

A HISTORY OF THE  
BOROUGH AND  
TOWN OF CALNE



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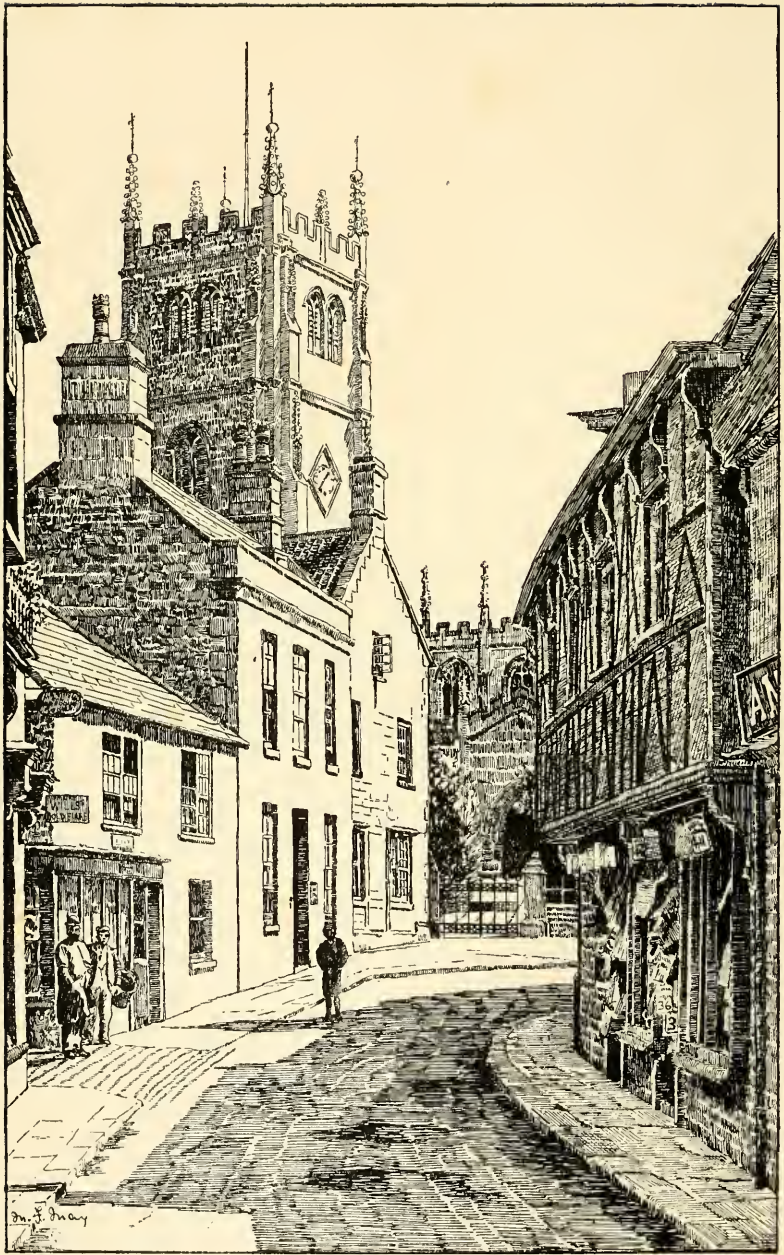
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A HISTORY OF THE  
BOROUGH AND . . .  
TOWN OF CALNE








*Frontispiece.*

STREET ARCHITECTURE, CALNE.  
(THE OLD BUTCHER ROW.)

A HISTORY OF THE  
BOROUGH AND   
TOWN OF CALNE

AND SOME ACCOUNT OF THE  
VILLAGES, ETC., IN ITS VICINITY

BY A. E. W. MARSH .  
F.R.HIST.SOC.

With an Introduction by the . . .  
REV. E. H. GODDARD, M.A.  
Editor of the *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, etc. .

And Notes on the Architecture of Calne Church,  
Lacock Abbey, Bradenstoke Priory, etc., by . . .  
HAROLD BRAKSPEAR, F.S.A.

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TO  
THE REV. E. H. GODDARD, M.A.

AS A  
TOKEN OF GRATITUDE  
FOR MANY KINDNESSES

THIS BOOK IS  
INSCRIBED

*Autograph - 10.00*



## PREFACE.

THIS volume has been written in response to a request made to me several years ago that I would prepare a book dealing with the history, etc., of Calne and the neighbourhood. It was obviously impossible within the number of pages suggested to dwell at great length upon all the places proposed to be included; but it certainly appeared desirable that at least one of them should be treated fairly exhaustively. Which that should be was easily decided, and the account of Calne, therefore, has been made as complete as the records of its history that appear to be extant will allow. The villages and places in the neighbourhood, with certain exceptions, have been dealt with in a more superficial manner, but the chief features have all been included, and enough has been said regarding them to show how rich the locality is in memorials of men and times that have passed away.

The labour that this volume has entailed has been great, but the toil has been lightened and the way made very pleasant by the willing help I have received from those to whom an appeal for assistance has been made. Indeed, but for this help the book would have been impossible; and to

*all*, therefore, who have in any way aided me I here tender my sincere thanks.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to the Rev. E. H. Goddard, M.A., for so kindly consenting to write an Introduction to the volume ; to Mr. Harold Brakspear, F.S.A., for yielding to my appeal that he would contribute some Notes on the architecture of Calne Church, illustrated by an historical ground plan, and on certain of the ecclesiastical buildings near Calne ; to Mr. Cecil Simpson, late editor of *Wiltshire Notes and Queries*, and to the Rev. Canon Mayo, M.A., author of "The Municipal Records of Shaftesbury," etc., etc., for much valuable advice and assistance ; to the Rev. Canon Duncan, M.A., and Mr. G. I. Gough, Town Clerk of Calne, for their courteous loan of or permission to examine, and their generous help in making extracts from, the documents, etc., in their possession ; and to Mr. Thomas Harris and Mr. Henry George Harris for so kindly helping forward in various ways the object I had in view.

I have also to thank the Mayor and Corporation of Calne for granting me free access to the borough records ; the Assistants at the Record Office and the British Museum for aid in searching the Rolls, etc. ; the Board of Agriculture for authority to make use of the Ordnance Survey Map of Wilts ; and Mr. B. Ingelow, F.R.I.B.A., for the loan of architectural drawings of Calne Church before the alterations of 1864 and permission to make use of the plan in illustration.

A. E. W. M.

## INTRODUCTION.

THE distinguishing characteristic of Wiltshire as a county is unquestionably its Downs. Indeed, it would probably be safe to say that a large number of people who have never been in the county themselves have heard of the "Wiltshire Downs," and perhaps of very little else connected with it; and in this case the popular imagination is right. The Downs are the root and origin of the history of Wiltshire.

Now he who would study the past history of any district, with the antiquities and remains which are the visible evidences of it, must know something also of the geological formation of that district. For the water supply, the conformation of the country, and the nature of the soil, are all dependent on the geological formation of any given district; and these three natural features are in their turn the foundations on which the history of that district from the earliest times is built.

The sites of existing towns and villages have in a very large number of cases been determined by the convenience of the water supply; and if a map of Wiltshire is studied it will be seen that throughout the Down country, both in the north and south of the county, the villages follow the lines on which the springs break out. That is to say, they are all in the deep valleys which intersect the higher chalk downs, or else along the fringes of the high land which, broken only by the wide vale of Pewsey, occupies all the centre and south of the county. The reason for their being

so placed lies in the fact that the rain which falls on the chalk area percolates through it down to the upper greensand and the Gault clay which lie below it, and being unable to penetrate the clay, breaks out in the form of springs wherever the greensand is exposed : that is to say, either in the deeper chalk valleys or along the bold escarpment which runs northwards from Roundaway, above Devizes, by Calstone, Cherhill, Compton Bassett, and Highway, and turns eastwards at Cliffe Pypard, and so by Barbury and Liddington to Berkshire and the White Horse at Uffington. It is this bold and abrupt escarpment which forms so marked a feature in the scenery of central North Wilts. Up to this point the chalk, which probably once covered a great part of England, has been entirely carried away, leaving the beds which lie below it—the lower greensand, the Kimmeridge and Oxford clays, and the various rocks of the oolites—to form the hills and valleys which lie to the west and north of the chalk district of Wilts.

Of these formations the lower greensand with its abundance of ironstone is the cause of the forest character which still distinguishes the sandy district of Spye Park, Bowood and Sandy Lane, and the cause also of the Roman station of Verlucio at Wans, where the ironstone and the wood to smelt it with occur conveniently at the same spot. The stiff blue Kimmeridge clay, again, is the floor of the flat country which lies between the chalk heights of Compton, Highway and Cliffe Pypard, and the opposite heights which form the ridge—so conspicuous from the main line of the Great Western Railway—on which Bremhill, Bradenstoke, Tockenham and Wootton Bassett are placed, a ridge which by its many fossil corals gives evidence of the coral reef which once existed here in the oolitic sea, as the claylands on either side of it, the Kimmeridge clay to the east and the Oxford clay below it to the west in the Chippenham valley, are the remnants of the mud flats of the great estuary

on which lived the saurians, the gigantic fish lizards of the old world, whose mighty bones astonish us now as they are found from time to time in the brickyard or the railway cutting. The names that these clay lands still bear—"Calne Marsh," "The Marshes," etc.—tell us what their condition was in early and mediæval times, and indeed almost up to our own day, and explain why the signs of early occupation and civilisation in this district are found almost exclusively upon the chalk heights and not on the grass lands below them.

In the early days, in the Bronze Age, and in the times of the Romans, much of the lower country was covered with forest and morass, so that the inhabitants were forced to form their settlements on the high and open country of the Downs, from which they descended to pasture their flocks and to hunt the red deer and the wild boar in what was then the wild forest country below. Moreover, the absence of water on the chalk downs was probably then not so marked as it is now; for the gradual destruction of the forests has undoubtedly diminished the rainfall over the whole country, and so caused the lowering of the springs, which in Roman and prehistoric days doubtless flowed in many spots where there is no sign of water now. This at least is certain: that the Romano-British villages, the remains of which prove that they were inhabited by a peaceful rural population of herdsmen and hunters for hundreds of years during the Roman occupation, and in many cases probably for long years both before and after that period, were as a rule placed on the highest points of the Downs, points which seem to us both inaccessible and uninhabitable, often miles away from any village of historic times. And their remains too prove that the Britons who inhabited these unfortified villages, at least in Roman times, were very far from being savages. They had their flocks and herds—their oxen, their horses, their

sheep and dogs and pigs—though all their animals were of much smaller breeds than those which now find favour with our farmers. They warmed their homes in many cases with furnaces and flues under the floors ; their women and their children wore rings and bracelets and enamelled brooches ; and those who were fond of oysters found a good deal less difficulty, judging from the abundance of the shells found at almost every village site, in getting them from the sea coast than we do at the present time.

And what is true of Roman times is true to some extent also of the times before them, the Ages of Iron and of Bronze and of Stone, whose records are lost in the mists of antiquity. The people of those days too lived on the highlands, but their life could have known but little of the security which the *Pax Romana*, when once it had been imposed upon the tribes, gave even to the poorest villages in Britain. Then there was doubtless the constant fear of raids and invasions from hostile tribes ; and the great line of camps which everywhere mark the line of the chalk escarpment overlooking the grass lands and forest lands below—such as Battlesbury and Scratchbury over Warminster, Bratton over Westbury, Oldbury at Cherhill, and Barbury and Liddington away to the north-east—mark the tribal places of refuge, occupying commanding sites, from which a wide view over the surrounding country could be obtained, and danger signals could be made to the tribesmen hunting or pasturing their flocks in the valley below. They were, in fact, fortified places of refuge large enough to hold both the people and their cattle when any sudden danger threatened, rather than places of permanent abode. As such they were no doubt subsequently occupied at times by Romans and Saxons and Danes, but their origin must in most cases be sought in the days of the Bronze Age, long before Cæsar set foot on the shores of Britain ; when the men who very possibly



built Stonehenge and Avebury, and who certainly buried their dead in the round barrows which still stand so conspicuously on the Downs, gave to Wiltshire a more important place amongst the districts of Britain than it has ever occupied since those far distant days.

In historical times Wiltshire can hardly be said ever to have stood quite in the front rank of the counties of England. She cannot claim to compete with Somerset or Devon, with Kent or Yorkshire, in the fulness of their records or the greatness of their mediæval remains; but in prehistoric days it is hardly to be doubted that the Bronze Age men of Wilts took precedence over those of Yorkshire and of Devon, and even of Kent, in their wealth, their civilisation and their power. The gold ornaments, the finely made bronze daggers and knives, from the barrows on Salisbury Plain are unequalled in the barrows of the wolds of Yorkshire and the moors of Devon. Among the rude stone monuments of Britain, there is nothing in the least worthy to stand by Stonehenge, or Avebury as it once was.

But in the Roman era the modern condition of things had its beginning. The forests and morasses were pierced by the Roman roads and gradually cleared, until in the later Roman and Saxon days the sites of habitation were transferred from the highlands of the Downs to the lower country, where they have ever since remained.

Of the earlier Pagan Saxon days we have but few remains in this district—an interment, with iron spearhead and knife, here and there, and that is all—but of the later Christian times we are fortunate in the preservation of the extremely interesting clerestory windows at Avebury, and possibly of a fragment at Bremhill. Of the wonderful outbreak of church-building in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries we, in this district of North Wilts, have abundant evidences. There are few churches hereabouts that have not some Transitional or Early English work in them

On the other hand, there is but little work of the fourteenth century to be found in the county at all, though the Hall at Bradenstoke Priory is a notable exception. The great churches, of which so many were built in Oxfordshire at that date, find no counterpart in this county; but the fifteenth century found men hereabouts, as everywhere else in England, busy once again in the building and alteration of their churches. The thirteenth-century churches were everywhere partly or wholly rebuilt. The smaller windows of that date gave place to the large three-light Perpendicular windows, suited for the display of the magnificent stained glass which was so much sought after about that period. The western towers were everywhere built or rebuilt in the prevailing style, so that many of the church towers of this neighbourhood—Heddington, Cliffe Pypard, Broad Hinton, Winterbourne Bassett and Avebury, for instance—might very well have been built by the same masons from slightly modified plans. Externally, indeed, our churches bear the impress of the fifteenth century almost exclusively. It is not until you get inside them that you find the earlier work remaining in the nave arcades.

We have none of the magnificent cathedral-like churches which the fifteenth century produced so abundantly in the east of England. Our towers are poor and mean compared with those of Somerset; our woodwork could never have stood comparison with that of Devon. But our churches, though not large, retain the impress of many centuries and many different styles. We have stone screens, rare elsewhere in England, in Hilmarton and Highway and Compton Bassett—the latter one of the finest existing examples; and the curious ambulatories leading from the north aisle to the chancel at Bremhill, at Hilmarton and at Avebury, which seem to be found so seldom elsewhere.

In domestic architecture the county, as a whole, is very rich. A few houses of the fourteenth, a good many of

the fifteenth, and a very large number of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries still exist ; but they are chiefly in the districts where good building-stone abounds—about Trowbridge and Bradford and Malmesbury and on the western and northern borders.

The mediæval and ecclesiastical antiquities of North Wilts—the houses, the churches, the monastic buildings, such as Lacock and Bradenstoke—are largely out of the Down districts ; the prehistoric antiquities are almost wholly in that district ; and he who wishes to study both can hardly find a better centre than Calne—within three miles of Wansdyke and six of Avebury—where, too, if he be a geologist, he may study the outcrop of half a dozen distinct formations within as many miles ; and if he be a botanist, may revel in the varying flora of the chalk downs, the slopes and woods of the sand, the flat meadows of the clays, and the drier uplands of the coral rag ; and, if he is fortunate and knows where to look for it, may find at least one flower—*Carduus tuberosus*, the tuberous-rooted thistle—hardly to be found elsewhere in England.

E. H. GODDARD.



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PART I.

*CALNE.*



## ERRATA.

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page 7, line 11. For Thomas Chevonre *read* Thomas Chevoure  
,, 19, ,, 30. ,, Milton ,, Wilton  
,, 21, ,, 19. ,, altra ,, ultra  
,, 311, ,, 4. ,, Calcomb ,, Catcomb  
,, 321, ,, 27. ,, patræ ,, patera





## CHAPTER I.

### Topographical Sketch of Calne.

AT the foot of Morgan's Hill, one of the north-western heights of the Marlborough Downs whereon Morgan's gibbet once swung and clanked as a warning to evil-doers, there is a small but altogether delightful combe well known to those of the neighbourhood who love a quiet hour alone with Nature. Deep in the wooded recesses of this combe is the source of the Calne or Marden, a little river which, with many a twist and turn round the base of wooded hills and across the rich grass flats, runs a ten-mile course that ends in the Bristol Avon, a short distance above Chippenham.

On the banks of this river, about three miles from its source, stands the town of Calne. To the little stream about which its houses are grouped Calne no doubt largely owes its existence; and it was to it that, as the remains of the old cloth mills lining the banks still testify, the whole district owed much of the trade and importance it enjoyed during the centuries when cloth-making was the staple industry of Wilts. But another fact that possibly influenced the original founders of Calne in their decision to make this the site of their

settlement, was the existence of the double circle of hills that girt the place about as with a titanic inner and outer rampart, and promised some protection both from sudden surprise and unkindly winds.<sup>1</sup>



LODGE ENTRANCE TO ONE OF THE BOWOOD DRIVES.

<sup>1</sup> The outer and higher of these ramparts commences in the north-east with a steep escarpment of the Marlborough Downs, which sweeping irregularly round to the south divides the Calne valley from Devizes and the Pewsey vale and ends in a precipitous hill called Oliver's Castle. From this point round to the north-west the circle is continued by the hill country of Pewsham forest, in or near which stand the remains of Lacock and Stanley Abbeys and the present mansions of Bowood and Spye Park; and it is completed in the north by the long wooded ridge that rising suddenly from the Avon valley stretches eastwards to Bradenstoke and Wootton Bassett. The inner rampart begins in the south, near the hamlet of Quemerford, with a long hill that curves gradually round to the west, and bears on its summit the vestiges of what until the troublous times of the great Civil War was the moated manor-house of the Blakes. On the other side of the river this hill is faced by Castle Hill, forming the southern corner of the wide plateau that, with the gradual fall towards the east, runs round the whole of the northern part of the town. Beyond the plateau is the long Penn Hill; and separated from it by the Abberd valley is The Low, a flat-topped eminence to the east of the town that, connected by a series of lynchets on its lower south-western slopes with the hill first mentioned, completes the inner circle.

At what date Calne was founded is not known. As will be shown later, it first appears in history about the year 955; but from the manner in which it is then mentioned, it may be concluded that this year did not see its foundation. Neither can it be said with certainty who were its first founders; but it is probable that these were the surplus population of some primitive village community, who, wandering from the parent homesteads literally in search of "fresh woods and pastures new," found this to be a desirable site for a new settlement. Of the appearance of this primitive Calne we know nothing definite; in all probability it was merely a cluster of wattle huts smeared inside and out with mud or clay, and grouped about the common hall between the river and the common fields from which the inhabitants derived their sustenance.

The Calne of to-day is a long, narrow, irregular town with a population of about 3500,<sup>1</sup> most of whom, either directly or indirectly, are supported by the industry<sup>2</sup> founded about the middle of last century by the enterprise of the Harris family. Charles Lamb, writing<sup>3</sup> about 1820, calls it "sweet Calne in Wiltshire." When he penned these words he probably had in mind its appearance from The Low.<sup>4</sup> From this position the town, distant a little under a mile, seems to lie like a half-closed gate barring the mouth of the Abberd valley. To right and left of the houses are rounded hill-tops, and

<sup>1</sup> 3456 in the Census Returns for 1901.

<sup>2</sup> See Chapter IX.

<sup>3</sup> Essay on Christ's Hospital.

<sup>4</sup> A corruption of the Saxon *hlaw*. This word denotes a place of burial, but there is no record that any remains have been discovered here. It should be noted, however, that an eighteenth-century writer on Wiltshire claimed that in the neighbourhood of Quemerford (A.-S. Cynemæresford) was fought the battle mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle as taking place between Æthelmund, Ealdorman of Mercia, and Weoxtan, Ealdorman of Wilts. Aubrey,

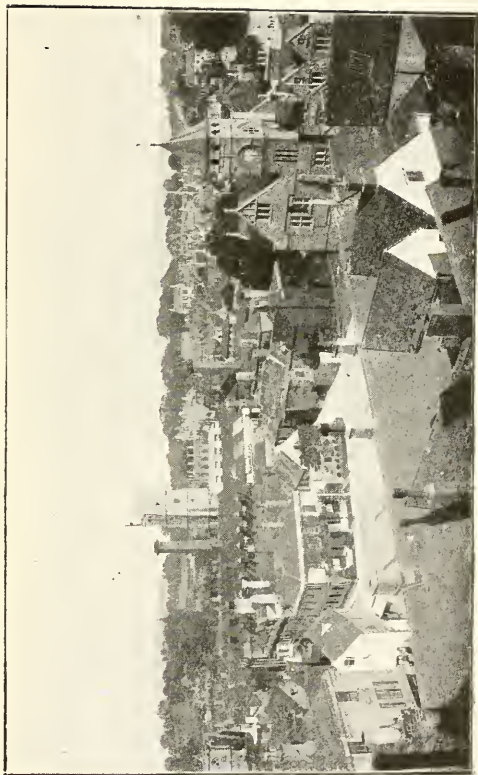
behind and forming a charming background to them is the densely-wooded country of the once noted Pewsham forest. Between the top of the hill and the town the ground, sloping downwards in a succession of rich pastures, is thickly dotted with trees ; and through and over the tops of these are obtained glimpses of red brick and redder tile, yellow-grey stone, brown thatch and blue-grey slate ; and over all, dominating all the human hive, there rises from the centre the high square tower of the parish church. Seen from the inside, however, it must be admitted that a first glance would not cause a stranger to think very highly of the town, and this probably is the reason that several writers have referred to it in terms not altogether flattering. A writer in the *European Magazine* for 1798, for instance, in a set of doggerel verses descriptive of a journey from London to the west, calls it "ugly Calne."<sup>1</sup> Hartley Coleridge, too, at about the same period that Charles Lamb knew the place, spoke disparagingly of it. He, however, conceded that it possessed a beauty in its irregularity, and in this particular we cannot but agree with him ; for fifteenth-century houses are side by side with twentieth-century, large houses are neighboured by small. With few exceptions the older houses are built of a coarse

too, appears to advance such a claim. See Jackson's "Aubrey," p. 37.

It may perhaps prevent a wrong conclusion being drawn at some future time if it is stated here that the peculiar grass-covered mounds and depressions now seen on one part of The Low are due to sand-digging operations carried out about the middle of last century.

<sup>1</sup> "To ugly Calne we came at last,  
And without broken bones ;  
How pleasant was the way we pass'd,  
'Twixt two high walls of stones !

"And as we through the town did ride  
It gave me great delight  
To see the houses lean aside,  
And striped black and white."



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF CALNE.

[*facing p. 4*]



freestone quarried from the bed of coral rag<sup>1</sup> whereon the town principally stands; the more modern are many of them built of a red brick obtained from the clay of Calne Marsh. In their distribution the houses are as lacking in uniformity as they are in their structure. To the south they are scanty in number, and, except in one long street which runs northwards and downwards towards the centre of the town, they either stand singly or in little groups in patches of garden ground. Round the church and the open space close to it they are more numerous and packed closer together, but the bulk lies in a confused mass on the high ground to the north-west and north. The streets are as delightfully irregular as the buildings that compose them. A few are fairly wide, most are narrow. There are streets in the form of a bow, others that are serpentine, but not one that is straight.

At Calne, as at most other towns that can boast a history, some of the streets and districts, from their historical associations, are of more than common interest. Almost at the foot of the church tower, for instance, is the narrow, winding, low-lying Mill Street,<sup>2</sup> now composed of a congeries of little houses, principally of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Near its northern end is the old Church House which for centuries was the seat of the borough government, and which has known the presence of the great John Pym and has been the scene of many exciting incidents in the borough history. Not far from it is the flight of steps from the top of which, in Elizabethan and Stuart days, were first<sup>3</sup> read all Royal proclamations, the reading heralded by beat of the town drum. Beyond the steps lies the site

<sup>1</sup> This bed is famous for its fossil remains of Echinidæ, etc.

<sup>2</sup> So called from the water-mill which stands in it, and which occupies the site whereon, in all probability, a mill has stood since Domesday.

<sup>3</sup> Second and third readings took place successively from the town bridge and the centre of the Square.

of the old rectory (now occupied by the vicarage) wherein St. Edmund of Canterbury was residing in 1234, when he received the news of his selection for the Archbishopric of Canterbury ;<sup>1</sup> and it was down this street he was carried in triumph to the church by the monks, to whom, after much solicitation, he had mournfully given his assent to the nomination. Close to the vicarage is the piece of land<sup>2</sup> once called the "Anchor," where, until it was suppressed about the middle of the last century, annually on Easter Monday was held the saturnalia known as the "Anchor Revel," and where, apparently, in 1610 Thomas Gryffin, a shoemaker of the town, "beinge destitute of a howse to dwell in, and havinge a wief and fower poore children," was allowed by the Quarter Sessions to build a house without regard being paid to the Act 31 Eliz., c. 7, which required four acres of land to be attached to each.<sup>3</sup>

If tradition<sup>4</sup> is to be believed, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries Mill Street was the "Via Dolorosa" of the town; for through it, to a hurried burial in the triangular piece of ground opposite the vicarage, were borne the bodies of those swept away in visitations of the plague.<sup>5</sup> It has always been Mill Street, too, which has suffered most when the river, belying the name<sup>6</sup> given to it by Drayton in his "Poly-Olbion," written in the time of James I., has with sudden swiftness become transformed into a rushing roaring torrent, which, overleaping

<sup>1</sup> See Chap. X.

<sup>2</sup> Some years ago the land was purchased by Mr. Thomas Harris, who, after laying it out as a public recreation-ground, presented it to the town.

<sup>3</sup> See "Report on MSS. in Various Collections" (Rolls Series), vol. i., p. 81.

<sup>4</sup> The tradition appears to receive confirmation from the fact that about seventy years ago the ground was found to contain a large number of human skeletons lying in unconnected and confused heaps.

<sup>5</sup> See Chap. VII.

<sup>6</sup> "The gentle Calne."



its banks, has inundated all the low-lying parts of the town.<sup>1</sup>

Scarcely less interesting, historically, is the Green, a triangular open space not far from the church. Here it was that in former days the maypole was set up, and young men and maidens, old men and matrons, kept the feast of May Day, and "Robyn Whode and hys merrie menne" performed their allotted parts in the day's festivities. Here, too, we believe, were kept the Church Ales at Pentecost, and here possibly, in the twenty-fifth year of Henry VIII., "Thos. Coote and Thomas Chevonre beyng kynge and prynce this yere ffor the churche is pfynt,"<sup>2</sup> collected the xxs. which the church gratefully acknowledges. The Green fair was also held on this open space; and so, too, were the backsword contests that a hundred years ago brought competitors from all the surrounding counties, and often evoked such a strong partisan feeling that broken heads were not confined to the rivals on the stage.

The Green appears to have belonged to the church of Calne in Saxon days, and it formed one of the appurtenances which, with the church itself, were in 1115 granted by Henry I. *in prebendam* to the cathedral church of Sarum.<sup>3</sup> It continued church property until the purchase of the whole prebendal manor by the Marquess of Lansdowne some time in the last century. Not only did it belong to the

<sup>1</sup> At times, but fortunately at intervals of many years, these floods are most disastrous. On Nov. 20th, 1725, for instance, according to a contemporary writer, the "waters [rose] so suddenly, and so high, that the whole town was justly alarmed by them; a great many goods were spoiled, and two men drowned in the very streets in the sight of their neighbours, who durst not assist them, the current was so deep and strong." Again, on Friday, Oct. 24th, 1882, all the lower town was converted into a seething lake. The damage caused was very great, but no lives were lost. In Nov. 1894 two floods occurred with only a day's interval between.

<sup>2</sup> See extracts from church registers, Appendix E, p. 369.

<sup>3</sup> See Chap. II.

church, but it seems, from architectural remains discovered when St. Mary's School was built, to have been the site of at least one religious building. The remains included three small stone arches, believed by one who saw them to be Early English. Possibly these formed part of the vanished St. Andrew's Chapel, on the north side of which, according to the cartulary of Stanley Abbey, stood the house of William the Weaver. Some support is given to this supposition by the fact that until recent times practically all this side of the Green was composed of little weaving-shops. On the other hand, there is an entry in the church



A BIT OF CALNE GREEN.

register, which, if it refers to the *chapel* of St. Andrew, would seem to show that this was a part of the fabric of the church.<sup>1</sup>

During the centuries that the staple trade of Calne was cloth-making, the Green was the centre of the industry, and several of the old cloth and fulling mills still remain, but now diverted to other uses. At this time, too, it contained quite a number of alehouses and "bush"-houses; but all save one have disappeared.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See extracts from church registers.

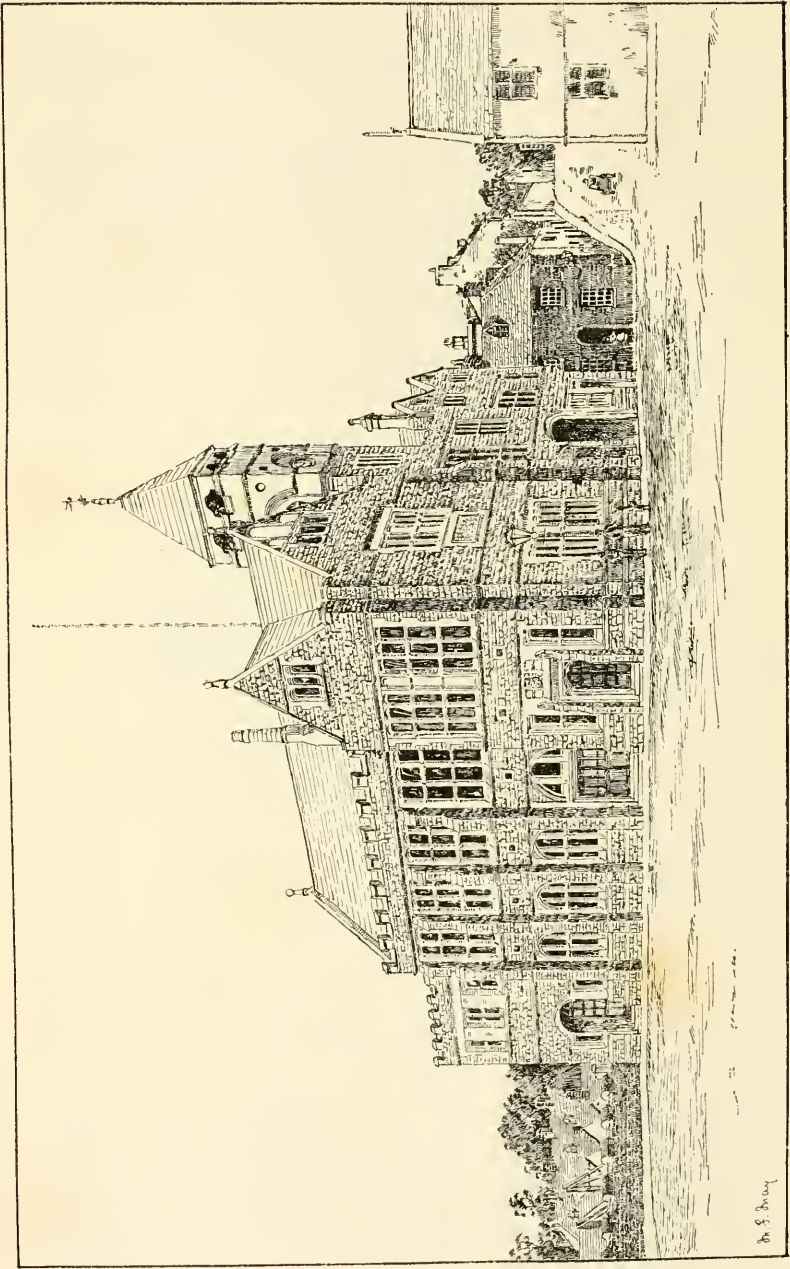
<sup>2</sup> In 1612 the constables of Calne pressed the justices to abolish some of the alehouses in the town, and to order that the strength of the ale should be reduced; "otherwise," said they, "this sinne of drunkenness

It is now the educational centre of the town, no less than five of the schools being located in the surrounding buildings.

The Strand, an open space occupying the centre of the town, is chiefly memorable as being the scene of the weekly market, which for some centuries assisted to make Calne a thriving town. Until within recent years the river ran openly across it, dividing the market-place into two parts. The means of communication between the two was then a narrow bridge that hugged the houses on the east side, and the repair and occasional rebuilding of which appear from the old records to have absorbed a good portion of the borough income. It was on this bridge that in former times persons ordered to be whipped round or out of the town were tied to the cart's tail for the execution of the sentence.

At the south end of the Strand formerly stood the water-mill belonging to the lord of the hundred or lay manor of Calne, that is mentioned in all the inquisitions *post mortem* relating to the property. Its site is now occupied by the new Town Hall. Associated with the mill in many of the documents relating to the manor, and standing in close proximity to it, is the inn now known as the "Lansdowne Arms." Formerly it was called the "Catherine Wheel," or the "Wheel," and by these two names it is mentioned in sundry pages of the "Burges Stuards Booke of th' Accompte"—an old and valuable record belonging to the Corporation of Calne that will be frequently referred to in the following pages. The inn existed here as early as 1582, and some parts of the

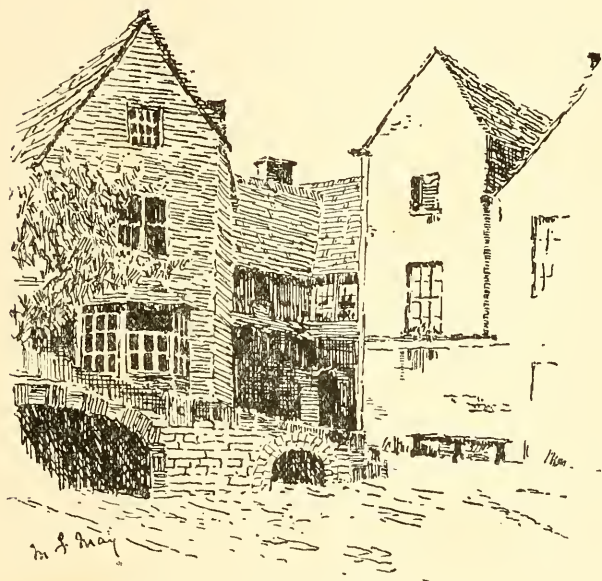
will never be avoyded, men are so bewitched with the sweetenes of stronge lycoure." They complained that no one would be a witness against drunkards, "because the most part love these cup companions," and they described one man as unfit to keep an alehouse, "because he will be tipmirrie himself."—Report on MSS. (Rolls Series), vol. i.



THE TOWN HALL.

present building belong to this period. In the second half of the eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth century it was one of the two principal coaching inns<sup>1</sup> of the town, the "White Hart" being the other.

In all probability the oldest part of Calne is that which stands on the plateau to the north. On the southern edge of this plateau, if strong local tradition is to be believed,



COURTYARD OF COACHING INN.

stood Calne Castle, the successor, possibly, of the King's house of Saxon days, and the building wherein the Witan

<sup>1</sup> About the beginning of last century twelve coaches passed daily through the town; but it was not until towards the end of the coaching days that the route of the principal coaches lay through it the road between Beckhampton and Derryhill being up to that time too bad to admit of fast travelling.

assembled in 997.<sup>1</sup> The supposed site is now occupied by Castle House, the residence, in the time of the great Civil War, of Walter Norborne, one of the M.P.s for the borough, who was fined for espousing the cause of the King.<sup>2</sup> From Castle House away round towards the east stretch what until 1813 were two of the common fields, fringed, doubtless, in very early times with the homes of the village community<sup>3</sup> with whom they originated, and who in all likelihood were the first founders of Calne. In mediæval days this appears from the frequent reference in old documents to burgage houses, etc., to have been the most important part of the borough, and Curzon Street, a corruption of the older Cusin Street, to have been one of the principal streets in it. In the cartulary of Stanley Abbey, first prepared in the thirteenth century, the names of quite a number of the early residents are preserved, and amongst them is that of William the Scrivener of Cusin Street, who possibly was the William that, as we shall see, in 1295 was sent as one of the two first members to represent Calne in parliament.

Altogether the town is a curious medley of old and new. It is, as it were, an old family mansion that many generations have in turn occupied, each generation altering or enlarging the old home as fancy or need dictated, but each carefully retaining something to remind it of earlier owners. Of its history much appears to be lost beyond recovery, but that which can now be gleaned shows it to have had a chequered career. It has been the temporary residence of kings; it has been shunned with shuddering fear. It has suffered from fire and flood; the sound of war has been heard in its streets. It has seen its political and

<sup>1</sup> See Chap. II.

<sup>2</sup> See Chap. XIII.

<sup>3</sup> Until within the last fifty years quite a number of very old barns stood in the streets abutting on these one-time common fields.

municipal privileges extinguished or transformed ; it has seen its industries wax and wane and change their nature. Still it has lived and grown ; and to-day its name is even better known than in the days when Calne cloth was a standard of excellence.

## CHAPTER II.

Derivation of the name.—Calne and King Edred.—Anglo-Saxon Calne.—Regulars and Seculars.—Dunstan and the disaster to the Witena-gémot.—Domesday account of Calne.—The prebend manor.—Empress Maude and the Castle.—The Cantilupes, Zouches, and Ducketts, and their connection with the lay manor.—The fee farm rent of the manor.

CALNE is, as we have said, of such a hoary antiquity that there is no record of its origin. Canon Jackson, quoting Mr. Whitaker, the historian of Manchester, in a paper on the town read before the Wilts Archæological Society in 1889, gave as the derivation of the name the Celtic word *Col-aun* (a current of waters). In deriving it from the Celtic he claimed to be supported by other authorities; and the inference therefore is, that Calne dates back at least to the Celtic period, centuries anterior to the Christian era. But of Celtic Calne, supposing it to have existed, we know nothing.

We are in the same state of lamentable ignorance with regard to the Calne of the Roman period. The great Roman road from London to Bath passes within two miles of the place, the station of Verlucio is no more than three miles distant from it, and at Studley and other places in the near neighbourhood Roman remains have been found in abundance; but at Calne no traces of Roman occupation have been discovered.

We first hear of Calne in the will of King Edred, who died in 955. It begins thus: "In the name of the Lord, this is the will of King Edred. That is to say, First he



giveth in to the place where him pleaseth his body for to rest, after his day, two crosses of gold, with the images of gold; and two swords the hilts of gold; and four hundred pounds. Also he giveth in to the old monastery of Winchester three towns, that is to say, Dwtune, and Domerham and Calne."<sup>1</sup> In a later writing, that is in the rhythmic life of Saint Swithun (who died in 862) written by Wolstan or Wulfstan, a monk of St. Swithun's at Winchester, who flourished about 1000, we again hear of Calne. Speaking of an incident in the life of the saint, Wulfstan tells us that a certain prisoner was committed to the care of an official known as the Præses or chief magistrate of the district or hundred, who then lived in the king's little village of Calne ("Regia quem tenuit tum Villula, nomine Calne"). From this reference we gather that Calne at that time (apparently in the ninth century) was a mere hamlet, still it not only belonged to the king but was also of sufficient importance to have residing in it an official who probably acted as the king's bailiff as well as the administrator of the law in that part of Wessex. We may also presume further that this officer lived in the king's house; for another writer, Marianus Scotus, who lived from 1028 to about 1082, and was therefore possibly contemporary with Wulfstan, in describing the catastrophe to the Witan assembled under Dunstan in 978, informs us that Calne was then a "villa regia." Now a "villa regia" in the Anglo-Saxon days was a house (larger or smaller as it might happen) which stood upon Crown property, and was occupied not necessarily by a king, but by an officer or representative;<sup>2</sup> and when we consider that very probably

<sup>1</sup> Three forms of this will, in Saxon, in Old English, and in Latin, are preserved in the *Liber de Hyda* (see edition by Edwards in 1866, in the *Rolls Series*, pp. 155, 158). In all three forms the name Calne appears in the modern spelling. These forms of the will are quoted at length in Kemble's *Codex Dipl.* and Birch's *Cart. Sax.*

<sup>2</sup> *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, vol. xxiv. p. 971.

in this house the Witena-Gémot, or supreme council of the nation, was held in 997, we may infer that the house was of large proportions.

The disastrous meeting of 978, which brought the name of Calne prominently before the now consolidated Anglo-Saxon kingdom, appears not to have been held in the villa regia; for Lambert, in his "Topographical and Historical Dictionary of England," written about 1557, and published in 1730, states that it was held in a specially prepared "hye house of tymber, open on eche side, that no disceit should lurke in vaultes, and covered above, against the injurie of the aire."

The story of the catastrophe is thus told in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle: "In this year [978] all the chief Witan of the English nation fell at Calne from an upper chamber, except the holy Archbishop Dunstan, who alone supported himself on a beam. Some were grievously wounded, and some did not escape with life." The circumstances which led to the meeting were these: Up to about the year 900 most of the secular clergy in England were married men, and in many of the English monasteries too, where no vow of celibacy was required, the monks often availed themselves of the liberty they enjoyed to take to themselves wives. To the followers of St. Benedict and the stricter observers of the monastic life this laxity gave great offence, and they made strenuous efforts to effect a reform. Their action naturally excited a strong opposition, and thus for many years the Church was divided into the two opposing parties of the Regulars, or celibates, and the Seculars, or non-celibates. When Dunstan, who was a determined upholder of the purely monastic system, became Archbishop of Canterbury, he resolved to put an end to the controversy by obtaining the assent of the Witan to his proposed reforms. For this purpose a meeting was convoked at Winchester, but, owing to the violence of both

parties, nothing was settled, and the meeting was adjourned amidst a scene of great confusion.

The adjourned meeting took place at Calne. At this time Calne was occasionally the temporary residence of the king; and it is probable, therefore, that Edward, who was now king, was residing here at the date of the second meeting, which would account for the fact that the place was chosen for the assembly. It should be noted, however, that Edward, who, it must be remembered, had been crowned by Dunstan in the face of considerable opposition from the other party, was not present during the discussion. The proceedings were again marked by great bitterness of language on both sides. The last speaker for the Seculars was Bishop Beornhelm, and so skilfully did he put his case that the only reply made by Dunstan was to speak of himself as an old man whose working days were over, and who now only desired to live in peace. "As for our cause," said he, "it is the cause of heaven, and to God we leave the decision." No sooner had he concluded than with a dreadful crash the floor gave way, and all save Dunstan were precipitated to the ground below. Scarcely one of those who fell escaped without some injury, and, as stated in the Chronicle, "some were grievously wounded, and some did not escape with life."

By the Regulars this tragic ending was considered a direct interposition of Providence on their behalf, and this view being also taken by the people, they were able to carry out the reforms they desired. The Seculars, on the other hand, charged Dunstan with having used his great mechanical knowledge to bring about the disaster, and asserted that his final words were the signal to his accomplices. The best authorities at the present day, however, believe the charge to have been untrue, holding that he was much "too wise a man to have recourse to a measure so easily open to exposure."

At the time of the Domesday Survey Calne, which, notwithstanding the will of King Edred, appears to have belonged to the Crown in 978, still belonged to, and was held by, the king, as the following extract from Jones's "Domesday for Wiltshire" shows:—

"The King holds CAUNA. King Edward held it, and it never paid geld; hence it is unknown how many hides are there. The land is 29 carucates.<sup>1</sup> In demesne are 8 carucates and 8 serfs. There are 37 villans,<sup>2</sup> and 78 bordars, and 10 coliberts having 21 carucates. There are 45 burgesses and 7 mills, paying £4 12s. 6d., and 50 acres of meadow, and pasture 2 miles long and 1 mile broad. This vill provides one night's entertainment with all its customs.

"Nigel holds the Church of this Manor of the King, with 6 hides of land. The land is 5 carucates. In demesne are 2, and 6 serfs. There are 7 villans and 2 bordars and

<sup>1</sup> A carucate or ploughland is believed to have contained 120 acres.

<sup>2</sup> The villans were "the most important and typical tenants in villenage." Their number was seldom less than one-third of the population, and the greatest proportion of the land of England was in their holding. They were the men who in process of time became the copyholders on a manor.

The coscets were next in social position to the villans. "They were no doubt cottagers who held small portions of land, generally about five acres, as attached to their tenements, for which they were to render certain services to the lord" of the manor.

The bordars and cottars were a grade lower still in the social scale. They received their cottages and what land they held directly as a loan from their lord, who also stocked the land and furnished the cottage. They were required to pay their rent in kind, generally in provisions for the lord's table.

The coliberts appear to have been slaves who had received their freedom at the hands of their lord, but who were required to live and work on the manor where they had formerly been slaves. They were seldom found on any but Crown or Church lands, and there only in the western counties.

The serf legally was "the absolute property of the lord, a chattel to be disposed of at the lord's pleasure": but, as Kemble says, "it seems doubtful whether the labour of the serf was practically more severe, or the remuneration much less, than that of an agricultural labourer in this country at this day." He was also allowed to lay up funds for the purchase of his own freedom or that of his family; and his master could, of course, at any moment give him his freedom.

11 coscets with 3 carucates. There are 2 mills worth 20 shillings, and 25 burgesses paying 20 shillings. The wood is 2 furlongs long, and 1 furlong and 24 acres broad. The pasture 4 furlongs long, and 2 furlongs broad. The whole is worth £8.

“Alured of Spain holds 5 hides of land which Nigel claims. This land, according to the testimony of the Shire, belonged to the Church in the time of King Edward.”

From this account it will be seen that Edward the Confessor also held Calne, and that it was never assessed for Danegeld; but the “villa” was required to provide one night’s entertainment for the king and his household, with the usual customs. Nigel, called the King’s physician in the Exchequer Domesday in an entry relating to Stratton, and a priest in the Exon Domesday, is said to hold the church of the manor with 6 hides of land; but in the last paragraph of the record Alured of Spain is said to hold five hides which Nigel claims. In the Exon Domesday Nigel is said to hold one hide only, from which it would appear that the five hides held by Alured formed part of the six hides said to be held by Nigel.

There were also here at this time 70 burgesses, 25 of them belonging to the land held, or said to be held, by Nigel, and three owing suit and service to two of the adjoining Calstone manors.<sup>1</sup> We learn further, from the records in the Exchequer Domesday relating to the manor of Bishops Cannings, that there was a house at Calne belonging to that manor; and it is to be noted that in this record Calne is distinctly stated to be a borough,<sup>2</sup> which is in opposition to the statement of Canon Jones that Milton and Malmesbury are the only two Wiltshire towns that in the Domesday Survey are expressly termed boroughs.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Jones’s “Domesday,” pp. 75 and 125.

<sup>2</sup> “In burgo Caune una domus pertinet hinc manerio reddens 20 denarios per annum.”—Jones’s “Domesday,” p. 23.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. lxxi.

We next hear of Calne in the foundation-deed of the Cathedral of Old Sarum, dated at Hastings in 1091, in which its builder, St. Osmund the Bishop, a rich Norman noble and a nephew of the Conqueror, endows the cathedral and its chapter with a long list of churches and temporalities, amongst them the churches (*sic*) of Calne and the tythes thereof. As no mention is made in Domesday of the Bishop of Sarum having at that time any interest in Calne, it would appear that between the date of the Survey and the execution of the deed alluded to above, a transfer of the King's interest in Nigel's holding at Calne had been made to the Bishop. That this was so appears to be confirmed by the grant made by Henry I. in or about the year 1115, in which, amongst other valuable estates, he gave "to the Church of Sarum and to Nigel of Calne and his successors, *in prebendam*, the Church of Calne, with all appurtenances in field, in meadow, in pasture, in wood, and in mills, as his ancestors held it, with house bote, hay bote, and two horses in the royal forest, also quit of shire and hundreds and murder and danegeld, and from all my quarrels." This grant was confirmed by Henry II. in 1158.

The ecclesiastical manor remained from the time of Osmund until towards the latter part of last century the property of the Church of Sarum. In 1226 it was assigned by Bishop Poore to the office of the treasurer of the cathedral for the provision of lights and other accessories connected with the services of the church. An attempt was made to override this assignment, but it was confirmed by Pope Gregory IX. in 1231. Under the treasurer the manor<sup>1</sup> was held "by various succeeding families, who often sold their interests in it to one another."<sup>2</sup> In 1719 Joshua

<sup>1</sup> In an Inq. P.M. 15 Edw. IV., William Jemys is said to hold of the *Dean and Chapter of Sarum* in right of their Prebend of Calne "2 messuages, a water-mill, 100 acres of arable land, 30 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, 8s. rent, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of cummin in Calne, Cherhill, and Quemerford."

<sup>2</sup> *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, vol. xxiv., p. 177.

Sheppard was the holder. In that year he sold his interest to Benjamin Haskins Stiles, M.P. for the borough in 1722, for £12,000. The interest of the Stiles family was purchased by William Northey, M.P. for Calne 1747-54. From Mr. Northey the lease was bought by the Earl of Shelburne; and some time after the manor became the property of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, it was purchased by the present Marquess of Lansdowne.

Between 1115 and the reign of John, the only substantiated event of importance in the history of Calne that has come down to us occurred in 1139. In October or November of that year the Empress Maude, who was on her way from Arundel under a safe-conduct granted by Stephen to rejoin her brother Robert at Bristol, passed through the town. William of Malmesbury, in his "Hist. Novella" (556), says she was put in charge of Waleran, Count of Mellent, and the Bishop of Winchester. The former did not go beyond Calne, but the Bishop took her on to Bristol: "et Walleranus quidem altra Calnam tendere supersedit, episcopo in conductu perseverante." Canon Jackson, in his paper on Calne,<sup>1</sup> supposes that at this time the King's House of Saxon days had been succeeded by Calne Castle, and that in this building the Empress remained for at least one night.

With regard to the castle, it is difficult to say with certainty whether it ever had any existence. Aubrey,<sup>2</sup> it is true, in his "Wiltshire Collections," says, "Here was anciently a castle," but he brings forward no evidence in support of his statement. Canon Jackson, in commenting on Aubrey, says: "It may perhaps be to Calne Castle that the following (from 'Acta Stephani,' A.D. 1139) alludes: 'King Stephen, having blockaded Wallingford, marched towards Trowbridge. In his way he took by assault the

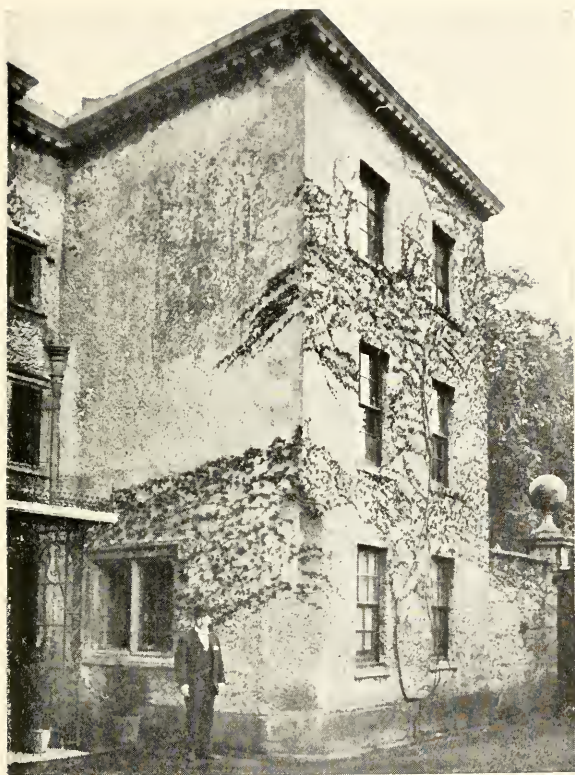
<sup>1</sup> *Wilt's Archaeological Magazine*, vol. xxiv.

<sup>2</sup> Jackson's "Aubrey," p. 33.

Castle of Cerne (*sic*), which Milo of Gloucester, the Earl of Hertford, had built to encourage the insurrection in favour of the Empress Maude’”; and, in the paper above quoted, he says: “but, as there is no such place as Cerne between Wallingford and Trowbridge, Calne is most likely the castle intended.” Local tradition, which generally is a good guide in doubtful cases, strongly asserts that there was at one time a castle here; and tradition appears to be supported by the locally well-known Castle Hill, one side of which has the appearance of having been artificially scarped; and the equally well-known Castlefield, so called in the earliest local record extant (the church register) in 6 Edward VI. Aubrey specifically states that the castle “stood where Mrs. Norborne’s house now does” (now the residence of Mr. H. G. Harris); and Canon Jackson, who examined this building, says: “There are still to be seen some vaults of a size unusually large for a modern private house, some of the stones having been, apparently, used in some previous building—but of what exact date is uncertain.” In continuation of Canon Jackson’s remarks, it may be stated that the stone walls of these vaults are, in places, six feet thick; and that some years ago Mr. F. W. Pinniger in the course of some excavations which he was making in his mother’s garden, close under the boundary-wall of Castle House lawn, at some feet below the surface of the ground broke through into what appeared to him to be a somewhat capacious stone-walled chamber. Unfortunately the future mayor did not pursue the matter further than to lower a lighted candle into this chamber through the hole made—presumably in the roof—by the pick, and he is therefore unable to speak positively as to its size and appearance.

Another point to be noted in connection with this attempted identification of Cerne with Calne is that, according to Aubrey, Stephen granted a charter to Calne,





CASTLE HOUSE, BUILT ON THE SUPPOSED SITE OF CALNE CASTLE.

*[facing p. 22.]*



“wherein is a privilege for their buying and selling in any part of England without paying tonnage and poundage.” Now at the outbreak of the struggles for the Crown of England between Maude and Stephen, Wiltshire almost unanimously declared in favour of the Empress, and of the strong places in the county Devizes alone was held for the King.<sup>1</sup> Calne, as we have seen, was chosen as a resting-place for Maude, and the presumption therefore is that Calne was no exception to the general Wiltshire feeling in her favour. Why then, if Aubrey is correct, should the inhabitants receive such a mark of the King’s favour as the grant of the charter implies? Were it possible to obtain a true answer to this question the matter of the existence of the castle would in all probability be settled once for all.

From this time onward we hear nothing more of the King’s House or the castle, and how therefore the inhabitants of the town were able to entertain the King “with the usual customs” when he visited them cannot be ascertained. It is certain, however, that they managed to overcome the difficulty; for we find, to give two instances, that John was at Calne in 1215, and it was here that in 1223 Henry III. signed the grant of a fair to Devizes to be kept “on the vigil, the day, and the morrow of St. John the Baptist for ever.”

In the reign of John the lay manor of Calne, which up to that time had remained in the hands of the King, was granted, with one of the Calestone manors, to Fulk de Cantilupe, “qui domui Templi se reddidit.” In the 2nd year of Henry III. the Sheriff of Wilts was ordered to resume possession of these manors, and to let the Council know how much the rent was and what they were worth a year.<sup>2</sup> In the following year the two manors were granted to William de Cantilupe. William was also granted the

<sup>1</sup> See Waylen’s “History of Devizes.”

<sup>2</sup> Close Rolls, 2 Hen. III., m. 10.

Hundred of Calne, and after his death an extent was made of the manors (38 Hen. III.).<sup>1</sup> The extent of the manor of Calne was made by twelve burgesses and other freeholders, who said on their oath that William de Cantilupe held Calne of the King at a fee farm rent of £15 by hereditary right, and that he had in the same vill twenty-five messuages paying 33*s.* 7*d.*, toll of the market with chipping gavel (market rent) and brewing gavel, and with the certain rent of St. Martin's Turn and the Sheriff's aid, together worth £8. He also had a mill worth yearly £6 9*s.* 5*d.*, five acres of arable land (4*s.*), four acres of meadow (13*s.* 4*d.*), the rent of four yardlands called Bures (60*s.*), and 1 lb. of pepper of the rent of Kenmuln. Further he had the view of frankpledge of the Hundred (40*s.*), and ameracements as well of the Hundred as of the market (40*s.*).

Here it will be seen William de Cantilupe is said to have held Calne, not a part of it; but in the following year at an Inquisition<sup>2</sup> made at Wilton "the Sabbath next after St. Peter in chains," the borough of Calne came by twelve jurors and said that William de Cantilupe and his ancestors held the third part of the borough, and that the other two-thirds were held by the treasurer of the Church of Sarum as belonging to the prebend of his Church of Sarum. The jurors further stated that Eva, widow of William de Cantilupe, now held the property, and that she had return of writs and held in the said third part view of frankpledge without the Sheriff, and pleas of forbidden distress. The Hundred of Calne also appeared by twelve jurors and said that the Hundred was then in the hands of Eva de Cantilupe, who held it in the name of dowry; and that in it she had return of the King's writs and held pleas of forbidden distress and view of frankpledge without the Sheriff, but it was not known by what warrant.

<sup>1</sup> Inq. P.M. Incert. temp. Hen. III. no. 176.

<sup>2</sup> Hundred Rolls, vol. ii., pp. 230, 236, 239.

## The Cantilupes and their Holdings. 25

The next owner was George, Baron Cantilupe, who died 1st Edward I. The Inquisition P.M.<sup>1</sup> made after his death shows that he held one-third of the borough with the outside Hundred of Calne at the same fee farm rent of £15. The Inquisition goes on to say that—

“There are 25 burgages which are divided into several parcels and return yearly of assized rent 33*s.* 3½*d.* and do service outside. Item, the foresaid burgesses return to the lord yearly at the feast of S. Martin 22½*d.* and that rent is called ‘Chireshut.’

“Item there are there 4 virgates of land called Burelond returning yearly of assized rent 60*s.* and of the aid at Michaelmas 13*s.* 4*d.*—sum 73*s.* 4*d.*

“Item the toll of the market of the foresaid borough is worth yearly with the toll of the fairs 60*s.* Item, the foresaid burgesses owe a certain service called chipping-gavel and brewing gavel worth yearly 10*s.*—Sum of tolls and said service 70*s.*

“There is there a water mill worth yearly 4*li.* 4*s.*

“The view of Frankpledge there 41*s.* yearly, suits and perquisites of the hundred 40*s.* yearly, the Sheriff’s aid from the hundred 11*s.* yearly.—Sum of the issues of the hundred yearly 4*li.* 12*s.*

“Sum of the whole issues of the borough and hundred 18*li.* 18*d.*

“The abovesaid 15*li.* subtracted, remains yearly to the lord 61*s.* 6*d.*”

The jurors returned that Milisand [*sic*],<sup>2</sup> wife of Eudo la Zouche, who was of full age, and John, son of Henry and Joan de Hastings, who was within age and in the custody of the Lord King, were the heirs of George. A partition of the property was now made, the manors of Calne and Calstone, with their appurtenances, besides other lands, etc., falling to the share of Milicent and her husband. Eudo la

<sup>1</sup> Inq. P.M. 1 Edw. I., No. 16.

<sup>2</sup> Milicent la Zouche and Joan of Hastings were the two sisters of George. The proof of age of George de Cantilupe is included in the bundle of Inquests relating to his holdings.

Zouche became now the titular holder. Some time after he fell into disgrace, and his manors were taken into the hands of the King; but in 1274 an order was issued to Roger de Waunton and John de Swyneford to replevy him and his wife "their liberty of Calne together with the issues thereof which were taken into the King's hands for contempt."<sup>1</sup>

In 3rd Edward I., that is about a year after Milicent and Eudo became the owners, an Inquisition was made at Marlborough, at which the jurors, after reciting that the Zouches were the holders of the third part of the borough, etc., went on to say that:—

"The *bailiffs of Calne* have return of the writs at Calne; the *bailiffs of Calne* hold pleas of forbidden distress and have gallows and assize of bread and ale."

They also returned that "the treasurer of Sarum holds two parts of the borough in perpetual alms from of old."

On the death of Milicent de Montalt (27 Edw. I.), William le Zouche, son of Milicent and said to be of Haryngworthe, became the owner. At this time it is reported<sup>2</sup> that the outside and inside Hundred of Calne and a certain part of the Borough of Calne and of a certain Hamlet called Bor<sup>3</sup> are held at the fee farm rent of £15 yearly. At Bor there was assized rent receivable from four freeholders, viz.—

William Scrivener, who held 20 acres at the yearly rent of . . . . .	7s. 6d.
William of Chelhurst, who held 40 acres at the yearly rent of . . . . .	- 7s. 6d.
Roger Weybote, who held the fourth part of a virgate at the yearly rent of . . . . .	2s.
Nicholas Asser, who held a croft at the yearly rent of .	3s. 6d.

<sup>1</sup> Close Rolls Edward I.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. P.M. 27 Edw. I., No. 50.

<sup>3</sup> Query whether this is not now called Berrils—*Bor* sometimes called *Bures* in the Inqs. P.M. The change from Bures (Bu-res) to Berrils might easily take place.

## The Zouches and the Hundred Manor, etc. 27

It was also reported that :—

The profits and perquisites of the Hundred without and within are worth . . . . .	20s.	yearly.
The assized rents belonging to the Hundreds . . . . .	40s.	„
The toll of the market . . . . .	30s.	„
A certain fair there . . . . .	2s.	„
A water mill there . . . . .	50s.	„
The Sheriff's aid of the [?] money at Michaelmas . . . . .	11s.	„
There were 47 burgesses who returned at Michaelmas . . . . .	33s. 4d.	„
Four customary tenants each holding a virgate of land for 10s. . . . .	40s.	„
And 4 acres of meadow worth 2s. the acre . . . . .	8s.	„

In the 2nd Edward III., that is, some thirty years after William had become possessed of the property, it is discovered that the fee farm rent of £15, by payment of which the estate was held, had not been paid since the 39th Henry III. An inquest was thereupon held at Calne, and William was required to present himself and show the charters of the King's ancestors.

“On the day appointed in the octaves of Michaelmas the said William came by his attorney Richard Luvell and says that he as son and heir of the said Milicent holds the manor and hundred of Calne as of the share of Milicent of the heritage of George de Cantilupe . . . and he asks for time to examine the charters, and the tallies of the payment of the rent which are in the hands of his ancestors' executors, and of his own payments ; therefore he was appointed to come again in the octaves of S. Hilary ; on his complaint of the shortness of the time, the matter was adjourned to the quindene of Easter, on which day he came by his said attorney and did not gainsay that the rent of £15 per annum ought to be paid, and offered to satisfy it from the said 38th year of Henry III.”

His right to hold the property was then questioned, and he having stated that he held it

“of inheritance from his mother the said Milicent, as amongst other things assigned to her on the death of George ; the other

property of the foresaid heritage belonging to Joan de Hastings, sister and co-heir of Milicent, being in the hands of the King because of the minority of Lawrence her son and heir, on which account Lawrence cannot answer as to the premises. The Court wishing to certify further whether this was so, William by his attorney was appointed to come again on the quindene of S. John the Baptist. . . . And William la Zouche came by his attorney on the said quindene, and because of the minority of the son and heir of Joan de Hastings, the said attorney was told that as to showing how he claimed to hold the Hundred and manor of Calne, he may withdraw without a day until the lawful age of the foresaid heir.”<sup>1</sup>

William died on Monday, the feast of St. Gregory, 26th Edward III., and in the Inquisition *post mortem* mention is made only of the manor of Calstone and of the Hundred of Calne, with a water mill. The manor is said to have been held of the King in chief by the service of the fourth part of a knight's fee, and the Hundred and mill at the fee farm rent of £15. Nothing is said here of the one-third of the borough, etc.

This William la Zouche was succeeded by the son of Ives de la Zouche, called William de la Zouche of Harringworth, Knight, who was at the time thirty years of age. He died in 5th Richard II., possessed in Wiltshire at the time of his death of the above property and of the manor of Ambresbury, called the Conynger, with the appurtenances. He was followed by William la Zouche of Bramfeld, Knight, said to be “aged forty years and more,” who died 19th Richard II. His son William was the next owner. This appears to be the William la Zouche who with his wife Eleanor was imprisoned in Devizes Castle by Mortimer and Isabella, and both compelled to sign a deed surrendering their lands into the hands of their captors.<sup>2</sup> At the death of Mortimer, La Zouche

<sup>1</sup> From the Remembrancer's Memorandum.

<sup>2</sup> Waylen's “History of Devizes.”



petitioned for redress, and in the first year of Henry VI. his petition was granted.

A Zouche a Zouche succeeded until the attainder of John, Lord Zouche, for complicity in the usurpation of Richard III. The Crown then appears to have retained the property in its own hands for some years; but in the reign of Henry VIII. it had again passed into the hands of the Zouches.

In 1st Mary<sup>1</sup> licence was granted, "for 6s. 8*d.* paid to the hanaper, to George Zouche, Lord Zouche Seyntmawre and Cantelowe of Harryngworth to alienate and sell by fine his manor of Bowars with the appurtenances and the Hundred of Calne and 40 messuages, 30 cottages, 30 tofts, a water mill, 500 acres of land, 120 acres of meadow, 400 acres of pasture, 56 acres of wood, 240 acres of gorse and heather, and common of pasture for certain beasts, free warren, fishery, frankpledge, and 20*s.* rent, with the appurtenances in Bowers and Calne, co. Wilts, held of the Queen in chief, to Thomas Long, to hold to the said Thomas and his heirs of the Queen and her heirs by the due services," etc.

In 1579 the manors of Calstone and Calstone Wyley and the Hundred of Calne with the appurtenances were purchased by Sir Lionel Duckett. The Duckets or Ducketts, who thus first make their appearance as Wiltshire owners, are said to derive their name from the "Duchet" family, which at the time of the Conquest was seated in the Duchy of Burgundy, but some members of which followed in the train of the Conqueror and settled in Lincolnshire. Subsequently a branch of the now anglicised family moved into Westmorland, and there produced Richard Duket (or Duchet), judge in the time of Henry III., from whom the Wiltshire Ducketts are lineally descended. Sir Lionel Duckett, who received the

<sup>1</sup> Patent Roll, 1st Mary, Part 7.

grant of the Witshire property, was Sheriff of London in 1564 and Lord Mayor in 1572.<sup>1</sup> He was a man of great wealth, and assisted Sir Thomas Gresham in building the Royal Exchange, receiving as a reward the honour of knighthood. He died in 1585, his will being proved February 20th, 1587, by his widow, Lady Jane Duckett. Sir Lionel was married twice, his first wife being Mary, daughter of Hugh Leighton, of Leighton, Salop, by whom he had one son who died young. By his second wife, Jane, daughter of Humphrey Packington and relict of Humphrey Baskerville, alderman of the City of London, he had one son, who lived to become Sir Thomas Duckett, Kt., but who died without issue.

Sir Lionel was succeeded by his nephew Stephen, son of John Duckett, of Flintham, Notts, and M.P. for Calne 1584 and 1586. He married Annie, daughter and co-heir of his aunt's first husband, Humphrey Baskerville, by whom he had six children. Stephen died in 1591, and at the time of his death he appears from his will to have rented the Blakes' house at Pinhills. The Inquisition *post mortem* taken at Calne in 33rd Elizabeth shows him to have "died seized in his demesne as of fee of the manors or lordships of Calstone and Bowers and of the Hundred of Calne; and of the manor of Calstone Wylie or Willington, with the appurtenances," etc., etc. "And the jurors say that the manors of Calstone and Bowers and Hundred of Calne are held of the Queen in capite, by knight's service, worth by the year £7/7/8 beyond all outgoings . . . and the manor of Calstone is held of the Queen as of her castle of Devizes, in free socage, worth by the year £7."<sup>2</sup> In this inquisition Lionel Duckett, son of Stephen, was declared the heir; but he died without issue, and the property passed to John, the second son of Stephen. John married

<sup>1</sup> See Sir George Duckett's "Ducketiana."

<sup>2</sup> "Ducketiana."

first Elizabeth Elkington, relict of Roger Chivers, of Quemerford; and second, Jane, daughter of William Winter, of Coleford. In 1608 he was appointed a captain in Sir Henry Bayntun's regiment of militia. He was fined for not accepting knighthood at the coronation of Charles I., and became Sheriff of Wilts in 4 Chas. I. (1628-9). The mansion-house at Calstone, of which mention is made in the extent of the manor of Calstone taken in 2nd Edward I.,<sup>1</sup> appears to have existed until the time of the Civil War, when it was destroyed by the Parliamentarians, John Duckett, who was then in residence, escaping from the clutches of his enemies by passing through their lines hidden in a hearse.

After the destruction of the house the Ducketts removed to Hartham, Wilts; but they continued to hold the Calne and Calstone property until it was sold by Thomas Duckett, in 1765, to Lord Shelburne, whose descendant, the Marquess of Lansdowne, K.G., still owns it.

The fee farm rent of £15, by payment of which the manors, etc., were held in olden times, is not now paid; but when or by whom it ceased to be paid we have not been able to discover. During the centuries the payment was made to the Crown the amount was frequently granted to nominees of the King.<sup>2</sup> In 1340 letters patent were issued granting the £15 yearly for life to Thomas de Morwell, esquire of the King and yeoman of Queen Philippa. This grant was confirmed by Richard II. In 1382, apparently on the death of Morwell, the £15 was granted for life to Queen Anne as part of her dower. In 1450<sup>3</sup> it was assigned by Henry VI., with the fees from other farms, towards the expenses of his household. In 1461 Edward IV. issued letters authorising the £15 obtained

<sup>1</sup> See Pt. II., Chap. VII.

<sup>2</sup> See Patent Rolls.

<sup>3</sup> Rolls of Parliament, vol. v., p. 174C.

“from the fee farm of Calne and a water mill at Calne” to be received by the Prior and Convent of Henton, Somerset. In 1466 it was granted to Elizabeth, wife of Edward IV., in lieu of other grants; in 1471 it was ordered that “the money that Wm. la Zouche and his heirs pay for the Hundred of Calne and for a water mill in Calne be received by George, Duke of Clarence”; and by Henry VIII. the payment was ordered to be made to Catherine of Arragon.

In addition to the ecclesiastical and lay manors of Calne with which we have been dealing, there were several small estates in and near the town. Thus, for instance, we find the Finemore family, of which we shall speak later, making grants of certain lands close to Calne to various persons as early as 1270; and in 1312 pardon was granted to Adam de Stocke, Gena his wife and Patrick his son, for acquiring to themselves without licence the manor of Stock by Calne from Thomas de Sancto Vigore, tenant in capite, and restitution of the same by fine of 10 marks. But upon the history of these various estates we cannot here dwell; nor can we afford space to trace out the subinfeudations that took place, and the frequent changes that occurred amongst the holders of house property in Calne itself. Suffice it to say that the Church, as represented by abbey, priest or chaplain, as we shall see when we take up the ecclesiastical history of the town, gradually increased its possessions, and held firmly to them until the Reformation. Let us now return more particularly to the borough.

## CHAPTER III.

Early history of the borough.—The Parliamentary borough.—House of Commons decisions respecting the voting rights of the burgesses.—Number of voters.—First representatives.—Sir Roger Tocotes.—John Pym, the great Parliamentarian, sometime M.P. for Calne.—The borough and the Civil War.—The later borough members.

IT will be remembered that Calne is stated in the Domesday Survey to be a borough, but there is no record extant showing how it attained to this dignity. The fact of there being burgesses within its walls did not constitute it a borough, for there were many places, ten in the county of Wilts alone, inhabited by burgesses which were not boroughs. Neither, apparently, was size a necessary factor, as Tilshead, fourteen miles away, with only four burgesses less than Calne, was not of the number. In all probability therefore Calne received a direct grant from one of the Saxon kings, or became a borough from having grown up round the royal residence within the *burh* or royal enclosure.

Whether in the early days Calne possessed any peculiar privileges, we cannot say; but even if it was only on an equal footing with other boroughs—and, according to Merewether and Stephens,<sup>1</sup> they “were all essentially alike in their object, constitution and general character”—it was from this fact raised above the level of an ordinary town.

“The principal characteristic of a borough was its separate jurisdiction”:<sup>2</sup> “Boroughs were subject to their own officers . . . .”<sup>3</sup> documents of an early date prove that

<sup>1</sup> “History of Municipal Corporations,” Introduction, p. v.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, Introduction, p. xii.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. i., p. 59.

a borough enjoyed peculiar local jurisdiction; by charters granted by the king to exempt the town from other jurisdiction, and to invest the reeve of the borough, and the inhabitants, with the power and jurisdiction which the sheriff or his superior the earl would otherwise have possessed." These jurisdictions, civil and criminal, were conveyed under the terms Tol, Them, Sac, Soc, Infangtheg, Outfangtheg, View of Frankpledge, Waif, Stray, etc., and were generally known as *Jura Regalia*, and included the power of punishing by Stocks and Pillory, Pit and Gallows. Into the particular meaning of these terms we need not now stop to inquire; but generally we may say that the possessors of these privileges were exempt from "contributing to the expenses of Knights of the Shire. They were not to be put on Juries in the Sheriff's Courts. They elected their own officers for the protection of the public interests. They were entitled to local Courts of Justice, both Criminal and Civil, which held pleas of debt or damage arising between the inhabitants, and adjudicated on offences against the common weal. These Courts enacted bye-laws for the regulation of sundry matters of local interest, and enforced them by penalties."<sup>1</sup>

Possibly this was the case at Calne up to the time of John, but as the records are lost the matter cannot be placed beyond doubt. John, it will be remembered, granted one-third of the borough to Fulk de Cantilupe; and the Inq. P.M. taken at the death of Eva de Cantilupe shows that she had for this third part "view of frankpledge without the sheriff and pleas of forbidden distress," proving that at that period the borough as a whole was not under the complete jurisdiction of its own officers. Merewether and Stephens state that Henry III. granted "charters of confirmation and otherwise amongst other places to Calne."

<sup>1</sup> G. Poulet Scrope in vol. iii. *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*.

Apparently the charter then received raised or rehabilitated the status of the borough; for the Inquisition made in 3 Edward I. states that the *bailiffs of Calne* have return of the writs of Calne, and hold pleas of forbidden distress and have gallows and assize of bread and ale; and from this time, so long as the practice had any real significance, we hear no more of the view of frankpledge being held for any part of the borough<sup>1</sup> by the lord of the lay manor of Calne. We can see also from the grant made to the men of Calne by Elizabeth,<sup>2</sup> and from the local records of that period, that the borough was then free from the sheriff's turn and had its borough court, besides possessing other privileges; but from John's time, whatever it may have been earlier, the borough seems never to have been entirely emancipated from the lay lord. Tolls of the market and the fair mentioned in the Inqs. P.M. of the earlier Cantilupes, for instance, appear always to have been either actually received or leased by him to the borough for a certain definite payment. And as bearing upon this point of the affairs of the borough being ordered only by its own officers, it should be noted that when the second market and fair were granted in 1302, the grant was made not to the bailiffs and burgesses but to "our beloved Lewis de Belmont, Prebendary of the Prebend of Calne." **1361699**

In certain respects at least Calne was on an equal footing with other boroughs. One of these consisted in contributing its share to an aid, tenth, subsidy, etc., to the King when required; and the payments or non-payments under these heads afford some slight indication of the condition of the place at the time to which they refer. Thus, in the oldest Pipe Roll now extant, 31 Henry I., Calne is shown as paying an aid in company with sixteen other Wiltshire

<sup>1</sup> It will be noticed that the view of frankpledge mentioned in the Inq. P.M. 1 Edw. I. refers to the *Hundred* of Calne.

<sup>2</sup> See page 56.

boroughs; but in that of 2 Henry II.<sup>1</sup> it enjoys the distinction of being the only Wiltshire borough contributing. In this year the amount received "de Auxilio Burgi de Calne" was 20s., and payment of the same sum was made in the two succeeding years. In 5 Henry II. two marks (26s. 8d.) were paid; in the sixth year no payment; seventh, 40s.; eighth, ninth and tenth, no payment; eleventh, 40s.; twelfth, no payment; thirteenth, 2½ marks, "de hominibus de Calna." Here apparently we have traces of some disaster having befallen the borough between 5 and 13 Henry II., for first it pays its 40s. at the end of two years, then at the end of four years, and finally it is assessed at half a mark less than before. Probably the place was partly burned down. Such a disaster certainly happened in 1341, as we can see by an Inq. Nonarum of that year, in which it is returned that the greater part of the best houses have been destroyed by fire. The Church Registers show, too, that at a later period fires were of frequent occurrence.

In 7 Edward III. the borough of Calne paid as its share in the collection of a fifteenth and tenth *ciiijs. vd.*<sup>2</sup> In 24 Henry VI., in the list of the "names of towns, cities and boroughs impoverished and excused full payment of subsidy," Calne is shown as having been excused 3s. 4d.<sup>3</sup> To the collection of a Benevolence in 36 Henry VIII. the following only in the borough contributed: William Alleyn, 30s.; Thomas Chandler, 13s. 4d.; William Hayward, 6s. 8d.; Raff Aber, 8s.<sup>4</sup>

Another privilege formerly enjoyed by Calne in common with other boroughs was that of sending members to Parliament. The Return compiled by order of the House of Commons and published in 1878, shows that its first

<sup>1</sup> "The Pipe Roll of Stephen contains the aid of the borough of Calne"—Merewether and Stephens, vol. i., p. 339.

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix A.

<sup>3</sup> Lay Subsidy Wilts,  $\frac{196}{112}$ .

<sup>4</sup> See also Appendix A.



members were amongst that notable number who "from every city, borough and leading town," at the command of Edward I., assembled together in 1295 to form the first great parliament of England. But the privilege of parliamentary representation was not at first an honour desired by the boroughs: it brought them too closely into contact with the assessors of the royal subsidies, and it involved the payment by them of two shillings a day to their burgess members. Nor were the elected burgesses, thrifty traders for the most part, eager to leave home and friends to undergo the fatigues of a journey to Westminster and the expense of maintenance there during the parliamentary session. Many places, therefore, after a first compliance with the royal summons, made desperate efforts to escape the duty laid upon them. One device was to fail to make any return to the writ. This plan, it appears from the records, was the one adopted at Calne; and it was not until after 1360 that the sending of members became regular. From then until the passing of the Reform Act of 1832 the borough almost uninterruptedly returned two members. That Act deprived it of one of its representatives, and the Redistribution of Seats Act, 1885, took away the other. It now forms part of the North-west or Chippenham Division of Wilts.<sup>1</sup>

To whom the writs were addressed for the first returns there is no evidence to show; but it appears from Brady's "History of the Burghs"<sup>2</sup> that the writ for the Parliament of 29 Edward I. was sent to the "Bailiffs of the Liberty of Calne and Worthe, who returned no answer,"<sup>3</sup> and from the House of Commons Return that in 1311 it was issued

<sup>1</sup> The present Member for this division is Sir John Dickson-Poynder, Bart., D.S.O.

<sup>2</sup> P. 110.

<sup>3</sup> "Ballivis libertatis Calne et Worthe qui nullum dederunt responsum."

to the "Bailiffs of the Liberty of Worthe, who made no return." In the first of these two instances Calne, it will be observed, is called the *liberty* of Calne, not the *borough*, and in the second it is not even mentioned by name; but in the return made 36 Edward III. it is described as the *borough* of Calne: "nomina Burgensium Burghi de Calne." In the reign of Henry V., when returns were required to be made by indentures, those relating to Calne are said to be for the "commonalty." From 1661 to 1695, as appears from the "Burgus Stuards' Book of th' Accompte," the writ was addressed to the burgesses of Calne; but from 1695 to 1835 it was sent to the guild stewards, who for many years previous to 1695 had acted as the returning officers.

Whatever privileges a borough possessed were enjoyed by the burgesses only. When the right of sending members to Parliament was first granted to Calne, these burgesses were "all . . . the permanent free inhabitants . . . performing their duties, and enjoying their privileges—as the free inhabitant householders, paying scot and bearing lot; presented, sworn and enrolled at the court leet,"<sup>1</sup> who in all probability numbered not less than the seventy shown in Domesday; but in the seventeenth century the ancient franchises of the borough had passed into the hands of a close corporation, which latterly consisted of about eighteen persons only, and included freeholders, householders, non-householders and non-residents. This body, presided over by two "guild stewards," called itself the burgesses, and amongst other things exercised the exclusive right of voting for members of Parliament. Their right was challenged in the third year of William and Mary, and a committee of the House of Commons then decided that the power was vested in "the burgesses, inhabitants within 'the

<sup>1</sup> Merewether and Stephens: Introduction, p. v. (3).

borough.'"<sup>1</sup> In the 13th of William III. the question as to the burgesses again came before an election committee, and the right was then declared to be "in 'the ancient burgesses'—that term being probably applied in contradistinction to the burgesses, who had in former times assumed to act as a corporation; and the two stewards, called senior and junior, were declared to be the returning officers."<sup>2</sup>

In 1710 the borough was again before a committee of the House of Commons, on a claim advanced that the right of election belonged only to the inhabitants of the demesne houses having a right of common and owing suit and service at the Court of Ogbourne St. George.<sup>3</sup> It was then decided that the right lay with "the inhabitants of the borough having a right of common and sworn at Ogbourne Court"; but in 1723 this decision was set aside, and the right was again declared to be "in the *ancient burgesses* of the borough only."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Another point that this committee had to consider was whether a man named Robert Dyer had or had not improperly voted at the election under review. It appears from the record of a meeting of the burgesses held on February 2nd, 1691, at which, to place the matter beyond doubt, Dyer was solemnly disenfranchised and disburgessed, that for some offence he had been previously disburgessed, but that in spite of his disability he had voted at the election. At the Parliamentary inquiry it was proved that on a date anterior to the election Dyer had been lawfully disburgessed; that subsequently he had bribed the keeper of the guild stewards' book to lend him the record; and that then, asking the man, Richard Savage, to look out into the lane, he had immediately torn out the leaf containing the written statement of his sentence. Dyer's vote was disallowed.

<sup>2</sup> Merewether and Stephens.

<sup>3</sup> See p. 67.

<sup>4</sup> In connection with this reversal of the decision of 1710 the following memorandum in the Guild Stewards' Book of th' Accompte is interesting: '1722-3. Note that it is agreed by the general consent of the burgesses that £3 15s. 1d. spent on receiving the news that the Resolution of 1710 which was against us was altered, and the borough and burgesses re-established on our ancient foundation, be paid.'

“So that the only question which remained to be determined was, who were the ancient burgesses of Calne?”

“In that state the question came again before a committee in 1830, and statements of the right being required, the petitioners delivered them, as being ‘in the ancient burgesses only, such ancient burgesses being the inhabitant householders, resiant, duly sworn.’

“The sitting members—‘that the right was in the ancient burgesses only, meaning thereby the select body of the corporation.’

“Upon the statement delivered in by the counsel for the petitioners, the committee determined—That the right of election, as set forth in that statement, was *not* the right.

“Upon the statement delivered in by the counsel for the sitting members, the committee determined that the right, as set forth, was *not* the right of election; but that it was in ‘the ancient burgesses; meaning by the term ancient burgesses, burgesses duly elected and sworn, according to the ancient constitution of the borough.’ And thereupon the sitting members were confirmed in their seats.”

To this judgment the learned authors<sup>1</sup> to whom we are indebted for the above extract make the following comment:—

“This determination is certainly extraordinary, inasmuch as the sitting members had been returned by the *burgesses*, claiming to be members of the corporation, whose right the committee negatived. But if they intended that, though the burgesses were not entitled as corporators, yet, having been sworn at Ogborn Court, they might be entitled, as sworn according to the ancient custom of the borough, in that respect also the decision was untenable; because Calne had not belonged to the manor of Ogborn, but at a period long after it had first returned members to Parliament.”

This comment is without doubt an impartial criticism of the judgment, and it is noteworthy from the fact that the inquiry to which it refers was brought about by one of

<sup>1</sup> Merewether and Stephens.

the very men whose words we have quoted. In 1830 Serjeant Merewether was a resident householder of Calne, and the champion of the excluded inhabitants. At the election in question the learned serjeant and his party in support of their contention brought forward as candidates Colonel Cheney and Mr. Hopkins, in opposition to the sitting members, Sir James Macdonald, Bart., and "Tom," afterwards Lord, Macaulay. At the election the "ancient" burgesses voted for the two latter; and though on the popular basis Colonel Cheney and his colleague were elected by a majority of about forty votes, the guild stewards, Messrs. S. Viveash and G. S. Ogilvie, declared Sir James and Macaulay duly elected. The dissentients thereupon appealed to the House of Commons; but, as we have seen, their claim was not allowed.

But variable as the decisions of the election committees were in the matter of the "true and only" burgesses, they were constant in restricting the voting privilege to very few persons; and thus we find that down to 1832 about eighteen voters exercised as much political power as is now only wielded in places by twenty-four thousand voters. Thus, for instance, in—

1784	Isaac Barre was elected by . . . . .	14 voters.
1787	Joseph Jeykell was elected by . . . . .	11 „
1790	Joseph Jeykell and J. Morris were elected by	12 „
1801	Joseph Jeykell and Sir Francis Baring, Bart., were elected by . . . . .	13 „
1802	Lord Henry Petty and Joseph Jeykell were elected by . . . . .	18 „
1806	Joseph Jeykell and Osborne Markham were elected by . . . . .	13 „
1807	Joseph Jeykell and Henry Smith were elected by . . . . .	13 „
1812	Joseph Jeykell and the Hon. J. Abercromby were elected by . . . . .	15 „

The first two men to represent Calne in Parliament

were Willielmus le Escryveyn (William the Scribe) and Willielmus de Chelfurist (William of Chilvester). Of William of Chilvester we have no knowledge, but the name of his domicile exists now as Chilvester Hill, a small eminence partly in and partly out of the borough. William the Scribe, however, we hear of in various documents of this period. From these we gather that he was possessed of "certain messuages" and other property, and was a man of some local importance. Our last item of information concerning him presents him to us in scarcely a favourable light, as he was then (5 Edward II.) a prisoner at Old Sarum for committing a breach of the forest laws. Apparently, though, as the forest laws were very severe, the offence could not have been very great, for the King ordered his liberation on bail, upon his "finding 12 mainpernors to have him before the Justices of the Forest when required."<sup>1</sup>

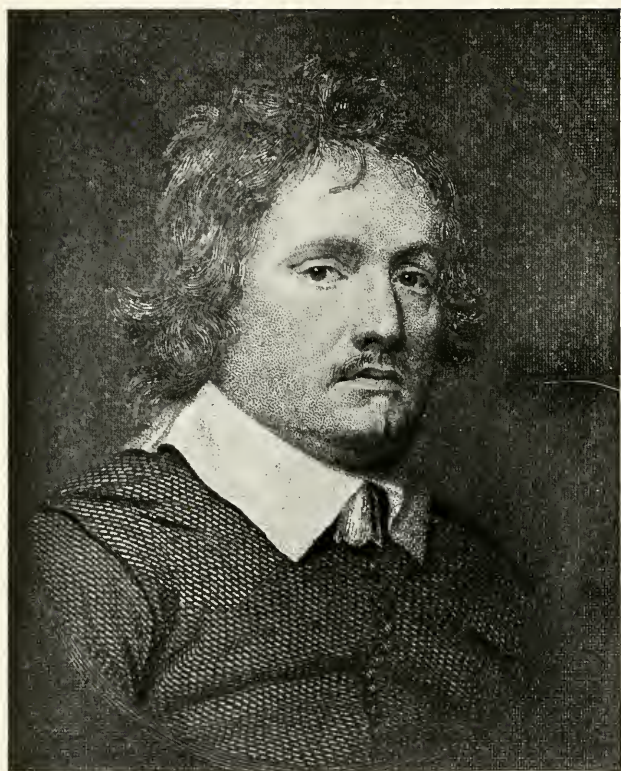
No person of national note appears to have represented the borough until we come to Sir Roger Tocotes,<sup>2</sup> who was one of the members in 1477. He has earned a place in history through being involved in the rising of Buckingham against Richard III., and as having been tried for being concerned in the murder of Isabel, Duchess of Clarence, and her infant son, both of whom were killed by the administration of poisoned ale.

The greatest name with which political Calne is associated is undoubtedly that of Pym, of whom it is said by dispassionate historians that it is to him more than to any other of the giants of the Puritan Revolution that Englishmen are indebted for the constitutional privileges they at present enjoy. John Pym was born in the neighbouring county of Somerset, his parents being people of good family. He was educated at Oxford, and greatly distin-

<sup>1</sup> Close Rolls, 5 Edw. II.

<sup>2</sup> Called Robertus Tocotes in the House of Commons Return.





JOHN PYM.

[*facing p. 43.*]



gushed himself whilst there, not only "by solid acquirements, but by elegant accomplishments, so that an Oxford poet calls him the favourite of Apollo." After leaving Oxford he obtained a position in the office of the Exchequer, becoming later Receiver-General of the King's revenues for the county of Wilts. A part of his duty was the supervision of Bowood Park, then the property of the Crown; and there are orders still extant signed by him and addressed to the park-keepers and others. He was elected to represent Calne in the Parliament of James I. that met in 1621;<sup>1</sup> and in November of the same year he formed one of the deputation of twelve members that waited upon James, and was met by the sarcasm that showed the King's anger as well as his insight: "Set twal chairs; here be twal kings coming." Calne did not provide Pym with his first parliamentary seat, nor was he its member during the height of his power. He first entered the House of Commons in 1614, being one of the four members of that Parliament committed to the Tower; and when, at the death of Sir John Eliot, he was acknowledged the leader of the Commons, he was member for Tavistock. Canon Jackson, in his paper on Calne, calls Pym a "rampant Republican"; but Goldwin Smith says:<sup>2</sup> "Pym was a friend of constitutional monarchy in politics, a Protestant Episcopalian in religion; against a despot, but for a king; against the tyranny and the political power of the bishops, but satisfied with that form of church government." And further on he says: "Had Pym lived and remained master of the movement, what would have been the result? . . . If my surmise is right, Pym would have preserved the monarchy, but he would have changed the king." Green<sup>3</sup> says of him: "If Strafford embodied

<sup>1</sup> His colleague in the representation of the borough was John Duckett. See House of Commons Return.

<sup>2</sup> "Three English Statesmen."

<sup>3</sup> Green's "History of the English People."

the spirit of tyranny, John Pym . . . stands out for all after-time as the embodiment of law," and thus sums up his character: "No English ruler has ever shown greater nobleness of natural temper or a wider capacity for government than the Somersetshire squire whom his enemies, made clear-sighted by their hate, greeted truly enough as 'King Pym.'"

During the Civil War which followed the final refusal of Charles to concede the demands of Pym and the Parliament, the inhabitants of Calne must have greatly congratulated themselves that they possessed no castle or other stronghold, as they thus escaped much that Devizes, Malmesbury and other places in the neighbourhood had to undergo. Another circumstance that favoured the town during this unhappy time was that it stood off the main roads between these fortified posts—even off the road between Marlborough and Bath, which then passed south of Calne; consequently only on one occasion did any fighting take place in the town.

Time and again, however, the awful music of war fell upon the ears of the inhabitants, and it is open to question whether the terrible suspense they suffered at such times was not worse than the dangers of the actual fighting. Imagine, for instance, what they must have felt as they listened to the sounds of battle, now rising, now falling, on that Sunday in July, 1643, when, from Chippenham up over Derryhill, through Sandy Lane, and on to Bromham Hall and Rowde, the running fight was kept up between Sir William Waller's forces and the Royalists. Worse still it must have been the next day, when the roar and flash of guns and the rattle of musketry announced the opening of the battle of Roundway Down. Here almost at their doors was one of the great fights of the war being fought out; but for them there was none of the excitement of actual combat, none of that courage

or knowledge of events that sight of the combatants might have given; for them there was only the numbing dread that the tide of battle might sweep forward and deluge their own streets in blood. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this dread hung over them, intensified at intervals by the appearance of stragglers and wounded and dying men<sup>1</sup> that reached the town from the scene of action. Thursday evening brought to the townspeople the sound of battle moving back towards Chippenham, and late the same night they knew that for the time they had escaped the ensanguined horrors they had feared.

The skirmish which took place in Calne was a very unimportant one in itself, but it had the effect of bringing Waller and his force to the town. It happened in this way. Waller after relieving Taunton in March, 1645, divided his army into two forces—one under Cromwell passing into Dorsetshire. The other, led by himself, he put in route to pass by Bath to Marshfield and thence to South Wilts. Just before leaving Marshfield he sent on a small body of cavalry towards Devizes, probably to reconnoitre. Near that place they encountered a troop of Royalist horse belonging to the Devizes garrison and led by Captain Jones. In the fight which ensued the Roundheads were defeated and chased into Calne, where some of them were taken prisoners. Waller, hearing of the fight, immediately issued instructions for two hundred musketeers and some artillery to be detached from the Malmesbury garrison and sent to Calne, and hastened hither himself. Here he seems to have remained until the whole of the troops under his immediate command had

<sup>1</sup> Extract from Calne burial register, July 1643 :—

“Buried three souldiers which were wounded to death upon the Vizes downe the 13th of July.”

There are other entries in the registers of the burial of soldiers and civilians killed during the various engagements in the neighbourhood.

concentrated round and in the town, some of the cavalry, it would appear, finding accommodation in the church itself.

Waller's force when he left Calne amounted to about 5000 men. His intention was to capture Lacock Abbey, then held for Charles by Colonel Boville; but messengers coming in at the moment of leaving with the news that Lord Goring's cavalry were harassing Cromwell in Dorsetshire, he changed his route and marched with all speed to join Oliver. And here, as he moves away from Calne in all the "pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war," we ought to take our leave of him; but we are tempted to follow him a little farther, to note the sequel to the cavalry skirmish of a few days before. As the Roundheads were passing near Devizes, Jones and his troopers, thinking to repeat their success, sallied out and attacked Waller's horse; but on this occasion the fortune of war inclined to the other side, and Jones after a brief engagement was driven, helter skelter, into the town. The pursuit was so hot that the Roundhead cavalry entered the place with their antagonists, the fighting being continued in the streets until all the Royalists were either killed or wounded or safe behind the castle gates. Jones himself, flying before the pursuers, by a strange coincidence was shot dead by one of his late prisoners at the door of an inn where the night previously he had been drinking confusion to the Parliament and inveighing bitterly against its leaders.

But though Calne saw little of the actual fighting, it bore its full share of the raids and forays made by both Roundheads and Cavaliers. The most notable on the part of the Parliamentary forces was that conducted in June, 1644, by Col. Howard Massey, Governor of Gloucester, who after taking Malmesbury by storm pushed on through Chippenham to Calne, where he arrested Mr. Chivers,

George Lowe, M.P. for the borough, and a son of Sir Edward Bayntun. From Calne he marched to Devizes, where he surprised and took prisoners the King's Committee. According to some of the newspapers of the period, the raids of the Parliamentarians were mild compared with those of the Royalists. Lord Goring and his troops in particular are charged with behaving in a most wanton manner; but apparently others were nearly as bad. Under date Jan. 22nd, 1645, one writer says: "It is this day certified by letters, that the Donnington and Basing House forces have done much mischief . . . all about Lavington, Whitfalls, and Calne."

The borough also had to pay its share of the rates levied by both sides, and to furnish its quota of pressed men. In the early part of 1643 the regular assessment on the county of Wilts made by the Parliament was £725 a week, and in November of the same year for the support of the King his friends levied a rate of £1200 a week, to last for one month; and in the spring of 1644 Charles, by an order issued under the Great Seal, directed 667 men to be impressed within the county. The part that Calne was made to bear of this year's exactions is well shown in the account of the receipts and expenditure of John Mayo, one of the two constables of the borough for 1643-4:—

"Rec <sup>d</sup> out of 16 weeks contribucon—45 <sup>li</sup> &	
retornes for 3 <sup>li</sup> in all . . . .	xlviij <sup>li</sup>
„ of his partner Jo: Pile . . . .	iiij <sup>li</sup>
„ out of a rate y <sup>t</sup> he geathered, for j p <sup>te</sup>	
of y <sup>e</sup> towne . . . . .	v <sup>li</sup> xvj <sup>s</sup>
„ out of 2 small rates, he gathered	
pvision to send to Marleborough, in	
March & Aprill . . . . .	iiij <sup>li</sup> xvj <sup>s</sup>
„ more out of 2 rates for y <sup>e</sup> Parliam <sup>t</sup> , at	
first for Malmsbury, th'other Sir	
Will. Waller's horses . . . . .	13 <sup>s</sup>
	Moneys rec. 62 <sup>li</sup> 5 <sup>s</sup>

## Disbursements

Impmis.	P <sup>d</sup> Jo : Noyes as by acquittance . . . . .	12 <sup>li</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> Captain Charrett, as by acquitt . . . . .	15 <sup>li</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> for a horse, bridle & saddle & conduct to Sar <sup>m</sup> . . . . .	3 <sup>li</sup> 10 <sup>s</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> for in febr <sup>r</sup> for 100: 3 qr of cheese & carridag . . . . .	1 <sup>li</sup> 18 <sup>s</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> y <sup>e</sup> 2 <sup>d</sup> presse for 10 souldiers, for presse money & conduct & conducters . . . . .	1 <sup>li</sup> 16 <sup>s</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> Peter Byrd in money—8 <sup>li</sup> 5 <sup>s</sup> & rate 31 <sup>s</sup> , all is . . . . .	9 <sup>li</sup> 16 <sup>s</sup>
	There was left upon retornes not paid to them in the said 16 weeks the some of . . . . .	3 <sup>li</sup> 1 <sup>s</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> Col Chester for 19 souldiers, w <sup>th</sup> their prest money as by acquitt . . . . .	10 <sup>li</sup> 19 <sup>s</sup> 2 <sup>d</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> for 2 souldiers for Capt Skirron . . . . .	13 <sup>s</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> the Taylor for Dyett & worke . . . . .	1 <sup>li</sup> 9 <sup>s</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> W <sup>m</sup> Silke for cloth . . . . .	14 <sup>s</sup> 8 <sup>d</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> Joane Taylor for Cap: Wells souldiers . . . . .	4 <sup>s</sup> 8 <sup>d</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> Mat: Sheppard & D <sup>o</sup> ay, for wine and tobacco, spent on Col: Chester . . . . .	7 <sup>s</sup> 10 <sup>d</sup>
	spent on Capt Hatcher . . . . .	15 <sup>s</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> a chinde—7 <sup>s</sup> & gave a qr master—5 <sup>s</sup> in all . . . . .	12 <sup>s</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> Walter Cooley in Rate towards his . . . . .	11 <sup>s</sup> 8 <sup>d</sup>
	P <sup>d</sup> John Bartlett in Rate, for entertaining of prest souldiers . . . . .	4 <sup>s</sup>
	I <sup>tm</sup> spent at the Assizes at Sar <sup>m</sup> —18 <sup>s</sup> , at the quarter sessions at y <sup>e</sup> Devizes—4 <sup>s</sup> & for sending a prisoner to y <sup>e</sup> goale — 4 <sup>s</sup> all is . . . . .	1 <sup>li</sup> 6 <sup>s</sup>
	I <sup>tm</sup> more ff have paid to Walter Cooley about—8 <sup>s</sup> & to Walter Nicholas about— 7 <sup>s</sup> . all is . . . . .	15 <sup>s</sup>
	the money disbursed is	65 <sup>li</sup> 13

Soe y<sup>t</sup> Jo: Mayo was out of purse<sup>1</sup>. . . . 3<sup>li</sup> 8<sup>s</sup>  
 ffor all other Rates since Aprill 1644 the  
 said John Mayo had acquitt for the ffull  
 for every of them<sup>2</sup>"

George Lowe, who was arrested by Colonel Massey, had as his colleague in the representation of the borough one Hugh Rogers. At the commencement of the war both declared for the Parliament, and Rogers continued faithful to that side. Lowe, however, for a time at any rate, seceded and went over to the King. In 1645 he applied to be allowed to compound for "delinquency." In his statement he says that he went into the country to look after an estate he held in trust, and that whilst there he was drawn into an engagement to appear at the King's assembly at Oxford, but that he left there before the great vote against the Parliament was taken, and that he was never in arms against it. He further states that he surrendered in May, 1644, to Colonel Massey, by whose consent he remained at his own house until summoned to London, when he was committed to Ely House, and remained there a prisoner for almost a year. In 1649 he was allowed to compound on payment of £336; but in addition he had to suffer a loss of £500 in respect of money owed to him by John Waters, a zealous Parliamentarian of Northamptonshire, whose heirs were allowed to repudiate the debt. He is said to have represented Calne in the Barebones Parliament, and a story is told that he was then brought to the Bar of the House and soundly rated for not being able to sign his name, and for being generally an ignorant person. When, about two centuries later, Robert Lowe represented Calne, and was practically Minister for Education, this story was revived to make fun of him.

During the time the Ducketts were lords of the hundred

<sup>1</sup> £1 5s. 6d. refunded to him in 1652.

<sup>2</sup> Extracted from the Calne Guild Stewards' Account Book.

of Calne, that is, from 1579 to 1765, the dominating political influence at Calne was that of this family, and we are not therefore surprised to find that a Duckett represented the borough in no less than seventeen of the Parliaments summoned during this period. With the sale of the property to the Earl of Shelburne the influence of the Ducketts ceased, and Sir George Duckett, in a memorandum<sup>1</sup> respecting the sale written in 1802, laments the loss of this political power.

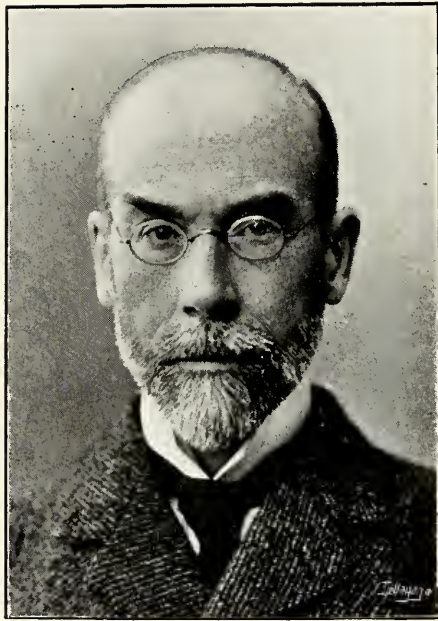
From 1765 up to the extinction of the parliamentary borough, Calne, through the influence of William, Earl Shelburne, and his successors at Bowood, obtained as members a remarkable series of eminent men: Calcraft; Dunning, afterwards Lord Ashburton; Colonel Barré, Treasurer of the Navy and Paymaster of the Forces; Townshend; Jeykell, barrister and wit, of whom the "Rolliad" said he was "the man of law, the scribbler's pride"; Lord Henry Petty, Chancellor of the Exchequer at the age of twenty-three; the Hon. J. Abercromby, Speaker of the House of Commons; and Thomas Babington Macaulay, the "book in breeches." All these were members for the borough between the middle of the eighteenth century and the passing of the Reform Act of 1832.

In the agitation which preceded the passing of this Act, Calne did not figure very prominently, but its burgesses acted more disinterestedly than might have been expected; for through their parliamentary representatives, though they knew any measure of reform would restrict their privileges, they sent a petition to Parliament asking that Reform might be conceded. There seems, therefore, at any rate so far as this matter was concerned, scarcely any justification for the strictures passed on the borough by Cobbett, who called it "a vile, rotten borough," and said he "could not come through that villainous hole without cursing corruption at every step."

<sup>1</sup> See "Ducketiana."







LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE, M.P.,  
the last member for the parliamentary borough of Calne.

[*facing p. 51.*]

Immediately prior to the passing of the Act of 1832 the right of voting was, as we have seen, vested only in "the ancient burgesses duly elected and sworn, according to the ancient constitutions of the borough"; but upon the Reform Bill becoming law, the parliamentary borough was extended to include the whole of the parish of Calne,<sup>1</sup> the number of electors being increased thereby to about one hundred and eighty.

The first member elected under the new Act was the Earl of Kerry, son of the third Marquess of Lansdowne; but death unfortunately soon claimed him from his constituents and cut short a most promising career. The next member appears by the House of Commons Return to have been Henry, Earl Shelburne, younger brother of the deceased Earl Kerry.<sup>2</sup> It was this member who gave to the Calne Town Council the loving cup and snuff-box which form the major portion of the corporation plate. On the retirement of Earl Shelburne, General Sir Fenwick Williams, the heroic defender of Kars, became the member. General Williams was followed by Robert (Bobbie) Lowe, afterwards Viscount Sherbrooke. The second election of Robert Lowe will long be remembered for the disorderly scenes that occurred during the polling. The whole town was in a state of riot, which even a large force of special constables was unable to quell. Mr. Lowe himself had to be escorted everywhere by a bodyguard of stalwarts from the Bowood estate; and it is said that but for the protection thus given he would have been seriously maltreated, if not killed.

The last member for the borough, the boundaries of which had been still further extended by the second

<sup>1</sup> Divided in 1890 into the parishes of Calne Within and Without.

<sup>2</sup> A contemporary MS. written by an inhabitant of the borough states that after the death of Earl Kerry the seat was occupied for a short time by Fox Talbot, Esq.

Reform Act (1867), was Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, now M.P. for the Cricklade Division of Wilts. In him the borough had an able representative, and it was fitting that he should end the line of illustrious men who by the influence of his family had been made the members for Calne.

## CHAPTER IV.

The municipal borough.—Herald's visitation of 1565.—Loss of the early charters.—References to early charters.—Elizabeth's grant to the men of the borough.—Writ of *quo warranto*.—Test questions put to the borough members.—The "obnoxious" charter of James II.

**D**URING the centuries that were the most important in the development of the municipal life of the boroughs, whilst the trades grew and established themselves, and the wealthy tradesmen and manufacturers and the craftsmen formed themselves into guilds for the furtherance of their interests, whilst the burgesses became oligarchical and allied themselves with the guilds for the creation of a privileged class, and whilst this class was gaining power and authority over the rest of the inhabitants, our knowledge of the municipal life of Calne is practically nil. The records of the burgesses are lost, the guilds have died out leaving no memorials behind, and the charters of Stephen and Henry III. have so completely disappeared that we have no very definite evidence that they ever existed. That Calne had a charter in force as early as the reign of Elizabeth is evident from certain entries in the "Burgus Stuards'" Account Book for 1565-7;<sup>1</sup> and it would appear

<sup>1</sup> 1565	P <sup>de</sup> to Mr. Lusan, owre skolmaster, for the defending of owre charter at the Lawday kept by Mr. Curteis . . . . .	ijs. vj <sup>d</sup> .
1566	P <sup>de</sup> to Mr. Blake and John Love when they went to Salisbury with the charter . . . . .	iijs.
	Item pd. to Edwde. Gouldsmythe for the newe engravenge of owre seale . . . . .	xijs.

from the Herald's visitation of 1565 that at this time the affairs of the borough were vested in a corporation:—

“These armes ar belonginge and apperteynyng to the Guylde and Stewards of the towne and borough of Calne and Burgesses of the said towne and borough, being one of the cheife members of the honor of Wallingford and Ewelme now ratyfyed by Acte of Parlyament, which armes I Clarencieux Kinge of Armes of the Southe Easte and Weaste parties of this realme of England, have ratefyed and recorded the same in the registers of my vysytaçon now made within the countie of Wiltes. And at this p'sent vysytaçon was Robert Blage (Blake), gent: and Henry Wodroffe, guylde Stewards of the said town and Boroughe and William Alleyne, Rycharde Nycholas, Edward Mychell, gentyلمان, Thomas Longe, Will<sup>m</sup>. Dodson, William Swaddon, Will<sup>m</sup>. Fforman, William Weare als Browne, Robert Norman, Roger Nycholas, Thomas ffowler, Henry Geyt, John Hannam, John Love and William Waylonde, Burgesses of the saide towne and Boroughe, Phellippe Ryche, vycar and towne clarke of the saide towne and Boroughe.”

That this extract refers to the governing body of the *borough* there can be no reasonable doubt; indeed, it seems conclusively proved by the fact that in the “Burgus Book” for 1565 Robert Blake and Henry Woodroffe are shown as the Burgess Stewards for that year, and that then a payment of 10s. was made to the King of Heralds for the approbation of the arms of the borough. And the use of the terms “guild” and “guild stewards” leads almost inevitably to the conclusion that this body, as in other places, had developed from an earlier merchant or craft guild. In most cases it was the former that became identified with the governing body, but the payments that appear in the book above mentioned as having been made from sums left for that purpose to “poore craftesmen and artifcyers” seem to show that here it was the craft guild that usurped the government. It is, however, possible

that, as two guild stewards are shown, both merchant and craft guild had a hand in the usurpation.

It seems probable that the charter mentioned in 1565 was granted in the reign of Henry VII., or at any rate that the burgesses of Elizabeth's time believed it to have been granted in that reign; for in 1568 certain sums were paid from the borough funds for searching the rolls of Henry VII. and the records at the Tower. Apparently these payments were in connection with the amplification and confirmation of this charter, as in the same year sums were also paid for this purpose. The object of the burgesses seems to have been achieved, for in 1569 10*s.* was given as an honorarium to a Mr. Kyngsmyll "for the attayneinge of the Comn. Sayle" (which seal was examined and passed as being in order by the Herald King-at-Arms in his Visitation of 1623); and in 1570 payment was made of the sum of £9 18*s.* 4*d.* "for the Letters Patent and the Exccutory."

Between 1568 and 1676 there are in the "Burgus Book" several references to charters. Thus in 1581 twelvecence is paid for two burgesses "settinge into the charter"; in 1606-7 £5 is said to have been expended for renewing the charter; in 1623 £20 was paid to some one whose name cannot be deciphered "for renewing of the executory writ, he being a member of our charter for the better mayntaining of our privileges"; in 1639 there is a note of a payment of 20*s.* to the sheriff "for the allowance of our charter"; and again "for the renewing of the charter" two sums—one of £9 9*s.* 9*d.* and the other of £7—are taken from the funds in 1655. On July 11th, 1673, a charter then in possession of the burgesses, and which is spoken of as "our charter," was produced at the Court of Quarter Sessions held at Warminster to prove that a burgess of the borough could not be made to serve the office of a constable of the Hundred of Calne; and after examination by the

justices the contention of the burgesses was upheld. But in September of the same year a minute was made in which "it was agreed upon, with the consent of the burgesses at the Guildhall, that Mr. Robert Hungerford and Robert Dier, the now present stewards, do go to Mr. Stevens, the Steward of Ogbourne Court, to consult with him about the renewing of our charter."

The Municipal Commissioners of 1835, who saw the minute of September 1673, assumed that the charter therein mentioned was that "under which they (the burgesses) were supposed to be incorporated," and that the reason of the visit to the Steward was because it had either been lost or destroyed. Be that as it may, the charter appears to have been renewed; for in 1674 there is entered the receipt of which the following is a copy:—

"Rec<sup>d</sup>. of Mr. Robert Hungerford and the rest of the burgesses of Calne in the county of Wiltes by y<sup>e</sup> hands of Mr. William Hayes the some of twenty pounds.

"J. SAYWARD (?) xx*li*.

"R. STEVENS."

Note on receipt:—

"The 20*li* was taken out of the towne stok for the renuing of the charter."

And in 1676—and this is the last reference in the Burgus Book to the charters—a note is made of money "Spent at the Beare when we putt the charters in the chest." The use of the plural here is possibly explained by the fact that in 1569 the inhabitants of the borough, as tenants in the demesne of the Crown, claimed certain privileges and exemptions, which were allowed them in the following words:—

"The Queen grants to the men of the Borough of Calne, as their borough is of the ancient demesne of the Crown of England: the men and tenants of the said Borough shall



be quit of all kind of toll, pannage, murage, and passage concerning their goods throughout the kingdom and from military expenses; and they shall not be put as jurors or recognitors in any court outside the Borough Court."

This document in all probability was in the custody of the guild stewards, and kept by them with the other archives of the borough.

In 1683 or 1684 Charles II., in pursuit of his plan to break up the remaining strength of the "Country Party," called upon the guild stewards and burgesses of Calne, by writ of *Quo warranto*, "to show by what warrant they claimed to be a corporation and to elect and admit burgesses at their will, as well inhabitants within the borough as non-inhabitants."<sup>1</sup> Judgment of *Ouster* was given and entered against them, and their franchises, real or pretended, seized.

Following upon this action, an application was made for a new charter, but it was not granted until 1687. Meanwhile James II. had come to the throne, and had prorogued Parliament indefinitely. He had also issued his Declaration of Toleration and Liberty of Conscience, and was seeking to obtain a Parliament that would endorse his action and assist him to repeal the Test and Penal Statutes. With these objects in view, he caused the lords-lieutenant of the counties to put the following questions to certain persons in their respective lieutenancies, amongst others the members of Parliament:—

"(1) In case you shall bee chosen Knight of the Shire, or Burgess of a Towne, when y<sup>e</sup> King shall think fitt to call a Parl<sup>t</sup>., will you bee for taking off the Penal Laws & The Tests?"

"(2) Will you assist and contribute to the election of such members (of Parl<sup>t</sup>) as shall be for taking off the Penal Laws & Tests?"

<sup>1</sup> Merewether and Stephens, p. 1880.

“(3) Will you support his Majesties Declaration for Liberty of Conscience, by living friendly with those of all Perswasions, as subjects of y<sup>e</sup> same Prince, and good Christians ought to do?”

At this time the members for Calne were Mr. Davenant and Mr. Chivers. Mr. Davenant replied to the questions as follows:—

“(1) Say<sup>d</sup> he intended to stand for Calne ; and would not declare his opinion till he came into the house of Commons.

“(2) He would not contribute to the electing of any y<sup>t</sup> should be for y<sup>e</sup> taking off y<sup>e</sup> penall laws and tests.

“(3) He always did and always will do.”

The answers of Mr. Chivers are not given, but it is extremely probable they were satisfactory ; for it was reported to the King’s Council that “Mr. Davenant and Mr. Chivers have the sole interest ; but if a new Charter be found proper for the town, Mr. Davenant will be left out.” It was also reported that “Calne is a Corporation. The election is in the boddy (*sic*) corporate.”

The new charter<sup>1</sup> was enrolled September 12th, 1687. The original cannot be traced, but a copy is preserved at the Record Office. In the preamble it states that, the king having at heart the amelioration of “our borough of Calne,” and desiring that there shall be peace and good government in the borough, he of his “special grace and certain science and own motion” grants the “enlarging concession” of this charter to effect the object he has in view. The charter then proceeds to remove the existing guild stewards and burgesses, and in their stead it ordains that there shall be one guild steward and thirty burgesses, to be elected from the inhabitants of the borough or of the county of Wilts, and

<sup>1</sup> The person who obtained the grant of the new charter and received the honour of being named as the first guild steward under it (“our well beloved Edgar Slade”) lived at the Crown Office, London, and, so far as is known, had no connection whatever with Calne.

that the first guild steward and burgesses shall be those whose names are given. These are to be a body corporate, and are to have to assist them in their deliberations "one man worthy, skilled in law and meet," who is to be called the town clerk, and who before appointment is to receive the direct approbation and consent of the king. The corporation is granted power to acquire and hold property, to hold fairs and markets, to have a common seal, to make reasonable laws, etc., for the good rule and government of the borough, and to provide pains and penalties for their non-observance. Power is also given to elect yearly a new guild steward, and burgesses when necessary; but the king reserves to himself the right to remove by order made in Privy Council, and under its seal, the guild steward, the town clerk, or any burgess, and after such removal, or upon the death of any of these, to issue letters mandatory requiring the burgesses to elect his nominee to fill the vacancy. The new guild steward, etc., are to be required to take the corporation oath over the gospels before entering upon office. But "by reason of divers causes and considerations" they are to be exempted from taking or receiving the oath of Supremacy mentioned in an Act of 1 Elizabeth or in any other Statute or Act of Parliament, and also the oath of Allegiance or Obedience contained or expressed in an Act of the 3rd James I., and from the oath contained in a statute made in the 13th Charles II., and also from receiving the sacrament of the Lord's Supper according to the rites or usages of the Anglican Church. They are, further, not to be required to take or subscribe the declaration contained in the statute of 13th James I. above mentioned, or that contained in a statute made in 25th Charles II.; and they are not to be held liable to any pains or penalties for refusing to take or receive these oaths, etc. The charter then concedes and restores all the properties, liberties, etc., that the guild stewards and burgesses before enjoyed under any

incorporation or pretext of incorporation, letters patent, etc., or any pretence of them, upon the conditions under which they were formerly held or enjoyed.<sup>1</sup>

The "said inhabitants of the aforesaid borough" were so "specially and strongly obliged" for the "enlarging concession" of this charter that they appear never to have accepted it; there is no copy of it contained in the Burgus book, nor is any reference whatever made to it or to the judgment of *Ouster*; and they continued until 1835 to act as if their old charters were in existence. In the proclamation wrung from James in 1688 by the fear of the Prince of Orange, in which he annulled the obnoxious charters he had previously granted and restored to the corporations affected their ancient rights and privileges, Calne, with some others, was "expressly excepted from the operation of the first part of it, as having had judgment of ouster actually entered of record against it." It is therefore extremely probable that for their contempt the burgesses would have paid dearly; but fortunately for them James was compelled to abdicate the same year.

<sup>1</sup> A complete copy of this "obnoxious" charter is given in Appendix C. For this copy I am indebted to the kindness of the present town clerk, Mr. G. I. Gough. The translation from the Latin was made by Mr. J. H. Morgan, M.A. Ball. Coll., Oxon.

## CHAPTER V.

Election and duties of the guild stewards and constables during the Elizabethan and later periods, with a note of the town armour, etc.—Election and swearing-in of burgesses.—Calne and the Honour of Wallingford.—Copy of the Elizabethan burgess oath.—Penalties for breaking the oath.—“Orders and Constytutions” drawn up in 1589, etc.

THE guild stewards who, as we have seen in the preceding chapter, were the recognised heads of the real or pretended corporation, were chosen annually from amongst the burgesses, one man frequently serving the office several times but never for two years in succession, except on one occasion, when John Wayte, elected to fill an emergency vacancy (1830), was also chosen senior steward for the following year. The selection was made by the retiring stewards at a full meeting of the burgesses called for the purpose. From 1589 to 1600 this meeting was held on the afternoon of the Sunday preceding St. Matthias' Day; in the latter year the day was changed to the Monday after the feast of the Purification of the Virgin Mary; and in 1835 it was reported by the Municipal Commissioners that the election took place annually on the 2nd of February. The stewards-designate required to be approved by the remaining burgesses, and that approval being given they were, in Elizabeth's day, “nomyndated” from the pulpit at evening prayer and entered upon their duties on the following St. Matthias' Day, without, apparently, being required to take any oath of office.

The election was not always carried out without friction,

for it sometimes happened that the official nominees were not accepted by the burgesses, and other candidates were brought forward. Thus in 1735 John Bull and Isaac Harrison were the chosen of the stewards, but certain of the burgesses brought forward John Moore and Edward Stretch. The question being put to the vote Bull and Harrison were elected. Moore and Stretch, however, refused to abide by this decision and attempted to act as guild stewards. For their offence they were disenfranchised and disburgessed.

The duties of these officers are not defined in any record now extant, and it is therefore impossible to say exactly what they were ; but it can be seen that in part they consisted in calling meetings of the burgesses (known as "warning the hall") and presiding over their deliberations, managing the property of the corporation, receiving and disbursing the moneys of that body, and acting as returning officers at the election of members of Parliament for the borough. The Municipal Commissioners of 1835 reported that neither the guild stewards nor the burgesses had any municipal functions to discharge other than to elect themselves and to nominate two constables ; but the records show that this statement scarcely holds good for the earlier centuries. So far as can be discovered, the guild stewards exercised but limited judicial power, the only instances of punishments awarded being the imposition of fines for breaches of the regulations governing the use of the commons and common fields. The last words of the grant made by Elizabeth show that there was here a borough court, and in the report of the Municipal Commissioners this is stated to have been a court leet, but the guild stewards do not appear either to have presided in it or, except perhaps as inhabitants of the borough, to have served on the leet jury. At the end of the eighteenth century this borough court had become merged with the Hundred court,

which was then held within the borough, the business of the two courts being performed by one jury, composed of burgesses of the borough and men of the Hundred, and presided over by the steward of the Hundred.

From 1561, when the record first commences, to 1657 the guild stewards appear to have received no salary. In 1657 a special minute was made by the burgesses that henceforward the stewards should receive 6s. 8d. each "for their pains," and this payment was made for many years. At the end of the eighteenth century the 6s. 8d. had ceased to be paid, and the office remained an honorary one until its abolition in 1835.

The two constables, who with the hayward, and later the crier,<sup>1</sup> were the other ministerial officers of the borough, were also chosen annually from the burgesses. No burgess seems to have been exempt from liability to serve the office, for we find that in 1800 the Rev. Thomas Greenwood, vicar of Calne, was chosen and served as burgess constable, receiving at the end of his year his salary of £3 3s. In the sixteenth century, as can be seen from the "Orders and Constytutions" drawn up in 1589, the persons in whom the choice rested were the retiring constables, but as in the case of the guild stewards, their nominees were subject to the approval of the burgesses, and after this approval had been given their names had to be presented to the stewards of the borough court or leet.

The custom of Elizabeth's day appears to have existed

<sup>1</sup> In the record of the Court Leet of the Hundred of Calne for the year 1810 (as also for other years just at this period), now in the possession of the Marquess of Lansdowne, there is mention of an official called the "Alderman of the Borough of Calne." His duties seem to have had some connection with the market, for there is a presentment made "That a new Pair of Scales and a Beam are necessary, and that a new Beam to the large Pair of Scales is also necessary, to enable the Alderman to discharge the duties of his Office."

down to 1670, when, and for at least seven years after, one constable was chosen by the lord of the Hundred of Calne. How long this usurpation was tolerated we cannot say, but apparently not many years, and the knowledge of it seems to have died out, or, what perhaps is more probable, as the fact is recorded in the same book, to have been conveniently ignored in 1733, when the privilege was again in danger :

“Oct. 26, 1733. Whereas it is and [from] time immemorial hath been the usage and custom of the said Boro' to elect and choose two new constables in the morning of the same day on which the King's Court Leet or Law day is assummoned to be held in and for the said Borough next after Michaelmas, whose names are to be presented to the Steward at the Law day aforesaid, which said Court Leet or Law day is this day to be holden. And whereas Henry Keate, elder Guild Steward of the said Borough, hath refused to joyne with Daniell Burchall, younger Guild Steward . . . in summoning the burghesses . . . to the accustomed place in order for such election of Constables, contrary to the Duty of his office in violation of the oath by him taken for keeping and maintaining the ancient priviledges, Libertys and Customs belonging to the said Borough, and in Breach of and Contrary to the custom and usage of the s<sup>d</sup> Borough. And whereas the s<sup>d</sup> Henry Keate hath been summoned to appear at the Common Hall now held in and for the said Boro' to show cause why he should not be disburghessed and removed from the office of burghess . . . and disenfranchised of and from all rights, Liberties, immunities and priviledges of the Borough. And not showing cause why, etc., etc., and not appearing at the Common Hall. Therefore we in virtue of power vested in us do disburghess, etc., etc.”

The minute is signed by fifteen burghesses.

There is no further reference in the Guild Stewards' Book to any dispute respecting the election of the constables, but that there were subsequent disputes is evident from the



Municipal Commissioners' Report of 1835, which shows, too, that the privilege of the burgesses in this matter had in some way been curtailed. In this report it is stated that the burgesses chose *one* borough constable and nominated two other persons. The nominees and the burgess constable then attended the Hundred Court, and it was expected that the jury would agree to the burgess constable and select one of the other two as *town* constable, "but they (the jury) have in some instances objected to all the persons sent down . . . and some or all of these questions are still in issue."

That these constables were primarily responsible for the peace and good order of the borough is evident from the payments made to them year by year for removing prisoners to gaol, etc., but it is very probable that the more unpleasant work was left as much as possible to the junior constable, who seems rarely to have attained to the dignity of guild steward. But in addition to these duties, in the earlier years they were also the custodians of the arms and armour, and evidence of this fact is found in the following extracts:—

" A note of all the Towne Armoure  
                                           Nycholas Gyrdeler }  
                                           Henry Pearce                } Constables

"Imprimis five corsletts ffurnyshed ffullye wantinge the Coates And toe Taches & wantinge tooe Daggers and a Girdle, also,

" I<sup>tm</sup> fower muscats furnyshed and one calyver<sup>1</sup> furnished, wantinge a flaske leth<sup>r</sup>.

" I<sup>tm</sup> Received five wormes and to mouldes."

<sup>1</sup> This appears to be the calyver bought in 1587:—

" Newe armoure

" Imprimis boughte by John Noes for the booroughe aforesaide one calyver w<sup>th</sup> a flaske & a Twyche box Three Turkye murrens, fower Swoords one longe bowe Syxe guyrdleswith their hangeings ffive daggers bought of Walter P'sons the Cuttler."

“A note of the Receaving of the Towen Armo<sup>r</sup> by Robert P'sons and Will<sup>m</sup> P'sons Constables, 1614.

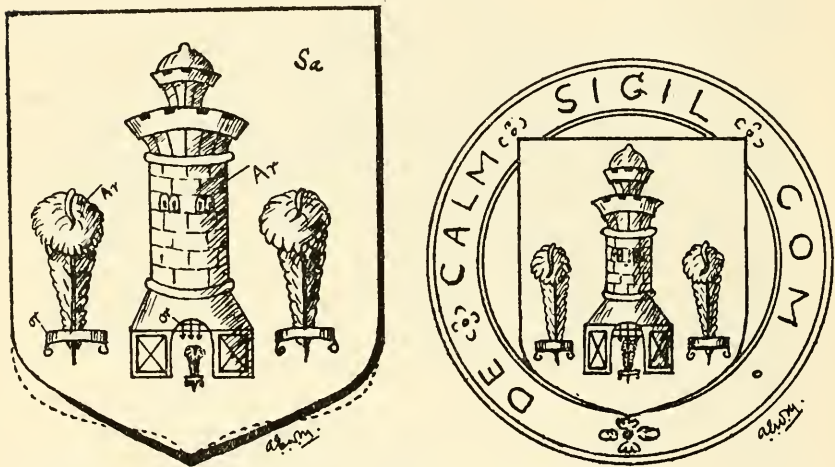
“I<sup>tm</sup> Received Tenne Swordes and Tenne Daggers w<sup>th</sup> hangings and Gyrdles wantinge one gyrdle

“I<sup>tm</sup> five Cofletts w<sup>th</sup>e pickes

“I<sup>tm</sup> fower musketts and one calyver withe hedde peeces

“I<sup>tm</sup> five flaskes and five Twyche boxes”

And the copy of the account of John Mayo given in the preceding chapter shows that the constables were also



BOROUGH ARMS AND COMMON SEAL: FACSIMILE FROM THE "VISITATION" OF 1623.<sup>1</sup>  
TAKEN FROM A SKETCH IN THE POSSESSION OF THE TOWN CLERK.

responsible for the receipt and disbursement of certain sums of money obtained from the burgesses.

Exactly what was required of the man who aspired to burgess-ship when the borough government had passed into the hands of the guild stewards and burgesses cannot be ascertained. It can, however, be seen from the 3rd "Order" of 1589 that the candidate was elected and chosen by the burgesses at a special meeting; and that "being so elected

<sup>1</sup> In the Visitation of 1565 the shield bearing the arms has the shape indicated by the dotted lines.

and chosen" he was required to attend and be "sworne at the fyrste courte: tooe bee holden at Oggborne nexte after suche choyse."

This matter of the swearing of burgesses at a manor court fourteen miles away is one that requires some explanation. By an Inquisition made 29 Edward I. it appears that Ogbourne was a member of the Honor of Wallingford, and as such parcel of the Duchy of Cornwall, to which, presumably, the borough also belonged, as the arms and seal bear the three ostrich feathers.

By an Act passed 31 and 32 Henry VIII. the Honor and Court of Wallingford, with the members thereof, were disannexed from the Duchy, other possessions being given in exchange. The same Act ordered that the Royal Manor of Ewelme in Oxfordshire should thenceforth be deemed an Honor and the Honor of Wallingford a Manor, and the new Manor of Wallingford parcel and member of the new Honor of Ewelme. Calne was directed to be held of the Manor of Wallingford, of which Ogbourne still remained a part. "And therefore," say Merewether and Stephens, "it is clear, that the householders at Calne owed suit at the manor court of Ogbourne not as burgesses, but as tenants of that manor. And their doing fealty there had, properly, no connection either with their burgess-ship, or any supposed corporate character."<sup>1</sup>

However this may be, the practice of swearing in the burgesses before the Steward of Ogbourne Court prevailed down to 1835, a small fee being exacted from each burgess so sworn.

The burgesses to be sworn in were taken by the guild stewards for the year to the Court, and there presented to the Steward with this certificate:—

"These are to certify you that *A.B.*, *C.D.*, . . . all of the borough of Calne in the County of Wilts, were at a Common

<sup>1</sup> Merewether and Stephens, p. 2195.

Hall held at the said Borough this present day of in  
 the year of our Lorde duly elected Burgesses of the s<sup>d</sup>  
 Borough and are to be presented to you in order to be sworn  
 Burgesses of the s<sup>d</sup> Borough according to the antient custome  
 of the saide Borough at the next Court Leet to be held at  
 Ogbourne aforesaid on the In  
 witness whereof we the major part of the Burgesses of the  
 saide Borough have hereunto sett our hands."

(Here follow the signatures.)

After they had been sworn the Steward gave to the guild  
 stewards this memorandum :—

"Memorandum y<sup>t</sup> the day of and in  
 the year of the reign of our Sovereign *A.B.*,  
*C.D.*, . . . being persons nominated & elected Burgesses  
 for y<sup>e</sup> Borough of Calne & presented by *W.X.*, *Y.Z.*, . . .  
 Guild Stewards and several burgesses of the saide borough did  
 take the oath of allegiance to H Majesty and the Corporation  
 oath."

The following is a copy of the oath required to be  
 taken in Elizabeth's time, as it appears in the guild stewards'  
 book :—

"The Othe taken by the Burgesses there as followeth :  
 "I *A.B.* dooe utterlye testifye & declare in my conscience  
 That the Queenes Highnes **Elizabeth** &c. Is the onelye Supreme  
 Governor of this Realme of Englande & of all other her  
 Highnesse domynions & Countreis as well in all Spirituall  
 or Ecclesiasticall Causes as Temporall & that noe Fforeyne  
 Prynce, person, prelate, state or potentate hathe or oughte tooe  
 have anye jursdyctyon, powre, superyoryte, premynence or  
 authoritye eclesyastically or spyritually within this Realme.  
 And therefore I doe utterlie renounce & forsake alle forreyne  
 jursdyctyons, powres, superiorityts & authorityes & promyse  
 that from hencefoorth I shall beare faithe & trewe allegiance  
 tooe the Queenes Highnesse her heires & lawfull successors  
 (*sic*) and tooe my powre shalle assyste & defende alle Jurs-  
 dyctions, pryvileges, preheminenes & auctoryties granted or  
 beelongeinge tooe the Queenes highnesse her heires &





successors or unyted & annexed untoe the ymperyalle Crowne of this Realme, and I shall and wyll tooe the uttermoste of my powre & habyltye soe far forthe as my knowledge & dyscretion shall serve, mayntayne, uphoulde & keepe all such aunciente lyberties, pryviledges and custoomes as dooth beelonge or in anyewyse appertayne untoe the saide Boorroughe of Calne. And also observe & keepe all suche lawfull orders, ynstytycyons & decrees as have been heretoofoore made by my predecessors & Burgesses of the saide boorroughe or hereafter shall bee made for the benefit & utylitie of the said Boorroughe soe helpe mee God & by the Contents of this Booke.”

That the privileges of the borough were not lightly to be infringed is shown by the following:—

“A.D. 1673. John Parker, burgess, ‘disenfranchised and disinabled’ for voluntarily undertaking to serve as Constable to the Hundred of Calne.

“A.D. 1692. John Hoskins and Thomas Fowler, Burgesses, are fined £5 for attending on a jury at Devizes, contrary to the customs, and a breach of the privileges of the Borough. They are further required to submit to the judgment within a month or be disenfranchised for ever.”

“Witherstone Messenger<sup>1</sup> for making away with £5 of the moneys of the borough is disenfranchised for ever.”

“A.D. 1695. Barnabas Horsington having spoken carelessly at the Hall that he had rather be disenfranchised than remain a burgess, is disenfranchised accordingly.”

And a good proof that the burgesses were jealous of whom they admitted to their number is furnished by the case of Humphrey Sampson:—

“Whereas Humphrey Sampson by sinister & fraudulent means have gotten hym selfe to be sworne a Burgesse of the Borrowe of Calne wee the Burgesses of Calne aforesaid whose

<sup>1</sup> This appears to be the Witherstone Messenger one of whose trade tokens is in existence. It is for  $\frac{1}{4}d.$ , and has on the obverse the words “Witherstone Messenger” and a representation of three rolls of bread. On the reverse: “Of Calne, Baker, W. M. M.”

names are hereunder written do not allowe of his electyon but utterlye denye him to be anye burgesse of the borowe of Calne."

(Signed by twelve burgesses.)

The penalty imposed by the last "order and constytution" for neglecting to attend a meeting of the burgesses after having been duly summoned ("warned the Hall") was at a later time altered to that of disenfranchisement. This punishment was inflicted on one John Weekes in 1731; but he disputed the equity of the sentence on the ground that he had received no notice. The burgesses then made further inquiry, and being satisfied that the sentence was just, confirmed their decision. Weekes thereupon applied to the Court of King's Bench for a Writ of *Mandamus*, and it was granted. Upon receipt of the writ the burgesses held another special meeting and then by a majority of 13 to 12 re-enfranchised him.

The "orders & constytutions" mentioned in this chapter are as follows:—

**Calne,**  
**1589.**

"Here followeth the orders & constytutions of the Borroughe and Town of Calne aforesaide, made, ordeyned, & constytuted By the generall consent, and assente of the Burgessz there as hereafter ensueth wrytten and regestyd : by Phyllip Rytche, Clarke there.

"**In p̄miss** it ys ordered and agreed that when the Quenes lawe Daye shalbee assommoned tooe be holden and kepte, that then ymmedyatlye the Burgessz shall coome together tooe the place accustomed<sup>1</sup> And then the Constables: with the consente of the Burgessz: shall choose twoe newe constables, and presente there Names untooe the Stewards at the lawe Daye aforesayde.

"**Item** it ys agreed that the Soondaye beefore Saynte Mathias Daye in the after noonne of the same daye, the Burgessz tooe coome toogeachter: tooe the place accustomed,

<sup>1</sup> This, as it appears from other entries, was the church house.



And then the burges Stewards, with the consente of the Burgessz shall choose twooe newe Stewards, and tooe have them nomynated yn the pulpytt at Eveninge prayer, and they being soe nomynated, then tooe enter tooe their Charge: on Saynte Mathewes [*sic*] Daye, And the olde Stewards tooe geve upp theire accompte, the Sundaye followinge, on payne of forfeitinge of suche soomes of mooney as they have, or shoulde have receyved yn theyr yeare.<sup>1</sup>

“*¶*tm it ys agreed that when they make anye newe Burges thatt then the Burgessz dooe coome tooe geather tooe their accustomed place and there choose hym, by the consent of the whole burgessz. And beeing so elected & chosen then tooe be sworne at the fyrste Cowrte: tooe bee holden at Oggborne nexte after suche choyse. Note that where the whole Burgessz are named yt is mente, the moste pte of the Burgessz.

“*¶*tm it ys ordeyned and agreed that everye chieffe or head howsholder that dothe watch and warde maye put three kyne or Bullocks yntooe the Porte Marshe and Alders at the Stewards appoynte<sup>mt</sup>, and to paye at the puttinge yn of them fowre pence a pece, and paye the hurde his accustomed wagis, And the cattell tooe goe there from the Thyrd Daye of maye, ontill Saynte Martyns Daye, And no man tooe have an oxe bullocke tooe feede there aboove the age of twooe yeres.

“*¶*tm that no man may hyer anye Cattell but myltche kyne onelye And no'e maye sell nor geve hys pasture; nor sell nor geve the myltche of hys kyne beefore it be broughte home ynto hys howse.

“*¶*tm y<sup>t</sup> if anye man within the Boorowghe: shall have anye mo<sup>e</sup> howsez: then one, shall put yn noe Cattell yntoe the Porte Marshe, or Alders, but onelye for that howse he dwelleth on.

“*¶*tm it ys agreed that on the Sundaye beefore Saynt Martens Daye: yn the after noone, the Burgessz tooe coome to geather: And then tooe take this order followinge (that is tooe saye) for the wynter feedinge in the Porte Marshe; and yn the Alders, that whoe soever hee bee, of the booroughe,

<sup>1</sup> This regulation was crossed out at a later date, and a new one substituted. See p. 75.

y<sup>l</sup> will geve moste for the Alders<sup>1</sup> tooe have it from Saynte Martens Daye untoe Saynte Mathewes [*sic*] Daye, And paye hys mooneye : when he doothe take tooe it :

“And the Porte Marshe tooe bee thus ordered : for the ynhabytors onelye (that ys) everye man that shall put yn anye horse beaste shall paye for everye horse beaste, fflower pence, and for everye outhr beaste, twooe pence, & for every shepe one pennye. And shall paye their moneye at the puttinge on of these Cattell unto the Burgessz Stewards or their assigns And their Cattell tooe goe there from Saynte Martens Daye unto Saynte Mathyas Daye.<sup>2</sup>

“*Itm* that everye ynhabytor within the precyncte of the Booroughe maye sette thornes tooe make a garden hedge yn his backside beeing within the same Booroughe & not else where.

“*Itm* it ys agreed that no manner of p’son or p’sons shall or maye cutt anye boughes, or branches of anye tree—or trees growinge within the Porte Marshe or Alders for the Deckinge or trymyng of theyr howses<sup>3</sup> or for anye other purpose.

“*Itm* it ys agreed : that if anye man will putt on anye Cattell ynto the Porte Marshe, and Alders that had never anye goeing there beefore, shall paye for his custoome at the entryng yn of them three shyllings, and fflower pence rente as a sett pryce for everye Towne borne Chylde but yf hee bee a straunger borne, then tooe paye more : as the Burgessz and [Stewards] shall agree.

“*Itm* it ys agreed, that yf anye ynhabytor w<sup>th</sup>in the Booroughe dooe or shalle putte ynto the Porte Marshe or Alders, anye Bulloke, or kyne, by anye manner of Crafte : or subtyll meanes and not beeing his owne yn treuthe and propertie, as anye other goods hee hathe, & beeing prooued with the facte shall forfeit the pastureinge of hys Cattell, within the pastures aforesaide, for the tyme of seven yeres after.

<sup>1</sup> In 1562-3 the winter feeding of the Alders was granted to “Richard Nicholas, elder guild steward, in payment of his charges in the High Court of Parliament.”

<sup>2</sup> This regulation was also crossed out at a later date and a new one substituted.

<sup>3</sup> This has reference to the custom of decking the houses on May Day and at other similar times.

<sup>1</sup> “**I**tem it [is] ordeyned and agreed : that yf anye Inhabytante within the booroughe, shall stubburnlye resyste the orders sett downe by the Burgessz, And wilfullye Denye tooe paye And tooe dooe accordinge tooe the true meaninge of the same orders, shall then ymedyatylye hee shalbee Dysfranchesed : and putt from all and all manner of Commodityes, and proff<sup>ns</sup> that he hath had of and in the Porte Marshe and Alders aforesaide And soe tooe stand dysfranchysed Yett yf hee bee one of the Burgessz tooe bee also dysburgessed and dysplaced untill hee or they dooe submitt them selves untoe the Burgessz, tooe keepe their orders and tooe paye a newe fyne.

“**I**tem it ys ordeyned, concluded, and agreed that noe owte coomer or stranger, coomyng yntoe owre Booroughe tooe dwell and ynhabytt there, at anye tyme hereafter, hee shall not have, noe comodyte, yn nor uppon owre Commons, for the tyme & space of three yeres, after habytation there, neyther then, but uppon his honest & good beehauyor, And that with the consent and agreement of the Burgessz there, or the greater p<sup>te</sup> of them.

<sup>2</sup> “**I**tem it ys ordeyned, concluded, and agreed the 28th daye of Decembre Ano Dni 1597 (and yn the ffortieth yere of the Rayne of owre Sovaigne Ladye Quene Elyzabeth &c.) by the Burgessz of the Booroughe of Calne, that the Burgefz Stuards there, shall furthe[r] of their common purse paye tooe [the] undershryffe Yerelye at Chrismass xxs as a ffee,<sup>3</sup> tooe dyscharge the Burgessz there, of & from all sutes and service of assyses, seassyons, ynquestz and Juryes, whatsoever, accordinge tooe the libertie of their charter, for that yn tyme paste they have benne myghtelye wronged & injured, by beeing returned yn venires<sup>4</sup> and other Services at the Assises and else where—By those Burgessz whose names are here subscribed.”

[Here follow the names of the burgesses who agree to these orders.]

<sup>1</sup> In a new handwriting.

<sup>2</sup> Again a new handwriting.

<sup>3</sup> This fee was regularly paid for many years.

<sup>4</sup> “1568. P<sup>de</sup> to Thomas Brewer and Edward Chambers for their expence in fetchinge of the wryte venire . . . . iijs. iiij*d*.”

And then the record continues:—

**1598** “*Item* it is agreed that yf anye towne borne childe that shall hereafter inhabit in a newe erected howse will put anye Cattell into the Portemarshe and Alders he shall paye for his income at the entringe in of them xxs. as a sett price for the newe erected howse, but if he be a straunger borne that shall inhabit in anye newe erected howse and will put anye Cattell into the Portemarshe & Alders he shall paye for his income xls. as a sett price for the newe erected howse.

“By that in the xxvi<sup>th</sup> yere of the Raigne of owre Sovereigne Ladye Queene Elyzabethe yt was agreed at Bromham Howse before my Lorde Chisebarun Sr Edwarde Baynton and Mr. Stephen Duckett that for anye robberye that shoulde be recovered uppou the hundred of Calne the Boroughe shoulde paye the eyghte pte the hundred and also the eyghte pte in any other payment that the saide hundred shalbee charged w<sup>th</sup>heall.”<sup>1</sup>

Then follow certain orders cancelling and replacing orders Nos. 2 and 7 and instituting punishments for three offences.

**Calne** “*Wheras* heretofore it hathe byne accustomed that the Burgess Stewardes of the  
**1599** Borroughe of Calne have byne elected ordy-  
**The 4 of** narilye uppou the Sondaye before S. Mathias  
**November** Daye and the former Stewardes have given upp  
theire accounte uppou the Sondaye nexte after S. Mathias  
Daye as it appeareth in the Decrees of the sayde Borrowe ;  
nowe uppou better advisement and for the better sanctyfyinge  
of the lordes Sabothe daye: it is ordayned and Decreed: by  
the Burgessz of the Towne of Calne in manner and forme  
ffollowinge, also whereas the burgessz of Calne have comonlye  
solde the wynter leasse of the Alders uppou the Sondaye  
nexte before S. Martyns Daye nowe for the avoydinge of the  
breache of the lordes Sabothe, and for the better furtherance  
of the honor of God it is also established in maner and  
forme followinge.

<sup>1</sup> Apparently this entry was not made at the time the agreement it refers to was arrived at.

“**I**tem it is agreed that on the Daye of the feaste of All Sayntes or yf that Daye doe fall on the Sabothe Daye, then on the Mondaye nexte ensuinge the Burgessz shall come to gether in the Church howse of Calne aforesaide. And then and there to take this order followinge that is to saye for the wynter feeding in the Portemarshe, and in the Alders that whosoever he be of the Borrowghe that will give moste for the Alders to have it from S. Martyns Daye unto S. Mathias Daye and pay his money when he dothe take to it. And the Porte marshe to be thus ordered for [ ? ] inhabytors onelye that [ ? ]. And for everye bucher beaste twoo pence and everye sheepe one pennye and shall paye their moneye at the puttinge in of their Cattell unto the burgess stewardes or their assignes and their Cattell to goe there from S. Martyns Daye unto S. Mathias Daye.

“**I**tem it is agreed that on the Mondaye nexte after the feaste of the Puryfycatōn of the Virgine Marie in the forenonne of the same Daye the Burgisses shall come toge: in the Church howse of Calne And then the burgess stewardes with the consent of the burgesses shall choose twoo new stewardes And they beinge then and there chosen shall enter to their chardge on S. Mathias Daye nexte followinge: And the olde Stewardes shall geve upp their accountes the Mondaye followinge on payne of forfeytinge of suche somes of money as they have or shoulde have received in theyer yere.

“**I**tem it is agreed by the saide Burgessz That yf anye one of them shall absent hym selfe uppon Lawfull warnyng given, and not to come to the place appoynted, shall forfayte & paye for his defaulte xij<sup>d</sup> to be ymployed to the benefytt of the Towne and Borroughe, except a lawfull excuse to be lyke of by the moste pte of them. Also it is agreed that yf anye one man beinge a Burgess w<sup>h</sup>ein the Borrowge of Calne shall sette hys hande to anye certyfycate there made [here there is interlined in another handwriting the words: “removeinge the sale<sup>1</sup> of the Borrowghe”] w<sup>h</sup>itowte the generall consent of the whole Burgess, or the moste pte of them shalbe dysfrenesyde and lose the Benefytt of the Comon for ever <sup>2</sup>w<sup>h</sup>out the said Burgesses shall release

<sup>1</sup> The seal.

<sup>2</sup> New handwriting.

the same ptie or pties soe offendinge unto wch two articles  
wee have putte our hande the last of January A° Dni"  
(not signed and there follow these words immediately after)  
"Unto both the ij orders above written we the sayd burgessz  
have put to o<sup>r</sup> hande the 24<sup>th</sup> of March."

+ H. Amis Draydon }  
 the M. monk of water nycolas } Douy foules  
 Wm Wooddon  
 John Browne }  
 Thomas foule + sig m  
 Robert young bro } sig m  
 William Carston ⊗ sig m  
 John Sampson 4 sig m  
 Henry Gutter }  
 Richard Browne 7 sig m  
 John Wood }  
 Wm.

FACSIMILE OF SIGNS-MANUAL TO THE ELIZABETHAN "CONSTYTUTIONS." <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that the burgesses whose marks are here given adhered to these as their distinctive signs manual. Walter Nicholas, however, usually made his mark in the reverse position.

## CHAPTER VI.

The Alders and Portemarshe Commons : their administration, etc., from Elizabeth to George III.—Notes relating to the Common Fields.—Enclosure and partition of the Commons and Common Fields.

THE Alders and Portemarshe Commons, which are the subject of so much that is contained in the "Orders and Constytutions" given at the end of the last chapter, were situated the former a little over a mile to the west of the town, and the latter just beyond the houses on its eastern side. At least from the middle of the sixteenth century up to the enclosure of these lands in 1812-17 "the manorial rights of and in the said Commons," to use the words of the Enclosure Award, and the administrative powers were vested in the guild stewards and burgesses; and it is due to these facts, and to the further important one that for several hundred years these commons were the principal source of income of the borough, that so much relating to them appears in the old records. The regulations governing their use during Elizabeth's time are so fully given in the words of the burgesses themselves that there is no need to enlarge here upon the subject; but there is one point to which attention should be directed. The 4th Order states that "every chief householder *who doth watch and ward* may put three kine or bullocks," etc., etc. From this it might be inferred that women householders had no liberty of commonage; but the inference would be incorrect. In all the lists of the period commoners of the gentle sex are included; and in all such cases the duties of watch and ward were no doubt performed by deputy.

The Orders of 1589 and 1598 were altered in various ways at different times. Some of the alterations were of a temporary character, as, for instance, in 1610, when it was ordered that for one year the fees payable should be doubled. Others were of a more permanent nature. Such were those of 1646 and 1657 which revised the rules governing the feeding, and to which, it should be noted, the non-burgess commoners are said to have given their assent. None of these, however, altered the basis on which claims for liberty of commonage rested, and so far, therefore, as written regulations go, the basis should have been the same to the end of the chapter as it was in Elizabeth's time. But this was not the case. It is fairly apparent that in the latter part of the sixteenth century the right could be claimed only by householders resident within the borough, and that it was not then, as was the case at a later period, confined solely to "ancient" houses, for provision is made in the order of 1598 for newly erected houses. At this time, however, it was confined to the house in which the commoner dwelt, and was enjoyed by him as tenant, not as landlord; but in 1675, as can be seen from the following copy of a list then compiled, it had become a landlord's right, and had been enlarged to cover other houses within the borough owned by him, and that Coleman's farm, situated at the edge of the Marsh Common and possibly at some time filched from it, was held to be equal to eight houses:—

"Aug: 20th 1675 An Account entered then of all y<sup>e</sup> Comon houses y<sup>t</sup> have Comon belonging to them in the Alders and Portemarshe within y<sup>e</sup> aforesaid Burrough.

Impimis Robert Hungerford, Esq, eight to be stocked on Coleman's farm . . . . .	8
Robert Hungerford, Esq, 1 common at his new house . . . . .	1
Ffarm <sup>r</sup> Forrman widd <sup>w</sup> a comone one y house shee now liveth in . . . . .	1




Mr Robert Fforman six, one for ye bern houfe one for Gildons house one for ye Oyle houfe one for his owne houfe hee liveth in the other for ye mill houfe ye other for ye house Nicholas ffeild liveth in . . . . .	6
George Ockford one for ye house hee liveth in. . . . .	1
Walter Fflay one for ye house yt Thos Taylor lived in . . . . .	1
Jo Tomkins one for ye house hee liveth in . . . . .	1
Tho <sup>s</sup> Looker one for ye house he liveth in . . . . .	1
W <sup>m</sup> Heale one for ye house he liveth in . . . . .	1
Arthur Eastmead two, one upon Adams house the other one house Charlie Cozens liveth in . . . . .	2
Joane Fforman widd <sup>w</sup> one [for] the house hee [ <i>sic</i> ] liveth in . . . . .	1
Jo Neat one for ye house [he] liveth in . . . . .	1
Tho <sup>s</sup> Peett <sup>r</sup> one for ye house hee liveth in . . . . .	1
Dorotie Clarke widd <sup>w</sup> one for ye house shee liveth in . . . . .	1
Anto Peirce one for ye house hee liveth in . . . . .	1
Robert Pile one for ye house yt Jo Keene liveth in . . . . .	1
Jeremiah Russell one for ye house ye widdow Cart <sup>r</sup> liveth in . . . . .	1
Jane Landick one for ye house shee liveth in . . . . .	1
Walt <sup>r</sup> Fforman one for ye house hee liveth in . . . . .	1
M <sup>rs</sup> Little one for ye houfe shee liveth in . . . . .	1 <sup>''</sup>

Towards the end of the seventeenth century also, as appears from a deed in the possession of the secretary to the local building society, it had become possible to practically dissociate the right of commonage from the house to which it originally belonged. The deed referred to, dated November 16th, 1687, relates that Barnabas Horsington—probably the Barnabas Horsington disburgessed in 1697—a barber-surgeon of the town, in consideration of money received leased to James Tyler for two thousand years, at a peppercorn rent, a house and plot of land situated in Cozen Street (Curzon Street), but reserved to himself and his heirs the beast lease on the Commons to which the house was entitled. It is worthy of note that there still remained at this date some connection between the common right and the duties of watch and ward; for in the deed Horsington

contracts to "save harmless" Tyler, his heirs, etc., "off and from watchinge and wardinge for or in respect of the said beast lease."

It is probably due to this power to reserve the common right whilst surrendering the house that the list of 1675 is so short. The list, it will be observed, is said to be an account of the common *houses* having right of common belonging to them—not an account of the *persons*; and that the one did not necessarily include the other is evident from a list compiled in 1711, which shows 93 persons, including 13 women, owning between them 144<sup>1</sup> beast leases. The list is headed:—

"The names of those that did claim a right to Beast leases in the Alders and Marsh A.D. 1711 Are entered as under in order to hinder any one for the future that should claim a right there that have none as some have formerly done. And whereas there are severall of those yt are entered that are objected against as either having none or not so many as they claim this mark  is set against their names in order to be examined into when those that have a right shall think fit to appoint a time to do it. Note that the number now claimed are 144."

The names of those against which the mark appears are John Bayly, in respect of one of his two leases; David Jeffery, for a lease claimed on W<sup>m</sup> Dolman's house; Joshua Sheppard, lease proper to John Ladd's house; and Mr. Richard Stokes, who claims four leases, but is said to be only entitled to three. In this list Benj. D'Aranda, the vicar, is shown as possessing a lease "in lieu of cow white in y<sup>e</sup> Comons," Sir George Hungerford as entitled to eight for Coleman's Farm; and at the end appears this note:—

"There is commonly 1 beast lease allowed for paying the undersheriff 6<sup>s</sup>/8<sup>d</sup> as a fee to discharge the Inhabitants of

<sup>1</sup> In 1561 75 commoners paid for the feeding of 167 cows and bullocks.

the Borough of and from all suits & service of assises, sessions, inquests, &c. And 4 beast leases allowed to the hayward. Note also y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 8 leases belonging to Coleman's farm pay no money for stocking but to the hayward. Nor receives no benefit of the winter feeding of the Marsh."

From the power to disannex the beast lease from the house to which it belonged to that of dealing with it as a marketable commodity was but a step, and this step seems to have been taken early in the eighteenth century; for, to give one example, in 1742 we find Ann Cook, spinster, selling a beast lease of which she was then the owner. In 1812 this lease was declared to be by purchase the property of Mary Essington, who in respect of it was allotted a piece of land in the enclosed common fields. The land value of a beast lease at this time varied from 3 r. 32 p. to 1 a. 0 r. 22 p., according, probably, to the position and richness of the land allotted.

In their administration of the commons the guild stewards and burgesses appear to have been free from the interference of the non-burgess commoners. At their own discretion they engaged, paid the wages of, and dismissed the hayward, hired the common bull, branded the cattle, repaired and remade the bounds, and, what was more important, cut down the trees. The trees felled were generally used for the repair of the town bridges,<sup>1</sup> the pounds, stocks, bounds, or similar things; but occasionally they were sold and the proceeds devoted to special purposes.

<sup>1</sup> " 1565 P<sup>de</sup> for carriage of iiij lodes of tymber owte of the Alders for the brydge in the towne . . . . . iiij<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>  
 p<sup>de</sup> for makinge of the brydge in the towne . . . . . xix<sup>s</sup>  
 1563 p<sup>de</sup> for hewinge of the posts and gates for the pounce . . . . . x<sup>d</sup>  
 p<sup>de</sup> to John Sylke for dyckinge and plantinge of the hedge at the Porte and for ffylinge of iiij trees in the Alders & mendinge of the hedge by the space of vij dayes taken by the daye viij<sup>d</sup> . . . . . iiij<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>"

This course was adopted in 1656, when, in consequence of "great spoils and wastes being committed (by whom is not stated<sup>1</sup>) on the trees and wood in the Alders," it was ordered that the greater part be cut down and sold. The money that should be obtained by the sale was directed to be put out at interest to provide a fund for making and repairing posts, rails, etc., in the commons, and any surplus from the yearly interest to be divided amongst the poor inhabitants of the borough. When the enclosure of the commons took place the burgesses claimed the timber then growing upon them, and sold that upon the Alders to the Marquess of Lansdowne for £602, of which sum they lent £500 on bond to the trustees of the local turnpike.

As the custodians of the liberties and privileges of the commoners, as these were understood by the succeeding generations, the burgesses were careful to see that they were preserved inviolate, and many notes are extant of proceedings taken or fines exacted for any infringement of them. Even the guild stewards did not escape.

"And that uppon the 13 daye of Apriell 1607 Olyver Cyrdeler and Walter Nycholas burgessz Stewardes were sett at their ffyne ffor sellinge more trees then (*sic*) they weare allowed by their warrante to sell: in the porte marshe and the Alders."

The money received for the trees had been duly paid in to the borough account; the fine, which was paid, was simply for having, perhaps by mistake, exceeded their warrant.

Trespassing was not permitted, and offenders in this way were either warned or fined, principally the latter. In many instances the person fined was also compelled to

<sup>1</sup> "1647 P<sup>d</sup> for a warrant for the treecutters . . . 18<sup>d</sup>  
1657 do. do, . . . 20<sup>d</sup>"

sign a record of his own conviction. On the other hand, provided a good reason could be given, permission was rarely withheld from any one requiring liberty to pass over the commons, or in other ways to trench on the rights and privileges of the commoners. But one condition imposed was that he to whom the favour was granted should sign an acknowledgment that he understood the permission could at any time be withdrawn by the burgesses upon notice given.

On September 20th, 1773, Lord Shelburne signed a memorandum that with the consent of the stewards and burgesses he had stopped a certain cattle road; that he had no right to do so; and that at any time upon the request of the burgesses, or part of them, he would throw open the road again. In 1800 the Marquess of Lansdowne (as Lord Shelburne had now become) applied for and obtained leave

“to pass the Common called the Alders from a gate at present leading from the cascade near to the end of Dunn’s Lane, to a gate to be erected on the Marquesses Bounds leading into the lower grounds belonging to Pinnels Farm, on the left hand”;

but upon condition that he signed an acknowledgment at the foot of the entry in the records that the right of way was upon sufferance. This he did. Sometimes a small fee was charged for the privilege, as is shown by the following :—

“1562. Rec<sup>d</sup> of sundrye psons for goeynge of their ploughes (plough teams) over the Alders w<sup>th</sup> carryage of wood owte of Coome Grove.—ij<sup>s</sup> iij<sup>d</sup>”

In other instances a small rent was exacted, as in the case of one John Smith, who in 1803 was granted permission to pass from his brick-kiln in the Slades over the Marsh Common upon payment of 2s. 6d. yearly. That it was

necessary to impose safeguards is shown by the fact that in 1808 Thomas Bodman, then tenant of Lagos Farm, refused to open up the cattle road closed in 1773; and it was only after reference had been made to Lord Shelburne's memorandum and a notice sent requiring the road to be opened up within fourteen days that Mr. Bodman gave way.

Co-existent with the Alders and Portemarshe Commons, there were within the boundaries of the borough three common fields, known respectively as Wenhill, Castlefield and Northfields; but, so far as we have been able to discover, practically all that is now extant relating to the customs and regulations governing their use is contained in the notes of fines inflicted and indulgences granted that are given in the books of the guild stewards and burgesses, who thus appear to have been, at any rate in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the guardians of the common field rights as they were of the common rights. From these notes we give the following typical examples :--

1673. Part of an acre in "Stock Street" having been used by a certain person on which to erect a house, he is fined, ordered to pay rent for the house, and required to open the gate of the enclosure he had made, Stock Street being Lammas ground.

"Received of . . . for an acknowledgment to y<sup>e</sup> toun for enclosing a plott of ground in Wenhill, contrary to the privileges & customs."

1717. "Paid to Cha<sup>s</sup> Perkins for measuring the  
wheat . . . . . 2<sup>s</sup> 3<sup>d</sup>"

1731. Ack<sup>t</sup> of trespass and breach of custom by mowing grass after Lammas in Northfield.

1750. Ack<sup>t</sup> of trespass and breach of custom by ploughing up Rickbaston mead, being Lammas feed, and sowing it with beans. Offender ordered to pay a fine and to give up to the burgesses certain feed in a close called 'Card's Ground,' then in his occupation."

1750. Trespass, &c., "by keeping 'Tibboles piece' enclosed from the breach of the fields."

"4 Sep. Ordered that . . . be prosecuted at the expense of the borough for assaulting and beating John Bollen the hayward in the execution of his office in impounding cattle feeding in Castlefield contrary to the custom of the borough."

"Ordered that . . . of Berills be prosecuted at Sessions or Assizes for feeding his pigs in Castlefield and resisting the hayward who endeavoured to impound the said pigs."

"1751. Aug: 1. Robert Capp by wetness of season not having been able to cut his wheat on Rickbaston by this day, in order that the inhabitants of the borough might feed it according to custom, and the said Robert Capp having paid 10/6 to the Guild Stewards and agreed that the inhabitants shall have the after-feeding of Card's Close from henceforth for so long as they would have been entitled to feed Rickbaston, Ordered that he be allowed to take off his present crop of wheat."

1752. John Moore allowed to keep certain ground shut up until his seed clover 'is carried, on the understanding that he does not turn any cattle from Lickhill into the breach of the fields. But it is ordered that neither John Moore nor any other person is to be allowed the like indulgence in future, it being contrary, &c., &c.

"1785. . . . fined for feeding with sheep a piece of land called the 'Long Ground' at the bottom of Northfield after cutting and carrying off a crop of peas."

1791. Ack<sup>t</sup> of trespass in ploughing up a mere and digging up part of the bank in Castlefield.

Do. in turning cattle into the breach of the common fields, "which cattle were not summoned in the said borough."

1800. Do. in ploughing up part of a mere in the Middle Furlong in Northfield.

1803. Do. in feeding a horse in Castlefield before the breach of the fields.

The guild stewards are petitioned by 4 persons to defer the breach of the common fields, the seed clover being backward, but the Burgesses at a special meeting agree not to defer the breach.

1804. Ack<sup>t</sup> of trespass in putting certain cows in the common fields at the breach thereof, "which cows had not been fed 6 weeks in the borough in the course of the season, according to ancient custom."

1810. A certain person having ploughed up a mere in "Purr's Acre," being the south east limit of the borough, he is fined and required to put up 4 large stones marked "C. B.," so as to mark the boundary at this part.

The first public step towards the enclosure of the commons and common fields was taken on August 12th, 1812, when a meeting of the landholders, leaseholders and others interested in the lands was held at the "Wheel" to prepare a petition to Parliament to allow the enclosure to be made. Before the hour named for the meeting, the guild stewards and burgesses met at their Guildhall and passed a resolution to the effect that unless their ancient rights and privileges were respected, and an assurance given that the enclosure would be for the benefit of the whole community, "they would not find themselves warranted to support such petition." Apparently they received all the assurances they required, for on the same day the guild stewards were authorised to sign the petition. The enclosure was allowed under an Act 53 George III. intituled "An Act for Inclosing Lands in the several parishes of Calne, Calstone Willington, and Blackland in the county of Wilts." The commissioners appointed under the Act commenced their labours almost immediately, and at the beginning of 1814 they issued a preliminary award. To the sixth clause of this award, whatever it may have been, the guild stewards and burgesses objected, and orders were given to their law agent, Henry Merewether,<sup>1</sup> to prepare a case for presentation to the borough members. The clause seems thereupon to have been excised or amended, as the enclosure was proceeded with without further objection.

<sup>1</sup> See page 196.



In the preamble to the final award the commissioners state :—

(1) That the lands with which they have dealt “are several commons in the parishes of Calne and Blackland called the Marsh and Alders and Blackland Common, and several other commons, commonable places and waste lands and divers open and common fields, common meadows and common pastures within the parishes of Calne, Calstone Wellington and Blackland ;”

(2) “that the lands of the respective proprietors of the said open and common fields, common meadows and common pastures in the said several parishes laid very much intermixed and dispersed in small parcels whereby the cultivation thereof was rendered very inconvenient and not very capable of improvement in their present state ;”

(3) that certain commonable lands called Great and Little Abberd, Borrdown and Quemerford North and South Fields within the recited parishes were not within the scope of their award ; and

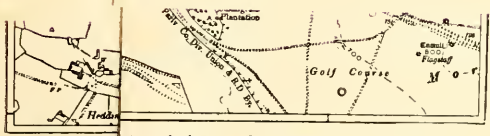
(4) that they had allotted the Alders Common (62 acres) to the Marquess of Lansdowne “in lieu of rights in the said several and respective commons and waste lands within the parish of Calne.”

The area of the land dealt with was 1979 ac. 3 r. 21 p. of which 740 ac. 0 r. 35 p. were contained in the commons, common fields, etc., situated in the parish of Calne. Of this land the guild stewards and burgesses received 6 ac. 2 r. 22 p. in lieu of their manorial rights in the two commons, and 7 ac. 0 r. 12 p. as compensation for loss of the profits of the winter feeding—a total of 13 ac. 3 r. 4 p. only.

Great and Little Abberd, which are declared to be outside the scope of the Act, are meadow-lands adjoining the Marsh. They were probably at one time part of the common meadows of the borough, and it is possible they were divided up in 1728, in which year an enclosure seems to have taken place. In 1812 some of the acre strips still

remained, the property of different persons, several of them, interspersed amongst the others, belonging to the Heneage family. By a system of exchanges which the commissioners permitted these several lots were gathered into the hands of one owner, and thus these visible relics of an earlier system of cultivation disappeared. Fortunately, however, every trace of them has not been lost, as the commissioners to aid them in their allocation caused a map to be prepared in which the strips are shown. From this and others made at the same time the particulars of the commons, etc., shown on the accompanying reduced ordnance map have been obtained.

In these commons and common fields we have, it appears to us, undeniable evidence of the existence of a former village community, to whom, as we have said, possibly in the first instance Calne owed its origin, and of whom the guild stewards and burgesses may have been the lineal descendants. And it is in the hope that some one may be induced to take up this question that we have given more fully than we otherwise should have done the facts that have come to our knowledge.



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MAP OF CAINE, SHOWING THE COMMON LANDS AS THEY EXISTED IN 1813.

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## CHAPTER VII.

The Elizabethan "Burgus Book," or "Booke of th' Accompte."—Philip Rich's account of receipts and expenditure for 1578.—Self-denying ordinance of 1610.—Income wasted in feasting in later years.—"Vewe of abull men" in 1539.—Calne sends men to help the Prince of Condé.—Expenditure on arms and armour, prisoners, prisons, etc.—The town "crook."—Executions at Salisbury.—Pillory, stocks, etc.—Pounds and the penalty for pound breach.—Payment of salaries to the M.P.s.—Value of labour in 1561, etc.—"Hunting the Borough."—Visitations of the plague.—A letter of 1606 recommending certain precautions to lessen the risk of plague.—Smallpox epidemics.

THE "Burgus Book," or "Booke of th' Accompte," to which we are indebted for so much of our knowledge of the borough life during several centuries, is the book in which, as its sub-title implies, were recorded the receipts and payments of the guild stewards; but, as the extracts we have given show, it was also used at times as the minute-book of the burgesses and for other purposes. It is a parchment-covered volume of some five or six hundred paper pages. The leaves are dingy with age and torn in places, but as a whole the book is in a very fair state of preservation. There are in it two pages, on which appear items relating to the year 1606-7, that seem to have been subjected to some treatment, and it has occurred to us that, as in this year the plague was raging at Calne, we have here evidence that an attempt was then made to disinfect the volume.

The book was commenced in 1561 by Philip Rich, who at the time, as he tells us, was town clerk, and who was also the vicar of the parish. He continued to keep the

accounts until his death in 1598, and during the time he had charge of the book there is little cause for complaint respecting the lack of details of the receipts and expenditure. After his death the record was kept in a very perfunctory manner, and occasionally we have to lament a total absence of particulars for years together. There were omissions, it is true, during Rich's day, but he is careful to explain that they are due to no fault of his: *e.g.*, "1594. The reste of this accompte was lost by W<sup>m</sup> Alleyne." The old vicar's method of summarising the year's receipts and expenditure is well shown in his account for 1578; and as this summary also shows that his accuracy was not always commensurate with his industry, we give it below in his words:—

"**Calne.** The Accompte of william fforman thelder and Thomas fflowks Burgessz stewards there: ffrom the Daye and ffeaste of St Maythe the Evangeliste in the twentethe yere of the Raigne of owre Sovaigne Ladie quene Elyzabethe &c Ano Dni 1578 Unto the Daye and ffeaste of saynte mathyas thapostle viz the xxiiij<sup>th</sup> Daye of ffebruarye Ano 1579 and yn the xxi<sup>st</sup> yere of her ma<sup>ties</sup> pssporous Raigne As it was agreed uppon by & wythe the consente of all the Burgessz there.

"**The Arreage Impimis** R<sup>d</sup> of John James and Willyam hoskyns Burgessz stewards there as appeareth yn the ffoote of their accompte thereof made and examined—iiij*l*.

"Soome o — iiij*l*.

"**foreyn Rd Receyued** for the soomer (lease) of the Alders and portemarshe lvs iiij*l*. It<sup>m</sup> for the wynter lease of the same groundes—ljs vij*l*.—It<sup>m</sup> for the halfe yeres rente of Edyth Bysshoppe for her house o — vs. It<sup>m</sup> for certayne thornes that were grubbed upp at a the saide Comons—vjs—Item of the saide william hoskyns for a strayed mare o — vjs viij*l*.

"Soome o — vi*l*. iiij*l*s vij*l*.

"Whereof was geven backe agayne to Sundrye of the Comonners there o — vjs. viij*l*. Soe the whole soome that was Receyued ys o — ix*l*. xvijs. xj*l*.

"Soome o — ix*l*. xvijs. xj*l*.



## The Borough Accounts for 1578. 91

“**The Deductyons** Whereof there is deducted: & layed owte in payements and necessarye expence As in bylle thereof made and ptycularlye examyned more appeareth 0— iiij*l.* xiijs.

“ Soome 0— iiij*l.* xiijs.

“ The soome of the allowance is iiij*l.* xiijs. And soe they owe 0—iiij*l.* xiijs ix*d*<sup>1</sup> whereof there y<sup>t</sup> D.D into the handes of henrye Pye and Robert Pham burgessz stuards chosen and elected for this yere 1579 0— iiij*l.* And soe the reste is putt into the Towne cheste whiche is xviijs. viij*d.* And phillippe Clyfford oweth for his fyne ijs vj*d* John Cowlston for his fyne ijs iiij*d* John Jones of the grene xij*d.* and Roger Nicholas 0—viiij*d.*”

The gross income for this year, it will be noticed, was £6 4*s.* 7*d.*, derived principally from the fees of the commoners. Usually, in addition to the items shown, there were receipts under the head of “incomes” obtained from new commoners.<sup>2</sup> From about 1600 onwards the receipts were augmented by interest received from money lent out on bond, and after 1622, for some years, also from market and fair tolls.

A good portion of the money lent out on bond was obtained from charitable bequests made for the assistance of the poor; and therefore, besides what may be termed the *regular* expenditure, there appear at intervals accounts of money handed to burgesses for distribution amongst those for whom it was originally intended. Here is a typical entry:—

“D.D. to Nycholas Cyrdeler and henrye peres constables for this year 1612 of the increase of the town stock to be geven to the poore at there Discretion that is iiij*l.* vijs viij*d.*”

<sup>1</sup> There is apparently a mistake here. £9 17*s.* 11*d.* - £4 13*s.* = £5 4*s.* 11*d.* amount owed, instead of £4 13*s.* 9*d.* Then £5 4*s.* 11*d.* - £4 = £1 4*s.* 11*d.* for the town chest; or, taking the clerk's own figures, £4 13*s.* 9*d.* - £4 = 13*s.* 9*d.* for the town chest, instead of 18*s.* 8*d.* as shown.

<sup>2</sup> See orders of 1598.

With regard to this particular entry, it may be observed that the stock must have rapidly increased; for in 1610 the burgesses passed the following self-denying ordinance:—

“And it is ordeyned and agreed uppon for one whole yere to come the nynthe Daye of Novembre 1610 By Reason that owr Borrowe by the Longe Plyament<sup>1</sup> is Growen in Depte Therefore wee the Burgessz of the Borrowe of Calne ffor the payment of whiche Depte doe order and agree that everye man withein the Borrowe that shall put their Cattle into the Comons this yere shall Dubble their paymente And to be paide to the Burgessz Stewardes at the puttinge in of their cattle That is for everye horse beaste viij*ʒ* ffor everye other beaste iij*ʒ* And for everye sheepe ij*ʒ* for their winter ffeedinge And ffor everye beaste at the Sprynge whiche shall have their somere ffeedinge in the Marshe and Alders shall paye at the puttinge in of them viij*ʒ*.”

It is possible, however, that the £3 7*s.* 8*d.* was the interest of the Swaddon bequest, which appears from the following entry of 1624 to have been made to the borough about this time:—

“Payd for conveyance of an annuity bequeathed to the Burrough by W<sup>m</sup> Swaddon, dec<sup>d</sup>, DD, and Elizabeth, his wife, about 1605—£14 5*s.* 8*d.*, being £4 a yeaere to the poore out of land.”

The income of the borough in 1835 was £95 10*s.*, £48 of it derived from the proceeds of the sale of the timber in the Alders in 1814 and the rent of the land allotted under the Enclosure Award, and the remainder from the sum of £950<sup>2</sup> let out at 5 per cent. At this

<sup>1</sup> This refers to the parliament that dissolved on Feb. 9th, 1611, after sitting for nearly seven years, and must not be confounded with *the* Long Parliament.

<sup>2</sup> Obtained apparently from the following gifts made to the borough:—

1742-92.	Mr. Lionell Duckett . . . .	£350
1742.	Mr. William Elliott . . . .	£100
1750.	Mr. Northey . . . .	£200
1752.	Mr. Elliott's second gift . . . .	£200
1760.	Dr. Hay . . . .	£100

time the only charitable payments made by the guild stewards and burgesses, so far as they appear in the books, were £5 5*s.* to the boys' school and £4 4*s.* to the Mendicity Society. And in the report of the commissioners appointed to inquire into the municipal corporations of England and Wales appears this short but significant paragraph:—

“Almost the whole of the income of the Corporation is in fact expended in entertainments and in the expenses connected with the attendance at Ogbourne Court.”

The commissioners might have said also that the money expended at Ogbourne was principally spent in entertainment, for such was the case. In 1800 the guild stewards and four or five burgesses expended £12 2*s.* 6*d.* at Ogbourne, £6 5*s.* 6*d.* of which was for one supper only. The feasting account for 1835, bad as it was, was by no means the worst. In 1819, as appears from the particulars given for that year, no less than £92 9*s.* 9*d.* was spent in this manner.

It was only towards the end of the reign of the guild stewards that so large a proportion of the income was expended in entertainment. In the earlier years the items of expenditure appearing under this head are not frequent and are modest in their dimensions:—

1565. P <sup>de</sup> for ffyshe for the Justices <sup>1</sup> Dener at Mr. ffynamores . . . . .	ij <sup>s</sup>
1578. P <sup>de</sup> for myne <sup>2</sup> owne dynner . . . . .	vij <sup>d</sup>
1579. For a pottle of wyne geven to sir Edw <sup>d</sup> Bayntun at the Parsonage Court . . . . .	x <sup>d</sup>
1584. P <sup>de</sup> for a gallon of wyne . . . . .	ij <sup>s</sup>
1655. P <sup>de</sup> for candles, tobacco, and a dozen of pipes sent for to the Town Hall . . . . .	x <sup>d</sup>
1658-9. To Capt. Lavington's souldiers when we proclaimed our most gracious and merciful sovereign lord Chas. Second a hogshead of beer the price of . . . . .	24 <sup>s</sup> ”

<sup>1</sup> The Court of Quarter Sessions was sometimes held at Calne. This entry possibly refers to such a meeting.

<sup>2</sup> Philip Rich. This was expended at Chippenham, whither he had gone to attend a muster.

On one occasion the earlier burgesses seem to have expended money very injudiciously ; but it is to be remarked that this appears to be the only time that money was voted for the purpose :—

1569. Paid to Henry Gye for the money he payde for to  
the lottery. . . . . xxxs.

As a general rule the statement at the head of each list, that it is an account of money “laid owte in necessarye expence,” is a true description. Up to the time of the Commonwealth many of the items given relate to the Militia that then served the military necessities of the country, and to the musters at which the men and their arms were “viewed” by the Commissioners of Array. The following, with the names only omitted, is a copy of a certificate of a muster of the men of the Hundred of Calne held in the 30th of Henry VIII. :—

“The certyfycatt of the vewe of abull men, as well Archers as Byllmen, takyn the x daye of Apryll, in the xxx<sup>th</sup> yere of the reign of our Sov<sup>n</sup> Lorde Kynge Henry VIII, by the grace of god Kynge of Englonde and of Fraunce, defender of the fayth, Lorde of Irelande, in the erth mooste suppreme hed of the Church of Englonde, by Sir Henry Long, Knight, John Hamelyn, Esquyer, and Wylliam Stumpe, Commyssyoners.

“The borough of Calne xi & ix<sup>1</sup> archers xliij byllmen. The whole borough hath in redynes ij Horses, ix Harnes, with other small weapons.

Tithing of

Berwick. The whole tything hath in redyness j harness.

Compton Bassett vii archers, viii byllmen. The whole tything hath in redyness iiij harnes, 1 bowe, 1 sheff of arrowes, with other small weapons.

Heddington iiij archers xv byllmen, iij harnes, with &c.

Cherell v do. vij do. i horse, iiij harnes, with &c.

Yattesbury ij do. vj do. ... iij do. do.

Whetham j do. j do. ... j do. do.

<sup>1</sup> The twenty archers appear to have been divided into two sections.

Tithing of					
Blakelonde	j	archers	v	byllmen	1 bowe & a sheff of arrowes
Chalston	iiij	do.	iiij	do.	4 harnes, with &c.
Beversbroke	iiij	do.	j	do.	1 do. do.
Studley	vij	do.	vij	do.	1 do. do.
Estemonstrett	iiij	men & a sheff of arrowes.			
Commerford	vj	archers	iiij	byllmen,	2 harnes, with &c.
Pynnell	j	do.	j	do.	1 horse & harnes, with &c."

From the payments made for military purposes we extract the following items:—

"A.D. 1562. Item p<sup>de</sup> to the men the which wente fforthe into the Queenes warres into france . . . ijs."

Early in 1562 the Prince of Condé applied to Elizabeth for assistance on behalf of the Huguenots, and offered to surrender Havre into the hands of the English. Elizabeth consented; and here, 341 years after the event took place, by means of this entry we find that Calne was not unrepresented in the expedition that sailed to uphold the Protestant cause. It was the survivors of this expedition, unfortunately, who re-introduced the plague into England, and thus became the indirect cause of the death of many thousands of people in the year following their return.

"1567, Item paide to Wm. Welstede for scowering of harnes (the arms and armour) . . . vs (5s.)  
 "1579, Item pde for the trayning of the souldiers . . . 10s.  
 pde for the mending of the Harquebus & 2 morryons . . . . . 2s.  
 pde for the mending of the gunes . . . 3s. 6d."

In 1586, the year of the condemnation of Mary, Queen of Scots, a comparatively large sum was laid out in military fittings, etc., possibly in anticipation of trouble with Mary's friends:—

"Whereof there is layed and Deducted in necessary expenses as in byll thereof examined and fyrste for the harnesse

and furniture and the [ ? ] thereuntoe belonginge as followeth :—

	<i>s. d.</i>
2 corslets . . . . .	40 0
2 pikes . . . . .	6 8
a calyver . . . . .	10 0
a flaske & twitch box . . . . .	2 2
2 murrens . . . . .	4 8
20 sheff of arrowes . . . . .	3 9
Fethering a sheff . . . . .	1 3
Ffor a case . . . . .	10
6 sward gyrdles . . . . .	4 4
5 buf-lether do. . . . .	7 2
Lyning of 4 headpieces & blacking of 4 skulls . . . . .	2 0
scowering of swards and daggers . . . . .	1 6
3 redd caps . . . . .	2 8
2 dagger handles . . . . .	6
1 sward scabbard . . . . .	8
mendynge of the jacks . . . . .	1 0
makyng cleane the swards and daggers . . . . .	4
a buckle & ryvetings . . . . .	4
New key for a gune . . . . .	6
Stocking of a calyver . . . . .	3 0
A horse to carry the furniture (i.e. the arms, &c.) to Chippenham, at the Muster . . . . .	1 3
Spent upon the Souldiers there . . . . .	1 3
And upon ourselves at 3 tymes . . . . .	3 0
Souldyers wages at Chippenham . . . . .	1 7 6

In 1588, the year of the Spanish Armada, arms and armour were again bought. Calne, however, like many other places, sometimes neglected the duty laid upon it to provide the means for the training of the citzens in the use of the bow—a neglect for which the burgesses were duly fined :—

“ 1570: pde to Thomas Bruar for the fine for the  
Butts ; ; ; , . . . . . xxxs.<sup>3</sup>

This "mercement" appears to have kept the guild stewards alive to their duties for at least twenty years:—

" 1590. p <sup>de</sup> for mendinge of the Butts . . . . .	xij <i>d</i> '
	s. d.
" 1652, p <sup>de</sup> to souldiers travelling from Ireland . . . . .	9 0
„ „ for carryinge O'Neale towards London . . . . .	2 6"

This last is rather an important item, as, taken in connection with the preceding, it appears to refer to the O'Neale who was one of the ringleaders of the rebellion which commenced in Ireland during the reign of Charles I. and was continued during part of the Commonwealth. Bristol was at that time one of the principal ports for arrivals from Ireland, and it is therefore very probable that O'Neale was landed there and brought through Calne on his way to London for trial.

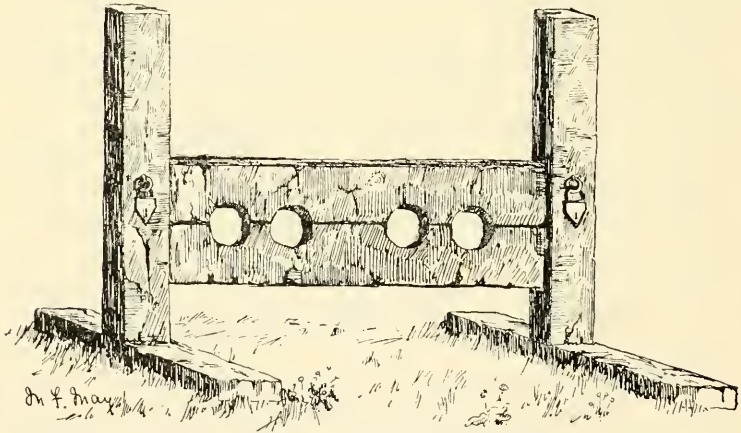
From the entries relating to constables, prisoners, stocks, pounds, etc., we give the following typical items:—

" 1563. p <sup>d</sup> to W <sup>m</sup> Welstede for tooe loches for the pounds . . . . .	xvij <i>d</i> '
1566. p <sup>de</sup> to Willyam Welsted for the makeinge of tuoe pykes for the constables staves . . . . .	
p <sup>de</sup> to W <sup>m</sup> Welsted for the geñals staples & locke of the Stockes. . . . .	iiij <i>s</i> iiij <i>d</i> '
1568. D.D. to Edwarde Chambers to goe to the Sysez at Sarum . . . . .	ix <i>s</i>
Item for the makeinge of bylle of yndightmente . . . . .	iiij <i>s</i>
„ to the Shryffe for certayne men arrested . . . . .	xv <i>s</i>
„ to Mast. Staples for his pleadinge . . . . .	v <i>s</i> viij <i>d</i> '
1569. p <sup>de</sup> for the [ ? ] of John Nycholas goods beinge for felonye <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	vij <i>d</i> '
1575. Item paide unto the Constables to brynge mother <sup>2</sup> to the gaole . . . . .	iiij <i>s</i> v <i>d</i> '

<sup>1</sup> The goods of a man convicted of felony were impounded. This entry appears to refer to such a case.

<sup>2</sup> Who or what "mother" was it is impossible to ascertain. Probably she was a well-known female incorrigible who went by the name of "mother."

1578. layed owte to brynge John Noble to Jayle . . . . .	iijs
Item p <sup>de</sup> to the Constables for a shyffe of arrowes . . . . .	iijs
1579. P <sup>de</sup> to the Constables the 12 daye of August 1579 for the reließe of the prysoners in the goale . . . . .	iiijs iiij <sup>d</sup>
DD. to the Constables to buye Powedere whyp- corde and poyntes . . . . .	ixs
1581. To Jonas Alexander for tiling the cage . . . . .	vijs
1652. p <sup>de</sup> to Criggles when Andrews the Tithingman was carried to Gaole . . . . .	vjd
1655. Carrying a woman of Wootton to ye Goale for committing felony . . . . .	xvij <sup>d</sup>
Carrying Jane Twyning to the House of Correc- tion . . . . .	ijs
p <sup>de</sup> for repairs to the stocks and cage . . . . .	ijs



THE LAST CALNE STOCKS (from a Sketch by A. H.).

1656. Tiles and lime for the blind house, &c . . . . .	10/-
1671. Paid to one of the constables for burning 'unholsum' meat in the market &c, &c . . . . .	17/5"

Several times during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries there appears an entry in somewhat similar terms to this of 1570:—



“p<sup>d</sup> to Thos. Wyate and W<sup>m</sup> Waylonde the Constables for the town crook . . . . . 20s.”

The bailiffs of Calne in 1275, it will be remembered, are said to have gallows, and it is possible that the term “crook” here used was the locally accepted name for this instrument of justice; the word “gallows” does not appear in any of the lists. Where the crook was set up<sup>1</sup> is not stated, but possibly it was on the piece of land still known as the “gallows ground” that now forms part of Roughleaze farm.

No reference is made in the guild stewards' book for 1732-86 to any prisoners, but the following copies of entries in the parish burials register for the period will show that the town and neighbourhood were by no means free from crime during those years:—

“Burials

1732

March	.	Henry Swain John Smart Henry Chivers	} Executed at Salisbury.
-------	---	--------------------------------------------	--------------------------

1739

Aug:	.	William Brown W <sup>m</sup> Swain	{ Executed at Fisherton Anger for a robbery on the Highway.
------	---	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------

1740

Aug:	.	Jeremiah Brewer.	Executed at Fisherton for breaking open the house of W <sup>m</sup> Davis at Whitley.
------	---	------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

1786

Aug: 16	.	James Hillier	. executed at Fisherton.”
---------	---	---------------	---------------------------

Throughout the period covered by the books we have examined there is no entry relating to a pillory or whipping-post.<sup>2</sup> This absence is difficult to explain, unless it be

<sup>1</sup> One of the items is for “setting up” the town crook.

<sup>2</sup> There is one entry of the purchase of whipcord, but this appears to have been in connection with certain armour.

supposed that the stocks, pillory and whipping-post formed one complete whole, as at Wallingford and other places, and that entries relating to the renewal or repairs of the stocks refer also to the other two. There certainly was a pillory here, for it appears from a petition presented to the House of Commons in 1689 by an inhabitant of Calne, that he had been reported to the Court as a disaffected person, and that Chief Justice Jefferies being enraged with him, had him sentenced to stand in the pillory before Westminster Hall, at Calne before his tenants and neighbours, and also at Salisbury; to be fined £1,000, and to be imprisoned till it was paid, and to give security for his good behaviour during life; which was executed upon him, he being confined three years in the King's Bench, to his ruin.<sup>1</sup> And whippings were inflicted for so many and such slight offences that almost every village, and certainly every town, maintained both a post and a whip.

There is also no mention of a cucking- or ducking-stool; but here again outside evidence shows us that Calne possessed such an instrument:—

“1618. Thomas Mills of Iwenmerford (Quemerford), in the parish of Calne, complains of a riotous armed assembly coming to his house with drums and horns, and assaulting his wife, saying: ‘that there was a Skimmington dwelling there,’ and proposing to carry her to Calne, to wash her in the cucking stool there.”<sup>2</sup>

In 1665 there appears this entry in the account of money expended by John Norman, one of the constables:—

“For jowking of Wells, having an order from Sir  
Edw<sup>d</sup> Bayntun and other justices here . . . . 7s.”

This is the only entry of its kind. It undoubtedly refers to the punishment of the jugs, or iron collar, and it shows

<sup>1</sup> Merewether and Stephens, p. 1880.

<sup>2</sup> Report on Manuscripts, Rolls Series, vol. i. p. 90.

us that this instrument was also maintained at Calne. This entry is also noteworthy in that it is the only record of the local infliction of any punishment other than fine or imprisonment.

The money spent on pounds is sometimes said to be for the Marsh and Alders pounds, showing that there was one of these places on each of the two commons; at other times it is said to be for the town pound. There were within recent times three pounds in or near the town: one at Quemerford,<sup>1</sup> another at the Anchor,<sup>2</sup> and the third in Oxford Street. We are doubtful, however, if the entries relate to either of these. The one in Oxford Street, still in a good state of preservation, was the Hundred pound, and belonged, as now, to the lord of the Hundred of Calne; we believe the one at the Anchor belonged to the Prebend manor; and all three were outside the boundaries of the old borough.

At the time when pounds were a recognised feature in the maintenance of "law and order," pound breaking was not a light offence, as can be seen from the following extract:—

"1611. That Whereas George James did wilfullye and stubbornelye Resyste the orders and decrees made for the benefitt and good of the inhabitants of the Borrowe of Calne in Breakinge the pounce That he submytt hymselfe for his ffollye cravinge the Burgessz ffavoure herein And pmysinge to mend up the pounce agayne and to make it good as it was before And that he give in Recompense to the towene xij<sup>d</sup>"

The penalty for non-compliance with this order was disenfranchisement for ever.

Repairs to and renewals of the town and Patford bridges were a constant drain on the income of the borough.

<sup>1</sup> Now partly destroyed and used as a depository by a neighbouring blacksmith.

<sup>2</sup> Removed when the recreation ground was made.

Scarcely a year passed that money was not devoted to this purpose, and yet it appears that, occasionally at least, the repairs were not executed without pressure being put upon the burgesses by the county authorities :—

“ 1565. pd for the ffyne for the towne for an yndight-  
mente concerning the town bridge . . . . . vs”

In 1581 a new bridge was made for the borough at a cost of £22 14s. 2d.

A few of the items of expenditure show that some of the members of Parliament for the borough claimed, and were paid in money or in kind, the two shillings a day to which they were entitled :—

1563 Richard Nicholas, M.P. is allowed the winter lease of  
the Alders Common as a set off to 10/- owed to  
him by the burgesses ‘for his chardges in the  
High Courte of Pliament.’

1575 P<sup>d</sup> Mr Swaddon<sup>1</sup> for the Burgesses Parliament iij*l*  
1576 P<sup>d</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Were for serving in the plyament house 24s  
1606<sup>2</sup> To John Noyse for his business in the Parlia-  
ment . . . . . £19”

There are many payments similar to those given below shown as having been made to the “clarke of the marcatt,” and also in respect of markets and market measures :—

“ 1566 p<sup>de</sup> to the clarke of the marcatt . . . . . vjs viij*d*  
1568 „ Mr Snell for the forfeitinge of the bushell xiijs iiij*d*  
1575 p<sup>de</sup> for mending the markt bushell . . . . . ij*d*  
1576 P<sup>d</sup> to Olyffe for carryinge of a lode of tymbre  
owte of the Alders to make postes for the  
market place . . . . . xvj*d*”

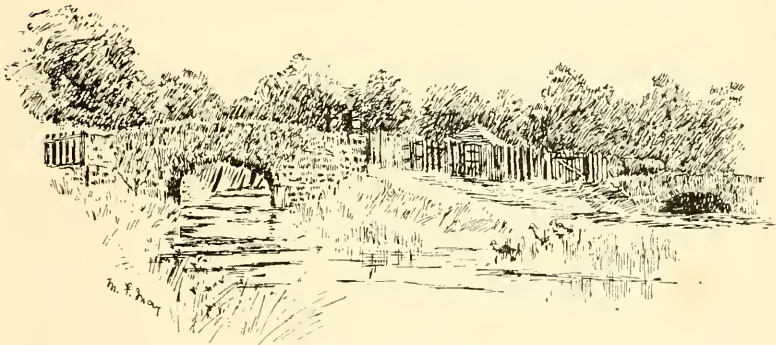
<sup>1</sup> The Swaddon of this entry was elected to serve in the Parliament of 1603-4. In the Commons Journal of Nov. 9th, 1605, there is this entry with reference to him : “Weak, and not able to serve, by reason of age, and not likely to recover :—Swaddon, for Calne in Wiltshire. To be removed. Question, whether Swaddon, for Calne, shall be removed ?—Resolved, ‘He shall.’”

<sup>2</sup> A similar payment in 1610.

## Value of Labour in Elizabeth's Reign. 103

The following extracts are interesting as showing the market value of labour:—

“ 1561 p <sup>d</sup>	for xiiij dayes work in mendynge the hedge and castynge the pooles at the Alders & Portemarshe @ ix <i>d</i> a daye . . . . .	ixs ix <i>d</i>
1563 p <sup>d</sup>	to John Strange for buyldinge of the howse in the Alders . . . . .	xxvjs. viij <i>d</i> .
	p <sup>d</sup> for makinge of xliij logge (lug) of hedge . . . . .	xiijs
1565 p <sup>d</sup>	for 2 dayes worke on the brydge . . . . .	xvj <i>d</i>
	p <sup>d</sup> for a dayes worke and a halfe with a ploughe (plough team) for drawing of tymbre. . . . .	iiijs
1581 P <sup>d</sup>	to Robertt Gye for watchinge for one night . . . . .	ij <i>d</i>
1588 p <sup>d</sup>	to Thomas Foorde for keepinge the beasts at Chavey Well . . . . .	xij <i>d</i>



CHAVEY WELL BRIDGES.

1651 p <sup>d</sup>	to a watchman on the Sabbath . . . . .	12 <i>d</i>
	„ for watching the prison . . . . .	6 <i>d</i>
1656 p <sup>d</sup>	to Thomas Silk for his winter wages . . . . .	2/6 ”

But, much as we should like to continue the series, space forbids our giving many more examples of the manner in which the burgesses expended the borough funds. We close, then, with the following:—

“ 1568 P <sup>d</sup>	M <sup>r</sup> Allen at his going to London with the subsidy . . . . .	15 <i>s</i> .
-----------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------

1574	P <sup>de</sup> Henry Pye for that he laid owte for Bishop Jewel's dinner . . . . .	5 <sup>s</sup>
1579	P <sup>d</sup> for sealing wax for the obligation touchinge the towne stocke . . . . .	2 <sup>d</sup>
1586	p <sup>d</sup> for a stagge . . . . .	3/4
1609	p <sup>d</sup> to the younger prince . . . . .	10/-
1651	P <sup>d</sup> W <sup>m</sup> Girdler for writing contribution rates . . . . .	2/2
1658	p <sup>d</sup> when the king was proclaimed . . . . .	3/-
1676	gave to a poor man and his wife that was a leper . . . . .	6 <sup>d</sup>
1743	p <sup>d</sup> Jas Andrews for serving gloves to the burgesses <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	2/6
1747	p <sup>d</sup> carriage of the gloves <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	3/-
	p <sup>d</sup> for carrying them about <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	3/-
1768	p <sup>d</sup> for a letter that came from France . . . . .	2/5
1788	P <sup>d</sup> cash towards the navigation <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	£10/10/0
1798	p <sup>d</sup> for Proclamation of a Fast . . . . .	5 <sup>d</sup>
1811	given towards the relief of British prisoners in France . . . . .	£5/5/0"

In none of the borough records is any mention made of the maypole, the bull-ring, or any other of the old sports and pastimes, except that of "Hunting the Borough." And yet it is certain they had their place in the life of the town; for we have seen that the cutting of branches for the decking of houses was prohibited, and on old maps the land at the back of the brewery in the London Road is called the "bull-baiting field." "Hunting the borough" was the local name for what was generally termed "beating the bounds." It took place on Holy Thursday, and appears to have been attended by all the forms and ceremonies usual to such an occasion, even to that of beating the boys, who at each stroke of the rod were sternly ordered to "Remember the Borough." The food and drink for the beaters—and the beaten—were supplied at the burgesses' expense, the money being accounted for in the books under such an entry as

<sup>1</sup> Have these items any relation to the game of "draw gloves"?

<sup>2</sup> Towards the construction of the local branch of the Wilts and Berks Canal.

(1719) “ By money spent on the burgesses when they went in Perambulation round the borough £4/6/3.” The boundary was a most erratic one, as the map given at page 88 shows, and in places it passed through the middle of or across the river. It was not, of course, to be expected that dignified guild stewards and burgesses should take to the water like ducks. Still, the bounds had to be beaten; and so, to overcome the difficulty, men were hired to swim or walk through the waters, and the payments to them are shown as “ paid to the men who went through the water ” or “ who walked the water.”

“ 1636-7 P<sup>d</sup> to John Weeks towards his disbursement when he was guild steward, being part of his charges layed out about the pesthouse in the Marshe<sup>1</sup> . . . . . 37/11 ”

This is the only entry in the guild stewards' books that relates to pestilence; and if, therefore, we were dependent upon these books alone, we should perhaps be inclined to think that Calne had escaped visitations of the plague and other forms of deadly sickness. Unfortunately, an examination of the burials registers reveals a very different state of things.

The earliest outbreak of plague of which we can find any record occurred in 1565, but apparently only three persons died from the disease in that year. In May 1569 it reappeared, and this time it assumed a much more deadly form. It raged from May to November, and its ravages are shown by the following monthly totals of victims: May, 1; June, 6; July, 22; August, 41; September, 25; October, 8; November, 2. Total, 105. In 1606 plague broke out again, and before it was stayed destroyed fifty-five persons: October, 17; November, 13; December, 7; (1607) January, 10; February, 1; March, 1; April, 3; May, 3. Total, 55.

John Noyes, a clothmaker of Calne, was at this time one

<sup>1</sup> See Mr. Lowe's bill, given on page 108.

of the M.P.'s for the borough, and being in London about his parliamentary duties when the outbreak occurred, he was much concerned for the safety of his wife, whom he had left at home to manage his business. To her, therefore, he wrote a letter, expressing his sorrow that he was not at home, and urging her to adopt certain precautions in order to lessen the risk of infection :—

“ My second counsel is this—I beseech you to avoid the occasion of infection as much as you can. Take heed of your spinners, how you receive any that have, or shall hereafter accompany or come near unto such as are, or shall be hereafter infected. Your house standeth more dangerous than any house in all the town, because of the dead corpses that come so near unto your doors, and brush, as it were, upon your walls. Therefore do this : lock up your up-street door, and use it no more. Let your spinners and weavers come in at the lower entry, and so up into the wool loft, and let them come into no other part of your house. Use not your up-hall, no, not at all ; neither yet the lower-hall, if you will be ruled by me ; shut them up altogether, for the kitchen and the up-chambers will be sufficient for your occupying. If you lack room to dress your grist and other things, if you will take the pains to use Richard Fowler's shop, it will serve you for all such turns. Above all things, let not you nor any of yours stand at the street door, nor use to lean upon the walls, for that will be very dangerous. Keep in your dog or knock him in the head, and let no other dogs come fisking (*sic*) into your house, or into your back-side. If you will you may go into and out at the gate, and so shut up all the fore part of your house, and come not into it at all ; but I think not that the best way for spinners, but only for yourselves. If you obtain so much favour of your son Dash, you may make a bridge as it was wont to be, over the water, and so walk into his orchard to take the fresh air ; yea, you may go unto church through his gate, if need do so require. But if your hearts will not serve you till I come home, then see whether you may go into Stockley House, for I hear that your brother Lawrence will go into Berry's house within this se'nnight : or whether you may go unto his house called Rabbines, for you had better go any whither than tarry at Calne, if the plague do increase.”



Under date September 8th, 1636, appears this entry :—

“buried a stranger suspected (*sic*) to have dyed in y<sup>e</sup> plague.”

It is easy to imagine the horror that passed into the faces of the people when they heard of the death and burial of the unknown; but as day after day went by without the dread terror appearing, we can imagine them recovering confidence and beginning again to go about their various businesses with their usual light-heartedness, fondly hoping they were to escape. But alas for their hopes! On September 27th the blow fell, and not until nearly two hundred had been swept away was the destroying hand removed: September, 2; October, 2; November, 4; December, 4; (1637) January, 2; February, 7; March, 23; April, 69; May, 47; June, 27; July, 6. Total, 193. The distress caused by this outbreak was so great that Devizes, and probably other places, rendered financial assistance to the inhabitants:—

“A gift through M<sup>r</sup> Lowe and stephen White, when  
the plague was there . . . . . £6”  
“paid to M<sup>r</sup> Bennett the remainder of an unpaid  
rate for Calne in the time of the plague<sup>1</sup> . . . 16s. 10d.”

But the Devizes authorities had naturally no desire to find the plague within their own borders, and therefore they rigorously excluded from their town all persons known to belong to, or to have visited, Calne. Apparently the legality of their action was tested, for in 1640 they paid the expenses incurred by a wardman named Giles in a suit brought against him for preventing a Calne man from entering Devizes.

Mr. Lowe, then one of the M.P.s for Calne, was in charge of the relief fund, and his account of expenditure furnished

<sup>1</sup> Waylen's "History of Devizes."

to the Court of Quarter Sessions was recently published in Vol. I. of the "Reports on Manuscripts in Various Collections," pp. 103 and 104. It is as follows:—

"1637—A bill of monyes laide out and due from the towne and parish of Calne at the time of the infection there, for the charge of a phisition that was brought from London, and phisick for the poore, and other things, viz:—

	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
p <sup>d</sup> William Ingram at the going out of his howse in the Alders which was made a pest-howse of, and for divers necessaries left the infected people that came in there . . . . .	1	0	0
p <sup>d</sup> Tho Page for halfe a yeares rent for a howse to Ingram to goe into . . . . .	0	10	0
p <sup>d</sup> Jo <sup>n</sup> James for a sowe and piggs which hee killed and buried that had fedd one the excrements of the infected people . . . . .	2	0	0
p <sup>d</sup> one M <sup>r</sup> Samuell Smyth, a phisition that came purposely from London and stayed two months attending one the towne and parrish of Calne to adminester phisick in the time of the sickness, as was agreed one by the right wor <sup>ll</sup> Sir Edw Baynton, knt, and approved of by divers Willshere gentlemen being then at London the some of xx <i>li</i> . . . . .	20	0	0
More p <sup>d</sup> the aforesaide M <sup>r</sup> Smyth for phisicke that he gave to divers poore sicke people which was not able to paye him anything, as appeareth by a bill of particulars, the some of . . . . .	6	13	10
p <sup>d</sup> Jo <sup>n</sup> Landick for a fortnight's dyett for the phisition . . . . .	0	14	0
Some totall of all laide out . . . . .	30	17	10

Received for the materials of a pesthouse that stood in the Marsh of Calne, the some of . . . . .	6	0	0
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---	---	---

The which being deducted, remaying as if not received of this bill the some of . . . . .	24	17	10
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----	----	----

Per me, Geo. Lowe."

With the exception of three doubtful cases in 1669, the

outbreak of 1637<sup>1</sup> appears to have been the last visitation of the plague; but a new terror in the form of smallpox appeared in July, 1731, and by the end of 1732 it had carried off 176 victims: (1731) July, 1; December, 1; (1732) January, 9; February, 7; March, 15; April, 22; May, 35; June, 45; July, 25; August, 10; September, 5; October, 1. Total, 176. The mortality from the disease then subsided to an average of about six deaths per annum until 1755. In January of that year smallpox again assumed an epidemic form, and by the beginning of September it had killed 78 of the inhabitants: January, 10; February, 14; March, 18; April, 13; May, 8; June, 8; July, 3; August, 3; September, 1. Total, 78. Then again the number of deaths fell away to three or four per annum until August—December, 1769, when 28 persons died: August, 2; September, 7; October, 11; November, 7; December, 1. Total, 28. This seems to have been the last time the disease attained to epidemic height, but it was not stamped out for many years.

<sup>1</sup> The burial registers are missing for the years 1673-74.

## CHAPTER VIII.

Abolition of the guild stewards and old burgesses.—The new corporation.—Boundaries of the new borough.—Insignia and plate of the corporation.—The Church House and the old and new Guildhalls.

**B**Y the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 the long-established form of borough government was abolished, and the old guild stewards, with their quaint customs and ceremonies, their rights and their privileges, disappeared for ever. In their stead it was ordered that the affairs of the borough should be vested in a mayor, four aldermen, and twelve councillors, with one "learned in the law" to assist them in their deliberations. These numbers hold good at the present day. The first twelve councillors elected were, in order of votes :—

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Charles Pinniger. | 7. William Clark.  |
| 2. William Heale.    | 8. Henry King.     |
| 3. Job Freegard.     | 9. George Page.    |
| 4. John Harris.      | 10. William Baily. |
| 5. Henry Harris.     | 11. John Waller.   |
| 6. William Bleadon.  | 12. John Ladd.     |

Of these the 8th, 9th, 10th and 12th were chosen as aldermen, Mr. Page being also preferred to the mayoral chair. The vacancies caused by the elevations to the office of aldermen were filled by :—

- |                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| George Frayling. | William Clay.            |
| Thomas Broxholm. | Thomas Stratton Stretch. |

The present (1903) governors of the borough are:—

*Mayor*: William Alexander Webb.

*Aldermen*:

Samuel White Bennett.	John Bownas.
Henry Wilkins.	William Alexander Webb (Mayor).

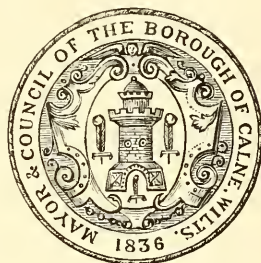
*Councillors*:

George James Barnes.	Henry Pickett Jefferys.
John Gale.	Frederick William Pinniger
William Beazley.	Fred Strawson. (ex-Mayor).
Tom Gunning.	Noah Webb.
Colin Tom Hawkins.	Simeon Wiltshire.
Frederick Charles Henly.	John Edward Wood.

*Town Clerk*: G. I. Gough, solicitor.

*F. W. Pinniger*

*Rev. J. Gough*



FACSIMILE OF SEAL AND SIGNATURES TO THE "REGULATIONS" MADE  
1 EDWARD VII.

At the time the change in the government took place, the boundary of the borough was not co-terminous with the limits of the town. No alteration, however, was then made, and the jurisdiction of the "reformed" corporation remained limited to the old area until November 9th, 1889, a considerable number of the inhabitants thus continuing to be excluded for many years from having any part in municipal affairs. On the date mentioned a provisional order was issued, making the town as it now stands and that portion of the hamlet of Quemerford lying to the west

of the river the municipal borough; and at the same time the town council was constituted the governing body for all municipal purposes.

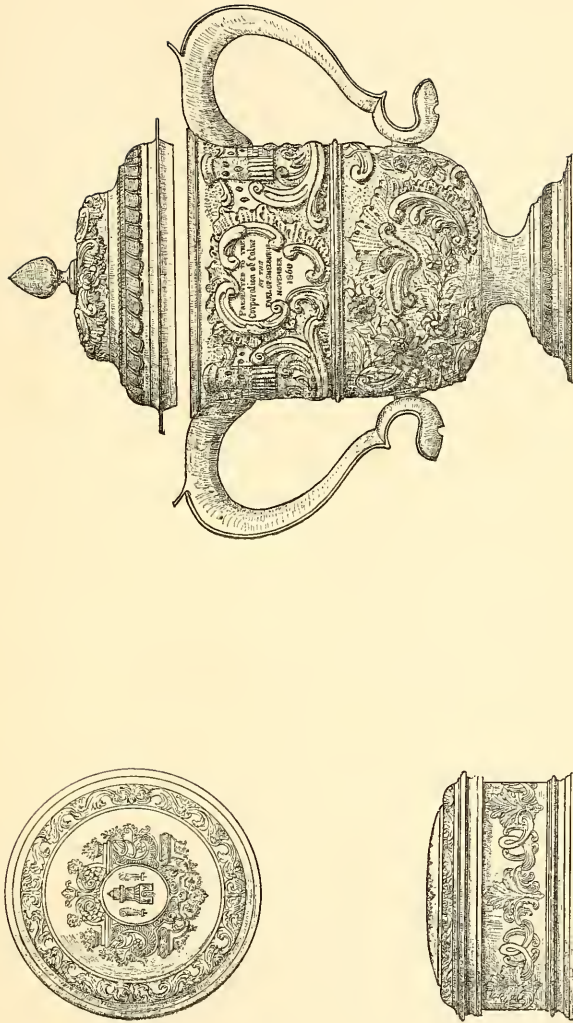
In the schedules attached to the Act of 1835 Calne is shown as one of the places to which a separate commission of the peace might be granted upon petition; but an effort made in the year 1887 to obtain a commission failed, no doubt on account of the paucity in number of the population. The mayor and ex-mayor, however, may and do sit as magistrates for the hearing of offences committed within the borough.

The insignia of the mayor and corporation consist of a common seal and mayor's chain and robes. The seal is of silver, circular in shape, with a diameter of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch. It bears "an ornate shield of the borough arms: gules, a castle between two ostrich feathers with a third in base, argent, and the legend:—

"MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CALNE,  
WILTS, 1836."

The seal mentioned on page 55 did not continue in use until the change in government took place, it having been annexed by H. Keate, guild steward in 1733. He was disenfranchised for his offence, and a new seal obtained. In 1756 the guild stewards regained possession of the old seal; but it then being found defective, the new one was ordered to be continued in use.

The mayor's chain and badge were obtained at a cost of £43, the money being raised by public subscription. They were first used on November 9th, 1882. They are of silver gilt, hall-marked with anchor (Birmingham), date letter 1881, and makers' mark, T. & J. B. The badge is oval in shape, with central field of black enamel, on which is a tower in relief of silver gilt and three feathers in plain silver, these forming the borough arms. The whole is bordered by a scrollwork of oak- and olive-leaves, and



THE SNUFF-BOX AND LOVING CUP PRESENTED BY LORD SHELBURNE TO THE CALNE CORPORATION.

the hook at the top is formed by the head and wings of a cherub. The chain is composed of fifty-six links, fifteen of them being of the kind known among silversmiths as "Gothic," and the remaining forty-one of the usual "cable" pattern. On the Gothic links are medallions bearing the initials of former mayors, the initials of the first mayor being in coloured enamels on the centre link, which is flanked by two miniature maces.

The corporation plate consists of a loving-cup and snuff-box. The former is a "handsome two-handled vessel of silver, with cover, ornamented with good repoussé work of flowers, scrolls, towers, etc., bearing the following inscription on a scutcheon on the bowl:—

"PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION OF CALNE BY THE  
EARL OF SHELBURNE, NOVEMBER, 1860.'

"It stands  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches high to the top of the cover, and bears the Newcastle mark (3 castles) with the date letter (R or B) for 1741-2 or 1756-7. The maker's mark is J.L. with a ring over."

The snuff-box "is a massive and beautiful circular box of silver-gilt elaborately engraved, bearing the inscription underneath:—

"PRESENTED BY LORD SHELBURNE TO THE CORPORATION  
OF CALNE, 1854.'

"The arms of the borough engraved on the lid were evidently cut at this time. But the box itself and its ornamentation is much older, as it bears the lion's head erased, showing that it is of the Britannia standard, and therefore between the years 1696 and 1720. It measures  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter and  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches in height."

The Church House,<sup>1</sup> which from Elizabeth's day until

<sup>1</sup> Where one of the bacon factories now stands there was many years ago a very old building known as the "Old Guildhall." Possibly this was the true guildhall of pre-Elizabethan times.



1829 served the burgesses for a guildhall, still exists ; but it has been so "restored" that a close examination is needed to discover its early origin. During the time it was used as a guildhall the burgesses were responsible for its repair, as can be seen from various entries in the "Accompte booke": *e.g.*—

"1581. Tyle and tymber to the Churche House . . . viij*d*  
1824. £52 given for repairs of Church House and Guildhall."

It should be noticed that in the earlier entry it is styled the "Churche House" only, and that in the later the name appears as "Church House and Guildhall." From this it would seem that there had gradually crept in the belief that the building belonged equally to the burgesses and the church. Indeed, we might go farther and say that finally the burgesses imagined it belonged more to them than to the church:—

"Feb. 2nd, 1829. The Church House being ruinous and the inhabitants of the parish at large *claiming* a right in it: Resolved that it be abandoned, and that the Market House now handsomely fitted up by the Marquis of Lansdowne be in future called the Guildhall."

There can be no doubt, though, that the original purpose of the church house, here as elsewhere, was that of a place of rest for those of the people who, on account of the distance or other cause, were unable to return home between morning and evening prayer. It was, in fact, the church inn. After morning service the parishioners from the outlying districts adjourned to the church house, where they enjoyed at leisure the food they had brought with them, the parson or the churchwardens supplying the liquid refreshment.

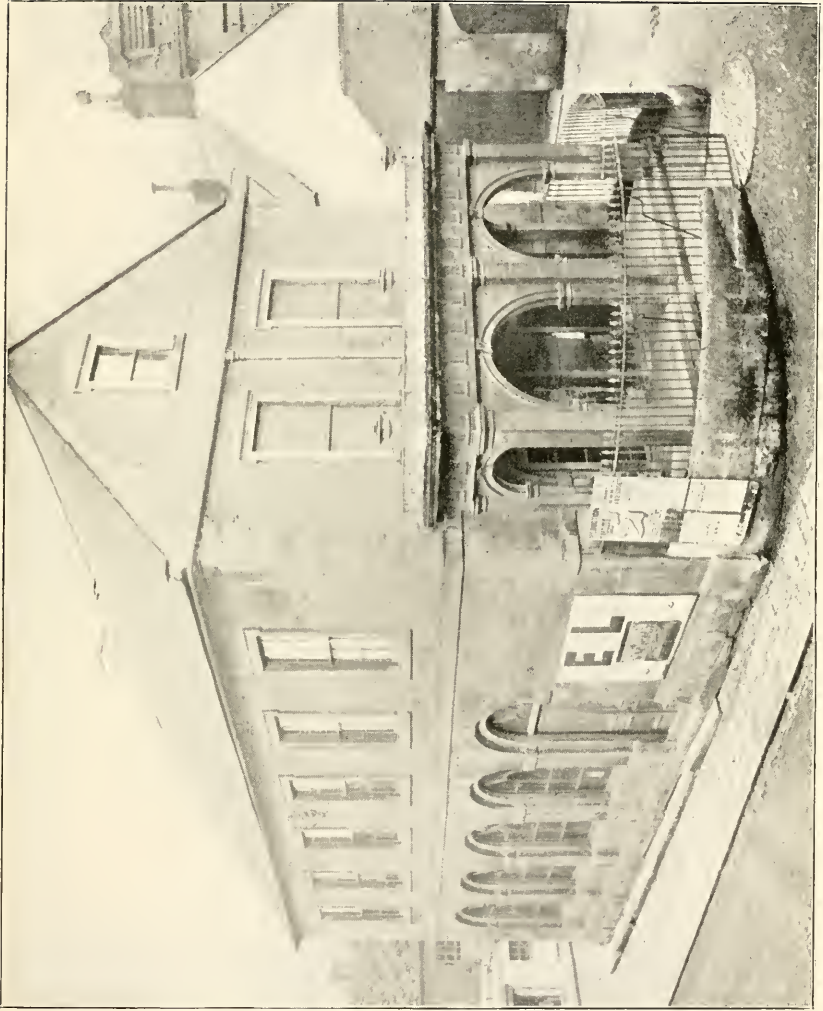
The Guildhall to which the guild stewards and burgesses removed was a building situated half-way up the High

Street, and apparently erected in the seventeenth century by one of the Ducketts, whose arms, in stone, were built into the front wall. It was originally the market-house, and is so named in the letter of October 24th, 1826, in which Lord Lansdowne offers to fit it out as a guildhall. The offer was accepted, and on February 2nd, 1829, the alterations having been completed, the guild stewards removed their seat of government to the remodelled building. One of the last acts of the guild stewards and burgesses before surrendering their powers into the hands of the new corporation was to pass a resolution (June 24th, 1835) authorising the expenditure of £60 to provide pillars, brackets, lamps, etc., for lighting the borough with gas. They were, however, so little enamoured with the new illuminant that at the same meeting they ordered the purchase of "new handsome chandeliers for the guildhall, *to be lighted with oil.*" The chandeliers were obtained, and were used with oil until 1838. In that year the town council spent £33 to convert them into gas-brackets.

In front of the Market-house formerly stood the town stocks; in the old days the pillory and the whipping-post doubtless stood in the immediate vicinity; and it is probable that the brank, or scold's bridle, and the cucking-stool also had honourable places near the other instruments of torture; but all have now disappeared. The last to go were the stocks, and apparently it was culpable negligence that lost the town these relics of the past, for when last seen they were floating derelict on the surface of the Quarry pond.

The Guildhall of 1829 was demolished in 1882. In 1884-6 there was erected in its stead the handsome Town Hall<sup>1</sup> (designed by Bryan Oliver of Bath), which, as we have said, stands at the south side of the Strand, on the

<sup>1</sup> The cost of construction was £9,365, of which £6,505 was raised by public subscription.



THE OLD TOWN HALL.

[facing p. 116.]



site of a water mill belonging to the lord of the Hundred manor. Whilst excavating for the foundations of the hall the workmen discovered the sill of the original mill hatch at a depth of eight feet below the bottom of the hatch then in use, and sixteen feet still lower they uncovered the antlers of a great red deer, showing that the ground-level in the course of centuries had been raised considerably by the accumulation of silt.

## CHAPTER IX.

Edward III. and the Flemings.—The cloth-makers and cloth mills of Calne.—Quarter Sessions orders regulating wages, etc.—Charges against the Aulnager for Wilts.—The market and fairs: copy of the charter of Edward I.—The rise of the present staple industry.

WILTSHIRE by reason of its Downs has been from time immemorial a great sheep-rearing county, and from the wool it has prepared the cloth for its own consumption; but it does not appear to have engaged in cloth-making as a distinct and important industry until the reign of Edward III. This king in 1331 granted leave to John Kempe to import from Flanders his colony of weavers,<sup>1</sup> fullers, and dyers; and "Happy," says Fuller in his "Church History," "the yeoman's house into which one of these Dutchmen did enter, bringing industry and wealth along with them. . . . Yea, those yeomen in whose houses they harboured soon proceeded gentlemen, gaining great estates to themselves, arms and worship to their estates." The towns naturally shared in the good fortune of the yeomen, and in some of them cloth-making became a staple industry.

Calne<sup>2</sup> was one of these; and for some five centuries its cloth-makers were men of substance and position, the names of many of them during these centuries appearing

<sup>1</sup> A second colony of Flemish weavers was settled in Wilts and Somerset by Henry VII.

<sup>2</sup> Relics of this peaceful invasion are found in *Flanders*, the place-name of part of a farm to the north of the town; the family names *Brabant*, *Goddard*, *Maslin*, *Jordan*, *Parfitt*, etc.; and also possibly in *New Zealand* a tithing in Hilmarton parish.

as members of Parliament for the borough. Aubrey, in his "Natural History of Wilts," page 79, reports that in 1538 one of them named Forman was Lord Mayor of London ; but Stow says he was of Gainsborough, co. Lincoln. It is certain, however, from the church registers and other records of the period, that the Formans were at this time leading men of the town ; now, locally, nothing remains of this family save its graves and monumental tablets.

In the seventeenth century the premier position in the Calne cloth trade was occupied by the Chivers family of Quemerford, and we find the name of Henry Chivers appearing in the record of those who paid a fine rather than receive the honour of knighthood at the coronation of Charles I.<sup>1</sup> A Chivers is found also amongst the Wiltshire gentry of the reigns of Charles I. and II.<sup>2</sup> ; and a great portion of the parish of Leigh Delamere belonged at one time to the family. On the death of an infant daughter of the last Mr. Chivers this property passed by the marriage of her two sisters into the families of Vince and Methuen.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Hundred of Calne :*

	£
" Henry Blake, Pinnhills . . . . .	10
Richard Blake, do. . . . .	12
Henry Chivers, Quemerford . . . . .	12/10/0
Edw <sup>d</sup> Earnley, Whetham . . . . .	10
Rob <sup>t</sup> Forman, Calne . . . . .	10
Rich <sup>d</sup> Browne, do . . . . .	10
John Lowe, do . . . . .	10"

<sup>2</sup> *Hundred of Calne :*

" John Weld, Compton Bassett, K<sup>t</sup>  
 W<sup>m</sup> Jordan, Whitley, Esq  
 Ambrose Blake, Pinnhills, Gent  
 John Grubb, Cherrell, Gent  
 Hugh Webb, Bowood, Gent  
 — Chivers, Calne, Esq  
 John Goddard, Barwick Bassett, Esq  
 Rob<sup>t</sup> Hungerford, Calne, Esq "

<sup>3</sup> See *Wills Archaeological Magazine*, vol. xxiv.

From about the middle of the eighteenth century until the extinction of the trade a century later, the leading clothiers were the Bailys, who came originally from Appleshaw. The first to settle in the neighbourhood was Henry Bailly, who fixed his abode at Calstone. He was followed by his brother Benjamin, who died at Calne in 1801. Some years later the children of John, another brother, are found at Calne, and these, together with the children of Henry, intermarrying with the families of Viveash, Ogilvie, Wayte and Hale, some of the male members of which were also clothiers and burgesses here, the Bailys acquired by this means a preponderating influence in the political and municipal affairs of the borough. It is said, indeed, that the first Marquess of Lansdowne found it necessary to propitiate the Bailly interest to secure the return to Parliament of his nominees ; and in the *Devizes Gazette* of 1830 a correspondent says in effect that the borough of Calne was entirely in the hands of this family and its connections. To test the possibility of there being an element of truth in this latter statement we have examined the minutes of the burgesses, and we find that in 1829 out of fifteen burgesses signing the minutes in that year five were Viveashes, two were Waytes, two were Bailys, one an Ogilvie, and one a Hale ; in the following year another Bailly, Wayte and Hale were added to the list. The last male members of note of this family to live at Calne were the four brothers George, Joseph, John and Benjamin Dolman, grandsons of John Bailly. Of these Joseph only was a clothier, George and John Dolman being woolstaplers, and Benjamin a miller and farmer. Joseph<sup>1</sup> towards the end of his life removed to Rowden Hill, Chippenham, where he died in 1867. George died at Calne in 1879 ; John at his residence in the Green in 1886.

<sup>1</sup> Joseph's only son, Johnson Bailly, M.A. is now Rector of Ryton-on-Tyne, Hon. Canon of Durham, R.D., and Proctor of the Northern Convocation.



In the palmy days of the cloth trade there were about twenty cloth factories and spinning and fulling mills in and around Calne, in addition to the looms set up in the weavers' houses; but the industry had its periods of depression. Such, for instance, was the case in 1647. In that year the broad weavers of Calne and places adjoining petitioned the justices at quarter sessions to inquire into the causes which had led to the present miserable condition of the weaving trade. The justices inquired, and the following are given by them as the reasons:—

“1.—Transportation of English wooll. 2.—Yt is feared that in theis tymes there will measure with (*sic*) by the speare and not by the yard. 3.—Transportation of Woeborne earth, alias fuller's earth. 4.—A great decaye of wooll by reason of the slaughter of sheepe by souldiers. 5.—A defect of Irish wooll's importation into this kingdom. 6.—That private men bye the wooll into their hands by ingrossinge, and that the clothier is inforced to bye yt of them.”<sup>1</sup>

In 1806 the industry was again in a bad way, and in the hope of revivifying it the burgesses of Calne held a meeting to protest against the laws forbidding the use of certain machinery in the woollen manufacture. Their protest was embodied in a petition which they requested their representatives to present to Parliament. Again in 1816 the guild stewards and burgesses signed and forwarded a request to their M.P.'s that they would oppose strenuously the proposed tax on foreign wool; but their efforts at resuscitation were in vain. In 1835 the Municipal Commissioners reported that “Five or six cloth factories are now shut, and the only ones at work are two small factories . . . and a larger one that employs rather more than a hundred persons.” By the middle of the century the industry was practically dead, and the mills, as we have said, are now either pulled down or diverted to other uses.

<sup>1</sup> “Report on Manuscripts in Various Collections” (Rolls Series), vol. i., p. 115.

The cloth generally manufactured was of three kinds—white or undyed, blue and scarlet, and known respectively as “blanchetti,” “bluetti” and “cochinelli.” The blanchetti, or “blanket” cloth appears to have been the cheapest, for we find by the Sumptuary law of 37 Edward III. that farm-servants were to be dressed in “cloth of blanket and russet at 12 pence a yard.” In the time of Henry VIII. the red and white cloths of Wilts were required to measure whilst wet between 26 and 28 yards in length and not less than  $\frac{7}{8}$  of a yard between the lists in breadth. The latter was reduced in Queen Elizabeth’s time to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  quarters of a yard. So that when the “humourous old Knight”<sup>1</sup> of Spye Park drove his deer from Bowood to their new home between two walls of Calne cloth, the shortest distance between the two places being at least a thousand yards, not a few pieces were needed to form the avenue.

In common with other “workemen and workewomen,” the weavers were under the control of the justices assembled in quarter sessions; and in the volume of the Historical Manuscripts Commission containing extracts from the records of the Wilts Quarter Sessions there can be seen the tables of wages which from 1602 to 1685 governed the payment to the Wiltshire weavers. In the same volume there are also given the seventeen orders approved and signed by the justices in 1603 at the instance of the “Overseers” of the industry for the “Occupacion of Weavers.” From these we learn, *inter alia*, that master-weavers during the period these regulations were in force were not allowed to keep an unlimited number of looms, nor were they allowed to take apprentices unless they had themselves served as apprentices for the full term of seven years; that no person might be employed as a journeyman unless he could produce a certificate that he had served “full seven years” as an apprentice; and that no apprentice “could

<sup>1</sup> See Evelyn’s Diary.

come forth of his covenants of apprentishippe before he be fower and twenty yeares of age, to avoyde yonge mariages and the increase of poore people."

The finished cloth was subject to the supervision of the "Aulnagers," officers whose duty it was to see that the statutes were not evaded. If, however, the following charges are true, the officers were not at all times as zealous in the performance of their duties as they should have been :—

"1516.<sup>1</sup> Charges brought against the Alnager-Seals and Surveyor of Seals, within the counties of Wilts, Somerset, and Gloucester, ready to be approved [proved on oath].

"Note— They be not expert in cloth-making, according to the statute [that is, the alnagers are not themselves acquainted with the art and mystery of cloth-making, which by statute they ought to be]; but, contrary to the laws, do let the seal to farm unto clothiers that have mills, in their own hands; whereby infinite abuses and deceits in cloth-making are committed.

"The Alnager and Sealer neglect the execution of their office, in that they do not make due search of every cloth made, to be measured both length and breadth, being wet from the mill, and before they be set upon the rack to be dried; but suffer the clothiers, having the seal at farm and in their own custody, to set to the seal before the cloths be measured accordingly. And thereby great defect in cloth making encreaseth.

"The Alnager executeth not his office, in that he causeth [not?] every clothier to set to his seal of lead unto every of their cloths and kerseys, in which seal the true and just length of every cloth and kersey should be contained; but suffereth the clothier to put the Alnager's seal without controlment, or survey that the cloth be ordered accordingly to the intent of the laws. Whereby such letting of the seals to farm, deceit in cloth-making aboundeth, and the Alnager forfeiteth his office."

These charges were brought by one Peter Blackborough,

<sup>1</sup> Mr. W. Waylen, in the *Wilts Archæological Magazine*.

who, to wind up his indictment, suggests the dismissal of the officers whose honesty he impugns, and offers himself as a candidate for the aulnagership. Naturally we look with suspicion on a document of this kind, but it is quite possible the charges were true. The clothiers, at any rate, had dishonest men among their number, as we find that members of the body were sometimes indicted at quarter sessions for fraudulent practices. One such case is that of William Cooke of Quemerford, who was prosecuted for using a tenterhook with seven lower bars.<sup>1</sup>

Side by side with its cloth-making industry, Calne possessed another source of wealth in the markets and fairs that were held here; but these too are now dead, killed by the combined effects of improved communication and agricultural depression. The toll of what we may term the *original* market and fair were, as we have seen, the property of the lord of the Hundred manor of Calne; the right to hold the second market and fair were granted to the Prebendary of Calne by Edward I. :—

“The King to the Archbishops, etc. Greeting. Know that we have conceded and by this our charter have confirmed to our beloved Lewis de Belmont, prebendary of the Prebend of Calne in the Church of the blessed Mary of New Sarum, that he and his successors as prebendaries of that prebend may have in perpetuity one market every week every Sabbath day at their manor of Calne in the County of Wilts, and one fair there every year to last three days, to wit on the eve, the day, and the morrow of S<sup>t</sup> Mary Magdalene. Save that the said market and the said fair, etc. . . . Wherefore We will . . . that the aforesaid Lewis and his successors aforesaid in perpetuity have the aforesaid market and fair at their manor with all the liberties and free customs pertaining to a market and fair of this kind. Saving . . . etc. . . . Witness these John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, John de Bretagne, Hugh le Despenser, Robert de Tatteshall, Thomas de Bykenore, Robert de Bavent, John de Merke, and others. Given by the hand

<sup>1</sup> See *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, vol. xx.

of the King at Westminster the eighth day of March (1302) by the King himself."<sup>1</sup>

About 1629 the burgesses seem to have acquired the tolls of one of the fairs,<sup>2</sup> possibly, as at a later time, by lease from the lord of the lay manor. In that year we first meet with an entry of this kind:—

“Rec<sup>d</sup> for the ffare and markt of Calne and for the pentstyes and standings as by the tolsey book doth appear £5. 10. 9.”

In 1632 a list is given of persons to whom standings had been allotted at the fair and market.

From the use of the words “and markt” we might at first sight conclude that the entry refers also to the ordinary market; but as in the succeeding year the same expression again occurs in connection with the tolls received on the fair-day, it may safely be assumed that the words refer only to the market that was an integral part of the fair:—

“1633. Rec<sup>d</sup> Fayre and Market tolls, St Mark’s Day, at the tolsey, all thyngs dyscharged . . . 21s. 1d.”

This fair continued to be held on St. Mark’s Day until some years previous to its abolition, when the date was changed to May 6th.

The fair granted by Edward I. was held on the Green, a part of the prebendal manor; and as it was the one to which came in the greatest number the acrobats, the raree-shows and the hundred-and-one things that go to make up the curious medley that even now may be seen in places where the old fairs have not yet disappeared, it was the one most beloved by the non-business portion of the inhabitants.

The market<sup>3</sup> of Calne was for many years an important

<sup>1</sup> Obtained from a copy of the grant in the town clerk’s possession.

<sup>2</sup> There are certain entries which go to show that for some years a fair was held on the Alders Common.

<sup>3</sup> We have actual knowledge of only one market.

one for live stock and corn ; and it was probably due to the latter fact that during the earlier agitation for the repeal of the corn laws the burgesses as a body opposed the popular demand and petitioned Parliament to make no change. The buying and selling took place in the open street ; and during the market hours not only the market-place, but the adjoining thoroughfares, were thronged with a confused crowd of animals and men.

Through the decline of the clothiers and the diminution in the importance of the market and fairs, Calne seemed doomed to the decay which has overtaken several of the smaller Wiltshire towns ; but from this fate it was saved by the energy and business ability of certain members of the Harris family, who between them created a new industry—that of bacon-curing.

The name of Harris first became associated with bacon-curing about 1808, when John and Henry Harris, sons of John Harris of Devizes and Calne, embarked in the trade ; but it was under Thomas, George and Charles, three of the sons of the younger John, that Calne first began to be known as the “bacon town,” and the signal success of these men was to some extent due to what at first sight seemed likely to be for them a disaster, as it was to thousands of their fellow-subjects in Ireland.

Before the Great Western Railway<sup>1</sup> was constructed, large numbers of Irish pigs were conveyed to Bristol by sea, and from thence driven in herds along the road through Calne towards London. The droving was a properly organised service, having its regular stages and places of rest. The stage which embraced Calne was from Black Dog Hill,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile west of the town, to Overton, 8 miles east. At each of these places, as also at the end of every other stage, there were large sheds for the accommodation of the pigs,

<sup>1</sup> The local branch was opened Nov. 23rd, 1863, after having been several years in course of construction. The cost was £70,000.

and as they came in at night they were attended to by men kept for the purpose. It was from these herds that the pigs required by the Calne curers were principally obtained. When, therefore, in 1847 the potato famine in Ireland practically dried up this source of supply, it looked very much as if the business would be ruined. Nothing daunted, however, George Harris set sail for America, intending to kill and cure pigs there and send them to England for sale. His first year in America was very successful, and he returned home well satisfied with the result of his expedition. The following autumn he again went to America, taking his brother Charles and several men with him; but the work in that year was not a success, and all of them returned to Calne, the American premises being given up.

But whilst in America George Harris had observed the extensive use of ice as a preserving agent, and this suggested to him the possibility of using it in the curing of bacon, which then could not be carried on in the summer months. He discussed his ideas with his two brothers, and shortly after Thomas (Charles being opposed to the innovation) embodied them in a patent which not only enormously increased their own business (or businesses, for there were then, and until 1888, two establishments<sup>1</sup>), but brought them large pecuniary gains in the shape of royalties from other English and Irish curers who adopted their process.

<sup>1</sup> The brothers John and Henry Harris had each a shop. John's was in High Street, Charles's in Church Street. When John died his business was carried on for some time in the widow's name, and then by his sons Charles and Thomas in partnership, until Charles went with George to America, after which Thomas carried it on alone. When Henry Harris died he left his business to his nephew George, who then took Charles into partnership with him. At George's death in 1869, chiefly as the result of overwork, Charles became sole proprietor of the Church Street premises. Charles Harris died in 1871. Thomas Harris, we are happy to say, is still alive, and in spite of his age (born Nov. 19th, 1819) is in good health.

The trade carried on by the amalgamated firm at the present time is enormous, and extends almost throughout the world. To supply the demand about 120,000 pigs are slaughtered every year at the two factories belonging to the firm in Calne; and, as was said in the first chapter, the work, directly or indirectly, provides the means of existence for most of the population of the town.

Many of the workmen engaged in the industry wear long blue smocks and clogs; consequently at certain times of the day the streets assume quite a blue tint, and the pavements echo with the "clang of the wooden shoon." Work begins at the factories very early in the morning, and to ensure the prompt attendance of the men, the masters have, in principle, resuscitated the old Wiltshire office of the "awakener." There is, however, a marked difference in the application of the principle as between the old and the new; for whereas in late mediæval times the awakener was a church officer, and his duties were to perambulate the church during service and awaken those who unrightfully slept, the modern holders of the office are employed to perambulate the town in the small hours of the morning and awaken the workmen, the effect being that oftentimes those who rightfully sleep are aroused. For reasons connected with their other duties these awakeners also wear iron-shod clogs; and so the wakeful person has the doubtful pleasure of hearing about 4.30 in the morning a steady clang, clang, clang, clang, up and down the street, the rhythmic beat of the iron being broken at intervals by a rousing solo on a door knocker, followed by some such phrase as "Half-past four: 'tis time to turn out," uttered in no uncertain voice.



## CHAPTER X.

Grant of the Prebend of Calne to the church of Sarum by Henry I.—The Abbot of Stanley and John St. Quinton.—Henry of Lexington and Roger of Studley, etc.—The Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.—The chantries of John St. Lo.—Suppression of the hospital and chantries.—Inventory of the plate and ornaments of the chantries.—Terrier of Calne for 1405.—Deed of augmentation, 1375.—Calne parish.—St. Edmund of Canterbury and his life at Calne.—List and notes of the vicars from 1540.

OF the ecclesiastical history of Calne in early times we know very little. We find from Domesday<sup>1</sup> that a church stood here when the great survey was made, but beyond that we cannot go with certainty. It is possible, however, that, as Calne was in the demesne of the king and sometimes visited by him, attended by his courtiers and others, a church of some kind was raised here very soon after Christianity had been embraced by the West Saxon kings; and, if not before, it is very probable that one was erected here during Dunstan's time. That there was a Saxon church is to some extent confirmed by the existence in the north wall of the nave of the present church, above the third pillar from the western entrance, of a trace of an arch that several competent architects have supposed to be the remains of a pre-Norman building.

In 1091, it will be remembered, the churches of Calne, with the tithes, are said to have been given by Bishop Osmund to the cathedral of Old Sarum, and that about 1115 Henry I. granted the church of Calne and its appurtenances

<sup>1</sup> Jones' "Wiltshire Domesday," p. 7.

*in prebendam* to the church of Sarum and Nigel of Calne. The prebend was a valuable one. In 1226, the year in which it was assigned by Bishop Poore to the treasurer, in the assessment of the various dignities and prebends for the payment of a sixteenth, it was estimated to be worth sixty marks. In 1452, when a contribution of one-fifth was granted for the expenses of the canonisation of St. Osmund, it was valued at the same amount. At the time of Henry VIII., after all deductions for a vicar-choral ministering in the cathedral, and other expenses, had been made, it was estimated as being worth £78 16s. 4d.<sup>1</sup> It was also a priest prebend ; and, in accordance with the ordinance that the whole of the Psalms should be said daily by the canons, each having his allotted part, the prebendary recited the eighteenth, *Diligam Te, Domine*.<sup>2</sup>

Either in 1237 or 1238 a dispute arose between the abbot of Stanley and Master John St. Quinton,<sup>3</sup> then treasurer of Sarum and prebendary and rector of Calne, respecting certain messuages in Calne owned by the abbey of Stanley. It was settled by an agreement that in respect of these messuages the abbot should pay to the church of Calne 20s. yearly, 10s. at the Annunciation and 10s. at Michaelmas ; and that the abbot in his own person, as well as the tenants (of the houses), should do fealty to the succeeding parsons. The tenants were also to do the ancient and approved customs to the parsons of Calne, except suit of court at the feast of St. Martin and Hockday ; a tenant of the church of Calne suing a tenant of the monks was to do so in the court of the parson of Calne, and a tenant of the abbot "falling into mercy" in the said court was to be amerced according to his fault like the tenants of the same church.

<sup>1</sup> See Jones' "Fasti Ecclesiæ Sarisburiensis," p. 369.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 200.

<sup>3</sup> Documents illustrating the History of the Cathedral of Sarum, ccxiii.

The abbot and convent of Stanley further agreed not to acquire more lands or tenements in Calne without the consent of the chapter of Sarum and the parson of Calne.

The treasurership of Henry of Lexington, who was treasurer, etc., from 1240 to 1245, furnishes us with quite an interesting series of items<sup>1</sup> relating to the church of Calne.

In 1240 an agreement was made between Henry and Roger of Studley, of the church of Calne, respecting a chantry at Studley. By this agreement Roger was allowed to have a perpetual chantry in his chapel of Studley, the chaplain to be presented for the approval of the treasurer, and all rights of the mother church to be preserved. Roger, his wife, chaplain, ministers of the chapel, and the whole of his household, his heirs and their wives similarly, were to come to the mother church on all the saints' days and Ascension Day, on which days without the treasurer's leave there was to be no mass in the chapel. He, his wife and heirs were allowed to confess to the chaplain of Calne at Studley, and to receive there the Easter Sacrament, unless they desired to go to the mother church out of devotion. Religious men being guests at Studley might celebrate in the chapel. On the same day (Thursday after the Epiphany) Roger acknowledged his obligations to the church of Calne as his mother church, and promised to contribute to the high altar of Calne 2 lb. of wax at Easter and the feast of the Assumption.

Some time, probably, in the same year, Henry had a dispute with Sir Robert de la Mare about tithes at Calne, and the wood of Wolmegrave, and a certain tenement in Beverbroc (Beverbrook) belonging to Henry's prebend of Calne, concerning which Sir Robert, according to the treasurer, had fallen into sentence of excommunication. The matter was settled by Sir Robert agreeing not to molest the treasurer's rights on pain of the forfeiture of 40s.

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, ccxxi., ccxxxv., ccxxxvi.

In 1243 Henry granted release to the priory of Kington of the tenths of the demesne of Elias de Stodlege (Studley), in the parish of Calne, in return for which the monks were to give yearly 2 lb. of wax at the feast of St. Mary Magdalen to the church of Calne. During his term of office he also received quit-claim from Thomas, son of Roger Aldewyne of Calne, of a virgate of land, sometime held by his father of the treasurers of Sarum; and from Bartholomew of Quemerford the homage, service and rent of Walter, son of Matthew Bret, and his heirs for a virgate of land in Beversbrook; and of Walter, son of Roger Aldewyn, for a half-virgate; and of John, son of Alfred of Marlborough, for another half-virgate in the fields of Calne and Beversbrook.

Robert de Kareville, who succeeded Henry of Lexington in the treasurership of Sarum, left by will 50s. to repair the chancel of Calne, 50s. for repairs to the same church, 30 marks to the poor of the parish of Calne with the chapel,<sup>1</sup> and 40s. to the hospital of Calne.

The hospital here mentioned was the hospital or priory of St. John of Jerusalem, described as being situated "juxta Eldebrook" (near the Old Brook) near the town of Calne. In a certificate of colleges, chantries, etc., drawn up in 37 Henry VIII.,<sup>2</sup> it is said to have been founded by Lord Zouche<sup>3</sup> "for poor and infirm persons to dwell therein and pray for the founder." When it was founded is not known, but in 1202 a house was quit-claimed to Ernald the Presbyter and the brethren by Richard the Tanner.<sup>4</sup> Galiena of Calne

<sup>1</sup> In 1409 Roger Forstere, of Lydiard Milicent, and Joan his wife, demised to John Grene, Chaplain of Calne, and to Robert, son of Richard Roudé of the same place, all their property of "Pynelesplace in Wodelande by Calne for the life of the said John and after his decease for the life of the said Robert."—"Ancient Deeds," c. 488.

<sup>2</sup> Augmentation office certificates, certificate 56.

<sup>3</sup> In an Inquisition *Quod Damnum*, 7 Henry V., Lord Zouche is said to have the advowson of the hospital.

<sup>4</sup> Wiltshire Fines, 4 John.

## The Priory of St. John of Jerusalem. 133

was a benefactor to the hospital, which also held lands at Ufcote under Lacock Nunnery.<sup>1</sup> In 6 Edward III.<sup>2</sup> the prior of St. Frideswide's, Oxford, was allowed to alienate in mortmain to the hospital of Calne two bushels of corn weekly from his manor of Hudden, in the county of Berks. In 1336 Sir Robert Hungerford<sup>3</sup> gave to John de Pewelle, the custos of the hospital, forty acres of land at Stock, Stockley, Quemerford and Tasworth,<sup>4</sup> on condition that early every morning, except Sundays and festival days, mass was said by the second presbyter at St. Edmund's altar in the church of Calne "for the soul of Geva, mother of Robert, and of all the faithful departed."<sup>5</sup> A fine of 12*d.* was ordered to be levied for every omission of the mass, and the endowment lapsed if none was said for twelve consecutive days. Sir Robert provided also a set of vestments and a green hanging, powdered with small white crosses. Notwithstanding the contingent penalties, the masses soon began to be left unsaid, and in 1442 the altar had become so neglected that Walter, Lord Hungerford, obtained leave to transfer the endowment to a chantry founded by him at Heytesbury.

In the certificate of 37 Henry VIII. the hospital is said to be worth above all outgoing 66*s.* 5*d.*; and it is then reported that the "abuse is apparent, because there are no paupers there but all the profits yearly go to Richard Blag (Blake), master there." The hospital then seems to have been suppressed; for in an augmentation certificate of 2 Edward VI. "the mantyon house or

<sup>1</sup> Bowles' "Lacock."

<sup>2</sup> Close Rolls, Edward III.

<sup>3</sup> Hungerford Cartulary and Inq. P.M. Nov. 2nd, 9 Edward III., No. 17.

<sup>4</sup> Held of W<sup>m</sup> la Zouche, "mean between the said Robert and the King, by the service of suit to the said William's court of Calston from 3 weeks to 3 weeks yearly."—Inq. P.M., Nov. 2nd.

<sup>5</sup> Inquisition held at Chippenham, Jan. 22nd, 9 Edward III.

hospitall w<sup>th</sup> a garden, one acre of arable lande in Castellfeilde, ði acre of arable land in Weynshill (Wenhill) with one parcell of lande in lytell castell filde (? Chaveywell)'' was granted by indenture dated 19th Oct. in the xxxv. (*sic*) Henry VIII. to Edward Smalwell. The certificate of 2 Edward VI. states that the value of the property (given in detail) is worth £4 4s. 6d., that Robert Blake, of the age of twenty-six years, is the incumbent, and that "the sayd Incumbent is no preeste but hadde the sayd priorye or Free chappell gyven vnto hym for his Exibytyon to ffynde hym to scole."

In the same year (2 Edw. VI.) the lands and tenements of the late hospital, together with property in Dorset and another part of Wilts, were sold to Richard Randall for £661 8s. 0¼d.<sup>1</sup>

John St. Lo, of the family of St. Lo of Newton St. Lo in Somerset, in 24 Henry VI. obtained letters patent in the following terms, granting him permission to found a perpetual chantry in the parish church of Calne:—

"The King grants licence to John Seintlo, esquire, to found a perpetual chantry in the church of B. Mary of Calne, co. Wilts, at the altar of S. Mary Magdalene and S. Nicholas the Bishop in the same church, with a perpetual chaplain to celebrate divine offices at the said altar for the healthful estate of the King and Queen Margaret, Master Gilbert Kemer, Robert Long, Robert Unwyn, Robert Crikkelade, John Whittokesmede, Elizabeth Spershute, William Spershutte, John Gyls, William Walkyns, William Tenyse, John Crikkelade, John Skynner, chaplain, John Everard, John Justice, Robert Gyls, Richard Hosyer, Robert Rowde, Roger Wolmonger, John Quyntyn, John Okeley, William Lery, John Aleyn, John Chilsetre, Robert Sadeler, Roger Pewell, Richard Bartelotte and Roger Wode while living and for their souls when migrated

<sup>1</sup> Patent Roll, 2 Edw. VI., pt. 5. The hospital is called "the Priory or Free Chapel of St. John the Baptist" in this grant.

from this light, and the souls of Robert Salman<sup>1</sup> and Joan his wife, Alice late wife of the said John Seintlo, Elen Erlestoke and John Blake and the souls of the friends and benefactors who have in any way had a helping hand in sustaining the said chantry, and the souls of all faithful dead according to the ordinance of John Seintlo himself. So that the chantry thus erected and founded forever shall be called the Chantry of S. Mary Magdalene of Calne, and the chaplain thereof shall answer by the name of the chaplain of the Chantry of St. Mary Magdalene of Calne in all suits, &c., and he and his successors shall be capable in law of acquiring land. And that the said John Seintlo his heirs and assigns may of their own or alien fees not held in us in chief grant to the chaplain of the foresaid chantry property to the value of 10 marks yearly. The Statute in Mortmain, &c., notwithstanding. Tested by the King at Westminster 6 July. By the King himself and by the authority of Parliament and for £20 paid into the hanaper."

In the following year, after an Inq. *Quod Damnum* held at Calne on April 12th, letters patent were issued authorising John St. Lo to grant to the chantry twelve messuages, four tofts, forty acres of land, twelve acres of meadow, six acres of pasture, and 8s. rent with the appurtenances in Calne, Stock, Stockley, and Devizes, said to be held partly of Gilbert Kymer, as of the Prebend of Calne, and partly of Lord Zouche, as of his manor of Calstone, and to be worth yearly six marks.

It will be noticed that the property here given by St. Lo to the chantry of S. Mary Magdalene is worth six marks the total grant he was authorised to make being ten marks. The remaining four marks were possibly devoted to the foundation of his second chantry, that of the B. Mary, which

<sup>1</sup> In 1558 there were Chancery proceedings entered against Richard Salman, possibly a descendant of this Robert Salman, by one John Page of Calstone respecting an agreement to assign the interest in the coppice of Charlegrove in the parish of Calne (Chancery Proceedings, temp. Eliz: P. p. 8, No. 7).

he seems also to have established in the parish church about this time, but of which we have not been able to obtain the record.

In the certificate of the Court of Augmentation (37 Henry VIII.) the value of the two chantries yearly is said to be £12 5s. 8½*d.*; and it is then reported that there is no abuse apparent in either. In the Land Revenue, Church Books (No. 1393), appear the following certificates of plate, etc., belonging to the chantries at this time and then in the possession of the chantry priests:—

“ Cantaria beate Marie Magdalene in Ecclesia de Calne	}	The plate ornamentes and goodis of the same Chauntry lefte in the custody of S <sup>r</sup> John Tylar chauntrye prest there the xxxi day of Marche the xxxviii <sup>th</sup> yere of the Reign of our Sovereign lord King Henry the viii <sup>th</sup> .
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In primys one chalice pacell gylt weing by esti-

macion xvi oncis at iiij <i>s.</i> ij <i>d.</i> the onz . . . . .	iiij <i>l</i> v <i>s</i> viij <i>d</i>
Item one olde vestment of grene Darnyxe . . . . .	i <i>s</i> viij <i>d</i>
Item one other of whyte bustyan . . . . .	xx <i>d</i>
Item ij cruetis of Tynne . . . . .	ij <i>d</i>
Item one Masse booke old . . . . .	v <i>d</i>
Item one Alter clothe of whyt canvas verey old . . . . .	ij <i>d</i>
Item ij Candelstyckis of latten . . . . .	viij <i>d</i>
Item j Sacryng bell . . . . .	ij <i>d</i>

Be me John Tylar clerke

Summa lxxi*s* vij*d.*”

“ Cantaria beatae Marie Virginis in Ecclesia de Calne	}	The plate ornamentis and goodis of the same chauntrye lefte in the custody of S <sup>r</sup> John Somerfelde, chauntre prest there the xxij day of Marche the xxxvij <sup>th</sup> yere of the reigne of o <sup>r</sup> Sovereign lord King Henry the viii <sup>th</sup>
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Imprimis one Chalyce parcell gylt weing xiii oncis

at iiij <i>s</i> ij <i>d</i> the ownz . . . . .	liiij <i>s</i> ij <i>d</i>
Item one olde vestment of dormyx . . . . .	xij <i>d</i>
Item one other vestmente of olde torne sylke . . . . .	xij <i>d</i>



Item one corporas w <sup>t</sup> a case . . . . .	iiij <i>d</i>
Item one Alter clothe of lynnē . . . . .	iiij <i>d</i>
Item ij Cruettis of Tynne . . . . .	ij <i>d</i>
Item one masse booke prynted . . . . .	vij <i>d</i>
Item ij Candelstyckis of latten . . . . .	vj <i>d</i>
Item j Sacryng bell . . . . .	ij <i>d</i>

Summa lvijs iiij*d*

bi me John Summerfelde clarke."

In the certificate of the Augmentation Office (2 Edw. VI.) given above, the property of the two chantries is set out in detail. The incumbent of the first chantry, the net value of which is said to be £8 9s. 10*d.*, was then Edward Bruar, fifty-three years of age, and it is said of him that "he is a very honest poore man, not able to serve a Cure, and hath none other lyvinge but cvjs viij*d* of an yerely pentyon payd owte of the Courte of Augmentacyon." The net value of the second chantry was £4 3s. 6*d.*; the incumbent was John Somerfield, of whom it is said that he is forty years of age, and "is a verey honest poore man not able to serve a Cure, and hath none other lyvinge, but one yerely pentyon of iiij*d* allowed out of the Courte of the Augmentacyon."

At the same time it is reported that "in the parrisshe Church of Calne the numb<sup>r</sup> of DCCCCLX people receyve the blessyd comunyon and there is noe preeste to helpe to mynyster the sacrementis saving the sayd chauntrie preestis therefore the parishners there desyre the kingis moste honorable councell to consyder them accordynglye."

In 2 and 3 Philip and Mary, letters patent were granted to William Allen and his son Roger Allen, stating that in consideration of the payment of £569 2s. 5*d.* by the said William Allen to Sir J. Williams to the use of Edward VI., in the lifetime of the said king, the king and queen had granted to them and their heirs for ever the lands, tenements, etc. (detailed) belonging to the two late chantries of Calne ;

and also property formerly belonging to the Coventry chantries in Devizes.

The William Allan here mentioned had previously (36 Hen. VIII.)<sup>1</sup> been granted for a payment of £792 7s. 4d. ("in as full a manner as the said monasteries had them") the manor of Blackland belonging to Malmesbury and Bradenstoke Priors; property in Calne belonging to the monastery of Lacock and the Abbey of Stanley<sup>2</sup>; the messuage then in the tenure of the wardens of the chantry of St. Mary the Virgin of Calne; and property in Heddington belonging to Farleigh Priory.

Upon being annexed to the treasurership Calne was constituted a Peculiar,<sup>3</sup> and remained so until the abolition of peculiars by Act of Parliament in 1837. It was not however wholly exempted from the jurisdiction of the Bishop,<sup>4</sup> and the Dean exercised the rights of the Ordinary.

In his capacity as Ordinary the Dean visited Calne in 1405, and we learn from the following Terrier what then transpired :

“*Calne to wit.* <sup>5</sup> On Tuesday the sixth day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand four hundred and five,

<sup>1</sup> Patent Roll, 36 Hen. VIII., part 6.

<sup>2</sup> This did not exhaust all the property in Calne belonging to the Abbey of Stanley. In 29 Hen. VIII. Sir Edward Bayntun, Kt., was granted a lease of 21 years on 24 acres of meadow in Abberd, lately the property of the abbey. In 1 Mary the reversion of this land was granted to Thomas Reve and George Cotton. There was also at this time certain property in Calne belonging to the Priory of Kington, Wilts, and the Preceptory of Anstey.

<sup>3</sup> A seal of the Peculiar of Calne is described in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, Jan. 1872. It was of late sixteenth or early seventeenth century workmanship, small and lozenge-shaped, with the full-length figure of a man, bearded, wearing a long gown, and having the hands joined in prayer. It bore the legend “SIGILLVM . OFFICI . (*sic*) PECVLIIARIS . JURISDICTIONIS . DE . CALNE.”

<sup>4</sup> See extracts from church registers.

<sup>5</sup> The original Terrier in Latin is in the Registry of the Dean and Chapter.

the same Mr. Dean visited the Prebendal Church of Calne with the chapel in the same Church of Calne.

“Mr. George Lowthorp Prebendary and Rector there being publicly called, and not appearing, Mr. Dean pronounced him contumacious, and a penalty being reserved Thomas Stude his bailiff there appeared and paid procuration to the said Mr. Dean 7 shillings and 6 pence.

“Mr. Valentine Poumpe Vicar there appeared and did obedience and exhibited his letters of ordination, institution, and induction, &c.

“Church of Calne.

John Justice  
 John Bovedowne  
 Robert Lery  
 Thomas Bochere  
 John Averay  
 John Howes  
 John Jaffray  
 John Prest  
 Richard Ede  
 John Tyllyng  
 Richard Chamber-  
 layne  
 John Foule

Parishioners  
 there

appear personally and say That the church there is dedicated in Honour of the blessed Mary in Assumption, and has places for Burials and Baptisms And the Parishioners there do receive all the Sacraments and things belonging thereto in the said Church And the Rector there shall receive all manner of Tithes of hay and grain wool and lambs arising within the bounds and limits of the parish aforesaid.

And the said Rector shall receive out of two Lordships at Blackland all the profits arising from two acres of the lands of the said Lords limited by the ministers of the said Lords. Also he shall receive yearly one acre sown with corn of the land of Thomas Frayne. Also he shall receive one acre sown with grain of the land of the Lord of Wydecombe. Also he shall receive two acres sown with grain of the Lord of Crofton. Also one acre sown with corn of the land of the Lord Abbot of [blank in original] for two years, and in the third year of the land of William Putmane. And there adjoin to the said Rectory in glebe 7 carucates of land, 20 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, 24 acres of wood; and 12 tenants of which 7 hold each of them 12 acres of land, the other 5 hold each of them 5 acres of land according to the custom of the manor. And those said tenants above

mentioned together with the rent of assize belonging to the said Rectory do pay yearly £12. 17. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ . And the Vicar of Calne shall receive there all other kind of small tithes and the tithe of mills and altarage, except the tithe of Berewick<sup>1</sup> which only and altogether belongs to the Rector of Calne. And there are built in the said Rectory three chambers with one chapel, one barn, one dovehouse, and one chamber over the gate. And moreover there belongs to the said Rectory one water mill."<sup>2</sup>

The reference in this terrier to the tithes belonging to the vicar of Calne is doubly interesting when read in connection with the Deed of Augmentation of the Vicarage of Calne executed in 1375, that is thirty years earlier than the terrier.

"Ralph<sup>3</sup> by divine permission Bishop of Sarum to our beloved son Nicholas Heose perpetual Vicar of the prebendal Church of Calne to the Treasurer of our Cathedral Church of Sarum annexed, Greeting in him who is the true Salvation of all men. ~~Whereas~~ we having in all probability obtained knowledge of the things to be enquired of as well by Canonical Inquisition by our command in this behalf taken, by men worthy of credit sworn in form of witnesses, and having called those proper to be called, as by other lawful documents, do find the portions and revenue of your Vicarage so small and slender that they have not been nor are sufficient for your support or for that of the Vicar for the time being, and also that they cannot probably in future be sufficient for hospitality and for conveniently supporting other extraordinary charges that may be incurred unless by some way of

<sup>1</sup> There was a dispute in 1221 respecting the tithes of Berwick between Fulk Bassett, rector of Winterbourne Bassett, and Robert Grossteste, rector of Calne. Bishop Poore was asked to arbitrate in the matter, and he decided in favour of the rector of Calne.—*Liber Evid.* B. 78 ; c. 115. Documents illustrating the History of the Cathedral of Sarum (Rolls Series).

<sup>2</sup> From the "Registrum Johānis Chaundler Decani, Sar. A°, 1405, etc."

<sup>3</sup> The original deed, of which this is a translation, is in the registry of the Bishop of Sarum.

augmentation a remedy be more liberally applied. We with provident consideration regarding the immoderate smallness of the said portions and revenues and paying attention to your supplications in this behalf, the constant complaints on your part of and upon the said slender income being made known to us at various times, and having also considered and diligently examined all and singular the things above written, after mature deliberation and obtaining full knowledge of the matter, also with the concurrence of all those who of right in this behalf are required, have by our pontifical and ordinary authority determined to augment your said Vicarage and the portions thereof in the underwritten portions and perceptions. That is to say, First we grant, appoint, and ordain that you the present Vicar of the said Vicarage of the prebendal Church of Calne aforesaid, and your successors Vicars of the same Vicarage for the time being for ever, shall and may receive beyond the said portions which are too small and slender, and which as before mentioned were accustomed to be received by the Vicars of the place, all and all manner of Tithes of lambs, calves, milk, and milk fêd (cheese), mills and orchards in any manner soever arising out of and through the whole parish of the aforesaid prebendal Church. And also all and all manner of tithes great and small as well of corn and hay as other small tithes whatsoever of the villages of Compton, Whytecombe and Bobeton, situate within the said parish, to be possessed by you and your successors Vicars in the said Church in their successive times for ever.<sup>1</sup>

The Calne parish of 1375—1405 has been much altered. Berwick, at one time a tithing and chapelry annexed to Calne, is now the parish of Berwick Bassett. Cherhill tithing has become the parish of Cherhill. The chapelry of Cherhill was by deed of consolidation annexed in 1733 to the vicarage of Calne, but it was disannexed early in the nineteenth century. The Wydecombe or Whytecombe shown in the early documents is very probably the present-

<sup>1</sup> The present vicar's income is obtained from the vicarial tithe rent-charge (commuted value £834 8s. 3*d.*) and 60 acres of glebe.

day Whitcomb, a farm now forming part of the parish of Hilmarton; but the only buildings now existing there are a farmhouse and two labourers' cottages. The Compton mentioned is possibly Compton Comberwelle, now a tithing belonging to the parish of Compton Bassett. It could scarcely have been Compton Bassett itself; for it appears from a dispute between the rector of Calne and the rector of Compton Bassett<sup>1</sup> in 1228, respecting certain tithes and burial fees, that Compton Bassett was not in the parish of Calne. There is not, however, any village at the present day at Compton Comberwell. In 1840 part of the parish of Calne was taken to form part of the ecclesiastical parish of Derryhill; in 1879 another portion was annexed to the parish of Cherhill; and in 1887, by Order in Council, other portions were added to the parishes of Calstone, Blackland, and Heddington.<sup>2</sup>

Of all the treasurers<sup>3</sup> who from the date of the assignment in 1226 became the patrons of the vicarage of Calne, only one appears to have taken any active part in the work of the parish. This exception was Edmund Rich, treasurer of the cathedral at the time the transfer was made. Edmund Rich was a native of Abingdon, and famous for his learning and great piety. After studying at Oxford and Paris he returned to the former university, where he is said to have been one of the first to teach Aristotle's philosophy. He many times refused preferment in the Church, electing rather

<sup>1</sup> Documents relating to the History of the Cathedral of Sarum (Rolls Series), No. 136.

<sup>2</sup> By an order of the Wilts County Council, subsequently confirmed by the Local Government Board, the parish of Calne was divided in 1890 for civil purposes into the parishes of Calne Within and Calne Without. The boundaries of the former were made coterminous with those of the municipal borough; the latter was made to include within its area the remaining portion of the parish, the ecclesiastical parishes of Calstone, Blackland, and part of Bremhill and the Liberty of Bowood.

<sup>3</sup> A complete list of the treasurers from A.D. 1108 to 1860 is given in Jones' "Fasti."

to wander about the adjoining counties preaching to the people ; but at last he was prevailed upon to accept the treasurership of Sarum. Whilst holding this office he frequently retired to the rectory of Calne, one reason for this retirement being his love of seclusion. The principal motive, however, seems to have been to allow his resources to recover from the inroads made upon them by his hospitality and unbounded charity to the poor :

“ He spende so muche for goddes love al in almsdede  
That unnethe he myzt myd his rent half zer his lif lede.”<sup>1</sup>

He was residing here<sup>2</sup> when suddenly called upon by the Pope to preach in the midland counties of England the crusade against the Saracens.

In 1234, after three other nominations had been rejected, Edmund was elected Archbishop of Canterbury. The messengers sent by the Chapter of Christchurch to announce to him his election found him at Calne, where he was again in residence. To their sorrow, but scarcely to their surprise, Edmund refused to accept the honour they wished to confer upon him ; and the only modification they could get him to make in his decision was to agree to go with them to Salisbury to discuss the matter with his bishop. The bishop urged him to accept, pointing out that his refusal might result in the appointment of a foreigner, which was by no means desirable. He, however, remained steadfast to his decision, and returned to Calne. Thither he was accompanied by the messengers, who ceased not to plead with him.

“ At length, overcome by their importunities, he consented ; and yet, not explicitly, but in this wise ; he said : ‘ He who knows all things knows that I would never consent to this election, unless I thought that I should sin mortally by refusing

<sup>1</sup> Bodleian MS.

<sup>2</sup> Jackson, *Wilts Archæological Magazine*, vol. xxiv. p. 183.

it.' Satisfied with this partial consent, they conducted him at once to the church; and there, prostrate with him before the altar, they sang the 'Te Deum,' whilst the bells were rung to summon the people to take part in the general jubilation. But the sounds of joy were soon mingled with notes of sadness and lamentation, when the people reflected that they were about to lose a pastor who had endeared himself so much to them by his piety, charity, and pastoral zeal."<sup>1</sup>

He died in 1242, and was canonised by Pope Innocent IV. as St. Edmund of Canterbury.

The only registers known to be extant that contain the names of the vicars of Calne are one dating from 1544, and now in the registry of the Dean and Chapter of Sarum, and the parish registers, which begin in 1538; consequently no complete record of the early holders of the living can at present be obtained. We find from the Deed of Augmentation that Nicholas Heose (? Hesse) was vicar in 1375; he is said to have been instituted by the bishop for the treasurer. In 1405 Nathaniel Poumpe held the living.

The following list of vicars is obtained from the Calne registers:—

? 1540.	Thomas Horton.	1753.	John Bowman.
1559.	Philip Riche.	1768.	Frederick Dodsworth.
1602.	William Mortimer.	1779.	John Tattersall.
? 1653.	Thomas Jones.	1782.	Thomas Greenwood.
1662.	John Paynell.	1821.	John Henry Hume.
1668.	Hananiah Gifford.	1835.	John Guthrie.
1693.	Benjamin D'Aranda.	1865.	John Duncan.
1725.	Benjamin Russell.		

Thomas Horton, vicar here in 1540, was reported by Sir Henry Long to the Privy Council as a suspected Popish adherent. He was examined by the Council, the particular offence charged against him being that he had not obeyed

<sup>1</sup> "St. Edmund of Canterbury," by Wilfred Wallace, M.A., D.D., LL.B.



the Order directing the name of Thomas à Becket to be expunged from the Prayer-Book calendar, where he at that time appeared as a "Martyr." The decision was that the name had been left "un-put-out" by negligence rather than malice. Mr. Horton was therefore only bound over in £40 to appear at the next assize for the county; but he was ordered openly in his parish church to cry the King's Highness's mercy, acknowledging his offence and folly in not obeying the King's injunction, and to promise to behave better in future.<sup>1</sup>

Philip Riche, vicar from 1559 to 1602, was also for many years clerk to the guild stewards of the borough. In this office of clerk he was succeeded, and possibly preceded, by others of the vicars. His name is spelt in a variety of ways—Riche, Ritche, Rytche. Apparently he writes out and signs the churchwardens' accounts from 1554 onwards, but he does not begin to write the register till 1559. In the register of burials, against the date March 7th, 1552, appears this entry: "Peter Ryche (pater Phil Ritche, vicarii)." During the years 1558 and 1559 Philip Riche's name is found two or three times among the "gosseps," *i.e.* god-parents. On June 16th, 1558, he married Ales (Alice) Rynseck, so it is possible that he was living in Calne some years before he was made vicar in 1559. There occurs the name John Garden, apparently that of a priest, in 1557, but there is nothing to show that he was vicar. Philip Riche was buried on March 1st, 1602

William Mortimer married "Sybble Shepley" on June 2nd, 1603, and died May 29th and was buried June 2nd, 1653. On March 15th, 1615, he granted a dispensation to John Were and his wife Dorothy, on account of age, to eat flesh in Lent. In 1640 he with some of his parishioners presented a petition to the justices at quarter sessions for the payment "for the benefit of the poor people who suffered so much lately

<sup>1</sup> Acts of Privy Council of Henry VIII., p. 95.

with the plague, of a balance understood to be remaining in the hands of the collectors of the general rate made for the relief of the town, amounting to about £300."<sup>1</sup> The petition stated that the tradesmen were much impoverished, and that there were within the town and parish nearly two thousand poor needy people.<sup>2</sup>

Thomas Jones was a presbyter put in by the Parliament. His name occurs in a document, signed by a number of parishioners, which begins, "Whereas there is a right claymed for the Choyce of a sexton by Mr. Thomas Jones as Vicar of Calne . . ." It is dated May 9th, 1659. The burial of his wife, Mrs. Ann Jones, is found in the register under date June 22nd, 1659. He was removed at the Restoration, and appears to have been succeeded by John Paynell,<sup>3</sup> whose name first occurs on a document dated April 15th, 1662. Paynell was buried on Sept. 20th, 1668, his successor in the living being Hananiah (?) Gifford. The only interesting thing discoverable about Gifford is that on Nov. 27th, 1670, he signed the notice of a collection for the redemption of poor Christians out of Turkish slavery. His name appears in the notice as "Han. Gifford, Vicar."

Benjamin D'Aranda, born at Canterbury Jan. 2nd, 1666-7, was the son of the Rev. Elie Paul D'Arande,<sup>4</sup> who at the time of his son's birth was minister of the French Church, Canterbury. Benjamin matriculated at Oxford May 15th, 1685, and obtained the degree of B.C.L. May 23rd, 1696. He was prebendary of Hurstbourne and Burbage in Salisbury Cathedral from Feb. 10th, 1710-11, until his

<sup>1</sup> Report on Manuscripts in Various Collections, vol. i., p. 106.

<sup>2</sup> On Oct. 4th, 1642, an order is made for the arrest of the constables of three hundreds because they had not collected the assessments ordered to be levied in those hundreds for the relief of Calne.

<sup>3</sup> He had a son John, who matriculated at Oxford Oct. 19th, 1666, aged 18, and became B.A. of New College in 1670.

<sup>4</sup> M.A. of Merton College, Oxford; curate at Petworth, Patcham and Mayfield, Sussex, until 1662; appointed to Canterbury 1664; died August 17th, 1669.

death. Canon Jackson states<sup>1</sup> that he became vicar of Calne in 1701, but his name appears in the church registers as early as 1693. In 1721 he signs as a burgess of Calne with other burgesses the record of the election of the guild stewards for the ensuing year. In 1724 he became vicar of Bremhill, and held the living until 1740, in which year he died and was buried in Bremhill church. He was twice married, his second wife being Elizabeth Oliphant, of Petersham, Surrey. A son of D'Aranda's was buried in Calne church, and a tablet to his memory is affixed to one of the tower buttresses that is partly inside "St. Edmund's chapel."

John Bowman, according to an entry in one of the registers, "was inducted into the Vicarage of Calne" by the Rev. Cornelius Norwood, master of the Free School, on July 14th, 1753; and he appears to have held the living until his death in February, 1768.

John Tattersall has been included in the list of vicars; but it cannot be said definitely if he ever held the living. At the vestry meetings from 1779 to 1782, the vicar's warden was nominated by the Rev. G. Mawson, assistant curate, and Thomas Greenwood nominated in 1783. Mr. Tattersall's name occurs only three times: once in the marriage register (May 9th, 1779) and twice in the banns register (July 1st, 1781, and March 24th, 1782). In the two latter cases he signs himself "Vicar"; but at the bottom of a page in the baptismal register for February, 1780, appears the name: "Thos Greenwood, Vicar." Possibly this was added

<sup>1</sup> *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, vol. xxiv. The Canon also says he was supposed to have been of a Spanish family attached to the court of James II., but we do not know upon what authority. His father was, as we have shown, minister of the French Church, Canterbury. His grandfather, the Rev. Elie Paul D'Arande, was minister of the French Church at Southampton, and died at St. Olery's, Southampton, on May 13th, 1633. The family would therefore appear to be of *French* origin, and to have had nothing to do with James II.

by mistake at some later date; for apart from this reference, Thomas Greenwood is shown as vicar for the first time on Sept. 22nd, 1782. For a few years beginning about 1768 Mr. Greenwood was assistant curate at Calne; in 1778, 1785, 1790, 1796, and 1807 he was one of the guild stewards; and in 1800 he served the office of constable of the borough and received the usual payment of £3 3s. He died in May, 1821.

The Rev. John Guthrie, M.A., vicar 1835-65, was a scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge, graduating in 1817 as Tenth Wrangler and being also placed in the first class of the Classical Tripos of that year. After being for some time rector of Thorpe, Notts, he received the living of Hilmarton, near Calne. In the same year (1833) he also became rector of Calstone, which living he held until 1836. In 1834 the Marquis of Lansdowne made him his chaplain; and in 1835 he became vicar of Calne, having exchanged Hilmarton for Calne with the Rev. John Henry Hume,<sup>1</sup> son of Thomas Henry Hume, treasurer of Sarum, and grandson of John Hume, Bishop of Salisbury.

Canon Guthrie is still remembered in Calne for the good he accomplished during the time he lived here. When he first came to Calne the religious life of the town was at a low ebb; but aided, and sometimes led, by various members of the Lansdowne family, particularly Earl Kerry, and assisted by one or two earnest-minded men of the town, he succeeded in revivifying it and in improving greatly the social and intellectual condition of the people. Schools were opened or enlarged, the Calne District Friendly Society and the Literary Institution were founded, and, largely at his own expense, Trinity Church was built and the parish church restored.

Canon Duncan, the present vicar, who succeeded Canon Guthrie, graduated M.A. at Aberdeen University. In 1856

<sup>1</sup> M.A. of Balliol College, Oxford,

he was appointed curate of Sherborne, Dorset, where he resided until he became perpetual curate of Lyneham in 1859. In 1865 he was appointed by the Bishop of Salisbury to the living of Calne; in 1876 he was made Canon or Prebendary of Chardstock in the diocese of Salisbury; and in 1898 he was made Rural Dean of Avebury (1st portion).

Of the events that have taken place in the religious life of Calne during the time that Canon Duncan has been vicar of the parish, the time has not yet arrived to speak; but this we may say, in his efforts to promote the educational welfare of the children and to improve the condition of the people he has been indefatigable, and his work has met with a large measure of success.

## CHAPTER XI.

### *NOTES ON THE ARCHITECTURE OF CALNE CHURCH.*

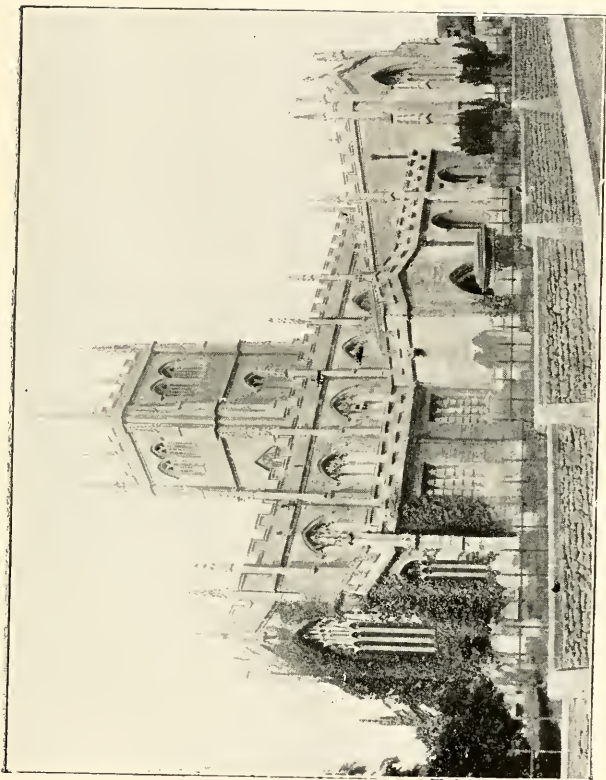
BY HAROLD BRAKSPEAR, F.S.A.

THE parish church of Calne is still a building of unusual interest, although a great part of the structure has been made new in recent years, and the fall of the tower in the seventeenth century must have destroyed many evidences of its former history. It is impossible to say definitely what was the character of the original edifice and of the various additions that have been made to it at different periods.

The church at present consists of a chancel, with north and south chapels and a vestry eastward of the former, north and south transepts with a tower to the north, a nave with aisles having north and south porches, and a chapel to the east of each.

The earliest existing work in the church is a fragment of a west jamb and arch springer of a window in the wall above the second pier of the nave arcade on the north side,<sup>1</sup> which is certainly earlier than the arcade, and may be a fragment of the Saxon church mentioned in Domesday. If so, every other indication of this early building has

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this description the nave is reckoned from the west side of the transepts, the present easternmost bay representing the crossing under the old central tower.



CALNE CHURCH: EXTERIOR.

[*facing p. 150.*]





completely vanished, for not even the plan, which in so many cases points to the existence of an early church, is here indicative of such a building.

The first church of which any definite remains of its character exist is that which was built during the middle years of the twelfth century, and consisted of a two-bayed chancel, north and south transepts, central tower, and a nave of five bays with aisles.

Of this church the remains are considerable, and embrace the arcades on either side the nave,<sup>1</sup> part of the north aisle wall, the south respond of the arch crossing the east end of the south aisle, and part of the south-east buttress of the transept.

The first addition to this Norman church was the erection of the chapel on the north side the chancel early in the thirteenth century, of which the outer walls and angle buttress remain. This was followed in a short time by the further addition of a corresponding chapel on the south side the chancel, of which the lower part of the east wall and the double buttress at the south-east angle still exist.

In the fourteenth century the chancel was lengthened eastward, and of this work the double buttresses at each angle and the lower parts of the walls remain. Later in the same century the chapel on the north side the nave was added, and remains tolerably perfect.<sup>2</sup>

In the fifteenth century a numerous series of recon-

<sup>1</sup> The three westernmost bays on the south side with the two piers beneath were rebuilt in 1864. The easternmost bay on either side with the eastern respond beneath are part of the reconstruction after the fall of the tower.

<sup>2</sup> This is generally called St. Edmund's chapel, but if that is so, it must have taken the place of an earlier building, for in 1336 Sir Robert Hungerford founded a chantry at the then existing altar of St. Edmund, and from the character of the work the present building could not have been built for at least sixty years after that date.

structions and additions took place, the most important being the rebuilding of the north porch and the two bays of the aisle adjoining; raising the nave by the addition of a lofty clerestory and placing thereon a new roof. Other smaller alterations in different parts of the building will be referred to later.

The internal arrangements of the church at this period have, unfortunately, left no structural evidence, and are only mentioned casually in a few scattered documents. As already stated,<sup>1</sup> there were two chantries founded by the St. Loe family, at the altars of St. Mary the Virgin and St. Mary Magdalene. The former would be in connection with the high altar, but the position of St. Mary Magdalene's altar has not been identified with any certainty. The chantry of St. Edmund had been removed,<sup>2</sup> but the altar would have remained. There was also an altar of St. Andrew<sup>3</sup> in one or other of the transepts, besides images or altars of St. Mary in the porch, St. Michael and St. James.<sup>4</sup>

The rood loft would probably cross the church in front of the western arch of the central tower and continue across one at least of the aisles. A new one was apparently being erected in 1529.<sup>5</sup>

After the suppression of chantries the usual demolition of things which could be destroyed and sold took place at Calne, as elsewhere, and a few are mentioned in the churchwardens' accounts of the period.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 134.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 133.


<sup>3</sup> Churchwardens' accounts: "3 Edw. VI. Rec<sup>d</sup> 16s. 8d. for the tymber of Saynte Andrews."

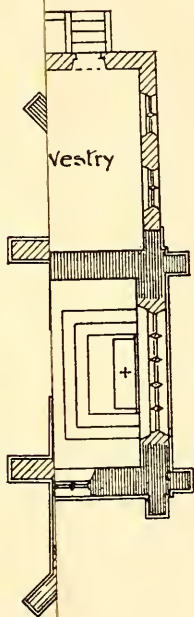
<sup>4</sup> In 1346 John of Combe by will gave a sum of money to the lights in front of these images or altars: see page 183.

<sup>5</sup> Churchwardens' accounts, 20 Hen. VIII. :—







Item to the carver for the p̄ysons in the body of the churche in p̄fe of paymente of xls . . . . .	.xiijs iiijd
Item to John Smythe for yron worke to the same p̄ysons in pte of payt of xiiijs . . . . .	viijs

·CA

Scale of 



DATES

-  12<sup>th</sup> century
-  13<sup>th</sup> century
-  14<sup>th</sup> century
-  15<sup>th</sup> century
-  17<sup>th</sup> century
-  modern

planned by B. Ingelow F.R.I.B.A.

*Harold Brakspear*  
F.S.A.

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<sup>2</sup> See p. 133.

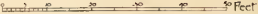
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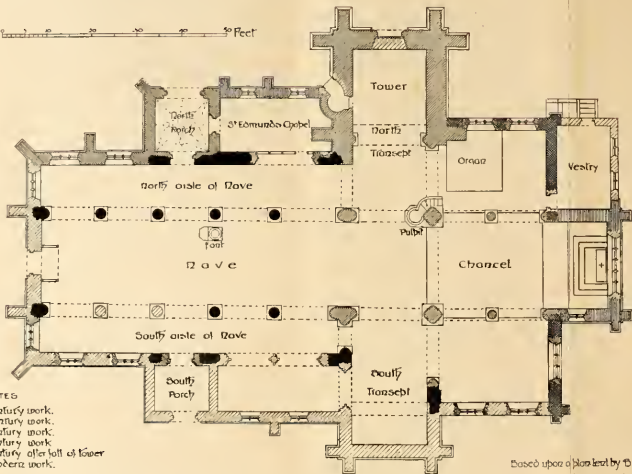
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

Item to the carver for the p̄tysons in the body of the churche in p̄te of paymente of xls . . . .	.xiijs iiijd
Item to John Smythe for yron worke to the same p̄tysons in pte of pay <sup>t</sup> of xiiijs . . . . .	viijs

CALNE CHURCH · WILTS.

Scale of  Feet



DATES

-  12<sup>th</sup> century work.
-  13<sup>th</sup> century work.
-  14<sup>th</sup> century work.
-  15<sup>th</sup> century work.
-  17<sup>th</sup> century after fall of tower
-  modern work.

Based upon a plan lev. by S. Ingeles F.R.I.B.A.

*Harold Brakspear*  
F.S.A.



- 2 Edw. VI. Rec<sup>d</sup> xvij*l.* for the frame of the pulpitt solde to Robert Powell. & vij*l.* for the foot of the cross sold to W<sup>m</sup> Welsted. & xx*l.* for the steyses in the churche porche<sup>1</sup> solde unto Rob<sup>t</sup> Paynt.
- 3 Edw. VI. 16*s.* 8*d.* for the tymber of the rode loufte and of Saynte Andrews.

Galleries were begun to be erected as early as 1605,<sup>2</sup> but nothing apparently was done to the structure until the seventeenth century.

On Sept. 26th, 1638, the central tower with the spire, that "was a fine, high steeple which stood on four pillars in the middle of the church,"<sup>3</sup> fell down. Some time before that date, however, it showed signs of weakness, as Aubrey continues:—

"One of the pillars was faulty and the churchwardens were dilatory, as is usual in such cases. — Chivers, Esq<sup>re</sup><sup>4</sup> of the parish, foreseeing the fall of it, if not prevented, and the great charge they must be at by it, brought down Mr. Inigo Jones to survey it. This was about 1639 or 1640: he gave him 30*l.* out of his own purse for his paines. Mr. Jones would have underbuilt it for an 100*l.* About 1645 it fell down on a Saturday and also broke down the chancell. The Parish has since been at 1000*l.* charge to make a new heavy tower."

Aubrey's dates are, however, incorrect, as the following extract from a petition to the justices of the county shows:—

"On 8 Jan. 163<sup>8</sup>/<sub>9</sub> the parishioners of Calne petition the Justices to apply to the King for a general collection to assist

<sup>1</sup> These would be wooden stairs and a small gallery in front of the image of St. Mary, erected, as is not unusual in this position, for ease of lighting the candles and decking the image on feast days.

<sup>2</sup> Churchwardens' accounts, 1605; "Rec<sup>d</sup> towards the new gallery xliiii*s.*"

<sup>3</sup> Aubrey's "Natural History of Wiltshire," p. 99.

<sup>4</sup> Probably Henry Chivers, Esq. (see Appendix A), and the father of the Henry Chivers who gave the treble bell in 1707.

them in rebuilding the church. They had contracted for the repair of the tower and steeple, which was much decayed, but it appeared that the pillars were unsound when first built, being of freestone, and the greatest part being filled with ill made mortar and small stones, and the tower being too weighty for them suddenly fell on 25th Sept. and with the fall the bells beat down all the chancel and five aisles<sup>1</sup> and a great part of the body of the church, all of which before was very strong and substantially built, and what remains is much shaken and it is conceived must all be taken down. The cost will be £3000 at the least.”<sup>2</sup>

From the evidence of the building itself, it is quite obvious the petitioners made the most of the mishap, as the whole of the outer walls of the chancel and chapels are still standing;<sup>3</sup> but the damage must have been very great.

Apparently the authorities soon commenced operations upon this hopeless ruin, doubtless assisted by the local builder; and after removing the heaps of rubbish from the site, began repairs on a modest scale. These repairs consisted in building upon the site of the old west piers of the tower the two double responds, now standing, of the same height as the nave arcades. The southern of these piers has a respond on the south side to correspond with the original one against the aisle wall that was not destroyed; but on the north side the cross arch was to have been carried on bold corbels. While this work was in progress it would appear that Inigo Jones or some architect of genius<sup>4</sup> was

<sup>1</sup> This means the chancel with its side chapels and the north and south transepts.

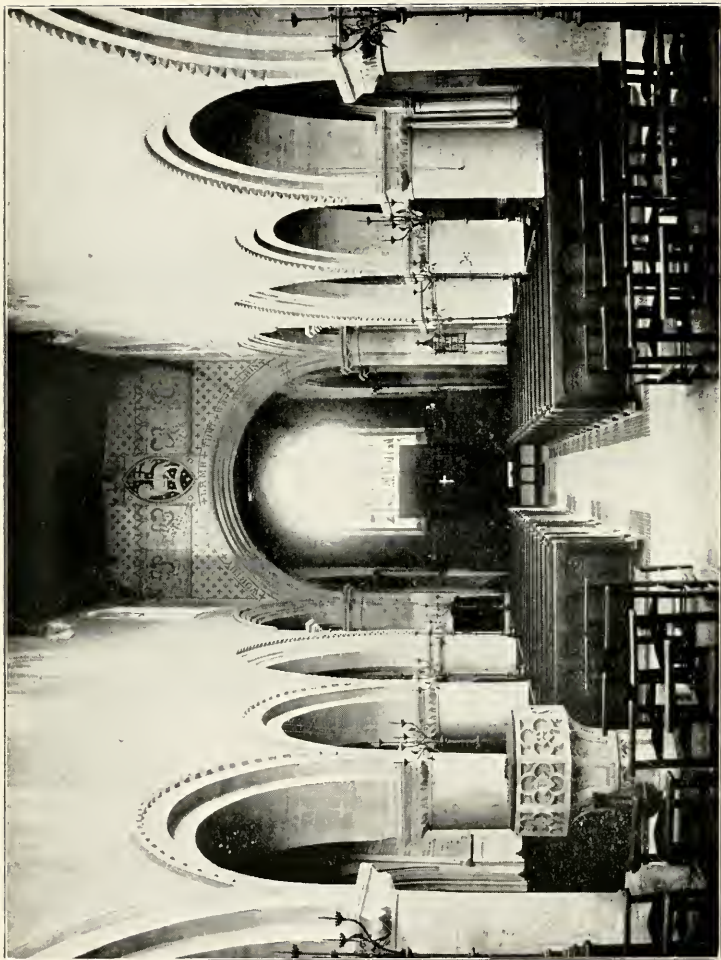
<sup>2</sup> Historical Manuscripts Commission (Rolls Series), vol. i. Extracts from Wilts Quarter Sessions Records.

<sup>3</sup> The south wall of the south chapel was rebuilt in 1864. The area of the damage done by the fall of the tower is clearly shown on the ground-plan by those parts of the structure that were rebuilt.

<sup>4</sup> There is no direct evidence that this was the case, but tradition ascribes the tower to Jones, and it is obvious that the master hand that designed it and the lofty work of the chancel was not the same that caused the two piers on the site of the old west ones of the tower to be built.







*Photo by J. J. Hunt, Calne.*

CALNE CHURCH: INTERIOR.

called in, and the low proportion of the churchwardens' repairs was abandoned. Fortunately the work so far as it had gone was not disturbed, but that of the newer design was placed on the top of it. The larger scheme included a new two-bayed arcade on either side the chancel and a new and finely proportioned tower at the north end of the transept.

This rebuilding took some years to complete, as from the churchwardens' accounts so late as 1650 they were paying "for leading the new Iles mendinge in the churche £20 13 0"; but it is curious that little or no mention is made of the great costs that the work of rebuilding must have entailed.

The CHANCEL is divided into three bays. In the first bay on either side is a small two-light square-headed window, apparently of the fifteenth century. Beneath that on the south side is a modern sedilia. In each of the remaining bays on both sides are round-headed arches of two moulded members resting upon Doric columns and responds, all of the work of rebuilding after the fall of the tower.

At the east end is a modern window of five lights, with as tone reredos beneath. The latter is divided into three principal compartments, profusely decorated with painted imagery, and flanked on either side by wall-panelling.<sup>1</sup>

The roof is of the seventeenth century, divided into four compartments, having moulded and cambered tie-beams, with openwork pendants and moulded purlins.<sup>2</sup>

Externally the east front retains its fourteenth-century buttresses, two at each angle, each having two series of

<sup>1</sup> The reredos was designed by the late Mr. Pearson, R.A., and executed in Corsham stone at a cost of £600, given by Mrs. Murray, of the parish.

<sup>2</sup> The walls of the chancel were raised some three feet in 1890, to admit of the introduction of the new east window, and the old roof refixed at the higher level.

sets-off and a double chamfered plinth, which continues along the walls.

The NORTH CHAPEL is equal in length to two bays of the chancel, and has an inserted fifteenth-century east window of three lights, with good tracery in the head.<sup>1</sup> In the north wall are two three-light square-headed windows, inserted about the same time as the east window.

The roof is a flat lean-to, constructed with plain moulded principals and purlins, and probably of the same date as that over the chancel.

The western part of this chapel is now blocked up by the organ erected in 1882.<sup>2</sup>

Externally the north-east angle is clasped by a shallow pilaster-buttress of early thirteenth-century date, and the north wall, which is constructed in rubble masonry, is apparently contemporary. A modern vestry has been added outside the east end of this chapel.<sup>3</sup>

The SOUTH CHAPEL is internally exactly similar to the corresponding one to the north, excepting that the east window has not been spoilt by having the lower part built up.

Externally, at the south-east angle is a double buttress having two plain sets-off to each part; and in the east

<sup>1</sup> This window has had a transom inserted in recent years, and the lower part has been filled up solid to cover the roof of the vestry outside.

<sup>2</sup> The former organ stood under the tower, with tiers of benches in front for the choir. There was an organ in the church in the fifteenth century: that appears from the churchwardens' accounts to have been "36 Hy. VIII. solde to John Brakyer the olde grett organs wh. remanet in the seid John Brakyers hande. 13s. 4d." This must have been previously or shortly after superseded by a new "grett organs," as in the inventory of 1552 appears "Itm v score & xvij organs pyppes" (Appendix E).

<sup>3</sup> Before this was built there was a door into the chancel approached by a flight of steps on the outside, apparently of the seventeenth-century reconstruction, and shown on the drawings made before the restoration of 1864.

wall are the remains of a string-course that passed beneath the original windows, which appear to have been a series of lancets. One stone of the sill of the southernmost still remains. The south wall is modern, but is built on the lines of the old one, and the windows are of the fifteenth century, refixed, as are also the cornice and parapet above, which are quite plain.

The CROSSING that formed the space beneath the central tower is now structurally part of the nave. It has to the east the arch to the chancel, which is semicircular, of two members of mouldings similar to those in the chancel, and rests on responds formed of Doric half-columns. Above the arch is the east gable of the nave, in which were two ugly quatrefoil windows set diagonally.<sup>1</sup> On the north and south the main walls of the nave are carried on very flat four-centred arches, of similar section and resting on similar responds to the chancel arch.<sup>2</sup> Above these arches is on each side a three-light clerestory window<sup>3</sup> of very poor design, but apparently an attempted copy of the fifteenth-century ones of the nave. The roof also is a bad copy of that of the nave.

The NORTH TRANSEPT is now scarcely as long as the width of the chancel chapel, and is all part of the rebuilding of the seventeenth century. It has in the east wall a flat four-centred arch on half-columns opening into the chapel, and in the west wall a stilted arch over the north aisle, which is carried on corbels formed of Doric half-caps, with the column cut away in an ogee-form beneath. Under the southern corbel, in the rebuilt respond of the nave arcade, is a curiously moulded semi-octagonal corbel that was

<sup>1</sup> These quatrefoils, shown on the drawings of 1864 already referred to, have been removed, and the whole internal face of the wall above the arch covered with fresco.

<sup>2</sup> The western pair of these responds stop on the top of the lower responds already mentioned.

<sup>3</sup> These windows are now blocked up by the transept roofs.

intended to carry the arch across the aisle at a lower level,<sup>1</sup> before the scheme of making the new work of its present lofty proportions was proposed. The transept is covered by a modern flat ceiling.

The TOWER stands at the north end of the transept; and whatever may have been the character of the original one and however much its ruin is to be deplored, the people of Calne are to be congratulated that, when Gothic architecture was supposed to be dead, their ancestors discovered an architect capable of designing such a beautiful structure. It was built entirely new from the foundations, so that no chance of a similar disaster to that of the seventeenth century should occur again. The tower stands twenty-five feet square at the base, and rises ninety-five feet to the top of the parapet. It is divided into four stages by bold string-courses, and has double buttresses at each angle, with a set-off at each stage, surmounted by a crocketed pinnacle. The whole is crowned by a battlemented parapet, having large crocketed pinnacles at the angles, and a smaller one in the centre of each face. The belfry stage has a couple of two-light pointed windows without tracery in each face, and the stage below has a single two-light window of similar character on each side except the west, which apparently was always occupied by a clock,<sup>2</sup> as at present. The third stage from the top has a similar window to the others in each face, and the lowest stage has in the north wall a large three-light window and a bold round-headed doorway beneath. The doorway is now blocked up internally, but the original door remains. On the west side is

<sup>1</sup> The straight length of cap above, which makes the corbel appear to be a bracket, is quite modern.

<sup>2</sup> The church possessed a clock before 1583, for in that year the churchwardens "Rec<sup>d</sup> for the basket in wh. the clocke was broughte xij*d*."; and in the following year, "Rec<sup>d</sup> of R<sup>d</sup> Bowyer for the olde clocke. 15*s*. 5*d*." But both these entries probably referred to a clock of moderate size inside the church.

a circular staircase leading to the ringing-chamber, but it is partly masked externally by the north chapel of the nave.<sup>1</sup> Internally the south wall is carried by a four-centred arch of similar character to the others of the seventeenth century, but with the addition of two more members on the north face to take the extra thickness of the wall.

The tower contains a ring of eight bells, to which clarions were fixed in 1886.

The SOUTH TRANSEPT is nearly all modern, and was lengthened five feet in 1864, when the walls were raised and a new pitched roof put on in place of the old flat one. On the east side is an archway into the south chapel of the chancel similar to the corresponding one on the north. Just within the chapel are the remains of part of the original Norman pilaster buttress that clasped the external south-east angle of the transept of that date. On the west side is a narrow archway into the nave aisle similar to that on the north, but the half-columns are carried down on to the caps of the earlier rebuilt respond and the original Norman respond on the north and south sides respectively.

Externally the whole transept is quite modern, of a design in character with the nave clerestory.

The NAVE is of five bays, and has arcades of semi-circular arches of two plain members towards the nave and one member towards the aisles, resting on cylindrical columns having square caps ornamented with various patterns of scallops, and circular bases with square plinths.<sup>2</sup> The easternmost arch on either side was rebuilt after the fall of the tower, and is pointed, with two orders of mouldings similar to the other arches of that date. On the south side

<sup>1</sup> The staircase was originally entered from the church by a small doorway, but of recent years a doorway from the outside has been inserted and the old one blocked up.

<sup>2</sup> The base of the second column on the north side has simple spurs at the angles.

all the arches, including that of the seventeenth century, have hood-moulds enriched with a peculiar type of dog-tooth ornament. On the north side the seventeenth-century arch has a hood similar to that on the south, but the next two arches have hood-moulds enriched with billets, and the remaining two have plain chamfered hoods.

The clerestory is of late fifteenth-century work, of an equal number of bays to the arcade below and with windows in each, of three lights having four-centred heads filled with late tracery. Externally the bays are divided by narrow buttresses stopping at the level of the window springer, from which they are continued upwards as pinnacles set diagonally, and finished above the parapet in crocketed spirelets. There is a plain moulded cornice, with a carved patera<sup>1</sup> over the head of each window, surmounted by a bold battlemented parapet.

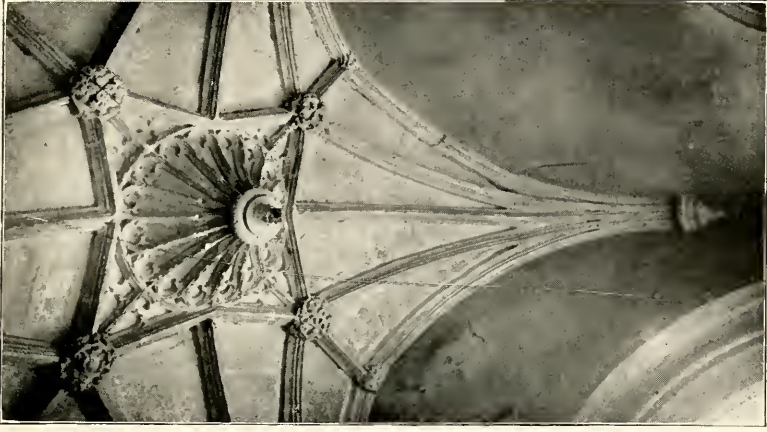
The roof is of the same date, and has a principal couple between each window resting on corbels representing heads of kings and bishops alternately. The couples consist of large cambered tie-beams moulded and ornamented with pateræ, simple moulded king-posts and rafters, and the spandrils are filled with tracery. Between the principal couples over the centre of each bay are slighter ones of similar character, but without king-posts and having traceried feathering beneath the rafters. On either side is a heavy moulded purlin, and the whole roof is close-boarded and divided into panels by simple ribs.<sup>2</sup>

Externally the west end of the nave is entirely modern and has a five-light window with an empty niche in the gable above. Beneath is a doorway, with shields of arms in the spandrils.

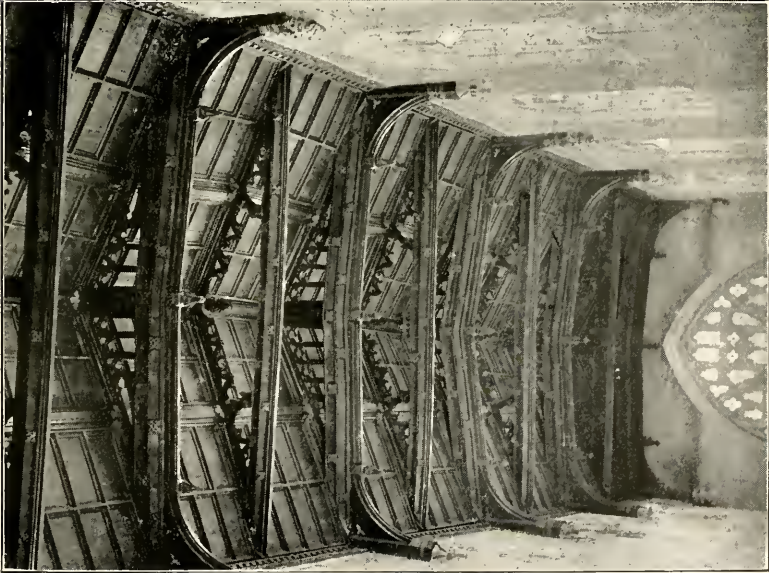
<sup>1</sup> These are mostly foliage and grotesques, but the third from the west on the south side is a rebus, having a tree in the centre with a sheep's head on the left side and a man's head on the right.

<sup>2</sup> The ribs and boarding are modern.





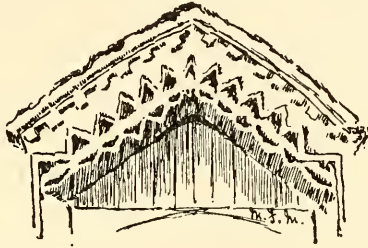
CEILING OF NORTH PORCH,  
[facing p. 160.]



ROOF OF NAVE,



The NORTH AISLE OF THE NAVE has at the east end the cross-arch already described. In the north wall is a wide but poorly moulded pointed arch opening into "St. Edmund's" chapel. Farther west is the rere-arch of the north doorway, which is a pointed segment ornamented with double chevron and a label, with billets, of apparently



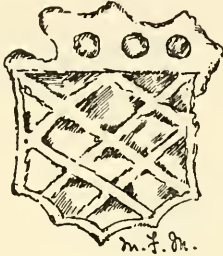
RERE-ARCH OF THE NORTH DOORWAY.

untouched twelfth-century work. The two western bays have each a plain three-light square-headed window of fifteenth-century date with flat segmented rere-arches; and the west window of the aisle is quite modern, but copied from the corresponding one on the south side.

Externally there is a bold diagonal buttress to the north-west angle, and another of similar character divides the two western bays. The buttresses are surmounted by pinnacles, and the aisle has a plain moulded cornice with battlemented parapet and a deep moulded plinth.

The NORTH PORCH is of the same date as the work last described. A similar parapet continues along the west wall and follows the sloping line of the roof on the north front. The aisle plinth also returns round the porch, and there is a bold diagonal buttress at the north-west angle. The outer doorway has a pointed head with plainly moulded arch and jambs, and a hood-mould returned in an indented octagonal form as terminals. The inner doorway is of

similar character, but has a four-centred arch with a bold label terminated with square bosses on which are carved shields of arms<sup>1</sup> here figured.



ST. AMAND.



TOCOTES.

The ceiling is vaulted with diagonal and intermediate ribs, the latter of which meet in carved bosses,<sup>2</sup> and the centre portion of the vault is formed into a pendant of fan vaulting.

“ST. EDMUND’S CHAPEL” occupies the space between the north porch and the tower outside the north aisle of the nave.

It is of late fourteenth-century work, and has in the north wall a couple of two-light windows with a buttress between, and another similar buttress adjoins the porch. The east end has been completely destroyed by the erection of the tower, and it is difficult to see how it was originally arranged, for the transept must have covered one half and the other half projected beyond the north end of the transept. At the west end is a moulded arched doorway entering from the porch, of very late character. In the south

<sup>1</sup> The left hand is *or a fret sable, on a chief sable three bezants*, for St. Amand. The right hand is *a lion rampant, holding a bâton*, for Tocotes.

<sup>2</sup> The northern of these bears the three interlacing sickles of Hungerford. This, with the St. Amand and Tocotes arms, dates the porch at about 1422, the time when Walter Lord Hungerford appropriated the endowment of St. Edmund’s chantry for his new foundation at Heytesbury. See p. 133.

wall is the wide archway<sup>1</sup> to the nave aisle already mentioned, and just eastward was a large piscina that has had all its projecting parts mutilated. It consists of a recessed panel, 3 feet high by  $2\frac{1}{4}$  feet wide, having a cinque-foiled arched head with crocketed label, and flanked by small buttresses finishing in pinnacles; and the whole surmounted by a moulded cornice. The basin is quite plain, is partly recessed and carried upon a sloping sill. At the back is a panel with arched head and sunk spandrils, inserted at a late date, but for what purpose it is impossible to say.

The roof of the chapel is quite modern, and takes the place of a flat ceiling which was at a much lower level.

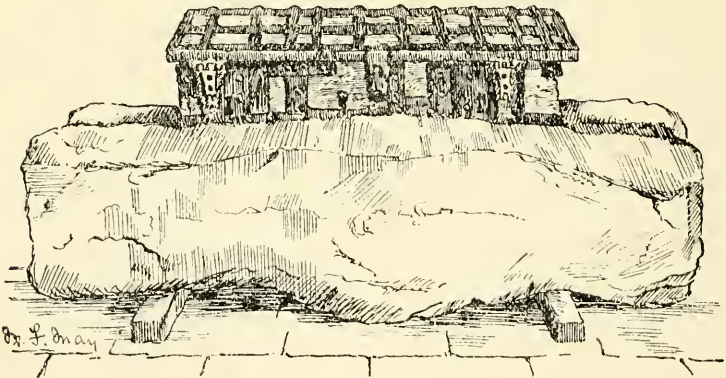
The SOUTH PORCH was rebuilt in 1864, but occupies the position of a previous one of the same size. Outside in the west wall are three panels of a monument of rather interesting character. The centre panel bears a rearing horse sculptured in relief, and, together with the other two panels, formed at one time part of an altar-shaped tomb erected to the memory of Inverto Boswell, King of the Gipsies, who died in Calne on Feb. 8th, 1774. The entry in the burial register is as follows:—"1774, Feb. 10, a gipsy named Inverto Boswell died in the small-pox." The complete tomb stood on the south side of the churchyard, and it is said that for many years after the interment of the king his subjects used to visit the resting-place of his ashes on the anniversary of his death and perform certain, probably commemorative, ceremonies. At the restoration of the church in 1864 the tomb was demolished, and three panels from it placed in their present position.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This arch is now filled with a modern oak screen erected in 1882, and the chapel fitted up as a choir vestry.

<sup>2</sup> It is an article of faith with some of the present-day gipsies of the neighbourhood that the shade of Inverto Boswell visits at times the place of burial. Indeed, one of them has confidently asserted to me that he has seen the ghostly visitant, but how he recognised it as Inverto's ghost he does not appear to know.—A. E. W. M.

The chapel-like addition between the porch and transept was built in 1864, and, unlike the porch, did not take the place of any pre-existing building. It is separated from the aisle by two arches and from the transept by one arch, but in other respects it seems to have been built to correspond with "St. Edmund's" chapel opposite.

The FONT is now placed in the nave, opposite the third pillar on the north side, and is octagonal in plan, with quatrefoils in the upper part and cusped panels beneath, of fifteenth-century date. An interesting entry in connection with it occurs in the churchwardens' accounts: "20 Hy. VIII. Itm to John Nolothe ffor the ffont taper & lamplyght. 22d."



PARISH CHEST.

The PARISH CHEST now stands in the north aisle, is strongly bound with iron straps, and possesses the three locks prescribed by the 84th canon of 1603; and on the inside is cut the inscription shown opposite, from which it may be assumed that the chest was made in the twenty-first year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and

that John Welsted<sup>1</sup> was either one of the churchwardens of the time or the maker. The chest is firmly imbedded in the trunk of an oak tree, to prevent it being easily removed.<sup>2</sup>

Q: E: R: x x i

1579

IOHNI WELSTED

MONUMENTS.—The church is poor in monumental tablets and gravestones. The most noteworthy are to the memory of: Benedict John Angell; Henry D'Aranda, son of Benjamin D'Aranda, vicar of Bremhill 1724–1739; members of the Chivers family; Sir John Ernle, Chancellor of the Exchequer; Rev. Canon Guthrie (brass); Thomas John Ernle Hay, son of Lord Dupplin and Constance Kyrle Ernle; Markham Heale (brass); members of the Merewether family; Lady Frances Mildmay; Walter Norborne, M.P.; and Richard and Elenora Stokes. There are thirteen stained-glass windows, the two finest being the west window of the nave and the east window of the chancel. The first named was given in 1867 by Lord Crewe in memory of his mother, Henrietta Maria Hungerford Crewe; the second was the gift of Miss Eleanor Gabriel. At each side of the west door there is built into the wall a brass tablet setting forth the bequests made to the poor and in aid of religion and education.

<sup>1</sup> It is worthy of note that a William Welsted bought the foot of the cross in 1549. See p. 153.

<sup>2</sup> It was taken from the church, tree-trunk and all, about 1860, and but for the action of Canon Duncan, who caused it to be replaced, this curious relic would have been lost to the parish.—A. E. W. M.

The BELLS, as before stated, are for a ring of eight, and inscribed as follows:—

1. THE GIFT OF HENRY CHIVERS, ESQ. 1707.
2. J. RUDHALL FECIT. C. ALSUP, CHURCHWARDEN. 1796.
3. **ROBART FORMAN COLLECTED THE MONYE FOR CASTINCE THIS BELL  
OF WELL DISPOSED PEOPLE AS I DOE YOY TELL.**  
STEPHEN BAILY AND THOS. ROGERS, C.W. 1658.
4. MR. WM. ORIEL AND MR. ROBERT BAILY, C<sup>H</sup>WARDENS.  
JAMES BURROUGH, IN DEVICES, FOUNDER. 1751.
5. **PEACE & GOOD NEICHBOVRHOOD.**  
ABRA. RVDHALL, BELL-FOUNDER. 1707.
6. RE-CAST AT THE CHARGE OF THE REV. JOHN GUTHRIE, M.A.,  
VICAR. 1848.  
JOHN NELSON LADD AND JOHN SPACKMAN, CHURCH-  
WARDENS.  
I CALL THE LIVING, MOURN THE DEAD,  
I TELL WHEN DAYS AND YEARS ARE FLED;  
FOR GRIEF AND JOY, FOR PRAYER AND PRAISE  
TO HEAVEN MY TUNEFUL VOICE I RAISE. I. G.  
J. AND T. MEARS, FOUNDERS, LONDON.
7. RALPH HEALE AND RALPH HEATH, CHURCH WARDENS.  
ROBERT WELLS, ALDBOURNE, WILTS, FECIT. 1786.
8. THE HEART RESOLVES, THE HAND OBEYS  
TO SOUND OUR MIGHTY MAKER'S PRAISE.  
THE REV. THOS. GREENWOOD, VICAR. CHRIS<sup>R</sup>. ALLSUP  
AND THOS. VILLICENT, CHURCH WARDENS. ROB<sup>T</sup>.  
WELLS, ALDBOURNE, FECIT. MDCCLXXXIII.<sup>1</sup>

At one time there was also chalked on the bell the legend :

“God made Wells and Wells made me  
In seventeen hundred and eighty three.”

<sup>1</sup> The D of this date, it will be noticed, is reversed. It is sometimes found that the whole inscription on a bell is reversed.



There is also a small bell inscribed :

☉ : **sancta** : **Andrea** :

which is believed to have been cast at some date prior to 1500, and to be the sanctus bell that the church possessed in 1553.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Certificate of Church Goods, Co. Wilts (Augm<sup>n</sup> Office Misc. Books, vol. 514, 45).

3 March, A.D. 1553.

CALNE	{	Delivered to Roger Fynamore & to	xv ovncis
		Thomas Forster j cvppe or challis	bellis iiij and a
		by Indentur of xv ovnces & iiij <sup>r</sup> bellis	Savnctis belle.
		In plate to the Kingis vse . . . . .	iiij ovncis.

## CHAPTER XII.

History of the Nonconformists of Calne : Presbyterians, Baptists, Quakers, Wesleyans, Primitive Methodists, Plymouth Brethren and Free Church.

IN the number of people who embraced the teachings of Wycliffe, the first great English Protestant, Wiltshire showed no exception to the general rule ; and consequently during the persecution of the "Lollards" many in this county were called upon to suffer for their faith, even, in some instances, to giving up their lives at the stake. From Calne itself no person was required to undergo the supreme ordeal, but the neighbourhood furnished William Prior and John Bent. Again during the persecutions of Mary, no one from Calne seems to have suffered death, and that in spite of the fact that at this period North Wilts was strongly Protestant in its religious feeling, due chiefly to the teaching and preaching of Hugh Latimer (afterwards bishop and martyr), who in 1531 became the "poor parson of poor Kyngton," and played the part of itinerant preacher in all the surrounding country.

At the time of the Puritan Revolution the Protestant spirit of Calne had so far developed that the Baptists had representatives here, and some of the Presbyterians had banded themselves into a separate congregation. It would appear too that within the Church dissatisfaction was rife, for there is in one of the church registers an undated list of 249 men of the parish who had "sworn

the covenant.”<sup>1</sup> It should not be concluded, however, that the names are those of professed churchmen only. In all probability some of them are the names of “nonconformists,” who, it may be assumed, would have had no hesitation in subscribing the league.

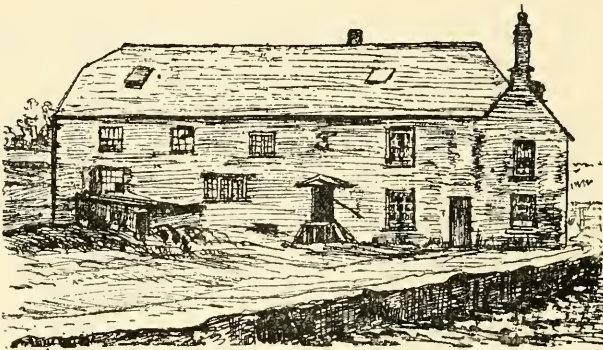
The Presbyterians, shortly after their separation from the Church, appear to have built for themselves the meeting-house still existing in Bollins Lane; and here it was probably that Thomas Jones, vicar of Calne, Nathaniel Webb, rector of Yatesbury, and Richard, or Robert, Rowswell, vicar of Hilmarton—all three Presbyters of the Parliament ejected under the Act of Uniformity—preached and ministered when in Calne until the passing of the Five-mile Act. After the lapse of some years the doctrines of many of the English Presbyterian congregations underwent a change, “passing from Trinitarianism, through Arianism, to Unitarianism.” And this seems to have been the case with the Calne congregation, for in the eighteenth century the Bollins Lane building was the meeting-house of the Unitarians of the district, whose minister, during the time he was librarian at Bowood, was the celebrated Dr. Joseph Priestley.

Unlike the Presbyterians, the Baptists of Calne have preserved their existence unbroken from the time they first organised themselves into a separate body, but at what cost very few of the present members of the body perhaps realise. Driven from their place of worship, abused, defamed, pillaged, imprisoned, and at times wounded and beaten, it was only by the exercise of what has been termed their “fanatical zeal” that the persecuted sect survived to hand their faith on to future generations. Mr. Taylor,<sup>2</sup> Baptist minister at Calne in 1776, states in his Journal that “In the

<sup>1</sup> See extracts from church registers.

<sup>2</sup> I am indebted to the Rev. W. H. J. Page, Baptist minister at Calne, for the facts relating to the Calne Baptists.

reign of Charles II. this people suffered much persecution." He then goes on to relate that whilst they were debarred by the Conventicle Act from meeting in their usual place of worship, "they sometimes assembled for divine service at Moss's Mill, and at other times under a whitethorn bush on the brow of the hill in Sheep-field, near Upper Whitley, both a little distance from the town." "The bush is still standing,"



Moss's MILL (from a Sketch by A. H.).

says Mr. Taylor, "and is called 'Gospel Bush' to this day." This was in 1776. In 1803 he writes that he has just been to visit "Gospel Bush," but finds it is now removed. On one occasion some of the enemies of the Baptists, having heard that it was intended to hold a meeting at Moss's Mill, hired a half-witted man, Julius Jenkins, to spy on their movements and then inform against them. At the time appointed Jenkins went to the roadside, got up into a high elm, and by notching a twig cut from the tree kept an account of the people passing below his hiding-place. When all had passed he descended from the tree, and with the stick in his hand went to his employers, who thus addressed him: "Well, July, hast seen any of them?" July replied, holding out his stick, "Yes, masters, as many as here are notches in this stick." "And who are they, July?" "Ah! masters," said he, "they

were all dressed in great coats and long cloaks, and I don't know one soul of them." The man Julius Jenkins, who lived to be about a hundred years old, some years after the event told the part he had played to Mr. George Peck,<sup>1</sup> and added that he knew the names of the people he saw pass below him, but as they had been good friends to him he determined to say he did not know one soul of them,—“for how,” said he, “could I know their souls?”

No precise date can be given for the founding of the first Baptist church here. Tradition has it that it was established during the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell by some of the disbanded soldiers. Some support is found for this tradition in the fact that soldiers who settled in Devizes after the Civil War were Baptists, and founded a church for themselves there. And that there was some connection between the two churches is probable from the circumstance that the Mr. George Peck mentioned above was a descendant of an officer in the Parliamentary army who took part in the battle of Roundway and afterwards settled at Devizes. The first authenticated date in the history of the Calne Baptists is August 26th, 1669, when a letter addressed by an assembly of delegates to their religious brethren at Crockerton was signed by representatives from Calne. On November 27th, 1703, the meeting-house, which by the Toleration Act of 1689 could again be used, was destroyed by “the great storm.” The following year, mainly through the instrumentality of the Rev. Andrew Gifford of Bristol, who founded or built many Baptist places of worship in the neighbouring counties, it was rebuilt “near the spot on which the old one stood.” About this time Mr. W. Davis of Lickhill built a baptistry near his house, and though not now used it is still known as “The Dipping place.” The place of baptism at the time Mr. Taylor assumed the pastorate was the stream at Ratford

<sup>1</sup> It was Mr. Peck, in all probability, who gave the facts to Mr. Taylor.

bridge ; and he reports that on Christmas Day, 1777, though the ice was an inch thick, the ordinance was "comfortably" observed. In 1710 Mr. Cue of Compton Bassett gave the pewter plates and cups that are still used in the communion service. In 1817 the meeting-house was again rebuilt, the congregation whilst the work was in progress holding their services in the Bollin's Lane building, then known as the "Arian" Chapel. Since 1817 the chapel has been restored and enlarged, and the approach to it, by the kindness of the Marquess of Lansdowne, converted from a narrow lane to an extensive lawn.

For the first hundred years of their existence the Calne Baptists had no resident minister or stated preacher. Their first minister was Mr. Jonathan Watts, a wire-drawer of Bristol, who for twenty years rode from Bristol to Calne and back every week to "faithfully serve his people in the gospel." He died in 1774 through a fall from his horse when returning to Bristol from his weekly visit to Calne. The next minister was Mr. Isaac Taylor, to whom belongs the honour of having established the first Sunday-school in Calne (1804). During the ministry of Mr. Joseph Stennett a division occurred among the members, and eighteen of them seceded and formed in 1813 a branch of the Particular Baptists. These latter hired for their meetings a room near the entrance to the chapel, but later removed to Zion Lane, where their work is still carried on. On May 18th, 1857, Mr. C. H. Spurgeon visited Calne, and preached afternoon and evening in a large pavilion erected on the green to congregations of between three and four thousand people, probably the largest assemblies for a religious purpose the town has known.

Just at the time that the death of Charles I. had secured to the Presbyterians the position they desired, George Fox, the apostle of "the Inner Light," commenced his teaching, and shortly after perambulated the county of Wilts to gain converts to his doctrines. His proselytising efforts appear to

have been very successful in this neighbourhood, not only in the number of recruits gained to the cause, but also in having attracted to his standard Sarah Chivers, who, it is said, was a member of the well-known Chivers family of Calne, and who later was the great female evangelist and missionary of the "Society of Friends."

The Friends, or Quakers, by their vigorous denunciation of the tithe system—which, though presbyters had replaced rectors and vicars, still continued to be the chief source of clerical income—their abhorrence of war, and their steadfast objection to the taking or administering of oaths, drew down upon themselves from the first the hatred not only of churchmen but also of nonconformists, whose brothers in religion they were. In Wiltshire they appear not to have provoked active hostilities until 1656, but from that time onwards for many years their path lay along the *via dolorosa* of persecution. Of all the tribulation through which the Quakers of Calne and the neighbourhood passed we cannot give here an account; it must suffice to relate a few of the more conspicuous instances.<sup>1</sup>

On May 16th, 1660, their meeting-house at Calne was raided by a party of soldiers, who, rushing in with drawn swords and cocked pistols, dragged out the worshippers with great violence. When asked to show their warrant, they flourished their swords, saying, "Here's our warrant." Among those present were William Cloud, John Grant, Israel Noyes, John Tibbald and Bridget Leader. (Jane Tibbald had shortly before been preaching at Marlborough, for which she was committed to gaol by Thomas Baily, the mayor.) In January, 1661, John Fry, Arthur Eastmead, John Hickman and John Tibbald, all of Calne, were taken from their habitations and employments for attending meetings. They were arrested by Anthony Pearce, who

<sup>1</sup> Extracted from an unpublished MS. of the late Mr. James Waylen in the possession of, and kindly lent me by, the Rev. W. H. J. Page.

took them before Justice John Ernle of Burytown, and then plundered their households to meet the expense of carrying them to gaol.

On November 3rd of the same year John Harley, a neighbouring justice, hearing of a meeting in the town, ordered a single constable to go and apprehend the principal persons present, adding that if the constable's authority should prove insufficient, he would send a troop of horse, who would make them go with bloody faces. The Quakers, however, being in no wise moved by the bully's threats, continued to hold their meeting, whereupon Harley repaired in person to the house and took five individuals into custody; but being out of his own territorial jurisdiction when he so acted, he obtained for his pains a stinging rebuke from his brother justices.

During the same month a constable with a party of soldiers entered the house of John Jones of Calne, professedly to search for arms; the only arms they could discover, however, consisted of a few Quaker books.

In 1659 David Hale of Charlcutt was imprisoned at the instance of James Crump, presbyter at Bremhill, for non-payment of tithes. At the passing of the Act of Uniformity Crump was removed from the living and the legal incumbent, Dr. Townson, reinstated; but the change of clerics had no effect on the fortunes of Hale, who languished in prison until 1662, when he died without recovering his freedom. We should have liked to have exonerated Dr. Townson from any share in Hale's continued imprisonment, but, having in mind the sufferings he caused Hale's widow, it is difficult to do so.

“Widow Joan Hale of Charlcot (*sic*) being prosecuted at the suit of John Townson, vicar of Bremhill, for tithes amounting to less than £6, had taken from her by distress four cows, two heifers and a bull, also all her household goods, including even the bed and bedding whereon her children



lay. - The poor woman herself was at the time suffering from ague and fever. Dr. Townson had visited her just before the affair, assuring her that there was no intention to distress her. Nevertheless he took from her two beds, five coverlids and bolsters, a table-cloth, a pair of curtains and rods, three blankets, fire-irons, a settle, six forms, two table-boards and frames, a brewing kettle, a sack, fire-dogs, fifteen cheeses, two fitches of bacon, a gown and a petticoat.

“Unsubdued by these tribulations, we find the widow maintaining the controversy down to the year 1684, when, for allowing a meeting at her house, eight more of her cows were seized to meet a fine of £20.”

George Keith, recording a missionary tour made through the county about this time, says that he met with civil treatment at Devizes, Calne and Chippenham; though at Calne he was disturbed in the middle of his discourse by an intruder who charged him with speaking by the light of the devil.

“In 1678 Israel Noyes [whose name occurs again and again in the records], through means of an Exchequer process executed by the under Sheriff of the county, had taken from him beasts worth £19; and John Harris being also prosecuted in the Exchequer as a “popish recusant” for two-thirds of his estate, the under Sheriff, Samuel Twyford of Chippenham, seized £29 worth of his goods.

“This base attempt to couple the Quakers with Recusants, and under such colour to present them as dangerous subjects and liable to the forfeiture of two-thirds of their estates, was, at the same time, so flagrantly false, that some of the presented parties claimed and obtained from the local magistracy a protection bearing the following form:—

“‘1682. WILTS.—May it please your Majesty, we whose names are underwritten, being Justices of the Peace, and other gentlemen of the County of Wilts, do hereby humbly certify that Israel Noyes of Calne, Serge-maker, Arthur Estmead of

the same place, Woollen-Draper, John Harris of Goatacre, Clothier, prosecuted at the Exchequer as Popish Recusants, are of peaceable and quiet behaviour, and do not give disturbance to the Government and are not reputed papists nor popish recusants, but are some of the dissenters called Quakers in the said County. As witness our hands;—James Long, George Johnson, Walter Norborne, William Duckett, Henry Chivers.’”

And so the tale of persecution goes on.

To purchase peace some of them at times surreptitiously paid the tithes, only to bring down upon themselves the rebukes of their brother Quakers. In 1697, for instance, Israel Noyes lost the confidence of his brethren for paying tithes at Nurstead, near Devizes; but he appears soon after to have made his peace with them and to have been restored to their good graces. Again, in 1713, Thomas Story, a North-country Friend, states in his Journal that on Feb. 23rd he “went to Calne, accompanied by Daniel Smith; and that evening had a large and open meeting among Friends; and observing the testimony of truth to run sharp against such as in an underhand way leagued with the priests and supported them by payment of tithes, I heard afterwards that some there were guilty; and the honest-minded were comforted, in that the reproof was full and plain from the testimony of one who was a stranger to their conditions.”

Happily, through the changed condition of the laws and of society, the Quakers are free now to pursue their way in peace, and their records are no longer one long story of sorrow and suffering borne with heroic resignation.

In what year Methodism took root in Wiltshire we cannot say; apparently it was not long after Wesley formed his adherents into a separate religious Society (1739); for in 1746<sup>1</sup> the county is shown as forming part of the Bristol circuit. Methodist preachers were, however, unknown in

<sup>1</sup> From “The Departed Worthy.”

Calne until about 1808, when Mr. Maggs of Melksham brought one to the town and obtained for him a hearing on the Market Hill. A cottage in Curzon Street occupied by one William Ash was shortly after secured, and here the first indoor sermon was preached. The cottage soon proved too small to accommodate all the worshippers, and a weaving-shop in Kew Lane was then obtained. The weaving-shop preaching-place consisted of the ground floor and a room above, the floor of which was cut away in the centre and at one end, thus forming, as it were, two side galleries and an end gallery to the room below. Here altogether 100 persons could assemble; but in 1811 this also was found too small, and a proper chapel was then built in the "Quarry." At this time the local Wesleyan "Society," first formed in 1810, consisted of 17 members, John Evans, cooper, being the leader, and Thomas Ward, chimney-sweep, the entertainer of the regular preachers visiting the town. In 1814 the "Society" had grown to 45 members, and in 1857 to 130. Since then the number has decreased, and now is not more than ninety. The Wesleyans continued to meet in the Quarry chapel until 1876, when, Lord Lansdowne having given them the site, they built themselves the larger and more attractive structure which is now their place of worship.

Primitive Methodism, an offshoot of Wesleyan Methodism, was first introduced into Calne about 1835.<sup>1</sup> At first the services were conducted by a travelling preacher in a cottage situated in a bye-street known as "The Pippin"; but a few months afterwards the *locale* was changed to a cottage in Bollin's Lane occupied by a widow named Hill. In March 1836, the community having become too numerous for the cottage, it was resolved to obtain the occupation of the chapel in Bollin's Lane that figures so prominently in the history of

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Mr. W. J. Carpenter and Mr. G. Drewitt for the particulars of the history of the Calne Primitive Methodists.

Calne nonconformity, and which for some years had been unused. The resolve was acted upon ; but a few years later, the income from all sources having dropped to less than £1 per annum, the building was given up, and Widow Hill's cottage again used. Here the followers of Bourne and Clowes continued to meet until about 1850, when, their affairs having again become prosperous, they re-engaged the chapel. During the second tenancy of the chapel, the person who had annually received the rent, but who apparently had no legal right to it, died, and, no one appearing to claim any payment for several years, the worshippers came to the conclusion that the building was without an owner. Thereupon they assumed possession themselves, and, the place being sadly in need of repair, commenced to restore it. They laid out several hundreds of pounds in the restoration, obtaining credit for a good portion of the money ; but whilst they were congratulating themselves upon having now a nice comfortable place of their own, there suddenly fell "a bolt from the blue" in the shape of a stern legal demand to know the why and wherefore of things. Much to their sorrow they then learned there was a legal owner, and one, moreover, who, though content to allow them to use the chapel without exacting a rent, was not inclined to see his position as landlord usurped. A conference was then held between his legal representatives and the leaders of the congregation, with the result that the latter were allowed to continue as tenants upon very favourable terms. The Bollin's Lane chapel continued to be used by them until 1878, when they obtained possession of the building in the London Road that up to 1876 had belonged to the Wesleyans, but which at this time was being used as an iron foundry. This place, restored and improved, is still the Primitive Methodist Chapel.

It was not until about 1848 that the doctrines of the Plymouth Brethren, or, simply, the Brethren, were intro-

duced into Calne, and then principally by the efforts of three of the townsmen. These, with their friends, met at first in a small room in the town, but being joined later by some who lived on the Cherhill side, the place of meeting was removed to Quemerford, where in 1860 their meeting-house was built. Amongst those who early became associated with the movement in Calne was Mr. John Bodman of Quemerford, who shortly after instituted an annual "thanksgiving" festival, to which he invited those of his personal friends who in matters of religion were at one with himself. The meetings are still held, but their scope has so enlarged that now regularly every May they are attended by Brethren from all parts of the British Isles, and oftentimes by visitors from America, Australia and other parts of the world.

The Calne Free Church was built in 1867-8 as the result of the withdrawal of a certain number of the members of the parish church congregation. Apparently a feeling of unrest had been growing for some time, for in 1863, during a vestry meeting, one of the parishioners present threatened to secede from the church and build a new place of worship. It was not, however, until 1866 that the actual parting of the ways was reached, and then it was with mutual regret that the separation took place.

The new church and schools were ready for occupation about the middle of 1868. By the terms of the constitution the schools were to serve a double purpose. On Sundays they were to be used as a Sunday-school in connection with the Free Church; but on week-days they were to be placed at the disposal of a committee, to be elected by the subscribers, for the purpose of a British school, in which the religious instruction should be confined to Holy Scripture, all denominational teaching and formularies being excluded. They are still used in this manner.

## CHAPTER XIII.

Notes of Calne men of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.—The Fynamore-Ernle-Money-Kyrle family (1254-1902) and Whetham House.—The Blake family and Pinhills.—Walter Norborne and Castle House.—The Browne-Angell family.—The liberty of Bowood and its owners.—Bowood House under the first Marquess of Lansdowne.—Dr. Priestley and his life at Bowood.—Dr. Ingenhousz and the discovery of vaccination.—Dr. Johnson's visit.—Serjeant Henry Merewether and the Merewether family.

THE tendency to wander afield to seek their fortunes is one that is very noticeable amongst the men of Calne. There is a steady stream of the best and most vigorous of its manhood constantly setting away from the town. Many of the more warlike spirits join the army or navy; and thus it happened that in the late war Calne, as in the wars of Elizabeth, was far from being unrepresented—indeed, the account of a veterans' dinner which recently came under notice showed that the old town had furnished more than the average proportion of aspirants for "death or glory."

This tendency is no new one, for we find references to men of Calne in records relating to various parts of the country during many centuries. Let us glance at a few of the earlier ones. In the reign of Henry II. Philip of Calne is mentioned as one of the immediate supporters of Thomas à Becket, and he is said by an authority quoted by Leland "to have worn out both body and mind in the study of law."<sup>1</sup> About 1260 Walter of Calne was Prior of Glastonbury, and for some time was engaged in "dis-

<sup>1</sup> Leland's Collect., ii., pp. 324, 325.

quisitions" with Forde, then Abbot.<sup>1</sup> From 1283 for some years a number of protections with clause *volumus* were granted to William of Calne and his wife Roesia whilst in Ireland. At times these were varied by letters patent authorising William to nominate certain persons to look after his interests in Ireland whilst he and his wife were in England. He constantly varied his attorneys; and so we get such names as Nicholas of Calne, Henry of Cumption, Philip of Cumerford, Walter of Lacock, etc., showing that there was then quite a little colony of people from Calne and the neighbourhood settled in Ireland. In 1303 a William of Calne was a canon of Ivychurch. On Nov. 1st of that year he brought to the king intelligence of the death of his prior, and departed with letters of licence to elect a new prior. The choice fell on William himself, and on the 23rd of the month the Bishop of Salisbury received notice of the king's assent to the election. In the following year Ralph de Hida and Ralph of Calne, canons of St. Swithun's, Winchester, travelled to the king with news of the death of their bishop, and departed with letters of licence to elect a successor. On this occasion the choice did not fall on the Calne man. In 1341 a Robert of Calne was appointed by Richard de Bury, Bishop of Durham 1333-45, to the offices of chancellor, receiver-general, and constable of the castle of Durham. His commission is still extant, and it is noteworthy as being the earliest surviving commission of appointment for a palatine chancellor.

An interesting little bit of personal history of an early Calne man is that of Richard of Calne, who flourished in the latter part of the thirteenth and the early part of the fourteenth centuries. We first hear of him in 1291. In this year (Oct. 23rd) Simon of Burton, Mayor of Bristol, and Richard of Calne were appointed, by letters patent, custodians of the seal and counter-seal of the merchants of the

<sup>1</sup> Addit. MSS., 22934, fo. 8.

town of Bristol during pleasure, the greater piece to remain with Simon and the less with Richard. In this document Richard is described as clerk, and later evidence shows that he was then town clerk of Bristol. In 1313 Richard and a number of others whose names are given, and of whom some appear to have come from Wilts, and none to have been Bristol born, managed to arouse the wrath of the Bristolians, possibly as the outcome of a trade dispute, and they were maltreated. Upon this the king granted protection to Richard and his co-victims, under pain of forfeiture of life and limb and all else forfeitable of those that should molest them. Apparently this protection caused peace to reign for several years; but in 1316 the feud broke out again. What might be described as a pitched battle then took place, in which, greatly to their surprise, the Bristol men were defeated and a number of them killed. For this Richard and others had their goods and chattels seized, and were put upon trial for murder; but they were all acquitted and their goods restored to them. The last notice of Richard occurs in 1330, and it shows us that his fighting spirit had not died out in his later days. In this year he was charged by Thomas de Berkele with having collected the commonalty of Bristol and assaulted and battered the men and broken up the pillory, tumbrel, etc., of Thomas at a suburb of Bristol wherein, as lord of the manor, Berkele had jurisdiction. What happened at the trial we do not know, and we are therefore left to speculate whether he was again acquitted.

The only Calne family dating from the period with which we have been dealing that still occupies the ancestral property is that of the Money-Kyrles, who through the female line are descended from the thirteenth-century Fynamores,<sup>1</sup> and thus link the men of Calne of to-day with the men of Calne of six hundred years ago.

<sup>1</sup> The name constantly changes its spelling. Sometimes it is Finemere, sometimes Finemore, Fynamore, Ffynamore, and so on.



The first Fynamore that appears in connection with Calne is Gilbert de Finemore,<sup>1</sup> who in 1254, 1259 and 1265 acted as a juror for the town. From this time onward there is a constant reference to the Fynamores or an appearance of their names in the records relating to the neighbourhood. The first mention of Whetham, where the family is still located, occurs in an undated charter belonging to about the year 1272. In this charter it is stated that Adam, son of Ralph Horn, with the consent and at the request of his wife Dionisia, granted to William, son of Richard de Finemore, a messuage and croft in Whetham, which "Ralph the Forester held of me and my father." At this period there seem to have been several male Fynamores in the neighbourhood, all apparently closely related. In 1286 Geoffrey de Fynamore obtained a licence to alienate to the Abbey of Malmesbury a virgate of land in Blackland; this probably was part of the property owned by the Abbey in Blackland at the time of the Dissolution. In 1314 Gilbert Fynamore obtained from Stephen of Remesbury grant of a tenement at Combe; and in 1346 John of Combe made a will by which he left to the light of the Blessed Mary in the porch of the church of Calne iiiij<sup>d</sup>; to the four lights in the church of Calne—viz. St. Michael, St. James, St. Edmund, and St. Mary Magdalene, x<sup>d</sup>; to Master John, vicar, iiiij<sup>d</sup>; to Master John Oliver, xij<sup>d</sup>; to Thomas, deacon, 1<sup>d</sup>.

Between 1254 and 1539 the names of the Fynamores appear in no less than thirty-seven documents now extant, most of them to be found with the family archives. In the Wilts muster roll, 30 Henry VIII., Walter Fynamore is shown as a "byllman." When we come to the period

<sup>1</sup> For most of the particulars of the Fynamores that are here given I am indebted to W. P. W. Phillimore's "Memorials of the Family of Whetham," and to Major Money-Kyrle, who also kindly supplied the pedigree here used.

covered by local records we find the name of Fynamore constantly occurring, as can be seen by the extracts from the church registers, etc.

The last male Fynamore was Roger, who died in 1574, and was buried in "Calne Symetrye, in an yle called Fynnemore's ile." He left £40 to be laid out in loans to the trades of Calne, and this sum appears in the list of the names of benefactors given in the Calne guild stewards' book of account.<sup>1</sup> His daughter and heir, Mary, married Michael Ernle of Cannings. From this period the fortunes of the family are traceable from the table of descent here printed.

The present Whetham House is of late sixteenth-century architecture with additions made at a later date. It stands partly on the foundations of an earlier and larger H-shaped building, and is pleasantly situated amongst some fine trees a short distance off the main road from Calne to Devizes. In 1703 it was honoured by the presence of Queen Anne, who for one or two days was the guest of the Ernles. An interesting little reference to the house is made by Lord Shelburne in his *Autobiography*<sup>2</sup> :—

"An old servant at Whetham, near Bowood, told me that when her master went up to Parliament, her mistress used to go up to a small farmhouse within a quarter of a mile, to stay till Mr. Earnley, her master, came back, and the great house was meanwhile shut up, though no very large one now, notwithstanding that it is considerably enlarged since that time, the beginning of the reign of George II."

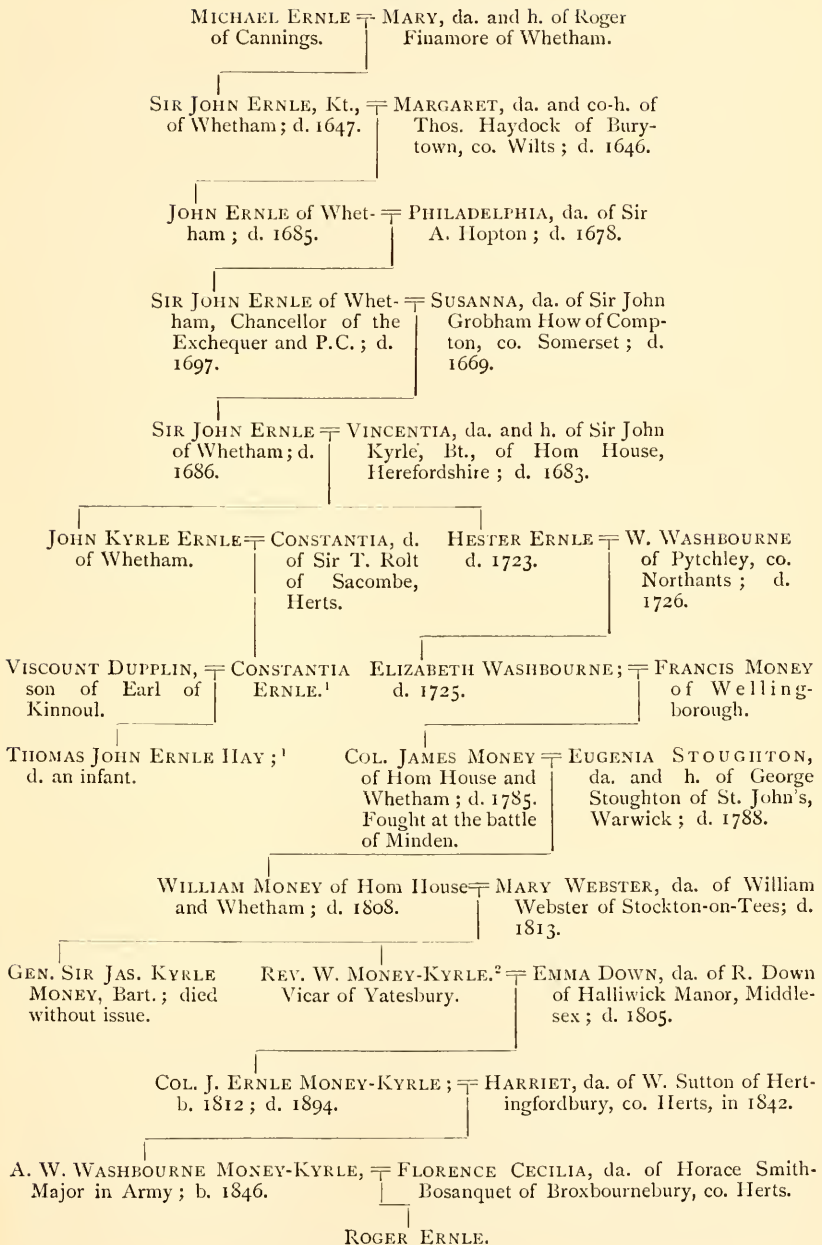
Associated with the Fynamores, and later the Ducketts, in the records of Calne are various members of the Blake family, which for some four hundred years<sup>3</sup> had its home at Pinhills. In the collection of a xvth and xth in

<sup>1</sup> See Chapter XIV.

<sup>2</sup> Lord E. Fitzmaurice's "Life of William, Earl Shelburne," vol. i.

<sup>3</sup> Jackson, *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, vol. xxiv., p. 190.

## Ernle Pedigree.



<sup>1</sup> Monument in Calne church.

<sup>2</sup> Added name of Kyrle by royal license.

7 Edward III. Robert le Blake is shown as a burgess of Calne, and pays as his share 18s. 2½*d.* The next highest amount paid by any burgess is 6s. 1¼*d.*, proving that at this time Robert was by far the most wealthy burgess of the borough. In 1381, and for several years to 1415, Johannes Blake was one of the borough M.P.'s. In 1698 another member of the same family (Henry Blake) was also a member. In the collection of a Benevolence, 36 Henry VIII., Roger Blake, gent., is shown as of Stock (Calne), and pays 26s. 8*d.* The particulars of the collection of a subsidy, 3 Edward VI., in which Calne is shown as "Calne with Pynnels," give us presumably the same Roger as being worth £20 in goods. Lower in the same list a Robert Blake appears as being worth £10 in goods; and in 1565 and 1572 Robert Blake is one of the guild stewards of the borough. At the time of the coronation of Charles I. Henry Blake of Pinhills pays a fine of £10, and Richard Blake one of £12, for refusing knighthood. In the list of Wiltshire freeholders Ambrose Blake, gent., one of the freeholders of Calne Hundred, is given as of Stocke; but in a list of Wiltshire gentry in the time of Charles I. he is represented as belonging to Pinhills. The family appears to have died out or left the neighbourhood some time in the eighteenth century.

During the Civil War the manor-house of Pinhills was one of the smaller country houses which were garrisoned in turn by both the contending parties. In 1643 Col. Massey, for the Parliament, threw a breastwork round it, and was engaged in still more strongly fortifying it when word was sent to a party of Royalists then resting at Devizes. Col. Lloyd was at once sent to attack the place; but the assault was never delivered, for just as the preparations were complete the garrison surrendered (Dec. 28th, 1643), making it a condition of their surrender that they should not be stripped of their clothes. Col. Lloyd

then destroyed the house, and sent word to Prince Rupert that he had "made Blake's house uninhabitable and drained the moat."

The house was never rebuilt, and the stones were used later for the farm-residence that now stands just beyond the moat. In this farmhouse is said to have taken place the first vaccination, performed by Ingenhousz, a Dutch physician then staying at Bowood, and whom the story credits with being the discoverer of vaccination. Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, in his "Life of William, Earl Shelburne," thus refers to it:—

"According to this story, he (Ingenhousz) was the real discoverer, and either careless of fame, or unaware of the importance of his own achievement, he communicated it to Jenner without reserving any rights. The two doctors, so the story proceeds, went over to a farmhouse called Pinhills, near Calne, and there succeeded in persuading a farm servant to allow herself to be vaccinated. The farm servant used to relate how her friends expected her to have swollen suddenly or fallen down dead, as a punishment for trusting herself to the experiments of the strange foreigner. None of these fatal consequences, however, ensued; the farm servant lived to a very advanced old age; the experiment succeeded, and the success of vaccination was assured. Such is the story. *Credat Judæus Apella.*"

As with the Blakes, so with the Allens, Formans, Swaddons and others, whose names in earlier years were names to conjure with in Calne: they have risen, had their day and then departed, leaving only the traces of their existence in the records, or on their tombstones or, here and there, in some small charity. The Ducketts still flourish, though they have now no connection with Calne; and the Hungerfords, a branch of which family once occupied a leading position in the town, have their representative in Lord Crewe. So too have the Chivers and

Norborne families, their descendant, on the distaff side, being the Duke of Beaufort.<sup>1</sup>

The only member of the Norborne family to live actually in Calne was Walter, M.P. for the borough in 1640, and son of the John Norborne of Studley who in 1631 paid a fine of £28 rather than be knighted. On the outbreak of the Civil War Walter espoused the King's cause, and for his loyalty was fined £380 by the Parliament. He died in 1659, and having by some means, probably his loyalty to the King, incurred the hatred of the Calne people, his corpse was shamefully insulted by them on its way to the grave. He was buried in the north transept of the church, where a monumental tablet, bearing an epitaph<sup>2</sup> written by Dr. Pierce, President of Magdalen College, Oxford, is erected to his memory.

The house Walter Norborne occupied is now the residence of Mr. Henry George Harris. It is situated on the site of the traditional Calne Castle, and appears to date from the beginning of the seventeenth century, with "restorations" and additions of a later period. From the traces remaining on the outer walls it is evident that originally it was a gabled

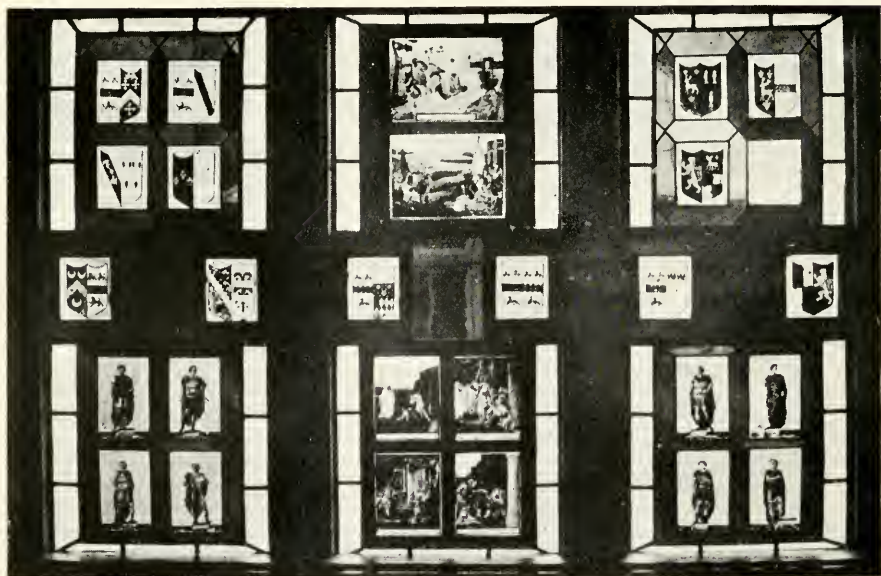
<sup>1</sup> See table given in *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, vol. xxiv.

<sup>2</sup> Translation: "A man dear to Heaven, hateful to Satan, a constant worshipper of God, who thought humbly of himself, an altogether irreproachable counsellor, of quick apprehension, of clear judgment, yet of powerful speech, Walter Norborne, of Calne in the county of Wilts, Esquire, derived (on the side of both parents) from a very ancient stock, married Mary (Mariam), the most pious daughter of Henry Chivers, Esq., by whom Walter, John, and Mary his children were born to him in very happy wedlock. He both did and suffered much for his king and country during the space of 17 years. And being buried together into the death of Christ, he suffered so great martyrdom even after his own death, Satan pouring forth his rage upon the funeral rites (Satana suam rabiem in honores funebres exerente), as to seem to have obtained a double victory, both over Nature and over Fortune. 'To the truly great man the whole earth is a tomb.' And at length this veteran soldier of Christ after watching 64 years before the Lord Jesus, calmly fell asleep in him on the 4th day before the kalends of April 1659."





CARVED STONE CHIMNEY-PIECE AND OAK PANNELLING, CASTLE HOUSE.



STAINED AND PAINTED GLASS WINDOW, CASTLE HOUSE. [facing p. 189.]



building, but when the gables were removed we have been unable to discover. The older portion of the house contains a good oak-panelled room, most of the panelling in which is in all probability coeval with the walls. Twenty years ago the oak was covered with paint, and the expert who then cleaned and restored it is of the opinion that it must have been so covered for at least a century. There is also in the room a carved stone chimney-piece of good workmanship, bearing in a circle above the fireplace the arms of Walter Norborne and his wife. In the hall window are fourteen coats-of-arms belonging to members of the Codrington, Scrope, Goddard and other families. All those whose arms are represented lived in the seventeenth century, but no connection has been traced between them and the house where their escutcheons now appear. There are also at the present moment in the hands of certain tradesmen in the town two other family devices, and a stone shield bearing the royal arms, which some years ago were taken from Castle House. It would almost appear as if some former tenant, finding the Norborne arms *in situ* when he took possession, had made a very fair attempt to establish a museum of heraldic art. In the window are also six pieces of painted glass representing scenes from Scripture history. This glass was bought sixty years ago from an old cottager at Lacock, who had had it in his possession a number of years, but whence he obtained it is not known.

Contemporary with the Norbornes were the Brownes, at first of Calne and later of Studley. In 1628 Benedict Browne, apparently then the head of the family, was elected one of the guild stewards of the borough, and between that year and 1660 he served the office five times. On Jan. 3rd, 1658 (O.S.), he and John Mayo, described as a mercer of Calne, as two of the burgesses of Calne, accepted from Edward Bayntun of Bremhill a bond in the penalty of £500 to truly serve the borough of Calne as a burgess in

Parliament. In this bond Benedict Browne is called a gentleman, showing that at this time the family was one of some position. The name of Benedict Browne also appears fifth in the list of the names of those parishioners of Calne who swore to maintain the covenant.<sup>1</sup>

On Jan. 5th, 1692, another Benedict Browne, presumably a grandson of the Benedict above mentioned, married Frances Angell, granddaughter of John Angell, called the Caterer, of Crowhurst, Surrey, and a descendant of Roger Angell, a Swiss captain, who took service under Henry VII., and fought with great valour at the battle of Bosworth. John Angell married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Robert Edolphe, and by her had twenty children. Amongst these was Justinian, whose grandson, John Angell, became possessed of great property, which by will he bequeathed to Benedict John Angell Browne of Studley, great-grandson of Benedict Browne and Frances, *née* Edolphe. At the time of the testator's death in 1784 his heir was only six years of age, and the wording of the will was so involved that attempts were made by other descendants of John the Caterer to dispossess him. The Chancery suit which these instituted lasted for sixty years, and established a record for Chancery proceedings which is not likely to be soon surpassed. It ended in judgment being given for the defendant, who, however, had been in possession of the property the whole time.

By deed-poll dated Oct. 18th, 1800, Benedict assumed the surname of Angell, and by Garter King-of-arms and Clarencieux King-of-arms was granted permission to use the arms and crest of the Angells.<sup>2</sup> During his life the old manor-house, which stood on the brow of Black Dog

<sup>1</sup> See extracts from church registers.

<sup>2</sup> Arms : Or, three fusils in fess, azure over all in a bendlet gules. Crest : Out of a ducal coronet, or, a demi-pegasus volant, argent, adorned gold.

Hill, opposite Conigre, was pulled down, and the present mansion (Rumsey House) built, the only relic of the old house surviving being a bell which hung in a turret on the roof, and appears to have been at some time a small church bell. Benedict John Angell Angell, as his name now was, died in December 1855, possessed of estates in Yorkshire, Kent, Surrey and Wilts. Amongst his Surrey property was the now well-known Angell Town, Brixton.

Some time before Benedict's death, in 1855, his eldest son, also called Benedict, had received his share of the property, and had settled at Stockwell Park House, Surrey, where he predeceased his father, leaving his wealth to his eldest son, another Benedict, nicknamed "Cherry," who at one time was a member of the Four-in-Hand Club. At Benedict's death, therefore, in 1855, the property he then held was divided amongst his two surviving sons—William John Brown Angell, vicar for twenty-three years of Overton, Wilts, where he died, and John Charles Brown Angell, who received the Wiltshire and part of the Surrey estate. The present owner of this portion is John Benedict Oliver Angell, of Rumsey House, Calne.

Into the history of the Lansdowne family, whose ancestor, Earl Shelburne, purchased the Duckett property and settled at Bowood, *circa* 1750, we do not propose to enter, it being so well known; but a few notes respecting the Liberty of Bowood and some of the visitors to Bowood House may not be entirely unnecessary work.

When Pewsham Forest was broken up in the time of James I., the Liberty of Bowood was retained in the possession of the Crown; but on the outbreak of the Civil War it was taken over by the Parliament, Pym being made the Administrator. During the time the Parliament was in possession, under the authority of an Act passed in 1649, many of the finest trees were cut down to pay the expenses of the army; but fortunately before all were levelled money

was obtained from another source, and the destroyers' hands were stayed. In 1653 the estate was surveyed for the Commonwealth, and the following is a copy of the report made by the commissioners appointed to carry out the work:—

“Survey of Bowood, late parcel of the possessions of Charles Stewart, late King of England, with the divisions into 10 parts, made taken and set out by us, by virtue of a commission granted to us by the Honourable Trustees appointed by Act of the Commons assembled in Parliament for sale of the Honours, Manors and Lands heretofore belonging to the late King, Queen, and Prince.

1. Lower Lodge (East) . . . . .	93 acres	801 trees.
(A Fishpond in this division, but the stores thereof much destroyed of late.)		
2. Whitwell (S.W.) . . . . .	99 acres	1140 trees.
3. Pilpot . . . . .	114 „	1562 „
4. Upper Lodge . . . . .	109 „	1026 „
5. Rangers (Home Farm) . . . . .	98 „	851 „
6. Redhill . . . . .	98 „	916 „
7. Studley . . . . .	95 „	1679 „
8. Basset's Moor . . . . .	99 „	1439 „
9. Buck Hill . . . . .	94 „	1363 „
10. Abbot's Waste . . . . .	59 „	144 „
Totals . . . . .	<u>958</u> „	<u>10,921</u> „ ”

The whole was valued at £4,512 10s. 2*d.*, and the rent suggested was £457 11s. 10*d.*

At the Restoration Bowood reverted to the Crown. It was then leased by Charles II. to Sir Orlando Bridgman, Keeper of the Great Seal. A later Sir Orlando purchased the estate from the Crown; and at his death it was bought by the then Earl Shelburne.

The main portion of the present Bowood House was built by John, Earl Shelburne, from designs by Adams, the principal addition since then being a wing three hundred feet





BOWOOD HOUSE.



A BIT OF THE LAKE, BOWOOD PARK.

[*facing p.* 193.]

in length, built, as nearly every writer who has anything to say of Bowood tells us, in imitation of a wing of Diocletian's palace at Spalatro; the grounds, cascades, etc., were laid out under the direction of "Capability Brown" and the Hon. Charles Hamilton. To describe worthily the beauties and treasures of the house and the charms of the domain requires the pen of a Ruskin; we, therefore, converting to our use the words of a recent writer, shall say no more than that "all that makes life worth living is at lordly Bowood."

During most of the years that Bowood House has been built, it has been the delight of successive owners to welcome to it the intellectual men of the period, and there at one time or another many of the foremost thinkers and writers have found a temporary home. William, Earl Shelburne (created Marquess of Lansdowne in 1784), stands out pre-eminent in this respect. In his lifetime Bowood House seems practically to have presented an open door to all the distinguished men of the literary and scientific world.

Among those who knew Bowood well at this period was Dr. Priestley, the celebrated chemist. His position was that of librarian to Lord Shelburne, but it would appear from his own memoirs that his post was practically a sinecure:—

"In this situation I continued seven years, spending the summer with my family at Calne,<sup>1</sup> and a great part of the winter

<sup>1</sup> His family is said to have lived for most of the seven years in a house on the south side of the Green. In the front wall of this house is set a stone with the inscription—

C
F × E
1758

At the date given it appears to have belonged to the Child family of Heddington.

in his Lordship's house in London. My office was nominally that of librarian, but I had little employment as such, besides arranging his books, taking a catalogue of them, and of his manuscripts, which were numerous, and making an index of his collection of private papers. In fact, I was with him as a friend."<sup>1</sup>

Indeed, from a letter written by Priestley, it appears probable that he was offered this position of librarian solely in order to afford him the leisure and means to prosecute his studies:—"Lord Shelburne encouraged me in my philosophical inquiries, and allowed me £40 per annum for expenses of that kind."

It was whilst he was at Bowood that Dr. Priestley discovered oxygen, though, as Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice says, "he himself never recognised the full importance of his own discovery on the phenomena of combustion."<sup>2</sup>

Another scientist who for some time lived at Bowood was the Dutch physician Ingenhousz, of whom mention was made earlier in this chapter. Of him Lord Edmond writes:—

"The odd personal appearance of the doctor, and the strange tongue which he spoke, gradually caused him to be looked upon as 'uncanny' by the country folk who lived around. When late at night the lamp was still seen to be burning in the little room beyond the library overlooking the terrace at Bowood, then the peculiar sanctum of Ingenhousz and still known as 'the laboratory,' the inhabitants of the village which then existed on the opposite hill whispered to one another that the learned doctor was sitting up in the company of the Father of Evil, and plotting the destruction of mankind."

Other visitors during the lifetime of Earl William were Benjamin Franklin, Dr. Price, Jeremy Bentham (for whom

<sup>1</sup> "Memoirs of Dr. Priestley," reprinted 1893.

<sup>2</sup> "Life of William, Earl Shelburne," vol. iii., p. 472.



Lord Shelburne had an affectionate regard), Romilly, Comte de Mirabeau,<sup>1</sup> Britton,<sup>2</sup> and the great Dr. Johnson.

Of Dr. Johnson's visit the following characteristic story is given in "Johnsoniana":—

"Dr. Johnson, having had a general invitation from Lord Shelburne to see Bowood, his Lordship's seat in Wiltshire, he accordingly made him a visit in company with Cumming, the Quaker, a character at that time well known as the projector of the Conquest of Senegal. They arrived about dinner-time, and were received with such respect and good breeding that the Doctor joined in the conversation with much pleasantry and good humour. He told several stories of his acquaintance with literary characters, and in particular repeated the last part of his celebrated letter to Lord Chesterfield, desiring to be dismissed from all further patronage. Whilst 'the feast of reason and the flow of soul' was thus enjoying, a gentleman of Lord Shelburne's acquaintance from London happened to arrive; but, being too late for dinner, his Lordship was making his apologies, and added, 'But you have lost a better thing than dinner, in not being here time enough to hear Dr. Johnson repeat his charming letter to Lord Chesterfield, though I daresay the Doctor will be kind enough to give it us again.' 'Indeed, my Lord,' says the Doctor (who began to growl the moment the subject was mentioned), 'I will not: I told the story just now for my own amusement, but I will not be dragged in as story-teller to a company.'"

At a later period Moore and Macaulay were frequent visitors at Bowood. Of Moore something will be said in a subsequent chapter, but it is interesting to note here that of the Lord and Lady Lansdowne of his day he remarked that without them Wiltshire was a "*mare mortuum*." Macaulay, as was said in an earlier chapter, was one

<sup>1</sup> "One can say that, had Mirabeau lived, the history of France and of the world had been different."—CARLYLE.

<sup>2</sup> It was largely due to the assistance given him by Lord Shelburne that Britton was able to carry out his great work dealing with the cathedrals.

of the Members of Parliament for Calne for some years ; but it was more for his literary talent than his political skill that he was so cordially received by his political patron. There is a letter of Macaulay's extant in which he gives us a glimpse of the domestic life of the Lansdowne family at the time his letter was written. He says:—

“ We have mountains of potatoes and oceans of beer. Indeed, Lady Lansdowne drank her beer most heartily on the only day she passed with us, and when I told her, laughing, that she had put me quite at ease on a point which had given me much trouble, she said that she would never allow any dandy novelist to rob her of her beer and cheese.”<sup>1</sup>

During recent years Calne has produced no more distinguished man than the late Serjt. Henry Alworth Merewether, eldest son of Henry Merewether, who migrated from Chippenham to Calne about the middle of the eighteenth century, became burgess of the borough in 1763, and served the office of guild steward in 1765 and again in 1772. Mr. Henry Merewether lived in Patford Street, and here Henry Alworth was born (1780) and lived until sent to Reading School, where he received his education. He was called to the bar in 1809, created Serjeant-at-law in 1827, became a K.C. in 1833, and later received the appointments of Recorder of Reading and Attorney-General to Queen Adelaide, having also in 1839 received the degree of D.C.L. from the University of Oxford. On June 23rd, 1842, he was elected Town Clerk of London ; and “ it is said by those among the Corporation who knew him that the office of Town Clerk had never been filled with such dignity as in his time.”<sup>2</sup> He resigned this office in 1859, and retired to the seat he had built for

<sup>1</sup> This remark applied to a book that had recently appeared in which beer-drinking by ladies had been much decried.

<sup>2</sup> “ Dictionary of National Biography.”

himself at Castlefields,<sup>1</sup> where he died on July 22nd, 1864. He was buried in the nave of Calne Church; and a stained-glass window to his memory and that of his wife was erected later in the south transept by his children.

The learned Serjeant was the author of several works, the most important being "The History of the Boroughs and Municipal Corporations of the United Kingdom," written in collaboration with Archibald John Stephens, which is even now a standard work on the subject.

The pedigree<sup>2</sup> of the Merewethers here printed shows that the family was connected by marriage with Bishop Ken and Izaak Walton; and that Serjeant Merewether had a distinguished son in Sir William Lockyer Merewether, C.B., K.C.S.I., who after rendering valuable services in India, at Aden, and with the Abyssinian Expedition, became in 1876 a member of the Council of India.

Between the latter part of the eighteenth century and the end of the first half of the nineteenth century Calne was for a longer or shorter period the residence of several distinguished literary men. Charles Lamb, as we have seen, knew and loved the place; Lord Macaulay is said to have sometimes stopped at a house in Church Street; for some years Barry Cornwall read law in a solicitor's office here; and here, in 1814 and 1816, Samuel Taylor Coleridge lived as the guest of a Mr. Morgan.

<sup>1</sup> A part of the site was occupied by a little old-fashioned inn called the "Cock," possibly the successor of the "Morkok" mentioned in the Cartulary of Stanley Abbey.

<sup>2</sup> I am indebted for this pedigree to Capt. H. A. Merewether.



THOMAS = FRANCES  
 KNAPP HAWES,  
 BLADGON of Win-  
 chester.

REV. HERBERT HAWES,  
 D. D.,  
 1809.

REV. HERBERT HAWES,  
 D. D.,  
 Rector of Remerton,  
 Preben-  
 dary of Sarum;  
 d. 1836.

ANN HAWES,  
 JANE HAWES.

JOHN MERE-  
 WETHER  
 of Black-  
 land,  
 Wilts.

ANN LANE of  
 London.

ANN MERE-  
 WETHER.

REV. ROBT. WETHERELL,  
 Fellow of New  
 Coll., B.C.L.;  
 Rector of  
 Newton  
 Longueville,  
 Bucks; Vicar  
 of Stamford,  
 Berks, and  
 Prebendary of  
 Hereford;  
 d. Oct. 1842.

ELIZA M. LOCKYER  
 of Wem-  
 bury,  
 Devoni.

HENRY A. MERE-  
 WETHER,  
 D.C.L., Serjt.-  
 at-Law, Att.-  
 Gen. to Queen  
 Adelaide,  
 Recorder of  
 Reading;  
 d. 1864.  
 Residences:  
 Castlefields,  
 Park  
 Colhall (?),  
 Devizes,

2nd, CECILIA M. HADDOX,  
 of Harley  
 Street,  
 London;  
 sister  
 of Mr.  
 James  
 Hadow,  
 Park  
 Colhall (?),  
 Devizes,

REV. FRANCIS MERE-  
 WETHER,  
 M.A.,  
 Rector of  
 Cole  
 Orton,  
 Leicester-  
 shire.

= FRANCES  
 E. WAY  
 of Yeld-  
 ham,  
 Essex.

JOHN MERE-  
 WETHER,  
 D. D., Dean of  
 Hereford;  
 Deputy Clerk  
 to King  
 William IV.  
 and Queen  
 Victoria, and  
 Chaplain to  
 Adelaide,  
 Queen  
 Dowager.

MARY ANN,  
 S. S. WESLEY,  
 Mus.Doc.

REV. FRANCIS MERE-  
 WETHER,  
 Rector of  
 Woolhope,  
 Herefordshire;  
 d. Christmas,  
 1891, aged 92.

MARGARET WALL.

MARY ANN BAKER  
 of  
 Witley,  
 Wilts.

At least 1 daughter,  
 and 2 sons.

At least 2 daughters and  
 4 sons.

REV. FRANCIS MERE-  
 WETHER,  
 M.A.,  
 Esq.

EDWARD.

LUCY.

WILLIAM LOCKYER,  
 C.R.,  
 K.C.S.L.,  
 Scinde  
 Irregular  
 Horse.

ALWORTH,  
 Bengal N.I.

12 children.

2 daus,  
 2 sons.

3 daughters.

MARIA FELLOWES  
 of Adbury,  
 Hants;  
 d. 1870.

ELIZA M. A. MERE-  
 WETHER.

3 daughters.

HENRY ALWORTH  
 MEREWETHER,  
 O.C., of  
 Bowden Hill,  
 Looock,  
 Recorder of  
 Devizes;  
 D.L., Wilts.

13 children,  
 of whom H. A. = M. E. A. CALD-  
 WELLS, eldest da,  
 of Commodore  
 Henry Caldwell,  
 R.N., C.B.,  
 A.D.C.

M. E. A. CALD-  
 WELLS, eldest da,  
 of Commodore  
 Henry Caldwell,  
 R.N., C.B.,  
 A.D.C.

IRENE MEREWETHER.

GEORGE MERE-  
 WETHER, K.E.

At least 6 sons and 3  
 daughters, of whom  
 the eldest son is COL.  
 GEORGE MERE-  
 WETHER, K.E.

## CHAPTER XIV.

List of Benefactors drawn up *c.* 1580.—The Town Stock, Swadden, Smith, Baydon Lands, Townson, Ernle, Weekes, and Hungerford charities.—The Finamore (1557), Woodroffe (1664), and Forman (1646) bequests to education, and the National Boys' School.—The Bentley (1663) School.—St. Mary's School.

**I**N the Guild Stewards' Book to which so much reference has been made in this work, appears the following list of persons who have at various times given money to the town for benevolent purposes. It seems from internal evidence to have been first made up some time in the sixteenth century, and then added to as occasion required:—

“A note of the names of those benefactors that have given money to this towen to be lett to poore craftes men and artifcyers of this borrowe of Calne ;

“Also to buy lands for the mayntenaince of the poore here.<sup>1</sup>  
Mrs. Wootton for bryinge (? bringing) in *iiij*li yeare

in breade <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	<i>lij</i> li <sup>2</sup>
In primo Roger <sup>3</sup> ffynnamore, Gent . . . . .	<i>xl</i> li
Itm. Walter Keamys (?) Clarke . . . . .	<i>x</i> li
Itm. John Archarde, clotheman . . . . .	<i>x</i> li
Itm. John Woddroffe, Yeoman . . . . .	<i>vj</i> li <i>xiijs</i> <i>iiij</i> d
Itm. Will <sup>m</sup> Webbe, clotheman . . . . .	<i>iiij</i> li
Itm. Anne Duckett, gentlewoman . . . . .	<i>xv</i> li
Itm. Henrye Bulle, gentleman . . . . .	<i>xx</i> li
Itm. S <sup>r</sup> Henrye Baynton, Knight . . . . .	<i>xx</i> li

<sup>1</sup> These are in another and apparently later handwriting, and both entries appear to be interpolations in the original text.

<sup>2</sup> It would appear that in later years the burgesses forgot the name of this benefactor ; for in 1708 it is stated that “there are £52 ‘Bread money’ given by some charitable person whose name is forgotten.”

<sup>3</sup> Died in Dec. 1574.

The following entries are in other and later hand-writings :—

Ralph Hurd also (?) geve . . . . . *vli*

Rob<sup>t</sup> fforman in land p<sup>r</sup> annum . . . . . —

(There is this note above the line “[?] Billinge Letteth and hathe the rent.”)

Willm<sup>m</sup> Swadon, Doctor of Devinitie, per annum . . . . . *iiijli*

Richard Lowe, Esqre . . . . . *xxli*

John Walker, clarke . . . . . *xli*

Item. Three pounds in phillipp Killings hande more remaynet<sup>he</sup> for a stocke for ever to this towen to be lent to hym that kepethe the free scole and fortie shillings yerely to be paide owte of Mr George Staples lande for the teachinge of towne scollers.

(In the original there is a note here which is illegible.)	}	M <sup>r</sup> Cope w <sup>th</sup> Thomas Symkyns of Chippenham paid . . . . .	<i>xli</i>
		M <sup>r</sup> Henry Smyt of London by the present George Lowe the elder of London, Esqre, wch was disbursed in paper (?) moneys for lande . . . . .	<i>xxli</i>
		M <sup>r</sup> Anthony Lowe wch was layed out towards the saide lande . . . . .	<i>xxxli</i>
		M <sup>r</sup> Griffyn nicholas whereof <i>xxl</i> went towards the saide lande . . . . .	<i>li</i>

In 1709 the guild stewards and burgesses combined what was left of the various gifts above mentioned, with the exception of the £52 bread money and the interest obtained from Dr. Swadden's charity, into what is known as the Town Stock Charity. The sum they then held amounted to £148. This, with the £52 bread money, they lent to the Calne Turnpike Trust on bond. The interest of the £52 they paid over yearly to the churchwardens and overseers of the parish, but reserved to themselves the disbursement of the remainder. In 1846 the trustees of the Turnpike paid back the principal sum of £148

and accumulations of interest, amounting to £74 5s. 2d., which sums the Town Council invested in 3 per cent. Consols.

In 1831 John Ladd, sometime churchwarden of Calne, whilst examining the contents of the parish chest, discovered the original document drawn up by the guild stewards and burgesses in 1709. This discovery led him to make inquiry respecting the £52, on which no interest had been received since 1764. The circumstances were brought under the notice of the Charity Commissioners in 1833, and after examination they recommended that the matter should be settled by the trustees paying £52 principal, six years' interest to 1831, and the subsequent arrears of interest. This was agreed to, and in August 1834 the sum of £76 was paid to the churchwardens, who immediately deposited it in the Calne Savings Bank. The trustees of this charity now are the churchwardens of Calne, with three persons nominated by the Town Council and two by the Parish Council of Calne Without.

The Dr. William Swadden mentioned above was Arch-deacon of Worcester, and was probably a native of Calne—the name of Swadden appearing frequently in the old registers and other records. About the year 1604 he devised certain estates to his wife to be devoted to charitable purposes, and in 1624 his widow executed a deed conveying estates in Great Horwood and Singleborough, in the county of Bucks, to trustees to pay £4 per annum to each of the following corporations—viz., Worcester, Reading, Aylesbury, and *Calne*, “for the use of the poor, of honest conversation, not common ale-house haunters, common gamesters, or notorious evil-doers,” in these several towns and parishes. For many years the sum of £4 per annum was regularly paid to the Constables<sup>1</sup> of Calne,

<sup>1</sup> “An Account of the Endowed Charities,” by John Ladd, published at Calne, 1859.



and distributed by them ; but in 1833, when the Charity Commissioners visited Calne, the rent-charge was two years in arrear.

In 1838 an information was filed by the Attorney-General against the holders of the estates, and the case was heard by the Vice-Chancellor on May 7th, 1838, whose judgment was, that the charity was entitled to the lands, and not merely to a rent-charge thereon ; subsequently, however, in 1844, through the difficulty or impossibility of identifying the exact lands comprised in the deed of 1624, it was agreed, pursuant to the order of the Lord Chancellor, that the rent-charge of £4 to each of the before-mentioned corporations should be regularly paid up to Michaelmas in every year, and that in the borough of Calne the four aldermen should be the administrators of the charity, which order still holds good.

The money shown in the above list of benefactions as having been received from George Lowe was the portion accruing to the town of Calne out of the estates given by Henry Smith of London, by deeds dated 1625, 1626 and 1627, for charitable purposes.

On Dec. 20th, 1641, the Earl of Essex, Viscount Lumley, and six others, trustees acting under the above-mentioned deeds and the will of Mr. Smith, executed a trust deed whereby they assigned estates in the parish of Longney, in Gloucestershire, to twenty-four parishes in different proportions, amounting in the whole to £264 per annum, of which £10 was appropriated to Calne parish. These estates consist of a farm of about 272 acres (which is subject to a fee farm rent of £12 6s. 8d.) and the tithes of about 700 acres of land. In July 1806 the property was let by auction, for £900 per annum, having been previously let for £268. The benefit derived by Calne from the charity was then proportionately increased.

The Baydon Lands, now the property of the town, appear to have formed a portion of the charity last described, and to have come under the operation of one of Mr. Henry Smith's deeds; for by a document dated Nov. 20th, 1635 (being about nine years after Mr. Smith's death, and nearly six years before the date of the trustees' deed which apportioned the Longney estates) Viscount Lumley and others, trustees of Smith's Charities, granted to certain inhabitants of Calne "three closes of pasture and arable land called Bayfield and Church Hill, being about twenty-seven acres, lying at Baydon, in the county of Wilts," in trust to pay the rent to the churchwardens and overseers of Calne, to be by them distributed amongst the poor of Calne, according to the direction of the said Henry Smith, late of London, Esq., deceased.

The trustees are now appointed under an order of the Charity Commissioners dated April 28th, 1893, and consist of the vicar and churchwardens, two persons elected by the vestry of the parish and two by the Town Council of the borough. The present rent is £22 per annum, from which there are deductions of £2 land tax and tithe rent-charge.

The almshouses for eight poor women, opposite the south gate of the churchyard, were erected in 1682 by John Townson, D.D. Dr. Townson was the son of Robert, Bishop of Salisbury, and was one of fifteen children. He was the vicar of Bremhill at the time of the promulgation of the "Solemn League and Covenant," and for refusing to sign it and for supporting the King he was dispossessed of his living by the Parliament and compelled to pay a fine of £320. At the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 he was fortunate enough to regain his living, and the almshouses were erected by him as a memorial. The inscription on the tablet let into the front wall is:—

TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND  
 THE GOOD OF THE POORE  
 WAS THIS HOVS ERECTED  
 BY IOHN TOVNSON D<sup>R</sup> D  
 SON OF ROBERT LATE  
 BISHOP OF SALISBURY 1682  
 LET YOVR LIGHT SO SHINE  
 BEFORE MEN THAT THAY  
 MAY SEE YOVR GOOD  
 WOORKS<sup>1</sup> AND GLORIFIE  
 NOT YOV BVT YOVR FATHER  
 WICH IS IN HEAVEN. MATH 5. 16.

By his will dated July 21st, 1685, and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury Dec. 6th, 1687, Dr. Townson, after stating that he had built the above almshouses for the relief of eight poor ancient people, gave all his lands in the parish of Calne for the perpetual endowment thereof; but no revenues are known to have been received. On July 17th, 1685, four days before the execution of his will, as was proved at an Inquisition held on Oct. 2nd, 1711, at the Guildhall, New Sarum, he leased his lands to Mary Young for a term of two hundred years at a yearly rent of one peppercorn, in consideration of the sum of £200 paid to him by her. On July 18th, 1685, the lands were re-let to him for 199 years 11 months, at the yearly rental of £30. In 1701, the rent-charge of £30 being then in arrears, the Master of the Rolls made an order (confirmed by the Lord Chancellor in 1703) directing the executors of the will to pay the sum due, failing which Mary Young was authorised to foreclose. The foreclosure apparently took place, as no money is known to have been recovered by the charity from the lands.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. p 174.

Soon after Canon Duncan came to Calne he placed the facts, so far as they were known, before the Charity Commissioners, who replied, "that upon the facts stated in your letter, the title of the Charity has been effectually barred either by actual foreclosure or by lapse of time."

By deed dated Oct. 25th, 1695, Sir John Ernle, Kt., of Whetham, conveyed to trustees certain property in the town of Calne, "that the yearly rent and profits of those premises should for ever thereafter be and remain for and towards the relief and sustenance of four poor women, widows of the parish of Calne, such as the vicar of the parish of Calne for the time being and the churchwardens should in their discretion deem most fit objects of charity, and that the churchwardens should receive the rents and pay the same to the widows." The property now consists of houses and cottages in Calne, a piece of land near Fisher's Brook, and £2042 2s. 8d. invested in Consols in the names of trustees. The income for the year 1901 was £91 13s. By an order of the Charity Commissioners, dated March 21st, 1902, the trustees are the vicar and churchwardens, three persons nominated by the Town Council and two by the Parish Council of Calne Without. There are now five pensioners, four nominated by the vicar and churchwardens and one appointed by the trustees. The payment to each widow under this order is 5s. 6d. a week.

Thomas Weekes, by his will dated Sept. 13th, 1730, and proved on June 11th, 1736, gave land in the parish of Broughton Gifford, Wilts, to the minister of Calne for the time being, for ever, in trust to let the same and to employ the profits thereof in relieving such poor widows residing within the parish of Calne as he should see and observe most deserving, according to his best discretion. In the year 1808, the sum of £27 was obtained from the sale of timber on the estate, and was lent to the trustees of the Calne

turnpike roads. In 1846 the charity land was taken for the purposes of a railway, £450 being paid as compensation. This sum, together with the money at one time lent to the Turnpike Trust, was invested in the purchase of Consols. The amount of stock is now £519 14s. 11d., of which the interest is £14 5s. 8d.

Walter Hungerford, Esq., of Studley, in Calne parish, by deed dated March 14th, 1745, and enrolled in the Court of Chancery, granted to trustees an annuity of £20, issuing out of certain messuages, lands and hereditaments in the parishes of Calne, Blackland, and Heddington, to be paid half-yearly *without any deduction* to such trustees, who were to pay the same to the minister, churchwardens and guild stewards of Calne, or any two of them, to the intent the same should from time to time be applied for "the recovery, support, or maintenance of any sick, wounded, or maimed people of the said parish of Calne, as the Minister, Churchwardens, and Guild-stewards of the said Borough and Parish for the time being, or the major part of them, should from time to time direct and appoint." The annuity was unpaid for many years, and in 1793 legal proceedings were taken for its recovery. A sum of money was then paid in discharge of the arrears, and this was invested in the purchase of £400 stock in the 5 per cents., afterwards reduced to 4 per cent., next to 3½ per cent., and lastly to 3 per cent. The dividends on this stock are received, and the rent-charge or annuity of £20 is paid, by Lord Crewe, who is the descendant of Mr. Hungerford and possessor of the estates on which it is charged. After the abolition of the guild stewards the charity was for some time dispensed by the vicar and churchwardens only, but in 1854 it was agreed, under the advice of the Charity Commissioners, to whom the matter had been referred, that the Town Council should annually on January 1st select two of their body to act conjointly with the minister and churchwardens in the

application of the charity.<sup>1</sup> That course has been followed, and *sick, wounded, and maimed* persons are relieved from this charity, which is not distributed at any one particular time or place, but is "*from time to time*" applied most strictly and literally according to the directions of the donor. The stock now stands in the names of the Official Trustees of Charity Funds.

The oldest Calne school of which we have obtained any record was one founded in 1557 by Walter Finamore, of Whetham, whose death is thus recorded in the church



THE "BOYS' SCHOOL" AND GREEN.

register under date June 1557: "Ano Dni. 1557. June, 1557. Walterus Fynamore generosus obit 15<sup>o</sup> die." It appears from the report of the Charity Commissioners (1833) that by his will he gave an annuity of 40s. towards the foundation of a free school to be established within the borough of Calne, the money devised to be used "for the education

<sup>1</sup> This charity is mentioned on a brass tablet let into the south wall of the Council Chamber. The tablet also records Mr. Thomas Harris's gift to the town of the Recreation Ground and a thoroughfare called Ivy Walk, and notes the two following bequests, administered by the Town Council:—£1000, bequeathed by Mr. Henry Harris in 1862, and invested in Consols; £200, bequeathed by Mr. Joseph Harris in 1891, and invested in the Calne Waterworks Company.

and bringing up of 10 children of the poor inhabitants there in learning, to the fear of God and the knowledge of their parents.”<sup>1</sup> The annuity he charged upon his messuage, called the “Crown”<sup>2</sup> and other houses in Calne, and directed his cousins, Richard and Robert Uffenham, their heirs and assigns, to appoint the schoolmaster.

In 1742 the schoolmaster was appointed by Viscount Dupplin, son and successor to the seventh Earl of Kinoul, and his wife, Constantia Ernle, daughter and heiress of John Kyrle Ernle, to whom the Whetham estates of the Fynamores had descended, and this schoolmaster was authorised to receive the rent-charge of 40s. In 1808 a similar appointment was made either by Capt. William Money<sup>3</sup> or by his son, the Rev. W. Money; and in 1833 the Rev. W. Money-Kyrle appointed the master of the Calne Boys' School the receiver of the rent-charge.

When the Charity Commissioners visited Calne in 1833 it was discovered that the rent-charge had not been paid since 1829. A minute examination was thereupon made, extending over several years, the result of which was that in 1836 the person to whom the property had been sold paid £14 arrears to the treasurer of the Calne Boys' School.

By will dated Sept. 21st, 1646, and proved Nov. 20th of the same year, Robert Forman gave the rent of a piece of ground called *Clotty*, in the tithing of Studley, in satisfaction of a sum of twenty nobles left to the town of Calne by his father, and also towards the maintenance of Fynamore's school, the said land to be let and the proceeds devoted to the poor scholars for ever.

<sup>1</sup> Abstract of will.

<sup>2</sup> An inn that used to stand on the east side of High Street near the bottom of the hill.

<sup>3</sup> Capt. William Money died in 1808. The Rev. William Money added the surname Kyrle by royal licence.

In 1814 the rent-charge appears to have ceased to be paid; for in that year an order of *Nisi Prius* was obtained directing Mr. John Bishop, at that time owner of Clotly, to pay over the rent of the land to the use of the school, and ordering that in consideration of his so doing he should have the appointment of the schoolmaster and scholars. The order seems to have been only indifferently obeyed, for the matter was again investigated in 1833, and the Charity Commissioners then gave it as their opinion that if the "whole clear" rent was in future appropriated to the purposes of the charity, no call ought to be made for arrears. The rent is now applied towards maintaining at the Calne County School a scholar selected by Mrs. Campbell, as widow of the late Dr. John Dommett Bishop.

In 1664 William Woodroffe, by his will dated Sept. 1st of that year, devised for the purpose of teaching five poor boys a rent-charge of £2 10s. out of lands in adjoining parishes. The rent-charge is still received, and quite recently an application has been made by the Town Council to the Charity Commissioners to combine this charity with the Fynamore bequest and to allow the combined income to be used to support one scholar at the Calne County School.

The revenue of the school was further augmented by a variable grant made annually by the guild stewards and burgesses from the borough funds. On one or two occasions ten guineas were given, but ordinarily the grant was some sum between five and two guineas.

The school, so far as can be ascertained, did not until about 1830 possess a building devoted entirely to its own purposes, and, if a manuscript dealing with the period immediately prior to the erection of the building on the Green be any criterion, the tuition given was of little value. At this time the school was held in a disused malt-house



belonging to John Stratton Stretch, and standing at the back of his premises in Church Street; and it appears from the manuscript mentioned, the writer of which attended the school, that frequently the only person in charge was an old man who lived in the workhouse and who was himself unable to read. In 1828 Messrs. Joseph and William Gundry and other residents collected subscriptions for the erection of a proper school, and having been granted a site by the Marquess of Lansdowne, what is now known as the Boys' National School was built.

The land on which the school stands belonged at this time to the Prebendal Manor of Calne, then held by the Marquess on a lease of lives. Some years later, the last life having lapsed, the manor reverted to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, who then sold it to Lord Lansdowne, and in conjunction with him, by deed dated April 24th, 1856, conveyed the site of the school to the vicar of Calne and his successors for ever. At the same time and by the same deed they conveyed to the vicar the site on the Green occupied by the Girls' National School,<sup>1</sup> two dwelling-houses and gardens near, to be appurtenant to the said schools, and a piece of ground with the Infants' School<sup>2</sup> and dwelling-house and premises in Mill Street.

The second oldest, and, under the scheme recently sanctioned by the Charity Commissioners, the most important of the Calne schools, is Bentley's, founded in 1663 by the trustees under the will of John Bentley, of Richmond, Surrey. In this will, dated Sept. 29th, 1660, Bentley declares it his intention, should he live, to settle and maintain a free school; and further to set aside for this purpose the sum that should be received for the undivided sixth part of the field called "Ficketts," abutting on Lincoln's Inn, London, and the £12 annual rent payable to him by

<sup>1</sup> Built at the expense of Mrs. Wetherell, of Patford Street, Calne.

<sup>2</sup> Built by Lord Kerry.

Sir John Glyn under a forty-one years' lease of a piece of land in the same field.

So far as can be discovered, Bentley had no intention to establish his school in Calne; and we are therefore at a loss to account for its position here, unless it be that either William Peneyer, Hugh Webb or Thomas Webb (called the minister), three of the trustees under the will, had some connection with the town. There was at this time a family of Webbs living at Bowood; and the Pinnigers of Calne had ancestors who were merchants in London, as the William Peneyer of 1660 is said in the will to be.

Be that as it may, here in 1663 the school commenced its existence. At first it appears to have had no house of its own; for we find that in 1665 "a tenement or new erected house in the Green with a plot of garden" was purchased from Samuel Staples and his wife, both of whom appear, from documents of this period, to have possessed considerable property in Calne. This tenement was converted into the school and master's house, and remained so until 1833, when a new school and residence for the head-master were built, the cost being defrayed by the sale of £300 stock in the 3 per cent. Consolidated Annuities.

In 1677 the land left by the will was leased to Sir John Birkenhead for ninety-nine years, at a rent of £40 per annum. In 1690 it was sold to Sir Thomas Cooke for £1,200; but in 1727, although in 1691 the purchase-money had been received and £850 of it let out on mortgage, the trustees, through the Attorney-General, set up a claim to their original sixth, alleging that the sale was invalid for several reasons, one being that only four out of the six trustees had signed the contract of sale. The case appears to have lingered on until 1738; for in that year the Court of Chancery was moved to compel

the trustees to cease from molesting the holders of the property, and to declare the title good. Apparently this was done, for no more is heard of the action.

The £1,200 is now invested in two annual rent-charges amounting together to £50 per annum, and arising out of lands, etc., in the parishes of Melksham, Hardenhuish, Langley-Burrell, and Chippenham.

The school had been in existence but a very short time when abuses began to be apparent; and on Feb. 9th, 1683, upon complaint made to them, the Commissioners for Charitable Uses held an inquiry into the administration of the bequest. They found that James Webb, clerk, son of the Thomas Webb named in the will, had acted as schoolmaster, but had neglected his work. Webb was therefore called upon for an explanation, which was to the effect that he had been in fear of arrest for debt, and so could not appear in public. They further found that the surviving trustees were much scattered and could not for that reason properly carry out their duties; and followed up this resolution by appointing as co-trustees six local gentlemen, amongst them Sir John Ernle, Kt., junr., of Whetham.

The Commissioners also directed that the master should be required to catechise the scholars according to the catechism of the Church of England, and also to teach them the Latin tongue. The trustees were given power to fill blanks in their number (fixed at nine); but only such men were to be appointed as were known to be "true and faithful to the Protestant Religion and the Kingly Cause."

About 1734 Sir Francis Bridgeman, Bart., some time lessee under the Crown of the Liberty of Bowood, established two exhibitions, respectively £20 and £18 per annum, at Queen's College, Oxford, for the "benefit of boys born in the county of Wilts and educated in the free school of Calne."<sup>1</sup> To carry out the wishes of the donor, the trustees

<sup>1</sup> Minute of Trustees, Sept. 27th, 1734.

on Sept. 27th, 1734,<sup>1</sup> ordered the master to keep a regular grammar school, and from time to time to teach seven boys Latin and Greek and otherwise to qualify them for the University.

At this same meeting Benjamin Russell, vicar of Calne, was appointed the master, unless Mr. Rogers chose to take the office himself. This apparently he did ; for in "Carlisle's Grammar Schools," vol. ii., p. 742, note is made of a meeting of the trustees on June 25th, 1757,<sup>2</sup> at which they appointed the Rev. James Mayo, vicar of Avebury, usher of the school "under Mr. Rogers, the present Master."

The James Mayo appointed by this minute was a native of Calne, having been born here on May 27th, 1716. His father, John Mayo, born at Devizes, was a former curate of Calne, whilst his mother (Mary) was a daughter of Dr. William Hayward of Calne. He was apparently a former student of the school, and one moreover who seems to have been one of the earliest to benefit by the Bridgeman scholarships ; for he graduated B.A. at Queen's College, Oxford, in 1738. He was instituted to the living of Avebury in 1746, his father, vicar there from 1712, resigning in his favour. In 1758 James Mayo was made head-master of the school, and he continued to hold the appointment until 1767, when he became rector of Ditteridge. He died in 1788.

James Mayo had two brothers—an elder, John, and a younger, Benjamin. Both these were educated at Queen's College, John graduating B.C.L. *circa* 1735, and Benjamin as B.A. in 1740. The younger brother settled at Calne, becoming a burgess of the borough on April 24th, 1747, and dying here unmarried in November 1750. His brother John

<sup>1</sup> The trustees present at the meeting were Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Kt., Walter Hungerford of Studley, William Northey, M.P. for Calne, John Talbot of Lacock, Benedict Browne of Studley, Henry Rogers, and Benjamin D'Aranda.

<sup>2</sup> At the same meeting nine boys, instead of seven, were directed to be prepared for the University.

became rector of Beechingstoke in 1737 and vicar of Wilcot, 1762.

The connection between the Mayo family and Queen's College was continued in the next generation, Charles Mayo (born 1750), a son of John, obtaining his M.A. and B.C.L. at Queen's College *circa* 1770. Some five years later James Mayo (a son of the one-time head-master), who had received the rudiments of his education at the Grammar School, took his B.A. at Queen's College, and in 1779 became rector of Blackland. In 1789, he was occupying his father's old living of Avebury-cum-Winterbourne Monkton; but later he became head-master of Wimborne Grammar School.<sup>1</sup>

The school has experienced varying fortunes during its existence. At one time it had sunk so low that no more than ten or twelve boys were to be found receiving instruction within its walls; and about the middle of last century the Bridgeman Exhibitions were merged in the general property of Queen's College, and were thus lost to the school. The present Vicar, soon after he came to Calne, appealed to the Charity Commissioners to reinstate the exhibition, but his appeal was unsuccessful. In 1836 a dispute arose between the newly appointed Town Council and the governors of the school with reference to a new code of rules for the admission of pupils, which the then vicar of the parish had persuaded the governors to adopt. Both sides threatened to appeal to the Court of Chancery, but finally wiser counsels prevailed and at a meeting of delegates from both parties a *modus vivendi* was arranged. In 1894 the Charity Commissioners reorganised the school and brought it more into line with modern requirements. In 1901 it was amalgamated with the Technical Institute, which had been established in 1894 at a

<sup>1</sup> His son James (born Sept 9th, 1784, M.A. Pembroke College, Oxford), followed him in the living at Avebury and also as head-master of Wimborne Grammar School.

cost of £1,500, defrayed partly out of the rates and partly by public subscription. It is now known as the Calne County School, and is carried on in the Institute; the old school, by the generosity of Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, M.P., having been converted into a gymnasium. The present head-master is Mr. William Francis Smith, B.A. (Honours) of London University, and formerly an assistant master at Alleyn's School, Dulwich.

The most important educational establishment for girls is St. Mary's Middle Class School, founded in 1873, by the persevering efforts of Canon Duncan. It has an original endowment of £500 given by the late Miss Eleanor Gabriel. In 1894 the same lady gave a further sum of £1,000, the income of which is directed to be devoted to providing scholarships at the school; and the endowment has been still further enriched by £200 given by Mrs. Penelope Murray.

The other public schools are the "Guthrie," built at the expense of the late Mrs. Guthrie<sup>1</sup> in 1854; the British Schools, erected as shown under the nonconformist history of the town; and Trinity Church Schools, built by Canon Guthrie and lately enlarged by Canon Duncan.

<sup>1</sup> Wife of the late Vicar of Calne.

PART II.

*THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF CALNE.*









A VILLAGE CROSS (BREMILL).

[*facing page 219.*

## CHAPTER I.

Bremhill: its antiquity.—Domesday account of it.—The Abbot of Malmesbury and Bremhill.—Church of St. Martin.—William Lisle Bowles, vicar, antiquary and minor poet.—Maud Heath and her Causey.

THE village of Bremhill, about two miles from Calne, is, like its near neighbour, a place of considerable antiquity. In the Domesday Survey it is called *Breme*, a corruption of the Anglo-Saxon *bremel* (a bramble). This derivation appears to denote that the village is of Saxon origin; but as at one time there were traces of a rude earthwork surrounding it, it is possible that the Saxon village was built on the remains of an earlier settlement.<sup>1</sup>

About 935 Bremhill was given by King Athelstan to the abbey of Malmesbury, to which it continued to belong until the Dissolution, when it was sold to Sir Edward Bayntun. In Domesday Bremhill is said to have paid geld for thirty-eight hides T.R.E. At the time of the Survey seventeen hides were in demesne, four were held by a certain Edward, and four by Teodric. These two men also held between them three hides belonging to the villani, which "a certain English abbot took away from the demesne of the church and gave to a certain bailiff, and afterwards to a Thane, who could by no means be separated from the church."<sup>2</sup> William de Ow also held a hide of the villans' land. There were then living here thirty-four villans, twenty-two bordars, seven cottagers and sixteen serfs, which at a low estimate would give a total

<sup>1</sup> Bowles' "Bremhill."

<sup>2</sup> Jones' "Domesday," p. 38.

population of about three hundred. Part of the land was then much more densely wooded than it is at present. Mention is made, for instance, of one wood two miles long and two furlongs broad. This is believed to be the wood of which part still exists round about Hazeland, and at one time formed the northern boundary of Pewsham Forest. There were also three mills on the manor, one being for the exclusive use of the villans. Hazeland Mill probably occupies the site of one of these, and Conigre Mill possibly that of another. The position of the third is very uncertain.

The abbot of Malmesbury had a grange at Bremhill, to which, according to Bowles, he was at times wont to retire. It is supposed to have stood where the manor farmhouse now is; but no trace of it remains except, possibly, the sundial found on the site by Bowles and now in the churchyard.

The Domesday Survey is silent with regard to the existence of any church at Bremhill, and the Rev. W. L. Bowles was of opinion that none existed in the village at that time. Against this opinion, however, must be set that of the antiquaries, who hold that some of the quoins in one of the angles of the existing tower are Saxon long-and-short work, and that therefore a church has stood here from the Saxon era.

The present church, dedicated to St. Martin, consists of chancel, nave, with a south chapel at its east end, and west tower opening at its lower story into the nave. It has also a very good south porch, with fan-vaulted roof, into which are worked the roses of York and Lancaster, the centre being marked by a sculptured lamb surrounded by vines. Above the porch is a "parvis," or small room, "wherein," says Bowles, "the village school was held in pre-Reformation times"; but its original use was undoubtedly that of a priest's room, and as both the

porch and parvis are believed to have been added in the reign of Henry VII., Bowles' statement can apply only to a short period. In the parvis, hidden under a heap of old casements, is the ancient muniment-chest, now worm-eaten, dilapidated and disreputable, in the bottom of which are some interesting papers relating to the parish, and dating from about 1700 onwards to 1850. On the roof of the east end of the nave is a small turret for the sanctus bell that in earlier days "was rung . . . at the singing of the 'Ter Sanctus' in the High Mass, whence its name, as a warning that the Canon of the Mass is



GARGOYLES: BREMHILL CHURCH.

about to commence.”<sup>1</sup> The pillars in the nave are probably Norman, and the font dates from the latter part of the same period. In the ends of some of the pews are carved oak panels, apparently of late sixteenth-century work. There is a piscina and what appears to be an opening for an altar in the south chapel. There is no north chapel, but on the north side of the chancel is a perfect ambulatory—a very unusual feature. At one time there was a north entrance to the church; but this has been built up, though the old wooden, iron-studded door still remains *in situ*. In the middle of the floor of the chancel is a carved stone of great antiquity. This is thought to be a memorial of some early church dignitary; but who

<sup>1</sup> In 1281 in England all the bells were to be tolled at the elevation (of the Host), in order that the absent from daily mass in house or field might bow their knees at the sound.—“Sacred Archæology.”

this was, or when he was buried, has not been discovered. There is some very good modern stained glass in the windows, one of which, a fine specimen of subdued colouring by Kemp, was the gift of the Rev. Canon Eddrup. There are six bells in the tower, dated and inscribed as follows:—

1. 1685
2. WM. BUTTLER AND JAMES BEWLEY, CH. WARDENS.  
Jas. Wells, Aldbourne, Wilts, fecit 1826.
3. 1687
4. JOSEPH THRUSH AND ROBERT HORTON, CHURCHWARDENS.  
R. Wells, Aldbourne, fecit 1770.
5. MAY THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND FOR EVER FLOURISH.  
A (R) R 1736
6. I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL  
AND TO THE GRAVE DO SUMMON ALL.  
A (R) R 1736

In the churchyard are the remains of a pre-Reformation stone cross. The pedestal and shaft are intact, but the cross that crowned the whole was thrown down at the time of the Commonwealth.<sup>1</sup> The pieces were found hidden at the foot of the pedestal at the end of the eighteenth century, but they were too much mutilated to be restored. The shaft is now surmounted by the sundial mentioned on page 220.

No sketch of Bremhill would be complete without mention being made of the Rev. William Lisle Bowles, vicar here in the early part of last century. "Billy Bowles," as he was familiarly called, was a son of the Rev. W. T. Bowles, sometime rector of Uphill, in Somerset. He was educated at Shaftesbury, Winchester and Oxford, and throughout his life he was known as a most eccentric and absent-minded individual. One of his eccentricities was to appear at Stonehenge on a certain occasion dressed

<sup>1</sup> Bowles.



BREMHILL CHURCH.



REMAINS OF PRE-REFORMATION CROSS AND ABBOT'S SUNDIAL.  
[facing p. 222.]





in what he considered to be correct Druidic costume; and a story is told that he once presented a Bible to a young lady, having first written on the fly-leaf, “ With the author’s compliments.”

Bowles was an enthusiastic antiquary, but very little of the work he did is now considered of value. He was also one of our minor poets, and some of his verse was much admired by his contemporaries; the specimens of it which appear on monuments in this neighbourhood are not however of a high order of merit. He was, further, a great controversialist, and continually engaged in “ disputations ” with his literary friends and rivals. It was one of these disputes that led Byron to write his “ Bowles and Campbell.” But in spite of his faults, the old vicar was a general favourite, and counted among his friends Madame de Staël, Sir Humphrey Davy and other celebrated people of his day, most of whom at one time or another visited him at Bremhill. He seems, indeed, to have had much in common with Doctor Syntax; and but for the well-known fact that Coombe wrote round the plates supplied by Rowlandson, it might easily have been imagined that Bowles was the original of the dear old Doctor.

A little more than half a mile from Bremhill is Wick Hill, so called from the little hamlet of Wick (the *Vicus* of the Romans) that lies at its foot. On the edge of the hill stands the monument erected to Maud Heath, of blessed memory. That the tradition respecting her station in life is true is easy to believe, for her manner of bequeathing her life’s savings shows that she appreciated the value of a good footpath much more truly than one better circumstanced could do; and thus believing, it is impossible to think of her without being filled with admiration.

The story goes that Maud Heath was a poor pedlar woman of Langley Burrell who passed her life peddling eggs, butter, and the like on foot between Chippenham

and Bremhill. The villages on the route she traversed are situated for the most part in the low-lying valley of the Avon, and it is not an unusual thing even now in the winter season for part of the land to be flooded. In her day (about A.D. 1400) the best of the roads were very indifferent, and country roads were at times nothing better than quagmires. It may be imagined, then, what the tracks through this low-lying country must have been. At her death in 1474 she bequeathed her savings in land and houses to trustees, to apply the income in constructing and maintaining a causeway, or causey, between Wick Hill and Chippenham, passing on the way through the hamlets or villages of Wick, East Tytherton, Kellaways and Langley Burrell. Her wishes were carried out, and since her day a good path has been made throughout the whole distance. At Kellaways, the lowest part of the road, the causey is carried on a number of arches which bridge, and extend for some distance on each side of, the river Avon.

The monument on Wick Hill consists of a pedestal and shaft, surmounted by a life-sized figure of Maud Heath dressed in what the sculptor conceived to be the costume of her time. The old lady is represented in a sitting posture, presumably resting by the wayside, and near her left hand stands her basket of eggs. In her right hand she grasps an oaken staff, and she appears to be looking down upon the country where for so many years she "trod life's weary round."

According to the inscription on the pedestal, the monument was erected in 1838 at the joint expense of the trustees, Lord Lansdowne and the Rev. W. L. Bowles. It must be confessed, though, that the latter has done his best to make it as much a monument to himself as to the worthy Maud. In addition to the appearance of his name in the inscription, he appends his initials to the poetic effusion which also appears on the pedestal:—



*Photo by J. J. Hunt,]* [Calnc.  
MAUD HEATH'S MONUMENT.



*Photo by J. J. Hunt,]* [Calnc.  
KELLAWAYS SUNDIAL. AND A BIT OF THE  
CAUSEY. [facing p. 224.



“Thou, who do'st pause on this ærial hight,  
 Where MAUD HEATH'S Pathway winds in shade, or light;  
 Christian way-farer, in a world of strife,  
 Be still—and ponder on the Path of Life.

W. L. B.”

Then, let into the face of the stone post which marks the beginning of the causey, there is an iron plate bearing an inscription in which the Rev. W. L. Bowles again figures prominently:—

“From this Wick Hill begins the praise  
 Of MAUD HEATH'S gift to these highways.

“The translation into English verse of the earlier Latin inscription on this stone was made by the Rev. W. L. Bowles, Vicar of Bremhill, in 1827.”

We cannot but contrast this self-advertisement with the inscription that appears on the earlier monument (a shaft surmounted by a sundial) standing on the south-east side of Kellaways bridge:—

“To the memory of the worthy MAUD HEATH of Langley Burrell, widow.

“Who in the year of Grace 1474 for the good of Travellers did in Charity bestow in Land and houfes about Eight pounds a year forever to be laid out on the Highways and Caufey leading from Wick Hill to Chippenham Clift.

“This Piller (*sic*) was fet up by the feoffees in 1698.

“Injure me not.”

But even on this memorial the reforming hand of the parson has set its mark. On the faces of the dial looking respectively towards the east, south and west, were engraved at the time the dial was set up, and still remain, the following Latin sentences:—

“Tempus volat.”

“Dum tempus habemus, OPEREMUR BONUM.”

“REDIBO—TU NUNQUAM.”

These, however, did not satisfy "Billy," and he caused to be engraved, each under the Latin to which it refers, the following paraphrases :—

"Oh! early passenger, look up—be wise,  
And think how, night and day, TIME ONWARD FLIES."

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"Life steals away—this hour, oh man, is lent thee  
Patient to WORK THE WORK OF HIM WHO SENT THEE!"

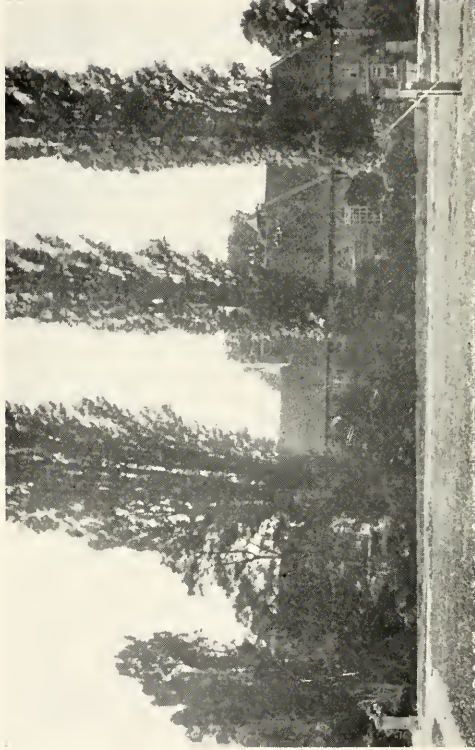
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"Haste, traveller, the sun is sinking now—  
He shall return again—but NEVER thou."

At the Chippenham end of the causey is another stone, with this inscription :

"Hither extendeth Maud Heath's gift,  
For where I stand is Chippenham clift."





MORAVIAN SETTLEMENT, EAST TYTHERTON. *Facing p. 227.*



## CHAPTER II.

The Moravian Settlement at East Tytherton.—Foxham Common and Chapel.—Cadenham Manor-house: Yule-log customs.

**A**T East Tytherton, through which Maud Heath's causey passes, is established one of the few Moravian settlements to be found in England. How it originated is shown in the following short article, which has been very kindly written for us by the Rev. H. R. Mumford:—

“The origin of the Moravian Settlement at Tytherton is clearly traceable to John Cennick, the evangelist and hymn-writer. In 1740 he was working in Kingswood, near Bristol, when he was invited to preach at Castle Coomb. From his diary we learn that he preached a few days later to ‘an immense concourse of people on Chippenham-Longley Common.’ This brought him into touch with persons living at Foxham, and we find his influence soon spreading east as far as Swindon. The diary records much success achieved, and there are many entries telling of rough treatment and persecution. In Swindon guns were fired over the heads of him and his companion, Howell Harris, with the muzzles so near that their faces were blackened by the smoke. Then the people got a fire-engine and pumped mud over them; and he adds, ‘but as they played on me Bro. Harris spoke to the people, and when they played in his face I spoke.’ Another time they gathered a quantity of blood from the butchers and pumped it over Cennick, because he preached so much about Christ’s blood being shed for sin. For a time persecution met him almost everywhere, and as he went from

place to place he often had a voluntary escort of from thirty to fifty horsemen and as many on foot. By this itinerant work he founded in this part of Wiltshire about twenty 'societies,' or classes, in different towns and villages.

"One of these 'societies' met in a farmhouse at Foxham; but in 1742 the company grew too large for the room, and there being a house for sale in East Tytherton, two miles distant, Cennick bought it, knocked down the partition walls, and converted it into a meeting-house. In the following year the house was pulled down and a chapel erected on the same site. For the next three years Tytherton was the centre of Cennick's work in the district. It was even more than that. Cennick was at that time associated with George Whitefield, and conferences of the 'field preachers,' over which Whitefield himself presided, were held here for organising the work under his leadership in the south-western counties of England and South Wales.

"At the end of the year 1745 Cennick writes that he came wholly from the Methodists, and joined the Church of the United Brethren or Moravians. At a meeting convened for the purpose he explained his action to his followers, and with their unanimous consent he handed over the 'societies' to the care of the Moravian Church. Three years later he made a free gift of the chapel and plot of ground in Tytherton to the same body. Much of his time from this date till 1755, when he died in London at the age of thirty-seven, was spent in long preaching tours in Ireland.

"Under the Moravian Brethren the work in Tytherton soon began to assume a new character. While they continued the preaching, their German system of organisation was partially introduced. The people were divided into 'choirs,' or classes, according to sex and condition (*i.e.* married, widowed, and single), and each choir received special attention and instruction as considered most suitable.

A 'Sisters' House' was opened in 1750 for the reception and training of girls and single women who wished to improve their education or be employed in doing needle-work, etc.; and about the same time a house was hired in Foxham for the single Brethren, who were employed on a farm. The latter soon proved a failure, but the Sisters' House was continued until about a quarter of a century ago. The Sisters were under no vows, and were free to stay or leave as they chose.

"Near the end of the eighteenth century a ladies' boarding-school was opened, where education is still carried on without regard to creeds. The chapel and minister's house were also rebuilt about the same time. About thirty years ago a day school was built for the village children.

"The Moravians are evangelical in creed, adhere to the three orders of the ministry (bishops, presbyters, and deacons), receive laymen into their councils, and use a liturgy at Sunday morning worship. They still hold 'love feasts,' as part of the celebration of festival days, when buns and tea are used and distributed to all present; but these love feasts must not be confused with the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

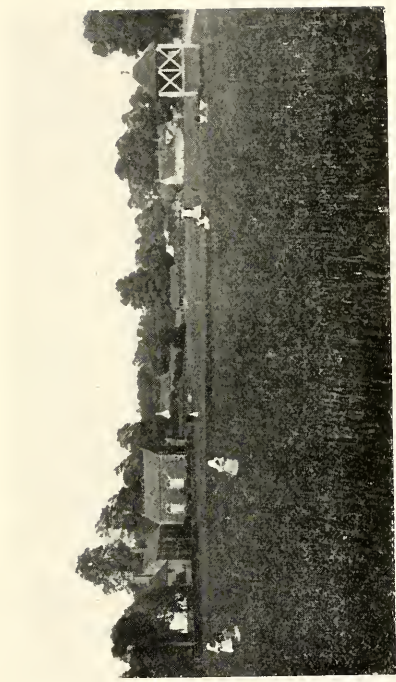
"Another custom worthy of notice is the use of similar flat stones in their burial-ground, as a symbol that there are no distinctions of rank and wealth in death or beyond it."

Foxham, of which Cennick speaks in his diary, is about two miles north-east of Tytherton. It is not in itself interesting, except that where the present church now stands there stood at one time a chapel, built jointly by the Hungerfords and the Bayntuns, which for over two hundred years was a cause of dispute between the vicar of Bremhill on the one hand and the Hungerford family and the people of Foxham on the other. The cause of dispute, so far as can be gathered, was the responsibility for the upkeep of the building and the provision of a minister.

The Hungerfords claimed that the chapel was endowed for these purposes in the beginning of the reign of James I.—a claim denied by the vicar. In 1681 the quarrel had become so acute that an entry relating to the matter was made in the Bremhill register: “Die extra 12 Dec.—81 (1681) Dr. Townson contra Dominum Hungerford.” The entry goes on to state that whenever Mr. Collier, vicar of Bremhill, went to preach at Foxham—an event that happened but once or twice a year—he was entertained by the Hungerfords and inhabitants of Foxham, and always received from them 6*s.* 8*d.* for each sermon. “That he did never preach there as obliged or bound by law, but out of respect, at the request of the inhabitants of Foxham.” The result of the quarrel was that the chapel fell into such disrepair that it had to be pulled down, and for many years previous to its removal no service was held.

The southern side of Foxham village abuts on Foxham Common, one of the two typical old English commons (Highway Common is the other) which this district possesses. Seen in the early summer-time, its grass green and fresh, the cows scattered about on it in picturesque attitudes, and backed by the red-bricked, brown-thatched cottages abutting on it, one sees in it, time and again, the pictures of English country life Sidney Cooper so loved to paint.

On the opposite side of the Common is Cadenham Manor, one of the two seats in Bremhill parish of the Hungerfords, who were parties to the dispute with Dr. Townson. A portion of the old manor-house, with the Hungerford arms over the doorway and windows, still exists, but now converted into a farmhouse. Enough of the ancient hall still remains to give us an idea of what it was in the days of its glory, and, in particular, its old wide and deep fireplace containing the beautifully fashioned wrought-iron semi-grate, that in the later days of wood fires took the place of the open hearth.



FOXHAM COMMON.

[facing p. 230.]



With a cosy seat in the chimney corner the old hall appears just the spot in which to realise Leigh Hunt's ideal of happiness.<sup>1</sup> Or, better still, it is the ideal place in which to sit and conjure up scenes of the bringing in of the Yule-log with due pomp and ceremony 'midst the singing of the old song:—

“Come, bring with a noise,  
My merrie, merrie boys,  
The Christmas log to the firing;  
While my good dame she  
Bids you all be free,  
And drink to your heart's desiring.”

\* \* \* \*

And then, the log in fancy well alight, the imagination conjures up the lord of the manor seated in the old settle, his toes toasting at the fire and a flagon of generous wine at his elbow, watching the antics of the mummers.<sup>2</sup> We see him applauding the jokes of Mince Pie and Little Jack and the fights of St. George and the Saracen, and, for once unbending, joining in the chorus of the old carol,

<sup>1</sup> “To sit at home with an old folio book of romantic yet credible voyages and travels to read, an old bearded traveller for its hero, a fireside in an old country-house to read it by, curtains drawn, and just wind enough stirring out of doors to make an accompaniment to the billows or forests we are reading of—this surely is one of the perfect moments of existence.”

<sup>2</sup> The Wiltshire mummers were rather noted for their performances. The characters represented were usually :

Old Father Christmas, who opened the performance.

Mince Pie, whose office was principally that of a jester.

St. George } These two fought, and the knight was always  
A Saracen Knight } defeated and slain by St. George.

An Italian Doctor, who brought the dead body to life, and performed other astonishing things. (The Italians in the olden times were skilled in medicines.)

Little Jack, a dwarf, who was *the* jester, and also collected the money.

sung whilst the hot spiced ale circulated amongst the performers:—

“I love no rost, but a nut-brown toste,  
 And a crab layde in the fyre,  
 A little breade shall do me stead,  
 Much breade I not desyre :  
 No froste nor snowe, no winde, I trowe,  
 Can hurt mee if I wolde ;  
 I am so wrapt, and throwly lapt  
 Of jolly good ale and olde.  
     Back and syde go bare, go bare,  
     Both foote and hand, go colde ;  
 But belly God send thee good ale inoughe,  
     Whether it be new or olde.”

But even better than the hall, inasmuch as it has undergone no alteration, is the panelled corridor or gallery out of which the bedrooms open. The gallery is unusually high, and from floor to ceiling it is panelled with rich old oak throughout its entire length, most of the panels being carved. One of the bedrooms has the reputation of being haunted, but we are informed by the present tenant that nothing of a ghostly nature has been seen or heard by him or any of his family.

In 1652 Evelyn visited Cadenham as a guest of the Hungerford family. He states in his “Memoirs” that he left there with his newly-wedded wife on July 19th, 1652, to pay a short visit to the Bayntuns at Spye Park. He goes on to relate that at Spye Park his coachman was made exceedingly drunk, a trick, he found, that was played on all gentlemen’s servants by the orders of the knightly owner of the mansion; “but,” he remarks, “the custom is barbarous, and unbecoming a knight.”



## CHAPTER III.

Stanley Abbey and its monks.—The custom of “Wood Ale.”—British and Roman remains at Studley.—Poacher Annie.

AT Stanley, about three miles to the north-west of Calne, on the site now occupied by a farmhouse, once stood Stanley Abbey; but, with the exception of the remains of the fishponds, a corner of the moat, a piece of a stone coffin, and a holy water stoup (now used as a flower vase), all trace of it has disappeared. Stanley Abbey was founded by Matilda in 1151 for thirteen monks of the Cistercian Order. It was first established at Lockswell, the monks to people it being brought from Quarr, in the Isle of Wight. Three years after its foundation, for some reason not known, the establishment was removed to Stanley, about three miles from, and in the valley below, Lockswell.

The abbey was destroyed at the Dissolution, and the lands at Stanley belonging to it were sold to Sir Edward Bayntun for £1,200. Prior to the “surrender” an inquiry was held at the abbey by John Ap Rice, who reported to the Lord Treasurer that “at Stanley the abbot confessed incontinence . . . before he was abbot and vj or vij of the convent have confessed incontinence.”<sup>1</sup>

In 1201 Fulke Fitzwarren, one of the Shropshire barons and an opponent of King John, sought the sanctuary of the church at Stanley Abbey from what was to all appearance the just resentment of the king. The occurrence is thus

<sup>1</sup> *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, vol. xxviii.

recorded in the chronicles of the abbey preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. (The Latin of the entry is here translated into English):—

“Fulco Fitzwarine took refuge, July 2nd, in the abbey of Stanley in Wiltshire, and was there besieged, together with his followers, for fourteen days, by almost the whole county and by many others who had flocked to the place. But he came out safe in the peace of the church, and was reconciled in the following year.”

In 1242 Stanley Abbey, in common with other Wiltshire religious houses, contributed to the cost of the first expedition of Henry III. into Gascony:—

“The abbot of Malmesbury . . . . .	xx marks
The prior of Bradenstoke . . . . .	v „
The abbot of Stanley . . . . .	x „
The prior of Avebury . . . . .	iiij „
etc.            etc.            etc.”	

At Lockswell there is a large spring of very good water, used now for the water supply of Corsham and Pickwick. The monks at Stanley set great store by this spring, and it was a matter for great regret with them that in their new home they were too far removed from it to be able to use freely of its pure refreshing stream. They appear to have pondered over the subject for many years, and at last it was determined to attempt the construction of an aqueduct through which the water of their beloved spring might be conveyed from Lockswell to Stanley. The trepidation with which they commenced the undertaking, and the joy they felt at its successful completion, are well expressed in an old MS. of one of the brothers, now preserved in the Bodleian:—

“Hoc anno<sup>1</sup> perfectus est aquæ ductus de Lokeswelle versus abbatiam de Stanley in Wilts, a domino Thomâ de Colestune, abbate ejusdem domus, et illud opus timidè incepit ;

<sup>1</sup> A.D. 1214.

sed, Deo et Domino Iesu Christo sibi auxiliante et bono Johanne Evangelistâ, bene et optimè complevit, cujus memoria in benedictione sit æterna. Amen.”<sup>1</sup>

Amongst the possessions of the Abbey of Stanley was an estate consisting of a grange and farms at Midgehall, in the parish of Lydiard Tregoz. This estate has long since changed hands, and, as we have seen, the abbey itself has passed away; but to this day there survives a ceremony, though somewhat shorn of its glories, instituted when the abbey first became possessed of the property. By a decree of Pope Innocent III., who was himself a Cistercian, no Cistercian monastery could be required to pay tithes, and this decree held good in respect of any property belonging to the monastery. Now, since the monks of Stanley were members of this Order, when they came into possession of Midgehall tithes ceased to be paid by the tenants who occupied the land. To celebrate this immunity a feast called a “Word Ale,” or “Wood Ale,” was held yearly. Aubrey, in his History of Wiltshire, thus refers to the subject :—

“THE CUSTOME OF WORD-ALE.

“The tenants in memorie of this Decree doe yearly, every one in his order, about the Feast of All Saints, keep a Feaste for their fellow-tenants which they call a **Word-Ale**. It was celebrated heretofore with great solemnitie, many prayers being made for the Abbot of Stanley, and the Monks of the Cistercian Order, now forgotten; all that they yet retain is,

“‘You are to pray for the Abbot of Stanley, and all the Monks of the Cistercian Order, by whom we are all Tithe-free, Tithe-free. By whom we are all Tithe-free, Tithe-free,’ etc.

<sup>1</sup> “In this year was the aqueduct, from Lokeswelle towards the Abbey of Stanley in Wilts, completed by the Master Thomas of Colestune, abbot of the same house. This work he had begun in fear and trembling, but God and our Lord Jesus Christ and good St. John the Evangelist helping him, he completed it well and excellently, of whom may it be an everlasting memorial of thanksgiving. Amen.”

“These words are sung by the chorus, whilst one drinks a carouse, holding a white wand in his hand; and so all round. When the Feast is ended, he that then kept it delivers his Wand to him that by course is to keep it the year following.”

Canon Jackson, in his edition of Aubrey, says that in 1860 some trace of the ceremony still remained, but he was unable to ascertain particulars. Some interesting details respecting the custom have, however, through the kindness of the Rev. H. G. Baily, rector of Lydiard Tregoz, now been obtained, and are here given.

The “Wood,” or “Woad Ale,” is not a feast proper; it is of a more limited character. It is associated with the tenure of three farms in the parish of Lydiard Tregoz—viz. Midgehall, Spittleborough (*i.e.* Spital or Hospital) and Wickfield. They now form part of the Meux property; but formerly they belonged to the Cistercian community who held Stanley Abbey, and who had, in addition to the farmhouse of Caln Court, a religious house in the parish. Midgehall was the Grange, or home farm, and the abbot and his retinue made it their hunting-ground.

Long-continued feuds existed between the Regulars (the monks) and the Secular (the parish priest) resident at Lydiard Tregoz regarding the sum to be paid the latter for performing the service of the parish church. It was ultimately arranged by an agreement on the part of the abbot and monks to pay him 8s. yearly<sup>1</sup>; and the land is held to this day upon payment of the said sum as a *modus* to the rector, and the performance of the prescribed ceremony on All Souls' Day.

The present practice is for the tenants of the three

<sup>1</sup> When this payment was instituted 8s. was the equivalent of three fat oxen; but the letter of the payment has been adhered to, and the rector has to-day to be satisfied with current coin of the realm to the value of 8s.

farms to meet on the appointed day, each taking it in turn to provide bread and cheese and ale. Instead of the elaborate religious service mentioned by Aubrey, the Lord's Prayer is now said, and the chorus has dwindled to—

“ We'll pray for the soul of the Abbot of Stanley,  
Through whom we are free from paying our tithes.”

When this has been sung, the wand is handed over “as in the days of yore.”

On the hill above Stanley is Studley, which during the Roman occupation was a country residence of the Roman inhabitants of Bath ; and, from the quantities of British pottery, etc., that have been recovered, it appears before that time to have been occupied by some early British tribe. Iron scoriae have also been found, showing that ironworks were formerly in existence here, possibly first established by the Britons, but more probably by the Romans. In 1753 there were unearthed a number of bricks that had apparently formed part of the heating-room of a bath. The bricks were stamped

#### I. V. C. DIGNI.

Considerable quantities of Roman pottery and coins have also been discovered. Canon Bowles, about 1800, had no less than two hundred coins brought to him in one year, all taken from a place called the “Redhill field.” The coins were principally of the reign of Constantine, but two in good preservation were stamped, one “Vespasianus” and the other “Trajanus.”

Studley in 1633, partly, at least, belonged to the Norborne family. It was bought from the Norbornes by the Hungerfords, and was at one time called Studley Hungerford. The old mansion which formerly stood here has entirely disappeared, and what remains of the estate has passed by marriage into the hands of the Crewe family.

In 1785 there died at Studley one Anne Simons, at the age of 113 years.<sup>1</sup> A newspaper of that date gave an account of her funeral, and stated that until a very few months before her death she was able to walk from Studley to Bowood and back. Then the account went on to say: "She had been, and continued till upwards of a hundred years of age, the most noted poacher in that part of the country, frequently boasted of selling gentlemen the fish taken from their own ponds. Her coffin and shroud she had purchased, and kept in her apartment more than twenty years."

<sup>1</sup> Wiltshire is known now for the longevity of its inhabitants, and it appears from old registers and tombstones to have been always happy in that respect. In the British Museum is a copy of a baptismal certificate taken from the registers of Calne Church:—

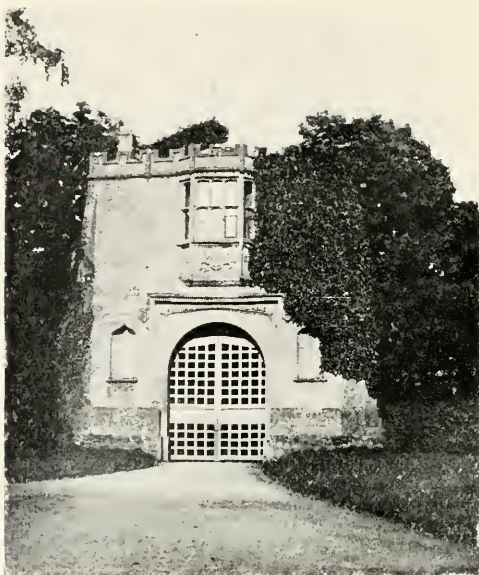
"4 Feb 1676. Philip Goddard, baptised in Oct: 1570.

Richard Goddard, do. 29 Mar: 1572.

Ales Goddard, do. Aug: 1575.

All three living the said 4 Feb: 1676."





GATEWAY AT SPYE PARK.



LACOCK ABBEY: VIEW FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

*(facing p. 239.)*



## CHAPTER IV.

Lacock Abbey.—Sir William Sharington.—The leap of Olave Sharington —Mr. Brakspear's notes on the architecture of the Abbey and the Church of St. Cyriac.—The Elizabethan town of Lacock.

STANLEY ABBEY, as we have said, has disappeared ; but, fortunately, the same has not to be said of Lacock Abbey, the way to which from Stanley lies up over the hill to Derryhill, where is the main entrance to Bowood Park, and then on past Loxwell (the old Lockswell) to Sandy Lane, where the road turns at right angles and runs past the embattled entrance to Spye Park and over Bowden Hill, from the top of which a magnificent view is obtained stretching away to the confines of Bath.

The gateway, of which an illustration is here given, is a surviving remnant of Bromham Hall, the seat of the Bayntun family. The Hall, built by Master Bayntun, was a fine piece of architecture, and is said to have been capable of concealing seven hundred men. It was destroyed during the Civil War, but the entrance to it was carefully removed stone by stone, and rebuilt in its present position. After the destruction of Bromham Hall the residence of the Bayntuns was removed to Spye Park ; and hither, as has been said, Evelyn came in 1652. Respecting the building then existing the diarist wrote that it was capable of being



PORCH AT DERRYHILL.

made a noble seat, "but the humorous old knight has built a long single house, of two low stories, on the precipice of an incomparable prospect, and leading to a bowling-green. The house is like a long barn, and has not a window on the prospect side." This building has now disappeared, and its place has been taken by a much more elegant house; the estate too has passed from the Bayntuns to the Spicers.

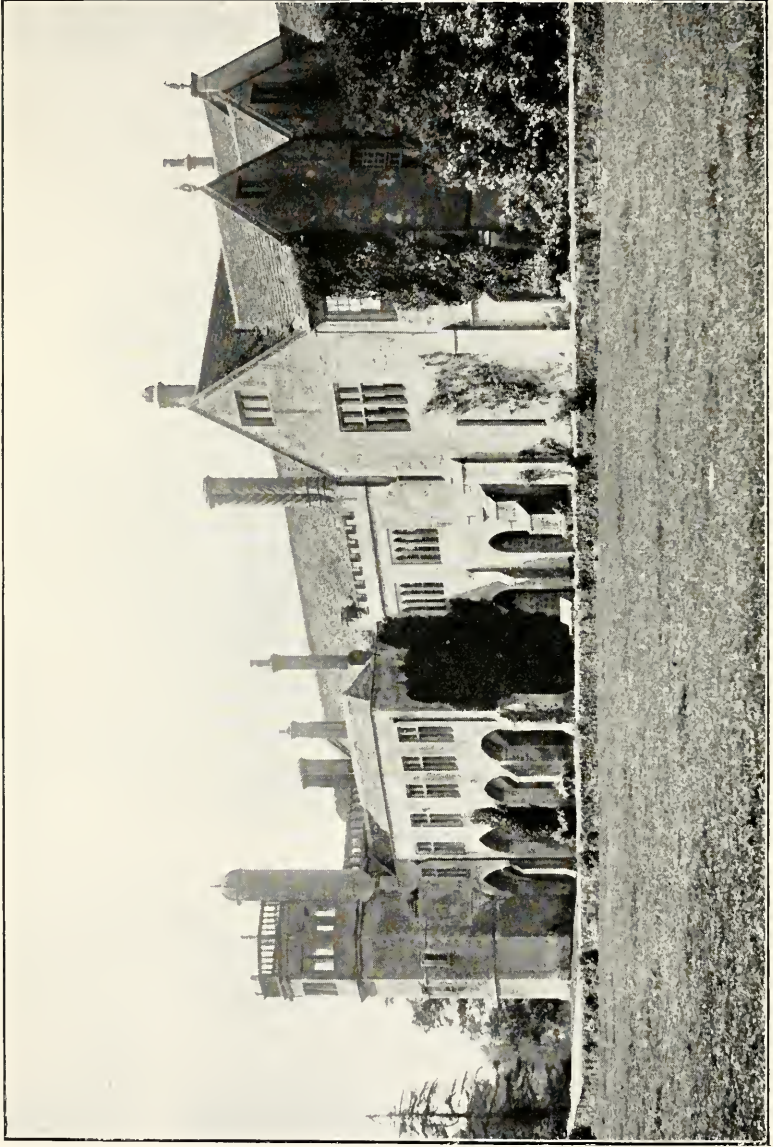
Lacock Abbey, called the "Convent of the Blessed Mary and of St. Bernard of Lacoc," was founded in 1232 by Ela,<sup>1</sup> Countess of Salisbury, for canonesses of the order of St. Augustine, in memory of her husband, William Longspee, natural son of Henry II. and Earl of Salisbury in right of his wife. Ela, on the death of her husband, was made sheriff for the county of Wilts, and filled the office so well that, in consideration of a payment of 200 marks, Henry III. made her sheriff for life. Her copy of Magna Charta, being one of those issued by that king to all the sheriffs in England, is still preserved at the abbey, and is in excellent condition.

"After she had lived seven years a Widow, she had a Purpose to build a Monastery for the Health of her own, her Husband's, and Ancestors' Souls; and had a Revelation that she should do it in a place called ~~Snaites-stead~~ in this Town to the Honour of St. Mary and St. Bernard."

This purpose she effected, and seven years after the foundation of the abbey assumed the religious habit at

<sup>1</sup> At the Conquest Lacock was given by William to Walter d'Eureux, Count of Rosmar, who left it to his son Edward de Saresbury. At the death of Edward it passed to his grandson Patrick, whom the Empress Maud made Earl of Salisbury. He was killed when on a pilgrimage to St. James in Galicia, and buried in Poitiers, his son William succeeding him. At the death of William his daughter Ela was left heiress of Lacock. Ela had a brother, Stephen, who became Justice of Ireland, and Earl of Ulster in right of his wife. He was killed by the Irish in 1260. His remains were brought over to England for interment, his body being buried at Lacock and his heart at Bradenstoke.





LACOCK ABBEY : SOUTH SIDE.

Lacock. Two years later she was elected its abbess, and remained so for eighteen years. At the end of that time she resigned, and dying five years later, she was buried in the choir of the edifice her love and generosity had erected.

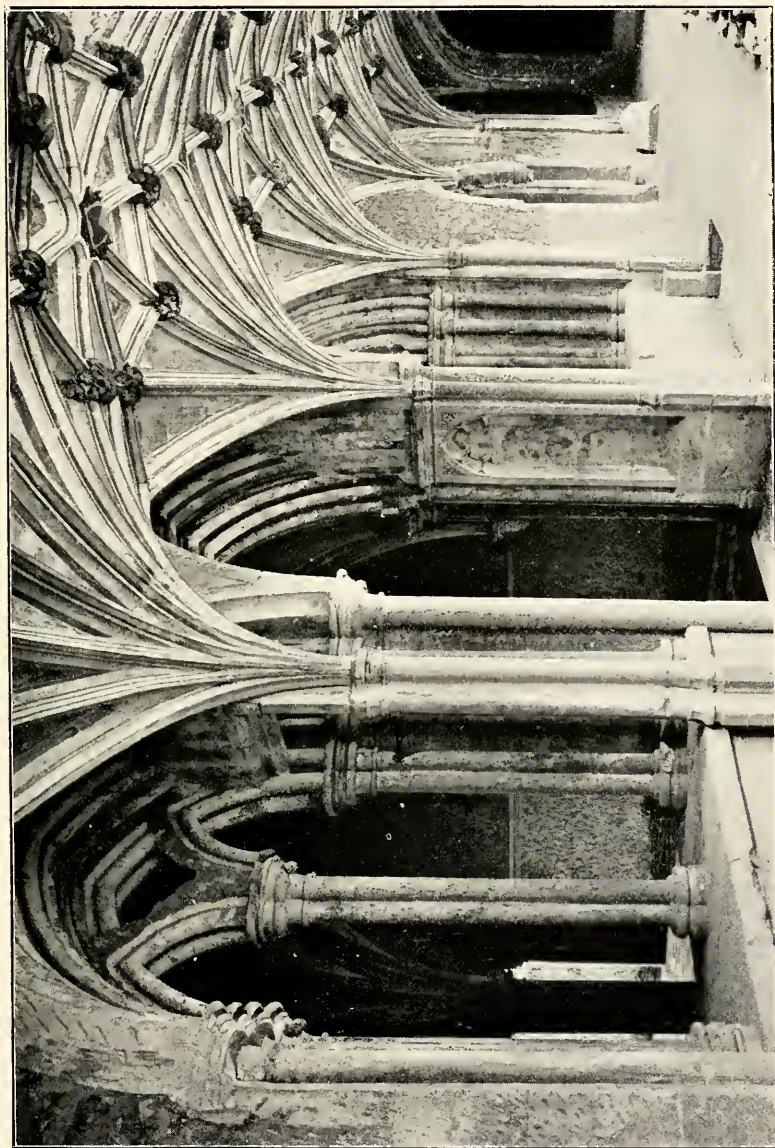
At the first onslaught of Henry VIII. on the monasteries, Lacock escaped on payment of a fine of £300 for "licence to continue." In 1539, however, it was compelled to "surrender," although the commissioner of the king had been forced to confess that "beinge in examinacion at Laycok as yet I can finde no excesses, and as for the howse it is in good state and well ordered." The income of the abbey at this time was £194 9s. 2d. per annum; and out of this the seventeen inmates, upon being dispersed, were granted pensions varying from £40 to Johan Temmes, the abbess, £5 to Elenor Monmorthe, prioress, to a minimum of £2.

On July 16th, 1540, the abbey and lands were purchased from the Crown by Sir William Sharington, who converted part of the former into a manor-house and offices. Sir William Sharington was one of the Masters of the Mint at Bristol, and, involved in the fall of Lord High Admiral Seymour, in 1548 he was sent to the Tower for coining false money and clipping the genuine. At his trial for these frauds before the Lord Mayor he confessed that he had coined spurious money to the value of £2,000, that he had clipped and sheared the coin of the realm to an amount he was unable to fix, and that he had committed various other crimes against the laws of the land. He was convicted and attainted, his lands being forfeited; but on Feb. 1st, 1550, an Act was passed pardoning him, and by letters patent of the same time his estates were restored. At his death in 1553, Lacock Abbey passed to his brother, Henry Sharington, who was afterwards knighted by Queen Elizabeth, and who had two daughters, Grace and Olave or Olivia. Respecting Olave there is a legend that,

unable in any other way to join her lover, John Talbot, she leapt from the abbey battlements into his arms. The story goes that, her garments buoying her up, she suffered no injury from her leap, but the force of the impact struck her lover to the ground and nearly killed him. The shrieks of the lady at seeing him lying, as she thought, dead at her feet brought her parent and others on the scene. The injured man was with difficulty restored to life, and the father, struck by the fidelity and love displayed on both sides, gave his consent to the marriage he had before prohibited. The story of Olave's leap is pretty, but unfortunately that is all that can be said for it. It is, in fact, a combination of an early legend of the escape of a nun through one of the abbey windows, and the actual abduction, as shown in existing records, of one of the nuns by Godfrey Rokell in 1426. Olave certainly married John Talbot, but there appears to have been nothing exceptional about the courtship. She survived her husband, and marrying a second time, was again left a widow. On her second widowhood she returned to Lacock and became noted for her hospitality, entertaining both Queen Elizabeth and James I.

Lacock Abbey is now the residence of C. H. Talbot, Esq., J.P., and although much of the earlier work was destroyed by Sir William Sharington when he converted the parts surrounding the cloister into a manor-house, it remains a storehouse of every style of architecture from the thirteenth century to the present day.

Sir William also destroyed the church which occupied the south side, except six bays of its north wall, which were retained to form the south front of his new house. This church was originally an aisleless parallelogram, 143 feet long by 28 feet wide, vaulted into seven wide bays without any structural division between the choir and nave. In 1315 a large Lady chapel, of which the building agreement



LACOCK ABBEY: THE CLOISTER.





still exists, was added on the south side of the choir, and was to be 59 feet long by  $25\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, with two arches of connection to the church.<sup>1</sup>

The cloister court is about 80 feet square, and has now on the south, east and north sides, richly vaulted alleys, mostly of fifteenth-century date.<sup>2</sup> On the east side the cloister is a two-storied range of buildings, of which the ground story was all vaulted and contained: the sacristy next the church, which had two eastern chapels projecting beyond the range; the chapter-house, of the same size as the sacristy and entered from the cloister by a richly moulded archway flanked on either side by open windows; a passage leading to the infirmary;<sup>3</sup> the warming-house, in which was a large fireplace, "wher they may warme them in wynter;" and the sub-vault of the reredorter. The upper story was occupied by the dorter, or sleeping-place of the nuns, and was approached by a flight of steps in the thickness of the west wall of the sacristy; it has been divided up into a long gallery<sup>4</sup> and various rooms, but retains a roof of the latter part of the fourteenth century. The reredorter at its north end has also been converted into rooms.

On the north side the cloister was a range of cellars, with a vaulted passage at the east end, under the frater or dining-hall of the nuns. This was originally entered by a door and steps at its western end, outside which in the

<sup>1</sup> The site of the church and Lady chapel was excavated in 1898 by Mr. Brakspear, from whose pen appeared an exhaustive account of the monastic portion of the abbey in the *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, xxxi. 196-240.—A. E. W. M.

<sup>2</sup> That on the south has the two western bays of fourteenth-century date, over which was the abbess' chapel; the rest of the alley was covered by a passage-way of the later work.

<sup>3</sup> This was a detached building to the east for the use of the aged and infirm as well as the sick; it was destroyed by Sharington. The infirmary usually had a separate chapel and kitchen.

<sup>4</sup> In this, which is known as the "Stone Gallery," is a fine fireplace of Sharington's time, having a hearth inlaid with lead.

cloister yet exist the remains of the great lavatory. The frater was also divided into a passage<sup>1</sup> and rooms, and retains a beautiful open timber roof of fifteenth-century date.

On the west side of the cloister was a corresponding two-storied range of buildings to that on the east, containing at the south end a square room that was divided into two or more apartments apparently for the use of the four priests connected with the monastery, and has now an original and inserted fireplace. Next this northward was a vaulted passage that formed the entrance to the cloister and the outer parlour where the inmates were allowed to see their friends. Northward of this was a hall, used for the accommodation of guests, which has in its west wall an inserted fireplace. Above these apartments the original arrangement has been destroyed by the erection of a great entrance-hall and dining-room, built about 1754, but apparently it consisted of the abbess's lodging at the south end, and her hall over the northern part.

Occupying the angle formed by the frater and this western range is the kitchen, a room which has been used for the same purpose for over six hundred years.

On the north side of the claustral buildings is the great courtyard of the sixteenth-century manor-house, round which are the stables, brewhouse and other offices, the whole remaining almost in an untouched condition from the day it was built, and forming without exception the most perfect example of its kind in the kingdom.

At the south-east angle of the present house is a handsome octagonal tower of three stories, which was built by Sharington, and which figures conspicuously in all views of the building. In the two upper stories are two exquisitely wrought stone tables of contemporary date. In the grounds, standing on a stone pedestal, is a large bell-metal vessel known as the

<sup>1</sup> In this passage, overlooking the cloisters, are some of Sharington's windows of four lights, of an advanced type of sixteenth-century work.

"Nuns' Cauldron." It was cast at Mechlin in 1500, and bears a Latin inscription, giving the name of the maker and the date when it was founded, and ending with: "DEO LAVS ET GLORIA CRISTO."

The view of the abbey and grounds from the road is charming. Indeed, so picturesque is it, that it appears more an ideal scene transferred from a painter's canvas than the work of Dame Nature and architects of various ages.



THE NUNS' CAULDRON  
(from a Sketch by A. H.).

The church of St. Cyriac consists of a chancel with north chapel, a north and south transept, a nave with aisles, a west tower with spire and a western porch, and on the south side the nave an annex known as "the Cottage."

It is certain a church stood on the site in Norman times, if not earlier, but what was its nature is impossible to say.<sup>1</sup>

The earliest part of the present building is the north transept, which has a three-light window in the north gable and a two-light window in the west and east walls respectively, of good fourteenth-century work.

The south transept was apparently of the same date, but has all been rebuilt except the west wall, which still retains the blocked arch of a two-light window.

The lower part of the tower is also of the fourteenth century, is square on plan without buttresses, and with an arch of two members towards the church. The belfry stage was added quite a century later, has in each face a two-light

<sup>1</sup> Norman fragments have been found at various times used up as old materials; some appear to be stones of circular columns, which point to its having had one aisle at any rate at that period.

pointed window, and is surmounted by a battlemented parapet with angle pinnacles.<sup>1</sup> The spire is a short one of apparently the same date.

The west porch was added in the early years of the sixteenth century, and is vaulted with moulded ribs, having a centre boss bearing the arms of Baynard of Lackham.

The north aisle was erected in the fifteenth century, in connection with an earlier nave than the present, and was intended to have been vaulted in stone. It is divided into three bays each containing a large four-light window, and is externally surmounted by a battlemented parapet with pinnacles. The west end has also a four-light window of different design from those on the north, and has above it a large and handsome canopied niche finished by an octagonal spirelet.

About the year 1430<sup>2</sup> the beautiful north chapel was added to the chancel, from which it is divided by two moulded arches. It is of two bays, and ceiled with rich lierne vaulting. The east window is of four lights, resembling the west window of the north aisle of the nave, and still retains some contemporary glass. The eastern bay on the north is occupied by a fine renaissance monument to Sir William Sharington, erected after his death.

The other bay retains its original four-light window,<sup>3</sup> with unusually good tracery in the head, and has in its west jamb a double squint from the transept, through which both the high altar and the chapel altar might be seen. Externally the whole is surmounted by a deep battlemented parapet, covered with rich panelling and carving.

<sup>1</sup> The battlements and pinnacles have been repaired at various subsequent periods, and the upper part of the spire was rebuilt in 1876.

<sup>2</sup> This date is fixed by the occurrence over the east window externally of the arms of Robert Nevill, Bishop of Salisbury from 1427 to 1437.

<sup>3</sup> This was blocked until this year by a large monument to Sir John Talbot, who died in 1714. The monument has now been removed in part to the chancel and part erected in the churchyard wall.

The nave was entirely rebuilt late in the fifteenth century upon a lofty scale. Each arcade has moulded columns with pointed arches, having sunk panels in the spandrils. The clerestory has a three-light window in each bay, and the contemporary roof remains.<sup>1</sup> Externally the walls are capped with a battlemented parapet having square pinnacles marking the bays and originally smaller ones over the apex of each window.

The transepts are crossed by high and wide arches, of a similar moulding to those of the nave arcades, and were filled in with wattle-and-daub supported on wooden cross-beams at the springers until the "restoration" of 1861. At that time the arches were opened out and the transept walls raised and new roofs put on.

The chancel arch is precisely similar to those over the transepts, but has above it a fine six-light window, which externally is finished by a rich traceried parapet following the curve of the window arch, and had originally a high niche at the apex.<sup>2</sup>

The chancel was apparently rebuilt in the fourteenth century, and one jamb of a window of this date remains close against the southern jamb of the chancel arch. It was again rebuilt in 1777; and this year has seen the completion of a further rebuilding<sup>3</sup> as a memorial to the late William Henry Fox Talbot, the father of the present owner of Lacock Abbey, and the inventor of photography.

The annex on the south side of the church dates apparently from the middle of the seventeenth century, but took the place of an earlier structure of less projection. It has on many occasions been described as a cottage,

<sup>1</sup> This was originally of open construction, with the east bay only boarded.

<sup>2</sup> This has been removed, except its pedestal, apparently to relieve the arch, which yet shows signs of spreading.

<sup>3</sup> From Mr. Brakspear's designs.—A. E. W. M.

but it was built, without much doubt, to contain a gallery appertaining to Bowdon House.

The whole of the fittings in the church are modern, and call for no comment. In the floor of the south transept is a monumental brass to the memory of Robert Baynard, Esq., who died in 1501, and his wife, Elizabeth. The figures of the husband and wife and their eighteen children (thirteen sons and five daughters) which appear on the brass are worthy of a close study, as they show very clearly the costume of the period. The brass also bears a Latin inscription setting forth the virtues of the deceased, and ending with the prayer—

“Quorum animabus propicietur Deus, amen.”

On the east wall of the same transept are two mural tablets of wood, now much defaced. The first is to Edward Baynard, Esq., and bears this inscription:—

“Heare lyeth y<sup>e</sup> Body of Edward Bainarde  
Esquire who for the space of many yeares  
yeven to his dyinge day was Jvstice of  
Peace and Corvm and sometime Cvstos  
Rotvlorvm and Hygh Sherriffe of the  
County of Wiltes: a bovntyfvll friend  
to his [      ]hren and sisters and to  
his ser[      ]ts liberall, and an enemy  
to noe man: he lyved to the age of 63  
yeares and dyed and was bvryed the 21  
day of December 1575.

Lett envy saye what it can,  
This was an honest man,  
Whoe in his life did many goode,  
And to the trveth firmly stode:  
Religiovs, wise, and jost was hee,  
And ever lyved worthylie.”

The second is to Ursula, wife of Sir Robert Baynard, Knight. The inscription is:—





ANCIENT HOUSES, LACOCK. (I.)



ANCIENT HOUSES, LACOCK. (II.)

[*facing p.* 249.]



“Heare lyeth the Body of the Lady  
 Ursula Baynard Davghter of Sir  
 Robert Stapilton of Lyghall in the  
 Covnty of Yorke Knight, and wife  
 to Sir Robert Baynard Knight, by  
 whome [ ] hee had issve Edward her  
 Sonne heare bvryed and Mary hir  
 Daughter. Shee lyved to the age  
 of 36 yeares and departed to God  
 in most firme Fayth in Christ  
 in the yeare of our Lorde God 1623.

God’s goodness made her wise and well beseeing,  
 Discreet and Prudent, Constant, Trve, and Chaste,  
 Hir virtves rare wan hir moch esteeming,  
 In Covrte and Cowntry, still with favovr graste,  
 Earth could not yelde more pleasing earthly blisse,  
 Blest w<sup>th</sup> two babes, though Death brought hir to this.”

The tower contains a peal of six bells, but, with the exception of the third and fifth, they are all of comparatively recent date, as the following inscriptions show :—

1. ROBERT WELLS, ALDBOURNE, WILTS, FECIT. 1792.
2. JAMES WELLS, ALDBOURNE, WILTS, FECIT. 1813.  
 JOHN AWDRY, ESQ<sup>RE</sup>., JAMES EDWARDS, CHURCHWARDENS.
- 3 AND 5. ANNO DOMINI 1628.
4. HENRY GODDARD, ESQ<sup>R</sup>. AND EDWARD BARTON, C<sup>H</sup>WARDENS.  
 1852.  
 Jeffries and Price Bristol.
6. W<sup>M</sup> SELFE, CHURCHWARDEN. R. WELLS OF ALDBOURNE  
 FECIT. 1790.

Lacock itself is nearly, if not quite, the best specimen of a small Elizabethan town that is to be found in this part of England. Here and there, it is true, we meet with a hideous modern building, but, speaking generally, the little place stands to-day much as it did in the days of doublets and trunk-hose, kirtles and farthingales. Two

causes, possibly, have combined to bring about this desirable state of things—desirable, that is, from an antiquarian point of view. One is, that the town lies so far from the main track of a railway that it has not caught the rush and whirl of modern life; and the other, and probably the more important, is that the lord of the manor is an enthusiastic lover of the ancient architecture. Here are still to be seen the old gable-ended houses, the overhanging upper stories, the nail-studded doors, the diamond-paned casements, the great beams, and the oaken floors and walls so dearly loved of our forefathers. Here, too, is the old round-house, with its padlocked iron-banded door; and here still stands the old market-cross, but, thanks to vandalism, compelled to masquerade in a modern top. And over all, pervading all, is the Sabbath hush that we associate with the quiet, easy-going days when the making of money was not the be-all and end-all of existence. But, alas! the old place cannot for ever remain as it is: time will have its revenge; and there are signs that in a few years, from sheer decay, some at least of the old houses must bow their heads to the destroyer.

## CHAPTER V.

Bromham.—Notes by Mr. Brakspear on the Church of St. Nicholas and the Beauchamp Chapel.—Steeple-flying.—Moore's tomb, etc.—Character-sketch of the poet.

**B**ROMHAM, which lies between Calne and Devizes, and is well known as being the burial-place of the poet Moore, belonged in the time of Edward the Confessor to Earl Harold. After his death at the battle of Hastings, it was taken into the hands of his conqueror; but subsequently the manor and church were bestowed on the "Abbey of Bataile" (Battle), and the patronage of the living was in the hands of that religious house until the sixteenth century. At the dissolution of the monasteries it passed into the hands of the Bayntun family, who held it until 1864, when the Bromham estates of the Bayntuns were sold, the purchasers being the Crown and the late Major J. W. G. Spicer.

Up to within a few years ago Bromham village was a quaint, old-fashioned place, consisting principally of one street of brick-and-timber houses; but most of the old houses have now given place to inartistic brick-and-tile cottages of a type unfortunately too frequently seen in our villages. Near the village is Battle House, wherein Colonel Napier wrote his history of the Peninsular War; and not far distant from it is Sloperton Cottage, for many years the home of Moore.

The village church of St. Nicholas consists of a chancel, with a chapel on the south, central tower and spire, south

transept, nave with south aisle and south porch, and a small modern vestry north of the tower.

The earliest structure of which any remains exist was built in the twelfth century. This early church apparently consisted of a chancel and nave. The north and west walls of the latter still remain as the corresponding parts of the



BROMHAM CHURCH.

present church. In the north wall are two round-headed windows and the jambs of a doorway of the first work.

The chancel was rebuilt in the thirteenth century, but has been utterly destroyed, and a modern and uninteresting structure raised in its place. The transept formed part of the thirteenth-century rebuilding, and one buttress of that date remains, also traces of the steep-pitched roof.

The next alteration was the addition, in the early part

of the fifteenth century, of the beautiful chantry chapel known as the Beauchamp or Baynton Aisle. It is almost a counterpart of the chapel in the corresponding position at St. John's Church at Devizes, but is much more interesting, as it has not suffered from restoration. On the south side are two large five-light windows, and under the easternmost is the priest's doorway. The east end has another large window similar to those on the south side, and over it is a fine niche for a figure, supported by boldly carved animals. The parapet is battlemented and richly decorated with tracery, panelling and carving, and is surmounted by crocketed pinnacles. Inside the chapel, in the north wall, are two arches to the chancel, and in the west, one to the transept; each retain their original wooden openwork screens. The roof is of oak, richly carved and painted, and is profusely ornamented with heraldry, as is also the rest of the chapel. In the middle of the chapel is a fine alabaster effigy on a Purbeck marble altar-tomb to the memory of Sir Richard Tocotes, who died in 1457. There is a good brass, still retaining some of its original enamelling, and other interesting but later monuments.

Immediately following the chapel in date is the tower and spire. The first stage of the former has an arch of two plain members on the east, south and west sides; the north side is blank, and has a boldly projecting stair-turret leading to the belfry stage. The second stage is occupied by the ringing-loft, and, externally, on the south side retains the weathering of the early steep roof over the transept. The belfry stage has a two-light window in each face, and is surmounted by a plain battlemented parapet, with corner pinnacles. The spire is octagonal, with the apex one hundred feet above the ground.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In 1900 the whole of the spire and tower were repaired, as also the Baynton chapel, under the direction of Mr Brakspear. The

The south transept, a little later in date than the tower, was apparently designed by the same hand as the Lady chapel at Lacock church, and is richly vaulted in stone, with curious openwork pendant in the centre. When this rebuilding took place the original steep-pitched roof was removed, and the parapet formed in continuation with that of the Baynton chapel, but of not so good a design.

The south aisle and porch were rebuilt in the early part of the last century. The latter has over the inner doorway the remains of a fifteenth-century fan-vaulted stone screen, built in as ornament.

All the inside fittings are modern, except the font, which is late fifteenth-century and octagonal in plan, with panelled sides.

The church contains two stained-glass windows erected to the memory of the poet Moore and his wife. That perpetuating the memory of Mrs. Moore is at the east end, and is considered to be the finer of the two. The one to the poet is at the west end. It is by Constable, of Cambridge, the subject being the Last Judgment; and the inscription on it states that it was placed in the church by the combined subscriptions of two hundred persons, who honour the poet of all circles and the idol of his own.

The tower, cut into the north wall of which is a curious figure of a skeleton, and near it a skull and crossbones surrounded by a scroll bearing the legend, "Death is

injuries to the former were owing entirely to the extensive use of iron cramps in its construction, which had cracked the stonework to such an extent as to admit the weather. The repairs to the chapel were necessitated by the lead of the roof having become defective and admitting the weather, which had rotted many of the panels of the beautiful painted ceiling within. The pinnacles also had perished considerably, owing to the extensive use of iron cramps in their construction.

swallowed up in Victori," contains six bells, inscribed as follows:—

1. JOHN SCOTT CHURCHWARDEN 1658 ( $\overline{\text{bel}}$ ) W ( $\overline{\text{bel}}$ ) P ( $\overline{\text{bel}}$ )
2. GOD BLESS QUEEN ANNE. WILL<sup>M</sup> AND ROB. COR. 1706.
3. JOHN SCOTT CHURCHWARDEN 1658 ( $\overline{\text{bel}}$ ) W ( $\overline{\text{bel}}$ ) P ( $\overline{\text{bel}}$ )
4. BENJAMIN PEARCE AND MR. JOHN SIMPKINS CHURCHWARDENS  
1761 T. B. F.
5. FARDINANDO HUGHES, JOHN SCOTT, T.S. ANNO DOMINI  
1658 ( $\overline{\text{bel}}$ ) W ( $\overline{\text{bel}}$ ) P ( $\overline{\text{bel}}$ )
6. RICHARD TUCKER AND MR. JOHN GABY CHURCHWARDENS.  
Jas Burrough founder 1748.

I sound to bid the sick repent  
In hope of life when breath is spent.

*Memento Mori.*

The upper part of the spire is comparatively modern, for in 1735 some of the men of Bromham pulled a great portion of the old steeple to the ground whilst assisting the efforts of a "steeple flyer."

Steeple flying for a short time about the beginning of the eighteenth century was one of the sensations provided by novelty mongers for the titillation of the nerves, much in the way that high rope walking and parachute descents were not so long ago; a modern form of it may sometimes be seen at fairs and similar gatherings. As far as can be ascertained, the original "business" was carried out in the following manner: A long rope was fastened at one end to the steeple of a church or some high structure, the other end being held and the rope kept "taut" by a number of men standing on the ground. Running over the rope was a small wheel, having attached to its axle a bar of wood to serve as a "holdfast" for the "flyer"; and presumably, also, there was some apparatus by which the speed could be checked when the man neared the ground. When all was ready the wheel was hauled to the top of the rope, and the "flyer," seizing the bar, flung himself off into space

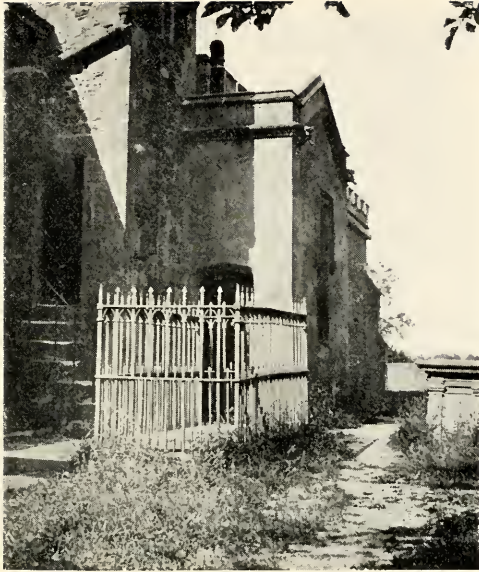
and came down the rope with terrific speed, amidst the breathless hush of the spectators. In the particular case now before us, the men who were employed to keep the rope "taut" pulled so hard on it that the strain proved too much for the steeple, which "broke away." The performer, who was on the rope, was thrown into a tree in the churchyard, but fortunately escaped with very slight injury.

The object of greatest general interest is, undoubtedly, the flat stone in the churchyard beneath which rests all that is mortal of the man who sang himself deep into the hearts of a people, and who was, as the inscription on the tomb truly says, "tenderly beloved by all who knew the goodness of his heart."

Thomas Moore was born in Ireland in the year 1779. He was educated at a grammar school in Dublin, and from there, being intended for the Bar, he entered Trinity College, Dublin. In 1811 he was married to his "darling Bessy," as he never ceased to call his wife; and in 1817, at the desire of Lord Lansdowne, who was his friend and patron, he came to live at Sloperton Cottage. Here he resided during the remainder of his life, and here he died on Feb. 26th, 1852. He is described by one who knew him as "a little man, but full of spirits—with eyes, hands, feet, and frame for ever in motion—looking as if it would be a feat for him to sit for three minutes quiet in his chair. A neat-made little fellow, tidily buttoned up and young as fifteen at heart; his hair curling all over his head in long tendrils, unlike anybody else in the world."<sup>1</sup> He was a thorough gentleman, and open-handed and generous to a fault. His wife, also, was charitable and generous, and delighted in doing good. On more than one occasion Moore "persuaded his friends to send Bessy confidentially, as if from themselves, '£5 for the poor of

<sup>1</sup> Gerald Griffin in the *Irish Quarterly Review*.





MOORE'S TOMB.



SLOPERTON COTTAGE.

[*facing p.* 256.]



Bromham.' 'It makes her happy,' was his comment, 'without the drawback of knowing that it comes from my small means; and, in the way she manages it, does a world of good!'" Moore's nature was such that he inspired a great affection for himself in all who came into contact with him; his friends consequently were many, and no dinner-party in the neighbourhood was considered complete if he was not present.

Moore was passionately fond of his wife and children; but, though loving them so greatly, yet—and this was one of his greatest faults—he often left them at home alone with their many cares and sorrows whilst he sought his enjoyment at the houses of his friends. Particularly does this appear as a blot on his character when, the children all having died, there was no one left to cheer the sorrows of the wife he loved during the long hours of his absence. At his death Moore was buried by the side of his favourite daughter, Anastasia. His wife, his "dear girl," who loved him with a love that equalled and even excelled his own, survived him thirteen years.

## CHAPTER VI.

Heddington and the battle of Ethandune.—Heddington possessions of Lacock Abbey —Discoveries on the site of Verlucio.—The Wansdyke.

ABOUT three miles to the north-east of Bromham, at the foot of the grand old Downs that rear their heads so proudly above, stands the village of Heddington, long believed to be the scene of Alfred's great victory over the Danes. Unfortunately for the fame of the little village, however, we fear it must now cease to make any such claim. For the last few years the belief has been growing that this could not be the real Ethandune, and belief has almost been converted into certainty by the valuable paper contributed to the *Antiquary* for June and July, 1901, by the Rev. Charles W. Whistler. In this paper it is admitted that Heddington agrees in some requirements with the account of the chroniclers; but the weight of evidence, in the opinion of the writer, is in favour of Edington, on the Polden Hills, co. Somerset.

Before the Conquest Heddington was held by Harold; but at the time of the Domesday Survey it had passed to Edward of Salisbury. In the time of Edward I. half of the estate was held by the Abbess of Lacock,<sup>1</sup> it having been given to that religious house by Ela, Countess of Sarum, to which gift her son, William Longespé, gave his consent by a special charter, she releasing to him at the same time an exchange of land in Hatherop, to be made to the Prior and Canons of Bradenstoke, etc. The abbey had other

<sup>1</sup> Testa de Neville, 155.

property in Heddington. John de Ripariis, by his charter, made known to his men of Hedyngton, whether free tenants or those in villenage, that he had given to the nuns of Lacock all his land and rent in Hedyngton for the support of two chaplains singing for the faithful departed to the end of time. Michael de Cheldrinton transferred to them a virgate of land in Hedyngton, for which the Abbess Ela gave him twenty-four marks of silver. For 10s. they received from John Pie a marlpit: and Ralph Augens gave them all the land he had in the manor of Heddington. In 1291 the property of the abbey at Heddington was estimated to be worth £13 9s. 2½*d.*; and it was valued at the same amount in 1535. In the return made 31 Henry VIII. it was considered to be worth £18 8s. 7*d.*<sup>1</sup>

Heddington Church is dedicated to St. Andrew. The arcades of the nave are the oldest part of the building, and date from about the thirteenth century. The curious dormer windows high up in the roof of the nave are additions made in the seventeenth century. The tower is good Perpendicular of the fifteenth century. It contains five bells, which are inscribed:—

- 1st Bell: FEARE GOD. I. W. 1618.  
 2nd „ PROSPERITY TO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. A. (M) R.  
 1741.  
 3rd „ PEACE & GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD. A. (M) R. 1741.  
 4th „ LOVE GOD. I. W. 1605.  
 5th „ I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL  
 AND TO THE GRAVE DO SUMMON ALL. 1741.

In the east wall of the south aisle is a modern brass to members of the Pearse family, and just below it is a glass case containing a Black Letter Bible, a piece of chain, and several other objects of interest. Attached to the chain is a note to the effect that it was formerly used to chain to

<sup>1</sup> Bowles' "Lacock Abbey."

the table either the Bible referred to or a copy of Foxe's "Book of Martyrs." The "Book of Martyrs," the note goes on to say, "was given to the church in 1628 by John and Joan Hutchings, and was kept on a table in a corner of the church up to within living memory."

Near the village of Heddington is the site of the Roman station of Verlucio, where on several occasions most interesting discoveries of Roman remains have been made. Aubrey reports that "when digging the earth, in March 1653, deeper than the plowe had gone, to sowe carrots, they found foundations of howses, and coales, for at least a quarter of a mile long, and a great quantity of Roman money, silver and copper, of the Emperors. Among the rest was an earthen pott of the colour of a crucible, and of the shape of a Prentice's Christmas Box,<sup>1</sup> with a slit in it, containing about a quart, which was near full of money. I gott the Pott, and about a quarter of a pint of the money, most of it in copper, which was stolen by a servant from me." Some years ago, near the same spot there were discovered the remains of a Roman villa, and in 1878 the tessellated pavement of "rough mosaic work" still remained *in situ*. It was then about one foot below the surface of the ground, and in very small pieces. Iron slag and refuse have also been found, and in the opinion of some authorities these remains point to an occupation earlier than that of the Roman period.

On the way to Calstone the road from Heddington crosses at Stockley the remains of the Wansdyke.<sup>2</sup> At the point where it crosses, the dyke and ditch have disappeared, but away up and beyond the hill towards

<sup>1</sup> In Aubrey's times apprentices were given or obtained earthen pots in which they collected the Christmas gifts of the charitably disposed. It is from the box so used that we obtain the term "Christmas Box." See "Brand's Observations."

<sup>2</sup> The Saxon name was "Wodenesdic."



HEDDINGTON CHURCH.



THE WANSDYKE.

[*facing p. 260.*]





Shepherd's Shore and Tan Hill this stupendous work still shows a bold front to the north, rising even now in places to a height of nearly forty feet from the bottom of the ditch. What the original height of the earthen wall was, no one can say with certainty, nor has its original length been exactly ascertained. Some antiquaries are of opinion that when first made it stretched from Andover in Hants to the Bristol Channel, its direction being north to Hungerford in Berks and then west across Wilts and Somerset; but it is doubtful if its length was ever so great as this. Sir Richard Hoare traced it from the bottom of Morgan's Hill, behind Calstone, to St. Ann's Hill (Tan Hill), and from thence to near Hungerford, but no farther.

Who were the makers of the Wansdyke and why they made it are problems that, notwithstanding all the skill and labour that have been devoted to them, cannot yet be said to have been completely solved. One seventeenth-century writer says: "There was an old tradition that the Wansdyke was thrown up by the devil on a Wednesday, as beyond all human power, and from thence it had its name"; and then he naïvely adds: "but we can find no ground for such a tradition." A theory that at one time had a wide acceptance gave to the Belgæ the honour of having built it to serve as a boundary between themselves and the Celts. Another theory ascribed it to the West Saxons as a boundary dividing their territories from the Mercians. Still another was that Cerdic, king of the West Saxons, or his son Kenric, built it as a rampart against the incursions of the Britons, who in King Ceawlin's time made frequent raids into Wilts from Bath, Gloucester and Cirencester. About 1812 Sir Richard Hoare framed a conclusion that in a measure combined all three of these theories. He said that the first bank and ditch were constructed by the Belgæ before the Roman invasion, that this bank and ditch were made higher and deeper by a subsequent people, perhaps the

Saxons, and that later the dyke was used as a boundary between the West Saxons and the Mercians. This conclusion held good until 1889, when General Pitt-Rivers, following up the good work he had done in determining the age of Bokerley Dyke, attacked the problem of the Wansdyke. At the end of the excavations carried out under his close supervision from 1889 to 1891 this well-known archæologist was able decisively to say that the dyke dates from no earlier period than the Roman occupation.

## CHAPTER VII.

Calstone: the Domesday manors and their holders.—Extent of the manor of Calstone (1 Edw. I.) showing the services of the tenants.—Gasquet's reference to the plague of 1348-9.—Church of St. Mary.—Blackland.—Crabbe Robinson and the Squire.—Church of St. Peter.—Manor-house.—The great oak.—The tornado of 1859.

**I**N the Domesday Survey, under the name of Calestone, there are three manors shown:—

1. Held by Richard Puingiant and paying geld T.R.E. for 4 hides 1 virgate.

2. Held by Gunfrid Malduit and paying geld T.R.E. for 2 hides 1 virgate.

3. Held by the wife of Edric a Saxon thane as under-tenant to Ernulf de Hesding and paying geld T.R.E. for 2½ hides.

The land comprised in these manors is believed by Canon Jones<sup>1</sup> to have extended beyond the present day Calstone, and he instances the fact that in 1257 Quemerford, which is in the immediate neighbourhood but is not mentioned by name in the Survey, was held by Patrick de Chaworth, as part of the former possessions of Ernulf de Hesding, and that Blackland, in part at least, was held in 1316 by a descendant of Malduit. A further proof that Canon Jones is correct is furnished by the Extent of the manor of Calstone taken in 1 Edward I., and presently to be given in full; and it might be noted that in 14 Henry VIII.<sup>2</sup> a manor at Chelsester (? Chilvester, just the other side of Calne) was held by Robert Thornburgh of John Zouche, Kt., as of his manor of Calstone, by the service of the twentieth part of a knight's fee.

<sup>1</sup> Jones' "Domesday," p. 203.

<sup>2</sup> Inq. P.M., Chancery Series, II., vol. 39.

We hear no more of the Calstone manors until 2 Henry III., when the sheriff of Wilts was ordered to take into his hands the manors of Calne and Calstone, granted by John to Fulk de Cantilupe. In the following year the manors were given back to William de Cantilupe. The manor of Calstone here mentioned did not pass in its entirety to the Cantilupes; for an Inquisition *post mortem* of 39 Henry III. states that the manor used to be in the hands of the king's predecessors, *except two carucates now held by Roger of Calstone*. In the reign of Edward III. these two carucates were in the possession of John of Calstone, son of Roger, who agreed with the king to pay a certain sum yearly to Robert the Person (or Parson) of the church of Calstone.

The manor granted by John to Fulk de Cantilupe appears to have remained in the hands of his descendants, with occasional lapses, until the reign of Henry VIII. In 1 Edward I., George, Baron Cantilupe, held it, and at his death in this year an Inquisition *post mortem* was taken, and it was then said that the manor was held of the King for the service of half a knight's fee. At the same time an Extent was made, and this Extent is so interesting that we give it in full:

"There is a certain capital messuage well built, which could hardly have been built for 100 marks, and it requires every year to maintain the houses 20s. at least. And the easement of the court and curtilage with the gardens of Calstone and Blakelonde are worth 6s. 8d. And a dovecote is there worth 5s. yearly. Sum of easements, &c., 11s. 8d.

"And there are in demesne 350 acres of arable land worth yearly 116s. 8d. at 4d. the acre; and in demesne in a certain park called Awride 12 acres of meadow for mowing worth 24s. yearly at 2s. the acre; in a park called Lachemere 4 acres of meadow worth yearly 6s. at 18d. the acre; in a park called Tasseward 5 acres worth 7s. 6d yearly at 18d. the acre; in a park called Martinsacre 1½ acres of meadow yearly worth 2s.

at 16*d.* the acre; in a park called Froggehull  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres yearly worth 18*d.* at 12*d.* the acre; in a park behind the garden of Wiliton  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres yearly 18*d.* at 12*d.* the acre—sum of demesnes with the demesne park 7*li.* 18*s.* 8*d.*

“There is a certain several pasture on the hill worth yearly 12*s.* for bulls and cows; another several pasture for sheep capable of maintaining 350 sheep worth yearly 33*s.* 4*d.* at 1*d.* the sheep.—Sum of pastures 45*s.* 4*d.*

“There are there two groves containing 8 acres, and the vesture thereof if sold is worth 32*s.* at 4*s.* the acre; and the soil if the wood is cut down is worth 2*s.* 8*d.* yearly at 4*d.* the acre; and the pannage of the pigs yearly is 12*d.*

“And there are there of assized rents of freeholders yearly 4*li.* 6*s.* 11*d.*: viz., from Henry, son of Bartholomew of Quemerford, for a virgate of land 10*s.* at the four yearly principal terms; from Henry Phelip for a virgate 10*s.*; from Nicholas Wichehamton for  $\frac{1}{2}$  virgate 5*s.*; from William Scrivener for  $\frac{1}{2}$  virgate 5*s.* 1*d.*; from Adam Snelling for 3 acres of meadow 2*d.*; from Stephen Edulf (?) for 6 acres of land 2*d.*; from Richard Pinel for a certain virgate of land 6*s.*; from Thomas Puke for a certain virgate of land 7*s.*; from Hugh le Schetere for a virgate of land 9*s.*; from Nicholas Chinnoke for  $\frac{1}{2}$  virgate 2*s.*; from John le Schotere for 12 acres of land 2*s.*; from William Ascer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> part of a virgate 3*s.*; from Henry Pinnoke for a virgate 9*s.* 3*d.*; from Eva Lachemere for  $\frac{1}{2}$  virgate 5*s.*; from Widow Sances for a certain messuage with a croft 2*s.*; from William Gunnuld for a messuage with a curtilage 18*d.*; from Henry Henteharm for a messuage with a croft 21*d.*; from Davy Horn for two crofts of pasture 4*s.*; from Sibyl Widow Foxe for a messuage, a croft, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of arable land 3*s.*; from William Clerk (?) 20*d.*

“They say that Walter Edward holds a virgate of land of villenage returning of assized rent 10*s.* at the 4 principal yearly terms; and he ought to wash and shear the lord’s sheep, and that service is worth 1*d.* And he ought to weed (*sardlare*) the lord’s corn with a man for 3 days, and that service is worth 1*d.* And he ought to mow the lord’s meadow with one man for 3 days, a service worth 3*d.*; he ought to toss the lord’s hay and help with a man to make the lord’s cocks for 2 days, a service worth 1*d.* And he ought to carry the lord’s

hay with half a cart together with the lord's carts for 2 days, a service worth 8*d.* And he owes two benewerks<sup>1</sup> with one man in the autumn, a service worth 2*d.* And he ought to carry the lord's corn with half a cart for 3 days, a service worth 10½*d.* And he ought twice a year to carry the lord's sheepfold, a service worth ½*d.*; and he ought to be taxed with the other neifs; and he ought to cart the lord's sheepfold with a cart for one day, a service worth 1*d.* Sum of services and works yearly 12*s.* 4½*d.* Item there are 6 virgates of land of villenage held by similar services as that by which the foresaid Walter holds. Sum of the services of the said 6 virgates yearly 74*s.* 4*d.* (?).

“Matilda Reynold holds a virgate of land for 7*s.* 4*d.* yearly rent at the foresaid terms. And she ought to wash and shear the lord's sheep, a service worth 1*d.*; to mow the lord's park with one man for 3 days, a service worth 3*d.*, and to toss the hay and help make the cocks in the park for 2 days with a man, a service worth 1*d.*; and with a man to make the hay ricks for 2 days, a service worth 2*d.* And she owes two benewerks with a man in autumn, a service worth 2*d.* She ought to carry (?) the lord's corn with one man for 3 days, a service worth 4½*d.*, and to mow the stubble with a man for 2 days, a service worth 3*d.*; and twice a year to carry the lord's sheepfold, a service worth ½*d.* And she owes 3 averages<sup>2</sup> yearly wherever the lord wishes within the county of Wilts at her own expenses, the said averages worth 12*d.* And she owes 3 hens and a cock worth 3½*d.*; and she ought to thatch the stacks of corn and the grange with a man for 3 days, a service worth 3*d.*; and to be taxed with the other neifs. Sum of services and works yearly, 10*s.* 3½*d.* Walter le Hert holds a virgate of land for the same services. Item, Maurice Herlewine and Walter Chiver hold a virgate of land at the assized rent of 7*s.* 6*d.* (?) yearly and owe all the abovesaid services. Sum of rents and services aforesaid 10*s.* 5½*d.* Adam (?), son of Richard, holds ½ virgate for the yearly rent of 5*s.*, and owes service like Matilda for his half virgate, the sum of his rents and services being 7*s.* 1*d.* Robert, son of Walter, and Philip of the Mill hold two ½ virgates for the same service and rent—Sum 14*s.* 2*d.* Walter Brun holds

<sup>1</sup> Special work at the will of the lord.

<sup>2</sup> Work with horse and cart.

$\frac{1}{2}$  virgate for the same service besides Chirisute<sup>1</sup>—sum of his services, &c., 6s. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (?). Walter Godewine holds  $\frac{1}{2}$  virgate for the yearly assized rent of 4s. and the foresaid service, except mowing the park, but he ought to make the lord's hay for 2 days, a service worth 1d.—Sum of his services . . . (illegible).

“Davy Horn holds a messuage with 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land for the yearly assized rent of 12d., and he owes chursut,<sup>2</sup> viz. : 3 hens and a cock worth 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ; and he ought to wash and shear the lord's sheep, a service worth 1d. ; and he ought to hoe with one man for 3 days, a service worth 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (?); to toss the hay and make the cocks, a service worth 1d. ; to make the lord's hay stacks in the lord's court for 2 days with a man, a service worth 2d. ; and he owes two autumnal benewerks, worth 2d. ; and he ought to put the lord's corn into sheaves for 3 days, a service worth 3d. (?), and mow the stubble for 2 days, a service worth 1d., and to thatch the grange and the stacks with a man for 3 days, a service worth 3d. ; and to carry the lord's sheepfold twice a year, a service worth  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and to carry the lord's writ through the County of Wilts thrice a year at his own expenses, a service worth 6d., and to be taxed with his neighbours—Sum of his services and works 3s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Item, William Tredegold holds a cottage with 2 small crofts for 4d. rent and the other services like David. Sum 2s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Ralph, son of William, holds a messuage and 5 acres of land for the yearly assized rent of 2s., and he owes all service as David and besides should make hay (*spargere*) in the lord's meadow for 3 days, a service worth 1d. Sum of Ralph's services 4s. 2d. Item William . . . man holds a cottage and 2 little crofts for 4d. yearly assized rent and the same services as Ralph—Sum 2s. 6d. John Huntrich holds a messuage and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land for 12d. assized rent and the same services—Sum 3s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. John Dund (?) holds a messuage and 5 acres of land for yearly assized rent of 4s. 4d. (?) and he owes churchesute,<sup>3</sup> viz. : 3 hens and a cock worth 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and to wash and shear the lord's sheep, a service worth 1d. ; to hoe for 3 days, a service worth 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ; and to make the hay in the park for 2 days, a service worth 1d. ; and he owes 2 autumnal benewerks, worth 2d., and he ought to carry the lord's sheepfold twice a year, a service worth  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sum of his services, &c., 4s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Item, there are 5 tenants each holding a messuage and 5 acres

<sup>1 2 3</sup> Three forms of the same word : Church-scot.

of land as the foresaid John for the same rents and services—  
Sum of their services 20s. 7½*d.*

“Sum of the whole assized rent of customary  
tenants and cottiers yearly . . . . 7*li.* — 8*d.*

“Sum of their works yearly . . . . 51s. 6½*d.*

“Sum of their rents and works yearly . . . 9*li.* 12s. 2½*d.*

“And besides this the customary tenants and cottiers ought to be taxed every year at Michaelmas, and the tax is worth 27s. 8*d.* yearly.

“And the foresaid jurors say that there is there a water mill worth yearly 26s. 8*d.* The view of frankpledge of the same manor is worth 20s. yearly; the pleas, perquisites, fines, and reliefs, yearly 6s. 8*d.*—Sum of frankpledge, &c., 26s. 8*d.*

“Sum of the whole extent aforesaid 28*li.* 15s. 10*d.*, besides the sale of wood which is valued at 39s. (?) and the value of the soil of the foresaid 2 groves, which is valued at 2s. 8*d.* if the woods are sold together. And it is to be known that if the vesture of the said groves is not cut down nor their ground appraised, the said 2 groves are worth towards the maintenance of the houses, fencing hedges, and keeping the lord’s sheepfold in repair 6s. 8*d.*”

In 1299 an Inq. P.M. states that Milicent de Montalt held the manor of Calstone of the king in chief by the service of half a knight’s fee; the value of the whole manor is then said to be £22 2s. 8*d.* In an Inq. P.M. 26 Edward III. the manor is said to be held by the *fourth* part of a knight’s fee; but an Inq. Q.D. of 7 Henry V. shows that the service had then again risen to half a knight’s fee, and that the manor was then worth beyond all reprises £39 13s. 4*d.* In 1336 Robert de Hungerford was allowed to alienate certain messuages and land in Calstone to the Hospital of Calne; this property was said to be held of William la Zouche as of his manor of Calstone; and in 25 Henry VI. part of the land, etc., then granted by St. Lo to his chantry in Calne was said to be held of Lord Zouche as of his manor of Calstone.

The full name of the village of Calstone is Calstone Wellington, Wilington, or as it is named in the time of



Elizabeth, Calstone Wyley. It derives this second name from the Wilington family, who at an early period appear to have been granted another of the Calstone manors mentioned in Domesday. In 1254 Ralph de Wilington was required as one of the conditions of his holding at Calstone to contribute half a knight's fee towards the support of the castle of Devizes<sup>1</sup>; and in the reign of Edward II. John, Lord Wilington, obtained from the king a right of free warren in all his demesne lands at Calstone, a right to which his son succeeded. The owner of this manor in 7 Henry V. appears to have been Isabella, wife of William Bean . . .<sup>2</sup>, for in the Inq. P.M. held at the death of William, Lord Zouche, the deceased is said to have held five acres of pasture in Blakelonde (Blackland) from Isabella "as of her manor of Willynton in Calstone, which manor is held of Joan, Queen of England, as of the manor of Devizes."

At the time of Henry III. what was possibly the third manor of Domesday belonged to Andrew le Blount, Kt., lord of the manor of Beversbrook, a small manor adjoining the north-east boundary of Calne, who also had the right of presentation to the living of Calstone. The Blount family is known to have exercised this right up to 1361; it then seems to have passed into the hands of the Zouches; for an Inq. P.M. taken at the death of Sir William Zouche, Kt., (8 Edward IV.) states that the advowson of the church of Calstone with the appurtenances was in the hands of the late William. The Blount property at Calstone was later the property of John de Comerwell.

"Calstone Wyly" is said to have been the property of Robert Whytacre in 1537, and in 1563 Joan Long owned half a manor. In 1579, as was stated in an early chapter of this work, the manors of Calstone and Calstone Wyley were granted to Stephen Duckett, by whose descendants they were sold to Earl Shelburne. About the time that the

<sup>1</sup> Waylen's "History of Devizes."

<sup>2</sup> Edge of MS. torn.

Duckett estate was sold, the Bouverie family appears to have possessed some property at Calstone, the names of Sir Edward des Bouverie and Sir Jacob des Bouverie occurring in a church-rate book of the period as paying rates for a farm and mill. It should be noted, too, that the silver chalice and paten now used at Calstone church have the Bouverie arms engraved on them, with the words "Calston in the County of Wilts."

The village of Calstone is very small and unimportant, but no doubt it has a history of its own if it could only be unearthed. Gasquet, for instance, has discovered that during the plague of 1348-9 the villagers suffered severely: "of the 6 native tenants 2 have died and their lands are in hand; the water mills are destroyed and worthless; of the 10 cottars, each of whom paid 12<sup>d</sup>. for his holding, 4 have been carried off with all their family." This devastation probably explains the diminution by one-half of the value of the service required from the Zouches for their Calstone manor at this period.

The church of Calstone,<sup>1</sup> dedicated to St. Mary, was built in the middle of the fifteenth century. To prevent subsidence, the foundations being very shallow, the principal buttresses were raised on very large sarsen stones, but in spite of this precaution the south wall is now in the form of a bow. From the time the church was built up to its restoration in 1885 it remained almost without alteration; but a serious settlement had taken place at the junction of the tower with the south wall. It was to support the latter that the vestry was then built in its present position. The roof of the porch retains its original ribs, and so too does the roof of the nave, but the oaken ceiling of each is modern. The walls of the porch were for many years covered with

<sup>1</sup> I have to thank the Rev. G. R. Hadow, M.A., the late rector of Calstone and Blackland, now rector of Wylie, Wilts, for assistance in the preparation of the notes on Calstone and Blackland churches.



CALSTONE CHURCH.



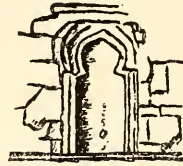
BLACKLAND CHURCH. [*facing p. 270.*]



plaster, but this has been removed, and we are able to see from the marks on the stones that the cutting of initials in forbidden places was as much a passion in earlier days as it is now. The iron-studded inner door of the porch remains as it was when placed there at the time the church was built. The rood-loft and staircase have, unfortunately, been removed, but the doorway that led to the loft can still be traced. The staircase was outside the church, and was cut away to make room for a memorial to a stage coachman.

This memorial takes the form of a mural tablet, and on it appears the following poetic effusion :—

“ While passengers of every age  
 With care I drove from stage to stage,  
 Death’s sable hearse pass’d by unseen  
 And stop’d the course of my machine.”



PORCH NICHE,  
 CALSTONE CHURCH.

Over the chancel arch are painted the Royal arms (date 1740) but why they were placed there does not appear. Lionel Duckett was at that time the patron of the living. Beneath the floor of the nave there is a vault, covered by a stone with an elaborate coat of arms, where members of the Mitchell family were buried 1637—1817. On the south side of the chancel is a marble tablet to the memory of members of the Baily family, woolstaplers and clothiers and people of some importance in the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth centuries; and on the north side are an elaborate marble tablet to Thomas Heath (Rector) and his wife, and brasses to the memory of William Maurice Macdonald (Rector) and his wife. The other things worthy of note are an oak aumbry, a piscina and a stone aumbry in the south wall of the chancel, a piscina in the south wall of the nave, aumbries north and south of the chancel arch, and

some pieces of old painted glass in the south window of the sanctuary. The tower contains three bells. The smallest is dated 1603 and bears the inscription :

**“ GEVE GOD THE GLORY.”**

The other two are modern (1885).

Blackland, which adjoins Calston, and with which it is ecclesiastically connected, is probably the “Nigravre” of Domesday. If it be, then at the time of the Survey Nigellus held the tithes, and there was a church in existence here, but in a very ruinous condition: “Nigellus, the physician, holds the church of this manor with one hide. This with all its appendages is worth £32. The church itself, however, is ruinous, and the roof so out of repair that it is almost tumbling down.”

From about 1284 to the dissolution of the monasteries, part of Blackland belonged, as we have shown, to the Abbey of Malmesbury and the Priory of Bradenstoke. In 1600 the property had passed into the hands of a branch of the Hungerford family, who held it until about 1680. Robert Smith<sup>1</sup> was the squire of the parish in 1691, and in his day the manor-house occupied the site on which the present Blackland farmhouse is built. The old manor-house, ceiled and panelled with remarkably fine oak, stood until about forty years ago, when it was destroyed and the oak removed to Bowood. It is believed the next owner of the estate was Mr. Maundrell (High Sheriff of Wilts in 1770), of whom Crabbe Robinson has given us an excellent little sketch: “Among the places in the neighbourhood where I spent many happy days, was a gentleman’s seat called ‘Blackland.’ At that time it was occupied by an old gentleman named Maundrell, one of whose sons was at school with me. The old gentleman was burly and

<sup>1</sup> The painted hatchment recording his death is in the vestry of Blackland Church.

bluff, very kind and generous, but passionate : once or twice he did not scruple to box the ears of his young visitors. Not far from the house was a Horse cut out of the Chalk Hill—I believe it exists still. Maundrell set us boys (there were some seven or eight of us) to weed it, and very good workmen we were. He used to make us carry large logs of wood for the fires upstairs, telling us we must work for our living ; but he fed us well." Mr. John Merewether was apparently the next owner, and from him the estate passed to Mr. Tanner and then to Mr. Marshall Hall. It is now divided between the Marquess of Lansdowne and Henry Brown, Esq., J.P., the latter being the lord of the manor.

The parish church of St. Peter is in Blackland Park, close to, and apparently under the ægis of, Blackland House. It is a very small building, and possesses at its west end a little bell-cot, eminently suggestive of a dove-cot. The cot contains one of John Lett's bells, cast in 1671 and inscribed thus :—

I (̄) L ✠ 1671 ⊕ :::: ✠

The present porch was erected in 1859, and there was then built into its west wall a stone that in 1675 was inscribed to the memory of

THOMAS HVNGERFORD SECOND  
 SONNE OF IOHN HVNGERFORD  
 OF CADNAM ESQ BVRYED Y<sup>E</sup>  
 16<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 1675

The original entrance was by a fine porch (now removed) on the south side of the nave, the approach to the church then being by the road past what is now Mr. Brown's stables, but in old days the rectory.

The interior of the church presents a very cramped appearance, due mainly to two high and hideous wooden pews that, except for a passage between them, block the

chancel. The story of these pews is rather curious. The little annex, that in the illustration appears with its circular stone chimney to the left of the porch, was added to the church about the end of the eighteenth century by the squire as his private seat, or rather room; and within the memory of the Rev. G. R. Hadow it was fitted with fireplace, table and chairs. It was entered by the door shown in the illustration, and had no communication with the rest of the church, being cut off from it by a tall screen under the arch. Here on Sundays and holy-days, in summer seated in state and in winter comfortably ensconced by the fireside, the squire performed his devotions. At the restoration of the church carried out in 1859<sup>1</sup> the rector (Rev. W. M. Macdonald) persuaded the squire (Mr. Marshall Hall), who had but recently bought the Blackland estate, to forego his right to the annex, and as compensation granted him the use of one of the two choir-pews then being constructed. Mr. Marshall Hall for certain reasons did not care to be gazed at by the congregation, and he therefore caused the pew he was to occupy to be built with high sides, the opposite one being similarly built for the sake of uniformity.

The church, consisting of nave and chancel, of the very early Norman times has, except for one or two fragments, entirely disappeared. The existing chancel was erected in the thirteenth century, and still retains its original trussed rafter roof. The nave is believed to belong to the same period as the chancel; but as a good portion of the north wall was pulled down when the annex was built, and almost all the south wall at the restoration in 1859, practically the roof and west wall are all that remain of the original. The roof of the nave is also formed of

<sup>1</sup> At the joint expense of Lord Lansdowne, Mr. Marshall Hall, Mr. Poynder (uncle of the present Sir John Dickson-Poynder, Bart.), and the rector.







BLACKLAND HOUSE.



THE GREAT OAK.

[*facing p. 275.*]

trussed rafters, but it is hidden from view by the plaster ceiling. The east window is late fourteenth-century. The stone jambs of the south-west window of the chancel have in them four holes, two on each side, for the reception of the wooden shutter that in earlier times closed the unglazed opening. In connection with this window there is a tradition that in the early days the priest announced his presence and his readiness to conduct service by removing the shutter and ringing a bell held by him outside the window. All the windows of the chancel are either wholly or partly glazed with stained glass, the best being in the north window. This was given by the lord of the manor (Mr. Brown) as a memorial to his late wife. The same gentleman was also the donor of the lych-gate that stands at the entrance to the churchyard. With the exception of its front, which has been restored, the original west gallery still remains in the church, and it is still occupied by the choir. Indeed, it has never been deserted by them; and we are informed by the Rev. G. R. Hadow that he well remembers when the singers were led by violin, flute, violoncello, double bass, etc. The vestry was added in 1842—a fine Early English lancet window being cut into to form the doorway. Blackland was then first held by the same rector as Calstone, but the two were not united into one benefice until 1880. The other things of interest in the church are the font, the bowl of which is of thirteenth-century workmanship, a piscina in the chancel said to be as old as the walls, and the remains of a wooden aumbry in the east wall of the same part of the building.

The present manor-house of the squire of Blackland is believed to have been built by Mr. Maundrell, and subsequently enlarged by Mr. Marshall Hall. It is a square stone structure, with very little claim to architectural beauty, but its situation amidst the beautiful trees of the park leaves little to be desired. At the bottom of the lawn the little

“Calne,” here a brawling trout-stream, flows past ; and near the rustic bridge that crosses it is a curious double grotto, the walls and ceiling of which are faced with shells. The grotto is said to have been constructed by the daughters of a former resident, and it remains a monument to their skill and industry. Thousands of shells, all beautifully arranged, and of an infinite variety of size and form,<sup>1</sup> have been used in the work, and interspersed with them are many fine specimens of coral and polished stone.

On Dec. 30th, 1859, Blackland Park was devastated by a sudden, furious storm of wind, that in *three minutes* uprooted and destroyed no less than a hundred and forty-eight of its trees ; but even now it contains many fine and handsome specimens. One of those spared by the storm was an oak, which, in the opinion of the writer of “Forest Trees of Wiltshire,”<sup>2</sup> was the “premier oak of the county.” This tree, however, has now, unfortunately, to be numbered with the fallen, for last winter, only a few months after we had obtained the photograph of which a reproduction is here given, a violent wind threw it to the ground.

The Rev. A. C. Smith, at that time rector of Yatesbury, went to considerable trouble to collect facts respecting the storm of 1859. From the account published by him it appears that this storm commenced just inside Bowood Park, and, working eastwards, passed successively Stock Street, Rookery Farm, Quemerford Villa (where it burst in the doors and windows), Slade’s Mill, Blackland Park, Hayle Farm (where a hundred trees were destroyed), and Quemerford Gate (forty trees being uprooted there). It raged through the valley in which Cherhill is situated, tearing down nearly every tree in its path, unroofing the cottages, and in some cases throwing down the chimneys.

<sup>1</sup> I am informed by Mr. Brown that he has tried in vain to match some of the shells.

<sup>2</sup> *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, vol. x.

From thence it travelled over the hill to Yatesbury : here it destroyed innumerable trees, unroofed nearly every cottage, rick, and barn, threw down walls, chimneys, barns and out-houses, pitched a cow into a pond, dashed a large and heavy cart-horse from one end of a yard to the other, and finally took up a waggon weighing 22 cwt., lifted it over a high hedge, and threw it into a field forty feet away from where it had stood. The force of the wind was so great that men were thrown to the ground and pinned there ; but, strange to say, not a single life was lost, though there were many marvellous escapes. The storm seems finally to have spent itself at Ogbourne St. George. Its path was only about a quarter of a mile in width, and it appears to have passed any given spot in three minutes. The wind was accompanied by heavy rain, and by hailstones which, measured by credible witnesses, varied between star-shaped of two to three inches diameter and half an inch in thickness, wedge-shaped three inches long, and stones of irregular shape anything between two and six inches in circumference.

## CHAPTER VIII.

The early history of Cherhill.—Church of St. James.—A curious bell stamp.—The old tithe barn.—Oldbury Camp.—Cherhill White Horse.

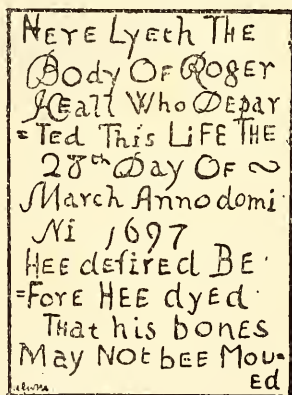
CHERHILL, Cherill, Cherrol, Chiriell, Kirriell, *etc.*, for the name has at various periods been written in fifteen different ways, lies on the Bath Road about two miles from Calne. It is now a quiet little village, supporting itself entirely by agriculture; in the old coaching days it was of more importance. At that time it possessed no less than four inns, each within a stone's throw of the other, but all save one have disappeared. The principal of these, at which most of the coaches stopped, was the "Bell," now a farmhouse; and the next in order of merit was the "Black Horse," the one now remaining.

As a separate entity Cherhill appears to have had no existence at the time of the Conquest, for no mention is made of it in Domesday; but at the time of Edward I. it had become a manor and belonged to Richard Fitz-John. When he died his estates were divided, and Cherhill fell to the share of his sister Maud. At her marriage it passed to William de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick; and it remained in the Warwick family until the attainder of Thomas de Beauchamp for being concerned in the intrigues of the Duke of Gloucester against Richard II. The manor was then given to John de Beaufort, Marquis of Dorset; but when Henry IV. obtained possession of the throne at the deposition of Richard the Warwicks were reinstated. After the battle of Barnet the estates were again confiscated, and

Edward IV. then kept Cherhill Manor in his own hands. Henry VII., not so generous as Henry IV. had been, instead of handing the manor back to the Warwick family when he came to the throne, simply gave to the Countess of Warwick the life rent of it, securing the estate in fee to his own successors. Since that time Cherhill has on several occasions been assigned to the Princes of Wales as part of their revenues. It remained Crown property until early in the nineteenth century; it now belongs to Capt. G. C. W. Heneage.

Cherhill Church, dedicated to St. James, is believed to date from the thirteenth century, but with alterations made in the fourteenth. A portion of the chancel wall is no less than four feet in thickness, and is said to have been built early in the fourteenth century. In the south wall of the sanctuary is a curiosity in the shape of a piscina unprovided with a drain. There is now no rood screen, but the west gallery, that in later years took the place of the rood gallery as the home of the choir, still remains. In the church is an old brass chandelier that, as the Latin inscription on it informs us, was the gift of William Underwood, who died in 1702. On the inner south wall of the tower is a mural tablet that is worthy of notice as being a good example of the work of a village monumentalist of the period.

The tower, which by subsidence is now considerably out of the perpendicular, contains four bells, one of them apparently an old Sanctus bell. The smallest of the large bells bears the date **1619**. The largest is dated



HEYE LYETH THE  
 BODY OF ROGER  
 HEATH WHO DEPARTED  
 THIS LIFE THE  
 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF  
 MARCH ANNODOMI  
 NI 1697  
 HEE desired BE  
 FORE HEE dyed  
 That his bones  
 May NOT BEE MOVED

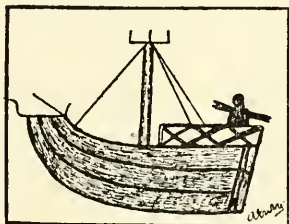
1641 in the same style of figure, and has also the initials

I L divided by a bell, thus , the trade mark

of John Lett, who was a bell founder at Salisbury 1627-85. The middle bell is undated, but from its inscription, etc., it undoubtedly belongs to the pre-Reformation period<sup>1</sup> :—

“ SANCTA MARIÆ : ORA PRO NOBIS.”

Immediately in front of the “ Sancta ” are cast rough representations of a ship and a crown :—



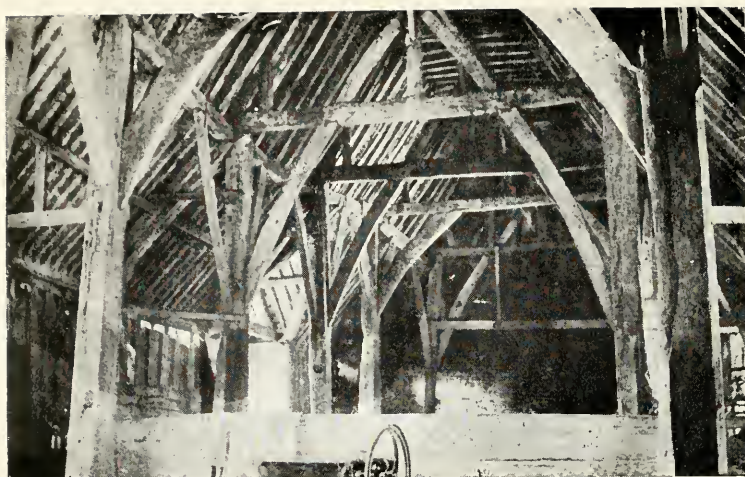
Ellacombe, in his “ Church Bells of Devon,” mentions a bell at Yarnscombe that bears the same marks, and with regard to them he says “ their meaning has not yet been made out.”

Close to the church, in fact only divided from it by a narrow roadway, are the remains of the old manor-house, now converted into a farmhouse. Forming one of the boundaries to the courtyard of the farm is one of the largest of the old tithe barns now remaining in the county. It is

<sup>1</sup> “ Up to the Reformation . . . it is to be remarked that no ornamental bordering accompanies such lettering. The decorative effect was entirely confined to the use of projecting heads or gilletts and the lettering itself. And it will be seen that the inscriptions themselves were nearly in all cases confined to either a single name, as ‘ Jesus,’ ‘ Ave Maria,’ ‘ Katerina,’ or with a name and an invocation, as ‘ Sancta Maria, Ora Pro Nobis ! ’ ”—Lynam’s “ Staffordshire Bells.”







INTERIOR OF CHERHILL TITHE BARN.



OLDBURY CAMP AND CHERHILL WHITE HORSE

[*facing p. 281.*]

no less than 111 feet long and  $37\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, quite large enough to allow Cherhill church and one or two cottages to be completely tucked away in its interior. Viewed from the inside, the great supporting posts and beams make the building appear not unlike a church, with nave of seven bays and north and south aisles, and the great stone porches still further heighten the illusion by suggesting the transepts. The age of the barn is not known, but it is believed to date from the fifteenth century.

The primary purpose of the tithe barn was, as the name suggests, the provision of a storehouse for the tithes at a time when these were paid in kind ; but it was sometimes put to other uses, not the least of these being that of the village dining- and ball-room ; and many a laugh and song the walls of this old barn no doubt have heard in their day. Could they but speak, what tales they could tell of merry-makings and feastings, and what light they could shed on the obscure points of village life in bygone centuries !

Cherhill lies at the foot of Oldbury Hill, the highest point of land between London and Bath. On the top of the hill is Oldbury Camp, believed by some to have been a fortress raised by the Celts to watch the Belgæ, and by others to have been a Danish camp. It is of large area, and its form is roughly that of a square. Towards the north and west the sides of the hill are so steep that very little fortification was needed, and consequently on those sides there is but little trace of a vallum. On the other two sides, however, even now there exist a double ditch and two high and strong earthen ramparts.

On the side of the hill is cut one of the white horses of Wiltshire. This particular one, known as the "Cherhill White Horse," possesses no claims to great antiquity, having been made in 1780 by Dr. Christopher Alsop (or Allsop), sometime guild steward of Calne ; but it is nevertheless

deserving of mention on account of its great size, its good proportions, and the manner of its cutting. The extreme length of the horse is 129 feet, its height is 142 feet, and the inner circle of the eye is 4 feet in diameter. Dr. Allsop, having conceived the idea of cutting out the horse, commenced to execute it by fixing into the turf a number of flags, so placing them that they roughly represented the outline he desired. He then went to a spot near the top of Labour-in-vain Hill, about a mile away, and through a speaking-trumpet directed the removal of the flags to such positions as gave the best effect. The turf within the flag-bordered area was then removed, and the space filled with white chalk from the quarry just over the hill. A hollow ring of turf was left for the eye, and the eyeball was formed by breaking up a number of glass bottles and fixing the pieces in the centre of the ring. At irregular intervals the horse is scoured at the expense of the lord of the manor; but the hill being somewhat precipitous, to carry out the work it is necessary to erect a windlass and lower the chalk by means of a rope to the men engaged in the scouring.

The obelisk standing inside Oldbury Camp is, like the white horse itself, a conspicuous object for many miles round. It was erected by the Marquess of Lansdowne to commemorate the birth of the Prince of Wales, now King Edward VII. From the base of the monument a magnificent view of the surrounding country is obtained: three parts of the circle being the rolling Downs and the fourth the wooded country extending through Bowood right on to Bath—twenty-one miles away.

## CHAPTER IX.

Marlborough Downs.—The highwaymen.—*Peine forte et dure.*—The Barrows.—Silbury Hill.

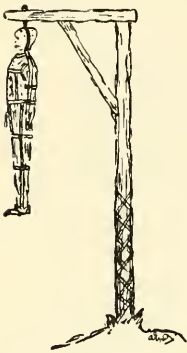
FROM Cherhill to Silbury Hill and Avebury the way lies over the tops of the Marlborough Downs. The road is now a very lonely one, far different from the days when it was crowded with coaches, post-chaises, private carriages, express waggons, slow waggons, etc. It must have been an enjoyable experience to lounge on the soft turf on a summer's day and watch the continuous stream of traffic: to see the great coaches go flashing by, the guard waking the echoes with the winding of his horn; the post-chaises and carriages, with their gay postilions, rolling rapidly along; and the great lumbering waggons passing to the "zound o' the dancen bells!" the jolly waggerons, team whip erect over the shoulder, singing away at the top of their sturdy voices some such song as:

"Oh, the waggeron's life is a jolly life,  
Yo ho, Igh oh!  
He cares not a straä for the world and his wife,  
Yo ho, Igh oh!  
He's up and away at the break of day  
Athirt the downs to the roaren towns,  
Yo ho!"<sup>1</sup>

But there was another side to the picture, and life would not seem quite so joyous to the teamster or the traveller

<sup>1</sup> "Ribstone Pippins," by Maxwell Gray.

on a winter's night, when the rain or the snow fell heavily and the wind howled with terrific force from out of the north-east. And then, too, as the Rev. W. C. Plenderleath points out in the course of a chatty and altogether pleasant article on Cherhill, a party of highwaymen known as the "Cherhill Gang" infested the roads just about this neighbourhood; and to be "bailed up" by these gentry was the reverse of a desirable experience. For the especial warning



BECKHAMPTON GIBBET  
(from Notes).

of these pests a gibbet bearing the iron-banded remains of a highwayman stood for many years on the Downs between Cherhill and Beckhampton, but gibbet and remains have now entirely disappeared.

There are two stories of the "Cherhill Gang" that are deserving of reproduction. The first is that one member had a great fancy for attacking his prey after having first divested himself of his clothing; and he used to say that the effect of springing naked from his hiding-place into the full moonlight had a most terrifying effect on his victim. The other, that Serjeant Merewether, when returning home one night after having triumphantly secured the liberation of another member charged at the assizes with highway robbery, was requested to "stand and deliver" by the very man whose cause he had championed in the morning. It was not usual for highwaymen to molest those who had befriended them; as a general rule they acted on the principle that "one good turn deserves another." Many of them were most polite, as the following extract from an old paper shows:—

"Last month <sup>1</sup> (Jan. 1743) a captain in the army who was going to Bath in a post-chaise was stopped near Sandy

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted for these particulars, and for several other interesting items, to Mr. William Parsons, of Hunt's Mill, Wootton Bassett.

Lane by two highwaymen, by one of whom he was told that he wanted but a guinea, which he hoped to be able soon to pay him again. The captain gave him the guinea, and the fellow gave the driver a shilling, and told the gentleman if he was stopped by any one else to say 'Virgin Mary,' that being the watchword for the day. They had not gone far before they were stopped by four persons, but on being given the watchword, they raised their hats and rode off."

A highwayman who for some time made these Downs his hunting-ground was one Charles Taylor, who in July 1743 was convicted at the Salisbury Assizes for robbing Mr. William Liddiard, of Ogbourne St. Andrew, of £50, and Mr. William Edoe, of Faringdon, of £20. Taylor at his trial refused to plead, and was therefore ordered to suffer the punishment of *Peine forte et dure*. Originally *Peine forte et dure* meant pressing to death by weights, and the sentence ran thus:—

"That the prisoner shall be remanded to the place from whence he came, and put in some low, dark room, and there laid on his back, without any manner of covering except a cloth round his middle; and that as many weights shall be laid upon him as he can bear, *and more*; and that he shall have no more sustenance but of the worst bread and water, and that he shall not eat the same day on which he drinks, nor drink the same day on which he eats; and he shall so continue till he die."

But towards the last it assumed the milder form of twisting and screwing the thumbs with whipcord. It was this latter form that Taylor underwent. The first knot of whipcord broke from the strain put upon it; a second knot was then brought to continue the torture, but at sight of it Taylor consented to plead.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The object of refusing to plead was that any person who died under the *Peine forte et dure* could transmit his estates to his children, or will them as he desired; whereas if he were found guilty after having pleaded, they would be forfeited to the Crown. See "Bygone Punishments," by Wm. Andrews,

No one crossing the Downs between Cherhill and Marlborough can fail to notice the many earthen mounds that rise on every hand. For a great number of years these mounds were the subject of much speculation, and very varied opinions were advanced to account for their origin and use. One idea was that they were the homes of the fairies; and it was gravely taught that if a man ran round one, nine times, and then put his ear to the mound, he could hear the fairies dancing and singing inside. That idea and others equally simple were, however, once and for all dispelled as soon as some of the mounds had been excavated. It was then found that they were the burial-places of men and women of an almost unknown age; and since that time so much has been learnt regarding them that they are now classified and arranged almost like specimens in a museum. By Dr. Thurnam and others two great divisions are noted—the long and the round; the round barrows having been further classified by the above-mentioned gentleman into bowl-, bell- and disc-shaped. The barrows in this district are principally of the long and bowl-shaped varieties. “The bell-shaped barrows are rare, but the disc-shaped ones of very much rarer occurrence; and indeed, so far as the writer is aware, they do not exceed five or six in number.”<sup>1</sup> The long barrows, some of which are chambered, are the earlier in point of date, and interment in them was generally a simple inhumation. In the round barrows, on the other hand, the majority of the interments are after cremation, and it is from these that most of the funeral urns are recovered; but the number of skeletons found in them is considerable, and in many cases burials by inhumation and after cremation occur in the same barrow, and are apparently of the same date. It is from the round barrows, too, that most of the drinking-

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Thurnam, *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, footnote to p. 334, vol. vi.



cups, incense cups and articles of personal adornment have been obtained ; but the tumuli of this neighbourhood have yielded no rich finds of ornaments of jet, amber, or gold, such as have been discovered in the barrows of the southern part of the county. The inference drawn by Dr. Thurnam is that there was a difference of race in the tribes occupying the two districts ; “that occupying the North Wiltshire Downs appearing to have consisted of the Dobuni of Ptolemy, who clustered round their aboriginal fane at Avebury ; whilst the tribe in possession of South Wiltshire for some time, perhaps two centuries, before our era, consisted of the immigrant Belgæ.”<sup>1</sup>

An eloquent plea for the preservation of these sepulchral mounds is made by a writer in the *Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine*<sup>2</sup> :—

“These mute memorials of a remote age, over which, without impairing them, the seasons have for centuries rolled their uninterrupted course, and to which we are indebted for such glimpses as we have been able to catch of the arts and customs of our British ancestors, are full of interest to the thoughtful mind. They carry it back to a time when the now deserted downs and lofty hills were thickly-peopled tracts, when the wattled hut was the habitation, when cattle were the riches, and the worship of the heavenly bodies the religion of the Britons. How do they not bridge over the interval between the present and a past long anterior to Saxons, Danes, and Romans, and in their presence, what recent events do the Great Rebellion, the Wars of the Roses, and the Norman Invasion appear to be ! The knowledge, too, that they were raised over the bodies or ashes of some great ones of their day tends to increase the mystery and awe with which they are invested. It is to be wished that they might be spared further disfigurement from the furrow and the plantation.”

That his appeal may never fall on deaf ears is the

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Thurnam, *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, p. 334, vol. vi.

<sup>2</sup> William Long, Esq., M.A., vol. iv., p. 347.

earnest wish of every lover of the ancient milestones on the road of our country's history.

The grandest tumulus<sup>1</sup> of them all, not only in Wilts, but in England,<sup>2</sup> is Silbury Hill,<sup>3</sup> which lies close to the road a short distance from Beckhampton, the hamlet in which—at the “Waggon and Horses”—Dickens laid the scene of “The Bagman’s Story” in his “Pickwick Papers.” This huge mound is, according to the latest measurements (those of the Rev. A. C. Smith) 1,657 feet in circumference at the base, 104 feet in diameter at the top, and has a perpendicular height of 130 feet.

As might naturally be expected, this mysterious work of unknown hands has attached to it a number of traditions, each accounting to the satisfaction of the people amongst whom it circulated for the presence of the mound. One is that it was thrown up to hide in its interior a life-sized solid gold figure of a horse and rider, which is still there. Another is that King Sel is buried therein, and that it was raised whilst a pot of milk was boiling over the fire.

But leaving the realms of tradition and coming to serious statements of opinion, we find that the theories as to its purpose have been many. The one now in favour with the best authorities is that the mound is the burial-place of some famous chieftain, but when it was thrown up, or by whom, cannot be stated. The Rev. Samuel Greatheed held that Prydain himself is buried within its recesses. Sir Richard Hoare asserted that Silbury Hill was one of the component

<sup>1</sup> The word *tumulus* in connection with Silbury Hill is used subject to correction, for no definite evidence has yet been obtained that it was a place of sepulture, but the balance of opinion is in favour of that hypothesis.

<sup>2</sup> It is believed to excel anything of the kind in Europe.

<sup>3</sup> The horseman appearing in the illustration on the crest of the hill is Mr. E. I. Willis, of Beckhampton, who, in order to afford me an opportunity of obtaining a unique photograph, kindly undertook the hazardous feat of riding his horse to the top.



SILBURY HILL.

*Facing p.* 288.



parts of the Avebury temple; and, following this train of thought, it was argued that it was erected to the Celtic *Teutates*, who is one and the same with the Greek *Hermes* the messenger of the gods.

It has also been suggested that Silbury Hill was a place of sacrifice—in fact, an immense altar, on the flat top of which human victims were immolated. The inspiration for this idea was doubtless derived from the *teocallis* of Mexico, somewhat similar mounds whereon, says Prescott, the Spaniards saw the sacrifice of human offerings. Clodd supposes it to have been a moot or meeting-place: “Not that every mound is a burial-place, some being boundaries or defensive earth-works, or moot or meeting-places, like the great mound known as Silbury Hill in Wiltshire, in which no skeletons have been found.”<sup>1</sup>

In opposition to the last statement there is a story that in 1777 a skeleton and a piece of an iron bit were unearthed. And apparently this story is true; for Sir Richard Hoare about 1812 discussed the matter, and gave it as his opinion that the interment represented by the discovery could not have been coeval with the mound, he holding that the hill is of a period anterior to the Iron Age. Whether this is so or not, it is clear that it stood here before the days of the Roman occupation, for the Roman road from Cunetio to Aquæ Solis is deflected from its course near the base of the hill in order to pass round it.

In 1777 a shaft was sunk into the mound by some Cornish miners, and in 1849 it was tunnelled at the base from the circumference to the centre; but nothing was discovered that shed any real light on its obscure origin.

Stukeley, writing about 1721, noted the custom that then existed for the country people to meet on the top of Silbury every Palm Sunday to eat cakes, figs and sugar, and to drink water drawn from the springs (the source of the

<sup>1</sup> “The Story of Primitive Man.”

Kennet) at its foot. The practice exists to this day,<sup>1</sup> but the assembly is not so great as formerly. How it originated no one knows ; but if Clodd's hypothesis as to the *raison d'être* of Silbury be correct, then it is probable that the custom is but a survival of the older and more important tribal gathering.

<sup>1</sup> The custom of meeting on an elevated spot on a certain day in the year is not confined to Silbury Hill. I have myself attended a similar gathering in another part of the country ; and the fair held on Tan Hill is but a survival of an earlier and different gathering held on the same day in the year as the fair is now held.





3 HIGH STREET, DEVIZES.

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

REMAINS OF AVEBURY CIRCLES AND VALLUM.



## CHAPTER X.

The Stone Circles and Avenues of Avebury.—Avebury village.—The Church of St. James and its Saxon windows.

FROM Silbury Hill to Avebury the road of greatest interest is round by way of West Kennet. Just beyond West Kennet we enter the precincts of the great temple of Avebury—if temple it be; for on the left hand stand the remains of what was once a grand avenue of huge stones<sup>1</sup> that led to the Great Circle. The land surrounding these stones being now under cultivation, it is not always possible to follow the line of the avenue to its goal; but at certain times it can be done, and then the visitor, before reaching the outer stone circle, passes through the vallum which encircles it.

The vallum<sup>2</sup> is now the only portion remaining of mighty, mysterious Avebury that gives us a real, definite idea of the vastness of the whole. In shape it is roughly a circle, with a circumference of 4,442 feet, and it encloses an area of 28½ acres. Its height, measured from the outside, is in places 35 feet above the level of the fields, but as on the inside it descends to a depth of 34 feet below the level of the enclosed ground, its total height is no less than 69 feet.

On the edge of the ditch formed on the inside of the vallum stood the great outer circle. This was composed of 100 upright unhewn stones (some of them weighing as

<sup>1</sup> Many of the Avebury villagers hold to the not uncommon belief that stones grow. To prove that this is so they point out some in this avenue which they say are eighteen inches higher now than when as boys they first observed them.

<sup>2</sup> Part of the earthen vallum can be seen in the distance in the illustration given on the opposite page.

much as 90 tons) placed about 27 feet apart and varying in height from 12 to 17 feet above the ground ; but of this number only 18 now remain visible<sup>1</sup>—10 erect and 8 prostrate. The two largest of these are at the point where the Kennet avenue joined the circle : they are respectively 13 feet high, 18 feet wide and 4 feet thick, and 14 feet high, 16 feet wide and 5½ feet thick. Inside the great outer circle, facing respectively north and south, and composed of stones similar to those of the outer circle, were two double circles, the outer ring of each consisting of 30 stones and the inner of 12. Within the southern circle in Stukeley's time stood a single stone 21 feet high and 8 feet 9 inches in diameter ; but at the centre of the northern circle instead of a single stone there was a group of three large ones known as the "cove." Five stones (four erect and one prostrate) of the northern circle, two of the cove, and two erect and three prostrate of the southern, are now all that remain of these two double circles.

In its original state two openings only in the vallum gave admission to the stone circles. These were respectively on the south-east and south-west ; and from each there extended, according to Stukeley, a stone avenue a mile and a half in length. The Kennet avenue, of which mention has already been made, was composed of about two hundred stones ; and it ended at Overton Hill in a double circle of smaller stones, the outer ring of 40 and the inner of 18.

The existence of the western or Beckhampton avenue is disputed. Stukeley, however, was very confident on the matter ; and he asserted that, like the Kennet avenue, it originally consisted of 200 stones, but that instead of a double circle it ended in a single stone on the Downs above Beckhampton. In Stukeley's time one stone only of this

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. A. C. Smith in 1881 discovered, by digging and probing the ground, that at least fifteen more exist, but buried under the turf. A common way of dealing with a sarsen stone that lies in the path of the plough is to dig a big hole, into which, by the aid of screw-jacks and horses, it is tumbled and then buried.



REMAINS OF "THE COVE," AVEBURY. [*facing p.* 292.]



avenue remained standing, and, fortunately, that stone still remains.

Stukeley's idea was that the circle on Overton Hill, the avenues and the two inner double circles, and the single stone at Beckhampton, represented respectively the head, the coiled body, and the tail of an enormous serpent. Great doubt has been thrown on this hypothesis, but it may be mentioned that in North America animal mounds, the work of an early people, are numerous. In Clodd's "Story of Primitive Man" is described a large one in the form of a coiled serpent that stands near a tributary of the Ohio river. The serpent played a very important part in the old mythologies. In some it was the symbol of the greatest of the gods, and in others its emblematical use was variously to represent Eternity, Immortality and Wisdom.

It was estimated by Stukeley that when complete the whole structure of Avebury, in addition to the vallum, consisted of 657 stones. In Aubrey's time (1663) 31 stones of the great outer circle and over 40 of the two inner were still standing erect; but Stukeley (about 1721), though he found altogether 45 of the outer circle, reported that only 18 were then standing. Sir Richard Hoare in 1812 found only 23 stones in all of the outer circle, and 21 of the two inner. The diminution in the total number of the stones was due to the fact that the circles had been used as a quarry by the builders of Avebury village; and the walls of many of the existing houses and gardens are formed of the broken pieces of the missing menhirs. Britton early in last century wrote that "as late as 1824 there were persons who deliberately ordered some of the remaining *upright* stones of this temple to be broken and removed"; and the late Rev. Bryan King, for many years vicar of Avebury, stated that a farmer more recently still broke up many of the stones for building purposes and for road metal.

It is to Aubrey, the Wiltshire historian, that the honour belongs of having been the first to direct national attention to the existence of the circles, which he accidentally discovered whilst hunting in 1648. In 1663 he induced Charles II. and the Duke of York to pay Avebury a visit, afterwards remarking that His Majesty and His Highness were very well pleased with their excursion. Since Aubrey made his discovery the origin and purpose of the structure have not ceased to be the subject of discussion amongst the learned—and the unlearned—but we appear to be as far as ever from the elucidation of the mystery. One sapient individual gave it as his authoritative opinion that Avebury was constructed by Adam as a memorial of the temptation and fall of Eve, apparently adopting Stukeley's idea of the serpent as the groundwork of his fanciful conclusion. Mr. Ferguson suggested later that it commemorated King Arthur's second battle of Badon, being, in fact, a complete plan of the battle on a large scale. By some antiquaries it has been believed that it is a temple dedicated to the worship of Belenus, the Celtic Apollo. Others, again, assert that it was erected to Teutates. It has also been conjectured that its purpose was astronomical, the proof adduced being that the inner and outer rings of twelve and thirty stones represented respectively the twelve months and the thirty days of each month. The only other supposition for which space can be granted here is that it was used both for judicial and religious purposes, the vallum being the seating-place of the thousands of spectators. That the vallum had some such use as this is highly probable; for the ditch being on the inside it could not have been intended as a means of defence.

As little is known of the age of this great work as of its purpose. Stukeley, it is true, assigns 1859 B.C. as the year of its erection; but later authorities speak with far less confidence. They all agree, however, that it is of a much





STONEHENGE.

[*facing p.* 295.]



earlier date than Stonehenge, the one fact alone that the stones used in the construction of the latter are "dressed" being sufficient in their opinion to warrant that assertion. The great difference that exists between the immense area of Avebury and the compact limits of Stonehenge, and the totally different appearance of the rough unhewn menhirs of the one to the squared and dressed stones of the other, are well shown when the illustration of the Avebury remains is compared with that of Stonehenge inserted in these pages for the purpose of such comparison.

Compared with the Great Circle, within which it stands, the village of Avebury is modern indeed, but counted in years it can lay claim to a respectable antiquity. In Domesday it is called Avreberic, but in more recent times it has variously been called Aubury and Abury. At the time of the Survey it belonged to the king, the church with two hides of land being held by Rainbold the priest. About the time of Henry I. the rectorial manor became an alien priory, a cell to St. George of Bocherville, and so continued until the reign of Richard II., when it passed into the possession of New College, Oxford. Subsequently, after having first been held by the college of Fotheringay, it reverted to the Crown, but some years later it was leased by Elizabeth to one of her subjects.

The church of St. James at Avebury is of particular interest to antiquaries. It is one of the very few churches mentioned in the Domesday Survey, and some parts of the Saxon building there spoken of still remain. The Saxon church, it is believed, consisted of a nave and chancel, the nave possessing four windows on each side. Two of these Saxon windows still exist in the nave, having survived all the changes the church has undergone. In the illustration they are the two round-headed openings, one on each side of the nave, that appear on the left side of the picture; and it will be noticed that the rebate for the shutters, with

which each window was fitted, is still clearly to be seen surrounding the one at the extreme left.

The Saxon nave also had an upper row of small circular windows, that gave light to the interior when by stress of weather or other circumstances the lower tier was closed by the shutters. In 1882, during the restoration of the church then being effected, two of these were taken out and replaced by modern windows, the old ones being left lying as good for nothing in the churchyard. Here they were discovered, still intact, by Mr. Ponting, who superseded the architect under whom the alterations had been commenced. As soon as he realised the nature of the discovery, Mr. Ponting set to work to find any that might still remain *in situ*, but at first he was not successful. His perseverance was at length rewarded, however, for he was fortunate enough to discover a third still in its original position. On scraping away the plaster that covered it, he was further delighted to find that in the holes drilled round the edge of the stone composing the window were still fixed the remains of some of the sticks (apparently willow) of the wattle-work upon which the "splay" had been constructed. The two windows lying in the churchyard were replaced in the wall of the nave, one on each side of that remaining in its original position. The three are shown in line near the top of the illustration, the right and left interfering somewhat with the symmetry of two of the modern clerestory windows. Other traces of Saxon work are observable in the white patch of plaster above one of the windows, a piece of carving inserted in the east wall of the porch, and the long and short quoins at the western end of the nave.

The north and south aisles were added to the church in the twelfth century. The walls of the Saxon nave were then cut through and four arches made, two on either side; but instead of pillars a solid piece of wall  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet in width was left to support the roof between each pair of arches.



AVEBURY CHURCH: VIEW SHOWING THE SAXON WINDOWS.

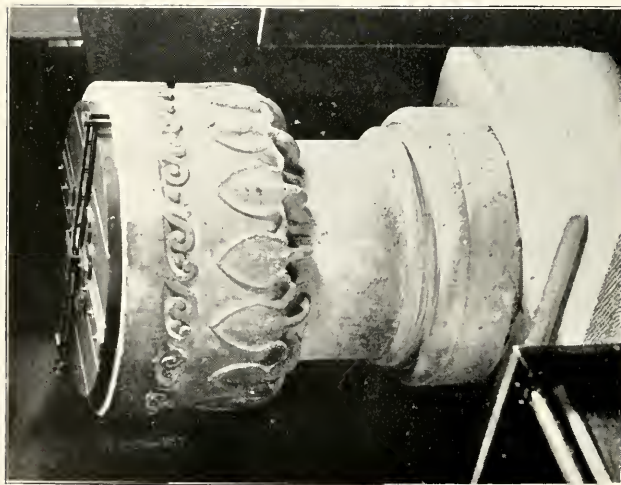
[facing p. 296.]







NORMAN FONT, AVEBURY.  
[facing p. 297.]



NORMAN FONT, YATESBURY.

These Norman arches were, however, removed in 1828 and replaced by those now existing. The south aisle, it is believed, was rebuilt in the fourteenth century; and in the fifteenth, part of the wall of the north aisle also underwent reconstruction. The south doorway originally dated from the twelfth century, but it has been rebuilt since then.

The chancel is fourteenth-century, and an ambulatory connects it with the north aisle. The staircase to the rood loft remains, and it is still possible, with a little exertion and care, to get on to the platform where the village musicians of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries led the musical services of the church. The front of the screen is modern, though modelled as far as might be on certain fragments of the old work. The upper part of the screen is original. It was found in 1810 embedded in the east wall of the nave, and was then replaced in its proper position.

The font is well worthy of attention. It is of Saxon character, with later Norman carving. Instead of the usual ornamentation it is sculptured, the figures being a bishop, with mitre, crozier and book, and two dragons, one on either hand of the bishop, whom they appear to be attacking.

The tower probably dates from the fifteenth century. It contains a peal of five bells inscribed as follows :—

1 and 2. ANNO DOMINI 1619.

3. JOHN BURCHELL JOHN TRUSLER CHURCHWARDENS.  
WILLIAM PURDUE CAST MEE. 1650.

4. ANNO DOMINI 1620.

5. JOHN ROSE JAMES POPE CHURCHWARDENS. RICHARD  
PHELPS, LONDON. NAT. PAR. HUIUS FECIT 1719. THE  
REV M<sup>R</sup> JOHN MAYO VICAR.

(This Richard Phelps cast the great clock bell of St. Paul's Cathedral.)

## CHAPTER XI.

British trackways.—Village and church of Yatesbury.—Early history of Compton Bassett.—The plundering of Hugh le Despenser's estates.—Church of St. Swithun.—Rood screens and their symbolical and other uses.—Hour-glasses.—A pre-Reformation bell and its marks.—Wassailing.

FROM Avebury to Yatesbury by the ordinary road the distance is between five and six miles, but across the Downs it is about three and a half miles only; and to one fond of a pedestrian excursion the latter route affords a very pleasant walk on a summer's evening. The road followed is one of the old British trackways. These trackways are numerous about the Wiltshire Downs. They are in places no larger than sheep tracks, and everywhere pursue a devious and winding course through the most lonely and desolate places. They cross each other, too, in a manner that is most bewildering to a stranger; but to one acquainted with them they present no difficulty. In the smuggling days these tracks were held in great estimation by the fraternity, who used them extensively to convey in comparative safety their contraband articles from the south coast to the midland and northern towns. Round about Yatesbury they were also greatly patronised by the Cherhill highwaymen,<sup>1</sup> either as a means of escape from pursuit, or as secluded approaches to proposed points of attack.

Yatesbury, Zatesbury, Hyatebiri, Sitesburi, Etesberie, *etc.*, in the words of the Rev. A. C. Smith, a well-known Wiltshire

<sup>1</sup> See page 284.



archæologist, who for many years was rector here, is "one of the smallest, humblest and most retired parishes on the Wiltshire Downs." The village lies only about one mile from the main road, but so completely is it hidden that no stranger would suspect the presence of a village near him. The isolation of the place from the outside world during the winter is not so complete at the present day as it was at the beginning of last century, but even now after a heavy fall of snow it sometimes takes days to restore the communications. And, small as the place is, its tendency, like that of many of the Wiltshire villages, is to become ever smaller. The few cottages are more than enough to accommodate the present population, consequently some are untenanted and falling rapidly into decay.

At the time of the Domesday Survey the prebendal manor was held by Alured, a Spanish ecclesiastic. In 1316, in which year the royal manor was required to supply one soldier for the war in Scotland, Yatesbury was held by Henry de Wyleton,<sup>1</sup> Radulph de Botiller, and the Dean and Chapter of Sarum. In the beginning of the reign of Edward III. the major portion of the lay manor was the lordship of Alexander de Freville. Two years later his estate descended to his son, Sir Baldwin Freville of Warwickshire, whose family in the first year of Richard II. contested with the Dymocks the championship of England. From Baldwin the estate passed to his sister Joyce, who by marriage transferred it to her husband, Sir Robert Aston. From 1300 to 1360 the Bourdon family were also holders at Yatesbury; and in 1330 Edmund, Earl of Kent, held property in right of his wife, Margery Wake. In 1410 the castle of Devizes was a tenant-in-chief, the sub-tenant being John Preston. In 1432 the Ernles appear as holders, and the name continues in the records from this time onwards for three hundred years. In 1764 George Hungerford, of

<sup>1</sup> See also Calstone.

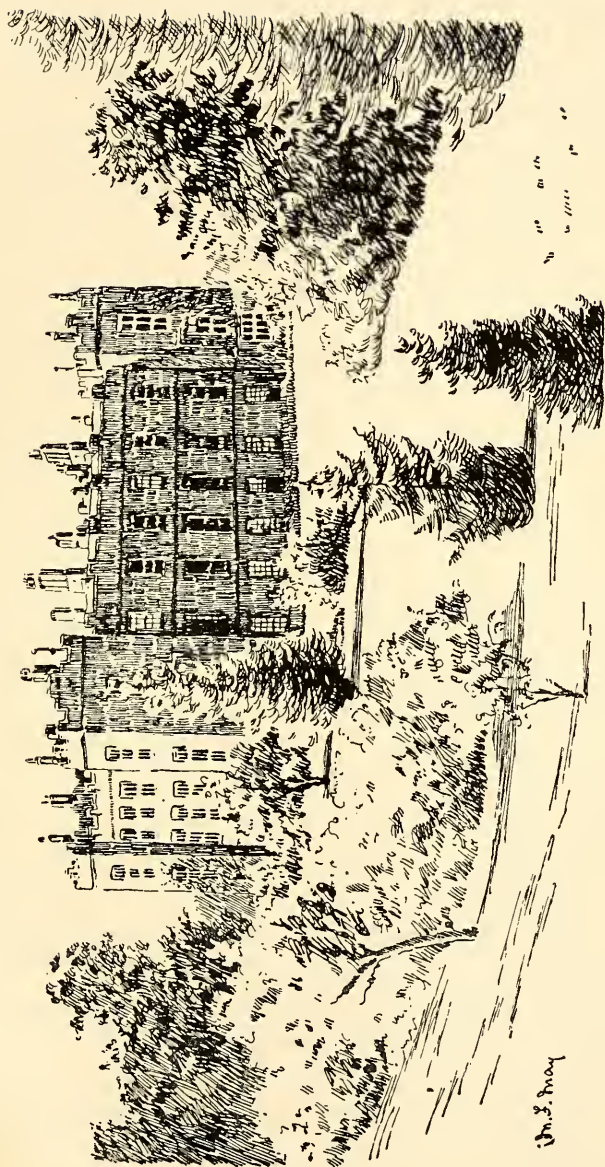
Studley, bequeathed the manor farm of Yatesbury to his second wife and widow, Elizabeth (*née* Pollen). Her heirs sold it to the late owner, Mr. Tanner; and from him it passed to a member of the Harris family of Calne.

The church of All Saints was first built in the early Norman days; but it does not appear to have been a very substantial structure, for it was rebuilt in the thirteenth century. At the end of the fourteenth it was repaired, and the south aisle then removed. It was restored, and the chancel entirely rebuilt, in 1854. The turret-stair leading to the rood loft is of interest, and so also is the font. The latter is a good specimen of Norman workmanship, and is in a good state of preservation. The base on which it stands is Early English. The tower contains a peal of four bells, three only of which are inscribed.

1. AN<sup>o</sup>. D'. NI 1636. W. F.
2. No inscription.
3. AÑO∇ D◇NI. 1636.
4. I. WASHBOURNE, T. RANGER, R. WALTER, CHURCHWARDENS.  
R. WELLS, ALDBOURNE, FECIT, MDCCLXXIII.

The church contains the tombs of George Hungerford and his wife, Elizabeth, mentioned above, and also the tomb of Lady Hungerford, whose remains in October 1816 were brought by torchlight from Bath and buried at midnight with the pomp and ceremony that formerly marked the midnight interments of the great.

Following the trackway through Yatesbury over the edge of the tableland and down through a deep cleft in the hill (altogether about two and a half miles), the pedestrian will presently arrive at Compton Bassett, the prettiest village for miles round. Situated as it is in the midst of a well-wooded country, and sheltered from the east winds by the Marlborough Downs, it is no wonder, perhaps, that the flowers in the cottage gardens bloom earlier and longer



Wm. J. May

COMPTON BASSETT HOUSE.

grow finer and seem altogether more luxuriant than in other villages round about. But situation does not account for artistic cottages, built after an Elizabethan model and clustered about and overrun with roses, honeysuckles, clematis and the like, nor for gardens full of rose-trees and other beautiful flowers, and with trim-kept walks and paths and well-grown, well-clipped yew hedges. No; these things are due primarily to the artistic sense and order-loving spirit of the late squire and the rector.

In Domesday Compton is said to be held by Pagen. In the Feoda (1230—1272) Reginald de Mohun, Fulk Bassett<sup>1</sup> and Philip de Cumb'well are said each to hold one knight's fee in Cum'ton of Walter de Dunstanville, the three fees, corresponding no doubt to three separate manors in Compton, being shown separately in the Castle Combe court rolls.<sup>2</sup> In 1233 Gilbert Bassett, of Compton, who had opposed some of the doings of Henry III., was deprived of his manor of Netheravon, his "house at Compton" placed under the observation of the sheriff, and he himself, on proceeding to Court to obtain reparation, charged with being a traitor and threatened with death. In 1271 Philip Basset, of Wycombe, held the manor of Compton. At his death it passed to his daughter Aliva, widow of Hugh le Despenser, Justiciary of England and Governor of Devizes Castle.

Hugh le Despenser, son of the Justiciary and Aliva, was the next owner. Against him the Earl of Lancaster and his fellow-conspirators obtained from the parliament in 1321 a sentence of forfeiture and exile, and the whole of his Wiltshire estates were plundered by the Earl of Hereford. The wreck made of his various properties is well shown in the following extract:—

" . . . the<sup>2</sup> said persons possessing themselves of the entire live and dead stock there found; taking from the houses

<sup>1</sup> Compton Bassett derives its second name from the Bassett family.

<sup>2</sup> See *Wilts Archæological Magazine*.

furniture, arms, armour and lead; rifling and pillaging the inmates; taking the rents and debts of the tenants; destroying the parks, hedges, and fishponds, and hunting the deer: and at Compton and some other places, even burning the houses, to the damage of the said Hugh (including ravages in other parts), of at least £30,000. On the same occasion the said persons entered the Abbey of Stanley in Wilts, and there breaking open the said Hugh's coffers, carried off one thousand pounds in money, together with his charters and other muniments, letters obligatory, cups of gold and silver, a vessel of silver, and other jewels, to the value of one thousand pounds. They then entered our lord the King's castle of Marlborough with force and arms, and there possessed themselves of the following articles belonging to the said Hugh: that is to say, thirty-six sacks of wool, six pair of rich vestments, a library, a cup of gold for containing the body of our Lord (the Host), a cross of gold, a cross of ivory and ebony, and other ornaments appendant to his chapel there: to wit, cloth of gold, tapestry, coverlids, and other articles of the wardrobe, altogether amounting to £6,000."

In 1326 Edward II. was forced to fly into Wales before the advance of Isabella and her adherents. Despenser, now Earl of Winchester, was left governor of the castle of Bristol; but the garrison mutinied and handed him over to his enemies, by whom he was beheaded. His son Hugh, the "younger Despenser," was also seized and hanged. The Despensers' estates were then confiscated by Isabella, and remained for some time in the hands of the Crown.

In 1415 the manor of Compton was settled by the Duke of York (fifth son of Edward III.), who then owned it, on his son, to furnish funds for the building of the college of Fotheringay. After his death on the field of Agincourt it became vested in his widow, who held it until 1431. On the marriage of Catherine Parr with Henry VIII. the manor was given to her as part of her dower, and at her death in 1552 it was sold by the Crown for £952 to Sir John

Mervyn, of Fonthill. In 1663 it was sold by his descendants to Sir John Weld, of Bindon, Dorset, who built the present Compton House. Sir John died in 1674. His son William was the next owner, but becoming possessed of the estates of an uncle, he left Wiltshire to live on his new property. In 1700 Humphrey, William's son, sold the Compton estate to Sir Charles Hedges, of Richmond, Surrey, Secretary of State. In 1715 the heir of Sir Charles sold Compton to William, son of Sir E. Northey, Attorney-General to Queen Anne; and in 1761 it was sold by the Northeys to J. W. Heneage, Esq., owner of Tockenham Court in the parish of Lyneham, the small manor of Compton Comberwell in Compton parish, and other properties.

The manor of Compton Comberwell was for many years held under the barony of Castle Combe. In the partition roll of the barony (1340) two knights' fees, one in Compton and the other in Compton Cumberwell, are shown as being held together by Reginald Darell at £11 13s. 4d. per annum. The two knights' fees were held together for several centuries, some of the holders being: 1370, Roger Berlegh; 1382, Thomas Beesley; 1392, Thomas Earl; 1396—1404, John Baset, chaplain; 1419, Sir Gilbert Talbot; 1429—41, John Blount, of Belton; 1475—6, Simon Blount; 1523—31, Sir John Hussey.

In 1531 Compton Cumberwell passed from the Hussey family to William Button, Esq., who later also became owner of Tockenham. On the death of Sir John Button (4th and last baronet) in 1712, the Cumberwell property passed to his sister Mary, who married Clement Walker, Esq., Usher of the Court of Exchequer, and sometime M.P. for Wells. From John Walker, Esq., Hereditary Usher of the Court of Exchequer, who died in 1758, it descended to his son, John Walker Heneage, who three years afterwards became also the owner by purchase of the manor of Compton Bassett. The present owner of the combined

manors is Captian Godfrey C. W. Heneage, eldest son of the late Major Clement Walker Heneage, V.C.

Compton House, the seat of the gallant captain, is a good example of the domestic architecture of the seventeenth century. Around the parapet are stone shields bearing the arms of Weld, Hedges and Northey ; and over the front door is a shield with the arms of Heneage and Walker, quarterly, impaling Webber and Nicholson, quarterly. The house contains, amongst other treasures, a portrait of the Countess of Richmond by Van Dyck, a battle piece by Burgoyne, and a curious portrait of Mary, wife of Clement Walker. The mansion is delightfully situated on the side of a well-wooded hill, and seen from the park below it presents an imposing and stately appearance.

The parish church of St. Swithun, which stands close under Compton House, is a compound of Norman and Perpendicular architecture, with alterations made, apparently, in recent years. The western entrance to the nave, for instance, is blocked by a long raised pew that is built across it, and the fine arch forming this entrance, except for a small doorway leading to the pew, is filled up with a lath-and-plaster partition. The stone screen at the western end of the chancel belonged at one time to a side aisle in Winchester Cathedral, but when it was removed to its present position we have been unable to ascertain. It is, as will be seen from the illustration, a double screen, its eastern front perforated and its western front, arches and piers richly traced, with a stone vaulting supporting the rood loft above ; the whole forming, in the opinion of competent authorities, one of the finest existing English examples of the double screen. The rood staircase still exists, but the doorway at its upper end is built up. Less than thirty years ago, however, the doorway was still open, the rood gallery at that time being furnished with a harmonium and occupied on Sundays by a choir of red-cloaked

maidens. This modern use of the rood gallery is deserving of attention, it being a revival of a mediæval custom, as the following extract from the Rev. S. Baring Gould's "An Old English Home" will show :—

"In the first place it (the rood screen) was symbolical of death. In the Tabernacle and Temple a veil hid the Holy of Holies ; but on the death of Christ the veil was rent asunder from the top to the bottom, and this signified that the way into the holiest place was open to all, and that death ceased to be the impenetrable mystery it had been : since Christ, by His death, had overcome death, it was possible to look beyond the veil and see the glorious place where is the Mercy-Seat and the Altar-Throne, and where our Great High Priest standeth, ever making intercession for us.

"Now, in the mediæval churches, the chancel represented the Holiest Place, or heaven, and the nave was the figure of the Church on earth ; consequently the screen, dividing the nave from the chancel, was a figure of death. But inasmuch as by faith we can look through and beyond the barrier of death, the screens were made of carved work pierced through, so that the chancel with the altar might be perfectly visible beyond the screen. And inasmuch as death was overcome by Christ, the crucifix stood above the screen, a figure that proclaimed that it was through the cross of Christ alone that the kingdom of heaven was opened to all believers, and that death was swallowed up in victory.

. . . . .

"And now—to the liturgical significance of the screen. As already said, it supported the crucifix, and the rule was that during Lent all images were to be veiled or covered with wraps. Accordingly, on the top of the screens were galleries by means of which the crucifix could be reached for the veiling on Shrove Tuesday and the unveiling on Easter Eve.

"But the screen served a third purpose, and that was eminently practical. On it sat the orchestra and choir. The gallery was made broad and solid to support them, and was furnished with a back to the west, against which the performers might lean, and which concealed them from the congregation in the nave. These backs have for the most part disappeared. . . .







HALF-HOUR GLASS, COMPTON BASSETT.



ROOD SCREEN, COMPTON BASSETT. [*facing p. 307.*]

“The choir and instrumentalists sat on the rood-screen, where they could see every movement of the priest at the altar, and so take their cues for singing and playing. It was essential that they should be in this position.”

Fixed in the wall above the pulpit is a half-hour glass, that was placed in its present position about 1650. The whole of the metal-work is of wrought iron; the ornamentation is not elaborate, the dominant feature being the fleur-de-lis. The extreme height of the frame is 24 inches, the diameter 6 inches. The glass itself is 8 inches long and 4 inches in diameter. The length of the arm supporting the glass is 18 inches. The frame and glass are in excellent preservation, and we are informed by the rector, the Rev. V. F. Ransome, who has tested it on several occasions, that the sand runs through in exactly half an hour. Very few of these glasses now remain, and their use has quite died out. When the hour and half-hour glasses first became articles of church furniture, about the middle of the sixteenth century, they were used by the preacher to punctuate and measure his sermon, he turning the glass as often as might be necessary between his “firstly” and “lastly.”

There are five bells in the tower. The first three bear the inscription :—

“ANNO DOMINI. 1621.”

The fifth :—

“PRAYSE THE LORD. I. W. 1603.”

The fourth, in the opinion of the Rev. W. C. Lukis, an authority on the subject, dates from before 1500. It bears the inscription :—

**Sit : Pomen : Domini : Benedictum<sup>1</sup>,**

<sup>1</sup> The capitals in this inscription are crowned.

and on the side is a stamp bearing the trade mark, it is believed, of William Underhill, *alias* William Ffounder.



The same stamp is found on a bell at Hardwycke, the fourth bell at Easton Maudit, and on two bells in Oxford. It is curious to note that the lave-pots on the left-hand shield are exact representations of those used in Syria at the present day for pouring water over the hands of guests after meals.

Not far from the church is an orchard of well-planted, well-grown apple-trees; and the sight of it in a village possessing so much to carry us back to earlier times naturally awakens thoughts of the old customs with which apples and apple-trees were connected. And particularly does it bring to mind pictures of the "wassailing" that here, as in most other parts of the country, took place in former years on Twelfth Night;<sup>1</sup> and up to the beginning of last century was considered to be as absolutely essential to the well-being and well-bearing of the trees as were pruning and other like operations. This idea is well expressed by Herrick, though he specifically mentions only the plum and pear:—

"Wassail the trees, that they may bare  
 You many a plum, and many a pear;  
 For more or lesse fruits they will bring  
 As you do give them wassailing."

The celebration of the rite differed slightly in its details in different parts of the country, but essentially it was the

<sup>1</sup> Sometimes, but not often, performed on Christmas Eve.

same wherever performed. On Twelfth Night a large bowl of hot spiced cider was made, and into it were cast roasted apples and bits of brown toast. When it was ready, the farmer carrying the bowl headed a procession of the farm servants, male and female, to the orchard. There, all joining hands and encircling the finest tree, they danced round it three times, singing :—

“ Here’s a health to thee, good apple-tree !  
That thou may’st bud, and thou may’st blow,  
And that thou may’st bear apples enow !  
Hats full ! Caps full !  
Bushel, bushel—sacks full ! ”

The dance ended, each member of the party drank from the bowl, and what then remained of its contents was poured as a libation over the tree. This done, the party returned to the house and sat down to a good supper, finishing the night’s conviviality in the “wee sma’ hours ayont the twel’.”

## CHAPTER XII.

Sketch of the lay and ecclesiastical history of Hilmarton.—Church of St. Lawrence.—The “Lavrns Bel.”—A “Terrier” of 1704.—The Goatacre Meeting of 1846.—The condition of the farm labourers before the repeal of the Corn Laws.

**H**ILMARTON,<sup>1</sup> a neat and compact little village on the main road between Calne and Swindon, is the property of Sir John Dickson-Poynder, Bart., M.P. for North-west Wilts. In Domesday Book it is called Aldhelmerton (the town of Aldhelm),<sup>2</sup> and at the time of the Survey it was held by William de Ow, to whom it had probably been given by William the Conqueror for his consistent services. In the time of Edward I. Hilmerton (as the name had then become) was held, under Bigod the Earl Marshal, by the families of Wancy of Cliff-Wancy<sup>3</sup> and Bluett. In the fourteenth century the Wroughtons and Spillmans were landowners here, and the latter name is still preserved in Spillman's farm at Witcomb. In the seventeenth century the principal estate belonged to the Norbornes of Studley and Calne.<sup>4</sup> Through them it was inherited by the Berkeleys of Stoke, near Bristol, and then by the Dukes of Beaufort. The latter family sold it in 1803; and in 1813 it was purchased from

<sup>1</sup> For much of the information respecting Hilmarton I am indebted to the present vicar (the Rev. E. W. W. Payne) and the Rev. C. V. Goddard, M.A., of Baverstock.

<sup>2</sup> Aldhelm was the first abbot of Malmesbury.

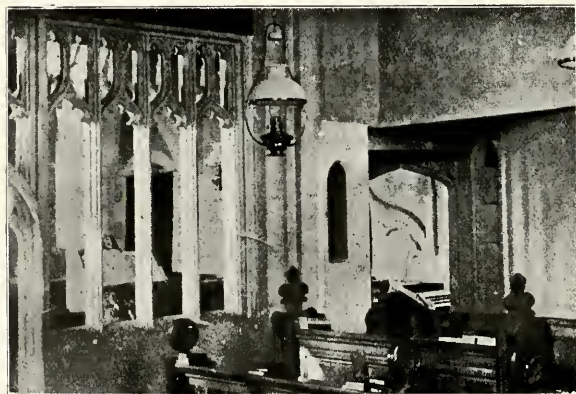
<sup>3</sup> The name is derived from the knights William and Godfrey de Wancy, who owned the property in the reigns Henry III.—Edward IV. The modern name of the hamlet is Clifansty.

<sup>4</sup> See page 188.





HILMARTON CHURCH : EXTERIOR.



HILMARTON CHURCH : INTERIOR, SHOWING SCREEN,  
SQUINT, ETC.     [*facing p.* 311.]



Col. Ainslie by Thomas Poynder, Esq., uncle of the present owner.

The parish consists of the hamlets of Hilmarton, Goatacre and Cliffansty, together with the districts of Beversbrook, Corton, Calcomb and Penn. In the Middle Ages there were three chapels in different parts of the parish. One was a chantry chapel situated at Witcomb, and existing in 1332, the second was "The Free Chapel of Corton," mentioned in 1434, and the third was at Beversbrook. No trace of either of these now remains. The list of rectors and vicars dates from the year 1297, the first one recorded being John Pencoit.

The only one calling for special mention is Lancelot Addison, father of the celebrated writer, who was vicar from 1662 to 1680. The patronage of the living in 1297 was in the hands of the Bluett family. In 1397 the rectory of Hilmarton was given to the priory of Bustlesham, in Berkshire; but at the Dissolution the patronage passed to the Crown, to whom it still belongs. The registers commence in 1645, and contain many interesting entries. In 1806 there is recorded an indignant protest against the sale that had recently taken place of a wife by her husband in Calne market!

Hilmarton church is dedicated to St. Lawrence, and consists of chancel, nave, north aisle, tower and porch. The tower, south porch, and most of the chancel are modern, and the nave was altered a great deal in the last two restorations. The nave arcade (the earliest part of the building) dates from the end of the twelfth century. The windows of the nave belong to the Perpendicular period, dating probably from the reign of Henry VI. There is a good fifteenth-century stone rood screen, and a founder's tomb of the same period is built into the wall of the north aisle. On the north side of the screen is a well-preserved squint, and also an ambulatory giving access to the chancel. In the north wall of the ambulatory are the doorway and some of the stone steps of the staircase

leading to the rood loft ; and on a shelf fixed to the south wall is a very old black-letter Bible, with a portion of the iron chain that fixed it to the reading-desk or table still attached to it. The Bible and chain were discovered about forty years ago in the parish chest, but in a sadly neglected condition. The vicar of the time restored the wooden binding and placed the book in its present position. On the floor of the organ chamber are the monumental stones of members of the Jacob family, who in 1709 and 1780 left certain sums of money for the good of the poor and the keeping in repair of the chancel and the family monuments.







The tower contains an excellent peal of six bells. What is now the 1st bell was given by William H. Poynder, Esq., in 1879, at the time he restored the church. It is inscribed on one side with the following Latin verse :—

“ SABBATA PANGO  
FUNERA PLANGO  
SOLEMNIA CLANGO,”

and on the opposite side with an English rendering :—

“ TO CALL THE FOLK TO CHURCH IN TIME  
WE CHIME.  
WHEN JOY AND MIRTH ARE ON THE WING  
WE RING.  
WHEN WE MOURN A DEPARTED SOUL  
WE TOLL.”

The present 2nd bell was originally the first, as will be seen from its inscription :—

I AM THE FIRST ALTHOUGH BUT — MALL  YET WILL BE  
HEARD ABOVE YOV AL  $\text{O}^{\vee}\text{C}$   
WILLIAM  PVRDVE  T.P.  $\text{O}^{\vee}\text{C}$  EDWARD HOPKINS E...A...IN  C  W  (?) 52

The bell is very badly cast, and is chipped nearly all over, many of the letters being obliterated.

The 3rd is dated

ANNO DOMINI 1631

The 4th is a pre-Reformation bell. The inscription on it is in Lombardic characters:

IN:THE:NAM:OF:THE:TRINITE:LAVRNS:BEL:CAL ME †

“Lavrns Bel cal me” means in modern English “Lawrence’s Bell call me.” That is to say, like the church to which it belongs, it is dedicated to St. Lawrence. As is well known, it was not uncommon in the earlier days for one of the bells to be named after the patron saint of the church, but it was usually the tenor that was so named. It should be noted in this connection that a ring of bells in pre-Reformation days often did not exceed three, and it is therefore possible that this bell was originally the tenor. Another point is, that in only very few instances are English words used in the dedication appearing on bells cast before the middle of the sixteenth century, a fact which in itself makes this bell worthy of notice; and it is at least a coincidence that the inscription in one of these few instances is very similar to that of the Hilmarton bell. It occurs at Gunby St. Nicholas, Lincolnshire; the words are, “In ye nam of ye Trynyte Nicholas Bel men cal me.”

On the 5th appears

JOHN HOPKINS & ROBERT SEAGER CH:WARDENS A (1735) R 1735

The 6th (tenor) bell was

CAST AT GLOCESTER BY ABEL RUDHALL 1738

With regard to the 5th and 6th bells, it would appear from the old account books of the parish that these are re-casts of earlier bells; for in 1734 the churchwardens “presented” the 5th to the archdeacon as “Ben out of

order," and in 1737-8 paid for "caring the (6th) bel to Glofter and bringing beck."

1734	paid for the presentment for the bel Ben out of order & the coart fees . . . . .	00 . 05 . 6
1735	It. paid M <sup>r</sup> Roddil part of his bill for the new bel . . . . .	09 — —
1737-8	It. for caring the bel to Glofter and bringing beck . . . . .	4 . 0 . 0
	paid M <sup>r</sup> Ruddell for part of y <sup>e</sup> bell . . . . .	0 . 4 . 9

There are numerous other entries in the books relating to the bells: *e.g.*—

1709	Paid William Lewes for Ire <sup>1</sup> for y <sup>e</sup> bells Paid Joseph Hunt for tember and worke about y <sup>e</sup> bells . . . . .	00 . 15 . 06 01 . 02 . 00
1713	It. for haling a pese of tember for y <sup>e</sup> bells . . . . .	00 . 03 . 00
1714	Irger <sup>2</sup> for the bells . . . . . It. paide Joseph Hunt for Etabels & Drinke @ bells . . . . .	00 . 07 . 06 00 . 15 . 03(!)
1727	Gaive y <sup>e</sup> Ringers for Ringing On King Charles y <sup>e</sup> Second <sup>3</sup> his Martyrdom	00 . 02 . 06
1730	P <sup>d</sup> for a Rump of beef for y <sup>e</sup> Ringers . p <sup>d</sup> for part of y <sup>e</sup> Rump of beff ffor y <sup>e</sup> Ringers on Gunpowder <sup>d</sup> . . . . .	00 . 03 . 03 00 . 03 . 03
	P <sup>d</sup> M <sup>r</sup> Sutton for a 12 <sup>d</sup> Loafe ffor y <sup>e</sup> Ringers . . . . .	00 . 01 . 00
1737-8	Spent when the bel was Brout home. It. paid Isack Barnard for helping load the Bel and on load him . . . . .	0 . 3 . 0 0 . 02 . 0

These extracts are curious also as giving in some instances the phonetic spelling of words in use in the district at the present day.

A "Terrier" of the parish of Hilmarton was prepared

<sup>1</sup> Iron.

<sup>2</sup> Iron gear.

<sup>3</sup> This must refer to Charles I., and would be on the anniversary of his death.

in 1704, and from it is extracted the following to show the value of certain tithes two-hundred years ago:—

“All the small tithes such as wool and lamb, cow white<sup>1</sup> and calf, etc., throughout all parts of the parish unexpressed in the several foregoing particulars. The usual rates at present being 4<sup>d</sup> a cow white, 6<sup>d</sup> a calf, 9<sup>d</sup> a fatting beast, 3<sup>d</sup> a sheep for the whole year, unless the wool be tithed in kind, otherwise a farthing a month and 3<sup>d</sup> a lamb, if the lambs and calves be of sufficient number to be tithed in kind. The sheep, lambs, and calves are due at S<sup>t</sup> Mark’s tide, the cow white and fatting cattle at Lammas, when also the lambs that are kept begin to pay as sheep. Two pence a person for offerings and one penny for eggs when poultry are kept, and one penny a garden.”

On Tuesday, Jan. 5th, 1846, there was held at Goat-  
acre, which, as we have said, is a hamlet in the parish of  
Hilmarton, a meeting of farm labourers, called to support  
the agitation for the repeal of the Corn Laws. This meeting,  
taking place as it did in a great corn-growing county,  
was considered of such importance that it obtained a  
full report in the *Times* the following Thursday, and it is  
claimed for it that it had more effect than any other in  
deciding Sir Robert Peel to press on his measure. It was  
held at midnight, under a bleak winter sky and by the  
light of a clouded moon and a few flaring candles, and  
was attended by some hundreds of despairing men; but, to  
their honour be it said, though starvation looked out from  
sunken eyes and attenuated forms and many of the men  
were risking loss of employment, or worse, there was no  
clamour, no succeeding acts of violence. It is hard for  
those who have never experienced the privations to realise  
the misery that existed at this period amongst the peasantry;  
but men who suffered them looked back to the time with  
horror, and when questioned give replies that, but for the

<sup>1</sup> “Cow white” probably meant a cow in milk.

fact that they are borne out by published reports, would be almost beyond belief. The cottages in many instances were mere hovels, open to the wind and the rain, and the wages of a good strong man averaged no more than about six shillings a week. Of good white bread many of the labourers knew not the taste; their bread was made from "smutty" and uncleaned wheat, or it took the form of "barley bats," a flat cake made of barley meal and water and fried in a pan or baked, or it was made from oatmeal baked into a cake. Of meat . . . but let us quote from the *Times* account of the Goatacre meeting:—

"He (William Burchell) was past forty years of age, and he could say that he had never purchased a pound of good slaughtered meat,<sup>1</sup> fit to be carried into the market. As to mutton, he had purchased a little of that, but never so much as would average a pound a year. He knew what veal was, but had never had any at all.' Another man said, 'that during 39 weeks ending 10th January, 1844, he had earned only £5 19s. 8d., or 3s. 6d. a week, and that but for getting a little land to rent from Lord Carnarvon, he and his wife and eight children would have been starved. His house rent came to £4 a year, and his bread bill alone came to from 7s. 7d. to 8s. 8d. a week.' Another said, 'he had so little bread to eat that he got weak, and was then discharged from service.' Another man, James Pegler, said that he and his wife and family had been hunted down under the Poor Law and forced into the workhouse, where for 11 months he was separated from wife and children. At the end of that time he was turned away, and because he went out of the district to find work, he was taken before the magistrates, charged with desertion, and sent to prison for a month. 'God bless my heart and life,' said he, 'I never seed such a go to be sure as how I was served. I know enough of starvation and misery to make me say, God send us Free Trade.'"

Let us hope that every one of these poor creatures lived to enjoy far happier days.

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* beef.

## CHAPTER XIII.

Mr. Brakspear's notes on the architecture of Bradenstoke priory.—John ap Rice's enquiry.—Bradenstoke village.—Lyneham.—The hungry criminal.—Curious "Swan Song" of a murderer.—The penance of the white sheet.—Lyneham church.—The archbishop's bell and its curious inscription.—A much-trying Royalist.

**A**T Bradenstoke or Broadstock, some three miles north-west of Hilmarton, was founded in 1142 a priory of Augustinian canons by Walter, Earl of Salisbury, the grandfather of Ela, who afterwards founded the abbey of Lacock.

The sole remaining part of the once extensive buildings is the long range that formerly occupied the west side of the cloister and now converted into a farmhouse. The cloister court of most monasteries was square on plan, surrounded by a lean-to roofed alley against the buildings that enclosed it on each side. On the south, in this case, was the church; but without digging it is impossible to tell anything of its nature, as the churches of this order varied considerably.<sup>1</sup> On the east side of the cloister was generally a range of buildings somewhat similar in character to that on the west, containing on the ground floor: (1) the vestry next the church, (2) the chapter-house, (3) a passage through the range, and (4) the warming-house, where was a fire kept all winter for the inmates to warm themselves at. On the floor above, occupying the whole range, was

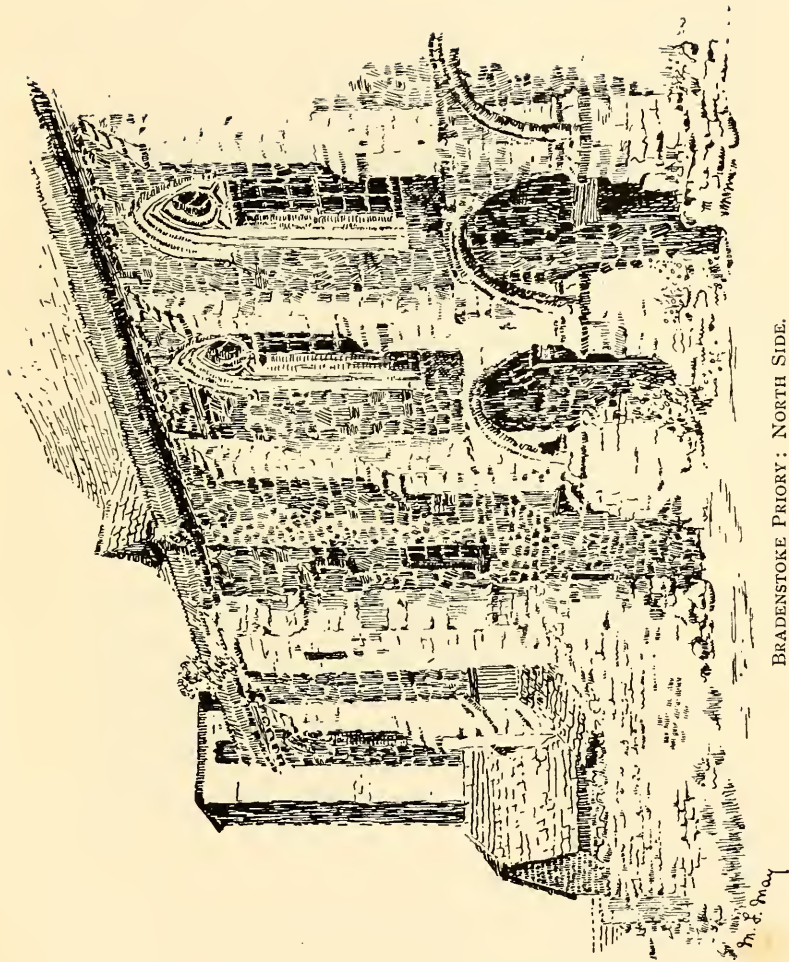
<sup>1</sup> At Lilleshall and Mottisfont the church was cruciform, without any aisles; at Oxford it was cruciform, with aisles throughout, including a western one to the transept; and at the canonesses' churches of Lacock and Burnham it was a long rectangle, without any aisles or transepts.

the great dorter or sleeping-place of the canons. On the north side of the cloister was the frater or dining-hall, with the kitchen and offices adjoining. It was usually over a low, vaulted chamber, used as cellars, with, at the east end, a passage through the range. Eastward of these buildings round the cloister, would be the infirmary, a separate establishment for the accommodation of the sick, the aged and the infirm, who were unable to bear the fatigues of the cloister life, and were allowed to live in greater ease and on more sumptuous food. It was also the temporary abode of those who had been let blood, until they had recovered from that weakening process. It always had a separate chapel and kitchen, and was under the direct supervision of the fermerer, who, as a necessary duty of his office, had to be learned in drugs and the care of the sick.

We now return to that part of the monastery in existence, which all dates from the best period of the fourteenth century. In Cistercian houses this western range was used entirely for the accommodation of the lay brethren, and contained their living-rooms on the ground floor and their dorter above; but in Augustinian houses it was put to other uses. Next the church, upon the first floor, was generally the lodging of the superior, and the rest was a large hall and sleeping-chambers for the accommodation of superior guests. On the ground floor was usually the outer parlour forming entrance to the cloister from the outer court, where inmates might speak with their friends; but in this case, owing to the quick slope of the ground to the west, the outer court could not have been on that side of the buildings, so it would appear that this parlour was elsewhere, probably under the dais of the frater.

The ground story of the building is a handsome vaulted undercroft of six bays resting on central octagonal pillars. At the fourth bay from the south were two wide cross-arches





BRADENSTOKE PRIORY: NORTH SIDE.

to support a wall above, but otherwise it was undivided from end to end. In the second bay from the north on the west side is an original entrance doorway, and another is at the south end leading down from the prior's lodging. The chamber was probably divided up into rooms by wooden partitions for the accommodation of inferior guests, as the character of the work is too good for mere cellarage.

On the floor above was a large hall occupying the four southern bays and lighted from the west by good two-light pointed windows in the first three bays. The other bay was divided off to form the screens, with a doorway in the west wall originally approached by steps from the ground. On the north side is an inserted fireplace, apparently of the sixteenth century. The original handsome fourteenth-century roof remains, and has arched and moulded principals ornamented with the ball flower; but is in a very bad condition, the rain constantly coming in and doing great damage. A short time ago part of the modern plaster ceiling of the hall fell down, and revealed the fact that in the fifteenth century a wood ceiling with moulded beams had been inserted under the earlier open roof for warmth. A carved boss, apparently from this ceiling, is now fixed in the centre of that of one of the modern rooms and bears the letter S, possibly to commemorate the last prior, William Snow.

The remaining two bays at the north end have been destroyed except the west wall, but above the vaulted undercroft were of two stories in height, connected by a wide spiral staircase in the square turret at the north-west angle. The lower story has a couple of two-light square windows in each bay, and the upper a two-light traceried window with depressed head in each bay. Both stories were probably used as sleeping-rooms for the guests, the servants being accommodated under the hall table when they had had enough to eat. On the west side is a projecting wardrobe turret in connection with both stories and the hall.



UNDERCROFT OF WESTERN RANGE, BRADENSTOKE PRIORY.  
[facing p. 320.]



At the south end of the existing building and between it and the church was a very interesting structure of three stories in height that formed the prior's lodging, with probably a small chapel to the east. It is now all destroyed, but the engraving of S. and N. Buck of 1752 shows it standing complete, with a fragment of the church adjoining the south. In the west wall was a large fifteenth-century window of eight lights with traceried head under a square label to the centre or principal floor, and in the stringcourse beneath were a number of coats-of-arms.

Some years ago this building became ruinous, and the ornamental head of the fireplace in its north wall was taken to Corsham Court. There it lay for a long time unused, but in the early part of 1900 it was erected in the billiard-room. The head, which is richly carved, is in two stones, divided horizontally into two series of traceried panels, all of which have been richly painted and gilded; the upper row, five in number, have a shield in the centre of each, all now quite plain; and the lower row, six in number, have bosses in the centre, on which are carved these letters, *T·W·A·L·S·h·e*. Thomas Walshe was prior in 6 Henry VIII., and that is all we know of him; but he must have ruled for some time before then, this work being of much earlier character; and on one of the shields from under the west window are, *on a cross three roses*, the arms of Thomas Langford, Bishop of Sarum 1484 to 1493, which is about the date of the work. Also from the same place came a patræ, with the letter T similar to that on the fireplace, and two rebuses: (1) a letter as last under a wall out of which grows a tree, and (2) the same without the letter. I must thank my friend the Rev. E. H. Goddard for identifying the tree as an ash, so that we have the nice rebus T Wall-ash or Walshe as he calls himself on the fireplace. In addition were the arms of (1) England, (2) France modern, and England, (3) three feathers in pale, and (4) three pales vair on a chief, a lion of England,

said to have been used by Patrick, the son of the Founder. All these arms and rebuses are now built into the east wall of a modern building that has taken the place of the prior's lodging.

The old barn belonging to the priory is also in existence, and stands not far from the present dwelling-house. The "King's Lodgings," so called because it was set apart for the king's use, was pulled down in 1588. It is said that King John occupied this building on many occasions, and that he showed his appreciation of the entertainment he received by leaving some jewels to the priory when he died. There is a tradition, too, that Henry II. was often here, and that during his reign he was three times crowned "in a chapel in the Vill of Braden." The priory church was dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, and up to within the present century an altar-picture of the Virgin painted on paper was preserved at Bradenstoke. For safe custody the picture was then handed over to one of the members of Parliament for the county, and it is possible it remains in the hands of his heirs to-day. Bones and other relics of the canons are continually being turned up as alterations and repairs are effected, and only a short time ago a very fine stone coffin was unearthed, and now occupies a corner in the undercroft.

The religious community at Bradenstoke, being of over £200 a year value, did not surrender to Henry VIII. until 1539; but Legh and his colleague John ap Rice had previously visited the house and made the following report to Cromwell, the lord treasurer: "We have ben at Maumesburie . . . And then at Bradstock, where after exact and diligent inquisicion we coulde not prove any cryme ageinst the Prior, but ij. or thre of the convent were found convict of incontinencie."<sup>1</sup> When the suppression took place the canons were pensioned,

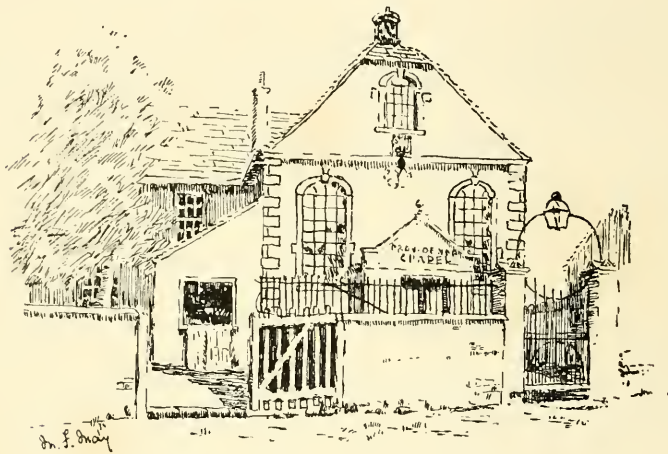
<sup>1</sup> The Rev. W. Gilchrist Clark, M.A., *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, vol. xxviii. p. 295.

receiving amounts varying from £60 per annum in the case of Snow, the prior, to £2 each to three probably recently joined brethren. The estates were granted by Henry to Richall Pexell, the revenues being then valued at £212—£270 per annum. Later the whole property came into the possession of the Methuens, and from them it passed to Sir Gabriel Goldney, Bart., in whose family it still remains.

Bradenstoke village, which stands near the priory remains, has, like others in the neighbourhood, changed its name a number of times. Even now we frequently hear it spoken of as Clack, but how it obtained this name is not known. Some have surmised that the name comes from *clæg*, the Anglo-Saxon for clay, and others have derived it from "clack," the noise made by a mill-hopper. In 1540 it was known as the manor of Clake. Not very many years ago its name was Broadstock-cum-Clack, and it has also been called Stock and Stoke apud Clive. It is here that some writers put the scene of a sanguinary raid made by the Danes under Ethwald Clito in 905; but other authorities are of opinion that it was at Basingstoke, in Hampshire, that the fighting took place. Some sort of support is given to those who hold to the former idea by the fact that at the spot known as Clack Mount there are traces of an old square earthwork.

In the main street of the village are some good specimens of mediæval cottages, one of them possessing an oak-panelled room, the panelling now, unfortunately, covered with wall-paper. Outside the church are the remains of an ancient market-cross. This cross in years gone by stood on the edge of the Malmesbury side of the hill, and was a conspicuous object from the valley below. Near its original position, if not actually round its base, Clack Fall Fair used to be held, and many a bargain, no doubt, has been struck by the clasp of hands across the steps on which its

shaft was reared. Bradenstoke is also happy in the possession of one of the original Whitefield chapels. It was erected in 1777, and, what was rare for dissenting chapels in those days, it was furnished with bell, bell-turret, and wall-clock striking on the bell. The clock, notwithstanding its age, is in good going order, and the bell still calls the worshippers to service.



THE WHITEFIELD CHAPEL, BRADENSTOKE.

Bradenstoke is now in the civil parish of Lyneham; but at the time of the Conquest Lyneham seems not to have existed, as it is not mentioned in the Domesday Survey. In later years it appears as a possession of Bradenstoke priory, its inhabitants paying no first-fruits or tenths, and its church being served by the canons. It is therefore possible that the village originated with one of the heads of this religious house.

Life at Lyneham flows along in the humdrum, quiet way common to most country villages, the only red-letter day in the year being that on which the village friendly society holds its feast. Then, for a few brief hours, under the trees of the ancient green, old and young make merry



and forget their life of toil. As a general rule, no doubt, it has been the same ever since the place came into being ; but there have been times when its peaceful life has been rudely disturbed. On Wednesday, Jan. 16th, 1838, a man named Maskelyne shot at and wounded a Mr. Bryan Rumboll, then residing at Lyneham Court. For his offence Maskelyne was tried, condemned and executed at Devizes.

From the newspaper accounts of this case it would appear that the prisoner committed the crime to satisfy the demands of his paramour, a girl named Guy, who was then base enough to betray him. We are informed by one who remembers the circumstances, and was present at the trial, that much sympathy was felt for the unfortunate man, and particularly so when it became known that Mr. Rumboll, who suffered but little injury, had refused to act on an intimation that a petition from him would save the man's life. The newspapers go on to say that whilst lying under sentence of death Maskelyne's appetite was "most voracious, often eating double and treble the prison allowance." At an interview that the Rev. Julian Young of Lynham had with him a few days before his execution, he wept so bitterly that the clergyman "thought he had thawed at last, and said to him, 'You sorrow, I trust, for your past sins ; you seek for pardon ?' The reply was, 'No, sir, I don't. I wasn't thinking about my sins. It is as I am so dreadful hungry ; I'd give all the world, if 'twas mine, for one good bellyful afore I die. I do assure you that I feels as if I could eat a jackass.'"<sup>1</sup> He was executed in the presence of ten thousand spectators.

On June 30th, 1840, a brutal murder was committed, at what is known as the Dog Kennels, by one James Taylor, the victim being his wife, who was much younger than himself, and of whom he was intensely jealous. The poor woman, totally unconscious of the danger that was menacing

<sup>1</sup> From Mr. Young's "Journal."

her, was busily preparing food for the evening meal, when her husband crept stealthily up from behind and shot her dead. There can be little doubt, from his conduct both before and at the time of his execution, that the man was mad. When on the scaffold he sang part of a song which was then very popular, laying particular stress on the words:

“Turn about and wheel about and do just so,  
And every time I turn about I jump Jim Crow.”

His last words were, “I likes this sort of fun.”

Lyneham churchyard contains some very fine yew trees, one or two of them old enough to have been standing there at the time the following “judgment and finall doome” was carried out:—

“The order judgmēt and finall doome of Ihon Hungerforde and Edmond Longe Esquires twoe of the Kinge’s Maj<sup>ties</sup> Justices of the peace and quorē, next inhabitinge to y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>r</sup>she church of Lineham, in the countye aforesaid, made for the punishment of . . . of Lineham aforesaid, mercer, and . . . daughter of . . . the elder, of y<sup>e</sup> same, yeoman. The said Justices doe order that upon Mñday next in the morning halfe an hower before moringe praier shall commence y<sup>e</sup> said . . . and . . . shall stand both of them in severall white sheetes at y<sup>e</sup> gate entringe into y<sup>e</sup> churchyarde of Lineham on y<sup>e</sup> east side, for y<sup>e</sup> resorters to Divine service y<sup>t</sup> day at y<sup>e</sup> churche to behold and looke upo, and take warninge, and when praier is begaine they shall both be brought into y<sup>e</sup> churche and remaine there duringe y<sup>e</sup> whole time of divine service. In like manner shall they stande in their sheetes at y<sup>e</sup> gate aforesaid halfe an hower before eaveninge praier, and be brought likewise into y<sup>e</sup> churche in their sheetes when eaveninge praier is begūnē, there to remaine duringe the whole time of eaveninge praier, which being ended they both in their sheetes be sett in the stockes, there to continue by the space of one hower and no more.

“This our order we require y<sup>e</sup> Constables and Churchwardens of y<sup>e</sup> town and parishe of Lineham to see truly and

strictly p'formed as they will awnswear y<sup>e</sup> contrarye and the subscription hereof under our handes and seales shalbe their sufficient dischargd in y<sup>t</sup> behalfe. Dated at Clacke this 26 daye of Marche in the yeare of our Lord God 1607."<sup>1</sup>

Lyneham church, dedicated to St. Michael, is built in the Perpendicular style. The tower contains a peal of five bells. The 1st is dated ANNO DOMINI 1632, and bears these mysterious letters :

RTTH ✱ ĀT · IT · CHĀ : TYNTE :

The 2nd was cast by R. and J. Wells, of Albourne, in 1794. The 3rd is dated 16<sup>o</sup> 5, and is believed to have been cast by Keene, whose bells are rare. The 4th is undated ; but it is undoubtedly a pre-Reformation bell. It has cast on its upper surface a low-relief figure of a mitred church dignitary with the right hand raised in benediction. Above the figure appears this inscription in Lombardic capitals :



O: THOMAS: PORRIGE: RETE: STANTES: OREM: NOBIS:

From the fact that the figure is holding a staff surmounted by a cross, and that the appeal contained in the inscription is addressed to Thomas, it may safely be inferred that the bell is dedicated to Thomas à Becket. The two words "Rete Stantes" make it difficult to construe the Latin of the inscription. It has been suggested to us that they are intended for "Recte Stantibus"; and if this can be accepted as the correct reading, then, taken in connection with the tradition that the bell originally belonged to Bradenstoke priory, it leads us to suppose that the bell dates from a time when storm-clouds were gathering about

<sup>1</sup> See *Wilts Archaeological Magazine*, vol. xxii. p. 17.

the Church. And it would further seem to show that the appeal, "O Thomas, send help to us who stand in the right," was not simply a pious wish possessing no special significance, but a solemn prayer to one who in his day stood up boldly for the rights of the Church.

The tenor is a modern recast of an earlier bell that some years ago broke away from the stock whilst being rung and fell among the beams of the belfry.<sup>1</sup> It is inscribed :—

TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

The church contains two good oak screens, one fifteenth-century and the other Jacobean. There is also in it a monument to "the memory of Dame Eleanor, the Relict of Sir Robert Button of Tokenham Court," a manor-house still standing in the parish, and now the property of Capt. G. C. W. Heneage,<sup>2</sup> At the time of the Civil War Sir Wm. Button, Bart., was the owner of Tokenham or Tockenham Court. He was a Royalist, and was terribly punished for his loyalty. In June 1643 his estate was raided by Sir Edward Hungerford, the leader at that time for the Parliament in Wilts, who carried off 380 sheep, 69 beasts, 160 "weights" of wool, the beds and hangings of the rooms of the manor house and the pewter and brass of the kitchen: the whole valued at £767. Twelve months after Sir William was again raided, this time by a party of horse from the Malmesbury garrison. He then suffered the loss of 440 sheep, 50 beasts, 62 mares and foals and other live stock, 100 cheeses and all the butter and apparatus from the dairy, and damask curtains, scarlet cloth, silver plate, etc., from the house: total value, £526 5s. On November 22nd of the same year (1644) he was dispossessed of his Tockenham property, Sir Edmund Fowell becoming,

<sup>1</sup> When the recast bell was being brought from the railway station it slipped in the waggon and broke a man's leg.

<sup>2</sup> See Compton Bassett.

under the Parliament, the tenant of the estate, at a rent of £320 per annum. And, to crown all, in 1646 poor Sir William was fined £2380 for "Delinquency." But through good and evil repute, through calm and storm, he remained true to his principles. Surely at his death enemies and friends alike must have said, "Peace to his ashes, for he was a MAN!"

## APPENDIX A.

EXTRACTS FROM LAY SUBSIDY AND OTHER ROLLS  
(EDWARD III., ETC.) SHOWING THE NAMES OF THE  
INHABITANTS OF CALNE AND THE AMOUNTS PAID  
BY THEM.

*Lay Subsidy, Wilts,  $\frac{19}{8}$ . [Collections of a Fifteenth and Tenth,  
7 Edward III.]*

### THE BOROUGH OF CALNE.

From John de Marleberg . . . .	xijd.
From Richard le Taillour . . . .	xijd.
From John Grendhan . . . .	xviij <i>d.</i>
From Richard Beylond . . . .	iijs. vjd. ob. q <sup>tt</sup>
From John de Wyntecestre . . . .	xijd.
From John le Cockes . . . .	xijd.
From Robert le Mareschal . . . .	xijd.
From William le Blackere . . . .	vs.
From William Yweyn . . . .	xijd.
From Peter Galiane . . . .	xijd.
From John Justice . . . .	xxiij <i>d.</i>
From Robert le Tannere . . . .	ijs.
From Robert le Justice . . . .	iijs.
From Robert le Beruer . . . .	xviii <i>d.</i>
From Robert le Blake . . . .	xviii <i>s.</i> ijd. ob.
From William Dygon . . . .	ijs. vjd.
From William Rogeraunt . . . .	xijd.
From William Bonenfaunt . . . .	xijd.
From Walter Freman . . . .	xijd.
From John le Glasiere . . . .	ijs.
From Thomas de Sende . . . .	ijs.
From Thomas de Cokelberwe . . . .	vjs. jd. qu.
From Henry le Spicer . . . .	xijd.

From Reginald Torp . . . . .	xijd.
From Thomas le Sopere . . . . .	ijs.
From William Gernet . . . . .	xijd.
From John atte Tammulne . . . . .	iijs.
From John Edmund . . . . .	iijs.
From William le Glovere . . . . .	xijd.
From John le Webbe . . . . .	vjs.
From Richard Hoppecras . . . . .	xviijd.
From Richard Hikay . . . . .	xijd.
From John de Abyndon . . . . .	viijd.
From Henry Frankeleyn . . . . .	iijs.
From John Andrew . . . . .	iiijs.
From John Laurantz . . . . .	ijs.
From John de Caynesham . . . . .	ijs.
From John Laurentz . . . . .	xviijd.
From William le Quisener . . . . .	xijd.
From Agnes Attebrigges . . . . .	xijd.
From John le Mare . . . . .	xviijd.
From Richard le Muleward . . . . .	xviijd.
From John Ballard . . . . .	xijd.
From Adam le Symple . . . . .	xijd.
From Richard le Saltere . . . . .	xijd.
Sum . . . . .	Cs. xjd. ob.

Subtax. { From Roger Crupse . . . : xviijd. }  
 { From William Deoghere ijs. } Sum . iijs. vjd.  
 Sum of the whole Borough . . . Ciijs. vd. ob.

[The whole sum from the hundred of Calne, exclusive of the borough and including Beversbrook and Studley, was xliiij*l*. iiijs. jd. qu.]

*Lay Subsidy, Wilts,  $\frac{19}{100}$ . Names of Aliens resident in Wilts, 24 Henry VI. Names of alien persons holding households in Calne Hundred.*

From Patrick Iryssh of Calne } 8 <i>d</i> . (assessed at) { Nothing received
Irishman . . . . . } . . . . . { because removed
From Richard Moryes of the } 8 <i>d</i> . ,, { 8 <i>d</i> . received.
same Irishman . . . . . } . . . . . {

*Names of alien persons not holding households there.*

From Anastasia late the wife } 8 <i>d</i> . (assessed at) { Nothing received
of Henry labourer of Calne, } . . . . . { because removed.
Irishwoman . . . . . } . . . . . {

From Margaret servant of John Everard of the same, Irish . . . . .	} 3 <i>d.</i> (assessed at)	} 3 <i>d.</i> received.
From Iooda late the wife of John Greson of the same, Irish . . . . .		

*Lay Subsidy, Wilts,  $\frac{197}{230}$ . [Collections of Benevolence 36 Henry VIII.]*  
*The Hundred of Calne.*

<i>The borough</i> <i>of Calne.</i>	{	William Alleyne . . . . .	30 <i>s.</i>
		William Heyward . . . . .	6 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>
		Thomas Chaundler . . . . .	13 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>
		Raff Aber . . . . .	8 <i>s.</i>
<i>Stodeley</i> —	John Dodson . . . . .	6 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	
<i>Stoke</i>	{	Roger Blake gent. . . . .	26 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>
		Robert Gawen . . . . .	6 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>

*Lay Subsidy, Wilts,  $\frac{197}{244a}$ . [Assessments for the Collection of Subsidy*  
*1 Edward VI.]*

THE HUNDRED OF CALNE.

Imprimis William Allen gentleman in lands . . . . .	16 <i>li.</i>	30 <i>s.</i> (?)
Item Thomas Chaunler in goodis . . . . .	9 <i>li.</i>	6 <i>s.</i>
Item William Hayward in goodis . . . . .	9 <i>li.</i>	6 <i>s.</i>
Item Alecs Nowlard in goodis . . . . .	5 <i>li.</i>	3 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>
Item Richard Player in goodis . . . . .	6 <i>li.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
Item Thomas Kengelo in goodis . . . . .	6 <i>li.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
Item Robert Russell in goodis . . . . .	6 <i>li.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
Item Raffe Abare in goodis . . . . .	7 <i>li.</i>	4 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>
Item John Forman in goodis . . . . .	6 <i>li.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
Item John Nicholas in goodis . . . . .	6 <i>li.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
Item Thomas Porberrye in goodis . . . . .	5 <i>li.</i>	3 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>
Item John Whod in goodis . . . . .	6 <i>li.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
Sum . . . . .	31 <i>li.</i>	19 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>

ESTMANSTRET.

Item William Dolman in goodes . . . . .	7 <i>li.</i>	4 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>
Item Thomas Somers in goodes . . . . .	5 <i>li.</i>	3 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>
Sum . . . . .	12 <i>li.</i>	8 <i>s.</i>
Sum of the whole Hundred. . . . .	210 <i>li.</i>	6 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>



*Lay Subsidy, Wilts,  $\frac{1}{2}\frac{9}{8}\frac{8}{1}$ . [Collections of Subsidy 3 Edward VI.]*

BOROUGH OF CALNE, WITH PYNNELS.

Item Roger Blake gentleman in goodis . . . . .	xxli.	(subsidy)	xxs.
Item William Allyn in goodis . . . . .	xvjli.	„	xvjs.
Item Robert Blake in goodis . . . . .	xli.	xs.	„
Item Thomas Colemo <sup>r</sup> in goodis . . . . .	xli.	„	xs.
Item William Hayward in goodis . . . . .	xli.	„	xs.
Item Thomas Chaundler in goodis . . . . .	xli.	„	xs.
Item Raffe Aber in goodis . . . . .	xli.	„	xs.
John Hande in goodis . . . . .	xli.	„	xs.
Item John Nycholas in goodis . . . . .	xli.	„	xs.
Item John Yole in goodis . . . . .	xli.	„	xs.
Item Charles Tyler fre denyson in goodis . . . . .	xls.	„	iijs.
Sum . . . . .	vjli.		
Sum of the whole Hundred . . . . .	xixli.	xijs.	

*Lay Subsidy, Wilts,  $\frac{1}{2}\frac{9}{8}\frac{8}{5}$ . [Collections 1 Elizabeth.] The Hundred of Calne with the Borough.*

CALNE.

William Alyn gent. in landes . . . . .	10li.	13s. 4d.	(subsidy)
Edward Michell gent. in goodes . . . . .	6li.	6s.	„
Robert Norman in goodes . . . . .	5li.	5s.	„
John Nicholas in goodes . . . . .	5li.	5s.	„
Roger Nicholas in purches . . . . .	40s.	2s. 8d.	„
William Dodson in goodes . . . . .	8li.	8s.	„
Thomas Colymore in goodes . . . . .	5li.	5s.	„
William Swaddon in goodes. . . . .	8li.	8s.	„
William Nous in goodes . . . . .	7li.	7s.	„
Harry Wodrove senior in goodes . . . . .	6li.	6s.	„
Harry Wodrove junior in goodes . . . . .	5li.	5s.	„
Charles Tyler denizen in goodes . . . . .	4li.	8s.	„
Richard Bowdwen in goodes . . . . .	6li.	6s.	„
Walter Gale in goodes . . . . .	7li.	7s.	„
William Forman in goodes . . . . .	5li.	5s.	„
Robert Aber in goodes . . . . .	5li.	5s.	„
Robert Blacke in <sup>r</sup> purches . . . . .	20s.	— 16d.	„
Joan (?) Dodson widow in goodes . . . . .	5li.	5s.	„
John . . . alias Coke in goodes . . . . .	5li.	5s.	„
Sum . . . . .	5li.	14s. 4d.	

In addition to the above Roll  $\frac{1988}{287}$  (13 Elizabeth) gives :

John Hannam in goods . . .	3 <i>li.</i>	5 <i>s.</i>	(subsidy)
... Goddard gent. in lands . . .	5 <i>li.</i>	13 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	„
... Wear alias Browne in goods . . .	3 <i>li.</i>	5 <i>s.</i>	„
Thomas Brewar in goods . . .	5 <i>li.</i>	8 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	„
George Bray in goods . . .	3 <i>li.</i>	5 <i>s.</i>	„
John James in goods . . .	3 <i>li.</i>	5 <i>s.</i>	„
John Poeurstie in goods . . .	3 <i>li.</i>	5 <i>s.</i>	„
Henry Hoyse in goods . . .	3 <i>li.</i>	5 <i>s.</i>	„
Henry White in goods . . .	4 <i>li.</i>	6 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>	„
Thomas Wyatt in goods . . .	3 <i>li.</i>	5 <i>s.</i>	„
Robarte Parham in goods . . .	3 <i>li.</i>	5 <i>s.</i>	„
Walter Gale in goods . . .	3 <i>li.</i>	5 <i>s.</i>	„

*Lay Subsidy Wilts.*  $\frac{1988}{333}$  [*Subsidy 39 Elizabeth*]

The Hundred of Calne.

The Borroughe of Calne.

*Landes.*

In primis Mrs. Katherin Browne widow . . .	5 <i>li.</i>	20 <i>s.</i>
John Horton gentleman . . .	20 <i>s.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
Benedic Allan gent . . .	40 <i>s.</i>	8 <i>s.</i>
William Taylor . . .	20 <i>s.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
John Ludd . . .	20 <i>s.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
William Harkeword (?) . . .	20 <i>s.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
John Parham . . .	20 <i>s.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
Richard Edwardes . . .	20 <i>s.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
Frauncis Twygden . . .	20 <i>s.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
Thomas Swadden . . .	20 <i>s.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>
Robert Lyttle . . .	20 <i>s.</i>	4 <i>s.</i>

*Goodes.*

Robert Sagar alias Persons . . .	4 <i>li.</i>	10 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>
John Weare alias Browne . . .	4 <i>li.</i>	10 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>
Oliver Gyrdler . . .	4 <i>li.</i>	10 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>
William Forman . . .	4 <i>li.</i>	10 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>
Walter Nicholas . . .	3 <i>li.</i>	8 <i>s.</i>

Isaac Welstead . . . . .	3 <i>li.</i>	8 <i>s.</i>
Thomas Woodroffe . . . . .	3 <i>li.</i>	8 <i>s.</i>
Phillip Swaddon . . . . .	3 <i>li.</i>	8 <i>s.</i>
William Swaddon . . . . .	6 <i>li.</i>	16 <i>s.</i>
Thomas Fowke . . . . .	4 <i>li.</i>	10 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>
Robert Forman . . . . .	4 <i>li.</i>	10 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>
John Noyes . . . . .	4 <i>li.</i>	10 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>
	Sum 9 <i>li.</i>	6 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>

*Lay Subsidy Wilts.*  $\frac{199}{378}$  [*Subsidy collections 21 Jas. I.*]

HUNDRED OF CALNE.—BOROUGH.

*In Lands.*

Mrs. Mussett widow . . . . .	iiij <i>li.</i> (subsidy)	16 <i>s.</i>
Walter Nicholas senior . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
John Noyse . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
Joan Hannam wid. . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
John Weekes . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
William Parsons . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
Bryant Inkeley . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
Honor Allen widow . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
Thomas Swaddon . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
Thomas Child . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
Thomas Page . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
William Forman . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
John Mayoe . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
Robert Page . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
Thomas Jordan . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
John Jones . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
Robert Jefferyes . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
John Dash junior . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>
Stephen White . . . . .	xx <i>s.</i> „	4 <i>s.</i>

*Goods.*

Judith Forman . . . . .	iiij <i>li.</i> „	10 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>
Alice Swaddon . . . . .	iiij <i>li.</i> „	10 <i>s.</i> 8 <i>d.</i>
Benedick Browne . . . . .	ii <i>li.</i> „	8 <i>s.</i>
Robert Forman . . . . .	v <i>li.</i> „	13 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>

*Lay Subsidy. Wilts. 199/406 (Collections 16 Charles I.).*

HUNDRED OF CALNE.

<i>Borough of Calne.</i>	<i>Lands.</i>
John Weekes gent. . . . .	xxxs. xijs.
Edward Baynard gent. . . . .	xxxs. xijs.
Stephen White . . . . .	xxs. viijs.
Phillip Jefferyes & } Matthews Sheppard }	xxs. viijs.
John Dash . . . . .	xxs. viijs.
John Parker . . . . .	xxs. viijs.
Thomas Sinett . . . . .	xxs. viijs.
William Bush } Henry Lad }	xxs. viijs.
Anna Child } Phillip Orell }	xxs. viijs.
Jane Forman widow } Thomas Page }	xxs. viijs.
John Carrawaye } & John Gage }	xxs. viijs.
Humfry Townsend } & John Liddiard }	xxs. viijs.
William Seagar . . . . .	xxxs. xijs.
Arthur Eastmead . . . . .	xxs. viijs.
Robert Jefferyes . . . . .	xxs. viijs.
John Landick . . . . .	xxs. viijs.
John Mayo . . . . .	xxs. viijs.
Henry Haswell . . . . .	xxxs. xijs.

*Goods.*

Elizabeth Hungerford widow . . . . .	vi <i>l</i> i.	xxx <i>ij</i> s.
Robert Forman . . . . .	vi <i>l</i> i.	xxv <i>ij</i> s. vii <i>ij</i> d.
Thomas Barnes . . . . .	iii <i>ij</i> l <i>i</i> .	xxv <i>s</i> . iii <i>ij</i> d.
Benedict Brown gen. . . . .	iii <i>l</i> i.	xxv <i>s</i> .

Sum 12*li*. 16*s*. 0*d*.

*Lay Subsidy Wilts*  $\frac{1}{4} \frac{9}{12}$ .

[Names of persons taxed & sums at which they were assessed 18 Charles I. for the first moiety of the sum 4000*li.* granted for the necessary defence of the Kingdom.]

## HUNDRED OF CALNE, BURROW OF CALNE:—

Henry Chivers (?) Esquire . . . . .	<i>oli.</i> 1 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i>	John James . . . . .	<i>oli</i> 3 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
John Duckett Esq <sup>r</sup> . . . . .	8 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	Jane Forman widow & Walter Forman . . . . .	0 4 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Robert Flower . . . . .	2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	Thomas Pilz . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Edward Hungerford Esq <sup>r</sup> . . . . .	11 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	John Bennett . . . . .	0 1 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Richard Brown Esq <sup>r</sup> M <sup>rs</sup> . Elizabeth Hun- gerford and M <sup>r</sup> . Thomas Hunger- ford . . . . .	4 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Mathewe Swaine . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
George Lowe Esq <sup>r</sup> . . . . .	1 10 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	John Pile . . . . .	0 4 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
John Lowe gent. . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Peter Bird . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Robert Forman . . . . .	0 10 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	John Weekes gent. . . . .	0 8 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
M <sup>r</sup> . Benedicke Browne . . . . .	0 10 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Thomas Dash . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
John Landicke . . . . .	0 5 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	John Jones . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Thomas Okeford . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Phillip Orrell . . . . .	0 3 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Richard Pilgrime . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Humfry Townsend . . . . .	0 3 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Thomas Ingles . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Francis Fley . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
John Sanders . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	William Parsons . . . . .	0 4 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Richard Hale . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Anthony Kue . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Arthur Eastmeade . . . . .	0 4 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	John Townsend . . . . .	0 3 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
John Liddiard . . . . .	0 3 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	John Brooke . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Thomas Clarke . . . . .	0 3 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Robert Jefferies . . . . .	0 4 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Barnabas Horsington . . . . .	0 1 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i>	John Cale senio <sup>r</sup> . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Matthew Sheppard . . . . .	0 3 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	John Gage . . . . .	0 4 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
William Ditch . . . . .	0 1 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>	William Haskins Jun <sup>r</sup> . . . . .	0 1 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
John Bartlett . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Thomas Gray . . . . .	0 3 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
William Jefferies . . . . .	0 4 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Nicholas Browne . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
Thomas Winter . . . . .	0 1 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Arnoy Stile . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
William Nicholas . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Henry Thorner . . . . .	0 1 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>
Anthony Pearce . . . . .	0 4 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Joan Taylo <sup>r</sup> widdow . . . . .	0 4 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
William Harkewood . . . . .	0 1 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	Walter Nicholas . . . . .	0 3 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
		Thomas Willis . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
		Robert Taylo <sup>r</sup> . . . . .	0 3 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
		Thomas Hunt clerk & Widdow Jent . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
		William Pillis . . . . .	0 3 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>
		Walter Cooly . . . . .	0 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>

Henry Haswell . . .	<i>oli</i>	7 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	William Haskins			
William Bush . . .	o	3 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	senior . . . . .	<i>oli</i>	0 <i>s.</i>	6 <i>d.</i>
Michael Fitshall . . .	o	1 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	John Nash . . . . .	o	0 <i>s.</i>	6 <i>d.</i>
Stephen White . . .	o	4 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	John Caraway . . . . .	c	2 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
Henry Ladd . . . . .	o	3 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	Nicholas James . . . . .	o	2 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
Robert Laurence . . .	o	1 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	Tho: Taylor . . . . .	o	1 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
Rose Townsend				William Butler . . . . .	o	1 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
widdow . . . . .	o	1 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	Richard Paty . . . . .	o	1 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
Anne Childe widdow	o	3 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	Richard Ritch. . . . .	o	1 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
Thomas Price . . . . .	o	1 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	William Mortimer			
Edward Parsons . . . . .	o	2 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	vicar . . . . .	o	2 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
Henry Pleidall . . . . .	o	2 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	John Noyes . . . . .	o	1 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
Thomas Page tanner	o	2 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	John Ladd . . . . .	o	2 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
Richard Gent . . . . .	o	1 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	John Iles . . . . .	o	2 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
John Parker . . . . .	o	5 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	Stephen Seager &			
John Dash . . . . .	o	4 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	William Wastfeild	o	2 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
Thomas Sinnett . . . . .	o	4 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	Tho: Simmett for			
John Mayo . . . . .	o	5 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	Mr Stapeles . . . . .	o	2 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
Roger Reeve . . . . .	o	2 <i>s.</i>	6 <i>d.</i>	Robert Ladd . . . . .	o	1 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
Thomas Tibbold . . . . .	o	1 <i>s.</i>	<i>od.</i>	William Beare. . . . .	o	1 <i>s.</i>	0 <i>d.</i>
John Bishopp . . . . .	o	0 <i>s.</i>	6 <i>d.</i>	Suñe is . . . . .	14 <i>li.</i>	16 <i>s.</i>	8 <i>d.</i>

## APPENDIX B.

### MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE BOROUGH OF CALNE, FROM 1295 TO THE EXTINCTION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGES OF THE BOROUGH IN 1885.

Elected to serve in the Parliament  
which first met in

1295. Willielmus le Scryveyn ; Willielmus Chelfurist.  
 1297. None.  
 1298. No return made.  
 1299. " " "  
 1300. Johannes Godwyne ; Thomas Wynebald.  
 1304. Radolphus Pistor ; Johannes Godwyne.  
 1306. Ricardus Weylond.  
 1306. " " Thomas Kynebald (? Wynebald).  
 1307. " " Walterus Alffrych.  
 1311. For this Parliament the writ was issued to the Bailiffs of the  
       Liberty of Worthe, who made no return.  
 1360. Gilbertus Wacz ; Willielmus Colderne.  
 1362. Thomas Prentis ; Randolphus Gilbert.  
 1378. Willielmus Wichampton ; Rogerus Solasse.  
 1379. " " Ricardus Ronde.  
 1381. " " Johannes Blake.  
 1382. " " Willielmus Prentis.  
 1382. Robertus Formage ; Ricardus Ronde.  
 1384. Willielmus Wychampton ; Ricardus Ronde.  
 1384. (? Will<sup>mus</sup>) " Johannes Blake.  
 1385. Willielmus Wychampton ; " "  
 1387. " " Ricardus Ronde.  
 1399. Robertus Salman ; Johannes Felawe.  
 1413. " " Robertus Ronde.  
 1414. " " " "  
 1415. Willielmus Clerk ; Johannes Blake.  
 1417. Robertus Longe ; Robertus Salman.

Elected to serve in the Parliament  
which first met in

1420. Johannes Baylly; Ricardus Chamberleyn.  
 1421. Johannes Justice; Robertus Grene.  
 1422. Johannes Gilys; Henricus Rettenham.  
 1423. R . . . [name torn off]; Johannes Giles.  
 1425-6. Thomas Creklade; Johannes Russell.  
 1427. Johannes Maynard; Robertus Rowde.  
 1429. Robertus Crikkelade; Willielmus Crikkelade.  
 1430-1. " " " "  
 1432. Johannes Justice; Willielmus Themse.  
 1433. Robertus Criklade; Willielmus Criklade.  
 1435. " " " "  
 1436-7. " " Johannes Justice.  
 1441-2. Johannes Crikkelade; Robertus Gilys.  
 1446-7. Thomas Freman; Thomas Comer.  
 1448-9. Johannes Strong; Edwardus Basyng.  
 1449. Thomas Dysswall; Robertus Todde.  
 1450. Philippus Baynard; Georgius Houghton.  
 1452-3. Johannes Wolaton; Johannes Godwyn.  
 1455. Johannes Whittokesmede; . . . [name illegible].  
 1459. Robertus Baynard; Robertus Foster.  
 1460. No returns found.  
 1467. Rogerus Huls; Johannes Bank.  
 1472. Rogerus Townesend; Johannes Hamond.  
 1477-8.<sup>1</sup> Willielmus Walrond, armiger; Johannes Peke; Robertus  
 Tocotes.  
 1482-1523. No returns found.  
 1529. Willielmus Crouche; Johannes Turgeys.  
 1536 and 1539. No returns found.  
 1544, 1547, 1552-3. No returns found for Wilts.  
 1553. Robertus Hongerford, armiger; Willielmus Alyn, generousus.  
 1554. Willielmus Baselen, armiger; " " "  
 1554 (1 & 2 Ph. & Mary). Johannes Mervyn, miles; Edwardus  
 Wastfylde.  
 1555. Willielmus Alen, generousus; Edwardus Wastfylde.  
 1557-8. " " (spelt Aleyne); Ricardus Nicholas, generousus.  
 1558-9. Andrew Baynton, esq.; Richard Kingsmylls.  
 1562-3. William Clerke, gent.; William Alleyn, gent.

<sup>1</sup> It is curious to note that apparently three members sat in this Parliament for Calne. This is the only instance of three members for a borough we have observed.



Elected to serve in the Parliament  
which first met in

1572. William Alleyne, sen., gent.; William Were, alias Browne,  
yeoman.
1584. Stephen Duckett, esq.; John Lever, gent.
1586.     "           "           "           "           "
- 1588-9. Henry Jackman, gent.; John Lever, gent.
- 1592-3.     "           "           "           "           "; Thomas Edwards, gent.
1597. Thomas Edwards, esq., of Rushbury, Salop; Richard Lowe,  
esq., of Calne.
1601. Lionel Duckett, esq.; Richard Lowe, esq., of Calne.
- 1603-4. William Swaddon;<sup>1</sup> John Noyes.
1614. No returns found.
- 1620-1. John Duckett; John Pym.
- 1623-4. Sir Edward Howard, Kt.; John Duckett.
1625.     "           "           "           "           " Geo. Lowe, sen.
- 1625-6. Sir John Eyre, Kt.;           "           "           "
- 1627-8. Sir John Maynard, K.B.;     "           "           "
1646. William Maynard; Walter Norborne.
- 1640 (Long Parl<sup>t</sup>). George Lowe,<sup>2</sup> sen.; Hugh Rogers.
1654. Devizes, Marlborough and Salisbury were the only Wilts  
towns that returned members to this Parliament.
1656. No returns found for Wilts.
- 1658-9. Edward Bayntun;<sup>3</sup> William Duckett.

<sup>1</sup> Removed on account of age on Nov. 9th, 1605.

<sup>2</sup> On June 5th, 1646, Rowland Wilson, jun., esq., of London, was elected  
*vice* George Lowe, disabled to sit.

<sup>3</sup> A copy of the bond which Edward Bayntun was required to give to the  
burgesses of Calne that he would truly serve their interests in this Parliament  
is preserved in a commonplace-book belonging to Sir Henry Bayntun, Kt.,  
Sheriff of Wilts in 1600, now in the possession of the Wilts Archæological  
Association. The bond is in the following words:—

“Know all men by these presents y<sup>t</sup> I Edw Bayntun of Bremhill in ye county  
of Wtes Esq doe hold my selfe firmly bound to Benedict Browne of Calne  
in ye Countie afore<sup>d</sup> Gent & John Mayo of ye same Calne Mercer Burgesses  
of ye <sup>d</sup> Burrough of Calne afore<sup>d</sup> in five hundred pounds of good & lawfull  
monee of England to be paid into y<sup>e</sup> <sup>d</sup> Benedict & John or either of y<sup>m</sup> or  
either of their certaine Attorney & execut<sup>rs</sup> Administrat<sup>rs</sup> or assignes To ye  
w<sup>ch</sup> pay<sup>mt</sup> well & faithfully to be made I bind me my heires Execut<sup>rs</sup> &  
Administrat<sup>rs</sup> firmly by these pñts sealed w<sup>th</sup> my seale dated ye one & thirtieth  
day of December in ye yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty  
& eight.

Sealed & delived in  
the pñce of Gabriel Goldney jun  
Samuell Horsington.



signature



Elected to serve in the Parliament  
which first met in

1705. Sir Charles Hedges, Kt. ; Henry Chivers.  
 1705.<sup>1</sup> Edward Bayntun ; George Duckett.  
 1708.       "       "       "       "  
 1710. James Johnson ; William Hedges.  
 1713. William Hedges ; William Northey.  
 1714-15. Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Bart. ; Richard Chiswell.  
 1722.<sup>2</sup> Benjamin Haskins Stiles ; George Duckett.  
 1727. William Duckett ; William Wardour.  
 1734.       "       "       Walter Hungerford.  
 1741. William Elliott ;       "       "  
 1747.       "       "       William Northey.  
 1754. Thomas Duckett, of Hartham ; William Northey, of Compton  
       Bassett.  
 1761. Thomas Duckett, of Hartham ; Daniel Bull.  
 1768. Thomas Fitzmaurice ; John Dunning.  
 1774. Isaac Barré ;       "       "  
 1780.       "       "       John Dunning, of Spitchweek Park, co. Devon.  
 1784.       "       "       James Townshend, of Bruce Castle, M<sup>c</sup>sex.  
 1787 (23 Aug.). Joseph Jeykell, of Lincoln's Inn, barr.-at-law, *vice*  
       Townshend deceased.  
 1790. Joseph Jeykell, of Lincoln's Inn, barr.-at-law ; John Morris,  
       of Box, Wilts, K.C.  
 1792 (7 Feb.). Benjamin Vaughan, *vice* John Morris, who applied  
       for the Chiltern Hundreds.  
 1801. Joseph Jeykell ; Sir Francis Baring, Bart.  
 1802. Lord Henry Petty ; Joseph Jeykell.  
 1806 (17 Feb.). Osborne Markham, *vice* Lord Henry Petty, appointed  
       Chancellor and Under-Treasurer of the Exchequer.  
 1806. Joseph Jeykell ; Osborne Markham.  
 1807 (2 April). Henry Smith, *vice* Osborne Markham, appointed  
       Barrack Master-General.  
 1807. Joseph Jeykell ; Henry Smith.  
 1812.       "       "       James Abercromby.  
 1816 (23 Feb.). Jas. Macdonald, of East Sheen, Surrey, *vice* Joseph  
       Jeykell, who applied for the Chiltern Hundreds.  
 1818. Jas. Abercromby ; Jas. Macdonald.

<sup>1</sup> A petition was presented in 1705 by Sir Chas. Hedges and J. K. Ernie against the return of Bayntun and Duckett, and in 1708 by Sir Chas. Hedges against Duckett. In neither case was the petition successful.

<sup>2</sup> See page 21.

Elected to serve in the Parliament  
which first met in

1820. Jas. Abercromby; Jas. Macdonald.  
 1826. " " <sup>1</sup> Sir Jas. Macdonald,<sup>2</sup> Bart.  
 1830 (15 Feb.). Thomas Babington Macaulay, *vice* Jas. Abercromby,  
 appointed Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer in Scotland  
 1830. Sir Jas. Macdonald,<sup>3</sup> Bart.; Thomas Babington Macaulay.  
 1831. Thomas Babington Macaulay;<sup>4</sup> Lieut.-Col. Charles Richard  
 Foe.

AFTER REFORM ACT OF 1832.

1833. William Thomas Petty Fitzmaurice, commonly called Earl of  
 Kerry.  
 1835. " " " "  
 1837. Henry Petty Fitzmaurice, commonly called the Earl of Shel-  
 burne, of Bowood, Wilts.  
 1841. " " "  
 1847. " " "  
 1852. " " "  
 1857. Sir William Fenwick Williams, Bart., Major-Gen. in the army.  
 1859. Robert Lowe.  
 1865. " "  
 1868. Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.  
 1874. " " " to extinction of parliamentary  
 privileges in 1885.

<sup>1</sup> Appointed Judge-Advocate-General, and re-elected May 25th, 1827.

<sup>2</sup> Appointed a Commissioner for Trade and Plantation, and re-elected  
 May 25th, 1827.

<sup>3</sup> Re-elected Dec. 10th, 1830, after appointment as Commissioner for the  
 Affairs of India. See also p. 41.

<sup>4</sup> Re-elected June 13th, 1832, after appointment as Commissioner for the  
 Affairs of India. See also p. 41.

## APPENDIX C.

### COMPLETE COPY OF THE "OBNOXIOUS" CHARTER OF JAMES II.

PATENT ROLL 4 James II., Part 14, No. 1.

The King to all etc . . . . Greeting. Know that We having graciously at heart the amelioration of our borough of Calne in our county of Wilts and desiring that moreover there may and shall be in perpetuity one certain and indubitable manner in that borough of and for keeping of our peace and rule and government of the Borough aforesaid and of our people therein habiting and of others thither flocking together.

And in order that that Borough in all time to come may be and remain a Borough of Peace and Quiet to the dismay and terror of the Evil and as an encouragement to the Good And in order that our peace and other facts of Justice and good Government may avail and be enabled there the better to be kept and to come to pass. Hoping also that if the said Inhabitants of the aforesaid Borough shall have been enabled out of our enlarging concession to enjoy liberty and privilege that then they may feel themselves the more specially and strongly obliged as much as in them lies unto the service due and manifest unto Us our Heirs and Successors We therefore of our special grace and certain science and own motion have ordained—constituted—conceded & declared And by these presents for Us our Heirs & Successors do ordain constitute concede & declare that the aforesaid Borough of Calne in our county of Wilts be and remain for ever of itself a free Borough and that moreover the Inhabitants of the Borough of Calne be and remain for ever by virtue of these presents one body corporate and politic in thing fact and name by the Name of Steward (Seneschal) and Burgesses of the Borough of Calne in the county

of Wilts. And them & their successors by the name of Steward & Burgesses of the Borough of Calne We for Us our Heirs and Successors by these presents erect make ordain constitute & declare one Body Corporate & Politic in thing fact and name really and fully. And [We grant] that in the same name they may have perpetual succession and that they & their successors in the name of Steward & Burgesses of the Borough of Calne in the co. of Wilts may and shall be in all time to come persons apt and in law capable to have acquire receive and possess Manors Messuages Lands Tenements liberties privileges Rights Jurisdictions and Hereditaments whatsoever for themselves & their successors in fee and in perpetuity or by term of life or lives or of years or in any other legal manner whatsoever. And also goods and chattels and all other things of whatsoever genus species or quality they shall be. Moreover to give concede make away & assign lands tenements & Hereditaments goods and chattels or any portion thereof. And to do and execute all other acts and things in the name aforesaid. And that in the same name of Steward & Burgesses of the Borough of Calne in the co. of Wilts they may avail and be able to plead and be impleaded, to be summoned and to summon, to be defendant & be plaintiff in whatsoever Courts Pleas and places and in the presence of whatsoever Judges and other persons and officers of ours our Heirs & our Successors in all and single pleas suits plaints causes matters and demands whatsoever of whatever genus nature or species they be in the same manner and form as any other lieges of ours in this our kingdom of England or any other Body corporate & Politic within this our kingdom avail and are able to have acquire receive possess give concede & make away also to plead & be impleaded to summon & be summoned to be defendant & to be plaintiff. And that the Steward & Burgesses of the aforesaid Borough & their successors have a common Seal for the Causes and transactions of them and their successors that may be meet to be done.

And that the Steward & Burgesses of the aforesaid Borough & their successors be permitted and shall be permitted to break change and make anew the seal at their pleasure from time to time according as it shall seem good to them that it be better made. We wish also and by these presents for Us, our Heirs, our Heirs [*sic*], and Successors do concede and declare that

moreover there be and shall be in perpetuity within the Borough afores<sup>d</sup>, the liberty limit or precinct of the same, one worthy and discreet man who shall be and shall be called Guild Steward (Guild Seneschallus) of the Borough aforesaid. And certain number not exceeding thirty of worthy & discreet men who shall be & shall be called Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid who for the future shall be chosen out of the Inhabitants within the Borough aforesaid or within the said county of Wilts in manner and form as is mentioned below. And for the better execution of our will & concession in this part We have assigned, named, constituted & made and by these presents do for Ourselves our Heirs and Successors assign name constitute and make our well beloved Edgar Slade to be the first and the new Guild Seneschal of the Borough aforesaid to be continued in the said office up to the Feast of St Michael Archangel which shall be in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Six Hundred and Eighty Nine. And thereafter until what time one to the office aforesaid of Steward aforesaid shall have been chosen, appointed, and sworn according to the Ordinances & provisions expressed and declared below in these presents provided that the same Edgar Slade shall have lived for so long & unless in the meanwhile he shall be removed for a cause reasonable or in manner & form mentioned below. And We have assigned named constituted and made and do for Us, our Heirs and Successors assign name constitute & make Our Beloved William Langton Samuel Stevens Joseph Orell Arthur Robins Edgar Hawkins Thomas Lee John Forman Matthew Fewkes Gabriel Still David Townsend John Jefferies Thomas Looker Christopher Peirce, Joseph Simkins John Goddard Walter Nicholls Israel Noyse Thomas Weaver alias Morrell John Cale Philip James Robert Carde Frank Peirce Arthur Estmate Joseph Seriant John Scates Thomas James Richard Fox William Peirce William Wilshire & John Neatte to be the new and the first Burgesses of the Borough afores<sup>d</sup>. Willing that the said Burgesses shall continue in the said office during their natural lives respectively unless in the meanwhile for cause reasonable or in manner and form mentioned below they or any one of them shall be removed. And the aforesaid Edgar Slade We for Us our Heirs and Successors do name and constitute to be after his removal from the office afores<sup>d</sup> of Steward of the Borough aforesaid a Burgess of the Borough afores<sup>d</sup> during

his natural life unless in the meanwhile he for cause reasonable or in manner & form mentioned below be removed. And further We will & do by these presents for Us, our Heirs & Successors concede to the aforesaid Steward & to the Burgesses of the Borough afores<sup>d</sup>—that they and their successors always from time to time as shall seem good to them may elect and appoint one man worthy skilled in law & meet who shall be & be called the Town Clerk of the B. aforesaid, which person indeed so from time to time elected and appointed as Town Clerk is to have and exercise the office of Town Clerk of the Borough afores<sup>d</sup>. And such may avail and be able to have and receive all & single wages fees and perquisites attaching to and pertaining to the same office during his natural life unless for reasonable cause or from causes mentioned below he shall be removed. And so always from time to time after the death or removal of any Town Clerk of the Boro' afd as often as chance shall so fall out.

And also We will & by these presents for Us our Heirs and Successors concede to the aforesaid Steward & Burgesses of the Boro' of Calne aforesaid and their Successors That the afores<sup>d</sup> Steward of the Burgesses aforesaid for the time existing shall bear and carry a White wand (*Albida Virga*) as often as he shall be engaged in the public transactions of the Borough to the intent that the said Steward for the time being may be known and distinguished from the rest of the Burgesses of the Boro' aforesaid.

And further We concede to the aforesaid Steward & Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid and to their successors that if it shall fall to the lot of Steward of the said Borough to be so oppressed with sickness or from any other reasonable cause whatsoever to be absent from the Borough aforesaid so that he cannot attend to the necessary business of the Borough aforesaid, then and so often shall it be permitted to the same Steward to put in his place & to constitute one worthy and discreet man from the Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid to be for the time being his Deputy during the good pleasure of that Steward—which Deputy indeed before that he be admitted to the exercise of the office of Deputy Steward within the said Borough [is to take] the corporation oath for the faithful execution of the same office in the presence of the Steward of the Boro' afores<sup>d</sup> for the time being. To which Steward of the Borough afores<sup>d</sup> We do for Us, our Heirs & Successors give &



concede by these presents full power and authority to give and to administer the said oath as is set forth. And that such Deputy Seneschal shall after he has so lent oath attend to the causes matters or affairs whatsoever touching the Borough aforesd. And he shall avail and be able to do & execute all & single things to be done which pertain to the office of Steward of the Boro' aforesaid to all intents & purposes & in as ample a manner and form as might and could the Steward of the Borough aforesd for the time being if he were present. We will moreover and by these presents for Us, our Heirs and Successors concede to the Steward & Burgesses of the Borough afores<sup>d</sup> & to their successors that the Steward & Burgesses of the Borough aforesd for the time being or the major part of them assembled upon public summons to be made for this purpose may & shall have full power and authority to found, constitute, ordain & make from time to time reasonable written laws Statutes Institutions Decrees & Ordinances in writing in whatsoever things shall seem to them according to the sound discretion of them or of the greater of them to be good, healthy, useful, honourable, and necessary for the good rule and government of the Borough aforesaid & of all & single of the Officers Servants Artificers Inhabitants and Residents whatsoever within the liberty and precinct of the same Borough aforesaid. And for declaration of the manner & order in which the same Steward of the said Boro' & all & single Officers, Ministers, Artificers, Inhabitants & Residents of the Borough afores<sup>d</sup> shall behave themselves in bearing and conduct in their offices services functions artifices and affairs within the Borough afores<sup>d</sup> & the liberties of the same for the time being for the ulterior public good common utility and good rule and governance and victualling of the same and for any other matters & causes whatsoever touching or in any manner concerning the said Borough. And to change & otherwise make and found these things or some of them according to the pleasure of them or of the greater part of them from time to time. And that the said Seneschal & Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid for the time being or the greater part of them [shall have power] as often as they have made founded & established Laws, Institutions, Ordinances, Rights & Constitutions of this kind in the form aforesaid to make ordain limit & provide such pains punishments & penalties by fines & Amercements towards and over all Delinquents against these Laws, Rights, Ordinances &

Constitutions whether any one or any of them in such manner as shall seem to the same Steward & Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid or the greater part of them for the time being necessary oportune & requisite for the observance of the same laws, ordinances & constitutions. And they shall avail and be able to raise and enjoy the same fines & ameracements to the use of the afores<sup>d</sup> Steward & Burgesses of the Boro' aforesaid—for the time being free from any hindrance from Us, our Heirs & Successors and without any count to be rendered to Us, our Heirs & Successors. All & each of which laws, ordinances & constitutions so to be made as is set forth We wish to be observed under penalty to be contained in the same. So long however as these laws ordinances rights or constitutions fines or ameracements be reasonable and not repugnant nor contrary to the Laws Statutes Customs or Rights of this our kingdom of England. We have conceded moreover and do by these presents for Us, our Heirs & Successors concede to the Steward & Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid & their successors that they & their successors moreover may be able & empowered always for and about the feast of St. Michael Archangel in any given year to congregate & assemble in some convenient place within the Borough aforesaid & that there it may & shall be permitted to the said Steward & Burgesses of the Boro' aforesaid for the time being or the greater part of them to name and elect out of themselves one worthy man to be Steward for the next year following who shall be & shall continue in the said office for one (the) next year following till what time another shall have been elected appointed & sworn to the office aforesaid in due manner & thus as often as the case shall occur. And if it shall happen at any time in the future that the Steward of the Burgesses aforesaid die or be removed from his office or depart then and so often it shall be permitted to the Burgesses of the Boro' afores<sup>d</sup> for the time being or the greater part of them to name & elect out of themselves to the office of Steward of the Boro' aforesaid one who shall be & continue in the office of Seneschal of that Borough up to the aforesaid feast of St. Michael following next after his election into the office aforesaid & thus as often as the case shall so occur. Provided always and We will that any given person in the future elected or to be elected to the office of Steward of that Borough shall before he be admitted to the execution of the office aforesaid take

the corporation oath over the Holy Gospel of God for the due execution of the office of Seneschal of that Borough in the presence of the Steward of the Borough aforesaid for the time being but in case of the death or removal of the Steward in the presence of the two senior Burgesses of the Boro' aforesaid for the time being. To which Seneschal & senior Burgesses individually We do for us our Heirs & Successors give & concede by these presents full power & authority of giving and administering the said Oath. And further We will & by these presents do for Us our Heirs & Successors concede to the Steward & Burgesses of the Boro' aforesaid that if and as often as it shall happen that anyone or any of the Burgesses of the said Borough for the time being die or from his or their office or offices be removed or depart that then & so often it may & shall be permitted to the Seneschal & remaining Burgesses of the Borough afd. for the time being to congregate and assemble in some convenient place within the Borough aforesaid and that there they or the greater part of them may avail and be able to name and elect one other person or persons for the place or office places or offices of that one or those thus chancing to die or be removed or depart. And that he or they so elected as is set forth shall continue in the said office during his or their life or lives unless in the meanwhile they or anyone of them be removed for reasonable cause or by the manner & form mentioned below. Provided always and We enjoin that any person in the future elected or to be elected to office of Burgess or of Town Clerk of the Borough afores<sup>d</sup> shall before being admitted to the execution of the said office take the corporation oath over the Holy Gospel of God for the due execution of the office of Burgess of the Borough aforesaid in the presence of the Steward of the Boro' aforesd or of his Deputy for the time being. To which Steward & to his Deputy for the time being We do for Us our Heirs and Successors give and concede by these presents full power & authority to give & administer the said oath individually. We enjoin moreover by these presents & declare our intention that the said Edgar Slade constituted & named as above in these presents Steward of the Borough aforesaid shall before being admitted to the execution of office of Steward of the Borough aforesaid take the corporation oath over the Holy Gospel of God for the due execution of the office of Steward of the Borough aforesaid in the presence of William Langton & Samuel Stevens or of one or other of them to whom

or to one or other of them we give & concede by these presents full power & authority to give and administer individually the said Oath. And We also enjoin & command that the Burgesses named and constituted above in these presents shall they and any one of them before they or any one of them be admitted to the execution of their respective offices take oath for the due execution of their respective offices in the presence of the said Edgar Slade. To which Edgar Slade We by these presents Give & Concede full power and authority to give and administer the said Oath to the persons aforesaid. Provided always that We for Us our Heirs & Successors by these presents reserve full power & authority freely and at our good pleasure from time to time & for all time and at the pleasure of our Heirs & Successors by any Ordinance of ours or of our Heirs & Successors made in Privy Council and under the seal of Privy Council afsd signified to them respectively to remove and declare removed the Steward and any one or any of the Burgesses or the Town Clerk of the Borough afs<sup>d</sup> then and for the time being. And as often as We our Heirs or Successors through any such Ordinance made in Privy Council shall declare such Steward or any other Burgess or Burgesses or Town Clerk of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> for the time being declared removed or to be declared removed as is set forth that then & so often the Steward & anyone or any of the Burgesses or the Town Clerk of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> declared or to be declared removed from their respective offices may & shall *ipso facto* & without any further process be really and to all intents and purposes whatsoever removed notwithstanding anything to the contrary. And then and in such case from time to time as often as such case shall arise after such removal or removals other suitable person or persons in the place & office places & offices respectiv<sup>y</sup> of this person or these persons so removed shall and can be elected & constituted accord<sup>g</sup> to the tenor and appointment of these letters patent And also provided that if at any time in the future within 20 days after such removal or removals of any Steward, Burgesses & Town Clerk or other officer of the Boro afs<sup>d</sup> from their respective offices afs<sup>d</sup> or after the death or departure of them or of any of them the remaining Burgesses of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> for the time being shall be enjoined and commanded by letters mandatory of Us, our Heirs or Successors or sign manual of Us our Heirs or Successors directed or to be directed to the same

remain<sup>s</sup> Burgesses to choose, admit and swear some other person or some other persons of our nomination or the nomin<sup>n</sup> of our Heirs or Successors to and into separate & respective places & offices or place or office of any one or any of the persons so removed dead or departed as is set forth that then & so often it is and shall be licit for the remaining Burgesses of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> for the time being however few in number the same shall happen to be or for the greater part of them who shall upon public notice or summons thereto will to be present to elect and admit. And the same by these presents are required to elect and to admit any such person or persons respectively to & into the place or office places or offices afs<sup>d</sup> of the person or persons respectively so removed dead or departed accord<sup>s</sup> as they shall from time to time hereafter in such case be named or appointed by letters mandatory of this kind. And that in suchlike case any other election or admission held or to be held against the tenor of these presents or against the exigency of the afs<sup>d</sup> letters mandatory shall be to all intents & purposes null and void And by these presents We for Us our Heirs & Successors by these presents give and concede to the rest of the Burgesses of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> for the time being or to such of them by whom such election or admission accord<sup>s</sup> to the true intention of these presents shall have been held and made full power & auth<sup>ty</sup> to administer the Oath of the office or offices to any Steward Burgess or Town Clerk or other Officer of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> thus as is set forth elected or admitted or to be elect<sup>d</sup> or admitted within the same Borough. Moreover that any Steward Burgess or Town Clerk or other Officer of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> so as is set forth elected admitt<sup>d</sup> & sworn or after to be elected admitted & sworn may avail and be able to have and enjoy his or their said office and offices respectively aforesaid as fully and completely and in as ample a manner & form to all intents & purposes as may any other Steward Burgess or Town Clerk or other officer within the same Borough in any other manner elected admitted & sworn or in future to be elected admitted & sworn notwithstanding any other manner & form of Election Admission or Oath written above in these presents or hitherto used to the contrary within this Borough. And further We by reason of divers causes & considerations specially moving Us to this have of our special grace & certain science & own motion & by virtue of our Royal Prerogative dispensed pardoned remitted & exonerated the

afores<sup>d</sup> Edgar Slade Wm Langton Samuel Stevens Joseph Orrell Arthur Robins Edgar Hawkins Thomas Lee Jno Forman Matthew Fewkes Gabriel Still Dd Townsend Jno Jefferies Thos Looker Chris Peirce Jos Simkins Jno Goddard Walter Nicholls Israel Noyse Thos Weaver *alias* Morell Jno Cale Phil James Robt Carde Frank Peirce Arthur Estmate Jos Sariant Jno Scates Thos James Rd Fox Will Peirce Will Wilshire & Jno Neate existing Steward Burgesses & Town Clerk of the Boro afs<sup>d</sup> in these presents named and any one so ever of them and any others whether officer of this kind and all other officers or Servants respectively within the same Boro' in future to be named elected or admitted of and from all taking and receiving of the oath of Supremacy (Juramentum Primatii) mentioned in a certain Act of Parliam<sup>t</sup> made in the Parl<sup>tt</sup> of the Lady Elizabeth lately Queen of England in the First Year of her Reign or in any other Statutes or Act of Parl<sup>t</sup> And also of and from taking and receiving oath of Allegiance or Obedience (Juramentum ligeancie) mentioned or expressed in a certain Act of Parl<sup>t</sup> made in the Parl<sup>t</sup> of the Lord James I our grandfather lately King of England in the third year of his Reign or in any other Statute or Act of Parliament. And also of and from taking and receiving the Oath mentioned & contained in a certain Statute made in the Parl<sup>t</sup> of Lord Chas II lately King of England in the thirteenth Year of his Reign intituled An Act for the well governing & regulating of Corporations. And also of and from all Reception of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Sacramentum Coenae Dominicae) accord<sup>g</sup> to the Rites or usages of the Anglican Church or accord<sup>g</sup> to the direction of any canons or statutes Canon or Statute of this our kingdom of England. And also of and from taking and subscription of the Declaration mentioned or contained in the afores<sup>d</sup> Statute of the 13<sup>th</sup> year of Chas II. And also of and from taking & subscription of the Declaration mentioned & contained in a certain other Statute made in the Parl<sup>t</sup> of the said Lord King Chas II in the 25<sup>th</sup> year of his Reign intituled An Act for preventing Dangers which may happen from Popish Recusants. And also of & from taking & reception of any oaths and reception of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and subscription of any Declaration or Declarations mentioned or expressed in the Statute aforesaid or in the Acts of Parl<sup>t</sup> mentioned above or in any one of them or any other Statute mentioned or contained.

And of and from all charges convictions pains penalties forfeits condemnations incapacities and disabilities through the same or any of them incurred or likely to be incurred or to be imputed or objected to the same or any of the same or with which anyone or any of them is or are or after this may be liable to be burdened for that he has not or they have not taken or received or after this shall not have taken or received the afores<sup>d</sup> oath and sacrament of the Lord's Supper or has or have not subscribed or made or shall not have subscribed or made the afs<sup>d</sup> Declarations mentioned above [or] any of them or any other Injunction whatsoever or prescription hitherto made or published through Statutes whether one of these or through any other Statute requiring taking of the oath or oaths aforesaid or reception of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper accord<sup>e</sup> to the Rites or usages of the Anglican Church or offering and subscription of the Declarations aforesaid or of any of them. And of and from all and all manner of informations presentations oaths persecutions molestations complaints and demands whatsoever as much in our name or that of our Heirs & Successors as in the name or names of any other person or persons had offered and at all dependent or in the future to be had offered or likely to be dependent in any Court of Us our Heirs or Successors or in any other Courts or places whatsoever of for or concerning any defect neglect omission or refusal in taking affording receiving or subscribing the aforesaid Oath Sacrament of the Lord's Supper or declarations directed or prescribed in the Acts of Parliament mentioned above or thro' some other defect in performance of premises or of any one of them. And further We out of more abundant grace and of certain science and own motion do will & declare and by these presents for Us our Heirs & Successors concede to the same Steward Burgesses and Town Clerk & to all other officers & ministers of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> just then & for the time being & to any one of them full and sufficient ability capacity power and authority to possess enjoy & exercise their respective offices afs<sup>d</sup> respectively and all and single things respectively regarding and pertaining to them free from and without taking of any oath or oaths afs<sup>d</sup> or reception of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper according to the Rites and usages of the Anglican Church or any tendering & subscription of declarations aforesd or of any of them or performance of any Injunctions or Requisitions

whatsoever directed to be performed by any Statute aforesaid or the incurring or undergoing of any charges offences incapacities incapacities corrections punishments pains penalties forfeits proceedings (of writs) or condemnations whatsoever and as fully and freely as if the same Steward Burgesses & Town Clerk & all officers or servants of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> then & for the time being took received made and subscribed the afs<sup>d</sup> oath Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and declaration according to the form and effect mentioned above by the Statutes afs<sup>d</sup> & Acts of Parliament notwithstanding Acts and Statutes aforesaid or any of them or anything in the same or in any one of them contained or any other Statute Act of Parl<sup>t</sup> law or provision in any way to the contrary. Provided always and We our royal wish by these presents declare that no Town Clerk of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> for the future to be appointed or chosen for the execution of his respective office be admitted unless the approbation & consent of Us our Heirs and Successors under hand or Sign Manual of Us our Heirs and Successors shall be first signified in that respect to the Steward & Burgesses of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> then & for the time being any mention above to the contrary notwithstanding. And out of our more bountiful special grace & certain science & own motion We have conceded and restored & by these presents do for Us our Heirs & Successors concede give restore confirm and approve to the afs<sup>d</sup> Steward & Burgesses of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> and their successors all & all manner of manors messuages mills lands meadows grazings pastures woods underwoods rents streams waters fishings and as many as great such the same & the like offices official customs liberties privileges franchises immunities exemptions rights jurisdictions quittances wastes vacancies soils ways commons markets fairs (Ferias) fairs (Nundimenta) tolls duties commodities profits emoluments tenements and hereditaments whatsoever as lately the Steward or Stewards & Burgesses of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> or their predecessors by any name or names whatsoever, or by any Incorporation or by pretext of any Incorporation or name hitherto have had held used or enjoyed or ought to have had held used or enjoyed or can have by reason or pretext of some charters or letters patent hitherto or in any wise made conceded or confirmed by some progenitor or antecedent of ours lately King or Queen of England or by any other legal mode right or title custom use or prescription hitherto legitimately



employed had or accustomed. Nevertheless the aforesaid premises to be had held occupied possessed and enjoyed under the limit<sup>n</sup> and provision afores<sup>d</sup> by the said Steward & Burgesses of the Boro' afs<sup>d</sup> and their successors forever as they were being held before And so many of such quantity and quality the same and the like fees farms rents services monies sums and claims whatsoever as & which were accustomed or had hitherto to be paid or discharged to Us by the same must be paid and discharged from thence annually to Us our Heirs & Successors By so much that express mention . . . etc. of which thing etc.

Witness the King at Westminster the 12th day of September

By the King himself.

## APPENDIX D.

### NAMES OF THE GUILD STEWARDS AND MAYORS OF CALNE FROM 1561 TO 1902.

#### GUILD STEWARDS.

*(Elected to serve from St. Matthias day in the year given to the same day in the succeeding year.)*

- A.D. 1561. William Swaddon & Roger Nycholas  
2. Thomas Ffowler & Henry Gye  
3. Richard Nicholas th' elder & John Looove th' elder  
4. William Dodson & Robert Norman  
5. Robert Blake & Henrye Woodrooffe  
6. William Swaddon & William Were alias Dronne  
7. W<sup>m</sup> Forman the elder & Roger Nicholas  
8. Henry Gye & Thomas Brewer  
9. Thomas Fowler & Edward Chambers  
1570. Robert Pham & George Braye  
1. Anthony Goddard & William Alleyne the younger  
2. Robert Blake & W<sup>m</sup> Fforman th' elder  
3. Thomas Brewer & W<sup>m</sup> Hoskyns  
4. Thomas Fowler th' elder & Henry Gye  
5. Robert Norman & William Bedforde  
6. W<sup>m</sup> Swaddon & Henry Whyte  
7. John James & William Hoskings  
8. W<sup>m</sup> Fforman th' elder & Thomas Ffowlke  
9. Henry Gye & Robert Pham  
1580. John Were & Robert Norman  
1. John Curtlis & William Hoskins  
2. George Braye & Robert Segare alias P'sons  
3. Henry Gye & John Dashe  
4. Thomas Whyte & Richard Edwards  
5. John Noes & John Parkam  
6. William Bedford th' elder & Thomas Brewer

1587. William Forman th' elder & Rob<sup>l</sup> Norman th' elder  
 8. William Swaddon th' elder & Robert Seager alias  
 P'sons  
 9. Henry Gye & Thomas White
1590. John Woodroffe & Richard Edwards  
 [Note written that the accounts for years 1591-4 are lost.]  
 4. Thomas Ffoowke & Thomas White  
 5. Henry Gye & William Bedford th' elder  
 6. Master Benedict Allen & Robert Forman  
 7. Thomas Ffowkes & Thomas Swaddon  
 8. Olyver Guyrdler & Ffrauncs Twigddon  
 9. John Noyes & John Pham  
 (also spelt Noise)
1600. Thomas White & Richard Edwards  
 1. W<sup>m</sup> Swaddon & Robert Segar  
 2. Robert Fforman & Walter Nycholas  
 3. William Fforman & William Bedforde  
 4. Thomas Ffoolke & Phillip Swaddon  
 5. John Brown & Thomas Swaddon  
 6. Olyver Gyrdeler & Robert Pettle—Pettle seems to  
 have died<sup>1</sup> or resigned, & Walter Nycholas serves  
 with Gyrdeler part of year.  
 7. Robert Parsons & Richard Edwards  
 8. Robert Fforman & John Browne  
 9. Thomas Swaddon & Thomas Ffolke
1610. Benedict Alleyn & Robert Parsons  
 1. Philip Swaddon & John Jones  
 2. John Noyes & Walter Nycholas  
 3. John Were alias Browen & Nycholas Gyrdeler  
 4. Thomas Ffooke & Henrye Peeres  
 5. Philip Swaddon & Robert Jefferye  
 6. William Alleyn & Robert Fforman  
 7. John Noyes & Thomas Ffooke  
 8. Walter Nycholas & Robert Jeffery  
 9. William Segar & Humphrey Townsende
1620. John Weecks & John Hannam  
 1. John Noyes & William Harkewode  
 2. Robert Jeffery & William Seager  
 3. Robert Fforman & John Fforman  
 4. John Weeks & Thomas Pye

<sup>1</sup> The plague was very bad at Calne this year.

1625. John Noyes & William Harkwood  
 6. Edward Seager & William Seager  
 7. Robert Jeffery & John Mayo  
 8. Robert Forman & Benedict Browne  
 9. John Weeks & John Noyes
1630. William Harkwood & Arthur Estmeade  
 1. Thomas Page & Henry Fforman  
 2. Edward Seager & William Seager  
 3. John Mayo & Robert Jeffery  
 4. Robert Fforman & William Fforman <sup>1</sup>  
 5. John Wakes & William Jefferys  
 6. Arthur Estmeade & William Harkwood  
 7. Benedict Browne & Walter Fforman  
 8. William Parsons } & Edward Seager  
                           alias Seager } (alias Parsons)  
 9. John Parker & Robert Jefferys
1640. John Mayo & Henry Haswell  
 1. Robert Fforman & Humphrey Townsend  
 2. John Weeks & William Jeffery  
 3. William Harkwood & Arthur Estmeade  
 4. Walter Fforman & Ben Browne  
                                           [No account]  
 6. John Mayo & Henry Haswell  
       .          .          .          .          .          .
9. Arthur Estmeade & Edward Seager
1650. Walter Fforman & Henry Haswell  
 1. Robert Foreman & John Parker  
 2. Benedict Browne & Thomas Synnett  
 3. John Mayo & William Jeffery  
 4. William Silk & Humfry Townsend  
 5. Anthony Pearce & John Pile  
 6. William Jeffery & Arthur Estmeade  
 7. Walter Fforman & Henry Haswell  
 8. Robert Fforman & John Parker  
 9. Benedict Browne & William Jeffery
1660. Humphrey Townsend & William Silke  
 1. Anthony Peirse & John Pile  
 2. Arthur Estmeade & John Norman  
       .          .          .          .          .
1666. John Fforman & Henry Haswell

<sup>1</sup> Died during year of office.

1667. Walter Fforman & John Parker  
 8. John Pile & William Jeffery  
 9. John Norman & Humphry Townson
1670. Robert Hungerford & John Parker  
 1. Walter Fforman & Anthony Beare  
 2. John Parker & Robert Fforman  
 3. Robert Hungerford & Robert Dyer  
 4. Walter Norborne & Walter Nicholas  
 5. George Henlow & William Jeffery  
 6. Humphrey Townsend & Thomas Swaddon  
 7. Robert Wheeler & Moses Saegar alias Parsons  
 8. Walter Fforman & Robert Dyer  
 [No account]
1680. Thomas Swaddon & Robert Wheeler  
 . . . . .
1685. Stephen Blake & Roger Harding  
 . . . . .
1689. Walter Lawrence & Henry Beare
1690. Thomas Fowler & John Ladd  
 1. John Townsend & John Goddard—John Goddard  
 refuses and is charged by the Burgesses with  
 seeking to destroy their privileges: he is dis-  
 enfranchised and John Haskins elected in his stead  
 2. Richard Seager & Humphrey Bodman  
 3. William Weeks & Gabriel Langrish  
 4. John Norman J<sup>r</sup> & Samuel Stevens  
 5. Humphry Townsend & Barnabas Horsington  
 6. Robert Sheppard & William Jones  
 7. Stephen Blake & John Norman  
 8. Walter Dolman & Henry Beare  
 9. Thomas Fowler & John Ladd
1700. John Haskins & Richard Seager  
 1. Humphrey Townsend & Barnabas Horsington  
 . . . . .
1703. John Landish & William Jones  
 4. William Weeks & Gabriell Langrish
1706. John Norman Sen<sup>r</sup> & Walter Dolman  
 7. John Ladd & John Haskins  
 8. George Fforman & John Norman  
 9. Simeon Dyer & John Moor

1710. Joseph Simpkins & Francis Brookes  
 1. Humphry Townsend Jun<sup>r</sup> & John Keat  
 2. David Townsend & Walter Forman  
 3. John Haskins & William Hale  
 4. Humphrey Townsend & David Jefferys  
 5. William Weeks & John Burchell  
 6. Samuel Stephens & Stephen Seager  
 7. George Fforman & John Moore  
 8. Simion Dyer & William Jefferies  
 9. John Haskins & John Sadler
1720. Walter Fforman & Abraham White  
 1. George Fforman & Robert Smith  
 2. John Haskins & Simion Dyer  
 3. Humphrey Townsend & John James  
 4. John Moore & David Townsend  
 5. Simion Dyer & George Fforman  
 6. Humphry Townsend & Jonathan Nichols  
 7. Abraham White & Edward Stretch  
 8. John Moore & John Townsend  
 9. John Burchell & Stephen Wootton
1730. John Bull & Thomas Hill  
 1. Thomas Vincent & Isaac Hannum  
 2. Thomas Keats & William Button  
 3. Daniel Burchell & Henry Keats  
 4. George Fforman & Lovell Scott  
 5. John Bull & Isaac Hannum. John Moore and Edward Stretch were also nominated, but the majority of votes was in favour of J. Bull and I. Hannum. John Moore & Edward Stretch having made an attempt to act as Guild Stewards were disburgessed, &c., for their offence  
 6. Abraham White & William Button  
 7. John Burchall & Stephen Wootton  
 8. Lovell Scott & John Ffranklin  
 9. Daniel Burchall & Ralph Heale
1740. Barnabas Horsington & Abraham White the younger  
 1. Abraham White th' elder & John Bull  
 2. George Foreman & John White  
 3. William Button & Isaac White  
 4. Stephen Wootton & John Davis  
 5. John Burchell & William Graham  
 6. George Forman & John Savory

1747. John Bull & Barnabas Horsington  
 8. John Franklin & Thomas Mathews  
 9. John Townsend & Daniel Burchall
1750. William Oriel & John Baily  
 1. William Button & George Jones  
 2. Abraham White & Daniel Bull  
 3. Abraham White Sen<sup>r</sup> & Barnabas Horsington  
 4. George Forman <sup>1</sup> & John Bull  
 5. Ralph Keate & John Savory Jun<sup>r</sup>  
 6. John White & Daniel Wheeler  
 7. John Baily & Anthony Heale <sup>2</sup>  
 8. Stephen Wootton <sup>3</sup> & John Savory Sen<sup>r</sup>  
 9. Abraham White & George Jones
1760. Barnabas Horsington & Thomas Mathews  
 1. John Bull & Abraham White  
 2. John Baily & John Savory  
 3. George Jones & Daniel Bull  
 4. Barnabas Horsington & William Waite  
 5. John White <sup>4</sup> & Henry Merewether  
 6. Thomas Mathews & Christopher Alsup  
 7. Abraham White & Richard Ashley  
 8. William Wayte & John Orrell Baily  
 9. John Baily th' elder & Joseph Bodman
1770. John Savory & Barnabas Baily  
 1. William Wayte & Abraham White the younger  
 2. Christopher Allsup & Henry Merewether  
 3. Abraham White th' elder <sup>5</sup> & Richard Aishley  
 4. John Orrell Baily & Lovell Scott  
 5. John Baily & John Savory (Jun<sup>r</sup>)  
 6. Joseph Bodman & Simeon Vivaish  
 7. John Savory th' elder & Alline Wayte  
 8. William Wayte th' elder <sup>6</sup> & Rev. Thomas Greenwood  
 9. Christopher Allsup & Richard Aishley <sup>7</sup>
1780. John Oriel Baily & Lovell Scott  
 1. John Baily th' elder & Joseph Button

<sup>1</sup> Died in office and Anthony Keate elected for remainder of term.

<sup>2</sup> Died in office and Joseph Button elected in his stead.

<sup>3</sup> Died in office and William Wootton elected.

<sup>4</sup> Died in office and John Savory elected in his stead.

<sup>5</sup> Died in office and Daniel Bull elected in his stead.

<sup>6</sup> Died in office and Abraham White elected in his stead.

<sup>7</sup> Died in office and Daniel Bull elected.

1782. John Savory th' younger & William Essington  
 3. Joseph Bodman th' elder & Simeon Viveash  
 4. John Savory th' elder & Alline Wayte  
 5. Daniel Bull & Rev. Thomas Greenwood.  
 6. John Savory Jun<sup>r</sup> & Rev. George Mawson (Curate)  
 7. John Savory th' elder & John Oriel Baily  
 8. John Baily & William Essington  
 9. Daniel Bull & John Savory th' elder
1790. Rev. Thomas Greenwood & Daniel Baily  
 1. John Savory & Alline Wayte  
 2. William Essington & Samuel Viveash  
 3. Rev. George Mawson & William Savory  
 4. Joseph Bodman Sen<sup>r</sup> & Oriel Viveash  
 5. John Oriel Bailey & Thomas Vincent  
 6. Rev. Thomas Greenwood & Joseph Bodman Jun<sup>r</sup>  
 7. John Savory Sen<sup>r</sup> and Daniel Baily  
 8. Alline Wayte & William Essington  
 9. Samuel Viveash & William Savory
1800. Joseph Bodman Sen<sup>r</sup> & Rev. George Mawson  
 1. William Essington & Samuel Viveash  
 2. Thomas Vincent & Simeon Viveash  
 3. Oriel Viveash & Benjamin Bodman  
 4. John Savory & Thomas Stratton Stretch  
 5. Joseph Bodman & James Hale  
 6. Alline Wayte & Daniel Baily  
 7. Rev Thomas Greenwood & Simeon Viveash  
 8. Christopher Alsup & Oriel Viveash  
 9. Samuel Viveash & Francis Child
1810. Daniel Baily & Benjamin Bodman  
 1. Alleyn Wayte & Thomas Stratton Stretch  
 2. William Savory & James Hale  
 3. Christopher Allsup<sup>1</sup> & William P. Bendry  
 4. Samuel Viveash & John Wayte  
 5. Francis Child & Samuel Viveash  
 6. Simeon Viveash & John Wayte  
 7. Daniel Baily & Benjamin Bodman  
 8. William Savory & Thomas Stratton Stretch  
 9. Oriel Viveash & James Hale
1820. Samuel Viveash & Francis Child  
 1. Daniel Baily & Samuel Viveash Jun<sup>r</sup>  
 2. John Wayte & Simeon Viveash Jun<sup>r</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Declined on account of age : Oriel Viveash appointed instead.



1823. Simeon Viveash Sen<sup>r</sup> & Richard Savory  
 4. Benjamin Bodman & Charles Wayte  
 5. William Savory & George Baily  
 6. Thomas Stratton Stretch & Robert Baily  
 7. Oriel Viveash & William Wayte  
 8. James Hale & Nathan Atherton  
 9. Samuel Viveash & Joseph Baily  
 1830. Samuel Viveash Jun<sup>r</sup> <sup>1</sup> & George Ogilvie  
 1. John Wayte <sup>2</sup> & George Frayling  
 2. Francis Child & Simeon Viveash Jun<sup>r</sup>  
 3. Simeon Viveash Sen<sup>r</sup> & George Baily  
 4. Oriel Viveash & Thomas Stratton Stretch  
 5. James Hale & William Wayte

\*  
*Mayors.*

- Elected Jan. 1836. George Page.  
 „ 9 Nov. 1836. George Page.  
 7. George Page.  
 8. George Page.  
 9. John Wayte.  
 1840. George Shadforth Ogilvie.  
 1. George Page.  
 2. Abraham Henly.  
 3. George Baily.  
 4. George Page.  
 5. John Nelson Ladd.  
 6. Robert Henly.  
 7. George Page.  
 8. John Nelson Ladd.  
 9. Abraham Henly.  
 1850. Edwin Baily.  
 1. W<sup>m</sup> Henry Parry.  
 2. Thomas Large Henly.  
 3. James Pownall M.D.  
 4. Benjamin Bodman Baily.  
 5. John Nelson Ladd.  
 6. Tho<sup>s</sup> Large Henly.  
 7. John Nelson Ladd.  
 8. Charles Harris.  
 9. Tho<sup>s</sup> Harris.

<sup>1</sup> Died in office and John Wayte elected in his stead.

<sup>2</sup> The only time the same man served two years in succession.

1860. W<sup>m</sup> Vittery Wheaton Longley.
1. Stiles Jefferys.
  2. Henry Waller.
  3. John Dommett Bishop.
  4. Henry Waller.
  5. Robert Henly Jun<sup>r</sup>.
  6. George Harris.
  7. Thomas Harris.
  8. Charles Pinniger.
  9. Thomas Shaul
1870. Stiles Jefferys.
1. William Bleadon.
  2. John Bownas.
  3. John Dommett Bishop.
  4. Alfred Heath.
  5. Henry Augustus Lockett.
  6. John Baily.
  7. John Cartwright.
  8. Thomas Harris.
  9. Robert Henly.
1880. Thomas Edward Redman.
1. Samuel Bethell.
  2. Henry Wilkins Jun<sup>r</sup>.
  3. John Dommett Bishop.
  4. Herbert Harris.
  5. Thomas Harris.
  6. Henry William Harris.
  7. " " "
  8. John Dommett Bishop.
  9. Thomas Harris.
1890. Thomas Edward Redman.
1. Samuel White Bennett.
  2. " " "
  3. John Dommett Bishop.
  4. Henry Wilkins.
  5. Frederick Charles Henly.
  6. " " "
  7. William Alexander Webb.
  8. William Tucker.
  9. Samuel White Bennett.
1900. Frederick William Pinniger.
1. " " "
  2. William Alexander Webb.

## APPENDIX E.

### EXTRACTS FROM CALNE CHURCH REGISTERS.

THE regular Baptismal and Burial Registers begin in 1538, but from 1527 occasional items are found in the Churchwardens' accounts respecting money received for the burial of certain persons in the Church. The Marriage Registers begin in 1542. These registers are therefore amongst the oldest in the kingdom.

Anno Dni 1527. Thomas Bengelow and Thomas (Calyve or Calys) Churchmen have . . . (leaf broken)	
Bartholomew Clayford and John Noloth the olde chur . . . y <sup>n</sup> money . . . . .	v <sup>li</sup> vj <sup>s</sup> xj <sup>d</sup>
Item remayneth y <sup>n</sup> John Noloth is handes . . . . .	iij <sup>s</sup> ij <sup>d</sup>
Item y <sup>n</sup> Will <sup>m</sup> Marchent is handes . . . . .	iij <sup>s</sup> ij <sup>d</sup>
Item y <sup>n</sup> Will <sup>m</sup> Goff of the gift of Margaret Cherd to the vestements . . . . .	xij <sup>d</sup>
From Richard (?) to be pay <sup>d</sup> to the churche for kynne at Alhalow daye next ensuing . . . . .	xx <sup>s</sup>
From Agnes Cherd the bequest of her husband Reg <sup>d</sup> Cherd . . . . .	xiiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> Robert Olyve for the Chaln <sup>e</sup> (?) . . . . .	xx <sup>s</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> John Gyffyn for stone of the churche quar . . . . .	iij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> John Woodrof of Bachelonde for the bequest to the vestements . . . . .	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> for R <sup>d</sup> ffynam <sup>r</sup> sepulcrys in the churche . . . . .	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>

20<sup>th</sup> Henry VIII. The accompte of John Forman & W<sup>m</sup> Somers church<sup>m</sup> there ffro the ffest of all seynts Anno Regis Henry octavi xx<sup>mo</sup> unto the same ffeste then next ffoloyng Anno eius<sup>m</sup> Re xxi<sup>mo</sup> ffor on hoole yere.

It<sup>m</sup> Rec<sup>d</sup> of W<sup>m</sup> Browne & John Browne ffor the rente of iij acres of land lying in Bowrefeld ffor this psent yere 10/3 And of Thos Whythin<sup>r</sup> ffor the rente of j acre of land lying in Westyngton for thys yere 8<sup>d</sup> and of W<sup>m</sup> Marchante for ij acres of land lying in the Northfelde ffor this yere xvj<sup>d</sup> And of Walter

Pontyng for j halffe acre of meede lying in Abberd for thys yere vj <sup>d</sup> .	
And rec <sup>d</sup> of the pfytes of the churche ale made at the feste of Pentecoste thys yere clere above all chargs cvij <sup>s</sup> and of the bequeste of . . . pyrton to the repacon of the church iiij <sup>d</sup> And of Rychard mychell for the bequeste of hys father to the bells xij <sup>d</sup> And of Robert Olyffe hys wyffe is sepulture in the churche vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup> whereof p <sup>d</sup> to W <sup>m</sup> Cymord for ij ale kyves of the whyche he gave j to the churche . . . (torn) . . .	v <sup>s</sup> (torn)
Item ffor 3 bell ropys . . . . .	iiij <sup>s</sup> vi <sup>d</sup>
Item for j kay to the roodelofte <sup>1</sup> dore . . . . .	ij <sup>d</sup>
Item fore lynys to the canopie & other necessaries in the churche . . . . .	vj <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> in whytelether ffor the bawdrycls to the bells . . . . .	iiij <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> for ij howpys to the gret kyvys . . . . .	v <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> to John Nolothe ffor the ffonte taper & lamplyght . . . . .	22 <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> ffor ffrankensence . . . . .	iiij <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> to Thomas Moreley & W <sup>m</sup> Browne ffor the sepulture <sup>2</sup>	xij <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> for mendyng the fornesse <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	iiij <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> ffor mete & drynke to sowe the churche lande . . . . .	v <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> ffor 3 bz of sow barley ffor the same . . . . .	iiij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> to Jamys ffor mending the lede on Seynte Chrystofer <sup>4</sup>	I <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> in coste of the carege of the grete bell newe cast . . . . .	vj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> to the carpenters ffor hanging of the same bell & ffor theyre mete and drynke . . . . .	ix <sup>s</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> to M <sup>r</sup> Chesander of Sar ffor hys chyffe rente ffor the churche land <sup>5</sup> . . . . .	xij <sup>d</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There is now no rood-loft or rood-screen.

<sup>2</sup> This refers to the custom of making on Good Friday a small sepulchre to represent the burial place of Christ. In this was placed the Host, and persons were set to watch it day and night until early on Easter morning. Then, the Host being taken out, Christ was said to have risen. The watchers represented the Roman soldiers who guarded the tomb of the Saviour.

<sup>3</sup> Probably the brewing furnace at the church house.

<sup>4</sup> In all likelihood an image of the Saint. Saint Christopher often figured as a giant with huge staff, fording a river, and bearing on his shoulder the infant Jesus. See *Wilts N. & Q.*

<sup>5</sup> Called "morterland" the following year. In Jones' "Fasti," p. 233, it is stated that the Treasurer of Sarum, who, it must be remembered, was also the Rector of Calne, had *inter alia* to find a Paschal wax taper, besides one mortar every night in the year before the altar of St. Martin's, and another before the gates of the western entrance of the choir during the office of matins. It may be that, the land above mentioned provided the means for one of these mortars. *Mortarium* (O. Eng. a mortar or mortary), is shown by Canon Jones, on the same page of his "Fasti," to denote a large *night-light*, made by large lumps of yellow wax with a wick, which was lighted, and so gave light through the night.

It <sup>m</sup> for mowyng of ij acre of the churche lande . . . . .	v <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> to the carver <sup>1</sup> for the ptyscns [partitions] in the body of the church in pte of paymente of xl <sup>s</sup> . . . . .	xij <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>
to John Smyth <sup>1</sup> for yron worke to the same ptycons in p <sup>te</sup> of pay <sup>t</sup> of xiiij <sup>s</sup> . . . . .	vij <sup>s</sup>
ffor the caryege of the churche corne . . . . .	iiij <sup>d</sup>
It <sup>m</sup> ffor candells for all haloweday & gyrdells to the vestements . . . . .	v <sup>d</sup>
21 <sup>st</sup> y <sup>r</sup> of Hy VIII. Rec <sup>d</sup> of John Hostyler for the churche house in the lent . . . . .	vj <sup>d</sup>
Rec <sup>d</sup> of the pfytes of the churche ale this yere . . . . .	lxx <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
And of the bequest of W <sup>m</sup> Chylde of Hedyndon to the bells . . . . .	vj <sup>d</sup>
To John Hethe for leying of the churche barley in his barne this yere . . . . .	iiij <sup>d</sup>
p <sup>d</sup> for casting the grete bell . . . . .	xl <sup>s</sup>
a new rochet for the clerke . . . . .	iiij <sup>s</sup>
ffor 3 calves hedds . . . . .	iiij <sup>d</sup>
22 <sup>nd</sup> year—Rec <sup>d</sup> of Nycholas Whythors for the rent of the churche shoppe <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	xij <sup>d</sup>
Rec <sup>d</sup> . . . &c. Church ale <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	cij <sup>s</sup> j <sup>d</sup>
And of Robert felyppys for his kyngs ale this yere aboue all charyges . . . . .	xlviij <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>
And for the ledde asslys . . . . .	vij <sup>s</sup>
24 <sup>th</sup> y <sup>r</sup> —Rec <sup>d</sup> xxxviij <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup> of Rich <sup>d</sup> Som: beyng Robyn Whode <sup>4</sup> anno xxiiij.	
25 <sup>th</sup> y <sup>r</sup> —John Forman for the churche shope <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	viiij <sup>d</sup>
And xx <sup>s</sup> of Thomas Coote and Thoms Chevoure beyng kyng <sup>e</sup> <sup>5</sup> & prynce this yere ffor the churche is pft.	
And of xxvj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup> of M <sup>r</sup> Thomas Somayn toward the repaton of the churche howse.	
26 <sup>th</sup> y <sup>r</sup> —p <sup>d</sup> to Richard Ffynamor ffor the hieryng <sup>e</sup> , castyng, and ingyosyng of this a/ct this year . . . . .	iiij <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>
27 <sup>th</sup> —Rec <sup>d</sup> 17 <sup>s</sup> of Johan Chandelers by her gathered of devocōn wythin the tyme of this account.	

<sup>1</sup> Called *William the Carver* the following year, and then William Carver. Compare this with John Smyth who makes the iron work, and, in another account, with Thomas Mason who mends the church wall. Clearly the names of the men had not yet been dissociated from their trades.

<sup>2</sup> Appears to have been part of the church house, and sometimes called "Churche howse shoppe."

<sup>3</sup> Church ales continued to be held with occasional intervals and with varying success until 1603. The King's ale seems to refer to some special occasion, as the item does not appear again.

<sup>4</sup> In all probability the proceeds of a collection made by "Robin Hood" on May Day.

<sup>5</sup> See also the Inventory taken in 1552.

- 33<sup>rd</sup>.—21½ bz<sup>1</sup> of barley this yere growen upon 2 acres of the church land whyche was wonte to be sowen to the church is usse.
- 34<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup>.—Rec<sup>d</sup> of 50<sup>s</sup> for 13 ounces of plate in the foot that the relegate stode in @ 3/10 the ounce.  
15½ bz of barley this yere grown upon 2 acres (&c)
- 35<sup>th</sup> 15½ „ „ „ „ „ „ „
- 36<sup>th</sup> vj bz „ „ „ „ „ „ „  
Solde to John Brakyer the olde grett orgens wh remanet in the seid John Brakyers hande . . . . . 13<sup>s</sup>/4<sup>d</sup>
- 37<sup>th</sup> Off the Church Ale this yere they made no thyng.<sup>2</sup>  
Nother gathered noe thyngne  
And of barley of this yers growyge wiche was wont to be sowne ffor the church is usse—No thyng . . . . .
- 38<sup>th</sup> Recd. 10<sup>s</sup> - for the bells & the buryiall of the parson of Calston  
16<sup>d</sup> of John Brakyer for the olde orgaynes.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Edw. VI.<sup>3</sup> Henry Chen refuses to act as churchman  
“& the reason he dyd refuse that office was by cause that the jewels of the churce [*sic*] coulde not be delyud w<sup>t</sup> the stocke of the church as it was wont to be delv<sup>d</sup>e wch a cross of silur a paks of sylv<sup>r</sup> a senser of syluer.”
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Edw. VI.<sup>3</sup> Rec<sup>d</sup> for 6½ bz of barley @ 9<sup>d</sup> the bz . . . . . iiij<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup>  
xviij<sup>d</sup> for the frame of the pulpitt sold to Robert Powell & viij<sup>d</sup> for the foot of the cross sold to W<sup>m</sup> Welsted & xx<sup>d</sup> for the steyses in the church porche solde unto Rob<sup>t</sup> Paynt
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Edw. VI.<sup>3</sup> And of 16<sup>s</sup>/8<sup>d</sup> for the tymber of the rode loufte & of Saynte Andrews  
First called Churchwardens
- 4<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup>.—Rec<sup>d</sup> 28<sup>s</sup>/- for the fronte of a Rul (? Pall) & the sepulchre clothes wythe the whyte crosse of the pawle & wythe 13 pounds of wax sold to dyvs.
- 5<sup>th</sup> y<sup>r</sup>.—Rec<sup>d</sup> pfytes of Church Ale with 9 bz of barley spent there the said ffeast.

An Invyntory<sup>4</sup> made the fyrst Daye of februarye yn the v<sup>th</sup> yere of the Raigne of owre Sov<sup>r</sup>aigne lord Edward ye vj<sup>th</sup> by the Grace of god of England france and Ireland King &c c And

<sup>1</sup> See 34th, 35th, 36th and 37th years.

<sup>2</sup> Evidently a bad year for the Church.

<sup>3</sup> The Reformation appears to have made progress in Calne during these three years.

<sup>4</sup> The entries shown as erased or altered in this Inventory so appear in the Register, and an examination of these emendations reveals the fact that twice at least after the original inventory was made the stock of church goods was taken

- Delyvr'd to roger fynamore gentylymane and Thomas forte  
church wardens chosyn for thys p'sent yere.
- In pmys one cope of crymson felvet  
It j cope of blewe damaske  
Itm j cope of Rede boadkyne  
Itm j paule of satten of brydgyes  
Itm j Rede corpores clothe of felvet & satten w'h a cloth  
Item iij table clothes and one [in a later handwriting] for the  
comunyon & one other newlie boughte by W<sup>m</sup>. Gawdn 1594 (?)  
It<sup>m</sup> j lente clothe called ye vayle (erased)  
Itm v towells wherw'h they dyd beare tapers at East<sup>r</sup>  
ix table napkens ye lacketh iij [a later handwriting]  
Itm iij Surplyces j of hollande & j of locaram  
It<sup>m</sup> one chalyce all gylte w<sup>th</sup> a cover (erased)  
Itm iij comunyon clothes wherof iij are of hollande & one of locaram  
(erased)  
Itm xxii platters of pewter xxiiij pottenge's ij Duss<sup>n</sup> of Sawyers  
Itm xxij smale dysshes of pewter [one lost by the hande of rycharde  
nycholas—a later handwriting]  
Itm xj sponys (altered to vj at a later date) & iij salte selers of pewter  
Itm iij Dossyn and a halfe of trenchers (erased)  
Itm ij potts of brasse  
Itm j pane of brasse contaynyng xij gallons  
Itm j bottell (altered to "furnace" later) to brewe w' hall  
Itm j payer of Rakes and ij broches of Iron  
Itm j treveti ij pott hang<sup>r</sup> & ij payer of pothooks & 1 barre of Iron  
Itm xij psalt<sup>r</sup> books vj unoted & iij noted

and the list of articles corrected. The tapers mentioned as being borne at Easter were carried in procession round the church, after having been first lighted at the great Paschal taper that burned night and day at Easter "as signe of Christ that conquerer bell." They are thus referred to by Naogeorgus—

"With wondrous pomp and furniture amid the church they go,

With *candles*, crosses, banners, chrisme, and oil appoynted tho' :

Nine times about the font they marche, and on the Saints do call."

In the Valuation of Lands given for Obits, lights, etc., 2 Edw. VI., it is stated that one John Snappe, clerk, gave out of a pasture in the parish of Calne, called Selys, 6/8 yearly for ever for and towards the maintenance of the paschal taper in the church of Calne.

The *vayle* was the cloth used during Lent to screen the Sanctuary from the body of the Church. Other cloths were used to cover the rood screen, etc. :—

"The images and pictures now are coverde secretlie

In every Churche, and from the beames, the roof and rafters hie

Hanges painted linnen clothes that to the people doth declare

The wrathe and furie great of God, and times that fasted are."

The *vyce* was the fool or jester who appeared in the religious plays generally performed at Easter. The *platters*, *trenchers*, etc., were kept and used at the church house.

- Itm ij comunyon bokes j w'h a forrell and oyr ij w'h bords & clapces  
 Itm j paraphareces of Erasmus & ij byble boke  
 Itm ij cheynes wythe ij cloggs of leade  
 Itm v score & xvij organs pyppes [another handwriting]  
 Itm one longe twyste of Iron and viij<sup>n</sup> of leade  
 Itm one stremer & a grene banner and the vyces cote of yeallow  
 corde(?) (and twooe hogsheds newly boughte [a later writing])  
 6 Edw. VI. Rec<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>7</sup>/8<sup>d</sup> over & above 9 bz of barley for  
 4 acres of land in Castilfylde & Northefyld.  
 2 Mary. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Barth : Browne for 3 acres in Bower-  
 fylde. . . . . 18<sup>d</sup>  
 & of Rob<sup>t</sup> Pson for an hodd (*sic*) acre in Waynehill . . . . . vj  
 & of John Parkes for halfe an acre in Abbarde . . . . . xij<sup>d</sup>  
 John Dodson & Rob<sup>t</sup> Appowell (called in same ac/ct  
 Powell) are churchwardens 2 years in succession  
 (2-3 & 3-4 Mary). At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year the  
 church owes them £4/8/8.  
 1556. Rec<sup>d</sup> for 5 qrs. of barley . . . . . 3<sup>n</sup> 10  
 1557. Walter Ffynamore generosus obit 15 June  
 1557. Dec.<sup>1</sup> The x day of Dec. was buried ij chyl dren  
 without baptyse of the prieste, & begat without  
 matrimony.  
 1558. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Joan Browne wyddowe in pte of paym<sup>t</sup> of  
 her husband's buryall ffyve Bussshels of wheat @ xi  
 ye bussz.  
 and of John Walker for one quarter of malte . . . . . viij<sup>s</sup>  
 1570-71. <sup>2</sup> Rec<sup>d</sup> of Rob<sup>t</sup> Norman for refusing to be church-  
 warden . . . . . 6/8  
 & of Tho<sup>s</sup> Brewer for the lyke refusall . . . . . 6/8  
 List made of the houses, with their inhabitants, to which  
 belong the custom of making and keeping the  
 churchyard bounds. 25 groups of houses and 111  
 names of people.  
 1571-2. Rec<sup>d</sup>. profits of the Ch: Ale at Pentecoste *als*  
 Whytsontyde . . . . . £4/4/2  
 1574-5. No church ale, but 58<sup>1</sup>/1<sup>d</sup> obtained by collection<sup>3</sup>  
 from parishioners.  
 1576. Rec<sup>d</sup> of W<sup>m</sup> Goodyere the gouldsmythe when the  
 comunyon cuppe was made of the oulde challyce as  
 overplus in weichte xvij<sup>s</sup>.  
 1578. £9/16/ 5 collected for repair of church roof.  
 1580. Two collections (£19/11/8 & £10/3/6) made this year

<sup>1</sup> No burials are shown from Sept. '53 to July '54. Two shown in July, and then none to June 1557. The regular series recommence in Sept. 1557.

<sup>2</sup> Entries of this kind occur several times.

<sup>3</sup> From now to establishment of church rates collections sometimes take the place of church ales.



1581. Collected & gathered of the pshioners & forreners  
£8/9/0.
1583. Rec<sup>d</sup> for the baskett in wh: the clocke was broughte . . . . . xij<sup>d</sup>
1584. Rec<sup>d</sup> of R<sup>d</sup> Bowyer for the olde clocke . . . . . 15<sup>s</sup>/5<sup>d</sup>
1587. Churchwardens deliver up certain money at the end  
of their term of office "y<sup>n</sup> pte of theire accompte  
wch is not perfectly made. And the sayde John  
Gawen hath pmysed before Mr. Mychell Ernelye  
Esquyr and others of the prysh that whatsoer maye  
bee pued that they have R<sup>d</sup> more then is beefore  
accompted they will paye it, too theyre greate  
dyscreadytt." There is a later entry that "in  
recompense of the said imperfect accompte John  
Gawen has p<sup>d</sup> 20<sup>s</sup>/."
1600. Accounts first begin to be kept from Easter to  
Easter.
1603. Last Church Ale.
1604. Pew rents first mentioned.  
First church rate mentioned—£11/11/10.
1606. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Walter Nycholas towards the newe gallerye . . . . . xliij<sup>d</sup>
1606. Rec<sup>d</sup> of the players . . . . . viij<sup>d</sup>
- Rec<sup>d</sup> for 2 seats in the lower gallery . . . . . 3<sup>s</sup>/4<sup>d</sup>
1607. Rec<sup>d</sup> of the players . . . . . 3<sup>s</sup>/-
- do. Scholmaster . . . . . 8<sup>s</sup>/-
1610. Rec<sup>d</sup> for Lyonell Duckett Esquire his buryall. . . . . 6/8
1615. Mar. 5. William Mortimer, Vicar, grants a Dis-  
pensation to John Were and his wife, Dorothy, on  
account of age, to eat flesh in Lent.
1618. Rec<sup>d</sup> for bell metal 101 lbs. @ vj<sup>d</sup> the pound.
1634. Church rate £45. 13. 8.
- 1638-9. do £92. 5. 8. Expended £158. 4. 6.  
No accounts from 1639 to 1650.
- 1643(?). "The names of all those that have sworn the  
covenant":—

John Ernle  
John Ernle  
Robert Chivers

Edward Ernle  
Benedict Browne  
Robert Tayler  
John Parsons  
Richard Hale  
George Landine  
Anthony Willis  
Henry Hayward

Thomas Hinnington(?)  
Henry Sumers  
Edmon Dickes  
John James  
Edmond Yonge  
John Burchell  
John Ff . . . (?)  
W<sup>m</sup> Noble  
Richard Bishopp  
John Gwinn  
Richard Willis J<sup>r</sup>  
Rober Skutt

John Pontinge  
Richard Pontinge  
William Pontinge  
Lawrence Ffigings  
John Carraway  
John Daish  
John James  
John Tyler  
James Tyler  
Mathew Witte  
Humfry Townsend  
John Fforman

John Straton	John Liddall	W Turnill
John Tyler	Phillip Orrell	Moses Bayly
Ffrancis Simes	Henry Ladd	John Tayler
Joseph Robines	W <sup>m</sup> Maye	W <sup>m</sup> Juggen (?)
Jonathan Townsend	Robert Hiscocke	Richard Holly
John Androse	Richard Collins	Thomas Westone
John Boultin	William Norman	W <sup>m</sup> . . . (?)
W <sup>m</sup> Pamer	Richard Siller	Walter Holley
W <sup>m</sup> Wonderwood	Edward Okeford	Robert Webb
Robert Bishopp	Thomas Sinnett	Richard Dicks
W <sup>m</sup> Clifford	Walter Nicolas	William Fillowne
Thomas Tayler	Edward Okeford	John Norris
William Reeve	Junior	W <sup>m</sup> forman
Robert Peacocke	Abraham Tayler	Robert Webb
Armay (?) Stiles	W <sup>m</sup> Darke	Thomas Townsend
Peter Titcombe	John Okeford	Allin Weston
W <sup>m</sup> Reeade	John Brabant	Nicolas Smith
Edward Miles	Gabriell Tayler	John Bayly
Richard Killinge	John Webb	John Lawrence, Sen <sup>r</sup>
Richard Wokeford	Nicolas Wootton	Edward Gale
John Tayler	Robert Norman	John Townsend
Thomas Savage	John Norman	Ockridge Brabant
Richard Ely	Edward Lane	John Weaver
Robert Persons	Roger Chivers	John Silke
John Hobbes	Ralph Titcombe	W <sup>m</sup> Beare
Thomas Fforman	Robert Holly	John Hoiij
Henry Fforman	Jasp Townsend	Thomas Purrier
Thomas Daish Sen <sup>r</sup>	Steven Smith	Robert Chiver
Peter Woodroffe	John Sowtherinwood	Robert Cokse
Thomas Walker	John Maye	Edward Seager
Thomas Hayward	William Withie	Allin Clisselton
Walter Massy	John Page	W <sup>m</sup> Peckstone
Humfry Bodman	Roger Okeford	John Siller
Richard Ockford	Robin Reeve	Richard Titcombe
Richard Paty	Henry Norman	Robert Wonderwood
Pillip Mortimer	John Sergent	Phillip Criffin
W <sup>m</sup> Page	John Rowbottom	Thomas Aste
John Nash	W <sup>m</sup> Stevens	John Child
Richard Hillier	Henry Jones	Charles Perkin
Thomas Tibbale	W <sup>m</sup> Simes	Steven Perkin
W <sup>m</sup> Massy Sen <sup>r</sup>	Thomas Hellier	John Noble
Steven Seager	Edward Withers	Walter Brewer
Christopher Dyer	Henry Godwin	Roger Brabbant
Thomas Mills	Ralfe Veysey	Henry Weston
Thomas Page	Christopher Willin	Thomas Cole
Richard Breach	Thomas Sinnett Junior	John Clarke
W <sup>m</sup> Harkwood	Phillip Grinaway	Richard Bright

W <sup>m</sup> Glasgadine	Thomas Sellin	John Hickee
Nathaniell Dent	Mathew Srewe	W <sup>m</sup> Silke
Steven Higgings	Steven Seager	W <sup>m</sup> Swayne
John Russell	Thomas Townsend	Steven Seager
W Darke	Thomas Neate	Walter Thorner
Roger Blanch	Daniell Gayne	Henry Thorner
John Edwards	Joseph Beare	Robert Norman Jun
John Edwards Junior	John Hatherill	Robert Jeffery
Thomas Barrow	Thomas Silke	John Ffarmer
John Dash Jun	Roger Sinnett	Steven Bive
Roger Walker	Robert Bishopp	Anthony Pearce
John Mathewes	W <sup>m</sup> Jacob	Phillip Colman
Rise Ffluellin	Clement Dickes	Richard Whartin
W <sup>m</sup> Chapman	Charle Whitte	Steven Pratt
W <sup>m</sup> Gamage	Henry Gisard	Phillip James
Edward Dickes	John Witte	John Rennall
Robert Bayly	John Savage	W Dick
Robert Rogers	John Andrewe	Jeremy Bayly
John Ambrose	W <sup>m</sup> Townsend	Humfry Townsend
Richard Gent	John Longe	Roger Ffowler
Richard Griffin	Gyles Keymes	W Nicolas
Robert Williams		

[There is no date to this list, and the names are in the handwriting of the clerk.]

Accounts for 1650—1652 entered altogether, and in this record appear:—

P <sup>d</sup> for conforminge 2 bookes . . . . .	.00. 01. 00
P <sup>d</sup> W <sup>m</sup> Jeffery for an hour glass . . . . .	.00. 00. 08
P <sup>d</sup> for leadinge the new Iles mending in the churche . . . . .	.20. 13. 00
„ for casting the bell & metal . . . . .	.11. 01. 00
„ for making the articles and bond . . . . .	.04. 00
„ to the Sheriffes Bayley . . . . .	.01. 00
„ to the constables of the hundred for 2 years goale @ } Marshalesey . . . . . }	7. 13. 4

1659. Dispute between Thomas Jones, Vicar of Calne, & parishioners respecting appointment of sexton. Vicar claims sole right to appoint: parishioners decide to reimburse the churchwardens any expense they may be put to in fighting the claim; the names of 75 parishioners being entered as agreeing by William Page, Clerk, with this certificate:—

“This is a tru (*sic*) entry according }  
unto y<sup>e</sup> pticular subscriptions of } William Page  
y<sup>e</sup> pties aboves<sup>d</sup>. } Clarke.”  
“Witnesse my hand

[No accounts from 1660 to 1667-8.]

1662. It is discovered that the churchwardens have paid no rates for some years. Taxed with default, the delinquents claim exemption as recompense for collecting. Claim not allowed.
- 1670 (Nov. 27th). £4/14/8 collected in the church on a Brief and remitted to the Dean of Sarum for redemption of poor Christians out of Turkish slavery.
- 1678 (Oct. 27th). £2/13/3 collected in the parish of Calne towards the rebuilding "of S<sup>t</sup> Pauls Church in London."  
(16th Mch). 7/6½ collected in the church of Calne for the "parishe of Pattingham in the county of Stafford."  
Entry (out of place) respecting the receipt by Mr. Lowe from the Lord Mayor of London of money due under Henry Smith's Charity for the years 1658 and 9.

[Churchwardens' accounts missing for more than 80 years.]		<i>s. d.</i>
1756. P <sup>d</sup> John Sheppard for beer for men playing the engine		4 8
„ for playing the engine <sup>1</sup>	. . . . .	4 8
„ for mending y <sup>e</sup> engine	. . . . .	1 6
„ for 3 foxes <sup>2</sup>	. . . . .	3 0
1757. P <sup>d</sup> for Hedge Hogs and Pole Cats	. . . . .	1 19 6
„ for 77 duzen of sparrow heds <sup>3</sup>	. . . . .	12 10
„ giving Beer to the workmen at church	. . . . .	3 0
do. do.	. . . . .	1 0
„ John Hale by the order of Mr. Bowman for going round to the Fittuallers and Tradesmen to give them notice not to sell on Sunday	. . . . .	5 0
1758. July y <sup>e</sup> 1. Beer to the Ringers for the news of burning the french shiping ( <i>sic</i> ) <sup>4</sup>	. . . . .	15 0
P <sup>d</sup> the Ringers for Ringing for the Bishop	. . . . .	5 0

<sup>1</sup> These entries relate to the parish fire engine, a machine not much larger than a good-sized garden pump. One of these primitive engines is carefully preserved in Malmesbury Abbey Church. Similar entries are painfully frequent year by year.

<sup>2</sup> Many similar entries, showing that foxhunting, as we know it, was not then in this neighbourhood a recognised form of sport. The first pack of foxhounds was started by the Duke of Beaufort about 1762.

<sup>3</sup> Payments under these heads appear frequently. The price of the sparrows, it will be observed, was 1½ for a farthing instead of the biblical 2.

<sup>4</sup> The Ringers were a very loyal body of men, judging by the payments made to them, who seized every opportunity of proclaiming by a "ringing day" the birthday, etc., of a King or Queen or a member of the Royal Family. The fifteen shillings they received each time *may* have had something to do with their melodious loyalty. A Bishop, it will be observed, was not worth so much to the gentlemen of the bells as a King or Queen, a victory, or a burning of the "french shiping."

Alas! there are no "ringing days" or "chiming feasts" now; for, owing to the age and shakiness of the bell-frame the bells cannot be rung without grave danger of bringing the whole peal about the ringers' ears. Alas, also, there is no money available to renew the frame!

1761. 3rd Mch. 46 persons, called the "Paymasters of the Parish," sit in judgment on the sexton. He is dismissed from his post and another appointed "unanimously"; and to this decision the whole 46 solemnly append their signatures. To this record there is however a footnote which says: "This appointment did not take place, but Anthony Hale was elected Sexton by the Minister and one ch. warden, according to ancient custom.

	£	s.	d.
1766. Paid Chas. Bleadon for a Visitation Dinner <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	11	1	10
1761. Paid John Stretch's Bill for the cloth and making the Crier's coat <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	3	2	4
1789. Pd <sup>d</sup> for the parson's umbrella <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	0	14	0

<sup>1</sup> Compare this entry with :—

" Give a poor woman . . . . . 6<sup>d</sup>  
 " Give 2 wounded soldiers . . . . . 1<sup>s</sup> 0<sup>d</sup>."

<sup>2</sup> The parish also possessed a beadle, as may be seen from the following guild stewards' minute: "As the ch. wardens are by the new poor laws not allowed to pay for a beadle, Resolved that a beadle be appointed for the town and paid out of the Corporation funds at 10/- weekly." But no entries relating to this functionary are to be found in the churchwardens' accounts. Possibly the same man combined the two offices. The crier now-a-days has to buy his own coat.

<sup>3</sup> Like the crier and his coat, the parson has now to buy his own umbrella, even though it may be used for parish purposes.



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