HTH EDITION

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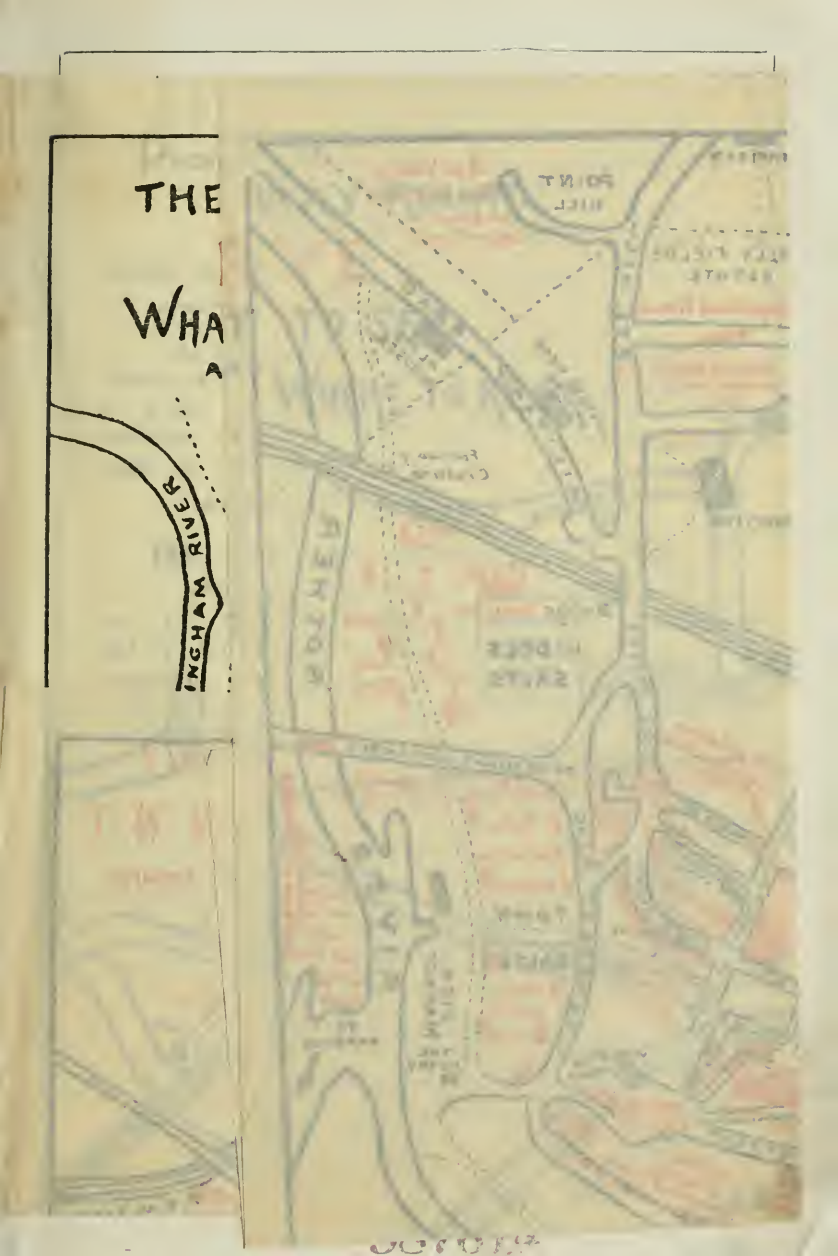
THE
WHA
INGHAM RIVER


THE WAY ROUND
RYE
WHAT TO SEE
AND WHERE TO REST.
FAIRFIELD
POINT HILL
See View of Rye from here as shown in centre fold
HILLY FIELDS ESTATE
Magnificent Views
QUEEN ELIZABETH'S WELL
RYE HILL
MILITARY ROAD
ALMS HOUSES
GROVE
LOVE LANE
MOUNTSFIELD
Footway Crossing
CRICKET
Bridge PAVILION
MIDDLE SALTS
GRAMMAR SCHOOL RECREATION GROUND
Level Crossing (Road)
TILLINGHAM RIVER
A Very Pleasant Walk
KING STREET
ROTHER
TO TRAMWAY AND CAMBER
RAILWAY
STATION
CATTLE MARKET AND HALL
CINQUE PORTS HOTEL
Site of Postern Gate Demolished 1726
TOWER ST
Public Recreation Ground
TOWN
SALTS
Public Sports Ground
FISH MARKET
THE FERRY
RIVER
TO HARBOUR
FERRY ROAD
CROWN FIELD
CINQUE PORTS
HIGH STREET
EAST CLIFF
JH MASTERS
WISH STREET
THE STRAND QUAY
MERMAID STREET
WATCHBELL STREET
BATTERY GROUNDS
SOUTH UNDERCLIFF
WESLEYAN CHURCH
RAILWAY
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Antiquarian Interest of Rye.

The Fund was established in 1894

(Rates not being available for the purpose)

and has been liberally supported in the locality, and by Artists and Archæologists in all parts of the kingdom, thus enabling the Committee to spend some hundreds of pounds on preservative work at the Land Gate (see page 70), and the Ypres Castle (see page 65).

Three past LORD WARDENS of the CINQUE PORTS have been Presidents of the Committee, and A. HESSELL TILTMAN, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., is the Honorary Architect.

DONATIONS will be thankfully received and acknowledged by

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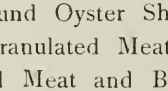

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PREFACE.

NO better proof need be sought of the usefulness of a handy Guide to Rye and District than the fact that its eighth edition has been reached: while we regret that, for some considerable time, the Work has been out of print.

In the present issue additional matter of local interest will be found.

Our description of the Flushing Inn, with its recently-discovered ancient Mural Painting, also of the Grammar School in course of construction, have, in order to prevent further delay, been inserted as a supplement.

Numerous works of historical interest have been consulted; and we would especially thank Mr. Harold Sands, F.S.A., of Tenterden, as well as the numerous other gentlemen who have favoured us with corrections and information, for their great kindness.

Errors have probably crept in, and we feel sure we may rely upon the same indulgence as formerly.

THE PUBLISHERS.

N.B.—We have been asked not to discard *all* the old illustrations. Most of the new photo-process blocks are from negatives taken by Mr. E. Whiteman, of the Cinque Ports Studio, Rye.

RYE,
August, 1907.

INDEX.

RYE.

* AND SUPPLEMENT.

WINCHELSEA.

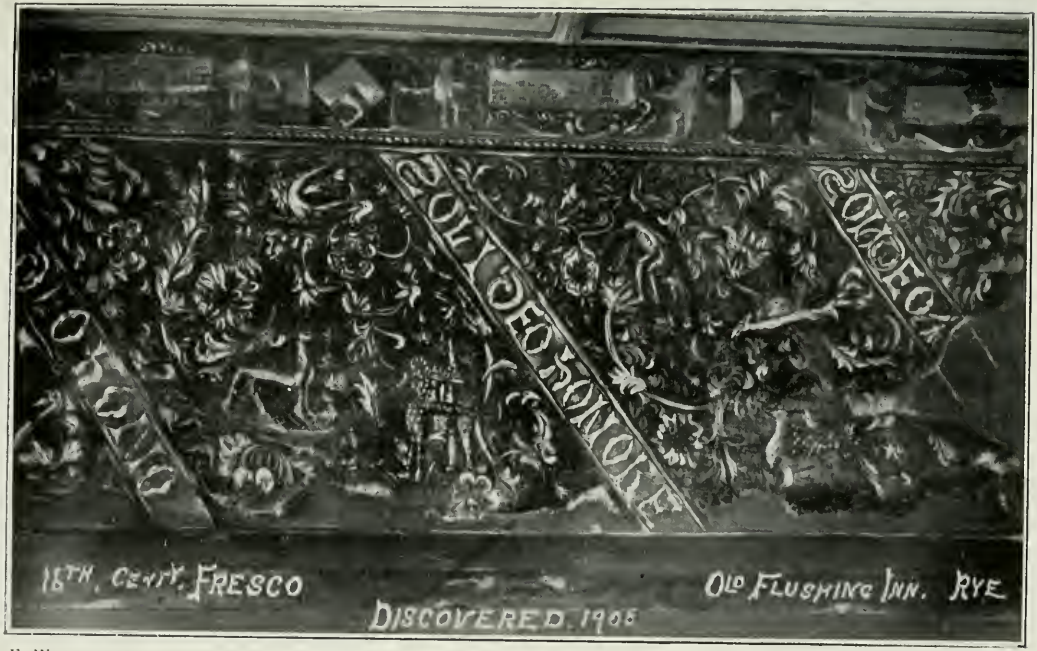
Other Places of Interest.

THE FLUSHING INN.

An Ancient Mural Painting.

IN the month of October, 1905, a remarkable old fresco painting was discovered by our townsman, Mr. E. G. Fletcher, house decorator, &c., behind some panelling on the wall of an old house in Market Street, which was formerly a part of the old "Flushing" Inn,* once a notorious haunt of the smuggling fraternity. The building is (of its kind) one of the most ancient in Rye, and, like others of the same period, has a very capacious vaulted stone cellar, fourteen feet wide by 21ft. long, and ten feet high to the crown of the vault. The access to this was by a flight of steps leading down from the street, and also from the sunk basement which extends under a large part of the house. Flemish bricks, smaller in size than those of modern times, were used in the construction of the three great chimney stacks, the house itself being a wood-framed structure covered with lath and plaster. The room in which the painting was discovered had been lined with oak panelling, having a frieze of shallow carving, the style of which was indicative of Jacobean work. The ceiling has a finely-moulded main beam and cross joists, with characteristic late Perpendicular mouldings. As a workman was engaged in removing the modern skirting board at the foot of the panelling, he saw a small piece of plaster drop out from behind it on one side of which he noticed colouring: upon closer examination, part of an Old English letter was observed, and when the rest of the panelling was removed, behind it (much obscured by the grime and dirt of centuries, and in parts sadly injured by damp, and the

* The house was an Inn from 1636 to about 1758



E. Whiteman, Cinque Ports Studio, Rye.

OLD FLUSHING INN—ANCIENT WALL PAINTING

nailing of the panelling to the wall) was found this fine specimen of a decorative domestic fresco painting, which extended across the entire length of the room. The design is probably intended to represent either the Garden of Eden, or a hunting scene with various animals and birds; along the upper portion extends a broad frieze, the ground of which is sown with *fleurs de lis*. At each end of it is a large Tudor rose charged upon the sun in splendour, with rays shooting from it. This being the heraldic badge of King Edward VI., fixes the date of the painting within the period 1537—1553. There are three oblong tablets sustained by pairs of angels, upon which, in old black lettering, are inscribed portions of the Magnificat in English; of which the central one contains nearly all that is now legible. Upon it can be easily made out "My soule magnifyeth ye Lord, my spirit rejoyceth in God my Saviour, and blessid is His name." Between the tablets are two shields: one charged with the Royal Arms, quarterly France (modern), and England; of the other but a fragment remains, being of a lozenge shape, above which a fragment of an arched crown of Tudor type remains, and, charged upon a black panel, it is intended for a lady, and mourning is indicated. So far as what remains of the blazonry is legible it appears to have consisted of a bend gules, double cotised sable, and charged with Tudor roses, and at the lower extremity per bend gules, and argent with Tudor roses counter-charged. As this last formed a part of the coat of arms of Queen Jane Seymour, the mother of King Edward VI., it is probable that the coat, when entire, was intended for hers; the more so as Edward VI., being unmarried, hers were the only arms of a Queen that could be displayed in such juxtaposition with those of the King, while the sable ground was employed to denote that she had predeceased her son at the time the painting was executed. The King made a progress through West Sussex in 1552, and doubtless a visit to Rye, and the eastern portion of the County, would have followed in the near future, but for the King's illness, and death at Greenwich on July 6th, 1553; while the painting may have been executed in his honour with the expectation of such a visit. Below the frieze, from

which it is separated by a characteristic line of twisted, or cable, moulding, the design shows a woodland scene, with a profusion of trees, creepers, and gaudy flowers, among which the Tudor rose is prominently displayed, while peacocks and other birds, dogs, fallow deer, a singular beast that may be intended to represent a lion, and a curious elephant bearing upon his back a monstrous howdah or castle, give a touch of life to the scene. This design is crossed diagonally by three transverse bars having red, and green backgrounds. All three bear an inscription (thrice repeated):—"Soli Deo Honor et*," in which the letter S is reversed. The bottom of the painting has been destroyed by damp, the plaster upon which it was executed having fallen away from the face of the wall, but it probably consisted of a band or frieze in which the word "Gloria" would be three times repeated, thus completing the inscription which would then read "To God alone, Honour and (Glory ?)." Considering its situation, the colours are wonderfully bright and fresh. The painting having extended across the whole end of the room, which was formerly a part of the great hall of the house, is about 16 feet long, and was about eight feet wide. There is no reason to suppose that the house ever formed a part of any ecclesiastical establishment, for which it is entirely unsuitable. † From its proximity to the Town Hall, and situated, as it is, in an important thoroughfare, it was doubtless the residence of one of the numerous wealthy merchants of the town. It is probable that the house was re-built upon the site of an earlier one, after the last burning of Rye by the French in 1448, when all the buildings in the town, save those of stone, are said to have been destroyed. The sub-division of the original house into several separate tenements,

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* NOTE.—The lettering of this thrice repeated inscription is almost identical, save for the reversal of the letter S, with that round the chalice at Wymeswold Church, Leicester, which also bears the date 1512, as well as the words, "Soli Deo Honor et *Gloria*."

† All the religious houses had been suppressed by Henry VIII. sometime before the date assigned to the painting.

together with the alterations required to adapt it for modern uses, renders it difficult to say what was the original ground plan, but the remaining features point to its having formed a part of a typical town house of late fifteenth century date, probably about one hundred years earlier than the decorative painting. This design is one of the most important pieces of domestic colour decoration remaining, not merely in the County of Sussex, but in all England, where but few such examples now survive.

At the time of the discovery, the premises were owned by Mr. Thomas Flower Maltby (a former resident of Rye) who did his utmost towards securing preservation of the painting. The property was sold by public auction on 7th August 1907, when the Hon. E. S. Butler became the purchaser, the same gentleman having also privately acquired the adjoining offices which formerly formed part of the Flushing Inn. That both the painting and property will, therefore, be retained among the most treasured relics of the "Ancient Town," has given much gratification to its inhabitants.

RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

In another part of this Work we give some particulars relating to the old Rye Grammar School in High Street. This property was submitted to public auction on 24th July last, when it was purchased by the Mayor (Councillor Kingsnorth Reeve) on behalf of a syndicate of influential residents and others anxious to preserve the building to the town. There is little of antiquarian interest in the interior; but a guarantee has been given, that, under any circumstances, the façade will be most jealously preserved in its original state.

We also give an illustration of the new Grammar School in course of erection in a meadow facing the Rope-walk on the north-east, and Love-Lane on the north-west. As stated elsewhere, a moiety of the cost of the building will be defrayed by the East Sussex County Council, and a scheme has been formulated with a view to its becoming a centre for secondary education. The foundation stone was laid by Admiral the Hon. T. S. Brand (formerly Chairman of the County Education Committee) on 27th May last, in the presence of a large number of spectators.

The main building has a frontage of 55½ft., or, with the two side lobbies, a total length of 129½ft.

It is designed to accommodate 120 pupils, viz., 60 boys and 60 girls; and will be the first "Mixed" Secondary School in Sussex.

On the ground floor are two large rooms, 22ft. by 40ft. 9in., which can be sub-divided into 4 class rooms, each 22ft. by 20ft. There are also two teachers' rooms. The second floor is occupied by two class rooms of the same dimensions as the lower rooms, a Chemical Laboratory, and Physical ditto (each 35ft. by 22ft.), a Balance Room, and Store. The "pitch" throughout is 14ft.: thus each pupil has a floor area of 22 square feet, and a cubic space of 308 cubic feet, which greatly exceeds the legal minimum required by the Board of Education.

The heating will be by hot water, and the system of ventilation "Boyle's patent."

Since the re-organization of the School in 1884, when the Town Council, finding itself unwilling to provide for

the upkeep of the School, handed it over to the Charity Commissioners, the establishment has been carried on under a scheme then drawn up and administered by a body of purely local Governors. Its record during the last few years is a very honourable one, successes having been achieved in many departments. In competition with the Endowed Schools of the United Kingdom seven entrance scholarships to Christ's Hospital, each worth £60 per annum, have been won since 1899. Many pupils have passed direct from the School to Civil Service appointments, whilst a large number of certificates have been awarded by the public examining bodies, notably the College of Preceptors, Society of Arts, Science and Art Department, South Kensington, and the Cambridge Local. From the former was won the Taylor-Jones Prize for Scripture History in 1896, and the first place in Book-keeping in 1905.

The scheme was again revised in 1906, and there is no doubt that, with the completion of the new building, the School will be placed under the Regulations of the Board of Education for Secondary Schools with a view to earning a grant from the Board. (It has been a "Recognised Secondary School" since 1904). In the past, the Governing body has been much handicapped by the paucity of funds at its disposal. With the assistance of the East Sussex County Council and the Board of Education this difficulty should disappear, and, with an enlarged staff, modern apparatus, and a thoroughly "up-to-date" building, Rye should become the centre for Secondary Education in East Sussex.

Under the enlightened policy of Mr. Robert L. Morant, the Regulations for Secondary Schools have become more and more elastic, and it is to be hoped that it will be possible to frame the curriculum of the School so as to meet the needs of the neighbourhood, and that Commercial subjects and Agriculture will find prominent places in it.

There is a large Recreation Ground almost adjoining the School; and every information respecting terms, &c., may be had on application to the Headmaster, Mr. J. Molyneux Jenkins, at Ascham House, the Grove, Rye, where a limited number of boarders is received.

THE OLD RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

(See pages 78 and 79).

NEW RYE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

RYE

(Domesday Book).

RYE was given by Edward the Confessor to the Norman Abbey of Fécamp, which held it till 1267. There is no express mention (by name) of either Rye, or Old Winchelsea in Domesday Book, but on page 17a., col. 2, of the original Record, there is the following entry:—

In Ghestelinges Hundred.

The Land of the Church of Fécamp.

"The Abbot of Fécamp holds Rameslie of the King, and held it of King Edward, and it then vouched for 20 hides: now for 17½ hides. There is land for 35 ploughs! In demesne is 1 plough; and 100 villeins, less 1, have 43 ploughs. There are *5 Churches* *!!! returning 64 shillings. There are 100 *Salterns* † of £8, and 15s., and 7 acres of meadow, and wood for pannage for two hogs. In this Manor, is a *New Burgh* ‡, and there are 64 Burgesses returning £8, less 2 shillings, and, in Hastings, 4 Burgesses and 14 Bordars return 63 shillings. Of this Manor, Robert de Hastings holds 2½ hides of the Abbot, and Herolf ½ a hide. They have 4 villeins, and 4 cottars, and 2 ploughs. The whole Manor in the time of King Edward was worth £34. Now the Abbot's demesne is worth £50, and that of his men 44 shillings."

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* "Rameslie" is probably identical with the large Manor of Brede, which extended into, and included portions of Brede, Udimore, Guestling, Fairlight, Icklesham, Pett, Old and New

Winchelsea, Iden, Rye, and Old Hastings (in the valley east of the castle). Part of Pett was recorded under the name of "Luet," and held of the Earl of Eu, as was part of Iden also, but these are small holdings of one hide, one ferlang, one, and three rods respectively; yet there is no mention of any Churches under these entries.

† "Salterns" (Salinae). Mention of these Salt Works frequently occurs in Domesday Survey, not only in Sussex, where the average payment from 285 of them was 2s. 5½d. each; but also in Cheshire, Norfolk, and Warwickshire. Those situated on the coast were shallow ponds, or pans, filled by the tide, for obtaining sea salt by natural evaporation; rock salt being unknown in England at that time.

‡ "New Burgh." That this is neither Rye, nor Old Winchelsea, is proved by the Resumption Charter of Henry III. in 1247, in which they are clearly shown to have formed part of the Manor of Steyning, also held by the Abbot of Fécamp in Normandy. This "New Burgh" was what now forms the "Old Town" of Hastings before mentioned. The two Churches of Rye and Old Winchelsea, with those of All Saints, St. Clement, and St. George on the East Hill (never rebuilt after its destruction in 1380) at Hastings, make up the total of the five Churches which the Survey records to have belonged to the Manor of Rameslie, or Brede, within which lay the site of the "New Burgh," now the "Old Town" of Hastings. The Abbey of Fécamp thus constituted the patron of these Churches, had to minister to the spiritual needs of the parishes, by Vicars whom they presented. These received an adequate, but modest stipend; while all profits, or revenues of the various benefices accruing beyond this, would be largely diverted, and employed in the maintenance of the Mother Church of Fécamp.

"King Edward and New Winchelsea;"

"The Prisoner of War;"

"The King's Peace;"

"Sidelights on the Stuarts;"

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Reproduced from the S.E. Railway Register, 1897

THE site on which the Town of Rye stands was, in its original state, a rude isolated rock, its base at all times being washed by the sea. It may seem at first sight little deserving of being recorded in history, but from the fact that it became, as early as the reign of Edward the Confessor, one of the Cinque Ports, which were called into existence at a very remote date — perhaps, even, while the Romans yet remained in England—and that these Ports were the first parents of our Navy, from whence our earliest monarchs, down to the accession of the Tudors, drew the whole of their naval force, and their successors, partially, so late as the reign of Charles I.—Rye, at an early period, rose into importance, though it would be conjectural to assert that it had an existence, together with Old Winchelsea, in the time of the Romans. Yet there is a possibility of such being the case, because the rock was there and might have had inhabitants; but as we hear nothing of it until some centuries after the departure of the Romans, and Romney was created a Cinque Port full a century before Rye was admitted to the same honour, if it had an existence at this time, at all events, it enjoyed no distinction.

Commencing, then, from the middle of the eleventh century, we find that Edward the Confessor, who was celebrated for his piety, gave Old Winchelsea and Rye to the Abbots and Monks of Fécamp—a small sea-port on the coast of Normandy, in France. After a lapse of time, however, in consequence of the inconvenience, not to say dangers, which existed through the close connection between Fécamp and Rye, in the 31st year of the reign of Henry III., A.D. 1246, that monarch—seeing that hence the Friars Aliens had too easy an access to the shores of England, which gave them a power they were probably not slow to exercise, of conveying intelligence of the secret affairs of his kingdom abroad—resumed into his own hands, for the better defence of his realm, the towns of Rye and Winchelsea, giving to the Abbot and Monks of Fécamp, in exchange, the Manor of Chiltham, in Gloucestershire, and divers other lands in Lincolnshire—counties too far distant from the English Channel to allow of a very easy communication with the inhabitants on the other side of it. To enable them to meet the heavy expenses attendant on fitting out their ships, the Ports were endowed with great privileges and immunities: these were not granted by individual charters to each port, but by one General Charter to all of them in their corporate character.

On the accession of James II. to the throne, 1685, he compelled all the Corporations to surrender their Charters into his hands. However, on the petition of the Ports, it would seem that the General or Grand Charter was renewed two years later, but it may be concluded that no particular one was granted for the town of Rye alone; hence it is that Rye never had a Charter of Incorporation, but that it was a Corporation by prescription. The archives of Rye are rich in remains; the mayors, jurats, and combarons of the older times, the Corporation which succeeded them, and the Town Council of our own days, having preserved them with equal care and fidelity, so that the record exists in an unbroken series for nearly four hundred years. By the Parliamentary and Municipal Corporations' Reform Bills, the ancient constitution of the Cinque Ports has been completely changed.

The south-eastern shores of England, from the earliest period of English history, have always been the most vulnerable points of attack by our enemies: hence it was that the Romans, in the fifth century, established the five fortresses of Regulbium near Reculvers, at the north-west angle of the Isle of Thanet; of Rutupiæ (the modern Richborough), near Sandwich, at the south-east corner of the same; of Dover, of Lim, and of Anderida, all in the county of Kent Over these was placed an officer to command, called the Count of the Saxon Shore. Six hundred years later, Edward the Confessor established the five ports of Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, Romney, and Hastings, to supply the loss of Regulbium and Anderida, from the latter of which the sea had considerably receded; and to these were afterwards added Rye and Winchelsea, designated as the two ancient towns, by which appellation they are recognised to this day. These Ports were expected to guard the narrow seas which separate England from the coast of France and Holland. For this purpose they were compelled to keep up a navy of fifty-seven ships, and were liable once every year, on receiving a summons from the King, within forty days, to assemble at a rendezvous appointed, and there serve him for a space of fifteen days at their own expense; but if the King detained them beyond the time, then he was to pay them. Each ship was manned with a master, a constable, and twenty-one men and a boy. One of the duties imposed upon the Cinque Ports Navy was that of guarding the narrow seas from pirates infesting the coast. Subsequently to the reign of Edward III., Sark—one of the Channel Islands—became a nest of pirates, who were long the scourge of these seas; but an expedition against them was fitted out from Rye and Winchelsea, and the pirates and their vessels were destroyed, and from that period to the reign of Edward VI. the isle was uninhabited. King John, A.D. 1215, in his retirement in the Isle of Wight, was almost forsaken of all his kingdoms save the ships and mariners of the Cinque Ports, with which he secured himself until he recovered all again. In the reign of Edward I., one-hundred sail of the Ports' Navy fought at sea with a great fleet of French ships, of which (notwithstanding great

odds) they slew, took, and sunk so many that France was thereby for a long time after, in a manner, destitute of seamen and shipping. In August, 1350, there was a memorable sea fight off Winchelsea, when Edward III. and his son—the Black Prince—defeated a greatly superior fleet under Don Carlos de la Cerda. The whole or the greater part of the ships which the Ports had originally to fit out, seem to have been sent at the summons of the different Kings until the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when there were only five serviceable ships fitted out; while, in that of Charles I., there were only two, which were, however, of much larger dimensions, being ships of one-hundred-and-sixty tons burthen. To account for this change, it must be borne in mind that previously to the reign of Henry VII. there was no state navy; the ships of the Cinque Ports constituted the principal one, and these, together with others from different Ports, were found sufficient in those early times for the defence of the kingdom. In the reign of Henry VIII., the royal navy was increased so much that it numbered fourteen large ships, from one-hundred-and-fifty to one-hundred-and eighty tons each. The use of cannon, too, was now introduced; consequently, the small ships formerly used by the Cinque Ports—when spears, bows and arrows, and cross-bows were the only weapons—were no longer serviceable. It does not appear that any ship was fitted out by the Ports after the reign of Charles I., A.D. 1626. The last sea service performed by the Ports, by virtue of their Charters, was during the wars of 1793 and 1814, when there was a draught made of seamen to serve in the navy. The number taken from Rye was 16, and they were supplied in this way: the tradesmen and other inhabitants were called upon, according to their supposed means, to pay a certain sum of money, and with this substitutes were engaged, who, on receiving the bounty, served on behalf of the inhabitants. In April, 1588, the Ports' Navy was fitted out by order of Queen Elizabeth, to share in the dangers and honours of the expected conflict with the Spanish Armada. In this most celebrated naval fight of those days the ships of the Cinque Ports were engaged, and in token of their sovereign's great consideration of the

A VIEW OF RYE IN THE YEAR 1823

(Shewing present Salts under water).

services then rendered to her, the town of Rye was presented with six brass guns, beautifully ornamented with the arms of Spain, and which stood on the spot called the Green, at the south-west corner of the town, until they were, some years ago, unfortunately bartered with the Government for two iron six-pounder guns for the use of Artillery then raised in the town. Besides the brass guns, there was an old tradition that Queen Elizabeth gave the present Church Clock, said to be taken in the Spanish Armada, to the town. Recently, the Rev. F. Procter kindly transcribed the Churchwardens' accounts (which have been carefully preserved), between the years 1560-1562, which contain amounts paid for "the grete clock," for "the house over the clock," for "making the chimes goo," to the "glacier who cast the grete waite," and sundry other things, proving that the interesting clock was made for the town, and paid for through its Churchwardens, costing about £170 of our present money. The different sea services before mentioned, with others, show that the Cinque Ports Navy was engaged in many of the most important events of our history.

From the foregoing statements, it is apparent that the Barons and good men of the Ports did great and signal service to their sovereigns from a very early period of our history; consequently, they were endowed with many very valuable privileges. They had their own courts of justice in which alone they could be sued; they could not be summoned to serve on juries out of their respective towns; and each was governed by a Mayor and twelve jurats, who were the magistrates, presiding over all their courts. Every man who paid his quota of the expenses of fitting out the navy was entitled to share in the privileges. The Barons of the Cinque Ports—by which high title they were known—paid no taxes to the King; they were free to buy and sell in all fairs and markets throughout the realm; and when their trading vessels went to other Ports they were exempt from the payment of any harbour dues, and from charge for anchorage or wharfage. If any ship was wrecked on their coast, the Barons were entitled to the wreck; but if any ship of their own was wrecked on any other coast of England, the wreck was still their property,

and no one might claim it. They also had the privilege of attending the Kings and Queens on their coronation, when they carried two canopies of silk and gold, under which the sovereigns respectively walked from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey; afterwards the Barons were entitled to sit at the dinner in the Hall at a table on the right of the King. Once, at the coronation of George III., they were placed elsewhere, and refused to sit down at all, as they could not have their proper place of honour. After the ceremony, the canopies and their appurtenances became the perquisites of the Barons, and were given in turn to the different Ports —thus, Rye had them at Richard III.'s coronation; and at that of Edward VI.'s and Queen Mary's, Sandwich, Hythe, and Rye divided them. After Elizabeth's, it was agreed that they should for the future be divided amongst them all. At the coronation of George IV. (the last occasion upon which the Barons bore the canopy), William Lamb, Esq. (one of the jurats) and Dr. Dodson (one of the representatives of the town) attended on the part of Rye. The dress they wore on that occasion consisted of the following:—Black Spanish hat and feather; upstanding frill for the neck; a vest of scarlet satin trimmed with tissue lace, and buttons worked of the same, the sleeves slashed and trimmed with lace; trunk hose of blue satin slashed with scarlet satin, trimmed as above; red silk stockings; white kid shoes, with rosettes of scarlet ribbon, and trimmed as above; a surtout of dark blue satin, quite plain. The cost of this dress was £84 10s. 6d.

The services of the Barons were dispensed with both by William IV. and Queen Victoria

On the death of the latter sovereign, however, a Committee, consisting of the Mayors of Hastings and New Romney, Sir Wollaston Knocker (Solicitor to the Ports), the late Mr. F. A. Inderwick, K.C., and the Town Clerk of Rye (Mr. Walter Dawes), was appointed to take steps for asserting the ancient right of the Barons to take part in the Coronation.

The case for presentation to the Court of Claims was duly prepared, which, after recounting the services rendered both by the Cinque Ports to their country as well as of their Barons at Coronation ceremonies, concluded as

follows:—"Your petitioners, however, humbly pray that His Majesty will be graciously pleased to take into consideration their former great services to the Kings and Queens of this country, and to assign to your petitioners, as such Barons aforesaid, or to such of them as may be thought convenient, a station within the Abbey where they may remain, as of old, in attendance upon the King and the Queen, and that, in all other respects, their antient rights and privileges at Coronations of Kings and Queens of this country may remain undisturbed."

The petition was signed by the late Marquis of Salisbury, as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and was personally supported by the late Mr. F. A. Inderwick, K.C.

After mature consideration, the Earl Marshal of England (His Grace the Duke of Norfolk) notified that canopies would not be carried in the procession at Westminster Abbey; but, "in view of the fact that had this duty to be performed it would have been carried out by the Barons of the Cinque Ports, the Earl Marshal has received the King's command to retain eighteen places in the Abbey to which he is to invite eighteen of their number."

Rye was represented by Alderman Frank Jarrett (Mayor) and Mr. Walter Dawes (Town Clerk and Deputy-Solicitor); the late Mr. F. A. Inderwick, K.C., representing Winchelsea.

It was, however, felt that the dress of Elizabethan style worn at the Coronation of George IV. would be "too incongruous" at the present time, and the following is a description of the costumes actually worn by the Barons who were present in Westminster Abbey on August 9th, 1902, viz.:—A black silk velvet coat lined with white silk, black silk velvet breeches, white silk waistcoat embroidered with flowers, all of the early Victorian period, with gilt buttons and buckles, and gilt-mounted sword; lace ruffles and jabot and black velvet cap; a cloak of scarlet cloth lined with white silk, with blue velvet facings edged with gilt lace, and having the Arms of the Cinque Ports and two bars denoting the rank of Baron on the right shoulder.

The standards of Ireland, Scotland, England, and the Union, were delivered to four of the Barons at the entrance

into the Choir of the Abbey, and they were duly lowered to His Majesty as he approached, and who "graciously acknowledged the act of homage."

Of all the privileges once possessed by the inhabitants of the Cinque Ports few others remain, thus—after a period of 800 years—much of the glory of the Cinque Ports and Ancient Towns has departed.

The privileges alluded to were granted to the Cinque Ports originally by Edward the Confessor, and confirmed by succeeding monarchs down to James II. To these honours and distinctions must be added that of returning Members to Parliament, so early as the reign of Edward III. Rye, at first, as well as the other Ports, returned two Members down to the date of the Reform Bill, in 1832, when the borough was not only deprived of one Member, but had its number of voters very considerably increased by the addition of the parishes of Winchelsea, Icklesham, Udimore, Peasmarsh, Iden, Playden, East Guldeford, &c. It now forms a portion of a very extensive county constituency, known as the Eastern, or Rye, Division of Sussex.

THE DEFENCES OF RYE.

As we have stated, the spot on which the town of Rye stands was originally an isolated rock, unapproachable at all times, except by the aid of ships or boats. Surrounded on all sides by the waters of the ocean, one might reasonably have expected that the town would have been safe from the inroads of enemies; but such was not the case, for though the water on the north side protected it from the sudden irruption of foes from the land, the sea, on the south and west, formed at all times a high road for the inhabitants of the coast of France, where marauding expeditions were continually being fitted out for the annoyance of those on this side of the Channel, the cruel effects of which were very frequently felt by the inhabitants of Rye. There has been an accepted tradition that it was to guard against those attacks that, in the middle of the twelfth century, in the reign of King Stephen, William of Ypres, Earl of Kent, built the tower which is still

standing, and bearing his name, on the south-east side of the town. It has been described as a watch-tower, from whence to descry the approach of an enemy, also as a place of defence when the town was attacked. Mr. Ford Madox Hueffer, in his admirable historical and descriptive record, "The Cinque Ports" (published at £3 3s., copies of which may be had of the Publishers of this work), says :—"William de Ypres, the commander of Stephen's mercenaries and the overthrower of the Empress Maud, first built a castle in the place, which he meditated holding for himself. On the death of Stephen and the accession of Maud's son, he found it expedient to quit the realm and the outer world." We would, however, refer our readers to Mr. Harold Sands' description of the tower in another part of this work. If it were built for defensive purposes, it was soon found to be insufficient, for at the latter part of the same century, 1194, the inhabitants obtained a grant, or charter, from Richard I., to wall and fortify the town. This grant, which is probably the oldest written document in existence relating to Rye alone, was discovered among the records of the town several years ago. The grant is contained on a small piece of parchment, not more than twelve inches long and three inches wide, written in the barbarous Latin of those times, intermixed with a little French, and one or two Italian words. When the east side of the town had been fortified, the sea began afterwards to recede from the north, and it was thus exposed to attack there. To remedy this, Edward III. completed the fortification of the place by the erection of a massive gateway, flanked with towers, at the north-east angle, and further strengthened by wooden doors studded by iron nails and a portcullis; the towers were pierced for arrows, and subsequently for fire-arms. From this gateway extended a wall, twenty-eight feet in height, and five feet in thickness, with a fosse, or ditch, all along the north face of the town, and partially along that of the west, until it met the steep cliffs, which from this spot to the south-west corner, and thence along the south front, were considered sufficiently abrupt to require no further strengthening. About 1448, the sea approaching on the eastern cliff so undermined its base, that the wall built thereon by Richard I.

was thrown down, and there was henceforth no longer any protection on this side, and the town from that time may be considered to have been helpless. Notwithstanding the town having been walled in at the end of the twelfth century, it was captured by Louis the Dauphin of France early in the thirteenth. In the year 1317, Rye was taken by the French, sacked and burned, while the same calamity again befel it in 1448; it also appears from old records that the town had been taken several times previous to 1378 and the inhabitants were in great distress in consequence but the accounts left by historians throw very little light upon this interesting subject. By the commencement of the eighteenth century the old defences of the town had ceased to be of much value; part of the town ditch, between the Land-gate and the Postern-gate, had been let in 1698; the remainder was now filled with mud, which was overgrown with high reeds, and this was let in 1735 to the respective owners of the adjoining property. In 1734, the stone gateway at the Gungarden and the portcullis at Land-gate were pulled down and sold. Two years after this the Postern-gate shared the same fate. In 1767, the wall near the latter was taken down to widen the entrance sufficiently to allow carriages to pass up and down the Conduit-hill, and the stones were given to the Church-wardens to repair the churchyard wall; and at the same time the Strand-gate was ordered to be taken down, and the stones to be applied to the same purpose; but the last order does not seem to have been carried out to its full extent then, as, in 1817, a further order was issued for pulling down this gate and part of the wall, previous to which last-mentioned period one half of the old arch was standing. The wooden gates attached to the Land-gate were pulled down in 1760.

THE STRAND, RYE.

[*Reprinted from "Photography."*

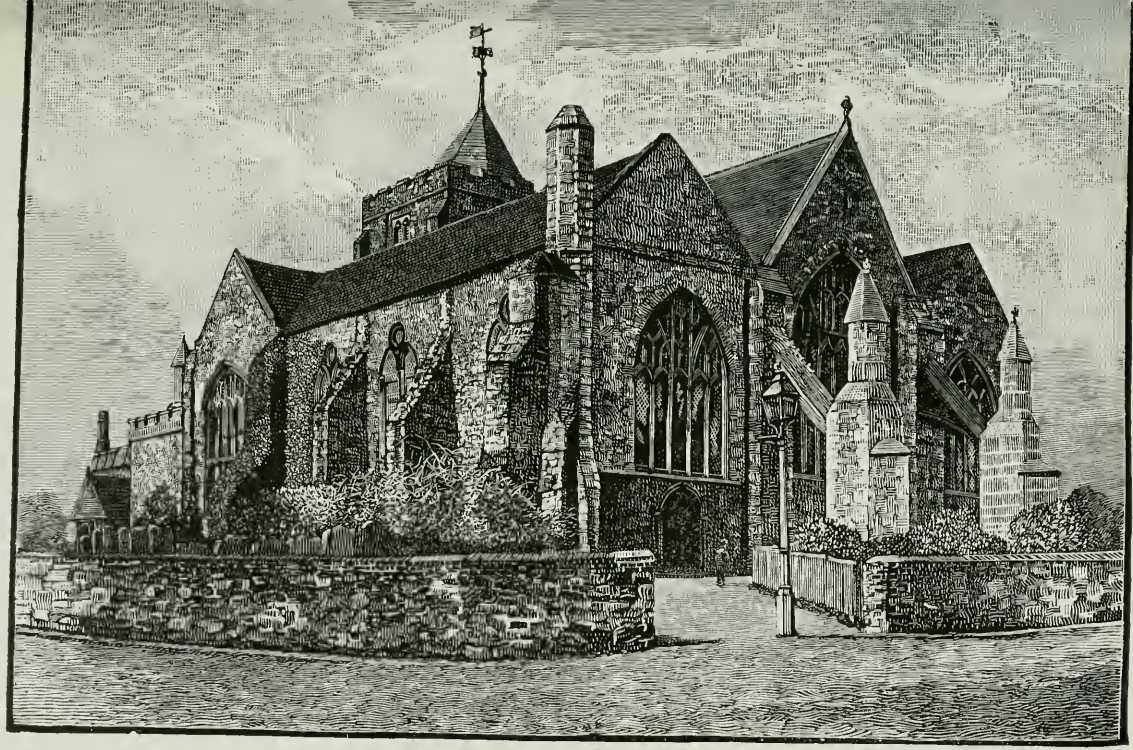
THE RIVERS.

RIVERS flow on three sides of the town—the Rother on the east, the Brede on the south, and Tillingham on the west. The Rother, which is the principal of these rivers, rises at Rotherfield, in Sussex, and passes thence down to Robertsbridge, forming the boundary between the counties of Kent and Sussex, with a slight exception, till within a few miles of Rye. This stream is navigable for barges as far as Bodiam, a distance of fifteen miles, and is the thoroughfare of much of the commerce connected with the port of Rye. The Brede, which rises near Battle, is navigable for barges as far as Brede Bridge, about 7 miles from Rye; while the Tillingham—formerly known by the name of the Beck, whence the village of Beckley, where it has its source, derives its name—is a small stream only navigable at particular times, by small barges. The retirement of the sea from the marshes which now surround the town, first commenced about the reign of Edward III., in the fourteenth century, and their embankment was completed in 1833, an Act of Parliament having been passed for that express purpose. The above rivers, uniting their waters at the south-east corner of the rock, form the Harbour of Rye, the mouth of which empties itself into the sea, at a distance of nearly three miles from this spot. The entrance to the harbour is somewhat intricate, and only accessible to trading vessels at high water. In Rye Bay (formerly one of the most prolific fishing grounds extant), soles and other species of trawl fish are found, and a considerable trade is carried on by fishing smacks. During the season, both on the east and west sides of the harbour's mouth, great quantities of mackerel are caught in the kettle-nets (which are set up on poles, forming an enclosure open to the shore), as well as in "stands" of floating nets. Herrings and sprats also are occasionally taken in abundance in the autumn and winter.

THE CHURCH.

TRADITIONAL history warrants the belief that the present edifice is not the original Church, the latter having been erected in the Gun-garden, near the Ypres Tower, as far back as the reign of Edward the Confessor, and destroyed by fire before the end of the twelfth century. In proof of these statements it may be mentioned that several human skeletons have been disinterred near the spot where it is supposed to have stood. The prevailing notion is that the original church was built of wood, which was to be found in abundance in the great forest of Anderida, in this neighbourhood at that time. All the houses in Rye were formerly composed of this material; and there is no evidence of the destruction of any edifice which was built of stone. All these have withstood the various and destructive ravages of fire and sword to which the town has been subjected; therefore, if the church had been built of the same material, it is somewhat singular that it should have formed an exception to the general rule, and that all remains of it should have been swept away. The original of the present building is supposed to have been erected about the end of the twelfth century, since which time it has been shorn of much of its pristine beauty.

The foregoing are the views of the late Mr. William Holloway, Rye's favourite historian, but Mr. Harold Sands, F.S.A.—to whom we are much indebted for various corrections in the present edition of our Guide—says there is no *evidence* of the erection of any Church in the Gun-garden. Mr. Sands is firmly of opinion that the present Church occupies the site of the original one. It contains Norman work of a period anterior to 1189; Early English, or Lancet, style of period 1189 to 1272; Decorated, of period between 1272 and 1377; and Perpendicular, from 1377



PARISH CHURCH OF S. MARY, RYE.

to 1546. If, Mr. Sands says, there were a Saxon Church, in all probability it stood on the same site, and would be replaced by a post-Conquest larger Norman one.

Jeake, a historian, who wrote in 1678, says in his description of the town, "it is beautified with a large church called 'St. Mary,' the goodliest edifice of that kind in Kent and Sussex, the Cathedrals excepted."

The "common seal" of the town of Rye bears on its reverse a view of the church, which in its general outline resembles the present structure; but in its architectural embellishments there is a marked difference, which is sufficient to convince one that the original has not been utterly destroyed, and at the same time that the latter far exceeded the former in external beauty. According to this seal, the old church had a tower and spire, a nave, and a choir, with aisles to both the latter, over which appear three small windows in the clerestory, and thus far it resembled the present. At the entrance of the north door, which is ornamented with tracery work, stands a figure of the Virgin Mary (the patroness of the church) with the infant Jesus on her left arm, and a kind of trefoil cross or palm branch in her right. Over her head arise three pointed arches reaching to the top of the tower, whence springs a spire, slighter and higher than the present, having a cross at its apex, while each angle is ornamented with a lofty and elegant pinnacle. The gable end of the roof, both at the eastern and western extremity, is surmounted by a cross, while from the eaves of each arises a short pinnacle. Two large windows admitted light, one at the eastern and one at the western end of the church. Whether the figures of the Virgin and Child were real statues, standing at the northern entrance of the sacred building, or only introduced into the seal as emblems of her to whom it was dedicated, we cannot decide; but putting this out of question, as well as the figures of the sun and seven stars on the east, and the moon in her crescent with seven stars on the west side of the spire, we cannot fail to acknowledge that this, as Stowe, another historian, says, was a "Church of wonderful beauty." The church is represented as standing within a sort of low ornamented wall or boat, and around this seal is this

legend in Latin: "Hail, Mary! full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women." As the original of the present church is supposed to have been built before the end of the twelfth century, the seal may fairly be considered to bear a true representation of it. The oldest impression which has been seen of the seal is a mutilated one on a document of the date of 1430.

In an old painting of Rye as it appeared about 1509, which was engraved in "Horsfield's History of Sussex," the church is shown very much as it appears to-day, and to the south-east of it another building (really the Ypres Tower), but which resembling a church is, Mr. Sands believes, the source of the legend about an earlier church in the Gun-Garden. The old church has undergone structural alterations in almost every architectural period, containing, as it does, early and late Norman work in the nave and its aisles and north transept; Early English work in the south transept; and Perpendicular work in the chancel, with its two chapels of St. Nicholas (Patron Saint of Sailors) and St. Clare. The Decorated work thus replaced must have sustained irreparable injury in the various burnings the church underwent at the hands of the French during that period. In all probability, the roofs (after being stripped of their leaden covering) were set on fire, and the fall of the timbers brought down the slighter arcades of the chancel (afterwards rebuilt in the later style), the whole being renewed upon the old foundations from just below the window level. The Norman arcades of the nave still show traces of the action of fire, but, being of more massive construction, were able to withstand the strains set up by the falling in of the burning roofs. Thus, then, it may be supposed, the church stood, with all its ornamental beauties, at the commencement of the fourteenth century, and through the greater part of the same, when, on the invasion of 1378, it was probably partially injured, and, in 1448, so much so as to reduce it to a comparative state of ruin; for though Stowe says "the French brought the town into ashes, with the church that then was there of a wonderful beauty;" there are strong proofs to the contrary in the existence at present

even of parts of the church exhibiting specimens of the styles of architecture prevalent in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. It is more than probable that the church lay in ruins for some years after this, but in the course of ninety years—that is, from A.D. 1448 to A.D. 1538—was restored (shorn of much of its former beauty, and bearing marks of the fiery ordeal through which it had passed), for specimens of the Perpendicular style, which prevailed from A.D. 1377 to A.D. 1546, are to be found in the beautiful east window, in a handsome flying buttress at the east end, in the southern arches, and one of the northern arches of the choir, and in those which afford open communication between the aisles of the choir and transepts.

Although 1538 is mentioned as the modern boundary of the restoration of the church, it is not from actual knowledge of the exact time; but because in this year the first law was enacted for keeping a register of baptisms, marriages, and burials; and because, moreover, these registers for the parish of Rye are in existence and excellent preservation to this day, indicative of the church having remained in a state of peace, both as regards its material existence and its spiritual government, since that period.

The entries in the registers of the sixteenth century serve to show that Rye was the resort of strangers and foreigners at this period, for amongst the burials from 1538 to 1544 are recorded those of a Fleminge, a Frenchman, a Spaniard, two Portuguese, a Dutchman, and several men and boys from Scarborough; the entry of the "burial of a stranger" is also often repeated.

In 1544, England was at war with France, and the burial of several French prisoners and those killed is recorded.

On August 24th, 1572, took place the massacre of the French Huguenots at Paris, in consequence of which many who escaped fled to the opposite coast of England, and some settled in Rye, as appear from the entries of several baptisms. Jeake mentions that, an account having been taken in 1582, there were found to be 1534 French

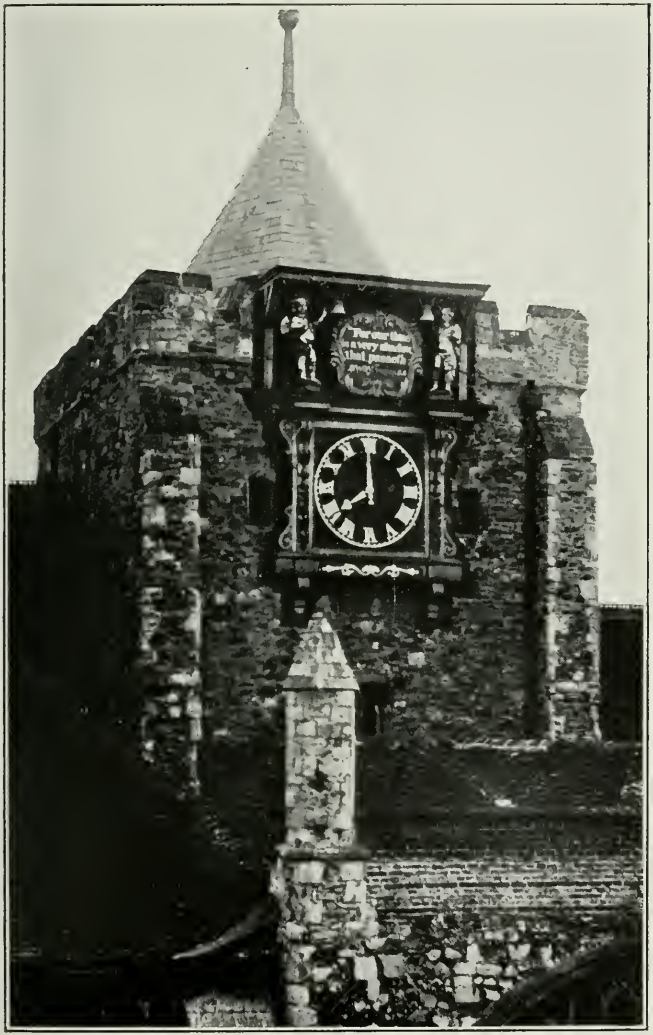
refugees resident in Rye, so that they must have required clergymen of their own to administer to their spiritual wants. The old chapel in Conduit Street is supposed to have been assigned to them for a place of worship, which seems very probable, when it is recollected that this building was only completed in 1525, and dissolved by Henry VIII. in 1536, and, therefore, in a perfect state, but useless as a monastic establishment. Among the deaths recorded in 1579 and 1584, is one of a Frenchman out of the Friars, and also of a child who died there—proofs that this building was assigned to the use of the Huguenots. Some account of the Huguenots landing at Rye may be found in a book, entitled "The Huguenots: their Settlements, Churches, and Industries in England and Ireland," by Samuel Smiles, published in 1869.

There is no doubt that Rye suffered equally with her sister town of Winchelsea from a visitation of the "black death" in 1349, when the late Mr. W. Durrant Cooper says the country was much depopulated, and the public treasury very much exhausted.

In 1544, the plague raged in Rye to such an extent that, from May to October, 385 persons died. In 1579, in less than eighteen months, 744 persons were carried off; in 1590, 185 died in three months; and from August to December, 1596, 320. Of the 185 who died in 1590, thirty were soldiers.

In the churchwardens' accounts, which go back as far as the year 1513, among other items of receipt, frequent mention is made of money paid to the church for "month's mind or month's day," which signified a monthly service performed in the church for the benefit of the souls of the deceased, the word "mind" here having the sense of "remembrance."

Peter's pence was also still collected, not having yet been abolished by Henry VIII., though it was at a subsequent part of his reign. There were a few gifts, a very few fees, and a kind of tithe on fish. In the accounts of expenditure, allusion is made to St. Richard of Chichester, at whose shrine Peter's pence and other offerings were paid. This saint seems to have been held in great veneration by the inhabitants of Rye, Hastings,



E. WHITEMAN, Cinque Ports Studio, Rye.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH—CLOCK

and Winchelsea ; for the Barons of the Ports who attended the coronations of the Kings and Queens were entitled to receive the cloths of the canopy which they bore over their heads, together with the staves and little bells attached to the same ; and Jeake mentions that when Hastings received them in their town, the Barons were wont to give the cloths to the Church of St. Richard of Chichester, in the cathedral of which is a shrine covering his tomb.

There has been some dispute among writers as to the site of St. Clare's chancel, which is frequently mentioned in the churchwardens' accounts. Jeake calls it the Chapel of St. Clare, but does not say where it stood ; while another author places it in the Watchbell Street, considering the old building on the south side of the churchyard to have been it ! This was the Chapel of the Carmelite Friary. From the parish entries, however, it would seem to have been one of the aisles of the present chancel or choir (in all probability the northern one). It underwent considerable repairs, constituting, perhaps, its final restoration, after the fearful destruction of 1448. Besides this chancel, mention is also made of the choir, in which stood a small organ, and where a lamp was kept continually burning, for the supply of which an annual rent of twelve shillings had been left by one Mr. Whybaron, secured on certain lands of his. The choir was separated from the transepts, and from its aisles, by screens, probably of wood. Besides the small organ in the choir there was a large one in the transept. We learn further from these accounts that the church had a steeple, with a ring of bells and chimes ; that it possessed eight acres of land, and a charnel-house ; also that payments were made for "one key to the altar door, and one key to the door of the rood loft."

In 1514, the bells were a great expense to the parish, being restored after the injury inflicted in the former century.

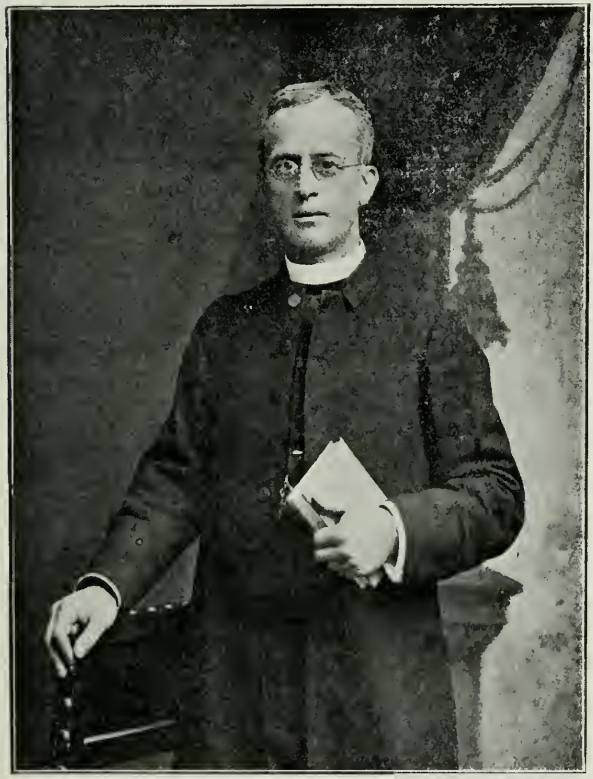
Along the north side of the north chapel, at about eighteen feet from the ground, runs an ambulatory, which, on reaching the western extremity, ascended to the north end of the transept, across which it passed to the gallery on the west side of the same, which is still in existence, forming

the passage to the belfry. From this part it ran into the clerestory over the arches of the nave on the north side, and along the whole length to the north-west end, where it terminated in a staircase, having no passage across the west end on account of the great window there. A similar ambulatory, commencing at the east end of the south chapel, ran along the south side of the church; but where the entrance to this passage was we have been unable to discover, nor do we know exactly the purpose for which it was originally designed, unless, as described in Scott's "The Antiquary," it was meant to enable the superior priest to walk round and secrete himself here, and there to watch the proceedings of his subordinates. Perhaps, however, it was chiefly used in connection with the cleaning and repair of the windows.

In 1514, we read of Our Lady Chapel, which, according to Barr, was erected towards the east end of the choir, and in this chapel was an organ, then called the old organ. In the south chancel, said to be the one dedicated to Saint Nicholas, was an altar reared to his honour, which seems very natural in a seaport town, as he was the patron Saint of sailors. In 1517, two chests were standing here for the purpose probably of containing the priests' vestments.

In other parts of the sacred edifice were two altars, one dedicated to Saint John, at which were put up two crosses; a second to Saint George, near which must have been an organ, for we read of Saint George's Organs. Where these altars stood, or the following image, is not indicated, viz.: Our Lady of Pity, before which was a glass window, within which the image was enshrined, while before her stood an iron candlestick. Independently of the organs standing respectively in the choir, the chapel of Our Lady, and near Saint George's Altar, there was another called the great organ. According to Barr, organs were of two kinds, large and small; the latter (called regals) were movable, and of very small dimensions, while the former were fixed, being frequently placed on the north side of the choir, and often in the transept. The smaller ones in the choir might have been upon the rood loft, a usual situation, as the same author states.

Several crosses besides that on the rood loft and



Rev. A. P. HOWES, M.A. (Vicar of Rye).

the two of Saint John's are mentioned, namely—one standing upon the hearse, on which was laid a cloth of yellow silk, another which was borne about every day in visiting the sick, a third called a cope-cross, and a fourth of latten. In the body of the church hung a lamp. Among the treasures were many jewels, for, in 1543, a great basket was made to carry them in.

From the old records we find that it was always customary to watch the sepulchre of Our Saviour from Good Friday, the day of the Crucifixion, to Easter Sunday, that of the Resurrection; and, accordingly, the annual entry appears in the churchwardens' accounts of money paid for bread and drink found for those who watched the sepulchre at Easter. In the middle ages, it was the custom to perform miracle plays, or religious interludes, sometimes in the nave of the church itself, but generally in the open-air. These miracle plays were, as a rule, acted under the superintendence of the clergy at a time when few people could read or write, and afforded a ready means of imparting religious instruction to the uneducated multitude. We might now think it "profane," but, as the practice had the express sanction, and approval of the Church, it was not so considered in former days. The subjects were taken from the Scriptures, and, in 1522, the play of the Resurrection was acted at Rye, as appears from the following entry: "Paid for a coate made when the Resurrection was played at Easter, for him that, in playing, represented the part of Almighty God, one shilling; ditto for making the stage for the Resurrection at Easter, three shillings and fourpence."

On certain days in the year, especially on Holy Thursday, processions were made through different parts of the parish, when it was usual to stop at the crosses which were erected by the roadside in many instances, but here in Rye they most probably stopped at the cross which formerly stood in the churchyard, and where, in ancient times, the Barons met yearly, on the Sunday next after the Feast of Saint Bartholomew, to elect their Mayor, as appears in the old Customal of the Town. In 1564, the cross was still standing in the churchyard, for a bench was then set up by it; and three years afterwards it seems to have been inclosed,

as a door was then made to set up before the cross, and the cross house is spoken of.

The same year (1547) which witnessed the death of Henry VIII. put an end, for a short time, to all these ceremonials, for, on the accession of Edward VI., a change came over the scene, as will appear from the following item in the churchwardens' accounts: "Expended for cleansing the church from Popery, £1 13s. 4d." This cleansing was shown in removing the various altars and images. The rood loft was also taken down, and a table placed where the high altar stood; the church was white limed all over, and mats were bought for communicants to to kneel upon. Frequent mention is also made of charges for carrying rubbish out of the church, probably the result of the practice of burying within the edifice itself. In the year before mentioned (1547), "rubbish" would also have referred to the various altars, the rood loft, and to that produced by repairing places where they and divers images stood, after their removal.

Beneath the window of the north transept is the following inscription:—

> To the Glory of God
> and in memory of
> Henry Burra, of Spring-
> field, near Rye, who died
> Feby. 26, 1886, the north
> wall of this transept
> was restored by public
> subscription in 1893.

The sepulchral monuments are numerous, and worthy of inspection; we subjoin a list of the most interesting:—

In the north chapel lies a gravestone, into which originally were let several brasses, representing a father and mother and seven children, whom tradition reports to have died of the plague; and, if so, they must have been buried either in the year 1349—the period of the visitation of the "black death"—or sometime between 1544 and 1596, when a dire malady again ravaged the town. The two principal figures are still in evidence, and the lady wears the "butterfly" head-dress, which began in the reign of Edward IV., and is not found later than 1485.

At the north end of the transept stands a blue stone

monument, with a Latin inscription, which has thus been translated :—

Stay, Traveller !
On the fourth of September,
Died John Threele, in the full flower of a joyful age :
Mature in virtue ;
His memory being fondly cherished by all he left behind,
particularly by his father,
Thomas Threele, of Lewisham, in the County of Sussex, Esq.,
And
His Widowed Wife,
Anne, daughter of Henry Waldegrave, of Steyning,
In the County of Sussex, Knt.
His soul still lives after death, and (being absolved from punishment) sighs after the promises. The earth covers his remains.
" Therefore whatsoever you would
that men should do unto you, that do you unto them."
Matth. vii., 12.

The third line of this inscription is a cryptogram, indicating the year of death by the lengthening of certain letters, thus :—

IOHANNES THRELE MEDIO LÆTÆ, ÆTATIS FLORE OBIIT.

This gives MDLLLIIIII. or 1655, the date in the register of burials.

The above epitaph has been versified thus :—

Stay, traveller, and drop one tear
O'er the frail dust that moulders here !
O'er one once loved tho' strange to fame
Of gentle birth, and Thrale by name.
Snatch'd in the bloom of life away,
E'en in the morning of his day.
In vain the mourning father weeps,
While here the son unconscious sleeps ;
Not e'en the anguish of the wife
Can e'er bring back the dead to life.
His spirit (all his sins forgiven)
Reposes on his God in heaven ;
And while the soul to heaven has flown,
His mother earth takes back her own.

Beneath the east window is a flat stone, having a brass on it representing a male figure in a flowing robe, designating his office of mayor, which he often filled ; his hands are clasped as though in prayer. Around the verge of the stone was formerly a narrow strip of brass, bearing an

inscription which is now in an imperfect state; the following words are still remaining: ✠ "Heare lyeth the bodie of Thomas Hamon who departed . . . . day of July, ANO DOMINI 1607. His Wyfe Martha procvred . . . ." We know he died on 20th July, but the date is broken away. The following lines are on a brass plate below the figure:—

Loe, Thomas Hamon here enterd doth lye
Thrice Bvrgesse for the Parliament elected
Six times by freemens choyce, made Maior of Rye
And Captaine longe time of the Band selected
Whose prvdent Covrage, Ivstice gravitie
Deserves a monvment of memorye.

"Captain of the Band" means the train band, or militia of the town, in ancient times, ere standing armies were known.

In the north-east corner of the chancel, without the rails, is a stone, still bearing two brasses, representing coats of arms, seeming to imply that the person or persons beneath must have been of some importance when living. There were no figures to this, and the inscription is gone.

The arms are: 1st shield—QUARTERLY. 1st and 4th, ermine, a lion rampant . . . 2nd and 3rd . . . within a bordure engrailed argent, a lion rampant or, a canton of the last. CREST—on an esquire's helmet, a crow. 2nd shield—Per pale—(dexter side gone) sinister, a fesse between six Cornish Choughs.

On the adjoining stone, beneath a circle enclosing six stars:—

M m S s
REVERENDI EDVARDI WILSON,
Clerici, hujus ecclesiæ annos triginta et octo Vicarii;
Ortu Westmoriensis; Institutione Cantabrigiensis;
Nati XV. Maii, MDCLXII.;
Denati V. Januarii, MDCCXXXVIII.
Occubuit plenus annorum; fidei spei et charitatis vixit. Qualis, opera loquentur in illo die.

On a brass in the north transept:—

In Loving Memory of
LEWIS KENNARD MERYON, O.M.,
Scholar of Pembroke Coll., Cambridge.

Assistant Mathematical Master,
School, Holt, Norfolk, 1902-04
Only Son of Lewis and Mary Genvieve Meryon,
And Grandson of Lewis Haddock Meryon,
Killed by a fall from the North Arete of the Grand Paradis,
Graian Alps, 30th Aug., 1904, in his 24th year.
Buried in the Cemetery of Degioz, Valsavaranches, Vald Aosta.

"The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day."—*II. Timothy, I., 18.*

In St. Clare's Chapel are the following :—

Thomas Crouch, gent.,
A lover of his King and of
The Church of England ;
Having served the office of
Mayor in the town of Rye
several years.
Deceased Aug. 7th, 1682, aged 49 years.
Resurgam.

And on a small brass plate near the altar rail :—

Sacred to the Memory of
MERYON,
Son of William & Sarah Holloway ;
He was born Jan. 31st, 1812,
and was unfortunately drowned at the Charter House,
June 20th, 1828.

Also to the above-named
SARAH HOLLOWAY,
Daughter of Lewis & Ann Meryon,
Who died 5th March, 1868,
Aged 89.

And to
WILLIAM HOLLOWAY,
Historian of Rye,
Who died 23rd May, 1870,
Aged 84.

In the centre of the Chancel, on a large dark-blue stone, having on the top a coat of arms, is this inscription in Latin :—

In the blessed hope of a resurrection to the life eternal, near this stone rests William Barham, of this town, surgeon (a man of singular modesty, endowed with probity and sincerity), who departed this life July 19th, in the year of our Lord 1694, and of his age the 43rd.

And Elizabeth, daughter of William Stretton, of Tenterden, in the County of Kent, gent., who was married to the said William Barham, on Sept. 29th, 1678, and who bare him two sons and three daughters, viz., Mary, Susan, Elizabeth, William, James. Who, whilst with great sorrow she supported her widowhood, being no less wasted by grief of mind than by sickness of body, like the faithful turtle (leaving her friends and children) she gladly hastened to her husband, and to a happier life, Feb. 26th, 1695, in the 43rd year of her age.

Also Elizabeth, the youngest daughter of the said William and Elizabeth, who, happy in her death, sweetly fell asleep Dec. 23rd, 1692, in the 8th year of her age.

And, likewise,

William, the eldest son of the said William and Elizabeth, of New Romney, in the County of Kent, gent., who, whilst attempting to ride in the night through the haven of this town to the farther side, a storm having suddenly arisen, was overwhelmed in the slime and waves, and unfortunately perished on April 2nd, 1717, aged 36.

He was a man eminent for his piety, industry, integrity, and constancy; to his parents most attentive; to his brothers and sisters most affectionate; to his friends candid and sincere; and kind to all.

As a memorial of which, we have placed this small monument of our love and gratitude.

M B: S B: I B:

The remaining part has been put into verse thus:—

Tho' death did come, tho' life did fade,
And in the grave his bones are laid,
Yet Virtue lives beyond the grave,
And shall from death his Memory save –
Shall triumph o'er Life's fated doom,
And be herself, a living tomb;
Whose summit, in the thick clouds hid,
Above the loftiest pyramid,
Shall mock at rain, and hail, and sleet,
Which, harmless, shall around her beat;
Than brass more durable shall be
(Existing through Eternity)
When in that Ocean without shore,
The Earth shall sink and time shall be no more.

Other stones in the Chancel commemorate members of the Butler family. The late Mr. George Slade Butler, F.S.A., of Rye, claimed descent from the author of

E. WHITEMAN, Cinque Ports Studio Rye.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH—BUTTRESSES.

"Hudibras," and that the first of his family to settle in Rye were the brothers William and Daniel Butler, mentioned in these inscriptions. The name Butler, however, is common in the Rye Registers from their commencement in 1538.

From the close of the sixteenth century to the middle of the eighteenth, the Grebells were the most influential family in the town of Rye, and several of them are buried in Saint Clare's Chapel; but a melancholy interest is attached to the record of the last:—

Here lyeth the body of
ALLEN GREBELL, Esqre.,
Who, after having served the office of Mayor of this town for ten years, with the greatest honour and integrity, fell by the cruel stab of a sanguinary butcher,
on the 17th of March, 1742, aged 50.
He left issue one Son and one Daughter.

The butcher's name was Breeds, and the particulars of the murder are given in another part of this work.

Mr. Thomas Lamb, who was the first of this family settled in Rye, married in October, 1717, Martha, daughter of Thomas and Alice Grebell, and thus the influence of his family succeeded to that of the Grebells. The following monumental inscriptions on the north wall at the west end of the nave are proofs of the honours and distinctions they obtained through this influence:—

To the Memory of
JAMES LAMB, Esq.,
a man of uncommon virtue,
Who, with the integrity of a merchant, and the courtesy of a gentleman,
united
The undissembled piety of a true Christian.
His distinguished abilities
Raised him no less than 13 times to the Mayoralty of his Corporation,
Which office he always executed
with a dignity
That showed him born for precedence.
He had twice the honour of entertaining
A Royal Guest at his house:
Once in the person of His Majesty King George the First,
and afterwards
In that of his grandson, the Duke of Cumberland.

He had also the honour (as one of the Barons of this town)
To support the canopy
Over Her late Majesty Queen Caroline, at her
Coronation.
Beloved in his private connections,
In his public ones admired and honoured,
He died
On the 21st day of November, 1756,
At the age of 63 years.
His remains were deposited in the new burying ground
belonging
to the parish of S. Andrew, Holborn,
in the same grave
with those of Dorothy Lamb
(Wife to his eldest son, Thomas)
Who died in a few hours after him,
Aged 39 years.
She filled with equal lustre
Her station of life,
Having heightened
Every amiable quality of her sex,
With a manly sense and elegance of taste.

Placed immediately beside the above is another monument with this inscription :—

Sacred to the memory of
THOMAS LAMB, Esquire
(The eldest son of James and Martha Lamb),
Who died on the 29th day of March, 1804,
At the advanced age of 84 years and 9 months,
and whose remains are deposited in a vault
on the south side of this church.
The leisure afforded by an independent fortune,
He employed in the zealous discharge of the duties
of a magistrate,
Acting for the counties of Kent and Sussex,
And also for the town of Rye.
In his disposition he was benevolent and humane,
In his manners cheerful and social,
In the discharge of every relative duty faithful,
And in his religious tenets
Firmly attached to the Established Church.
By his marriage with
Dorothy,
Sixth daughter of the Rev. George Eyles, A.M.,
Vicar of Turk Dean, in Gloucestershire,
He left one son, Thomas Phillips Lamb,
by whom this monument
(The tribute of duty and esteem)
is erected.

The vault to which allusion is made in the above epitaph of Thomas Lamb, Esq., has been opened, the coffins deposited underground, and its original beauties restored, exhibiting a very handsome groined roof. It is now used as a vestry.

Near it is another monument, the name recorded on it being that of a brother of the before-mentioned Thomas, and son of James Lamb :—

To the memory of
Mr. JAMES LAMB,
Merchant,
Jurat of this Corporation, and
Six times Mayor.
He died the 20th Feb., 1780,
Aged 58 years and 9 months.

This James Lamb was the father of Charles Lamb, the Commander of the Revenue Cutter "Stag," who was the hero of the romance connected with the "Lovers' Seat" at Fairlight, which culminated in his marriage with Miss Boys, of Hawkhurst, in 1786.

Charles Lamb was drowned at Southampton in 1814. His widow died in Hastings in 1823.

On the north wall is a tablet bearing the following inscription :—

In Memory of
HENRY LAWRENCE, Esqr.,
of the Kingdom of Ireland,
Lieutenant in His Majesties 52 Reg.,
Who departed this life the 4th day of August, 1781,
Aged 20 years.

At the entrance to the nave are two inscriptions to the memory of former Vicars of the parish :—

Under this stone is buried
The Rev. THOMAS HUDSON, A.M.,
Vicar of this parish,
Who died October 13th, 1743,
In his 49th year.

Sub hoc marmore, beatæ resurrectionis in Christo spe, requiescit
IOHANNES MYERS,
annos quadraginta hujus ecclesiæ Vicarius : obiit die xxivmo.
Octobris, MDCCCXXXIV., ætatis LXXVII.

To the north and south pillars, separating the high

chancel from the transept, are affixed two handsome monuments to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Woollett. On the top of the wife's is an urn, partly covered with a drapery falling gracefully over it, and an elegant wreath of flowers :—

Sacred
To the Memory of
ELIZABETH, WIFE OF JOHN WOOLLETT,
of this town, Attorney-at-Law,
Who died June 28th, 1810, aged 42 years.
From the tenderest regard to a virtuous woman, a most affectionate wife, a faithful Christian, and a sincere friend, her afflicted husband caused this tablet to be erected.

Over Mr. Woollett's monument are the figures of Hope and Benevolence, the latter supporting the former, these lines being beneath :—

Thy gentle arm, Benevolence, sustains
Our fainting Hope ; thy balm our life regains.
Sacred to the Memory of
JOHN WOOLLETT, Esq.,
late of this town,
Who departed this life on the 23rd March, 1819,
in the 60th year of his age.
His lamented remains are deposited in this Church.

Against the south column, which divides the nave from the transept, is fixed a monument surmounted with an urn, bearing this inscription :—

This Tablet is erected to the Memory of
THOMAS OWENS, Esq.,
Who died the 12th day of May, 1769,
Aged 62 years.

Likewise to the Memory of
Mrs. ELIZABETH WELLER,
Who died the 1st day of December, 1781,
Aged 72 years.

But more particularly to the Memory of
Mrs. CATHERINE OWENS,
Who departed this life Jan. 31st, 1797,
In the 90th year of her age.
Favor'd by Heaven are those who yield their breath,
Free from those pangs which oft embitter death ;
More favor'd still who quit this humble sphere
Like her whose virtues claim remembrance here ;
She fixed her thoughts on the Almighty name,

And in her slumber the transition came.
It came and bore her thro' th' ethereal way,
To the blest regions of eternal day,
Where now, we doubt not, with th' omniscient Lord
(Whilst raptur'd seraphs her fair deeds record),
Of life well spent she reaps the just reward.

Mr. and Mrs. Owens here mentioned were husband and wife, and Mrs. E. Weller was sister to the latter. The monument is by Flaxman, but is very plain.

Against the north column is a tablet with the following inscription :—

Sacred to the Memory of
MR. HENRY BRAZIER,
Wool Stapler,
Who died the 10th February, 1845,
Aged 43 years.

Also of
MARY MUNN BRAZIER,
His Wife,
Who died the 4th January, 1846,
Aged 37 years.

They left surviving one Son, Frederick.

In the north transept are the following :—

Here lyeth the body of
Mr. HENRY CARLETON,
One of ye Jurats of this Corporation,
Who died Octr. ye 22nd, 1771, aged 78 years.

Also the body of MARY, his wife.

Also the body of
The Revd. GEORGE CARLETON, A.M.,
Son of ye above-named Henry and Mary Carleton,
Who was Vicar of this Parish, and
one of the Jurats of this Corporation.
He died November ye 27th, 1761, aged 43 years.

Sacred to the Memory of
CAROLINE DURRANT,
Who died July 10th, 1847,
Aged 16 years.

In the same transept is one of several brasses :—

In Memory of
THOMAS,
Son of Lewis and Ann Meryon,
Died June 28th, 1820,
Aged 40 years.

JOHN MERYON,
His Son,
Died March 4th, 1822,
Aged 10 years.

ANN BAKER MERYON,
Daughter of the above Thos. Meryon,
Died March 31st, 1859,
Aged 43.

HARRIETT MERYON,
His Widow,
Died June 16th, 1864,
Aged 83 years.
Buried in the Churchyard at Northiam.

In the north aisle is a monument to the memory of

Mrs. MARGARET COLLETT,
Wife of the Rev. Peter Collett,
who died the 6th day of May, 1770, aged 36 years.

Also of the above-named
REV. PETER COLLETT,
Rector of Denton, in this County,
And Curate of this Parish thirty years,
who died the 14th of Septr., 1790, aged 55 years;

Also of
ELIZABETH,
Relict of the above-named,
Who died the 11th of February, 1841,
aged 95 years.

In the nave are several monuments to the Haddock family, and the following to one of the last of a French refugee family :—

To the Memory of
Mr. WILLIAM DANSAYS
(Jurat of this Corporation).
He died 28th Aug., 1787,
Aged 72 years.

In the south transept lie many of the Hope family, from A.D. 1732 to A.D. 1751, beneath two stone slabs, on one of which, under the name of Judith, aged 3 years 1 month and 6 days, are the lines subjoined :—

Grieve not, dear parents,
Nor in tears lament;
I am gone to Heaven;
To you I was but lent.

When the organ was placed in the south transept, this slab was placed where it is subjected to much traffic, and the words will soon be illegible.

In former ages, all churches seem to have been furnished with a charnel house for the purpose of depositing the bones of the dead in—that is, after the bodies of the deceased had laid sufficiently long in their graves for the decay of all parts except the bones; and it is supposed that it was to guard against this desecration of his remains that Shakespeare had the following lines engraven over them :—

> Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear
> To dig the dust inclosed here :
> Blest be the man that spares these stones,
> Accurst be he that moves my bones.

In 1547, a hole was dug in the churchyard to receive all the bones that lay in the charnel house, which would probably be under the east end of the north aisle of the chancel (as at St. Laurence Church, Hawkhurst, Kent).

The whole of the chancel may have been built on a sub-vault, used as a charnel, having an entrance from the church, and bone shoot in the eastern wall as at Hawkhurst. In addition to altars of Our Lady of Pity, or any other vaults, behind the high altar, there were, doubtless, several other altars in various parts of the church. There was always a procession round the church, with a halt at every altar *en route*, and room was left in large churches and cathedrals to pass round behind the high altar in the choir.

There used to be several hatchments suspended on the walls of the church, but of these only one survives. The arms are said to be those of Mr. Norris, M.P. for Rye. Argent, a lion rampant and a canton sable. On an escutcheon of pretence, Quarterly, 1st and 4th, azure, a lion rampant, or. 2nd and 3rd gules, three golden spears. Crest, two eagles' heads addorsed and erased, or. Motto : *Finis coronat opus.* The back of the sinister side is black, shewing that it was erected on the death of the owner's wife.

It was the year 1775, on Saturday, July 25th, that first saw the belfry of the church of Rye graced with eight

bells ; the six old ones were re-cast and two new ones added, the whole expense of which was munificently borne by Thomas Lamb, Esq. The bells are numbered and bear respectively the following inscriptions :—

First Bell.

If you have a judicious Ear
Youl own my Voice is Sweet and Clear

Second Bell.

If you have a judicious Ear
Youl own my Voice is Sweet and Clear

Third Bell.

Whilst thus we joyn in Cheerfull sound
may love and Loyalty abound

Fourth Bell.

Such wondrous power to musick's given,
It elevates the soul to Heaven.

Fifth Bell.

Ye People all who hear me Ring
Be Faithfull to your God and king

Sixth Bell.

Peace and good Neighbourhood

Seventh Bell.

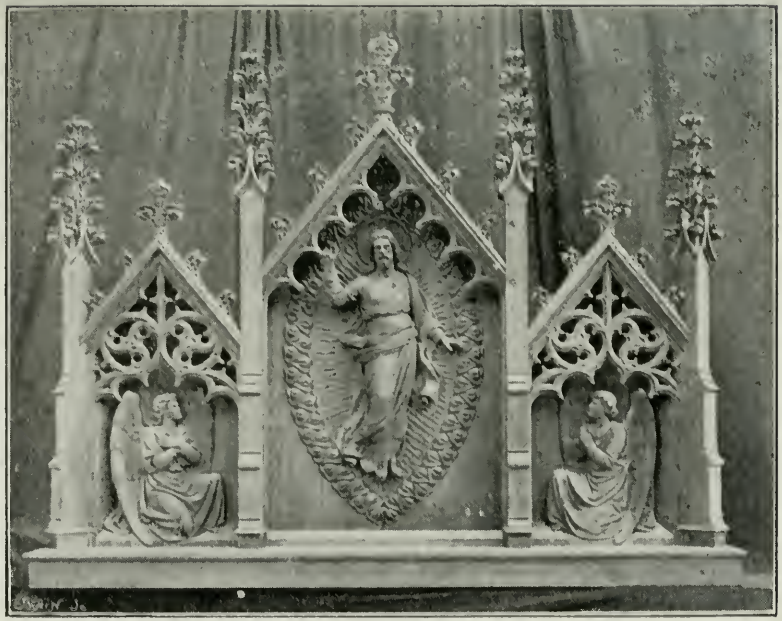
Ye Ringers all, who Prize
Your health and happiness.
be sober merry wise.
And youl the same possess

Eighth Bell.

In wedlock bands all ye who joyn
With hands your hearts unite
So shall our tunefull tongues combine
To Laud the Nuptial Rite.

In the belfry were formerly exhibited the following lines, which we give as a specimen of the old customs prevalent among ringers :—

This is a belfry that is free
For all those men that civil be :



REREDOS, S. MARY'S CHURCH, RYE.

And if you please to chime or ring,
It is a very pleasant thing,
There is no music played or sung
Like unto bells when they are rung.
Then ring your bells well, if you can
Silence is best for every man :
But if you ring in spur or hat,
Sixpence you pay (be sure of that),
And if a bell you overthrow,
Must pay a groat before you go.

The following was written by an old ringer, named Richard Fuller :—

Farewell, ye ringers all, adieu !
I can enjoy no more of you :
My time is hasting fast away,
For I am going to decay :
And so are you, 'tis known full well,
For oft we hear the passing bell.
Then think of death, my friends, I say,
How soon we may be called away !
If unprepared—oh, dismal fate ;
Let us repent ere 'tis too late ;
And to the Lord for mercy call,
That he may save and bless us all.

The founders were Messrs. Pack & Chapman.

The following are the weights, &c., of the bells :—

	cwt	qrs.	lbs.		
Treble ..	6	0	5	1ft. 7in. high	2ft 5¼in. over.
2nd	6	2	13	1ft. 8in. ,,	2ft. 6½in. ,,
3rd	6	3	10	2ft. 1in. ,,	2ft. 8½in. ,,
4th	7	3	19	2ft. 1in. ,,	2ft. 10⅛in. ,,
5th	9	0	14	2ft. 3in. ,,	3ft. 1in. ,,
6th	10	3	5	2ft. 4½in. ,,	3ft. 7in. ,,
7th	14	0	12	2ft. 6in. ,,	3ft. 7in. ,,
Tenor ..	19	0	27	2ft. 10in. ,,	4ft. ,,
Clappers ..	2	0	16		
Tons	4	2	3	9	

At Aylesbury, Bucks, there is a peal by the same founders, bearing similar mottoes, and erected about the same time.

An original drawing and specification of the Rye bells may be seen in the case of curiosities at the west end of the nave. It is dated 29th July, 1775.

In this case also are several objects worthy the attention of the curious, including two "Geneva" or "Breeches" Bibles (one Black Letter, the other bound with the Prayer Book of 1552, the 2nd Book of Edward VI.); a very fine "Vinegar" Bible, in two volumes, folio: a French book of engravings of sacred subjects, by Gregory Huret, published in 1661; a Prayer Book, dated 1758, given by Mr. Norris, M.P., for use in the Mayor's pew; a pamphlet descriptive of an ancient vessel found in the River Rother, 1823; and eight stone cannon balls found in the walls, said to have been fired at the Church by the French in 1448. It is worthy of note that the same kind of granite is found on the coast of Normandy.

In the Vestry is an ancient leaden flagon of foreign workmanship, $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches high and $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference.

The following inscription has been placed on it :—

This Flagon
used at the Celebration of the Lord's Supper
by the Minister of the Protestant Refugees
who found an Asylum in Rye
after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes,
22nd October, 1685,
was Presented for the use of the Church
to the
Vicar and Churchwardens of Rye
by William Holloway and Sarah, his wife,
formerly Sarah Meryon,
a Descendant of one of the Refugees.
5th May, 1860.

It was in 1540 that Miles Coverdale completed his English version of the Bible, and on the accession of Edward VI. he was made Bishop of Exeter. A copy of the Bible was introduced into the different churches of the kingdom, in conformity with which custom Rye was furnished with two Bibles, the cost of which was £1 6s. 8d. So precious was the Bible considered in those days that it was chained up; so that any person might go into the church and read it there, but was not allowed to take it away. "1549—June 6th: Paid for two chains, one for the Bible, the other for the Paraphrase, 10d." *(Rye Churchwardens' Accounts).*

It does not appear that in early days either the Vicar or parishioners had anything to do with the appointment of the churchwardens or with the auditing of the accounts; this duty devolving upon the Mayor and Corporation. The appointment is not exactly mentioned, but the auditing is.

Holloway states that, in 1559, the choir and body of the church were paved; but Mr. Sands says that, from the earliest Norman times, there is no record of an entirely unpaved church; glazed tiles were usually employed for this purpose.

In 1560, scriptural extracts were again painted on the walls, as had been heretofore done in the reign of Edward VI. Whether Rye Church had seats in the fifteenth century we cannot say, but so early as 1547 there were some, and these probably were principally, if not altogether, in the choir, the Mayor's pew having been in Saint Nicholas' Chapel. In 1561, mention is made of the erection of pews in the main body of the church.

Incidentally we learn that foreign money was in use at this time, as, in 1559, we find the churchwarden paying a bill with twenty-six French crowns; and that in the same year he lost 17s. 2½d. by the fall of money, and in the following a further sum of 3s. on nine pistoletts and white money in his hands at the time of the fall. One of the churchwardens informs us that, in 1560, he paid 3s. 4d. to someone for keeping his accounts, as he could neither read nor write.

Of the state of the edifice of the church in the seventeenth century there is no direct account; but from a memorandum in the register made by the Rev. Edward Wilson, who became the vicar of the parish A.D. 1700, it was no doubt in a very dilapidated condition, for among other things he mentions that he obtained a brief for the repair of the church in 1702, which, by his care and management, was repaired and beautified the year following; that the brief brought in nearly £400 clear, and the rest was collected by assessment in Parliament in four or five years. In the year 1699, the south transept underwent repairs, which cost the parish £200, as is set forth in a petition which was presented to Queen Anne in the first

year of her reign, and which further states that they (the minister, churchwardens, and inhabitants), in spite of this cost, found the church in so ruinous a condition that they were fearful to assemble therein to hear divine service; and that from poverty, being unable to do more, they prayed Her Majesty to grant letters patent to collect moneys, and which prayer as above-mentioned was granted. Towards the beautifying of the church it was that Mr. Southwell, one of the Members for the town in 1704, presented the handsome coat of arms which, since the restoration of the church, has been placed in the south chapel. The Arms of Queen Anne are now rarely found in churches. Seeing how much money was laid out on the repairs of the church in 1699 and 1702, one would naturally have expected to find the edifice in such a sound state as not to require any additional outlay for many years to come, but such is not the case, for in two years (between Easter, 1735, and Easter, 1737) there was no less a sum than £483 thus applied; and it would seem from the account that these took place chiefly at the west end. Mr. Wilson was also responsible for these, as he was Vicar until his death in 1738. In 1722 and 1733, he presented some of the altar plate, which is now in use.

We should not have expected to see any memorial in the churchwardens' accounts of the mutiny of the fleet at the Nore, but, however, it is there recorded that, in 1798, they paid the ringers five shillings for ringing "on the suppression of the mutiny at the Nore."

Facing Lion Street, on the north side of the tower, is the Church Clock, purchased by the Churchwardens in 1560, and erected in its present position. Its total cost was about £170 of our present money. It is supposed to be one of the oldest still going in England, and has a remarkable pendulum, about 18ft in length, which swings to and fro inside the Church, across the north arch under the tower. There are two statues, one on each side of the dial, called Quarter Boys, which strike the quarter hours upon a bell with a hammer. The local legend was that the clock came out of the Spanish Armada; but if so, it must have been fixed on a mast, with such a pendulum! The Churchwardens' Accounts show that it was made at

Winchelsea; also that there was a clock as early as 1515, for in that year the goldsmith was paid "for working upon the frame of the clock and dial in the steeple, 2s. od." "For the man who made the clock-work and dial, £2 6s. 8d." And in 1558 is an entry for repairs to the chimes and a payment to a man "for keeping the clock-maker to his work." In 1560-62 amounts are paid for "the grete clock"; for "the house over the clock"; for making the chymes goo"; to the *glacier* who "cast the grete waite," &c.

A recent visitor from the village of Rye, New York, has penned the following lines anent the time when the font was believed to have stood in the north transept almost underneath the pendulum of the clock, which, swinging towards a memorial tablet opposite, seemed to say :—

They bring them to the font;
They take them to the grave;
While I, I measure time,
Above them in the nave.

She comes, a beauteous bride
A youth so proudly leads.
They come! again they come,
The widow in her weeds.

Again I see them come,
And carried now is she.
A young man weeps beside,
An infant by his knee.

I only measure time
That seems to you so slow
The generations come!
The generations go!

But as I measure time
Above them in the nave,
There is short span between
The font so near the grave

About A.D. 1790, perhaps a little before, the great west door was closed, and a low flat gallery erected for the convenience of the choir, which was then conducted by Nathaniel Procter, Esq., who led the singers with the violin. In 1811, a barrel organ was placed in this gallery, and, in 1813, seats were built on either side of it, rising gradually from the front back to the window, for

the accommodation of the parish children, the girls on one side and the boys on the other; and thus this gallery continued until 1839, when it was removed, and a new one substituted, raised sufficiently high to allow of pews being built underneath, and of the west door being once more opened. At the restoration, however, this was taken down and the door again closed.

We have seen no record of the first erection of the south, commonly called the Poor Man's Gallery. The original structure of our old churches was never intended to admit of the sad disfigurement of a gallery, so completely obstructive of all their interior beauty; therefore, we may conclude its date to be not earlier, but probably later, than the reign of Elizabeth. At first it did not occupy more than two of the arches at the eastern end; but at some subsequent period was carried through the adjoining western one. It had an outside staircase.

In 1811, great complaint having been made by many of the parishioners of want of accommodation in the church, it was agreed, at a vestry held for the purpose on May 5th, that certain persons, who were willing to do so, were to have full liberty, as far as the vestry could give it, to erect a gallery at their own expense, on the north side of the nave, on condition that they should always keep the same in repair; accordingly the gallery was so erected.

The entire length of the interior of the sacred edifice, from the west to the east window, is 159 feet; that is, from the west wall to the centre of the easternmost arch of the nave, 74 feet; from the latter to the centre of the chancel arch, 23 feet; and thence to the east window, 62 feet. The length of the transept, from north to south, is 77 feet; and the width, from east to west, 22 feet. The length of the north, or St. Clare's chapel, is 62 feet; the width, 21 feet. The length of the south, or Saint Nicholas' chapel, is 62 feet; its width, 21 feet. Early in the year 1845, two of the beams in the chancel being found defective, they were removed, and two of African oak were substituted. They rest on stone corbels, and, being varnished, have a very handsome appearance. This was done at the expense of the Bishop of Winchester (who then, and since about 1546, possessed the rectorial

E. WHITEMAN. Cinque Ports Studio, Rye.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH—CARVED TABLE.

tithes). The work cost about £200. In 1901 the beautiful Early English pillar at the north side of the chancel was rebuilt by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the present rectors.

It is somewhat singular, but the nave does not appear to range in a straight line with the chancel, so that, as one views it from the west, the perspective is considerably marred. This is really an optical delusion. The line is quite straight from the font to the centre of the east window. The appearance of a decline may be due to the difference of piers of the chancel arch: that on the north was not so much renewed as that on the south, which has heavier masonry of an earlier date, and projects.

The mahogany Altar (or table now used as an Altar in St. Clare's chapel) was made, apparently, about the middle of the 18th century, and is a fine example of French Rococco cabinet work. It was probably presented by a member of the Lamb family, although by local tradition it was part of the spoils of the Spanish Armada. It is curious that at Aylesbury, in Bucks., there is an almost similar Altar with the same tradition attached to it.

The font is a careful copy, carved in Caen stone, of the original early Norman one in Newenden Church, Kent, and was placed in the Church about 1845.

The south chapel was at one time used as a factory, where the inmates of the old workhouse (then situated in the Gungarden), were employed at spinning; afterwards it was made into a soup kitchen, and then into a school. In the north chapel the fire engines were kept, and it was also used as a depository for lumber. In 1863, when the Rev. B. S. Wright succeeded the Rev. Henry Cooper as vicar, he had the lath and plaster removed from the arches on the north side of the chancel, throwing open Saint Clare's chapel, from which all the rubbish which had previously encumbered and disfigured it was removed; a handsome window was also erected at the east end; and and the lancet windows on the north side opened, while the beautiful screen at the west end has been cleaned and restored, and other similar restorations made in various parts of the building.

On Thursday, 18th October, 1883 (St. Luke's Day) the

chancel was re-opened after complete restoration ; the nave having been previously re-opened on April 20th. The aspect of the building has been much improved, especially in the new seating arrangements. The altar is brought forward and is now approached by three steps. The exterior of the fabric at the eastern end has undergone considerable improvement. A new flying buttress has been built after the design of the old one, which has invariably been very greatly admired, and other improvements effected in various ways. So much, however, was required to be done towards ensuring the stability of the Church, that little attention was turned to ornamentation.

Up to the time of restoration, St. Mary's had been entirely bereft of stained glass windows.

Handsome presents were subsequently bestowed on the Church at various times by Mrs. Gutch, a widow lady whose last act of munificence was the presentation of the beautiful stained east window, the history of which is told in the inscription at foot :—

> "To the Honor and Glory of the Most High God ; this Window is dedicated as a thank-offering for his manymercies by Mary Gutch, 1883."

The window is a very fine example of Perpendicular Gothic architecture; it is about 30 feet in height and 18 feet in width. The vertical stone mullions and the transom which connects them, divide the chief portion of the window into twelve compartments, 8 feet high and 2 feet wide ; above these, and within the Gothic arch, there are thirty-seven panels formed by the elaborate intersections of the stone tracery. The whole of these lights have been filled with stained glass. In the twelve principal lights are depicted the most important events in the life of our Lord, the upper tier illustrating His earthly life previous to His public ministry, and the lower tier His Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

The subjects in the upper tier are the Annunciation, Nativity, Presentation, Adoration of the Magi, Visit to the Jewish Doctors in the Temple, Baptism ; on the lower tier, the Triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Agony in Gethsemane,

Bearing the Cross, Crucifixion, Visit of the Holy Women to the Tomb, Ascension. With one or two exceptions, the figures of our Lord and St. Mary the Virgin (to whom the Church is dedicated) appear in every group.

In the panels of the tracery, at the apex, are four figures, in white, of the Archangels Raphael, Michael, Gabriel, and Uriel. The tier below contains figures of the four greater Prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, and on either side, those of the Evangelists, SS. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The work was designed and executed by Messrs. Wails & Strang, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. Great care was taken to arrange and harmonize the varied colours, and especial pains directed to the drawing and grouping of the figures. We should also mention that Mrs. Gutch herself bestowed much time and labour in choosing the subjects and colours.

The stained glass window at the west end of the north aisle was erected in June, 1886, by the Lardner-Dennys family, in memory of Mrs. Pomfret. It represents four aspects of our Saviour tending his flock, with an explanation to each picture: (1) "The Lord is my Shepherd;" (2), 'He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;" (3) "He restoreth my soul;" (4) "He leadeth me beside the still waters." At the base is the following inscription:—"In loving memory of Margaret Haddock Pomfret, born 2nd November, 1791, died 1st April, 1885."

On Sunday, 22nd September, 1889, a stained-glass window was unveiled, in the south aisle, to the memory of the late H. Burra, Esq., of Springfield, and Mrs. Burra; a lady and gentleman who, during their lifetime, enjoyed much popularity in ye and neighbourhood, not only on account of their estimable personal qualities, but also their philanthropic works. The window was inserted by members of the family, and was executed by Mr. C. M. Kempe, of London. In the centre tracery appears an angel, and on either side, in scroll work, the word "Alleluia." In the top lights are figures of St. Andrew on the right, and St. Peter on the left, below being illustrations of the miraculous draught of fishes and Christ's charge to St. Peter. In the right corner is the following inscription:—"In the midst of life we are in

death; of whom may we seek for succour, but of Thee, O Lord? These words are here written in memory of Henry Burra and Frances, his wife, who entered into rest, the one February 25th, 1886, the other, June 18th, 1871."

In 1893, the North Transept Wall and Window were restored in memory of the same gentleman, and a Memorial Tablet was fixed upon the Wall inside to commemorate the event (*for inscription see page 28*).

In the south porch are also some interesting stained windows, the expense of which was borne by the children attending the Church Sunday School.

In the south aisle is a very pretty stained-glass window bearing two inscriptions:—

In humble thankfulness for the Redemption of the world
I dedicate this Window in Memory of my Mother,
MARY SYMONDS,
who died December 17th, 1881, aged 91
J.D. 1894.
In the blessed hope of everlasting life,
I dedicate this Window to the Memory of my Husband,
ROBERT COKER NASH DAVIES,
who died May 9th, 1891, aged 61.
J.D. 1894.

The deep rich colouring of this window, which is by Messrs. Powel, of Whitefriars, is worthy of notice.

Over the lights is the Angel of the Resurrection. In one upper light is represented the Holy Child in the arms Simeon, close by being the Blessed Virgin Mary and Anna the prophetess. In the other upper light is represented the bringing of Nathaniel to Christ by St. Philip. In each of the lower lights are angels bearing scrolls on which are recorded the subjects of the upper lights.

At the west end of the south aisle is a window erected to the memory of Dr. and Mrs. Adamson, bearing the following inscription:—

To the glory of God,
and in Affectionate Remembrance of
JOHN ADAMSON,
who died January 21st, 1870, aged 72 years:
also of
JANE, HIS WIFE,
who died October 9th, 1881, aged 81 years:
Their Family dedicate this Window.

E. WHITEMAN. Cinque Ports Studio, Rye.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH—EASTERN STAINED GLASS WINDOW.

The subjects of the upper lights are Elijah and St. John the Baptist, holding the inscription :—

"Ecce Agnus Dei qui tollit peccata mundi."

("Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world")

pointing to a lamb. In the lower lights is a very striking and vivid representation of our Lord giving sight to the blind man. A noticeable feature of this window (by Messrs. Kempe), is the expression and clearness of the different faces.

In the north aisle is another stained glass window, "The Manifestation of our Lord to the Gentiles," which was unveiled on September 12th, 1897, and which bears the following inscription :—

"To the honour and glory of Almighty God, and in loving remembrance of Mary Tiltman, who died December 30th, 1881. This Window is erected by her eldest son, Alfred Hessell Tiltman, F.R.I.B., 1897."

In the small light at the top is an Angel holding a brilliant star: the light through that part shines more brightly than anywhere else in the picture, because Heaven is open there. All the rest is on the earth below. In the left light we see the first three Gentiles to whom the Messiah was made known, on their way to worship Him. The legend is followed, which names and describes the three wise men as: (1) Melchoir (in the middle), an old man with white hair, bringing gold to the King of Kings. (2) Gaspar (below), a beardless youth, bringing frankincense to the God of Gods. (3) Balthazar (at the top), with beard, and in the prime of life, carrying myrrh to the Man among men. All three are crowned according to the tradition which makes them Kings. Urbs Tarsis—the city of Tarsus—is the place they have just left in the course of their journey from the far East. The celebrated river Cyndus—on which Tarsus was built—appears in the window. In the right hand light of the window, the light from the star in the Angel's hands above shines down upon the wall of the House in Bethlehem. The Holy Mother in the traditional blue and white, nursing her child on her knee, so raises him in her arms, that the child acknowledges the worship

of the wise men. An Angel stands by the side of the Infant, as we believe each child has its special guardian Angel. A group of Angels wearing wreaths of victory on their heads, stand round below—each singing to the accompaniment of a musical instrument (a kind of harp or lyre). The Window was designed by the late Sir Edward Burne-Jones, and executed by Messrs. Morris & Co.

Mr. George Edmund Street, R.A., the architect of the latest Church Restoration, was not spared to see the consummation of his plans, he having died during the progress of the work: his son, however, ably superintended it to its completion.

Messrs. Wall & Hook, the contractors, of Branscombe, Stroud, Gloucester, performed their work in an admirable manner, both in nave and chancel.

The expenses of the restoration amounted to nearly £5,000, but this item does not include the expenditure on the chancel, the whole of which was defrayed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

In 1889, the Chapel of St. Clare was repaired and furnished for Divine Service, at a cost of £110, subscribed as a memorial to the late Vicar, Mr. Gladstone, and a monument of the energy of his successor, the Rev. A. J. W. Crosse (a son of the Venerable Archdeacon Crosse, of Norwich). Opening Services were held on the 1st November. Since then, Mattins and Evensong have been said daily in the Chapel, and the early celebrations of Holy Communion are also held there.

In 1894, the South Transept was paved with wooden blocks.

In 1895, a carved-oak Reredos by Mr. Harry Hems, of Exeter, was erected to the memory of the late Vicar, the Rev. D. T. Gladstone. It is a beautiful work of art, representing the Ascension. The Christ—a figure of Divine Majesty and manly dignity—is in the act of ascending into Heaven. The drapery is so arranged that the whole figure seems to be soaring up steadily into heaven. The hands and feet show signs of the wounds of Good Friday; but a nimbus of Glory is about His head, to show that He has conquered now. The right hand is raised in benediction. The oval back-ground (Vesica) is a con-

ventional way, perfectly understood among Artists, of expressing clouds of glory. The outer rim is composed of clouds, conventionally treated, and rays of glory radiate from the figure of our Lord in every direction upon the surrounding clouds. The angels kneeling below in attitudes of wonder and rapt devotion, remind us of the heavenly worship which the Ascended Lord is now receiving in Heaven from the Angels, who are models to all who worship Him here on earth. The Reredos is intended eventually for the Altar in the Chapel of St. Clare, but is placed in its present position until a more elaborate one is provided for the high Altar.

In 1901, a fine new organ, by Messrs. Norman & Beard, of Norwich, was placed in the South Transept. It cost about £900, which was raised by means of bazaars, &c. It is a three-manual organ of 25 stops, with accessories, and having a total of 1,762 pipes. A few of the stops are still required. The Organist's screen was given by Mr. Elvidge, the organiser of the fund, in memory of the late Dean Hole, of Rochester. The old organ is now in Playden Church.

The Altar frontals, of brocaded tapestry, are of the usual four colours for the Church's seasons. They, and the curtains and carpet in the Sanctuary, were provided by a concert arranged by Lady Maud Warrender, of Leasam House, Rye, in 1904.

In the north aisle is a holy water stoop, showing that at one time there must have been an entrance near, the traces of filling up of which are visible outside the Church. The stoop corresponds with one in the south porch.

The panels of the fine old pulpit are of the folded linen pattern, which is greatly admired by antiquaries and others, and is of early 16th century date.

The living of Rye has been a vicarage from time immemorial—at all events, for more than six hundred years. It is now held by the Rev. Arthur Plumptre Howes, M.A.

From the time of Edward the Confessor to 15th May, 1247, the patronage of the Church of Rye was in the hands of the Abbot of Fiscamp, in Normandy, by grant from King Edward, confirmed by his successors. In 1247, it was resumed by Henry III. In 1363, the Rectory was

annexed by appropriation to the Abbot and Monastery of Stanley, in Wilts., and they presented to the Vicarage. At the dissolution, it was bestowed on the Lord of the Manor of Brede; for we know the presentation was annexed to this Manor, and that the Abbot of Fiscamp was Lord of the Manor of Brede, which was a branch of that of Battle. If this be correct, the patrons of the Vicarage of Rye have been the undermentioned :—

1041, Abbot of Fiscamp, in Normandy.
1247 to 1363, the King.
1363 to 1525, the Abbot and Convent of Stanley.
1525, Sir Edward Guilford, Knight, by royal grant.
1542, Sir Anthony Browne, of Battle Abbey, afterwards Earl Montague.
1545, King Henry VIII., presented.
1547, King Edward VI.
1554 to 1602, the Sackvyle family.
1613, Earl of Dorset.
1650, Sarah, wife of Charles Tufton.
1682 to 1700, Bromfield family.
1726, Spencer Compton, Esq., by purchase, and the Comptons, Earls of Northampton.
1782, Earl of Burlington, who married Lady Elizabeth Compton.
1834 to the present time, the Countess of Burlington on the death of her husband, and her heirs the Dukes of Devonshire.

Rectors and Vicars of Rye.

RECTORS.

1264-5, Thomas de Lichefeld. Patent Rolls 49 Hen. III.
1265, John de Crofton, or Croft.
1267, William de Clifford. Pat. 51 Hen. III.
1274-5, Thomas de Lichefeld (resigned).
1274-5, Adam de Cumenvill.
1277, Nicholas de Spronton, or Sproughton (resigned).
1298, William de Dounameneye. Pat. 26 Ed. I.
1304, Alexander Botemount.
1308-9, Adam de Lymbergh, or Limburg. Pat. 2 Ed. II.

1311, Richard de Mere. 5 Ed. II.
1313, John de Mere. 7 Ed. II.
1314, Richard de Elsefeld.
1317, John de Harewe (resigned). Pat. 10 Ed. II.
1324, Nicholas de Useflete. Pat. 18 Ed. II.
1327, Walter de Useflete.
1327, Thomas de Useflete.
1330, Thomas de Hareys, or John Harris (exchanged).
1332, Henry de Kendal, by exchange.
1340, William Outy, by exchange. Pat. 15 Ed. III.
1345, John de Salesbury. Pat. 19 Ed. III.
1347, Thomas de Holborn (resigned).
1350, Peter Grevet. Pat. 24 Ed. III.
1354, John de Kenyngton, by exchange. Pat. 28 Ed. III.
1354-5, Robert de Garwynton, by exchange. 29 Ed. III.
1358, John de Stoke.
1361, William Outy.
1520, Ralph Snade, also Vicar.
1539, Ralph Massey, also Vicar (died).
1657, John Allin (Puritan), also Vicar.

VICARS.

1278, William
1306, John Dykesterne.
1334, Henry de Kendal.
1391, John Ryngbell.
1391, William Wyking.
1413, William Sudbury.
1413, William Coffe (died).
1416, Richard Shrosbury.
1438, Richard Richemond.
1438, John Deve.
1478, William Wikwyk.
1510, ——Lane, or Lake.
1513, Thomas Sewell, B.D.
1525-6, Dr. Ralphe Sneyd, or Snede.
1541, Ralph Marcey (died).
1541, William Inold, B.D. (died).
1545, Thomas Chapman, B.D.
1547, Edmund Scambler, D.D., afterwards Bishop of Peterborough, then of Norwich, died 1594.

1554, John Browne.
1558-9. John Atherton.
1564, Augustine Bradbridge, M.A.
1567, Richard. or William Connoppe.
1574, Richard Fletcher, D.D., afterwards Bishop of Bristol, Worcester, and London, died 1596.
1583, John Ruck.
1591-2, Richard Cannox.
1591-2, John Prescot (died).
1596-7, Roger Smith, M.A. (died).
1602, John Bracegirdle, B.D. (died).
1613-14, Bryan Twyne, B.D.
1642, John Beaton.
1650, William Russell.
1653-4, John Allen, Jr., ejected 1662.
1662, Joseph Elmer, or Elmar.
1682, William Williams, B.A. (died).
1699, Robert Bradshaw.
1700, Edward Wilson, B.A. (died).
1738, Thomas Hudson (died).
1743-4, George Carleton, M.A. (died). Jurat of Rye.
1762, Edward Smallwell, B.D.
1768, Lewis Bagot, D.D.; Bishop of St. Asaph, 1780.
1781, Ralph Sneyd, nephew of Bishop Bagot.
1795, John Myers, M.A. (died).
1834, Henry Cooper, B.D. (died).
1862, Barrington Stafford Wright, M.A. Lamb.
1875, David Thomas Gladstone, M.A. (died).
1889, Arthur John William Crosse, B.A. (resigned)
1903, Arthur Plumptre Howes, M.A.

Note—1760-90, Peter Collett, Curate-in-Charge.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL, RYE.

1421, Thomas Chace, Warden, 13 Dec. 8 Henry V. See also "Sussex Archæological Collections," Vol. xvii.—'Notes on Rye and its Inhabitants' pp. 123-136.

In Salymann's Antiquarian Notes in the Library of the Sussex Archæological Society at Lewes, are entries relating to the Hospital at Playden.

MONASTERY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, RYE.

ECCLESIASTICAL EDIFICES, &c.

THE FRIARY is the next ecclesiastical edifice to the church in point of time, the remains of which, though much changed from the original, are still standing about half-way down on the east side of Conduit Hill, leading out of High Street. With respect to this building Jeake writes:—"Rye had a monastery of the Friars Heremites of Saint Augustine, the chapel whereof is yet standing, erected anno. 16 Henry VIII., and dissolved by him shortly after, with the first dissolution, because in the 27th year of his reign, the revenues were not £200 per annum," and Jeake founds this opinion on a certain memorandum in the town records. Nevertheless, the entry of 1524 relates only to the repairs (executed by Mr. Thomas Marshe, of Tower House), of the roofs and buildings, not to the foundation of the Monastery. The house of Austin Friars is mentioned as far back as the 37th Edward III., A.D. 1364, and the architecture of the south windows is of this period. When it was dissolved by Henry VIII., in 1535, the site of it was granted by him to Thomas Goodwin. The old accounts of the churchwardens, however, tend to show that the Friary was erected earlier than is stated by Jeake, because in the will of John Bewley, quoted under the head of the church, and which is dated March 12th, 1517, occurs the following:—"I bequeath to the house of Friars Augustines, within the town of Rye, eight shillings"; and, in 1432, Sir Thomas Sackville left 6s. 6d. to the Brothers Augustine, of Rye.

This was a fine building in its day, being within the walls from east to west, seventy-one feet long, by twenty-eight feet wide, and thirty-one feet high from the ground floor to the eaves. At either end was a large hand-

some window, surmounted with a Gothic arch, the lower extremity of each being ornamented and supported by a corbel. In the western window these corbels are still almost perfect, and appear to be angels holding shields, but in the eastern they are decayed and gone. On the south side are four Gothic arched windows, with rich tracery forming the mullions. All these six windows have their sills at about eleven feet from the floor of the chapel. The east and west windows are eleven feet wide at the sill and eighteen feet high. The south windows are only seven feet wide at the sill, and eleven feet from the sill to the inner centre of the arch. The lower extremity of the ornamental arch of each of these south windows has a corbel representing a human head, but each differing from the other in its lineaments; whereas the two supporting the west window are exactly alike. At the time of its erection there were no houses on the south side, and, therefore, these windows were visible from this part of the High or Longer Street, as it was then called, and showed themselves to great advantage, being then, at their sills, eleven feet from the ground; whereas now the surface is raised up level with them, and is consequently eleven feet above the original floor of the chapel. There were two entrance doors: one on the south side, close to the south-west corner of the building, and the other immediately opposite; the former communicating with the street, and the other with a cloister on the north side at the back, in which were situated the living and sleeping apartments of the monks.

Running out from the north-east angle of the chapel, in a northerly direction, and in a straight line from the eastern gable, the foundation of a building has been traced to the extent of thirty feet in length from south to north, and twelve feet in width from east to west, which, in all probability, was for the refectory and dormitories of the Friars.

Beneath the stones which formed the floor of the cloisters, a quantity of bones have been disinterred from time to time, when alterations have been required in this part of the building, shewing that it was used for interments; and when the wall which separates the grounds from the

highway was built in 1762, five or six skeletons were found, which had been interred in an upright position.

After the dissolution of this Monastery in 1535, towards the end of the century, it was granted to many French Huguenots, who sought a home in Rye. After they ceased to use it, no doubt, its decay was rapidly increased; and from being dedicated in its pristine state to religious purposes, it afterwards became a theatre for itinerant players. It has also been used as a malt house, a store for wool, and as a barracks for the Salvation Army. It was on account of the building being used for commercial purposes that the outside stone stairs were erected to reach the upper floor, the chapel having been thus divided to meet the need of storage room, and the west end was defaced by a lower and upper door.

In 1894, a syndicate of Rye Churchmen purchased the property and raised a mortgage upon it. In 1905, the Salvation Army removed to their present quarters, their lease having expired, and the building was repaired, and the interior re-constructed, under the direction of Mr. R. T. Blomfield, A.R.A., the well-known London Architect. The roof had already been renewed. The upper room is now used principally for Meetings and various social functions; and upon the ground floor, the Church Sunday School is held, whilst the numerous other Church organisations frequently meet there. The building was re-opened on 30th May, 1906, by the Lord Bishop of Chichester, and, as we go to press, quite two-thirds of the total expenditure (about £1,500) have been defrayed by voluntary subscriptions, the proceeds of a Bazaar, &c. Donations towards the Monastery Fund should be sent to Mr. G. H. Elvidge, Caunton House, Rye, the energetic Hon. Secretary. It is usually open to visitors in the summer season, by the door at the top of the outside steps.

Roman Catholics.

For a lengthened period, Roman Catholic services were held in the private residences of various members of the body in the "Ancient Town," until, on 30th August, 1900, a neat little edifice in Watchbell Street was formally opened. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of Southwark (the Right Rev. Dr. Bourne), the Mayor (Alderman Frank Jarrett) and several members of the Corporation being present by invitation. The building is in the Early English style, and was erected at a cost of £1,000. Seating accommodation is provided for about 120 worshippers. The altar is of white marble, ornamented with gold; in the centre being a brass tabernacle for the Blessed Sacrament. This has been recently placed in the Church instead of an old wood tabernacle. The altar now has six very large brass candlesticks and handsome silk curtains. These, and many other improvements, were made for the Feast of Christmas by the new Priest, who had then just been appointed. There is a piscina credence at one side of the altar for performing ablutions. The handsome altar picture was painted and presented to the Church by Mr. Charles Ffoulkes, formerly of Rye. In the centre is the Madonna and Child; and on the left, wearing an Abbot's crozier, is St. Walburga (the Patron Saint), and St. George on the right. The Rev. Father Crescitelli was the first resident Priest, and he has been succeeded by the Rev. Father Robins.

Presbyterians.

Though Presbyterianism was established in Scotland at the close of the sixteenth, it did not rise into any importance in England until the seventeenth century. The year 1648 is given as the date of its rise in the town of Rye; but, in 1660, after the restoration of Charles II., they became a persecuted sect; after his death, however, in 1685, they once more raised their heads in Rye, and Samuel Jeake, the leading member of the body, who had been compelled to leave the town to avoid persecution, returned in 1687, though it was not until the year 1703

that they had any place of meeting, when the wife of the second Jeake erected one in Mermaid Street, and obtained a license from the mayor and jurats to preach therein. How long the Presbyterians occupied it does not appear, but, in 1773, it passed for a period into the possession of the Wesleyan Methodists, and was afterwards converted into a private dwelling-house.

Quakers and Baptists.

It would appear that at the close of the seventeenth century, or commencement of the following one, some of this body settled in Rye, for in the church register of burials of this period are the entries of the names of several members of the sect. In 1753, the Baptists purchased their meeting-house, which had previously been closed for some years, and it may be concluded that at this time they either died off or left the town. This chapel is the oldest in the town, is still occupied by the Baptists, and stands on the south side of Mermaid street. It is worthy of notice that when the Quakers sold their meeting-house to the Baptists, they reserved to themselves the right of holding a meeting in it at any future time, when any of their members might come to the town and choose to do so; and this right was exercised in 1835, when the celebrated Mrs. Fry, with a few others, assembled there.

In 1811, a schism unfortunately took place in connection with the Baptists. The Rev. Thomas Purdy, having become advanced in years, the congregation appointed the Rev. James Rees to assist him; but this was not pleasing to the former, and he being supported by his friends in opposition to this arrangement, having raised contributions from his followers, purchased the house adjoining the chapel, for which he obtained a license, and performed divine service there up to the time of his death in 1817. The house was afterwards attached to the chapel, and is used as a school-room and for public meetings, &c.

A site for the erection of a new Baptist Chapel has been acquired in Cinque Ports Street, now a private residence, for some years in the occupation of the late Mr. Wm. Golden.

Wesleyan Methodists.

In priority of date this body takes precedence of the Independents. Their first public place of worship was in the building in Mermaid Street, originally erected for the Presbyterians, to which we have alluded. This was occupied by them from 1773 to 1789, when a chapel and a house for the residence of the minister were built, where the present one, erected in 1814, now stands, nearly facing the Gungarden. The Wesleyan Methodists of Rye and neighbourhood have, for many years past, displayed remarkable enthusiasm, more especially with regard to the erection of either new chapels and schools, as at Wittersham, Peasmarsh, Iden, and Rye Harbour, or in the thorough renovation of those which remain. On May 22nd, 1900, the formal stone-laying took place at the Gungarden, Rye, almost immediately opposite their chapel, of the new Wesleyan Sunday Schools, erected at an estimated cost of about £2,250. The ceremony was performed by the late Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, the Mayor and Corporation attending the ceremony in state. On this occasion, a number of mallets made of wood from the tree at Winchelsea, under which the Rev. John Wesley preached his last out-door sermon, were presented. In 1773, Mr. Wesley himself paid a visit to Rye, as the following extract from his journal shows:—"Monday, November 22nd, I set out for Sussex, and found abundance of people willing to hear the good word, at Rye in particular. And they do many things gladly; but they will not part with the accursed thing—smuggling. So I fear, with regard to these, our labour will be in vain."

In 1778, he again visited Rye, and also on the 28th January, 1789, when he opened the new preaching-house. Another visit, in 1790, is also recorded, when he preached to large congregations.

The Carmelite Friary.

This building, situated on the south-west corner of Church Square, is now used as two private dwelling houses. There are, perhaps, few buildings in our ancient

town so interesting, and yet so neglected by history, as the remains of the home of the Friars Carmelite, occupying as it does the proud position of being the oldest inhabited part of the town.

The Carmelites claim great antiquity for their order, tracing its origin back to the schools of the sons of the prophets in the days of Elijah and Elisha. From this early beginning they claim unbroken continuity to the present time. Be that as it may, the Carmelites, as a Christian religious order, did not exist until the third century, A.D.

In 1245, the first religious house of this order was established in London, and some few years after this, at Rye. Beyond a charitable bequest of 6/8, in the will of Sir Thomas Sackville, there is no mention of the Carmelites in the history of the town.

Of recent years several interesting discoveries have been made during alterations to these houses, including the remains of two old doorways, one on the east and the other on the west of the larger of the two portions. A small window has also been re-opened and found in a good state of preservation. The smaller part of the original building has recently been through the hands of the builder, and very little of the old work can now be seen from the street. It has, however, a fine old arched cellar, and a handsome doorway, though this latter is still blocked up.

Independents.

Out of the schisms which occurred among the Baptists arose the Independents in the town of Rye, who, after the death of Mr. Purdy, in 1817, built the little chapel now standing on the north side of Watchbell Street. In this little flock another separation took place in 1842, owing to some misunderstanding between them and their pastor, Mr. Wilmore, which resulted in the Trustees getting possession of the chapel, and appointing Mr. Knight to officiate therein, when Mr. Wilmore, with those of the congregation who followed his ministry, performed divine service in a room fitted up for the purpose until 1844, when a new chapel was built by them without Landgate,

on the right-hand side of the bridge which crosses the railway at that part, but which is now converted into two dwelling houses.

In 1882, the Congregationalists erected a handsome church, and also a school, in 1894, at the bottom of Conduit Hill, and the building in Watchbell Street, above alluded to, which had hitherto been used by them as a place of worship, was relinquished, and is now the property of Mr. Henry James (of Lamb House), the talented American author.

The Salvation Army.

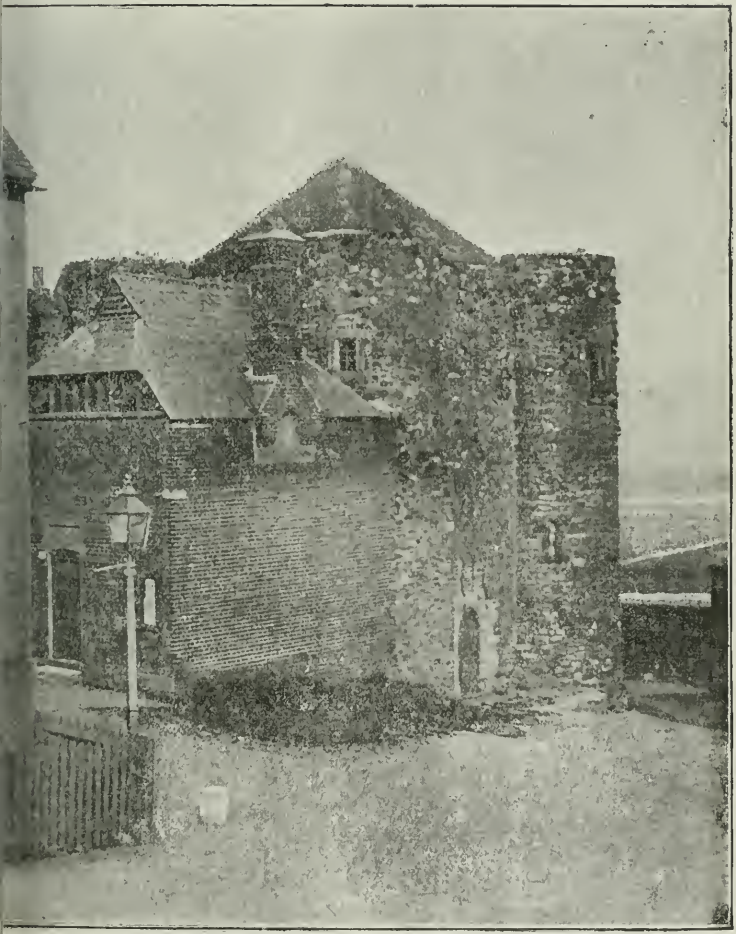
During the ample time given to the followers of General Booth to quit the Monastery, a fund was raised for the building of a convenient new "Barracks," the site chosen being at the northern end of Seymour Place, in the Rope Walk. Here daily services are held, the ministrations meeting with a sympathetic reception from the townspeople generally.

Universalists.

After the Wesleyans had vacated the meeting-house in Mermaid Street, the Universalists occupied it; but they soon failed to find sufficient numbers to form a congregation.

Bethel (Strict Baptist) Chapel.

This place of worship is situate in Spring Place, Military Road, near the bottom of Rye Hill.



YPRES TOWER before removal of Soup Kitchen.

ANTIQUITIES OF RYE.

THE YPRES TOWER.

Upon the occasion of the visit of the members of the Sussex Archæological Society, in the summer of 1905, additional light was thrown upon several relics of antiquarian interest. Hence we re-produce an interesting paper read by Mr. Harold Sands, descriptive of the above building, which claims the greatest antiquity in the town :—

"There is an erroneous, but quite unfounded idea, that this curious little building was erected by a certain William de Ypres, Earl of Kent: how far this is removed from the actual facts I will endeavour to explain as briefly as possible.

"This William de Ypres was a Fleming, and was one of King Stephen's Captains of mercenary soldiers. He was never created Earl of Kent by Stephen, and never held any English Earldom from him or his successor Henry II. Stephen, as Mr. Round pithily puts it, 'provided well for his great and faithful follower by quartering him upon the County of Kent, *not as its Earl*, but as tenant of the ancient demesne of the Crown to the annual value of £261, and a further £178 8s. 7d. of Crown Escheats formerly held by Bishop Odo of Baieux. Such a provision at the time it was made was truly enormous, and it can be shown by the evidence of the Pipe Rolls that he continued to enjoy this endowment after the death of Stephen down to Easter, 1157.' Having shown that William de Ypres was not Earl of Kent, we may proceed to a further stage in the demolition of this unfounded tradition, and consider that had the said William really been Earl of Kent he could have exercised no authority over the Port of Rye, because it is not in Kent at all, but in the adjacent county of Sussex, then within the jurisdiction of William de Albini, Count of Arundel and Earl of Sussex, an exceedingly truculent

nobleman, of whose character enough is known to enable us to assert that it is impossible he would ever have permitted such an infraction of his feudal authority as to have allowed a mere alien mercenary Captain to build himself a Castle in Rye. There is no evidence to connect William de Ypres with Rye, or to show that he ever held a yard of land either in or near the Tower. The Tower probably received its name, not from him, but from a family of Iprys who were inhabitants of Rye in the 14th and 15th centuries.

"From the dilapidation of the Town Walls, and the introduction of firearms, the Tower, by the first quarter of the 15th century, had ceased to be of much value for protective purposes. Though there is nothing to show how the Tower had come to be in their hands, in 1430, we find the Mayor and Jurats granting by an indenture (which still exists among the Corporation Records) to John de Iprys, a certain embattled tower in the town of Rye, reserving a right of re-entry and user for the defence of the town in any event of war, to hold for ever upon the terms expressed in the deed. In 1451, the de Iprys sold their interest in the Tower to one Thomas Stoughton (a member of the Fishmongers' Company in London), by whom, about 1473, it was sold to James Hyde, whose daughter Joan, in 1478, conveyed it to Thomas Lord Stanley (afterwards Earl of Derby). He, in 1492, granted it to John Newburith, who, in 1495, resold it to the Corporation, and they, for a time, used the Tower to hold Court in till the new Court Hall was built. It was next used as a town gaol, and subsequently enlarged in 1837, until its condemnation by the Inspector of Prisons in 1891, when it was left empty and disused. The first reliable documentary evidence of the existence of this building occurs in the Patent Roll of 33 Henry III. (or 1240) when Peter of Savoy, one of the Queen's uncles, receives grants of the Castles of Pevensey and Hastings, as well as the wardship of the young Earl of Surrey and Warrenne, by which the Castle of Lewes also came under his control. He is directed in the grant to fortify the Castle of Hastings with the revenues of the Honour attached thereto, and any surplus is to be applied to fortify the

Castle of Rye, which in the absence of any other building to which this description can be applied can only mean this Ypres Tower.

"The building is now about 40 feet high, having two storeys and a basement. The ground has been considerably raised on the north side, but the place has been so much cut about, and altered to adapt it to the uses of a gaol, that it is now quite impossible to say *what* were its original surroundings. The basement room is about 15 feet square, and the four small corner towers, which are about 15 feet diameter, contain small cells about 6 feet diameter, except the north-east one, which contains the staircase. There is a mural recess, now blocked up, which may have been the original entrance, the present door being probably a late insertion. Although there are no original mouldings or details remaining, yet there is one feature which will serve as an aid to dating the building. On the west side, above the door, and on the north-east tower, are the remains of some large projecting stone corbels or brackets, having machicoulis between them just as at the Landgate, and now perhaps I may explain their purpose. It was customary in the early part of the 12th century to construct along the upper faces of the walls, and round the tops of towers, outworks in timber, supported by projecting beams and brackets. This was an improvement, first applied in the castles of the two great military orders of the Knights Templars, and Hospitallers in Palestine and Syria, and introduced into Europe by returning Crusaders. These machicoulis are large holes in the floors of these timber galleries, from which the defenders could let fall upon the heads of besiegers attempting to force a gate or undermine a wall, great stones, beams of timber, darts, powdered quick-lime, and burning materials. On account of the facility with which these wooden galleries could be set on fire by the besiegers, first the brackets, and then the whole system of galleries, were constructed entirely in stone, and we know that this replacement of wood by stone did not take place until the end of the 13th century, so that we have here an example of the transition stage which agrees admirably with the date, 1240, particularly as this change was rather later in England than in France. I think,

myself, that this building was more in the nature of a small defensible house, strongly fortified against sudden attacks, but incapable of resisting a regular siege, for after all the real defence of Rye and the other Cinque Ports lay rather in their fleet. With the exception of what I have told you, the *reliable* history of this curious little building is a blank."

In our earlier editions, we stated that this tower was at one time called "the Little Ease," a name derived from a kind of boot, so called, and which was applied as a mode of punishment, occasioning great pain and affliction to those who were so unfortunate as to be subjected to it. Mr. Harold Sands, however, writes:—"Torture was never recognised by the common law of England as legal, but, in spite of Magna Charta, and subsequent enactments to the contrary, torture in criminal proceedings was inflicted in England for some centuries both as a means of obtaining evidence, and as a part of the punishment. A licence to torture is found as early as the Pipe Roll of 34th Henry II. The Templars were tortured by Royal Warrant in 1310. The chief tortures were the rack, the iron fetters, known as the scavenger's daughter, and the iron gauntlets or bilboes (the cell called 'Little Ease,' in the Tower of London), and the boot, which was long employed in Scotland as a *recognised* part of Scotch criminal procedure. This consisted of an iron case, or boot, fitting closely to the leg in two halves, fastened by rings. When successive wedges were driven between the ring and the case, the flesh was compressed violently, and in some cases the bones were actually crushed! The agony was excruciating when many wedges were successively applied. This was known as the extra-ordinary question, and seldom failed to elicit the evidence desired. Persons subjected to it were said to be 'extremely booted.' Another dreadful torture was the wakening or artificial prevention of sleep. Thumbscrews were also employed to obtain evidence."

In 1870, a soup kitchen was erected by the Corporation at the north-west angle of the tower, for the distribution of soup and bread to the poor during severe weather in the winter. Our illustration of the building shews this excrescence, which proved a great eyesore to archæologists,

YPRES TOWER since removal of Soup Kitchen.

and has, thanks to the action of the Local Association for the Preservation of our Ancient Buildings, been since demolished. The interior of the tower has also been cleansed, and a number of repairs carried out, the utmost regard being paid to the original character of the building.

One of the lower chambers is now utilised as a public mortuary.

The building is open to public inspection, and the keys are kept by the custodian in the adjacent cottage.

The Gungarden.

To the Ypres Tower were attached two gardens, in which, as early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth, were placed guns, whence it took, and has ever since retained, the name of the Gungarden. When invasion was threatened, the Government invariably put the Battery in a state of defence, and also bought the old Poor-house, adjoining, for the accommodation of troops. Up to about 30 years ago, seven cannons were mounted in the Battery, where the firing competition of the Cinque Ports Artillery Volunteer Association annually took place; but the erection of the Chemical Works on the marshes mid-way between the town and the harbour necessitated a change of range. The cannons were subsequently removed, and for many years the Battery remained in a neglected state. Ultimately, after repeated applications, the War Department agreed to lease the property to the Corporation of Rye, who have opened it as a public promenade. There is an admirable shelter, and a number of seats. Mainly through the instrumentality of the Rye Postmaster (Mr. T. Bushby), who raised a subscription for the purpose, the two pieces of ordnance now to be found in the grounds were secured in the summer of 1906. Although circumscribed in area, it is seldom one meets with a more magnificent outlook, the landscape extending across the marshes to as far distant as Folkestone and Dover, and the Kentish hills on the eastward; while the Fairlight Downs to the westward stand out very prominently. Immediately facing the Battery is Rye Bay, a most interesting spectacle being afforded in the passing shipping.

The Gateways.

AT one time there were three gates in the walls which enclosed the town, and one postern, two of the former being sufficiently high and wide to admit of horses and carriages. The Strandgate, leading out of the town to the south-west, communicated, as its name implies, with the Strand, where the vessels lay to unload their cargoes. This gate was in a ruinous state for many years, having only half the arch remaining, which was pulled down about the year 1815. In the centre of the arch was a rude stone coat of arms, representing three sterns of vessels joined to three demi-lions at their heads, being the Cinque Ports Arms. This was preserved and placed in the adjoining wall, at the bottom of Mermaid Street, where it still remains, a memento of bygone days. A portion of the old wall may be seen at the present time at this spot.

Badding's Gate, the site of which has been located at the foot of the cliff at the south-east angle of the town, below the Ypres Tower was, according to Jeake, washed away by the sea.

The Land Gateway is the only one remaining, and stands at the north-east angle of the town, whence the road leads to London, being (with the sole exception of the West Gate at Canterbury, built about the year 1377), the finest town gate yet remaining in the south of England. It was probably constructed early in the reign of Edward III. (about 1327) as, though there is a later licence in the 43rd year of his reign (or 1370) to enclose the town of Rye with a stone wall, crenelated or furnished with battlements, it does not mention this, or the other gates, from which we may infer that this was already in existence.

The gate is of the usual span, about 12 feet. The roadway through it has been lowered in modern times. It formerly had a portcullis, and drawbridge across the ditch.

SOUTH VIEW OF LANDGATE TOWER.

The holes for the chains which lifted it may be seen in the wall above the external arch: these were led up stone pipes in the wall to the chamber over the gate, which contained the windlass and other machinery for working both drawbridge and portcullis. The gate is flanked by two fine drum towers, 35 feet in diameter, now about 40 feet high. The battlements are destroyed, but enough remains of a fine bretasche, or hoarding, with machicoulis, carried upon the projecting stone brackets above the archway, to form valuable evidence that the date of its construction was early in the 14th century. These towers are of three stages, and have, as well, pit basements, probably used as prisons. The lower room immediately over the arch was devoted to the machinery of the portcullis and drawbridge; the upper one forms a large hall, 20 feet by 9 feet, and now about 8 feet high, probably covered by a high open timber roof: it has a fireplace and a mural chamber, which may have been a garderobe. The upper floors are reached by a staircase between the rear buttress and the tower, in the south-west angle, which terminates in an octagonal turret rising above the roofs, and giving access to the rampart walks and battlements. The levels of the central rooms are above those in the towers, from which short flights of steps lead up into them; the towers are lighted by loops, the only large windows being in the central upper room.

On the ground floor of the west tower, low arches have been cut through the wall below the loops (now blocked up) at a much later period, to enable cannon to be used. The gate is a fine example of the constructive skill of mediæval military engineers as applied to the defences of towns. The interior being occupied by the works of the clock, access is difficult.

To comprehend the full beauty and effect of this fine gateway, the idea must be carried back to the period of its original erection, when no buildings existed on the outside of it, and it rose in all its massive grandeur out of the level and open lands by which it was then surrounded.

The Gateway was recently found sorely in need of repair, and the work was left by the Corporation in the hands of the Local Association for the Preservation of our Ancient Buildings. The Association was fortunate

enough to enlist the voluntary services of Mr. Hessell Tiltman, F.R.I.B.A., a native of Rye, under whose personal supervision the work of renovation has been carried out in a remarkably appropriate manner, which has won the commendation of all.

The Ancient Towns and the Cinque Ports Navy.

RYE.

IT is evident that in the time of Henry III. there was a kind of arsenal or dockyard for the King's galleys at Rye, and others at Winchelsea and Shoreham, and when not wanted for service, they were placed in ship sheds, perhaps resembling the covered building slips in modern dockyards.

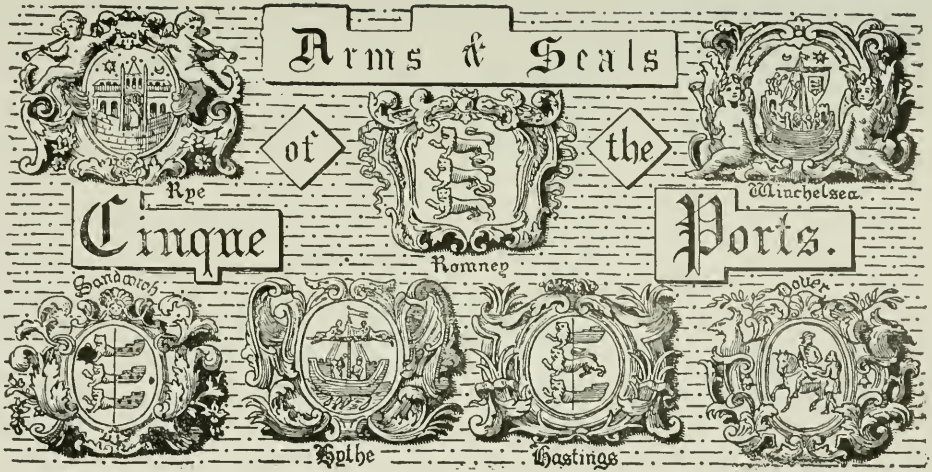
In August, 1240, the Sheriff of Sussex is commanded to go to Rye with four responsible men, and to ascertain the condition of the King's galleys to be taken over from Paulin, of Winchelsea, and to cause a list to be made of their stores. (Liberate Roll, 24 Henry III., m. 6).

On 29th November, 1243, the Sheriff of Sussex is commanded to enlarge the house, at Rye, in which the King's galleys are kept, so that it may contain seven galleys. (25 Henry III., m. 3, Liberate Roll).

In 1253, the Sheriff of Sussex is ordered to provide sailors and stores for the King's two small galleys in the custody of William Beaufoy, at Rye, and have them in readiness for the King's arrival. (Liberate Roll, 37 Henry III., m. 3).

In the "Ordinance touching the Service of Shipping" to be furnished by the Cinque Ports, issued by King Henry III. in 1229, which was entered in the customal of the Town of Rye, the services due to our Lord the King are five ships, and (Old) Winchelsea ten ships, and in every ship twenty-one men and one boy, called a "gromet" (an obsolete word, being a diminutive form of grome, a man, whence our modern word groom).

In 1277, the services of the Cinque Ports Fleet in the


Arms & Seals
of the
Cinque Ports.
Rye
Winchelsea
Romney
Sandwich
Dover
Hythe
Hastings

first Welsh War of Edward I., in obtaining possession of the Isle of Anglesea, and cutting off communication between Snowdon and other parts of Wales by sea, to which, doubtless (Old) Winchelsea, and Rye contributed their quota of fifteen ships, were rewarded by a charter of additional privileges, granted at Westminster on June 17th, 1278. (The Chronicle of Walter of Hemingford, 1-5).

In 1282, the Cinque Ports Fleet was at Rhuddlan, which served as a naval base! On July 15th, and on August 18th, it assisted in the construction of a bridge of boats from Bangor to the Isle of Anglesea, across the Menai Straits.

In 1299-1300, the ships, The Snake, The Rose, and The Godyere, of Rye (Masters John Kittey, Robert Mitchell, and Reginald Baudethon, each with two constables and 39 mariners), were employed in the Scotch War. The service of the ships was for 15 days, gratis, exclusive of the voyage to and from the scene of war, and when this had expired the masters, officers, and sailors, received pay from the King.

Two other charters were granted to the Cinque Ports by Edward I. on April 28th, 1298, embodying additional privileges in consideration of the faithful service by their Barons.

In January, 1378, the sailors of Rye and Winchelsea attacked St. Peter's Port and Vilet in Normandy, sacked them, and returned home with great booty.

About 1402, numerous acts of piracy were committed by the men of the Cinque Ports. One John Hanley, of Dartmouth, and 17 men belonging to Dover, Rye, Fowey, Portsmouth, and Hull, are directed to attend the King's Council, and to reply to the statements of certain Flemings. (Claus Roll, 4 Henry IV., m. 31).

Three large two-masted Genoese ships, called "carracks," were taken near Cadsand by the English Fleet under Prince Thomas of Lancaster, after a sharp fight, and were despatched with their valuable cargoes to Winchelsea, but as they lay off the Camber, at the entrance to Rye Harbour, waiting for high tide (their great draught of water not permitting them to enter sooner) and to be unloaded, one caught fire, and all three were burned along-

side "with all the goods therein through misgovernance." (September 26th, 1405. The New Chronicle of England. R. Fabyan. p. 571).

The "scummer." A kind of sea-lover, or *respectable* pirate. William Longe, of Rye (who represented the town in the Parliament of 1410), in March, 1411, siezed a "grete Florentyne carack," loaded with a cargo of Rochelle wine and iron, belonging to the Albertis, of Florence, and took it into Dartmouth; on March 21st, an order was issued for his arrest (with commendable promptitude). (Patent Roll, 12 Henry IV., 16 d.)

Notwithstanding this, he remained at large, and about April 23rd, took eleven Flemish wine ships from Rochelle, and brought them into Rye Harbour with their crews; on complaint, the King's Council instructed the Admiral, Thomas Beaufort, to pursue, and take the said William Longe "with a notable power of navy," meeting him, as it would appear, on the high seas. He induced Longe to leave his ships and go to London under a solemn promise that no harm should befall him, but notwithstanding the Admiral's promises, on June 13th, an order was made for his commitment to the Tower, where, for eighteen months he remained a close prisoner, but was subsequently pardoned and released. (Patent Roll, Feb. 14th, 1413, 14 Henry IV., 2).

The state of things which the above discloses is, in itself, truly remarkable, but the irony of the situation is raised to heights of almost Gilbertian humour when we learn that Longe, and his accomplice Sir John Prendergast, who are accused of these acts of piracy (and of divers other illegal proceedings), were supposed to be employed at the time of Longe's arrest in keeping the seas *free of pirates!!* His fellow-townsmen, however, do not appear to have thought any the worse of Longe for what was, in their eyes, a venial offence, as during the reign of Henry V. he was again chosen to represent them in no less than four successive Parliaments!

A timber palisade was made at Battle, in Sussex, for the Castle of Guines, in Flanders (then held by the English), to the order of the Castellan John Norbury, and shipped at Rye, and Winchelsea, before May 15th, 1412. (Patent

Roll, 10 Henry IV., 1-20 d.)

In 1434, Robert Porter, master of a barge ship called Le Trinite de Wynchelsea, has the King's Licence to carry 60 pilgrims going to St. James de Compostella, in Spain, and such licences were granted during the year for no less than 2,433 pilgrims. In 34 Henry VI., February 22nd, 1456, Simon Farncombe, owner of the ship Le Helene, of Wynchelsee, carries 80 pilgrims to St. James'. The merchants of Winchelsea seem to have availed themselves largely of this source of profitable freight. In a contemporary ballad, the discomforts attendant on such voyages to St. James' are set out, and from the first verse it is evident that the Cinque Ports occupied the front rank in shipping business of this nature :—

"Men may leve alle gamys (games)
That saylen to Seynt Jamys',
For many a man hit gramys (grieves)
When thei begyn to sayle.
For when thei take the see
At Sandwyche or at Wynchelsee,
At Brystow or where that it bee,
Theyr hertes begin to fayle."

WINCHELSEA.

[Down to 1287 A D., these entries refer to the destroyed town of *Old* Winchelsea.]

In July, 1242, the Bailiffs of Bristol are ordered to send to Winchelsea the two largest of the King's three galleys, and to deliver them to Bertram de Criol. (Liberate Roll, 26 Henry III., m. 5).

In 1238, the Keeper of the King's Galleys at Winchelsea is to cause those vessels to be "breamed" (this process consists in laying the ship on a "hard," or flat beach, and burning seaweed and barnacles from the bottom, recoating with tar, to protect the timber, and check inroads of sea worms (teredo navalis), and so prevent the loss of speed caused by the ship being foul with sea grass and

weed, and leaky, and a house to be built for their safe custody. (Claus Roll, 22 Henry III,, m. 2).

In 1264, the Barons of Winchelsea are to pay James de la Nesse the rent due to him for the store-house of the King's galleys, out of the issues of the town. (Claus Roll, 48 Henry III., m., 4).

In 1244, a duty of two shillings is imposed on every ship carrying 80 or more tuns of wine that entered the port of Winchelsea for one year, to build a quay there. (Patent Roll, 28 and 29 Henry III.).

On January 30th, 1261, there is a precept imposing a due of twopence on all merchant ships going to Winchelsea, for the maintenance of a *Lighthouse* there, unless it be shown that the Barons are accustomed to maintain that light at their own cost. (Patent Roll, 45 Henry III.).

In 1282, Winchelsea sent to the Welsh War one "great galley," with a master, two constables, and forty-seven sailors. A new type of ship, as the ordinary ones only carried a master, constable, and nineteen sailors.

In 1306, July 2nd, the King writes to Gervase Alard, Admiral of the Cinque Ports Fleet, commanding him to proceed with it, well provided with men and stores, to Skinburnness or Kirkcudbright, to suppress the Scotch in rebellion. (Patent Roll, 31 and 34 Edward I.).

In 1282, a galley cost £45, and a new barge with its rigging, built and fitted out at Winchelsea, cost £40 9s. 11d. The master and constable received 6d. a day each, and the sailors 3d. a day, the present value of which would be nearly twenty times as much in modern money.

In 1299-1300, the following vessels were employed in the Scotch War:—The cog Saint Edward of Winchelsea, Harry at Carte, Master, and two constables, and 39 mariners; the cogs St. Mary, St. Thomas, and St. Giles, of which the masters were Henry Aubyn, Thomas de Standamore, and Hamond Roberd, each with two constables and 39 mariners, and The Snake St. Thomas, John Manekyn, master, with two constables, and 39 mariners. (Wardrobe Accounts, 28 Edward I.).

July 22nd, 1305. Writ for Thomas Alarde, bailiff of Winchelsea, for 45s. and 5½d., laid out in repairing, and

carrying the *engine** of the town of Winchelsea in the Cinque Ports Fleet in Scotland in the 31st year (1302-3). Given at Ospringe (in Kent). (Liberate Roll of 33 Edward I., m. 2.)

In 1324, Stephen Alard, of Winchelsea, receives £55 8s. 4d., for the repairs of the ship La Nicholaise. (Wardrobe Accounts, 11 Edward II.).

In an account of repairs to the Cog Thomas, and some other ships at Winchelsea, in 1347, we learn that the ships were caulked with "mosse" in their seams, and the sides were greased, the bottoms being payed or coated with a mixture of pitch, tar, oil, and resin. The anchors and iron work were made of Spanish iron.

In 1416, July 22nd, Sir Walter Hungerford is appointed Admiral of the Fleet, to convey the Duke of Bedford and his expedition against Harfleur, and 1,000 marks in gold were paid to the sailors in the Camber (or harbour) who were about to sail with the fleet. (Patent Roll, 5 Henry V., m. 19).

In the Roll of Calais of 1347, we find Winchelsea furnishing 21 ships and 596 men, and Rye 9 ships and 156 men, while Hastings had sunk to only 5 ships and 96 men.

In the Roll of Ministers' Accounts, 20 Edward I., there is a description of the streets and inhabitants of New Winchelsea. In the list of names in the 7th street of the 33rd quarter, the name of John le Bakere, "shipwerghte," occurs, that is a shipbuilder, the only name set down as practising this occupation.

In 1229, the return of ships for the service of the Cinque Ports stood at 36 ships, of which Hastings furnished 21, Rye 5, and Winchelsea 10, but in 1293, this total had sunk to 21 ships, probably on account of the destruction of *Old* Winchelsea in 1287, by the inroads of the sea, the new town having not retained the earlier importance of the old one, though it subsequently regained and surpassed it.

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* The "Engine" may have been one for casting heavy stones, and intended for use at the Siege of Stirling Castle, or a machine for shooting heavy darts known as a "springald," intended to cover the fixing in position of the great portable bridge for crossing the Forth.

The Siege of Calais.

In 1347, Rye and Winchelsea sent 9 and 21 ships respectively to the Siege of Calais. Sandwich sent 22; Dover, 16; Romney, 4; Hythe, 6; and Hastings, 6: a measure of their then *relative* importance. But this was far excelled by the western ports, of which Dartmouth sent 31 ships; Plymouth, 26; Fowey, 47; Southampton, 21; Bristol, 22; and Yarmouth (Norfolk), 43.

"The fleet of Fowey, happening to sail near Rye, refused to 'vail their bonnets' (or in other words strike topsails) in salute of the Cinque Ports flag, as resenting their assumed superiority. This contempt caused the officers to make out with might and main against them, howbeit, with a more hardy onset than with happy issue, that they had so hearty an entertainment of the Fowey men for their welcome, that they were glad to forsake patch without bidding them farewell, the latter after this exploit being known as 'the Fowey gallants.'" (Carew Survey of Cornwall, 1603).

They were sad pirates, and encouraged by their success, preyed on the channel trade indiscriminately. In King Edward IV., they were accused of piracy and rebellion against the Crown, a Royal Pursuivant being sent down to order the discontinuance thereof under penalty of his displeasure. They slit his nose in contempt of the King, who, in revenge, took the place, hanged burgesses, and handed over their ships to Dartmouth. To this day, in Fowey, the expression "pussivantin'" is used, to signify fussy ineffectual bustling about, in other words unproductive result. (For which see "Troy Town," by Q., chapter xvii.).

The School House.

This building is situate in High Street, on the north side, facing the street which leads from the former to the church. It was erected at the expense of Mr. Thomas Peacock, a jurat of the Corporation, in the year 1636, and endowed as a school by him two later, receiving a further endowment under the will of Mr. James Saunders, of Winchelsea, who died in 1709. The edifice, taken altogether as a specimen

From a Photo. by J. Valentine & Sons.]

THE DORMY HOUSE, RYE.

of brickwork over two hundred and seventy years old, has an effective appearance, standing as it does in the most central part of the town. It has slightly projecting pilasters, and an arched doorway leading into the school-room. The sun-dial presented by Colonel De Lacy Evans, when he was one of the Parliamentary Representatives of the town, bearing the motto—

"That solar shadow, as it measures life,
If life resembles to"—

removed in 1887, and placed at the back of the Town Hall. It is an interesting fact that "Denis Duval," the hero of W. M. Thackeray's unfinished novel, is represented as attending this school. Owing to diminished revenues, mainly in consequence of agricultural depression, the emoluments of the teaching staff became very inadequate, and the Governors, a few years ago, sold the building to the late Mrs. Brocket, who allowed the use of it rent free until the time of her decease (29th December, 1906). In all probability, the building will soon cease to be used for scholastic purposes, the revenues from the sale of the property, together with the endowments (supplemented by a gift of £500 from the Executors of the late Mr. Thomas Trollope, M.D., of Hastings) having been voted towards the erection of a new School for Secondary Education in the Grove, a moiety of the expense of which will be borne by the East Sussex County Council, and the site presented by the Corporation of Rye.

The Mint.

The lower part of the High Street towards the Strand is still known by the above name, which originated, we may conclude, in the circumstance of the Mint having existed here; for that the town of Rye possessed such an office is pretty clear from a coin having been struck in the year 1668. On one side is a ship with three masts, under full sail, around which are the words "For ye Corporation," and on the other a representation of the Church, with these words, "of Rye, 1668." It is a small coin, of the size of a farthing, made of brass and some other metal mixed.

One was found some years ago, at the back of a house about half way down the Mint, on the north side, some distance below the surface, among a parcel of dark rubbish, which seemed to indicate the fact or a fire having, at some preceding period, taken place, probably that of 1448, when the entire town, save its stone buildings, was burned. This might have been the identical site of the Mint.

Jeake's House and Store House.

The Jeake family resided in Rye for more than a century, embracing the whole of the 17th. There were three Jeakes, each bearing the name of Samuel, all men of considerable talents. The first one was the author of "The Charters of the Cinque Ports, two Ancient Towns and their Members," a work of great value.

The second Jeake, the son of the first, was also a man of some literary attainments, deeply imbued with religious feeling, and a staunch believer in astrology. He wrote several books on various subjects; and married Miss Elizabeth Hartshorn, whose father was master of Peacock's Grammar School, the duties of which he fulfilled in a manner to reflect the greatest credit on himself. Jeake, in right of his wife, came into possession of a large house situate on the north side of Mermaid Street, the remains of which testify to the truth of his assertion that it was one of the best houses in the town. This building is now known as the Old Hospital, it having been used as such at different times in the "brave days of old." This street, then called Middle Street, was considered the best in the place, which, rude as it now appears to us in these polished times, was—when the roads all around were deep and miry, ere turnpikes were formed or railways even contemplated, and while horses took precedence of vehicles among travellers in general—sufficiently smooth to afford every accommodation for the wayfarer, who, with his horse arrived hungry and weary. Nearly opposite this house Jeake erected a storehouse, in the gable front of which, facing the street, were three serpents with their tails in their mouth, while a stone in the wall bore testimony to his astrological knowledge, for on this is engraved a

horoscope showing the aspect of the heavens at the time of laying the foundation of the building, as recorded by this inscription in its centre :—

JUNII 13, 1639,
CULMINANTE
SOLE
JACTUM FUIT HUJUS
REPOSITORII
FUNDAMENTUM
CŒLO SE SIC
HABANTE.

Translation—"The foundation of this store house was laid at noon, on June 13th, 1689, the position of the heavens being as here described."

The third Jeake was a man of learning, and fond of scientific research. The learned called him "Councillor" Jeake, while the ignorant thought him a conjurer, from the fact of his having invented a machine by the help of which he "flattered himself to be able to wing his way through the skies, like unto Icarus." It may be a pity that M. Santos Dumont did not live in his day.

The following lines on the death of Samuel Jeake (the Historian of the Cinque Ports) were presented to the Publisher of this work by Mrs. John Symonds Vidler (of Kingfield, Rye), the original being a splendid specimen of the typographical art of the year 1700 :—

IN

OBITUM

VERE

Deploratum Samuelis Jeake, *Gent. (qui obijt* 22 Novembris, 1669.) *Carmen Lugubre.*

GO, mournful Muse ! In sable Dress appear,
Th'Occasions sad, the Loss too great to bear ;
Too great for Words : Let then our tender Eyes
Express the rest in Liquid Elegies

Could'st thou alone in gen'ral Terms relate
Of transitory Things the common Fate;
Tell Us how Scepters break and Crowns do fall,
How Time first shakes and after throws down all;
How that fair lump of animated Clay
Which seems to thrive in Health and Strength to Day,
To Morrow's broke, enclosed in its Urn,
And to its native Dust will soone return;
How the gay Tapour which appears so bright,
Burning with Vigour is extinguished quite
By sudden Blasts, and never holds till Night;
How Death, the cunning Marksman, strikes the best
Of Vertues Favourites and spares the rest;
Could'st thou but cease, and give no nearer touch,
We should not be affected half so much.

But Ah! The tydings of so dear a Friend,
Dear by Desert, who did so far transcend
The vulgar Sort, crop't off in blooming Years
By fatal Stroke, claims our unmeasur'd Tears;
So small, so just a Tribute let us pay:
Where Love Commands the Passions must obey.
Had we the Gums or Spice our famous Isle
Yearly receives from Rich *Arabia's* soil
In stately Ships where Silver *Thames* doth fall,
To his Embalming wee'd devote them all.
Great Blessings whilst enjoyed too common seem,
But when remov'd they raise our just esteem:
Thus Heav'n thinks fit our Folly to Chastise,
And teach us by their want their Worth to Prize.
Yet since our Loss to him proves greatest Gain
Methinks he bids us now from Tears refrain,
Who knows no Tears, no Sorrows, Grief nor Pain,
And would not for Earth's glitt'ring Crowns renew
His former Conflicts, having bid Adieu
To this vain World, whose Pleasures most pursue.
There no Eclipses can his Joys impair,
Now he hath reached that sweet Celestial Air,
Free from the Fogs of Earth, Divinely clear,
To which his Soul was not a Stranger here.
How often would it like the Lark or Dove,
Mount up by Contemplations Wings above
This shaken Globe, to seek its Central Rest
Forestalling that whereof 'tis now possess't
With things unseen, by Prelibation blest?
And if to such Refreshments 'twas inur'd,
Whilst in the Pris'n of Mortal Flesh immur'd,
Or to those Tents of *Kedar* close confin'd,
Which ne'er for pleasant Mansions were design'd,
How Rich, How Glorious, how immensely great

Must his Enjoyments be when they'r compleat?
Could we but soar beyond each earthly Thing,
Or hear those Joyful Anthems he doth Sing,
Since joyn'd in Consort with the Quire above,
And ravish'd with those Extasies of Love,
Our Minds might then some due Ideas frame
Of his refulgent Bliss; which now to Name
In this imperfect State, or comprehend,
Our Tongues and Intellect doth far Transcend.
But since that Glory's veild, wee'll think upon
His well spent Life, and strive to follow on
In those sweet Paths which yield such great encrease,
The choicest Pleasures, and whose End is Peace.
Though often Foil'd, wee'll fresh Attempts renew,
At humble distance still his Steps pursue,
And learn that great, that noble, useful Art
Of dying Daily; then our better Part,
Drawn by th'Almighty Pow'r which gave it Birth,
Will soar like his above the Cloggs of Earth.

Thrice happy they whose Thoughts are thus sublime,
Who pass, like Thee, the crooked Paths of Time!
Whose Life's a constant Warfare, rais'd by th'Wings
Of Faith above all transitory Things!
Whose Aims are always good, whose Actions try'd,
Free from the Stains of Avarice and Pride!
Whose gen'rous Mind no longer craves to stay,
In these unsettled Orbs than whilst they may,
Their fellow Mortals serve, and spend their Days
In setting forth the great Jehovahs Praise!
Who having 'scap'd the Labyrinths of Sin,
The Snares the Dangers which they once were in,
And pass'd the surges of a restless Sea
Into the Haven of Felicity,
Are entered on those everlasting Joys,
Which Pain, nor Grief, nor fear of Change annoys,
Where Sweetness never gluts, nor Fulness cloys.

Could'st thou, dear Pious humble Soul, impart
Thy present State and Thoughts to Us, whose Heart
Was wont to be unbosom'd, open, kind,
To good Discourse as well as Acts inclin'd,
Sure we might hear Thee from th'Ætherial Spheres
Sweetly drop down such Words into our Ears.

S ince this more noble Part hath taken flight,
A nd reach'd its center in the Orbs of Light,
M y former Mists are fled, and now I find
U nmixed Transports sieze my boundless Mind,
E 'ncreasing always raising new Desires,
L ike Love's Seraphick holy endless Fires.

J nto these blessed Mansions has to come ;
E xert your utmost Vigour, here's your Home,
A ll my surviving Friends : Let faith and Love
K indle such Flames as Death can ne'er remove,
E ternal, constant, like the Joys above.

EPITAPHIUM.

BENEATH this Sable Tomb are hid
The last Remains of Him who did
As we and others, lately dwell
In such a fading Mortal Cell :
His better half by Pass-port gain'd,
The upper regions hath attain'd.
See here the best of Natures Glory,
The end of all things transitory.
A welcome Bait this Structure falls
To Subterraneous Animals :
Yet in this one Thing we may boast,
Altho' dissolv'd it is not lost :
The scattr'd Atoms must rejoin
When summon'd by that Pow'r Divine,
Which did at first from nothing raise
A World, to shew its Makers Praise.
Then rest in Hope, thou precious Dust,
The Resurrection of the Just,
Both Soul and Body shall ag'en
Unite in perfect Bliss. *Amen.*

The Court Hall

Was built about the year 1742, on the site of a former one. It is a handsome building, standing on the south side of Market Street, between Pump Street on the east and Lion Street on the west. It faces the north ; the first floor being supported by five massive stone arches, the openings in which are secured by iron-spiked railings. In the centre of the front of the building, over the middle window, is a good coat of arms of the town, cut in stone ; while the top of the roof is surmounted with a sort of cupola, under which is hung a bell, it being formerly sounded when the Quarter Sessions were held. The ground floor is fifty-four feet long by twenty-four feet wide, with a stone pavement. It was formerly used as a market for meat, butter, &c., and was well attended, but for many

SILVER-GILT and SILVER MACES, with MAYOR'S BELL.

years it has been closed. It is now used as a repository for the fire engines, including an old box engine, made by Bramah & Sons, London, who were in business 150 years ago. Old inhabitants remember its being conveyed to the scene of fire in a waggon! A small ante-room communicates with the chief hall, a handsome room, thirty-eight feet in length, and eighteen feet in width. In this hall is conducted nearly all the public business of the town. Here the Mayor and Magistrates preside at their Petty Sessions, and the Recorder at Quarter Sessions. The Town Council also hold their Meetings here and elect their Mayor.

In this Hall is also exhibted a copy of the "engagement" of the principal inhabitants of Rye to serve the Commonwealth. This interesting document was purchased among some old books, &c., at Northiam, Sussex, by the late Alderman James Coleman Vidler, who received an offer of purchase from the authorities of the British Museum, but he kindly handed it again over to the town. It will be observed that, in several cases, where the "signatories" were unable to write, they denoted their calling by rudely drawing a wheel, fish, &c. A very faithful reproduction by the autotype process of this altogether unique document, may be had from Messrs. Delves & Son, Market Street, Rye, or the Publisher of this Guide.

Some of the panelling has been utilised for the lists of Mayors of the town (extending from the year 1298) and former Town Clerks, the expense of illumination having been jointly borne by the late Mr. J. A. Woodhams, and the late Mr. Alderman Bellingham.

Above the first floor is a second in which the records of the town, which are considered of great value by antiquarians, were formerly kept in a very loose condition. The Corporation have had the most interesting of them neatly arranged and bound, and have purchased for their custody an iron safe, placed in the Magistrates' Room on the ground floor of the Hall. Here also are kept the elegant gilt maces, which constitute the most valuable emblems of the Corporation, bearing the date 1767. They were the joint gift of Thomas Owens, Esq., then Mayor; of John Morris, Esq., then one of the Members of the town;

and of Rose Fuller, Esq., who was not then a representative of the borough but became one in the following year, and continued in that office till 1776, when he died. They are insured for £800. There are also two small silver maces preserved in this apartment. Among other objects of interest in the upper storey, are the remains of the old pillory, which formerly stood on the west side of the Ypres Tower; also the skull of Breeds, the murderer of Mr. Grebell, and portions of the gibbet chains in which the culprit was hanged. The circumstances of his crime are thus recorded:—"In the year 1742, lived in Rye one John Breeds, a butcher, at the house standing at the south-west corner of Pump Street, immediately opposite the south-east angle of the Churchyard. For some cause or other he had conceived a violent animosity against Mr. Thomas Lamb, one of the leading men of the town, and secretly vowed to wreak his vengeance upon him; and the opportunity for gratifying his diabolical passion offered itself on the night of the 17th March, in this same year, when a vessel was about to sail from the rocks, a spot not far from the present fishmarket, for France, and on board of which some friend or relation of Mr. Lamb's was to take his passage for that country, and whom it was his intention to go down and see depart; but for some cause or other, fortunately for Mr. Lamb, though unfortunately for his friend, he was prevented from going, and requested his neighbour and relative (Mr. Allen Grebell) to go for him, which he did. The moon was up, but partially concealed by clouds, when, a little after midnight, Breeds took his station in the Churchyard, through which the road lay from the rocks to the dwelling of either of the above-named gentlemen; and when Mr. Grebell approached him, supposing him to be Mr. Lamb, he rushed on him and stabbed him with a knife which he used in the exercise of his trade as a butcher. Having done the dreadful deed, he threw away his weapon and ran out of the Churchyard; while his unfortunate victim had just strength enough to reach his house, which stood at the upper part of Middle Street, where it turns towards the Churchyard, to take his seat in a chair, out of which he very soon fell and died, to the no small alarm and astonishment of his servant, who

was at first rather suspected to be the murderer; but all doubts on this head were soon cleared up by Breeds himself, who, in the paroxysm of his rage (being generally of an ungovernable temper) ran about the streets with scarcely any clothes, exclaiming "Butchers should kill Lambs," in allusion to his supposed victim. He was soon taken and committed for trial, which, as the present Town Hall was then being built, took place in a warehouse at the Strand. He was found guilty, and condemned to be hanged in chains, for which purpose a gibbet was erected in a marsh, at the west end of the town, which, from this circumstance, still bears the name of Gibbet Marsh. It stood a little above the present Tillingham Sluice, in a part through which the present channel of the Tillingham River was afterwards cut. Why the west side of the town was selected as a place of execution is not stated, as the Customal of Rye, bearing date A.D. 1561, directs that all criminals condemned to death, "shall be executed upon the Saltness, on the east side of the town, behind the salt water of the town." Which is the precise locality here indicated it may not be easy now to say; but there is a spot, on the north-east side of Rye, which was formerly known by the name of Gallows Bank. In 1568, the salt water flowed round three sides of the town, and this bank protruded into it, forming what was generally called a ness or nose of land. On this point now stands a small cottage, known by the name of Prospect Cottage, immediately facing the entrance into what was formerly called Deadman's Lane, but now the Grove. After the condemnation and execution of Breeds, his property was seized by the Corporation, but amounted to very little indeed. His shop was the property of the Rev. G. A. Lamb; no house or inn was found to belong to Breeds.

The Corporation plate includes a handsome silver loving cup, presented by Mr. William Dawes (for many years Clerk of the Peace), and the Woollett silver vase, of most artistic design. The latter was a posthumous gift for services rendered to the town by Mr. John Woollett, who died on the 23rd March, 1819. The vase passed to the possession of a relation, Mrs. Brocket, by whom it was bequeathed to the town.

The Martello Towers.

Abutting Winchelsea Road (almost opposite the toll gate) is one of the above towers. These circular forts formerly extended along the coast-line from East Wear Bay, near Folkestone, to Seaford, west of Beachy Head. They were originally seventy-four in number; but while some have been destroyed by the encroachments of the sea, others have become a prey to experimental tests of Whitworth and Armstrong guns, and the various explosives from guncotton to Lyddite, &c. They were erected in 1804, to repel invasion, which then appeared imminent. Happily, their powers have never been tested, but by our own artillerymen. The form and name of these forts are said to have been suggested by a fort of a similar kind which the British troops succeeded in taking after great trouble and loss, at Martella, in Corsica. These towers are about thirty feet high, forty feet diameter at the base; the walls incline inwards to about thirty feet diameter at the top; they are generally two stories high; the lower is divided into chambers for shot, shell, powder, and other miscellaneous stores. The towers are built principally of brick, the walls varying from six to nine feet in thickness, being much thicker seawards than towards the land. An immense central pillar, around which a variety of small arms are hung, supports a bomb-proof roof, the circular wall is sufficiently high to form a parapet, and on the circular space within was a gun of large calibre, working on a traversing platform so as to point in any direction; the doorways, always on the land side, are about ten feet from the ground; the steps can be drawn up inside, where a moat exists; the entrance is by a swing bridge. The towers were about half-a-mile apart, and cost in building from £10,000 to £20,000 each. They are now altogether obsolete for defensive purposes.

The Royal Military Canal

Runs from Cliff End, Pett, to Hythe, a distance of 23 miles, and is intersected by the River Rother. It was constructed in 1804, as a means of defence, and for the

THE OLD MERMAID INN, RYE.

conveyance of troops and stores, there being but very few roads in those days. A raised bank is carried along it seaward, as a cover for musketeers. The line is purposely made in a series of zigzags, each angle of the bank being intended to be defended by cannon.

OLD HOUSES.

When the town was fortified, in the middle of the fourteenth century, and for many years after, it is probable that the Mermaid and West Streets contained the residences of the principal inhabitants of the town; for though the steepness of the Strand Hill, and the ruggedness of the pavement in the former, would militate against such a conclusion in the present day, yet these objections would not exist at a period when carriages were but little used, and when all journeys were performed, even by ladies, on horseback. A very cursory view will suffice to convince anyone that the older class of houses was built on a much larger scale than those of the present day, and for which two very satisfactory reasons may be assigned, viz.: the cheapness of the materials with which they were built, and the low-priced land forming the sites. Seated on the borders of the great forest of Anderida, which, in former times, abounded in trees of chestnut and of oak, the inhabitants could purchase their timber at a very low rate, and that such was the case may be gathered from the great quantity used in their dwellings, in which at the present day may be seen immense pieces of timber, which appear to have been laid down in the rudest state imaginable, no plane or saw having been employed to smooth them, but merely an axe to rough hew them. Many of the oldest houses must have been erected over 450 years ago, shortly after the last fire in 1448, when we are pretty sure timber must have been very abundant, and consequently cheap in proportion.

Thomas House.

Probably the oldest inhabited dwelling house is that known as Thomas House on the west side of West Street. This house appears to us pretty clearly to be only a portion

of one originally of much larger dimensions, the characteristic features of which are a front to the eastward, composed of upright timbers with plaster between them, having several small windows, while in the centre are two projecting ones, much larger, each longitudinally divided, with five compartments in each division, while between these two windows—that is above the top of the lower one, and beneath the sill of the upper—are seen three rude diamonds of wood, with the centre of each filled up with plaster, and each diamond divided from the other by a vertical piece of timber.

The Mermaid Inn.

The house which undoubtedly has attracted most attention in recent years is situate nearly half-way down and on the north side of Mermaid Street. In his interesting "Antiquarian Rambles through Rye," published in 1863, the late Mr. Holloway thus describes the building:—

"This house has a depth, as well as a length, of 60 feet. Such is the exterior, which, having examined, let us enter the interior, where we shall find much to amuse and instruct us; such an extensive habitation, with such a labyrinth of rooms, requiring a guide to point them out, as they seem to be formed in such strange, out of the way nooks and corners; and then such a forest of timber in the roofs and attics underneath, extensive enough to accommodate a whole regiment of soldiers, and indeed many may have occupied them in times past, for it was once an Inn, known by the sign of the Mermaid, which gave its name to this street, superseding its former one of Middle Street. The antiquarian gem of the house is an old room ornamented with a well-carved wainscot, and having a chimney piece of Caen stone with a profusion of roses engraven thereon, indicative of its Tudor age, while barely visible to the naked eye, is a date in Roman numerals indicating it to have been put up some time in the early part of the 16th century.

"Dr. Rawlinson, a celebrated antiquary, who died A.D. 1755, speaking of the Mermaid Inn, at Rye, says that he saw on hangings in this house these lines:—

YE OLDE MERMAID, RYE—GENTLEMEN'S CLUB ROOM.

"Tis Concorde kepes a realme in stable staye,
But Discorde bryngs all kyngdoms to decaye.
Since God is just, whose stroke delayed loung,
Doth light at last, with payne more sharpe and strong.
Tyme never was, nor never, I think shall be,
That truth, unshent,* might speake in all thyngs free.
Spend not more thy time in idleness,
But ply unto good voyages.

*Unshent means unblamed.

"In the olden times such inscriptions were often written round the cornices of rooms in private houses instances, of which, we believe, were to be found in several parts of Sussex, indicating, as we should suppose, that they were the property of families of some consequence, and hence we conclude that the house, of which we are speaking, was originally a private one, but at what particular period it was converted into an Inn, or ceased to be one, we cannot pretend to determine; however, this much we do know, that it was an Inn A.D. 1636, for when Mr. Thomas Peacock built and endowed the Grammar School of Rye, the income of the Master was partly provided for by an annuity of four pounds secured on the Mermaid, which annuity was afterwards redeemed for the sum of fifty pounds; and from this we may conclude that the Mermaid, at that time, belonged to Mr. Peacock. As to the exact period at which it ceased to be an Inn, we know it was not one when it was purchased by Mr. Thomas Bourne, of Rye, A.D. 1784; neither was it an Inn A.D. 1758, because in the poor rate for this last year the following five Inns are mentioned, viz.:—Bull, George, Fortune, Dolphin, and Lyon, but not the Mermaid."

It is fortunate that this building has not suffered the same fate as many other old and picturesque houses in the town. From being a private residence it passed into the hands of a local Company, who revived the name of the Mermaid Inn, and opened it as a boarding house. In carrying out both external and internal repairs, regard was paid, as far as possible, to its ancient characteristics, and it is well worth inspection. Many distinguished visitors to the town have made it their temporary home, "the Mermaid" having again become a household word amongst the inhabitants.

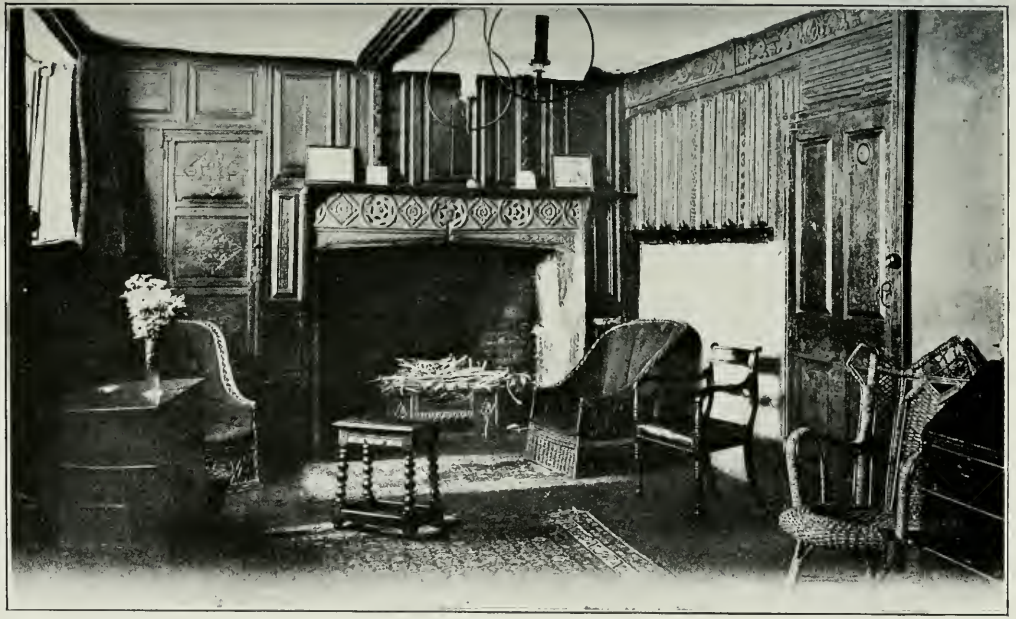
[For a description of the Flushing Inn, and its ancient Mural Painting, see another part of this Work.]

Butt Marsh.

Before the invention of firearms, the English were celebrated for their archery, and the use of the bow was greatly encouraged; for so early as the beginning of the twelfth century, a law was instituted with respect to the practice of archery, which freed from the charge of murder anyone who, in practising with arrows or darts, should kill a person standing near. Edward III., finding it necessary to enjoin the practice of the bow, issued two mandates during his reign for this purpose. In the reign of Richard II., an Act was made to compel all servants to shoot on Sundays and holidays. In the time of Edward III., an Act was passed ordering that every Englishman should have a bow of his own height; and butts were ordered to be put up in every township for the inhabitants to shoot at on feast days, and, if any neglected, the penalty of one half-penny was incurred. In 33rd Henry VIII., another Act was passed compelling every city, town, and place to erect butts, so that the inhabitants might practice shooting on holidays and every other convenient season. These butts were banks of earth covered with turf, at which the archers shot their arrows; and some were erected at Rye by virtue of the above-quoted statutes, and, very probably, as early as the reign of Edward IV., for the Cinque Ports then were in the height of their power, while bows and arrows were their principal weapons both on land and sea; and the Butt Marsh, having been enclosed many years anterior to this period, was selected to erect the butts in, and from hence took its name, which it retains to this day. It is situate on the north side of Ferry Road, and is the property of the Corporation of Rye.

Queen Elizabeth's Well.

In 1573, Queen Elizabeth paid a visit to Rye, when from the noble entertainment she had, accompanied with the testimonies of love and loyalty she received from the



YE OLDE MERMAID, RYE—PUBLIC LOUNGE ROOM.

people, she was pleased to call it "Rye Royal." On the 9th of August, the Queen arrived at Mr. Guildford's house, at Rolvenden, where she remained three days, and then continued her journey, crossing the river at Newenden, and thence to Northiam, where she halted under the shade of an oak tree, near the churchyard, and which has ever since been called Queen Elizabeth's Oak. After resting she pursued her journey to Rye, on approaching which she must have come down the hill, and when nearly at the bottom have turned into the Grove towards the spring at the west end of it, of the water of which, it is said, she partook, whence this well, which was before known by the name of Dodes-well, received that of Queen Elizabeth's Well, by which it is known to this day. The event was not recorded until 1588, when two stones were placed over the head of the spring, bearing the following inscription: "1588 E.R." (signifying Elizabeth Regina); and "M. Gaymer, Maior" (Michael Gaymer, who was Mayor when the stones were put up). There is a traditionary report that the members of the Corporation went out of the town in procession, clad in scarlet robes, to receive and welcome Her Majesty, she probably halting for this purpose at the spring above mentioned, afterwards entering the town by the Postern Gate, which then faced the road leading to this spot.

Saint Bartholomew's Hospital.

The earliest public charity in the Corporation of Rye was that of Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, which was erected for the support of decayed freemen and their wives. At what exact time the hospital was founded there is no record, but, in all probability, it was between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries; and from that time it remained under the trusteeship of the Mayor, Jurats, and Commonalty of Rye, until the sixteenth century, when it was given by indenture to Lord Wyndesore, and, in 1699, to Mr. Halsey. The charity must have fallen into decay at a very early period, for Jeake makes no mention of it. The supposed site of the building is the land just above the Grove, running parallel with Rye Hill to the boundary stone of

the Corporation, near which is a well that was formerly open, but many years back an unfortunate negro was found dead in it, after which it was covered up. It is still in existence, and is supposed to have belonged to the hospital.

Beggar's Bush Fair.

Rye had a charter for a fair granted to it by Edward I., A.D. 1290, which was, in 1305, changed to St. Bartholomew's Day, August 24th, and on this day it was held in 1598, as recorded by Stowe, in his "Chronicles," published in that year. This author, in his "List of Fairs," says: "On Saint Bartholomew's Day, at Beggar's Bush, beside Rye," and also, "at Rye." Saint Bartholomew's seems a very appropriate day, since the Mayor used to be chosen then, and the hospital was dedicated to this saint. Beggar's Bush was a spot just above the hospital grounds, adjoining thereto, and probably, when so called, a piece of rough land. Rye Fair was only a small pedlars' fair, and has been discontinued for many years. The Lord of the Manor of Brede used to send his steward to claim a small sum by way of acknowledgment from each person having a stall there; but on one occasion he was driven out of the fair, and never afterwards made his appearance. It was customary in former times to bait a bull at this fair; but this inhuman sport is now happily at an end, the last baiting having taken place upwards of a century ago. In very early times, May Day was celebrated with great spirit in the town of Rye, young people going out at sunrise and returning with large boughs and branches of trees, with which they adorned the fronts of the houses; but this custom has now ceased altogether, and a garland or two carried from door to door by little children is the only relic of those May Day sports so characteristic of merry England in the olden times.

The Bull Ring

Is still exposed in a meadow contiguous to Fairfield, the residence of Mr. Walter Dawes, just below the Rye Union Workhouse. Through this ring, bolted to a great block of

YE OLDE MERMAID, RYE—DINING ROOM.

wood, further secured by two cross-beams buried in the ground, the poor animal was fastened. Bull-baiting seems to have lingered on in Sussex longer than elsewhere. "It was one of the legitimate amusements of Whitsun-week, as cock-shying was of Shrove Tuesday, at the close of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth centuries, and was continued at Petworth up to the last one, when it was at last put down through the interference of the late Lord Egremont."—*Sussex Archæological Collections.* "In earlier times there used to be a municipal enactment in all towns and cities, 'That no butcher should be allowed to kill a bull until it had been baited,' and there was scarcely a town or village of any magnitude without its bull-ring." —*Wright's Homes of other Days.* It was not finally forbidden by Act of Parliament till 1835.

Charitable Institutions.

In 1550, Alexander Welles, a jurat of the town, gave a small plot of waste ground at Landgate, to the Corporation, in trust, to build an Almshouse thereon for the use of the poor, sick, aged, and infirm persons of the parish. It is not known how long it was applied to its original purpose, nor how long it remained in an isolated state as regarded other buildings, but, in 1784, there was an old house in so dilapidated a condition that it was found necessary to take it down, and two cottages were then erected, which were inhabited by two poor widows, nominated by the Mayor and Town Council. In 1849, the South-Eastern Railway Company, having occasion to take the cottages down to make room for the bridge over the railway, erected three new ones at the eastern extremity of the town, on the south side of Military Road. They are built in the Elizabethan style, have gable ends fronting the road. Over the central doorway, on a small stone shield, is engraved a fac-simile of the seal of the founder appended to the original grant. On the eastern gable is the following inscription:—"A.D. 1550. Alexander Welles gave a piece of vacant ground, without Landgate, to the Corporation of Rye, to build a house for the use of poor, aged, sick, and infirm persons, which was afterwards converted

into cottages." On the western gable is the following: "A.D. 1849. The South-Eastern Railway Company pulled down the cottages and erected these alms-houses instead thereof, for the use of poor, aged, sick, and infirm persons, to be selected by the Town Council of Rye."

John Bradley, a jurat of Rye, October 14th, 1721, bequeathed to the poor of the parish the sum of £5, the interest of which (5s.) is annually distributed in bread to the poor on Good Friday, by the Churchwardens, who receive it from the Treasurer of the Borough, the principal being in the hands of the Town Council.

The Rev. Edward Wilson, Vicar of Rye, A.D. 1730, also gave £5 to the Corporation, who were to pay 5s. a year interest for it, to be applied in the same manner as Bradley's bequest.

Margaret Horsfield, widow, in 1769, left £100 to the Corporation, on condition that they paid annually at Christmas, 5s. to each of sixteen poor widows who did not receive parish relief, the will of the donatrix specifying that preference was to be given to such.

The Victoria Diamond Jubilee Almshouses are situate at West Cliff (for many years known as "The Green"), leading out of Watchbell Street into Trader Passage. They provide accommodation for two aged couples, and were purchased and adapted to their present purpose by public subscription, the late Mrs. Brocket being a liberal subscriber. The Corporation of Rye are the Trustees.

Mr. George Hilder, a native of Rye, left the residue of his property, which is now represented by £4,969 9s. 3d. —2½ per cent. Consols—to the Town Council in trust to distribute the interest as it becomes due among the indigent poor of the town of Rye in such way and manner as may seem best to the Town Council. Liberal grants from the fund are made to the Rye Borough Nursing Association.

Mr. Charles Thomas (for many years a popular postman at Rye) who died on 11th May, 1879, left the sum of two hundred pounds, the income from which is distributed annually among sundry poor widows and single women in sums of five shillings each.

From a Photo. by J. Valentine & Sons.]

MILITARY ROAD, RYE, and POINT HILL, PLAYDEN.

The Barracks.

In 1780, a camp was formed on the top of Rye Hill, in the field in which the Union House now stands; and in the height of the French war, two sets of barracks were built on Rye Hill: one at the corner of Leasam Lane, on the north side, for infantry; and the other in the field which is now occupied by the Union House, for cavalry. The war with France finally ceasing in 1815, these barracks were pulled down, and all the military glories of Rye came to an end.

LOCAL INFORMATION.

Parliamentary.

UP to the passing of the Parliamentary Reform Bill of 1832, the Borough of Rye returned two Members to Parliament. Several of the outlying parishes were then added to the Constituency, which returned one Member until the passing of the Re-distribution of Seats' Bill, 1885, when Rye became a portion of the Eastern, or Rye, Parliamentary Division, which now has 31 Polling Districts. The late Mr. F. A. Inderwick, K.C., the well-known Divorce Court Advocate, was the last Member for the defunct Borough, sitting in the Liberal interest; and he was succeeded in the representation of the larger Constituency by Col. Arthur Montagu Brookfield (Conservative), who sat uninterruptedly from 1885 to 1900. For valuable services rendered in various directions, both Mr. Inderwick and Col. Brookfield were elected Honorary Freemen of the Borough.

Markets.

On the north side of the town, close to the Railway Station, is a large Cattle Market, provided with commodious pens for sheep, cattle, &c. In the centre stands the Corn Exchange, in which the farmers, merchants, and others transact their business. The market is held every alternate Wednesday, when a large quantity of stock, corn,

&c., is usually disposed of to buyers from different parts of the country, and a great deal of business is transacted.

The Agricultural Hall

is a commodious building erected by the Rye Cattle Market Company in 1873, on a piece of ground adjoining the road leading to the Grove, and close to the South-Eastern Railway. The Cattle Show is held there annually in December, and it is used on other occasions as the Drill Hall of the local Company of Volunteer Rifles.

The Post and Telegraph Office

is in a central position in the High Street, the Postmaster being Mr. T. Bushby. It is a head office, and there are frequent dispatches of mails for London and the Provinces, the last being 9.15 p.m. Telephonic communication from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The Cemetery.

On the left side of Rye Hill, just below the Union House, is Rye Cemetery, which was opened in 1855. It has a commanding and pleasant situation, and from the meadows below a splendid view of the town and surrounding country may be obtained. An additional piece of ground was added to the Cemetery on May 8th, 1877.

Recreation Grounds.

The Town Salts are situate at the foot of the East Cliff, which overlooks Romney Marsh, and were set apart by the Corporation in 1834, for the inhabitants to sport on, and have been used for that purpose ever since. During the summer evenings they present a very animated scene, when cricket matches and other recreations are freely indulged in.

Adjoining are the Middle Salts, a private ground, leased by the Rye Cricket Club for their matches, and occasionally used for athletic meetings.

Public Conveyances.

Besides the railway, conveyances run daily (Sundays excepted) from Northiam and Tenterden, and upwards of twenty carriers' carts from all the neighbouring parishes run to and fro on different days of the week.

County Council Schools.

The above Schools are a fine block of buildings on the west side of Lion Street, near the Town Hall, built in 1875 on a site presented to the town by the Meryon family, where formerly stood the Red Lion Inn, which was destroyed by fire a short time previous. In September, 1875, the National Schools in Mermaid Street, which were built in 1868, were handed over to the School Board, and the two were amalgamated under one management.

Shipbuilding

at one time formed a very important and flourishing branch of trade in the port, but of late years it has somewhat declined. The shipbuilders of Rye are celebrated for modelling fast sailing and smart fishing vessels, a number of which are launched annually; and the new light draught coasting barges, recently turned out by Messrs. G. & T. Smith, Ltd., have met with universal admiration. There is also a patent slip and dock at the Fishmarket, belonging to the Rother Iron Works, which are close by, for the repairs of vessels of large tonnage.

H.M.'s Customs.

For many years a Collector of Customs and staff were stationed at Rye, and conducted their business in an ornamental building on the Strand, at present in the occupation of Messrs. Vidler & Sons, Ltd. Owing to fresh regulations, Rye is now classified merely as a registration port, annexed to the port of Folkestone.

Volunteers.

The patriotic spirit manifested by the men of the Cinque

Ports in early days, has never entirely left them, and during the European disturbances at the beginning of the last century, several companies of Volunteers were formed at places round the south-eastern coast. It is needless to say that Rye was not behind her neighbours, and the local (3rd Battalion) was commanded by the Right Honble. William Pitt, with Thomas Davis-Lamb as Lieut.-Colonel, and John Amon as Paymaster. Again, when the Volunteer movement once more attracted universal attention upwards of half-a-century ago, companies, both of Artillery and Rifles, were formed and were successfully carried on for many years. The annual great gun competition of the Cinque Ports Artillery Volunteer Association was also held at the Battery in the Gungarden, until the erection of the Chemical Works, midway between the town and the harbour, interrupted the old range and necessitated a change of site. From various causes, both the Volunteer Companies were disbanded about 25 years ago; but after a considerable lapse of time, a local company of the 1st Cinque Ports Volunteer Rifles sprang into existence, and is still in a flourishing condition. Rye also furnishes a contingent to the Sussex Imperial Yeomanry; and a goodly number of her inhabitants took part in the South African War.

The Rye and Camber Steam Tramway

was opened in the summer of 1895. It is not too much to say that the most sanguine expectations of its promoters have been realised. Soon after the completion of the Monk-Bretton Bridge (adjoining which is the town station) it was thought that a tramway to Camber would prove a great acquisition to the neighbourhood. The increasing popularity of the Golf Links at length led to the floating of a Tramways Company; and, recognising that it was a step in the right direction, several shareholders invested with the faintest hope of obtaining any pecuniary benefit. It has, however, been well patronised from the first day of opening. The Directors wisely fixed popular fares, and both of the well-appointed cars, during the summer months, are often inconveniently crowded; while, on Bank Holi-

RYE and CAMBER TRAMWAYS—"THE CAMBER."

[From a Photograph by E. Whitman, Chapel Perch Studio, Rye.

days, it is difficult to cope with the traffic. Considering that in the short space of ten minutes, the inhabitants of Rye can be transported to the sea-side, it is not to be wondered at that Camber should be a favourite rendezvous for so many of her denizens. There is a frequent service of trams; and the Harbour Commissioners' Ferry is situate directly opposite the Camber Station.

"Point Hill."

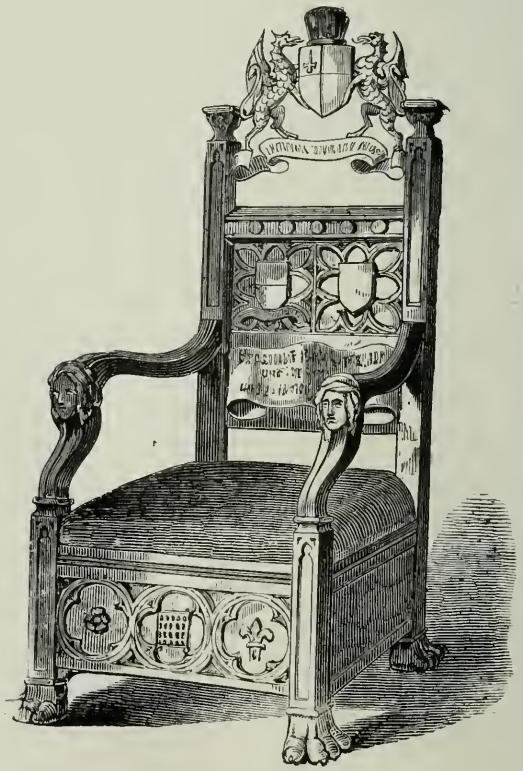
This is entirely a new appellation, and, although originally given by Mr. R. T. Blomfield, A.R.A., the well-known architect, to his local residence, it now popularly embraces the block of handsome buildings recently erected on the plateau to the right of Rye Hill. These command admirable sea and land views, and excite wonderment in the minds of somnolent Ryers of a past generation, which is intensified when the formerly picturesque Hilly Fields lower down on the opposite side of the roadway are found to be also covered with high-class residential properties.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE information given in the following pages could not be conveniently introduced elsewhere; it has consequently been put under this head:—

According to the ancient customal of Rye, the Mayor was chosen on the Sunday next after the feast of Saint Bartholomew (August 24th), at the Cross in the Churchyard, down to the year 1603, when he was chosen in the Court Hall, but still on a Sunday, until the year 1632, when the day was changed to the Monday next after the feast of Saint Bartholomew, and so continued until the passing of the Municipal Corporations' Act, in 1835, when the election of Mayor was fixed to take place, not only in Rye, but in all the Municipal Corporations in England, on the 9th November. The punishment for refusing to execute the office when elected was "to beat down his chief tenement." A man who struck the Mayor with his hand was liable to lose that hand if the Mayor chose to insist upon it.

On the occasion of the opening of the line of Railway from Ashford to Rye (May 23rd, 1850), the Lord Mayor of London (Alderman Farncombe) and suite arrived at the "Ancient Town" by special train, and met with a most enthusiastic reception, being conducted into Rye by one of the most imposing processions ever witnessed in the borough. A sumptuous banquet was served at the 'George' Hotel. In the course of the day a handsomely-carved Chair, the work of an inhabitant of Rye, was presented to the Lord Mayor by the Corporation of Rye. The Chair is carved from solid oak, and bears the arms of the



City of London and Borough of Rye; underneath which is carved in old-English letters—"Presented by the Corporation of Rye to Thomas Farncombe, Esq., Lord Mayor of London, May 23rd, 1850."—*The above is reprinted (by permission) from "The Illustrated London News," June 1st, 1850.*

In the same issue of the *Illustrated London News* was the following engraving of the Mayor's Bell:—

It is 5½ inches high, and bears some grotesque figures and scroll work. Upper inscription: "O Mater Dei,

memento mei"; lower: "Pertrus Gheinevs me fecit, 1565."

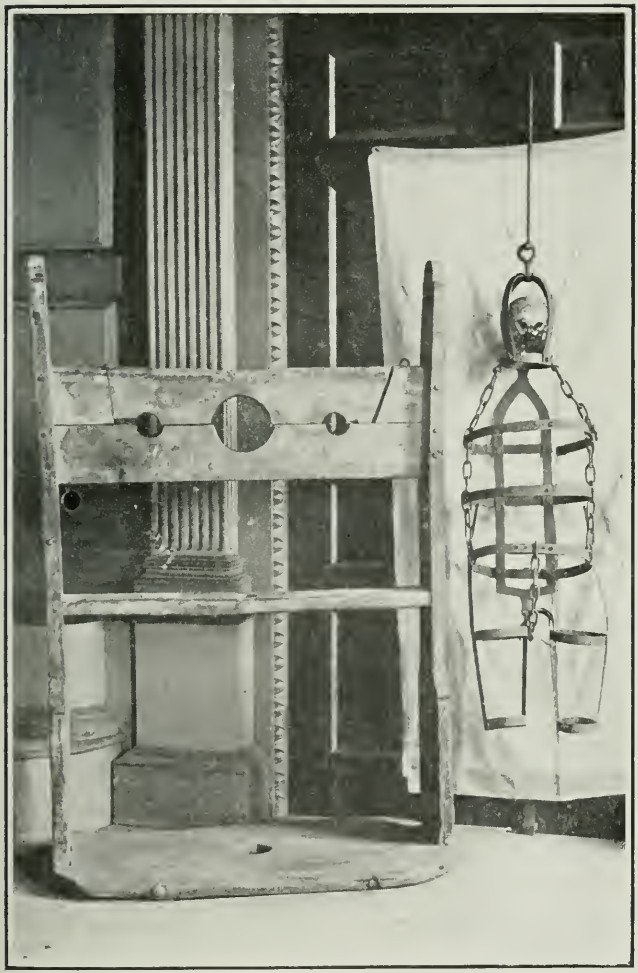
A cutpurse, for the first offence, lost an ear; for the second, his remaining one; and, on returning to the town after this, his life.

There is another mode of punishment, or rather a modification of punishment, mentioned in the Customal as relating to criminals, called sanctuary. According to this law, if a man had committed a felony, he might flee to the Church or Churchyard, when the Mayor, in his character of Coroner, was to go to him, and if he acknowledged his crime, he forfeited all his goods and chattels to the town; but his life was spared, provided he took an oath within forty days to abjure and quit the realm, on the doing of which he might choose any port in the realm from which he might think fit to depart; but in going to this port he was not to deviate from the king's highway, and he was to bear a cross in his hand, which was to be his safe passport.

Shortly before the second battle of St. Alban's, the Mayor and Common Clerk of Rye, in obedience to a summons, set out for Canterbury to meet the Earl of March (afterwards Edward IV.) and the Earl of Warwick; but by the time of their arrival at Sittingbourne, the Earls had passed onward to the west. They comforted themselves, however, by halting at Leene, and enjoyed there, not improbably for the first time, the pleasure of sleeping on a bed made of something better than straw. Apologising, apparently, for the exorbitance of the sum they had paid for accommodation—namely, one penny—they call attention to the fact that it was really "worth the money, for it was a feather bed they slept upon."

During the Wars of the Roses, in expectation of an attack by the Lancastrian party, cart-loads of stone were laid upon the town walls for hurling down upon the foe.

In the year 1377, the French having done great damage to the town of Rye, the men of the town and of Winchelsea gathered a great number of people together the following year, and embarked towards Normandy, with the intent to



GIBBET CHAINS, with SKULL, and PILLORY.

to. by Whiteman, Rye.

make up their last year's damages done them by the French. Having landed in the night, they entered St. Peter Port, Guernsey, and put all the inhabitants they met to the sword, except such of them as could pay for their ransom, and these they carried off bound to their ships. They pillaged every house and church as the French had before served them at Rye, and found abundance of plunder which had been brought thither from Rye, particularly the bells, and such like, which had been taken from the church, and the lead of which its roof had been stripped. Their last work was to set all on fire, and passing thence to another town named Wilet (St. Heliers, in Jersey), and playing over the same game, they returned with a very rich booty.

In 1565, the Corporation passed a bye-law that no double beer should be sold for more than one penny for three pints, nor single beer less than three quarts for a penny.

In 1567, every householder was ordered to go to church on the usual days of service in the week, or pay sixpence. The bell to toll for morning service between seven and eight o'clock, and at four in the afternoon.

In 1576, the constables were ordered to go nightly through their several wards to see that candles and lanthorns were hung out in the streets by such as were able to do the same; and that the Mayor and Jurats, at times, should go round their wards to see that their orders were obeyed. The method of lighting the town in those days was to suspend lanthorns and candles on lines stretched across the street.

John Fletcher, the dramatic author, who wrote several plays in conjunction with Beaumont, was born at Rye, on December 20th, 1579, his father having been at this time Vicar of the parish.

In 1580, no person who died within the Port of Rye under the degree of Mayor, Jurat, or Common Councilman, or their wives, except such persons as the Mayor gave license for, and being paid to the Mayor for the use of the poor, could be chested or coffined to their burial, and if

any carpenter or joiner made any chest or coffin for any person to be buried in (other than for the persons aforesaid excepted), he was to be fined ten shillings for every coffin so made by him. It appears, on reference to history, that from very early times it was considered a very great honour to be chested or coffined, as the term was.

In 1651, it was ordered by the Corporation that no bachelor be allowed to occupy any business within the town, as it was a hindrance to such as be charged as householders who were married; and that no craftsman have any shop in the town, unless he be an in-dweller.

In 1696, Sir George Barclay, a Scotch gentleman, received orders from James II., at St. Germains, to proceed to England and organize a plan for the assassination of King William. He embarked in a privateer, which was employed as a regular packet boat by the Jacobites between France and England. This vessel conveyed him to a desolate spot near Dymchurch. About half-a-mile from the landing place lived a smuggler named Hunt, on a dreary and unwholesome farm, where he had no neighbours but a few shepherds. His lonely abode became the resort of men of high consideration, earls and barons, knights, and doctors of divinity. A clandestine post was established between Hunt's house and London. The letters from St. Germains were few and small; those directed to St. Germains were numerous and bulky: these were made up like parcels of millinery and buried in the morass till called for by the privateer.

The rippiers of Rye were men of some importance in ancient times, being employed in carrying fish to London, where they enjoyed considerable privileges in the sale of it. They carried their merchandise in panniers on the backs of horses, and were also employed by the inhabitants to carry articles to and fro.

True to their character for loyalty, the Corporation sent an address to George III., in 1760, to congratulate him on his accession to the throne. In 1761, they sent one to the King and Queen on their nuptials, and fealty to the throne has continued to be a characteristic of the local authorities.

In 1762, the Corporation let the Brickwell field to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the parish for 99 years, to build a pest-house upon. The Brickwell is now called Queen Elizabeth's. To this house were sent all those who were inoculated for the smallpox. It was not until the year 1721 that inoculation was first introduced, and then only partially. The first practitioner who adopted it in Rye was Dr. Frewen. This pest-house remained the property of the parish until 1790, when it was given to Thomas Lamb, Esq., then Mayor, in exchange for a house and garden situate in the Gungarden in the town, where the poorhouse was built, and continued to be used as such up to the year 1844, when the Union House having been completed, the inmates were transferred to the latter.

In 1778, the first stage-coach, called the "Diligence," ran from Rye to London, occupying fifteen or sixteen hours in the journey, going one day and returning the next.

In 1814, on the proclamation of peace, this happy event was celebrated at Rye, on the 12th August, with great rejoicings: bells ringing, bands playing, &c., and the poor were regaled with a dinner in the Poll Marsh. Afterwards the Mayor, Corporation, and other inhabitants dined together at the George Inn. In the evening there was a display of fireworks, and a ball at the Theatre, which then stood in Cinque Ports Street, but was pulled down many years ago.

In 1817, Baths were erected near the Fishmarket, on the spot now called Bath Buildings, but it did not turn out a fortunate speculation, and there is now little accommodation for bathers in or near Rye, beyond the rivers and sea.

In 1838 and 1839, two steam packets, named the "Windsor Castle" and "Edinburgh Castle," ran between Rye and Boulogne, but the project soon failed.

About the year 1839, gas was first used in Rye.

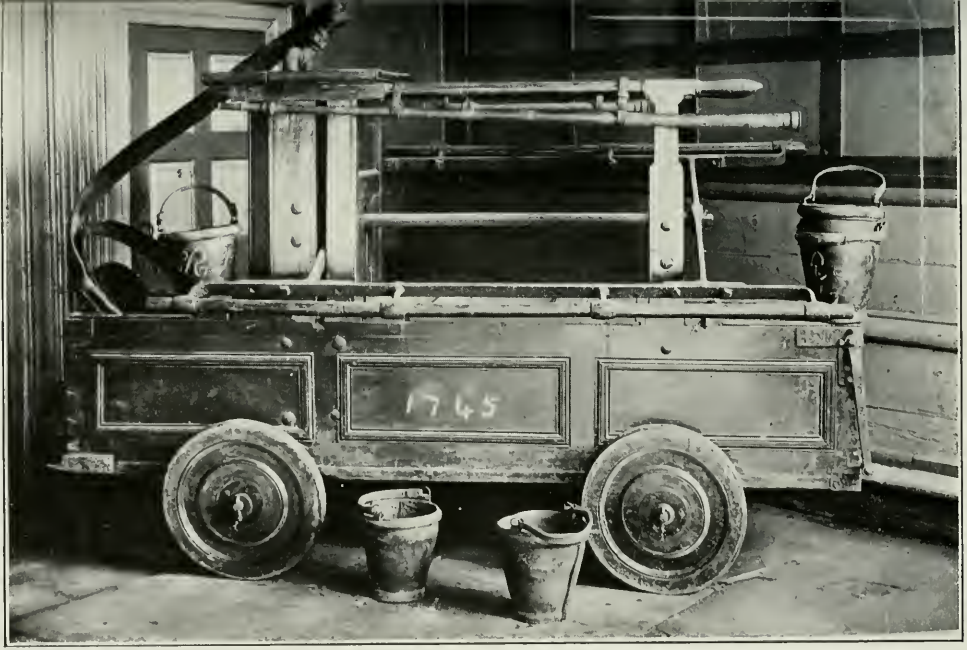
Rye, in ancient times, was divided into six wards, namely:—Watchbell or Wish Ward, Baddings' Ward, Middle Street Ward, Market Ward, Landgate Ward, and Strandgate Ward. They were instituted for the purpose of keeping "watch and ward" and guarding the town.

There were four constables to the six wards, whose duties were to summon a company of twelve persons every night to watch. There were seventeen companies, and a captain to each, making a total of 221 individuals. Every inhabitant, man or woman, was compelled to watch in turn, armed with musket, sword, powder, and bullet, or find an efficient substitute.

In 1861, a Court of Shepway was held at Dover to instal Viscount Palmerston as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. A procession of the Civic and Municipal Authorities of the Cinque Ports and the Ancient Towns was formed at the Keep Yard of Dover Castle, and outside the Castle were stationed the Cinque Ports and Marine Artillery and Rifles, who joined in the procession, which was nearly a mile in length, and from the Castle to the Drop Redoubt (the place of installation), the streets were lined with soldiers. In former times, the Lord Warden was entrusted with the custody of the Castle, which was considered to be the lock and key to the kingdom.

On Monday, September 25th, 1882, Sir John Whittaker Ellis, Bart., Lord Mayor of London, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, paid a visit to Rye and Winchelsea, and were the guests of the late F. A. Inderwick, Esq., K.C., who, besides representing the Ancient Borough of Rye in Parliament, was also Mayor of Winchelsea in that year. Mr. Inderwick entertained his distinguished visitors at a grand banquet at the George Hotel, Rye, in the evening, when a large and influential assemblage attended. On the following day the Lord Mayor again visited Rye, and was received by the inhabitants with great cordiality, the town being gaily decorated for the occasion. A handsomely-illuminated address was presented to him by the Mayor and Corporation, and after visiting the various places of interest in the ancient town, he was entertained at luncheon, and subsequently took his departure for London amid general rejoicing.

In 1887, the Mayor of Rye (the late Alderman James Coleman Vidler), was, by virtue of his office, the Speaker of the Cinque Ports for the year. He, therefore, summoned a " Brotherhood and Guestling " (virtually a meeting of



E. WHITEMAN. Cinque Ports Studio, Rye.

ANCIENT FIRE ENGINE AT TOWN HALL, RYE.

those in authority in the Cinque Ports and their limbs), to assemble at the Town Hall, Dover. Nearly all the places entitled to send officers were represented. The late Earl Granville, as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, took a lively personal interest in the proceedings, which included a Church Parade, whilst, at the subsequent meeting, a hearty vote of congratulation to her Majesty, on completing the fiftieth year of her beneficent reign, was unanimously passed. On the occasion of Her late Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, in 1897, another Brotherhood and Guestling was held at Dover, when the proceedings were of a similar nature.

In 1901, at Hastings, the Representatives of the Ports and their Limbs once more assembled, when a vote of condolence with King Edward VII. and the Royal Family, on the death of Queen Victoria, was unanimously passed, and a loyal address to the King on his Accession sealed. The Speakership had again reverted to Rye, and Alderman Frank Jarrett (Mayor), efficiently discharged the duties thereof. Rye and Winchelsea have ever jealously guarded their rights of attending at the Installation of the respective Lord Wardens down to the time of the distinguished office being undertaken by Lord Curzon; and much regret is expressed at the decision of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, his Lordship's successor, to dispense with the ancient ceremony.

A Special Committee has been appointed to inspect the documents and records of the Cinque Ports, which are preserved at New Romney. They have already issued a valuable work, entitled "Indexes of the Great White Book and of the Black Book of the Cinque Ports" (prepared by the late Mr. Henry Bacheler Walker, twelve times Mayor of New Romney), copies of which, price 10/6, may be obtained of Messrs. Adams & Son, Rye.

Royal Visits to Rye.

Not only were the people of Rye privileged to send their representatives to attend the Kings at their coronation, but several Royal visits were paid to Rye. It is not certain that Richard I. was ever in Rye, but we are told that after

the Crusades, when he was released from imprisonment in Germany, he returned to England in "a fine large ship that had come from Rye." In 1360, on May 18th, Edward III., after the Peace of Bretigni, landed at Rye with his Queen Philippa. Our Landgate Tower was built, so the archæologists tell us, about that date. Henry VII. visited Rye in the third year of his reign (1487). Good Queen Bess quite fell in love with Rye when she came to visit us in 1553. She stayed with a Mr. Guildford when she was down our way, and knighted that good Mr. Guildford before she left. We know for a fact that Her Majesty was so gratified with the noble entertainment she received in Rye, and the testimonies of love and loyalty, duty, and reverence the people gave her, that she was pleased to call our little town "Rye Royal." We all know where Queen Elizabeth's Well is to be found in Rye. Our list of Royal visits does not end with Queen Elizabeth. Charles II. came in 1673. His fleet lay in Rye Bay while he visited the town. George I. came in 1725, though his visit was accidental, his ship having been driven into Rye Bay by stress of weather. He was entertained by the Mayor, Mr. James Lamb, at his house, and stood god-father to the Mayor's little baby. George II. was the last king, as far as we know, to visit Rye. He came in 1736, when Mr. James Lamb was again Mayor. The Mayor entertained the King for several days at Lamb House, which is now the residence of the eminent novelist, Mr. Henry James. The panelled bedroom occupied by the King is still called "George II. Chamber."

Proclamation of King Edward VII.

On Friday, 25th January, 1901, King Edward VII. was proclaimed at Rye. Despite exceedingly short notice, the inhabitants mustered in large numbers outside the Town Hall, from the steps of which the Mayor (Alderman F. Jarrett) read the following :—

"Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to His mercy our late Sovereign Lady, Queen Victoria, of blessed and glorious memory, by whose decease the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is

E. WHITEMAN. Cinque Ports Studio, Rye.

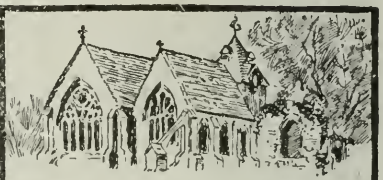
BROOKLAND PARISH CHURCH WITH GROUND BELFRY.

solely and rightfully come to the high and mighty Prince Albert Edward, we, therefore, the Lords spiritual and temporal of this realm, being here assisted with these of her late Majesty's Privy Council, with number of other principal gentlemen of quality, with the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of London, do now hereby with one voice and consent of tongue and heart publish and proclaim that the high and mighty Prince Albert Edward is now, by the death of our late Sovereign of happy memory, become our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord Edward the Seventh, by the Grace of God, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, to whom we do acknowledge all faith and constant obedience with all hearty and humble affection, beseeching God, by whom Kings and Queens do reign, to bless the Royal Prince Edward the Seventh with long and happy years to reign over us. Given at the Court of St. James's this 23rd day of January, in the year of Our Lord 1901."

Amidst the ringing of the Church Bells, His Worship and his colleagues on the Town Council, with the principal inhabitants of the "Ancient Town," then walked in procession to the Landgateway, where the proclamation was again read by the Town Clerk (Mr. Walter Dawes). Among the interested spectators were Col. and Mrs. Brookfield, and Miss Ellen Terry.

Specially written for this Work by the late Rev. G. N. Godwin, B.D.

Guide to Winchelsea.



Winchelsea

"Is strange, individual, charming, and here it is that when the summer days are long, the sweet old soul of all the land seems most to hang in the air." This witness is true. "Winchelsea is not typical of any great manhood, of any powerful municipality, or of the birth of any new religion, but it marks an epoch in our history, when for a time England alone withstood the world in arms." The ancient town of Winchelsea is comparatively little known, "although it is the very place for anyone who loves a quiet life. There, if anywhere in England, within the sound of men's voices, might those who are weary of the turmoil of cities, hope to enjoy the blessings of peace. Winchelsea has come down in the world, it is true—it is a village standing on the site of a town—but trees and flowers, the healthful air from off the sea, the greenery of gardens, lawns, and fields, give it a pleasant and cheerful aspect, though its ancient limits are a world too wide for its shrunk population." Therefore, will we to Winchelsea.

How to Get There.

From the Albert Memorial at Hastings, well-appointed

NEW GATE, WINCHELSEA.

Waterkloof Cottage,

FRIARS ROAD,

Winchelsea.

Board and Residence.

coaches and char-a-bancs, with smartly-handled teams, coachmen who rival the elder "Weller" for dexterity, the up-to-date motor, civil guards, and genial fellow-passengers, will carry us speedily and well. Up the long hill through Ore we drive, only to descend once more after passing that well-known hostelry, the "White Hart." The lanes are pleasant, the Norman Church of the lengthy village of Icklesham, with its tower on the north side, will repay a visit, and as we pull up in the old-world Church Square at Winchelsea, we are quite ready to do justice to the luncheon which mine hosts of the New Inn, and the Castle Inn, have in readiness. Through the ancient town and down the hill, past the Bridge Inn, a favourite resting place of the cyclist and the teamster, we drive along the Military Road across Rye Marsh, and find ourselves once more at Rye, beloved alike of Dry-as-dust and artist. But, a word in your ear. If neither coach nor char-a-banc will serve your turn, I prithee, take a cast in the waggon. There be carriers between Hastings and Rye, as likewise there be full often betwixt Winchelsea and Rye, and there be many worse things in life than the carrier's cart. Much wisdom shall you gain from the genial "Barkis," and the grave problem of luggage will be solved thereby. Come you from Hastings or from Ashford by the South-Eastern and Chatham Railway. The station is a mile from the town, and the willow-fringed road with dykes on either side has a quaint charm. The notice at the ancient ferry, "for every ass, ½d.," makes us long to give some of our friends a season ticket. Flys and conveyances may be procured in the town, and are sometimes available at the station. We climb the hill by a winding road, pass beneath a crumbling 15th century gateway, of which more anon, and lo, we, even as the travellers by coach, are at Winchelsea. A fairly convenient service of trains makes it possible to visit both Rye and Winchelsea from Hastings or Ashford, returning the same day, but those who are wise will make a longer stay at each of these charming old-world towns.

Inns and Lodgings.

Though the summer visitors to Winchelsea are not few

in number, due provision is made for their comfort. You may readily "take your ease" at the New Inn (ten bedrooms), and find good entertainment for man and beast. The Castle Inn (4 bedrooms), caters well for the stranger, and many of the residents let apartments. Furnished houses are also sometimes to be hired. Visitors to Winchelsea very frequently return again and again. There is a telegraph office. Letters are delivered and despatched twice daily.

OLD WINCHELSEA.

Although Winchelsea has a winsome air of antiquity, yet is she not "Old Winchelsea," but only a comparatively new city with but six centuries of civic life. To find Old Winchelsea we must go out to sea, or wander over the sand hills of Camber. To visit her lost churches, and to tread her vanished streets, we must employ both the diving bell and the spade. Yet was submerged Winchelsea "no mean city."

It was situated some three miles south-east of the present town. According to Somner it derives its name from the words "Wincel" (Angulus), and "Ea" (Mare), and means a waterish place seated in a corner. We should prefer to style it "the island in a corner." The word "Wincel" survives in Winkle Street, Southampton. Professor Montagu Burrows derives it from "Gwent-cheseley," which means "the shingle isle on the level."

The town of Rye was then a bare insulated rock; the waters flowed below Udimore up to Brede in one Level, and to Appledore, and close to Tenterden, in the other Level. A wide waste of waters parted Winchelsea from its neighbour towns on every side except the west. It was not a Roman city, as the island on which it was built had not been formed in that period. No Roman remains are ever found west of the Rhee Wall in the marsh. It was certainly of importance under the Saxon Kings, who established a mint there. Edward the Confessor, who loved Normandy well, gave Winchelsea and Rye to the Abbot and Monks of Fischampe (Fécamp). The Abbot had one "hundred salt pans of £8 15s., seven acres of meadow, and a

wood, wherein fed two hogs." The Conqueror added Winchelsea and Rye to the Cinque Ports, and they proved most convenient outlets of communication with France, being directly opposite Treport, and not far from the direct line to Boulogne; Norden says that it was a "town of great trade and accompt." Seven hundred householders dwelt within its 39 squares or quarters, and the new town never attained to the glory of the old, which was pretty and well frequented, and tradition will have it once had in it 50 inns and taverns. The great Church of St. Thomas, the Arsenal, the Lighthouse, and the Grey Friars' Monastery, were the wonder of all travellers. King John was a frequent visitor, and in 1213, used Winchelsea as a base of operations against the French. Many a "long ship," *i.e.*, battleship, was built or repaired at this port, Robert de Nerford being a master builder. In 1282, a barge, built at Winchelsea, cost £80 9s. 11d. In 1244, the numerous ships which brought wine from Gascony to Winchelsea were charged a duty of 2s. "to support the beacon there." Two years previously a fishing boat from Winchelsea was "to go to foreign parts to enquire as to rumours there." Eleven years later the burghers "were ordered to send two ships, well prepared for the King's service, to Portsmouth, and furnished with men who knew how to search and go round the coast of Spain," with which country England was then at war. Rich Jews were valuable prizes, being squeezable, and on June 19th, 1215, the Constable of Hastings was ordered to give up to the Barons of Winchelsea a certain Manasseh of Winchelsea, whom he then held in custody. Three years previously, the ship of Geoffry, son of Michael de Ria, lay by Winchelsea quay, laden with 120 tons of wine, belonging to the merchants of Ipres and Ghent; Matthew of Dunwich, also anchored his ship, laden with pickled herrings; but we could write a book about the ships of old Winchelsea. The Admiral of the Cinque Ports was often a native or a resident of the town which "is to-day the dim ghost of a tradition." In 1247, Winchelsea and Rye, as members of the Cinque Ports, were bound to furnish: Winchelsea 10 ships, and Rye 5, with their men and boys. Many a fishing smack sailed out of Winchelsea; and the Bailiffs were ordered, in 1250, to provide 5,000

whiting for the King's use at Winchester, at Christmas, and to send to Westminster 5,000 whiting, 150 haddock, and 100 congers, against the feast of Saint Edward (March 18th); also within another ten days to buy in their town 20 seams of plaice, 3,000 whiting, 300 congers, and whatever good fish they could buy, so that the king might have them at Westminister, at Easter (27th March); also to deliver to Westminster, on March 17th, 4,000 good whiting, 3,000 good plaice, 3,000 good fresh herrings, and a sufficient quantity of fat congers and other good fish. King John allowed the Barons of Winchelsea to offer S. Louis, of France, 200 marks "to exempt the town from fire and damage" in 1216. But when Hubert de Burgh was throwing quick-lime in the eyes of the French in Dover Strait, Winchelsea men had their full share of the victory, and hither came in his service the Kings men of Ireland who were on the coast of Normandy. But Winchelsea seamen carried on amateur warfare on their own account. Let three instances suffice:—

In 1265, the Merchants of Bruges and Damme complained of having been plundered of ships, merchandise, and goods at sea, by "the men of Winselye, Rye, and others of the Cinque Ports."

The town of Cologne complained to Henry III. that "their beloved fellow citizen, Hermann, had been plundered of his goods, to the value of 100 marcs, or more, by the citizens of Winchelsea," and made threats of reprisals.

In 1322, Robert de Battayle robbed two Sherborne merchants of cargo worth £80. All was fish that came to the net! "But," as the scripture saith, "an end to all good things must be," and the doom of Winchelsea came swiftly.

In the admirable story of "King Edward and New Winchelsea," by the late F. A. Inderwick, Esq., K.C., the 13th century is well described as a "century of storms." "The gradual progress of the shingle, which, reversing in its movement the ordinary course of nature, travels from east to west, began to silt up the mouth of the old harbour, and successive gales of unprecedented ferocity, bore the Channel waves into the old town, destroying one by one its churches and its public buildings." In 1230 the sea wall

PIPEWELL GATE, WINCHELSEA.

was in danger, and in 1250 there was a night of horror when "the sea flowed twice without ebbing," and, moreover, the same sea appeared in the dark of the night to burn as it had been on fire, and the waves to fight and strive together after a marvellous sort, so that the mariners could not devise to save their ships by any cunning or shift which they could devise." No wonder that on that terrible first of October three noble and famous ships were swallowed up, whilst six churches and 300 houses perished in a night. "Not only had the population of Old Winchelsea," says Mr. Basil Champneys, B.A., in his charming "A Quiet Corner of England," "been decimated by the inundations, but it had further involved itself with an enemy little less ruthless than the sea. By siding with Simon De Montfort, and clinging to his cause long after it had become hopeless, the men of Winchelsea had rendered themselves obnoxious to the higher powers, and in 1266 Prince Edward made all but a clean sweep of them after he had won the town and commanded them to abstain from piracies."

NEW WINCHELSEA.

Professor Burrows says "Edward's punishment of Winchelsea gave emphasis to the warning of the winds and waves. The few years that intervened before he became King convinced him that there had been more than enough of severity. The town, half destroyed by the sea and by the war, was no longer able to answer its purpose, and the people were brought too low to restore it." When he became King in 1272, it was evident that a new site must be selected, if the ancient town was still to thrive and prosper. Mr. Inderwick says: "The dwellers in Old Winchelsea must many a time have cast their eyes with longing on the rocky bluff of Igham standing apparently impregnable in the centre of a well-protected haven, and occupied only by a scattered population, with a few millers, who had taken advantage of its airy heights to erect their mills." The position was strong, healthy, well supplied with water, and "perhaps as fine a site for a

port-town as could be found in any country." It "was at that time a ground wher conies partely do resorte," as they still do in the twentieth century.

A Royal Commission, of which Sir John de Kirkeby, Bishop of Ely, was President, laid out the town in 1281. Its site was for the most part an uneven sandstone rock, 300 feet above sea level, very steep on that side which looked towards the sea, by the waters of which it was washed on the east and north sides; on the north-west there was a communication by means of a ferry with Udimore, whence the direct road led to Battle and London; and on the south there was a road leading to Pett and Fairlight. The extent of land assigned for the town was about 150 acres. All possible local stone was quarried and utilised for building. On the side of the precipice facing the sea, the town was enclosed by a mud or earthen entrenchment, about six feet high, and through these bulwarks was the look-out towards the ships. The other sides of the town were surrounded by a stone wall, traces of which may still be found. Besides the wall there was a circular stronghold, or castle, built by the King, at the north-west corner of the town, near Pipewell Gate, which completely commanded the inner harbour. The fortress was only demolished in the year 1828.

Once more listen to Professor Burrows: "Just when the houses were ready, when new charters had been made out to convey the property to the old inhabitants, and when nearly all the people had been removed, at that very moment occurred what seems to have been the greatest tempest of the whole century. It did its work finally. In the fearful crash and inundation of 1287, the old half ruined town was entirely swept away; the course of the River Rother was changed, and with it the whole face of the Romney coast. For many centuries no one has been able to point to any particular spot with certainty, and say "Here stood Winchelsea!"

Of the three original gateways, two are standing—the Strand Gate, formerly leading to the harbour, but now by the Military Road to Rye; and the New Gate leading on the south of Icklesham, to Pett and Fairlight. The original Pipewell, or Landgate, now known as the Ferry

Gate, led over the Ferry to the then direct road to Rye, which was by way of Udimore. This was destroyed in 1380, when the town was attacked by the French; and was re-built by Mayor John Helde in 1404, when the repairs to the town walls, &c., were completed. Without New Gate stood the far-famed Holy Cross of Winchelsea.

Old Winchelsea had thirty-nine squares or quarters, and the new town was laid out in the same number of squares, varying in size from 1½ to 3 acres, many of which may still be traced. From a return made in 1292, we know the names of all the dwellers at that time in the thirty-nine quarters of fair Winchelsea.

Our readers are strongly advised to read Mr. Inderwick's masterly and graphic description of the occupations and probable habitations of these old-time Winchelsea folk. The town was approached by steep zig-zag paths, "continually slanting in winding curves." Thomas, of Walsingham, tells a wonderful story of how the horse of Edward I., frightened by a neighbouring windmill, leapt over the ramparts near the Castle, and the Ferry Gate. The King only escaped death by splendid horsemanship, and by his steed alighting upon one of these zigzags, portions of which are still to be seen.

In ancient documents frequent reference is made to the Roundel, and there still remains the Roundel Field. It is, however, very doubtful whether the Roundel ever formed any part of King Edward's Castle, which occupied a site reserved for it on the north-west quarter of the town, adjoining the path leading down to St. Leonard's Well, near which the wind-mill now stands. The tower, known as the Roundel, overlooked the harbour on the north, and stood some distance from the site of the Castle, and was probably the abode of the mediæval Harbour Master.

The present Town Hall, which dates probably from the reign of John, was already standing when the First Edward founded his new model colony.

The relative importance of the new town to the rest of the Cinque Ports is shown by its large contribution to the navy of the Ports. Its population was numerous, and Mr. Inderwick says: "I believe that when the curfew tolled in the antient town at the beginning of the 14th century,

it sounded the hour of rest for not less than four thousand souls, exclusive of the soldiers and of the sailors of the fleet." The best hopes of its founders were for a time realised. The harbour was a lively scene, and the Warden was busy, because, within the haven, "on account of its large space, many ships may ride at the same time."

King Edward I. had his hunting seat close by, at Newenden, and one of his chief friends, William de Etchingham, had a large mansion with parks and estates in the adjoining town (as it then was) of Udimore, then called Odymer, to which the King not unfrequently resorted, and thence he came to the new and thriving town of Winchelsea. When Edmund, the King's brother, was about to sail for Gascony, the King, on 3rd September, 1294, directed the ships of the five Ports to attend him. A general writ was directed to the Warden of the Cinque Ports; and there was a separate writ to the Barons and Bailiffs of the two most important of the Ports, Winchelsea and Sandwich.

As the King's foreign affairs became more urgent, the walls of Winchelsea were strengthened, and the King repaired himself to Udimore, to be near this most important Port. From Udimore, on November 2nd, 1295, he addressed a letter proroguing Parliament, giving as a reason the necessity of assembling and preparing a fleet for the defence of the kingdom, saying that "it will be necessary for us to tarry so long in the parts of Winchelsea that we shall not be able to be present at the same day and place."

In August, 1297, the King was again at Winchelsea, beseeching the Archbishop of Canterbury not to excommunicate his officers who had been compelled to seize corn and other supplies from the clergy as well as the laity, for his coming expedition to Flanders, "so as to avoid scandal and lesion of the King's dignity." A few days later Henry Tregoz and the Sheriff of Sussex were ordered to place under lock and key all clerical excommunicators. For a powerful description of Edward I.'s solemn ratification of Magna Charta, which "exalted Winchelsea into little less than a second Runnymede," our readers are referred to Mr. Inderwick's graphic pages. All difficulties being

happily adjusted, King Edward marched through the Strand Gate to the Port, escorted by the Winchelsea seamen, wearing white shirts embroidered with a red cross, and with the arms of Winchelsea worked upon the breast, and "in a certain ship called 'Cog Edward,' at sea near Winchelsea, delivered the great Seal of England to Sir John Benstede, to be kept." In September, 1293, Robert de Wynchelsey, who was a self-made man, born in Old Winchelsea, was elected Archbishop of Canterbury. He was a good and generous man, and died in 1313, a witness of the prosperity of the new town.

It is doubtful whether Edward II. ever came to Winchelsea, but he granted the town a charter on July 26th, 1313, confirming the privileges granted by his royal predecessors. Various robberies and piracies continued to be laid to the charge of the men in Winchelsea. In 1309, a prohibition was addressed to Winchelsea, La Rye, and other ports, ordering that no nobleman was to be allowed to embark for France during the war with Scotland, France and Scotland being friends and allies. In the fatal year of Bannockburn (1314) our old acquaintance, the "Cog Edward" of Winchelsea, sailed into Scottish waters, Gervase Toneman was her master, and she had two constables or mates and 57 sailors. The cost of a fifteen days' voyage was £11 10s. 3d. In the year 1321, the town walls were strengthened.

The third Edward was a well-known figure at Winchelsea. Early in his reign the merchants of Bruges complained of being robbed "by certain evil-doers of Sandwich and Winchelse." But the King took good care not to quarrel with a port which was ready to furnish him with many stout ships, of which the names and skippers have come down to us. In 1337, the French did cruel mischief at Rye and Winchelsea. Stout old Samkin Aylward, "The White Company," says: "For with us in France it hath ever been a fair and honest war—a shut fist for the man, but a bended knee for the woman. But how was it at Winchelsea when their galleys came down upon it some few years back? I had an old mother there, lad, who had come down thither from the Midlands to be the nearer her son. They found her afterwards by her own hearthsone, thrust through by a

Frenchman's bill My second sister, my brother's wife, and her two children, they were but ash-heaps in the smoking ruins of their house: I will not say that we have not wrought great scath upon France, but women and children have ever been safe from us, and so, old friend, my heart is hot within me and I long to hear the old battle cry again, and, by God's truth, if Sir Nigel unfurls his pennon, here is one who will be right glad to feel the saddle flaps under his knees."

In the year 1347, Winchelsea furnished no fewer than 21 ships and 596 mariners for the siege of Calais. Three years later was fought off Winchelsea the famous battle of "Lespagnols sur mer" so graphically described by Froissart, that prince of war correspondents. Captain John Baddyng ("Cok Baddyng") of Winchelsea was one of the heroes of this fight.

"Till he had foghten his fill, he had never rest." Speaking of the Spaniards, Samkin Aylward says: "I had a turn with them when they came over to Winchelsea, and the good Queen with her ladies sat upon the cliffs looking down at us as if it had been joust or tourney. By my hilt! it was a sight that was worth the seeing, for all that was best in England was out on the water that day. We went forth in little ships, and came back in great galleys, for of fifty tall ships of Spain over two score flew the Cross of St. George ere the sun had set!" After the fight was done, the King and his sons landed at Winchelsea and rode to Sir John de Etchingham's mansion, now the Old Court Farm, at Udimore, to assure Queen Philippa of their safety. In 1347, the "Cog Thomas" was under repair at Winchelsea, and we find that a tiller cost 4s., an oar 8d., and a capstan 3s. When war again broke out between France and England, Winchelsea suffered severely. In 1357, while King Edward was in France, 3,000 Normans landed, set fire to, and partly burnt the town, slaying men, women, and children without mercy. The church was burnt, and 400 men who came to the help of the town were drowned in the harbour, out of which the invaders took thirteen ships well freighted with wine and victuals. The slain were buried at St. Giles' Church, and the steep lane which skirts what was the churchyard, is still known as Dead

Man's Land. King Edward in his anger marched upon Paris, but a year later the French came again and wrought great havoc. But an English fleet, under Sir John Pavely, swept the seas and blockaded the invaders within their own ports. The French in their turn received full retribution. In 1360, 86 ships assembled under the King's auspices at Winchelsea. Leland tells us that they "took the Isle of Sans, and burnt the town of Luce, and in the following year won also the Isle of Caux, in the revengeing of the Frenchmen displeasure done to Winchelse."* This brought, however, but a lull in the quarrelling of the hostile coast towns, for in the following reign we find the French invading Rye, and forcing the Abbot to take refuge in Winchelsea, while they burnt the sister town and its beautiful Norman church to the ground. And, although, during the next year another attack upon Winchelsea was successfully repulsed by the "Abbot of Battele," again on the fatal 15th March, 1380, the unlucky town was captured through the treacherous opening of the New Gate to the enemy, the valorous Abbot was put to flight, the wall of the city was seriously injured, the Pipewell Gate was totally destroyed, and the nave of the church of St. Thomas most probably on this occasion burnt to the ground.

In 1401, it was ordered that "the Rector should have the parcel, portion, or custom called 'Criste's share,' in the town, for and in the name of the tithe of fish taken at sea by the fishermen, which in time of peace is worth sometimes 20s., 40s., 100s., or ten marks per annum." In 1413, complaints were made that seamen were blocking up the channel to Bodiam with stones, sand, and other ballast. This practice was to be prevented in future. In 1434, Robert Porter, master of the barge "La Trinité de Winchelsea," was allowed to carry 60

* There is now no Isle of Caux. It probably refers to St. Valery en Caux in Normandy. The Isle of Sans may be the Isle of Oleron, or the peninsular to the west of the town of Saintes; or Sans may be meant for Les Sables d'Olonne, on the western coast of France, of all which the ports-men would have knowledge as being on the route to Bordeaux and Spain. Luce is not identified, unless it be St. Jean de Luz.

pilgrims to Santiago di Compostella, but they were only to take as much gold and silver as was absolutely necessary. In 1456, another pilgrim company, 40 in number, set sail on the same terms in "Le Kateryn de Winchelsea." Seven years later a royal license was granted to fortify Winchelsea "with a certain wall of stone and lime, and with a certain foss in a lesser circuit." The townsmen "may crenellate, entower, and embattle it."

Half a century before (1404) the Pipewell Gate was rebuilt by Mayor John Helde, but when the sixth Harry reigned "Ichabod" was already written large upon Winchelsea. The sea was fast receding, and, in 1539, bluff King Hal found the land "dry as far as the marsh of Camber, where he then built the massive stone castle and keep, whose ruins still lie grey and lonely upon the greyness of the marshland." Winchelsea fell a victim full often to a foreign foe, through being laid out on too ambitious a scale. There was far too much space within the walls. Many of the thirty-nine squares or quarters were in all probability but thinly inhabited, and the great church, formerly dericated to St. Thomas of Canterbury, though it now bears the name of St. Thomas the Apostle, was never completed.

But though the sea continued steadily to recede from her walls, Winchelsea had not yet fallen from her pride of place. When Henry V. sailed for France, to win the great struggle of Agincourt, Winchelsea and Southampton were the mustering ports of his fleet, of which the "Gabrielle de Winchesea" led the van.

The dissolution of the monasteries was another heavy blow to the prosperity of Winchelsea. To this subject we must return. In 1570, the Mayor and Corporation begged help from Queen Elizabeth, saying that "in the memory of man it has been a town of great prosperity, of excellent traffic, and of most worthy service to the realm; its situation most excellent, on a high rocky hill, within half-a-mile of the main seas, it is divided into squares, and the streets large and broad, all straight as the same were laid with a line, and so cast that at the end of every street the town is to be seen through; and having yet remaining a great many costly vaults, arched and set forth with

STRAND GATE, WINCHELSEA.

pillars of Caen stone as meant to have houses over them, fit for famous merchants. There is in the narrow seas no place so fit to have a good haven made, as it is midway in a fair bay between Rye and Hastings with rocks within half-a-mile to make piers and jetties and three fathoms at low water without any sand, flat bar, or any other danger near; with less than 100 rods of cutting through good firm marsh ground, the sea might be brought into a great fleet two fathoms deep, and so into the old channel where the tide ebbed and flowed." Queen Bess came herself in 1573, and admired the old town greatly, which is not to be wondered at. The Mayor and twelve Jurats made such a brave show in their scarlet robes, and so many Sussex gentlemen assembled to greet her, that she called the place "Little London," warning, however, all concerned that their welfare and prosperity were wholly dependent upon the return of the sea. Beyond giving back certain King's rents to the town, she did nothing for it.

The Huguenots who eventually settled at Canterbury, found their asylum at Winchelsea. M. De la Touche was the French Minister here in 1587. He attended the "Collogue," or Conference, in London in 1589. In that same year, 1589, the Mayor and Corporation petitioned that they might have "as a teacher of God's Word, the Rev. John Pearson, of Peasmarsh." In 1586, we still read of "'The Ane Wye,' 50 tonnes, at Winchelsey, Robert Maye, Hable Master," but ten years later, the port had practically ceased to exist. During the Armada panic in 1587, it was reported that Winchelsea "is strongly seated, and a dangerous platte if the enemy should possess it, and, therefore, needful to have one demi culverin (9lb.) and two sacres (5lb.) at least." On December 1st, 1598, Richard Batop, a very infirm man, was licensed to beg at Rye and Winchelsea, "so as he use and behave himself honestly and decently." In 1662, John Taylor, the water Poet, was a visitor. He says: "I walked to Winchelsey, where I thanke my cousin, Mr. Collins, the Maior there; hee made me kindly welcome." In 1632, Mr. Edward Mileward was the Captain of the Winchelsea Trained Bands. Exactly twenty years later, John Evelyn came hither from

Rye. "There are to be seen vast caves and vaults, walls, and towers, ruins of monasteries, and of a sumptuous church. . . . This place being now all in rubbish, and a few despicable hovels and cottages only standing, has yet a Mayor." Winchelsea is to-day the only unreformed provincial Corporation in England, and elects its Mayor on Easter Monday. Full many a persecuted Huguenot found safe asylum in Winchelsea after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, in 1682, bringing with him his skilled handicrafts of silk weaving, French cambric, and Italian crape, and crape making. The homes and cellar workshops of these exiles for their faith may still be seen. During Admiral Torrington's fight with De Tourville, in 1690, the "Anne," of 70 guns, was totally dismasted and driven ashore; two French ships tried to burn her, but her Captain saved them the trouble by doing it himself. The wreck, about 180 yards from shore, lies not far from the "Ship" Inn, Pett, and is sometimes visible at long stream tides. It is said that some of her guns are still on board. In 1719, Dr. Harris says that the town was without trade. Sliford's Collections, in 1730, tell us that the well-paved streets were over-grown with grass, which was sold for £4 yearly, and in 1729 a report was sent to the Government: "A little beyond Rye we see the ruins of Winchelsea, once a flourishing city and seaport, but with its trade it has lost even the very appearance of a city, except in the rubbish of it, and this loss has evidently happened by the sea forsaking it, for whereas they shew you the vaults and warehouses where the merchants' goods used to lie, and the very wharfs and cranes where they were landed, and where the ships lay with their broadsides to the shore, you now see the green marshes extended where once the ships might sail."

At Winchelsea, John Wesley, whose pocket Bible, companion of his missions, is handed down from President to President as a sacred memento, preached his last (or some say penultimate) open-air sermon on October 6th, 1790. He had also preached at Winchelsea in 1771 and 1789. But it is Wm. Makepeace Thackeray who has made Winchelsea immortal. All the country hereabouts is "Denis Duval-land," and tells of "the ripest and mellowest expression of his genius."

Opposite the Church dwelt "My grandfather, a perruquier and barber by trade, elder and precentor of the French Church of Winchelsea." The "Friars" was the abode of "my little maid, Agnes," who learned her lessons upon the terrace walk, whilst Denis gladly dodged the brickbats of Joseph Weston, for a glimpse of her sweet face. From the "Friars" Agnes hung out her signals, "a flower, a cross curtain, and so forth." In the ancient burial place of the Grey Friars, Clarisse de Saverne was laid to rest.

Under the Churchyard wall, Denis was bludgeoned by the press gang. The stately, humourous Dr. Barnard, the fatal De la Motte, that double traitor, Baron Lütterloh, and the bold, bad, brothers Weston, still dwell amongst us. Many a Waterloo veteran was quartered in the Barrack Square, and "fought his battles o'er again" at the "Look-out." Millais found a home for some months in the house now occupied by Mrs. Martindale. Winchelsea has been visited by those intellectual giants, Rossetti, Ruskin, and Wm. Morris. Turner has preserved the New Gate in the "Liber Studiorum," Philip Norman, Joseph Comyns and David Carr have painted and sketched at Winchelsea. Dr. Edwin Freshfield, connected by birth with the ancient town, gave to it its ancient Court Hall. King's Council, learned in the law, those who have done yeomen service for medicine, and world-famous Miss Ellen Terry, queen of histrionic art, have all found homes in the "ancient town." Here Thackeray wrote "Denis Duval"; Basil Champneys, "A Quiet Corner of England"; Miss Hewitt, "In a Cinque Port"; Mrs. David Comyns Carr, "Margaret Malephant," "Winchelsea," and other works: Mr. W. Martindale, "The British Pharmacopeia"; and Mr. F. M. Hueffer, "The Cinque Ports," finely illustrated by Mr. W. Hyde. (Copies of this valuable work to be obtained of Adams & Son, Rye). Truly the dwellers in Winchelsea are "citizens of no mean city."

Rye to Winchelsea.

From Rye Bridge to Winchelsea Strand Gate is only a pleasant walk of some two miles and a quarter, by the Military Road, which winds in extended fashion across the Marsh.

Military Canal.

On the left is the Military Canal, dug in 1804. Its cutting is seventy feet broad, nine feet in depth, and extends with frequent artificial zigzags, a distance of 23 miles from Cliff End to Seabrook, near Hythe. It was intended to mount guns at each of the frequent curves in order to rake the flank of any hostile force attempting to cross the canal. Several earthworks, together with a raised bank to shelter infantry, are clearly seen between Winchelsea and Rye. This great work, which was only finished in 1812, was intended to act as a barrier against a French invasion, and to be utilised for the conveyance of troops and stores. In many parts of its course it is extremely picturesque. The plain which we are crossing was formerly "covered by the sea, and was the scene of the great naval battles of the First and Third Edwards, fiery preludes as they proved, of five centuries of victory. Behind us is Rye looking like an old Flemish town, countless sheep are dotted over the marshes, lines of stunted willows, indicating the labyrinth of deep water-courses, that everywhere intersect the old ocean bed."

Camber Castle.

On the other side of the canal, are seen the towers of Camber Castle (1 mile from Winchelsea). It consists of a strong central circular tower surrounded by five smaller ones, connected with it by short curtains. Captain Grose compares it to the Mausoleum of Metella, called Capo di Bove. This fortress was one of a chain of block-houses at Sandown, Deal, Walmer, and Sandgate; other well-known examples being Hurst, Calshot, and Southsea Castles. They were built by Henry VIII. about the year 1539, by means of special taxation. Camber Castle cost £23,000, equivalent to ten times as much at present. Now a mile distant from the sea, it is said that when it was built, a biscuit could be thrown from it upon a ship's deck. The Captain of the Castle received 2s. per diem, and the porter, with each of the six gunners, and eight soldiers, 6d. In 1587, it was reported that "there are but three people dwelling at Camber Castell, Her Majesty's Castell is in

CAMBER CASTLE.

good repayre, and is well furnished with ordnance and munition, viz.: 1 canone (60lbs.), 2 curtall canone (42lbs.), 1 demi canone (30lbs.), 1 culverin (18lbs.), 2 demi culverins (9lbs.), and 2 sacres (5lbs.)." The Constable of Dover Castle was responsible for the forts and block-houses in the Cinque Ports. Charles I., in 1632, intended selling the materials, the fortress being left high and dry, and in 1642, Captain Richard Cockeram, on behalf of the Parliament, removed the guns and stores to Rye, with the aid of the townsmen. The officers at Camber loved not the Winchelsea Corporation. In 1664, Lt. David Carr obtained a lease of the Castle, with leave to demolish it. Four years later the Rev. John Allin, the ejected Minister of Rye, in a curious letter, says that he wants saltpetre from thence, "there hangs in very many places under ye arch great icicles, as it were of peter, which hath sewered through the earth. I pray gett mee as much of it as can be gotten . . . I wish there were 20li of it." He purposes to make "some of G. Starkey's rich white powder of it, which he sold for 5li P. oz.: of which I have gotten a true receipt."

The Duke of York reviewed the 14th and 69th Regiments here in the spring of 1795. But now "green mounds, wall-flowers, and wall germander, gratings of strong iron that rust amid the accumulated ruins, and broken underground passages, repay a visit."

In and About Winchelsea.

We cross the Canal bridge, and above us towers the ancient sea-cliff, on which pre-historic man has dwelt for, at the very least, 2,000 years, as recently-discovered bronze weapons give proof, and on which to-day stands Modern Winchelsea. The little hamlet known as the Strand, recalls the fact that stout ships once floated where now the teamster and the cyclist make pause at the "Bridge" Inn. Thatched cottages and the Elizabethan timber-fronted house (a workhouse of yore), attract many an artist. The houses on the right at the foot of the hill were the former homes of Winchelsea's mediæval tanners, who drained their land by means of deceased bullocks' horns in lieu of pipes. "Thormanby" says: "Let the pilgrim take his

stand a bow-shot seawards beyond the old 'Bridge' Inn at the foot of the hill, and look up the slopes towards the ivy-clad Strand Gate, and he will see the triple chancel of the venerable parish church of St. Thomas-á-Becket, and the steep road winding up to the ancient town, just as Millais saw them when he elected to seat his 'Blind Girl' on the green bank below, and so gave the spot a pathetic and immortal interest." Still is the hill a "ground where conies parteley did resorte," as any visitor can see for himself, and the broom still grows upon it as of yore, when it gave its name (Planta Genista) to the Plantagenet founder of New Winchelsea. Pleasant is the road which winds up to the Strand Gate, which was no doubt the principal thoroughfare between the port and the town. Right glorious is the view over the channel, from Cliff End on the one side, to Folkestone Leas and Dover Cliffs on the other. Very striking in its decay is the ivy-covered Strand Gate, once defended by a double portcullis. The round ragstone towers are prominent objects in the landscape. They were built between the years 1287 and 1294 by Sir John Kirkeby, Bishop of Ely. Hereabouts the artists congregate, and well they may. The view is grand and far-reaching, and seen through the old gate "the pyramid of Rye town stands purple upon the distance." Its lights, when darkness falls, are like "stars dropped down to earth." Just within the Strand Gate is

The Tower Cottage,

which was until recently the country home of that famous actress, Miss Ellen Terry, who bought it from Mr. Comyns-Carr: notice the beautiful iron work supporting a curious sign. Mr. Henry James says: "The small grounds of this refuge, supported by the old town-wall, and the steep plunge of the great hill, have a rare position and view. The best hour is that at which the compact little pyramid of Rye, crowned by its big but stunted Church, and quite covered by the westering sun, gives out the full measure of its old browns that turn to red, and its old reds that turn to purple."

Facing the Cottage is the Look-Out, with its pleasant shelter and convenient seats, where the glorious view, most

folks' neighbours, and all things in heaven and in earth, have been freely discussed for the last six centuries.

"Beneath is spread like a green sea the waveless plain."

"The beach looks invitingly near, but it is a long walk to the shore, and the right track should be ascertained or time and temper will disappear in inglorious attempts at escape from a maze of drains and ditches. Puck never heard of Winchelsea, or many another jest would have made Oberon smile. A colony of rooks occupies the grove of trees screening the sea-face of the hill, their nests swinging over the site of the vanished harbour." They are highly conservative as to trees in which to build, and retire inland to Guestling on the approach of winter. Beneath their nesting trees one of the ancient zigzag approaches still winds down the hill. The Look-Out commands a view of many a scene connected with the "fair-traders," otherwise smugglers, but, as Rudyard Kipling says, "that is another story!" Below the Retreat, which adjoins the Cottage, is a fine groined cellar, with rounded arches, dating probably from the days of the earlier settlement prior to the drowning of Old Winchelsea. Another fine cellar is on the other side of the road; and two others near by have been blocked up, as, indeed, have many others in different parts of the town. These noble cellars were first constructed for the sake of the important Gascony wine trade. "They were once to England what the London docks are now." In days when the pack horse was the sole means of distribution, storage was a necessity if markets were not to be flooded with goods. There were "corners" in merchandise then as now. Many a Huguenot exile afterwards set up his loom in these capacious vaults; many a smuggler's hoard found shelter in them, and in our own day Volunteers have drilled in them. In a side street is the Mission Hall, built by Major R. C. Stileman, J.P., who conducts Divine Service there on Sunday afternoons. As we pass up the street, we note that the houses are of a special type, the timber-and-tile superstructure being not actually ancient, like the stonework of the cellars and first floor, but having probably been renewed in the original character.

The present smith's forge was, during the Peninsular

War, an hotel, and the room on the right of the gateway was the smoking room of many of Wellington's officers. The large rose-covered house on the right hand is Periteau House, and derives its name from a Mr. Periteau, who, with his partners, M. Mariteau and M. Corbeaux, established a manufactory of lawns and cambrics at Winchelsea about the year 1701. Mr. Corbeaux subsequently returned to France, but came back to end his days here.

For a few years the trade flourished, and when the manufacture of cambrics was abandoned, an Italian crape manufactory was established, but owing to local disadvantages was, in 1810, removed to Norwich.

Salt and charcoal were also largely manufactured at Winchelsea, and there were a few furnaces for the manufacture of iron, which aroused fears that all the neighbouring woods would be destroyed.

Tanning was the last manufacture carried on in the town.

A flourishing lace-making class now gives employment to many children. Beautiful work is done, and the effort deserves every encouragement.

Opposite Periteau House is another rose-covered house which has also been truly called "the house of the passion flower," for if "monasteries, castles, and houses disappear, gardens remain—old-fashioned gardens such as Lord Beaconsfield praised, and Lamb's garden-loving poet sang."

St. Thomas' Church.

"Winchelsea Church is an almost ideal gem of uniform character, and of exquisitely studied detail." Mr. James says, "Winchelsea had only time to dream a great dream—the dream of a scant pair of centuries—before its hopes were turned to bitterness, and its boasts to lamentation . . . While Winchelsea dreamed, at any rate she worked, and the noble fragment of her great church, rising solid from the abortive symmetry of her great square, helps us to put our hand on her deep good faith. She built, at least, as she believed—she planned as she imagined. The huge ivy-covered choir and transepts of St. Thomas of Canterbury—to whom the structure was addressed—represent to us a great intention. They are not so mighty, but they are

SOUTH-EAST VIEW OF WINCHELSEA CHURCH.

almost as brave as the wonderful fragment of Beauvais." Mr. Inderwick says that the church "has an air of mediæval sanctity which few other churches can equal."

It is "mouldering in all the imploring beauty of decay." But better days have dawned, and carefully planned restoration, with much taking of counsel and judicious choice of an architect, whose motto will be preservation and not destruction, has been set on foot. Some £7,000 will be needed, and the task will be arduous. The energetic Rector (Rev. J. D. H. Patch, M.A.), will gladly receive contributions towards this good work, which has a national and almost world-wide interest. For the information of visitors we may add that on Sundays the hours of Morning Prayer and Evensong are 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. All seats are free when the bell ceases. Holy Communion, Sundays, 8 a.m.; also on second Sunday at noon, and on last Sunday in the month, 11.15 a.m.

This beautiful Church was in building from 1288 to 1292, between the 13th and 14th squares, nearly in the centre of the town. Its original dedication to "St. Thomas the Martyr" (beloved of Englishmen as the upholder of Church rights against masterful Angevin Kings), has been changed to "St. Thomas the Apostle." The Pipe-Roll of 23rd Edward III. (1350) records that "no less than 94 places in Winchelsea lie utterly deserted and uninhabited. The King grants to John de Searle (the Rector) a messuage to the east of the Cemetery of the Church, which formerly belonged to Matilda Lycotin, who died without leaving any heirs: therefore, the King gives this house to the Church out of devotion for St. Thomas to be a rectory house for ever." The Church was intended to be cruciform, and to consist of a choir, north and south transepts, a nave, and side aisles, with a central tower, probably like Fairlight, surmounted by a tall shingled spire as a guide to seamen. The side aisles of the nave were not to be as wide as those of the choir. Only the choir and its aisles remain. The transepts are in ruins, probably as the result of the earlier French attacks. The Church must have been finally altered in the 15th century, when the arches at the west end were filled in, and a small, late Perpendicular porch added, through which John Evelyn entered in 1652. Mr. Harold

Sands says "it is probable the nave of the Church was finished but never re-built after the French burnings. The town then decreasing by the withdrawal of the sea, the re-building would be stopped by the 'black-death' in 1347. The foundations were, according to Mr. W. D. Cooper, grubbed up about 1790, to aid in the re-making of Rye Harbour." The ruined ivy-grown transepts are very picturesque. Part of the original open richly-carved parapet has been preserved, and projecting from each transept are the foundations of entrance porches—a somewhat unusual feature. The little squat spire is of a very casual, but picturesque character. The flying buttress of the north-eastern angle of the north aisle was built to counteract a settlement which took place during, or just after, the building of the Church. There is a vaulted crypt (formerly lighted), under the choir, and a campanile, or bell-tower, robbed by the French of its bells, stood in the churchyard until 1790, when it was pulled down also to aid in Rye Harbour works. The interior of the choir is separated from the aisles by three arches of black and white Sussex marble and Caen stone. The sedilia and piscina are very rich, and will claim attention. Upon a small bracket, which probably once supported the figure of St. Thomas, is a mutilated stone figure of classic type, found in the ruins of the ancient sacristy. This sacristy will be, it is hoped, ere long rebuilt. The windows on the north and south sides of the chancel exhibit a very peculiar and handsome tracery of foreign, rather than English character. The windows are within slightly recessed arcades. An ancient benitura, formerly embedded in a wall, is preserved in the south aisle near the present modern font. It is much to be hoped that the church will also be re-pewed, which will greatly enhance the appearance of the graceful pillars. The north-western angle of the church has long been made into a vestry by roughly built walls, which have cut off and injured a fine monument. In these walls are some remains of the ancient chantry screens. One of the original windows in the vestry has had its beautiful tracery barbarously removed. But this havoc will, we hope, ere long, be wisely and judiciously set right as far as possible. Mr.

Basil Champneys says, "The south aisle may have been wholly a chantry to the distinguished family of Alard. No better example, probably, could be found in England, of the manner in which interiors were completed in the middle ages, and the fact that all the several features are almost of the same date, and that very little removed from the date of the main fabric, gives great additional value to the example. As regards the general arrangement, notice how boldly the different gablets cut the sill-line of the windows, standing out strongly against the light. Then, again, how the same broad features are introduced into the several tombs and sedilia, and how, notwithstanding this, each has its own individuality in design. All this work was, of course, gorgeously decorated, and some traces of colour may still be found here and there. Above the tombs, the windows, of quaint and elaborate tracery, are worked into a continuous design by the introduction into the intervals of small supplementary arches of a segmental character." The sedilia and piscina of this south aisle are comparatively perfect, and form, with the two magnificent tombs of Gervase and Stephen Alard, both exquisite in execution, a continuous design along the entire south wall. Both Gervase and Stephen Alard were Admirals of the Cinque Ports. The former, whose recumbent figure is a masterpiece of carving, was Admiral of the Western Fleet in 1303 and 1306. He was the first man in England who bore the title of Admiral, and received as pay 2/- per diem. Leland says that he "lyeth buried in Winchelsea." The effigy is of stone, cross-legged and armed, with the hands elevated, enclosing a heart, and having a lion at the feet. It has no shield and the mutilated remains of two angels support the double cushion on which the head reposes. The whole is filled up with diapered work, and is surmounted by a recessed canopy. "This," we learn from the admirable little Guide to the Church, published by the Rev. J. D. H. Patch, Rector, price 2d.—"was in imminent danger of falling until the repair of the tomb was undertaken, in 1904, by the late F. A. Inderwick, Esq. In the course of repairing the foundations, which were found to have given way, the body of Gervase Alard was seen to be lying wrapped in leaden sheets in a stone coffin

some four feet below the surface of the floor. Without disturbing the remains, new foundations were inserted and the whole re-built exactly as it formerly stood, the white-wash with which it had been thickly coated being carefully removed." Supporting the canopy are sculptured heads of Edward I. and Queen Eleanor. The King's nose has vanished, but enough remains to show a face of strength and capacity, such as might be accepted as that of the first and greatest of the English kings. Mr. Inderwick tells us that when the King's tomb in Westminster Abbey was opened in 1774, the features were found to bear close resemblance to this effigy.

The tomb of Stephen Alard, Admiral of the Cinque Ports and of the Western Fleet in 1324, is less elaborate, and of somewhat inferior workmanship. Until it was repaired in 1905, the monument was much disfigured by whitewash and by Portland cement. It was formerly richly gilded and coloured, azure and gules being still visible. The feet of the stone mailed figure rest upon a lion, but the prayer-folded hands do not enclose a heart. The shield bears the arms of the Oxenbridges, of Brede, one of whom is recorded by Leland to have married an heiress of the Alards, and to have taken the Alard Arms. Heads of Edward II. and Queen Isabella adorn the canopy. The King's face is handsome, but the straight weak mouth scarcely denotes a sufficiently masterful spirit for the stormy times in which his lot was cast.

The window above the tomb of Stephen Alard has been bricked up, but was re-opened in 1904 by Mrs Martindale. Whatever old tracery was found in good condition was used again; but the greater part of the tracery is new work. The whole of this, as well as the anxious work of taking down and re-building the Alard Tomb, was carried out under the direction of the Architect, Mr. J. T. Micklethwaite, F.S.A., by Mr. J. Colegate, of Hastings.

The tomb of Gervase Alard has been immortalised by by Millais in his celebrated picture, "Safe from the Battle's Din," which shows a child asleep upon the old Admiral's effigy.

The Alard family, whose name is still commemorated by the piece of land called "Alards," at Icklesham, were

very distinguished. Some of them emigrated to Portugal, where their descendants are still much respected. One of them helped Columbus to discover America in 1492, and belonged to the garrison of his celebrated stockade.

The effigies on the three tombs in the north aisle are all of Sussex marble, polished and not coloured. They lie within sepulchred canopies, with feathered tracery heads, and have all been decorated with colour.

The western monument is that of a cross-legged warrior in mail armour. A strap over the shoulder supports a shield, without any armorial bearings. The right hand grasps the hilt of a sword, upon the knob of which is the cross and the sacred monogram, "I.H.C." The ornamentation of the canopy has been greatly disfigured by repeated coats of whitewash.

The central monument is that of a lady, with the feet resting on a hound; and the eastern that of a young man dressed in a long robe in flutes, with tight armlets, confined at the wrist with small buttons. The head is supported upon cushions, and the hands are elevated over the breast, and closed as if in prayer.

From their position, following each other from west to east, and from the character of the three tombs, which seem to be of the same age and date, it is supposed that they represent a warrior, his wife, and a son who died before he had borne arms. They are of the period of Edward III., and probably belong to the Alard family.

In the south aisle is a slab, formerly inlaid with brass, which latter has long disappeared. The stone has the outline of a floriated cross. The slab was moved within the last half century from its original position in the Alard chantry, and beneath it were found a skeleton and a glass bottle. The inscription promises fifty days of pardon to him who shall pray for the soul of Reinard Alard, who died April 15th, 1354. There is a brass of a layman in the attitude of prayer, of which the inscription and coats of arms are missing, and another brass of Margaret Iorden, of Winchelsea, who died on April 2nd, 1636; together with several other monuments of local interest.

In August, 1889, Mrs. and Miss Inderwick collected a number of scattered fragments of the original stained glass

and utilised them for a three-light family memorial window. The centre light occupied by old fragments of figure work—the Crucifixion and a figure of a Bishop—is surrounded by rich borders composed of small pieces of glass of all shapes and sizes, geometrically arranged. The groundwork is composed of quarries of simple design and quiet colour, which serve to emphasize the rich ruby, blue, and orange of the old glass. The side lights have central medallions, composed of a variety of painted fragments, bordered by plain portions of rich colour upon the same groundwork, a border made up of deep ruby and claret glass, with modern glass interspersed to form the pattern diamonds of each light. In the tracery appear the arms of Winchelsea, which were drawn from the Ancient Seal of the Corporation, granted by Edward I. In the upper part of the tracery, a medallion of old painted glass is inserted, on which appears the sacred monogram in gold upon a blue ground. A tablet at the base bears the following inscription :—"In memoriam. Ashton Biron Inderwick. Qui obiit 21 mo. die Octobris, Ano Dni. mdccclxxxviii. et ætatis suæ xxiii." The work was carried out by Messrs. Cox, Sons, Buckley & Co., of London and New York.

There was formerly a shrine of "Our Lady of the Gridiron" in this Church, probably an image of the B.V.M. behind a grating or "grille."

The Godfrey, or Farncombe, chantry (north side), was founded in the reign of Henry VI., in the chapel of the Blessed Mary, by John Godfrey, who represented Winchelsea in Parliament in 1441 and 1448. It was richly endowed by his daughter Maline (Matilda), the widow of Simon Farncombe, who employed his ships, one of which was named "Le Helène de Winchelsea," in conveying pilgrims to the shrine of St. James in Spanish Galicia. Maline Farncombe greatly augmented the endowments of her father's chantry, and in 1381 she still further endowed it with tenements, vesting the patronage in the Abbot and Convent of Battle. After the dissolution of the chantry, the tenements and a mill within Winchelsea were granted to the Mayors, Jurats, and Commonalty. There are several monuments, one of which in memory of Richard

Maliphant, Esq. (d. 1823), suggested to Mrs. D. Comyns Carr the title of her charming Winchelsea novel, "Margaret Maliphant." The register, which has been well reviewed by R. Garraway Rice, Esq., F.S.A., begins in 1651, and contains several interesting entries, too numerous to record here. It was corrected and methodized in 1696. The Huguenot names are very numerous and interesting. The old Rectors of St. Thomas cannot here be dwelt upon. From this interesting register we see that the small-pox was evidently a terrible and much-dreaded malady. Weavers plied their trade, and the tanners at the Strand were numerous. Flax was dressed, and the Custom House employed "Riding Officers." The father of the notorious Titus Oates (a Hastings man, known as "the Salamanca Doctor") did great mischief here. In 1686, a report was sent to Bishop Lake, of Chichester, that "at Winchelsea the bells were all sold but one; there was no linen cloth and napkin for the administration of the Most Blessed Sacrament; no surplices; hogs were kept in the churchyard. The parsonage house had been pulled down, and the materials all sold by the Salamanca Doctor's (T. Oates') father when he had the sequestration." The tenor bell dates from 1708, and came from a celebrated foundry. It bears the inscription: "John Walsh, John Parnel, Ch., John Prosser, Rector. R. Phelps made me, 1708." It is said that the church formerly possessed a fine peal of bells, which was sent away to be re-cast. The ship which conveyed them sunk, and the Winchelsea bells at the bottom of the Channel are sometimes heard by listeners at their ancient home, ringing merry peals for the marriage of mermaidens, and tolling the knell of drowning seamen. Icklesham folk will tell you that when Winchelsea lost its bells, a Rector who held both parishes sold or transferred one of the Icklesham bells to Winchelsea. It is a fact that the Winchelsea bell supplies the one note required to make the present Icklesham peal of four complete. Seamen were drowned, travellers were buried, men were found dead upon the marshes, and in the list of burials for November 23rd, 1715, we read: "John Parnell, Esq., then Mayor, he died of the small pox." Edward Langram, fisherman, drowned at sea,

was washed ashore at "Rumney," and buried there on May 30th, 1705, whilst William Reeves was making watches at Winchelsea. From 1737 to 1754, Dragoons were quartered here, and clattered and clanked through the streets. On Sunday, May 10th, 1761, the Rev. Richard Tireman, Rector, gave notice "during Divine Service (as by Canons required), that James Holt was by me chosen and appointed Clerk of St. Thomas Parish in Winchelsea." In 1764, the Rev. D. Hollingbery was appointed as Curate, and later as Rector. He is the prototype of Dr. Barnard, Rector of Winchelsea, in "Denis Duval," who so nobly protected "Denis" and the "two foreign dissenting clergymen." His Rectory, pulled down about 1830, stood on the same side of the square as the Town Hall. During his incumbency, a large ash tree, still standing on the west side of the churchyard, became famous as

WESLEY'S TREE,

under which he preached, on October 7th, 1790. He was then aged 87, and died in the following March. He thus speaks of it in his journal: "I went over to that poor skeleton of Ancient Winchelsea. It is beautifully situated on the top of a steep hill, and was regularly built in broad streets crossing each other, and encompassing a very large square, in the midst of which was a large church now in ruins. I stood under a large tree on the side of it, and called to most of the inhabitants of the town—'The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand; repent and believe the gospel.' It seemed as if all that heard it were, at the present, almost persuaded to be Christians."

It is said that Mr. Wesley also occupied the still existing pulpit in the old Wesleyan Chapel, which is deservedly carefully preserved. The aged preacher was entertained by Miss Jones in Cooke's Green. The late Mr. James Davis (only recently deceased), born in 1809, had often spoken to those who heard Wesley's sermon under the historic tree. A small obelisk near Wesley Tree covers the grave of four of the passengers of the ill-fated "Northfleet," which was run down, whilst anchored off Dungeness, on the night of January 28th, 1873, and many a drowned seamen and

NORTH-WEST VIEW OF WINCHELSEA CHURCH.

fisherman, foreigner and Englishman alike, here sleeps in peace. But we must ramble on.

Church Square.

"Strolling past the house of the passion flower (Mrs. Dyer), we found an ideal cottage home (for some years in the occupation of the Martindale family), a very shrine of Flora. From an arched doorway we saw its double gable, thickly covered with clustering clematis, its leafy windows, and the dove-cots, with their tenants in purple plumes or sheen of silver grey fluttering on the lawn; side-beds fragrant with musk, carnations, sweet william, and mignonette; above, from overhanging sprays, roses like flashes of crimson snow, paved the turf and the moss below. Odours of flowers mingle with sea breezes on the rock, and form an odour that should delight an alchemist." This pleasant house has a perpendicular doorway, some Tudor brickwork, and a fine groined cellar. Both Millais and Ruskin have sojourned beneath its hospitable roof. At the opposite corner of the square, which as Mr. James reminds us, "was to have been worthy of New York or of Turin," is the New Inn Hotel, already mentioned. In the yard is a stone shot, probably left behind or dropped overboard (as at Southampton) by Henry V., when he sailed from Winchelsea and Southampton to fight at Agincourt. At the yard gate are two small cannon, which probably formerly belonged to one of the many revenue cutters stationed off this coast to prevent smuggling.

The Town Hall.

This ancient building is probably older than the present town, and may have been standing when old Winchelsea was still flourishing. Mr. Inderwick thinks it probable that Edward I. sojourned within its walls. Only a portion of it remains. It appears from the remains of the walls that its frontage to the church was about 100 feet, and that it had a frontage towards the plot called "Paradise" on the west, of at least 70 feet. Several upstairs rooms have been destroyed. It was styled the Court Hall or Water Bailiff's Prison. The Water Bailiff, who had also

jurisdiction over Rye Harbour, was authorized to execute warrants and to make arrests upon the sea. The emblem of his office was a silver oar. His prison was probably a now blocked up vault at the west end of the Hall, which was his property, and for which he received rent. Tudor times saw this Hall re-built. For a short time it passed into private hands, but Dr. Edwin Freshfield, who was born in Winchelsea, purchased it and presented it to the town. It has recently been thoroughly renovated, and the upper Hall is again used for the transaction of Corporate and other business, and for the election of the Mayor and the several borough officers on Easter Monday. Winchelsea is the only "unreformed" Corporation in the kingdom (with the exception of the City of London) but has been shorn of nearly all the important privileges which it once possessed. In the Hall is preserved a curious picture in distemper, representing St. Leonard of Winchelsea, in an archbishop's robes, with a crown and nimbus, and carrying a windmill, he having special power over winds as we shall see hereafter. This picture was found during the restoration of the ancient building, and dates from the 14th century. The fine timber roof of the Court Hall is deservedly admired. The ancient fireplace in the lower room is a good specimen of domestic architecture. This room has been cleared of its cells and other prison appliances, and is now used as a library and reading room, to which visitors are admitted on payment of a trifling fee.

The windows of the Hall are emblazoned with the arms of several celebrated Bailiffs of Winchelsea, and with those of Archbishop Robert de Wynchelsey (1293-1313). His Majesty the King, whom may God preserve, was proclaimed from the steps of this Ancient Hall, which the Edwards, First and Third, together with Edward the Black Prince, knew full well. Notice upon the outer wall the arms of the Lewknor family, who were staunch royalists, and squires of the neighbouring parish of Icklesham, two and more centuries agone. Just below the Town Hall, stood the Rectory of "Dr. Barnard," and standing back from the street is the former home of "Grandfather, *ancien* and

precentor of the French church at Winchelsea, a perruquier, and barber by trade," who did more than a little *fishing* on the coast, in conjunction with certain Frenchmen. Turning to the left into Castle Street, we have on our left Magazine House, a typical specimen of an English home. On its lawn the bands of the regiments quartered in Winchelsea played regularly during "the old war time," for Magazine House was then the Officers' Mess. Thackeray was a visitor here, and localised "Denis Duval" at the barber's shop round the corner.

Opposite is the Town Well, 112 feet deep, sunk by the liberality of Robert Dawes, Esq., adjacent to which is a large building, formerly officers' quarters, with a fine groined cellar. It is now appropriately named "The Armoury," and its owner, Miss Peel, has restored it in exquisite taste. Some portions of this building date from the 14th century. The Castle Inn is noteworthy for the fine Sussex ironwork which supports its sign, and for a very fine cellar (accessible by ladder). The landlord is usually known as the "Governor of the Castle." Mr. Richard Osborne, who was "Governor" for nearly 45 years, lies in the churchyard.

Barrack Square, opposite the Castle Inn and the Post Office, was formerly known as "Bear Square," from the fact that bears were baited there. Hence the now vanished signs of "The Bear," and of "The Three Kings" (which last Mr. Inderwick considers to be a reference to the three Edwards), at the corners of Bear or Barrack Square. The depression in the ground marks the site of the Military Hospital of a century ago. The brick lozenge-pattern houses surrounding the Barrack Square were originally built by the Huguenot refugees, who set up their looms in the capacious cellars which still exist. About a century ago their ancient homes were given up to the Government, and converted into barracks with a defensive precinct. Dragoons, Ordance Store Corps, the 14th Regiment (in 1795), and companies of Veterans, were successively quartered here. Cooke's Green, at the north-east corner of the town, commanding a fine view, has been an open space for six centuries, and below it, approached by a long flight of steps, which mark one of the ancient

zigzag entrances to the town, is the picturesque St. Katherine's Well. The Pipe Well is at the foot of the east hill. The Strand Well was destroyed by a fall of the cliff. The Friars' Well is now enclosed. The New Well is by the New Gate; and St. Leonards' Well is under the ancient Castle. These were the sources of water supply to Winchelsea. The cliff slope was known as the Pendents of the Hill. Hushed are the voices of the minstrels who sang roundelays in the Ballard Singers' Plat, and the clink of metal is no longer heard in the Tinker's Garden. But to return. Opposite the Post Office is the "Salutation," an essentially pre-Reformation sign, with a fine cellar, which may be seen on application. An old wall is the ancient precinct of the

BLACKFRIARS' MONASTERY,

One gable of which is still standing in Ferry Road. Beneath the adjacent "Five Houses" are some extensive crypts belonging to this Monastery, above which the Huguenots built their houses. Smugglers also found these crypts convenient. Grey and Black Friars appealed directly to the poor, the ignorant, and the working folk, amongst whom they loved to live and labour.

The house of the Friars Preachers, or Black Friars, was founded by Edward II. in the year 1318. It was first established in the place called King's Green, containing 12 acres, and was granted by the King to the Brothers of the Order of Preachers, for the purpose of building a Church for the celebration of divine worship, and houses and buildings for the habitation of the brethren of the Order. The grant was confirmed by Edward III. in 1339. Subsequently the King granted them another site near St. Giles' Church, and the Prior and Brethren built a new and commodious house and oratory on their new land and removed thither.

In June, 1397, two monks from abroad, John Lynge and Richard Maynard, were sent to this house, and Friars H. Sucton and John Tomer were licensed to "go to Rome to visit the Threshold of the Apostles." On his return, Friar Sucton was appointed to be a lector, or teacher of philosophy, at Winchelsea, for a term of three years. On

May 21st, 1412, John Michel, Sergeant-at-Arms, was ordered to arrest the Prior, who was duly sent to the Tower. His fate is unknown. On May 6th, 1533, Henry Hatche, of Faversham, left by will 10/- to each of the Friars' Houses at Winchelsea. They were both surrendered to the Suffragan Bishop of Dover, on December 19th or 20th, 1538. The bells, bell metal, and lead were reserved for the King. The buildings, after standing empty for three years, were sold for 20/-, and the ash and elm trees of 40 and 60 years' growth, fetched 8d. per tree.

We reach the

Pipewell Gate,

Which was destroyed by the French in 1380, and rebuilt by Mayor John Helde, in 1404. It has on its outer face a shield, having the arms—*a squirrel sejant*, and above, in Old English letters: "J. Helde." It was originally of more elaborate workmanship than the others, and on the western side are the remains of shafts, from which rose clustering columns.

The field above the Gate is the Friars' Orchard, belonging to the Blackfriars' Monastery. The next field is Roundel Piece, wherein, till 1828, stood the old Roundel, and where a piece of the town wall may still be seen.

St. Leonard Parish.

The parish and liberty of St. Leonard lies at the north-west corner of the town of Winchelsea, of which, however, it never formed part. It has always been, and still is, a liberty of the town and port of Hastings. The Church was frequented by seamen and fishermen, and its foundations may still be traced near the picturesque windmill. In it stood the image of St. Leonard, holding a vane—or rather, Eolus' mace—in his hand which women and other worshippers used to turn (after offering made), toward such coasts as they desired the wind to serve for the speedy return of their husbands or friends. This Church was standing in 1575, and Jeake speaks of it in the 17th century as being ruinous.

Of the windmill a sweet singer says:—

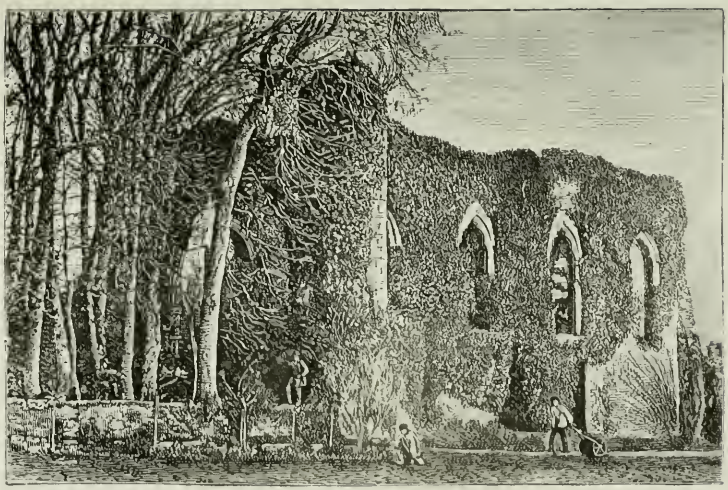
"Over the hill
Stands there a mill
Facing a deep valley filled with gold:
It seems to me
That mill must see
Sorrowful visions of the days of old."

Near it the ancient moat which defended the town on the land side can still be traced.

The Church of St. Giles was situated on the western side of the town, and consisted of a nave, chancel, one aisle, and a small tower with one bell. The walls were standing in 1570, but it was described in 1608-9 as ruinous. In the winter of 1399, a large tree, which contained 632 feet of timber, was cut down in the churchyard, and converted into shields. The original church was built at the same time as the foundation of the new town; but it suffered great damage during the attack of the French in 1359. The churchyard was then enlarged on account of the number of the slain, and a parsonage house built on its eastern side. According to the taxation of Pope Nicholas, the value of the Rectory in 1291 was £6 13s. 4d. The walls of the Church were pulled down in 1780-3 by the then Rector (Rev. D. Hollingbery), and the stones used in the construction of Rye Harbour. The livings of St. Thomas and St. Giles have been united since the year 1500. The present Rectory was built in 1849.

On Pound Hill will be found the Pound, of which the keeper is an officer of the Corporation. We are pleased to notice its recent renovation, bearing in mind that "the Pound is older than the Parish."

The square facing the Town Hall on the west bears the ancient and beautiful name of "Paradise." At the south-west angle of the churchyard is Mariteau House (for some years the residence of the late F. A. Inderwick, Esq., and now occupied by C. W. Campion, Esq.), which preserves the name of a former Huguenot merchant. Opposite is a recessed doorway belonging to a now demolished building, known as Trojan's or Jew's Hall, Trojan being a mediæval synonym for a rascal or thief. Facing us (entrance in Friars' Road) is



THE FRIARS, WINCHELSEA.

The Friars.

The Grey Friars had a house in old Winchelsea, founded by Wm. de Buckingham, to which in the year 1253, St. Richard, Bishop of Chichester, left the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. Mark, and 20/- When the new town was built, the Friars removed thither to one of the best sites. Within the Chapel there was an altar, dedicated to S. Barbara, a Saint peculiarly associated with fortifications and walled towns like Winchelsea. The house received numerous benefactions, but, with the Black Friars, was surrendered to the King in December, 1538. The site was afterwards held by George Clyfford and Michael Welbore, who used the house as a farmhouse and the chapel as a barn. After various vicissitudes the property was sold in 1819, under a decree of the Court of Chancery, and the house, with the chapel and other appurtenances, was purchased by the late Richard Stileman, Esq., who pulled down the old house, and erected the present mansion. The estate still remains in his family. The Choir of the Chapel of the Virgin is still standing. "The best aspect is from the corner where the chained (Indian) eagle sits. Shadowing trees, chequer walls, and window arches, and the flower beds in front, are very pretty." Portugal laurels here grow to an enormous size, and, together with the ancient fig-tree, are probably contemporary with the Friars themselves. The choir arch, 26 feet in diameter, "is very original in character, and has a slightly horse-shoe appearance. A string of much bolder profile terminates the internal sill of the windows, and returns round the triple shaft, to which it forms an anule, giving a fortuitous and unstudied character to the design." The Custom-house Officers formerly maintained a look-out above the chancel arch. But to all readers of "Denis Duval" "the Friars" will ever be memorable as having been the abode of "Agnes," and of the notorious brothers Weston, who lived here in great splendour [under the names of Watson and Johnson], committing meanwhile numerous highway robberies. They robbed the Bristol mail of some £10,000 in January, 1780, for which they were hanged at Tyburn on September 3rd, 1782. In the face of the

cliff are the ruins of a summer-house, which is said to have been formerly used as a "smuggler's lighthouse." A light shewn from it would be visible at sea whilst unseen in the town. When "tubs" were shared the clergy were not forgotten. "It was two for the parson and two for the clerk." The ruins are open to the public on Mondays, by the courtesy of the owner, Major R. C. Stileman, J.P., on whose land two bronze celts were recently (1901), discovered. They are evidently pre-Roman, and prove the occupation of Winchelsea as a dwelling place for at least 2,000 years. Several masses of carbonate of copper were found with them, probably imported for the manufacture of bronze weapons. Winchelsea town is of no mean antiquity.

"Monday's Market" tells of bygone trade; Great and Little Gallows Hill speak of "Justice and executions as usual;" Ships used to lie at Pewes' Pond: the King's Green has been an open space for six centuries; and rabbits still play in the Coney Field.

St. John's Hospital

stood at the north-eastern corner of the thirty-fourth quarter, at the junction of the present roads leading to Icklesham and Pett. The gable end of the building is still standing. This hospital was for both brethren and sisters, and had, at its dissolution, a house and ten acres of arable land within the town: and also rents payable out of some houses in Great Yarmouth. Swinden, in his History of Yarmouth, suggests that the first founders of Great Yarmouth were portsmen, and for several centuries afterwards came and resided there, became seised of lands and tenements, and at their deaths, in memory of the place from whence they came, bequeathed some portion thereof to their countrymen. Among the annual rents payable to the Cinque Ports out of lands and tenements in Great Yarmouth from time immemorial was one to the Hospital of St. John of Winchelsea.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital was situated in the thirty-ninth quarter at the extreme south of the town, and close to the New Gate, but no traces of it are now visible. The two seem to have been united before the time of Philip

THE FRIARS, WINCHELSEA.

and Mary, and they existed after the dissolution of the religious houses.

Of the Preceptory of St. Anthony, nothing is known, except its seal, found in the town, on which St. Anthony is figured, followed by his emblem, a pig.

The New Gate.

We go on through fields, away from any house, until the road drops down towards a valley, and you find yourself before an ivy-clad ruin, once a gateway of the town. This is the New Gate which was opened by treachery to the French in 1380. Turner has painted it in the "Liber Studiorum." Mr. Inderwick says: "On a green spot beyond the city wall, a short distance from the gate, rose the Holy Rood of Winchelsea. Land travellers making for the only entrance that would admit them from the road, could see the holy emblem long before they arrived at the porticullissed gate, and it was equally visible from the ships that lay in the inner harbour. It faced to the south and its shadow fell in the morning on the water, and in the evening on the town. The house of the Holy Cross overlooked it, and two holy Friars, living near the New Gate, had it in charge."

The Corporation.

The Officers appointed by the Corporation are, or should be, a Mayor, twelve Jurats, Town Clerk, Chamberlain, Sergeant-at-Mace, Town Sergeant, Water Bailiff, Gaoler, Six constables, and a Pound-driver. The Mayor is elected annually, on Easter Monday, from the Freemen, at what is called a Hundred Court, by the Mayor, Jurats, and Freemen; and all the other officers are appointed annually on the same day as the Mayor. In former years the mode of summoning all assemblies was by blowing a horn. The horn-blower took a very prominent part in the entrance into Yarmouth of the Bailiffs from the Cinque Ports, to regulate the herring fishery. In the record of the proceedings in 1833, when no Mayor was elected, it is expressly stated that the Corporation were duly warned, according to ancient custom, by sounding the horn at the break of day. And many years since, when a riot occurred at Hastings,

and the gaol was broken open by the fishermen to release their wives and children imprisoned for selling fish at their accustomed place, the Stade, the men were assembled by blowing the horn along the Stade. The silver maces date from the 15th and 16th centuries, and there is a small sergeant's mace, or "Silver Oar." The Mayor's Silver Seal is of the 14th century, and the Common Seal of Winchelsea is extremely handsome and curious.

The earliest documents connected with the Corporation which have been discovered are two highly-interesting rolls of the accounts of the town, preserved among the Dering MSS., the first being from Easter, 1388, to Easter, 1389, and the second from Easter, 1399, to Easter, 1400.

For a full account of these most interesting documents, and of the Winchelsea Corporation Seal, we refer our readers to the admirable History of Winchelsea, by W. D. Cooper, Esq.

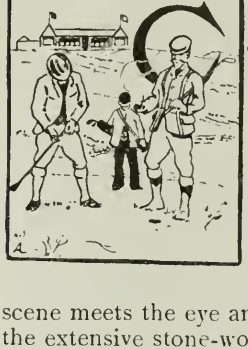
Parliamentary.

The right of returning Members to Parliament was first exercised by Winchelsea at the same time as by the Cinque Ports, in the reign of Edward III. The persons then and for the next two centuries elected, were the principal inhabitants of the town, but strangers were by degrees introduced, being admitted to their freedom for this purpose only. The Lord Warden claimed the right of nominating one Member. Subsequently, the representation fell completely into the hands of the Treasury, and ultimately into those of a patron. The right of election was in the Mayor, Jurats, and Freemen; but for the patron's purposes the number of Freemen was reduced so low that in 1792 the number of legal voters was only three, and in 1832 it was only nine. Winchelsea contests were expensive luxuries. Colonel Draper once spent £11,000, and failed to win the seat from his more wealthy opponent, Sir John Banks. In 1790, the patronage became the property of Richard Barwell, Esq., and the Earl of Darlington. The latter afterwards purchased Mr. Barwell's interest, and was the patron when the Reform Act of 1832 disfranchised the town. The town is now included in the Eastern, or Rye, Division of the County of Sussex.

Not half of Winchelsea's story have we told, but enough for the nonce. We leave the old town, the ancient plan of which has been adopted as a book plate by Miss Ellen Terry, firmly believing the old tradition, that he who has once drunk at St. Leonard's well, beneath the old Castle. will never leave Winchelsea in spirit though he may in body, Of Winchelsea, as of Winchester, with which there is ever and anon postal confusion, it may with truth be said: "No English city has a nobler record in the past, or a life more peaceful in our rushing, hasteful, age. There it is still given, to those who have the wisdom to know it, to dwell in peace; and there let us hope it may still be said with truth, that: 'They also serve who only stand and wait.'"

As a true poet sings—

"You never cease
To feel the peace,
That lingers round the old sweet place,
Others may win,
Hustle and din,
Hurrying on in the world's rough stream,
Leave it alone,
When all is done,
Winchelsea ever will dream and dream."



Camber-on-Sea.

This rising suburb of the "ancient town" of Rye is destined to enjoy a very bright future. Brought into close contract with the borough by means of the steam tramway, it has gained an importance which would altogether surprise bygone generations. On detraining, a busy scene meets the eye among the shipping in the port, while the extensive stone-work is a most alluring, if not over-safe, promenade, the Rye Trade Association having generously placed a couple of seats thereon for the accommodation of visitors. The concrete blocks for the Admiralty Pier at Dover were made on the west side of Rye Harbour. During the summer months bathing is freely indulged in on the sands to the eastward, and the hundreds of pleasure seekers roam at will over the rugged sand-dunes skirting the coast. These mounds were originally formed by the planting of esparto grass, which rapidly spread, and proved a successful sea defence, also preventing the loose sand from injuring the great tracts of valuable pasture land in Romney Marsh. The keddle-net fishing is also a great source of attraction, extraordinarily large takes of mackerel frequently being made in the summer months.

But Camber-on-Sea stands out pre-eminently as the *locale* of one of the best Golf Links in England; its unique natural advantages having been fully utilised in the making of the 18-holes course, covering 6,450 yards. The greens are kept in excellent order, large sums having continually been spent in their improvement since the formation of the Club in 1894. Its first captain was Mr. H. S. Colt (now Secretary of Sunningdale Golf Club) who was also Hon. Secretary for some years. Play for the Monthly Medal is always remarkably keen, in addition to which a number of valuable trophies are competed for periodically, the Easter, Whitsuntide, and August Meetings invariably bringing together a large "field." The following are the leading

GOLF CLUB HOUSE, CAMBER.

events: The Club Gold Medal (Scratch), played for at Easter. Colt Medal Challenge, with Memento (under handicap), presented by H. S. Colt, and played for at Whitsuntide and Autumn Meetings. Rye Challenge Plate, with Silver Memento, presented by the Rye Trade Association, for best two scores of four, returned at Easter, Whitsuntide, Autumn, and Christmas Meetings (under handicap). Silver Challenge Cleek and Memento, presented by T. H. Oyler and others, and played for quarterly, under handicap, against bogey. The Scott Gold Medal for best scratch score at the Autumn Meeting. Monthly Medal, played for on first Saturday in each month, under handicap. Dormy House Cup, presented by Dormy House Club; Single Tournament Competition, under handicap, played for at Whitsuntide and Christmas. The Club is entirely composed of independent and professional gentlemen, and is reputed to be one of the most exclusive in the kingdom. There are at present about 500 members, in addition to a considerable lady membership.

For many years the late F. A. Inderwick, Esq., K.C., was the popular President of the Club, and to his exertions much of the success of the Club is attributable. He was succeeded in the Presidency by Lord Collins of Kensington, the present Captain being J. Oldrid Scott, Esq.

Capt. R. Dacre Vincent is the able and courteous Hon. Secretary, to whom all communications should be addressed "Rye Golf Club, Rye."

We give an illustration of the Golf Club House, which commands a fine view of the links and Rye Bay, and is most conveniently fitted up.

In connection with the Club, a commodious family residence, near the Land Gateway, has been purchased and converted into a first-class Private Club, known as the "Dormy House," elegantly furnished and appointed in the most modern style.

Is also easily accessible by the Rye and Camber Tramways. The principal merchandise brought to the port consists of coal from the various North Sea and Welsh Ports, quartzite and other stone from the Channel Islands, and timber from Norway and Sweden. A considerable number of coasting barges and colliers hail from Rye, and these are frequently reinforced by craft chartered by local merchants. A fleet of upwards of forty fishing ketches and smacks, of varying tonnage, also sail from the port, but a tidal harbour being inconvenient for the landing of their catches, fish is, as a rule, comparatively scarce in the neighbourhood. The Harbour is governed by a Commission upwards of forty in number, of which Mr. J. Adams (the publisher of this work) is Chairman. During the last century the tide has receded to no inconsiderable extent, hence the erection on the east side of a lengthy stonework, which has already been extended on three occasions, "seaward" being still the motto of the Commissioners. Lying so closely to the French coast, it is a matter of surprise to many that the harbour has not ere this been acquired by some of the large Railway Companies as a base for continental traffic.

The hamlet on the western side of Rye Harbour has been inhabited largely by members of the same families for many generations. It is in the parish of Icklesham, and had a chapel-of-ease which, up to 1905, was annexed to the living of that parish. In the latter year, however, a new ecclesiastical district, for Rye Harbour, Camber, and Broomhill, was formed, the Rev. W. Montagu Manning, M.A., being the first resident clergyman. The Church, which was erected in 1852, has already been restored, and a scheme has been formulated for its enlargement. Donations towards this purpose are earnestly solicited, and may

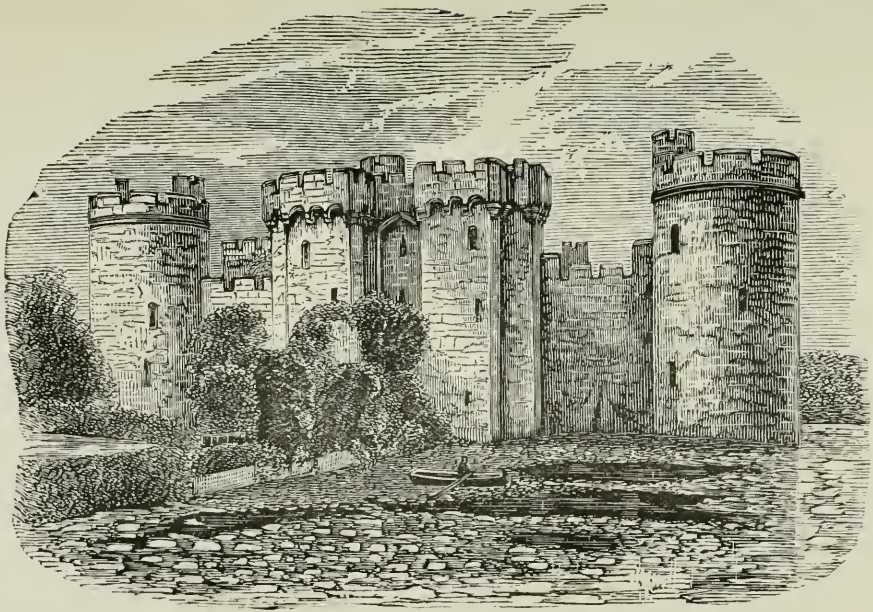
be forwarded to Mr. Manning. Mrs. W. Lucas-Shadwell, of Fairlight, has, at her own cost, generously built a Parsonage House, and, through the liberality of the same lady, a comfortable Reading Room is open practically free for the use of the residents. Occasionally, out-door services have been held for the "blessing of the fishery," the Lord Bishop of the Diocese having personally conducted the service in the autumn of 1900. The South-Eastern Railway Company has a loop-line between Rye and the harbour, and this has recently been extended to the western foreshore, from whence beach is daily consigned to Dover, and there utilised in the construction of the Harbour Extension Works. Elliott's Patent Stone Works also cover a considerable area at the harbour, the specialities of the firm, particularly paving-stones, kerbing, and piping, being in large requisition from all parts of the kingdom. Midway between the town and the harbour are Messrs. Forbes, Abbott, & Lennard's Chemical Works, where the occult science of manufacturing chemists is carried on. Rye Harbour now has an abundant supply of water, of excellent quality, from the borough of Rye; and an efficient system of drainage is in contemplation.

Bodiam Castle.

BODIAM is a parish in the eastern part of the county of Sussex, on the borders of Kent, distant about eleven miles from Rye, from which place it is approached by a very pretty drive through the parishes of Playden, Peasmarsh, Beckley, and Northiam; and, in the summer, a motor-boat plies between Scotsfloat, near Rye, and Bodiam. The church of St. Giles stands in a commanding position, and consists of a western tower, nave, north and south aisles, and chancel. The body of the church is in the Decorated style, the chancel Early English, with a Perpendicular three-light window at the east end. The living is a vicarage, in the gift of the Trustees of S. Cubitt, Esq.

The stately ruins of the castle are situate a few minutes' walk from the village, in the midst of charming scenery. It was built by Sir Edward Dalyngrudge, early in the reign of Richard II., on the manor which he had become possessed of through his wife Elizabeth. At the death of Sir Edward, the castle and manor passed into the hands of his son, Sir John Dalyngrudge, and he, dying without issue, they were held in dower by his widow, and afterwards by marriage came into the possession of Sir Thomas Lewknor, in whose possession they remained until the civil wars. After the Restoration, it passed into the hands of Sir Nathaniel Powell; Mr. Fuller, of Rose Hill; and subsequently to George Cubitt, Esq., since created Lord Ashcome, the present owner.

The site of the castle forms nearly a square, with a round tower at each angle, and midway between these on each side is a square tower, with the exception of the north side, in which is the gateway, or grand entrance, flanked by a square tower on either side, and approached by a causeway. About 60 feet from the gateway are the remains of a barbican, and the groundwork of a drawbridge, which landed on a pier of masonry. The castle is surrounded by a moat of so considerable an extent as to assume the appearance of a small lake. The distance from the shores to the castle walls east and west is about 120 feet, and 110



BODIAM CASTLE.

feet north and south, the average depth being about seven feet. Over the entrance gate are three escutcheons of arms, being those of Bodyam (first possessor of the manor), Dalyngrudge and Wardeaux, and above these a helmet and crest of a unicorn's head. The gate, which is recessed between the towers, was defended by a portcullis, a deep machicolation, and a door plated with iron, opening into a vaulted passage, thirty feet in length, and ten feet wide, divided by an arch, which was defended by a second portcullis, and forming two strong chambers, the ceilings of which were groined, and had funnel-shaped perforations instead of bosses or rosettes, at each intersection of the ribs, for the purpose of pouring down powdered quicklime, or, perhaps, for thrusting down poles to stop a rush should portcullis and door be forced or destroyed. Similar apertures exist in the gateway of the inner ward of the Tower of London, known as the "Bloody Tower." On the right hand side of this passage is a narrow arched doorway leading to the basement of the square tower, which is eleven feet by ten from wall to wall, and is lighted by narrow loop-holes, and has two storeys of chambers over with fireplaces. Another doorway on the left leads to the interior of the tower on that side, which is very similar to the one already described. The court-yard measures 89 feet from north to south, and 76 feet from east to west. On the southern side, and directly opposite to the entrance gateway, is a square tower, which was defended by a portcullis and groined ceiling, perforated in the manner before described. This tower contained three storeys of chambers, each with a fireplace, and a stone staircase communicating with the chambers and battlements above. The summit is machicolated, as is the postern, or south gate, and has likewise three escutcheons over the portal, the middle one of which appears to have been carved with armorial bearings, placed diagonally under a helmet and lambrequin, with a crest of a goat's head, bearing a chevron, charged with roses. These are of Sir Robert Knollys, K.G., the leader and patron of Sir Edward Dalyngrudge, who, it is thought, placed them there out of compliment to his former chief. Outside the postern, or south gate, is a place for landing the drawbridge, which communicated with a pier of masonry

still remaining on the opposite bank of the moat.

On the south-east, between the postern, or south gate, and the round tower, was the hall, 38 feet in length and 23 feet in width, the situation of the high table being indicated by a large and lofty transome window, while at the lower end of the hall was a screen with two or more doorways, above which was the minstrels' gallery. The south-eastern round tower, like all the others, is hexagonal within, and contained three storeys of chambers with fireplaces, recesses, and loop-hole windows. The basement had a groined ceiling, and there is a fragment of a newel stair serving all floors from cellar to rampart walk remains in south-east angle of courtyard, probably the principal staircase of the Castle. The chapel was near the north-eastern tower. The large east window has long been despoiled of its painted glass, and is now picturesquely shaded with ivy. A stone screen, perforated with three arches, formed the communication between the hall and the offices, one of which led to the kitchen. On the west side, in the centre, was the great bake-house. The space between the hall and the kitchen appears to have been divided into apartments for the household, and the west side was probably appropriated to store rooms, and also contained chambers for the accommodation of the residents, with stabling for horses.

The Castle was dismantled in 1643 by the Parliamentary forces under Sir William Waller. The lead was stripped from the roofs and sold, and the shell left to go to ruin.

The walls of the Castle are thickly clad with ivy, which gives it a very picturesque appearance, while the courtyard is covered with a beautiful green sward, on which, during the summer months, picnic and dancing parties are frequently seen, it being the resort of numerous visitors, to whom, through the kindness of the proprietor, the castle is always accessible (except on Sundays), on payment of a small fee to the keeper. At the top of the meadow opposite the entrance gate a remarkable echo is to be obtained, which is well worthy the notice of the visitor.

Northiam.

IN the journey to or from Bodiam Castle, the visitor will be well repaid by a short sojourn at this charming village, which possesses several points of historic interest. The lord of the manor is Edward Frewen, Esq., of Brickwall House, a timber-framed edifice, only one half of which remains. Queen Elizabeth dined there in 1573, and again in 1574, on one her progresses *en route* from Sir John Guldeford's at Hempstead to Rye. On her first visit, the Queen changed her shoes. The pair she took off, having been begged from her attendants, are still preserved at Brickwall. The Frewen family have gained something more than a mere local reputation. The "Carriers," an old farmhouse, now in ruins, is the supposed birthplace of Archbishop (Accepted) Frewen, son of John Frewen, rector of Northiam. The future archbishop was born in 1568, and proceeded from the Free School at Canterbury to Oxford University. He visited Germany in 1621, as chaplain to Lord Digby, the Ambassador from James I. to the Emperor Ferdinand, and in the following year preached before Prince Charles, afterwards Charles I., at Madrid, and subsequently continued to be his favourite. He was twice Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, and was installed as Dean of Gloucester. During the Cival Wars he was an ardent Royalist, and contributed largely towards the expenses of the war. The Officers of the Commonwealth were charged to apprehend him, but he managed to elude their vigilance, and his estate escaped forfeiture through a mistake in his christian name. He was nominated to the See of Lichfield and Coventry in the year 1643, and after the Restoration, to the See of York. His death occurred in 1664, and he was interred in York Minster, where a handsome monument was erected to his memory. Brickwall was formerly the residence of the family of White, under whom the Archbishop's father is thought to have been a tenant. It was restored and enlarged towards the end of Elizabeth's reign, and in 1666 the house and estate were purchased by Stephen Frewen, Alderman of London, and it has since remained in his family. The family are

descended from Richard Frewen, one of the bailiffs of Worcestershire in 1473. Thankful, the Brother of Accepted Frewen, was secretary to Lord Keeper Coventry. Sir Edward Frewen, in 1685, built, at a considerable expense, the present drawing-room, and employed artists to execute the ceiling and great staircase after the French fashion. After the death of his grandson, the mansion was for many years neglected and suffered to fall into decay, by the preference shown by its owners for their seats in Yorkshire and Leicestershire, but for about half-a-century it has been the chief seat of the family, Edward Frewen, Esq., being the present occupier.

The other remarkable houses in the parish are Dixter, by which name the manor is called, and a large old farm-house called Tufton Place, which originally belonged to the Tuftons, Earls of Thanet, who for several centuries resided chiefly at Northiam. The Dixter family is also mentioned in connection with Northiam as far back as 1296.

Northiam Church

Is dedicated to St. Mary, and traces of Early English, Decorated, and Perpendicular styles are observable. The lower part of the tower is Early Norman, but is overlaid with later work. The chancel was re-built and enlarged in 1837. The living is a rectory, and held by the Rev. J. O. Lord, in whose hands the presentation rests, having originally belonged to the College of St. Mary-in-the-Castle, Hastings, passing to Sir Andrew Bourne at the distribution of the monasteries in the reign of Henry VII. On the north-west side of the Church is the mausoleum of the Frewen family, erected in the Gothic style in 1846, under a peculiar faculty exempting it from ecclesiastical jurisdiction. The exterior is decorated with escutcheons of different members of the family, carved in stone, and they are again represented in the stained glass window which lights the interior. A Latin inscription in early characters in freise, above the shields round the exterior of the building, sets forth that the innermost vault under the building was excavated by Stephen Frewen, in the

reign of Charles II.; the external and larger vault by Thomas Frewen in 1739; and the chancel by Thomas Frewen, in 1846. Several family monuments, which at the time of the enlargement of the Church were removed from the chancel, are placed in the mausoleum. In the Church are several monuments and brasses, one of the latter representing a priest in full canonicals entreating, in Old English letters, the prayers of the faithful for the repose of his soul. There are also several inscriptions of the members of the Frewen family who were Rectors of the Church. The Church-house is a building of Henry VIII.'s reign, and was purchased by the Rector, Rev. John Frewen, in 1592.

Near the south-west corner of the churchyard stands a fine old oak, under the shade of which Queen Elizabeth stopped for refreshments on her journey to Rye in 1573.

Parishes within easy distance of Rye.

BREDE.

THIS village, which is about 7½ miles distant from Rye, is built upon the slope of a steep acclivity, and is surrounded by fertile hills and valleys. Brede Place, now in the occupation of Moreton Frewen, Esq., is the remains of a quadrangular house enclosing a central courtyard, of the time of Henry VIII., with alterations *temp.* Elizabeth. The older portions are of stone; later of brick. Only one side remains, but the foundations are traceable. Sir Goddard Oxenbridge caused considerable alterations to be made in this mansion in 1530, employing some French workmen, whose handwork is still to seen in the large hall and one room near it. In former times there were many superstitious tales relative to one of this family known as Giant Oxenbridge, which are often told to visitors to this old mansion. Brede Church, one of the oldest in Sussex, dedicated to St. George, consists of nave, side-aisles, and three chancels, one of which belonged to the Oxenbridge family, and is easily distinguished from the others by the architecture being much more elegant. Sir Goddard Oxenbridge, also employed foreign workmen in repairing and enlarging the church; the decorated doorway, &c., are still interesting. A large monument to his memory (date 1537) in Caen stone, is worthy of notice. It consists of an altar tomb, upon which lies a knight in plate armour, his head resting on his helmet, and his feet on a lion. On the floor of the chancel is a brass inscribed in Latin to Robert Oxenbridge, Esq. (1487) and Anne his wife (1492). The male figure has been torn off, leaving only the legs; the female figure is perfect. There is another brass to two daughters of Robert Oxenbridge. At the east end of the south aisle is a very beautiful Flamboyant window, of three lights. This style is very unusual in England, but, curiously enough, there are remains of similar windows of three lights in the

PARISH CHURCH OF S. GEORGE, BREDE.

Augustinian Friary at Rye. The tracery, however, is not pure Flamboyant, which is a French style, but more like that of Perpendicular, with which it corresponds as to period in England.

Dean Swift's cradle is also exhibited. This was presented to the Rector by a relation (who had come into its possession at a sale of "curios") and was by him presented to the Church. There is nothing curious about the workmanship or shape of the cradle, its interest lying mainly in its connection with the infancy of the author of "Gulliver's Travels." Swift was born in 1607, and experts say the cradle is at least 250 years old.

Visitors to Brede Church should look at a glass case in the Church wall containing the old pitch-pipe, used in the Church (before the introduction of an organ) for starting the Psalm tunes; and should examine a handsome oak register chest, the panels of Dutch workmanship, and of considerable age.

This Church is in an excellent state of preservation, thanks to the present Rector (the Rev. G. E. Frewer, M.A.) The register dates from 1559. There are several old houses of interest in this locality. The Chitcomb estate was for about 400 years vested in the Coleman family. Upon a part of this estate iron furnaces existed, and cannon balls, &c., were made, specimens of which are still to be seen. There is a Wesleyan Chapel and Day School, which is leased free of charge to the parish, also a splendid Club Room, all of which were built by the late Messrs. Horace and Carlos Coleman, and presented to the Wesleyan Methodist Connection. The room is also used as a Sunday School.

BECKLEY.

A parish 6½ miles west-north-west from Rye. The river Rother bounds this parish on the north, and is the dividing line between Sussex and Kent. The church of All Saints consists of chancel, nave, aisles, and a small tower, with spire containing six bells, and has been restored. The register dates from the year 1597.

GUESTLING.

A village about eight miles from Rye by way of Icklesham, consisting principally of numerous detached residences. The Old Church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, was remarkable for its deformity. It was a transitional Norman building, surmounted by a low spire, and was destroyed by fire in 1891, the present one being erected on the site of the former. The church possessed a monument to John Cheney, with his effigy in armour; and another with the figure of a woman, praying at a desk, bearing the date 1603, and a few others to the Ashburnham family. At a short distance from the church is an extensive rookery. Broomham, a large stone mansion, surrounded by an extensive park, in which are some stately avenues of trees, is said to have been in the possession of the Ashburnham family since the days of Edward IV. There are almshouses for two persons, founded by Lady Elizabeth Cheney, with an amount of £9 8s. 10d. yearly, derived from land and money in the funds. The Endowed School by the road-side is a neat little building; it contains a dwelling for master and mistress, who receive £82 per annum from moneys left by Mr. Bradshaw, in 1734. The same gentleman also left £10 for medical attendance for the poor. Fletcher's gift of 30s. is also distributed among the poor. The register dates from 1686.

IDEN.

This is a parish about two miles from Rye. The church is in the Perpendicular style, dedicated to All Saints, built of stone, with chancel, nave, aisles, and a tower containing six bells. Only the moat now remains of the old Mansion of La Mote, which Edward I., in 1318, granted Edmund de Passeley license to fortify. The register dates from the year 1559. £5 is distributed yearly from Smith's charity, bequeathed to Peasmarsh chiefly.

ICKLESHAM.

This is a village about five miles from Rye and two miles from Winchelsea. The fine church, which is

PARISH CHURCH OF S. NICHOLAS, ICKLESHAM.

worth careful inspection, is dedicated to St. Nicholas. The original Church was one of the common Saxon and Early Norman type, and considerable additions were made in the second and third quarters of the twelfth century. The Rev. Grevile M. Livett, F.S.A., in vol. 48 of the Sussex Archæological Collections, says: "This Church is a gem of many hues," and we regret we have not sufficient space to describe its numerous architectural beauties. Extensive repairs were carried out between the years 1847 and 1852 under the supervision of Mr. S. S. Tuelon.

PETT.

A village about six miles from Rye. The road to Pett from Winchelsea forms one of the prettiest drives in this locality. A modern church, dedicated to Saints Mary and Peter, is pleasantly situated by the roadside. It was built in 1864, upon the site of a more ancient structure, which was by no means remarkable for its beauty. The register dates from 1612. An extensive panoramic view is obtained from Cliff End—a growingly-popular rendezvous—across the level to the Folkestone heights. Some petrified trees, in good state of preservation, have at various times been dug up in many parts of Pett, supposed to have been overwhelmed by the sea in the great storm of 1250, when Old Winchelsea was partly destroyed.

PLAYDEN.

Situate from Rye about three-quarters of a mile, is the village of Playden. The Church of St. Michael is an old and interesting edifice, built in the Early English style of architecture, consisting of chancel, nave, aisles, and a tower and spire, the position of the latter giving it a peculiar appearance. In the north aisle will be found an incised slab commemorating a Flemish brewer of the 15th century, with barrels, mash stick, and fork: "Hier is begrave Cornelius Zoetmans bidt vorde Zide." The living is a discharged rectory, annexed to that of East

Guldeford. The register of baptisms and burials dates from 1716. This Church has been restored to something like its original style, and has an Organ which was for many years in Rye Church. There is an endowment of £4 5s. yearly for the parish clerk.

PEASMARSH.

A village 3 miles north-west from Rye, and on the London Road. "The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul," writes the Rev. Grevile M. Livett, F.S.A., in vol. 47 of the Sussex Archæological Collections, "is picturesquely situated among the trees on top of a hill that rises abruptly to the south of the village to a height of 200 feet above the sea level. It is not mentioned in *Domesday*, but that it existed at the time of survey or soon after seems proved by the very early character of its chancel-arch. This is one of the few early-Norman chancel-arches that have proved strong enough to carry for 800 years and more the superincumbent weight of gable-wall and roof, and have been suffered to remain in spite of the exigencies of mediæval ritual and the havoc of modern ignorance. . . . . The Church is worth a visit, if only for the purpose of gazing upon this old bit of masonry, with its rough dark voussoirs, its wide joints, its square jambs and long moulded imposts, and its irregularity of form."

ROMNEY MARSH.

From East (or Hilder's) Cliff, Rye, a magnificent view may be obtained of Romney Marsh, otherwise known as Ingoldsby's "fifth quarter of the globe," one of the finest pastoral tracts in the kingdom. The district is not so sparsely populated as would appear at first sight. The roads leading to the various parishes are in fairly good condition, much affected by motorists and cyclists from Folkestone, Dover, and other south-eastern coast towns. For commercial purposes, the district is usually approached by rail from Appledore Station Junction. The first station between Appledore and Lydd is at Brookland, where there

PARISH CHURCH OF S. MICHAEL, PLAYDEN.

is an ancient Church, with an extraordinary octagonal detached wooden belfry on the north side, resembling three superposed extinguishers. The font, bearing the signs of the zodiac, is of lead, and Norman. Lydd was for many years governed by an Unreformed Corporation, which was abolished with many others of a similar nature, at the instance of a Royal Commission appointed through the instrumentality of Sir Charles Dilke. The borough was subsequently granted a Charter of Incorporation, and is now ruled by a Mayor and Town Council. Its Church possesses that unusual feature in a Parish Church, of a double western door. Tenterden has another, and there are but three others in all England (Edington, Wilts.; Lynn St. Nicholas, Norfolk; Higham Ferrers, in Northants). For some years past Lydd has had a permanent military camp, and many experiments with ordnance, &c., are conducted over the extensive Holmstone Range. "Lyddite," the much-discussed explosive, takes its name from the borough. There is a branch railway line from Lydd to Dungeness, near which the ill-fated "Northfleet" foundered, after collision, with such a great sacrifice of life, on January 28th, 1873. The railway station almost adjoins the lighthouse, which, together with the elaborate fog signals, are not always successful in warning ships of the dangers of this exposed point. About three miles eastward from Lydd is the New Romney and Littlestone terminus. New Romney is one of the ancient Cinque Ports, and received its Charter of Incorporation under like circumstances to Lydd. The Corporation possesses many valuable archives, and at the Town Hall are deposited the Charters, Books, Writings, and Papers of the Cinque Ports (see the "Indexes of the Great White Book and the Black Book of the Cinque Ports," published in 1905, to be obtained of Messrs. Adams & Son, Rye). The Church of St. Nicholas is well worth a visit. Between the borough and the foreshore is the town of Littlestone, famous for its Golf Links. Littlestone has not yet fulfilled the expectations of its founders; although there are a number of good-class residences along the front line.

UDIMORE.

This parish is situate from Rye about four miles, and is bounded on the South by Brede channel. The Church of St. Mary is a very interesting edifice, consisting of a chancel, nave, and tower. The chancel is a good type of plain solid Early English work. An aumbry in the north and piscina in the south wall remain, as well as a reliquary or aumbry immediately below the centre lancet in the east window. On the south side of the nave, in the wall, the arches and piers of an early arcade are visible both on the inside and the outside. This was evidently walled up in the 15th century, for a two-light window of that date remains, in almost perfect condition, in the blocked-up portion with very good contemporary stained glass in the heads of both lights. The jambs of another window, of similar date, also remain; and there is a small niche, blocked up with plaster, over the south door. On the north side of the nave are two blocked-up openings with rounded arches; and high up in the wall what is apparently a walled-up Early English window. A large and unsightly buttress has been placed against the tower on the west side, there evidently having been a settlement in the foundations: this it is proposed to remove, if ever sufficient funds for the complete repair of the tower should be forthcoming. In the tower are three bells (two, alas! cracked), with the following inscriptions on the first and third:—1st, "Joseph Hatch made me. 1635. of Ulcome in Kent nr Bromfield." 2nd. *nil.* 3rd. "Josephus Hatch me fecit T.F.R.E.C.W.O. 1635." The O represents a medallion bearing 3 bells and the initials J.H. The living is a discharged vicarage, and was formerly held by the Rev. G. E. Frewer, also Rector of Brede. Up to the time of his induction, this Church was in a most dilapidated state, and is now being gradually restored. Mr. Frewer was succeeded by the Rev. H. L. Williamson, who further restored the Church. The restored north windows of the nave have recently been freed of debt under the present Rector, the Rev. H. A. Bowden. In or near the churchyard are some fine trees, noticeably the huge old ash, and some quaint inscriptions, viz.: "Here lies the only darling boy, Who was his

PARISH CHURCH OF S. MARY, UDIMORE.

father's and his mother's joy, To them a good child he did prove, Kind, tenderly, they did him love," &c. Close by is Court Lodge, now, unfortunately, allowed to go to ruin, where Queen Elizabeth once stayed, and on the site of William of Etchingham's house, to which Edward I. frequently resorted, and from which he issued a Commission for the custody and defence of the sea coast of Kent and Sussex, and where Edward III. stayed after his victory over the Spaniards. The Church Gate House, and the old Parsonage, near the Post Office and Mill, are in the Elizabethan style. Here is also a neat Wesleyan Chapel, the gift of the late Messrs. Horace and Carlos Coleman.

WITTERSHAM.

A village on the borders of Kent, 5 miles north from Rye, and 5 miles south from Tenterden. It lies high, and with the parishes of Stone and Ebony, is surrounded by the river Rother, its branches forming the Isle of Oxney. The church of St. John the Baptist is a fine structure in the Decorated style, consisting of chancel, nave, and aisles. A late Perpendicular West Tower, built in 1509, contains late transition, Early English, and Decorated work. The chancel was re-built and beautified by a former rector, Rev. E. R. Nares; there is some good stained glass, and the choir stalls are of carved oak. The register dates from the year 1550, but there is an earlier book, said to be "very old and illegible." Bishop Porteous was once Rector of this parish. The church has recently been restored. In the early part of this century, J. Greenland, of Beckingham, left £700 in trust, the interest of which is given in bread, and £100 is invested in addition to provide remuneration for two persons from Tenterden to audit the accounts. Mr. Norman Forbes-Robertson has a charming residence near "The Stocks," on the main thoroughfare; and the Right Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P. (ex-Colonial Secretary) has purchased the Rectory and grounds. About mid-way between Wittersham and Tenterden, at Smallhythe Ferry, are the picturesque dwellings of Miss Ellen Terry and Miss Ailsa Craig.

PARISH CHURCH OF S. MARY, NORTHIAM.

PARISH CHURCH OF S. JOHN THE BAPTIST, WITTERSHAM.

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Any Size or Shape made to order.

Can be seen erected on application.

H. J. GASSON, RYE. SUSSEX.

EDWIN FINN & SONS,

Pale Ale - -

- Brewers,

BOTTLED BEER MERCHANTS,

— AND —

Aerated Water Manufacturers,

LYDD, KENT.

Bottled Beer can be obtained by the Dozen.

Agent for RYE and District :—

E. F. BROWN,

Office and Stores :—

Wish Street, RYE.

Under Distinguished Patronage.

Henry Ashbee & Son,

Family Butchers,

HIGH STREET & EAST STREET,

RYE.

H. Ashbee & Son exercise the greatest care in the purchase of none but first-class Animals by the best Breeders; and their Establishment has, for many years, enjoyed the reputation of being the leading house in the neighbourhood.

HIGH-CLASS MEAT ONLY.

Scotch Beef. Welsh & Southdown Mutton.

Families waited on Daily for Orders.

The Railway Hotel,

RYE

— (*Adjoining Railway Approach*). —

FAMILY and COMMERCIAL.

. GOOD STABLING. .

Wines & Spirits of the Finest Quality.

CIGARS A SPECIALITY.

Proprietor - - E. G. BANISTER.

C. FLETCHER & SON,

The Mint, RYE.

Artists' Colourmen,

- GILDERS, -

Picture Frame Makers,

AND

HOUSE DECORATORS.

If you would like a suitable Souvenir of your Visit to our Grand Old Town, call and see our

STOCK OF LOCAL VIEWS

- In Oil and Water, -

ALSO SOME HIGH-CLASS ETCHINGS.

PRICE LIST of Good Strong

GARDEN NETTING

Small Mesh, Oiled, and Dressed.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
100yds. long, 1yd. wide	0	4	0	100yds. long, 6yds. wide	1	4	0
,, ,, 2yds. ,,	0	8	0	,, ,, 7yds. ,,	1	8	0
,, ,, 3yds. ,,	0	12	0	,, ,, 8yds. ,,	1	12	0
,, ,, 4yds. ,,	0	16	0	,, ,, 9yds. ,,	1	16	0
,, ,, 5yds. ,,	1	0	0				

This Netting can be sent any length or width required.

If desired a Cheaper kind can be supplied.

RICK COVERS

Quite New. All Sizes.

6 by 6 yards, ***£1 7s.***; 7 by 6 yards, ***£1 11s. 6d.***; 8 by 8 yards, ***£2 8s.***; 10 by 10 yards, ***£3 15s***, or any size to order at ***9d.*** per square yard.

Good Hemp Rope Fitted.

Great quantity in stock ready to be dispatched on receipt of order.

CARRIAGE PAID.

To Gardeners, Fruiterers, and others.

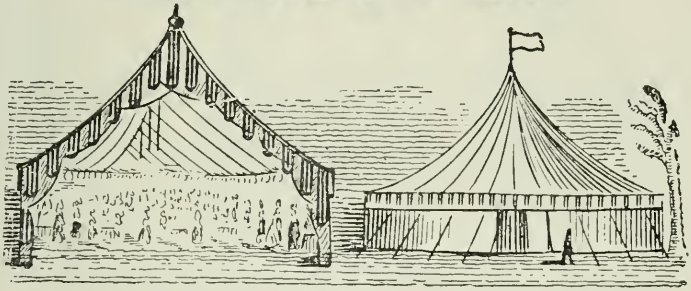
Large Quantity of **Soft Yarn** for Tying, also **Strips of Canvas** for Training purposes. Very useful in Gardens. Any of the above, **3d.** per lb. Giving great satisfaction.

HENRY J. GASSON,

Government Contractor,

RYE, SUSSEX.

MARQUEES.



	£	s.	d.
12ft. by 8ft., with 6 wall poles	1	15	0
14ft. by 9ft.	3	10	0
28ft. by 14ft.	6	10	0
30ft. by 16ft., complete with 12 wall poles ...	7	10	0
50ft. by 16ft. ,, 25 ,, ...	14	0	0
50ft. by 20ft. ,, 30 ,, ...	18	0	0
90ft. by 16ft. ,, 50 ,, ...	28	0	0

Any size Marquee or Tent made to order.

As supplied to the London County Council.

Suitable for Floricultural and Agricultural Shows.

TO SEAT 10 UP TO 500 PEOPLE. SALE OR ON HIRE.
ESTIMATES FREE.

Town Hall, Fulham, S.W., 14th October, 1902.

Dear Sir,

King's Dinner and Royal Visit to Fulham Park.

I have very great pleasure in confirming the genera satisfaction that was felt at the arrangements you made for covering with awnings or tents the 14,000 persons who assembled at Fulham Park, on July 5th, 1902, as guests to His Majesty the King, to partake of his generous hospitality.

Allow me also to personally thank you and your sons for your individual efforts on this occasion.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. H. J. Gasson,
High Street, Rye, Sussex.

FRANCIS WOOD,
Borough Surveyor.

Any of the above Marquees can be erected on application.

H. J. GASSON, RYE, Sussex.

AUCTIONEERS,

Land, House & Estate Agents,

SURVEYORS

Valuations made of Farming Stock, Tenants' and Landlords' Rights and Effects, Land and House Property, Timber, Underwood, and other kinds of Property, also for Probate,

— BY —

REEVE & FINN

— F.S.I., —

High Street, Rye, Sussex,

. . . AND . . .

HIGH STREET, LYDD, KENT.

ESTABLISHED IN 1821.

TRUELOVE & CARDEN,

The Up-to-Date Drapers,

The Rye Millinery Establishment, 5, High Street.

MILLINERY.

Special attention given to this Department. The newest styles shown throughout the Season. Daily deliveries of Novelties from the London and Continental Markets.

Children's Outfitting in Hats, Bonnets, Walking Costumes, &c.

NOTED HOUSE for GLOVES, HOSIERY, and the CELEBRATED C.B. CORSETS.

5, High Street, RYE (and at Gravesend).

ESTABLISHED 1865.

W. T. SMITH & SON,

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Auctioneers, Valuers,

HOUSE and ESTATE AGENTS

(Sole Agents for many of the most desirable Properties in the District)

Issue a MONTHLY REGISTER of

Houses, Estates,

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To be LET or SOLD,

Which may be had on application, or will be forwarded by post on receipt of stamp.

Valuations for Probate and Administration, also of Tenant Right, Timber, &c.

ESTATES MANAGED. RENTS COLLECTED.

Insurances of every description effected.

Sale Room—105, High Street, RYE.

Offices { *12, High Street, RYE.* *and at TENTERDEN.*

Noted House for Best Waterford Bacon and Cheddar Cheese. .

FRANK JARRETT,

Family Grocer and Provision Merchant,

92, HIGH STREET, and at MARKET STREET, RYE.

Teas and Coffees of the Finest Quality

Selected by Competent Judges.

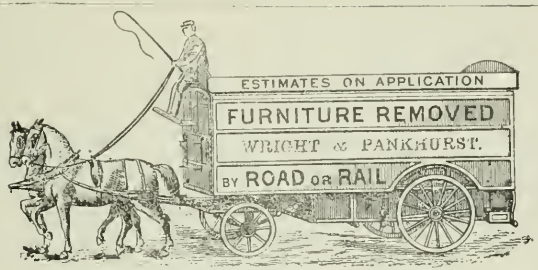
A GOOD ASSORTMENT OF YORK HAMS,
STILTON AND GORGONZOLA CHEESE.
IN STOCK.

AGENT FOR
W. & A. Gilbey's Wines and Spirits.
ASK FOR LIST.

SHIPPING SUPPLIED.

Postal Address—Cinque Ports Street, Rye.

Telegraphic Address—"Wright, Rye." Telephone—No. 32, Rye.



Wright & Pankhurst

(Late I. WRIGHT),

AGENTS & CARRIERS to the S.E. & C. RAILWAY COMPANY,

The Furniture Repository, RYE.

FURNITURE STORED in Dry and Well-Ventilated Rooms.

Estimates given for Removal of Furniture to any part of the Kingdom or Continent.

Cartage Contractors by Horse or Steam Power.

Conveyances of every Description on Hire.

Corn, Coal, and Forage Merchants.

Hearses and Mourning Coaches.

Sussex Rustic Ware.

THE RYE ART POTTERY.

Quaint and Artistic Designs.

The old Sussex Pig is a Special Feature in this Ware.

The Sussex Pig, or Hog, with the expressive motto, "Wun't be Druv," was originally used at Weddings in this County, to serve for accomplishing the fulfilment of a piece of Sussex wit. The head is removable, and the snout being flat, it can do duty as a mug, from which the bride and bridegroom and the guests can, without over much indulgence, drink a "hogshead of beer." It can also be adapted for Cigars, &c., the head making a convenient ash tray.

☞ **It should be noted that each piece of this Pottery is marked "Rye" under the glaze.**

Sole Manufacturer—

FREDERICK MITCHELL,

SHOWROOM and WORKS, FERRY ROAD, RYE.

Chapman Brothers,

LIMITED,

RYE,

The oldest-established

Wine Merchant's Business

in the Town doing a

HIGH-CLASS TRADE.

Offices—101, HIGH STREET.

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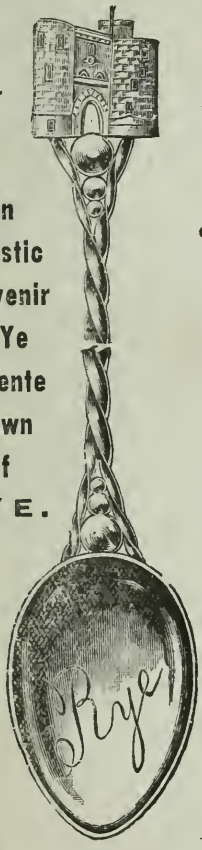
ESTIMATES FREE.

Materials of the Best Quality Used, and Satisfaction Guaranteed.

RYE LANDGATE T(
Sterling Silver
Souvenir Spoons.

Price **10/-** Only.



An Artistic Souvenir of Ye Antiente Town of RYE.

10/- Sterling Silver Souvenir Spoon, exact design as above, mounted with perfect model of Landgate Tower, RYE, beautifully finished Gilt Bowl. **Price 8/6; in Case complete, 10/-, post free.**

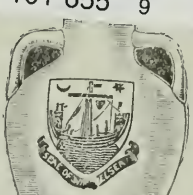
THESE

GOSS = CHINA

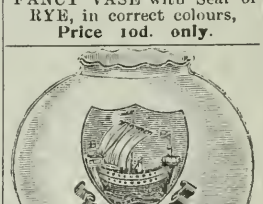
Souvenirs

Are made in the following styles:—

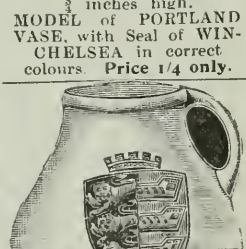
Tankards, 1/-
Vases, 1/2
Cream Jugs, 1/-
Bottles, 1/4
Mugs, 1/-
Match Stands, 1/2.
Tea Cups, 1/6.
Candlesticks, 1/4
Ink Pots, 1/4
Sugar Bowls, 1/4
Teapots, 7/-
Fern Pots, 2/-
Baccy Jars, 3/-
Pin Boxes, 1/4
Saucers, 1/6
&c., &c.



1½ inches high. FANCY VASE with Seal of RYE, in correct colours, **Price 10d. only.**



⅝ inches high. MODEL of PORTLAND VASE, with Seal of WINCHELSEA in correct colours. **Price 1/4 only.**



MODEL of JUG, with the WINCHELSEA Seal in correct colours. **Price 10d., 1/-, 1/2, and 1/4.**

CALL AND INSPECT OUR STOCK AT HIGH STREET, RYE.

MASTERS, Ltd., High Street, RYE, Sussex.

DON'T SUFFER from **Eczema, Scurvy, Itch, Chilblains, Chapped Hands, Nettle Rash, Ringworm,** or any **Skin Eruptions,** but try **HORRELL'S No. 567 SOOTHING OINTMENT.** Gives instant relief. A wonderful remedy which no family should be without. 7½d., 1/1½ 2/9, post free. **H. HORRELL, Rye, Sussex.**

DON'T SUFFER from **Eczema, Scurvy, Itch, Chilblains, Chapped Hands, Nettle Rash, Ringworm,** or any **Skin Eruptions,** but try **HORRELL'S No. 567 SOOTHING OINTMENT.** Gives instant relief. A wonderful remedy which no family should be without. 7½d., 1/1½, 2/9, post free. **H. HORRELL, Rye, Sussex.**

DON'T SUFFER from **Eczema, Scurvy, Itch, Chilblains, Chapped Hands, Nettle Rash, Ringworm,** or any **Skin Eruptions,** but try **HORRELL'S No. 567 SOOTHING OINTMENT.** Gives instant relief. A wonderful remedy which no family should be without. 7½d., 1/1½ 2/9, post free. **H. HORRELL, Rye, Sussex.**

NOTE increase in size of

HORRELL'S SOOTHING OINTM

The 13½d. size now contains FOUR ti the quantity of the 7½d. size.

A FREE SAMPLE given to anyone who has not tried this valuable Ointment.

H. HORRELL, M.P.S.,

Dispensing and Manufacturing Chemist

(WHOLESALE AND RETAIL),

RYE, SUSSEX.