violently taken from it."

A single "flight," however imaginary, could not satisfy the County Historian, Mr. Collinson; in *his* account Harold

is banished and his estates given to the See, then Harold returns and Giso goes into exile, then Harold becomes King, sentences the Bishop to perpetual banishment, resumes his property and holds it to his death!

Such statements, of course, need no refutation: their only interest lies in the striking parallel they afford to the gradual growth of monastic legends and historic "pretty stories." This is a case of mere transmission from one mouth to another, and like the game of "Russian Scandal," may show how without any deliberate untruthfulness, men simply copying the one from the other, may by gradual exaggeration not only distort but utterly reverse the account from which they started.

Turning, however, to the original charge against Harold, I feel that as the best witness against Bishop Giso is Bishop Giso himself, it is only fair to give his own words from the "Historiola de Primordiis Episcopatus Somersetensis," published in Mr. Hunter's "Ecclesiastical Documents," by the Camden Society. "Huic successit Duduco, natione Saxo . . . qui possessiones quas hæreditario jure a Rege ante episcopatum promeruerat, monasterium videlicet Sancti Petri in civitate Gloucestrensi situm cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus, et villam quæ Kungresbiria dicitur, atque aliam Banewelle nuncupatam, roboratas cyrographis regiæ autoritaris ac donationis Deo Sanctoque Andreæ tempore Edwardi piissimi regis obtulit: vestimenta quoque sacerdotalia, reliquias sanctorum, vasa altarea concupiscibilia, libros plurimos, et omnia quæ habere poterat, jam imminente die vocationis suæ adhibuit: et xx^{mum} vij^{um} ordinationis suæ agens annum menses quoque vij et dies vij obdormivit in domino Haroldus vero tunc temporis dux occidentalium Saxonum non solum terras invadere verum etiam episcopalem sedem omnibus hiis spoliare non timuit. Sed

et Stigandus archiepiscopus Cantuariorum præfatum monasterium injustâ ambitione a rege sibi dari petiit et impetratum ad horam obtinuit."

In this passage (which, simple as it is, becomes almost unintelligible in Mr. Hunter's translation) a distinction is clearly intended between two separate bequests made at two different times. The personalty, the vestments, relics, books, etc., were a death-bed* and apparently a verbal legacy, for Giso omits here all mention of the "cyrographs" which he is so careful to specify in the other case. The first bequest then is but an instance of the ever recurring question of death-bed legacies to the clergy, and Harold's assertion of his legal right as Earl to the personalty of the deceased proves only his disbelief of the story of the four or five Canons.

The real matter at issue however is the Earl's seizure of the Manors of Congresbury and Banwell, and it is therefore of great importance to note the true character of this estate. It had never formed any part of the property of the See or of the Canons. It had been granted by Cnut to Duduco "ante episcopatum," while he was but a royal clerk. He retained it as Bishop, but this in nowise affected its private character. From Giso's tale one would infer that Harold's seizure of it reduced the Canons to poverty; whatever their poverty may have been it cannot have resulted from a loss of what they never had. The manors belonged to Duduco in allodial tenure, "hereditario jure," and might pass to the Church by his will, supposing the will did not violate the original conditions of the grant. In case of such violation, or of the execution of no will at

* "Imminente die vocationis sucœ," translated by Hunter in defiance of the whole drift of the story "just before he became Bishop." So, too, he muddles the two bequests into one.

all, the granted lands would of course revert to the Crown. If they reverted to the Crown they would probably be at once granted away to the Royal favourites, and nothing would be more natural than to find them, as we do find them, in the hands of Harold and Stigand.

Now, that the grant did in some way revert thus seems almost certain from the very words used by Giso in his charge against the Archbishop, "præfatum monasterium injusta ambitione a Rege sibi dari petiit, et impetratum ad horam obtinuit." Harold's share of the estate would naturally be obtained in the same way as Stigand's, and the "injustice," if there were any in the matter, would rest rather with the Crown than with the Earl.

But was there any injustice? According to Giso's statement, Duduco had provided against the reversion of the grant, by its bequest to the See of Wells, a bequest confirmed by Royal charters, to which however no date is assigned but the very indefinite one of "the time of King Eadward." No trace of these is to be found now among Eadward's numerous Charters, and it must not be forgotten that Giso is not speaking here from his own personal knowledge, but solely from the information of the four or five mendicant Canons of Wells. Very serious difficulties indeed present themselves if we accept the story of the Canons as Giso reports it.

1.—It was a time when the very multiplicity of charters prove the force which they were supposed to possess; Eadward was superstitious in his regard for the rights of the Church; Giso was one of his own clerks, his own nominee to the bishopric, and supported by him in his subsequent efforts for its restoration and enrichment. In the teeth of these facts we must suppose that the very instant Duduco dies the King suffers his solemn charters to be

torn to rags, the Church to be shamelessly plundered, the Canons to be reduced to beggary, his favourite to be thwarted and left without redress.

2.—What redress however did Giso seek? The natural course was that of an appeal to the King, and this Godwin asserts him to have made and to have received but “cold comfort.” But Godwin’s “cold comfort” is not only unsupported by, but wholly contradictory to the Bishop’s own words. The King, he says, “honourably received” him on his return from Rome. “Tunc ecclesiam sedis meæ perspicuens esse mediocrem, clericos quoque quattuor vel quinque absque claustro et refectorio esse ibidem, voluntarium me ad eorum astruxi adinstauratorem. Igitur pietate nulli secundo cum hujusmodi indigentiam intimarem, possessionem quæ Wedmor dicitur pro remuneratione æternæ recompensationis in augmentum et sustentationem fratrum ibidem Deo servientium ab eo impetravi.” And he specifies Queen Eadgyth, that is Harold’s sister, as she “cujus adminiculo et suggestione hoc ad effectum venit.” Another similar depredator, Alsie who had appropriated Wynesham Giso brings before the County Court and obtains judgment against him. But during the six years of Eadward’s reign he appeals neither to King nor courts against Harold.*

* I merely notice the charter assigned to Eadward at this period (Codex Diplomaticus, 816), lest I should be charged with overlooking it. It is a gross forgery. It is dated May 20, 1065, yet “ante hoc biennium Romæ direxi,” says Eadward of Giso. Giso is himself the scribe and can hardly have so soon forgotten that his visit had taken place not two years before, but four, in 1061. Among the manors of the See we find “Mercern” or Mark, which was not given by Eadgyth till after the Confessor’s death. But the crowning blunder is in the crediting of the See in 1065 with Banwell and Congresbury by the very Giso who himself complains that they were then in Earl Harold’s possession. Kemble marks the charter as spurious.

3.—The evidence of the Charters which survive relative to the subject may indeed be made to tell either way. On the one hand they are uniformly addressed to Harold while apparently assuming that Giso enjoyed the same endowments as his predecessor Duduco; on the other there are allusions to restitution which might be adduced in proof of the occurrence of some sacrilege or other. That announcing the grant of the bishopric begins (Codex Diplom, 835) “King Eadward greets Earl Harold and Abbot Aylnoth and Shire-reeve Godwin and all my thegns in Somerset friendly; and I have you to know that I have given Giso my priest this bishopric here with you and all its belongings as full and as freely as Duduco or any bishop before him had in all things. And if there be any land taken out of that bishopric I will that it come in again,” Another charter (838) repeats the grant of the Episcopal property “as fully and as freely as any bishop before him had in all things,” and ends “and if anything be unlawfully taken out of that bishopric whether it be in land or in any other thing, aid him for love of me that it come in again so that he have right.” 834 is a mere epitome of these, “King Eadward greets Earl Harold and Abbot Egelnoth and Shirereeve Godwin and all my thegns in Somerset friendly, and I have you to know how that I will that Bishop Giso possess his lands now as his predecessors afore him did and I will not that any man do him any wrong.” Both the “as fully and as freely” and the restitution clause in these charters may be mere copies of the usual diplomatic formulæ; if indeed the latter be more and refer to Harold’s sacrilege, it is hardly conceivable that they should be addressed to Harold himself, and should call on him “for my love” to *aid the Bishop* in procuring restitution.

4.—On Eadward's death, however, Giso represents himself as remonstrating, and his remonstrances as attended with complete success. "Haroldum etiam ducem qui ecclesiam nuhi commissam' [spoliaverat, inserted by Mr. Hunter] 'nunc secreto nunc palam correctum pari sententiâ cogitabam ferire," i.e. of excommunication. "Sed defuncto Rege Edwardo . . . cum ille regni gubernacula suscepisset, non solum ea quæ tulerat se redditurum, verum etiam ampliora spondit daturum. Præoccupante autem illum judicio divinæ ultionis," etc. If the absence of extant charters prevents our testing Giso's account of the bequest of Bishop Duduco, we can at any rate test his accuracy here. Harold's charter as King may be found in the *Codex Diplomaticus* (976), and far from containing any acknowledgment of wrong is the strongest proof of Harold's unconsciousness of having done any wrong at all. It runs indeed in a strangely friendly fashion. "Harold King greets Ailnoth Abbot and Tovid and all my thanes in Somerset friendly; and I have you to know that I will that Bishop Giso have sac and soc over his land and over his men, and toll and teme and infangtheof in borough and out as fully and freely as he had aforetime in King Eadward's days in all things." They are to support him whenever he needs "and I will that no man do him any wrong (unlag) in anything." If Harold were the wrong doer the clause is the language of sarcasm rather than of restitution. But there is no question either of the one or the other. The words are those of one who is on good terms with Giso, and who has not the slightest suspicion of a wish on the Bishop's part for more than he possessed in King Edward's days.

5.—Harold fell, whether by "the judgment of a Divine vengeance" is another question, and William was not likely

to refuse to listen to a charge of sacrilege against his rival. And Giso is prompt with complaints—but of Ailsie and Stigand, not of Harold. “*Dux vero victoriâ potitus, cum regni gubernacula post eum suscepisset et a me de injuriâ mihi allatâ querimoniam audisset, Wynesham ecclesive resignavit et monasterium Oswaldi se additurum cum citius posset spondit.*” Godwin indeed says “Giso was faine to fly the land till such time as Harold the sacrilegious usurper being vanquished and slaine William the Conqueror was a meane to restore not onely him to his place and country, but his Church also to all that the other had violently taken from it except some small parcels that (I know not by what meanes) had been conveighed unto the monastery of Gloucester;” but his authority is merely the Canon of Wells, and the Canon’s account while it shews an utter ignorance of the matter is really more accurate than is meant to be. Soon after William’s coronation “*cito postea fere omnes possessiones ab Ecclesia Wellensi per Haroldum ablatas Gisoni restituit, exceptis quibusdam ad monasterium S. Petri Glocestricæ applicatis et exceptis Congresburye, Banewell, et Kilmington et plurimis aliis.*” The writer never suspected that his exceptions embraced the whole of Bishop Duduco’s legacy, the whole of Earl Harold’s plunder. So far indeed was the Conquest from enriching the See that it seems to have impoverished it. Milverton, a gift of Eadgyths in King Eadward’s time, (Cod. Dip. 917.) had ere Domesday survey passed to the Crown: Ash Priors, which had been held by the Bishop was then held by Roger de Arundel “*de rege injuste.*” Banwell indeed had been granted by William to the Bishopric in his 11th year (according to the Canon of Wells); but Congresbury remained in the hands of the Crown till the reign of King John.

This grant of Banwell to the See, late as it was, seems to me the only circumstance which at all tends to confirm the story of Giso. Of the actual facts he is no witness, for they took place during his absence at Rome, and they really rest on the tittle-tattle of the four "mendicant Canons." We may note too that on all questions connected with his See before his own accession, Giso shows the natural ignorance of a foreigner ; he places Duduco's accession in 1030, instead of 1033 ; he blends together Duduco's two predecessors, Merewit and Brightwin, into a "*Brytheri episcopus Wellie ecclesie Merechyt cognominatus.*" His account is inconsistent both with itself and the outer facts ; take it away, and the matter becomes at once intelligible. Thus much at any rate is clear, that the disputed manors were during Duduco's life his own private fief and nowise the property of the See ; that they would on his death in due course revert to the Crown ; that they did so revert and were re-granted to Stigand and Harold ; that no legal claim to them seems to have been made by the Bishop in Eadward's days ; that Harold when King seems by his charter to have been utterly unconscious of such a claim ; that no such claim was among those laid before—or at least admitted by—William on his accession ; that the tone of Harold in his only extant charter is that of a friend of the See, rather than a plunderer ; that his sister Eadgith was a steady benefactor of the See during both her reign and her widowhood. Facts such as these point, I think, to a verdict somewhat different from the common verdict of "sacrilege."

Savaric, Bishop of Bath & Glastonbury.

BY THE REV. CANON JACKSON.

HAVING observed a statement made at one of the Meetings of the Somersetshire Archæological Society, that Documents of Bishop Savaric are exceedingly rare, I am induced to send a copy of one which I lately found among the Marquis of Bath's Deeds at Longleat.

It appears to be the Deed by which Bishop Savaric gave to the Sacristy of Glastonbury Abbey, "the Church of St. John Baptist of North-binne with the Chapel of Pennard." In the *New Monasticon*, vol. I. (Glaston.) p. 29, are four Deeds relating to this subject, of which No. xx. is a grant by Savaric of "the Church of East Pennard;" but it is nevertheless a different document from the one at Longleat, which describes the gift as that of "the Church of St. John Baptist of North-binne with the Chapel of Pennard." The Longleat Document is the one which was confirmed by the Prior and Convent of Bath, of which Confirmation Deed a fac-simile is given in plate xvi. of Warner's *History of Glastonbury Abbey*, with two seals, the Secretum of the Prior and the ancient Seal of the Priory of Bath. In the introduction to his work, p. cxxxij, Mr. Warner says that the "*Chapel of Pennard*" mentioned in the

Document is now the *Church* of East Pennard ; and that the Church of St. John Baptist, of North-binne, was at the time of his writing (1826) represented by a *ruin*, to be detected only by the remains of a wall, a door-way, and a dilapidated west window, called *Stone Chapel*, about half a mile from *Binne-grove*, in the parish of East Pennard.

To the Deed at Longleat is attached the seal of Bishop Savaric. It is of green wax, oval, about two inches long, and perfect. On it is the figure of a Bishop, with mitre and crosier, pronouncing the Benediction ; and the legend is—

✚ SAVARICUS : DI : GRA : BATHON : ET :
GLASTON : EFS

Carta Savarici Episcopi de Ecclesiâ Sancti Johannis datâ in proprios usus.

“Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit Savaricus divinâ permissione Bathonie et Glastonie Episcopus eternam in Domino salutem. Noverit universitas vestra nos ad petitionem dilectorum filiorum nostrorum in Christo Conventus Glastonie dedisse et concessisse Sacristarie ejusdem loci Ecclesiam Beati Johannis Baptiste de North-binne volente et consentiente viro venerabili Radulfo tunc temporis ejusdem Ecclesie Rectore et eam spontaneâ voluntate integrè resignante. Ita scilicet quod Sacrista eam in proprios usus Sacristarie Glaston' habeat perpetuò possidendam. Ita liberè et plenariè sicut eam memoratus Radulfus possedit cum capellâ de Pennard ad eam pertinente et omnibus earum pertinentiis. Et in eis idem Sacrista ministros honestè deservituros provideat. Et quum ea quæ perpetuò alicui collata sunt beneficia et maximè loco honesto et religioso perpetuum ac firmum robur debent obtinere ; hanc donationem et concessionem nostram tam subscriptorum testimonio quam sigilli nostri appositione confirmavimus. Inhibentes sub interminatione Anathematis ne quis contrâ hanc ordinationem nostram solempniter factam venire presumens aliter quam supradictum est de dictâ ecclesiâ disponat. Hiis testibus Thoma Subdecano Wellen', Mag'ro Johanne de Calnâ, Mag'ro Nicholao de Lumers, Mag'ro Willo de Cilesta, Mag'ro Rogero de Sanford, Reginaldo clerico de London., Gilberto Gimel, Henrico-Drug', Willo de Estret, David coco et Johanne filio ejus, Willo Pasturel' et Willo filio ejus, Waltero Portario, Waltero Preposito, Willo Gille, Willo filio Johannis de Sancto Benigno, et multis aliis.”

I have also found a few notices of him in a newly-discovered but imperfect Chartulary of Cirencester Abbey.

His name as "S. Bathon' et Glaston' Epūs," occurs as a witness to a Deed, dated 2 May 5 John, by which the King confirmed a Grant to Cirencester Abbey.

There are two Documents of earlier date in which he appears as Archdeacon of Northampton. In the first (of which a copy is subjoined) he testifies to the consent given by one John of the Hospital to pay a bezant annually.

"Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit Savaricus Archid' Norhamt' salutem in Domino. Noverit universitas vestra nos in sinodo nostrâ apud Ecclesiam S'ti Petri de Norhamt' audisse ab ore Johannis de Hospitali ipsum ratam habere convencionem illam de bisancio annuatim reddendo nostre ecclesie de Hacce Abbacie de Cirencestr' in die Pasche sicut in litteris delegatorum judicium A. scilicet Abbatis de Evesham et R. Prioris de Kinigwriha continetur. Et ut ratum permanere debeat et inconcussum presentis scripti attestacione comunimus. Testibus hiis Abbate S'ti Jacobi de Norhamt', Radulpho de Wachere officiali, Roberto decano de Norhamt' et alliis."

In the other he testifies to the settlement of a dispute between Cirencester Abbey and certain clerks, Hugh de Benefield and John of the Hospital, about the Chapels of Slipston and Aley, and the Church of Brigstock.

Leigh-Delamere, Chippenham, September, 1864.

On the Caverns of Burrington Combe,

EXPLORED IN 1864, BY

MESSRS. W. AYSHFORD SANFORD, AND W. BOYD DAWKINS.

BY THE LATTER.

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IN accordance with a plan for the systematic exploration of the Mendip Hills, which I had been carrying on for the last five years, Mr. W. Ayshford Sanford and myself resolved to examine the Caverns of Burrington Combe, and this we were enabled to carry out by the courtesy of the owner, Lord William Paulett.

I.—The formation of Combes on those deep gorges in the limestone, which are the glory of Somersetshire, is a question fraught with great difficulty, and to be solved in one way only—by causes still in operation. And of such causes, the only ones adequate to such grand results are—the passage of water wearing away the rocks over which it

flows, both mechanically by the friction of the pebbles, and chemically by the solution of the limestone, by means of the carbonic acid ever present in the air and rain, the sudden changes in temperature, frosts, solar heat, and the like: all these operating through countless ages, have worked out results so grand that we almost naturally look upon them as spasmodic efforts of nature. In this short life indeed of ours, we have not time to watch her operations on a grand scale, we cannot stand far enough away from her to appreciate her simplicity, and her harmony; but by examining her work, begun here, half done or ended there, we can form an adequate idea of her method.

And first of all let us trace the effect of, in the case we are considering, the most potent of her instruments, of rain-water containing carbonic acid. All the rain that falls upon a mountain limestone district, passes down through the joints in the rock, dissolving a small portion of its bed, and after determining its subterranean course downwards by the dip, and choosing now one system of fissures, now another, re-appears at the base of the hills in the form of streams of greater or less magnitude. All caverns, combs, and ravines are, or have been, the channels of this subterranean system of drainage.

In the great majority of cases the drainage has taken another channel, at a lower level, and we find no trace of water in cavern, combe, or ravine. But there are a great many cases in which the water still retains its old course. In the Palace garden at Wells, there has been long known a spring which is continually throwing up water-worn pebbles of coal and cinder, and which must therefore have flowed through a system of caverns or fissures, from the nearest coal or lead mines where coal is used, to Wells. But the most noteworthy of these is the course of the

Axe. At Priddy, a small brook disappears suddenly in a swallet, or hole in the limestone, and after an unknown course of three miles through a system of caverns, it bursts forth in great volume from the Wookey Hole Cavern, and flows into the open air at the bottom of Wookey Hole Ravine. In this case it is clear that the carbonic acid in the water does actually remove portions of the rock, first of all from its deposition of carbonate of lime in certain portions of its course, and lastly from the analysis of the water which contains soluble bicarbonate of lime. Its mechanical action also is proved by the large quantity of sediment, with which it is charged after heavy rains. There can be no doubt therefore, taking this as an example of the rest, that at the present time each streamlet that flows through or over the limestone is wearing away its bed, both chemically and mechanically.

An examination of the physical features of Wookey Hole Ravine shows us a long straight valley, open to the south, and hollowed in the dolomitic conglomerate, with the Axe flowing along its bottom. As it approaches the mountain limestone the sides become more and more precipitous until at its upper end, on the very edge of the limestone the conglomerate forms a high transverse vertical cliff traversed by joints running at right angles, one system lying east and west, a second north and south. Frost, solar heat, and the carbonic acid are continually attacking this portion, and the palpable result of their attack is visible in a talus of rubble, and blocks of conglomerate on either side of the stream. The cavern at the base of the cliff is in the same line as the ravine and the valley. And it is evident that the cause which produced the valley, produced also the ravine and the cavern. If this be attributed to a fissure, caused by the shock of an earthquake,

the absence of any such fissure at the head of the ravine, and its abrupt termination, prove the hypothesis to be untenable. But on the other hand, if we allow time to be a factor in the calculation, we can easily assign the origin of all three to the operations still going on in the same place. The subterranean stream is continually enlarging the caverns, through which it flows, forming here stalactites and stalagmites, then decomposing them and carrying them away, and the carbonic acid in the air in spots above the reach of the water, is disintegrating the stone and leaving the fossils in strong relief. In the open air the frosts of winter and the heats of summer, the very snails that crawl over every blade of grass, every festoon of ivy that adorns the rock, are lengthening atom by atom the ravine at the expense of the cavern; the only limit to their combined results is time. Given indefinite time, there is no reason whatever why the roof of Wookey Hole Cavern should not be removed piecemeal, and the ravine wind gradually upwards, even to the swallet hole at Priddy, where the Axe disappears, and ultimately in the lapse of ages, take the form of an ever widening valley. That a cavern can actually be turned in this way into a ravine, is proved by the condition of a small one I explored in 1859, near the top of Cheddar Pass, on the left hand side as you ascend. Entering a small ravine, some ten feet deep at its lower end, with its bottom strewn with large cubical blocks of limestone, we find ourselves in a small cave with its roof so ruined that light can be seen through the chinks. Its inevitable fall, and the consequent further conversion of the cave into a ravine, is altogether a question of time. The stream which once flowed through this into Cheddar Pass, has long since sought a course at a lower level together with the parent stream, that now bursts forth at the bottom of the Pass.

The only difference then between this ravine in miniature and Wookey Hole Ravine and Cavern, is simply one of size, and that in the latter besides subaerial causes, water is a further agent of destruction. Both are ravines only half finished, and stand half way between caverns, on the one hand, and combes on the other. They show us the stages through which Cheddar Pass and Burrington Combe, and the like have passed. It is impossible to calculate the time necessary for the formation of passes in limestone districts on this hypothesis.

A cursory examination of any ravine in a mountain limestone district, shows the strata continuous on either side, with few or no exceptions. If the bottom be exposed it will be seen to consist of solid rock, and not of a mass of debris filling a fissure. And lastly, all limestone ravines wind more or less, instead of being in straight lines, and all have small ravines or caverns opening upon them. None of these invariable conditions can be explained on the theory of their formation by earthquakes. Undoubtedly the original upheaval of the mass, from its level position at the bottom of the sea, to the present inclined position of the rocks, must have given rise to slight cracks, and subsequent action of a different nature, to joints. These, with the dip, may have had their influence in the distribution of the drainage, but they could not have produced caves, ravines, valleys, and combes, such as we now see. All the circumstances connected with them point simply and directly to the influence of rain water charged with carbonic acid, as the main and almost the sole instrument of their formation.

II.—Burrington Combe, like its two rivals, Cheddar Pass and Ebber Rocks, is a deep gorge in the mountain side, hollowed in its lower end out of the calcareo-mag-

nesian conglomerate, that covers the flanks of Mendip, in its middle and upper part out of the hard limestone and shales of which the carboniferous limestone is composed. Its direction is at right angles to the axis of the Mendip range, and coincides with a system of joints running also from north to south. Its many windings to the east and west are owing to a second system of joints east and west, less important than the first, and with them splitting up the limestone into a series of cubes. The rain falling upon the surface disappears through the lines of joints, dissolving small portions of the rock, and determining its course downwards and northwards by the dip, and choosing now one system of fissures, and now another, was the main agent in the formation of this as of other combes; but the drainage has at present found another channel at a lower level, and no longer flows along its old bed. The small secondary ravines on the right hand side on entering the combe, the Lower and Upper Twin-brook Combes, afford peculiarly valuable testimony to the method by which the drainage may be diverted. The small brooks flowing through them suddenly disappear into new subterranean channels, some 150 yards from Burrington Combe, into which, beyond all doubt, they once flowed, and run parallel with the dip of the beds underneath the combe. They are intermediate between dry ravines such as Burrington, and those through which water still flows as Wookey Hole, and show that both belong to one and the same class. Burrington Combe then represents the dried up main channel of the neighbourhood, its windings are owing to two systems of joints offering two lines of weakness at right angles to each other, and its direction is caused by the general northward dip of the beds.

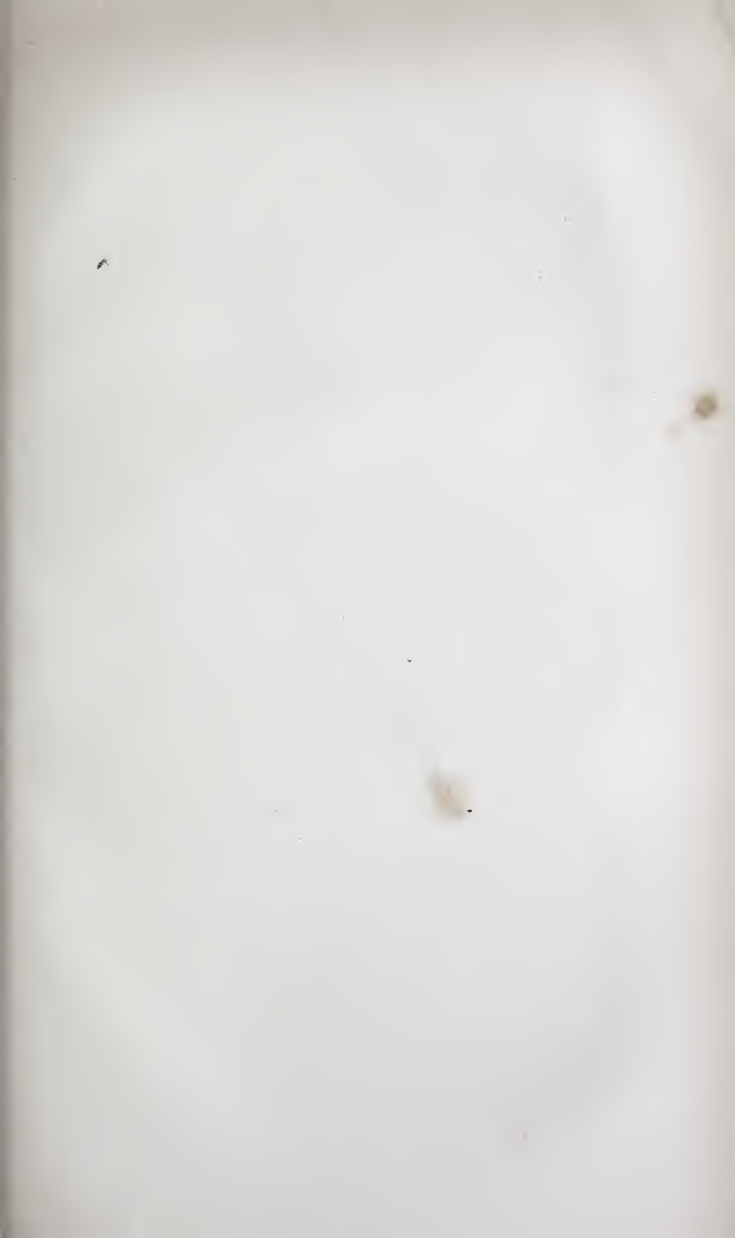


Fig. 1

Barrington Co. N.C.



TRILLOBITES

DISRUPTED GROUP

B

B

VERTICAL SECTION OF AVELINE'S HOLE.

Scale $\frac{1}{4}$ in. = 10 feet.

The left hand side on entering the combe is steep and precipitous, and, owing to the strata dipping 50° to 60° away from it, and therefore cutting off the drainage on that side, there are no secondary ravines opening on its lower part.

Of the four caverns which we explored, two, Avelines Hole and Plumleys Den, are on the left side of the combe as you ascend, one on the right, Whitcombes Hole, and lastly the Great Goatchurch Cavern, in the Lower Twinbrook Ravine.

III.—Avelines Hole. The first of these, Avelines Hole, is situated in the lower portion of the combe, and on a level with its bottom. It consists of two chambers (see Fig. 1) A and B connected by a short narrow passage. At the time of its discovery, in or about the year 1820, its present entrance was blocked up by a large mass of stalactite, and the only access was through a small hole between it and the combe side. Several skeletons were found deposited in a recess, as in a sepulchral catacomb, and some of the bones and skulls having been exposed to the calcareous droppings from the roof, were encrusted with stalagmites.* All these were found on the left hand side of the chamber A. There can be no reasonable doubt but that the cave was used as a place of interment by some early people; but in the absence of the skeletons and skulls, which have vanished from the Bucklandian collection, it is impossible to form an opinion of their date or race. The chamber A is 78 feet long, and runs due west with a dip of 35° . The whole of the lower part is occupied with a talus of large stones, which have rolled down during the last few years, and since the zealous collector of bones, Mr. Beard, had been

* See Buckland, *Reliquiæ Diluvianæ*, 4to, 1824, p.p. 164, 165.

at work. It is commonly reported that he obtained a large quantity of remains from the lower part of this chamber. Either he, or a poor man of the neighbourhood, impelled by a dream to search for gold, had broken through the crust of stalagmite in places three inches thick, which formerly extended horizontally across the lower portion. Unwilling to re-examine the portion that had been disturbed, we began work at the further end of the chamber B, which was filled with a fine, horizontally stratified silt, containing layers of fine sand. And after sinking a shaft 38 feet deep (C) without finding any organic remains except a portion of the head with the horn cores of *Ovis Ariès* at a depth of 26 feet, and one of the teeth of *Sus Scrofa* at a depth of 36 feet, we gave it up as a profitless undertaking. On a former visit in 1860, I obtained one of the sternal bones of a wolf, from a hole in the side of the chamber B, and one of the teeth of *Arvicola Amphibia*, associated with shells of *Helix* and charcoal. The horizontality of the silt proves that the contents were introduced by water, and the presence of sheep indicate that it was deposited at a comparatively recent date after the extinction of the wild beasts of Wookey Hole Cavern. The presence of charcoal renders it probable that the cave was a place of habitation at some early period or other. The direction of the cave is due east and west, running nearly parallel to the strike of the rock, the dip of the limestone being 62° to the north-east.

IV.—Whitcombes Hole. The next cave we explored was Whitcombes Hole, situated 370 yards higher up the combe than the preceding, on the right hand side immediately above the junction of the Lower Twin-brook Ravine, and opening upon the combe side, at a height of 135 feet from the bottom and 15 feet from the top. We found it to be

one of the tunnel caves or those which run into the rock horizontally, and which as a rule yields large quantities of organic remains, traces of man and the like. It was partially full of earth, mingled with charcoal, and containing a large quantity of the scattered teeth, jaws, and bones of ox, deer, goat, wolf, fox, badger, rabbit and hare, birds also were found. In the lower portion where the floor dips downwards (see vertical section, Fig. 2), we found fragments of a rude unornamented urn, of the coarsest black ware, with a rim turned at right angles, and an angle iron, which more closely resembled those found strengthening the angles of wooden chests, in the Roman graves on the banks of the Somme, than anything else. These two things taken together seem to me to indicate an interment of Roman date. The accumulation of bones and charcoal proves that the cave was inhabited, like those of Perigord,* for some considerable time. The fractures of the bones, with one exception, were caused by the hand of man, and not by the teeth of the Carnivora. The position of the cave is eminently fitted for concealment, for while commanding an extensive view down the combe, it is invisible both from above and below, and opening on the face of an almost vertical cliff, it is easily defensible against any odds. The interment is clearly of a later date than the occupation, because it is made in the mass of earth, bones, and charcoal, which resulted from the latter. The interval between the two is of doubtful length.

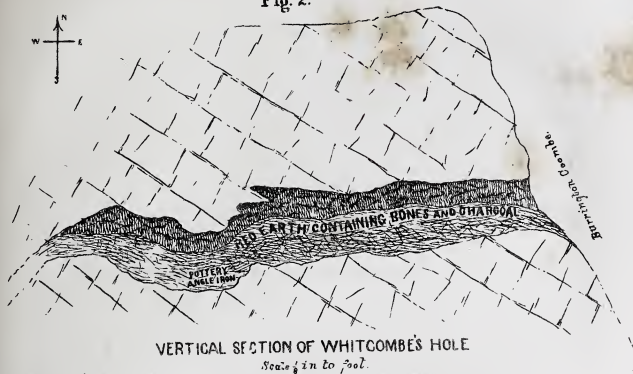
The interment may possibly have been made during the troublous times of the Saxon invasion, certainly not later, and possibly very much earlier. There is nothing to mark

* MM. Lartet and Christy's Essay on the above in "*Revue Archéologique*," Paris, 1864, is by far the most important contribution to the Archaeology of the day.

the date of the occupation. The fauna proves it however to have been at a date posterior to that of the great extinct carnivora, the rhinoceros, the Irish elk, and their contemporaries.

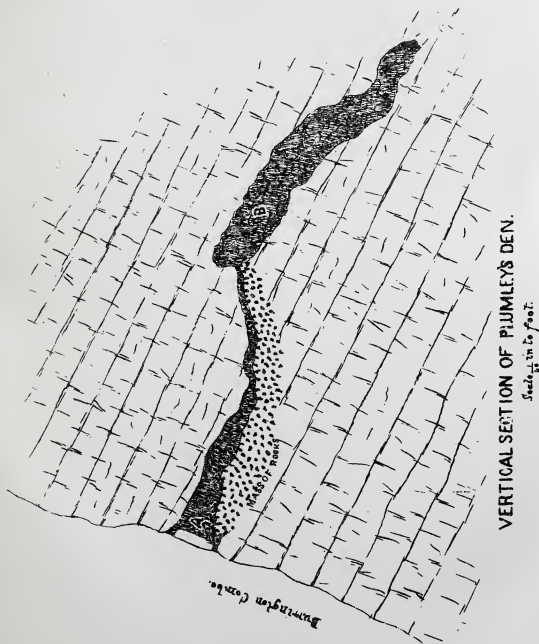
V.—The third cave, Plumleys Den, still higher up in the combe, and on the left hand side, consists of two chambers, connected by two small passages not more than a few inches high between the beds of rock. The natural entrance, but a little larger than a fox's hole, was in the roof of the first chamber (Fig. 3), and through this we had to drop down into the cave. As this was a most inconvenient mode of access, and especially to some of our stout visitors who could not be dragged or squeezed through, we blasted a second entrance in the combe side. The first chamber was at least half full of broken rocks, which formed a talus from below the natural entrance downwards, through which in part they may have been introduced. They were covered with a mortar-like mass of decomposed stalagmite. Underneath them we found a group of four skulls (A), more or less crushed and fractured. One of these was of *Bos taurus*, two of *Ibex*, and one of *Sus scrofa*. The latter had a round hole in its frontals and parietals, about the size of a five-shilling piece, which I believe could only have been made by human hands. The presence of the lower jaws close by the skulls, indicates that they were deposited in the cave while the ligaments still bound them together. Had they been introduced by water after decomposition had set in, the lower jaws would not have been found by the side of the skulls to which they belong. Between the interstices of the stones covering the floor were numerous bones and teeth of wolf, fox, mole, *arvicolæ*, badger, bat, the *matacarpal* of reindeer, the same of roe, the *radius* of *bos*, the head, sternum, and lumbar

Fig. 2.



W. E. G. OGDON, DEL.

Fig. 3.



FRAS. LITH. T. A. WATSON



vertebræ of *coccothraustes*, and the sternum of plover. The teeth of ox differ from any of those found in Pleistocene deposits, either in caverns or gravel pits, and the skulls of *Ibex* approach more nearly to those of the *Aigoceros Caucasica*, of Asia, than any recent skull with which I am acquainted in London or Oxford.

The outer chamber was remarkable for the absence of earth of any kind, except immediately underneath the natural entrance. The lower chamber (B) on the other hand, at the same slope as the upper, has its lower end entirely stopped up with a fine red earth, which has been deposited by a stream, traces of which were evident, and which probably flows during heavy rains.

The chemical processes going on in all limestone districts, were here seen operating side by side ; while in some parts the carbonate of lime, stolen from the limestone by the carbonic acid, was being deposited in the form of stalactites or stalagmites ; in others the carbonic acid was attacking them and decomposing them into a pasty mass. This cavern is undoubtedly like the other two, of a later date than that of the Hyena-den, of Wookey Hole. The skulls were probably placed where we found them by the hand of man, for some reason or other, or the animals may have accidentally fallen in through the entrance, and being unable to get out died and remained where they fell.

VI.—The Goatchurch Cavern. On passing down the combe, and ascending the lower of the two Twin-brook Ravines, we come to by far the largest cavern with which I am acquainted in the Mendips—that locally known by the name of the Goatchurch. Like all the other large caverns in the district it has its legends. The dwellers in the neighbourhood, who have never cared to explore its recesses, will tell you that a certain dog put in here found

its way out after many days at Wookey Hole, having lost all its hair in scrambling through the narrow passages. At Cheddar the same legend is appropriated to the Cheddar Cave. At Wookey, the dog is said to have travelled back to Cheddar. Some eighteen years ago, while exploring some limestone caverns at Llanamynech, on the English border of Montgomeryshire, I met with a similar legend. A man playing bag-pipes is said to have entered one of the caves well provisioned with Welsh mutton, and after he had been in some time his bag-pipes were heard* two miles from the entrance, underneath the small town of Llanamynech. He never returned to tell his story. The few bones that are found in the cave, are supposed to be those which he had picked on the way. This is doubtless another form of the dog story; both owe their origin to the vague impression which most people have of the great extent of caverns,—an impression more creditable to their common sense, than the deliberate theory advanced by several savants in a recent lawsuit, that Wookey Hole Cavern had no possible connection with the swallow holes at Priddy.

The Goatchurch Cave opens upon the east side of the ravine, and about 120 feet above the bottom of it. After creeping on all fours through a narrow passage with a rather steep descent westward, you suddenly find yourself in a stalactitic chamber of considerable height and size, with a floor inclined at about 30°. Two vertical holes lead from this chamber; the first to the left hand about thirty feet from the bottom, leads into a passage of some length, which formerly opened into the passage next described; the

* If Signor Pierotti, the author of a book lately published on Jerusalem, had ever heard of this legend, he turned it to profitable account by sending his bell-man and drum-man through an unknown passage under the plateau of the Temple, while he traced its course above by sound of bell and drum.

second, also on the left side, and close to a huge barrel-shaped stalagmite, is a small vertical hole, which leads into a horizontal passage, nearly at right angles to the first chamber, and due east and west, just large enough to admit of a person walking with ease. At certain places there are vertical fissures running at right angles to it, and formed by the decomposition of the limestone in the lines of the joints. At its further end are five branches, leading into some ill-defined chambers partially stalactitic, but in the main filled with loose bare cubical masses of limestone. Two of these lead into a chamber, at a much lower level than the horizontal passage, and into which we obtained access chimney sweep fashion, by letting ourselves down a steep fissure of considerable depth, which crossed the passage at a short distance from the five branches. This chamber was large with a sloping floor. At its lower end on passing through a narrow passage, we came into a second, also of very considerable height and length, and with its floor covered with masses of limestone. Leading out of this to the right was a most beautiful stalactitic chamber, a rival on a small scale to that at Cheddar. At its further end were two small holes, just large enough to admit a person's body, into which we were tempted by the sound of water. Down one of these we slid into a third very large chamber, which must be of very considerable height, though the loose cubical masses of limestone, some of enormous size, with which it is filled, diminish the effects considerably. The fissure through which we passed was very nearly vertical, being at an angle of 83° . At the bottom of the chamber we found a small stream of water flowing parallel to the dip of the limestone, 58° N.E. It is doubtless the same stream which disappears in the ravine a little above. By aneroid measurement, the stream in the cavern is

eighty feet below the place where it disappears in the ravine. The water also had lost ten degrees of heat in its passage, being 49° in the cave and 59° out of it. The great coolness indeed of the water, makes me think that a streamlet of considerable subterranean length must join the Lower Twin-brooks, between the points of disappearance in the combe and re-appearance in the cavern. In all probability the water flowing underneath Burrington Combe, joining with these, forms the stream which gushes forth in great volume at Rickford. The air in the cave, which passed in a current downwards, was 59° , or 5° cooler than that outside. Some eighteen feet below the stream there are two or three small passages intersecting one another as usual, at right angles, but difficult of access on account of the unstable dangerous position of the large blocks of limestone. One of these which we freed from the stalactites that barred our progress, led into a small chamber. The lowest portion of the cave was eighteen to twenty feet below the stream, and two hundred and twenty feet below the entrance of the cavern.

On returning we discovered a second entrance to the lower chamber, much more accessible than the first. By the former indeed it is almost impossible to ascend. We found on accidentally mistaking the passage and attempting this ascent, that it is far too narrow for the use of hands or feet, and alternate elongation and contraction of the body, while clinging to the little sharp fossils standing out from the surface, is the only method of accomplishing it.

In the horizontal passage, immediately below the first vertical descent, we found that the stalagmite had been broken, and the earth disturbed, except in one spot, a few feet only in area. Mr. Beard, here, as at Avelines Hole, had forestalled us. Among other remains, he obtained

a fine tusk of *Elephas primigenius*, out of this place. On setting men to work at the undisturbed portion, we obtained only a molar of *Ursus*, and a piece of flint of precisely similar form, though rather larger than those used by the Australians to barb their spears, and like them when used, it has the sharp cutting edge splintered and worn. They were embedded in the usual red earth which contained stones, and underlayed a stalagmitic crust of from one and an half to two inches in thickness.

There can be but little doubt in my opinion, but that the organic remains in this cave have been like those of Liège, described by Dr. Buckland's great antagonist, Dr. Schmerling, introduced by water from some higher level; and the date of the introduction must have been during the period of the *spelæan* bear and the mammoth. As such therefore, the ossiferous deposit is of greater age than those of the other caverns which we examined in this combe. This was the last cavern we explored.

In conclusion, I will briefly run over the history of Burrington Combe, and its tributary ravines and caves. When the mountain limestone was first exposed to atmospheric influences, the rain descending upon it, sank into the joints, dissolving away the rock atom by atom, and the little streamlets united until they formed a subterranean stream, which flowed along the channel, now marked by the combe. For countless ages it must have flowed on, gradually enlarging its bed, while the cave at the bottom of the combe, through which it burst forth into the open air, gradually became decomposed, and the roof being removed atom by atom, the small ravine became larger and larger, and crept upwards at the expence of the cavern until all traces of the latter were lost. Its affluents also, the Twin-brooks, were in like manner robbed of their

roofs. Then the water, deserting its old bed, found a new subterranean channel at a lower level. The Twin-brooks also deserting the lower part of their courses, resought the main stream, which in my opinion is that which gushes out of a fissure at Rickford. Then after an interval, of which we cannot form any idea, there is evidence of a stream flowing through the Goatchurch Cavern, during heavy rains perhaps, and sweeping in the remains of mammoth and cave-bear. The splinter of flint, I am inclined to believe, was left in the passage by man. All this happened at a time when the caverns at Wookey Hole were dens for hyenas, and savages with their rude missiles of chert and flint hunted the Irish elk, the rein-deer, and the bison, on the slopes of Mendip; or defended themselves against the cave-bear, and the cave-tiger; or the fury of the enraged mammoth and rhinoceros. Then all these animals passed away, either exterminated by the hands of man or driven eastward, for in those days Britain was part of the European mainland,—to take refuge in Siberia, the steppes of Tartary, and the north of China.* At a later period man certainly inhabited Avelines and Whitcombes Holes, and subsequently used them for burying places. The remains found in Plumleys Den, may perhaps be of greater antiquity than those of the other two. It is hard indeed for us to conceive the lapse of time involved in this succession of events. To explain them, most of us fall into the error of identifying the powers of nature with our own,—of thinking that she acts as we should act, impatiently,—of calling in earthquake shocks, cataclysms, and “sudden destruction of life,” and the like; dwelling altogether in our little present, and ignoring the undetermined and undeterminable length of past time.

* This is the view taken by our greatest living palæontologist, Dr. Falconer.

The Origin of the Name of Wellesley,

AND THE EARLY CONNECTION OF

THE FAMILY WITH WELLS.

BY MR. T. SEREL.

AS a citizen of Wells, it is natural I should feel an interest in endeavouring to direct attention to the circumstances which make it probable that the early ancestors of that great man, the late Duke of Wellington, were closely connected by property and residence with the locality in which I live, and that the name they bare took its origin from a beautiful and picturesque spot within the bounds of St. Cuthbert's parish, about one mile and a half from the Cathedral. The Duke himself must have held such an opinion. This is confirmed by the fact of his adopting for his first title of nobility,—“Baron Douro, of *Wellesley*, in the county of Somerset, and Viscount Wellington, of Talavera, and of Wellington, in the same county.”

That a family, bearing the name of Wellesley, or Wellesleigh, lived there, is, to my mind, as certain as that I am now speaking ; and further, that the acquisition of this name in the manner I have suggested is, I think, equally

unquestionable. The manor held by this ancient family is known by the appellation of "Wellesley" to this day, and there is undoubted evidence that it was called the same nearly 800 years ago, as it is expressly mentioned in the charter of Edward the Confessor to the Church of Wells, in 1065. The origin of this name may easily be traced to the peculiar features and state of the locality in which the property is situate. It is well known that there are numerous places, the names of which terminate with the word *Ley* or *Leigh*. Wherever this is the case, it implies an open field or large pasture. Welles-Ley, or Welles-Leigh, then, was a large open field, or pasture, near Wells. There is no specific notice of the Manor of Wellesley in the Norman survey, but it is certain that within a few years after that great and important work had been completed, the family to which I allude had become resident there. I do not intend to discuss the point as to the precise time, or under what circumstances the estates were acquired by this family. My more immediate object is to show the early connexion of the Wellesleys with this neighbourhood, and that it is to the circumstance of their coming and locating themselves here, they obtained their name. I believe I am right in saying that no earlier instance is known in which the name has been found elsewhere, nor has there been, to my knowledge, any attempt to assign a better reason for its origin, than that I now venture to assert. It is said that Avenant de Wellesley was the first of the family who obtained lands in Somerset, which he had by a grant from Henry I. (A.D. 1104), with the Serjeanty of the Bailiwick of East Perrott. It is also said that one of the family (A.D. 1172) accompanied Henry II. to Ireland, as standard bearer, and had large grants of land there, as a reward for his

services. It is further said that Henry, grandson of Avenant de Wellesley, had a confirmation of the Grand Serjeanty of East Perrott, from Henry III., and that he had a son, William, who died in the 37th year of Henry's reign, leaving, by Agnes his wife, a son, Thomas de Wellesley, who died at a great age, leaving a son, Philip de Wellesley, who, 6th Edward III., (A.D., 1332), in a great law suit with Adam de Sodbury, Abbot of Glastonbury, successfully resisted the haughty Abbot's claim to exemption from the Grand Serjeanty, and in proof of his title produced the original grant by Henry I., with the subsequent confirmation of it by Henry III. The earliest authentic record which has come under my notice of the name occurring in connexion with Wells, is that of *Walerand de Wellesleigh*, who was one of the witnesses mentioned in the charter granted to the city by Reginald Fitz-Jocelyn, Bishop of Bath and Wells. The original charter is among the important records belonging to the Corporation of Wells, and is the earliest document of the kind possessed by that body. It bears no date (by no means unusual at that early period), but it must have been granted between the years 1174, when Bishop Reginald succeeded to the see, and 1191, when he had the Archbishopric of Canterbury, forced upon him, though he lived scarcely a month to enjoy that high dignity.

There are numerous other evidences in the Wells city records, of the connexion of the Wellesleys with Wells. Among others, I quote the following original documents:—

10, Edward II. (A.D. 1317.)—Grant of a tenement in Grope . . . Lane, in Wells, from William le Bourne, Canon of Wells, to Thomas le Devenysh.

14, Edward II. (A.D. 1320.)—Grant by Walter de Bristleton, chaplain, John Atte Churchstyle, of Wells,

- and Hugh le Barbur, executors of William de Shepton, to Robert Furnel, and Juliana his wife, of a tenement in St. Cuthbert-street, in Wells.
- 17, Edward II. A.D. 1324.)—Grant by William de Bathonia, Rector of Bagborough, Somerset, of a tenement in Southover, in Wells.
- 17, Edward II. (A.D. 1324.)—Grant by William Gyleman, Burgess of Wells, to Gilbert le Bowtard, son of Gilbert de Batcombe, of a messuage in High-street, in Wells.
- 18, Edward II. (A.D. 1325.)—Grant of premises in Wells, by Thomas Squyrell, son and heir of Richard Squyrell, late Burgess of Wells, to Peter le Boytoyre.
- 2, Edward III. (A.D. 1328.)—Grant by John de Merke, of Wells, to Adam de Chelworth, of land in the Western Field, in Wells, behind "Toukerstrete," (now Tucker-street.)
- 4, Edward III. (A.D. 1330.)—Grant of a tenement in "Wetelane," (now Broad-street,) in Wells, by Edmund, son of John le Chamberleyne, of "Wokyhole," to Thomas de Testwode.
- 6, Edward III. (A.D. 1332.)—Assignment of a rent of 8s., payable out of a messuage in High-street, in Wells, by Robert Noreys late Burgess of Wells, to Walter de Hulle, clerk.

In each of these deeds, the name of Edmund de Welleslegh occurs as one of the witnesses ; and in another deed of 21, Edward III., relating to a tenement in a lane called Isaackes Mead, in Wells, it is said to abut on a tenement of the same Edmund de Welleslegh. I could quote numerous other instances from the records in the custody of the Corporation of Wells, in which the name of this Edmund de Welleslegh occurs as a witness, among others who were undoubtedly then resident in or near Wells :—

such as Roger de Midelton (or Milton), William Atte Water, Thomas de Wodeford, Walter de Rodeney, John de Garslade, Thomas le Tannere, &c. The following translation from the original Latin will be interesting to those who are not acquainted with the ancient mode of conveying lands by deed, and afford the strongest evidence of the fact of the early connection of the Wellesleys with Wells. This document relates to a messuage and land at Dinder, about two miles from Wells, and about one mile from the Wellesley Manor House :—

“ TO ALL TO WHOSE NOTICE this present writing shall come, WALTER LE FLEMING, Lord of Dynder, eternal health in the Lord. Know all ye that I have released and quit claim for me and my heirs or assigns to Elias at Wytheeye, and Isabella his wife, All the right and claim which I have, or in anywise could have, in one fardel of land, with a messuage, meadow, and croft to the same appertaining, in the vill of Dynder ; which fardel of land with the said appurtenances Richard Southovere, father of the said Elias, formerly held of me, and he the said Elias after the decease of his father, in like manner held of me for his life. To have and hold the said fardel of land, with the messuage, meadow, croft, and all other its appurtenances, to the said Elias and Isabella his wife, and their heirs or assigns freely, peacefully by hereditary right for ever ; paying therefore yearly to me and my heirs or assigns one penny on the feast of the Nativity of the Lord, for wards, reliefs, marriages, suits of court, customs, heriots, aids, and all other exactions and secular demands to me and my heirs or assigns in anywise appertaining. And moreover I the said Walter and my heirs or assigns all the foresaid tenement, with all its appurtenances as aforesaid, to the aforesaid Elias and Isabella his wife and

their heirs or assigns against all mortals, will warrant acquit and for ever defend. In witness thereof I have confirmed this present writing by the impression of my seal. These for witnesses, Lord *Thomas of Welleslye*, John of Garslade, *Robert of Welleslye*, William Visouthewode, of Evercrych, Gilbert le Frye, of Chestblade, Robert of Ashwik, Adam of Graveston, and others. Given at Dynder on the morrow of S. Edmund the Archbishop, in the year of grace, one thousand, two hundred and ninety eight, and in the twenty sixth year of the reign of King Edward."

It will be seen that two of the Wellesley family are expressly mentioned as witnesses in this deed, and there cannot be much doubt that these persons (Thomas de Wellesley, and Robert de Wellesley,) were then resident at Wellesley. For the information of those not conversant with such matters, I may mention, by way of note, that in early times, deeds were not signed as at present ; it was customary then merely to *seal* and perfect the deed in the presence of divers persons known to the parties interested, and resident in, or acquainted with the locality to which the document related ; and these witnesses were mentioned by name in the deed. As an instance of this custom I may quote the charter of Bishop Reginald Fitz Jocelyn, before referred to, in which there are no less than thirty-two witnesses named, with the additional words, "and many others."

And now permit me shortly to trace the descent of the Wellesley estates in this neighbourhood, from the original possessors to the present time. For these particulars, I am chiefly indebted to *Collinson* and *Burke*. It is probable that nearly, if not all, the lands within the present boundaries of the Wells parishes, at the Conquest, belonged to

the Church of Wells. The enormous possessions of the See, as set forth in Domesday, lead to this conclusion. In what way, or under what circumstances, the Wellesleys first became landowners here, I have no certain means of deciding ; but the first recorded instance shows that what they did own was then held under the church. Collinson tells us that William de Welleslegh, 37, Henry III. (A.D. 1253), held three parts of a hide of land in Welleslegh under the Bishop, by the Grand Serjeanty of the Hundred of Wells Forum ; besides other lands in Littleton of Wm. de Button; and, from the same authority, we learn that Philip de Walleslegh, 22nd Edward III. (A.D. 1347), held lands in Welleslegh and Dulcot (an adjoining hamlet) by the Serjeanty of the Hundred of East Perrett. That Walerand de Welleslegh (whose name occurs in the charter of Bishop Reginald, already quoted) had lands here, is confirmed by the fact that, in 1492, John Stourton (who had intermarried with one of the Wellesley's descendants, and then resided in Wells) is recorded as holding half a Knight's fee in Welleslegh and East Wall (now East Wells, or St. Thomas-street), which Walerand de Welleslegh formerly held. (I ought to explain that Grand Serjeanty was a feudal service of the most honourable kind, as it could only be rendered to the King himself, and not to any inferior Lord or Baron. This service was not always the same. In the case of the Wellesleys the service they rendered was that of bearing the King's standard in his wars.) About, or soon after, the end of the 14th century, the name of Wellesley, as landowners in Wells, disappeared, the last of them being the Philip de Welleslegh before mentioned. This Philip de Welleslegh died, leaving Elizabeth, his daughter and heiress. She married William Bannister, Esq., and died seized of the Wellesley

estates, 19th Richard II. (A.D. 1395), leaving by her husband, one daughter only. This lady, whose name was Joan, married twice. By her first husband, Robert de Alfoxton, she had no issue. Her second husband was Sir John Hill, Knt., the head of the great family of that name, settled at Spaxton, in this county, to whom the Wellesley estates passed. There is some confusion in names, as well as dates, in Collinson's accounts of the manors, advowsons, and lands held by the Hills, which I cannot reconcile, so as to trace their earlier descent in a direct line. With the beginning of the 15th century they become better known. Robert Hill, Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset in 1422, who, according to Collinson (vol. ii., 457), was the son and heir to Sir John Hill, died, leaving by Isabel his wife, (daughter of Sir Thomas Fitchet), John, his son and heir. This John Hill, 13th Henry 6th (A.D. 1435), is recorded as possessor of the family estates, as well as of the office of bailiff of the Bailiwick of the Hundred of Wells Forum, and Crier of the county of Somerset, which he held of John, Bishop of Bath and Wells, in common socage. He died, leaving by Cicely his wife, John, his son and heir, who also died leaving a son of the same name, who married Margaret, daughter of Sir Walter Rodney, Knt., and died 34, Henry VI., leaving issue one daughter only, Genovesa, as his heiress. This Genovesa married Sir William Say, Knt., and having died without issue, the estates reverted to Elizabeth, sister and heiress of the last-named John Hill, and aunt of the said Lady Genovesa Say. This Elizabeth married John Cheyney, Esq., of Pinhoe, Devon, and left issue, John Cheyney, her son and heir. He died, leaving by Alice his wife, four daughters only, his co-heiresses; one of whom, Elizabeth, married Edward Waldegrave, second son of Sir Thomas Waldegrave. The

family estates were probably divided between the sisters. The lands in Wells, including the Manor of Wellesley, and Wellesley Farm, besides other manors and estates in the county, came to Edward Waldegrave, in right of his wife. This Edward Waldegrave died in 1501, leaving John Waldegrave, his son and heir; and he dying 6th October, 1543, was succeeded by his son, Sir Edward Waldegrave, Knt., M.P. for Somerset in 1554, who obtained from Queen Mary, in the first year of her reign, a grant of the manor and lordship of Chewton Mendip (then vested in the Crown by the attainder of the Duke of Suffolk), and died in 1561. He left two sons and three daughters. The eldest son was Charles Waldegrave, who married Jeronyma, daughter of Sir Henry Jerninham, Knt., by whom he had Edward, his eldest son and heir, and two daughters. Edward Waldegrave received the honour of knighthood in 1607; and for his great services in the civil war he was, in 1643, created a baronet by Charles I. He married Eleanor, daughter of Sir Thomas Lovel, Knt., and was father of Sir Henry Waldegrave, Bart., who by his first wife, Ann, daughter of Edward Paston, Esq., had seven sons and four daughters, and by his second wife six sons and six daughters, making in all three-and-twenty children. He died October 10th, 1658, and was succeeded by his eldest son and heir, Sir Charles Waldegrave, Bart., whose eldest son and heir was Sir Henry Waldegrave, who, January 20th, 1685-6, was created by James II. Baron Waldegrave of Chewton in the county of Somerset. He married Henrietta, natural daughter of King James by Mrs. Arabella Churchill, and at the Revolution retired to France, and died in 1689. He left two sons and a daughter. James, his eldest son and heir, was a firm supporter of the House of Hanover, and served George I. and II.

as ambassador to several foreign courts, and on the 12th September, 1729, was created Viscount Chewton and Earl Waldegrave. By Mary daughter of Sir John Webb, Bart., he had three sons and one daughter. He was succeeded by James, his son, who died 28th April, 1763, having married Maria daughter of Sir Edward Walpole, and had by her three daughters, but no son. He was succeeded in his title and estates by John his only surviving brother, who, by Elizabeth daughter of Earl Gower, had three sons and four daughters. George, Earl Waldegrave, succeeded to the title and estates of his father, and, by deed dated 9th May, 1784, conveyed Wellesley Manor and farm, with the lands usually held therewith, and the tolls of the fairs and markets within the Hundred of Wells Forum (formerly leased to Avis Cannington), to the late Clement Tudway, Esq., M.P. for Wells, and the same manor and lands are now held by the trustees of the late R. C. Tudway, Esq., M.P., deceased. The conveyance was made subject to certain ancient liabilities, viz :—To repair one arch of Dulcot Bridge, and to the payment of 4s. 2d. to the Bishop, 3s. to the Dean and Chapter, 2s. to the Vicars Choral of Wells, and 7½d. to the Lord of the Manor of Dulcot. Before this other considerable portions of the great Wellesley estates had been sold, including a farm at Woodford, to the late Peter Sherston, Esq., in 1752, and the reversion in fee of Haydon Farm to Dr. Samuel Creswicke, Dean of Wells, in 1748, that farm being then on lease for lives granted by Lord Waldegrave in 1719, to Richard Comes, Esq., of Wells. Wellesley Farm had been for a long series of years also granted out on lease for lives, the last of such leases being made in 1766 to John Haynes, of Wells, who also sold his interest to Mr. C. Tudway.

Portions of the Wellesley estates were retained, or rather the possession of them resumed, by the Bishops of Bath and Wells, and were so held in the time of Bishop Ralph, of Shrewsbury, who obtained the see in 1329, and died in 1363. He was a great benefactor to the vicars choral of the cathedral, by building a close or college for their residence, and liberally endowing them with divers lands and rents. Among other gifts he granted them part of the church estate at Wellesley, Dulcot, the city of Wells, and other places, for which he obtained the King's license. This property acquired the usual attributes of a manor, and was, and is now, called the "Manor of Wells, Wellesley, and Dulcot." Speaking of the vicars choral reminds me that in a list of benefactors to that body, the name of William Beld occurs as the giver of a "cista" or chest, to the "Altar de Wellesley," in the Cathedral. I can give no particulars connected with the Wellesley altar, though I have not much doubt it had some connection with the gift of Bishop Ralph to the vicars. I have before adverted to the fact that the Wellesleys held lands in Littleton A.D. 1253. As a corroboration of that statement I may mention that the Manor of Littleton continued to be held by the Wellesleys and their descendants, and came down in the same manner as the Wellesley estates here, to the Waldegraves, until 1714, in which year the manor was sold, by James Lord Waldegrave, to John Strode. The Manor of Radstock, now one of the richest coal districts in this county, was possessed by Phillip de Wellesleigh in the 13th Edward III, and from him this valuable property descended to the late Lord Waldegrave, with other Wellesley estates, and is held by his widow, the Countess Waldegrave, at the present time. The office of bailiff, of the Bailiwick of the Hundred of Wells Forum,

continued vested in the same persons who for the time being were owners of the Manor of Wellesley, and it is certain that the office belonged to Lord Waldegrave in 1705, when his trustees granted a lease of "the office of bayliff of the baylywick of the Hundred of Wells Forum with all perquisites thereto belonging," to Avis Cannington, for three lives; and in 1778 it is enumerated among Lord Waldegrave's possessions, and said to be of the annual value of £6. In 1779, the Corporation of Wells purchased of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the offices of bailiff of the Bailiwick, and clerk of the market of the City of Wells, and this transaction was legalised by an Act of Parliament. In this Act, it is stated that "Earl Waldegrave claimed a certain Bailiwick within the Hundred of Wells Forum," and it appears the matter had caused disputes as to the rights of the Bishop and Lord Waldegrave. The claims set up by the latter were probably, from the insignificant value of the "Bailiwick," abandoned, as nothing has been heard of these claims for many years.

I think I have said enough to show there is something more than mere probability in that for which I contend viz., that the name of Wellesley had its origin from the Wells hamlet of Wellesley, which was certainly known as WELLESLEY within a few years after the Conquest, and by the same name it has continued to be called to this day. I fully feel my inability to do justice to such a matter, which carries with it almost a national interest. My intention has been more to *invite the attention of others* than to produce a perfect statement of facts myself. Subjects like these seem unimportant in themselves, yet the investigating them must afford a degree of pleasure to those who, like myself, think it a high honour to the place

of my residence in connecting it, in so remarkable a manner, with that great military commander, the hero of a hundred fights, the victor of Waterloo, whose name and memory will be regarded with reverence, admiration, and gratitude, as long as those attributes, for which the English nation is so eminently distinguished—national honour, national independence, and national freedom—are duly appreciated and valued.

NOTE.—The Rev. J. Graves, in a letter to the Secretaries, observes, that he thinks “it is morally certain that the Irish Wellesleys descended from the stock of the Wellesleys of Wellesley. The first of the name settled early in the 13th century in Ireland, was Walleran de Wellesley, and the Manor of Drugin in the county of Meath, was held of the King, as of his Castle of Trim, by grand sergeanty service of bearing the King’s standard. From this Walleran or Valerian this office of standard bearer of Ireland descended to the Marquis of Wellesley, who at the Coronation of Geo. IV. was allowed his right and precedence as Hereditary Standard Bearer of Ireland. The traditions of the Irish family always point to Wellesley in Somersetshire as their original; and the fact that the English de Wellesleys were standard bearers of England, has a pointed bearing on the question.” [EDITOR.]



1865.

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R u l e s .

THIS Society shall be denominated "THE SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY;" and its object shall be the cultivation of, and collecting information on, Archæology and Natural History in their various branches, but more particularly in connection with the County of Somerset.

II.—The Society shall consist of a Patron, elected for life; a President; Vice-Presidents; General, and District or Local Secretaries; and a Treasurer, elected at each Anniversary Meeting; with a Committee of twelve, six of whom shall go out annually by rotation but may be re-elected. No person shall be elected on the Committee until he shall have been six months a Member of the Society.

III.—Anniversary General Meetings shall be held for the purpose of electing the Officers, of receiving the Report of the Committee for the past year, and of transacting all other necessary business, at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint, of which Meetings three weeks' notice shall be given to the Members.

IV.—There shall also be a General Meeting, fixed by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving Reports, reading Papers, and transacting business. All Members shall have the privilege of introducing one friend to the Anniversary and General Meetings.

V.—The Committee is empowered to call Special Meetings of the Society upon receiving a requisition signed by ten Members. Three weeks' notice of such Special Meeting and its object shall be given to each Member.

VI.—The affairs of the Society shall be directed by the Committee (of which the Officers of the Society shall be *ex-officio* members) which shall hold Monthly Meetings for receiving Reports from the Secretaries and sub-Committees, and for transacting other necessary business; five of the Committee shall be a quorum. Members may attend the Monthly Committee Meetings after the official business has been transacted.

VII.—The Chairman, at Meetings of the Society, shall have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a member.

VIII.—One (at least) of the Secretaries shall attend each Meeting, and shall keep a record of its proceedings. All Manuscripts and Communications and the other property of the Society shall be under the charge of the Secretaries.

IX.—Candidates for admission as Members shall be proposed by two Members at any of the General or Committee Meetings, and the election shall be determined by ballot at the next Committee or General Meeting; three-fourths of the Members present balloting shall elect. The rules of the Society shall be subscribed by every person becoming a Member.

X.—Ladies shall be eligible as Members of the Society without ballot, being proposed by two Members and approved by the majority of the Meeting.

XI.—Each Member shall pay Ten Shillings on admission to

the Society and Ten Shillings as an annual subscription, which shall become due on the 1st of January in each year, and shall be paid in advance.

XII.—Donors of Ten Guineas or upwards shall be Members for life.

XIII.—At General Meetings of the Society the Committee may recommend persons to be balloted for as Honorary or Corresponding Members.

XIV.—When any office shall become vacant or any new appointment shall be requisite the Committee shall have power to fill up the same; such appointments shall remain in force only till the next General Meeting, when they shall be either confirmed or annulled.

XV.—The Treasurer shall receive all Subscriptions and Donations made to the Society, and shall pay all accounts passed by the Committee; he shall keep a book of receipts and payments, which he shall produce whenever the Committee shall require it; the accounts shall be audited previously to the Anniversary Meeting by two Members of the Committee chosen for that purpose, and an abstract of them shall be read at the Meeting.

XVI.—No change shall be made in the Laws of the Society except at a General or Special Meeting, at which twelve Members at least shall be present. Of the proposed change a month's notice shall be given to the Secretaries who shall communicate the same to each Member three weeks before the Meeting.

XVII.—Papers read at Meetings of the Society and considered by the Committee of sufficient interest for publication shall be forwarded (with the author's consent) to such periodical as shall be determined by the Committee to be the best for the purpose, with a request that a number of such papers may be printed separately, for distribution to the Members of the Society, either gratuitously or for such payment as may be agreed on.

XVIII.—No religious or political discussions shall be permitted at Meetings of the Society.

XIX.—That any person contributing Books or Specimens to the Museum shall be at liberty to resume possession of them in

the event of the property of the Society ever being sold or transferred to any other county. Also, persons shall have liberty to deposit Books or Specimens for a specific time only.

N.B.—One of the objects of the Society shall be to collect, by donation or purchase, a Library and Museum, more particularly illustrating the History (Natural, Civil, and Ecclesiastical) of the County of Somerset.

. It is requested that Contributions to the Museum or Library be sent to the Curator, at the Society's Rooms, Taunton.

List of Members.

1864.

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 20 Bailey, Robert, „

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 Falkner, Frederick, *Lyncombe Cottage, Lyncombe, Bath*.
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 Fisher, T. "
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 145 Green, Emanuel, *Holcombe, Bath*.
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 Norris, Hugh, *South Petherton*.

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 Reynolds, Wm., *Wellington*.
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 Sanford, W. A., "

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 Sealy, H. N., *Nether Stowey.*
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 *Seymour, H. D., M.P., *Knoyle, Wilts.*
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 Sheppard, J., *Frome.*
- 300 Shore, J., *Whatley, near Frome.*
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 Trevelyan, Rev. E. O., *Stogumber.*
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- Uttermare, T. B., *Langport.*
- 355 Vibart, James, *Chilliswood.*
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 Warre, H., *Bindon, Wellington.*
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 365 Warren, Rev. J., *Bawdrip.*
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 Welman, C. N., *Norton Manor.*

- Welsh, W. I., *Wells*.
- 370 White, C., *St. Ann's Heath, Chertsey*.
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- 380 Woodforde, G. A., *Castle Cary*.
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- Yatman, Rev. J. A., *Winscombe Sidcot*.

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Members are requested to inform either of the Secretaries of any errors or omissions in the above list; they are also requested to authorise their Bankers to pay their subscriptions annually to Messrs. Badcock or Messrs. Stuckey, Taunton; or to either of their branches; or their respective London Agents, on account of the Treasurer.

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6. [Illegible Name] - [Illegible Address]
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