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OF THE
Shropshire Archæological
AND
Natural History Society

(WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE SHROPSHIRE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY).

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The Council respectfully solicit contributions of Papers, specially Parochial Histories, for future volumes of the *Transactions* of the Society.

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TRANSACTIONS OF THE SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

(WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
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SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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ANNUAL MEETING, 1929.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Museum on May 15th, 1929, Mr. T. E. Pickering being in the Chair.

After the minutes of the last General Meeting had been read, it was proposed by the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher and seconded by Miss Auden that Sir Charles Marston be elected President of the Society. This was carried unanimously, and Sir Charles Marston thereupon took the Chair.

The following were unanimously elected additional Vice-Presidents of the Society :—The Very Rev. the Dean of Norwich ; Professor E. W. White, C.B.E., M.B. ; the Rev. Prebendary W. G. Clark-Maxwell, and J. Cosmo Melvill, Esq.

A sympathetic reference was made by the Chairman to the loss which the Society had sustained by the death of Sir Offley Wakeman, who was President of the Society and had done much to help on the work of both the Archæological and Parish Register sections. The Secretary was requested to write to the relatives of Sir Offley accordingly.

The audited Statement of Accounts for the year 1928 was presented.

Miss Auden (Hon. Sec.) read the following Report for the past year :—

“The year past has been one of quiet work. The Society has been in constant communication with the Ancient Monuments Department of H.M. Board of Works, and is able to report that the care of Buildwas Abbey has been taken over by it ; and much work is being done to guard against further ruin. The other Shropshire Abbeys are being preserved, especially Wenlock Priory under the sympathetic care of Lady Catherine Milnes-Gaskell. Many of the other Antiquities of the County have been scheduled for special care, and the new movements in the direction of road-making and proposed town-planning watched on behalf of the old-world charm of the County. The Roman Roads Committee has been steadily at work during the year in both North and South Shropshire in tracing the Watling Street. The old excavations at Wroxeter have been cleared of the accumulations of earth, the dumps having been

removed through the generosity of Sir Charles Marston. Recent excavations there have revealed the bridge-head, and the stones are now preserved near the Colonnade of the Forum, with a brass plate recording what they are.

The Roman Collection in the old "Top Schools" at the Free Library is still in process of arrangement. Casts have been made of the Wroxeter Inscription, and replicas of the silver Mirror found in 1924, and of the bronze Soldier's Diploma, another interesting find of 1927.

The collection of pre-historic objects in the Museum has received several valuable additions, especially the fine dug-out canoe and other objects from Ellesmere, where the Museum in the Town Hall has been given up.

The Royal Archæological Institute met in Shrewsbury, July 24th to August 1st, and the Society made their Annual Excursion in conjunction with the Institute on July 27th, visiting Shawbury, Moreton Corbet, High Ercall and Lilleshall.

The Society has suffered heavily by death since the last General Meeting. Mr. T. P. Blunt and Mr. H. F. Harries will be much missed, especially from the Natural History side; and the death of our President, Sir Offley Wakeman, is an irreparable loss, not only to the Archæological Society generally but particularly to the Parish Register Society, in which he had been keenly interested since its foundation. The Society owes much to his unflinching interest and generous support.

The Society has published since the last General Meeting a Volume of *Transactions*, and the Register of Meole Brace. The Calendars of Wills proved in the Peculiars of the County (now at Shrewsbury) have been transcribed by the Rev. R. C. Purton, and will shortly be printed with the *Transactions*.

A survey has been made of the surviving rampart and entrance of the hill-fort on Abdon Burf, and this also will shortly be published in the *Transactions*.

The Report and Accounts were adopted.

Mr. R. Jebb moved, and Mr. Homer seconded, that the following be the Council for the ensuing year:—Miss Auden, Mr. Bowcock, Rev. Prebendary J. R. Burton, Miss L. F. Chitty, Rev. Prebendary W. G. Clark-Maxwell, Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, Mr. H. E. Forrest, Mr. R. Lloyd Kenyon, Miss Rachel Leighton, the Dean of Norwich, Dr. M. Gepp, Rev. Canon F. Hibbert, Rev. A. J. Knapton, Sir Charles Marston, Dr. Cosmo Melvill, Rev. Canon Moriarty, Mr. J. A. Morris, Mr. J. B. Oldham, Mr. T. E. Pickering, Rev. E. C. Pigot, Rev. R. C. Purton, Mr. H. T. Weyman, Professor E. W. White.

Mr. G. R. Robertson was thanked for his services as Auditor and re-elected.

Rule 3 was altered, the word "October" being deleted, thus allowing the Annual General Meeting to be held at any convenient time of the year.

The Roman Roads Sub-Committee was re-elected with the addition of Mr. Bowcock as a new member.

A sub-committee, consisting of Miss Auden, Miss Chitty, Mr. Morris and Mr. Holland, was appointed to ascertain the facts and report on a moat in the Park at Petton.

Mr. Forrest reported on the position of the Shropshire Historical Antiquities Association and the proposal to merge the Association in the Society; and it was resolved to agree to the merger, the cash now in the Bank belonging to the Association to be kept separate from the other funds of the Society, and devoted to the objects for which the Association was founded.

ANNUAL MEETING, 1930.

Sir Charles Marston, President, presided at the annual meeting of the Shropshire Archæological Society held at Shrewsbury Castle on Friday afternoon. He was supported by the Mayor of Shrewsbury (Councillor C. S. Woollam), Mr. T. E. Pickering (chairman of the Council), Professor E. W. White, together with the secretary, Mr. A. E. Cooper.

The annual report, presented by Mr. T. E. Pickering, stated that the past year had not been marked by outstanding events, but useful work had been done. The old excavations at Uriconium were in good order, thanks to the careful personal supervision of Mr. Francis Jackson, and to the generosity of Sir Charles Marston in paying for the removal of a great dump of earth which dated from the time of the original excavations under Mr. Thomas Wright. The removal showed the thoroughness of the work then done, for nothing fresh of interest was discovered. The Roman Roads Committee had pursued their study of old roads, and had found connecting links on one or two fragmentary trackways. The annual excursion took in Diddlebury, the Heath Chapel and Clee St. Margaret, and included a visit to Nordy Bank, serious doubt being thrown on the Roman origin of the latter place. Excavation at Yockleton had further confirmed the existence of the Roman road to which Stony Stretton owed its name. The Shropshire Historical Antiquities Association was now amalgamated with the Archæological Society, and help had been given towards retaining a picturesque thatched roof at Chapel Cottage, Minsterley, and also at Old Parr's Cottage, Winnington.

The Committee on House of Commons Records, which is preparing a Report as to materials available for a Record of Members of the House of Commons from 1264 to 1832, have

expressed great appreciation of the Lists of Members of Parliament compiled by Mr. H. T. Weyman, and published from time to time in the *Transactions*.

The Society has to record the loss by death of Mrs. Baldwyn-Childe, a keen and accomplished archaeologist, of Mr. W. Medlicott, who had unique knowledge of the Longmynd country, and of Dr. J. Cosmo Melvill, D.Sc., F.L.S., whose varied attainments were widely known.

With regard to the work of the Parish Register Section of the Society, the concluding portion of the very important register of Meole Brace, together with the index, etc., was issued during the year. This made a total of 121 registers from the commencement to the year 1812 (and in some cases to 1837), including six Roman Catholic registers and 21 Nonconformist registers, all fully indexed, that had been issued by the Society. Eighty-three other registers had been transcribed, and were ready for printing as soon as funds would permit. The Society were always willing to print any Shropshire register, provided that at least half the cost was guaranteed locally. The register of Lee Brockhurst was in the press, and would be issued to members this year. Twenty-nine registers were as yet untouched.

The statement of accounts presented by Mr. A. E. Cooper, disclosed a balance in hand of £29 10s. 2d., compared with £60 at the commencement of the year. On the Ureconium Excavation Account there was a balance of £11 19s. 5d., on Sir Charles Marston's special fund £17 7s. 2d., and on the Shropshire Historical Antiquities Association account £78 7s. 3d.

Sir Charles Marston, in proposing the adoption of the report and accounts said that the Society had done some useful work during the past year and it was pleasing to see that the funds were in a fairly satisfactory condition. Organizations such as the Shropshire Archaeological Society were likely to grow in interest during the coming years. He might be wrong but it seemed to him that the rising generation was beginning to take greater interest in the ancient history of the country, and the ancient remains spread all over the country, giving testimony to the way in which their ancestors lived. Further, he hoped that the Society would continue to flourish and from time to time discover and record some of the features of the county of Shropshire.

Mr. J. A. Morris, seconding the motion, said that they had spent a lot at Ureconium, but the result had been such that they might have well spent a great deal more.

On the proposition of Professor White, seconded by the Rev. E. C. Pigot, the following were added to the list of vice-presidents: Viscount Bridgeman, Capt. Sir Offley Wakeman and Dr. Francis Pember.

The Mayor proposed the election of the following members. of the Council: Sir Charles Marston, Professor White, the Rev. Preb. Burton, the Rev. Preb. Clark-Maxwell, the Rev. Canon Moriarty, the Dean of Norwich, the Revs. W. G. D. Fletcher, A. J. Knapton, E. C. Pigot, and R. C. Purton, Dr. Gepp and Dr. Watkins-Pitchford, Miss Rachael Leighton, Miss Auden and Miss Chitty, and Messrs. E. W. Bowcock, H. E. Forrest, R. Lloyd Kenyon, Hugh Hobson, J. A. Morris, Oldham, T. E. Pickering and H. T. Weyman.

Mr. Francis Jackson seconded.

Mr. G. R. Robertson was elected auditor.

Mr. H. E. Forrest then gave an interesting description of the Castle and spoke of its history. He was thanked on the motion of Dr. Watkins-Pitchford, seconded by Mr. E. W. Bowcock.

In thanking the Mayor for his attendance and the Corporation for the use of the Castle, Sir Charles Marston said the Mayor had set an example which he hoped would be followed by future Mayors.

Mr. T. E. Pickering seconded the vote of thanks which was carried.

The Mayor, in reply, said that the Corporation never lent the grounds of the Castle with greater pleasure to any body than it did to the Shropshire Archæological Society. The Society had done a great deal for the Borough of Shrewsbury in the way of research and their transactions had made the interesting history of the town an open book. Reference had been made to the part the Mayors had taken in the Society, and he recalled that a Mayor of Shrewsbury was in the chair when the Society was founded more than 50 years ago. Alderman Thomas Southam, he recollected, a former Mayor, took a great interest in the work of the Society.

Mayors of Shrewsbury generally were much indebted to that body, for they had published interesting biographical details of the Mayors from the beginning down almost to the present day.

The company after visiting various parts of the Castle grounds, sat down to tea provided by Mr. T. E. Pickering. The President, afterwards, voiced the appreciation of the company to Mr. Pickering for his generous hospitality on that occasion, and Mr. Pickering responded.

ANNUAL EXCURSION, 1929.

CLEE ST. MARGARET, ETC.

The annual excursion of the Shropshire Archæological Society took place on Wednesday, August 7th, in delightful weather. Members of the Caradoc Field Club were also invited, with the result that the whole party numbered about 40. They left Shrewsbury at 10-30 a.m., and travelled by motor-'bus and private cars via Church Stretton, Craven Arms, and up Corve Dale. Mr. H. E. Forrest acted as leader. The first call was at ASTON MUNSLOW, an ancient seat of the Baldwyn family. The hall was open to the members, by permission of Capt. J. T. Benson, who personally conducted them over the charming old house and gardens, which were resplendent with many-hued flowers. Mr. Forrest told how the rear part of the house, which is timber-framed, was founded by Richard Baldwyn (a younger son of John Baldwyn, of Diddlebury) late in the 15th century. He was twice married, and had 22 children by his two wives. The front portion of the house is of local stone, and dates from the time of Charles I. An illustration of it, with the terraced garden, is given in "The Old Houses of Wenlock," p. 65. This part was built by Richard's descendant of the fifth generation, John Baldwin (1598-1679). It contains a very handsome staircase of its period, with massive moulded hand-rail, while the older part of the house has an Elizabethan staircase with cut-out balusters. In the garden is an Early Georgian square summer-house of the form known as a gazebo. It commands a superb view of Corvedale.

DELBURY CHURCH was next visited. Its architectural features were pointed out by Mr. George Marshall, of Hereford. The building is especially remarkable for its Saxon "herring-bone" masonry, the north wall of the nave being almost entirely constructed thus. At the west end of the same wall is a high-up Saxon window splayed both inside and out. At the east end is a Norman window, also high-up, which appears to have been extended downwards at a later date, though the lower part is now blocked up. In this have been placed two ancient sculptured stones, one with a cross in low relief, but their date is difficult to determine. There is no arch or division between nave and chancel, nor any aisle until one was added on the south in the 13th century. The west wall of the tower is very curious. Over the door is a round arch almost flush with the wall; this has partially collapsed owing to the south wall giving way, so that the curve is now elliptical. Beneath this arch, and enclosing the door, is a filling-up wall, which may have been put in to support the collapsing arch, but certain large stones in this rather suggest that they originally formed the head of a Saxon

doorway, which may have been the western entrance to the original building. There are several interesting monuments to the Baldwyns in this church, notably the one on the north wall of the chancel to Charles Baldwyn, of Elsich and Stokesay Castle (d. 1674), with coat of arms inlaid in coloured marbles.

DELBURY HALL. From very early times this was the chief seat of the Baldwyn family. It remained so down to about 1600, when another Richard Baldwyn was head of the family. He built the charming old mansion known as Elsich, which was the home of his second son, William Baldwyn, cup-bearer to Queen Mary. William's son, Charles Baldwyn, lived first at Elsich, but later took Stokesay Castle on a long lease from Earl Craven. The later generations of the Baldwyns resided for the most part in Stokesay Castle. William's elder brother, Thomas Baldwyn (b. 1558), held the Diddlebury estate. He was suspected of complicity in a plot to place Mary Queen of Scots on the throne of England, and imprisoned in the Tower of London. On the wall of his cell in the Beauchamp Tower may still be seen a carving in high relief, consisting of the emblems of time, justice, and death, with the following inscription:—"Thmas Bawdewin, 1585, Juli. As vertve maketh life, so sin cawseth death." After three years' confinement he was released, and then married Gertrude Corbet, of Stanwardine. He died in 1616, leaving a son, Edward Baldwyn, of Diddlebury and Shrewsbury, whose son, Thomas Baldwyn, was Recorder of Shrewsbury 1577 to 1685.

The Hall at Delbury was kindly shown to the members by Mr. V. S. Wrigley. It is a charming mansion, but almost entirely modern, although it incorporates a central block with chimney-stack, relics of an earlier building dating from the days of Charles I. This was probably the work of the above-named Edward Baldwin, who was head of the family in that period.

Leaving Delbury, a short halt was made at the site of **CORRHAM CASTLE**, associated with memories of Fair Rosamund, upon whose father, Walter de Clifford, the manor was conferred by Henry II. The site of the castle consists of two moated areas, one beyond the other, the moats supplied with water from Pye Brook. In the southernmost area there are some slight remains of the castle walls, and, still further off, is "Rosamund's Well."

HEATH CHAPEL was next visited, famous as a most perfect and almost untouched example of an early Norman Chapel. Its design is extremely simple—a nave and chancel divided by a plain arch twice recessed, the abaci resting on scalloped capitals—these scollops being the only attempt at ornament. The nave is about twice the length of the chancel and very slightly wider. The buttresses are of the usual thin, flat Norman character, and the east and west windows are pierced right through buttresses reaching from the ground to the top of the gable. The

only door is on the south. The font is circular and has an incomplete ornament round the edge. In the chancel is a "stall" which incorporates the wood of an old rood-beam, which like the rest of the woodwork, dates from the 16th or 17th century.

NORDY BANK. This remarkable earthwork is situated on the south-west shoulder of the Brown Clee, but at the comparatively low elevation of about 1,000 feet, so that it is dominated by the great fortified post on Abdon Burf (1,792ft.), as well as by the smaller, but nearer, Clee Burf. Nordy Bank is reputed a Roman Camp, but there are difficulties in the way of accepting this view. In the first place it is at a considerable distance from any known Roman road, and Roman stations are almost invariably placed on or close to a road. Secondly, its shape is not rectangular with rounded corners—at least it is not exactly of that form. The south-east and south-west corners are rectangular, but the opposite side—nearest the Clee—is curved. The earthwork consists of a single vallum—a deep ditch with a very lofty and steep bank inside, and a low one outside. Now, taking into consideration the situation and form of this camp we are faced with a very difficult problem. If it was made by the Romans, why did they place it here; and why did they not make it square? On the other hand, if it was made by the Britons, why did they place it in such a weak position, or, indeed, why did they make it at all when they had already got two splendid fortifications close here in far better and stronger positions? Abdon Burf was so large and strong that it would accommodate an army of several thousand men with all their belongings, while its position on the highest hill in Shropshire dominated the whole country. It was practically impregnable if held by a determined body of men. As a possible solution of the problem, Mr. Forrest suggested that when the Romans conquered Shropshire, the Britons retired to Abdon Burf and Clee Burf as their last refuge. Securely entrenched here they were able to defy even the Roman legions. The latter were unable to carry the place by assault, so they constructed, or remodelled, this earthwork on Nordy Bank, and in it placed a strong garrison to hold in check the Britons on the hill-top—besiege them in fact—until they finally capitulated. It is not at all improbable that the original work on Nordy Bank was made by the Britons as an enclosure for their cattle (Mr. Forrest had met with similar enclosures contiguous to British camps in North Wales). It certainly was not made as a fortress, but if the Romans found it useful for their own occupation, they would take possession and modify it to their usual pattern. This, then, may account for the two southern corners being rounded rectangles. Mr. Forrest also pointed out an ancient roadway which leaves the south-east of the camp and runs for many miles along the ridge towards Leintwardine (Bravonium). It is marked on the map as "The Thrift," and passes a place

with the significant name of Cold Weston, and Stanton Lacy, where Roman pottery has been found. This suggests that possibly the garrison at Nordy Bank was a cohort from the legion then stationed at Bravonium. From here the members walked down to

CLEE ST. MARGARET, where they were hospitably entertained to tea by the Rev. A. J. and Mrs. Knapton. After tea a visit was paid to the Church of St. Margaret. Its most remarkable feature is the herring-bone masonry, which is seen on all three sides of the chancel. Dr. Cranage describes this as late Norman, but it is quite possibly Saxon—a view which is rather confirmed by the tiny window in the north wall of the chancel, innocent of glazing, which has quite a Saxon aspect. The chancel arch is pointed but rather low, and has on either side a large hagioscope. There are some very massive oak pews, which with the roofs of both nave and chancel, may date from the 15th century. The south door is Norman, and has some good old ironwork on it. The church possesses a chalice of early 16th century date.

Before leaving here a very hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. A. J. and Mrs. Knapton for their hospitality and guidance during the day, was passed by acclamation.

The return to Shrewsbury was accomplished by 7-30, thus bringing to an end a most interesting and enjoyable excursion.

ANNUAL EXCURSION, 1930.

The Society held their annual excursion on August 14th, inviting members of the Caradoc and Severn Valley Field Club to join them. The party travelled by motor from Shrewsbury to Bridgnorth, where they were welcomed by the Mayor and the ex-Town Clerk, Mr. Cooksey, and his successor, Mr. Gardner. The Corporation regalia was shown—the charters of James I. and Charles I. The Mayor, in a pleasant speech, mentioned that the first annual excursion of the Archaeological Society, after its foundation in 1877, was to Bridgnorth.

Mr. Cooksey gave a short account of the regalia and the charters, and told the story of the present town seal, which is a copy that the late Mr. Hubert Smith had made from an impression in the British Museum of the Mediæval Seal, lost many generations ago and replaced in the 18th century by one of poor design. The Town Hall is interesting in itself, and is a monument of the spirit and energy of the burgesses under trying conditions. The Rev. G. Bellett, in his history of Bridgnorth, gives some details of its history.

The original Town Hall was outside the North Gate, and was demolished in 1646. The new Town Hall, erected in the middle of High street, was built 1648-52, with timbers from an

old barn at Much Wenlock, purchased from Lady Bertie, of Wenlock Abbey.

After having expressed thanks to the Mayor and Mr. Cooksey for their courtesy and kindness, the party moved on, under the guidance of Dr. Watkins-Pitchford, to St. Leonard's Church, where there still remain in the chancel some traces of 13th century building. Some old stones lately discovered seem to point to Norman work. In the north wall of the chancel is a little window which suggests that an anchorite (or anchoress) may once have had a dwelling there. St. Leonard's is remarkable for the great width of the nave, 91ft. The church suffered severely in the Civil Wars, being used as an ammunition store and blown up. The parishioners rebuilt it as soon as they were able, but the north aisle was not restored till modern times. The 17th century timber roof of the nave is noteworthy. The Stackhouse Library adjoining the north aisle contains several interesting and rare books collected by the Rev. H. Stackhouse, once master of the Grammar School. The old schoolroom in the churchyard probably stands on the site of a chantry that existed in mediæval times. The Grammar School was in existence before 1503, and the picturesque many gabled brick building now used as a boarding house goes back to the 17th century. The small half-timbered house where Richard Baxter lived when curate of St. Leonard's in 1640 still stands near the west end of the church. The churchyard was the scene of much fighting in 1646, when Colonel Francis Billingsley, whose rapier hangs in the church, was killed.

The party then visited the Castle, where Dr. Watkins-Pitchford pointed out many objects of interest in the remaining ruins, which are much marred by ivy, which is doing untold damage. The South Gate of the town was near the present post office, and its remains were removed in comparatively modern times (though many years before the restoration of the North Gate, which now is so notable a feature of the town). The Elizabethan town extended considerably beyond the North Gate, but beyond the South Gate it was bounded by the Castle. In Queen Elizabeth's day the change of fashion from woollen caps to hats was a great blow to the prosperity of Bridgnorth, where caps had been the chief industry, and the Queen was petitioned to prescribe the wearing of caps instead of the new-fashioned head-gear, but the petition was not granted. The Low Town lived by boat building, and into the 19th century Bridgnorth was famed for its boats. It seems very probable that the castle had some means of access to the Severn that has been blocked up and forgotten, by which heavy freight could be brought within the walls. Dr. Watkins-Pitchford gave a very interesting sketch of the history of the castle, which the chronicler Florence of Worcester identified with Ethelfleda's fortress of 817 which is

generally considered to have been at Pampudding Hill, in the neighbouring parish of Oldbury. There seem to be traces of very early masonry at the base of the Norman Keep, and the large window still to be seen has a double splay. The Norman work is that of Robert de Belesme, son of Earl Roger de Montgomery, who built it in 1101. It was taken by Henry I. and became a Royal fortress. Henry II. was there in 1163, and Edward II. went from Bridgnorth to his death at Berkeley. It was taken by the Parliamentarians on April 26th, 1646, and a few months later reduced to ruins.

The fine old-timbered building known now as Bishop Percy's House (he having been born there) escaped destruction, and is remarkable not only for its beauty, but even more for the personal associations which cluster round it. As the oft-quoted inscription over the fire-place tells us, it was built in 1580 by Richard Forster—the "star" being an anagram for the last syllable of his name—Forstar.

Richard Forster, of Sutton Maddock, was a younger brother of that John Forster who lived at Easthope (ancestor of Lord Forester), to whom Henry VIII granted the privilege of wearing his hat in the presence of Royalty "because of certain bodily infirmities affecting his head." Richard Forster was secretary to Bishop Bonnor from 1559 to 1550, and again from 1553 to 1559, when Bonnor was deprived of his bishopric on the accession of Elizabeth. His second daughter Anne, married in 1575 Richard Baxter, of Sutton Maddock, and was grand-mother to the celebrated Puritan Divine of the same name. As Anne is not mentioned in her father's will she had probably died before 1587. John Forster, of Sutton Maddock and Bridgnorth, died in 1626, leaving three sons, only one of whom, Basil, left issue, and his only son was childless, so that the Sutton Maddock line became extinct in the third generation.

The building itself presents features of special interest. If it had not been for the date 1580 recorded on the inscription and that the builder died in 1587, it might have been dated rather later, because it exhibits the star-pattern in many of the panels of the frame. This picturesque detail came into general use in the reign of James I, but is rare before 1600. Its use in this house shows that Richard Forster was very up-to-date in his ideas, and no doubt from his connection with Bishop Bonnor he had ample opportunities of seeing the newest fashions, and would be quick to adopt any which took his fancy. Doubtless this star pattern attracted him, so he used it on his new mansion at Bridgnorth.

We have seen that Richard Forster's daughter Anne was grandmother to Richard Baxter, the Puritan divine. Possibly it was this personal relationship with Bridgnorth which led to

his appointment to the ministry of St. Leonard's where he officiated 1640-1.

The greater part of Upper Town was destroyed by the terrible fire, which took place during the siege of the castle in 1646. Bishop Percy's house was almost the only important one which escaped. On the opposite side of the river there are several good old houses which remain, including the one known as Cann Hall, in which Prince Rupert stayed in 1642.

From Bridgnorth the members made their way to Upton Cressett, the smaller cars facing the rough and narrow lanes while the larger one halted at Criddon, and from whence there is a very pleasant but rather hilly field walk to the little church and stately Elizabethan manor house with its picturesque brick gate-house. The house bears the date of 1580, and was built by Richard Cressett, who died childless. He was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1584, as his great-grandfather had been in 1435. Edward Cressett, of Upton Cressett, his kinsman, served that office in 1702, his wife Elizabeth being buried at Upton in 1743, though the principal residence of the family was then at Cound.

The party were met at the church by the Rector, the Rev. S. G. Hayward, who is also Vicar of Monk Hopton. The church has beautiful Norman work and contains one of the few Shropshire monumental brasses—a small one to some of the Cressett family—and traces of a fresco, possibly representing the Annunciation. Leaving Upton Cressett by various (and devious) ways, the members met again at Ditton Priors, where tea was awaiting them at the Howard Arms. After tea a visit was made to the church which possesses a wonderful collection of screen work, much of which has been brought from elsewhere. A former Vicar, Mr. Wilkinson, appreciated the interest and value of much that 80 years ago was ruthlessly turned out of churches. The two 16th century carved seats in the chancel were once at Cleobury North and other wood-work was brought from Burwarton when the old church there was pulled down.

There is a quaint tablet in the south aisle placed there in 1667 by Thomas Jenks, goldsmith, of Salop, in memory of his father, Thomas Jenks, vicar of Ditton Priors, who died in 1648.

From Ditton a pleasant drive in the evening sunlight took the party to Easthope, where the little church in its circular churchyard has been lately rebuilt after a disastrous fire, and very successfully retains its original simplicity. Hence the way along Wenlock Edge and down to Church Stretton took the Shrewsbury contingent home after a pleasant and interesting day for which many thanks are due to Dr. Watkins-Pitchford, the leader for the excursion.

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETINGS.

21st November, 1928. *Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.*

Miss Auden presented a letter from Lady Magdalen Herbert with reference to Ercall, and asking that the name of a Correspondent be suggested to act for the Council for the Preservation of Rural England.

It was considered that the Council might communicate with Mr. A. E. Cooper, who could put the Society in touch with it.

Miss Chitty reported that a stone Celt had been found at Clunton (Clunbury), the first of its kind to be found there.

Miss Auden promised to write to Mr. Bushe-Fox calling the attention of the Board of Works to the state of disrepair of Acton Burnell Castle.

Mr. Morris reported the removal of the dumps at Wroxeter.

19th December, 1928. *Mr. J. A. Morris in the Chair.*

Mr. Forrest promised to write to Capt. Bruce with reference to Acton Burnell Castle.

Mr. Morris gave an account of the work at Viroconium up to date. Authority was given for the purchase of a picture, "The Burning of Viroconium," and for the framing of two pictures,—the cost to be about £3.

Mr. Forrest was requested to purchase a wooden Spade from Mrs. Hughes of Myndtown for about £1-1-0.

16th January, 1929. *Mr. J. A. Morris in the Chair.*

A letter was read from Capt. Bruce to Mr. Forrest, promising to place the question of the maintenance of Acton Burnell Castle before the Smythe Trustees, with a view to referring the matter to the Board of Works.

A discussion took place as to the exhibition of the human remains found at Wroxeter in the Museum; and it was the opinion of the Council that all the skulls (8 or 9) should be exhibited in association with other remains, and the environment in which they were found recorded.

With regard to Animal remains it was agreed that Mr. Forrest should make enquiry as to the objects to be exhibited.

March 6th (alternatively Feb. 27th) was suggested as the date of the Annual Meeting, with a Lecture to be given on Gothic Stained Glass by Mr. Walter Butterworth, Sir Offley Wakeman to be chairman.

With reference to an enquiry from the Ministry of Transport as to Walford Bridge, Stapleton, Miss Auden stated that she had informed the Ministry that it had no archæological interest.

Miss Auden stated that she had received a letter from Mr. Adolphus Doyaston, offering to present two drawings of Woolston Well (near W. Felton) in his possession. His offer was accepted with thanks, and his resignation, after 44 years of membership was received with regret.

20th February, 1929. Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.

The Chairman referred to the death of Sir Offley Wakeman, the President of the Society, since the last Meeting; and to the further loss sustained by the Society through the deaths of Mr. T. P. Blunt and Mr. H. F. Harries. He also stated that he had sent, in the name of the Council, a wreath to the funeral of Sir Offley Wakeman, and read a letter from Capt. Sir Offley Wakeman, expressing the thanks of Lady Wakeman and of himself.

The question of a President of the Society was considered, and the date of the Annual Meeting was postponed.

It was decided that new members, joining the Society in 1928, should be supplied with Part I of the last Volume of the *Transactions* free of charge.

Mr. Forrest was requested to ask Mr. Mallinson to take photographs of objects of interest at Wroxeter.

The Society of Genealogists was elected to membership of the Society.

20th March, 1929. Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.

Various questions with reference to the election of a President were dealt with.

Mr. Morris reported that the hut at Wroxeter had been cold and uncomfortable during the winter, and that it would take from £35 to £40 to put in a new grate, and make the building fit for occupation by Mr. Jackson. Sir Charles Marston having promised £20 towards the cost, it was resolved that a sum not exceeding £15 be taken from the Uriconium Excavations Fund for the purposes mentioned by Mr. Morris.

Mr. H. E. Forrest was nominated Curator of Zoology.

It was agreed to ask the following members to allow their names to be proposed at the next General Meeting as Vice-Presidents:—The Dean of Norwich, Prebendary Clark-Maxwell, Professor E. W. White, and Mr. Cosmo Melvill. Also the following as members of the Council:—Rev. A. J. Knapton, Mr. Bowcock, Dr. Gepp, and Mr. Stevens.

17th April, 1929. *Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.*

The Chairman reported that Sir Charles Marston had consented to be nominated by the Council as President of the Society.

The Rev. Canon F. A. Hibbert, M.A. was elected a Member of the Society, and it was decided to ask him to serve on the Council.

The date of the Annual General Meeting was fixed for 15th May.

It was resolved that photographs be obtained to illustrate Articles to appear in *The Times* on Viroconium, at a cost of about £3.

The question of the repair of Rodney's Pillar was raised, and Mr. Forrest was asked to communicate with the Powys-Land Club as to what steps were being taken to preserve the Monument.

Mr. Forrest having explained the position of the Shropshire Historical Antiquities Association, it was decided (subject to agreement by the Association and by the Society) to merge the Association in the Society, the cash in hand being placed on deposit and devoted to the object for which the Association was founded.

It was reported that the Folio of drawings of monuments in Shropshire, made for William Mytton by James Bowen, was now in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries in London.

15th May, 1929. *Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.*

Miss Auden read the Draft Report to the General Meeting, which was approved.

Mr. Morris was requested to get a new fence put up at Viroconium, and certain other work carried out, at an estimated cost of £20.

The Chairman stated that the Roman Museum would probably be formally opened in the Autumn.

Mr. Fletcher reported that Dr. Watkins-Pitchford had promised £16 towards the cost of printing the Register of Lee Brockhurst.

19th June, 1929. *Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.*

Mr. Morris read the Report passed at a General Meeting of the Shropshire Historical Antiquities Association, to the effect that (1) The Association be merged with the Shropshire Archaeological Society; (2) The Funds of the Association be kept separate from those of the Society, and used only for the restoration or preservation of old buildings; the Council of the Society

to have power to vote sums out of these funds for such purposes only. (3) The Funds of the Association be invested in the names of two Trustees, one appointed by the Association and one by the Society.

It was resolved that (1) The recommendations contained in the Report be accepted. (2) The Chairman of the Council and Mr. Forrest be Trustees of the Funds handed over by the Association. (3) The Trustees, together with Mr. Morris and Dr. Gepp be a Sub-Committee to deal matters relating to the Association, any two of the Sub-Committee being authorized to sign cheques.

A letter was read from Capt. Sir Offley Wakeman, thanking the Council and Members of the Society for their sympathy, and expressing warm appreciation of the kind references to his Father, and the work which he had been able to do for the Society.

A letter was read from the Secretaries of the Committee on House of Commons Records, asking whether the Council would appoint a small Committee to discuss with them the possibilities (so far as this County is concerned) of preparing a Report on the materials available for a record of the personnel and politics of past Members of the House of Commons from 1264 to 1832. The places in Shropshire mentioned in the letter were,—Bishop's Castle, Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Shrewsbury and Much Wenlock.

Miss Auden reported that she had been summoned to a Meeting at the Shirehall on Saturday next, convened by the Clerk of the County Council to consider a similar communication received by the County Council. Accordingly it was decided to defer a reply to the Communication until after this latter meeting had been held.

Mr. Forrest called attention to the fact that there was nothing to mark the house at the Mount where Darwin was born, and it was resolved to ask the Office of Works to place metal tablets recording the event on the building.

It was decided to hold the Annual Excursion in the Clee S. Margaret's district on Wednesday, 7th August.

Mr. G. R. Harding Webster, B.A., F.R.S.A., F.R.G.S., having surveyed the remaining portion of the earthworks of Abdon Burf in September, 1928, had finished a Report with 3 plans and sections. The Council tendered its grateful thanks to Mr. Webster, and agreed to publish his paper, and to have 3 blocks made of the survey.

Miss Chitty was authorized to have a photograph taken of recent acquisitions in Shrewsbury Museum, to be reproduced in her Report in the next issue of the *Transactions*.

17th July, 1929. *Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.*

Mr. Forrest was asked, and agreed, to act as Leader of the Excursion Party.

In connection with the Fund belonging to the Shropshire Historical Antiquities Association, and the appointment of a Sub-Committee on 19th June last, the following Resolution was passed :—

That Lloyds Bank Ltd. at Shrewsbury, being the Bankers of the Shropshire Historical Antiquities Association, be and hereby are authorized to honour all cheques or other orders drawn, and to accept and act upon receipts for moneys deposited with or owing by the Bank on the account or accounts at any time or times or to be kept in the name of the said Association with the Bank, and also to honour bills accepted or notes made on behalf of the said Association. Provided that such cheques, orders, receipts, bills or notes are signed by any two members of the Committee for the time being, and countersigned by the Secretary for the time being, and to debit such cheques, etc. to the account or accounts with the Bank, whether such account or accounts be for the time being in credit or overdrawn, and to accept the endorsement of the Secretary on cheques or other orders, bills or notes payable to the said Association.

That the Bank be furnished with a list of the names of the executive Officers of the Association, and a copy of the Rules and Regulations of the Association, and be from time to time informed by notice in writing under the hand of the Chairman of any changes which may take place therein, and be entitled to act upon any such notice until the receipt of further notice under the hand of the Chairman.

That this Resolution be communicated to the Bank, and remain in force until notice in writing be given to the Bank by the Chairman.

18th September, 1929. *Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.*

It was stated that a rumour that the Feathers Hotel at Ludlow was being sold and transferred to America was unfounded; and the Council was assured that no stones from Shrawardine Castle were being used for building the New Vestry at Shrawardine Church.

Mr. Forrest read a letter from the Post Office Authorities with reference to the placing of a Tablet on "The Mount," and it was decided to wait and see what the Town Authorities were prepared to do in the matter.

The Report of Earthworks was left in the hands of Miss Chitty, who also reported that she had discovered a portion

of the Roman Road at Yockleton, the cost of the digging being paid out of Sir Charles Marston's Fund.

It was reported that Sir Charles Marston had promised £15 towards the exploration of the Bridge Head at Wroxeter on the opposite (or Brompton) side of the River.

16th October, 1929. *Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.*

A letter was read from the Town Clerk informing the Council that the Chairman of the Castle Committee had given permission for the Council to hold their monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday in each month in the Circular Room in the Western Tower of the Castle. The Assistant Secretary was instructed to convey to the Chairman of the Castle Committee the best thanks of the Council for the permission so given.

A letter from the Secretary of the Committee on House of Commons Records was considered, and it was decided to appoint a Sub-Committee to deal with the matter, the Sub-Committee to consist of Miss Auden, Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, Mr. H. T. Weyman. Further, the Assistant Secretary was instructed to write to the Secretary of the Records Committee saying that for all Shropshire and all the Parliamentary Boroughs the lists are already printed, excepting Shrewsbury, and that the list of Members for that Borough is prepared and ready for printing.

It was reported that Mr. Jackson had received a donation of £5 to the Excavations Fund from a visitor, and permission was given for this sum to be spent on excavating.

20th November, 1929. *Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.*

The Chairman referred to the death of Dr. Melvill, and vote of sympathy was passed with Mrs. Melvill and her family.

A letter was read from the House of Commons Committee, asking for a list of Members for the Borough of Shrewsbury when it appears.

The following Members were elected on the Council, subject to their consenting to serve:—Dr. W. Watkins-Pitchford and Mr. Hugh Hobson.

Cleveland Public Library (Ohio) was elected to membership of the Society.

Mr. Jackson attended and reported on matters at Viroconium, and suggested further work to be undertaken next Spring.

A letter was read from Sir Charles Marston suggesting certain work for next Spring, including the exploration of Gag's Hole. Quatt.

The Assistant Secretary was requested to communicate with the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society for an exchange of Publications.

18th December, 1929. Mr. J. A. Morris in the Chair.

Miss Auden stated that she had been in communication with the Office of Works as to further excavations of the Baths at Wroxeter, and had been informed that the Office raised no objections, but would be glad of further particulars before the work was commenced.

A letter was received from Mr. Butler as to writing a Paper on the piles in the River at Atcham Bridge; and Mr. Morris agreed to see into the matter.

It was agreed to put the aero-photographs, executed for Sir Charles Marston, in the Guide to Viroconium.

Mr. Morris and Dr. Gepp reported on their visit to Wilderhope.

1st January, 1930. Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.

Further work at Wroxeter was discussed, and it was agreed that the work would be clearing and not excavation, for which purpose £5 was in hand to be spent under Mr. Jackson's supervision.

Mr. Morris submitted a report on the aero-films of Uriconium, and also on Wilderhope, for which blocks had been prepared.

Discussion ensued as to the exchange of Transactions with the Cheshire and Lancashire Antiquarian Society, the Westmoreland and Cumberland Society, and the Essex Society.

Mr. Morris reported on the Atcham Bridge, and also gave information as to the proposed new Road through Shrewsbury, and mentioned that, in his opinion, the only property that the Council would be interested in was "Rowley's Mansion," Hill's Lane and the Old Ship Inn.

19th February, 1930. Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.

A letter was read from Mr. Bushe-Fox with reference to the cleaning up of previously excavated work at Wroxeter, stating that His Majesty's Office of Works raised no objection to this being done.

Mrs. Lewis, The Knowle, Church Stretton, was elected a Member of the Society.

The Assistant Secretary reported that he had received the *Transactions* of the Essex Archaeological Society for the past 10 years; and that the Cumberland and Westmorland Society could not supply the missing volumes of their publications without payment.

A letter was read from the Town Clerk of Shrewsbury, calling attention to the Milestone at the entrance to Meole Village, which was liable to damage, and which should be protected because of its historical interest. Mr. Forrest promised to see the County Surveyor and suggest that the stone be moved on to the bank at the side of the footpath.

It was agreed to give £5 from the Fund handed over by the Historical Antiquities Association towards the repair of St. Alkmund's spire.

It was suggested that the next Excursion might be in the neighbourhood of Upton Cressett.

The death of Mr. W. Medicott was reported, and it was agreed that a letter of condolence be sent to Mrs. Medicott.

The Assistant Secretary was instructed to write to the Town Clerk of Bridgnorth calling attention to the risk to which the Castle ruins are exposed owing to the growth of ivy, and to say that Dr. Watkins-Pitchford would take the matter in hand if the Town Council will give the necessary permission.

19th March, 1930. Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.

Mr. Forrest reported that he had seen the County Surveyor, who had had the Milestone at Meole made secure, and the lettering picked out in black.

The death of Mrs. Baldwyn-Childe was reported, and a vote of condolence passed.

A letter was read from Mr. Fletcher, suggesting the appointment of a sub-committee to examine Mrs. Martin's topographical and other MSS., which had been sent by her brother, Mr. Swynnerton-Dyer, to the Shrewsbury Free Library,—with a view to selecting those most useful to genealogists and antiquaries. It was decided to consider this suggestion after the Free Library Committee had met.

The Assistant Secretary was instructed to see the local Manager of the Midland Bus Co., as to the desirability of running buses to meet the convenience of those desiring to visit Wroxeter.

16th April, 1930. Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Borough Librarian, asking the Council to undertake the sorting of Mrs. Martin's MSS., sent to the Library by Mr. Swynnerton-Dyer; and Miss Auden, Mr. Forrest, Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher and Mr. Hobson were appointed a sub-committee for the purpose.

Mr. Forrest stated that he had seen a representative of the Midland Bus Co., with reference to the suggested route to Uriconium, and had hopes that such a service could be arranged.

It was resolved to invite Lord Bridgeman, Sir Offley Wake-man and Dr. Pember to act as Vice-Presidents of the Society.

Mr. Forrest and Mr. Morris were asked to make arrangements for the Annual General Meeting to be held the 18th or 25th of June (or some near date), and to endeavour to obtain permission for the use of the Castle grounds.

Dr. Watkins-Pitchford and Rev. R. C. Purton were asked to prepare a programme for the next Annual Excursion.

It was decided to make a grant of £10 from the Fund handed over by the Historical Antiquities Association towards the thatching of a cottage at Minsterley, known as the Chapel House.

21st May, 1930. Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.

The Annual General Meeting was fixed for June 27th at the Castle, Mr. Pickering kindly offering to provide tea.

The Annual Excursion was fixed provisionally for August 14th, and the Itinerary prepared by Dr. Watkins-Pitchford was accepted with thanks.

A resolution passed by the Executive Committee of the Shropshire Federation of Women's Institutes was read as follows:—"That, if it is found to be the case that the stones of Offa's Dyke, St. Martin's, are being removed for road-mending, the Shropshire Archaeological Society be asked to look into the matter, and that they be urged to do all in their power to prevent this." Dr. Watkins-Pitchford promised to make some enquiries.

Dr. Gepp reported that the Church authorities at Much Wenlock had decided to take down the Church spire, because it was considered unsafe. He had drawn the attention of the Dean of Norwich and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings to this decision.

A grant of £10 was made from the Historical Antiquities Association Fund towards the cost of re-thatching Old Parr's Cottage.

18th June, 1930. Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.

Arrangements for the Annual Meeting and the Annual Excursion were made.

Dr. Watkins-Pitchford reported on the alleged damage to earthworks in the neighbourhood of St. Martin's. He with Miss Chitty had visited the site of the alleged damage, and was of opinion that if any ancient earthwork had suffered damage, it must be Watt's Dyke, and not Offa's Dyke; and moreover that the excavations referred to had been made into a natural formation and not into an earthwork. In the circumstances he advised that no further action by the Society is called for.

A letter was written from Canon Hibbert, resigning his membership of the Society. His resignation was received with regret, and it was resolved that he be elected an Honorary Member of the Society.

Mr. D. S. Colman, The New House, Kingsland, was elected a Member of the Society.

A circular from the Society of Antiquaries with reference to the Congress of Archæological Societies on the 18th November, was postponed for consideration at the next Meeting.

16th July, 1930. *Mr. T. E. Pickering in the Chair.*

Arrangements were completed for the Annual Excursion.

A letter was read from Sir Charles Marston, making a grant of £23 towards the repair of Old Parr's Cottage from his Fund, and asking that some arrangements be come to for digging on the site of the dumps which had been cleared at Uriconium, and for information as to the amount required for that purpose; and promising a further donation towards these expenses.

Mr. Morris promised to communicate with Mr. Atkinson with reference to a new issue of the Guide to Uriconium.

A letter was read from Mr. Mountford of Church Stoke with reference to the printing of the Register of that Parish. It was agreed that, as but a small part of the Parish was in Shropshire, the Society could not undertake to print the Registers in question, unless three-fourths of the sum required could be raised privately.

RULES.

1. The Society shall be called the "Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society (with which is incorporated the Shropshire Parish Register Society)."

2. The Council shall consist of the following persons in whom the management of the Society shall be vested, that is to say :— The President, Vice-Presidents, the Editorial Committee, Hon. Treasurer, Secretary, and other officers, and not less than twelve other members. Any vacancy which may occur in the Council, or in the office of Secretary or Treasurer shall be provisionally filled by the Council.

3. A General Meeting of the Members shall be held annually at such place as the Council shall appoint. The President, or in his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents, shall have power to call an extraordinary General Meeting on giving through the Secretary, a fortnight's notice to the Members.

4. The Subscription of each member shall be paid in advance to the Secretary or Treasurer, and shall be the annual sum of One Guinea. If any Member's subscription shall be in arrears for two years, and he shall neglect to pay his subscription after being reminded by the Secretary, he shall be regarded as having ceased to be a Member of the Society.

5. The objects of the Society shall be carried out with the honorary assistance of the Members, and the funds of the Society shall be disbursed in printing and illustrating such information as shall be contributed by the Members searching for and transcribing public records, and other objects approved of by the Council, and for the necessary expenses of the Society, including the care of the Excavations at Uriconium.

6. Contributors of papers shall be entitled to twelve copies of such articles as they may contribute.

7. Every Member not in arrear of his annual subscription will be entitled to one copy of every publication of the Society.

8. The Council shall determine what number of each publication shall be printed.

9. No alteration shall be made in the Rules of the Society except at the Annual Meeting, or a General Meeting called for the purpose.

SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 1930.

President :

Sir CHARLES MARSTON.

Vice-Presidents :

The Right Rev. The LORD BISHOP OF LICHFIELD.	Sir SAMUEL MEESON MORRIS
The Right Rev. The LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD	Sir CHARLES MARSTON.
The Right Hon. VISCOUNT BRIDGE- MAN.	R. LLOYD KENYON, Esq.
The Right Hon. LORD BERWICK	F. W. PEMBER, Esq., D.C.L.
The Very Reverend The Dean of NORWICH, F.S.A.	Professor E. W. WHITE, C.B.E., M.B.
Sir OFFLEY WAKEMAN, Bart.	The Rev. Canon SAWYER.
	The Rev. Prebendary W. G. CLARK- MAXWELL, F.S.A.

Council :

Miss H. M. AUDEN, F.R.Hist.S., Alderdene, Church Stretton	Sir CHARLES MARSTON, 13, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.
E. W. BOWCOCK, Esq., Wem.	Rev. Canon MORIARTY, D.D., Bel- mont, Shrewsbury
Rev. Prebendary J. R. BURTON, B.A. Bitterley Rectory, Ludlow	J. A. MORRIS, Esq., Shrewsbury
Miss L. F. CHITTY, Yockleton Rec- tory, Shrewsbury.	Very Reverend The Dean of NORWICH, F.S.A.
Rev. Prebendary W. G. CLARK- MAXWELL, M.A., F.S.A., Mack- worth, Derby	J. B. OLDHAM, Esq., M.A., Shrews- bury
Rev. W. G. D. FLETCHER, M.A., F.S.A., Oxon Vicarage, Shrews- bury.	T. E. PICKERING, Esq., M.A., Shrewsbury (<i>Chairman</i>)
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(WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE SHROPSHIRE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY).

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<i>RECEIPTS.</i>		£	s.	d.	<i>PAYMENTS.</i>		£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand 1st January, 1928	...	96	11	9	By Brown and Brinnand, printing Transactions	...	102	6	11
" Subscriptions	...	157	8	0	" W. B. Walker, printing Registers	...	85	6	3
" Dividends on War Stock	...	2	0	0	" Miss MacLeod, indexing	...	2	10	0
" Sale of Publications:—	...				" Assistant Secretary's Salary	...	10	0	0
Registers	...	0	7	6	" Postages	...	2	14	11
Transactions	...	12	8	6	" Bank Charges	...	0	7	9
Wenlock Abbey	...	0	2	0	" Moving Transactions to Castle	...	13	1	0
Bank Interest	...				" Balance in hand 31st December, 1928.	...	60	6	4
" For breach of Copyright	...	2	15	5					
		5	0	0					
		<u>£276 13 2</u>					<u>£276 13 2</u>		

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Statement of Accounts for the Year 1929.

<i>RECEIPTS.</i>		£	s.	d.	<i>PAYMENTS.</i>		£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand 1st January, 1929	...	60	6	4	By Brown and Brinnand, printing Transactions	...	87	13	11
" Subscriptions	...	160	11	0	" W. B. Walker, printing Registers	...	88	19	0
" Sale of Publications	...	3	19	0	" Miss MacLeod, indexing	...	11	3	0
" Dividends on War Stock	...	2	0	0	" Assistant Secretary's Salary	...	10	0	0
Bank Interest	...	3	5	8	" Postages	...	7	14	5
" Dr. Watkins-Pitchford towards cost of printing	...	16	0	0	" Bank charges and Cheque Books	...	1	2	6
Lee Brockhurst Registers	...				" Printing, moving Transactions to Castle, etc.	...	9	19	0
					" Balance in hand 31st December, 1929	...	29	10	2
		<u>£246 2 0</u>					<u>£246 2 0</u>		

SHREWSBURY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

By HENRY T. WEYMAN, F.S.A.

Continued from 4th Series, Vol. XII., page 144.

1336. WILLIAM LE SKINNER, Senr. (21) and THOMAS GAMEL (32).

32. THOMAS GAMEL 1336.

Thomas Gamel was the son of John Gamel who was one of the Bailiffs of Shrewsbury on 5 occasions and was a member of one of the oldest Shrewsbury families. The M.P. was himself Bailiff of the Borough in 1346 and 1353 and was a member of the Merchant's Gild in 1318. He was twice married, first to Margery de Offley by whom he had a son John and his second wife's name was Christina but no further details as to her family are known. The M.P. had a daughter Elianora who married John Perle. The very interesting will of this member Thomas Gamel who died in May or June 1355 has been edited by the late Mr. William Phillips in the *Transactions* for 1905 page 393, where it is translated at length. It was proved at Lichfield in June 1355.

1336-7. THOMAS COLLE (26) and WILLIAM PRIDE (33).

33. WILLIAM PRIDE 1337, 1338, 1339.

William Pride was a member of the great Shrewsbury family of Pride, but it is difficult to fix his place in the family pedigree. It is probable that he was the son of John Pride, as a member of the Merchants' Gild of his name is mentioned in the Roll of 1318. William Pride was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1346, and his son Thomas filled the same position on four occasions and was also M.P. for Shrewsbury (No. 46.)

1337. THOMAS COLLE, JUNR. (34) and JOHN DE WESTON (27).

34. THOMAS COLLE, JUNR. 1337, 1338, 1341.

This member was son of Thomas Colle (No. 26 above), and was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1324, 1331, and 1339. In 1330 he had a grant of land at Shelton from Henry de Shelton. He died soon after 1347 leaving a son and heir Hugh Colle.

1337-8. THOMAS COLLE, Junr. (34) and WILLIAM PRIDE (33).

1338. RICHARD RUSSELL (35) and ROBERT DE UPTON (36).

35. RICHARD RUSSELL 1338, 1339, is said by Mr. Joseph Morris to have been the son of William Russell (No. 29 above). A Richard Russell, Barber, i.e. Barber's Gild is marked in the Merchant's Gild Roll of 1355 as "dead without male heir," and this may have been the M.P.

36. ROBERT DE UPTON 1338.

This member who was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1350 was described in the Merchants' Gild Roll of 1318 as an Apothecary. He was assessed at 3s. 4d. in the Shrewsbury Subsidy of 1327.

1338-9. RICHARD RUSSELL (35) and WILLIAM PRIDE (33).

1339. WILLIAM LE SKINNER (31) and WILLIAM DE BROMLEY (37).

1339-40. same and same

37. WILLIAM DE BROMLEY 1339, 40.

William de Bromley who represented the Borough in these two Parliaments is not to be found in the list of Bailiffs of Shrewsbury nor in the 1318 Gild Rolls, but he appears in the Foreigner's Roll of 1344-5 which shews that he was not a resident Burgess and his name is not included in the Subsidy Roll of 1327. He was probably William de Bromley son of John de Bromley (alive in 1335) who married Annabella daughter of Sir Matthew de Chetelton and sister and heiress of William de Chetelton and who was the widow of John Lasci. William de Bromley was in 1361 ordered to attend the Army of the King's son Lionel, Earl of Ulster on his expedition into Ireland. He had a son John, who was Knighted on the field of battle at Agincourt. It is difficult to see the connection between this William de Bromley and Shrewsbury at this time, but at a later period his descendant Sir George Bromley was Recorder of the Borough, and the family was intimately associated with the County. In the second of these Parliaments William de Bromley and his colleague were allowed £7 12s. od. for 38 days attendance at Westminster.

1340. JOHN DE WESTON (27) and RICHARD DE WESTON (38).

38. RICHARD DE WESTON 1340, 1348.

Richard de Weston was probably the son of his fellow M.P. John de Weston (No. 27 above) and he was certainly the brother and one of the executors of the will of Robert de Weston, which

is an interesting one and is transcribed in Vol. XI, p. 99 of the *Transactions*. Richard de Weston was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1347 and is mentioned in the Merchants' Gild Roll of 1347 when he paid a fine of 2 marks to the 2 Gilds and "was quit." It appears from his brother's will that this member was married and had a son John.

1340. ROGER PRIDE (13) and JOHN FITZ JOHN (20).

1341. JOHN STURY (39) and THOMAS COLLE (26).

39. JOHN STURY, 1341, 1351, 53, 55, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 65.

John Stury who represented Shrewsbury in no less than ten Parliaments was a member of the old Shrewsbury family of Stury, afterwards settled at Down Rossall, and was probably a son of Richard Stury the first M.P. for the Borough. This member was Bailiff of the Borough in 1337, 1339, 1343, 1344, 1348, 1351, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1359, 1362, 1365, 1366, 1370 and 1373, a very remarkable record. It is singular that his name is not found in the Merchants' Gild Rolls. In 1358 there is a deed by which John Stury covenants that Richard his son shall marry Joan daughter of Catherine Tristrem and that he will enfeof the young couple with all his lands in Salop.*

* Shrewsbury Liberties, 452; Trans. 2 S. IX., 166.

1343. No returns are found.

1344. PETER GERARD (40) and JOHN DE ARDESTON (41).

40. PETER GERARD, 1344.

Peter Gerard is high on the list of the Gild Roll of 1318 but does not appear to have ever held office as Bailiff of Shrewsbury. It was probably this M.P.'s father another Peter Gerard who was Coroner of the Borough 1310. The family was an old Shrewsbury one, as a Thomas Gerard was one of the Assayers of the Mint there in 1250. Peter Gerard's son or grandson Nicholas was M.P. in 1399. This member was one of the Sub taxers for the liberties of Shrewsbury for the 1327 Subsidy.

41. JOHN DE ARDESTON, 1344.

This member is probably the John Radeston who was one of the Merchants' Gild in 1344/5. Like his colleague Peter Gerard he does not seem to have ever served the office of Bailiff of the Borough.

1346. JOHN DE FORYATE (42) and THOMAS DE LUDLOWE (43).

42. JOHN DE FORYATE, 1346, 1354.

John de Foryate was son of Roger atte Yate (the family were styled Foryate or Atte Yate) and his wife Edith sister of Adam de la Cotone. He was Bailiff of the Borough in 1345 and 1352 and on the 1372 Merchants' Gild Roll was described as a Corvisor.

43. THOMAS DE LUDLOWE, 1346, 1348.

This member is styled William in Owen and Blakeway's Shrewsbury and in Prynne in the first of these two Parliaments, but this is probably an error as the name Thomas is given in the official returns. Thomas de Ludlowe was possibly the Thomas son of Bogonis (? Johannis) Ludlowe who is No. 277 of the Merchants' Gild Roll of 1318/19.

There was a Thomas Ludlowe at this time who was Knighted before 1361, as in that year Sir John de Ludlowe son and heir of Sir Thomas Ludlowe granted to Thomas Glaas an annual rent of 10/- from 3 shops in Baxter's Row, Shrewsbury.* and from his connection with the Town this Knight was probably the M.P.

* Trans. XI, 91.

1347/8. RICHARD DE WESTON (38) and REGINALD PERLE (44).

44. REGINALD PERLE, 1348, 1355, 1361.

Reginald Perle was the son of Reginald Perle who was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1307 and Juliana his wife. The member was himself Bailiff in 1341, 1348, 1354 and 1367. He and his brothers William and Thomas are all on the Merchants' Gild Roll of 1318/19. Reginald Perle married Elizabeth Stury, probably a daughter of Richard Stury No. 1 above and had two sons John and Thomas. In 1349 this M.P. granted to two Chaplains all his tenements in Corvisors' Row which he had from Richard Stury, his father-in-law. Reginald Perle was assessed at 14/- to the 1327 Subsidy.

1348. THOMAS DE LUDLOWE (43) and JOHN PRIDE (45).

45. JOHN PRIDE, 1348.

This M.P. appears to have been (according to Mr. Joseph Morris) the son of Richard Pride, Bailiff in 1318, but he does not appear to have served that office himself. John Pride is probably the

same man as John Pryde who served in the retinue of Sir John L'Estrange in the French wars of 1346 and 7, and it is quite likely that his good service in France commended him to the Shrewsbury Burgesses as their Parliamentary representative. The member's daughter and heiress Jane Pride married William Tour of Shrewsbury.

1350/1. JOHN STURY (39) and JOHN CAMPEDENE (46).

46. JOHN CAMPEDENE, 1350, 1362, 1366.

This seems to be another instance of a Shrewsbury parliamentary representative being a Cleric. The only mention the writer has found of anyone of this name is the following entry in the Foreigners' Roll of 1355/6 "Johannes Campedene, clericus" and there is a note added "dead without male heir." There is little doubt that this was the M.P. As might be expected his name does not appear in the list of Bailiffs.

1351/2, 1352. No returns found of these Parliaments.

1352. JOHN STURY (39) and ROBERT REYNER (47).

47. ROBERT REYNER, 1353.

This M.P. was the son of John Reyner (No. 18 above). His name does not appear in the list of Bailiffs nor in the Merchants' Gild Rolls.

1354. JOHN DE FORYATE (42) and THOMAS DE MYTTON (48).

48. THOMAS DE MYTTON, 1354, 1366.

This was the first of the influential family of Mytton (afterwards of Halston) to represent the Borough in Parliament, but from this time there was not a century down to the 19th in which a Mytton did not represent Shrewsbury. This member was a son of Richard de Mytton and was admitted on the Burgess Roll in 1344 paying a fine of 40/-.* Thomas Mytton was Balliff of the Borough in 1352 and 1361. In 1349 the member obtained a release from Richard Beget of land in Frankwell reaching from the King's highway leading towards Cadogan's Cross to the Monkmeole highway and in 1352 he had a lease from the Abbot and Convent of Buildwas for 90 years of lands called Monkseye.** Thomas de Mytton's son Reginald was M.P. for Shrewsbury in 1373 and 1377 (No. 56 below.)

* Trans. (3), III, 66.

** Trans. XI, 95.

1355. JOHN STURY (39) and REGINALD PERLE (44).

1357. same and ROBERT THORNES (49).

These names do not appear in any official returns but are taken from Prynn.

49. ROBERT THORNES, 1357, 1358, 1360, 1365.

Robert de Thornes, the first of a long line of this family to represent Shrewsbury in Parliament, was admitted a Burgess in 1344, paying a fine of 40/- and was then described as Robert son of Roger de Thornes. Mr. Joseph Morris says that the Manor of Thornes, in the County of Stafford on which this member's father and himself resided, remained in the family until 1507** but the family shortly after this time were seated at Shelvock. Robert de Thornes was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1364. He married Cecilia daughter and heiress of John Yonge and had a son Robert who several times represented the Borough in Parliament (No. 62 below). Robert Thornes was one of four Merchants summoned from Shrewsbury in 1356 to confer with the King in a Council of Merchants at Westminster.** As his son Robert was styled Junior in the Parliamentary returns of 1383 but the adjunct was dropped in 1388 this member was doubtless alive at the first date but dead in 1388.

* Trans. (3), II, 279.

** same (2) VI, 329. Visitation of Shropshire 1623, p. 458.

1357/8. JOHN STURY (39) and ROBERT THORNES (49).

1360. same and same.

1360/1. same. and REGINALD PERLE (44).

1362. same. and JOHN DE CAMPEDENE (46).

1363. WILLIAM DE LONGNOR (50) and JOHN GEFFRYE (51).

50. WILLIAM DE LONGNOR, 1363, 1376, 1377.

William de Longnor or Longenolre was on the roll of Burgesses in 1372 with his sons Elias and Roger, and was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1362, 1364 and 1377. In the 1355 Foreigners' Roll William de Longnor is described as son of Alan de Longenorle and his family took their name from Longner on Severn.* A William de Longnore, probably this M.P. was one of the Coroners for Shrewsbury in 16 Richard II (1392).**

* Trans. (3), II, 277. III, 71.

** Owen and Blakeway, II, 195n.

51. JOHN GEFFREY, 1363, 1369, 1378.

Mr. Joseph Morris makes this M.P. the son of another John Geffrey who was on the 1318 Roll and was executer in 1340 of his brother Thomas, but on the 1354/5 Roll there is another

John Geffrey son of Thomas who more likely to have been the M.P. as John brother of Thomas was dead in 1352.* John Geffrey was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1369, 1374, 1377 and 1386, but it was probably his son a third John Geffrey who was Bailiff in 1392 and 1396 and was M.P. in 1396 and 7. The family was one which had been established in Shrewsbury from 1209.

* Trans. (3), VII, 317.

52. RICHARD COOKE, 1363.

Richard Cooke was M.P. for this year according to Prynne, but no confirmation of this statement has been found and it is probably an error; as no Richard Cooke appears about this time on the Burgess Roll.

1366. THOMAS DE MYTTON (48) and JOHN DE CAMPEDENE (46).
1368. The records are missing.

1369. ROGER ATTE YATE (53) and JOHN GEFFREY (51).

53. ROGER ATTE YATE, 1369, 1377.

Roger atte Yate was brother of John Foryate M.P. in 1346 and 1354 (No. 42 above) and son of Roger atte Yate. This member was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1354, 1362, 1372 and (under the name of Roger Foryate) in 1375. In 1350 the M.P. had a grant from John Stury of 2 acres of land adjoining the Bolefeld. He was dead in 1377, the last year in which he was M.P., leaving his widow Alice as his executrix, and in the Burgess Roll of 1384/5 it is noted that William son of Roger atte Yate was dead without heir.* It is presumed that this means a male heir as there is a deed of 1414 by which Margery widow of James Boerley and daughter of Roger atte Yate had a grant of a house in High Street, Shrewsbury.**

* Trans. (3), III, 78.

** Trans. (3), VI, 386, 390.

1370/1. THOMAS LE SKINNER.

1371. Do.

The other Member's name is unascertained.

54. THOMAS LE SKINNER, 1370, 71, 72, 76, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, and 1396.

Thomas le Skinner, who represented Shrewsbury in these 13 Parliaments was the son of William le Skinner Junr. who was also M.P. three times and grandson of William le Skinner who was member in seven Parliaments so that the family had a great

record. This M.P. was Bailiff of the Borough in 1368, 1381, 1383, 1400 and 1404. Thomas Skinner's name appears first on the list of assessors of the special Gild Roll of 1397.** Thomas Skinner's will was proved in the Prerogative Court in 1411 and by this he directed that he should be buried in St. Chad's Church in the Chapel of St. Thomas and he left lands in Coleham to his son John after the death of his widow Isabella.^o The son John died without issue in 1407 and the very extensive estates of the Skinner family were carried to the Mytton family by the marriage of this member's sister Eleanor to Reginald de Mytton (57 below).

A Thomas Skinner represented Bridgnorth in the Parliaments of 1355, 1362, 1363, 66-70 and it may have been this Shrewsbury member.

** Trans. (3), III, 79.

^o Trans. VI, 319.

1372. THOMAS LE SKINNER (54) and PHILIP GODBERD (55).

55. PHILLIP GODBERD, 1372.

William and Richard sons of William Godberd of Wolstanton appear on several of the Gild Rolls, but the only mention the writer has found on these Rolls of this M.P. is the appearance of his name as one of the Assessors of the Special Gild Roll of 1397.

1373. RICHARD PONTESBURY (56) and REGINALD DE MYTTON (57).

56. RICHARD PONTESBURY, 1373.

Richard de Pontesbury who was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1374, contemporaneously with his representation of the Borough in Parliament, was a member of a wealthy family of old standing and who had large properties in the Town and district, being seated at Albrightlee within the liberties. Richard de Pontesbury and his son Richard appear in the 1372 Roll and in the 1373 Roll, the former's name appears first on the list, his fine being the large one of a hundred shillings. A later note is added "Mortuus Sine haerede." This member was the second of the 12 "most sufficient persons" chosen in 1380 to govern the Town.* Many monuments of this family were formerly in St. Alkmund's Church, and it is probable that this member was buried there.

* Owen and Blakeway, I, 169.

57. REGINALD DE MYTTON, 1373, 1377.

To this member has been generally ascribed the honour of founding, and being the undoubted ancestor of the great family of Mytton, but as he was the son of Thomas de Mytton (No. 48 above), the latter surely ought to have that honour. That he was the son of Thomas and not of Hankyn (as has been stated) is proved by a deed in 1377, quoted in *Trans.* 1907, p. 350, where he describes himself as Reginald son of Thomas Mytton of Salop. It is true that in some pedigrees a dotted line is placed between one Hankin Mytton and Reginald, but this probably only indicates that one or two stages in the pedigree are missing and the name of Reginald's father Thomas represents one of these. Reginald de Mytton was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1373, 76, 1380, 1390 and 1400. Reginald de Mytton was married twice, first to Eleanor sister and heiress of Thomas le Skinner (No. 54 above) by whom he had a son Sir Richard de Mytton and secondly to Alice, daughter and heiress of Sir Hamo Vaughan by whom he had a son Thomas, the ancestor of the Halston family, as Sir Richard was of the Weston (the senior) branch.* The member's son Thomas obtained Vaughan's Place** in Shrewsbury by his marriage with Sir Hamo Vaughan's daughter. Reginald de Mytton was alive in 1416 when he and his second wife were parties to a suit, entered in the Salop Court Rolls. In 1407 the member had a lease from the Abbot and Convent of Buildwas of their Grange of Monkmeole and other lands. His name appears among the Assessors in the Special Gild Roll of 1397.

Reginald Mytton died on the 20 December 1424, and the Inq. p.m. was held at Wenlock on the 13 March 1429, when it was found that his grandson William, son of Reginald's son Richard was his heir and was then aged 18.°

Canon Bridgeman in an article on the Mytton family, calls the member Sir Reginald°° but no authority can be found for the Knighthood and he is not styled "Miles" in the Inquisition.

Mr. Blakeway in his *Sheriffs of Shropshire* (p. 78) quotes a writ by which King Richard II. in 1398 acknowledges the service of his beloved and faithful Reginald de Mytton in making him a loan of 40 marks and promises in good faith to repay the same in the Quindene of the coming Easter.

* *Trans.* IX, 391.

** *ibid.* XI, 96.

° Liberties, 182; *Trans.* 2 S, III., 338.

°° *Trans.* XI, 391.

1375/6. WILLIAM DE LONGNOR (50) and THOMAS LE SKINNER (54).
 1376/7. WILLIAM DE WITHYFORD (58) and ROGER ATTE YATE (53).

58. WILLIAM DE WITHYFORD, 1377.

Mr. Joseph Morris says that William de Withyford who was the son of Roger de Withyford was Bailiff in 1349 and again in 1375, but the interval seems a somewhat long one though it is probable that Mr. Morris is correct. The member's widow Petronilla was alive in 1394 but he himself was dead before 1392. At a later time this family was settled at Hanwood.

1377. WILLIAM DE LONGNOR (50) and REGINALD MYTTON (57).
 1378. JOHN GEFFREY (51) and THOMAS PRIDE (59).

59. THOMAS PRIDE, 1378, 1385, 1390, 1, 3, 4, 1402, 3, 7, 11.

Thomas Pride was son of Roger Pride (No. 13 above) and not (as Mr. Joseph Morris states) son of an earlier Roger who was on the Shrewsbury Rolls of 1209 and 1220 as the interval of time would be far too long. It is doubtful whether it was the same Thomas Pride who was M.P. in all these Parliaments extending over 33 years, but it is impossible to ascertain this with any certainty now. Thomas Pride was Bailiff of the Borough in 1376, 1380, 1383 and 1393. Richard II. in the 12th year of his reign (1389) for the sum of £10 granted to Thomas Pride and others a license to found a Chantry in the Church of St. Alkmund by granting eight messuages in the Town and suburbs for two Chaplains who should celebrate daily in the Church for the good estate of the King, and that of Queen Anne his consort and of the said Thomas Pride while they were living and for their souls when they should depart this life.* Thomas Pride was one of the 12 principal men of the Town to whom the government of Shrewsbury was assigned in 1380.**

* Owen and Blakeway, II, 270.

** same I, 170.

1379. THOMAS LE SKINNER (54) and WILLIAM DE BEORTON (60).

60. WILLIAM DE BEORTON, 1379, 1381, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4.

This member was probably the William de Beorton who was admitted a Burgess on the Roll of 1372 when he paid the high fee of 46s. 8d. and who in the Merchants' Gild Roll of 1373 is called William de Boerton, Saddler. In another roll of 1372, there is a later note added "dead without male heirs." He was

probably a brother of Richard de Beorton who was M.P. for Shrewsbury in the two Parliaments of 1380.

William de Beorton is always so named in the official returns except in 1384 when he is called William de Birtton, and no doubt the name is the modern Burton. There is a temptation to suggest, though it would probably be wrong, that this member was really the same man as William de Byriton (Berrington) who was Bailiff of the Borough in 1378 and several subsequent years.

1379/80. THOMAS LE SKINNER (54) and RICHARD DE BEORTON (61).
1380. Do. and Do.

61. RICHARD DE BEORTON, 1380, 1380.

Richard de Beorton who was member in these two Parliaments was probably a brother of William de Beorton (No. 60). He was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1371, 1379, and was a witness to a deed of the Drapers' Company relating to property in the Wyle Cop. Mr. Joseph Morris says that this member was a Mercer in Shrewsbury and an eminent man of his time and that he took his name from his family property at Burton near Condover. Richard de Beorton stands third in the list of the principal men of Shrewsbury to whom the government of the Town was assigned in the troubled period of 1380.*

* Owen and Blakeway, I, 169.

1381. THOMAS LE SKINNER (54) and WILLIAM DE BEORTON (60).
1382. same. and same.
1382. ROBERT THORNES, JUNR. (62) and same.

62. ROBERT THORNES JUNR., 1382, 1383, 1383, 1388 and perhaps also 1405/6, 1409/10.

Robert Thornes Junr. was the son of Robert Thornes, M.P. 1357-1365 (No. 49 above). He was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1388 and 1398, and if he was the same man as the M.P. in 1406 and 1410 also Bailiff in 1402 and 1409. The Visitation states that this was so and this has been generally accepted, but the interval between 1388 and 1406 seems somewhat long. Robert Thornes appears among the Assessors on the Special Gild Roll of 1397, and he was one of the principal men of Shrewsbury to whom the government of the Town was assigned in 1380, when the disorders in it brought about the intervention of the Earl of Arundel.

- 1382/3. ROBERT THORNES, JUNR. (62) and WILLIAM DE BEORTON (60).
 1383. Do. and Do.
 1384. THOMAS LE SKINNER (54) and Do.
 1384. same. and same.
 1385. same. and THOMAS PRIDE (59).
 1386. ROBERT DE GRAFTON (63) and HUGH WYGAN (64).

63. ROBERT DE GRAFTON, 1386, 1388, 1390.

According to Mr. Joseph Morris's pedigree of this family, Robert de Grafton was the son of Richard de Grafton who was on the Shrewsbury Burgess Roll in 1356 and was living in Shrewsbury in 1389.* This M.P. was Bailiff of the Borough in 1390 and in 1401. His name appears second on the Merchants' Gild Roll of 1384/5 and he was one of the Assessors on the Special Roll of 1397.^o He held the important office of Auditor of North Wales in 1391. There is a note against his name in the earlier Gild Roll that he was "dead without an heir."

Prynne gives the name of the M.P. in 1388 as Aston, but this is clearly an error.

Sh. Trans. (3), II, 284.

^o same (3), III, 77, 79.

64. HUGH WYGAN, 1386, 87, 88, 1391, 94.

Hugh Wygan was probably the son of Nicholas Wygan and Benedicta daughter of Walter Geffrey. He was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1385 and 1388, but his name is not found in the Merchants' Gild Rolls, though an Ancestor of the same name appears on the Roll of 1318, 19.

- 1387/8. ROBERT THORNES (62) and HUGH WYGAN (64).
 1388. ROBERT DE GRAFTON (63) and same.
 1389/90. same. and THOMAS PRIDE (59).
 1390. No returns found.
 1391. HUGH WYGAN (64) and THOMAS PRIDE (59).
 1392/3. THOMAS GAMEL (65) and same.

65. THOMAS GAMEL, 1393.

Mr. Joseph Morris states that this M.P. was a son of Thomas Gamel, but this Thomas Gamel's interesting will is set out in the *Transactions* 3rd Ser. V. 393, and there is no mention of a son Thomas, but only of a son John and a daughter Eleanor. This will is dated in 1355, when John, the son was still a Minor, but this M.P. may have been the son of John son of Thomas the testator. His name does not appear in the list of Bailiffs of the Borough nor in the Merchants' Gild Rolls.

1393/4. HUGH WYGAN (64) and THOMAS PRIDE (59).
 1394/5. RICHARD DE ALDESCOTE (66) and ROGER DE THORNES (67).

66. RICHARD DE ALDESCOTE, 1395.

Richard son of John de Aldescote was admitted on the Roll of Burgesses in 1385 and was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1394 and 1398/9. He derived his name from Aldescot now Allscot in the Parish of Wrockwardine.* This M.P. was one of the 12 men elected in the Abbey Church on June 29, 1389 (when the Earl of Arundel and the Abbot of Shrewsbury were present) "to make good remedy for the discords, debates and dissensions which had existed in the Town." Richard de Aldescote married, prior to 1378, Agnes the widow of John Colle, one of the well known Shrewsbury family of whom several were M.P's for the Borough.

*Sh. Trans. (3) III, 366.

67. ROGER DE THORNES, 1395, 1401.

This Roger de Thornes must have been the son of Thomas Thornes and grandson of Robert de Thornes (No. 62 above) as there is no other Roger at this period given in the Shropshire Visitation. If this is right this son Thomas who was several times Bailiff of Shrewsbury and was M.P. in 1437 married the daughter of Sir Roger Corbet of Moreton. The present M.P. does not appear in the Burgess or Merchants' Gild Rolls and never held office as Bailiff.

1396/7. THOMAS LE SKINNER (54) and JOHN GEFFREY (68).

68. JOHN GEFFREY, 1396, 1397.

This John Geffrey seems to have been the son of John Geffrey (No. 51 above). He was Bailiff of the Borough in 1392 and 1396 and was one of the Assessors named in the Special Gild Roll of 1397. In 1405 this M.P. in right of his wife Alice, presented Richard Goodberd to the perpetual Chantry called Baldwyn's Chantry in the Church of St. Chad.

1397/8. This Parliament met at Shrewsbury but no returns of the Members can be found.

1399. NICHOLAS GERARD (69) and THOMAS BERWYKE (70).

69. NICHOLAS GERARD, 1399.

Nicholas Gerard was the son of Nicholas Gerard and grandson of Peter Gerard (No. 40 above). This M.P. was an important

personage in his day as he was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1397 and 1411, Town Clerk of the Borough in 1403 and held the office of Constable or Governor of Shrewsbury Castle under Henry IV. It was probably this member's father Nicholas Gerard who had a license from the Crown in 1365 to allow the Friars to convey water from a spring called Flegwell, situate near to Monkmoor to their house in Shrewsbury. This would have to be taken by pipes under the Severn.*

*O.B. II, 448.

70. THOMAS BERWICK, 1399.

This member was doubtless the "Thomas de Berewykes juxta Attingham" who was included among the foreigners on the Gild Roll of 1372 and against whose name a note (made at a later date) says, "dead without an heir." He does not seem to have ever held office as Bailiff of the Borough.

1400/1. No returns found.

1401. ROGER THORNES (67) and THOMAS PRIDE (59).

1403. SIMON TOUR (71) and same.

71. SIMON TOUR, 1403.

Simon de la Tour was the son of William de la Tour who was on the Burgess Roll of 1384. He was Bailiff of the Borough in 1391, 1403 and 1409 and was one of the Assessors of the Special Gild Roll of 1397. This member was also one of the 12 chief men of Shrewsbury who were elected by the Commons to remedy the dissensions and grievances which had then existed for some years in the Town. It was this member's brother William who founded in 1431 a Chantry in the Collegiate Church of St. Mary at Shrewsbury and gave to it a house next to Simon Tour's house.* The M.P. was probably dead when this grant was made, but was certainly dead in 1443 when his widow Katherine held property in School Lane.°

* Owen and Blakeway, II, 539.

° Trans. (3), VII, 349.

1404. No returns found.

1405/6. ROBERT THORNES (72) and JOHN PERLE (73).

72. ROBERT THORNES, 1405/6, 1409/10.

This member may be identical with the Robert Thornes Junr. who was M.P. in 1382 and other years (No. 62 above), but the

interval seems long and it is more likely that he was a son of that member though he does not appear in the Visitation pedigree which however is incomplete.

73. JOHN PERLE, 1406, 1422, 1423.

John Perle was son of another John Perle, and grandson of Reginald (No. 44 above). He was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1405, 1406, 1410, 1416 and 1417. As John Perle Junr. he was one of the Assessors of the Gild in 1404-5. John Perle's daughter and heiress Agnes married Richard Horde of Bridgnorth, M.P. for that Borough in many Parliaments.

In 1419 there is an entry of a payment for 2 flagons and 3 quarts of red wine on the occasion of a "Love day" upon the settlement of a discord existing between this M.P. and William Forster, M.P. in 1426 (No. 88 below).

1407. JOHN SCRIVEN (74) and THOMAS PRIDE (59).

74. JOHN SCRIVEN, 1407.

John Scriven was the son of Reginald Scriven and was described as his son and heir in 1416. Reginald Scriven was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1371 and 1395 and his son (this M.P.) served the same office in 1402 and 1406. John Scriven married Joanna daughter of John Henalt, Lord of Frodesley* and in this way obtained the Frodesley estates which the family held until 1683 when the Scriven heiress carried them to a Whitley of Cheshire. John Scriven was married before 1406, when he and his wife Joanna presented a Reginald Scriven to the living of Frodesley. John Scriven was one of the Assessors of the Merchants' Gild Roll of 1404, 5.

* Visitation, 434.

1409/10. ROBERT THORNES (62) and JOHN THORNES (75).

75. JOHN THORNES, 1409/10.

The official return for this year has been damaged and the Christian name of the second member is missing, the surname being alone preserved, but Prynne gives the first name as John and as this has been accepted by Owen and Blakeway, it is probably correct. There is no mention, however, of this John in the Visitation pedigree nor has he found a place in the list

of Bailiffs or the Merchants' Gild Rolls. He was doubtless a member of the Shelvock family, so many of whom represented Shrewsbury and probably son of Roger Thornes (No. 67 above).

1411. THOMAS PRIDE (59) and JOHN WITHYFORD (76).

76. JOHN WITHYFORD, 1411.

John Withyford seems to have been the son of Hugh Withyford with whom he is joined in a recognisance in 1414. He does not seem to have held office either as Bailiff or in the Merchants' Gild.

1412/13. No returns found.

1413. DAVID HOLBECH (77) and URIANUS SAINT PIER (78).

77. DAVID HOLBECH, 1413, 1417.

David Holbeche was probably the son of David Holbeche, Founder of the Oswestry School and M.P. for the County in 1406 and 1407. David Holbeche the younger was closely associated with Shrewsbury, had a residence there, was admitted a Burgess in 1397 and was Bailiff of the Borough in 1412, 1413. This member was M.P. for Shropshire in the 3 Parliaments of 1410, 14 and 14. In 1410 he was Escheator of Shropshire and in 1415 was appointed by Bishop Mascall as Seneschal of Bishop's Castle and Lydbury North.* He is also styled Seneschal of Powysland in pardons to various persons for participation in Owen Glendower's wars in the years 1411 to 1420.° In 5 Henry V. David Holbeche was Steward of the Manor of Ruyton on the Eleven Towns. The late Mr. Joseph Morris thought that this M.P. owed his connection with Shrewsbury to the patronage of the Charletons, Lords of Powysland and the Fitz Alans, and this probably was so.°° Mr. Holbeche's will was dated in Sept. 1421 and was proved by his widow Gwynovar in 1423, but neither the will nor any copy of it is now in existence.** From the entry made against David Holbeche's name in the Shrewsbury Burgess Roll "Mortuus sine haerede" he probably left no issue, certainly no male heir.

* Bishop Mascall's Register, 87.

° Mont. Coll. VII, 350.

** Trans. (3) IV, 194.

** Trans. (3) III, 371.

78. URIAN SEINTPIER (ST. PIERRE) 1413, 21, 23, 26.

Urian Seintpier of Caus who was M.P. for Shrewsbury in these four Parliaments was a descendant of Sir Urian de St. Pierre who was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1267, and came of a distinguished Cheshire family. This member was admitted a member of the Merchants' Gild Roll i.e. a Burgess of Shrewsbury in 1407, 8, "for himself and the legitimate heirs of his body" paying a fine of 46/8. Urian Seintpier was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1423 and 1430 and held for life the office of Constable or Governor of Shrewsbury Castle. He married Joan sister of Sir Roger Acton and had two daughters.*

* Visitation, 425.

1414. ROBERT HORSLEY (79) and WILLIAM HORDE (80).

79. ROBERT HORSLEY, 1414.

This member was admitted a Burgess in 1384-5 as Robert Horsley, Mercer. He was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in this year 1414 and again in 1421. According to Mr. Joseph Morris he was also M.P. in 1416.* but Prynne gives William Horde and John Beget as members in that year.

* S. Ar. Tr. (3 Ser.) III, 372.

80. WILLIAM HORDE, 1414, 15, 16, 17, 21, 27, 31, 32, 33.

William Horde who represented Shrewsbury in these nine Parliaments in the reigns of Henry V. and VI. was a member of the branch of the Horde family seated at Walford in the Parish of Baschurch which was closely connected with Shrewsbury from early times. There was another branch of the family seated at Horde Park near Bridgnorth, and many of this branch were M.P's for that Borough. The pedigree of the latter part of the family is given in the Shropshire Visitation, but not of the Shrewsbury branch who had probably died out in the 17th century. This member was a son of Richard Horde who was included in the Burgess Roll of 1372, as Richard Horde of Walford. William Horde himself was Bailiff of the Borough in 1411, 1418 and 1427, and as he was Escheator of Shropshire and the Marches of Wales in 1417 and 1421, he was a man of considerable consequence. He was also one of the first Trustees of Oswestry Grammar School. Prynne states that William Horde and John Beget were members also in 1416, but the official return

of this Parliament is missing. The Town house of the Horde family, known as Hoord's Hall was situate in or near Barker Street, but has now entirely disappeared.**

* Trans. (3) IV, 210.

** Forrest, 61.

1415. JOHN DE SHOTTON (82) and WILLIAM HORDE (80).

82. JOHN DE SHOTTON, 1415.

John de Shotton was a son of Nicholas de Shotton and is joined with his father in a recognisance of 1403. This member was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1415 (the year in which he was elected M.P.), and again in 1421, 1425 and 1431. He was twice married, his first wife's name being Katherine and his second Isabella who survived him and was described as the executrix of John de Shotton's will in 1453. The M.P. was described, like his father, as a draper.* He was one of the first Aldermen of Shrewsbury in 1444. The member's daughter and heiress married Thomas Berrington of Shrewsbury.

* Trans. (3) II, 278.

1416. WILLIAM HORDE (80) and JOHN BEGET (81).

81. JOHN BEGET, 1416.

The official return for this Parliament is missing, but Prynne gives the members for Shrewsbury as William Horde and John Beget, but Mr. Joseph Morris says that Robert Horsley was one of the members. John Beget was either the grandson or great grandson of Richard Beget who is on the 1318 Gild Roll, and he is probably the same as the Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1436. This member was one of the 12 "worthy burgess resident householders most sufficient and discreet within the said Town or franchise of the same" who were the first Aldermen of Shrewsbury.

1417. DAVID HOLBECHE (77) and WILLIAM HORDE (80).

1419. ROGER CORBET (83) and DAVID RATHBONE (84).

83. ROGER CORBET, 1419, 1425.

Mr. Joseph Morris was unable to identify this member and merely said that he was undoubtedly a scion of the great house of Corbet. Where he failed it is of very little use to make anything beyond an unprofitable guess, as the Corbets even in this

member's day were split up into so many branches. The member was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1416 and 1429.

A Roger Corbet (who may have been this M.P.) married Elizabeth the only surviving daughter of Sir William Lychefeld and Elizabeth the only daughter and heiress of Sir John Cornwall of Kinlet. This Roger Corbet died on the 15 July, 1430. An Inq. p. mortem was held at Worcester in the same year, when it was found that Margaret, the daughter of Roger Corbet and Elizabeth was his heir and was of the age of 3 years and more. This daughter Margaret married Humphrey Stafford of Frome.* Roger Corbet, described as damozel, *i.e.*, a young man professing arms but not yet knighted, was one of the executors of John Burley of Broncroft, M.P. for Shropshire in several Parliaments.

* Trans. (3) VIII, 117, 145.

84. DAVID RATHBONE, 1419.

David Rathbone or Radebon was on the Burgess Roll in 1397 and was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1407, 1415 and in 1419. He was dead in 1426, as his widow Agnes was then the wife of John Falk. In the admission of Thomas Rathbone on the Burgess Roll of 1406-7, he is described as son of David Rathbone of Whitchurch.

1420. ROBERT WHYTCOMBE (85) and RICHARD BENTLEY (86).

85. ROBERT WHYTCOMBE, 1420, 1421, 1421, 1422, 1430/1, 1432, 1433, 1441.

Robert Whytcombe, who was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1420, 1426, 1432, 1437 and 1441, was a member of an old Shropshire family seated at Berwick Malveysin, in the Parish of Atcham, but this estate was probably not obtained until the marriage of this member's son Thomas Whytcombe. The family connection with Shrewsbury continued until the latter half of the last century. This member's daughter and heiress Johanna married Thomas Luyt, M.P. in 1449 (No. 98 below).

86. RICHARD BENTLEY, 1420, 1429.

Richard Bentley was admitted to the Merchants' Gild, *i.e.* was made a Burgess in 1412, paying therefor a fine of £2 6s. 8½d. He seems to have never held office as Bailiff of the Borough,

but in 1420 he was Under Sheriff of the County, and it is stated in the Patent Rolls that as the Sheriff died during his year of office, Richard Bentley was to occupy the position of Sheriff from the time of the Sheriff's death to the end of his year of office. According to Mr. Blakeway's list of Sheriffs, John Bruyn was appointed Sheriff on the 16 November, 1419, and continued to hold office until 1423 and it is impossible to reconcile this with the order on the Patent Rolls.

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1421. | ROBERT WHYTCOMBE (85) | and URIAN SAINT PIER (78). |
| 1421. | same. | and WILLIAM HORDE (80). |
| 1422. | same. | and JOHN PERLE (73). |
| 1423. | URIAN SAINT PIER (78) | and same |
| 1425. | ROGER CORBET (83) | and JOHN GAMEL (87). |

87. JOHN GAMEL, 1425.

This member was another of the family of Gamel of whom two had previously represented the Borough in Parliament. He is said to have been the son of another John Gamel who was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1413 and he was himself Bailiff on five occasions, namely in 1424, 1438, 1442, 1447 and 1451. He or his father was Town Clerk of Shrewsbury in the reign of Henry V. and probably later and was Clerk of the Statute Merchant in 1430. This M.P. was also one of the first Aldermen of the Borough. The family mansion was situate in Romaldesham, now Barker Street.

- 1425/6. WILLIAM FORSTER (88) and URIAN SAINT PIER (78).

88. WILLIAM FORSTER, 1426.

William Forster was Bailiff of the Borough in 1403 and 1425, and was probably the father of Thomas Forster who was Bailiff in 1430, 1434 and 1446, and was one of the first Aldermen of Shrewsbury appointed in 1444. In 1438 William Forster was Town Clerk, and in that capacity he shared with Richard Burley one of the Bailiffs in a sum of £10 paid to them for their expenses in going to London about a law suit with the Abbot of Lilleshall.*

* Hist. MSS. Com (Shrewsbury), p. 28.

1427. WILLIAM BOERLEY (89) and WILLIAM HORDE DE SALOP (80).

89. WILLIAM BOERLEY, 1427. 1437.

This M.P. William Boerley (Burley) of Shrewsbury must be kept distinct from William Burley of Broncroft who was said to be M.P.

for Shrewsbury in 1445. He seems to have been seated at Malehurst, in the parish of Pontesbury, and when his son John was admitted as a Burgess without fine at the express instance of the King in 1450, he was described as "John Boerley son of William Boerley of Malehurst, unus Valectorum Coronæ Domini Regis." This M.P. was one of the first Aldermen of Shrewsbury appointed in 1444 and was Bailiff of the Borough in 1426, 1434, 1439, 1444, 1448 and 1454. The other William Burley of Broncroft was Sheriff of Shropshire in this year. The will of Simon Tour proved in 1433* describes this member as being the son of James Burley and shews that he married Isabella, the daughter of the Testator, who left to them his estate in messuages near the Cemetery of St. Mary and a messuage in Corvelond, also appointing them his executors. The M.P., his wife Isabella and their daughter and heiress Agnes were parties to a deed in 1443 by which they granted to Hugh Tilley land in Dogge Lane, and as the two first were parties to another deed in 1458† both the M.P. and his wife were alive at that time. In 1436, this member was Steward (Seneschallus) of Shrewsbury. His daughter carried the Tour estates and those of the Prides which she inherited from her grandmother to her husband Thomas Mytton.

* Trans. XI, 100.

† Trans. (3) IV. 203.

1429. RICHARD BENTLEY (86) and JOHN COLLE, JUNR. (90).

90. JOHN COLLE, JUNR., 1429.

John Colle, Junr. was the son of John Colle, a member of the well known Shrewsbury family, and his wife Agnes daughter of Richard Heuster of Stafford. The M.P. must have been very young at the date of his election as he was not Bailiff until 1453. He was party with his father to various grants of Shrewsbury property in the reign of Henry VI., and in 1455 he seems to have claimed as heir to his sister Isabella the property of her late husband John Bonell. The matter was referred to the arbitration of the Earl of Shrewsbury, who decided against John Colle's claims.* The member married Eliza daughter and heiress of Thomas Onslow. In 1465 a John Colle of Shrewsbury (probably this M.P.) demised to the Custos of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist the Chapel of St. George in Frankwell

with various privileges which are fully stated in Owen and Blakeway II, 468, where the deed is set out at length. Three years earlier he had sold 10 acres of land in Frankwell field near this Hospital, reaching to the waste of Kingsland. No will of this member seems to be extant.

* Trans. (3) I, 301.

1430/1. WILLIAM HORDE (80) and ROBERT WHYTCOMBE (85).

1432. same, and same.

1433. same, and same.

1435. ROBERT THORNES (91) and WILLIAM BASTARD (92).

91. ROBERT THORNES, 1435.

Robert Thornes who was M.P. in this year (and not Thomas as has been stated) may have been the same man as the M.P. of 1409/10, but it is hardly likely. It is more probable that he was Robert the eldest son of Thomas Thornes of Thornes and Shrewsbury, who on his father Thomas's death succeeded to Shelvock and the property in Ruyton.* If this is correct the son was a member of Parliament before his father who was M.P. in 1437, two years later. This Robert who was never Bailiff of Shrewsbury does not appear in the family pedigree in the Visitation, but does appear in Mr. Forrest's pedigree.°

* Trans. (3) II, 110.

° Trans. (4) VIII, 264.

92. WILLIAM BASTARD, 1435, 1442, 1447, 1449, 1450.

Mr. Morris says of this member that he was the son of Peter Bastard whose name appears at the head of the Burgess list of 1397, that he was Bailiff in 1445 and 1451, and that he was Town Clerk of Shrewsbury in and prior to 1456 when he was succeeded by John Phelyppes. He further says that he was a Draper in Shrewsbury, meaning that he was a member of that Gild.* William Bastard appears second in the list of the first Aldermen of Shrewsbury appointed in 1444.** He was buried at St. Julian's with his two wives.***

* Trans. (3) III, 378.

** Owen and Blakeway, I, 212.

*** S.A.T., X, 224.

1436/7. THOMAS THORNES (93) and WILLIAM BOERLEY (89).

93. THOMAS THORNES, 1437.

Thomas Thornes who was Bailiff in 1432, 1436 and 1440 was another member of the well known family seated at Thornes.

and Shelvock, and was the seventh to represent Shrewsbury in Parliament. He was the son of Robert Thornes, No. 70a. above, who was one of the twelve principal men of the Town chosen for its governance in 1380, and this member was himself one of the first Aldermen of the Borough. Thomas Thornes had two sons, one, the eldest, of whom was M.P. in 1435.

1439. No returns are found.

1441/2. ROBERT WHYTCOMBE (85) and WILLIAM BASTARD (72).

1444/5. RICHARD STURY (95) and WILLIAM BOERLEY of Broncroft (96). These names are recovered from the Shrewsbury His. MSS. Commission 28.

94. RICHARD STURY, 1444/5.

Richard Stury was Bailiff of the Borough in 1444 and again in 1448, 1452, 1456 and 1464, and was one of the first Aldermen elected in 1444. The family were seated at Rossall as early as 1430, when large properties there, which had been the property of Roger Colle were granted to this member's father.* Richard Stury made his will on the 9th Nov. 1469 (proved on the 11th February following) by which he left all his lands within the Town and suburbs of Shrewsbury to his brother Alan upon trust to find two fit priests to celebrate Masses in the Church of St. Mary, Shrewsbury, for his soul and he referred in such will to his mother Isabel and his son and heir John.** This Chantry was founded in the South transept of the Church which long held the name of Stury's Aisle.

* Liberties of Shrewsbury, 453.

** Owen and Blakeway, II, 333.

95. WILLIAM BOERLEY (BURLEY) OF BRONCROFT, 1444/5.

We owe the names of the members of this Parliament and the identification of William Burley of Broncroft as being one of them to the Shrewsbury Manuscripts published by the Hist. M.S.S. Commission, page 28, where it is also made clear that the M.P. in 1436/7 was the other William Burley who was resident at Shrewsbury. This evidence is important for in this Parliament William Burley was *Speaker of the House of Commons*.

A reference to the original Bailiffs' accounts for 24 Henry VI. does not altogether bear out the statement in the Commission Report. The mention there is as follows :

"Item to John Falke for money by him paid to Philip Kery

"of London draper in part payment of £4 paid to the afore-
 "said Philip for cloth given to William Boerley of Broncroft
 "for his labour in Parliament about the business of the town."
 This may or may not mean that he was Burgess of the
 Parliament for Shrewsbury.

William Burley was the second son of John Burley of
 Broncroft Castle who was M.P. for Shropshire in 1399 and four
 subsequent Parliaments and he succeeded his father at Bron-
 croft. Mr. Burley was an eminent lawyer and seems to have
 been standing Counsel to the Borough of Shrewsbury. He was
 M.P. for the County in 17 Parliaments, and it does not appear
 why on this solitary occasion he sat for Shrewsbury. Mr. Burley
 was Speaker of the House of Commons when M.P. for the County
 in 1436 as well as in this parliament. He was an active partisan
 of the Yorkists and was not afraid of his opinions, as in 1455,
 on the illness of Henry VI., he headed a deputation of the House
 of Commons to ask for the appointment of Richard Duke of
 York as Protector of the Realm. This distinguished member
 died without male issue in 1459, leaving two daughters, one of
 whom married 1st Sir Philip Chetwynd and 2ndly Sir Thomas
 Littleton and the other Sir Thomas Trussell. There seems to
 be no authority for the statement that William Burley was a
 Knight, as in the return to his last Parliament in 1455 he was
 styled "Armiger." Mr. Burley was Sheriff of Shropshire in
 1426.

1446/7. THOMAS BEGET (96) and WILLIAM BASTYRD (92).

96. THOMAS BEGET, 1447.

Thomas Beget was probably the son of John Beget M.P. in 1416,
 but Mr. Joseph Morris who gives a short pedigree of the family
 in the *Transactions* 1903, p. 376, does not mention a Thomas.
 This M.P. was never Bailiff of Shrewsbury.

1448/9. JOHN HORDE (97) and WILLIAM BASTARD (92).

97. JOHN HORDE, 1444/5, 1448, 1449, 1455, 1467, 1472.

There is no doubt that John Horde was M.P. in the Parliament
 of 1445, as the Bailiffs' accounts contain an entry of a pay-
 ment to John Horde, Clericus, Burgess at the Parliament.
 The Hordes are a difficult family to deal with as there were,
 as has been said, two branches, one resident at Shrewsbury

and Walford and the other at Horde's Park, Bridgnorth. A John Horde sat for Bridgnorth in the Parliaments of 1470 and 1472, and in the latter a John Horde represented both Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury, the Bridgnorth John Horde being styled "Armiger" and the latter having no suffix. It may have been a double return but it is more probable that they were two different persons.

This M.P. was probably a son of William Horde (No. 77 above) and was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1449, 1456 and 1477. A grant of a garden in Murivance by John Horde (probably this M.P.) in 1481, is transcribed and edited by Mr. Drinkwater in the *Transactions* in 1891, page 275.

In the Bailiffs' accounts for 1466-7, there is a record of wine given to Lord Ferrers "tam in hospitio suo duabus vicibus" "quam in taberna" upon the settlement of a dispute between this M.P., Richard Stury M.P. 1445 (No. 95) and John Trentham (M.P. 1459) No. 100 in the presence of the Bailiffs and other gentlemen "pro honestate villæ."*

* Shrewsbury His. MSS. Com. p. 30.

1449. JOHN HORDE (97) and THOMAS LUYT (98).

98. THOMAS LUYT, 1449, 1450, 1453.

Mr. Joseph Morris says that this M.P. who was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1450 and 1468 was probably the son of John Luyt (Lloyd) who was admitted a Burgess in 1411 and may have belonged to the Lloyd family of Llwynymarn, near Oswestry, as the arms assigned to this M.P. are those of that family. He appears to have married Johanna the daughter and heiress of Robert Whytcombe of Shrewsbury, Merchant (No. 85 above). This member's will was proved in the P.C. Canterbury in 1487 in which he mentions his wife Johan his sons Robert and Thomas and his daughter Margaret. He certainly also had a son John who was admitted a Burgess in 1450.

In 33 Henry VI. (1454) there is a record of a suit by this member complaining that John Colle and Philip Grace, lately the Bailiffs of Shrewsbury had not paid the sum of £8-10-0, apparently this M.P.'s salary, and that when a writ had been issued to the Sheriff to arrest them he had made a return that they "were not found."*

* De Banco Roll, 33 Henry VI, No. 778.

1450. WILLIAM BASTARD (92) and THOMAS LUYT (98).
 1452/3. Uncertain, and same.

1455. ROGER EYTON (99) and JOHN HORDE (97).

99. ROGER EYTON, 1455.

Although Roger Eyton was one of the principal men of his day in Shropshire, having been Bailiff, Alderman, and Parliamentary representative of Shrewsbury, Sheriff of Shropshire on two occasions and having played a part in the history of England, no place has been assigned to him in the published pedigrees of the old family of Eyton. Roger Eyton was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1450 and 1466, one of the first Aldermen of Shrewsbury and Bailiff of the Borough in 1445, 1449 and 1455. This member was a prominent supporter in Shropshire of the cause of the Yorkists and was present with the Duke's forces at the Rout of Ludford in 1459 when the Yorkist forces were dispersed and Ludlow taken and sacked by Henry VI. Roger Eyton was of sufficient importance to be named with the chief supporters of the Duke in the Bill of Attainder which followed, and so prominent was he that he was omitted from the pardon which was granted to most of those associated with him. When Edward IV. came to the throne in 1461, this member came into his own again and received a grant from the Crown which was preserved to him by the Act of Resumption in 1464.

The arms assigned to this member are those of the family seated at Eyton on the Wildmoors. In the Act of Attainder, the member is described as Roger Eyton of Shrewsbury Esquire. The writer has no doubt that this member was a younger son of Fulke Eyton whose will was proved in the P.C. Canterbury in 1454 and who mentions a son Roger and appoints him one of the overseers of the will. If this was so he was a brother of Nicholas Eyton one of the Knights of the Shire for Shropshire in 1449.*

This member does not seem to have enjoyed a very clean reputation. There was a presentment by a Jury in 1450 that "Roger Eyton of Salop armiger by force and arms and under colour of his office, took 40/- from John Carpenter at Aston Botterell" and they further presented that "the said Roger Eyton was a common extortioner and oppressor of the King's people." This incident took place during Roger Eyton's term of office as Sheriff of the County. Two years later a true bill was found by a Jury that "Roger Eyton lately of Salop, armiger,

"broke the house of John Talbot at Shrewsbury and there took
 "200 pounds of lead of the value of 40/- and other utensils of
 "the value of £5." William Burley of Broncroft, Speaker of
 the House of Commons and M.P. for Shrewsbury was one of the
 Jurors. Other times, other manners!

* S.S. and Patches, I, 137.
 Trans. VI, 321.

1459. JOHN TRENTHAM (100) and EDWARD ESTHOPE (101).

100. JOHN TRENTHAM, 1459, 1467.

This member (Mr. Morris says) was the grandson of William Trentham, Saddler, who was admitted a Burgess in 1384. John Trentham was Bailiff in 1455 (when he was styled John Trentham, Draper) and in 1459, 1467 and 1472. The member married the sister and heiress of William Horde (No. 77 above).

The Old Chronicle says of Mr. Trentham 1455-6, "This year my Lord of Shrewsbury and Mr. Trentham did marry
 "and either of them had slayne a man."*

This episode is given differently in a manuscript book at Sweeney where it is stated that "This year Queen Margaret gave badges and my Lord of Shrewsbury and John Trentham, then Bailiff of the Borough varied and had either of them a man slain."

* Owen and Blakeway, I, 559.

101. EDWARD EASTHOPE, 1459.

Edward Easthope was admitted a Burgess on 8 October, 1459, when he was described on the Roll as "Edward Esthope of Salop son of Richard Esthope juxta Plash" i.e. Easthope, and paid a fine of 46s. 8d. This member was a Draper and was the first person on the list of the "Brothers of the Gild of the Holy Trinity of the Men of the Mystery of Drapers of the Town of Salop" founded and incorporated by Edward IV. in 1461. He married Alice daughter and heiress of Richard Forster, widow of John Knight, Bailiff in 1460. The entry of his admission as a Burgess states that he "has no issue" but he was not married until after that date. In 1478, Mr. Esthope was elected Master of the Drapers' Company and he was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1466.

1460, 1461, 1462/3. No returns for these Parliaments can be found.

1467. JOHN TRENTHAM (100) and JOHN HORDE (97).

These Members are taken from Shrewsbury His. MSS. Commission, p. 30.

1470. No return found.

1472. THOMAS MYTTON (102) and JOHN HORDE (97).

102. THOMAS MYTTON, 1472.

There were two Thomas Mytton's at this time, the one the son of Reginald Mytton (No. 57 above) who married Cecilia (or Agnes) the daughter and heiress of William Boerley of Salop (No. 89 above) and who by this marriage swept in the accumulated wealth of the old families of Boerley, Tour, and Pride; the other his son Thomas Mytton who obtained further great possessions by his marriage with Eleanor, one of the four co-heiresses of Sir John de Burgh of Mowddy, Wattlesburgh, etc. The honour of representing Shrewsbury in this Parliament has been generally ascribed to the younger Thomas Mytton and it is quite likely, but by no means certain, that this is correct. The date of the father's death is not known, otherwise it might be possible to clear away the doubt. The writer however accepts the general belief that it was Thomas Mytton the younger as he no doubt was the Sheriff and the hero of the well known episode at the gate of Shrewsbury.

Thomas Mytton was Bailiff of Shrewsbury on no less than ten occasions, namely in 1464, 1468, 1472, 1476, 1480, 1484, 1492, 1496, 1500, and 1504. It will be observed that he held office every fourth year throughout, this being in accordance with the Corporation rule, followed more in its breach than its observance, that there must be a three years interval before the same Corporate office could again be conferred on any holder. Thomas Mytton was appointed Sheriff of Shropshire in 1482 November, and his year of office coincided with the death of Edward IV., the short reign of Edward V, and the accession of Richard III. thus holding the Shrievalty under three Sovereigns. His term of office was further memorable from the zeal and activity which he shewed in the arrest of the Duke of Buckingham, thus earning the grateful thanks of Richard III. for the good and acceptable service rendered by "his trusty" and well beloved Squire Thomas Mytton." He was further rewarded by a grant of the Castle of Caus, which however was restored to the Duke's son by Henry VII.

The episode of the Welsh Gate is well known. How the Bailiff, Thomas Mytton, faithful to his sovereign Richard III. actuated perhaps by benefits received, refused admission to the Town in 1485 to the Duke of Richmond (afterwards Henry VII.) on his way to Bosworth Field, how the Bailiff being a stout, wise gentleman swore that the Duke should not enter except over his body, how the Duke retired for the moment, how the wiser counsels of his fellow Burgesses prevailed and how Thomas Mytton lay down on the ground and the Duke stepped over him on his entry into the Town so that the "stout, wise gentleman" might keep the letter of his oath. It is pleasant to note that the future sovereign did not resent the Bailiff's action in later days and that Thomas Mytton held office in the reign of Henry VII and was faithful to him.

Thomas Mytton and Anne his wife were two of the first brethren and sisters of the Gild of St. Wenefrede in the Abbey Church founded in 1487, the full license for which is set out in Owen and Blakeway II, 125. In the same volume p. 462, there is quoted a spiritual grant by the authority of Pope Sixtus IV. to "His dearest in Christ Thomas Mytton and Elizabeth his wife and Brother Richard guardian of the Friars Minors of "Salop" which is very curious and interesting but too long for reproduction here. This member is reputed to have built the Mansion in which he lived "Under the Wyle," but it is doubtful whether this was not actually built by another Thomas Mytton a century later. Thomas Mytton seems to have been married twice, first to Eleanor Burgh, as stated above, by whom he had a son William Mytton who was M.P. for Shrewsbury in 1491. According to the Shropshire Visitation his second wife was a Stanley of Cheshire, but according to Burke's Landed Gentry, she was Anne daughter of Lord Strange of Knockin, and this name would correspond to the Christian name of his wife as stated in the license for St. Winefred's Gild in 1487, but not with that of his wife as given in Pope Sixtus's grant in 1479. He may have been married three times. By his second wife Thomas Mytton had a son Adam Mytton, M.P. for and Recorder of Shrewsbury (No. 114 below).

Thomas Mytton's death is recorded under the year 1504 in the old Shrewsbury Chronicle as follows "This year died

"Thomas Mytton being Bailey of this Town of Shrousbetrie
"and William Mytton, (his son), chosen in his place." He was
buried at Habberley.*

* Trans. VIII, 199.

1477. ROBERT BEYNEON (103) and JOHN GYTTONS (104).
103. ROBERT BEYNEON, 1477.

Robert Beyneon (Robert ap Eynion) was admitted a Burgess
in 1451 when he was described as son "of Deys ap Eignon of
"Rowton" in the parish of Alberbury. He was Bailiff of
Shrewsbury in 1475. It has been suggested that George Beyneon
who married a daughter of Sir Richard Herbert of Montgomery
and was Sheriff of Montgomeryshire in 1564 was of the same family
as this M.P.

104. JOHN GITTONS, 1477.

Mr. Joseph Morris records that John Gittons was admitted a
Burgess of Shrewsbury in October 1465 when he was described
as John Lloyt of Salop alias John Guttyns, draper, son of Jevan
Lloyt of Longnor, Weaver. This member was Bailiff of Shrews-
bury in 1482, 1490 and 1494. He was living in 1500 when he
and his son and heir Richard Gittons were named in a deed
and they had estates in Meole Brace, Pulley, Horton, and
Woodcot. Upon the last occasion in which this M.P. was Bailiff
(1494) he had the honour of receiving his Sovereign Henry VII.
when he visited Shrewsbury, lodged in the Abbey and was
royally feasted by the Bailiffs, the account of which is extant.*
John Gittons has left a record of how he rode before the King,
carrying the Mace, from the Abbey to the Castle, how he sur-
rendered the Mace to the King at a bridge called Stanbridge
and how he was commanded to keep the Liberties of the Town
which were then pointed out to his Majesty.

John Gittons contributed 43s. 4d. to the Benevolence raised
by the King in 1491.

In Mr. Forrest's Shrewsbury Burgess Book the M.P. is
described as John Gittins alias Webstow son of Richard Wantnor
of Shrewsbury, Butcher, son of Griffith ap Eynyon formerly
of Webstow.^o

* Owen and Blakeway, I, 265.

^o p. 114.

1482/3. RICHARD WANTENOR, 105.

105. RICHARD WANTENOR, 1483.

Richard Wantenor who was admitted a Burgess in 1448 was a son of John Wantnor, a family which took its name from the Village of Wentnor. He was Bailiff of the Borough in 1471, 1483 and 1487. He was a draper and a man of standing as he married Alice daughter of Thomas Mytton (No. 102). In the admission of this member as a Burgess there is a note "he has "no issue." He was dead in 1491 when his executors paid £6 towards the Benevolence for the war against France.

This member's name is not given in the official returns (they are missing for the year) but Owen and Blakeway give the entry of the payment of 20s. 1d. paid to Richard Wantenor in part of his expense at the Parliament,* so that there is no doubt that he was the M.P. The other member's name is not stated.

* p. 548.

1483/4. No returns can be found.

1485. SIR GILBERT TALBOT (106).

106. SIR GILBERT TALBOT, 1485.

The official returns for this Parliament are missing and the only authority that Sir Gilbert Talbot was M.P. for Shrewsbury is a statement by Mr. Edward Edwards in his *Shrewsbury Members* published in 1859. There does not seem to have been any precedent for the representation of the Borough by any one who was not a Burgess and indeed it was contrary to the rules for the government of the Town, but an exception may have been made in favour of so distinguished a man as Sir Gilbert undoubtedly was, and as he was a Knight of the Shire for the County in the Parliaments of 1491 and Sheriff of Shropshire in 1485/6, there is nothing inherently improbable in his being member for the County Town. He was upon several occasions the recipient of the hospitality of the Borough, and on one of those occasions he was styled "Counsellor of our "Lord the King" so that he was probably one of the very early members of the Council in the Marches of Wales.

An account of Sir Gilbert Talbot's memorable history is given at length in the present writer's paper on the Members of Shropshire under the year 1491, so that it is unnecessary to repeat it here.*

* Trans., (4th Ser.) XI. 26.

1487. No returns found.

1491. WILLIAM MYTTON (107) and LAURENCE HOSIER (108).

107. WILLIAM MYTTON, 1491.

William Mytton was the eldest son of Thomas Mytton (No. 102) by his first wife Eleanor (Agnes) de Burgh, the great heiress, and was elected to complete his father's year of office as Bailiff of Shrewsbury when he died in 1504. This member was again Bailiff in 1508 and 1512, and singularly enough he also died in his last year of office and was succeeded by his cousin Richard Mytton. It was this M.P. who removed from the old family residence at Vaughan's Place to Mytton Mansion, Coton Hill of which he was probably the Builder. William Mytton was one of 9 Salopians appointed by Henry VII. to be assistants to the Commissioners in the Marches of Wales, and the fee assigned to him was that of £5 a year.* This member married Cicely daughter of Sir Henry Delves of Doddington, Cheshire, by whom he had a son Richard Mytton also M.P. for Shrewsbury (No. 118 below) and 2 daughters. William Mytton died in 1513 and the old Shrewsbury Chronicle records that "he lyeth buried "in St. Mary's Church by the High Altar upon the west side "of the same."

* Flenley's Register of Council of Marches, 239.

1491, 1495. LAURENCE HOSIER (108).

108. LAURENCE HOSIER, 1491, 1495

Laurence Hosier was the son of Hugh Pymley alias Dycher of Shrewsbury, who was admitted as a Burgess of the Mercers' Gild as Hugh Pymley, draper, and was Bailiff of Shrewsbury as Hugh Hosier of Shrewsbury, draper in 1463 and 1471, taking his name no doubt from his trade. Laurence Hosier was himself Bailiff in 1494 and 1498. He died in 1500-1, and his death is thus recorded in the Old Chronicle "This year died Laurence "Hosier, gentleman, who had been sundry times Bailiff of this "Town of Salop, and was buried on the north side of St. Mary's "Church there within the said Church."

Mr. Joseph Morris says that he was also M.P. in 1495 and this may be correct as the official returns for that year are now missing. This member was Bailiff when Henry VII. visited Shrewsbury in 1495.

1496/7. Returns are missing.

1509/10. ROGER THORNES (109) and THOMAS KNIGHT (110).

109. ROGER THORNES, 1509/10.

Roger Thornes is described in a deed of 1503 as "son and heir of "Thomas Thornes of Shrewsbury, Esquire, deceased,"* and was, like his father, also seated at Shelvock which he inherited at his father's death. He was Bailiff of Shrewsbury on six occasions, viz. in 1497, 1505, 1509, 1515, 1521 and 1530. In 1506 Roger Thornes was associated with his fellow Bailiff Richard Lyster, in the settlement of a dispute between the Town and the Abbot of Shrewsbury in London, where they were detained for 40 days and the diary of their journey with the account of their expenses as given in Owen and Blakeway I, 279, etc. is interesting. In 1525 Mr. Lyster and he were again in conjunction in a journey to Bewdley to settle a dispute in the Court of the Marches between the Towns of Shrewsbury and Worcester.** Roger Thornes married Jane daughter of Sir Roger Kynaston by whom (with other children) he had a son Robert who was M.P. for Shrewsbury in 1539. Mr. Thornes had a Town house opposite the Old School Lane as well as his house at Shelvock. This member died in 1531 and his death is thus recorded in the Old Shrewsbury Chronicle. "This year died "Master Roger Thornes called the Wise Thornes of Shrowesbury for that both Town and Country repaired to him for "advice who guided this Town politically, and lyeth buried "in St. Mary's Church." Mr. Thornes and his fellow M.P. were allowed £10 for their attendance for 50 days in this Parliament.°

* Trans. (2) XII, 198.

** Tr. (2) VI, 330.

° Owen and Blakeway, I, 549.

110. THOMAS KNIGHT, 1510.

Thomas Knight was the eldest son and heir of Roger Knight of Shrewsbury, Bailiff of the Borough on five occasions between 1465 and 1488. This member was himself also Bailiff five times viz. in 1501, 1505, 1509, 1513 and 1517, and was chosen as M.P. in his third year of office. He was resident at Walford in the parish of Baschurch. In a deed of Henry VIII's reign by which he granted to George Harebrowne his part of two newly built

houses in Shoplatch, he is styled "Armiger."* This member married Elizabeth daughter of Nicholas Pontesbury. A pedigree of the family is given in *Transactions* (2) I. 402.

* *Trans.* IX, 191.

1511/12. THOMAS KYNASTON (111) and THOMAS TRENTHAM, JUNR. (112).
1514/15. Do. and Do.

III. THOMAS KYNASTON 1512, 1514.

Mr. Joseph Morris says (*Trans.* (3) IV. 263) that this member was probably Thomas the eldest son of Sir Roger Kynaston, Knight of Hordley, and that if this was so he had served the office of Sheriff of Shropshire in 1508 and was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1511. There is no doubt whatever that Mr. Morris's surmise was correct as will be seen later and the only doubt was caused by an entry in the Old Shrewsbury Chronicle. Henry VIII. in December 1514, addressed a letter to the Bailiffs of Shrewsbury enjoining them to return to the Parliament to be holden at Shrewsbury in Febr. 1514/15, the same Burgesses as had been elected for the parliament of 1512, and this letter has an endorsement on the back "The Bailiffs and Burgesses elected on the presentation of William Jennyns, Sir Thomas Kynaston, Knight, and Thomas Trentham, Junr. who in fact were the members of the previous Parliament. The doubt arises from the following entry in the Shrewsbury MSS. Chronicle "1512, 13 This year died Sir Thomas Kynaston late "Bailiff of Shrewsbury and lieth buried in St. Mary's Church "who was a worthy Knight." There is no doubt that if Sir Thomas had died in the year 1512/13 he could not have been elected M.P. in 1514, but it is certain that the year must be wrongly stated in the Chronicle and as in the very same year the Chronicle states that William Mytton died in that year, but repeats the same fact in the next year it is safe to say that he has made a mistake in Kynaston's case too. Thomas Kynaston who did homage in 1507, for Ness Strange and Kinton was Knighted at the same time as Sir Gilbert Talbot at Lille in October, 1513. He married Mary daughter of Sir Robert Corbet of Moreton Corbet, and died without legitimate issue, his half brother Humfrey Kynaston "Wild Humfrey" being his heir at law. Thomas Kynaston was one of the Assistants to the Commissioners in the Marches of Wales in 1513, receiving a fee of £5 for the same. There is however a curious shred

of ancient history brought to light in Shropshire Notes and Queries VII. p. 20, where an old lady a descendant of the Shropshire Kynastons had some old family papers in which it appeared that Thomas Kynaston of Shotton from Jany. 31st to March 4th, 1512, received 3s. 9½d. per day for attending Parliament as M.P. for Shrewsbury. There is no reason to doubt the genuineness of this document, and if so it would seem to shew that Thomas Kynaston of Shotton, the first cousin of Sir Thomas was the member. This is borne out by a note in Owen and Blakeway (p.549) that this member whoever he was did receive payment at 3s. 9½d. a day, but the return is quite definite that Sir Thomas was the Member.

112. THOMAS TRENTHAM, JUNR., 1512, 1515.

Thomas Trentham the younger was nephew of Thomas Trentham who was Bailiff on 4 occasions up to 1511, and grandson of John Trentham (No. 100 above). The member was himself Bailiff of the Borough in 1512 and 1516, being elected in the same year in which he was M.P. Thomas Trentham, Junr. who is said to have been a favourite of Henry VIII. married Elizabeth daughter of Sir Richard Corbet of Moreton Corbet and had several children, his son Robert being of the Household of Henry VIII. and another son Richard being Cupbearer to Edward VI. One daughter Anne married Ralph Leighton of Cotes, and another Katherine married 1st Thomas Hackluit of Eyton, and secondly Edmund Foxe of Ludford, both husbands being Clerks of the Council in the Marches of Wales. This member probably served in the French Wars, as amongst the banners of those who entered that country on the 16 June, 1513 were "Shropshire, Humfrey Kynaston and Thomas Trentham a 100 men with Owttten Standert."*

This member's death is recorded in the Old Shrewsbury Chronicle under the year 1516-17 in which he was last Bailiff as follows "This year deceased Thomas Trentham within 2 or 3 "days before the election of the new Bailiffs."

* Shropshire Visitation, 295.

1523. EDMUND COLLE (113) and ADAM MYTTON (114).

113. EDMUND COLLE, 1523.

Edmund Colle,* another of the prominent Shrewsbury family, was the son of William Colle (or Cole) who was on several

occasions Bailiff of the Borough, and his wife Elizabeth daughter of Sir Nicholas Eyton. The M.P. was himself Bailiff in 1522, 1528, 1533 and 1537. Edmund Colle married Alice Churchyard, having had 10 children by her before marriage and they had one daughter afterwards. In order to settle the family estates on his illegitimate son Robert Cole, he levied a fine in 1538 which shows us how great were his possessions as it included lands in Shrewsbury, Wigmore, Ercall, Oxtou, Shelton, Forton, Montford, Ercall, Monks Foregate and Monkmoor. The member was alive in 1556 when Robert Cole was described in a reconveyance as son and heir apparent of Edmund Colle but he was dead in 1563 when Alice Colle was described as a widow.

In 1518 Edmund Colle, Squyer was admitted a brother of the Drapers' Company and paid 26s. 8d. and "for the wine 16s." In 1536 he was made Master of the Company and remained in that office until 1544 when the printed book ends.

* S.S. and Patches, IX, 161.

114. ADAM MYTTON, 1523, 1529, 1536 and 1542.

Adam Mytton was certainly M.P. for Shrewsbury in the Parliaments of 1523 and 1529 and in Owen and Blakeway's Shrewsbury, p. 313 it is stated that he was also M.P. in the 1536 Parliament, and this is doubtless correct. In an article by the late Mr. William Phillips,* who was always very reliable in his statements, it is said that Adam Mytton was four times member, and if so, the 4th occasion must have been the Parliament of 1542, as the official records of the 1539 Parliament are extant. Adam Mytton (he afterwards became Sir Adam) was a son of Thomas Mytton (No. 102 above) by his marriage to Eleanor Harbrown, and was a man of great importance. He was a Barrister at law and Recorder of Bridgnorth. This member was an Alderman of the Borough of Shrewsbury and was Bailiff on no less than seven occasions, namely in 1523 (when he was M.P. for the first time), 1527, 1531, 1537, 1541, 1546 and 1552. In 1554 Sir Adam (as he then was) was Sheriff of Shropshire and in 1550 and 1555 Sheriff of the neighbouring County of Radnor. He was a member of the Council in the Marches of Wales and is in the list of 1558 but was certainly a member earlier. Adam Mytton acted for the Corporation of Shrewsbury in a dispute with the Worcester authorities and an account of his expenses

on that business and an interesting letter from him to the Bailiffs are given in Owen and Blakeway I. pp. 300-1. There are many references to this member in the Shrewsbury Bailiffs' accounts.

Adam Mytton was Knighted some time between 1546 and 1550, as he was certainly a Knight in November 1550 when he was one of the Commissioners appointed to act with the Bailiffs of Shrewsbury and to take the necessary steps to relieve the great famine in Shropshire in that year. The words of the Commission are striking in these days. The Commissioners were ordered to take steps "for the reformation of excessive price of corn and "other commodities as also for the punishment of some uncharitable and ungodly men who by their greed and avarice "are great occasions of the present dearth and great prices." Profiteering was evidently not unknown in the reign of Edward VI.

In 1518-19 Adam Mytton was admitted a brother of the Drapers' Company and paid a fine of 26s. 8d. "and for wine 16s." He was often a Steward of the Company.

Sir Adam was married to Alice Bowdler, widow of Thomas Withyford, by whom he had two daughters but no son. He died in 1561 and his will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in that year.

There is a very curious entry in the year 1553 in an old book of St. Mary's Church which is as follows. "Paid for setting up an Altar before Sir Adam Mytton's grave 4s." Sir Adam was certainly not dead at that time and the entry cannot refer to his Father, Thomas Mytton's grave as he was buried at Habberley. The writer can only assume that Sir Adam had prepared the place of his burial during his lifetime. At an earlier date (1547) Adam Mytton was one of the Bailiffs who ordered the picture of Our Lady to be taken out of St. Mary's Church and the pictures of St. Chad and Mary Magdalen to be taken out of St. Chad's Church and to be burned in the Corn Market.

* Shropshire Notes and Queries, II, 2.

1529. ROBERT DUDLEY (115) and ADAM MYTTON (114).

1536. Do. and Do.

Robert Dudley's name in the 1536 Parliament is taken from His. MSS. Com. p. 12 and that of Adam Mytton from Owen and Blakeway, I, 313.

115. ROBERT DUDLEY, 1529, 1536.

Robert Dudley was admitted as a Burgess through the Merchants' Guild on the 8 Oct. 1510, under the following description

"Robert Sutton alias Robert Dudley, Armiger, son of Edmund "Dudley of Dudley in the County of Stafford, Knight" for a fine of 46s. 8d. with 3s. 4d. divided thus, to the Town Clerk 12d., to the Assessors 16d. and to the Sub-Bailiffs 12d. It was added that at that time he had no legitimate issue.* This Sir Edmund Dudley was the son of John Sutton, Lord Dudley K.G. and the member's elder half brother was Edward, Lord Dudley K.G.

Robert Dudley (as he was generally known) was admitted to the Shrewsbury Mercers' Company in 1520 as Robert Dudley Esquire, "made a freeman for 40s." and was a Warden of the Gild in 1523 and other years.^o He was Bailiff of the Borough in 1515, 1522, 1526 and 1531. Robert Dudley lived at Shrewsbury and was Steward of the Lordship of Powis, probably of the Staffordshire portion of the estate. He possibly owed this office to his connection with the Grey family, Lords of Powis as his nephew married Margaret Grey, but more probably to the fact that his Mother Joyce was the daughter and eventual heiress of John, Lord Tiptoft and Joyce daughter of Edward de Charleton, Lord of Powis. In a deposition of this member taken in the year 1538 he stated that he was of the age of 66 years "that he dwelleth in Shrewsbury and has dwelled there 20 "years and more and was brother to the late Lord Dudley, "grandfather to the Lord Powes that now is."^{oo}

In 1524-5 there is a charge in the Shrewsbury Bailiffs' accounts for "wine given to Robert Dudley Esq. and others "riding to London about those summoned on the bill of Attaint "22s. and in the expenses of David Ireland and others concerning "the pleading of the Charter of the Town about the appearance "of the Burgesses upon the Attaint £10 11s. 11d."***

In 1525 this member was one of the King's Justices appointed to survey the river and water of Severn and as such made a report to the Council of the Marches.^{ooo}

In 1537 the Shrewsbury Corporation ordered a letter to be sent to this member asking him to stay his suit against the Bailiffs "concerning the writs which he brought for his wages, so that evidently his remuneration as M.P. was in arrear, a not uncommon event as the records of the period shew.* The result is not recorded. Mr. Dudley was twice married, his second wife being Katherine daughter and co-heiress of Robert

Knight of Shrewsbury and widow of David Ireland** with whom he was associated in the Attaint matter as mentioned above.

Robert Dudley died in 1538 and his death is thus recorded in the Old Chronicle "This year died Robert Dudley an Alderman "of good calling in this town of Salop." His will dated 20 May, 1538 was proved in the Prerogative Court in 1539. In the Mercers' Company proceedings is a record that at a meeting it was decided that £33 6s. 8d. of the legacy and bequest of Robert Dudley, Esq. deceased (there called Richard by mistake) should be used in building a tenement adjoining the Stylyard.*°

The death of the M.P.'s widow Katherine is thus told in the Old Chronicle "This year (1549-50) deceased Mistress Katherine "Dudley, a virtuous woman and very very bountiful to the "poor in feeding and clothing in her lifetime as also at her death "many a hungry soul."

* Trans. (3) V, 105.

° Trans. VIII, 308, 309.

** Mont. Sheriffs, 512.

°° Owen and Blakeway, I, 298.

*** Ibid. I, 297.

°°° Owen and Blakeway, I, 305.

* His. MSS. Com. (Shrewsbury, 12).

** Mont. Coll. XXII, 353.

*° Trans. VIII, 400.

1539. NICHOLAS PURCELL (116) and ROBERT THORNES (117).

116. NICHOLAS PURCELL, 1539, 1545, 1552, 1553, 1554, 1555, 1558, 1558.

Nicholas Purcell who represented Shrewsbury in these eight Parliaments was the son of Richard Purcell, Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1514 and 1518, and his wife Anne daughter of John Gittins, M.P. 1477 (No. 104 above). The member was himself an Alderman of the Borough and served the office of Bailiff in 1532, 1536, 1540, 1544, 1550 and 1554. He was seated at Dinthill but owned property in Shrewsbury and elsewhere in Shropshire, and in 1549 bought the Manor of Talerddig in Montgomeryshire.* It was probably in connection with this property that he was Sheriff of Montgomeryshire in 1553, but he was a Magistrate of that County as early as 1544.° Nicholas Purcell was twice married, first to Anne daughter of Randolph Beston, Bailiff of Shrewsbury on more than one occasion and secondly to Gwen daughter of Maurice ap Gwillim ap Gruff Derwas. He had children by both wives and his grandson was M.P. in 1563.

Nicholas Purcell's will was proved in the Prerogative Court in 1559, he being then described as "Nicholas Purcell Esquire "Dinthill."**

* Mont. Coll. V, 47.

° Byegones 1887, 418.

** same 426.

117. ROBERT THORNES, 1539.

Robert Thornes was another member of the family, so many of whom represented Shrewsbury in Parliament. He was the second son of Roger Thornes (the "Wise Thornes") M.P. in 1509-10 (No. 109) and married Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Port of Bridgnorth and so became connected with Bridgnorth. He never served the office of Bailiff of Shrewsbury.

1542. RICHARD MYTTON (118) and ADAM MYTTON (114).

118. RICHARD MYTTON, 1542 and 1554.

The official return for the 1542 Parliament is missing, but an entry in the Bailiff's accounts for that year places beyond doubt the fact that Richard Mytton was one of the members. The entry (given in Owen and Blakeway 337) runs thus "Moneys due to Richard Mytton Esq. one of the Burgesses to the Parliament of our Lord the King for his wages given and granted by him to the Community of the Town of Salop." Richard Mytton was the son of William Mytton, M.P. in 1491 (No. 107 above) and grandson of Thoma., M.P. 1472 (No. 102) and was born in the last decade of the 15th century. He was Bailiff of Shrewsbury on six occasions (1542, 1549, 1553, 1557, 1561 and 1567) and was admitted combrother of the Fraternity of Drapers in 1541-2. Richard Mytton was one of the few men who attained to high office in the County as well as the Borough, as he was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1544 and 1560 and was M.P. for the County in the Parliaments of 1545, 1552, 1553 and the 2nd. of 1554. Mr. Mytton rendered valuable service to Shrewsbury in obtaining a new Charter in April 1542, but he did not confine himself merely to civil matters. In 1547-8 the Bailiff's accounts contain an entry of a payment to "Richard Mytton Esquire at his departure with the armed men to the Earl of Arundel." The reference is no doubt to the forces which were raised throughout the country to resist an attack by the Scots who, reinforced by French allies, were giving trouble and quite probably this

valiant Shrewsbury Bailiff took his part in the Battle of Pinkie. Six years later in 1554 Feby. Richard Mytton was the central figure in another historical incident, namely the capture by him at Oswestry of Lord Thomas Grey brother of the Duke of Suffolk and uncle of the unfortunate Lady Jane Grey. This exploit of the Shrewsbury M.P. has been so ably recounted by the late William Phillips in the *Transactions* (3rd Ser. Vol. II, 133) that it is unnecessary to say more here than that Mr. Mytton took his prisoner safely to London, and that Lord Thomas was executed two months later on Tower Hill. The Old Chronicle of Shrewsbury says that incident "fell out at length to Master "Mytton's great hindrance" but in what way we are not told.

As early as 1514 a Richard Mytton is said to have been the Master of the Confraternity of the Holy Trinity in the Collegiate Church of St. Mary, but this was probably the M.P.'s uncle.

Richard Mytton was married more than once. His first wife was Anne daughter of Sir Edward Grey, and the curious marriage contract, which was entered into in 1517 in connection with this marriage is given in Mr. Phillip's paper mentioned above. He also married Eleanor daughter of George Harebroone Recorder of Shrewsbury, and there may have been an intermediate wife a daughter of Jenkin Pigott, but this is doubtful. Mr. Mytton had a large family by both wives. He died on the 26 day of November, 1591, and was buried in Old St. Chad's Church, where there was in Dugdale's time a monument to his memory which was worded thus "Here lieth the body of Richard "Mytton who first married Anne daughter of Sir Edward "Grey Knt. and afterward married Eleanora the daughter of George Harebroone, Esq., Learned in the laws and lived 99 "years and died 26 Nov^r. a.d. 1591." Mr. Mytton's death is thus recorded in the Old Chronicle "This year died Master "Richard Mytton Esquire called the Gentil Master Mytton and "Alderman of Salop who had been six times Bailiff of the Town "in his time and was solemnly buried the 28 Nov^r. 1591, being "about a c years old." His death was exactly 100 years after his father's election as M.P. for Shrewsbury. Mr. Mytton's wife Eleanor survived him and died in 1602.

In addition to his other offices Richard Mytton is said to have been Lord of Mawddy, and Chief Steward of the Manor of Church Stretton.*

Richard Mytton lived in the Mytton Mansion on Coton Hill where there is a stone with the initials " R M " with a Tudor Rose and Fleur de Lys with the following Motto " Pietas hominis. "tutissima virtus" probably set up by this member**

* Mont. Collections, XXIV, 286.

** Forrest's Old Houses of Shrewsbury, p. 90.

1545. NICHOLAS PURCELL (116) and EDWARD HOSIER (119).

119. EDWARD HOSIER, 1545.

Edward Hosier was the son of Thomas Hosier, Bailiff in 1516 and other years and the member held the same office in 1541, and 1547. He was admitted as a Brother of the Drapers' Company as an Apprentice in 1527 and paid his fine 13s. 4d. and 8d. for a gallon of wine, and was a warden in 1536. Property in Preston Gubbals, late parcel of the Abbey of Lilleshall was conveyed in 1543 to Edward Hosier who was then described as of Preston Gubbals.

Edward Hosier married Margery daughter of David Ireland of Shrewsbury and had one child only, a daughter Elizabeth who married John Draycot styled Esquire. The M.P. conveyed the Manor Lordship and lands in Preston Gubbals to his daughter and her husband in 1564. Edward Hosier had also property in Hanwood.

1547. REGINALD CORBET (120) and JOHN JEVANS (121).

120. REGINALD CORBET, 1547, 1553, 1555.

Reginald Corbet, described as of Moreton Corbet, Stoke and the City of London, was the 3rd son of Sir Robert Corbet of Moreton Corbet, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Henry Vernon of Haddon. He was called to the bar at the Middle Temple, of which he became Reader in 1551, and was raised to the degree of Serjeant-at-law on the 19th April, 1559. Mr. Corbet was one of the Council of the Marches of Wales, 1558, and was one of the Justices of the Anglesea, Carnarvon, and Merioneth Circuit from that year to the next, when he was appointed a Judge of the Court of Queen's Bench, an office which he held until his death. Mr. Corbet was Recorder of Shrewsbury up to 1559, and represented Wenlock in the Parliament of 1540. He was married on the 23rd October, 1546, to Alice, daughter of John Gratewood of Adderley and Stoke, and by this marriage obtained

those estates as well as the rest of his wife's share in the large property of her uncle, Sir Rowland Hill, Lord Mayor of London. Mr. Corbet died in 1566, and was buried at Stoke-upon-Tern, the Church there containing a very fine alabaster monument to his memory. His will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in the same year.

121. JOHN JEVANS (EVANS), 1547.

Mr. Joseph Morris says that this M.P. was the son of John ap Jevan of Llanfair Caerinion in the County of Montgomery, Carpenter, and was admitted a Burgess of Shrewsbury on 18 April, 1505. He further says that he was a Corvisor and followed that business in Shoplatch in 1525, but that afterwards he went to reside in Dogpole and was styled a Gentleman. He must have been very successful in life as he was not only Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1558 and M.P. in 1547, but he also represented Much Wenlock in the Parliament of 1554, Leominster in that of the earlier part of the same year and Denbigh in 1555. He died in 1565 and was buried at St. Julian's on the 30 April in that year. His will in which he is described as of Shrewsbury was proved in the Prerogative Court in 1565.

1552. NICHOLAS PURCELL (116) and GEORGE LYE (122).

122. GEORGE LYE, 1552, 1554, 1558, 1558, 1571, 1572.

George Lye who represented Shrewsbury in these six Parliaments is described in the official return as a Merchant of the Staple of Calais. He was admitted as a Burgess of Shrewsbury in March 1552, being then described as "son of John Lye of Ellesmere, Yeoman." George Lye was an Alderman of the Borough and served the office of Bailiff in 1564, 1568 and 1574. Mr. Morris says that he was descended from a junior branch of the family of Leigh of High Leigh, Cheshire. George Lye was one of the members who seceded from the last Parliament of Queen Mary in disapprobation of their proceedings and who were prosecuted for their contempt, but the Queen's death put an end to the prosecution.*

There is in the Calendar of the Council of the Marches of Wales a transcript of a deed dated 3 Jany. 1577/8 made between the then Earl of Derby and this member George Lye, by which in consideration of a grant by George Lye and his brother Lewis

of all their rights in the Manors of Ellesmere, Hampton, etc. in Shropshire to the Earl, the latter gave to George Lye a lease of his capital messuage called the Farm of the Birch situate in the lordship of Ellesmere and then in the occupation of George Lye with Corn Mills and other properties for 50 years at a rental of £9 10s. 1d. There were various rights of housebote, haybote, ploughbote, hedgebote, etc. in Coolmere Wood.** George Lye married Mary daughter of Thomas Stury of Rossall and had a large family. He died in 1577 intestate (the same year in which he had a lease of the Birch) and letters of administration were taken out in the Consistory Court of Lichfield. The lease was (probably on account of the intestacy) exemplified in the Court of the Marches in 1580 on the petition of Sir Henry Townshend. Mr. Lye was one of the Commissioners of Musters in Shropshire in 1577 May.^o

*Owen and Blakeway I, 550.

**Register of Marches, pages 194-7.

^oTrans. (2) II, 249.

1553. NICHOLAS PURCELL (Alderman) (116) and REGINALD CORBET (120)

1554. Do. and RICHARD MYTTON (118).

1554. GEORGE LYE (122) and THOMAS MYTTON (123).

Owen and Blakeway I, (p.550) give Robert Dewe and Thomas Dewe as Members in this Parliament, but this is certainly an error. They follow Browne Willis who is also in error.

123. THOMAS MYTTON, 1554.

Thomas Mytton was the 3rd son of Richard Mytton (the gentil Mytton) (No. 118 above), by his wife Agnes daughter of Sir Edward Grey of Enville, and was the 4th member of the family in the direct descent who was M.P. for Shrewsbury, his father, grandfather and great grandfather all having held that position as well as three earlier of his forbears. Thomas Mytton does not seem like so many other members of his family to have held the office of Bailiff of the Borough. He married a daughter of Sir Edward Greville of Milcote, by whom he had a large family, 9 sons and 2 daughters. The Visitation gives his wife's name as Margaret, but this is probably a mistake for Elizabeth, as there is in Acton Scott Church a brass of Thomas Mytton and Elizabeth his wife and their 11 children with this inscription "Here lieth entombed in clay the carcase of Elizabeth Mytton, who late was the wife of Thomas Mytton, a Gentle by race with issue eleven, God blessed their life. They joyed together and life led aright, descended of gentrye and daughter she was

" of Sir Edward Grevyle, a Warwickshire Knight. She yielded her breath and ended her race the 11th March the year of Grace 1571. * There is no record to shew whether her husband Thomas Mytton was also buried at Acton Scott or when he died, but it is clear that he survived his wife. Thomas Mytton's brother Edward married another daughter of Sir Edward Grevile.

Mr. Mytton received £8 16s. od. as his fee for attending Parliament.

*Shropshire Brasses, 7.

1555. NICHOLAS PURCELL (116) and REGINALD CORBET (120).
 1557/8 Do. and GEORGE LYE (122).
 1558. Do. and Do.
 1562/3. RICHARD PURCELL (124) and ROBERT IRELAND, JR. (125).

124. RICHARD PURCELL, 1563, 1572.

Richard Purcell of Shrewsbury and of Dinthill was the son of Nicholas Purcell, M.P. in six Parliaments (No. 116 above), and was Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1565 and an Alderman. Richard Purcell appears on the list of Magistrates of the County of Montgomery (of which both his father and his son Thomas were Sheriffs) in 1553/4 in which year he was Foreman of the Grand Jury there. He inherited from his father the ecclesiastical Manor of Talerddig in that County and also acquired the Manors of Overgorther and Teirtref Issa, so that he was an important Landholder. This member married Dorothy, daughter of Thomas Lee of Langley, by whom he had a son Thomas (mentioned above) and other children. Richard Purcell died on the 24 November 1586, and his death is thus recorded in the Old Chronicle "This year and the 24 Nov^r. departed this present life Master Richard Purcell of Salop. Alderman, being a "worthy Gentleman of a loving and gentle nature, being a "liberal reliever of the poor and at all times the poor man's "friend." The same Chronicle relates that at Mr. Purcell's election as Bailiff in 1565 the 25 persons that went upon the Bailiffs "were in the election house without meat or drink "26 hours at the least before they could agree."

The Inq. p. m. was held at Welshpool on the 23 October 1587, when it was found that the deceased had at the time of his death the Manors of Overgorther, Talertling and Teitreff as of fee and lands in Vaynor by the service of a Knight's fee and that

he also held lands and house property in the Corn Market, Shrewsbury as a free Burgess. His son Thomas Purcell then of the age of 30 years was found to be his heir.

In 1581 this M.P. was ordered by the Corporation of Shrewsbury to pay £20 for arrears of a sum of 40/- due from him yearly to the poor people of the Town and payment was to be made by £5 half yearly, an order which is at variance with the eulogy of the Old Chronicle "that he was always the poor man's friend."

1571. GEORGE LYE (122) and ROBERT IRELAND, JR. (125).

These names are taken from Browne Willis and are confirmed by Mr. Duncomb Pink.

125. ROBERT IRELAND, JUNR., 1562/3, 1571.

There is no official record that Robert Ireland was M.P. for Shrewsbury in the first of these Parliaments, but the following entry in the Bailiffs' Accounts for 1581 puts the matter beyond doubt "£15 to be paid to Mr. Robert Ireland "in full discharge of £42 8s. od. due to him as Burgess of the "Parliament in the 1st, 5th and 14th years of Her Majesty's "reign."* The member had previously (in 1569) complained to the Court of the Marches about this non-payment and had obtained an order from that Court.**

Robert Ireland, Junr. (called Junior as his Uncle Robert Ireland was living), was the 2nd son of David Ireland, Mercer, of Shrewsbury who was Bailiff of the Borough four times between 1510 and 1528, and he himself had the same position in 1566, 1579 and 1592. He was admitted as a Student of the Inner Temple in 1555 and took the degree of B.C.L. at Oxford on 29 July 1560. In 1588 this M.P. displayed considerable patriotism in subscribing the large sum (for those days) of £25 to the fund for opposing the Spanish Armada. He was a freeman of the Mercers' Company (admitted in 1540) and was Warden on several occasions.^o Mr. Ireland married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Thomas Pontesbury of Albrightlee, by whom he had two sons.

In 1572 the Old Chronicle reports that there was a great controversy on Election night between the Worships of the Town concerning the displacing of this member and Richard Dawes as Aldermen of the Borough and swearing and placing others "which was through Counsel pacified otherwise it would have

"grown to a further inconvenience." Whether Mr. Ireland was displaced or not, we are not told. Robert Ireland died in 1599 and his death and burial are thus recorded in the Old Chronicle^{oo} "This year and the 6 October, Mr. Robert Ireland Esq. departed this present life who was a stout Protestant and a furtherer of the poor, a good housekeeper and one that kept great countenance in his proceedings in this town. He died Godly in good remembrance unto the end and was solemnly buried in St. Chad's Church in Shrewsbury for whom were many weeping tears and great moans ; he will be missed of his kinsfolk and friends."

This M.P. left a magnificent legacy to his native Town when he built the splendid old black and white Mansion in High Street, which still preserves his name as Ireland's Mansion and which is one of the attractions of Shrewsbury.

An Inq. p. mortem was duly held in 1599/1600.

*His. MSS. Com. Shrewsbury, p. 15 and 22.

** same 50.

^oOld Chronicle, p. 32.

^{oo} same p. 104.

1572. RICHARD PURCELL (124) and GEORGE LYE (122).

1584. THOMAS OWEN (126) and RICHARD BARKER (127).

This was the first election at which there was a poll so far as we have any record, and the proceedings are quaintly described in the Old Chronicle of Shrewsbury.

"This year and the 4th November, the Burgesses of Shrewsbury assembled together at the Booth Hall for the election of two Burgesses of the Parliament and being three of them in choice and not lawfully to be judged which two of them should be, whose names were Master Thomas Owen, Mr. Richard Barker and Mr. Harris, they were commanded to go through the door by poll and their voices written and so there was upon Owen's side 366 voices, upon Barker's side 299 and upon Harris's side 176, so that Owen and Barker were made by most election Burgesses of the Parliament for this Town of Shrewsbury."*

*S. A. Tr. III, 300.

126. THOMAS OWEN, 1584.

Thomas Owen a very distinguished Salopian was the eldest son of Richard Owen of Shrewsbury, an Alderman of the Borough and Bailiff on three occasions, and his wife Mary, daughter and

co-heiress of Thomas Oteley. He was (as appears by his will) born at Shrewsbury, took his degree of B.A. at Oxford on 17 April 1559, and was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1570, becoming Treasurer of that Inn in 1589. He attained to high legal eminence, became Serjeant at law in 1589 and Queen's Serjeant in 1594. In 1590 december, Thomas Owen was appointed one of the Council in the Marches of Wales. He seems to have been much engaged in legal and other matters on behalf of his native town, and there are many mentions of him in the Borough Records.

In 1574 Thomas Owen was consulted by the authorities there as to having a Court kept weekly. In 1581 he was to be paid £114 and other moneys for a grant of lands, parcel of the late College of St. Chad, together with the Easter book and the small Tithes, which were to support a Preacher for St. Chad's Parish, and in 1582 his advice and that of Sir George Bromley the Recorder were taken as to the payment of a Public Preacher. In 1591, wine was bought as a present to Sergeant Owen at his son's house at Condover, while in the same year he sat as Recorder of Shrewsbury upon the trial of a number of young men for setting up the Shearmen's Tree, apparently a Maypole, when he decided that the Tree should be used as before "so it be done civilly and "in loving order without contention.*" This trial seems to have excited great interest in the Borough. About this time or a few years before, Serjeant Owen had bought the Condover estate from the Vyner family. Serjeant Owen built the stately mansion of Condover for his son Roger Owen (No. 132 below) and does not appear to have resided there himself. On the 21st January 1594, Serjeant Owen was made a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas where he sat till his death in 1598, and he is known to posterity as Judge Owen. He has been described as "a learned man and a great lover of those who professed "learning"* and he has the reputation of being a great lawyer.

Thomas Owen was twice married** first to Sarah daughter and co-heiress of Humfrey Baskerville, and secondly to Alice daughter of Thomas Wilkes and widow of William Elkyn, Alderman of London, and had a family of 10 children, his eldest son being Sir Roger Owen, M.P. for Shrewsbury (No. 132 below).

Judge Owen died on the 20 december 1598, and was buried at Westminster Abbey where a fine monument still remains in the south aisle to his memory, erected by his son Sir Roger, bearing the Motto given to him by the Queen "Memorare novissima" and his own quaint epitaph "Spes vermis et ego." His will, wherein he was described as of Conover, was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1599. By this will he left to the Bailiffs and Commonalty of Shrewsbury the rents of an estate at Calcott upon trust to buy therewith lands, the rents of which should be bestowed upon poor householders in the parish of St. Chad in Shrewsbury where he was born, and to poor impotent persons there. A sum of £20 yearly is now received from this Charity. Judge Owen also founded a Charity for the Parish of Conover of 53/- a year for bread for the poor.

Dean Stanley in his Memorials of Westminster Abbey says that Judge Owen was a friend of Sir Nicholas Bacon.

Thomas Owen's second wife was a great philanthropist. She founded schools, a hospital, and almshouses in Clerkenwell and, was a great benefactress to Christ's Hospital and the Universities. She died in October 1613 and was buried at St. Mary's, Islington where there was a monument to her memory. By 1830 her endowment had increased to £900 a year.^o

*Owen and Blakeway, I, 392.

* Foss's Judges, 493.

**Dic. Nat. Biography, XIV, 1349.

^oDic. Nat. Biography, XIV, 1292.

127. RICHARD BARKER, 1584, 1603/4, 1604.

Richard Barker was like his fellow member another distinguished lawyer who represented Shrewsbury.

Richard Barker of Abbey Foregate and of Norton was the 2nd son of James Barker of Haughmond Abbey and was born in 1554. He was admitted to Shrewsbury School as "armigeri filius," being one of the first pupils, became a student of Grays Inn, and was called to the Bar there in 1576. Mr. Barker is mentioned as Recorder of Shrewsbury in 1603 and 1613, and he was appointed one of the Council of the Marches of Wales in 1602. In the same year he was appointed one of the Judges of the Anglesea Circuit and was Chief Justice of that Circuit from 1610 to 1615. In 1585 a grant was made to this member of the Council House and Chapel, Mr. Barker to pay the rent and

keep it in repair but an allowance to be made to him during such time as "the Queen's Council in the Marches of Wales "shall abide in the said house." Mr. Barker married Dorothy, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of William Poyner of the Abbey Foregate at the Abbey Church, Shrewsbury, on the 21st December 1583, and had several children. The member died in his 82nd year in December 1636, and was buried at Wroxeter.

1586. REGINALD SCRIVEN (128) and THOMAS HARRIS (129).

The name of Charles Scriven is given in the Old Chronicle of Shrewsbury, but the official return mentions Reginald Scriven, and so does Willis in *Notitia Parliamentaria*.

128. REGINALD SCRIVEN, 1586, 1588, 1592, 1597, 1601.

Reginald Scriven second son of Thomas Scriven of Frodesley and his wife Elizabeth Leighton, was baptized at Frodesley on the 20 September 1551, and was admitted to Shrewsbury School in 1562. He went to Oxford where he took his degree of B.A. in 1572 and that of M.A. in 1577, and was a Fellow of All Souls. As he was M.P. for Shrewsbury in five Parliaments more information would be expected of his career than can be found. Reginald Scriven married Elizabeth, daughter of William Swaine of Brauxton, Northumberland, widow of Fulke Anslow, but so far as the Visitation goes, he had no issue. Reginald Scriven was on the list of those who were to be knighted at the Coronation of James I. in 1603, but for some unknown reason he was not actually knighted.** The member lived to a good old age, if he is the same person as Reinold Scriven Gent. who as the Condovery Register states, was buried there in 1636.

In 1585 this M.P. bought lands in the Manor of Condovery from Robert Vyner.*

*Visitation, 476.

**Shaw's *Knights of England*, II, 124.

129. THOMAS HARRIS, 1586.

The late Rev. G. W. Fisher in the *Transactions* 1897 and 1898, has conclusively proved that the Thomas Harris who was the unsuccessful candidate at the 1584 election and was M.P. in 1586 was not, as Messrs. Owen and Blakeway stated, Thomas Harris of Cruckton (afterwards Sir Thomas Harris of Tong

Castle), but Thomas Harris of Shrewsbury and Boreatton, quite a different man but also a Baronet. Thomas Harris (this M.P.) was son of Roger Harris of Shrewsbury, Bailiff of the Borough in 1578/9, and was admitted to Shrewsbury School in 1571 as a Burgess's son paying the fee of 4d. He was admitted to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn and became a distinguished lawyer. He probably graduated at Cambridge, as in later years he was styled L.L.D. He was Bailiff of the Borough in 1578-9. In 1583 Mr. Harris was made a Master in Chancery. Later he became a Serjeant at law, though as the other Thomas Harris was also a Serjeant, it is uncertain whether the M.P.'s patent was in 1589 or 1603/4, probably the latter. In November 1617, Serjeant Harris bought the estates of Onslow and Boreatton and in 1619 he filled the office of Sheriff of Shropshire. In December 1622, Thomas Harris was created a Baronet and this aroused a storm which involved the eminent lawyer in trouble for many years, as some of the County magnates took exception to his birth and position. The story of this conflict which found its way into the Star Chamber and the Court of Chivalry and to the King himself has been so well told by the late Rev. G. W. Fisher in the *Transactions* for 1898, that it is needless to repeat it here. Suffice it to say that Sir Thomas held his Baronetcy, but the opposition cost him the post of Chief Justice of Chester which would have been conferred on him in 1625. Sir Thomas was twice married, first to Sara Kyffin and secondly to Sara, daughter of Alderman William Jones of Shrewsbury. The member died in January 1630, and was buried at Baschurch, his burial there being recorded in the St. Julian's Register. His will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the 24 April 1630. This M.P. was probably the Serjeant Thomas Harris, Junr. who was returned at the 1604 election, but who was unseated by the House of Commons.

1588. REGINALD SCRIVEN (128) and ANDREW NEWPORT (130).

130. ANDREW NEWPORT, 1588.

Andrew Newport was the second son of Sir Richard Newport, and his wife Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Bromley. He was educated at Shrewsbury School to which he was admitted in 1574, became a Student of the Inner Temple

in 1581, and was called to the Bar there and became a Bencher of the Inn in 1590. Andrew Newport, who was never married, died in 1611 and was buried at Wroxeter, where a monument was erected to his memory with this inscription which is worth recording as it concludes "Andrew Newport himself nearly at
 " the hour of death had this inscribed in testimony of his faith
 ' 1611. Here lyeth the body of Andrew Newport Esq., second
 " son of Sir Richard Newport, Knight, and Dame Margaret
 " his wife, utter barrister and fellow of the Inner Temple,
 " London, who lived and died in the faith of Jesus Christ and
 " true professor of the doctrine according to the best reformed
 " Churches in the time wherein he lived ever hating and detesting
 " the imposture and abominations of the Church of Rome as now
 " it standeth, who lived 48 years in July 1610."

1592. REGINALD SCRIVEN (128) and ROBERT WRIGHT (131).

John Thynne who had in right of his wife, daughter of Rowland Hayward, inherited Cause Castle wrote from the place to the Bailiffs offering himself as a candidate at this election, but his offer was not accepted.

131. ROBERT WRIGHT, 1592.

Robert Wright was a native of Shrewsbury, son and heir of Peter Wright, and his name appears in the 3rd class of the Shrewsbury School list for 1562. He graduated B.A. at Trinity Coll. Cambridge in Jany. 1571, and became a Fellow of the College. He was Tutor to the young Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, at the latter's Father's death in 1576 and some time previously, probably on the recommendation of Thomas Ashton, the first Head Master of Shrewsbury School.* Subsequently Mr. Wright became Steward to the Earl, and it was as his Steward that Lord Essex wrote from Hampton Court in 1592 recommending to the Bailiffs Robert Wright's election as one of their Burgesses in Parliament in a letter in which he added "He is thoroughly known to you." After the election the Earl wrote another letter to the Bailiffs thanking them, in which he said "I think myself so much the more beholden to you in that
 " you made choice of my servant Wright to be one of your
 " burgesses notwithstanding earnest suit made for others."** Mr. Wright was evidently a man of importance in Shrewsbury as he was associated with Mr. Serjeant Owen "and divers other
 " Gentlemen when 19/- was spent upon them at the Guildhall

"in the Chamber of Concord in wine, sugar, biscuits, marmalade, "codlings, rose water, etc."° In 1598 the member's son Robert was admitted to Lincoln's Inn, and he was called to the Bar there in 1606. Robert Wright himself was doubtless the same man as the M.P. for Tamworth in 1588, also probably through the influence of the unfortunate Earl of Essex who was then consolidating and extending his influence in Stafford, Tamworth Lichfield and other places to get members returned in his interest. As is well known the Earl was beheaded for Treason on Tower Hill in 1601. By the influence of the Earl, Mr. Wright was preferred to the office of Clerk to the Stable to Queen Elizabeth. He did not share in the fall of his patron and was Knighted by James I. in 1605. Mr. Wright who married Dorothy, widow of Francis Farnham of Nether Hall, Leicestershire lived in the latter part of his life at Richmond, Surrey. He had no issue. Mr. Wright died sometime before 1610. Sir James Whitelocke in his *Liber Famelicus* speaking of Mr. Wright said "He lived and died a grave and sober man, meanly born in "Shrewsbury but attained by his virtue to good estate and "quality."† His will was proved on the 27 March, 1610.

*Fisher's Shrewsbury School, 28.

**Owen and Blakeway, I, 550.

° same 397.

His. M.S.S. Com. (Shrewsbury) p. 56.

†p. 20.

1597. REGINALD SCRIVEN (128) and ROGER OWEN (132).

There is in the *Sundorne Deeds* a letter from Sir Thomas Owen to the Bailiffs of Shrewsbury, asking them to choose his son, Roger Owen, to be one of their Burgesses for this Parliament, and they did so, refusing apparently a letter from the Earl of Essex asking that they would grant to him the nomination of their Burgesses. (Sh. N. and Q., IV, 72).

132. ROGER OWEN, 1597.

Roger Owen was the eldest surviving son of Sir Thomas Owen (Judge Owen) (No. 126 above) and was born in 1573. He was educated at Shrewsbury School, to which he was admitted in 1583, and at Christ Church, Oxford, where he matriculated in 1590 and took his degree in 1592.* He then went to Lincoln's Inn where he was called to the Bar in 1597 and he became Treasurer of the Inn in 1613. Roger Owen represented Shropshire in the Parliaments of 1601 and 1614 and was Sheriff of the County in 1604. In 1602 he was appointed one of the Council in the Marches of Wales and in May 1604 he was Knighted at

Whitehall. Sir Roger was distinguished among the literary men of his day and was an associate of Camden who speaks of him as an excellent scholar and worthy of an excellent Father. Sir Roger wrote a treatise on the Common law, which however was never published, and in his capacity as a member of Parliament he is said to have proved a great friend to the Clergy and to have vindicated them against all aspersions. Sir Roger married Ursula, daughter of William Elkin, Alderman of the City of London, by whom he had two daughters but no son. The member's intellect became affected, and in 1617 an Inquisition was held about the lunacy and lands of Sir Roger Owen, Knt. He died in London on the 29 May, 1617, and was buried at Condover, where he resided in the new Hall which his father had built. The Condover Register contains the following entry "1617 June 5, Sir Roger Owen, Knt. Lord of the Manor of Condover, having been twice Knight of the Parliament House for the County of Salop, one of the worthiest subjects of his rank in England for all manner of learning, care for the good of the Commonwealth, for composing of controversies, buying peace with his own purse, maintaining of amity, love to his neighbours, patronising learning freely, disposing of Church livings, was buried on the North side of the Chancel at the upper end. Pity so many graces should be covered in the earth, so profitable an instrument taken away, and so many unfruitful remain." There is a monument in Condover Church which was erected in 1641 by Sir Roger's sister to his memory and that of his father, Judge Owen. The Inquisition p. m. was held at Shrewsbury on the 3rd April, 1619.* Sir Roger who was succeeded at Condover by his brother Sir William Owen (No. 139 below) was a benefactor to the Shrewsbury School Library.

This member in 1601 bought the Manor and Advowson of Pontesbury from William Leighton and he presented to the Living in 1614.°

In the *Liber Famelicus* of Sir James Whitelocke, is an account of a conference held at Whitehall upon the dissolution of the 1614 Parliament between the Lords and Commons as to the King's right to impose taxes without the consent of Parliament at which Sir Roger Owen was appointed to shew that no foreign State could or did act as the King did. In the result, some of

those present were sent to the Tower, some were dismissed upon bonds and some; amongst whom was Sir Roger, were "put out of the Commission of the Peace."

Sir Roger Owen died intestate and administration was granted to his widow Dame Ursula.**

*Dic. Nat. Biography XIV, 1349.

*Shrewsbury Liberties, 273.

°Trans. (2) V, 237.

**Mont. Coll. XXIII, 406.

1601. REGINALD SCRIVEN (128) and JOHN BARKER (133).

133. JOHN BARKER, 1601.

John Barker the eldest son of Rowland Barker of Haughmond, was baptized at Uffington in 1579 and was admitted to Shrewsbury School in June 1589, being described as "arm fil et'hoeres." He matriculated at University Coll. Oxford, in 1596 and took his degree of B.A. in 1597. Mr. Barker became a Student of Gray's Inn in 1597 and was called to the Bar there. He married Margaret, daughter of Sir Francis Newport but had no issue. Mr. Barker died in March 1618, and was buried at Wroxeter, only twelve days after his wife's burial. There is in Wroxeter Church an alabaster monument to the memory of this member and his wife upon which the legend runs thus "Here lie the bodies of John Barker of Haughmond, Esq. and Margaret his wife, second daughter of Sir Francis Newport, Knight, which Margaret deceased the 12th day of March, 1618, she then being of the age of 33 years, and the said John Barker being in good perfect health at the decease of the said Margaret, fell ill the day following and deceased leaving no issue behind." Mr. Barker left a will, of which Sir Francis and Sir Richard Newport, Sir Robert Harley and Arthur Sandford were the executors.

The curious Herald's certificate of this member's death is given in Shropshire Shreds and Patches V. 125.

1603/4. FRANCIS TATE and SERGT. THOMAS HARRIS, Junr. (129)

1603/4. FRANCIS TATE (134) and RICHARD BARKER (127).

For this election there was a double return, the former two gentlemen being returned by the Bailiffs and the latter two by the Sheriff, the proper returning officer, Mr. Tate being included in both returns. The circumstances were very curious. Lord

Zouche, then Lord President of the Court of the Marches of Wales wrote from Ludlow to the Bailiffs of Shrewsbury three letters, which are set out in full in Shropshire Notes and Queries, V. 103-4, urging (or rather commanding) the Bailiffs to return Francis Tate, not because his brother had married his Lordship's daughter, "but because of his sufficiency." The question arose that he was not a resident in the Town, but Lord Zouche promised "to do my endeavours that he shall make his choice to be "resident amongst you before any place being yet to make "choice," but probably this was a promise made to be broken. Lord Zouche also advocated the claims of Richard Barker as the other proper candidate. Serjeant Thomas Harris Junr. was the other candidate and was strongly supported by the Sheriff, who in that year was Sir Roger Owen, M.P. in 1597 (132 above). The full circumstances which attended the election are set out in the records of Parliament (quoted in Shropshire Notes and Queries IV. 79 and 81) when Mr. Tate detailed the facts to the House of Commons, charges of misconduct treating improper interference were made against the Sheriff, and it was said that he had ignored the result of the election and had wrongfully returned Serjeant Harris, who had not been elected, in the place of Mr. Barker. The Sheriff was ordered to be taken into custody and he attended several days before the House of Commons and in the end expressed his willingness "to return the writ according to the election," whereupon the Speaker was asked to take a favourable course with regard to him, for the respect they bore to his Father, Judge Owen, notwithstanding "the urgent cause they had of "imputing and punishing his offences."

Oldfield in his Representative History* says that the House decided that neither of the double returns should be accepted and that a new writ was issued when Francis Tate and Richard Barker were returned.

*Vol. II (part 2) 376.

134. FRANCIS TATE, 1604—1610.

Francis Tate was the first instance of an outsider as distinguished from a Shrewsbury man, being returned for the ancient Borough, and it was probably in consequence of his return and to avoid the recurrence, that the Council passed a resolution in the same

year "That in all future elections for Burgesses of Parliament "of this Town the election shall be made of such persons as "shall be then inhabiting within this Town or suburbs, being "Burgesses of the Town and known to be men fearing God, of "sound religion, lovers of the estate of this Town and able to "speak in that place as occasion may require." Mr. Tate was elected in compliance with the strongly expressed wish of Lord Zouche, who as President of the Marches of Wales could do so much to influence the weal or woe of this Town, and whose wishes were equivalent to commands. The M.P. was however immediately after his election (on the 11 Feby. 1604) made an honorary Burgess of the Borough.^o

Francis Tate was not himself by any means an undistinguished man. He was the 2nd son of Bartholomew Tate of Delapré Abbey, Northamptonshire, and was born at Gayton in 1560. He matriculated at Magdalen Coll. Oxford in Decr. 1577, was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1587, becoming a Bencher of his Inn in 1606. Mr. Tate was M.P. for Northampton in 1601, was appointed second Justice of the Brecknock Circuit in 1604, an office which he held until his death. The member who died on 16 Nov.^t 1616, was never married. Mr. Tate was a distinguished Antiquary.*

*Williams' Welsh Judges, 130.

^oTransactions 1898, 306.

1614. FRANCIS BERKELEY (135) and LEWIS PROUDE (136).

Messrs. Owen and Blakeway state that Lewis Proudés' colleague in this Parliament was Sir Roger Owen (who was returned for the County at this election), though they partially correct the statement in a later Note, but the official return gives Francis Berkeley as returned on this occasion and this is doubtless correct.

135. FRANCIS BERKELEY, 1614, 1617, 1621, 1624.

There were two Francis Berkeleys at this period, Francis Berkeley of Ewdness and Clungunford, the other of Shrewsbury, and if it not had been for a letter written to him in 1905 by the late William Phillips (than whom there could be no better authority in anything relating to Shrewsbury), the writer might have been in doubt as to the identity of the M.P., especially as Messrs. Owen and Blakeway have confused the two persons. Mr. Phillips had no doubt that the Shrewsbury Francis Berkeley was the M.P., and everything points to the correctness of his conclusion.

Francis Berkeley was the eldest son of Edmund Berkeley of Shrewsbury and Mary, daughter of William Felton of Ewdness, Worfield, the sister of the other Francis Berkeley's mother. He was admitted to Shrewsbury School in 1589, paying the fee of a Burgess's son (4d.) and matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford, in 1598, aged 15. He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1602. He married Ann, daughter of Thomas Pursell of Dinthill, by whom he had several children. There is an entry in the Bailiffs' Accounts for 1614 Dec^r. "Spent upon Mr. Barcley " who was Burgess for this Town at the last Parliament upon " his own charges and in regard of other pains which he took " for the Corporation 10/-." Messrs. Owen and Blakeway suggest that the reason for electing a foreigner on this occasion was that he did not require the usual payment as M.P., but this suggestion is based upon a fallacy as the member clearly was a native of the Town, and not a foreigner.

136. LEWIS PROUDE, 1614.

Lewis Proude who became a Judge both in Ireland and in Wales was the eldest son and heir of George Proude, Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1569. This member was admitted to Shrewsbury School in 1571 as son and heir of a Bailiff, paying a fee of 6d., his two brothers being admitted at the same time at the usual Burgess's fee of 4d. A Lewis Proude had been previously admitted in 1567 as oppidanus at a fee of 4d. and it may be the same man. Lewis Proude entered Lincoln's Inn on 23 Jany. 1578, was called to the Bar in 1587, was made a Bencher of his Inn in 1602 and became Treasurer in the year in which he represented his native Town in Parliament. He was 3rd Justice of the King's Bench in Ireland from December 1604 to June 1605, when he seems to have resigned. Mr. Proude was Steward of the lands of Westminster College with Sir James Whitelocke and one of the Governors of Sutton's Hospital. In 1610 he was appointed Justice of the Anglesea Circuit of North Wales, Richard Barker (No. 127 above) being then Chief Justice, and Mr. Proude held this office until his death in January 1617.* He was buried at the entrance of St. Benedict's Chapel in Westminster Abbey.

*Williams' Welsh Judges, 90.
Whitelocke's Liber Famelicus, 53.

1621. FRANCIS BERKELEY (135) and SIR RICHARD NEWPORT (137).

137. SIR RICHARD NEWPORT, 1621.

Sir Richard Newport was a very notable man, but as an admirable memoir was written by the late Mr. Wm. Phillips in the *Transactions* 1900. page 2, it will be only necessary to give a short epitome here.

Sir Richard was the eldest son of Sir Francis Newport. He matriculated at Brasenose Coll. Oxford in 1604 and took his B.A. degree in 1607. He was knighted on 2 June, 1615, and represented Shropshire in the Parliaments of 1614, 24, 25 and 28. He took the Royalist side in the Civil Wars and was a strong supporter of that cause. On the 24 October, 1642, the King raised Sir Richard to the peerage as Baron Newport of High Ercall under circumstances which have been fully stated by Mr. Phillips. The member garrisoned his house at High Ercall for his Sovereign but it was taken and plundered in 1646. In 1643 he was a prisoner in Coventry and again in 1645 a prisoner at Stafford and he is also said to have been in Bristol in the siege of that City. In his old age he retired to France (perhaps for safety from his enemies) and he died at Moulins on the 5 February, 1650/1 in his 80th year and was buried there.

Lord Newport married Rachel, daughter of Sir John Leveson by whom he had a son Francis (No. 140 below). He and his son Francis had to compound for their estates in the enormous sum of £10,000.

He made his will dated 12 Nov^r. 1648, which contains his own pathetic account of the position to which he had been reduced. "By the malignity of the recent times my family is dissolved, "my chief house High Ercall is ruined, my household stuff "and stock sold from me, all for having assisted my King."* Lord Newport's will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1651.

*Dic. Nat. Biography, XIV, 360.

1623/4. FRANCIS BERKELEY (135) and THOMAS OWEN (138).

138. THOMAS OWEN, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1628, 1640.

There were at this time two gentlemen of the name of Thomas Owen, both of them closely connected with Shrewsbury, either of which may have been the M.P., namely Thomas Owen of

Dinthill, Town Clerk of the Borough and Thomas Owen of Whitley and it is not quite easy to say definitely which of them represented Shrewsbury in these five Parliaments. The difficulty is increased by the fact that the Authorities differ. Messrs. Owen and Blakeway in their great History of Shrewsbury, the Revd. G. W. Fisher in his Shrewsbury School and the writer of the work on the Montgomeryshire Sheriffs, all agree in saying that Thomas Owen, Town Clerk was the M.P., but the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher who edited *The Liberties of Shrewsbury* says that Thomas Owen of Whitley was the M.P., and the present writer has no doubt that he is correct. There is not in any contemporary account, any suggestion that the Town Clerk was also the M.P., and even leaving out of consideration the improbability of his being able to leave Shrewsbury to attend five Parliaments there would certainly have been some mention in the Parliamentary Records if the Town Clerk had held the position. Both were Shrewsbury men, both were at Shrewsbury School, and both were made prisoners when Shrewsbury was captured by the Parliamentary forces, and both were buried at St. Chad's Church, so that there is a striking resemblance in their lives. The writer proposes to treat Thomas Owen of Whitley as having been the M.P., but adds a short account of the Town Clerk in case any future discovery points to his conclusion being erroneous.

138. THOMAS OWEN of Whitley in the parish of St. Chad., was the second son of Richard Owen of Whitley by his wife Sarah, daughter of Thomas Ireland of Shrewsbury who was the builder of Owen's Mansion in Shrewsbury and who died in 1594. Thomas Owen's name is for some reason omitted in the Shropshire Visitation. The future M.P. was admitted to Shrewsbury School in 1585, paying the fee of 2/6 as son of a Shropshire Gentleman. This Thomas Owen espoused warmly the Royal Cause in the Civil Wars and apparently had fallen upon evil days when in or about 1643 being sick, he appealed to Sir Francis Ottley then Governor of Shrewsbury for £5 for back pay.* In February 1644 Thomas Owen held the rank of Captain, and as such signed the agreement between the Governor and the Mayor as to the officers' pay which was still in arrear. We have no details of Thomas Owen's military services, but he had risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel when Shrewsbury was

captured by the Parliamentary forces in 1645 and he was made a prisoner. No further information as to the Colonel's career has been handed down to us beyond the fact that by his wife Ann he had two sons, Thomas and William. The member was buried at St. Chad's on the 12 July, 1655.** His will was proved at Lichfield in the same year.

There was a resolution of the Corporation in 1628 that Mr. Thomas Owen have his charges for being Burgess of the Parliament in this Town borne by the Corporation, and as the other Thomas Owen was then Town Clerk, the fact that the resolution makes no reference to that office is strong evidence that the M.P. and the Town Clerk were different persons.

*Trans. (2) VII, 298.

**Liberties of Shrewsbury, 488.

THOMAS OWEN the Town Clerk of Shrewsbury was the 3rd son of Edward Owen, Bailiff in 1582, who lived at the Belstone and was admitted to Shrewsbury School in 1589, paying the usual Burgess's fee of 4d. He was appointed Town Clerk about 1610 and held that office until 1645 when he was displaced as a "delinquent," having been made prisoner at the capture of the Town by the Parliamentarians in 1645. He seems to have resumed the office of Town Clerk at the Restoration, but he was then an old man and he promptly resigned the position. Soon after the Restoration, however, he petitioned the King for the office of Prothonotary of South Wales for three lives, pleading that he had acted as deputy to the Recorder of London during the reign of Charles I. and had had a grant of the office from the late King, but his appeal was not successful; though he added a further plea that he had suffered imprisonment for his loyalty.* There is a curious letter printed in the His. MSS. Commission report from Sir Edward Bromley, Baron of the Exchequer, in 1623 asking the Bailiffs to punish one Walter Grynsell for shameful speeches offered by him in open Court to the writer's cousin, Thomas Owen the Town Clerk.** This Thomas Owen is said to have appeared against Archbishop Laud at his trial. He was seated at Dinthill which he purchased from Sir Thomas Leveson, K.B., and married Priscilla daughter of Arthur Chambre of Petton by whom he had several children. Thomas Owen was buried at St. Chad's on the 25 May 1661. He asked to be allowed to compound for his delinquency when in prison at Nantwich

in 1645, acknowledging that he had been a Commissioner of Array and was fined £294 on condition that he settled £30 from the tithes of Abbey Foregate upon the Church there. His estate was afterwards sequestered and the £30 paid to John Bryan the Minister at Abbey Foregate. In 1665 he wrote a pitiful letter that his own and his deceased son's estates only amounted to £160 a year, whereof his son's widow was entitled to a jointure of £100, and that after the necessary payment only £4 10s. od. was left for maintenance of himself and his wife, both aged, and two fatherless and motherless children.**

*Fisher, 91, 92.

**p. 63.

**Byegones 1905, p. 60.

1625. THOMAS OWEN (138) and SIR WILLIAM OWEN (139)

1625/6. Do. and Do.

1627/8. Do. and Do.

139. SIR WILLIAM OWEN, 1625, 1626, 1628

Sir William Owen of Condover was the fifth son of Judge Owen (No. 126 above) and brother of Sir Roger Owen (No. 132 above), and was educated at Shrewsbury School to which he was admitted in 1584. Sir William took a prominent position both in Shrewsbury and elsewhere as he was Bailiff of the Borough in 1621, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1623, and Sheriff of Montgomeryshire in 1624. He succeeded to the Condover estates on the death of his brother Sir Roger, in May 1617, his other elder brothers having died without issue, and he was Knighted at Nantwich on the 26 August of the same year. Sir William was in Shrewsbury when the Town was taken by the Parliamentary forces in February 1644/5, and was taken prisoner there. He ostensibly took the Royalist side in the Civil Wars, was on the Commission of Array for the County and was one of those who signed the Engagement and Resolution of the principal men of the County for raising and maintaining forces for the King's cause. A certificate, signed by the Principal Parliamentarians (Humphrey Mackworth, Robert Charlton, Andrew Lloyd and Robert Clive) in 1646, shews however that Sir William was a time server. It is there stated "that Sir William when the "Parliamentarians were in the lowest condition, having his "residence in Shrewsbury (i.e. at the Council House) held correspondence "with us," even while he acted with the other side, and the certificate proceeds "By his faithful constant

"intelligence to us of the enemies' motions and designs he was
 "a great means of our security and preservation, and in the
 "meantime of that compliance and intercourse with us, he
 "freely offered us possession of his house, being a strong stone
 "building within three miles of Shrewsbury (i.e. Condover)
 "etc., etc., all which passages are inducements to us to believe
 "his affections were always right towards the cause of the
 "public and that what he acted against it proceeded from some
 "passion of timourousness and not from any disaffection or
 "malignancy of spirit; neither hath his carriage toward us
 "since the taking of this Garrison given us the least reason
 "to suspect the reality of what he formerly professed, having
 "ever since manifested his willingness in discovering for us
 "in great measure in estates of delinquents, whereas on the
 "contrary his backwardness in disposition to contribute mort-
 "gages or yield any assistance to malignants occasioned them
 "to threaten the burning of his house."*

Sir William's double dealing (to use no stronger word) served its purpose and he was let off very easily, compounding for his delinquency by the very light fine of £214

Sir William married Ellen, daughter of Sir Robert Needham of Shavington (she died 22 July, 1623) by whom he had (with other children) a son, Roger, who succeeded him. Sir William "Lord of the Manor of Condover" was buried at Condover on the 8 March, 1662/3.

*Castles and Mansions of Shropshire (Mrs. Acton) p. 46-7.

1613. FRANCIS NEWPORT (140) and THOMAS OWEN (138).

140. FRANCIS NEWPORT, 1640, 1640.

Francis Newport was easily the most powerful Shropshire man of his generation, and deserves a long memoir, but so able an account of him was printed by the late Mr. Phillips in the *Transactions* for 1900, that like his father a short summary only need be given here.

Francis Newport, the eldest son of Richard, Lord Newport, was born on the 23 February, 1618/19, and was baptised at Wroxeter on the 12 March. He was educated at Donnington School where Richard Baxter was his schoolfellow. He matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, in Nov^r. 1635, was

admitted to Gray's Inn in 1633 and to the Inner Temple in 1635. He was not of age when he was elected as M.P. for Shrewsbury. He manifested the same loyalty to his Sovereign as did his Father, and had the courage to vote for the acquittal of Lord Strafford, which subjected him to much contumely. He was in 1645 expelled the House of Commons "disabled to sit," and there his House of Commons life ended, but not his efforts for his King. He became a Captain of Horse, but was taken prisoner at the capture of Oswestry by Lord Denbigh and Col. Mytton in July, 1644, and was subjected to a long imprisonment "as 'being a man exceedingly potent in the County, very active "in raising men and moneys and so active against the Parliament from the beginning." In 1651, Francis Newport succeeded his Father in his title and estates, but in 1655 was committed to the Tower on suspicion (no doubt well founded) of being concerned in the Royalist plot, was again arrested in 1656/7, but not daunted by his failures he again in 1659 joined with other influential men to recapture Shrewsbury, an attempt which was rendered unnecessary by the Restoration. On the 26 July, 1660, Charles II. appointed Lord Newport as Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire and he was granted the Castle of Shrewsbury. In 1668 June, he was made Controller of the royal Household and shortly afterwards sworn of the Privy Council. In 1672, Lord Newport succeeded Lord Clifford as Treasurer of the Household, and in 1674 he was advanced in the Peerage to the title of Viscount Newport of Bradford. Upon the accession of K. James II., Viscount Newport continued in office as Treasurer of the Household, but disliking the arbitrary measures and Romish tendencies of the King he was dismissed from office in February 1686/7, and he was also removed from the Lord Lieutenancy of the County, which was given to the notorious Lord Chancellor Jeffries. In 1688, Viscount Newport supported the seven Bishops at their trial, and he was one of the first to welcome the Prince and Princess of Orange as K. William and Queen Mary. Upon the day on which they were proclaimed, Viscount Newport was restored to his offices of Treasurer of the Household and Lord Lieutenant. In May 1694, he was advanced again in the Peerage as Earl of Bradford.*

Francis Newport married Lady Diana Russell, daughter of the Earl of Bedford, by whom he had a numerous family. Lord

Bradford died at his house at Twickenham on the 19 September 1708, in his 89th year, and was buried at Wroxeter where a marble monument records his honours and bears testimony to his virtues. He was succeeded by his son Richard, M.P. for Shropshire for many years.

There is a fine portrait of the 1st Earl of Bradford by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

It has already been stated in the account of Sir Richard Newport that this member and his father had to compound for their estates in the immense fine of £10,000, to which it was reduced from the original assessment of £16,687.

The Earl's will was proved in October 1708, in the P.C.C.

*Dic. Nat. Biog. XIV, 356.

1640. LONG PARLIAMENT.

FRANCIS NEWPORT (140) and WILLIAM SPURSTOWE, Merchant (141)

141. WILLIAM SPURSTOW, 1640.

William Spurstow was, unlike his fellow member Francis Newport, an adherent of the Parliament. He was a descendant of an old Cheshire family settled at Spurstow Hall, and he apparently settled in Shrewsbury where in 1616 he was described as a draper, but in the Parliamentary return he is called a Merchant and elsewhere he was styled "a Citizen and Merchant of London." He is said to have been a liberal contributor to all public works in Shrewsbury. Mr. Spurstow served on the Committee for Scandalous Ministers (as the High Church Clergy were called) and other important Committees. This member was one of the donors to the Shrewsbury School Library in 1617, as was his brother Edward by his will in 1637. In 1620, Robert Owen the Deputy Herald, wrote from Shrewsbury to the King at Arms that Richard Wynn, Gentleman had recently been buried "without scutcheons" that a fee was due and should be collected from his executor Mr. William Spurstow "who dwelleth at the upper end of Coleman Street in London." This member must have died at the latter end of the year 1645, as in January 1646 a writ was issued for the appointment of a new M.P. in place of William Spurstow deceased.

This member subscribed to the League and Covenant in 1643, was one of the Committee of Adventurers for reducing Newcastle in the same year and also for raising and maintaining

the New Model in 1644. He is named in no less than 23 Committees of the House between his election in 1643 and July 1645, and was one of the Commissioners of Excise in May 1645. The member's will was proved in February 1645/6 by his son Henry. Another son of William Spurstow was the well-known Presbyterian Vicar of Hackney, Dr. William Spurstow who was ejected at the Restoration. Mr. Spurstow, by his will, left £300 for setting the poor of the town to work, and £100 in a bread charity for poor householders.

1645. Nov. 10. THOMAS HUNT vice NEWPORT disabled by House.

142. THOMAS HUNT, 1645.

Thomas Hunt was one of the most prominent of the Shropshire Parliamentary party and next to General Mytton, the one who most distinguished himself in military affairs. He was returned for Shrewsbury in Novr. 1645 when Francis Newport was "disabled" by the Parliament.

The member was son of Richard Hunt, Alderman of the Borough in 1638 and Bailiff in 1613, 1622 and 1631, and was baptized at St. Alkmond's on December 25, 1599. He went early to Shrewsbury School, being promoted from the Accidence School in 1609. He then studied for the Bar and was admitted to Grays Inn in August 1627. Thomas Hunt had become an Alderman of the Borough in 1642, but had before that time become deeply imbued with anti monarchical sentiments, and he absented himself from Shrewsbury when Charles I. visited the Town in 1642. In a royal proclamation issued at Bridgnorth in October 1642, Thomas Hunt is denounced as having taken upon himself to be Captain of Militia, as having been active against the King and having absented himself from attendance upon him. The King ordered his arrest as a person charged with high treason. He was one of those who were ejected from their positions in the Town Council as "persons disaffected to his Majesty's person and government." In 1643, Thomas Hunt was associated with General Mytton in the capture of Wem, of which he was made Governor when the first Parliamentary Garrison in the County was established there. Thomas Hunt was present at the defeat of the Cavalier Army by Mytton in January 1644, being described in the despatch announcing the

victory as one of the best affected of the County Committee and a most zealous patriot. This Committee of which Thomas Hunt was one, was the Committee appointed by an Ordinance of Parliament for the Association of the Counties of Warwick, Stafford and Salop. Col. Hunt (for such was then his rank) took an active part in the capture of Shrewsbury by the Parliament in February 1644/5, being one of the Committee appointed to accompany Col. Reinking who was in command of the troops and he was one of the Committee who assumed the charge of the Town until the appointment of Col. Humphrey Mackworth as Governor. Immediately after this important event, Thomas Hunt was restored by the Corporation of Shrewsbury to his position as an Alderman of the Borough and later in the same year he became the M.P. as successor to Francis Newport disabled. Col. Hunt seems to have commanded the troops to whom Shrawardine was cowardly surrendered after a siege of 5 days. Shortly after Humphrey Mackworth's death in December 1654, Thomas Hunt was appointed Governor of Shrewsbury, a post which he held until the Restoration. In 1648 the member was one of those who were excluded from Parliament by the Army. In 1656, Col. Hunt was High Sheriff of Shropshire and in 1657 he was Mayor of Shrewsbury. He seems to have made his peace at the Restoration of Charles II., as in 1663 he became possessor of the Boreatton estates which he purchased from the Representatives of Sir Thomas Harris who took part in the plot of 1654. The member married Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Owen of the Woodhouse, by whom he had with other children a son Rowland, who succeeded him in his estates. Col. Hunt died on April 12, 1669, at his house in Shrewsbury, and was buried at St. Alkmond's. Philip Henry in his Diary says that Col. Hunt "was a true Nathaniel, an Israelite indeed "in whom there is no guile." Richard Baxter, the eminent Nonconformist Divine, also bears testimony to the member's worth, describing him "as a plain hearted godly man, entirely "beloved and trusted by the soldiers for his honesty, very active "for God in his generation, abounding in good works and his "memory is blessed." Major Rowland Hunt, the M.P. for the Ludlow division (1918) is the present representative of the family and there is or was at Boreatton a portrait of this M.P. by Vandyke.

1646, Jany. WILLIAM MASHAM (143) vice SPURSTOWE deceased.

143. WILLIAM MASHAM, 1646.

William Masham who was elected M.P. for Shrewsbury in the Long Parliament in the place of William Spurstow deceased, was the eldest son of Sir William Masham, Bart. of High Lever, Essex, who was a cousin of Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector, and was a strong Parliamentarian and a member of Cromwell's Council of State.

The member is named on no less than 43 Committees between 1646 and 1653, and was a Commissioner for the Treasury under the Protectorate. He was a subscriber to the League and Covenant in March 1646, and seems to have been as strong a supporter of the Parliament as his Father was. William Masham married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Trevor, Knight, of Trevallyn, Flintshire, by whom he had two sons who both succeeded to the Baronetcy after their grandfather's death in 1656. The present member never succeeded to the Baronetcy, as he died in his Father's lifetime and therefore before 1656.

The writer has failed to find any connection between this member and Shrewsbury, but as he was elected after Shrewsbury had fallen into the hands of the Army of the Parliament, his election may have been influenced by Oliver Cromwell. No royalist could be elected at this time, and these Recruiters (as they were called) were often chosen from outside.*

*The writer is indebted for this article and much information about William Spurstowe to Mr. Duncomb Pink.

1653. No Borough Members were elected.

1654. RICHARD CHESHIRE (144) and HUMPHREY MACKWORTH, JUNR. 145.

144. RICHARD CHESHIRE, 1654.

The fact that Richard Cheshire was M.P. in this Commonwealth Parliament speaks for itself, that he was a strong member of the Parliamentary side, as in fact he was. He was the son of Richard Cheshire of Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Glover, and was admitted to Shrewsbury School in 1620/1 paying the usual Burgess's fee 4d. Richard Cheshire was admitted into the Drapers' Company in 1633, and he was one of the Common Councillors (styled Assistants) who were charged in the King's proclamation in 1642 with disaffection, in consequence of which the Corporation resolved that "they should be sequestered

"from the several meetings until they have cleared themselves
 "and if they do not, then new ones to be chosen in their stead,"
 but in his and other cases no further measures seem to have been
 taken. Mr. Cheshire was Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1652* and he
 became a Borough Alderman while as early as 1637 we find
 him a Churchwarden of St. Julian's and again in 1641 he occupied
 the same position. In 1654 the M.P. was one of the 21 Com-
 missioners for Shropshire on the so called Scandalous Ministers'
 Committee. Richard Cheshire was married twice, first to Mary
 Poyner by license at St. Chad's on the 5 June, 1633 (she was
 buried there in January 1649/50) and secondly at St. Chad's
 to Martha Baker in June 1654. Mr. Cheshire who resided in
 Shoplatch, Shrewsbury, was buried at St. Chad's on October
 15, 1658, being described in the Register as "Mr. Richard
 "Cheshire, Draper and Alderman of the Town of Shrewsbury."
 He left several children by his first wife.

* Transactions (3), X, 250.

145. HUMPHREY MACKWORTH, JUNR., 1654, 1656, 1658/9.
 Humphrey Mackworth the younger, though he was a good deal
 overshadowed by his Father, took a very prominent part in
 Shrewsbury affairs. At his first election in 1654 he was
 described as "Gent" in 1656 as Col. H. Mackworth and at his
 last election, as Governor of Shrewsbury and Town Clerk.

He was the 3rd son of Humphrey Mackworth, the well-known
 Governor of Shrewsbury and member of Cromwell's Council,
 and was baptized at St. Chad's on May 31, 1631. He was
 admitted to Shrewsbury School with his elder brother Thomas
 (M.P. Ludlow and Shropshire) in May 1638 and again in 1641
 and then proceeded to Gray's Inn in 1652. Upon his Father's
 death, he seems to have assumed the Governorship of Shrews-
 bury Castle but was probably superseded by Col. Hunt. He
 was a Colonel in the Army of the Parliament and was Town
 Clerk of Shrewsbury from 1652, but seems to have resigned
 shortly before the Restoration. There is no mention of his
 having been married, but he may have been as there is a good
 deal of confusion in the family accounts between this member
 and his father. Humphrey Mackworth lived long after the
 Restoration, but doubtless was glad to retire into private life.
 He died in June 1681 and was buried at Sutton.

1656. SAMUEL JONES (146) and COL. HUMPHREY MACKWORTH (145).

146. SAMUEL JONES, 1656, 1660.

Samuel Jones (afterwards Sir Samuel Jones) was the second son of Isaac Jones a Merchant of London and Lord of the Manor of Berwick which he purchased in 1619 from Sir George Lucy and others, and he was the grandson of William Jones, Alderman and Draper of Shrewsbury and Bailiff four times. The member was admitted to Shrewsbury School in January 1621/2. Samuel Jones is described as having been a very wealthy merchant, and he must have amassed a considerable fortune. It is clear from the fact that he sat in the 1656 Parliament, that he took the side of the Parliament, but he must have trimmed his sails well as he was not only returned for Shrewsbury in the first Restoration Parliament, but was Knighted by K. Charles II. on the 2nd September 1660, being then described as of Courtenhall, Northamptonshire, an estate which he had recently purchased. Sir Samuel who also owned Sandford, was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1663. He succeeded to the Lordship of the Manor and Estates of Berwick upon the death of his elder brother Sir William Jones, under a settlement made in 1643 for a consideration of £3000. Sir Samuel Jones was twice married first to Margaret, daughter of Timothy Middleton of Stanstead, and secondly to Mary Tryon of Harringworth, but he had no issue by either wife. By his will dated 11 June 1672, and proved in the Prerogative Court, Sir Samuel devised the Manor of Berwick, the Courtenhall estate and other properties to his great nephew Samuel Wake, who took the name of Jones. By this will, Sir Samuel directed that Almshouses of brick containing 16 rooms should be erected at Berwick at a cost of not less than £1000, and he left £20 a year for the repair of the Chapel and Almshouses, £40 a year for a Minister to pray and preach every Sabbath day and also left £80 a year to maintain the Almspeople. This was the foundation of the Berwick Almshouses which remain to the present day. Sir Samuel also left £500 to the Town of Shrewsbury to be used for loans, without interest, to young Tradesmen commencing business. Sir Samuel died on the 3 January 1672/3 and was buried at Courtenhall, where there is a monument to his memory.

1658/9. WILLIAM JONES (Recorder) 147 and HUMPHREY MACKWORTH 145
147. WILLIAM JONES, 1659.

William Jones was the eldest son of Edward Jones, Steward of Shrewsbury, and his wife Mary, daughter of Robert Powell of Park, and was the elder brother of Chief Justice Sir Thomas Jones. He was admitted to Shrewsbury School in April 1623, being then 10 years old and entered Emanuel Coll. Cambridge in 1629. He also became in 1629 a Student of Lincoln's Inn, was called to the Bar in 1636 and in 1659 was elected a Bencher, but did not then take his seat. William Jones was appointed Recorder of Shrewsbury on the 1st March 1644/5, and held the office until the Restoration when Sir Timothy Tourneur, who had been ejected in 1645 returned to office. William Jones who was of course a Parliamentary was appointed Puisne Judge of the Anglesey Circuit on the 14 March 1660, but was superseded on the 20 August of the same year by John Griffith on the King's Restoration. Mr. Jones was re-elected a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn in February 1662. William Jones married Mary, daughter of Sir Richard Greaves of Moseley, by whom he had a son who died without issue in 1679 and a daughter. This member died at some time before 1673 and was buried at West Felton where there is a Tablet recording his death, and that of his Father and Mother, and in regard to the latter of these it said that she long survived her husband and her son, and died in 1673 in the 90th year of her age.*

* Transactions (2), IX, 376.

1660. SAMUEL JONES of Berwick (146) and THOMAS JONES of Shrewsbury (148).
148. THOMAS JONES, 1660, 1661.

Thomas Jones was the second son of Edward Jones of Sandford, Steward of Shrewsbury, and the younger brother of William Jones (No. 147 above). He was born in 1614, baptised at St. Alkmunds, was admitted to Shrewsbury School in 1627 January, and proceeded to Emanuel Coll., Cambridge where he graduated in 1633. Thomas Jones was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1634. He seems to have been in Shrewsbury in 1645 when the Town was taken by the Parliament Army and was made prisoner, though his later history tends to shew that his views and sympathies were not opposed to the Parliament. He seems to

have been an Alderman of the Borough, and he was elected Town Clerk in April 1660, but was dismissed in August 1662. The reasons which induced the Commissioners to get rid of Thomas Jones as Town Clerk are set out fully in Owen and Blakeway I, 481, etc., and are very interesting. It is said there that this member professed great zeal for the King's service, but that he had not shewn it, having declared against the Commission of Array, refused to find a dragoon for the King's service (for which he was committed by the Governor of Shrewsbury) and never had had his property sequestered. The Commission found that "if Mr. Jones's judgment be for the King's prosperity as he says it is he prostitutes that judgment to his interest whenever they come into competition." This seems to have been a thoroughly well justified summing up of the member's character, though once at a much later date he showed independence.

Thomas Jones was appointed Puisne Justice of the Anglesey Circuit in 1662 and held that office until 1670 when he was appointed Chief Justice. In 1669 he was a Sergeant at law and in 1671 King's serjeant. He was made a Judge of the King's Bench division in April 1676 and was Knighted, and in September 1683 he was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, an office which he held until 21 April 1686, when he and other Judges were dismissed by K. James II. for opposing the powers for which he asked for dispensing with the law. The manner in which Sir Thomas Jones acted upon this occasion does much to redeem his previous Vicar of Bray attitude, for in his career on the Bench he is said to have been too much subject to Court influences. Upon his dismissal, however, he is said to have told the King that he might find 12 Judges to agree with him but not 12 lawyers.

After the Revolution, Sir Thomas Jones was called before the House of Commons to answer a charge of breach of the privileges of the House in a Judgment which he had pronounced and he and Chief Justice Pemberton suffered a short imprisonment.

Sir Thomas who chiefly resided at Carreghova, Montgomeryshire, married Jane, daughter of Daniel Bavand of Chester, by whom he had several sons. He died in May 1692, aged 78, and was buried at St. Alkmund's on the 3rd June. A tablet in that Church recalls the memory of a very distinguished Salopian

who attained to High Office, even if he did not fully deserve the encomium of Roger North that he was "a very reverend and learned Judge, a Gentleman and impartial."*

A long report of the reasons for removing this member from the Town Clerkship are given in the *Transactions* (4th ser.) I, 296.

*Dic. Nat. Biog. X, 1054.

1661. ROBERT LEIGHTON (149) and THOMAS JONES (148).

149. ROBERT LEIGHTON, 1661—1678.

Robert Leighton was the eldest son of Edward Leighton of Wattlesborough, by his first wife Abigail, daughter and heiress of William Stevens of Shrewsbury, and he succeeded his Father at Wattlesborough upon the latter's death in 1632. This member was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1688. He married Gertrude daughter of Edward Baldwyn of Diddlebury, by whom he had a large family of which the eldest, Edward, was created a Baronet in 1692/3. Mr. Leighton was one of those faithful royalists whom it was at one time proposed to make Knights of the Royal Oak. Robert Leighton died in 1689 and was buried at Alberbury on the 27th April 1689.

1677/8, March. SIR RICHARD CORBETT (150) vice JONES made a Judge.

Mr. Edward Kynaston contested the seat, but was defeated. He then lodged a petition against Sir Richard Corbett's return which was referred to the Committee of Privileges but nothing further was done.

150. SIR RICHARD CORBETT, BART., 1677/1678 1679, 1681.

Sir Richard Corbett was a more eminent man than the very little which has been written about him would lead us to believe. He was the only son of Edward Corbett and Anne, daughter of Sir Richard (afterwards Lord) Newport. He matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford, in July 1658, and succeeded to the Baronetcy and estates on the death of his grandfather Sir Edward Corbett of Leighton, the first Baronet, who was buried at Condoover on the 7 April 1653. The member's father, Edward had died in July 1649 and was also buried at Condoover in the same month. The statement in Burke and elsewhere that the latter died in May 1653 is erroneous. Sir Richard was seated like his grandfather at Leighton and at Longnor. He was chairman of the Committee of Elections in the House of Commons and was a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was also a great

friend of Lord William Russell who was executed for complicity in the Rye House Plot of which by the verdict of history he was guiltless and whose attainder was reversed in the first Parliament of William and Mary. Sir Richard does not seem to have been mixed up in these plots, but he was in very ill health at the time and died very soon afterwards. Sir Richard married Victoria, daughter and co-heiress of Sir William Uvedale, by whom he had, with other children, a son Uvedale who succeeded him. The member died on the 1st August 1683 at the age of 42, and was buried at St. Margaret's, Westminster where there is a monument to his memory.*

*Mont. Coll. XIII, 345. S.S. and P. III, 39.

1678.	SIR RICHARD CORBET (150)	and	EDWARD KYNASTON (151).
1679.	Do.	and	Do.
1680/1	Do.	and	Do.

151. EDWARD KYNASTON, 1678, 1679, 1681, 1685.

Edward Kynaston, described in the official return for the 1681 Parliament, as of Albrightlee, was Edward Kynaston of Hordley and Albrightlee, and must not be confused with Edward Kinaston of Oteley, who sat in the 1685 Parliament as M.P. for the County of Salop.

Edward Kynaston was the son of Roger Kynaston of Hordley (who died in September 1684) and was born on 25 March 1640. He was admitted to Shrewsbury School in July, 1662. He became a prominent public man as he was Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1664 and an Alderman in 1685, besides representing the Borough in 4 Parliaments. Edward Kynaston did not confine his services to the Borough as he was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1682 and of Montgomeryshire in 1666, in which latter County he was Lord of the Manor of Plas-y-dinas and had property in Welshpool and other places. Mr. Kynaston married Amy, daughter and heiress of Thomas Barker of Haughmond Abbey and of Albrighton and went to live at the latter place. This marriage with the last of the Barker family brought to Mr. Kynaston a great accession of wealth, and on the death of his Father he succeeded also to the Hordley estates. He had a family of 5 sons and 2 daughters and was succeeded by his son John Kynaston, also M.P. for Shrewsbury (No. 155 below). Mr. Kynaston was buried at Hordley on the 15th August 1693*. The following entry in Luttrell's Diary under the date of March

1693, no doubt refers to this member though he is confused with the Knight of the Shire, Edward Kinaston of Oteley. "Edward Kynaston Esquire lies a dying occasioned by a fall "from his horse and breaking his leg when he went into the "country."**

*Trans. (2) VI, 226. Mont. Coll. XXVII, 347.

**Luttrell III, 59.

1685. SIR FRANCIS EDWARDES (152) and EDWARD KYNASTON (151).

152. SIR FRANCIS EDWARDES, 1685, 1689.

Sir Francis Edwardes was the eldest son of Sir Thomas Edwardes (who was created a Baronet by Charles I. on 21st March 1644), was born on the 13 May 1645 and was baptized at St. Chad's. He matriculated at Balliol Coll., Oxford, on 26 October 1660. He succeeded his father on the latter's death in April 1660, in the Manor and estates of Meole Brace which his grandfather had purchased. It appears that Sir Thomas Edwardes's Letters Patent of Baronetcy were lost in the Civil Wars in which he took the Royalist side, and that Letters Patent were granted to Sir Francis in 30 Charles II., which are set out at length in the *Transactions* (3rd Ser.) I., 359. It is there stated that the grant was made to him as "a man eminent for family inheritance, "estate and probity of manners who has given and afforded "to maintain and support 30 men in our Foot Companies in our "realm of Ireland and especially for the security of the Plan- "tation of Ulster." In the new Patent precedence was given to Sir Francis before all Baronets created after 1644 the date of his Father's Baronetcy. Sir Francis was Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1685. Sir Francis married Eleanor, daughter of Sir George Warburton of Arley, Cheshire and had a son, another Sir Francis who succeeded him in the Baronetcy but went to reside at Grantham. This member was a Colonel of Foot in the service of K. William the 3rd in Ireland, and died on service there in 1690. Letters of administration of his estate were granted in December 1600 to the deceased's brother Thomas (Town Clerk of Shrewsbury) for his son Sir Francis then a Minor.*

Trans. (3) I, 335, 358.

1688/9. SIR FRANCIS EDWARDES (152) and ANDREW NEWPORT (153).

153. ANDREW NEWPORT, 1689, 1690, 1695.

The Hon. Andrew Newport (baptized 30 November 1622) was the second son of Richard, 1st Lord Newport (No. 137 above),

and matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford. He was like his Father a strong Royalist and acted as Treasurer of the money collected among the Cavaliers for the King's service 1657, and was actively engaged in the Rising in 1659. He was Captain of a Foot Company at Portsmouth 1662, and was an Esquire of the Body to Charles II. Mr. Newport was appointed a Commissioner of the Customs in 1681, and he was one of the intended Knights of the Royal Oak. In 1677 he had a pension of £400 a year. This member represented Montgomeryshire in Parliament from 1661—1670 and Preston from 1685 to 1687 in addition to Shrewsbury. He was Custos Rotulorum of Montgomeryshire in 1678 and again in 1691/2. The Hon. Andrew Newport, who was never married died on the 11 Sept. 1699, aged 76, and was buried in the Chancel of Wroxeter Church where there is a flat stone still to his memory.* By his will the member left his Manor of Deythur in Montgomeryshire and estates in that County and in Shropshire to his nephew Richard, Lord Newport, the son of his elder brother Francis, Lord Bradford. Luttrell in his Diary recording the death of the Hon. Andrew Newport says "It is said that he has left his estate and £40,000 in money to the Hon. Thomas Newport, the Earl of Bradford's 2nd son.**

In 1690 the Hon. Andrew Newport erected, built, and endowed a school in the Manor of Deythur as a Grammar School, but in accordance with the principles of the Church of England. This school is now conducted in accordance with a scheme of the Charity Commissioners.°

This member must have been a very noted man in his day. We know little of his early history, but amongst Defoe's works is one entitled "Memoirs of Col. Andrew Newport" which purports to have been written by him. It is to a great extent fabulous, but there was probably some romantic foundation connected with Mr. Newport which gave rise to the belief that he was the hero of the Chronicle.

There is at Weston a picture of the M.P. which is attributed to Sir Godfrey Kneller.

*Williams' Welsh M.P's, 144. Mont. Coll. XXVIII, 32, 225.

**Luttrell, IV, 562.

°Mont. Coll. VIII, 114. Dic. Nat. Biog. XIV. 355.

1689/90. ANDREW NEWPORT (153) and RICHARD MYTTON (154).

154. RICHARD MYTTON, 1690.

Richard Mytton of Halston was the son of Major General Thomas Mytton, M.P. for the County in 1654. He was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1686. Mr. Mytton married Rebecca, daughter of Roger Kynaston of Hordley, and had (with other children) a son Richard who succeeded him in his estates and was M.P. for Shrewsbury in 7 Parliaments.* Richard Mytton the elder was dead in 1700 as in November of that year letters of administration of the estate of Rebecca Mytton, described as a widow, were granted to her son Richard Mytton II.

*Leighton's Shropshire Houses, 26.

1695. JOHN KYNASTON (155) and HON. ANDREW NEWPORT (153).

Sir Edward Leighton was a candidate but was defeated.

155. JOHN KYNASTON, 1695—1709.

John Kynaston the leader of the Shropshire Tory party was the eldest surviving son of Edward Kynaston of Hordley and his wife Amy, daughter of Thomas Barker of Haughmond, and was born in August 1664. Mr. Kynaston who succeeded his father at Hordley resided principally at Acton Reynold within the Liberties of Shrewsbury of which he was Mayor in 1696. Mr. Kynaston was unseated for Shrewsbury in 1709 after having represented it continuously from 1695 and did not again contest the seat but was elected for the County in the Parliaments of 1710, 1713, and 1722, being defeated by a small majority in the election of 1715, so that he did his full share of public work. He was Sheriff of the County in 1690. Mr. Kynaston was married twice, first in Sept. 1686 to Beatrice daughter of Sir Vincent Corbet and sister and heiress of her brother Sir Vincent the 3rd Baronet, by whom he had (with other children) a son Corbet Kynaston also M.P. for Shrewsbury (No. 159 below). Mr. Kynaston's second wife was Anne, daughter of Thomas Harwood of Tern to whom he was married on the 27 October 1708. This lady is said to have repeatedly carried the contributions of the Shropshire Jacobites to the Pretender at the Court of St. Germaines.* Mr. Kynaston built the family Mansion at Hardwick and in 1731 he revived the family claim to the Barony of Powys but failed. The claim was again raised by the member's grandson Sir John Kynaston Powell, but with no better success. John Kynaston died on the 10 September 1733, aged 69, and was

buried in the family vault at Hordley, being described in the Register as John Kynaston of Hardwick Esquire. It is stated in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1733 that on Mr. Kynaston's death an estate of £8000 a year fell to his son Corbet Kynaston. There is a monument in Hordley Church to Mr. Kynaston's memory. His will was proved in P.C.C. 27 May 1734.

*Trans. 1894, 217.

1698. JOHN KYNASTON (155) and RICHARD MYTTON (155A).
 1700/1 Do. Do.
 1701 Do. Do.

155A. RICHARD MYTTON, 1698, 1700, 1, 2, 5, 8, 10.

Richard Mytton of Halston who represented Shrewsbury in these 7 Parliaments was the eldest son of Richard Mytton, M.P. in 1690, and was baptised on 27 Dec. 1660. He matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1677 and then went to the Bar at the Inner Temple. He was the 9th member of the family as M.P. for Shrewsbury. He was married about 1685 to Arabella, daughter of Sir John Houlton, Lord Mayor of London in 1695, by whom he had a large family. Amongst his sons were Richard (born in 1688) who succeeded him and died in 1731, and William the well-known Shropshire Antiquary. Mr. Mytton died in London in 1718, and letters of administration were granted to his widow, described as Sarah Mytton, probably an error.

After his election in 1708, Mr. Mytton was unseated with his colleague John Kynaston on the petition of Sir Edward Leighton.

The Gentleman's Magazine Vol. I for 1731, has the following entry "Feb. 20 died Richard Mytton of Halston Esq. His estate of £3000 per annum came to John Mytton, Esq., a Portugese Merchant." This Richard Mytton was the member's son.

*Halston Register, 9.

1702. JOHN KYNASTON (155) and RICHARD MYTTON (155A).

There was a contest on this occasion, the numbers of the poll having been preserved. They were as follows

John Kynaston	655
Richard Mytton	627
Thomas Jones	407
William Prince	255

1705. JOHN KYNASTON (155) and RICHARD MYTTON (155A).
 1708. Do. Do.

The result of the poll on this occasion was

John Kynaston (Red and Green) T.	714
Richard Mytton (Blue and White)	636
Sir Edward Leighton (Purple and Yellow)	543

Sir Edward Leighton presented a petition against Messrs. Kynaston and Mytton on the ground of bribery menaces and other ill practices, and in 1709 December, The House of Commons unseated John Kynaston and Richard Mytton who had succeeded at the poll and amended the return by substituting for their names that of Sir Edward Leighton, ordering a new writ to be issued for the other seat. The ground of the decision was that the right of electing Burgesses for Parliament was vested only in the Burgesses inhabiting in the Borough or the Suburbs thereof paying Scot and lot and not receiving charity.

156. SIR EDWARD LEIGHTON, BART., 1709.

Sir Edward Leighton who obtained the seat on this occasion by a successful petition, but was defeated at the next election, was the eldest son of Robert Leighton, M.P. for Shrewsbury (No. 149 above), and his wife Gertrude, daughter of Edward Baldwin of Diddlebury. He was admitted to Shrewsbury School on the 16 February 1661, and matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford in 1668. He afterwards went to the Bar at the Inner Temple. Sir Edward Leighton contested the County in 1695 as a strong Williamite as opposed to the Jacobite interest, but was defeated, but was elected for the County to the Parliament of 1698. He served the office of Sheriff of Shropshire in 1693, and was in the same year created a Baronet. Sir Edward was twice married, first on the 17 April 1667 at Alberbury to Dorothy, daughter of Sir Job Charlton of Ludford, by whom he had a son Edward, who succeeded him, and other children. He was married, secondly, also at Alberbury, on 29 August 1693 to "Madam Jane Nichols, Citizen of London." This member was the last of the family to reside at the old Castle of Wattlesborough where he died. Sir Edward, whose name appears in the roll of Benefactors to the Shrewsbury School Library was buried at Alberbury on the 6 April 1711. His will was proved in P.C.C. 12 July, 1711.

Sir Edward sold the Manor of Bausley to his brother William Leighton, a transaction which gave rise to very bitter and prolonged litigation between Sir Edward's son and successor, and the latter's uncle William. The suit was carried to the House of Lords and ended in the sale being upheld.*

*Mont. Collections, VIII, 101.

1709/10 Jany. THOMAS JONES (157) 1710, 1713, 1715.

Thomas Jones was elected at a bye-election to fill the vacancy caused by the unseating by the House of Commons of John Kynaston and Richard Mytton, the other seat having been awarded to the successful petitioner Sir Edward Leighton. He defeated Edward Cresset, the other candidate, by a majority of 51*

157. THOMAS JONES of Chilton and Carreglova was the son of William Jones and grandson of Sir Thomas Jones, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas and M.P. for Shrewsbury (No. 148 above), and was born about 1667. Mr. Jones was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1700, and of Denbighshire in 1699. This member unsuccessfully contested the Borough in 1710 when he was defeated by Richard Mytton and Edward Cresset, but was successful at the Poll of 1713, when, however, he was unseated on the petition of Corbet Kynaston on the ground that the right of election was in the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses, and Mr. Jones was also charged with bribery and corrupt practices. Mr. Jones was twice married, first to Mary, second daughter and co-heiress of Sir Francis Russell, Bart. of Strensham, and secondly to Jane, daughter of Sir Edward Leighton, Bart. (No. 156), but he left no issue by either wife. He died (whilst M.P.) on the 31 July 1715, and was buried at St. Alkmund's, on the 12th August following. There is in St. Alkmund's a monument to the memory of this member bearing the following epitaph, which after the manner of the day is very eulogistic. "Beneath this monument is deposited the body of Thomas Jones, Esq. son and heir of William Jones, Esq. and grandson and heir to Sir Thomas Jones, Knight. A worthy Patriot of his country, he lived deservedly beloved and died Representative in Parliament of this ancient Borough of Shrewsbury, whose strictest piety, exemplary virtue and extensive charity will consign him to a joyful Resurrection. Obiit 31 die Julii "A.D. 1715 aetatis suæ 48." His will was proved P.C.C. 2 Nov. 1715.

Mr. Jones's representation of Shrewsbury is also commemorated by a remarkable earthenware Jug, commonly known as Squire Jones's Jug (a very rare find in these days) which has the figure of Mr. Jones on one side in the act of addressing his constituents with the following inscription round the figure "Independence and Old England for ever and "that" for the "rest of the world." Upon the other side are some sayings of Squire Jones who was evidently a character of his day, but the song "Here's a bumper Squire Jones" which has been considered to apply to him was the work of an Irish Judge and had no reference to the member for Shrewsbury.

*Luttrells Diary VI, 532.

1710. RICHARD MYTTON (155A) and EDWARD CRESSETT (158).

There was a severe contest on this occasion, the result of which was as follows :

Richard Mytton	224
Edward Cressett	222
Thomas Jones (157)	177
Sir Edward Leighton, Bart. (156)	131

158. EDWARD CRESSETT, 1710, 1713.

Edward Cressett of Cound and Upton Cressett was the son of Robert Cressett (who was buried at Cound in May 1702) and Elizabeth Huxley. Mr. Cressett was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1702 and unsuccessfully contested the Borough in January 1709/10, but was defeated by 51 by Thomas Jones. He fought contested elections successfully in 1710 and 1713. Mr. Cressett was evidently a Tory and High Churchman as he was one of the principal Shropshire men who welcomed Dr. Sacheverell into the County in 1710. The member married at Atcham in August 1695, Elizabeth Doughty by whom he had 2 sons, the eldest Robert, who died at the age of 32 in 1728 May, and was buried at Cound, leaving an only child Edward, who died when only 8 years old. The member's second son was Edward, who became Dean of Hereford and Bishop of Llandaff, being buried at Cound in Feb. 1755. The Bishop left an only child, Elizabeth, upon whose death the Cressett estates which had devolved on her went to the Pelhams, her kinsmen, one of whom represented Shrewsbury in 1835.

Edward Cressett the M.P. died at his house in Grosvenor Street, London, on the 9 January 1726 and was buried at Upton Cressett. His will was proved in P.C.C. 1 March, 1726-7.

1713. EDWARD CRESSETT (158) and THOMAS JONES (157).

There was a poll on this occasion resulting as follows :

Edward Cressett (White and Green)	—
Thomas Jones (Blue)	351
Corbet Kynaston (159) (Green and Red)	276

Corbet Kynaston filed a petition against the return of Mr. Cressett and Mr. Jones, upon which the House of Commons resolved that the right of electing Burgesses of Parliament was in the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses, that the petition against Mr. Cressett's return was frivolous, vexatious and scandalous, but that Thomas Jones was not duly elected and that Corbet Kynaston was duly elected.

159. CORBET KYNASTON, 1713, 1715.

Corbet Kynaston was the eldest son of John Kynaston of Hardwick and Hordley (No. 155 above) and was baptised at Shawbury on the 2 February 1690. He obtained his seat in Parliament by a petition, as will be seen above, having been defeated at the poll, when only 23 years of age. In 1722 he succeeded at the poll, but the tables were turned upon him in a petition, when he was unseated on the ground that the Abbey Foregate was not in the Borough for Parliamentary elections. He again contested Shrewsbury without success in 1727, but obtained a seat for the County. The Gentleman's Magazine credited Corbet Kynaston with succeeding to a fortune of £8000 a year upon his Father's death, but his many election fights and petitions soon impoverished him. He was a large speculator in the disastrous South Sea Company, the failure of which, not only caused him great losses, but also involved him in an expensive litigation with Sir John Astley, also M.P. for Shrewsbury. In the result, Corbet Kynaston had to leave the country and retire to Boulogne where he lived for some years. After his father's death in 1733, Mr. Kynaston returned to Shrewsbury and lived at Thorne's Hall.

Mr. Kynaston was like his father, an ardent Jacobite, and was in 1723 a witness on behalf of Bishop Atterbury before the House

of Lords, and he was one of the six members for whose arrest the King asked and obtained the consent of the House of Commons.

In 1717, Corbet Kynaston was a candidate for the Mayoralty of Shrewsbury, but was defeated by Sir Charles Lloyd, and he does not seem to have ever held the office, though he fought manfully for the rights of the Shrewsbury freeholders in the great *Mandamus* case which was carried to the House of Lords. Mr. Kynaston did not live to see the ultimate triumph of his cause, neither did he live to see the completion of the house which he commenced to build on the Town Wall and which is now used as the Shrewsbury Infirmary.

Mr. Corbet Kynaston died unmarried on the 17 June 1740, and was buried at Moreton Corbet. By his will he devised his Haughmond and Shelvock estates to his cousin Andrew Corbet of Lee and Albright Hussey and the Moreton Corbet and Acton Reynold estates to another cousin, Andrew Corbet of Shawbury (M.P. for Shrewsbury) while the estates over which he had no power of disposition passed to his half brother, Edward Kynaston. However, it was found after his death that he was in debt to the amount of between £70000 and £80000, and the greater part of his estates were sold under an Act of Parliament passed in 1748. Under this Act a family arrangement was made as to the remaining estates.

1715. CORBET KYNASTON (159) and THOMAS JONES (157).
1715 Nov. ANDREW CORBET vice THOS. JONES, deceased.

160. ANDREW CORBET, 1715.

Andrew Corbet was the son of Richard Corbet of Shawbury Park, and was baptised at Shawbury on the 16 October 1694. He was therefore only just 21 when elected as M.P. for Shrewsbury. Andrew Corbet matriculated at New College, Oxford in May 1712. He was elected in 1732 Mayor of the Borough, but declined to accept the office and was fined £10 for his refusal. Mr. Corbet was married on the 25 May 1719, at the Abbey Church, Shrewsbury, to Frances Prynce, only daughter and heiress of William Prynce, by whom he had several children. The member was buried at Moreton Corbet on the 25 February 1757.

1722 Oct. CORBET KYNASTON (159) and RICHARD LYSTER (161).

There was a poll on this occasion, the result of which was as follows :

Corbet Kynaston (Red and Green)	722
Richard Lyster (Blue and White)	695
Sir Richard Corbett, Bart. (Yellow)	644
Orlando Bridgeman (Red and White)	643

The poll as given in Cartwright's diary is quite different.

Kynaston	1144
Lyster	1119
Bridgeman	744
Sir R. Corbett	725

The defeated candidates petitioned against the return of Kynaston and Lyster, and the House of Commons resolved that the Parishes of Holy Cross and St. Giles were not within the Parliamentary Borough. Messrs. Kynaston and Lyster were unseated, and Orlando Bridgeman and Sir R. Corbett declared elected.

1723 April. ORLANDO BRIDGEMAN (162) and SIR RICHARD CORBETT (163)

Cartwright's Diarist is amusing in his comments on this election. He says " This year was a great contest for members " for the Town. Michael Brickdale, the Mayor, acted in such a " manner like one who had sworn not to do justice. Though " Brickdale had made 138 of Lord Newport's tenants Burgesses " on purpose to serve Bridgeman and Corbett, and put the " money in his own pocket which was paid as fines, yet they cut " off the out burgesses' votes and declared Bridgeman and " Corbett sitting members. Some people would have sworn " in the House of Commons that Mardol was not in the Town " of Shrewsbury, Coton Hill and Abbey Foregate were excluded " from that time as well as the out burgesses. A son of the " Mayor was brought up a Clergyman weak in constitution and " afflicted with the King's evil, which he attributes as a punishment for the wickedness of his father.

161. RICHARD LYSTER, 1722, 1727.

Richard Lyster was the eldest son of Thomas Lyster of Rowton Castle and was born in 1691. He was educated at Shrewsbury School, matriculated at Christ Church, Oxford in 1708 and was

admitted as a Student at the Inner Temple in the same year. He succeeded his father in the family estates when only 10 years old. After sitting in the House of Commons for 2 sessions, his return was invalidated by the House of Commons on the ground that the Abbey Foregate did not give a qualification for a vote. It was on this occasion that the incident mentioned by Blakeway in the Sheriffs took place. At this time election petitions were decided by a party vote in the House of Commons, and as the Whigs were then in the ascendant and Mr. Lyster was a Tory and a Jacobite, the majority went against him. The member, young and hot headed, is said to have left the House in an unparliamentary way, and on being called to order, he made the injudicious remark "when you learn justice" "I will learn manners," a remark which nearly brought him into trouble from which he was only saved by Sir Robert Walpole. Mr. Lyster was successful in the 1727 election, but lost his seat for Shrewsbury in that of 1734. He was returned for Shropshire in 1740 and represented the County uninterruptedly till his death, earning the title of the Senator. Mr. Blakeway gives an interesting account of the magnificence of Mr. Lyster's progress to London to perform his parliamentary duties. Mr. Lyster married Anne, daughter of Robert Pigott of Chetwynd, by whom he had 3 children, all of whom died young. He died on the 13 April 1766 and was buried at Alberbury. Mr. Lyster left the Rowton Castle estates to his wife for life and after her death they passed to his nephew Richard Lyster.

162. ORLANDO BRIDGEMAN, 1722.

Orlando Bridgeman of Great Lever, Lancashire, and of Castle Bromwich, Warwickshire, was the eldest son of Sir John Bridgeman 3rd Baronet, and his wife Ursula, daughter and heiress of Roger Matthews of Blodwell, Shropshire, and was born on 2 July 1695. This member succeeded to the Baronetcy on the death of his father in July 1747. He was married on the 9 April 1719, at St. Anne's, Soho, to Lady Anne, daughter of Richard Newport 2nd Earl of Bradford, by whom he had a son Sir Henry, who was created Baron Bradford, from whom the present Earl of Bradford is directly descended. In Sir Orlando's descendants the direct representation of the old family of Newport is now solely vested. Sir Orlando Bridgeman bought in April 1756

the Manor of Hughley, Shropshire and estates there from Godolphin Edwards and so increased the Shropshire property of his family. Weston Park fell to his son Sir Henry upon the death of the last Lord Bradford of the Newport family with considerable personal property. Sir Orlando died on the 25 July 1764.

This M.P. must not be confused with his distant relative another Sir Orlando Bridgeman of Ridley, Cheshire, who was M.P. for Coventry and other places, Auditor General of the Prince of Wales and Governor of Barbados.

163. SIR RICHARD CORBETT, 1722, 1734—1754.

Sir Richard Corbett of Longnor was the eldest son of Sir Uvedale Corbett and his wife Lady Mildred, daughter of James, Earl of Salisbury and was baptized at Longnor on 21st May 1696. He was educated at Eton and at New College, Oxford, where he matriculated on the 30 June 1713. Sir Richard succeeded his father as 4th Baronet on the latter's death on the 15 Oct. 1701. He lived chiefly at Longnor and at a house in Dogpole, Shrewsbury, and served the office of Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1735. Sir Richard who represented Shrewsbury for 25 years, died without having been married, on the 25 September 1774, and was buried at Leebotwood on the 1st October. There is a memorial in Leebotwood Church to Sir Richard's memory on which he is recorded to have been "A friend to the Constitution, "to Liberty and Toleration. He served his country as a true "patriot in many Parliaments." It proceeds "In his manners "he was quite kind and condescending, engaging the love as well "as the esteem of all who knew him." Upon Sir Richard's decease the Baronetcy is said to have become extinct, but it was claimed and assumed by a distant relative Charles Corbett a bookseller in London as descended from Charles Corbet of Elton, Herefordshire. By his will dated in November 1764, Sir Richard left his estates to this Charles Corbet in tail male, but by a codicil made in 1771 he revoked this devise on the ground that Charles Corbet had become insolvent and left his estates to his kinsman Robert Flint with divers remainders under which these estates became vested in Archdeacon Plymley who assumed the name of Corbett. This led to a Shropshire cause célèbre which was tried

at Shrewsbury Assizes in 1813, when Sir Richard's Codicil was upheld, and Archdeacon Corbett confirmed in the enjoyment of the estates.

There is an amusing reference to this M.P. in the Diary ascribed to William Cartwright the Nonjuring Bishop, but more probably written by James Bowen, when in reference to the election of 1734 the writer says Sir Richard was called "Tauneey "Dick from the colour of his hide." The Diarist says that Sir Richard and William Kynaston were returned "very unfairly" and adds in reference to the Returning Officer "That the Corporation generally chose a Knave or Fool as Mayor for an Election year."*

* Shropshire Notes and Queries, VII. 76.

1727. SIR JOHN ASTLEY (164) and RICHARD LYSTER (161).

There was again a contest resulting thus :

Richard Lyster	241
Sir John Astley	233
Corbet Kynaston (159)	189

164. SIR JOHN ASTLEY, 1727.

Sir John Astley who sat for Shrewsbury in this one Parliament only, but represented the County from 1734—1771, a continuous Parliamentary life of 44 years, was the only son of Sir Richard Astley of Patshull, who was created a Baronet by Charles II. in 1662. Sir John married Mary, the daughter and heiress of Philip Prynne, the last of the powerful and wealthy Shrewsbury family. Sir John Astley took a great interest in Shrewsbury and was one of the chief promoters of the building of the New English Bridge, of which he laid the first stone on the 27 June 1769. He was Patron of the living of St. Julian and a large subscriber to the rebuilding of the Church. Sir John and Lady Astley had a large family, but all died without issue, except one daughter Alicia, who married the Earl of Tankerville, and the estates of both Sir John and his wife passed to the Tankerville family, but the Patshull estates were sold by this member in his life time to George, Lord Pigot. Sir John Astley died on the 29 December 1771, aged 84, when the Baronetcy became extinct.

1734. WILLIAM KYNASTON (165) and SIR RICHARD CORBETT (163).

The poll on this occasion resulted as follows :

William Kynaston (Red and Green)	269
Sir Richard Corbett (Yellow)	265
John Mytton (Sky Blue and White)	201
Richard Lyster (Dark Blue and White)	199

The unsuccessful candidates petitioned, but no decision seems to have been given and the members elected retained their seats.

There must have been great local feeling and excitement about this election as it is stated that 6 Companies of Foot were encamped in Kingsland and two Companies quartered in the Abbey Foregate during the polling.* to support the Corporation and overawe the other party.

* Shropshire Notes and Queries, VII, 76.

1741. WILLIAM KYNASTON (165) and SIR RICHARD CORBETT (163).

1747. Do. Do.

The result of the poll in 1747 was as follows :

William Kynaston (Red and Green)	155
Sir Richard Corbett (Yellow)	150
Robert Pigott (White and Yellow)	140
Richard Prince Astley (Pink)	135

The unsuccessful candidates again petitioned against the result of the poll on the ground of corrupt practices by the elected members and illegal conduct on the part of the Mayor, Isaac Pritchard, and on the further ground that William Kynaston had no sufficient landed estate to qualify him as a member of the House of Commons, but the petition was eventually withdrawn by leave of the House.

In connection with this election it is stated that " the Mayor behaved as partial as any of the preceding Mayors had done."*

A full account of the Poll with the name of all the voters and those for whom they voted is given in the *Transactions* Vol. III., 221.

*Sh. Ar. Trans (4) IV, 66-67.

165. WILLIAM KYNASTON, 1734—1749.

William Kynaston who was the son of William Kynaston of Ruyton-on-the-Eleven Towns, was born at Ruyton and was educated at Shrewsbury School. He was admitted a Pensioner at St. John's College, Cambridge on 16 June 1699, and was afterwards called to the Bar. Mr. Kynaston was Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1717, and there is an amusing if somewhat scurrilous reference to this election in Cartwright's *Chronological History of Shrewsbury* (Sh. Ar. Tr. (4) IV, 64, evidently written by a political opponent which seems worth repeating, "Will Kynaston of Ryton, commonly called Heavy Billy (not "from the weight of his purse, but the unweildiness of his body) "came in to be Mayor by a writ of Mandamus though he was "neither rightly elected nor the Senior Alderman; he acted "partially during his time and used such indirect means to "compass his designs that his name became odious to his "dying day." It is curious to note that this very unpopular man headed the poll on two of his elections and was elected without opposition on the third. Mr. Kynaston was appointed a Master in Chancery in 1721 by Lord Chancellor Macclesfield, for which he paid his Lordship the sum of 1500 guineas^o, and held that office until his death, though he was involved in an enquiry as to large deficiencies which led to Lord Macclesfield's resignation. Mr. Lloyd Kenyon gives an account of the enquiry in his paper on the Township of New Ruyton.** In 1724 there was found to be a shortage of money in the accounts for which the Masters were called upon to answer, and this member, as one of such masters was ordered to deposit in Court within a week a sum of £26908. He was unable to do this, but gave security, so far as he could do so, for the sum and was allowed to retain his office. Mr. Kynaston was Recorder of Shrewsbury from 1733 until his death, so that he was in the unusual position of having been Mayor, Recorder and M.P. for the Borough. Mr. Kynaston died on the 24 February 1749 and was buried at Ruyton where his wife Dorothy had also been buried on the 5 November 1730. One of their daughters married Edward Kinaston and another Robert Corbet, Colonel of the 1st Regiment of the Guards. There is a tablet in Ruyton-in-the-Eleven Towns Church to the memory of William Kynaston and his wife.

**Trans. (3) I, 221.

^oLord Campbell's *Lord Chancellors*, VI, 37.

1748/9 March. THOMAS HILL (166) vice WM. KYNASTON deceased.
166. THOMAS HILL, 1749—1768.

Thomas Hill of Tern Hall was the eldest son of Thomas Harwood of Tern and his wife Margaret, daughter of Rowland Hill of Hawkstone and sister of William Hill the distinguished Diplomatist and Statesman in the reigns of William III and Queen Anne. This member dropped the name of Harwood and assumed that of Hill upon succeeding in 1727 to the Attingham and other estates which had been settled upon his mother and himself in 1703 by his uncle Richard Hill. Mr. Hill was twice married, first to Ann, daughter of Sir Littleton Powys of Henley, Ludlow, who was buried at Atcham on the 19 December 1739, by whom he had a son Thomas and two daughters. His second wife was Susannah Maria, one of the 4 daughters and co-heiresses of William Noel, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and by her (she died February 14 1760) Mr. Hill had 2 sons, Samuel the eldest who was buried at Atcham on the 27 March 1766, and Noel who became the first Lord Berwick of Attingham. Mr. Hill died on the 10 June 1782, aged 89, and was buried at Atcham on the 20 June. There is no foundation for the statement in Leach's County Seats of Shropshire that this M.P. was a Lord of the Treasury and Envoy to Brussels and Turin. Mr. Hill by his will dated the 17 May 1779 left the interest of £100 to the industrious poor of Atcham.

Mr. Hill, to his great credit was the Patron of the saintly Rev. John Fletcher of Madeley who came into Shropshire as tutor to Mr. Hill's children and was appointed by him to the living of Madeley.

1754. THOMAS HILL (166) and ROBERT MORE (167).

167. ROBERT MORE, 1754—1760.

Robert More was the 3rd son of Robert More of Linley, and was born in May 1703. He matriculated at Queen's College, Cambridge and graduated as B.A. in 1724 and M.A. in 1728. Mr. More was Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1737 and represented Bishop's Castle in the Parliaments of 1727 and 1734. He was a man of high attainments and a great traveller, especially in Sweden, Denmark and Spain, the latter of which countries was greatly indebted to him for his researches and the improvements made

at his instance. Mr. More was a Fellow of the Royal Society and a distinguished Naturalist and Botanist.* Mr. More was twice married, first in 1750 to the daughter of Robert Wilson of Shrewsbury, by whom he had 2 sons, Thomas who succeeded him at Larden Hall, and Robert who took the Linley and More estates. Mr. More married as his second wife Catherine, daughter of Thomas More of Millichope Hall who had no issue. Mr. More was an ardent Whig, and is said to have been very proud of the exploits of his well known grandfather Col. Samuel More, the defender of Hopton Castle. Mr. More was the central figure when Mayor of Shrewsbury in the scene which took place at the Shropshire Assizes, which during his Mayoralty were removed from Shrewsbury to Bridgnorth in consequence of the Judges' quarrel with the Corporation of the former place. Mr. More appeared at the Assizes in his individual capacity as a County Magistrate and Grand Juror, but did not answer to his name as Mayor of Shrewsbury, and when called upon by the Judge, no doubt with a view to further censure "are you not Mayor of Shrewsbury" he is said to have replied, "No my Lord, I was yesterday and hope to be so to-morrow, but the Mayor of Shrewsbury never appears outside his jurisdiction." This was unanswerable.

Mr. More died at Linley on the 5 January 1780, aged 76, and was buried at More. There is no entry of his burial in the More Register, but there is this note of a matter which the Vicar probably thought more important "I was paid a guinea. for Mr. More's funeral. At the same time 10/- for the Mortuary."

* Dic. Nat. Biog. XIII. 875.

1761. THOMAS HILL (166) and ROBERT CLIVE (168).

168. ROBERT CLIVE, 1761 to 1774.

Shrewsbury had the honour of being represented in these three Parliaments by one of the greatest of Englishmen and certainly the greatest of her great Empire Builders, Robert Clive, whom Lord Chatham himself styled "A Heaven born General" and of whom Lord Macaulay wrote "that our Island, so fertile in heroes and statesmen has scarcely ever produced a man more truly great, either in Arms or in Council." Robert Lord Clive's life has however been written by such able Biographers in

Sir George Forrest in "Lord Clive," Sir John Malcolm in "Life of Clive" and by Col. Malleeson in "The Ruler of India" series" as well as by Lord Macaulay, that it is unnecessary here to give more than a bare summary of the main facts of his life.

Robert Clive, a Shropshire man by birth and descent, was the eldest son of Richard Clive of Styche, M.P. for Montgomery from 1759 to his death in 1771, and was born at Styche on the 29th September 1725. He was educated at Market Drayton Grammar School, and many stories are told of his boyish feats of daring there. At the age of 17 he was appointed in 1743 to a writership in the service of the East India Company and went to India, with which his name and fame are indissolubly connected. Clive was utterly unsuited to a writer's duties and he found his truer vocation in the Army which he joined in 1747 serving under Major Stringer Lawrence. Clive laid the foundation of his great military fame in the capture of Arcot and holding it against an overwhelming besieging army. After a short visit to England in 1755, Clive was made a Lieut.-Colonel and appointed Governor of Fort St. David. On his return to India, Clive avenged Surajah Dowlah's terrible atrocity, known for all time as the Black Hole of Calcutta and stormed and took Calcutta. In 1757 the great battle of Plassy was fought and won which established Clive's position as a Military Commander of the highest order, and as a result of which India became a part of the British Empire. In 1758 Col. Clive was made Governor of Bengal which he held until 1760 when he returned to England where he was welcomed as a hero. In 1761, Col. Clive was first returned as M.P. for Shrewsbury, a seat which he held until his death in 1774. He had previously (in 1754) been elected as M.P. for the Borough of St. Michael in Cornwall, but upon a petition being lodged against him he was unseated by a party vote. In 1762 Robert Clive was created Lord Clive, Baron of Plassey, but as this was an Irish peerage, he retained his seat in the House of Commons. In 1764 in consequence of fresh disturbances in Bengal and unrest generally, Lord Clive was despatched again to India where he remained until 1768, having in those few years reformed the corruption of the civil service of India and left behind him as great a name as an Administrator as he had previously done as a soldier.

Unfortunately his reforms had themselves made him enemies in high places, and for the remainder of his life he was made the target of the most bitter political attacks in which advantage was taken of a somewhat doubtful transaction in which he overreached the intended treachery of Omichund more than 20 years before. The House of Commons, whilst not absolving him from a share in this matter, resolved to its own honour "that Robert Lord Clive had rendered great and meritorious "services to his country."

Lord Clive married at Madras on the 17 March 1753, Margaret, daughter of Edmund Maskelyne, by whom he had (with other children) a son Edward, who succeeded him and was created Earl of Powis. Lord Clive bought the Walcot estate, which is now enjoyed by his lineal descendant the present Earl of Powis, Lord Clive's great grandson and the present representative of the family.

Robert Lord Clive was elected M.P. for Shrewsbury in 1768, when absent in India. He was Mayor of the Borough in 1762 and was appointed Recorder in 1771. In 1769 he was created a Knight of the Bath, and in 1773 he was appointed Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of Shropshire.

The persecution of his political foes and jealous rivals, coupled with bodily illness, so worked upon this great Englishman's mind that he died by his own hand (under circumstances which have never been fully explained) at his house in Berkeley Square on the 22 November 1774, at the age of only 49. He was buried in the Church at Moreton Say in his native county which is so proud of him.

It was a French writer who said of Lord Clive that he was "one of the men who did most for the greatness of England," while Lord Macaulay summed up his career in these words "Clive's name stands high on the roll of conquerors, but it is "found in a better list of those who have done and suffered "much for the benefit of mankind." A great patriot, a great man, his life cannot be better summed up than in the words which appear in the memorial brass at Moreton Say "Primus "in Indis."

1768. March 19. NOEL HILL and ROBERT LORD CLIVE.

Mr. Green in his History of the English people says that the elections for this Parliament were more corrupt than any before.

and that even the stoutest opponents of Reform shrank aghast from the open bribery of constituencies. There was a contest for Shrewsbury the poll resulting as follows :

Noel Hill	C 233 orange and purple
Robert Lord Clive	C 149 purple and red
William Pulteney	W 97 light blue.

Mr. Pulteney petitioned against the return on the ground of corrupt and illegal practices by the Agents for Lord Clive and particularly that Thomas Wingfield, Mayor of the Borough, "who was dependent on Lord Clive" had illegally refused votes and there was a further petition by some of the Burgesses to the same effect. Both petitions however seem to have been dropped and no decision was ever given upon them.

1768, March. NOEL HILL (169) and ROBERT LORD CLIVE (168).

169. NOEL HILL (Tory) 1768—1774.

Noel Hill was the eldest surviving son of Thomas Hill, M.P. for Shrewsbury (1749—1768) and succeeded his Father in the representation of the Borough. He graduated at St. John's Coll. Cambridge in 1763. Noel Hill was Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1778, of Oswestry in 1779, and was M.P. for the County of Salop from 1774—1784. This member who was Colonel of the County Militia resided at Tern Hill, but built the present splendid Mansion House of Attingham. In 1784, May, Noel Hill was raised to the Peerage as 1st Baron Berwick. He married on the 17 November 1768, Anne, daughter of Henry Vernon of Hilton, Staffordshire by whom he had 3 sons, who all in turn succeeded to the title of Lord Berwick. His Lordship died in London on the 6th January 1789, aged 44, and was buried at Atcham.

1774 Oct. 14. LORD CLIVE (168) and CHARLTON LEIGHTON (170).

There was a contest on this occasion which resulted as follows :

Lord Clive	T 211 purple and red
Charlton Leighton	T 179 blue and yellow
William Pulteney	W 171 blue

Mr. Pulteney the unsuccessful candidate again petitioned against the return on the ground of illegal practices by Lord Clive and Mr. Leighton and their Agents, and on the further

ground of improper admission and refusal of votes by the Returning officer. There was also a petition by dissatisfied Burgesses against the return of Mr. Charlton Leighton only. Mr. Pulteney's petition against both members was withdrawn, but on the other petition the House resolved in March 1775 that Mr. Leighton was not duly elected and that Mr. Pulteney ought to have been returned and the Return was ordered to be amended accordingly.

170. CHARLTON LEIGHTON, 1774, 1780/84.

Charlton Leighton of Loton was the eldest son of Sir Charlton Leighton (3rd Bart.) and succeeded his father in the Baronetcy and Loton estates on the latter's death on 5 May 1780. His mother was Anna Maria, daughter of Richard Mytton of Halston. The member was Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1777. Sir Charlton Leighton was never married, and died on the 9 September 1784, when he was succeeded in the title and estates by his half-brother Sir Robert Leighton. Sir Charlton was buried at Alberbury.

1775 March. WILLIAM PULTENEY W. (171) vice CHARLTON LEIGHTON
unseated on petition.

171. WILLIAM PULTENEY (Whig) 1776—1805.

William Pulteney (afterwards Sir William) who obtained his seat in Parliament upon a petition in 1775, but afterwards held it uninterruptedly until his death in 1805, was the 3rd son of Sir James Johnstone Bart. of Westerhall, co. Dumfries, and succeeded to the Baronetcy upon the death of his elder brother, Col. Sir James Johnstone 4th Baronet, on the 3 September 1794. He was born on the 17 October 1729, and as a young man practised at the Scotch Bar.

William Johnstone (as he then was) married on the 10th November 1760, the great heiress Frances, only child of Daniel Pulteney, the 1st cousin of the Earl of Bath (William Pulteney the great statesman), and took the name of Pulteney. By this marriage, Mr. Pulteney obtained the great estates of his wife's father both in England and America, and is said to have been not only the largest American stockholder, but the richest commoner in England. He was therefore as M.P. a man after Shrewsbury's own heart, as the old Town has often shewn its partiality for a member with dollars. By this wife (who died

on the 1st June 1782), Mr. Pulteney had one daughter Henrietta Laura, who was created Baroness Pulteney in 1791, and having married in 1794 General Sir James Murray, was in 1803 raised in the Peerage as Countess of Bath, but she died without issue in July 1808, when her titles became extinct. Sir William Pulteney was married a second time in January 1804, to the widow of Andrew Stewart and daughter and co-heiress of Sir William Stirling, Bart., but had no issue by her. In a memoir of Sir William Pulteney, published in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1805, he is said to have been upright and honest as a politician (he was a strong Whig) and to have long ranked as one of the most impartial and sensible members of the independent party of the House of Commons wherein he was a useful speaker, whose opinion was always listened to with respect by the House of Commons. In private life, Sir William was chiefly remarkable for his frugal habits and abstemiousness. He was the owner of Shrewsbury Castle which he converted into a good residence for himself, chiefly under the advice of the eminent engineer Thomas Telford, who was at that time Surveyor of public works in Shropshire. Sir William Pulteney died at his house in Piccadilly on the 29 May 1805, aged 84, and was buried in the South Cloister of Westminster Abbey near the monument of his father-in-law Daniel Pulteney. Upon his death, his Shropshire estates passed to the Earl of Darlington, afterwards Duke of Cleveland. These estates which formerly belonged to the Newports were left by Henry the 3rd Earl of Bradford to his mistress Anne Smith, and she in turn left them to William Pulteney Earl of Bath (whose mistress she is said to have then been) in tail male from whom they descended to this member. The Scotch and American estates and the Baronetcy fell to the member's nephew Sir John Lowther Johnstone 6th Baronet.

1775 March. JOHN CORBET T. (172) vice LORD CLIVE deceased.

There is a record in the *Whittington Register*, p. 490, that Mr. Corbet was opposed at this election by Richard Morhall of Onslow, the entry being as follows " Lord Clive being dead, John Corbet " Esq. of Sundorne was elected upon the same bottom with " Mr. Pulteney in opposition to Richard Morhall Esq. of Onslow " whom the success of Mr. Pulteney's petition intimidated from " standing a poll." Richard Morhall of Onslow who was Sheriff

of Shropshire in 1770, was the son of Richard Morhall and grandson of Thomas Morhall and his wife, daughter of Richard Lyster of Rowton. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Eyton of Eyton and died in November 1806. He sold the Onslow estate to the Wingfields in 1786.

172. JOHN CORBET, (T) 1775.

John Corbet who was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Lord Clive, was the eldest son of John Corbet of Sundorne, and was born on the 3rd August 1752, being baptised at St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, two days afterwards. He succeeded to the Sundorne estates on his father's death in 1759. Mr. Corbet filled the office of Sheriff of Shropshire in 1793. He was twice married, first to Emma Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Charlton Leighton (by whom he had one son who died when only 15 years old), and secondly to Anne, daughter of the Rev. William Pigott of Edgmond, by whom he had (with other children) a son Andrew William who succeeded him in his estates. Mr. Corbet died on the 19 May 1817, at the age of 65 years.

1780. WILLIAM PULTENEY W. (171) and SIR CHARLTON LEIGHTON T. (170)
 1784. Do. Do.
 1784 Oct. JOHN HILL T. (173) vice SIR CHARLTON LEIGHTON deceased.

173. JOHN HILL, 1784—1796, 1805—6.

John Hill of Hawkstone was the second son of Sir Rowland Hill, 1st Baronet, and was born on the 1st August 1740. He himself succeeded as 3rd Baronet on the death of his elder brother Sir Richard, in November 1809. He was educated at Shrewsbury School. He married on the 27 September 1768, Mary, daughter and co-heiress of John Chambre of Petton, by whom he had a very distinguished family, including 4 sons who are said to have taken a gallant part in the battle of Waterloo, and a 5th son who was in the diplomatic service and was Knighted. One of the soldier sons was the great Lord Hill of Peninsular fame and who became Commander-in-Chief of the English Army (177 below). John Hill represented Shrewsbury in Parliament until the famous election in 1796, when he was opposed by his young kinsman, the Hon. William Hill of Attingham, who beat him after a fight which is said to have cost each side £100,000. This will be dealt with later. The feud between the families was patched up by an arrangement under which this member

was to be returned without opposition to fill the first vacancy which occurred, and in pursuance of the agreement, Mr. John Hill became again M.P. for the Borough on the death of Sir W. Pulteney in June 1805, but he only held the seat until the General Election of 1806, when he retired. Sir John Hill resided at Prees Hall, and dying on the 21 May 1824, was buried at Prees, where there is a splendid monument, erected by his grandson, to his memory with this inscription "To future ages this marble will point out the spot where rest the remains of a good man." Sir John Hill was succeeded in the Baronetcy and his estates by his grandson Sir Rowland, who afterwards became 2nd Viscount Hill.

1790. WILLIAM PULTENEY W. (171) and JOHN HILL T. (173).
 1796. Do. and HON. WILLIAM HILL T. (174)

This 1796 election was one which will be ever memorable in the annals of Shrewsbury elections. The sitting member, John Hill, was opposed by his cousin William Hill, and the rivalry between the two Tory families of Hawkstone and Attingham led to a contest, the bitterness of which can never be exceeded. Both parties put forth their utmost powers and incurred a lavish expenditure in bringing voters to the poll, quite regardless of whether they had legal qualifications or not. The result as declared after a poll of eight days was as follows :

William Pulteney (Whig) colours light blue	370
Hon. William Hill (Tory) orange and dark blue	242
John Hill (T) sky-blue and white	153

The votes tendered but rejected by the Mayor were

Pulteney	1514
John Hill	854
William Hill	721

The election is said to have cost each of the Hill families £100,000, and though Mr. Pulteney seems to have been accepted by both sides, his expenses must also have been very large, though of course as he was said to have been the richest commoner in England, it mattered little to him. The squibs and pamphlets issued on this occasion by both sides were of the grossest description and the most scurrilous charges were circulated freely. Many of these tracts, such as "Hard Measure," "Measure for Measure," "Hilliad" are well known.

but some of the publications imputed the grossest corruption to the parties, and were such as would cause the greatest amazement in the present day. It is said that the excitement of the contest spread to all classes, and led practically to the suspension of business for weeks. The Corporation of Shrewsbury gave their support to the Hon. W. Hill, probably as being their nearest neighbour, and one from whom they hoped for most in the future, and their influence is said to have been the deciding factor in the election. Mr. Hulbert's comment on this election is "The struggle was the cause of numerous and lasting animosities among the inhabitants of the Town and vicinity. At the same time many Innkeepers and others made their fortunes during the excess of riot and revelling the 6 months Saturnalia occasioned." A contemporary report says "that great apprehensions were entertained, that the animosity excited by the election would have been productive of most serious disturbances, and that on the Saturday evening the parties were near coming to a general engagement which was only averted by the spirited exertions of the Mayor."

Mr. John Hill, the unsuccessful candidate, lodged a petition against the return of the Hon. W. Hill on the ground of his bribery and corruption and the illegal refusal of tendered votes. The petition dragged on in the House of Commons from the 18 October 1796 to November 1797, when it was dismissed on the ground that it had not been renewed (as was the rule) in the New Session, and the recognisances were estreated, but it has always been understood that it was dropped by arrangement, it being agreed that Mr. John Hill would be returned without opposition when a vacancy arose. This came to pass on the death of Sir William Pulteney in 1806.

174. HON. WILLIAM HILL (T) 1796—1812.

The Hon. William Hill (who in 1824 assumed the additional surname of Noel, becoming Noel-Hill) was the second son of the first Lord Berwick, and was baptized at Atcham on the 21 October 1773, so that he was only 22 years of age when he fought the memorable election of 1796, and his presumption in coming forward at that age against his older cousin was one of his offences. Mr. Hill was educated at Rugby, and graduated at Jesus Coll. Cambridge. Mr. Hill must have had more than

ordinary ability, as he entered the Diplomatic service and in 1814 was sent as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Sardinia, in 1805 to Franconia and 1824 to 1833 to Naples and the two Sicilies. His services were recognised by his being sworn in 1824 a member of the Privy Council. Mr. Hill was M.P. for Marlborough from 1814—1818. The Hon. William Hill succeeded his elder brother as 3rd Lord Berwick on the latter's death in November 1832. Lord Berwick died unmarried at Redrice near Andover, on the 4 August 1842, and was succeeded in the Title and estate by his brother, the Revd. Richard Noel Hill. This member when Ambassador in Italy, acquired many valuable works of art, and his collection was well known. He was buried at Atcham.

1802. HON. WILLIAM HILL, T. (174) and SIR WILLIAM PULTENEY, W. (171)
 1806. HON. WILLIAM HILL, T. and HON. HENRY GRAY BENNETT, W. (175)

There was again a contest in 1806, of which the following was the result of the poll.

Hon. William Hill T, orange and purple	589
Hon. Henry Grey Bennett, W. sky blue	379
Thomas Jones, T, blue and white	351

Mr. Jones presented a petition against Mr. Bennett's return on the ground of bribery and illegal practices and also on the ground that illegal votes had been accepted on his behalf. The proceedings were protracted for 3 or 4 months, and eventually the House of Commons on the 24th April 1807 decided that Mr. Bennett's election was invalid on the ground that he was not properly qualified, but the House also found that the petitioner, Mr. Jones, was also "not duly elected, and a writ was issued for a new election. The Parliament was itself dissolved on the 29 April (5 days only after the decision) and the casual vacancy could not be filled. In a contemporary account it is stated on Mr. Jones's own authority that he lost his chance by only one bad vote.

175. HON. HENRY GREY BENNETT (Whig) (175), 1806,
 1811 to 1826.

The Hon. Henry Grey Bennett was the second son of the 4th Earl of Tankerville and was born on the 2 December 1777. He married in 1816 Gertrude Frances, daughter of Lord William

Russell, by whom he had 2 daughters only. He died on the 29 May, 1836. Mr. Bennett's connection with Shropshire arose from his grandfather's marriage to the daughter of Sir John Astley (No. 164) by which the Astley estates in the County came to the Tankervilles.

1807. HON. WILLIAM HILL, T. (174) and THOMAS JONES, T. (176).

The Hon. H. Grey Bennett was again a Candidate, but was defeated, the result of the poll being

Hon. W. Hill, T, orange and blue	521
Thomas Jones, T, blue and white	334
Hon. H. Grey Bennett, W. Light blue	312

Mr. Grey Bennett lodged a petition but it was ultimately withdrawn.

176. THOMAS JONES, 1807—1811.

Thomas Jones, whose original name was Tyrwhitt, was the eldest son of Captain John Tyrwhitt of Netherclay House, Somerset, and was born on the 1st September 1765. He assumed the name of Jones by royal license on the 3rd March 1790 on succeeding to the Stanley Park (Bridgnorth) estates of Sir Thomas Jones his cousin. He represented several constituencies in Parliament, and they were very wide apart, as he was M.P. for Weymouth and Melcombe Regis from June 1790 to June 1791, when he resigned in favour of Sir James Johnstone; for Denbigh Boroughs (with which he was connected by the family estates of Carreghova in that County) from 1797 to 1802, and for Athlone in Ireland from 1803-6.* In the latter year he unsuccessfully contested Shrewsbury, but was elected in 1807 and held the seat until his death. The member married in 1791 Harriet Rebecca, daughter of Edward Williams of Eaton Mascott, Shropshire, by whom he had a son Thomas John, who reverted to the old name of Tyrwhitt. The family still hold the Stanley Hall and other estates. Thomas Jones was High Sheriff of Denbighshire in 1792 and was created a Baronet on the 3rd October 1808, probably in recognition of his political services to his party. Sir Thomas Jones died on the 24 November 1811, and was buried in St. George's Chapel Windsor. His connection with Windsor was through his maternal grandfather,

Dr. Booth, who was Dean of Windsor, while the latter's father-in-law, the Rev. Edward Jones, the Rector of Hodnet, was also Canon of Windsor.

* Williams Welsh Members, p. 82.

1811 Dec. HON. H. GREY BENNETT (175) W. vice JONES deceased.
1812, Do. and GENERAL SIR ROWLAND HILL (177).

There was a poll on this occasion, the result of which was as follows :

Hon. H. Grey Bennett, W, sky-blue	724
Sir Rowland Hill, T, red and dark blue	512
Benjamin Benyon, W, pink and green	336

177. GENERAL SIR ROWLAND HILL, 1812—1814.

This member was the famous soldier of Peninsular and Waterloo fame, whose memory is perpetuated by the Column at the head of the Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury. Rowland Hill was the second son of Sir John Hill, 3rd Baronet, of Hawkstone, and was born at Prees Hall on the 11 August 1772. He was educated at Ightfield and afterwards at Chester and was gazetted as an Ensign in the Staffordshire Foot Regiment on the 21 July 1790. After studying at Strasburg he became Lieutenant in 1791 and was transferred to the famous Shropshire Regiment (the 53rd), becoming Captain in March 1793. In the same year he acted as Assistant Secretary to the Plenipotentiary to Genoa, but later in the year he became Aide de Camp at Toulon. In 1794, Rowland Hill was gazetted as Major to the 90th Foot, which Regiment he commanded at Cadiz, Malta, and in the expedition to Egypt in 1801, being with his Regiment at the capture of Cairo and Alexandria. He was wounded at the Battle of Aboukir. His rise in the Army was very rapid, doubtless in consequence of the great services he had rendered, as in 1803 he was appointed Brigadier General and commanded a brigade in the expedition to Hanover in 1805. The most distinguished part of Hill's career was still to come. In 1808 he commanded a brigade in the force sent to Portugal under Sir Arthur Wellesley, and he was with Sir John Moore at Corunna where his brigade was the last to embark and where his brilliant work is said to have saved the situation. In 1809 General Hill

commanded a brigade under Wellesley in that great campaign in which Soult was driven out of Portugal. He led the 2nd division at Talavera where he was wounded and where his services were specially recognised by the Commander-in-Chief. In 1811 Hill defeated Geraid at Merida, while 1812 was a great year for him, as he stormed Almaraz in May, was made a Lieut.-General, had the K.C.B. and was elected M.P. for Shrewsbury. In 1813 General Hill commanded the right of the Army in the great victory at Vittoria, rendered great service at Moelle and at Bayonne, is said to have given the French the soundest thrashing they had ever had. He took part in the victory of Toulouse. In May 1814 his great services were rewarded by a peerage as Baron Hill, of Almaraz and Hawkstone and by the grant of a pension of £2000 a year, while the freedom of the City of London was also conferred on him. After Napoleon's escape from Elba, Lord Hill was again called upon and he commanded the 2nd Army Corps under the Duke of Wellington in Belgium. He greatly distinguished himself at the Battle of Waterloo where he personally headed Adam's brigade in the final charge, but his horse was shot under him and he was believed to be killed. After Waterloo, Lord Hill commanded the troops which took over the occupation of Paris and was second in Command (under Wellington) of the British Army in France until 1818. He then came home and retired to Hardwick, his favourite Shropshire seat, but when the Duke of Wellington became Prime Minister in 1828, Lord Hill was appointed as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and held the office until 1842 when he was succeeded by the Duke himself. In 1820, Lord Hill had the degree of D.C.L. conferred on him at Oxford, he was a G.C.B., and on his resignation of the Commandership in Chief he was raised to a Viscount, while he had innumerable foreign orders. His lordship was never married. He died on the 10 December 1842 and was buried at Hadnall. He was succeeded in his titles and estates by his nephew Rowland Hill.

The Column at Shrewsbury was commenced in 1814 and completed on the 15 June 1816.

This short memoir of the famous Salopian soldier is taken from the Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. IX.

1814 May. RICHARD LYSTER (178) vice HILL, created a Peer.

There was a contest at this bye election, the poll resulting as follows :

Richard Lyster, T, purple and white	551
Benjamin Benyon, W, pink and green	286

The poll lasted six days, but Mr. Benyon withdrew before the close. 837 voted on this occasion.

Benjamin Benyon, the defeated candidate on these two elections was a Shrewsbury Tradesman who resided at Dogpole Court. He was probably a member of the firm of Benyon, Benyon and Bage who built a factory in Castle Fields. Mr. Benyon was M.P. for the Borough of Stafford from 1818 to 1826. He died at Wilton Crescent, London, on Nov. 6, 1834.

178. RICHARD LYSTER 1814—1819.

Richard Lyster was the son of Richard Lyster of Rowton Castle. He was Lieut-Colonel of the 22nd Light Dragoons, and served the office of Sheriff of Shropshire in 1812. He married Penelope Anne, daughter of Henry Price of Knighton, Radnorshire on the 10 December 1794. Col. Lyster died in St. James' Place, London, on the 3rd May 1819, and was buried at Alberbury, being succeeded in his estates by his eldest surviving son Henry Lyster.

1819 May. JOHN MYTTON (179) vice RICHARD LYSTER deceased.

Upo the death of Mr. Lyster there was a sharp contest for the seat betwee Mr. Panton Corbett and Mr. John Mytton, which resulted thus.

John Mytton, T, sky-blue and white	384
Panton Corbett, T, orange and purple	287

The poll lasted for 7 days.

179. JOHN MYTTON, 1819.

This member who was the 10th and last of the old Myttonfamily to represent Shrewsbury was the well known Jack Mytton of Halston of sporting fame, whose mad adventures and hairbreadth escapes have woven for him a halo of romance which he did not altogether deserve. The memoir of the Life and Death of John Mytton written by the well known sporting writer Nimrod

(W. H. Apperley) though inevitably and perhaps unconsciously coloured by the feelings of an old friend of John Mytton bears testimony to the ability and good qualities which he undoubtedly had, though it does not hide his failings even if it somewhat makes them less than they were. Nimrod's book with its illustrations by Alken is a sporting classic in Shropshire, (the first 3 Editions are very valuable) and it is only necessary here to give the barest summary of John Mytton's life.

John Mytton (born on September 30, 1796) was the son of John Mytton of Halston who died when his son, the future M.P. for Shrewsbury was only 2 years old. The boy was educated at Westminster School and at Harrow (being expelled from both) and at the age of 19 years obtained a Commission in the 7th Hussars, in which he served with the Army of occupation in France. He was afterwards Major in the Shropshire Yeomanry, and in 1823 served the office of Sheriff of Shropshire. Mr. Mytton was twice married, first to Harriet Emma, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt Jones, Bart. of Stanley Hall, who only lived about 2 years and by whom he had one daughter. Mr. Mytton married on the 29 October 1821, Caroline, daughter of Thomas Giffard of Chillington, by whom he had 4 sons and a daughter. Mr. Mytton succeeded on his father's death to large estates in Shropshire and other counties as well as to large accumulations of money (said to be £60,000) but he gave way to intemperance of every description, to gambling and to unlimited extravagance, and in the end squandered the whole of his property, except such part of it as was entailed and could not be alienated by him. Mr. Mytton represented Shrewsbury to the end of the Parliament which only lasted 8 months after his election but at the dissolution he issued an address declining to again become a candidate. In 1831, John Mytton contested the County, but occupied an ignominious position at the bottom of the poll. A few months later he had to flee to France to escape his creditors and he only returned from France to fall into a debtor's prison. John Mytton died of Delirium tremens in the Fleet prison on the 29 March 1834, being only 37 years old. It is only charitable to suppose that his mind had been unhinged for many years, as it is not possible otherwise to account for his conduct.

1820. HON. HENRY GREY BENNETT, W. (175) and PANTON CORBETT, T. (180).

This was an unopposed election, John Mytton, one of the sitting members, having issued an address stating that it was not his intention to be a candidate, "finding that a proper and punctual attendance to his Parliamentary duties was incompatible with his present pursuits."

180. PANTON CORBETT (1820—1830).

Panton Corbett of Longnor Hall and of Leighton (Mont.), was the second son of the Rev. Joseph Plymley (afterwards the well known Archdeacon Corbett) and was baptized at Longnor on the 2nd April 1785. He matriculated at Pembroke Coll., Oxford, in February 1800, and took his degree of M.A. in 1803. Mr. Corbett went to the Bar and was called at Lincoln's Inn in 1814. Panton Corbett unsuccessfully contested Shrewsbury against John Mytton in 1819, and though he represented Shrewsbury from 1820 to 1830 he lost his seat in the latter year, in consequence of having voted for the Catholic Emancipation and Repeal of the Tests Acts. In 1833 and 1837, Mr. Corbett contested Montgomery Borough against Col. John Edwards, but was defeated by narrow majorities on both occasions, on the former by 10 and the latter by 29 votes. He married Lucy Favoretta, daughter of Dr. Trevor Jones of Lichfield in 1814 and had 2 sons, the elder of whom died a Bachelor in his father's lifetime, and the second, Col. Edward Corbett (M.P. for South Shropshire 1868—1877) succeeded his father at Longnor. Panton Corbett sold the family estate of Leighton, Montgomeryshire in 1845 to Christopher Leyland. He died on the 22 November 1855 and was buried at Leebotwood. Mr. Corbett was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1849 and was for some years Chairman of Quarter Sessions for the County.

1826. PANTON CORBETT (180) and ROBERT AGLIONBY SLANEY (181).

There was a contest of which the result was

Panton Corbett (orange and purple) T	627
R. A. Slaney (primrose and green) W.	387
Thomas Boycott (sky-blue and white) T.	283

Thomas Boycott of Rudge Hall, the unsuccessful candidate withdrew after 4 days polling.

181. ROBERT AGLIONBY SLANEY, 1826 to 1835, 1837 to 1841, 1847 to 1852, 1857 to 1862.

Robert Aglionby Slaney who represented Shrewsbury in 8 Parliaments and for 24 years, was the son of Robert Slaney of Hatton Grange, and was born on June 9, 1791. He graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge and was called to the Bar at Lincolns Inn in 1817. Mr. Slaney who was a Whig, fought no less than 8 contested elections for the Borough of Shrewsbury and was successful in seven of them, suffering defeat only in 1835. He was a conspicuous advocate of Rural and Economical Reform, and was Chairman of the House of Commons Committees on Education and on the Health of Towns. He took a deep interest in the condition of the working classes and was the author of several pamphlets. Mr. Slaney married in February 1812, Elizabeth, only child of Dr. William Hawkins Muckleston and sole heiress of her uncle Joseph Muckleston, and by this marriage he acquired the Walford estate upon which he built the present Walford Manor house. The member was High Sheriff of Shropshire in 1854. By his first marriage, Mr. Slaney had 3 daughters, one of whom married Thomas Campbell Eyton and took to that family the Walford estate, a second married E. W. Wynn of Peniarth, and the third William Kenyon who took the name of Slaney, and acquired the Hatton Grange estate. Mr. Slaney married secondly Catherine, daughter of Rev. George Buckston (widow of Graves Archer), but had no issue by her. The member died on the 19 May 1862 from the effects of an accident at the International Exhibition in that year. Mr. Slaney was the author of a book on the Smaller British Birds and wrote a small volume of verses as well as political pamphlets.

1830. RICHARD JENKINS (182) and ROBERT AGLIONBY SLANEY (181).

There was the invariable contest, the poll resulting thus.

Richard Jenkins, T. (blue and white)	754
R. A. Slaney, W. (Primrose and green)	563
Panton Corbett, T. (orange and purple)	445

This was the election which Mr. Corbett was said to have lost through his failure to use "golden spurs" as was always

necessary in Shrewsbury. The following squib appeared in a Shrewsbury paper.

Said Jenkins to Salop
I'm off in a gallop
I won by a head at Nagpore
Said Slaney "Don't banter"
I'm off in a canter
In that who could ever do more.

Said Corbett to Salop
Pray why should I gallop
My nag shall walk over the course
Said Salop "They've won it"
And you could have done it
By clapping gold spurs to your horse.

Mr. Hulbert says of this Election "In no recent contest
"for the Borough of Shrewsbury has the omnipotency of gold
"been so clearly demonstrated."

182. RICHARD JENKINS, 1830, 1831, 1837—1841.

This very distinguished Salopian was the son of Richard Jenkins of Bicton and was born on February 18, 1785, at Cruckton. He entered the civil service of the East India Company at the age of 15 and went to Bengal. He shewed such aptitude for his work that when only 20 he was appointed Assistant Secretary to the Resident. A few years later he was appointed Resident at Nagpore. In 1817 as Resident he had to deal with a very critical situation, as the Rajah was in rebellion against English rule, but he is said to have distinguished himself by promptitude decision and wisdom. He was present during the whole of an action in defence of the Residency, and by his courage he kept the troops to their duty. His services were recognised by a minute of the Governor General, and after the deposition of the Rajah, he in the name of a young Rajah established a firm government. In 1827, Richard Jenkins returned to England and was elected a Director of the East India Company, of which at a later date he became Chairman. In 1831 he was Knighted, in 1834 the degree of D.C.L. was conferred on him at Oxford, and in 1838 he was made a G.C.B. Sir Richard married in India on March 31st, 1824, Elizabeth Helen, daughter of Hugh

Spottiswoode, also of the India Civil Service, by whom he had 2 sons and a daughter and who survived him many years. Sir Richard died in London on December 30, 1853, and was buried in Bickton Old Church.*

* Dic. Nat. Biog. X. 742.

1831. April. ROBERT AGLIONBY SLANEY (181) and RICHARD JENKINS 182

The result of the poll on this occasion was as follows :

R. A. Slaney, W. (primrose and green)	178
Richard Jenkins, T. (blue and white)	175
Thomas Boycott, T. (sky-blue and white)	124
Richard Potter, W. (red)	103

Mr. Boycott was also unsuccessful in 1826. Richard Potter the other defeated candidate was M.P. for Wigan from 1832 to 1841. Mr. Boycott and Mr. Potter (one on each side) withdrew by arrangement after the first day's polling.

1832 Dec. ROBERT AGLIONBY SLANEY (181) and SIR JOHN HANMER (183)

The poll on this occasion resulted as follows :

Sir John Hanmer, W. (dark blue and white)	808
R. A. Slaney, W. (primrose and green)	797
John Cressett Pelham, T. (sky-blue)	634

Sir Richard Jenkins had announced his intention of standing as a Candidate, but withdrew on the ground of ill health.

This was the first election in the constituency under the Reform Act, the number of voters having been increased to 1714.

183. SIR JOHN HANMER, 1832—1837.

Sir John Hanmer was the eldest son of Thomas Hanmer, Colonel of the Flint Militia, and was born on the 22 December 1809. He was educated at Eton and at Christ Church, Oxford, and succeeded his grandfather as 3rd Baronet on the latter's death in 1828. Sir John was M.P. for Shrewsbury 1832—1837, Kingston-upon-Hull 1841—1847 and for Flint Boroughs 1847 to 1872. He is said to have withdrawn from his candidature for Hull in 1847 upon his failure to obtain an assurance that there would be no bribery, a form of corruption which he sought

to abolish. One wonders what Sir John's reason was for withdrawing in 1837 from the representation of Shrewsbury. He was a strong Whig and voted for Free Trade and the total abolition of the Corn Laws. Sir John was raised to the Peerage as Baron Hanmer on the 1st October 1872. He married Georgiana, daughter of Sir George Chetwynd of Grendon Hall, Warwickshire, but had no child. He died at Knotley Park, Tunbridge Wells on March 8, 1881, and was buried at Bettisfield near Whitchurch. Upon his death without issue, the peerage became extinct but the Baronetcy devolved on his brother. Lord Hanmer published "The memorials of the family and parish of Hanmer" as well as *Fra Cipolla* and other poems and some sonnets.* (Complete Peerage VI. 191).

* Dic. Nat. Biog. VIII. 1179.

1835. SIR JOHN HANMER, Bart. (183) and JOHN CRESSETT PELHAM (184)

The poll on this occasion resulted as follows :

Sir John Hanmer (dark blue and white) W.	761
John Cressett Pelham (Sky-blue) T.	629
Robert Aglionby Slaney (primrose and green) W.	578

This was the only occasion on which Mr. Slaney was defeated.

184. JOHN CRESSETT PELHAM, 1835—1837.

John Cressett Pelham of Cound (born about 1770) was the eldest son of Henry Pelham of Crowhurst who assumed the additional surname of Cressett on succeeding to the Cound and Upton Cressett estates. Mr. Cressett Pelham was M.P. for Lewes from 1796—1802 and for the County of Salop from 1822 to 1832. He contested Shrewsbury unsuccessfully in 1832 and again in 1837 when he retired from political life. This member was eccentric, but a scholar and a gentleman. He resided at Shrewsbury Castle. After his defeat in 1837, Mr. Cressett Pelham left England on a voyage to the East Indies, never to return. He died on board the *Nerbudda* at Mauritius on the 29th August 1838, and was succeeded in the Cound and other estates by his sister Frances, the wife of the Rev. George Augustus Thursby. A tablet in Cound Church commemorates Mr. Cressett Pelham and has this inscription "In memory of " John Cressett Pelham, Esq., died at Port Lewis, Mauritius, " August 1838 in the 68th year of his age."

1837. ROBERT AGLIONBY SLANEY (181) and RICHARD JENKINS (182).

The poll on this occasion resulted as follows :

Jenkins (blue and white) T.	700
Slaney (Primrose and green) W.	697
John Cressett Pelham (sky-blue) T.	655
Francis Dashwood (red) W.	537

John Cressett Pelham was M.P. for Shrewsbury in 1835 (No. 184). Francis Dashwood was a stranger to the constituency, so far as can be ascertained, and was an extreme Radical. He is said to have been a Kent man and was probably identical with the Francis Dashwood who unsuccessfully contested Rochester at the election of 1841.

1841. This was the famous election at which 12 Tories were returned for all the Shropshire constituencies (the party making a clean sweep of the County) and were known as the 12 Apostles. The election was commemorated by medals and by an Election Jug (now very valuable) on which the names and arms of the 12 members were placed. The Shrewsbury election was rendered additionally memorable by the fact that Benjamin Disraeli, the future Tory Prime Minister was returned as one of its members. There was a keen contest which resulted as follows

George Tomline, T. (light blue and white)	793
Benjamin Disraeli, T. do.	785
Sir Love Parry Jones Parry, W. (yellow and green)	605
Christopher Temple, W. do.	578

A petition was threatened, probably actually presented, against the return of the Tory members on the usual grounds, but was withdrawn. The story is told by Mr. Disraeli himself in a letter to his sister in which he says "This great coup, almost "in the present state of my affairs, as great as my return was "effected by my Agent without any interference and barely "knowledge of either of the great parties, the Gloucester Whigs "prevailing upon the Shrewsbury people to sacrifice themselves "for the extrication of their neighbours." Two Whigs had been returned for Gloucester, a place like Shrewsbury, notorious for corrupt practices, and it was arranged that both petitions should be withdrawn, the Tories retaining their seats at Shrewsbury and the Whigs at Gloucester.

Sir Love Parry (General in the Army) was M.P. for Horsham 1806—1808, when he was unseated on petition and for Carnarvon from 1835 to 1837.

Christopher Temple the other defeated candidate was a Barrister and Q.C. He was appointed a County Court Judge in 1855 and died in 1871.

1841. GEORGE TOMLINE (185) and BENJAMIN DISRAELI (186).

185. GEORGE TOMLINE, 1841—7, 1852 to 1868.

George Tomline was said by his proposer at this election to be "a gentleman connected by birth and fortune with Shropshire." Mr. Tomline's association with the County arose from the fact that his father married in 1811, Frances, daughter and heiress of John Ambler of Ford Hall, near Shrewsbury, an estate which devolved on this M.P. who was seated at Riby Grove, Lincoln and Orwell Park near Ipswich. He was born in 1812, was Honorary Colonel of the North Lincoln's Militia, High Sheriff of Suffolk in 1832 and of Lincolnshire in 1852. Col. Tomline had a long Parliamentary experience as he was M.P. for Sudbury from 1840 to 1841, for Shrewsbury from 1841 to 1847 (when he was defeated by the narrow majority of 3 votes by Mr. Slaney) and again from 1852 to 1868 and for Great Grimsby from 1868 to 1874. He fought a bye election for North Lincolnshire in 1881 but was defeated by the Rt. Hon. James Lowther. Col. Tomline obtained a good deal of notice in the House of Commons from his devotion to the Silver currency, in his advocacy of which he was a bugbear to the Chancellors of the Exchequer. He was in the habit of sending silver bars to the Mint and endeavoured to persuade the Chancellor that it was the duty of the Mint Authorities to turn the silver into coinage, but he met his match when Robert Lowe was Chancellor of the Exchequer. Col. Tomline endeavoured to mitigate the poverty in Suffolk by finding employment for as many people as possible, and he was foremost in Land reclamation schemes and in the construction of the Felixstowe Railway with this object in view. He was a recognised authority on Astronomy and was undoubtedly a clever and a very wealthy man. It is recorded that he was Mr. Gladstone's rival at Eton, Mr. Disraeli's colleague at Shrewsbury and was associated by Sir Robert Peel with Mr. Gladstone as two of his best young men. Mr. Tomline was never married.

He died of apoplexy at 1 Carlton House Terrace, London, on August 24, 1889, aged 77 years.* Col. Tomline was succeeded in his Lincolnshire and Suffolk estates by his cousin, Mr. E. G. Pretyma who married a daughter of the Earl of Bradford. Mr. Tomline was returned at the 1841 election as a Tory, but he afterwards became a Liberal.

* Shropshire Shreds and Patches IX, 121.

186. BENJAMIN DISRAELI, 1841 to 1847.

Benjamin Disraeli, by whom Shrewsbury had the honour of being represented in this Parliament, was the great Victorian Statesman who is enrolled in that wonderful list of Prime Ministers of the 19th Century, which includes the names of William Pitt, the Duke of Wellington, Lord Melbourne, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Palmerston, Lord John Russell, Lord Derby, Mr. Gladstone and Lord Salisbury. Mr. Disraeli however belongs rather to the history of England than of Shrewsbury which he represented in these early years of his life, and it will be necessary only to set down here the shortest possible summary of his great career and to add a few particulars of his connection with the Borough.

Benjamin Disraeli was born in the year 1804 at King's Road, Gray's Inn, London, and had his early education at a school at Blackheath. When a boy of 12 he was baptized into the English Church at St. Andrew's, Holborn. He was articled to a solicitor and was afterwards entered for the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, but was not called. He soon took to literary pursuits, and in 1826 published "Vivian Grey," which at once brought him fame. His first efforts to obtain a seat in Parliament were unsuccessful as he was twice defeated for High Wycombe in 1832 when standing as an advanced Radical and was also defeated at Taunton in 1835, but these reverses did not daunt him and he was returned as M.P. for Maidstone in 1835 as a Conservative and as the colleague of Mr. Wyndham Lewis, whose widow he afterwards married. Disraeli's bitter opposition, in conjunction with Lord George Bentinck to Sir Robert Peel and the Repeal of the Corn Laws is a matter of history, but it must not be forgotten that at this time he was M.P. for Shrewsbury, and though Sir Robert Peel carried his Repeal policy, still Mr. Disraeli's speeches and his conduct of the opposition brought him into the

practical leadership of the Tory party, unwilling as they were to accept him as their Chief. Mr. Disraeli was three times Chancellor of the Exchequer under Lord Derby in 1852, in 1858-9 and in 1867. In 1868, upon the retirement of Lord Derby, Mr. Disraeli obtained the goal of his ambition and became Prime Minister, an office to which he had told Lord Melbourne he aspired many years before. He only held office on this occasion for a few months and resigned in December when his wife became Viscountess Beaconsfield. Mr. Disraeli again became Prime Minister in 1874 and held office until after the General Election of 1880. In 1876, Mr. Disraeli became Earl of Beaconsfield and received the Order of the Garter. He died in London on the 19th April, 1881, and was buried by his own desire at Hughenden, by the side of his wife who died in December 1872. A public funeral and Westminster Abbey were offered, but the terms of Lord Beaconsfield's will precluded the acceptance of the offer. Queen Victoria herself placed a tablet in Hughenden Church to the memory of her trusted Minister, which bears this inscription "To the dear and honoured memory of Benjamin, " Earl of Beaconsfield, this memorial is placed by his grateful "and affectionate Sovereign and friend Victoria R.I. Kings "love him that speaketh right. February 27, 1882." In addition to Vivian Grey, Disraeli's principal literary works were *Coningsby*, *Sybil*, *Lothair* and *Contarini Fleming*.

Mr. Disraeli's connection with Shrewsbury began with a requisition which was addressed to him and Mr. Tomline, and which was presented by Lord Rowton to the Shrewsbury Museum. It was signed by 600 Conservatives, amongst whom were Robert Burton, Dr. Kennedy, Charles Montgomery Campbell, William Bailey, W. W. How and T. Farmer Dukes.* One incident in this election contest stands out and has been frequently told. Slandorous statements affecting Mr. Disraeli were contained in a letter published by Mr. William Yardley (afterwards Sir William). Mr. Disraeli at once denounced these statements as "utterly false," in an address to the electors given in extenso in *Shreds and Patches*, X. 90, and thereupon Mr. Yardley sent a challenge by Dr. Clement to Mr. Disraeli to a duel. The duel would have taken place, but for the intervention (without Mr. Disraeli's knowledge) of Mr. Alderman Sheppard at whose instance both parties were bound over by the

Mayor, Mr. Loxdale, to keep the peace.** This was not his only challenge to a duel, as in 1835 Mr. Disraeli challenged Daniel O'Connell and his son for suggesting that he was descended from the impenitent thief upon the Cross, but here the police intervened and took Mr. Disraeli into custody and he was bound over in £500 to keep the peace. Upon another occasion Sir Robert Peel himself was so incensed by Disraeli's attacks upon him that he asked a distinguished friend to carry a challenge, but the friend refused and threatened to inform the Police.^o Mr. Disraeli in a letter to his wife from Shrewsbury in 1841, says "that the canvassing here was most severe, all looks very "well indeed; all I fear is over confidence" and writing later he says "We had a sharp contest but never for a moment doubtful. They did against me, and said against me and wrote "against me all they could find or invent, but I licked them. "After the Chairing which was gorgeous and fatiguing, after "quaffing the triumphal cup at 40 different spots in Salop, a "dinner and a speech, we went and stayed till Monday at Loton "Park."* For some reason not now known, Mr. Disraeli was absent from a dinner given in November 1841 to celebrate the return of the 12 Conservative members for Shropshire at which the Earl of Powis, supported by the Earls of Bradford and Darlington presided, and this gave rise to a song entitled "The "blue look out for Ben" which is a lament for his absence, "Oh "where is our wondrous Boy to-night, oh where on earth is "Number XII"?.^o Mr. Disraeli however did not neglect his constituents at Shrewsbury, as in 1843 he gave his account of a visit to the Town with his wife, when he made a speech to enthusiastic auditors, attended a Bachelors' Ball and went to Shrewsbury Races. Again he wrote to his wife in August 1844 that he had had "3 fatiguing days of triumph at Shrewsbury," and the following day he wrote again "A capital meeting at the "Bull, I made a capital speech, enthusiasm very great indeed, "all malcontents apparently silenced. Taylor the Maltster "in the Chair. His speech proposing your health a miracle of "rhetoric. He said that being your husband was a very good "reason why I was fit to be M.P. for Shrewsbury."**

Whatever the cause may have been, Mr. Disraeli was not a candidate for Shrewsbury at the next General Election in 1847. Mr. Edwards in his "Shrewsbury Parliamentary Elections,

published in 1859, says that "through some secret meddling "mismanagement of the then political agents of the party, "Mr. Disraeli, though the popular member in the feelings of the "electors did not offer himself as a Candidate." It cannot have been that Mr. Disraeli's conservative politics were unpopular as Mr. Baldock, another conservative and an unknown man who took his place was returned at the head of the poll. Mr. Disraeli the future great Prime Minister was elected M.P. for Buckinghamshire at this election, holding that seat for nearly 30 years until he was raised to the Peerage as Earl of Beaconsfield and so was lost to Shrewsbury.

* Shreds and Patches VIII, 8.

** same I, 13.

° Fronde's Life of Beaconsfield, 137.

* Shreds and Patches X, 84.

° Sh. Notes and Q. 1886, p. 143.

** Bygones 1912, 290.

1847 July. EDWARD HOLMES BALDOCK (187) and ROBERT AGLIONBY SLANEY (181).

This was a very close election, resulting as follows :

Edward Holmes Baldock, Cons.	769
Robert Aglionby Slaney, Lib.	743
George Tomline, Lib.	732

187. EDWARD HOLMES BALDOCK (1847 to 1857).

Edward Holmes Baldock of Hyde Park Place, London, was a stranger to Shrewsbury when he first contested the seat, but he soon obtained popularity. Mr. Baldock married (in 1852) Elizabeth Mary, daughter of Sir Andrew Vincent Corbet 2nd Bart. Mr. Baldock died from the effects of an accident in August 1875.

1852. GEORGE TOMLINE (185) and EDWARD HOLMES BALDOCK (187)

The poll resulted as follows :

Tomline (light blue and white), W.	1159
Baldock (dark blue and white) T.	736
Augustin Robinson (red) W.	438

Mr. Slaney issued an address withdrawing. Mr. Heathcote then became a Tory candidate, but also retired and Mr. Augustin Robinson, a Barrister came late on the scene. The latter unsuccessfully contested Bridgewater in 1841.

1857. GEORGE TOMLINE (185) and ROBERT AGLIONBY SLANEY (181).

The poll ended as follows :

Tomline	W.	706
Slaney	W.	695
J. W. Huddleston	T.	548
Major Richard Phibbs	T.	484

Mr. Huddleston was the Q.C. and leader of the Oxford circuit who afterwards became one of the Barons of the Exchequer. He unsuccessfully contested Norwich, Worcester, Kidderminster and Canterbury as well as Shrewsbury, but was returned for Norwich in 1874, but only held the seat for a year, becoming Baron Huddleston in March 1875. He died in 1890.

1859. GEORGE TOMLINE (185) and ROBERT AGLIONBY SLANEY (181)

Major Phibbs again announced himself as a Candidate, but withdrew on Richard Banner Oakley of Oswald Kirk Hall, Yorkshire, coming forward as a Tory, but the latter withdrew on the eve of the Poll and the election was uncontested.

1862 June. HENRY ROBERTSON (188) vice SLANEY deceased.

The poll resulted as follows :

Robertson	W.	671
Richard Banner Oakeley	T.	361
Henry Atkin		10

188. HENRY ROBERTSON, 1862—1865, 1874—1885.

Henry Robertson who, as a Liberal, represented Shrewsbury in three Parliaments, was the celebrated Civil Engineer and Iron Master. He was born at Banff N.B. on the 16 January 1816 and was educated at Aberdeen University where he graduated as M.A.. He was, when a young man, attracted by the mineral wealth of North Wales, which owes to him an immense debt of gratitude. He devised and personally supervised the construction of the Shrewsbury and Chester Railway, meeting with an immense amount of opposition, both from Landowners and Towns in the district, the Shrewsbury and Hereford, the Central Wales Railway and the line from Ruabon to Dolgelley, was Engineer of the Shrewsbury and Birmingham Railway where he fought the great battle of the Gauges, and also constructed many mineral railways, the Brymbo and others. He re-organised the Brymbo Iron Company which he converted into

steel works and eventually he became the owner of the Brymbo estate and the principal Proprietor of the Brymbo works. Mr. Robertson built the Dee Viaduct and the Kingsland Bridge, which has done so much for the development of the Kingsland property at Shrewsbury. At the time of his death, Mr. Robertson was Chairman of the Vale of Llangollen, the Corwen, the Bala and Wirral Railways as well as the great Brymbo Company and the Mineral Lime Works and other large undertakings. For many years he lived at Crogen in the Valley of the Dee, but about 1867 he built the fine Mansion of Palè where he went to reside. He was High Sheriff of Merionethshire in 1869, and after retiring from the representation of Shrewsbury in 1885 he successfully contested the Merionethshire seat in that year, but he seceded from the Liberal Party upon the Irish question and retired from Parliament in 1886. Mr. Robertson married in 1846 Elizabeth, daughter of William Dean of London, by whom he left a son and 3 daughters. He died from paralysis at Palè on 22 March 1888, aged 72, and was buried at Llandderfel.* Mr. Robertson's will was proved by his son Henry Beyer Robertson in Sept. 1888, his personal estate being sworn at £185,528.**

* Byegones 1888, 63. S. Shreds and Patches VIII, 178.

** same 249.

1865 July. GEORGE TOMLINE W. (185) and WILLIAM JAMES CLEMENT W. (189).

There was no contest upon this occasion.

189. WILLIAM JAMES CLEMENT, 1865—1870.

William James Clement was the well known surgeon and physician who had wide fame as a consultant through Shropshire and the neighbouring counties. He was a native of Shrewsbury and was educated at Shrewsbury School which he left in 1818. He was M.D. of Edinburgh University and took the Fothergilliam Gold Medal and was Hon. Fellow of the Medical Society of London. He was a prominent Liberal in Shropshire and took a leading share in politics in elections previous to his own return. He resided at the Gateway House in Shrewsbury. He published a book on Surgery of some note. Dr. Clement died in August 1870. The easily recognised features of this M.P. can still be seen in the West window of Stanton Lacy Church where he was canonised by his old friend the Vicar (Dr. Bowles) as St. Paul the Vicar himself appearing as St. Peter.

1868 Nov. WILLIAM JAMES CLEMENT (189) and JAMES FIGGINS (190).

The poll on this occasion was as follows :

W. J. Clement	Lib.	1840
James Figgins	Cons.	1751
Robert Crawford	Lib.	685

Mr. Douglas Straight came forward as another Conservative candidate, but retired and supported Mr. Figgins.

190. JAMES FIGGINS, 1868 to 1874.

James Figgins was an Alderman of the City of London for the Ward of Farringdon Without for which he was elected in July 1873. He was Sheriff of London and Middlesex in 1865. When he stood next in rotation for the Lord Mayoralty of London, he retired on the ground of ill health and advanced age in April 1882.

1870 Sept. DOUGLAS STRAIGHT (191) vice CLEMENT deceased.

There was a very severe contest for the seat rendered vacant by Mr. Clements' death which resulted as follows :

Douglas Straight	Cons.	1291
Charles Cecil Cotes	Lib.	1253

Mr. Cotes filed a petition against Mr. Straight on the usual grounds of bribery and treating by his Agents. This petition which gave rise to great excitement was tried by Baron Channell in December 1870, when after 4 days hearing he found that Mr. Straight was duly elected, and that there was no reason to believe that any considerable bribery or corruption took place. He dismissed the petition with costs. The crucial question was whether a supper at the Dun Cow Inn, in Shrewsbury, was corrupt treating or not. There is a well known story that this M.P. sent a telegram to his wife that he had been "returned by 80 over Cotes" but the postmaster corrected the spelling and the telegram as delivered read "returned by 38 overcoats".

191. DOUGLAS STRAIGHT, 1870—4.

Douglas Straight who was a well known Barrister, especially in the Criminal Courts, was the son of R. Marshall Straight, a Barrister and Clerk of Arraignment at the Central Criminal Court and was born in 1844. He was educated at Harrow, and after coming to London became a contributor to a new evening

newspaper called "The Glowworm" and to other periodicals and he kept up his taste for literary matters to the end. Mr. Straight was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in November 1865. He practised chiefly in the Criminal Courts and became Junior prosecuting Counsel to the Treasury. In 1879 he was appointed a Puisne Judge of the High Court of the North Western Provinces of India, at Allahabad, and held that office until 1892 when he resigned and was Knighted, having had the degree of L.L.D., conferred on him by the Allahabad University. Sir Douglas married in 1867 Alice, daughter of William Bridgman, D.C.L. His introduction to Shrewsbury is said to have arisen from his having come there at the General Election of 1868 to support the candidature of Mr. Alderman Figgins, when he made so favourable an impression on the constituency that he was invited in 1870 to contest the seat himself. At the 1874 election he lost the seat which he won at this Bye election, and upon his return from India in 1892 he unsuccessfully contested the Borough of Stafford. Sir Douglas died in a Nursing Home in London in June 1914. In his early years Mr. Straight wrote well-known books for children under the nom de plume of Sidney Daryl. Sir Douglas was Editor of the Pall Mall Gazette, 1896 to 1909.

1874. CHARLES CECIL COTES (192) and HENRY ROBERTSON (188).

There was a severe contest which resulted as follows :

C. C. Cotes (Lib.)	1672
Henry Robertson (Lib.)	1561
James Figgins (No. 190) Cons.	1388
Douglas Straight (No. 191) Cons.	1326

192. CHARLES CECIL COTES was the second but eldest surviving son of John Cotes of Woodcote (M.P. for North Shropshire from 1832 to 1834) by his marriage with Lady Louisa Harriet Jenkinson, daughter of the 3rd Earl of Liverpool. He was born on April 7, 1846, was educated at Eton and took his degree at Christ Church, Oxford, in 1869. He was J.P. and D.L. of Shropshire and Staffordshire, and was a Captain in the Shropshire Yeomanry from 1869 to 1880. Mr. Cotes rebuilt Woodcote Hall after a disastrous fire. After Mr. Cotes's re-election in 1880, he was appointed a Junior Lord of the Treasury,

having previously acted as one of the Liberal Whips. When the Redistribution Act of 1885 took away one of the Shrewsbury seats, Mr. Cotes retired from political life. Mr. Cotes died very suddenly at Woodcote on August 9, 1898, and was buried at Woodcote. He was never married and was succeeded in the estates by his brother Col. Charles James Cotes of Pitchford.

1880 April. CHARLES CECIL COTES (192) and HENRY ROBERTSON (188).

The usual poll resulted as follows :

C. C. Cotes (Lib.)	1945
Henry Robertson (Lib.)	1884
A. R. Scoble, Q.C. (Cons.)	1622
Viscount Newry (Cons.)	1568

Sir Andrew Richard Scoble, Q.C., K.C.S.I., who unsuccessfully contested Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1885 and South Hackney in 1886, became M.P. for Central Hackney in 1892.

Lord Newry was M.P. for Newry from 1871—1874 and succeeded his Father as Earl of Kilmorey in 1880.

1880 May. CHARLES CECIL COTES (192) on appointment as Lord of the Treasury.

Mr. Cotes was on this occasion returned without opposition.

1885. JAMES WATSON (193).

This was the first election after the Redistribution of Seats Act by which one member was taken away from Shrewsbury, which became a single member seat. There was a contest as usual, the poll resulting thus

James Watson (Cons.)	2244
Charles Waring (Lib.)	1512

Mr. Waring was M.P. for Poole from 1865 to 1868 and after a defeat there in 1868 was again elected in 1874, but was unseated on petition and was again unsuccessful in 1880.

193. JAMES WATSON (1885 to 1892) was the only son of James Watson of Edgbaston, Birmingham, and was born in 1817. He was a Cheese Merchant, in a large way of business in Birmingham and was a Director of the London and Midland Bank. About 1879 Mr. Watson bought the Berwick estates

near Shrewsbury for £192,000 and went to reside there. He practically re-built the greater part of the house at an expense of £50,000. Mr. Watson married in 1876, Jane, daughter of Leonard Willan of Silverdale, Lancashire, by whom he had an only child Florence Mary, who married Captain William Walter Graham Phillipps. The M.P. died at Berwick Hall on the 5 July 1895, and his will was proved in the following year, the net personalty being sworn at £64,680. His widow died in 1897 when the Berwick estates passed to Mrs. Phillipps.

1886. JAMES WATSON (193 above).

There was again a contest which resulted as follows :

Watson (Cons.)	1826
Maurice Jones (Lib.)	1269

1892. HENRY DAVID GREENE, Q.C. (194).

There was a contest which resulted as follows :

H. D. Greene (Cons.)	1979
J. B. Batten (Lib.)	1573

194. HENRY DAVID GREENE (1892 to 1906).

Mr. Greene was the son of Mr. Benjamin Buck Greene of Midgham House, Berkshire, an ex-Governor of the Bank of England and was born in 1843. He was educated at Trinity Coll., Cambridge (B.A. Moral Science Tripos 1865, L.L.B. Law Tripos 1886, M.A. 1868, L.L.M. 1869) and was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1868. In 1885 he was made a Q.C. and elected a Bencher of his Inn in 1891. He was Recorder of Ludlow from March 1892 till his death. Mr. Greene married in 1879 Harriet Rowland, daughter and heiress of John Jones, Esq. of Grove, Craven Arms, Chairman of the City Bank, London. Mr. Greene resided at Grove and also when M.P. for Shrewsbury at Ye Gateway House, Shrewsbury. He was one of the Lunacy Commissioners for England for some years. Mr. Greene died at his residence 13 Connaught Place, London, on the 16 October, 1915 and was buried at Wistanstow.

1895. HENRY DAVID GREENE, Q.C. (Cons.) 194, unopposed.
1900. Do. Do.

1906. SIR CLEMENT LLOYD HILL (195), 1906—1913.

There was a contest, the poll resulting as follows :

Sir Clement L. Hill (Cons.)	2395
Edward George Hemmerde (Lib.)	1955

Mr. Hemmerde is the well known K.C. who unsuccessfully contested Portsmouth at the second General Election in 1910, but was returned for N.W. Norfolk in 1912. He has been Recorder of Liverpool since 1909.

195. SIR CLEMENT LLOYD HILL, was the 3rd son of the Rev. John Hill of the Citadel, Shropshire, and was born on 5 May 1845. He was educated at Marlborough and entered the Foreign office in 1867. He was Secretary to Sir Bartle Frere's Mission to Zanzibar and took charge of the Sultan of Zanzibar on his visit to England in 1875. He was afterwards acting *Chargé d' Affaires* and was a member of the Commission for the revision of Slave Trade instructions. In 1885/6 he was Secretary to the Under Secretary for Foreign affairs and then was employed on special service in Hayti in 1886 and 7. In 1894 he became Chief of the Foreign Office African department and in 1900 he held the important post of Superintendent of the African protectorates, but retired from public work in 1905. Sir Clement was K.C.B., K.C.M.G. and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. He was twice married, first to Charlotte Eliza Mary Jane, daughter of Sir George William Denys, Bart. by whom he had one daughter, and secondly in 1906 to Muriel Mary, daughter of Colin Glencairn Campbell. Sir Clement died on April 9th, 1913.

1910 Jany. SIR CLEMENT LLOYD HILL (195).

The poll resulted as follows :

Sir Clement L. Hill (Cons.)	2596
J. H. Whitworth (Lib.)	1994

Major J. H. Whitworth, M.C., Manchester Regiment, of Ingersley, Belgrave Road, Bowden, barrister-at-law, who contested the Shrewsbury Division in 1910, left £7,910.

1910 Dec. SIR CLEMENT LLOYD HILL (195).

There was again a contest, resulting as follows :

Sir Clement L. Hill (Cons.)	2423
Thomas Pace (Lib.)	1855

Thomas Pace, the unsuccessful candidate, was a Builder in Shrewsbury.

1913 April. GEORGE BUTLER LLOYD (196) vice SIR CLEMENT HILL dec.

There was the usual poll, resulting as follows :

Lloyd (Cons.)	2412
J. R. Morris (Lib.)	1727

196. GEORGE BUTLER LLOYD (1913—18).

George Butler Lloyd who has been an Alderman of the Borough and was Mayor of Shrewsbury in the Jubilee year of 1887, is the son of William Butler Lloyd of Monkmoor and afterwards of Preston Montford, and was born on the 8th January 1854. He married in 1880, Constance Mary, daughter of Col. Richard Jenkins of Bicton Hall and grand daughter of Sir Richard Jenkins, K.C.B. (182 above). Mr. Butler Lloyd was a member of the Banking Company, of Eyton Burton and Co. (the Old Bank of Shrewsbury) which is now merged in the Capital and Counties Bank of which he was a Director. He resided at Shelton Hall, Shrewsbury.

Mr. G. B. Lloyd died at Shelton Hall, after a brief illness, on March 28th, and was interred at Shrewsbury General Cemetery on March 31st, 1930, the last survivor of the Members of Parliament for Shrewsbury.

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THE LOCAL PECULIAR COURTS OF SHROPSHIRE.¹

By J. E. AUDEN, M.A.

"In case a deceased died intestate in early times, the King seized his property as "father of his people." This right to pillage,—for it was no more,—he sold to various lords of manors, but so valuable a right was as tempting to the ecclesiastical mind of that day as cream to a cat, and, in consequence, it gradually happened that the prelates became invested with this branch of the prerogative, "which was done," says old Perkins, "because it was intended by the law that spiritual men are of better conscience than laymen, and that they had more knowledge of what things would conduce to the benefit of the souls of the deceased." In result, however, the priests soon decided that the best use to which they could put the intestates' property was to spend it on themselves, a conclusion remarkably similar to that formerly adopted by the King and his barons. This abuse was remedied under Edward I, and Edward III, who successively provided for the due payment of debts, and the distribution of the residue among the next of kin. The ecclesiastical control was thus reduced to become ministerial only. But, meanwhile, one important practical result had been produced. As the Church had a pecuniary interest in making a man out intestate, it was considered just that *proof* of any alleged will should be given to the satisfaction of the Ecclesiastical Court of the diocese, where the deceased had lived. Thus it happened that the proof, or probate, of wills was vested in the Bishop's Court of the county where the deceased had his goods. The Ecclesiastical Courts administered a law of their own, and this, from the earliest times, was mysterious and

1. At the outset, I must express my gratitude for the help most kindly given to me, while compiling this paper, by Miss H. M. Auden, F.R. Hist.S., Church Stretton; Miss H. L. E. Garbett, Librarian of the William Salt Reference Library, Stafford; Dr. G. A. Auden, M.A., M.D., F.S.A., Birmingham; the Rev. Lionel Lambert, M.A., Rector of St. Mary's, Stafford; Lieut.-Col. F. H. L. Meynell, D.S.O., D.L., J.P., F.Z.S., Hoar Cross, Staffordshire; and Mr. Donald H. T. Smith, Little Haywood, Stafford.

unpopular. Indeed it may be said that it was frequently absurd. For example, in the celebrated case of the Duchess of Suffolk, it was, upon solemn argument, unanimously held, first, that the half-sister of Henry, Duke of Suffolk, was his next of kin, excluding his mother, and, secondly, that his mother was not of kin at all, a judgement which would seem incredible, but nevertheless is formally recorded in our law books." (From an anonymous magazine article headed *The Probate Court*.)

Testamentary causes occupied a considerable share of the time of the Diocesan Ecclesiastical, or Consistory, Courts attached to a Cathedral. But the origin of the jurisdiction claimed by such courts over grants of probate is hard to discover. "Neither the civil nor the canon law sanctioned it; and we hear nothing of it in England in the twelfth century. Selden says "I could never see an express probate in any particular case elder than about Henry III." [1216—1272]. (*Original of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Testaments* p. 1671). But as early as the reign of Henry II. [1154—1188], it is probable that jurisdiction in cases of disputed wills belonged to the ecclesiastical courts. Glanvil, [writing circa 1185,] says definitely that this was the law in his day. Once admit that the ecclesiastical courts have jurisdiction to decide cases of disputed wills, and a jurisdiction to grant probate will soon follow." (Holdsworth, *A History of English Law*, i, p. 625).

"The only serious rival to the ecclesiastical courts was the King's court. As the judges of that court were generally clerics, they cannot have been altogether opposed to "arranging a concordat" with the ecclesiastical courts which eventually gave those courts in England a jurisdiction over matters testamentary larger than that possessed by any other ecclesiastical courts in Europe." (Holdsworth, i, p. 629)² [See Appendix].

2. With this we may compare Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, ii, p. 341. "Now it seems probable that not until the age of Glanvill did the courts Christian succeed in establishing an exclusive right to pronounce on the validity of the will, and, (as the canonists of a later time had to admit,) this right, as an exclusive right, was not given to them by any of those broad principles of ecclesiastical law for which a catholic validity could be claimed. Lynwood knew of no authoritative act that gave the right. Selden surmises that it was granted "by parliament" in John's time. We gravely doubt whether such a grant was ever made."

But whatever its origin, the proving of wills soon became a normal function of the Consistory or Diocesan Court, and the Bishops tried to attract to their own courts all the testamentary business of the country, and not altogether from disinterested motives. For, as Professor Tillyard, of Birmingham University, has pointed out, "the Church made claim to a third of all pure personal property for Church use, and the Consistory courts appointed a representative to collect their third." Thus a knowledge of the terms of a will and the real value of the property included in it would facilitate and regulate their demands.

At such courts were proved the wills of persons having personal property in the Diocese, and residing in it, or Letters of Administration were granted, if they had died intestate. But where there were *bona notabilia*, or goods, to the value of £5, in other Dioceses also, the jurisdiction belonged to the Court of the Archbishop, and not to that of the Diocesan Bishop.³

Probate and Letters of Administration were usually issued in what was called "common form," but when any difficulty arose, for example when either the validity of the will was contested, or when several persons claimed that Letters of Administration should be granted to them, the matter was brought before the Consistory Court, and decided by the Official Principal sitting as Judge.⁴

3. "Where a man dies intestate leaving goods in several peculiars, it has been held that the Archbishop is to grant administration. It is an ancient privilege of the See of Canterbury that wherever any manors or advowsons belong to it, they forthwith become exempt from the ordinary, and are reputed peculiars to that See, not because they are under no ordinary, but because they are not under the ordinary of the Diocese." (Jacob, *The New Law Dictionary*, 1772). This claim of the Archbishops to oust the testamentary jurisdiction of the Diocesan Bishops was recognised by William of Lynwood, writing in 1430, and by the Canons of 1604. (William of Lynwood was Bishop of St. David's, and published a commentary on The Canon Law of the Church of England. He died in 1446).

4. Prior to the Dissolution, the possession of some degree of Holy Orders was a necessary qualification for the office of a Diocesan Chancellor, appointed by a Bishop to the two ancient offices of Vicar General and Official Principal, the two posts being for a long time held together, the Chancellor sometimes acting as Vicar General, representing the Bishop, if absent from the Diocese, or unable to act in person, and sometimes as Judge, exercising his judicial authority as Official Principal. Then an Act of 38 Henry VIII, (1546), enabled a layman to fill the position.

The Act of 1857 put an end to this jurisdiction of Diocesan and of local Peculiar Courts, in Testamentary causes, and transferred it to the Probate Court, where it is now exercised.

The wills of Shropshire testators were, till lately, to be found at Lichfield, Hereford, St. Asaph, and Lambeth, while those proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, (beginning in 1383) are at Somerset House. Now the Lichfield wills are kept at Birmingham ; the Hereford at Llandaff ; and the St. Asaph are to be removed to Bangor.

But in addition to the Probate Courts connected with Cathedrals, there were local courts functioning in Shropshire, of which the names of fourteen still survive, but, no doubt, there were also many others in the county of which all record was lost long ago. These fourteen are Shrewsbury, St. Mary's ; Shrewsbury, St. Julian's ; Bridgnorth, St. Mary Magdalene's ; Buildwas ; Ellesmere for the Manor ; Ellesmere for the Town and Liberties ; Colemere ; Hampton ; Lineal ; Longdon on Tern ; Newport ; Prees ; Tyrley ; and Wombridge.

Unfortunately the wills proved in those Shropshire Courts, which survive, are comparatively late ones. Bridgnorth, Ellesmere, Prees, Tyrley, and St. Mary's, Shrewsbury go back to the 17th century, the majority of the others begin late in the 18th. Most of the wills themselves have also been lost ; those of Bridgnorth, however, are numerous and well preserved.

The question, therefore, arises, how did these courts obtain their power to prove wills ? Was it delegated to them by some higher authority, or did they simply assume it on their own initiative, without any authority at all ? " In some cases this jurisdiction may be the result of mere usurpation." (Holdsworth i, p. 626, note).⁵

" One cause for the growth of these Peculiar Courts was the conflict between the Bishops and their chapters which resulted in the apportionment of the land and jurisdiction over the land, between the Bishop and the chapter. Thus both the Bishops and the deans of the chapters possessed Peculiar courts. A second cause was the exemption of the greater abbeys from episcopal jurisdiction. A third cause was a similar exemption of the King's chapels royal. The variety of the origins of these Peculiar

5. Archbishop Stratford, in 1342, complained of such a case, and William of Lynwood, writing in 1430, gave other instances of such a proceeding.

courts can be seen from the statement of the ecclesiastical commissioners of 1832, that 'there are Peculiars of various descriptions in most Dioceses, and in some they are very numerous: Royal, Archiepiscopal, Episcopal, Decanal, Subdecanal, Prebendal, Rectorial and Vicarial; and there are also some Manorial courts.' Some of these Peculiars were wholly exempt from Episcopal, and even from Archiepiscopal control." (Holdsworth i, p. 600).⁶

But Professor Holdsworth, though alluding to the reasons for Peculiars, does not try to throw light on their ultimate origin, or how and why they obtained their jurisdiction in the beginning. Hints, however, on these points may be found in the extract quoted at the beginning of this paper, *i.e.* that the ulterior, if veiled, motive, whether in King, baron, or bishop, was to obtain possession of the property of the dead.

A glance at the Shropshire courts, enumerated above, will show that they may be divided (A) into Royal Free Chapels, as St. Mary's, Shrewsbury; St. Julian's, Shrewsbury; and St. Mary Magdalene's, Bridgnorth; (B) into Religious Foundations as Buildwas Abbey; and Wombridge Priory; (C) into Prebendal courts, as Prees; and Longdon on Tern; and, lastly, (D), into Manorial courts, as Newport; Tyrley, (doubtful); and Ellesmere with its own Town and Manor courts, and its appendages,—the courts of the manors of Colemere, Hampton, and Lineal.⁷

Such a division seems to prove that the origin of these Peculiar courts, the time when they were started, and the authority by which they were set on foot in the first place, differ in each case.

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6. In the Ecclesiastical Commission report of 1832, the number of Peculiars in England is estimated at 300, (p. 21). "There were some of so anomalous a nature as scarcely to admit of accurate description. In some instances these jurisdictions extend over large tracts of country, embracing many towns and parishes. In others several places may be comprehended, lying at a great distance, apart from each other. Again some include only one or two parishes." (p. 11).
 7. Hone, *The Manor and Manorial Records*, (p. 302), gives a list of "Manor Courts with Testamentary Jurisdiction, with the dates of the earliest wills, and their present place of deposit." He names 42 such Courts, and includes "Ellesmere; Colemere; Hampton; Town and Liberty of Ellesmere; Lineal, (? included in Ellesmere); Longdon upon Tern; Tyrley, (in Drayton in Hales)."

Of course we turn to Roman law for the general usages and regulations concerning testamentary matters which have more or less held good in England since the days of the Roman occupation. "The early history of probate lies outside England, and it is not for us to say whether some slender thread of texts, traversing the dark ages, connects it directly with the Roman process of insinuation, aperture, and publication." (Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, ii, p. 341).

The Romano-British were by no means so abjectly helpless and cowed after the Roman legions had been withdrawn, that they could not defend themselves. They held out for a long time in the Midlands, and in the South West and North West, whilst the Saxon new-comers only occupied the East and South East, in the years 449—600, the dates to be taken roughly. "Even in the sixth century," wrote Professor Haverfield, "they called themselves *Romani*, in contrast to the surrounding barbarians. This Roman civilization was, perhaps, limited to the nobles, clergy, and better educated persons, and it was naturally not permanent; neighbouring Celtic influences encouraged Celtic ways and Celtic speech."

The Teuton invaders, as they gradually took a firmer grip of the land, and, by 'peaceful penetration,' or by the more vigorous method of conquest, *vi et armis*, pushed their settlements westward and northward, adopted and adapted, for the regulation of their social and financial affairs, the institutions which the Romans had established in Britain, since they found them congenial to their own previous customs. "Roman laws formed the basis of the Saxon family system, and of the laws of property. The Saxon conquest was a change of the highest moment, no doubt, but it did not break up society. It only added a new element to what it found. The Saxon state was built upon the ruins of the past." (Pearson, *Early and Middle Ages*, ch. vi.)

William Baxter, the Antiquary, suggested that many customs and usages, at least as far as concerned Shrewsbury, were "derived from the Roman law of the old inhabitants of *Uriconium*." However that may be, our present English laws concerning wills and their probate are to a great extent founded on the Roman laws which once governed England. Some,

however, ascribe this to the domination the Popes of Rome exercised over this country, and the great number of Italian priests holding benefices in it, during the last half of the 12th and the whole of the 13th centuries.⁸ But this point will be touched on later.

One of the earliest wills preserved is that of Wulfric Spot, Earl of Mercia, whose extensive possessions included much land in Shropshire, and who was killed in a battle with the Danes at Ipswich, in 1010. The original will, beautifully engrossed on vellum and written in Anglo-Saxon, was formerly in the possession of the Marquis of Anglesey at Beaudesert, and is now in the William Salt Library at Stafford.

The preservation of such a will is very valuable as showing how wills were drawn up in the 11th century, and is evidence that, in considering testamentary matters, we may safely go back to Anglo-Saxon times. Though we must of course bear in mind that then there were no proper testaments in the sense that we now use the word, but that "post obit arrangements" took their place, and there were no special courts provided to prove them.

Probate in the technical sense being unknown in Saxon days, testators sought for their wills the protection of the King; or of his nearest representative, e.g. the Dean of some Royal Free Chapel; or of some powerful individual, their lord to whom they owed service, e.g. the local Ealdorman or King's Thegn⁹;

8. The reference to Roman law in Hebrews IX, 16, 17, is said to have reconciled Christian testators to using the procedure laid down in pagan regulations, Roman or otherwise.

9. "In the Royal Free Chapels the Dean was always appointed by the Crown, as being part of the Royal Household," (Lambert, *The Royal Free Chapel of Stafford*, p. 6). This of course refers to Chapels to which was attached a collegiate body. In those merely parochial, the Incumbents were styled "King's Clerks," "The Ealdormen were originally the chief officials of the shire, but in the last century of the Saxon period they diminished in numbers and became the rulers of provinces. They disappeared after the Norman Conquest, the term earl becoming a mere title." (Holdsworth i, p. 6). "A Thegn was a responsible landowner who owned five hides. A person who had this amount of land was qualified to be independent." (Holdsworth i, p. 22). A King's Thegns were a military aristocracy, planted by him over villages to lead in active service with their picked men, generally lesser thegns. These last had three duties to perform, usually compendiously described by the phrase *trinoda necessitas*, to fight in the fyrd, or militia, to defend the burghs or permanent fortresses, and to repair the bridges.

or of the collective body of men forming the Hundred court; and the effect of this procedure would be somewhat similar to that of a grant of probate in later law. For instance, Selden, in his *Original of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Testaments*, quotes the case of a testator in Saxon times, who made three copies of his will; one of these he retained in his own possession, the second he handed over to the Abbot of Ely, the chief beneficiary, the third he gave to the Ealdorman, "*et petit ab illo ut suum testamentum stare concederet.*"

In this we may possibly trace the evolution of the Peculiar courts dealing with testamentary work, which were attached to Royal Free Chapels, and to Manor courts, the successors of the Town and Hundred courts of Saxon days.

(A.) Let us, first of all, briefly review the courts connected with the Royal Free Chapels founded in Shropshire in Anglo-Saxon days.

A Royal Free Chapel strictly means a foundation erected by the King on a royal manor, or within a royal castle, and free in the sense of being exempt from visitation by the ordinary.¹⁰ To these Royal Free Chapels collegiate bodies were often attached, as to St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, and St. Mary Magdalene's, Bridgnorth.¹¹

10. *The Student's English Dictionary*, (Ogilvie and Annandale) gives the following definitions:—

Ordinary, one who has ordinary, or immediate jurisdiction in matters ecclesiastical.

Peculiar, private or particular right or authority; a church or parish which has ecclesiastical jurisdiction within itself.

Donative, a benefice given by the founder or patron, without either presentation, induction, or institution by the ordinary.

With the above may be compared the following from *The New Law Dictionary*, MDCCCLXXII, compiled by J. Jacob.

Peculiar, a particular parish or church that hath jurisdiction within itself, and power to grant administration or probate of wills, and is exempt from the ordinary.

Royal Peculiars, the King's Chapels, exempted from all spiritual jurisdiction, and reserved to the immediate government of the King.

11. There were also Free Chapels on Manors not Royal, which may, at the beginning, have been founded by special licence from the Crown, but were to all intents and purposes, parcels of the Manor on which they stood. (cf. Burn, *Ecclesiastical Law*, i, under "Chapel.")

"Free chapels were very common in Shropshire." (A. Hamilton Thompson). In the Certificates of the Shropshire Chantry and in other documents, we find mention of the King's Chapel of St. Peter, within the Castle of Ludlow; of "the ffree chappell

But very little history has come down to us from Anglo-Saxon days, concerning the foundation of such chapels and the liberties bestowed on them. We know, however, that the privileges they enjoyed were derived by custom from the Crown by virtue of their position both as Royal Peculiars, or Free Chapels, and as Royal Donatives, and that the old Saxon Collegiate Churches, attached to such foundations, recognised the ordinary or immediate jurisdiction of neither the Bishop of the Diocese, nor that of the local Ealdorman or King's Thegn. They were totally exempt from both from time immemorial.

"How then, we may ask, did Royal Free Chapels generally obtain this exemption, and have a jurisdiction entirely separate from that of the Bishop of the Diocese? It would seem by what is called custom." (Lambert, *The Royal Free Chapel of Stafford*, p. 6).

In 1245, Pope Innocent IV, Bishop of Rome 1243—1254,¹² issued from Lyons a Bull *de libertate capellarum Domini regis*, (published under Letters Patent of Henry III.), which clearly shows that His Holiness, probably much against his will, acquiesced in a custom which had been in existence from the very early days of the Church, as the special prerogative of the English Kings, whether in England as Kings of England, or in Normandy as Dukes of Normandy,—namely that their Chapels should be exempt from the ordinary or immediate jurisdiction of a Bishop.¹³

withyn the Castell of Cawes"; of the Free Castle Chapel of Plash; of the Free Castle Chapel of St. Nicholas at Oswestry; and of the Free Chapel of St. Mary, of the Castle Isabel of Shrawardine, (described in 1386 as *libera et sine cura, et sic ab antiqua usitate*). There were also free parochial chapels, as, e.g., at Acton Pigott, Alveley, Bitterley, Broseloy, Cardeston, Clun, Eaton Constantine, Frodesley, Isombridge, Ledwyche, Marchamley, Preston-on-the-Waldmoors, Roden, Stapleton, Waters Upton, Welshampton, Wem, Willey, and Wrickton.

12. In 1836 a bulla, or leaden seal, once appended to a Papal Bull, inscribed *Innocentius, P.P. 1111*, was found during excavations in the Chapter House of Shrewsbury Abbey.
13. Exempt Churches are of two kinds, (1) Totally exempt, (2) Partially exempt. Total exemptions are Free Chapels and Donatives, the first visitable only by a Commission from the King, and the second by a Commission from the Donor. Partial exemptions, commonly called Peculiars, may be divided under four heads: Peculiars of the Archbishop; Peculiars of Bishops other than the Bishop of the Diocese and outside his jurisdiction; Peculiars of Bishops outside the jurisdiction of the Archdeacon; Peculiars of

A letter from the same place, by the same Pope, to the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, names the Royal Free Chapels which are exempt in the latter's Diocese, which was practically the ancient Kingdom and Diocese of Mercia, and includes those of *Beate Marie de Salopesberia, et Sancte Marie Magdalene de Bruges, et quarundam aliarum ecclesiarum parochialium, seu capellarum, ad illas spenciantium.* (*Annales Monastici*, Rolls Series, i, pp. 275, 276).

In an inquiry as to the liberties of the Dean and Chapter of a Royal Free Chapel, made in 1251, it was laid down that "they have their own court for themselves and their tenants, and may hold pleas of the lands of their men according to the custom of the King's manors. The Dean and chapter have gallows, and *infangthef* and *outfangthef*." (*Calendar of Inquisitions*, Miscellaneous, 1219—1307, No. 101). This means that they had the right to inflict capital punishment on criminals within their manor, and, "the greater including the less," we may take it that they had also power to prove the wills of their tenants in their own Courts. That such was the case seems established by the definition given above of a Royal Peculiar as "a church that hath the power to prove wills, is exempt from all ordinary jurisdiction, and is reserved to the immediate government of the King."

In the *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 1313—1318, is an order, given on 15 April, 1315, to the Deans of the Free Chapels of Bruggenorth, St. Beriana, [? St. Juliana], St. Mary, Shrewsbury, and St. Michael in Shrewsbury, to appoint certain persons in whom they can confide, to collect the tenths of the benefices pertaining to the chapels, which are exempt from the jurisdiction of the ordinaries. (p. 172).

And on Feb. 17, 1318, allusion is made to the Free Chapel of Bruges, a free chapel of the King, which is exempt from all

Deans; of Deans and Chapters; of Prebendaries, etc. (cf. Gibson, *Codex Juris Ecclesiastici*, ii, p. 978).

"There are some peculiars which belong to Deans and Chapters, or a Prebendary, which are exempted from the Archdeacon only. They are derived from the Bishop of ancient composition, and may be visited by the Bishop in his primary or triennial visitation. In the meantime an official of the Dean and Chapter, or Prebend, visits, and from hence the appeal lies to the Bishop of the Diocese." (Jacob, *The New Law Dictionary*).

ordinary jurisdiction, together with the prebends and chapels pertaining to it, which are also exempt. (p. 596).

But perhaps it would be better to treat of the Shropshire Royal Free Peculiars separately and in detail.

ST. MARY'S, SHREWSBURY, is described in the Chantry Certificates of 1547—8, as ' the collegiat or parish Church of Saunt Maries, ffounded by Kinge Edgar, for the mayntenance of a deane, vij prebendaries, and a parishe preest." Some authorities place the original foundation as prior to the reign of Edgar, (958—974), and consider that the church was made collegiate by Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury, 960—988. Edgar had, however, been ruler of Mercia before succeeding to the throne of the whole of England. All that we can be sure of is that St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, was founded in Saxon times, and was, from very early days, a Royal Free Chapel, exempt from the jurisdiction of Bishops, and remained a Peculiar Donative to a comparatively recent date.

The Dean had, from time immemorial, the power of collecting and paying into the King's exchequer the tenths and other subsidies arising from the deanery, and its prebends, a privilege first confirmed by Edward I., whose grandson, Edward III., in 1344, recognised this right by directing the Sheriffs of Shropshire and Hereford not to enter into the jurisdiction of the Royal Chapel, or levy a distress on its possessions for any tenths or subsidies, unless the Dean should neglect to make a due return.

Frequent contests took place between various Kings and Bishops with regard to the status and rights of this Royal Peculiar. For instance, about 1270, the Dean had a dispute with the Abbot of Shrewsbury concerning the right of presentation to the Church of Fitz, to which Robert d' Acton had been instituted by the Bishop of Lichfield, and expelled by the Dean. D' Acton, as a Crusader, was under the special protection of His Holiness, the Pope, whose officer, " the Executor of the Cross," sent an order to the Abbot to restore him to his benefice. This being done, the King's Attorney General filed an information against the Abbot requiring him to answer " whereof he exercised jurisdiction in the Chapel of Fitesho, appertaining to the King's Free Chapel of St. Mary of Salop, which is exempt, so that neither our Lord, the Pope, nor any other ecclesiastical

judge, hath jurisdiction therein." Judgement was entered against the Abbot, who was sentenced to pay damages to the King, and to suffer a sentence of imprisonment.¹⁴

At the Dissolution of Religious Houses, the revenues of the suppressed "College of St. Mary the Virgin at Shrewsbury" were granted to Shrewsbury School, but certain privileges were continued to the Church. In the old days the foundation possessed a Court in which wills were proved, Letters of Administration were granted, and all ecclesiastical matters arising within the parish and its chapelries of Albrighton, Astley, Broughton, and the Clive, were adjudicated.¹⁵ This power, dating back to time immemorial, was not affected by the Dissolution, and, till comparatively recently, there was attached to the Church an official, usually styled "the Ordinary and Official Principal of the peculiar and exempt jurisdiction of the Royal Free Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Salop."

For many years after the transference of the revenues to the School, this office of Official always went with the Cure of the Church, to which the Headmaster and the Bailiffs of the Town up to 1634, and the Headmaster and the Mayor after that date, had the legal right to appoint as to a Donative. The first Official who was not Curate of St. Mary's, and not in Holy Orders, was Richard Pigott, the Puritan Headmaster of the School, who received the appointment in 1651, for a term of 40 years, providing he retained his Headmastership so long. (He died, however, in 1663). For a long period after that date, the office was held sometimes by clergymen and sometimes by laymen.

14. Such quarrels seem to have been of frequent occurrence. The right of St. Mary's, Stafford, to be a Royal Free Collegiate Chapel, and, therefore, exempt from episcopal jurisdiction, was successfully upheld in the King's Court of Law, against Roger de Meulend, Bishop of Lichfield, who, "with a multitude of clerks and laymen, bearing lances, swords, bows and arrows, and other arms, had broken open the doors of St. Mary's Church, at Stafford, and beat and wounded the Canons of the said Church, against the King's Peace." (Lambert, *The College of Stafford*, p. 27; *The Royal Free Chapel of Stafford*, p. 7). Meulend was Bishop, 1258-96.

15. The records of St. Mary's Peculiar Court show that it also issued licenses for the practising of surgery. In the minute books are a number of entries of such grants. One, for example, states that a charge was brought before the Ordinary of that Court "against Thomas Cooke for practising Chyrurgery without a licence, 18 November 1715. Cited personally: did not appear; again cited personally; did not appear, 19 April, 1716. Excommunicated etc."

but never by the Curate of St. Mary's. For example, in 1717, the Vicar of Kinlet, Shropshire, was appointed, and, in 1736, Mr. John Lloyd, Barrister-at-Law. Before the latter was selected, the Corporation had proposed to lease the Official's place to a Mr. Thomas Ryder for the term of twenty-one years, at an annual rent of 40s., justifying themselves by the Charter granted to the Corporation by Queen Elizabeth, dated 23 May, 1571, though the lease, in this case, was not for the pecuniary benefit of the School. This right to lease the office seems to have been accepted as late as 1828. For, in 1845, the income of Shrewsbury School included "the spiritual jurisdiction of St. Mary's—the office of the said ecclesiastical, spiritual, peculiar and exempt jurisdiction, with all the profits thereto belonging, and the seal of office, demised by the Corporation, for 21 years, to the Rev. W. G. Rowland, Curate of St. Mary's, at the yearly rent of £1 6s. 8d., payable to the governors and trustees of the School, dated 29th January, 1828."

The work transacted at St. Mary's Peculiar Court, and at the other local courts, was sometimes very delicate and difficult. Disputes with regard to administration were numerous. Several persons often claimed that Letters of Administration should be granted to them, and creditors sometimes petitioned to be allowed to administer the estate of deceased debtors. There were also frequent occasions when Administrators were called upon to exhibit an Inventory and give an account of the performance of their duty. The appeal from the Ordinary of such Courts was to the Official Principal of the Diocesan Consistory Court, and from him to the Vicar General of the Archbishop and the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

ST. JULIAN'S, SHREWSBURY, also dates from Saxon times, though it is uncertain when, or by whom, it was founded. For a long period it was distinguished as a Royal Free Chapel, styled *Libera Capella Regiæ Sanctæ Julianæ*, and possessed a Peculiar Jurisdiction. In 13th Richard II, (1390), it had powers of Probate as a Royal Peculiar, a fact attested by a Letter of Attorney then given to Reginald Scryven, authorising him to prosecute the executors of the will of William Pryseley, in which are the following words:—*In cujus rei testimonium, cum sigillum nostrum est pluribus incognitum, sigillum Officialitatis Dom. Rectoris liberæ Capellæ Regiæ Sanctæ Julianæ Salop literis*

apponi procuravimus. Et nos, Official: antedictus, ad personalem rogatum dictorum Will: et John:, sigillum officii nostri presentibus apposuvimus.

St. Julian's, to which the Chapelry of Ford, a benefice in the patronage of the King, was "a parcel annexed or belonging" in 1223, was, at an early date, joined to the much later foundation of the Free Chapel of St. Michael within the Castle of Shrewsbury, erected and endowed after the Norman Conquest, and continued united to it till Henry IV. gave the revenues of both to his new foundation of Battlefield, in 1408—9.

But it still retained its free status, and its peculiar jurisdiction. For among the Bowen M.SS., (vol. III,) in the Bodleian Library are the "Letters of Administration granted by the Official of the free chapel of St. Julian's, Salop, to Johan Couper and Roger Lye, Clerk, on the death of her husband Thos. Couper." *Omnibus Xti fidelibus, ad quorum notitiam presentes literæ pervenerint, Officialis liberæ capellæ regiæ Ste Julianæ salutem in domino: Cum Tho: Couper de eadem ab intestato obierit prætextu, cujus eventus ipsius bonorum dispositio ad nostrum officium dignoscitur pertinere, nos igitur, ipsius animæ salutis pro animo affectantes, prout sua bona extendere valeant, salubriter providere; dilectos nobis in Christo J. C. et R. L. administratores et executores dativos, etc., constituimus per presentes sigillo officii nostri sigillatas. Dat. Salop, 19 Apr. 1446.*

Subsequent to this date no record of St. Julian's having a Probate Court appears to have been preserved, unless one is lying in the archives at Lichfield, and, unfortunately too, no will proved in it seem to have survived.¹⁶

16. Owen and Blakeway, (*History of Shrewsbury* ii, p. 424), suggest that St. Michael's within the Castle was taken out of the Parish of St. Mary's, basing their theory on the fact that the parochial boundaries take in a part of Deerfold, the original park of Shrewsbury Castle, and may have inherited some of the privileges of the latter. But in 1835, Mr. J. Cressett Pelham, M.P., contested the right of St. Mary's parish to levy rates on Shrewsbury Castle, of which he was then the occupant. Documents extending over 500 years, from Domesday to 1583, were produced, which proved, to the satisfaction of the Judge and jury, that the Castle with its precincts was extra-parochial, and formed a separate and distinct parish of itself. They, therefore, brought in a verdict in favour of Mr. Pelham, with damages for distress issued.

St. Julian's was undoubtedly a much older foundation than St. Michael's, and was in existence many years before the Castle was built by Roger de Montgomery, therefore it can have owed none of its former privileges to its connection with the Castle Chapel.

THE ROYAL FREE CHAPEL OF BRIDGNORTH is described in the Chantry certificates as "the ffre chapell or college of Mary Magdaleyne within the Castell of Brydgenorth, ffounded by the Kinge of famous memorye called Wylliam Conquerer, as they saye, of one Deane and V prebendaries." But this rather antedates its origin. Bridgnorth was indeed the first borough to be founded in Shropshire after the Norman Conquest, and this is probably why it is ascribed to William I. It owed its beginning to his kinsman and great friend, Roger de Montgomery, who built a church at Quatford, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, and a town round it. Thirty years afterwards these were transferred to Bridgnorth, by Robert de Bellême, Earl Roger's son, when he moved thither his father's borough and church.¹⁷

Thus it appears that the Royal Free Chapel was actually founded by Robert, "the Devil of Bellême," as his enemies called him, early in the 12th century, when he built the Castle at Bridgnorth in 1101-2. On Bellême's rebellion, his fortress and its chapel came into the hands of Henry I, who made the latter collegiate.

In ancient records it is styled *Libera Regia Capella, id est, ab omni ecclesiastica jurisdictione libera*.

As the Certificate Rolls show us "the paryshes of Saynt Leonerd in the Towne of Brydgenorthe, Claverley, Bobyngton, and Quateford" were united to "the sayd ffre chapell," and "the Towneshypes of Alveley, Erdyngton, Morvyld, Walton and Underton" belonged to "the seuerall prebendis appropriated to the same." Thus the deanery of Bridgnorth comprised the whole of the town, and three neighbouring parishes, with the prebendal manors in addition, including Ludstone, a manor in the parish of Claverley, which the Dean himself held.¹⁸ The deanery and prebends, like those in other royal free chapels, soon became the regular perquisites of King's clerks and officers of the Royal household.

17. The Manor of Quatford still belongs to the Corporation of Bridge-north, and the Mayor for the time being is still the Lord of the Manor, an interesting relic of early history.

18. In 1349, and 1353, Alveley is called "the King's free chapel of Alvitheleye," owing to its dependency, as a Prebend, on the King's Collegiate Church.

John, in the 16th year of his reign, (1214), granted to the town its first charter, which gave certain liberties and free customs, the two Bailiffs becoming Justices of the King's Peace, and Justices of the Court of Record, wherein might be tried "all manner of pleas, actions, suits and demands done or committed within the said borough."¹⁹

Though the Royal Free Chapel of Bridgnorth does not date quite back to Saxon times, no doubt the rules, rights and customs of its Royal Peculiar Jurisdiction were framed on very similar lines to those of the old Saxon Peculiar of St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, by Roger de Montgomery, who was residing in that town, when he founded his church at Quatford, removed shortly afterwards to Bridgnorth by his son.

Summing up the above notes on the three Royal Free Chapels in Shropshire possessing Peculiar Courts of their own, *ab antiqua usitate*, in two cases from Saxon days, and in the other from just after, in the absence of information to the contrary, we may safely conclude that their Peculiar Courts were established by the founders of the Chapels, whether originally King, or Ealdorman, or Royal Thegn, at, or soon after, their foundation, and that this was done by the authority and with the express permission of the King himself as is evidenced by the title *Regia*, or Royal.²⁰ Also that one possible cause of their establishment was to avoid the trouble and inconvenience of requests to licence the terms of, or even to administer, wills, which might be made to those founders.²¹

19. This charter is headed "John, by the grace of God, King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, Earl of Anjou." No doubt "the power of the purse" was a strong factor in this Charter. It was always easy to get a Charter from John, because he was chronically "hard up," and, therefore, ready to grant any sort of privilege "for a consideration," a fact which accounts for the many charters bearing his name. Such charters had to be confirmed by succeeding Kings, doubtless in every case in return for further monetary payments.

20. "In case a deceased died intestate in early times the King seized his property as father of his people," (as quoted above). If that was so, the peculiar courts attached to Chapels Royal may have been originally set up to prove whether there was a legal and valid will or not, the scales being possibly adjusted rather for the latter verdict than for the former.

21. As for the attitude of mind of the first founders of Probate Courts in Royal Free Chapels towards Cathedral authorities and their Courts, we might, perhaps, find a parallel in I Kings, xii, 26-29, though, of course, no comparison is made, or even suggested,

Further that the reason for their flourishing existence later on, was because persons residing within the geographical area of such Royal Free Chapels were jealous of their own free status as being directly under the Crown, and were, therefore, unwilling to prejudice their liberty by having recourse to the Episcopal Courts of a Cathedral.

We have seen that the local Bishops were continually trying to obtain power and authority over Royal Free Chapels, and that their attempts met with stern resistance from the King. No doubt, therefore, such local courts were granted power to prove the wills of persons connected with such Chapels, with the intention of avoiding any dealings with a Bishop which might compromise the freedom of those Chapels.

For these reasons, too, these local courts continued to function, despite the increasing powers of Bishops, whether of England or of Rome, and the changes caused by the Dissolution of Religious Houses.

It must be more than a mere coincidence that each of the three great Royal Foundations in Shropshire possessed a Court of Probate.

(B.) BUILDWAS ABBEY was erected, about 1135, by Robert de Clinton, Bishop of Lichfield and Chester, and was originally attached to Savigny in Normandy, but, in 1147, Savigny came under the Cistercian Order, and with it the affiliated houses.

Cistercians, to all intents and purposes, originated in 1098, when Stephen Harding, an Englishman, formerly a Benedictine monk, drew up the rules, one of which was not to permit another monastery, even of their own class, within a specified distance, and he may be said to be responsible for the spread of the Order. Its monks, practically all foreigners, were under the immediate control of the Pope, who secured their settlement in England in 1129, and gave them his express sanction to forward papal

between the things severally set up. *Mutatis mutandis* the passage might be paraphrased:—"The King said in his heart, 'if this people go up to prove wills in the house of the Cathedral at Lichfield, or at Hereford, then shall the heart of this people turn unto the Lord the Bishop, and they shall disregard me.' Whereupon the King took counsel, and made two Courts of Probate, and said unto them 'It is too much for you to go up to Lichfield, or to Hereford, behold thy courts.' And he set the one in Shrewsbury and the other put he in Bridgnorth."

aggrandishment in the island. The order became very popular, and spread with great rapidity. It did not have small dependent cells, but sent out daughter-houses, by which it colonised England, so that there are now the remains of a great number of these monasteries throughout the country, for, according to the list of Cardinal Gasquet, there were about 100 Cistercian Houses in it, at the date of the Dissolution.²²

As the Cistercians owed allegiance to a foreign Abbey, that of Cîteaux in Burgandy, and their superiors were appointed from abroad, for all practical purposes, the authority of an individual English Bishop over a monastery was hardly ever more than nominal, even if that, since the real authority which commanded the inmates was situated so far away.

Well did the Cistercians carry out their mission of helping to forward papal aggrandishment in England. "The English Church from the hour of Beckett's death in December, 1170, to the Reformation, a period of almost four hundred years, can scarcely be said to have had an independent being. During the whole of that long and dismal period, its history is the history of a dependency of the papal see." (Marsden, *History of Christian Churches and Sects*, p. 198).

Throughout the inglorious rule of John, (1199—1216,) and the long reign of his son, Henry III, (1216—1272), England was almost a province of the Papal territory, and the great tributary kingdom in which the greedy courtiers, who surrounded His Holiness, levied the largest sums, and drained the wealth of the country by direct or indirect taxation, while the Pope's legate held, or affected to hold, a kind of undefined supremacy in the island.

In 1214, after the removal of the Interdict of 1208-1214,²³ John acknowledged the supremacy of the Pope, and proclaimed

22. Excellent farmers though the Cistercians might be, their coming to England was not a blessing to the Church. In the words of Mr. Justice Vaughan Williams:—"There sprang up a large number of Cistercian Monasteries filled very largely with monks of a foreign extraction. These monasteries absorbed to a great extent the tithes and emoluments of the secular clergy. This was the beginning of the parochial poverty of the Church."

23. John had offended the Pope by seizing on the revenues of the See of Canterbury, and by driving monks from their monasteries. This conduct drew upon the country the horrors of an Interdict. For six years the ministrations of the clergy were forbidden, the churches were closed, the bells hung silent in their towers, there was no public worship in the land, and the dead were buried without a word of prayer.

himself the vassal of the crowned priest at Rome. Immediately, at the Pope's bidding, Nicholas, the Papal legate, went through England filling up all vacant livings, mostly with foreigners, Poitevins, Southern French, and Italians. These foreigners were odious to all classes in England; to the laity as draining away the money, which they, or their forefathers, had given to the Church of England, without discharging the duties for which the money had been freely bestowed; to the clergy still more as usurping their benefices. The people generally disliked them from the superiority which they affected, their uncongenial manners and foreign accent, and, if they are not belied, because of their unchecked vices and dissoluteness.

In the reign of Henry III, the scourge of papal taxation descended upon the clergy with increased force, and the tax-gatherer, with power of ex-communication and the suspension of orders, wrung the last penny from the English holders of benefices, while the monasteries went free,²⁴ and Edmund Rich, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1234—1245, retired to an exile of despair at Pontigny, rather than carry out the exactions of the papal legate. Under Innocent IV, a Genoese, Frederick Sinibald Fiesco, who took this name, (1243—1254), as under Gregory IX, (1227—1243), the Church of England served, (to use Hallam's language in *The Middle Ages*), as "the free pasture-ground of Italian priests."

"The papacy," wrote J. R. Green in his *Short History of the English People*," grew more and more extortionate in its demands till the death of Langton [in 1229] saw it culminate in a demand of a tenth from the whole realm. The demand was at once rejected by the baronage, but a threat of excommunication silenced the clergy. Exaction followed exaction, and the very rights of the lay patron were set aside, and presentations to benefices, (under the name of preserves), were sold in the papal market, while Italian clergy were quartered on the best livings of the Church."

Nor were things much better in the 14th century, at least in the Diocese of Lichfield. "Dislike of the evergrowing power of the Pope over the Church of England, and discontent at the

24. This money from the taxation of the clergy was collected by monks, especially by the lay monks of the Cistercian order, who were frequently chosen for the task by the authorities at Rome.

ever-increasing wealth of the clergy," were rife "in a diocese where foreigners had supplanted Englishmen in some of the finest livings, having been thrust into them by the Pope. Thus, in 1371, a Roman Cardinal was Dean of Lichfield, at least in name; he, no doubt, paid some clergyman of inferior standing to perform some of the duties for him, and the rich revenues of the office were forwarded to him over the seas." (Hughes, *The Story of Staffordshire*, p. 141.)

Well might an anti-cleric of those days declare that, in his time, every foreign member of a clerical or monastic body was, (in the words of Phaedrus), *fauce improba latro incitatus*.

And in all this the Cistercian Order took its full share in promoting papal tyranny and filling foreign coffers; so much so indeed that, according to a well-known story, in 1199, Richard I, "of the Lion Heart," on his dying bed, "bequeathed his avarice to the Cistercians."

To return, however, to Buildwas after this digression, inserted as throwing light on the suggested reason why the procedure of the old Roman law still influences our testamentary arrangements, namely that it is due to Italian usurpation in the 12th and 13th centuries, and also on the claim of the Church to a third of the personal property of the deceased.

The Abbey, which was dedicated to St. Mary and St. Chad, received many privileges. The powers, with which the Abbots were invested, in respect to the rights and liberties of the different manors of the estate, were considerable, and, to a certain extent absolute, but were similar to those granted to like institutions at the time. The general character of these powers is clearly set forth in the different charters granted and confirmed to such Abbeys by Stephen,²⁵ Henry II, John, and other royal persons, and includes *soc* and *sac* with *infangtheof* and *outfangtheof*. These terms were introduced into most of the ancient charters of liberties and privileges granted to ecclesiastical institutions, and they mean generally that the Lord of the Manor, the Abbot in this case, had *sacha*, *socha*, *sac* or *soc*, synonymous terms, meaning liberty of keeping court or holding trials within his own

25. Stephen's Charter of Confirmation to the Abbey of Buildwas was dated *Apud Salopesbiriam in Obsidione, Anno Dom. 1139*.

jurisdiction, and that by the power of *infangtheof* he was privileged to judge any thief taken within his manor, to erect a gallows, and on conviction, to hang him thereon, while *outfangtheof* meant the right to hang such a criminal whether caught on the manor or not.²⁶

In addition to these privileges granted by various English Kings, Pope Alexander IV, Bishop of Rome 1254—1261, gave to the English Cistercian Houses the right to grant probate of the wills of their tenants and farmers and thus exempted their manors from the jurisdiction of the Ordinary of their Diocese.²⁷

26. According to Canon Venables, (*Guide to the Isle of Wight*, p. 135), the monks of the Cistercian Abbey of Quarr, I.W., did not bear a very good character among their neighbours. Though the Abbot and his brethren were, in their corporate capacity, large landed proprietors themselves, "It appears by the Court Rolls of the Manor of Ashey that they were notorious poachers, and were continually prosecuted for robbing the covers." Is this a case of *Ab uno monasterio disce omnia Cisterciana*? Interesting references to monks of Buildwas are to be found among the *Patent Rolls*. One, dated 16 Sept., 16 Edward III, (1342), orders the arrest and imprisonment in Shrewsbury gaol, of a monk of Buildwas, who was indicted in the county of Salop for the murder of his Abbot, and was then a vagabond in secular habit. Another, dated 18 August, 18 Edward III, (1344), shows he was still at large, for it orders his arrest, together with that of two of his fellow monks of Buildwas, professed in the Cistercian order, who had spurned the habit of that order, and were vagabond in secular habit, passing from county to county, to the peril of their souls and scandal of the order.

27. Chron. de Melsa ii, pp. 121-2, (*Rolls Series, Surtees Society*, 1867.) Melsa, or Meau, was a Yorkshire Abbey of the Cistercian order, founded in 1150. Cap. XV of the Chronicon is headed: *De privilegiis monasterio nostro et ordini concessis*, and section V states:—*et nihilominus cum dicti tenentes seu firmarii obierunt, liceat nobis testamenta sua in capitulo nostro coram nobis vel commissariis nostris probare, et etiam pueros eorundem in dictis capellis baptizare.*

Among other privileges granted were: (1) Exemption from tithes of hay: (2) Exemption from papal subsidies: (3) Exemption from suspension, or excommunication by papal legates: (4) Power of confessing their own servants: (5) Exemption of their tenants from the jurisdiction of the ordinary: (6) Power to take cognizance in cases of adultery: and (7) Power to perform divine service in their own chapels. These concessions and privileges were confirmed by Urban IV, Pope 1261-5.

Pope Innocent IV, about 1250, complacently remarked that in England a third part of an intestate's goods went to the Church. This grant by his successor may have been made with the ulterior object of facilitating claims to this third, by rendering the proof of the authenticity of wills one-sided and biassed in favour of the monks themselves.

About 1350, Alice de Laisham and her husband made a grant to the Abbey of the Manor of Little Buildwas, and by this the Church of Little Buildwas became a Peculiar, like the Abbey, a status which it retained after the Dissolution of its parent House.

Here we have a definite origin for the Buildwas Peculiar Court, whose life, despite the suppression of the Abbey, continued to recent times, and whose functions are fully set forth in the following terms of the appointment of an Official of Buildwas, (*Transactions* 4th Series, vol. VI, 1917, *Miscellanea*, p. 1), which are preserved among the papers of Major Moseley, of Buildwas Abbey.

1635. *Appointment of Richard Wickstead to be official of the Peculiar of Buildwas.*²⁸

Know all men by these presents that I, John Earl of Bridgewater, the true and lawful lord and possessor of the Abbey or Manor of Buildwas in the County of Salop, with all and singular the rights, spiritual and temporal jurisdictions, members, and appurtenances thereto belonging, to my beloved in our Lord Jesus Christ, Richard Wickstead, A.M., preacher of the Word of God, rector of the parish Church of Harley, send greeting. I, the said Earl, do give the Peculiar of Buildwas aforesaid to the said Richard Wickstead, to have, exercise, hold and enjoy all and all manner of spiritual jurisdiction, and to hear and determine all causes and complaints in the said Peculiar, in all cases at whose or whosoever suit or suits the same are or shall be commenced, and to prove and sign and confirm all Wills and Testaments whatsoever within my said jurisdiction, and to grant Letters of Administration of all and singular the goods, chattels and credits according to the Laws and statutes now in being of this Kingdom by persons dying intestate. And I, the said Earl, do of my owne freewill, of myself, depute and give by these presents to the said Richard Wickstead authority and power to

28. Richard Wickstead took his B.A. at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in 1618, and his M.A. from St. Edmund Hall, in 1621. In 1633, he was appointed Rector of Harley, to which was added, later, the living of Kenley. He was Chaplain to the Court of the Marches at Ludlow when the Earl of Bridgewater was President, and this probably accounts for his appointment to Buildwas. Richard Baxter tells us in his Autobiography that he was for some months at Ludlow with Mr. Wickstead as a kind of student or pupil. Mr. Wickstead was buried at Harley 19 Nov. 1659.

make, exercise, and try all and singular causes, suits and trials within the said Peculiar Jurisdiction of Buildwas aforesaid. And I, the said Earl, do make, ordain, constitute, and appoint him my lawful official of the said Peculiar during my will, and pleasure. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, the first day of May, in the eleventh year of the reign of King Charles, and in the year of our Lord God, 1635.

J. BRIDGEWATER.

Mr. Wickstead. My many Bussnesses have made me hitherto deferr sending unto you concerning the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction in Buildwas. And I doubt had it not been for your letter, (written about two months sithence) I should scarcely have yet remembered. I have sent you the Authority for execution of the same, which now I do under Seale. I could have beene glad I had done it sooner. Butt I cannot remember all things in soe fitt time as I desire. Nowe, (though I doubt nott butt that you understand the place better than myselfe), I will acquaint you with some Information as I have formerly received from some who have executed that place whereto I have nowe deputed and appointed yourselfe ; Vizt. that the place and parishioners are Exempt from the power, censure, or Sentence of the Bishop of the Diocese, neither can the Bishop or Viccar Generall, Surrogate or Archdeacon hould any Visitation there or call them elsewhere. Only it is subject to the Visitation Metropolitically. The Power of the Jurisdiction there is to houlde visitation, to keepe Courts of Correction, to proceed against delinquents with publique penances, etc., To prove Testaments and Wills and to graunt Letters of Administration, To graunt Faculty and Dispensation for Marriages, and to certifie against persons contumelious and Recusants. In all which I doubt nott butt that you will carefully take pains, and see the trust reposed in you to bee discharged to the glory of God and good to the Government, and the people under it. Which I shall expect att your hands. And so for the present I Bidd you farewell and rest your very Loving friend

10th May, 1635

J. BRIDGEWATER.

At the Archbishop's Visitation the parson and churchwardens are to be present, as I am informed. And I doubt not butt

yourself will be here to observe what is done and what directions are given.²⁹

Holdsworth, (I. p. 600), gives as one cause for the growth of Peculiar Courts, "the exemption of the greater abbeys from episcopal jurisdiction." The Cistercians were an off-shoot of the Benedictines, and, apparently, at least some Houses of the latter also received Peculiar privileges. Wills proved in the Burton-on-Trent Manor Court, which was the ancient Manor of the Benedictine Abbey of Burton, and, at the Dissolution, became the property of the Pagets, ancestors of the Marquis of Anglesey, were preserved at Lichfield. They date from 1678, and cover Burton itself, and the townships of Branston, Horn-inglow, Shobnall, Stretton, Wetmore, and Windshill. But no records seem to have been preserved showing that the great Benedictine Abbey of Shrewsbury ever had a Peculiar jurisdiction, even though it was a Mitred Abbey, whose Head had a seat in the House of Lords.

Of WOMBRIDGE PRIORY little is known. It was founded between 1130 and 1135 by William de Hadley and Seburga, his wife, for Augustinian Canons, was dissolved in 1535, and later

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29. Buildwas Abbey with all its lands in Shropshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire, was granted at the Dissolution, in 1539, to the Gray family, the head of which was Edward 3rd, Lord Powis. He died at Buildwas in 1551, and was buried at Pontesbury, whither his body was conveyed in a horse-litter. He was succeeded by an illegitimate son, Edward Gray, who was the father of the Edward Gray, who sold the Abbey estate, in 1609, to Thomas Harris. Thomas Chamberlayne was the owner in 1612, and he parted with the property in 1617, to Sir Thomas Egerton, Lord Ellesmere. The last was succeeded by the above John Egerton, first Earl of Bridgewater, but, owing to losses from the Civil War, he eventually sold Buildwas to Sir William Acton, Knight and Baronet, a London merchant, and brother of Sir Edward Acton, first Baronet of Aldenham. Sir William Acton died in 1651, and Buildwas went to his daughter, Dame Elizabeth Whitmore and her sons, with remainder to William Acton, younger son of Sir Edward, whose daughter Jane, inherited it in 1698. She was the wife of Walter Moseley, of The Mere, co. Stafford, and ancestress of Major Moseley now of Buildwas.

John, Earl of Bridgewater, was nominated "Lord President of the Council in the Marches of Wales," in 1631, and lived to see the downfall of the Court when the Civil War broke out, and it fell into abeyance in 1642. The Earl himself sided with the Parliament, and his rents were seized by the Royalists. On Michaelmas Day, 1634, Milton's *Comus* was performed in the Great Hall of Ludlow Castle, the part of the Lady being taken by his daughter, Alice, then 15, and those of the two Brothers by his sons Lord Brackley, and Thomas Egerton, then young boys.

passed with Lilleshall Abbey, another house of the same order, to the Leveson family.

The Augustinians were a branch of "Canons Regular," and were introduced into England, in 1105, by Adelwald, Confessor to Henry I. They were a kind of compromise between canons secular and monks regular,³⁰ and were corporations of clergy, formed to live upon rules like monks, though their rules were less strict than those of ordinary monks, and, unlike other orders, they had interests outside the walls of their Monastery. They were allowed to minister to the sick in the immediate neighbourhood of their houses, and, in some cases, were permitted to take cures of souls and to serve parish churches, for instance Thomas Foster, Prior of Wombridge, was Vicar of Shifnal, from 1515 to his death in 1526.

This was possibly the secret of their influence and hold on the people, and their popularity, so that, at the Dissolution, there were 170 Augustinian Establishments in England.

According to Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, (VII, p. 365), the Canons of Wombridge lost nothing in the way of privileges for want of asking for them. Among their endowments were the Church of Sutton Maddock, (given by Henry II), and the Chapelry of Uppington, and among other benefactions were the Manor of Prior's Lee, and the revenues of lands in the township of Cherrington. The divers liberties of the Canons granted by their various benefactors, were confirmed by Edward II, but the Priory never attained any eminence or prestige, being overshadowed by the greater Abbeys of the same order, Haughmond and Lilleshall, in its immediate neighbourhood.

At the suppression of Wombridge in 1534-5, among the charges on its income were £1 annually to William Chorleton, Chief Seneschal of the Priory and 10/- to Richard Salter, Seneschal of its Manorial Courts.

When and why Wombridge Priory received the privilege of a Peculiar Court seems very uncertain. It may have been a right inherent to the Manor before it came into the possession

30. It must be remembered that there was no need that a monk should be in Holy Orders at all, and the original monks were all laymen, who employed ordained chaplains to conduct the services in their Churches.

of the Canons ; it may have been because, (in the words of the Rev. R. S. Mylne, in his *Canon Law*), " certain manors enjoyed peculiar privileges because they belonged to some religious order," which implies that the Cistercians were not the only religious body possessing power to prove wills ; but then, if Wombridge Priory possessed it as belonging to the order of St. Augustine of Hippo, so also would the more important Houses of Haughmond and Lilleshall, and we have no record of any such privilege being attached to them ; or lastly it may have been that, since the Wombridge Canons drew up the wills of the sick they ministered to, they asked for and obtained, as a special privilege, granted specially to their Priory, the power of proving those wills in their own manor court.

Of course, it is possible that both Haughmond and Lilleshall had their own Peculiar Courts, of which all records have perished. *The Chapter Acts of the Collegiate Church of St. Peter and St. Wilfrid, at Ripon, 1452—1506*, which belonged to Augustinian Canons, (published by the *Surtees Society*), show that the Chapter exercised jurisdiction in a great variety of matters, but that the majority of the cases adjudicated upon by it, related to wills. If what is now the Cathedral of Ripon had this power, we should certainly expect the great Abbeys of Haughmond and Lilleshall to have it also.

As for the Peculiar Court of LONGDON-ON-TERN, the Manor here, in Saxon times, belonged to the Collegiate Church of St. Alkmund's, Shrewsbury, founded, it is said, by Ethelfleda, Lady of the Mercians, at the beginning of the 10th century. At the Domesday survey this Church had possession of nine manors, in all about 4,020 acres, out of which 620 were in demesne. Like the majority of its endowments, the manor of Longdon passed to the Augustinian Abbey of Lilleshall in 1150, and apparently was held, as a prebend, by the Abbot himself. In 1255 it was pronounced free from all Suits of County or Hundred, and in 1283, the Abbot had a grant of Free Warren in it. This secular independence seems to have been reflected ecclesiastically, for the Abbot was only responsible to himself for the Chapel of Longdon, and hence the Manor was accounted a Peculiar, and, in consequence probably, received its testamentary jurisdiction—it may be owing to an extension of Pope Alexander's grant. In later times the Archdeacon of Salop seems to have

interfered with this independent status, and to have substantiated a claim to the fees due to his office, for, in 1534-5, the Abbot acknowledged a yearly sum of 2s. 6d., as payable to the Archdeacon for Procurations for the Chapel of Longdon.

The PREBENDAL COURT OF PREES was really very little different from an ordinary Manorial Court. Great Collegiate Churches, and Cathedrals as Lichfield and Hereford, were served by secular canons who took no vows and were not under rules.³¹ Each canon had a fixed portion of the common fund and was supported by a Prebend, set apart for his maintenance. These Prebends were, in most cases, provided by specified parts of the common estate, by a manor, an impropriated church, or a parish living belonging to the Collegiate or Cathedral Church, and were generally distinguished by the names of such manors or churches, as e.g. Prees, the Prebend in question belonging to Lichfield Cathedral.

A Prebendary managed his own estate, and might have magisterial duties to perform in his own manorial court, but he generally put in a Vicar to serve the parish, if one belonged to his Prebend, and a Vicar-choral to serve in the Collegiate or Cathedral Church. Non-residence and an idea that a prebendal stall carried a title and emoluments but no duty, was very common in the Middle Ages, and much later. A Prebend of the more weathy of the Collegiate and Cathedral Churches was recognised in those times "as a source of income for a good man of business, a clerk in the Royal Chancery or Exchequer, or a useful member of the Roman Curia." As Mr. A. Hamilton Thompson goes on to say: "the most cursory glance at the Patent or Close Rolls for the reigns of any of the three Edwards, or at the Calendars of Extracts from the Papal Registers relating to English affairs will show that deaneries and prebends were the financial mainstay of the able canonist, or civilian, and often of less learned persons. Prebends in York, Lincoln, Hereford or Lichfield involved no duties of residence, and, with the aid of a dispensation, might be held at the same time by the same person."

31. The Cathedrals of "the old foundation" were served by secular Canons, now called Prebendaries; those "of the new foundation" were originally served by monks under rule, and were, at the Dissolution, reconstructed with chapters of secular Canons, now called Honorary Canons.

We even hear of Lady Prebendaries. The Court Roll of the Collegiate Church of Gnosall, Staffordshire, (which consisted of a Dean and four Prebendaries,) in 7 Henry VII, (1491), mentions "Margaret Weston, one of the prebendaries of the aforesaid prebends." No doubt the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield had farmed out the Prebend to her as offering them the highest rent. At the same date, another of the Prebends of Gnosall was held by a layman, a Knight, while the Bishop of Lichfield had the Deanery.

Consequently the Prebend of Prees was rather a Manor than an ecclesiastical office, since it might be held by a layman quite as readily as by an ordained cleric, the only difference being that it was not hereditary.

The dedication of the parish church of Prees to St. Chad, together with the fact that the church of St. Chad's, Stafford, belonged to this Prebend, carry us back to Saxon days, when they were given to the Cathedral Church of St. Chad's, at Lichfield, possibly in the middle of the 7th century. In Saxon times, Prees was a Manor of the Bishop of Lichfield, containing 8 hides, with a considerable population and a priest. In 7 Henry III, (1233), a perambulation was made to settle the boundaries of the Manor belonging to the Bishop, and that of Wem, held by William Pantulph. In 1258 the Bishop had a grant of a market at Prees, with liberty of free-warren, and a free Court and gallows, which was confirmed by Edward I, in 1306, proving the importance of this Prebendal Manor, which seems to have been generally held by the Bishop himself.

Since the Bishops were, to a very large extent, Overlords of it, it seems probable that one of the earlier of them delegated to it powers such as his own Cathedral Consistory Court possessed, and that this was the origin of the Peculiar Court of the Prebendal Manor of Prees.

An ordinance, authorising the sale of Bishop's lands for the use of the Commonwealth, was introduced into the House of Commons on October 19th, 1646, reported and passed Nov. 2, carried up to the House of Lords, Nov. 3, and became law, Nov. 16, 1646, and another ordinance for the sale of Dean, and of Dean and Chapter, lands was introduced on Feb. 13, 1648-9, and passed April 30, 1649. By these Acts "the Manors of rectories, and

glebe lands late belonging to the Bishops, Deans, Deans and Chapters," were put up for sale, the episcopal Manor of Prees being purchased, in 1647, by Henock Smith, and "the Scite of the Manor" in 1648, by Thomas Harper, and apparently neither were recovered by the Bishop at the Restoration, though his Peculiar court still lived on. (By the bye the lands of the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield fetched £724 9s. 7d.)

TYRLEY, (i.e. Ternley), is now in Staffordshire, and forms "The Tyrley quarter" of the parish of Drayton-in-Hales, or Market Drayton, but was regarded as being in Shropshire till the 14th century, when the river Tern was adopted as the boundary between the two counties.

It was held in Saxon days as two Manors, by two Saxon franklins, or freemen, though containing only one hide geldable.

The Castle of Tyrley was erected by Ralph de Boteller, then Lord of Tyrley, but was left unfinished at his death in 1281, and is now represented by a farm-house, situated on a bank of the river Tern, which has evidently been built on the foundations of an older edifice. The above Ralph de Boteller, about 1280, retired to his Castle of Tyrley, to prepare for an onslaught on the property of the Abbot of Combermere, who had offended him, a fact which proves that the Manor was then independent of Market Drayton.

For the latter owned an ecclesiastical overlordship. In 1086 it was a Manor of two hides held by William Pantulph, Lord of the Barony of Wem, and the Pantulphs continued Lords there till 1233, when their heiress, Matilda, married Ralph de Boteller, Lord of Tyrley, and ancestor of the builder of the Castle. But William Pantulph had given Drayton to the Abbey he had founded at Noron, as a cell of the great Norman Abbey of St. Evroul, and, about 1133, not long after the foundation of the Cistercian House of Combermere, just over the Shropshire border, Drayton was leased to the monks there, and they retained the property till the Dissolution.

It is, therefore, difficult to decide whether the Tyrley Manorial Court was under lay or ecclesiastical management.

The Chapel of Tyrley seems to have been quite insignificant,³² and dependent on the Church of Market Drayton, which was held by Combermere Abbey, while the neighbouring hamlets of Broomhall and Shifford were both granges of that House. So it is quite possible that, as in the case of Buildwas, the Peculiar Court was due to the grant of such powers to the English Cistercians by Pope Alexander IV. But this Pope died in 1261, and Tyrley was, as we have seen, quite independent of Combermere in 1281.

The Manor Court Roll of Tyrley is now in the possession of Lieut.-Col. F. H. L. Meynell, D.S.O., of Hoar Cross, Staffordshire. The first date in it is April, 36 Charles II, (i.e. 1684), and the last entry is on October 22, 1833, but some leaves have been cut out, so it may have contained later notes. A Court Roll of 1863, giving names only, has been placed in the book, and the volume appears to be a continuation of an earlier one, but nothing is known of any other Roll.

(D.) Lastly we come to the Manorial Courts of NEWPORT, and of ELLESMERE with its subsidiaries of Lyneal, Colemere, and Welshampton.

In every Shire in Saxon times, the King had his "ancient" royal land, dating probably from the very earliest conquest of each district. A Saxon King had not one capital, but several royal villages where he could live in turn, and receive provisions and necessities as rent. Then, as land-holders, came the Ealdormen and King's Thegns, ('Hlafords'). We see from Domesday Book that each Ealdorman or Sub-King, and King's Thegn, in the later Saxon days, might hold land in several Shires at the same time, and not only that, but also in several parts of the same Shire. The reason is doubtless that thus the great man could journey from one village to another, and be maintained at each by the Churls over whom he was lord, and thus see whether the militia men of his fyrd were well armed and ready in case of war, also acting as judge over his tenants in connection with their various disputes, such as about legacies and the disposal of the effects of the deceased. Most of the land, in

32. Among the Bowen M.SS., (vol. III), in the Bodleian Library is one entitled "Case of the tithes of Tirley Chapel in the parish of Drayton in Hales, 1642."

King Edward's time, seems to have been held by these King's Thegns, whose duty was to take the lead in fighting in defence of the Townships, and in keeping the bridges in repair, though a certain amount of territory had been recently bestowed on the Church.

But, at first, all land was common property, there was no private ownership even of ploughed land in a settlement, it being divided among the various members, while the pastures and woods were open to all alike. As time went on many of the free settlers found it to their advantage to make over their land to their Overlord, or Thegn, receiving it back on condition of their rendering certain services. Thus developed the Manor, a group of tenants acknowledging the authority of a lord, who, through some political or social cause, had gained an ascendancy over his neighbours, or had promised them protection in return for their services or payments. Custom decided alike the rent of land and the price of labour, and marked out the mutual duties of lord and tenant.

In what might be called "family townships," the first Anglo-Saxon settlers regulated their affairs as their forefathers had done on the other side of the North Sea, adopting also any customs and institutions they found congenial, which were existing in their new homes. In such a township or settlement, everything was decided at a Folk-moot, or Town-meeting, where the leading man presided, but all were free to express their views, while the more important cases, civil, ecclesiastical, and criminal alike, were tried at the Hundred-moot, or meeting,³³ where each Township was represented, and held once a month at some well-known spot. This, though a local court, possessed a general jurisdiction, from which the appeal lay to the Shire-moot, or County meeting, though rarely exercised.

According to Judge Blackstone, in his *Commentaries*;—"As the extreme ignorance of the age of Alfred the Great made deeds or writings very rare, the Hundred Court was the place where the most remarkable civil transactions were finished,

33. Roughly speaking, each settlement of a hundred families was called a Hundred. For a "hundred" meant a hundred hides of land, and a hide was the average holding of a family. The term first appears in the Laws of Edgar, King of the West Saxons.

and, in order to preserve a memorial of them, and prevent all future disputes, here testaments were promulgated, slaves manumitted, bargains of sale concluded."

But as long as all land continued common property, such testaments would only cover the few goods and chattels of the average testator, and would, in most instances, be nuncupative or unwritten wills, proved by witnesses who were present when they were made, and possibly reduced to writing at the Hundred Court, if a cleric was present there who could do it.³⁴

The exact state of affairs *tempore Regis Edwardi* is to be found in Domesday Book, and, in theory, there was no immediate change, except in names, at the Norman Conquest.

English Townships were styled "Manors," and the new Norman master "Lord of the Manor." The chief residence of this Lord, in Norman days, corresponded to the wooden hall of the former Saxon lord, and, by a very natural process, the Norman word "Manor," (*manerium*, or *mansio*), was taken from that used previously by the Saxons for "house," to indicate the stretch of land forming the estate round the house.³⁵

34. *The Statute of Frauds*, passed in 1677, prescribed the conditions under which nuncupative wills could be made, and since these conditions were difficult to observe, the practice of making such wills, which seems to have been not uncommon previously, very nearly died out. But such nuncupative wills, if written down shortly after they were made, and proved by witnesses who were then present, continued to be admitted for proof until the present *Wills Act* ended the practice in 1837.

35. Scargill Bird, in his *Guide to the Public Records*, writes:—"A manor has been defined as a certain circuit of ground granted by the King to some baron or man of worth as an inheritance for him and his heirs, with the exercise of such jurisdiction within the said compass as the King saw fit to grant, and subject to the performance of such services and yearly rents as were by the grant required."

Manors continued to be created until the Statute *Quia Emptores* was passed 18 Edward I, (1289). This decreased the number of the greater barons with a corresponding increase among the lesser and the yeoman class.

"In case a deceased died intestate in early times, the King seized his property as father of his people. This right he sold to various lords of manors," (as quoted above). If so, this may lay bare the primary motive for setting up a peculiar court in a manor. In such a court, if the Lord was grasping and unjust, the dice would be heavily loaded in his favour, and for the intestacy of the dead tenant.

The Hall, (*aula*), or principal residence, of the Lord, where the Manor Court was held, was now the head of the Lord's Barony, the centre of all the scattered manors, or berewicks, which together made up the Barony, or Honour, or Lordship.

The old English Folk-moot and Hundred-moot were displaced by the Norman Manorial Court, which, in process of time, assumed two forms of activity—in some respects corresponding to the two old Saxon courts—the Court Leet, and the Court Baron. The former was a King's court, granted by Charter with the chief object of preserving the King's peace, where the Lord's steward punished small offences against law and order, giving judgment "according to the customs of the Manor."³⁶ In the latter, the Lord of the Manor and his free-holders, great and small, punished cases of misdemeanour, and those who did not perform their services, settled disputes about tenures, successions and inheritances, and transferred land from one person to another. This Court Baron, (*Curia Baronis*), was the highest privilege pertaining to Manorial Lordship.

The Manorial Court was, therefore, the first visible sign of the new rule, and it was originally used as a place where the Lord judged his *villeins*, the men attached to his *vill*, or manor, and his *bordars*, the men who lived in *bords*, or cottages, the churls and boors of Saxon times, free in theory, yet having to maintain their overlords, whether Ealdormen or King's Thegns, or Lords of the Manor, from the portion of the common strips of arable land which they had to farm for the great man of the Village, the proportion of churl's land to lord's land remaining about the same after the Conquest. Though, as has already been remarked, there was not much change in theory when the Normans came, there was a very great change in practice. Imperceptibly the rights of the old Saxon Thegns over their churls were changed into the much stricter rights of the Norman manorial Lords over their villeins.

36. Originally the word *Leet* seems to have meant a geographical division of the hundred, a jurisdictional area. It would appear that, at the end of the thirteenth century, to possess a "leet" was to have a court which had within, a defined geographical area and at specified times, certain rights of petty criminal jurisdiction and police control, among which the view of frankpledge was the chief. (Holdsworth i, p. 135.)

These Manorial Courts were reviewed by Henry II, the first English King to interfere systematically with the private jurisdiction of his Barons, and he, while not abolishing the Courts as such, took away the power of a Lord of life and death over the tenants of his Manor.

About the time of Henry III, the records of Courts Baron began to be written down, and the concessions of the Lord of the Manor to be duly noted in Court Rolls, and these Rolls are our chief sources of information about the life of the Middle Ages.

Blackstone remarks in his *Commentaries* that in the Hundred Court the free-holders there assembled received appeals from other inferior courts, and decided all causes, ecclesiastical as well as civil, in the days of King Alfred, (872—901.)

The Rev. R. S. Mylne, in his work on *The Canon Law*, says :—
“ In the early courts the Lords of the Manors and the Heads of the Church, as understood locally, sat together, but about the 13th century, testamentary jurisdiction belonged exclusively to the spiritual courts. The power of the ecclesiastical courts seems to have been assumed by degrees after the Charter of William I. divided the ecclesiastical from the hundred or county court.”

But I think that he overstates his case and should have written “ extensively,” rather than “ exclusively.” Hone in his book on the *Manor and Manorial Records* (p. 23) when speaking of such clerical assumption of rights, says “ in most cases,” not in every case, thus acknowledging that there were exceptions.

In Saxon times ecclesiastics sat in council with Ealdormen and Thegns, in the Town and Hundred Courts, where, as Blackstone points out, causes and offences both civil and ecclesiastical, were tried, and their presence would be of great assistance, for they were, probably, the only members who could read and write, the President possibly not being able to do more than sign his name, even if he could do that.³⁷

But after the Conquest, the Norman clergy, who had come over with the Conqueror, were totally unacquainted with the

37. Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, 668—693, and first Primate of England, strongly recommended his clergy to become advisers of the people in temporal as well as spiritual affairs.

Saxon language and Saxon common law, and so were useless for legal administration. To prevent difficulties arising on this account, William I. removed all ecclesiastical cases from the Hundred courts, and ordered that clerics should no longer adjudicate in combined courts, but that laymen should be appointed to judge civil affairs, and that spiritual matters should be brought before the higher clergy in ecclesiastical courts.

This worked fairly well as long as the strong-minded William was alive, but, after his death, the clerical lawyers endeavoured to bring most matters within the sphere of spiritual courts, thus narrowing the province of the common law, until, as an instance, by the time the 13th century had dawned, testamentary jurisdiction was claimed to belong, and to belong exclusively, to those spiritual courts.³⁸

Gregory VII, Bishop of Rome, 1073—1086, (who, as Hildebrand, approved strongly of the Conquest, and blessed the Norman troops when setting out), was the very impersonation of Papal arrogancy and spiritual despotism, and, as Sir James Stephens has shown in his *Essays on Ecclesiastical Biography*, the founder of that centralisation of ecclesiastical power which made the Popedom supreme. It was he who sanctioned the principal that there was one standard for the cleric and another for the layman, and thus divided the former from the rest of mankind as a distinct class outside civil jurisdiction, and only under the supreme jurisdiction of the Pope of Rome.

The line of the 13th century Popes, the time alluded to above by Mr. Mylne, begins with Innocent III, (1198—1216), who, a Roman by birth, was a consummate lawyer with a profound impression on his own mind that the law was always on the side he himself adopted. He ordered that every man throughout England should pay general parochial tithes to the Bishop of Rome, and set up ecclesiastical courts to recover them. To him also is attached the unenviable notoriety of being the originator of the first great Christian persecution, that of the Albigenses in Southern France.³⁹ His successor was Honorius III, (1216—

38. Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, ii, p. 341.

39. It was during the Pontificate of Innocent III, that Giraldus Cambrensis, who was always repelling the advances of the monks upon

1227), who assumed the role of guardian and protector of Henry III, the youthful heir to the English throne, then nine years old.

He, in his turn, was followed by Gregory IX, (1227—1243), founder of the Inquisition. No one was superior to this occupant of the throne of St. Peter in the science of Canon Law, and by this proficiency in that complicated system of his, he secured the supremacy at which the Roman Church was always aiming.

The code of the Papal *Decretals* constituted this law, and Gregory IX. promulgated that great statute law of Christendom, the authority of which was placed above all secular law.⁴⁰ This book of Gregory's *Decretals* was ordered to be the authorised text in all courts and schools of law, where the Church was concerned. "The canon law recognised the Pope not only as the supreme legislator, but also as supreme judge of the church; and, as judge, he possessed not merely appellate, but also original jurisdiction; and not merely the judgements he pronounced, but also any dicta he might be inclined to express, had the force of law. He could delegate his powers to delegates *a latere*, who, by virtue of their commission, superceded all ordinary courts. Moreover the Canon law attempted to exercise a wide control over the layman *pro salute animæ*." (Holdsworth, i, pp. 583, 584). The Church alone could administer the property of the Church, and that property was altogether beyond the civil power to tax. The superiority of ecclesiastical to temporal power, or, at least, the absolute independence of the former, is the key-note to Gregory's Canon Law.

After Gregory came Innocent IV, (1243—1254), whose name was an omen and a menace that he would tread in the steps of

the domain of the secular clergy, proposed to add to the Litany the clause :—*A malitia monachorum libera nos, Domine*.

Cistercian monks took the lead in preaching this crusade against the Albigenses. The history of this devastating and fearfully cruel war, with all its atrocities, may be found in Dean Milman's *History of Latin Christianity*, IV, pp. 193—238.

40. "Churchmen in the middle ages were governed by a separate law and separate courts which depended not on the King, but on the pope. The ecclesiastical courts and ecclesiastical law were very separate from the secular law and secular courts." (Holdsworth). The evidence of a layman could not, e.g., by Canon Law, be received against "a clerk" in a criminal case.

Innocent III. This he did, and the hand of this Pope also fell very heavily on England.

But his tyranny and rapacity, as that of his immediate predecessors, was not patiently endured by the barons and landowners, whose forefathers had endowed benefices with the desire that their tenants and retainers should have the spiritual services of men of English blood, not of foreigners sent from Rome.

What was still more obnoxious to laymen than the power assumed by the Popes of making, or declaring, the law, was the licence which they claimed of dispensing with its strongest obligations with regard to oaths, etc. Principles were laid down by the Papal lawyers which could be so applied as to get rid of the obligation of any oath whatever.

There was also what was called the "Benefit of Clergy." "In the twelfth century the church claimed that all clerks should be exempt from any kind of secular jurisdiction." (Holdsworth i, p. 615). It was demanded for them that they were above the operation and execution of civil law, and, though they might be tried and justly convicted of a crime, they had only to claim "the benefit" of their class, and prove their right to it by reading "the neck verse," (the first verse of the 51st Psalm), in order to escape punishment. This privilege, first of all intended for men in Holy Orders, had been speedily applied to others. Lay-clerks obtained a concession, then, of course, the door-keepers, the sub-deacons, and the humble members of the Church could not well be refused. Finally any *reader* could plead his clergy, and the abuse of a restricted privilege became general. Except for high treason and sacrilege, a tutored man could escape the proper penalty for any crime. So long as this law was restricted to a tonsured class, the evil, though great, was within bounds, but by the Statute *Pro Clero* of 1350, admitting "all manner of clerks" to the privilege, the evil passed beyond every reasonable limit. (Cf Andrews, *Old Church Life*, pp. 18, 27).

As time went on and ecclesiastics kept extending their claims, things at length culminated in the reign of Edward I, when King and nation were so aroused by the importunity and lust for power and property of the priesthood that the *Statute of Mortmain* was passed in 1279, to counteract the undue

influence of monks, secular and regular, over the sick and dying, whom they tended ministerially, owing to which many estates had been bequeathed to religious foundations. By it such legacies were declared illegal, and such institutions were forbidden to acquire land by will without the consent of the feudal lord.

In 1284, the King went further, and determined to make the clergy of his realm subject to the civil power. With this intent his Chancellor, Bishop Burnell, framed and passed through Parliament the Statute *Circumspecte Agatis* (13th Edward I), which defined the powers of ecclesiastical judges, and limited their authority to spiritual matters.

Ecclesiastics, however, seem to have found many ways of "getting round" these Statutes, and of making them of none effect.

What has just been written of the tyranny of the 13th century Popes may seem, at first sight, to justify the statement that "about the 13th century testamentary jurisdiction belonged exclusively to the spiritual courts." But, as already remarked, the word "*extensively*" is more true to facts than "*exclusively*."

As J. R. Green and other historians have pointed out, the demands of the Popes were rejected by the Barons and leading landowners, "the landed gentry" of England. We must remember that these men were Lords of the Manor, and possessed the rights of holding Courts Leet and Courts Baron within their Manors. Now a Court Leet was a King's Court granted by a Royal Charter, and was a Court of Record within the Lordship or Manor; while the Court Baron was always incident to a Manor and could not be held by prescription. This last Court was held by the Lord "according to the customs of the Manor," and no licence for one was granted after the reign of Edward III.

"Old ideas died hard. Some lords of manors successfully asserted the right to have all the wills of their tenants proved in their courts," instead of in the ecclesiastical. (Holdsworth, i, p. 625).

No strong-minded Lord of a Manor tamely acquiesced in a clerical usurpation of his rights, if his own Court had had from old times, power of probate. Nor were such powers lost

to the lay court in every manor in the 13th century, but recovered by them at the Reformation. Would all the Lords of all the Manors in England have allowed this valuable privilege and proof of independence from ecclesiastical rule, to be encroached on, diminished, or taken away, by ecclesiastical lawyers greedy for gain and authority? Some, perhaps, might, certainly not all. This assuredly would not be the case with Royal Manors held by, or of, or under, the King of the Realm, as Newport and Ellesmere. Their Manor Courts of Probate would go on functioning right through all the usurpations of, and changes among, the clerical authorities. For ancient Royal Manors, "ancient demesnes of the Crown," enjoyed distinct and special privileges. They were composed of Manors which belonged to the Crown, to use the contemporary phrase, "on the day when King Edward was alive and dead," and included Manors which had been given away subsequently. The tenants of such Manors enjoyed many privileges of a peculiar kind. As King's servants they could not be attached by the Sheriff's writ, nor were they called upon for contributions to the maintenance of the government of the country, as for the repair of bridges, roads, and the like, which they used in exercise of royal privilege, and for the King's benefit. The King's right in the Manor was not abrogated by its alienation, for there was always the possibility of the resumption of the demesne lands by the royal grantor or his successors, which was by no means unusual. Courts in Royal Manors were the King's Courts, and, as such, they could hardly be severed from the higher tribunals held in the King's name. (cf. Vinogradoff, *Villeinage in England*).

The extensive manor of Edgmond was a Royal one,⁴¹ in which Henry I. founded the borough of NEWPORT as its *caput*, and also as a centre for trade. To this he granted franchises and

41. The Conqueror seized for his own use the estates previously held by Edward, the Confessor; Editha, his wife; Goda, his sister; King Harold and his relatives; Algar, Earl of Mercia; and other leading persons in Saxon England, including also the lands which had formerly belonged to the famous Lady Godiva, wife of Leofric, Earl of Mercia, among which was Chetwynd, a parcel of Edgmond. William I. kept in his own hands 1422 of these manors, the rest he apportioned out among his followers, retaining, however, the right that he, or his successors, might resume any of them, if they saw fit. Thus Henry I. repossessed the domains granted by William to Roger de Montgomery, on the rebellion of the latter's son, Robert de Bellême.

customs, which were confirmed by succeeding sovereigns. Henry II, about 1165, gave a charter to Newborough, (*Novo Burgo*), confirming the liberties the citizens had enjoyed under his grandfather. Henry III. gave the Manor of Edgmond and the Town of Newport to Henry d' Audley in 1227,⁴² and Edward I. renewed the charter of Henry II, in 1287, as did also Edward II, in 1322.

The Audleys held the Royal Manor of Edgmond together with the seigniorship of Newport of the King, *in capite*, till 1391, at which date "the pleas and profits of the Court" were valued at 40/- per ann.

An Inquisition Post Mortem of 1506, speaks of "the moieties of the Manor of Edgmond and Newport, held of the King *in capite*."

A Deed of 10th October, 1606, says that Newport was then "held of the King in socage."

A Survey and Rental of the Manor, 1681—1691, declares that "the Royaltie and Court Leetts are to be used and kept as before."

The Court Rolls of the Manor of Edgmond go back to 1598, but are not quite continuous.

Of the berewicks belonging to the Manor in Saxon times, Great Aston was held of the King *in capite*, as a member of the Manor of Edgmond in 1401.

Adeney, another berewick, was given by King John, in 1206, to the Cistercian Abbey of Croxden, who exchanged it for other land with Buildwas, in 1287, but this exchange could not have been the origin of the Newport Peculiar Court, since Adeney was only a very insignificant part of the old Manor. It passed to the Crown at the Dissolution, in 1539, and, together with the advowsons of Edgmond and Chetwynd, became the property of Thomas Pigott in 1599. The former of these Churches had

42. Blount in his *Fragmenta Antiquitatis*, (1676), has:—"Egmund and Newport, Salop.—King Henry III. gave to Henry de Alditheley the Lordships of Egmundun and Newport, in the county of Salop, for the yearly Rent of a Mued Sparhawk, to be delivered into the King's Exchequer every year at the Feast of St. Michael."

never belonged to the Audleys, having been appropriated⁴³ to Shrewsbury Abbey by Roger de Montgomery, when he founded that Religious House.⁴⁴

The name of Newborough was always used till the beginning of the 13th century, Newport first appearing in 1221. Then for some years, both names were used indifferently, though *Novus Burgus* was the favourite form.

The patronage of the Church originally belonged to Shrewsbury Abbey, but the Abbot and Convent sold it, in 1442, to Thomas Draper, citizen of London, and he made it collegiate with a warden and four fellows. Included in the sale were "the advowson of the Church of Newport, and the advowsons of tenths, etc., of the villages of Litel Aston and Muchell Aston in the parish of Egemanton," (i.e. Church Aston, Chetwynd Aston, Edgmond). On the Dissolution the patronage came into the hands of the Crown.

That Newport had a court of Probate is proved by the fact that the will of Sir William Skeffington, "of White Ladies in the Parish of Tong," dated 30 May, 1551, was proved at Newport in the same year, (Nichols' *History of the County of Leicester*); and Administration of the goods of William Baxter, of Eaton Constantine, dec^d, was granted at Newport, 23 Oct., 1604. (*Lichfield Admon. Act Book*.)

ELLESMERE was originally a Manor of the Saxon Earls, or Sub-kings of Mercia, and, after the Conquest, was held by Roger de Montgomery, but on the rebellion of his son, Robert de Bellême, it reverted to Henry I, and remained in the hands of the King till 1177, when Henry II. gave the lands of Ellesmere

43. The term "appropriation" means the transference to a monastic house, or other corporation, of the tithes and endowments intended for the maintenance of religious ordinances in a parish. The monasteries, when once in possession of these endowments, not only appropriated the tithes to their own use, but frequently farmed them out. Bishop Kennett, in his *Parochial Antiquities*, asserts that this practice of the monks of procuring the appropriations of parish churches became so scandalous, that not only the laity, but also the Bishops sought to have the evil redressed, and many canons were enacted by synods for that purpose, to which the monks refused obedience, and much violence was employed by them in opposition to the canons.

44. There was a paper by Mr. Charles G. O. Bridgeman, on *The Devolution of the Manor of Edgmond in the Fourteenth and Following Centuries*, in the Transactions, 4th Series, Vol. III., p. 57.

to Emma, his half-sister, wife of David, Prince of North Wales. In 1203 the Manor was again in the possession of the King, and was held by John, who in 1205, (according to Camden, quoting the *Chester Chronicle*), "settled Ellesmere, a small tract of rich and fertile ground with a small castle, upon Llewellyn, Prince of North Wales, when he made up the match between him and Joan, his natural daughter."⁴⁵

Under the title of "Lady of Wales," Joan granted to her Manor the privileges of a free borough with all the free customs belonging to the law Breteuil, as a place with a mixed population.⁴⁶

In 1221, Llewellyn received a grant of a weekly market at Ellesmere, till Henry III. should be of age. He died in 1240, and in that year "David, son of Llewellyn, late Prince of North Wales," by his charter, surrendered Ellesmere to the Crown of England, and, in 1242, and 1257, "the King's House in Ellesmere Castle" was repaired. In a survey of the Manor, in 1280, the Borough Court is mentioned.

In 1318 several parcels of land, part of the demesnes of the Manor, were, with the King's approval, granted to several persons in fee, and, in the following reign of Edward III, a writ was issued, in 1330, to enquire concerning the encroachments

45. She was the daughter of John and Agatha, daughter of Robert, Earl Ferrars, and was also called Johanna. From the fact that, in her charter to Ellesmere, she calls Henry III. "*Frater in lege*," some have supposed that her father and mother had been through a form of morganatic, or 'left handed,' marriage. Her wedding with Llewellyn the Great took place in 1202, and the lordship of Ellesmere was settled on them on March 23, 1204-5. This grant appears to have been made at Worcester. *Rex vicecomiti Salop, salutem. Scias quod dedimus dilecto filio nostro Leuilino manerium de Ellesmere cum omnibus pertinentiis suis in maritagium filie nostre. Teste meipso apud Wygorn, 23 Marcii.* (*Close Rolls* 6 John, m. 7.) In 1226 her half-brother, Henry III, gave her the manors of Ruckley and Condover. "The King to the good men of Ralegh and Cunedour greeting. We have granted to our beloved sister, Johanna, Lady of North Wales, (*Domina Norwallie*), our said manors to hold as long as it should please us." Johanna, or Joan, died in 1237; Llewellyn on April 11, 1240, and their son, David, who succeeded his father, in the spring of 1246.

46. The Laws of Breteuil were so called from the town of that name in Normandy. They were originally intended for colonies of Norman agents for "Normanising" the border counties. These inhabited little towns round the Castles, and were a population partly descended from the French and Norman retainers of the earliest Norman settlement.

made by the tenants of neighbouring manors, and to settle the boundaries, which being done, the King granted the manor to Eubule l'Estrange for life.

Of this family Hamo l'Estrange received Ellesmere, and died 1267; his brother, Roger, was Lord of Ellesmere in 1276, and held "the Manor of Ellesmere, Crowlesmere, and Luneyale" in 1308; their great-nephew, John l'Estrange received "a grant of Ellesmere made to him for life," and died in 1312.

After this date the Manor was in the King's hands till 1330, when Eubule, brother of John, "received Ellesmere and Maelor Saesneg." He died in 1336, and was followed by his nephew Roger, who died in 1349. Each of the above l'Estranges had held Ellesmere under, and of, the King.⁴⁷

Till very recently a Court Leet was held here annually to appoint a Coroner and two bailiffs.

The Church of Ellesmere was collegiate till 1225, when Llewellyn ap Jorworth conferred the advowson and rectorial tithes upon the Commandery of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem at Halston, and they subsequently possessed property in the town, and also at Hampton.

The late Rev. J. Peake, Vicar of Ellesmere, in a paper he wrote in 1889, said that St. John's Hill represented the manorial rights and property of the Hospitallers in Ellesmere, and that in the Estate Office of the Earl of Ellesmere was a copy of a grant of Edward IV, confirming two Court Leets, one of the Manor of St. John, the other of the Manor of Ellesmere.

This grant of Llewellyn is probably the origin of one of the Peculiar Courts. For "the Knights Hospitallers claimed the probate of all their tenants' wills, possibly upon a papal grant, a right which, after the Dissolution, was still exercised by the lords into whose hands such manors had come." (Hcne, p. 22).

Perhaps we may see in the two Courts Leet the reason for the two Peculiar Courts, one for the King's Royal Manor, the other

47. UNDER (*sub*), lays stress on the personal judiciary power of the Overlord; OF (*de*), lays stress on the fact that the holder gets his rights from his Overlord. (Holdsworth).

for the Town and its Liberties, the former being for the tenants of the King and of his under-lords, the latter for the tenants of the Knights. For against the origin of both Courts being the same, is the fact that only the Church and not the Manor itself belonged to the ecclesiastical corporation, after Llewellyn's son had surrendered the latter to the King, and also there were many tenants in Ellesmere, who did not rent or cultivate Hospital land.

The present civil parish of Ellesmere includes among its townships Lyneal, Colemere, and Hampton, and once had five Courts granting Probate, viz: Ellesmere Manorial Court, Ellesmere Court for the Town and Liberties, Lyneal Manorial Court, Colemere Manorial Court, and Hampton Manorial Court.

The existence of the last three is curious, for, at the most, these Courts (as also that of the Town and Liberties) must have been subordinate to the Court of the Manor itself, of which they were only "parcels."

Possibly the true explanation has been lost in the darkness surrounding the days of the Saxon manor when a Royal grant of 'peculiar' privileges, subsequently embracing power of probate, may have been obtained for his Manor by the Earl or Sub-king of Mercia, and when this manor was split up into smaller portions, each of the latter retained the old privileges.⁴⁸

LYNEAL, (Lunyal, as it was spelled in 1280, Luneyale, in 1308), was always a member of Ellesmere.

COLEMERE was at Domesday an independent manor of two hides, geldable. It was one of the seven Shropshire manors held by Norman Venator, under Roger de Montgomery, and was then called Colesmere.⁴⁹ It passed to the De Pitchfords,

48. There were papers on *The Extent of the Manor of Ellesmere*, 28th October, 1280; and on *The Extent of Welsh Hampton*, 28 October, 1280, both edited by the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, M.A., F.S.A., in the *Transactions* (2nd Series), XI, pp. 252—261, (1899).

49. Roger de Montgomery let his Manors to Under-lords on condition that they should pay him homage, fight for him, not dispose of their daughters in marriage, nor their goods by will, without his leave; and that their heirs, whilst minors should be in wardship to him, and pay a relief for admission to their estates when they came of age. The mention of wills shows that there were Norman Courts of Probate in existence immediately after the Conquest.

and as, in five out of his seven Shropshire manors, Norman Venator was succeeded by that family, it is concluded that they were his heirs. In 1316 the Queen of England was Lady of the Vill of Culmere-Hampton. This is somewhat contradictory to the statement that "in the 13th century the Manor of Colemere was bought by Hamo l'Estrange, who put his brother, Roger in possession of it and of Ellesmere." It seems to indicate that it was not a purchase but a lease on Hamo's part, and that he sub-let the property to his brother, the Queen having the Vill while it was in the King's hand, 1312—1330.

HAMPTON, (now Welshampton, from its former connection with the Princes of North Wales), was an independent Manor of three hides, in 1086, in the possession of Rainald de Bailleul, Sheriff of Shropshire, from whom it passed by inheritance to the Fitz-Alans, Lords of Oswestry, and was held under them by the De Rossalls. Hampton, like Colemere, was said to have been "bought" by Hamo l'Estrange, and to have passed to his brother, Roger, who held it by the service of one Knight at Oswestry for 15 days in the time of war. In 1330, Edward III. gave for life the Manor and Castle of Ellesmere with the hamlets of Colemere and Hampton, to Eubule l'Estrange and his wife, Alice, daughter and heiress of Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln.

At Hampton a mound is still to be seen in the "Moat Meadow," locally said to be the site of a "Castle." This may mark the place where lived an Ealdorman or King's Thegn, before a Norman became Lord, though it may equally well be the spot where the first Norman owner erected his dwelling.⁵⁰

"The ffoundacon of the ffrechapell of hampton within the parishe of Ellesmere" is stated to be "not knowen," in the Certificates of the Shropshire Chancies of 1547-8. Eyton, (*Antiquities of Shropshire*, X, p. 94), records the foundation of

50. The late Mr. George Clark held that the mounds scattered all over England were Saxon burghs. But Ordericus Vitalis, born in Shropshire a generation after the Conquest, tells us that the Saxons had very few of those fortresses "which the Normans call castles." The mounds are, for the most part, small and compact, admirable defences for a Norman lord, his family and retainers, against a rising of ill-armed and undisciplined villeins, but much too weak for the protection of a whole district against a raiding army. (cf. Morris and Jordan, *Local History and Antiquities*, p. 171).

a new chapel here in 1391, by John, son of Madoc de Kynaston ; and we find mention of the older chapel in the *Register* of Robert de Stretton, Bishop of Lichfield, 1360—85 :—

1359—60. 9 March. Richard de Lee instituted by proxy to the chapel of Hampton by Elsmore, void by the resignation of Edmund de Borghton, last rector, on the presentation of Sir Roger le Strange, of Knockyn, Knight. (p. 192).

1374. 9 October. John de Thornehull, chaplain, instituted to the free chapel of Hampton on the presentation of Sir Roger le Strange, of Knockyn, Knight. (p. 205).

Thus it is clear that in the 14th century, the chapel of Welshampton was entirely independent of Ellesmere Church, which latter was in the patronage of the Knights of St. John from 1225 to the Dissolution of 1543. The Peculiar Manor Court of Welshampton cannot therefore owe its origin to any connection with Ellesmere or the Hospitallers

But it is difficult to find a really satisfactory explanation (for the former suggestion was merely tentative), of the fact that there were four distinct and separate Peculiar Courts for Lyneal, Colemere, Welshampton, and Ellesmere Manor when they seem to have been generally held of the King by the same Underlord. And though the Hospitallers had some land at Hampton, they did not possess the Manor, or manorial rights, there.

As has been pointed out, the ascendancy of the Pope over England reached its zenith in the 13th century. But, before that century came to a close it was evident that the Papal power in the land had been greatly undermined. "At the end of the mediæval period the extensive jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical courts was beginning to decay." (Holdsworth i, p. 629).

It was, however, the so-called "Reformation" which finally shattered monastic influence in this country. And this event affected Peculiar Jurisdictions to a very large extent by removing the chief authority which had hitherto exercised so many of them.

For it has been calculated that at the Dissolution of Religious Houses,⁵¹ seventy per cent., or seven tenths, of the best land in England was in the possession of such institutions, and the annual value of the demesne lands of which they were lords came to about £14,101,558 11s. 2d.⁵²

Therefore, if the grant of Pope Alexander IV. to the Cistercians had been extended to other religious Orders, as seems probable, the number of Peculiar Courts attached to such foundations would have become so considerable as to quite throw into the shade those few then connected with Royal Free Chapels, and Lay Manorial Courts.

The new owners of former monastic manors, however, appear to have been able, if they saw fit, to retain some, if not all, of the old rights, after they had obtained the land, and formed new estates out of property which had once belonged to the Abbeys and Priories. And this fact seems to have influenced many writers who appear to overlook the few Royal and lay Peculiars, when they practically ascribe all such to ecclesiastical corporations.

For example, the Rev. R. S. Mylne writes in *The Canon Law* :—" Certain lords of the manor asserted that the wills of their tenants could be proved in their own courts, but it may be that these manors had enjoyed peculiar privileges because they belonged to some religious order."

Hone, in *The Manor and Manorial Records*, (1906), p. 23. " There were several manors in which the lord claimed a testa-

51. It must be remembered that the Dissolution took place in three stages.

1535. (27 Henry VIII). The lesser monasteries, with an income under £200 per ann., were suppressed.

1539. (31 Henry VIII). The greater Abbeys suffered the same fate.

1545. (37 Henry VIII). Colleges, Hospitals, Chantries, Free Chapels, and the houses, lands, and goods of the Knights of St. John were seized.

52. The Monasteries and Abbeys had also many rich Rectories, in fact the best impropriations, appropriated to them, and more than a third part of the Vicarages, while the value of the yearly reserved rents, heriots, deodands, renewals, etc., of all the Monastic Houses, and of the Church Tenures, which the monks had upon lives, in England, before the Dissolution amounted to about £13,655,345 4s. 7d.

mentary jurisdiction for his manor court over his tenants, a right which, in most cases, can be traced to some former connection with an ecclesiastical corporation."

Pollock and Maitland, *History of English Law*, ii, pp. 341, 342. "It has been known that the lord of the manor will assert that the wills of his tenants can be proved in his courts, but in these cases we ought to demand some proof that the manors in question have never been in the hands of any of those religious orders which enjoyed peculiar privileges. What at first sight looks like a relic of a lay jurisdiction may easily turn out to be the outcome of papal power."

But each of these writers seems to ignore that fact that we find Peculiar Courts attached to Royal Free Chapels, which were totally exempt from the jurisdiction of all Bishops, both of England and of Rome, and to Royal Manors whose Courts were King's Courts, held in the King's name. In support of this we might refer to the legal decision of 1270, that St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, as a Royal Free Chapel, was exempt "so that neither our Lord, the Pope, nor any other ecclesiastical judge hath jurisdiction therein." (See above). The Bull also of Innocent IV, (1245), forbids any Ordinary, or any one delegated by him, or sub-delegated by him, to have any jurisdiction in the Royal Chapels, and Letters Patent of Henry III, in the same year, speak of "the immunities, exemptions, and liberties of our Chapels," and prohibit any ordinary from infringing them.

On the other hand it seems curious that, if the Pope's grant to the Cistercians was subsequently extended to the other monastic orders and establishments, so few of their Peculiar Courts survived to the 19th century. Possibly the majority of the new owners of monastic Manors set no value on the privileges attached to them, and so let them fall into abeyance, and die a natural death from inanition. But a small minority of the new landlords appreciated manorial customs and rights, and kept them alive by regular use.

Mr. Mylne, (*Canon Law*, p. 135), says "the Reformation naturally weakened the Courts Christian, though it did not

abolish them, and for many years the probate of wills seems to have been their chief business."

But practically such courts had exactly the same work to carry on, though without the prestige that they formerly enjoyed. For example, in addition to probate procedure, the Peculiar Court of St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, continued to adjudicate on all ecclesiastical matters arising within the parish and its chapleries, and to grant licenses to surgeons, etc. The official of the Buildwas Court heard and determined all causes and complaints within its jurisdiction, kept courts of correction, proceeded against delinquents, granted marriage licenses and certified against recusants, and those "contumelious."

As for the Diocesan Consistory Courts, probate was a very small part of their work after the Dissolution. Down to the middle of the 19th century the Bishop's courts in every Diocese continued to transact a considerable amount of important business. They punished offences against morality, and cases of brawling in Church; tried suits for defamation and scandal; enforced payment of tithes and church-rates; investigated suits for divorce, alimony, and restitution of conjugal rights, and disputes regarding the possession of pews; granted permits to eat meat in Lent; sentenced to excommunication; and licenced surgeons, midwives, and parish clerks.⁵³ So the Diocesan Courts had plenty to do besides probate work, after the Reformation, almost as much as before it, and they were the so-called "Courts Christian."

To sum up shortly what has been written. A great authority has said lately:—"The deeper one digs into history, the darker becomes the ground surrounding Peculiar Courts. There seems to be no one definite origin for such courts; their power of Probate was conceded, or assumed 'at sundry times and in divers manners.'"

Though this may be true, one gleam of light seems to shine out from a study of such Courts in Shropshire. With the exception of Buildwas, Wombridge and Longdon upon Tern, which

53. Among the articles of enquiry issued by the Bishop of St. Asaph, in 1710, was:—"Do any in your parish practice physie, or chyrurgery, or undertake the office of a midwife, without licence?"

the Pope's grant to the first may have established, and Prees, a holding of the Bishop, the rest appear to have been connected with Royal Free Chapels and Royal Manors, mostly of Saxon date, and prior to the coming of the Normans, a fact which points to Royal authority and Royal permission as their origin, possibly in the time when there were Saxon Kings ruling in Mercia. Though of course, in those early days any such procedure as that which we now call the probate of a will was unknown in England, yet there was its equivalent which has gradually developed into the usage now in vogue.

When Pope Innocent IV. was trying to increase his power in this country, he was forced to agree to the freedom of all Royal Chapels from ecclesiastical interference on the part of Bishops whether of Rome or of England. And his successor, Alexander IV, in order to "level up" the privileges of Conventual Houses to an equality with those of the King's Chapels, took the former out of Diocesan jurisdiction, and granted to the Cistercians, and probably to other religious orders, Peculiar powers not possessed by them till the 13th century.⁵⁴

Till this 13th century, Peculiar jurisdiction, apart from that connected with Cathedrals, had been, apparently, confined to Manorial Courts, successors of the old Saxon Hundred Courts, whether of King, or Bishop, or Baron, but then the Pope stepped in when his power was at its strongest over England, and gave to his adherents in the Abbeys and Priorities privileges such as Lords of the Manors had, in one form or another, enjoyed for two hundred years or more. In consequence of the Religious orders being in possession of the greater part of the land, their new Peculiar Courts far outnumbered the old lay Manorial Courts, whether of Royal or of ordinary Manors, which were, at this date, comparatively few, and were consequently quite overshadowed by the many freshly founded ecclesiastical courts, though they still continued to function on in a quiet way till the Dissolution, and ever since up to 1857.

54. Possibly the *Statute of Mortmain*, of 1279, was "a counter-blast" by the King and English Parliament, against this Pope's Bull, which had made easier of committal the offences against which the Statute was passed a few years later. (See above).

APPENDIX.

In later times the claim of Bishops to a testamentary jurisdiction seems to have caused great dissatisfaction and offence. In January, 1640-1, the moderate party among the Clergy presented to Parliament "A Remonstrance against the corruption of matters of government in the Church." Among many other complaints, they included the charges that "the bishops claim sole probate of wills, and give licences to physicians, midwives, and meat-dressers in Lent, which they have no relation unto as ministers." In the subsequent debate on this document, Lucius Carey, Viscount Falkland, a loyal and staunch supporter of the Church of England, following the other speakers, admitted to the full all the charges brought against the Bishops as promoters and authors of grievances, civil as well as religious, and went on to say:—"I am sure neither their lordships, their judging of wills, no, nor their voices in Parliament, are *jure divino*, and I am sure that their titles, and this power are not necessary to their authority." Owing to this "Remonstrance" a Bill, entitled "An Act to restrain bishops and others in holy orders to intermeddle with secular affairs," was introduced into the House of Commons, on March 30, and a second, "An Act for the regulating of archbishops, bishops, deans and chapters, canons, prebends, and for the better governing of the courts ecclesiastical and the ministers thereof and the proceedings therein," into the House of Lords, on July 1, 1641.

But both of these had to give way to the "Root and Branch Bill," introduced into the Commons on May 27.

This last was very short, and was intituled, "An Act for the utter abolishing and taking away of all archbishops, bishops, their chancellors, commissioners, deans, deans and chapters, archdeacons, prebendaries, chanters, and canons, and all their under officers." (Or, as one of the speakers put it, "deans and chapters, and the rest of the rabble depending on them.")

A clause in this Bill provided for the abolition of the ecclesiastical courts, and the enacting of a *præmunire*, (or liability to prosecution and penalties for that contempt which amounts

to an offence immediately against the Sovereign), on all such persons as should hereafter be guilty of taking, or encouraging, proceedings "in ecclesiastical courts by and under the power of archbishops, bishops, deans, etc., exercised by their commissaries and officials," the date from which the *præmunire* should be incurred being fixed as August 1st, 1641.⁵⁵

Even Hyde, afterwards Earl of Clarendon, the most blindly thorough-going of the Episcopal party, had nothing to say for this element of the ecclesiastical system, and, in his speech, declared that "if bishops meddled with probate of wills they ought to incur a *præmunire*." There was no dissent or division of opinion among the other speakers as to the justice of imposing this liability; all seemed unanimous as to the necessity of extinguishing, or at least checking, the claims of bishops to a paramount testamentary jurisdiction, and to the sole control over many other matters, which were of a purely secular character. The result of this general feeling was that from September, 1642, to the Restoration in May, 1660, Bishops and their Courts were put entirely "out of action."

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55. *Præmunire* is, in Law, the name applied to a writ, to the offence for which the writ is issued, and to the penalty incurred by the offence. This last was denying the sovereigns' supremacy (as e.g. by asserting that the Pope had jurisdiction in England), and to it, in former times, were attached forfeiture of goods, and imprisonment. It is a corruption of *præmonere*, which occurs in the wording of the writ. The *Statute Præmunire* was originally enacted 1353, and re-enacted 1365 and 1394.
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ADDITIONAL NOTES.

- (1) "*In early times the King*" etc. This must refer to the early Norman Kings, especially to William II, or 'Rufus'. A relic of this seizure of an intestate's goods still exists in the rule that the property of anyone dying intestate, and without discoverable heirs, of whole or half blood, now goes to the Crown (*Administration of Estates Act*, 1925). (See p. 273).
- (2) *John Selden*, M.P. for Oxford University, the great jurist of the reign of Charles I, was born in 1584 (See p. 274).
- (3) "*Both the Bishops and the deans of the chapters possessed Peculiar Courts.*" This was the case, e.g., at Lichfield. Among surviving wills are some "proved in the Peculiar Court of the Dean of Lichfield," (e.g., one on 5 April, 1665,) as well as the many proved in that of the Bishop (See p. 276).

- (4) *St. Beriana*. As I did not know of any Chapel Royal bearing this dedication, I wrote to the Secretary of the Public Record Office, and this is his reply :—"The wording of the Close Roll, (8 Edw. II, m. 9,) is *Decano libere capelle Sancte Beriane*. The last word is quite distinct, and could not possibly be read *Juliane*." But it seems evident that *St. Juliana* was meant, but the original clerk misunderstood the sound of the word, and wrote as he seemed to hear it, when the Roll was dictated to him (See p. 282).
- (5) *The Dean of Lichfield*, appointed in 1371, was Francesco San Sabini, who held the post till 1381 (See p. 292).
- (6) "*The Norman clergy who came over with the Conqueror*." "At the Conquest ecclesiasties, regular and secular, swarmed into England, and took possession of the Church, as William had of the realm. Wherever manors were granted to knights, there the Churches were served by Norman priests, who displaced the English with as little compunction as the Norman prelates felt when they were intruded into English sees. It seemed to them to be the merest duty to possess the land. They were but entering upon their own." (E. Hermitage Day, D.D., F.S.A.) (See p. 306).
- (7) *Excommunication*. The right to inflict this form of punishment was shared with Diocesan Consistory Courts by certain Peculiars, as *St. Mary's, Shrewsbury*. It was the means by which such courts endeavoured to enforce obedience to their authority. The offender who refused to submit was declared to be excommunicated, and a writ *de excommunicato capiendo* was issued to the Sheriff, who might take the offender into custody and keep him in prison until he made his submission. The service of the Church was forbidden to be read when excommunicated persons were buried, and they also suffered civil disabilities in life. They could not, for instance, be witnesses in any court, or bring actions to recover money or land, or act as executors and prove wills. An Act of 1814 removed all such civil disabilities, and confined sentences of excommunication to spiritual censures for ecclesiastical offences. (See p. 321).
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SOME OLD SHROPSHIRE HOUSES AND THEIR OWNERS.
(Second Series).

BY H. EDWARD FORREST, F.L.S.

THE LEE FAMILY MANSIONS IN SHROPSHIRE.

On the 21st July, 1928, I visited, examined, and photographed the three principal homes of the Lee family in the parish of Alveley, near Bridgnorth, viz.:

VIII COTON HALL.

IX NORDLEY REGIS.

X THE HAY.

VIII. COTON HALL.

The owner and occupier at that time was Captain H. D. Wakeman Colville, R.N. The existing mansion is quite modern, and occupies a site to the west of the original house of which nothing now remains. The latter was built during the reign of Elizabeth by Humphrey Lee to supersede his older manor house at Nordley Regis. It is first mentioned in the I.P.M. on the said Humphrey's death in 1589, wherein it is described as "the mansion house known as Cotton Hall." From that time forward Cotton became the principal seat of this branch of the Lee family. In the reign of Queen Anne the property, then extending to about 5000 acres, and including the manors of Alveley and Nordley Regis, was owned by Eldred Lancelot Lee, who was a bencher of Lincoln's Inn, and a very active magistrate in Shropshire. He it was who built the Chapel in front of the house, and—according to his monument—endowed it, though no trace of the endowment remains if it ever was made. After his time his successors gradually reduced the property, selling it off, farm by farm, to meet emergencies, until in 1852 the remains were bought by the Rev. Edward Ward Wakeman, whose son Lt.-Col. E. M. Wakeman, the late owner died in 1927. The present house was built between 1800 and 1820 by Harry Lancelot Lee, who lived mostly at Bath,



COTON HALL.
 INTERIOR OF CHAPEL—EAST END.
 THE HALL AND EXTERIOR OF CHAPEL.

and did much to ruin the property. The stucco part was built by Rev. E. M. Wakeman, and extensive alterations to the rear part were made by his widow in 1861. The chapel roof having fallen in, the Lee monuments were removed to Alveley Church in 1878. The latest is to the above-named Harry Lancelot Lee (grandson of Eldred Lancelot Lee) who died 1821. The Chapel is now a mere shell thickly bowered in ivy, but there is some rather pretty decoration round the east window,—fluted pilasters and scroll-work.

IX. NORDELEY REGIS MANOR.

This is now a farm-house about a mile to the north of Coton Hall. It played an important part in the fortunes of the Lee family because it was through the marriage of Roger Lee to Margaret, daughter and heiress of Thomas Astley of Nordley, that the Lees gained possession of their estates in Nordley and Alveley. Margaret died in 1422, and at the Inquest the jurors declared that she held "the manor and village of Northeley from the King in fee at £9 per annum: that John Lee was her son and heir and was then (1424) 26 years old."

The existing house is **T** shaped in plan, and is of two periods—the 'stroke' of the **T** (running N. & S.) being the oldest portion. It is of stone covered with plaster, and appears to date from the 16th or 17th century, judging by the chamfered beams and the wide fireplace in the principal room. Probably the house was rebuilt by Humphrey Lee when he built Coton Hall. There is a blocked up window on the west side with a date 1715, and a fire-insurance plate of the Salop Fire Office, above it, though the house itself is certainly older than that. This window is said to have had panes of talc instead of glass. They were not of horn. On the end of the gable to the right of this (i.e. on the newer wing of the house) is a shield with four quarterings—1 and 4 the Lee arms, 2 and 3 the arms of Astley—Azure a cinquefoil ermine within a hordure engrailed of the second. Beneath the shield is another date 173— the last figure hidden by the creeper, but said to be a 5. These two dates indicate that the house here, like that at the Hay—to be described next—was rebuilt by Edward Lancelot Lee; the same who built the Chapel at Coton. Evidently this gentleman was fond of building

and also liked to perpetuate the memory of his ancestors, the original founders of the family fortunes in this district. This (newer) part of the house presents no features of interest beyond this coat of arms, but the N. end of the older part has evidently served as a brew-house and still retains its great boiler or vat.

X. THE HAY, Alveley.

This was the Dower House, as indicated by the will of John Lee who died in 1605—a most interesting document. He bequeaths legacies to eldest son Thomas as heirlooms; my greatest brass pot and standing bed with feather-bed bolster curtains and all furniture except best coverlet to Wife for her life. Great iron-bound chest and iron broath with crosses on handle. If son Thomas do leave the house at the Hay where he now dwelleth furnished with glass, wainscot, and hangings as it is now then I give unto him the glass wainscot and hangings now belonging to the house of Cotton. Otherwise executors to take them down and carry them to the house of the Hay for use of Wife for her life. To son Ferdinand 100 marks within six months of my decease: if he die before then the 100 marks to be equally divided between sons Gilbert, Richard, and Josias Lee. Sum of £10 a year paid by son Thomas Lee by covenant with Richard Ottley Esq. at marriage of said Thomas said annuity shall be paid by said son Thomas to son Edward. Residue to wife for her life and then equally divided between sons Gilbert, Richard, and Josias. Mentions kinsman Richard Romley of city Gloucester. Executor son Josias.

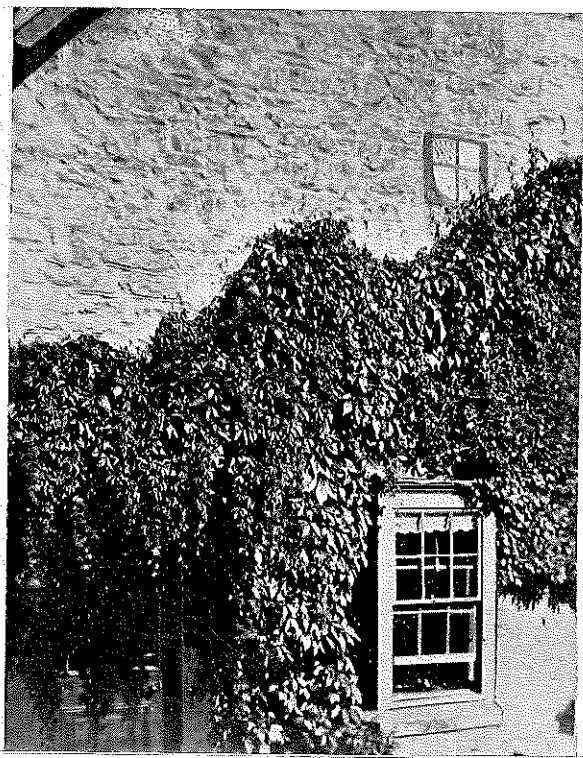
This house is situated near the Severn opposite Hampton Load station. It is of stone and nearly square in plan, and, being on a slope, has 2 storeys and an attic on the front, and 3 storeys and attics at the back, which presents 3 gables towards the river. The front half of the building has a straight skyline, with eaves facing east, the gables being at each end facing N. and S. Beneath the attic window at the S. end is a stone

inscribed

E.L.L.
1697

 indicating that the house was rebuilt

then by Eldred Lancelot Lee. It is evident, however, from the above-quoted document, that there was a house here a century earlier. The floor-levels are marked by projecting strings, all round the house. The front entrance has a coved



NORDLEY REGIS.
GABLE END WITH ARMS OF LEE—ASTLEY.
WEST VIEW OF THE HOUSE.



THE HAY—ALVELEY.
NORTH VIEW. WEST VIEW.

over-door with massive scroll-shaped brackets carved with acanthus leaves. A round-arched entrance to the basement on the S. side is now partially filled up and occupied by a boiler. It has brick voussoirs. There is a fine staircase with spiral balusters and square newels from ground floor to attics—3 storeys. Each of the doors has two large panels with round mouldings, but no bevel. The principal rooms appear to have been paneled in similar style, but the panels have been removed except over the fireplaces and doors, where they are still intact. In the basement is a wide fire-place with large baking oven at the side: also an old-fashioned cheese press with stone base. All these details indicate the latter part of the 17th century as the date of building—probably the year inscribed on the stone is that in which Eldred Lancelot Lee finished it. About 100 yards S.E. of The Hay is another house of older date which may possibly be the original mentioned in John Lee's will of 1605. It is very dilapidated and is about to be pulled down. A new house is being built by the side of it. It appears to have been L-shaped in plan, of two storeys, the lower of stone, the upper of timber. As there are dragon beams in the ceiling at all four corners, the upper storey apparently overhung on all four sides. The timber frame is hidden by plaster so that its character cannot be ascertained, but from the general appearance of the building it is probably Elizabethan. The two main chimney shafts are octagonal. The house was partially destroyed by fire a few years ago; this damaged the upper storey of one wing, and it has never been repaired. In the yard is the stone base of an old cheese-press.

It appears from the Chancery Suit brought by Josias Lee against his elder brother Thomas Lee in 1610, that *Josias* resided at the *Hay* with his mother Joyce up to the time of her death in December 1609: that Josias was with his father John Lee at Latimers, near Chesham, Bucks, at the time of his death in June 1605: and that the farm at *Nordley* was leased at 40s. per annum to the younger brothers, but the profits of the same were given to *Richard* Lee and his wife Elizabeth for their lives. *Thomas* himself lived at *Coton*. There is no evidence that Richard lived at Nordley, though he received the profits of the farm.

LEE FAMILY OF COTON.

THOMAS DE LA LEE I married Petronilla daughter of Thomas Corbet. He had two sons Reginald and Thomas. He granted the township of Lee-under-Pimhill to his elder son

REGINALD DE LA LEE who was living in 1321. His son

JOHN DE LA LEE I, lord of Roden, was twice married, but left issue only by his second wife Matilda daughter of Henry de Erdington. [The pedigree at this point in the Herald's Visitation, 1623, is hopelessly incorrect]. There were two sons Robert and Roger. Of these the younger ROGER LEE (d. 1383) married Joan daughter and heiress of Edward Burnell of Langley (1349—1401). Their only child PETRONILLA LEE (1379—1442) married her cousin ROBERT LEE of Langley (d. 1430) and was ancestor of the LEES OF LANGLEY and LEA HALL, of whom I gave an account in these *Transactions* 1924, p. 241. The elder son

ROBERT LEE of Roden was sheriff of Shropshire in 1387. He married Margaret daughter and heiress of Thomas Astley of Nordley Regis in the parish of Alveley (1354—1424) and had two sons; the above named Robert of Langley, and

JOHN LEE II of Nordley (b. 1398) ancestor of the LEES OF NORDLEY and COTON. By his wife Joyce Packington he had a son

JOHN LEE III (d. 1478) who married Elizabeth daughter and heiress of Thomas Corbyn, whose son

THOMAS LEE II of Nordley (d. 1526) married Joan daughter of Robert Morton of Haughton. Their son

HUMPHREY LEE (d. 1589) built the mansion at Coton, which thenceforth became the chief residence of the family. By his wife Katherine daughter of John Blount of Eye (d. 1591) he had a son

JOHN LEE IV of Coton (d. 1605 at Chesham, Bucks.) who married Joyce daughter of John Romney of co. Worcester (d. 1609) and had eight sons—Thomas, William, Gilbert, Jasper, Richard, Edward, Ferdinand, and Josias. Of these only two left issue—Thomas, and Richard. [RICHARD LEE was baptized at Alveley, 6 Oct. 1563. In 1599 he married Elizabeth Bendy and appears to have then left Alveley (although still holding a farm there) and gone to live at Stratford Langthorne, Essex, close to London. (His brother Gilbert was a

leather merchant trading with Virginia, and resided at Tolleshunt Darcy, Essex, where he died 1621, leaving legacies to his brothers Richard and Josias) Richard Lee had by his wife Elizabeth a son Richard, who emigrated to Virginia: he was ancestor to the LEES OF VIRGINIA.] The eldest son

THOMAS LEE II. (1560—1620) married in 1589 Dorothy Ottley of Pitchford (d. 1636) and had by her four sons and seven daughters. [The second son John Lee V. (1601—1682) was a wealthy London merchant, and bought the Ankerwycke estate, Bucks; he was buried at Stanton Harcourt. Ankerwycke went to Sir Philip Harcourt, who had married his daughter Elizabeth.] The eldest son

LANCELOT LEE (1594—1667) of Coton, was twice married, and left issue by both wives. The eldest son by his first wife Jane Clemson was

THOMAS LEE III. (1620—1687) of Coton and Newington Butts, barrister, who was married three times. By his first wife Dorothy Eldred, he had, with other issue, a son

ELDRED LANCELOT LEE (1650—1734) who married Isabella daughter of Sir Henry Gough, by whom he had three sons and seven daughters. The eldest son

LANCELOT LEE (b. 1719) of Coton was married three times. By his second wife Anne Elizabeth Michel (d. 1759) he had a son HARRY LANCELOT LEE (1759—1821) of Coton who married Jane Cox. By the marriage of his only child

CATHERINE ANNE HARRIET LEE of Coton to Mr. J. M. Wingfield, Coton passed into that family, and was afterwards sold.

XI.

A SHROPSHIRE HEARTH TAX RECEIPT, 1683.

Sept the 8th 1683 & Eighty Three
 Received of Roger Maddox
 the sum of Two - - -
 Shillings in full for One half years
 duty for Two Fire-hearths in
 his House in Daywell due
 and ended at Lady Day last past.
 I say received by
 John Lloyd Col. = 43
 Collector 5

By the kindness of Mr. Herbert Southam, and of the Editor and Publisher of *Notes and Queries*, to whom we are indebted for the use of the block, we are enabled to give a facsimile of a Receipt for the Hearth Tax, given to Roger Maddox of Daywell on 8 September 1683. Daywell is a hamlet of Whittington parish, and is situate $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Oswestry and one mile west of Gobowen station.

The Hearth Tax, or chimney-money, was first levied in 1662; it was a payment to the king of 2s. annually on every hearth in all houses which paid poor-rate. If no poor-rate was paid, and if the house was worth less than 20s. a year rent, or if its occupier was not worth £10 in real or personal estate, this Tax was not payable. So poor people were practically exempt from payment. The Hearth Tax is said to have been unpopular, and was repealed in 1689, although it produced £170,000 a year.

The returns are amongst the Subsidy Rolls in the Public Record Office. There are several Rolls for Shropshire, one of the best being Lay Subsidy 168/216 for 1673-4 which contains no less than 87 membranes. From it, we get the names of every householder in each parish and hamlet, whether he paid the Tax or was exempted. Condober has 37 names, Thomas Owen, Esq. having 30 fire hearths in his house and paying £3 tax. In

Wrockwardine 12 householders had between them 25 hearths, for which £2 10s. tax was paid. Norton in Hales has 41 names, Ford 26, and Abdon 17. These are just casual specimens of the number of householders in these places in 1673-4.

We have not printed any complete Hearth Tax Roll for our County. In Staffordshire, the Wm. Salt Society is printing the 1666 Hearth Tax Roll, which contains 74 membranes. The returns for each place were attested by the Minister and Churchwardens, and "allowed by" two Justices of the peace and one or more Constables.

The burial of "Roger Maddox of Daywell" occurs in the Whittington Register in June 1688. This may be the payer of the Tax; though the burial of "Mr. Roger Maddockes of Daywell" appears in 1721 and again in 1729. Mr. Southam has also Receipts given to Andrew Maddox and John Hughes, both of Daywell, in 1683.

W. G. D. FLETCHER.

XII.

CONSTABLES OF SHREWSBURY CASTLE.

The following list of the Constables of Shrewsbury Castle is extracted from the Patent Rolls and Close Rolls, which commence in the reigns of John and Henry III. It extends from 1223 to 1509. The later records have not been searched.

1223, Dec. 20.	Hugh Dispensar.
1227, June 2.	Henry de Aldithele.
1229, Dec. 7.	The same.
123—,	Robert de la Haye.
1236, Mar. 14.	John le Estraunge.
1248, June 22.	Thomas Corbet.
1255, Nov. 2.	Hugh de Acovre.
1257, May 13.	John de Grey.
1257, Sept. 26.	Peter de Monte Forti.
1260, May 19.	James de Aldetheleg.
1261, July 9.	1262, Feb. 5. 1263, June 16. The same.
1263, Nov. 22.	Hamo Lestrangle.
1264, Dec. 20.	Ralph Basset of Drayton.
1265, Nov. 25.	Thomas Corbet.
12—,	Roger Sprengehos.
1286, May 3.	Leonius son of Leonius.
13—,	Roger de Trumwyn.
1318, May 13.	Peter de Lymesy.
1339, Nov. 17.	John de Hetheye.
1342, May 22.	John de Wyndesore.
1365, Dec. 27.	Hugh Cheyne.
1378, May 6.	Confirmation to the same.

1388.	John Bykerton.
1399, Nov. 4.	Thomas Hynkeley.
1407, Nov. 8.	Nicholas Gerard.
1413, Mar. 20 and	July 1. Urian Sempier.
1423, Jan. 14.	Confirmation to the same.
1436, Nov. 1.	Bewes Hampton.
1438, June 18, and	1449, Nov. 6. The same.
1453, Jan. 24.	The same.
1460, April 19.	Alan Stury.
1485, Sept. 24.	John Punche.

In 1339 the Constable's wages were fixed at 7½d. per day, to be paid by the Sheriff, with the usual fees. In 1438 his wages were £10 a year. In 1250, and several years subsequently, oaks from Lythewood forest were to be given to the Sheriff for repairing the Castle, and in 1317 leave was given to him to expend up to £20 in needful repairs.

W. G. D. FLETCHER.

XIII.

SHREWSBURY MUSEUM: PREHISTORIC ACQUISITIONS

A notable addition has been made to the Prehistoric Collection in Shrewsbury Museum in the permanent loan by Mr. Frank Drinkwater, M.R.C.V.S., of West Kirby, of the three bronze implements found in the Edgebold Brickfield, near Shrewsbury, about the year 1898. These were fully published, with illustrations, in the *Antiquaries Journal* in 1925, Vol. V. pp. 409—414, and a note appeared in our *Transactions*, 4th Series, Vol. X., Part i, *Miscellanea* No. vi. The trunnion celt is unique in Shropshire and its association with the two palstaves is of considerable interest: they have been mounted together and are exhibited in the Bronze Age case.

With them the Museum received two curious stones tied together with string. There is no suggestion that they were in any way connected with the bronzes and their history is absolutely unknown beyond the fact that they too were in the collection of the late Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, of St. George's, Shrewsbury. The larger has a peculiar resemblance to the butt end of a bronze palstave, with a natural perforation near the top. The other shows a double groove possibly the result of use (?) as a weight or net-sinker. Both are mainly, if not wholly, natural and so of little archæological significance: Dr. H. H. Thomas, D.Sc., of the Geological Survey and Museum, reports on them as follows:—

“The larger specimen is part of a nodule with a calcareous centre which has weathered deeply: the general form is determined by joints and bedding. The smaller broken specimen is also part of a nodule and shows the original bedding.”

They will be placed in a drawer below the Exhibition Cases.

Other recent gifts and loans include a stone adze found near Petton Farm, presented by Mrs. Henry Tatton, of Petton Park Lodge, which is important owing to the rarity of stone implements on the North Shropshire plain, and four perforated stone axe-hammers, from Little Ryton, Condover (donor, Mr. Richard Davies); Morfe, Claverley (Mr. V. R. Kite, with other small finds); Wrentnall, Church Pulverbatch (Mr. Bernard Bromley); and Ratlinghope (lent by Miss Rose Morris). It is hoped to publish illustrated records of these accessions in the next issue of the *Transactions*.

LILY F. CHITTY.

XIV.

SHROPSHIRE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

JOHN WALCOT, M.P. 1685 (No. 173) A CORRECTION.

In my paper on Shropshire Members of Parliament in the *Transactions*, 4th Series, Vol. XII, page 5, I have made a stupid and inexcusable error. I have styled John Walcot a Parliamentarian like "his distinguished Father Humphrey Walcot," whereas both Father and Son were (as is well known) strong royalists and faithful to the end to King Charles I. The present representatives of the Walcot family have amongst their most cherished possessions, mementoes given to their ancestors by that unfortunate Monarch.

HENRY T. WEYMAN.

XV.

THE BURNELL FAMILY.

A few months ago I had some correspondence with Rev. A. L. Browne, of Great Rissington Rectory, Cheltenham, concerning the ancestry of Joan Burnell, daughter and co-heiress of Edward Burnell, who married Roger de la Lee. In my account of the Lees of Langley in *Transactions* 4th Series, Vol. IX, p. 241, this Edward Burnell is identified with Edward, son of Philip Burnell, nephew of Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and Chancellor to Edward I. This is an error.

My correspondent sends a copy of the I.P.M. on Philip Burnell held at Kenefare (Kinver) 28 Feb. 1301, which states that Edward his son, aged seven . . . is his heir. This Edward died in 1315 leaving his sister Maude his heiress. The I.P.M. held in 1316 makes no mention of any daughter—he had none.

The Edward Burnell father of Joan was a totally different person. The main facts may be gleaned from the I.P.M. on Margaret (Lee) his widow, printed in *Transactions*, 1899, p. 272 : as follows. His father

WILLIAM BURNELL had by his wife Joisia (Joyce) a son EDWARD BURNELL (1316—1376) who at the date of his father's death in 1332 was aged 16. He was M.P. for Shropshire in 1351. In 1328 he married Margaret Lee of Langley who died in 1377. From the inquest on this lady, we gather that her two sons Reginald and Edward had died without issue prior to that date, so that there were left only her three daughters co-heiresses—Joan, b. 1349, Katherine, 1351, and Hugelin 1355. The Langley estate fell to the eldest daughter

JOAN BURNELL who married

ROGER DE LA LEE, son and heir of Roger Lee, lord of Roden, by his wife Margaret Astley of Nordley Regis, in the parish of Alveley. Roger Lee and his wife Joan had an only child

PETRONILLA LEE who married her cousin.

ROBERT LEE (son of Roger's younger brother John Lee of Nordley by his wife Joyce Packington). Robert and Petronilla Lee were the ancestors of THE LEES OF LANGLEY

Robert's younger brother JOHN LEE of Nordley, and his wife Elizabeth d. and h. of Thomas Corbyn, were ancestors of THE LEES OF NORDLEY AND COTON.

The printed pedigrees of both Burnell and Lee in the *Herald's Visitation of Shropshire*, 1623, are full of errors in this early period. The object of the above notes is to correct those errors.

In the printed *Visitation*, there are three Burnell pedigrees, all quite different! Only one "William Burnell" is mentioned, and he is said to have been drowned at Nerum in 1282, no wife or son is given. He was uncle to the great Robert Burnell. As Edward was not born till 1315 this William cannot have been his father, but may have been his grandfather.

H. E. FORREST.

XVI.

CONVEYANCE BY SIR EDWARD STANLEY, 1591.

The following is an abstract of a Rushbury deed preserved in the Guildhall Library:—

Indenture made May 20, 1591, whereby Edward Stanley, Knight, conveys to Humphrey Bannester, yeoman, a tenement, etc., in the parish of Rushbury, co. Salop, now in the tenure of Charles Harris, and a shop near Temple Bar, in the parish of St. Clement Danes, now in the occupation of Richard Tyngste or Tynger, both held of the Queen's manor of East Greenwich by fealty in free Socage at a yearly rental of twopence and twelvepence respectively.

Witnesses: William Ballard and John Coat.

H. R. H. SOUTHAM.

XVII.

TITHE BARN, EYTON-ON-SEVERN.

This Tithe Barn was erected in 1607 by Sir Francis Newport, about the time when he had purchased tithes which included those of Eyton-on-Severn, then known as Abbot's Eyton. It was no doubt, required for the wool, grain, etc. received as tithe.

It is constructed with oak framework, standing upon a brick base. The panels being filled in with brickwork of varying sizes. These bricks are of special interest, as they are examples of a process of making bricks by cutting up slabs of prepared clay, regardless of size and thickness, instead of the usual method of making bricks in moulds to regular sizes. The building had no windows, but was provided with opening shutters in the upper part of each storey for purposes of light and air.

The two floors were laid with boards, and the interior was divided into bays for the separation of the different products stored in the building.

The roof is covered with stone slabs, obtained from a quarry on the estate. About a century later, a wing building used as a cottage was added. In later years, part of the barn was converted into a cottage and cart shed.

The estate is now the property of Lord Barnard, and the old barn has recently been converted into two desirable cottages, by his Agent, Colonel Sowerby. It is a typical example of what may be done by sympathetic treatment in adapting and preserving such buildings for modern use.

J. A. MORRIS.

XVIII.

DEMOLITION IN HILL'S LANE.

Colle's Mansion, built in the 13th century, had disappeared late in the 17th century. Some foundations remain; and a building, with an arched opening, which may have been the chapel attached to the mansion.

Adjacent to this property, a timber framed building, used as a malt and brew house was erected late in the 16th century. On the site of what may have been a portion of Colle Hall, a brick built house was erected, having stone mullioned windows, late in the Tudor period. This house was converted into licensed premises in the 19th century, and known as the "New Ship Inn."

Before Rowley's Mansion was built, there was a timber framed building at its rear, which was afterwards incorporated into the mansion; it appears to have been built against it.

The old malthouse is now being demolished, and it is possible that some of the other buildings which surround the open yard, may be taken down later on.

This group of buildings forms a unique assemblage of mediæval buildings, worthy of the attention of artists, before the opportunity is lost.

Rowley's Mansion was built early in the 17th century : it bears the date 1618 on a rain-water head. The entrance was by a doorway (now built up) in the angle formed by the two wings, fronting to the street. There was a small fore-court, approached through gates in the boundary wall.

J. A. MORRIS.

XIX.

AN EARLY MEDIÆVAL BUILDING BEHIND THE BARGE INN, NEAR THE ENGLISH BRIDGE.

During recent months an old building has been demolished, which was probably a store house for goods passing over the mediæval Stone Bridge. It covered an area of 40 feet by 20 feet. The lower portion was originally built with stone ; and appeared to date from the 14th century. The upper floor had a fireplace with massive oak principals carrying the roof. Some portion of this upper floor may have been divided off as a living room for a Caretaker.

It had been altered and partially re-constructed in mediæval times, to become the temporary home of the heroes of the turf, when Shrewsbury was celebrated for its Race Meetings in mid-Victorian times. On the doors of what were stables, could be seen the records of many horses that had occupied its stalls.

The building stood upon a piece of ground, which was converted into a garden attached to the 16th century residence of William Jones, draper, on the opposite side of the street. The Summer house still remains at the end of Marine Terrace.

J. A. MORRIS.

GENERAL INDEX TO VOL. XII.

COMPILED BY F. A. MACLEOD.

(The figures in parentheses show how many times the subject occurs on the same page).

A.

- Abberly, 98, 109.
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- 1670. Furnstone, Wm., W.
- 1673. Foye, Robt., W.
- 1688. Foster, Jane, nun.
- 1688. Fowles, George, W.
- 1696. Furnston, John, W.
- 1702. Floyd, David, W.
- 1709. Fardoe, Sarah, W.
- 1712. Furnstone, Morgan, W.
- 1718. Furnstone, Nicholas, W.
- 1721. Fox, Kathn., A.
- 1725. Francis, John, W.
- 1725. Finch, Roger, W.
- 1727. Francis, Hannah, A.
- 1728. Finch, Robt., I.
- 1729. Finch, Robt., A.
- 1731. Fewtrill, John, W.
- 1730. Furnstone, Margt., A.
- 1732. Foulkes, Robt., A.
- 1733. Furnston, Nicholas, W.
- 1733. Fardoe, Ann, A.
- 1736. Furbers, Thos., A.
- 1737. Furnstone, Thomas, A.
- 1738. Furnstone, Wm., W.
- 1742. Furnston, Mary, W.
- 1766. " John, W.
- 1773. " Thos., W.
- 1798. Felton, Edwd., W.
- 1810. Furnston, Joseph, A.
- 1819. Furnston, Elizth., W.
- 1837. Foulkes, Thomas, W.
- 1841. Furnston, Edwd., W.
- 1853. Franks, James, A.

G.

- 1674. Gould, Wm., W.
- 1677. Griffiths, Ambrose, W.
- 1680. Gough, Edwd., W.
- 1682. Griffiths, George, W.

1687. Griffiths, Edward, W.
 1692. " John, W.
 1703. " Edwd., W.
 1710. " Peter, W.
 1719. " Thomas, W.
 1720. Gill, Margt., W.
 1721. Griffiths, Philip, A
 1723. Giles, Richd., A.
 1725. Gough, John, W.
 1726. Griffiths, Mary, A.
 1727. Gough, Eliz., W.
 1727. Gough, David, A.
 1728. Grinley, Thos., W.
 1728. Gough, Eliz., A.
 1731. Grindley, Thos., W.
 1732. Griffiths, Wm., W.
 1733. Gough, Wm., W.
 1733. Gough, Wm., A.
 1734. Griffiths, Thos., I.
 1735. Gough, Sarah, A.
 1736. Griffiths, Richd., W.
 1738. " Francis, W.
 1739. Gyles, Richd., A.
 1745. Golding, John, A.
 1747. Grindley, Robt., N.
 1756. Grafton, John, W.
 1761. Gough, John, W.
 1767. Grafton, Mary, I.
 1767. Grafton, Mary, W.
 1768. George, John, A.
 1769. Griffiths, Thos., W.
 1769. Gough, Martha, W.
 1770. Griffiths, Elizth., A.
 1774. " Thos., A.
 1774. " Thos., W.
 1776. " Elizth., A.
 1780. George, Thos., W.
 1783. Gleaves, George, A.
 1784. Griffiths, Richd., W.
 1784. " Richd., A.
 1787. " Wm., W.
 1817. " Thos., W.
 1827. Groom, Edwd., W.
 1836. Griffiths, Alicia, W.
 1841. Griffiths, Ann, W.
 1847 [1849?] Gough, Ann, A.
 1847. Groom, Edwd., W.
 1856. Griffiths, James, W.

H.

1670. Harrison, Ann, W.
 1673. Higginson, Robt., W.
 1680. Humfry, Edwards ap., W.
 1684. Hatchett, Stephen, W.
 1684. Highley, George, W.
 1685. Hucksley, Elizth., W.
 1687. Heatley, Francis, W.
 1694. Hartley, Susanna, W.
 1695. Higginson, Catherine, W.

1696. Haycock, Wm., W.
 1699. Humphreys, Wm., W.
 1699. " Wm., nun.
 1703. Hall, Thos., W.
 1704. Higginson, Rich., W.
 1706. Hatton, Thos., W.
 1710. Hall, Joseph, nun.
 1711. Hatchett, Richd., W.
 1713. Higginson, Mary, W.
 1720. Haytley, John, W.
 1723. Howells, James, W.
 1724. Hatton, Thos., W.
 1724. Hatton, Abigail, W.
 1724. Haytley, Deborah, A.
 1726. Holebrock, Edwd., W.
 1726. Haytley, John, A.
 1727. Humfrison, Mary, A.
 1728. Haytly, John, A.
 1728. Hugh, ap. Thomas, W.
 1729. Hampson, John, W.
 1729. Higginson, Jos., A.
 1729. " Edwd., A.
 1729. Haytley, Richd., A.
 1729. Harper, Mary, W.
 1729. Heatley, Richd., I.
 1729. Harris, Basil, W.
 1730. Hordley, Roger, W.
 1730. Hartley, John, A.
 1732. Hatton, John, W.
 1732. Harris, Ellin, A.
 1734. Harper, Philip, A.
 1734. Hughes, Anne, A.
 1734. Higginson, Elizth., I.
 1734. Haycock, Richd., W.
 1735. Harrison, Wm., W.
 1735. Hesketh, Chas., ob.
 1735. Hatton, Margt., W.
 1735. Higginson, Elizth., A.
 1736. Heacock, Anne, A.
 1736. Higginson, Thos., A.
 1736. Haycock, Sarah, W.
 1737. Higley, Geo., A.
 1739. Howells, Edwd., W.
 1739. Hatton, Abigail, A.
 1739. Hunt, John, W.
 1741. Hope, Wm., A.
 1741. Heatley, Chas., A.
 1741. Hughes, John, W.
 1742. Hughes, John, W.
 1743. Hampson, Moses, A.
 1743. Hughes, Francis, A.
 1744. Higginson, Thos., A.
 1745. Howell, James, W.
 1758. Holebrook, Margt., W.
 1760. Holbrook, John, I.
 1762. Hughes, Josh., W.
 1762. " Thos., A.
 1762. " Jos., I.
 1767. Hollis, Thos., W.
 1769. Holbrook, John, W.

- 1772. Higginson, Jno., W.
- 1775. Hayward, Richd., W.
- 1788. Heley, John, W.
- 1803. Higley, Richd., W.
- 1817. Hatley, John, W.
- 1819. Harrison, Edwd., W.
- 1822. Hensman, Ann, W.
- 1824. Hay, Eliz., W.
- 1826. Harrison, Ann, W.
- 1831. Hodnett, Thos., W.
- 1831. Hatchett, Samuel Bulkeley, A.
- 1832. Hampson, Wm., A.
- 1837. Hassall, Joseph, W.
- 1838. Harrison, Sarah, W.
- 1838. Hampson, Moses, W.
- 1839. Harrison, Edwd., W.
- 1840. Hawkins, Thos., W.
- 1841. Hughes, Thos., W.
- 1842. Hayward, Wm., W.
- 1842. Hughes, Thos., A.
- 1845. Hughes, Anne, A.
- 1846. Howell, Jerh., A.
- 1847. Higginson, John, A.
- 1847. Hughes, Edwd., W.
- 1851. Harrison, John, W.
- 1851. Harrison, John, W.
- 1851. Harris, John, W.
- 1855. Hughes, Hugh, A.
- 1855. Hewitt, John, W.
- 1856. Hawkins, Jane, W.
- 1856. Hawkins, Wm., W.

I.

- 1722. Iveson, John, W.

J.

- 1670. Jenkes, Edward, the elder gent. W.
- 1673. Jeffreyes, Richard, W.
- 1675. Jones, John, W.
- 1684. Jenckes, Thos., W.
- 1685. Jebb, Wm., W.
- 1689. Jeffreyes, George, W.
- 1691. Jeffries, Wm., W.
- 1693. Joy, Francis, W.
- 1697. Jeffreyes, Peter, W.
- 1698. Jones, Henry, W.
- 1699. " Edward, W.
- 1702. " Sarah, W.
- 1703. Jacks, Thos., W.
- 1706. Jaundrell, John, W.
- 1706. Jones, George, W.
- 1708. Jeffreyes, Richd., W.
- 1712. Jencks, Mary, sp., W.
- 1713. Jones, Roger, W.
- 1714. Joyce, John, W.
- 1715. Jones, Elizabeth, sp., W.
- 1715. Jones, Edwd., W.

- 1716. Joyce, John, W.
- 1722. Joyce, Arthur, W.
- 1722. Jefferys, Thos., W.
- 1724. Jones, Jane, A.
- 1727. Jeffreyes, Christian, A.
- 1727. Jones, Eliza, W.
- 1728. Jackson, Thos., A.
- 1728. Jeffreyes, Richd., W.
- 1729. Jones, Chas., I.
- 1729. Jacks, Tim., A.
- 1730. Jones, Roger, W.
- 1731. Jenks, Wm., A.
- 1732. Jacks, Kathn., A.
- 1732. " Kathn., W.
- 1732. Jones, Edward, W.
- 1733. " Mary, I.
- 1733. " Edward, W.
- 1736. Joyce, John, A.
- 1738. Jencks, Jane, W.
- 1739. Jebb, John, W.
- 1739. Jones, Thos., A.
- 1741. Jaundrell, Wm., A.
- 1741. Jones, John, A.
- 1743. Jones, Mary, A.
- 1743. Jacks, Robt., W.
- 1756. Jencks, Wm., W.
- 1757. Jenks, Josh., W.
- 1760. Jones, Wm., W.
- 1762. Jencks, Rev. Saml., W.
- 1762. Jackson, John, W.
- 1762. " Robt., W.
- 1766. Jacks, Richd., W.
- 1766. " Richd., W.
- 1771. Joy, Robt., A.
- 1773. Jackson, John, W.
- 1776. Jones, Ann, A.
- 1776. Jones, Ann, I & A.
- 1777. Jackson, Thomas, A.
- 1777. " Mary, A.
- 1780. " Josh., A.
- 1781. Jenkins, Thos., W.
- 1788. Jones, Mary, A.
- 1799. James, Robt., W.
- 1802. Jackson, Thos., W.
- 1809. Jackson, Saml., A.
- 1819. Joy, James, W.
- 1824. Jenks, John, A.
- 1825. Jackson, Elizth., W.
- 1827. Jones, Mary, W.
- 1830. " Hannah, A.
- 1831. " Wm., W.
- 1831. " Thos., W.
- 1834. " Roger, W.
- 1834. Jeffreyes, Thos., W.
- 1837. Jones, Julius, W.
- 1839. " Richd., W.
- 1840. " Elizth., W.
- 1840. " Richd., A.
- 1841. " John, W.
- 1843. James, Robt., A.

- 1846. Jones, Sarah, A.
- 1846. Jones, Edwd., A.
- 1847. Jackson, Wm., A.
- 1847. Jones, Wm., W.
- 1847. " Wm., W.
- 1847. " Francis, W.
- 1847. Jacks, Richd., A.
- 1848. Jones, Sarah, A.
- 1851. Jones, Joseph, W.

K.

- 1690. Kynaston, Edwd., W.
- 1727. Kerry, Enoch, A.
- 1728. Kynaston, Thos., A.
- 1730. Kerry, Josh., W.
- 1735. Kyffin, Thos., A.
- 1767. Kerry, Eliz., W.
- 1769. Kynaston, Edward, I.
- 1769. " Edwd., W.
- 1791. Keays, Thos., nun. W.
- 1833. Keay, John, W.
- 1845. Kynaston, Ann, A.

L.

- 1679. Lyth, John, W.
- 1683. Langford, Henry, I.
- 1683. Lyth, Wm., W & I.
- 1684. Langford, John, W.
- 1688. Langford, Anthony, I.
- 1690. Lyth, Ellinor, W.
- 1695. Lee, Philip, W.
- 1701. " Thos., W.
- 1704. " Henry, W.
- 1710. Langford, Arthur, W.
- 1712. Lyth, Elinor, W.
- 1712. Lyth, John, W.
- 1717. Leigh, John, W.
- 1719. Lee, Jane, nun. W.
- 1721. Langford, Joseph, W.
- 1723. Lyth, Humphrey, A.
- 1724. Lloyd, Elizth., W.
- 1728. Lee, John, W.
- 1728. Lewis, Mary, W.
- 1729. Lee, George, A.
- 1729. Lea, Allen, W.
- 1729. Lewis, Saml., A.
- 1730. Lee, Wm., A.
- 1731. Lee, Philip, W.
- 1732. Lockley, Edwd., A.
- 1733. Lewis, Thos., A.
- 1733. Lee, Wm., A.
- 1734. Lee, Richd., A.
- 1734. Langford, Edwd., A.
- 1735. Lee, Francis, W.
- 1736. Leacock, Ann, A.
- 1736. Lee, Thos., W.
- 1737. " Wm., A.
- 1737. " Wm., I.
- 1737. Lyth, Margt., A.
- 1737. Lovett, Mary, W.

- 1739. Lewis, David, W.
- 1741. Latewood, Thos., A.
- 1741. Lewis, Thomas, A.
- 1741. Lee, Francis, W.
- 1741. Lunt, Randle, A.
- 1744. Langford, Jos., W.
- 1745. Lee, Edwd., W.
- 1745. Long, John, A.
- 1745. Lewis, John, nun. W.
- 1746. Lewis, Alice, W.
- 1747. Lyth, George, A.
- 1756. Lindley, Thos., W.
- 1760. Lee, John, W.
- 1762. Langford, Henry, W.
- 1763. Lloyd, Elizth., W.
- 1764. Lea, Joseph, W.
- 1778. Lloyd, Sarah, W.
- 1798. Lloyd, Mary, W.
- 1821. Lee, Philip, W.
- 1824. Lee, Robt., W.
- 1831. Langford, Richd., A.
- 1831. Lea, Wm., A.
- 1835. Lea, Sarah, W.
- 1841. Lee, Francis Thomas, A.
- 1842. Lee, Francis, W.
- 1847. Lloyd, Hannah, W.
- 1847. Lewis, Thos., W.
- 1847. Lea, Anne, W.
- 1849. Lindip, Joseph, W.
- 1852. Lee, Wm., W.
- 1857. Lea, John, W.

M.

- 1667. Mullinew, Thomas, W & I.
- [torn, date missing] Mullinex, Francis, W.
- 1727. Morris, Jane, nun. W.
- 1727. Massey, Shusannah, W.
- 1729. Morris, Grissel, W.
- 1730. Millington, Edwd., A.
- 1732. Moss, Jno., W.
- 1733. Meyrick, Sarah, W.
- 1737. Matthews, Joseph, A & W.
- 1737. " Richd., W.
- 1742. Moody, Margt., A.
- 1749. Moor, George, A.
- 1749. Mason, Richd., A.
- 1772. Moody, Wm., W.
- 1777. Mill, Elizth., W.
- 1787. Marsh, Wm., W.
- 1799. Meate, Geo., W.
- 1802. Marsh, David, W.
- 1832. Massey, Deborah, W.
- 1840. Mathars, Thos., W.
- 1841. Marsh, Richd., W.
- 1842. Manford, John, W.
- 1844. Marsh, Richd., W.
- 1845. Mercer, Wm., W.
- 1845. Marsh, Mary, W.
- 1851. Mercer, Sarah, W.
- 1856. Matthews, John, W.

N.

1684. Neild, Edward, W.
 1712. Nash, William, W.
 1717. Nash, Sarah, W.
 1729. Newnes, Thos., A.
 1730. Newnes, John, A.
 1740. Nevitt, Edward, W.
 1803. Nash, Richd., W.
 1813. Noneley, Mary, W.

O.

1670. Owen, Edward, W.
 1694. Ottiwell, Joseph, W.
 1701. Ottiwell, Joseph, W.
 1726. Oulton, Frances, A.
 1728. Owen, John, A.
 1729. Ottiwell, Rev. John, W.
 1731. Ottiwell, Sarah, W.
 1765. Owens, Eliz., W.
 1768. Owen, Elizth., W.
 1780. Owen, John, W.
 1801. Owens, John, W.
 1808. Owens, Wm., W.
 1820. Owens, Ann, W.

P.

1671. Poole, John, nuncup. W.
 1680. Powell, Roger, W & I.
 1680. Phillips, Thomas, W & I.
 1684. " Edward, W & I.
 1667. Peirce, Wm., W.
 1686. Padge, Robt., W.
 1689. Probart, Wm., W.
 1690. Pitchford, Arthur, depositions.
 1690. " Arthur, W.
 1690. Parbott, John, W.
 1691. Price, Thos., W.
 1692. Phillips, Edw., W.
 1695. Powell, Peter, A.
 1700. Price, O., W.
 1705. Prichard, ap, Francis, W.
 1706. Powis, John, W.
 1712. Probart, Elinor, W.
 1714. Parry, Roger, W.
 1716. Price, Mary, W.
 1717. Phillippis, Edwd., W.
 1718. Peirce, Wm., W.
 1718. Powell, John, W.
 1721. Phillips, Barkley, A.
 1725. Price, Wm., A.
 1725. Powell, Elizabeth, W.
 1727. " Elizabeth, A.
 1727. " Wm., W.
 1727. Phillips, Edwd., W.
 1728. Pay, John, W.
 1729. Price, Thos., W.
 1729. Phillips, John, A.
 1729. Parrey, Mary, A.
 1730. Pardoe, Phillip, W.

- 1730-I. Price, Paul, A.
 1732. Poole, Thos., W.
 1732. Price, Edwd., W.
 1733. Price, Dorothy, A.
 1733. Powell, Elinor, W.
 1736. Povall, Esther, W.
 1736. Phillips, John, A.
 1736. Phithion, John, A.
 1736. Phillips, Eliz., W.
 1737. Powells, Richd., A.
 1739. Peirce, John, W.
 1739. Price, John, W.
 1739. Pursell, Richd., W.
 1739. Phillips, Elinor, W.
 1740. Pay, Arthur, W.
 1740. Prynolt, Esther, W.
 1741. Peploe, Thos., nun. W.
 1744. Phillips, Saml., W.
 1758. " Jane, W.
 1762. Powell, Wm., A.
 1764. Pay, Richd., W.
 1767. Platt, Jos., A.
 1768. Pay, Mary, I.
 1772. Perrott, Robt., W.
 1779. " Robt, W.
 1781. Parry, Thos., I.
 1781. Pugh, Josh, W.
 1784. Purney, Saml., W.
 1786. Phillips, Thos., W.
 1789. Price, John, W.
 1826. Phillips, Anne, A.
 1830. Pate, Mary, W.
 1836. Price, Richd., W.
 1846. Peever, John, W.
 1850. Pearce, Thos., W.
 1852. Parker, Ann, W.
 1854. Peate, John, W.
 1856. Price, Hannah, W.

R.

1630. Roberts, Thos., W.
 1673. " W., W.
 1685. Reynolds, Richd., W.
 1689. Roberts, Mary, W.
 1700. Rainsham, Alice, W.
 1707. Raphs, Robt., W.
 1714. Richards, Thos., W.
 1722. Rogers, Thos., A.
 1727. Richards, Thos., W.
 1727. " Edwd., W.
 1727. Reynolds, Frans., A.
 1730. Roberts, Richd., W.
 1730. Reynolds, Saml., A.
 1730. Richards, Mary, W.
 1730. Roberts, John, A.
 1731. Reynolds, Anthony, A.
 1732. Roberts, John, A.
 1732. Richards, Thos., A.
 1733. Rogers, Edwd., A.

- 1740. Reynolds, John, W.
- 1741. Rode, John, W.
- 1742. Richards, Edwd., W.
- 1742. Reynolds, Richd., W.
- 1746. Roper, Alice, W.
- 1746. Richards, Wm., W.
- 1747. Rogers, Nathl., A.
- 1762. Reynolds, Dorothy, W.
- 1769. Richards, Wm., W.
- 1777. Reeves, John, W.
- 1778. Reynolds, Soln., W.
- 1783. Rogers, Thos., W.
- 1810. Reeves, Saml., A.
- 1829. Reeves, Margt., W.
- 1832. Rodes, Thos., W.
- 1834. Rogers, Richd., A.
- 1839. Roberts, Ellis, A.
- 1847. Richards, James, A.
- 1851. Reynolds, Edwd., W.

S.

- 1668. Smith, John, W.
- 1680. Salisbury, John, W.
- 1691. Swanwick, John, W.
- 1691. Smallman, John, W.
- 1694. Sherwood, Thos., W.
- 1702. Smith, Francis, W.
- 1708. Sadler, Mary, W.
- 1711. Salusbury, Judith, W.
- 1715. Salusbury, (outside only).
- 1717. Smith, Mary, W.
- 1720. Stoakes, Thos., W.
- 1724. Sherwood, Thos., W.
- 1727. Salusbury, Mary, W.
- 1728. Stoakes, George, A.
- 1729. Shone, Mary, A.
- 1730. Steele, John, A.
- 1734. Stoakes, William, A.
- 1734. Smith, John, W.
- 1737. Sharratt, Robt., W.
- 1737. Swanwick, Wm., W.
- 1738. " Humphrey, W.
- 1738. Smith, John, A.
- 1739. Salusbury, Judith, W.
- 1739. Shone, Ebenezer, A.
- 1747. Smith, Francis, W.
- 1747. Smith, George, W.
- 1756. Shone otherwise Jones, Thos., W.
- 1757. Stoakes, Elizth., W.
- 1760. Stoaks, Thos., I.
- 1769. Simcock, Martha, W.
- 1780. Stant, Martha, W.
- 1809. Stoakes, Edwd., W.
- 1821. Shone, Sarah, W.
- 1824. Simpson, Edwd., W.
- 1833. Stocker, Edwd., W.
- 1835. Stokes, Joseph, Codl.
- 1838. Strange, Wm., W.
- 1840. Stokes, Joseph, W.
- 1841. Simpson, Eliz., W.
- 1847. Smith, Francis, W.
- 1851. Smith, Joseph, W.
- 1857. Stokes, Edwd., W.

T.

- 1671. Tylor, John [Wm. *in pencil*], W.
- 1683. Taylor, John, W.
- 1684. Thomas, Mauris, W & I.
- 1685. Taylor, John, W.
- 1694. Tunor, John, W.
- 1699. Trevor, Edward, W.
- 1708. Thurgood, Wm., W.
- 1710. Thomas, Chas., W.
- 1712. " Edwd., W.
- 1712. Togan, Edwrad, W.
- 1716. Thomas, John, W.
- 1717. " Robt., W.
- 1717. Trevor, John, W.
- 1721. Townsend, Thos., W.
- 1723. Throp, Wm., W.
- 1727. Tyddey, Thos., W.
- 1727. Trap, Ann, A.
- 1730. Tunnah, Francis, A.
- 1732. Teggins, Francis, A.
- 1735. Tomkiss, Edwd., W.
- 1736. Towers, Matthew, W.
- 1736. Turner, John, W.
- 1756. Thomas, Edwd., A.
- 1759. Thomas, Richd., W.
- 1759. Tomkiss, Thos., A.
- 1760. " Mary, W.
- 1761. Tomkins, Jane, nun. W.
- 1761. " Jane, A.
- 1769. Tourner, Mary, W.
- 1772. Tylsley, John, W.
- 1777. Tudor, Thos., A.
- 1778. Thomas, Walter, W.
- 1778. Taylor, Thos., W.
- 1799. Tompson, Elizth., W.
- 1803. Thompson, Thos., W.
- 1832. Tinsley, Joseph, W.
- 1841. Taylor, Thos., W.
- 1842. Townsend, Thos., W.
- 1845. Turner, Rev. Thos., W.
- 1846. Turner, Ellen, A.

U.

- 1823. Urion, Chas., W.
- 1828. Urion, Mary, W.

V.

- 1686. Vaughan, Phillip, W.
- 1732. Vaughan, John, A.
- 1825. Vaughan, Thos., W.

W.

1658. Williams, Thos., W.
 1665. Wynne, Isabel, W.
 1668. Widdowes, Samuel, W.
 1676. Wenlock, Richd., W.
 1679. Wycherley, Margt., W.
 1680. Weaver, Wm., W.
 1683. Warburton, John, W.
 1686. Wilson, John, nun, W.
 1687. Wolfe, Francis, W.
 1691. Weaver, Thos., I.
 1691. Winnington, Francis, W.
 1692. Warburton, Edwd., W.
 1692. " Edwd., I.
 1700. Williams, Thos., W.
 1703. Whetthall, Edwd., W.
 1707. Warburton, Richd., W.
 1708. Wright, Jane, W.
 1712. Wenlock, John, W.
 1713. Warburton, John, W.
 1719. Williams, Eliza, W.
 1721. " Mat., W.
 1721. " Mat., I.
 1723. Webb, Elinor, W.
 1724. Weaver, Wm., W.
 1728. Whorwood, John, A.
 1728. Williams, Edwd., A.
 1729. Whettall, Wm., I.
 1729. Wilson, Jane, W.
 1729. Williams, Edwd., W.
 1729. Wykey, John, A.
 1729. Williams, John, A.
 1732. Wood, Thos., W.
 1732. Wilson, Wm., W.
 1732. " Elizth., W.
 1733. Willson, Wm., W.
 1733. White, Edwd., W.
 1735. Willson, Wm., A.
 1736. Wikey, Roger, A.

1742. Whorwood, John, W.
 1742. Whilton, Robt., W.
 1744. Wenlock, Thos., W.
 1758. " Wm., A.
 1763. " Thos., I.
 1765. Warburton, Edwd., A.
 1765. Windson, Edwd., W.
 1767. Wood, John, W.
 1773. Wilkinson, Andw., W.
 1776. Wynn, John, W.
 1777. Wood, Edward, W.
 1777. " Eliz., W.
 1777. " Edwd., I.
 1779. " Robt., A.
 1780. Wall, Jos., W.
 1781. Whettall, Mary, W.
 1790. Whettall, Richd., W.
 1805. Wilkinson, John, W.
 1807. " Anne, W.
 1819. Whitfield, Richd., W.
 1824. Williams, Robt., A.
 1828. Wenlock, Thos., W.
 1829. Wilkinson, Edwd., W.
 1829. Windsor, John, A.
 1830. " George, W.
 1831. Wilkinson, And., W.
 1835. Windsor, Francis, W.
 1838. Williams, Mary, A.
 1843. Windsor, Thos., A.
 1844. Wall, John, W.
 1845. Wilkinson, Sarah, A.
 1848. Whitfield, Wm., W.
 1851. Williams, John, W.
 1854. Windsor, Jane, W.
 1856. Williams, Thos., W.

Y.

1744. Yearly, Mary, W.
 1836. Young, Frances Mary, W.

[The foregoing alphabetical Calendar of the Ellesmere Wills is copied from pages 30 to 54 of the Ellesmere Manorial Court Book, marked in pencil "Volume II."]

The Twenty Wills and Administrations, from 1842 to 1845 which follow, are entered in full in pages 1 to 27 of this Book. It contains also Index to Prees Grants pages 55 to 74, and Manor of Tyrley pages 77 to 82.

There is also a Register Book which contains copies of all Wills proved in the Ellesmere Manorial Court from 1734 to 1841. The original Wills are tied up in bundles.]

ELLESMERE MANORIAL COURT.

1842. Wm. Hayward, labr., Ridge, psh. of Ellesmere, W.
 Thomas Townsend, innkeeper, Cockshutt, W.
 " John Manford, farmer, Dudliston, W.
 " Thos. Hughes, contractor, Coachman's Bridge, Tetchill, A.
 " John Dudleston the elder, yeoman, Dudleston Heath, W.
 " Thomas Arthern, yeoman, Penley, co. Flint, W. [*eras:d*]
 " Francis Lee, farmer, Tetchill, W.
 1843. Edward Clay, blacksmith, Ellesmere, A.
 " Thos. Windsor, farmer, Hamptons Wood, A.
 " Sarah Ealey, widow, Ellesmere, W.
 " Robt. James, shoemaker, Sandy Lane, A.
 1844. John Wall, farmer, Pleasant Grove, W.
 " Richard Marsh, yeoman, Crosemere, W.
 1845. Thos. Byollin, Hamptons Wood, A.
 " Ann Kynaston, Hampton Bank, A.
 " Wm. Mercer, innkeeper, the Eatchieys, Lineal, W.
 " Sarah Wilkinson, Whettall, A.
 " Arthur Crump, the younger, of Perth, W.
 " Thos. Turner, clerk, Worthenbury, co. Flint, W.
 " Mary Marsh, widow, Ellesmere, W.

[The following Wills and Administrations are all entered in the Ellesmere Manorial Court Book. The same person was lord of the three Manors of Ellesmere, Hampton and Colemere, and Lineal. The dates are those of the Courts at which the Will was proved; the number refers to the page of the Court Book. Many of the Hampton and Colemere, and Lineal Wills, especially after 1786, were proved at the Ellesmere Court, and not at a special Court held for these Manors, and are entered in the Ellesmere list.]

HAMPTON AND COLEMEARE MANORIAL COURT.

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1734.	July 5.	Stoakes, William, yeoman	A. 1
"	July 5.	Langford, Edward, yeoman	A. 1
"	Nov. 29.	Lee, Richard, yeoman	A. 8
1736.	Dec. 2.	Wikey, Roger, yeoman	A. 17
1737.	July 21.	Evans, Joanna, widow	W. 29
1739.	Dec. 20.	Jones <i>alias</i> Shone, Thomas, yeoman	A. 47
"	Mar. 13.	Shone, Ebenezer	A. 48
1740.	Dec. 4.	Brown, Humphrey, of the Fields, gent.	W. 53
1741.	June 18.	Lewis, Thomas, yeoman	A. 56
"	Dec. 3.	Lunt, Randle, yeoman	A. 59
"	Dec. 3.	Hope, William, yeoman	A. 60
1743.	May 12.	Bateman, Elizabeth, Welsh Hampton, wd. W.	63
1754.	June 6.	Lewis, John, Welsh Hampton, yeoman,	
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1746.	April 17.	Lewis, Alice, Bradenheath, Welsh Hampton W.	76
1747.	Sept. 3.	Davies, John	W. 81
1749.	May 4.	Burroughs, Mary, widow	A. 87
1749.	Feb. 1.	Evans, Samuel	W. 89
1750.	Aug. 30.	Adams, Nathaniel, yeoman	A. 90
1751.	Sept. 12.	Turner, Richard, yeoman	A. 92

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1751.	Oct. 3.	Tunnah, Magdalen, widow	A. 92
1753.	Nov. 29.	Leigh, John, Hampton Wood, yeoman	W. 96
1758.	Mar. 3.	Cartwright, Mary, widow	W. 106
1759.	Mar. 30.	Thomas, Richard, weaver	W. 112
1760.	Mar. 11.	Evans, William, Welshampton	W. 114
1761.	July 7.	Wenlock, Thomas, yeoman	A. 122
1762.	July 4.	Coffin, Arthur, Welshampton	W. 133
1765.	April 23.	Owen, Elizabeth, Welsh Hampton, sp.	W. 139
1766.	June 17.	Evans, Samuel, yeoman	A. 143
1767.	June 18.	Holbrooke, John, Breadenheath	W. 157
1772.	Feb. 18.	Tylesley, John, Hampton Bank	W. 165
"	Dec. 8.	Moody, William, yeoman	W. 167
1774.	Sept. 6.	Edwards, Mary	W. 175
1778.	June 9.	Bates, Jone, widow	W. 185
1784.	April 6.	Turney, Samuel, yeoman	W. 205
1786.	Nov. 6.	Phillips, Thomas, yeoman	W. 208
1841.	Aug. 10.	Bate, William, Pikes End, farmer	W. 386
1845.		Hughes, Anne, Welch Hampton, widow	A. 22

[This last Administration is entered in the later Ellesmere Court Book.]

MANOR OF LYNEALL.

1738.	June 1.	Smith, John, yeoman	A. 37
1740.	April 24	Clay, Margaret, widow	A. 49
1746.	Aug. 1.	Richards, William, yeoman	W. 77
1767.	Feb. 3.	Kerry, Elesabath, widow	W. 146
1769.	Mar. 21.	Mason, Richard, yeoman	A. 153
1773.	June 1.	Wilkinson, Andrew, yeoman	W. 172
1782.	April 23.	Edwards, Elizabeth, widow	W. 201
1788.	Nov. 6.	Heley, John, blacksmith	W. 212
1801.	July 3.	Bright, John, farmer	W. 220

INDEX TO PREES GRANTS.

[The Prees Wills and Administrations are entered at pages 55 to 74 of the Ellesmere Manorial Court Book.]

A.

1712. Aston, Joseph, W.
 1722. Adderton, Saml., App.
 1802. Arkinstall, Matthew, A.
 1803. Ash, Wm., W.

B.

1698. Burrey, Arthur, W.
 1703. Bostock, Richd., A.
 1703. Bennett, Edwd., A.
 1706. Benion, John, A.
 1708. Brockton, John, W.
 1708. Brookes, George, W.
 1709. Batteridge, John, W.
 1710. Batterbeay, Anne, W.
 1711. Bowers, John, W.
 1711. Bishop, John, W.
 1712. Brittain, John, A.
 1712. Brooke, John, A.
 1713. Baugh, John, W.

1713. Broster, Wm., A.
 1713. Bellingham, Robt., A.
 1715. Brookes, Mary, W.
 1715. Bostock, Nathaniel, W.
 1716. Bate, Willm., A.
 1717. Bowers, Roger, A.
 1719. Brookes, Thos., W.
 1719. Batteridge, Francis, W.
 1720. Broston, John, A.
 1720. Brookes, Willm., A.
 1720. Bennion, Wm., W.
 1722. Bate, Adam, W.
 1723. Bate, Wm., W.
 1724. Benbow, Mary, A. & W.
 1726. Benyon, Rebecca, W.
 1726. Bate, Thos., W.
 1728. Bristow, John, W.
 1728. Bate, Mary, A.
 1729. Brookes, Robt., A.
 1729. Baugh, Thos., A.
 1729. Baugh, John, A.

1729. Broughton, Andrew, A.
 1729. Batteridge, Mary, W.
 1729. " John, A.
 1731. Brookes, Thos., A.
 1731. Berkley, John, A.
 1731. Baugh, Elizabeth, A.
 1734. Buckeridge, Ralph, W.
 1734. Brockton, John, A.
 1734. Borroughs, Wm., A.
 1743. Barnett, Wm., W.
 1745. Bennett, John, W.
 1748. Bate, Thos., W.
 1751. Bellingham, Robt., W.
 1752. Brookes, Wm., W.
 1752. Broughton, Andrew, W.
 1752. Boughhey, Joseph, A. & W.
 1757. Bentley, John, A.
 1757. Bloor, Thos. } A.
 1766. Batho, Wm. } A.
 1761. Bourne, John, W.
 1766. Baugh, Saml., W.
 1770. Blakeway, Esther, A.
 1772. Broughton, Thos., W.
 1772. Byollin, Benjn., W.
 1773. Birch, Martha, Letter
 1779. Ball, Robt., A.
 1781. Buckley, Margt., A.
 1782. Bradshaw, Saml., W.
 1794. Ball, Anne, W.
 1797. Baul, Beatrice, W.
 1803. Booth, John, W.
 1805. Batho, Margt., W.
 1806. Bostock, Sarah, W.
 1806. Boughhey, Joseph, A.
 1808. Burrowes, Thos., W.
 1821. Benbow, Jane, W.
 1824. Broughton, Thos., A.
 1827. Brown, John, W.
 1832. Bradshaw, Elizth., W.
 1838. Bateman, Richd., A.
 1840. Batho, Wm., A.
 1850. Bennett, Joseph, W.
 1854. Boyd, Allen, W.

C.

1703. Chidlow, Edwd., W.
 1705. Craddock, James, A.
 1706. Corser, George, W.
 1708. Catherock, Susannah, W.
 1709. Calcott, Arthur, W.
 1712. Chaddock, Martha, A.
 1713. Cureton, Robt., A.
 1713. Colley, Arthur, W.
 1713. Cureton, Wm., W.
 1713. Cox, Anne, W.
 1715. Clawley, Richd., A.
 1718. Chatterton, Thos., W.
 1729. Corser, John, W.
 1729. Corser, Catherine, A.

1731. Cook, Thos., A. & W.
 1733. Clows, John, W.
 1733. Colley, Charles, W.
 1739. Cotton, John, W.
 1746. " Wm., A.
 1748. Chatterton, Edwd., A.
 1751. Clorley, Wm., W.
 1751. Chester, John, W.
 1752. Cotton, Anne, W.
 1752. Colley, Charles, A.
 1757. Croxson, Cornelius
 1759. Cotton, Elinor, W.
 1760. Challoner, John, W.
 1760. Chidlow, Thos., A.
 1761. Challoner, Mary, A.
 1766. Cook, Thos., W.
 1767. Chidloe, John, W.
 1767. " Anne, A.
 1773. Chidlow, John, W.
 1793. " Richd., W.
 1794. Chester, John, W.
 1795. Craven, Wm., W.
 1799. Colley, Chas., A. & W.
 1800. Cureton, Chapman, W.
 1806. Clorley, Elizth., W.
 1808. Cook, Saml., W.
 1809. Clorley, Richd., W.
 1812. Chatterton, Wm., W.
 1816. Chidlow, Susan, W.
 1817. Craven, Thos., A.
 1818. Chidlow, Martha, A.
 1820. Challenor, Thos., A.
 1828. Cooke, Richd., A.
 1832. Churton, Thos., W.
 1836. Cook, Joseph, W.
 1844. Chetwood, John, W.

" Court Rolls. Bundle of—with Ellesmere Wills."

D.

1701. Downes, David, W.
 1711. Dodd, Wm., A.
 1715. Dullison, Allen, A.
 1719. Dodd, Magdaline, A.
 1722. Downes, George, W.
 1723. Downton, Wm., W.
 1725. " Margt., A.
 1728. Dickin, Arthur, W.
 1729. Dudleston, Peter, W.
 1729. " Margt., W.
 1729. Downward, Richd., A.
 1734. Dickin, John, W.
 1742. Dudleston, Edwd., A.
 1742. Darlington, John, A.
 1758. " Katharine, W.
 1760. Dudleston, Richd. W.
 1761. Dudleston, Penelope, A. & W.
 1763. Darlington, Thos., W.
 1767. Dutton, Thos., W.

1779. Dickin, Rowland, W.
1781. " Wm., W.
1790. Davis, John, W.
1815. Drury, John, W.
1821. Dulson, Mary, W.
1824. Dulson, Robt., W.
1826. Dale, Wm., W.
1827. Dickin, Elizth., A.
1829. Downton, Saml., A.
1831. Dulson, Robt., D. P.
1832. Dodd, George, A.
1833. Done, Saml., W.
1837. Dickin, Rowland, W.
1856. Dickin, Joseph, W.

E.

1718. Edgerton, Mary, W.
1723. Evans, Richd., W.
1733. Evanson, John, W.
1736. Evans, Thos., W.
1754. Edwards, John, W.
1761. Evans, Francis, A.
1763. Edge, John, A.
1764. Evanson, Edwd., W.
1766. Edge, Thos., W.
1766. Evans, Francis, A. de bo. non.
1791. Eaton, John, W.
1818. Evans, John, A.
1824. Eaton, John, W.
1829. Ellis, Robt., W.
1836. Edge, Richd., W.
1839. Ecclestone, James, W.
1851. " John, W.
1857. Evanson, Joseph, W.

F.

1700. Fowler, John, W.
1725. Furber, Robt., W.
1726. Follows, George, A.
1729. Furber, Sarah, A.
1734. " Robt., W.
1737. Forbes, Anne, W.
1740. Furnstone, Margt., A.
1742. Furber, Thos., A.
1742. " George, A.
1742. Farrol, John, A.
1757. Furber, Margt., A.
1761. Forgham, Jno., W.
1763. Fallows, Thos., A.
1796. Forgham, James, W.
1801. Fleetwood, Anne, W.
1803. Forrester, Chas., W.
1803. Fleet, Randle, W.
1808. Furber, Jonathan, W.
1820. Furber, Sarah, W.
1823. Forrester, Wm., W.
1833. Forristar, Thos., W.
1842. Ford, Elizth., W.

G.

1699. Gough, Willm., A.
1703. Groom, Wm., W.
1703. Gadd, Margt., A.
1706. Gamble, John, A.
1713. Gregory, John, A.
1718. Gamble, Elizth., W.
1719. " Thos., W.
1720. Gadd, John, W.
1720. Gregory, Jane, W.
1723. Glanham, Thos., A.
1723. Gollins, Joseph, A.
1729. Glanam, Wm., A.
1733. Gamble, Ambrose, W.
1739. Griffiths, Joseph, A.
1742. Gregory, Joseph, A.
1743. Griffiths, Wm., W.
1749. Gregory, Elizth., W.
1751. Gamble, Magdalen, W.
1751. Gollins, Saml., W.
1754. Gilbert, Richd., W.
1755. Gregory, Hannah, W.
1760. Groom, Richd., A.
1760. Groom, John, W.
1763. Glanham, Matthew, W.
1764. Gadd, John, W.
1767. Gamwell, John, W.
1800. Groom, Thos., W.
1804. Glassey, Wm., W.
1810. Gregory, Robt., W.
1812. Grindley, Mary, W.
1815. Gregory, Sarah, W.
1816. Gollins, Arthur, W.
1818. Gamwell, Chas., W.
1821. Gough, Mary, A.
1827. Gregory, Paul, A.
1839. " Hannah, A.
1856. Gilbert, Mary, A.
1863. Gwynne, Mary, A.

H.

1700. Hayward, Richd., A.
1700. Husbands, Mary, A.
1703. Higginson, Jane, W.
1704. " Mary, W.
1704. Hamlet, Thos., A.
1706. Hand, Robt., W.
1708. Higginson, Mary, A.
1712. Hamlet, Jane, A.
1712. Higgins, Obadiah, W.
1712. " Margt., A.
1713. Halchett, Walter, A.
1716. Hayward, Henry, A.
1718. Hand, John, A.
1720. Haywood, Mary, A.
1720. Horton, John, W.
1723. Hill, Thos., A.
1725. Holding, John, A.
1726. Hand, John, A.
1731. Hussey, Thos., W.

1733. Harrison, Richd., A.
 1736. Hayes, John, W.
 1736. Higgins, Thos., A.
 1737. Hamlet, Sarah, W.
 1737. Hayes, John, W.
 1739. Hayward, Matthew, A.
 1742. Holding, Allen, W.
 1743. Hughes, John, A.
 1745. Hand, Elizth., W.
 1746. Hayes, Magdalen, W.
 1746. " Wm., A.
 1746. Higginson, John, A.
 1752. Hussey, Richd., A.
 1755. Heath, Wm., A.
 1755. " John, A.
 1757. Holding, Mary, A.
 1757. Hopkins, Wm., A.
 1760. Heath, Robt., A.
 1769. Hopkins, Rebecca, W.
 1773. Hand, Martha, W.
 1781. Hawthorn, John, W.
 1782. Harrison, Thos., W.
 1784. Harper, George, A.
 1787. Hassall, Isaac, W.
 1787. Harper, Arthur, W.
 1796. " Richd., W.
 1806. Higginson, Robt., W.
 1806. Holding, Danl., W.
 1809. Heath, Richd., W.
 1811. Huntbach, Andrew, W.
 1812. Holding, Arthur, W.
 1812. Humphries, John, W.
 1814. Handley, John, W.
 1815. Houlding, Richd., W.
 1817. Hill, Thos., W.
 1818. Hughes, Sarah, W.
 1820. Hassall, Elizth., A. & W.
 1822. Hill, John, A.
 1823. Hopwood, Joseph, W.
 1823. Hill, John, A.
 1827. Hampson, Sarah, A.
 1828. Harper, George, W.
 1829. Hamnett, Saml., A.
 1832. Harding, Wm., W.
 1835. Hatton, Ann, W.
 1837. Houlding, John, W.
 1838. Hand, Chas., W.
 1839. Hughes, Edwd., A.
 1841. Hales, Philip, W.
 1842. Heath, Thos., W.
 1848. Humphries, George, W.
 1851. Hodgskin, Thos., A.
 1854. Huckley, John, W.
 1854. Hudson, Wm., W.
 1857. Hanmer, Joseph, A.

I.

1705. Ikin, Arthur, W.
 1706. Ison, John, A.
 1761. Ikin, Diana, W.

1765. Ikin, Ann, W.
 1793. Ikin, Obadiah, W.
 1810. Ikin, John, W.

J.

1700. Jones, Thos., A.
 1701. Juson, George, W.
 1703. Jones, Timothy, W.
 1704. " Mary, W.
 1708. Jenkes, Edwd., I.
 1709. Jennings, Wm., W.
 1709. Jackson, Abigail, A.
 1722. Jones, Robt., A.
 1725. " Bridget, A.
 1725. " Dorothy, A.
 1729. Jebb, Margt., A.
 1729. Jones, Chas., A.
 1743. " Joseph, A.
 1745. Jackson, Saml., W.
 1746. Jennings, Wm., W.
 1748. Jennins, Ann, A.
 1755. Jones, Wm., A.
 1769. " John, A.
 1769. Jebb, George, W.
 1770. Jones, John, A.
 1770. Jebb, Saml., W.
 1771. " Humphrey, A.
 1785. Jenkinson, Thos., A.
 1793. Jackson, Wm., A.
 1803. Jebb, Wright, W.
 1806. " Saml., W.
 1808. Jenkinson, Thos., W.
 1811. Jackson, Mary, A.
 1812. Jones, Saml., W.
 1812. Jones, James, W.
 1823. Jebb, Elizth., W.
 1829. Jenkins, Thos., W.
 1844. Johnson, Thos., A.
 1853. Jones, Richd., W.
 1856. Jarvis, Wm., W.

K.

1704. Key, Ruth, A. & W.
 1723. Kettel, Cathrine, A.
 1728. Key, John, W.
 1731. " Anne, W.
 1737. " John, W.
 1779. Kent, George, W.
 1848. Kershaw, Wm., A.
 1848. Keay, Randal, W.
 1855. Keay, John, W.

L.

1701. Loffield, Thos., W.
 1706. Lee, John, W.
 1709. Loffield, Sarah, A.
 1713. Lister, George, A.
 1714. Langford, Hellenor, W.
 1723. Laurence, Edwd., W.

- 1729. Lewis, Sarah, W.
- 1745. Lister, Arthur, W.
- 1758. Lee, Richd., A. & W.
- 1764. Lewnes, Thos., A.
- 1788. Lloyd, Sarah, W.
- 1818. Lownds, Elizth., A. & W.
- 1826. Long, Enoch, A.
- 1835. Lyth, John, W.
- 1836. Lloyd, John, W.

M.

- 1698. Maddox, Ralph, W.
- 1700. Morgan, John, A.
- 1701. Morris, Margery, A.
- 1705. Morgan, Mary, W.
- 1701. Moreton, Thos., W.
- 1716. Morgan, John, W.
- 1718. Millington, Mary, A.
- 1719. Morrey, Saml., W.
- 1719. Moody, Wm., A.
- 1722. Mason, Chas., W.
- 1723. Morgan, Joannah, W.
- 1723. Moore, John, A.
- 1726. Moody, John, W.
- 1729. Maddox, Arthur, W.
- 1734. Micklewright, Robt., A.
- 1740. Minshall, Thos., W.
- 1746. Morris, Wm., A. & W.
- 1749. Morgan, John, W.
- 1754. Moreton, Saml., A.
- 1758. Morris, Saml., W.
- 1763. Momford, Chas., A.
- 1769. Millington, Mary, A.
- 1781. Minshall, Nathaniel, A. & W.
- 1796. Morris, Luke, W.
- 1797. Machin, Anne, W.
- 1797. Machin, George, W.
- 1802. Micklewright, John, W.
- 1809. Moss, Thos., W.
- 1811. Moreton, Ann, A.
- 1812. Maddox, Thos., A.
- 1814. Morgan, John, A.
- 1815. Massey, Joseph, W.
- 1817. Maddox, John, W.
- 1821. Mulliner, Jacob, W.
- 1823. " Thos., W.
- 1824. Minshall, Nathaniel, A.
- 1827. Morris, Chas., A.
- 1827. Massie, Thomas, W.
- 1833. Machin, Thos., A.
- 1833. Madeley, Rice, A.
- 1836. Morris, Edwd., W.
- 1848. Maddox, Wm., W.

N.

- 1752. Nevett, James, W.
- 1758. Naylor, George, W.

O.

- 1716. Ottnell, Saml., W.
- 1718. Owen, Robt., W.
- 1718. Ottnell, Elizth, W.
- 1729. Ousley, George, A.
- 1729. " Thos., A.
- 1731. Ottnell, Saml., A.
- 1742. Ousley, Chas, W.
- 1761. Ore, Rowland, W.
- 1770. " Peter, A.
- 1773. Oakley, George, W.
- 1784. Overton, Sarah, W.
- 1793. Ore, George, W.
- 1799. Ousley, George, W.
- 1799. Ore, Mary, A.
- 1800. " John, A.
- 1803. " Martha, A.
- 1805. Ousley, George, W.
- 1820. Ousley, Charles, W.
- 1822. Overton, Mary, A.
- 1832. " Saml., A.
- 1843. " Charles, A.
- 1849. Oakley, Edwd., W.

P.

- 1698. Pace, Joseph, A.
- 1699. Porter, Wm., A.
- 1705. Pye, Wm., A.
- 1706. Peircival, Thos., W.
- 1708. Phillips, David, W.
- 1711. Perkin, John, W.
- 1713. Pace, Richd., A.
- 1720. Pye, Cornelius, A.
- 1722. Porter, Arthur, W.
- 1725. Ponson, Thos., W.
- 1726. Peacock, John A.
- 1726. Peircifull, Thos., A.
- 1726. Povey, Wm., W.
- 1733. Percivall, Catherine, W.
- 1734. Porter, Stephen, W.
- 1734. Percivall, Arthur, A.
- 1737. Pool, Elizth., W.
- 1739. Pace, Richd., W.
- 1739. Pearse, Richd., W.
- 1740. Phillips, Richd., A.
- 1742. Percivall, Sarah, W.
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 1817. " Hannah, W.
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 1845. Parsons, Robt., A.
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 1854. Powell, Joseph, W.

R.

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 1725. Roden, Thos., W.
 1729. Roaden, Wm., A.
 1737. Rodenhurst, Joseph, W.
 1737. Roe, Wm., W.
 1740. Roe, Wm., A.
 1763. Rowe, Thos., A.
 1767. Robinson, Anne, A.
 1767. Ratcliffe, Mary, W.
 1768. Robinson, Thos., A.
 1779. Rhoden, Robt., W.
 1779. Roe, John, W.
 1808. Rodenhurst, Benjamin, W.
 1821. Ratcliffe, Thomas, W.
 1825. " Richd., W.
 1826. Ratcliff, John, W.
 1827. Roby, Richd., W.
 1829. Robinson, John, W.
 1830. Roby, Jane, A.
 1841. Ridgway, George, W.
 1850. Ruscoe, Sarah, A.
 1851. Ruscoe, John, A.
 1856. Ruscoe, John, W.

S.

1698. Simpson, Wm., A.
 1705. Sandford, John, W.
 1706. Starkey, John, W.
 1708. Simmons, Joseph, A.
 1709. Sandland, Francis, A.
 1709. " Eliza, A.
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 1808. Skitt, Wm., W.
 1811. Simonds, John, A.
 1812. Sandlands, Thos., W.
 1815. Symmons, Richd., W.
 1817. Swanwick, Margt., W.
 1818. Shingler, George, W.
 1821. Stokes, Chas., W.
 1824. Symmons, George, W.
 1824. Simpson, John, A. & W.
 1824. Symons, Hannah, W.
 1825. Sands, John, W.
 1826. Swanwick, John, A.
 1829. Sandland, Elizth., W.
 1830. Shore, Thos., A.
 1843. Smith John, W.
 1848. Sandland, Wm., W.
 1850. Skitt, Wm., A.
 1853. " Catherine, W.

T.

1700. Trim, George, W.
 1713. Turner, John, W.
 1720. Tomlinson, John, A.
 1728. Thomas, Wm., A.
 1728. Tydder, Margt., A.
 1729. Taylor, Saml., W.
 1729. Turner, Isabel, A.
 1729. Tagg, Richd., W.
 1731. Thomas, Hugh, A.
 1734. Tagg, Thos., A.
 1747. Tunnah, Edwd., A.
 1750. Trim, Abel, W.
 1763. Tagg, Cornelius, W.
 1772. Tilsley, John, W.
 1775. Thomason, George, W.
 1779. Tunnor, Edwd., W.
 1800. Trim, Abel, W.
 1800. " John, W.
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