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# ASHBURTON

AND ITS

## NEIGHBOURHOOD.



S. Prepositi et Coitatis Burgi de Ayspton.

CHARLES WORTHY.

ASHBURTON:

L. B. VARDER, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER, EAST STREET.

1875.

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE.



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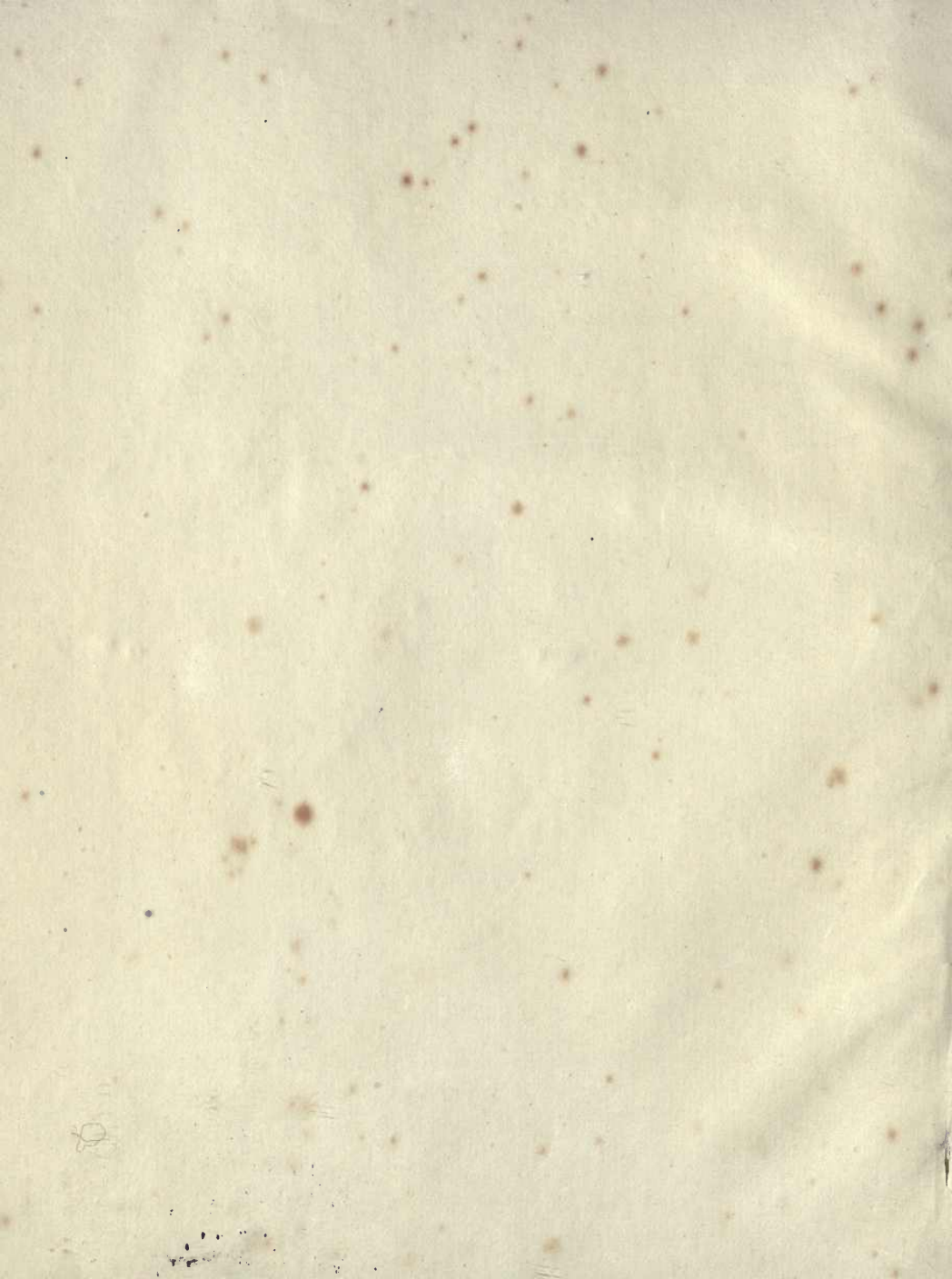
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1954





# Ashburton and its Neighbourhood,

OR THE

ANTIQUITIES AND HISTORY OF THE

## BOROUGH OF ASHBURTON

IN THE COUNTY OF DEVON, AND OF THE

Parishes of Buckland-in-the-Moor and Bickington.

(ITS ANCIENT DEPENDENCIES),

WITH A MINUTE DESCRIPTION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE

Churches, and of the Chantry Chapel of St. Lawrence, the Old

"FREE SCOLE OF AYSHEBERTON,"

TOGETHER WITH AN ACCOUNT OF SEVERAL OF THE

## ADJACENT MANORS & CHURCHES,

COMPILED FROM VARIOUS AUTHENTIC SOURCES,

By CHARLES WORTHY, Esq., late H.M. 82nd Regt.

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ASHBURTON:

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*John Sauerby*  
1902

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
CHARLES HENRY ROLLE H. S. FORBES TREFUSIS,  
TWENTIETH BARON CLINTON,

LORD OF THE MANOR AND JOINT LORD OF THE BOROUGH OF ASHBURTON,  
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P R E F A C E .



In the following pages I have endeavoured to put into a collected form all the information I have been able to procure relative to the HISTORY OF ASHBURTON and the Parishes in its immediate Neighbourhood.

In Books already published, minute particulars have necessarily given place to generalities, since from the magnitude of their various works our Devonshire Historians have never been able to do individual and particular justice to the whole County.

In deference therefore to the kind wishes expressed by many of the readers of those valuable Local Newspapers "*The Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*," and "*The Western Morning News*," I have collected, re-arranged, and added considerably to many of my articles published in the former journal during last year, and now venture to offer the result of my labours to the Public.

Through the kindness of the Proprietors of the "*Western Morning News*" I was enabled to publish some particulars of the Parishes of Manaton and Ilsington in their columns a few months since, and those accounts I have with sundry additions, here re-produced. I should be ungrateful if I did not acknowledge the very valuable aid I have received from the varied researches of the late Rev. George Oliver, S.T.P., since much of my information has been derived from the Latin deeds (the property of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter), which he so carefully transcribed and published in the "*Monasticon Diocesis*" and in his "*Lives of the Bishops of Exeter*."

I have also to confess my obligations to the Works of our County Historians, Westcote, Risdon, Brice, and Lysons, all of whose volumes as well as those of the late Dr. Oliver (being in my Father's possession), I have been able readily to refer to.

I have, moreover, carefully read and freely quoted from the Records of the

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Parish of Ashburton, and have been able to glean from them many interesting particulars relative to that ancient Borough, whose Subscription Library has also furnished me with, amongst others, such trustworthy books of reference as the "*Valor Ecclesiasticus*," "*The Rolls of the Hundreds*," and "*The Parliamentary Writs*."

I need scarcely remark that my accounts of the Churches have been written after personal inspection, and I have done my best to describe the Architectural differences frequently existing in one and the same building; I have also carefully examined all the remains of Ancient Glass and Oak Carving which have come under my notice, and I have to thank the Clergy of the various Parishes for their uniform attention, assistance, and kindness, always freely and heartily given.

In conclusion, I appeal to the Public generally to pardon any shortcomings or inaccuracies, and to believe that I have taken all due care and trouble to avoid them; I am very grateful for the many kind promises I have received of support in my undertaking, and if my health is spared, I trust to be permitted at no distant day to Publish a Second Volume of "*DEVONSHIRE PARISHES*."

CHAS. WORTHY.

Ashburton, October 31st, 1875.



# Ashburton and its Neighbourhood.



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## CHAPTER I.

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### The Borough of Ashburton.

**A**SHBURTON, variously written Aysheberton, Aisberton, and Asperton, is situated in the Hundred of Teignbridge, the Archdeaconry of Totnes, the Deanery of Moreton, and the Diocese of Exeter, and is on the high-road between Exeter and Plymouth, about equidistant from either place.

It is close to some of the most beautiful and interesting of the far-famed Devonshire scenery, and is to be easily approached by a branch railroad, nine miles in length, running by the banks of the river Dart, and connecting it with the South Devon line at Totnes.

It lies in a beautiful valley, open southwards, where the view extends over a fine range of cultivated country. The hills on the western side, towards Dartmoor, rise to a considerable height, and form a great protection to the town. On the east the slope is more gradual, and there is a marked difference in the height of the hills.

The town consists of a long street, traversing it from east to west, and two others leading north and south. The first three are filled with good houses and shops, and the last is terminated by the railway station.

The market house, with a large assembly-room above it, is a modern structure, and replaces the old edifice, which was inconveniently situated in the middle of the town, and was an ancient and picturesque building.

Ashburton is well furnished with water, a certain sum was charged upon certain lands, in very early times "*For the conduction of pure and wholesome water in leaden pipes,*" and these ancient sources of supply have been augmented in late years by the liberality of Robert Jardine, Esq., the last member for the borough, who brought the crystal fluid from a never-failing spring on the Chuleigh Estate, into the centre of the town, and this act of munificence is commemorated by the erection of a granite conduit in the "*Bull ring,*" from whence the pipes branch off for the supply of the different houses.

In the reign of King Edward the Confessor, Brictric was the possessor of the Manor of Ashburton. He was a noble Saxon of great wealth and influence, and having been sent on a mission to Baldwin, Earl of Flanders, there attracted the attention of his daughter Matilda, who wished to marry him; Brictric however, declined the honour, and returned to his own country.

The lady afterwards became the wife of William the Conqueror, and when that monarch distributed to his Norman followers the lands of the vanquished Saxons, it is asserted that Matilda seized the opportunity to revenge herself upon the noble who had despised the honour of her alliance; she procured a grant of the lands of Brictric, who was taken at his Manor of Hanley and conveyed to Winchester, where he afterwards died in prison.

This circumstance is noticed by Mr. King, in his "*Dartmoor forest and its borders,*" (p 127), but he remarks that "*the story rests on doubtful evidence, but that it is certain that eighteen Manors in Devon, among which were Ashburton and Bideford, are recorded in the Domesday Survey, as having passed from the hands of Brictric into those of the Queen.*"

William the Conqueror having bestowed the Manor of Ashburton upon his Royal Consort, she permitted Judhel, or Juhel de Totenais, to hold it in demesne from her.

Juhel being banished the realm by William Rufus, his Manor of Ashburton was bestowed upon the Bishops of Exeter, and they continued to hold it as part of their barony from the King in chief, by finding two soldiers for service in the Royal army, till the reign of King James the First, when it

was again assumed by the Crown.

Some years afterwards it was sold in moieties to Sir Robert Parkhurst and the Earl of Feversham.

Sir Robert Parkhurst conveyed his half to Sir John Stawell, from whom it passed to the family of Tuckfield. The heiress of Roger Tuckfield brought it to Samuel Rolle, Esq., and from him it descended "with (according to Lysons) "the Manor of Holwell, in this parish," to Lord Clinton. This moiety of the Manor still appertains to the family of Trefusis, whilst Lord Feversham's moiety has passed through the hands of Duke, Palk, Mathieson, and others, and is now the property of Robert Jardine, Esq., the last member for the borough. The Lords of the Manor had formerly, the power of inflicting capital punishment.

The Manor of Holwell, or as it was anciently written *Hagawile*, or *Hagawell*, being derived from a greek word, signifying *Holy*, and therefore meaning *The Holy Well*, was the property of Aluric, the King's Thane, in the reign of Edward the Confessor. Although adjacent to the Manor of Ashburton, it did not pass into the hands of Queen Matilda, very possibly because it did not happen to form a portion of the property of the noble Brictric, but it was alienated from its Saxon owners, and bestowed absolutely upon Judhel de Totenais.

For many years it has been held, (together with Halshanger), by the ancient family of Woodley, and the present owner is James Woodley, Esq., of Halshanger.

In the third year of the reign of King Edward the Second, (A.D. 1310), Bishop Stapledon, the then Bishop of Exeter, who had a house in Ashburton, and frequently resided there, procured for it a market on Saturdays, and a fair for <sup>two</sup> ~~three~~ days, on the festivals of St. Lawrence and St. Martin. The market is still held upon the old day, but the fairs, though held in the months of August and November, have been altered to the first Tuesday in those months. In 1672, Mr. John Ford procured another market, on Tuesdays, chiefly for wool and yarn, (spun in Cornwall), but this market has for some years been discontinued. Andrew Quick, first elected member for the borough in 1712, procured for it two other fairs, on the first Tuesday in March, and the first Thursday in June, and these fairs are still held upon those days.

Ashburton, (deprived by the first Reform Bill of one, and by the last of the other, of its representatives), sent two members to the House of Commons from a very early date. In the 26th year of King Edward I., A.D., 1298, a

two?

writ was signed at Fulham Palace addressed to the Burgesses of Ashburton, commanding them to send two representatives to the second English Parliament, which met at York on the 25th of May, that same year, and in obedience to this writ William Titela and John Pope were elected.

This Parliament was summoned by the King, immediately on his landing at Sandwich from his campaign in Flanders.

The immediate cause of its being summoned was to take strong measures to quiet Scotland and prevent a repetition of Wallace's raid, the previous year, into England. The Parliament having assembled the first germ of what is termed "a Parliamentary opposition," was noticed, led by the two great Earls, Hereford and Norfolk, who, whether prompted by patriotism or private reasons, were the means of raising up that bulwark of the peoples' safety, whereby the weaker minority are always respected, and have their influence in the deliberation of Parliament. The claims of this opposition were postponed until the affairs of Scotland were settled, and a military rendezvous ordered for the 25th of June, at Roxbury, which, although the coming harvest would require all available hands, was so warmly responded to, that the King on Midsummer eve found himself at the head of 80,000 infantry and 7,000 cavalry, of whom 3,000 were in full armour. This showed the determination of the English people to support their King and settle the Scotch difficulty.

No fresh writ was issued for this Borough until A.D., 1407, (8th Henry IV.,) when it once more sent two members, and after this, it intermitted the second member till the year 1640, when its former privilege was restored to it. The right of election was always vested in the inhabitant householders, and the holders of burgage tenures.

In the year 1285, (13th Edward I.), that king made Ashburton a stannary town, (*i e.*, privileged it with the weighing of tin), as appears by the Charter witnessed by William, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, Simon, Bishop of Sarum, John, Bishop of Carlisle, Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, Ralph Monthermer, Earl of Gloucester and Hereford, Henry Bohun, Earl of Hertford, Andoman de Valence, Hugh de Spencer, Jo Hastings, &c.

The other stannary towns were Chagford, Plympton, and Tavistock, and the prison, (where the offenders against the stannary laws were confined), was the ancient Castle of Lydford, now in ruins.

Lysons says in his *Magna Britannia*: "That there has been nothing

peculiar in the government of Devonshire as distinct from that of the rest of the kingdom, except that of the stannary laws, which have been in force from an early period in the mining district in the south-west part of the County."

The stannary Parliaments were at first held in the open air upon an elevated spot, called Crokern Tor, (about six miles from Ashburton), and in the parish of Lydford. "Till within the memory of man the commission was opened and the Jurors sworn upon this spot, after which the court was adjourned to one of the towns above mentioned."

The table and seats of Moor stone, mentioned by Risdon, were destroyed by the workmen of the late Sir Francis Buller, unknown to him, and the fragments used for some buildings, then in process of erection. (Sir Francis Buller, then Mr. Justice Buller, had purchased of Mr. Gullet an estate on Dartmoor, held under the Duchy, called Prince Hall). The judge's seat, however, may still be seen inside a gate near a farm called *Brownberry*, on the road to Prince Town.

From the fact of Ashburton recovering in 1640 its ancient privilege of sending a second member to Parliament, we have fair reason for assuming that its people favoured the Protectorate. Sir Thomas Fairfax took it on his march westward, on the 10th of January, 1646, and, judging from the absence of any entries in the register of burials, the town must have surrendered without striking a blow. He had his headquarters at the Mermaid Inn, near the corner of North Street, now occupied as a baker's shop, and, on his departure, left a regiment to keep possession of the town.

Nearly opposite the new markets may be noticed a good arched doorway of timber of Perpendicular date, with the square flower in the hollow all round the arch.

Ashburton possesses a Subscription Library, and a Reading Room. It has several good hotels, where every facility is afforded for visiting the numberless objects of interest on the Moor.

Besides its ancient Grammar School, Ashburton possesses a Charity School, originally founded in the year 1677, by Mr. John Ford, for the purpose of instructing poor children of the parish in reading, and endowed with £8 per annum, charged on the Yarn Market. This original endowment has been lost, but in 1754, Lord Middleton and John Harris, Esq., the members for the borough, re-endowed it with the sum of £640, invested in land.

*The Bourne School  
later  
Bourne School!  
later  
Council School.*

Miss Dunning, in 1805, gave the sum of £6 per annum, for the purpose of instructing ten poor girls of the parish in reading and sewing.

The parish of Ashburton consists of 6,936 acres, and the population in 1871, amounted to 2,952 persons.

## CHAPTER II.

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### The Parish Church.

THE Parish Church, standing in a large Churchyard, and dedicated to St. Andrew, is situated in West Street, and is supposed to have been founded about the year 1137, by Ethelward, a son of William de Pomeroy, and the re-founder of the neighbouring Abbey of Buckfast.

It is a fine cruciform structure, comprehending chancel, nave, opening into north and south aisles, through five two-centred moulded arches supported by octagonal pillars of Decorated date, with plain capitals, north and south transepts, a north porch, and a lofty tower at the western end, containing six heavy and musical bells. The Church was originally of double cruciform shape, but the south porch was removed some years since, and a wrought iron window, of true "*Churchwarden*" design, inserted in its place.

The tower, which is ninety-two feet high is strongly buttressed, the buttresses running off into pinnacles, and, within the memory of man, was surmounted by a spire. The north and south fronts have embattled parapets, and are supported by plain cushioned buttresses, and the western ends of the aisles are terminated by octagonal turrets. The porch and the vestry at the eastern extremity of the Church are also embattled.

Until a few years since the porch had a parvise over it, and up to the period of the destruction of this room, the armour pertaining to the two soldiers that the lords of the manor had anciently found for the service of the King was preserved there. Frequent mention is made of this "*harnyss*,"



and of the soldiers themselves, in the ancient accounts of the parish. The vestry, supposed by some to be the oldest part of the Church, is evidently of more recent date, it having been built on to the eastern buttresses, which run completely through it.

Upon entering the Church the eye misses the ancient screen, which was removed many years since. It was originally extremely handsome, the figures of the Saints in the lower panels were carved in relief and then painted and the effect must have been very beautiful. It was erected, in the year 1525, at an expense of £20 1s. 6½d., a very large sum in those days, and from the circumstance of a considerable portion of it having been used in the construction of the western gallery, we conclude that it was removed when this gallery was built, A.D. 1718. The pulpit and eagle, the former of the same date and character as the screen, were sold to the parish of Bigbury, in the year 1777, for the sum of £11 11. The ancient font has also been removed, and the carved oak roof of the nave hidden by a modern arched ceiling.

The eastern window, which has been restored, is of the period of the Transition, from second to third pointed architecture, and a good example of the style: it is filled with stained glass.

The Reredos, of Bath stone, is in imitation of the Perpendicular style, and is divided into five compartments, with buttressed and embattled turrets at the north and south ends; it is enriched with quatrefoils, and four of its compartments are filled with the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments, whilst the centre one exhibits a painting of the Crucifixion. The altar is also of stone, divided into three quatrefoiled compartments, the centre one having the sacred monogram.

Although the tracery of the eastern window is of Transition date, its acutely pointed arch proves that it existed many years before this style prevailed in England, and that it most probably originally lighted an early English Chancel.

The fourteenth century work was well re-produced a few years since, and the Latin Inscription in the base informs us that Jonathan Parker Fisher, Sub-Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Exeter, placed and dedicated this window to the Triune God, A.D., 1840.

The present pulpit and reading-desk, a huge structure of mahogany, occupies the ancient position of the screen, and effectually blocks out all view of the

altar from the western end of the building.

There were anciently four Chapels within the Church; the north transept separated from the aisle by a parclose, being dedicated to St. Thomas, of Canterbury, that on the South to St. Catherine. The end of the north aisle behind the screen was the Lady Chapel, and the corresponding Chapel on the south side was dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

The latter was originally lighted by two windows, one has been blocked up, and the other was restored and filled with stained glass, about eight years since, but the geometrical tracery in the old window of the reign of King Edward II., was closely copied.

In the south wall there is a fine trefoiled piscina, of second pointed date; there is space sufficient at the bottom of the recess for the sacred vessels to stand round the bason, which has a raised centre surrounded by four drain holes. That portion of the north aisle which was formerly the "Chapel of our Lady," is lighted by two windows, one of late decorated date, (the most ancient example of Tracery in the Church), has been partially destroyed, and the other at the eastern end, an early perpendicular window, was recently filled with stained glass, by a Lady Parishioner, since dead, and who, by her will, left the sum of £100, to head a subscription for the restoration of this venerable fabric.

The windows at the western ends of the aisles were blocked in the years 1574-5, the Churchwardens at the time being Lawrence White, and John Nosworthy.

The north aisle was built in 1315, by order of Bishop Stapledon, the south aisle, westward of St. John's Chapel, between 1420 and 1455, during the episcopacy of Bishop Lacy.

The head of King Edward II., and the flat four leaved flower, characteristic of the Decorated style, may be seen in the bosses and ribs of the roof of the former, whilst the Episcopal Mitre, with the initial letter L, is to be found in the latter.

We can find no trace of an Earlier Church than that supposed to have been built by Ethelward Pomeroy, towards the latter end of the 12th century, and but little of his edifice remains, excepting possibly the lower part of some of the walls, notably at the western end, where they are very thick. The arch of the north porch, (in the construction of which a different stone is employed to that used in the rest of the building), is of Transition, or Semi-Norman date, and, without doubt, was the entrance to

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the original Church. As soon as individual piety had finished the structure it was handed over, according to the pious custom of the times, to the Bishop of the Diocese, and in the year 1186, Bishop John the Chaunter, appropriated it to his Chapter, and they have been ever since Rectors of the Church and Patrons of the Vicarage.

The Chancel is apparently Early English, probably about the commencement of the fourteenth century. There are slender shafts in the jambs of the windows strongly characteristic of this style. The piscina, discovered during the restoration, has been walled up again. The restored sedilia are square-headed, and of Perpendicular date. There are three square-headed Perpendicular niches over the western doorway, from which the images have been removed, and a bracket of Decorated date on the western side of the second pier north.

The tower was probably restored in accordance with the architecture of the fifteenth century, when the south aisle was rebuilt during Bishop Lacy's Episcopacy. The walls of the basement are very thick, and whilst the pointed door with its deep mouldings appears to date from the time of Bishop Stapledon, the large window and the three empty "Tabernacles" are manifestly fifteenth century insertions. The vaulted ceiling, beneath the floor of the belfry, is modern.

The pillars and arches are of the period of Bishop Stapledon's episcopacy.

There was probably a Galilee Chapel in the tower, which is raised three steps above the nave; differences in the mouldings round the capitals of two of the pillars mark the distance eastward women were permitted to advance.

Many of the windows are debased Perpendicular, and their arches are very flat. A large number of them are partially obscured by three enormous galleries, and the whole interior is choked and disfigured by successive coats of plaster and whitewash, the accumulation of many years.

### CHAPTER III.

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## Of the Early Records of the Parish and of the Succession of the Vicars of Ashburton.

THE Churchwardens' accounts of this Parish commence A.D., 1479-80, and (with the exception of those for the two immediately succeeding), extend uninterruptedly over a period of one hundred years. The interesting volume containing them, (a M.S. quarto, with parchment covers, and in a fair state of preservation), was decyphered a few years since by the Rev. J. H. Butcher, Curate of Buckland, who has since published extracts from them, and who remarks in his preface, that "The period embraced includes the era of the reformation, and there are, as might be expected, many entries showing the changes which then took place in the mode of Divine Worship, as well as others which illustrate the rites and ceremonies of the time, by the mention of the vestments and ornaments of the Church, which obtained throughout the country in pre-reformation times. There are besides some historical allusions of an interesting character, and others which show the manners and customs of the people, and exhibit the prices of different articles and commodities, and the rates of wages."

In the appendix we have given some of the most important entries contained in this book, including the account of the sale of the vestments belonging to the Church in the year 1568-9, and an inventory of the "Church Jewels."

In the year 1538, during the episcopacy of Bishop Veysey, an order was received by that Prelate, requiring him to see that all the Parishes in his Diocese were furnished with books, to contain the baptisms and deaths of the Parishioners. This order originated in the suppression of the monasteries, as prior to their dissolution, these records had been kept by the monks.

Amongst the expenses of the Churchwardens, William Harrys, William Burgys, Lawrence Wethecombe, and William Whytewaye, in A.D., 1538-9, we

find a note of 3s. 4d. "For a new book, bought for entering those who die in the parish and who receive the Sacrament of Baptism according to the mandate of the most Illustrious Prince Henry VIII., King, Defender of the Faith, and in the land supreme head of the English Church." These books have disappeared, and the present registers commence:—

Baptisms, January, 1603.

Burials, April, 1603.

Marriages, May, 1603.

From September, A.D., 1657, to the feast of St. Bartholomew, August 24th, 1662, there are no entries in the Marriage Register, nor are there any burials recorded from the 3rd of July, 1658, to the same date in 1662; the last named registers are also missing, from the 30th of January, 1728, to the 3rd of June, 1730; the Baptisms, (or births), are regularly kept from the year 1603,

The books generally, are in fair condition; the earliest of them are written in Latin upon vellum, the ink in some parts is peculiarly fresh and vivid, but the writing in many places is very cramped and illegible.

At the end of the year 1652, an order was received from the Parliament, requiring the existing register books to be discontinued, and ordering the provision of a new book for the reception of *Births, Marriages, and Burials*.

Marriages were now made civil contracts, and from the 16th of January, 1653, to September, 1657, are thus entered:— (Copy).

"16th January, 1653, "*An agreement of Marriage between Nicholas Fursman, Sonne of Wm. Fursman, of this parish of the one part, and Thomasine Taylor, Daughter of Richard Taylor, also of this parish, of the other part, was delivered unto the Register and published three Lord's days following.*"

6th February, 1653, "*The said Nicholas Fursman and Thomasine Taylor were Married before the Worshipfull Thomas Reynell, Esq., Justice of the Peace.*"  
(Signed,) "THOS REYNELL."

Instead of Baptisms, the *Births* only of the Parishioners are now recorded, "*October, 1653, Bernard, the Sonne of Bernard Christopher, was born ye 19th.*" and thus they continue to be entered until the 27th of May, 1660, when the people of Ashburton, (having probably received the joyful news that the King of England, at last re-called from his unjust exile, and solemnly proclaimed in the Palace Yard, at Whitehall, and at Temple Bar, on the

8th of the month, was then on his way home to assume the Crown of his ancestors), resumed without delay the use of this Holy Sacrament; but at first they seem to have done so in fear and trembling, as if they were afraid that the long wished for intelligence, which had reached their then remote parish, was too good to be true, and that any infringement of the strict orders of the Puritans would still bring punishment and vengeance on the Borough, and they therefore compromised the matter by noting both the *Baptism* and the *Birth*, thus:—

“27th May, 1660, “*Mary, Daughter of Henry Millm, born 2nd; Baptized 27th.*”

On the 29th of May, 1660, as we all know, King Charles re-entered London, and, (although the Prayer Book was not formally restored until August 24th, 1662), the baptisms have been carefully and regularly administered and entered from then till now.

Most probably the registers, prior to 1603, were lost during the years of anarchy and confusion, antecedent to the joyful event of which we have just spoken. During the Protectorate, the Vicar, the Rev. Alexander Crosse, appears to have been deprived of his preferment, and previous Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, have all disappeared, excepting those contained in the volume actually in use at the time the adoption of the “*New Book*” was ordered in 1653.

In 1537 the English Bible was completed, and Cromwell, (who had been appointed Vicar-General, a new office, by which the King's supremacy, or the absolute uncontrollable power assumed over the Church had been delegated to him), put forth injunctions requiring the Clergy to set up Bibles in their Churches and to encourage all to read them.

Asburton does not seem to have attended to these orders, until the year 1540, when the Wardens expended the sum of six shillings “For a new book called a Bybyll, and for a chain for fastening the said book.”

The Parish Chest, still standing in the south aisle, appears to have been constructed in the year 1483, when John Soper was paid 2s. 4d. for “sawing two hundred feet of timber,” and in the same year John Clyffe received sixpence for making this chest, (probably with a portion of the aforesaid timber). In the year 1489, it was bound with iron at an expense of £1 3s. 10½d, and the locksmith received 5s. 9d. for its locks and keys; two of the latter have unfortunately been lost.

We found, a short time since, in this chest an illuminated M.S., containing a portion of the Office for the Octave of Ascension and in good condition, used as the cover of an early rate book; the colours have defied time, dirt, rough treatment, and every kind of negligence, and are still very vivid.

In the Register of Burials, 24th January, 1655, we read as follows:—

*“John Browne, buried the 20th day, who was taken up again ye 24th, and then buried in the highway, near Goosapoole.”*

He was probably a suicide, and therefore, in accordance with ancient custom, was not permitted to remain in consecrated ground.

The roof of the nave was originally of oak, the present ceiling was made in the reign of King James I.; the tower arch was then covered with plaster, and another of the same material, (suitable to the decreased height of the roof), erected under it; doubtless the Chancel arch has been similarly concealed, and will be discovered and laid open whenever the much needed restoration of the fabric is effected

The ribs and bosses of the north aisle, particularly at the eastern end, are well carved and of the period of Bishop Stapledon's Episcopacy, (1315); plaster, however, has usurped the place of the ancient illuminated oak ceiling, and we have been given to understand that some of the nodi, towards the western end, were renewed about twenty years since, all, however, are alike covered with many coats of yellow paint.

The cornice is of vine leaves and grapes with the four leaved flower at rare intervals, some of the bosses are of foliage, others represent heads, and, (as we have said above), amongst them that of King Edward II., precisely similar to that on his monument in Gloucester Cathedral, is conspicuous.

The oak benches in the porch, although much decayed, still bear traces of the fourteenth century flower, and the ancient doors have been covered with an outer casing of painted deal.

The eastern end of the south aisle is also of fourteenth century date, and whilst the nodi assimilate to those in the north aisle, the rest of the woodwork, was altered to its present appearance, by Thomas Workman, and Christopher Kelly, the Churchwardens in 1679.

The portion of this aisle, westward of the transept, is of Perpendicular date, and the window arches are much debased

It is said that a portion of the old illuminated ceiling is still concealed

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at the eastern end of this aisle by a false one of lath and plaster.

The bosses, (with the exception of a very remarkable head at the western end), are of good Perpendicular foliage, but the cornice and ribs have only a plain moulding.

Bishop Lacy's cognizance is formed of four leaves, having the appearance of two mitres, the stalks being twisted in the form of the letter L.

The font, standing at the western end of the aisle and close to the site of the ancient south porch, is modern, and of plain grey marble, and is placed upon a pedestal painted to imitate the same material. Record and tradition are both silent as to the fate of the original.

When the Chancel was restored a portion of a recumbent figure was discovered, about two feet in length, (from the waist downwards), attired in a scarlet robe, powdered over with golden *fleur de lis*; in addition to this large fragment, many other smaller pieces, appertaining to the same figure, were also found; they were all, however, built in again without any attempt being made to arrange and re-unite them.

It is possible that this was the effigy of Ethelward de Pomeroy, the founder of the Church, and once surmounted his tomb, which, according to custom, probably once existed on the north side of the altar.

Upon the same occasion, six skeletons in six walled graves, were found immediately under the present altar table, they were doubtless the remains of former vicars, who in days gone by were generally buried in this part of the Church.

On the 3rd of April, A.D., 1314, Bishop Stapledon visited the Church which he found in a dilapidated condition, especially the north aisle which was ruinous, and required to be rebuilt. He ordered a vestry to be made on the north side of the Chancel, complained of the deficiency of the sacred ornaments, ordered the rebuilding of the said north aisle, and further enjoined that the repairs should be finished and the deficiencies supplied by the ensuing Michaelmas under a penalty of £20, payable to the fabric of Exeter Cathedral.

There is no trace of any vestry on the north side of the Church, but behind the eastern wall, which is nearly five feet in thickness, is a low embattled structure, with a late Early English window of two lights, very much splayed on the inside, which, from time immemorial, has



been used for this purpose. It is of later date than the Chancel since the eastern buttresses run completely through it, and whilst the four Chapels within the Church are frequently referred to in the old accounts, and their situations particularized, no mention whatever is made of any Chantry at the eastern end, although the vestry is often alluded to; we think, therefore, that this must have been the room erected by order of the Bishop, in 1314, and that its situation is due to the fact of a convenient site on the north side of the Church being unprocurable, or because an excrescence of this kind would have necessarily destroyed the cruciform character of the structure.

During the restoration of the Chancel, in 1840, the ancient Priests door, on its south side, was blocked and a new entrance made at the eastern end of the south aisle, and, at this time also, whilst removing the plaster, the masons discovered many urns built into the wall.

They were not regularly piled one above another, but were scattered all over the north and south walls of the interior of the Chancel.

The only ornament on these ancient vessels is a zigzag line over a very faint white mark, and there is no indentation or moulding whatever, when found they had a small piece of slate placed in front of their mouths; some declare that specks of gold can be discerned in the composition, to us they seem to be of the roughest description of common red clay, like a flower pot in appearance and quality; they were firmly fixed in the recesses with mortar

One of these jars has been sent to London and exhibited before the Society of Antiquaries, when it was stated "That but for the circumstance of a piece of slate being placed in front of their mouths it might be conjectured, that these vessels had been designed to serve the purpose of those acoustic vases to which attention has not unfrequently been called in this and other countries, and of which a succinct account is given in the Norfolk Archæology, vol VII., p. 93, also Archæological Journal, vol VII., p. 276."

A gentleman, who was present when they were discovered, informs us "that some had thin hard substances, heart shaped in them, which the late Mr. Hele, (then practising as a surgeon in Ashburton), pronounced to be a heart perfectly dried up."

Many of these urns, we are also told, have been found in Chancel walls and in passages running under Chancel floors, their mouths, (as in this

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instance), flush with the face of the wall.

We are inclined to adopt the theory of their having been used for acoustic purposes, bearing in mind that *they were absolutely unsealed*, for we consider that the fact of the slate over their mouths, may be easily explained. From the time of their being first placed in the Chancel, whenever that may have been, to the Reformation, they were doubtless left open, the somewhat rude workmanship of the pottery being concealed by the gorgeous decorations around the high altar, at the Reformation, the decorations being removed and the walls being left bare, they became unsightly, and it was found easier to put a piece of slate over them and plaster them up than it was to remove them.

A woodcut of these interesting relics was published in the "Journal of the Society of Antiquaries," for January, 1873.


From Bishop Lacy's Register, (vol III., fol. 863), it appears that the Churchyard was allowed, by that Prelate, to be reconciled on the 19th of April, 1451, polluted as it had been in a bloody affray between John Halls and . . . . (The second name has been lost.)

Before we conclude our notice of the existing records of the Church of Ashburton, we must not omit to make mention of two circumstances entered at the commencement of one of the Register books. The first memorandum refers to the Jubilee, and states that upon the 25th of October, 1809, upon the occasion of His Majesty King George III. commencing the fiftieth year of his reign, a public subscription was made in the Parish amounting to the sum of £150 18s., to supply the poor with a good dinner, consisting of meat, bread and ale.

The second says "That on Wednesday, 26th of September, 1805, Dr. Fisher, Bishop of Exeter, held a Confirmation Service, (the first that had ever been held in Ashburton), for the Parishes of Ashburton, Bickington, Buckland-in-the-Moor, Widdicombe, Ilington, Woodland, Staverton, Buckfastleigh, and Holne; there were 552 candidates.

The following list of Vicars is compiled from the Parochial Registers, old Rate books and Churchwarden's account books, and is therefore necessarily somewhat imperfect, but it is interesting inasmuch as the information is obtained from local sources, and there are but few Country Parishes in Devonshire possessing records dating from the first half of the fifteenth century, as we have said above, from A.D., 1186, the Dean and Chapter

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of Exeter, have been Patrons of the Vicarage,

JOHN BRIDPORT was instituted on the 22nd of September, 1435, by his will, dated June 6th, 1449, he left a chalice, some vestments, and a missal to the Altar of St. Katherine in his Church.

WILLIAM HOLCOMBE is first mentioned as Vicar in 1489, but as no Vicar's death is recorded, he was probably in possession of the Vicarage in 1749, (the year in which the parish accounts commence). He was Precentor or Chanter of the College of St. Mary Ottery and Vicar of Ipplepen, and by his will, dated April 1st, 1439, left 6s. 8d. to the poor of Ashburton, and a like sum to those of Ipplepen, to pray for his soul; also to his successors at Ashburton and Ipplepen 7d. a year for three years, "To pray for him in the Pulpit on Sundays, *Ad orandum pro me diebus dominicis in pulpito.*" He further desired to be buried in the Collegiate Church of Ottery St. Mary.

THOMAS FURNEAUX succeeded A.D., 1501, he died in 1517, and left "One piece of silver containing five oz. and a half, of the value of xviii. vd. and a surplice and missal," and also two banners, one of which was of silk with the figure of St. Clement, the other of red bokerhym, with the figure of St. Katherine.

Amongst the expenses of that year, we find that the Churchwardens paid two shillings and eightpence "For one herse of buckram, bought for the burial of the Vicar.

It may not be out of place to remark that "Herses" were of two kinds, one being a framework termed *hercia*, fashioned like a harrow, whereon lighted candles were placed at the obsequies of distinguished persons; the other was a frame set over the coffin of a person deceased, and covered with a pall, it was usually of light wood work, and appears in many instances to have been part of the furniture of the Church, to be used when occasion required. A permanent frame of this kind, made of brass, stands over the effigy of Richard, Earl of Warwick, in the Beauchamp Chapel, at Warwick, which is called a "Herse;" in the contract for the tomb there is also one of iron, over an ancient tomb in Bedell Church, Yorkshire.

THOMAS SOUTHERON, (styled Sir Thomas Southeron), is first mentioned A.D., 1533. He was Treasurer of Exeter Cathedral, and died A.D., 1557. The entry referring to his death, runs thus: "A.D., 1556-7, Fourpence for ringing Mr. Treasurer's knell, being our Vicar." His will, dated 30th of May, 1556, was proved 25th of July, 1557.

EDMUND — probably succeeded, he is first mentioned in 1566-7, “xxs. from the gift of Edmund, Clerk, Vicar of Aysheberton.”

The Rev. — Young is referred to in 1569-70; “vis. vid. to Mr. Vicar Young for a new book; viiis. viiid. to Mr. Vicar Young, in part payment of the bill which was not paid. After this no Vicar's name is mentioned until the year 1607.

The registers are signed by “John Dolbeare, Ministere,” but he does not appear in the rate book as Vicar of Ashburton. In the Burial Register, under the date, 26th February, 1607, we read of the death of “John Dolbeare, Serviens Joh. Friend,” and it is possible that he may have been Curate to John Friend, who was the non-resident Vicar. In 1606 also, there is the following entry, “*Ric Persons verbi Dei Minister sepultus erat xii die Martii.*”

The Venerable ROBERT LAW, who had been collated to the Archdeaconry of Barum or Barnstaple, 3rd December, 1584, was instituted to the Vicarage of Ashburton, A.D., 1607; he was also Treasurer of the Cathedral Church of Exeter, and on his death, on the 29th June, 1630, was succeeded by his son,

MARK LAW, who married Maria Tidball, December 22nd, 1636, and upon his death, in 1644, was instituted

SAMUEL TIDBALL, his Father-in-law, who came to Ashburton as Curate to Robert Law, in 1613 and remained there all through the incumbency of his son Mark; he was also master of the Grammar School, and it was in his time that, (in consequence of a law suit, relative to some money, which had been bequeathed to his school), the chancery decree was obtained, under which it has been ever since governed, and which provides, that if after him “*Any Master shall take any Ecclesiastical living, Curateship, or constant Lectureship, or neglect his school, or become insufficient from any cause whatever, in the opinion of the Trustees, he shall vacate his place, and the Electors may displace him.*” He died about two years after his institution to the Vicarage, 23rd September, 1647.

ALEXANDER CROSSE was instituted in 1647, and appears to have been deprived by the Puritans.

In the *New Book*, so styled, and kept by the order of the Parliament, is the following entry, with respect to this Vicar:—

“A.D. 1654, *Alexander Crosse, Bachelor in Divinity, on the stone over his*

grave is expressed that he departed this life ye 13th day of April, which is mistaken, he having been buried ye 10th day."

The Rev. Dr. FULWOOD was probably instituted on the accession of King Charles II., in 1660; he was made Justice of the Peace in 1678.

JOHN BASTARD succeeded in 1680, upon whose death, August 1st, 1721, the Rev.

J. GILBERT was instituted. In December, 1726, he was preferred to the Deanery of Exeter, and in 1742 was promoted to the Bishopric of Llandaff, and afterwards translated to Sarum. Bishop Gilbert continued Vicar of Ashburton until his elevation to the Archiepiscopal See of York, in 1753, when he was succeeded by the Rev. Mr.

PLATEL, upon the Presentation of King George II., the Crown (as is customary when a Vicar is raised to the Episcopacy), having assumed the vacant patronage. He was followed, in 1826, by the Rev.

THOMAS NAYLOR, (Patrons the Dean and Chapter of Exeter), who, (after holding the Vicarage for the long period of 49 years), died in 1803, and was followed by the Rev.

JOHN LANE KITSON, who had married a daughter of the Right Rev. William Buller, consecrated Bishop of Exeter A.D., 1792, and who died December 12th, 1796. Mr. Kitson was also Vicar of Staverton, and resided there during the last few years of his life, upon his death, in 1825, he was succeeded by

WILLIAM SHERLOCK CAREY, upon whose resignation, the Rev.

WILLIAM MARSH was instituted in 1836, he died in 1861, and was succeeded by the present Vicar, the Rev.

CHARLES WORTHY, B.A., Queen's College, Oxford, Rector of All-Hallows East, in the City of Exeter, (which he resigned for Ashburton), and for many years Rural Dean of Christianity or Exeter, concerning which Rural Deanery, Dr. Oliver remarks, in the *Monasticon*, (p. 127), "That the Cities of Exeter and Lincoln are styled Deaneries of Christianity, but are no better entitled to that name than the other English Sees', for to all were attached Curiae Christianitates or Courts' Christian."

Mr. Worthy is the author of "*Reply to an old Incumbent on the Offertory*," "*The Sin of Schism*," "*Election of Bishops*," and "*The Office of a Rural Dean*," and it was during the vacancy, prior to his institution, that a separation was effected between Ashburton and Bickington, which had been dependent upon and held with the former from a very early but uncertain date.

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## CHAPTER IV.

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### Of the Memorial Inscriptions and Heraldry of St. Andrew's Church.

**D**URING the first portion of the year 1776, the Parishioners of Ashburton assembled for Divine Worship, in the room built on the site of the ancient Chantry Chapel of St. Lawrence, (of which we shall speak in the next chapter), and, (according to Lysons), marriages were also solemnized there, this was occasioned by the circumstance of the Parish Church being closed during that year when extensive alterations took place in it.

It was at this time that the parclose, separating the Chapel of St. Katherine, in the south transept from the south aisle, was removed: for many years this transept had been used only for the reception of the Sexton's tools, and for this miserable reason we conclude, the carved oak separation between it and the rest of the Church, erected in the year 1539 was spared, when the screen and the other parclooses were destroyed in 1718.

The rood loft, erected in the year 1525, was taken down in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, A.D., 1563, and we find this destruction referred to in the Parish Accounts for that year, "iiiiid. for flettyng the eight men to take down the rood loft."

These eight men were the sidesmen who are always so called, and we presume, therefore, that some ceremony was observed at its removal, and that it was done in the presence of the Churchwardens and Sidesmen, who, doubtless were required to provide for the due execution of all orders emanating from Government.

The entrance to this loft may have been, (as at Totnes), by an interior

turret, removed at the same time, for we can find no trace of any staircase remaining on either side of the Chancel.

The Rood or Crucifix, which was of large size, and had the figures of the Blessed Virgin and of St. John, placed one on each side at the foot of the Cross, had been destroyed in 1559-60, and we read in the same accounts, "And for ther labor that carryed the images to be burnt and the drynkyng."

It was in the second year of Elizabeth, A.D., 1559, that an Act was passed reviving King Edward's laws and restoring the English service; the Queen was at first inclined to retain images in the Churches, but yielded in some measure at last to the arguments of the reformed divines, by consenting that all which had been abused by Pilgrimages, or by adoration, as tending to superstition, should be burnt.

Ashburton has been declared by some to have been a Collegiate Church; by others, (see Polwhele, History of Devonshire, p. 498), it has been made dependent on the Abbey of Buckfastleigh, for neither of these assertions, (as we have already shown), is there the slightest foundation, both the statements appear to have originated in the fact of the Chancel having possessed carved oaken stalls for the accommodation of a large number of Clergy, and we regret to say that these were all removed in 1776; it was by no means uncommon for the larger Parochial Churches to have stalls, especially when there were several Chantries in them, which was the case here, the Priests of these Chantries were bound to assist the Vicar at the celebration of all festivals, and we know also that the Chaplain of St. Lawrence was in the habit of assisting at the numerous services in the Parish Church, (1496-7 xiid. to the Presbyter of St. Lawrence, for being at the said dirige and mass; 6s. 8d. to John More, Chaplain, for celebrating the Mass of Jesus and the Mass of the Blessed Mary at the Altar of the Blessed Mary, each day, and the Sabbath Day, this year, 1530-1).

The Abbot and Canons of Buckfast, without doubt, often made processions from their neighbouring Monastery and celebrated Mass in this Church, and possibly, also, they provided the stalls, but it is needless to remark, that the circumstance of their occasionally using the Church, would not give them any parochial jurisdiction.

There is a Choir, with most beautifully carved stalls in high preservation, at Nantwich, Cheshire, erected by the Monks of Combermere, for their accommodation when they made solemn visits to that Church. (See

"Beverlac," vol. II., p. 379 note).

Ashburton Church having been re-seated and freshly paved, was opened again for Divine Service, on Sunday, the 6th of September, 1776, (the Eve of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin), and the present ugly pulpit and reading desk, of polished mahogany, (then surmounted by a cumbersome sounding board, happily removed by the late Vicar), were substituted for the ancient carved pulpit and brazen lectern, of which, we believe, the Parishioners of Bigbury are now the fortunate possessors, and of which they are justly proud.

The reconstruction of the floor throughout the building afforded the Churchwardens an opportunity, (of which they were not apparently reluctant to avail themselves), of destroying every vestige of the ancient grave stones; although the whole of the Church is honeycombed with vaults, there does not remain one single inscription on the floor of either Chancel, Nave, or Aisles, of a date prior to 1836, and although there are certainly three old inscriptions on the pavement of the tower, yet there is nowhere any memorial in existence of earlier date than the 17th Century.

Although the eastern window was restored in 1840, yet having compared the present Tracery with that represented in a drawing of the old window, we are satisfied that it was correctly copied, it dated from about the year 1380, the period of the transition, from the second to third pointed style; upon its renewal it was filled with stained glass, and exhibits the following armorial bearings:—

1st. The Arms of the See of Exeter. Gu; a sword in pale arg, hilted or. surmounted by two keys, addorsed in saltire, of the last.

2nd. The Borough of Ashburton. Arg; on a Mount Vert, a Chapel with a spire, on the dexter chief the sun in splendour, on the sinister a crescent, at the dexter end of the Chapel three ears of corn on one stalk, (according to Sir Bernard Burke, a teazle, emblematical of the trade of the town according to local tradition); sinister end, a saltire.

3rd. Arms of Sub-Dean Fisher. Sa; on a mount vert two stags salient, combattant, ppr. cold. or.

4th. The Chapter of Exeter. Or; the figure of St. Peter under a canopy, vested purple above a stags head caboshed between two roses, gu., stalked and leaved of the field.

5th. Marsh, late Vicar of Ashburton. Gu; a horse's head coupé arg; impaled with Napleton, or; a squirrel sejant gu, holding a sprig ppr.



In base of the window is the Following inscription : "*Deo Triuni hanc fenestram posuit ac dedicavit Jon. Parker Fisher, Ecclesii, S. Petri, Exon, Sub-Decanus, MDCCCLXVII.*"

On the north side of the Chancel are Mural Tablets, in memory of Richard Harris, a benefactor to the poor of the Parish, and of Lucy, wife of the Rev. William Marsh, Vicar of Ashburton, she died May 5th, 1836.

On the south side there is an inscription recording the death of Richard Hill, Captain R.N., on the 27th of June, 1799.

And immediately beneath it is fixed a handsome memorial of the Rev. John Lane Kitson, twenty-two years Vicar of the Parish, he died April 18th, 1825.

The eastern window of the north aisle, which is nearly the same date, but perhaps rather later than that of the Chancel, was filled with stained glass, about twelve years since, by the late Miss Abraham, (who is buried in the adjoining parish of Woodland), the Mullions and Tracery were not renewed, and the glass is simply coloured, plain, and in good taste; this estimable Lady, as we have before said, left by her will the sum of £100 as a subscription towards the restoration of the fabric, which, as yet, is still uncommenced.

Close to the window is a plain grey marble stone, (removed from the Chancel), in memory of "Mrs. Rebekkah Laskey," wife of a former Curate of the Parish; she died 3rd of November, 1777.

High up on the north wall, we read that "Thomas Bonner Cossins departed this life on the 12th February, 1851."

In the north transept is a vault, (on the eastern side), containing the remains of "Harriet Soper Dempster, of Skibo Castle, Sutherlandshire, North Britain, ob 16 October 1810, aged 25. Here are also inscriptions, placed by the direction of William Soper Dempster, of Skibo Castle, and Husband of the above, to the memory of his Father, Mother, and Sister Eleanor Soper, who died on the 5th of January, 1792, 7th of Feby., 1795, and 7th Jany., 1800, respectively.

On the western side of this transept are three tablets,

1st. In memory of the Rev. T. Smerdon, late Master of the Grammar School, who died 17th April, 1788.

2nd. In that of "Ann, wife of Captn. John Lawrie, H.E.I.C.S., who died at Seroor, East Indies, Jany. 30th, 1820, aged 19."

3rd. A Memorial for the family of Tozer, viz., Solomon Tozer, who died A.D. 1794, Catherine his wife, 1799, and his four sons; Moses, 1799, Samuel, 1807; John, 1808; and Solomon, 1844.

In the aisle, westward of this transept, are Mural Inscriptions, for J. Soper, M.D., 1849, Chas. Kendall, of Chudleigh, 7th of October, 1850, and several members of the family, and for two Sisters, Eleanor and Sally Adams. The latter, who died, A.D. 1813, was a benefactress to the poor of her native town, and her pious benevolence is noted on the tablet.

On the eastern side of the great north door, an inscription on a white marble stone, placed beneath a crocketed and finialed ogre arch, of Early English character, records the death of Benjamin Parham, Esq., of Claines, formerly judge of the County Court of Worcester, "which happened" on the 16th day of August, 1861, in the 68th year of his age; he was the lineal representative of the ancient Ashburton family of Prideaux, through the marriage of the heiress of that family with his maternal ancestor, Richard Dolbeare, of Ashburton, and died in the ancient family house of the Prideaux's, in West Street, of which we shall speak hereafter. The names recorded on the tablet include those of his wife, Mary Palk, who died in 1848, Benjamin Parham, of the Parish of Ashburton, his Father, 1851, Susanna Parham, wife of the last named, 1843. The Rev. John Dolbeare Parham, her Son, 1858, and his only daughter, Susanna Dolbeare Parham, 1860. underneath are the arms of the family. Az; three pears, two and one. Crest; a hawk close holding in dexter claw a pear, as in the arms.

Over the north door, on a table of Benefactions are the arms of Gould-Gyronny of four az and or; a lion ramp. counterchanged.

In front of the western gallery are the Royal Arms, (King George III.) Quarterly, 1st and 4th, gu; three lions pass guard. in pale or for England. 2nd or; a lion ramp. within a double tressure flory counterflory gu, for Scotland. 3rd az; a harp or stringed arg for Ireland, On an escutcheon of pretence two lions passant guard, in pale or for Brunswick. Impaling or; semee of hearts gu, a lion ramp. az, for Lunenburg. On a point in point gu, a horse courant arg, for Saxony. On the centre of the 4th quarter an escutcheon gu, charged with the crown of Charlemagne or, as Arch Treasurer of the Holy Roman Empire.

Crest. Upon the Royal Helmet and Lambrequin, the Imperial Crown pp.

thereon a lion statant guardt or, imperially crowned. Supporters dexter a lion ramp. guardt. crowned as crest. Sinister an unicorn arg. armed, crined, and unguled or, gorged with a coronet composed of crosses pattee and fleur de lis, chained or. Mottoes. Garter motto surrounding shield, "*Honi soit que mal y pense.*" In the compartment below the shield, "*Dieu et mon Droit,*" surrounded with the union rose, shamrock and thistle, engrafted on the same stem.

In the centre of the south aisle are the arms of Harris, of Hayne; John Harris, of Hayne and Sir Wm. Yonge, K.C.B., being members for the Borough, gave the present peal of six bells to the Church, in the year 1740. They are heavy and musical, and the tenor weighs 22cwt. 0qrs. 4lbs. The sixth has the inscription "*Thomas Lester, of London, made us all.*"

We have heard that the Members for Ashburton were induced to this act of generosity, by reason of an accident which had happened to the ancient bells. They had been lowered and shipped for Ireland, in order to be re-cast, but had been unfortunately lost at sea, in consequence of the foundering of the ship during a storm.

Harris, of Hayne, A.D., 1746. Quarterly 1st and 4th sa; three crescents within a bordure arg; 2nd and 3rd arg; a chevron gu, between three martlets sa, (for Hayne).

On an escutcheon of pretence, gu; four lozenges conjoined in fesse erm, a border of the last, (for Dinham). Crest. On an Esquire's helmet and Lambrequin, an eagle rising erm, beaked and spurred or.

One of the co-heiresses of John Dinham, who died in 1841, married Hicks; her daughter married Harris. The motto of the latter family is composed of the old Cornish words, "*Kur deu res pub tra;*" in English, "*For God and the Common Wealth.*" Beneath these arms there is an inscription to the memory of Col. Higgins, H.E.I.C.S., who died A.D. 1827.

J. Knowles, Esq., F.R.S., Corresponding Member of the Philosophical Society, of Rotterdam, died in 1841, his brother, Samuel Posgate Knowles, in 1858, and beneath their memorial are the arms of this family. Quarterly 1st and 4th. Az.; crusily of crosslets, a cross moline voided or, (Knowles, of Lovel Hill Co., Berks, Bart). 2nd and 3rd gu on a chevron arg, three roses of the field, (Knowles, of Aylesham Co., Norfolk). Crest. An elephant statant arg.

In the angle, between the south transept and the eastern portion of the aisle, is a small brass with the following inscription:

Here lies BURIED  
**ROBERT CAVNTER, GENT,**  
 Who died the Seaventh daye of October,  
 Anno Domini, 1643.

—o—

His pious sovlẽ wrapt in distemper'd earth,  
 Was now prepared for a second birth ;  
 He straight ascending the Calestial Sphere,  
 Cast off her mantle and hath left it here.

Under the verses are his arms, surrounded by a wreath of ivy leaves, arg; a pale charged with three hawks close.

In the eastern portion of this aisle a tablet commemorates the charitable bequest of Mr. John Bickham, (for particulars of which we would refer the reader to the account of the Parochial Charities in the appendix). Beneath it is a white marble slab, to the memory of W. R. Whiteway, of Ashburton, who died in London; 27th of October, 1857.

The window, eastward of this tablet, has been filled with stained glass, in memory of the late Col. Young; the Mullions and Tracery of the old window, which dated from the reign of King Edward II., and Episcopacy of Bishop Stapledon, have been, we are glad to say, correctly reproduced. In the base is the following inscription :

Sacred to the Memory of  
**G E O R G E Y O U N G,**  
 Born 1789; Died 1800.

Adjoining the window a stone tablet records the deaths of "Elizabeth, widow of W. S. Young, Surgeon of this Parish;" in 1857, and of Jacob Lay Young, Commander R.N., in 1851, and beneath it is an interesting memorial of the ancient family of Cruse :

Here lyeth the bodys of  
**THOMAS CRUSE, GENT,**  
 Who was heere interred, the 28th of April, 1642.  
 AND  
**GEORGE CRUSE, GENT,**  
 Who was alsoe interred, the 8th of Jany., 1649.

—o—

Within this Vrne two brothers heere confined,

Though by death parted yet by death closed joynd;  
 The eldest of these two plac'd in his room,  
 Greeted the younger with a well come home;  
 They liu'd, they lou'd, and now they rest in tombe,  
 Togeather sleeping in their mother's womb.

Above it are the arms of this old Devonshire House. Az; a bend indented point in point gu and sa, between six escallops or.

The Right Honourable John Dunning, first Lord Ashburton, is buried in a vault underneath the Constable's seat, he is reported to have been born in a house in West Street, now inhabited by Mrs. Franklin, Ironmonger, but we do not vouch for the truth of this information; his monument of black and white marble and alike hideous in taste and conception, blocks the Eastern window of the South aisle. We give the inscription since it emanated from the pen of Dr. Johnson.

In memory of  
 JOHN DUNNING, LORD ASHBURTON,  
 A native of this Town,  
 Who by his private virtues  
 United with the exertion of rare and excellent talents,  
 Rose to that pre-eminence  
 which neither birth nor titles can bestow;  
 He married ELIZABETH, daughter of JOHN BARING Esq.,  
 By whom he had two sons

JOHN and RICHARD BARRE: the youngest of which only survived him.

He died 18th August, 1783. Aged 51.

Above are his Lordship's Arms impaled with those of his wife Bondy Sinister of Eight arg and vert, over all a lion rampt. sa., impaled with az. a fesse arg. in chief a bear's head couped muzzied and ringed or., supporters, two antelopes cold. arg., over all a Baron's coronet; motto, "*Studiis et rebus honestas*"

As we have before said, there are four leger stone in the tower, the inscription on the first at the threshold of the Church has become nearly obliterated, it records the death of "Thomas Weeks" on the 19th, of May, 1711. The next has the following inscription also much worn, "Here lyeth the body of Thomas Tothill, late of Dolbeare Esq., who died the 8th of January, 1755. Aged 60."

In front of the door of the tower screen, we read as follows:

Here lyeth the body of  
 THOMAS HARRIS,  
 Tanner,  
 Who dyed ye 30th day of September, 1637,

And also  
 NICHOLAS HARRIS,  
 Tanner  
 Son of ye said Thomas,  
 Who was interred ye 10th day of October, 1669.

—o—

Feare not to dye,  
 Learn this of me,  
 No ill in death,  
 If good thou be.

And immediately north of this there is a stone covering the remains of a former Clerk of the Parish:

Here was buried  
 ZACHARY PINSENT,  
 Clarke of this Parish,  
 Who dyed the 18th day of November,  
 Anno Domini, 1677.

Before we conclude this chapter we would remark that the arms of Bishop Oldham, (sa; a chevron or, between three owls arg, on a chief of the second three roses gu.), are reported to have been carved in oak, and to have remained in the Church until a very recent period, although unfortunately, they have now disappeared. He was consecrated Bishop of Exeter, A.D. 1504, and died 25th of June, 1519. The Churchwardens of Ashburton, held divers lands and tenements freely from this Bishop, for which they paid high rent to the Portreeve of the Borough.

## CHAPTER V.

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The Chapel of St. Lawrence, the Ancient  
 "Free Schole of Ashburton."

THE Free Grammar School of Ashburton, which is, and has been for the last five hundred and fifty years, held in and on the site of the ancient Chantry Chapel of St. Lawrence, originated in the benevolence of Walter Stapledon, formerly bishop of Exeter. This distinguished Prelate, the son of William de Stapledon and Mabilla his wife, was born, (so Westcott says), at Annery, (the seat of his family), in the Parish of Monkleigh, Devon.

At the time of his promotion to the See of Exeter, (13th October, 1308,) he was Professor of Canon Law at the University of Oxford, Precentor of Exeter Cathedral, and Rector of Aveton Gifford; he was a great favourite of King Edward the Second, who made him Lord Treasurer of the Household, and he proved himself worthy of the favour of his Monarch, by rendering him many and notable services.

Bishop Stapledon, as Bishop of Exeter, was also Lord of the Manor of Ashburton, and frequently resided in his Manor House within the Borough.

He was always anxious for "The enlightenment of the public mind and the extension of knowledge," and for this purpose he founded and liberally endowed, Hart's Hall and Stapledon's Inn at Oxford, afterwards consolidated into Exeter College, and he left funds behind him to establish a Free Grammar School in St. John's Hospital, in the city of Exeter.

But it was during his lifetime that he turned his attention to the educational requirements of Ashburton, and about six years after the commencement of his connection with the town, he founded the Guild or Fraternity of St. Lawrence, consisting of the portreeve and burgesses of the Borough.

Upon this Guild the Prelate bestowed a Chapel, which he had just completed within the boundry of his Court, "*Infra ambitum curiæ suæ,*" upon the following conditions:—

"They were to find a 'preyste' (priest) to pray for the health of the said Bishop when he should have departed this life, as well as the souls of of all his predecessors and successors."

To pray for the souls of the donors of the land and other benefactors, and to keep a Free Schole for Children, and to have for his wages four pounds thirteen shillings yerelye.

The rents of the lands and possessions, which must have been either supplied or procured by the Guild, amounted to ten pounds fifteen shillings and eightpence a year, and the Bishop ordered "the balance to be spent on the reparacion and maintenance of ledes for the conduction of pure and wholesome water to the towne of "Aysshperton," and upon the relief and sustentacion of such people as are infected when the plage (plague) is in the towne, that they being from all company, may not infect the whole.

It may here be remarked that, though the essential object of an endowed chantry was to sing masses and obits, yet another intention was frequently superadded, as was the case in this instance, in which alms and education were two of the purposes of the founder.

On the Eve of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, 16th August, A.D. 1314, the portreeve and commonalty of Ashburton, under their common seal, testified their acceptation of the Bishop's offer and of their grateful sense of his liberality, their deed stating "That they are most especially anxious for the increase of Divine Service, and in order that the said Chantry, so



holy and wholesome an institution, may not be put a stop to, through the failure of the income and salary of the priest, they bind themselves, their heirs and successors, to find for the said priest (who was to be chosen by them, and presented each year, at a fitting time and place, to undertake his peculiar jurisdiction at Aysshperton) a full and fitting maintenance, as well as the oblations and obventions which are reckoned to be his salary. And they also agree to amply repair the said Chapel, its books and ornaments, and to keep it in fitting condition for the time to come."

This deed, written in Latin, is still preserved amongst the Archives of Exeter Cathedral. It is attested by the Abbots of Tavistock and Buckfast, by the Priors of Plympton and Totnes, and by the Archdeacon of the latter place, and bears the Common Seal of the Borough, inscribed with the Legend—

*"S Prepositi et Coitatis Burge de Ayspton."*

The intention of the good Bishop seems to have been fully carried out for more than two hundred years, and in the Churchwardens' accounts during that period we find various allusions to the "Priest of St. Lawrence."

In the year 1535, a general visitation of all Chantries and Monasteries was begun, and Parliamentary Commissioners soon directed their attention to Ashburton, since we read in the same accounts, that the Churchwardens paid that year "sixtepenne to William Knolling and Jno. Dolbeare, for ryding to master Cowertenaye to knowe the Comysseinars where that they will sitt withyn the said parysshe." They moreover paid seven shillings for the comysseinars denur (dinner).

The Chantry of St. Lawrence (in common with other Chantries) was immediately suppressed, and its revenues were taken possession of by the Crown.

Bishop Stapledon's Charter, from which we have quoted above, being surrendered with the property, is still retained among the records of the Late Court of Augmentations, now removed to the Public Record Office. It is quaintly written in English, and bears date immediately subsequent to the dedication of the Chapel—Monday after the feast of St. Lawrence, August, 1314. A copy of this deed is preserved among the Cathedral Archives. (Bp. Brantyngham's Regr., vol I., fol. 12).

It seems that certain of the Parishoners were unwilling that the Free

School should be lost to the town, and they therefore purchased from the King the building and ground immediately surrounding it; and it is gratifying to remark that in this emergency the Ashburton people did not forget the promise made to the founder by their ancestors, viz.:—"That they would for ever find a maintenance for the Priest."

For some years they seem to have supported the school by voluntary contributions, as evidenced by the Parish Records, *e. g.*, A.D. 1561-2, "Thirteen and fourpence to the Master of the chyldren in the chapell of the gift of the parysshe."

After the elapse of some years, the burgesses considered that it would be best once more to have a secure and certain endowment for the school.

The purchasers of the ancient Chantry were Hugh Pomeroy, John Blundell, Geo. Knoll, and John Rewell, and by deed bearing date 27th December, 36th Elizabeth (1594), they granted and confirmed to John Caunter and others, of Ashburton, and their heirs, their house or Chapel called St. Lawrence's Chapel, and a piece of ground called the Chapel-yard, and the said John Caunter and others thereby covenanted with the said grantors to permit the homage of the Manor and Borough of Ashburton for the time being, according to an ancient order and custom used in that behalf, to have the use of the said Chapel and yard yearly at the two law days holden in the said manor and borough, during the time of the sitting of the said Court.

The Bishops, being lords of the manor, would naturally have held their courts within the Chapel, founded as it was by one of them, and standing as it did within the boundary of their manor house.

The deed goes on to state that, if the said John Caunter or others, after five years next ensuing the date thereof, should convert or employ, or suffer the same to be converted or employed, above two years together, to any other use or employment than for a continual school-house, or keeping of a school for the education, or instruction, or bringing up of children in the said place, or should suffer the said Chapel to fall into decay, whereby the use of a school-house should cease, that then the said grant should be void.

In the year 1626, the Rev. Samuel Tidball was Master of the school, he was the same who afterwards succeeded Mark Law. at the Vicarage, and it appears from an interlocutory order in Chancery, dated in Michaelmas term in that year, and made in a suit between Tidball and other plaintiffs, and

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Wearing and other defendants, that a Mr. Wearing had given all his estate for a Free School in Ashburton.

The money left by this Mr. Wearing, (which his executors declined to pay until compelled to do so by legal means), seems to have been expended in the purchase of land in North Huish, Loddiswell, and Aveton Gifford, and the rents accruing from these lands have ever since been paid to the Schoolmaster.

Lawrence Blundell, by will dated 13th March, 1637, in addition to an annuity of £4 for the maintenance of the School at Ashburton, gave towards the education and maintenance of Martin Butler the sum of £4 yearly, during such time as he should continue at school or at the University, until he should proceed to be Master of Arts, and he directed that, after Martin Butler resigned the scholarship, the said annuity should continue to be paid to such one poor scholar of the said parish as should from time to time be nominated by his executors, and the eight men (Sidesmen) of the parish for the time being.

He also gave, after the death of his wife, £6 quarterly by even portions for ever, to be paid to and for such scholar as should be appointed by his executors and their heirs, the Vicar of Ashburton and the eight Sidesmen of the said parish, or the most part of them.

Edward Gould, by will dated 16th March, 1735, gave to the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Sidesmen of the Parish, £200 in trust, to be laid out in lands, and the yearly profits thereof, by them and their successors, to be applied to the maintenance of the Schoolmaster, *as long as he should apply himself with diligence* to the business of a Schoolmaster there, in the opinion of the said Vicar, Churchwardens, and Sidesmen, and their successors; and if not, then the money was to be expended in sixpenny loaves, and given to the poor each year, by them or their order, and so continue until the said schoolmaster should better approve himself in their judgment, subject to their correction, as often as there should be occasion given.

It is stated on a tablet in the Church, dated 1st April, 1611, that £20 had been delivered by a person, (who desired that his name might be concealed during his life), to John Blundell and George Cruse, to be employed by them towards the education of such poor children of the parish in Grammar learning as they should think meet, and the children to be displaced and others to be substituted, at their discretion, and that after their decease the money was to

be expended by the Sidesmen, according to the intention of the donor.

This gift seems to be involved in some obscurity; we believe that the master for some years received, (but we cannot learn that they are still paid to him), two small annual sums of £1 and £2 10s. from the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor respectively.

In later times, Dr. Ireland, the late Dean of Westminster, gave a large house in East Street, as a residence for the Master, which house is well adapted for the accommodation of boarders, and he also left an endowment for its repair, whilst William Giffard left by his will £2,000 three per cent consols, for the purpose of founding two studentships at Exeter College, Oxford, of £30 a year each, tenable for four years, first for boys from Ashburton School; failing any such boys, for natives of the County of Devon, and in default of candidates from the county, he ordered that they were to be open to all British subjects.

From a decree in chancery, *temp.* Charles II., we find that the inhabitants of South Ludbrook participate with Ashburton in the advantages of the School, and that the Schoolmaster is to be appointed with the consent and good liking of the parishioners of Ashburton, or to have no benefit of Wearing's gift.

It is also decreed that the schoolmaster shall be elected by the twelve Feoffees, Churchwardens, and Sidesmen, for the time being, or the major part of them. He is not to take any ecclesiastical living, curateship, or constant Lectureship, while master, if otherwise, to vacate his place; and if he neglect his school or become inefficient, the electors may displace him.

Thus we see that the ancient school of Ashburton is, as far as endowment is concerned, inferior to none, and superior to most of the Devonshire Schools.

Of the ancient chapel of St. Lawrence, the tower, containing one bell, alone remains; the school is held in a large room, built on to it, (as we have been informed), during the latter half of the seventeenth century, at which period the old structure, which appears to have consisted of a nave and two aisles, had become so ruinous that it was found necessary to take it down.

The present building is large, lofty, and well ventilated, and is entered by an original doorway underneath the tower.

Round the walls, between the high windows, may be seen the heraldic

bearings of its benefactors, Gould, Harris, Blundell, and Yonge; and at the eastern end are the ancient arms of the Borough of Ashburton, supposed to be a representation of the Chapel itself, being the Arms of the Portreeve and Commonalty, and, therefore, the arms of good Bishop Walter Stapledon's Guild of St. Lawrence—azure on a mount vert, a Chapel with a spire; on the dexter chief the sun in splendour, on the sinister a crescent. In dexter base, three ears of corn on one stalk—sinister a Saltire.

We may mention that John Dunning, the first Lord Ashburton, Dr. Ireland, Dean of Westminster, and William Giffard, (to all of whom we have already referred), were educated here.

Having been, in common with the rest of Endowed Schools lately, once more subjected to the enquiries of a Parliamentary Commission, a few months will, in all probability, determine the fate, for perhaps another two-hundred years, of this venerable and interesting foundation.

*School closed 1938*

## CHAPTER VI.

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### Of some Objects of Antiquity and Interest in the Parish of Ashburton.

IN a house in West Street, now the residence of Mr. Cruse, may be seen a room wainscotted from floor to ceiling with carved oak, an idea is prevalent in the town that this room was originally fitted up by the Monks of Buckfast, who were in the habit of preaching under a canopy, (still remaining there), when they visited Ashburton.

There is no foundation, however, for this supposition, for although it is probable that the Abbot and Community of the neighbouring Monastery frequently made solemn visits to the Church of Ashburton, yet it is certain they never had any parochial jurisdiction there; as far as the carved work is concerned, there can be no doubt but that it once formed a portion of the adornments of St. Andrew's Church, and that the idea of thus

decorating the room originated in the possession of these ecclesiastical relics by the family of Prideaux, the original possessors of the dwelling; the initial letters, T. P., carved upon plain shields, are profusely scattered all over the woodwork, and we know that Thomas Prideaux was Churchwarden in 1510, 1528, 1529, and 1530, and that after him Robert Prideaux, Attorney at Law, was for some years intimately connected with the affairs of the Parish.

The name of Prideaux became extinct in Ashburton soon after the death of Thomas Prideaux, early in the seventeenth century, he married Agnes, daughter of Walter Kellan, of Totnes, and although he had four sons they all died without issue, consequently his daughter Elizabeth brought the house to her husband and fellow parishioner, Richard Dolbear, of Dolbear.

From the Dolbears it passed by marriage to the Parhams, and was the property and residence of the late Benjamin Parham, Esq., formerly Judge of the County Court of Worcester.

Mr. Cruse is a descendant of the family of Cruse, of Netherex, a younger branch of the ancient house of Cruse or Cruwys, of Cruse Morechard, in this county, (which is declared by some authors to have been settled there before the Norman Conquest); the name of the family is perhaps derived from the circumstance of one of them having been a valliant crusader, since it is written in Latin "*Dominus de Cruce*," the Lord of the cross, and their armorial bearings, (a bend between six escallops), signify that the first bearer of those arms was a brave leader, who, by his soldier-like qualities, had gained the hearts of his followers and made a reciprocation of truest love and confidence between them.

In the 18th year of the reign of King Henry III., (A.D. 1234), Sir Richard Cruse, the then owner of Netherex, had one son called William, who upon his death left five daughters, co-heiresses, and between them his Manor of Netherex and the rest of his estates were equally divided; the third of these daughters married a son of the old Devonshire house of St. Clare, of Tidwell, in the parish of of East-Budleigh, and her descendants appear to have assumed the name and arms of Cruse.

At a somewhat later date John Ford, of Ashburton, married Jane, daughter and heiress of William Halwell, or Hagawell, Lord of the adjoining Manor of Halwell, and had issue, one daughter, Joan, who married Gilbert St. Clare; their son

must have inherited a considerable amount of property in Ashburton and the neighbourhood, and he and his descendants lived there for more than seventy years.

Simultaneously with the disappearance of the name of St. Clare from the early records, the name of Cruse appears, and we think there can be little doubt but that they inherited the estates of their connections, the St. Clares, upon the failure of a direct heir, for they being descended from the third daughter and co-heiress of William Cruse, of Netherex, who married St. Clare, were really near relatives of the Ashburton family, although they called themselves by a different name.

Mr. Edward Cruse occupies his present residence in West Street, in right of his wife, to whom it was bequeathed by the late Mr. Parham.

The wainscoted room in this house is about fourteen feet square, and on its western side is a crocketed canopy, with finials of *fleur de lis*; the front part of this canopy exhibits half length figures of the four Evangelists, represented as winged men holding shields inscribed with the sacred monogram, underneath it are three panels containing busts of Queen Mary and her Consort, Philip of Spain, and of a figure in armour, perhaps intended to represent St. George.

In the year 1537, images abused by pilgrimages made to them, had been ordered to be removed, and on the accession of Edward VI., (A.D., 1547), images were once more condemned, the former injunctions of Cromwell on this head, having (after his fall), been little attended to.

In the first year of Queen Mary, A.D., 1553-4, various entries occur in the Parish Accounts of sums paid for restoring the ancient furniture of the Church, and for replacing the various altars, and moreover a small sum was actually paid "*For work done to a canopy.*"

This was probably that of which we are speaking, and which, (as we have said before), is embellished with the likenesses of the Queen and her Consort; its size would seem to indicate that it was originally erected over one of the side altars, and it was sold by order of that royal iconoclast Elizabeth, when everything ecclesiastical which, (according to the opinions of Her Majesty's advisers had the slightest tendency to superstition), was finally removed and destroyed; it was purchased of the Churchwardens for the munificent sum of one shilling.

The window recess, in the eastern wall, is divided into six compartments,

three on either side. The first division on the south side contains the figures of two boys holding a scroll inscribed with the letters, T. P.

In the second is a carved representation of St. Roche, with his staff and dog; in 1522 the Wardens paid viiis. ixd. "*For a picture of St. Roche,*" and "viii. vid. for wainscott for the Chapel of St. John, within the Church."

The third compartment has a full length figure of St. Matthew, represented as a winged man and wearing a mantle.

On the north side, the first compartment contains two Eagles with a censer between them.

In the second is an elaborate representation of the Blessed Virgin in her ecstasy, kneeling at a faldstool placed under a canopy, on the outside of which stands an aged and attenuated figure, probably Simeon, and over head in the left corner is a half length representation of St. Peter wearing the triple crown, and in the act of giving the Episcopal blessing, symbolical of the Holy Catholic Church, of which our Blessed Lord was born to be the head.

The ancient seal of the Chapter of Exeter represents St. Peter wearing the triple crown, (see Oliver's History of the Cathedral, p. 479).

In the lower compartment there is a full length figure of St. Thomas a Becket, to whom the Chapel in the north transept of the Church was dedicated.

To the woodwork on the south wall, as left by Thomas Prideaux, a piece of the cornice of the rood screen has been added at a more recent period as is clearly proved by the moulding extending under it; upon this wall is a small bust of King Henry VII. and of his Queen, Elizabeth of York; it appears to have been usual to have a statue of the reigning monarch in Ashburton Church, as we have already stated the head of Edward II. remains there still, and in 1521-2, "ivd." was paid for mending the small statue of the King, Henry the VIII., "At the rood loft."

Upon this wall also, (amongst grotesque figures, birds, with human heads and shields inscribed with the initials T.P.), may be seen the figures of St. Matthew, St. Philip, St. Francis, (as a Monk preaching), St. George and St. Clement with his anchor.

The north wall is plain linen pattern, surmounted by a cornice of rood screen, we believe that this side of the room became decayed and was



replaced some years since; all the woodwork has been covered with many coats of white paint, which, to a great extent, chokes and disfigures the beautiful and elaborate carving; since there was no choice at the period during which these interesting relics were alienated from their proper uses, between burning them or secularising them, the people of Ashburton may congratulate themselves upon the preservation of such evidences of the careful attention paid by their ancestors to the decoration of their Parish Church.

The ancient residence of the Dolbear family, probably erected in the reign of Henry VII., is situated in the hamlet of that name, and is about a quarter of a mile distant from the town.

The front door, of oak, thickly studded with nails, may be coeval with the date of the building itself, and there is a good square headed doorway of Perpendicular date, in the room now used as a kitchen.

As early as the year 1482, we read of the burial of John Dolbear, and in the same year *iiis. iiiid.* remained in the hands of one Thomas Corset, for the tomb of Julia Dolbear; again, in the year 1490, Richard Dolbear, of Brixham, (probably a younger son of this house), gave a silver bowl for the use of the Church, and we find the name occurring more than once in the list of the churchwardens.

In 1546-7 there is notice of the burial of John Dolbeare, *senr.*, and Joanna, his wife. At the commencement of the reign of Edward VI., when the High Altar in the Parish Church was desecrated, John Dolbeare received a small sum from the Churchwardens towards the expenses incurred in making of the table in the quere and the necessaries, and at the sale of the vestments belonging to the Church, Thomas Dolbeare and John Dolbeare are both mentioned as purchasers. The frequent mention of this name proves that its possessors were of some importance for a period of many years in their native parish, but no member of the family has resided in the old house of late, and the name is now quite extinct in the town. During the last century the family of Tothill occupied Dolbeare, and Thomas Tothill, described as "of Dolbeare, Esq.", was buried in the Parish Church in the month of January, 1755, it has now long been inhabited as a farm house, and (together with the estate) passed by sale, about fifteen years since, to R. H. Astell, Esq., then M.P. for the Borough; it was resold a few months ago, and is now the property of Mr. Berry, of Ashburton and Buckfast.

The open space in the centre of the Town at the junction of East Street, West Street, and North Street, is called the "Bull Ring," and is the place where Bulls and Bears were anciently baited for the amusement of the population. This cruel pastime was common in England from a very early period, and Fitzstephen, who wrote in the reign of Henry II., (about the latter part of the twelfth century), mentions "the baiting of Bulls with Dogs as a diversion of the London youths on holidays, in his time. Hentzner in his "Travels in England," (p. 42), says "There is a place built in the form of a theatre, which serves for the baiting of Bulls and Bears; they are fastened behind, and then worried by great English bull dogs, but not without great risque to the dogs from the horns of the one and the teeth of the other, and it sometimes happens they are killed on the spot. Fresh ones are immediately supplied in the places of those that are wounded or tired. To this entertainment there often follows that of whipping a blinded Bear, which is performed by five or six men standing circularly with whips, which they exercise upon him without any mercy since he cannot escape from them because of his chain." We have been told that the iron ring and staple to which the tortured animals were fastened remained at Ashburton within the memory of persons still living.

The house in North Street, now occupied by Mr. Yolland, Draper, is the ancient Church House, and was either acquired by the Parish in the years 1487-8, or else was rebuilt in those years since, at that period William Gray was paid £3 3s. 9d. "*for masons work about the new house belonging to the Church.*" It was here that the ale, mentioned year after year in the parish accounts as the "Church Ale was brewed in the utensil called sometimes by the English word 'chetell,' and at others by the Latin one 'cacubus' signifying a cauldron."

It was at one time the custom for two young men of the parish to be yearly chosen to the office of Ale Wardens, and their duty was to make collections amongst the parishioners of whatever voluntary contributions they might be pleased to bestow, and to employ them in brewing and baking before Whitsunday; upon which feast the neighbours were wont to meet together at the Church House, and (each contributing some small portion to the common stock) merrily feed on their own victuals and contribute to each others amusement. When the feast was over, the wardens laid a statement of their accounts before the parishioners, and the money

in hand was devoted to defraying any extraordinary charges arising in the parish, and we have certain evidence that by means of them many poor parishes cast their bells, repaired their towers, beautified their churches, and acquired funds for the relief of the poor.

It has been thought that this custom was a commemoration of the Saxon "Drink-lean," a day of festivity formerly observed by the tenants and vassals of the Lord of the Fee within his Manor.

Before the Church House at Ashburton, was a stall for which duty was paid at fairs, and some of the older inhabitants recollect the existence of this, and also remember when the house was used as a school, which was first established in it towards the end of the sixteenth century.

Nearly opposite the Church House is situated the Mermaid Inn, (now turned into a bakers' shop). It was here that General Fairfax established his head quarters in 1646, when the town of Ashburton was visited by the Parliamentary Army under his command. The house is much patched and mutilated, but the entrance is under a substantial pointed archway, and the square weather mouldings of old Perpendicular windows (now either blocked or modernized), may still be noticed on its front.

Several of the rooms are also lined with oak wainscot, and are approached by an ancient stone staircase; the bake-house is lighted by a large transom window probably dating either from the reign of Elizabeth or James I.

A house in North Street (to which we have before alluded, and which stands nearly opposite the Globe Hotel), was most probably built about the year 1576, by Richard Ozier, who was at that time one of the Churchwardens of the Parish; besides an old oak doorway ornamented with the Tudor rose, it possesses in one of the rooms the remains of a curious, although plain example of a domestic screen, the lower portion of which is formed of close panelling, and the upper part of open work. In the domestic halls of the middle ages a screen was almost invariably fixed across the lower end so as to part off a small place which became a lobby, within the main entrance doors, the approach to the body of the hall being by one or more doorways through the screen. The house has recently been repaired, and during the alterations a portion of a window frame ornamented in precisely the same manner as the doorway, was found concealed beneath the plaster. From the Ozier's the house passed in the seventeenth century to the Cullings, and was afterwards successively in possession of the families

of Foot, Gribble, and Cockey; it is now the property of Mr. Edward Mortimore, through his courtesy we have been enabled to elicit the above facts, he having kindly given us free access to all the documents in his possession connected with it.

In the immediate neighbourhood of the town an estate called Rew, possesses an Elizabethan house, which is still the property, and was for some years the residence of the family of Bennett, but it is now attached to the farm. Waye (north of the Newton Road) is mentioned as early as the year 1484, when "Thomas, at Waye," was one of the Churchwardens, his name appears to have been Furse, and the members of his family are called indifferently by their own name, and the name of their estate for many years, e. g. "is. from William Waye *alias* Furse, for rent of the Church House." In the seventeenth century it belonged to the old Devonshire family of Elford, (see the account of Widecombe) and it is now the property and residence of Mrs. Rogers, the house is modern.

Welstor was the property of the Windeats in the sixteenth century, and in 1533-4 "John Wyndyett de Welstor" was Churchwarden; it now belongs to, and is the occasional residence of the Rev. J. T. Fisher, Vicar of Hessenford, in right of his wife, to whom it was bequeathed by the late Miss Abraham.

Halshanger, which has been long the property, and is still the residence of the family of Woodley, is also mentioned as far back as the year 1550.

A few years since the present Vicar (with the consent of the Patrons of the living, the late Bishop of the Diocese and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners), consented to the removal of a building which he held by the tenure of "Corpse Land," and which had been alienated from his immediate predecessors by a long lease which had then just expired. The destruction of this house and of some poor tenements belonging to the parish lands, was deemed expedient in order to throw open the fine Church with its handsome tower, and the site of them is now railed off from the churchyard, appropriately planted, and kept in excellent order.

There is a tradition that this old house was the ancient residence of the Vicars of Ashburton, and it is to be remarked that upon its destruction a large recess similar to an image tabernacle was discovered in one of the rooms on the upper story, and it also possessed a very ancient pointed window in the western wall. The only relic of this building is a venerable

pear tree which stands in what was once the garden, and which still blossoms and bears fruit year after year.

The following description of the ancient vicarage is copied from a terrier dated Ashburton parish 1679, and preserved in the Bishop's Registry Office, it has become partly obliterated towards the end of the lines, and the words in parenthesis are our own; "a dwelling house consisting of a kitchen and two little rooms (having a)n earthen floore, a parlour and six chambers and a study all (with planked floors), a gate house with two chambers planked, a moult house, a . . . . . sider house, a stable and a shipping; all these buildings (stand be)side of the pound house, whereunto are adjoining two gar(dens) containeing in all aboute three acres and a halfe. Beside (another house?) and three little gardens and courtlage, in the possession by ——— Dolbear, widow.

We have no evidence of the date of the erection of the present comfortable vicarage, some of the trees surrounding it must be at least 150 years old, and it has been considerably altered and added to from time to time. The Rev. John Lane Kitson greatly improved it about 1810, and also laid out the grounds afresh, and built a good wall all round the lawn and garden.

John Dunning, First Lord Ashburton, the son of Mr. John Dunning, an attorney of Ashburton, commenced his career at the Grammar School of the town, when only seven years old, and after he left school remained until the age of 19 in his father's office, the following is a correct copy of the register of his baptism:—"October, 1731, John, the son of John Dunning, baptised ye 29th." The Parish Registers also contain records of the baptisms of Dr. John Ireland, late Dean of Westminster, who was the son of Mr. Thomas Ireland, a butcher of the town, and of William Gifford, the first Editor of the *Quarterly Review*, the translator of *Juvenal*, and perhaps one of the greatest scholars of his time, he was of poor parentage, but exhibiting promise he was taken from his trade and sent to the Grammar School by Mr. Cooksley, a surgeon of the town.

The following are correct extracts from the above-mentioned books:—

"Septbr., 1761, John, son of Thomas Ireland and Elizb., his wife, bapt., 29th."

"April, 1756, William, son of Edwd. Gefferd and Elizb., his wife, bapt., 15th."

The custom of giving names to Wells and Fountains is of the most remote antiquity; in pre-reformation times there was a custom in this country, if a well had a remarkable situation, if its waters were bright and clear, or if it was considered as having a medicinal quality, to dedicate it to some Saint by honouring it with his or her name.

A well of the last kind has existed from time immemorial in the Parish of Ashburton, and is still famed for the cure of weak eyes, it is situated upon the glebe, and adjoins the glebe field known as Stone Park, and was probably dedicated to St. Gudula, the patron Saint of Blind people; who is always represented upon screens and on windows as holding a lantern, the name is now corrupted into Gulwell, there was an ancient cross (long since removed) near this spot, fragments of it however are in the possession of Mr. Perry, the owner of the Gulwell Estate, which although situated in the Parish of Staverton, is called after the ancient holy well in the Parish of Ashburton. What may have been the pace of this cross is still to be seen in the courtyard of a house in St. Lawrence's Lane, we should be glad to see this symbol of the Christian Faith restored and replaced in its proper position.

The absence of ancient buildings in the Town of Ashburton is due to the circumstance of a large portion of the town having been destroyed by fire about ninety years since, when the houses were rebuilt the streets were widened, and many which had survived the fury of the flames fell victims to the desire for modern improvements.

In concluding this chapter we would remark that as objects of antiquity the Parish Engines deserve special notice, we are afraid to hazard a conjecture as to their date, they may be aboriginal, there is a tradition that Fairfax found one of them ready for any emergency when he marched into Ashburton, on the 10th of January, 1646, this is perhaps only a tradition, still we must not lose sight of the fact that they are actually scarcely larger, and indisputably of less power than modern garden engines, there are no appliances for attaching horses to them, and although without doubt should occasion demand it, the men who drag them from their repose into the open streets on every quarter day, would do their very utmost (should occasion demand it), for the preservation of life and property, still we should be glad indeed to know that more efficient means were, provided against the heavy calamity of fire. We should have supposed that in their own interest the

*how done*

various insurance offices would have furnished fresh engines long ago, and we sincerely trust that these remarks may induce them to do so without any further delay, and finally we would mention that the fine old tower, ninety-two feet high, is unprovided with a lightning conductor, and although it has doubtless seen many a thunder storm since it was erected six hundred years ago, yet every one must feel the necessity of using all human efforts to avert a dire calamity to which it is now needlessly exposed.

## CHAPTER VII.

*Buckland-in-the-Moor.*

**B**UCKLAND-IN-THE-MOOR, lying in the midst of some of the most beautiful and picturesque scenery in the county, is situated in the Hundred of Teignbridge and Deanery of Moreton, and is a daughter Church to Ashburton, from which town it is distant about three miles. At the time of the Domesday Survey the Manor of "Bochelend" (which, in the reign of King Edward the Confessor, belonged to Alric,) had become the property of William Chievre, or Capra. Lysons, in his *Magna Britannia*, (p. lxxxii) says, "There does not, I believe, exist any document to prove that there is a single estate in the county remaining in the possession of a descendant of any person who held it at the time of the Domesday Survey, although it is not improbable that some of the ancient families who, according to the custom of that period, took their names from the places of their residence, in the reign of King John, or that of Henry III., may have inherited their estates in direct descent from the Ralphs, Rogers, Walters, and Williams, who were sub-tenants in the reign of William the Conqueror under Baldwin the Sheriff, and other great lords paramount."

These remarks seem to be peculiarly applicable to this manor, which at

the end of the twelfth, or commencement of the thirteenth century, was the property of Roger Bockland, and was by him given to the Abbey of Tor. The name Buckland is a corruption of the Saxon word Bockland, which signified land held by book or charter, and which had not been made over to others either by gift or sale. Within this parish was also situated the ancient Manor of "Chiempabare" (now called Chalomer), which although it has for ages ceased to enjoy any manorial rights or privileges, yet belonged in Saxon times to Aiolf, and was given by William the Conqueror, with "Radeclive" (its appendage), to Ruald Adobed, under whom it was for some years held by Roger Flandrensis or Fleming. Redielive, we may remark, in A.D., 1042, pertained, as did Buckland itself, to Alric.

In the year 1196, William Lord Briwere founded the Abbey of Tor for monks of the order instituted by St. Norbert, Archbishop of Magdeburgh, at the commencement of that century, and which, from the circumstance of the first monastery having been erected in the retired valley of Premontre, in the Diocese of Laon, was known as the Premonstratentian order. The Abbey is called indifferently in old charters, the Church of St. Saviour, or Holy Trinity, but it appears to have been dedicated to the honour of the Holy Saviour, the Holy Trinity, and the blessed Virgin, and was colonized from the Abbey of Welbeck in Nottinghamshire, by Adam, who was a Canon of Welbeck as first Abbot, and who, with six more of his brethren, arrived at Tor on March 25th, 1196. To this noble Abbey Roger of Buckland seems to have given the greatest part of his inheritance, and his gifts and donations were added to and confirmed by his successors, and one of them—William of Buckland—was buried in the Conventual Church.

In the *Tor Abbey Cartulary or Register Book*, late in the custody of the Queen's Remembrancer of the Exchequer, may be seen the following deeds and instruments connected with this Manor:—"A deed of Roger de Bokelonde of the wood of Bokelond, with the glebe land. Likewise a deed by Roger de Bokelond of all his wood with its belongings in Bokelond. Likewise a deed of the same Roger of the same wood, in his Manor of Bokelond. A deed of Thomas Cole concerning the wood of Bokelond. A deed of William de Baldrynton of half-a-furlong of land in South Brook. A deed of John Gobet, of one claw of land in Southbrook, within the Manor of Bokelond: (A claw of land (not clausum) frequently occurs in old deeds). A quit claim of William, son and heir of Roger, of his return from Bokelond. A deed of



confirmation of William, son and heir of Roger de Bokelond, of the concession and confirmation of Bokelond. Ratification of I. de S., (Gerald de Spineto) formerly Lord of Stoke-in-Tynhed, of all lands and tenements, houses, gardens, &c., in Bokelond-in-la-more."

A manuscript classed in the collection of Trinity College, Dublin, as E. 5.15, purports to be "the chartulary of the Monastery of Thorre, in Devonshire." It is on vellum, extending over 170 leaves of two pages each, small quarto, and its records extend from the time of King John to 1409, which latter is believed to be the latest express date in the collection; it does not contain any notice of obits, or interments, except those of William Briwere the younger, (who died in 1232), and of William de Bokelond, and it expressly declares that they were buried in the Conventual Church. (Upon digging on this spot in the year 1825, much tessellated pavement was found, with a stone coffin containing human bones. This manuscript contains, moreover, "a grant by William de Bokelond, of all his land of Redeclive, in the Manor of Buckland, by metes and bounds, with common of pasture over the said Manor, to the Abbot, &c., of Thorre;" and thus proves that the ancient Manor of Chiempabare or Chalomer was even then dismembered, from its stating Radeclive to be in the Manor of Buckland. There are also two confirmations from Roger de Bokelond of the grant of his grandfather, William de Bokelond, to Thorre. This Roger must have been the great grandson of the Roger who first bestowed his lands upon the Abbey.

Lastly, there is a confirmation from Edward de Spineto to the Abbot of Thorre, of one furlong of land in Scobetore (in the adjoining Parish of Widecombe), "which William de Bokelond had given to the said Abbot with his body," with a further grant of all reliefs, wardships, and other endowments occurring on the said lands.

Risdon states "that Roger de Buckland, of Buckland-in-the-Moor, had a son, William, who was five times High Sheriff of Devon, in the reign of King Richard I., (A.D. 1189-1199). How long the Abbot and Convent of Tor were possessed of this property we have no means of stating. It is certain that it had passed out of their possession before the suppression of the Abbey in 1539, since there is no mention whatever of it in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*.

About A.D. 1328, we find mention of Sir John L'Ercedekne, who founded the Arch-Presbytery of Haccombe, and whilst speaking of Haccombe, it may

not be out of place to say a few words relative to the ancient family of Carew, one of the few families now extant that can show an Anglo-Saxon origin, being descended, in common with the Lords Windsor, the Fitzgeralds, and Fitz-Maurices of Ireland, from Walter Fitz-Otho Castellan of Windsor, son of Otho the Saxon, temp. Edward the Confessor.

Sir Nicholas Carew, Knt., who died in 1449, left five sons. Nicholas, his second son, married a daughter of Sir Hugh Courtenay, who was heiress of Haecombe, in right of her mother, she being a daughter and co-heiress of Sir Warren L'Eredekne, or Archdeacon. Lady Carew (nèe Courtenay) gave the estate to her second son, called Nicholas, after his father, and his immediate descendant, Thomas, was created a Baronet in 1661. The late Sir Walter Carew was the eighth Baronet of Haecombe, in direct succession from Sir Thomas.

To return to Buckland. Risdon says "that Sir John L'Eredekne succeeded the family of the Bucklands in their estates here: most probably he obtained the property by purchase or exchange from the Convent. As we have said above, a daughter and co-heiress of L'Eredekne married Courtenay, and it is worthy of note that Radeclive, which now consists of a farm house and nearly sixty acres of land, and the rents of which are applicable to the repairs of the Church, the salaries of the Clerk and Sexton, the expenses of attending visitations, and other matters usually forming a part of the Churchwardens' accounts, still pays a chief rent of 5s. a year to the Earl of Devon. In the sixteenth century the Woodleys were Lords of the Manor; of late years it has belonged together with Answell, to the family of Bastard, the present possessor being John Baldwin Pollexfen Bastard, Esq., of Kitley.

Answell (or as it is pronounced, Hazle), although adjoining Buckland, is on the outskirts of the Parish of Ashburton, and was at one time the property of a branch of the Seymour family; Henry Seymour, of Walcott, near Bath, married Louisa Theresa de la Martellière, Comtesse de Panthon, and in conjunction with his son, (also called Henry), sold this estate to the ancestor of the present proprietor in the year 1799.

Buckland Church, situated on high ground to the north of the village, is a small and unpretending structure of Early English date, and consists of chancel, nave, separated from a north aisle by three arches, supported by clustered pillars with plain capitals, north transept, south porch, and a

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tower at the western end containing five bells, which replaced the old ones in 1760.

The north aisle has been rebuilt, and the transept is apparently a modern addition. The pillars unmistakably date from the end of the twelfth or commencement of the thirteenth century. The handsome tower, which is embattled, has no buttresses, but an octagonal stair turret on its southern side.

The western doorway, (square-headed), and the eastern window, are good examples of the Perpendicular style. The western window, a lancet of two lights, the dripstone following the course of the arch, is most probably coeval with the first erection of the building. The south porch is very plain.

The font standing at the western end of the aisle is of late Norman date, circular in form, and has the zigzag ornament and cable-moulding characteristic of the style. The windows on the south side have been all restored, or we should say renewed, with the exception of the one in the chancel and another on the western side of the porch, which are Early English. There are many encaustic tiles scattered about the floor of the nave, some of them bearing traces of inscriptions, and several ancient grave-stones; in any future restoration these tiles should be carefully collected and re-arranged.

An external projection in the north wall contains the stairs which once led to the rood loft, which has been long since removed, but the screen which extends across the nave, though much mutilated, is elaborately carved and illuminated; the upper part is open and filled with Perpendicular tracery, the lower part, containing figures of saints, is divided into twenty compartments. The first eight are hidden by the back of the reading-desk, but the figures in them are in good preservation, and include a representation of the "Adoration of the Magi," extending over four panels. The Blessed Virgin holds the Infant Saviour on her lap, and Jasper, Melchior, and Balthasar crowned as Kings, the first with a purse, the second with a horn, and the third with a censer, are humbly offering their gifts of "Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh," whilst the sun is shining in its full splendour above them.

This is followed by an illustration of the Annunciation, occupying three compartments, the Almond Tree flourishes in a flower pot between the

*now given  
as St. Peter's*

Angel Gabriel and the Blessed Virgin, and these two pictures induce us to consider that the Church of Buckland was dedicated to St. Mary, very possibly upon the Festival of the Annunciation; and the preservation of these figures is the more valuable, since (as far as we have been able to ascertain) there is no documentary evidence on the subject of its dedication in existence. The eighth panel contains the figure of St. Simon with the saw.

On the screen-door are depicted St. Philip with the long cross, St. Bartholomew with the knife, St. Andrew with the saltire, and St. James the Less with the fuller's staff. The next six were utterly destroyed some years since, and the outlines of the figures on the bare oak, standing in relief against a dark back-ground, only remain. The two last figures in this part of the screen have been spared, and respectively represent St. Matthias and St. Thomas.

On the inner side there are six compartments: in the first there is the representation of a Monk preaching, and arrayed in the Cistercian habit. The next contains the figure of a King, with an ermine tippet. On the door are two grotesque paintings of ecclesiastical personages, which (it has been suggested to us) may possibly be intended to represent the regular and secular clergy. The last two panels contain a bearded figure in the head-dress of a High Priest, and one in plate armour. These six figures are all represented half the size of life, and are in good preservation.

In front of the centre of the altar is a black marble slab bearing the following inscription:—"Here lieth Ralph Woodley, Gentleman, Lord of this Manner, yere of our Lord, 1593." The ancient Priests' door has been blocked up. Of the sacred vessels, the chalice with its cover is ancient. (A.D., 1579). The nodi (or bosses) in the roof of the nave are carved in good (Perpendicular) foliage, excepting three towards the western end, two of which represent King Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn. The third has unfortunately been partially destroyed. They are all alike covered with many coatings of red paint.

We have no means of stating anything definite relative to the first erection of a Church at Buckland. It is noticeable that the "Glebe" is mentioned as having been made over by Roger Buckland to the Abbot of Tor, and, as we have also said above the font is of Norman date, it is probable that this Church was rebuilt by the Abbot of Tor on the site of a more ancient

building early in the thirteenth century, and, in common with most of the Devonshire Churches, it was probably restored in the fifteenth, though it does not appear to have been absolutely rebuilt. The first mention we find of it is in Bishop Lacy's register, (A.D., 1420), in which it is described as a Daughter Church to Ashburton, and where it is stated that the same Curate was accustomed to officiate here, and at St. Mary's, Bickington, on Sundays and festivals. Bishop Quivil, (consecrated A.D., 1280), first charged Chapels with a quota towards the repair of the chancels of the Mother Church, and this charge was confirmed by Bishop Grandisson (consecrated at Avignon, 18th October, 1327).

In the Churchwardens' accounts for the Parish of Ashburton, A.D., 1491, we find the rent from Buckland entered as follows:—"xiid. received from Bokelande from ancient rent paid per annum," and this sum continues to be annually paid. It is to be regretted that none of the books, mss. or records connected with this Parish prior to the year 1755, with the exception of the registers, have been preserved.

Outside the Churchyard Gate may be noticed a large tree surrounded by what appears to be a stone seat, but which was doubtless the pace of the ancient cross. The mutilated fragments of the cross itself may still be seen on the right-hand side of the south entrance, where it forms a coping for the churchyard wall. The present Vicar is the Rev. Charles Worthy, who holds it (as his predecessors) with Ashburton. The registers, which are in a most mutilated and defective condition, commence:—Marriages, 1694; baptisms, 1692; burials, 1728. There is no vicarage house, but a glebe of 13 acres. The Patrons are the Dean and Chapter of Exeter. This Parish contains 1,548 acres, and the population in 1871 amounted to 108 persons.

## CHAPTER VIII.



### Bickington.

**B**ICKINGTON, or as it was anciently written Bichentone, or Buketon, "*The town on the brook,*" (the name being derived from "Bek," a corruption of the Teutonic Bach, a brook, and the Saxon word "Tun,") overlooks the valley of the Lemon, or as Leland calls it the "Loman," a tributary of the river Teign. It is situated in the Hundred of Teignbridge, and the Deanery of Moreton, on the high road to Exeter, and is distant about four miles from Newton Abbot, and three from Ashburton, to which latter it is a Daughter Church, and upon which it was dependent from very early times until the year 1861, when the two parishes were separated.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, the Manor of Bickington belonged as did Ashburton) to Brictric, the son of Algar: in common with the rest of his Manors it was afterwards settled on Queen Matilda, and, on her death, in 1084, it became vested in the Crown. King Henry II. (A.D. 1154 to 1189) appears to have given this property to Sir Joel Giffard, who took the name of "Bickington." This ancient family is described as maternally descended from the Giffards, Earls of Buckinghamshire, whose name was assumed by Robert, the common ancestor of the Devonshire Giffards, in the reign of the above-mentioned Monarch, and Sir Joel must have been a son of this Robert.

Bartholomew Giffard, another son of this house, settled at Halesbury, in the reign of Edward I. This branch, into which the heiress of Smith, of Totnes had married, became extinct about the middle of the seventeenth century, by the death of John Gaffard, who left Halesbury to the Giffards

of Brightleigh. The heiress of Sir Joel Bickington, in the reign of Edward III., brought the Manor to Marwood; with this family it remained until the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the co-heiress of Marwood married Wichalse, of Chudleigh, and it has been said that the Heiress of Wichalse brought the Manor to the family of Trevanion, but we find in Lysons (p. ccxxiii.) "that the family of Wichalse, or Witchalse, of Chudleigh, Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, and Lynton, continued for six or seven descents in Devonshire, and that their estates were sold about the beginning of the last century. The Manor of Bickington appears to have been long dismembered. During the latter half of the sixteenth, and first of the seventeenth centuries, the Stawells, of Herebeare, seem to have been the family of most importance in the parish. We may, therefore, fairly assume that it was disposed of in parcels by the Wichalse's between the years 1558 and 1560. The Bickfords, of Wrigwell, have also held possession of their estate, which does not appear to have ever been included in the Manor for many centuries.

The Parish Church, to the south-west of the village, is dedicated to St. Mary, not to St. James, as some historians aver. The first mention we find of it is in Bishop Lacy's *Register*, vol. 3, fol. 127 (A.D., 1420), in which it is also described as being a Daughter Church to Ashburton. The interior consists of a nave, connected with a north aisle by four two-centred arches, supported upon octagonal pillars of Decorated date with plain capitals, a south porch, and a tower at the western end containing three bells. The screen has been removed: it originally extended across the nave and aisle, and there was also a parclose, dividing the end of the aisle from the chancel (which appears to be merely a continuation of the nave). The tower arch is circular.

The edifice appears to have been rebuilt in the very worst style of the fifteenth century: the windows on the north side are all square-headed, but those on the south are filled with fair Perpendicular tracery. There was a Galilee Chapel at the western end, as evidenced by the capital of the second pier differing considerably from the others, and from there being a descent of two steps from beneath the tower arch into the nave. The font is octagonal and unornamented, and appears to be coeval with the present building; it is placed opposite the south porch.

The arched roof is ornamented with bosses of foliage, and has a good

wall plate of Perpendicular carving, but all the woodwork is so choked with whitewash, that it is impossible even to hazard a conjecture as to the originals of the two heads, occurring towards the western end of the nave. The ancient priests' door remains, its arch being square-headed, with foliated spandrils and deep mouldings in the jambs.

The tower-door, which has been blocked up, also has a good square-headed Perpendicular arch, and the tower-window is of the same date. There are no buttresses, but the tower has an octagonal staircase on its southern side, and there is also an external rood-turret on the north side of the Church.

In the chancel and nave are many grave-stones of the Stawells, of Herebeare, one bearing their arms;—A cross lozengy; impaling, a saltire, engrailed between four mullets. Another exhibits Stawell impaled with Strode. A chevron between three conies. The latest date on the memorials of this family is 1672.

In the nave is a stone inscribed to the memory of John Bickford, of Wrigwell, A.D., 1625, and on the eastern wall of the chancel is a black marble slab recording the death of Mr. W. Woolcombe, 58 years minister of the parish, born 1606, died 1689. This stone is surmounted by the arms of the family. Sa; three bars gules. (It should be arg; three bars gules).

In the year 1486 Ashburton received five shillings from "Bickington" for the Chandeliers—"Apud Candelabras." After this the parishioners appear to have disregarded Bishop Quivil's injunction relative to furnishing their quota towards the repair of the Mother Church, and to have declined to pay any money whatever; consequently, an action was commenced by the Ashburton Churchwardens, and we find from their parish accounts that in A.D., 1500, the sum of ten shillings and eight-pence was paid "in expense to Exeter about Bikynton." In the next year we find an entry, "Four pounds eight shillings in expense at Exeter and London against those at Bikenton this year." Bishop Oldham seems to have settled this dispute, and in 1512 we read as follows:—"Eight and four-pence received from the Warden of the Chapel of Bekynton for annual payment to the said Parish Church, according to the form of certain agreements made between them."

The people of Bickington, however, subscribed towards some repairs to the Ashburton bells, whilst this dispute was in progress, since we read, A.D., 1502, "Ten shillings for the bells from those of Bykenton." The sum of



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eight and four-pence received from Bickington is entered yearly after this, and is (or should be) still regularly paid.

Westcote, who wrote in the sixteenth century, speaks of a family called Fursland living here in his time; we believe that a tomb, bearing that name still exists on the South side of the Church. On the North side of the Churchyard we noticed a slab (date illegible), bearing the name of "Furnux," of Farleycombe. Under the inscription are some armorial bearings, but the stone has suffered much from the hand of time: as far as we could decipher them they appeared to be a bend sinister between six crosses crosslet.

The ancient lych-gate, of Perpendicular date, with a room over it, is on the South side. Beneath it remain the carved oaken jambs of the old doors, the doors themselves were removed within the memory of man.

The handsome and spacious Parochial School House, built and endowed by the Rev. Mr. Cornish (a former Curate), a few years since, stands nearly opposite this gate, and affords ample accommodation for the educational requirements of the population.

This Church, as we have before said, was separated from Ashburton, by the Dean and Chapter, the Patrons, in 1861, and was presented to the Rev. Edward Harington, upon whose cession the Rev. William Smith was licensed in 1864, to whom we are much indebted for his kind attention to our enquiries. He informs us that the Chalice and Paten are ancient, the former bearing date 1575; the Flagon is of pewter. There are two plain, but very ancient, oaken chests in the Vestry, which is a modern addition built at the Eastern end of the aisle. As was usual in Parish Churches, this end of the aisle, anciently screened off as we have said above, was most probably dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and known as the "Lady Chapel."

We find in the report of the Charity Commissioners, that the sum of £2 has been annually paid for many years by the Corporation of Plymouth to the Overseers of the Poor of this Parish, as the gift of Mr. Baron.

In the account-book of the Churchwardens of Bickington, under the date 1774, is an entry which states that "the annuity of £2, the gifts of Benjamin Baron, Grocer, of London, had been received from the Mayor of Plymouth, and had been distributed among certain poor persons of the parish in sums varying from 3s. 6d. to 4s. each:" it was given away from then, regularly till 1820, at which time the enquiry was made. The distribution takes place

on Christmas Day, according to a list which is prepared by the Churchwardens and submitted to the parishioners. From this list such of the poor as are in the receipt of constant parochial relief are excluded.

Bickington, inclusive of the Hamlet of Chipley, is a scattered Parish, containing 1,375 acres, and the population in 1871 amounted to 273 persons. There is no Parsonage House. The Registers commence with 1603, but from 1680 to 1695 there are no entries. The Rev. William Woolcombe, judging from the inscription in the Chancel (above referred to), must have been Curate here during the Civil War, and does not seem to have experienced the harsh treatment at the hands of the Puritans to which his Vicar, the Rev. Alexander Crosse, of Ashburton, was subjected, whose troubles appear to have been too heavy for him to bear, and who died before the restoration of King Charles II.

#### CHAPTER IX.

### WIDECOMBE-IN-THE-MOOR.

**W**IDECOMBE-IN-THE-MOOR, variously written Withecombe, Wydecumb, and Wydecumb, is situated in the Hundred of Haytor, and in the Deanery of Moreton. It lies on the borders of Dartmoor, about five miles from Ashburton, and eight from Moretonhampstead, and includes the Hamlet of Ponsworthy. The two small Villages, Lower Town and Poundgate, which anciently belonged to it, have recently been allotted to the new Parish of Leusden.

The record of Domesday proves that the Manor of "Wodiacome" was held by "Edric," in the reign of Edward the Confessor. During the reign of William the Conqueror the lands were still occupied by a Saxon noble, Alric the King's Thane, but he was only a sub-tenant under Walsein de Donay, a Norman follower of the King, and a powerful baron whose baronial

seat was at Bampton; his grand-daughter and heiress married William Paganel: the last male representative of the latter family, (which had been settled in Devonshire since the Conquest), was summoned to Parliament as a Baron in the reign of Edward II., but they appear to have ceased to have any connection with this county; some years before this date, during the reign of Henry III., and their possessions at Widecombe seem to have passed, most probably by marriage, to the Fitz-Ralphs, who were afterwards known by the surname of "Shillingford," from a property so called, which they subsequently acquired in the neighbourhood of Exeter.

There is reason to suppose that the Fitz-Ralphs' conferred upon Widecombe the distinction of being the birth-place of a Saint. St. Richard, Archbishop of Armagh, was a son of this house, and born probably in the reign of Edward I., at North Hall, in this parish, before the removal of his family to Shillingford. He was made Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland by Pope Clement VI., and was consecrated at Exeter A.D., 1347. He was educated at Oxford, and before his elevation to the Archiepiscopal See, was Vice-Chancellor of that University, and Archdeacon of Lichfield. He is supposed to have translated the Bible into the Irish tongue, and it is stated that he hid a copy of the Holy Book within the wall of his Cathedral, inscribed with the following words:—"When this book shall be found the truth shall be manifested to all the world; or Christ shall soon after appear to the world." They were prophetic, since (according to Bale), the book with its inscription, was discovered during some repairs to the Cathedral in the year 1530, just at the commencement of the Reformation. He was banished about seven years before his death through the influence of the powerful and numerous order of Mendicant Friars, and died at Avignon A.D., 1360, and his body was translated to Dundalk, and buried in the Church of St. Nicholas, and from this circumstance he is occasionally called St. Richard of Dundalk; an ancient Irish rhyme runs thus:—

"Many a mile have I gone, and many did I walk,  
But never saw a holier man than Richard of Dundalk."

As we have already said, he was afterwards canonized under the title of St. Richard of Armagh.

The Manor of Widecombe after remaining for nine descents in the family of Fitz-Ralph or Shillingford, passed it is considered by inheritance to the Sonthcotes, and, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was still their property.

It was afterwards for some years in the family of Wotton, who purchased Ingleburne (a portion of the sequestered possessions of the Abbey of Buckfast) from the Crown, on the 21st September, 1546. A co-heiress of Wotton brought it to the Wiltshire family of Cresswell. (The other co-heiress, Alice Wotton, married Edward Courtenay, a son of the younger branch of the Powderham family).

The property having been thrown into Chancery, John Dunning, first Lord Ashburton, purchased, under a decree of the Court, a long term in this and the adjoining Manor of Speechwick, and the lease expired in 1845. About five years since the whole of the land was sold, and Mrs. Drake (niece of the late Vicar of Widecombe, the Rev. J. H. Mason, became the purchaser of the Manor of Widecombe.

The Manor of Spitchwick, or Speechwick, which is situated in the Leusden quarter of the Parish, was, at the time of the taking of the Doomesday Survey, part of the Royal demesne, and was then written Spicewite. (The Lords of this Manor had formerly the power of capital punishment). To a deed, which was most probably executed in the latter part of the year 1282, we find the name "William of Spikewyk" appended as a witness.

In the seventeenth century it belonged to the Bouchiers, Earls of Bath, and afterwards it passed to the Wottons and Cresswells, and (like Widecombe) was sold a few years since. The present possessor is Dr. Blackall, of Exeter, who occupies the same residence built here by the late Lord Ashburton. There are some few remains of the ancient Manor House in the wall of one of the farm buildings, eastward of the present dwelling.

The ancient Chapel at Speechwick was dedicated to St. Leonard, and was probably built in the twelfth century by the Lord of the Manor of Widecombe, to whom it appears to have belonged. All trace of it has disappeared for many years, but from the fact of several pieces of carved stone having been discovered close to the western end of the present dwelling, we are inclined to think that this venerable ecclesiastical structure was most probably removed to make room for it, about one hundred years since. Upon the occasion of our visit we were told something of a very thick wall running through the centre of the house. May not this be the eastern wall of the old Chapel? A field immediately behind is still called "Chapel Park."

The Abbot of Buckfast had some property at Speechwick, as we find from the following entry in the "*Valor Ecclesiasticus*"—"Spychewyke in

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parochia de Wedycomb." "Redditus 2 tenementorum ibidem per annum £1 8s."

The Manor of Notsworthy is supposed to have been formerly in the family of the Fords, of Bagtor, and it afterwards belonged to the Filmores. Another Manor of Notsworthy, intermixed with this, belonged to the family of Cabell, whose heiress brought it to Fownes, of Dorsetshire; it afterwards became the property of the late Fitzwilliam Young, Esq., of Ashburton, and now belongs to Owen Tucker, Esq. The Manor of Blackslade was sold by the Hamlyns in 1785, and is now the property and residence of Robert Dymond, Esq., of Exeter.

Deaunon, in this parish, gave name to an ancient family, from whom it passed, by female heirs, to the Malets, in the reign of Henry III. Sir John Malet, K.B., sold it about the year 1600. The name "Deaunon" has of late years been corrupted into Dutton.

Close to the Churchyard "North Hall" once stood. From a metrical description of it we learn that it was anciently the Manor House, and was called North Hall; that the house possessed gardens, orchards, and a stately grove of trees, and that the dwelling was surrounded by a moat, and that this moat was fed by streams of clear water, well-stocked with fish, and was crossed by a drawbridge. Scarcely any traces of this venerable moorland mansion remain.

We find from the Tor Abbey Chartulary that Roger de Bokeland (already referred to) gave, about the commencement of the thirteenth century, a portion of the land of Skobetorre (we preserve the spelling) to the Abbey of Tor. Scobetor was sold with the rest of the Widecombe property a few years since, and was purchased by Mr. John Hern, of Ashburton.

In the Village of Widecombe we noticed an apparently very ancient well, of the design generally attributed to Saxon architecture, the opening having (to the best of our recollection) a pointed, or triangular head, formed of two straight blocks of granite, placed on end upon the imposts, and resting against each other at the top.

The Almshouses at the head of the Village are of Perpendicular date, and were probably erected about the middle of the sixteenth century.

## CHAPTER X.

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### The Church of St. Pancras, Widecombe.

THE Parish Church of Widecombe, dedicated to St. Pancras, is situated a little to the north-east of the village, and was appropriated by Bishop Peter Quivil to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, on the 3rd February, 1283-4. We find from a deed entitled "Carta Magistri Rogeri Le Rus," that Roger Rouse gave to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter and their successors *in puram liberam et perpetuam elemosinam, &c.*, one acre of land at Wydecombe, with the Advowson of the Church of St. Pancras of Wydecomb, and of the Chapel of St. Leonard of Spikewyk (Speechwick). The deed goes on to define the boundaries of the said acre of land. "Which certain acre of land lies in Wodehaye, near the sanctuary of the aforesaid Church, and extends in length from the aforesaid sanctuary, from the western part, up to the high road, through which it goes, from the aforesaid Church of Wydecombe, towards Dunsterston, from the eastern part." *Que quidem acre terre jacet in Wodehaye prope sanctuarium ecclesie superadiecte, et extendit in longitudine a predicto sanctuario ex-parte occidentali usque ad regalem viam per quam itur a dicta ecclesia de Wydecombe versus Dunsterston ex-parte orientali.* The said land, with the Advowson of the Church and a Chapel, was to be held from the Lord of Widecombe for ever by the paying to the said Lord of Wydecombe "one pair of candlesticks (*unum par cyrothecarum*) or one penny at the feast of St. Michael, for every secular service. And on their parts the Dean and Chapter promised to pay ten marks of silver yearly for providing "*quedam Divina servicia annuatim*" in Exeter Cathedral, for the soul of Roger de Thoriz, formerly

Dean of Exeter." Roger de Thoriz occurs as Archdeacon of Exeter in 1249. He was collated to the dignity of Dean upon the death of William de Stanwey, and died 29th April, 1274. On the 3rd of February 1283, Bishop Peter Quivil (as we have said above) confirmed this grant.

We have also seen a copy of the deed of Ralph, the son of Richard, Lord of the Manor of Wydecumb, and Roger Rous, Rector "of the Church of Nordhull" (North-hall), *Rector Ecclesie de Nordhull*, and from this deed we infer that Widecombe Church was at that time called the Church of North-hall, being situated close to the Manor House of that name. The deed sets forth that Ralph the Lord of the Manor, had sold to Roger Rous one acre of land from his Manor land of Widecombe, with the Advowson of the Church, Chapel at Speechwick, &c., for eighty marks of silver. This deed bears date Sunday before the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary, 11th year of King Edward (A.D., 1283).

The Church, of cruciform shape, consists of chancel, nave opening into north and south aisles beneath six moulded arches supported upon octagonal pillars formed of single blocks of granite; north and south transepts, a south porch, and a magnificent tower at the western end.

Tradition says that this beautiful tower was erected as a thank-offering by some Dartmoor miners, who had been successful in their search for tin. The roof of both nave and aisles rises several feet in the centre of the Church, and the eastern end appears to be the oldest part of the building; there can, we think, be little doubt but that the sacred structure originally consisted of a chancel, nave, and two aisles, and that at the time the tower was built, in the fifteenth century, it was enlarged by the addition of three new arches on each side (the piers following the form of the more ancient ones at the eastern end of the building), and by the construction of the two transepts. The extreme internal length of the Church is nearly 104 feet.

The Chancel, 23 feet in length by  $15\frac{1}{2}$  feet in width, has an eastern window of four lights with double tracery, and a quatrefoil in the head.

The south chancel window is square-headed, and of two lights; whitewash and plaster have done their very worst in this portion of the sacred structure, but still there are recesses remaining although choked and disfigured, which are supposed to be the remains of

square-headed sedilia, and of an aumbrey or locker.

The Nodi in the roof are very beautifully carved, one has a goat, another a lion, a third the pelican in her piety, a fourth an emblem of the Trinity in the form of three rabbits, the points of their ears meeting and forming a triangle. Some authors however give a different explanation of this symbol.

Referring to the use of tin in Alchemy, and to the connection of the Abbey of Tavistock with the tin works of Dartmoor, Mr. R. J. King observes that "the roof of the Church of Widecombe-in-the-Moor, said to have been immediately connected with the miners, exhibits many figures which obscurely shadow forth the learning of the Alchemists. On one of the bosses is a singular combination of three rabbits, each with a single ear, which join in the centre, thus forming a triangle. Allusion is made to this figure in the will of Basil Valentine, where it is called the hunt of Venus. Rabbits, it is well known, were a favourite Alchemical symbol, and occur more than once in the curious plates with which Vaughan supplied Elias Ashmole for his edition of Morton's "*Ordinal of Alchemie*."

Two of the bosses represent respectively a Queen holding the orb, and a King, very like the pictures of Henry VIII.; we think it possible that they were intended for likenesses of King Henry VIII., and his Queen, Jane Seymour, and that they commemorate the erection of the tower and the enlargement of the Church in 1537.

The priest's door is still on the south side of the chancel, and is cut diagonally through the wall in order to leave space for the piscina; the lower part of the screen only remains; it has experienced rough usage, but we were able to recognise the figures of St. Apollonia, with the tooth at the end of a pair of pincers; St. John, with the chalice; St. Sebastian, naked and pierced with arrows; St. Philip, St. Matthew, St. Jude, and St. Thomas.

The staircase, which once led to the rood-loft, still remains in the thickness of the southern wall: the pulpit is ancient, and still preserves its original form, but all trace of colouring has been obliterated.

In the south chancel Chapel we noticed a large image bracket in the south-eastern corner, and another on the south wall; in the south transept there is a plain piscina.



In the north chancel Chapel there is a square recess in the corner of the eastern wall, which may have been used as a piscina, and in the window are the arms of Courtenay: Or; three torteaux, a label of three points, and alongside them those of Wotton; arg; a cross quarterly gu. (should be a cross engrailed sa). They, of course, commemorate the marriage of Edward Courtenay with Alice Wotton above alluded to.

The font is octagonal, and apparently of Perpendicular date; the windows at the eastern end are fine examples of the same style; the old window-arches (of Decorated date) were doubtless filled with Perpendicular tracery when the Church was enlarged; the windows in the western half are all square.

The Church is now undergoing restoration, and the north side of the nave has been reseated, and the piers and magnificent tower arch have been relieved from their heavy burthen of plaster and whitewash.

The tower, as we have already said, is a most beautiful structure of the ornamented style of Pointed architecture which prevailed in this country in the fifteenth century; it is built of granite, and rises to the height of above 100 feet; the angles are sustained by double buttresses, diminishing in size as they ascend, and adorned with foliated recesses; the staircase on the north side is carried up in two of these buttresses; on the top are four beautifully decorated pinnacles, each 20 feet high, terminated by crosses. Some injudicious repairs were made to this tower in 1813, and the Church-wardens commemorated them by inscribing their names on its southern face.

The Church itself is much inferior to the tower in architectural beauty.

The western doorway is square-headed, with quatrefoiled spandrils and deep mouldings.

A portion of the ancient cross remains on the south side of the churchyard, and there is also a portion of a cross built into the churchyard wall.

On the north side of the chancel is a mural tablet to the memory of Mary, the third wife of John Elford, of Sheepstor. The long inscription, made up of poetry and prose, has become almost obliterated; it includes an anagram upon the name Mary Elford, "Fear my Lord," and a curious chronogram:—

TO THE MEMORIE OF  
 MARY THE THIRD WIFE OF IOHN ELFORD OF  
 SHITSTOR, Esq<sup>r</sup>., WAS HEER INTERRED FEBR. YE 16  
 A° 1642, HAVING ISSVE AT A BYRTH MARY & SARAH

Wed. poesie

AS MARYES CHOYCE MADE IOHN REIOYCE below  
 Soe was her losse his heanie crosse most know  
 Yet lost she is not sure but found about  
 Death gaue her life t'imbrace A dearer loue

Anagr { MARY ELFORD } { FEAR MY LORD }

Then FEAR MY LORD whilst yet y<sup>u</sup> mou'st on mold  
 That soe those armes that mee may thee infold  
 Neer twelue moneths day her maridge heer did pass  
 Her heauenly nuptiall consummated was  
 She fertile prou'd in soule and bodye both  
 In life good workes at death she twyns brought forth  
 And like A fruitfull tree with bearing dy'd  
 Yet Phœnix like for one there two surui'd  
 Which shortly posted their deare mother after  
 Least this contagion their poore soules might slaughter  
 Then cease your sad laments I am but gone  
 To reape about what I belowe haue sowne

A° ætat } { VIXIt obIIt sVperIs  
 MarIa gaLe IohannIs eLford VXor tertIa  
 heV) obIIt eX pVerperIo } { erectum fuit A° 1650

Plainly written the chronogram runs thus :—"Anno Aetatis vixit obiit superis, Maria Gale, Johannis Elford, Uxor tertia, heu, obiit ex puerperio, &c."

The two capital v's in *vixit* and *superis* added together make ten, the x in *vixit* makes ten more, in *vixit* there are two i's, in *obiit* two more, and in *superis* one—total, 25—her age. The first part of the inscription sets forth that she was buried in 1642, and if the capital letters in the two last lines be added together in like manner they will be found to form the date, 1642.

This John Elford, of Sheepstor, came of a family who had long resided there, deriving the estate from a marriage with the heiress of Scudamore, and their own descent from Robert de Elford, who was High Sheriff of Cornwall in the 30th of King Edward III. He had four wives. By his first wife, Elizabeth, the co-heiress of Copleston, he had four daughters;

the youngest married Arthur Fortescue, of Wear, from which match the present Earl Fortescue is fifth in descent. His second wife was the sister of the 1st Sir John Northcote, Bart., and from this marriage the Elford's of Bickham were derived. His third wife was Mary Gale, and his fourth wife was most probably a daughter of the house of Wollocombe.

There are shields round the mural tablet, of which we have been speaking, charged with the following arms:—1st Elford, party per pale ar. and az. a lion rampant gules, impaling Scudamore gu; three stirrups, leathered and buckled or. 2nd Elford. 3rd Gale. Az. a fess arg., fretty of the field. 4th Elford, impaling Coplestone. Arg; a chevron, engrailed between three leopards' faces, az. Northcote arg; three crosses crosslet in bend sa; and Wollocombe arg; three bars gu. a label of three points. The label is the distinctive mark between the two ancient families of Wollocombe and Woolcombe.

There are six bells in the tower, three are ancient, bearing date 1632. One is inscribed "*Soli Deo Deter Gloria;*" another "*Robert Hamlyn, sonne of Jno. Hamlyn, of Chittleford, 1632, gathered of the young men and maids £15.*" One bell was erected in 1774, and two in 1848.

Of the awful thunderstorm at Widecombe, in 1638, several narratives have been published. A circumstantial account is given by Prince, in his life of the Rev. Geo. Lyde, who was Vicar of Widecombe at the time, and some verses still remaining in the Church commemorate the sad event. The Church appears to have been struck by lightning during the hours of Divine Service, on Sunday, 21st October, 1638, and several persons were killed and many injured. In the Burial Register is the following notice of the persons killed:

	}	Roger Hill, Gent., was buried the 23rd day of October.
1638		Robert Meade,
		Sibella Milward,
		were buried the 23rd day of October.

In the Church, in front of the centre of the screen, is a grave-stone, with the following inscription:—"*Hic jacent corpora Rogeri Hill, generosi et Annæ uxoris Ejus. Vir obiit 21st. Octobris, 1638. Uxor autem 17th Januarii, 1648.*" The repairs of the Church are said to have cost the parish more than £300, but the Churchwardens' accounts do not go so far back.

In the account of the storm published in the same year in which it occurred, which has been reprinted in the third volume of the *Harleian Miscellany*, the name of "Ralph Rouse," vintner in the town, is incidentally mentioned. He was doubtless a descendant of the ancient family above referred to in connection with the early history of the Church.

Widecombe was divided in the year 1863, for all ecclesiastical purposes, and the new Church of St. John, upon Leusdon Common, was consecrated in that year. The erection of this Church was consequent upon the exertions of Mrs. Larpent, who, aided by a grant of £300 from the Incorporated Society for the Erection of Additional Churches, undertook the whole of the expense. It is built in the Geometrical Decorated style, and consists of a Chancel and nave, with a tower on the south side of the Chancel; the organ stands beneath the tower arch: the octagonal font was the gift of the late Lord Bishop of Exeter.

The hamlet of Christians Hay, or, as it is commonly called, Lower Town, is situated close to this new Church; here we noticed a very old house, with black oaken ceilings, (some of them finely carved), and Perpendicular doorways. There is a vague tradition that it was once the habitation of a Priest, and the field behind it is called Lydes Close; very probably it anciently belonged to the Vicar, the Rev. George Lyde. (The house appears to have been built about the commencement of the seventeenth century.) The estate of Great Cator was also his property, and remained in the same name until a few years ago, when it was sold by the late Miss Lyde, of Ashburton.

The present Vicar of Leusdon is the Rev. P. Jackson, to whose courtesies we are much indebted.

An estate, called Ash, situated in the hamlet of Poundsgate, has been for several centuries the property of the family of Hamlyn; the farm-house has a good square-headed doorway, with shields in the spandrils charged with the date 1653. In one of the rooms we were shown some fine oak wainscot, carved in the linen pattern. Lake, Tor, Quarnian Ford, and Foxworthy, are all ancient houses in this parish. Cowan

The house called the Church House, is the property of the parish of Widecombe, as well as an acre of land called Lady Land.

John Wills, in 1643, gave three shillings to be distributed in white bread on Good Friday, and Sampson Jerman, in 1669, left ten shillings, to be

given yearly on the first of November, "to one poor body, especially to one poor widow woman that hath no relief." Miss White, in 1797, vested the sum of £142 in the five per cents in trustees, for the education of poor children of the parish.

Our best thanks are due to the Rev. I. Williams, the present Vicar, for his kind attention to our enquiries. He informs us that the Registers commence:—Burials, 1560; Baptisms, 1570; Marriages, 1573.

In the register of Bishop Bronescombe, 13th kalends September (20th August), 1266 (fol. 16 b.) is an interesting document, by which Walter, Bishop of Exeter, transferred the hamlets of Pushyll and Balbeny (now Pishill and Babeny) to the parish of Widecombe from Lidford, because the inhabitants of those two places were fifteen miles distant from their Parish Church, and because there were not enough of them to build a Chapel-of-Ease. The transfer is, however, only partial, for some purposes they were to remain parcel of the Mother Parish of Lidford.

The following is a list (although an imperfect one) of the Vicars:—

ROGER ROUSE is described as "Rector of the Church of North-Hall" A.D., 1283. He was probably, however, not in Holy Orders. As we have already said he bestowed the Advowson of the Church upon the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, the present Patrons of the Vicarage.

EDWARD FYSCHÉ, or Fishacre, is the first Vicar we find mentioned.

RICHARD MADEFORD, exchanged with Fysché, 1390, 1400.

HUGH BICKLEIGH was also Vicar of the adjoining Parish of Ilsington, and was buried there. He died on the 27th of October, 1532.

PETER MANWARYNG probably succeeded; we find him described as Vicar in the "*Valor Ecclesiasticus*," compiled by order of King Henry VIII. in 1535.

ROBERT HICHE, buried 5th January, 1590.

ROBERT ELLIS.

CLEMENT ELLIS was living 1592.

WILLIAM HILL was living 1604.

GEORGE LYDE was presented 6th March, 1636; he died in 1673, and was succeeded by

JOHN TICKLE, upon the 23rd May, 1674.

JONATHAN TICKLÉ (perhaps the son of the last Vicar) was instituted in May, 1690, and was followed by

GEORGE SNELL, who was presented to the Vicarage in September, 1733. He appears, however, to have declined to accept the preferment, and was consequently never instituted or inducted.

JOHN HARRIS was therefore instituted in the month of January, 1733, and was succeeded by

THOMAS GRANGER, on the 24th April, 1736.

JOHN MARSHALL was presented 24th April, 1780.

JOHN RENDLE was instituted in July, 1790. He was Fellow of Sidney College, Cambridge, and a good mathematician and classical scholar; he published "*The History of the Emperor Tiberius*," or rather a vindication of that monarch. He was a native of Tiverton, and was educated at the Grammar School of that town; he died on the 22nd of May, 1815, in his 57th year. He was succeeded by the Rev.

JAMES HOLMAN MASON, upon the 3rd of July, in the same year, upon whose death, in 1860, the Rev.

PHILIP CARLYON was instituted, and upon his resignation in 1869, was succeeded by the present Vicar, the Rev.

JOHN WILLIAMS, who was instituted upon the 17th of August, *in the same year.*

E. C. Wood  
Naval Chaplain?  
Bell

## CHAPTER XI.

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### The Parish of Manaton.

**M**ANATON, or Manadon, in the Hundred of Teignbridge, the Deanery of Moreton, and the Archdeaconry of Totnes, lies about eight miles from Ashburton and four from its post town of Moretonhampstead, and in 1871 returned a population of 403 persons scattered over 6,393 acres of land.

We find two Manors of Manaton mentioned in Domesday; the first of these, which is there written Manedore, had (at the period of the survey) passed from the hands of "Colbert" into those of Odo, who held it under Juhel de Totenais; of the second, the Norman Conqueror permitted Eldred (who had been a thane or noble at the Court of Edward the Confessor) to retain possession.

These were probably the two Manors now known as Great and Little Manaton, and it is stated in the *Magna Britannia* that the first of them belonged at an early period to the family of Dennis, of Blagdon, and passed by successive marriages to Horton and Thorn.

The ancient family of Dennis derive their descent from Iellanus Dacus, the Dane, or "Le Deneis," and a descendant of his, Ralph Dacus, or Le Deneis, was Lord of Pancras Week, in the Hundred of Black Torrington, in the reign of King Henry II. The ancestral coat of this family (az; three Danish battle axes erect; or) was, of course, adopted by them in allusion to their origin.

Sir Robert Le Deneis, the fifth in descent from Jellanus, died without issue male; his sisters and co-heirs married Ferrers and Kirkham, and William (a younger son of Ralph before mentioned) became the common ancestor not only of Sir Robert Dennis, of Blagdon and Manaton, but also of the rest of the numerous branches into which the family afterwards spread.

The Thorns, when they had inherited the Manor, sold it to Dymock, from whom it passed through the Brittrichestons to Wivell, of whom it was purchased by Southcote, and it eventually came into the possession of the Lanes, of Coffleet. The Earl of Devon is Lord of the Manor of Little Manaton.

Hountor, although described as a Tithing in the reign of Richard I., was a Manor at the taking of the Domesday Survey, and then formed parcel of the estates pertaining to Tavistock Abbey, being held under the Abbot by Rainald. Towards the end of the twelfth century, however, it became the property of a Knight who is described as Sir Hugh de Hountor (or Hundatore according to the ancient spelling), and after remaining in his family for two generations, was eventually sold by his grandson to Langdon.

It was afterwards sold to a member of the old Devonshire house of Gervis, which is known to have been settled in Exeter, and to have been

in good repute there in the reign of King John (A.D., 1199). Walter Gervais, who was Mayor of Exeter in the second year of King Henry III. (1218), built the first bridge over the river Exe, at an expense of £3,000—an immense sum in those days. This bridge, constructed chiefly at his own expense, is supposed to have been commenced about the year 1250, and finished in 1295. Before its erection people who wished to enter the western side of the city were compelled to cross the river in boats, and this very necessary work has rendered (as Prince says) the name of Gervis deservedly famous to all generations. Upon his death Walter Gervais gave a large quantity of valuable land for “the maintenance and reparation of the bridge.” He is supposed to have been the father of Nicholas Gervis, to whom Robert de Mandeville, Lord of the Manor of Wonford, granted “all Kingswell lying on the north side of the way, where the gallows stands,” and from him it descended to his son, Sir Walter Gervis, whose daughter Alice was married to Sir William Speke, Knight, grandson of Sir Richard le Espek, of Brandford Speke, near Exeter.

From the Gervis's the Manor of Hountor passed by sale to the Dymocks, and from the latter to Southcote (the then possessor of Great Manaton). It is now the property of the family of French. The great tithes of Little Manaton are appropriated to Salisbury Cathedral (see *Magna Brit.* p. 329).

The Parish Church, standing by the side of a well-kept village green, is dedicated to St. Winifred (Abbess), and consists of a chancel raised above the nave, which opens into the north and south aisles beneath four obtuse, moulded arches, supported upon clustered columns of Perpendicular date; a south porch with a parvise over it, and a tower at the western end, containing four bells. The eastern window, which has been restored, is of “Flamboyant” character; it is of three lights, and filled with stained glass, representing the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of our Blessed Lord. It is dedicated to the glory of God and to the memory of Dorothea Vavasour, who died April 4th, 1860.

The south chancel window, which has also been restored and filled with stained glass, retains its Perpendicular tracery, and the ancient priest's door on the same side opens beneath a very debased arch. Some of the stalls in this part of the Church are of old oak, and carved with the linen pattern.

Two chantries, which were doubtless anciently the Chapels of our Lady



and of St. John, are separated from the chancel by parceloses, in the one on the north side we also noticed some ancient oaken benches, and an aperture evidently blocked up in the eastern wall. In the south Chantry Chapel there is an angular recess in the south-eastern corner which was originally provided for the reception of an image—most probably for that of the Blessed Virgin; and here also is a memorial for Richard Eastchurch, who died Rector of Manaton in 1661. In the chancel also are several memorials of the Carwithen family, and amongst them are inscriptions for the Rev. John Carwithen, five years Rector, who died in 1752, William Carwithen, also Rector, 1818, and William Carwithen, D.D., who died Rector of Stoke Climsland, Cornwall, but who had been instituted to the Rectory of Manaton upon his own petition on the 7th of December, 1824.

The windows are for the most part filled with good Perpendicular tracery, but those at the eastern ends of the aisles have been badly renewed. We were glad to find some of the ancient fifteenth century glass remaining towards the western end of the north aisle, and in addition to the Tudor Rose, we were able to recognise the symbols of St. Peter, St. Andrew, St. Paul, and St. John, the latter holding the chalice, with the holy dove descending on him. The window arches are good, and the tower arch is lofty, well-proportioned, and deeply moulded. The granite font is plain and octagonal, and the interior archway of the western door is very debased. The Church has been re-seated with low open benches, but we must deprecate the bad taste which has placed the neatly constructed modern pulpit in such a position as to partly obscure four of the painted figures upon the lower part of the screen.

There are several gravestones in the south aisle removed from the nave, which has been repaved, and we noticed there memorials for the families of Nosworthy and French; but none of earlier date than the first half of the seventeenth century.

The parvise is in a somewhat dilapidated condition, but there are traces of an earlier building in the presence of "ashlar," or hewn stone (apparently portions of windows or doorways) in the staircase leading to it. The present fabric, without doubt, dates from the fifteenth century, when in common with many other of our Devonshire Churches, it was probably almost, if not entirely, rebuilt.

The beautiful screen, extending across the nave and aisles, although

mutilated, bears traces of rich illumination and magnificent carving; it has a good cornice of vine leaves and grapes, and the period of its erection is commemorated by the presence (as in the stained glass) of the Tudor Rose. Carved figures of the Twelve Apostles surround the central doors, and although they have been much defaced, we were able to identify St. Peter, *with two keys*, St. Andrew, St. Philip, St. Thomas, St. Jude, with a boat, St. Stephen, with stones in his chasuble, St. Paul, St. Matthew, St. Bartholomew, St. Matthias, and St. James the Less.

The lights in the upper part are surrounded by perpendicular flowers and *fleur de lis*, and are filled with good third pointed tracery, and amongst the figures of saints in the lower panels, may be seen St. Helena, with the Latin Cross, inscribed I N R I, St. Blaze, Bishop and Martyr, with a Woolcomb, St. Edmund, King and Martyr, the Mitred figure of a Bishop, St. Matthias, St. James the Great, St. Bartholomew, and St. Paul.

On the lower part of the door are three of the Doctors of the Western Church: St. Gregory, the Pope wearing the triple crown, St. Jerome, habited as a Cardinal, and St. Ambrose, vested as a Bishop. The figure of St. Augustine became sometime the victim of a rash attempt at restoration, and the next panel appears to be filled with the representation of a female saint.

From here southwards the colours are very gaudy, and apparently some local artist has recklessly attempted to improve upon the original, but one can still discern the forms of St. Peter, St. Philip, St. Simon, St. James the Less, St. John, with chalice and serpent, and St. Barbara with her tower. The first six panels in front of the north Chancel Chapel, have been entirely defaced. The whole of the figures on the lower part of the south chantry screen have been shamefully daubed over, and we could only recognise the figure of the Magdalene, holding the alabastrum.

There are the remains of mutilated image brackets on the Chancel piers, and the nodi in the roof are carved in good Perpendicular foliage. We also noticed an old parish chest, perhaps coeval with the erection of the present Church.

The porch retains its ancient stone benches, and has a good vaulted roof of stone, supported upon six slender circular shafts; the jambs of the doorway are deeply moulded, and the parvise window is on the eastern

side, on the western side there is an external projection containing the staircase leading to this chamber.

The Church is buttressed and embattled, and has an external rood turret on the south side; but the doors leading to it have been blocked.

The tower is unbuttressed, but is surmounted by four pinnacles. The tower doorway is peculiarly massive, the arch being formed of four enormous blocks of granite; it is ascended by a staircase contained in a handsome octagonal turret.

We noticed traces of an aspersorium on the eastern side of the porch, and upon inquiry were informed that one remained there within the memory of some of the inhabitants, but that it unaccountably disappeared some years since: a similar story is extant relative to the churchyard cross, the pace of which still remains on the south side of the sacred building, and which was also mysteriously removed.

Whoever the individual may have been who performed these acts of vandalism, he carried on his anti-superstitious operations with such secrecy that his name was never discovered. He evidently lived after his time: had he delighted the world in the sixteenth century, he might possibly have made his fortune by attaching himself to Queen Elizabeth's visitors, and would then have had a larger scope for his misplaced zeal than he could possibly have found in the pretty little village of Manaton.

The churchyard is neat and well kept, and there is a very fine and ancient yew tree on its north side.

The Parsonage was built about thirty years since, at which period the ancient rectory, which appears to have dated from the fifteenth century, was pulled down: a sketch of it is preserved in one of the register books, and the massive arched doorway of the same period as the old house itself is still retained, and forms the entrance to the lawn.

The Church was much injured by lightning in 1779, and a memorandum of this calamity is also to be found in the Parish Records:—"A remarkably awful event happened on Monday morning early, December 13th, 1779. A terrible thunderstorm, attended with large hail and lightning, fell on the chancel and Church. The east front of the chancel was demolished, as likewise a handsome new altar piece and the communion table. A large stone was hurled into the parsonage seat, which broke some part of it. The northern side of the tower was split from the top almost to the

bottom. One of the pinnacles, 4 feet 8 inches in length, 21 inches in diameter, and 5 feet 3 inches in circumference, supposed to be about a thousand weight, broke in the roof of the northern and southern sides of the Church, and crushed some seats in its fall near the singing seats. In short, a sight shocking to all beholders. Several stones were carried from the tower, above 36 yards north into a field beyond the churchyard, though all accounts agree that the storm came from the north-west, and directed its course to the south-east."

The advowson of the Rectory passed by marriage from Dennis to Kirkham, and Nicholas Kirkham presented William Le Cornu to it in 1323. The Kirkham's appear to have occasionally sold the right of patronage, since William Hankeford and John Champernoun exercised it in 1423, and Henry, Marquis of Exeter, in 1538. We can find but one Rector of the name of Kirkham, viz., Richard Kirkham, instituted 3rd January, 1517. The name of the Rector is omitted in the "*Valor Ecclesiasticus*," but the institutions (preserved in the Registry Office of the Bishop of Exeter) prove that it was Christopher Croft who was instituted on the 24th of August, 1535, and resigned in 1538. His Rectory was valued at £13 11s. 7d.

James Hill was instituted on the 27th of November, 1645, patron *hac*, vice Edward Mitchell, of Exeter. He was deprived of his living by the Puritans, who accused him of drunkenness and gaming, and, according to "Walker," the latter charge was sworn to by one of the committee, who was himself the person who played with him for sixpence at some game, and so (our author remarks) "the same person was judge, witness, and equally criminal with the offender, which is certainly a very uncommon case." He survived the Restoration, re-obtained possession of his living, and upon his death, in 1661, was succeeded by Richard Eastchurch on the 17th of June in that year.

A short time since we noticed in the columns of a newspaper a table purporting to be a list of Ministers who, after the Act of St. Bartholomew was put in force, suffered for "ten years the most fearful persecutions," and "being ejected from their church livings" formed "the first body of Nonconformist Ministers." We make the accompanying extract from this list:—

"Nosworthy, M.A., John, was ejected from the Rectory of Manaton. During the Parliamentary contest he was imprisoned and subjected to most

severe treatment." Now, we have been at some pains to shew that Mr. Nosworthy could only have held possession of Manaton by force of arms, that is by turning out the rightful possessor. As a Presbyterian probably (which his memorialist confesses him to have been) he did not care for the ceremonies of institution and induction; at any rate, he never underwent them, and we cannot imagine what grounds any one can have for considering him unfairly treated in having to resign what was never his, and that which nothing but the anarchy and confusion of the times could have permitted him for one single hour to retain; and whilst we are on this subject we may remark, that in the whole of the list above referred to we have only found one appointment made with the slightest show of legality, viz., a presentation to a donative Curacy, which from the peculiar character of the patronage did not require any recognition from ecclesiastical authority. After the death of Mr. Eastchurch, in 1698, the Rev. Thomas Carwithen was instituted, and having purchased the advowson from the old patrons, its reversion is still retained by his descendants. Between the years 1698 and 1841 there were eight Carwithens Rectors of Manaton, the last of the name being the Rev. J. C. Carwithen, the present Vicar of Stokenham.

The present Rector is the Rev. R. Cooper Douglas, who was instituted in 1869, and to whose kindness and attention we are much indebted. He informs us that the registers commence:—Baptisms, 1653; marriages, 1654; burials, 1653. The modern Rectory House is a comfortable residence, and there are 40 acres of glebe.

On the downs, opposite the Church, is "Bowerman's Nose," a pile of stones generally supposed to have formed a rock idol. It is on the side of a hill, and is formed by several rocks piled on a solid basis about 12 feet square, and rises to the height of 30 feet. Towards the top it diminishes in size, and at a short distance the broken outline of the cluster presents an appearance very similar to the rude profile of a human countenance. It is evidently formed by nature, and none of the tors scattered about in its vicinity present a similar appearance, and it stands alone, "the undisputed deity of the surrounding scene."

The following institutions to the Rectory of Manaton were extracted from the lists preserved in the Registry Office of the Bishop of Exeter, by the late Rev. George Oliver, D.D., September 7th, 1824, and were inserted at the com-

mencement of the Parochial Registers by the late Rev. William Carwithen, D.D., Rector and Patron of the Rectory of Manaton:—

SIMON BEALDE, admitted January 19th, 1317.

WILLIAM LE CORNU, admitted October 11th, 1323. Patron, Nicholas Kirkham.

PHILIP DE NASSINGTON, on death of last Rector, March 14th, 1335. Patron, the same.

THOMAS DE STAFFORD, admitted April 26th, 1349. Same patron. He exchanged for Chudleigh with

RICHARD BOLHAM, April 15th, 1352. Patrons, the Kirkham family.

WALTER DURLYNG, March 23rd, 1358. Same Patrons.

EDWARD FISSACRE, exchanged for Widecombe with

WILLIAM DE TREADELBEARE, September 11th, 1388. Same Patrons.

ROGER DE SUE, on whose resignation

WILLIAM BOTRYGAN succeeded, October 7th, 1423. Patrons, William Hankeford and John Champernoun. He exchanged for St. Dunstons, Canterbury with GEOFFERY LANGBROKE, July 7th, 1443.

JOHN TOKER on the death of the last Rector, 1464. Patrons, the Kirkham family.

JOHN TYAKE, on whose death

RICHARD KIRKHAM succeeded, January 3rd, 1517. Patrons the same.

NICHOLAS OLIVER, on the resignation of Richard, June 8th, 1521. Same Patrons.

CHRISTOPHER CROFT, August 12th, 1535, on whose resignation

STEPHEN WHITE succeeded, October 1st, 1538. Patron, Henry, Marquess of Exeter.

JOHN WHIDBOURNE, on Stephens resignation, August 4th, 1566. Patrons, the Kirkham family. He resigned in 1574, and was succeeded by

HENRY GRIFFITHS on the 10th of September. Patrons, the same.

RICHARD HILL, March 21st, 1579. Same Patrons.

WILLIAM HILL, on death of last Rector, December 4th, 1612. Same Patrons.

JAMES HILL, on death of William, November 27th, 1645. Patron, *hac vice* Edward Mitchell, of Exeter.

RICHARD EASTCHURCH, on the death of Mr. Hill, June 17th, 1661. Patrons, the Kirkham family. He died 11th February, 1698, aged 61 years, and was succeeded by

THOMAS CARWITHEN, on the 19th May in that year. Patrons, the Kirkham family.

CHARLES CARWITHEN, February 11th. Patrons, Carwithen family.

JOHN CARWITHEN, on death of Charles, January 26th, 1747. Patron, William Carwithen, of Exeter.

ELIAS CAITER, on the death of the last named, May 5th, 1753. Same Patron.

GEORGE CARWITHEN, on the death of Elias Caiter, July 16th, 1766. Patron, George Carwithen. He died 1776, and was succeeded by

THOMAS CARWITHEN, on June 26th. Patrons, Carwithen family.

WILLIAM CARWITHEN, June 1st, 1780. Same Patrons.

WILLIAM CARWITHEN, M.A., succeeded on the death of his father, and was instituted on his own petition; he resigned for Stoke Climsland, February 4th, 1841, and was succeeded by his son, the Rev.

JOHN CHARLES CARWITHEN, the present Vicar of Stokenham, March 29th, 1841, (Patron the late Rector).

WILLIAM P. WOOD (on his own petition, being Patron for this turn) succeeded in 1848, (Mr. Carwithen having resigned for Challacombe). Mr. Wood vacated for Saddington, Leicestershire, and was followed by the Rev.

GEORGE JENKINS, November 26th, 1852. Patron *hac vice* J. Jenkins, Esq., M.D. The Rev.

R. COOPER DOUGLAS, M.A., the present Rector, succeeded on the resignation of Mr. Jenkins, January 6th, 1869. Patron *hac vice* Bartholomew C. Gidley, Esq., of Exeter.

## CHAPTER XII.

### The Manor and Ancient Priory Church of Ipplepen.

IPPLEPEN, in the Deanery of that name, and in the Hundred of Haytor, lies about five miles from Totnes, and about three from Newton Abbot, and includes the Hamlets of Daighton or Doignton, Combe-Fishaere, and Asstor; in 1871 it returned a population of 846 persons, residing over 3070 acres of land.

We read in "Domesday" that Goda possessed the Manor of Ipplepen in the reign of Edward the Confessor; at the Conquest it passed into the hands of the Norman, Ralph de Fulgères. Oliver tells us that one of this family, at an early period, conferred the patronage of St. Andrew's Church at Ipilpen, or Ipelpen, on the Canons of the Abbey of Fougères in the Diocese of Rennes, in Brittany. The Rector of the Church, holding his situation immediately from this establishment, and probably having two "religious" living with him, was called a Prior; this custom generally prevailing in cells of alien monasteries.

The French Abbey of Fougères, or Fulgères, was partially founded by the family from whom it took its name. Some time after its first foundation it received additional donations from a certain Henry de Fulgères, and he it was, very possibly, who conferred upon it the patronage of our Devonshire Church.

The Manor remained in the possession of this family till the reign of King John, when, as we find in the Hundred Roll, it was seized by the King, and conferred upon Nicholas de Lettrès, but on his death (sine prole)



King Henry III. restored it to the family of Fulgères in the person of their direct representative, Almeric de St. Amand.

In the reign of Edward I. the Prior had an independent corporate character, being called upon by the name of Prior of Iplepen to show his warrant for exercising certain franchises in his Manor of Iplepen. In this proceeding Almaricus de St. Amand intervened, and claimed for himself the Manor and franchises—a claim which was admitted by the Prior (*Placita de quo Warranto*, p. 166). King Edward III. seized the Priory May 27th, 1350 (*Ratione temporalium Abbathie de Ffeulgeres in manu sua occasione guerre inter ipsum et illos de Francia mote existentium*).

The patronage remained with the Crown till A.D., 1439, when Bishop Lacy procured Royal license to appropriate the Rectory of Iplepen to the Warden and Canons of the Collegiate Church of Ottery St. Mary, and this grant was confirmed by King Edward IV., November 28th, 1461. Upon the dissolution of the College of St. Mary at Ottery, the advowson of Ipplepen was given to the Dean and Canons of Windsor, who reserved the patronage of the Vicarage, but leased the rectorial tithes, glebe, and the Rectory House to the Fords, of Nutwell, and afterwards renewed the lease in favour of the Drakes, one of which family had married a co-heiress of Ford. Lysons, who wrote in 1822, says that the Drakes had then held the lease for more than 150 years. The appropriators have 99 acres of glebe, and a rent-charge of £495 a year, besides the possession of the ancient Rectory, which is pleasantly situated in a large lawn surrounded with trees. The Vicar has only two acres, one rood, and two perches, with a rent-charge of 5s. He resides in a small house close to the Church.

The Charter Roll (No. 82) 11th King Edward II., records the Royal Grant to John de Sancto Amando of free warren, a market on Thursday, and two fairs for three days each on the Feasts of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist and of St. Andrew the Apostle.

At the Reformation, the Crown became possessed of the Manor, as well as the Church, and sold it to Sir Thomas Kitson; from him it eventually passed to Sir John Pettus, who disposed of it in parcels in 1658. The Lords had formerly the power of capital punishment (see Hundred Roll). A portion of the Manor of Battleford, and the ancient Manor of Comb-Fishacre, which passed to the Uffletes with the heiress of Fishacre, but is now dismembered, is also in this parish.

The Church, dedicated as we have said before, to St. Andrew, is situated upon high ground to the north-west of the village, and comprehends a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, a south porch, and a fine tower, containing six bells. The whole building is of great strength, the walls and tower are supported by plain buttresses, and there are small octagonal turrets at the western ends of the aisles. On entering the Church by the south porch, which has a parvise, or priests' chamber over it, we noticed on the eastern side a good example of the aspersion, or holy-water stoup. This porch much resembles the one at Bicester, Dioc Oxon, and was probably built c. 1420. The pillars and arches separating the nave from the aisles are formed of a fine red stone, but are now thickly covered with plaster, with the exception of those standing behind the screen, which have been well restored. The capitals are carved in foliage, and they appear to belong to the late Decorated style, and to date circa 1400.

The screen and pulpit are both of early Perpendicular work, and have both suffered much from rude attempts at restoration. The Saints, still traceable on the lower panels of the first, have been so much obliterated as to have become unrecognisable, whilst the pulpit, which is adorned with four tabernacled niches, with crockets and finials, has had the figures which anciently occupied those recesses altogether removed.

The tracery of the eastern windows has been filled with old glass collected from the other windows. There are in it several figures of Saints, amongst which St. Thomas the Apostle, and St. Britius, Bp. and C. are conspicuous. Amongst other shields, we noticed here also the arms of Fishacre (three fish haurient); Bishop Lacy's arms, or; three shovellers' heads erased, were there a few years since, and perhaps still remain, though we could not discern them.

In the north chancel window there is also some very old glass, on which are depicted the instruments of the Crucifixion, the five wounds of Christ, the Chalice (of twelfth century shape), and a shield containing the ancient "verbal emblem" of the Trinity. There is a large ambry in the north-eastern corner, and opposite to it in the south wall is an oblong recess, which seems to have been intended for a credence table. It is precisely similar to one at Chesterton, which dates c. 1320. The piscina, of the same red stone, which is so lavishly employed all over the building, appears to belong to the commencement of the thirteenth century; it has been recently

restored. Under the south chancel window are three rude steps, which may have served the purposes of an ambo.

There are two side Chapels at the eastern extremity of the aisles, that on the north side being used as a vestry, they are both separated by *parceloses* from the chancel.

The font, removed from its ancient position near a small door in the north aisle to the western end of the nave, is a good example of early Perpendicular carving. The upper part displays shields of arms, whilst round the base are the effigies of Saints, amongst which are St. Barbara and St. Edward, King and Confessor. We noticed here, also, the ancient arms of Courtenay (or; three Torteaux; a label of three points), and the cognizance of the once puissant family of Ferrers (or; on a bend S three horse-shoes arg).

In the pavement of the south ambulatory there is a slab bearing an inscription to the memory of Richard Ham, a former Vicar, containing a play upon his name. It runs thus:—

In memoriam Rich Ham hujus Ecclesiae quondam pastoris, qui in Musæo, Lectioni, Precebus et Jejuniis incumbens, Spiritum ejus efflavit die sexto Septembris, 1672.

Conditur hoc tumulo corpus venerabilis Hami  
*Hami* quo pisces Christus captabat acuti  
 Quamvis nunc vili cubat ipse rubigine plenus  
 Attamen ex (putredine) clarus in æthera surget.

The windows of the Church are all of decidedly Perpendicular date, with the exception of the one on the north side of the chancel, which appears to be a transition from the previous style, and therefore rather earlier. The dripstone terminations are corbelled in several instances. We noticed one grotesque head in particular, which appears to somewhat resemble a corbel, at Headington Church, which is supposed to be early English.

Sterling, who wrote a history of Newton, calls Ipplepen "a Saxon Church." We cannot see what authority he had for this assertion. Parts of the building are, no doubt, older than other parts, and we fancied that we could discover traces of herring-bone work in the basement of the chancel wall, but the whole edifice has been so thickly covered with plaster as to make it difficult to form an opinion as to the character of the masonry. The most ancient parts seem to be the tower and the eastern wall of the chancel, but the tower windows have been tampered with, and it is impossible to fix the date of it

with anything like certainty. The tower door appears to partake of early English characteristics. Most probably this Church, in common with most of the other Churches in Devonshire, was rebuilt at the commencement of the fifteenth century.

The ancient cross, much mutilated, remains on the southern side of the churchyard. We find from "*Oliver's Monasticon*," that the Parish Registers are very imperfect:—"There is a dilapidated paper book of baptisms only, extending from 1558 to 1650, in a neglected condition." Another paper register of baptisms, marriages, and burials has been tolerably and regularly kept since the year 1671. Most likely all records connected with this Church were seized at the Reformation, upon the suppression of the College of Ottery St. Mary, and hence their paucity.

William Holcombe, who was Vicar in 1498, was also Vicar of Ashburton, and by his will left small sums to the poor of both parishes, and money to his successors, "to pray for him in the pulpit on Sundays and feast-days for three years).

Oliver Smith was the Vicar at the time of the dissolution of monasteries, and whilst he held the Vicarage, Woodland Church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was built and consecrated by Bishop Veysey, in the summer of 1536; and, by order of King Henry VIII., the parishioners were always to pay 5s. yearly to the Mother Church.

William Gibbs was the Vicar during the disastrous troubles in the reign of Charles I., and according to "*Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy*" (part ii., p. 250), "He was cruelly driven from his Vicarage by the Puritans, but lived to re-take possession at the restoration of monarchy.

A. Terrier says:—"In Cromwell's days we were plundered of all our sacred and precious utensils."

Of the Priors of Ipplepen, as well as of its Vicars since 1438, a complete list has been preserved down to the present time.

THOMAS is the first met with, he resigned in 1274.

LUKE, a Canon of St. Peter de Fougères succeeded, he was admitted by Bishop Bronescombe on September 14th, 1274, "*ad prioratum de Ypelepenn ad presentationem Abbatis et Conventus Sci Petri de Filger.*"

ROLANDUS, a Canon of Ipplepen, succeeded his superior March 6th, 1310.

GALFRIDUS occurs 1315 and 1334. In his time, May 3rd, 1318, Bishop Stapledon consecrated the High Altar of Ipplepen Church.

ROBERT DE CHESTERFIELD resigned his office April 30th, 1350.

ROGER CLAPPYSHALE DE CHESTERFIELD, aged 25, was admitted by Bishop Grandisson May 27th, 1350. Patron King Edward III., who had seized the temporalities of the Abbey of Fulgères because he was at war with France. This Prior exchanged for Ashley, in the Diocese of Norwich, with

WILLIAM DE NORBURY July 2nd, 1386. Patron King Richard II.

WALTER DE TROTE, who was a benefactor to Slapton Collegiate Church, succeeded, his will made November 4th, 1399, was proved at Bishops Clist March 12th, 1403-4. He desired to be buried in Exeter Cathedral, and ordered six torches for his funeral, each to be made of thirteen pounds of wax and six pounds of rosin; he exchanged Ipplepen for a Canonry at Exeter with

JOHN OF EXETER on September 15th, 1396. Patron King Richard II. This Prior complained to Bishop Stafford that a burglary had been committed in his house, and that several deeds and muniments had been stolen. His lordship from London June 15th, 1398, issued directions to the official of the Archdeaconry of Totnes and to its Rural Deans, Rectors, and Vicars to proclaim the sentence of excommunication against the offenders if they did not make restitution within fifteen days.

JOHN DE SPRYNGTHORP, instituted October 24th, 1400. Patron King Henry IV. He exchanged for Westerkele Rectory dioc of Lincoln, with

JOHN MOREHAY November 21st, 1402. Patron King Henry VI.

JOHN THORALBY. On whose cession

RICHARD HORE was admitted May 16th, 1426, on whose resignation

JOHN BATE succeeded July 5th, 1427, on whose resignation

JOHN FRANK was admitted July 13th, 1423. Patron still, King Henry VI.

JOHN CAMMELL, on whose resignation

JOHN SARGER, the last Prior and Rector, was instituted December 19th, 1432.

The grant of the Priory made by Bishop Lacy to the Warden and Canons of St. Mary Ottery, on the 13th March, 1439, was confirmed by King Edward IV., November 28th, 1461.

#### VICARS OF IPPLEPEN.

JOHN BERDE was admitted to the Vicarage of Ipplepen September 28th, 1432, on the presentation of the Warden and Canons of Ottery St. Mary, on whose death

JOHN EVELYNG was instituted June 28th, 1469. (It is proved by the Stewards accounts of 1483, that this Vicar received £26 13s. 4d. per annum).

WILLIAM HOLCOMBE, 1498. (See his will printed in the *Monast Dioc.*)

THOMAS CORNYSSH, Warden of Ottery, Bishop of Tyne and suffragan to Fox, King, Redmayne, and Oldam, Bishops of Exeter. He was also Provost of Oriel College, Oxford, he retained his Vicarage till his death, June 3rd, 1513, and was buried at Wells; he was instituted May 21st, 1499.

THOMAS MICHELL, S.T.P., Warden of Ottery, was collated to the Vicarage June 24th, 1513, on whose death

OLIVER SMYTH, Warden of Ottery, was admitted Vicar April 10th, 1533. He was also Vicar of Ilsington, and during his time the New Chapel of St. John the Baptist, at Woodland was erected and consecrated.

WALTER HELE, S.T.B., was not presented as Risdon affirms, by the College of Windsor, which did not obtain possession of Ipplepen before October 7th 1547. He was collated by Bishop Veysey October 16th, 1544.

THOMAS PARKER, on whose death

WILLIAM HARTLEY was admitted January 20th, 1606-7. Patron *hac vice* Thomas Ford de Ilsington.

CHRISTOPHER WARREN admitted June 30th, 1607. Patron as before.

LAWRENCE HART attended the Visitation as Vicar April 17th, 1622, but his institution is not recorded.

WILLIAM GIBBS, whose institution also cannot be found, is stated to have been plundered by the Puritans.

ROBERT HAM, succeeded October 7th, 1663.

JOHN SHEERS, 7th February, 1673. Patron *hac vice* Edward Pynsent, by concession of Windsor College.

JOSEPH TAUNTON buried August 5th, 1723.

WILLIAM TAUNTON, his son, succeeded, and died 1783.

GEORGE WILLIS followed June 18th, 1784. Patrons Dean and Chapter of Windsor

WILLIAM COSENS, August 24th, 1789. Same patrons.

WILLIAM COSENS, June 19th, 1801. Same patrons.

CHRISTOPHER RIGBY, February 24th, 1808. Same patrons.

RANDOLPH MARRIOTT, March 22nd, 1814. Same patrons.

NICHOLAS BROOKING on death of last Vicar, February 16th, 1843. The present Vicar the Rev.

ROBERT HARRIS was instituted in 1862.

We are indebted to the *Monasticon, Diocesis Exoniensis*, compiled by the late Rev. George Oliver, D.D., for this list of the Priors and Vicars of Ipplepen.

### CHAPTER XIII.



## Woodland.

THE little village of Woodland, in the Hundred of Haytor, Deanery of Ipplepen, and Archdeaconry of Totnes, is about three miles distant from the town of Ashburton.

The Manor appears to have been held with Ipplepen (being originally a portion of that parish), and like it, to have successively belonged to the families of Fulgerés, De Lettrès, and St. Amand. At the Reformation it became the property of the Crown, and was sold to Sir Thomas Kitson, and from him it eventually passed to Sir Thomas Pettus, who disposed of it in parcels in 1658, the manorial rights being attached to each purchase. Lake, Levaton, and Gurrington are estates in this parish; Lake appears to have been bought by Thomas Pynsent, Gurrington by Thomas Culling, and Levaton by William Dyer, at the time of the dismemberment of the Manor. The Dyers held Levaton until the year 1790, when Sarah, sister and co-heiress of John Dyer, brought the estate by her marriage with the Rev. Francis Milman to its present possessors.

The son of the Rev. F. Milman was Physician to His Majesty King George III., and was created a baronet on the 4th November, 1800. He married the heiress of Hart, of Stapledon, in Gloucestershire, and was succeeded by his eldest son Francis.

Until the year 1536 (as we have said above) Woodland was a portion of the Parish of Ipplepen. On the 10th April, 1533, Oliver Smyth, the Warden

of St. Marys Ottery, was admitted Vicar of Ipplepen. He had been instituted (as we have already said) to Ilsington on November 19th, 1532, and it was whilst he held the Vicarage that the Chapel (as it is styled) of St. John the Baptist, of Woodland, was erected and consecrated, in the summer of 1536 (*Veysey's Register*, vol. ii, 82). By order of King Henry VIII. the parishioners were to pay 5s. yearly to the Mother Church. His will, dated July 8th, 1543, was proved at Exeter, June 10th, 1545, by John Fysher, the last Warden of Ottery St. Mary.

The Church consists of a nave opening into a north aisle beneath three moulded arches, supported by clustered Perpendicular columns with plain capitals, a south porch, and a low embattled tower at the western end containing three bells. The tower has an octagonal stair-turret, and four very slender pinnacles in a dilapidated condition. The western doorway has been blocked up, and the exterior of the sacred edifice has been very thickly covered with plaster.

The Church presents a peculiar appearance from the outside; in consequence of the absence of a chancel, the nave and aisle are precisely the same length. The aisle does not appear to have formed a part of the original plan of the building; its windows are all square-headed, and of a later date than those in the nave, which are filled with good Perpendicular tracery. The octagonal font is apparently coeval with the date of the church; some mutilated fragments of the lower part of the screen and the ancient pulpit, with a portion of one of the old benches, still remain.

In the eastern window are some fragments of stained glass. In the upper part of it are seated the four Doctors of the Western Church—St. Jerome, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, and St. Gregory the Great—whilst in the lights are the remains of three pointed elaborate canopies.

The window on the south side of the altar had originally the figures of the four Evangelists, represented by their emblems, but the eagle of St. John only can now be recognised.

The next window on this side is square, and in the upper part of the central light are the initials W. C., twice repeated. This window was most probably inserted by William Culling (perhaps during the time that he was Churchwarden), early in the eighteenth century, and doubtless at the same time the old window eastward of the porch was blocked.

The nodi in the roof of the aisle are well caryed in foliage, with the



exception of two grotesque heads about the centre of the ceiling. The window at the eastern end of the aisle, filled with good tracery, probably removed from the nave when the aisle was added to it, has some armorial bearings in a very mutilated state. One of the shields appears to bear arg., a saltire, or; very possibly these were the arms of the family of Dyer. In *Burke's General Armory* we read as follows:—"Dyer, as borne by William Andrew Dyer, of London, Esq., representative of the Russells, of Fordham Abbey, Co. Cambridge, and great-great-great-great grandson of the Protector, Oliver Cromwell. Quarterly first and fourth arg.; a saltire az between four lions rampant gu, for Dyer, &c."

On the north wall of the aisle is a brass to the memory of Thomas Culling, 1670, surmounted by his arms—sa; a griffin segreant az., on a canton a *fleur de lis* of the last impaled with ——— barry; in chief three mullets. There are several ancient memorials of this family in this part of the Church.

In the chancel are many gravestones and several mural tablets belonging to the Dyers, and on the south wall there is an ornamented slab bearing the following inscription—"In memoriam Thomæ Pynsent de Lake Generosi, qui obiit decimo tertio die Maii A.D., 1690. *Ætæt suæ* 75." Above are the arms of Pynsent; gu. a chevron engrailed between three estoiles of six points az. In the tower, the arch of which has been lately opened, we noticed a very ancient parish chest, coeval with the date of the Church.

We are much indebted to the Rev. T. W. Were, the present Vicar, for his kind attention to our enquiries. Since he was licensed to Woodland in 1867, a good Parsonage House has been built at a short distance from the Church and village; he permitted us to inspect the registers of the parish, and the curious and very valuable parochial deeds in his custody. The latter include a "Special permission and license to Mr. William Brooking (who had been nominated by the inhabitants) to celebrate in Woodland during the pleasure of William, Archbishop of Canterbury. A.D., 1532. (It must be borne in mind that at this time the Church of St. John the Baptist was not built). The nomination of the Incumbent is still vested in the principal parishioners.

A letter of King Henry VIII. allowing consecration of the Chapel of St. John the Baptist, and granting that the inhabitants of Woodland may assume a fit Priest to serve the same. A.D., 1536.

Original letters of King Henry VIII., reciting by inspeximus his letters of 1536 (A.D., 1538). The last letters have the great seal in fair condition, and impressed on red wax attached.

A license from Cardinal Pole, Archbishop of Canterbury temp. Philip and Mary), recapitulating and confirming the license during pleasure of William, Archbishop of Canterbury. The registers, which are in a very perfect condition, are contained in one book, and are carefully and neatly kept from the year 1560, when they commence, to the year 1735. The baptisms date from the 12th May, marriages 15th May, and burials headed by the aphorism, "*Ut hora sic vita fugit*," on the 15th May, 1560.

At the commencement of the volume is the following curious memorandum:—"There was a male child born of ye body of Ann How, of this parish, in the year 1722, and 16th day of March, that had no eyes, nor any hollow places for eyes, in the head of it. Test. Edmund Pearce, Curate of Woodland."

The churchyard is entered by a lych-gate. We were shown portions of two ancient crosses, which have been removed to Woodland Farm. We much regret to say that what was apparently once the base of the village cross is now hollowed out, and used for a pigs-trough. The shaft supports the roof of an outhouse, whilst a portion of another cross is prostrate beneath some of the farm buildings. We trust that these fragments will soon be reconstructed and restored to their proper position in the centre of the village, and on the south side of the churchyard respectively.

The parish lands of Woodland consist of a dwelling-house and several fields, containing about nine acres, at Diptford; a field at Ashburton, near the mile-stone, and part of a close called Reve Aere; and a house and small garden at Ilington. The first trust deed is dated 5th June, 11th Elizabeth, 1569, and the last in 1760. The annual sum of £10 is paid out of the rents and profits to the Vicar of Woodland, and the residue is carried to the account of the Churchwardens. William Dyer, of Levaton, who was buried on the 2nd February, 1696, gave by will £20, the interest to be paid every half-year, and equally divided among poor husbandmen or day-labourers of the parish.

Emma, relict of Thomas Culling, gave to the Minister, Churchwardens, and others of the parish £40, to be put out and continued for ever as a parish stock, the produce thereof to be distributed twice every year by the

Minister, Churchwardens, and Overseers, with the consent of the heirs of the Cullings, of Woodland, among such of the poor of the parish as should frequently come to the Chapel and hear the Divine Service of the Church of England. In 1810 the poor-house of Woodland was built with this money, the parish binding themselves to pay the interest of 4 per cent. per annum for the money borrowed.

William Culling, by will dated 9th July, 1722, gave the greater fore chamber of the Church House of Woodland for the use of the parish for Parish and Church meetings, and for making up of parish accounts, and for keeping of parish writings, &c., but not to be set out at rent or any person to dwell in the same; and he directed that the said chamber should be repaired from time to time out of the rents and profits of the said Church House. He also gave to the Minister and Churchwardens, and their successors for ever, an annuity of 40s. (to be paid out of "Little Down, Great Lake Down, Bury Lake, and the two Furze Groves"), to be employed in paying for Bibles, and for the schooling of as many poor children of the parish as the money would reach unto, and he desired that the said annuity should be yearly bestowed from time to time by the proprietor of the house in which he then dwelt, and that the Minister and Churchwardens and their successors should enter in some book yearly at Whitsuntide how the said 40s. were yearly bestowed, with a power of distress given to the said Minister and Churchwardens for levying the said annuity. The Dean and Canons of Windsor are the impropiators of the great tithes. The old Churchwardens' accounts are well and neatly kept. The parish extends over 1,606 acres, and the census of 1871 showed a population of 160 people.

The following list of the Incumbents of Woodland, is extracted from the Parish Register:—

WILLIAM BROOKING, A.D., 1532.

RICHARD RENNEL, buried June 29th, 1681.

WALTER STEPHENS.

THOMAS RENNEL, born in Staverton.

NATHANIEL BICKFORD.

JOHN WHITING.

ARTHUR SHEAR.

PHILIP PINE.

EDMUND PEARSE, born in Staverton.

JOHN WHITE, resigned 1867, and was succeeded by the Rev.

T. W. WERE, who is the first Incumbent with the title of Vicar.

## CHAPTER XIV.

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### The Manor of Ilington.

THE Village of Ilington (occupying an elevated situation at the foot of the Haytor downs) is distant about five miles from Ashburton, and nearly seven from the post town of Newton Abbot. The Hamlets of Knighton-Beaumont, Leveton, Brimley, and Sigford are included in this parish.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor the Manor of Ilington (or as it was then written, Ilestintone) was the property of Merlesuen. The Domesday Survey shews that in the redistribution of property it was made appendant to the Manor of Linton (on the north coast of Devon), and was given by the Norman Conqueror to his trusty follower, Ralph Paganel, whom he had already created Sheriff of Yorkshire. How long this family continued to hold the Manor we have no means of ascertaining; William Paganel, the last of them, was summoned to Parliament as a baron in the reign of Edward II., but at that time the Ilington property had passed through the ancient house of Beaumont, and was then held by the Dinhams, who had succeeded to it in the reign of Edward I.

After the death of John, Lord Dinham, in 1501, it was divided among his representatives; he had been summoned to Parliament as Baron Dinham in 1464, and in 1485 was made Lord Treasurer. He left no surviving issue, and his four sisters and co-heirs married respectively Sir Foulke Fitzwarren, John Lord Zouch, Sir Nicholas Carew, and Sir Thomas Arundell. The Arundells possessing one share of the Ilington estates by descent, afterwards acquired two other shares, and these three shares eventually descended to

the Fords, and were conveyed by the devisees of Sir Henry Ford, who died in 1684, to Mr. Egerton Filmore; they were purchased of the Filmores in or about 1818, by the late Mr. George Templer, of Stover, and are now the property of his Grace the Duke of Somerset. The other fourth share of the Manor appears to have become united to the Ingsdon property, and the Lord of the Manor of Ingsdon has the court barton. The hundred rolls prove that the Lords of Ilington had formerly the power of life and death within their manor.

The ancient Manor House, which was situated close to the churchyard, appears to have been extensively repaired, if not altogether rebuilt, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth: it was for some years in a dilapidated condition, and latterly we believe quite ruinous: the walls were very massive, and some of the stonework was elaborate. It was pulled down about three years since, and some of the materials were employed in building the new School House.

The Manor of Ainechesdone or Aynkesdon, now called Ingsdon, passed (like Ilington) from the hands of the Saxon Merlesuen into those of the Norman Ralph Paganel: it was afterwards settled upon a younger branch of the Beaumonts, and they continued there until the reign of Edward IV. (1461), when the heiress brought it to a younger branch of the Pomeroy family, in which it continued until the second half of the seventeenth century.

It is well known that the ancient house of Pomeroy, of Berry, became extinct in the elder branch in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, when the heiress is said to have married Penkevill; younger branches were, however, settled at Sandridge and Ingsdon, and about the year 1650 the two co-heiresses of the latter branch married Thomas and Ford; Arthur Pomeroy, created Viscount Harberton, of the Kingdom of Ireland, in 1791, was supposed to have been descended from a younger son of the Ingsdon family.

About or soon after the year 1662 the representatives of Pomeroy sold Ingsdon to Sir John Stawell, of Herebeare, in the adjoining Parish of Bickington, and of his executors it was purchased about ten years afterwards by Mr. James Rodd, of Weare. From the Weares it passed by successive alienations to Tapson and Hale, and by the last was bequeathed to the late Mr. Charles Hale Monro, and is now the property of his son, who does not at present reside there.

The Earl of Devon also possesses a small Manor within the parish of Ilsington.

The Manor of Begatore, or Bagtor, which in the year 1042 belonged to the Saxon Erdulf, was held in 1086 by Ansgar, the King's servant, under Baldwin, who is generally called the "Sheriff" in our county histories. He was one of King William's generals at the battle of Hastings, and is indifferently styled Baldwin de Molis, Baldwin de Brion (in allusion to his father, Gilbert, Earl of Brion, who was murdered in Normandy), and Baldwin de Sap. At a later period he was sometimes called Baldwin de Exeter, from the circumstance of his having built the castle at Exeter (in which he frequently resided) by command of the King. His chief seat was at Okehampton Castle, of which place he held the barony. He was succeeded as Sheriff of Devon by his son Richard, and after him Adeliza, the sister of Richard, and daughter of Baldwin, held the same place, and styled herself Vice-Commitissa Devon. After the death of Adeliza, or Alice, in 1154, the appointment of sheriff reverted to the King, and the office ceased to be hereditary.

The Manor of Bagtor afterwards belonged to the family of Beare, and from them passed to the Fords. John Ford, the dramatist, was of this stock, being born at Bagtor in the early part of the year 1586. The entry of his baptism in the Registry Books of the Parish runs thus:—

"A.Dmi., 1586.

"The xxii. of Aprill was baptized John, the son of Thomas Fford, ar."  
He entered the Middle Temple in 1602, and published in 1606 "*Fame's Memoriall on the Erle of Devonshire, deceased, with his honourable life, peaceful end, and solemne funerall (4to.)*" In 1613 he published his play, "*Bad beginning makes a good ending,*" which was acted at Court, and in 1629 appeared a tragi-comedy entitled the "*Lover's Melancholy,*" which also emanated from his pen. He wrote eleven dramas between the years 1629 and 1639, but they do not all appear to have been printed. The major portion of them are stated to have been his own composition; but in some he wrote conjointly with others, probably with Decker, Drayton, Hatherewaye, or some others of his contemporaries.

The date of his death is uncertain. He did not write after 1639: we are satisfied that he was not buried in his native parish, since a careful examination of the burial registers has not afforded us any evidence of his

interment. In 1620 a little manual appeared entitled "*A Line of Life, pointing at the immortality of a virtuous name,*" which was attributed to him (12mo.) His works were reprinted and published in 1811 (2 vols., 8vo.)

Prince, in the "*Worthies of Devon,*" mentions several members of this family which appears to have been first settled at Chagford, then to have migrated to Ashburton, and finally to have acquired, and to have long resided upon the Bagtor property. Amongst them he speaks of Thomas Ford, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, who left the University, country, and friends, went to Douay, and became a Priest of the Church of Rome. "Being afterwards sent in the mission of England, he was taken and imprisoned, and at length executed May 28th, 1582. A martyr in the Roman kalendar" (Prince, p. 382).

Sir Henry Ford, Secretary of State for Ireland, in the reign of King Charles II., is supposed to have been the grandson of John Ford the dramatist. He sold Bagtor to the Tothills, of whose descendants it was purchased by the late Lord Ashburton, and afterwards descended to the late Lord Cranstoun, and is now the property of his representatives; the ancient barony of Cranstoun having become extinct a few years since. The picturesque Manor House was probably built about the reign of Queen Elizabeth, although it has doubtless been considerably altered and added to from time to time.

The Church of Ilsington was appropriated at a very early date to the Priory of Plympton (which was founded in the year 1121 by William Warelwast, nephew and Chaplain to William the Conqueror, and third Bishop of Exeter). It is mentioned amongst the possessions of the Priory by Bishop John, commonly called the Chaunter, from his having held the office of Precentor of the Cathedral before his elevation to the episcopate, which took place in the year 1186; he is also sometimes called John Fitz-duke. Amongst the Priors of Plympton we would mention Robert de Ilsington, who was preferred to that dignity in the year 1202, and whilst in office his right to present the Rural Dean for the Deanery of Plympton was fully admitted by the Archdeacon of Totnes.

Bishop Grandisson, consecrated Bishop of Exeter at Avignon, October, 1327, was the munificent founder of the Collegiate Church of St. Mary, at Ottery, in the Deanery of Aylesbeare, A.D., 1337; and a few months afterwards, with the free consent of the Prior and Convent of Plympton, he

procured the annexation of the Church of Ilsington to his New College. The appropriation is dated May 5th, 1338. The Priory, however, in resigning this benefice reserved an annual pension of 100s. (See *Grandisson's Reg.*, vol. i, fol. 150, and *Monas. Dio.*, p. 260).

King Edward VI., on the 7th October, 1547, granted (with other property) the Church of Ilsington to the Dean and Chapter of Windsor, and they are still patrons of the Vicarage. The following extract from the answer of Bishop Vesey to the writ of the Barons of the Exchequer desiring information concerning the temporalities of the College of Ottery St. Mary is copied from his Register into the *Monasticon of the Diocese*:—"Ecclesiam parochialem de Ilsyngton quam appropriavit dictis custodi et collegio antedictus reverendus pater (Bishop Grandisson), A.D., 1338; cuius decima, 14s. 7½d."

In the ecclesiastical taxation of the diocese, commenced in 1288, the income of the Church of "Ilsington" is set down as £14 12s. 4d. per annum.

When Bishop Grandisson founded the Collegiate Church of Ottery St. Mary, he expressly enjoined that the anniversaries of Cardinal Peter, Bishop of Præneste (who had consecrated him in the Cathedral Church of Avignon), of Pope John XXII. (his friend and benefactor), of William Grandisson, his father, of Sibilla, his mother, of his uncle, Otho Grandisson, and of his brothers and sisters, should be observed with solemnity, and that considerable charities should be distributed to the poor on these occasions.

We find from the "*Valor Ecclesiasticus*" of King Henry VIII., that the expenses of these masses and benefactions were entirely defrayed by the appropriation of Ilsington. The tithes, when the survey was made, were leased for five years to John Ford, and were valued at £15 2s. per annum, after paying 8s. annually "for pence distributed in the aforesaid college amongst the poor;" for celebrating for the soul of Sybil, the mother, and of Catherine, the sister of the Bishop, 2s. 6d. a year; and for saying masses for the souls of William Grandisson (father of the prelate), "of the Lord Peter, Cardinal of Præneste," and "*Johannis, nuper episcopi Romani*," a like sum respectively.

In *Vicar's Parliamentary Chronicle*, vol. iv., p. 341, is an account of this village being taken by Cromwell (it is there erroneously written Ilminster) after he had defeated Lord Wentworth's brigade at Bovey, on the night of the 9th of January, 1646. Some of the fugitives from the Royal army occupied Ilsington Church, but they appear to have soon quitted it upon the approach of the Parliamentary forces.



Mrs. Jane Ford, in the year 1664, gave lands valued at over £20 per annum, for teaching poor children of the parish, and for buying Bibles.

In 1871 Ilsington returned a population of 1,150 persons, dispersed over 7,100 acres of land. Above the village the downs rise, and are overtopped by the Haytor rocks, two large masses of granite, which are prominent objects in the scenery of Devonshire, being placed on the summit of a lofty ridge. These rocks have a very striking and magnificent appearance from Ilsington: frequently enveloped in clouds, they form moreover a fine termination to the view, and diversify the barren aspect of the hills by their rugged outline.

## CHAPTER XV.



### Ilsington Church.

THE Parish Church, standing in a large Churchyard in the centre of the village, is dedicated to St. Michael, and comprehends chancel, nave, opening into north and south aisles, beneath five arches supported upon slender clustered pillars of fifteenth century date, with moulded capitals, and what may be termed a continuous transept extending from north to south, intersecting the nave and aisles, and making this portion of the Church 62 feet broad. The south porch has a parvise over it, and the tower at the western end of the building contains five bells. The length of the Church, including the belfry, is 97 feet, and the breadth of the nave and aisles 38 feet.

The three windows of the chancel have been restored and filled with stained glass. The piscina is on the south side of the altar, but in the eastern wall, and it is placed within an ogee arched niche, with foliated ornaments and

deep mouldings. The ancient priest's door is entered from the eastern wall of the south transept and through a skew passage, in order to open into the Church through the south wall of the chancel. The inside door, we regret to say, has been modernised, and its arch has either been destroyed or plastered over.

The side Chapels are separated from the chancel by parceloses, and have both been fitted up and appropriated to the use of the respective owners of Bagtor and Ingsdon. That on the north side has some remains in its windows of the fifteenth century glass, and we noticed two heads of saints, one of them representing the Magdalene, and the upper portions of three very elaborate canopies.

In the south chancel Chapel the windows have been well restored, one of them—that on the south side—is an elaborate example of early Perpendicular work. They have been both filled with stained glass, and exhibit the armorial bearings and quarterings of the family of Munro. In the north-east corner of this chapel is a recess, which after the restoration of the Church at the commencement of the fifteenth century may have been used as an image bracket, but it appears to us from the appearance of the wall on the outside to have been originally a window; it may be a blocked up hagioscope or squint, or it may have once been what is termed a lychnoscope, the use of which has never been correctly ascertained, but it is generally found in early English churches, and there are still remains of a structure dating from that period to be found at Ilsington. Some have thought that it was used as a confessional; others, for lepers to view the elevation of the Host, but the position of the window (as in this instance) often made it impossible that the elevation of the Host should be seen through it. Others, again, consider that it may have served as an external hagioscope from the aisles, or to see when the Priest advanced to commence the service at the altar; but the following is now the generally received opinion as to its use:—During the three last nights of Passion Week lights were kept burning before the Holy Sepulchre, and at all times in chantries and upon high altars. This window probably served for those whose business it was to keep them in to satisfy themselves that all was right, the other windows being too high for the purpose. Hence they generally occur on the south side, because the sepulchre was usually placed on the north, and they are less common in Perpendicular Churches because the windows are mostly so low as to render

them unnecessary. In old parish accounts we sometimes find the item, "Paid for watching the Pasch-light." It must be borne in mind that the Easter Sepulchres were usually temporary wooden erections; the apparent existence, therefore, of this window where no sepulchre now remains does not disprove what we have advanced.

There is an early English lancet-window in the south transept much splayed on the inside, and in another window here are the mutilated remains of an old Perpendicular canopy similar to those already referred to.

In the north wall of the north transept on an altar tomb beneath an acutely pointed moulded arch is the figure of a lady clothed in a long gown, mantle, and veil. She may possibly have been a member of the Dinham family, who possess several memorials of this character in the neighbouring churches. In the window above this tomb are to be seen the arms of Bishop Grandisson; Paly of six arg. and az.; a bend gu., charged with a mitre between two eaglets displ. or. (1327-1369), and beneath them are the arms of the See of Exeter.

The tracery of the eastern window of this transept is of Second Pointed date, and there are some remains in it of old stained glass, but in a very advanced stage of decay.

The Church is much in need of restoration, the seats are high and unsightly; a door leading into a turret has been blocked at the north-western end of the north aisle, but we were glad to see some old oak, ornamented with the square perpendicular flower, preserved in several parts of the Church, and the pulpit and clerk's desk, although modern and incongruous, have been constructed of old materials, and the former has on one of its sides the "lion rampant" of the ancient house of Pomeroy. There is a bell-shaped massive, octagonal, moor stone font at the western end of the sacred structure, and here also are to be noticed seven of the ancient choir stalls, very much decayed, but the ends are adorned with crockets, finials, quatrefoils, circles, and flowers. Some of the backs are elaborately carved with ogee arches and perpendicular flowers, others are simply ornamented with what is technically known as the "linen pattern." Upon one of them are the arms of Beaumont. Barry of six vair and gu. Quartering Pomeroy.

The screen, which stretches across the nave and aisles, is in a good state of preservation, but has been choked and disfigured with paint, and the

figures of the Saints in its lower panels have been effaced. It has a richly decorated cornice of vine leaves, grapes, and acorns, with an under border of quatrefoils. The lights are filled with good perpendicular tracery, and there are the remains of crocketed and finialed image recesses on its front, and the carved woodwork of a mutilated image bracket on the north screen pier. The aisle roofs have been apparently renewed; they are flat, that on the south is the latest.

The arched roof of the nave is of Perpendicular date, and immediately over the rood screen it is vaulted, and richly ornamented with handsome bosses and pendants at the intersection of the ribs. The pendant figures have been all decapitated, and we think it possible that they may have been intended to represent the four Evangelists. One of the bosses has a representation of a lion killing a pig. Another in the centre of the nave has three rabbits, which some say are an emblem of the Trinity (they being so placed that their ears form a triangle), whilst others (as we have already remarked) consider them to have been intended as an alchemical symbol. Another represents an eagle killing a rabbit, another a wild boar, two others have the representations of a King and Queen, the latter with a square head-dress, and possibly are intended for Henry VII. and his Queen, Elizabeth of York. In the transept, on the north side, is a representation of an eagle with extended wings, and many other good examples of knots and perpendicular foliage are scattered all over the roof.

The vault of the central part of the nave roof springs from plain corbels, terminated by image tabernacles, and each still retains the figure of a Saint carved in oak, and still bears traces of illumination.

The figures are eight in number, and represent respectively St. Cecilia, playing on a musical instrument; St. Dunstan, with a harp; St. James-the-Less, with the scallop, shell, and pilgrim's staff; St. Thomas, with an arrow; St. Helena, with the Latin cross; St. Lawrence, with his gridiron; St. Jude, with the club; and St. Michael, the patron Saint of the Church, with a trumpet. The wall over the archway of the piers north and south of the screen has been cut away to afford access to the rood loft, an uncommon arrangement, and which has a curious effect, and the transept roof springs immediately from the central vaulting, which gives the appearance to which we have already referred of one long transept, completely intersecting the whole structure.

There are many ancient memorials for former Vicars on the chancel floor,

but we have only space to record the earliest, which is as follows:—"Sub hoc lapide jacet magistr. Hugo Bickleigh, quodam hujus ecce et ecce de Wytcub (Widecombe-in-the-Moor), Vicarus q obiit xxvii die Octobris ano di. m<sup>o</sup>ccccxxij." There is another for Richard Bryan, Rector of Silverton and Vicar of Ilsington, 1663. There are many memorials also of the Fords, and of the family of Woodley, who have property in the parish, and who have been long resident on the neighbouring Manor of Halshanger, which, however, is in the Parish of Ashburton. At one time the members of this house were buried at Buckland-in-the-Moor, they having been at one period Lords of that Manor; and the earliest date in Ilsington Church is for Peter Woodley, gent., son of Hugh Woodley, gent., who died November 22nd, 1662, and probably Hugh Woodley was the son of Ralph Woodley, Lord of the Manor of Buckland, who was buried in front of the altar there in A.D., 1593.

The south porch, which is embattled, has a square-headed doorway, but the door leading into the Church opens beneath a pointed arch, with deep mouldings in the jambs. The porch is still provided with its ancient stone seats; on its southern face are three square-headed perpendicular niches which have been blocked up; the window of the parvise, the ancient residence of the Chantry Priest, is in its western wall. This small chamber is approached by a staircase contained in an exterior projection, also on the western side. In the room is preserved a relic of the "church ale" (so frequently referred to in old accounts), in the form of the trough which was formerly used for cooling it.

The tower is plain, square and embattled, without buttresses. It has a low pointed doorway, and the western window has been renewed. There is an octagonal stair turret on its southern side.

The Church is embattled, supported by plain cushioned buttresses, and has an octagonal stair turret containing a staircase leading to the leads at the western end of the north aisle. The lavish use of plaster and whitewash all over the building is much to be regretted.

On the exterior of the south side of the chancel is a low tomb containing a curious chronogram—"Thoma Ford de Sigford, gent., qui obiit decimo die, Novembris.

Chronogram—DorMio et Vt spero CIneres sIne Labe resVrgent.

By placing the capitals together thus—MDCLVIII—we have the date of his

death, 1658. There are some slight remains of two crosses upon the roof of the chancel and north transept, and there is a square block of granite on the south side of the Church, which may possibly be the remains of the ancient churchyard cross. The old lych-gate, which had a room over it, was destroyed a few years since.

The Vicarage and Rectory Houses adjoin one another, but are some little distance removed from the Church. The latter is a small, unpretending edifice, but the former, which has lately been partially rebuilt, is a convenient and comfortable dwelling.

The parish poor-house, containing several pointed debased arches, was probably erected towards the end of the reign of Henry VII.

In one of the register books is a list of names claiming to be a list of the Vicars "collected from endowment, sepulchral stones, register, and an old rate book. We there find a notice of William Stooke, with a note stating that he was ejected in 1651.

Upon the death of Robert Dove, B.D., in 1645, one Hill appears without legal title, to have taken possession of the Vicarage, and upon his deprivation he was immediately succeeded by William Stooke, who was in his turn ejected in 1651. They were probably both Nonconformists, and the parishioners of Ilsington seem to have been singularly unsuccessful in procuring a "Godly and painful Minister;" but they appear to have tried a third whose name has not been handed down to posterity, but he was duly ejected on the restoration of law and order, and the first legal institution after an interval of eighteen years is thus recorded in the Bishop's Registers.

In 1663 William Bettenson, A.M., was admitted to this living, "*per privi ult Incumb.*" We would further remark that, curiously enough, there is no mention at all of Mr. Bettenson's name in the parish book.

The present Vicar of Ilsington is the Ven. Archdeacon Brain, late of Dorchester, who exchanged with the Rev. R. Lovatt, a few months since. He has 92 acres of glebe.

To the late Curate of the Parish, the Rev. J. S. S. Shields, our best thanks are due for his kindness, hospitality, and attention when we visited Ilsington.

The early register books are in good condition, and commence alike in 1558.

The Vicars of Ilsington collected from endowments, sepulchral stones, registers, and an old rate book:—

WILLIAM DE EDDERIDGE, A.D., 1342.

HUGO BICKLEIGH, 1532.

WILLIAM BICKFORD, 1565. Buried August, 1577.

GEORGE SWETE, 1580.

BENEDICT PARKER, 1588. Buried, 1596

RADFORD MAVERICKE, 1603.

CHRISTOPHER WARREN, M.A. Buried, 1626.

THOMAS CLIFFORD, D.D. Proprietor of Ughbrook Park, 1630.

ROBERT DOVE, B.D. Inducted, 1634-35.

WILLIAM STOOKE. Ejected, 1651. We cannot ascertain that he had any right to the Vicarage.

WILLIAM BETTENSON, A.M., is omitted in this list, he was instituted in 1663, upon the deprivation of the last Incumbent.

RICHARD BRYAN, M.A., 1675.

WILLIAM RISSON, 1697.

PHILIP NANSON, M.A., 1715.

THOMAS RAINE, 1746.

JOHN PETVIN, M.A.

CHARLES BEDFORD.

GEORGE STEVENSON.

JONATHAN PALK, 1787.

CHARLES MARSHAM, 1828, he never resided in his Parish, and upon his death was succeeded by the Rev.

R. LOVETT, in 1867. Mr. Lovett exchanged in the early part of the present year, 1875, for All Saints, Dorchester, with the

VENERABLE ARCHDEACON BRAIN, the present Vicar.

## CHAPTER XVI.



### The Ancient Borough of Totnes.

TOTNES, in the Hundred of Coleridge, and in the Deanery of Totton, is situated on the side of a steep hill, on the banks of the Dart, about eight miles from Dartmouth, twenty-three from Exeter, and one-hundred-and-ninety-six from London. In ancient records it is called Totenais, Toteneis, Toteneys, Totton, Totonie, &c.

The town was formerly encircled with walls, and had four gates, of which the North-gate (a plain, semi-circular arch, covered with ivy, and still retaining the iron staples of the old wooden doors) only remains. Above the site of the Eastern gateway is a large room, now used as a reading-room, the walls of which are covered with oak panelling in the "linen" pattern. The false ceiling of this apartment was removed a few years since, and an elaborately-carved cornice discovered, composed of foliage and grotesque figures, and over the chimney-piece there are two finely-formed heads, said to represent King Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn, his second Queen.

This Eastern gateway, which is now known as "the Archway," formerly consisted of two arched portals, one for carriages, which was enclosed by gates like Temple Bar, and another, smaller and narrower, for foot passengers. A small passage in gateways, by the side of the larger one, is found in many of the old cities of the East, and is there called "*Es summ el Keyut*" meaning, when literally translated, "The hole or eye of the needle," (which Lord Nugent observes) may give an easy and simple solution to the text in St. Mark's Gospel, chap. x., v. 25.



Totnes seems to have "flourished, and felt also the storms of affliction," under Britons, Romans, Saxons, and Normans.

Geoffery Ap Arthur, who was born in Monmouthshire, and hence called Geoffery of Monmouth, completed his "*History of the Britains*" in 1147. He has given us a fabulous account of the first colonization of this island by Bruto and his companions. He states that "he has merely translated his work from a chronicle of the Kings of Britain, originally written in the Saxon tongue, and communicated to him by Walter, Archdeacon of Oxford. He also quotes from the works of Gildas, a Monk of Bangor, who has the credit of being the oldest known British historian. He declares that Bruto, the grandson of Æneas (and therefore the great grandson of the Goddess of Beauty and Love) had the misfortune to kill, with an arrow, his father Silvius, upon which he left Italy, and set sail with some companions in order to find a new home. He ultimately arrived at Totnes, the stone being still shown (near the "arch" above referred to) upon which he is said to have landed, tradition asserting that the river anciently flowed up to this stone, which has the character of granite, and formerly projected somewhat from the surface of the ground, but it was levelled when the street was altered some few years since, and what still remains has a superficial surface of about two feet in length, and eighteen inches in width.

Westcote makes a computation as to the time when Brutus arrived here. He says, "Mr. Grafton and some others declare it was when Eli was High Priest of Israel, which they account to be from the Creation 2856 years (B.C. 1108.)" After he had fought many battles, and his cousin Corineus, in a fair pull of wrestling, had thrown the chief Giant Gogmagog over the Hoe of Plymouth, he took with an easy journey the survey of the whole island, and about twenty years after his first landing, arrived at the banks of the Thames, and resolved to build a city there, which he named "Troy Novant" or New Troy; 1041 years afterwards this city was altered by King Lud, who called it Luds-town, now briefly London. Westcote further says, "Some say that the word Totnes is derived from the French tout-a-laise, which I would willingly applaud, could I be induced to believe that Bruto spake such good French, or that French was then spoken at all; therefore I shall with the more ease be persuaded to join in opinion with those who would have it named Dodonesse, which signifieth the rocky town, or town on stones, which is much more probable." (Vide *Westcote's Devonshire*, p. 409, *et seq.*)

Thus much for the legendary history of Totnes; let us now turn to some authentic records connected with it. The Manor of Totenais, anciently the property of King Edward the Confessor, was given by the Norman Conqueror to Judhel, or Juhel, who is described in Domesday as Juhel de Totnais. For a very interesting account of this personage we would refer our readers to a letter by Mr. R. J. King (Author of the "*Handbook of English Cathedrals*"), printed in the appendix to Cotton's "*Antiquities of Totnes*."

We also gather from Domesday that, at the period of the survey, Totnes had ninety-five burgesses, besides fifteen without the walls, and that it was never taxed but at the same time with Exeter, and that it rendered the same services as that city. The words concluding the account of the Borough of Totnes are these:—"Si expedio vadit vel per terram vel per mare inter Totenais, et Barnstaple, et Lydford, tantum reddunt servitii quantum Exonia reddit." Judhel being banished the realm by William Rufus, that Monarch gave this Barony to Roger de Novant, yet, notwithstanding this grant of William II., in the 9th of King John, we find William de Braose, great grandson of Judhel, holding a moiety of the honor, and making a partition thereof with Roger de Valletort, heir to Henry, son of the last Roger de Novant. William de Braose, however, soon incurred his King's displeasure, who, seizing upon his moiety of the Barony, conferred it upon Henry, natural son of Reginald, Earl of Cornwall. However, upon the accession of Henry III., Reginald de Braose, third son of William, doing his homage had restitution thereof. From him it passed by marriage to Cantilupe, who eventually became possessed of the whole.

The heiress of Cantilupe brought it to the Lords Zouch, who possessed it for several generations; on the attainder of John, Lord Zouch in 1486, King Henry VII. gave it to Sir Richard Edgecumbe, whose grandson sold it to Lord Edward Seymour, son of the Duke of Somerset. The Seymours alienated it in 1655 to William Bogan, whose heirs sold it in 1753 to Bartholomew Jeffery, from whose family it was purchased by Edward, Duke of Somerset, in 1764, from whom it has descended to the present Duke.

Sir Richard Edgecumbe, in 1559, conveyed the Manor of the Borough to the Corporation, in whom it is now vested. We find from the Hundred Roll, that the Lords of this Manor and Barony had formerly the power of inflicting capital punishment.

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The Castle of Totnes, which is said to have been built by Judhel, was the seat of the Barony.

Leland, who visited this place in the reign of Henry VIII., says:—"The castelle waul and the stronge dungeon be maintained. The loggings of the castelle be elene in ruine." The walls of the "doungeon," or keep, rise conspicuously above the town, and form an artificial mount of considerable elevation. It is of circular form, but the general area of the Castle is irregular, and contains within its enclosure several acres of ground, and was surrounded by a moat. It bears much resemblance to Plympton Castle, in its plan and defences.

Totnes was occupied by Lord Goring, in October, 1645, and appears to have been in possession of the King's forces in the month of January following, when they quitted it on the approach of Sir Thomas Fairfax, towards Dartmouth. After the surrender of that town the besieging army returned to Totnes on the 21st.

The Market is by prescription, on Saturday, for corn and all kinds of provisions. A wool market, established by King Charles' charter, in 1684, has been discontinued. There are two annual fairs for cattle, May 12th and October 28th.

The Borough of Totnes (which has very recently been disfranchised) first sent two Members to Parliament in the time of King John. That Monarch (says Lysons "granted the Burgesses a charter of privileges in 1205, but it does not seem that they had a Mayor before the reign of Henry VII., who granted them the power to elect a Mayor annually on St. Matthew's Day." This is not correct. From the accession of Richard II., A.D., 1377, (when John Rustle occupied the Municipal Chair), the list has been preserved in an unbroken line.

The Grammar School was founded in the year 1554, by the Corporation, who purchased the ground on which it is built of the then possessors of the Priory Estate, and it was endowed by Sir John Maynard (as one of the executors of Elizæus Hele) in 1659.

Dr. Kennicott, the celebrated Hebraist, and late Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, was the son of the Parish Clerk of Totnes, and born here in 1718; he was educated at the Grammar School, and was for some time Master of the Charity School in this town.

## CHAPTER XVII.

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### Totnes Church.

THE Parish Church of Totnes, dedicated to St. Mary, was built (according to Lysons) in 1259. It was rebuilt 1432, during the Episcopacy of Bishop Lacy, who granted an indulgence of forty days to all persons who contributed to the work, and this grant, dated Chudleigh, A.D., 1434, was formerly preserved with other documents relating to the sacred edifice in an oak chest, which was kept in the parvise over the south porch. It has been stated that the discovery of this document was owing to a violent storm of thunder and lightning in 1790, by which one of the pinnacles of the Church was thrown down, and, falling through the roof of the parvise, broke open the chest and caused the ancient records therein to be examined and brought to light.

The south-east pinnacle has been twice demolished by lightning—first, in 1634, during the Mayoralty of Richard Lee, and again on the 21st February, 1799.

The general character of this handsome building is Late Perpendicular: it consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, with a lofty tower terminating the western extremity of the nave. It is now undergoing restoration, and a north wing has recently been added.

Cotton, in his "*Graphic and Historical Sketch of Totnes*," thus describes the Tower:—"It has bold buttresses set on square of four stages, and ornamented with pinnacles of free stone and canopied niches." Prior Richard Stoke, instituted to Totnes Priory, 1439, by deed bearing date April 3rd, 1449 (27th Henry VI.), granted £10 "*operi novi campanilis fendi in occidentali parte ecclesie parochialis Tottonie*." The stair turret is in the south angle, the west door is pointed, with a square head, and deeply recessed, and has foliated spandrels.

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On the south side of the tower we noticed a good freestone figure of Bishop Lacy, surmounting the words "I made this tour." Cotton also notices "a shield bearing the arms of the Prelate (az., three shovellers' heads, erased arg), which he found in the spandrils of the arched doorway. The south porch has a parvise above, and is of good Perpendicular character. The outer doorway is well moulded with a square flower, the inner is of the same character, with the remains of a Saint's niche and shield of arms in the foliated spandrils. The door is finely carved, and appears to have been erected about 1636.

In the parvise is a valuable Library, comprehending upwards of 334 volumes of books, very few of them being of a later date than the commencement of the seventeenth century; most of them are in a good state of preservation, and (we are informed by the Vicar) have been but lately removed from the old vestry, which now does not exist. He further states that he does not consider the parvise the best possible locality for them; but he had no alternative but to remove them there, the Church being under restoration, and there being no other accommodation for them. In the catalogue which he kindly lent us, and which we have printed in the appendix, we find mention of many valuable works. It is to be regretted that facilities for their perusal are not afforded to the clergy and others who may be desirous of profiting by this collection of ancient books, and we sincerely trust that when the restoration of the Church is completed, something will be done to render them more accessible.

Large and grotesque gargoyles carry off the water from the roof of the Church, and an enormous buttress in the exterior of the chancel is pierced by an archway. The aisles are divided from the nave by five pointed arches, and by four similar arches from the north wing. They are all four centered with mouldings; the piers are "engaged shafts with two ogees and fillets, and compound bell caps."

A magnificent rood-screen of stone under the chancel arch still retains much of its original colouring and gilding. It is covered with beautifully executed niches in tiers, but the Saints which anciently filled them have long since disappeared.

Two parclose screens inclose North and South Chantry Chapels, that on the south contains a good ogee canopied Perpendicular altar tomb—the effigy gone—coloured and gilt, with this inscription:—"Here lyeth Walterus Smyth,

dyed the viii. day of November, yeare of our Lord 1555. God haive him for his aine." He was three times Mayor of Totnes, viz., 1520, 1521, and 1530.

The large Bible was given by Lady Ann Seymour in 1690.

On the north side of the chancel is a remarkably fine internal rood turret inclosing the stairs which led to the rood loft, which has only been recently removed. It is ornamented with niches and quatrefoil enrichments.

The Pulpit is of carved stone, and is ornamented with panelling and shields, and is of the same date as the screen; the font of early Perpendicular character is octagonal, with deeply foliated quatrefoils in each face.

The eastern window is entirely blocked up with an enormous mass of masonry of the Corinthian order, and which was erected by an architect, a native of Totnes, as a gift, about 150 years since. It is, in point of fact, an enormous *baldachino*, and we trust sincerely that it will be removed before the restoration of the Church is completed.

In the south wall of the chancel is a glazed hagioscope, and a *prie dieu* monument to the memory of Christopher Blackall. The Knight, who died 1633, is represented in armour, kneeling, and beneath him are his four wives—Elizabeth, daughter of Nicholas Slanning; Penelope, daughter of Thomas Hele; Susanna, daughter of Nicholas Halswell; and Dorothy, daughter of Richard Norris. There is an inscription over "in a frame of timber," written by Robert Halswell, the brother of the third wife. (See *Westcote's Devon*, p. 416).

The Priory of St. Mary was founded by Judhel, as a cell to the great Benedictine Abbey of Saints Sergius and Bacchus, at Angers, and the Conventual Church was dedicated by Bishop Bronescombe, 27th November, 1259. The Priory itself existed shortly after the Conquest. It escaped suppression with the other alien Priories, and continued until the general dissolution of monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. Oliver considers that the Parish Church *may have* formed the nave of the one pertaining to the Convent.

The Grammar School and the Guildhall occupy a portion of the site of the Priory.

St. Peter's Chapel, of which even the exact situation has been lost, was coeval with the Conquest, and it is mentioned in the original charter granted by "Judhel, the son of Alured." "*Et terram Ansquitilli presbyteri quam*

*tenebat Robbertus Tornator, cum capella Sancti Petri.*" And the land of Ansquitillus the Priest, which Robert Tornator held; with the Chapel of St. Peter. It is supposed to have stood several hundred yards below Totnes Bridge, near what is now called Peter's Quay.

Tanner speaks of two Convents of Trinitarian Friars at or near Totnes. One of these was suppressed by Bishop Oldham, who gave the lands to the Priest Vicars of Exeter Cathedral. The Chantry of St. Edmund and Edward the Confessor stood "*ad finem pontis de Totton.*" The Chapel of the Holy Ghost and St. Katherine, at Warland, was begun to be erected in 1270, and the "*leprosorom hospitalis Sancte Marie Magdalene Totton,*" of which, some slight traces remain on the south part of the town, was probably the house in whose favour Bishop Lacy granted an indulgence to true penitents who should contribute to its support.

To those of our readers who wish for further information relative to the History of this ancient Borough, we would remark that, in addition to the accounts of the county historians and to the published researches of the late Dr. Oliver, a complete history of Totnes was published by William Cotton, F.S.A., in 1850, to which work we have to confess ourselves indebted. We must also express our thanks to the Rev. J. W. Burrough, the present Vicar, for his kindness in furnishing us with the catalogue of the books in the parvise, and to Edward Windeatt, Esq., for the use of his valuable manuscript notes.

The Vicars were presented for institution by the Prior and Convent of St. Mary until their suppression, except when our Sovereigns seized the temporalities of this alien house during their wars with France.

The first Vicar met with is

WALTER, whose agreement about the endowment dated January 30th, 1260, may be seen fol. x. of *Bishop Bronescome's Register*, it has been stated that this authority proves the Parish and Conventual Churches to be distinct; the language is however equivocal, and the words are "*Episcopus dedicavit ecclesiam S. Mariæ Totton et ecclesiam conventualem,*" on the feast of St. Hugh, 1259. These words do not afford proof that it was a distinct edifice.

BARTHOLOMEW succeeded August 9th, 1267.

PETER DE TOTTON followed, November 23rd, 1268.

WILLIAM DE SUTTON instituted May 4th, 1283.

- WALTER D'AUMARLE exchanged with  
NICHOLAS DE MOTEHAYE for Ashprington, February 26th, 1310-11. He died  
July 31st, 1330.
- WALTER DE ESSEWATER (Ashwater), was admitted September 2nd, 1330.
- JOHN DE HEINESTON, May 21st, 1337.
- ANDREW DE CHEVELSTON, January 17th, 1348-9. Patron, King Edward III.
- JOHN TREHEWIN, March 30th, 1349. Crown presentation.
- JOHN DE SOUTHDON admitted February 4th, 1351-2. Same patron.
- JOHN MICHEL was collated by Bishop Grandisson, *per lapsum*, November 15th,  
1362.
- JOHN DE WYNDYSHORE, September 22nd, 1367. Patron, Prior and Convent of  
Totnes.
- JOHN SABYN, May 3rd, 1376. Patron, King Edward III.
- JOHN DOLBIRY, on Sabyn's death, March 3rd, 1406-7. Patron, Prior and  
Convent of Totnes.
- WILLIAM HOWSYNG, June 29th, 1436. On whose resignation
- JOHN YONGE was admitted, on whose death, A.D., 1464,
- JOHN GARDINER succeeded, October 30th.
- JOHN BELWORTHY, May 14th, 1495, on whose death
- WILLIAM JELYS was instituted November 7th, 1505.
- CHRISTOPHER CANNON succeeded May 7th, 1537, on the presentation (for this  
turn) of Richard Yarde.
- JOHN OKEFORD, September 14th, 1557. On Cannon's cession. Patron, King  
Edward VI.
- JOHN BOWDON, on Okeford's privation, July 10th, 1554. Patron, Queen Mary.
- THOMAS WRIGHT, June 20th, 1561. Patron, Queen Elizabeth.
- WILLIAM GOODALL, December 18th, 1576. Same patron.
- HENRY HILL, July 14th, 1610. Patron, King James I.
- RICHARD HOLDITCH, July 4th, 1621. Same patron.
- JOHN GARRETT succeeded September 8th, 1635. Patron, King Charles I.
- WILLIAM ADAMS. See *Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy*, part ii., p. 182.
- DANIEL ESTCOTT, April 15th, 1664. Patron, King Charles II.
- PHINEAS PETT, September 10th, 1669. Same patron.
- JOHN PRINCE, on Pett's cession, April 4th, 1676. The Author of the "*Worthies  
of Devon*" and various Sermons. See his *Life* in the Preface to the last  
Edition of his great work. Mr. Prince resigned St. Martin's Church, Exeter,



to accept the Vicarage of Totnes, *which* he also resigned for Berry Pomeroy, April 21st, 1681. He died on the 9th, and was buried September 14th, 1723.

ROBERT BURSCOUGH, March 2nd, 1681. Patron, King Charles II. His predecessor, at page 777 of the "*Worthies*," commends Mr. Burscough's liberality in allowing him the free use of "his very good library."

ARTHUR D'ANVERS, on Burscough's death, November 7th, 1709.

ARTHUR D'ANVERS, on cession of last Vicar, April 2nd, 1716. Patron, King George I.

JOHN HAYNE, December 31st, 1720. Same patron.

SAMUEL PAYNE, on Hayne's death, July 17th, 1767. Patron, King George III.

JOHN CUMING, December 11th, 1781. Patron, King George III. On whose death

JOHN WOLRIGE, December 19th, 1783. Same patron. On whose death

JOHN ALAN LYDE, February 16th, 1786. Same patron. On whose cession

JOSEPH CUMING, July 14th, 1795. Same patron. On whose death the Rev.

JAMES WALROND BURROUGH, the present Vicar, was instituted on the Queen's presentation, February 15th, 1838.

#### CHAPTER XVIII.

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### Berry Pomeroy.

**B**ERRY, or Bury Pomeroy, in the Hundred of Haytor, and in the Deanery of Ipplepen, is rather more than one mile distant from Totnes, and includes the Hamlets of Longcombe, Weston, Bourton, Afton and Weakaboro'; Bridgetown, "conjoynd" (as Prince says) with Totnes by a fair bridge," is also in this Parish.

The ancient Manor of Beri, which belonged in King Edward the Confessor's time to Alricus, was given by the Norman Conqueror to Ralph de Pomeroy, who appears to have helped him greatly in his successful invasion of this country, and to have been rewarded with no less than fifty-eight Lordships in Devonshire.

The name of this family is indifferently written de Pomerio, de Pomeri, de la Pomerai, and lastly Pomeroy. They seem to have been very noble in their origin, and to have made good matrimonial alliances, thus Joel, the son of Ralph de Pomerio, married one of the natural daughters of King Henry I. (the sister of Reginald, Earl of Cornwall).

Hollingshead calls John de la Pomerai the "King's nephew," and says that King Henry II., in the 23rd year of his reign, gave unto Philip de Brewes the Kingdom of Limerick, which Herebert and William, brethren to Reginald, Earl of Cornwall, and John de la Pomerai, their nephew, had refused.

Ralph de Pomeroy built the Castle at Berry, and made it the seat of his Barony, and his heirs were Barons and Members of the House of Lords until the reign of King Henry III., after which time (according to Dugdale) they never had the benefit of Peerage, although they continued in their Barony of Berry until the reign of King Edward VI.

The reason of their ceasing to be Members of the Upper House of Parliament has been thus accounted for by an old author:—"Near after the Conquest, all such as had free Seigniories or Lordships, which we call *Court Barons*, came to the Parliament and sate as nobles in the Upper House, but when by experience it appeared that the Parliament was too much pestered with such multitudes, it grew to a custom, that none should come thither but such as the King for their extraordinary wisdom or quality, thought good to call by writ, which writ at first ran '*hac vice tantum*' (to appear only for that turn). After that, gentlemen seeing this estate of nobility to be but casual, and depend merely upon the Prince's pleasure, sought a more certain hold, and obtained of the King letters patent of their dignities to them and their heirs male."

The last of this family who was a Peer in Parliament was Henry de Pomerai, who, in the 41st of King Henry III., doing his homage, had livery of thirty-eight fees in Biry and Hurberton; as also of the Manors of Biri, and Stockley Pomerai and the moiety of the Manors of Hurberton, and Brixham, all which he held in capite of the King by the service of Barony. This Henry, anno 42nd Henry III., had summons to fit himself with horse and arms, to attend the King at Chester, to oppose the hostilities of the Welsh, but he being found afterwards in arms against the King, his lands were estreated.

William de Pomerai, in the year 1102, is said to have given his Lordship

of Biry to the Monks of Gloucester, but his brother Josceline or Gozeline afterwards redeemed it by granting them other property in exchange. This William had a son called Ethelward, who is declared by Dugdale to have founded the Abbey of Buckfast. He cannot have been the founder, since it was a Benedictine Abbey before the Conquest, but he very likely refounded and restored it, and his arms may still be seen there. Edward Pomerai, who married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Peter Beavil, and in right of her mother, sole heiress of Colaton, had three sons, Henry, St. Clare, and John; St. Clare was Abbot of Buckfast, although his name is not mentioned in the list of the Abbots given by the late Dr. Oliver. It is stated in the *Monasticon Diocesis*, that "John Rede occurs as Abbot on the 24th November, 1498, and that he was succeeded by Alfred Gille, on Palm Sunday, 1512." In the Churchwarden's accounts for the Parish of Ashburton, A.D., 1499-1500, the receipts commence thus:—"From a gift of the Lord Abbot of Buckfast, Saint Clere Pomeroy," and in 1511-12, there is an entry of 2s. for ringing his knell.

As we have said above, this family held the Manor from the Norman Conquest until the reign of Edward VI.—that is for nearly five centuries.

The reforms in the Church instituted by the advisers of the young King, excited considerable discontent, which was aggravated by other causes. The new proprietors of the confiscated abbey lands demanded exorbitant rents, and often spent the money in London. The cottagers were reduced to misery, by the enclosure of the commons on which they formerly fed their cattle. The general increase of gold and silver in Europe after the discovery of the West Indies had raised the price of commodities, and the debasement of coin by Henry VIII., and afterwards by the Protector, had occasioned a universal distrust and stagnation of commerce. A rising began at once in several parts of England, and in most parts the rioters were immediately put down, but the disorders in Devonshire and Norfolk in the year 1549 threatened more dangerous consequences. In Devonshire the rioters were brought into the form of a regular army, which amounted to the number of 10,000. Their demands were that the Mass should be restored, half of the Abbey lands resumed, the law of the six articles executed, holy water and holy bread respected, and all other particular grievances redressed. Lord Russell, who had been despatched against them, drove them from their posts and took many prisoners; the leaders were sent to London, tried, and

executed, and many of the lower orders were put to death by martial law.

Sir Thomas Pomeroy appears to have been deeply concerned in this rebellion, and, some historians aver, saved his life by making over the Manor and Castle of Berry Pomeroy to Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, the Protector, but it is more likely (as Lysons remarks) that it came to the Seymours by grant or purchase from the Crown, since the Protector was in the Tower at the time of Sir Thomas Pomeroy's attainder, and, as is well known, was ultimately beheaded.

The ruins of the Castle of the Pomeroy, picturesquely situated about a mile from the Parish Church, are both well known and widely appreciated. What the fortress was in its ancient form can hardly be calculated from what at present remains standing, which is only the front (about sixty yards long) facing the south. Over the gate, which stands towards the west end of the front, the Pomeroy arms (we have been told) still remain, but in consequence of the thickness of the ivy we were unable to verify this statement; this gate, which is turretted and embattled, is about twelve feet high and thirteen feet in length, and the groves of a double portcullis may yet be seen. From the adjacent tower, called St. Margaret's, several gentlemen of the county anciently held their lands.

Lord Edward Seymour, son of the Duke of Somerset, was the first of his family who resided at Berry, and he cannot have lived there long, since the inscription on his tomb proves that he died in 1593. He was succeeded by his son, Sir Edward Seymour, Bart., who married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Arthur Champernowne, and by him most probably the house (the outer walls of which are still standing within the quadrangle), was built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It is stated to have cost upwards of £20,000, but was not finished, the western side never having been even commenced.

The Manor of Berry, together with Bridgetown, is still the property of His Grace the present Duke of Somerset, who, we believe, was born there.

Berry Pomeroy had formerly a cattle fair on the 25th of July (St. James' day), but we are ignorant by whom, or to whom, it was originally granted. Loventor, in this parish, anciently written Lovenetorne, belonged in the reign of Edward the Confessor to Otro. At the Domesday survey it had become the property of Juhel de Totenais, under whom it was held by Ralph de Pomerai. It was afterwards successively in the families of Arundell

and Damarell, and at the commencement of the seventeenth century it belonged to the Lydes (of which family we have spoken in another chapter). With them it remained until about 1770, when it passed to the family of Baker. Sir George Baker was Physician in Ordinary to King George III., and when he was created a Baronet, on the 24th August, 1776, was described as of Loventor.

The Parish Church, dedicated to St. Mary, consists of chancel, nave, opening into north and south aisles, beneath five arches supported upon clustered columns, with carved capitals, a south porch with a parvise over it, and a tower at the western end, containing four bells.

The sacred structure appears to have been rebuilt in the fifteenth century, most probably by Sir Richard Pomeroy. The south aisle, however, must have been added afterwards at the expense of sundry people; whose names are recorded on scrolls encircling the capitals of the southern pillars, and moreover the faithful are desired to pray for them:—"Et pro omnibus benefactoribus hujus operis orate," being carved on the respond at the western end. The porch has a finely-grained ceiling, supported upon slender circular shafts. On one of the handsomely carved bosses we noticed two fish naiant, on another the arms of Pomeroy. The font is octagonal and apparently of the same date as the fabric, and many of the windows are still filled with good Perpendicular tracery, and retain fragments of ancient glass. In one of the windows on the south side there remain two heads of Saints, and some portions of an elaborately wrought canopy, and in the eastern window of the north aisle are, first the arms of Pomeroy, impaled with Raleigh, Gu; five fusils in bend arg., a label of three, second Pomeroy, or; a lion rampant gu, within a bordure engrailed sa, and third the arms of Filleigh, Gu; a fesse vaire, between six crosses formée or. On the north side of the chancel is an altar tomb, without inscription, beneath an obtuse arch, with a deep moulding (as Prince says), "finely fretted and flowered." At the back, under the canopy, were originally inlaid the effigies of four people, with labels proceeding from their mouths, and also the figures of four children, between four escutcheons, and, although the brasses have been removed, these forms can still be traced; the front of the tomb is adorned with quatrefoils and shields, displaying the instruments and emblems of the crucifixion. At the western end of the monument are the arms of Pomeroy; and at the eastern end, a shield, supported by two angles, displays Pomeroy

impaled with Densel—a crescent, and a mullet in chief. This must be the grave of Sir Richard Pomeroy, who married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Richard Densel, of Filleigh. He was the eldest of the two sons of Henry Pomeroy and his wife, Alice Raleigh, and his brother Thomas was Knighted upon the occasion of the Coronation of the Queen of King Henry VII.

As we have said above, judging from the style of the architecture, the present Church must have been erected during his lifetime, and he may possibly have been incited to undertake this good work, between the years 1498 and 1512, by the influence of his uncle, St. Clare Pomeroy, at that time Abbot of Buckfast.

In the North Chancel Chapel is a large monument of the Corinthian order belonging to the family of the present owners of the Manor, and erected to the memory of Lord Edward Seymour (the son of the Protector), who died in 1593, of his son, Sir Edward Seymour, Bart., and of his daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, daughter of Arthur Champernowne. Beneath an arch, ornamented with roses and pomegranites, the Knights clothed in plate-armour recline, one above the other; below is the figure of the lady, behind her head is a child, in a cradle; and at her feet, another figure in a chair; at the base of the tomb are the kneeling figures of nine children, five men, and four women; and above are the arms of Seymour, or; on a pile gu, between six *fleurs de lis az*, three lions of England (being the Coat of Augmentation granted by King Henry VIII. on his marriage with Lady Jane Seymour). Second gu; two wings conjoined in lure, the first downwards, or, for Seymour. There are several other shields displaying the various connections of this powerful family.

The magnificent screen, with the projection of the rood-loft remaining, is profusely adorned with fan tracery, handsome Perpendicular bosses, carving and gilding. The lower part of it has unfortunately been subjected to rough usage; and the large square pews, seem to have been designed to conceal it as much as possible. The carving in the compartments into which the lower part is divided has been much mutilated, and the figures of many of the Saints are very indistinct, but we were able to recognise St. Matthew, with his club; St. Philip, with the spear; St. Stephen, with stones in his chasuble; St. Jude, with the boat; St. Matthias, with battle axe, sword, and dagger; St. Mary Magdalene, with the alabastrum; St. Barbara,

with the tower; St. Gudula, with the lantern; and the four Doctors of the Western Church. The two piers are handsomely recessed for the reception of images, and the door which led to the rood-loft remains on the north side. There are two parclooses, separating the side Chapels from the chancel, and the ancient pulpit of the same date as the screen is still in use.

The western doorway has a good pointed arch with deep mouldings. The Priest's door has been modernised, but still remains on the south side of the chancel. The south doorway is square-headed, with quatre-foiled spandrils, the jambs are also deeply moulded. The parvise has a square-headed Perpendicular window of two lights.

In the Tower, which is square and embattled, there was once apparently a Chapel opening beneath an arch on the southern side. Above where the altar must have stood, there remains a stone shelf which was doubtless a super altar or retable. The tower staircase, with small trefoil lights, is carried up in two of the buttresses, and there is a fine external rood turret. Three of the bells are dated 1607, 1635, and 1751, and are inscribed with the names of the Churchwardens, and in each instance one of them is of the family of Goodridge. This name is also to be seen on the pillars of the south aisle above referred to. The fourth bell was hung in the year 1829, and, in addition to the names of the founders and Churchwardens, has the legend "God protect our Church."

The pace of the ancient cross remains on the south side of the churchyard, and near it is a venerable yew tree.

A Chapel dedicated to St. Margaret and St. James, formerly existed in this parish, but we have not been able to learn anything as to its situation. Before the Reformation the Rectory of Berry belonged to the Prior and Convent of Merton, in Somersetshire, and what is now known as Berry House was then doubtless the Rectory House, and the occasional residence of the Prior. The dining-room is wainscoted, and has two good square-headed Perpendicular doorways. We were shown here some fine specimens of oak carving, and a handsome bedstead, in which we believe Lady Jane Seymour is traditionally reported to have slept; a carving in relief at the back represents, we think, Orpheus charming the beasts by his musical skill.

This house is situated on the north-eastern side of the Church. On the southern side is the ancient Vicarage, where Prince wrote the "*Worthies of*

*Devon.*" He was the son of Bernard Prince, and was admitted a student of Brazen Nose College, Oxford, at 17 years of age, and was ordained in 1664; he was first Curate of Bideford, afterwards Rector of St. Martin's Church, Exeter, from whence he removed to Totnes, which he held about six years, till in 1681 he was preferred by Sir Edward Seymour to the Vicarage of Berry Pomeroy, which he held up to the time of his death in 1723. The first edition of his book was published in 1701.

Our best thanks are due to the Rev. Arthur J. Everett, the present Vicar of Berry, for his courtesy and hospitality when we visited his Church and parish. The early registers are contained in one book, and commence alike in 1602.

## CHAPTER XIX.

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### Holne Manor and Church.

THE pleasant Village of Holne (or Holl, as it is sometimes written), on the south-eastern borders of Dartmoor, is situated in the Hundred of Stanborough, the Archdeaconry and Deanery of Totnes, and is within easy distance of the Railway Stations of Ashburton and Buckfastleigh. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Edolf was Lord of this Manor. It afterwards became the property of Baldwin, the Sheriff, who held high command in the Norman army at the battle of Hastings. He was a grandson of Godfrey, Earl of Ewe, who was a natural son of Richard, Duke of Normandy, the grandfather of William the Conqueror, but his father had the title of Earl of Brion, from which circumstance he is frequently called Baldwin de Brioniis.



From him the Manor descended to Bourchier, Earl of Ewe, who married Anne Plantagenet, the grand-daughter of King Edward III. William Bourchier, his third son, married the daughter and heiress of Sir Richard Hankford, and he appears to have eventually succeeded his father in this Manor. His wife inherited the estates of her maternal grandfather, Lord Fitzwarren, and he, with his son and grandson successively sat in the House of Lords under this title till the year 1536, when the latter was created Earl of Bath.

Henry, fifth Earl of Bath, died without issue in 1654, and at his death the title became extinct. His brother Edward, the fourth Earl, had three daughters. Elizabeth, the eldest, died childless; Dorothy, the second, had a son, who also died childless; Anne, the third, married first the Earl of Middlesex, and secondly Sir Chichester Wrey, and became the ancestress of Sir Bourchier Wrey, the present Lord of the Manor, whose picturesque seat here, in the midst of Holne Chase, overlooking some of the most beautiful scenery of the river Dart, is both well known and appreciated by visitors from every part of the country.

It has been stated that the Village takes its name from the holly-trees which abound on the estate.

Lysons says, p. 277, "That the Manor of South Holne was given to the Abbey of Buckfastleigh by Reginald de Valletort, in the early part of the thirteenth century, and that another Manor of Holne was given them by Stephen Banson." He makes this statement upon the authority of copies of certain charters belonging to the Abbey, preserved amongst Chapple's collections, but admits that the "Hundred Roll" says "Ric Bareyn."

Upon turning to the Hundred Roll, we find that Richard Bareyn, who held the fee of South Holne (which was parcel of the Valletort Barony of Harberton) gave it to Buckfast Abbey in the reign of King Henry II., and that Ralph de Valletort, in the same reign, conferred upon that Monastery a hundred acres of wood in the same parish. It is probable that the Monks of Buckfast profited greatly from the liberality of the Valletorts, inasmuch as there is every reason to believe that this family conferred upon the Abbey the Manor of Englebourne, in the Parish of Harberton before mentioned, which Manor, together with South Holne, belonged to William de Falesia at the Domesday Survey.

We find, from a Charter Roll (43 Henry III. m. 1), that Richard Bauzan

conveyed to the "Abbot and Convent of the Blessed Mary de Bufestre" (or Buckfast) the whole of his land of Holne "*totam terram meam de Holna,*" to pray for the souls of his father, his mother, his brother, Stephen Banzan, and himself, to be held from him and his heirs by them and their successors, by the payment of the thirtieth part of a Knight's fee. This deed has no date, but bears the signatures of Martin Fishacre, Nicholas Ferrers, and four other witnesses.

The Parish Church of Holne is situated in the centre of the Village, and is a perfectly plain and unpretending cruciform structure, of early English date.

Dr. Oliver, in his list of the Devonshire Churches, makes it dedicated to St. Mary. We believe, however, that no actual proof exists of its being thus named. It comprises a chancel, nave, north and south aisles and transepts, a south porch, and a tower at the western end containing five bells, which, though re-cast some few years ago, have not been rung in peal for some time, the late Archdeacon of Totnes having pronounced the cage unsafe. There are no buttresses, and the tower staircase is carried up in the thickness of the wall.

From a copy of the register of St. John's Hospital, at Exeter, the original of which is a folio MS. volume, of ninety-five double pages, transcribed for the most part in the reign of Henry VI., and in the possession of the Corporation of Exeter, we find that Philip de Columbers, on the 20th May, 1329, conferred the advowson of this Church (which he had inherited from the Martyns), together with one acre of land, upon the Prior and brethren of the aforesaid Hospital, to pray for the souls of William Martyn and Dame Alienore, his wife; of William Hastings, William Martyn, and John de Lacy, his ancestors; and of all the faithful departed. This community held the patronage of the living till the suppression of the religious houses, in the reign of Henry VIII.

On September the 11th, 1381, St. James's Chapel "*nuper fundata,*" in Holne parish, was licensed by Bishop Brantyngham. No vestige of this Chapel remains, nor can we even discover in what part of the parish it was situated.

If we except a modern vestry, built on the north side of the chancel, the Church does not seem to have been materially altered outside since its first erection, towards the end of the thirteenth century.

We may notice that the two aisles are, and seem to have been always of unequal length, the one on the north side being shorter than the other by several feet. The stone bolt-hole and arch of an ancient doorway remain in this aisle, which was closed up when a new entrance, leading from the vestry, was made in the north wall.

The chancel has been well restored by the widow of a late patron and Vicar of the parish, and has a handsome eastern window, containing a representation of the Crucifixion. The beautifully executed reredos exhibits the same subject, and is similar to that at St. John's Church, Torquay.

The altar-table is carved in imitation of the altar of Cologne Cathedral, out of oak from the ancient roof of Dartington Hall.

The south chancel window is also filled with stained glass, displaying the arms and impalements of Lane, with the following inscription:—"*In piam Samuelis Lane hujusce Parochie Vicari Memoriam, hancce et alteram super Altare positam, fenestram, Restauravit, et vitravit Brigida Lane superstes.*" There is a fine trefoiled piscina under this window, and another (unrestored) in the South Chancel Chapel; they are both apparently of the same date as the Church, as are also most of the windows, though we remarked two good specimens of the Perpendicular style in the two transepts, the one in the south wall should be particularly noticed. In the eastern window of the north transept are a few remains of very ancient glass.

The nodi in the roof of this transept, as well as some mouldings here and in the porch, have the four-leaved flower characteristic of the Decorated style, and the pillars and arches separating the nave from the aisles are unmistakably of this period also.

The Church has been recently re-seated, but we remarked the back of an old oaken bench carved with the initials C. W., and the date 1683.

Lysons mentions the font at Holne as being particularly ancient; we regret to say that it was replaced by a new one a few years since, and that all trace of the original one has been lost. The length of this Church, including the chancel and tower, is 89 feet; the width including the transepts, 57 feet; without them, 33.

The screen, of Perpendicular date, is in tolerable preservation, and is mentioned by Lysons as being particularly beautiful; it has a good cornice of vine leaves and grapes. The rood-loft has been removed, and the stone staircase leading to it blocked up; the stone shoulders which originally

supported the former remain on the south side only. The lower part is divided into forty compartments, containing the painted figures of Saints, amongst whom three of the Evangelists, St. Matthew, St. Luke, and St. John, with the Apostles; St. Peter, St. James the Great, St. James the Less, St. Philip, St. Bartholomew, St. Matthias, St. Simon, and St. Jude, are conspicuous. We also noticed St. Mary Magdalene, with alabaster box of ointment. The four Doctors of the Western Church, viz.:—St. Jerome (as a Cardinal), Pope Gregory (with the triple crown), St. Ambrose (as a Bishop), and St. Augustine (as an Abbot); St. Sebastian, transfixed with arrows; St. Thomas, of Canterbury, with mitre and crosier; St. Cecilia, holding a musical instrument; the Empress Helena, with the Latin cross; St. Roche, with staff and dog; St. Apollonia, with a tooth at the end of a pair of pincers; St. Dunstan, with a harp; and many others.

The Pulpit, of the same date as the screen, is also mentioned by Lysons in his list of the enriched wooden pulpits of the county. It is profusely decorated, and is divided into eight compartments, by eight crocketed and finialed ogee arches; on the tops of the slender buttresses, separating these arches, are the mutilated figures of eight couchant lions. Each compartment contains a shield of arms. This pulpit seems to have suffered at some time from a bad attempt at restoration.

The arms are all incorrectly marshalled, and we found it very difficult to identify them so as to trace their connection with the fabric. The first—Gules; a cross flory Sa.—evidently was intended for Columbers; (it should be Gules; a cross formée fitchée). This shield has in chief the initials "S. T.," perhaps placed there by the indifferent heraldic painter to commemorate his work; they have nothing to do with the arms.

The second—Or; a cross Gules—must have been intended for St. George, and in the absence of other evidence we think it not improbable that the Church was dedicated to that Saint, from the cognizance he always bore on his cyclas being found in association with the original patrons of the Rectory and the Lords of the Manor:—Quarterly or; a fess Gules, between four water bougets. Impaling, as far as we can make out, Hankford. Or, Billetté, a fess Gu. commemorates the marriage of William Bouchier, with the heiress of Hankford, whilst the next quarterly—France and England 1st and 4th Az.; semée of *fleur de lis* or; 2nd and 3rd Gu; three lions passant, guardant or;—were borne by Anne Plantagenet, the grand-daughter of

King Edward III., and mother of the aforesaid William Bourchier. The next shield Sa; a chevron or, between three boars heads erased—must have been intended for Bothe, consecrated Bishop of Exeter 7th July, 1465, in whose time most probably the screen and pulpit were erected. Next come the arms of the Abbey of Buckfast—Sa; a crozier in pale arg, the crook or, surmounted by a stag's head caboshed of the second, horned, gu.

The seventh contains the arms of Lacy, for whose soul the faithful are desired to pray in the Appropriation Deed—Gu; a bend or, a label of five points. The charges on the eighth shield have become entirely obliterated; it doubtless once contained the cognizance of Martyn, the first patron of the Church.

May we suggest that in any future restoration the ancient arms of that family should fill the vacant place, and in the hope that our suggestion may be adopted we append them:—(Argent, two bars gu).

A venerable yew tree and the ancient cross (restored) stand on the south side of the Church.

There are no grave-stones of any great antiquity, either in the churchyard or Church; the latter has but one mural tablet, recording the death of Sir Bourchier Wrey, the father of the present Baronet, who is buried with the rest of his family at Tawstock, their principal residence. The register of baptisms commences A.D., 1603; marriages, 1653; burials, 1618.

There are belonging to this parish a house, formerly called the Church House, which is now the Tavistock Inn, three-quarters of an acre of land, called Play Park, and another house, with an orchard attached, formerly called Stares Nest, which was afterwards the Poor House; the rents are devoted to the repair of the Parish Church. By ancient custom the courts of the Lords of the Manor and parish meetings are held in the Church House.

The inhabitants of Holne have a right to use Play Park for purposes of recreation, and the villagers assemble there at their annual revel, or lamb feast, on old Midsummer-day. It may not be out of place to say a few words relative to the term Lamb Feast.

This feast was generally kept at Lammas tide, as the first day of August is styled, though in the Roman Church it is known by the name of St. Peter ad Vincula. The reason of its being called Lammas-day, some people think, was that the ancient Christians considered St. Peter the patron of lambs,

from our Saviour's words to him "Feed my Lambs," upon which account they thought the mass this day very beneficial to make their lambs thrive.

The Rev. Robert Bradford gave to the Vicar and Churchwardens of this parish an annuity of 20s., to be laid out in purchasing four Bibles, to be given to four poor children of the parish, every Christmas-day for ever. He also gave a second 20s., to be given in equal shares to two poor men of the parish, not in receipt of parochial relief, on Christmas-day for ever. The proprietor of the premises, charged with this annuity, has for some time (we have been given to understand) declined to pay them, and the gifts are, therefore, lost to the parish.

The Rev. John Charter, a late Vicar, was in the habit of distributing £5 a-year among poor people not in constant receipt of parochial relief, and before he resigned the living, in 1821, he transferred £100 stock into the hands of trustees to continue his gift for ever, and the inhabitants still profit from this gift.

In order that we may make the history of this Parish Church more intelligible to our readers, we would remark that there can be little doubt but that it was built upon that part of the land of Holne which appertained to the Barony of Harberton, by one of the family of Martyn (the descendants of William de Falesia), towards the end of the thirteenth century. As was common at that period, the family of the lay founder soon bestowed it upon an ecclesiastical establishment, by apportioning it to St. John's Hospital, then much in what of funds in consequence of its recent re-constitution.

With respect to the shields on the pulpit, if they are taken to commence from its doorway, they display first the arms and impalements of the Lords of the Manor (proper) of Holne; next the arms of the Bishop of the Diocese, in juxtaposition to the bearings of the Abbey, whose Monks, most probably, aided considerably in decorating this Temple of God; and, lastly, the shields of the family who built and dedicated it immediately preceding the cognizance of St. George, the Patron Saint of England, and to whom, most probably, this Church was dedicated.

We may add also that in the Middle Ages the sexes were generally separated during the hours of Divine Worship. Women were not usually permitted to advance beyond the second pillar from the western end of the sacred structure, and there was generally some distinction in the architecture to mark the line of demarcation. At Holne this distinction is very evident,

the whole of the floor westward of these pillars being raised a step. With respect to the sacred vessels, it is noteworthy that the chalice of this parish is ancient, and appears to date from the period of the Restoration of King Charles II.

With respect to the Vicars of Holne, we would remark that John Wyteby was the Rector in 1310, and that the then Patron was Sir William de Martyn.

John de Bladerwick was the first Vicar of Holne, on the presentation of the Prior and Brethren of St. John's Hospital. Since his time there have been twenty-nine Vicars of Holne. Richard Kaye, was Vicar in 1628, and we find in "*Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy*," p. 288, "That he had the perpetual advowson of this living, and the impropriate tithes of it likewise, which, together with the Vicarage, were worth about £100 a-year, of all of which, as well as a good estate, in the parish of Rattery, he was dispossessed, and thereby reduced to such necessities that his wife, who was a gentlewoman of fortune, was obliged to work for the subsistence of herself and four children." Walker adds, "An ancient gentleman saith that she would often be glad of a piece of bread and cheese, whereof he had given her many pieces." Mr. Kaye was plundered by the soldiers, who broke open the door of his barn filled with corn, and some took out what corn they would and gave to their horses; others turned their horses into the barn. He died some time before the Restoration. The Puritan for whom to make room he was ejected, was called Gastick, another who succeeded Gastick was called White.

In the year of the Restoration of King Charles II., A.D., 1660, Averia and Martin Kaye were enabled to exercise their right of patronage, and presented the Rev. Nicholas Stephens.

The present Vicar is the Rev. John Gill, to whom we beg to offer our most cordial thanks for his hospitality and attention to our enquiries when we visited his Church.

Vicars of Holne copied into the first page of a Register of Burials—

JOHN DE WYTEBY, Rector, 1310. Patron, Sir William de Martin.

JOHN DE BLADERWICK, Vicar, 1329. Patrons, Prior and Brethren St. John's Hospital.

THOMAS NORTHWODE, 1351. Patron, Bishop Grandison (*per lap*).

JOHN THORSWEYE, 1354. Patrons, Prior and Brethren St. John's Hospital.

JOHN MADELEY, 1381. Same patrons.

- RALPH DOLBEARE. Same patrons.
- JOHN COKE, 1433. Same patrons.
- JOHN BASTARD, 1434. Same patrons.
- JOHN CLYFF. Same patrons.
- JOHN HALFHIDE, 1489. Same patrons.
- HENRY DENYS. Same patrons.
- CHARLES PYTTFORD, 1510. Same patrons.
- JOHN PORTER, 1533. Same patrons.
- WILLIAM AVEBY, 1553. Patron, Philip Phrear.
- THOMAS FFRENDE, 1554. Patron, Queen Mary.
- CUTHBERT BRICKBECKE, 1574. Patron, Queen Elizabeth.
- SAMUEL JONES, 1588. Same patron.
- RICHARD KAYE, 1628. Patron, Edward Alford.
- NICHOLAS STEPHENS, 1660. Patrons, Averia and Martin Kaye.
- NICHOLAS HUNT, 1699. Patrons, Henry Lane and George Dotton.
- JOHN ROWE, 1708. Same patron.
- PHILIP ATHERTON, 1746. Patron, John Nosworthy.
- JOHN BRADFORD, 1765. Same patron.
- JOHN BRUTON, 1769. Same patron.
- JOHN MOGRIDGE, 1771. Same patron.
- JOHN CHARTER, 1783. Patron, Sarah Nosworthy.
- WILLIAM LBERT BIRDWOOD, 1821. Patron, Samuel Lane.
- SAMUEL LANE, 1827. Same patron.
- JOHN DOLBEARE PARHAM, 1829. Patron, Samuel Lane, Junr.
- JOHN GILL, 1858. Patron, *hac vice* Major Parry Mitchell.



CHAPTER XX.

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The Parish of Dean Prior.

DEAN PRIOR, situated in the Hundred of Stanborough, and the Deanery of Totnes, lies about five miles from Ashburton, on the high road to Plymouth, and comprehends three different Hamlets, namely, Church Town, Dean Town, and Dean Court.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Alwin, the King's Thane, possessed the Manor of Dena, or Dene, so called in reference to its situation, Dena being an old word, signifying "a hollow place between two hills!" When the survey of Domesday was taken, it had become the property of William de Falesia (of whom we have before spoken), and appears at that time to have been held by four Knights under him.

A few years after the Norman Conquest, the family of Fitz-Stephen, whose name afterwards became associated with the conquest of Ireland, acquired by marriage a great deal of property in Devonshire. Their principal residence was at Norton, in the parish of Townstall, near Dartmouth, but they also held the Manor of South Huish from a very early period, and appear to have succeeded De Falesia in the Manor of Dene.

Richard of Gloucester, who was a son of William Fitz-Stephen, procured a grant from the King for a market and fair for the town of Dartmouth, in 1226. His ancestors seem to have been great benefactors to Holy Church. One William Fitz-Stephen gave some lands, together with the Rectory of Townstall, to the Abbey of Tor; another of the name bestowed the Manor of Malherbe, in the Parish of Broadwood-Wiger, upon the Knights of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem; and William Fitz-Stephen, in the reign

of King Henry II., gave the Manor and Church of Dene to the Priory of Plympton, in this county, which had been founded by William Warelwast, Lord Bishop of the Diocese (the nephew and Chaplain of William the Conqueror), for Monks of the Order of St. Augustine, in the year 1121.

Bishop John (the Chaunter as he is generally called), addressed a letter A.D., 1186-7, to Martin, the fifth Prior of Plympton, taking him and his brethren under his Episcopal protection, and confirming all the privileges and possessions which his predecessors in the See of Exeter had vouchsafed to grant them, and he specifies these possessions, and amongst them mentions the *Church of Dene*. And Bishop Bronescombe seems to have arranged the manner in which its revenues were to be disposed of by the Monks, for we find in his *Register* (fol. 22), that he re-appropriated it to the Priory on the 15th October, 1261, during Prior Baldwin's superiority, in these words "*ad pauperum et peregrinorum ad vos confluentium necessitatem sublevandam.*"

In the reign of Edward I. the Prior of Plympton was summoned to prove "*quo warranto clamat habere visum franci plegii, furcas, emendas assise panis et cervisie fracte*" in Dene, "*Et liberam warenham in dominicis terris suis ibidem;*" and the Prior answered that he claimed exemption from view of frank pledge, power of life and death, and the right of an assize of bread and beer, because the Manor of Dene was within the Hundred of Roger de Moles, of Stanborough, where nothing could accrue to the King. With respect to the free warren he declared that he did not claim it. (*Placita de quo Warranto*, 9 and 10 Ed. I., fol. 168). This Manor and Church continued to appertain to the Priory of Plympton until Henry VIII. suppressed the latter in the thirtieth year of his reign, A.D., 1539.

Howe, the last Prior, who had (with twenty of his brethren) subscribed to the King's supremacy on the 8th of March, 1522, in order to prepare for the dissolution of his house, which he must have long anticipated, executed, during the last three years of his superiority, many leases, alienating for various terms large portions of the Abbey property. Evidence is afforded by the muniments and title deeds at Powderham Castle that he leased the tithes of Wembury for twenty-one years to John Ryder, of Wembury for the rent of £40 13s. 4d., deducting £6 13s. 4d. towards the salary of the Incumbent.

He also leased for various periods, under advantageous terms, to divers people, the tithes of St. Budock, St. Julian (Maker), Maristowe and Thrusselton,

Brixton, Plymouth, Egg Buckland, Tamerton Foliot, Sandford, St. Edward's of Shaugh, St. Thomas (afterwards St. Maurice) East Plympton, All Saints at Plymstock, St. Mary of Plymstock, and St. Kew, in most cases reserving small sums for the maintenance of their clergy.

He also similarly leased the farms of Comb Prior (in Plymstock parish), and Wembury, the wood of Roddewell, the Grange and domain of Martinstowe, and "the dominical place and barton lands, called West Shereford, in Brixton parish." This last for a term of eighty-nine years to the Maynard family, at the yearly rent of £20.

We also find that on May 3rd, 1536, he leased to John and Elizabeth Black for their lives, in consideration of a fine of £20 and the yearly rent of £6, the farm of Combe Prior, in Plymstock, reserving to the Prior and Convent, and to their successors, the mansion place called Lower Combe, with the "apull gardyn and a lytle arber to the same mansion place adjunct, and a dove-house to the same belonging, and also their wood-groves and quarrys there with free libertye for them their servants, workmen and laborers, to goe and come at all tymes with all manner of caryages, for all their business necessary and profitable at their will and pleasure."

The annual revenues of Plympton Priory, in the twenty-sixth year of the reign of Henry VIII., amounted to £912 12s. 8½d., although Prior Howe had been so actively engaged in obtaining fines for long leases of its property, and in charging it with pensions, yet doubtless, in recognition of his early submission to the authority of the King, he was gratified with the large pension of £120 a-year. Retiring to Exeter College, Oxford, in January, 1545, he became a "sojourner" there. (*Wood's Athen. Oxon*, vol. i, p. 568). He was still living in 1553.

With respect to Dean Prior, of which Philip Freer was then the Vicar, we find that the possessions of the Abbey there, spiritual and temporal, amounted to nearly £70 a-year. The Rectorial Tithes seem to have been leased for a term of years to Richard Drewe and William Mugge, at the yearly rent of £8 10s.; and those pertaining to the Vicarage, to one John Moreshed, in consideration of £21 per annum. Whether a sum was reserved for the maintenance of Mr. Freer does not appear, but this divine seems to have been singularly unfortunate in his preferments, for we find from Bishop Turbeville's *Register*, that an appeal was made to the Dean and Canons of Christchurch, with respect to the Church of Brent, of which he was afterwards

Vicar (and of which the aforesaid Capitular Body had obtained the patronage after the dissolution of the Abbey of Buckfast), setting forth that the perpetual Vicarage of the said Church was so poor and insufficient as to have caused it to be altogether forsaken by a fitting Pastor, and praying for augmentation. (Vide *Turbeville's Register*, fol. 48).

William Giles, of Bowden, near Totnes, purchased from the Crown the Manor of Dene, with the Advowson of the Church; and his descendant, John Giles, late in the sixteenth century, built a very handsome house there, surrounded by a large park (this house with its ancient hall still remains). He had a son called Edward, who was born at Totnes, about the year 1580, and was a person of great note in his day.

Prince, in his "*Worthies of Devon*," has given us his history, and he says "that being a man of an active and vigorous spirit, he could not be confined within the compass of an island; wherefore leaving, when but young, his father's house and native country, he travelled beyond the seas, and the Low Countries at that time being the scene of war, and the academy of military discipline, he entered himself a soldier, and tray'd a pike in Her Majesty's service, Queen Elizabeth, of glorious memory there, for several years together." He returned to this country near upon, or soon after her death, and, though he was still very young, King James I. conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood at his Coronation, A.D., 1604. Sir Edward Giles soon after this returned to Devonshire, where his father, more jocularly than seriously, received him with great ceremony; saluted him with the title of Sir Edward Giles at every word, and by all means would place him above him as one dignified with the more honourable degree. At length he said, "Sir Edward, pray tell me who must discharge the fees and charges of your Knighthood and honour?" Being answered "That he hoped he would be pleased to do that." "Nay! then," said the old gentleman, "come down Sir Edward Giles and sit beneath me again, if I am he that must pay for thy honor."

When his father died, Sir Edward Giles inherited a fine property, lived in great reputation at his seat at Bowden, and, in the year 1614, had all the power of the county of Devon put into his hands by King James I. He was always returned one of the Burgesses to serve the town of Totnes in Parliament, during the reign of King James I., until his death in that of the first Charles, and, as his biographer says:—"He always approved himself a good

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subject and a true patriot in the right notion of the word, not serving the country to the disservice of the Crown, but he had an equal eye to the right and interest of both, giving to Cæsar the things that were Cæsar's, and to the country the things that were the country's."

He married Mary, daughter and sole heiress of Edmund Drewe, of Hayne, but had no issue, he therefore adopted his uncle's son, and settled upon him in his lifetime the barton of Bowden and the Manor of Ashprington, and retired himself to the Manor of Dean Prior, where he died, and was buried in the south aisle of the Parish Church, December 28th, 1637. Sir Edward's endeavours to perpetuate his family name were unsuccessful (although his cousin had several children, none of the males appear to have survived long).

He had been co-heir with his sister under his father's will, and this sister, who was called Christian, had married George Yard, of Churston, and her son Edward inherited this property. He married Elizabeth, the daughter of Lady Giles, by Walter Northcot, of Uton, her first husband, and had four children, Giles, Edward, Joan, and Lettice, and, dying before his wife, she (like her mother) became a second time "innodated with the bonds of matrimony," and married Barnabas Potter, the Calvinist, Vicar of Dean Prior, upon the presentation of her step-father, and who was afterwards promoted to the Bishopric of Carlisle.

The Manor and Advowson remained in the family of Yarde till 1789, when the heiress of Yarde married the eminent lawyer, Francis Buller, one of the Justices of the Court of King's Bench, who was created a Baronet, November 28th, in that year, and whose descendant was called to the House of Lords under the title of Baron Churston, in the year 1858.

In the old Manor House of Dean Court, now in the occupation of Mr. William Coulton, may be seen in the great hall which has been recently restored, a shield charged with the armorial bearings and quarterings of Francis Russell, afterwards Earl of Bedford, 3rd of May, 1627, and Lord Steward of the Borough of Totnes. (These arms also occur in the Totnes Guildhall). He married the daughter of Giles Bridges, Lord Chandos, but the arms of his Countess are not included in the coat because it is encircled with the insignia of the Order of the Garter, which can only be used with paternal arms.

The existence of these arms at Dean Court was doubtless in origin a pompous

freak of Sir Edward Giles, who either was, or fancied himself connected with Giles Bridges, Lord Chandos, and is quite in character with the recorded history of the Knight.

## ARMS.

- Quarterly. 1st for Russell, or; a lion rampant gu, on a chief vert three escallops of the field. (*They should be arg; a lion rampant gu; on a chief sa three escallops of the field.*)
- 2nd for Castile az; a castle or (*the field should be gu.*)
- 3rd for Hussey. Barry gu and arg; a crescent for difference.
- 4th for Lucy, arg; three fish haur in fess sa. (*Should be gu; three lucies haur arg.*)
- 5th for Long, gu; semée of crosses crosslet fitchée; a griffin seg or
- 6th for Wise or; three chevronels ermine. (*Should be sa; three chevronels erm.*) *Vide Burke's General Armory under Wise of Sydenham.*
- 7th for Sapcotts: az; three doves or, two and one. (*Should be sa; three doves or.*)
- 8th the fourth quarter of the Hussey shield. Gu; a cross quarterly arg pierced with five mullets.

The first Earl of Bedford married Ann, daughter and sole heiress of Sir Guy Sapcotts, Knt., the relict of Sir John Broughton, of Luddington, in the County of Bedford, and by her had issue an only son Francis.

Francis, Lord Russell, and second Earl of Bedford, K.G., one of the Privy Council in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, was twice married, firstly to Margaret, a daughter of Sir John St. John, Knt., and secondly to Bridget, daughter of John, Lord Hussey. The arms of Hussey are by Sir Bernard Burke given as follows:—"The ancient family of Hussey settled in England at the Conquest. Quarterly 1st and 4th or, a cross vert charged with a mullet of the first, second and third Barry of six erm and gu."

The shield in Totnes Guildhall does not exhibit these two alliances. As at Dean Court it has fallen a victim to a very indifferent heraldic painter, and it is also surrounded with the riband of the Order of the Garter.

## ARMS IN TOTNES GUILDHALL.

- 1st and 4th, quarterly, arg; a lion pass gu, on a chief sa three escallops of the field. Russell, first Earl of Bedford, Comptroller of the Household to King Henry VIII., Lord Privy Seal to Queen Mary.

- 2nd and 3rd Gu; a castle, or; the Arms of Castile; being probably an augmentation granted to the above for his services in bringing over Philip of Spain to England, and for obtaining the signature to the marriage contract between him and Queen Mary.
- 2nd Gu; three fish haur. in fess or, Luce or Lucy. This family terminated in co-heiresses, one married Cole, of Slade, the other must have married a Russell, probably the grandfather of the above, first Earl Russell.
- 3rd Sa; semèe of crosses, crosslet a griffin pass arg. Long. Sir William Russell, fourth son of Francis, second Earl, and Father of Francis, Lord Steward of Totnes, married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Shengay Long, Esq., of Shengay or Chengie, in the County of Cambridge. Sir Bernard Burke gives a "lion" instead of a "griffin" for the arms of this family.
- 4th Az; three chevronels erm, a crescent for difference. Arms of Alice Wise, daughter and heiress of John Wise, wife of James Russell, Esq., and mother of the first Lord.

The Parish Church of Dean is dedicated to St. George, and stands in a small churchyard, close to the Plymouth road. It consists of a chancel, nave, opening into north and south aisles by five arches, supported by octagonal pillars of Decorated date, a south porch, and a plain tower containing five bells. The tower doorway, with the remains of a good square Perpendicular head, has been blocked up, and a mean window inserted in its place. Above it, however, the old window of three lights still remains, and has recently been filled with stained glass.

Upon entering the Church we were glad to perceive a most ancient font of red sandstone, of circular shape, and with the dog-tooth ornament all around the upper edge; it is of late Norman date, in very good condition, and is doubtless coeval with the original Church, which was most probably built and endowed by the family of Fitz-Stephen about the middle of the twelfth century. We believe that the present fabric has been almost rebuilt within the last twenty years. There are good third-pointed windows remaining at the eastern ends of the aisles, but most of the others are of the very worst style of debased Perpendicular.

The chancel has been re-seated by the present Vicar, and we could not fail to be

impressed with the extreme neatness of the interior of the sacred edifice. We regret to say that the ancient screen has been removed. The end of the north aisle has been screened off by a modern parclose to serve as a vestry.

In this aisle are memorials for the family of Furse, 1593, 1609, 1650 (John Furse, the last of this branch of the family, died in 1700; his heiress married John Worth, Esq.) and for that of Taylor (1777), with their arms, arg. a chevron sa. between two lions passant in chief and an annulet in base of the second.

In the south aisle there is a handsome "prie diu" monument of painted marble to the memory of Sir Edward Giles, which is thus described by Prince, p. 422 and 423. "He was interred December 28th, in the south aisle belonging to the Parish Church, where, in the wall over the chancel door, is erected to his memory and his ladys, who was there buried also January 26th, 1642, a very fair monument, viz. :—The statue of the defunct cut in stone, clothed in armour richly gilded, kneeling on a cushion of the same, before a marble desk, with his hands erect in devout posture. On the other side of the desk is the figure of the lady, cut in stone, in mourning habit, upon her knees also, with her hands lifted up. On either side are two pillars of polished marble, with gilded capitals, and over all, his coat of arms with crest and mantling, cut in stone. Beneath, in two fair tables of black marble, was this inscription in letters of gold, now almost washed out by the sponge of time, which I shall here insert, to preserve it from utter oblivion :—

No trust to metals nor to marbles when  
 These have their fate and wear away as men;  
 Times, titles, trophies, may be lost and spent;  
 But virtue rears the eternal monument.  
 What more than these can tombs and tomb-stones pay?  
 But here's the sunset of a tedious day;  
 These two asleep are, I'll but be undrest  
 And so to bed; pray wish us all good rest.

The author of this epitaph was Mr. Herrick, at that time Vicar of the Parish of Dean Prior, and very aged, but in his youth he had been an eminent poet, as his printed works declare."

The Rev. Robert Herrick alluded to by Prince, was Vicar of Dean Prior during the great rebellion, and was ejected by the Puritans, but recovered his Vicarage at the Restoration. He published, in 1640, a volume of poems entitled, "*Hesperides, or Works Humane and Divine,*" which were very



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popular, and which have been (we believe) several times republished. He was a native of London (to which place he retired when his living was sequestered), and was educated at St. John's College and Trinity Hall, Cambridge. The person who usurped the Vicarage upon his deprivation was called John Syms. This Presbyterian is referred to in the so called *list* from which we have already quoted in chap. xi., and he appears to have paid dearly for having assumed a position to which he was not entitled, since he was in due course turned out himself from the Vicarage of Dean Prior, and "compelled to hide himself in a hay-loft, and those in search of him thrust their swords into the hay, but without injuring him." Mr. Herrick was presented to the living by King Charles I., in 1629, upon the promotion of Dr. Potter, to the See of Carlisle, and died in 1674, so that he survived the Restoration fourteen years.

A handsome brass, surrounded by a carved stone frame, was erected in the north aisle of the Church to his memory, in 1857, by his kinsman William Perry Herrick, of Beav Manor Park, Leicestershire.

We must remark, in conclusion, that the inscription is nearly effaced from the monument of Sir Edward Giles, and that the arms have altogether disappeared. Behind Sir Edward Giles, a third, and much younger, male figure, is represented kneeling. Prince does not include this in his description of the monument: it most probably represented the cousin, the adopted son of Sir Edward Giles, to whom we have already alluded.

The Church is about 90 feet long, exclusive of the tower, and inclusive of the aisles 57 feet broad.

We noticed round an old head-stone on the south side of the Church, what we supposed to be the massive fragments of the ancient cross.

There are several charities connected with this parish, details of which will be found in the Appendix.

The present Vicar is the Rev. E. C. Orpen, M.A., Trinity Hall, Cambridge, whose kindness we beg here to acknowledge. He was instituted in 1866 upon the presentation of Lord Churston, and the removal of the rood screen, (together with the incorrect restoration of the Church), had been effected many years before, and no one can regret more than he does the destruction of this and several other objects of antiquity and interest, he permitted us to inspect his registers. The early ones are in a bad condition, and we fear that it would be found impossible to re-bind them, they have suffered so much in by-gone ages. Baptisms, Marriages and Burials commence alike in 1561.

CHAPTER XXI.

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The Two Parishes of Staverton and Landscope.

STAVERTON, on the south side of the river Dart, three miles N.N.W. of Totnes, is situated within the Archdeaconry of that name, and in the Deanery of Ipplepen; the Church and Village (which rises boldly from the Dart valley) lie at the south-eastern extremity of the large parish, which comprises more than 5,356 acres of land, and includes the Hamlets of Sparkwell and Strechford; Wolston Green, situated in the northern part of the parish, now appertains to the New Church of Landscope, which was built and consecrated in the year 1851.

The Manor has, from a very early period, belonged to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, some say that it was given them by King Athelstan "*in perpetuum elemosinam.*" It is possible that the land was given by that Monarch to the See of Crediton, which (we need hardly remark) was not removed to Exeter until the year 1050.

In King Athelstan's time Ethelgar was the Bishop of Crediton, having been consecrated A.D., 934. Probably about this time Athelstan kept his Christmas at Exeter, since he appears to have done so at the time he made his celebrated laws at that place.

In 937 is said to have happened near Axminster the most bloody conflict which had ever been known in England, between King Athelstan, accompanied by his brother Edmund, against the Kings of Ireland and Scotland, confederated with the Danes, in which Athelstan was victorious. In part of an old French Chronicle, printed in "*Leland's Collectanea,*" it is said that the enemy landed at Seaton, and that the battle began at Brumedune, near Colyton, and continued to Colecroft, under Exminster, and the cartulary of

Newenham Abbey mentions that Athelstan founded at Axminster a Collegiate Minster of Priests to pray for the souls of the Earls and others slain in the battle.

*Westcote* (page 405) speaking of the tradition relative to this King and Staverton, says:—"Here some will have King Athelstan to have sometime a palace, and that he gave this and Stoke Canon to the Chapter of St. Peter; but I think the similitude of the names hath produced this error, for it hath not been enjoyed by them, by many years so long, but somewhat after the conquest there was one Adelstane, who lived at Athelstane's Hall, in this county (and, perchance, in this parish, for I know not where else to find it), who dying sans issue, bestowed these large gifts on them.

We find from the "*Valor Ecclesiasticus*," that the Dean and Chapter of Exeter held the Manor of Staverton with Metherell, and that they derived from these two Manors an income of £103 8s. 5d. per annum after they had paid a sum of 2s. 2d. to Anthony Worth, gentleman, as a quit claim of his interest in the Manor of Metherell, and a further sum of £1 17s. 8d. to John Tope, Bailiff of Metherell, for his fee.

The Manor of Barkington, or "Bachedone," in the reign of Edward the Confessor, belonged to Algar, the King's Thane; at the Domesday Survey it was held by Osberd, under Judhel de Totnais. It was afterwards sometime in the Norman family of De Worthè (which name was afterwards anglicized into Worth and Worthy), and was probably bestowed upon them at the time Judhel was banished the kingdom, and forfeited his estates. Barkington, in later times, successively belonged to John Preston and Sir F. L. Rogers, Bart., and is now in the family of May.

Sparkwell Barton gave name to a family from whom it passed by successive female heirs to Barnhouse and Rowe; it was purchased about 1808 of the family of Preston, by Mr. P. Michelmores.

The Barton of Pridhamsleigh, at which place there is a large and curious lime-stone cavern, seems by the name to have once belonged to the ancient family of Prudhome or Pridham. It was some time the property and residence of "Gould," and was purchased by the late Lord Ashburton; it afterwards descended to the late Lord Cranstoun, and is now the property of his executors.

The Barton of Blackler, has been long in the family of Wolston, whilst that of Little Ambrook is the property of the Neyles.

*Gulwell Fa*

Kingston belonged to the Barnhouse family in the reign of Edward I. William Barnhouse, in the sixteenth century, married the daughter of Sir Richard Pomeroy, of Berry, and had two daughters, Alice, the youngest, married Hackwill, of Totnes; Agnes, the eldest, married John Row, Serjeant-at-Law.

Prince, in his "*Worthies of Devon*," pp. 711, says:—"William Barnhouse, being left a widower, married a gentlewoman of good family, in the north-east part of this county (whose name I list not to mention), that brought him a son called Thomas Barnhouse. But he suspecting that he was not his own begetting, disinherited him and settled his lands on his daughter Agnes, married, as aforesaid, unto Serjeant Row."

This eminent lawyer lived to a considerable age, his name occurs in a deed (as witness) by the name of "*Johannes Row Serviens, ad legem*," in the eighteenth year of King Henry VIII. (sixteen years after he took his Serjeant's degree). Kingston was re-built by John Rowe, Esq., in 1743.

In the northern part of the parish, about two miles south of Ashburton, are the Penn Recca slate quarries, which have been worked for centuries. The slate is found in immense blocks, and is of a beautiful sage green colour. Great quantities of this durable slate are sent to various parts of the kingdom, and many of the houses, &c., in the neighbourhood have been roofed with it since the time of James I. and Charles I. St. Andrew's Church, Ashburton, was roofed in the former reign with slates from these quarries, and they remained until it was re-roofed, about thirty-five years since.

The Parish Church is not dedicated to St. George, as some historians aver, but to St. Paul, as proved by Bishop Stapledon's *Register*, fol. 84. It consists of a chancel nave, north and south aisles, a south porch (with a parvise over it, approached by a remarkably broad staircase), and a tower at the western end, containing six bells.

It has lately undergone restoration, and we regret to say that many of the windows, though very handsome of their kind, have been modernized. Many of them are filled with stained glass, and the large sum of money they must have cost would, in our humble opinion, have been much better spent in imitating some of the ancient perpendicular tracery, a good example of which still remains (if our memory serves us) at the south-eastern end of the south aisle.

The nave opens into the aisles beneath five arches, supported upon octagonal columns of decorated date, the capitals being carved with the four-leaved flower characteristic of the style. The ancient screen extends across the nave and aisles, and is a fine example of Perpendicular carving, but it is thickly covered with paint. There is a piscina and credence table on the south side of the altar, which have been restored, and the ancient Priest's door, with a square perpendicular head, remains also on the south side.

The south Chancel Chapel has been appropriated as a burying place by the Rows, of Kingston, the eastern end being railed off, and containing several memorial inscriptions pertaining to the family. There is also a memorial in this Chapel for the family of Rendell, of Kingston, who probably succeeded the Rows there. In the Church we noticed a memorial of the Rows, of Sparkwell, with their arms (granted A.D., 1595), Arg. a chevron sa, (should be az.) between three trefoils slipped, per pale gu. and vert.

On the north side of the north Chancel Chapel is a large and ancient "Prie Dieu" monument, belonging to the family of De Worthè, who are known to have been residing in Devonshire in the time of Henry II. (A.D., 1154). The Knight, clothed in plate armour, with his helmet hanging in rear of him, is kneeling with his lady at a faldstool. Above them kneel their eight children, viz., three boys and five girls, one behind the other, the eldest in front. The inscription has become almost obliterated, but the date is A.D., 1629. Above are sculptured the arms of the family, the same as now borne by the Rev. Charles Worthy, Vicar of Ashburton, Ern. an eagle displayed with two necks, sa. beaked and legged gu. Crest. An arm erect, vested and gloved ermines holding an eagle's leg, couped at the thigh, or.

In the north aisle is a flat grave-stone, with a brass, containing an inscription to the memory of Edward Gould, and Margaret his wife, date 1662, with a facetious couplet underneath, running thus:—

. . . Death spared not Margaret,  
Although a *pearl* in *golde* so nicely set.

We would draw attention to the play upon the words Margaret and Gould. Most of our readers are doubtless aware that Margaret is derived from a Greek word (*margarites*) signifying a pearl.

Within the Cathedral Church of Exeter was anciently a chantry, supported

by the owners of the Manor of Metherel. In the Chantry Rolls of Devon and Cornwall, in the Public Record Office, we read as follows:—"One Chantry, called X, of the clock Masse. Founded by . . . to [find] a pryste in the Cathedral. The yerely value of one annual pencon, out of certayn lands called Metherell, in Stafferton (Devon). The sayd chantry hath byn discontinued . . . yeres, by reason whereof the value is unknown."

In the churchyard we noticed on the south side a very ancient yew tree, in an advanced stage of decay, and on the exterior of the south chancel wall is a brass to the memory of the son of Serjeant Row, above mentioned, bearing the following inscription:—

Sub hoc tumulo Sepelitur corpus Johannis Row Filii et Hæredis Johannis Row Servientis ad legem

Anno { Domini 1592  
Aetatis 82 et amplius.

Above is the effigy, in a flowing gown, with hands clasped, and the *ancient* arms of Row, quite different from those already described as granted in 1595. Az. a chevron between three paschal lambs, staff, cross, and banner arg.

The late Vicar of Staverton the Rev. F. H. Atherley, was unfortunately for some years before his death in a bad state of health, he expended much money, and took much interest in the restoration of his Church, which, when we visited it was in a state of chaos, having been unroofed and disused for some months.

To the kindness and attention shown us by his Curate, the Rev. W. Downes, our best thanks are heartily tendered. He informed us that the registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials, commence alike in A.D., 1614. The present Vicar is the Rev. J. B. Hughes, late Head Master of Blundell's School, Tiverton, who was admitted upon the death of his predecessor, in 1874.

In the chancel of the Church is a gravestone inscribed to the memory of Edward Pearse, Vicar, A.D., 1685. And another with this inscription:—

John Horsham, Vicar du Protectorate.

We read in "*Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy*," p. 264:—"An ancient clergyman who lived through those times informed me of this sequestration." I find Mr. Horsham possessed of this Vicarage before the wars, and there was one of both these names dispossessed for Nonconformity in 1662. I hope the old gentleman did not mistake one of these ejections for the other."

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Staverton was a "peculiar" of the Dean and Chapter, and, until the recent law was enacted abolishing peculiars, was always visited by a member of the Capitular Body, instead of by the Archdeacon of Totnes. The population in 1871 was only 876 persons. The Vicar has a good residence, and about three acres of glebe.

The Church of Landscope, in the Parish of Staverton, is situated three miles from Ashburton, and was consecrated on the 21st September, 1851, and dedicated, as we have said above, to St. Matthew. It is built with dun-stone, raised near the building, and Bath-stone dressings, in the geometrical decorated style of the reign of Edward II., and consists of a chancel, nave, south aisle, and south porch, with a tower and spire about 100 feet in height, at the eastern end of the aisle. The seats, pulpit, &c., are of oak, and of good design, and the open roof is also of oak.

Adjacent to the Church is the Parsonage House, which harmonizes with the character of the Church, and is surrounded by a beautifully-kept and charmingly-picturesque lawn. The patron is the Vicar of Staverton, upon whose presentation the Rev. T. I. Stewart was licensed in 1853. This gentleman kindly informed us, in addition to the above facts, that the erection of this Church has already proved a great accommodation to the inhabitants of Landscope and Wolston Green, residing (as they do) at a considerable distance from the Mother Church. The principal part of the expense incurred in the buildings was generously defrayed by Miss Champernowne, of Dartington. Mr. Pearson, of Westminster, was the architect, and Messrs. Jackson, of Exeter, the builders. The site of the Church has an extensive prospect over the picturesque valley of South Devon, and the spire is a conspicuous object for a considerable distance. The population of Landscope in 1851, was 399 persons.

With reference to the Charities of the Parish of Staverton, we find that William Gould, Esq., in the year 1692, gave 40s. yearly for ever to the poor of the parish, to be paid out of a tenement called Wallaford, in the Parish of Buckfastleigh, and to be bestowed in grey frieze cloth to make jerkins for men and boys. Mr. Wetherdon is the present owner of Wallaford, (we gather from the report of the Charity Commissioners), and pays 32s. per annum in respect of this annuity, the remaining 8s. being deducted for land-tax.

The Churchwardens and Overseers distribute this, giving at Christmas, to

six poor men and boys, sufficient grey cloth to make six waistcoats. If the cost of the cloth is more than 32s., the deficiency is made up by the parish officers.

Edward Bovey, by his will dated 6th August, 1709, gave £200 to the poor of the parish, to be paid to Thomas Shillabeer, of Staverton, and to be given away to such poor persons as he should think did most want it. Thomas Shillabeer, in the year 1718, made distribution thereof to sixteen poor persons, who consented that the sum of £200 should be bestowed in lands of inheritance, they receiving the yearly rent thereof during their lives. The last trust-deed of the property is dated 4th October, 1808, whereby Thomas Bradridge and two others conveyed to John May and others, and their heirs, a close called Oak Park, containing three acres of land; another close on the north side of Oak Park, of about two-acres-and-a-half; also Higher Tower Park, three acres; the close against the hill, two acres; Palk's Down Close, three acres; and a meadow, called Long Meadow, one-acre-and-a-half; all of which were situate within the Parish of Broadhempston, and called Cruse's Tenement.

Since the date of this deed the Trustees have by deed dated the 2nd November, 1811, conveyed Long Meadow to John Woolston, Esq., in exchange for a field in the said Parish of Broadhempston, called the Strole, containing one-acre-and-three-quarters; and the sum of £100.

The Charity Commissioners, remarking upon this exchange, say:—"The Trustees had no power to make it, but it is stated to have been very advantageous to the trust property, the lands having previously been intermixed with Mr. Woolston's.

The £100 received to make up the value, was invested in the Navy Five per Cent. Stock in the names of four of the Trustees. The lands in 1821 let for £15 10s. clear yearly rental.

The rents and dividends are received by the Churchwardens, and are annually distributed amongst poor persons not having parochial relief, who are elected at a vestry meeting held for that purpose after notice, given, in sums of 10s. each. The persons thus elected continue to receive the annuity as long as they do not become chargeable to the parish.

Edward Gould, in the year 1735, gave 29s. yearly for ever, to be paid out of a fourth-part of Bottom Park, situate in the Parish of Staverton, and part of the Manor of Pridhamsleigh, to the Minister, Churchwardens, and Overseers



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of the Poor, at least twenty days before the feast of Easter, to be, by the major part of them bestowed in a coat of blue cloth, as near the price of 20s. as possible, to be given before the end of Easter week, to one of the poorest persons of the parish not in receipt of constant parochial relief, the same person not to have the donation more than once in twenty years.

He also gave £200 to be laid out in lands, the rents to be spent in linen cloth, of at least 12d. per yard, for shirts and shifts for men and women, to be distributed on Christmas Day. In 1820 the distribution of this charity extended to 135 persons.

The Rev. Thomas Baker, in 1802, gave £200 for the use of the poor of this parish, desiring that the said sum should be placed in the public funds, and that the interest should be applied in the purchase of a coat, of the value of £1, for a poor man, and that a similar sum should be given to a poor woman, and that the remainder should be employed in the education of poor children of the parish, at the discretion of the Vicar, for ever. The Vicar, when the Parliamentary report was published, was in the habit of purchasing yearly a coat for a poor man, and a gown of equal value for a poor woman at Whitsuntide, and applied the £8 remaining in paying for the instruction of as many poor children of the parish as could be taught for that sum.

Thomas Bradridge, of Kingston House, on the 14th September, 1805, by his will (which was proved in 1815), gave 32s. a-year for the purpose of instructing poor children of the parish in reading. By a codicil to his will he increased the amount to 40s. yearly. Five poor children are taught to read, at an expense of 8s. each per annum, and a tablet, containing a statement of this gift, has (in accordance with the terms of the will been erected in Staverton Church.

## CHAPTER XXII.



### The Parish of Tor Brian,

ABOUT a mile from Ipplepen, and in the same Hundred, Archdeaconry, and Deanery, is situated the picturesque Village of Tor Brian (or Bryan), which, like many of our country parishes, retains the name of its ancient lord and patron.

At the time of the Domesday Survey the Countess Godeva held a Manor of Torre, in demesne, and William, the King's ostiarius (or door keeper), another. One of these Manors was Tor Mohun, the other Tor Brian, and it is not easy to determine which was which. The Countess Godeva was the widow of Bristric, or Brictric, a Saxon noble, (already several times referred to in these pages), who had held the Manor (which appears to have been her dower) in the reign of Edward the Confessor.

Many of the Manors held by Brictric were afterwards apportioned to Queen Matilda, and ultimately became the property of the Crown, and it is quite possible that the King acquired possession of this property after the death of the Lady Godeva, and that it remained in the hands of his successors till King Henry II. conferred it upon the noble family of Brian, the heads of which family, from the reign of that Monarch till that of Henry IV., retained the christian name of Guy.

A Knight of this name, renowned for his patriotism, had the misfortune to lose his reason, when, with the full approbation of his wife, the Lady Welthiana, King Edward III. ratified the livery of the Baronry of Castle Walweyn, in County Pembroke, to their son Sir Guy.

This Sir Guy, who seems to have been the most illustrious of a very

illustrious race, was standard-bearer to King Edward III., and, according to Dugdale—"behaved himself with great courage at the fight this King had with the French at Calais, in the twenty-third year of his reign, and in recompence thereof, he had a grant of two-hundred marks per annum out of the Exchequer, during life."

In 1351 he obtained a charter for free warren in all his demesne lands in Surrey, Middlesex, Dorset, Devon and Wales.

We may here remark that in the reign of Edward I., according to the Hundred Roll, Tor Brian was a free Manor, and its lords possessed the power of inflicting capital punishment, &c.

In 1354, Sir Guy was one of the Ambassadors with Henry, Duke of Lancaster, then sent to Rome to procure a ratification of the League between England and France from the Pope; and attending the King the year after in his expeditions into France, he was made a banneret, *i.e.* knighted in the field under the banner Royal; having license for the better support of that dignity to purchase lands of £200 per annum value to himself and heirs.

He went again to the French wars in 1370, and the same year was made Admiral of the King's fleet, and two years afterwards was employed against the Scotch. His conduct in all his employments was so satisfactory to his Prince, that he was elected into the society of the Knights of the most noble Order of the Garter, an order first founded by King Edward the III., in the 23rd year of his reign, A.D., 1348.

On the death of his Royal patron, he served King Richard II. with good success both by land and sea, and he was constituted one of the Commissioners to treat with John, Duke of Brittany, for a league of friendship with the English Monarch, and he also formed one of the expedition to Ireland with Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March. He seems not only to have been a brave soldier, but also a good Christian, for he founded the Collegiate Church of Slapton, about four miles from Kingsbridge, and in order to support the four Priests who were to sing service every day in the Chapel of our Lady there, he endowed it with lands of the value of £10 per annum, as also with the Advowson of the Church of Slapton.

He married first, Anne, daughter and heir of William Holway, and secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, and he died the Wednesday after the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, A.D., 1391, being then seised of the Manors of Northam, Slapton, and Tor Brian,

all in this county. By his second wife, he had issue two sons, William, the younger, was Captain of Merk Castle, in the marches of Calais, and died without issue. Guy, the eldest, left two daughters, heirs to their grandfather (their father dying "*in vita patris*:" ) his will made July 7th, 1383, and proved in the Court of the Bishop of Salisbury, may be seen in "*Nichol's Collectanea Genealog. et Topog.*" vol. iii. A jury found that he died in August, 1385.

According to Lysons, this Manor passed by successive female heirs to Fitzpayne, Poynings, and Percy. Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Guy de Brian, had a daughter Isabel married to Lord Poynings, through which match Henry, Earl of Northumberland, claimed this property, which, after a long controversy, was allotted to him. Lysons adds that there must be some great mistake here (see his "*Survey of Devonshire*," p. cii.

In 1490, William Morshede was instituted to the Rectory of Tor Brian, upon the presentation of King Henry VII., whilst in A.D., 1498, we find Henry, Earl of Northumberland, who is described as Lord "*Maneriorum de Brian et Slapton*," presenting a Rector to the latter Church. This proves that at all events the Northumberland family were at one time possessed of it.

Between the years 1520 and 1530, the Crown appears to have obtained possession of the Manor, and to have sold it to Thomas Kitson (or Kytson) a wealthy mercer, of London. He was the son of Robert Kitson, of Warton, Lancashire, by his wife, Margaret Washington. Singularly industrious and judicious, he realised a fortune by his extensive mercantile transactions abroad, and purchased considerable estates in Suffolk, Dorset, Somerset, Nottingham, and London.

In Devon he became the owner of the Manor of Ipplepen, with lands in Kingskerswell and Widecombe, as also the Manors of Clyston, Dartmouth, and Tor Brian, all held of the Crown by Knight's service.

Froude, in his "*History of England*," p. 10, thus speaks of him:—"The magnificent Hingrave Hall in Suffolk, had been completed by Sir Thomas Kitson two years before. (32nd, Henry VIII.) Sir Thomas Kitson was but one of many of rising merchants who were now able to root themselves in the land by the side of the Norman nobility, first to rival, and then slowly to displace them." He was knighted by Henry VIII. before he was elected Sheriff of London, in 1533: he died on September 11th, 1540, aged 55, leaving by his second wife Margaret Donnington, a posthumous son Thomas, born on October

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the 9th that same year. This son died on January 28th, 1692-3. In the inventory of effects taken January 7th, 1541, may be read—"Implements in the house at Tor Brian, Devon, valued at £18 13s. 4d. This Manor House was in all probability what now passes by the name of Tor Court.

Prince, p. 130 remarks:—"Here were lately seen *near the Church*, some remains of an ancient noble house, sometime the seat and habitation of the honourable family of Brian."

From the Kitsons, the Manor passed into the possession of the family of Petre, and as Oliver says, "Became the cradle of that noble house, though several of the same name were dispersed in Paignton, Marldon, and Exeter. The celebrated Sir William Petre was one of this family, and was born at Tor Newton, in this parish, though Lysons, in his "*Magna Britannia*," makes him out to be a native of Exeter. The Manor seems to have been in the possession of his family for several generations before he was born. He was the son of John Petre, of Tor Brian, by his wife Alice, daughter of John Colin, gent., of the adjoining parish of Woodland, and his grandfather is described as John Petre, of Tor Brian.

The father of this Sir William had a large issue, five sons and three daughters, and the sons all became eminent men. The eldest was principal Secretary of State, the second inherited the estates in Tor Brian, the third was "head customer" or Collector of the City of Exeter. Richard was Chancellor of Exeter Cathedral and Archdeacon of Buckingham, says Prince, on the authority of Westcote. This, however, was not the case as regards Exeter. We find, however, that he was installed Precentor of our Cathedral Church on the 28th December, 1587, and that he resigned that dignity in 1591. Robert, the youngest, was one of the Officers of the Exchequer, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

In the year 1532, William Petre took the degree of Doctor of Laws, being at that time a Member of All Souls, and afterwards became Tutor to the son of the Earl of Wiltshire. Whilst at Lord Wiltshire's, he made the acquaintance of Cromwell, afterwards Earl of Essex, and was by him induced to come to Court, where he speedily became a great favourite of King Henry VIII. He was one of the visitors of religious houses, and it is needless to say obtained a good share of the plunder after their dissolution. Thus he obtained from the King the Manors of Ingarston, Hauley-Barns, Croudon, Cowbridge, Weselands, East-Borndon, Blunt-Mal Matching, Toddenhin, Sutton, South

Brent, and Churchstowe, all of them being the property of the plundered Abbeys, and also of the Rectories of Brent, Ging-Moutney, and Buttisbury, Iying, (both Rectories and Manors), in various counties and dioceses; and when Queen Mary came to the throne, (fearing lest he should lose what he had acquired on account of his religious tergiversation), he had influence enough with Pope Paul IV. to obtain for him, on November 28th, 1555, (2 and 3 Philip and Mary), a confirmation of the grants of Church property which he had received from King Henry.

He stated that he was ready to employ his money in a way that the Church would approve of, and it is undeniable that his wife and son, as well as himself, were great benefactors to Exeter College, Oxford, and that he founded eight fellowships there, the fellows to be elected out of the counties of Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Oxford, Essex, and other places where he had lands. It is wonderful how he contrived to continue in favour with four Princes of such distinct interests and different inclinations as Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth, but the tact which he partly acquired at foreign courts in the early part of his life seems never to have deserted him.

To use the words of Prince, his biographer:—"He corrected the vices of one country with the virtues of another." "Two things (he says) among others were observed to improve his travel, first, an artificial and careless freedom that opened others; and secondly, a natural gravity that shut him up: whereby he was the more capable of observing their virtues and escaping their vices." He lived to a great age, and died sincerely regretted by Queen Elizabeth, on the 13th January, 1572, and is buried in the Church of his Manor of Ingarston, in the County of Essex.

He was twice married. By his first wife, he had two daughters, by his second, besides two more daughters, an only son John, who was Knighted by Queen Elizabeth, A.D., 1576, and advanced to the dignity of a Baron of this Realm by the name of Lord Petre, of Writtle, in the County of Essex, 1st, James I., A.D., 1603, and he was the ancestor of the present Peer.

To return to Tor Brian, John Petre, the Secretary's father, settled the greatest part of the estate there upon John, his second son, whose son William married Cecilia, the daughter of Thomas Southcot, Esq., of Bovey Tracey, and had issue Sir George Petre, of Torbrian, Knight. The Petre family seem to have possessed the estate of Tor Newton, but the Kitsons

reserved the Advowson of the Rectory for many years, that family and their connections presenting as late as 1662. Both the Advowson and the Manor then appear to have become the property of Stowell, of Park (Bovey Tracey), who was afterwards Knighted, as he is called Sir John Stowell, Knt., in 1669.

Nicholas Trist, of Totnes, purchased the Rectory in 1718, and in 1778 it was re-purchased by John Wolston, Esq., of Tor Newton, from the Rev. Browse Trist. The ancestor of the present proprietors, Christopher Wolston, purchased the Tor Newton Estate of the Stowells in 1674.

This family (Oliver remarks) seem to have come from Loddeswell, and he quotes an extract from the "*Allington Register*," 23rd February, 1653 "Naboth Bastard married to Elizabeth Wolston, of Loddeswell." This Naboth was born January 10th, 1607-8.

We find in Lysons, p. 455—"That the Barton of Blackler, in Staverton Parish, has long been in the possession of the family of Wolston." The Manorial rights of Tor Brian were long ago sold off and vested in the several landowners.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

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### The Church of the Holy Trinity, Tor Brian.

THE Parish Church of Tor Brian, situated a little to the north-west of the Village, is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and on entering the churchyard by the lych-gate, the first thing that arrested our attention was the ancient cross, which still remains on the south side, and a venerable yew tree of amazing girth.

The building consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, a south porch, and a fine tower at the western end, containing four bells. Both walls and tower are supported by strong buttresses, and those on the south-east and south-west angles of the latter have been adorned with handsome image recesses; of these the one on the south-west has been entirely destroyed, whilst the corresponding one is in a tolerable state of preservation, but the figure that it once contained has been long since removed. The style of the whole building is good Perpendicular, and the manner in which it has been preserved reflects great credit upon the patron of the Rectory.

It is possible that a portion of the chancel, and the eastern ends of the aisles, may be the remains of the original edifice, which was probably re-built at the end of the fourteenth or commencement of the fifteenth century.

The windows at the eastern ends of the two Chancel Chapels appear to be much older than any of the others, the geometrical tracery in both of



them proving that they are of the Second Pointed or Decorated period, which style prevailed in England during the reign of the first three Edwards and Richard II.

The south porch, which has a parvise over it, lighted by a good square-headed Perpendicular window, has also a fine vaulted ceiling.

The font (which has been restored) is octagonal, its pedestal being ornamented with eight trefoiled niches. The organ stands under the tower arch.

The nave (still retaining its old oaken benches, though we regret to say that they have been surrounded with wainscot in order to form *pews*, and have had the poppy heads shaved off) opens into the aisles, through five pointed arches supported by engaged columns with the capitals carved in foliage.

The ancient screen of pure Perpendicular work has the projection of the rood-loft remaining, and is adorned with foliage and tracery richly painted and gilt. It is in a very good state of preservation. The panels in the lower half of it are filled with figures of Saints and Apostles, amongst which are to be seen the four Evangelists, with their emblems, the Apostles St. Andrew, St. Philip, St. Jude, St. James the greater, St. Simon, St. Thomas, and St. Bartholomew, the legend of St. Veronica. The Blessed Virgin crowned Queen of Martyrs, with the Angel Gabriel behind her, St. Laurence with the gridiron, St. Cecilia, St. Barbara, St. Apollonia, St. Dorothy with basket of flowers, St. Helena, and St. Agatha, her breast torn with pincers.

The ancient priests' doorway remains on the south side of the chancel, and there is a fine cinquefoiled piscina in its south wall. There is also a trefoiled piscina in the south Chancel Chapel, and like the first, it has a square head. The piscina in the north Chancel Chapel is perfectly plain, and appears of a date anterior to either of the others.

The altar table, the front of which is divided into five compartments, by five beautifully carved and illuminated ogee arches, has been formed out of the upper part of the old pulpit, which it was found necessary to re-construct a few years since,—the new pulpit, which still harmonizes with the screen, has been decorated with the mouldings which were removed from its ancient pedestal.

In front of the centre of the table we observed a fine polished green slab,

marked with five crosses, which doubtless once served for the high altar. It now covers the resting place of two former Rectors, and bears the following inscription round its edge:—“*Hic jacet dominus Isaacus Gosewell hujus Parochiae, quondam Rectoris qui sepultus March 18th, 1636, ae. sae. 62.*” There is a similar inscription in the centre, to the memory of his son Edward, also Rector, who died in December, 1662.

On the north wall of the chancel is a slab inscribed thus:—

MS.

Gulielmo Joan. F. Petreo de Tor-Newton Armig. & Ceciliae Tho.  
Southcot de Bovy-Tracy Armig. F. Conjugi ejus. qui mutua Charitate  
ad Novissima vixerunt.

Parentibus Opt. Maestissimus Filius Georgius Petreus Eq. Auratus Li-  
berorum Mascul. Natu Maximus pietatis ergo posuit.

Gulielmus obiit ult. Aprilis 1614; Cecilia obiit Decimo nono Aprilis  
Anno Dom. 1600.

They lie buried in front of the north side of the altar, their grave being marked with a black stone with an English inscription. The slab is in the form of an arch; on the top are the arms of Petre, Gules; a bend or, between two escallops arg., and on the sides are the several impalements.

The South Chancel Chapel is appropriated as a burying-place by the Wolstons, the present owners of the property.

The tracery of nearly every window in the Church still contains the old fifteenth century glass, and the colouring is very beautiful. In the eastern window we noticed the ancient arms of Brian or; three piles in point azure; and the cognizance of Wolston sa., a bend below six hand baskets or. In this window are also the figures of St. Margaret, St. Edward, St. Asaph, and St. Anastatia, and several others. Below this widow is a handsome reredos, recently placed there by the patrons.

The north chancel window contains a scroll inscribed—“By Thy cross and passion good Lord deliver us.” The one opposite has the four Doctors of the Western Church, St. Jerome, St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, and St. Gregory the Great. Each of the windows in the aisles contains a representation of the Vision of Ezekiel, as described in the 5th chapter, and the 5th to the 16th verses. In these windows we also noticed the instruments of the crucifixion, the five wounds of Christ, the verbal emblem of the Trinity, the letters I.N.R.I., and the shield of St. George the Martyr arg., a cross gules. The chalice is very ancient indeed. The flagon and paten are of pewter.

The registers are very well kept—Baptisms commencing October 3rd, 1564; Marriages, January 22nd, 1565; Burials, October 21st, 1564.

The earliest register is a parchment book, each page being divided into three columns, containing births, marriages, and deaths. The baptisms are deficient from February 6th, 1649, to January, 1653; marriages from January 6th, 1647, to March 4th, 1653; burials from December 23rd, 1649, to January, 1653.

We find from these books that the Rectory of Little Hempston has paid 14s. a-year to the Rectory of Tor Brian for a longer period than can be remembered, and that the register commencing March 4th, 1653, "was first used during the period of the Great Rebellion, and that it was afterwards lost or laid aside, and was never used again till the year 1715, when the old register was full, and not capable of containing any more names."

The only charity belonging to this parish goes by the name of Peter's Gift, being an annuity of 20s., payable out of the sheaf of Cornworthy, and left by John Petre, in 1573, to the poor of Tor Brian.

The period of the first erection of a Church here is uncertain. We know, however, that Hugo de Cane was admitted Rector by Bishop Bronscombe on May 4th, 1276, to the Church then vacant "*ad ecclesiam de Thor Brian—vacantem ad presentationem Guidonis de Brian,*" (Register, fol. 72).

To the circumstance of the Rev. Edward Gosewell having managed to retain his Rectory during the reign of King Charles I. and the Protectorate of Cromwell, the parishioners, doubtless, owe the perfect condition of their Church. It is almost certain that he it was who caused the screen to be whitewashed in order to preserve it, and he, doubtless, buried the painted glass, and thus concealed it during the troublous times, or but little of it would have remained till now.

To the present Rector, the Rev. Charles Wolston, we are much indebted for his kind attention to our inquiries.

The late Dr. Oliver (to whose labours and researches we are indebted for the subjoined list of the Rectors of Tor Brian) remarks, that—"To this parish are attached some out-portions, at least three miles distant from the Parish Church, and having the intervening Parishes of East Ogwell and Denbury. The Hamlet of Morleigh, consisting of two farms and some cottages, is rated to Tor Brian for all purposes but the way rates, and maintains its own roads.

There is also a farm in Denbury and another in Woodland similarly circumstanced, perhaps these were anciently part of the Brian estates."

## RECTORS OF TOR BRIAN.

HUGO DE CANE was admitted by Bishop Bronescombe on May 4th, 1276. "*Ad ecclesiam de Thorbryan vacantem ad presentationem Guidonis de Brian, (Reg. fol. 22).*"

ROBERT DE PYE (mentioned in the foundation deed of Haccombe Arch-presbytery) was instituted July 10th, 1317, to the Rectory, vacant since the Feast of St. Barnabas. Patron, Guy de Brian. Stapledon's *Register*, fol. 120.

WILLIAM DE PYL, on the resignation of the last Rector, January 23rd, 1337-8. Patron, Guy de Brian, Lord of Tor Brian.

JOHN UPPEHILL, Canon of Crediton Church and Prebendary of Stowford, was inducted November 6th, 1353. Patron, Sir Guy de Brian.

ROBERT COWLEGH, November 29th, 1361. Patrons, *hac vice* Martin Moulyssh. (*Melhuish?*) and John Leys, Clerks. These Trustees were empowered by King Edward III. with others, to proceed with Sir Guy Brian's foundation of the Collegiate Church at Slapton. (See *Mon. Dioc. Exon*, page 324).

NICHOLAS WARE, on death of Cowleigh, July 30th, 1374. Patron, Philippa de Boulne, Domina de Torrebyran." (*Brantyngham Register*, fol. ii., 29).

WILLIAM PERON, April 28th, 1405. Patrons, Sir John Chandos, Knt., and Robert Lovell, the husband of Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Guy Brian, Junr.

JOHN HUSEWIF, on whose death

JOHN KYNG was instituted July 4th, 1427.

WILLIAM MORELAND, on whose resignation

WILLIAM MORSEDE was instituted July 15th, 1490, on the presentation of King Henry VII.

- ROBERT KYTSON, or KITSON, was admitted April 16th, 1530, on the death of his predecessor, on the presentation of his paternal relative Thomas Kitson, Mercer of London, and Lord of Tor Brian. This new patron was Knighted by King Henry VIII. before he was elected Sheriff of London, in 1533.

GEORGE CAREW, on the death of Kitson, May 27th, 1542. Patron the King, by reason of the minority of his ward Thomas Kytson. Mr. Carew was one of the Royal Chaplains, and was deprived of his preferment in the reign of Edward VI., but reinstated by Queen Elizabeth, and died Dean of Exeter,

1583, aged 85. After he was deprived of the Rectory of Tor Brian, in July, 1551.

NICHOLAS STONE was instituted to it September 14th, 1554, "*certo modo vacantem*." Patron, Queen Mary. On the resignation of Mr. Carew, in 1561,

WILLIAM MERWOOD was instituted January 26th, 1561-2. Patron, Thomas Kitson, afterwards Knighted by Queen Elizabeth.

THOMAS GEFFREYS, S.T.B., was inducted April 30th, 1579. Patron, the Queen. He removed to Ashprington, in three years when Merwood returned to his old parish, and eventually resigned it in 1582-3, when he was succeeded by

JOHN HERLE, on March 25th, 1583. Patron, *hac vice* John Dolytynge, of Ipplepen, Yeoman.

ISAAC GOSEWELL, February 26th, 1603-4. Patron, *hac vice* Gregory Gosewell. He resigned in favour of his son.

EDWARD GOSEWELL, May 27th, 1630, on the presentation *hac vice tantum* of his parent, and by grant of Thomas, Lord Darey, of Chick, and Charles Cavendish, Knt., who had both become connected by marriage with the Kytson family.

WILLIAM JESSE succeeded February 4th, 1662-3. Patron, John Stowell, Esq. He resigned for Broadhempstone, and was succeeded by

GEORGE CREDEFORD, October 2nd, 1669. Patron, Sir John Stowell, Knt. He was buried January 11th, 1695-6, aged 55, and was succeeded by

JOHN HOLWILL, incorrectly called Howell in the form of his institution. Patron, William Stowell, of Park House, Bovey Tracey, Esq.

NICHOLAS TRIST, on Holwill's death, June 20th, 1782. Patron, Nicholas Trist, of Bowden, Totnes, who had purchased the Advowson in 1718. He held the Rectory 51 years. He died January 29th, and was buried February 4th, 1782, aged 80.

JAMES TRIST, January 20th, 1782. Patron, Hore Browse Trist, of Bowden, Esq.

BROWSE TRIST, on the death of the last Rector, December 10th, in the same year. Patron as before. He died A.D., 1792.

JOHN DIGBY FOWELL, March 21st, 1792, on the presentation of John Wolston, Esq., of Tor Newton, who had purchased the Advowson of the Rev. Browse Trist, in 1778.

CHRISTOPHER WOLSTON, succeeded June 12th. 1828, on the presentation of John Wolston, Esq., of Tor Newton. The present Rector, the Rev.

CHARLES WOLSTON, was instituted in 1863. Patron, A. H. Wolston, Esq., He has eighteen acres of glebe, and has built a new Rectory House.

The census of 1871 returned a population for this parish of 218 persons, residing over 2,010 acres of land.



# AN APPENDIX

## To Ashburton and its Neighbourhood,

CONTAINING

An Account of the Charities belonging to the various Parishes, and some other particulars not included in the preceding Chapters.



S. Prepositi et Coitatis Burgi de Ayspton.

AN APPENDIX

to the Report of the Commission on the

CONTENTS

Account of the Commission, including the names of the members and other persons connected with the work of the Commission, and a list of the members of the various committees.



U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1911



## Parish of Ashburton,



### CHURCH LANDS.

Several ancient deeds are preserved amongst the documents of the Parish of Ashburton, which appear to relate to the lands now in the possession of the Parish—

The Report of the Charity Commissioners proves that in 1828, the rent of these lands amounted to £86 7s. 11d. per annum.

The first deed connected with them is dated 21st May, 1st and 2nd Philip and Mary (1553-4).

The second; 30th March, 1596.

The third; 20th September, 1629.

The first deed executed by Henry Crocker (probably the surviving Feoffee of the Parish Lands), conveyed to John Dolbeare, William Knowling, and others, divers lands and tenements, therein mentioned, to the use of the Parishioners of Ashburton; by the second William Knowling and two others as the surviving Feoffees, conveyed the same premises to John Blundell, William Knowling, Junr., and others to the same uses. The rents and profits of the lands and tenements (which are fully described in the deeds), have been applied to the repairs of the Church, the salaries of the Clerk, Sexton, and Organist, the payment of the Ringers, the providing of the Sacramental Wine, and the defraying other expenses connected with the Church. Out of this fund also the Chapel of St. Lawrence, and the pipes which supply the town with water, have been occasionally repaired. The expense of a Court Dinner also had up to 1828 (according to the Report of Charity Commissioners), been constantly borne by the trust, the charge formerly amounting to £5 per

annum, but gradually increasing, until in 1802 it reached the sum of £16 19s.!

For some years the Church Lands appear to have been heavily in debt. "From the year 1810 to 1821, there were large balances against the Feoffees commencing with £236, and gradually increasing until in the last year the debt amounted to £1,480 5s. 8d. The Churchwardens' accounts prove that between 1780 and 1805 the balances were reduced from time to time by donations from the Representatives of the Borough.

1780. "Received by a liberal donation of our worthy Representatives, Robert Palk and Charles Boone, Esqrs."	.. .. .	£600 0 0
1787. " " Sir Robert Palk and Robert Mackreth, Esqr.		£200 0 0
1791. " " " "		£220 0 0
1797. By a benefaction from the Members of the Borough	..	£ 89 7 6
1805. Received on account of the balance of last account	..	£230 0 0

The names of the persons from whom this last sum was obtained have been erased; we believe, however, that they were Sir Hugh Ingless and Walter Palk, Esq., the sum is distinctly mentioned as having been given "*For the use of the Church.*"

By a donation (name of donor erased), but apparently "Mackreth," £300.

In the year 1809, it was resolved by the Parishioners assembled in vestry, to appeal to the Court of Chancery to settle some disputes which had arisen with respect to these lands; and an information was filed on the 26th November, 1813, by the Attorney-General at the relation of the Rev. John Huxham and others, against Joseph Sunter, John Swete, Andrew Sawdye, Mary Caunter, Grace Neyle, Winifred Eales, Richard Perry, and several others, the principal object of which appears to have been to set aside several leases, which it was alleged had been improperly and fraudulently granted by the Feoffees.

The matter was afterwards compromised by the defendants consenting to have the lands valued, and promising to pay half of the clear value, and in accordance with this agreement the rent of Winifred Eales was raised from £2 13s. 4d. to £7 17s. 9d., that of Mary Caunter and Grace Neyle, from £1 to £4 6s. 9d., and the rents of the other defendants were similarly increased. A mortgage was afterwards made of the whole of the property to Mr. Richard Honeywill, of Ashburton, for securing the sum of £1,480, raised for the purpose of paying the costs of the proceedings and other expenses relating to the

settlement of the suit and the mortgage, the interest of the mortgage was paid out of the rents, and since it was thought advisable to compromise the suit, one cannot help lamenting that the step was not taken before the expense attendant on the proceedings was incurred.

The late Mr. Robert Abraham appears to have been one of the Churchwardens from the year 1800 to the year 1825, and upon his first appointment paid a balance of £128 2s. 8d., due to the representatives of his predecessor in office, and constantly charged interest upon the various sums which he advanced from time to time. In the year 1823 there is the following entry in the accounts of the Parish:—

“A year's interest of £1,480 5s. 8d. due on mortgage, 25th March last, £74 0s. 3d.”

And at the foot of the account we find the following protest:—

“I hereby protest against the charge of Seventy-four Pounds and Three Pence made in this account for interest of £1,480 5s. 8d., said to be due on mortgage, it being illegal to mortgage Church Lands.”

BENJN. PARHAM.

In the year 1822-3, under the head of

“The Parishioners of Ashburton in account with Robert Abraham, the late Churchwarden,”

We find (amongst others) the following entries:—

March 25th.	To balance due to R. Abraham, as per book,	£1,480 5s. 8d.
„ „	Balance due for the repairs and expenses of the Church,	
	interest of debt, &c., to this time,	£237 10s. 9d.

£1,717 16s. 5d.

#### Receipts

By an error in the last account in the charge of Fee Farm rent, which should have been 11s. 8d., instead of £11 8s. £10 16s. 4d.

March 25th, 1824. By Lord Clinton and Sir Lawrence V. Palk, Bart., equally between them from this day, £1,717 16s. 5d.

9th May, 1824.

“The above account was audited and approved of, and the thanks of the Parishioners were unanimously voted to my Lord Clinton and Sir Lawrence Vaughan Palk, for the very liberal and handsome manner in which they had relieved the Parish from so great a debt, and the thanks of the Parishioners

were conveyed in a separate letter to each of the Lords of the Borough (by the Churchwardens), setting forth at the same time a determination to be more attentive in future to the economy of the funds *appropriated to the use of the Church.*"

We believe that the Church Lands are at the present time, free from debt, and that the expenses attendant upon the "Court Dinner," are now defrayed by the Lords of the Borough. The ancient custom of producing the accounts of the Parish for the examination of the Parishioners (upon a stone in the churchyard called the "Counting Tomb,") on the Sunday after the 6th of May, has been for some years discontinued.

## Ashburton Charities.

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### HAYMAN'S GIFT.

Robert Hayman, on the 30th January, 1576-7, granted in trust to Henry Ascott, and their heirs, a messuage or tenement with the apurtenances, which he purchased of Leonard Bounde, situate in Ashburton; with the proviso that when the number of the Trustees should be reduced to two or three, the survivors were to appoint twelve others. With the profits of the estate, four new shirts and four new smocks were to be purchased and given to four poor men and four poor women of the Parish of Ashburton, viz., in every quarter of the year one shirt and one smock.

### GIFTS OF PAGE AND FEYMOUTH.

The issues, rents, and profits of certain property purchased for £14, by Robert Page and William Feymouth, from Christopher Hamblin, on the 20th September, 1578, were devoted by the purchasers to the maintenance and relief of the poor of Ashburton for the time being, "as by the eight men (Sidesmen), or the major part of them, should be thought good."

### PHIPPS' GIFT.

Robert Phipps, by will bearing date October 2nd, 1676, gave £80 to the

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Fooffees of the Parish of Ashburton; the interest to be laid out in linen cloth, at Easter, to be distributed amongst such old men and women of the parish "as had none or little parochial relief."

CAUNTER'S GIFT, 2ND JANUARY, 1592.

Thomas Caunter, of Gulwell, in the Parish of Staverton, gave a tenement and garden situate within the Borough of Ashburton, as a residence for such of the poor of Ashburton, as the Sidesmen of the Parish should consider to be proper recipients of his gift. This house was situated in Heavihead Lane, on the site of the present Baptist Chapel.

BOVEY'S GIFT.

Edward Bovey, of London, Merchant, gave by his will dated August 6th, 1709, £100 to certain Trustees, to be divided at their discretion, between certain poor persons of the Parish of Ashburton. The money was therefore distributed between Edward Bovey, Elizabeth Eggbear, and six other persons, and they being desirous to perpetuate the memory of their benefactor, consented to receive the interest of the money during their lives, and gave the principal back to the Trustees to be bestowed in purchasing lands, the rents and profits thereof to be employed for the annual relief of poor persons not having parish pay. The field belonging to this charity is now known as Bovey's Gift Meadow, anciently Parkabridge.

PRIDEAUX'S GIFT.

By indenture dated 14th December, 7th James I. Thomas Prideaux, of Totnes, gave to John Blundell and five others, an annuity of £2 12s., charged upon certain lands, on trust to provide thirteen poor people of the Parish of Ashburton, on every Friday for ever, a white loaf value one penny, at the discretion of the Constable and Sidesmen of the Parish.

SIR JOHN ACLAND'S GIFT.

Sir John Acland by his will, directed the Chamber of Exeter to pay £2 12s. per annum to the Vicar and Churchwardens, to be laid out in bread, and distributed to the poor.

KNOWLING'S GIFT.

Mr. George Knowing, by will dated 1625, gave to the Poor of this Parish 20s. yearly, for ever, (charged upon land) for the benefit of one poor person of the parish, to be elected by the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers. The annuity was not received for seventeen years, and in 1817, in consequence

of an enquiry instituted by the parish, the arrears amounting to £17, were paid up, and the money was spent in the purchase of seventeen blue coats, which were distributed to a like number of poor men, and since then a gift of one blue coat has been similarly made at Easter, every year.

#### BOUNDE'S GIFT.

John Bounde, of Plymouth, gave by will 30th April, 1642, an annuity of 23s., for the use of the Poor of Ashburton.

#### FORD'S GIFT.

This gift has been already referred to. The Charity Commissioners found a balance due to the charity of £115 7s. 10d. to the year 1817, and considered that the sum ought to be effectually secured to this charity out of the rents and profits of the Parish Lands, and that the interest ought to be applied to the purposes mentioned in Mr. Ford's will. (*See Report of Charity Commission, Hundred of Teignbridge*).

#### STAWELL'S GIFT.

William Stawell, Esq., of Bovey Tracey, twelve times elected M.P. for the Brorough, gave £10 issuing out of certain mills within the borough, to be spent in linen cloth to be distributed amongst poor persons not in receipt of parochial relief, immediately after Divine Service every Christmas-day, for ever.

#### EDWARD GOULD'S GIFT.

Edward Gould, by will dated 16th March, 1735, gave to each of the two Parishes of Staverton and Ashburton 20s. yearly, charged upon land, the money to be expended in the purchase of two blue coats, to be given by the respective Vicars, Churchwardens, and Overseers, to two poor men in their parishes, before the end of Easter week, for ever.

#### SCHOOL FOUNDED BY LORD MIDDLETON AND THE HON. JOHN HARRIS, COMMONLY CALLED THE BOURNE SCHOOL.

This School is commonly called after the estate from which it derives its endowment. The Bourne estate passed (at the dissolution of Monasteries) with the Manor of Denbury, and the Advowson of its Parish Church, into the hands of John, Lord Russell, being parcel of the possessions of the Abbey of Tavistock. The Duke of Bedford leased Higher Bourne to Richard Duck, for two thousand years, on the 10th of May, 1577, and on the 7th September, 1754, Lord Middleton and the Hon. John Harris, then Members for the

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Borough, purchased the residue of this lease "from a pious and charitable intention to found a Free School for the promotion of useful learning within the Borough and Parish of Ashburton." The sum necessary to purchase the property was £640, towards which the former subscribed £500, the latter £140. The land was made over to certain Trustees, who were required to carry out the intentions of the benefactors. The Trustees refuse no application for the admission of children whose parents are inhabitants of Ashburton, or are legally settled there, the pupils receive instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic; the estate now lets for £130 a-year.

#### BICKHAM'S GIFT.

John Bickham, by will dated 3rd October, 1780, gave (to Executors) all his goods, to sell the same, and after paying his debts, to lay out the surplus in land, which was to be vested in Trustees, to be nominated by the Executors, and the income arising from the lands was to be expended in bread, to be given to the poor, not in receipt of parochial relief, weekly, on a prayer day. The Executors purchased a close of land in the Parish of Chudleigh, called the Parks, for the sum of £340; we believe that the field now lets for about £25 per annum, the bread is given to the poor generally, and is not confined to the non-recipients of parish pay.

#### HARRIS' GIFT.

Richard Harris, late of Ashburton, by will dated 3rd July, 1778, gave all his property to John Seale, Esq., of Mount Boone, Dartmouth, but charged his lands called Wickeridge, within the Parish of Woodland, with the payment of £11 7s. 6d., to be disposed of as follows:—£10 for the use of fifty poor people, to be given them after Divine Service every 29th of April, in the form of fifty loaves of the value of one shilling, and fifty cheeses of the value of three shillings, or the money in lieu of the cheeses; the sum of £1 1s. to the Vicar, Curate, or Officiating Minister for preaching a sermon on the same day, and 2s. 6d. to the Clerk, and 2s. to each of the Sextons for their attendance on the said 29th of April. The late Mr. William Hurst purchased the Wickeridge estate subject to the above annuity, on the 27th of November, 1798; it is now the property and residence of Mrs. Harding, the annuity is regularly paid to the Trustees, and the money spent according to the will of the Donor.

#### GIFT OF SALLY ADAMS.

Sally Adams, by will dated October 2nd, A.D., 1800, gave to the Rev.

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Jonathan Palk (Vicar of Ilington), and two other Trustees, £200, the interest to be employed in purchasing four yards of dowlas for as many poor people of the Parish of Ashburton (not in receipt of parochial relief), as the money will reach unto, the same to be distributed every Christmas-day, for ever. The tablet in the Church is ordered to be repaired from the dividends by the Trustees of the testatrix.

#### DUNNING'S GIFT.

Mary Dunning, on the 10th of March, 1805, gave an annuity of £6 (charged upon land, called Lake's Land, in the Parish of Staverton), into the hands of the Vicar and Churchwardens, to be employed by them and their successors for ever, for teaching and instructing ten poor girls belonging to the parish, in reading, knitting, and sewing. (The pupils to be chosen by herself or her heirs, or in default thereof by the Trustees). The gift was only to hold good on condition that she was permitted to be buried in the "Dunning Vault," at the eastern end of the south aisle of the Parish Church, and upon condition that her nephew Richard, second Lord Ashburton, should be also buried there, and any of his descendants whilst there was room, without disturbing the remains of those that should have been buried before. And also upon condition that the Right Hon. Elizabeth, Dowager Lady Ashburton, and Mary Dunning, late of Walkhampton, should be permitted to have and retain for their place of interment the burial place called Crew's Aisle, and that the same ground should remain undisturbed by any other person, and that every other person should be excluded from being buried there, and if the same should be refused to be complied with, she declared that the said annuity should cease.

Ten pupils are still under instruction, they are nominated by the Vicar and Churchwardens whenever there is a vacancy, in accordance with the terms of the will.

#### DONKIN'S GIFT.

Alicia Donkin, by will dated December 11th, 1812, left the interest and dividends due to her from the Newton and Ashburton Turnpike, to the Rev. Jacob Ley, in trust, for the benefit of five poor widow women of the Parish of Ashburton, we believe that each widow receives annually between five and six shillings from the representatives of the late Mr. Ley.

#### DEAN IRELAND'S GIFT.

About the end of the year 1837, the very Rev. the Dean of Westminster,



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having a sincere regard for his native parish, gave to the Rev. William Marsh (as Vicar of Ashburton), Mr. Samuel Posgate Knowles, and Mrs. Soper (as his present appointed Trustees), Thirty Pounds, the interest of a Thousand Pounds 3 per Cent. Consols, to be given to the poor of the Parish of Ashburton in the Church every year, on the 1st of January, in manner following, namely, Five Pounds each to six persons, who are reduced housekeepers that have seen better days, aged sixty and upwards, parishioners and communicants of the Church of England. This valuable charity is known in Ashburton as the great gift.

#### GIFFORD'S GIFT.

William Gifford, by his will proved February 7th, 1827, bequeathed to the poor of Ashburton Fifty Pounds sterling per annum, for ever, to be distributed on Christmas-day in each year, in sums of Fifty Shillings each, among ten poor men and ten poor women, of good character for industry and sobriety, the overplus of the money to be at the same time distributed generally amongst the poor in bread. We extract the following paragraph from a codicil to the will of William Gifford, dated August 3rd, 1825:—

“I hope my interest is fully manifest; if providence spares my life, and I can arrange this matter with the proper persons at Ashburton, I purpose to transfer this sum to their names for this end, in the course of the present year, Dr. Ireland knows my interest.”

Dr. Ireland, Dean of Westminster, was sole Executor to the will, and the Rev. John Cocksley (whom the Testator calls “the only surviving child of my earliest friend and patron, Mr. William Cocksley, of Ashburton), was residuary legatee.”

#### TOZER'S GIFT.

Mr. Solomon Tozer, of Abbey View, pays to the Vicar at Christmas, the sum of £3 13s. 6d., that is to say, £1 4s. 6d. to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, £1 4s. 6d. to St. Andrew's Sunday School, and £1 4s. 6d. to the Infant School, being, as is supposed, a bequest from his uncle. We have been informed that Mr. Solomon Tozer, uncle of the present Mr. Solomon Tozer, of Ashburton, gave £300 stock, the interest to be divided amongst all Sunday schools of every denomination, established in Ashburton at the time of his death, and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in equal portions, yearly. We are also given to understand that the present Mr. Tozer in place of the £300 stock, has charitably invested the full sum of £300, and regularly pays the interest in accordance with his uncle's intentions.

## GIFTS TO THE CHURCH BY RICHARD HARRIS.

Mr. Richard Harris, (already referred to) who died 10th July, 1778, gave by his will "a pair of branched candlesticks, to be hung up in the Church, one where the eagle formerly stood, and the other opposite, in the middle alley just by the gallery; also, for the Communion Service a handsome silver flagon with gold gilt." We have been informed that this flagon was stolen many years since. The candelabras' are still used whenever the Church is opened for evening service.

## CHURCH PLATE MENTIONED IN THE EARLY CHURCHWARDENS' ACCOUNTS.

A.D., 1479. A new cross of silver and gilt was bought.  
 ,, 1485. A box of silver and silver chalice.  
 ,, 1499. An oil box.  
 ,, 1514. A chalice blessed this year.  
 ,, 1518. "A pair of cruets bought."  
 ,, 1533. "A box of silver to bear the Sacrament to sick folks."  
 ,, 1533. "This year there remained in the hands of John Knolling, the Sacristan—a cross of silver gilt; a pair of candlesticks, silver parcel gilt; a cense of silver; a ship of silver; a pair of cruets of silver; an olivet of silver; two chalices belonging to the Altar of St. Catherine, and four other chalices."

A.D., 1557. A box for the High Altar was carved this year.

The present Church Plate consists of—

Two silver chalices.

Two silver patens.

One silver alms dish.

One large plated flagon.

## EASTER SEPULCHRE.

The following entry proves that the Easter Sepulchre at Ashburton was a temporary erection:—(See chap. xv., p. 101).

A.D., 1491. Paid to Richard T——, "for making of the Sepulchre."

Alsoe, for gemeys, (gems) and nayles to the Sepulchre.

## THE SALE OF THE VESTMENTS BELONGING TO THE CHURCH.

A.D., 1568-9. Nicholas Erell and Thomas Tayllor, Churchwardens.

List of vestments belonging to the Church sold—iiiiis. from Henry Coke *alias* Wylliams for ii “cushyngs of velvett,” xxd. from John ffurseman Tanner for i vestment le Blak vste, iis. iiiid. from John Brydgeman for i vest, le Blew and greyne, iis. ixd. from Thomas Tayllor for i vest, le cheker, xixd. from Edward Pyke of ffurselegh for i vest, le Blew and greyne, iis. iid. from John frimce of Chyleley for i vest, le greyne sylke, xviiid. from George Knollyng for i vest, le yolow sylke, xxd. from Lawrence Whytwaye for i vest, the color greyne and yolowe, iis. vd. from John Luscombe for i cloth called a lent cloth, xxiiid. from John Ryxtale for i vest called a vsted cott, ixd. from William Elys for ii vest for boys, iiiis. iiiid. from John Haly for i cope of checkery, vd. for i piece of cloth called an altar cloth, xiiid. from Lawrence Elys for i pall, iiiis. viiid. from William Newcombe for i tunicle called a decon’s cote, xvid. from Henry Ayscott for i corporis case branched with gold, vid. from Robert Wydyate for one other corporis case, iis. iiiid. from William Elys for i vest le Blak velvytt, xviiis. vid. from Nicholas Erell for ii copes le greyne satyn, xiid. from William Elys for i canopye, vis. iid. from Thomas Bound for i vest of greyne satyn, xs. from Henry Ayscott for i cope of velvytt, viid. from Lawrence Wythecom for a small piece of velvytt, xxs. from John Dolbearre for i cope of redd velvytt, viiili. from Robert Pridyaux, Laurence Elys, Thomas Dolbear, Robert Page, Henry Ayscott, Thomas Matthew, Thomas Bound, William Weryng, William Newcomb, Nicholas Erell, William Elys, and Thomas Tayllor, for three vestments with i cope le cloth de tyssey (tissue)—sum, xiii. iis. xid. See translation Churchwardens’ Accounts, p. 42.

CHARITIES A.D., 1602.

THE RENTS AND OTHER GIFTS BELONGEINGE TO THE POORE OF ASHBERTON YERELYE.

Imprimis.—The rent of Gabriell Harris, his house, xxxiiis. ivd.

Item.—The rent of one house in the tenure of John Holys, xviiis.

Item.—The gifte of Thomas Caunter, by the yere, xxs.

Item.—Mr. Hayemens to the pore by the yere, to be bestowed in shirts and smocks, xv. s.

Item.—The Parson of Calne, his gifte to be lent to pore Artificers within the same parish from yere to yere, £3.

Item.—Mr. Codner’s gifte by the yere, 4s.

Sum, £7 11s. 4d.

The whole somme of our receipts are xxxs. vid.

T. H. RIDGWAY.

A.D., 1602.

THOS. REYNELL.

From A.D., 1761 to 1820 inclusive, the Churchwardens paid for the destruction of the following vermin:—

18 Foxes, 4 Vixens .. .. .	£6 0 4
153 Badgers .. .. .	8 10 0
903 Hedgehogs .. .. .	6 9 2½
2210 Jays .. .. .	9 10 2
1661 Hoops .. .. .	3 10 4½
	£34 0 1

#### INSCRIPTIONS ON LOCAL TOKENS IN CIRCULATION IN ASHBURTON TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

These tokens were chiefly copper, but sometimes brass, they began to appear in London towards the end of the reign of Charles I., prevailed during the Protectorate, and for twelve years after the Restoration, and were issued in nearly every city, town, and important village in England, Wales, and Ireland.

1. "An Ayshburton Halfe-Penny, 1670," (reverse) the Ashburton Arms.
2. "Walter Furnace, of Ashburton, his Halfe-Penny, 1668," the letters W. F. in monogram.
3. "Robert Jefry, of Ashburton, 1668, his Half-Penny," the letters R. G. J. Some of these last have a female head in place of R. G. J.
4. Moses Tozer, M. T., (reverse) in Ashburton MT. ½.

#### HILL FORTRESSES NEAR ASHBURTON.

Two Camps on Ashburton Down and Storms Down respectively, (anciently called "Est-Downe,") surrounded by ditches, and commanding extensive view, existed within the memory of the present generation.

About a mile north-east of Ashburton, upon the summit of the steep hill known as Tower Hill, are the remains of an ancient fosse in two fields known as "Castle Parks."

Boro Wood Camp is a mile-and-a-half north of the town, and separated from Tower Hill by a stream now called the Yeo, but formerly the Ashburn. The ridge of stones forming the enclosure is from twelve to twenty feet wide, and there is no ditch. A spindle whorl was once found among the stones of the rampart.

Holne Chace Castle is 200 feet above the river Dart, but is completely shut off

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from the view of the other forts by a high ridge, and appears to have been a camp of retreat, concealment, and refuge; it consists of a perfect fosse between thirty and forty feet wide, and has an agger inside for about three-fourths of its circumference. The entrance at the south-west corner is so constructed as to compel the enemy to expose themselves to the missiles of the defenders for more than sixty feet after entering the work, which proves that the people who constructed it had some idea of the science of fortification, and also appears perhaps to indicate that it is not so ancient as some others in the neighbourhood. In 1870, between this camp and the river a number of iron weapons were discovered hidden away amongst the rocks; they resembled heavy spear heads twenty-four inches long and two inches broad, tapering to a point at one end, whilst the other was bent round to receive a shaft. Mr. Reeks, of the Museum of Practical Geology, saw no evidence to prove that the iron of which these weapons were composed was of any great antiquity, and there does not appear to be any warrant for the opinion at first formed relative to their early connection with the adjacent fortress.

Hembury Castle, near Buckfastleigh, is said to be Danish, and is a very large enclosure of more than seven acres, it is formed by the hill, being scarped on the steep side towards the river, while the other is protected by a fosse twenty feet deep. A tradition in the neighbourhood makes this a Danish stronghold and the terror of the district, and declares that it was at last captured by the stratagem of some British or Saxon women.

Our thanks are heartily given to Mr. Fabyan Amery, of Druid, for valuable assistance given to us in connection with this notice of hill fortresses in the neighbourhood of Ashburton.

#### NOTICES OF ASHBURTON BY BRICE AND POLWHELE.

Andrew Brice, of Exeter, who published the "*Grand Gazetteer or Topographic Dictionary*," in 1759, says—"That the Church of St. Andrew, at Ashburton, is a very handsome structure, built Cathedral ways, adorned with a tower 91 feet high, on which is a small spire of lead."

The lands of the Chantry of St. Lawrence were valued in King Henry the Eighth's reign at £6 13s. 4d. per annum. Mr. Andrew Quicke (Member for the Borough in 1712), gave the present clock, (with a musical set of chimes unhappily now removed and destroyed), it has no face, and strikes only the hours. The first notice we find of a clock belonging to the Parish Church occurs in 1479. "*Inde in solucione Rogero Torryng pr uno mallo empto*

*pr le clocke ibidem* xviii.  $\frac{1}{2}$ . (See Churchwardens' Accounts fol. ii).

Brice also tells us that in his time there were several stalls in the Church. "It hath a large chancel in which are several stalls as is used in Collegiate Churches."

Polwhele says, p. 498—"The Parish of Ashburton is about five miles-and-a-half in length. The number in Ashburton were upwards of 2,500 in the year 1785. They were numbered by Mr. Tripe. The tower and Church were built 500 years ago." "Ashburton is said to be called from the quantity of ash that used to grow there." We think that Polwhele is probably right as to the origin of the name. The river Yeo, which is stated to have been anciently the Ashburn, still flows between wooded banks for some distance after it leaves the commons in which it derives its source, and it is still overshadowed by many ash trees. Burn is derived from the Teutonic, Bourn, a river, and Ashburton simply means the *Town on the Ash river*. Ash-Burn-Town.

The census of 1871 returned for Ashburton a population of 2,952, residing over 6,936 acres of land. The Vicar of Ashburton has  $72\frac{1}{2}$  acres of glebe, besides 13 acres at Buckland-in-the-Moor.

CHART OF THE BURGESSES OF ASHBURTON CONCERNING THE  
CHANTRY IN THE CHAPEL SITUATED IN THE COURT OF THE  
BISHOP IN THE SAME TOWN.

The original deed preserved amongst the Archives of the See of Exeter is in Latin, it has never, as far as we are aware, been hitherto published in English.

"The Portreeve and Commonalty of the Burgesses of the Town of Ashperton greet in the Lord all those unto whomsoever these letters shall come. Whereas our venerable Father and Lord, Walter Stapledon, by the Grace of God Lord Bishop of Exeter, hath (with the consent of his Chapter at Exeter) granted all the obventions and oblations of the Chapel of St. Lawrence, situated within the boundary of his Court of Ashburton, to one fit Priest to be chosen through us, and to be presented each year at a fitting time and place, *by the Official of the peculiar jurisdiction of Ashperton*, who shall for ever celebrate in the same holy Chapel, for the health of the said Bishop, and for his soul when he shall have departed this life, (*cum ab hac luce migraverit*) and for the souls of all his predecessors and successors as is more fully contained in the letters of the said Bishop and Chapter, which remain in our possession. We (being most especially anxious for the increase of

Godly worship, lest the said Chantry so holy and wholesome an institution should perish in the future through the failure of the salary and stipend of the Priest himself, which may God forbid,) bind ourselves, our heirs, and successors, to find for the Priest there for celebrating as is premised, a full and sufficient maintenance, together with the oblations and obventions aforesaid which are reckoned towards his stipend. So (since the same Chantry will never perish through the failure of the salary and stipend of the Priest himself), we will amply repair as often as is necessary, the aforesaid Chantry, its books and ornaments, in a manner seemly for Godly worship, and we will maintain them in fitting condition for ever. To the performance of each and all these undertakings, we bind each and all of ourselves, our heirs and successors, and all our goods and property both moveable and immoveable, spiritual and temporal to the coercion and distriction of the aforesaid Bishop and Chapter and of their successors, and any other Judge Ecclesiastical or Civil, whom the Bishop of Exeter for the time being or the Chapter may choose to appoint, in testimony of which we have agreed to affix our common seal to this writing. These being the witnesses."

The Lords. "ROBERT, by the Grace of God, Abbot of Tavistock,  
 "MATTHEW, Prior of Plympton,  
 "PETER, Abbot of Buckfast,  
 "JOCILINE, Prior of Totnes,  
 "ROGER DE CHARLETON, Archdeacon of Totnes,  
 and others."

Given at Ashperton on Friday, the Eve of the Assumption of the Blessed Mary, in the year of our Lord, 1314.

(For the Common Seal and Legend see Title Page of this Appendix).

#### AYSHEBERTON.

"The guyld called S. Laurence's, founded by ———, to find a Pryste to praye for ye donars of the land and other benefactors, as also to kepe a Free Scole for Children, who hathe for his wages viii. xiiis. iiiid. yerelye. The remaynder of the lands is bestowed on the reparation and maintenance of ledes for the conductyon of holesome water to the towne of Aysheberton, and upon the relief and sustentacon of such peple as are infected when the plague is in the town, that they being from all company maye not corrupt the whole.

The yerelye value of the lands and possessions xli. xvs. viiid.

Extracted from Chantry Rolls, see "*Monas. Dio.*," p. 478.

## DEED OF THE CHURCH OF ASHBURTON.

TRANSLATION.

“To all the faithful to whom the present writing shall come: John by Divine permission, the humble Minister of the Church of Exeter, Health in the Author of Health. Your community should know that I (by divine intuition, and from reverence of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul as well as from consideration and honour of the Church of Exeter, to the care and responsibility of which, God assenting I am called,) have given and yielded in pure and perpetual alms, to my beloved sons in Christ the Chapter of Exeter, the Church of Asperneton with all its belongings. Except an annual pension to the Nuns of Polslowe, which my predecessor of famous memory, Bartholomew Bishop of Exeter, gave and confirmed to them. In order that it may remain firm and unshaken I have confirmed it by the placing of my seal to the present writing. These being the witnesses

“WALTER, of Cornwall, }  
 “ROGER. of Barnstaple, } Archdeacons,

and many others.”

The above deed was executed by Bishop John about the year 1180, the original is in Latin.

Bishop Bartholomew assigned a pension from the Episcopal domain at Ashburton to the Priory of Polslo, in the Deanery of Exeter. He was consecrated A.D., 1161, and died December 14th, 1184. The Dean and Chapter paid £4 6s. 8d. annually to the Prioress until the Reformation, as directed by Bishop John, and charged the Vicar of Ashburton with £5 13s. 4d. (as we find from the “*Valor Ecclesiasticus*”) under the name of a pension, which is still paid from the Vicarage to its Patrons.

## VALOR ECCLESIASTICUS A.D., 1535.

TRANSLATION.

AYSSHBTON WITH THE CHAPELS OF BUKELOND AND BUKYNGTON  
IN THE AFORESAID DEANERY AND DIOCESE.

THOMAS SOTHARNE VICAR THERE.

The Vicarage in the same place is valued at £8 13s. 4d. per annum through Sanctuary Land there.	}	£38 8 9½
And for wool and lambs, £7 6s. 8d.		
And with £6 13s. 4d. for the Chapel of Bukyngton.		
And with £4 for the Chapel of Bukelond.		
And for all other tithes and oblations belonging to the said Vicarage, £17 9s. 3½d.		



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From thence paid to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter and their successors each year, one annual pension, £5 13s. 4d.

And to the Bishop of Exeter and his successors for chief rent in the same place, per annum 6d.

From thence for tithes, £3 16s. 10½d.

### Buckland-in-the-Moor.

—o—

The ancient Manor of Radeclive or Reddicliff, which was formerly an appendage of Chiempabare, now called Chalomer, appears to have been given to the Church of Buckland at a very remote period, probably by Sir John L'Ercedekne, and the rents of the estate (consisting of a farm house and nearly sixty acres of land) are received by the Churchwardens, and are, with the exception of a chief rent of five shillings per annum, payable to the Earl of Devon, applied to the repairs of the Church, the salaries of the Clerk, Sexton, and Choirmaster, and other matters usually forming a part of the Churchwardens' accounts.

A document, written on parchment, of which the following is an accurate copy, was produced to the Charity Commissioners by James Coneybear, of Ashburton, who stated that it came into his possession on the death of his father, Samuel Coneybear, and that he had heard his father say, that it was found in the parish chest of Buckland. The said James Coneybear also stated, that this document, when produced, was in the same state as it had always been since it came into his possession.

"I, Elizabeth Cake, of the Parish of Tavestock, Devon, doth hereby give and settle my estate, as a deed of gift, on the second poor of Buckland in the Moor, in the county of Devon, to bear date 1566, in the eighth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, defender of the faith, and so forth; the second poor shall put in and place in two men, as feoffees to the said estate, known and called by the name of Reddeycley, to set out at an yearly rent, at a

public survey, and to be paid to the said Buckland poor, annual or yearly; and the said feoffees shall receive twenty shillings per year for their trouble; but if a deceit or fraud in the feoffees, by the said Buckland poor, they shall be put out of the trust. I, Elizabeth Cake, doth vend, the gift to the Buckland poor, that now no yearly income, nor the value of twenty pounds of money, nor any goods or chattles of such value, nor to such children as parents not married; but if there shall no second poor be their found, it shall be applied to the use of widows and orphans born after marriage. It shall be placed on the Church door two Sabbath days, in writing, as notice of setting at an yearly rent; and the said feoffees and the said Buckland poor in so doing shall communicate together in receiving of the rent of the above mentioned estate, shall be published in two Sabbath days in the Church of Buckland in the Moor, in the county of Devon. One thousand five hundred and sixty-six, February the twenty-fourth; to bear witness hereto the Rev. Mr. John Woodley, and Mr. Richard Peek, of Peek Hill, do promise as a faithful trustee and witness here to continue the said gift, for ever, to the Buckland poor of Buckland. Witness hereto feoffees place into the above mentioned estate Richard Peek, of Peek Hill, Mr. John Woodley, and James Rogers.

ELIZABETH (L. S.) CAKE."

On this document are the following indorsements:—

"1729, May 24.

Richd. Peeke, John Woodley, James Rogers. This is to certify, that Miss Elizabeth Cake is a true copy from the old originall deed, that ready clea is given to the poor that have no pay of the parish.

As witness our hands,

THOMAS SMERDON,  
JOHN NORMOOR,  
JOHN WIDECOMBE.

This day sworn to before me,

WM. KNEEL, *Chief Magistrate*,  
1729, May 24th."

In the report of the Charity Commissioners, p. 83, we read as follows:—

"This document is written in an engrossing hand, apparently modern, on parchment, which is either old, or made dirty in order to give it the semblance of age. The seal is evidently not of ancient date. The signature, and the indorsements also, appear to be in modern hand-writing. The signatures of the witnesses to the certificate, indorsed on the document, appear not to be in the same hand writing, as that of the body of the certificate, and of the

signature of William Kneel, described as being chief magistrate. Moses Hill, of Ashburton, informed us, that he saw this document more than 30 years since, in the hands of the said Samuel Coneybear, and that he once made a copy of it on paper for him. The said Moses Hill, upon being asked, whether he knew any of the writing upon this document, stated to us, that he was confident that the certificate indorsed, was the hand-writing of a man of Ashburton, whose name was Richards, who died four or five years since, at the age of about 66, and that the signature of Elizabeth Cake also resembled the said Richards's hand-writing. Upon this evidence, and upon a careful examination of the document itself, we feel no hesitation in expressing our decided opinion, that it is neither an original deed made in 1566, nor a copy of such deed made in 1729, but that the whole is a fabrication, more recent than the date of the certificate."

In 1790 a bill was filed in the Court of Chancery by the above mentioned Samuel Coneybear, (of Ashburton, clock maker, and one of the second poor of Buckland-in-the-Moor,) for himself, and on behalf of the second poor, against William Ellis and Richard Burnell, of the said parish; and William Smerdon the then tenant of the estate, setting forth the above mentioned document, and claiming the estate for the use of the second poor according to the intent of the said Elizabeth Cake. The defendants by their answers denied that they had ever heard that the said estate had been given by the said Elizabeth Cake to the second poor of the said parish, except that 20 or 30 years before one Francis Bennett had so stated, but had assigned no reason for his assertion, and that the Churchwardens' accounts proved that the rents had been applied for the repairs of the Church from 1631 to 1700, after the payment of five shillings a-year quit rent to the Lord of the Manor of Wolborough. There is no account of further proceedings having taken place in this suit subsequently to the answers of the defendants, but James Coneybear told the Commissioners that he understood that his Father being poor, could not afford to pay the legal expenses of the suit, which was therefore abandoned. The complainant appears to have been incited to continue the action by one Robert Wills, who is stated to have failed as a timber merchant in Devonshire, and to have been afterwards employed in the office of an attorney in London, and who continually held out false hopes of a speedy and favourable termination of the suit, and apparently expected that money might be obtained from the defendants by way of compromise.

This Chancery Suit entailed an expense upon the Parish Lands of Buckland of £78 13s. 6d. from 1801 to 1805 inclusive.

#### ANCIENT HOUSES AT BUCKLAND.

There are ancient houses having sixteenth century doorways both at Stone and Chalomer; portions of the walls of the former (which is the property and residence of Mr. Norrish) have been at some time or other loop-holed for musketry, and were probably so treated by some of the fugitives from the Royal Army during the retreat of Lord Wentworth's brigade from Bovey, in the month of January, 1646.

### Widecombe-in-the- Moor.

—o—

By indenture of feoffment, dated 19th January, II. Charles 1st, John Hamlyn and two others granted and en-feoffed to Richard Langworthy and others, and their heirs, a house, situate within the Parish of Widecombe, called the Church House, and a close of land there situate, called Henhay *alias* Butte Parks, the rents and profits of the said premises, and of the said land, to be applied to such charitable and good uses and deeds as by the major part of the householders parishioners should be agreed upon, either for the reparation of the Church of the said parish, amending the highways, relieving the poor, furtherance of the King's Majesty's service, or the like.

We gather from the Report of the Charity Commissioners that the site of Butte Parks has been lost, and that the parish are not in possession of any field of that name, but they consider that (from the circumstance of the quantity of land included in the said Butte Parks being nowhere particularized, and from its herbage and pasture only being demised by the above mentioned deed) it is not improbable that it was the piece of waste land now called the Green, adjoining the Church House, and used as a playing place for the children of the parish.

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There can be, we imagine, little doubt but that this piece of land was originally provided for the use of the inhabitants of the parish in obedience to an Act passed in the fifth year of Edward II. (A.D., 1466), which directed "That every Englishman should have a bow of his own height of yew, ash, wych, hazel, or amburn; and that butts should be made in every township, which the inhabitants were to shoot at every feast day under the penalty of a halfpenny, when they should omit that exercise." Yew trees were at this time almost invariably planted in English churchyards in order to provide wood for the construction of bows.

A deed for appointing new Trustees of the lands in this parish dated in 1703, contains in addition to the above mentioned premises a messuage or tenement situated in Dunstone, in the Parish of Widcombe, called the Lady House, and a close called Lady Land.

In 1821 Lady Land contained an acre of ground. Two cottages were then standing on it, which were occupied by paupers of the parish rent free; the Lady House had fallen down.

#### WILLS' GIFT.

In the books of the Overseers of the Poor of this parish, under the date 1643, is an entry which states that three shillings had been received from Lewis Wills, and had been distributed in white bread on Good Friday.

It is reported that John Wills gave this small annuity, and that it is charged upon an estate called "Beares," in the Parish of Lidford.

#### JERMAN'S GIFT.

Sampson Jerman, by will proved 7th February, 1669, gave to the poor of the parish ten shillings yearly out of one close of his called Fowlford (immediately after the decease of the testator's brother and sister), for ever, to be given to one poor person yearly on the 1st November, especially to a poor widow woman that hath no relief, if there should be any such in the Parish of Widcombe.

#### THE MANOR OF SPITCHWICK.

(See chap. ix., p. 62).

The Manor of Spitchwick appears to have been anciently the property of Brictric Meaw (or the golden haired), the son of Algar, the Lord of the honour of Gloucester, to whom we have already several times referred, and (for reasons with which the reader is familiar) passed into the hands of

Queen Matilda, and upon her death in 1083, became vested in the Crown. It was afterwards given to a family who called themselves after their residence, and the name of William de Spikewyk is appended to a deed executed in the year 1282. The noble family of Bouchier were settled there for many years, and the estate appears to have been sold by the three co-heiresses of Edward Bouchier, the fourth Earl, who succeeded to a great deal of the family property upon the death of their uncle Henry, the fifth Earl, without issue, in 1654. The Devonshire estates of the Bouchiers seem to have been acquired by William Bouchier, (great grandson on his mother's side, to King Edward III.) through his marriage with the heiress of Sir Richard Hankford, who also inherited the estates of her mother, the heiress of Lord Fitzwarren. The owners of Spitchwick sat in Parliament as the Lords Fitzwarren, until John Bouchier was created Earl of Bath, in 1536.

Appendix.

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#### PETER'S GIFT.

The poor of this parish are entitled to an annuity of twenty shillings payable out of the great tithes of Cornworthy, under the gift of John Peter. The parish officers were formerly accustomed to lay it out in the purchase of cloth, which was distributed amongst the poor who did not receive relief. For the fifteen years prior to 1821, they applied it improperly to the Overseers' account in aid of the poor rate.

#### KELLY'S GIFT.

Richard Kelly gave an annuity of 6s. 8d. to this parish, this was also applied to the Overseers' account, but the Charity Commissioners were assured that in future both annuities should be distributed amongst the poor not in receipt of constant relief.

## Woodland.

—o—

We have already referred to the Charities of this Parish (chap. xiii., p. 92 and 93).

In the north transept of Ashburton Church is a plain mural Tablet bearing the following inscription:—

“The Rev. Thomas Smerdon died ye 17th April, 1788, whose great abilities and care of his pupils, the many years he was Master of the Grammar School in this town will not soon be forgotten. His constant attendance on his little flock at Woodland, whose future happiness he unwearily strove to promote, claim a grateful remembrance. This small tribute to his memory is paid by his Widow, in her 82nd year, expecting soon to mingle her dust with his; and her soul to unite in eternally Adoring and Praising the infinite goodness of Redeeming Love.”

Ashburton Grammar School appears to have reached its greatest celebrity under the Head Mastership of the Rev. Thomas Smerdon, and by him Dr. Ireland, afterwards Dean of Westminster; John Dunning, first Lord Ashburton; and William Giffard, scholar and author, were educated. We are indebted to his great grandson and namesake for the information that he realised a fortune (large in his day) of £10,000, by educating the younger members of most of the best families in the country round from the year 1770, up to his death in 1788. The fame of the school must necessarily have been increased during these last eighteen years by the brilliant success achieved in the literary world by his three illustrious pupils already referred to, during the latter years of his life he was domestic Chaplain to Lord Ashburton, and he lived to secure for his son the Vicarage of Ottery St. Mary, a parish since distinguished by its connection with the family of Coleridge.

## Borough of Totnes.

—o—

By indentures of lease and release bearing date 17th and 18th September, 1719, between the Mayor and Burgesses of the Borough of Totnes of the one part, and Nicholas Trist and eleven others of the other part, reciting that divers charitable and well disposed persons had heretofore devised sundry lands and tenements, and sums of money to various charitable uses, and that the said pious gifts had not been so regularly paid and supplied by their predecessors as in equity and good conscience they ought to have been; and that the said Mayor, &c., being sensibly affected with the neglect of their predecessors, had conveyed to the said Nicholas Trist and others "the water grist mills, malt mill, and fulling mill commonly called the Town Mills, situate on a branch of the river Dart, and all the right of fishing in the said waters and river, and also the quays or wharfs lying on the western side of the said river Dart, betwixt Totnes Bridge and Peter's Quay, and all tolls, &c., to the said quays belonging (and other Corporation property fully described in the published Report of the Charity Commission, p. 42, Hundred of Coleridge), to secure the payment of money left for charitable purposes, and to discharge several debts which had been contracted in respect of the charities.

### SUMS GIVEN TO BE LENT TO DECAYED MERCHANTS.

Money to the amount of £230 has been left at different times by various persons to be lent to decayed tradesmen under certain restrictions.

### SUMS GIVEN FOR PLACING OUT POOR CHILDREN.

Money to the amount of £246 has been similarly bequeathed to be lent towards the expense of bringing up poor children and placing them out in life.

### BARBER'S GIFT.

Gabriel Barber in 1619, delivered to Mr. Richard Lee, Mayor, £35, whereof



£10 was to be employed towards the procuring of a library, and the other £25 to be applied to charitable purposes. This gift was doubtless the origin of the present library contained in the parvise of the Parish Church, and of which the following is a catalogue:—

NO.	A.	DATE.
58.	Augustine Aurelii, Opera (x. in vi.) Paris .. .. .	1531
59.	„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ .. .. .	1614
158.	„ „ „ „ Deus natura Gratia, i vol., Lugduni .. .. .	1634
3.	Aquinatis St. Thomae Theologia, iv vols., Antwerp .. .. .	1626
29.	„ „ Opera, Cont. Gentiles, vol. i., Lugduni .. .. .	1587
39.	„ „ Disputatae Questiones, i vol., Paris .. .. .	1586
31.	„ „ In omnes Epistolas D. Pauli Expositio, i vol., Antwerp .. .. .	1620
19.	Alvarez P. Gabrieli Expositus Isaia, ii vols., Lugduni .. .. .	1623
43.	Acts of the Church; or, Eccles. History, ii vols., London .. .. .	1610
64.	Annals of England, from Henry VIII. to Elizabeth, ii vols., London .. .. .	1630
38.	Attersoll's Comm. on Book of Numbers, i vol., London .. .. .	1618
208.	„ „ Treatise on the Sacrament, „ „ .. .. .	1614
80.	Ambrosii Opera, ivth vol., Coloniae Agrippinae .. .. .	1616
142.	Aristoteles De Anima, i vol., Hanover .. .. .	1611
159.	„ „ Organum, iv vols., Frankfurt .. .. .	1577
160.	Antonii Comm. in Libros Aristotelis, i vol., Coln. Agrip .. .. .	1621
144.	Andrew's Sermons, i vol., London .. .. .	1583
218.	Adams' „ „ „ „ „ „ .. .. .	1614
222.	Abstract of Acts of Parliament, i vol. .. .. .	.. .. .
233.	Act of Parliament for Sequestration, i vol. .. .. .	1643
<b>B.</b>		
56.	Biblia Sac. Polyglotta Waltoni, vi vols., London .. .. .	1657
10.	Bernardi Opera, ii vols., Antwerp .. .. .	1609 to 1616
51.	Brentii Johs. Homiliae in Acta Apost., i vol., Frankfurt .. .. .	1546
61.	„ „ History of Council of Trent, i vol., London .. .. .	1629
69.	Bezae Theod. Novum Testamentum, i vol., Geneva .. .. .	1598
213.	„ „ Tract de repudiis et Divortii, i vol., Geneva .. .. .	1569
22.	„ „ Theologiae, i vol., Anchova .. .. .	1576
82.	Biblia Sacra, i vol., Geneva .. .. .	1617
148.	Bacon's, Lord, Essays, i vol., London .. .. .	1629
83.	Bible, i vol. .. .. .	1613
84.	Book of Common Prayer, ii copies, London .. .. .	1669
93.	Baronii Robert Apollogia pro disputatione de formali objectu Fidei, i vol., Alredoniae .. .. .	1631
95.	Brightmanni Thomae Commentaria, i vol., Basilæ .. .. .	1614
147.	„ „ Apocal D. Joannis, i vol., Frankfurt .. .. .	1609
127.	„ „ in English „ „ Amsterdam .. .. .	1611
126.	Boy's Exposition of Epistles and Gospels, i vol., London .. .. .	1610
155.	„ „ Scriptures in the Liturgy, „ „ .. .. .	1610
130.	Baldwini Frid Adventus Christi, i vol., Wittebergæ .. .. .	1621
135.	„ „ Passio Christi „ „ .. .. .	1614
163.	„ „ Casus Conscientiae „ „ .. .. .	1628

No.	DATE.
136. Beyerlinck Laur, <i>Morale promptuarium Festarum</i> , i vol., Col. Agrip ..	1613
178. <i>Burn's Ecclesiastical Law</i> , iv vols., London .. .. .	1767
182. Burrow's Gracious Spirit, i vol., London .. .. .	1638
184. Bythueri Vict, <i>Institut. linguae Hebrae et Chaldae</i> , i vol., London ..	1635
186. <i>Bible Francaise</i> , i vol., Geneva .. .. .	..
195. Bullinger's Judgement, i vol. .. .. .	1566
215. Barker's Exposition of the Ten Commandments, i vol., London ..	1633
223. Burton's Sermons, i vol. .. .. .	..
242. „ Heavenly Treasure i vol. .. .. .	..
229. <i>Birekbeck's Protestants Evid.</i> , i vol., London .. .. .	1635
240. Byfield's Way of Holiness, i vol. .. .. .	..

## C.

4. Cornelii Cornelii Commentaria, iv vols., Paris ..	1630 to 1635
8. Chemnili et Melanthonis Loci Theologici, i vol., Wittebergae ..	1623
57. <i>Castilli Lexicon Heptaglotton</i> , ii vols., London .. .. .	1669
13. Chamieri Dan, <i>Panstratia Catholici</i> , v in ii., Frankfort .. .. .	1627
16. <i>Calepini Amb. Dictionarium undecim Linguarum</i> , i vol., Basiliae ..	..
45. <i>Critici Sacri</i> , ix vols., London .. .. .	1660
46. <i>Concordantia Biblica</i> , Frankfort .. .. .	1600
47. Chemnili Examen, i vol., Frankfort .. .. .	1609
173. <i>Conference between Bishop Land and Mr. Fisher</i> , i vol., London ..	1639
77. Calvini Joannis Comm., ii vols., Geneva .. .. .	1573
78. „ Opera Theologica, impt. vii., Geneva .. .. .	1617
720. „ <i>Institutio Christ. Relig.</i> , i vol., London .. .. .	1576
76. <i>Calvin de Jean Sermons sur le livre de Job</i> , i vol., Geneva .. .. .	1611
79. Chrysostomi, D. Joannis Opera, ist, ivth and vth vols., Paris ..	1614
125. „ on the Ephesians, i vol. .. .. .	1581
90. Crakanthorpe's Defence of Constantine, i vol. .. .. .	1621
91. Conference between Rainolds and Heart, ii copies ..	1598 and 1609
194. Cowelli Joannis Institutionis Juris Anglicani, i vol., Cambridge ..	1630
128. Cartwright on Church Government, i vol. .. .. .	1575
106. Cameronis Joannes Defensio, i vol., Salmurii .. .. .	1624
149. „ Responsiones, i vol., Lugduni Batavorum .. .. .	1622
153. „ Explicationes locorum Novi Testm., i vol., Geneva ..	1632
154. „ Praelectiones, i and iii vols., Salmurii .. .. .	1628
185. Carletani, Georg., Consensus Ecclesiae, i vol. .. .. .	1613
192. Cooper's Christians Daily Sacrifice, i vol., London .. .. .	..
221. Church, the True Catholic, i vol., Paris .. .. .	1614
231. <i>Catalogus Librorum</i> , i vol. .. .. .	1600
235. Commentary on Revelations, i vol., Middelburg .. .. .	1614
237. <i>Clavis Apoclyptici</i> , i vol., Cantabrigiae .. .. .	1632
241. Commandments, on the, i vol. .. .. .	..
206. Comment on the xith Chapter of Corinthians, i vol., London ..	1640

## D.

72. Damasceni Joannis Opera, i vol., Paris .. .. .	1619
167. Davenantii Joannis Expositio Epistola D. Pauli ad Collossenses, i vol., Cambridge .. .. .	1630

No.		DATE.
172.	<i>Discourse on Well Governing a Kingdom</i> , i vol., London .. ..	1602
174.	Downame's, Bishop, <i>Treatise of Justification</i> , i vol. .. ..	1633
239.	" " <i>Anti-Christ</i> , i vol., London .. ..	1603
204.	" " <i>Treatises</i> , " " .. ..	1609
81.	<i>Dictionary, Latin</i> , impt. i. .. ..	..
85.	" " " " " " .. ..	..
100.	Drexellii Hieremiæ <i>Opera</i> , i vol. .. ..	1629
103.	Dieterici Cunradi <i>Anal. Logica Evangeliorum Dominicalium</i> , iii vols., Giessæ Hessorum .. ..	1616 to 1620
112.	<i>Disputatio de originali peccato</i> , i vol. .. ..	1562
134.	Drusii <i>Annotationes</i> , i vol., Amstelrodami .. ..	1632
180.	<i>Doctrinae Catechistual</i> , ii copies, London .. ..	1630
183.	<i>Defence of Petition for Reformation</i> , i vol. .. ..	1618
193.	David's <i>Thronæs</i> , i vol. .. ..	..
196.	Denison's <i>Doctrinae of Lord's Supper</i> , i vol., London .. ..	1631
239.	Dyke's <i>Mischief of Scandal</i> , i vol., London .. ..	1631
1.	Danæi Lamberti <i>Opuscula Omnia</i> , i vol., Geneva .. ..	1583
E.		
24.	Estii Gulielmi <i>Com.</i> , i vol., Col. Agrip .. ..	1631
75.	Erasmi <i>Recognitiones</i> , i vol., Basilæ .. ..	1518
117.	" <i>Paraphrases in Evangelium</i> , ii in i. .. ..	1534
75.	" " <i>on New Testament</i> , i vol. .. ..	1551
156.	Egardi Pauli, <i>Agonia Domini Nostri</i> , i vol., Hamburg .. ..	1621
F.		
6.	Francisci de Mendoca <i>Veridarium sac. ac. prof. eruditionis</i> , i vol., Lugduni .. ..	1632
5.	Francisci de Mendoca <i>commentaria</i> , iii vols., Lugduni .. ..	1629
52.	Fabricii Andrœ Leodi <i>Harmonia Confessionis Augustanae</i> , i vol., Colonie .. ..	1573
123.	Flacci Matthiæ <i>Confessio de originali peccato</i> , i vol., Wittbergœ .. ..	1571
175.	Fonseca's <i>Devout Contemplations</i> , i vol., London .. ..	1629
119.	Feri Joannis <i>Commentaria</i> , i vol., Lugduni .. ..	1609
121.	" <i>Explicatio Jobi His.</i> , i vol., Colon. Batavorum .. ..	1571
124.	" <i>Comm. in Totam Genesim</i> , i vol., Col. Agrip .. ..	1572
236.	Forbes's <i>Defence against Romanists</i> , i vol., Middleburg .. ..	1614
96.	Flavel, Joannis, <i>Tractatus de Demonstrationis</i> , i vol., Oxoniae .. ..	1619
G.		
71.	<i>Gregorii S. Magni Opera</i> , vi in ii., Antwerp .. ..	1615
7.	Gerhardi, Joannis, <i>Harmonica Evangelica</i> , i vol., Geneva .. ..	1628
145.	" " <i>Commentaria</i> , i vol., Jenæ .. ..	1617
146.	" " <i>Opera Theologica</i> , ist, iird, viith, and viiith vols., .. ..	1622 1628
108.	Gerhardus, de morte et resurrectione mortuorum, vol. viiith, Jena .. ..	1621
144.	Gerhardo <i>Harmonia Evangelistarum Chemnitii Iyserianœ</i> , iii vols., Jena .. ..	1626 to 1627
11.	Gregorii Mazianzenii <i>Opera</i> , ii vols., Paris .. ..	1630

NO.		DATE.
12.	Gregorii Mysseni Opera, ii vols., Paris .. ..	1615
49.	Gualtheri Rodolphi Homiliae in Hoseam, i vol., Basilia .. ..	1592
49.	"    "    In D. Lucam, i vol., Heidelberg .. ..	1601
36.	Grimstone's History of the Netherlands, i vol., London .. ..	1609
150.	Glassii Sal. Philologicæ Sac., i vol., Jena .. ..	1623
201.	Gouge's Treatises, i vol., London .. ..	1631
226.	Gunpowder Plot, i vol., London .. ..	1606

## H.

165.	Historia Ecclesiastica, vi vols., Basilia .. ..	1564
63.	L'Histoire Ecclesiastique, i vol., Paris .. ..	1532
166.	Hensii Danielis Exercitationes Sacræ, i vol., Elseviri .. ..	1639
86.	Harmony of the Faith, i vol., Cambridge .. ..	1586
89.	Hall's, Bishop, Old Religion, i vol., London .. ..	1628
131.	Hayman in Epist. D. Pauli, i vol. .. ..	
200.	Hammond's Review of the New Testament, i vol., London .. ..	1656
	[This book was bought by the Town June 18th, 1657.]	
225.	Hakewill's Answer on Catholicism, i vol., London .. ..	1616
228.	Heylin's Answer to the Holy Table, i vol., London .. ..	1637
234.	"    Little Description of the Great World, i vol., Oxford .. ..	1621
243.	Harrison's Purchase of Grace, i vol., London .. ..	1639

## I.

25.	Iranæi Opera, i vol., Col. Agrip .. ..	1625
54.	James First, Works of, i vol., London .. ..	1616
37.	Jewell's, Bishop, Defence of the Church of England .. ..	
105.	Isocratis Orationes et Epistolæ, i vol., Col. Allobrogum .. ..	1618
118.	D. Joannis Accolampadii Annotationes in Hoseam, i vol., Basiliæ .. ..	1535
217.	Jacob's Treatise on the Sufferings of Christ, i vol. .. ..	1600

## K.

60.	Knolle's History of the Turks, i vol., Oxford .. ..	1631
143.	Keckermanni Systema Rhetoricæ, i vol., Hanover .. ..	1612

## L.

17.	Lorini Joannis Commentaria, ii vols., Lugduni .. ..	1609	1629
18.	"    "    Commentaria in Psalmos, iii vols., Colon Agrip .. ..		1619
50.	Leonis Magni Opera, i vol., Paris .. ..		1618
48.	Lavaterii Ludovici Com. in libros Chronicorum, i vol., Heidelberg .. ..		1600
48.	Lavaterii Ludovici Comm. in libros Proverbiorum, i vol., Liguri .. ..		1572
122.	"    "    Liber Ruth Expositus, i vol., .. ..		1578
107.	Live Tite Les Consciens et les harangues, i vol., Paris .. ..		1554
214.	Luther, Martin, Comments on St. Paul to Galatians, i vol., London .. ..		1588

## M.

164.	Montani B. Ariæ Comm., i vol., Antwerp .. ..	1592
42.	Monarchs of England, William I. to James I., i vol. .. ..	
99.	Meisneri Balthæ Consideratio Theologiæ Photinianæ, i vol., Wittebergæ .. ..	1623

NO.		DATE.
102.	Magiri, Joannis, <i>Physiologia Peripatetica cum Comm.</i> , i vol., Geneva ..	1621
129.	Martini, Jacob, <i>Synopsis Religionis Photinianorum</i> , i vol., Witteburg	1633
216.	<i>Moses and Aaron</i> , Goodwyn, i vol. . . . .	..

## N.

32.	Nicholai D. Philippi, <i>Opera</i> , ii in i., Hamburg .. .. .	1617
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## P.

152.	Parei Davidus <i>Comm. in Prophetas</i> , ii vols., Oxon et Heidelberg	1631 1633
20.	Pineda, Joannis de <i>Comm.</i> , ii vols., Col. Agrip .. .. .	1613
28.	„ <i>Com. de rebus Salomonis regis</i> , i vol., Moguntia .. .. .	1613
27.	Pole, Matt., <i>Synopsis criticorum aliorum S. Scripturæ Interpretum</i> , v in iv., London .. .. .	1669 to 1674
53.	<i>Pliny's History of the World</i> , i vol., London .. .. .	1601
40.	<i>Plutarch's Lives of the Grecians and Romans compd.</i> , i vol., London ..	1595
70.	<i>Plutarchi Opera</i> , ii vols., Frankfort and Heidelberg .. .. .	1599 1572
39.	Perkins's <i>Works</i> , vol. iind, Cambridge .. .. .	1609
74.	<i>Platonis Opera</i> , i vol., Basilie .. .. .	1561
92.	Peters's <i>St. Prophetes</i> , impt. i. .. .. .	..
111.	Parkerus, Rob., <i>de descensu Jesus Christi ad Inferos</i> , i vol., Amsterdam	1611
132.	Polani Amandi, <i>Consensus Catholicus Comm.</i> , i vol., Basilie .. .. .	1607
162.	„ <i>Commentaria</i> , „ „ .. .. .	1608
133.	Polanus Amandus <i>de Ratione legendi</i> , „ „ .. .. .	1603
139.	Parei Dav. <i>Comm.</i> , i vol., Geneva .. .. .	1614
140.	„ <i>Theologica</i> , i vol., Heidelberg .. .. .	1620
187.	„ <i>Explicatio in Epist. S. Jacobi Apost.</i> , i vol., Heidelberg .. .. .	..
177.	„ <i>Sum of the Christian Religion</i> , i vol., London .. .. .	1611
161.	Pezelii Ch. <i>Hist trium Monarchiarum</i> , i vol., Mapergit .. .. .	1610
197.	Pleyfere's <i>Sermon</i> , i vol., London .. .. .	1611
198.	Price's <i>Sermons</i> , „ „ .. .. .	1616
199.	Potter's <i>Answer to Charity Mistaken</i> , i vol., Oxford .. .. .	1633
202.	Pemble's <i>Exposition on St. John</i> , i vol., London .. .. .	1630
211.	Preston's <i>Treatises</i> , „ „ .. .. .	1636
220.	<i>Proofs of Christianity</i> , i vol., Amsterdam .. .. .	1613
88.	<i>Pastoral Charge</i> , i vol. .. .. .	..
188.	<i>La maniere de bien precher</i> , i vol. .. .. .	..

## R.

41.	Ruperti <i>Opera</i> , iii vols., Colin Agrip .. .. .	1577
34.	<i>Raleigh's, Sir W., History of the World</i> , i vol., London .. .. .	1614
68.	Roger's <i>Commentary on the Book of Judges</i> , i vol., London .. .. .	1615
189.	„ <i>Sermons</i> , i vol., London .. .. .	1612
87.	Riveti Andreae <i>Disputationes</i> , i vol., Lugduni .. .. .	1631
113.	„ <i>Praelectiones</i> , i vol., Lugduni, Batavorum .. .. .	1632
114.	„ <i>Isagoge seu Introd. general ad Scriptur.</i> , i vol., Lugduni Batavorum	1627
115.	„ <i>Exercitationes in Genesin</i> , i vol., Lugduni, Batavorum .. .. .	1633
116.	„ <i>Catholicus Orthidoxus Opps. Cath. Papistae</i> , ii copies, ii vols., Lugduni, Batavorum .. .. .	1630

NO.		DATE.
97.	Rickel D. Dionysii Comm., i vol.	1530
205.	Randall on the Sacrament, ii copies, i vol., London	1630
207.	Reynolds Meditations on the Sacrament, i vol., London	1630
212.	„ Defence of the Sacrament, i vol., London	1609
94.	Rolloci, Robert, Commt., ii vols., Geneva	1606 to 1618
238.	„ „ Comm. in Danielelem, i vol., Edinburgh	1591
<b>S.</b>		
109.	Sermons, v vols.	
62.	Synopsis Papismi, i vol., London	1614
2.	Stellæ Didaci Opera, ii in i., Antwerp	1622
9.	Saliani Jacobi Annal Ecclesiastici, vi in iii., Col. Agrip	1620 1624
14.	Suarez Franc. Tractatus de legibus ac Deo Legislatore, i vol., Antwerp	1614
15.	„ De Metaphisica, i vol., Moguntia	1622
176.	„ Opuscula Theologica, i vol., Moguntia	1600
35.	Seneca's Works by Lodge, i vol., London	1614
55.	Scapulae Joannis Lexicon, i vol., Basiliae	1620
67.	Serarii Nicholai Comm., vol. i, Moguntia	1622
98.	Sleidani Joannis de quat summis imperiis, i vol., Witteburg	1613
101.	Scheibleri Christ. Metaphisica Specialis, i vol., Giessae Hessorum	1622
179.	Summa conciliorum et pontificum, i vol.	1600
181.	Sareerius's Common Places of Scripture, i vol., London	1577
203.	Selater's Expositions on the Romans, i vol., London	1611
209.	Smith's Parallel, i vol.	1609
224.	„ Pattern of True Prayer, i vol., London	1605
232.	Sweedish Intelligencer, i vol.	
<b>T.</b>		
23.	Tertulliani Opera, i vol., Colon Agrip	1617
66.	Toleti Francisci Comm., i vol., Colon Agrip	1611
65.	Trapp's Comment on the Bible, ii vols., London	1654 1657
151.	Taylor's Christ's Victory, i vol., London	1633
227.	„ Temptations of Christians, i vol.	1618
141.	Table, The Holy, i vol., Dioc. Lincoln	1637
<b>U.</b>		
138.	Ursini Zac. Explicatio Catecheticarum, i vol., Heidelberg	1608
<b>V.</b>		
137.	Vedellii, Nic., Rationale Theologicum, i vol., Geneva	1628
<b>W.</b>		
21.	Wolfgangi Musculi Comm., iv vols., Basiliae	1548 to 1518
110.	„ Loci Communis Sac. Theologia, i vol.	1567
44.	Walker's Sufferings of the Clergy in the Rebellion, iii vols., London	1714
191.	„ Socinianism Refuted, i vol.	1641
171.	Whately's, William, Prototypes, i vol.	1641
33.	Whittaker, de Auctoritate Sac. Scripturæ, i vol., Cambridge	1594

NO.		DATE.
	Wiesmes, Jno., Exposition of the Moral Law, i vol., London .. .. .	1632
168.	<i>Willet's Hexapla in Genesis; or, a Six-fold Com. on Genesis</i> , i vol., Cambridge .. .. .	1605
169.	Willet's Commentary on Daniel, ii vols., Cambridge .. .. .	1610
170.	Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans, i vol., Cambridge .. .. .	1611
190.	Wischart's Exposition of the Lord's Prayer, i vol., London .. .. .	1633
210.	Wotton's Defence of the Reformed Catholic, i vol. .. .. .	.. .. .
219.	(Title erased altogether), i vol., London .. .. .	1619

## Z.

26.	Zanchii, Hieronymi Opera, viii in iii. also, ivth, vth, and vith in i., Geneva .. .. .	1617	1619
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## 334 VOLUMES.

Some of these books are in a tolerable state of preservation, but others are in a very dilapidated condition, and if they do not speedily receive some care and attention, they must soon perish from damp and decay.

From the following entry in the accounts of Philip Lee, Mayor of Totnes, 1645-46, it seems that the parvise was the original place in which they were kept.

1646, July 20th. "Paid for removing the books from the Church Porch to Mr. William Tillard's house."

There are many entries in the Town accounts relative to this Library, such as—"Paid Mr. Prince (then Vicar of Totnes), for carriage of some of the library books from Exeter here, which were new bound."

They were eventually removed from Mr. Tillard's house to some shelves provided for them in the old Vestry, and there they remained until the recent restoration of the Church, when (upon the removal of the Vestry), they were replaced in the Parvise, where we saw them a few months since.

The Reader will find on referring to the Catalogue, that several rare and valuable works are included in this interesting collection. The titles of those which seemed to us most worthy of remark have been printed in *italics*.

We do not profess to give more than a general account of the very valuable charities connected with the Borough of Totnes, full details will be found in the published Report of the Charity Commission. The Grammar School was

founded in 1658 by Sir John Maynard and Elise Stert, and endowed with an estate called Rostbridge, in the Parish of Staverton.

There are several bequests for the endowment of a Lectureship within the Borough, and the Rental of the Church Lands in 1821, amounted to £10 14s. 11d. per annum. The rents of the lands belonging to the ancient Hospital of St. Mary Magdalen were distributed amongst the poor for many years after the Reformation. In 1660 the receipts from these lands were £17 9s. 8d., and the disbursements were "To Edward Langworthy, his wife and children, fifty-three weeks at 6d. per week, £1 6s. 6d."

Other payments (chiefly for repairs to the old Chapel and buildings), £10 14s. 6d.

We do not know at what period the payments to poor persons from these lands finally ceased, we believe that the rents are now received by the Corporation, and that they are applied towards the repairs of the Parish Church.

There is a Charity School in Totnes which has profited by bequests; but which is, we believe, chiefly supported by voluntary contributions.

## Dean Prior.

—o—

### CHURCH HOUSE.

By indenture, dated on the vigil of St. Mary Magdalen, 5th Henry VIII., the Prior and Convent of Plympton granted to Richard Cote, John Morshead, and others, and their heirs, a piece of land lying in Overdean, in Dean Prior, containing 80 feet in length, and 30 feet in breadth, lying in length between the Church stile, on the northern part, and the road leading from Overdean towards Totnes, on the southern part, and extending in breadth between the churchyard of Dean Prior, on the east part, and the common land of the said Prior and Convent, and the other way there, on the west part, on condition that the Parishioners of Dean Prior should build upon



the said piece of land, a house, called the Church House, under a rent of 4d. payable to the Prior of the said Convent.

This house was removed some years since to make way for a new Lych Gate (the gift of the late Lord Churston), by which the churchyard is now entered; at the period of its destruction it was inhabited by poor people, the Overseers for some years paid £4 10s. per annum rent to the Churchwardens, the greatest part of which was usually exhausted in the repairs of the old building.

#### EDWARDS' GIFT.

John Edwards, of Sherford, 23rd January, 1610, gave two-thirds of the rent of a field called Collymead, in the Parish of Dean, to the poor, for ever.

#### BOWERMAN'S GIFT.

It is stated in an entry in an old Churchwardens' book, that Mr. Bowerman (Christian Name not mentioned), gave £20 to carry an interest of £1, for ever, to be distributed at Easter to the poor of the parish.

#### BRADFORD'S GIFT.

The Rev. Robert Bradford gave an annuity of £1, to be laid out in the purchase of four Bibles, to be given to poor children on Christmas-day, to such as are able to read.

#### BOVEY'S GIFT.

Thomas Bovey gave 7s. yearly, which is spent with Bradfords' Gift in procuring Bibles, which are given away at the Annual Parish Meeting, on Easter Monday.

#### STIDSTON'S GIFT.

William Stidston, Esq., who died in April, 1818, gave £100 to be invested in the name of the Vicar of Dean Prior in trust, to provide with the dividends Bread to be given at his discretion, with the assistance of the Churchwardens, to poor people of the parish not in receipt of parochial relief.

## Cor Brian.

—o—

### PETER'S GIFT.

John Peter in 1570, gave to the poor of this parish an annuity of 20s., payable out of the sheaf of Cornworthy, to be expended in the purchase of shirts and shifts, to be distributed by the Churchwardens amongst the poor of the parish.

—o—

## Ashburton.

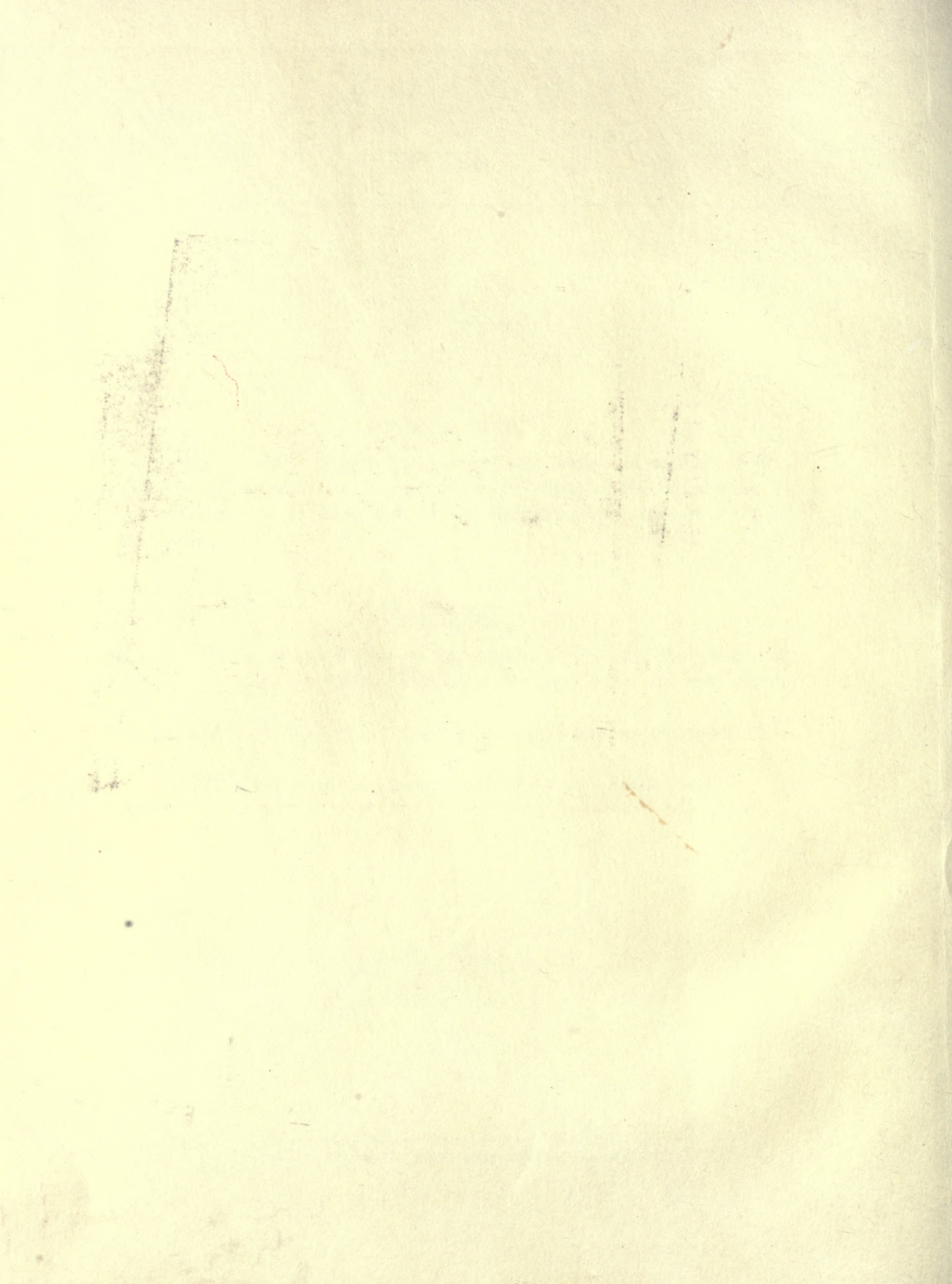
We have stated at page xviii of this Appendix that the appropriation of Ashburton, was made by Bishop John about the year 1180; the date *should be* A.D. 1186.

The Legend of the Seal of the Borough of Ashburton, unabbreviated, runs thus :

*“Sigillum Prepositi et Comonalitatis Burgi de Ayshperton.”*







**BINDING SECT. APR 29 1965**

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Worthy, Charles  
Ashburton and its  
neighbourhood

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