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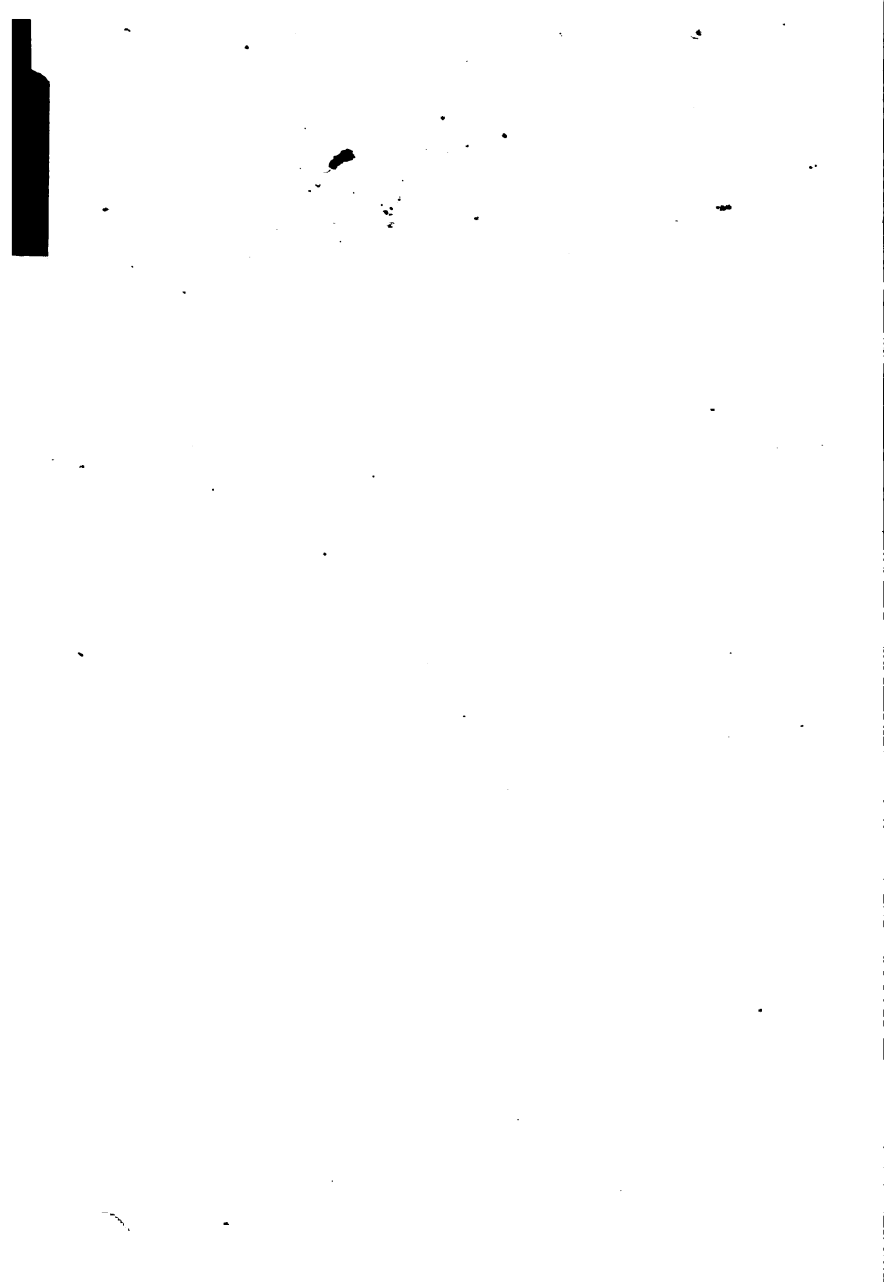
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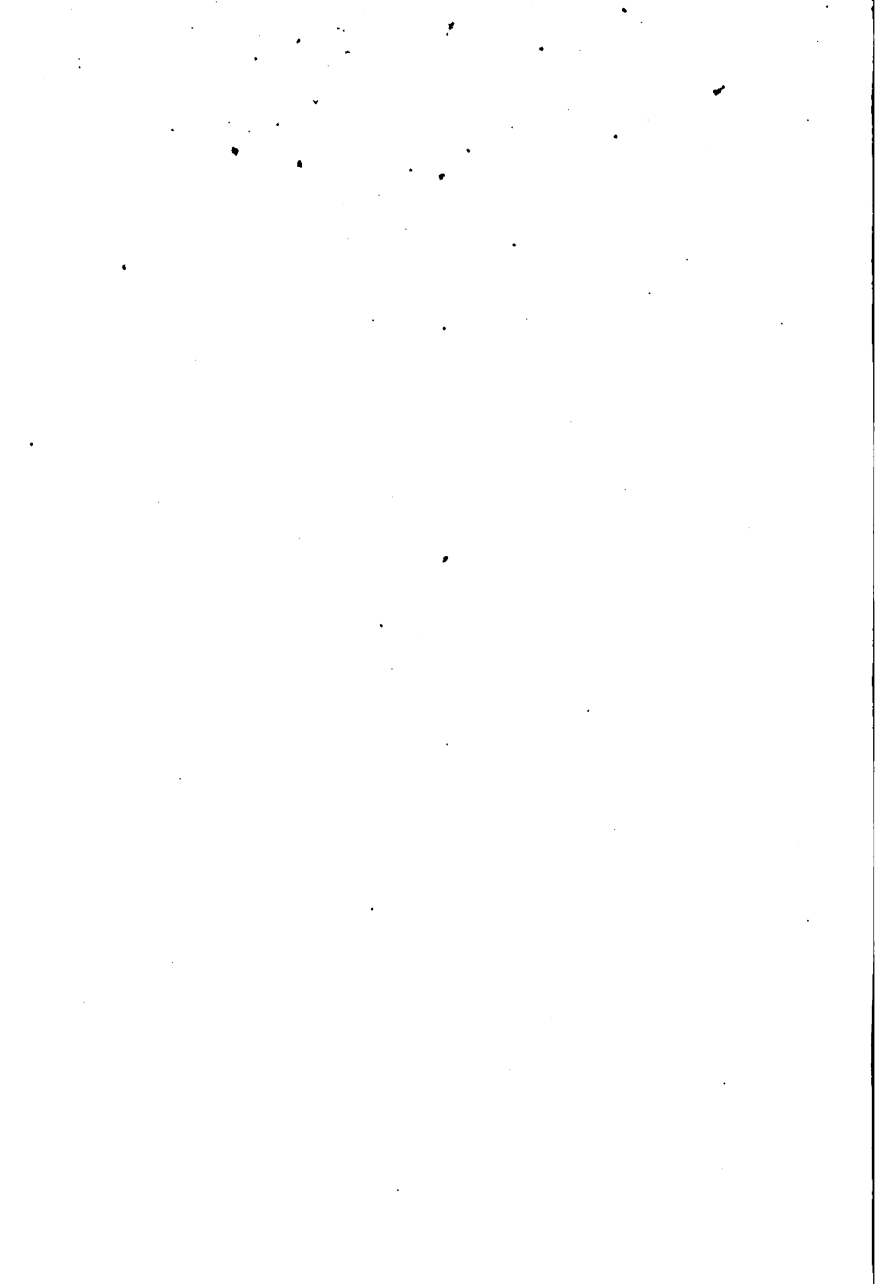
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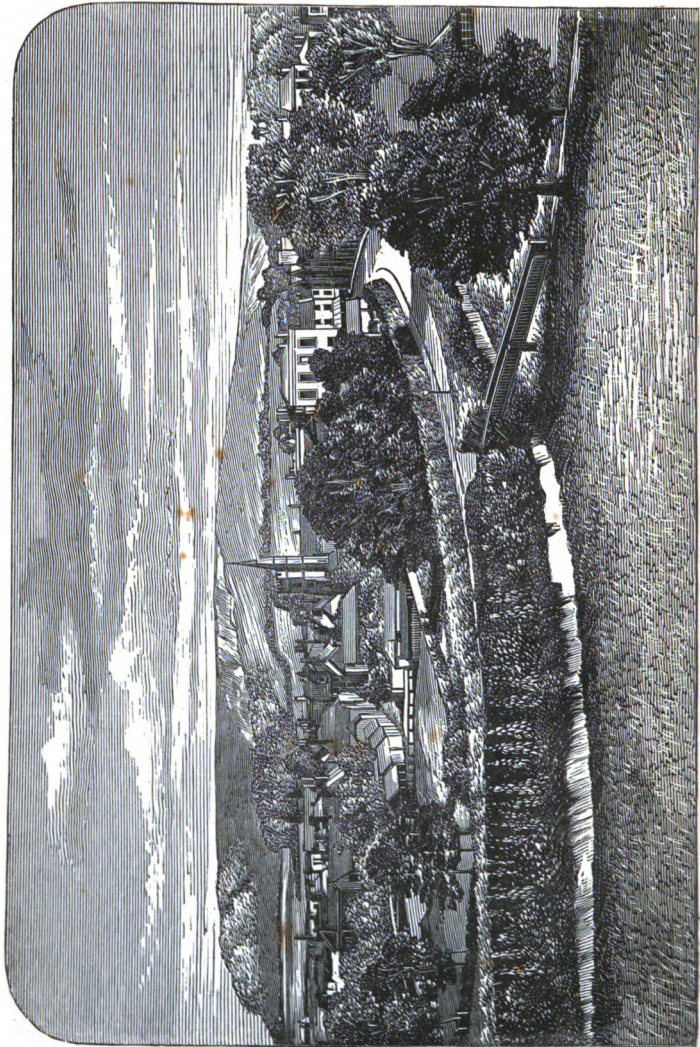




HISTORY OF WARMINSTER.







Warminster from the South.



THE  
HISTORY OF WARMINSTER

BY

JOHN J. DANIELL,

VICAR OF WINTERBORNE STOKE AND BERWICK ST. JAMES,  
FORMERLY CURATE OF WARMINSTER.

*WITH A VIEW AND MAP OF THE TOWN AND  
NEIGHBOURHOOD.*

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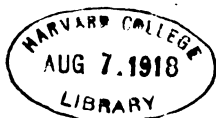
LONDON :

SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, & CO., STATIONERS' HALL COURT.

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## P R E F A C E.

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Sir Richard C. Hoare intimates that Mr. Henry Wansey furnished him with the larger portion of the archæological *data* on which he founded the chapter on WARMINSTER in his "History of South Wilts."

But he made only a scant use of the miscellaneous materials which Mr. Wansey had collected.

The present History contains almost all the "Notes on WARMINSTER" which Mr. Wansey left in manuscript; they form about one tenth of the substance of the book.

Other sources from which the following papers have been drawn are generally acknowledged in the text.

Some chapters of importance in the History of WARMINSTER remain to be written. Many papers in Longleat House probably contain valuable memoranda in reference to WARMINSTER during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Diaries and documents of the families of Wansey, Halliday,

Harris, and others, not now at hand, may do good service for incidents of a later date. Mr. Offer's collections, wherever they may be, would amply repay a searching examination.

The present summary, confessedly imperfect, will yet prove that WARMINSTER is possessed of a history of its own, which, in facts and events of antiquarian, parochial, and personal interest, is not second to that of any town or parish in the county.

J. J. D.

*Winterborne Stoke,*

*June, 1879.*

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## NOTE.

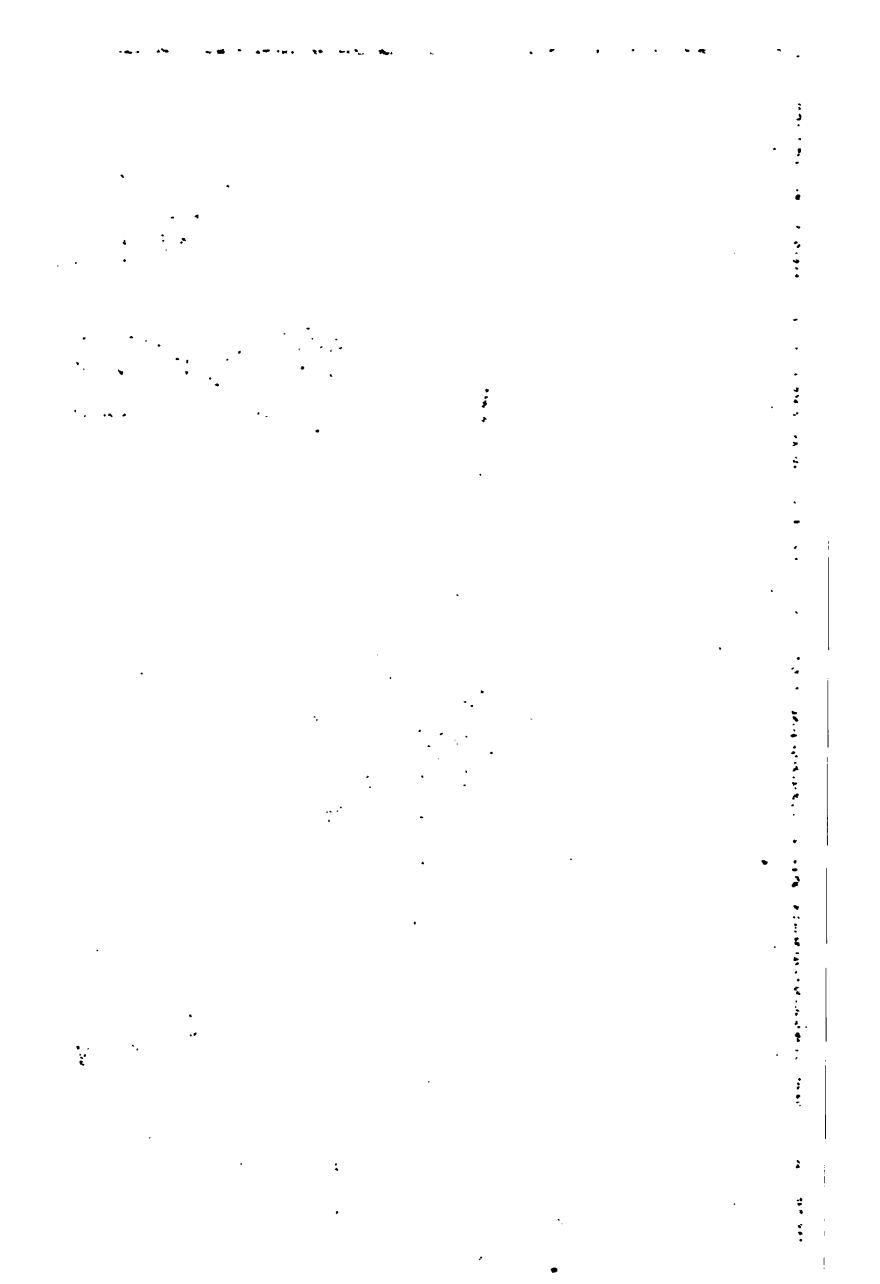
Page 14. Wormoster, or Worminster, mentioned by John Aubrey, is a tithing in the city of Wells, Somerset.

Page 138. For "Rev. W. Offer," read *Rev. J. Offer*,—and for "Under Master at the Grammar School," read *Assistant Master to Dr. Rowlandson*.



WATERBURY  
CONNECTICUT

WATERBURY  
CONNECTICUT



# HISTORY OF WARMINSTER.

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## I.

### The Celts.

**F**AR back in the misty ages of antiquity, on a small cleared space on the north ridge of the CORR MAUR (the Great Wood), beside a wandering stream, rose a few rude huts, or were dug a few caves underground, the original of the present town of WARMINSTER. Tall, lusty, grim men, with bodies stained and painted, clothed in skins, occupied all day long in hunting bears, wolves, boars, hyænas, or deer, with which the dense woods around them swarmed, or at the summons of their chief making ferocious attacks on the settlements of the neighbouring tribes;—these were the fathers of the present inhabitants of Warminster.

“Let us imagine,” says Aubrey, “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”—and so, certainly, the South Division—“was a shady dismal wood; and the inhabitants almost as salvage as the beasts, whose skins were their only raiment.”

To this Celtic race may be attributed the construction of those sepulchral mounds and military memorials of the dead, locally termed *Barrows*, with which all the heights around Warminster are crowned.

A hillock, on the north of the town, formerly bare, now covered with trees, bears the name of COP HEAP. This point commands fine views west, south, and eastward, of wood, hill, and vale, and many *tumuli* and military earth-works of high antiquarian and historic interest are visible from its summit. The apex of the knoll is a barrow raised to a considerable height, with a bank and ditch. It was opened by Sir R. Hoare, in Oct. 1809. He found, on the south-west side, at a depth of two feet, a skeleton of a man with the head toward the south, some pieces of worked flint, and fragments of stags' horns, one of which was perforated, as though used for a hammer. On the west side, about three feet down, another skeleton was disinterred, and on the north a kist, or coped grave, was discovered, which had been disturbed in making the plantation; it contained the remains of a woman, with an infant by her side, some ivory beads, and a sea shell.

To the eastward of Cop Heap lie the bold hill and remarkable entrenchments of BATTLESBURY. On the south west side, nearly the whole breadth of the inner foss is filled by a large barrow, in which no human relics were discovered. Further east, two small barrows, now scarcely to be detected, are crossed by the great inner *vallum*; both these contained interments: in the larger was a kist, covering burnt bones; in the smaller were two skeletons, the head of one reclining on the breast of the other, on which also lay a small stone bead.

We of the latter day are no ways justified in wantonly ransacking these houses of the ancient dead. It jars with feelings of decency, and religion, that graves, which have been left undisturbed for two thousand years should be ruthlessly broken into, and the frames of poor mortality shattered and splintered by pickaxe and spade, merely to

gratify indelicate and unnatural curiosity. The examination of some *few* barrows would have abundantly satisfied all reasonable claims of archæological scrutiny; but Sir R. Hoare, and his company, go on without scruple or remorse, plundering grave after grave, and revelling, like *ghouls* amongst dead men's bones, till scarcely a solitary barrow over the whole area of the county escapes their sacrilegious fingers; notwithstanding that the newly-ravaged charnel-houses disclose no object of fresh interest, and here and there, as Sir Richard confesses, the skeletons "*grinned horribly a ghastly smile.*"

KING BARROW is a very large tumulus, two hundred feet long, and fifteen wide, about two hundred yards north of the village of Boreham, which on being thrown open by a section to the centre, and then to right and left, in 1800, yielded only intermingled pieces of bones of birds and beasts, boars' tusks, stags' horns, charred wood, fragments of the coarsest pottery, and the skeleton of a horse. A second excavation disclosed three human skeletons, on the thigh of one of which was an iron sword, with the blade eighteen inches long, two wide, and single-edged: lying near was a part of a rude urn, but prettily ornamented. These remains being supposed to be but a subsequent deposit, at great expense and toil, a third cutting was made at a deeper level, and black ashes, burnt wood and bones, and bits of earthenware were exposed, but the primary interments remained undiscovered.

On ARN HILL is a square entrenchment: there is a long barrow in the plantation on the southern slope, opened in 1802, and found to contain three skeletons on a bed of marl.

All these barrows, in their original formation, and the pottery found in them, generally of the very rudest mould,

flint weapons, arrow and spear heads, bone implements, and early instruments of rough metal, undoubtedly belong to the days of the Celts, or of the still more ancient inhabitants of the land.

## II.

### The Romans.

**B**EFORE A.D. 300, there was a *Militaris Via* (which is afterwards referred to in an old deed of a grant to the Monastery at Wilton) running from OLD SARUM (*Sorbiodunum*) to BATH (*Aquæ Solis*). It seems to have entered Wiltshire near Short Street and Hisomleigh, where Roman coins and pottery abound, and passed by COLDARBER,\* or COLD ARBOUR, near Warminster Church. The Roman road did not pass through the village of Warminster, but seems to have skirted it on the north; its course may still, with care, be traced along Woodcock Lane, through the fields of Boreham farm, and the grounds behind Bishopstrow House.

Camden says that Warminster is the Roman VERLUCIO: but *Verlucio* was a station, according to Sir R. Hoare, at Sandy Lane, on the road between AQUÆ SOLIS and CUNETIO, near Marlborough.

Warminster, however, produces evidence of Roman occupation that cannot be gainsayed. The fine earthen fortress on Battlesbury is probably Roman work. It has

\* The meaning of the word *Coldarber* is not known; it is frequently found in connection with old roads or ways, and is probably a corrupt form of some Celtic name.

been said that it would tax the strength of a *nation* in ancient Celtic times to raise such entrenchments. But those who remember Cæsar's account of the *foss* and *vallum* he drew from the Rhone to Geneva, will allow that a Roman legion or two, with a Cæsar for captain, would throw up such a camp as that on Battlesbury in a week. It is formed on the head of a high, irregular hill, enclosing an area of about twenty-four acres, and is in circuit nearly a mile. This bold, extensive work remains almost perfect; its ramparts run sixty feet high; its steep acclivities render it almost impregnable on the south and east; there are double trenches and ramparts, with openings and defences at the east and west. On the tableland within, now under the plough, were formerly lines of internal encampments.

Reference has been already made to the existence of three barrows within and upon the defences of Battlesbury. *These barrows had been raised before the camp was formed.* This is an interesting fact: and when the ramparts were in process of construction, the three monumental mounds, previously existing, were respected, and left undisturbed; and though they offered, close at hand, so large a supply of material, earth to raise the ridges of the camp was fetched from other parts. This is a marked forbearance and regard shown to British entombments by Roman soldiers, which Saxon and Dane, who, in all probability, occupied this stronghold in turn, also observed. It was reserved for the nineteenth century to dishonour and desecrate burial-places, where the bones of the ancient men had mouldered so many ages in peace.

Near the north-west angle of Battlesbury, A.D. 1773, in an old chalk quarry, thirty-six Roman coins were found in an urn, silver and copper, of ANTONINUS PIUS, JULIA, and CONSTANTINE, with some skeletons of men, and the bones of a horse.

In 1766, as a labourer, by name *Miffin*, was digging stone on Warminster Common, he came upon a small brass image, and near the same spot, turned out an urn containing about one hundred and fifty Roman coins, viz., of **DIOCLETIAN, GALLIENUS, PROBUS, CONSTANTINE, VICTORINUS, &c.** : all were in pretty fair condition ; some few were coated ; and one bore on the reverse Romulus, Remus, and the Wolf. In 1773, *Scot Davis*, a labourer, found two medallions of the larger brass, a **VESPATIAN** and **TRAJAN**, in the meadow between the **BURIES** and **PITMEAD**. In 1780, the workmen employed in enclosing some land at the Common, dug up a pot of silver *denarii*, from **TRAJAN** to **SEPTIMIUS** and **ALEXANDER SEVERUS**, with legends clearly traceable.

The **BURIES** (so named from standing on a large Barrow) is a house and grounds belonging to the Astley family, partly in Warminster parish, and partly in Bishopstrow. It was decidedly a Roman station ; part of the *agger* is still visible, and at various times much Roman pottery has been dug up, wherever the spade broke the soil, deeply embedded in black mould. In 1792, *Richard Archer* and *John Arnold*, while employed in levelling a high ridge and digging a ditch at the Buries, discovered several pieces of iron armour, much Roman ware, and two large urns, one of which contained several thousand Roman coins, a peck in measure, chiefly of the middle and small brass, of all ages of the Roman Empire from Tiberius, viz., Claudius, Vitellius, Domitian, Antoninus Pius, Commodus, Alexander Severus, Lucius Verus, Maximus, Gordian, Philip, Gallienus, Tetricus, Probus, Tacitus, Carausius, Alectus, Carinus, Maxentius, Maximinus, Constantine, Constans, Magnentius, Victorinus ; and two female heads, Salonina, wife of Gallienus, and a Julia. A lump of these coins, firmly rusted together, in



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good preservation, was in the possession of Mr. Halliday, of Warminster, but cannot now be found.

PITMEAD, a large meadow south of the river Wily, locally situate between the parishes of Bishopstrow and Sutton Veny, belongs to Warminster. Ruins of a Roman Villa were first noticed here in 1786. They were examined, and described by Mr. Gough and Mr. Downes in the *VETUSTA MONUMENTA*, and by Mr. Wansey, in the *Gentleman's Magazine*: Lord Weymouth, to whom part of the field belonged, assisted in the excavations. But being left a short time unprotected, the pavements were picked to pieces by bucolic visitors. The site was again laid open in 1800, by Mr. Cunningham; and a third time in 1820. As the result of all these investigations, it appeared that two villas had formerly stood on this site, the abode of some Roman, or Romanized Briton. Amongst the ruins were found traces of several rooms, with mosaic pavements inlaid with very beautiful *tesserae*, black, white, and red, Bath-stone quoins, part of a leaden pipe, stone tiles hexagonal, white marble, bricks for flues, an iron star and ring, an ivory style, a coin of Claudius, &c. One of the encaustic tiles bore the figure of a woman, another that of a hare sitting in form. Bones and skulls of men and animals were intermingled. Two skeletons were found, one recumbent, the other of a man in a sidelong position, into which he seemed to have been forced by the wall falling upon him.

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## III.

## The Saxons.

**A**FTER the Roman armies had withdrawn from Britain, though the northern parts of England were scourged by the wild Gaelic marauders, the south enjoyed many years of peace and prosperity, until the hordes of Jutes, Angles, and Saxons, pressing westward, drove the British forces into Cornwall, and Wilts and the neighbouring counties fell under the power of CERDIC, who eventually took the title of first King of Wessex. Fierce conflicts afterwards raged between the Mercians and West Saxons, interrupted by sanguinary struggles with the new invaders, the Danes, in which the men of Wilts attained such fame as valiant soldiers, that, as John of Salisbury tells us, to the Wiltshire army was assigned the post of danger and honour in all the King's battles.

During Saxon times England was divided into Counties, Hundreds, and Parishes. Shires, and their government by *Eldermen* and *Sheriffs*, are referred to in the laws of Ina, A.D. 700. Concerning Wessex, the division was probably made in the days of Ina, between A.D. 688 and 725, though, perhaps, perfected in detail by Alfred. Forty Hundreds in the centre of the Kingdom of Wessex formed the Shire of Wilts; and WARMINSTER, now grown into a considerable village, gives name to a Parish; and to a Hundred likewise. This circumstance marks it as one of the most important places in the south-west of the district, as this honour is shared only by eleven other towns. The parishes and manors included in the Hundred of Warminster, are, WARMINSTER, with Smallbrook and Boreham; UPTON SCUDAMORE, with

Norridge and Thoulstone ; CORSLEY ; BISHOPSTROW ; NORTON BAVANT ; SUTTON MAGNA AND PARVA ;—with several detached manors, as FISHERTON, BAPTON, and DELAMERE, locally in Heytesbury Hundred ; PERTWOOD, in Mere ; and DINTON and TEFFONT MAGNA, in Dunworth Hundred. It was a singular and inconvenient arrangement that manors lying so far distant as Dinton and Teffont, should have been attached to Warminster. Hence this is termed, as some others are, a RAGGED HUNDRED, because portions of it lie scattered about the county : and this Hundred retains to the present day the exact territorial limits and peculiar location of its manors which it received more than a thousand-years ago.

Warminster is further dignified by becoming a ROYAL MANOR. It is a question whether Warminster came into the hands of the King as representative of the *Folc-land*, *i. e.* estates belonging to the nation, or whether he held it as private property. It is uncertain also whether it became Royal Property under any of the earlier Saxon Kings, or whether it was not part of the marriage dowry of Editha, daughter of Earl Godwin, and passed with her great estates to her husband, Edward the Confessor. It is certain that in Saxon times, it was assigned, together with the large manors of Calne, Melksham, Chippenham, and many other seigniories, as part of TERRÆ REGIS, the Crown Lands. The King himself was by far the largest landowner in Wilts, and like other freemen, he depended for his income on the successful cultivation of his farms ; they were furnished with dwellings, barns, granaries, and other necessary buildings, and he journeyed from one to another as his pleasure or necessities dictated.

Some of the Royal Manors enjoyed large immunities and privileges, as Warminster, which was free of taxes and

assessments ; but, in return, the tenants of this Manor were under obligation to provide the King, and all his suite, with board and lodgings for one night, whensoever his Majesty was pleased to visit his country estates.

An ancient seal of lead was found on Battlesbury ; it is of a circular form, and bears a *fleur-de-lys*, the central leaf of which terminates in a star, with the legend, "S' TOME STIWARD." It is in the possession of Mr. Vicary, of Warminster.

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#### IV.

### Boundaries of the Parish.

**T**HERE is reason to believe that the boundaries of the Parish, as of the Hundred, have remained unchanged from Saxon times. On the northern side, from Norridge Wood, (*i. e.* North Ridge of Selwood,) to the eastern side of the Downs, Warminster is bounded by Upton Scudamore. The line passes along the north foot of Arn Hill and Fernicomb to a plantation ; thence across the old Bratton Road to the north-east point near Imber Fir Trees, where it meets for a short distance the parish of Westbury. Bishopstrow bounds Warminster on all its eastern side. Battlesbury is in Warminster parish. The line now winds irregularly through the woods of Bishopstrow, two chains west of the House, crosses the Salisbury Road to the river Wily, runs along its left bank, then over the river and meadows, cuts the BURIES in two, curves again north to the Wily (where Bishopstrow comes in and cuts off Oldfield), encloses two or

three cottages at Henford's Marsh, leaving the Mill in Norton parish: here a detached portion of Bishopstrow adjoins Warminster, and a little further on lies a part of Boyton; so that the inmates of Henford Cottage coming on Sunday to Christ Church, pass out of Warminster parish into Bishopstrow, along the side of Boyton, and into Warminster again. The line skirts the south side of Warminster Common, across the road to Crockerton, over Warminster Heath, along the road near Heath Farm, through the plantation to Redway Gate, and thence parallel with the Drive. All this track was only a barren moorland till planted by the first Lord Weymouth, *cir.* 1696. Near this boundary grew the famous WEYMOUTH PINE, said to be the parent of all the trees of that class in the kingdom. The first Marquis of Bath, who succeeded to Longleat in 1754, planted fifty thousand trees every year for forty years in succession. Again following the boundary, we cross the Horningsham Road through the upper part of Longleat Park to Dod Pool, which the line just touches, then sweeps down the Coombe into the Deer Park, meets a stream, follows it to the west, runs through the Lake, (leaving Longleat House just outside the parish on the south), straight to Stalls' Farm, near Woodlands. This is the extreme westerly point of Warminster Parish, and here it touches Frome. Thence passing through the woods at the base of Roddenbury Hill, and turning due east, the line leaves a narrow strip, about twenty chains wide, between Corsley and Longbridge Deverill. And here, strange to say, Norton Bavant, which twice touched Warminster Parish on its southern limit, now appears again, far away on the northern boundary. This part of Norton is called Dartford Woods, and is so named because given by a Bavant, of Norton, five hundred years ago, to Dartford Priory, in Kent. The line now follows the

lane to Whitbourne, through the woods to the Frome Road at Whitbourne Gate, along the east foot of Cley Hill, which is in Corsley parish, to Norridge Wood.

Thus Warminster is touched by nine parishes: Upton Scudamore, Westbury, Bishopstrow, Boyton, Sutton, Norton, Frome, Longbridge, and Corsley. A field on the south side of the Westbury Road, locally in Westbury Parish, belongs to Warminster, and so another, on the Bath Road, beyond Norridge: to Warminster also belong Pitmead and Moothill, between Bishopstrow and Norton, and a narrow strip of land in the very heart of Bishopstrow village. On the other hand, there are several detached portions of Corsley, and one of Upton, in Warminster, and Smallbrook Mill, with the meads around, locally in Warminster, belongs to Upton Scudamore. Ten acres of Moothill are in Fisherton Delamere.

The Hamlets of the Parish are Sambourne, the Common, Bugley, Boreham, and Henford's Marsh.

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## V.

### Name of Warminster.

**T**HE word WARMINSTER is of uncertain etymology. Hoare, Wansey, and others, pounced at once upon *minster* as certainly equivalent to *monastery*, and finding that some towns in England receive a composite name from the circumstance that they stand near a river with some large Abbey or Church on its banks—as Axminster, Sturminster, Ilminster, &c.—seize on an insignificant brook, that happens

to trickle conveniently through the meadows eastward of the present Church, dignify it with the name of the *river WERE*, and forthwith conclude to their entire satisfaction, that Warminster = the-Monastery-on-the-Were. Offer indeed left a copy of an old grant to the Nunnery at Wilton, in which reference is made to some of its lands as "extending by the brook Were at Warminster to Bringwoldstrow," but it is not known that Wilton Abbey possessed any land near Warminster, and if any brook bears the name of *WERE*, it seems to be that which is now called the Biss, and which rises in Upton Scudamore, and runs through Trowbridge. There are many towns into whose names the vocable *minster* enters, which, though they are built on or near the site of large monastic or conventual buildings, yet obtain a prefix in no way connected with the name of any river, as Kidderminster, Leominster, Lyminster, Yetminster, Bedminster, and many others: we have also Lytchett Minster, and Iwerne Minster, and, simply, Minster in Sheppey, and Minster in Cornwall. There is no evidence whatever of any Monastery in Warminster, nor even of any Church of large dimensions.

Others, favoring the idea that the Roman Station, *VER-LUCIO*, was on the direct road between Bath and Old Sarum, think there is no doubt that both town and name are of Roman origin. A writer of the last century seriously suggests that its etymology is Saxon, "from *WÆR*, which according to *Verstegan* means *weirs* or *waterstops*, and this answers well," he says, "to the stream running down Cley Hill, which is stopt three or four times, at Bugley, at Cold-harbor, and near the Obelisk, and behind Chain Street, though these two last *waterstops* have been now filled up about half a century ago."

The earliest mention of Warminster occurs in a document

among the Canterbury MSS. published by Kemble in *Codex Diplom.*, vol. 11, 328. Its date is *cir.* A.D. 900.

CHARTÆ ANGLO-SAXONICÆ.

“And Æthlem Higa went from (= gave up) that suit when the King (Alfred?) was at WORGEMYNSTER, Ordlaſ, and Oſferth, and Odda, and Withbord, and Æſtan the Bald, and Æthelnoth, being witnesses.”

In *Domesday* WORGEMYNSTER becomes GUERMINSTRE, and through all the Plantagenet period, by an easy transition of Guer into Wer— (as Guilou into Wily), we meet with ever-varying forms of the name, as Wereminstre, Werminstre, Wermenstre, Wermenestre, Werminstre, Wermenystre, Warmenistre, Warmenestre, Warmestre; in the 15th and 16th centuries it is written Wermester, Warminster, and Warmester. Leland calls it Wermestre; Aubrey writes Warminister, and Warminster; once he gives it War-moster.

In the absence of all proof that *minster* in connection with Warminster means *Church*, the conjecture is admissible that WORGEMYN, or GUERMIN, is the name of an ancient Wiltshire Chief, and that as Biscop-tre (*Bishopstrow*) means “the place of the Bishop,” so Warminster means “the head-quarters of Worgemyn, or Guermin.”

VI.

Rivers and Streams.

**T**HE River Wily passes through Warminster parish on the south-west angle; it enters at Marsh Mill, works Smallbrook and Boreham Mills, is turned off into many



channels through the water meadows, leaves Warminster, as it approaches Bishopstrow Gardens, and meets the parish again at Pitmead, where it forms the boundary between Warminster and Norton.

On an old map of the Longleat Estate, embracing that portion of the Woods which lies above the Lake near Crockerton, a small spring is marked, SHIRE WATER HEAD. Cox's *MAGNA BRITANNIA*, pub. 1727, contains a map of Wiltshire, on which the same spring is especially noted, *SHERE WATER HEAD*. Hoare writes, "At a short distance above Crockerton rises the SHIRE WATER, a small tributary stream of the Wily." In another place he says, "Longbridge is the last of the Deverills on the stream which gives name to them. Here it receives the small stream of the SHIRE WATER." Britton also refers to it as the "head of one of the branches of the Wily river, called SHEAR-WATER."

There is no doubt that this spring is the true source of the River Wily. But has the River Wily any claim beyond all other Wiltshire rivers to bear the honorable and distinctive name of the "WATER OF THE SHIRE?" The two Wiltshire Avons are both much longer and of greater importance. The Kennet, the Nadder, the Bourne, are not much less in volume or in length. In the north is the Royal Thames itself, owing its birth to Wiltshire soil. The derivation of the name of WILY is disputed. Some think the river may have been so named from its *wily*, snake-like course. Spencer favours this conceit, however weak and fanciful, in his *Faery Queen*, cant. iv. c. 11.

"Next him went Wilebourne with passage *wily*,  
That of his *wiliness* his name doth take,  
And of himself doth name the Shire thereby."

Asser calls it *GUILOU* :

“Wiltun, qui est in meridianâ ripâ fluminis *Guilou*, de quo flumine tota illa paga nominatur.”

Very early in Celtic, Roman, or Saxon time, a town was built on the banks of the Wily: from the name of the river the town received its name, Wily-town = Wilton. Few places in the West of England can lay claim to a higher antiquity. It became the most important town in Wessex, and was the occasional residence of the West Saxon Kings. Here from an unknown date the High Courts of the King were regularly and stately held. When Wessex was mapped out into counties, as a general rule each shire took its name from the chief town within its boundary, and Wilton communicated its name to its county, WILTUNESCIRE = Wiltshire. And the river Wily, having given its name, first, to the chief town, and, secondly, to the whole county, certainly deserved, as it naturally bore, the name of the “WATER OF THE SHIRE,” or the “SHIRE-WATER.”

About the year 1791, Lord Weymouth built a dam across the head of the valley into which the little stream of the Shire-Water first flows, (and where it had already fed a small swampy pool called Crockerton Pond,) and thus, as Sir R. Hoare writes, “pent up the stream of the SHIRE WATER so as to form a Lake of considerable extent, *which retains the original name.*”

This fine sheet of water covers an area of between thirty and forty acres. Its name is correctly written, SHIRE WATER. Two counter theories to this origin of the name have been propounded: one would name the Lake, *Sheer-water*, because its waters are *sheer*, *i. e.* in old English, *clear*:—when, unfortunately, they are *not* clear; and the second would indite *Shearwater*, because an “old inhabitant” remembered when sheep used to be washed and *shorn* near the pool. Both these theories must be mercilessly

blown to the four winds as utterly untenable and unworthy, and the noble Lake must bear its own right, true, proper, honourable and expressive name, "THE LAKE OF THE SHIRE WATER."

But though the Shire Water is undoubtedly the true source of the Wily, a larger stream comes down the valley of the Deverills, and is lost in the Wily at Crockerton. There has been a considerable strife about this little river.

In Michael Drayton's "Poly Olbion," printed in 1622, this and other Wiltshire streams are thus personified :

"First WILLY boasts herself more worthy than the other,  
And better far deriv'd, as having to her mother  
Faire SELWOOD, and to bring up DYVER in her train,  
Which when the envious soil would from her course restrain,  
A mile creeps under earth, as flying all resort ;  
And now cleare NADDER waits attendance in her court ;  
And therefore claims of right the Plaine should hold her deare,  
Which gives that Towne the name, which likewise names the Shere."

Drayton, supporting the notion of the underground current of the Deverill, yet distinctly assumes that the Wily is the mother-stream, that it rises in the Forest, (of which the woods above Shire Water are a part,) and receives the Deverill as an *affluent*. Camden says, "The little river DEVERILL, which runs through Maiden Bradley, is so called because it *dives* underground, and rising a mile off, hastens to Verlucio, *i.e.* Warminster." Aubrey writes—"Deverill hath its denomination from the *diving of the rill*, and its rising again." Bishop Tanner says—"I am informed by the minister of Deverill Longbridge, and another gentleman that lived at Maiden Bradley thirty years, that they never knew or heard of this river Deverall that runs underground." Selden agrees with Aubrey in his note to "Poly Olbion." Bishop Gibson denies the fact of the subterranean course ; Dr. Stukeley affirms it. Cox, in *Magna Britannia*, says "The *Dever* is but a small brook, but that which makes it

remarkable is that it anciently dived underground for a mile together, and then rose up again about Warminster; which, if it were true, doth not now appear so, for it everywhere runs above ground as other rivers do." Britton's account is—"The Deverill certainly runs underground: the under channel, overflowing from want of room, bursts from the earth, and forms a new channel above."

What are the facts of the case now, A.D. 1878? The source of the Dever is in the parish of Norton Ferris. It flows a short distance, and then disappears, but its underground channel is easily traceable from the moisture of the soil, and greenness of the grass above it. It rises, and in winter expands to a considerable breadth, but near the Duke of Somerset's property at Rodmead, descends again, and flows unseen, diving and re-appearing at intervals, until, near Kingston Deverill, it assumes the form of a wide and continuous brook. There is no doubt whatever about its diving: nor any doubt whatever that the act of its *diving* and its name, *Dever*, have no connection: *Guilou* and *Defer*, in Celtic, as *Borne* and *Afon*, in Saxon, simply mean a Stream.

Of smaller streams in the parish of Warminster, one rises in Longleat Deer Park, on the western watershed, and separating Warminster from Longbridge Deverill, passes through Longleat Gardens, and falls into the Frome. All the other rivulets flow off the eastern watershed. Hog's Well, in Bugley, is a fine spring—famous in past times for healing weak eyes,—it is joined by a brook from Cley Hill and by other streams north of the Half-mile Road, passes through Dyehouse field and Woodman Mead, behind the Vicarage, and thence by a channel under George-street, where Almshouse Bridge once stood. Another rivulet rises in Dead Pond, runs along fields called Rocky Daddie,

is met at Coldarbour by additional currents, and, further on, by the Borne, from Upton, passes through the Church fields as the famous river Were, and, flowing between Portway and the Manor House, joins the former stream at Alms-house Bridge, and their united waters are gathered into an artificial channel, called Swan River, which, in its later course becomes Small Brook, gives its name to a Manor and a Mill, and joins the Wily at Boreham.

There is another important stream, which rises in the fields above Rehobath, runs through the Common, supplying the inhabitants with abundance of pure water, and joins the Shire Water at Henford's Marsh.

## VII.

## Alfred.

**A.** D. 878. Alfred quitted Athelney, and marching, probably, along the old British Way through South Bruham,

“In septimâ hebdomadâ post Pascha ad Petram ÆGBRYHTA, quæ est in Orientali parte Saltûs qui dicitur, SELWDU, Latinè autem SYLVA MAGNA, Britannicè COIT MAUR, equitavit; ibique obviaverunt illi omnes accolæ Summurtunensis pagæ et Wiltunensis, visoque Rege, immenso repleto sunt gaudio, et ibi castrametati sunt unâ nocte. Diluculo sequenti illucescente, Rex inde castra commovens, venit ad locum qui dicitur ÆGLEA, et ibi unâ nocte castrametatus est. Inde sequenti mane illucescente, vexilla commovens ad locum qui dicitur ETHANDUN venit, et contra universum Paganorum exercitum atrociter belligerans, Divino nutu tandem victoriâ potitus, Paganos maximâ cæde prostravit.”—*Asser de Rebus Gestis Ælfredi.*

At Whitsuntide, 878, Alfred musters his troops about ECBRIGHT'S STONE, in Selwood Forest; he marches to EGLEA, and crushes the Danes at ETHANDUN.

Deep stir there was, and wild excitement, we may believe, on those three eventful days amongst the people in the little town of GUERMINSTRE, then numbering about five hundred inhabitants. Let us suppose that for many a day the fierce invader had held the heights around the town; and the flames of many a Warminster home, and the wail of many a Warminster mother, had gone up to heaven. But when the cry was passed from lip to lip—"The King is come—we meet at ECBRIGHT'S STONE!"—the men of Warminster rose as one, all who could hold sword, pike, billhook, or sickle; each sternly girding up his soul, went forth to gather under the banners of his beloved Monarch, and do fierce battle with the savage foes of his country and his God. And we may well conceive that on that eventful night when Alfred made his first considerable muster about ECBRIGHT'S STONE, and whence he went forth to strike the blow which broke the yoke of foreign thralldom, and set him on the glorious career which gained him the just title of "FATHER of the ENGLISH NATION," the ranks of his gallant little army were very largely recruited from the hearths and homesteads of our progenitors, the lusty Saxon yeomen, and the sturdy Saxon peasants, of the good parish of Warminster.

But where are the sites of ECBRIGHT'S STONE, IGLEA, and ETHANDUN? For the last fifty years archæologists and historians have been fighting furious battles on paper over these three places, quite as vehement in their degree, as those of Alfred and the Danes, in the tented field. Iglea may be Iley Wood, and Ethandun may be Edington; and until Canon Jackson questioned the assumption, all the world of antiquaries agreed that BRIXTON DEVERILL was undoubtedly ECBRIGHT'S STONE. But this accurate archæologist, suspecting that Brixton simply signifies "The town

of Brictric," the Saxon lord before the conquest as recorded in Domesday, and that it has no relation whatever to *Ecbright* or *Stone*, pursued his investigations through a series of archæological processes, and at length discovered ECBRIGHT'S STONE itself, under many corruptions of the name, on the line of the boundary between Wilts and Somerset, in the hedge of a plantation near the junction of of the railways to Warminster and Frome. There is no reasonable doubt that this Stone is the PETRA ÆGBRYHTA of Asser; and some effort should be made to mark and protect it, before it is irrecoverably lost under the growth of brushwood and the accumulation of earth.

Eastleigh Wood, the nearest part of the Forest to Battlesbury, is also called Iley. Wansey was of opinion that this wood was the Æglea of the Saxon Chronicle, from whence Alfred marched to attack the Danes at Ethandun.

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## VIII.

### The Normans.

**T**HE history of Warminster now begins to present some satisfactory and tangible realities. The mists of a thousand years dissipate, and we see somewhat clearly.

If Edward the Confessor had come from Old Sarum to visit his manor of WARMINSTER, he would have found on this site homesteads and huts, barns and granaries, pasture, ploughland and meadow, and a goodly little town, extending in almost a straight line from east to west along the edge of

the Forest. To the east and south and west still were standing the great primæval oaks of the old Forest of Selwood.

But—the Saxon rule is over—Harold is slain—William of Normandy is King of England.

The conquered land is parcelled out amongst the Norman soldiers. Saxon Thanes become labourers on their own soil. A vast number of the manors of Wilts falls to the share of Edward, Earl of Salisbury. The estates which formerly pertained to the Saxon Monarchs, and Warminster with them, pass naturally with all their franklins, burghers, villans and serfs, into the hands of the Norman sovereigns.

After William had reigned about twenty years, in the Council which met at Gloucester, in midwinter, 1085, the King projected the Grand Inquest of all England, the DOMESDAY SURVEY. An exact return was to be made to the Crown of the name of every estate and property in the Kingdom, its owner in the time of King Edward the Confessor, and at the time of the survey; its measurement, how much was arable, pasture (commons) and meadow, wood and waste; how many farmers and labourers there were on each manor, with mills, rivers, and fishponds; and the value of each to be triply estimated—in King Edward's time—when first granted by William—and at the Survey. To supply all this precise information a Court was empanelled, consisting of the Sheriff of Wilts, barons, freemen of the hundred, the priest of the place, the bailiff of the manor, and six yeomen. Of the four Commissioners appointed to complete the undertaking two were landowners in Wilts.

The Great Volume still exists, (as the learned annotator on the WILTSHIRE DOMESDAY remarks, from whose copious comments on the text of Domesday the following notes are chiefly drawn,) fresh and perfect as when the scribe first



put pen to parchment, the oldest Survey of any country, with the exception of Japan, and probably of China.

In the Wilts portion of Domesday the record is defective, the Hundreds being omitted; but this defect is fortunately remedied by the entries in a cotemporaneous document, called the EXON SURVEY, (preserved among the muniments of Exeter Cathedral,) which contains the records of area and valuation for the five western counties. This Survey omits for Wilts, what it furnishes for Somerset, Dorset, Devon, and Cornwall, not only the names of owners and area of estates, but the number of live stock, oxen, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, &c., and all that it supplies for Wilts is the list of the various Hundreds, and the names of the landowners. But thus we are enabled to identify, though with difficulty, most of the estates in the several Hundreds.

## IX.

## Warminster in Domesday.

**I**T is thus recorded under "TERRÆ REGIS."

*Rex tenet GUERMINSTRE. Rex EDWARDUS tenuit. Non geldabat, nec hidata fuit. Terra est 40 carucata. In dominio sunt 6 carucata, et 24 servi et 13 porcarii. Ibi 15 villani, et 8 coscez et 14 coliberti cum 36 carucatis. Ibi 7 molini de 4 libris, et quatuor viginti acra prati. Pastura 1 leuca longa et dimidium leuce lata. Silva 2 leuce longa et 2 lata. Ibi 30 burgenses. Hoc manerium reddit firmam unius noctis cum omnibus consuetudinibus suis.*

"The King himself holds GUERMINSTRE. King Edward formerly held it. It has paid no Danegelt, nor was it assessed to the tax payable

on each hide of land. There are forty *Carucates* of land, six of which with twenty-four Serfs and thirteen Swineherds are in the Lord's hand. Fifteen Farmers, eight Cottagers, and fourteen Labourers occupy thirty-six *carucates*. There are seven Mills worth four pounds, and eighty acres of meadow. The pasture (= unenclosed grass land) is a mile and half long, and three quarters of a mile broad. The wood is three miles long, and three broad. Here are thirty Burgesses. This Manor is bound to provide a night's lodging for the King, with all his retinue, (or with all accustomed dues.)"

The HIDE of Domesday is ever of uncertain area; it varied from forty to a hundred and fifty acres, according to quality and situation; it was the estate of one household, land sufficient for the support of one family. "*In Wiltescyre continentur 4800 hidæ.*" The present area of Wiltshire is 866,000 acres. A hide should therefore contain 180 acres; but the Domesday average is from 120 to 160 acres. It must be remembered that a very large part of Wilts was waste or wood.

In Warminster Manor were forty CARUCATES: these seem to be identical with Hides, except that the Hide comprehended all the lands in the manor, the Carucate only the arable lands. A Carucate in Wilts might average fifty acres arable. Six Carucates of Warminster Manor were in desmesne, *i. e.* formed part of the King's Farm. The Lord's farm was called the IN-LAND; this was cultivated by the Lord's serfs. The rest of the Manor, called the OUT-LAND, was let out in small copyholds, with equal rights of commonage, to Villans, Bordars, Cottars, and others, by payment of service, money, crops, cattle, &c.

On Warminster Manor were twenty-four SERFS: these were native Britons, held by the Saxon conquerors in bondage. The Serf was the absolute property of his Lord, a chattel to be bought and sold at pleasure; he had no standing in law, no protection by law; only by a statute of Canute, he might not be sold to heathen nations without

fault. In the course of centuries, and by the intervention of the clergy, the serf obtained many alleviations of his hard lot; he was allowed to rest from labour from sunset on Saturday to sunset on Sunday, and on all High Festivals: by the laws of Ina, if a Lord compelled his serf to work on Sunday, the Lord was fined thirty shillings, equal to £100 of our money, and the serf was free. By the master's will, the serf might be manumitted at his death. Alfred very mercifully modified the severity of serf-labour, and it may be a question whether the serfs on the King's farm in Warminster were not in a better position than the labourers in Warminster Parish now. Then every serf received two good loaves a day, besides meals at morn and noon; by extra work, over hours, he could lay up money to purchase land, or buy his own, and children's freedom; it seems that it was possible, if he became possessed of five hides of land, he might rise to the dignity of Thane, or even of Earl. About sixteen hundred serfs are registered in Domesday for Wilts.

On Warminster Manor were fourteen SWINEHERDS: they were Freemen, who paid rent in pigs, for the privilege of feeding swine on mast in the woods; they rendered about fifteen porkers every year, provided a horse for work on the In-Land, and performed other duties. Only eighty-seven PORCARI are recorded in Wilts Domesday, and they are attached to the important Manors of Warminster, Westbury, and Bradford, all in close contiguity to the Great Forest.

On Warminster Manor were fifteen VILLANS or Farmers: this is the most numerous of all classes mentioned in the Survey, the total number recorded amounting to about three thousand five hundred. Six Villans from Warminster attended the great Court, and formed the jury on whose information, tendered on oath, the returns for this Manor

were made ; they therefore must have been trustworthy and responsible men. The Villan seems to have been a Tenant Farmer, who quitted the Lord's dues more by service than rent. His duties are elsewhere thus enumerated :—

“ He must ride, carry and work for the Lord, sow and reap, hew the deer-fence—(there was a deer park on every large manor)—repair the palings, make new roads on the farm, hold *headward* and *horseward* *i.e.* watch at tent in war, and tend the horses, pay Churchrate and Tithe, as enjoined by Ina, A.D. 688, and go errand, far and near, wherever the Lord may direct.”

The Villan had many dependents under him. Some Priests in those days were holders of stock, and farmed the Out-Land, as Villans.

On Warminster Manor were eight COSCEZ, COSCETS, or COTSETLERS ; they were only found in Devon, Dorset, Somerset and Wilts, and, strange to say in Shropshire : by far the greatest number of these was in Wilts, for whereas in all Domesday about seventeen hundred and fifty coscets are enumerated, fourteen hundred are in this county. No doubt they were Cottagers, who held about five acres of land with tenements, for which they rendered certain services according to custom ; they were bound to work for the Lord all day every Monday in the year, or three days every week in harvest ; they must acquit the Lord's In-Land at *seaward*, *i.e.* protect the coast ; they paid no rent, but must discharge Church dues at Martinmas.

On Warminster Manor were fourteen COLIBERTS. It is difficult to decide what they were, probably Serfs, free to work where and when they pleased on the In-Land, but not at liberty to leave the soil. About two hundred and sixty three Coliberts in Wilts had land of their own, but seldom on any but Crown or Church lordships.

MILLS are carefully recorded throughout the Survey. Seven in Warminster is a very large number ; being on a

good stream, and water power regular and abundant, they were valuable, and were let at an average of twelve shillings a year each, equal in present money to £40. The rent of mills in Wilts ranged from five to fifteen shillings, that is, from £17 to £50 : several on the Downs were let at sixpence, that is, about £1 15s. a year. These were all *Water-mills* ; *Wind-mills* are thought not to have been known, but there are notices of mills worked by horses. Tenants could grind at the Lord's mill only.

Thirty BURGHERS or BURGHESES are registered as connected with the manor of Warminster. The term *Burgh* or *Borough*, is expressly given only to two towns in Wilts, Malmesbury and Wilton : but Warminster, Calne, Chippenham, and Ambresbury all had Burgesses, and from each of these towns the King could demand a night's entertainment. But though these manors had *Burghers*, it does not follow that they possessed the privilege of Boroughs, whatever they then were. Heytesbury and Westbury had no Burgher. He was one who by residence or settlement acquired a certain position, and occupied land on condition of discharging certain services for the manor.

We may now make an approximate estimate of the population of Warminster. Twenty four Serfs, thirteen Swineherds, fifteen Villans, eight Coscets, fourteen Coliberts, thirty Burghers, and seven Millers, make one hundred and eleven persons, as heads of households ; if to each household we allot four members, we reach a total of four hundred and forty-four souls. To this number we must add a family for each Carucate of land, forty in number, and thus draw a fair conclusion that six hundred and four persons were settled in Warminster in the middle of the eleventh century. Domesday registers in all 283,000 persons ; from which basis it is calculated that the whole

population of England was then a little over a million.

The population of Warminster Parish through successive periods during the last and present centuries has ranged as under :—

In the year 1781 it was	4,209.	In the year 1841 it was	6,211.
„ 1801 „	4,932.	„ 1851 „	6,285.
„ 1811 „	4,866.	„ 1861 „	5,995.
„ 1821 „	5,612.	„ 1871 „	5,786.
„ 1831 „	6,115.		

The area of the Parish is 6,440*a.* 1*r.* 23*p.*

In Bishopstrow Parish another class of labourers is registered, not existent in Warminster—two COTTARS. They are not the same as *Coscets*, for in other parishes they are mentioned as distinct, but their duties were much alike, though the Cottar's was more laborious, with, however, some alleviating privileges.

“He must pay his Church dues, and two and two shall feed one staghound ; he shall give six loaves to the In-Swan (hog-keeper of the In-Land) when he drives the swine to masting, but he has a right to two oxen, one cow, six sheep, towards stocking his land, and seed for seven acres ; he must be supplied with tools for his work, and furniture for his house ; when he dies, everything he is possessed of belongs to his Lord.”

There was another class of peasants, none of whom were found in Warminster Manor, though nine are registered in Westbury, and they were common enough in other parishes, viz. BEE-CHEORLS, or Bee-keepers. They were subject to service of ploughs and all other customary labour, and they discharged the Lord's dues either in honey or mead.

The Exon Domesday (referred to above) contains the following entry respecting Warminster Hundred. “*In hundreto de WARMINSTER sunt 89 hid. et dimid. De his habent Barones in dominio 30 hid. et 1 virg. Inde habet ABBATISSA de SANCTO EDUARDO 7 hid. et 3 virg. ROGERUS*

de CURCELLO 5 *hid. et dimid.* ALUREDUS de MERLEBERG 6 *hid.* EDWARD *vicecomes* 4 *hid.* NIGELLUS *medicus* 2 *hid.* WILLELMUS *filius* WIDONIS 4 *hid.* ALBERICUS 1 *hid.* Sanctus STEPHANUS de FONTENEIO 2 *hid. quas tenet* ALRICUS *predecessor ejus*;—This entry is otherwise given in MS. C.—ALRICUS *prepositus S. Stephani de Fonteneio retinuit geldum de 2 hidis, et pro 56 hid. redditæ sunt Regi 16 lib. et 16 sol. Hic est inventa 1 hida quæ non reddidit geldum postquam WILLELMUS Rex habuit regnum; eam tenent ANSFRIDUS et RAINBOLDUS.*

The Manors alluded to, with their respective owners, are : DINTON (*Domnitone*) belonging to the Abbess of St. Edward, Shaftesbury ; FISHERTON DELAMERE (*Fisertone*) to Roger de Curcelle, who had accompanied William the Conqueror into England, and received estates in Wilts, Dorset, and Somerset ; NORTON BAVANT (*Norton*) to Alured of Marlborough ; BISHOPSTROW (*Bicopestrew*) to Edward the Sheriff, Earl of Salisbury ; SUTTON (*Sudtone*) to Nigel the Physician ; SUTTON (*Sutone*) to William Fitz-Wide ; SMALLBROOK (*Smalebrœc*) to Alberic the Chamberlain ; MIDDLETON (*Mideltone*) to the Abbey of St. Stephen at Fontenoy ; UPTON SCUDAMORE (*Opetone*) to Rainbold and Ansfrid.

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## X.

### The Manor of Warminster.

**T**HE Manor of WARMINSTER remained in the Crown through the reigns of William I, William II, Henry I, and Stephen. The Lordship of Warminster, however, did

not extend over all the parish, for very early, as in Domesday, record is made of the Manor of Smallbrook, afterwards held of the Duchy of Lancaster; and in later years, some parts of Boreham also were in other hands, and Bugley and Whitbourn belonged to the Priory of Maiden Bradley. There was also another distinct portion early severed from the Manor, called Warminster Scudamore, as held *temp.* Edw: III, by Peter de Scudamore, of Upton.

Henry II granted the Manor to Robert Mauduit. The Mauduits came originally from Normandy: one chieftain, of this name, fought near the person of Duke William in the battle of Hastings. William, Lord Mauduit, at Domesday Survey, possessed seven fair Lordships in Hampshire; he became Chamberlain to Henry I, and succeeded to the estates of Michael de Hanslape, whose daughter, Maud, he had married, and had issue, Robert and William. Robert succeeded his father in his freeholds and office of Chamberlain, but being appointed to attend on the royal children from Normandy to England in the White Ship, was drowned near Harfleur with Prince William. William Mauduit succeeded his deceased brother, and continued in high position, and in possession of great power, both under Henry I, and Stephen.

Robert, his son, inherited all his father's great seigniorities, together with his office of Chamberlain. On this Baron, fourth Lord Mauduit, Henry II, by a special charter, conferred his own Royal Manor of Warminster, which had been for hundreds of years the personal property of the Saxon and Norman Kings. The seal of the Mauduits, in green wax, still remaining attached to deeds at Longleat, is a Knight on horseback, brandishing a sword: but amongst other documents, other heraldic charges appear. The deed of conveyance of the Manor runs thus:—



“Know all my faithful subjects in France and England, that I, HENRY, King of the English, have granted, and by my present charter do confirm to ROBERT MAUDUIT, my Chamberlain, for his service; the MANOR of WERMINSTER, to himself and his heirs, to be holden by him, with whatever possessions I hold therein, of me and my heirs, by the homage of one soldier. Wherefore I will, and firmly decree, that the said Robert and his heirs after him, shall have and hold that Manor of me and my heirs, as I held it, well and in peace, freely and quietly, entirely, fully and honourably, by the homage aforesaid, with wood and plain, with meadows and pastures, with water and mills, with parks, lakes and fishponds, with roads and ways, and with all other places and possessions thereto belonging, with all their rights and free customs, as liberty of gallows, assize of bread and beer, free warren and market, &c.”

? II

The deed is attested by the Bishops of Ely, Norwich, and Exeter. There is no date, but it will probably lie between A.D. 1154 and 1189. The grant was confirmed by Richard I, in similar terms.

But after the death of Richard, this Robert Mauduit, first lord of Warminster, took up arms, with other Barons, against King John, and being defeated was mulcted of part of his vast estates; not of the chief portion, however, which descended to his elder son William, nor of the lordship of Warminster, which he conferred on his younger son Robert.

William, the elder brother, joined the confederate lords against Henry III, and was taken prisoner at the battle of Lincoln, but returning to his allegiance, 17 Henry III, he bound himself by a solemn oath under his sign manual to perpetual fidelity, and was restored; he died in 1236, leaving one son William. This nobleman, though thirty six years old at his father's death, was still a ward of Richard, E. of Cornwall, till 1250, who also held the Hundred of Warminster, *per Judaismum*: but as son and heir to Alice, his mother, only child and heir of Waleran de Newburg, Earl of Warwick, he afterwards succeeded to

the titles and estates of his grandfather, and did homage for his princely Barony, in 47 Henry III; but he had inherited his father's hostile feelings towards the Plantagenet monarch, and in a tumultuous rising among the Barons, hurrying to secure his great castle of Warwick, he was surprized in it, and carried prisoner to Kenilworth. It appears he died while confined within the walls of this fortress, though negociations were on foot for his release, on the payment of a fine of nineteen hundred marks. He had no children. Thus became extinct the elder line of the Mauduits.

Robert, the younger brother, (son of Robert Maudit, first lord of Warminster,) as mentioned above, received the manor from his father. His brother William, by free and generous gift, added largely to his father's bequest. This Robert married Agnes, daughter of Robert de la Mere, whose dowry consisted of land in Bishopstrow, and other places; and to their son William, third lord of the Manor, Henry III, by grant now extant, chartered a yearly fair in Warminster, to be held on the vigil, the festival, and the morrow of St. Laurence, provided it should appear that the establishment of St. Laurence's Fair did not injure the other fairs. By his marriage with Eugenia, daughter of Fulke Fitzwarine, the blood of the Mauduits of Warminster was commingled with that of the Fitzwarines, a powerful and fiery family of Shropshire.

While Prince John, son of Henry II, was a mere boy, Fulke Fitzwarine, also a child, but a scion of one of the noblest Norman families, checkmated the young Prince in a game of chess. John in a passion, snatched up the chessboard, and struck his companion a violent blow on the head. The fierce spirit of the Fitzwarines rose in the boy's breast, and he returned the attack with such vigour, that John falling

backwards struck his head against the wall, and fell stunned on the ground. As soon as he recovered, he ran whining and weeping to his father. Henry listened to his tale, and knowing the boy's hot temper, told him he richly deserved what he had got; then sent for the tutor, and commanded that the boy should be flogged, as the "Romance of the Fitzwarines" words it, "*finely and well.*" John never forgave the affront. As soon as he became King, he seized all Fulke's estates. In retaliation Fulke armed his followers, and, aided by others who had smarted under John's tyranny, carried on a petty conflict with the King. His encounters, adventures, perils, and escapes in many a county of England, make a long tale. A part of his history belongs to Wiltshire. As he lay in ambush in Braden Forest, in the north of the county, tidings reached him of the approach of a party of merchants, bearing rich cloths and other valuable goods, purchased in foreign lands for the King and Queen. He pounced down upon the party, and notwithstanding the obstinate resistance of the serjeants at arms, who formed the guard, carried off the costly brocades, silks, and ermines, divided them all amongst his followers, then released the merchants, and sent his compliments and thanks to the King for his handsome present. The King was soon on his track, and hunted him from place to place, till in desperate need, he took refuge in the Abbey of Stanley, near Chippenham: here he was besieged, says a Latin MS. in the Bodleian, "*for fourteen days by almost the whole county, and by many others who had flocked to the place. But he came out safe in the peace of the Church, and was reconciled in the following year, A.D. 1202.*" One of this family held lands near Highworth, in this county, from whom the parish of Stanton Fitzwarren is named. Of this branch probably descended Eugenia Fitzwarine, wife of William Mauduit, of Warminster.

Their son, Warine Mauduit, accompanied Prince Edward, after Edward I, to the Holy Land : he married Elizabeth de Lisle, and had issue Thomas, who, having united himself to the Earl of Lancaster against the Despensers, was taken prisoner in the fight at Boroughbridge, condemned and executed at Pontefract, A.D. 1322. His estates were conferred by the King on Hugh Despenser the elder. He left by his wife Eleanor, daughter of the great Lord Bogo, one son John, at the time of his father's attainder still a minor. For this child the Warminster property seems to have been specially exempted from confiscation, and held in trust for him by Sir John de Kyngeston ; but this guardian also became attainted, and lost all his own and his ward's possessions. Imbert de Grey was next in charge, apparently on behalf of the minor, till 15 Edward II, the crown again seized the Manor :—“ *We command Henry Bray, our Escheator on this side Trent, that he take to the King's use the Manor of Warminster, together with the Hundred, and other appurtenances.*” In 20 Edw : II, Kyngeston threw himself on the King's mercy, and was again admitted to the custody of the Warminster Manors, “ *quamdiu regi placuerit.*” But after the fall of the Despensers, John Mauduit's whole inheritance was restored ; 1 Edward III, he was knighted, and served the office of Sheriff of Wilts many years, and was Governor of Old Sarum. His son Thomas died before his father, leaving issue by his wife, Joan de Bassingborne, one child, Matilda, sole heiress, who carried all the estates of her ancestors in marriage to Sir Henry Greene, of Drayton, co. Northampton. Thus terminated, in male descent, the ancient family of Mauduit, lords of the manor of Warminster from the reign of Henry II to that of Richard II.

An inquisition taken after the death of Thomas Mauduit,

dated March 1, 1327, recites that he died seized (amongst other lands) of the manor of Warminster, held *in capite* by the service of one soldier, and valued at £48 : 8 : 2 per annum. It contained 400 acres of arable land, 200 of which were valued at sixpence an acre, and 200 at 33s. 4d. an acre. There were also 30 acres of meadow, worth 2s. an acre, also a common pasture, worth 12s. 6d. per annum. A water-mill was valued at 14s. per annum. The toll of the market was worth £5 and the fees of the Hundred £10 per annum. Thirty free tenants paid annually £8 : 16 : 3; eight *customarii* held each one virgate of land, paying rent of £4 : 6 : 5, with a yearly rate of £1 : 6 : 8 to the lord *ad auxilium*; five *semi-virgatarii* paid per annum 30s.; six *coterelli* paid 10s.; all of whom paid also Church scot of 4s. These were obliged to work when summoned, and their labour was valued at £3 : 4 : 0. There were 80 acres of wood, of which 60 were underwood, valued at 5s. per annum. Forty hens, worth five shillings, were rendered every Christmas Day. To estimate the value of these rentals and receipts in present money we must multiply the items at least thirty-fold.

The Mauduits also claimed and exercised the *privilege* of hanging felons on Alkmere Gallows in Longbridge Deverill, but their title both to the site of the gallows and to the right of hanging was challenged by the Lord Abbot of Glaston.

The original Manor of the lordship of Warminster now seems shrunk to meagre dimensions. Portions of the parish, separated from the Manor during successive years, but still called manors, and carrying certain manorial privileges, were Smallbrook, Boreham, Furneaux, Warminster Scudamore or Skydmore, Samborne, Newport or Portway, and others.

Sir Henry Green, who married Matilda, last of the Mau-

duits, leaves Warminster Manor to Ralph Green, who died childless, and lies buried under a magnificent tomb in St. Peter's, Lowick, Northamptonshire. The Manor now passes to Constance, daughter of Sir Henry Green; she in 9 Edward IV, is married to John Lord Stafford, younger son of Humphry, Duke of Buckingham, and we find her mortgaging her manors of Warminster and Westbury to Thomas Billing, Justice of the Peace, for seven years, on an annual payment of £120. Her son, Edward, Earl of Stafford, died childless. Some of the estates of the Greenes reverted to the Vere family, as Isabella, sister of Sir Henry Greene, had been married to Sir Richard Vere: his son, Sir Henry, had three daughters, the eldest of whom, Elizabeth, was, about 11 Henry VII, married to John Lord Mordaunt, and there came to her by compositions with some claimants, and want of issue in others, the greater part of the Vere property, with the Lordship of Warminster. It is afterwards found in the hands of the Mervyns, of Fonthill, probably by marriage with an heiress of the Veres. There had been a former connection between these two manors, for John Mauduit had married the eldest of the four daughters of Andrew Gifford, co-heiress of Fonthill, and in 1299, had presented to the Rectory. In 30 Henry VIII, one Stephen Agard is summoned to show cause why the Manor of Warminster should not be seized into the King's hands, being alienated without the consent of the Crown. There is another such summons in the reign of Elizabeth: but they probably refer to some other small manor. George Touchet, Lord Audley, and Earl of Castlehaven, married Lucy, only child of Sir James Mervyn, of Fonthill. 20 Elizabeth, George Lord Audley, and James Mervyn, his brother-in-law, held the whole manor. Lord Mervyn Audley (beheaded 1631,) sold the Manor of Warminster to Sir Thomas Thynne

(grandson of the founder of Longleat) who had married his sister, Mary Audley.

## XI.

## Warminster Scudamore.

**W**HEN this estate became separated from the Manor of Warminster, it is impossible to say. Walter Scudamore held lands in Upton as early as 14 Stephen, 1166. But the first mention of tenure of lands in Warminster by this family is in 1365 (38 Edward III,) when Peter de Escudamor, lord of Upton, conveyed all his estates in Upton, Warminster, and other places, to six trustees, with a proviso that he reserved a right to dispose of his manors as he should think fit, but that if he should die beyond the seas, or before he should obtain *reseisin*, the feoffees should dispose of the said manors according to a *deed tripartite*, indented and lodged by the said Peter in the Treasury of New Sarum, together with his Will. Both father and son were slain in the wars of the Roses, and most of their property was confiscated. But Peter Scudamore left one daughter, Catharine, who became wife of Sir John Raynes, and he mortgaged, or sold the manor of Upton, six virgates of land in the town of Warminster, Norridge, &c. to John Hartnell and Son, mercers, of London, for £1,000 sterling, 1433, (12 Henry VI). Warminster Scudamore was soon after purchased by Walter Lord Hungerford. On his attainder, it fell to the Crown 1541 : but it was restored by Queen Mary to his son.

Another considerable portion also of the old Mauduit's manor passed from the descendants of the Greenes to the Hungerfords, a daughter of which family, Mary, carried this estate, with many great manors, to Edward, Lord Hastings, 7 Edward IV. This nobleman's father, opposing the designs of Richard, Duke of Gloucester, on the throne, was beheaded on Tower Hill, and the vengeance of the Protector lighting on all the family, the South Wilts property was confiscated, and granted to the Duke of Norfolk. It is, however, found again in the possession of the Hastings family, between whom and the Hungerfords a long law-suit lay, which issued in an award to the Hungerfords, as heirs general. They again lost it, by attaint, and again recovered it, wholly or in part, under Edward VI: it continued about a hundred years in possession, and, after being heavily mortgaged, was eventually sold in 1684, by Sir Edward Hungerford, the spendthrift, to Sir Stephen Fox, of London, for £3,650. Two years afterwards, Sir Stephen Fox sold the Warminster manor, with part of Upton, to the first Viscount Weymouth, on Jan. 10th, 1686.

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## XII.

### Newport, or Portway.

**I**T appears that the direct interest of the Mauduits in this estate ceased with one Alice Mauduit; and she leaving a daughter Matilda, married (1 Henry V) to W. Mohun, Newport, with some other messuages, went to her three granddaughters, Alice, Agnes, and Elene. The lands so



divided were in Warminster, Samborne, and Smallbrook. Elene married John Wolley; Agnes, Thomas Blanchard; and Alice, William Barrel: to them Alice, the grandmother, leases a tenement in the market-place of Warminster, opposite the "*Tolleselde*," for 13s. 4d. a year. Barrel had sold his third part before 22 Edward IV, and John Poole or Pole, or his heirs, sold it *temp.* to Richard Middlecott: Blanchard had sold his third part to his brother-in-law Wolley, 34 Henry VI, having the same year granted a lease conjointly with his son-in-law, Thomas, of lands in Warminster, to J. Worthey *et al.*, they doing suit and service at his court of Newport, Elene Wolley, widow, is married to John Tisbury, and grants (15 Edward IV,) on a lease of 86 years, a garden above Newport, also a close east of that garden, called the "Common Close;" 20 Edward IV, she makes a feoffment of her lands in Warminster, Bishopstrow, and Smallbrook, to eight trustees; her daughter, Margery Jakes, of Bristol, sells to John Gilbert, all the above enfeoffment, together with one third of a mill in Smallbrook, and one third of the bailiwick of the Hundred of Warminster. In 1515 (6 Henry VIII,) John Gilbert, of Steeple Ashton, sells the Newport estate to William Birde, Vicar of Bradford, Chaplain to Walter, Lord Hungerford, who being accused of calling the King "a heretic," pays the penalty of high treason; and a grant is made by patent from the Crown to Sir Thomas Moyle, of the Augmentation Office, of all Birde's property, to be held of the King in *socage*, *i. e.*, by free tenure, without renewal or fines, by payment of an annual quit-rent. All this property T. Moyle sells, *temp.* Edward VI, to John Wyse, citizen and founder of London; 1 Elizabeth, 1588, Thomas Wyse sells the Manor or capital farm of Portway to John Poole, of Sherville, Hants, of whom it was purchased by Richard

Middlecott, of Bishopstrow, clothier. He died 37 Elizabeth, 1595, when an inquest was taken on behalf his son and heir, William, aged 37 : the Escheators were—

Thomas Gifford, Gent.	Wm. Perye, Gent.
Christ. Eyer, do.	Ino. Beache, do.
Henry Snow, do.	Ino. Hinton, do.

*cum aliis ignobilibus.*

The heir was found to be seized in desmesne of 7 houses, 7 barns, 7 gardens, 100 ac. arable land, 60 mead, 200 pasture, 20 wood, 2 stalls in the market, &c. in Warminster and Bishopstrow ; also of the Manor of Warminster Newport, with lands thereto belonging, and lands in Fonthill Episcopi, Heywood, Westbury, Upton, and Corsley ; also of a  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a mill at Smallbrook, and of all the manor of Smallbrook, except the capital messuage and desmesne lands.

Portway, including the manor of Newport, Poole's manor, Horton's land, Kyrton's farm, and other small tenures, subdivided after the breaking up of the Mauduit property, and frequently changing hands, remained with the Middlecott's, from 1 Elizabeth to 1 George IV, a period of 262 years : in 1820, the estate, then containing about 500 acres, was bought by the Marquis of Bath.

Thus by far the greater part of the old manorial property of the lords of Warminster, with all royalties, rights, privileges, liberty of gallows, assize of bread and beer, market, free warren, Courts Baron, woods, wastes, escheats, &c., with all lands, messuages, and tenements, freehold or leased out on copyhold or other tenure, by gift of dowry, by frequent purchases or inheritance, through succeeding generations, vested in the noble house of Longleat ; and the present Marquis of Bath remains Lord Paramount of the Manor and Hundred of Warminster.

Portway House, a noble mansion, built by the Middlecotts

in 1715, is the private property of the dowager Marchioness of Bath

In 1871 a leaden seal was dug up in the terrace walk behind Portway House ; it bears on the obverse the heads of SS. Peter and Paul, on the reverse BONIFATIUS P. P. VIII ; it evidently had been attached to some bull of Pope Boniface the ninth, who was Bishop of Rome from 1389 to 1404.

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### XIII.

## Smallbrook.

**T**HIS small manor is mentioned in Domesday, amongst the lands of Herveus and other royal officers, as held by Alberic, the chamberlain ; it was assessed at two hides, contained three carucates, one in desmesne, the other two occupied by a villan, and twelve borderers, with six acres of meadow, and nine of wood ; it was valued at forty shillings. Some lands in East Samborne were in the fee of Smallbrook, also a close in Bogelygh, or Bugley, six acres in Chedelhanger, and twelve acres *in diver. loc.* some near the lands of Peter de Escudamor.

Smallbrook afterwards belonged to Gilbert, Earl of Clare : he was slain in the battle of Bannockburn, Captain of the English vanguard, and leaving no son, his estates were divided amongst his three sisters : Smallbrook was settled for life on his widow, the lady Maud, and after her decease fell to the co-heiresses ; of whom, two sisters married the

two favourites of Edward II, Gavestone and Despenser ; the third founded Clare Hall, Cambridge.

In the reign of Henry II, Smallbrook was held of the duchy of Lancaster, in military fee, by the Waspails, who came in at the conquest, and first settled at Hartley in Hants ; they afterwards held lands in Warminster, first as tenants of De Clare, Earl of Gloucester, and afterwards by purchase as proprietors of Smallbrook, where in their mansion of Olwey, they lived for many generations. Their leases are sealed with the arms of De Clare.

The estate descended through defect of an heir male, to Hugh Pakenham, who sold it to Thomas Rogers, of Bradford. The deed of conveyance is in English—a very rare case at so early a date, 1460 ; Hugh Pakenham sells to Thomas Rogers his yard of Smallbrook, and his house called Olwey, and all lands, gardens, yards, rents and fines, which were sometime John Waspail's, for £388 6s. 8d. of which sum were paid in hand 400 marks, and the residue was payable on the Feast of the Purification. 11 Edw: IV, Thomas Rogers, Lord of the Manor of Smallbrook lets to William Priest a close and two acres of land in Warminster, two acres of which lie in Morley field, on a lease of 20 years at 10s. per annum. In 1471, Antony Rogers is found in possession ; in 1550, it was purchased for £465 by John Wyse or Wyse, that citizen and founder of London mentioned before, as having about the same time bought the manor of Portway. At this time the manor of Smallbrook extended into Warminster, Bishopstrow, Norton, Sutton, and Longbridge Deverill. This John Wyse appears to have made Olwey his residence, and to have died there in 1554. Behind the small door in the aisle of the chancel of the Church, near the Baptistery, as of old, was an ancient tomb bearing the legend, PRAY FOR THE SOWLE OF

JOHN WYSSE, ESQ. A.D. MDLIIII. This tomb was removed in 1808, by the Vicar, Rev. M. Rowlandson, presumably to make room for the staircase to the chancel gallery, then erected: this gallery was pulled down in 1872.

Richard Medicott, of Bishopstrow, who in or about the year 1558, bought Newport, became also in the same year proprietor of Smallbrook, "*with the capital messuage and desmesne lands thereto belonging, and held of the Queen as of her honour of Glo'ster, and Duchy of Lancaster, by service of half a Knight's fee,*" by purchase of Thomas Wyse; but within eight years, (1566) Medicott sold a part of the Smallbrook estate to John Bennett, yeoman, in whose family it continued in uninterrupted descent more than three hundred years. By defect of heirs male, it became the inheritance of three daughters, Ann, Mary, and Jane, co-heiresses; the larger portion of the property now belongs to Mr. Matthew Davies, of Warminster, the son of Ann, the eldest daughter. The mansion of Olwey, "a fair country house, with a small park overlooking a fine valley," was pulled down within the last 50 years: the site is occupied by a small farm house; two pillars of the old gateway still remain, and the private road from the Warminster Highway, guarded by a chain. The manor once held courts twice a year, but the privilege is lost. Till quite recently a tithingman was appointed for Smallbrook, and it had a separate assessment to the land tax. Amongst the feoffees of St. Laurence's Chapel is found the name of William Blake, of Smallbrook, *temp.* Elizabeth. Mauger is mentioned, and other residents, but they were probably tenants.

## XIV.

## Boreham.

**B**OREHAM, Boreton, or Burton de la Mere, is a very ancient hamlet in the east of the parish of Warminster, supposed to have been the residence (Edward II) of Robert le Bore (whence its name) who was also lord of Hill Deverill. Le Bore was a family of considerable note in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Robert le Bore (17 Edward II) entered into covenant in a fine to the King of £20 for a licence to the Prior and Convent of St. Rhadegund, of Longleat, to enable him to hold certain lands &c. in Warminster, "*ad inveniendum quatuor capellos.*" He paid £20 to the King for pardon had for his transgression, "*et sibi et hæred', suis in feodo ballium bedellar', hundredi de Wermenstr.*" He founded a Chantry at Hull Deverill, and endowed it with two messuages, thirty acres of arable land, one of mead, and £20 a year to maintain it; of this Chapel of the Holy Trinity, John le Bore is mentioned as Chaplain. In the reign of Henry VI, we read of the Osbornes of Boreton *al.* Boreham: in Henry VII, by marriage the property became vested in the Giffords; Maurice Gifford held it in the time of Elizabeth. The Slopers held a portion from *cir.* 1630 to 1700. Mary Gifford brought her inheritance into the Buckler family. William, commonly called Counsellor Buckler, bequeathed his fine property, including Boreham, to his two daughters, the elder of whom, Dorothea, was married to Sir Thomas Lethbridge, and the younger, Mary, in 1766, to Mr. Astley, of Everleigh; his son Sir John Dugdale Astley, sold the tithing, or reputed manor of Boreham, with some reservations, in 1820, to the late William

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Temple, Esq., (deceased, 1875, aged 95) who destroyed the old mansion of the Bucklers, (which stood between the road and the river, where fishponds still remain, and some fine cedars stand,) and built a new house on higher ground in the parish of Bishopstrow.

A deed (31 Elizabeth) seemed to imply that Boreham had been parcel of the possessions of William Lord Paulet, Marquess of Winton, Treasurer of England: and a small pen and ink sketch lately discovered, about that date, of a map of Warminster, marking the divisions of estates, shows that this was the case.

The house and lands called the Berries, or Buries, were held of the monastery of Monkton Farley.

There is a good window, and other relics of Gothic architecture in a part of Mrs. Morgan's house at Boreham, testifying to the existence of some ecclesiastical building, of which there is no record.

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## XV.

### Samborne.

**E**AST Sambourne was part of the manor of Smallbrook.

1 Edward II, there is a grant of a croft in east Samborne, from Robert Swotinge, of Cortone, to Robert, his nephew. John Osborne, of Bishopstrow, grants to Alice Maudit, lands in Sambourne, which he had formerly received of the said Alice, for her life; at her decease to descend to her granddaughters, Alice, Agnes, and Elene.

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## XVI.

## Avenel's Fee.

**N**ICHOLAS Avenil\* held "in the town of Wermenstre one hide of the lands of Hugh de Vernon, by the service of keeping shut one of the gates of the lord Hugh Poyntz, at Cury Malet," 23 Edward I.

Avenel's Fee, or tithing, or the manor of Furneaux, (from Sir Simon de Furneaux, once in possession,) consists of houses and lands "*situate dispersedly*" over all the parish of Warminster. The name of the Manor still survives in "Furnax Lane," and in a field near Coldharbour. The lords of Avenel's Fee are now the President and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, in eleven-fourteenths, and the Governors of Bruton Grammar School in three-fourteenths of the property: its area is 218*a.* 0*r.* 36*p.* The manor-house is that recently numbered 4, in the Market-place, nearly opposite the Savings Bank; and whenever a Court is held, the Marquis of Bath is under obligation to find food and lodging for five men, representatives of the Lords of Avenel's Fee, and for their horses; or in lieu thereof, his lordship may pay a fee of £10. No court has been held, nor its claims exacted, for the last few years. The College allows fifteen shillings to its tenants for an annual dinner.

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\* Nicholas Avenil, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, was slain in Ireland, 14 John, fighting under De Verdon, or Vernon.

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## XVII.

## Bugley and Whitborne.

**W**ILLIAM de Corselegh grants "to the Prior, Brethren, and Sisters of Maiden Bradley, 20s. rent on a teneement in the Manor of Warminster, and also 2 crofts of land with their appurtenances in Wyteburn and Corselegh."

Other grants were made to these, of many cottages and a considerable area of land on the Frome side of Warminster, and they remained part of the possessions of the Priory of Maiden Bradley, till 36 Henry VIII, when sharing the fate of other monastic property, they were granted by the Crown to Richard Andrews, of Hayle, who conjointly with Nicholas Temple, had a grant also of Church lands at Bishopstrow, and who, the same year (1546) in which he received them, sold them to Sir John Thynne.

Whitborne Manor House, in Corsley, was the dower-house of Dorothy, widow of Sir John Thynne, married secondly to Carew Raleigh. Hither Sir Walter Raleigh is said to have retired, when forbidden the Court of Elizabeth.—

"Coming to the village Inn, and taking out his pipe, and lighting it in a room by himself, the landlord was so frightened at what he saw, and the smoke coming out of his mouth, without his being discomposed at it, that on his leaving the house, and asking what he had to pay, the landlord refused to take his money, concluding he must be an emissary from the regions of eternal fire."

St. John's Hospital, Wilton, holds the freehold of an estate in Whitborne, but it has been leased for many years to the successive lords of Longleat.

## XVIII.

## Kingston Lands.

**S**IR John de Kyngeston was a landowner in Corsley and Warminster, *temp.* Edward II, and acted as guardian to John Maudit, a minor (as related above); his small estate lay beyond Newport. When the Search Hoop Inn (now the Athenæum) was taken down, a coat of arms was discovered which was believed to be that of the Kingstons; and hence it was supposed this was their Manor House.

Edward Horton, of Warminster, (22 Elizabeth) passed the Kingston lands in trust to Robert Long, of Whaddon, and others: 3 James I (1607) Edward Skutt, yeoman, bought them of Robert Long, for £620; and his daughter and heiress carried them as her dowry to Ralph Hastings, of Woodlands, one of the Huntingdon family.

That part of the town, near the spot where the Turnpike gate stood, on the road to Westbury, still bears the name of Skuttland, *vulgo* Scotland.

## XIX.

## Sloper's Lands.

**T**HOSE fourteen coppices, by estimation 600 acres, called Black Dog Woods, in Westbury and other parishes, were sold on Sept. 26th, 1606, by George, Lord Audley, and Lucy his wife, to Simon Sloper, of Warminster, for £500, with all rights, except the office of Bailiwick, or Forester of Selwood.

About the same time, Lord Audley sold S. Sloper a leasehold estate, with a manor house and lands, a coppice called Tasker's Croft, a woody ground called Layns, and a pasture Mancomb. Simon Sloper lies buried near the Vestry door, inside Warminster Church; his second son, William, has a small brass. In 1636, John Sloper and his brother William, mortgaged the estate and woods to John Grubb, of Potterne, for £1,100. No interest or principal having been paid by the Slopers, Grubb was put in possession, and by consent assigned the mortgage (now £1,525) to John Norden and others; they conveyed in fee all the lands, with Fairwood, and Holt Coppice, to Nicholas Greene, for £10,000. These woods, by purchase, afterwards became the property of the Marquis of Bath.

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The Norridge Woods, which belonged to Walter, Lord Hungerford, on his attainder had been purchased (3 Edward VI), by Sir John Thynne.

In 1648, the Slopers sold to Edward Middlecott and sons, those four acres of pasture adjoining the Church, called Mauduit's Lands, and seven acres of arable land on the east of Warminster, and three more lying in the Sands, near Picked Acre, for the term of their lives, according to the custom of the manor of Furnax, *alias* Avenel's Fee.

## XX.

## Selwood Forest.

**A**MONG the ancient forests of Britain, none was of much greater extent than the Forest of Selwood, called

expressly COIT MAUR, or the Great Wood. Contracted as it was, century after century, yet Leland writes, *temp.* Henry VIII,

“The Forest of Selwood, as it is now, is a 30 miles in compase, and stretchith one way almost unto Werminstre, and another way unto the quarters of Shaftesburie, by estimacion a 10 miles.”

It extended westward far into Somerset, then passed in a easterly direction round Chapmanslade to Westbury, skirted the foot of the Downs north and east of Warminster, and enclosing the Black-Dog, Norridge, Longleat, Southleigh, and Eastleigh woods, reached its southern limit at Pen-Silwood, near Mere. Here were formerly to be seen, distinctly traceable, though now much overgrown with copse-wood, hundreds of hollows and excavated pits, covering an area of six or seven hundred acres, which with fair reason may be believed to be, as those at Hisomleigh, on the northern edge of the Forest, near Thoulston, and others more recently discovered and carefully examined, near Salisbury, subterranean habitations of the old Celtic tribes.

The woods above-named were no doubt a part of Selwood Forest. One portion is frequently mentioned in old deeds as “Warminster Wood.” A perambulation of the Forests of our Lord the King was made 28 Edward I, whereby it was ascertained that all the bailiwick of Selwood which was in the county of Wilts was appropriated to the Forest after the coronation of King Henry, greatgrandfather of the then King, except the wood of Heghtreborn, and the wood of WERMYNSTRE, and the wood of Westbury, which were in the Forest. The office of Forester of Selwood remained with the Crown till Charles I empowered a Commission to disforest Selwood and disperse the deer, with reservation,

as royalties, of one third of the woods, while another third was assigned to the Lords of the adjacent Manors, and another to those Commoners, who by ancient prescription, had acquired right of depasturing cattle on the open heaths of the Forest.

But the old county families, settled in or near the Forest, seem from ancient time to have exercised the privilege of hunting deer within its limits; and therefore when Sir John Thynne enclosed a large area for a deer park, and laid restrictions on the chase of deer, (though apparently some compromise had been offered for a supply of venison), on one occasion, in September, 1580, the principal gentlemen of the two counties into which Sir J. Thynne's newly-granted lands extended, including Mr. Popham, the Queen's Attorney, Sir Amyas Paulett, Sir Geo. Rogers, with representatives of the families of Wadham, Coles, Sydenham, Willoughby, Hopton, Horner, Leversedge, Colthurst, Smith, Daniell, Wynter, Chamberlayne, Gisborne, Player, and others, nearly a hundred in number, with forty dogs, entered the Park mounted, and proceeded to hunt. Hugh Stowe, the Head Keeper, boldly protested against the invasion of his master's property, but, threatened by one of the chief hunters with personal assault,—“*he told me,*” writes Stowe to his master who was absent, “*that I should run the risk of his dogs if I durst deny him; that Somersetshire or elsewhere should be too hot for me, and that he would cuff me, or would cause who should do it;*” and powerless to resist so formidable a body, the chase went on, and three bucks were killed.

The trees of Selwood were all Oak or Beech. The Elm is supposed not to be indigenous to Britain. But it has been remarked that this noble tree has gained for itself and its numerous congeners such a settlement in this country,

that but for the plough and scythe, almost every valley and lowland of Wilts would become in fifty years as dense a forest as any that ever covered this Island.

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XXI.

*Nomina Villarum.*

**T**HIS Document, dated Mar. 5, 1316, (9 Ed. II,) consists of returns of the cities, boroughs, and townships, in each Hundred, and of the names of the lords thereof. These details were required to enable the King to exact his military levies, granted by Parliament, when it was ordered that every township should supply one man and four marks of money for the King's wars in Scotland.

HUNDREDUM de WEREMINSTRE.—THOS. MAUDUIT.

Wereminstre—Thos. Mauduit.

Upton—Walterus Skydemore.

North ridge, Tholneston—Walterus Gastelyn.

Corselegh—Priorissa de Stodleghe.

Bysshpestrowe—Abbatissa de Lacock.

Norton—Johannes Bavent.

Sutton Magna—Henricus de Lortehay, *et al.*

Donynton, Teffont—Abbatissa Shaston.

Fisherton, Brabington, Bapton—Jacobus de Norton,  
*et al.*

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## XXII.

## Heralds' Visitations.

**V**ISITATIONS were performed by the Heralds of old times, once in thirty years, to "*inquire into all matters concerning Nobility and Gentility, such as Arms, Crests, Pedigrees, Titles, or Designations, taking cognizance of all, and degrading interlopers and upstarts.*" In a Commission for a Heraldic Visitation, granted by James I, to the Clarenceux King-at-Arms, he was empowered

"To enter all Churches, Castles, Houses, and other places at hys discretion, to peruse, take knowledge, survey, and viewe of all manner of arms, cognizances, crests, and devises of all and singular our subjects, and to reforme all manner of arms unlawfully borne or taken, and to reverse, and to deface, as well in coats, standards and hatchments, as also in plate, jewells, parchments, wyndowes, gravestones, and monuments, whatsoever be contrary to the antiquitie, priviledges, and orders of armes: and to disgrace and make infamous by proclamacyon all persons who do usurp any tittle of honour or dignitie, as esquire, or gentleman."

In the Visitation of 1565, only the name of Perry, of Warminster, is recorded as one to whom his pedigree and arms were allowed by the Heralds; John Beche, having borne arms and taken on him the name and title of an Esquire or Gentleman, but not being able to show any good rights to either of those titles or to any arms belonging to him, appeared before the Clarenceux King-at-Arms, and promised to forbear the use of all such attributes, and disclaimed the name of a Gentleman: Clement Bathe, of Bishopstrow, was disgraded. In the Visitation of 1623, Skutt, of Warminster, alone appears as substantiating his claims; Edmund Medlicott, of Warminster, William Seamount, of Upton Seudamore, and John Turner, of Norton

Bavant, were disclaimed as having unlawfully assumed the arms and titles of Esquire.

## XXIII.

## The Sheriffs' Court.

**G**ENTLEMEN connected with Warminster, or the neighbourhood, as Sheriffs of Wilts were—

- A.D. 1181. ROBERT MAUDITT, of Warminster, who filled the office several times.
1255. JOHN DE VERNON, of Horningsham, founder of the Priory of St. Radegund, Longleat.
1258. GODFRED DE ESCUDAMORE, of Upton.
1329. JOHN MAUDITT, and frequently afterward.
1405. RALPH GREEN, heir of Mauditt.
1567. GEORGE LUDLOW, of Hill Deverill.
1568. SIR JOHN THYNNE, founder of Longleat.
1592. JOHN THYNNE.
1607. SIR THOMAS THYNNE.
1633. SIR H. LUDLOW, Maiden Bradley.
1645. EDMUND LUDLOW, (by Parliament.)
1661. SIR JAMES THYNNE.
1697. JOHN BENETT, of Norton Bavant.
1766. EDWARD MEDLICOTT, of Warminster.
1833. WILLIAM TEMPLE, of Bishopstrow.
1836. SIR JOHN ASTLEY, of Eastleigh.
1873. NATHANIEL BARTON, of Corsley.
1875. CHARLES PAUL PHIPPS, of Westbury.

The place where the Sheriff formerly held his Court was not in any town or village, nor even under the shelter of a homestead, but sometimes on the bleak, open down, near an



old mere-stone, under some great tree, or on the boundary line of the Hundred, spots of such meetings from remote Saxon days. For the two Hundreds of Warminster and Heytesbury the Sheriff's Court was held at "Ilegh." This is probably Eastleigh, in Sutton Parish. Here certainly once grew a great oak; for a MS. *temp.* Edward VI, says, "Out of Corseley Manor was paid yearly 8s. to the Sheriff's Turn at Hundred Oak." Another deed of A.D. 1651, recites—"The Courts holden by the Sheriffs are kept at Iley Oak." Old men, twenty years ago, remembered an aged Oak standing close to Lord Heytesbury's Lodge in Southleigh Wood.

There is an original Latin document at Longleat which is the official record of the Sheriff's Turn, Tour, or Circuit, through the County of Wilts, in 1439, (17 Hen. VI). The object of the Sheriff's Visitation was to collect such taxes as were due to the Exchequer, and to take cognizance of some petty offences; a jury was sworn, and the constables made their presentments. For the Hundred of "Wermester," the Sheriff, Sir J. Lisle, held Court at Ileigh Oak, on Friday in Easter week, 1439. The entries are curious:—

1. The Tithingman of Sutton Parva came—paid 3s.—all well.
2. " " Sutton Magna " " 6s. 8d.—all well.
3. " " Wermester came— " 2s.

Presentments were made casting very serious imputations on the character of the tradesmen of Warminster—"Robert Carpenter, miller, fined,—Thomas Bulbroke, William Pugwell, their bread contrary to the Statute,—John Shisseheley, William Nedecomb, sell hay and oats at unlawful profit,—Richard Foot, Geo. Byngle, fraudulent in selling beer,—Thomas Hancock, ale measures wrong." Little did these millers, bakers, and brewers imagine that their names and

misdemeanours would be dragged into light in 1878, four hundred years after they were dead. It is only right, however, to add that when these cases came before the jury, they decided that the constable of "Wermester" had presented Geo. Byngle unjustly ; with the other guilty parties the law took its course.

4. The Tithingman of Upton came—paid 3s.—all well.
5. " " Dinton " " 6s. 8d.  
One person fined for over toll.
6. The Tithingman of Teffont ought to have come, and paid 6s. 8d. ; but he neither came, nor sent the fee ; so he is *in mercy* (under penalty.)—But afterwards he brought it.
7. The Tithingman of Fisherton paid *nil.*—millers fined.
8. " " Pertworth " 2s.—all well,
9. " " Bishopstrow *nil.*
10. " " Norton " 5s.—miller fined.

The same day and at the same place a Court was held for the Hundred of Heytesbury. Imber, Codford, Boyton—"All well ;" at Upton Lovell, Horningsham, and Ashton, the millers were fined. The men of Tytherington were presented for making a Marling Pit, called Dylpitts, close to the Highway—and justly they deserved presentment, with a right heavy fine, if that deep, yawning gulf, so perilously near the roadside, is the work of their hands.

In other Hundreds the offences against the Law were of more serious character—"The highway is under water—The ditch is not scoured—The bridge is broken—A butcher sells bad meat—Nicholas Nedel is a night-walker, and disturber of the peace—Alice Smith forcibly enters a neighbour's house—Lettice Goodfellow is a common brawler ; she is ordered to be arrested—Joan Wattys is a common thief ; to be arrested—John Bowkelond, against the King's peace, drew blood from Thomas Hibberd with a cudgel, worth a penny ; fined ——."

In case of the non-appearance of the tithingman of each parish at the Sheriff's Turn, the bailiff of the Hundred distrained the tithing, and carried off the constable to the King's Castle at Sarum, and there kept him safe, until he had satisfied our lord the King.

A copy of a Writ of Wm. Colynborne, Sheriff in 1475, recites—"The within named Thomas Tropenel is to have of the land of the within named Henry Etwell and Mary his wife, in Warminster, in my county, 300 acres of land with the appurtenances thereof, according to the exigence of this writ." It seems to be part of a decree cutting off an entail.

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#### XXIV.

### Proclamation of Queen Mary in Warminster.

**A** fierce quarrel arose out of the Proclamation of Mary in the Town of Warminster, between SIR JOHN THYNNE and LORD STOURTON, the details of which are supplied from letters at Longleat published by Canon Jackson.

The Protector Somerset was beheaded on Jan. 22, 1552; on July 6, 1553, King Edward VI died; on July 10, John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, caused the LADY JANE GREY, who was married to his son, Lord Guildford Dudley, to be proclaimed Queen. Charles, Lord Stourton, was son of Elizabeth Dudley, sister to the Duke of Northumberland. Queen Jane's short reign closed on Wednesday, July 19th. On that same day Mary was proclaimed Queen in London.

The tidings reached Longleat by a short note to Sir John Thynne. Orders were immediately issued by the Privy Council to the Justices of Wilts to proclaim the Queen throughout the County. A commission also had been sent to Lord Stourton, apparently a firm adherent of Mary's, though cousin to Jane's husband, appointing him Lord Lieutenant of Wilts, Dorset, and Somerset, with powers to raise troops. He had also received more recently a similar warrant to that transmitted to the Justices, and acting under this double authority, he empowered one Kent, as his representative, to proclaim the Queen in the Market Place at Warminster. But Sir John Thynne, being High Steward of Warminster, and not having received any official notification of Lord Stourton's nomination as Lord Lieutenant, refused, in conjunction with Sir John Bonham, another magistrate, to admit Kent's interference, or to acknowledge his authority; and amidst tumult and opposition from Kent and his party, with rough language and some violence on both sides, Sir John himself proclaimed the Queen in the High Street in Warminster. Sir John Thynne had, however, in a courteous manner asked Lord Stourton for a copy of his commission, and sent a messenger to Stourton House to wait for it. Kent reported to his master that swords had been drawn in the Warminster streets, and his life threatened. Hereupon Lord Stourton wrote the following letter to Sir John Thynne; the original bears signs of the haste, excitement, and anger in which it was written:—

“Where as of late I receyvyd the Quene's Matie's letters as well for pupplyshing of here highnes Juste title unto the crowne of this Realme of England, Fraunce and Hyreland, with all dyngnytes belonging unto the same, as also for the charge of thre Sherys, that is to say, Wyltes, Somerset, and Dorset, the good order of the same, and Reysynge, Revueing, and Armyng the powyrs of these said Counties ageynst all

here hignes enymes as the case shall requyre ; doinge my dewtie to her in causyng here Matie's Juste tyle and name to be puppysshed by the officer of Warmester, thou moste trayturrusly, as I am credeably informed dydes not oonly rebuke, revyle, but also thretyn the saide person to hange hym, and indede haddyste sleyne him, yf good hap had not byn, because he so dyd ; wherin thou hast shewyd thyself to be . . . . . \* not only an untrusty . . . . . \* but chyefly an arraunt and rank traitor. This shal be to let the wyte that I am a man most im— . . . . . \* a matter. Therefore I Command and Requyre the in the Quene's highnes name that thou nether stere nor caull togeder any person or persons to arme or leade levy in batell for any intent without my assent and knowleyge : yf thou do, I let the wese I will proclayme thee traytour : and as for thee to have a copy of my comyssion, thou getyst none. Thowe shalt geve credit to onester men than thy self, and so I advise the to do, or eyls I will spend my blod but I wulbe thy skurge.

From my howse xxijth of July,

By me,  
CHARLES STOURTON."

Sir John Thynne, and the magistrates acting with him now address Queen MARY, and testify that though in the troublesome and seditious time they had received divers letters from certain lords and others in London, to set forth the usurped titles of JANE, daughter to the Duke of Suffolk, yet that they had stood fast in their allegiance to her Highness, and had duly issued her Highness' proclamation in the town of Warminster, and other places, which was joyfully received of all the people : and they further declare their readiness to accomplish the Queen's pleasure to the uttermost of their powers.

Another letter is addressed to the Lords of the Privy Council, in which the Magistrates repeat their vows of fealty, and also represent that Lord Stourton had caused himself to be proclaimed in Warminster, and divers places the Queen's Lieutenant for the County, and they desire

\* Words illegible through damp.

further instructions in regard to her Highness' will in this behalf.

On July 26, Sir John Thynne replies to Lord Stourton's intemperate and undignified letter, thus :—

“I having received letters for the proclayming of the Quene's Highness our liege Soveragne Ladye, and repaying in quiet order to Warminster (whereof I am High Steward,) for the purpose, at my coming thither was answered by that seditious and lying vile knave Kent, that I should not proclayme her Highness there that day, declaring that you had given him so in commandment, which was strange for me to hear, for two causes, the one for that no good subject ought to deny the setting forth of Her Highness's most just title in good order; the other, for that if ye had borne me the like friendship as I have and meant towards you, ye would have made me privy thereunto, being officer there, and so nere unto you, and not have committed the doing thereof to so vile a person, which might have besemed the best within the Realm in his own person to have put in execution; yet I, taking this thing to have risen rather of the cankerdness of that varlet towards me than that ye would either for the matter's sake or lack of friendship toward me commit any such thing to him, sent one to you in friendly sort to desire to know the truth of your Commission, offering myself ready for the accomplishment of the same as the case should require; and wher(as) yester-night at my repair home I thought to have found the copy of your said commission, if you had received any, I found a letter sent hither from you which toucheth me so near as I cannot leave it unanswered. And wher(as) ye say ye received the Queen's Majestie's letters for the publishing of Her Highness's just title to the Crown of this realm of England, doing your duty therein causing Her Majestie's just title and name to be published by the officer of Warminster, (as ye say,) I most traitorously, as ye are credibly informed, did not only rebuke, revile, but also threaten the same person to hang him, which I answer is most false and untrue, for I made no quarrell to him therefore as all the town and countrie can and will testifie, and sure I am that neither myself nor any of mine drew any weapon upon him, nor offered to strike him, nor yet threatened to hang him, (although I once saved him from hanging,) but indeed I told the varlet I would make him know me (and so I will,) to be High Officer there, and not in this troublesome time, or at any other time, to proclaim any lieutenantancy there without shewing commission from the Queen's Highness, nor copy of commission, nor yet letters of your hand, but only his own credit, which being so vile a knave, me thought too sklendre in such

a case. And whereas ye call me not only traitor, but also arrant rank traitor; I herein defie you and all others, and when time may serve I will purge myself of that vile name to your and all others shame that shall charge me therewith."

Sir John concludes by again asking for a copy of the Royal Commission, which he professes himself ready to obey.

It appears that Sir John Bonham had energetically supported Sir John Thynne in opposing Lord Stourton's agents in Warminster, so that on him likewise the passionate nobleman poured out a flood of abuse and menace, in another of (as Sir John Thynne endorses it,) "The Lord Stourton's lewd\* letters." To it Sir John Bonham, calmly and sarcastically retorts with a denial that he had used any personal violence towards "that vile and lying knave Kent," notwithstanding that "the varlet" had expressed overnight his insolent intention of defying the Justices on the morrow; taunts him with his "nereness of blode to th' arche traitor fawtour of all this mischeve," reminds him that the Lady Jane was proclaimed Queen almost at his doors, yet he took no immediate action—but, a little nervous, as his friend at Longleat, of the perilous consequence of seeming to slight a Royal Warrant, he declares himself perfectly prepared to obey the Commission, if only he can see the original, or a copy, or can be referred to any trustworthy person who has seen it: he says also he has a body of troopers ready for her Majesty's service.

Lord Stourton, in much subdued tones, replies that the Queen herself will answer for his loyalty; that as to Bonham's "goynge to the quenes highnes with ayde in her behalf, it is after meat mustard;" that a copy of his Commission may be seen at Sir Henry Long's, or in Sarum, at

\* i.e. Coarse and vulgar: *vid.* Trench.

the Mayor's; and that he will, considering his duty, continue to watch Bonham. This letter is docketed by Sir John Thynne,

"The mynute of my Lord Stourton's letters, lowdly written to Mr. Bonham, July, 1553."

In September, Lord Stourton writes from the Court of Queen Mary to the Sheriff of Wilts, with instructions to prepare for the coming election, warns him to be cautious that no abettors of the Lady Jane are admitted as candidates, denounces Sir John Thynne and Sir John Bonham as traitors, and signifies the Queen's pleasure "nott to have onny souche spottyde persons within her courte of parlyamente."

In self-defence, the two Knights take up arms against their powerful and treacherous neighbour, and object certain articles and counter charges of treason in the Queen's Court of Law;—that he proclaimed himself Lieutenant of the three shires without warrant; that he kept Queen Mary's proclamation unpublished for fourteen days; that he suffered one Thornhill to harbour in his house at Stourton, and thence to proceed and proclaim the Lady Jane at Shaston, (Shaftesbury); that the next day the Lady Jane was proclaimed at Frome, distant only five miles from Stourton, yet the said Lord did nothing to let the proclamation; that at Wells, distant from his house ten miles, the Bishop of Bath preaching a vile and unseemly sermon in his Cathedral against Queen Mary, the said Lord neither stirred nor did anything for many days after; that he never proclaimed the Queen till his Uncle was apprehended; and lastly, they certify that they were in fear of this Lord, lest he should enter and rifle their houses when absent in the Queen's service, "*as he ons did myn,*" adds Sir John Thynne, "*when I was at Windsor with the King, before the Duke of Somerset's first apprehension.*"



As the suit proceeds Sir John Thynne's lawyer receives proposals from Lord Stourton for amicable settlement. He advises his client to accept the terms: "I thynke the sayd Lord doth perfectly repente his rassel folly towards you; all was agaynst his harte which he wrote, spake, or dyd at any time agaynst you: but his honour may nott suffer to submyt hym to you." He recommends, however, that Sir John should represent himself as determined to press on the action to a judgment, in order to obtain more satisfactory conditions. Overtures were also made through Sir John's Chaplain. Sir John's decision was:—"I never meddell in any man's matters, but myne own; I sought not the breache of fryndshippe betwene hym and me, neither will I seke the reconsiliacyon."

The final issue of this prosecution is not known. But less than four years after Lord Stourton ended his life on the gallows. This savage and dark-spirited man was hung at New Sarum with a silken halter, on March 6, 1557, for the murder of his neighbours, W. Hartgill and his son, of Kilmington. Part of a twisted wire, with the noose used in his execution, hung over his tomb in Salisbury Cathedral till *cir.* 1775.

In anticipation of the invasion of England by the Spaniards, Beacons were erected on all commanding elevations. There was one on Cley Hill for giving the alarm to Warminster, and the neighbourhood. Instructions were issued to the Constables of the Hundred to provide that the Beacon on Cley Hill "*be well and sufficiently furnished with good and dry wood, and a barrel in which pitch hath been, besides 5 or 6 lbs. of pitch;*" a watchman was to be appointed, who should be an able man, both of body and discretion, to look well after the Beacon; and Mr. Carr, the

elder, of Corsley, Mr. Blake, of the Ashes, Richard Holwey and Christopher Daniel, of Norridge, Mr. Hobbs, of Bugley, and others of the meetest persons thereabouts, were "*to look after the watchman, and see that the Beacon was well and orderly watched, and fired only on just cause, nor without making the Justices of the Peace and Constables privy thereto.*"

"O'er LONGLEAT's towers, o'er Cranbourne's oaks, the fiery herald flew ;  
And roused the shepherds of Stonehenge, the rangers of Beaulieu."

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XXV.

## Ludlow and Bansey.

**T**HE cruel war between Charles I and his Parliament broke out in 1642. At the beginning of 1643, as the prospects of the Parliamentary party in Wilts seemed but gloomy, EDMUND LUDLOW, of Hill Deverill, having assumed an attitude of very pronounced hostility to the King, was sent down into the county with a commission to raise a troop with all speed.

On April 30, 1643, one Capt. Jones, under orders from Sir Edward Hungerford, plundered Longleat House. The soldiers broke open wardrobes and cupboards, and carried off dresses, plumes of feathers, a green velvet saddle, another fine velvet saddle covered with green lace, four new military saddles, other harness, three horses, one grey mare, and swept the larder and cellar clean of food and liquor.

Ludlow was soon at the head of a body of troopers, gathered chiefly at first from the parishes in which he, or

his father, held property ; and hearing that some of the King's forces had ransacked his father's house at Maiden Bradley, "I conceived (he says in his Memoirs) that I might take some stragglers, or some way or other annoy the enemy ; therefore I went thither after night with about forty horse, when I could hear of no men, yet I found much provision which a gentlewoman had obliged the people of the town to bring together, and which she was preparing to send to the King's army ; amongst which was half a dozen pasties of my father's venison, ready baked, which we carried away with us." Next year he appears in Wilts as High Sheriff, by warrant of Parliament, and commander of a regiment, and was joined, amongst men of Warminster and its neighbourhood, by HENRY WANSEY, of Warminster, who received a commission as his Major. Henry Wansey had seven sons, some of whom fought for the King, some for the Parliament. There is a tradition in the family that when on a certain occasion a Council of War was being secretly held in an underground chamber in Major Wansey's house, his little daughter was brought down that the officers might see the beauty of the child ; she afterwards constantly averred that "*the soldiers gave her blood to drink.*" It was Port Wine, only then just introduced into England. The table used at this Council was afterward removed to a new house of the Wanseys, in Church Street, now called the Mission House of St. Boniface, and a few years ago on attempting to move it, it fell to pieces.

Sir Edmund Ludlow led about his troop all over the county, and was engaged in numerous conflicts, but never seems to have accomplished any brilliant achievement ; he often crossed swords with the dashing Cavaliers of North Wilts, headed by Sir James Long, of Draycot, the King's Sheriff.

After the battle of Lansdown, Ludlow, hearing of Waller's advance to Devizes, marched towards Warminster, and "on our way searching the houses of some persons disaffected to the public, we found two of our most active enemies, whom we took prisoners." He was lying near Warminster, when tidings reached him of Waller's complete discomfiture at Devizes, on which he fell back. During one of the pauses between some of the fierce struggles round Devizes, a Royalist trooper advanced alone into the open space between the two armies; the challenge to single combat was accepted by Jehu Wansey, either a son or near relative of the Major, who rode out of the ranks, engaged his antagonist, and after a desperate struggle, overpowered and killed him on the spot. This young Warminster soldier escaped all the dangers of the battle and the rout on Roundway, and was swept away with Waller's shattered columns in their flight to Bristol. He passed unscathed through other scenes of blood, but finally received a deathwound from a bullet in Ireland.

"They have put an obstinate fellow with some foot in Master Arundel's house at Hornesham," records a royalist print of the day, June, 1644. This "obstinate fellow" was Major Wansey, who had occupied WOODHOUSES, an old mansion, near Longleat: here he was blocked in, and hard pressed by Sir F. Doddington. Ludlow, now at Devizes, received pressing entreaties from Wansey for immediate aid, but, under a false report that the enemy had now drawn off from Woodhouses, he continued yet some time inactive, until another urgent summons from Wansey brought him down to Warminster, but with only two hundred and eighty men. He sent out of the town a reconnoitring party of forty horse; these came into collision with an equal number of troopers on the Heath, (above Warminster Common,

where old arms are yet dug up), and after a brisk skirmish, returned with some prisoners, who reported that Sir Ralph Hopton had reached Woodhouses with a thousand horse. Ludlow soon felt the presence of this energetic officer. He was immediately attacked by Doddington, driven out of Warminster, and chased down the Imber road, over the Downs to Salisbury, where he arrived with only thirty troopers. He had ordered his men to kill their horses, and to hide amongst the corn, and in the villages; but a great many perished.

Doddington, returning in triumph, with some heavy cannon speedily made so considerable a breach in the wall of Woodhouses, that the besieged surrendered at mercy: "but they found very little," writes Ludlow, "for they were presently stripped of all that was good about them; and Sir F. Doddington, being informed by one Bacon, who was Parson of the parish, that one of the prisoners had threatened to *stick in his skirts*, as he called it, for reading the Common Prayer, struck the man so many blows upon his head, and with such force that he broke his skull, and caused him to fall into a swoound, from which he was no sooner recovered, but he was picked out to be hanged." In retaliation for the merciless execution of some of the King's Irish soldiers, Doddington hung twelve of the garrison, (who were mostly clothiers), with two deserters, on a giant oak in front of the house. As one of these unfortunate men was being swung off, the rope broke, and he fell to the ground; on which he prayed that his sufferings might be accepted as sufficient punishment, and that he might be allowed to fight for his life with any two of the King's men. His prayer was rejected. A rough hillock marks the "Clothiers' Grave." Woodhouses is destroyed. The oak was made into desks for a school.

In December, 1644, Warminster was held by a body of Royalists, who were engaged in levying heavy contributions in the town and neighbourhood. Wansey, (who had been taken prisoner at Woodhouses, but was speedily released, probably in exchange), taking concert with his superior officer, suddenly burst into the town. The Cavaliers fled towards Salisbury, followed closely by Ludlow, and driven tumultuously into the city, took refuge in the "Prebends' Close, where the Bishop and singing men did live." Thence they were driven out into two inns, the Angel at the Close Gate, and the George at the Sand Gate. Vigourously supported by his officers, Wansey, Douett, and Norton, Ludlow fired the houses, and compelled them to yield themselves prisoners at war. He took two hundred horses.

During the next year, Major Wansey was engaged in active service for the Parliament; he raised some fresh horse and dragoons, and seems to have been for a time attached to the regular army, as he was in the fight at Donnington Castle, but was afterwards commanded by the Earl of Essex to continue with Ludlow, and protect the interests of the Parliament in his native county. When the Royalists were fortifying the Close at Salisbury, Wansey drove off the masons, burnt the gates, and took a Colonel, and eighty prisoners. But having moved down into the south-west, and being unsupported, Lord Goring drove him with his local force out of Fonthill and West Knoyle, in the rencontre capturing the famous Wansey Standard, bearing the motto, "FOR LAWFUL LAWS AND LIBERTY."

Ludlow had refused to resign the commission he held from Waller, and accept a new one from Essex. For this reason, "some of Wiltshire of the Essex faction" records Ludlow, "obstructed me in raising of my regiment, and

keeping from me those arms that were bought for that end, and detaining our pay from us, so that I and my men had nothing to keep us faithful to the cause, but our affection for it. Yet we were not wanting (he adds) to improve every opportunity in the best manner we could to the service of the country"—So having heard there was a garrison put into Stourton House—"each of us carrying a fagot to one of the gates, set them on fire, together with one of the rooms of the Castle, but those that kept it slipt out at a back door thro' the garden into the Park, which they did undiscovered, by reason of the darkness of the night." Having reduced Stourton House to ruins, he hastened to Lord Hopton's house at Witham, when he captured about a hundred head of cattle, and with them paid his soldiers. On his return he stopped at his father's house, (now New Mead Farm,) in Maiden Bradley, and conveyed to a place of safer custody, the hangings, pictures, best beds, &c., which the servants had so carefully concealed, that they had hitherto escaped the keen search of the enemy.

But the heart of Major Wansey was turning to his fallen Sovereign, and the change in his feelings is the more to be noted and admired, as the King's power was now hopelessly broken. There had been no cordial co-operation for some time between Ludlow and Wansey, and in his Memoirs he is frequently casting out innuendoes, and making oblique hits at his Major, as though he suspected his fidelity both to himself and the Parliament—"My Major had secured his troop in the rear of all."—"I was not supported by my Major."—"My Major had more wit than courage or honesty."—"My Major, notwithstanding his artifices, was disappointed in his expectations."—At last we come to this ominous announcement—"My Major now openly pulled off the mask, and with about thirty of his

troop, and some strangers, under pretence of beating up a quarter of the enemy's, went over to them, having sent his wife before, to give notice of his design. But his lieutenant, continuing faithful to the public, hindered most part of the troop from following him."

Major Wansey now went heart and soul with the Cavaliers, and seemed determined by strenuous exertion and reckless sacrifice to atone for past errors—but his opportunity for amendment was brief. He had undertaken to raise on his own account a troop of horse for the King, and while recruiting in the north of the county, was confronted by some forces of the Parliament. A desperate hand to hand fight followed, in which he was worsted; and in his effort to escape, while leaping a ditch, he fell with his horse, and was so injured that he never spoke again. His stern old republican leader, writing thirty years after in a foreign land, whither he had been forced into exile to save himself from the gallows, cannot help having one last malignant fling at his old Major—and referring to his sudden and violent death, he hugs the solace,—"*Thereby he received such a recompense as was due to his treachery.*"

Sir James Long, Sheriff of Wilts, in Jan. 1646, struck a last frantic blow in defence of his fallen master. Bursting out of Oxford with a thousand horse, he swept the county from north to south, gathering up in his dashing course, horses, money, and prisoners. From the terrified townsmen of Warminster, he wrung a solid sum of £1000.

It fared ill for Warminster, as for all the straggling, un-walled towns of Wiltshire in those days. Some fierce Captain, on the one side or other, was often riding into the town at the head of his troop, with a peremptory summons for ammunition, hay, corn, food, and money, to be ready at an hour's notice, and heavy penalty followed if the supplies



were not immediately forthcoming. Plundered alike by Cavalier and Roundhead, and powerless to resist, Warminster suffered in silence. King Charles I himself must frequently have been in Warminster, as he was moving to and fro between Salisbury and Bath, but there is no record of any visit.

There is a tradition in the Halliday family, that Charles II, on his flight from Worcester, in his course from Bristol to the South Coast, slept one night in Mr. Halliday's house in East-street, Warminster. The bedstead which the King is supposed to have used, still remains—the bed, in the course of two centuries, mouldered to dust. Clarendon says—after Charles' hairbreadth escape at Lyme, and his resolution of endeavouring to reach the sea by Hampshire—"They must pass through all Wiltshire before they came thither, which would require many days' journey; and they were first to consider what *honest* houses there were in or near the way, where they might securely repose; and it was thought very dangerous for the King to ride through any great town, as Salisbury." It is certain that Charles slept at Zeals House, and the distance, and the course of the King's flight, render it very probable that Warminster was his next resting-place, and that Mr. Halliday's was one of the *honest* houses in which the King did securely repose. There is a portrait of Charles in the house.

Sir James Thynne had been fined £3,586 by the Parliamentary Commissioners, but in 1646, in consideration of his being responsible for an annual payment of £50 a year to the Church of Frome, he was allowed a reduction of £500. A reduction was also made in regard to Lullington, as he was under obligation to support a minister there. Amongst other compositions for estates near Warminster, there appears only that of Richard Richardson, of Boreham,

for £45. The profits of court leets, fines, waifs, estrays, deodands, felons' goods, and other royalties received by Sir James Thynne, with tolls of fairs and markets, holden within the town of Warminster, were assessed on an average of years, at £80. In 1651, a survey was taken of the honours, manors, and lands, late parcel of the possessions of Charles Stuart, late King of England, of his Queen, and the Prince, and there were found as formerly belonging to him—

All that tithing Silver paid within the Hundred	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
of Warminster at Easter . . . . .	37	6
Do. at Michaelmas . . . . .	38	6
Fines in the Sheriff's Court at Iley Oak . . . .	10	0
	<hr/>	
	£4	5 0
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Monday morning, March 12, 1655, at early dawn, a body of two hundred Cavaliers, led by Sir John Wagstaffe, Colonels Penruddocke and Grove, entered Salisbury, broke open the gaols, and released their royalist friends, who were immediately armed and mounted. They then hurried to the lodgings of the Judges, and of the Sheriff, who had just arrived for the Spring Assize, arrested them in their beds, and dragged them out into the Market Place, where all three narrowly escaped hanging. But as day drew on, the Parliamentary soldiers, who were in the town in considerable numbers, began to recover from their alarm. Major Henry Wansey, son of Ludlow's old friend, an energetic young officer, put himself at the head of thirty men, and posted himself in the Sheriff's house. The Cavaliers immediately endeavoured to dislodge them. But all attempts to burst or burn the door, or get in at the windows before or behind, proved in vain, while from every available opening poured

out volleys of small shot, and after half an hour's hard fighting, the Cavaliers withdrew discomfited. If Wansey's little garrison had been overpowered, the whole city might have gone with Penruddocke. But now his party was cowed, their spirits sank, while the hopes of Cromwell's adherents rose, and Wansey was mustering all his force for a speedy assault, when the whole troop of Cavaliers rode away out of Salisbury through Somerset into Devon, hoping for general sympathy in Cornwall. On reaching South Molton at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, completely exhausted, they were attacked by Capt. Crook, and utterly broken, and about sixty of them taken prisoners. Penruddocke and Grove were beheaded. Thus this ill-planned movement came to an end—yet but for Major Wansey's check at the first moment, the issue might have been serious. It does not appear that the Protector heard of Wansey's bold stand, or that he ever received any substantial recognition of his important services.

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## XXVI.

### Monmouth.

**I**N August, 1680, James Stuart, Duke of Monmouth, rode through the West of England, visiting the houses of the principal landowners. He was a handsome, courteous, brilliant young man, and extremely acceptable in all classes of society. Coming first into Wiltshire, he spent several days at Longleat, with his very warm partisan and most intimate friend, Thomas Thynne, Esq., often called "Tom

of Ten Thousand." Crowds from Warminster flocked to see him, scattering boughs and flowers in his path, and shouting huzzahs for the King and the Protestant Duke. From Longleat to Exeter, the roads of the towns and villages, were crowded with admirers, who in their eagerness to see and touch him, broke down the palings of the parks, and besieged the mansions where he visited. After a triumphal tour through the West, he returned to Longleat. A private quarrel between him and his uncle, James, Duke of York, fanned into a flame by the anti-Romanist faction, led him to aspire to the throne; nor was it altogether unlikely that his expectations might be realized, for a bill for excluding James from the succession had actually been presented to Parliament, when the King, Charles II, in a sudden caprice, banished Monmouth to Holland. Mr. Thynne, as Monmouth's zealous friend, was at the same time, removed from the command of a regiment of horse in the Wilts Militia.

Charles II died in February, 1685, and Monmouth determined to strike a blow for the English Crown. He opened his luckless campaign at Lyme, in Dorset, on June 11, 1685. Before he had been twenty four hours on English ground, he was at the head of fifteen hundred men, and he reached Bridgewater with six thousand followers. A few gentlemen of Somerset and Devon joined him, but scarcely a person of wealth and influence; not a single peer, baronet, knight, or M.P. His faithful friend, Thomas Thynne, was dead; otherwise, it is not too much to say, that the devoted attachment of the lord of Longleat, with his weight and wealth, might have fixed many a wavering Wiltshire heart, and turned the scale, at least for a while, in Monmouth's favour. As it was, many Warminster men joined Monmouth's Standard.

The Royal forces, well equipped, and under regular discipline, soon met Monmouth's mob of peasants, armed chiefly with flails, bludgeons, scythes, sickles and pitch-forks, and arrested their progress, before they had penetrated eastward of Bath.

The Wilts Militia, 1,500 strong, with the Earl of Pembroke at their head, speedily got under arms at Salisbury, and on Saturday afternoon, June 20, marched to Wilton; on Sunday from Wilton to Lavington, on Monday to Chippenham, on Tuesday to Bath, on Wednesday to Bradford, uncertain in what direction to expect the advanced guard of the insurgents. Lord Pembroke galloped over to Trowbridge, and, expecting a sudden attack, summoned the militia by express to that town. Frome was very zealous in Monmouth's cause, and had risen early, and posted his Declaration in the Market Place. On Thursday afternoon, Pembroke, with three companies of horse, and foot-soldiers mounted behind the troopers, marched on Frome. He was met near the bridge by fifteen hundred of the townspeople, armed with muskets, fowling-pieces, prongs, &c., who maintained for some hours a hard fight, but were at last driven off with great slaughter. The Earl, and Officers of the Militia, tore down Monmouth's Declaration, set up the King's, and forced the Chief Constable of the borough, on pain of death, to proclaim Monmouth traitor. They disarmed the inhabitants, and such weapons as they could not carry off, were destroyed. Pembroke, still uncertain where to meet with the main body of the rebels, marched away to Kingsdown, and then, on an alarm, the same day to Bath. On Saturday he moved to Trowbridge, and passing Freshford and Farleigh Castle, heard the cannon in the fight at Philip's Norton. Anxious to prevent Monmouth breaking through the royal lines, and marching on London,

he covered as much country as possible with his small force. Meanwhile, Monmouth had reached Frome, where he expected to find large reinforcements of men, and plenty of arms: woefully disappointed, in torrents of rain, over roads which had become mere quagmires, he drew off his dispirited followers towards Wells. Monday, the Wilts Militia lay all night under hedges at Bratton, Tuesday they occupied Westbury, Wednesday they re-entered Frome, and finding now that the enemy was in retreat, pushed on to Shepton Mallet and Glastonbury, but as Monmouth's troops had swept the country of all kinds of provisions, they suffered much from sheer hunger. On Sunday, July 5, they took up their position at Middlezoy, and on Monday marched on Sedgemoor, where the battle was fought which ended in Monmouth's utter ruin. But though the Wilts Militia were the first troops on the field, of horse or foot, they took no part in the battle, being posted in the rear; they cut off many fugitives, and received the thanks of the King's General, "for being so early in field, and for countenancing and encouraging the fight."

To the Wilts Militia, as a special compliment, was entrusted the charge of the King's ammunition, artillery, and baggage, with which they marched to Glastonbury, where Lord Pembroke hanged six rebels, one a lieutenant, stark naked, on the White Hart sign-post. In the evening, there was an alarm that Monmouth's broken forces had rallied, and were making a dash on the artillery, so that the Wiltshiremen stood to arms all night. Their last day's march was from Philip's Norton to Devizes, and it is said, that on the way, passing through Seend, they stopped at the Bell Inn, and drank up a whole huge barrel of liquor, which barrel was ever afterwards called "Old Monmouth," and when it was no longer serviceable for beer, it was made

into washtubs. At Devizes the Wilts Militia delivered the artillery into the hands of the King's troops, and awaiting orders from the Earl of Pembroke, who had gone on to Wilton, leaving them in command of Colonel Wyndham, were disbanded at Salisbury on July 11.

Of the Wiltshiremen, who were taken prisoners, three officers were probably, and two certainly, of Warminster. Captain Adlam, supposed to belong to a Warminster family, (where the name still remains), but not identified as such, was left lying on the field of battle, desperately wounded. On his body were found a hundred broad pieces of gold, quilted into his buff coat. The next day, in a dying state, he was hanged on a gallows, erected on the Moor. Three others suffered with him, and as officers, were branded with the disgrace of being gibbeted in "gemmacs," a sort of iron cage. Three other (so called) officers, Thomas Cram, of Warminster, Thomas Place, of Edington, and John Worms, of Warminster, were excepted from mercy in the King's proclamation, but whether or not they perished in the "Bloody Assize" is uncertain: their fate is unknown.

Wiltshire generally had taken but little part in the insurrection. Fearful vengeance fell on Somersetshire. In the market places of towns, on the greens of villages, at cross roads, over church porches, as Macaulay writes, ironed corpses clattered in the wind; heads and limbs stuck on poles, poisoned the air, and made the traveller sick with horror. Bishop Ken wrote to the King to implore some measure of mercy, complaining that the whole atmosphere of his diocese was tainted with death. James read, and remained, as Churchill said, as hard and cold as the marble chimney-pieces at Whitehall.

It is a singular fact, that Monmouth's country friends believed he never was beheaded, but that some other

criminal had been substituted for him on the scaffold. Lord Weymouth, writing from Longleat in Nov. 1686, mentions that a counterfeit Duke of Monmouth, had appeared at Bradford, and that having been brought before the magistrates, he had confessed the imposture. He had however, till his apprehension, levied large sums on many villages of Wiltshire, which were readily paid as to the veritable Protestant Duke. This knave was sent to London, and whipped from Newgate to Tyburn. Monmouth's memory was cherished with deepest feeling for many years. At every political crisis, it was whispered that the Duke would appear. In the face of the most positive evidence of his death, the Somersetshire peasantry fondly hoped he was still living, and would one day lead them to victory, and wear the English Crown.

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## XXVII.

### James the Second.

**A** DANGER of a more formidable character afterwards startled James—also from the West. "About 21 Sep. 1688, strange news reached us in Warminster from the Belgian shore, viz. that the Prince of Orange was coming with a great army of horse and foot, of Swedes, Switzers, English, and Scots. The King's army is ready to march at first notice of their landing." This is one of a few extracts made from a copious Diary, kept by Mr. George Wansey, which supplies a running chronicle of events connected with his native town during the latter part of the 17th century. This Diary, which is of essential interest in the compilation



of a History of Warminster, is not now producible. Then follows a note of William's arrival—"On Nov. 5, the Prince of Orange began to land his army near Exeter, viz., at Ipsam, Torbay, and Dartmouth, news whereof was soon carried to the King at Whitehall, the messenger killing 7 horses."

On Friday, 9th Nov. William entered Exeter. James' army had meanwhile mustered in considerable strength at Salisbury, and pushed on an advanced guard to Warminster. "On 8th inst., at night," writes Wansey, "we had a party of great men lay at Warminster, about 60 men, and about 90 horses, they having about 30 led horses, with arms and money. The next day at night came in a regiment of the King's, the 11th came in the Queen's regiment of horse, and stayed till the 14th, when were expected 2 regts more, one of horse, the other of dragoons, and the next day 200 foot. But the 17th inst., in the evening, they had an express to call them away, and marched all night to Sarum. Then were the Warminster people in hopes they would not come again, but the 17th came in a regiment of horse and dragoons, 2 troops of the King's Guard, and 2 troops of others; the 18th came in more, a regiment of horse, and in all three regiments of foot, one of 21 companies of Dumbarton's."

The town was now swarming with troops, and it suffered severely from their licentiousness and rapacity. Many a pale face and weeping eye, from houses now standing in the town, watched the masses of the savage soldiery as they marched up and down the Market Place, and shuddered at the thought that perhaps in a few hours the mortal strife may reach their own doors, and the streets of the town flow with blood. There had already been a collision between the hostile forces, at Wincanton, in which the King's Irish

regiment was defeated. On the 19th Nov. James arrived at Salisbury, and occupied the Bishop's Palace. Evil news soon reached him. There was treachery on every side. Viscount Cornbury, eldest son of Lord Clarendon, a young inexperienced officer, who had purposely been left in sole command of the army at Salisbury, marched off with three regiments, and joined William at Axminster. General Lord Churchill, afterwards Duke of Marlborough, Kirke, and Trelawney, James' chief officers, all were meditating immediate desertion, though in James' presence they avowed fealty to the death. Kirke and Trelawney had proceeded to Warminster, where their regiments were posted. On 21st, when William heard that James was advancing westward, he left Exeter. James was eager to meet his foeman; and to Churchill's urgent advice that he should march with the remaining troops to Warminster, hold a review of all his forces in that town, and then lead them in person against the invader, who had now reached Chard, the King gave a ready assent. His army consisted of three divisions, stationed at Marlborough, Salisbury, and Warminster.

Hurried preparations were made to proceed to Warminster, and the royal carriage was waiting for the King at the door of the Bishop's Palace, in Salisbury, when James was attacked by a sudden bleeding at the nose. The discharge of blood was so great, and continued so severe at only short intervals, that he was compelled to countermand all his orders, and put himself under medical care.\* It was

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\* Aubrey writes—"When King James II was at Salisbury, his nose bled near 2 days, and after many essays in vain, was stopped by the *sympathetic ash*, which Mr. Wm. Nash, a chirurgeon at Salisbury, applied." He prescribes how the *sympathetic ash* is to be prepared for stopping bleeding at the nose—"Cut an ash of one, two, or three years' growth, at the very hour and minute of the Sun's entry into Taurus. A chip of this will do it."

three days before the bleeding had abated, so that it would be safe for him to take his journey to Warminster. During those three days James lost his kingdom.

Wansey's Journal continues, in reference to Warminster,—"On 23rd, at night, near about 10, there was a false alarm, when their guards being out of order, the horse ran away to the Prince of Orange. Some thought 600 might go away that night. The next day the remainder of the army marched"—it seems, out of Warminster towards Devizes. This was in consequence of an order sent from Salisbury by the King, or Lord Feversham, who, alarmed by the repeated desertions taking place at the advanced post, Warminster, had ordered Colonel Kirke to fall back on Devizes, and secure the country towards Reading. But Kirke, who was watching his opportunity to play the game into William's hands, under some frivolous excuse, delayed to march, and though the infantry did at last move, very few of the officers, as Mr. Wansey's MSS. show, went with them.

Feversham, who now was chief in command at Salisbury, could no longer conceal from the King the desperate condition of his affairs. It was hinted to him that he had better arrest Churchill and Grafton, but before he did so he called a Council of War. These officers attended. Churchill still vehemently pressed the King to go to Warminster. But James was now in no mood to fight. He decided to retreat. The Council had sat till midnight. Before daybreak, Churchill and Grafton were riding at full speed towards William's quarters. Next morning all was confusion in the city, in the palace, and in the camp. Scarcely was it known that Churchill and Grafton had disappeared, when an express reached James from Warminster to say that Kirke had refused to obey orders. "Villany upon villany," says

a letter from Salisbury, "the last still greater than the former." "Orders were given for an immediate retreat. Salisbury was in an uproar. The camp broke up with the confusion of a flight. No man," writes Lord Macaulay, "knew whom to trust, or whom to obey." James moved back to Andover, having ordered Kirke under instant arrest. He was accompanied by his son-in-law, Prince George of Denmark, a man of extraordinary dulness, who had a stupid habit of exclaiming, when a remark was made on any passing event, "*Est-il-possible ?*"—"Is it possible?" When news reached the King that Churchill was gone—" *Est-il-possible ?*"—muttered the stolid Prince, who was himself in the plot; and when the report of Kirke's secession followed from Warminster, still broke out the same dull, heavy exclamation—" *Est-il-possible ?*" As soon as the King was gone to his bedroom, Prince George, Ormond, and other nobles, mounted and rode away. James heard the news next morning, yet, though astonished and cut to the very heart, he could not help exclaiming, "What! is "*Est-il-possible*" gone too?" In the evening of the 26th the unhappy Monarch reached London, and the first tidings which greeted him were that his beloved daughter, Anne, had disappeared. That Princess had written to William with her own hand to express her friendly feelings (it must be remembered he was her brother-in-law); and when, on Sunday afternoon Nov. 25th, a courier arrived from Salisbury to announce that Churchill and Grafton had left the King, that Kirke, at Warminster, had abandoned his post, and that the royal forces were in full retreat, the Princess, who was entirely governed by the Churchills, dreading her father's vengeance rather on her friends, than on herself, rose at dead of night, left London, and joined the northern insurgents. When James heard of it, he cried out in bitter grief, "*God help me ! my own children have forsaken me.*"

“The people of Warminster suffered much,” writes Wansey, “by this army of the King’s, in eating and spoiling their hay and corn. From Warminster, the 29th Nov. 1688, the foot marched to Devizes, the horse to Marlborough. Divers of the foot, captains and officers, stayed at Stoke, a village six miles from Warminster; and so forsaken, it was late before the foot got to Devizes. In the morning, about 4, they were ordered to march, but they, finding their officers gone, (that is those of Col. Kirke’s and Trelawny’s), mutinied, when they should have marched, and many of them drew away to the Prince of Orange. Some straggled to their own homes.”

The Wansey Diary then describes the Prince’s triumphant march through South Wilts. He did not pass through Warminster. He probably came by Hindon, Wily, and Winterborne Stoke to Salisbury. “Though mid-winter was approaching, the weather was fine: the way was pleasant; and the turf of Salisbury Plain seemed luxuriously smooth to men who had been toiling through the miry ruts of the Devonshire and Somersetshire highways. The route of the army lay close by STONEHENGE; and regiment after regiment halted to examine that mysterious ruin, celebrated all over the Continent,\* as the greatest wonder of our island.” —(*Macaulay*).

The palace of the Bishop of Salisbury became the headquarters of William, as it had been of James only a few days before.

James died in the peace of the Roman Church in the

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\* And we may say, “all over the world”—for after His Imperial Highness, the Prince Higaahi Fushimi, had spent only a few weeks in Warminster, he and his suite determined to visit Stonehenge, with the name of which they were quite familiar, having often read a description of it in Japanese books.

palace of the French King at St. Germain's,—but it seems he had been within a hair's-breadth of assassination at Warminster. After Lord Churchill had abandoned James, and left Salisbury suddenly on the morning of Nov. 25th, and the report arrived from Warminster that Kirke had gone over with all his troops to the enemy, which was at the time believed, “a new light,” writes Lord Macaulay, “flashed on the mind of the unhappy King. He thought that he understood why he had been pressed a few days before to visit Warminster. There he would have found himself helpless, at the mercy of the conspirators, and in the vicinity of the hostile outposts. Those who might have attempted to defend him would have been easily overpowered. He would have been carried a prisoner to the head-quarters of the invading army. *Perhaps some still blacker treason might have been committed*: for men, who have once engaged in a wicked and perilous enterprize are no longer their own masters, and are often impelled by a fatality, which is part of their just punishment, to crimes such as they would at first have shuddered to contemplate. Surely it was not without the special intervention of some Guardian Saint, that a King, devoted to the Catholic Church, had, at the very moment when he was blindly hastening to captivity, *perhaps to death*, been suddenly arrested by what he had then thought a disastrous malady.”

That Lord Churchill had in agitation some desperate scheme for seizing his person, James was afterwards fully assured. On the night of the 26th, at a Council of his principal ministers, when he was urged to proclaim a general pardon for those who had joined William, he said, “I cannot do it—I must make examples—Churchill above all—Churchill whom I raised so high—he, and he alone, has done all this—he has corrupted my army—he has cor-

rupted my child—he would have put me into the hands of the Prince of Orange, but for God's special Providence. My Lords, you are strangely anxious for the safety of traitors."

There was probability, and danger enough, that some act of "blacker treason" than the mere betrayal of the King into William's power, might be perpetrated; and Warminster might have been the scene of one of the darkest tragedies in English history.

In Macpherson's "Original Papers," occur two entries copied from the Memorandum Books of Thomas Carte, the historian.

I. *Lord Churchill's intention to stab King James II, from an account given by Colonel Ambrose Norton, of a conversation with Sir George Hewit.*

"Soon after the coronation of the Prince of Orange, having some discourse with Sir George Hewit, then newly made a lord, about the late Revolution, he told me when King James was at Salisbury, if he had gone to Warminster, as he had promised, his business had been done there; he and Captain Cornelius Wood, who was then present, (said Sir George), he and I had done the business; for that Wood was to be exempt of the Guard, and I should have commanded it, and the Lord Churchill would have gone in the King's coach, being in waiting with his gold-headed stick. Kirke, Lanier, (said Sir George), and many others of our party being there (Warminster) and most of the guards and the army that were posted there right for our purpose, we were resolved to carry him a prisoner to the Prince of Orange; but if Dumbarton, Sarsfield, or any others of

the papist officers should endeavour to rescue him, then (said Sir George) Wood and I, that were on horseback, should have shot him; and if that had missed, then Lord Churchill, that was provided with a pocket-pistol and dagger, would have shot or stabbed him in the coach: for there was no other way of saving themselves after attempting the King. But, as it pleased God, (said the informant) his Majesty's nose very happily fell a bleeding, by which his going to Warminster was prevented."

II. *Extract from Mr. Carte's account of a conversation with Mr. Erasmus Lewis concerning a design of assassinating King James at Warminster.*

"Erasmus Lewis (note he was under secretary to the Earl of Oxford) told me at the same time (this very day, April 10th, 1749) that Lord de la Mere and E. Warrington had been in the secret of assassinating King James the 2nd at Warminster at the Review, and told it frequently, that, when at the consultation among them, about executing it, several methods were proposed, the Duke of Marlborough said,—“I see plainly these will not do—I must stab him myself in the chariot, as I go with him.”

To these extracts Macpherson adds a note—“It is but justice to Churchill to observe that James himself mentions nothing of that Lord's design to assassinate him, tho' he was convinced of his project of placing him in the hands of his rival.” Carte's Memorandum Books, in MS. are in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, but not being classified or indexed, are difficult of consultation. Probably all that they contain of interest in reference to this subject is quoted *verbatim* by Macpherson.



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In "Letters from the Bodleian," Carte himself writes in May, 1754;—

"I had a letter in the beginning of this week from Mr. Monkhouse, and enclosed in it, a relation of the design of murdering James II at Warminster. It agrees with one which I had from the late learned Mr. G. Harbin [Chaplain to the first Lord Weymouth at Longleat, and friend of Bishop Ken] who had it from Dr. Sheridan, Bishop of Kilmore, who assisted Sir George Hewet at his death, when he expressed his repentance of having been engaged in that design."

Sir John Reresby, in his Memoirs, under Nov. 28, 1688, records—"On 19th November, the King having then reached Salisbury, where his army was rendezvoused, the Lord Churchill, one of his Major-Generals, misled his Majesty into a train, which must have betrayed him into the hands of a party of the Prince of Orange's army, had not an immoderate bleeding at the nose prevented the King from proceeding."

Archdeacon Coxe, of Bemerton, the biographer and panegyrist of the Duke of Marlborough, alludes to the plot on James's life at Warminster, and the hideous aspersions on the Duke's honour, in these words:—

"In great revolutions it is common to find the most upright characters maligned and the purest principles misrepresented: from this fate Lord Churchill did not escape. He has been accused of a design to seize or assassinate the King at the time of his departure. Such tales may find a momentary credit, when the passions of men are heated—but at present to mention is to refute it."

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## XXVIII.

King George the Third  
at Longleat.

**A**S a Royal Manor, and exempt from assessments, Warminster was under obligation to receive the King and his attendants, and to furnish them with board and lodging for one night.

In 1663, Charles II, with the Queen and Duke of York, visited Longleat, when Sir James Thynne was in possession.

King George III, and Queen Charlotte were entertained by the Marquis of Bath with princely hospitality in September, 1789.

The King, who had been spending some time at Weymouth for his health, came into Wiltshire by way of Redlinch and Stourton, both which places he visited, and so through Maiden Bradley and Horningsham to Longleat. One account states he passed through Warminster, but he certainly did not visit the town.

Early on Monday, September 14th, one of the grooms from Longleat rode over to Stourton, to meet the royal cavalcade on its passing into Wilts, and to act as guide through the narrow roads. The park-keepers on horseback waited at the Grand Entrance; the other gates were kept by men who had orders to admit foot-travellers, horsemen, and carriages, but to exclude carts and waggons. A large flag floated over Cley Hill. A great number of servants with white rods were posted along the carriage drive, and round the house, to keep open space.

About 5.30 p.m. the pages and ladies-in-waiting arrived in postchaises, followed by the King, Queen, Princesses, and a long train of Lords and Ladies, among whom were Lord and Lady Courtown, Colonel Goldsworthy, Colonel Gwynne, and others. The whole suite included forty-five persons. As the carriages drove up to the house, the Marquis and Marchioness, Lord Weymouth, Lord George Thynne, and Lord John Thynne, moved down the steps to receive them. The Marquis, wearing the Windsor uniform and Gold Key, as Groom of the Stole, handed the King out of the carriage, and then the Queen; Lord Weymouth, also in Windsor uniform, gave his hand to the Princess Royal, Lord George to the Princess Augusta, and Lord John to the Princess Elizabeth. The scene, as the royal procession advanced up the broad steps to the mansion, was striking and exciting, and the shouts of the assembled thousands wild and deafening.

Dinner, which had been fixed for four o'clock, was served at once: two crimson and gold arm chairs were set near the fire-place for the King and Queen, at a table in the centre of the dining-room, and three opposite for the Princesses. No gentleman but the Marquis sat at the Royal Table; the ladies present were the Marchioness, Lady Harriet and Isabella Thynne, Lady Caroline and Elizabeth Waldegrave, and Lady Courtown; a sideboard was placed on the left hand for their Majesties only; in the centre of the table an elegant frame displayed various fine and lofty arches, with festoons of beautiful flowers; many excellent pots of flowers were placed round the edge, with several elegant figures very prettily dispersed, prepared by the ingenious Mr. Gunter, of London. The general sideboard was elegantly dressed with plate and glasses, at the upper end of which was a small table with different kinds

of wine and small beer. The china plates were placed in the windows, and the silver ones in a warm stand. In the first recess on the right hand stood a side table which held all the substantial meats, such as beef, mutton, hams, &c. Mr. Gunter had the chief management, assisted by his staff, by Mr. Phillot, of the Bear, at Bath, who attended the sideboard of wines, Mr. Starling, of the Lord's Arms, at Warminster, who had charge of the plates, &c., and Mr. Markes, of the Angel, at Warminster, who superintended the removal of the dishes.

During dinner, the King and Queen discoursed very freely and pleasantly with the noble host and hostess; they alone were heard to speak loud, the rest expressing themselves in a low whisper. *The beverage was mostly water and small beer*, very little wine being drunk at, and none after, dinner. The time of dinner was nearly an hour and half, when the Queen thinking the company had been kept at table long enough, noticed it to the King, who instantly arose with all the company, and withdrew into the drawing-room, where coffee and tea were served up, the Marquis presenting a cup to the King, the Marchioness to the Queen, and the three Ladies Thynne to the three Princesses; and then the Marquis, Marchioness, and Ladies retired to the Portico-room to drink theirs; after which they played cards till supper time, when the same ceremony was gone through as at dinner.

Next morning, Tuesday, September 15, broke exceedingly fine, and people came flocking into the Park, from twenty miles around, as early as 8 o'clock a.m. Warminster was like a city of the dead, absolutely abandoned, except by the aged, feeble, and sick; almost every soul who could walk, with an inexpressible number of babies, who could not, others mounted on every available kind of quadruped, or

seated in every available kind of admissible vehicle, poured hour after hour in a continuous stream into the Park, in eager anxiety to see their King.

About 9 a.m. the Royal visitors examined the house, and afterwards walked on the roof. On the King's appearance a tremendous shout burst forth from the multitudes massed below: it was computed that not fewer than thirty thousand people were present. This vast yet orderly assemblage of men, women, and children, in endless variety of dress and colour, the lordly mansion, the glorious scenery on every side, the noble trees in all their autumnal beauty, presented a magnificent picture, worthy of a King to behold. No wonder, therefore, that seeing Longleat under these favourable circumstances, the King should have said to Mr. Davis, Lord Bath's Steward—"Notwithstanding what I have heard of the grandeur and beauty of Longleat, it far exceeds any idea I could possibly have formed of it."

At 11 o'clock, as the King was preparing to walk out amongst the people, the rain fell heavily, and drove the crowds under the shelter of the trees, but in a short time the sun broke out brilliantly, and Lord Chesterfield's open carriage having been previously sent for from Weymouth, the King, and all the Royal Family drove slowly up and down between the lines of spectators. His Majesty took particular notice how genteelly every one was dressed, and observed that it was the most civil and polite crowd he ever saw, every man looking and behaving like a gentleman—words of which Warminster—and Wiltshire—may well be proud.

Exactly at 11 o'clock on Wednesday the King and suite left Longleat, and proceeded by Frome, Trowbridge, Devizes, and Marlborough, to Lord Aylesbury's House at Savernake.

The whole number of persons who slept in Longleat House each night was 125 ; three oxen, six fat bucks, and seventeen fat sheep were killed on the occasion ; game, fowl, fish, fruit, &c., being provided in profusion.

## XXIX.

## King George and the Wiltshire Shepherd.

**O**UT of the King's sojourn at Longleat, and his admiration of the peasantry of Wiltshire, and especially from his having noticed with what care and skill the shepherds tended the vast flocks of sheep on Salisbury Plain, arose a wish that a Wiltshire shepherd should be put in charge of the flock on the Home Farm at Windsor. Application was made through Mr. Davis, of Portway House, Warminster, Steward of the Longleat estate, and on the recommendation of Mr. Richard Frowde, of Brixton Deverill, Richard Daphney was appointed to the post. It was an unfortunate selection.

Daphney had arrived at Windsor, and just had time to look over the flock, when General Goldsworthy paid a visit to the Farm. "So you are the Wiltshire Shepherd come at last ;" he said, "what is your name ?" "Daphney, Daphney," replied the shepherd. "I see," says the General, "you have a pastoral name." "I dont know nothing about pastoral names," was the rough rejoinder, "my father was John Daphney, and I am Richard Daphney." "Well, and how do you find the flock ?"—

“Bad—bad enough”—“And what do you mean to do with them?”—“Why, cure ’em, to be sure.”—“Well, when the King comes, speak to him as freely as you have done to me”—“That I shall, sure, for I thought you was the King.”

The Wiltshire Shepherd seemed for a while to justify the expectations formed of him; but suspicions arose; two sheep were missing from the Royal flock. The evidence against the new shepherd was fatal. The King was visibly distressed. He determined to dismiss Daphney at once, but he could not be induced to prosecute. “It was folly on my part,” said the good monarch, “to bring a peasant of Wiltshire into the neighbourhood of Old Windsor, where he is thrown in the way of fellows that would corrupt an angel.”

On hearing the King’s decision, Daphney’s better spirit awoke; and he said, “I could bear my master’s reproaches, but his kindness overcomes me; as I may not serve him with a crook, I will with a musquet.” And he enlisted into the Guards.

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### XXX.

## W ar m i n s t e r D o w n .

**A** FINE Table-land covers the northern half of the parish, and forms part of Salisbury Plain; it is terminated southward by the commanding eminences of Arn Hill, Cop Heap, and Battlesbury. Barrows are thinly scattered over this area. All have been ruthlessly rifled.

John Aubrey, speaking of GAWEN'S BARROW, on his own land in the parish of Broad Chalke, says;—

“*I never was so sacrilegious as to disturb or rob his urne ; LET HIS ASHES REST IN PEACE ; but I have oftentimes wish't that my corps might be interred by it ; but the Lawes ecclesiastick denie it. Our bones, in consecrated ground never lie quiet.*”—

nor in *unconsecrated ground*, if it happens that the grave is marked by a barrow. Some “pilfering knave,” as Wordsworth says, would have dug up John Aubrey years ago, and his skull, neither *brachy-cephalous*, nor *dolicho-cephalous*, would for a time have puzzled all the world of archæologists, and would now be cast aside on the dusty shelf of some private museum.

Near the earthwork on Warminster Down, called the OLD DITCH, is a barrow, surrounded by a trench and bank, with two outlets. Sir R. Hoare found here a *kist*, with black ashes, some pottery, a piece of iron like a spear-head, with *some flat-headed nails, and halves of two horseshoes*. These last relics must have sorely exercised the conjectures of the enthusiastic antiquary. Perhaps some light may be thrown on the discovery from the following passage in the Diary of Thomas Smith, Esq., of Shaw House, Melksham.

“Tuesday, 29 May, 1722.—The Coach went with Peggy to Mr. Bisse's at Coulston, and from thence to a *Race*, which was on WARMINSTER DOWNS, and home in the evening in bad weather and bad ways. Whilst I was left at home, I discovered one of my maids stealing ale, and for that, and not well liking her service in other matters, gave her notice of leaving: 'tis Mary, our upper maid.”

The road, called now the NUNS' PATH, was probably a track for Pack Horses along the edge of the Down to



Westbury, with coal, corn, malt, cloth, and general merchandize, when the lower grounds were impassable.

Above the deep excavations on Arn Hill, which have supplied a vast quantity of chalk for the limekilns, is the much mutilated outline of a nearly square camp, a British village, or, perhaps, an enclosure for cattle from the rapacious beasts of Selwood Forest. The large barrow above the plantation produced a skeleton, and cup of rude form. On this spot were erected double gallows for the execution of George Ruddock, aged 20, and George Carpenter, 21, for the murder of Mr. Webb, a farmer, and his maid-servant, at Roddenbury, near Longleat. They were hanged on December 28, 1813, in the presence of the Yeomanry, the Chairman of Quarter Sessions, the Vicar of Warminster, and a vast multitude of spectators.

In a ploughed ground on the limits of Imber parish is Row Barrow, and near Lady Well, on the Imber road, are two long barrows overlooking the vale.

A hundred years ago, the wide, open country, north and east of Warminster, and around Imber, was wild and lonely indeed; only those portions of the Downs near the villages were under cultivation, and no human habitation was to be seen over districts of several miles in extent.

“Oh! Salisbury Plain is bleak and bare—  
At least, so I've heard many people declare—  
For I fairly confess I never was there—

Not a shrub or a tree,  
Not a bush can you see—

No hedges, no ditches, no gates, no stiles,  
Much less a cottage or house for miles.

It's a very sad thing to be caught in the rain,  
When night's coming on, upon Salisbury Plain.

To be caught in the rain,

I repeat it again,

Is extremely unpleasant on Salisbury Plain;  
And when with a good soaking shower there are blended  
Blue lightnings and thunder, the matter's not mended.”

Cross the Downs in wild weather, with a strong cutting north-east wind, accompanied by sleet, or hail, or heavy rain, driven in sheets over the unbroken plateau, and the scene, notwithstanding it may be diversified with a few clumps of dripping trees, and here and there a misty barrow, is bleak and desolate and dismal enough. The shepherds, the flocks, and the dogs, all crouching to escape the merciless blast, present a picture of utter misery. But take a ride or a walk on the Downs in fine weather—the air is fresh and exhilarating; the sun is delightfully warm; all nature rejoices in beauty; the turf is soft and elastic, and the whole face of the Plain is a carpet of flowers, harebells, centaury, dark blue campanula, scabias, milkworts, orchids, meadow-sweet, heather, and furze. “Poets sing of the mountain and of the sea, but no one sings of the Downs—they sing for themselves—for neither mountain, nor sea, is more full of music than their moving stillness, and harmony of delicious silence.”

John Aubrey had a conceit “that long time ago, Salisbury Plain might have had woods of beeches, but that they cut them down as an encumbrance to the ground, which would turn to better profit by pasture or arable:” “These Plains,” he adds, writing in 1680, “doe abound with hares, fallow deer, partridges, and bustards: there are gray crows, as at Royston. They are the most spacious Plaines in Europe, and the greatest remains that I can heare of of the smooth primitive world, when it lay all under water. Here is

“*Nil nisi campus et aer*”

and in winter indeed our air is cold and rawe.”

The Bustard might have been seen on Warminster Down about the year 1800. A man, on horseback, crossing the Plain to Tilshead, early on a morning in June, saw over his

head a large bird ; it alighted on the ground in front of his horse, which it seemed disposed to attack : he dismounted, and after nearly an hour's struggle, secured it. It proved to be a Bustard, and was sold to Lord Temple for thirty guineas : it eat birds, mice, and almost any animal or vegetable food. About a fortnight after, a farmer returning from Warminster Market, was attacked in the same way, it is thought, by the mate of the former bird ; his horse, being high-mettled, took fright, and became unmanageable, so that he could not capture the Bustard.

During the earlier part of last century, the Downs between Warminster and Imber, and between Imber, Chitterne, Tilshead, and Lavington, were infested by daring and desperate robbers—

Salisbury Plain, Salisbury Plain,  
Never without a thief or twain—

whose victims were chiefly farmers or dealers going to, or returning from, the large market at Warminster : and as payments there were mostly made on the spot and in cash, heavy sums of money frequently fell into the highwaymen's hands. Travellers went armed to the teeth, ready for attack at any moment, and many sanguinary encounters continually occurred. The following extract is made from the Register of Burials in the parish of Imber, A.D. 1716.—

“ Grimes, a robber, was buried 3 June.—This Grimes, with his companion, Baldwin, having robbed several persons on their return from Warminster Market, on Saturday, being the 2nd of June aforesaid, after a long and desperate pursuit, were both shot and mortally wounded, before sunset of the same day, Grimes, shot by Edward Slade, of Chitterne, near Warminster Furze, who was brought dead into Imber, and here buried the following day, and Baldwin, shot by Dyke, of Knook, near Heytesbury, on West Lavington Sheep Downs, who was carried alive to West Lavington, but soon died, and was there buried. Note—Grimes died within an hour after he was wounded, but Baldwin who was first shot, lived till 7 next morning. It is not without good reason supposed that Grimes was an old offender, both

by the appearance of a scar in his cheek, as also by the account which Baldwin gave of him. Baldwin protested that so far as himself was concerned, it was the first crime of that nature he was ever guilty of."

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### XXXI.

## The Common.

**T**HE Common of Warminster formerly meant a large tract of waste and unenclosed lands, covered chiefly with furze and broom, extending from the valley (which is separated by the high ridge of Sambourne from the town of Warminster) and the upland southwards, over Warminster Heath, to the bounds of Longleat Park. On this waste, any person, who wished to build a hut or hovel, took possession of, and enclosed whatever space he pleased, generation after generation, and as the land was comparatively valueless, no lord of the manor then interposed his rights. The squatters even cut and sold furze and peat for fuel, quarried stone, and fed cows, pigs, colts, geese, *etc.* freely.

During a succession of years, many cottages, mostly of the roughest construction, were built on the Common, with enclosures of from four to ten perches in area, and chiefly along the valley, in line with the course of a brook, which running from west to east furnished a perennial supply of pure water at the rate of eight or ten thousand hogsheads every twenty-four hours; and the population increased so rapidly that in 1781, while the population of the whole parish of Warminster was returned at only 4,209 inhabitants, of this number, 1,015 were settled at the Common.

In 1779, an Act passed the Parliament for dividing, allotting, and laying in severalty the Open and Common

fields, meadows, pastures, and waste lands, in the Parish of Warminster. The same Act applied to Corsley also. There were about 4,000 acres of Common Lands in the two parishes. The various land and tithe owners at the time chiefly interested in the Enclosure Award, were, Viscount Weymouth, as lord of the Manors of Warminster, Corsley, Huntenhull, Whitbourne, and Bugley; the President and Scholars of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and the Guardians of the Free Grammar School at Bruton, Somerset, as lords of the Manor of Furnax, or Furneaux, *alias* Avenell's Fee; the Dean and Chapter of Sarum, as Appropriators of the Rectory of Warminster, (then held of them on lease by Lord Weymouth); the Lessee of the Prebend of Warminster, otherwise Luxfield, in the Cathedral of Wells, as also of the Prebend of Warminster in the Cathedral of Sarum; the Bishop of Salisbury, as Patron of the Vicarage, and the Rev. M. Massey, as Incumbent. The families of Buckler, Medlicott, and others, were also possessed of portions of the Common Lands. These lands, being intermixed and dispersed, and inconvenient in situation, and incapable of any considerable improvement, were inclosed, and specifically allotted to each owner in severalty. Land was conveyed to the tithe-owners in lieu of tithes, and all tithes extinguished, except on small freeholds which had no legal claim on Common Lands. Some detached portions of Upton Scudamore, which were enclosed in Warminster Parish, were exchanged for land lying on the border of Upton.

The land enclosed within the limits of the Poor-House premises on the Common was conveyed in perpetuity to the Parish: it still remains in the hands of the Parish Officers, and is let out in allotments. The Commissioners were Richard Richardson, of Devizes, Thomas Fricker, of Longbridge Deverill, and Richard Bloxham, of West Dean,

Esquires. The Apportionment extended over four years. The Award received the Commissioners' seal November 22nd, 1783.

By this measure the inhabitants of Warminster Common lost all their ancient and valuable privileges of pasturage, fuel, *etc.* Some waste land was left on the sides of the highways, as it was understood, for their use.

An attempt had been made, in 1770, to induce the cottagers on the Common to acknowledge their dues to the Lord of the Manor by a voluntary payment of a penny each for a dinner at the Bell Inn, in the village; but their suspicions were aroused, and none of the cottage-holders appeared. Their houses and gardens thus remained their freeholds.

Carew, the author of the "Survey of Cornwall," writing in the middle of Queen Elizabeth's reign; A.D. 1580, on the condition of his native county and people a hundred years before that date, says—

"They had little bread corn, mostly barley—their drink water, or at best, whey—for the richest farmer in the parish brewed not above twice in the year, and then—good lack!—what liquor! Their meat, as they called it, milk, curds, cheese, butter, and such like, as came from the cow and ewe, who were tied by one leg at pasture. Their apparel, coarse in matter, ill-shaped in manner,—their legs and feet bare, to which the old folk had so accustomed their youth that they could hardly abide to wear shoes, complaining how it made their feet over hot. Their dwellings were of earth—low thatched roofs—few partitions—no planchings, or windows of glass—and scarcely any chimney, other than a hole in the wall to let out the smoke. Their bed straw, and a blanket—as for sheets, so much linen had not yet stepped over the Channel."

Such was Cornwall in 1480.—The description will apply,

in all its main particulars, to Warminster Common, three hundred years later. The testimony is scarcely credible, except that it is tendered by many witnesses of unquestionable veracity.—A.D. 1780.

“The hovels, for the most part, consisted of one ground-floor and one bedroom under the thatch, the walls unplastered, the ground-floor just as nature made it. Some of the hovels were purchased by the parish for £5 or £10. The horse and family lived in one room, the bedroom was the hay-loft, the staircase was a ladder. Six children all slept on nothing but broom, cut on the common, and nightly laid on the dirt floor. All the children slept together on some dirty sacks. ‘We were ten children—none of us could read—we never heard the Lord’s Prayer, or anything else on religion—there never was any book in our house—we were never told of a Bible—we never went to any place of worship—we were never baptized—we wore no shoes or stockings—our clothing was chiefly ragged linsey, when it wanted washing mother did wash it while we were in bed—we all slept in one bedroom, father and mother and ten children, all lying together like pigs.’ Scarcely anybody in the Common went to Church. Sunday was spent in all sorts of games—bull and badger baiting, backsword-playing, boxing, wrestling, cockfighting, with drunkenness, oaths, and fights. The cudgel-playing was always headed by some of the (so-called) gentlemen of the town. I never heard of any Reverend of *this* town taking *active* part therein. The men generally associated on Sundays at a place called ‘The Drove,’ near Butler’s Coomb, or strolled on the Common, or lay under the hedges in groups, in their working clothes, drinking, swearing, or witnessing or partaking of the sports: the children were out in the lanes, fields, or woods, filthy, ragged, swearing, playing, stealing, fighting, or doing mischief all the Sabbath-day.”

No picture of any place could be painted in darker colours than these—

“ Warminster Common was a lawless hamlet, a region of brutality and barbarism, where the magistrate was defied, and God insulted. Its semi-heathenism and spiritual desolation made it a reproach to Warminster, far and near. The man and the brute there were scarcely distinguished but in the animal inferiority of man.

Whenever robberies occurred in the neighbourhood, (which was very often), whatever outrage was perpetrated on man or beast, whether they deserved it, or not, the Commoners had the credit of the crime; their wretched fame spread throughout the length and breadth of the land; and so frequent were the convictions of offenders from the Common, that the malicious tradition still survives, of a prisoner being brought to the bar, and the Judge of the Court hearing he was from Warminster Common—“ *What !*” said he, in amazement—“ *Another prisoner from Warminster Common ! I thought I had hanged every man in Warminster Common years ago !*”

There is no doubt that at the beginning of this century the inhabitants of the Common were at the lowest level of moral and social life, and as a natural consequence, from their deep poverty, hard drinking, and unhealthy homes, typhus fever made dreadful ravages among them; twenty-eight or thirty adults died in a month; and when small-pox and measles attacked them also, the mortality was frightful.

But the pitiable condition of the Common at length awaked the sympathies of some of the inhabitants of the town; especially Mr. William Daniell exerted himself zealously for forty years to ameliorate the spiritual and moral destitution of the district. The parish authorities enforced rigid sanitary regulations; a main drain was carried along the valley; old hovels were removed, and



good cottages took their place. A Church was built at Sambourne, chiefly for the people of the Common: large Sunday and Day Schools were opened; the whole district came under regular parochial and pastoral ministrations, barbarous sports entirely ceased, and a marked improvement rapidly passed over the place. The same witness, who testified in 1815, that Warminster Common "heretofore had been a place of no ordinary celebrity as it respects its gross ignorance, and deep moral degradation," writes in 1833, "The village throughout is become neat, clean, and respectable." In 1834, the streets were named, and all the school-children, four hundred and forty-eight, received two-pence each on the occasion. In 1838, on June 28th, the children of the Common, with the rest of the children in the parish, dined in the Market-place, Warminster, a thousand in number, in celebration of the Coronation of Queen Victoria.

In 1849, a plentiful supply of pure water was conveyed to the Common by a brick aqueduct underground. But in the course of years the bricks were dislodged by the roots of trees, and the masonry becoming defective, the passage of the water was seriously interfered with. In 1869, a vigorous effort was made to remedy the evil. A sum of about £300 was collected, and the permanent flow of water was again established by a series of earthenware pipes, laid on at the head of the springs at Cannimore, and distributed over the Common by four large hydrants.

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### XXXII.

## Riots of 1830.

**T**HE months of November and December, in the year 1830, were a time of great alarm in Warminster.

Trade for some time had suffered severe depression ; wages were very low, there was but scant employment for the working classes, and the agricultural labourers, especially, felt the pressure very heavily. Large mobs of riotous persons assembled in different towns of Wilts and the adjoining counties, and led by seditious men, not of the labouring class, burnt ricks, destroyed machinery, and plundered houses in all directions. For some days no force could be mustered in sufficient strength to arrest them. The storm rolled onwards to Warminster as near as Heytesbury. There the Warminster Troop of Yeomanry Cavalry, under the command of Captain Walter Long, of Chalcot House, and accompanied by Colonel a'Court, Mr. Ravenhill, and other Magistrates, met the rioters, engaged them, took twenty prisoners, and escorted them to Devizes Gaol. No further danger threatened Warminster in that direction.

At Hindon, ten miles southward of Warminster, the outbreak partook of a much more serious character, and extended over a wider area. The Hindon men had fixed an hour when they intended to pass through the villages of the Deverills, and the Deverill malcontents had agreed to join them, and after gathering up the disaffected at the Common, to attack Warminster. This united mob, armed with scythes, reap-hooks, axes, sledge-hammers, prongs, &c., would probably have mustered a thousand men.

The Bench of Magistrates, with the Marquis of Bath as Chairman, sat continuously in the Old Town-hall ; but they had no sufficient force at command. So severe was the strain, and so pressing the calls on the Government for military aid on all sides, that the Horse Soldiers, Regulars or Yeomanry, had scarcely any rest, and were in saddle almost day and night, either guarding the gaols, or galloping off to disperse mobs, before their numbers became great.

Only one troop of Lancers could be spared for service in the neighbourhood. They were stationed at Trowbridge, ready for any call, when they were summoned to proceed immediately to Hindon. They passed through Warminster *en route*, having received orders from Head-quarters to take no more prisoners, as the gaols were full, but to ride down every man without mercy who was found with weapons in hand.

Almost all the able-bodied men of the town, of all classes, were enrolled as Special Constables; some were armed with guns, others only with staves; and for a considerable time they patrolled the streets all night. The Yeomanry Cavalry were on permanent duty, billeted at the Public Houses. All had orders to be ready for action at a moment's notice. Late on a Sunday night an express arrived from Devizes, summoning the Yeomanry for immediate aid, as the mob of that town were preparing to make an assault on the County Gaol. The bugle sounded, and the people of Warminster were startled under the fearful apprehension that the rioters had actually arrived. In the dark December morning, at three o'clock, the troop mustered in the Market Place, then paraded in front of Portway House, and rode off at quick march for Devizes, leaving Warminster to its fate. The mob from Hindon was expected every hour. It was a time of awful suspense, as those few inhabitants of the town well remember, who are yet alive, and took part in the proceedings. The defensive force of the town was further weakened, because a public notice had been posted that Longleat House would be fired by the mob, and a large body of the tenants of the Marquis of Bath, accompanied by many gentlemen of the neighbourhood and tradesmen of Warminster, on horseback and on foot, were on guard in the Park, in full determination to protect with their own lives the property and person of the noble

owner of that lordly mansion—FOR HE WAS WORTHY.

The dreaded collision was expected to take place in an hour at the farthest. The men of the Deverills and Crockerton were at the sides of the roads in large numbers, awaiting the arrival of the mob from Hindon. The Special Constables had met to receive their last orders; half an hour was allowed to prepare for the conflict; some hastened to their homes to say farewell to their families, or to lock up, or bury, whatever was most valuable, when uncertain rumours reached the town that a fierce fight had taken place at Hindon. Towards noon, definite intelligence arrived. The insurgents at Hindon had assembled in formidable numbers. Mr. J. Ravenhill (lately deceased) read the Riot Act. The mob attacked the Lancers, and a severe hand to hand encounter took place. Three or four of the assailants were killed; hundreds were more or less wounded, many having had their hands cut off as they seized the horses' bridles. Their march on Warminster was thus effectually arrested. Meanwhile, the Warminster Troop of Yeomanry, who had left for Devizes, had not proceeded far on the road, before they discovered that they were the victims of a hoax, and were acting under a false alarm; and after a day's *reconnoitre* in the intermediate villages, they returned to Warminster in the evening.

It ought to be mentioned to the honour of the inhabitants of the Common that they took no part in these tumultuous movements. A few years before they would probably have risen to a man. But owing to the successful efforts recently made for their spiritual, moral, and domestic welfare, and particularly, because at this crisis, by a providential precaution, the parochial authorities had furnished full employment, on fair wages, to all the disengaged and chargeable labourers, the Common and Town remained

quiet, though every village for miles round Warminster, was in dangerous agitation.

The work, then accomplished, was the raising and formation of the main road through the Common by the removal of a vast quantity of earth and stone from the hill beyond, and thus confining the brook, which hitherto had flooded the roadway, within its present channel. Mr. Temple, of Bishopstrow House, also, wholly, or almost wholly, at his own expense, employed a great number of men in the formation of the fine road over Sack Hill, to the limits of Warminster parish. These undertakings supplied abundance of work till the feverish feelings among the labourers subsided.

In the spring of 1839, the neighbourhood of Warminster was disturbed by "seditious and treasonable proceedings of persons who called themselves *Chartists*." The magistrates of the Division on May 13th, swore in a number of the inhabitants of Warminster as Special Constables, but no serious rupture of the peace occurred.

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### XXXIII.

## The Town of Warminster.

"**N**ATURE," saith the writer of *MAGNA BRITANNIA*, "hath plentifully provided for the inhabitants of Wiltshire all things necessary for life. For, though it hath no ports for foreign commodities, yet hath it no occasion for them, being plentifully provided with everything useful—*if the inhabitants could but think so, and would not indulge themselves in vanity*—for the air is sweet and healthy, having neither marshes nor bogs to send forth unwholesome vapours; and the water is very wholesome and plentiful,

every part being watered with rivers and brooks of clear and useful streams. Of the pastures of this county, it is said, the grass of them is the sweetest in England; for if an ox were left to himself to find out his most agreeable food, he'd chuse to live in the *northern* parts; and sheep in the *southern*; leaving the *middle* of the county to men, to whom indeed it is most suitable, as affording plenty of corn and grain in the pastures, and pleasure in the plains. There is hardly a pleasanter place in England for air than Salisbury Plain, which affords a delightful and delicate champaign for recreation, as well as for health, to all the circumjacent villages. Near the S.W. extremity of Salisbury Plain lies THE TOWN OF WARMINSTER, CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST HEALTHY TOWNS IN ENGLAND, AND FAMOUS FOR THE LONGEVITY OF ITS INHABITANTS."

The Town of Warminster stands on high ground; the Market-place is said to be on a level with the spire of Salisbury Cathedral: the approach to the Station from the line of Railway on either side is on an inclined plane upwards. The ridge, over which the carriage drive through Longleat Park passes, forms the watershed for the S.W. of the County.

The Town is built chiefly on the upper Green-Sand formation, which joins the chalk at the foot of the long range of hills on the north and north-east; at a depth of fifteen or sixteen feet lies a bed of very hard quartz, and in sinking wells large masses of *pyrites* are found. The fossils, chiefly *Alcyonea*, and other spongi-form Zoophytes, with which the Green-Sand abounds, particularly on the west of the town, seem almost inexhaustible; a few *testacea* are sparingly scattered among them; but at Shute Farm, near Longleat, in a field called Brimsgrove, so numerous and various are the organic remains, it would seem as if a whole

cabinet of fossils had been emptied of its contents on the spot. Eastward of these sand-beds rise slopes of Chalk, which extend in undulating ranges, north, east and southwards, over half the county.

The appearance of Warminster is that of a well-built, well-kept, orderly town. Some visitors complain it is so neat, prim, tidy, formal, and respectable, that *all the houses seem as if they were kept under cover, and all the inhabitants always drest in their Sunday clothes.* Such was William Cobbett's opinion in 1826. In his "Rural Rides," he says—"I must once more observe that Warminster is a very nice town; everything belonging to it is solid and good. There are no villanous gingerbread houses running up, and no nasty, shabby-genteel people; no women tramping about with showy gowns and dirty necks; no Jew-looking fellows, with dandy coats, dirty shirts, and half heels to their shoes. A really nice and good town. I was delighted and greatly surprised to see the meat, the finest veal and lamb that I had ever seen in my life."

This was not always the character and condition of Warminster. In the middle of the last century there were but few good houses in the town. The streets yawned with deep ruts, so that a traveller might step from the footpath on to the top of a loaded waggon. Streams overflowed the streets at Emwell's Cross, at Alms-house Bridge, and at the end of Chain-street. The streets were Church-street, West-end, Back-lane, Pound-street, High-street, or the Market-place, Chain-street, George-street, and East-street. Chain-street was merely a narrow alley for foot passengers, protected by a chain: old George-street, and Chain-street, form the present George-street. A grant in the time of Henry III was made of two houses in *Court-street*, near the house of Walter, the Chaplain.

Where the Obelisk now stands was a Barn, called Cross Barn, as built near the site of Emwell's Cross. The Obelisk was erected in 1782, with some surplus funds remaining to the Commissioners for the Enclosure of Waste and Open Lands. Till the year 1700, there was no enclosure, no hedges or walls, between Boreham Great Elm (now fallen), the Downs, Cop Heap, and Cley Hill, except Beast Leaze.

In making the main barrel-drain through the Market-place in 1809, there were found pitched or paved ways across the street at certain distances apart, from two to three feet under the surface, and the remains of wooden posts, apparently used for railings lengthwise of the street, and nearly in the centre.

### 1.—ROADS.

The road, or rather track, from Westbury to Heytesbury, did not pass through the Town of Warminster, but followed the old Roman Way at the base of Cop Heap. There was no road down Portway. The road from Bath to Salisbury was not through Boreham, but turned down the Imber Road, and passed over the Downs, by Yarnborough Castle; the old milestones are still standing. The road to Bath, especially through the low, swampy ground over Standerwick Common, was so bad that even broad-wheeled waggons could not traverse it; goods and articles of trade were conveyed on Bell-horses. As early as A.D. 1426, Walter, Lord Hungerford, made a highway or causey over Standerwick Common, or Standerwick Marsh, *for the health of his soul, and that of Catharine his wife*, who once, as tradition avers, were almost lost in passing through the dangerous swamp. This road was also repaired under the



will of his son, Robert Hungerford. Mr. Bartlett's brewery and dwelling-house, by tradition, occupy the site of a mansion of the Hungerfords.

An Act of Parliament was passed in the last year of the reign of George I, for "*Repairing the several roads leading from the town of Warminster, in the county of Wilts.*" The roads are thus specified—

- 1.—From Thomas Ludlow's house at the east end of the town to Heytesbury, 3 miles.
- 2.—From the Lamb Inn to the quarries on Sack Hill, 2 miles.
- 3.—From Alms-house Bridge to Cradle Hill, 1 mile.
- 4.—From Elm Hill to Coleway in Upton Skidmore, 1 mile.
- 5.—From the Pound, in Pound-street, to the Common Gate,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile.
- 6.—From Back-lane to John Ford's house in Crockerton,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile.
- 7.—From Thatcher's house in Bishopstrow-street, over Sutton Common to Newnham-street, 1 mile.

These roads had become "so ruinous and bad by reason of the soil and heavy carriage, that in winter many parts were impassable," as the Act recites, "for waggons and coaches, and also for laden horses; and other parts dangerous to travellers." Fifty-eight trustees were appointed, five to be a *quorum*, to carry out the provisions of the Act, viz.—

Lord Viscount Weymouth	Edward Ashe, <i>Esq.</i>
Lord Herbert	Robert Pitt
Lord Harry Powlett	Peter Bathurst
Lord Nassau Poulett	Edward Younge
Sir Richard Howe	Edmund Lambert
Sir Edward Seymour	George Heathcott
Sir Edward Ernle	Townsend Andrews

Joseph Earle	John Cooper
Giles Earle	Robert Houlton
Abraham Elton	Joseph Houlton, <i>jun.</i>
Thomas Bennett	James Harris
John Gifford	William Harris
Edmund Lambert, <i>jun.</i>	Matthew Pitt
Edmund Seymour, <i>jun.</i>	John Long
Henry Coker	William Hunt
Henry Ludlow Coker	John Eyles
Thomas Chaffin	John Howe
William Willoughby	( <i>Esquires.</i> )
James Townsend	Peter Temple
John Wadman	Samuel Temple
Christopher Mitchell	William Seagram
Thomas Bennett, of Ashton	Thomas Buckler
John Phipps	John Halliday
Thomas Phipps	John Bennett
William Wyndham	Edward Middlecott
Thomas Penruddocke	John Slade
Stephen Crouch	William Buckler
Thomas Methuen	William Wilton
John Fox	Thomas Ludlow
George Turner	( <i>Gentlemen.</i> )

The names here given, with those that follow on succeeding pages, are of great interest, as representatives of the chief families resident in South Wilts, or locally connected with Warminster, in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The tolls payable were: for a Coach with six horses, 1s.; with four horses, 6d.; a waggon with three horses or oxen, 1s.; with two horses, 6d.; but only half toll was to be levied on the road from Back-lane to Crockerton, or from Pound-street to the Common, as requiring less costly outlay.

Other Acts were obtained, at different times, with enlarged

powers, as in 1743, 1765, and 1777. Still the condition of the roads and highways in the town itself and in the neighbourhood was so little improved, and the Commissioners were in debt £3800, without any prospect of payment, that in 1792, they applied again to Parliament. Pound-lane, Portway, Back-lane, and other streets, are reported as ruinous and incommodious:—"the horse roads and footways are not distinct from each other, and are not in due proportion; and from the very crowded markets, in consequence of the great thoroughfare, travellers and foot-passengers are often endangered." Footpaths were made from the East Gate to the Obelisk, and thence to the Church, from the Obelisk to West-end, from Chain-street to Back-lane, from Portway to Common-close, and from Chapel-lane to Lawrence Mead Bridge. Permission is granted to the Marquis of Bath to divert the road from the Bell Inn, at Samborne, to Crockerton, provided he first constructs, at his own cost, a new road to Crockerton, and if he should extend the road beyond Crockerton in the direction of Maiden Bradley, "*so that it shall pass by the side of a Pond lately made or begun to be made by the said Marquis, at a place called SHEER WATER BOTTOM, then the same shall be properly fenced off by the said Marquis, and the fences kept in repair at all times hereafter by him and his heirs.*"

The Trustees under the Act of 1792, were—

Lord Seymour	Lord Weymouth	Wm. P. Ashe a'Court
Lord Webb Seymour	Lord Geo. Thynne	Fran. D. Astley
Lord William Seymour	Lord John Thynne	John Awdrey
Rev. Lord F. Seymour	Sir E. Bayntun, Bart.	( <i>Esquires.</i> )
Ch. Aldridge, <i>senr.</i>	Ch. Aldridge, <i>junr.</i>	Cuthbert Armstrong
Thomas Benet	John Benet	Wil. A. Ballard
James Bayly	William Bayly	John Buckler
Thomas Buckler	Benjamin Buckler	Edward Butler
John Butt	Alex. Buckler	John K. Bracher

Nathan. Barton	Harry Biggs	Morgan Brine
Francis Bennett	St. Brown, <i>of Leigh</i>	St. Brown, <i>junr.</i>
Robert Butt	Wm. Barton	Wm. C. Barton
John Barnes	Gilbert T. Beckett	John Crowch, <i>Clerk</i>
Daniel Caple	John Cockell	John Dobson, <i>Clerk</i>
Thomas Davis	John Davis	William Davis
Henry Davis, <i>Clerk</i>	John Dampier, <i>Clerk</i>	Matthew Davies
William Everett	Thomas Everett	William Everett
John G. Everett	Thomas Everett	John Edwards
Wm. M. Everett	Fran. Everett	Benj. Everett
John Everett	Thomas Fisher, <i>Clerk</i>	Thomas Fricker
Henry Fricker, <i>Clerk</i>	Jon. Folliott	Isaac Frowd, <i>Clerk</i>
Richard Frowd	Isaac Flower	Wm. Chaffin Grove
Ambrose Goddard	John Gaisford	Ch. Gordon Gray
Henry Goddard, <i>Clerk</i>	Henry Gabell, <i>Clerk</i>	Edward Hinton
Thomas Hayter	Edmund Halliday	William Hinton
James Hancock	William Holder	John Hayter
Geo. Is. Huntingford, <i>Clerk</i>	John Hughes	William Hughes
Wm. B. Hughes	Edwd. Hinton, <i>junr.</i>	Thomas Hinton
William Hindley	Robt. Herbert, <i>Clerk</i>	Giles Halliday
Lewis Jones, <i>Clerk</i>	Jarvis House	William Jones
Edmund Lambert	John. T. Ingram	Anthony Kington
John Lampard	John Langley	Edmund Ludlow
Sam. Long, <i>junr.</i>	George Lye	Samuel Long
James Ludlow	John Lamb	Aylmer B. Lambert
John Layland	John Lethbridge	Stephen Long
John Middlecott	Edward Middlecott	Ed. Meddlecott, <i>junr.</i>
Jeremiah Morris	Paul Methuen	Uriah Messiter
Thomas L. Meech	Millington Massey, <i>Clerk</i>	Thos. Marsh
Thomas Owen, <i>Clerk</i>	John Newman	William Newman
— William Parry	James Osborne	Thomas Phipps
Richard Randall	Henry Painter	John Rolt, <i>Clerk</i>
William Royse, <i>Clerk</i>	John M. Rogers, <i>Clerk</i>	Geo. Rooke
James Still	Hon. E. Seymour	Hon. W. Seymour
Henry Seymour	James C. Still	John Still, <i>Clerk</i>
John Seagram	John Slade	James Slade
Edward Slade	Thomas Seagram	*Wm. Sheppard, <i>junr.</i>
Brouncker Thring, <i>Clerk</i>	Thomas Tucker	John Tucker
Hon. P. Wyndham	John Thring	Roger Townsend
James Wilton	Charles Wake, <i>D.C.L.</i>	Thomas Warren
William Wansey	John Watts	John White
	George Wansey	Charles Webb

Henry Williams, <i>Clerk</i>	Thomas Warren, <i>junr.</i>	Peter Warren
Wm. Williams, <i>Clerk</i>	George Warren	James A. Wickham
Robert Woodyear	John Woodyear	

It was only in 1759 that the lower road out of the town to Westbury was so widened, by pulling down old houses, and throwing gardens into the thoroughfare, that it became fairly passable. A rough footpath to Newport House, and probably a bridle track, had existed for many years, but there was no roadway for wheels. The name PORTWAY, which the street now bears, is apparently only a contraction of NEWPORT WAY. The same year the hollow channel in Pound-street was filled up and levelled. In the autumn a new road was cut to the Common, the old, narrow, deep, winding lane being abandoned.

On October 25, 1760, a meeting was held at the Weymouth Arms, when it was resolved to apply to Parliament for powers to form a Turnpike Road to Salisbury, through the valley of the Wily, instead of the old road over the Downs.

The Great Western Railway was opened to Warminster in 1851. It extends two miles, five furlongs, through the parish. The Narrow Gauge was substituted for the Broad Gauge in 1874, and a double line laid down from Westbury to Warminster.

## 2.—HOUSEHOLDERS IN WARMINSTER IN 1665.

An alphabetical list of inhabitants of Warminster paying tithes in A.D. 1665—

Abath, Jos.	Allen, William	Allen, Jacob
Abath, Fran.	Allen, <i>Widow</i>	Atkins, Andrew
Aldridge, M.	Adlam, William	Atkins, John
Abraham, Nicholas	Adlam, Edward	Atkins, A., <i>junr.</i>

Arnham, M. F.	Braxton, John	Debnam, William
Ayres, William	Braxton, <i>Widow</i>	Debnam, D.
Bachelor, Mich.	Burslem, William	Deanes, <i>Widow</i>
Barnes, William	Burbage, Jane	Dicks, Thomas
Baker, Walter	Butt, Jacob	Dicks, William
Bartlett, Nicholas	Butt, Thomas	Dicks, <i>Widow</i>
Bayly, Hugh	Cockey, Richard	Draper, John
Bayly, Richard	Cockey, Peter	Dredge, Robert
Baker, William	Cockey, Lewis	Dredge, William
Barnes, Robert	Cooch, Nicholas	Dodimede, Sam.
Badder, Ralph	Cooch, Richard	Dodimede, James
Badward, Thomas	Crouch, John	Dowse, Thomas
Bedford, Robert	Coombs, William	Eacot, John
Berry, Robert	Cooper, Thomas	Eacot, Edward
Bennett, Edward	Cox, John	Ellat, James
Bennett, James	Coles, Phil.	Edwards, Nicholas
Beeman, William	Cox, Edward	Emme, William
Buckler, Austin	Cook, Ferd.	Emme, Morgan
Buckler, Thomas	Cook, Anthony	Ember, John
Buckler, Hump.	Cousins, Richard	French, Thomas
Buckler, John	Cornish, John	French, Roger
Buckler, Charles	Carpenter, Edward	French, John
Buckler, William	Carpenter, Richard	Field, Richard
Butler, Robert	Cabel, William	Fry, <i>Widow</i>
Butler, Thomas	Carrier, Henry	Fisher, M.
Butcher, John	Chandler, William	Figgins, <i>Widow</i>
Butcher, Abr.	Chip, Thomas	Forrest, William
Burnaby, Thomas	Cheeslet, John	Forrest, Anthony
Burton, Thomas	Chalice, John	Fricker, Hugh
Burgeman, Thomas	Clarke, William	Froman, Robert
Brown, William	Clare, John	Gardener, Thomas
Brown, W., <i>junr.</i>	Clare, Nicholas	Gaisford, William
Brown, Robert	Chubb, John	Garret, John
Brown, Alex.	Crabb, William	Garret, William
Blake, William	Davis, Richard	Gibbs, Anthony
Blake, Edward	Davies, John	Gerrish, Henry
Blake, George	Davies, William	Gibbs, William
Bleeck, Robert	Davies, William, <i>junr.</i>	Gillingham, John
Braxton, William	Daniell, John	Giles, John
Bryant, M.	Day, William	Goffe, William
Bristol, William	Deacon, Thomas	Goodfellow, <i>Widow</i>
Brooks, Thomas	Debnam, John	Golding, George

Green, John	Hodges, Fras.	Marchant, Tristram
Gun, <i>Widow</i>	Hodges, John	Marchant, Henry
Gullifer, William	Jones, Stephen	Marchant, <i>Widow</i>
Greenfield, William	Jarrat, Nicholas	Marsh, Robert
Griffin, Stephen	Jarrat, Henry	Marsh, Thomas
Grist, Henry	Jarrat, Richard	Mascall, Richard
Grey, Richard	Jarrat, William	Meaden, William
Greenhill, William	Jones, Edward	Mervin, Ambrose
Greatwood, Geoff.	Jones, William	Middlecott, Mrs.
Grant, <i>Widow</i>	Jog, Anne	Miller, Richard
Green, Giles	King, Matthew	Miffin, John
Green, Chris.	Kayford, Thomas	Miffin, Edward
Gunning, Richard	Kerley, <i>Widow</i>	Mayne, William
Harris, Peter	Knight, Thomas	Miller, <i>Widow</i>
Harris, Robert	Lawrence, H.	Minors, John
Harris, John	Lawrence, John	Minors, Stratton
Harris, <i>Widow</i>	Lawrence, Fran.	More, Christopher
Harbottle, John	Lamb, Thomas	Mog, Christn.
Hawkins, Richard	Lamb, <i>Widow</i>	Morgan, Richard
Hancock, John, (held the Parsonage)	Lewis, John	Morgan, Edward
Harris, Edward	Leader, John	Morgan, John
Hains, Edward	Long, George	Morgan, <i>Widow</i>
Harman, John	Long, Robert	Mosely, Phil.
Hawker, <i>Widow</i>	Long, Stephen	Moon, Christ.
Hayter, James	Lewis, Thomas	Monday, Jasper
Heskol, George	Lewis, <i>Widow</i>	Morris, Richard
Hinton, Edward	Lovelock, John	Nash, Thomas
Hill, Robert	Lot, Richard	Newman, M.
Holton, Edward	Lot, Laurence	Noble, Robert
Holton, William	Lot, <i>Widow</i>	Norris, John
Holton, Sam	Lodge, Mary	Nightingale, <i>Widow</i>
Holton, George	Ludlow, Thomas	Newhook, Richard
Holton, Robert	London, <i>Widow</i>	Owen, Richard
Holton, Richard	Lucas, Walter	Owen, Jeremiah
Holiday, Edward	Lure, John	Okey, <i>Widow</i>
Hodges, James	Lyde, Thomas	Payne, John
Holbrook, Josiah	Lypeat, M.	Payne, William
Hughes, Solomon	Lydbury, Aust.	Payne, Anthony
Huffe, Edward	Lydbury, <i>Widow</i>	Payne, <i>Widow</i>
Hulbert, M.	Marchant, John	Pagham, Thomas
Hunt, John	Marchant, Roger	Papps, Stephen
	Marchant, William	Pardy, John

Parker, George	Rose, Arthur	Wansey, George
Parker, Maurice	Scott, William	Watts, Fran.
Pearce, George	Seaden, John	Watts, Jos.
Pearce, Thomas	Shepherd, George	Wansborough, M.
Pearce, Edward	Shepherd, Nicholas	Warren, Christ.
Pearce, Henry	Shergold, E.	Warren, William
Perry, Rawlins	Short, John	Webb, Fran.
Perry, Bartholomew	Sims, William	Webb, Nathaniel
Penny, <i>Widow</i>	Slade, John	Weston, William
Perry, Benjamin	Singer, William	Westley, Richard
Pearce, Stephen	Sloper, Simon	Whately, William
Perry, George	Stacey, <i>Widow</i>	Whately, Ember
Pickman, Stephen	Stevens, James	Whately, Robert
Piper, <i>Widow</i>	Stroud, Jos.	Wheeler, William
Pitman, John	Street, John	Wheeler, Edmund
Pitman, Benjamin	Smart, <i>Widow</i>	Whitaker, Richard
Pilton, William	Swift, George	White, Richard
Pitt, Thomas	Swift, William	Wilton, Henry
Petty, William	Swift, <i>Widow</i>	Wilton, William
Philips, Robert	Taylor, Lionel	Wilton, W., <i>junr.</i>
Passion, <i>Widow</i>	Taylor, Christ.	Winkworth, W.
Presley, Hugh	Townsend, Fran.	Wise, Richard
Potticary, Edmund	Townsend, Nat.	Willis, Richard
Potticary, Thomas	Townsend, John	Wiles, <i>Widow</i>
Ponting, John	Townsend, Walter	Willoughby, A.
Ponting, Henry	Teag, Nat.	Wifold, Thomas
Pope, Anthony	Teag, William	Wright, William
Powell, John	Titcomb, Richard	Willoughby, R.
Prior, Michael	Trapp, William	Willoughby, M.
Prior, <i>Widow</i>	Toogood, Robert	Wheeler, Fran.
Pytchard, <i>Widow</i>	Threasher, William	Willis, Nicholas
Rawlins, William	Trapp, Richard	Willis, John
Rawlins, <i>Widow</i>	Trapp, Fran.	Yockney, Richard
Rawlins, Richard	Turner, William	Yockney, R., <i>junr.</i>
Rowley, Henry	Turner, John	Yockney, Fran.
Reynolds, Stephen	Turner, Oliver	Yerbury, Thomas
Read, Richard	Turner, Christ.	Yerbury, Fran.
Rickman, Thomas	Tyley, William	Young, William
Rickman, John	Viney, Christ.	
Rice, William	Wansey, John	

Of these 381 Householders, 13 lived at Bugley, 7 at



Heygrove, 7 at Winehill, and 354 in Warminster Town.

43 Housekeepers resident in Boreham—

Allen, Richard	Ellat, Fran.	Moon, Thomas
Alcock, William	Fennel, <i>Widow</i>	Moon, Fran.
Brown, Toby	Fit, Stephen	Olive, John
Bayly, Christ.	Giffard, M.	Phipp, M.
Bayly, <i>Widow</i>	Giles, John	Player, Thomas
Blagden, William	Goodrop, M.	Rogers, John
Blatch, <i>Widow</i>	Gritton, Geo.	Stevens, Robert
Bennet, M.	Haines, Henry	Smith, Richard
Burbidge, M.	Hoskins, Thomas	Smith, Thomas
Burrell, Jonathan	King, Henry	Short, Mary
Carter, Benjamin	Kitley, Christ.	Wickham, R.
Curtis, <i>Widow</i>	King, Gab.	Withers, William
Debnam, Drew	Langley, M.	Willat, Christ.
Dyer, Edward	Leach, John	
Ellat, John	Linley, Fr.	

Total number of Householders in the parish of Warminster paying tithe 424.

### 3.—CURIOUS INDENTURE.

“20th day of October, An<sup>o</sup>. Dom. 1624.

“Memorandum, that the day and yeare next above written Joan Wayman daughter of William Wayman of the town of Warmister husbandman did willinglie of her self together with the consent of her parents bynd her self to John Morgan of the West End of Warmister now Carier and to Mirabell his wyfe to serve them as an Apprintice for the tyme and tearm of seaven yeares begining at the feast of St. Michaell th' archangell last past, and in consideration hereof she received of the sayd John Morgan and his wife seven smale pence in the presence of her parents, and also of Richard Haker and George Richardson the wryter heerof.”

## 4.—TOKENS.

Of Warminster Tokens only four are known. Tokens were used by nearly every tradesman as advertisements, but were payable only at the shop from which they were issued. Some were penny tokens, others half-penny, and farthing. The four Warminster tokens are of the last class.

- 1.—*Obverse*—John Bucker—A heart crowned. *Reverse*—In Warmister—1651—J.B.
- 2.—*Obverse*—James Elliot—An open hand. *Reverse*—Of Warmister—A cock.
- 3.—*Obverse*—John Slade—1667—A heart. *Reverse*—In Warmister—J.S.
- 4.—*Obverse*—Thomas Toomer—A dove with olive branch. *Reverse*—Of Warmister—1651—T.T.

These semi-legal coins were only current between 1650 and 1672. When the farthing of Charles II was ready to issue from the Mint, all tokens were driven out of general circulation by stringent proclamation of Parliament. They continued, however, to pass with authorized copper coins, to the time of the substitution of the present bronze coinage.

## 5.—ALMS-HOUSES, AND PIOUS AND CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS.

There were Alms-Houses, or an Alms-House, first occupied in 1561, which stood on the bank of the brook, on the west side of the Organ Inn. Several poor persons, male and female, were lodged here, and received the alms of those who passed over the adjoining bridge. By deed, 30 March, 1607, Clement Abath, "*as well for the forbearance of certain money due to the poor people of*

*Warminster, as also for the good devocion he beareth to the poor people of the Almes House,"* binds himself or his heirs to pay £5, on 26 March, 1611, at or in the Chapel of St. Laurence, for the benefit of the Alms-Houses.

Among burials recorded in the Register are mentioned—

1561. Jan. 25—Mother Amy, of the Alms-House.

1564. July 19—William Maggot, the first that died of the plague.

1578. Ap. 27—Mother Pearce, of the Alms-House.

1587. Jan. 11—Jane Brown, of the Alms-House.

The buildings fell into decay, and were altogether removed about the year 1750.

In 1874, Four Alms-Houses were built on Portway Road by Mrs. Warren, in memory of her late husband. They are occupied by women, elderly widows or spinsters, who are nominated by Trustees, and receive six shillings a week, and are provided with medical attendance without charge. The Trustees are four in number.

The Orphanage of Pity receives twenty-one girls and twenty Boys. It subsists wholly on gifts of charity.

The Cottage Hospital furnishes gratuitously seven beds, nursing, and medical relief, to the sick poor of the town, and neighbouring parishes. Its ministrations are peculiarly valuable, as affording *immediate* aid in suffering, and frequently obviating the necessity of patients being conveyed either to Bath Hospital, or Salisbury Infirmary, each nearly twenty miles distant.

The Mission House of St. Boniface, founded by Sir James Erasmus Philipps, Bart., Vicar, in 1860, trains young male students for Mission Work in the Colonies and amongst the Heathen; St. Denys' Home aims at the same, and other objects, for young women.

## 6.—THE TOWN-HALL.

A TOLLESLIDE, THOULSEY, or TOLSEY, stood in the Market Place in 18 Henry VI, A.D. 1440. A TOWN-HALL is mentioned as in existence during the Commonwealth, and here, on April 1, A.D. 1656, as out of course, but by precept of the Lord Protector, four Waymen were sworn into office. It is supposed to be the old house, which afterwards became the Plume of Feathers Inn, and occupied part of the site of the present King's Arms.

A later building, which stood in High-street, on the slope opposite St. Laurence's Chapel, bore on its west wall the date of 1711. It had been built by subscription, and was once used as a Wool House. Part of the lower stage was used as the Blind House, or Town Prison. There had been a pillory, stocks, and a whipping post. Long wooden shambles and stalls, on the east side of the building, were removed in 1795. A spacious room, above the area assigned to the Market stalls, was used for Public Meetings. The Magistrates sat in the open court: here the poor were paid. But though in good condition, and solidly built of oak that would have lasted for centuries, the building, as it stood, was a serious obstruction to the public thoroughfare, and was pulled down in 1832.

The present Town-Hall, was built on the ground occupied by Armstrong's Bank, in 1830, from a design of Blore, at the cost of Lord Bath, who granted the use of it to the town, but retained the freehold. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. Phipps, Chairman of the Bench of Magistrates, and in it was enclosed a tablet, bearing this inscription:—

HUJUS ÆDIFICII

IN USUS FORENSES DESTINATI

SUMPTIBUS

HONORATISSIMI THOMÆ MARCH. DE BATH, VICECOM. DE

WEYMOUTH, BARONIS THYNNE VERLUCIENSIS  
EQUIT. AUREÆ PERISCEL, &c., &c.

CONDITI

PRIMUM HUNC LAPIDEM

POSUIT

THOMAS HENRICUS HELE PHIPPS, ARMIG.

MAGISTRATUUM IN CURIA SEDENTIUM

PRÆSES

DIE QUINDECIMO APRILIS

A.D.

MDCCCXXX.

The basement of the Town-Hall is occupied by Courts of Justice, beneath which are cells for prisoners. The upper storeys are used as Assembly Rooms.

The present acting Magistrates for the Division of Warminster, are :—

The Marquis of Bath	Hon. W. L. Holmes a'Court
Lord Heytesbury	General Feilding
Lord H. Thynne	N. F. Barton, Esq.
Vere F. B. Stanford, Esq.	Captain Yeatman-Biggs
Rev. G. Powell	Sir W. D. Onslow, Bart.
Colonel Everett	

The Places comprised in the Division are :—

Bishopstrow	Hill Deverill	Norton Bavant
Boyton and Corton	Longbridge Deverill	Sherrington
Chitterne All Saints	Fisherton and Bapton	Stockton
Chitterne St. Mary	Heytesbury	Sutton Veny
Codford St. Mary	Horningsham	Upton Lovell
Codford St. Peter	Imber	Upton Scudamore
Corsley	Knooke	Warminster
Brixton Deverill	Maiden Bradley	Wily

Special and Petty Sessions are held in the Town-Hall every Saturday, and on the first Thursday of every month ; Midsummer Sessions in July.

The County Court is also held at the Town-Hall every alternate month ; the days are fixed quarterly.

The Warminster Local Board, which was formed in 1869, and consists of fifteen members, meets monthly in the Town-Hall.

Tuesday, April 19, 1814, was observed in Warminster as a Festal Day, in commemoration of the entry of the Allied Armies into Paris. The Committee appointed to consider the most proper mode of celebrating the late Glorious Events, recommended that the handsome sum subscribed should be spent in the manner following—

“ Bell Ringing the whole day.

Bands of Music to play at intervals.

A Procession with Cockades at 11 o'clock, headed by the Bailiff of the Hundred, the High Constable, Committee, Gentlemen, Band, 400 Sunday School Children, Scholars of the Latin School, Clubs with Music, Effigy of Buonaparte,\* Indian Gong, &c.

The Children of all the Sunday Schools to dine together at the Town-Hall at 12 o'clock.

An ox, and two sheep to be roasted in the Fair Ground, adjoining Ash-walk, and with eight hogsheads of Beer to be distributed at 2 o'clock.

The Inhabitants, who choose, to dine together at the Town-Hall, at 4 o'clock—Tickets 15s. each.

[The Marquis of Bath was one of the number—102 dined—the Rev. Dr. Rowlandson, Vicar, in the Chair—the toasts were—  
 “ The KING—God bless him ”—“ The PRINCE REGENT ; may his Reign, when it takes place, be as auspicious as his Regency ”—  
 “ The CONSTITUTION OF ENGLAND ; may it remain the Admiration of the world, and last for ever ”—“ The WOODEN WALLS OF OLD ENGLAND ; may they always be manned with hearts of Oak ”—  
 “ THE LAND WE LIVE IN ; the glory of all lands and the envy of the world ”—THE DUKE OF YORK AND THE ARMY ”—THE BARON OF WARMINSTER ”—“ THE PRINCE REGENT'S MINISTERS, AND THE

\* An “ Account of the Life, Character, and Behaviour of that Scourge to the Human Race, Napoleon Buonaparte ”—published by Yockney, Warminster, states that “ for want of the Original, he was executed in Effigy, in the Market-place, Warminster, on Tuesday, the 19th of April, 1814.”

PILOT THAT WEATHERED THE STORM"—"THE NOBLE EMPEROR ALEXANDER, AND HIS VETERANS; may every power emulate his example"—"THE KING OF PRUSSIA, WITH HIS VALIANT BLUCHER"—"THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA, not forgetting PRINCE SCHWARTZENBURG"—"THE PRINCE ROYAL OF SWEDEN, with all the Allies who have contributed to the present triumph"—"THE IMMORTAL WELLINGTON, who has covered the British Army with glory"—LOUIS THE 18th; stability to his throne, and happiness to his subjects." The Marquis of Bath gave a toast—"PROSPERITY TO THE TOWN OF WARMINSTER."}]

A Transparency to be displayed in the Front Windows of the Town-Hall, at 8 o'clock.

A Bon-Fire on the Down, also in the Fair Ground; at each place a large quantity of Fire Works to be exhibited."

The following Hymn was written on this occasion, probably by Mr. Yockney, the printer.

A THANKSGIVING HYMN, FOR PEACE.

O COME! let's join to sing  
 Glad hymns to God our King,  
 Ancient of days;  
 To Him, who deigns to bring  
 PEACE on his mighty wing,  
 Let us his mercies sing,  
 In songs of praise.

Hark! a proclaiming sound  
 Does o'er the world rebound,  
 "Peace! Peace! on Earth;"  
 While these glad Tidings fly  
 To yon bright azure sky,  
 Which in soft strains reply,  
 "Peace! Peace! on Earth."

At this melodious voice,  
 Each Captive does rejoice,  
 And lose his pain;

His gloomy prison door  
 Will be close barr'd no more,  
 Or he in woe deplore  
 The galling chain.

See ! how his ardent sight  
 Views the bright orb of light,  
 And nature's laws ;  
 In Peace he takes his ways,  
 While with enraptur'd lays,  
 He breathes pure hymns of praise,  
*To the Grand Cause.*

Now warlike swords and spears  
 Are turn'd to scythes and shares,  
 To bless the Earth ;  
 Lions with Lambs shall play,  
 Or with young Heifers stray,  
 And all Men hail the day  
*Of Peace on Earth.*

In *Gospel* holy bands,  
 PEACE shall unite the hands  
 Of *Jew* and *Turk* ;  
 Then will all Nations smile,  
 And Sin no more beguile,  
 Or Satan's pow'r defile  
 Heav'n's gracious work.

To Him who sends us Peace,  
 And makes our joys increase,  
 Be praise e'er more ;  
 Come, bow before his throne,  
 Where all our griefs are known,  
 For He has mercy shown,  
 Him let's adore.

Now to the GREAT TRIUNE,  
 For Peace, let's humbly tune  
 Our grateful lays ;  
 And with th' Angelic Choir,  
 Express a warm desire  
 To breathe seraphic fire,  
 In endless praise.



The Coronation of George IV, on Thursday, July 19, 1821, was celebrated in Warminster with the following festivities—

Bell Ringing—Bands of Music—The Donation of 4000 loaves to such Poor Persons as were in the Angel Field precisely at 11 o'clock—A Dinner in the Market-Place to 480 School Children, and to every poor person of, or above the age of, His Majesty, then in his 58th year, 421 in number; each child had a pint of beer, and each adult a quart—A Procession—An ox and two sheep roasted in the Fair Ground—A Public Dinner in the Town-Hall; tickets 5s. each—A large Bonfire in the Fair Ground, and Fireworks in the Market-place.

On the Coronation of William IV, and Queen Adelaide, September 8, 1831, £80 were distributed in bread and meat, with a quart of beer for each family; £25 were apportioned for providing a dinner for the Schools; the inhabitants dined at the Town-Hall, tickets 7s. each; a Procession of Friendly Societies and others paraded the town; £20 were expended in a Bonfire and Fireworks in the New Road.

Queen Victoria was proclaimed in Warminster, on Tuesday evening, June 27, 1837. The exuberant loyalty of the people of Warminster was demonstrated on the day of her Majesty's Coronation, June 28, 1838, thus—£176 were subscribed, and meat and beer were distributed to the poor at their dwellings at a cost of £80; a Procession (all wearing white favours) of a Trumpeter on Horseback, a Champion, the Bailiff and High Constable, Bands, General Committee, Dinner Stewards, Inhabitants three abreast White Hart, Crown, and Anchor Clubs, [*N.B.—The Boot, Ubsdell's, and Cock Inn Clubs would not join in procession*] and School Children, walked from the Church through Church-street, West-street, Pound-lane, Pound-street, through the Town to the Flag Staff on the Boreham-road, back to the Market-place, where the Children filed off to

their respective tables for a dinner of Roast Beef and Plum Pudding; popular amusements were provided in Beast-leaze; two splendid Montgolfier Fire Balloons ascended from the Market-place, followed by Fireworks, and a Bonfire in the New-road.

### 7.—THE MARKET AND TRADE.

Leland says, A.D. 1532, — “Wermistre is a principal Market-town for corn.” John Aubrey—“Warminster is exceedingly much frequented for a round Corn-market on Saturday. Hither come the best teemes of horses, and it is much resorted to by buyers. It is held to be the greatest Corn-market by much in the West of England. My Bayliff has assured me that twelve or fourteen score loades of corne on market-dayes are brought thither; the glovers that work in their shops at the towne’s end doe tell the carts as they come in: but this market of late yeares has decayed: the reason whereof I had from my honored friend, Henry Millburne, Esq., Recorder of Monmouth.”

Lying in the midst of a fine corn-country, Warminster has been famous for many centuries, not only for its large Corn Market, (five hundred waggon-loads of corn having been often brought to one market,) but for the custom that *a sack from every load of corn* should be pitched in the street; all bargains be made between 11 and 1 o’clock; and all purchases discharged with ready money. Mr. Millburne, Aubrey’s “honored friend,” was largely instrumental in inducing the farmers of Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire to take *samples* of their corn to Bristol Market in *bags*—whence they were nicknamed “Baggers, or Badgers”—and the Bristol dealers in a great degree forsook Warminster. The contentions between the Wiltshire Corn Merchants and

the "Bristol Badgers" gave the Magistrates of Petty Sessions at Warminster considerable trouble. King George III, while at Longleat, heard of the custom of pitching a sack of corn in Warminster Market, and expressed his approval of the practice, and conversed with some of the farmers on the subject. Afterwards the King saw one of them at Windsor, called him, and inquired for the good people of Warminster. The yeoman informed His Majesty that he had left Wiltshire for Gloucestershire. "Bad! Bad! Bad!" said the King—"Down the Severn come the Badgers, and spoil the markets—you should have stayed at Warminster with its sacks."

The tolls of the Market belong to the Marquis of Bath, as Lord of the Hundred and Manor, and are still collected in kind—about two quarts of corn are dipped out of every sack pitched in the Market, in a brass bowl.

All sacks were formerly pitched in the open street. In 1850, the Marquis of Bath built the Corn Exchange.

The proposal to make the river Avon navigable from Bristol to Bath, A.D. 1780, and thence to create a system of water-carriage through Wilts by Canals, excited a panic among Wiltshire agriculturists. A protest went up to the Grand Jury at Salisbury from the High Sheriff and Justices of the county, setting forth that Canals would be very prejudicial to local traffic, that they would diminish carriage by land, that *there would be no horses to eat the oats*, that grain coming from Bath would lower the prices in Wilts ruinously, and that it had already actually happened that corn brought by water to Bath, and thence conveyed on horseback, did at some seasons glut the markets as far as Warminster.

Besides its large trade in wheat and barley, from 1700 to 1800 great quantities of malt were made in Warminster.

More than sixty malthouses were at one time at work, and as very little malt was made in Somerset and Devon, the colliers from the west used to bring up coal in sacks, on packhorses and mules, and load back with malt. This was almost the only mode of conveyance, and the number of the beasts of burden so employed was amazingly large.

At an earlier stage there was a considerable manufacture of gloves in the town.

Woollen cloths, kerseymeres, blankets, &c., formed for a long period a principal manufacture. From the reign of Elizabeth to the close of the 18th century, the towns of Wiltshire lying in the valley of the Avon, on the north-west, and in that of the Wily in the south-west, Malmesbury, Chippenham, Bradford, Trowbridge, Westbury, Warminster, Heytesbury, and Wilton, with all the circumjacent villages, were largely employed in the weaving of various kinds of woollen fabrics, and the clothiers were men of wealth and position. This manufacture declined in Wiltshire very rapidly, owing to the general adoption of machinery and the power-loom in the great factories of Yorkshire and Lancashire, and to the increasing consumption, throughout England and the Continent, of cotton and linen textures. John Aubrey held that the clothiers suffered in his day, because "*men would take to silk and Indian ware.*"

In 1790, there were thirty Cloth Factories in Warminster, all busy and prosperous. They were not Factories in the present sense, but rather Clothing Shops, in which the finishing processes were effected, spinning, carding, warping, and weaving being carried on in cottages, over a large area in the town, and in the country villages, as fifty or sixty years before in farm houses. In 1801, the clothiers of Warminster received a heavy blow in consequence of the riots about the introduction of the spring loom. Then

twenty-two manufactories were in full work. The riots continued over 1802—3, and became very alarming; neither property nor life was safe. On one occasion, after the weavers had paraded the town with bludgeons day after day, the Riot Act was read by Mr. E. L. Lye, the High Constable of Warminster, in the open space between the Obelisk and the present National School, and the mob at length dispersed, but not until, as it is stated, they were fired on by the Yeomanry Cavalry. In 1809 some factories were entirely closed, and a very large consignment of cloth was returned on the makers' hands, as not able to compete with that manufactured by improved machinery. In 1812 the only clothiers in Warminster (and it is doubtful whether they were working at any profit) were, Mr. H. Wansey, in Back-street, and West-street; Messrs. P. and G. Warren, in West-street; Mr. W. Hinton, West-street; Mr. T. Aldridge, Cook Yard; Messrs. Bleeck and Strode, Bugley; and Mr. Rossiter, Pound-street. The two last looms ceased to work about 1824, in Church-street, and Mifflin's Yard.

In 1830 one Factory was again at work, which made about four yards of cloth a week; during the same period, of sixty malthouses all were closed but three or four; house-property in the town was exceedingly depressed in value, and the privations of the labouring classes, through want of work, were very great. This year, John Raxworthy, of Warminster, petitioned Parliament to amend the laws regulating wages, and to restrict the ruinous increase of machinery.

A Silk Factory has of late years been established in the town. There is also a large Iron Foundry, chiefly engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements.

## 8.—THE SAVINGS BANK.

A Savings Bank was established for the town and neighbouring villages in 1823. The late Mr. Temple, of Bishopstrow House, the first Treasurer, continued in the office for fifty-two years. The present Savings Bank stands on the site of an old hostelry, bearing the sign of the "Hatchet." It was built in 1852, contemporaneously with the formation of the road to the Railway Station.

For the first six years of its existence the rate of interest allowed by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt was 4 per cent. ; it afterwards fell to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. ; it now stands at 3 per cent. The largest amount of deposits made in one year, was the sum of £14,595, in 1824 : about £10,000 were paid in 1823, 1858—59—60. The lowest sum paid in deposits was £4,309, in 1831. This difference of more than £10,000, between the year 1824 and 1831, is a startling fact, and tells a tale of hard times, low wages, pinching penury, and extensive emigration.

The total sum received by the Trustees of the Savings Bank from Depositors up to 1877, amounts to about . £400,000.

Interest received from Commissioners about . £100,000.

Principal and Interest paid to Depositors about £90,000.

Capital in Bank of England about . . . . £70,000.

## 9.—THE ATHENÆUM.

The Athenæum stands on the ground partly occupied by the Search Hoop Inn, which was burnt down, and the London Inn built nearly on its site. The carved stone, now built into the wall of the courtyard in the rear, as stated before, probably bears the coat of Sir John de Kyngeston. The Athenæum was erected by public subscription in

1857—8, at a cost of £1,400. It includes a large Lecture-room, (about to be rebuilt as a memorial to the late Mr. Bleeck), a Reading-room, Class-rooms, one of which is occupied by the School of Art, and a residence for the Librarian. The site is leasehold, under the Marquis of Bath.

#### 10.—THE LITERARY INSTITUTION.

In the formation of Weymouth-street, in the year 1830, the Plume of Feathers Inn was removed, and the Literary Institution built on its site. It contains a Reading-room, and Library, with some valuable books. The collection of antiquities, coins, &c., once in the Museum, is removed to Devizes.

#### 11.—TAVERNS.

At the beginning of last century the Inns, Public Houses, and Breweries were frightfully numerous, and earned for Warminster the taunt and stigma, which clung to it through many years of shame, of being *the most drunken town in Wiltshire*.

Beginning above the Turnpike Gate, called the East Gate, at the junction of the Imber Road with Warminster, and including the Common and Bugley, the Inns and Public Houses were—

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. The Gardeners' Arms | 10. The Bell         |
| 2. The Rising Sun      | 11. The Anchor       |
| 3. The Half Moon       | 12. The Bear         |
| 4. The Black Swan      | 13. The Cross Keys   |
| 5. The Pack Horse      | 14. The Bush         |
| 6. The Catharine Wheel | 15. The Lord's Arms  |
| 7. The Saddlers' Arms  | 16. The Red Lion     |
| 8. The Hatchet         | 17. The Green Dragon |
| 9. The Lamb            | 18. The White Swan   |

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 19. The Three Horse Shoes | 34. The Chequers            |
| 20. The Nag's Head        | 35. The Roebuck             |
| 21. The Plume of Feathers | 36. Admiral Vernon          |
| 22. The George            | 37. The Ship and Punch Bowl |
| 23. The King's Arms       | 38. The Duke William        |
| 24. The King's Head       | 39. The Bull                |
| 25. The Angel             | 40. The Bird in Hand        |
| 26. The Ship              | 41. The Cock                |
| 27. The Search Hoop       | 42. The Iron Pear Tree      |
| 28. The White Hart        | 43. The Blue Balls          |
| 29. The Fox               | 44. The Boot                |
| 30. The Hare              | 45. The Bell                |
| 31. The Organ             | 46. The Hammer and Trewel   |
| 32. The Butchers' Arms    | 47. The King's Head         |
| 33. The Royal Oak         | 48. Bonny's Care            |

The name of the last is inexplicable—its sign was, *A hatchet hung in a tree.* Thus, there was one Public House for every 90 persons!—the highest proportion probably ever reached in any town.

Between 1740 and 1760, the number had decreased to thirty-four—The Gardeners' Arms, Rising Sun, Catharine Wheel, Saddlers' Arms, Hatchet, Bear, King's Arms, King's Head, Chequers, Roebuck, Admiral Vernon, Duke William, Bird in Hand, Iron Pear Tree, and Bonny's Care disappeared—the New Inn only took their place. In 1780 there were twenty-nine Taverns in the town—the new names being, the Leopard, and the Castle; in 1815, twenty-three, all with old signs. The number of Inns and Public Houses now in Warminster Parish is twenty-six.

## 12.—THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The Commissioners for the seizure of Church property, 1 Edward VI, (1547) in their Report on Warminster, state that "*it is well-peopled, especially with youth.*" They add—



“It is a place very meet to have a Free School—towards the which if it might please the King’s Highness to give the lands of St. Laurence’s Chapel, [just then confiscated by the Crown] the inhabitants would buy so much more as should make it up to £10 per annum; which, if it may take effect, would do much good to the country.”

This recommendation did not take effect. But, after the spoliation of St. Laurence’s Chapel, the chief inhabitants of Warminster, *by purchase*, recovered much of the Chapel property, with the primary intention of founding a School; nothing, however, was done in this direction.

A Free School was founded by Thomas, First Viscount Weymouth, A.D. 1707.

Bishop Ken was at this time in retirement at Longleat House. He died in 1710—11. It has been suggested, with probability, that (as the Bishop was urgent in his efforts to establish Schools in all the large towns within his influence) he was instrumental in inducing GOOD LORD WEYMOUTH to found the FREE SCHOOL in Warminster. It is more than likely that Bishop Ken wrote the Inscription on the Tablet over the door of the School.—

TO THE GLORY OF GOD

AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF RELIGION AND LEARNING

THIS SCHOOL WAS BUILT AND ENDOWED BY

THOMAS, LORD VISCOUNT WEYMOUTH,

ANNO DOMINI, MDCCVII.

The large oaken door of the School-House was brought from Longleat. A note of Henry Wansey’s seems to imply that the Rev. James Legertwood, Vicar of Warminster, was the first Master, A.D. 1710.

The School is endowed with £30 a year, for the instruction of twenty boys, on the foundation. There are two scholarships—£25 a year for Latin; £15 for Mathematics.

Dr. Arnold, late Head Master of Rugby School, (of whom it was predicted that he would change the face of education through all the public Schools of England, who lived to fulfil the prophecy, and whose influence is working still) received his early education in the Grammar School, Warminster. Reference is thus made to his early school days in "Stanley's Life."—

"In 1803 he was sent to Warminster School, in Wiltshire, under Dr. Griffith, with whose Assistant Master, Mr. Lawes, he kept up his intercourse long after they had parted.

"He long retained a grateful remembrance of the miscellaneous books to which he had access in the School Library at Warminster: and when, in his Professional Chair at Oxford, he quoted Dr. Priestley's "Lectures on History," it was from recollections of what he had there read, when he was eight years old.\*

"He always looked back on his school education with a marked tenderness. And when, as was his wont, he used to look back from time to time over the whole of this period, it was with the solemn feeling which is expressed in one of his later journals, written on a visit to the place of his earliest school-education, in the interval between the close of his life at Laleham, and the beginning of his work at Rugby.

Warminster, January 5th, [1828.]

"I have not written this date for more than twenty years; and how little could I foresee when I wrote it last what would happen to me in the interval. And now to look forward twenty years—How little can I guess of that also? Only may HE, in whose hands are Time and Eternity, keep me evermore His own; that, whether I live, I may live unto Him; or whether I die, I may die unto Him. May He guide me with His counsel, and after that receive me to glory, through Jesus Christ our Saviour."

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\* The two volumes of Priestley's Lectures, which young Arnold used, are still in the Library of the Grammar School.

No register of the names of the Masters of the Grammar School is known to be in existence: the following list is only presumably correct.

## MASTERS.

Rev. J. LEGERTWOOD.

Rev. C. BARRY.

Rev. THOMAS MARTIN.

Thomas Martin, A.B., in 1763 published a Latin Translation of Matthew Prior's Poem, "Alma," and dedicated it to William Pitt, Esq. In the title-page he calls himself "Thos. Martin, A.B. viginti annorum Presbyter, Scholæ Verlucianæ Magister, et Parochiæ de Kingston Deverill in agro Wiltoniensi curam gerentis."

Rev. — DART.

Rev. THOMAS HUNTINGFORD.

Rev. G. ISAAC HUNTINGFORD.

He was afterwards a Master at Winchester College; he compiled "Greek Exercises," and in later life became Bishop of Hereford. One of the Huntingfords wrote a Poem in blank verse, called "The Nuns' Path."

Rev. HENRY GABEL.

Rev. Dr. JOHN GRIFFITH.

Rev. ROBERT GRIFFITH.

Rev. Dr. CHARLES GRIFFITH.

Rev. CHARLES M. ARNOLD.

Rev. WILLIAM H. BRUNTON.

Rev. THOMAS E. CRALLAN.

Dr. CHARLES ALCOCK.

Under the superintendence of the present Master, the only layman who ever held the office, the School has taken a very high place in the University Local Examinations. One student, Mr. A. B. Walkley, distinguished himself in securing an Open Exhibition at Balliol College, Oxford, a 1st Lawrence Saunders Scholarship, and an Open Mathematical Scholarship at Corpus College; he took also a First Class in Moderations, and a First Class in Degrees.

The Head Master is appointed by the Marquis of Bath.

The Rev. W. Offer, while Under Master at the Grammar School, and Curate of the Parish Church, collected a great number of old deeds of the Middlecotts, and other families connected with Warminster, spending upon them incredible time and labour, which shortened his days. He was of essential service to Sir R. C. Hoare in the compilation of his History of South Wilts. He undertook almost all the work connected with the Parishes in the Hundred of Branch and Dole, including the Manor and Convent of Wilton. His valuable MSS. probably lie buried at Stourton House. Sir R. Hoare placed a tablet to his memory in the Parish Church of Imber, where he was buried.

National Schools were opened in 1815 in Church Street. Larger rooms were built by the Rev. A. Fane in West Street. Very spacious Buildings, originally used as Sunday Schools for the whole Parish, were erected at Sambourne.

A British School for Girls was first established in Ash Walk, removed to Common Close in 1837, and transferred to the old Unitarian Chapel in 1874. The Common Close School Room is occupied by Boys and Infants.

### 13.—THE MANOR HOUSE.

The House, now bearing this name, occupies the ground on which once stood the old mansion of the Mauduits, lords of Warminster for many generations, and known in their days as WARMINSTER COURT. Sir R. C. Hoare, Mr. Henry Wansey, and others, suppose that a Monastery, or Nunnery, once occupied this site. "*The Minster stood (they are Mr. Wansey's words, adopted by Sir R. Hoare) in a field between Portway and Ash Walk, on a gentle elevation, commanding a fine view of the town and country ; but it is not mentioned by*

TANNER in his "NOTITIA,"—nor by any other writer, simply because there is no proof whatever that any Religious House ever existed in Warminster. There certainly was a Chapel in Warminster Court, dedicated to St. Nicholas, but this was merely for the use of the large household of the Mauduits. Hoare's History of Warminster proceeds—*"Tradition, however, has preserved it from oblivion, the spot being still called "THE NUNNERY," and a walk up the side of the neighbouring down being called "THE NUNS' PATH."*

This error issues from the strange assumption, accepted also by archæologists of this day, who should know better, that WARMINSTER means, simply and solely and indisputably — "The-MONASTERY-on-the-WERE." And "The NUNS' PATH" comes in aid most seasonably to fan and fix the delusion—though good people should recollect that it was not in accordance with the usual strictness of the rule of conventual life *that Nuns should be allowed to take long walks in an exposed country, far away from their home ; and it may safely be averred, that the only Nuns, who ever walked on that pleasant and open and breezy path, were the fair, free maidens of the town of Warminster.*

Just at the end of the last century (1790), a farmer, by the name of Randall, who held what remained of the old Mauduit's mansion under lease from Lord Bath, pulled down the greater part, and in the next year re-built the house in its present form. Several old silver coins were found under the floors, and a little carved figure in jet, which is now in the possession of Mr. Halliday, of East-street. On a wall, which was probably part of the Chapel of St. Nicholas, was a rude painting, apparently of the Crucifixion.

The Chapel of St. Nicholas in the Manor of Warminster was founded and endowed by the Mauduits. The Chaplain

received certain rents, he held meadow, pasture and arable lands, with right of feeding pigs in the lord's woods, and sheep on the Common; he was allowed a liberal supply of fuel, and took his principal meal at the lord's table. Warren de Bassingborne, as guardian for Thomas Mauduit, his nephew, A.D. 1268, presents Elie de Stawey, his own chaplain, to the chaplaincy of St. Nicholas: he seems to have been succeeded by Roger Hurtard. Thomas Mauduit, some time before 1320, when he was beheaded, nominated William de Cavanedis.

#### 14.—THE UNION.

About the year 1727, Lord Weymouth built a Poor-house at the Common, in exchange for some of the waste lands: his Lordship also made a proposal to the Parish authorities to undertake the maintenance of the whole of the chargeable poor of the Parish of Warminster, *in perpetuity*, if the fee of certain of the Common Lands were conveyed absolutely to him. This offer was not accepted. A Committee met weekly for the admission and relief of the poor, but the experiment, not answering the expectation of its projectors, after some years the House was closed, and the management of the poor again fell back into the hands of the vestry and overseers. But a Work House was afterwards built by the Parish, enclosing about twenty-four acres of land, also at the Common. No able-bodied labourer ever received any allowance; and of those, whose claim for relief was admitted, very many contributed largely to their own support in weaving broad-cloth by hand-loom, both in and out of the House. The paupers in the House, (generally about 100 in number), cost the parish two shillings each per week, above the value of their labour;

those receiving out-door relief less than a shilling. Large quantities of cloth passed out of the Work House during the year.

The Poor Rate for the year 1678 was £22,—it amounted to the same sum in 1692. In 1693—4, £39 5s. covered the two years' parochial expenditure. In 1696, the Poor Rate was £18 19s. 10d. A century later, in 1789, it had increased to £793 13s. 2d. For some following years it stood as under:—

	£		£
A.D. 1794 ..	1060	A.D. 1809 ..	2682
1795 ..	1830	1810 ..	2684
1796 ..	2120	1811 ..	4920
1797 ..	2580	1812 ..	3600
1798 ..	1900	1813 ..	3700
1799 ..	2600	1814 ..	3120
1800 ..	2800	1815 ..	2620
1801 ..	3800	1816 ..	3500
1802 ..	5310	1817 ..	3600
1803 ..	2500	1818 ..	4200
1804 ..	2804	1819 ..	5194
1805 ..	2500	1820 ..	5022
1806 ..	2600	1821 ..	4563
1807 ..	2800	1822 ..	3296
1808 ..	2680		

The New Union House at Samborne was built in 1836—its cost, (including furniture, part of which was transferred from the Old House at the Common), was over £7000. Of this sum, the Parish of Warminster paid £2304.

The Union comprises twenty-one Parishes, classed in two districts:—

<i>District No. 1.</i>	UPTON SCUDAMORE
WARMINSTER	HORNINGSHAM
BISHOPSTROW	CORSLEY

<i>District No. 2.</i>	HEYTESBURY cum TYTHERINGTON
IMBER	UPTON LOVELL
CHITTERNE ALL SAINTS	KNOOKE
CHITTERNE ST. MARY	SUTTON VENEY
CODFORD ST. PETER	NORTON BAVANT
CODFORD ST. MARY	LONGBRIDGE DEVERILL
STOCKTON	BRIXTON DEVERILL
SHERRINGTON	HILL DEVERILL
BOYTON	

The Parish of Warminster returns 8 Guardians,—Heytesbury cum Tytherington 3,—Longbridge Deverill, Horningsham, and Corsley 2,—the other parishes in the Union 1 Guardian each.—Total 33.

The annual Poor Rate paid by the parish of Warminster, since the Union was formed, has been—

	£		£
A.D. 1839 ..	4375	A.D. 1855 ..	4580
1840 ..	3667	1856 ..	4409
1841 ..	4115	1857 ..	4225
1842 ..	4861	1858 ..	4444
1843 ..	5147	1859 ..	4002
1844 ..	5329	1860 ..	3590
1845 ..	4784	1861 ..	3830
1846 ..	4537	1862 ..	3841
1847 ..	4680	1863 ..	3635
1848 ..	6964	1864 ..	3417*
1849 ..	4587	1865 ..	3391
1850 ..	4768	1866 ..	3373
1851 ..	4087	1867 ..	2927
1852 ..	3981	1868 ..	2960
1853 ..	3923	1869 ..	2951
1854 ..	4142	1870 ..	2501

\* Since the year 1864 a Grant in Aid has been received from Government, but of small amount—under £300 a year for the whole Union.



1871 ..	2978	1875 ..	2346
1872 ..	2853	1876 ..	2130
1873 ..	2790	1877 ..	2271
1874 ..	2916	1878 ..	

The gross estimated rental of the Parish is £25,118,—  
the rateable value £21,216.

## XXXIV.

## The Volunteers.

**A** VOLUNTEER Enrolment, called "THE WARMINSTER LOYAL ASSOCIATION," was formed during the menacing days of the great French Revolution. The movement was, in its original intent, of a purely local character. The Corps undertook only the defence of the Town, and of the country seven miles round. It was established, as the Book of Rules stated, "*for the support of our happy Constitution, for the maintenance of peace and good order, and for the protection of ourselves, our wives, families and property from public or domestic enemies.*" It was inaugurated on July 3, 1798. The original members were 82 in number—

JOHN THRING, Esq., *Captain.*

EDWARD MIDDLECOTT, Jun., Esq., *Lieutenant.*

CUTHBERT ARMSTRONG, Banker, *Ensign.*

THOMAS LAMPARD, *Sergeant-Major.*

*Sergeants.*

JAMES MOORE  
BENJAMIN DEBNAM  
JOHN GAISFORD  
JOHN MORGAN  
STEPHEN YOCKNEY

*Corporals.*

WILLIAM MANLEY  
WALTER LONG  
WILLIAM LANGLEY  
WILLIAM HILLIAR  
THOMAS COUSINS

*Privates.*

Henry Brown	William Butt	James Barnes
Joseph Warne Brown	Thomas Bedford	John Ballard
George Brooks	John Butt	Robert Cockrell
William Coleman	William Cutler, <i>jun.</i>	Isaac Clark
William Cox	Samuel Collier	John Daniell
Richard Dorchester	James Davis	James Doel
Benjamin Dutch, <i>jun.</i>	William Fisher	John Ford
John Gregory	Thomas Harris	Richard House
John Hone	George Kemp	William Kirk
William King, <i>Treasurer</i>	Nicholas Langley	Francis Lidbury
Edward Lidbury	Edwd. Castleman Lidbury	John Lamb, <i>jun.</i>
Joseph Manley	Edward Moffatt	Jeremiah Morgan
Thomas Payne	William Massey	Stephen Pain
John Pearce	Jeremiah Payne	William Payne
John Pinnell	Jeremiah Pearce	Henry John Painter
Edward Randall	William Proviass	John Ridgley
William Smith	William Randall	Thomas Reeves
Jacob Sergood	James Skinner	William Sergood
John Sheppard	Thomas Sly	John Slade
Henry White	John Gale Dalton	James West
John Young	William White	William Whittock

*Drummers.*

Edward Flux  
 William Lawrence  
 — Scammel

*Fifers.*

Jeremiah Owen  
 Daniel Dredge  
 John James

A Committee of fifteen members, consisting of the Captain, Lieutenant, Ensign, and twelve Non-commissioned Officers and Privates, managed the affairs of the Company, but of this Committee, all, except the Officers, went out every two months, and were succeeded by twelve new members, so that the whole Corps in turn took part in the management. The company paraded for drill every Monday and Friday at 6½ o'clock for two hours; and there was a Field Day every month.

The following spirited address appeared at this time—

## Hints to Young Soldiers.

*Addressed to the WARMINSTER Loyal Association.*

### SECTION 1.

NOTHING is more disgraceful, than for a Soldier to appear on Parade, or on Duty in a slovenly manner.

An awkward position, laughing, talking, or shuffling with the Hands and Feet, have a disagreeable appearance, and should be strictly avoided.

If a calm Attention to the Word of Command, and a steady Eye to the Fugle-man is not rigidly Observed, it will be impossible for any Manceuvre to be performed with Spirit and Exactness; which is the very Soul of Military Discipline.

If the Commanding Officer gives the Word of Command in a dull or languid manner, the Motions of the whole Body will catch its Influence; so on the contrary, if the Word is given with Life and Spirit, particularly the closing Word, a like Spirit will pervade the Battalion.

In the Manual Exercise, every Motion must be performed Close and with Spirit, and a proper Medium of two or three Seconds of Time be observed between each.

To March well is one of the first Grand Points in a Soldier's Duty; every Movement should be performed with Ease to the Body, and agreeable to the Time given, whether slow or quick; the Motion of the Feet to be equal, and to fall with the same Force and Precision; this Rule ought to be invariably attended to, as there is oftentimes a sinister Practice introduced by young Soldiers, especially in the Quick March, where they bring the left Foot to the Ground with more force than the right in imitation of the Forte and Piano stroke on the Drum; this has not only a disgusting effect on the Ear, but will also on a long March prove highly Fatiguing; it may also in the course of Duty be attended with unforeseen and unpleasant consequences, as Secrecy is oftentimes highly necessary; a moment's Reflection will convince any one of its Impropriety, for, should a Body of Men employed on any secret Expedition make use of this uncouth stamping with their Feet, it must of course be heard a great Distance, and would certainly Alarm any Post of an Enemy however supine (particularly in the silence of night) put them on their guard, and render the Design not only Abortive, but perhaps Destructive to Themselves.

In every Description of Marching the Line must be preserved in a compact and regular manner; this may easily be done if the Center

and Flank Men of each Division will fix their Eyes on some Object straight before them, and move in a direct Line thereto; by this Method the Center will be preserved and the Flanks prevented from pressing thereon, or falling off into improper Intervals.

## SECTION 2.

THE Profession of a Soldier being an Honourable Employment, it ought never to be stained with Dishonour.

Decency in Arms and Apparel, Sobriety, Diligence, and a proper Subordination to Officers, whether Commissioned or Non-commissioned, are certain Characteristics of a good Soldier.

Levity of Behaviour, Immorality, and Profaneness, are Vices detestable in the extreme, and ought cautiously to be avoided.

Be Bold, but not too Bold, is a good Proverb. Many brave Men have needlessly sacrificed their lives for want of this observance; there is a vast difference between true bravery and rashness, dangers are by no means to be courted, but when they present themselves, the best way is to Face them like Men, for it is easier to defend the Face than the Back. This was an excellent Maxim of one of our greatest Generals, (MARLBOROUGH) and should be treasured in the Mind of every Young Soldier.

A Soldier should ever have the Duty he is engaged in imprinted on his Memory, to consider Himself as the Protector of his COUNTRY, its RELIGION, LIBERTY, RIGHTS, and LAWS; therefore, He should conscientiously think Himself bound to PRESERVE THEM INVIOLETE.

Unanimity is that Bond of Union which should strongly cement every Description of Society, nor can it be ever more necessarily practiced than at the present Important Crisis, when all that is Dear to Englishmen is at Stake by the Artifices and Bold Attempts of a most Cruel and Invidious Enemy, who, not only threatens to Annihilate the very Existence of that long envied CONSTITUTION, in the Establishing and Defence of which Blessing our renowned Ancestors so nobly shed their Blood! but to lead us into a Slavery which every free-born and generous Mind must hold in Detestation. As we are now entered into a Brother-hood not only in Defence of our Country, but of ourselves and all we hold Dear and Sacred, let us endeavour to Act like Men, and be deserving of the Name of Britons; let us by every Effort endeavour to strengthen and support the Bond of Union we have the Honour to be Members of; let no Private or Selfish Consideration ever cause us to swerve FROM THAT DUTY WE OWE TO OUR COUNTRY; let no Partiality to this or that Party ever Influence our Conduct; and, above all, let us

follow the bright Example of those truly Great Men\* who at this Moment of Trial come forward in its Defence, by deigning to stand in the same Ranks with the humblest Plebeian, and to serve in the meanest Capacity, under Officers so much their Inferiors in Point of Honour and Fortune, without either Envy or Murmuring; thereby teaching our very Enemies the true and pure PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY, and what they may expect to encounter should they ever have the audacious Temerity to brave a Nation thus roused to Energy, and strongly united in the most sacred Union, from the dignified Peer to the lowest Order of Society.

By observing the above Maxims, a Young Soldier will soon attain every requisite Perfection in his Profession, and be enabled to Act with Credit to himself, and, if Emergency should happen, with Benefit to his Country.

*A VOLUNTEER.*

WARMINSTER, June 18th, 1798.

On Dec. 10th, 1859, a public meeting of the Inhabitants of Warminster and its neighbourhood was held in the Town Hall, under the presidency of the Marquis of Bath, when it was resolved that "it is expedient to organize a Volunteer Rifle Corps."

The necessary sanction from the War Office having been obtained, the TENTH WILTS RIFLE VOLUNTEER CORPS was enrolled. The first Officers were—

The MARQUIS OF BATH, *Captain.*

WILLIAM DAVIS, Esq., *Lieutenant.*

JOHN SCOTT, Esq., *Ensign.*

CHARLES BLEECK, Esq., *Assistant Surgeon.*

REV. J. E. PHILLIPPS, *Hon. Chaplain.*

The uniform first worn by the Company was *Grey with Scarlet Facings*—that of the Rifle Brigade was afterwards adopted, viz. *Green with Black Facings*.

The site for practice was first at Knapper's Hole; the range was afterwards removed to Mancomb.

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\* His Grace the DUKE OF BEDFORD, the LORD CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND, &c. &c. &c.

On May 16th, 1860, the Ladies of Warminster presented the Corps with a set of musical instruments, a bugle, drums, and fifes.

A set of silver salt-cellars was presented, in 1864, to Mr. Martin in acknowledgement of his courtesy to the Corps, while tenant of the farm over part of which the range extends.

Sub-divisions of the Corps were established at Codford, Longbridge Deverill, Horningsham, and Corsley.

The Warminster Company forms part of the First Wilts Administrative Battalion of Rifle Volunteers under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Everett. In 1868, the Corps joined the Battalion in camping out on Warminster Down, and since that date, has gone into camp for a week every year, sometimes on Warminster Down, and sometimes on Homington Down, near Salisbury. In 1872, the Tenth Wilts Rifle Volunteers joined the Battalion at Blandford, and went through the "Autumnal Manœuvres" with the Southern Army.

An annual competition is held in August, when Prizes on a generous scale are offered by the Marquis of Bath, and many other contributors. There is a yearly Challenge Cup, value £10; also a monthly Challenge Cup, and a second, given by His Highness Higashi Fushimi, Prince Imperial of Japan, who resided in Warminster during the year 1871 and 1872.

The Captains who have successively been in command of the Corps, are—

1. *Captain* THE MARQUIS OF BATH.
2. *Captain* DAVIS.
3. *Captain* SCOTT.
4. *Captain* INGRAM.
5. *Captain* WAKEMAN.

The members of the Corps at present (1878) are 92 in number—

*Captain* WAKEMAN.

*Lieutenant* PONTING.

*Sub-Lieutenant* FLOWER.

*Acting-Surgeon* HINTON.

*Hon. Chaplain* Rev. Sir J. E. PHILIPPS, Bart.

*Quarter-Master-Sergeant* TOONE.

*Colour-Sergeant* ATKINS.

*Sergeant* LUKE

„ SMITH

„ HARDICK

„ POLDEN

*Corporal* STRONG

„ CRUSE

„ TEW, JOHN

„ BULL, W.

„ KING, C.

*Corporal-Bugler* JAMES.

*Private* Adlam

„ Alexander, Jas..

„ Ashman, M.

„ Barter, E.

„ Barter, John

„ Barter, W.

„ Batchelor, G.

„ Batchelor, Joseph

„ Bristow

„ Butcher, R.

„ Bush, Mark

„ Cabel

„ Compton, C.

„ Cleverley, Henry

„ Curtis, C.

„ Curtis, G.

„ Curtis, J.

„ Curtis, W.

„ Daniell

„ Dann

„ Day, G.

„ Ellis, G.

„ Elloway

„ Everett, Rice

„ Farley, Frank

*Private* Feltham, James

„ Foreman, L. J.

„ Ford, James

„ Garrett, Henry

„ Gough, George

„ Gray, Frank

„ Haden, S. J.

„ Hart, W.

„ Haines, H.

„ Hinton, F.

„ Holton, R.

„ James, H.

„ Kemp

„ King, H. C.

„ Knight, J.

„ Ladd

„ Lander, Frederick

„ Lidbury, E.

„ Lidbury, H.

„ Maidment, Thomas

„ Maxfield, Thomas

„ Millard, G. W.

„ Mills, Charles

„ Moody, W.

„ Neat

*Private* Palmer, W.

„ Parsons, A.

„ Parker, Joseph

„ Payne, Levi

„ Pearce, G.

„ Polden, C.

„ Polden, F.

„ Powell, Hubert

„ Presley, J.

„ Scott, H.

„ Sims, H.

„ Sims, Joseph

„ Smith, H.

„ Smith, Isaac

„ Smith, John D.

„ Tanswell, W.

„ Thompson, J.

„ Thorne, C.

„ Titt, W.

„ Toone, W.

„ Tucker, C.

„ Turner, John

„ Vincent

„ White, F.

„ White, U.

## XXXV.

## The Parish Church,

**K**ING Henry II in one day gave, (besides the tithes of the New Forest,) twenty churches to the see of Sarum, one of which was that of Warminster, with the advowson and endowments. Yet the Mauduits seem to have considered that the advowson of the Church had been conveyed to them by the same monarch in his grant of the Manor, and rejected the Bishop's nominee. There was some contention, 9 Richard I (A.D. 1199), between William de Revell, and a son of Robert Mauduit, about the right of presentation, and a hundred years later, it is stated that "*the advowson of the Church of Warminster belongs to the Manor of Warminster, which Thomas Mauduit holds.*"

The Bishop of Sarum remained Impropiator till 1259, when Giles de Bridport, Bishop of Sarum, granted the Rectory or Parsonage to the Dean and Chapter of Sarum, otherwise, the Cónons of Sarum.

POPE NICHOLAS'S TAXATIO, A.D. 1288, gives the value of Rectory and Vicarage:—

Ecclesia de Wermenstre . . .	£23	1	8
Vicar' in eadem . . . . .	5	0	0

The Canons of Sarum seem to have transferred the Rectory of Warminster to the Prior of Maiden Bradley, but he retained it only a short time, if he ever held it absolutely.

EX REGIST, MORTIVAL, 3 Non. Jun. 1316.—A general sentence of excommunication is pronounced on certain persons, not mentioned by name, for cunningly contriving to withdraw from the Dean and Chapter of Sarum the rights and liberties of the Church of Warminster.



## IN VALOR ECCLESIASTICUS, 1520—

*“Thomas Benet, Vicarius ibidem, (Rector ibidem Episcopus Sarum) affirmat Vicariam esse annui valoris in terris, decimis, oblationibus, et aliis . . . . . £19 0 1*  
*Inde solut’ . . . . . 20 0*  
*Valet clare . . . . . 18 0 1”*

The great tithes were held of the Dean and Chapter by Walter Younge, of Durnford, and by his descendants through many generations. Under the Enclosure Award, in 1783, the great tithes were merged in 640 acres of land, now the valuable property called “The Parsonage Farm.” About 1786 all the interest of the Younge family in the lease of the Rectory of Warminster was bought by the Marquis of Bath. By recent negotiations, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, to whom the Sarum Chapter Estates had fallen, conveyed to the present Marquis the freehold of the Parsonage Farm. Some addition was at the same time made to the revenues of the Vicarage, which now amount to £415 a year. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners furnish the stipend for a Curate.

All tithes in kind arising from lands in the parish, were, under the provisions of the Enclosure Act, commuted for money payments or allotments in land, with the following exceptions :

1. The Prebendary of Warminster, or Luxfield, in the Cathedral of Wells, or his Lessee, is entitled to all the tithes on 6*ac.* 1*r.* 36*p.* . . . . . 1 15 0
2. The Dean and Chapter of Sarum, or their Lessee, is entitled to tithe of corn, grain, and hay on 200*ac.* . . . . . 28 0 0
3. The Vicar of Warminster is entitled to the residue of the tithes on the same 200*ac.* . . . . 40 0 0

The Vicar of Warminster pays ten shillings a year to the

Prebendary or Rector of Warminster *for cheese*. The Rector of Corsley pays £1 6s. 8d. *per annum* to the Vicar of Warminster. The land assigned to the Vicar of Warminster in lieu of tithes by the Enclosure Commissioners was 120 acres. What remained of the Prebendal and Rectorial tithes is now in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

Warminster is in the Archdeaconry of Sarum, and Rural Deanery of Wily, second portion.

The first Church of which we have any reliable mention was a Norman erection, dedicated to ST. SIMON and ST. JUDE. But there had been an earlier Church, built by the Saxon Kings, on their own Manor. It stood in a meadow about a hundred yards west of the present Church ;—

“there is still seen a burying place, where coffins and bones are continually dug up ; as well as some foundations of an old building seen in dry weather by the appearance of the grass”—

so says a MS. of the last century.

The present Church bears the name of St. Dionysius, Dennis, or Denys. This saint may be that Judge of the Court of Areopagus, who was converted by St. Paul, and became Bishop of Athens. But more probably St. Denys of Warminster is that missionary Bishop sent by Fabian, Bishop of Rome, A.D. 245, to preach in France. He fixed his see at Paris, and about A.D. 273, under Aurelian, or somewhat later, was beheaded with two priests, on “Mons Martyrum,” now *Montmartre*. In the 12th century, a stately Church, now St. Denys, was built over his tomb. St. Denys was long the patron saint of the Sovereigns of France. The standard of St. Denys, the ORIFLAMME, *scarlet-red*, and the war-cry, “MONTJOYE, S. DENYS !” led the chivalry of France over many a famous field. In the

13th century St. Louis conveyed the relics of the French monarchs to the Abbey of St. Denys. Their shrines were all rifled and sacked in the Revolution.

Forty-three Churches in England are dedicated by the name of St. Denys. He is remembered in the English Calendar on October 9th. Several early Christian bishops bear the name of Dionysius.

The older portions of the Church are parts of a building raised about the beginning of, or a short time before, the reign of Edward III, probably by the Mauduits. That Church was cruciform, with shallow transepts, and a low tower, with massive arches (at the intersection of nave and transepts) crowned with an octagonal spire. This spire, which without doubt once existed, and in a certain degree atoned for the meagre size of the tower, must have fallen, and was not rebuilt; but the stages and springing arches on which it rested remain.

Of the early Decorated Church all that now remains is the lower stages of the walls, the bases of the piers, the tower and transept; a window in the north transept is apparently old. A piscina remains in the south transept. The south chancel aisle, and the porch, are of Tudor days; the former was used as the Lady Chapel; a good panelled arch connects it with the transept. Some specimens of Perpendicular work exist in mouldings and corbels. The upper and lower doorways to the rood-loft may be detected in the walls on the north side of the tower arch, both walled up. The steps led, not only to the rood-loft, but to a chamber in the tower, probably an oratory, priest's room, or sacristy. Within memory, a fresco figure of some saint might have been seen on the north wall. The passage into the Church is now closed, and a doorway cut through the wall of the tower to communicate with the turret at the angle between

the chancel and north transept. Access is thus furnished, externally, to the chamber in the tower, which is now used by the ringers. The bells were formerly rung from within the Church, in the presence of the congregation. The turret is carried up above the battlements of the tower, and is said to have once borne a lantern; if ever there were any erection there, it was most likely a campanile for the *Sanctus* Bell.

Almost all the alterations made in Warminster Church since the Reformation, though effected at great and generous cost, and with the best intent, were executed in the worst possible style, and in defiance of all true principles of ecclesiastical art and order. As Warminster Church now stands, it is perhaps the ugliest Church in the diocese. The time is fully come when the Churchmen of Warminster should restore their old Parish Church to something of its original character, or dedicate a new Sanctuary, of nobler form and proportions, to the worship and glory of God.

There were formerly two altars in Warminster Church—one in the Chancel, and another in the south transept, (as the *piscina* there remaining attests), but which may have been, at a later date, transferred to the Lady Chapel. So late as 36 Henry VIII (A.D. 1546), Henry Wansey, by will, left money to buy a cloth to cover the *High Altar*, and another for that of the *Holy Virgin*.

The CHANTRY ROLLS record—

“That Thos. Stybbes holdith a tenement in Warminster with a garden adjoining, and 2 acres of land in the corn fields, which were given for maintaining 2 torches, 2 tapers and one obit in the church for ever, but by whom it is not known, paying yerely . . . . . 23s. 8d.

—Thomas Davis holdith a cottage with garden and orchard adjoining, for the maintenance of an obit, and the High Cross

light [*the light before the Crucifix on the rood screen*] in said Church, by Richd. Fylde, for ever, paying yerely 16s. 0d.

—Will' Cutler holdith one tenement with appurt', which was given by one John Chafynne, of Sarum, for the maintenance of an obit and certain lights within the Church for ever, paying yerely . . . . . 26s. 8d.

—John Eyre holdith one close of pasture in Bugley called *Langeroste, (or Longecross)* containing by estimation 3½ acres, given by one Elyn Hildewe, widow, for the maintenance of a lamp yerely within the parish church of Warminster for ever."

5 Henry VII.—There is a deed from John Hewet, Clerk, to William Eylwhitt

"to hold all that tenement with 4 acres lying in the Field of Warminster, and a parcel of the meadow of St. Laurence Mead, next Chapel Stile,"

on condition that after John Hewet's death, he should keep his obit in the church of St. Dionysius by paying certain rents to that Church.

The Altar-Table, of chesnut or walnut, was the gift of the late Dr. Markland, of Bath. The Altar-rails were given by the Langley family; a small brass plate on the north wall bears this inscription—

Hos altaris cancellos in honorem Dni et memoriam parentum fratris et sororum humillime posuerunt quatuor fratres—Fest. Pasch, MDCCCL.

The East window of the Chancel, which had been destroyed or blocked up in 1760, was rebuilt with the Reredos in its present form with a sum of money contributed by the parishioners as a testimonial of respect to the Rev. W. Dalby, on his resignation of the Vicarage in 1841. It contains five lights, Perpendicular, with stained glass, afterwards inserted, in memory of W. A. O'Halloran.—*Subjects*—in the centre, *The Crucifixion*—right and left, *The Offering of the Magi*, and *The Raising of the Widow's Son*—*The Stoning of St. Stephen*, and *The Preaching of*

*St. Paul.* In the north wall of the chancel is a window of the Daniell family—*The Baptism, Resurrection, and Ascension of our Lord, and The Supper at Emmaus.* The Parnell window in the south chancel wall contains, in four lights, *Christ blessing children—The Raising of Jairus' daughter—Peter walking on the sea—The Entombment of Christ.* The subjects in a three-light window in the south transept, given by the Slade family, are, *Mary washing Jesus' feet, The Woman at the Sepulchre, and The Conversion of St. Paul.* In the south aisle of the nave are three small subjects in the central light of a window given by the family of Leake; and in the north aisle, by the Seagram family, a three-light window, with *The Resurrection, the Women on the right hand, and SS. Peter and John on the left.*

The Font was given by the Rev. W. Dalby—the old font stood in the Lady Chapel, the east end of the south chancel aisle. The cover of the Font bears the legend—“*DEO ET ECCLESIAE † This cover is presented by James Wilton, of Salisbury, to the Church of St. Denys, Warminster, being his native parish.—Eastertide, 1861.*”

### 1.—CHURCH PLATE.

In 1 Edward 6 (1547), an Act of Parliament was passed giving to the Crown all Chantries, Free Chapels, and Colleges. This Act was followed in 1552 by a Commission —“to survey Church goods, and take possession of all manner of plate, jewels, bells, and ornaments yet remaining, leaving nevertheless in every Parish Church or Chapel of common resort, one, two, or more Chalices, according to the multitude of the people, and also such other ornaments as shall seem requisite.”

A single "Cup," and the bells only, were left to most parishes. Of the Communion Plate of Warminster Church sixty ounces of silver were confiscated to the King's use; twelve ounces and a half were left to the Church. The only Communion Plate in the hands of the Churchwardens in 1619 was a silver Chalice with a gilt cover; the Flagon was of "*fair puter*." In 1682 "a new silver *bowle* was bought for the Communion, cost £3." This Chalice still remains, with the inscription—"John Langley—Thomas Potticary, Churchwardens—Warminster—1682." In 1687, among the "*utensils*" of the Church, were—"2 Silver Bowls with one cover, one Silver Plate for the Communion Bread; fower flagons pewter." In 1692, two old flagons were exchanged for one new flagon, with a payment of twelve shillings.

The Altar Plate at present in use is—

One large silver Flagon, without date or lettering—  
(weight 71oz. 18dwts.)

Two silver Chalices—one of 1682, mentioned above, (9oz. 18dwts.)—the second, inscribed "*Warminster—1750*."—  
(10oz. 2dwts.)

Two Patens—one inscribed

"*Sacrum Deo et Ecclesie Parochiali de Warminster—Donu Edwi. Chubb. J.B. Vic. An. Dom. 1706.*"

(weight 9oz. 19dwts.) The other—"Warminster—1761."—  
(weight 11oz. 2dwts.)

Two silver Plates for collecting the offertory alms, one weighing 9oz. 6dwts., and inscribed "*Warminster, 1766*"—the other, 9oz., inscribed "*John Slade, Edward Larkham, Churchwardens, Warminster, 1779*," were cast into Alms Basons in 1844. The large Alms-Dish is the gift of the Dowager Marchioness of Bath.

## 2.—THE ORGAN.

There was an organ in Warminster Church in 1630. Very few organs existed in Wiltshire Churches at that early date. One Smith was clerk and organist. In 1636 the foretop of the organ was new cast. In 1638 the instrument was removed from the west end of the Church to the north gallery. In 1639

“was the Angel on the top of the organ newe gilded, and the organ itself newe painted and gilded. This yeare did Mr. Andrews, the clerk, have paid him for his waggis for playing on the organ £7.”

In 1643 the organ pipes were taken out, and hid in the floor of the tower,

“lest the soldiers should spoyle them and teare them as they did others in other places.”

This organ in process of time became decayed and useless. Its place for some years was supplied by an orchestra of wind and other musical mechanisms.

Bishop Douglas, having issued an appeal to the Diocese for the erection of a new organ in Salisbury Cathedral, King George III, then a resident in the diocese, in conjunction with Queen Charlotte, gave instructions to England, the great organ builder of London, to build an organ for the Cathedral. It proved not to be of nearly sufficient power, and was sold to the parish of Warminster for four hundred guineas, raised by contribution. It was first used on April 8th, 1792. On the front panel of the organ gallery is a figure of “David playing on a harp,” painted by a native of Warminster, named Smith.

The sum of Three Pounds *per an.* was left by Elizabeth Townsend to the Choir of Warminster Church, on condition that they sang annually, on the Sunday before June 24th,



morning and afternoon, an anthem from the 150th Psalm, composed by Roger Townsend, of Warminster, Professor of music, the grandfather of the testatrix's husband. A like benefaction was made to Westbury Church. But in 1833, the Charity Commissioners suggested that the bequest should be applied to the purchase of an additional number of great coats and cloaks, "*as the Choir of the Parish Church was not competent to sing the anthem, with the number and quality of voices prescribed by the Testatrix.*" It was, however, sung with some alterations in 1871.

### 3.—THE BELLS.

The Commissioners of Edward VI, for "Surveying Church Goods," returned Warminster Church as possessed of Five Bells and a *Sanctus*.

The *Sanctus* was a small bell, sometimes set in a lantern or turret on an angle of the tower, more frequently on the end of the gable of the chancel, and rung when the "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY," was said in the communion service. After the Reformation the *Sanctus* Bell was used at any service—

"Some of the meaner sort of his parish did so love and reverence Mr. Herbert, that they would let their plough rest when Mr. Herbert's SAINTS BELL rung to prayers, that they might also offer their devotions to God with him; and would then return back to their plough."—*Walton's Life of Herbert.*

The little bell, which is sometimes rung in Churches before Service begins, is still called in many places "Sance Bell."

The old Bells in Warminster Church are—St. Giles's Bell, with the hexameter—

† EGIDIUS GRATIS MELOS DO SUAVITATIS.

St. Gabriel's Bell, inscribed—

† MISSI DE CELIS HABEO NOMEN GABRIELIS.

John Lott was a famous Bell-Founder in Warminster in the middle of the 17th century. His foundry was in the

Common Close. He cast the Great Bell of Chippenham Church in 1645. All the bells in Warminster; which he cast, have been melted up again and again. In 1629, the Great Bell of Warminster Church, "broken by mischance," was sold to John Lott, at 10*d.* a lb.

*"with the proviso that whensoever the parish had occasion to purchase so much mettell he would be readie to furnish them with as much, and as good, at the same price."*

In 1686, John Lott re-cast the Fourth Bell: its weight was 17*cwt.* 1*qr.* 18*lbs.*; he took the old metal in exchange, and received £17 14*s.* 6*d.*, at the rate of 20*s.* per *cwt.* In 1707, the Tenor Bell was re-cast\* by Richard Lott for £46 5*s.*

In 1732, William Cockey, of Frome, cast the Second Bell, and was paid £14 14*s.* 10*d.* In 1734, he cast the Great Bell for £29. In 1739, he cast another Bell, still hanging in the Tower, and bearing the names of the Churchwardens, William Wilton and Thomas Ludlow. A new Tenor Bell was cast at Gloucester, by A. Rudhall. The stipulations were—

*"Abel Rudhall is to deliver the New Bell at Bristol, sound and tuneable, at 14½*d.* a lb., to find and pay a man to hang it (the parish finding the materials) and to warn the bell sound and good for a Twelvemonth and a day: the Churchwardens are to deliver the Old Bell at Bristol at 12*d.* a lb., and to pay the difference at the end of a Twelvemonth and a day."*

This bell was hung on Nov. 2, 1737—it bears the legend, as do so many of Rudhall's bells—

I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL,  
AND TO THE GRAVE I SUMMON ALL.

---

\* Note in the Vestry Book—"Paid for Ale when the Tenor was cast—  
3*s.* 5*d.*"

The new Bell weighed 27*cwt.* 2*qrs.* 13*lbs.*, and cost at 14½*d.* a lb., £190 1*s.* 9*d.* The old Bell, weight 25*cwt.* 0*qrs.* 15*lbs.*, at 12*d.* a lb., was sold for £140 15*s.*—difference £49 6*s.* 9*d.*

T. Rudhall cast another Bell in 1765, now hanging in the Tower, inscribed HEN. FERRIS, C. W. The Treble Bell was new cast by William Bilbie, of Chew Stoke, in 1781, with the addition of about 1*cwt.* of new metal, and cost £25. The Bell now in the tower, which takes the place of this bell, was cast in 1805, by James Wells, of Aldbourne—Armstrong and Townsend, Churchwardens—cost £35 13*s.*

The Second Bell is now broken—the Third and Fifth are cracked.

“May, 1839.—Until this time the Bell Ropes have always hung down into the Church, and been there pulled by the Ringers. This having been found both inconvenient and improper, the Churchwardens have now closed up the Rope Holes, and the entrance to the Tower Stairs inside the Church; and made a new entrance from the north part of the Churchyard, and cut a passage through the four-feet solid wall of the Tower into an old waste loft immediately under the Bells, which loft has been ceiled and repaired. By this alteration the Church is much warmer, and the Bells are now rung in the said loft, without disturbing the Church or Congregation. The following notice of this improvement has been cut in the Stone Passage leading into the Belfry:—

“*This Passage made and this Loft converted into a Belfry in 1839. John Daniell—Thomas O. Parnell, Churchwardens.*”

#### 4.—THE REGISTERS.

They commence A.D. 1556, with the record—“*The Clarkes wagis is 4d.*”

Under the head of CHRISTENINGS, the first name registered is—

1556. Oct. 8—John Speringe.

Other entries are—

1604. *Fortune*, a Man child that was found.

1671. Nine Adults baptized by Paul Lathom, Vicar.

From 1698 to 1702, notes are made that the parents of certain children baptized were worth £50 a year, £600 Stock, &c.

1790. Jan. 17—*Charles*, daughter of John and Betty Haines.

This child ought to have been christened *Charlotte*, but owing to a mistake of the Sponsors it was wrong named.

1780. Oct. 3—Tax paid for christenings to this time.

It appears to have been 3*d.* a person.

1791.—July 31—*William*, daughter of William and Sarah Wriddick.

N.B.—It was intended that this child, being a girl, should have been christened *Maria*, but through a mistake of the Godfather it was named *William*.

There are entries of the *Births* and Baptisms of “Dissenters’ Children” from 1690 to 1785, kept in separate columns, and apparently copied from documents furnished by the several chapels.

The first MARRIAGE recorded is—

1556. Oct. 8—William Gibs and Edeth Sheth.

In 1654, and till the Restoration, are many entries of Banns of Marriage, published according to Act of Parliament, “*in the Market at Warminster.*”

The first BURIAL is—

1556. Nov. 17—Thomas Ketley.

1561. Mother Amy, of the Alms-House.

There are entries of burials of many persons from the Alms-House, to 1714.

1564. July 19—Will Maggot, the first that died of the plague.
1564. Aug. 24—Sir John Crocker, Parish Curate.  
           — John Wansey, Parish Clerk.
1590. John Yearbury, excommunicate.
1605. Nov. 29—A poor man brought from tithing to tithing.
1611. Mar. 14—John Allen, Baker and Constable of the town.
1618. Ap. 10—Susan Crouch, of the Free Lands.
1621. Sep. 17—William Williams, Sir Thomas Thynne's woodward.
1621. Dec. 6—Robert Olden, Barber and Surgeon.
1625. Jan. 9—Henry Blake, sometime Sir Walter Hungerford's servant.
1631. Ap. 27—William White, glover, an ancient bachelor.
1632. Ap. 29—William Festell, the town cowherd.
1634. July 17—Robert Olden, Barber and Surgeon.

From the year 1678 to 1732 affidavits were required that the dead were buried in *woollen* only. This rule was in accordance with an Act of Parliament passed to foster the consumption of woollen fabrics, and thus to advance the interests of clothiers and weavers. Offenders against this law, who buried a friend in linen, suffered a penalty of £5. From 1686 to 1725 the Register of Burials was examined and signed by Justices.

1678. Aug. 4—Jane Parker—of this burial no affidavit.  
           Aug. 6—Elizabeth Mifflin—concerning her an affidavit.
1686. Ap. 7—Mary Noble buried in linen—Informed by Wm. Coombs, received £2 10s. by Wm. Wilton.
1695. Oct. 19—Mr. John Wansey buried in linen—the £5 paid, one moiety to the informer, W. Silverthorne, and the other to the poor.
1696. Stephen Griffin, in the Quakers' Burying Place—concerning him an affidavit.

1704. Dec. 28—John Rogers, aged 102 years.  
 1705. Aug. 10—Henry Singer, concerning him a Quaker's testimony brought.  
 1724. Mar. 18—Thomas Symms, Bodies maker.  
 1730. Feb. 9—Ann Butler, buried at Lanes.\*  
 1809. Ap. 24—John Smith, who had been for upwards of half a century the Clerk of the Parish, aged 79.

### 5.—REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS.

The Rev. George Richardson, Vicar of Warminster, makes a note in the Vestry Book on the 30th of April, 1626, that

—“These Churchwardens for this yeare chosen must needs be inforced to make a new rate to repare theire old building (I meane the Church) which *weeps many a fresh teare for her decayed house, especially when the wynd is in the west.*”

Great repairs followed,

“which were not finished in three yeares, making the Church decent.” Also “a new leaden pipe was made reaching from the tower leads to the bodie of the Church towards the Parsonage Barn. The screen also, between the Chancel and and the Church was newe painted, and the bells were newe braced.”

1629. This yeare the adorning and beautifying of our Church with paynting and places of Scripture fayrly set out did cost £12.

1636. The Communion table rayled in, and a new silke carpet† and cushion for it, a new hood for Mr. Rogers, the Curate 27s. 5d.

1637. One Legg, a carpenter, was employed to make a new

\* Lanes or Laynes, the Quakers' burial ground at Bugley.

† Canon 82.—“Such tables shall be covered, in time of Divine Service, with a *carpet* of silk or other decent stuff.”

- frame of timber for the bells in the Tower, which was done so slightly that it was taken down at the expense of £40.
1638. The Church Tower underwent thorough repair.
1640. This year were the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and some sentences of Scripture written under the arches of the Tower.
1660. A new gallery was built under the Tower behind the pulpitt with carved front.
1672. Repairs to the Church.
1676. The Organ loft plastered and painted.
1691. New pulpitt cloths and cushion £6 12s.
1697. Repairs to the Church £30.
1703. Repairs £40.
1723. At a Vestry 40 rates were granted to rebuild the roof of the Church—also a voluntary subscription was entered into to take down the old pillars in the body of the Church, raising the side isles, and adding 4 oval windows for the advantage of the gallery and the conveniences and benefit of the congregation. Mr. Jas. Legertwood, the Vicar, gave £20—Jno. Gifford, Esq. £12 12s., &c., &c.

[The alterations extended over three years. This was a time of sweeping destruction to the old Church of the Mauduits, and the later Perpendicular work. Down went piers and arcades, the timbered roofs of chancel, nave, and aisles, the pointed arches, the tracery and mullions of the windows, the chancel-screen, and the upper course of the outer walls. The total sum expended was £513. The following inscription remains cut in the south wall of the west gallery—"The body and side Isles of this Church were raised upon the old foundations, Anno 1724. JAMES LIGERWOOD, Vicar; THOMAS LUDLOW, RICHARD SMITH, Churchwardens."]

1745. A Faculty was granted to the Churchwardens to erect galleries the whole length of the North and South Aisles of the Church,

"inasmuch as the parishioners of Warminster were very numerous, and there was not convenient room for the parishioners to sit, stand, and kneel in divine service and sermons."

*Mem.*—The Altar Piece was erected by Subscription.

1757. The roof of the north aisle taken down to be new-timbered—cost £118 11s. 3d.
1759. This year the altar-piece was lettered and beautified by subscription, and the east end of the Church adorned by the Creed, Lord's Prayer, and 10 Commandments, put up in gold letters, and the altar painted.  
[The east window of the Chancel was walled up.]
1768. An order of Vestry to John Wansey and Henry Ferris, Churchwardens, to erect a staircase *from the Churchyard* to lead into the south and west galleries.
1769. Ordered that a new roof be made to the Church.  
[Cost £380 and upwards.]
1770. The Organ gallery built.
1777. The pales on the Bath Road along the Churchyard were removed, and a stone wall built.  
[1808. John Wyse's altar-tomb removed.]
1813. Another gallery built  
[over the south aisle of the Chancel by the Vicar, Dr. Rowlandson, for the accommodation of his pupils.]
1814. Dec. 1. The central part of the singing gallery over the aisle was projected forward so as to admit of 5 new sittings, whereby the leading singers were concentrated, and it is hoped that part of the service materially improved—new music also was found for the quire by voluntary contribution.
1837. The north door walled up, and a pew made in the passage.
1841. A new Vestry Room built—cost £150.
1844. The Church lighted with gas—cost £151.
1846. The pathway through the Churchyard, being a nuisance and desecration, was closed, and by Lord Bath's permission a path made outside the Churchyard wall.
- The Reading Desk was removed from the north side of the middle aisle to the south side, being an accomplishment of a plan drawn by Mr. Wyatt, and found in the Churchwardens' box. The substitution of a pillar under the



pulpit, whose height and position is nowise altered, opens a communication between parts of the Church formerly hid from one another by a mass of wood-work ; and the open Reading Desk in its present site very little obstructs sight. It is found also that the relief to the reader is considerable—cost £39.—New cocoa nut matting in nearly every aisle, £13.—New cushions for use at the rail of the Lord's Table, £6.—Tower arch repairs, £65.—Nave whitewashed and stuccoed, £35.

1848. The north side of the chancel was fitted with oaken stalls by the Marchioness and Marquis of Bath. The Dean and Chapter of Sarum gave a donation of £5. The south, or Vicar's side, of the chancel was re-seated in oak, by the Rev. A. Fane, Vicar.

1849. The Vicar gave a portion of glebe, and Lady and Lord Bath some land to enlarge the Churchyard—building walls and expenses £320. The path through the field diverted to Ash Walk by consent of the Lords of the Manor of Furneaux.

1852. The whole Church re-seated at a cost of £494.

1857. The sum of £150, bequeathed by Mrs. Mary Ann Wyche to the Vicar of Warminster and the Vicar's Churchwarden, with interest amounting to £162, was expended by them in providing a heating apparatus for the Church.

## 6.—THE CHURCH HOUSE.

Frequent mention is made in old documents of the CHURCH HOUSE. A.D. 1632, "*For making the Church House floor and for glazing and mending the walls and windows of the same, 2s. 10d.*" Notices recur periodically of considerable repairs.

The Church House stood on the paved, open, vacant space

just within the present heavy iron railing and gates of the Churchyard. Probably it was not built on consecrated ground. John Aubrey describes the use of the Church House.

“ There were no rates for the poore even in my gr. father’s daies : the Church Ale at Whitsuntide did their businesse. In every Parish, is, or was, a church howse, to which belonged spitts, crocks, &c., utensils for dressing provision. Here the Howsekeepers met, and were merry, and gave their Charitie ; the young people came there too, and had dancing, bowling, shooting at buttes, &c., the ancients sitting gravely by, looking on. All things were civill and without scandall. This Church Ale is doubtless derived from the *Agapæ*, or Love Feasts mentioned in the N. T.”

In many parishes the old Church House still stands. In Warminster it became the residence of the Parish Sexton. Church Ales were abolished soon after the Reformation generally throughout England, but they survived in Warminster, and continued to be observed, though changed in character and object, far into the present century. In 1807 was a Church Ale. In April, 1813, the Vestry passed a resolution, that as the Church House was in decay, and at the same time an incumbrance and deformity in its position, it should be removed, and a new house be provided in some other convenient situation, by the Minister (Dr. Rowlandson) and the Parish Officers. Mr. H. Wansey, having offered to surrender for £90 his interest in a leasehold house at the corner of Asheys, and the Marquis of Bath, to whom the freehold belonged, having consented to sell the fee for £20, the Committee were proceeding to complete the purchase, when a vehement opposition arose, on the part of some of the inhabitants, to this application of the parish money. On this a circular was issued, bearing the names of the Marquis

of Bath for £10, Dr. Rowlandson, Mr. Barton, and Mr. Middlecott for 5 guineas each, Rev. R. Herbert (Curate) for 3 guineas, and many of the chief parishioners for smaller sums, and stating, that

*“ as the rebuilding of the Sexton’s house in the present site is generally considered objectionable, and as there is now no difficulty in the way of purchasing the cottage next to the Churchyard, we, sorry to see so favourable an opportunity of improvement likely to be lost, subscribe, &c., &c.*

The cottage in Asheys\* was accordingly bought, pulled down, and a Sexton’s house erected in its stead. The Church Ale, however, did not die with the old Church House—it migrated to the new building, for a notice occurs in 1814—“*A Church Ale at the Sexton’s house.*” But in 1826, the knell of this extremely ancient ecclesiastical custom was rung—“*No Church Ales after Easter Vestry from this date.*” The Chapel of St. Laurence, till about 1600, received some portion of the profits of the Church Ale.

## 7.—VICARS OF WARMINSTER.

	VICAR.	PATRON.
1306.	William de Heywood, <i>exchanged</i>	Lord of Wermenyster.
		Also Rector of Froxfield.
1324.	Thomas de Chelreye	Bishop of Sarum.
—	John Uppehulle, <i>resigned</i>	ditto
1342.	John Pulteneye	ditto
—	Richard Attehulle, <i>resigned</i>	ditto

\* Asheys, or Ashes, was the name of a house belonging to the Blake family at the end of the 16th century. William Blake, of Asheys, was one of the first Feoffees of St. Laurence’s Chapel. The path, now called *Ash Walk*, was formerly *Asheys Walk*, as leading to the house.

VICAR.	PATRON.
1345. Peter de Sevenok	Bishop of Sarum.
— John Amhulle, <i>resigned</i>	ditto
1348. John de Hingham	ditto
1361. Ralph Piper	ditto
1367. John Walton	ditto
1383. Thomas Heryngt	ditto
5 Richard II.—Thomas Heryngt, Vicar of Warminster, with William Langford, grants to William Hughwett and his wife Macilla lands and tenements, afterwards part of the property of St. Laurence's Chapel.	
1393. John Stokes	Bishop of Sarum.
Exchanged with	
1403. William Fovant, alias Goodyere, <i>resd.</i>	ditto
1425. Robert Helis	ditto
— John Eyres, <i>deceased</i>	ditto
1434. Richard Thryske, <i>deceased</i>	ditto
1445. William Normanton	ditto
1448. William Fydian, <i>accouted</i>	ditto
— John Carpenter	ditto
Exchanged with the Rector of Stratford Tony.	
— John Poote, <i>resigned</i>	ditto
1520. Thomas Benet, <i>resigned</i>	ditto
1539. William Benet, <i>deceased</i>	ditto
1540. Roger Eggeworth	ditto
1554. Peter Wever	Robert Penruddocke, gent., (by con-
1564. John Crocker	cession of the Bishop of Sarum.)
He is entered in the Register of Burials as <i>Sir John Crocker</i> , Parish Curate. <i>Sir</i> was the title of ecclesiastics in the 15th and 16th centuries.	
1583. Lewis Evans	Bishop.
He also held the Prebend: he was once a zealous Romanist and wrote a " <i>Book against all Heretics</i> ," but having conformed to the Church of England, he was equally vehement in his protests against the Church of Rome.	
1590. William Benett, <i>deceased</i>	Bishop.
1615. George Richardson	ditto

This Vicar is referred to in the Middlecott papers copied by Offer, as "*one George Richardson, clerk, who with the complainant Sloper, and certain persons in the parish do combine, confetter, and lay their moneys*

## VICAR.

## PATRON.

together, and have indented covenant under their hands to prosecute law against the Feoffees" of St. Laurence's Chapel, A.D. 1620.

1634. Walter Atwood, *deceased* The King.

He came from Stanbury Rivers, in Essex, held the living only one year, and died November 6, 1635. There is a tablet to his memory in the Chancel, the oldest in the Church.

1635. John Rogers, *resigned* Bishop.

1639. William Maxwell ditto

1641.. — Woodard ditto

He was ejected by the Parliament, June 15, 1648.

There is no record of nominations to the Vicarage during the Civil Wars of Charles I, but Francis Matkyn, the Prebendary, is in charge of the parish in 1657.

1666. Paul Lathom, *deceased* The Prebendary of Warminster.

B.A. 12th February, 1661, of Pembroke College, Oxford, M.A. Oct. 19th. In March, 1655—6, he became Vicar of Warminster, and was advanced by Bishop Alexander Hyde to the prebendal stall in Sarum Cathedral, 1672. He was a writer and preacher of some merit. He wrote a book, entitled "CHRIST CRUCIFIED, or the Doctrine of the Gospel asserted against the Pelagian and Socinian heresies, reckon'd under the notion of new Lights." He preached a famous Assize Sermon in Salisbury Cathedral, July 9th, 1665, as Chaplain to Thomas Mompesson, the High Sheriff, and was frequently summoned to preach in London, and other places. He had three wives, and died 1687. There is a brass on chancel wall to the memory of his wife Maria, who died September 30th, 1660; also a slab in the chancel floor.

1687. Edward Chubb, *resigned* Bishop.

1710. James Legertwood, *deceased* ditto

Supposed to be first Master of Lord Weymouth's Grammar School: he was also Prebendary of Sarum, and Rector of Brixton Deverill. He died October 24th, 1742, aged 68.

1742. John Rogers, *deceased* Bishop.

1773. Millington Massey, *deceased* ditto

Of Dunham Massey, co. Chester, Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, also Rector of Kingston Deverill; he took the name of Jackson.

The Curate in charge of Warminster was Dacre Youngson, who died January 31st, 1783, aged 37. An anonymous Address was published after

## VICAR.

## PATRON.

his death, called a "TRIBUTE OF AFFECTION," in reference to his labours, and was dedicated to the "*Christians, the Reformed, the Lukewarm, and the Impenitent amongst the respectable and numerous congregation, which compose the audience of Warminster Church.*" The Rev. R. Hart, afterwards Curate in sole charge, was a man of spiritual life, and an earnest preacher of evangelical truth: he was supposed to favour the doctrines of John Wesley, and suffered such an amount of persecution that it is said he was driven out of the communion of the English Church.

1808. Michael Rowlandson, D.D. *deceased* Bishop.

1824. George Hume, *resigned* ditto

Afterwards Vicar of Melksham.

1825. William Dalby, *resigned* ditto

Prebendary of Warminster—afterwards Rector of Compton Bassett, died December 3rd, 1861.

1841. Arthur Fane, *resigned* Bishop.

Prebendary of Sarum—afterwards Rector of Fulbeck, Lincolnshire, died June 11th, 1872.

1859. James Erasmus Philipps Bishop.

Canon Non-residentiary of Sarum, and Proctor in Convocation—succeeded to a Baronetcy on the death of his father.

*Notes.*—The names, dates, and succession of some of the earlier Vicars of Warminster, as given above, must not be considered to be absolutely correct.

## 8.—DOMESTIC ECONOMY IN THE VICARAGE, WARMINSTER, A.D. 1665.

Income and Expenditure of the Rev. Paul Lathom, Vicar of Warminster.—

1665.		GENERAL RECEIPTS.			£. s. d.		
Jan.	10	Recd. from Mr. Gifford	..	..	..	10	0
"	26	" Mr. F. Bennett	..	..	..	10	0
Mar.	20	Preaching in London, Palm Sunday	..	..	..	2	0
		Interest since Midsummer	..	..	..	1	4
Ap.	25	Preaching at Sarum	..	..	..	1	0

		GENERAL RECEIPTS, <i>continued.</i>	£.	s.	d.
Ap.	29	Composition with Mr. Gifford .. ..	5	0	0
May	1	Preaching at Sarum .. ..	1	0	0
June	11	Do. at Westbury .. ..	10	0	0
July	4	Had from Mr. Seaman .. ..	12	0	0
Aug.	3	Jno. Wansey .. ..	1	15	0
"	7	Edward Halyday, $\frac{1}{2}$ yrs. compos. .. ..	7	6	
Sep.	23	Robert Hopkins .. ..	12	0	
"	28	Mr. Bennett .. ..	3	10	0
Oct.	11	Mr. Fras. Bennett .. ..	10	0	
	14	Mr. Middlecott .. ..	6	10	0
Nov.	18	Christopher Daniel .. ..	15	0	
	24	Wm. Buckler, in part .. ..	3	10	0
		Tythe on Apples .. ..	2	0	0
		George Daniel (cart wood) .. ..	3	5	11
Dec.	1	Mr. Ludlow, tythes in full .. ..	3	0	0
	9	Anthony Long, ditto .. ..	1	10	0
		Grass of Churchyard and paddock .. ..	2	10	0
	21	Preaching at Sarum .. ..	1	0	0
	27	ditto .. ..	1	0	0
		Baptisms .. ..	2	5	0
		Marriages .. ..	3	1	0
		Funeral Sermons .. ..	4	10	6
		Pigs in hand and money .. ..	2	0	0
		Lambs and joycements* .. ..	3	14	0
		Easter Book .. ..	13	13	6
		William Buckler .. ..	3	10	0
		Farmer Carpenter .. ..	19	8	
		Corseley .. ..	1	6	8
		William Chandler .. ..	1	10	0
		Mr. Wright, and 3 cwt. of wood .. ..	5	0	0
		Wool taken up in kind .. ..	4	0	0
			<hr/>		
			£89	1	9

He had a small Estate at Steeple Ashton which produced £23 17s. 6d. a year, but certain charges reduced this rental to £18 18s. 1d.

\* Probably a corruption of *Agistments*, payments made for tithe of feeding on certain lands.

The worthy Pastor's Housekeeping expenses	£.	s.	d.
amounted to ( <i>per an.</i> ) .. .. .	48	5	0
He paid a Tax, called a <i>Royal Aid</i> .. .. .	6	19	2
Tenths .. .. .	1	16	0
First Fruits .. .. .	2	7	6
Other Disbursements .. .. .	19	2	3
	79	9	11
But a Mr. Hulbert boarded with him for ..	8	5	0
<i>Total Expenses</i> , for the year, of six persons and a horse .. .. .	70	4	11
<i>Total Receipts</i> —Warminster, &c. .. .. .	89	1	9
Steeple Ashton .. .. .	18	18	1
	107	19	10
Deduct <i>Total Expenses</i> .. .. .	70	4	11
The good man now blesses God that he is able to lay up by this year's income .. .. .	37	14	11
And he is at this time worth, clear of all the world .. .. .	169	7	3

He had a wife and children, and kept a horse and man, but it seems no maid servant. He paid for

	s.	d.
Shoes for himself .. .. .	2	8 a pair.
„ for his man .. .. .	3	0 „
A hood for his daughter Betty ..	2	6

His fat swine were sold at 3½d a lb.



## 9.—PREBEND OF WARMINSTER

IN THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SALISBURY.

Robert, Canon of Salisbury Cathedral, (*cir.* Edward I)

“holds 2 hides of land in the Vill of Warminster, *in free alms*, and is a Prebendary of the Church of Sarum.”

This Prebend seems to have been founded by Charter of Henry II, and endowed with two hides of land out of the possessions of Walter Fitz Edward, and granted to the see of Sarum, with the Rectory. At the date of the Warminster Enclosure Act it was found to consist of about 250 acres of land, situate in various parts of the parish, in areas varying from 90 acres to 19 poles. It fell to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners with the Salisbury Chapter property, and now forms part of the Longleat estate.

As the Prebends of Salisbury are now simply honorary preferments, the legal title of those who hold them is, Canon Non-Residentiary. The stall of the Prebendary of Warminster, in the Chapter House of Salisbury Cathedral, is the tenth in order on the left-hand from that of the Chancellor of the Cathedral. The Bishop presents.

PREBENDARIES OF WARMINSTER IN THE CATHEDRAL  
CHURCH OF SARUM.\*

1239. Robert, *Canon of Sarum*.  
Osbert Lageston.  
1303. Walter Hay, or Hug.  
1327. Thomas de Bocton, *Sub-Dean*.  
1327. Peter de Berkeley.  
1348. Walter Wynne, (by the King).

\* This list, in its earlier stages, cannot be depended on.

1361. William de Wykham, *afterwards Bishop of Winchester.*  
 1361. William Bide.  
 1391. Richard Holme.  
 1392. Robert Ragenhull.  
 1406. John Fydelling.  
 1418. William Milton.  
 1426. John Hody, *Archdeacon of Dorset.*  
 1439. Robert Ayscough, *Archdeacon of Dorset.*  
 1441. John Pyvill.  
 1442. Nicholas Cecill.  
 1445. William Normanton, *Vicar of Warminster.*  
 1446. Thomas Kirkly.  
 1448. John Bolde.  
 1450. Henry Trevylian.  
       Richard Paveley, *called Clericus, cir. 1470.*  
 1471. William Chanter.  
 1475. Thomas Burley.  
 1482. Robert Sherborne, *Bishop of Chichester.*  
 1494. Symon Stallworth.  
 1495. William Oldham.  
 1496. Thomas Randolph.  
 1511. John Stone.  
 1516. Alexander Audley.  
 1517. Thomas Weaver.  
 1520. Peter Rodericus.  
 1523. John Quarre.  
 1540. Roger Eggeworth, *Vicar of Warminster.*  
 1551. Richard Dominic.  
 1561. John Piercy, *deprived.*  
 1563. William Bennett.  
 1583. Lewis Evans, *Vicar of Warminster.*  
 1598. Edward Evans.  
 1626. Francis Matkin.  
 1660. Richard Hyde.

Chaplain in the army of Charles I. Prebendary and Sub-Dean of Winchester.

1666. Richard Watson.  
 Rector of Pewsey, Chaplain to Lord Hopton, afterwards to James,  
 Duke of York.
1671. Robert Hawkyns, *Rector of Trowbridge*.
1672. Paul Lathom, *Vicar of Warminster*.
1687. Thomas Lesley.
1726. Joseph Sager, *Archdeacon of Sarum*.
1732. John Straight.
1737. Hugh Wynne.
1738. Charles Moss, *Bishop of Bath and Wells*.
1740. John Clark.
1748. William Miles.
1773. Benjamin Spry.
1775. George Watson Hand.
1802. Frederick Browning.
1802. Henry Hetley, D.D., *Rector of Wilton*.
1832. William Dalby, *Vicar of Warminster*.
1861. Richard Payne, *Vicar of Downton*.

PREBEND OF WARMINSTER IN THE CATHEDRAL  
 CHURCH OF WELLS.

There was a second Prebend of Warminster, called also Luxville, Luxfield, or *De Laico Feodo*, founded in the Cathedral of Wells, but whom it is not known. This Prebend was endowed with certain appropriate tithes in the parish of Warminster, and about 50 acres of land; but the greater part of the revenues of this prebend are derived from the parish of Upton Scudamore. The tithes yet payable in Warminster are £1 15s. a year. By arrangement with the Ecclesiastical Commission this prebend also is merged in the Longleat estate.

In POPE NICHOLAS'S TAXATION the Prebend of Luxville is valued at £5.

The Prebend of Warminster, *alias* Luxfield, in the Cathedral Church of Wells, is now held by Dr. Chapman, late Bishop of Colombo. The number of Institutions to this Prebend, in the Registers of the Diocesan Office at Wells, would probably be found to be from twenty-five to thirty.

### 10.—RECORDS OF VESTRY.

The Minute Books of Vestry are in excellent order, and bound in volumes. The first entry is made in the year 1612. Frequent references occur to "THE OLD BOOKE OF THE CHURCHE RECKONYNGES," which is lost. From Vols. I and II, entitled "WARMINSTER CHURCH VESTRY AND ACCOUNT BOOKS," the following extracts, of more or less interest, are taken.

*Vicesimo sexto die mensis Aprilis Ano doi 1612.*

1612. *Memorand'n.*—That the day and yeare above written William Wilton, senior, and Henry Rawlins dyd make a faythful and true account unto the better part of the parish at which tyme there receytes being received and there leyings out examined there remayned three pounds which was delivered unto Richard Haker and Richard Langley chosen Churchwardens for this year 1612.

John Bennet	}	<i>Sup'visors.</i>
John Carpenter		
Francis Shergall		
John Parsons		
Richard Haker	}	<i>Churchwardens.</i>
Richard Langley		

John Morgen, *senior*, *surety* for Richard Haker.

Henry Rawlins, *surety* for Richard Langley.

Delivered unto the fore-named Churchwardens all those impliments that were delivered unto the Churchwardens.

mentioned in the yeare of our Lord 1610 ; and also a new cloth to cover the Communion Cup.

*In primis*—Received of Mr. Gifford for a gift to the Church 10s.

*Item*, of Henry Allen, for the like gift given by his mother 10s.

*Burialls in the Church.*

*In primis*, Mr. Bennet for the Buriall of his Child 6s. 8d.

*Item*, Phillip Andrews for the Buriall of his mother 6s. 8d.

*Item*, John Whitehead for the Buriall of his wife 6s. 8d.

*Seats sold.*

*In primis*, Thomas Whiting for a seat for himself 1s. 0d.

*It*, Willm. Blake for a seate for his wife 1s. 0d.

Thirty-six entries follow of the sale of seats ; they seem at first to have been held for life on the payment of a shilling a year.

The payment for burials within the Church, and for knells and peals, continues for a hundred years. The fees were received by the parish.

*Item*, Received for the ringinge of the great bell in knills and peales for one yeare 35s.

1613. John Wansie bought a seate for his wife.

That there was layd out for wyne for the Comunion all this yeare 34s. 8d.

1614. Receyved of Mr. Sloper for the use of £4 given to the Church by one Richard Welshman 8s.

*Item*, of Christian Bayly, of Borham, for a legacy given by her husband William Bayly's last will 10s.

1615. Ap. 30. Delivered unto the Churchwardens, as followeth—One Communion Cupp and one cover guilt, with two cloths to wrapp them in, thre psalters and two communion bookes, one old Bible, and a new one of the last translation, two books of homilyes, a paraphrasis of Erasmus, two bookes of marters, fower books of prick

songe,\* one whyte cloth with a carpitt for the Comunion table, one Sirpless, a pulpitt cloth, with a quishion, with a case for the same, a puter flagon for the wyne.

1618. John Wansie borrows £5 of the parish money, and William Whitehead was his surety.

[Money was then at 10 per cent interest.]

1620. William Cabbell left a legacy of fourtye shillings to the Church for the building of seates.

In this year "Collectors for the Poore" are appointed and "Supervisors for the hy wayes."

Ap. 30. *Mem*: That Simon Sloper and Edwd. Middlecott, Churchwardens, dyd make a faithfull and true account, and there remayned in stock the sum of four and twenty shillings, and yet they dyd not so much as gather one penny of a single rate in the whole parish, and they were againe chosen Churchwardens for the yeare ensuing.

1621. The parish remayned in Simon Sloper's debt £6 8s. 10d. and in Edward Middlecott's £10 11s. 11d., and they both were chosen Churchwardens againe for the present yeare to right themselves for theire leyings out.

1622. At the Church reckonyng the parish remayned in Simon Sloper's debt £7 4s., and in Edward Middlecott's £6 19s. 10d., and there were five rates gathered of the most of the parishioners this verie yeere to right them, if it had been possible.

1623. *Mem*: That Mr. Edwd. Middlecott hath in his hands the Booke of Cannons, for soe he told us at this last Church reckonyng.

Francis Shirgall and Nicholas Butcher made theire account to the parish, whereby it appeared that they had in stock onlie 22d. towards the payment of the debt yet due to Mr. Sloper and to Mr. Middlecott, but theire due was satisfied after this sort—Mr. Sloper had the legacie of fortie

\* Note books of Church music.

shillings which his mother in law dyd give to the Church, and he had also fower pounds which *the young men got for the good of the Church*, and the odd four shillings was payd him at this reckning—And William Cabbell's wife (being his executrix) was contented (upon the condicion that she might not pay the 3s. 4d. for her husband's knill with the great bell alone) that the fortie shillings which her husband did give towards the building of seates in the Church, should be at the disposing of the parishioners, and they thought it meet that Mr. Middlecott should have it towards the satisfying of som part of that debt which the parishe dyd owe hym; and he was also payed at that tyme 19s. 11d. besyd.

1624. *Mem.*—That John Daniell of Norridg at this Church reckoning payed XIIId. for the seat that was Nicholas Daniells, and he hath a grant of the old Churchwardens together with the new with the consent also of the rest of the parishoners then present to enjoy the said seate quietlie for XIIId. a yeare.

1626. The debt which was due to the Churchwardens being this yeare cleared onely, there remayneth no stock at all for the next yeares foundation, and therefore these Churchwardens for this yeare chosen must needs be inforced to make a new rate to repare there old building (I\* meane the Church) which weeps many a fresh teare for her decayed house, especially when the wynd is in the west.

1629. The parish this yeare remayned indebted to the Churchwardens the full sum of fower poundes, but there was sold by consent of all the parishoners then present the old Bible and certayne old psalter bookes which amounted to 12s. 2d., which the Churchwardens then received in part of payment.

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\* All the records of Vestry for many years are in the beautifully distinct handwriting of the Rev. George Richardson, Vicar.

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Layd out this yeere in bread and wine for the Comunion	45	7
For the five bell ropes	18	4
Out of the Church Stock to poor Irish people	20	8
To other poore people and for greyheads [ <i>badgers</i> ]	20	8
A sheete of lead waying 2 <i>cwt.</i> 1 <i>qr.</i> 19 <i>lbs.</i>	2	5 2
40lb. of souder	33	4
Workmanshipe about the leades	20	8
The gaile and mayned soldiers	33	8
1630. All the implements wherewith the last Churchwardens were charged were delivered by them, onelie there wanted a Surples, which Thomas Smith (then Clark and organist) sayd Mr. Willoughby, the Churchwarden, dyd give him before his going hence. Now what that might be worth must be censured indifferentlie that the parish may be satisfied in some reasonable sort.		
Note.—“received for yt iiij <i>s.</i> —1632.”		
There was layd out to a prebendary of Sarum for pentecostal money	5	8
Bread and wine for the Comunion	35	4
Recyv'd a legacie to the Church	3	4
Also another legacie	3	4
1631. All the implements were delivered, onelie there was lacking the booke of Cannons and Constitutions, which Mr. Ludlow had left at home, which he then promised to deliver. This yeare there was found in the poor mans box 5 <i>s.</i> in gold, lapt up in a paper wherein was written a godly exhortation to works of charity, thereby to shew the fruites of their fayth that make a profession without Hipocrisy.		
1632. Layd out for poore travelers both wayfaring and wounded	23	5
A new Communion booke	9	8
At both Visitations our charges and their fees	24	0
Greyheades and foxheades	6	0

No accounts are rendered by the Churchwardens, Francis Bennett and William Bayly, for the years 1638, 1639,



1640, and 1641, but the parish continued them in office till 1642,

“in regard they had not fully finished the work they had in hand in making the Church decent and handsome, and in regard they had not gathered up moneys enough to satisfie their disbursements.”

1642. July 18. Mr. Bennett and W. Bayly, C. W., having given public notice in the Parish Church the Sunday before that they would pass their acct<sup>s</sup> to the parishioners, came on that day, when met them Mr. Maxwell, the Vicar, Mr. E. Middlecott, the elder, John Adlam, and others, and their accompts did exceed their disbursements £4 2s. 5d., as by the book of particulars remaining in the Church coffer appeareth.

Nicholas Butcher and John Adlam were elected Churchwardens, but when the Visitation came the Chancellor would not discharge Francis Bennett and William Bayly, because he had noe power by the statute of XXII CAROLI REGIS to sweare the newe Churchwardens.

1644. Thomas Ludlow and Nicholas Butcher were chosen Churchwardens, but they would not come to be sworn in regard the tymes were soe troublesome.

1645. Thomas Ludlow and Nicholas Butcher were again chosen, but they did not take upon themselves the execution of the office in regard of the distraction of the tymes.

1646. The parishioners met and chose Thomas Ludlow and Nicholas Butcher Churchwardens, but they would not act by reason the tymes were soe troublesome. But Edward Middlecott, the younger, gent., John Butcher, Christopher Willoughby, and Thomas Toomer willingly took upon themselves the office of overseers, and served, notwithstanding the tymes were soe troublesome, to the intent the poore might not perishe for want of relief.

Francis Bennett, the attorney, of Smallbrook, engrosses

all the entries in the Vestry Book in his own bold, clear hand-writing from 1634 to 1646; and he and William Bayly seem to have discharged the duties of Churchwardens, as far as was possible, through all the tumultuous period of the Civil War.

1647. Nicholas Butcher and Bartholomew Penny consented to serve as Churchwardens.

1648. The old Churchwardens served.

1649. Edward Middlecott and John Wansey were chosen, but would not serve.

1650. The old Churchwardens remained in office.

1651. The Churchwardens passed their accounts for 1647—48—49—50—51, and John Butcher and William Warren succeeded, but John Butcher died in his office. The expenditure of the year 1651 was £48 9s., which included the relief of the poor.

1652. William Warren and John Wansey, Churchwardens—No accounts rendered.

1653. Anthony Gibbs and Christopher Willoughby, Churchwardens.

1654. No rate collected—the same officers. The waymen were elected by vertue of his Highness the Lord Protector's ordinance for amending the highwaies.

Bread and wine 1 5 6

1655. William Wansborough and Humphery Butcher, Churchwardens. They sell Francis Bennett a plot of ground in the parish Church, between the Church and Chancel, for ten shillings, for a burying place.

1656. The waymen were elected and chosen at the Town Hall the first Tuesday after the 25 March, (being the first day of April) by virtue of the Lord Protector's ordinance for the repairing of the highways for the yeare ensuing, viz. Ed. Middlecott, Fras. Bennett, attorney at lawe, Wm. Adlam, and John Slade.—Churchwardens were chosen six days after at the Church, Wm. Buckler, of the farm, and

- Wm. Pilton.—Overseers, Stephen Long, Rd. Adlam, Barth. Penny, junr., and Wm. Elliott.
1658. No election of Officers in 1657. In 1658, Benjamin Gifford Esq., and William Adlam, Churchwardens.  
 [No accounts appear, nor any minutes of Vestry for eight years, but blank pages are left for entries.]
1666. Thomas Ludlow, gent., and Roger Willoughby, gent., Churchwardens.
1672. *Mem.*—On the Sunday after St. Mark's Day, the ancient Church reckoning day, being the 28th day of April, Anno 1672, the Churchwardens gave up their accounts to the parishioners in the Church immediately after Evening Sermon, *i.e.* Afternoon.

For many years the accounts were audited on a Sunday in the Church after Afternoon Service,—at a later date in St. Laurence's Chapel.

1676. £1 14s. 6d. paid to Mr. Thos. Buckler for Goale and Marshalsea,\* and to old Bennett for carrying the parchment roll to Sarum, 1s.
1681. William Blake did bild upon a wast plott of ground in ye north Ile a seat at his owne cost for himself and wife and familey.  
 Two bottles of wine to the Archdeacon 3s.
1683. Gave the ringers in joy that a plott was discoverd 7s. 6d.
1684. Paid Mr. Lathom [the Vicar] for drawing the Register 2s. 6d. Paid for vermins' heads 15s. 10d.  
 Paid for 2 dinners for Mr. Lathom 5s.
- Feb. 5. Paid the ringers showing our loyalty towards the restoration of his Majesty, 10s. [Charles II.—he died the next day.] Parish money out on bonds £76.
1690. Payd Dr. Lambert, Archdeacon of Sarum, by Mr. E. Chubb, fower pounds, eleven pence halfpenny for the Irish Protestants.

\* A county assessment for the maintenance of the Gaol at Fisherton, Salisbury.

1691. Received of Mr. Claw, goldsmith, for the old pulpitt cloth, burnt silver 3s.  
 [Many entries of payments "for keeping the boyes," and for books for Thanksgiving and Fast Days.]
1698. Seats sold £ 3 13s. Knells produced £ 3 5s. 4d. 7 rates made £ 25.  
 [A rate averaged from £ 3 10 0 to £ 4 0 0.]
1702. Ringing for the good success at Vigo 5s.
1706. Ringers for the rejoicings of the battles of Ramilies and other places £ 1 5 0
1708. Ringing for the great victory at Flanders 10s.  
 Gave for the redemption of one out of Turkey 6s.  
 For an Attor's head 1s.—another Attor's head 1s.  
 Paid for 57 hedgehogs 9s. 6d.—for grayheads 7s.—for foxes heads 4s.—for 9 polecats 3s.—for sparrow heads 3s. 11d.
1725. William Townsend, Parish Clerk, was prosecuted in the Bishop's Court for scandalous behaviour.  
 [Various sums given to poor gentlemen, disbanded and wounded soldiers and sailors, wayfaring men and women, Turkey slaves, and others in distress.]
1731. A general collection made on account of the great and destructive fire at Blandford, amounting to £ 132 2s. 5d.
1735. It appearing to the Parish that divers sums of money had been given by certain persons to be applied by the Minister, Churchwardens, and Inhabitants according to their several wills, and whereas divers of these sums have been lent and cannot be recovered, and whereas in the years 1723—24—25, the sum of £ 15 then in the hands of the parish, being part of the moneys aforesaid, was applied by the then Churchwardens to the rebuilding of the Church, it is now agreed by the principal inhabitants that the Parish of Warminster shall make satisfaction to the poor, and that the interest of £ 15, now, for the ten years since it was paid, amounting to £ 7 10s. shall be paid at once, and 15s. a year henceforth shall be disposed of to the poor, as the Vicar and others shall appoint.

1742. Four men carrying spades at the procession 2s.

[*Cir.* 1750. In the Church was a kind of desk, on which were seen a large folio Bible, of the old edition, much decayed, and a book of the Commentaries of Erasmus.]

1755. A collection made for the fire at Hindon—£44 9s.

1757. Lord Weymouth paid the parish £300 for the right of enclosing 250 acres of Common at Winehill and Dafford's Woods, and the money was applied to the erection of a Poor House, the parish borrowing £200 more—cost £500. At the same time, for £15, Henry Wansey obtained a right of cutting turf for fewell on 2 acres of the Common, with consent of Lord Weymouth.

1759. Painting the King's Arms £5 5s. 0d.

1770. Whereas Thomas Paine, William Cadby, Edward Sheppard, Jeremiah Pierce, and John Coffey, being, or pretending to be, part of the Choir, but having of late absented themselves from the singers, came on Sunday the 28th day of January, and in a very indecent and disorderly manner interrupted the singing both in the morning and afternoon, the Churchwardens are hereby ordered to prosecute the offenders in the Ecclesiastical Court.

1777. New rules for disposing of vacant seats—

1. All pews to be bought for three lives; when a life is lost, to be renewed at Easter only, and the family to have the preference in purchasing.

2. All single sittings to be vacated on the owners leaving the town a twelvemonth.

3. The lives renewed of all seats, and single sittings, to be persons who reside in the town or parish of Warminster.

A scandalous traffic in sittings and pews in Warminster Church arose soon after the Reformation. Not only were whole pews and single seats bought and sold, left by will, leased and sub-leased, let and sub-let, by their proprietors, but parcels of the very soil within the walls were sold for the erection of such seats as the purchaser pleased. The

poor were thus driven into the dark seats under the galleries, and, as a body, were virtually excluded from the Church, at a time when there was but one Church for 5,000 souls. The whole system was so bad, and generated such abuses and strife, that the later Vestries, in course of years, bought out the interest in some seats, seized others of doubtful tenure, compelled families no longer residents in the town to surrender their claims, and passed rigid regulations for future leases and rentals.

1789. Ringers and beer a whole day for his Majesty's recovery.

1792. A Parish meeting was held *at the Chapel*, and adjourned to the Angel Inn, at which John Gibbs and Amey his wife were appointed to the care of the workhouse, "but it is hereby promised by the same John Gibbs that he will never preach or pray out of the Workhouse, nor admit any person to hear the same in the Workhouse, except the paupers therein."

The Parish enclosed 25 acres of land on the Common for a garden for the Poor House, with Lord Weymouth's consent.

May 31. At a Vestry held *at the Chapel* Mr. R. J. Gough was appointed Organist with a salary of £20 a year.

St. Laurence's Chapel was desecrated as the common place of Vestry and other public meetings, often of a very rugged and stormy character, for half a century or more. But at a later date the Vestries were adjourned to the Town Hall, and, more recently, to the National School-room. Before the new district became entirely severed from the Parish Church, one or more Vestries were held at Christ Church.

1807. A committee was appointed to consider whether it would be advisable to continue making cloth at the Poor House.—Decided, that a further trial should be made, and

- a Master appointed who understood weaving, and that the accounts be more correctly kept. The stock of cloth and implements were worth £961 16s.
1812. Sacramental wine £18 for the year.
1817. £23 2s. spent for black cloth for hanging the Church on the death of the Princess Charlotte. *Ordered*—That no such extraordinary expense be incurred by the Churchwardens without sanction of Vestry.
1825. Black cloth at Dr. Rowlandson's funeral £2 12s. 6d.
1829. Communion wine £8 11s. 6d.
1835. June 16.—Dr. Burgess, Bishop of Salisbury, was suddenly taken ill at the Confirmation, and unable to proceed.
1841. Oct. 14. The inhabitants of Warminster having contributed a sum of £146 as a testimonial of respect to the Rev. W. Dalby on his resignation of the living, and he, having proposed to expend this sum in the erection of a new east Chancel window and altar-screen (*i.e.* reredos) in the Parish Church, the Vestry met to consider the propriety of permitting the erection of the same—*Resolved*—That the present altar-screen being of excellent workmanship, and also judiciously adapted to its sacred use, it would be highly inexpedient to remove the same.
1842. March 28. *Resolved*—That the Churchwardens be empowered to accept and erect the screen and window presented by the late Vicar, but not to allow the present screen to be removed out of the Church.
1845. *Resolved*—That the old Grecian Altar-screen formerly standing in the chancel of the Church be presented to the Governors of Salisbury Infirmary for the Infirmary Chapel. [Where it still remains.]
1851. Jan. 9. A very elegant Communion Table was this day presented to the Vicar and Churchwardens by J. H. Markland, Esqr., of Bath. The old Communion Table was presented to the Incumbent and Churchwardens of Christ Church.

## 11.—MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS IN THE CHURCH.

In the Chancel on the north wall—

Near this place are deposited the remains of **DEBORAH ARMSTRONG**, who died Nov. 6, 1813, aged 69.

Also of **CUTHBERT ARMSTRONG**, late Banker of this town and husband of the above; died Feb. 27, 1823, aged 84.

On a brass beneath—

In memory of **GEORGE SEAGRAM**, youngest son of John and Anne Frowd Seagram, of this town; died 14 July 1864, aged 76. Also to the memory of **SUSANNAH SEAGRAM**, who departed this life, 20 July, 1871, aged 96.

**M. S. MARTHA DAVIS**, wife of Thomas Davis, of Portway House, died 28 June, 1831, aged 59. **CHARLES BROUGHTON HODDING DAVIS**, 3rd son of M. and T. Davis, died 14 Jan. 1830, aged 14. Also the above named **THOMAS DAVIS**, who for more than 30 years was the zealous and faithful Steward of the Estates of the Marquis of Bath. He died 10 Dec. 1839, aged 62. In God was his trust.

On a brass under—

**THOMAS DAVIS**, eldest son of the above T. and M. Davis, died July 2, 1876, aged 66. Also **MARTHA**, 1st wife of the said Thomas Davis, died Feb. 21, 1863, aged 46.

In memory of **ROGER TOWNSEND**, of this town, Professor of Music; died 20th June, 1730, aged 39 years.

Our Maker's praise his soft melodious tongue,  
By Nature led, by Heaven directed, sung.  
Harmonious soul, thou always didst aspire,  
To imitate (now join) the heavenly choir,  
By hearing angels sing, their notes improve,  
And raise devotion to seraphic love,  
God's goodness view, enjoy, adore, proclaim,  
And everlastingly extol His name.

**ELIZABETH**, his wife, ob. Dec. 24, 1769, æt. 79.



JAMES, their son, ob. Aug. 23, 1778, æt. 60.

ANN	} wives of James	{	ob. 23 Feb. 1747, æt. 25.
RACHEL			ob. 28 Sep. 1750, æt. 30.
PHYLLIS			ob. 7 July, 1769, æt. 66.

ELIZABETH, his daughter, (by Ann) ob. 9 Dec. 1790, æt. 43.

LYDIA, wife of Roger, ob. 22 Dec. 1781, æt. 31

JAMES, their son, in his infancy.

JAMES, son of Roger, (by Elizabeth) ob. 12 July, 1794, æt 7.

This monument was erected by Roger, son of James, who has given the sum of Three Pounds a year for ever, to the clerk, organist, and choir of this parish to sing the anthem from the CL Psalm, as composed by him to whose memory this is erected during Divine Service on Sunday immediately preceding Midsummer Day.

In memory of ELIZABETH, the wife of Noah Chivers, of the City of Bath, and daughter of the late William Bleeck, of this town, died 26 April, 1794, aged 54 years. Also of NOAH CHIVERS, who died 7 May, 1826, aged 79; endeared by a life of benevolence, his death is deplored by affectionate relations and admiring friends.

Sacred to the memory of JAMES GRANT FILKES, who departed this life on the 28th Jan. 1813, aged 64. Also of SALLY, wife of the above J. G. Filkes, who died 19 Oct. 1821, aged 65.

Near this place are deposited the remains of the Rev. DACRE YOUNGSON, M.A., formerly of St. John's College, Cambridge, late Curate of this Parish, who died 31 Jan. 1783, aged 37 years. Tho' dead, he yet speaketh, and still present in remembrance, forcibly, though silently, admonisheth his once beloved flock.

To be cut off in the midst of a valuable and useful life is one of the mysteries of Divine Providence, which will be cleared up at the Resurrection of the just. GEORGE WANSEY, after a few days' illness, died March 19, 1807, aged 50 years. The love and esteem of all who knew him is the best testimony

to his real character. "The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon him, and he caused the widow's heart to sing for joy."

On a brass plate—

Here lieth the body of SIMON SLOPER, gent., desesed June 26, 1636.

Here lieth the body of WILLIAM SLOPER, son of Simon Sloper, gentleman, desesed March 5, 1651.

SIMON SLOPER—WILLIAM SLOPER—ROBERT SLOPER—ANN SLOPER.

In the Sacrarium, on the north wall—

Hic jacet GUALTERUS ATWOOD, in Artibus Magister, hujus Parochiæ Vicarius, Collegii Reginalis in Academia Cantabrigiæ quondam alumnus, filius tertius Johannis Atwood Armigeri, de Littleburie in parochiâ de Stanford Riveres in comitatu Essex. Obiit sexto die Novembris Ao D'ni 1635, ætatis suæ 33.

[Arms—A Lion Rampant, *Argent*, between five Acorns, *or*.]

This is the oldest monumental inscription in the Church.

On a brass plate—

MARIA, conjux pientissima dilectissima Pauli Lathom, A.M. hujus parochiæ Ministri, puerperio, necnon insequenti febre vexata, patientiæ, fidei, modestiæ specimen exhibuit perillustre filiologo Johanne superstite, intravit gaudium Domini *prid' cal'* Oct. A.D. 1660 æt. suæ 33.

On the same plate—

ELIZABETHÆ, Pauli et Elizabethæ Lathom, unica proles et deliciæ, variolis correpta, immacularum cœlis virginum adjungitur choro 7 *Kal' Jul'* A.D. 1668, ætat. suæ 5. Quod mortale fuit, ultimæ clangorem tubæ præstolans, hoc obdormit pulvere.

Vive memor leti ; fugit hora ; hoc quod loquor inde est.

On a brass plate in the south wall of the Sacrarium—

To the living memory of HESTER POTTICARY, the only

daughter of Thomas Potticary, of this parish, who deceased August 31, 1673.

God oft transplants His lovely flowers  
 From the Church Garden here below,  
 Them to secure from heat and showers,  
 In heavenly paradise to grow.  
 Here rests a virgin's earthly part,  
 Whom winter overtook in spring,  
 Whose soule, now freed from Satan's dart,  
 We hope doth Hallelujah sing.  
 Let persons in their younger years,  
 With her their great Creator mind,  
 As they would be disarmed of fears,  
 When death their outward man shall find.

CHRONOG.\*

pVre VesseLs of MerCy enJoy happIness With GoD  
 1673. Her age 24.  
 VertVe In her Is not WitherIng.

\* "A *Chronogram* (says the Spectator, May 9, 1710), is a near relation to the *Anagram* and *Acrostic*. It appears very often on modern medals, especially those of Germany, when they represent in the inscription the year in which they were coined. Thus we see on a medal of Gustavus Adolphus the following words—

ChrIstVs DuX ergo trIVMphVs.

If you take the pains to pick out the figures, and range them in their proper order, you will find they amount to

MDCXVVVII, or 1627,

the year in which the medal was stamped. Your laborious Germans will turn over a whole Dictionary for one of these ingenious devices."

The solution of the two chronograms on Hester Potticary's tablet is—

V = 5	V = 5
V = 5	V = 5
L = 50	I = 1
M = 1000	I = 1
C = 100	W = 10
I = 1	I = 1
I = 1	I = 1
W = 10	—
I = 1	24
D = 500	

1673

On a tablet—

Underneath are deposited the mortal remains of the Rev. ROBERT HERBERT, M.A., who, with slight intermissions, served the clerical duties of a Curate in this parish punctually and conscientiously above 40 years. He died on 14 May, 1835, aged 75 years.

On flat stones on the Sacraminum floor—

Here lieth the body of ELIZABETH, wife of Edward Coward, who is left to lament ye loss of ye best of wives, and prepare to follow her, who departed this life August 26, 1742, aged 57.

Here lyeth the body of JAMES LEGERTWOOD, M.A., Prebendary of Sarum, Rector of Brixton Deverill, and Vicar of Warminster, who died 24 October, 1742, aged 68 years.

Sacred to the memory of the Rev. MILLINGTON MASSEY JACKSON, A.M., formerly of Dunham Massey, in the County of Chester, and Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, 33 years Vicar of this Parish, and Rector of Kingston Deverill. He departed this life the 26 December, 1807, aged 70 years.

[This inscription also appears on the south Chancel wall, with some addition.]

MARIA, uxor charissima Pauli Lathom, hujus Ecclesie Vicarii. Obiit 30 die Sep. A.D. 1660, æt. suæ 33.

On a stone in the Chancel floor—

Underneath lieth the body of WILLIAM WILTON, Gent, who died on the 5th of August, 1752, in the 50th year of his age.

He was descended from a respectable family situated for many generations in this town. In the middle part of his life he betook himself to the sea service, in which he made so great a proficiency that he was taken notice of by the two noble brothers, the Lords Vere and Aubrey Beauclerk, and by the latter in particular, who, for his advancement, recommended him to the command of a South Sea sloop in the West Indies. At his return home, the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Weymouth was pleased to appoint him his

House Steward, in which office he continued with great credit, and with the approbation of his Lord for many years, who during his life, and at the time of his decease, most generously and nobly rewarded him for his faithful services.

Also, **MARY**, wife of Edward Wilton, who died May, 1759, aged 36 years.

Also, **JERRARD**, son of Edward Wilton, who died February, 1785, aged 10 years.

Also, **EDWARD WILTON**, who died April, 1788, aged 81 years.

On the south pier of the tower—

In memory of the Rev. **MICHAEL ROWLANDSON**, D.D., 16 years Vicar of this Parish. He was a generous man, and full of pity; he lived for the distressed, his family, and his parish, a Scholar, a Divine, and Christian. Ob. July 8, 1824, æt. 55. Also of **REBECCA**, his loving and faithful wife, for 30 years resident in the parish after her husband's death; she gave her unwearied, zealous, and liberal personal support to every effort for God's glory, and the relief of human suffering and woe. The peace of God which passeth all understanding kept her heart and mind, through simple trust in God her Saviour, loving and bright and happy to the end. She died at Croydon, in Surrey, Dec. 16, 1867, in her 91st year.

On a brass plate—

To the glory of God, and in affectionate memory of **ARTHUR FANE**, Prebendary of Sarum, and Vicar of this parish from 1841 to 1859. He left this life June 11th, 1872, and his body rests in the Churchyard of Boyton. As a Shepherd of souls, he had a power of arousing the careless, a faculty of attaching persons to himself, and thereby winning souls to his Master, a strong sympathy with the poor in their sickness or their toil. By an intuitive knowledge of character, he could enter into the manifold difficulties of each, and so draw them severally to the one fountain of consolation and peace.

“He that winneth souls is wise.”

This brass is placed by some of the sons and daughters of toil, who knew the self-denying labours of his ministry.

On a tablet on the south-west pier of the tower—

In a vault on the N. side of this pier lie the mortal remains of **MARY BENNETT**, who died 21 Ap. 1839, aged 78 : she was the relict of the late Francis Bennett, of Smallbrook, who died 30 Dec. 1798, æt. 41.

On a brass below—

Prope hanc columnam, sub his tribus superioribus sedibus, corpus **MARLE**, uxoris Francisci Bennett de Smallbroke, generosi, jacet sepultum. Obiit vicesimo sexto die Julii, Anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo quinquagesimo septimo.

In memory of **MICHAEL WEBB**, Gent., who died July 10, 1780, aged 74 years, and lies interred on the other side of the middle aisle.

**ELIZABETH MASSEY**, died 11 November, 1794, aged 45 years.

**CHARLES WEBB**, died 15 January, 1808, aged 49 years.

On tablets on the west wall of the nave—

In memory of **JOHN LANGLEY**, Esqr., who died on 14 Sept. 1799, aged 92 years. He was a liberal benefactor to the poor of this parish. [Arms, Paly of six, *Argent* and *Vert.*]

To the memory of **JOHN MASKELYN**, Gent., who departed this life the 24 of January, 1790, aged 72 years.

To the memory of **GEORGE LYE**, Esqr., one of the magistrates of the City of Bath, who died Jan. 11, 1826, aged 75. Also to the memory of **ANN**, wife of the above, died Mar. 27, 1820, aged 68. This tablet has been erected in slight testimony of affectionate remembrance for the deceased, who resided many years in this town, and whose remains are deposited in a vault in the church.

On stones in the floor of the nave—

Here lyeth ye' body of **WILLIAM LANGLEY**, who died December 14, 1709, aged 33 years.

And also WILLIAM, son of W. L., who died Jan. 1, 1709, aged 4 years.

Here also lieth the body of ANN, the beloved wife of William Langley, who died Jan. 17, 1749, aged 71 years.

Here lieth the bodies of WILLIAM, WILLIAM, and MARY, sons and daughter of William and Mary Bayly, of this town. William died in October, 1750, aged 3 years.—William died in 1755, in his infancy.—Mary died in August, 1755, aged 5 years.

Here lieth the body of WILLIAM BAYLY, who departed this life November 29, 1772, aged 63.

Here lieth the body of SAMUEL PIKEMAN, who departed this life May 19, 1730, aged 44, who in the several relations, a husband, father, and a friend, was affectionate, tender, and sincere, universally beloved, and equally lamented by all that knew him.

Here also lyeth the body of HESTER, the wife of Samuel Pikeman, who departed this life 18 April, 1753, aged 70 years.

Here also lyeth five of his children, viz., JOHN, MARY, STEPHEN, WILLIAM, aged 9 years, and THOMAS, aged 11 years.

Here also lyeth the body of SARAH, his daughter, who died 14 February, 1731, aged 7 years.

Here also lieth the body of SAMUEL, his son, who died 8 March, 1739, in the 25th year of his age.

On a brass plate—

Underneath are deposited the remains of JOHN BUTLER, MARY his wife, and JOHN their son; MARGARET and MARY ILES, their nieces; ANN, first wife of Edward Butler; ANN, daughter of Edward and Margaret Butler; BENJAMIN BUTLER, ob. 23 June, 1766, æt. 42; MARTHA BUTLER, ob. 17 August, 1773, aged 57; CATHARINE, daughter of Edward and Sarah Butler, ob. Dec. 1785, æt. 3 years; EDWARD BUTLER, sen., ob. 21 April, 1788, æt. 63.

H. S. E. THOMAS WEBB, Thomæ et Elizabethæ Webb, nuper de Warminster, filius natu maximus, spei optimæ juvenis,

qui literis egregie operam dedit in schola West-monasteriensi. Variolis correptus animam efflavit die Novembris viij<sup>o</sup>, anno ætatis suæ 27, salutis humanæ 1728.

Here lyeth also the body of the above-named **ELIZABETH WEBB**, who died January 4, 1732, aged 45 years.

Here also lieth the body of the above-named **THOMAS WEBB**, who died Nov. 10, 1770, aged 88 years.

**ELIZABETH HANCOCK**, died 29 August, 1794, aged 47 years.

**ELIZABETH DAVIS**, died 6 August, 1795, aged 76 years.

Died 6 November, 1813, aged 69 years, **DEBORAH**, wife of Cuthbert Armstrong, daughter of the above Davis, and sister of Elizabeth Hancock.

**GEORGE LYE**, died April 10, 1797, aged 17 years.

On tablets on the wall of the north aisle—

Sacred to the memory of **CHARLOTTE SHOARE**, daughter of John and Mary Shoare, who departed this life October 2, 1766, aged 6 years; and of **M. SHOARE**, who died Nov. 3, 1787, aged 66.

Also of the above-named **JOHN SHOARE**, who departed this life June 8, 1777, aged 68 years.

Also of the above-named **MARY SHOARE**, who departed this life Nov. 5, 1787, aged 66 years.

Also of **WILLIAM SHOARE**, son of the above-named John and Mary Shoare, who departed this life March 21, 1789, aged 32 years; by whose direction this tablet was erected.

In memory of **ELIZABETH**, wife of Jeremiah Cruse, born 19 Nov. 1783, died 2 Aug. 1840. Prov. xxxi. 28.—Also of her daughter **CAROLINE CRUSE**, born 19 June, 1820, died 18 Feb. 1838. Rev. xix. 9.—Also of **JAMES CRUSE**, born 2 Dec. 1810, died most suddenly 29 Dec. 1845. Ps. cii. 23.—Also of **JEREMIAH CRUSE**, born 13 Ap. 1781, died 6 Sep. 1861. He laboured more than 67 years a faithful clerk, conveyancer, and accountant in the Stewardship department of the Longleat Estate with four successive Stewards, and in the four Marquisates.—Heb. xi. 10.—Heb. xiii. 14.—Phil. iii. 20, 21.



Underneath lie the remains of JANE SHOARE, first wife of John Shoare, buried Mar. 9, 1749; and of JOHN, their son, who died Dec. 3, 1771, aged 27. This tablet is erected by the surviving daughter of John and Jane Shoare, as a tribute of respect to an affectionate mother and beloved brother.

On a brass plate—

Sacred to the memory of JAMES BOOR, formerly of this parish, who died in London, 11 July, 1851, aged 55. Also of MARY BOOR, wife of the above, who died 6 June, 1839, aged 44. Also of MARY, MARIANNE, and W. HERBERT, children of the above, who died in infancy. Also of LOUISA, widow of the above, who died 22 Nov. 1852, aged 32.

Sacred to the memory of STEPHEN HUNT, who died, Mar. 24, 1773, aged 52, and of JANE, his widow, who died Dec. 30, 1814, aged 90. Also of THOMAS, their son, who died in infancy; also of JANE, daughter of S. and Mary Hunt, and granddaughter of the above, aged 4; also of MARY, wife of S. Hunt, who died Ap. 22, 1842, aged 74; also of STEPHEN HUNT, who died May 9, 1854, aged 90.

Sacred to the memory of RICHARD SAMUEL WYCHE, who died Jan. 14, 1790, aged 67: also of MARY, his wife, who died July 3, 1801, aged 76: also of ANN WEBB, her sister, who died Dec. 6, 1813, aged 87. Also of EDWARD BUTT, who died Jan. 2, 1850, aged 65, and of M. A. WYCHE, who died Mar. 13, 1852, aged 88.

On a brass plate—

To the Glory of God, and in loving remembrance of CHARLES BLEECK, F.R.C.S. of England, who born in 1805 in this town, practised here for nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  a century, gaining the love of all. He died Feb. 4. 1878, and was interred in the Parish Churchyard. Chiefly by the efforts of the poor this tablet is erected specially as their grateful tribute to his unvarying kindness and sympathy for them in every hour of need. All classes alike deplore the loss of a generous, kind-

hearted friend, who grudged no pain to promote the interests of his native town.

“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”

Sacred to the memory of JOHN BUTT, surgeon of this town, who died May 19, 1808, aged 73. Also of JOHN BUTT, his son, who died Dec. 16, 1821, aged 58.

On a small brass plate on the north-east pier of the tower is an engraved figure of a woman with four children, three boys and a girl, kneeling before an altar, or prayer-desk, habited in the dress of the seventeenth century. The mother carries a book, as do the first and third boys—the second has none—the girl carries a flower.

In obitum ELIZABETHÆ, uxoris Thomæ Carter, generosi, quæ obiit 26 Jan. 1649, ætat. 33.

Eheu, quam fragili titubant mortalia casu,

Eheu, quo miseros turbine fata rotant !

Siste gradum : properas ? Oculos converte, videbis

Quæ tibi sit vitæ meta futura tuæ.

Hic jacet uxor, amansque charissima mater in urna,

Quamvis corpus humum, spiritus astra tenet.

Ne fundas lachrymas ; sibi mors est janua vitæ,

Ac Salvatoris numine tuta manet.

*Nemo ante obitum felix.*

Near this place are deposited the remains of JANE, daughter of Joseph Bland, Merchant, of London, who died May 17, 1799, aged 23 years.

In the south aisle of the chancel, on a brass plate—

Awaiting the Resurrection in the adjoining Churchyard rest the bodies of JOHN BANNISTER, died Feb. 1, 1858, aged 80, and of SUSANNAH, his wife, who died Mar. 13, 1871, aged 85.

“LORD, remember me when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom.”

In grateful remembrance of beloved parents their only surviving daughter places this memorial.

“Blessed are the dead which die in the LORD—even so saith the SPIRIT, for they rest from their labours.”

Near this place, under a tomb in the Churchyard, lie the mortal remains of Mr. THOMAS SQUIRE, lately of this parish, apothecary, who to a singular skill and honesty in his profession, a most active tenderness for the sick, an admirable sagacity in discerning the nature of diseases, and an uncommon success in removing them, happily united the Christian and social virtues of a tender husband, an affectionate parent, a cheerful companion, and a faithful friend. Mr. Squire was the 4th son of the Rev. Samuel Squire, formerly Vicar of Great Durnford, in this county. He married Susan, daughter of Rev. John Scott, Rector of Bishopstrow, with whom he lived 50 years. She was interred under the same tomb, August 9, 1758, aged 72 years, and near them eight of their children. Their surviving children are Samuel, now Lord Bishop of St. David's, Mary, and Eleanor, wife of Rev. Mr. Twyford, Vicar of South Petherton, in Somersetshire. He died Nov. 30, 1761, aged 74.

Sacred to the memory of ALFRED TAYLER, who died Ap. 7, 1825, aged 52. Also of JAMES ALFRED, son of Alfred and Mary Ann Tayler, who died Aug. 25, 1848, aged 3 months. Also of MARY ANN TAYLER, who died June 20, 1867, aged 70.

Sacred to the memory of Capt. CHARLES ROWLANDSON, Madras Native Infantry, son of the late Rev. M. Rowlandson, D.D., who after a zealous and faithful service of 22 years, on his passage from India, Feb. 29, 1848, passed from long and afflicting illness to the rest prepared for "them that sleep in Jesus," aged 41.

"The sea shall give up her dead."

This tablet was erected by his affectionate widow.

Awaiting that great and awful day, for which all other days were made, in the Chancel of this Church lie in four graves the mortal remains of the undermentioned individuals of the family of Halliday, of this town—

	<i>Born.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Aged.</i>
EDWARD HALLIDAY	1625	— 21 Mar. 1702	— 77
MARY (Barton) wife	1635	— 5 Feb. 1723	— 88

	<i>Born.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Aged.</i>
JOHN HALLIDAY, son	1671	— 17 June, 1737	— 66
MARY (Trowbridge) wife	1688	— 9 May, 1732	— 44
EDMUND HALLIDAY	1716	— 18 Jan. 1744	— 28
MARY (Jones) wife	1714	— 6 Feb. 1782	— 68
MARY HALLIDAY, their daughter	1741	— 16 Sep. 1807	— 66
EDMUND HALLIDAY, their son, died at Dinan, in France, and was there buried	1744	— 24 Mar. 1832	— 88
JOANNA (Recketts) wife	1747	— 8 July, 1797	— 50
EDMUND THOS. HALLIDAY	1812	— 31 Dec. 1840	— 28

In memory of ANN FROWD, the beloved and affectionate wife of Matthew Davies, and daughter of the late John Seagram, of this town, who died 10 Mar. 1867, aged 87.

Near this place are deposited the remains of Mr. EDWARD SLADE, late attorney at law. Also of MARY, his beloved wife, and of Mr. WILLIAM SLADE, Gent., his elder brother. Also of Mr. EDWARD DAVIS, late of Trowbridge, in this county.

Mr. JOHN SLADE, Gentleman, ob. Feb. 13, 1773, æt. suæ 85.

Mrs. ANNE SLADE, his beloved wife, ob. Jan. 27, 1779, æt. suæ 81.

CATHARINE SLADE, their daughter, ob. Nov. 25, 1761, æt. 25.

EDWARD SLADE, their son, who died in his infancy.

Likewise the Rev. WILLIAM SLADE, A.M., Rector of Corsley, ob. 27 Nov. 1782, ætatis 53.

Also MARTHA, his daughter, who died in her infancy.

GEORGE MASSEY SLADE, ob. June 11, 1783, aged 15 weeks.

On a brass plate—

Sacred to the memory of WILLIAM LANGLEY, who died 4 Ap. 1807, aged 57. Also of PHEBE, his wife, who died 4 Nov. 1821, aged 69. Also of WILLIAM, their son, who died 5 Jan. 1834, aged 59. Also of ANN, his wife, who died 4 Jan. 1849, aged 78. Also of M. A. LANGLEY, who died 3 Oct. 1817, aged 11. Also of JANE LANGLEY, who died 24 Dec. 1809, aged 14 months, and of W. C. LANGLEY, who

died 25 May, 1840, aged 40 years, children of William and Ann Langley.

Sacred to the memory of EDWARD DAVIS SLADE, M.A., Rector of Wanstrow, Somerset, who died Oct. 22, 1824, aged 28. Also of CHARLES, who died Sep. 21, 1824, aged 25, and of WILLIAM, who died Oct. 21, 1812, aged 11, sons of Edward and Maria Slade, late of this town.

On a brass plate, in the south aisle—

Prope ab hoc pariete in medio ambulario sepultus jacet THOMAS BUCKLER, Gen., vir singulari erga DEUM pietate, insigni in vicinos fide. E dolore calculi multum diuque laboravit, quo peracuto morbo tandem plane confectus, mirâ cum patientiâ animam expiravit. Dum vixit, amicos habuit homines; moriens conscientiam; mortuus DEUM. Obiit Augusti 22, 1704, cir. ætat. 67.

In memory of EDWARD TUGWELL LAWRENCE, who died June 11, 1840, aged 67. Also of JANE, his wife, who died Feb. 17, 1832, aged 69. Also of ELIZABETH RAYNOLDS, her sister, who died Feb. 17, 1835, aged 79. Also of MARIA, their daughter, wife of David Mead, who died Ap. 29, 1840, aged 44.

“It is the Lord; let Him do what seemeth Him good.” 1 Sam. iii. 18.

Formerly on the south-west pier of the tower, but removed by Vestry, with consent of Sir Francis Astley, the representative of the family—

Heus, viator, siste gradum, pretium erit moræ non nescire te quis infra jacet. Heu! jacet (O si DEUS voluisset superstitem) WILHELMUS, Will'mi et Franciscæ Butler, filius; juvenis integerrimus et consum'atissimus: mira in dictis fides, in moribus suavitas, in consuetudine facilitas fuit. Hinc parentum, fratris, atque sororis merito deliciae. Scholæ Wellensis absque invidiâ flos et gloria; Cantabrigiæ futurus idem et ornamentum. Sed, proh dolor! variolis nunquam magis invidendis correptus, candidissimam efflavit animam Jan. 21, 1708, ætat. suæ 18. Abi jam, et si possis, Lector, imitare.

## 12.—ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.

The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Boreham, is a Second Pointed building from designs of Mr. Street, and was consecrated in September, 1865. It stands in a field anciently called *Picked Acre*, which was given for Church and Churchyard by the late Mr. Temple of Bishopstrow. The Temple family also contributed largely to the cost of erection, internal fittings, and endowment. The font is of Painswick stone with shafts of Devonshire marble. A low screen, of handsome solid brass-work, separates nave and chancel. The reredos is of alabaster and marble, in three compartments—in the centre, the *Crucifixion*, on the south the *Agnus Dei*, on the north, the *Pelican-in-her-piety*. The fine east window contains a magnificent picture of the Ascension. Two brass plates on the south chancel wall record that the east window is dedicated in memory of George Temple, the reredos of William John Temple. To the north wall, near the screen, is affixed a brass, with a figure in prayer, surplised, beneath which is engraved—

“GEORGE, son of William Temple, Esq. of Bishopstrow, received into the Church militant Aug. 16, 1834—entered into rest Dec. 16, 1868.—All glory be to God.—Erected by his wife Lucy.”

Both the windows on the south of the chancel are filled with painted glass, the one of the *Resurrection*, to the memory of Major Smith, the other, of the *Birth of our Lord*, to the memory of Bishop Hamilton.

The west wall bears a large serpentine cross, with a brass, inscribed—

“To the glory of GOD, and in memory of JOHN RULE, Priest, Rector of Poulton, and sometime Curate of this Parish, who entered into rest Ap. 24, 1872. † In perfect peace. †”

At the western entrance to the Churchyard stands a lofty stone lich-gate of great breadth and solidity, with the record—

“In dear memory of FANNY, wife of William Temple, of Bishopstrow House, who fell asleep Sep. 4, 1873, in hope of the Resurrection to eternal life.—This Gate was built by her daughters—Easter, 1874. † Her children rise up, and call her blessed.”

The Communion Plate, Two Patens, a Chalice, and Flagon, is inscribed—“† S. John Evan. Boreham, Warminster, A.D. 1865. †”

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### XXXVI.

## The Chapel of St. Laurence.

**W**HEN in the eighth persecution under Valerian, A.D. 258, Sixtus, Bishop of Rome, was being led forth to martyrdom, LAURENCE, his Archdeacon, then in the prime of life, earnestly begged that he might die with him. The Bishop told him that a more glorious triumph awaited him. Three days after he was seized, and roasted to death on a red hot iron frame, shaped like a gridiron. His festival in the English Church is August 10. Two hundred and fifty Churches and Chapels in England bear his name. A proud monument to St. Laurence is the Palace of the Escorial, near Madrid, built by Philip II, in the form of a gridiron, to commemorate the victory of his army, aided by the Earl of Pembroke and the English allies, over the French, in the battle of St. Quentin, on St. Laurence's Day, 1557.

The Chantry of St. Laurence in Warminster was founded by the lords of Warminster, during early Plantagenet days, and endowed with twenty-nine acres of land in the Common Fields of Warminster, Pitmead, and other places. As the Parish Church of the old Saxon and Norman times was at a considerable distance on the north-west of the town, the erection of the Chantry seemed a necessity; and it was greatly valued by the people. It stood in a central situation, and was, in its original style of architecture, of contemporaneous character with the Parish Church, if there were not a Chantry in the town of even earlier date.

The meadow on the south of the Chantry was called "St. Laurence's Mead" in 1290. A house was provided for a Chaplain in Curt or Court Street: Walter the Chaplain resided there in the reign of Henry III; William the Chaplain in that of Edward I.

The old endowments in land seem not to have yielded a sufficient income to support the Chantry Priest; but the inhabitants themselves undertook to supplement the necessary stipend, and thus provided that frequent and regular services were maintained in the Chapel till the Reformation. The CHANTRY ROLLS make mention that

"there is a Chapell called S. Laurence Chappell standynge in the middle of the towne of Warminster, wherein the inhabitants of the said towne founde a preste, to syng for the ease of them, bycause the parishe churche standith a quarter of a myle owte of the towne; and convertid all the landis afore written in Warminster to that use and purpose, and bare the reste of his wagis of their owne purses."

Chantry priests held lands in freehold, and they were instituted and inducted: but they were often elective by the parishioners, and removable at their will.



Richard Brent, *alias* Marten, held a cottage, with appurtenances, in Warminster, towards the maintenance of a priest in the Chapel, paying yearly *Sixteen Shillings*. William Mason held one tenement, with a little close of pasture, and the other lands which were given by the lords of Warminster to the Chapel of St. Laurence for ever paying yearly *Forty Shillings*. David-ap-Powell

“holdith a lytell house, which was given by the parishioners for the habitacyon of the Chappell Preste there for the tyme beyng for ever, paying yerely *Two Shillings*.”

There was a deed belonging to the Feoffees of the Chapel, of 33 Edward III, in which Edith Doggerel, daughter of William and Edith Hewett, grants to John Langton, Chaplain of St. Laurence, “*one messuage and the curtilage adjoining, situate in the vill of Wermenstre, at the Newport.*”

Before this date, 5 Edward III, the “Chapel of Warminster” is mentioned as endowed with 40 acres of land by Peter de Escudamore, but this reference may be to Norridge or Thoulston Chantries.

The family of Hewet, Huwett, Hoghwet, Hughwet, or Hughet, seem to have been generous friends to the Chapel. Two maiden sisters of that name are recorded as benefactors.

A small grave-yard was attached to the Chapel, probably only for the burial of ecclesiastics. Remains of human bodies are found to this day whenever the ground is disturbed.

But when, after the various Acts for the suppression of Religious Houses had passed Parliament, in the reigns of Henry VIII and Edward VI, a Survey was also ordered by the Crown to be taken by Sir John Thynne, and other

Commissioners, of all Colleges, *Free Chapels*, and *Chantries*, the people of Warminster, alarmed lest some rapacious courtier might lay hands on their Chapel of St. Laurence, presented a petition to the Council that it might be spared confiscation, testifying that it was of essential service to the inhabitants, as the Church was so far distant.

“The saide towne of Warminster is a very good market towne, and a great parishe, wherein be VIIIc (= 800) people whiche receyve the blessid Communion, and no preste besides the Vicar to help in administration there, savyng the said Chapel Preeste, whose name is Christopher James, a man well able to serve a cure. In consideration whereof the said inhabitants desyre the King’s most honourable Council to consyder them accordynglye.”

No regard was paid to the petition. The inhabitants then made an effort, as stated before, to save the revenues of St. Laurence for a Grammar School,—this prayer also was rejected: and letters patent passed the Great Seal, bearing date Westminster, January 9, 1549, (and now extant) by which Edward VI granted to Richard Robertes, of London, Gent., *inter alia*,

“All that Chapell of St. LAURENCE, in Warmister, in our county of Wiltes, and all that our land in which the Chapell is scituate, with its messuages, now or lately in the tenure of William Kente, and all that our chamber on the west end of the said Chapell, in tenure of David-ap-Powell; *except all bells and lead*, for the proper use and service of the said Richard Roberts, his heirs and assigns, as of our manor of Sidmouth, *in free socage*, and not *in capite*, as fully and freely as any Chantry priests, Chaplains, or Incumbents heretofore officiating or having possession thereof.”

There was a reservation to the Crown of some small money payments formerly made to the Chantry, and a

pension for life was settled on Christopher James, the last Chaplain—

“For the same preest Christopher James out of a close given by the lordis of Warmester—XLs.”

Other small rentcharges, assigned to the Chaplain, made his annual pension £5.

It is impossible to recover a correct list of the Chantry Priests before the Suppression, as the Chaplains of St. Nicholas, in Warminster Court, of Norridge, and probably of Thoulston Chapels, (both in Upton Scudamore), constantly sojourned in Warminster. Many names of Chaplains in Warminster are mentioned in the old papers collected with such unwearied zeal by Mr. Offer, but not in definite reference, so as to determine to which Chantry they belonged.

The Tower of the Chapel was retained by the Commissioners probably because it contained the Town Bell, which was useful on many public occasions, and on which the Curfew had been rung from earliest days.

Three days after Richard Robertes had come into possession, he devised the Chapel and premises to John Hartgyll, of Kilmington, Somerset: next year John Hartgyll sold them to John Eyre, of Warmester, Gent.: John Eyre, in 1562, transferred them to John Wardoure, of Warmester, gent.

Thus by an act of the cruelest and most wanton sacrilege this House of God was doomed to spoliation. During the forty following years it remained desolate, the buildings desecrated, the sanctuary rifled, its services silent, the windows broken, the grave-yard let out for building on. It is a marvel how the whole structure escaped entire ruin. Probably it was owing to the circumstance that the Crown, by an apparent inadvertence had reserved the lead, which therefore could not be removed either from nave or tower. The roofs and walls thus sustained no material injury.

But on May 5th, 1571, Henry Middlemore, one of the Grooms of the Queen's Chamber, obtained letters patent from Elizabeth, giving him—

—"Full power and lawfull authoritie .to serche and fynd owte all and all manner of abbeys, monasteries, priories, colleges, free chapels, chauntries, &c., with all lands, goods, chatells, *bells, leade, brick, tile, tymbre, stone, glass, and iron to them apperteyninge*"—

and under this authority Henry Myddlemore seized the Bell of St. Laurence—

"One bell, nowe or lately hanging in the steple of the Chapell of St. Laurence in Warmyster, *which bell hath been concealed from our Sovereaine Lady the Queene's Majestie, and her progenitors*"—

and on Dec. 18th, 1574, sold it to Chidioc Wardoure, of Platford, for £3 6s. 8d. Next January Chidioc Wardoure sold the bell to Thomas Wardoure of Trowbridge.

This Thomas Wardoure was the son of John Wardoure, who bought the Chapel buildings in 1562, and dying the year after, left them for widowhood to his wife Agnes, and then to his son Thomas. Thus the Chapel itself, tower, bell, a small house adjoining, a part of the burial-ground which was, and the very scant portion which was not, built over, came into the hands of one man.

The leading inhabitants of Warminster had long been watching for the recovery of the wreck of the Chapel property. They had raised a considerable sum of money, and had commissioned three of the chief parishioners to take advantage of whatever seasonable circumstances might arise. These were

JOHN GYFFORDE,  
WILLIAM MYDDLECOT,  
HENRY GERRARD,

and to them four years before, in 1570, Thomas Hewet, of Earlstoke, for a sum not specified, had sold eight acres of land in Warminster Field, and all other his lands and hereditaments in Warminster “ad solum et proprium opus et usum in perpetuum (for their sole and proper service and use for ever).”

The purchase of this particular property, (if it were not substantially a free gift of Thomas Hewet), was effected with the design, in the first instance, of founding a Grammar School; but when, in 1575, an opportunity unexpectedly presented itself for the recovery of the shell of the despoiled Chantry also, William Middlecott and Henry Gerrard (John Gifford’s name not appearing in this negociation) associated with themselves Laurence Pylchard of Warminster, yeoman, Laurence Hyde, of West Hatch, Esq., and Christopher Eyre, of Upton Scudamore, gent; and to them Thomas Wardoure, on June 16th, granted and sold for the sum of £38 6s. 8d. (equal to about £200 of our money)—

“All that my late Chapell of Saynt Laurence, and all that my grownd wherein the sayd Chappell ys scituate, and also all my tenement cottage or chamber sett and beyng at the West of the sayd Chappell, together with the great bell, comonlye called the Towne Bell, with all and singular the appurtenances, to the only proper use and behoof of the sayd Wylliam Myddlecott, Henry Gerrard, Laurence Pylchard, Laurence Hyde, Christopher Eyer, and their heirs for ever, to be holden of the chief Lord and Lords of the fee.”

At the same time a bond of idemnity against dower was obtained from Agnes, widow of Thomas Wardoure, but afterwards wife of Edward Snowe, of Warminster.

The Chapel was at once restored to its original use. The fabric was still substantially sound. Necessary reparations were effected, both external and internal, but in the bald

and tasteless style then prevailing. The Chapel bell once more tolled for prayer, and regular services were established on certain week-days, under the new Order of Morning and Evening Prayer.

Naturally now, from the very first, all the spiritual ministrations in the Chapel would fall under the charge of the Vicar of Warminster. The laws of Elizabeth would suffer no other services in what was beyond all question a consecrated place. The inhabitants had restored the building distinctly that the offices of the Church of England might be celebrated therein. The Vicars of Warminster, therefore, from 1575, have acted, by right, as Chaplains of St. Laurence. There is no reference in any document whatever to any nomination by the Feoffees. Nor on the other hand is there any evidence whatever of any payment made to the Vicar, or his deputy, for religious ministrations. Their services seem to have been wholly gratuitous; but the necessary expenses of keeping the whole fabric in repair and the interior of the Chapel in condition for Service, were borne by the Feoffees. But when the funds in the hands of the Feoffees were not sufficient to meet the cost of repairs, large sums in aid were voted by the Parish Vestry, or raised by public gift.

In 1776 is a charge of £3 18s. 6d. for a new Surplice for the Chaplain, and 15s. 6d. for a Prayer Book.

For many years a great number of the Baptisms in the parish took place in St. Laurence's Chapel, a Register of which is kept in the Parish chest.

Bacon's LIBER REGIS, A.D. 1784, mentions amongst "The Livings in charge"—

"Warmister *alias* Warminster V. *cum capella.*"

The six original members of the Committee of Purchase continued to act till their number was reduced to three—

John Gifford, William Middlecott, *senior*, and Henry Gerrard. In October, 1592, these three survivors executed an important instrument determining the management of the Chapel property for all succeeding time. It is an INDENTURE, in Latin, conveying the Chapel premises, property, and lands, nearly as they remain to this day, (with some re-arrangements and interchanges made by the Inclosure Commissioners) to Twelve Trustees, and making provision for the perpetual continuance of the trust.

This INDENTURE, made October 26, 1592, (34 Elizabeth) testifies that for "*divers good causes and reasonable considerations moving them,*"

John Gyfforde, of Warminster, *gent.*  
 William Myddlecott, do. *clothier.*  
 Henry Gerrard, do. *yeoman.*

"do deliver, enfeoff, and confirm to

GEORGE GYFFORDE, of Warminster, *gent.*  
 WILLIAM GYFFORDE, of Boreham, *do.*  
 WILLIAM BLAKE, of Asheys, in the parish of Warminster,  
*yeoman.*  
 WILLIAM BLAKE, of Smallbrook, *yeoman.*  
 WILLIAM RAWLYNS, of Warminster, *yeoman.*  
 JOHN STANLAKE, do. *gent.*  
 WILLIAM BOYES, do. *merc.*  
 FRANCIS RAWLYNS, do. *yeoman.*  
 WILLIAM TAYLOR, do. *do.*  
 HENRY WANSEY, do. *glover.*  
 HENRY GERRARD, *junr.* do. *yeoman.*  
 WILLIAM MIDDLECOTT, *junr.* do. *clothier.*

all that the Chapel of St. LAURENCE in Warmister, with the tower of the same, and the public bell, commonly called *The Towns Bell*, therein hung; and all that ground in which the said Chapel and tower are situate; and that tenement with curtilage and garden now in the tenure of John Pytman;

and also one tenement and garden in Bourton, *alias* Boreham, containing one rood, lately held by Christopher Green; and one rood of meadow in Bourton called *The Ham*, held by John Gyfforde, adjoining the common called 'The Ilonds;' and one meadow of two acres near Furniox, held by Elizabeth Bristowe, widow; and one courtyard and garden of one rood in the street called *The Backlane*, occupied by Richard Stibbes; also that cottage, and eight acres of land in the 'Field of Warminster,' and all the lands and messuages in Warmister which formerly belonged to Thomas Hewet—To be held by them, the aforementioned Feoffees, and their assigns for ever, 'ad ipsorum sola et propria opus et usus,'—to their sole use and behoof for evermore—under service due to the chief lords of the fee. And whenever Four, or fewer, of the said Feoffees only shall be surviving, then those survivors shall enfeoff, and convey, all the before-named property of the Chapel to Twelve, Ten, or Eight of the principal honest and discreet men of the parish of Warmister. And this shall be done henceforth, from time to time, for ever, as often as there shall be Four, or fewer, Feoffees surviving. And the said Feoffees shall each and all give their endeavour that the profits derived from the Chapel estates shall be disposed of to such uses as shall be thought fit by the major part of them."

There is no reference in this document to the prime and special object for which the property was recovered, or to the general interests of the inhabitants of Warminster. Yet there is no doubt that the original purchase-money was a joint contribution of the parishioners, and that the six primary agents in the undertaking were simply a committee of the people of the town for the restoration of the Chapel. It is perfectly clear that, from the very first, the inhabitants, as a whole, considered the Feoffees under no circumstances as independent agents, but responsible to the parish for the due care of the Chapel buildings and the management of



its revenues. The rents of the property, after providing for the repairs of the houses and Chapel, keeping the interior in decent order for Divine Service, and paying the wages of the sexton, were applied to the relief of the poor, and the accounts of the Trust were submitted to the examination and approval of the annual Vestry.

But long before the first trust had expired, murmurs and complaints arose, mingled with harsh personal criminations upon the Feoffees, which culminated in legal proceedings on the part of the inhabitants to compel the due administration of the Chapel dues.

It seems scarcely to be credited that so large a body of some of the wealthiest men of the town should be guilty of tampering with the petty income of the Chapel; yet the charges brought against the first Feoffees and their successors, and proved in court, confirm the fact of gross carelessness, if not the suspicion of premeditated fraud.

All the papers connected with the newly enfeoffed property were committed to the custody of William Boyes, one of the Feoffees, who made a catalogue of them on May 26, 1593, as under—

“A briefe Note of all such EVIDENCES, DEDES, CONVEYANCES, or WRITINGS whatsoever, pertayninge to the TOWNE LANDS of Warminster.

1. Conveyance of Richard Roberts to John Hartgyll.
2. Do. of John Hartgyll to John Eyre.
3. Do. of John Eyre to John Warden.
4. Bill and Bargain of Sale of bell from Henry Middlemore to Chidiock Warder.
5. Do. of Chidiock Warder to Thomas Warder, and their counterparts.
6. Deed for Sale of Chapel from Thomas Warder to William Middlecott and others.
7. Two Bonds from Thomas Warder.

8. Bond from Henry Snowe for his wife's dower.
9. Bond from Thomas Miller for the Bell.
10. Bond from Robert George for his wife's dower.
11. The Indenture of Oct. 26, 1592, creating the Trust.
12. Counterparts of John Paunton's, Alice Payne's, and Richard Stibbes's leases."

The Feoffees seem to have had some trouble, as was anticipated, from the heirs of Agnes Snowe, who had a life interest in the property, and a case is drafted, apparently for opinion of counsel, showing the descent of possession. This was about the beginning of James the First's reign, and the following interesting memorandum is appended—

"The said Chapel was, and yet is, a very fayre' howse, with a fayre towre and steeple, but the east window obstructed by a littel howse belonging to it. Being situate in the very harte of the market-place, and the Church being a large quarter of a mile from it, and no howse within a good bowshot of the Church, IT WAS BOUGHT BY THE INHABITANTS THERE, CHIEFLY TO MAKE A HOWSE OF PRAYER OF, and further in process of time a Schoole howse, and at this instant tyme there is prayer there three times a week, and most commonlie a sermon every Saturday." [being Market Day.]

The first Feoffees held their trust twenty-one years, and though six of the original members remained, in 1613, these survivors appointed twelve new Feoffees, and, *ipso facto*, became extinct.

Soon after their nomination, the second body of Feoffees were also subjected to charges of misappropriation of revenues, and neglect of their trust. The Vicar of Warminster, Rev. George Richardson, Simon Sloper, "a citizen and founder of London," (who had purchased much of the Maudit property,) and other inhabitants, reported the case to the Government, "as involving a suspicion of concealed

lands," and "the matter was brought to the fearful *Ultima Thule* of litigants, the Court of Chancery." A Commissioner, John Tyrwhitt, gent., held an enquiry, and the Feoffees, as it appears, were driven to compound in order to stay further proceedings.

On this, it seems, the parishioners applied, or expressed their intention of applying, to the Court for a re-adjustment of the Trust, and on the other hand, the acting Feoffees, William Gifford, Edward Middlecott, and John Bennett, petitioned the Lord Keeper of the Court of Chancery, to be discharged of their trusteeship.

A Commission was issued to John Davenant, Bishop of Salisbury, and Robert Hyde to audit the Feoffees' accounts. They were presented on July 30, 1628, by Edward Middlecott, Treasurer, examined and reported of to the Lord Keeper, as under—

The Accompt of Edward Middlecott, of Warminster, gent.

First, he chargeth himself with the receipt from the surety of Clement Burton . . . . .	£.	s.	d.
	3	0	0
Also for 10 years' rent of the land at £3 : 2 : 1 per an. . . . .	31	0	10
Also for 2 fines, one of £10, and another of £6 : 8 : 4 . . . . .	16	8	4
	<u>50</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>

Whereof he craveth to be allowed—

For divers sums paid about the Chapel, as per bills	11	16	1
Also for divers sums laid out during the suit against them by the inhabitants of Warminster . . . . .	46	9	8
	<u>58</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>

So that upon his account there remain to be paid to Mr. Middlecott . . . . .	7	16	7
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But if the expense of law be not allowed by the Court, then Mr. Middlecott is indebted on his account . . . . .

38 13 1

*Signed,*

JO. SARUM.

ROBT. HYDE.

From a schedule much torn, and only partially legible, found by Offer amongst the Middlecott papers, it appears that the inhabitants of Warminster took this position—

“That, as *this land was purchased and given to the Church*, to the end the profits thereof should be for the mayntenaunce of the poor, and for buying books to the Church, and for defraying of taxes to the general good of the parish, and that the profits and yearly rents thereof were heretofore every year accounted for, and allowed to the parish, at the Church reckoning—For this cause this suit is commenced by the inhabitants—

1. The stock is employed to no use, but the feoffees do convert it to their own profits.
2. The lands are let under value, and not the most made of them.
3. The feoffees do combine, and confetter together, to convert the land to their own use, intending thereby to defraud the town thereof.”

The sum of the defence of the Feoffees against these heavy accusations was—That the profits of these lands were never assigned for the relief of the poor, buying books for the Church, or defraying common taxes; that for a short time, before ‘Church Ales’ were forbidden, and when the Chapel expenses were borne by the parish, the Feoffees did allow the parish a share of the rents; but when ‘Church Ales’ were forbidden, and a rate was levied on the whole parish for Church purposes, the chief inhabitants agreed that the

Feoffees' accounts were not fairly within their cognizance ; that the rents of the Chapel had been considerably raised, and fines for renewal now for the first time enforced ; that the annual rental only amounts to £3 2s., which sum, divided among the eleven feoffees, would not greatly advance their estates ; that the stock in hand would have been of much greater value than at present, if contentious persons had not forced them, and their predecessors, to defend themselves in court ; that there was no demur or complaint, until the complainant Sloper, one George Richardson, clerk, and some farmers lately crept into the town, prosecuted law against the Feoffees ; and lastly they seem to desire that the complainants may be joined with them in the office of Feoffees, to enjoy their part of the supposed plunder, and also to pay their share of the costs. The Bishop of Salisbury, "*one of the Referees for taking the defendants' accounts touching the arrearages of profits of the Church lands and Chapel lands purchased and given for the maintenance of the charitable use,*" declined to act any longer on the Commission, pleading pressure of other employments. Thereupon the Court of Chancery appointed two fresh arbitrators, Sir Thomas Thynne, and Sir Henry Ludlow, the two justices who lived nearest to Warminster ; upon whose report and certificate the Lord Keeper made his final order—

6 Car. I. 1631. "That the Court condemns the Defendants on all the counts ; that the sums claimed by the Feoffees for repairs of the Chapel, and expenses of law, be not allowed ; that their accounts be made up, and given yearly, to the Vicar and Churchwardens, and some of the chief parishioners, not being Feoffees, on the usual account day ; that the £35 costs awarded to the plaintiff Sloper by the arbitrators, and the arrearages of rents, be recoverable from any of the Feoffees

whom the Plaintiffs may choose to sue for the same, to the use and benefits of the Town and Parish of Warminster, unless the defendants shall show cause to the contrary."

Sloper proceeded summarily to execute the writ of Court on Middlecott and Bennett, when they lodged an appeal against the heavy costs awarded by the arbitrators; and the Court, on re-considering the case, so far relaxed the rigidity of its judgment as to permit that

"Sir Thomas Thynne and Sir Henry Ludlow shall set down and order *how, when, and by whom*, the moneys received by the defendants as feoffees, together with the costs taxed, shall be paid or levied."

The suit went on for twenty years longer. During this period Warminster was convulsed, within and without, as every other town in England, in the terrible throes of the Great Rebellion, and had other, and sterner troubles, to concern her than her own petty parochial feuds. Little business regularly was done in the Courts of Law till after Charles' death in 1649, and in 1651, the old surviving Feoffees, John Bennett, William Middlecott, and Stephen Blake, as stated in the Chapel records, nominated a new Trust; and the suit was dropped. But there is some doubt whether these Feoffees nominated the new Trust, or whether it was not created by the Court of Chancery.

Presumably under pressure of the Court of Chancery, these Feoffees executed a new Indenture. After reciting portions of the two former Indentures, the deed goes on to state that—"The profits and revenues of the hereditaments and premises belonging to St. Laurence's Chapel have been from time to time ever since laid out by the successors of the first named Feoffees in the repairing, maintaining, and beautifying of the said Chapel and the buildings belonging to the same." The Chapel, Tower, Bell, and Clock are to

be kept in sufficient repair—“And the said Feoffees shall henceforth every night in the year at 8 of the clock in the night cause the said bell to be stricken or tolled and rung out\*—And also shall every Lord’s Day in the year at 9 of the clock or thereabouts in the forenoon cause the said bell to be tolled to give notice to the Inhabitants of Warminster to repair to the Church to hear the Public Exercise of Prayer, Reading and Preaching. And all arrears of rents shall be called in, and invested, and the interest paid to the poor on Feb. 2 every year at the discretion of the Feoffees, Churchwardens and Overseers. And the Feoffees shall at every Church reckoning render account to the Inhabitants of Warminster of their receipts and disbursements in writing under their hands or four of them, to be written fair in a book kept only for that purpose.”

The next Enfeoffment took place in 1694: the new deed covenants that in addition to the Curfew Bell at 8 p.m. every evening, and the Prayer Bell at 9 a.m. on Sundays,—“The bell is to be tolled every morning in the year at 4 o’clock†—and the rents are to be expended in repairs, in ringing the Curfew, and keeping the clock and bell, and 2 crooks, and 12 firebuckets.”

1.—LANDS AND TENEMENTS BELONGING TO THE  
CHAPEL OF ST. LAURENCE IN 1651.

1. Chapel and Tower and the common Town Bell therein hanging and the land on which they are situate.
2. Six houses in the Yard, between the Chapel and the High Street, called Chapel Houses.

\* A later deed adds—“After the manner of the ancient Curfew.”

† This bell continued to be rung at 4 a.m. every day till about the year 1800.

3. A tenement on the south side of the Tower for the sexton.
4. A tenement, curtilage, or garden in Bourton, *otherwise* Boreham.
5. A meadow in Boreham called "The Ham."
6. A meadow near Furniox.
7. A curtilage and garden in Back Lane.
8. A cottage with curtilage in Warminster.
9. Eight acres of land in the Fields of Warminster, also all lands and tenements formerly in the possession of one Thomas Hewett.

2.—PROPERTY OF ST. LAURENCE'S CHAPEL IN 1879.

1. Chapel, Tower, Clock and Bell, with Garden on the south, numbered 801 on the Parish Survey.
2. Sexton's House, numbered 802.
3. Chapel Yard, numbered 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801.
4. Messuage and garden at Boreham, numbered, 205, 206.
5. Allotment in Spurt Mead, measuring 1r. 10p., numbered 267.
6. Coldharbour Mead, 2a. 0r. 13p., numbered 471.
7. Workhouse Tynning, 1r. 8p., numbered 2025, 1710a.
8. Dwelling House, garden and premises in Back Lane, 24p., numbered 988.
9. Three Cottages and gardens in Portway, 22p., numbered 865, 866, 867.
10. Two closes of land in Morley Field, separated by the Great Western Railway, and connected by a level crossing, containing 3a. 1r. 28r., numbered 140a, 140c.



## 3.—NUMBER AND DATES OF ENFEOFFMENTS.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Date of Enfeoffment.</i>	<i>In whose Reign.</i>	<i>Duration.</i>
1.—	October 26th, 1592.	34th Elizabeth.	21 years.
2.—	December 10th, 1613.	10th James I.	38 „
3.—	May 28th, 1651.	2nd Charles II.	43 „
4.—	December 21st, 1694.	6th William & Mary.	30 „
5.—	March 25th, 1724.	10th George I.	40 „
6.—	January 27th, 1764.	4th George III.	26 „
7.—	May 22nd, 1790.	30th George III.	42 „
8.—	November 8th, 1832.	2nd William IV.	44 „
9.—	July 21st, 1876.	39th Victoria.	

## 4.—NAMES OF FEOFFEES AND NOMINATORS.

*Nominators :*

1592. The Committee of original purchase—John Gifford, William Middlecott, *senr.*, and Henry Gerrard, *senr.*

*Feoffees :*

George Gifford, William Gifford, William Blake, of *Asheys*, William Blake, of *Smallbrook*, William Rawlyns, John Stanlake, William Boyes, Francis Rawlings, William Taylor, Henry Wansey, Henry Gerrard, *junr.*, and William Middlecott, *junr.*

*Nominators :*

1613. George Gifford, William Middlecott, *senr.*, William Blake, Henry Gerrard, Francis Rawlyns, and Henry Wansey.

*Feoffees :*

William Gifford, Edward Middlecott, John Bennett, William Middlecott, *junr.*, Edward Slade, John Blake, Stephen Blake, Jehu Boyes, William Wilton, John Wansey, William Baunton, and William Perrey.

*Nominators :*

1651. John Bennett, William Middlecott, and Stephen Blake.

*Feoffees :*

Edward Middlecott, Francis Bennett, Benjamin Gifford, Thomas Slade, John Butcher, Humfry Buckler, John Wansey, William Wilton, William Blake, John Slade, William Chaundler, and William Davis, *senr.*

*Nominators :*

1694. Benjamin Gifford, John Wansey, John Slade, *senr.*, and William Chandler, *senr.*

*Feoffees :*

Edward Middlecott, Thomas Buckler, John Bennett, Thomas Ludlowe, William Slade, John Butcher, John Slade, *junr.*, William Chaundler, *junr.*, William Adlam, Gerrard Wilton, John Hodges, and John Wansey.

*Nominators :*

1724. John Bennett, *senr.*, John Butcher, and William Adlam, *senr.*

*Feoffees :*

John Gifford, Thomas Buckler, Edward Middlecott, John Halliday, John Slade, John Bennett, *junr.*, Thomas Ludlow, John French, George Perry, William Adlam, *junr.*, James Wilton, and Samuel Pikeman.

*Nominators :*

1764. Thos. Buckler, John Slade, and John Bennett, *junr.*

*Feoffees :*

William Buckler, William Slade, John Langley, Benjamin Ludlow, Richard Samuel Wyche, John Bennett, *junr.*, John Wansey, Richard Randell, John Masklyn, *junr.*, William Wansbrough, Edward Cockey, *junr.*, and John Bleeck.

*Nominators :*

1790. John Langley, John Bennett, *junr.*, and Richard Randell.

*Feoffees :*

Edward Middlecott, John Slade, James Ludlow, Francis

Bennett, Thomas Buckler, William Wansey, Edward Butler, Thomas Warren, Charles Aldridge, Edmund Halliday, John Hughes, and John Thring.

*Nominator :*

1832. John Hughes.

*Feoffees :*

John Bleeck, John Ravenhill, Thomas Davis, John Tivitoe Thring, John Edmund Halliday, Matthew Davies, *junr.*, William Frowd Seagram, Edmund Leigh Lye, John Daniell, Charles Bleeck, Charles Tapp Griffith, *Clerk*, William Slade, *Clerk*.

*Nominators :*

1876. John Ravenhill, Charles Bleeck, and Matthew Davies.

*Feoffees :*

Charles Albert Bleeck, George Bush, William Chapman, Thomas Cruse, William L. Feltham, Philip Grubb, Joseph Hinton, Henry Parr Jones, Thomas Ponting, Joseph Smith, George Thomas Vicary, and Henry Charles White.

The Three surviving Feoffees, John Ravenhill, Charles Bleeck, and Matthew Davies, after they had nominated the new Trust, appointed Herbert John Wakeman, Attorney, of Warminster, as their deputy and to act on their behalf, and the said Herbert John Wakeman, on 21st July, 1876, took possession of the Chapel and whole premises by receipt of the keys of the Chapel and tolling the Bell, and afterwards delivered the same into the hands of the newly appointed Feoffees.

#### 5.—REPAIRS OF THE CHAPEL.

Considerable alterations took place in the architectural character of the structure *cir.* 1490 (5 Henry VII.) All the work in the nave of that date has long ago perished,

but the Tudor arch remains in the west door of the tower, with the corbels of a coping. The old west door, till within a recent date, had **HR VII** (HR VII) carved on it. The tower in its lower stages is of late Decorated style; it is not square, but wider from north to south than from east to west. All the upper ranges of masonry have been again and again renewed.

1631. £11 16s. 1d. were spent by the Feoffees in repairs, but objected to by the inhabitants, and disallowed by the Court of Chancery.

1642. "Memorand.—that in the monethes of August and September the Chappell Steeple was poynted and amended and alsoe the north side of the Tower above the uppermost windowe thereof was taken down and new settt up and the corner of the Chappell next William Ederton's house was taken downe and new made by William Smyth the mason and he had for the doeing thereof and findinge the materialls to doe the same the some of five poundes: and this was allowed out of the parish rates."

1657. The Town Bell was cast [by John Lott—it had his initials "I (a bell) L" upon it. Roger Townsend, the musician, left a memorandum—

"The Chapel bell was cast in Common Close by John Lott. Most of the old and young people put money, as Half-crowns, Shillings, and Sixpences into the furnace, which makes it of such a soft, silvery sound."

This bell lasted 126 years, and was melted up in 1783.]

1725. The nave was rebuilt from its foundations, (cost £85) "*in the barbarous fashion of George II, when Gothic architecture was wholly discarded, and a miserable bastard Grecian took its place; hidden from without, hideously repaired within, with four round-headed windows, and lofty and unsightly pews.*"

1765. A Town Clock was put up in the tower, made by Thomas Rudd, cost £30, raised by subscription.

1770. A new roof to the tower and lead cost £25 7s. 3d.  
1775. For further repairs and beautifying the tower and Chapel £37 7s. 4d. were expended, when the weathercock also was repaired and new gilt.  
1776. New paving the Chapel cost £16 12s.  
1783. The bell was new cast and fresh hung for £24 15s. 9d.  
1786. The bell was new hung; £6 5s. 6d. The chimes were put up.  
1829. The spire was taken down, and re-erected according to the ancient model.

A vigorous effort was made by Rev. A. Fane, Vicar, in 1855-6, to restore the Chapel. High houses had been built in the grave-yard, between High-Street and the Chapel, entirely excluding it from view, and the only approach to it was through a long narrow alley. All the late restorations had been in most corrupt character, and through many years of neglect, the tower and bell-turret were in a state of decay. The walls outside were stuccoed, partly white and partly black; the east window was closed; the basement of the tower was a "den," for firebuckets, coal, coke, wood, and other things; "*in fact the little Chapel of St. Laurence might have rejoiced that the outside encroachments hid from sight the interior defacements.*" The Marquis of Bath, to whom some of the houses built over the grave-yard had fallen, gave up two-fifths, and the Feoffees three-fifths, of the property which it was necessary to remove to throw open the Chapel, and very generous aid was rendered by the inhabitants of Warminster. A new roof with parapet was raised on the nave, and battlements on the tower; a porch was built, and new windows added throughout, "*in a modern Decorated style of no particular interest.*" The west window is a memorial of David Kinnier, who left £100 to the Chapel. The subject of the east window is our LORD in glory, with St. Stephen and St. Laurence. The north

and south windows represent Faith and Prayer, the Good SHEPHERD and Elijah in one, our LORD and Moses in the other.

The Chapel was re-opened on January 22, 1857, by the Bishop of Salisbury, with Holy Communion in the Chapel, and a Sermon by the Bishop at the Parish Church. The total cost of restoration was—

General expenses of nave, including purchase of	£.	s.
houses in front of the Chapel . . . . .	850	0
Tower, roof and windows . . . . .	100	0
East window . . . . .	35	0
Window north, next Altar . . . . .	40	0
Do. south, ,, ,, . . . . .	38	0
Two windows nearest Tower . . . . .	15	0
Altar Plate,* rails, &c. . . . .	25	0
Lectern . . . . .	5	10
Prayer Desk . . . . .	8	0
	<hr/>	
	£1096	10

On the south wall is fixed a small marble tablet, with an inscription in painted letters; but the only words now legible are—

“O Lord, prosper thou our handywork.”

with the names of the Feoffees in office when the restoration was accomplished, viz.—

J. RAVENHILL	CHARLES GRIFFITH
CHARLES BLEECK	J. E. HALLIDAY
MATTHEW DAVIES	W. F. SEAGRAM.

Before the restoration a board hung on the north wall with the names of all the Feoffees as appointed, in 1832.

\* This set of Altar Vessels proved to be of base metal, and after some time could not be used. The present Communion Plate, of silver, is the personal property of the Vicar of Warminster for the time being.

## XXXVII.

## Christ Church.

**T**WO devout Churchmen, Jeremiah Payne, and John Pearce, for many years, towards the end of the last century, maintained Religious Services at the Common, and other places. JEREMIAH PAYNE was blind, but his spiritual gifts and power of *extempore* prayer, were great. He opened his cottage at the Common on Sunday evenings, when there was no Church Service over all the parish of Warminster; ten or twelve persons met, and some one read a chapter from the Bible, and sometimes a sermon, while Payne prayed. This holy man spent most of his time during the week in visiting and praying with the sick. JOHN PEARCE, for nearly sixty years, kept up similar services in his house, in Meeting Lane, both on Sunday and Thursday evenings, under the sanction of the Rev. Richard Hart, Curate of the Parish Church.

The Rev. Robert Herbert, Curate of the Parish Church for forty years, regularly gave a Service once a week in the afternoon to the inmates of the Poor-House at the Common.

On April 2, 1826, the Rev. W. Dalby, the newly-appointed Vicar of Warminster, (as there was no Evening Service at the Parish Church) began a Service at the Workhouse on Sunday evenings. It was thankfully received by crowded congregations, though the room used for Service was scarcely fit for a stable, dismally low, damp, and dark, and grudgingly granted by the Parish Officers. The new Vicar soon saw the absolute necessity that a Church should be built at the Common, and set his heart and hand earnestly to the accomplishment of this object. Only one or two new Churches had been built in the Diocese of Sarum for three

hundred years ; and the difficulties, obstacles, and vexatious opposition which Mr. Dalby had to encounter and overcome in the erection of Christ Church, can scarcely be credited in the present day. The Vicar, in much wisdom, anxiously wished the Church to be built in the centre of the population, on the Common itself ; a large public meeting, by a very great majority, determined that it should be built at Samborne.

On Thursday, April 15th, 1830, the foundation or cornerstone of the new Church was laid by the Vicar. A sermon was first preached in the Parish Church by Dr. Griffith, and thence a vast procession of magistrates, clergy, gentry, tradesmen, and school-children, moved to Samborne. The following inscription was cut on a brass plate let into the foundation stone :—

“THE FIRST STONE OF CHRIST CHURCH,  
WARMINSTER,  
WAS LAID ON THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF APRIL,  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
1830.  
GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND ON EARTH  
PEACE, GOODWILL TOWARD MEN.”

The circular, first issued in August, 1827, inviting attention to the spiritual destitution of the Common, proposed that the Church should be built in the plainest style, with sittings for 750 persons, of which four-fifths should be free, and provision made for the erection of galleries hereafter. The cost was estimated at £2,400. The new Church was consecrated on May 13th, 1831. It consisted only of tower and nave, without a chancel, and contained, with the west gallery, 822 sittings, of which 188 were pews, 75 bench seats rented, and 559 free. The total cost was £4,708, including the expense of enclosing the Churchyard, which was not consecrated till Aug. 9th, 1833. The contributions



included £1,700 from the Parliamentary Commissioners; £77 : 18 : 0 profits on "Lectures on Samuel," by Rev. W. Dalby; £60 for land taken by the Turnpike Trust, with subscriptions and collections to the amount of £2,867.

The new Church at first stood only in the relation of a Chapel of Ease to the Parish Church, and received a share of the Churchrate levied at the annual Parish Vestry, but a district was assigned to it, and Marriages, as well as Baptisms and Burials, were celebrated there. Eventually the district, under later Acts of Parliament, became, for all ecclesiastical purposes, a new Parish, entirely severed from the Parish Church, and the Incumbent, first Perpetual Curate, and then Vicar, of Christ Church. The first Incumbent was the Rev. J. H. A. Walsh, on the presentation of Rev. W. Dalby, Vicar of Warminster; he resigned in 1859, on his acceptance of the Rectory of Bishopstrow, where he died in 1871, and was buried at Christ Church. The Rev. R. R. Hutton was Perpetual Curate from 1860 to 1866, when he became Rector of Barnet. The present Vicar, Rev. W. Hickman, formerly Curate of the Parish Church, commenced his ministry on Feb. 27, 1867.

The income of the Vicarage of Christ Church arises from pew rents, grants from Queen Anne's Bounty and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, interest of donations, and £30 from the Vicarial tithes of Warminster; the gross income is £300 *per annum*. The advowson is with the Vicar of Warminster.

The original district assigned to Christ Church included the Common and all the hamlets around, with the south side of the Market Place in the town of Warminster, of East Street, of Boreham Road, and the whole of the tithing of Boreham. In 1867, after the building of St. John's Church, the larger part of Boreham, with 78 houses and

an average population of 302, was re-absorbed into the mother-parish, and Samborne House, with lands adjacent, was transferred to the parish of Christ Church. The population of the district of Christ Church amounts to about 1,850.

In 1866 a new font of Caen stone and Devonshire marble was placed in the Church. In 1871 a Chancel was built, and the sittings re-arranged, at a cost of £1000. Stained glass windows throughout the nave, carved oak doors, and a pavement of encaustic tiles were supplied by generous donations. The east Chancel window, with the subject of the *Crucifixion*, is a gift by Mrs. Cockrell; that on the south side, of our Lord's *Ascension*, by Mr. Chapman; that on the north side, of the *Raising of Dorcas*, by the present Vicar, in memory of his mother; that in the Vestry, of our *Lord in Benediction*, by Messrs. Horwood, of Frome. An organ was placed in the gallery in 1843, at a cost of £185: a new one, with 18 stops, by Vowles, of Bristol, which cost £350, stands in the organ chamber in the new Chancel.

Very much has been done to remedy the defects and irregularities of the original building, and to transform its condition from that of a huge, naked, oblong hall, to the uses and character of an English Church. Works still necessary to be done, are, the re-seating of the nave, the removal of the plastered ceiling and the substitution of an open timber roof.

A Mission School was built at the Common in 1868. It has since been enlarged, and is licensed for Divine Service.

#### COMMUNION PLATE.

One large fluted Flagon, with lid—weight 49oz. 7dwts.; one silver-gilt Chalice, (13oz. 6dwts.) inscribed “*Christ*

*Church, Warminster, from Rev. H. Walsh, May 13, A.D. 1831.*—One silver Paten, engraved IHS, (16oz. 16dwts.) inscribed “*Presented to Christ Church, Warminster, on the day of its consecration, May 13, A.D. 1831, by the Rev. H. Walsh, A.M. Curate.*”—Two Plates (14oz. 19dwts. and 14oz. 14½dwts.)—One silver Plate with waved edge (10oz. 10½dwts.) and one fine gold Cup with two handles, (9oz. 5dwts.) each inscribed “*R.M. Robert Moody, Esqr., presented to Christ Warminster, on his decease—October, 1830.*”

#### INSCRIPTIONS ON TABLETS IN THE CHURCH.

On the south wall—

Sacred to the memory of the REV. J. H. A. WALSH, M.A., the first Incumbent of this Church, and for 28 years the faithful and affectionate Pastor of the people committed to his charge. He became Rector of Bishopstrow in 1859, and died there May 17, 1871, aged 66 years.

“Having a desire to depart and be with CHRIST, which is far better.”

Sacred to the memory of LUCY, the beloved wife of Walter Laidlaw Pearce, Rajpootana (State) Railway, India, and fifth daughter of the late Aaron Ponton, of Warminster, who died at sea, between Bombay and Aden, Mar. 16, 1873, on board the P. and O. Steamship Indus, on her way to England, aged 29.

“It is not exile—rest on high ;  
It is not sadness—peace from strife ;  
To fall asleep is not to die—  
To dwell with CHRIST is better life.”

On the north wall—

Sacred to the memory of MAJOR S. G. RENAUD, of the 1st Madras Regiment of Fusileers, who was wounded while gallantly commanding his Regiment at the carrying of the bridge over the Pundoo Nuddy, on July 16, 1857, and died of his wounds at Cawnpore on 21st of the same month, aged 46.

“Fight the good fight of faith.”

To the glory of God.

In memory of ISAAC AXFORD, who died July 22, 1840, aged 59, and of MARY, his wife, who died Feb. 14, 1865, aged 74 years.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." John xiv. 27.

Sacred to the memory of ANNA M. D. WALSH, who died Jan. 31, 1855, aged 22.

"Accepted in the Beloved."

### CHARITIES.

Benefactions confined to the Parish of Christ Church, are—1. The annual rent of a House and Farm, at Rehobath, amounting to £25, left by Mrs. Elling, to be distributed in coals, clothes, or money, at Christmas. 2. The annual dividends of £2000, to be distributed in coals to the oldest poor men and women by the Vicar and Churchwardens at Christmas, or any other time; and £1000 for the support of the Mission School, both bequeathed by Mr. Matthew Davies in 1878.

## XXXVIII.

### Nonconformity in Warminster.

#### 1.—PRESBYTERIANS.

**I**N 1566 a small chapel was built at Horningsham, as it is supposed, for the use of the Scotch Presbyterian workmen employed on Longleat House. It is said to be the oldest place of dissenting worship in England.

In the reign of James I, some emigrants from Warminster are said to have settled in New England. In Charles the

Second's reign, another party bought a tract of land in the state of Virginia, where they built a town, and called it Warminster, after the name of their native place. It is in Amhurst county, seventy miles from Richmond.

William Gough, formerly Rector of Inkpen, Berks, who was ejected under the Act of Uniformity, kept a school and preached occasionally in Warminster: he afterwards lived at Erlestoke, and when he did not preach went to the Parish Church; in the afternoon, when there were only Prayers at Church, he preached in a house. He exercised his ministry also in the fields, and often at Devizes and Salisbury.

Edward Buckler, a native of Boreham, was Chaplain to Oliver Cromwell, and preached before him four times in a year, for which he received £20. After the Restoration he carried on a malting business at Bradford Abbas, Dorset, and preached seldom, except in a gentleman's house, to his family.

John Buckler, his brother, was imprisoned six months in Fisherton Gaol for preaching. Money was sent to him from the Presbyterian congregation in Warminster. In prison he was visited by Sir Alexander Powell, of Hurdcott, whose daughter he married for his second wife.

Dr. Rowland Cotton, a physician of Warminster, ministered to the congregation in Horningsham Meeting House, and is there buried.

A barn, belonging to Edward Middlecott, in Beastleaze Meadow, was used for worship "*by a numerous people,*" in 1687. Services there were performed by the Rev. Compton South, formerly Rector of Berwick St. John; he was seldom free from indictment in the civil, or citation in the ecclesiastical, courts; he was sheltered by Lady Lisle.

The congregation left the barn, and removed to a larger

building in 1691. This "*place of service*" also was superseded by a more substantial erection in 1704, long known by the name of the "Old Meeting," now the "Girls' British School," in North Row. It was opened by Dr. Cotton Mather, of Boston, North America. This Chapel was at one time frequented by many influential families in the town and neighbourhood. There was then no other Non-conformist body in Warminster. The Rev. Samuel Bates, the next minister, was suspected of a tendency to Unitarian doctrines, and though a large part of the congregation expressed their confidence in him, and in their own orthodoxy, in a paper entitled "A BRIEF REPRESENTATION OF THE DISSENTING CHURCH IN WARMINSTER," in which "*they readily declare that the suggestion that our minister favours the Arian notion is a vile slander,*" a considerable secession took place. The later ministers of the "Old Meeting" preached distinctly Unitarian doctrine, till the congregation gradually dwindled away, and died out in 1860, and the Meeting House was sold.

## 2.—INDEPENDENTS OR CONGREGATIONALISTS.

The seceders from the "Old Meeting," with several members of Dr. Cotton's congregation at Horningsham, rented a house, and commenced meetings, in the Common Close. The *Common Close*, or *Enclosure*, was probably the large open Court, or Garden, of the Manor House of the Kingstons, which stood on the brow of the "Corn Hille," and where the poor people met to receive alms. An adjoining tenement was also taken, but both proving too small, a large building was raised, in 1719, which took the name of the "New," or "Lower Meeting," and whose first pastor was the Rev. Joseph Pike. In 1798 the Chapel was considerably enlarged. The present Chapel was built

in 1840, and was re-arranged and restored in 1862. The Sunday School, which has existed from 1791, occupied new rooms in 1836: in 1862 a Lecture-Hall and Class-Rooms were added.

Of the ministers of the Common Close Chapel, the Rev. Richard Pearsall wrote "*Contemplations on the Ocean*," and "*Reliquiæ Sacræ*," and a "*Hymn of Praise*," containing the beautiful lines—

All I enjoy, and all I hope is Thine—  
Unworthiness alone belongs to me—  
Inspire me, O my GOD, with love divine;  
And make my life a "*Hymn of Praise*" to Thee.

Rev. D. Fisher, D.D., pastor in 1752, became Classical, and afterwards Theological, Tutor in Homerton College. Rev. W. Jameson, 1772, left a dying request, that "*no funeral sermon be preached for me, nor any reference made to me, but simply that the 25th chapter of St. Matthew be read at the grave, and no stone mark the spot where I lie, being my chief desire to be owned of GOD, on the morning of the Resurrection.*" Rev. R. Fry accompanied to the gallows the two men, Gardner and Wheeler, who were condemned to death for the murderous attack on Mr. Rebbeck, and who were hanged on Sutton Common, on the spot where their crime was committed. Rev. G. Tubbs, conformed to the Church of England, and became minister of St. Mary's Episcopal Chapel, Reading. Rev. H. M. Gunn wrote a History of "*NONCONFORMITY IN WARMINSTER*," from which this summary is chiefly drawn.

A small Chapel was built, by the Independents, in 1802, in Bread Street, at the Common, chiefly for week-day meetings.

There are some endowments attached to Common Close Chapel, amounting to about £24 a year.

## 3.—BAPTISTS.

A small congregation of religious people met at Crockerton, when any person, pious and intelligent, read a sermon from some Puritan divine. A folio of Flavel, presented in 1723, is still in the Chapel. Through the influence of a preacher from Frome, the congregation eventually adopted Baptist principles. A pastor, from Warminster, John Werrell, attended a Conference of Baptist ministers in London, in 1689. A Chapel was built in Warminster, in Meeting House Lane, in 1810: schools and class-rooms have since been added.

## 4.—WESLEYAN METHODISTS.

In 1753, some Methodist preachers visited Warminster Common, and continued their work, amidst scoffs and cuffs and missiles, for about three years. On May 5, 1756, Whitfield came to Warminster, and preached in "Common Close, *i.e.* the Rack Close," afterwards a farm-yard. A few Methodists met in Pound Street, and Back Lane, but they were assailed with most violent opposition. John Wesley visited Warminster in 1758—he notes in his journal—*"Oct. 3.—One of Warminster, who was at Bristol last week, had desired me to call at his house. I did so this morning, and preached in his yard, to a numerous congregation, of Saints and Sinners, Rich and Poor, Churchmen, Quakers, and Presbyterians, both of the Old and New way. Some disturbance was expected, but there was none. The whole assembly behaved well, and instead of curses and stones, we had many blessings, as we rode through the town for Salisbury."* The yard was in Portway, then a large tan-yard, belonging to a Mr. Bowden: it is now mostly built over.



In 1770, Warminster is mentioned in the Methodist Circuit Book, as "*a new place, with fourteen members in society.*" A riotous mob attacked their room in Back Lane, on March 19, 1773, broke in pieces the pulpit and stools, and hung their fragments (part of which are still preserved in the Wesleyan Chapel), on the Direction-Post at the Obelisk; some set a fire-engine to play on the preacher. Two of the ringleaders were prosecuted at the Salisbury Assizes, but under recognizances of £100 each, and promise of amendment, the indictment against them was withdrawn. The hostility of the Warminster populace, however, continued—a viper was, at one time, thrown at the preacher—till in 1776, the society was dissolved, on account of the fierce and unrelenting persecution it encountered. One of the ministers, a Mr. Wells, gave an exhortation for the last time at the preaching-house in Chain Street, and informed the people that "*on account of the great wickedness of the place, and the extreme opposition they met with, they could no longer attempt to preach the Gospel at Warminster.*" A few members, however, still met, very privately, in a room at the junction of Pound Street and West Street, and open services were again commenced in 1780, which have been continued, with more or less regularity, to this time. The first Methodist Chapel was built in Chain Street, in 1804: a new one in 1861, in George Street, with schools, at a cost of £800. "*The congregation, however, (Mr. Gunn remarks) has not prospered, through divisions within, more than difficulties without.*"

The Methodists at the Common first used the small building raised by the Independents, in Bread Street, and when the preachers left the Common, Mr. James Ludlow and Mr. William Daniell took up the Work. A Methodist Chapel, but not in connection with the Wesleyan Con-

ference, was built chiefly by the efforts, and at the expense of Mr. Daniell, in 1827, in which he ministered till within a few years of his death. The Chapel is now occupied by the Congregationalists.

#### 5.—QUAKERS.

Several Quakers lived in the town during the active times of the clothing trade. Some of the Whittuck, Buckler, and Butler families were of that persuasion. They had a meeting-house in Common Close, afterwards a malt-house. William Penn preached in Warminster, and George Wansey became a convert on the spot. The last Quaker in the town was George Gardiner, who died 1795, but two persons were brought from a distance, and buried in the little lonely grave-yard at Laynes, near Bugley, within the memory of men yet living. The grave-yard is fifteen yards long, and seven wide, enclosed within a low wall, near a few trees, beside the old pack-horse track from Bugley to Clay Hill. Two mounds alone remain. George Wansey was buried there in 1699. The register of Quaker burials extends from May 10, 1696, to 1727. Many burials of Quakers are entered in the Church Register also. £100 are left on trust for the support of the Quaker interest in Warminster.

A Cemetery for the general use of Nonconformists, on the Boreham Road, was bought, in shares, in 1822. The Baptists have a small burial-ground attached to the Chapel.

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## XXXIX.

## Charities.

**B**Y Order of Vestry, 13 Nov. 1834, a Concise Statement of the several Charitable Bequests and Benefactions made to the Parish of Warminster, from which moneys are derived for the benefit of the Poor of the said Parish, was prepared, printed, and circulated in May, 1835.

## 1.—CERTAIN OLD CHARITIES.

Various small sums had been formerly bequeathed by divers persons to the Churchwardens for the time being, to be by them let out on interest, or lent, to poor parishioners. In the year 1685 these bequests amounted to £76: but many of them in the course of years were lost to the Parish by neglect, or insolvency, so that in the year 1724 the sum of £15 only remained in the custody of the Churchwardens. This sum was then borrowed by the Parish in aid of the fund for rebuilding the nave and roof of the Church. In 1735, the interest of this £15, *viz.* fifteen shillings, was given to the poor, and the Vestry voted that this interest should be considered a perpetual charge, and disposed of in benefactions by the Vicar and Parish Officers. In 1833, the Charity Commissioners ascertained that no interest had been paid since the year 1752; they did not enforce the payment of arrears, but they directed that *One Pound* annually, instead of *Fifteen Shillings*, should be paid to the poor; to which arrangement the Special Vestry agreed, on May 9, 1833; and the money was distributed in Half-Crowns to eight people on St. Stephen's day. But in 1869, the Poor Law Board, with consent of the Charity Commissioners and the Parish, quashed this small charity altogether.

Some of the old bequests were—

1607. DEANS STIBBES gave £10 at full interest (10 per cent.)
1614. RICHARD WELSHMAN gave £4.
1616. REV. GEO. RICHARDSON, Vicar, left by will £10 for the use of poor tradesmen, at no interest.  
CHRISTOPHER PAGE left £5, at half interest.
1617. JANET STIBBES left £10 to the poor.
1621. WILLIAM BOYES left £7 on loan, at no interest.
1622. The widow BOYCE gave £7, to be let out without interest.  
WILLIAM COCKRELL, £4.
1635. REV. WALTER ATWOOD, Vicar, £5.  
JOHN WHITEHEAD, £2.
1638. E. SKUTT, £5, at full interest.  
NICHOLAS BUTCHER, £5, at full interest.  
E. BENNETT, a legacy.  
WILLIAM RIDLEY, £1, at no interest.
1642. ROBERT HYDE, of Hatch, bequeathed £10 to be let out *gratis* to men in the leather trade.
1657. GILES DANIELL, £5 to the poor people of Warminster, to be distributed by the sum of four pence apiece.  
ELIZABETH GARDNER, £20, at full interest.

## 2.—SMITH'S CHARITY.—1642.

On January 26, 1626, (2 *Car. I.*) HENRY SMITH, Silver-smith, of London, conveyed by deed of gift the rents of his lands, messuages, and tenements, situate at Stoughton, near Leicester, in free alms, to the poor of the towns and parishes of Warminster, Westbury, Broad Hinton, and nineteen other parishes in England, to be applied to charitable uses for ever:—and by the subsequent deed of "*Declaration for Uses*," dated May 20, 1642, one twenty-second part of

the rental of the said estate is to be paid yearly to the Churchwardens and overseers of the parish of Warminster, "*for the benefit of the honest aged poor ; also for marrying poor maids ; for apprenticing children at fifteen years of age ; or to be distributed in Bread, Flesh, or Fish, every Sabbath Day, in the Churchyard, openly for ever.*"

The amount first received for this bequest, in 1642, was £10. But for many years afterwards, "*in consequence of troublesome times and the decay of Farm-Rents,*" it was considerably reduced. Subsequently, however, the rental of the estate greatly increased, and the portion of the rents now appointed by the Trustees to the town of Warminster is about £25 a year, which is annually paid to the Parish Officers, and by them distributed on St. Stephen's Day, in one hundred and forty pieces of calico, at four shillings each.

### 3.—PYLCHARD'S CHARITY.—1670.

Mr. STEPHEN PYLCHARD, of St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, London, Citizen and Founder, by his will, dated A.D. 1580, (but not declared till August 9, 1670) directed the Minister, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Parish of Warminster, (in which town he was born) to purchase, within one year next after his decease, certain lands and tenements, in some convenient place in the County of Wilts, of the value of £120 ; and until the said purchase was made, the interest only of the said £120, at the rate of 6 *per cent. per annum*, viz. £7 : 4 : 0, was to be disbursed, thus—

To the Minister for an annual Sermon on St.	£.	s.	d.
Stephen's Day . . . . .		10	0
Warning of the receiver . . . . .			8
Twenty nobles to the poor . . . . .	6	13	4
	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>

This bequest was afterwards secured on six houses situate eastward and next to the Alms House Bridge, and the sum of £7 : 4 : 0, (which was first received and distributed on Dec. 26, 1673) has been annually disposed of in accordance with the will. In 1833, the Commissioners of Public Charities, after a long and minute investigation of all extant documents relating to this Charity, ruled that the Parish is not entitled to more than £7 : 4 : 0, which sum is now payable on the Organ Inn and adjoining premises.

#### 4.—WADMAN'S CHARITY.—1689.

JOHN WADMAN, of Imber, Esquire, by his will, dated September 22, 1688, gave to the poor of the Parish of Warminster Twenty Half-Crowns yearly, payable out of his lands, called Flintford Farm, near Frome Selwood, in co. Somerset, to be distributed by the Minister, Churchwardens, and Overseers, with the approbation of the owner of the said farm, on St. Thomas' Day, for the better support of old and indigent people, so as not to lessen their parish pay.

This benefaction was first received in December, 1689, and is now distributed to twenty poor inhabitants in sums of 2s. 6d., on St. Stephen's Day.

#### 5.—SLADE'S CHARITY.—1723.

WILLIAM SLADE, of Warminster, by will, dated 25 Feb. 1719, gave "*Twenty Half-Crowns yearly to Twenty Poor Housekeepers of the Parish, who receive nothing of the collection for the Poor,*" payable, out of the King's Arms Inn, on or before 15 Jan. in every year.

The donor died in 1723. A Rent-charge of £2 : 10 : 0 on a freehold property situate at the entrance of Meeting House Lane, (now North Row) is distributed as "Slade's Charity" at Christmas.

## 6.—KING'S CHARITY.—1769.

MR. WILLIAM KING, of London, Silk Merchant, by his will, 20 Sep. 1769, left the rents of all his lands in Warminster to the Overseers, to be divided among the Four most deserving persons, who should not receive any other alms.

The lands so bequeathed lay in the Open Fields of Warminster, and in 1772 produced Forty Shillings a year. Under the Enclosure Commission, in 1783, an allotment of 1a. 3r. 14p. in Chedlanger Field, near Brickhill, was awarded to the Churchwardens and Overseers in lieu of the former lands, and was let at £6 per annum. This sum was, for many years, divided among Fifteen men, at 8s. each, but on a suggestion of the Charity Commissioners, in 1833, the Parish at a special vestry, determined that Twelve Persons should participate in this Charity at 10s. each, on St. Stephen's Day.

## 7.—LANGLEY'S CHARITY.—1799.

JOHN LANGLEY, of Warminster, Esquire, who died 14 September, 1799, left One Thousand Pounds, in the 3 per cent. Consols, to the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers, in trust, to pay the interest thereof, viz. £30, at Christmas, annually for ever, to One Hundred and Twenty poor Parishioners of Warminster, not receiving constant alms, whether men or women, married or single, as they should think proper, in sums of Five Shillings each.

The said £1,000 Stock was invested in the Bank of England in the names of Four Trustees, and distribution has ever since been made, as directed by the Testator.

John Langley aforesaid also bequeathed Four Hundred Pounds, in the 4 per cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities, to the Trustees of the (Old) Meeting House, in Meeting

House Lane, “to pay the interest thereof upon every Christmas Day to persons who attend Public Worship at the said Meeting House:—And in case the Dissenting interest there shall in process of time so far decline that there shall not be any congregation assemble, nor any Pastor be kept to perform Divine Service at the said Meeting House,—then the Trustees for the time being shall transfer the said £400 to the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Overseers, in trust, that they apply the interest and dividends arising therefrom yearly on Christmas Day, for ever, to Sixty Four poor parishioners not receiving constant alms, in sums of Five Shillings each.”

The Dissenting interest did so far decline that no Minister officiated in the Meeting House, and no congregation assembled, for some years, and the building having been a long time closed, was sold in 1860.

In compliance with Mr. Langley’s will, his bequest was converted into the new 3 per cent. Annuities in April, 1869, and conveyed by the Trustees to the Vicar of Warminster, Churchwardens, and Overseers, and the interest, £12, assigned, as requested. The total amount of interest now received on the whole of the “Langley Charity” is £42, from which One Hundred and Sixty-Eight persons receive a Crown apiece.

#### 8.—WANSEY’S CHARITY.—1807.

GEORGE WANSEY, of Warminster, Esquire, who died 19 Mar, 1807, by his Last Will and Testament, dated 24 July, 1805, bequeathed to the Minister, Churchwardens, and Overseers, One Thousand Pounds, upon trust, that the interest thereof be by them given to poor parishioners in Fifty sums of One Pound each, at Christmas, for ever; poor aged widows to have the preference, whether on the parish or not.



The net sum received under this Will was only £900, (the Legacy duty of 10 per cent. being deducted), which sum was invested by the Executors in the 4 per cent. Consols, and subsequently increased by accumulation to complete the purchase of £1,250 Stock, so as to yield the required interest, of £50 a year. The benefaction of 20s. to aged persons continued to be made till the year 1825, when the 4 per cent. Consols were reduced by Act of Parliament to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. On January 27, 1826, the sum of £1,250 Stock was re-transferred to Rev. W. Dalby, Stephen Hunt, William King, and John Daniell, and the annual income of the charity, amounting to £48 : 15 : 0, was distributed in accordance with the Donor's wish. The Legacy now stands in the Reduced 3 per Cents., £1,250 Stock, and Thirty-Seven aged widows receive £1 each, and one widow 10s.

#### 9.—HOTCHKIN'S CHARITY.—1818.

RALPH HOTCHKIN, Esquire, of Uppingham, co. Rutland, by codicil to his will, dated 23 December, 1815, bequeathed to the Churchwardens and Overseers of Warminster, One Hundred Pounds, in the 3 per Cents., to apply the annual produce in the relief of such poor people as they should think fit, preference being given to large, deserving families.

This Legacy, and part of the interest, now amounting to £116 : 13 : 4, are vested in the Three per Cents., and produce £5 per annum, which is distributed with the customary Christmas gifts to Ten widows, or poor persons, in sums of 10s. each.

#### 10.—TOWNSEND'S CHARITY.—1820.

In the year 1820, ELIZABETH TOWNSEND, of Warminster, Widow, bequeathed to the Churchwardens and Overseers,

Two Hundred Pounds, upon trust, to invest the same in one of the Public Funds, and to expend the interest or dividends in Cloaks and Great Coats, to be given to an equal number, as near as may be, of Old Women and Old Men, Parishioners of Warminster, at Christmas.

The above Legacy was vested in the Three per cent. Consols, and produces £6 : 15 : 6 a year, which sum, with the addition mentioned below, is annually expended in the purchase of Six Cloaks for poor old women, and Eight Great Coats for poor old men.

A further sum of £3, left by the testatrix\* to the Church Choir for singing a Special Anthem on the Sunday before Midsummer Day, was added, by the Charity Commission and the Parish in Vestry, as referred to on page 159, to the former Legacy.

#### 11.—LAWES' CHARITY.

In 1833, the widow of the Rev. JAMES TOWNSEND LAWES, of Marlborough, communicated by letter to the Vicar of Warminster, Rev. W. Dalby, that she had bequeathed to the Parish of Warminster the reversion of £107 : 19 : 3, in the 3 per cent. Reduced Annuities, to be paid at her decease, the interest to be applied annually in charitable distribution to certain poor industrious persons of Warminster, at the discretion of the Vicar and Churchwardens; such having been the declared intention of her deceased husband, though he did not express it in his will.

This Gift, now amounting to £109, in the 3 per cents., is allotted as directed.

\* The inscription on Roger Townsend's monument in the Church states that Roger Townsend, her husband, left this legacy.

## 12.—RECENT CHARITIES.

Benefactions of later date are—

1. The Gift of Miss JANE BENNETT, to Six poor widows, Ten Shillings each.

2. That of Mr. JOHN SEAGRAM HALLIDAY, to poor persons, Ten Shillings each.

3. That of Miss WYCHE, to six poor widows, Ten Shillings each.

4. That of Miss ALDRIDGE, to Ten widows or old men, Six Shillings each.

5. That of Miss LEATE, the interest of £90 in coals to the poor.

6. That of Mr. CHARLES BLEECK, the interest of £424 : 3 : 5 Consols, to be paid in equal shares to the Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish Church, and of Christ Church, at Christmas annually, for the purchase of Beef "*for the poorest and most needy persons resident in Warminster.*"

## XL.

## Persons and Things of Note.

**WARMINSTER**, as a Royal Manor, claims connection with several Kings, Saxon and Norman, *viz.* EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, HAROLD II, WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR, WILLIAM RUFUS, HENRY I, STEPHEN, and HENRY II.

Noble families, who held property within the parish through successive years, were :— MAUDUIT, KINGSTON, FURNEAUX, DE CLARE, DE SPENCER, WASPAIL, DE VERE,

DE SCUDAMORE, AUDLEY, THYNNE, HUNGERFORD, LE BORE, HASTINGS, PAULETT, MORDAUNT, and others.

Men of weight and wealth, amongst the inhabitants of the parish, since the Reformation downwards, have been members of the families of WYSE, CHAFFYN, MIDDLECOTT, GIFFORD, BUCKLER, WANSEY, LUDLOW, BENNETT, SLADE, HALLIDAY, SLOPER, TEMPLE, and others.

WALTER DE WEREMINISTRE was instituted April 6th, 1313, to the ancient prebend in the Church within the Castle of Exeter, on presentation of the last patroness. WILLIAM DE WERMINSTRE was Mayor of Salisbury in 1337. GEOFFRY OF WERMINSTRE was Mayor of Salisbury three times, in 17, 18, 22 Edward III. WILLIELMUS DE WEREMYNSTER was Chaplain of Asserton Chapel, in Berwick St. James, by nomination of the King, in 1305. WILLIAM DE WEREMINSTER resigned the Rectory of Tilshead in 1317.

JOHN WARMINSTER was Dean of Worcester. In the Convocation of 1641, which passed some severe Canons, he counselled measures of leniency, and moved to revise the Canons "*so as to make them less exceptionable to the public.*" This family resided many years in Worcester, and filled honourable posts in that city. Dr. THOMAS WARMINSTER signed the Declaration for recalling Charles II.

The name of WANSEY stands prominently forward in connection with Warminster since the days of Queen Elizabeth. As landed proprietors, and clothiers of eminence, as gallant soldiers on the one side or the other in the wars of the Commonwealth, as filling successively important parochial offices, and as preserving local events in memoranda and diaries, various members of the Wansey family claim special mention in the history of their native town. Major Henry Wansey, senr., his son Henry, and Jehu Wansey have

been mentioned already in connection with the Civil War. Another member of this family, JOHN WANSEY, was, at the commencement of the Great Rebellion, settled in business on his own property at Town's End, in Warminster. "Two of King Charles's men came into his house and insulted him, behaving very rudely; on which he sent to his Barn for his Thresher to come down. They both fell on the King's men, and beat them soundly. On which J. W. said—'*There are two come now—next time will come ten: it will not do to stay here to be killed; if I am killed, it shall be abroad, not at home.*' On which he took his horse, and rid to the Parliament army, and became a Captain in that army, and was a stout courageous man." "John Wansey had a flock of sheep feeding behind Cop Heap, near Warminster, about 200, under his Shepherd, Nics. Couch—a party of the King's army came and drove them all away by force."

Some reference has been made in Chapter XXVII to the diary of Mr. GEORGE WANSEY.

Mr. HENRY WANSEY died in Warminster in 1827. He was an active member of the Bath and West of England Society for the improvement of Agriculture, Manufactures, &c., on which subjects he wrote several essays. He travelled in North America, and published in 1796 "*An Excursion to the United States.*" He was elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and contributed some papers to the "*Archæologia.*" In the later years of his life he was associated with Sir R. C. Hoare in his great work on "South Wilts," and supplied him with the larger part of his material for the history of the Parish and Hundred of Warminster. His MSS. on Warminster, kindly entrusted to the writer's hands, furnished a general basis for the present history.

SAMPSON MIFFLIN was a poor boy of Warminster Common. He went to Poole in 1730 to seek employment, and engaged with the captain of a ship in the Newfoundland fishery. Proving faithful to his trust, he was advanced to the command of a vessel, and by honourable industry secured a good fortune. He seems at last to have settled in America. Of his son, nothing is known. His grandson, Thomas Mifflin, a man of stake and position, joined General Washington in the War of Independence, became his Aide-de-Camp and Quarter-Master General, and in 1791 was appointed Governor of Pennsylvania; which commanding office he occupied many years.

WILLIAM WILTON, connected with an old Warminster family, went to sea, found patrons in Lord Vere and Beauclerk, and was appointed to the command of a sloop in the West Indies. He died in 1752.

THOMAS SQUIRE was a famous apothecary (*i.e.* surgeon) of Warminster, who "*to a singular skill and honesty in his profession, a most active tenderness for the sick, an admirable sagacity in discerning the nature of diseases, and an uncommon success in removing them,*" added, according to his epitaph, a great number of other very valuable qualities. He died in 1761. His son Samuel became Bishop of St. David's in 1761—died 1766.

In 1776 died JULIAN POBJOY. Her history was noticed in the "*Gentleman's Magazine*" for that year. She was born in Warminster, or the neighbourhood, and used to boast she was related to the Beckfords, of Fonthill; she was a "woman of strong mind," and in the days of Beau Nash mingled in the most fashionable and dissipated society of Bath. In later life she returned to Warminster, and lived with a little dog in a hollow tree. She was always scrupulously clean, and neatly drest, and never went abroad

without her dog under her arm. She got her livelihood as general errand-bearer, and used to walk many miles in a day. She was the chief channel of communication between Longleat House and Warminster. She also collected medicinal herbs for Mr. Squire, the apothecary, and sold watercresses.

BENJAMIN BUCKLER, D.D., Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford, and Keeper of the University Records, was son of Mr. Thomas Buckler, of Boreham Manor. He was the author of "*Stemmata Chichellanea*," and other learned works. He died at his Rectory house of Cumnor, Berks, in 1780.

The Hon. Shute Barrington, Bishop of Salisbury, in 1782, afterwards translated to the see of Durham, on a journey through Warminster, as he sat at the Lord's Arms, noticed a boy busily at work making baskets, and whistling and singing cheerily. His honest industry and happy face won the favour of the Prince Palatine Bishop, and he took the boy with him to Durham. His name was WILLIAM EMM. He served as page in the palace, and sung, as a chorister, in the Cathedral. He rose from post to post in the Bishop's household, until he became his private secretary, and had in his hands the official management of the large and important diocese of Durham. He left much valuable property to his family.

THOMAS O' WARMINSTER.—Poor Thomas of Warminster was a half-witted peasant, who, being at a neighbouring town, purchased a new hat, and was so delighted with his acquisition that in the pride of his heart he resolved to treat himself with an extra quart of beer, which had the effect of adumbrating the little sense which he possessed. His road home lay through a wood, in which, as night had set in, he soon lost his way. He began to bawl out aloud for help, shouting with all the power of his lungs "*A man lost!*—*A*

*man lost !*" The owls had taken up their evening cry, and as he paused to take breath, he plainly heard their prolonged note, "*Whoo-oo-oo.*" "Poor Thomas o' Warminster," he shouted amain. "*Whoo-oo-oo*" continued the owls. "Poor Thomas o' Warminster," was still the reply ; and still as he roared and screamed, the question ever seemed to be asked, "*Whoo-oo-oo ;*" till at last, angry and exhausted, he burst out in one despairing cry, "*Poor Thomas o' Warminster, I tell ye, and a vire, vire new hat.*" Hence the saying, "*You looks as vierce as Thomas o' Warminster.*"

BETTY CROOK died at the age of 105 ; she lived in one family ninety years.

#### PHENOMENA.

"IMPULSES.—Aug. 1485. In one of the great fields at Warminster, in Wiltshire, in the harvest, at the very time of the fight at Bosworth field, in Leicestershire, (distant 120 miles,) between Richard III and Henry of Richmond, there was one of the parish took two sheaves, crying with some intervals—'*Now for Richard !*'—'*Now for Henry !*' At last he lets fall the sheaf that did represent Richard, and cried—'*Now for King Henry !—Richard is slain !*'—This action did agree with the very time, day and hour. When I was a school-boy, I have heard this confidently delivered by tradition by some old men of our county."

*Aubrey.*

"The 5th of 9ber, 1688, the Prince of Orange landed. The 30th of October at about 7 in the evening were seen, as it were, longe streamers or pickes in the sky, towards the north and north-west, but towards midnight it was seen very terrible, those long streamers, as it were, warring each with other, and seeming as it were two parties. 'Twas seen



about Bristoll, where they say were seene men and guns and drums ; and it is said in other places men were seen, *viz.* two armies.”—*Geo. Wansey’s “Note Book.”*

“ In the year 1696, or thereabouts, it was a report in Bristol, and thereabouts, that it rained wheat upon this town (Warminster), and six miles round—and many believed it. One Mr. Cole, being curious to find out the truth of the odd phenomenon, procured several parcels of it ; and upon diligent examination of them with magnifying glasses, judged from the taste, figure, size, and smell, that they were seeds of Ivy berries, driven by a strong wind from the holes and chinks of houses, churches, and other buildings, where starlings and other birds had laid or dropped them ; but if so, ’tis strange they should fall in so great quantities and in so many places.”

[Note by Henry Wansey.—Probably berries of the Yew Tree ; there were then (1696) three in the Churchyard.—*Vide* White’s “*History of Selborne.*”]

“ We in England are, blessed be God, in peace, and all things plenty. Wheat, the best, about 3s. a bushel ; barley, the best, 14s. a quarter ; and the best beef and mutton 2d. a pound.”—*Geo. Wansey* [died 1707.]

“ Dec. 30, 1756. Norway rats were first seen as near to us as Bishopstrow. Before this time we had only a small timid black rat.” [This black rat is the old English native rat, as distinguished from the brown or Norway rat ; he is much slighter, and of a jet black colour. Black rats are now very rare in England, being nearly exterminated by the greater weight, strength, and fierceness of the Norwegian species. But the agility of the black rat is marvellous ; he is one mass of muscle. Driven before the larger race, he is found only in the higher part of houses, in ceilings, thatch, wainscoatings, and under eaves.]

1759. One hack chaise kept in Warminster by Mr. Leigh, the only one.

1760. Northern lights very strong for two or three seasons, and then totally disappeared.

In the month of August, 1816, as some workmen were quarrying stone on the east side of the town, near the garden of Mr. John Daniell, on the Boreham Road, they discovered in the middle of a stratum of sandstone a live toad and a newt. The interior of the shell in which they were found was perfectly smooth, without the least aperture, and at least nine feet below the surface. On their being exposed to the air the colour of both animals altered, and life for a few moments seemed suspended. They revived, and lived for about four hours, exhibiting occasionally symptoms of pain, and convulsive motions about the throat. Their mouths seemed to be firmly closed, insomuch that on their being immersed in alcohol, though producing violent strugglings, they did not open them, being closed with a kind of glutinous matter. How long they might have lived cannot be known, but probably not long, as during the first four hours they continued torpid.

WARMINSTER MALT.—“What! Landlord—do you go so far for *Malt*?” “Yes, Sir, I do.” “Come, then; get a mug of beer.”—“I say, Landlord, the next time you brew, do pray go to Warminster for the *Water*.”

*Written on a sign at Backwell, Somerset.*

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