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BRADFORD-ON-AVON.



# BRADFORD-ON-AVON ;

A HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION,

BY

REV. W. H. JONES, M.A., F.S.A.,

CANON OF SALISBURY, VICAR OF BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

REPRINTED FROM THE WILTSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL MAGAZINE

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ANNOTATED AND BROUGHT UP TO DATE BY

J. BEDDOE, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.

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THE HALL, BRADFORD-ON-AVON,

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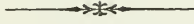
NOTES AND CONTINUATION,

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## EDITOR'S PREFACE.



Owing to circumstances over which I had no control, the reproduction of Canon Jones's work has been long delayed; and this renders it necessary that something more of a preface should be prefixed than I had originally intended. Of course both the Publisher and I meant the volume to be little more than a reproduction of a work which was valuable in its original form, and which had become inconveniently scarce and inaccessible; it was not to be a new book by a new author founded on one that was growing obsolete; though something was to be done towards filling up gaps in the original work, and bringing it up to date.

Interesting and markworthy as the old town is in many respects, it is in and around the Saxon Church of St. Laurence that the interest especially gathers and centres; and it would be scarcely right to pass by unnoticed the mass of erudite criticism which has, since the inception of this present work, been directed against the current opinion as to the date and authorship of the Church. I refer particularly to Professor Baldwin Brown's volumes, and to the article founded thereon by the Rev. H. J. Dukinfield Astley. Space does not permit of anything approaching a satisfactory discussion of the question, even if I, "*impar congressus*," could venture on a controversy with an adversary carrying such heavy guns as does Professor Brown. I will simply remark that he seems to have had much difficulty and hesitation in coming to the opinion he expresses, viz., that the little Church dates from the latter part of the 10th century. He rests this view chiefly on the presence of probably late features, viz., pilasters and double-played windows, though he acknowledges that "Bradford-on-Avon appears in general character a singularly early Church."

He remarks, also, ii, 325-6, that "in Saxon history periods of brilliant promise are succeeded by long eras of national eclipse"; and that it is quite likely that "the age of conversion was one of such stimulus to the artistic powers of the people that a level of effort and achievement was reached which subsequent generations were not able to maintain." This was just the period of Wilfrid and Aldhelm, and they may probably have come into contact; as Wilfrid with his masons and singers is said, during his exile from Northumbria, to have wandered for some years about Mercia, whose frontier was close to Bradford. (Hodgkin, P. History of England, i, 194-5). By the way, the, perhaps, most notable of Professor Brown's late features, the long and short work, is not present here, though it appears at Monkwearmouth, which he puts into the earliest class. But after all, are these doubtful architectural details sufficient to weigh in the balance against the testimony of William of Malmesbury, who lived near at hand, and knew the local traditions? If the Church had been built only 150 years before William wrote, is it conceivable that the fact could have been already forgotten? It has been suggested that Aldhelm might have built a wooden ecclesiola, which the Danes might have burned; but how does that consist with the reputation of Aldhelm as a builder and a judge of good stone? See Aubrey for the tradition to that effect! Douling, where the first Church was of wood, was in a woodland, not in a freestone country, as Bradford is. And I cannot believe that the Danish buccaneers ever took the laborious and bootless trouble of pulling down a solid stone building of this sort, though they might not stick at burning whatever was burnable.

The Bishop of Bristol's paper on "Pre-Norman Sculptured Stones," in Miss Dryden's "Memorials of old Wiltshire," incidentally gives strong support to the prevailing opinion as to Aldhelm's work, (which is also evidently the opinion of Bishop Browne himself) by pointing out the Lombardic, and therefore early, character of some of the sculpture in the

carved stones preserved in the north porch of the little Church. He also notes that the pattern on one of these stones is found in a Durham manuscript dating as early as Aldhelm's time. See page 151. The statement there is only partially correct. These sculptured stones were brought from Trinity Church, it is true; but we have no other reason to think they ever really belonged to it. They could hardly have done so, as we have the expert testimony of Bishop Browne to their extreme antiquity, unless there was once another Saxon Church on the site of the present partly Norman one.

I should like to make a correction here in reference to Alveston, an appurtenance of the Manor of Bradford which is mentioned in Domesday Book, and the location of which puzzled Canon Jones. Since the body of this work was printed I have become satisfied that the place mentioned, which contained seven hides, was Alvediston, in the far south of the County, which certainly belonged, like Bradford, to the Abbey of Shaftesbury.

It only remains for me to record my sincere thanks to those who have assisted me in my work, of whom one, Mr. Charles Septimus Adye, Architect to the Restoration Committee, has unhappily already passed away; but there remain Sir Charles Parry Hobhouse, Bart., Mrs. Alexander Mackay, who kindly gave me access to Canon Jones's unpublished MSS., and a few others.

THE CHANTRY,

BRADFORD-ON-AVON,

*May, 1907.*

## PUBLISHER'S PREFACE.



The Publisher has only to accept all blame for delay in the publication of this history, to apologise to those subscribers who were led to expect the large paper copies in the spring of 1906, and to ask for lenient treatment for this his first serious excursion into publishing. He would add his thanks to the Editor by whose labour of love it has alone been possible to publish this volume. The new matter is [*in square brackets in italic type*].

BRADFORD-ON-AVON, 1907.



ARMS SUGGESTED BY THE EDITOR AND NOW IN USE  
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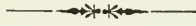
DESCRIPTION OF THE COAT OF ARMS.

Or, a teazle between two battle axes, blades to the sinister, all proper, on a chief azure an angel flying to the sinister, proper, vested argent crined or holding on his dexter arm a cloth also argent. Crest, a gudgeon proper. The angel is taken from one of the figures in the Saxon Church. "Crined" refers to the colour of the hair. The teazle alludes to the woollen industry. The battle axes are taken from the arms of the ancient family "Hall," seen over the central door of the almshouses and on the badge of the almshouses. "Proper" means of the natural colour: thus the gudgeon taken from the gilt one on the bridge chapel, would be blueish on the back, white below, and with pale-red fins.





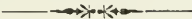
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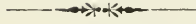
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## BRADFORD-UPON-AVON,<sup>1</sup>

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HERE are few towns in Wiltshire more interesting to the archæologist or the student of Natural History than Bradford-upon-Avon. Though it has never been the scene of great stirring events like other places in its neighbourhood, and has never assumed a position of much political or perhaps even of social importance, there are nevertheless incidents in its history which invest its consideration with a more than ordinary charm. Its situation is beautiful, lying as it does at the eastern extremity of the valley of the Avon, and being shut in on the north and west by hills covered with vegetation and contributing at once to the shelter and picturesque appearance of the town. There is, moreover, a quaint, almost romantic, look about its buildings, rising one above another in successive ranks up the slope of the hill on the north side, that gives a peculiar character to the place, by no means unpleasing to the antiquary. In its immediate vicinity are many geological treasures; some of the rarest and most curious fossils being found in the Bradford clay [*and in the inferior oolite*].

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<sup>1</sup> The substance of this paper was read at the Annual Meeting of the Wilts Archæological and Natural History Society at Bradford, in August, 1857.

I take this opportunity of expressing my obligations to those friends who have afforded me assistance in the preparation of this paper, either by giving me information, or replying to enquiries, or allowing me access to documents. Amongst others I would especially thank Mr. J. Waylen, the Rev. E. Wilton, Mr. W. Merrick, Mr. C. E. Davis, (of Bath,) and our excellent Secretary, the Rev. J. E. Jackson.

W.H.J.

In the ancient buildings too, one of them perhaps of a date anterior to the conquest,†—in the deep ecclesiastical imprint that may be traced everywhere, the lasting memorial of those five hundred years during which the manor appertained to a great Religious House,—in the mansions, one of which has been restored of late, and remains as a proud evidence of the ample means as well as the pure taste of its original builder,—in the manufactures, in times past the source of the wealth of more than one ennobled family,—there is abundant material for those who delight in tracing out the actual life and habits of by-gone generations, and this not simply as a matter of barren curiosity, but as a means, indirectly at least, of self-discipline and self-improvement.

The parish of Bradford is situated at the north-western side of Wiltshire, its limits forming for some miles the boundary line of that County, and separating it from Somersetshire. It contains no less than 11,272 acres, and had, according to the census of 1851, 8958 inhabitants.\* It is divided into ten tithings, and has within it seven churches, a new one, that of Christ Church, having been erected about sixteen years ago. All these churches were originally united in one benefice, and held under the Vicarage of Bradford; indeed, for the purpose of the poor rate assessment, all the tithings are still the constituent parts of one parish. Since the year 1846, however, the various chapelries have been, for all ecclesiastical purposes, distinct benefices. The BOROUGH and TROWLE tithings have been attached as a district to the Church of the Holy Trinity, *i.e.* the Parish Church;—those of LEIGH, WOOLLEY, and

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†[It must be remembered, here and elsewhere in this volume, that it was written after the discovery of the Saxon Church of St. Lawrence, but before its discoverer had made up his mind as to its probable date and remote antiquity. J.B.]

\*[The population of the Parish, as here defined, including the ten Tithings, has fluctuated considerably during the last 50 years, but has on the whole diminished. In 1881 it amounted to 8350, in 1891 to 8449, but in 1901 it is only 7726 while the population of Urban Bradford has declined during the last 10 years from 4957 to 4512, and that of the Parishes of Trinity and Christchurch, including Bradford Without as well as the urban district, from 5297 to 4788.]



CUMBERWELL form the district of Christ Church ; HOLT, with its church dedicated to St. Catherine, has become a distinct benefice ; ATWORTH and WRAXHALL with their two churches, the latter of which is dedicated to St. James, have been united into one benefice ; and, in like manner, WINSLEY and LIMPLEY STOKE have been joined together under one Incumbent, with their churches dedicated, the one to St. Nicholas, the other to St. Mary the Virgin.<sup>1</sup>

It is the object of this paper to give a sketch of the history of the two first named districts ; the tithings forming them comprising the town and its immediate neighbourhood. The history of the other tithings will only be alluded to so far as such reference may be necessary for the purpose of illustrating our narrative.

Our plan will be, first of all, to give a general history of Bradford from earliest times to the present, and this as far as possible in chronological order, interweaving with the narrative such materials as we have been able to collect on subjects more or less directly connected with it. In separate sections we shall afterwards lay before our readers information on several topics of interest and importance.

#### FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO A.D. 80.

John Aubrey in the Preface to his Natural History of North Wilts describes in the following terms its probable condition in earliest times. "Let us imagine what kind of country this was in the time of the ancient Britons, by the nature of the soil, which is a sour, woodsere land, very natural for the production of oaks especially ; one may conclude that this North-Division was a shady, dismal wood ; and the inhabitants almost as salvage as the beasts, whose skins were their only raiment."

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<sup>1</sup> The above description of the various divisions of the parish is accurate for the most part, though not perfectly so, inasmuch as the tithings do not in all cases correspond with the several ecclesiastical districts. A part of Winsley tithing, *e.g.* and some small portions both of Leigh and Woolley as being in the town or its immediate vicinity, form part of the Parish Church district. Other small portions of the Winsley tithing are attached to the district of Christ Church.

There have been some persons in recent days, who have come forward as the apologists for the old Britons, and have claimed for them a far greater degree of civilization than is implied in Aubrey's words. But all, we should suppose, are agreed that he is perfectly right in his opinion concerning the general character of this part of the country in the remote times of which he is speaking. No doubt it was covered with forest; here and there a small portion was cleared away to afford habitation for the native population, few comparatively in number, perpetually at war amongst themselves, and frequently shifting their abode from one locality to another. Indeed, the site of Bradford is, as a glance at an old map will shew at once, just between two large forest-ranges, the one, the Coit-mawr or Selwood, *i.e.*, the 'Great Forest' as Asser interprets the name, extending to the south by Wingfield, Pomeroy, Frome, &c., and the other, to the north-east, through Holt, Blakemore, Pewsham, and so on through Wilts, as far as to Braden Forest. It will appear more than once in the course of this paper, that in olden times, the woodland bore a far greater proportion than now to what was arable or pasture land in our parish. The same thing, indeed, may be observed, though of course in a lesser degree, by inspecting maps of comparatively modern date, that is, of not more than a hundred and fifty years ago.

The question naturally arises, "Have we any traces or memorials in our immediate neighbourhood of these, its earliest inhabitants?" As yet none have been found to which we can, with anything like certainty, assign so great antiquity. The habits of our British forefathers were such, that it is hardly likely they would leave behind them any lasting tokens of themselves, except in the names of places, or in their places of sepulture, their cromlechs or barrows, as they are called. Our river still bears its British name,—the *Avon*. We are at no great distance from some works which are undoubtedly British, as, for example, the Celtic burial-ground at Wellow,† and Stanton Drew, one of their ancient hypæthral temples—a

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† [Probably the famous long-barrow at Stony Littleton about 1¼ mile south of Wellow. J.B.]

'*locus consecratus*'—which, to those who occupied the western part of the province of the Belgæ, was what Stonehenge was to those who lived in the eastern part.<sup>1</sup> But within the limits of our parish we have discovered no remains at present of so distinctive a character as to warrant us in definitively pronouncing them to be British. In a field which forms part of the Belcomb estate, called Temple Field, lying on the high ground to the north-west of the town, there are sundry large stones, ranged together on the brow of a hill, in such a manner as may at first sight seem to warrant a conjecture, that has been formed, that they are vestiges of our Druidical forefathers. Certainly they appear to have been placed in their present position by design, and can hardly be accounted for by natural causes, such as the washing away of the soil by successive rains. At the same time, unless, by digging out a few feet of earth near some of the stones, we discover more palpable evidences of the site being that of an ancient burying-place, we must hesitate before we commit ourselves to such an opinion. As archæologists, we must be doubly sure before we venture upon a judgment which a little more investigation may overthrow, and hence, we cannot help thinking that in the case before us, the wiser, and certainly the safer, verdict would be,—“*Not Proven.*”

FROM A.D. 80—A.D. 450.

There is no mention either in Cæsar, or in the Itinerary of Antoninus, or in the later work attributed to Richard of Cirencester, of any place that at all corresponds with Bradford. We are in the neighbourhood of many Roman remains. They have been found (as is well known) in great abundance at Bath, that city having been from very early times a favourite resort for military commanders and other persons of rank in search either of pleasure or of health. They have been discovered too at

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<sup>1</sup> On the subject of British remains within a few miles of our town, the reader is referred to an interesting paper on 'Ancient Earthworks in the neighbourhood of Bath,' communicated by the Rev. H. M. Scarth, M.A., to the Journal of the British Archæological Association, June 1857, p. 98.

Box and at Warleigh. In the last named place there was a Roman Villa, the capital of one of its columns being still preserved by Mr. Skrine. In a field near Iford, the remains of a villa were opened in 1822, and on a hill near Stowford are some portions of an earthwork and camp. None of their roads, however, passed very near to the site of our present town. The Via Julia, which ran through Bath to Silchester, came no nearer to us than Medleys,<sup>1</sup> a cottage near Neston, so called, as Mr. Leman ingeniously conjectures, because half-way (quasi *in Medio*) between Bath and the Roman station of Verlucio, at Highfield near Sandy lane. The other great road, which ran from Old Sarum to Uphill, was of course at a much greater distance from us. The Fosse-way which crossed these two, running from Ischalis (Ilchester) to Durocornovium (Cirencester), came no nearer to us than Bath, through which it passed, intersecting at that point the Via Julia.

We are not without some clear proofs that, during a part, at least, of those three centuries and a half during which they held Britain, the Romans were settled in this locality. They were accustomed to record their various conquests in a manner peculiarly their own, and admirably calculated to perpetuate their fame to the remotest ages. They issued large numbers of coins, and these were—we might almost say, still *are*—their gazettes, proclaiming the success of their arms and the reduction of rebellious provinces to submission. These coins are found in considerable numbers in the upper part of the town, in what is called Budbury.

No coin of the Roman period has been found, so far as we are aware, in or near Bradford, to which we could with any certainty assign a very early date. One or two of ANTONINUS

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<sup>1</sup> "There is a single cottage near Neston, called *Medleys*, which as the Roman road there divides the parishes of Corsham and Atworth belonged to neither of them. It struck me that this *Medleys* might have been a *Mansio* on this road, and so a corruption of the Latin word "*in medio*." Having afterwards discovered the site of Verlucio (at Highfield, near Sandy lane), this road was measured between Bath and Verlucio, and the distance found to be 15 miles, and this *Medleys* was precisely the half-way house between them."—MS. note by Mr. Leman, at p. 470 of Horsley's 'Britannia Romana,' in the library of the Bath Literary Institution.

PIUS have been discovered, about the date, that is, of A.D. 150. The earliest, however, that has been found in any number, is a small brass coin of VICTORINUS, who was commissioned by the Emperor Probus, with whom he was a great favourite, to subdue a revolt in Britain about A.D. 275. Several have been found also of TETRICUS,—of VALENS,—and of CONSTANTINE the Great, the first who assumed the imperial purple in Britain; a few of CRISPUS; several of CARAUSIUS, the admiral of the Roman fleet, who secured for himself at one time an all but independent sovereignty in Britain; some of ALLECTUS, first the friend, then the betrayer, of Carausius; many of CONSTANTINE Junior, and also of the URBS ROMA coin, with the reverse of Romulus and Remus suckled by the wolf; a few of CONSTANTINOPOLIS. This enumeration brings us down to the latter part of the fourth century.<sup>1</sup>

From the facts that have been thus detailed we may gather

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<sup>1</sup> The following coins, amongst others, have been sent to the writer within the last few months, and have all been found in the neighbourhood; and for valuable help in deciphering the legend, &c., he is indebted to his friend, the Rev. H. M. Scarth, of Bath. About the year 1819, a small silver coin of CARAUSIUS, and a brass one of ALLECTUS, both well preserved, were found in a field called 'The Hams,' (close by Winsley,) which passed into the hands of Mr. H. L. Tovey, whose collection of coins was sold by auction in 1852.

- VICTORINUS. (c. A.D. 250.) *Obv.* Head crowned with five spikes in crown. *Leg.* IMP C VICTORINVS AVG. *Rev.* Female figure with cornucopia. *Leg.* PROVIDENTIA AVGG.
- TETRICUS. (267-272.) *Obv.* Head crowned as above. *Leg.* IMP TETRICVS P F AVG. *Rev.* Female with a fillet in her hand and a child at her feet. *Leg.* SALVS AVGG.
- CARAUSIUS. (287-293.) *Obv.* Head of Emperor crowned. *Leg.* IMP CARAVSIVS P F AVG. *Rev.* Female figure. *Leg.* PAX AVG. (?) *much defaced.*
- CONSTANTINUS. (311-327.) *Obv.* Head of Emperor laureated. *Leg.* SOLI  
 . . . Magnvs. INVICTO COMITI. *Rev.* Male figure with radiated crown. Letters TR one on either side. On the exergue PTR (*Pecunia Treviensis*); struck at Treves.
- . . . Maximus. *Obv.* Head of Emperor. *Leg.* CONSTANT MAX AVG. *Rev.* Two foot soldiers holding each a spear and child and standing opposite a trophy. *Leg.* GLORIA EXERCITVS. Exergue. TRP.

two *probable* inferences :—

1st. That the Romans began to visit our locality about 80 or 90 years after the final subjugation of Britain by Claudius (A.D. 62); that the period when they were most numerous here was from about A.D. 250 to within some thirty years of their leaving Britain altogether: and that about the end of the fourth century, they began to leave our immediate neighbourhood.

2nd. That as most of the coins alluded to have been found in the upper part of the town, in what is now called Budbury, the Roman settlement was *there*.

This spot, situated at the top of a hill, almost inaccessible at that time on the south or west, was just such an one as we should, from the customs of the Romans, have expected them to select; and it was the nearest point to Bath, in which place, we know, they clustered in great numbers. There is still, in a field in this locality, evident appearance of earth-works, and

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- CRISPUS. (317-326.) *Obv.* Head of Crispus laureated. *Leg.* CRISPVS NOB CAES. *Rev.* An Altar surmounted with a globe (?) inscribed VOTIS XX. *Leg.* BEATA TRANQVILLITAS. In the field P.A. In the exergue PLO (*Pecunia Londinensis.*)
- VALENS. (c. 330.) *Obv.* Head of Emperor. *Leg.* N VALENS P F AVG. *Rev.* Female figure with banner. *Leg.* SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE.
- VALENTINIANUS I. (c. 370.) *Obv.* Head of Emperor laureated. *Leg.* DN VALENTINIANVS P F AVG. *Rev.* Victory marching. *Leg.* SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAE. In exergue SMAQ.
- CONSTANTINUS Jun. (340.) *Obv.* Head of Constantine helmeted. *Rev.* Altar with the word VOTIS. *Leg.* BEATA TRANQVILLITAS. In the exergue PLON.
- . . . . . Aug. *Obv.* Head of Constantine galeated. *Rev.* Altar with globe and three stars above, inscribed VOTIS XX.
- . . . . . Jun. *Obv.* Head of a Emperor with a wreath. *Leg.* CONSTANT JVN NOB CAES. *Rev.* Soldiers with trophies. *Leg.* GLORIA EXERCITVS. A great number of these are found; one has on the *reverse* two figures of victory.

In addition to these, we meet very constantly with the 'Urbs Roma' coin, described above, and one with the Legend CONSTANTINOPOLIS and the head of an Emperor helmeted with a sceptre in his hand on the *Obverse*; and on the *Reverse* a winged female figure with a spear in one hand and the other resting on a shield, having in the exergue T.R.P. of the date probably of the latter part of the 4th century.

these, a few years ago, were distinctly traceable in some of the adjoining pieces of ground, before they were portioned off as garden-plots, and then levelled. The common name that is given to the field is the "Bed and Bolster," which, if our hypothesis be true, may be a homely, but certainly not altogether an inexpressive, description of the "*vallum*" and its corresponding "*agger*" in a Roman encampment.

Though the Romans were in our immediate neighbourhood, more or less, for some 300 years, yet they have left no traces, except in these few particulars, behind them in Bradford. There is hardly, in the Borough or its vicinity, the name of a single place which is necessarily derived from the Latin tongue,

#### FROM A.D. 450—650.

Hitherto we have been almost entirely in the region of conjecture. We now come to a period to which we can with certainty trace our town, though even yet we have but *glimpses* of its history. The kingdom of Wessex, which ultimately comprised, amongst others, the present counties of Wilts, Hants, and Dorset, was established, in A.D. 519, by Cerdic, who, after defeating the Britons in several engagements, made Wintan-Ceaster (or Winchester) the capital of his newly acquired kingdom. In the course of some 40 or 50 years his successors gradually extended the limits of their dominions: and in the year A.D. 577, Ceawlin gained an important victory over three British kings at Deorham (Dyrham) in Gloucestershire, which was followed by the surrender of the three important cities of Glevum (Gloucester), Corinium (Cirencester), and Aquæ Solis (Bath). Now it is from this period (about the end of the sixth century) that we should be inclined to date the name, and perhaps the permanent establishment of our town; though still but a small and thinly populated place for many years afterwards. Within 50 or 60 years of this time, it is spoken of as the scene of a sort of civil war, between Cenwaleh, then King of Wessex, and some of his disaffected subjects. The name is pure Anglo-Saxon; it means simply the *Broad Ford* over the River Avon, an appellation perfectly intelligible

to those who visit our town during the summer months, especially after a long drought. Indeed, to a comparatively modern date, the Ford was used for all carriages, the bridge having originally been much narrower than now, and probably only intended for foot passengers. By looking at the two sides of the bridge you will perceive that they are of very different date, and it is said that after the road is somewhat worn, you may distinctly trace the point at which the newer is joined to the older work.

Cenwalch, of whom we have just spoken, became King of Wessex in the year A.D. 642. He at first, we are told, refused to embrace Christianity. He had been married to a sister of Penda, King of Mercia, but no sooner did he succeed to the throne than he ignominiously dismissed her. Penda, to avenge himself for the insult offered to his sister, entered Wessex, and after defeating Cenwalch, chased him out of his dominions. The exile found an asylum in the territory of Anna, the virtuous king of the East Angles, and during his three years' residence there, was induced to abjure heathenism. At the end of that time he recovered his throne by the assistance of his nephew Cuthred. It was, however, by no means held as yet on a secure tenure, for he had to contend with the disaffection of the native population, always seeking an opportunity for revolt. This disaffection broke out at last into an open flame; and the conflict at Bradford, in the year A.D. 652, was its result. It terminated in a decisive victory gained by Cenwalch over the Britons. This conflict, and a subsequent one (a few years later) at Pen, in Somersetshire, attended with a similar result, seated him firmly upon his throne, and gave him opportunity to carry out his wishes with regard to inducing his subjects generally to follow his own example in abjuring heathenism. Of his own zeal he had already given proof, by building a church and monastery at Winchester, the size and magnificence of which astonished his countrymen. The battle at Bradford, though but barely mentioned by the Chroniclers, becomes of much interest, especially to ourselves, if thus viewed as a subordinate link in that chain of providential circumstances



by which the blessings of Christianity were conferred on the kingdom of Wessex.

FROM A.D. 700—850.

Within some fifty years of this time the fact that Christianity was the religion of Wessex was brought home palpably to the inhabitants of this spot. For Ina, who had succeeded to the throne, not only granted to Aldhelm (afterwards Bishop of Sherborne), permission to build a monastery at Bradford, but also bestowed some lands for its support. The gift, at least, seems to imply that the manor of Bradford, in early times, belonged, like those of Chippenham, Corsham, Melksham, and others in our neighbourhood, to the kings of Wessex. Of Aldhelm, we are told that he was of illustrious Saxon descent.\* From his youth he was addicted to letters, and increased his store of knowledge by travels both in France and Italy. For some time he was under the direction of Maidubh, the Scotch Anchorite,† who kept a kind of college at Maidulfes Burg, afterwards softened down into Malmesbury.<sup>1</sup> He subsequently became a monk of the Benedictine order, built a monastery at Malmesbury, and was either first or second abbot. He was also abbot at Frome and at Bradford, and a letter is still extant, in which he mentions these dignities in such a way as would seem to imply that he was also the founder of them both. It is an epistle concerning the liberty of elections granted to all congregations under his government. After a preface, he says, "Hence it is that I, Aldhelm, after having by the divine goodness been enthroned in the episcopal office, unworthy as I am, secretly resolved within myself that *my* monasteries of Malmesbury, Frome and Bradanford over which as Abbot I long presided, should receive an Abbot selected by the spontaneous voice of my establishment. The pious determination of my monks opposed this my resolution; and when I had several times mentioned this in assemblies of my brethren, none of

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\* [He appears to have belonged to the royal family of Wessex.]

† [For Scotch read "Irish," the Scotia of those times was Ireland.]

<sup>1</sup> Wright's 'Biograph. Britan. Liter.' i. 213.

them would listen to my wishes, but said ‘As long as you are alive we will most humbly submit to the yoke of your government, entreating only that you will by deed secure to us, that, after your death, no king, no pontiff, or any authority claim dominion over us, except with our voluntary consent.’” He then makes the arrangement requested, and the act is confirmed by King Ina.<sup>1</sup>

The bishopric to which Aldhelm was appointed A.D. 705 (and which he held only for the short space of four years), was one of two sees constituted out of the old Bishopric of the West Saxons, in the same year. He is spoken of in the Saxon Chronicle as Bishop ‘west of Selwood.’ His see comprised the counties of Wilts, Dorset, Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall. For more than three centuries the see was continued at Sherborne; then it was removed, first to Wilton,—then to Old Sarum,—then to Salisbury.

Few, from all that we read of him, deserved more fairly to be canonised by the Church of Rome than Bishop Aldhelm. The Chroniclers bear ample witness to his life of earnestness and devotion. He was an elegant writer, and left several works. He was also an accomplished musician, and in many other respects an able and learned man. The name is still preserved in ‘Hilmarton,’ originally written, as indeed we find it in Domesday Book,—*Aldhelmertone*,<sup>2</sup> [and also as a *patronymic surname, not very uncommon, that of Adlam.*]

The Monastery founded in Bradford by St. Aldhelm, is said by William of Malmesbury, to have been dedicated to St. Laurence. Its site was most probably near the north-east end of the present Church, a spot of ground there still bearing the name of the Abbey yard. It is just possible that a portion of what is now the Charity or Free School formed part of it, for you can see, at a glance, that what is now the entrance to the School is a modern addition to a more ancient building. Further and more careful investigation may enable us to speak

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<sup>1</sup> The document is printed in the first volume of Kemble’s ‘Codex Diplom.’ under the year 705.

<sup>2</sup> Gibson’s ‘Camden’s Britannia,’ i. 196.

more confidently than we wish to speak at present of the probable date and original purpose of this building. The ancient part of it, when severed from the modern additions with which it is hemmed in, assumes the shape of a Church or Chapel, with its Nave, Chancel, and North Porch; and it stands east and west. In opening the ground immediately adjoining the building for drainage or other purposes, stone coffins have been discovered, thus identifying the surrounding site as a place of sepulture. Within the building, moreover, there are the remains of an arch just at the point where, if our hypothesis be true, there would be an entrance from the nave to the chancel. All, however, that we will venture for the present to say, is, that we certainly here have the remains of very early, possibly of pre-Norman,† work.

Several well versed in architectural knowledge have felt no difficulty in pronouncing it to be one of the most ancient, and consequently most interesting, buildings in Wiltshire.

FROM A.D. 850—950.

During the next century, Bradford rose to be a place of some importance. Whether we were ever favoured with a visit from Alfred that greatest of English kings, the Chroniclers do not tell us. He was often in our neighbourhood, and fought some of his most decisive battles against the Danes at no very great distance from this spot. This, however, we know for certain, that within about 50 years of his death, in 959, a great council of the "Wytan" was held at Bradford, at which Dunstan, Abbot of Glastonbury, one of the best endowed of the religious houses, was appointed Bishop of Worcester. In those early days prelates were nominated to vacant sees by the king and his great council, the "Witena-gemote." The latter body comprised many of the most eminent of the clergy, and the laity were fairly represented by the secular members of the great

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†[The author's views as to the great antiquity of this building, now commonly known as the Saxon Church, developed considerably subsequently to the writing of this cautious statement. See further on the detailed description of the building.]

council.<sup>1</sup> At this time, no doubt, the monastery of St. Laurence was still standing. Perhaps Dunstan's election in this place to a bishopric was accidental, but it is not a little remarkable when we bear in mind the great reverence that he had for St. Aldhelm. Amongst what William of Malmesbury deems his good deeds he mentions expressly this, that 250 years after St. Aldhelm's death he disinterred his remains, which had been buried at Malmesbury, in the chapel of St. Michael, built by himself, and enshrined them with great solemnity.

FROM A.D. 950—1000.

It has been supposed by some, that towards the close of the tenth century, that was a Mint established at Bradford. In early times, the money circulated through the kingdom was struck at various towns to which the privilege was granted by the Crown, who appointed certain officers or moneymen to ascertain that the coins were of proper weight and that the king received his dues. The county of Wilts is deficient in records relating to its local mints. The only towns known, or conjectured, to have had mints, are Bradford, Cricklade, Malmesbury, Marlborough, Sarum, and Wilton. The claim of Bradford rests upon an extremely slight foundation. Ruding<sup>2</sup> mentions a coin of Ethelred II., on which appears the word BARD, and, for want of a better locality, he supposes that there may have been a transposition of letters—that the word ought to have been BRAD, and the town possibly Bradford. The town was a place of some consequence in Anglo-Saxon times, and *may* have had a mint; but, in the absence of any corroborating evidence, it is rash to assert it upon the ground of a conjectural emendation of the reading of a single coin.

We have spoken in previous pages of the little traces that the Britons or the Romans left behind them in the names of places. Not so, however, with regard to the Anglo-Saxon

<sup>1</sup> Kemble's 'Saxons in England.' ii. 221.

<sup>2</sup> Annals of the Coinage of Britain. iv. 400.

settlers here;—they have left abundant tokens of their presence. There are but few names of places in our parish which are not to be traced to an Anglo-Saxon source. A few instances taken from the names of the tithings, and some of the principal places in the parish, will soon prove the truth of this statement.

TROWLE is spelt in old deeds *Treowle*.|| It does not look unlike an abbreviation of *Treow-lege*, and so an equivalent to Wood-leigh, a name not unknown in Wiltshire, and recently adopted by one of our neighbours for his house; the Anglo-Saxon word for tree being *treow*. In like manner Bishopstrow, near Warminster, is clearly *bisceopes-treow*.

WOOLLEY in old deeds is written *Wlf-lege*. Amongst the holders of land, in the time of Domesday, was one VLF, who possessed a *hide* of land (about 100 or 120 acres) in *Bode-berie* (now *Budbury*), a much larger tract of ground bearing that name in older times than now. It may possibly have embraced a portion of what is now in the Woolley Tything. The tything itself, therefore, may perhaps have been called from his name.

LEIGH and HOLT respectively denote the flat pasture land and the wood land part of the parish, for such is the original meaning of the Anglo-Saxon words.

WINSLEY we find written in Domesday Book *Wintres-lege*,† that is, the cold or *wintry* Leigh. Its situation corresponds with its name, being upon perhaps the highest ground in the parish. The name of a tract of ground situated at the top of Grip wood (also *very high* ground) is still *Winder Leaze*, or, as it is sometimes spelt, *Winter Leaze*.

ATWORTH is in old documents written *Atan-wurthe* or *Atten-*

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||[*The immediate contiguity of Trowbridge and Trowle is suggestive. There is another tithing of Trowle which is included in Trowbridge, and was held by Brictric T.R.W.*]

†[*Uhric held T.R.W. 3 virgates in Wintreslei, and 1 in Tuderlege, all which his father had held T.R.E. Winsley and Turley lie together on the western side of Bradford. But both the present author and Mr. H. P. Wyndham, in their respective editions of the Wiltshire Domesday, identify Wintreslei as well as Wintresleu with Winterslow, near Salisbury and Tuderlege with Titherley, which is in Hampshire, but close to Winterslow. If this is so, Winsley is not mentioned in Domesday.*]

*worthe*. This may well be supposed to be derived from the Anglo-Saxon words, *Atan-weordh*, that is, *Oat-village*; the latter of the Saxon words meaning a farm, manor, or estate. *Oatlands* is not an unknown name in the parish of Bradford. It was the name of one of the royal residences at the close of the sixteenth and the commencement of the seventeenth century. King James's proclamation enjoining conformity to the Book of Common Prayer was issued from the royal "manor of *Otelands*," July 16, 1604.<sup>1</sup>

STOKE (A.S. *stôc*) means simply a 'place,' and here a 'village.' In some old documents we meet with it as Winsley-Stoke. The usual prefix now is *Limpley*. This name is not old, though it occurs in deeds of the latter part of the seventeenth century. As yet no satisfactory explanation can be given of it.

A considerable tract of land to the north-west of the town is called BERRIFIELD and often contracted into *Bearfield* or *Berfield*. This in old deeds is spelt as it would be in Anglo-Saxon *Bere-feld*, and this compound would be pronounced Bêrè-feld, (like the form first above written,) as in Anglo-Saxon final vowels were sounded. Now Bere signifies *barley* (sometimes *corn* in general) and is the root of the words *Beren* now BARN, and of *Bere-tûn* contracted in BARTON, the name of the principal farm in Bradford; the buildings of which formed part of what in old documents is spoken of as the 'grange' of the Abbess of Shaftesbury. *Bere-feld* thus interpreted would mean *corn-field* or arable land.

FRANK-LEIGH was so called, most probably, from the fact of foreigners settling in that part of the parish. The term *Francigena* in olden times included every alien whether Dane or Norman. We have good proof of the settlement of foreigners in this locality. At CUMBERWELL, as we shall presently see, the names of those represented as holders, are clearly indicative of their foreign origin;—they are *Levenot*† and *Pagen*.

<sup>1</sup> Cardwell's Documentary Annals, ii. 60.

† [The name of *Levenot*, the holder in Edward the Confessor's time, is certainly Saxon (*Leofnoth*). But the author himself came later to the opinion that *Cumberwell* in *Domesday* meant *Compton Cumberwell*, a tithing of *Compton Bassett*.]

In the vicinity of Frank-leigh moreover are the farms called "The Hays,"<sup>1</sup> or as the word is sometimes written "Haugh;" and the name of "William le Corp de la Haghe" is often met with in ancient deeds: this word is clearly not of Anglo-Saxon derivation.

ASH-LEY is so called, no doubt, from the *ash trees* which once abounded there. Though little esteemed now, the ash tree was much prized by the Anglo-Saxons. In their time of heathendom it was deemed a sacred tree, and always afterwards a favourite with them. As late as the time of Edward IV. it was used for bows, every Englishman under seventeen, being directed, by an act of that reign, to furnish himself with a bow of his own height, made of ash or witch-hazel, to save the great consumption of yew.<sup>2</sup>

BUDBURY, or as it was anciently spelt *Bode-berie*, is probably derived from the Anglo-Saxon words *béd*<sup>3</sup> i.e. prayer, and *burh* a town or enclosed place. This portion of our parish which was, as has been already intimated, of much larger extent once than now, may have been so termed from the '*chapel*' built on part of it, and which in Anglo-Saxon would have been called *béd-hūs*, that is, *prayer-house* or oratory. The word *beads* for prayers is not an unusual one. Amongst documents issued by Archbishop Cranmer in 1534, is one which is entitled "An order taken for preaching and *bidding of the beads* in all sermons to be made within this realm."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> From the French '*Haye*' a '*hedge*' or '*enclosure*.' There was an officer called the *Hay-ward*, whose duty it was to preserve the *fences* and grass of enclosed grounds from injury. After the ascendancy of the Danes in England we frequently meet with mention of the *Hæg-werde*. (Ancient Laws and Instit. of England, i. 441). The name and office still exist in Bradford. The appointment to it is made in *Court Leet* by the Steward to the Lord of the Manor. [*The French word 'Haye' was itself of Teutonic derivation, according to Skeat.*]

<sup>2</sup> Brand's Popular Antiquities, ii. 260, note.

<sup>3</sup> It has been suggested to me that if the word '*béd*' be taken in a secondary sense, to mean, that is, '*watching*' instead of '*prayer*,' the whole word may mean '*Watch-tower*.' Its situation on the highest point of the hill gives some colour to the supposition, but I incline rather to the one suggested above.

<sup>4</sup> Remains of Archb. Cranmer, p. 460. Parker Society edition.

In some cases we have preserved almost the exact form of the Anglo-Saxon words. *Michel-mead* (or, as it is sometimes written, *Muchel-mead*) a considerable tract of meadow land in the Holt Tithing close to Staverton, is simply the Anglo-Saxon *mycel-mæd*, that is *great Meadow*. In like manner *Yea-mead*, spelt in old deeds *Ee-mede* and *E-med*, is simply the Anglo-Saxon *ea mæd*, that is *water meadow*; this is a portion of land on the banks of the river lying to the south of Bradford Wood, near Lady Down Farm. *Culver-close*, moreover, which is the name given to a field immediately adjoining Barton Farm House is so termed from the Dove-cot that was formerly situated in or near it, from the Anglo-Saxon word '*culfre*' which signifies a 'dove' or 'pigeon.'

These examples are enough to show how abundant, in the names of places, are the traces of the Anglo-Saxon occupation of our Parish. We will now return from our digression to the regular course of our narrative.

FROM A.D. 1000—1086.

The last great person we spoke of as incidentally connected with our town was the famous Abbot of Glastonbury. We are next to be introduced to the head of another religious house; this also being one of the best endowed in the kingdom. And our acquaintance with the Abbess of Shaftesbury is not to be a transient one like that with St. Dunstan, but one that is to last for more than five hundred years. Fuller tells us, in his Church History, that so wealthy were these two communities, that the country people had a proverb that "if the Abbot of Glastonbury might marry the Abbess of Shaftesbury, their heir would have more land than the King of England." What was the history of Bradford Monastery during the fifty years that elapsed between Dunstan's election here to the Bishopric of Worcester, and the commencement of the eleventh century, it is not easy to say. Probably the monks of St. Laurence at Bradford, like their Brethren at Frome, (a monastery also founded by Aldhelm) were dispersed during the Danish wars which raged fiercely in this part of the country, and were never afterwards re-assembled. At all events we find that in







A.D. 1001 Ethelred materially increased the possessions of the Abbess of Shaftesbury by bestowing upon her the Monastery and Vill (*i.e.* the Manor) of Bradford; such a gift implying that at this time the manor was in the hands of the king. It was given, to use Leland's words, "for a recompence of the murdering of S. Edward his brother;" of which deed, though it was carried out by the orders of Elfrida, Ethelred was supposed not to be wholly guiltless. The Charter, by which he granted to the Abbess this addition to her revenues, is still in existence. It is to be found among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, and has been printed both by Dugdale<sup>1</sup> and Kemble.<sup>2</sup>

The charter is an interesting document, as it gives us an account not only of the specific object for which Ethelred bestowed Bradford upon the Abbess, but also distinctly marks out (insomuch that we can for the most part trace them now) the boundaries of the Vill and Manor, or, as *we* should say, the *Parish*. On the former point Ethelred states that "he gave to the Church of St. Edward at Shaftesbury the monastery and vill of Bradeford, to be always subject to it, that therein might be found a safe refuge (his exact words are "*impenetrable confugium*") for the nuns against the insults of the Danes, and a hiding-place also for the relics of the blessed martyr St. Edward and the rest of the saints," He expresses moreover his wish "that on the restoration of peace, if such were vouchsafed to his kingdom, the nuns should return to their ancient place, but, that some of the family should still remain at Bradeford if it be thought fit by the superior." It was indeed at an eventful crisis that he granted this charter. The miseries of his troublous reign seem to have well nigh reached their culminating point. Again and again had meetings of the Witena-gemote been held, their deliberations issuing only in the fatal step of buying off with large sums of money the opposition of their dreaded foe. In this very year of which we are speaking, the Northmen devastated Waltham, Taunton\*

<sup>1</sup> Monast. Angl. ii., 471.

<sup>2</sup> Codex Diplom. iii. No. 796.

\* The Chronicle says *Teignton, Pinho and Cliston*, *i.e.* *Clist* in Devon.

and Clifton, and were only induced to desist from further ravages by the immense bribe of £24,000.

What was precisely meant by Bradford being called "*impenetrabile confugium*" is not very clear. Probably it was by no means easy of access to a large armed force, and, in the event of their approach, the surrounding woods would furnish a secure hiding place for the members of the sisterhood. However, hither the Danes came, and within a few years at most from this time, the monastery is said to have been levelled with the ground. That most treacherous act of Ethelred, by which, on St. Brice's day, A.D. 1002, he ordered an indiscriminate massacre of the Danes, who, trusting to his promises, deemed themselves living at peace with him, exasperated them to madness and they spared nothing. It is not improbable that either in the year 1003, when Sweyn laid waste Wiltshire, or in 1013, when, at Bath, he received the submission of the Ealdorman Ethelmar and the rest of the Western Thanes, our monastery fell. After 1016, the date of the accession of Canute the Dane, to the throne of England, it was not likely that the Northmen would destroy what then they might fairly reckon as their own.

On the second point,—viz., the limits of the Manor of Bradford,—the charter is very explicit. This portion of the deed is not written, as the remaining parts of it are, in Latin, but in Anglo-Saxon, and that of a very late period and consequently of an impure character. We append a copy of it, together with a translation, side by side. Kemble's text, which has been adopted, is the nearest probably to the original, but even this, being a corrupt transcript of the Semi-Saxon period, presents so many difficulties, in addition to those usual in Anglo-Saxon boundaries, that the translation must be received, in several instances, only as a conjectural approximation to the true reading.

In the accompanying map, (Plate i.) all included within the dotted line represents the original manor, as described in the following extract from the charter.

Ærest of seuen pirien on First, from seven pear trees  
 ðere here wai, ðe schet súð on that military way that  
 ward wiðúten acceslegle wurð shoots southward without Ac-  
 út wrindes holt and swá anlang ceslegle<sup>1</sup> farm out of Wrindes  
 Herewines (? here-weges) tó holt<sup>2</sup> and so along the military  
 Ælfwines hlipgate; fram ðane way to Ælfwin's stile (*leap-*  
 hlipgate forð be is landschare gate); from the stile forth by  
 inne Auene; swá forð be his balk to the *Avon*; so forth  
 stréme inne byssi; swá úppe by the stream to the *Biss*;<sup>3</sup>  
 bissy on wret; swá onlonghes then up the Biss on the right;  
 wret ðat it comet tó Brisnódes so along on the right till you  
 landschare scu . t . n (? sceo- come to Brisnode's balk<sup>4</sup> (the

<sup>1</sup> *Acces-legle* farm. The original meaning of this word was *Oak's-leigh*. In our word *a-corn* (A.S. *ác-corn* i.e. the *seed of the oak*), we have preserved the original spelling. Ay degrees *Oak's-leigh* was corrupted into *Ox-ley*, and now into *Oxenleaze*, the present name of the farm. It is situated in the Holt Tithing at the eastern extremity of the parish of Bradford, just where the road branches off to Melksham. These *seven pear trees*,—(by the way, one is tempted to read *wiðien*, that is, *withies*, instead of *pirien*, *pear trees*, the words being easily mistaken for one another when written in Anglo-Saxon characters)—were planted as landmarks, to denote the spot where the parishes of Broughton, Melksham, and Bradford met. Kemble notices the frequency with which the *withy* is mentioned in describing boundaries in A.S. charters. (Cod. Dip. iii. Introd. p. xli.)

<sup>2</sup> *Wrindes holt* i.e. *wood*. A great part of this Tithing, as its name denotes, was no doubt originally *wood-land*. May *Wrindes holt* have been corrupted first of all into '*Runt's Holt*' and, in course of centuries, into '*Hunt's Hall*'? The situation of the last-mentioned place sufficiently corresponds with the description in the charter to give some colour to the supposition. [*Rinde*, a *thicket*, small wood. *Halliwell*.]

<sup>3</sup> *The Biss*. This river, on which Trowbridge is situated, enters the Avon by *Lady Down* Farm. The meadow at that point is called *Biss-Mouth* Meadow.

<sup>4</sup> *Brisnode's balk*. By this word, which has not yet passed out of use in Wiltshire, we translate the Anglo-Saxon '*land-schare*,' which denotes the ridges or other boundaries, by which one estate was divided from another. This *land-share* must be on the eastern side of Trowle common, commencing possibly from the point where the road from Bradford to Trowbridge leaves the former parish. In Andrews and Dury's map (1773) the stream which flows into the Biss at this point is called '*The Were*,' and is represented as rising near Southwick. This may perhaps explain Camden's statement, that Trowbridge is situated on the *Were*. (Britannia Gibson's edition), i. 199.) In the accompanying map, the *Were* is represented as forming the south eastern boundary of Bradford parish. This is not the case with respect to the *present* boundaries, several portions

wyrhtan); forð be is land- shoe-maker's?); forth by his  
 schare inne Swinbróch; forð balk to *Swinbrook*;¹ forth by his  
 be bróke inne Pumberig; út the brook to *Pomeroy*; out  
 þurh Pumberig inne Tefleforð; through *Pomeroy* to *Tellesford*;  
 forð mið stréme ðat it cumet forth with the stream till you  
 tó Ælfwerdes landimare at come to Ælfwerd's landmark  
 Wutenhám; ðannes of wige- at *Wutenham*;² thence from  
 wen bróke forð be Leófwines *wigewen*³ brook forth by Leof-

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on the eastern side of the stream being in Trowbridge. Originally all this part was *common* land. As from time to time the common has been enclosed, allotments of various portions of it have been made to the different parishes, whose inhabitants had the right of pasturage upon it. In olden times, possibly the stream formed the boundary of 'the Manor.'

¹ *Swinbrook*. This name has now been lost. I can have little doubt however, that it was the original name of the brook which forms, for the most part, the southern boundary of Winfield (now spelt *Wingfield* or *Winkfield*) parish. This brook rises in *Pomeroy*, and flows in a South-eastern [?eastern] direction, till it empties itself into the Were. Winfield, in Domesday Book is written *Wine-fel*. Does the name of the brook give us the key to the *original* name of the parish? In the immediate vicinity are several fields that bear the name of *Hook-woods*, which looks very much like a corruption of *Hog-woods*, a name still preserved at Hinton-Charterhouse, about three miles from the spot in question.

² *Wutenham*. This name is now lost. We meet with the name 'Withenham,' however, in the Wilts Institutions, several presentations to the name of that parish being therein recorded. The Church stood, most probably, half-way between Westwood Church and Farleigh Bridge, at a point where four roads meet. Tradition preserves the fact of there having been a church there, and a separate hamlet and parish, called *Rowley alias* Withenham. In 1428, the church being dilapidated, Walter, Lord Hungerford obtained permission to unite "Withenham *alias* Rowley" Church and parish with Farleigh. This is the reason why, to this day, Farleigh Hungerford parish stands partly in Somerset and partly in Wilts. There were two distinct manors. *Withenham*, held by the Hungerfords under the Lord Zouche; *Rowley*, held by them under the Abbess of Shaftesbury. The name and manor of Rowley still survives. Captain Gaistord's property, called Wiltshire Park, is part of it, and a lane there is still called Rowley lane. Withenham was probably on the Winfield side of the lane, as in Domesday Book it is mentioned next to *Wine-fel* and was held by the same person. It most likely spread over that portion of ground which lies between the cross in the lanes, already alluded to, and Stowford.

³ *Wige wen* brook. There is no name at all like this, (the literal meaning of which is 'war-chariot,') given to any brook in the direction indicated, at the present time. Andrews and Dury designate a portion of the stream '*Iford Brook*.' The present boundary line of the parish of Westwood leaves the river at Iford (which is partly in Westwood and

imare innen Auene: forð be Auene ðat it cumet tó Ferseforð ðes abbotes imare innen Mitford; of ðánne forde gyet be ðes abbotes imare; eft into Auene; swo in ðér be Auene ðat it cumet eft tó ðes abbotes imare tó Werléghe; swá be ðes abbotes imare tó Ælfgáres imare tó Farnléghe; forð be is imare oð ðat it cumet tó ðes kinges imare at Heselberi; forð be ðes kinges imare ðat it cumet tó Ælfgares imare at Attenwrðe; forð be is imare ðat it cumet tó Leófwines landimare at Cosehám; of ðán imare tó ðes aldremannes imare at Wítlége; forð be ðánne imare ðat it cumet tó Ælfwiges imare at Broctúne tó ðanne wude ðe ierað into Broctúne; eft at seuen pirien; forð be Ælfnódes imare innen Ædelwin's boundary to the Avon; forth by the Avon till you come to *Freshford* the boundary of the Abbot in *Mitford*; from the ford you go by the Abbot's boundary; then back to the Avon; so on there by the Avon till you come to the Abbot's boundary at *Warleigh*; so by the Abbot's boundary to Ælfgar's boundary at *Farleigh*; forth by his boundary till you come to the King's boundary at *Haselbury*;<sup>1</sup> forth by the King's boundary till you come to Ælfgar's boundary at *Atworth*; forth by his boundary till you come to Leofwin's landmark at *Corsham*; from that boundary to the alderman's boundary at *Witley*; forth by that boundary till you come to Ælfwy's boundary at *Broughton* to the wood<sup>2</sup> that

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partly in Freshford parish) and bearing first of all to the west and then to the north-east, reaches the Avon very near to the point where the river Frome empties itself into it. In a charter of Ethelred (A.D. 987,) printed in Kemble's Cod. Dipl. iii. 229, we find Iford spelt *Ig-ford*, that is, 'island ford,' from which we may infer that there was, no doubt, a brook or rivulet formerly, though we have lost the trace of it. [*This wigewen brook must surely have been the Frome, which is not here mentioned by that name.*]

<sup>1</sup> *Haselbury*. This is now the name of a Farm-house, with spacious premises, the remains of its former importance, in the parish of Box John Leland was entertained there by John Bouham in 1541. Formerly there was a Church at Haselbury, though all traces of it have now been lost. The estate belongs to the Northey family. [See vol. i. p. 144, of the Wilts Archæological Magazine.] The name of *King's Down*, which is in the immediate vicinity of Haselbury, preserves the memorial of the fact recited in the charter that the Crown formerly had possessions there.

<sup>2</sup> *The Wood that runs into Broughton*. Though most traces of this wood have disappeared, yet there is no doubt that the north-western part of this

wines imare at Chaldfelde; of his imare innen Ælfwines imare ðe Horderes; forð be his imare innen Ælphwines imare at Broctúne; eft intó ðe pyrien.

runs into Broughton; again at seven<sup>1</sup> pear trees; forth by Ælfnode's boundary to Æthelwin's boundary at *Chalfield*; from his boundary to the boundary of Ælfwine the Treasurer (?); forth by his boundary to Ælphwin's boundary at Broughton; back to the pear trees.

It will be seen, that as far as we can trace with accuracy the description given in the charter of the extent of the 'vill of Bradford,' it includes, not only the present boundaries of the parish, but the parishes of Winfield, Westwood, and a part of what is now in the parish of Farleigh Hungerford. Of Westwood we may say, in passing, that, though in a different hundred from Bradford, and in many respects quite independent of it, it has from time immemorial been held jointly with Bradford. As early as 1299, in the reign of Edward I., it is spoken of as the 'Chapel of Westwode in the parish of Bradford,' one "John de Waspre" being named as "Patronus"; and "Robert de Hauvyle" as, "Clericus."<sup>2</sup> It must have been severed from the manor of Bradford no long time after the date of this gift to Shaftesbury, for we find it bestowed on Winchester Bishopric by Queen Emma, mother of Edward the Confessor.

#### FROM A.D. 1001—1100.

We have brought our narrative down to the commencement of the eleventh century. Then followed the most complete and the last conquest of England. In a few years the country

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parish was, in early times, thickly covered with wood. Several portions of ground in that part of Broughton still bear names which indicate this fact, such as, Broughton Woods, Light Woods, &c.

<sup>1</sup> *Seven pear-trees.* These can hardly be the same trees already alluded to. *These trees were no doubt planted at the point where the parishes of Broughton, Chalfield, and Bradford (Atworth) met.*

<sup>2</sup> Wilts Institutions, sub anno 1299.



presented the singular spectacle of a native population with a foreign sovereign, a foreign hierarchy, and a foreign nobility. Domesday Book was completed in 1086, just twenty years after the battle of Hastings, and that remarkable record shows how the country had been portioned out among the captains of the invaders. In Bradford, however, we seem to have been comparatively favoured. The Abbey at Shaftesbury is still spoken of as possessed of Bradford; and amongst those who held lands here, by military service under the King, are several whose names are clearly Anglo-Saxon.

Domesday Book contains the following entries concerning Bradford and its dependencies.

Under the head of Lands of the Church of Shaftesbury we have the following<sup>1</sup> :—

(Ch. xii. § 3.) “The same Church (Shaftesbury) holds *Bradeford*. It was assessed in the time of King Edward at forty-two hides. Here are forty plough-lands (*caracutæ*). Thirteen of these hides are in demesne, where are eight plough-lands, and nine servants, and eighteen freedmen (*coliberti*). Thirty-six villagers (*villani*) and forty borderers (*bordarii*) occupy the other thirty-two plough-lands. There are twenty-two hog-keepers. Thirty-three burgesses (*burgenses*) pay thirty-five shillings and ninepence. And one of the holders pays seven quarts of honey. Two mills pay three pounds. The market pays forty-five shillings. Here is an arpen<sup>2</sup> (*arpenna*) of vines and fifty acres of meadow. The pasture is one mile and three furlongs in length and three furlongs broad. The wood is three quarters of a mile long and a quarter of a mile broad.

§ 5. “To the same manor of Bradeford belongs *Alvestone*.<sup>3</sup> It was assessed in the time of King Edward at seven hides, besides the above

<sup>1</sup> Wyndham's Domesday Book for Wiltshire. p. 150 [Jones's *Domesday for Wiltshire*. p. 42, 170, 200, 131, 139.]

<sup>2</sup> An *Arpen* was perhaps something less than an acre. It varied in different districts.

<sup>3</sup> *Alvestone*. It is not easy to explain how *Alvestone* was first reckoned as parcel of the Manor of Bradford, nor when it was severed from it. The exact place alluded to even may be a matter of doubt. There are two places in Gloucestershire, about ten miles from Bristol, one called *Olveston* and the other *Alveston*, which till lately were held as one living, and the Rectory inappropriate of which now belongs, as does that of Bradford, to the Dean and Chapter of Bristol. [This suggestion is inadmissible. At a later date in his “*Wiltshire Domesday*, p. 196,” the author put forth another conjecture. *Brictric* had a brother *Alwi*; and a brother of *Brictric*, presumably *Alwi*, held *Farlege* (*Monkton Farleigh*) as his under-tenant, in the time of King William. Canon Jones remarks, “The name is now lost, it may possibly be a memorial *Alwi*,” whose manor adjoined.]

mentioned forty-two hides. Here are six ploughlands. Four of the hides are in demesne, where are three ploughlands. The whole of Bradeford with its appendages was and is valued at sixty pounds.”

There are also to be found under the head of ‘Lands of Odo and other Thanes who hold by military service under the King,’ several entries, which seem to have reference to our parish, though it is difficult in some instances to identify with anything like certainty the places alluded to. Thus, Brictric is said to hold one hide in *Trole*<sup>1</sup>;—Vlf one hide in *Bode-berie*<sup>2</sup>;—Uluric three yard lands in *Wintreslic*<sup>3</sup> and one yard land in *Tuder-lege*<sup>4</sup>;—Ulward four hides in *Wintreslie*.

In this same record, CUMBERWELL<sup>5</sup> is mentioned, in Cap. xxvii., under the lands of Humphrey de L’Isle, the Lord also of Broughton and of Castle Combe. In § 5 it is said,—

“Pagen holds *Cumbrewelle* of Humphrey. Levenot held it in the time of King Edward and it was assessed at four hides. Here are five ploughlands. Two plough-lands and a servant are in demesne. Two villagers and four borderers occupy the other three plough-lands. Here are four acres of meadow and five acres of wood. It is valued at three pounds. The King has one hide of this manor in demesne where there is no land in tillage. And an Englishman holds half of it of the King, which is worth eight shillings.”

It is not easy, for many reasons, to draw any very accurate conclusions from these entries in Domesday Book. If we presume that the first extract gives us a general summary of the whole parish, we have returned as *arable* land nearly 5000 acres, for such would be the extent of the ‘forty plough-lands’ (*carucata*) mentioned. If Cumberwell be not included in this summary, and as it is so specifically mentioned, it *may* be reckoned separately, there will be an addition to this estimate of ‘five plough-lands’ more, or some 600 acres. In the former case there would be more than *two-fifths*, in the latter about *half* the land under the plough. Taking even the lesser calculation it gives us a large proportion of arable land in the

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<sup>1</sup> § 4. This is now *Trowle*; but as part of what is so called belongs to *Trowbridge* parish, it is impossible to assign the hide of land held, as above, to Bradford with certainty.

<sup>2</sup> § 59. Conjectured to mean *Bud-bury*.

<sup>3</sup> § 61. *Winstsly*, see above, p. 11.

<sup>4</sup> § 61. *Turleigh* (?)

<sup>5</sup> *Cumberwell*, see above, page 15.

parish, and one much above the average. It may perhaps be accounted for by the fact that it was Church land. For as Turner remarks, "The Domesday Survey gives us some indications that the cultivation of the Church lands, was much superior to that of any other order of society. They have much less wood upon them, and less common of pasture; and what they had appears often in smaller and more irregular pieces; while their meadow was more abundant, and in more numerous distributions."<sup>1</sup>

The meadow and pasture land is reckoned at about *four hundred acres*; the wood at about *one hundred and forty acres*. The small amount of the former is perhaps accounted for by the fact of there being in these early times a very large portion of common land unenclosed and uncultivated, which is not included in the Domesday reckoning. The latter calculation may relate principally, if not entirely, to what is now called Bradford Wood, and does not include many pieces of wood-land and coppice, that even to this day remain. If so, Bradford Wood, which is now *seventy acres* in extent, must formerly have been double that size, by no means an improbable supposition, as, in a survey of 1785 it is described as "about 105 acres," and within the memory of many now living, parts of it have been grubbed up and tilled. Indeed, nothing is more evident than that in olden times there was a much larger extent of wood-land than now. This is true of comparatively modern days. In a schedule of lands and tenements leased out under the manor in the eighth year of Charles I., hardly more than 200 years ago, there was one tenement described as being in "Pepitt street, near Bradford wood." The wood alluded to must have come right down almost into the middle of the town.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 'History of Anglo-Saxons,' vol. ii. p. 552 (8vo edition, 1836.) See also on this subject Hallam's 'Europe in the Middle Ages,' vol. iii. p. 360.

<sup>2</sup> In 1840, the estimated quantity of land then cultivated as arable, meadow or pasture land, or as wood-land, or common land, was as follows:—

Arable land .....	4362 acres.
Meadow or Pasture land .....	5956 „

We may from the Domesday return, form a tolerable conjecture as to the population of our parish, or manor, as it would have been called in these early days. Reckoning those named as resident at Cumberwell, and assuming, in addition to those specifically mentioned, a man for every mill, pasture, house, &c., (the plan adopted by Rickman and Turner,) we have enumerated in all some 175 persons in various employments. Supposing these numbers to have reference to the heads of families only, and taking four as the average of a family, it would give us a population of about 700. Many of these would, of course, live near the lands which they cultivated, so that the population of the town could hardly have been more than from three to four hundred at the most.<sup>1</sup>

FROM A.D. 1100—1300.

We know as yet very little of the history of Bradford for the two centuries immediately succeeding the Norman Conquest. Our neighbourhood was the scene of frequent and deadly conflicts, and, no doubt shared in some of the misery that abounded on every side during the reigns of William Rufus, Henry I., and Stephen. In the reign of the last named king it was that the sound of war was heard almost within our borders, for after obtaining possession of the castles of Salisbury, Malmsbury, and Devizes, Stephen himself laid siege to the Castle of Trowbridge, then belonging to Humphrey de Bohun, a partizan of the Empress Matilda, but retired after several unsuccessful attempts to take it.<sup>2</sup> The fact of a large Church having been built in Bradford about the middle of the twelfth century, would seem to imply increasing wealth and

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Woodland . . . . .	399 acres.
Common land . . . . .	209 „

Since that time, however, 201 acres of common land have been enclosed and brought into cultivation. [*And since 1840, a good deal of arable land has been converted into pasture*].

<sup>1</sup> The whole number of heads of families in Wiltshire, according to Domesday, is 10,749. This, according to the calculation above, would give a total population of about 42,000 souls. See Turner's 'Anglo-Saxons,' vol. iii. p. 255. [*It is probably too small a multiplier.*]

<sup>2</sup> William of Malmesbury's Chronicle, (A.D. 1139.)

population, and a comparative immunity from those desolating scourges with which other parts of the country were visited. With reference to the Church, we will for the present only state, that the oldest part of it, which no doubt formed the original building, consists of a Chancel (about two-thirds the length of the present one) some 34 feet long, and a Nave a little more than twice the length of the Chancel, both of them being of a proportionate width, built in the Norman style of architecture. Though the Norman features have been for the most part obliterated, yet in the buttresses on the south side of the building, and in the outlines of the old windows in the Chancel, and also in one part of the south wall of the Nave, (though the last has long since been blocked up with masonry), you can detect sufficient indications of the probable age of the Church.

And yet the few glimpses that we have been able to gain of the state of Bradford in these early days, do not disclose a condition of much peace and security. In the time of Richard I. (about A.D. 1190), we find the Hundred of Bradford "*in misericordiâ*" as it was termed,—that is, placed at the *mercy* of the king and liable to a heavy '*amerciament*,'<sup>1</sup> or fine, in consequence of the murder of a woman named Eva within their boundaries. To escape the penalty they were obliged to put in proof of *Englecceria*,<sup>2</sup> that is, evidence that the party slain was of English and not foreign descent. This was in pursuance of a law enacted originally by Canute, in order to

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<sup>1</sup> *Amerciament*, (from the French *merci*) signifies the pecuniary punishment of an offender against the king or other lord in his court, that is found to be *in misericordiâ* i.e. to have offended, and to stand at the *mercy* of the king or lord. Jacob's 'Law Dictionary.' In the records of Court Leet, any one fined for any offence, is said to be '*in mercy*' to the amount of the penalty inflicted.

<sup>2</sup> *Englecceria* Angl. Engleceery or Engleshire:—an old word, signifying the being an Englishman. Where any person was murdered he was adjudged to be *Francigena*, that is a foreigner, unless it was proved otherwise. The manner of proving the person killed to be an *Englishman*, was by two witnesses, who knew the father and mother, before the coroner. By reason of the great abuses and trouble that afterwards grew by it, this *Engleceery* was taken away by Stat. 14 Edward III., s. 1. c. 4. Jacob's 'Law Dictionary.'

put a stop to the frequent murders of the Danes, the purport of which was, that if an Englishman killed a Dane, he should be tried for the murder, or, if he escaped, the town or hundred where the deed was committed should be amerced sixty-six marks to the king. In the present instance, a woman named Agatha was charged with the murder by the father and mother of the deceased woman, and imprisoned at Sarum. Thence she subsequently escaped with other prisoners, the "Earl John" having "broken open the prison" and so liberated the captives.<sup>1</sup>

Indeed, it must have been but on a precarious tenure that, in these early days, the Abbess of Shaftesbury held her possessions in Bradford. More than once she seems to have been deprived of them, no doubt in order that her revenues might supply the need of the reigning monarch. The charters by which they are confirmed to the Abbess, one by Stephen and another by John, Kings of England, allude to a claim having been put forth by Emma, Abbess at the commencement of the twelfth century, "in the presence of King Henry and his barons" to sundry possessions, amongst which were reckoned those "at Bradford and Budbery." And the expressions of the charters imply an acknowledgment of the justice of the claim. The charter of confirmation by King John was granted May 23, 1205, in the seventh year of his reign.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Abbreviatio Placitorum.* "Hundred de Bradeford in misericordiã. In villa de Bradeford fuit quedam fœmina occisa Eva nomine et Agatha fuit capta per appellum matris et patris mortuæ et incarcerata apud Sarum. Et quando Comes Johannes fregit gaolam tunc evasit cum aliis prisonibus et nunquam post fuit visa. *Engleceria* fuit presentata ad terminum." The 'Comes Johannes' was, it was conceived, afterwards King John, who during his brother Richard's absence in the Holy Land seized several of his castles, and sought to obtain for himself the supreme authority. In this same record, from which we have just quoted, we find also the following entry of the same date: "Walterus de Chaudefield appellavit Nicholaum et Willielmum quod *assultaverunt eum* in pace Domini Regis &c." Such records, brief as they are, do not imply an over peaceable state of things at Bradford in the reign of Richard I.

<sup>2</sup> See *Monastic. Anglic.* ii. 482, where both these charters are given, One is almost a counterpart of the other. "Sciatis nos *intuitu justitiæ* et amore Dei concessisse simul et *reddidisse* Deo et Ecclesiæ S. Mariæ et

A few years after the date of this charter, Bradford was honoured with a brief visit from royalty. Ever wandering about from place to place, as it has been said, "like the wild Arab *nescius stare loco*,"<sup>1</sup> King John came to this town. He was here on the 29th and 30th August, 1216. The King had often been in Wiltshire before, his brother William de Longespée (the natural son of Henry II, by the 'Fair Rosamond') having, through his marriage with Ela, Countess of Sarum, obtained the Earldom and with it the office of Sheriff of the County. At the time of the king's visit to Bradford, however, the Earl had thrown off his allegiance, though till within a very short period previously he had been among John's most faithful supporters.<sup>2</sup> Among the deeds signed at Bradford by King John is one which directs the confiscation of part of the Earl's possessions at Hinton. It was not long that the king had to endure the mortification of the desertion of his brother, for within two months of his visit to Bradford he closed his miserable and turbulent reign.<sup>3</sup>

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S. Edwardi de Scafesbiri in dominio libere et bene possidendas, terras illas omnes quas *in præsencia regis Henrici et baronum suorum* Emuna Abbatissa apud *Eayltinges disrationavit*.\* In another place we have "Concedimus quoque hidam et dimidiam quam dedit Aiulphus camerarius pro anima uxoris suæ *in Bradeforda et Budeberia*."

<sup>1</sup> Bowles' 'History of Lacock,' p. 106. In Hardy's 'Calendar of Close Rolls,' (i. 285,) there is a list of deeds, &c., signed at Bradford by King John. They were about 20 in number, and some had reference to the confiscation of the lands of those Barons and others who had revolted from their allegiance to him. In one he orders twenty-two shillings to be paid to the Prior and Monks of Farleigh "pro piscaria nostra de Gerna quam de eis habemus ad firmam *p. xxii. sol singulis annis eis inde reddend.*" In another he makes over certain lands possessed by his enemies to the Abbey of Romsey.

<sup>2</sup> The Earl of Salisbury was with the king on March 28th in this year at Plessey in Essex, and on the 31st received favours from the king. On August 17th he was amongst the king's enemies, just twelve days before John's visit to Bradford, (Rot. Lit. Clansar.)

<sup>3</sup> We might perhaps infer that Bradford was but a small place in these early times, from the fact that it is not mentioned among the towns in Wiltshire on which rates were levied (14 Henry II.) "to marry the king's

\**Disrationavit*. Ducange defines this word,—"*Litigare, causam suam rationibus comprobare. Rem aliquam rationibus sibi vindicare.*" Its primitive meaning is to *disprove*. In the charters it is used with reference to the claims advanced by the Abbess, the effect of which went to *disprove* the right of the Crown, and so to *prove* the right of her Abbey, in these lands.

Our materials are very meagre for the 56 years during which Henry III. reigned over England. It is well known that during that long and disturbed reign many abuses crept in. The large concessions from the crown which the barons had already won, made them wish for more, and, as a natural consequence, whenever they had the opportunity, they began to take more. So much were the royal revenues diminished by these encroachments, that at the commencement of the reign of Edward I., a commission was set on foot for the purpose of enquiring into all such abuses. A jury of each hundred and town were impanelled to enquire, amongst other things, what losses the Crown had sustained by tenants 'in capite,' whether ecclesiastics or laymen, alienating without license,—or usurping the right of holding courts, and other *Jura Regalia*,—or by divers exactions under the colour of law. Like others, our Abbess was summoned to give an account of the way in which she had administered the affairs of her manor at Bradford.

Now we do not mean to say that the Abbess, our Lady of the Manor, claimed *more* than her rights, but she certainly took care to get no *less*. No doubt, up to the confirmation of her rights by King John, the proceeds from her manor, if indeed she got anything at all, must have been very precarious. Evidence produced before the commissioners seemed to imply that one king (Richard I.) had been polite enough to relieve her of the trouble of managing her business matters, and with the trouble, no doubt took some little share of the profits. However, complaint was made against the Abbess on two grounds:—

1st. That the men who lived in the suburbs of Bradford

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daughter" to the Duke of Saxony,—(from which union, by the way, is lineally descended the present royal family of England,)—nor among those from which 'aid' was taken (33 Henry II.) by the King's Justices. The towns mentioned in the former case are Chippenham, Melksham, Calne, Malnesbury, Wilton, Salisbury, Heytesbury; in the latter, in addition to those already named, (and with the exception of Heytesbury) Marlborough, Combe, Devizes, Bedwin, and West Combe. Madox 'History of the Exchequer,' i. 588, 634. [*Warminster, Westbury, Trowbridge, Cricklade, Ambresbury, Downton, are also omitted from both these lists.*]



(so I understand the term "*forinseci homines*"<sup>1</sup>) used to attend twice a year at the Hundred Court of the King at Melksham, but that, in the time of King John, the Abbess Mary caused them to withdraw themselves from that hundred, and attached them to her own hundred of Bradford.

2nd. That the Abbess had usurped rights which belonged to the King over the Manor of Bradford.

On the former point the commissioners seem to have acquiesced in the decision of the Lady Abbess, but on the second an inquiry took place at Wilton. The King's attorney, William de Giselham, pleaded that King Richard had exercised all the rights of chief lord, and put in evidence to that effect. The Abbess, through her attorney, however, demanded that the whole matter should be fairly tried before a jury of twelve men (whose names are given to us), as to whether she or the king had the greater right to the manor of Bradford. The result was a verdict in favour of the Lady Abbess; the cause was adjourned *sine die*.<sup>2</sup>

FROM A.D. 1300—1500.

We have now arrived at the close of the thirteenth century. From this period to the Reformation (but little more than two centuries and a half), Bradford rose gradually in prosperity, and consequently in importance. It may be called the era of the *Halls*<sup>3</sup> of Bradford, for members of that family were more or less men of wealth and influence from this time down

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<sup>1</sup> '*Forinseci homines*.' Jacob (Law Dictionary,) defines '*Forinsecum Manerium*' as "the manor as to that part of it which is *without* the town, and not included within the liberties of it. '*Placita forinseca*' are, in similar manner, pleadings in other counties.

<sup>2</sup> Rotuli Hundred, p. 236. Placita de quo warranto p. 797. The enquiry was held "apud Wylton coram Salomone de Roff' et sociis suis Justic' dni ibidem itinerantibus in octab Pasche anno regni Regis Edwardi nono." The names of the Jury who were impanelled to try the cause were "Johannes de Staverton, Gulielmus de Leycester, Walterus de Chaudefield, Robertus de Lusteshall, Johannes . . . , Thomas le Rus, Robertus de Meyly, Robertus Mauduit, Johannes de Perham, Ricardus de Hyweye, Galfredus de Wrokeshall, et Henricus de Cerne."

[<sup>3</sup> See towards the end of this volume the history of the Hall Family.]

to the beginning of the eighteenth century, the last member, John Hall, dying in 1711. This family may be traced back as early as Henry III.'s reign; for there is in existence a copy of a deed<sup>1</sup> by which Mary, Abbess of Shaftesbury, for the consideration of twenty-five marks paid to her by Agnes, relict of Reginald de Aulá, cedes her rights of wardship and marriages over their children, and Mary<sup>2</sup> was Abbess from 1247 to 1252, i.e. from the 30th to the 36th year of King Henry III. In fact, there is in existence a valuable series of deeds relating chiefly to property held by the Hall family in this and the neighbouring hundreds, and extending from the early period we have named, down to the 13th year of Henry VII. They are all written out apparently by the same hand, probably in the troublesome times of Henry VII., when, it is possible, the originals were deposited somewhere for safe custody. A few of the originals were found, together with a beautiful court sword of Spanish steel, (which formed one of the objects of interest exhibited in the *temporary* Museum at Bradford), in Kingston House [*The Hall*] in 1851, during the progress of some extensive repairs, and an account of them was given in our *Archæological Journal* for November 1854. These deeds are nearly 100 in number, and throw much light on matters of interest connected with our town. The names of the chief landowners;—of the principal inhabitants;—of the old streets;—of the various churches;—of the Chantry-Priests;—the customs of the manor,—these are a few of the points on which this series of deeds gives much information.

We have spoken of this era, commencing with the time of Edward I., as one of increasing prosperity for Bradford. There are many indications of this in the large buildings which were now erected. That remarkable barn, called Barton Barn

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<sup>1</sup> The deed is called "Charta concessionis quitelaim, et confirmationis per Mariam Abbatiss. Shaston. facta Agneti relictæ Reginaldi de Aulá et heredibus suis de custodia et maritagio heredum Reginaldi de Aulá in manerio de Bradford." In the deed we read "pro hac concessione predicta Agnes nobis dedit vinginti quinque marcas sterlingor."

<sup>2</sup> See the *New Monasticon* (under "SHAFTESBURY" for a list of the Abbesses.

(see pl. ii.), well known to architects for its Early English roof, so framed from the ground as to be independent of the walls,<sup>1</sup> was certainly built in the earlier part of this period.† By whom the barn was built is a matter of doubt. Very little can be made out of Aubrey's observation that he saw in 1670, at the point of one of the gables, the hand and battle-axe, the well known crest of Hall. It is quite possible, moreover, that Aubrey's eyes may have rather deceived him, for certainly among the present ornaments of the gables there is not one that looks at all like the remnant of the hand or battle-axe.

To a little later date also in this period we owe the lengthening of our chancel, and the insertion of the large east window (the tracery of which has been lately restored);—also those two recessed tombs, one on the north and the other on the south side, the former containing the figure of a female, the latter of a cross-legged knight. Till lately one of these was completely walled up, all the label and pediment, with its ornamental crocketing, having been completely cut away to admit of the wall being flat enough to receive some large monuments; the other was sadly mutilated:—the last-named one has been restored (see plate iii.), and it is hoped that some day we may be able to restore the other.

Whose tombs they are is not at all known. The only two knights whose names we meet with in the deeds of this period are Sir John de Comerwell and Sir John de Holte, the latter of whom was Sheriff for Wiltshire in the year 1314. The tomb on the north side may be that of some female benefactor to the church, or the founder of some one of the chapels that we now find existing in divers parts of the town or parish.

We must not forget to mention, moreover, another evidence

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<sup>1</sup> There are barns of similar character and about the same date at Peterborough and Ely, [*and at Tisbury in this county.*] See Parker's 'Glossary of Architecture,' under (ROOF).

† *The balance of authority is in favour of some time in the first half of the 14th century, though some have thought it of rather later date. The picturesque Barton Bridge is pretty certainly coeval with the Barn. The statement as to the roof being independent of the walls is not correct.*

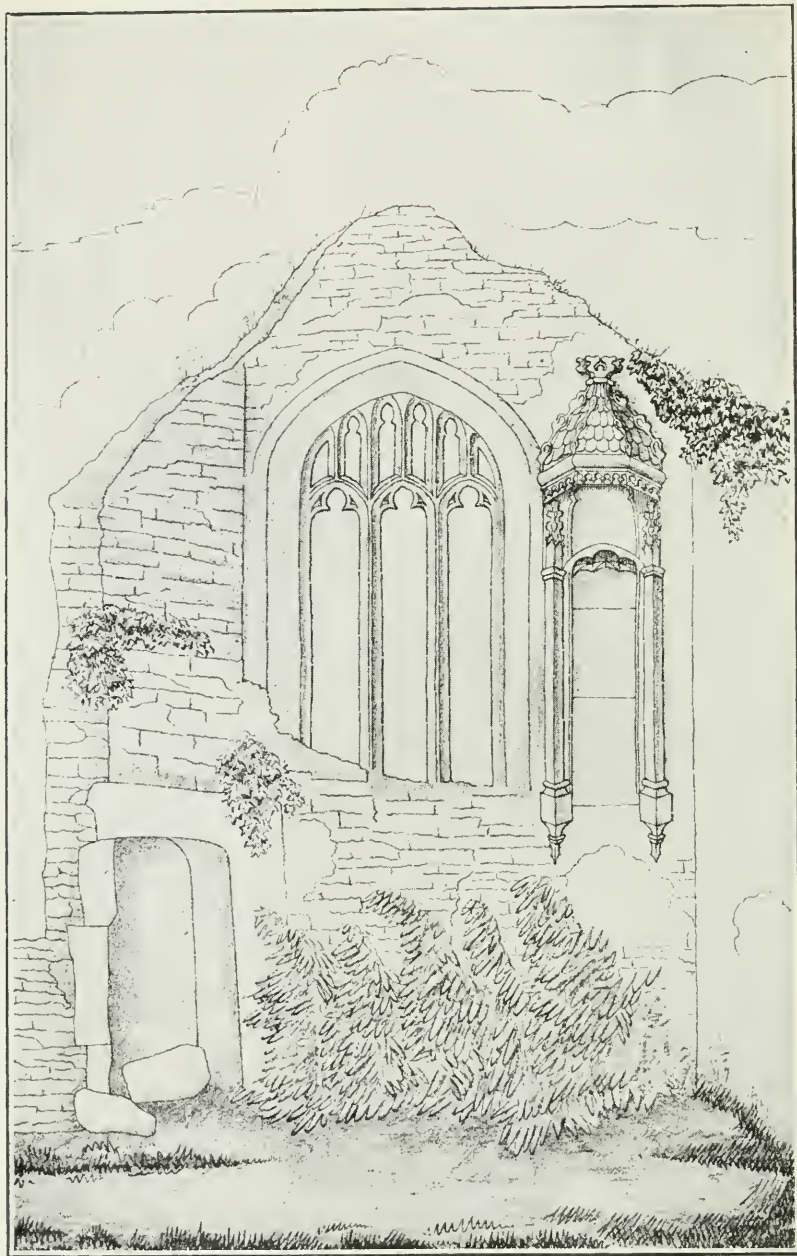
of the growing prosperity of our town in these early days. In the year 1295 (the 23rd of Edward I.) Bradford, then called a 'Burgus,' or Borough, was called upon to send two members to Parliament. The names of our representatives, which occur several times in the earlier part of the series of deeds to which we have already alluded, were Thomas Dendans (*or Dering?*) and William Wager. Though it does not appear that our town exercised this right more than once, it is something to know that the Parliament to which Bradford sent representatives was one of more than ordinary importance. In a writ of summons addressed with reference to this same Parliament to the Archbishop of Canterbury, it is recited that the King of France "not satisfied with his treacherous invasion of Gascony, had prepared a mighty fleet for the purpose of invading England, and effacing the English language altogether from the face of the earth." By the English language the King meant the English nation, but what we have given, is a strictly literal translation of the words of the writ.<sup>1</sup> The Archbishop is commanded "*in fide et dilectione*" to appear in person at Westminster on Sunday next after the feast of St. Martin, 13th November, 1295, with the King and Prelates, the Nobles and other inhabitants of the realm, to deliberate upon, and ordain, in what manner the impending dangers might be obviated.

Why Bradford discontinued to send members to Parliament we are not told, though a tolerable conjecture may be formed. In those early days the distinction of having representatives in the legislature, so far from being considered a privilege, was deemed a burden. The trading *municipia* had as yet acquired no weight in the national council, and all that they desired was to be let alone. With regard to all except chartered boroughs or towns which were the actual or ancient demesne of the Crown, it was left to the discretion of the sheriff to issue writs to such unincorporated places as could afford to defray

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<sup>1</sup> Parliamentary Writs, vol. i. p. xlv. The words are "linguam Anglicanam, si conceptæ iniquitatis proposito detestabili potestas correspondeat, quod Deus avertat, omnino de terra delere proponit."





Remains of Tory Chapel, Bradford-on-Avon.  
*From old Engraving, 1858.*

the expense of their representatives, and had a notable interest in the public welfare. The wages of burgesses were *two shillings* a day—a sum which at that time, when a quarter of wheat sold for 4s., and a sheep was considered rather high at 1s., would be equivalent to about 16 times as much now;—and they were allowed a certain number of days for going and returning, about 35 miles being reckoned a day's journey.<sup>1</sup> It was really rather a costly luxury to the good burghers of Bradford, and no doubt, here, as elsewhere, the necessary sum was raised with reluctance by men little solicitous about political franchise. Other towns in Wiltshire seem to have been of the same mind, and to have induced the sheriff to omit them from his list. Thus, in the 12th Edward III., the sheriff of Wiltshire after returning two citizens for Salisbury, and burgesses for two boroughs, concludes with these words,—“There are no other cities or boroughs within my bailiwick;” —and yet, in fact, eight other towns had sent members to preceding parliaments.<sup>2</sup>

It was no doubt during this period that churches began to multiply in Bradford. There is still remaining a fragment of the chapel on Tory—(so termed, it is conceived, because the highest part of the town,<sup>3</sup> from the Anglo-Saxon word *Tor*,<sup>4</sup> which signifies a high hill or tower)—dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, just above the spring which supplies the town

<sup>1</sup> John Halle and William Hore received for their services, as Burgesses of Salisbury, in Parliament for 163 days, the sum of £32 12s.—a sum equivalent now to £326!—See Duke's ‘*Prolusiones Historicæ*,’ p. 306.

<sup>2</sup> See on this subject, Hallam's ‘*Europe in the Middle Ages*,’ iii., 113.

<sup>3</sup> It is to this chapel Leland alludes when he says “Ther is a chapelle on the highest place of the toune as I entered.”—Leland entered Bradford from Wraxhall. His road lay through a part of Berrifield, then through the Conigre, and so down by the east end of Tory and Middle Rank into what is now called New Town. Mason's lane, now the chief thoroughfare, did not then exist. As he emerged from the Conigre his attention would be naturally attracted by ‘the chapel’ on Tory. In 1743, as appears from a map of the Methuen property at the time, there are represented only *five* houses on the east side, and *two*, which comprised the buildings connected with the chapel, at the west end of Tory, or Top Rank as it is called. On the same map ‘the chapel’ is called ‘the Hermitage.’

<sup>4</sup> [The word was probably borrowed by the Anglo-Saxons from the Celts. *Conf. Glastonbury Tor, Mam Tor, &c.*]

with water.† The locality beneath it still being called *Lady Well*, and the adjoining premises *Well-Close*. There is still standing the east wall with its window, and also a niche of very chaste design. (Plate iv.) The tracery of the window seems to point it out as the work of the latter part of the fifteenth or the beginning of the sixteenth century, though it is by no means impossible that the present building may itself have been originally a restoration, a previous chapel having stood on the same spot. The churches of Wraxhall and Holt, and (to judge from what remains of the original church have been left) of Winsley, are all to be traced to this period. Aubrey, moreover, tells us that the chancel window of the church at Atworth, as he saw it, seemed to be of the date of Edward III.

In the town, moreover, we had a chapel dedicated to St. Olave, which stood at the corner of the lane leading up to White Hill, the street leading from that chapel to the river, or to Mull street, (now Mill street), being called *Frog-mere* street. By degrees St. Olave street became contracted into *'t Olav* street, and then corrupted into *Tooley* street, its name within the last seventy-five years. Since that time it has taken the name of the tything, and been called *Woolley* street. As a confirmation of the truth of this opinion, as to the origin of the name, it may be mentioned that the street in Southwark, in which St. Olave's church now stands, is still called **TOOLEY** street.

It is probable, also, that there was a chapel dedicated to St. Catharine, and that it formed part of what is now called the Old Women's Almshouse, situated at the southern extremity of the town, at what used to be called Clay acre, now Clay farm. That there was a chapel at this spot we can have no doubt. Aubrey, in fact, 200 years ago, says expressly, "A

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[† *Almost the whole of the town, except some houses adjacent to the copious springs comprised under the name of Lady Well, is now supplied with water from the public waterworks, which are fed from springs in the inferior oolite, opposite Avoncliff, a mile and a half to the westward. The Ladywell springs are fed from the great oolite.*]



little beyond the bridge is a chapel and almshouse of ancient date." When the Charity Commissioners visited our town, about 25 years ago, they elicited from some old people a little information respecting it, and in their report they state their belief that there was truth in the tradition that then prevailed (as it still does to the present day) that the chapel-bell was removed to Winsley Church. Now the hospital at the foot of the bridge is called, in old deeds, the Hospital of St. Margaret,<sup>1</sup> and its memorial is preserved in the street which is still called St. Margaret street, and in Morgan's Hill, which, as late as 1724, was called St. Margaret's Hill. From the same deeds, confirmed by later documents, we find that the street leading from about where is now the entrance to the railroad station to the Old Women's Almshouse was called St. Catharine street,<sup>2</sup> probably from the dedication of the chapel in question. In Andrews and Dury's Map of Wiltshire (1770), we find a spot marked as "*The Chapel*," though from the way in which those words are printed, it is difficult to point out with exactness the precise spot indicated.

It may be mentioned, as confirmatory of this opinion, that there is still the remnant of the observance of a holiday on St. Catharine's day. Within a few years only, cakes called *catterncakes* were made in considerable numbers and sent by the bakers to their customers. Many of the old people reckon

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<sup>1</sup> By a deed dated 37 Henry VI., Philip Stone conveys to Nicholas Hall one acre of arable land, lying "in fine ville de Bradeford juxta grangiam Due Abbatiss. de Shaston ex parte orientali," and which is furthered described as being between two pieces of land belonging to the said Nicholas Hall, one of which "abuttat super *le Longhegge*," and the other, "super viam que ducit versus *hospitale Ste Margarete*." In the will of Henry Long, Esq., of Wraxhall, 1490, he bequeaths,—"*pauperibus Domus Sancte Margarete de Bradford, vis viijd.*"

<sup>2</sup> The following extract is from an account of lands, &c., belonging to the manor (c. 1720).—"*Katharine Street*. John Harvey holdeth by copy dated 5th May, 1715, granted him by Hon. Ann Lady Powlett during the lives of John Harvey and others, and during the widowhood of Ann relict of Robert Harvey, one Cottage, Barn, and Reek Barton: the Highway east and Culverclose west." This sufficiently indicates the correctness of the statement above, as to where *St. Catharine* street lay. [For this and other valuable information the writer was indebted to the late Mr. John Bush.]

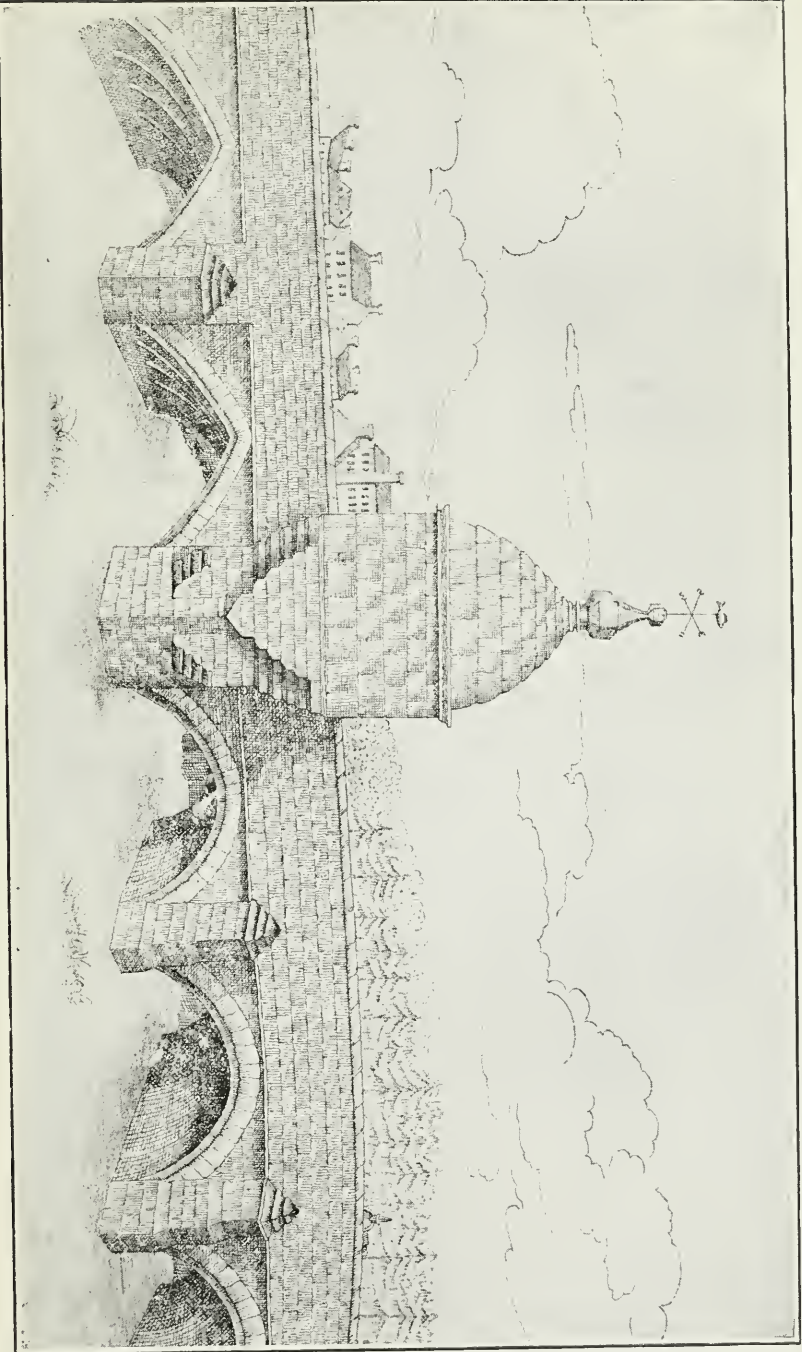
their ages by the festival of this Saint. A very short time ago an old bed-ridden woman said to the writer of this paper in true Wiltshire, and, we may add, very fair Anglo-Saxon—(and really they are often convertible terms),—“I’ll be vower-score come Kattern-tide, and I beant yeable now to doff or don myself,” which in modern English meant, “I shall be four-score next St. Catherine’s-tide, and I am not able now to undress (*do-off*) or dress (*do-on*) myself.”

It is not improbable also, that there was a chapel near Ashleigh. There is a field still called the Church-field, belonging to the Misses Bailward, in which a stone coffin, still to be seen, was dug up, and where there have been found many evidences of its having been an old burial-ground. At Cumberwell, also, there was a chapel; it is mentioned expressly in the deeds by which Henry VIII. bestowed the Rectorial Tithes and the Advowson of the Churches and Chapels on the Dean and Chapter of Bristol.

Whilst on the subject of chapels, we may as well speak of the *Chapel* on our bridge.<sup>1</sup> Leland, who visited our town in 1540, speaks of the bridge, which he says, had “nine fair arches of stone,” but does not allude to the chapel. There have been some who have thought that this was merely a toll-house for the collection of *pontagium*—a contribution for the maintaining or re-edifying a bridge. Aubrey, however, (who wrote more than 200 years ago, in the latter part of the 17th century) says expressly, “Here is a strong and handsome bridge, in the midst of which is a little chapel, as at Bath, *for masse*.” So that no doubt its object was to contain the image of the patron saint, and to receive at once the devotions and alms of passers-by, the latter being probably given to the support of the Hospital at the Bridge-foot. The chapel itself

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<sup>1</sup> Of this chapel on the bridge, J. C. and C. Buckler in their “Remarks on Wayside Chapels” say, (p. 25)—“This little room, which still retains its doorway on the footpath, and is domed over with ribbed stone-work, appears to have been partially altered or wholly rebuilt from the level of the floor. The supporting corbels which spring from the faces of one of the angular piers, and overspread each other, finally terminating in a square platform, present perhaps *an almost unequalled specimen of ingenious construction*.”



Bridge and Chapel, Bradford-on-Avon.

From old Engraving, 1858.



is built on the centre pier on the eastern side of the bridge. (Plate v.) It is almost square in plan, and rests on some good and bold graduated corbelling overhanging the 'cut-water' of the pier. The eastern end appears to have projected still further into the stream so as to form a recess, for the figure, perhaps of the patron saint. [*There can be no doubt that the present'y existing building, though commonly called a chapel, was, (as the Bucklers surmised), so far at least as is above the level of the floor, erected since Aubrey's time, and used as a toll-house or as a lock-up, before the town hall was built. Another name for it is "The Blind-house," perhaps from its want of light. There is a similar building at the east end of the bridge over the Biss at Trowbridge. The original chapel may very likely have been coeval with the original bridge, two ribbed arches of which probably go back to the 13th century, and which was widened so as to admit of the passage of vehicles at a much later date.*] Concerning the dedication of the Bridge Chapel we have no authentic information at present. The "fish" which forms the vane at the top of the chapel is, probably, the old ecclesiastical emblem of our Blessed Lord—the *ichthus*,<sup>1</sup>—the letters of which are the initial letters of other Greek words, signifying "JESUS CHRIST, the SON OF GOD, OUR SAVIOUR." [*There was formerly a saying used describe euphemistically a man who had been "in trouble"—"He has been under the fish and above the water," i.e., in prison. It is of copper gilt, good sixteenth century work, and is known as the "Bradford Gudgeon."*]

In the deeds, which have been already alluded to, we meet with the names of some of the Chaplain Priests. Adam Atwell and John Middleton were two of them. By a deed dated 7 Henry V. (A.D. 1420), Reginald Halle provides for the endowment of a chaplain to serve at the altar of St. Nicholas in the Church of the Holy Trinity at Bradford.<sup>2</sup> A few years later we find Thomas Horton founding a Chantry, and probably

<sup>1</sup> See Parker's Glossary, under ('VESICA PISCIS.')

<sup>2</sup> The words of the deed are,—"*Volo quod capellanus idoneus inveniat . . . ad celebrandum in Ecclesiâ Sanctæ Trinitatis de Bradford ad altare Sancti Nicholai pro anima mea, anima mæe matris,*" &c.

building, if not the whole, at least part of the north aisle of the church, the date of that portion of the church being towards the close of the fifteenth century. The fact of this same Thomas Horton,<sup>1</sup> we may remark in passing, having been a 'merchant of the staple,' is recorded by the 'merchant's mark' which may still be seen on a brass in the Church, and a representation of which is here given.



<sup>1</sup> Leland visited Bradford (1538-40), and in his *Itinerary*, ii. 54, (printed in the *Wilts Archæological Mag.*, i. 148,) speaks of a rich clothier named 'Horton,' who (his words seem to imply) died no very long time before, his wife being yet alive. He may allude to the same person as the founder of the Chantry. He dwelt, according to Leland, in a house built by himself "at the north est part by the Chirch." He also built "a goodly large chireh house *ex lapide quadrato* at the est end of the chireh yard without it." I can have no doubt that the present work-shops, in what is called the Abbey yard, belonging to Messrs. Edmonds, formed part of Horton's house, the situation exactly according with Leland's description, and having within unmistakable evidences of having been formerly a dwelling house. The 'Church House,' which is also said to have been built by Horton, is still standing; it is situated in Church street, and is now the property of Mr. Butterworth. [*The Church House is now the Free School, and is the property of the Trustees of the School (C.S.A.)*] Both these buildings are of about the same date, and the similarity of their oak ceilings strikes you at once. The Church House, which, in a map of 1743, I have seen distinctly marked out as the building alluded to, was the place in which, before the days of rating, meetings were held for raising funds for church repairs, the poor, &c. The order of these meetings seems to have been "business first, pleasure afterwards," for no sooner had they attended to the wants of others than they had a little care for themselves, and indulging first of all in a little good cheer, then betook themselves to various kinds of festivities. The memory of one of their amusements is still preserved in the name—(happily now it is no more than a name)—of the *Bull Pit*, where they used to witness the then popular sport of bull-baiting.

Before we leave the subject of Chantries we may mention, that according to the enquiry made in the reign of Henry VIII., just prior to the Reformation, two Chantries are reported as connected with the Parish Church; probably the two of whose foundation we have just given an account. They were each of them valued at £10 per annum, one of them being held by *William Bryd* (or *Birde*) who was also the vicar, and the other by *Thomas Horton*.<sup>1</sup> In the time of Edward VI. the Chantry, which, like all others, had by the authority of Parliament been granted to the king, was sold by the Crown to . . . . *Horton*, a member, no doubt, of the family of the original founder.<sup>2</sup>

FROM A.D. 1500—1600.

We have now arrived at the eve of the Reformation. [*In or about 1532 an early Protestant, one Traywell (or Tropnell?) was burnt at the corner of the Shambles and St. Olave's Street (afterwards Tooley, and now Woolley Street), for denying the bodily presence of Christ in the bread and wine of the Lord's*

<sup>1</sup> *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, ii. 81. Who this *Thomas Horton* was it is difficult to say, the more so as in the account given of the deductions from the gross value of the Chantry is the following entry:—"Unde in operibus charitatis ex ordinacione sua per annum livs ivd."—As the founder of the Chantry was a merchant, and a married man, it cannot allude to him. The only plausible conjectures that can be formed are, either that the founder died before he drew up his 'ordinatio' and left that task to a relation having the same christian name; or that in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, *Thomas* is a mistake for *James*, who according to the Pedigree in the Visitation both for 1565 and 1623, is called a 'priest' and a brother of a *Thomas Horton*, and who might be living in 1535; both of them being sons of *John Horton*, described as of *Lullington, Co. Somerset*. This may be the *James Horton*, Clerk, mentioned in this Magazine, i. 296. But all this is mere conjecture.

<sup>2</sup> Augmentation Office "A. Bundle H. ii. No. 19. Immediately adjoining the vicarage garden, which itself is close to the church, is a large field called *Chantry Field*, and the house that is built on it is called *Chantry House*. Probably the land was itself originally the endowment of the Chantry. An older house, moreover, perhaps stood on the site of the present one, in which the Chantry Priests resided. [*The nucleus of the present house pretty certainly dates from Horton's time, and may possibly have been erected by him for the abode of his Chantry priest. The name and other circumstances favor this opinion. See further on.*]

*Supper.* Some say he had a companion in his sufferings.† Our Abbess' rule, which had lasted in all for more than 500 years, was to come to a close. In 1535 the smaller monasteries were surrendered to King Henry VIII. Five years afterwards the royal exchequer was filled to overflowing by the addition of the estates of the larger monasteries. Shaftesbury was surrendered March 23rd, 1539, and with it, of course, went Bradford and its dependencies. The king, who had thus been immensely increasing some of his earthly possessions, had meanwhile been getting rid of others—divorcing *one* wife, beheading a *second*, and losing a third shortly after giving birth to a son. Perhaps it was a happy escape for our Wiltshire fair one, Jane Seymour, that she was thus early removed from her high, yet perilous position. The king, we are told, was inconsolable, and “continued in real mourning for her even all the festival of Christmas.” Two months, however, *before* Christmas, he had offered his hand to another.

But his queens were not the only persons who got into trouble with Henry VIII. A worthy Vicar of Bradford, William Byrde by name, fell under his Grace's high displeasure. He was chaplain to the Lord Hungerford. The reason alleged for his getting into disgrace was, that he said to one that was going to assist the king against the rebels in the north,—“I am sorry thou goest; seest thou not how the king plucketh down images and abbeys every day? And if the king go thither himself, he will never come home again, nor any of all them which go with him; and in truth, it were a pity he ever should come home again.” And at another time, upon one's saying,—“I ween all the world will be heretics in a little while,”—Byrde said,—“Dost thou marvel at that? I tell thee it's no marvel, for the great master of all is a heretic, and such a one as there is not his like in the world.”

By the same act the Lord Hungerford was attainted. The crimes specified are, “that he, knowing Byrde to be a traitor, did entertain him in his house as his chaplain; that he ordered another of his chaplains, Sir Hugh Wood, and one

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[† *Coar's Magna Britannia, 193.*]



Dr. Maudlin, to use conjuring, that they might know how long the king should live, and whether he should be victorious over his enemies or not.”<sup>1</sup>

Such charges as these seem to us frivolous. Perhaps, however, there was more in these so-called chemical experiments than appears at first sight. The king, we know, for years lived in fear of the Roman Catholics, and he may have suspected a conspiracy against his life, carried on under such a pretence. As far as the result was concerned, our vicar fared better than his patron. My Lord Hungerford lost his head,—William Byrde only his living.<sup>2</sup>

After Vicar Byrde’s removal, the living of Bradford was held for some time by Thomas Morley,<sup>3</sup> suffragan Bishop of Marlborough. Of Bishop Morley little is known. He held at the same time with Bradford, the living of East Fittleton, void also in 1540 by the attainder of William Byrde. He died in 1553.

Soon after the dissolution of the monastery at Shaftesbury the king bestowed the prebendal Manor of Bradford, together with the advowson of the various churches,<sup>4</sup> on the Dean and Chapter of Bristol, one of the new ecclesiastical corporations that he created and endowed out of the proceeds of some of the suppressed religious houses. They still retain both the patronage and the prebendal manor.†

<sup>1</sup> Burnet’s ‘History of the Reformation,’ Part i. B. iii. sub. anno 1540.

<sup>2</sup> There was a William Bird, ‘Prior of Bath,’ of whom Wood (Fast. Oxon. i. 71.) says that he died 22 May, 1525, in poverty, having expended too much in “building and in chemical experiments to which he was extremely addicted.” He rebuilt the Church at Bath (See Collinson’s ‘Somerset,’ i. 56). They cannot be the same person, as William Byrde, Vicar of Bradford, was not deprived till 1540. Wood, perhaps, has made some confusion between the two, but if there were two, and both of them chemists, the coincidence is curious. About that period, the strange science of Alchemy was very popular.

<sup>3</sup> Wilts Institutions, 1540. The appointment was made by the king, and is thus entered, “Thomas Morley sedis Merlebergen. Episcopus Suffraganus per attincturam Willielmi Byrde *de alta proditione.*”

<sup>4</sup> The Churches are thus enumerated in the grant which bears date 34 Henry VIII.—“ac etiam omnes illas Rectorias et Ecclesias de Bradforde, Wynnesleigh, Holte, Attworth, Wraxhall, et *Comerwell,*” &c. All traces of the church at Cumberwell have been lost.

[† *The patronage is now vested in the Dean and Chapter of Salisbury the vicarage of Bradford having been given in exchange for that of*

The lay manor was for a time retained by the Crown in its own hands. It was afterwards *in 1570* leased out by Queen Elizabeth to Henry Earl of Pembroke. § In the eighteenth year of her reign, (*anno 1576*), the same queen granted the reversion of the manor to Sir Francis Walsingham, one of the principal Secretaries of State, † Sir F. Walsingham had one only daughter, Frances, who was married to Richard, fourth Earl of Clanricarde,<sup>1</sup> of the kingdom of Ireland, (afterwards Lord St. Alban's), and their daughter, Honora de Burgh, in 1633, married John Powlett, Marquis of Winchester. † The Earl, before the marriage, settled the Manor of Bradford upon the Marquis of Winchester and his heirs by Honora de Burgh. There were born to them, in course of time, four sons and three daughters. The Lord Francis Powlett, second son of the said Marquis, by surviving his elder brother, became entitled to the manor and premises, as well as by a settlement of the manor and lands made on him and the heirs of his body, by the Marquis of Winchester in his life-time. The Lord Francis Powlett's daughter was married to the Rev. Nathan Wright, of Englefield, county Berks, second son of Sir

*Cricklade. (C.S.A.)*

[§ *And under him, apparently, in 1574, to Stephen Blanchard. The Earl of Pembroke was to pay £22 : 1 : 6 for the manor and lands of Bradford, and £4 : 6 : 8 for the mansion and land in Atworth. The Bradford demesne lands included several large pastures whose names mostly survive, as Barton Orchard, Pound Close, Lady Down, Eye Mead, Mytchelmead, and portions of the great arable fields, (East Field, West Field, Polton Field, King's Field). No house is mentioned, except that of Barton Farm.]*

[† *For  $\frac{1}{40}$  of a knight's fee, and a rent of £13 : 6 : 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  in money. Walsingham seems to have bought out Lord Pembroke.]*

<sup>1</sup> This lady had been twice previously married, first, to Sir Philip Sidney, and secondly, to Elizabeth's unfortunate favourite, the Earl of Essex. Burke's Peerage, under, 'Clanricarde.' [*But query who was Ursula Walsingham, who in 1594 executed a lease of property to Edward Long? There was an Ursula Wentworth, who married Sir Thomas Burke or De Burgh, brother to the 4th Earl of Clanricarde.*]

[† *The Earl of Clanricarde, about 1613-16, sold off several portions of the estate to John Bayley alias Staunton, Edward Long, Robert Grant, Walter Earbury (Yerbury) and others.]*

Nathan Wright, Lord Keeper, and through her he obtained the Manor of Bradford. From him it descended to his son, Mr. Powlett Wright, of Englefield. In the year 1774, Mr. Powlett Wright sold the same, except the farms called Barton Farm and Lady Down Farm, sundry houses and dispersed lands, and a right of fishing, to Paul Methuen, Esq., of Corsham, the ancestor of the present Lord Methuen, free from a Crown rent of £13 : 16 : 8½, with which it was chargeable, but subject to an annual payment of 38/-, out of the said manor to the old alms-house. From the Methuen family, it was obtained through purchase by the Hobhouse family, the representative of whom, the present Lord Broughton, still holds it.† It is still subject as before to the annual payment of £1 : 18 : 0 to the alms-house.

It is not generally known that out of the proceeds from Bradford there was left a sum of £10 : 12 : 7 per annum (equal to at least £100 now) for the establishment of a school for the education of our youth. The fate of this endowment is curious. Together with the Trowbridge fund, of still greater amount, it was coaxed out of Queen Elizabeth by the City of Salisbury, in 1559, the Mayor and Corporation of Salisbury urging that their city was a more convenient situation for such a school; Bradford and Trowbridge, on the other hand, being described as “*upland towns, with scanty populations*<sup>1</sup> and a

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[† Note. The present Lord is Sir Charles Parry Hobhouse, Bart., of Monkton Farleigh, nephew of Lord Broughton; or his son Charles E. H. Hobhouse, Esq., M.P.]

<sup>1</sup> A rough estimate of the population a few years later than this date (1559), may be formed, by taking the number of burials registered and reckoning them as averaging *two per cent.* of the whole population. This is, of course, a very low average, but it allows for any accidental omissions in the Register and gives us probably the *maximum* amount. The calculation, of course, extends only to those inhabiting the town and its neighbourhood, exclusive of the chapelries, each of which had its place of interment. On this estimate the following results are obtained :

For	Average Burials		Probable	
	per annum		population	
10 years ending 1590,	31·8			1590
„ 1600,	„ 34·3		„	1715
„ 1610,	„ 33·9		„	1695
„ 1620,	„ 29·		„	1450
„ 1630,	„ 23·8		„	1190

limited resort of gentlemen and merchants; for which reason," the petitioners urged, "there was no need of such schools, nor any profit in good learning." The establishment was therefore shifted to Salisbury, where it shared the fate which so often attends unpurchased favours. It was systematically neglected, and by the year 1608 had so declined as to require a committee of investigation. Next we hear of it occupying some rooms at the Old George Inn, (still standing,) till it was driven to the Castle Inn. The following entry, in the Corporation Books for 1624, will show how highly the good citizens of Salisbury esteemed education:—"Ordered, that the school be shifted from the George, that it may no longer be chargeable and burdensome to the Corporation." The burgesses who voted for no *school* were quite willing to have plenty of *play*, and so we find the next entry to be this:—"Ordered that the comedians shall from henceforth have their plays at the George."

Through this interference of the burgesses of Salisbury, our *upland* Town was, as far as our present information extends, without provision for the education of its youth till the year 1715, a period of more than 150 years. In November, 1715, the Rev. Nathan Wright of Englefield, in the county of Berks, to whom, in right of his wife, as has been already mentioned, the Lordship of the Manor of Bradford had descended,—“for the encouragement of learning and good manners within the parish of Bradford, demised unto William Methuen and eight others, the building adjoining the Churchyard of Bradford, commonly called the *Skull-house*, and then converted into a *Charity School-house*, to hold the same for the term of 1000 years, without impeachment of waste, paying a pepper-corn rent, upon trust that the said Trustees should use the aforesaid edifice or building as a *Charity School-house*,” &c. The building referred to, is the very ancient one to which we have

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This gives an average population for the 50 years ending 1630 of from 1500 to 1600. The area of this population was at least *six thousand* acres, so that probably not more than half the number of inhabitants lived in the town. This might fairly be deemed a “scanty population.”

[For later census see page 2.]

already alluded. (Plate ii.) It was probably used at one time as a Charnel-house, and hence the name it bore—*Skull-house*—at the time of its conveyance to Trustees for the purpose of being used as a School-house. [*Such places were once common in England, and at least three still exist, at Hythe, at Rothwell and at Mitchel-dean. In Bretagne, Switzerland and some other countries, they are still very numerous.*]

[*The first visitation of Wiltshire was in 1565. The only armigeri named as of Bradford were Hall and Rogers. Bayly and Bush of Stowford are also mentioned, with Horton of Iford, Long of Wraxall, Eyre of Chaldfield and Bewthin (?) of Cottles.*]

A notice of Bradford would be incomplete without a few words on the subject of the wool-trade, in which, from an early period, some of its principal inhabitants were engaged. For many centuries, the words of Leland have been true, "Al the toune of Bradeford stonndith by clooth-making."<sup>1</sup> Anyone who has at all studied the early history of our country, must be well aware that, at one time, the trade in wool was of the greatest importance; in fact our commerce was almost confined to the exportation of wool, the great staple commodity of England, upon which, more than any other, in its raw or manufactured state, our national wealth has been founded. So that Fuller was quite right when he said, "Well might the French ambassador return 'France, France, France,' reiterated to every petty title of the King of Spain; and our English '*wool, wool, wool*' may counterpoise the numerous but inconsiderable commodities of other countries."<sup>2</sup>

Originally our wool was exported to Flanders for the most part, and there made into cloth. In the time of Edward III, however, a different plan began to be adopted. In 1331, he took advantage of the discontent among the merchants of Flanders to invite them as settlers in his dominions, and they brought hither some manufactures of cloth, which up to that

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<sup>1</sup> Itinerary ii. 54.

<sup>2</sup> Fuller's Worthies.' Wiltshire (*Introduction*).

time had been unknown in England. He thus became the Father of English Commerce, a title not more glorious, but by which he may perhaps claim more of our gratitude, than as the hero of Crecy. From that time the occupation of a merchant became honorable; immense fortunes were made, and in many instances nobly spent, for we owe some of our finest churches, best endowed schools, and other charities, to merchants of the staple. As the duty on wool still formed a principal source of the king's revenue, by an act passed in the 27th year of his reign, certain towns were appointed as *staples* or markets for wool, and to one or other of these all wool was henceforth to be taken, that there the tax on it might be duly collected.<sup>1</sup> Our staple or wool-market was at Bristol. So profitable was the trade that some of the nobles were even tempted at times to engage in it. In the earlier parts of the 15th century, we find amongst those who indulged in this speculation the august names of the then Duke of Suffolk, the Prior of Bridlington, and Margaret of Anjou, the spirited Queen of Henry VI.<sup>2</sup>

Whether any of the Hall family, like their namesake John Hall, of Salisbury, were merchants of the staple, we cannot say, but it is not improbable. As years rolled on, they wondrously increased their wealth and their possessions. At the close of the 15th century (as appears by a deed dated 21st Edward IV.) Henry Hall, who then had lately succeeded to the estates of his father, Nicholas Hall, had lands in Bradford, Lye, Troll Parva, Slade, Ford, Wraxhall, Holt, Broughton,

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<sup>1</sup> This statute, 27 Edward III. Stat. 2 (1353), provided that the *Staple* of wools, leather, woolfels and lead should be held at the following towns, — Newcastle-upon-Tyne, York, Lincoln, Norwich, Westminster, Canterbury, Chichester, Winchester, Exeter, and *Bristol*. Before this time, Calais had been the *staple* town to which all such commodities from England were exported, and where the duties of the Crown were received. The above named statute was passed however, as the preamble sets forth, in consequence of "the damage which hath notoriously come as well to us, and to the great men, as to our people of the realm of England, &c., because that the staple of wools, leather, and woolfels have been holden out of our said realm, and also for the great profits which should come to the said realm if the staple were holden within the same and not elsewhere."

<sup>2</sup> Duke's 'Prolusiones Historiæ,' p. 69.

Marlborough, Okebourn Meysey, in Wilts, and at Freshford, Iford, Mitford, Frome, Fleete, Widcombe, Portishead, and other places in Somerset. At all events, we know that both Horton and Lucas were thriving clothiers here before the Reformation. And the words of Leland, already quoted, imply, that in the middle of the sixteenth century 'cloth-making' was very general here; the means, in fact, by which the town was supported. And from that time to the present, the history of our town is little more than a record of steady and often successful pursuit of the clothing trade; of large fortunes made, and frequently generously spent; in more instances than one, of coronets obtained by descendants of our wealthy manufacturers. Of some of them we shall speak presently; meanwhile we must resume the regular course of our narrative.

FROM A.D. 1600—1700.

The seventeenth century, at which we have now arrived, was an important one in the history of our town. At the beginning of this period, we have the erection of that beautiful mansion, now called Kingston House, which has recently been so well restored by Mr. Stephen Moulton. As its history has been so fully elucidated in a paper contributed to the *Wiltshire Magazine*<sup>1</sup> by our Secretary, Canon Jackson, it is unnecessary to say more than that it was probably built by John Hall, the head of the family at the time. For the same reason we need only mention that through the marriage of Elizabeth Hall (the heiress of another John Hall, grandson of the one who probably built the house, and who was Sheriff of Wilts in 1670) with Thomas Baynton of Chalfield,<sup>2</sup> and the subsequent marriage of their daughter, Rachel Baynton, with the son of Evelyn, Duke of Kingston, the property came into the possession of that ducal family, and from that time the mansion has been called Kingston House. [*The name Kingston House was given to it by its restorer Mr. Stephen Moulton,*

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<sup>1</sup> *Wilts Archæological Magazine*, i. p. 265.

<sup>2</sup> [*This is doubtful. See p. ]*

*circa 1850. It was known for more than two centuries as The Hall (as had been doubtless its predecessor, which gave a surname to the family), and at the latter end of the 18th century as The Great House or The Duke's House.]* The issue of this marriage was the second and last Duke of Kingston, the father having died before he came to the title. The second Duke married Elizabeth Chudleigh, *alias* the Honorable Miss Chudleigh, *alias* Mrs. Harvey, *alias* the Countess of Bristol, a lady whose career, to say the least, was not irreproachable. As they had no children, the property passed to the Duke's sister, Frances Pierrepont, who married Philip, eldest son of Sir Philip Meadows. Their son became the first Lord Manvers. He sold Kingston House in 1802, to Mr. Thomas Divett, who, with a keener eye for profit than architectural beauty, used it as a store-house for wool, teasels, &c. In 1848, the premises were sold to Mr. Moulton, and to him we owe the complete restoration, in such excellent taste, of all that remained of the North Wilts Hall of John Hall.

*[The exterior is an exact reproduction of the original building most conscientiously carried through by Mr. James Long, builder, of Bradford. The design of the Hall is attributed to John of Padua, architect also of Longleat, and of the south front of Lyme, in Cheshire. Who John of Padua was is a little uncertain: some say he was an Englishman, whose real name was Thorpe.*

*In 1605 we find the following names mentioned as those of the chief landowners in the borough of Bradford. John Hall, Esq., John Yewe, Gent., Thos. Reed, Vicar, Richard Horne, John Druice (the tithes), and Nicholas Snell.*

*In 1629 we have some interesting valuations in a Survey of the Manor. Thus "Gifford Yerbury holding by copy paid £1 : 6 : 0 for a messuage, chapel." (St. Laurence,) "and 25 acres of land, value per annum £20," The total of copyhold rents was but £9 : 0 : 1½. Barton Farm 476 acres, held on lease of 99 years by Lady Lucy, is valued at £240, but pays only £22 : 3 : 0 yearly. This valuation seems high for the period. And "there is a several fishing in the river of Avon*



*between Bradford Bridge and Barton Bridge, in the Lord's hand's, for which is paid yearly six shillings.'"]*

Of the troublous times which ended in the death of King Charles I. we have several reminiscences. True throughout to the fortunes of the falling monarch, many of our leading men were obliged to compound for their estates on the establishment of the Commonwealth. SIR THOMAS HALL, Knight, who at the commencement of the war had acted as Commissioner in Wilts for pressing men into the king's service was, in 1649, fined £660. He asserted on petition that he undertook the office of Commissioner through threats from the king and the Earl of Forth, and that he had used his influence to save his neighbors from free-quarter. This, however, did not exempt him from a heavy penalty. At this time, he held the Manor of Bradford under the Marquis of Winchester, with demesnes, woods, and a watermill, altogether valued at £160 per annum. He also had house property in Bath.

EDWARD YERBURY was another royalist who compounded in 1646, his fine being £190. He belonged more especially to Trowbridge, but he is mentioned here because a petition was got up from Bradford to prove his leniency and good neighbourhood whilst exercising the office of King's Commissioner. The petition was signed by Paul Methwin, John Earle, George Godwin, George Grant, Walter Grant, Thomas Maltman, and Matthew Smith. The Yerbury family were afterwards implicated in the revolt against the Protector's government, known as the Penruddock rising in 1655, but contrived,—how it is not easy to say,—to escape the punishment that then overtook so many gentlemen in the south of Wilts.

We must not omit to mention also, MICHAEL TIDCOMBE, the Devizes attorney, who spent the latter part of his life in this parish, in which he possessed some little property, and whose tomb is in our parish church. He first got into trouble in December, 1643, when the king opening an assize at Salisbury, indicted several of the Parliamentary Commanders, and amongst others the Earl of Pembroke, for high treason. It was Michael Tidcombe who drew out the forms of indictment,

and the Parliament never forgave him. In 1646, he had to pay a fine of £450 for his estates, which lay at Great Ashley, in our parish, and also at Bishops Cannings and at Devizes.

Of two or three occurrences during the seventeenth century, we must make specific mention.

The first, in point both of time and importance, was the introduction of a change in the manufacture of cloth, which exercised for many years afterwards a great influence on the trade, and consequently the prosperity of our town. Hitherto only a coarse kind of cloth,—a sort of drugget,—had been made in Bradford, but in 1659, Paul Methwin, the leading clothier of the time, obtained from Holland some ‘spinners,’ as they are termed, for the purpose of obtaining, through them, the secrets of manufacturing the finer kinds of cloth. Before, however, the foreigners had been long in Bradford, the parochial officers required a bond of indemnity in the sum of £100 to be entered into by Paul Methwin, lest they might become chargeable to the parish. The deed recites, that—“whereas Paul Methwin for *his own proper gain and benefit* did fetch, or was at charge to fetch or bring, out of Amsterdam in Holland into the parish of Bradford, one Richard Jonson, *otherwise* Derricke Jonson,† spinner, with Heetrie his wife and several small children,”—that, therefore, lest such persons, as it is intimated, was not unlikely, should become a burden on the inhabitants of the parish, the churchwardens and overseers for the time being,<sup>1</sup> thought it right to require security from Paul Methwin in the sum above-mentioned, that he would—“from time to time, and at all times hereafter clearly acquit, save harmless, defend and keep the inhabitants of the said parish for ever free, and discharged from all manner of trouble, expense, costs, charges, and damages whatsoever that they may be put unto, or charged with, by the said Richard Jonson,

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<sup>1</sup>The *Churchwardens* were John Smith and Walter Perry; the *Overseers* John Croke, Augustine Perry, and Richard Baylie.

† [*The name of Derrick survives in Bradford.*]

&c., for and towards the maintenance and breeding up of them or any of them.”<sup>1</sup>

The name of the place in which these men from Holland lived, is still called the “*Dutch Barton* :”<sup>2</sup> it is situated at the west end of Church street, on the right hand side of the passage leading to the Abbey yard. The house at the corner<sup>3</sup> and the large adjoining malthouse occupy the site on which stood, formerly, some of the cottages in which the foreigners lived. Memorials of their residence amongst us are often found in those *Flemish* or *Nuremburg Tokens*, as they are called, a kind of spurious coin, which they brought with them from their native country, and specimens of which are very abundant.

Whilst speaking of coins, we may allude to the issue of

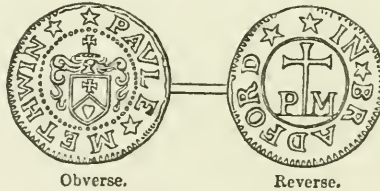
<sup>1</sup> I have searched in vain for the original of this deed in the Parish Chest. I was indebted for the loan of a copy of it to the late Mr. John Bush. In looking for this deed, however, I met with another of precisely similar character, dated a few years later (1674), and endorsed,—“ Mr. Wm. Brewer his bond of £100 to save harmless the Parish of Bradford against the Dutchmen.”—The deed recites that “ whereas att the desire and request of the said William Brewer of Trowbridge, and for his benefitt and profit in his trade of a clothier, three straungers called by the names of Adolfe, Gregorius, and Jone, Dutchmen by nation, or of Powland, are suffered and permitted to abide in the parish of Bradford as workmen to the said William Brewer,” &c., that, therefore, a bond has been taken from him to hold the parish harmless in the event of any of them or their families becoming “ for or by reason of poverty, sickness, lameness, or impotencie ” chargeable to it. The ‘ William Brewer,’ above alluded to, is spoken of by Aubrey (‘ Natural History of Wilts,’ p. ii. ch. xii.)—“ Now (temp. Jacobi ii.) Mr. Brewer of Trowbridge driveth the greatest trade for medleys of any cloathier in England.” [*This deed also has disappeared, Mr. Adye having searched for it in vain.*]

<sup>2</sup> In the year 1721 a resolution was passed in Vestry to purchase from Anthony Methuen, Esq., a portion of the ‘ Dutch Barton ’ for a Parish Workhouse. Before that time there was nothing but ‘ *out door* ’ relief The Poor-house, as it was called, was afterwards removed to a spot close to the present railway station, the Vestry having resolved 25 June, 1754, ‘ to hire and take the houses called ‘ *the Catch* ’ for the purpose of a Workhouse.’ The premises were afterwards taken down for the construction of the railway, and the Werkhouse removed to Avoncliff. In an account o lands and tenements belonging to the Prebendal Manor of Bradford in 1767 the premises are still described as “ A house called ‘ *The Catch*.’ ” Of the meaning of this term, I can, as yet, offer no satisfactory explanation.

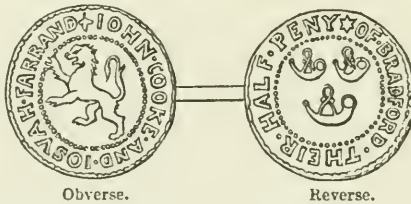
<sup>3</sup> [*Now the Conservative Club.*]

Bradford Tokens which was made during this century by many of the inhabitants of the town, employed in trade of one kind or other. During the Commonwealth and the reign of Charles II. the practice became prevalent of tradesmen issuing their own half-pennies and farthings. The want of small change had long been felt as an inconvenience, so that in the language of several petitioners to Parliament the poor man often "lost his penny," an expression which, whatever may have been its precise signification, implied great inconvenience. Mr. J. Y. Akerman<sup>1</sup> has drawn up a list of the several tokens issued in Wiltshire, and amongst them, of course, those belonging to Bradford. He gives us the following list, of the first two of which we give drawings. Specimens of most of them are not uncommon in Bradford.

(1). *Obverse.* PAULE . METHWIN, and three mullets. A coat of arms. Crest, a cross. *Reverse.* IN . BRADFORD, and two mullets. In the field a cross between the letters P. M.



(2). *Obverse.* JOHN . COOKE . AND . JOSHUA . FARRAND . a cross. In the field a lion rampant. *Reverse.* OF . BRADFORD . THEIR . HALF-PENY . and a mullet. In the field, three bugle horns.



<sup>1</sup> List of Tokens issued by Wiltshire Tradesmen in the 17th century. London, 1846.

(3). *Obv.* DANIEL . DEVERREL . and a cinquefoil. A regal crown of the period. *Rev.* IN . BRADFORD . 1663 . and a cinquefoil. In the field D. D. four pellets, and two cinquefoils.

(4). *Obv.* JOHN . COOKE . a cinquefoil, 1666, and another cinquefoil. In the field, HIS . HALF-PENY . a cinquefoil, and two pellets. *Rev.* OF . BRADFORD . Two cinquefoils and a mullet. In the field, two cinquefoils, the stems interlaced; between them the letters I. M. C.

(5). *Obv.* WILLIAM . BAILY . MERCER and a quatrefoil. In the field, the bust of an ancient queen, like that on the shield of the Mercers' Company. *Rev.* IN . BRADFORD . 1668 . and three cinquefoils. In the field, a horse's head<sup>1</sup> couped bridled between the letters W. B.

(6). *Obv.* THOMAS . IBBOTSON . and three mullets. In the field, HIS . HALF-PENNY . and six pellets. *Rev.* MERCER . IN . BRADFORD . Three flowers, the stems twisted in a knot, between the letters T. I.

(7). *Obv.* WILLIAM . CHANDLER . and a mullet. The Grocers' arms. *Rev.* IN . BRADFORD . 16 . . . In the field, W. C. and two cinquefoils.

(8). *Obv.* IACOB . ELBEE . OF . and four cinquefoils. In the field, two tobacco pipes crossed, saltier-wise. *Rev.* BRADFORD . 1665 . two cinquefoils and a mullet. In the field, I. E. three cinquefoils and four pellets.

(9) *Obv.* JOHN PRESTON, OF. A shield of arms. *Rev.* BRADFORD 1666 and a cinquefoil. In the field, HIS HALF-PENY, and a cinquefoil between two pellets.

(10). *Obv.* JOHN GAGE, OF. The bust of an ancient queen, like that on the shield of the Mercers' Company. *Rev.* BRADFORD 1649, a mullet, and two pellets. In the field, the letters I. G. divided by a pellet.

It was, moreover, during the period that we are now considering [*about 1670*] that we had a visit from our old

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<sup>1</sup> Baily of Stowford and of Staverton, had three horses' heads for their arms. See coat over door of mansion house, near Staverton Church. [*See also Baily's Monument in the north aisle of Trinity Church*].

friend, John Aubrey. He had at this time (to use his own expression) his 'Essay towards the Natural History of Wilts' "*upon the loom*," and certainly his wits must have been *wool gathering* when he came into this neighbourhood. His notice of our town is most meagre, and abounds with good intentions, which, like many others, were never carried into effect. Thus, for instance, he says of the Parish Church,—“Mr. T. G [ore]<sup>1</sup> assures me that in the Church here is nothing of antiquities to be found,” and so, trusting implicitly to the word of his friend, Aubrey did not himself take the trouble of looking into it. He speaks, moreover, of a large house in Pipplet street, which is still standing,—“In this town is a faire old built house of the family of Rogers<sup>2</sup> of Cannington; here are many old escutcheons (which see); now it is the seat of Mr. Methwyn<sup>3</sup> the cloathier.” However, so far as any record of the house, as it then was, is concerned, Aubrey, if he even did visit it, might as well have staid away, for he says not a syllable about it. He adds further, “On the top of the North Hill above Mr. Methwyn’s is the finest hermitage<sup>4</sup> I have seen in England :

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<sup>1</sup> This was Thomas Gore, Esq., of Alderton, a great friend and neighbour of Aubrey’s, to whom, on subjects, especially of heraldry or genealogy, he perpetually referred. See an account of him in *Wilts Archæological Magazine*, vol. iv. p. 107.

<sup>2</sup> Rogers of Cannington.—This was a junior branch of the family of Rogers of Bradford, the first of whom, Sir Edward Rogers of Cannington, in Somerset, was Comptroller of the Household to Queen Elizabeth, and a Member of the Privy Council. Thomas Rogers of Bradford, was a Serjeant-at-Law, 1478, and married one of the heiresses of William Besil of Bradford; the other heiress, Margaret, being married to Nicholas Hall. The ultimate heiress of the elder branch of the Rogers family, viz., Dorothy, daughter of Anthony Rogers, married Sir John Hall, Knt., of Bradford (circ. 1570). Arms of Rogers, Arg. a chevron between three stags courant sab.

<sup>3</sup> This house is still commonly called by the older inhabitants ‘*Methwins*,’ and they pronounce it as though it were spelt ‘*Methins*.’ Within the last few years the name of ‘*The Priory*’ has been chosen for it. As there is no trace of the house ever having been used, in olden times, for any religious society, it is to be regretted that a name has been adopted which after a few years might be calculated to mislead enquirers—[*The house now belongs to Mrs. Collett*].

<sup>4</sup> The *Hermitage*. Aubrey here alludes to the ‘*Tory Chapel*’ which we have described in page 37.

several rooms and very neat chapel of good free-stone. This high hill is rock and gravel, faces the south and south-west ; therefore is the best site for a vineyard of any place I know ; better in England cannot be," On the same subject in his 'Natural History of Wilts,' he says (ch. ix.) "Elders grow everywhere. At Bradford all the side of the high hill, which faces the south, above Mr. Paul Methwin's house, is covered with them. I fancy that that pent might be turned to better profit, for it is situated as well for a vineyard as any place can be, and is on a rocky gravelly ground. The apothecaries well know the use of the berries, and so doe the vintners, who buy vast quantities of them in London, and some doe make no inconsiderable profit by the sale of them." All else that Aubrey relates concerning our town, besides one or two very brief notices of buildings, to which we have already referred, is contained in what he calls a "simple old woman's prophetic of old Mother Bloker of Bradford." Though he inserts it in his manuscript, yet, in a letter,<sup>1</sup> still preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, addressed to his friend Mr. (afterwards Bishop) Tanner, he says, "Pray doe me the favour to blott it out," deeming it too modern for insertion. However, here is the old dame's prediction ; it may amuse some of our readers.

"Bristowe shall sinke and Bath shall swimme,  
And Bradford be a Haven-towne."

At present there are no signs of its accomplishment.

It was, moreover, towards the latter end of this century that THOMAS BEACH, an attorney of Woolley, contrived to keep the good people of Bradford in a state of excitement by some of his performances.<sup>2</sup> He has been already noticed in the pages of this Magazine (vol. iii. 370) as having urged the apprehension of a certain Lawrence Braddon, whom he saw stopping "at an inn door at a town called Bradford to drink a

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<sup>1</sup> Tanner MSS. Bodleian. 126.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Beach was ancestor of the Beach family at West Ashton and Woolley. His wife was one of the 'Martyns' of East Town in the parish of Steeple Ashton. He was buried at Steeple Ashton.

glass of cider," on what may now seem to us rather insufficient grounds, viz., that he "looked like a disaffected person, by wearing bands and cuffs, and therefore, in that dangerous time, ought to be examined." No long time afterwards, however, the said Thomas Beach, who is said to have been "an attorney notorious in his country and generation," himself got into trouble. In January, 1677-8 (30th Car. II.) in conjunction with Simon Deverell, bailiff of Bradford, he committed a breach of privilege in assaulting and wounding Mr. Hall, a member of the House of Commons, and also Mr. Hall's servant, threatening at the same time to do him further mischief. This occurred during a sitting of Parliament. Mr. Beach was accordingly placed immediately in the custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms.

On the 22nd of February he acknowledges his offence, and craves forgiveness of the House, but, being very sick—(perhaps we might say *indisposed*)—is unable to attend at the bar of the House.

On the 25th he kneels at the bar of the House, and Mr. Speaker informs him that he is discharged upon condition of making an acknowledgment and submission for his offence at the next General Sessions for the County of Wilts. Whilst however the House is willing to *forgive* the said Thomas Beach, Mr. Speaker reminds him that he must not *forget* to pay the customary fees.

It was during the latter part of this century also that the Monmouth rebellion took place. One is sorry to throw any doubt on the truth of the tradition which still exists in our town that the Duke of Monmouth lodged at what a few years afterwards was called Kingston House, during one of his progresses amongst the gentry of the West of England. It is not impossible, perhaps we might say improbable, that the Duke, whose popularity in the West of England is well known, may have been received by John Hall, as well as by his brother-in-law, Thomas Thynne, at Longleat. As yet, however, we have found no specific mention of the fact in any history of the times. The night after a skirmish at Philip's



Norton, Feversham, who commanded the king's forces, fell back to Bradford, and a tradition of their visit, and of some circumstances attending it, is still preserved amongst the old people in Bradford. But of a visit from Monmouth himself there is no actual proof. The story may perchance have taken its rise from another circumstance which certainly *did* take place. So devoted were the people to the unfortunate Duke, that, even after his execution, many continued to cherish a hope that he was still living,—in fact, that a substitute had represented him on the fatal scaffold. In 1686 a knave who pretended to be the Duke made his appearance in our neighbourhood, and probably levied contributions *here*, as he had already in several villages in Wiltshire. At all events, at Bradford our *soi-disant* Duke was apprehended, and was afterwards whipped at the cart's tail, from Newgate to Tyburn.<sup>1</sup>

We have in our parish a memorial in some sort of the Duke of Monmouth. After the fatal battle of Sedgemoor (1685), an officer in his army left in the house of Mr. Davison of Freshford, a pair of holster-pistols. Through a daughter of Mr. Davison who married the present Colonel Yerbury's grandfather, the pistols came into the possession of that family. They were sent for exhibition in the temporary Museum formed on the occasion of the Meeting of the Wilts Archæological Society at Bradford, in August, 1857.

#### FROM A.D. 1700—1800.

We have now arrived at the commencement of the eighteenth century. By this time Bradford had considerably increased in population and in importance. Indeed, during the last quarter of the seventeenth century men and women flocked in from all quarters to obtain employment here. It was the custom in those days, that every such artizan, who might possibly become chargeable to the parish, before settling in Bradford should exhibit a certificate signed by the minister and churchwardens, and other public officers of his own parish, acknowledging his claim on them in the event of his falling

<sup>1</sup> Macaulay's 'History of England,' i. 625. (3rd edition, 1854.)

into distress, and in such a case also covenanting to hold the parish in which he might settle harmless from all charges. A very large number of such certificates bearing date from 1670 downwards, are still preserved in the parish chest. And even with this precaution, the parishioners of Bradford do not always seem to have been satisfied. They were evidently not a little jealous of the irruption into their borders of so large a company of 'straungers.' And hence the leading clothiers of the town often had to give an additional guarantee to the parishioners to prevent the possibility of their being put to any expense, even in the removal of the non-parochial residents. Two deeds are now lying before the writer of these pages, one of them relating to a certain "Ann Lowden, of Bulkington," who came hither in February, 1677-8, endorsed,—“Memorand: That Mr. Paul Methwin on Friday, Feb. 22, promised the parish of Bradford to pay, at any time, for the removing of the sayd Anne Lowden to Bulkington;”—and the other relating to a certain "John Emling of Standerwick, in the county of Somerset," who is described as a "*wooll-breaker*," and who is said to be desirous of settling in Bradford, because 'worke is more plenty there,' and which is endorsed,—“July the 6th, 1677, Mr. Anthony Methwin promised the payment of 3s. 4d. for caution money.”†

The energy of the 'Methwins' and the 'Cams' bore good fruit in the great increase of the trade of the town;—indeed Aubrey<sup>1</sup> bears witness that "Mr. Paul Methwin of Bradford was the greatest cloathier of his time." Nor should we forget to mention Anthony and William Druce, whose name is still preserved in 'Druce's Hill' (before called 'The Green'), a spot of ground no great distance from the church-yard, and who belonged to the Society of Quakers, then numerous here as in other towns in Wiltshire; and John Curll, whose memory must ever be held in affectionate esteem in a parish whose poor inhabitants benefit yearly through his munifi-

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† [*This deed is also missing from the Parish Chest. C.S.A.*]

<sup>1</sup> 'Natural History of Wilts,' p. 113.

cence.<sup>1</sup> By the efforts of these and others Bradford enlarged to a very great degree the extent of its manufactures. Cottages sprang up in every quarter, each one furnished with its loom, and plenty of work to secure its constant employment. Our town, in fact, became a steady-going,—business-like,—money-making place. Cloth-making was lucrative, and so a large amount of capital was year by year invested in it. In the year 1723, we find no less than twenty-five clothiers in the parish of Bradford, the greater part of them in the town itself, and the value of their stock-in-trade was computed at £40,000, a sum relatively much larger than it would be deemed at present, but one which, even thus reckoned, would bear a small proportion to the capital employed at the commencement of the present century. Amongst the clothiers of that day, we find the well known names of Heyleyn,—Thresher,—Methuen,—Druce,—Baskerville,—Halliday,—Shewell,—Shrapnell,—Bush,—Self,—and Yerbury.

[Meanwhile the population increased considerably. Adopting the author's computation, we have for

	Average burials	Probable population
10 years ending 1640, per annum	39·6	1980.
6 „ „ 1645, „	57·1	2855.
8 „ „ 1670, „	42·1	2105.

Mark here the reduction consequent on the civil war. Note also that in Bishop Compton's religious census of 1676 (Ruddle, in *Wiltshire Notes and Queries*, iii. 536), the population of the Parish, including apparently Atworth, Holt, Limpley Stoke, South Wraaxill, Westwood and Winsley, consisted of 3106 churchfolk and 159 dissenters over 16 years = 3265, or with 60 per cent. additional for children, 5224. Bradford was then the largest town in Wiltshire, except Salisbury, Marlborough, and Corsley! (?) Devizes being doubtful.

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<sup>1</sup> John Curll bequeathed to the poor of Bradford, not usually receiving alms of the parish, £30, to be paid annually out of the proceeds of land at Chirton, near Devizes, and to be distributed in *Crowns* amongst 120 such poor persons on St. Thomas' Day in each year.

	Average burials	Probable population
10 years ending 1680, per annum	50·9	2545.
10 „ „ 1690, „	52·5	2625.
10 „ „ 1700, „	67·2	3360.
10 „ „ 1710, „	82·2	4110.
10 „ „ 1720, „	76·5	3825.
10 „ „ 1730, „	82·9	4145.

*In 1752-3 a slight check must have been given to the prosperity of Bradford by an epidemic of small-pox. It lasted from July till the following May. There died 189; 1267 are said to have recovered, and 127 to have been inoculated. We may conjecture that about one third of the population were attacked; but the ratio of deaths to attacks, 12·98 per cent., was not nearly so high as is usual in unvaccinated persons nowadays.]*

The rest of the history of our town may be shortly told. From the middle of the last century till within some *sixteen* years ago, it is hardly more than a continued record of successful industry. In the course of years one improvement after another was introduced into the manufacture of cloth. Trade increased,—our manufacturers became wealthy,—employment attracted numbers to our town. So abundant, indeed, was employment, that the wool after having undergone various processes to fit it to be spun into yarn was carried for that purpose to spinners residing not only in all the neighbouring villages, but as far as Salisbury Plain. The names of Tugwell,—Atwood,—[*Cam.*]—Head [*with the unusual prenomens of Jehoshaphat*],—Bethel,—Strawbridge,—Stevens,—Phelps,—&c.;—names not yet forgotten in the town,—bear ample testimony to the success that in the latter portion of the last century attended the spirit and industry of the clothiers of Bradford.

*[Other names of interest, or which still occur in the town, may be found in the lists of jurymen at the local courts, or of the manorial officers; thus in 1747, Daniel Clutterbuck, steward of the manor, Thos. Saunders, bailiff; in 1765, Edward Orpin, coroner of the market (the subject of Gainsborough's famous*

picture of "The Parish Clerk"); also Deverell, Timbrell, Dory, Gingell, Moore, Spencer, Gaisford, Rudman, Gerrish, Renison, Sartain, Spender, Pitman. In 1747 the tithingman for Holt was Thomas Tartanweaver: was this a new surname coined for a Scotch immigrant, and was tartan popular here while forbidden in the Highlands? In the same year we find also the following still extant names on the Roll of the Borough, viz., Batchelor, Batten, Bendal, Blanchard, Baily, Beverstock, Bull, Burgess, Burcombe, Coles, Crook, Edwards, Ellet (Elliot), Ferris, Huntley, Kemp, Kite, Miles, Milsom, Morris, Price, Pearce, Porch, Silby, Skrine, Sparks, Stillman, Tucker.

Then came the introduction of machinery, and with it the Factory System. Then the weavers and others employed in the manufacture of cloth, instead of plying their craft, as heretofore, in their own cottages were collected into large buildings, many of them erected for the special purpose of receiving them. At the commencement of this century, no less than thirty-two of these were at work in our town, every building, in fact, which could be converted to the purpose being made one of these hives of industry.<sup>1</sup> Even the "Chapel of our Lady" on Tory could not escape such a doom in an age, when utility, so far as money-making was concerned, was the sole standard by which all things were judged. And yet what more striking monitor could there be than the ceaseless 'click' of the 'weaver's shuttle' that life is far too short, too uncertain, to allow us safely to engross our energies in the pursuit of earthly riches!

It was not, indeed, without a struggle that the employers thus brought in a new order of things. On the introduction of the spinning jennies, and the carding machines, no disturbance had arisen, however much men may secretly have murmured against them. But when a step further was taken, then their murmurs broke out into open resistance. On the evening of May 14, 1791, a tumultuous mob of nearly 500 persons

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<sup>1</sup> [But many of the weavers still wrought in their own houses, within the memory of Mr. Adye and others.]

assembled before the house of Mr. Phelps<sup>1</sup> an eminent clothier of the town. The matter of complaint was, that he had converted one of his old carding engines into a scribbling machine, which the hand-scribblers believed would eventually throw them out of employ. A demand was, therefore, made by the mob that Mr. Phelps should deliver up the machine into their hands, or else pledge himself never more to work it. On his refusing to do so the rioters began to throw stones, whereby many who by this time had come to the assistance of Mr. Phelps were seriously wounded. They continued their assault until not only all the windows of the house were broken, but much of the furniture damaged. Feeling that their lives were in danger, Mr. Phelps and his friends fired on the mob, and a man, a woman, and a boy were killed, and two others dangerously wounded. Still the tumult was unappeased, and, as the only means whereby to save the further effusion of blood, Mr. Phelps surrendered the obnoxious machine into their hands, and they burnt it upon the bridge. Some of the principal rioters were subsequently captured, and sent to take their trial at the ensuing assizes. The coroner's inquest which sat on the slain bodies, returned a verdict of 'justifiable homicide.'<sup>2</sup>

FROM A.D. 1800—1858.

The check given by these disturbances to the onward progress of our town was but momentary. For half a century after that time the stream of prosperity flowed steadily on.

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<sup>1</sup> He lived in the first large house on the right hand after passing the bridge, on the road from Bradford to Trowbridge. [*This house was later on occupied by Dr. Bethell, and in it his son Richard, afterwards Lord Westbury and Lord Chancellor, was born. Hence its present name, Westbury House.*] It was afterwards occupied by Mr. George Spencer, [*but now by Mr. Charles S. Adye.*] There are still to be seen in the garden wall facing the street traces of the holes through which Mr. Phelps and his friends fired upon the rioters. [*The Author seems to have been mistaken: I find no trace of these holes on the inner side of the wall.*]

<sup>2</sup> The prisoners' names were Samuel Norman, James Bryant, William Greenland, and Benjamin Derrett. Against Derrett no bill was found. The rest were acquitted.

The parish during that period numbered more than 10,000 souls within its borders. [*In the Landscape Album, published as late as 1834, and in which is a view of Bradford Town Bridge by Westall, of date about 1819, the place is distinguished as Great Bradford, and is described as "a large town, the houses" (of which) "chiefly built of stone, form the central residence of the greatest clothiers in Europe, this place being famous for the best manufacture of superfine woollen cloths. It is also noted for having been the spot where kerseymeres were first made."* (*Kerseymere, a twilled cloth of fine wool: the name is a corruption of cashmere, cassimere. See Skeat's Dictionary, p. 313.*)]

At last the tide began to turn. In the year 1841, the failure of the local Bank and of several of the largest manufacturers threw hundreds out of work, and cast an abiding gloom over our town, the effect of which has hardly yet passed away. Then no less than 400 were forced to seek shelter within the walls of the workhouse, a number much beyond the capabilities of the then existing buildings properly to accommodate, and the limit allowed by law. Added to these, 300 able-bodied men were employed in out-door labour, in making roads or other parochial improvements. For the payment of these last-named poor persons, for some time no less than £70 was required weekly. Poor rates rose to *ten shillings* in the pound; distress was universal. Many noble efforts were made to meet the exigencies of the distressed weavers. An emigration fund of large amount was formed, by which many of them were enabled to seek in foreign lands employment which here was no longer to be obtained. By degrees others were helped on their way to Wales or to the North of England, or to other places more in our immediate neighbourhood, that there they might earn subsistence by the labour of their hands for themselves and their families. For several years there was in some sort an 'exodus' of its working population engaged in manufactures from the town of Bradford. In the short space of ten years its population had decreased nearly 25 per

cent.,<sup>1</sup> and in 1851 the number of factories at work was less than a fifth of those at work in fifty years before. It was a dark period of depression, and yet one marked by several deeds worthy to be remembered, one of which certainly was the erection, at his own expense, of those excellent schools attached to the District Church of Christ Church, (which had itself been built but a few years before,) which will be a lasting memorial of one whom it was indeed a privilege to count amongst our fellow-townsmen, even though for a comparatively short period, the late Captain S. H. Palairet.

Within the last three years, however, our townsmen have given good proof that public spirit is not yet extinct amongst them, for in 1855 they erected at the cost of several thousand pounds a large and handsome Town-Hall, in which it gave them all sincere pleasure, to welcome, and that, too, heartily the members of the Wilts Archæological Society in August, 1857. [*And in 1856 an extramural Cemetery with its chapels was arranged and constructed.*]

*[Another event, pregnant with good, was the introduction, by Mr. Stephen Moulton, of the indiarubber manufacture, which now employs a large proportion of the population. The subsequent history of Bradford has not been very eventful. The woollen trade, so long the staple of the town, is still successfully carried on in one large factory; but on the whole it has declined. Building has extended on the south side of the river; but older houses have been allowed to decay; and the population of the Union declined, between 1891 and 1901, from 10351 to 9583, and that of the town or Urban District from 4957 to 4512.]*

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<sup>1</sup> According to the Census, the population of the *whole* parish was

In 1831.....	10,102
In 1841.....	10,418
In 1851.....	8,958

This represents a decrease in the *whole* parish (including the chapelries) of some 17 per cent. In the rural districts, however, there was probably little alteration between the numbers in 1841 and 1851. On this calculation the population *in the town* and immediate neighbourhood which, in 1851, was 5331, was ten years before no less than 6781, thus showing a decrease in that short period of nearly *one fourth*, or some 25 per cent.



*The principal events and occurrences have been as follows :—*

*The construction of the railway from Bath to Salisbury, involving that of the unnecessarily hideous bridge over the Avon close to the beautiful old Barton Bridge, to the great detriment of the scenery.*

*The “restoration,” or transmogrification, of the Parish Church.*

*The complete and judicious restoration of the Saxon Church, Sir C. Hobhouse being chairman of the Committee, and Mr. C. S. Adye, architect.*

*The establishment of public Waterworks, the supply being derived from the inferior oolite at Avoncliff.*

*The placing of the government of the town in the hands of Town Commissioners, who afterwards developed into an Urban Council.*

*The establishment of a Technical School, the handsome buildings of which were designed by Mr. T. B. Silcock of Bath. This the town owes to the munificence of Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, assisted by Mr. E. Pinckney, Sir C. Hobhouse, The Cloth-workers' Company, and others.*

*The erection of Public Baths, presented to the town as a Jubilee offering for 1897, by Mr. John Moulton, of the Hall and Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice.*

*The construction of a new Post Office in the centre of the town.*

*The construction of extensive works for the disposal of the sewage and the cleansing of the river, now being carried out from the designs of Mr. Sydney Howard, Town Surveyor.]*

There are several subjects, on which much interesting information might be collected together, with reference to Bradford. On four of them, we will place before our readers such materials as we have been able to gather for the purpose. The subjects we select for illustration are :—

- I. THE MANOR.
- II. THE PARISH CHURCH AND OTHER BUILDINGS.
- III. THE PAROCHIAL CHARITIES.
- IV. THE WORTHIES OF BRADFORD.

THE MANOR.<sup>1</sup>

It was, indeed, a goodly portion that Ethelred bestowed on the Abbess of Shaftesbury when he gave her the monastery (*cænobium*) at Bradford, with all the surrounding lands. She held this gift in *frankalmoign*—(*in liberâ eleemosynâ*)<sup>2</sup>—or free alms, as it was termed, a tenure which exempted those who held lands under it (as was the case with most of the ancient monasteries and religious houses) from all fealty to the king as their superior lord, on the ground of their rendering spiritual and higher services. The words of the charter,<sup>3</sup> in fact, are most explicit as to the nature of the gift. Three services only were required of the Abbess, as, indeed, of all who held under a like tenure, viz., help in repairing the highways and bridges, in building castles, and repelling invasions.

Though in reality but the tenant '*in capite*' under the king, yet for all practical purposes she was the *Lady Paramount* in the Hundred of Bradford. To her Court Baron, all who held lands within the Hundred, by whatever tenure, were obliged to do suit. Some, indeed, of the tenants must have held their lands *immediately* under the Abbess, as in Domesday no less than *thirteen* out of the *forty-two* hides at which the Manor was assessed, are said to have been *in demesne*, that is, kept in the hands of the Abbess herself (*terræ dominicales*). The

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<sup>1</sup> My obligations are due to the Right Hon. Lord Broughton for permission to inspect documents relating to the Manor, as also, to Mr. Phelps, his Lordship's Steward. The like privilege was granted to me with reference to the Prebendal Manor by Mr. Bessell, the Steward of the Dean and Chapter of Bristol. For many interesting extracts relating to similar subjects, I have been indebted to Mr. H. C. J. Groves.

<sup>2</sup> "Abbatissa de Seo. Edwardo tenet manerium de Bradeford, Attworth, Wrokeshal, Holte, Trulle, Winsleg, Wlfleg (*Woolley*) et Ludington de rege *in pura et perpetua eleemosina* de veteri feufamento." Testa de Nevill, p. 153.

<sup>3</sup> The words of the charter are, "præscripta villa (sc. Bradeford) cum omnibus ad se rite pertinentibus, campis, silvis, pascuis, pratis, *ita sane ut ego ipse illam in usus possederam proprios venerabili supradictæ familiæ Christo sanctoque martyri incessanter famulanti semper subjugetur liberrima*, tribus tantummodo exceptis communium laborum utilitatibus; si contingat *expeditionem promoveri, arcem pontemque construi*." Codex Æv. Sax. iii. 319.

revenue derived from the whole possessions bestowed by Ethelred in this charter was large. Bradford with its appendages is valued in Domesday Book at £60, a sum which, if we are to adopt Wyndham's plan of calculating its relative value in the present day, would amount to more than £4000.<sup>1</sup>

Of others holding lands under the Abbess more or less directly, there were some that held by tenure in *Villinage*, that is, according to the custom of the manor, or otherwise, at the will of the Lady of the Manor, on condition of doing her *villeine*<sup>2</sup> service;—again, there were others that held by tenure in *Burgage*, on condition, that is, of paying to the Abbess a certain rent by the year for the tenements they occupied, this last being the same as the tenure in *Socage*<sup>3</sup> among the Anglo-Saxons. Of the former Domesday Book mentions 36;—of the latter 23.

Though the authority of the Lady Abbess thus extended over the Hundred of Bradford, there were, nevertheless, sundry others who exercised a similar jurisdiction in various parts of the manor. Those who held lands immediately under the Abbess as tenant '*in capite*,' by degrees granted out portions of them to inferior persons, and so,—as they became *lords* with respect to these under-tenants, though still themselves *tenants* with regard to the chief lord,—they were called

<sup>1</sup> See Wyndham's 'Domesday Book for Wiltshire.' Introd. p. 20. "The Domesday shillings and pounds are first multiplied by three which will reduce the ancient money to the present weight. The sum is then multiplied by  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , to make it accord with the modern value of gold and silver. To this is added another multiplication by 3, because the real value of the land is now three times as much as formerly, without any consideration of the plenty or scarcity of money." This brings the whole multiple to  $67\frac{1}{2}$ . Thus  $£60 \times 67\frac{1}{2} = £4050$ .

<sup>2</sup> This word is now used only in a bad sense. It had no such meaning originally, though it always denoted, of course, an inferior. "It is derived," says Coke, "from the French word *villaine*, and that *à villa*, *quia villa adscriptus est*: for they which are now called *villani*, of ancient times were called *adscriptitii*." Coke upon Littleton ii. 11. § 172. "The *villani* were the originals of our present *Copyholders*, and held their lands by doing the services of husbandry on the lord's demesne, which were, in after times, commuted for what is now called a *Quit rent*." Wyndham's 'Domesday,' Introd. p. 10.

<sup>3</sup> Coke upon Littleton, ii. 10. § 162.

*mesne* (i.e. middle or intermediate) lords. In course of time, nearly every one of the tythings into which Bradford was divided had its Lord of the Manor, each of whom held his court, at which the various tenants were required to do suit and service. We often meet in old deeds with references to "the court of Anthony Rogers, Esq., at Holte." In one of the documents found at the Hall, an account of which was given in [*the Wiltshire Magazine*] (vol. i. 290), of the date 1545, by which one 'Richard Drewis of Holte' has certain lands 'in the Parke, Lowsly and Holes in Holte, and also a tenement in Little Holte' granted to him by lease, it is expressly added,—“to sue (i.e. to *do suit*) at Rogers's Court at Holte.” To this day, moreover, there is a payment due annually from the proprietor of the Manor House at Winsley, with which is held the Lordship of that Tything, of *twenty-five shillings and eight-pence*, to the Lord of the Manor of Bradford, a traditional acknowledgement of 'the suit and service' owned by him, as well as by all *mesne* lords, to the chief lord.

But besides these *mesne* Lords of Manors in the Hundred of Bradford, there were others who, though not exercising any jurisdiction within the Hundred demanded fealty, and perhaps rather more substantial acknowledgements, from some of the tenants within the domain of our Abbess. The Manor of Cumberwell, for example, was held under the Barony of Castle Combe, and Humphrey de Lisle (*Hunfredus de Insula*) the Lord of that Manor claimed from the tenant at Cumberwell—(in early times one named *Pagen*)—suit and service for the same.† The Prior of Monkton Farleigh, moreover, who held the Lordship of that Manor, claimed payment for lands in this parish :<sup>1</sup>—there is in existence a deed (of the time of Edward I.) by which Walter Fayrechild of Wroxale grants to

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† [*The Cumberwell of Domesday, as has been already stated, was more probably Compton Cumberwell, near Calne. Brictric (Brictric Algarson ?) held Farleigh in the Conqueror's time, and the addition of Cumberwell to that manor probably took place at a later date.*]

<sup>1</sup> As early as 1397, we find Sir Thomas Hungerford giving to Monkton Farleigh Priory 'a house and two ploughlands at Bradeford.'

Alice la Loche, amongst other lands and tenements, some called "Clifcroft and Bradcroft, and a croft above Hanekeley paying 13d. per annum to the Lord Prior and Court of Farlege, viz., at Hokeday 12d. and at Michaelmas 1d."<sup>1</sup> To this day certain property in the town of Bradford is held under the Manor of Monkton Farleigh. A field called 'the Conigre,' (one of several pieces of ground bearing that name in the parish) just behind the house occupied by Mr. Adye, in Woolley street, and some houses in St. Margaret street, nearly opposite the present Railway Station, are still held under leases granted by the lessee of "the Manor of Monkton Farleigh and Cumberwell," as it is termed.

Since the date of the grant of the Manor and Hundred to the Abbess of Shaftesbury, certain changes have taken place. In a previous page we have explained at some length its original boundaries (pp. 18-22). Westwood, which at the first clearly formed part of it, has been removed; and the parishes of Broughton, Chalfield, and Monkton Farleigh have been added to it; for they do not seem to be included within the limits described in Ethelred's charter. The removal of Westwood, though so intermixed with the other lands, and not on the confines of the domain, into a distinct Hundred, that of Elstub and Everley, is not easily accounted for. In the time of Domesday, Westwood belonged to the Priory of St. Swithin, Winchester, to which it had been given by Emma, mother of Edward the Confessor, and its revenue was allotted for the sustenance of the monks of that society, (*pro victu monachorum*).<sup>2</sup> The Lordship of the Manor of Westwood now belongs to the Dean and Chapter of Winchester.

The Abbess of Shaftesbury held not only what is now called the *Lay* Manor of Bradford, but that also which is termed the *Prebendal* Manor. She held, in fact, the impropriate Rectory of Bradford. Amongst the valuations of the ecclesiastical revenue of Bradford (of which there are several) the portion of

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<sup>1</sup> Wilts Archæological Magazine, i. 281.

<sup>2</sup> Wyndham's 'Domesday,' p. 60.

the Abbess is always reckoned.<sup>1</sup> A certain quantity of glebe lands and income was allotted to the Vicar for the time being and to those who discharged the spiritual duties of the parish in the various chapels belonging to it, the remainder of the *tenth* of the produce belonged to the society of St. Edward at Shaftesbury. Their portion of the proceeds of the living was leased out from time to time to various persons, and the '*firmarius ecclesiæ*' as he was termed—(afterwards the *Lord Farmer*, now the *Lessee* of the Great Tithes)—exercised the right of presenting to the Vicarage. As early as 1312, we find one 'Gilbert de Middleton,' (the same, it is believed, who was Archdeacon of Northampton, and Prebendary Rector of Edington, Co. Wilts,) called "*firmarius ecclesiæ de Bradford*,"<sup>2</sup> and, as such, presenting to the living in that year.

[*Gilbert seems to have had his property confiscated for adhering to the Earl of Lancaster's party. But we find a John de Middleton, chaplain, at Bradford, later in the same century, acquiring an acre of land in the field at Bradford on condition of service to the lords. (The Hall Charters, No. 30).]*

But though the Abbess was to all intents and purposes in the place of the chief Lord of the Manor, she was, nevertheless, regarded as herself holding her possessions under the king as *Suzerain*. It was, indeed, the main principle of all feudal tenures that they were held primarily of the king, however many successive *mesne* lords there might be; in fact, all lands "were held mediately or immediately of the king."<sup>3</sup> Hence we find such entries as the following,—“Thomas of Atteworth holds in Atteworth the fourth part of a knight's fee of the abbess, and *she of the king*.”<sup>4</sup>—A special statute, called '*Quia*

<sup>1</sup> Thus in the '*Taxatio Ecclesiastica*' under Pope Nicholas (1287), we have the following entries,

Ecclesia de Bradforde cum capell.....	46	13	4
Vicar. in eadem .....	5	0	0
Porcio Abbisse de Sco Edwardo in eadem ....	6	13	4

<sup>2</sup> Wilts Institutions (1312). See also 'Madox Formular.' p. 396, (9 Edw. II.)

<sup>3</sup> Jacob's 'Law Dictionary,' under 'Tenures.'

<sup>4</sup> Testa de Nevill, p. 153.

*Emptores*' was passed in the time of Edward I., recognizing this principle, by which it was enacted (with a view of protecting the interests of chief lords, who, by the multiplied sub-infeudations were losing many of their privileges, such as escheats, fines on alienations, &c.)—that, with regard to all lands so granted out by feoffment, as it was termed, the feoffee should hold the same, not of the immediate feoffor, but of the next lord paramount, of whom such feoffee himself held, and by the same services.

Hence, when lands were held by high and honourable tenures, such as GRAND SERJEANTY,<sup>1</sup> which could be held only of the king, it was so expressed in the recording document, even though the lands were held *mediately* under the Abbess of Shaftesbury. The following examples will explain our meaning. They are taken from a survey of the Manor and Hundred of Bradford (1629-1631), long, of course, after she ceased to hold the Lordship:—they will, however, suffice for illustration.

“JOHN LONG,<sup>2</sup> Esqre., holdeth freely one half yardland in Wraxall as of the said Manour by *Serjeancye*, viz., to make out all somons in the Hundred and Court of the Manour of Bradford, which belong to the King as Lord of the Manour before the Kinges Maties Justices, and at the Countie, and to somon all the men of Wraxall to do the Lords workes, and to have his drinking when the Lords Steward shall keep the Hundred Courts and Courts of the Manour, and to do all executions which pertain to the said Hundred at his proper costs and charges besides his drinking.”

“DANIEL YERBURY holdeth freely one half yardland in Wraxall as of the foresaid Manour by *Serjeancye*, viz., to attend the Bayliff of the Hundred of Bradford, to take distresses throughout the Hundred, to make somons and to bear witness to the Bayliff.”

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<sup>1</sup> Grand Serjeanty. “Tenure by Grand Serjeantie” says Littleton, “is where a man holds his lands or tenements of our Sovereign lord the king, by such services as he ought to do in his own proper person to the king, as to carry the banner of the king, or his lance, or to lead his army, or to be his marshall . . . . or to be one of his chamberlaines of the receipt of his exchequer, or to do other like services.” Coke, in his commentary on this last clause, adds, “or, by any office concerning the administration of justice, quia justitiâ firmatur solium.” Coke upon Littleton, ii. 2 § 153.

<sup>2</sup> In another part of this MS. we have this entry:—“John Long, Esqre. is Bayliff of the Hundred by right and tenure of certain lands he holdeth in [MS. illegible] (Wraxhall?) as is before set forth.”

It would seem that there were occasions in which the Crown asserted its rights as Chief Lord. On the appointment for instance of a newly elected Abbess, the King not only gave his formal sanction to it, but directed the Sheriffs of the various counties, in which lands belonging to the Abbey were situate, to deliver seisin of the same to the Abbess so appointed. This was the case on the election of 'Amicia Russell' in the year 1225.<sup>1</sup>

We have already observed that great as were the privileges and exemptions of the Abbess she was bound nevertheless to assist in some public works, and more especially to provide a certain number of fighting men to attend the King, her chief Lord, in his wars undertaken for the protection of his dominions. Agnes de Ferrar who was Abbess from 1252 to 1267, and Juliana Bauceyn, her successor, were both called upon for such help by Edward I. in his expeditions against Llewellyn, King of Wales. To enable her to provide such help, the Abbess, like all other tenants in chief, exacted from those who held a certain amount of land within the Manor the same free service which the king exacted from her. The portions of land held under such conditions were called *Knights' Fees*. The annual value of a knights' fee in England was fixed at £20, and every estate supposed to be of this value, or assessed at that amount, was bound to contribute the service of a soldier, or to pay, in the stead of this, a proportionate amercement called *Escuage*. The length of service demanded, or the amount of payment required, diminished with the quantity of land. For *half* a knight's fee 20 days' service was due, for an *eighth* part but 5; and when this was commuted for the pecuniary assessment above alluded to, a similar proportion

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<sup>1</sup> The document is printed in Hardy's 'Calendar of Close Rolls,' i. 553. The following is a translation of it.—"The King to the Sheriff of Dorset; Health,—Know ye that we have given our royal consent and approval to the election of Amicia Russell, a nun of Shaftesbury, as Abbess of Shaftesbury. Wherefore we direct you without delay to deliver full seisin to her of all lands, rents, chattels, and other possessions belonging to the said Abbey. Witness, Henry, the King, at Evesham, July 3, 1223. The Bishop of Sarum is commanded to do his part in this matter;"—viz., of instituting the Abbess to the ecclesiastical rights pertaining to her office.



was observed. We have many instances of tenures by *Knight-Service* within the Manor of Bradford. In the record for 1629—John Hall, at Bradford,—John Blanchard, at Great Ashley,—Sir William Lisle, at Holte,—Daniel Yerbury, at Wraxall,—and others are said to have held lands by this tenure. [*Queen Elizabeth's grant of the manor to Walsingham was for £13 : 16 : 8½ and ¼ knight's fee.*]

Every tenant within the Manor by Knight-Service was bound to render *fealty*, if not *homage*, to the Abbess. From both these obligations, she, as the head of a religious house, was exempted, and as the latter could only be received by the Lord in person, and the affairs of the Abbess were managed through her *Steward* or *Seneschall*, (as he was termed), it is conceived that an oath of fealty was all that was demanded from the superior tenants within this Manor. What was implied in this service is best explained in the words of Littleton—"Fealty is the same that *fidelitas* is in Latin—And when a freeholder doth fealty to his Lord, he shall holde his right hand upon a booke, and shall say thus:—'Know ye this, my Lord, that I shall be faithfull and true unto you, and faith to you shall beare for the lands which I claime to hold of you, and that I shall lawfully doe to you the customes and service which I ought to doe, at the terms assigned, so help me God and his saints;' and he shall kisse the booke."<sup>1</sup>

But in addition to this obligation which was thus binding on the higher order of Tenants within the Manor, all the vassals, of whatever degree, were bound to attend the Lord's courts, and '*do suit and service*,' as it was termed. Of the courts themselves we shall speak presently: all that we will now say is that in course of years this practice fell into desuetude, and was commuted into a money payment instead of personal attendance. Here we find such entries as the following, shewing to what a late period these payments to the Lord of the Manor were continued. The extracts are of the date 1629-1631.

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<sup>1</sup> Coke upon 'Littleton,' ii. 2. § 91.

“Freeholders fines for Respite of Suite to the Courts.

Sir William Lisle payeth yearly for Suite fine .....	0	2	0
Sir William Eire payeth yearly for the like .....	0	1	0
John Hall, Esqre for the like .....	0	0	8
William Powlett, Esqre for the like .....	0	1	0
Thomas Westley, Gent <sup>n</sup> for the like .....	0	1	0
Thomas Barnfield, Gent <sup>n</sup> for the like .....	0	0	8
Samuel Yerbury .....	0	0	4
In toto.....	0	6	8”

In the following extract from the same record we have similar charges made on the several Tythings and Parishes within the Hundred. In the case of one Tything, Leigh and Woolley, it seems that through their ‘*Tythingman*’ they were wont, even as recently as two centuries ago, to render *personal* service and suit of Court.

“Yearly payments paid at the Law-days by the Tythingman.

“The Tything of Attford payeth by the Tything-man at the Lady-day Leet, in the name of Law-day silver, 2s. 6d., and at Michas Law-day 2s. 6d., and for respite of suite to the Three-Weeken Court yearly at Michas Law-day 12d. in toto per ann..	0	6	0
“The Tything of Holte payeth by the Tythingman the like sum, and in manner as before .....	0	6	0
“The Tything of Lige and Wooley yearly payeth by the Tythingman at Lady-day Leet, in the name of certain money as Law-day silver, 2s. 4d. and Michas Law-day, 2s. 4d., but <i>nothing for respite of suite to this Court, because he commonly appeareth in person</i> .....	0	4	8
“The Tything of Trowle by the Tythingman payeth yearly at either Law-day, 21d., and at Michas for suite of Court, 12d. in toto .....	0	4	6
“The Tything of Winnesley and Stoke by the Tythingman payeth yearly at either Law-day, 4s., and at Michas 2s. for suite fine, in toto .....	0	10	0
“More the said Tything payeth yearly at Michas a payment called <i>Vel-noble</i> * .....	0	6	8
“The Tything of Wraxall payeth yearly by the Tythingman at either Law-day, 2s. 4d., and at Michas for suite fine, 16d....	0	6	0
“The Tything of Winkfield and Rowleigh payeth no Law-day silver, but at Michas for suite fine, 12d. ....	0	1	0
“The Tything of Chalfield payeth nothing .....	0	0	0
“The Tything of Comerwell payeth no Law-day silver, but at Michas for suite fine .....	0	0	8

\* *Vel-noble*. Elsewhere this is called *Veal-Money*. Formerly the tenants of the Manor at Winsley had to pay this assessment in kind; afterwards it was commuted for 6s. 8d., the value of a ‘*noble*,’ hence the name *Vel-noble*. In the margin of the M.S. quoted above, we have the following entry, “The Homage of the copyholders gathereth within themselves yearly, to be paid at one payment, vis. viiid.”

"The Tything of Broughton also payeth at Michas only 16d.  
yearly, for [MS. illegible] (suite fines?) ..... 0 1 4  
Som paid, 4Gs. 10d."

The whole spirit of the Feudal Tenures was based on the subjection of the vassal to the Tenant *in capite*, and hence we commonly find inserted in old deeds some special service due to the chief lord of the fee. These services were often merely nominal; still they preserved the memorial of the relation in which the various under-tenants, however numerous, stood to the Lady of the Manor. A very frequent condition is the gift of "a rosette at the festival of the nativity of St. John Baptist;"—sometimes it is "one halfpenny paid at the same time, or at the festival of S. Michael" (*unum obolum domino capitali feodi*):—in other deeds we find mentioned, "two capons at Michaelmas,"—"a pair of gloves and one farthing,"—half a pound of *cummin*,—one pound of *pepper*,—one pound of *wax*. In other cases, moreover, it is some service in husbandry to be performed for the lord, the original condition of the *tenure of villenage* of which we have already spoken, the last, however, being ultimately commuted for a money payment. The following extracts from the record of 1629 will illustrate our remarks.

"WALTER GRAUNT holdeth by *fealty, suite of Court*, and 4s. 1d. rent, and 1 lb. of *wax*;—one burgage in *St. Olaves Street* pr rent 13d.,—one messuage with a Dovecote in the same street pr rent 12d.,—and one other house, sometimes a backhouse, pr rent 2s.; in all 4s. 1d."

"DANIEL YERBURY holdeth freely [certain lands therein described at Wraxall] by Knight-service, and 13s. rent, and one *mounctuary*\* viz., one horse with his harness, suite of Court to the Hundred and Court of the Manor, and 2s. yearly for certain works to be done yearly *in earing*† of two acres of the Lord's land at seed time, and carriage of three load of hay for the Lord from Michel Mead to Barton Farme, which work were time out of mind turned to [*deest*] rent pr ann. in lieu thereof."

"ELIZABETH BLANCHARD, SUSAN BLANCHARD, and JOANE BLANCHARD, sisters and coheirs of JOHN BLANCHARD . . . hold freely, one messuage

\* Mounctuary i.e. Mortuary. This was a payment made on the decease of a tenant. The difference between a *Mortuary* and a *Heriot*, was, that the latter was paid as a token of subjection to the feudal Lord, the former as a supposed compensation for tithes omitted to be paid to the Rector. As our Abbess occupied both of these positions in Bradford, she, of course, enjoyed both privileges. Hart's 'Ecclesiastical Records,' p. 305.

† *Earing* i.e. *ploughing*; as in Exod. xxxiv. 21, "In *earing* time and in harvest thou shalt rest." *Yrð-land* or *Earð-land* is an expression often used in Anglo-Saxon charters for ploughed land.

and four yardlands with their appurts called Great Ashley, by the service of a fourth part of a Knight's fee and 10s. rent, and 2s. for earinge four acres of the Lord's land yearly, and by suite of Court to the Court of the Hundred of Bradford from three weeks to three weeks, and yielding a mounctuary, viz., one horse with saddle and bridle after the death of the tenant: and also one other messuage and four yardlands with the appurts called Budbury, as of the foresaid manour by the like service of the fourth part of a Knight's fee and 20s. rent, and for Larder Money † 5s., and suite of Court and mounctuary as before."

One payment, to the Lord, for the time being, it is not easy to account for. Among the items of revenue we find entered 'Money called *Palmson* money, paid yearly at Easter.' This would appear to be 'Palm Sunday' money, a payment due on or about that day. It seems to have been levied on all the Tythings except the Borough and Trowle. Were it simply an ecclesiastical payment due to the Rector or Vicar, or Churchwardens, we could the more readily understand it. In Churchwardens' accounts in olden times we often find among the disbursements, the cost of fitting up the Church against *Palm Sunday*, and offerings were made by the people for the expenses of processions and other ceremonies on that day. A remnant of the observance is still kept up at St. Mary Redcliffe Bristol, where to this day the custom is retained of strewing the Church with rushes on Palm Sunday. But how this payment came to be regarded as a portion of the revenue of the Lord of the Manor it is difficult to say, though possibly from the Monastery of Shaftesbury having been so many years in possession of the Lordship, it may have had some ecclesiastical origin in the first instance. Brand (*Popular Antiquities*, i. 121) mentions an example from which we learn the high antiquity of offerings similar to the one in question. He says,—“In the Domesday survey, under Shropshire, i. 252, a tenant is stated to have rendered in payment a bundle of box twigs on Palm Sunday,—“*Terra dimid. car. unus reddit inde fascem buxi in die Palmarum.*”

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† Larder Money, (*lardarium*); this payment, which seems to have been peculiar to this Manor, is said to have been a final yearly rent paid by the tenants for liberty to feed their hogs with the mast of the Lord's woods, the fat of a hog being called *lard*. Or it may have been a commutation for some customary service of carrying meat to the Lord's *larder*, as this was called 'lardarium' in old charters. Jacob's 'Law Dictionary,' "Larding Money."

But our Abbess enjoyed from her Manor some *more substantial* advantages than any of these just described. From what have been called 'Feudal Incidents,' she, like other tenants *in capite* derived considerable emoluments. The principal sources from which such advantages were derived were the following:—

1. RELIEFS;—these were certain sums of money which a tenant, on his entrance on a fief by the death of his predecessor, and being of full age, paid to the Lady of the Manor. Before the conquest there were no reliefs, but *Heriots*, paid *in kind* to the Tenant *in capite*, such as horses, arms, &c., of which we have just given some examples.
2. FINES ON ALIENATION;—these were sums of money paid by every tenant to the Lady of the Manor whenever he had occasion to make over his land to another.
3. ESCHEATS and FORFEITURES;—these happened in cases in which either a tenant died without leaving behind him any heir who could, according to the terms of the original grant, enter upon the *feud*, or in which he committed some act in violation of his duty towards his Lord, such as rendered him unfit to be trusted as a vassal. In either case the gift, being determined, reverted to the giver.
4. WARDSHIPS;—the Abbess as Lady of the Manor had the wardship of the tenant during minority. By virtue of this right she had both the care of his person and received to her own use the property of the estate. This right was exercised in the case of some members of the Hall family in the time of Edward I., by the Abbess of Shaftesbury. (See above, p. 34, note.)
5. MARRIAGES;—another right given to the Lady of the Manor was that of tendering a husband to her female wards, while under age, whom they could not reject without forfeiting the value of the marriage; that is, as much as any one would give the guardians for such an alliance. This was extended afterwards to male wards, and became a lucrative privilege. In early deeds relating to the Hall

family we have instances of this privilege being claimed, or, (which is much the same thing,) of its being renounced in consideration of a certain amount paid to the Abbess.

Of course the Manor of Bradford had its peculiar *Customs*;—that is, certain observances concerning the tenure of land, &c., at first regulated, perhaps, by the will of the chief lord, but at last, by long usage, acquiring the force of law. The following account has been compiled from a careful collation of several copies kindly furnished from various sources to the writer of this paper. The exemplifications in each case are commonly given in contracted Latin, a specimen of which is seen in a foot-note on this page; these parts are translated and included within brackets.

THE CUSTOMES belonging to and concerning the landes that belong to the late Monastery of Shaftesburye, as appeareth in an antient Register thereof (whereof Bradford is parcell). Dated Monday next after the Feast of St. Hilary, in the xxv<sup>th</sup> year of King Edward the Third, (1343).

I. *Imprimis*.—If a man take a holde to himselfe and his Wyfe, as in this case;—[To this Court came John at Style and gave for a fine *four pounds* to the Lady of the Manor for an estate to be had in one messuage, and one yardland, with the appurtenances, to hold to himself and Alice his wife for the term of their lives]”<sup>1</sup>—and the said Alice happen to survive her husband, yet shall she have no better estate than widowhood, *videlicet* while she lives sole and chaste:—and if her husband survive her, and marrye again, none of his wyves shall have widowes estate for that his first wyfe was named in the cople.

II. Item.—If a man take a bargaine to himselfe and Alice his wyfe jointly as thus;—[To this Court came John at

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<sup>1</sup> In the original document it is,—“Ad ist. cur. venit. Joan. at Style et dat Dne de fine iiiijl p. ingress. et stat. habend. in un. messuag. et un. virg. ter. ac pertin. Tenend. sibi et Alic. uxi ad term. eor. vit.”

Style and Alice his wyfe, and gave for a fine *ten pounds* for their estate and entrance into five messuages, and five yardlands, with their appurtenances, to be had to them for the term of their lives]—if this Alice do survive her husband and do fortune to marrye again, yet she shall have this bargaine during her lyfe for that she was purchaser.

III. Item.—If two persons take a bargaine jointly together, as thus ;—[To this Court came John at Style, and John at Oake, and gave for a fine *four pounds* for estate and entrance to be had of and in five messuages, and five yardlands, with their appurtenances, to be had to them for the term of their lives]—the first purchasers wife shall have no widowes estate, except he do survive the purchaser joined with him ; whosoever doth survive the other of the two joint-purchasers his wyfe shall have the widowes estate.

IV. Item.—If a man take a bargaine in possession (*in esse*) as thus ;—[To this Court came John at Style and gave for a fine *four pounds* for entrance and estate to be had in five messuages and five yardlands, to hold to himself and Thomas his son for the term of their lives]—then the said Thomas the sonne must needs have it if he do survive his father, because his father John at Style, died seised of the bargaine.

V. Item.—If a man buy the revercon of a bargaine, as thus ; —[To this Court came John at Style, and gave for a fine *five pounds* for the revercon to five messuages, and five yardlands, with the appurtenances now in the tenure of John Dale, to hold to him and his brother for the term of their lives]—and if it fortune that this John at Style do dye before this revercon do fall unto him (so that he dye not seised thereof) then the grant made to the said Thomas being in the *Habendum* or sequill of the coppye is clearly void and frustrate, for that the purchaser died not seised of the bargaine.

VI. Item.—Any man that is named in the *Habendum* or sequill of any coppye, altho' he be Tennte and dye seised of

the bargaine having a wyfe, yet this wyfe shall have no widowes estate, because he is no purchaser.

VII. Item.—If any man buy a bargaine as thus ;—[To this Court came John at Style and gave for a fine *four pounds* for entrance and estate in one messuage and one yardland with the appurtenances, to hold to himself and John his son for the term of their lives, and either of them longest living successively] <sup>1</sup>—the same John at Style may sell and alienate his bargaine when he lyst, with the consent of the Ladye, and come to the Ladyes Court and surrender up his estate, and by that surrender he maketh the estate of his son John to be clearly voyd and of none effect.

VIII. Item.—If two buy a bargaine jointly either in revercon or possession as thus ;—[To this Court came John at Style, and John at Oake, and gave a fine of *six pounds* for the reversion of one messuage, and one yardland, with the appurtenances, to have the same for their lives and either of them longest living successively]—if the same John at Style do sell his estate to any other person, and make surrender thereof, yet he may not make the estate of John at Oake voyd or frustrate, for it shall stand in force straightway upon the surrender for that he is joint-purchaser with him.

IX. Item.—If two persons take a bargain jointly in revercon as thus ;—[To this Court came John at Style, and Robert his son, and gave a fine of *ten pounds* for the revercon of one messuage, and one yardland, with the appurtenances, now in the tenure of John Dale, to hold to the said John at Style and Robert his son, and Thomas another son for the term of their lives, and the longest liver of them successively]—if the first purchaser dye before he be in possession of the said bargaine yet shall the second purchaser enjoy it when it doth fall: but if the said purchasers dye before either of them be in possession, then shall Thomas that cometh in the *Habendum* or sequill of the coppie lose his title thereof.

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<sup>1</sup> In the original it is, "Et eorum alterius diutius viventis successive."



- X. Item.—If any customary tenant lett forth any parcel of the ground of his Cobbyhold, then the tenant which is in revercon of the same tenement by Custom shall have the same paying reasonably for it, because he, being in possibilitye of the holde, will use it better than a straunger.
- XI. Item.—If a man take a bargaine to himself and to his son, not naming his wife, as thus;—[To this Court came John at Style and gave a fine of *ten pounds* for entrance and estate in one messuage, and one yardland, with the appurtenances, to hold to himself, and Thomas his son, for the term of their lives, and either of them longest living successively]—if the said John at Style marry two wyves, yet the last-named shall have widowes estate for that he named no wyfe.
- XII. Item.—Any Tenant that dyeth siesed of any yardland, half yardland, or ffarthinge land, shall after his decease pay for a *Heriot*,<sup>1</sup> his best quick Cattle: also, every Widowe shall pay after her death the like *Heriot*.
- XIII. Item.—If any Widowe clayminge widowes estate do marry without the Ladyes license, or live incontinent or unchaste, and be so found by the Homagers, she doth upon that fact forfeite her estate, and shall after such forfeiture pay a *Heriot* in form above said.
- XIV. Item.—If any Tenant let fall his house, or suffer his house to be in great decay upon commandment or payne sett by the Steward and Homage and will not mend it, then the said Tenant shall forfeite his estate of such tenement as he shall holde of the Ladye, and shall pay a *Heriot* in form above said.

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<sup>1</sup> *Heriot*;—This was a customary tribute of goods and chattels payable to the Lord of the fee on the decease of the owner of the land. Thorpe in his Glossary to the ‘Ancient Laws and Institutes,’ derives the word from *Here-geatu*, which means literally *army equipments*, and denoted those military habiliments which, after the death of the vassal, escheated to the Lord, to whom they were delivered by the heir. By degrees others besides this class of tenants were required to pay this charge, which commonly consisted of the best quick (i.e. *live*) beast that the tenant died possessed of. This, like all other customary dues, was ultimately commuted for a money payment.

- XV. Item.—If any Tenant dye between Michaelmas and Ladye-Daye then his Exors shall occupy the tenement until Ladye-Day paying all rents and duties and also shall enjoy such wheat as is sown upon the same, and if he dye after Ladye-Day then to occupie the tenement until Michaelmas, paying and doing as aforesaid; neverthelesse the next claymer shall have at Midsomr. the Hay, the Fallow, and the Sheepe-Leases.
- XVI. Item.—Every Tenant of custom shall at his first entry receive a corporal oath to be a true tenant and beare true faith to his Ladye, to pay and do all rents, fines, and customs belonging to his tenure, and to yield with the Homage and be justified by the Ladyes Court.
- XVII. Item.—If any Tenant do dwell from his Coppingholde so there be a dwelling house upon it without a license expressed in his graunt, then he be put in payne xx shillings, x pounds, or more, and if upon these paynes he will not be resiant, then he to have a payne of forfeiture by judgment of the Homage and Steward.
- XVIII. Item.—No customary Tenant shall retayne or fine any other than the Ladye, unless he have a copy of lycense; then having a lycense his undertenant must in all things supply his place.
- XIX. Item.—If any Tenant by verdict of the Homage be found that he hath not sufficient goods and chattels to answer the Ladyes rent and reparacons, then the said Ladye may require pledges of the same Homage; and if the tenant cannot find them pledges, then it shall be lawful for the Ladye to take the same tenement into her own hands.
- XX. Item.—Any customary Tenant may take House-bote,<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *House-bote*, &c.; the Anglo-Saxon word 'bot' signifies 'recompence' or 'compensation' and is synonymous with the word 'estovers' (from 'estoffer' to furnish) which is of more frequent occurrence in legal documents. *House-bote* and *Fire-bote* were, respectively, a sufficient allowance of wood to *repair* or *burn* in the house;—*Plough-bote* was an allowance of wood to be employed in repairing instruments of husbandry. We meet also with *Hay-bote*, an allowance of the same kind for the repairing of *hays*, i.e. hedges, or fences.

Fire-bote, Plough-bote, according to the custome belonging to his Cobbyholde; also any offence or trespass done amongst the tenants ought to be tried in the Ladyes Court.

XXI. Item.—If any Tenant make spoil or waste, or cut down any timber tree without license of the Ladyes officers, then he shall forfeit his estate if the Homage find it, and if the Homage do not present it when it is made to appear to them, then if two or three witnesses do come into court and testifye upon their oaths, it is sufficient.

XXII. Item.—It hath been used and accustomed that the Ladye or her officers shall make grants of any cobbyholde or customary tenement out of Court, either at Shaftesbury or elsewhere, at their pleasure, and also may take surrenders out of the Court at any place, if there be *three* or *four* of the Ladyes tenants present to witness.

XXIII. Item.—If any two persons holding or clayming any cobbyholde by virtue of one graunt or cobbye, the one being admitted and in possession according to the custome, and the other in the sequil of the cobbye or joined in takinge, yet the Ladye or her officer may graunt the revercon of them both to any other person or persons as they will.

XXIV. Item.—The custome is, that any woman may take the revercon of her husband or of any other person, and also take any hold in possession.

XXV. Item.—The custome is, that the Ladyes officers may graunt any cobbyholde for the term of one lyfe, two lyves, three lyves, or fower lyves, either in possession or revercon.

XXVI. Item.—Every Tenant must, upon a reasonable warnenge, serve to the Courts twice by the year, or oftener if the cause so require, and also must do all their custom workes, unless they be dispensed withall, and pay their rents at fower times in the year, if they be demanded.

Other customes there be used, which continuance of time doth stablish, and which be not here written.

We have spoken in a previous page (p. 71) of the value of the Abbess' possessions and emoluments in Bradford at the

time of Domesday Book. Five hundred years after that date, just before the dissolution of Monasteries, a valuation was again made of her property here as well as elsewhere. The record is preserved, and the following is abstracted from the original Roll in the Augmentation Office.

COMPUT. MINISTROBUM DOMINI REGIS TEMP. HEN. VIII. (1539-40.)		
Bradford. Redd. lib. ten. (Rents of free-tenants) . . . . .	6	8 6
Atworth . . . . .	0	16 3
Troll . . . . .	9	10 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Stoke . . . . .	2	6 0
Leigh . . . . .	2	5 0
Wroxall . . . . .	3	10 0
Wynsleigh . . . . .	2	3 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bradford. Redd. cust. ten. (Rents of customary tenants i.e. copyholders) . . . . .	7	15 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Stoke . . . . .	12	9 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Atworth . . . . .	6	13 10
Leigh . . . . .	7	4 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Wroxall . . . . .	6	7 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Holte . . . . .	11	6 10 $\frac{1}{4}$
Wynsleigh . . . . .	19	7 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bradford. Firm. Maner (Farm of the Manor) . . . . .	26	16 8
Perquis. Curie (Profits of the Court) . . . . .	4	14 4
Bradford Hundred. Perquis. Curie . . . . .	4	9 4
Bradford Rector. Firm. Decim. Garb. &c. (Farm of Rectorial Tithes, &c.) . . . . .	57	6 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
		£191 10 8 $\frac{3}{4}$

This sum, brought to its relative value in the present day, would represent, at least, £2300. This is, in actual amount, much below the previous estimate. It must, however, be borne in mind, that there is no account here of the value of 'Alveston,' in which, at the former valuation, the Abbess held *four* hides (about one fourth of the land so held by her) in *demesne*, and the language of Domesday Book plainly implies that this was added to the general estimate. Moreover, it is well known that the valuation of lands belonging to the various dissolved Monasteries was made, by the 'King's Ministers,' at as low a rate as possible. Making allowance for these deductions, there need be no very great discrepancy between the estimate of 1086 and that of 1540.

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<sup>1</sup> Printed in the New 'Monasticon,' under the head of 'Shaftesbury Abbey.'

There are no documents known to be in existence of sufficiently early a date, from which exact information can be obtained respecting the Courts held within the Manor during the days of the Abbess of Shaftesbury. We have, however, authentic records of the proceedings of such Courts within thirty years of the dissolution of Monasteries, and no doubt they were formed on the same model, and carried out with similar formalities, as those which existed previously to that period.

It is implied in the document that we have cited in the previous page, that there were held under the authority of the Abbess, either directly or indirectly, at least two distinct Courts, one for the *Manor* and another for the *Hundred*, as the profits derivable from each of these are reckoned in the estimate given of her revenue. There appears to have been a separate Court for the *Borough*, held most probably at the same time and under the same presidency as the Court for the Hundred. The first-named Court was the COURT BARON, the other two came under the denomination of COURTS LEET. In the former was transacted business more especially of a *civil* character, and hence the Court was held solely in the name and under the authority of the Lord for the time being;—in the latter, matters of a *criminal* nature were allowed to be considered, and the Court was accordingly held under the authority of the King. Hence the Homagers, or Free-holders, or others, as the case might be, were summoned by the Steward to attend the “Court Leet and View of Frankpledge of our Lord the King, and Court Baron of ———— Lord of the said Manor, Hundred, and Borough of Bradford.”

#### I. THE COURT BARON.

This was the court at which all business relating to the Manor was transacted. The customary tenants or copyholders attended, and through their Homage, a selected body of themselves chosen at the meeting of the court, surrendered or were admitted to their holdings, paid their quit rents, and managed all business matters relating to their several tenures.

The Homage presented all cases in which the Lord's interests had suffered damage, such as by trespass on his soil or waters;—the instances in which copyholders, contrary to the customs of the Manor, had suffered their tenements to fall into decay,—the heriots and other charges due to the Lord,—the repairs necessary to be done to hedges or fences,—in fact all matters relating generally to their own estates, and that of the Lord. They had power to levy fines, with the assent of the Lord given through his Steward, on those copyholders who were found neglectful of the duties incumbent upon them. Two of their number were appointed as *Affeerers*,<sup>1</sup> and these had to settle, or moderate, the ameracements to be levied on such transgressors.

But under the head of COURT BARON must be included another court which, though held under the authority of the Lord, is in a measure distinct from that which we have been describing. This in old documents is called the THREE WEEKEN Court. This was a court of common law, and held before the freeholders who owed suit and service to the Manor, the steward being rather the registrar than the judge. It was, in fact, the free-holder's court, and was composed of the Lord's tenants, who were bound by their feudal tenure to assist the Lord in the dispensation of domestic justice. It was formerly held *every three weeks*, and hence its name. Its most important business was to determine, by writ of right, all controversies relating to the right of lands within the Manor. It might also hold plea of any personal actions, of debt, trespass on the case, or the like, when the debt or damages did not amount to *Forty shillings*. The following extract from the survey of the Manor in 1629-31 is interesting, as explaining in few words the nature of the Court;—of the officers mentioned therein we shall speak presently.

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<sup>1</sup>“*Affeerers*—(from the Fr. *affier*, to affirm, or *affeurer*, to set the price or assize)—are those who in Courts Leet, upon oath, settle and moderate the fines and ameracements; and they are also appointed for moderating ameracements in Courts-Baron.”—Jacob's 'Law Dictionary.' In Bradford there were also appointed two 'Affeerers' for the Borough, and the like number for the Hundred, with duties similar to those above described.

“Two *Three-Weeken* Courts are held in Bradford, the one for the Hundred and the other for the Borough, for pleas between partie and partie under 40 shillings. At which Courts some of the Tythingmen do and ought to appear at the Hundred *Three-Weeken* Courts to present all Wayfes, Estrayes, and Trespasses committed within the Hundred, and do other services of the Court. And at the *Three-Weeken* Court for the Borough the *Portreeve*, and with him the *Burgesses* of the Town, ought to appear to witness with him his presentment. The other Tythingmen with their *Reevemen*, which dwell more remote from the place where the Hundred *Three-Weeken* Court is kept, do pay yearly, at Michas Law-day, fines for respite of their suite to the said Courts by custom.”

## II. THE COURT LEET, AND VIEW OF FRANKPLEDGE.

The Courts which we have hitherto been describing took cognizance of matters more or less connected with the Lord's interest. The Courts Leet, however, had to deal with matters involving the interests of the entire community. They are said to have derived their distinctive appellation from the Anglo-Saxon word '*leód*,' which signifies 'people,' as though the '*populi Curiaë*,'—the '*Folkmote*'—in contradistinction to the '*Hall-mote*' (or Court Baron), so designated because the free-tenants, being generally few in number, often held their meeting in the Lord's hall. '*View of Frankpledge*'<sup>1</sup> meant originally the examination, or *view*, of the '*fridborh*' i.e. the '*peace-pledges*,' or guarantees for his good and peaceable behaviour, of which every man, not especially privileged, was obliged anciently to have nine, who were bound that he should always be forthcoming to answer any complaint. "In all Vills throughout the kingdom, all men are bound to be in

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<sup>1</sup> "The corruption of the word *Frid-borh*, that is, '*pacis plegium*' or *peacepledge*, into *Freo-borh* which was soon translated '*liberum plegium*,' that is, free pledge or *frank-pledge*, explains how the present form of the word has been adopted. To understand the institution, it is necessary to bear in mind the distinction between these words."—Kemble's '*Saxons in England*' i. 249.

guarantee by tens, so that if one of the ten men offend, the other nine may hold him to right ;”—such, in a few words, in the language of the laws attributed to Edward the Confessor, is a description of this system of ‘mutual guarantee’ for the peace and good ordering of those who lived within the Hundred. “Its object was,” as Kemble well expresses it, “that each man should be in pledge or surety (*borh*) as well to his fellow man, as to the state, for the maintenance of the public peace ; that he should enjoy protection for life, honour and property himself, and be compelled to respect the life, honour and property of others ; that he should have a fixed and settled dwelling where he could be found when required, where the public dues could be levied, and the public services demanded of him ; and that, if guilty of actions that compromised the public weal or trespassed upon the rights and well-being of others, there might be persons appointed to bring him to justice, and if injured by others, supporters to pursue his claim and exact compensation for this wrong.” In later years, of course, all that was implied in the ‘View of Frankpledge’ was an enquiry by the Steward into the general good and peaceable conduct of those living within the jurisdiction of the Court, and receiving presentments concerning any matters of which the Court was empowered to take cognizance.

As in the case of the ‘Three Weeken Court,’ so here there seems to have been one Court Leet for the Borough, and another for the Hundred, which, though held at the same time and place, were, nevertheless, distinct from each other. At the former, the Jury were chosen from the householders of the Borough, at the latter, from the inhabitants of the Tithings. From those not ‘warned’ specially to attend the Courts, the ‘Essoign’<sup>1</sup> money was collected, as it is, indeed, to this day, at the rate of ‘one penny’ for each householder. As late as 1629, as appears from the Manuscript from which we have

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<sup>1</sup> ‘*Essoign*’ money (from the Fr. *Essoine*, an excuse,) was the sum paid by those who did not attend the Lord’s Court, and, in consideration of this payment, were excused. The old people in Bradford have abbreviated the term, and pronounce it as though it were written, ‘*sign-money*,’ or, as they more commonly say, ‘*sign-pence*.’



made several extracts, the 'Leets' or 'Law-days' were held twice in the year,—at Easter and at Michaelmas. For a long time, however, there has been but one Court-Leet, held at Easter in each year.

The jurisdiction of this Court was extensive. Even petty treasons and felonies were presentable, though not punishable in it, the course pursued being to certify the presentment in some superior court, where the offender might be prosecuted and punished. On all such matters as the following the Jury had to enquire;—how far the constables had done their duty;—whether the stocks, 'the tythingman's prison,' were in repair;—whether any one had wilfully assaulted and maliciously drawn blood from the person of another;—what persons kept places for carding, dicing, skittle-playing, and the like unlawful games within their tythings;—who were scolds, brawlers, raisers of quarrels, eaves-droppers, and news-monsters;—whether any persons had used false weights or measures;—whether any have been forestallers, ingrossers, or regrators;<sup>1</sup>—whether any cottages had been erected contrary to law;—whether the highways were out of repair;—whether any public nuisances had been committed to the injury of the community. On all these and kindred subjects the Jury had to entertain presentments, and the Court Leet had power to punish transgressors, not only by fine, but in some cases by imprisonment.

In Courts Leet the Steward always presided as Judge. Here also, as in the previous case alluded to,<sup>2</sup> two persons were chosen—(usually two of the 'most substantial and knowing' tenants of the Manor)—as *Affeerers*, to whom the

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<sup>1</sup> *Forestallers* are they who buy, or cause to be bought, any corn or other victuals whatsoever, that is carrying to the fair or market to be sold, before it be brought into the fair or market. *Ingrossers* are they who buy corn growing upon the ground (otherwise than by demise or grant) or any butter or cheese, or other victuals, with intent to sell the same for unreasonable profit. *Regrators* are they that in open fair or market buy and get into their own hands, corn or other dead victuals, and sell the same again in some other fair or market within four miles of the same place. Jacob's 'Court Keeper,' p. 34.

<sup>2</sup> See above p. 90.

following oath was administered :—“ You shall well and truly affeer the several amerçiements and fines here made, and now to you remembered. You shall spare no one out of love, fear, or affection, nor raise or enhance any one out of malice or hatred, but impartially shall do your duties herein.”

One very important duty that devolved on these Courts was, the appointment of the various officers of the Manor, the Hundred, or the Borough of Bradford. Three distinct Juries were appointed, the first consisting of copyholders under the Manor, (which was called the Homage Jury,) the other two of residents within the Hundred or Borough respectively, and on these was imposed the task of nominating persons qualified to serve in the several offices within the jurisdiction which they represented. From lists so furnished, the Steward of the Lord of the Manor selected those, who, for the year then next ensuing, should hold these offices.

The following list of officers has been compiled from an examination of documents relating to the Manor, bearing date at different periods during the last 240 years. The various records do not exhibit strict uniformity in their lists of officers: in later times some, which were originally distinct, have been merged into others, whilst some have been rendered unnecessary by the legislature having provided other means for the performance of the duties that once appertained to them. Since the year 1774, when, as we have already stated (p. 47), the demesne lands of the Manor were sold, by the Lord for the time being, to various persons, there appears to have been no formal summoning of the Homage Jury at the usual time of holding the Courts of the Manor. At present there are hardly more than a sufficient number of Tenants (which must be two at the least) holding under the Manor, to preserve the Lord's rights and privileges in the same.

I. OFFICERS OF THE MANOR :—1. Bailiff,—2. Hayward.

II. OFFICERS OF THE HUNDRED :—1. Bailiff,—2. Two Constables,—3. Haywards, (one for the Hundred generally, and one for each of the Tythings,)—4. Tythingmen, (one for each Tything).

III. OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH :—1. Portreeve,—2. Two Constables,— 3. Hayward,— 4. Two Sealers and Searchers of Leather,—5. Two Coroners of the Market,—6. Cryer.

The office of 'BAILIFF,' especially that of the Hundred, which seems in Bradford at one period to have been annexed to the tenure of certain lands, (see p. 75 note,) was formerly of much importance. Latterly the duties of this officer consisted chiefly in giving "summons and warning to all Freeholders, Customary and other Tenants, Resiants and Inhabitants who owed suit and service to the Lord of the Manor" to attend his Courts, and further, in carrying out the decisions of the Courts by exacting the fines or ameracements, and, where necessary, serving writs and levying executions.

The duty of the 'CONSTABLES' consisting generally in preserving the peace of the neighbourhood, by 'arresting felons, pursuing hues and cries according to law, and apprehending rogues, vagrants and sturdy beggars.'

The 'TYTHINGMEN' were a kind of petty constables, appointed for the several Tythings, to assist those just alluded to in the execution of their office. They had also to make presentments at the Law-days of offences cognizable at Court Leet, to give the names of 'foreigners' living within their portion of the Manor, and to collect the Lord's accustomed dues within their several Tythings. It was their duty also to hand in lists of 'Resiants,' that is, of inhabitants, qualified to serve in like office with themselves, and from these were appointed their successors in the manner we have just described.

We have already alluded to the general duties of the 'HAYWARD' (see p. 17). He had, in the discharge of them, to see that the cattle neither broke nor cropped the hedges and inclosed grounds, and to keep the grass from hurt or destruction. He had to look to the fields and impound all 'estrays,' (that is, cattle that trespassed,) to inspect that no pound breaches be made, and if any, to present them at the Leet. When there was a large unenclosed portion of common land in the parish, the duties of the Hayward were neither few,

nor unimportant. The Haywards of the several Tythings had first of all to put stray cattle into the pound belonging to their own Tything, and then, if not claimed by the owner within three days, to bring them to the Hayward of the Hundred, to be placed by him in the Hundred Pound. After a certain time, if still unclaimed, they were sold to pay expenses that had been incurred, and the surplus, if any, belonged to the Lord of the Manor.

The name 'PORTREEVE' given to the principle officer of the Borough, especially when coupled (as in the extract given in p. 91) with 'Burgesses,' would seem almost to imply the existence of a charter of incorporation for our town. There is a tradition which has often been repeated to me by old people, that Bradford was formerly a chartered town with all the usual privileges, and amongst others, with a 'Portreeve' as the chief municipal officer, but that, the inhabitants having been almost swept away by a desolating pestilence, the exercise of their rights fell into abeyance, and was never afterwards resumed. Other particulars are related, but they are evidently so distorted a form of the real facts of the case, whatever they were, that it is not worth while to repeat them. Possibly there may be a glimmering of truth in these local traditions, which future research may enable us to interpret more accurately. In our 'Portreeve' we may preserve the name of an officer of some importance formerly, though many of the duties once performed by him have long fallen into desuetude. At present, and for many years past, his duties have been very analogous to those of the Bailiff, already described, inasmuch as to him was addressed the precept from the Steward of the Lord of the Manor, directing him to summon and warn those inhabitants who were appointed to serve on the Borough Jury in Court Leet. He had also,—(and in this, the duties performed in other cases by the Tythingmen devolved on him)—to "deliver into Court a list fairly written out of the Freeholders, Free Suitors, Tenants and Resiants within the Borough, who owed suit and service to, and at, the Court." No doubt in ancient times, like the

Anglo-Saxon '*Portgeréfa*,' from whom the name is derived, this officer had in Bradford, as in other small towns, to witness all transactions by bargain and sale, and probably derived some emolument from the proceeds of tolls and fines levied within his district.<sup>1</sup>

For many years one person has been appointed 'Portreeve and Hayward,' as to one united office. No doubt as buildings increased in Bradford, the duties of the last named officer gradually became nominal. In the record of Court Leet for 1747, however, the offices are distinct, two different persons having been appointed, one as the 'Portreeve' and the other as the 'Hayward' for the Borough.

The 'LEATHER SEALERS and SEARCHERS' had to look after the Tanners and Curriers, to see that they exposed no leather for sale that had not been properly tanned and dried. All such goods approved by the officers were *sealed* with a stamp, the impression of which was very much like that which shoemakers now put on the soles of shoes, consisting of three or four small concentric circles. From the following extract, it appears that the tanners were kept in tolerably strict order — "If a tanner put to sale leather before it is searched and sealed according to the statute, he forfeits 6s. 8d. a hide, and for a dozen of sheep-skins 3s. 4d. besides the hides and skins, or value thereof, and if not sufficiently tanned and dried, he forfeits the whole."

The 'CORONERS OF THE MARKET' had to see generally, that provisions exposed for sale were good in quality and sufficient in quantity; that the weights and measures were up to the standard; and, in case of the bread or meat being unfit for food, they had power to order it to be thrown away, and to inflict a fine on the offending bakers or butchers. The using false weights or measures incurred a forfeiture of double the quantity of grain or thing sold, and in some instances led to imprisonment.

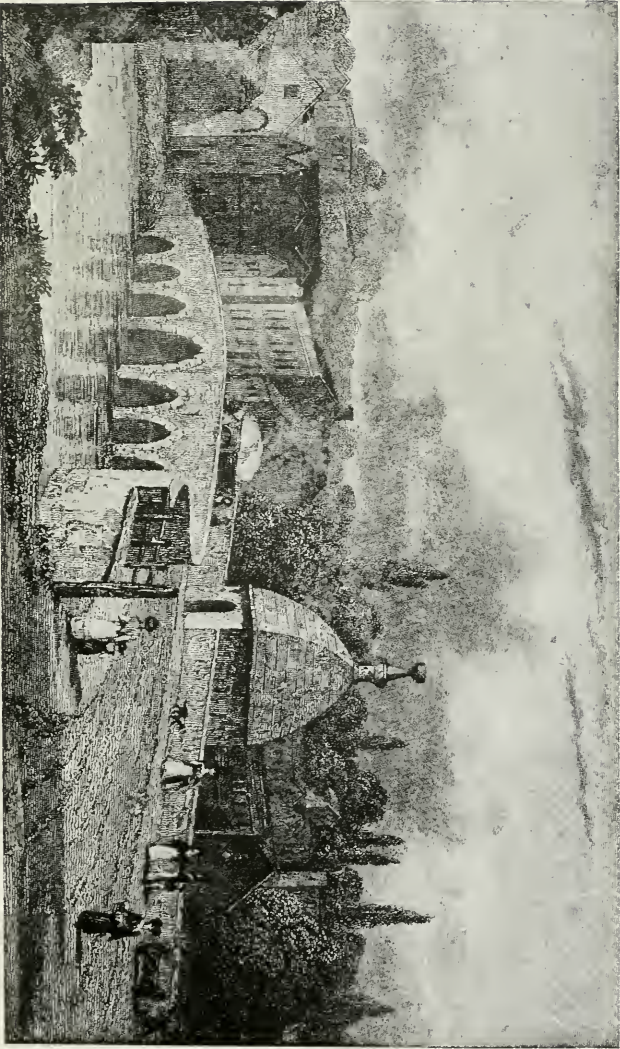
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<sup>1</sup> On the '*Portgeréfa*' or '*Portreeve*' who seems originally to have been the chief officer of the smaller, and commercial, towns, see Kemble's '*Saxons in England*,' ii. 173.

Formerly, there was a separate officer called the 'ALE-CONNER' who had to look to the goodness and assize of ale and beer. For very many years no such special officer has been appointed, those just described exercising the general supervision of all things vendible by weight or measure.

So well known are the duties of the 'CRYER' that we need not attempt to describe them. In Bradford there was one task that he was sometimes called upon to perform, that seemed hardly to belong to him; but as *Five Shillings* were allowed for his services, he did not stand upon ceremony. He had to officiate, when some young offender was ordered, for petty pilfering or other like transgressions, to receive a public *whipping!*

The meetings of Court Leet were ordinarily held in olden times in the Town Hall, or Market House. As early as 1715 however we find a Court held at 'the sign of the Swan' (*apud signum Cygni*). The old Town-Hall was a plain and unpretending building that stood in the centre of the Town,—(the surrounding site is still called the 'Old Market Place')—and joined the block of houses which constitute the 'Shambles.' The mark of the gable-line is still perceptible on the blank wall against which it formerly stood. It was oblong in shape, about 25 feet long and 15 feet broad, and was supported on two sides by a row of stone pillars, all the space below being open, and appropriated principally to butchers' stalls. Between pillar and pillar was inserted some wooden palisading. Above, on the first floor, there was a room in which the Courts were held and the business of the Manor transacted. Hard by, were the pillory and the stocks, the upright post of the former probably serving as a whipping pillar to which young culprits were bound. The stocks were afterwards removed to the foot of the Bridge, on the south side, whence they have now disappeared altogether. Not a few are there among our ancients who regret that the days are passed, in which a little summary punishment checked the onward progress of crime, without the necessity of consigning the young offender to a



*From old Engraving.*

**Down Bridge, Bradford-on-Avon.**





gaol, and thus branding him with a mark of disgrace that no length of time can obliterate. [*These offices and practices all passed away at or before the entrustment of the local government to a body of Town Commissioners, who subsequently developed into an Urban Council.*]

With all these relics of bygone days, the old Town Hall, as we have just intimated, has itself passed away. It had long been in a decaying state for want of repairs. Again and again had presentments been made concerning it, as a place not only 'unfit but unsafe to transact the Lord's business in.' Once at least the Borough Jury were bold enough to present the Steward, for not attending to their presentments in this particular. No attempt however was made to sustain the tottering fabric, and one night the building fell. Whether its fall was caused by accident or design,—rumour strongly asserts the latter,—men cared not to enquire. The person is now living who carted away the materials of the 'Old Town Hall' of Bradford, which he previously purchased for the sum of *Twenty Shillings!*

A few words may be added on the PREBENDAL MANOR which for the last three hundred years has been held separately from the LAY MANOR, to which more especially the remarks in the previous pages have had reference.

The 'Prebendal Manor' was, at the Dissolution, bestowed, as we have already stated, (p. 41.) on the Dean and Chapter of Bristol by Henry VIII. In this gift was included all that hitherto had appertained to the Abbess as 'Rector' of Bradford. They hold the glebe farms and lands, (the latter lying dispersedly in small portions throughout the whole parish),—the houses built on them in the town itself,—perhaps the site of the old Hospital of St. Margaret,—the great Tithes,—the advowson of the living. The land possessed by them amounts to some 530 acres, more than half of which is in the Tithing of Winsley. On the impropriate Rectory there are the following charges,—“Payment (it is called *Pensio*) to the Bishop of Sarum, £2.”; and “Pension to the Dean and Chapter of Sarum 13s. 4d.”

From a Parliamentary survey made in 1649, the original manuscript of which is still preserved among the archives of the Dean and Chapter of Bristol, we extract the following information, and with this we will conclude our remarks on the 'Manor of Bradford.'

"*Memorandums.* There is a Court Baron belonging to the Mannor of the Rectorie of Bradford to be kept at the will of the Lord within the said Mannor.

"The Tenants of the said Mannor are to performe their suit and service at the Court aforesaid.

"*Customes.* The Lord by the Custome of the Mannor may graunt estates for three lives by cobby of Court Roll.

"The Widdow of the purchaser only to enjoy the lands that her husband shall happen to dye siezed of and not otherwise.

"The Lord of the Mannor aforesaid can have no Herriott by the custome of the said Mannor but such as shall be expressed in the Tenants cobbpye by agreement between Lord and Tenant."

#### THE PARISH CHURCH.

The Parish Church of Bradford-on-Avon is dedicated to the 'Holy Trinity.' The memorial of the holiday originally kept in observance of the dedication of the Church is still preserved in an annual fair "holden in the Borough on the morrow after Trinitie Sunday." [*This Fair is now obsolete.*]

Although the building, taken as a whole, has no great pretensions to architectural excellence, being a strange, and, to many eyes, discordant mixture of every variety of style, yet its very antiquity makes it interesting. Nearly eight hundred years have perhaps passed by since the original structure, much of which still remains, was erected. The additions that from time to time have been made to it seem to be a connecting link between the present and the past, and to tell silently, yet not unimpressively, the tale of bygone generations, who slumber now within its walls or beneath its shade, each



**Parish Church, Stratford-on-Avon.**  
*From old Engraving published by J. Kauling.*



of whom has left a memorial behind them. Its very irregularities, whilst they preserve the vestiges of the growth and tell the history of the building, mark also the successive changes in the parish itself, from times when wealth and devotion went hand in hand, and men vied with one another in their costly offerings to the Temple of God, to times when they measured all things by the narrow standard of a selfish utilitarianism, and, though they themselves ‘dwelt in cedar,’ suffered the House of God to be altogether unadorned, and to a great extent uncared for and neglected.

“A mother Church,” says Bishop Kennett, “was the more honorable for being branched out into one or more subordinate chapels.”<sup>1</sup> In this respect our ‘old Church’ was more than usually privileged, at least six, if not more, distinct chapels being dependent upon it. These chapels were built originally as we have intimated in a previous page (37), in the 14th or 15th century, to supply the wants of those who lived at a distance from the town, and the duties in them were performed by Chaplain Priests—(*Capellani* they are commonly termed),—who were under the direction and control of the Vicar.

The Parish Church, in its present state, consists of a Chancel,—Nave,—North Aisle,—a Tower at the west end,—a small Chantry Chapel at the south-east corner of the Nave,—and a South Porch.

The building seems originally to have consisted only of a Chancel, about two-thirds as long as the present one, and a Nave of the same dimensions as now. Judging from the appearance of the masonry, and the manner in which the present Tower is united at its south-east angle with the body of the Church, there would seem to have been also a Tower to the original building, a portion of what was probably the angular turret to carry the staircase still remaining. All this was no doubt the work of the *twelfth* century.

In the *fourteenth* century the Chancel appears to have been lengthened and the east and north-east windows to have been

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<sup>1</sup> Parochial Antiquities, ii. 272.

inserted, the characteristics of this portion of the Church enabling us to attribute it to the *middle-pointed*, or *decorated*, period of architecture.

Towards the latter portion of the *fifteenth* century, judging from the tracery of the window and other features of the structure, we should imagine that the present Tower was added to the Church.

No long time after, probably at the end of the *fifteenth* or the commencement of the *sixteenth* century, the North Aisle was added. We shall presently state our reasons for believing that this part of the Church was built at *two* distinct periods, though at no long interval probably between them.

A little later, possibly shortly before the Reformation, the small Chantry Chapel, now called the Kingston Aisle, was built; by whom, it is not known,—though perhaps by some member of the ‘Hall’ family, the proprietors at that time of the ‘Mansion House,’ by the owner of which, for the time being, it has always been held.

#### THE CHANCEL.

The Chancel is about 48 feet in length and 20 in width. Both externally and internally those features, which prove the original building to have been of Norman date, are distinctly traceable. The plain flat buttress, which seems but little more than thickening of the walls, ending in a gentle slope just below the parapet, is to be seen here. Moreover, though now blocked up with large monuments affixed to the wall, the traces of the long and narrow semi-circular headed Norman windows are plainly discernible. There appear to have been, as far as we can conjecture, two such windows in each of the side walls of the Chancel. Internally they were splayed very considerably. [*Two of these original windows have since been uncovered and opened*]. In carrying out some repairs about eighteen months ago, traces were found of illuminations, &c., on the walls. Over the head of the most eastern of the Norman windows on the south side, was a scroll on which was written the first article from the Apostles’ Creed,—“Credo in

Deum Patrem Omnipotentem." [the remaining portion of the inscription was defaced.] Probably the rest of the creed was inscribed on other parts of the Chancel walls.

In the *fourteenth* century, to judge by the style of the architecture, the Chancel was considerably lengthened. The windows, both at the east end, and at the north-east side of the Chancel, together with the external buttresses of this portion of it, belong to the middle-pointed or decorated style; as also does the battlemented parapet, which was no doubt, at the same time, carried round both sides of the Chancel, superseding the original, and simpler, Norman work.

Both of the windows just alluded to, are remarkable for the simplicity, yet chasteness, of their design. The [*east*] window consists of five lights, all terminating, with semi-continuous tracery, in a circle at the head of the window, composed of six cusped triangles. Till lately the window was for the most part blocked up with stone, and the upper tracery cut away and filled with fragments of coloured glass, most of it of a very inferior description. The lower part within was, in accordance with the taste of the last century 'ornamented' with wooden panelling in a quasi-classical style, in the centre of the whole arrangement being a large oil painting of the last supper by a native artist, that testified more to his devotedness than his skill. The painting has been removed to the vestry of the Church, and the window, after a complete restoration of the stone-work, has been filled with stained glass, executed by Messrs. O'Connor, of London. The subjects of the various paintings are (1.) The Nativity,—(2.) The Baptism,—(3.) The Crucifixion,—(4.) The Entombment,—(5.) The Resurrection; and underneath are inscribed the following words from the Litany:—"By thy birth,—By thy baptism,—By thy precious death,—By thy burial,—By thy glorious resurrection,—Good Lord, deliver us." The tracery at the head of the window contains emblems of the 'Holy Trinity,' in honour of whom the Church is dedicated.

The window on the north-east side of the Chancel consists of two lights. The tracery is semi-continuous. At the head

of the window is a trefoil with double cusping. Possibly a window of similar design or character was at one time on the south-east side of the Chancel. If so, it must have been removed, and its place supplied by the larger one of four lights which is by no means a bad example of the Perpendicular style.

RECESSED TOMBS.—There are in the Chancel a considerable number of monumental memorials. For the present we will only speak of the two oldest and most interesting of them,—the recessed tombs,—one of which is on the north, and the other on the south side. They are formed in the body of the wall of the Church, and extend to within some eight or ten feet of what would seem to have been the original eastern termination of the Chancel. Judging from the style of architecture, the extension of the Chancel and the erection of these two tombs would appear to have been the work of much the same period.

Of the two recessed tombs, the one on the north side of the Chancel is perhaps the more ancient, though there is no long interval between them. Originally, like the one on the south side, it was surmounted by a canopy; portions of the original label, and of some of the crocketing of the pediment, having been discovered among the *débris*, whilst clearing away a large monumental tablet, which had been fixed on the face of the wall immediately in front of it. The whole of the ornamental work had been previously destroyed, and the recess filled up, to enable the marble-mason to attach the slab in question to the wall. The effigy is a female figure, the costume of which,—(one feature being the *wimple*, or handkerchief round the neck and chin.)—fixes the probable date of it in the time of Edward I., or about 1280—1300. A small [*and very beautiful*] figure of the head of a female,—habited in like manner with the *wimple*,—was a short time ago discovered during the progress of some repairs to the tomb, which was clearly a corbel of the label that formerly went round the outer arch. As to whose tomb it may be, we have no certain clue at all. From the ancient deeds, to which reference has been made in a previous page



(31), we might, in the absence of any definite information, hazard a plausible conjecture. Even at the middle of the 13th century the 'Hall family, as they were in course of time designated, were persons of consequence and property in Bradford. Living, as we know they did, in the Town, and in a 'Mansion House,' on the site probably of the present Kingston House, it is not a little remarkable that there is no memorial in the Church, to which we can certainly point as referring to members of this family'—and yet nothing should we look for more naturally. As then we find, from a deed which bears date,—(for reasons which we have specified (p. 31)—from 1247-1252, that at that time 'Agnes' is represented as the 'relict' of 'Reginald de Aulá,' and seems, (we may also infer) to have been left a comparatively young widow, her children being under age, there is no improbability in the supposition that the tomb, of which we are speaking, may be hers. Till her children became of full age, she appears to have been the head of the family in Bradford. Though, of course, all is conjecture, still, the probable date of the tomb,—the high position she herself held,—the fact that she might well have been living at the close of the 13th century,—all lend colour to the supposition, that this recessed tomb on the north side of the Chancel may be that of 'Agnes de Aulá.'

Of the recessed tomb on the south side of the Chancel, with its elegant and cusped canopy within, and its curious gable and small lancet window without, we have already given a drawing (pl. iii. p. 32), so that further description is unnecessary. The effigy itself is sadly mutilated, but enough remains to enable us from its costume, as well as from the mouldings and other details of the canopy, to assign its date to the beginning of the 14th century. Whose tomb it may be none can tell; the *crossed legs* may denote that the deceased was a person of authority, or office, under the King; for it is generally understood now that this attitude does not necessarily refer to the taking of the cross. [In a later passage in this work Canon Jones suggests that this figure may have represented William Hall, the Coroner, who lived in the latter

half of the 13th century, and apparently was still living A.D. 1315, when his name occurs as William de Bradford in a deed in the Moulton Charter Book.] It may be the tomb of Sir John de Holte, whose name occurs very frequently in deeds of the time of Edward I., and who, in the year 1314, was Sheriff of Wiltshire ;—but this, of course, is mere conjecture.

Within the last eighteen months the whole of the Chancel has been fitted up with oak stalls and seats. A gallery erected in 1707 by Thomas Lewis, then Vicar, which stretched across the Chancel arch, and entirely shut out the view of the eastern part of the Church from the Nave, has also been removed. The Chancel Arch itself would seem to have been rebuilt about the end of the 15th century. There are evident traces of the *rood-screen*,—several fragments of it, together with an original bench end with its finial, were discovered during the progress of repairs. The *rood-loft* still remains [*It is not there now.*] The Chancel Arch seems to have been illuminated, much of the colouring yet remaining where the thick coats of white-wash, which have been mercilessly laid on here, as in other parts of the Church, have been removed. The giving way of the south wall of the Chancel at some time, —(though certainly not within the last 220 years.)<sup>1</sup>—has caused this arch to spread considerably. Further damage has been prevented by the insertion of iron bars, one of which of great strength, though concealed by plastering and white-washing, stretches across the Church just above the Chancel Arch, and ties the walls together.

In removing some panelling which covered the wall, two small recesses, were discovered on the south side near the east end of the Chancel ; one of them would seem to have been an

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<sup>1</sup> The Chancel Roof was ceiled with plaster in the year 1636. At that time the south wall had evidently given way, as the plaster cornice is carried round, and adapted to the curvature which the line of this wall had assumed. We cannot perceive any mark of cracks in the plaster which seems much in the state in which it was first put up, so that we may fairly conclude that for at least *two centuries* there has been no further spreading of the Chancel wall. [*This fine plaster ceiling was removed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, when they erected the present hideous wooden ceiling. C.S.A.*]

'Ambry,' and the other a 'Piscina.' The latter has been so mutilated, that it is almost impossible to say what was its original design.

#### THE NAVE.

The Nave is 88 feet in length and about 30 in width. The north wall has been removed for the insertion of arches, by which it is divided from an Aisle on that side. On the south we have still the original wall, the external buttresses, &c. and traces within of the long semi-circular headed windows which once existed, enabling us to pronounce it to have been of Norman date. [*Canon Jones must have been mistaken in this ; for the two large 15th century windows must have entirely obliterated the Norman ones for which they were substituted. The only Norman window which could have been seen by him is that over the porch ; and that has been re-opened. The two large windows of the 18th century, made to give light to the pulpit, which then stood about the centre of the Nave against the south wall, were simply square openings of no architectural interest, and were built up in 1862. (C.S.A.)*] The present windows are all of them later insertions ; some of them indeed have been made in very modern times, and in the usual tasteless style of the 18th century. Two large windows are of Perpendicular date, and of these, the one at the west end, with a traceried transom, is particularly good : the other is filled with stained glass, the gift of Mr. John Ferrett, collected it is said, by him abroad, consisting of a number of medallions in which are depicted various scenes from the life of our Blessed Lord. The tracery is filled up with divers fragments of glass, some of which is hardly in keeping with that contained in the lower part of the window.

It may be mentioned that there appear, on either side of the present Porch, to be traces of an older door-way leading into the Nave. The Porch, as it now stands, it may be mentioned in passing, is of late date. The Niches, of which there are two—one over the interior and another over the exterior doorway,—would seem to be earlier than the remaining part of this

structure. They possibly formed part of an older Porch, and were inserted in the present one.

The Roof of the Nave is of the 16th or 17th centuries, and is of Elizabethan or Jacobean style plastered and panelled within. [*This interesting ceiling was unfortunately destroyed in 1862. C.S.A.*]

#### THE AISLE.

The Aisle is 90 feet in length and about 15 feet in width. Though at a first glance the whole of this portion of the Church may well be considered to have been built at the same time, yet an attentive examination of the fabric makes it very evident that such was not the case. Not only are each of the two eastern bays of less width than each of the remaining three, but there are differences, though small, to be observed in the mullions and tracery of the windows, that distinctly mark the present Aisle as of two periods. The eastern portion was probably built first, and this extended as far as the end of the second bay from the Chancel, in fact to a large block of masonry<sup>1</sup> that is still left standing, (and which is part no doubt of the original wall,) and forms a sort of division between the two portions of the Aisle. It is by no means difficult for an experienced eye to detect, at this point, evidences of an Aisle having once terminated here. Though the whole Aisle has had an oak-pannelled ceiling, yet the design of the two parts of it is different, and the general character of the work, together with what our masons call the *angle corbelling* at the point in question, prove clearly that we are right in the opinion we have expressed as to the extent of the original Aisle. Externally too, you may trace distinctly the *tothing* of the masonry, the marks, that is, of the union of the older to the newer work; and, not only so, but the portions of the battlemented parapet to the east of the north door—(which is itself placed at the point which we are

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<sup>1</sup> Behind this block of masonry are still to be seen the remains of an original Norman buttress, which proves that we are right in the supposition that the Church originally consisted only of a Chancel and a Nave.

indicating)—vary materially in size from those on the western side of it, the former being smaller than the latter. [*Canon Jones was mistaken here ; as all the architectural features point to the fact that the three westernmost bays formed the original north Aisle, the two easternmost bays having afterwards been added to form the Horton Chantry Chapel. As the greater part of the arcade has been rebuilt, and all the arches are of much the same width, it is difficult to explain this ; but the exact position of each portion is clearly shewn by the plan now hanging in the Vestry. The north door Canon Jones speaks of was of no architectural value. It was probably formed when the Galleries were erected in the 17th century. C.S.A.*

*The Author must have subsequently come round to the view of Mr. Adye ; years afterwards, in the "Bradford-on-Avon Pictorial Guide," he advanced the opinion that the western portion was the Chantry of St. Nicholas, endowed by Reginald Hall about 1420, and that the panelled recess was the reredos of the Chantry Altar. J.B.]*

At the east end of the Aisle also there was most probably an altar formerly, [*that of Horton's Chantry*] the sill of the window there being considerably higher than those of the other windows. A long squint, or hagnoscope, extends from the south east angle of the Aisle, for many feet, and was originally brought out at the west corner of the recessed tomb in the north wall in the Chancel. There is also in the north wall,—in the part of the Aisle we have described as an addition to the original one,—a straight-headed panelled and ornamented recess which seems once to have contained a crucifix and to have been decorated with colours. It was probably the Reredos of an altar situated here. The lower part of it is at present shrouded with pews, but there appears to be some handsome stone work beneath. It may be that these two aisles, afterwards forming but one, were originally the two chantries, of which we shall presently speak, that we find existing at the time of the Reformation in connection with this Church.

## THE KINGSTON AISLE.

By this term is now designated a small Chantry Chapel, *twelve and a half* feet in width and *sixteen* in length, at the south-east angle of the Nave, erected most probably by some member of the 'Hall' family, the maternal ancestors of the Dukes of Kingston, from whom the Aisle derives its present name. This part of the Church has been much injured by the failure of the adjoining wall. It has also been sadly mutilated in other respects,—by the addition of a high roof with a gable instead of the original flat roof, —the rebuilding of the parapets in wrong character,—and the introduction of a window on the south side, very inferior, without doubt, in design to the one for which it was substituted, and which, most probably, was similar to the window which, though blocked up, still remains in the east side. At the north-east corner there is a recess in the wall which has been recently opened, and which would seem to have been an 'Ambry.' [*This Ambry also disappeared in 1862. C.S.A.*] There was no doubt, at one time, an altar at the east end. There are no traces of its having been ever used as a Mortuary Chapel. [*Several leaden coffins were found in 1862-64, doubtless those of some of the 'Hall' family.*] The Aisle was but a few years ago separated by some Jacobean screen work from the body of the Church, and over the lintel of the door-way were placed the arms of Hall. They were coloured—'Sable, three battle axes, or,'—and the side ornaments were of an arabesque character. The Aisle is kept in repair by the owner of Kingston House. [*This "Aisle" was generously given up by Mr. Stephen Moulton in 1864 at the restoration of the Church. Two "faculty" pews were allotted to him and his successors in consideration of this gift. Next behind these are two other faculty pews belonging to Horton's Chantry.*]



## THE TOWER.

Judging from the upper windows of the Tower, this part of the Church seems to be the work of the latter part of the 15th century. It is a plain massive structure, square in form, with

a turret stair-case at its south-east angle. It is surmounted by a small spire which hardly looks in proportion to the rest of the structure, and gives to the whole a dwarfed appearance; though this may perhaps be owing to the low situation in which the Church stands, the houses all rising above it, on the north side, in successive ranks to the top of the hill. At one angle of the Tower there are evident remains of some of the original Norman work; the door-way and a small window, which is deeply splayed internally and formerly gave light to the staircase, being evidently much older than other parts of the present building. It has been already intimated that this was probably the angular turret which carried the staircase to a tower of earlier date:—indeed you can distinctly trace the junction of the older with the more recent work. [*The construction of the stone strut which receives a landing on the stair, now surrounded by an iron railing, was an ingenious contrivance of the architect for the utilization of the old staircase.* (W.H.J.)]

The Tower is united to the Nave by means of a handsome panelled arch of good proportions. The whole of this is excluded from view in consequence of a large gallery, containing an organ also of large size, extending across the west end of the Nave. [*This gallery has been destroyed, and the organ removed to the Kingston Aisle.*] The interior of the lower story of the Tower has some simple, yet good, groined stone vaulting in the roof, by which it is separated from the ringing-loft.

THE BELLS.—These are eight in number, and have been pronounced to be amongst the best and heaviest peals, of eight, in Wiltshire. The inscriptions upon them are as follows:—

1. FEAR GOD; HONOUR THE KING. A.  R. 1754.
2. [PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD. A.  R. 1754.]
3. THOMAS YERBURY AND GEORGE GOLDBURY, CHURCHWARDENS. 80.\*
4. [RECAST 1870, WILLIAN BLEWS & SONS, BIRMINGHAM. EMANUEL TAYLOR AND GEORGE SPENCER, CHURCHWARDENS.]


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\* SIC FOR 1680.

5. HONOUR THE KING. I.W. 1614.

6. PROSPERITY TO THE TOWN OF BRADFORD [AND THE TRADE THEREOF.] AB: RUDHALL, FOUNDER, 1764.

7. LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR. I.W.<sup>1</sup>

8. [SANCTA TRINITAS UNUS DEUS MISERERE NOBIS  A<sup>o</sup> D<sup>m</sup>, 1882. W. H. JONES, M.A., VICAR AND CANON OF SARUM. C. S. ADYE AND W. E. TAYLOR, CHURCHWARDENS. LLEWELLINS & JAMES, BRISTOL.]

In the year 1553, according to the certificates of 'Sir Anthony Hungerford, William Sherington, and William Wroughton, Knights,' there were *five* bells belonging to the Parish Church. Unless we suppose any of them to have been broken and recast, we possess none of them at present, as the dates on the bells now in the Tower are all subsequent to the period of that enquiry. The entry to which we allude is contained in a document relating to 'Church Goods,' is to be found in the Record Office in Carlton Ride, and is as follows:--

"BRADFFORDE. Delivered to Robert Browne and to Richard Randall cuppe or challis by Indenture of xvi ounces and *v belles*.

In plate to the Kinges use *v* ounces.

It appears from the minute book of Vestry, that in 1735 there were already *six bells* in the Tower of the Parish Church. A resolution was passed, Aug. 19th, in that year 'That the Churchwardens have full power to agree with some Bell-founder for *two new bells*, (less than the present Treble) in order to make it a Ring of Eight bells, the said two Bells to be brought forthwith and sett up at the parish charge.' These bells cost, as appears from the accounts of the following year, the sum of £93 14s. 2½d., exclusive of the expense of hanging them in the Tower, and were supplied by a founder of the name of 'Cockey.' Neither of these bells appears to be in the Tower at the present time. The Vestry accounts of 1755-56 show that a considerable sum was then expended in alterations, &c., with regard to the bells, a founder of the name of 'Rudhall' having been employed for the purpose.

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<sup>1</sup> Date 1614 is chalked on the bell.



Of the *present* peal, the *fifth* and *seventh* were cast in the year 1614 at the foundry of John Wallis in Salisbury. The *third* and *fourth* were cast, in 1680, by Roger Purdue, of Salisbury, [and the *fourth* recast in 1870.] In 1754 the *first*, *second*, and *sixth* bells were cast at the foundry of Abel Rudhall of Gloucester. When the original *tenor* was placed in the Tower is not known; it was broken about seventeen years ago, and was recast, in 1842, by Messrs. Mears of London, [and again recast in 1882.]

Suspended in the Ringing-loft are the following lines, entitled 'The Bells, an address to the Ringers,' written by the late Vicar, the Rev. H. Harvey.

Sacred to GOD the LORD and in His House high raised,  
 May holy sounds from us be heard, and He be praised;  
 Bradford, when joy abounds, 'tis ours with gladdening voice  
 Thy Sons newborn in CHRIST to bid in Him rejoice:  
 And when by death assailed and sunk in whelming grief,  
 'Tis ours to bid them mourn in Him, and find relief.  
 Alike we call to prayer, and when the Table's spread,  
 'Tis ours the same to tell, that Souls may there be fed:  
 We too around proclaim the quickly fleeting time,  
 And songs of heavenly praise with tuneful notes we chime;  
 Come then, on Avon's bank, a ransomed, pardoned, band,  
 And strike, as well beseems, with saintly, reverent, hand;  
 Come, Christian Ringers, come, and strike with godly fear,  
 That all who hear our sounds, our sounds may love to hear.

H. H., Dec. 10th, 1842.

[In 1727 we have a curious entry in the Vestry Book. Paid the Ringers the 28th and 29th of May, £1 : 00 : 0. Paid the Ringers by Mr. Methuen's orders,

The First of August	£ 10 0
The Proclamation Day	1 00 0
The Coronation Day	1 1 0
The King's Birthday	10 0
The Fifth of November	10 0
The Prince's Birthday	10 0
The Queen's Birthday	10 0

Apparently all this was the outcome of the loyalty of Mr. Thomas Methuen.

But Prince William (the "bluidy Duke," as the Scots called him) was put off with half-a-crown's worth of ringing.]

## THE CHANTRIES.

In the *Valor Ecclesiasticus*,<sup>1</sup> which was made about the 25th Henry VIII. (c. 1533), we have an account of *Two Chantries* connected with the Parish Church. The one was held by 'William Byrde,' the Vicar, and was,—(after deducting £3 6s. 8d. to be expended for 'works of charity' in accordance with the direction of the Founder,)—of the value of £6 13s. 4d. The other was, according to the same authority, held by 'Thomas Horton' as Chantry Priest, and was of the same *gross* value as the former, but liable to a deduction of £2 14s. 4d. 'for works of charity'—in accordance, it is added, 'with *his own* appointment' (*ex ordinacione sua*)—from which it would naturally be inferred that the same person was the Founder and Chantry Priest. In a previous page (p. 41, note) we have entered on some of the difficulties connected with this statement, and have suggested explanations. The 'Thomas Horton,' whom I presume to have been the founder of this Chantry, died at Westwood 14 August, 22 Henry VIII. (1530); his wife 'Mary' was living in 1538, but died in, or before, 1545.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The entries are as follows ;—(*Valor Eccles.* ii. 81.)

## CANT'IA IN ECCL'IA P'OHIAL DE BRADFORD.

Will's Bryd est Cant'ista.

	£	s.	d.
Valet p. annu - - - - -	x		
Unde in operibus Charitatis ex ordinac fundat -		lxvi	viii
Et reman' clare p. annu - - - - -		vi	xiii
		iv	

## CANT'RIA IBIDEM.

Thomas Horton est Cant'ista.

	£	s.	d.
Valet p. annu - - - - -	x		
Unde in operibus Charitatis <i>ex ordinac' sua</i> p. annu		liv	iv
Et reman' clare p. annu - - - - -		vii	vi
		viii	

<sup>2</sup> This last fact we learn from the leasing out of certain of the lands, which formed the endowment of this Chantry, situated at Kebyll (Keevil) in Wilts, to 'William Lucas' for the term of forty years, 'such term commencing from the decease of Mary widow of Thomas Horton,' who (the record goes on to say) is *now* (1545) dead ;—('termino predicto incipiente post mortem Marie Horton vidue que quidem e vita decessit.') 'Certificates of Colleges and Chantries, No. 59, Wilts,' among the Records of the late Court of Augmentations, belonging to the Court of Exchequer.

The statements contained in the 'Valor Ecclesiasticus' are by no means confirmed by subsequent Records. Among the documents contained in the late Court of Augmentations (Carlton Ride) we have three returns to Commissions of enquiry on the subject of colleges and Chantries, &c., and in none of these is there any mention at all of the *former* Chantry in the Parish Church. Their statements are at variance moreover with the first-named record as to the *value* of Horton's Chantry. Possibly the *former* Chantry, which was in 1533 held by the Vicar, was but a *temporary* foundation, or was endowed with lands held on lives or on lease, the tenure of which was determined in due course and was not renewed. Of this character may have been the one we alluded to in a previous page (41), which was founded by Reginald Halle, as early as 7 Henry V. (A.D. 1420.)

Of 'Horton's Chantry' we have full and detailed accounts. Of the Commission of Enquiry conducted in 37 Henry VIII. by 'John, Bishop of Sarum, Sir Thomas Seymour, Knight, Robert Chydley, Esquire, and Thomas Leigh and William Grene, Gentlemen,' we have *two* reports; *the one* being a complete account of all the lands and tenements belonging to the said Chantry together with the rents issuing therefrom, the names of the various tenants, the precise nature of the several tenures, &c.; and *the other* a summary of the principal matters relating to it, in the form of answers to certain articles of enquiry, to which the attention of the Commissioners was especially directed. Of a subsequent, and *third* enquiry, conducted by 'John Thynne and William Wroughton, Knights, Charles Bulkeley, John Barwycke and Thomas Chafynne, Esquires, William Thornhyll and Lawrence Hyde, Gentlemen,' in the second year of Edw. VI. (1548), we have an account in a Document entitled "The Booke of Survey of the Colleges and Chantries et cetera" [Com. Wiltes.]

From these various Records we glean the following information respecting the Chantry in question.

The gross revenue of the Chantry is said to have amounted to £11 13s. 4d. The lands and tenements from which it arose

were situated at Allington, Chippenham, Winfield, Hullavington, Keevil, and Box, in the county of Wilts; at Whitcome, and Farleigh Hungerford, in the county of Somerset; and at Weston in the parish of Marshfield, in the county of Gloucester. There was also a house at Bradford, with a garden adjoining, known as 'the Mantyon house,' of 'the sayd Chauntre' which the Chantry Priest, for the time being, occupied, at a yearly rent of 3s. 4d.

The first named Commissioners reported concerning this Chantry,—

"There appears to have been no abuse in this instance inasmuch as the revenues and profits of the said Chantry are expended and consumed in accordance with the original foundation of the same."<sup>1</sup>

From the report of the second Commission we learn that 'William Furbner' then (1548) 'of the age of lvi yeres' was Incumbent. They add the following particulars, which, as interesting, we print in full:—

"The plate belongynge unto the sayd Chauntre xvii ouz.

"The Goodis and Ornamentis belongynge unto the said Chauntre prised at xxiiiis ivd.

"**Item.** The sayd Incumbent is a very honeste man well learned and ryght able to serve a Cure albeit a very poore man and hathe none other lyvynge but the sayd Chauntre, and Furthermore he is bounde by the fundatyon to kepe a *Free Schole* at Bradforde, and to geve to the *Clerke*<sup>2</sup> ther yerely xx<sup>s</sup> to teache children to synge for the mayntenance of Divine Service, and also to distribute to the Poore yerely xiiiis ivd all which things he hathe done accordinglye.

"Also the sayd Parisshe of Bradforde is a greate Parisshe within whiche be the number of dlxxvj people which receyve the Blessed Communion and no Preste to helpe the Vicar there in administracon of the Sacramentis savinge the sayd Chauntre Preste. Wherefore the Parishoners desire the Kinges mooste honorable Councill to consider them accordingly.

In a Record, bearing date a few months after the one just referred to, entitled—'Particulars for the Sale of Colleges,

<sup>1</sup> "Abusus nullus apparet eo qd Revencones et proficua ejusdem Cantarie expendantur et consumuntur secundum primam fundaconem ejusdem."—'Certificates of Colleges and Chantries, Wilts,' No. 56. (Carlton Ride Office.)

<sup>2</sup> By the '*Clerke*' is here meant the '*Parish Priest*.' In the 'Particulars for the Sale of Colleges, Chantries, &c.,' after reciting that 'the Incumbent for the tyme beinge is bound by the foundation to kepe a *Gramer Schoole* at Bradforde,'—the record goes on to say,—'and to geve the *Priest* ther yearlie xx<sup>s</sup> to teche children to sing for the maintenance of Divine Service within the *Parishe Church* ther.'

Chantries, &c.,<sup>1</sup>—we have the above circumstances again recited with the following additions:—

“**Memorandum**: to wright to the Receavor of Wilshere for payment of these folk as heretofore hath ben used :

“**Memorandum**: ther is no Scole of Gramer ther.”

From the same document it appears that the property belonging to this Chantry, which here is valued at a sum slightly differing from that named in previous estimate, viz., at £11 18s. 3d.—(from which however was to be deducted the sum of 12s. 4d. payable to the Lord Arundel out of the lands at Keevil,)—was sold (for twenty-two years' purchase) at £248 10s. 2d. The purchasers seem to have been 'Thomas Horton, Esquire,' and 'Richard Byllett,'—though the record is not specific as to the portion of the lands and tenements purchased by each of them.

#### THE VICARAGE.

It has been already stated that the Rectory of Bradford together with the advowson of the living belonged in olden time to the Abbess of Shaftesbury, and, since the Reformation, to the Dean and Chapter of Bristol. The great Tithes of the whole parish, including in this the several chapelries, were commuted, in the year 1840, at the sum of £1507 2s.

The Vicarage now comprises only a portion of what formerly belonged to it. The tithes of the several chapelries have been annexed to the Incumbencies of their respective ecclesiastical districts, with the exception of Christ Church, Bradford, which is in part endowed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and has a portion of income also arising from pew-rents. About sixteen years ago the old Vicarage House, having fallen into decay, was taken down and a new house erected, the expense being defrayed by money borrowed, on the security of the revenues of the living, from the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty.

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<sup>1</sup> Vol. 68, of the Series of books remaining with the Augmentation Records. (Carlton Ride Office.)

There are two Terriers in the Registry of the Bishop of Salisbury relating to the Vicarage, which, as they are very short, we print *verbatim*. They would seem to show that the land formerly belonging to the Vicar was of somewhat larger extent than at present. The former of these Terriers is as follows:—

“BRADFORD. A Terrier of the Lands of the Mother Church of Bradford made the 19 of Octr. A<sup>o</sup>. 1608.

“Imp. One Mansion or Dwellinghouse with gardens, orchards and other grounde belonging to the same to the quantity of *two acres*, or thereabouts, invironed by the Churchyard on the easte, and a grounde called Barton Orchard on the weste.

“Item. One littell Close in the Church [yard\*] reaching from the Church geate to the very ground of the Garden, by estimation one halfe acre or more.

(signed) “THOMAS READ, Vicar.  
“JOHN BLANCHARD.  
“PETER GODLEE.

The latter Terrier, made about a century later than the former, runs thus:—

“A True and perfect Terrier of the Gleab Lands, Houses and other Edifices in the Borough of Bradford, in the Deanery of Potterne and Diocesse of Sarum, belonging to the Mother Church and Vicaridge thereof.

“Dec. 20, 1704.

“Impr. One Mantion House, where the Vicar is resident, with one Stable or Outhouse.

“One other House where the Clark of the Parish Church now dweleth.†

“One other House where the Sexton of the Parish Church now dweleth.

“One other House where one Cooper now dweleth, all erected and built upon the Church Yard or Gleabe thereunto belonging.

“Item. One Parcel of Meadow ground or pasture containing *Two acres*, or thereabouts, now converted into a public Garden with a House thereon built, and Three other gardens;—and all other Dues usually belonging to any Vicaridge.

(signed) “THO. LEWIS, Vicar.  
“JOHN SHEWELL, } Ch.  
“THO. CATOR, } Wardens.”

The following list of Vicars has been compiled, for the most part, from Sir Thomas Phillips' edition of the 'Wilts Institutions.' In a few instances omissions have been supplied from

\* MS. illegible: I can however have no doubt as to the original word being as supplied in the text above.

† This was probably the house of Orpen, whom Gainsborough painted which still remains.]

other sources. Of most of the Vicars we know little more than their names.

A.D.

1312. RICHARD DE KELVESTON; presented by Gilbert de Middleton, who is called '*Firmarius Ecclesiæ de Bradeford.*' [For the meaning of this term see above p. 74.]
1348. RICHARD DE MERSCHTON; presented by Robert de Worth, who in 1320 became the Lessee of the Rectorial Tithes under the Abbess of Shaftesbury, and, as such, presented to the living.
- . . . ROBERT ALISANDER; presented by the same patron.
1349. JOHN GILLE; presented by the same patron.
- . . . WILLIAM BOTELER. This name is not included in the list of Vicars, but in the following entry the fact of his Incumbency is implied.
1413. JOHN HAVYLE *alias* KING; presented by the Abbess of Shaftesbury on the resignation of William Boteler. [All the other Vicars, up to the time of the Reformation, were presented by the same Patron.]
1418. THOMAS SWAFFAM. He was Rector of Patney, in the patronage of the Bishop of Winchester, and exchanged with John Havyle.
1429. HENRY GAVELER.
- . . . ROBERT CARPENTER;\* this name is not in the Wiltshire Institutions, but the following entry presumes the fact of his Incumbency.
1438. JOHN PALER; presented on the resignation of Robert Carpenter.
1463. JOHN FRANKLEYN; on death of J. Paler.
1464. THOMAS SHORTBRYGGE; on the resignation of John Frankeleyn.
1474. SIMON ELVYNGTON; by exchange with Thomas Shortbrygge.
1481. JOHN BOSTOKE.
1491. WILLIAM BRYDDE OR BYRDE; attainted of high treason, and deprived of the living. (See above p. 45).
1540. THOMAS MORLEY; presented by the King (Henry VIII.) He was Suffragan Bishop of Marlborough, and, in accordance with the provisions of 26 Henry VIII.† c. xiv. held also the living of East Fittleton. He was consecrated in

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\* Sir Thomas Phillips gives this 'Institution' thus,—“1429. ROBERT LOKYNGTON by exchange with H. Gaveler;”—probably referring to the same person, *e.g.*—“R. Carpenter of Lokyngton,”—as he came from a place so called.

† The act was entitled “An Act for nominating and consecration of Suffragans within the Realm.” They were to exercise such jurisdiction as the Bishop of the Diocese should entrust to them, the term of their commission depending on his will. The object of this Institution,—(which, by the way, was not new in England, such Bishops having been appointed in this country as early as A.D. 1325,)—was for ‘the more speedy administration of the Sacraments and other good, wholesome, and devout things and laudable ceremonies, to the increase of God’s honor and the commodity of good and devout people.’ Each Suffragan Bishop was permitted to hold *two* benefices. Marlborough was the only Suffragan See in Wilts.

1537. In Dr. Pegge's‡ list of Suffragan Bishops he is called Thomas Bickley *alias* Morley. He was instituted to the livings of Bradford and East Fittleton on the same day, (28 Sept. 1540).
- 1553(?). THOMAS THACKHAM. Appointed by the Dean and Chapter of Bristol. This Institution is not entered in the Sarum Registers, but the probable date of it is supplied by the decease of Bishop Morley, which took place in 1553. In 1572 Thomas Thackham held St. Mary's, Wilton; and in 1573 became also Rector of Hilperton. This Vicar died at Bristol—(of which he became a Prebendary in 1590)—Sept. 23, 1592, and was, a few days afterwards, buried there. (Reg. Bur.)
1592. THOMAS READE. Presented by 'John Lacy' who obtained the patronage by grant from 'Robert Costlyn,' executor to Matthew Marrant, Gentleman, the grantee from the Dean and Chapter of Bristol.\* This Vicar died at Brodford and was buried there March 22, 1634. (Reg. Bur.)
1634. NATHANAEL WILKINSON. Presented by William Porrett, Clerk, of Swell, Co. Somerset, and Edward Cradock, of Fordington, Co. Somerset, by virtue of a deed of assignment made by Edith, relict of John Wilkinson, Prebendary of Bristol. [In a deed, alluded to in a previous page (100), in the possession of the Dean and Chapter of Bristol, it is said,—"There is no Incumbent at Bradford att present." (1649.)—The name, however, of 'Nathanael Wilkinson' appears as 'Vicar' on a Subsidy Roll for 1642. In the 'Sarum Registers' the following Vicar, 'Thomas Lewis,' is said to have succeeded to the living by the decease (*per mortem*) of 'Nathanael Wilkinson.' It would seem, therefore, either that this Vicar had been displaced, or that, dying before 1649, his place had not been at once filled up. The 'Bishop's Registers' would not acknowledge of course the right of an intruder to the living, and therefore, even if Nathanael Wilkinson had been dead some years, would nevertheless, on the next legal institution to the Vicarage, speak of it as void through his decease. I have searched in vain to ascertain the facts of the case, and especially whether, in the event of the ejection of this Vicar by 'The Tryers,'—(who were in our neighbourhood in 1648-49,)—another was appointed

‡ This list is given in an Article on 'Suffragan Bishops' in vol. vi, of Nichols's 'Bibliotheca Topograph. Britan.' A reference is there made to the 'Wharton MSS.' in Lambeth Palace; No. 577, p. 358 and No. 583, p. 172.

\* In earlier times the Lessee of the Great Tithes, under the Dean and Chapter, seems also to have had the privilege of presenting to the living; at all events, the Patrons seem to have disposed of this, as well as of other parts of the emoluments and privileges, from time to time, to various persons. Since the Restoration, in 1660, the Dean and Chapter have always retained in their own hands the right of presenting to the living.



to supply his place. We can glean nothing from our Parochial Registers, which are sadly defective between 1645 and 1660;—indeed, for the greater portion of that time there are none at all. Moreover, the Lansdowne MS. No. 459, which gives an account of Church Livings in Wiltshire (1654) does not allude at all to Bradford.]

1660. THOMAS LEWIS; presented by the Dean and Chapter of Bristol. Deceased December 1710; buried at Bradford. (Reg. Bur.) [From this time the presentations were uniformly made by the Patrons themselves.]
1710. JOHN ROGERS, M.A.; through the efforts of this Vicar, a School was, in January 1712, opened for his poorer Parishioners. Three years afterwards, by means of contribution from himself and others, and a grant of an old building, then called the '*Skull House*,' (of which we shall presently give a more particular account) the school was placed on a permanent footing. For many years before this time (1715) there seems to have been no such provision for the education of the children of the poor. See above p. 44.
1754. WALTER CHAPMAN, D.D. Prebendary of Bristol, (1740) and Master of St. John's Hospital, Bath. His father, Walter Chapman, was Mayor of Bath in 1726. His brother John was subsequently elected Mayor of Bath seven times; another brother was in 1716 Rector of Walcot. He was not only a cotemporary and fellow collegian, but on terms of close intimacy with Dr. Samuel Johnson, Shenstone, and other literary characters. He was distinguished for his attainments as a scholar and for his eloquence as a preacher. He died at Shirehampton April 25, 1791, at the age of 80 years.
1791. JOHN AYLMER, M.A.; second son of the second Baron Aylmer, appointed Prebendary of Bristol September, 1750; died at Lower College Green, Bristol, 16 November, 1793.
1793. FREDERIC WILLIAM BLOMBERG, D.D.; a member of a family long attached to the Court, and educated in intimate association with the children of George III. Early in life he was appointed Chaplain and Secretary to the Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV.) and was instituted to the Rectory of Shepton Mallet in 1787. In 1790 he became a Prebendary of Bristol, and received the living of Bradford from the Dean and Chapter in 1793. In the year 1808 he was appointed Clerk of the Closet to the Prince of Wales, and shortly afterwards was nominated a Prebendary of Westminster. He subsequently received the Vicarage of Banwell from the Dean and Chapter of Bristol. On the death of the Rev. E. Bowles, he was appointed to Bradford a *second* time. He became in 1822 a Canon of St. Paul's, and in 1835 received from that Cathedral the valuable living of St. Giles', Cripplegate, in the Vicarage House of which he died March 23,

1847. He was celebrated as a musician, and especially as a violoncello player.
1799. FRANCIS RANDOLPH, D.D. Prebendary of Bristol;—afterwards Vicar of Banwell.
1804. EDWARD BOWLES, M.A.; previously Minor Canon of Bristol.
1808. FREDERIC WILLIAM BLOMBERG, D.D. : appointed a *second* time.
1835. HENRY HARVEY, M.A. Tutor to H.R.H. the present Duke of Cambridge; Caupon of Bristol. In 1850 he was appointed, Vicar of Olveston in Gloucestershire, where he died November 20, 1854.
1851. WILLIAM HENRY JONES, M.A.  
*[Canon Jones is deservedly commemorated in the Parish Church by a stained-glass window, the central one in the north aisle. The principal figures therein represent—St. Aldhelm and St. Laurence: the inscription runs thus:—To the greater glory of God and in memory of Rev. W. H. Rich Jones, M.A., F.S.A., Canon non-residentiary of Sarum and Vicar of Bradford-on-Avon from A.D. 1851 to A.D. 1885, this window was erected by public subscription A.D. 1888.*  
*But his best memorial unquestionably is the restored Saxon Church hard by. The stone screen which parts the chancel from the nave, and thus, in the opinion of some of us, has injured the fine spacious aspect of the Church, was erected to the memory of a pious and laborious Curate, the Rev. Baldwin Leighton.]*
1885. SYDNEY GARBETT COLLISON.

CHURCH PLATE. The Communion Plate belonging to the Church of the Holy Trinity, Bradford-on-Avon, is as follows:—

- 1 Silver Flagon,—marked underneath the foot 1723.
- 1 Silver Flagon,—marked 58.16. J.F. 1764.
- 1 Chalice. Silver-gilt.
- 1 Chalice and Cover,—engraved “Ex dono Richardi Reade” and ‘The Communion Cup and Couer of the Parish of Bradford neare Bath.’
- 2 Silver Chalices,—both marked J.F. 1764, one weighing 16.8, the other 15.12.
- 1 Silver Patine,—engraved ‘Donum Francisci Smith nuper de Bradford-Ano. Dom. 1705.
- 1 Patine, Silver-gilt,—small,—without inscription or date.
- 2 Silver Patines,—both marked J.F. 1764, one weighing 6.10, the other 9.11.
- 1 Perforated Ladle, Silver,—marked 1764.
- 1 Silver Alms Dish,—marked 34.15, and bearing the following Inscription :  
 “ From an humble and grateful sense of the many and exceeding great blessings, it hath pleased the God and Father of all mercies to bestow on his unworthy servant, John Ferret ; this Salver, with a Flagon, two Cups and Patines ; a yearly supply of Bibles, Common Prayers, and other religious books for ever ;—the Painted Glass in the East and South

Windows of this Church and other benefactions were given to the Town and Parish of Bradford, Wiltshire, by him who was born there, in the year of our Lord 1702.’

CHURCH AND PARISH REGISTERS. The Church Registers commence in the year 1579. Those of *Baptisms* are perfect up to the year 1648,—from that time till 1661 they are wanting;—from 1661 to the present date they have been regularly kept.—Those of *Marriages* extend from 1579 to 1653, though for the last three years they are very defective;—from 1653 to 1661 there are none;—from that date they are in good preservation.—Those of *Burials* are imperfect from 1642 to 1647, and from that date to 1661 they are missing; in other respects they are well kept. The entries for the most part seem to have been made by the Vicar, or Minister, for the time being. In some parts they have been however evidently kept by a less educated person, possibly by the Sexton or Parish Clerk.

The Parish Chest contains little either of antiquity or of interest. I have met with no documents in it of an earlier date than the middle of the 17th century. They consist chiefly of apprentice indentures,—orders for removal,—certificates brought by ‘strangers’ who wished to settle in Bradford from the authorities of the Parish to which they belonged,—bonds of indemnity given by employers to save the inhabitants harmless in the event of any of the non-parochial artizans becoming chargeable to Bradford. The earliest Vestry Book in the Parish Chest dates only from 1725, and a volume containing the proceedings for some years previously to 1836 is missing. I am in possession of some extracts made from this Vestry Book not many years ago, so that I am in hopes it may yet be found and restored to the Parish Chest.

[*The names of the churchwardens since 1659 have been preserved. Of those noteworthy in the town's history are Methuen 1673-4; 1701 (this was John Methuen the Ambassador); Druce 1671, 1673-6, 1737-8-9-40; Yerbury 1677-8-9-80-81, 1692-3; Timbrell 1779-80, 1810 to 1819, 1835 to 1855; Tugwell 1751 to 1755, 1771-2-3, 1795-6-7, 1804 to 1809, 1814-5;*

*Shrapnell 1712-13, 1737 to 1741, 1756; also Bush, Strawbridge, Bethell, Renison, Taylor, &c.]*

The Vestry Book (1725) to which I have alluded as the oldest known for a certainty to be in existence, has the following inscription on the first page, which, it is possible, *may* imply, that previous Churchwardens had not guarded, or handed down the Parish Records, with sufficient care.

“Edward Burkham and Edward Young, Churchwardens of Bradford in the County of Wiltes. A<sup>o</sup>. Dom. 1725.

“May this Book be transmitted with care, successively, from one Churchwarden to another, under the rewards of such blessings as are promised to good men.”

There are very few entries in this or any other Vestry Minute Book that are worth transcribing. They contain, for the most part, simply a statement of the Income and Expenditure for the repairs of the Church, &c., from year to year. Amongst the last are commonly included the money paid for ‘foxes,’—‘martin catts,’—hedgehogs,—weasels,—and sparrows;—as lately as 40 years ago *one halfpenny* was allowed for every sparrow destroyed, and the amount so expended duly entered in the ‘Church Book.’ [*In 1797 foxes were still vermin, and 1 shilling a head was paid for 14 of them destroyed. In 1802 “we the paymasters assembled do agree that it is necessary that the Poor should be inoculated with Cow Pox at 1 shilling per head; if Mr. Adye refuses Dr. Bethell agrees to do it.” Some time later we are told that the Bradford people had their own way of administering the relief of the poor; an overseer was appointed for life at £50 a year, and “a surgeon was allowed a salary of 50 guineas to attend the sick poor, and had besides 2s. 6d. for every inoculation and delivery.”*] From the same record we learn that in 1729 the Organ was erected at the expense of the Parish,—that in the following year, the Nave was ceiled, and a new window inserted on the south side of the Church; that in 1731 a ‘Dial’ was placed on the Porch, and an ‘Hour-glass’ purchased. In 1732 there is an entry which proves that the position in which the pulpit stood till quite recently, viz., against the centre of the south wall of the Nave, was itself but one of modern adoption:—“Ordered that

the Churchwardens do set back the old Gallery and put some ornament on the pillar that supports the pulpit.' —Three years afterwards, in 1735, we have the present peal of *eight* bells completed, and, in 1737, the Tower Chimes erected at a cost of £27.

There is also contained in this same record an account of pews and sittings occupied from time to time by divers persons in the Church. In former days each parishioner, on having a sitting assigned to him, seems to have paid the Churchwardens *one shilling*, and his name was forthwith entered in the Church Book as the person entitled to that particular place in the Church. There is, according to the records of the Registrar's Office at Salisbury, but one '*Faculty Pew*' in the Parish Church. This is the one at the east end of the North Gallery, which was built by John Thresher, Esq., about the year 1730. By faculty granted to Benjamin Hobhouse, Esq., of Hartham House in the parish of Corsham, March 26, 1797, the seat in question was secured for ever 'to the present owner, and to the future owner of the Mansion House called the Chantry House, and the occupiers thereof for the time being.'

[*It would appear that after the confiscation of their revenues, the portions of the Church which had been dedicated to the service of the Chantries, and probably built by their respective founders, viz., Horton's Chantry in the E. portion of the north aisle, and the so called "Kingston Aisle," in succession perhaps to the western portion thereof, remained attached to the estates of the founders and their successors in title. Mr. John Thresher built his gallery and pews, as above noted, at the east end of the aisle; and the Cams and Hobhouses successively inherited it. At the time of the restoration, in 1862, an exchange was effected, the Kingston Aisle was blocked up with an organ, the gallery was pulled down, and the owners of the Hall and of the Chantry House each received two faculty pews in exchange.*]

ANCIENT PAINTINGS AND INSCRIPTIONS.—Many traces of these have been found on the walls of the Church, on removing the whitewash accumulated over them. We have already alluded to some of them. Traces of colour are very

discernible in various parts of the Aisle; the Reredos of the Altar, already described, was evidently at one time beautifully illuminated. On the same wall, more towards the east, are still to be seen two Inscriptions in Black Letter, the one relating to the Sacrament of 'Baptism,' the other to that of the 'Lord's Supper.' The former is so imperfect, that it is only by conjecture that we could attempt to give it in its original form. The latter is tolerably perfect, and is as follows:—

Works of God's Ministers.			Works of God Himself
To Bless To Break To Give	Bread	The Body of Christ	To send Christ To make Him a Sacrifice To offer unto us Believers

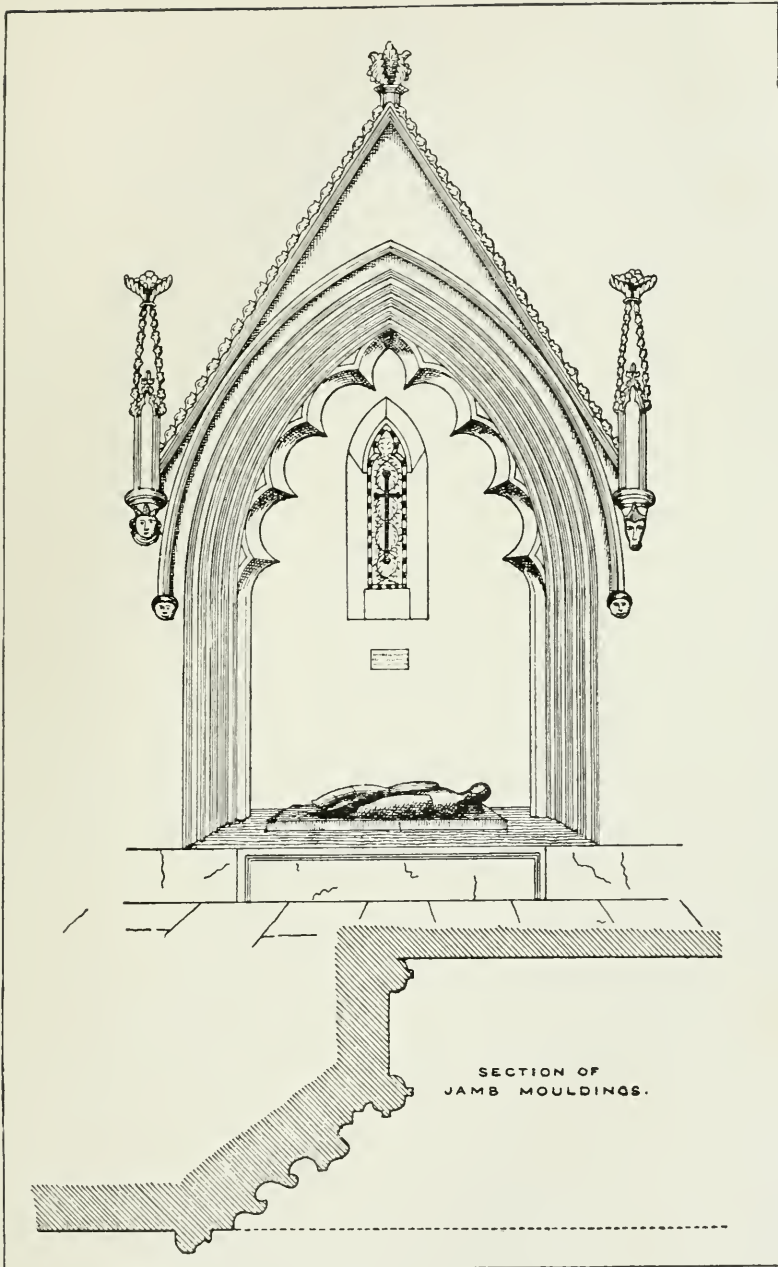
These two inscriptions, judging from the form of the letters and the general style of ornament, can hardly be of an earlier date than that of James I. In the vacant space above there is, in the original, some ornamental scroll-work; and, in the second of the lower compartments, the representation of a 'loaf of bread.'

#### MONUMENTAL MEMORIALS.

**EFFIGIES.** We have already spoken of two recumbent stone figures within the recessed tombs in the Chancel. About twenty-five years ago in carrying out some alterations in the North Aisle another effigy was discovered, which had been, at some previous time, removed from its original place and used for part of the paving of the Aisle, the face of the figure having been placed downwards. It is now placed in the Chancel. It is a female figure, in a sort of bas-relief, with the hands joined together on the breast, as though in the act of prayer. The hair seems to be braided in a plait on each side the

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[*Note*] This inscription was ruthlessly destroyed at the time of the so-called restoration in 1862. (C.S.A.)]



SECTION OF  
JAMB MOULDINGS.

Recessed Tomb,  
Parish Church, Bradford-on-Avon.  
*From old Plate, 1855.*





forehead; though from age, and rough usage, the stone is so worn as to prevent a very accurate description of those details from which its date might be ascertained. It belongs probably to the latter part of the 14th century, but in memory of whom it was at the first placed in the Church we are altogether ignorant.

**BRASSES.** There are two Monumental Brasses,—one to the memory of ‘Thomas Horton and Mary his wife,’—and another to the memory of ‘Ann, wife of Gifford Long.’

The former is near the east end of the North Aisle. It consists of a large black slab of stone inlaid in several places with brass. In the centre are two figures, about 13 inches in length, one male, and the other female;—the husband is habited in the Merchant’s costume of the beginning of the sixteenth century, the wife has the *kennel*, or triangular forehead dress, of the same period. There is a scroll above each of them,—the one inscribed ‘*Sancta Trinitas Unus Deus,*’—the other ‘*Miserere Nobis.*’ Underneath is the following inscription:—

“*Of yo<sup>r</sup> charite pray for the soules of Thomas Horton and Mary his wyffe whych Thoms was sūtyme flunder of thys chauntry and decessid the Day of An<sup>o</sup> Dm M<sup>o</sup>cccc<sup>o</sup> and ye sayd Mary decessid y<sup>e</sup> Day of An<sup>o</sup> M<sup>o</sup>cccc<sup>o</sup> On whois soules Jhu habe mercy.”*

There is also remaining the ‘Merchant’s Mark,’ of which we gave an engraving (p. 42). and which does not look unlike the outline of a *cross bow*, which formed part of the armorial bearings of the Horton family. One piece of brass which is said to have contained a figure of our Blessed Lord on the cross, together with another figure traditionally deemed to have been that of St. Peter,—(from the circumstance of ‘a cock’ having been engraved close to it,)—measuring about 4 inches by 6, was wrenched off and taken away, shortly after the stone was placed in its present position.† At each of the four corners of the slab there would seem to have been small inlaid pieces of brass; two of them are at present concealed

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† For Note see next page.

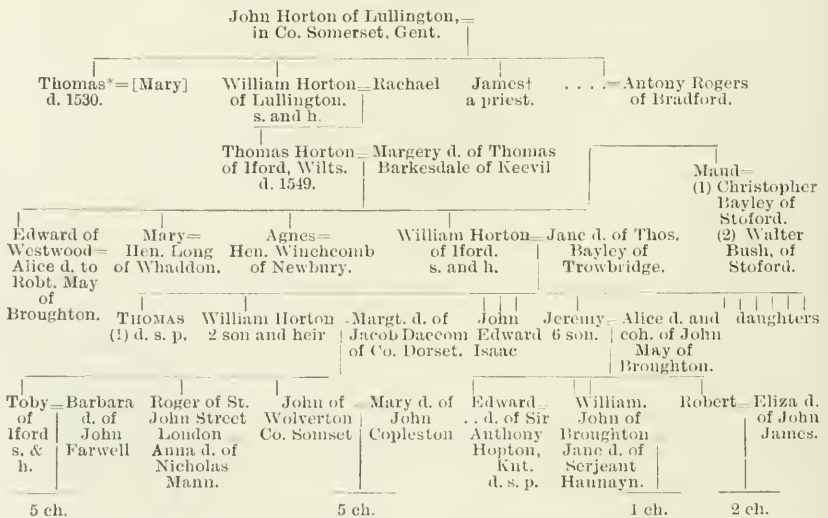
from view by the pewing,—another has been removed,—the|| fourth has the inscription ‘*Lady Helpe.*’<sup>1</sup>

The second Brass is interesting as rather a late example of this kind of monumental memorial. It contains a female figure a little more than three feet in length, habited in the well known costume of the time of Elizabeth, with the large ruff, high head-dress, [*long tight stays, fardingale and flowered petticoat.* *The lady was comely; and altogether it is a*

† [*This plate of metal has since then been restored and replaced. The bird here spoken of as a cock was doubtless intended to represent a dove, the emblem of the third person of the Trinity. The sitting figure behind, that of an old man with a long beard, is the usual representation of the Father, and is on a larger scale than that of the suffering Christ.*]

|| [*There are now only two such pieces in position: the fourth, bearing the words “Lady Helpe,” is placed beneath the female figure; the third “Jesu Mercy,” beneath the male.*]

<sup>1</sup> I have already spoken of the difficulties of reconciling the various statements concerning the Founder and Chantry Priest of this Chantry. My remarks in the note (p. 42), will be better understood from the annexed copy of the principal portions of the ‘Horton Pedigree’ from the Visitation of 1623 (Harl. MS. No. 1443. fol. 189). The initials ‘T.H.’ over the Tower door at Westwood Church, and till a few years ago on a part of the panelled roof in the North Aisle, are possibly those of the ‘Thomas Horton, of Iford,’ who, as the pedigree shews, died 1549.



\* The Founder of the Chantry (?)

† The Chantry Priest in 1535 (?)

favorable example of this usually unbecoming style.] Underneath is the following inscription:—

“HERE LYETH BURYED THE BODY OF ANNE LATELY SOLE DAUGHTER AND HEIRE OF JOHN YEWE OF BRADFORDE IN THE COVNTY OF WILTES, GENT, AND WIFE OF GYFFORD LONGE, GENT, WHO HAD ISSUE BY HER ANNE AND CATHERYN THEIR DAUGHTERS. SHE DYED THE XXVI<sup>th</sup> OF MARCH 1601. WHOSE KNOWNE GOOD LYFE SHEWETH THAT GOD HATH TAKEN HER SOWLE TO HIS MERCYE.”

At each of the four corners of the slab are shields containing the arms of ‘Long of Monkton,’—‘Sable, a lion passant argent, on a chief of the second, three cross crosslets of the first.’

Of their two daughters Anne and Catherine, the one was baptised in the Parish Church in 1598, and the other in 1601. The former became, in 1630, the wife of William Bromwich.

[For the Yeo, Yewe or Ewe family, see *Hist. of Great Somerford* (*Wilts Archæol. Mag.*, vol. xxxi., No. 95, p. 288. Rev. F. H. Manley).

*The Yewes were clothiers in Somerford, where they acquired the manor of the family of Maltravers; and this passed to Gyfford Long, who at once sold it.*]

Gyfford Long served the office of Sheriff of Wilts in the year 1624. By a second wife, Amy, relict of Robert Wingatt of Biscott, Co. Beds. and daughter of John Warre of Hestercombe, Co. Somerset, he left several children.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The following extract from a pedigree of ‘Long of Semington, Trowbridge, and Whaddon,’ kindly furnished to me by C. E. Long, Esq., will shew that, through a *female* branch, there was a connection between the two families, to some members of which the two brasses in question were placed as memorials.

Henry Long of Whaddon.	=	Mary d. of Thomas Horton of Iford.	[See preceding pedigree l. 4.]
Edward Longe of Monkton, ob. 1622. [Grantee of the arms above described, May 5. 1589.]	=	Anne d. of Henry Broucker of Melksham, M.P. for Devizes, ob. 1607.	
1 wife, Anne d. and h. of John Yewe of Bradford.	=	GIFFORD LONGE = of Rood Ashton, (and four others.)	= 2 wife, Amy d. of John Warre of Hestercombe, Co. Somerset, and relict of Robert Wingatt of Biscott, Co. Beds.

MURAL TABLETS, &c.<sup>1</sup>

The walls of the Church exhibit a considerable number of memorials, some of them being good specimens of modern sculpture. The principal persons and families commemorated on them, as well as on several flat stones within the Church, are as follows. For convenience of reference the names are placed in alphabetical order.

BAILY, WILLIAM; (d. 25 March, 1712.) A large panelled tomb in the North Aisle inscribed 'This buryal place and tombe was erected by William Baily of this Towne, Mercer, An. 1695.'

In front of it the crest of Baily,—(*a horse's head sable*)—is placed over the arms of the Guild of Mercers, viz.,—'*Gules, a demi-*virgin proper, full faced, crowned with an eastern crown, or.**'

BAILEY, EDWARD, of Ashley; (d. 18 Oct. 1760),—and Ann, his wife, (d. Dec. 29, 1759) daughter of William Harding of Broughton Gifford:—also, their daughters,—ANN, (d. Nov. 8, 1758) wife of the Rev. John Lewis of Whaddon, and MARGARET, (d. May 30, 1796) wife of William Fisher,—also EDWARD, son of the last-named William and Margaret Fisher, (d. April 5, 1761.)

The present representative of this family is the Rev. R. B. Fisher, of Basildon, Berks, to whom the estate at Ashley still belongs.

BAILWARD, MRS. ANN, (d. July 25, 1788). SAMUEL, her son, of Horsington, Co. Somerset, (d. April 9, 1800) and his wife, ANNA MARIA, only child of William Stevens, of Frankley House (d. May 21, 1837). HENRY METHUEN, son of the two last-named, of the Royal Navy (d. July 1, 1812), and MARY ANN, their eldest daughter (d. Aug. 18, 1825).

Arms on the monument.—*Or, a chevron between three bees volant in chief, and three torteaux in base, gules*—for BAILWARD;—on an escutcheon of pretence, *Or, on a chevron between three demi-lions rampant gules, three cross crosslets argent*;—STEVENS. Crest. *A bull's head erased*. The same arms, in the Widow's Lozenge, are on a hatchment near this monument.

BASKERVILLE, JOHN; Magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant for Wilts (d. March 15, 1800); and HESTER, his wife (d. Dec. 6, 1819); also JOSEPH, their second son (d. Oct. 7, 1812).

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<sup>1</sup> My special obligations are due to my friend, the Rev. Edward Wilton, for valuable help,—as readily offered, as it is thankfully acknowledged.—in enabling me to give a complete account of the 'heraldry' in the Church. W. H. J.

Arms. *Argent, a chevron gules, between three hurts;—*BASKERVILLE; impaling,—*Or, a cross quarterly counterchanged gules and sable, in the dexter chief quarter an eagle displayed, of the third;—*WEBB. Crest. *A wolf's head erased or, holding in its mouth a broken spear, staff or, head argent, imbrued gules.*

BASKERVILLE, JOHN, eldest son of the above 'John' and 'Hester,' of Woolley, (d. Dec. 20, 1837.)

Arms and crest of 'Baskerville,' as before. Motto, '*Spero ut fidelis.*'

BETHELL GEORGE; a Magistrate for the County of Wilts, (d. March 26, 1795): and SARAH, his wife (d. Jan. 7, 1777); also ELIZABETH, their daughter (died in infancy).

BETHELL JAMES; of Lady Down (d. April 24, 1831), and ELIZABETH, his wife (d. Feb. 7, 1820);—also SAMUEL, their second son (d. Feb. 7, 1831),

It is with this latter family that Sir Richard Bethell, late Attorney-General, [*afterwards 1st Lord Westbury, and Lord Chancellor*] is connected; he being the son of Dr. Bethell—(a brother of the above-named 'James Bethell')—formerly of Bradford and afterwards of Bristol.

BOWLES, The Rev. EDWARD; Vicar of Bradford from 1804-1808 (d. Feb. 1, 1808). This Tablet is close to the western extremity of the North Aisle.

BROWNE, WALTER (d. Aug. 1, 1796). An oval Tablet at the south-eastern angle of the Nave.

BUSH, THOMAS; a Magistrate for Wilts and High Sheriff in the year 1801; (d. Nov. 20, 1809,) and MARY, his wife, (d. Jan. 16, 1824).

Arms. *Azure, a wolf salient argent, collared and chained or, in chief three crosses patteé fitchée of the second.* Crest. *A goat's head argent, attired sable.*

CAM, SAMUEL, of Chantry House; a Magistrate for the County of Wilts, (d. Nov. 7, 1792.). His first wife, ELIZABETH, together with ten children, and a daughter, ELIZABETH, by his second wife, MARY, are buried in the same grave. [*The whole family of thirteen appear to have predeceased him.*]

One of his co-heirs, Maria Theresa, a daughter by his first wife, married Isaac Hillier, and, by him, had several children. The other co-heir, Charlotte, a daughter by his second wife, married Benjamin Hobhouse, Barrister-at-Law, afterwards created a Baronet. And her son, succeeding to the title as Sir John Cam Hobhouse, Bart., was, in the year 1851, created Baron Broughton, of Broughton Gyfford, Co. Wilts. [*This*

was the friend and companion in travel of Lord Byron. On his death without male issue the peerage expired; but the baronetcy devolved on the present Sir Charles Hobhouse, Lord of the Manor of Bradford.]

CLUTTERBUCK, DANIEL (d. April 16, 1769).

Arms. *Azure, a lion rampant, and in chief, three escallops argent.*

CLUTTERBUCK, DANIEL; son of the above, of Bradford Leigh, (d. 17 June, 1821), and ELIZABETH, his wife, (d. 28 April, 1826).

Arms. CLUTTERBUCK as before, quartering,—‘*Or a cross quarterly counterchanged gules and sable, in the dexter chief quarter an eagle displayed of the third,*’—WEBB; and impaling, ‘*Per bend sinister ermine and ermines, a lion rampant or.*’—EDWARDS. Crest on monument, apparently, *a dog*, but it has been defaced. The usual crest of Clutterbuck is,—*a buck statant argent, [or séjeant] between two laurel branches, proper.*

COMPTON, DENNIS. On a black marble slab in the Chancel floor, on the south side of the altar, is the following inscription: “Here lyeth ye body of Dennis Compton Jun<sup>r</sup>., son of Walter Compton Esq<sup>r</sup>e of Hartpury, who departed this life ye 16 May, 1714. He was Dame Mary Steward brother.” [See ‘STEWARD’ below.]

Arms. *Sable, three esquire’s helmets argent, garnished or with a crescent for a difference.*

This [with the lion passant guardant or, as in the Steward monument,] is the coat of the ennobled family of Compton. The Comptons of Hartpury bear different arms, in fact, those of Compton of Wilts and Gloucestershire, viz.,—*Argent, a fess nebulée gules, on a chief of the last, (sometimes in chief) a helmet between two lions’ heads erased or.*

COTTLE, EDWARD; of Bradford Leigh, (d. Feb. 14, 1718), and ANN, his wife, (d. March 13, 1728), and two of their sons, &c.

Arms. *Or, a bend gules.*

This is the same coat which Aubrey gives to ‘COTELE,’ who, he says, ‘had large possessions at Atford.’ The name is preserved in ‘Cottles,’ or, as it was formerly called,—‘*Cotels Atteward*’—or: ‘*Coteles Atteworth.*’

CURLL, QUERINA, (sic), wife of John Curll, (d. 28 April, 1678), and WALTER, son of the same, (d. 30 April, 1677).

This is on a plain slab of black marble in the floor of the Chancel. John Curll was the founder of one of the most extensive of the parochial charities, and served the office of High Sheriff in 1699.

DAVIS, ROBERT, Surgeon, of Woolley Hill, (d. May 3, 1790), and SUSANNA, his wife, (d. Jan 14, 1826), and several of their children.

[*Deverell, Roger, of Frankleu, near Bradford in the County of Wilts, "was buried in this Churchyard 1546."* Also his widow and several of his descendants. (A modern brass plate on the south wall of the Chancel.)

*Arms. Gules, three stirrups leathered in pale or.*

*Also marble tablet south wall of Nave, Arms, as above.*

*Deverell, John Walter Devereux, (d. Nov. 20, 1887, aged 48,) Master of Arts, Barrister-at-Law, Master Mariner, of 2, Brunswick Place, Bath, and of Frankleigh. Amelia, wife of John Deverell, Esq., of Frankleigh, (d. 1846, aged 45). John Deverell, Esq., of Frankleigh, Barrister-at-Law, (d. 1876, aged 65.)]*

DEVERELL, JOHN, of Frankley, (d. July 5, 1785), and MARY, his wife, (d. Jan. 25, 1802). Also JOHN, their son, (d. May 21, 1829), together with his wife and two of their children. [A large marble tablet against the south wall in the Nave.]

[*Arms in all as above.*]

FERRETT, JOHN; a benefactor, in many ways, to the Parish, as will hereafter appear in the account of 'Charities.' The inscription on the Tablet contains the invocation;—"On whose soul O blessed Lord God have mercy,"—an unusual one towards the close of the last century. (d. May 12, 1770, aged 68 years.)

GAISFORD, CAROLINE, wife of William Gaisford of Seend, (d. July 1, 1813).

JONES. A small brass with the following inscription, "Hic sepultus est Johannes Jones de Bradford, nuper Pharmacopola, qui obiit sexto die Februarii A.D. 1709."

On a hatchment close by are the following arms,—*Argent, a lion passant sable, on a chief of the second, a ducal coronet or*;—JONES; impaling, *Sable, a lion rampant within an orle of cross crosslets argent*;—LONG. Crest. *Out of a ducal coronet or, a demi-lion sable.*

This hatchment is placed over the grave-stone of Daniel Jones, Esq., of Frankley House, who married Ellen, daughter of Richard Long, Esq., of Rood Ashton, great grand-father of the present Walter Long, Esq., M.P. for North Wilts. Mr. Jones died in 1772, leaving an only son, Daniel Jones, who,

by the will of the late Walter Long, Esq., of Bath, took the name of Long in addition to Jones, and the arms of Long, of Monkton, only. Mr. Jones Long died without issue in 1827.

METHUEN, ANTHONY, second son of Paul Methuen of Bradford, descended from the very ancient family of Methuen in the kingdom of Scotland,—(*antiquissimo stemmate de Methuen in regno Scotiae.*)—(d. May 10, 1717), and GERTRUDE, his wife, daughter and coheir of Thomas Moore of Spargrove, in Somerset, by Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Sir John Bampfylde, Bart., of Poltimore, in Devon, (d. July 20, 1699).—THOMAS, only son of the above Anthony and Gertrude, [(*Qui nihil non æquum et liberale Et fecit semper et cogitavit.*)]—(d. Jan. 2, 1737), and ANNE, his wife, only daughter of Isaac Selfe of Beanacre, Wilts, by Penelope, daughter and coheir of Charles, Baron Lucas, of Shenfield, Co, Essex, (d. May 15, 1733). [*This Anthony was the younger brother of John Methuen of Bishops Cannings, Wilts, who was Ambassador to Portugal, and in that capacity negotiated the famous Methuen Treaty. He was the statesman alluded to in John Home's famous lines.*

*Firm and erect the Caledonian stood :*

*Old was his mutton, and his claret good.*

*Let him drink port, the English statesman cried !*

*He drank the poison, and his spirit died.]*

The monument, which is a large and handsome one in marble, executed by Rysbrack, on the south side of the Chancel, was erected by Paul, only son and heir of Thomas and Anne Methuen, [*and ancestor of the present Lieut.-General Lord Methuen.*] There are two shields, each bearing coats of arms, the one referring to the former, the other to the latter, members of the Methuen family, above commemorated.

SHIELD I. ARMS. *Argent, three wolves' heads erased, proper,*—METHUEN, and on an escutcheon of pretence, *Argent, two bars engrailed azure, between nine martlets gules,*—MOORE.

SHIELD II. METHUEN, as before, quartering MOORE;—impaling, *First and fourth, ermine three chevronels gules,*—SELFE, quartering, *Argent, a fess between six annulets gules,*—LUCAS.

RENISON, JOHN. (d. 18 Nov. 1793.)

ROGERS, Rev. JOHN; Vicar of Bradford for 43 years. [See above p. 121.]

On the monument is inscribed, "Obey them that have the rule over you," &c. Heb. xiii. 17. (d. April 20, 1754).

ARMS. *Azure, a mullet argent, on a chief or, a fleur de lis gules.* Crest. *A fleur de lis gules.*

ROGERS, SUSANNAH. (d. May 1, 1755, aged 22 years): inscribed,—“a truly pious, virtuous and affectionate good wife.”



Arms; on a Lozenge,—ROGERS,—as before.

[*Shrapnel.* Henry Shrapnel, died 1688, three generations of Zachariah Shrapnels in succession, (the last of whom, dying in 1796, was probably the father of the General) and several other members of the family: the General and his wife are stated to have been interred in the Chancel.]

SHRAPNEL, HENRY, Lieutenant-General, Colonel Commandant of the sixth battalion of Artillery, (d. 13 March, 1842).

The inventor of the 'Shrapnel Shell,' the most destructive implement of modern warfare. A large slab in the floor of the Chancel near the south door.

[*Arms, formerly on an atch'ment, I. Crusily, a lion rampant; 2 and 3 Quarterly I. and IV., Argent, a bend or; II. Azure, a saltier or; III. Azure, on a saltier or, two bars gules; IV. Gules, a fess ermine between three nag's heads erased or; over all on an escutcheon a bomb fired. Crest, out of a coronet or, a plume of ostrich feathers. Motto: Ratio ultima Regum.*

SMITH, FRANCIS, Lieutenant-General; Colonel of the eleventh Regiment of Foot. (d. Nov. 7, 1791).

Arms. *Azure, two bars between three pheons, or. Crest. Two arms embowed vested azure, cuff or, holding in the hands proper a pheon or.*

STEWART, CHARLES. (d. 11 July, 1698).

This is a large and striking marble monument on the north side of the Chancel, near the east end. It contain a full length figure, habited in the well known costume of the time of *William III.* Who 'Charles Stewart' may have been is not known, but tradition says that he was of the royal line of 'Stewart,' (or 'Stuart,') though this may have arisen from the fact of his crest being a '*regal crown.*' The arms borne by him (as described below) are those of Stewart of Patteshull, Co. Northampton, though *their* crest is different;—indeed the '*regal crown*' is not given in the books of reference as the crest of any family of this name. He lived at Cumberwell, though whether as owner or simply occupier is uncertain.† He

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†[(*Note.* He was the only son of the Very Rev. Richard Stewart, Dean of St. Paul's and of Westminster, who was the third son of Nicholas Stewart of Pateshull, Esq., and who married Jane, daughter of Sir William Button, of Alton and Tockenham, Wilts, Bart. See the *Herald and Genealogist*, vol. 2, p. 64, and *Baker's Northamptonshire. Cumberwell*

married 'Mary Compton,' of the ancient family of that name at Hartpury in Gloucester; the arms he impales on his shield being the same as those borne by the Marquis of Northampton: though, as it appears from the note made after describing the arms on her brother's monument, the coat of 'Compton of Hartpury' is quite different from the one here impaled with 'Steward.' A Latin inscription on his monument tells us that his death was in consequence of injuries received, in the first instance, by a fall from a horse. [It runs as follows;—

*Triste monumentum intueare Lector! et postquam Epitaphium  
tacite perlegisti nigrum sub pedibus aspice marmor. Tunc  
si possis supprime luctus.*

*Ab annosá prosapiá ac honestis parentibus ortus, nunc fato  
correptus*

CAROLUS STEWARD

*multarum lactuymis inibi sepelitur*

*Dum superstes mirá integritate innocuas, dulcique indole comis  
et affabilis, Bonis moribus ornatus, ac virtutibus tam eximiè  
decoratus ut æquando haud parem reperies.*

PROH DOLOR

*Quamplurima vitæ pensum absolvunt, et supremum inducant  
diem, Hic casu infausto ex equo labente delapsus, mox graviter  
pectore contusus, Tandem apostemate intumuit, languit et  
occubuit xj Julij, An'o D'ni MDCXCVIII.*

AMICE VALETO

*Summum nec metuas diem nec optes.*

*Justa hæc piæ memoriæ chari mariti uxor lugubris Maria  
Steward dicavit, et marmora parentavit MDCCI.]*

This costly monument was erected to his memory by his widow, a few years after his decease.

Arms. Or. a fesse chequy argent and azure, within a border ermine, for STEWARD,—impaling, Sable a lion passant gardant or between three esquires' helmets argent, garnished of the second,

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*had belonged to the Buttons. The regal crown is a monstrous assumption; nor is it probable that the Stewards of Pateshull, had any royal connexion to warrant the fess chequy on the shield. The proper crest of the Stewards was a stag proper gorged chequy argent and azure.*

for COMPTON. Crest. *On a wreath or and azure, a regal crown proper.*

TAUNTON, ROBERT, L.L.D. (d. 17 July, 1797), and FRANCES, his wife, (d. 25 Nov., 1819), daughter and coheirress of Leonard Cropp, of Co. Hants.

TAUNTON, FRANCES, second daughter of the above, (d. 24 May, 1803); ELIZABETH WEEKS, their eldest daughter, (d. 11 May, 1815); RICHARD HOBBS, their son, Lieutenant in H.M. 22 Light Dragoons, (d. 19 May, 1819).

TAUNTON, JOHN HEARNE, another son, (d. 15 April, 1852).

THRESHER, EDWARD, (d. 18 Feb., 1725); JOHN, his son, (d. 17 Aug. 1741).

Arms. *Argent, a chevron gules, between three boars' heads erect and coupéd sable; issuing from the mouth of each a cross crosslet fitchée of the second; THRESHER;—impaling, Sable, a lion rampant within an orle of cross crosslets argent; between two flaunches, ermine [(?crusily)];—LONG. Crest. A demi buck salient, or.*

The 'Thresher monument' is a very large one of marble, and covers the whole of a Norman window on the north side of the Chancel. [*It is now placed against the north wall of the North Aisle. There are also two large slate slabs on the floor of the Chancel, within the rails, commemorating the same persons and their wives, both Longs by birth.*] It was erected by Ellen, relict of John Thresher. From a long Latin inscription we learn, that EDWARD THRESHER was a successful clothier in Bradford, and that he took peculiar interest in the well-being of the town and neighbourhood.<sup>1</sup> We are further informed that on his decease, his son, JOHN THRESHER, who had been previously educated for the Bar, in which, it is intimated, he had earned some distinction for himself, came to reside in Bradford, and giving up his own professional pursuits, carried on in this town those commenced by his father, in which the well-being of others no less than of himself were concerned. He resided at Chantry House [*to which he made some additions.*] He was the ancestor, on the female side, as the

<sup>1</sup> On the monument it is said,—“Commercium ad Parochiam de Bradford et villas circumjacentes *peculiariter respiciens*, (heu; priscam Angliæ Gentis gloriam, vellus aureum), prosperis et honestis artibus excoluit, et sibi et patriæ.”

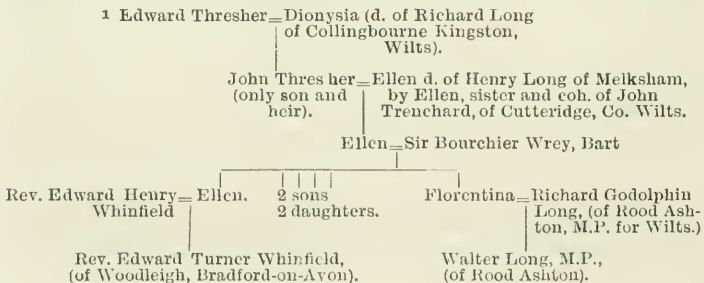
subjoined extracts from the family pedigrees will shew,<sup>1</sup> of two gentlemen whose names are familiar to us, the one as the member for our County, the other as a resident for many years in our parish. [*Looking backwards, we find the name of a possible ancestor in a deed dated 19 Edw. II. in Mr. Moulton's Charter Book. John Waspayl, of Smalebrook, confirmed one acre of arable land in the Mersche to Adam le Threscher, of Bisschuppe Strowe, for his services, he paying twelve silver pennies of annual rent. Here Threscher may or may not have been an established surname: but it certainly was so in the case of a Thresher named in the muster roll of Southwick, temp. Hen. VIII.*]

TIDCOMBE, MICHAEL. This is the oldest of the monuments now on the walls of the Church. It is inscribed,—“Neare this place lyeth the body of Mr. Michaell Tidcombe who deceased ye 26 day of July An<sup>o</sup>. Dom. 1662.

“‘Tidcombvs tvmvlo jacet hoc Michaelis in alto,  
Sospes dvm clangit bvecina, ‘Svrge,’ manet.’”

It also records the decease of a daughter, ‘SARAH,’ (d. 11 July, 1661).

In a previous page (53) some mention has been made of ‘Michael Tidcombe.’ We may here add a few supplementary particulars. He was one of the King’s (Charles I.) Commissioners for raising money in Devizes, of which town he was elected Mayor in 1643, and in consequence of his acting in this capacity, and of other deeds clearly shewing his Royalist sympathies, he was, when the Parliament triumphed, apprehended by the Serjeant-at-Arms ‘as an offender of a very high nature.’ For some time he was detained as a prisoner in Ely House. His petition to Parliament for pardon sets forth as pleases, *inter alia*, the fact of ‘his estates being sequestered,



himself and wife and seven children unprovided for, and his being in debt at least £400.' He passed the latter part of his life in retirement in this Parish, surviving 'the Restoration' by about two years. He married, 1626, Susanna, sister and one of the coheirs of John Blanchard, of Great Ashley. [See above pp. 54 and 79].

TIMBRELL, THOMAS, (d. 23 April, 1815), and ELIZABETH, his wife, (d. 8 March, 1805). [*A white marble monument with the Good Samaritan carved in relief.*]

Arms. *Quarterly gules and or, in the first and fourth quarters an escallop of the second.* Crest. *A lion's head erased quarterly gules and or.*

TIMBRELL, CHARLES, (d. 20 Aug., 1821), and ANN, his wife, (d. 29 Jan., 1831).

Arms. TIMBRELL, as before [*but quarterly gules and argent*];—impaling, *Sable a chevron ermine, between three church bells argent*;—BELL.

TUGWELL, HUMPHREY, (d. 22 Aug., 1775), and ELIZABETH, his wife, (d. 7 June, 1801). He 'carried on an extensive manufactory in Bradford for fifty years.' This monument also records the decease of several of their children;—FITZ-DANIEL (d. 3 Dec., 1747);—THOMAS (d. 24 May, 1769);—WILLIAM (d. 25 Dec., 1774).

Arms. *Azure, three garbs or, on a chief argent, a boar's head erased in fess sable,*—TUGWELL; impaling, *Argent, a lion passant sable, on a chief of the second a ducal coronet or,*—JONES.

TUGWELL, MAWBEY, youngest son of William Tugwell, (d. 13 May, 1815). He was married to PENELOPE, fourth daughter of Daniel Clutterbuck, of Bradford Leigh.

Arms. TUGWELL, as before, impaling, CLUTTERBUCK, as before, (p. 132). Crest. *A buck's head erased proper.*

TUGWELL, GEORGE HAYWARD, of Crowe Hall, near Bath, (d. 19 Jan., 1839), and SARAH, his wife, daughter of Daniel Clutterbuck, of Bradford Leigh, (d. 31 May, 1853).

Arms. TUGWELL, as before; quartering, *Argent, on a pale sable, three crescents of the field,*—HAYWARD;—impaling, CLUTTERBUCK quartering WEBB, as before. [See Clutterbuck.] Crest, as before.

TUGWELL, THOMAS, of Woolley House, Bradford, a Magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant for Wilts, (d. 18 April, 1833), buried in South Wraxall Church.

Arms. TUGWELL as before ; impaling, *Sable, a stag statant argent, attired or, within a bordure quarterly ermine and erminois*,—JONES. Crest, as before.

TUGWELL, ELIZABETH, second daughter of Mawbey Tugwell, (d. Nov. 9, 1822). THOMAS, only son of Mawbey Tugwell, (d. 25 Dec., 1840), buried at St. John's, Westminster.

WHATLEY, RICHARD, (d. 4 Nov., 1782), and ELEANOR, his wife, (d. 10 Dec., 1786), and several of their children.

YERBURY, FRANCIS, of Belcombe Brook, (d. 28 April, 1778), and MARY, his wife, (d. 18 Sept., 1775); also their children, FRANCIS, (eldest son) drowned (8 Oct., 1752);—RICHARD (d. Feb. 12, 1772);—JOHN WILLIAM, youngest son, (d. 8 Oct., 1824);—also HESTER, wife of the last named 'John William,' (d. 18 Nov., 1842).

Arms. *Party per fess or and argent, a lion rampant azure*,—YERBURY; impaling, *Or, on a fesse engrailed between three nags' heads erased azure, three fleur de lis of the field*;—BAILEY. Crest. *A lion's head erased, per fesse, or and argent*.

On Sundry flat stones within the Church, are the following names, not yet mentioned:—BURCOMB,—GALE,—LEA,—WOOD.

[Of four memorial windows in the Church, one refers to Ebenezer Taylor, long churchwarden, and his family, another was placed by Canon Jones in memory of his father, the third, with figures of St. Aldhelm and St. Lawrence commemorates Canon Jones himself, and the fourth recently added, and containing figures of King Kenwalch and of Caxton, is a memorial of Mr. Rawlings, *sevr.*, of Bradford, Printer.]

DOLE-STONE.—In the Churchyard, opposite the south door of the Chancel is an erection, which, at first sight, looks very much like an altar tomb. It is about two feet and a half high, and the ledger stone measures about seven feet in length and three and a half feet in width. Its sides are ornamented with panel-work; at the east and west ends there is a quatrefoil, in the middle of which is a Latin cross executed in rather bold relief. The ornaments and general character of the work, between which and those on the sides and shaft of the font there is a striking similarity, would indicate them both as the work of the latter part of the 15th century, and possibly the productions of the same hand. An inscription in the Church on the monument of Vicar Rogers, which is fixed just above the Chancel door, would seem to point out this stone as being

over the burying place of that Incumbent ; and there were, till within a recent period, two white marble slabs let into the north side of it, in the place of two of the ornamental panels, on which this fact was recorded. These slabs fell out and are now missing, and the panels, as they appear on the north side of the stone, are quite plain. The tomb, however, if such it be, is certainly older than the middle of the last century, and by no means such an one as would have been probably erected at the period of Vicar Rogers's decease (1754). We venture therefore to suggest, from its being close to a door, and from its resemblance to many others of the same kind in Wilts, (as in the Church-yards of St. Mary, Devizes, Potterne, Bishops Cannings, Poulshot, Edington, &c.) that it may have been originally a '*Dole-Stone*,' that is, a stone used for the distribution of alms, or *doles*, to the poor. When it was no longer employed for this purpose, the plot of ground under it, or it may be rather that on the north side of it, was used as a burial place for the family of the Vicar already alluded to, the ornamental panels on that side having been removed and the flat marble panels, with an inscription upon them, inserted in their place. The inscription is said to have been little more than a recital of the names of those who were buried at that spot, together with the dates of their decease.

About ten years ago so many of the tombs, &c., in the Church-yard were in a state of decay, that, on the representatives of those who were buried beneath them, neglecting, after due notice given, to repair them, a considerable number were removed. On those that remain many of the inscriptions are illegible ;—from others the metal plates, on which they were formerly engraven, have been removed. The principal names still remaining, exclusive of such as have been already mentioned, are,—Bassett, Baines, Beverstock, Budgett, Cayford, Collar, Coombs, Day, Earle, Gregory, Harris, Helps, Hendy, Harvey, Merrick, Milsom, Notton, Palmer, Pearce, Porch, Spender, Stevens, Strawbridge, Tayler, Townsend, Webb, Wilkins, Wiltshere.

Of the inscriptions there are very few worth recording.

One, in Latin, from the pen of the Rev. Dr. Knight, on the tomb of his daughter, is said to have been both correct and elegant, but it is now so defaced as to be illegible. The two following are the best of those that remain :—the *former* is from a mural slab on the east side of the Porch to the memory of a youth named ‘Edward Gibbons,’ who died at the age of 17 years ;—the *latter* is on a flat stone in the western part of the Church-yard, beneath which are the remains of ‘Thomas Mills.’

“ Short was my life, yet live I ever ;  
Death hath his due, yet dye I never.”

“ Stay, sinner, stay :—pause ere thou passest on,  
Thou too must mingle with thy parent dust :  
Forget my sins,—repent thee of thine own,—  
And for forgiveness in thy Saviour trust.”

#### OLD CUSTOM IN THE CHURCH-YARD ON SHROVE-TUESDAY.

This would seem to be an appropriate place in which to mention an old custom which has hardly yet quite passed away, and which, until the Church-yard was enclosed, was strictly observed. On the morning of Shrove-Tuesday, from time immemorial, a bell has been tolled ; the original purpose of such tolling has long of course been forgotten, though no doubt in olden times the people were thus summoned to confess their sins to the priest, or to ‘*shrive*’ themselves, as it was termed, the especial work of *Shrove*-Tuesday ;—whence it derives its name. Shortly after the bell ceased, all the boys and youths of the town, both those from the Schools and those apprenticed to divers crafts,—(custom indeed had given the latter a sort of prescriptive claim to a holiday on the occasion) —clustered in great numbers in the Church-yard, and sought, by joining hands, entirely to encircle the Church. There was, of course, on the circle being completed, the usual quantity of jumping and shouting. They called this ceremony, ‘*clipping the Church*’ ;—the term, I cannot doubt, is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word ‘*clyp-pan*,’ which means, to ‘embrace,’ or ‘*clasp*.’

What was the origin, or first intention, of this custom, it is impossible now to say. Were it observed at the time of the



Festival kept in commemoration of the Dedication of the Church, namely on Trinity Monday, we should judge it to be the relic of the old sports and pastimes usual on such occasions. Fairs were commonly, in times gone by, held in Church-yards,—indeed, within these very few years, such have been held in that of St. James, Bristol,—when the people thought little of dancing about the Church.<sup>1</sup> In Malkin's 'Scenery and Antiquities of South Wales' (1804 p. 26.) we are told—"The custom of dancing in the Church-yard at their feasts and revels is universal in Radnorshire, and very common in other parts of the Principality. Indeed this solemn abode is rendered a kind of circus for every sport and exercise. They play at Fives and Tennis against the wall of the Church. They do not dance on the graves, but on the North side where there are no graves."—In the case of Bradford Church-yard the booths at the time of the annual fair were in olden times brought close to its limits, and the South wall of the Church Tower shews, unmistakeable evidences of having been used for the balls of the Tennis players. The 'boys dance' round the Church however formed no part of the ceremonies of the 'Trinity Festival.'

It is *possible* that the custom we have been describing is the relic of some *very ancient* observances. Though we do not profess to rely on the facts we are about to mention as an explanation of this 'Bradford custom,' yet still they lend some colour to a conjecture that its origin may perhaps be sought in extreme antiquity.

In days when Baal (the sun) was the chief object of worship, as in ancient Britain, and many other countries, a *circular dance*, in allusion to the sun's supposed motion round the earth, formed part of the ceremony. The Hindoos also used the Ráas Játra, or 'dance of the circle,' in honor of Vishnu, (the sun). Many British monuments, moreover, are in *circular form*, as Stonehenge,—Abury, &c. Stonehenge was

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<sup>1</sup> Medii Ævi Kalendarium i. 355. Brand's Popular Antiquities, ii. 459. [Bohn's edition.] This custom led to much scandal, and was, in due time, stopped.

called the 'Giants' dance'; and a circle in Cornwall is termed 'Dance Maine';—dance stones. The Rev. W. Bathurst Deane<sup>1</sup> relates that at Carnac in Brittany, where there are remains of an immense stone avenue and circle, the villagers are accustomed, at an annual festival held on the day of the Carnival, to unite in a general dance. The dancers commence in a circle, and, having performed a few revolutions, wheel off to the right and left. They call this, *par excellence*,—'Le Bal.' This, he suggests, *may* mean nothing more than the ordinary French word '*bal*,'—or public dancing. Mr. Scarth,<sup>2</sup> however, intimates an opinion, that perhaps it may be after all *the vestige* of the sacred dance of Baal, though its original meaning may be forgotten. A tradition of this circular dancing appears in many fables respecting Druidical temples in England. The stones are said to have been human beings petrified in the midst of a dance, and all the temples to which such superstitions are attached are *circular*. At Stanton Drew the stones are called 'The Wedding,' and one of them is specially designated 'The Bride'; and here, tradition says, that they were all men and women turned into stone at their wedding-dance. At the St. John's Eve fires, moreover,—called in Ireland to this day, 'Bel-tan' fires,—they danced by night round them, carrying torches in their hands. A similar custom was observed in Cornwall.<sup>3</sup>

Though, as we have already intimated, such facts as we have detailed cannot be taken as any *positive* explanation of the '*Boys Dance*' round the Church on Shrove-Tuesday, yet thus much we may perhaps infer from them; viz.—that our Bradford custom no doubt is *very old*, and that it *may* have arisen from some ancient usage of the kind.

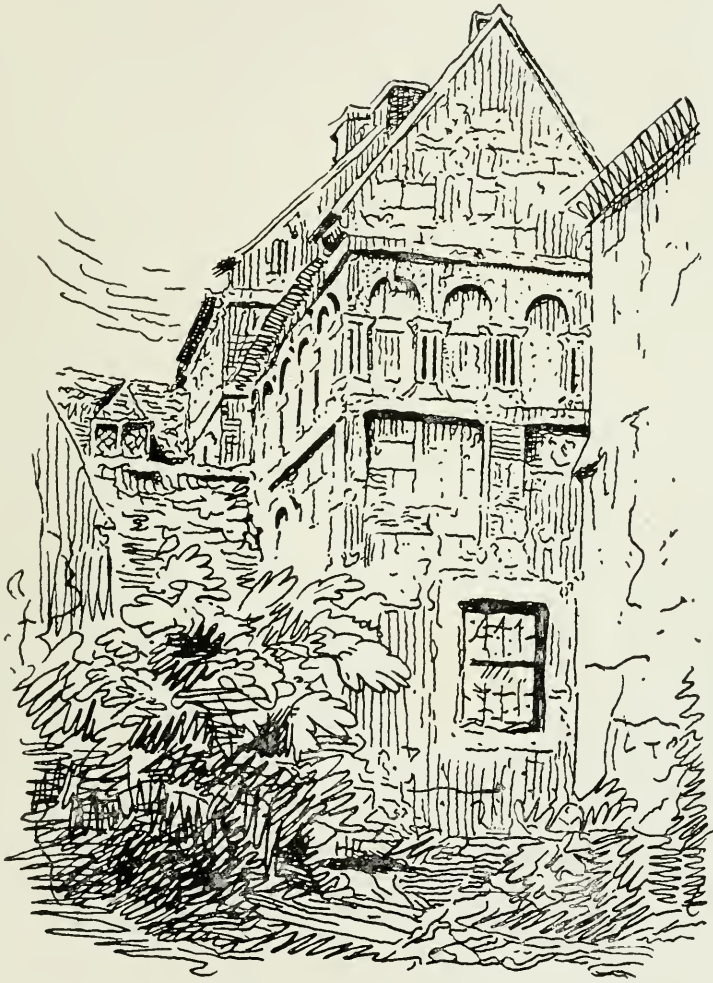
It will be no inappropriate addition to the foregoing section on our 'Parish Church,' to give an account of two old buildings erected originally for the purpose of religious worship, one of which has long altogether ceased, and the other almost

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<sup>1</sup> Archæologia, xxv. 217.

<sup>2</sup> Journal of British Archæological Association, June 1857, p. 110.

<sup>3</sup> Brand's Popular Antiquities, i. 337.

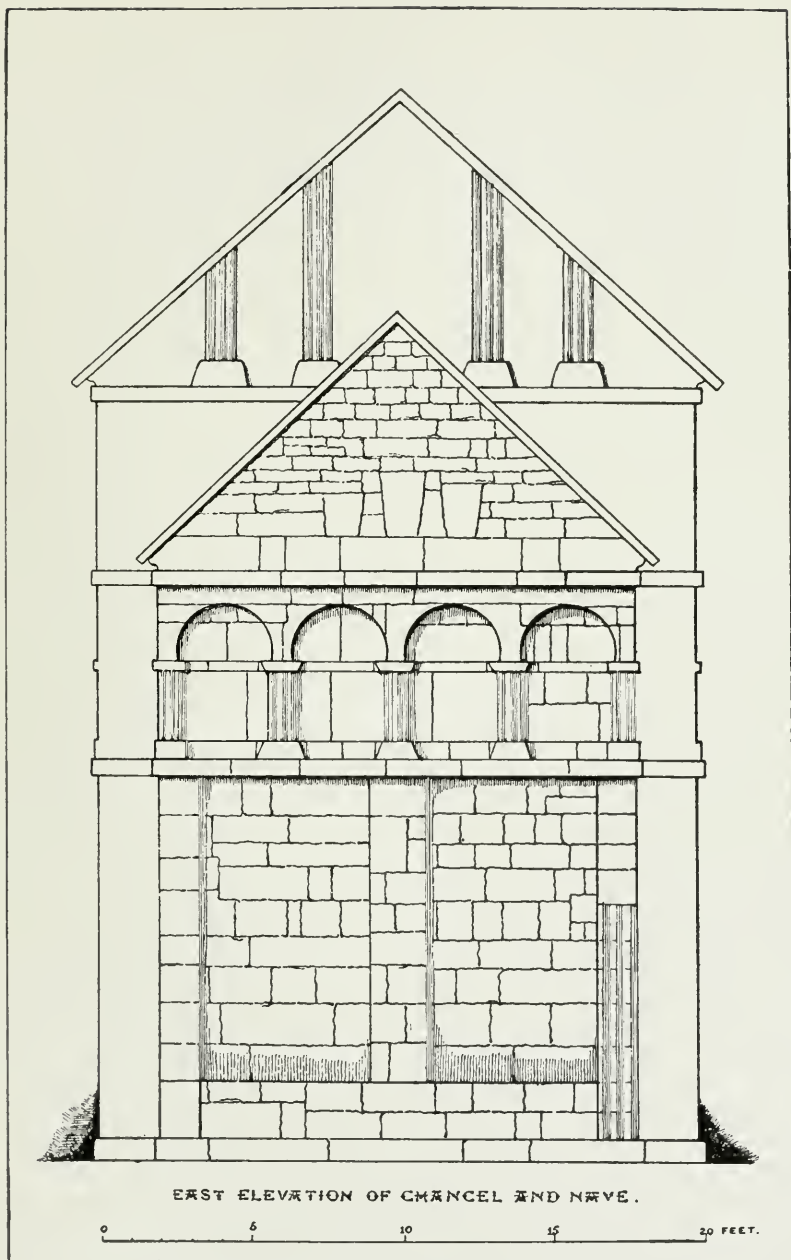


SOUTH-EAST VIEW.

Saxon Church. Bradford-on-Avon.

*From old Plate, 1858.*

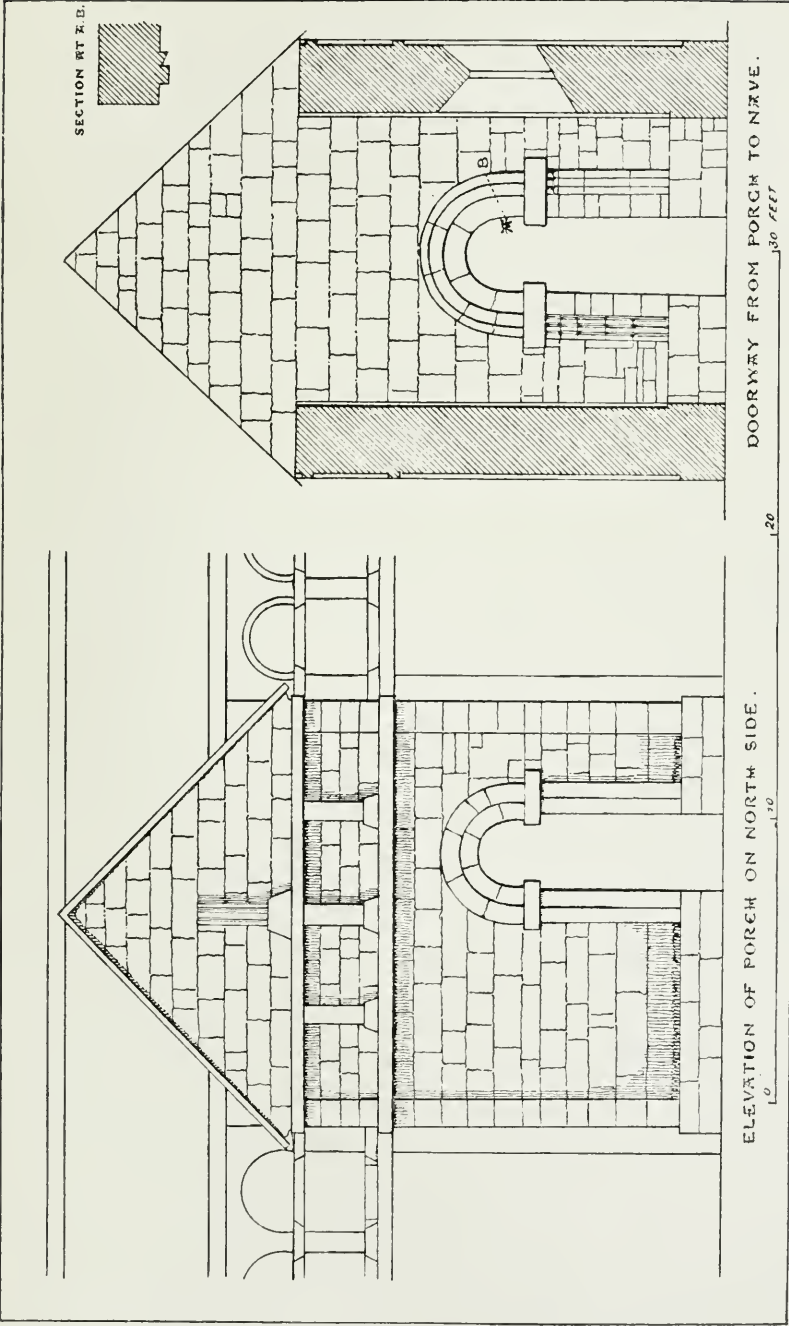




Saxon Church, Bradford-on-Avon.

*From old Plate, 1858.*





Saxon Church, Bradford-on-Avon.

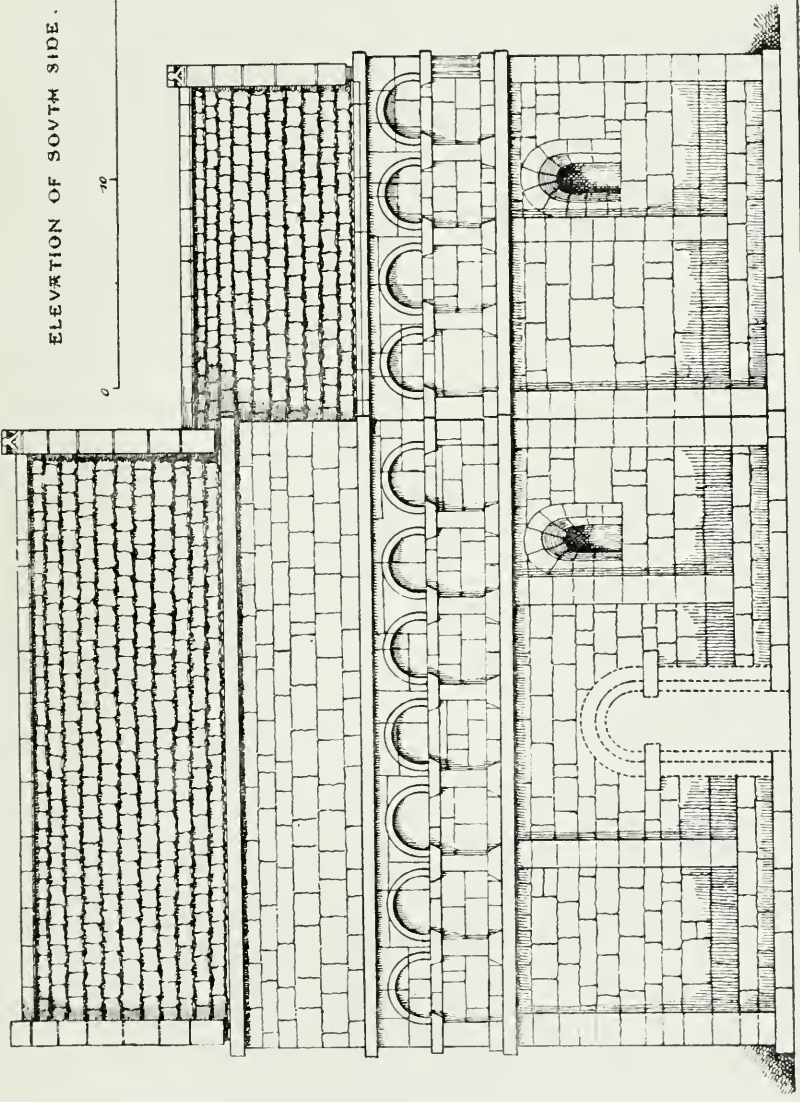
*From old Plate, 1858.*





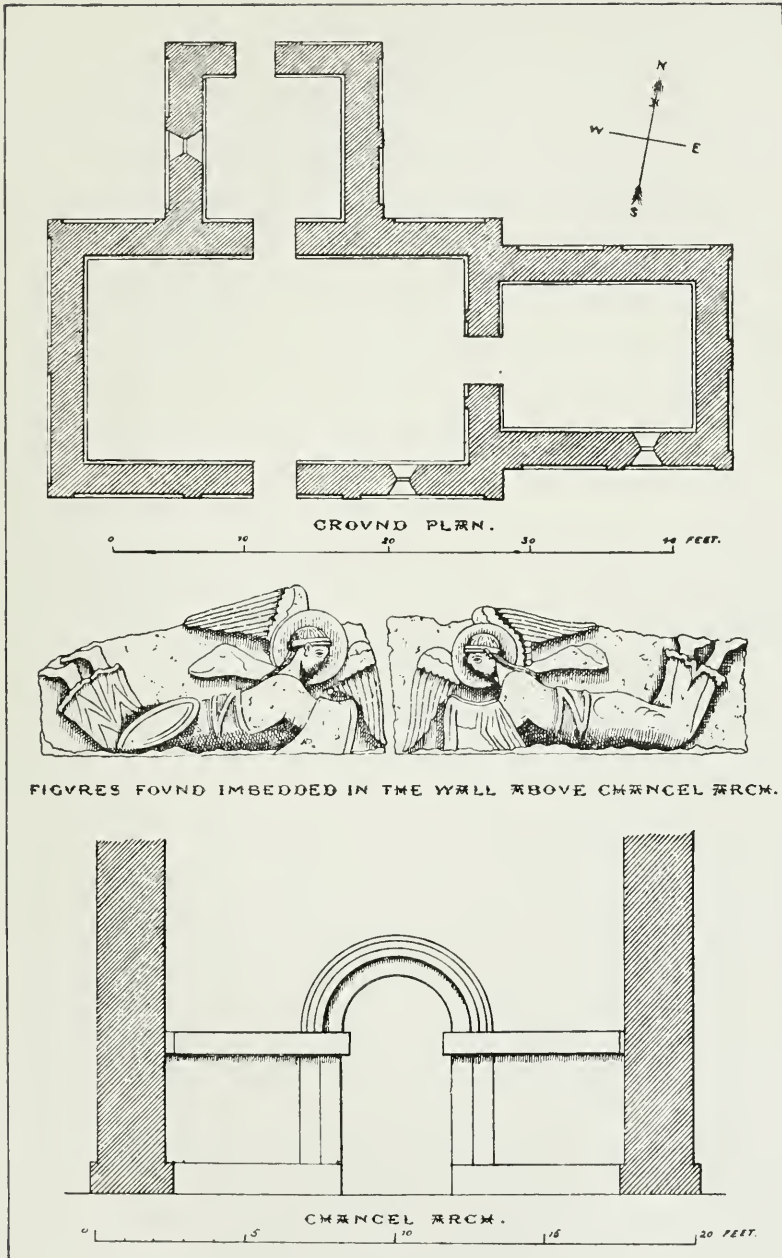
ELEVATION OF SOUTH SIDE.

0 10 20 FEET



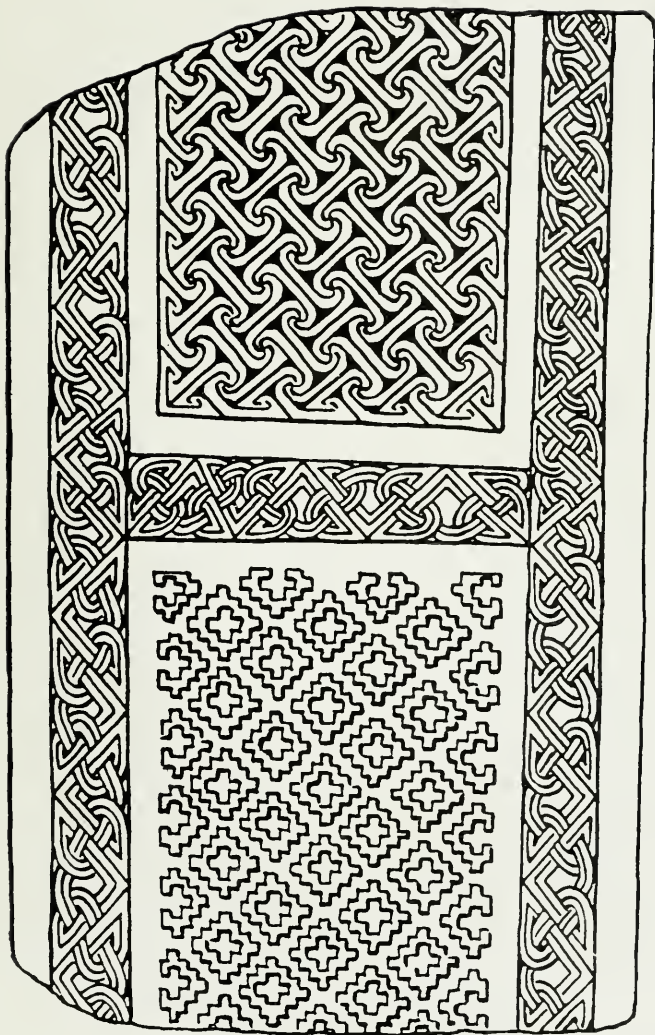
Saxon Church, Bradford-on-Avon.  
*From old Plate, 1855.*





Saxon Church, Bradford-on-Avon  
 From old Plate, 1858.

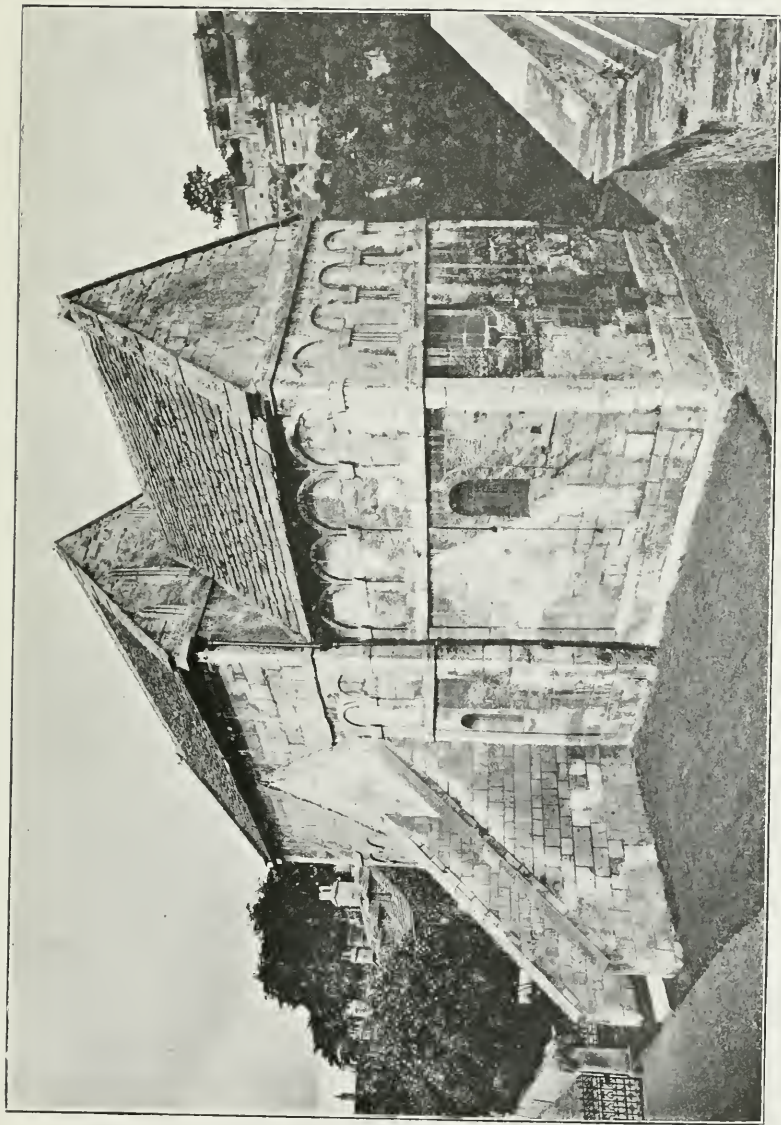




Sculptured Slab, Bradford-on-Avon.

*From old Plate, 1888.*



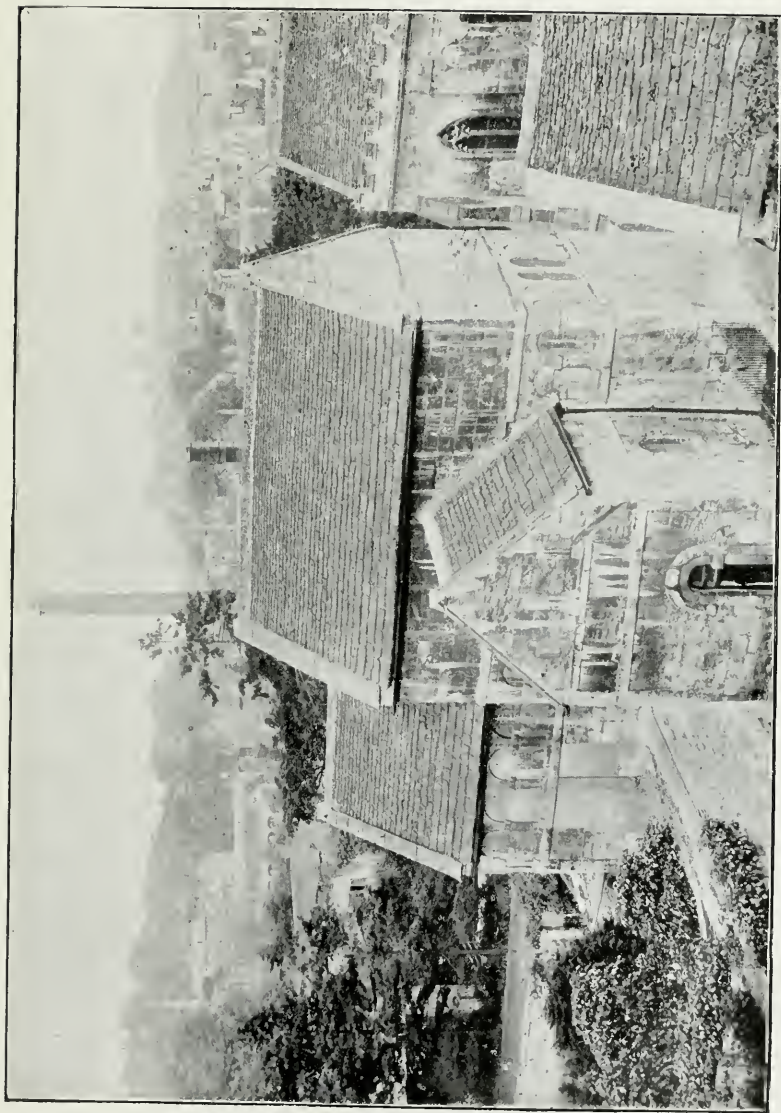


*Photo, Wm. Dotesio, 1906.*

**Saxon Church—South and East End.**







*Photo, Wm. Dotzsto, 1906.*

**Saxon Church—North, Shewing Porch,**





*Photo, Wm. Dolson, 1906.*

**Carved Stones in North Porch of Saxon Church.**

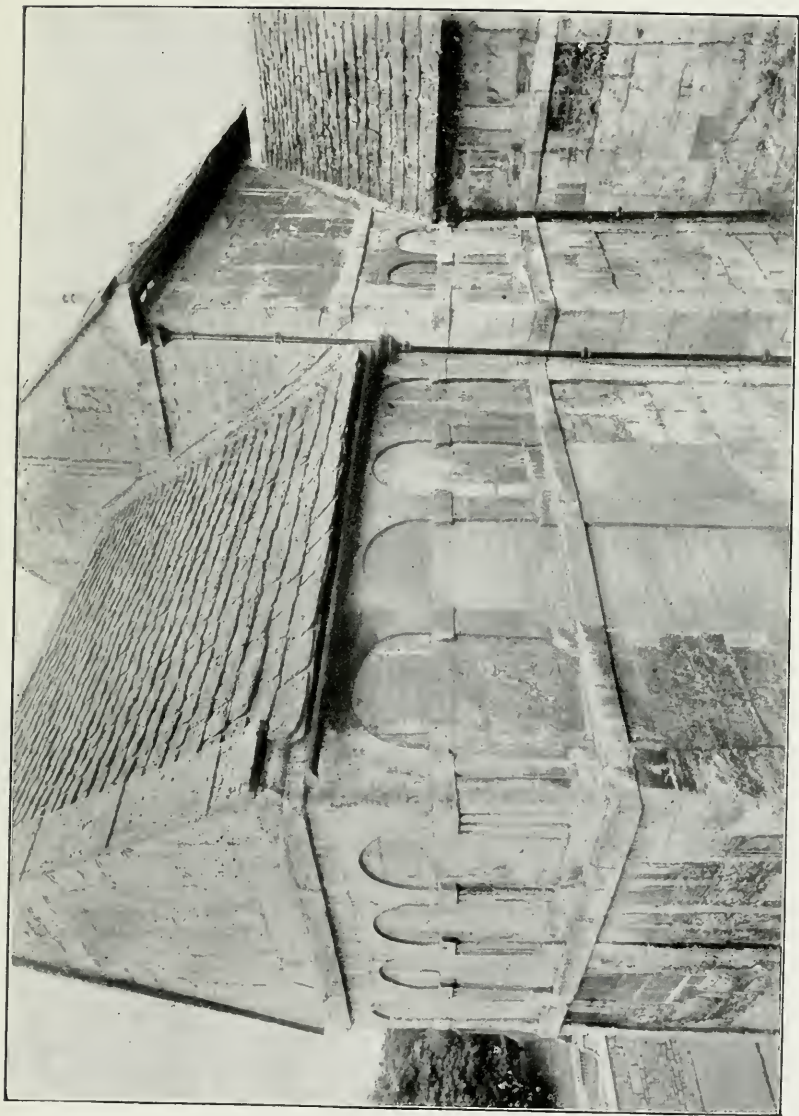




*Photo, Wm. Dotesio, 1906.*

The Nave from Porch.





*Photo, Wm. Dolesto, 1906.*

**Saxon Church—East End.**





entirely, to be used for the object for which they were built. The former is most probably an 'ANCIENT SAXON CHURCH,'—the other is called the 'GROVE MEETING-HOUSE,' and has some interest as being the first non-conformist chapel erected in Bradford.

#### THE SAXON CHURCH.<sup>1</sup>

By this term we designate a very ancient building, standing near the north-east end of the Parish Church, which is now used for the purposes of a Free-School. The surrounding site is still called the 'Abbey-yard,' from which we may form a plausible conjecture, as intimated in a previous page (12), that the monastery founded in this place by St. Aldhelm, at the commencement of the eighth century, was erected on that site. Moreover, in opening the ground, a few years ago, immediately adjoining the present building, for drainage and other purposes, stone coffins were discovered,—thus identifying the surrounding site as a place of sepulture. There are no records believed to be in existence which could throw light upon the object and purpose of the building in ancient times. [*William of Malmesbury's words (in the Life of St. Aldhelm contained in his Gesta Pontificum, written at latest in 1125), are these—“Necnon et apud Bradford tertium ab eo monasterium instructum crebra serit opinio,—quam confirmare videtur nomen villae in serie privilegii, quod jam episcopus ministeriis suis dedit oppositum et antiquis scripturæ liniamentis effigiatum. Et est ad hunc diem eo loci Ecclesiola, quam ad nomen Beatissimi Laurentii fecisse predicatur. Sed enim utraque monasteria From et Bradford — in nichilum defecere, restatque tantum nomen inane.”*

*In the survey of the manor for 1629, we have, among the copyholds the following, which clearly relates to our “little chapel.”*

*“Gifford Yerbury holdeth by copy of Court Roll dated the 9*

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<sup>1</sup> For valuable assistance, in drawing up the architectural details of this very interesting building, I have been indebted to my friend, Mr. C. E. Davies, F.S.A., of Bath.

day of Decembr, A<sup>o</sup> 12 Jacobi Regis (1614) one fair messuage with a Chappel annexed, one double Dove-house and diverse houses, 2 curtellages, one close of pasture containing 3 acres, &c."

Then at a subsequent date :—" Paul Methuen holdeth by lease from Sir Thomas Jervois

Two houses with Courts and Gardens and Pigeon	A.	R.	P.
House near the Church	3	23	
Pigeon House Close	2	3	24"

Then in a survey of the Copyholds, dated 1692, we have this entry referring to the same holding, Pigeon-house Close and Coombes Close being different names for it :

"Mr. Anthony Methuen holds by copy dated the—day of—168—, all that Messuage and Tenement called Coombes with all lands and premises thereto belong situate in Bradford, for the term of his own life and the lives of Thomas and John his sons.'" When a portion of it was conveyed to Trustees in 1715, [by Mr. Anthony Methuen] as a School-house, it was described as—"a building adjoining to the church-yard of Bradford, commonly called the Skull-House," [+++ in a certain ground called Coombs Close]—from the fact, most probably, of its having been used as a charnel-house. [The Chancel was not so conveyed, but reserved and used as a cottage, the Chancel Arch having been walled up; and this severance continued until it was purchased from the last owner in 1872.]

Hemmed in on every side by buildings of one kind or another,—on the south-side by a sort of wing added to the original building (in which the schoolmaster's residence now is), and also by another building used as a coach-house;—on the north by a large shed, employed for the purposes of the neighbouring woollen manufactory;—the design and nature of the building escaped, till a very recent date, the notice of Archæologists. The fact, too, of the west front being entirely modern work, deceived them as to the nature of the whole, and every one considered it, at the first glance, to be a production of the eighteenth century.

Subsequent investigation, however, has convinced us, that, notwithstanding the numerous alterations the building has

undergone during succeeding ages, it bears unmistakable evidences of a very early foundation;—probably as early as the *eleventh century*.† Seen from a distance, and from an elevated spot, it exhibits the usual form of a Church,—standing east and west,—and consisting of a Nave,—a Chancel,—and a Porch on the north side.

The building, as at first existing, was of three distinct roofs, marking the position of the three several portions, of which we have just spoken. That over the Porch, though not of the original elevated pitch, as is indicated on the side wall of the Nave, yet retains the same line of drip, but the others have been entirely altered. All the elevations, excepting that of the Porch which was only of two, were divided into three stages. The lowest was quite plain, with the exception, only, of a series of slight projections, which are so slight, indeed, that they can only be called pilasters, and not buttresses. These occur at regular intervals, and support a string-course, which runs all round the building, except where it has been recently destroyed. Upon this string-course runs an Arcade, consisting of a series of flat pilasters, partially moulded on the east, and formed by upright stones which however do not tail into the wall; and on these are square blocks of stone, slightly bevelled, which support, or rather *appear* to support, plain arches. The arches themselves are only surface decorations, and not at all constructive arches, as they are cut out of the stone, which runs, irrespectively of them, in regular courses. Around the Porch the pilasters do not support arches, but merely a tabling, which, on one side, is certainly original, and is built to receive the eaves. In the eastern gable of the Nave are the remains of an Arcade above the one already described, which was built to take the form of the pitch of the roof, being stilted in increasing height to the centre. A considerable portion, however, has been destroyed in the course of alterations made in the roof, and for the purpose of inserting flues. Above the tabling on the north side of the Porch, there would seem to

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† [(Note.) *But see further on as to date.*]

have been a similar Arcade to that on the east end of the Nave, the central pilaster, which is moulded, yet remaining.

The CHANCEL is about *thirteen* feet in length, and *ten* feet in width. It was entered through an archway which could not have been wider than about *four feet six inches*, if indeed so much. There is still remaining the fragment of the arch, which springs from an impost and has the usual characteristics of ante-Norman work. Its vast disproportion, in size, to the height of the wall is very striking, and may be perceived by comparing it with the elevation, as shewn in Plate iv., both being drawn to the same scale. Above this arch, were found imbedded in the wall, two stone figures of angels, which have been replaced. These figures are executed in a kind of low-relief;—the angels have their wings expanded, and around their heads is the ‘nimbus,’ and over an arm each holds a napkin. They seem to be in the act of devotion, and, as they were found, one on either side, in the wall above the Chancel arch, it is conjectured that originally there was some central figure which was removed in order to make way for the large stack of chimneys now carried up through the centre of the building.

[*There can be little doubt that there was once a Rood or Crucifix between and below these angelic figures. It must be remembered that the discovery of the ecclesiastical character of this building had only been made by Canon Jones (with some assistance from a Bath architect, Major Davis) in 1856; and that its date was still much debated. Hence the modest timidity of Canon Jones, exhibited in the above and other passages; he himself had hardly recognised the greatness of his discovery. The angelic figures and the (supposed) Rood may very probably have been of later date than the building itself; one of the reasons why several authorities, including Edward Freeman himself, afterwards a great champion of an earlier date, at first thought the building was of the tenth century, was the great resemblance of the figures to those in the Benedictional of St. Æthelwold. Canon Jones remarks elsewhere that they also resemble some figures in the Utrecht Psalter of the ninth century. It is necessary always to remember that there can*

*have been very little building in England between the middle of the ninth and the beginning of the eleventh century, owing to the continual Danish wars and ravages.]*

It may be observed that the pilasters on the east elevation of the Chancel are moulded into three depressed roundels, a very simple form of decoration,—in fact, the earliest form met with in this country. This work is therefore especially valuable as it seems to denote, first of all, the superiority of the eastern over the other elevations, where this ornament is not to be found, and so to increase the certainty that the building is a Church;—and, in the next place, when considered together with the peculiar way in which the lesser pilasters, which support the arcade, are built, marks out distinctly the great antiquity of the structure.

There is still remaining a window, though blocked up with masonry, in the south wall of the Chancel. It is circular-headed, is splayed considerably externally,—and no doubt would be found to be splayed also *internally* if we were able to examine it, [*it is so*]—and gives every evidence of being one of the original windows. [*There was, it is conjectured, a similar window on the north side, which, together with the portion of the old arcade which ran above it, had been removed, for the insertion of modern windows, while the building was used as a cottage. Among minor peculiarities may be observed the step down into the Chancel, and the incisions just below the impost of the Chancel arch, into which it is supposed were driven the blocks of wood in which were the iron staples on which the Chancel gates hung.*

*The floor is ancient, but not original: it has evidently been remanié; for on some of the stones that compose it are traces of carven ornament: a figure of Christ has been thought to be recognisable.]*

The NAVE is *twenty-five feet two inches* in length, and *thirteen feet two inches* in width. It was entered by an archway which still exists. The archway, which is not recessed, is *two feet ten inches* wide and springs from an impost, which is itself simply a plain string-course stopping a slightly moulded

pilaster formed by a series of segmental roundels. Above the impost, this is continued over the arch, as a hood moulding. This arch is certainly one of the earliest enriched or ornamented yet known. It may be remarked that the opening of this door-way is wider at the floor than at the springing,—one of those minor peculiarities which tend to confirm our opinion as to the antiquity of the work.<sup>1</sup> [*This peculiarity is apparent, though not very conspicuous, in the other doorways.*]

The western wall of the Nave is to a great extent the production of modern times, the larger portion of the original wall having been removed. It is very easy, however, to detect the remains of the original Arcade, which seems to have run round the entire building. A careful examination might perhaps shew how the west end was finished. It has been suggested, that possibly there may have been a small circular window somewhat high in the building.

In the south wall of the Nave traces of an old window are distinctly to be seen, a portion of the semicircular head still remaining. [*This has been restored.*] From the windows which still exist, or of which we have the trace, we should conceive that there was one window on either side of the Chancel, and two on the south side of the Nave, of similar form to those that remain. [*In any case, the interior of the building must have been dark; but the cleric doubtless knew his office by heart, and the commonalty could not read, and needed little light. This south wall, composed of two faces of stone filled in with grouting or cement threatened to collapse; but it was carefully restored, and the gap refilled with cement, by, says Freeman "a very skilful and zealous architect, Mr. Adye."*]

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<sup>1</sup> There is a doorway, at Somerford Keynes Church, very similar to this one which we are describing. There is a drawing of it amongst the 'Mullings Papers' now in the Library of the Wilts Archæological Society at Devizes. It is drawn, by Mr. J. St. Aubyn, to the scale of *half an inch* to the foot. It is thus described;—"On the north side of the Nave is a curious and singular *Saxon Door-way*, now walled up, which appears to be of a date earlier than the Norman conquest." In Rickman's work, (appendix on '*Saxon Architecture*,' p. 35) Somerford Keynes is reckoned among the *Saxon* remains in Wiltshire.

The PORCH, on the north side of the building, is about *ten feet square* [*ten feet five inches by nine feet eleven inches.*] Its front seems to have been decorated, there still remaining a moulded pilaster above the plain arcade already described. A window in the Porch on the west side is still used, and a glance at this shows it to have been the work of a very early date. It has all the characteristics of those we have already described. The Porch was entered by a doorway, which, though closed up, still remains, and is almost immediately opposite the archway already described as the entrance to the Nave. [*These doorways have of course been opened and repaired. The window in the Porch is of singularly rude workmanship, and with the arch over the outer door, gives one the impression that here the Saxon mason first tried his prentice hand upon an arch. The great size of the Porch, compared with the small area of the nave, is noteworthy, and gives rise to various conjectures. Was it a baptistery? I think not. The only font I have seen of so early a date, which is at Le Puy, was adapted for adult immersion. Were the heathen catechumens—the country must have swarmed with heathens at that time—excluded from the Nave? Or, finally, did St. Aldhelm, like St. Cuthbert, object to the ingress of women beyond the Porch? There are now in this Porch a number of fragments of stone, elaborately sculptured. They do not belong to the Ecclesiola, but were brought hither from the Parish Church, at the time of its “restoration.” Some of them are probably pre-Norman, but of later date than Aldhelm’s foundations.*]

So early an example of a Porch,—especially on the *north* side,—is, we believe, not only most rare, but unique. A conjecture has been thrown out, that possibly the original Church was cruciform, a corresponding portion of the building—(in this case it would be a sort of transept)—having perhaps existed on the south side. A minute examination of the wall, however, reveals not the slightest trace of anything of the kind. Indeed, the approach to the building on the *south* side could only have been managed at any time by means of a flight of at least 12 or 14 steps, the ground sloping down

towards the river. When we recollect, too, that the population of Bradford, in early times, lived probably all on the *north side* of the town, the older houses all being built in successive terraces on the slope of the hill which shuts in the town on that side, it would render it not unlikely that, for their convenience of access to the Church, there might be a deviation from what is acknowledged to be the general custom. [All this argument is not to the purpose in face of the fact that when the Restoration Committee set to work, they excavated the foundations of another, a southern Porch, of about equal dimensions with the northern one. The modern buttresses were built out so as to mark the exact extent of these foundations. Moreover the mark of what seems to have been the gable of the Porch remains on the external wall of the nave; possibly, however, this gable may have belonged to a more modern building replacing the original Porch, the "sort of wing" just now mentioned. Whether this southern projection of the building was really another Porch, or, as Canon Jones himself subsequently suggested, a room for the priest or sacristan, it is now impossible to determine]

Without any existing records of the erection of this building we might perhaps hesitate to assign so early a date as the work seems to justify, but it certainly has as great a claim to be considered *eleventh* or even *tenth* century work, as any which assumes that honor, without any documentary evidence to support its pretensions. All the indications we have already mentioned, together with the great height† of the side walls and the comparatively low pitch of the roof, point it out as belonging to what has been called the 'Saxon Romanesque' style, which is considered to have prevailed from the *ninth* to the middle of the *eleventh* century. No one indeed can

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[† The height of the Nave, from the ground line to the wall plate, is twenty-five feet five inches, of the Chancel eighteen feet four inches, and of the Porch fifteen feet six inches. This great proportionate height is found in rude drawings of churches of the tenth century, as in the Benedictional of St. Ethelwold, also in the representation of Bosham Church in the Bayeux Tapestry. See Canon Jones's "Account of the Saxon Church of St. Laurence, Bradford-on-Avon."]



thoroughly examine this little Church, without coming to the conclusion,—from the rough style of its masonry, and other indications,—that it never could have been built by the skilled workmen of Bristol Chapter House, Malmesbury Abbey, or St. John's, Devizes, but that it was certainly an earlier erection. The only other supposition, consistent with a later date, would be,—that it was erected by provincial workmen, uninfluenced by foreign refinements, or who rejected the improvements of the dominant race. [*When the author wrote all this he had not seen the now famous testimony of William of Malmesbury. Even about 1872, when he wrote another paper on the subject, though he was then aware of what William had said, he did not fully rely on it, and still only claimed that the Church might have been built in Ethelred the Unready's time. Later still, some architects continued of that mind; and Canon Jones was awed by their authority. But when the restoration had been concluded most of these doubters vanished, or, under the leadership of Edward Freeman, assented to the ascription of the little Church to Aldhelm—“There can be no reasonable doubt” wrote Freeman in 1886, “that the building now standing is the Ecclesiola recorded by William as having been built at Bradford by St. Ealdhelm + + + an all but untouched example of a Church of the end of the seventh century or the beginning of the eighth: it must be unique or very nearly so.”*

*It is difficult to believe that William could have been mistaken. He lived not twenty miles away, he had seen at Malmesbury and apparently elsewhere, other specimens of Aldhelm's building, which he, familiar doubtless with good Norman work, thought by no means contemptible. Tradition in those illiterate days was long-enduring; if our Church had been rebuilt at the end of the tenth century the fact would not have been forgotten in the beginning of the twelfth.*

*There is a Church at St. Dié, in the Vosges, ascribed to the seventh century, which bears a very close resemblance to this one, but there also some are incredulous as to the date.*

*The Committee of Trustees, under whom the restoration of*

*this most interesting building was carried out, consisted of the Rt. Hon. Earl Nelson, Sir Charles P. Hobhouse, Bart., Sir John Wither Audry, Mr. J. H. Parker, the Rev. E. L. Barnwell, and Canon Jones himself.]*

There can be no doubt that we have in this building one of the most interesting specimens yet remaining of Ante-Norman work. Wiltshire is already rich in relics of our *British* forefathers. Fortified by the opinions of many well qualified to speak authoritatively on the matter, we can have little hesitation in pronouncing this building to have been a *Saxon Church*, of which indeed, as far as we know, it is, in its completeness, a unique specimen; and thus our County is also able to boast of remains, which, though somewhat less ancient than British, will hardly be deemed less precious.

*[Christchurch. — This Church was erected in 1840, the material being local stone, and the district assigned to it that of Berefield. The style is perpendicular Gothic: the design of the chancel was the work of the late Sir G. Scott. The tower and spire, from the elevation of the site, form a conspicuous and beautiful element in the surrounding landscapes. The adjacent schools and schoolhouse were erected at the sole expense of the late Captain Palairret, of Woolley Grange,—a picturesque old mansion which he repaired and beautified.]*

#### THE GROVE MEETING-HOUSE.<sup>1</sup>

This is the oldest Non-conformist place of worship in the town of Bradford. It is situated at the east end of what is called Middle Rank, and on the slope of the hill behind the house formerly occupied by the Methuen family. We have quoted in a previous page (58), Aubrey's description of 'the side of the high hill, facing the south, above Mr. Paul Methwin's house,' which, in his time was covered with elder-trees. Hence the name of,—the '*Grove*' Meeting-House or Chapel.

There is something singularly picturesque in the present appearance of this structure. From long disuse it is fast

<sup>1</sup> I have to thank Mr. J. Jeffery, of Bath, for much of the information concerning the '*Grove Meeting-House.*'

hastening to decay. Its mullioned casement windows are now nearly hidden by luxuriant ivy-tresses, which enshroud the greater part of the building. It bears on its front an air of antique respectability, and is a fair type of the places of worship that sprung up quickly after the passing of the Toleration Act at the close of the seventeenth century, for the use of the Presbyterian and Independent Non-conformists.

The date of the erection of this Chapel, which was built for the use of those who inclined to Presbyterianism,—amongst whom, at one time, were numbered some of the principal inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood,—was about A.D. 1698.<sup>1</sup> It is believed that it owed its origin to the efforts of some of the Clergy, who, when the Act of Uniformity was passed, retired from the Established Church. Indeed, the Rev. T. Jones, who was ejected from Calne, is supposed to have assisted to found the Society which met at the Grove Meeting.

At the close of the 17th century a Mr. Dangerfield was the stated minister of this place of worship. In 1715 Mr. Thomas Barker filled that office, and continued to do so till 1729. He was succeeded by Mr. (afterwards Dr.) Joshua Read, who seems to have been associated in his office with a Mr. Wereat. The views of this last-named gentleman were in sympathy with what is commonly termed Arianism, and, in consequence of this, a secession took place of several who had been accustomed to attend the 'Grove Chapel.' Walter Grant, of Monkton Farleigh, and John Pitman, of Bradford, were the chief persons who retired, and through their instrumentality it was, that, in 1740, an Independent Chapel was built at Morgan's Hill, the first minister being the above-mentioned Dr. Joshua Read. This last-named chapel was subsequently endowed by Walter Grant and John Pitman, by will, with property amounting, when invested in the public funds, to £2144 13s. 2d., three per cent Reduced Annuities.

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<sup>1</sup> By a deed dated January 2, 1698, Anthony Methuen conveyed the ground, on which the 'Grove Meeting' was shortly afterwards erected to Francis Yerbury, the elder, of Ashley, Francis Yerbury, the younger, of Bradford, William Chandler, of Bradford, and Thomas Bush, of Bradford.

Immediately after this secession from the 'Grove Chapel,' we find Dr. Roger Flexman appointed as its minister. He remained there about eight years, when (in 1747) he removed to Rotherhithe, and was succeeded by Mr. Samuel Billingsley, a member of an old Presbyterian family of Ashwick in Somerset, the founders of the Meeting-House at that place. Mr. Billingsley resigned the office at the end of ten years.

In 1763 Mr. James Foot of Chard, a pupil of Dr. Doddridge, was minister of this chapel, and continued to be so till his death, (about 1777,) when he was succeeded by Mr. Williams of Calne, who died in 1810. This last-named gentleman was engaged in some kind of secular appointment, which was exceedingly distasteful to many of the old Presbyterian attendants at the chapel. Before his decease many of the more influential and wealthy of them had either conformed to the Established Church, or left the district, and the places of those who were removed by death were not supplied by others. Those who remained were but few in number, and openly professed themselves,—Unitarians. In 1793 a Liturgy, similar to that used at the principal Unitarian Chapel at Manchester, was in use at the Grove Meeting-House.

On the decease of Mr. Williams, Mr. John Evans of Bristol for a short time acted as minister, after which the Meeting-House was let to a body of Trinitarian Dissenters for several years. This lastnamed body subsequently built a chapel for themselves, a Mr. Coombs being their minister.

In the year 1822, Mr. Richard Wright, who was the minister of a Dissenting congregation meeting at the Conigre, Trowbridge, re-opened the Grove Chapel, and for five years preached in it every Sunday morning. In 1827, Mr. Samuel Martin succeeded to Mr. Wright at Trowbridge, and for some time followed his practice with regard to a weekly service in the Grove Meeting. For many yerrs past, however, the service has been very irregular. Latterly it has been held only once or twice in the year, for the purpose of securing a small endowment, hardly more than sufficient to keep the building wind and water tight. The endowment arises from

the rents of two houses in the immediate neighbourhood of the chapel, and produces from £10 to £12 a year.

Few memorials remain either of former ministers or of attendants of this chapel. Of Dr. Roger Flexman, who was a man of some literary attainments, we are able to give a few particulars.

He was born at Great Torrington in Devonshire, in the year 1708, and educated for the ministry, among the Presbyterian denomination, by the Rev. John Moore. He was set apart for this work at Modbury by some of his Presbyterian brethren. After officiating at Chard and Crediton, he came to Bradford at the close of 1739. In 1747 he married Catharine the daughter of Mr. John Yerbury, one of the principal members of the congregation attending the Grove Meeting, and in the same year removed to another chapel at Jamaica Row, Rotherhithe. In 1783 he resigned his office from ill-health, but continued to fulfil the duties of Lecturer at St. Helen's, (to which he was elected in 1754) and preached there occasionally until his decease at the age of 88, in the year 1795.

Of Dr. Flexman's sentiments we are told, by Mr. Walter Wilson, that "they coincided very much with those of Dr. Amory," whose opinions "with regard to both natural and revealed religion, nearly agreed with those of Dr. Samuel Clarke, and of the eminent divines who were coadjutors with that great man. He did not therefore fall in with the Socinian principles; neither did he reject the natural evidences of the life to come, or the notion of a separate state." Dr. Flexman, he adds, "was a strenuous advocate for the pre-existent dignity of Jesus Christ, and the personality of the Holy Spirit. He maintained the essential distinction between the soul and the body, and the liberty of the human will in opposition to materialists and necessitarians."

Dr. Flexman was well known in the literary circles of his day, and was especially noted for his accurate knowledge of English History. He was employed by the Government as one of the compiler of the General Index to the 'Journals of

the House of Commons;’ the eighth and three following volumes, containing the Parliamentary proceedings from 1660 to 1697, having been assigned to him. This elaborate work was commenced in 1776 and completed in 1780. He also published several Sermons and Tracts: amongst the most important of his productions were ‘An account of the writings of Bishop Burnet,’ and ‘Critical, Historical, and Political Miscellanies,’ containing remarks on various authors, amongst whom were Archbishops Potter and Secker, and Bishops Sherlock, Warbuton, and Lowth. His abilities and attainments acquired for him the honorary degree of D.D. from the Marischal College of Aberdeen in 1770.

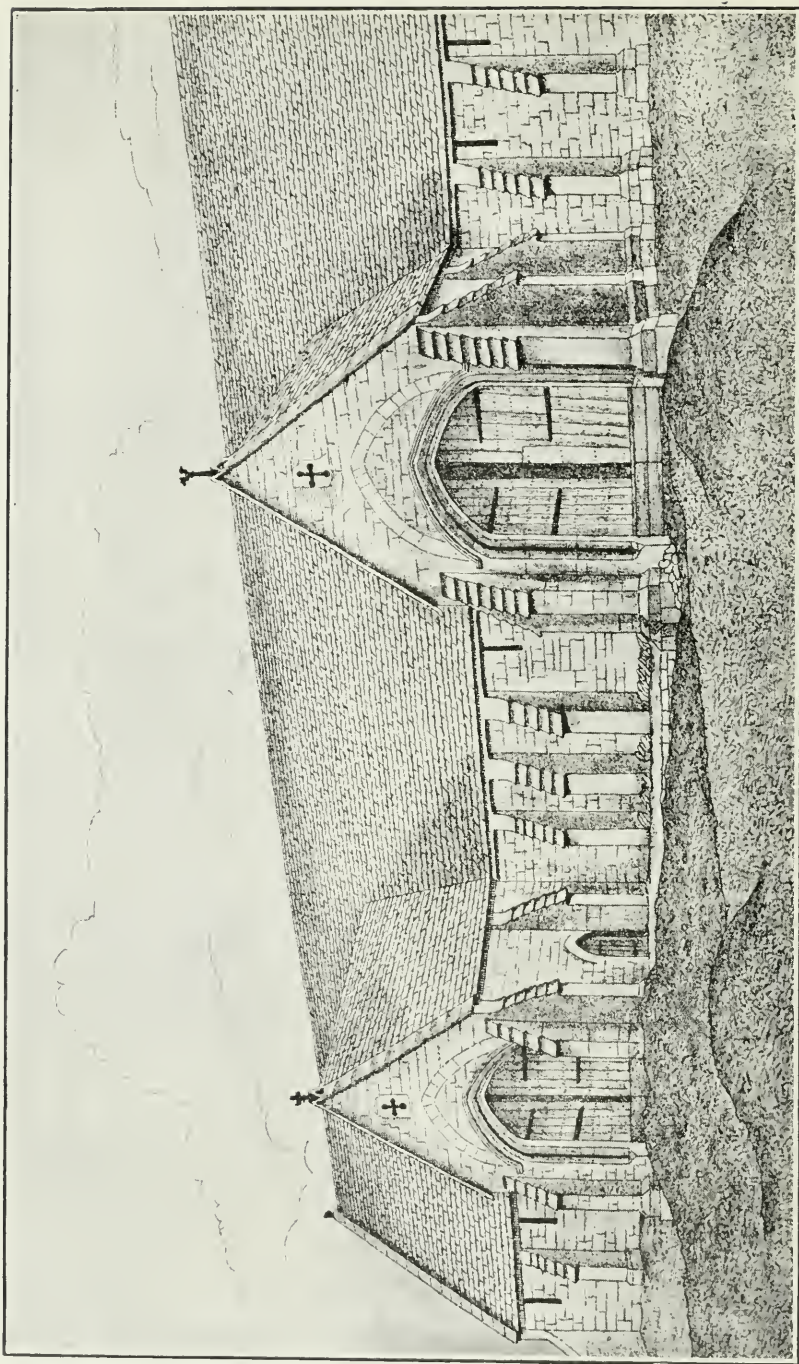
[*Other Nonconformist Chapels.*]

*These are less conspicuous than commodious, none of them actually abutting on the principal thoroughfares. The Wesleyan Chapel at the top of Coppice Hill is a large and rather handsome edifice, built in 1818. The old chapel, frequented by John Wesley and Adam Clarke, was close to Pippett Street, now Market Street. Wesley is said to have preached also on the Town Bridge. The Congregational Chapel opens from St. Margaret Street, as also does that belonging to the Particular Baptists. Zion Chapel, on Coneygre Hill, has a pretty interior; and there are also the Huntingdon and Providence Chapels in Berefield, on the top of the hill.*

*The Hermitage or Tory Chapel.*

*This is finely placed on a salient angle of the northern hill. Leland calls it a chapel, Aubrey a hermitage, meaning, apparently, a hospitium for pilgrims, such as that which still exists almost perfect a few miles to the north, Chapel Plaister. The late T. B. Saunders, Q.C., the proprietor, restored and almost rebuilt it about 30 years ago, in the original style, which was late perpendicular. Stretching out from it to the east is the long range of houses called Tory (Tor, a hill?) cresting the ascent, and largely contributing to the picturesquely foreign aspect of the place.*





**Gilhe Barn, Bradford-on-Avon.**

*From old Engraving, 1858.*



*The Tithe Barn.*

Should probably rather be called the manorial or demesne barn: the Abbess of Shaftesbury was at once tithe-owner and lady of the manor. It is a remarkably fine building of the kind, with massive stone walls and a shingle roof supported by enormous oaken beams and ties. Its internal dimensions are 180×30 feet: its date probably the earlier part of the fourteenth century, some would put it later, some considerably earlier. The Tisbury Barn, also on the estate of Shaftesbury Abbey, and very similar to this one, is said to have been built about A.D. 1260.

*The Bridges.*

The town bridge is placed upon or immediately above, the "broad ford," and was originally perhaps only a footbridge, the ford sufficing for carts, which continued to pass through it until the northern end was blocked by the erection of a quay, a few years ago. Two of its "nine fair arches" are pointed and ribbed, and indicate, good authorities say, the thirteenth century as the date of the eastern side. The western side is a comparatively late addition, probably of the seventeenth century, and its round arches look modern and commonplace, especially since the stone tables projecting from the piers, once used for washing wool, have disappeared.

An interesting letter is extant, which connects the chapel, or blindhouse,† with the labours and difficulties of John Wesley. It was addressed to him by a Mr. Wm. Hitchens, and runs as follows:—

28th February, 1757.

Reverend and Dear Sir,

When I was at Freshford on the 30th of January in the morning, I scrupled singing these words "Ye now afflicted are and hated for His name, And in your bodies bear the tokens of the Lamb." I thought I was not afflicted nor hated for the name of Christ. But this scruple was soon removed.

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[†For an account of this little building, see ante, pp. 40, 41.]

For at Bradford in the evening I was pressed for a soldier, and carried to an inn where the gentlemen were. Mr. Pearse, hearing of it, came and offered bail for my appearance the next day. They said they would take his word for ten thousand pounds, but not for me; I must go to the Round House, the little stone room on the side of the Bridge: so thither I was conveyed by five soldiers. There I found nothing to sit on but a stone, and nothing to lie on but a little straw: but soon after a friend sent me a chair on which I sat all night. I had a double guard, 12 soldiers in all, two without, one in the door and the rest within. I passed the night without sleep, but not without rest; for, blessed be God, my peace was not broken a moment. My body was in prison, but I was Christ's freeman; my soul was at liberty; and even there I found some work to do for God; I had a fair opportunity of speaking to them who durst not leave me, and I hope it was not in vain.

In the morning I had leave to go to a private house with only one soldier to guard me. About three in the afternoon I was carried before the Commissioners, and part of the Act was read which empowered them to take such able-bodied men as followed no business and had no lawful or sufficient maintenance.

Then I said, "If these are the men you are to take, I am not a proper person; for I do follow a lawful calling in partnership with my brother, and have also an estate." The Justice said, "If you will make oath of that, I think we must let you go!" but the Commissioners said, "no man could swear for himself." I said, "Gentlemen, give me time and you shall have full proof!" After a long debate, they took a fifty pound bond for my appearance on that day three weeks.

All the time I could bless God that he counted me worthy to suffer for His name's sake. The next day I set out for Cornwall. I tarried at home four days, and then, setting out with my brother James, came to Bradford last Saturday. On Monday in the afternoon I appeared before the Commissioners, with the writings of my estate. When the Justice had perused them, and my brother had taken his oath, I was set at liberty. So the fierceness of man turns to God's praise, and all this is for the

*furtherance of the Gospel. I hope you will return God thanks for my deliverance out of the hands of unreasonable and wicked men.*

*William Hitchens.*

*The building was also at times used as a toll-house ; and tolls were taken on beasts going to the Saturday market.*

*Barton Bridge was built, apparently, in the early part of the fourteenth century: it leads to Barton Farm and the great Barn; and probably the Barn and Bridge are coeval. It is a picturesque old structure with four ribbed and pointed arches and three huge piers, and has defied many floods, some of which have swept completely over it. The views of it are grievously interfered with by the hideous modern railway bridge.*

#### *The Ancient Mansions and Houses.*

*Of these the first in beauty and in interest, though not in date, is the Hall, which has already been repeatedly mentioned. Whether it should be called Elizabethan or Jacobean, is matter of debate. I agree with the present owner in inclining to the former view. It is somewhat strange that there is no documentary evidence as to its date, builder or cost.*

*As the finest example to be found of a moderately-sized house of peculiarly English construction, it was chosen for reproduction as the English Pavilion in the great Paris Exposition of 1900. On a fine day, while the Ampelopsis is changing color, it affords a sight of singular beauty.†*

#### *The Priory.*

*Or the Methuens', as it ought rather to be called. The nucleus of this fine old house dates probably from the 15th century ; and its founder was a Rogers, most likely the serjeant at law. The curious little chapel, the small vaulted parlour, and one of the two fine wooden staircases, among other portions of the building, (Mr. Parker, I believe, assigned it to the older staircase) may be of that date: the stately hall may be set to the credit of the*

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*(†See Appendix for a full account of the Hall by the Rev. J. E. Jackson, reprinted from Vol. I. of the Wiltshire Archæological Magazine.*

*Methuens*, long its owners. The house was sold by the last proprietor of that family in 1763 to *Mawbey Tugwell*; and he (or probably his executors) sold it about 1818 (?) to *John Saunders*: from him it passed through *Thos. Hosier Saunders* to the late *Thomas Bush Saunders, M.A.*, and from him to his daughter, the present owner. *John Saunders* built the kitchen wing. In the beautiful old music room, above the minstrel gallery, is a shield which cannot have belonged to any known proprietor, apparently ermine, two chevrons, crest an arm and hand holding an otter. It does not occur in *Jackson's Aubrey*. There is, in the grounds, a fine, stone-built, mediæval barn. On the lawn are two tulip trees of extraordinary size and beauty, but not older than the nineteenth century.

#### The Chantry House.

We have seen (p. 116) that there was, in 1546-48, a house known as "the Mantyon House of the Chauntre," and occupied by the Priest at a yearly rent of 3s. 4d. This must have been the nucleus of the present house, and included, in its southern wing, the small priest's room or place of concealment, and the curious fish tank, or bath, below it.

The following history of the tenure I owe to the kindness of *Sir C. P. Hobhouse, Bart.*

20th Decr., 1578, *Cyrell Hall*, of *Barton, Bradford*, woadener (? dyer) and *Anthony Webbe*, also of *Barton*, conveyed the messuage and garden, called the Chauntery House to *James, Thomas and Mary*, the children of *Richard Willis* of *Wynnesley*. Consideration £12 of currante money of England. In 1580 *Edward Horton*, of *Westwood*, gentleman, (whose father *Thomas* of *Iford* had purchased the Chantry property from the crown at the dissolution) had let ("farm letter") the premises to *Robert Fuller*, of *Bradford*, for a consideration of 14/- . In 1595 and 1614 there were certain money transactions between *Thomas and Anthony Lobell*, yeoman and clothier, of *Bristol*, and *John Baillie*; and one of these *Lobells* on December 1, 1623, conveyed the premises to *Robert Daunton* alias *Bailie*, of *Bradford*, husbandman, for a consideration of £44.

On January 1, 1650, Thomas Bailey alias Daunton, of Bradford, gentleman, and Charles Bayley alias Daunton, of Attwell, Wilts, clothier, conveyed the premises to Robert Holton, of Bradford, clothier, for a consideration of £65; and in 1662 Elizabeth Taunton or Daunton alias Bayley, of Leigh, Bradford conveyed the premises to Robert Holton, of Trowbridge, clothier, in consideration of the sum of 10 shillings and divers other considerations.

Up to this time the conveyances talk simply of a messuage and garden, and make no mention of any rights superior to those of the successive leaseholders (though the existence of such rights might perhaps be conjectured from the smallness of the prices.) But in the year 1664 appears the fact that the premises were within the Manor of Bradford and Rowldy, that the main lease was apparently from the Lord of the Manor (? Walsingham) and that the full term of it was 2000 years.

On the 20th November, 1664, Sir Edward Hungerford, of Farley Hungerford, conveyed the premises for the sum of £399 : 3 : 6 to certain Trustees, in trust for Edward Thresher, clothier, of Bradford, for the residue of this term of 2000 years. But on July 4, 1672, Lady Hungerford, of Corsham, Wilts, and of Farleigh Hungerford, Somerset, in consideration of £66 in money, and of a yearly payment of 4 shillings and a fatted capon to be rendered yearly on or before Christmas Day, demised the premises to John Holton, of Bradford, clothier.

Nevertheless, in 1676, the same John Holton paid one Robert Ifoot a sum of £303 for the said premises. Then in May, 1696, John Holton, of Nonsuch, Bromham, Wilts, and his sisters Margaret and Jane, children of John Holton, late of Bradford, clothier, conveyed the tenancy of the above premises to Edward Thresher, tenant thereof, for £260, the tenants immediately preceding having been Thomas Poole and Charles Baillie, otherwise Dainton or Daunton, of Keevil, Wilts, clothier.†

So up to 1664-72 the Hungerfords were the owners of the 2000 years' tenure. From the year 1664 Edward Thresher held some

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†(Note) There is a triangular piece of land at the top of Elmscross Hill still called Dainton's Grave.—C.P.H.

kind of ownership, but not until 1696 was he both owner and occupier. The complexity of the tenures is quite feudal, and the vicissitudes of the local families concerned are noteworthy.

Additions seem to have been made to the house in the latter part of the 17th century, and again, by the Threshers, in the early part of the 18th, when the small courtyard was covered in.

From the Threshers the property passed to the Cams, and so by marriage to the Hobhouses. Sir John Cam Hobhouse, Byron's friend, afterwards Lord Broughton, was born here. The property was later on sold to the Rev. F. Thring, and by him to Dr. Beddoe,

#### Orpen's House.

This, the abode of Gainsborough's model for the "Parish Clerk," is on the north-west of Trinity Church. The curious little singlepane windows, placed between the greater ones, are for giving light to cupboards in the thickness of the wall: this arrangement seems to be peculiar to Bradford, in which it is not uncommon.

#### Horton's Church House.

This was recently the Free School: it contains a handsome timber-framed hall with a small minstrel's gallery. In a survey of about 1629, we read

—holdeth the Church House in Church Street. The house in breadth 23 foot and in length 73 foot, (worth) £3 : 0 : 0 yearly.]

### THE PAROCHIAL CHARITIES.

#### THE OLD ALMSHOUSE.

This is the oldest of the Charitable Institutions connected with Bradford-on-Avon. No exact account can be given, it is believed, either of its foundation or its endowment. According to the 'Valor Ecclesiasticus' (vol. i. p. 276) the Rectory of Bradford was chargeable with £3 6s. 8d. per annum for the support of "twelve poor persons at Bradford, there praying for the Founder of the Monastery"<sup>1</sup> at Shaftesbury. This

<sup>1</sup> The entry is as follows,—“In elemosina per sustentacionem xii pauperum apud Bradeford ibidem orantium pro fundatore monasterii.”

sum would be equal to at least *ten times* as much in the present day. It is not unlikely that at the Reformation out of the proceeds of the Manor of Bradford, which, as being the property of the dissolved Monastery at Shaftesbury, then lapsed to the Crown, some provision was made for the maintenance of a few of those poor persons who had before, from a similar source, derived their support.

These almshouses are now occupied exclusively by poor *women*. This was by no means the case originally. Many entries may be seen in the Burial Register which prove that poor *men* also shared originally in their benefits.<sup>1</sup> Moreover there are now but *three* recipients of this charity. [*There are now four.*] Originally without doubt, there must have been more;—indeed as lately as 1786, as appears from a return made to the House of Commons in that year, there would seem to have been *four* alms-women.

When the Charity Commissioners visited Bradford, in 1834, they enquired into the truth of some traditions that then prevailed, (as they do to the present day) not only as to the much larger number who formerly received relief from this source, but as to there being a chapel, and a chaplain attached to it, who received £10 as a yearly stipend. They state, as the result of their enquiries, that though they could obtain no satisfactory oral or documentary evidence in proof of the truth of such traditions, yet that there was every reason to believe “that a bell had been taken from what is described as the chapel, and carried to Winsley Church. where it is supposed yet to remain.” They also give it as their opinion that some loads of stone were taken from the Alms-house premises, about the year 1794, for the purpose of mending the roads, such a statement having been expressly made to them by “one George Price, who drove the team on the occasion.”

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<sup>1</sup> The following extracts from the Register prove the truth of this statement. It will be observed that the first is of a very early date, no *long* time after the Reformation:—

1587 Septemb. John Breneke, of the almshouse, buried the 3 day.

1611 Octob. George Blecke, of the almshouse, buried the 12 day.

1613 Novemb. John Hurle, of the almshouse, Porter, buried the 26 day.

1693 Decemb. Robert Gear, of the almshouse, buried the 10 day.

Though there might be an absence of *clear evidence* on the subject, there is every probability that there is more truth in the traditions of the old people of Bradford than the Charity Commissioners seemed willing to allow. The fact of there being at the time of the Reformation two Chantry Priests attached to the parish church, each with a stipend of £10 yearly, may give *some little* explanation of part of the tradition though a mistake may have been made as to the precise ‘chaplain,’ who received it. Moreover that there was a chapel is quite clear. Aubrey who wrote *more than two hundred* years ago expressly mentions it. It is spoken of also in the Terrier, which contains an account of the property of the Almshouse at the beginning of the last century. In a map moreover of Wiltshire, published in 1773 by Messrs. Andrews and Dury, a spot is distinctly marked as,—“*The Chapel.*”

The only document relating to the original property of the Alms-house is an ancient parchment writing or terrier, which was produced, by the then Steward of the Lord of the Manor, before the Charity Commissioners, in 1834. They give in their report a complete copy of this document. It is entitled, —“An account taken the 2nd day of June, 1702, of all the lands belonging to the old Alms-house, situate in the Parish of Bradford, in the county of Wilts.” The land belonging to the Alms-house is described as *twelve acres and a half*, lying dispersedly in different parts of the Parish. The rent arising therefrom, together with an annual payment of 38s. due from the Lord of the Manor, constituted the income of the Charity.

The Charity Commissioners were further informed that there was in existence a lease, by which, about the year 1760, Mr. Powlett Wright, as Lord of the Manor of Bradford, demised the lands above described for the benefit of the Alms-house. The lands were also said to be let at rack-rent, producing either £8, or (as was thought more probable) £12 a year.

With reference to the buildings the Charity Commissioners say,—

“The almshouses occupy a triangle, standing between two roads and the canal from Bradford to Bath. They consist of three tenements, of one



floor each, and are all under one roof; they are low in the walls, and altogether in bad condition. Each of the three almswomen occupies one tenement."

The road, in fact, which was made at the time of the formation of the Kennet and Avon Canal at a considerable higher level than the former one, reaches on the east side of the buildings, above the level of the original window-sills. This necessarily makes all the tenements extremely damp. It is to be regretted that as the Kennet and Avon Canal Company, in making their approaches, so seriously impaired the Alms-houses as places of residence, the more so, as a wall is built within a few yards of their entrances, they were not required by the erection of other cottages to secure to the poor alms-women the comforts they had previously enjoyed.

With regard to the portion of Alms-house property occupied by the Kennet and Avon Canal Company, to which we have just made a passing reference, the Commissioners say:—

"The Canal Company by a clause in their Act of Parliament (34 Geo. III.) were together with the parties interested, authorized to sell and fix the rent of the land acquired by the Act. In this case an annual rent was fixed for so much of the almshouse property as was required, and a deed was prepared stating the nature of the agreements between the Canal Company and the Charity. This deed, Mr. Clutterbuck, then Steward of the Lord of the Manor, never executed. It sets forth, that in consideration of the annual rent of £11, the alms-house conveyed to the Canal Company land (therein described) to the extent of nearly *three acres*. This agreement is executed by the Commissioners under the Act, and the rent has ever since been regularly paid."

In the year 1834, P. Methuen Esq. (soon afterwards created Lord Methuen) then Lord of the Manor, is stated to have agreed to grant a lease of the garden opposite to them, and hitherto forming part of their property, to a Gas Company, at the yearly rent of £10. This lease, however, the Charity Commissioners tell us, was never executed. They say,—writing at the time of the negotiation,—

"The Company purposes, instead of paying the rent of £10, to erect houses of a superior order for the alms-women on that part of the premises let to them, which is not occupied by their own buildings. This proposal it is intended to accept, as the site of the present alms-houses, from its nearness to the canal, *will let well for stables*, and the arrangement will prove very beneficial to the Charity."

Like many other *good intentions*, this one was never carried

into effect. The annual rent of £10 has been paid regularly by the Gas Company. [*The first three of these houses have since been entirely rebuilt out of funds left for the purpose by the late Mr. John Bubb ; the fourth house has been built by the Trustees ; the architect was Mr. C. S. Adye.*]

In comparing the present possessions of the Alms-house with those recorded as belonging to it in 1702, it appears, that a large proportion of the land has since then been lost. In a pamphlet recently published, on "The Charities of Bradford-upon-Avon," an attempt has been made, and not, it is hoped, unsuccessfully, to identify the various portions of land which belonged to the Alms-house at the commencement of the last century, but which have since that time passed into other hands.

The present income of this Charity is rather more than £45 per annum. Till recently, in consequence of reduction of rent for premises held under the Alms-house, the income was about £10 more.

In 1786, according to a return furnished pursuant to Act of Parliament (26 GEORGE III. c. 51) by the then Churchwardens, Messrs. Thomas Bush and Richard Taylor, the property is said to have been vested in the Lord of the Manor, and to consist of a net sum of £16 1s. 4d., issuing from rent of land. This return confirms the truth of an opinion expressed by the Charity Commissioners, in 1834, with regard to the comparatively *recent* loss of land once belonging to the Alms-house.

For some years past there have been but *three* poor women in the Alms-house. Their allowance is *four* shillings weekly. [*There are now four, each receive four shillings weekly, and five cwt. of coal at Christmas.*]

With regard to the management of the Alms-house the Commissioners state, as the result of information given them in 1834,—

"The nomination of the Alms-house has invariably been made by the Steward of the Lord of the Manor, (who is at present Paul Methuen, Esq., of Corsham House,) in behalf of the Lord. The Lord considers that no limitation is imposed on his choice of the Almswomen ; but in practice it has always been confined to women of the parish not receiving parish

relief. In all other respects it is entirely in the discretion of the Lord of the Manor, or his Steward."

There seems to be some reason to question the correctness of this last statement. For many years past, at all events since 1821, when Mr. Clutterbuck died, there appear to have been no legal Trustees of the property belonging to this Charity. In a deed dated 1789, to which allusion has been already made, Mr. Clutterbuck is described as '*the sole surviving Trustee appointed for the management of the estate belonging to the Almshouse.*' We have failed to discover any subsequent appointment of Trustees by competent authority.

[*The present Trustees are the Lord of the Manor, Mr. C. E. Hobhouse, M.P., the Vicar and Churchwardens of Bradford, Mr. C. S. Adye, and a representative of the Vestry. The property remains much as described; but there is also a sum of £636 : 15 : 9 in New Consols. The almswomen are appointed by Mr. Hobhouse. They must be parishioners of Bradford (Trinity or Christ Church), not under 60 years of age, and must not for 12 months previously have been in receipt of parochial relief. There are no denominational restrictions.*]

#### THE OLD MEN'S ALMS-HOUSES.

These Alms-houses were founded by John Hall, Esq., at the commencement of the last century. The date in front of the buildings is A.D. 1700. [*The projection of the eaves, and the shield, bearing the arms of Hall, in the centre of the façade, make this a very effective building. The coronetted K and M on the chimneys, with allusion to the Dukes of Kingston and the Earls Manvers, shew that these were repaired or rebuilt after the extinction of the male line of Hall. But the building and the Charity owe much to the late Mr. Horatio Moulton, who thoroughly repaired the houses, put on a new roof, and gave £1050 as an endowment.*] During his life-time Mr. Hall seems to have himself provided for the inmates, and by his will, dated 10th Sept. 1708, he charged a portion of his estates with the annual payment of £40, for the support of the *four* persons who from time to time, might be appointed to the Alms-houses.

The Charity Commissioners give the following account of the steps taken by the Duke of Kingston, the descendant of the Founder of this Charity, and the inheritor of his estates, to carry into effect his wishes respecting it.

“By a deed, dated 25th July, 1735, in which it is first of all recited that John Hall of Bradford, by his will dated as above, desired certain Trustees therein named, to settle £40 clear of all taxes, to be yearly, for ever, charged upon his farm called Paxcroft, for the maintenance of *four poor men* in the Alms-house, which he had then lately founded at Bradford, for whom such gowns should be provided as, and as often, as his Trustees should appoint, out of the said yearly sum; and after such gowns provided, and the said Alms-house from time to time repaired, the residue of the said £40 should be equally divided between the four Almsmen, and paid unto them monthly;—it is witnessed, that, Evelyn, Duke of Kingston, conveyed to certain Trustees the capital messuage or mansion house of Paxcroft, and the closes or parcels of land therein particularly described, lying in the parish of Steeple Ashton, to the use, intent, and purpose, that the said Trustees therein named, and their heirs, should for ever pay the annual sum of £40, according to the will of the said John Hall, free of all deductions, to be paid equally at Lady-day and Michaelmas, with power to distrain, in case the rent charge should be in arrear 21 days, and in case of need, of re-entry. The deed further provides that the government, regulation and management of the Alms-house should at all times hereafter be vested in, and the poor men be placed in the Alms-house, from time to time, as any vacancy should happen, by *the owner of the capital Messuage or Mansion House*, late of the said John Hall, in or near Bradford aforesaid, for the time being, for ever. It is provided further, that when the trustees are by death reduced to five, the survivors or majority of them should choose other persons of good repute, residing in the county of Wilts, whereof the *Vicar of Bradford to be always one*, to act along with them in the trusts.

“The property, subject to the rent charge of £40, now belongs to Earl Manvers, and consists of a farm of about 100 acres, a small part of which is in the parish of Steeple Ashton, and the remainder in the parishes of Semington and Hilperton, in the county of Wilts. The £40 has been regularly paid out of the rent for the benefit of the Charity.”

The Alms-houses are in good repair. They consist of four tenements, each containing a room below, and a room above, with a small garden at the back, divided into four plots. There are four poor men in the Alms-houses: each of them receives a weekly allowance: each man also receives a coat every two years, and a pair of shoes yearly, [*and has a badge bearing the three battleaxes, the arms of the founder. The Charity Commissioners, in 1901, stated that the almsmen received two coats yearly, a summer and a winter one; also that*

*it appeared they received medical attendance and funeral expenses.]*

The right of patronage and nomination of and to the Alms-house, was specially reserved to Lord Manvers when he disposed of the Mansion House, (in 1802,) in the owner whereof, for the time being, the government and management of the Alms-house had been previously vested, in strict accordance with the Founder's will. Since that time, the Alms-men have been usually nominated by the agent of Lord Manvers.

After providing for the repairs of the Alms-house, and clothing, as directed in the deed above stated, the whole of the surplus of the £40 [*and of the £31 10s. accruing from Mr. Moulton's gift*] is paid to the Alms-people.

#### CURLL'S CHARITY.

This Charity was founded by the will of John Curll, Esq., of Turley, who served the office of High Sheriff of Wiltshire, in the year A.D. 1699.

By the will above alluded to, which bears date Dec. 28th, 1703, he desires certain Trustees therein named, to whom he bequeaths for the purpose an estate at Chirton, near Devizes, to permit and suffer the Vicar of the Parish Church of Bradford, for the time being, and the Rector of the Parish Church of Freshford, in the county of Somerset, for the time being, to receive and take the rents, issues, and profits of the said farm, and out of the same yearly and every year, in the Parish Church of Bradford aforesaid, and at the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, to pay unto the Minister of Chirton, and his successors for the time being, the yearly sum of *forty shillings* of lawful money of England;—and to pay and distribute the sum of *thirty pounds* to and between one hundred and twenty of such poor persons of the Borough of Bradford, and Tithing of Winsley, Leigh and Woolley, in the Parish of Bradford aforesaid who have, or shall have lived by their honest labour, as the Vicar of Bradford aforesaid, for the time being, shall nominate and appoint, that is to say, *five*

*shillings apiece* to every of the said one hundred and twenty poor persons; and also to pay and distribute the farther sum of *fifteen pounds* to and between thirty of such poor persons of the Parish of Freshford, who have, or shall have, lived by their honest labour, as the Rector of the same Parish shall from time to time nominate and appoint, that is to say, *ten shillings apiece* to every of the said thirty poor persons.

The will farther directs that the Churchwardens and Overseers of Bradford, Winsley, Leigh, Woolley and Freshford, for the time being, from time to time, take an account thereof, and see the same paid and distributed, and that the said Churchwardens and Overseers be assistants to the said Vicar and Rector.

The overplus of the rents of the farm at Chirton are, according to the will, "from time to time to be and remain to the Vicar of the Parish of Bradford, and the Rector of the Parish of Freshford, for the time being, and their successors, to be equally divided between them, for the proper use and behoof of the said Vicar and Rector respectively, as an encouragement of their care and pains in their sacred function."

This Charity is regularly distributed every [*year, on St. Thomas's day,*] in strict conformity with the will of the donor. [*The amounts in 1899 were for the Bradford poor £16 18s., and for the Freshford poor £8 5s. ; in 1900 £15 10s. and £7 15s. respectively. Persons in receipt of poor relief are excluded.*]

#### THE CHARITY SCHOOL OR FREE SCHOOL.

In a previous page, when giving an account of the Chantries connected with the Parish Church, notice was taken of one which was held on the condition of keeping a *Free School* at Bradford. It was possibly on account of this provision, that, at the time of the Reformation, there was reserved out of the proceeds of the estates at Bradford, which had formed part of the property of the Monastery of Shaftesbury, a sum of £10 12s. 7d. per annum, (equal to at least £100 now,) for the establishment of a School for the education of our youth. This endowment was afterwards transferred to Salisbury, the

Burgesses of that City pleading with Queen Elizabeth that Salisbury was a more convenient situation for such a School, than 'the upland Town' of Bradford, with its scanty population, and limited resort of gentlemen and merchants. Of the subsequent fate of this endowment we have already given an account (p. 48). For many years after its withdrawal (A.D. 1559,) we had not, as far as our present information extends, any provision for the education of the young of any class in Bradford.

Early in the eighteenth century, A.D. 1710, the Rev. John Rogers was appointed Vicar of this Parish, and he at once set to work to provide a School for his poorer parishioners. Cox in his 'Magna Britannia,' a work written in the early part of the eighteenth century, says,—“ A Charity School was opened at Bradford, Jan. 1712, for sixty-five children, which is much encouraged by the Minister of the town. There is a benefaction given since of *ten pounds*, which is applied to the benefit of the School. There is another School kept at a Chapel of Ease in this Parish, for ten children, and supported by a gift of *ten pounds* per annum, and *twenty shillings* for books, which last was intended to provide for the instruction of all the children within that Tithing; but how it was changed we know not.”

The gifts alluded to in the above extract, are, no doubt, those of *Mr. Francis Smith*, and *Mrs. Jane Brown*, the former of whom provided for the children of the Borough of Bradford, and the latter for those of the Tithing of Atworth.

In the year 1715, a building was assigned over to Trustees for the purposes of a School-house. Of this building we have already given a full and complete account, it having proved to be an ancient Church of Pre-Norman date, and, as such, most interesting to Archæologists. It was conveyed to nine Trustees “ for the term of 1000 years, without impeachment of waste, paying a pepper-corn rent, upon trust, that the said Trustees, and the survivors and survivor of them, their executors, administrators, and assigns, should keep and use the aforesaid edifice or building, with the appurtenances, as a

*Charity School-house*, during the term aforesaid, and upon trust, that when the major part of the Trustees thereby appointed, or of any other Trustees from time to time to be appointed, should die, the survivors should from time to time assign over the premises to *nine other sufficient persons inhabiting within, or belonging to the Parish of Bradford*, upon the like trusts."

It would appear that the Premises thus conveyed were put into repair, and fitted up as a School-house, by means of subscriptions. On a panel in front of the organ gallery in the Church, the fact is thus stated ;—

"The *Charity-school*, with the *Schoolmaster's-house*, were given by Mr. Anthony Methuen, and the fee thereof by the Hon. Lady Paulet, and the Rev. Mr. Wright. To put them in repair, the Rev. Mr. Rogers applied £35, part of £50 given by Edward Dike, Clerk, and about £50 more subscribed by different persons."

The income of this Charity is derived from the following sources ;—

I. SMITH'S GIFT.—The account of this gift is recorded on a board formerly in front of the Chancel Gallery, and now removed to the Vestry of the Parish Church. The inscription has been painted over, but is still to be deciphered ; it ran as follows ;—

"MR. FRANCIS SMITH gave £250, the interest to be paid the Schoolmaster for teaching ten Charity children."

This gift was left by the donor in his will, about the year 1725. It defined the objects to be—'*poor children, not receiving alms, and living within the Borough of Bradford*,' and they were to be taught '*reading, writing, and arithmetic*.'

In the year 1727, it was thought desirable, by the then Trustees of the School, to invest this portion of their funds in the purchase of land. They accordingly bought a small estate at Holt, consisting of three closes, containing altogether 9A. 3R. 22P. This estate is still in the possession of the Trustees of this Charity.

The purchase money required for this estate was £288,—£38 more, that is, than the sum bequeathed by Mr. Francis Smith. To make up this sum the Trustees borrowed the



amount required, from another Charity founded in the year 1698 by William Yerbury, of Trowbridge, on condition that they should carry out the intentions of the last-named benefactor, "by paying yearly to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor of the Parish of Bradford, the sum of *thirty-eight shillings* yearly, to be distributed by them in Bread, pursuant to the will of the said William Yerbury."

II. £100 Stock. This sum was originally part of the produce of timber in the Holt estate which was cut down about twenty-five years ago.

III. WADMAN'S GIFT. From a board relating to bequests to the Charity School, now painted over, may be easily deciphered the following inscription:—

"Mr. Edward Wadman, of Wingfield, gave Two Hundred Pounds."

With respect to this gift, the Charity Commissioners say:—

"From two statements relating to the Charity, both of them in the handwriting of the Rev. John Rogers, then Vicar of Bradford, one of them bearing date 1743-4, it appears that Mr. Wadman, of Wingfield, intended to make a gift of £200 to the School, but having omitted to mention the same in his will, his executors were so satisfied of such being the testator's intention, that though they would not pay the £200, they offered, on being paid £100, to give the testator's living at Trowle, and valued at £300, as an equivalent.

"Several of the circumstances mentioned with regard to the gifts to the School, in Mr. Rogers's memoranda, do not correspond with the facts set forth in the deeds hereinbefore mentioned, but enough appears in them to show that the living at Trowle did actually come into possession of the Charity, and that the rents and profits of it were for a number of years disposed of by Mr. Rogers himself, as Vicar of Bradford,—partly for the benefit of the Schoolmaster,—partly to the Overseers of the Poor,—and partly distributed to the poor themselves in bread.

"The Charity, many years ago, lost the living or estate of Trowle, but whether the lives were suffered to die out, or the owner of the fee refused to renew them, are points on which we could procure no information; all we could learn was, that it had ceased to belong to the Charity prior to 1786."

IV. £226 8s. 1d. Stock. No one is able to explain how this principal sum arose. The supposition is, that in some way or other it was the consideration paid for the interest of the Trustees in the Trowle estate.

V. STRAWBRIDGE'S GIFT.—John Strawbridge, of Bradford, by his will dated 12 March, 1805, gave to the Trustees of this School the sum of £400 Three per Cent Consols, to be

transferred to them immediately after his decease, in trust that they, and the survivors of them, and the Trustees or Feoffees for the time being, should receive the interest and dividends arising therefrom, and pay the same for ever for the benefit of the same School, in such manner as the rents and profits of the estates belonging to the same School are applied.

There are *thirty-two* free Scholars, each of whom is nominated by one or other of the Trustees, as vacancies occur. The Schoolmaster is permitted to take *eighteen* other scholars who pay him for their tuition. [*The school is now closed, and the funds are to be devoted, in accordance with a new scheme now being issued by the Board of Education, to the provision of Scholarships in County Schools.*]

#### FERRETT'S BOOK CHARITY.

In the year 1747, John Ferrett, Esq., of London, a native of this Town, [*the same who placed the German or Flemish glass window in the south wall of the Parish Church,*] gave to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, of which he was a member, £50, on condition that bibles, common prayer books, and other religious books and tracts, to the value of 50s. should be annually supplied by the Society to the resident minister of the Church at Bradford, to be by him distributed on or about the festival of the Nativity, and on condition that the Society supplied such books on the same terms they supplied their own members, free of all expense whatsoever to the Parish.

About 1821, the Society being found in arrear to the Parish, it was agreed that the value of such arrear should go in augmentation of the original fund given by Mr. Ferrett. Since that period, books to the value of £4 10s. have been annually sent by the Society to the Minister of Bradford for distribution amongst the poor, in accordance with the wishes of the Donor. [*This amount has been reduced to £4.*]

#### FERRETT'S BREAD CHARITY.

John Ferrett, Esq., by will, gave to his nephew, Richard Wiltshire, and the Minister and Churchwardens of the Parish

of Bradford, £250, Three per cent. Old South Sea Annuities, in trust, to apply the dividends for purchasing for *twenty poor men and women* of the town of Bradford only, who do not receive alms of the Parish, of sober and religious lives and conversation, and who constantly attend Divine Service in the Parish Church, when able, *one sixpenny loaf each*, to be delivered to them the first Sunday in the month, and at Christmas, Easter, and Whitsuntide, each year, immediately after Morning Service. [*The income of this Charity has somewhat fallen off. At present 19 recipients receive from the Vicar a two-quartern loaf on the first Sunday of every month, after morning service. A list is kept, and the same persons continue to receive the bread until death.*]

#### THRESHER'S CHARITY.

This Charity was founded by the will of Edward Thresher, bearing date 23rd May, 1721. The following extract explains the intentions of the donor:—

“I give and bequeath the sum of £100 to be distributed amongst the poor and impotent people of the Borough of Bradford, and Tithing of Winsley, which said sum I do hereby order, direct, and appoint to be paid by my executor hereinafter named, to the Vicar of Bradford for the time being, within one month after my decease, to be by him, with the direction of my executor, disposed of to such and such number of poor and impotent people within the Borough and Tything aforesaid, and in such manner as to them shall seem most meet and convenient; provided, nevertheless, and so as the same, or any part thereof, be not disposed of to such person or persons as usually and commonly receive the public alms of the Parish.”

Edward Thresher died on the 17th August, 1725. The Vicar for the time being, the Rev. John Rogers, received the above sum of £100, and during his life-time gave away the interest thereof in *Bread* yearly; at his decease, his son, the Rev. J. Rogers, did the same until his own decease, when the Charity was for a time discontinued. In the year 1778, his executors paid over £100 to Mr. Daniel Clutterbuck, adding £9 for three years' interest. In the year 1779, Mr. Clutterbuck purchased £200 Three per cent. Consols, in the names of Messrs. Richard Attwood and Thomas Bush. From an inscription on a Board in front of the Organ Gallery, it appears that these gentlemen were accustomed “to divide the

dividends yearly at Christmas in *crowns* and *half-crowns* among the poor of the parish.”

After the decease of the two last mentioned Trustees it seems to have been distributed for a time by their respective widows. For a few years, a part only of the funds was given away. Successive investments of undistributed dividends raised the whole amount, in 1837, belonging to this Charity, to £300 Stock.

There does not appear to have been any regular distribution of the dividends after this time, inasmuch as there was, in September 1841, in the hands of Messrs. Hobhouse and Co., at the time of their bankruptcy, a sum of no less than £48 11s. 1d. standing to the credit of this Charity.

In the year 1847, a petition was filed in Chancery, for the purpose of obtaining an order to appoint new Trustees, and of providing for the future distribution of the funds. By the decree of the Court of Chancery four Trustees were nominated, and the Vicar and Churchwardens of Bradford, together with the Incumbent of Winsley, for the time being, were appointed *Co-distributors* of the Fund.

For more than *nine* years no steps, beyond transferring the Funds of this Charity into the names of the newly-appointed Trustees, were taken in respect of this order of the Court of Chancery. This delay rendered it expedient to lay the matter before the Charity Commissioners, who, ultimately, judged it necessary *again* to bring the matter before the Court of Chancery. They obtained, from the Master of the Rolls, a decree appointing the Vicar and Churchwardens of Bradford and the Incumbent of Winsley, for the time being, *Trustees* of the Charity, in addition to and conjunction with those of the Trustees, appointed in 1847, who survived; and ordering the funds of the Charity to be transferred to the “Official Trustee of Charitable Funds.” The dividends from time to time were directed to be distributed “in clothing or blankets, and in bread and coals, or in any one or more of such modes, amongst such of the most deserving poor of Bradford and Winsley, as shall not, for twelve months previously to such distribution,

have been in the receipt of Parochial Relief." [At present the Vicar and Churchwardens of Holy Trinity, and the Vicar of Winsley, are the Trustees: the funds amount to £359 4s. 10d. New Consols, and the income is distributed in clothing-tickets, value 2s. 6d. each, to parishioners of Trinity and Winsley parishes, not receiving poor law relief.]

#### CAM'S CHARITY.

This Charity was founded by the will of Samuel Cam, Esq., bearing date June 29th, 1792. He left £100, the interest of which he directed to be distributed annually in *Bread*, amongst the poor persons of the Parish of Bradford who are not in the receipt of Parochial Relief.

As there was but one surviving Trustee of this Charity, an application was made, under the direction of the Charity Commissioners, in March 1858, to the County Court of Wiltshire, held at Bradford, for the appointment of new Trustees, and the general arrangement of matters relating to it; the practice, for many years previously, having been to distribute it in *money* and not in *bread*. The result of this application was the appointment of the Vicar and Churchwardens of Bradford, for the time being, as Trustees of the Fund jointly with the surviving Trustee, and the transfer of the principal sum belonging to this Charity to the "Official Trustee of Charitable Funds." [The annual income is now £2 16s., and is distributed in *bread* among poor inhabitants of the ancient parish.]

#### TUGWELL'S CHARITY.

By a codicil to her will, dated July 12th, 1799, Mrs. Elizabeth Tugwell left £100 the interest of which she directed to be divided among *Forty* old and infirm persons, of the Parish of Bradford, on *the fifteenth day of January* in each and every year.

In the year 1833, the Stock, in compliance with the directions of the Donor, was transferred into the names of the then Churchwardens of the Parish of Bradford, by whom, and their

successors in office, the dividends have always been regularly distributed. [*The money is divided among forty poor persons of the two ecclesiastical parishes of Bradford, in sums of 1s. 5d. and 1s. 6d. each.*]

#### STRAWBRIDGE'S CHARITY.

The subjoined extract, from the will of Mr. John Strawbridge, (dated March 12, 1805,) explains the purposes of this Charity:—

“I give to Mawbey Tugwell, and John Renison, the present Churchwardens of the Parish of Bradford, or their successors for the time being, the sum of £400 capital Stock, in the three per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities, part of my Stock in the same Fund, and to be transferred to them immediately after my decease, in trust, that they and their successors for the time being, do and shall receive the interest, dividends, or produce arising therefrom, and pay the same yearly for ever, to such poor persons of the said Parish of Bradford, as do not receive alms of the Parish, and to be paid and distributed by them either in crowns or half-crowns, as they shall think proper, and to be paid at the same time as the crowns given by the late Mr. Curll are paid and distributed.”

In the year 1847, an application was made, on the part of the Churchwardens of Bradford, to the Court of Chancery, for the purpose of obtaining an order requiring the surviving Trustee of this Charity,—(to whom the funds had been transferred, as one of the Churchwardens for the time being),—to transfer the same to those who had become his successors in that office, in accordance, as they deemed, with the intentions of the Donor, as expressed in his will. The Petitioners further prayed, that, in the event of the Court not being willing to order such a transfer of the Funds to the Churchwardens for the time being, the whole Fund might be transferred to the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery.

The Court of Chancery, by order, dated May 7, 1847, accepted the latter alternative of the petition: the surviving Trustee was ordered to pay over the fund to the Accountant-General of the Court of Chancery, and the said Accountant-General was directed to pay the dividends from time to time to the Churchwardens of Bradford.

The dividends are regularly distributed by the Church-

wardens, as directed by the will of the Donor. [*The capital, having been reduced by legal proceedings, is now £333 11s. 10d. New Consols, and the income £9 4s. 4d. is distributed by the Churchwardens in half-crowns among a number of poor persons in the two parishes. Nonconformists are not excluded; but persons in receipt of poor law relief are ineligible. In 1900 there were 51 recipients in Holy Trinity and 22 in Christchurch parish. The Commissioners in their report of 1902, expressed the opinion that the whole ancient parish ought to participate.*

*Charlotte Amelia Beavan's Charity.*

*Under the will of Mrs. Beavan, of Rochester, dated 4 April 1873, the interest of £44 17s. New Consols is distributed in bread on Christmas Day, at the Parish Church, to about 28 poor persons.*

*Hannah Smith's Bequest.*

*Miss Smith, of Kingsfield Grove, by will dated 16 October 1855, left a sum of £50 to the Trustees of the Bradford National School, the interest to be used for the augmentation of the stipend of the master or mistress of the aforesaid. It appears however that the money was laid out in the purchase of some small strips of ground in Coombes or Pigeonhouse Close, of which the schoolmaster had the use and occupation for a garden.*

*Endowments for the Wesleyan Methodist Minister.*

*Of these there are two, the dedication of both of which are of some interest.*

1. *The Field Fund. In 1796 a close of pasture containing 1a. 3r. 1p. was in consideration of £113, mostly obtained by subscription, granted upon trust "to permit such person as should be from time to time appointed at the yearly conference of Methodists of John Wesley's Society in London, Bristol or Leeds, or at any other place or places, to preach God's Word at Bradford aforesaid, to have and enjoy the premises, provided that he should preach no other doctrine than what is contained*

in the late John Wesley's notes upon the New Testament, and four first volumes of sermons. The land was sold in 1879, and the proceeds invested in the purchase of £363 9s. 8d. Consols, and produces an annual income of £10 1s.

2. Anne Bailward, widow, by will dated 21 October 1785, gave £80, the interest thereof to be paid towards the expenses of the preachers at Mr. Wesley's preaching house at Bradford, to be continued as long as they should continue to preach according to his doctrine there. The capital amount is now £100.

These two endowments are in the hands of Mr. James Long and other trustees, and continue to be applied in accordance with the stipulations.

#### *Endowments of the Grove Meeting-house.*

These were given chiefly by members of the Yerbury family, and by Mr. Samuel Cam, of the Chantry. They consist of the freehold of the chapel itself, of two houses in Newtown, the rents of which are applied to the repairs of the chapel, and of the interest of £118 New Consols, paid to the minister as part of his stipend. The chapel, originally a Presbyterian foundation, is now used by the Particular Baptists.

#### *Endowments of the Old Baptist Chapel, in St. Margaret Street.*

These are numerous, and are fully detailed in the report to the Charity Commissioners, August, 1901. They include the leasehold of the chapel, school and burial ground, and the freehold of a number of houses, in St. Margaret Street, St. Margaret's Place, and Beaconsfield Terrace, Trowbridge Road; also shares in the "Gifts" of Richard Haynes and Elizabeth Rayner; and sundry smaller payments. The Rev. John Hinton's charity, the interest of £44 12s. 1d. New Consols, is applied at Christmas to the help of poor members of the congregation. Mr. Patch's bequest of the rents of two freehold cottages in Middle Rank, Tory, is applied to the joint benefit of the Baptist and Congregational Schools in Bradford.



*Lady Huntingdon's Chapel.*

*James Hayes' charity, reduced, like so many other charitable funds, by costs of litigation, now amounts to a capital sum of £30 19s. 6. New Consols, and the dividends (17s.) are distributed annually by the trustees of the chapel among seven poor members of the congregation.]*

## LOST CHARITIES.

Of some of these we have already spoken. The following inscriptions from boards, now painted over, but which can be read without any great difficulty, refer to others of which we can now give no satisfactory account :—

“Mr. Richard Bissy gave £50, to bind out a poor child apprentice yearly.”

“Mr. Nathaniel Wilkinson gave £10, (?) the interest for Bread yearly to the poor of Lye and Woolley.”

“Mr. Nathaniel Houlton, of London, gave £50.”

“Mr. William Yerbury gave £100, for the distributing of Five Pounds in Bread, on five Fridays in Lent.”

There is also mention in the Parliamentary Returns, of 1786, of a Charity, which however, even then, was lost, said to have been given by an unknown person, “for clothing one, two, or more poor persons, not receiving alms.”

*[The County Technical and Secondary School.*

*The handsome building of this Institution was opened for use in 1897. The cost of erection was mainly provided by the following contributions :—*

	£	s.	d.
<i>Private Subscriptions, including £1075 from Lord</i>			
<i>Edmond Fitzmaurice, M.P. ... ..</i>	1465	14	2
<i>Wilts County Council, under Technical Instruc-</i>			
<i>tion Acts ... ..</i>	935	0	0
<i>Bradford Urban District Council ... ..</i>	500	0	0
<i>Science and Art Department ... ..</i>	478	0	0
<i>Clothworkers Company ... ..</i>	250	0	0
	£3628	14	2

*Considerable additional gifts have since been made by Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, including the cost (upwards of £600) of an excellent gymnasium. There are several scholarships connected with the school; and it is proposed, as has been already stated, to utilize the annual income of the ci-devant Free School in this direction, The headmaster is Mr. J. Crompton, M.A. The Chairman of the Governors is Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice. The constitution of the Board is in course of alteration under a proposed scheme by the Department.*

*Public Baths and Pleasure Ground.*

*These were made over to the Urban District Council in 1898, Mr. John Moulton having given the site and grounds adjoining, together with a pecuniary contribution of £650, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice £450, and other persons smaller sums. A swimming Bath is included, and swimming is taught. The commodious and sightly building was erected from the design of Mr. Sydney Howard.]*

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OLD FAMILIES AND WORTHIES.

The history of our Town, which has been set before our readers, will have prepared them not to look, as a matter of course, for a long calendar of eminent men, amongst its natives or inhabitants. Such characters are only called forth by great and stirring events, and of these Bradford-on-Avon has seldom been the scene. Shut in by its hills and woods, its townsmen have lived, secluded, as it were, and apart from their neighbours, pursuing their peaceful occupations of industry, and caring little for the din and tumult that now and then might have been heard close to their borders. That spirit of calm peacefulness which brooded over the Abbess and her household at Shaftesbury, seems to have extended its influence, in a measure, to the Manor over which she ruled as Lady Paramount, and we seldom hear in Bradford-on-Avon of any contests or commotions, save such as testify at the same time to the earnestness with which its denizens applied

themselves to those mercantile pursuits, on which especially the wealth of our country has been founded.

And yet we are able to commence our list of Worthies resident at one time or other in our Town or its immediate neighbourhood, for to such only does this notice refer, from a very early period. Of most of those who lived in remote times, we know, of course, little more than their names, or have perchance a general idea of the lands that belonged to them. It is something however to commence an authentic history,—our acquaintance with somewhat of the private life of men who lived and died in Bradford-on-Avon,—from a period when William de Longespée, Earl of Sarum, the Fair Rosamond's son, was yet living, and when Richard Poore, the founder of our glorious Cathedral, held the see of Sarum. Reginald de Aulâ, the head at that time of a family that for more than five centuries were persons of property and station in this town, may well have been living at the time of King John's visit in 1216; and facts already alluded to (p. 34) certainly imply, that for some years previously to A.D. 1251, about which time he seems to have died, his family were people of consequence here. Indeed his son, William de Aulâ, —a minor at the time of his father's decease,—held in 1295, (23 Edward I.) the high office of Coroner,—he is termed in a deed of that date '*Coronator Domini Regis*,'<sup>1</sup>—a post which implied in the holder not only wealth but worldly station.

It will be understood that our notice of 'Worthies' extends only to those who have been actually *resident* here, or have been intimately connected with our town. Neither does our plan include those who may still remain to us; our business, as Archæologists, is not with the living, but with the dead; otherwise we might dwell proudly on the successful course of

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<sup>1</sup> On the dignity and authority of the '*Coroner*' in ancient times, see '*Coke upon Littleton*' ii. 31. By the old law he was required to be "*a knight, honest, loyall, and sage.*" The fact of William de Aulâ having held this high office was not known to me at the time when the section of this paper on the Parish Church was passing through the press, or I should certainly have inclined to the conjecture that the recessed tomb on the South side of the Chancel was his. (See above p. 105.)

that distinguished native of Bradford-on-Avon, Her Majesty's late Attorney-General, Sir Richard Bethel, in whose high position his fellow-townsmen recognize, no less the acknowledgment of eminent talents, than the reward of untiring perseverance. Were we, indeed, to diverge into such an extensive plan and give an account of all those of note or importance who have held possessions here, or of those who, from the marriage of some Bradford heiress, have gained no insignificant addition to the wealth, perhaps the dignity, of their family, we might give as long and proud a list as any of our neighbours. No doubt, in early times, the Crown itself retained in its own hands some of the property here, as the names of '*King's field*,' and '*Reveland*,' (both so often met with in old deeds, and the former still remaining,) seem to imply: in fact '*Reve-land*' was a common term for land held in virtue of the office of '*Reeve*'<sup>1</sup> or Bailiff, under the King. To the royal possessions here we may have owed the honor of King John's visit in 1216: for, with few exceptions, that King, in his progresses, always stopped at places where he had an interest, as either a castle, a royal manor, or some religious house, in order that he might consume the provisions due to him, in lieu of rent.<sup>2</sup> And many noble families have been connected, directly or indirectly, with Bradford-on-Avon. Amongst our Lords of the Manor, we can reckon an "Earl of Wiltshire," whose devotion to the cause of his King and master, Charles I., in his gallant defence of Basing House against the Parliamentary forces, is matter of history, and forms "one of the most eventful episodes of the Civil War."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> From an examination of old deeds, a tolerable conjecture may be formed that the building described as '*The Catch*' (p. 55 n.) was adjoining the land called '*Reve-land*.' If so, it lends colour to an ingenious supposition kindly forwarded to me by a "Reader of the Magazine in Yorkshire," that "the premises called '*the Catch*' may have been so designated from having been used as the '*Cagia*,' i.e., the cage, or lock-up; or as the residence of the '*Cachepolus*,' Bailiff, or '*Catchpole*' of the place."

<sup>2</sup> *Archæologia* xxii, 125.

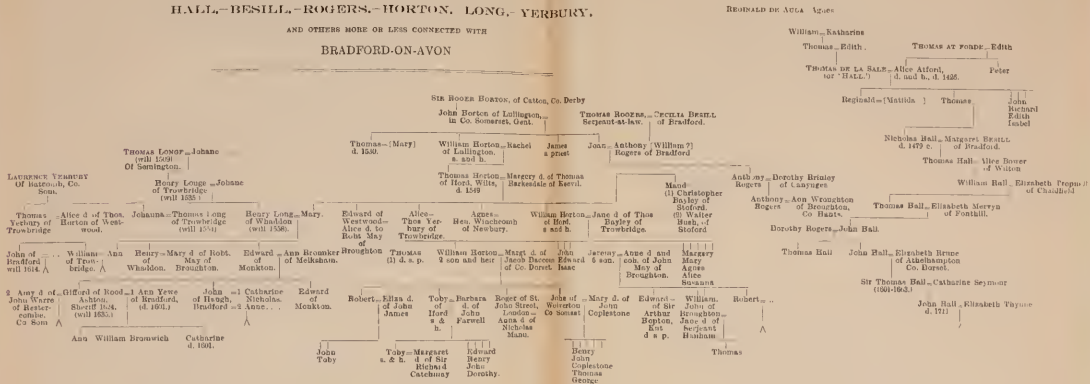
<sup>3</sup> *Wiltshire Magazine* iv, 22.



A Table showing the intermarriages between the families of  
 HALL, BESHILL, ROGERS, HORTON, LONG, YERBURY.

AND OTHERS MORE OR LESS CONNECTED WITH

BRADFORD-ON-AVON



The noble families of 'Shaftesbury'<sup>1</sup> and 'Leicester'<sup>2</sup> have both of them in times gone by been associated with our town; the former, as a descendant of a daughter of John Basset, a name most frequent in deeds of the latter part of the *thirteenth* century; the latter, as a landowner by special grant from Queen Elizabeth. The second Duke of Kingston filled, for some little time, a very prominent position in our town, and was the representative, through a female branch, as his descendant Lord Manvers is at the present time, of the 'Hall' family. The titles of Methuen and Broughton, successively connected with the Lordship of the Manor, are those which seem more especially to belong to us. Regarding the latter as the representative of the 'Cam' family, one of the co-heiresses of which married the late Sir Benjamin Hobhouse, Bart., we have, in the two noble lords who bear these titles, the memorial, to us at least, of that untiring energy and brave spirit of commercial enterprise which raised our town to such a height of prosperity during the eighteenth century.

We proceed to give a few details of some of the principal families that from time to time have lived in Bradford-on-Avon. With reference to one of them, viz., the 'Horton family,' we have in previous pages already more than once given information, and this it is not worth while to repeat. They belonged to other parishes no less than to our own, and a full account of them is furnished in [*Mr. Wilkinson's*] paper on Broughton

<sup>1</sup> In Hutchins' Dorset ii, 216. we have following, as the beginning of Lord Shaftesbury's pedigree.

Benedict Ashley of Ashley Place,\* Co. Wilts.,=  
lived temp. Hen. II., III., and Edw. I.  
|  
Henry Ashley s. and h. Edw. I. and II.  
|  
John Ashley of New Sarum. Edw. III. =.....Daughter of John Basset  
of Bradford.  
|  
John Ashley = Edith d. and h. of John  
s. and h. | Talbot of Trowbridge.  
Rich. III. |

[\* Note. This can hardly have been Ashley, near Malmesbury, which was in other hands. Perhaps it was Ashley in Bradford parish.]

<sup>2</sup> Queen Elizabeth (19 July 1574) granted by Letters Patent to Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, certain messuages and lands at Lye, part of the Manor of Bradford:—on these lands stands Mr. Bradney's house.

Gifford, in [*Volume V of the Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History*] Magazine (pp. 312-324). We propose to add to our sketch of Bradford families, an account of one or two 'Worthies,' whose names would not otherwise occur.

#### THE "HALL" FAMILY.

This is the oldest family connected with Bradford-on-Avon of which we have anything like a detailed account. Allusion has been already frequently made to various members of it, and, in an early number of *the Wiltshire Magazine*, in a paper by Canon Jackson, on 'Kingston House,' a mansion built most probably by John Hall, the head of the family at the end of the sixteenth or beginning of the seventeenth century, much information is supplied on this subject. All that we need attempt, therefore, is a brief summary of their history, adding what supplemental matter we have been able to glean from subsequent research.

The earliest deed that has yet been met with, relating to the 'Hall' family, is one which bears date in the reign of Henry III. (see p. 34). Its contents imply, that, for some time previously to that period, the family had belonged to the class of wealthy gentry.

The Herald's Visitations carry back the pedigree only to Thomas "Halle" or "De la Sale" who lived at the close of the fourteenth century.† More than a hundred years, however, before that time, the Abbess of Shaftesbury, as Lady of the Manor, had exacted her rights of wardship and marriage from the representatives of Reginald de Aulâ. 'Thomas' the first-named in the ordinary pedigrees, was the great-grandson of 'Reginald,' and married, about the year 1390, Alice, daughter and, by the death of her brother Peter, sole heir of 'Thomas Atte-Forde,' (afterwards written 'Atford') from whom, no doubt, he obtained the property which is still called

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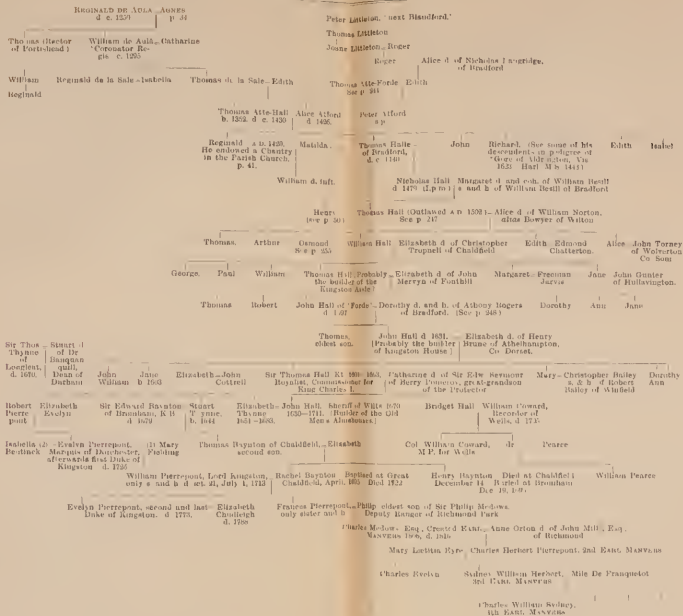
[† Note. *But in the Hundred Rolls, (about 1280), Reginald de Aulâ and Adam de Mokesham appear as Jurors for the Hundred of Melksham, not being given separately; and the name of Thomas at Halle, of Bradford, appears as witnessing a deed, now at Lacock Abbey, and dated 1320. The same name occurs in deeds dated 1357 and 1361.*]





# PEDIGREE OF HALL

ARMS—Sable, three paleons argent.  
 CREST—An arm embowed in armour proper, grasping or, holding a paleon argent.



Charles William Redley,  
 4th Earl, M.P. 1830-31

*Ford Farm*, and which evidently furnished a surname to its previous owner. The same Alice was also, through her mother, the ultimate heiress of Nicholas Langridge, described as of 'Bradford.' If a conjecture may be formed from the pedigree, especially the account given of it in one of the Harleian manuscripts,<sup>1</sup> in which we have the various family connexions related narratively, it would seem that some share of the property originally belonging to Peter Lyttleton (described as living "next Blandford," and whose date must be certainly before the commencement of the thirteenth century,) must have come to Alice At-ford, and augmented the goodly portion which she brought to the 'Hall' family.

There is still to be seen, carved in oak, over the chimney-piece of a panelled room at the Hall, a shield bearing several quarterings which seem to record the various early alliances made by members of the Hall family. An engraving of this shield has been given in *the Wiltshire Society's Magazine* (i. 268.) Amongst the quarterings to which without difficulty a name can be assigned are those of 'Atford' and 'Besil.' Of two, however,—the one, '*A bend between three leopards*' (or lions) *heads erased*,' the other, '*An eagle sable, preying on a fish azure*,'—it is not easy to give an accurate account. Much of very early heraldry is traditional, and though, in books of authority, we find no such coats given to the names of 'Langridge' or 'Littleton,' it is not impossible that these may have originally belonged to them. This however is simple conjecture, for as the shield contains the coat of Besill, it may also include that of the mother of Nicholas Hall who married Margaret Besill, of whose name and family as yet we are ignorant.

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<sup>1</sup>In the Harl. MS. No. 888 we have this account of the earliest alliances of the Hall family.—"Thomas Halle, of Bradeford in the County of Wiltes, Esquire, married Alice, sister and heire of Peter Atford, and heire to Thomas at Forde, next Bradeford, and of Edith his wyfe, daughter and heire of Roger . . . and Ales his wyfe, daughter of Nicholas Langridge, of Blandford, which Roger, was son to Roger . . . and Joan his wyfe, daughter to Thomas Lyttleton, next Blandford, sonne and heire of Peter Lyttleton."

Alice Hall survived her husband and died in the year 1426. By the failure of issue to her eldest son Reginald, who, as we have seen (p. 41), endowed a "chaplain to serve at the altar at St. Nicholas" in the Parish Church, the representation of the family devolved on her second son Thomas, who was thirty years old at the time of his mother's decease. Nicholas, the son of the last-named Thomas Hall, further increased the wealth of the family by marrying Margaret one of the daughters and co-heiresses of William Besill of Bradford; the other co-heiress, Cecilia, marrying Anthony Rogers, the founder of another family in this town, of which we shall presently give an account. Three generations pass away, during which alliances were made with the families of Bower of Wilton,—Tropnell of Chaldfield,—and Mervyn of Fonthill,—and we find the representative of the family, John Hall, described as 'of Forde,' marrying, about the middle of the sixteenth century, Dorothy only daughter and heiress of Anthony Rogers, the last male representative of the elder branch of that family in Bradford-on-Avon, and thus acquiring the other moiety of the Besill estate, together with her own patrimony, part of which seems to have lain at Holt.

One of the members of this family, to which a passing reference has just been made, Thomas Hall, who married Alice Bower, seems to have got himself into trouble on one occasion, by something like what is now called "contempt of Court." Summoned before the King's Justices with reference to a debt of £100 owing to Sir John Turberville, Kt. he did not make his appearance; the penalty of 'outlawry' soon followed. He subsequently surrendered himself to justice, and for a time was an inmate of the Fleet prison. Amongst the deeds and other documents found at the Hall a few years ago, during the progress of repairs, was one, dated 18 Henry VII., which contains a "Royal Pardon and Revocation of Outlawry for Thomas Hall, lately of Bradford, Co. Wilts, Gentleman, now in the Fleet Prison." It does not appear from the document that the debt was paid at the time of his release from durance vile; the condition of his liberation

being that he should appear in Court "if the said John [Turberville] should desire to *speake with him touching the debt* above mentioned."

Of the others just alluded to, either 'William Hall,' who married Elizabeth Troppell, of Chaldfield, or 'Thomas Hall,' who married Eliza Mervyn, of Fonthill, was probably the builder of the Chantry Chapel, of which, in our account of the Parish Church, we have already taken notice, and which, now for many years, has been usually termed,—“The Kingston Aisle.” [*Thomas executed a bond to John Dauntsey, the date of which is interesting reading—“in the fifth and sixth years of King Philip and Mary, by the Grace of God King and Queen of England, the Spains, France, both Sicilies, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Burgundy and Brabant, Counts of Hapsbury, Flaunders and Tyrol.”*]

The second son of the John Hall that married Dorothy Rogers, bore the same christian name as his father, and succeeded, by the decease, it is presumed, of his elder brother Thomas, at the close of the sixteenth century to the representation of the family. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Brune of Athelhampton, Co. Dorset, and was probably the builder of the large and beautiful mansion,—described, by Aubrey, as “the best built house for the quality of a gentleman in Wilts,”—which, since the days of Evelyn Pierrepont, has commonly been termed the “Duke’s House” or “Kingston House.”† An older house probably stood previously on much the same site, which Leland mentions as having seen when he visited Bradford (c. 1540) and describes as “a pratie stone house at the este ende of the toune on the right bank of Avon.” A full account of the present house has been given in the pages of *the Wiltshire Society’s Magazine* (vol. i. pp. 265, &c.) and many of its details have been described and illustrated by Mr.

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[† Note. *This is incorrect. There is no evidence of its having been officially styled Kingston House. In the conveyances from Lord Manners to Mr. Divett, and again to Mr. Moulton, it is called “The Great House” or “The Duke’s House.”*]

C. J. Richardson in his "Observations on the Architecture of England during the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James I." and by Mr. G. Vivian in a volume of "Illustrations of Claverton and the Duke's House." Within the last few years the house, having fallen into a sadly dilapidated condition, has been, to a great extent, rebuilt by the present proprietor, Mr. Stephen Moulton, with so faithful an adherence to its original plan, as enables us, whilst we acknowledge the sound judgment and correct taste of its restorer, to appreciate fully the intentions of its first designer.<sup>1</sup>

SIR THOMAS HALL, Knt. son of the last-named John Hall, married Catharine daughter of Sir Edward Seymour, Bart., great-grandson of the Protector Somerset. Faithful to the cause of his King and master, Charles I., Sir Thomas was, with many other Wiltshire gentlemen, compelled when the Parliament triumphed to compound for his estates, and was, in 1649, fined £660.<sup>2</sup> (See p. 53). He lived to see the ultimate success of the cause for which he suffered. The old Royalist died in 1663, at the advanced age of *eighty-one* years.

His son,—JOHN HALL,—the last male representative of his family, was an active magistrate in this town and neighbourhood. His name, together with that of his brother-in-law Thomas Thynne,—called, from his presumed wealth, "Tom of Ten Thousand,"—occurs very frequently in legal and other documents of his period. [*He was executor to that singular example of the fickleness of fortune, and is said by Britton to have erected the monument to him in Westminster Abbey at his own cost and expense.*] His wife was Elizabeth, second daughter of Sir Thomas Thynne, of Longleat, the ancestor of the noble family of 'Bath.' He seems to have added largely to his patrimony by the purchase of other estates. From Sir Edward Hungerford, of Farleigh Castle, he bought, in 1665, the Storridge Pastures, part of the Brooke House estate, near Westbury; and from Sir John Hanham (who had become

[<sup>1</sup> See article on the Hall (for many years known as Kingston House) printed as appendix to this volume.]

<sup>2</sup> Wiltshire Archæological Magazine iv. 150.

possessed of it in right of his wife, a daughter of Sir William Eyre) he purchased the Manor and Advowson of Great Chaldfield. He seems to have exercised the right of presentation to the last named living in 1678,—1689,—and 1707.

Towards the close of his life, John Hall built the Alms-houses for four old men, of which we have spoken in an account of the 'Charities of Bradford-on-Avon.' In front of them, cut in stone, are still to be seen the arms and crest of 'Hall.' Underneath the shield is the date 'A.D. 1700' and the inscription '*Deo et pauperibus.*'

He was the last of his family, and died in 1711. According to some authorities, he left one daughter, Elizabeth, who became the wife of Thomas Baynton, Esq., of Chaldfield. The issue of that marriage, Rachel, was the inheritor of John Hall's large estates. Walker, in his history of Great Chaldfield, gives, on the authority of an old manuscript, a somewhat different account, and represents 'Rachel Baynton' as having a yet stronger claim to be the inheritor of the 'Hall' property.<sup>1</sup> A very careful search amongst all documents, to which access could be gained, likely to throw any light on the matter, has discovered no entry that accounts for a daughter, Elizabeth, born to John Hall, or for the marriage of Thomas Baynton with such daughter. Even on the presumption that John Hall died without issue at all, Rachael, baptized at Chaldfield in April 1695 as "the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Baynton," would have some claims upon him, no less than 'William Pearce,' whom, in default of her having male issue, he appointed to be the next inheritor. 'Rachel Baynton' was,

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<sup>1</sup> The following extract is said to be taken from a MS. in the possession (in 1837) of Mr. Waldron of Lipiat, and which was itself extracted from an old vellum MS. which is now lost, but was at Monks in the year 1744.—"Sir William Eyre of Chaldfield . . . . . had two sons, Robert and Henry. To Robert he gave Little Chaldfield, lately sold to Mr. Baynton, who left it to his youngest son, Thomas Baynton; and Mr. Thomas Baynton's wife had a daughter by Mr. Hall: he gave her all his estate; and this lady married the Marquis of Dorchester, and was mother to the last Duke of Kingston."—References confirmatory of the same fact are given, in a note to Walker's Chaldfield (p. 8.), to DUGDALE'S *English Peerage* Vol. ii. p.p. 18, 19, and BURKE'S *Extinct and Dormant Peerage*, p. 420.

in fact, through his wife, his *great-niece*;—‘William Pearce’ was, through his sister, his *great-nephew*. Supposing there were no nearer relationship, there was nothing improbable, or, we may add, unjust, in John Hall’s thus leaving his large estates to Rachel Baynton.

The young and rich heiress married William Pierrepont, Esq.,<sup>1</sup> who bore the courtesy title of Lord Kingston, only son and heir of Evelyn Pierrepont, then Marquis of Dorchester, afterwards first Duke of Kingston. A brief space only of married happiness was granted to her; for before she had completed her *nineteenth* year she was a widow. Two children, a boy and a girl, were the issue of the marriage. Evelyn, whilst yet in early youth, succeeded his grandfather as second and last Duke of Kingston; his mother died four years before her son came to the proud title. His union, in later life, with ‘Elizabeth Chudleigh,’ better known as the Duchess of Kingston,—(though she had no real claim to this designation),—the strange life of this eccentric, yet gifted, woman,—her subsequent trial and conviction for bigamy,—her closing career at St. Petersburg,—all these have been related by an abler pen in the pages of *the Wiltshire Society’s Magazine*, and therefore on these it is needless to dwell. And ‘Elizabeth

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<sup>1</sup> A special Act of Parliament was obtained for the purpose of settling John Hall’s estates on William Pierrepont and Rachel Baynton on their marriage. In the Act, to the original of which, in its engrossed form, in the Library of the House of Lords reference has been made, there is *no mention of any relationship between John Hall and Rachel Baynton*. The Act was obtained with difficulty in consequence of much opposition to it; and matters were the more complicated by the death of John Hall during its progress through the Commons. A petition was presented by William Coward, Esq., who, in default of *legitimate* issue was the next of kin to John Hall, setting forth that “the Bill, in case it should pass, would *greatly prejudice the Petitioner* and praying to be heard by counsel against it.” The Bill however passed with several amendments, and received the Royal assent 16th May, 1711. A rider was added to the Bill to the following effect:—“Provided that nothing in this Act shall be deemed, taken, or construed, to be any allowance of, or *any ways to approve or confirm any articles, or, supposed articles of agreement made, or pretended to be made, or agreed upon, by or between the said Lord Marquis of Dorchester, and the said John Hall, deceased*, concerning the marriage of the said Mrs. Baynton with the said William Pierrepont, Esq., commonly called Lord Kingston, &c.”



Chudleigh' is, after all, hardly to be reckoned among the 'Worthies' of Bradford-on-Avon. Under the will of the last Duke of Kingston, however, she inherited all his personal property, and had secured to her a life interest in all his real estate. On her death, the latter passed to Frances, the other child of Rachel Pierrepont, who had married Philip, eldest son of Sir Philip Meadows, Deputy Ranger of Richmond Park. Their son, Charles Meadows, who assumed by sign-manual the surname and arms of Pierrepont, was created Earl Manvers in 1806. On his decease in 1816, his son, who succeeded to the title as second Earl Manvers, inherited the property, and was the representative of the 'Halls' of Bradford-on-Avon.

#### THE 'ROGERS' FAMILY.

The 'ancient and knightly house' of Rogers, from which sprung many well-esteemed though untitled families, were seated from an early period at Brianstone, Dorset, now the residence of Lord Portman. In the early part of the fifteenth century they settled in Gloucestershire, where they still have their representative in the Rogers family at Dowdeswell. Towards the close of the same century we find a 'THOMAS ROGERS' at Bradford-on-Avon, designated a Serjeant-at-Law (*serviens ad legem*) a dignity of much greater relative importance, and much more rarely conferred, in olden times than now.<sup>1</sup> A marriage with Cecilia, daughter and co-heiress of William Besill—(the other daughter and co-heiress, Margaret, we have already spoken of, as the wife of Nicholas Hall)—brought the learned 'counsellor' to our town, and here, or in the neighbourhood, his descendants remained for many years afterwards, as residents and landed proprietors.

We find the son of our 'Serjeant-at-Law,' 'William' by

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<sup>1</sup> There were very few advanced in olden times to the dignity of the *coif*, as the degree of 'Serjeant-at-Law' was designated. Even as late as the time of Edward VI., Serjeant Benloe wrote himself '*solus serviens ad legem*,' there being for some time none but himself. See 'Jacob's Law Dictionary,' under 'Serjeant.'

name, adding to his patrimony by a marriage with 'Joan' daughter of John Horton, styled in one pedigree 'Johannes de Ifford,'<sup>1</sup> but more commonly designated as 'of Lullington, Co. Somerset.' We may perhaps draw an inference from this fact, that the Horton family came as residents into our neighbourhood at a somewhat earlier period than is generally thought.<sup>2</sup>

From Anthony, the *eldest* son of the last-named William Rogers, descended only two generations when Dorothy his grand-daughter and the ultimate heiress of the eldest branch of the family, by a marriage with John Hall, of Bradford-on-Avon, took into that family, the whole, not only of the Rogers, but also of the Besill estate, a moiety of the latter having come to the 'Halls' about 150 years before, in the way we have already indicated. The property thus acquired seems to have lain at Bradford, Comberwell, and at Holt, many of the deeds, still preserved at Kingston House,<sup>3</sup> having reference to lands and houses at these several places. From these documents we also infer that the Lordship of the Manor of Holt belonged to some members of the Rogers family.

From Henry, a second son of William Rogers by Joan Horton (whose son, by the way, married a daughter of Thomas Hall, of Bradford) descends a family that settled at Heddington, and afterwards at Rainscombe. Of this branch of the 'Rogers' family, F. J. Newman Rogers, Esq., of Rainscombe, near Marlborough, was the representative, [*and F. E. Newman Rogers, of the same place, is the present one.*]

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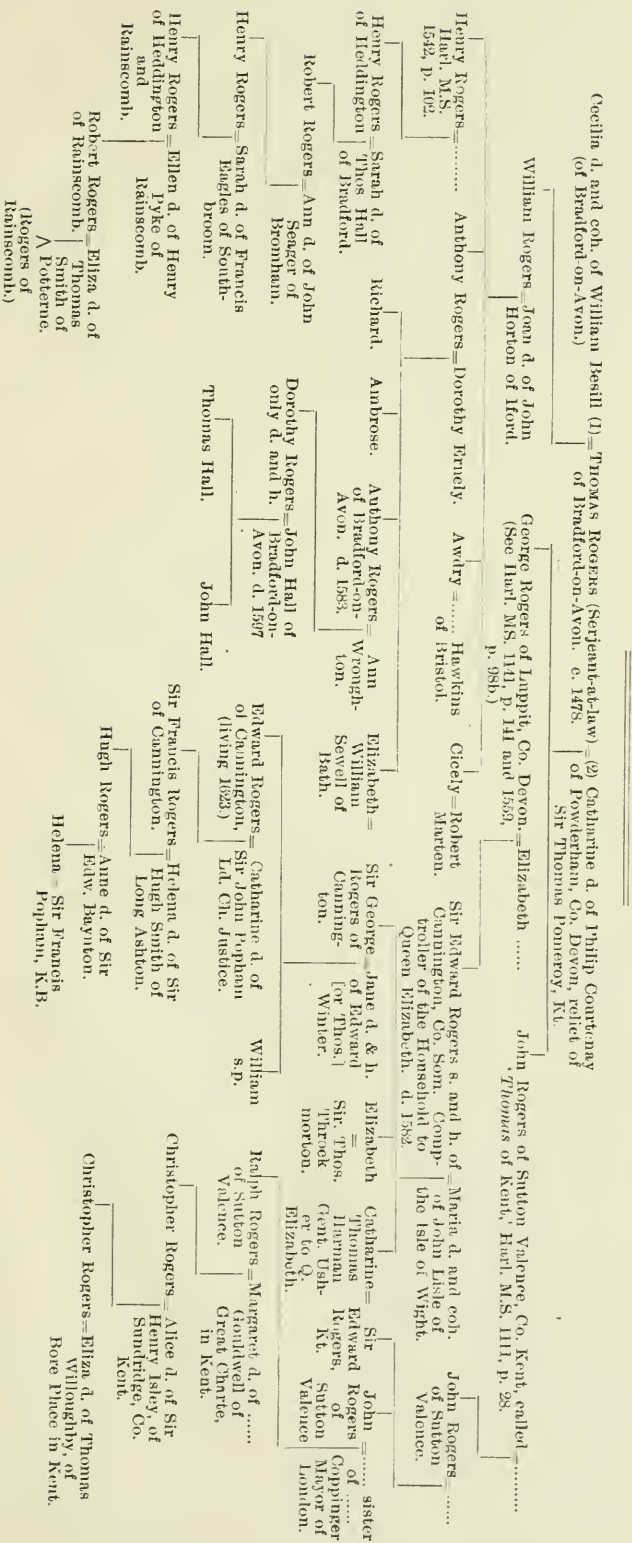
<sup>1</sup> Harl. MS., 1141. p. 141.

<sup>2</sup> The first of the 'Horton' family that is described in their own pedigree as of 'Westwood,' or 'Iford,' (the latter is a small hamlet in the former parish) is the grandson of 'John' of Lullington. In the will however of 'Thomas,' the son of John of Lullington, he is described as 'of Iford' where, or at Westwood, he died, 1530. The direction, in his will, that he should "be buried *with his father* in the aisle of our Lady on the north side of Bradford Church" seems to imply that the family may have been residents for some time previously in our town or neighbourhood. See above in the account of *Horton's Chantry*. By the way, in the Horton pedigree, the husband of 'Joan Horton' is called 'Anthony Rogers.' His name, most authorities tell us, was 'William.'

<sup>3</sup> Wilts Archaeological Magazine, i. 290.

## PEDIGREE OF ROGERS.

*Arms.—Argent, a chevron between three stags sable, attired or.  
 Crest.—A stag trippant sable, bezante, ducally gorged and attired or.*





THOMAS ROGERS, the 'Serjeant-at-Law,' the founder of the Bradford-on-Avon branch of his family, married, on the death of Cecilia Besill his first wife, Catharine, daughter of Philip Courtenay of Powderham, Devon, and relict of Sir Thomas Pomeroy, knight. By this second wife he had two sons, each of whom left descendants, several of whom rose to distinction and kept up the 'knightly' character of their house. The *younger* son, 'John,' of Sutton Valence,—called in one manuscript 'Thomas' of Kent,—had, as the pedigree shews, representatives in that county for many generations, and, amongst them, one at least attained the honor of knighthood. The *elder*, George Rogers of Luppit, Devon, had a son, Sir Edward, of Cannington, who rose to be a member of the Privy Council, and Comptroller of the Household to Queen Elizabeth. Possibly it may have been he who built the large house in Pippet street, of which mention has been made (p. 58) described by Aubrey as "a faire old built house of the family of Rogers, of Cannington," and the older parts of which (for it has been very much altered in the course of successive years) seem to be of the date of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.† I have seen a deed, however, in which it is recited that, in the year 1557, *Henry* Rogers, of Cannington, whose place in the pedigree we are not able to give with accuracy, leased a house<sup>1</sup> in what is now called the Shambles, to 'John Horton' of 'The Devizes.'

This line of the 'Rogers' family, which continued for six or seven generations, during which it numbered several knights amongst its members, terminated in Helena, daughter of Hugh Rogers, who was married to Sir Francis Popham of Littlecote, created a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Charles II. The issue of this marriage was an only son, Alexander, who, on the decease of his father in 1674, became the representative

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[† *Some portions of the house are pretty certainly of older date than is here set down. By tradition the building of it is attributed to the Serjeant-at-Law; and I think this is probable. It was long owned and occupied by the Methuen family.*]

<sup>1</sup> The house is the one which was occupied by Mr. W. Taylor, Jun.

of the Pophams of Littlecote and also of the family of 'Rogers,' of Cannington.<sup>1</sup>

#### THE 'YERBURY' FAMILY.

This is the only family, with a pedigree recorded in the Herald's Visitation of 1623, whose direct male descendants still continue resident in Bradford-on-Avon. The sudden decease of its gallant and worthy representative almost whilst these sheets are passing through the press, gives an additional interest to the account we are about to lay before our readers, a portion of the materials having been kindly furnished by himself to the writer of this sketch.

The earliest member of the Yerbury family mentioned in the Visitations is 'LAURENCE YERBERIE,' described as of Batcombe, Somerset, who was settled there, about the middle of the fifteenth century. Connexions by marriage with some of the leading families of Wiltshire brought them soon afterwards into this county, where they applied their energies to the wool-trade, from which at that time the greater part of the wealth of the country was derived. Either as 'Wool Staplers' or 'Clothiers,' (dealers, that is, in wool, either in the raw or the manufactured state,) they traded and prospered in our neighbourhood from the commencement of the sixteenth century.

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<sup>1</sup> There is some difficulty in reconciling the various authorities in their statements concerning the pedigree of Rogers. Aubrey gives, under 'Headington,' a pedigree, in which is included a memorandum, said to be from the Herald's college, from which it would appear that 'George Rogers, of Luppit' was a *brother* instead of a *son* of Thomas, the Serjeant-at-Law. I have tried to reconcile the various statements, but have been unable. The pedigree I have compiled is that which certainly has the greater weight of authorities in its favour, and I have added the sources of information, in doubtful cases, on which I have relied. Canon Jackson tells me, that the pedigree in Aubrey's MS., is on a separate leaf and not in Aubrey's own hand-writing. He says, moreover,—“Three of the Rogers family were successively Rectors of Headington (Wilts Inst. 1605, —1670—and 1724) and it is most likely that Aubrey received the pedigree from 'Henry Rogers,' Rector from 1670—1724, who also held the livings of Leigh Delamere, and Yatesbury.”

The first member of the family known to have settled in our vicinity was 'THOMAS YERBERIE' described as of Trowbridge, who married Alice, daughter of Thomas Horton, of Westwood. The last is a name frequently mentioned in our pages, and one which our readers will almost have learnt to regard as a synonyme for worldly wealth. Connexions also, as the pedigree shews, were formed about the same time with the 'Longs' of Trowbridge, and of Whaddon, a family that every year was increasing in property and station. With such advantages, it is not wonderful that 'Thomas Yerberie' of Trowbridge prospered, and was able, at his decease, to bequeath a goodly portion to each of his children.

He left behind him *three* sons,—JOHN, according to the best authorities, the eldest, and the first that settled at Bradford-on-Avon;—WILLIAM, who remained at Trowbridge:—and THOMAS, described as of Frome, and several of whose descendants are buried in Laverton Church, near Frome, where there are monumental tablets to their memory.

The two first-named—John and William, belong more immediately to this memoir. The family spread itself in course of years into other parts of Wilts,—to Conock,<sup>1</sup> to Lavington, to Coulston, &c., but our present enquiry extends only to those who came here or into our immediate neighbourhood. And as we are able to bring down a direct descent in the Bradford-on-Avon line to the present time, it will be more convenient to dispose first, of the second or Trowbridge branch.

WILLIAM YERBURY of Trowbridge married his first cousin Anne, daughter of Henry Long of Whaddon. They became the ancestors of several men of mark. The characteristic of this family seems to have been, a steady and unswerving fidelity to their King. Amidst all the troubles of his troubled reign they were true to the fortunes of Charles I. They were

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<sup>1</sup> The estate of 'Gifford Yerbury' at Conock came to the 'Warriner' family. At a sale of the effects of the last owner no very long time ago Mr. Ellen, of Devizes, bought an oak chair having the cypher G. Y. and a Merchant's mark carved on the back, with the date 1624.

staunch, uncompromising Royalists; no peril deterred them from avowing, no hope of gain induced them to renounce their principles.

Amongst those who 'lent money to the King's Majesty' (James I.) in the year 1611, is the name of EDWARD YERBURY,<sup>1</sup> (the son of William and Anne,) though the Commissioners appointed to 'note the names of such persons as were thought fit to lend such money' had not included his in their lists. The same Edward acted afterwards as Commissioner for King Charles I. For this, when the Parliament triumphed, he had to compound for his estates and to pay a fine of £160. (See p. 53).<sup>2</sup> From an inscription on a monument in Trowbridge Church,<sup>3</sup> erected to his memory by Edward Yerbury, his grandson, we learn that he was obliged afterwards to flee from Trowbridge. The reason of his compulsory retirement may be understood from the following extract;—"4 May 1647. "An order arises from Goldsmiths' Hall directing the *renewed sequestration* of Edward Yerbury, Esq., by the Wilts Committee, unless within ten days he produced a certificate from London explanatory of his conduct: his offence being, that, after the settlement of his fine, *he neglected to sue out his pardon* under the Great Seal." He retired to Plymouth as a hiding-place, and there, as an exile, he died, and found his last earthly home, a few months only before his royal master suffered at Whitehall.

Eleven children, five daughters and six sons, were born to him, most of whom survived him. From one of the former, Eleanor, married to Dr. Alworth, Chancellor to the Bishop of Oxford, descends, materially, the family, of Merewether, well known and highly esteemed in Wiltshire. Several of the former, loyal sons of a loyal father, shewed like him their

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<sup>1</sup> Wilts Archæological Magazine, iv. 150.

<sup>2</sup> Wilts Archæological Magazine, ii. 188.

<sup>3</sup> The words on the Monument, which is now fixed on the south side of the tower in Trowbridge Church, are as follows;—"M. S., venerabilis viri Edvardi Yerbury, Armig. qui, flagrante nuper civili bello, *pro fide Carolo Martyri præstita, Lare profugus*, Plimuthi obiit; ibique dormitorium invenit."



LAURENCE YERBERIE, of Batcombe, Co. Som

Mary=Thomas Long of Trowbridge Tho  
Burie

JOHN YERBURY (of Bradford),=..... Mai  
eldest son. Will 1614. 1

Thomas Yerbury of Bradford,=Edith .....  
clothier. Will 1612. Walter Yerbury=Elizabeth  
Edwards. John=Alice Horne. William

Thomas=Jean ..... Gifford=Frances  
1599. Hughes. John 1591. Samuel 1594. John 1591.

John. Thomas. Robert. William. Gifford. Frances. Rebecca. Nicholas=..... Walter 1594. Ann ..... (1)=Francis=(2) Alice Norris.  
1605. Edward 1608. Miles 1610. d. 1638. Yerbury m. 1639.

Elizabeth. Ann. Martha. Francis Yerbury=Jean ..... John 1626. Thomas 1631.

John Yerbury=Frances Davisson of Nathanael Francis=Joanna Baldwin, m. :  
1678-1728. Freshford. m 1703. b. 1683. (Well-close settled

Joseph. Francis Yerbury=Mary Clark Mary=Dr. Roger  
John. 1706-1778. of Mere. Flexman. Thomas, eldest=Mary, d. of  
son. b. 1690. Yerbury, v  
m. 1711

Francis Richard=Elizabeth John William=Hester Bailey Frances Bluet=Isaac  
1738-1752. 1740-1772. Saunders. Yerbury. of Calne. 1757. Hillier. Thomas Yerbury=Ann Tat  
only s. and h. Derby.  
clothier. m. 1757. m. 2nd ...  
man of I

Mary=John Moggridge Francis. John William Yerbury=Emma Webb  
of Gabalva. of Ledbury.  
1804-1858. Pitman.' of Derby.



devotion to their King. More than one of them rose to positions of influence and dignity. EDWARD YERBURY, the eldest son, was Secretary to Lord Seymour, brother of the Marquis of Hertford, and acted in this capacity, it is believed, during the sittings at the treaty at Uxbridge. A few years afterwards, together with his brother William, and others, whose names,—Wallis,—Lovell,—Long,—Sydenham,—indicate a family connection, he joined in the attempt commonly known as the 'Penruddock rising' the object of which was the overthrow of Cromwell's government. Its result, as is well known, was most disastrous to many concerned in it, though the Yerburies, somehow or other, contrived to escape. The ring-leaders were taken prisoners; Penruddock and Grove were beheaded at Exeter; several others suffered at Salisbury; some were sold for slaves in Barbadoes.

We find another of the sons of Edward Yerbury the elder, JOHN, by name, in the list of Royalists, on whom, in 1643, the Commissioners appointed by the Parliament, levied fines for the privilege of holding their estates. It was his son EDWARD, a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, (successor in that position to an uncle of whom we must speak more fully,) that erected the monument in Trowbridge Church to which we have alluded. No doubt to his pen we owe the correct and elegant Latin Inscription, which records the decease of his grandfather,—his father,—and his uncle Edward Yerbury.

The most distinguished, however, of the sons of Edward Yerbury the elder, (at least for his attainments,) was HENRY, who was for many years a Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford.<sup>1</sup> Like his father and brothers, he too, was a staunch Royalist, and, in due time, reaped the consequences of his principles. When the Parliamentary Commissioners visited Oxford, he was ejected by them from his Fellowship. After his expulsion he travelled to the South of Europe, and settling at Padua took the degree of Doctor of Physic at the University there established. Whilst there he seems to have acted

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<sup>1</sup> Wood's Athen : Oxon : i. liii. lxxxiii. Fasti. ii. 217, 303.

as tutor to Thomas and Henry Howard, successively Dukes of Norfolk,<sup>1</sup> the former of whom died unmarried at Padua in 1677. On the Restoration in 1660, Dr. Henry Yerbury recovered his Fellowship, and followed up at Oxford those tastes for natural science which he had cultivated in Italy. He became a pupil of the noted Peter Sthael, a chemist and Rosicrusian of Strasburg, who had settled in Oxford in the year 1659, brought thither by the Hon. Robert Boyle. Amongst those, besides Dr. Henry Yerbury, who attended the classes of this foreign, and, at the time, highly-esteemed lecturer, were several whose names are very familiar to us. They were,—Sir Christopher Wren,—Nathaniel Crew, afterwards Bishop of Durham,—Dr. Ralph Bathurst, afterwards President of Trinity and Dean of Wells'—and Sir Thomas Millington, of All-Souls' College.<sup>2</sup>

Shortly after this time, Dr. Henry Yerbury became involved in disputes with the President of his College, in consequence of which he seems once more to have been removed from his Fellowship. Dr. Pierce, (a son of John Pierce,<sup>3</sup> a wealthy alderman and draper of Devizes,) who, with Henry Yerbury, had been ejected from a Fellowship at Magdalen College by the Parliamentary Commissioners, was, on the Restoration, raised to the high and coveted post of President. His domineering spirit caused much dissatisfaction in the College, and this at last led to an open rupture between himself and the other members of the Society. The President resolved at

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<sup>1</sup> Guillim's Display of Heraldry, p. 180. It may be observed, that Guillim, in describing the armorial bearings of Dr. Henry Yerbury, makes them differ somewhat (so far, that is, *tinctures* are concerned,) from those assigned by the authorities to Yerbury of Trowbridge, which we have printed at the head of the pedigree. He gives them thus,—“ Party per fess *Or and sable* a lion rampant *counterchanged*.”

<sup>2</sup> Wood's Athen: Oxon: iv. 304.

<sup>3</sup> John Pearce, or Piers, the ‘wealthy alderman and draper of Devizes’ was a great Royalist, and was in 1649 fined to the extent of £426 by the Parliamentary Commissioners. In a poem called ‘Caroliades’ by Edward Howard, son of the Earl of Berkshire, he is described as “the trusty townsman,” who discovered to the Lord Hopton a magazine of powder concealed on his own premises, and thus recruited, at a moment of jeopardy, the exhausted ammunition of the Royalists.

length on the extreme step of declaring Dr. Henry Yerbury expelled from his Fellowship. The circumstances were singularly unlike those under which he was before ejected; for now a determined Royalist was expelled by one who was as stout and uncompromising a Royalist as himself. A paper war speedily followed this act of the President. One pamphlet, especially caustic in its tone, entitled, "Dr. Pierce, his preaching confuted by his practice," led to the expulsion of its author, 'John Dobson,' from the University. Peace was not restored till the resignation, in 1672, of the litigious President. Three years after his retirement from Magdalen, Dr. Pierce was appointed Dean of Sarum, where his contentious temper again displayed itself in a smart controversy with the Bishop, Dr. Seth Ward, on the right of bestowing the Prebends of the Cathedral; a controversy, which, though it was determined in the Bishop's favour, is said nevertheless to have embittered the closing days of his life.

Dr. Henry Yerbury, we presume, regained his Fellowship on the retirement of Dr. Pierce, for he died at Oxford in the year 1686, and was buried in the chapel of Magdalen College. He must have been highly esteemed in the University, for in the year 1679 he was one of the candidates proposed for its representation in Parliament. He voluntarily retired, before the contest, began, in favor of Heneage Finch, then Solicitor General, afterwards created Earl of Aylesford, who was especially recommended by the then Chancellor of the University.

Before we leave the Trowbridge branch of the Yerbury family, we must make a passing mention of their generous benefactions to the poor of that, as well as of several of the neighbouring parishes. The new Alms-house at Trowbridge was erected by the three brothers, William, John and Richard Yerbury. It was subsequently endowed by bequests under the wills of two of them. Dr. Henry Yerbury, and his nephew Edward, of both of whom mention has been already made, augmented its income with their respective donations. William Yerbury, of Hempstead, who was, we presume a son

of Richard Yerbury, towards the middle of the last century, conveyed to Trustees a certain portion of land for its endowment. At the time of the visit of the Charity Commissioners<sup>1</sup> to Trowbridge, about twenty-five years ago, they reported the income of this Charity as amounting to £129 18s. per annum, —(representing a *principal* sum of at least £4000.)—the whole of it the produce of successive offerings from members of the Yerbury family.

William Yerbury, one of the builders of the new Alms-house, at Trowbridge, also made provision for the poor of Bradford-on-Avon, of Road, and of Beckington. In a previous page we have spoken of the first of these gifts; it is now unhappily a thing of the past, many years having gone by since it was diverted from its original purpose, or distributed *in bread*, in accordance with the founder's will, amongst the poor of Bradford-on-Avon.

The branch of the Yerbury family that settled in our town, if not so famous, were perhaps as useful in their generation as their kinsmen of Trowbridge. 'JOHN YERBURY,' the first who seems to have lived in Bradford-on-Avon, had four sons, all of whom were engaged in commercial or agricultural pursuits. 'THOMAS,' one of these sons, is the first that is described as a 'Clothier.' The family which still remains to us and resides at Belcomb, an estate that now for some generations has belonged to them, descends from 'WALTER,' another of the sons of 'John Yerbury.' Each of the brothers married and left several children. Few names are more frequently met with in early Parochial Registers or Rate-Books. From the beginning of the seventeenth century they began to spread themselves in our immediate neighbourhood, and are known not only as occupiers, but as owners of land.

As might naturally be supposed, with respect to such members of the family as devoted themselves to the quiet pursuits of agricultural, or some kindred, occupation, we know but little. Generation by generation they seem to have

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<sup>1</sup> Charity Commissioners' Printed Reports No. 28. (Wilts). p. 349.

increased their store of worldly means and extended their possessions. Family tradition speaks of one as the 'golden Farmer,' in consequence of his reputed wealth. The great grandson of Walter, by name JOHN YERBURY, seems to have added to his means and position by a marriage, in 1703, with Frances, daughter of Joseph Davisson of Freshford, whose mother was Joanna Bluet, of Holcombe Court, in Devon. Of the same family was Colonel Francis Bluet, the Royalist commander, killed at the siege of Lyme in 1644, whilst serving under Prince Maurice.

It was, however, the son of the last named John Yerbury, who bore the name,—so frequent in this branch of their family,—of FRANCIS, that struck out a new path for himself, and reaped fully the reward of his ingenuity. He was educated at first for the bar. Having a taste for all kinds of mechanical contrivances, he was accustomed, whilst a resident in London, to visit the silk manufactories of Spital Fields. The 'mystery' of cloth-making was not unknown to him, from his connection with Bradford-on-Avon. He conceived the idea, that, by introducing into its manufacture some of the plans and contrivances adopted in the weaving of silk, cloth might be materially improved in quality. What was made here, before his time, was thick and coarse in its texture, and had, technically speaking, little or no '*face*' on it. He matured his plans, and, when ready to carry them into effect, obtained for his invention, or, at least, improvement, the protection of a Patent.<sup>1</sup> The document is still in the possession of the family. His enterprise and talent met with an ample reward in a large accession to his fortune. The improvements introduced by Francis Yerbury, were, in due time, adopted by other manufacturers, and led ultimately to results, so far as the cloth-trade was concerned, at the first but little expected.

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<sup>1</sup> In the Patent, which is dated 26th Aug., 6 George III., it is recited that "Francis Yerbury, after much application and many trials, attended with much expense, about four years ago invented and brought to perfection a new method of making thin superfine cloth for the summer season at home, and warmer climates abroad, and yet notwithstanding the thinness of its texture, it is more durable than cloth of a greater substance made in the common way."

Of his son, JOHN WILLIAM YERBURY, who, on the death of the father in 1778, became the representative of the family here, we have a circumstance recorded that shews he had inherited no little portion of the brave spirit of his kinsmen. In a Journal published at the time, (1787), we have the following account. "Some 1500 or more weavers from Bradford and Trowbridge having compelled their masters to acquiesce in certain new regulations [not stated] were so flushed with success that they marched in triumph from Trowbridge to Bradford, but were repelled at the entrance of the latter place by the principal inhabitants. At Belcomb Brook they also met with a stout resistance, for Mr. Yerbury had planted two patereros at his windows, which swept the lawn. Supported by many armed friends, he addressed the rioters in so able a manner as to induce them to retire without causing any disturbance. The military arrived the next day and the combination was at an end."

The son of the last-named John William Yerbury,—who bore the same name as his father,—will be very well remembered by many who read these pages. A few short months only have passed since he was busy amongst us, discharging diligently his duties as a magistrate and enjoying the well-earned respect of all his fellow townsmen. He too, like his grandfather, Francis Yerbury, was, in early life, destined for the Bar. He entered Trinity College, Cambridge, and in due time took his degree, in preparation for what was then his destined profession. His inclination, however, lay towards a military life; and, after a time, he obtained a commission in the 66th Regiment of Foot. Very shortly afterwards he joined the 3rd Light Dragoons, and in that regiment he remained until his retirement from the army, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, a little more than four years ago.

His period of active service extended over no less than thirty years. Some friend, evidently well acquainted with his military career, thus summed up his services in a well known periodical published shortly after his decease.—"Colonel Yerbury had seen much active service in India: he was



throughout the campaign of 1842 in Affghanistan; was present at the forcing of the Khyber Pass, at the storming of the heights, Jugduluck, the actions of Tezeen, and Hafkostul, (where his horse was wounded) the occupation of Cabul, and the capture of Istaliff. He commanded his regiment in the Punjaub campaign of 1848 and 1849; was present at Rum-nugger, at the action of Sadoclapore, and the battles of Chillianwallah and Goojerat. He received a medal for Affghanistan, and a medal and two clasps for the latter campaign. At Chillianwallah the fate of the battle hung upon the charge of the 3rd Light Dragoons, and the honor of his country and the safety of the army were ably sustained by as brave and gallant a soldier as ever drew the sword. General Gough watched them with intense anxiety, and at last seeing them emerge on the other side of the enemy,—having ridden right through that wing of the Sikh army,—he declared that the day was his own.”<sup>1</sup>

After he quitted the army Colonel Yerbury settled at Belcomb Brook, and looked forward to the probable enjoyment of some years of quiet retirement. And few, judging from outward appearances, had a greater right to indulge such hopes. But it was not so to be;—‘*l’homme propose, Dieu dispose*’ When in the midst of extensive alterations in his house, with but one room in which, whilst watching day by day the progress of the work, he had been living, he was seized with that illness which within a week proved fatal to him. It was almost a soldier’s death: he breathed his last rather in a tent, than in a fixed abode; he fell in the full vigour of his strength, before man discerned a single trace of the decrepitude of advancing years.

He left behind him several children. May those who inherit his name, exhibit also his acknowledged excellencies! They will find, that, for their father’s sake, as well as for their own, they will readily secure no scanty measure of respect and attachment from their fellow-townsmen and neighbours in Bradford-on-Avon.

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<sup>1</sup> Gentleman’s Magazine, October 1858, p. 416.

## THE 'METHUEN' FAMILY.

For more than two centuries this family was closely connected with our town, and, to the public spirit of one of its members, Bradford-on-Avon owed much of its prosperity during the 17th and 18th centuries. They demand therefore more than a passing notice.

Originally of German extraction, this family may nevertheless be traced back as settlers in Scotland for no less than 700 years. On the first settler from Germany, Malcolm III. (called Cean Mohr,) King of Scotland from 1056—1098, is said to have bestowed the Barony of Methven<sup>1</sup> in Perthshire as an acknowledgment of services rendered to the Princess Margaret, afterwards his Queen. She together with her brother Edgar, "the Atheling," were accompanied by him from Hungary, where they had both been born during the exile of their father Edward, the son of Edmund Ironside, and nephew of Edward the Confessor. To keep in remembrance their German origin, the Methuen family carry their arms blazoned on the breast of an imperial eagle.

We soon find members of the Methuen family occupying high and honorable offices in Scotland. In the reign of Alexander II. (1214—1248) we find Galfred, William, and Robert, mentioned in such a way, and in conjunction with others of such exalted station, as implies the rank to which they had themselves attained.

The immediate ancestor, however, of the family of which we are speaking, was PATRICK DE METHVEN, who was the proprietor of the lands and barony of Methven, and lived in the reign of Alexander III. (c. 1260). His son, Sir Roger, is mentioned as a man of distinction in the reign of Robert Bruce. He was Lord of the same barony as his father, and,

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<sup>1</sup> Mevvin Castle, as it is now called, still stands at Huntingtower a village between Perth and Crieff. The *name* of this family is found written in various ways, Methven, Methwin, Methuen, &c. Paul, the first settler in Bradford, wrote his name in the *second* form; John, his son, preferred the *first*; Sir Paul, his grandson, the well-known ambassador, adopted the *third*, which is now the usual mode of spelling the name.



# PEDIGREE OF METHUEN.

*Arms: Argent, three wolves' heads erased, proper, borne on the breast of an imperial eagle. Crest - A wolf's head, roused, proper.*

PATRICK DE METHUEN, c. 1200.

Sir Roger de Methuen, 1st Males, Countess of Strathern, d. p.

Paul 1st  
William de Methuen.

William de Methuen, 2nd son of 1st  
c. 1207

John de Methuen, 1st d. of Sir John Haklane,  
of Glenloggie, Co. Perth.

John 2d de Methuen.

John de Methuen, 1st d. of Sir John  
d. 1292 Blacklater.

Andrew de Methuen, 1st d. of Robert Bruce  
of Alth.

John de Methuen, 1st Andrew de Methuen

Paul Methuen, Prebendary Ann Rogers of  
of Wells Cannington, Som.

Anthony Methuen, Vicar of Frome, Jean Taylor of  
1511-1521, 1520-1530 Bristol, 1530-1540

Paul Methuen, 1st Grace d. of John  
of Freshford, d. 1627 Ash of Freshford,  
d. 1627

Anthony Methuen, 2nd son, d. 1664

Francis  
s p

John Methuen, of Bishop's Cannings, M.P. for Dorset, 1580-1590. Viscount of Ireland and Ambassador to Denmark, d. 1586. Buried in Westminster Abbey.

Mary d. of  
Christ

Anthony Methuen, 1st  
1560-1570

Thomas Methuen, 1st  
1570-1580

William Innes Paul  
These three died without  
succession.

Paul Methuen, 1st  
1587-1575

John Methuen, Mary  
1638-1633.

Sir Paul Methuen, 1st 1557  
Secretary of War, Ambassador  
to Madrid, Ac. Knight of the  
Bath, Comptroller of the  
Horsehold, Lord of the Manor,  
Buried in Westminster Abbey.

Mary 1st  
1557-1570

Thomas Methuen, 1st  
1570-1580

John Methuen, 1st  
1580-1590

James Methuen, 1st  
1590-1600

Elizabeth Methuen, 1st  
1600-1610

Paul Methuen, 1st  
1610-1620

Sarah Gould of Upway, m. 1607, d. 1700.  
(Qs. whether the wife of 1st or of 16th, most probably of the former)

Paul Methuen, 1st  
1620-1630

John Methuen, 1st  
1630-1640

Paul Methuen, 1st  
1640-1650

Mattias d. of Sir T  
1650-1660

Thomas Methuen, 1st  
1660-1670

Christiana Methuen, 1st  
1670-1680

Frederick Methuen, 1st  
1680-1690

Edward Methuen, 1st  
1690-1700

John Methuen, 1st  
1700-1710

Elizabeth Methuen, 1st  
1710-1720

Rev. Thos. Methuen, 1st  
1720-1730

Anna Maria Methuen, 1st  
1730-1740

Paul Methuen, 1st  
1740-1750

Thomas Methuen, 1st  
1750-1760

Charles Methuen, 1st  
1760-1770

John Methuen, 1st  
1770-1780

George Methuen, 1st  
1780-1790

Sir Edward Poore Methuen, 1st  
1790-1800

Anna Methuen, 1st  
1800-1810

John Methuen, 1st  
1810-1820

Rev. Thos. Methuen, 1st  
1820-1830

John Methuen, 1st  
1830-1840

Paul Methuen, 1st  
1840-1850

Frederick Methuen, 1st  
1850-1860

Anna Methuen, 1st  
1860-1870

John Methuen, 1st  
1870-1880

George Methuen, 1st  
1880-1890

Edward Methuen, 1st  
1890-1900

John Methuen, 1st  
1900-1910

Rev. Thos. Methuen, 1st  
1910-1920

John Methuen, 1st  
1920-1930

John Methuen, 1st  
1930-1940

Evelyn Barbara Methuen, 1st  
1940-1950

Paul Methuen, 1st  
1950-1960

John Methuen, 1st  
1960-1970

John Methuen, 1st  
1970-1980

John Methuen, 1st  
1980-1990

John Methuen, 1st  
1990-2000

John Methuen, 1st  
2000-2010

John Methuen, 1st  
2010-2020

John Methuen, 1st  
2020-2030

John Methuen, 1st  
2030-2040

Paul Methuen, 1st  
2 sons and 2 daughters.

with many other Scotchmen of the first rank, was compelled to submit to Edward I. in 1296.

Sir Roger was succeeded by his eldest son Paul, whom we meet with as one of the ambassadors extraordinary appointed to treat concerning a peace with England in 1363. A similar appointment was no long time afterwards filled by the grandson of this Paul, by name John de Methven, who was, in 1397, one of the ambassadors to the Court of England for negotiating affairs of state with that kingdom. It appears that the castle of Methven and part of the lands belonging to the Barony were acquired from this John, by the Duke of Albany, Regent of Scotland during the imprisonment of King James I. They afterwards fell to the Crown, where they remained for some years. In 1425 King James V. gave them to his mother Queen Margaret, (sister of Henry VIII. of England,) and Henry Steward, son of Lord Evandale, her *third* husband, created, in 1523, Lord Methven.

The son of the last-mentioned John de Methven, bearing himself the same name as his father, was a man of great accomplishments, and was constantly employed in the service of his King and country. No Scotsman in the reign of James II. enjoyed more of his Prince's favour. He was one of the principal Secretaries of State and Lord Register of Scotland in the year 1440, and a few years afterwards was appointed ambassador extraordinary to the Court of England. He was concerned in all the important public transactions of his time, and always acquitted himself with integrity and honour.

A few generations pass away, and towards the middle of the 16th century we meet with two brothers, John and Andrew,—(the sons of an Andrew de Methven),—who come before us in the character of zealous promoters of the Reformation. We meet also about the same time with a Paul de Methven (probably the son of John, and of whom we shall speak presently) as a stern opposer of the Church of Rome. At the old Kirk of Stirling one of the earliest nurseries of the Reformation, this Paul defended Protestantism long before the appearance of others with whose names we are more familiar

In fact in that town he set at defiance the edicts of the Queen Regent, Mary of Guise,—the widow of James V.—and thus occupied, in his aspect to her Court, the same position which John Knox sustained in that of her daughter, Mary Queen of Scots.

Of Andrew, the younger of the two brothers just alluded to, we know but little. Of John, we are told, that, dreading the persecution of the times, George Wishart having just before suffered death at St. Andrews, under Cardinal Beaton, for his Protestantism, he fled to England and was kindly received by Queen Elizabeth who took his son Paul<sup>1</sup> under her special protection.† The latter was presented to a stall in Wells Cathedral, and to other preferments in the County of Somerset, and was, it is believed, Chaplain to John Still,<sup>2</sup> Bishop of Bath and Wells. He married Anne Rogers, of an ancient family of that name seated at Cannington in Somerset. Possibly through this marriage the Methuen family first became possessed of property in Bradford. The house in which for many years they lived, and which till a comparatively short time ago belonged to them and is still called 'Methuen's' by the older inhabitants, is that to which we have alluded, in a previous page, as having probably been built by one of the family of Rogers of Cannington, to whom, in the sixteenth century, the property belonged.

The son of the last-named Paul, by name Anthony, was also in Holy Orders. He was Prebendary of Wells and Litchfield, and held the Vicarage of Frome, in Somerset, from 1609—1640. He married Jean daughter and sole heiress of Thomas

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<sup>1</sup> My authority for these statements is to be found in Playfair's 'Family Antiquity' in a note under "GOOCH," Baronet, vol. vii. p. 10. I have, however, seen a document, and had communications concerning others, which seem to represent these two members of this family, viz. 'Paul,' who married Ann Rogers, and 'Anthony,' the Vicar of Frome, as *brothers* rather than as *father* and *son*,—both apparently the sons of 'John de Methven,' who fled from Scotland. I am not able, at present, to decide concerning the relative value of the various authorities, and therefore content myself with indicating the source from which the information above given has been derived.

<sup>2</sup> See Sir R. C. Hoare's 'Hundred of Mere,' p. 192. † See page 221.

Taylor, Esq., of the city of Bristol, and with her obtained a large accession to his fortune, which even before was not inconsiderable. They both died in the same year, 1640, and were interred under a costly monument,<sup>1</sup> now in the Vestry of the Parish Church of Frome, which has recently been completely restored to its original condition by the present Vicar.

It is with the sons of this ANTHONY, the Vicar of Frome, that we are especially concerned, as they were the first of the family who settled in Bradford. Three of his children seem to have survived him, Paul,—Anthony,—and Francis. The last named son left no succession, neither do we know anything of his history. The eldest was the “Paul Methwin” of Bradford, of whom mention has already been made, and from whom descends the present noble family of “Methuen.” The second, Anthony, was for several generations represented in Bradford by direct male descendants, the last of whom died in 1792. Through female branches he is still represented by several families of station and affluence both in Wiltshire and Somersetshire. It will be convenient to trace in order, down to the present day, the descendants of those two brothers respectively.

PAUL,—the elder of the two,—described as of Bradford and Bishops Cannings, has been already spoken of in the course of our narrative, (p. 54). It was he that introduced some weavers from Holland into Bradford, and materially improved the manufactures and consequently the trade of the Town.

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<sup>1</sup> On the tomb of “Anthony Methwin,” (so the name is there spelt,) Vicar of Frome, is the following inscription, of which we attempt an English version, though it is not easy to reach the force and elegance of the original.

“Hoc tegitur cippo, decus ævi, gloria cleri,

Dum vixit, nunc fit lucida stella poli.

Vitâ, voce, manu, populum pascebat Iesu :

Qui nunc cælesti pascitur ipse cibo.”

Here lies,—his Age’s boast,—his Church’s pride,—

Now, a bright star, midst angels, glorified :

In life, by word and deed, his flock in Christ he fed,

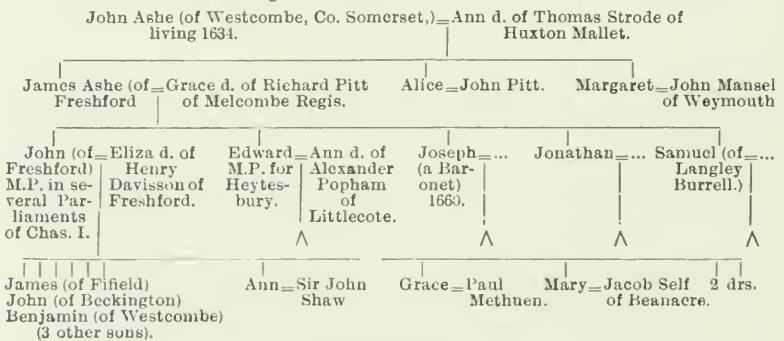
And now, with Christ himself, he feeds on heavenly bread.

He settled here about the year 1620-1630. He married Grace daughter of Mr. John Ashe,<sup>1</sup> of Freshford, of an ancient family in Somerset, and a member of several Parliaments during the reign of Charles I. Aubrey calls this Paul Methwin, "the greatest cloathier of his time (Charles II.)" and says that "he succeeded his father-in-law in the trade." By prudent economy, and successful enterprise, he greatly improved his property, and amassed a large fortune. He died in the year 1667.

He left behind him several sons. The eldest,—JOHN,—described as of Bishops Cannings, was a man of great abilities and was much employed in affairs of State. He was one of the Privy Council and Lord Chancellor of Ireland in the reigns of King William III. and Queen Anne. He was frequently employed in embassies to Portugal, and, in 1703, concluded, with the Court of Lisbon, a treaty which regulated the trade in wine and was ever afterwards called by his name, and considered as a great evidence of his skill in negotiation. He represented the Borough of Devizes in five Parliaments. A monument in Westminster Abbey records that "he died abroad in the service of his country A.D. 1706." §

The son of this last named John was a diplomatist even more highly distinguished than himself. SIR PAUL METHUEN, for some years, was ambassador at Madrid. He also acted as envoy at various times to the Emperor of Morocco, and the

<sup>1</sup> In the Harleian MS. No. 1559, fol. 42: is a pedigree of this family, from which the following is an extract:—



§ See page 221.



Duke of Savoy. In 1706 he was appointed one of the Lords of the Admiralty; in 1714 he became a Lord of the Treasury and a Privy Counsellor. He rose at last in 1716 to the high office of a principal Secretary of State, and in 1720 was comptroller of the King's Household. He was installed in 1725 as a Knight of the Bath, and the same year became Treasurer of the Household, an office which he resigned in a few years and passed the remainder of his life in a private station.<sup>1</sup>

Sir Paul Methuen died unmarried, in the 85th year of his age, and was interred near the remains of his father in Westminster Abbey. In him ended the male line of John the eldest son of 'Paul Methwin of Bradford.' He bequeathed his valuable collection of pictures, and considerable estates, to Paul, (the son of his first cousin, Thomas Methuen) the purchaser of Corsham House.

ANTHONY, the second son of Paul, of Bradford, succeeded to his father as a Clothier, and his name very often occurs in the indentures of various apprentices from time to time. He inherited his father's estate at Bradford, and also his manors of Cheddar, Withy, Beckington and Freshford in Somerset. He married Gertrude daughter and co-heir of Thomas Moore of Spargrove, Co. Somerset, and their son Thomas Methuen (who married Ann daughter of Isaac Selfe, of Bearacre, Co. Wilts) was the father of the Paul, to whom we have just alluded as the inheritor of the pictures and other property of Sir Paul Methuen. Paul, of Corsham House, was for some

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<sup>1</sup> It must be Sir Paul Methuen, who did not die till 1757 (30 Geo. II.) to whom Dr. Doran alludes in the following anecdote:—"In the reign of George II. there lived a Wiltshire Gentleman named Paul Methuen who had a passion for reading the weary dreary novels of his time. Queen Caroline loved to rally him on his weakness, and one day asked him what he had last been reading. "May it please your Majesty" said Paul, "I have been reading a poor book on a poor subject, the Kings and Queens of England." *Lives of the Brunswick Queens of England.* [He was leader of the House of Commons during part of the reign of Queen Anne and that of George I. In that capacity he once moved the suspension of a member who had been named for drunkenness. The culprit, having retired to the bar of the house, turned to the Minister and complained, "Paul, Paul, why persecutest thou me?"]

years M.P. for Warwick. It was he that purchased the Lordship of the Manor of Bradford from Mr. Poulett Wright in 1774. His grandson, also Paul Methuen, was for some years M.P. for Wilts, and was elevated to the peerage, in 1838, as Baron Methuen of Corsham, Co. Wilts. The present (*late*) peer succeeded to the title, as second Baron Methuen, on the demise of his father in 1849.

We must return now to ANTHONY,—the second son of Anthony, the Vicar of Frome. Together with his brother Paul he seems to have settled in Bradford where he died in 1684. His descendants remained in the town, and, in the beginning of the eighteenth century, were represented by PAUL METHUEN, who, in the year 1697, married Sarah daughter of William Gould, of Upway and Fleet, Co. Dorset. They had three sons (one only of whom grew to man's estate) and eight daughters. HENRY, their son, married Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Farmer, Esq. of Bromsgrove, and had issue Paul, afterwards called to the Bar, and a member of the Society at Lincoln's Inn. PAUL—"the Counsellor," as he is commonly termed,—is described as "of Holt," and died unmarried in 1792. On his decease, the daughters of Paul and Sarah Methuen, (the aunts of Paul 'the Counsellor,') became the representatives of this branch of the Methuen family, and co-heiresses of their father. Of these,—BARBARA, married, in 1727, Edward Poore, Esq. of Rushall, and their second son, 'John Methuen' was created a Baronet in 1795;—ELIZABETH, married, in 1737, the Rev. Thomas Leir, of Ditchheat;—GRATIANA, married, in 1747, the Rev. J. Rogers, Vicar of Warminster;—and MARY, the youngest, married, in 1754, W. Stevens, Esq. of Frankleigh, and their only daughter and heiress became, in 1779, the wife of Samuel Bailward, Esq. of Horsington, a name still well known and as well respected in the parish of Bradford-on-Avon.

#### THE 'CAM' FAMILY.

The earliest member of the 'Cam' family of whom we have found any account was 'John Cam,' of Camsgill in the barony

of Kendal, in Westmoreland. His name is very conspicuous in the early history of the Society of Friends.<sup>1</sup> He travelled in the West of England and was greatly persecuted at Bristol in 1654.

Early in the following century we meet with the name in Bradford-on-Avon. A little later we have SAMUEL CAM, a leading clothier and active Magistrate, residing at Chantry House, of which by purchase from the representatives of Edward Thresher (who died 1741), he had become the proprietor. For many years he occupied a very prominent position in our town, and together with several whose names have been already mentioned, and others whose names are not yet forgotten,—such as Bethel,—Clutterbuck—Tugwell,—Hillier,—Attwood,—Shrapnell,—and Bush,—helped to raise Bradford-on-Avon to a high pitch of commercial prosperity. One of his daughters married Benjamin Hobhouse, Barrister-at-Law, who was afterwards created a Baronet, and resided for some years at Cottles. Their eldest son ‘John Cam,’ who was born in the year 1786, succeeded his father in the Baronetcy in the year 1831. He distinguished himself in early life at the University at Cambridge, where he graduated in 1808, having the same year carried off the Hulsean Prize. He was afterwards known as the friend and companion of the poet Byron, and became the author of several works of acknowledged merit. He filled several high offices of state, holding for some years the position of President of the Board

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<sup>1</sup> The Quakers were at one time a numerous and influential body in Bradford. Their first meeting-house seems to have been at Cumberwell (or rather, Frankley) now converted into a School. They afterwards (1710) built one in the court leading out of St. Margaret Street, and this, long disused by them, has been occupied for some years past as a British School. [*This is no longer the case.*] Many notices of interment in the “Cumberwell burial-ground” (especially in the year 1701) are to be seen in the Parish Register. In the year 1660 an attack was made upon them at Cumberwell, and one Robert Storr sent, for being concerned in it, as a prisoner to Sarum. John Clark, a *Bradford* Quaker, held, in 1695, a public disputation with a member of another section of non-conformists at Melksham, on the premises of Thomas Bevan. William Penn was in the chair as moderator, and, after the trial of skill had gone on for some time, closed the proceedings. Amongst the Quakers of Bradford-on-Avon too is to be reckoned ‘Joseph Yerbury,’ who lived at Well-close.

of Control. In the year 1851 he was raised to the peerage under the title of Baron Broughton de Gifford. Some fourteen years ago he obtained, by purchase from the Methuen family, the Lordship of the Manor of Bradford-on-Avon, [*which is still held by his nephew and successor in the Baronetcy, Sir Charles Hobhouse.*]

A brief notice of one or two 'Worthies,' of whom we have not as yet spoken, or to whom we have made hardly more than a passing reference, will conclude our paper.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SHRAPNEL.

He was the son of Zechariah Shrapnel, a manufacturer of this town, who amassed a considerable fortune as the reward of his successful industry, and, together with other property in Bradford-on-Avon, was the owner of the Midway estate, which still belongs to the same family.† He entered the army in early life, having obtained his commission as *second* Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery in the year 1779. Two years afterwards he was advanced to a *first* Lieutenancy. He rose through the various ranks, till, in 1827, he was gazetted as Lieutenant-General. He was ultimately Colonel Commandant of the sixth battalion of Artillery.

During a term of active service, extending over a considerable period of his life, he was always distinguished as an intelligent and pains-taking officer, in that branch especially of the service to which he had devoted himself. He served with the Duke of York's army in Flanders, and, shortly after the siege of Dunkirk, invented the case shot, a destructive engine of war used by the Royal Artillery, and known by the name of '*Shrapnel Shells.*' The discovery was considered of such importance, that, on its adoption by the service, its inventor, our fellow-townsmen, 'Henry Shrapnel,' received a pension of £1200 per annum, in addition to the pay to which his rank in the army entitled him.

General Shrapnel died in 1842. He did not retire from active service, till well nigh *half a century* had elapsed since he obtained his first commission. His remains were interred in a vault in the Chancel of the Parish Church.

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[† *It is now the residence of Mr. Henry Baynton.*]

## MAJOR-GENERAL BUSH, K.H.

He was the youngest son of Thomas Bush, Esq. of this town, who for many years was an active magistrate of Wiltshire, and served the office of High Sheriff of the county in the year 1804. He entered the army in 1808, as Cornet in the 2nd Dragoon Guards, in which regiment he rose to the rank of Captain, and served with his corps in the Walcheren Expedition in 1809. At a later period he exchanged into the 21st Light Dragoons. He went with this regiment to the Cape of Good Hope, and was detached with his troop several months on the Caffir frontier. Having terminated this service, which was one of constant peril from the treacherous and stealthy incursions of the natives, he sailed with the 21st for India, and, after attaining the rank of Major unattached, he exchanged to the 99th, and took the command of the Dépôt in Ireland. In course of time he was appointed Lieut.-Colonel of the 1st West India Regiment, and remained several years in the unhealthy stations of St. Lucia, Demerara, and Trinidad.

At the time Colonel Bush took the command of his regiment in the West Indies, every effort was being made by the British Government to suppress the slave trade. Several vessels laden with native Africans were captured by the British cruisers, and the men, after having been declared free, were permitted to enlist voluntarily in West India regiments and the African Corps. Upwards of 200 of these native Africans enlisted in Colonel Bush's regiment, at that time (1837) stationed at St. Joseph's, Demerara. The old soldiers were soon afterwards withdrawn to other islands, and these recruits were the only disposable force to take the requisite guard. Led on by one of their number, a man of gigantic stature, who had been a chief in Africa and had great influence over them, these recruits unexpectedly broke out into open revolt, and, in the night of June 18th, 1837, advanced against their officers with the intention of murdering all the white people, setting fire to the barracks, and then returning to Guinea. Colonel Bush, together with his Adjutant, Lieuten-

ant Bentley, advanced towards the mutineers, and, when within some 25 yards of them, they were fired at, but providentially escaped injury. The two officers retired to the stables, through which (being built of wood) several shots were fired. Lieutenant Bentley mounted his horse and galloped through the barrack-yard to St. James's, a distance of nine miles, to procure assistance, the recruits attempting in vain to stop him. Colonel Bush, aided by the darkness of the night, fled to the special magistrate's house, and, through him, obtained from the police station, which was but a short distance from his residence, a musket and some ammunition. Together with a police officer, an old soldier, and Lieutenant Doran, whom they met in their way, Colonel Bush returned at once to the barracks and found the mutineers just about to set the hospital on fire, the patients escaping in all directions. Arranging his little party of *four* on the rising-ground, within forty yards of the main body of the recruits, he kept up an independent fire on them for some minutes, which was duly returned, until at length three of the revolvers were lying dead and several wounded. Not knowing what numbers might be opposed to them, from the darkness of the early hour of the morning, and appalled by the dead and wounded, the mutineers fled and took refuge in the woods. Many of them were killed, and several of the ringleaders were afterwards brought to a court-martial and sentenced to death. The suppression of this fearful outbreak was entirely attributed to the intrepidity of our townsman. His firmness and decision gave him ever afterwards the complete ascendancy over these untutored Africans, and he brought into order and first rate discipline no less than 1200 uncivilized recruits.

As a reward for these meritorious services the Duke of Wellington removed him from the West Indies to home service, and appointed him Inspecting Field Officer of the Leeds district. A vacancy afterwards occurring in the London district he was removed to it, and he held this appointment to the time of his decease in August 1854. But a few months before he died, he was promoted to the rank of Major-General.

General Bush's character as an officer is thus summed up in a periodical,<sup>1</sup> published shortly after his death, from which we gleaned the particulars thus laid before our readers:—  
“Although a strict disciplinarian and rigid in the enforcement of his orders, yet his zeal for the best interests of those under his command, and his engaging manners, gained their respect and affection. Devoted to the service of his country, and having spent nearly his whole life in active duty in the four quarters of the globe, being also (in addition to his great experience) endowed with a vigorous and cultivated mind, his opinion was sought by the highest military authorities, to whom the strict and conscientious discharge of all his several duties was well known.”

THE REV. HENRY HARVEY.

We close our list of Bradford Worthies with a name which is still well known, and which will be long remembered in this Parish.

He was the second son of George Harvey, Esq. of Hendon, by Mary daughter of Thomas Donne, Esq., a descendent of the celebrated Dean of St. Pauls, and a connexion of the poet Cowper. Born at Hampstead in the year 1792, in the eighteenth year of his age he entered Christ Church, Oxford, where in due time he took his degree. At an early period of life he resided for a considerable time on the continent, and by this means became familiar with European languages, and general history. He was ordained, in 1818, to the curacy of East Horsley, in Surrey, and, after holding two similar appointments in Suffolk, was in the course of a few years removed to Ealing. There he was brought under the notice of Bishop Howley, (afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury), and by him was recommended, in 1825, as Tutor to Prince George of Cambridge. This office he held for six years, residing first at Hanover and afterwards at the English court. The Duke of Cambridge appointed him one of his Chaplains, an office continued to him by the present Duke, when, in 1850, he succeeded to the title.

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<sup>1</sup> Gentleman's Magazine, November 1854.

In 1833 he became a Canon of Bristol and, no long time afterwards, succeeded Dr. Blomberg in the Vicarage of this Parish. For seventeen years he held this living, and in 1850, on the decease of Dean Lamb, left it for Olveston, near Bristol, where he died November 1854. He had married, in 1823, Johnanna Maria, daughter of the Rev. John Auber, Rector of Blaisdon in Gloucestershire.

During the time he held the Incumbency of Bradford-on-Avon, a charge then embracing the care of no less than seven Churches, Mr. Harvey accomplished a great work for the parish at large,—a work more lasting in its benefits than had before been completed since the Reformation. The new Church of Christ Church built and endowed,—those at Winsley and Atworth rebuilt and enlarged,—that at Holt enlarged and rendered more commodious,—the one at Westwood made good by rebuilding the chancel,—that of Limpley Stoke restored,—these were good works in which he always took some, generally the leading part. Add to these, *four* new school-houses, two of them double,—(and these exclusive of those at Christ Church the noble gift of Captain Palairt),—the Vicarage house rebuilt, and a new parsonage house provided for the District Church,—all more or less the results of his exertions, and you have ample grounds for believing that his name will be long remembered with affection in Bradford-on-Avon. He must always hold a prominent place among our ‘Worthies.’ Take him all in all, and there are few to whom the words of Chaucer, with which we may not unfitly conclude this paper, are more strictly applicable, or of whose character they are more truly descriptive.

“To drawen folk to heven with fairénesse,  
 By good ensample, was his businesse :  
 But it were any persone obstinat,  
 What so he were of highe or low estat,  
 Him wolde he snibben sharply for the nones.  
 A better preest I trowe that nowher non is :  
 He waitid after no pompe, ne reverence,  
 Ne maked him no spicéd conscience.  
 But Cristes lore, and his apostles twelve,  
 He taught, but first he folwed it himselve.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Prologue to the Canterbury Tales. l. 52.—530.



† *There is an anachronism here—Wishart was burned in 1545, and Beaton was murdered soon after. Paul Methuen, a preacher, was a leader of the mob that wrecked the Churches at Perth and elsewhere in 1559. It does not seem likely that he was the same person with the Canon of Wells. See page 210.*

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The Hall, Bradford-on-Avon,  
*From old Engraving, 1854.*

# THE HALL, BRADFORD-ON-AVON,

SOMETIME CALLED

## KINGSTON HOUSE,

BY

CANON JACKSON.

REPRINTED FROM THE WILTSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL MAGAZINE

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ANNOTATED AND BROUGHT UP TO DATE BY

J. BEDDOE, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S.

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## KINGSTON HOUSE, BRADFORD.

(CORRECTLY THE HALL.)

Every student of Wiltshire Archæology is supposed to be acquainted with the "Halle of John Hall," on the New Canal in the City of Salisbury. Such is the name which the late Rev. Edward Duke in his book called "Prolusiones Historicæ," (published in 1837), has conferred upon a fine old room now restored and used as a china-shop, but formerly the refectory of a wealthy citizen and woolstapler of the reign of Edward IV. It is less generally known that North Wilts is also able to boast of another Hall, we believe we may add of a second John Hall. For if houses (amongst other things) were always called by their right names, this in all probability should be the proper title of the beautiful old mansion at Bradford, of which a view is given in the plate annexed: although for reasons which will appear, it is more commonly known as "The Duke's" or "Kingston House." [*It is now again known by its right name of "The Hall."*]

Of the time at which it was built, the style of architecture employed scarcely leaves a doubt. It partakes of the character of Longleat; but still more strikingly resembles a portion of Kirby, the seat of Lord Winchilsea, in Northamptonshire. The date of Longleat House is well known. It was built between the years 1567 and 1579, and according to a received tradition, by John of Padua, the "Devizor of public Buildings" patronized by Henry VIII., Edward VI., and the Protector Somerset: an architect, who is supposed by some to have been John Thorpe, an Englishman, under the disguise of an Italian name. Kirby House was built between the years 1572 and 1638. There is therefore little difficulty in assigning Kingston House to the commencement of the 17th century.† There was

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[† *Opinions differ on this point, even among architects. The resemblance to Longleat, and the evidence of deeds as to the pecuniary status of John Hall, lead the Editor to put the date earlier than 1600.*]

at an earlier period and no doubt upon the same site, a house belonging to the Halls of Bradford, which Leland saw when he travelled that way in 1540. He says<sup>1</sup> "Halle alias De la Sale dwellith in a pretty stone house at the east end of the town on the right bank of Avon: a man of £100 lands by the year: an ancient gentleman since the time of Edward I." The peculiar notice of a "pretty stone house" exactly in the same situation, would almost for a moment suggest the question, could the present house by any probability be the one that Leland saw? But this is not at all likely, as 1540 is certainly too early for the style of Kingston House.

If Aubrey is to be trusted (which as he sometimes wrote from memory is not always the case) the house as it now appears, is only the central portion of the original building. For according to his description of it in 1670 it had, when complete, two wings. In his chapter upon "Echos"<sup>2</sup> he says: "After the Echos I would have the draught of the house of John Hall of Bradford, Esq., which is *the best built house for the quality of a gentleman in Wilts.* It was of the best architecture that was commonly used in King James the First's reigne. It is built all of freestone, full of windowes, *hath two wings*: the top of the house adorned with railes and baristers. There are two if not three elevations or ascents to it: the uppermost is adorned with terrasses, on which are railes and baristers of freestone. It faceth the river Avon, which lies south of it, about two furlongs distant:<sup>3</sup> on the north side is a high hill. Now, a priori, I doe conclude, that if one were on the south side of the river opposite to this elegant house, there must of necessity be a good echo returned from the house; and probably if one stand east or west from the house at a due distance, the wings will afford a double echo."

Whether wings would have been any improvement to the house is a question of taste: but whether there really ever were any is a matter of considerable doubt. Aubrey's descrip-

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<sup>1</sup> See Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine, Vol. i, pages 148 and 192.

<sup>2</sup> Natural History of Wilts, p. 19.

<sup>3</sup> The actual distance is about 200 yards.



tion is evidently from recollection ; for if it had been made on the spot he could not have expressed himself, as he does, with uncertainty as to the number of terraces. Neither does the echo experiment appear to have been one that he had actually tried, but merely one that *probably* would have produced a particular effect, if tried. A recent examination of the masonry and general structure leads us to the conclusion that Aubrey must have been mistaken. There is not the slightest appearance against the sides of the house of its ever having had any appendages of the kind. The façade on the western side (as seen in the print) is perfectly regular, is built of ashlar and has a large doorway in the centre. On the eastern side indeed the masonry is rough and the elevation irregular ; but still there is no trace of any projection. The mistake may perhaps be accounted for in this way. There was formerly a range of offices and stables behind and longer than the house. This seen from a distance may have presented the appearance of wings.

“The principal front to the south was divided into two stories with attics in the gables, and was occupied by large windows with stone mullions. These were formed by three projections, the central one coming forward square, and the two side ones with semicircular bows. In the centre was a large sculptured doorway to a porch, and the summit of the window bays was adorned with open parapets.”<sup>1</sup>

The “Duke’s House” is noticed in a work called “Observations on the Architecture of England, during the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James I,” by Mr. C. J. Richardson, who has introduced four illustrations of it. 1. The external view. 2. A fireplace and stone mantelpiece in the entrance hall. 3. A mantelpiece of oak on the upstairs floor ; and 4. A ceiling. The same plates, with two others of details, appear also in a volume of “Illustrations of Claverton and the Duke’s House,” published by George Vivian, Esq., of the former place.

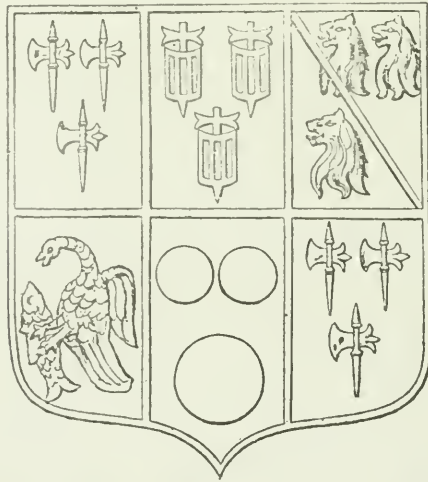
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<sup>1</sup> Britton’s Lecture on Domestic Architecture.

In these works it is described as being of the transition style between the old Tudor or perpendicular, and the new or Palladian. Many of the enrichments peculiar to it are of German invention; artists of that nation having been then much in vogue. The excess of window light, characteristic of houses of that style, and so remarkable in the instance before us, gave occasion to Lord Bacon's observation, that "such houses are sometimes so full of glass that one cannot tell where to become, to be out of the way of the sun or the cold."

One of the terraces with open balustrades of stone, the orchard and the garden, are all that remain out of doors. The offices, gate-houses and every other appendage that it may have had of suitable character, as fountains and bowling green, &c., have disappeared. †

Over the chimney piece of a panelled room upstairs, (being the third of the plates above referred to) are still to be seen two shields carved in oak, each bearing the following quarterings.



[† Some of these have been supplied, in excellent taste, by the present owner, the architect being Mr. Brakspear.]

1. HALL. Sable. 3 poleaxes argent. (This coat with the crest of Hall, "an arm embowed in armour, proper, garnished or, holding a poleaxe argent," is upon a shield in stone over Hall's almshouse in the town of Bradford).
2. ATFORD. Three cylindrical open-barred spindles or reels, apparently for winding yarn. (Or are they eel-traps, called in heraldry, weels?) The device is very rare and uncertain: but it is evidently some kind of mill apparatus. *At-ford* was the name of an heiress who married one of the early Halls of Bradford: and in an old Herald's note book in the Harleian collection of MSS. (4199. p. 91) the word *Atford* is, just perceptibly, written against this quartering in a rough sketch of the arms of Gore of Alderton.  
 Giles Gore, Esq., of that place (the purchaser, from the Crown, of the Glastonbury Abbey estate at Grittleton in 1561) married Edith, daughter and heiress of a Julian Hall of Bradford (a younger branch of this family). Edith was buried in Alderton Church, where a gravestone, in the south aisle, still preserves her initials "E. G. 1560" without further inscription. Thomas Gore, the writer on heraldry, used the quarterings 1 and 2 (Hall and Atford) in his book-plates: and the same arms were also to be seen in Aubrey's time on stained glass in the windows of old Alderton house now destroyed.
3. ——— ? A bend between 3 leopards or lions heads erased. [The Wilts Visitation of 1565, gives in the drawing of Hall's coat, 3 etoiles on the bend.]
4. ——— ? An eagle sable, preying on a fish azure. [This was also found on a seal attached to one of the old deeds lately discovered in Kingston House].
5. BESILL. Argent, 3 torteaux, two and one.
6. HALL. As No. 1.

As this shield contains none of the later quarterings of Hall, it is not unlikely that it may have come from the older house formerly upon this site.

Over the mantelpiece of the entrance hall (the second of the plates alluded to above) was a *painted* coat of arms, of sixteen quarterings, upon a stone shield sunk within a carved oval frame, that again being contained within a carved square frame. Mr. Richardson's drawing of this coat is so minute that some of the quarterings cannot be distinguished, and the painting itself is now destroyed. Besides those which are

represented in the woodcut above, it included Tropnell, Bower, (a cross pattée), and Seymour, (a pair of wings conjoined), and other intermediate quarterings brought in by heiresses, probably Besill and Rogers. At the corners were the crests of Hall, Seymour, (a phoenix), and another, a lion rampant. Over the larger shield upon the edge of the frame, was a smaller one of THYNNE: viz., Quarterly, 1 and 4, barry of ten or and sable (*Boteville*); 2 and 3, argent a lion rampant. There can be no doubt that this painted shield referred to the last owner John Hall, who died 1711: whose mother was a Seymour and whose wife was a Thynne, as will be seen in the pedigree below. He probably embellished or finished the house, which we are inclined to consider must have been built by his grandfather, of the same name.

#### FAMILY OF HALL OF BRADFORD.

It is not likely that there was any connection between the two families of this name at Salisbury and Bradford, the arms used by the former, "Argent, on a chevron between three columbines azure, a mullet of six points," being wholly different from those of Hall of Bradford, "Sable, 3 poleaxes argent." Hall of Bradford was of considerable antiquity. The name is often met with in very early deeds, as "De Aulâ" or "De la Sale" (*salle* being French for hall). William de Aulâ de Bradford is often mentioned amongst other Wiltshire gentlemen, as a witness to documents of the reign of Edward I. (1273—1307). The family certainly belonged to the class of wealthy gentry, though the name does not occur in the list of Sheriffs of the county, until in the person of the last of the race, in 1670. They married into families of wealth and quality, as will be seen by the following extract from their pedigree, which only refers to the elder branch, successively owners of the Bradford house, and is taken principally from the Visitation Book of 1565.

THOMAS HALL or De la Sale = ALICE, d. and h. of Thomas Atford; and h. of Bradford, Wilts. of Nicholas Langridge, of Bradford.

REGINALD . . . HALL =

NICHOLAS HALL, living 39 H. VI. = MARGARET, d. and coh. of William Besyll, of Bradford.

THOMAS HALL = ALICE, d. of William Bower, of Wilton.

WILLIAM HALL = ELIZABETH, d. of Christopher Tropnell, of Chalfield.

<sup>1</sup> THOMAS HALL, of Bradford, = ELIZABETH, d. of John Mervyn, of living 1558. Fonthill, by Elizabeth Greene.

<sup>2</sup> SIR JOHN HALL, Kt. = DOROTHY, d. and h. of Anthony Rogers, of Bradford. of Bradford.

<sup>3</sup> JOHN HALL, Esq. = ELIZABETH, d. of Henry Brune, of Athelhampton, Co. Dorset.

<sup>4</sup> SIR THOMAS HALL, Kt. of Bradford = KATHARINE, d. of Sir Edward Died 1663, aged 62. Seymour, of Berry Pomeroy, gt. grandson of the Protector.

JOHN HALL, Esq., of Bradford, = Elizabeth Thynne. Sheriff of Wilts, 1670. Died 1711

<sup>1</sup> The late Mr. Beckford in his gorgeous, and rather ostentatious, display of heraldry upon the frieze of St. Michael's gallery at Fonthill, in illustration of his own descent from Mervyn and Seymour, introduced several of the alliances made by Hall of Bradford. See *Gent. Mag.*, 1822, part 2, p. 203-318. That of Thomas Hall and Elizabeth Mervyn his wife was, *Hall*: impaling 1 and 4. *Mervyn*. 2. *Greene*. 3. *Latimer*. See Nichols's Fonthill, p. 35.

<sup>2</sup> His shield was also at Fonthill. *Hall*: and, on an escocheon of pretence *Rogers*, argent, a chevron between 3 bucks trippant sable, attired or, quartering *Besill*. (See woodcut page 226).

<sup>3</sup> Also at Fonthill. *Hall*, impaling *Brune*, Azure, a cross cercelee or, quartering *Rokele*, lozengy ermine and Gules.

<sup>4</sup> Also at Fonthill. *Hall* impaling *Seymour*; viz., 1. The Royal Augmentation, or, sence of fleurs-de-lis azure, on a pile gules the 3 lions of England. 2. Gules two wings conjoined in lure or.

This pedigree includes, it will be observed, two or three heiresses by whom accessions of property were made. The first, Alice Atford, brought in the lands of two families, Atford and Langridge. Margaret Besill (a coheiress) contributed a moiety of lands, temp. Henry VI. The next heiress was that of the ancient family of Rogers of Bradford, the founder of which, Anthony Rogers, serjeant at law in 1478, had married the other coheiress of Besill. The Rogers family lived in the house called in later times Methuen house, at the top of Peput Street; in which Aubrey saw "many old escutcheons."<sup>1</sup> Dorothy the heiress of Rogers accordingly brought to the Halls not only her own patrimony, (part of which lay at Holt), but the other moiety also of the Besill estate. Rogers of Cannington was a junior branch of this family.

There is a fine old barn still standing at the west side of Bradford, well known for its Early English roof, framed from the ground so as to be independent of the walls. Aubrey's passing observation, that in 1670 it had upon the point of one of the gables a hand holding a battleaxe, (the crest of Hall), warrants the supposition that it was built by one of this family. [*Aubrey's observation was probably incorrect, according to the present appearance of the finials.*]

Sir Thomas Hall, last but one in the pedigree given above, married Katharine<sup>2</sup> daughter of Sir Edward Seymour, (of the elder house), who died 1659, by Dorothy Killigrew. Sir Thomas was a royalist, temp. Charles I.: one of the Wiltshire gentlemen who were obliged to compound for their estates. He was fined £660.

John Hall of Bradford (the last male of the family) added to his father's large estates, the Storridge Pastures, part of the Brooke House estate near Westbury, which he purchased in 1665 of Sir Edward Hungerford of Farley Castle. He was also probably the purchaser of Great Chalfield manor, as he presented to the rectory in 1678. His wife was Elizabeth,

<sup>1</sup> The arms of Rogers (argent, a chevron between 3 bucks sable) are still to be seen in the top of the east window of Bradford church. The piece of glass is very small and has been turned upside down by the glazier.

<sup>2</sup> In the History of Mere (p. 134) Lady Hall is called *Anne* Seymour, widow of Dr. Stourton. Edmondson and others contradict this.

second daughter of Sir Thomas Thynne, (who died 1670), and sister of Thomas Thynne, Esq., (Tom of Ten Thousand) who was murdered by Count Konigsmark in the streets of London, in February 1682. The monument to Mr. Thynne in Westminster Abbey was erected by Mr. John Hall his brother-in-law and executor.

John Hall at his death in 1711 left one daughter Elizabeth,<sup>1</sup> who became the wife of Thomas Baynton Esq. of Chalfield, second son of Sir Edward Baynton of Bromham. The only child of Mr. and Mrs. Baynton was Rachel Baynton, who appears to have been unmarried at the time of her grandfather John Hall's death. By his will dated 10th September, 1708, he devised all his lands in Wilts, Somerset, and elsewhere, to Denzill Onslow, Esq., Edward Lisle, Esq., Francis Goddard, Esq., and Robert Eyre, Esq., trustees; upon trust after the marriage of Rachel daughter of Thomas Baynton, then of Bradford, Wilts, (the testator's granddaughter), for the said Rachel Baynton during her life: after her death to her heirs male successively: remainder to Edward Seymour, son of Sir Edward Seymour, Bart., for his life: remainder to his heirs male: remainder to William Pearce grandson of the testator's sister, Mrs. Coward. By a codicil dated February 1710, he preferred the said William Pearce and his heirs male, before Edward Seymour and his heirs male.

Mr. Hall also by his will charged his farm called Paxcroft farm in Steeple Ashton, lately purchased from Matthew Burges, (now the property of Walter Long, Esq.), with a clear sum of £40 per annum, for the maintenance of four poor men in the almshouse he had lately erected in Bradford.

Attached to the south side of the nave of Bradford church is a small chapel known by the name of "The Kingston Aisle," which is kept in repair by the owner of Kingston House. What may be concealed under the seats or boarded floor of this chapel the writer cannot say, but he has not been able to discover in any visible part of Bradford church the slightest trace of monument, device, inscription, or other memorial

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<sup>1</sup> See the following Pedigree, page 233. [*But there seems to have been some little doubt as to this item.*]

whatsoever to the Hall family. [*Some of the ancient effigies in the chancel are said to have been removed thither from the "Kingston Aisle."*] On a wooden screen which parted this chapel from the South Aisle there was a few years ago, the Coat of Hall.

#### THE DUKES OF KINGSTON.

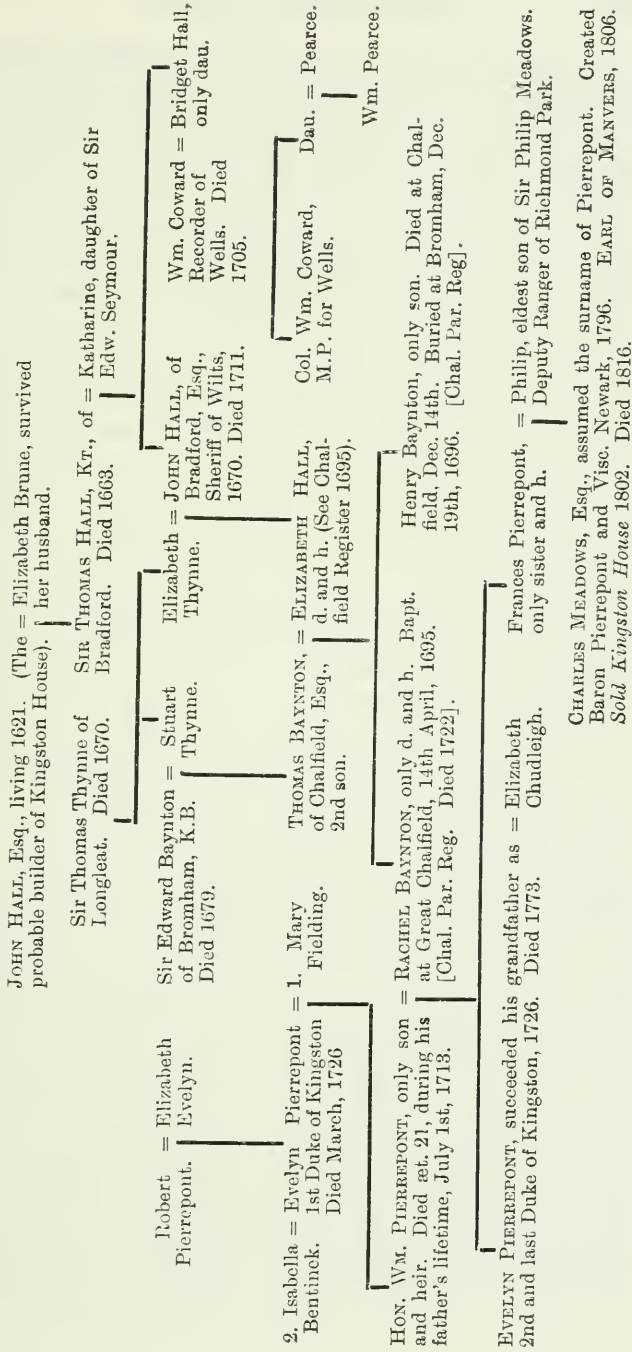
Rachel Baynton, granddaughter and by the death of her only brother Henry Baynton, sole heiress, of John Hall, married the Hon. Wm. Pierrepont, only son and heir of Evelyn Pierrepont then Marquis of Dorchester, afterwards first Duke of Kingston. Mr. Wm. Pierrepont died in 1713 at the age of 21, during his father's lifetime. Rachel his wife died in 1722. The first Duke of Kingston (her father-in-law) died in 1726, and was succeeded by his grandson Evelyn, (only son of Wm. Pierrepont and Rachel Baynton,) the second and last Duke of Kingston, who died 1773. This nobleman, as representative of the Halls, had large estates in Bradford and the neighbouring parishes: viz., Great Chalfield manor and advowson, the constablership of Trowbridge, the manor of Trowbridge, Monkton near Broughton Giffard, Storridge Pastures in Brooke, the manors and lordships of Bradford, Great Trowle, Little Trowle, Leigh and Woolley; Paxcroft farm in the parish of Steeple Ashton; with lands, &c., in Atford, Hilperton, Trowbridge, Studley, Staverton, Westbury, Melksham, Holt, Steeple Ashton, North Bradley, and Winkfield.

The name of Evelyn was adopted as a christian name in the Duke of Kingston's family from the Evelyns of West Deane, in the Hundred of Alderbury in South Wilts. Robert Pierrepont (who died about 1670), Father of the second *Earl* of Kingston, had married Elizabeth, daughter and coheiress of Sir John Evelyn of that place, and obtained the estate.

The second and last Duke of Kingston, in making his selection of a partner for life, either had never read or had forgotten, or at all events took no manner of heed to, that celebrated sentence on female character, which the great historian of Greece enunciates by the mouth of Pericles: viz.,



PEDIGREE: to explain the descent of KINGSTON HOUSE through the families of HALL, BAYNTON,  
THE DUKE OF KINGSTON, and THE EARL MANVERS.



that *her* reputation is the best, with which fewest tongues are busy amongst the other sex, either for praise or blame. For he fixed his choice on one with whom during a great part of the last century all tongues were busy; not all indeed for blame, but certainly not all for praise. The lady rejoiced in a plurality of names, being known first as Elizabeth Chudleigh, alias the *Honble.* Miss Chudleigh; alias Mrs. Harvey, alias Countess of Bristol, alias finally Duchess of Kingston. Her father was Col. Chudleigh, of Chelsea, a younger brother of Sir George Chudleigh, Bart., of Ashton, in Devonshire. She was born in 1720, and through the influence of Mr. Pulteney, afterwards Earl of Bath, was appointed at an early age Maid of Honour to the Princess of Wales, mother of King George III. Upon a very slight acquaintance and under a mistaken pique against another person, she privately married at Lainstone, in Hampshire, on 4th August, 1744, the Honble. Augustus John Hervey, a young lieutenant in the Royal Navy, who in the following year succeeded his brother as Earl of Bristol. From her husband she very soon separated, and after 25 years, still maintaining her situation at court, and her husband being still alive, she married the Duke of Kingston publicly at St. George's, Hanover Square, March 8th, 1769. This union was dissolved by the death of the Duke at Bath, 23rd September, 1773. He bequeathed to her every acre of his great estates for her life, and every guinea of his personal property absolutely. Under this disappointment, his heirs sought for and succeeded in obtaining proof of her first marriage, and the consequence was, that for the offence of bigamy she was impeached before the house of Lords. The trial lasted five days, commencing April 15th, 1776. This event excited, as is well known, the utmost sensation in the fashionable world, and the scene was converted by the caprice of public taste into a complete holiday spectacle. Ladies attended in full court dress, and soldiers were placed at the doors to regulate the entrance of the crowds that pressed in. The appearance of the Duchess herself is thus described by an eye-witness, Mrs. Hannah More. "Garrick would have me take his ticket to go to the trial, a sight which for beauty an l

magnificence exceeded anything that those who were never present at a coronation or a trial by peers can imagine. Mr. Garrick and I were in full-dress by seven. You will imagine the bustle of 5000 people getting into one hall. Yet in all the hurry we walked in tranquilly. When they were all seated, and the King at Arms had commanded silence on pain of imprisonment, (which however was very ill observed), the Usher of the Black Rod was commanded to bring in his prisoner. Elizabeth calling herself Duchess Dowager of Kingston walked in led by Black Rod and Mr. La Roche, curtsying profoundly to her Judges. The Peers made her a slight bow. The prisoner was dressed in deep mourning, a black hood on her head, her hair modestly dressed and powdered, a black silk sacque with crape trimmings, black gauze deep ruffles, and black gloves. The Counsel spoke about an hour and a quarter each. Dunning's manner was insufferably bad, coughing and spitting at every three words, but his sense and expression pointed to the last degree. He made her Grace shed bitter tears. The fair victim had four Virgins in white behind the Bar. She imitated her great predecessor Mrs. Rudd, and affected to write very often; though I plainly perceived that she only wrote as they do their love epistles on the stage, without forming a letter. The Duchess has but small remains of that beauty of which Kings and Princes were once so enamoured. She is large and ill-shaped. There was nothing white but her face: and had it not been for that she would have looked like a bale of bombazeen."

Lord Chancellor Apsley presided as High Steward. The charge was fully proved, and the marriage with the Duke declared illegal. The Lady read her own defence, and by her tears, cleverness, impudence, eccentricity, so wrought upon the Honourable House, that they avoided the enactment of any penalties, amongst which would have been, as the law seems then to have stood, the very unpleasant one of being branded in the hand. The prosecutors however failed in their great object, the restitution of the property. The Duke had so worded his bequest that it was inalienably her's under any one of her many titles.

The Duchess's whole life had been one of adventure, display and indelicate publicity. She had great means at command, and upon her trial incidentally alluded to a balance of £70,000, in her banker's hands. She built Ennismore House, at Kensington. At one of her fêtes, Horace Walpole says, that on all the sideboards and even on the chairs were pyramids and troughs of strawberries and cherries. "You would have thought her the protégée of Vertumnus himself."

After her trial she went to Russia, "en princesse," in a ship of her own; was received graciously by the Empress, purchased for £12,000 an estate near St. Petersburg, and proposed to erect works on it for the distillation of brandy. Soon afterwards she returned to France, where also she had an estate: and died rather suddenly at Paris, 26th August, 1788, aged 68.

She resided occasionally at Kingston House, and no doubt by her fantastic performances infused a little vivacity into the orderly ideas of the townfolk of Bradford. Old people there still tell traditional tales of her ladyship's peculiarities. Upon her decease, in consequence of the Duke having died without issue, the landed estates which she enjoyed for her life, passed to his sister's son Charles Meadows, who assumed by sign manual the surname and arms of Pierrepont, and was created Earl Manvers in 1806. A very large part of the property [*though decreased by further sales*] still belongs to his family, but Kingston House with about nine acres of ground, was sold in 1802, to Mr. Thomas Divett, who erected a woollen mill upon the premises. The house fell into the occupation of inferior tenants and was rapidly sinking to decay, when it was fortunately again sold by Mr. Divett's representatives in 1848, to the present owner Mr. Stephen Moulton. Mr. Moulton's first act—one for which he deserves the thanks of all admirers of architectural elegance, was to put into complete restoration all that remained of the North Wiltshire Hall of John Hall.†

There is some slight reason for believing that the Duke of Monmouth lodged here, during one of his progresses amongst the gentlemen of the west of England; but no specific notice

† See page 261.

of this circumstance has yet been met with. Upon taking up the floor of one of the apartments in 1851, a curious discovery was made of a beautiful court sword of Spanish steel, which Mr. Moulton gave to the late Captain Palairret, of Woolley Grange, near Bradford. Along with it were found some fragments of horse equipage, holsters, &c.; and a quantity of ancient deeds and papers, chiefly relating to the Hall family and their property, in and near Bradford [*and still in the possession of Mr. John Moulton.*] As a sequel to the history of Kingston House, we introduce the substance of them in the two following schedules. Number 17 in Schedule 2, will be found to contain evidence that the property in Bath, now belonging to Earl Manvers, was derived to his family from the same source as Kingston House, the HALLS of Bradford.

### Schedule I.

ABSTRACT OF LATIN AND ENGLISH DEEDS RELATING CHIEFLY TO LANDS OF HALL AND ROGERS, FOUND UNDER A GARRET FLOOR, IN REPAIRING KINGSTON HOUSE, 1851.

1. Charter of Agnes de Bunewoode granting to William de Forde son of John de Forde, Clerk, (*sic*), all her right in Schorterofte near Forde, and all her land in the town of Forde, near the land of John and Nicholas de Forde, for the annual payment of Twopence and a  $\frac{1}{4}$ lb of pepper. Witnesses, Reginald de Buteler, John de Bosco, Richard de Ba, William France, John his son, Robert de Linton, Roger de Bunewode, and others. [*No date, but probably Hen. III.—Seal destroyed.*]
2. Charter of Margaret de Bunewode granting to John Clerk as a marriage portion with her Daughter Juliana half of her lands in Forde with messuage, &c., and a croft on the south side of Horneroft, at the annual rent of a pair of gloves, and one farthing, and to the Lord of the Fee a lb. of pepper. Witn., Sir Walter<sup>1</sup> of Chaldefeld, Martin then

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<sup>1</sup> Walter of Chalfield is mentioned as Patron of the Rectory 1308-9 (2 Edw. II.) (Wilts Institutions).

Parson of Chaldefelde, Walter then Parson of the other Chaldefeld, Robert<sup>1</sup> de Chaldfeld, Clerk, Henry de Mochesam, William de Mugeworth, (?) Wm. his son, William de Porta, and others. [*No date or seal; but probably Hen. III. or Ed. I. Endorsed "Deed of Margaret de Bowood"*].

3. Charter of William Clerk of Walton, (*Co. Somerset*) confirming to Henry Peche and Margaret his wife, a half acre of meadow and appurts; in Porteshevede (*Portishead*) lately bought of John de Vele and Isabel his wife. [*Temp. Edw. II. but no date or seal*].
4. Charter of Thomas Devedaunz confirming to William "de Aulâ" (Hall) and Katharine his wife and Thomas their son an acre of arable land in the South Field of Bradford, for the rent of one farthing. Witn., Adam Vicar of Bradford, John Basset, Nicholas the Dyer, Gilbert the Smith,<sup>2</sup> Wm. Pyle. [*No date or seal—But temp. Ed. II.*]
5. Indented charter of John Carpenter of Bradeway confirming to Thos. Gramary of Marleberge all his land without Marlborough, which he had of Edward son of

<sup>1</sup> Robert of Broughton was Rector of Gt. Chalfield in 1308. (*Wilts. Inst.*)

<sup>2</sup> The two following Deeds (part of the Westley Collection lately given to the Society) relating to Bradford, evidently belong to this period.

1. Omnibus, &c., Robert de Wylmydon, Clerk, grants to Agnes daughter of Beatrix daughter of William Sullene a Messuage &c., at the head of Bradford Bridge, with a curtilage adjacent, and extending from the said Bridge to the wall of my new Chamber, of the Burgage which formerly belonged to Robert of Wylmyndon my Father, &c. Witnesses, Sir John de Holte, William de la Sale, John Basset, Gilbert le Smith, Nicholas the Dyer, and others. [*No date but probably Edw. II. Seal torn off.*]
2. Know all men that I John de Holte Kt. have given &c. to Robert de Wylmyndon for 100s. a messuage &c. in Bradeford lying between the tenement of James Carpenter and that which Reginald D'ozilot holds of the Abbess of Shaftesbury. Also a tenement between that of Reginald, and that of Hugh Potel. Witnesses, John de Comerwell Kt., John de Bradeford, John de Hainault, William de Aula (*Hall*), Walter de Chaudefeld (*Chalfield*), Stephen de la Slade, John Basset, John de Murtlegh, John de Wolvelegh (*Woolley*), and others. [*No date but probably Edw. II. Seal in black wax perfect. On a Shield seemêe of fleurs de lys 3 lions rampant. On the legend "JOHANNES DE HOLTE"*].

Richard Clerk, opposite the King's garden. Rd. Walkeby on N. and Thos. Clerk of Clatford on S. To pay  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of cummin at Michælmass, and 6d. annually at the Mass of the B. V. M. in the Church of St. Peter of M. Wit., Stephen Fromund, then Constable of the Castle of Marlborough, Nicholas de Hamper, Sampson de Berewyke, Peter the Parchment-maker, and other Parishioners. [*Temp. Edw. I. Seal gone.*]

5. Indented Charter of Walter Fayrchild of Wroxhall, (*South Wraxhall*), granting to Alice la Loche for 40s., a house in W. which was his grange; and a curtilage called Wytherhey, and a croft which he had of John de Comerwelle (*Cumberwell near Bradford*). Also Clifcroft, and Bradecroft, and a croft above Haneceleye between the land of Roger de Berleye and Rogere le Greder. paying 13d. per ann. to the Lord Prior and Convent of Farleye, viz., at Hokeday 12d. and at Michælmass 1d. To John de Forde 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. and to said Walter 1d. Witn., Sir John de Comerwelle, Kt., Rogere de Berleye, John de Bedel, Roger Alwyne and others. [*Temp. Edw. I. Seal gone.*]
7. Charter of Robert Gerneys of Buddebury, confirming to Wm. de Aulá (Hall) of Bradford, and Katharine his wife, for 20s., a piece of land in Berefeld, called Garston, bet. the land of John de Asselegh [*Ashley*] and John de Bradford, and nigh Buddebury Wood. Wit., Sir John de Holte, Sir John de Comerwelle, Kt., Walter de Chaldfeld, John Basset, &c. [*The date and seal gone; but temp. Edw. I.*]
8. (1315). Quitclaim of Robert le Knyzt and Matilda his wife to Wm. de Bradford and Katharine his wife, of land held of W. de B. in Portisheued, with Fisheries. Dated Bristol. "Tuesday after Feast of St. Augustine First Bishop of England." [8 and 9 *Ed. II. Endorsed "The Fischynge at Bristol."*]
9. (1316). Judgment of Recovery at Sarum to Thos. son of Warin Maudit and Robert Seal in the sum of 20s. from John Waspail, 10 *Edw. II.*
10. (1324). Charter of Reginald de la Sale of Bradford,

- confirming to Roger le Wolmanger and Matilda his wife a messuage, &c., near "le Provendere" (*the market ?*) 3 acres in Woolflege field (*Woolley*), 1 in Kingsfield bet. the land of the Rector of Bradford, and Mowat's, 1 acre on west side of the Moor, near Wm. le Vignur's land. For the rent of a rose. Reversion to Sir Thomas my Brother, Rector of Porteshead. Witn., John de Bradley, John Basset, John de Mugworthley and others. Dated Bradford, 18. Edw. II. [*Impression of seal of white wax gone.*]
11. (1325). John Waspail of Smalebrook confirms to Adam le Threscher of Bishopstrow an acre in le Mersche, for his service during life. Rent, 12 silver pence. Dated Bishopstrow, 19 Edw. II. Wit., Robert Swaynge, Osbert Gostelyn, Ad. Goscelin, Atte Mulle, Wm. Wyueband, &c. [*Seal of white wax, but impression gone.*]
12. (1274). Quitclaim from Isabella widow of Roger Kentisse, dau, of Wm. Walwayn of Tral (*Trowle*), to Peter de Tral son of Rich. Walwayn her brother, of her right in a messuage, &c., wh. Walter the Miller held in Tral. For rent of 12d. and 20s. paid. This quitclaim was made in the Church of Trowbridge, before all the Parishioners: Sunday aft. Ascension, 3. Edw. I. Witn., Thomas de Tuderigge, Walter the Miller, Wm. of the Well "*(Atwell)*" of Monkton Farley, &c. [*Seal gone.*]
13. (1328). Indented Charter of Reginald, son and heir of Wm. de Bradeford, confirming to Margaret who was wife of Thos. Frankeleyn of Batwell, all the messuage wh. Walter le Way held in Porteshead. Wit., Wm. de Capenore, Peter Tilly, Bryan le Frye, Philip of Bradford, John de Capellâ, &c. Dated Portishead, 1. Edward III. "The sd. Margaret not to marry without consent: if she does the premises to be forfeited."
14. (1329). Indented Charter of Reginald de la Sale of Bradford: granting to Thomas his Brother, a messuage &c., late Elizabeth la Bret's in Porteshead. 60s. Rent. Also 24s. Rent yearly in Bradford, 2. E. III.
15. (1329). Indented Charter of Reginald de Bradford con-



- firming to Richard Caphaw (or Caphode) and Joan his wife and Isabella their dau., a tenement, &c., in Frogmerestreet, late held of him by Henry de Baa. Dated at Bradford, 2. E. III. [The house is described as lying between that of Thomas Mey, and the way which leads from *the Church of St. Olave* towards the Mill: the land called "Reveland" and in "Kingfield."] Witn., John Basset, John Gibbes, Richard Poyntz, Wm. Pylke, Nicholas the Dyer, &c. [*Seal gone.*]
16. (1330). Indented Charter of John le Semple of Marleberge and Elena his wife granting to Margaret late wife of John de Stanborne of M. a tenement in M., with a curtilage "as far as the Ditch." Dated at M., 4. E. III. Witn., Wm. de Rammeshalle, then Constable of the Castle of Marlb., Richard de Brai, then Mayor, Walter Gives, Henry le Denere, then Prefects of the Town, Wm. Atweld, &c.
17. (1333). The same parties grant to Matilda, formerly wife of Roger Hogeby of Marlborough a Tent. in M. "opposite the steps of the Cemetery of St. Peter's Ch." Witn., as above, and Robert Kathecate, Edmund le Man, wardens of the said town. Dated at M., 7 Edw. III.
18. (1335). Indented quitclaim of Laurence de Montfort, son and heir of Alexander de M., to James de Trowbrigge, for his life, 50s. of ann. rent, wh. James holds in Okebourn Meysi. Wit., Thos. Delamere, John de Montfort, John Delamere, Robert de Nony, Henry son of John de M., Robert Adnotes, &c. Dated at Nony (Nunney) on Feast of St. George the Martyr, 9 Edw. III, (April 23). [*On a seal of white wax—a Bend, Ermine.*]
19. (1336). Joan dau. of John de Buddebury quitclaims to John de la Slade a Tenement wh. Peter Fouke held of Stephen de la Slade and Joan his dau. in Bradford. Wit., John de Bradley, George de Percy, John Basset, John Gylbys, Rich. Poyntz, &c. Dated Bradford, Friday before St. Aldhelm, 10 Edw. III. [*Seal gone.*]

20. (1320). James Walwayn or Trol quitclaims to Richard his son all his right to lands in Trol and Holte, and in the Bailiwick of the Bedelry of the Court of Farleigh.<sup>1</sup> Wit., John of Bradleghe, Nicholas de Wyke, &c. Dated at Trol, 14 Edw. II. [*A small seal of red wax, on which a device; a cross and flower.*]
21. (1341). Deed of obligation by which John Corp, of Turlinge (*Turley, near Bradford*) and Isolda his wife are bound to John Basset of Bradford in £5 sterling, to be paid in the *Church of the Holy Trinity at Bradford*. Dated at B., 15 Edw. III. [*Seal gone.*]
22. (1342). Quitclaim from Wm. Iwen of Thanestone (*Thoulston, near Warminster?*) to John Wyther of La Penne of a croft of land near Golden grove at Chaldecotte. Witn., Richard Danesy, Nicholas Fitzwarren, Wm. de Grimsted, Walter de Sherenton, John le Gol. Dated at La Penne, 16 E. III.
23. (1351). Warrant of Attorney from James Norris: appointing Thos. Harald of Stodeleigh (*near Trowbridge*) and Wm. Dauteseye of Trowbridge his Atts. to place Wm. Stodeleigh his kinsman in possn. of tenements at Okebourne Meysi. Dated Trowbridge, 25 E. III.
24. (1351). Warrant of Attorney from Margaret Abbess of Shaftesbury and the Convent there, to Rob. Dychford: to place Thos. Skathloke and Edith dau. of Roger le Porter in possn. of a messuage in Lygh (*Bradford-Leigh*) and Wroxhale within their Manor of Bradford. Dated Shaftesbury, 25 E. III. [*Seal of the Benedictine Nunnery of Shaftesbury, Co. Dorset. Dedicated first to the B. V. Mary, and afterwards to St. Edmund, King and Martyr. Part of the legend is left. ". . . LEA MARIS TU NOBIS AUX . . . . . CTI EDWARDI REGIS ET MARTYRIS"*].
25. (1350). Indenture between Philip Pilk and Agnes his wife, and Nicholas le Webbe and Christina his wife, whereby to the latter are granted a messuage and appurts.

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<sup>1</sup> "Et in Balliva Bedelric Curie de Farleigh."

- in Bradford. Wit., Thos. Atte Halle, Nicholas Gibbes, Thos. Pilk, Thos. Ledbeter, &c. Dated Bradford, Xtnas Eve, 30 E. III. [*Seal gone.*]
26. (1356). Indented Charter of Nicholas Atte Slade and Joan his wife, confirming to Wm. Perham and Katharine his wife an acre, &c. in Bradford, lying in Kingsfield. 4d. Rent. Wit., Thos. Atte Halle, John Besyles, Geo. Vincent, Nich. Gibbes, John de Ashlegh. Dated Bradford 30 E. III. [*Seal gone.*]
27. (1360). Same Parties confirm to Thos. Middleton and Matilda his wife another piece in Kingsfield. 1d. Rent. Dated at B., 34 E. III. [*Same witnesses.*]
28. (1363). Court Roll of Wm. Waspayl, held at Smalesbrooke, 37 E. III. [*The left side of the original eaten by rats.*]
29. (1366). Release from John Folevyle and Margery his wife, to Thos. Harald of Stodleye (*near Trowbridge*) relating to a Tenement late Wm. Atte Fenne's formerly husband to Margery in Fontel Episcopi, Co. Wilts. Witn., Robert Delamere, John de Edyndone, Philip Fitzwaryn, Kts., John Mareys, Wm. Atte Clyve, Thos. Gore, &c. Dated Edyndon, 10 April, 40 E. III. [*Fragments of 2 seals on a single tie appended: on the upper one, (probably the arms of Folevyle) per fess, ermine and or: a cross.*]
30. (1371). Charter of John Solne, son and heir of Stephen Solne, confirming to Sir John Gyle, Vicar of Bradford,<sup>1</sup> and Sir John de Mydylton, Chaplain, an acre of arable land in Bradford, bet. the land of John Walwayne and Ralph Atte Watte. Wit., Sir Philip Fitzwaryn, Kt., Thomas Hungerford, Thos. Gore, John Waschley, and Thos. Atte Forde. Dated Bradford, Sunday, Feast of St. Margaret the Virgin, 45 Edw. III.
31. Indented Charter of John de Freshforde, Lord of Freshforde, granting to Philip de Frye and Alice his wife lands, late held by Elyas de Noreys, 2 acres being next

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<sup>1</sup> John Gill, V. of Bradford, 1349. (Wilts Inst.)

the Park wall of Henton,<sup>1</sup> 1 upon Riggeley, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  an acre in Putlonde,  $\frac{1}{2}$  an acre against land of the Rectory of Freshford, 1 bet. Rector's land and Robert Parsone's, also against Brockholes and Chysemead. Alice, Margaret and Philip, children of P. Frye. Wit., Richard Atte Bridge, John Peyt. [*Probably Rich. II.: but the Deed much mutilated.*]

32. (1380). Deed of Attorney, Alice de Wilde appoints Walter de Forde, and John Godman of Farleigh her Attornies to put Walter Molyter (?) and Margaret his wife in possn. of land in Wroxale. Dated at Farley (*Monkton F.*), 4 R. II. [*Seal gone.*]
33. (1381). Indented Charter of John, Lord of Freshforde, son and h. of Reginald de F. granting to Thos. Burgeis and Agatha his wife and John their son a messuage called Wodeplace in F., and a road in Templewood, leading to his house, for driving his cattle to field, lately held by Hugh Mason. Rent 5s. and 2 capons at Michmas. Excepting Regal Service at his Court at Freshford. Witn., John Crompe, John Atte Halle, John Rengoe, John Bateman, Rich. Atte Brigge. Dated Freshforde, 29 June, 5 R. II. [*Seal gone.*]
34. (1381). Charter of Thomas Atte Forde, granting to John Aldeburgh, Rector of Combe Hawey, and John Videln a Mess. and 26 acres, late of John le Eyr and Alice his wife, in la Forde, in the Tithing of la Lye. Wit., John Ashley, John Percy, Rob. de Barton, Nicholas Atte Slade. Dated Bradford, 5 Rich. II. [*Seal of St. Nicholas performing the miracle on the children in the Tub.*]
35. (1381). Charter of Nicholas Slade conceding to Adam Atte Welle, John Midilton, Chaplains, Nicholas Boteler, and Richard Myson, a Cottage, &c. late Gregory Vele's in Slade. Witn., Thos. Atte Halle, John Ashlegh, &c. Dated at Bradford, 5 R. II.

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<sup>1</sup> Hinton Charterhouse Abbey.

36. (1389). Quitclaim from Cicely Barbure, to Adam Smyth and Alice his wife of a Tenement at Marlborough, between the Gildehall and Baker's. Sealed with the common seal of Marl. Witn., Wm. Hasthrope, Kt., then Constable of the Castle of M.; Robert Warner, Mayor; Rd. Pottone, Peter Baldry, John Norewyn, and Henry Broysebois, Overseers ("præpositis") of the said Town, 20 April, 12 R. II. [*Portion of the seal of the Town of Marlorough left—a castle and " -IGILL . . C."*]
37. (1390). Quitclaim from John Videln to Thos. Atte Forde: of 24 acres in La Lyghe in Parish of Bradford: which J. V. and John Aldeburgh late Parson of Combe Hawey had of the gift of Thos. Wit., Thos. Atte Halle, John Percy, &c. Dated Bradford, Friday before Feast of St. Nicholas, 14 R. II. [*On a seal \* I \*.*]
38. (1408). Indented charter: John Freshford grants to Robert Haseldene and Agnes his wife a messuage at Freshford for 6 years. Wit., John Atte Brigge, Wm. Keys, &c. Dat. Freshford, 10 H. IV. [*Seal gone.*]
39. (1410). Quitclaim of Thos. Stokes, Rector of St. Andrew's, Winefeld<sup>1</sup> (*Winkfield*) to Thos. Donne, of all actions, &c. Dated at Lewes, 12 H. IV. [*No seal left.*]
40. (1414). Wm. Botyler and John Mascall, Clerk, and John Waache to Richard Slade of Legh nr. Bradford, Co. Wilts, and Edith his wife, an annual Rent of 6s. 8d. from lands of John and Margaret Shepherd in Farleyghswyke. Witn., Walter Hungerford, Wm. Chayny, Kts., Wm. Besile, Reginald Halle, &c. Dated Leyghe, 15 January, 1 H. V.
41. (1418). Indenture at Marlborough, 6 H. V. bet. Reginald Halle of Bradforde and Robert Longe on one part, and Agnes Walwey late wife of John W. respecting a cottage and 2 acres in the Fields of Okebourne Moysy. Reversion to heir of R. and R. [*Part of a seal, with " T."*]

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Stokes appointed to Rectory of W.—1403. (Wilts Inst.)

42. (1424). Charter of (*Dominus*) Sir Wm. Mery and John Waker of Aldryngton, granting to Walter Lycham and Emma his wife of Aldyngton, all the lands, &c. which they lately held of gift of W. Lycham. Wit., John Hert, Wm. Bovetone, John Tanner, Nicholas —ody, John Proche. Dat. Aldryngtone, F. of St. Edmond K. and M., Nov. 22, 3 Henry VI.
43. (1425). Indented charter of Wm. Besyle son and heir of W. B. of Bradford: granting to Roger Trewbody, lands, late Rich. Walwayn's in Troll, or elsewhere, in Hundred of Melksham and Bradford. Dat. Troll, 20 June, 3 H. VI. [*On seal, a rose above a heart.*]
44. (1433). Charter of Wm. Beauchamp, Kt. and Elizabeth his wife, relating to Alice Dent and her heirs, a meadow called Le Parrok, in the common meadow of Bastledene, between Sener's and Craas's, 12 H. VI. [*Two seals: on the first—A Fess bet. 6 martlets. Supporters 2 Swans. Crest, a Swan's head couped at the neck issuing out of a ducal coronet—BEAUCHAMP. On the second—3 dice dotted.*]
45. (1437). Indented Charter of Wm. Seyntgeorge, Esq. and Joan his wife, granting to Thos. Hulberd and Edith his wife, Bynehayes in Trol, between a close of the Abbess of Shaftesbury and John Wilshote's. Wit., Thos. Hall, Wm. Besile, Nicholas Hall, &c. Dated Feast of St. Richard, (Ap. 3) 15 H. 6.
46. (1439). Indenture at Southbrome, Co. Wilts, 18 H. VI. bet. John Fyton Esq. and Thos. Norton of S., about lease of lands at Sherborne, Co. Dorset, and at Lavington, Mershetone, Poterne, Vysewyke, Sterte, Eston, Canynges Episeopi.
47. (1453). Receipt of One Penny from John Gawen at a Court at Bradford, 32 H. VI. in 13th year of the Lady Edith Bonham, Abbess in the time of Wm. Carente, Steward, for a garden. [*Tenement of Henry Longge mentioned.*]
48. (1454). Indenture bet. John Gale of Westbury, Wilts, and Wm. Smyth of Bradford and Edith his wife and John

- their son, 2 Tenements in B., 1 in Sleny Street, between the Ten. of Henry Longe Esq. and Wm. Pylks. The other in same St. bet. the Ten. of Rob. Lord Hungerford, and Thos. Halls's Esq. Witn., Wm. Touker, N. Halle, 33 H. VI.
49. (1460). Power of Atty. by John Stringer to John Baskett to put Nich. Hall and Thos. Roger in possn. of a tenement called Dautesey, in the parish of Twynyho and Wellowe, 39 H. VI. [*Also Bradley in Wellow.*]
50. (1463). Bond of John Lynne of Wilton, nr. New Sarum, lynnewever, to Thos. Norton in 100s., 2 E. IV.
51. (1472). Indented Charter. Nich. Halle Esq. to Wm. and Eliz. Coscombe of Marlborough his granary in M. Witnesses, John Mermyn, Mayor; Rd. Austin and John Spicer, Constables; John Ferna and Thos. Awent, Bailiffs; Rich. Ady, John Sylvester, Under-Bailiffs; Rob. Somerfyld, &c., 12 Edw. IV. [*On seal "I.H.S." with a crown over it.*]
52. (1485). Power of Atty. by Wm. Rogers, Esq. of Bradford, to Henry Whittington and John Jordane to enter on lands in B. and Troll and deliver possn. to John Horton and Wm. Kente.—1 March, 2 R. III.
53. (Hen. VII). Bond of John Fripp and Robert Sturmy, keepers of the Goods of —— of Bradford, and Walter Frydy, in £100. [*Very illegible.*]
- 53.<sup>a</sup> (1502). Royal Pardon and Revocation of Outlawry, for Thomas Hall in the Fleet Prison, 18 H. VII. (*trans. from Latin*):—"Henry, &c. To all Bailiffs, &c. Know that since John Turberville, Kt., in our court before Thos. Wode, Kt., and other Justices of the Bench, by our writ impleaded Thomas Hall, lately of Bradford, Co. Wilts, gentleman, of a debt of £100: And the said Thomas in that he came not to answer the demand, &c., was placed in our court of Outlawry in London, and was then fully outlawed as fully appeareth by the tenor of a Record and Process of Outlawry which we caused to come before us in our Chancelry: And now the said

Thomas has surrendered himself at our Prison the Fleet before our present Justices aforesaid, and remains in the said Prison, as our beloved Thos. Frowyk our Chief Justice in the same Bench has certified to us at our Command in our aforesaid Chancelry: We moved by pity have Pardoned to the sd. Thomas the Outlawry aforesd. and grant our peace to him for the same. So that nevertheless he may appear in our Court, if the aforesaid John shall desire to speak with him touching the debt above mentioned. In Testimony, &c., we have caused these our Letters to be made patent. Teste meipso at Westminster, 15 October. [*A fine impression of the Great Seal of England in white wax, but legend gone.*]

54. (1513). Warrant from John West, one of the Justices of Peace of Co. Wilts to Constables, &c., for apprehension of John Nores of Bradford; John James, weaver, and Margaret his wife, having exhibited Articles of the peace against him; and to be taken to Fisherton Anger gaol, "danger permitting," 5 H. VIII. [*Seal gone, and no signature.*]
55. (1514). Bond of John Hoone of Lacock, "bowhere," to Wm. Kyngton, of Atford, husbandman, in £20, 6 H. VIII.
56. (1523). Indenture (*English*) Wm. Bayley of the Ley in Par. of Bradford, leases to Wm. (Dunwyn or) Gunwyn of Wynysey a house called the oo house. Witn., Wm. Rogers, John Steynwode, &c. 10 Sep., 15 H. VIII.
57. (1528). Mem. John Halse appeared at a Court, 20 H. VIII., and recd. late Foxe's Tenement.
58. (1544). Memd. at Court of Anthony Rogers, Esq. and Anne his wife, held at Holte, 36 H. VIII. Rd. Chapman recd. land in Holte.
59. (1545). Indenture (*English*) Anthony Rogers, Esq. of Bradford leases to Rd. Drewis of Holte, the Park, Lowsley, Holes, in Holt, and a Tent. in Little Holt. To sue at Rogers's court at Holte, 37 H. VIII. [*On seal I \* R \*.*]



60. (1545). Memd. at Court of Anthony Rogers, Esq. held at Bradford, 37 H. VIII. Edw. Kyng, recd. tenement in Tollene St. for life. [*? Tolleve = Tooley Street.*]
61. (1546). Indenture (*English*) between Anthony Rogers of Bradford, and Robert Graunt, Yeoman, granting a close in B., 23 Oct., 38 H. VIII.
62. (1551). Indenture (*English*) Anthony Rogers of B. Esq., lets to Walter Graunt his land in Comberwell. 10s. Rent. 5 Edw. VI.
63. (1553). Indented Deed witnessing that Bryan Lyle son of Lancelot Lyle late of Kympton (near Ludgershall) Co. Southamp. Esq., is bound apprentice to Wm. Blanke, Citizen and Haberdasher of London for the learning of his art for 9 years, I Mary. [*On seal a merchant's mark.*]
64. (1555). Anthony Rogers of B. Esq., bound in £10 to Nicholas Radiche of West Lockeridge, Co. Berks, 24 April, 1 and 2 Phil. and Mary.
65. (1555-6). At Court of A. Rogers and Anne, of Brad. and Holt. (2 and 3 Phil. and M.) Nicholas, son of Wm. Webbe of B. appeared, to retain 2 tenements.
66. (1556). Indenture 22 July, 2 and 3 Phil. and Mary: Anth. Rogers, Esq. and John Druce of Ashley, in the Hund. of Bradford, abt. a close. Signed "by me Anthony Rogers."
67. Mem. of Court of A. Rogers and Anne, abt. a Tenement.
68. (1558). Thos. Hall of Bradford, bound in £100 to John Dautesey of West Lavington, 12 Sept., 5 and 6 Phil. and M. John Dautesey, Esq. held by demise from Wm. Hall, Esq., "Folleys," "Chancellors," "Deacons," and "Stanford," closes in West Lavington). Signed "by me Thos. Halle."
69. (1562). Bond of Thos. Hall, in £1000, to Anthony Rogers, Esq., 17 June, 4 Eliz.
70. (1563). Anthony Rogers, Esq., bound in £20 to Wm. Chapman of Frome Selwood, 17 April, 5 Eliz.
71. Duplicate.

72. (1562). Indenture (*English*) John Basset of Apse Wytham in Parish of Newchurch Wytham, Isle of Wight, about a £100 in which Anthony Rogers, Esq., is bound to him, 10 Dec., 5 Eliz. [*Seal gone.*]
73. (1564). Anthony Rogers, of B. bound to John Horton of Westwood Co. Wilts, gent., in £40, 6 Oct. 6 Eliz. [*These deeds are cut through in several places, as a mark of being cancelled. And to the repayment endorsed, there are 10 witnesses.*]
74. (1568). Indenture between Walter Bush of Bradley, Wilts, gent., and Wm. Horton of Iiorde, gent., on 1st part; Anthony Rogers, Esq., of 2nd; about a debt of £80 13s. 4d., 26 March, 11 Eliz.
75. (1572). John Hall of B. bound in £200 to Thomas Yerbury of B. clothier, 21 Nov., 15 Eliz. (£100 to be paid to Antony Piccaring of Troll.)
76. (1579). Do. to Thos. Walleys of Frome, Som.: Clothier, in £10, 21 April, 21 Eliz., "to be paid in the South Poreh of the Parish Church of Trowbridge."
77. (1592). Indenture bet. Andrew Colthurst of Stony Littleton, Co. Som. Esq., and Thos. Abyam of Bath, Innholder, lease of Broadmead in Witcombe, 21 Dec., 35 Eliz.
78. (1618). John Hall of Bradford. Bond of £200 to Rob. Fry of Bath, 19 Oct., 16 Jas. Wit., by Michael Stokes.<sup>1</sup>
79. (1614). Edw. Wainford of Trowbridge, tipler, Martin Wimpye of do., taylor, and Anthony Rundell, of do. weaver; bound in £100 to the King; not to dress or suffer to be dressed any Flesh in E. Ws. house during the time of Lent, 9 March, 11 Jas. I.
80. (1617). Indenture (*English*) John Hall, Esq. of Bradford, lets to John Charnbury of Southstoke: Odwood Down, 50 acres, in Witcombe; also Beechlawn as it hath been accustomed to be enjoyed in the winter for the Hogge Flocke of Lyncombe. (Elizabeth, wife of John Hall). 10 March, 14 Jas. I.

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Stokes. Rector of Farleigh-Hungerford. 1599-1641.

Amongst some loose seals also found, were a goat's head erased holding a thistle in his mouth, and an eagle displayed preying upon a fish, legend illegible.

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Fry, of Bath, - - - -	78	John, - - - -	54
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Philip, - - - -	31	Kente, Wm., - - - -	52
Fyton, John, Esq. - - -	46	Kentisse, Isabella - - -	12
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Noreys, Eliz., - - -	31	John, - - -	48
Norton, Thos., - -	46, 50	Wm., - - -	48
Olleye, John, - - -	67	Solne, John, - - -	30
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Margar., - - -	3	Stodelegh, Wm., - -	23
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Wm., - - -	26	Winkfield, - - -	39
Pilk, Philip, - - -	25	Stokes, Mich., Rector of	
Agnes, - - -	35	Farley - - -	78
Porter, Edith, - - -	24	Stranger, John, - - -	49
Radiche, Nich., - - -	64	Tral, Peter de, - - -	12
Roger, Thos., - - -	49	Trewbody, Roger, - -	43
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Steph., - - -	19	Wallewayn, - - -	40
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Whityngton, H. - - -	52	Walwey, Agnes, - - -	41
Wilde, (?) Alice le - -	32	Wychford, Rob. de, - -	24
Wimpye, - - - - -	79	Wyther, John, - - -	22
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Ric., - - - - -	10	Thos., - - - - -	75

### Schedule II.

Besides the deeds above given there were also found several loose and mutilated papers from which the following are extracts.

1. (*About 1456*). Indenture between Cicely widow of John Barnard, Henry Bradley and Joan his wife (one of the daus. and heirs of John and Cicely) and Wm. Gore, jun., and Cicely his wife, (another of the daus. and heirs), relating to lands in Lavington and Fiddington late belonging the said John and Cicely Barnard. [*No date.*]
2. (1465). A Latin Deed relating to the Monastery of St. Saviour and St. Bridget at Sion in the parish of Isleworth, Co. Midd., dated 5 and 6 Edw. IV., and witnessed by George Nevill, Bishop of Exeter and Chancellor of England; Thomas Bourchier, Archbishop of Canterbury; George, Duke of Clarence; Richard, Duke of Gloucester; Sir Walter Blount, Treasurer, and others; Elizabeth being Abbess.
3. (1517). A release to James Horton, Clerk, and others, by John Eyre of Hullavington, of lands, &c., in Bremhill and Foxham late belonging to John Goldney, 7 July, 9 Henry 8.
4. (1537). Receipt signed by Christopher Willoughby of £4 10s. received by the hands of Osmond Hall, "forling of dew to Alice my wyffe on Phelippys day and Jakobbe last past."

5. (1559). An Agreement about the Tithes of the Parsonage of Holt, between John Eyre (*Chalfield*) and Thomas Hall, Esq.
6. (1572). A receipt of 6 shillings Chief Rent paid by Mr. Hall of Bradford to the Liberty of the Duchy of Lancaster.
7. Another of 8 shillings, paid by Mr. Thomas Hall as four years rent for lands in Trowle: signed by Wm. Longe, Deputy Receiver of the Duchy; and John Lydiard, General Treasurer.
8. (1574). A Letter from Robert Davis of High Holborn, London, to his Brother in Law John Hall, Esq.
9. (Elizabeth). A fragment containing notes of sales of land chiefly by the Colthursts (who had been great purchasers of Bath Abbey Estates at the Dissolution), viz. :—
  7. Eliz. Edmund Colthurst to Edw. Wynter, lands at Claverton near Bath.
  8. Eliz. Thomas Ludlow to John Clement, tenements at Lyncombe.
  8. Eliz. Vicary to Jenings, the manor of Widecombe.
  15. Eliz. Edmund Colthurst, tenements in Bath, to the Mayor and Citizens.  
Do. to Franklyn, in do.
  19. Eliz. Edmund Colthurst, tenements at Charterhouse Hinton, to Walter Hungerford.
  27. Eliz. Do., tenements at Combe and Widecombe, to Richard Iles.  
Do., to Langford.
  30. Eliz. Edmund Colthurst to Edward Hungerford, lands at Claverton near Bath.
  31. Eliz. Do., Walcot Barton to Alex. Staples.
10. (1607) A Letter, dated Dublin, 23 Sept., to John Hall, Esq., from James Ley, (*afterwards Earl of Marlborough*) then Chief Justice of the King's Bench in Ireland, to John Hall of Bradford, Esq.; warning him and his brother magistrates to enforce the law against drunkards, especially in the town of Westbury, (*for which he was sometime M.P.*)

“Our town of Westbury hath need of you, to see to the corruption that useth to grow in such places. I pray you take some care of our drinkers; and since the King hath made some good laws against that vice, I hope that you that be magistrates will not suffer it to



increase more than when there were no laws against it." [He then rallies him about some neglected commission.] "Because men break their promises ordinarily at home, it is no marvel if faith be broken abroad, and with those that are divided both by sea and land."

11. (1615). A letter from John Yewe to his "Right worshipful and very good Landlord Mr. John Hall, Esq., in Bradford."
12. (1617). A letter to Sir James Ley of Westbury, from Mrs. Melior Bampfield, widow of John Bampfield of Hardington, Co. Som. Esq., commenced against her by Mr. Hall of Bradford, for the recovery of £100, lent by him to her late husband. [Mr. Hall had called her a "most unconscionable woman."]
13. (1621-1641). Letters of administration before Marmaduke Lymne in the court of John, Bishop of Salisbury, taken out by Elizabeth, (*Brune*) widow of John Hall, Esq.
14. (1627). A warrant addressed to Henry Longe and others, signed by James Ley, William Poulett, and John Hall; to meet them at Trowbridge to hear the contents of certain letters received from the Lords of the Council. Dated 27 August.
15. (1668). A small pamphlet in black letter printed by Clarke, Smithfield, called,
 

"The Bloody Apprentice executed, being an account of a murder committed by Thomas Savage, a vintner's apprentice in Ratcliffe, upon a fellow maid servant; and how having been hanged and cut down, he revived and was hanged the second time, Oct. 28, 1668."
16. From some old Rate papers relating to Parishes in the neighbourhood of Bradford, we may collect the names of the *principal landowners* in those places at that time.
 

1605. WESTBURY ..... Thomas Bennet, gent., (and in  
1608, Mrs. Margaret Bennet).  
Sir James Ley, Kt.  
Jeffery Whitaker, (chief paymaster  
in 1608).  
John Lambe, Esq.  
Nicholas Phipps.  
Jeremy Horton, Gent.

BROOKE .....	Wm. Jones, Esq., (Sir Edward Hungerford, 1608, Sir Jasper More, Kt., and W. Jones).
PENLEY .....	Mrs. Bridget Earnley.
DILTON .....	Anthony Selfe.
CHAPMANSLADE	Sir James Ley.
BRATTON.....	Sherston Bromwich, (Ann Bromwich, 1608).
1607. BROUGHTON AND	Edward Long.
MONKTON	Mr. Bold.
	Mr. Horton.
	Nicolas Gore.
SOUTH WRAXHALL	Sir Walter Long, Kt.
	Edward Graves.
ATWORTH ... ..	John Yerbury.
BORO' OF BRADFORD	John Hall, Esq.
	John Yewe, Gent.
	Thos. Reed, Vicar.
	Richard Horne.
	Thomas Yerbury.
	John Holton.
	John Druce, the tithes.
	Nicholas Snell.
IFORD & WESTWOOD	Tobias Horton.
	George Compton.
WINSLEY.....	John Raynold.
	Drew Druce.
STOKE .....	John Shute.
TROWLE .....	Christopher Morris and John Powell.
LEIGH & WOOLLEY	Robert Browne, the tithes.
	John Roger, ditto.
HOLT .....	John Grant, Thos. Chapman, and John Erle.
WHADDON .....	Edward Long, Gent.
	William Buckle, Clerk.
POULSHOT .....	Edward Long.
	Ambrose Earnley.

## THE MANVERS PROPERTY IN BATH.

17. The next extracts throw some light upon a point in the topography of the City of Bath. It is well known that upon the ground south of the Abbey Church once stood the Priory of St. Peter and St. Paul, whose property included all the space between the Church and the River, round to Southgate Street; extending beyond the River to Prior Park, Lyncombe, and Widcombe. The Priory was "voluntarily" surrendered by Wm. Hollwey the last Prior, on 27 January, 1539. A principal purchaser was one Matthew Colthurst. All that Collinson then says of it, (Som. I. 58.) is that Colthurst "sold to Morley, from whom it descended to the Duke of Kingston." This of course refers to the well known extensive property in Bath now belonging to Earl Manvers, the present representative of the Duke.

But from some remnants of old law papers rescued, amongst others, from the mice of Kingston House, it is clear that part at least, and probably the whole, of the Manvers property at Bath, *had belonged to the Halls of Bradford*; and that it passed from the Halls to the Dukes of Kingston and thence to Lord Manvers, exactly in the same way as Kingston House and the other large property at Bradford.

In the following letter (written somewhat sentimentally for a matter of bargain and sale), one Patrick Sanders, M.D., applies to *John Hall, Esq. of Bradford*, for part of *the Abbey House and Orchard, then in his possession*.

"9, October, 1619.

"The life of man which wanders through the body of earth until she hath finished her peregrinations, doth at last retire to the heart, that "primum vivens" and "ultimum moriens" (*that liveth soonest and dieth latest*). And so I toward the end of my days do desire to retire toward the same place where first I drew my breath. Having heard that some things there are in your possession which might happily fit me, I was the rather moved as well by reason of the situation as also in regard to that worth which I have heard often to be in yourself, from whom I am confident to receive all worthy and good conditions. Briefly, I have heard that *the Abbey and the Abbey*

*Orchard* is to be sold, and some other things near the City in your power to grant. Because of my profession I desire to be in the house or part thereof, while Dr. Sherwood lives."

To this touching appeal Mr. Hall appears to have consented, but in proceeding to gratify the medical gentleman with the coveted domicile near Dr. Sherwood, he found himself suddenly entangled in the intricacies of the law. For the next fragment (dated the following year) reveals a dispute about a certain way leading into the Abbey Orchard of St. Peter and St. Paul at Bath. The result of the dispute does not appear, and it is immaterial: enough remaining to show that Mr. Hall was possessor of part of the Abbey property. But as the papers contain some notices of the site of the Abbey, which may be interesting to those who know Bath, it is worth the while to preserve their substance.

(1620). The dispute in the first instance lay between the Mayor and Corporation, Plaintiffs; and John Biggs, Defendant. The claim on the part of the City was, that by Letters Patent dated 12 July, 6 Edw. VI. 1552, they had, upon petition, obtained for the purpose of founding a Grammar School, a grant from the Crown of all the lands in the City and Suburbs, lately belonging to the Priory, including the contested way into the Orchard.

The case of the other party was, that long before the grant made to the Mayor and Corporation, Henry VIII., by Letters Patent dated 16 March 1543, had granted to Humfrey Coles for the sum of £962 17s. 9d., the site of the said Priory, with every thing within the circuit of the said Priory. That Humfrey Coles on 18 March in the same year, 1543, sold the Orchard to Matthew Colthurst and his heirs: that it descended to Edmund Colthurst who 41 years afterwards, 1584, quietly enjoyed it as part of the Priory House. Edmund Colthurst mortgaged it to — Sherston for £330, and *John Hall, Esq.*, redeemed it and had a conveyance. *In 1611 Edmund Colthurst and Henry his son sold it to John Hall and his heirs.* That the Prior had no other Orchard, and that this way was

always accounted part of his house, the windows of which opened into it. This part of the house was pulled down by Colthurst, and the ground thrown into the Orchard. The foundations were still to be seen within it. "The prior did use to sit there and view all the Orchard." A door opened from the Priory into it, and the way in was by a terrace made with arches of stone, 40 foot long: That the Orchard was bounded on the North side by the ancient wall of the Priory, 20 foot high and 160 paces long, reaching to the Avon: on the South, by a great ditch betwixt the meadows called "The Ham," and the Orchard, and on the East by the River. That the Prior and the Patterches (*the Monks*) and ever since their time the Colthursts, have enjoyed the fishing and cut down the trees these 80 years. That the Priory is situate within the Corporation of St. Peter and St. Paul, and is a privileged place of itself, not within the Corporation of the City of Bath: and when the Mayor of Bath came into the Priory, the Maces were put down and not carried before him. An exception was taken to the plaintiff's witnesses that they were Almsmen maintained by the Alms of the City.

Part of the Priory lay within the adjoining Parish of "St. James and Stall," which Colthurst had mortgaged in 1589 to Alexander Staples of Yate, Co. Gloucester.

Then follows another document showing how *John Hall* of Bradford, was involved in a suit at law with the family of Staples.

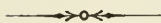
These extracts, we conceive, indicate very plainly, that the present property of Lord Manvers round the Abbey Church of Bath, must have been derived from the same source and through the same channels, as Kingston House, viz., the Halls of Bradford. J. E. J.

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[‡ *The present owner and occupier, by whom its beauty has been carefully cherished, is his son Mr. John Moulton. In the last great Paris Exposition, this house was reproduced in the "English Pavilion, having been chosen as the best example of an Elizabethan or Jacobean mansion of moderate size."*] See page 236



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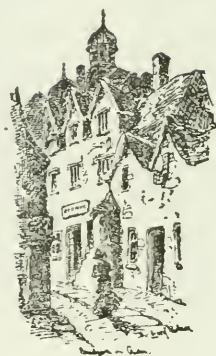
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