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THE ANTIENTE COMPANY OF SMITHS
AND OTHERS COMMONLY CALLED
"HAMMERMEN," LUDLOW.

BY LLEWELLYN JONES.

KING EDWARD the IV., by his charter dated the 7th December, 1461, granted to the Burgesses of Ludlow, their Heirs and Successors for ever, "That they have in the Town or Borough aforesaid the Merchants' Guild with a Company (Gildam Mercatorum cum Hansa) and all other customs and liberties to the Guild aforesaid appertaining, and that no one who is not of that Guild shall use any Merchandize in the aforesaid Town or suburbs of the same unless by the Licence and Leave of the same Burgesses their Heirs and Successors."

Long before this date, however, in the days when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, or in other words, prior to the time of Richard I., the smiths, with 15 or 16 other allied trades, formed themselves into a trading fraternity, under the name of "smith and others," for mutual protection, benefit and support, and became in course of time a prescriptive corporation.

These old fraternities, or guilds, enjoyed great privileges. Tradesmen not enrolled in a Guild or Company were virtually debarred from following their calling within that town. As regards Ludlow it is laid down in an ordinance, made by Richard, Duke of York, the father of King Edward the IV., whilst Lord of the Castle of Ludlow, and confirmed by the 12 and 25, the then governing body of the town, "that no manner craft make no foreign Brother but it be a man of this same town dwelling and occupie the same Craft that

he is made brother of under payne of *xli.* so as it playnly apperth under the said Dukes seale and the Comon Seale of the Town to be forfit as ought times as it may be proved." This is the first positive indication that I can find of any Guild, except that of the Palmers, which was founded for religious and charitable purposes only, existing in Ludlow.

In many other places, where Charters creating Merchants' Guilds were granted, the Guilds became associated with the political and municipal history of the place, but it would appear to have been otherwise with the "Smiths" and other trading fraternities here, who were evidently satisfied with the clause forbidding traders not free of the guild to exercise their calling.

Towards the commencement of the 16th century, when numberless Guilds, or Fraternities, were springing up in various parts of the kingdom, the legislature found it necessary to pass several laws limiting and defining their powers. The most important of these was passed in 1503, and is the Act upon which all future Articles or Compositions are founded; after reciting that Masters, Wardens, and Peoples of Guilds, Fraternities, and other Companies Corporate, dwelling in divers parts of the Realm, oftentimes by colour of rule and governance to them granted had made among themselves many unlawful and unreasonable ordinances, it enacted that no Masters, Wardens, and Fellowships of Crafts or Mysteries, nor any of them, nor any Rulers of Guilds or Fraternities, take upon them to make any acts or ordinances, nor to execute any acts or ordinances by them heretofore made in Disheritance or Diminution of the prerogative of the King, nor of other, nor against the Common Profit of the People, but that the same Acts, &c., be approved by the Chancellor, Treasurer of England, or Chief Justices of either Benches, or three of them, or the Justices of Assize upon pain of forfeiture of *xli.* A few years afterwards this Act was supplemented by two others, because divers Masters, Wardens, and Fellowships had resolved that Apprentices should, at

their first entry, pay certain sums ranging from 3s. 4d. to 40s., and had also by "cautil and subtil" means caused divers prentices, immediately after their years be expired, or that they be made free of their occupation, to be sworn upon the Holy Evangelist that they would not set up or open any shop, &c., without the assent of the Master of their occupation, upon pain of forfeiting their freedom. Under these Acts the entrance fee of an apprentice was reduced to 2s. 6d., and the fee payable at the expiration of his apprenticeship to 3s. 4d., and any fellowship offending as above rendered itself liable to pay a fine of xlii.

In 1511 the ancient Company of Smiths, of which very little is known prior to this date, except that they used to meet in the South aisle of the parish church for the transaction of business, held pews there, and in 1470 contributed 6s. 8d. towards the expense of quarrying stone for repairing the Church, obtained from the Bailiffs and Council of the Town, under the powers conferred upon that body by the Charter of Edward the IV., the following Charter, which is engrossed on parchment, and, with the exception of the seals—4 only remaining out of about 25—is in a very fair state of preservation.

Vjto Die Maii aº scdº Regs Henrici Octavo.

To all treu Cristen people to whom thes p'sent Charters shall Com Robt tenche Thomas Cutler hmfhre goldsmythe Willªm Wele Thomas hunt Willªm hop' John Russell Thomas mordyford John Sadeler Thomas llose hmfh' deynos hmfh marsh Smythes John halfpeny Thomas Cupper morgan tyler Thomas tox tyler, Thomas meyrek tyler Griffithe smythe, Willªm tyler theldre Thomas sawier, Willªm tyler the yongªr, John cle tyler John Smythe John atks' Carpynt' and Richard Tyth'r Carpynt' masters of the crafts of smythes Iron mongers sadelers brasiers pewtrers sporyo's bukler makers brygand irons makers armerers masons Cardmakers and Coupers of the town of Ludlow senden gretynge in our lord god ev'lasting knowes ye us all and singuler masters of the Crafts afforesaid by our assent and by the auctorite and licence of the bayliffs and Counseille of the said town to have take uppon us the keepyng susteynyng and meyntenyng of the light yerely from hens-

forthe for ev' more in the hono' of all myghty god his blessed modre our lady seynt marie and seynte loye and all holy Company of hevyn in the Chauncelle of seynt loye forsaide w^t in the p' ishe Church of seynt laulace of ludlowe forsaide and to kepe and pere the same lights yerely about and affore the blessed sacrament on Corpus Xⁱ day and the Sondag next folowyng rev'ently in p' cession lyke as all other worthy Crafts of the said town have used to do accordyng the auncient and laudable custumes there hadde in tyme passed and for the due p'formacon hereof for ev' more by the said masters and ther successo's intyme Comyng and also for the obs' vyng and kepyng of thies ordin^{ances} undre writen the said masters and ev'ye . . . of them have geven a bodyly othe in the face of the p'ishe Church affore said ffyrste the said masters make and ordeyn for them self and ther successo's for ev'more that they shall electe and chose of them self vj of the most honest and saddest-men to be called by the name of ther vj men and ij Stewards to be called by the name of ther Stewards to ordre kepe and . . . the goods rev's emong them and the same vj men and ij Stewards so chosen to contynue from the day of ther elecon duryng the space of ij yeres next ensuyng and the said ij Stewards yerely to make a treu accompte of all such goods and Somes of money as shall Come to ther hands by reason of ther said office affore the said vj men in the name of all the hole feliship and masters affore said Itm it is ordeyned that ev'y mast^r that is deuly sompned and apperethe not uppon his sompnes shall forfeit to the said light at ev'y default half a pounce vex and that to be leveyd by the said Stewards for the tyme beyng Itm that ev'y mast^r that was p'ntise in the toune of Ludlowe to eny of the said occupacons shall be fre in the same feliship for vjs viij^d and he that was not p'ntise there shall pay for his fredome in the said occupacon xiijs iiij^d Itm if eny Jorneyman of eny of the said occupacons rebewke eny mast^r of the same then he to forfeit half a pounce vex to the said light as offte tymes as he so dothe offend.

Masters Ironmongers

Ric Down

Ric Dier wev

Will^m Nashe

Ric Bragot

The feast of Corpus Christi was instituted by Pope Urban IV. about the year 1263, and appointed to be held annually on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. From the time of its first introduction into this country, the celebration was accompanied by the exhibition of

pageants or plays, produced by the tradesmen and artizans of most importance in the city, where the festival was solemnized. In York, Chester, Hereford, and other places, the occasion was one of great pomp, but unfortunately, beyond the few words in the Charter, there is absolutely nothing to shew either among the papers of the Company, or the records of the Borough, the form of celebration here. It is evident, however, that the Charter was only granted conditionally upon the Fellowship assisting in the festival as fully as other worthy crafts had done, and looking at the importance of the town in those days, the near neighbourhood of the Castle, and the grandeur of the parish Church, it is not too much to assume that the festival would be solemnized with a splendour equal to a much larger place.

There would be the state procession of the Municipal Authorities—the Bailiffs, Aldermen, and Councillors—with the Town Clerk, Chamberlain, and other officials, carrying an appropriate number of torches: these would be followed by the Trade fraternities, with their Banners, Regalia, and so forth; the more wealthy perhaps exhibiting pageants or even Scripture plays, and all displaying banners depicting scenes of a religious character. At the head of the procession would march the priests and other ecclesiastics, bearing aloft the shrine, whilst inside the Church there would be nothing wanted, we may be sure, to enhance the solemnity of the occasion. The houses of the principal inhabitants would be decorated, and the route of the procession would be marked by crowds of eager sight-seers. Should the Lord of the Castle, with his retainers, grace the scene, it follows that the magnificence of the proceedings would be considerably heightened.

This festival was abolished by an Act of Parliament, passed in the first year of the reign of King Edward VI. Although the fellowship or occupation of smythes and others obtained this Charter in the year 1511, I can find no record of proceedings before 1539: when,

amongst a number of orders, certain alterations were made in the election of Stewards, and the fees payable by masters on their admission :—

Ffyrst yt is condescended concluded and agreed for the chosyng of Stewards that the vj men shall chooce the one and the bodye of the felowship the other as they shall thinke most meete for the honestye of the sayd felowshipp and that all suche scyences w^{ch} we call me'bres of the occupacon of smythes shall agree and compound wth the sayd occupacon according to the sommes following That is to saye everye Smyth fletcher Bowyer Goldsmyth Ironmonger Cardmaker Sadler Cowper pewtrer and Cutler shall paye for his fredom being prentyce wthin the sayd Towne xs viij^d and not being p^{ntes} wthin the sayd Towne xls viij^d and ev'ye mason Carpenter plo'mer Joyner Glasyer and Tyler being prentyce wthin the Towne shall paye for his fyne a noble and eight pence, and not being prentyce wthin the Towne a marke and viij^d and to paye his fyne in hande or sylver pawnes for the same taken by the Stewards.

This resolution is also noteworthy as approximating the date at which the fletchers and bowiers joined, as it cannot be presumed that the names of two such powerful fraternities, which enjoyed privileges accorded to no other handicrafts, would have been accidentally omitted from the Charter.

Wright, in his *History of Ludlow*, speaking of the Church, says "The north transept is called the Fletchers' Chancel, and on its gable is an arrow, the ensign of the craft. It is a probable conjecture that this part was appropriated for the use of the archers who might possibly hold their meetings here."

A few years after this a further resolution was passed "That the stewards shalbe allowed ev'ye yeere at their supper a pottle of seck and a pottell of Clarett and for spyces ijs."

In the year 1575 a new Composition was drawn up under the seal of the Fraternity (the only record of their having been one) and that of the Borough, and approved on the 3rd April, in the year following, by Sir Edward Saunders Knight, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer,

and William¹ Lovelace, Sergeant at Lawe, Justice of Assize, whilst on circuit at Bridgnorth.

As this Indenture, which embodies all the By-Laws of the Fraternity, is much too long to set out verbatim, I shall simply refer to the more important clauses.

In addition to the trades previously mentioned the following are added :—Naylers, Playsterers (a very different body of men to those of the present day), Selaters, holyers, makers of seffes, and howkers of Bond ware. After a long preamble the deed sets out—

Ffirste and principallye it is to be considered that noe bodie pollytyck consistinge of sundry members can keape or man-teigne any good Constitucons rules ordynaunces acts or p'vicons except the same bodie have heades rulers judgs and others as servants and officers to p'forme and accomlishe suche holsome lawes and decrees That those things whiche are well made may be also well observed and kept and for that also the saied fellowship or Brotherhoode of Smythes and others have byne tyme oute of mynde a Bodye politick reall and incorporated by the name of Sixe men as Chief heades and gov'nors of the same bodye and Twoe Stewards or Wardens as officers and ministers to execute the lawfull Comaundements of the saied Sixe men and seeke levey p'ceave and gether the forfeitures penalties am'ciam^{ts} and somes assessed of all and ev'y p'sone or p'sones accordinge to the tenor of these p'nts by reason of the Breache of the Constitucons ordinaunces acts and agre^{mts} her-after in these p'nts menconed and expressed and so incorporated named reputed and knowen by the name of the said Brotherhoode of Smythes and others and so have had their contynuaunce the tyme whereof the memorie of man is not to the Contrary and to the ende the same Brotherhoode and fellowship may hereafter contynue for evermore by these p'nts It is p'mised declared enacted made constituted and published in writinge That the saied Brotherhoode or Fellowship shall and may by the name of twoe Stewards sue arrest impleade aunswere and be aunswere in the Quenes mat^s Courte before the Bailiffs of the saied Towne in all Causes suytes quarells debts and demands and that John Cle^e Richard Swanson John Season Thomas Asbache Humfrey Lea and Richard Grove the present six men and Will^m Bradshawe and James ffennell the two Stewards shall remain in office until the next election also that the saied Bailiffs Burgences and Coialtie together with the assent of the saied fellowship and brotherhood of the saied arte trade

misterie science and occupacon of Smythes and others due p'nonce enacte publishe and sett furthe in writinge by these p'nts That the saied fellowship or Brotherhoode shall and may have retayne and keepe their accustomed ordinary and usuall place for their assemblie in convenyent place of the Church of Sainct Laurence in Ludlow. The Deed next deals with the election of Stewards as follows. And that the saied hole fellowship or Brotherhoode of smethes and others shall and may yerlie in the sondaie next after the feaste of Phillip and Jacob (qy James) upon the som' notice warnynge and appoint^{mt} of the saied Stewards or their successors to the saied fellowship to be geaven assemble them selves together into the saied usuall place in the saied Church at any time of the daie betwne the houres of Twelve and one of the clock in the afternone of the same daie and thereto contynue for their affaires uppon w^{ch} saied assemblie so to be had and made at the saied daie and place aforesaid by the most voyces of the more number of them the saiede sixe men and Twoe Stewards or wardens of the saied occupacon of smethes wth the rest of the saied Brotherhoode shall and may noiate electe choise and appointe Twoe honeste and discreete p'sones to be and contynue in the rome and office of the Stewards and wardens of the saied occupacon of smithes and others for the Terme of Twoe hole yeres thensfurthe next ensuyng; and in case any of the Stewards or six men shall "fortune to die," provision is made for electing a successor during the remainder of the term.

The Stewards upon their election were each required to give a bond with sureties for £40.

After some minor clauses prohibiting members from bringing actions against co-fellows without the licence of the six men under pain of forfeiting 3s. 4d., &c., the Composition deals with apprentices. A Master could not take one for a less period than 7 years to end when the apprentice attained the age of 24 years. The Indentures to be registered within one month, for which a fee of 2d. was payable, and the apprentice to be made free of the occupation, on the completion of his apprenticeship, by paying a certain sum, if a Goldsmith Fletcher, &c., 10s., if a Joiner, Brasier, &c., 6s. 8d.: and in case the master should die, the widow, using the same trade as her late husband, could retain the appren-

tice for the unexpired term; should she re-marry, however, the Stewards and Six men could place the apprentice with another master of the same trade for the residue of the service. A Foreigner, *i.e.*, one not apprenticed to a Freeman, was only made free of the occupation upon payment of 40s., if an Ironmonger, Goldsmith, &c., or 13s. 4d. if a Carpenter, Glazier, Nailor, &c., and then only upon letters testimonials, shewing where and with whom he served his apprenticeship, and that he had been of good name and fame during that time. Should he fail to comply with these by-laws, and set up in business in the town without being made free of the fraternity, he was liable to be fined 3s. 4d. for every day he so offended. The Deed next gives power to the Stewards and Six men to make such further lawful decrees as may from time to time become necessary, and concludes with a proviso, that the Bailiffs and Council of the town may correct, reform, amend, or alter any ambiguity or doubt, that may arise in the meaning of any clause, or any ordinance that may hereafter prove hurtful to anyone.

The day for the Election of Stewards was shortly after this altered from the Sunday after S. Philip and S. James (May 1st), to the Sunday after the feast of the Invention of the Cross called Holyrood day (May 3rd.)

Upon a Master being made free of the Fellowship the following charge was given him:—

You shall take the syxe men and Stewards by the hand p'mysyng by your fayth and trueth to observe and keepe all such ordres and decrees as shalbe geven to you in charge. Then after charging him to be true to the Queen, to keep the Election Dey, to appear at all lawful summons, not to procure any work out of any Masters hands, under payne of iij*s.* iij*d.*, to commence no "suete" against any co. brother without leave, to speak no rayling words, under penalty of iij*s.* iv*d.*, to pay "hawle money," (1*s.* Yearly from each member), and to bear Scott and Lott, the charge concludes, No Master of this fellowship shall suffer his servant or prentyce to come to the occupacons supp' only suche as shall paye their iij*d.*, upon payne of forfeiture of iij*s.* iv*d.*, and lastly, You nor your wief or

othor in your behalf shall not use to knele in the occupacons pewes before you have bene Steward.

Previously to the "Composition" the minutes of the Association are of the most meagre description—"The Stewards made their accompts and all quytt";—but afterwards a more detailed account of the proceedings is given. Take for instance the year 1580.

The two Stewards having been elected, and having entered into the usual bond, the sum of £4 was handed to each to meet customary payments; this left 20s. in the box, which was ultimately taken out towards furnishing of "sowldyers."

Besides these amounts the fellowship possessed the following implements, which were also delivered to the Stewards:—"one corselett furnished, one pyke, one sword, one dagger, one gyrdle, one almon ryvett lacking a gorgett, one dagger, a blak byll and a gleys, one other sword, a gyrdle for the almon ryvett, a calyver & a flask, and moryon," there was also the sum of £7 owing from the masters for fines. A drum was afterwards purchased for 12s., which was handed to each successive steward with such armour as the fellowship then possessed.

There are numerous entries about this time of armour being given to soldiers, accompanied with various sums of money, and during the stewardship of Richard Wilson and Thorras Patchett as much as £4 6s. 4d. was set apart for this purpose by the consent of the whole company. Sir Henry Sidney, who was twice L^d Deputy of Ireland, was at this time President of the Council in the Marches of Wales, and from the Town Records it appears that officers and men were continually passing between here and Ireland.

The receipts for 1580, which are principally composed of admission fees and fines, amount to £11 14s. 0d., and the payments, which I set out, to £11 2s. 1d.

Disbursed and pd by Laraunce Wellins
ffor the setting forth of Sowldyers to Ireland at
ij sondry tymes

xls.

Spend at Willm ^a Walles howse when we were chose Stewards	ijs.	vij <i>d</i> .
It. for the restment of John ferne turneys ffees & draught of playnt		xij <i>d</i>
It. for the restment of Thoms Rogers bowyer and other fees		xij <i>d</i>
It. ffor the Restment of Hugh Davies tyler and turneys fees		xij <i>d</i> .
It. ffor the restment of William Evans Carpenter & other ffees		xvj <i>d</i> .
It. for scowring and mendyng of a Calyver		iiij <i>d</i> .
It. for dressing of the pewe		ij <i>d</i> .
For a matt for the pewe		vij <i>d</i> .
It. for the ov' plus of a shott when Hugh Davies was made free	ijs.	vj <i>d</i> .
It. the ov' plus of a shott an other tyme at John Rogers'		vij <i>d</i> .
It. wyne and spices at the hall	iiij <i>s</i> .	ij <i>d</i> .
It. the ov' plus of a shott when Ric. fox was made free		xd.
It. the ov' plus of a shott at the sealing of the bands	ijs.	vij <i>d</i> .
It. the ov' plus of a shott when Wm Hyll was made free	ijs.	xd.
It. a pottle of seck the Monday after the hall		xiiij <i>d</i> .
It. iiij quyer of paper for the new book & the p'chm'nt		xvj <i>d</i> .
It. the first day of May last at Ric Groves howse		vij <i>d</i> .
It. for drynking at ij sondry tymes of the vj men at the setting forth of souldyers	iiij <i>s</i> .	
It. for wrytinge the booke	ijs.	
It. for keeping of the same booke	ijs.	
Suma leyd out is iiij <i>l</i> . xij <i>s</i> . iiij <i>d</i> . ? 4 <i>d</i> .		

Disbursed and leyd out by Will^m Symons

ffor the ov' plus of a shott on the Lexion daye 1580	vs.	vj <i>d</i> .
It. on the mondaye after the hall Daye for Secke		xvj <i>d</i> .
It. for a pottle of Secke sent to Phe hybbyns weadyng		xvj <i>d</i> .
It. on the hall Daye for spice allowed	ijs.	
It. for wyne that tyme	ijs.	iiij <i>d</i> .
It. pd for the first setting foorth of souldyers the xj th of June the 22 yere of Elizabeth Quene	xx <i>s</i> .	

It. at the second settinge ffoorth of sowlayers in money besydes a Calyver & furnyture moryon flaske & touche boxe sword & dagger & girdle	ls.	vjd.
It. pd for a toucheboxe		xd.
It. pd for the lynynge of the moryan w th fustian		xijd.
It. at a drynking of the vj men at that tyme		xviijd.
It. the xij th of August for the ov' plus of a shott		vijjd.
It. pd to Ric Grove ffor making clean the Armor	iijs.	ijd.
It. for oyle to Dresse the same		xviijd.
It. for the ov' plus of a shott when John Morgan was made free		xviijd.
It. the xj th of m'che at the ov' plus of a shott at the making free of Richard Benson		xviijd.
It. a fortnyght before the ov' plus of a shott at Rogers' for the purpose last recyted	ijs.	
It. the xvij th of Apryll the ov' plus of a shott at Wilim Symons	ijs.	ijd.
It. for a matt for the pewe		vjd.
It. for Russhes & flowers to dresse the same		iiijd.
It. Payde in money to the vj men on the Courte Daye	ls.	ixd.
Suma vijli. ixs. xd.		

Amongst the payments for the following year are "spice and wyne at the first hall iijs., on the morrow breckfast in wyne xiijd. and to the mynstrells xijd.," also "for the making of a Coffe xiiijd., and for lokes and hynge for the same xvjd." A few years after this a little box was made for the Composition at a cost of ijd.

The Coffe, which is made of oak, is 20 ins. long by 11 wide and 10 deep, and stands upon legs 4 ins. high. It has two locks, and there is a rude attempt at carving down the sides. It is always referred to as the outward box. The little box has been replaced by another, and, like the Coffe, is substantially made of oak an inch thick, and measures 12 ins. by 8 by 7; it has two locks fitted on to the same plate. This box, like the other, has a couple of strong iron bands running round it; on one of which is rudely scratched, "John foxe made this," and on the other "1618." On a diamond shaped plate on the centre of the lid is inscribed the names of the six men and Stewards, "Charles Darby, Francis Hinton,

Robert Jones, Richard Cole, Thomas Wellins, Andrew Bould, Roger Vaughan, Wm Atkins."

Although John Foxe has handed his name down as the maker of the box, the following memorandum, made in 1617, shews that it was under somewhat peculiar circumstances :—

Mdn that John ffoxé one of the Company having form'ly undertaken to putt a lock upon the box made for the Company hath made sev'all breaches and this day the vijth of June being required by the Stewards to bring the boxe to the sixe men he sayd that the Company was a Dronken Company except the Stewards.

Another payment about this time is for keeping of St. George's feast, xxs. Turning to the Bailiff's accounts for the corresponding period amongst the Receipts is this item—"Of the occupacons towards the buyinge of anoxe and x fatte wethers to gyve Lord p' sydens at St. Gorges fest vj*li*. xs." The "fatte oxé" was purchased from Mr. Courtney for vj*li*. 10s. and the "x fatte wethers" from Mr. Harley for £v 10s., and Roger bebbe the bochor was paid xij*d*. for his paynes for goyng to buy them.

Upon a present of this kind being made, it was customary for the recipient to return the compliment by sending a couple of bucks or does to the Bailiffs. As the Hammermen had contributed towards the gift to the President, some of the members of the Craft would no doubt be invited to the eating of the buck, which took place at the New House, when judging by the amounts charged by the Bailiffs against the Town Treasury, a convivial evening was the result. "Item spent at the eatinge of a boocke, Ite to the keper in rewarde iij*s*. iiij*d*. Ite for wheate pep' and butte*r* ix*s*. Ite pd for wyne vs. Ite for mutton and chikkins besyde bread and ale and alle other charches xs."

Each year now shews a steady improvement in the pecuniary position of the occupation, but, whether this is due to a resolution forbidding wine at the Stewards' suppers, I must leave others to judge. This resolution,

which only remained in force for a short time, was passed, because Apprentices, who had not paid the customary 4d., and servants, had lately been in the habit of attending these suppers uninvited, until matters had become so bad that an order was passed forbidding servants to be present, and Apprentices except by leave of their Employers.

In 1595, the fellowship was asked to admit as a freeman one who based his claim solely upon the ground of his having married the widow of a freeman; the following is a copy of the minute admitting him.

At which daye (28th Feby 1595) at a meetinge of the sixe men & Stewardes & others of the felowship or most number of them in the usuall place of their assemblye there cam before them Richard Atewyhe servaunt to the right wo'shipfull Sr Richard Shuttleworthe Knight & Chief Justice in these m'ches of Wales requestinge by his petycon in wryting delyv'ed that in respect that he hathe marred the late wief of Thomas Errots one of this Companye and in consideracon of the bringing up of suche apprentyzes as the wief of the deccadent before the entermaringe had receaved & taken doth desyer to be allowed a free man of this fellowship to suche trades artes mysteries and manuell occupacons as Thomas Errots in his lief tyme used and he is thereunto admytted upon the some of xls. fyne in hand payed to the sixe men & xvjd. and that he shall and wilbe contributory to all scot and lott and observe suche laudable orders and customs as is & are to bee observed so farr foorth as this occupacon can and may and the lawes of the Realme will allowe.

The usual form of admission ran thus :—

At the same daye and tyme came (name) (occupation) requesting to be free to a (trade) and is thereunto admitted and for his fyne hathe payd to the sixe men (amount) being prenty^ehe in (name of place)

This form was signed in nearly every instance prior to the 18th century by the applicant making a rude kind of mark, next came the regular X, then came what may be termed the "initials" period, and finally the signature. After the year 1694 the form bears a ls. Inland Revenue Stamp.

In the year 1600 the fraternity numbered about 65

Freemasters, amongst them being Andrew Sonybanke, Goldsmith, Thomas Shrawley, Ironmonger, Humphrey Lea, Rees ap Bevan, James ffenell, Laraunce Wellins, Blacksmith, Edward ap Owen, Pewterer, Richard Benson, Cardemaker, John voyle, carpenter, George heycox, Roughleyer, Cornelius Bowld, Richard Season, Glasyer, John Bradford, Ironmonger, Robert Harvie, Glasier, John Knigthe, smythe, Anthony Cotes, Robert Pervin, Richard Derbie, ferdinando deye, naylers, Rees Mytton, tyler, John Boraston, Thomas Season, plumber, John Havard, Joiner, Richard Twig, &c.

Before referring further to the minutes it will be as well, perhaps, to give an outline of the various meetings held by the Fraternity, with the nature of the business transacted at each; first premising that the accounts for 1580, already given, shew the proceedings of the fellowship for a number of years after that period.

With the exception of the Election Day and the Stewards' Hall, the meetings changed, both in name and number, at different periods; the quarterly meetings for instance being reduced to two in 1790—one at midsummer and the other at Christmas. Besides these there were special and private meetings, all of which were held in the pews belonging to the fraternity, which were situated in the south aisle of the parish church under the eastern window, on the spot formerly occupied by the Warwick Chapel; the Secretary taking his seat at a desk in the double pew and the books being placed in a recess in the wall.

Although the records of the fraternity extend over a period of upwards of three hundred years, upon only one occasion in the Minute Books is the place of meeting given, and that occurs on the 9th May, 1761, when it is stated to be under the south gallery; the heading generally being "Then the Hammermen met in the usual place in the parish church." Under the Commission granted in 1715, power was given to meet elsewhere, provided the place was stated in the Minute

Book, so that, although the Fraternity continued to meet until their dissolution in the parish church, an adjournment frequently took place to a neighbouring inn.

Members were summoned to attend by notice, and by the ringing of a bell, which latter was discontinued only a few years prior to the break up of the fraternity, in consequence of a fire breaking out in the town; for although the fire-bell was rung, the inhabitants failed to appreciate the cause, believing it to be simply summoning the Hammermen—as they were commonly termed—to a meeting.

The Election Day was originally fixed for the Sunday, afterwards altered to the Saturday, after Holyrood Day, and finally to a Tuesday early in May, when it was dubbed the radish meeting.

The want of punctuality in the attendance of members led to a resolution being passed, whereby any member, who failed to appear “by the end of the Tole of the Bell,” was fined 4d. This was subsequently altered to “the conclusion of the Roll call.”

Under the By Laws the Stewards were elected for 2 whole years “by the most voyces of the more number,” and this mode of procedure seems to have answered for a considerable period. About the year 1720, however, and for some time afterwards, a poll was declared when the candidates exceeded two, whereupon the members adjourned to the “usual place in the churchyard,” returning into church at the declaration of the poll. During the declining years of the fraternity, the Election was by show of hands, the members taking office in rotation: the custom then being to elect one Steward annually. It sometimes happened, that the person elected refused to serve, so after a few instances, where fines of 13s. 4d., 20s., and lastly £5, had been inflicted, a resolution was passed, enabling any member to pay a fine of £5, in lieu of taking office.

The Stewards having been elected, the members next proceeded to the appointment of the Six men, who were chosen, as a rule, from amongst the latest past

Stewards: the four Key-keepers and the Box-keeper being chosen next.

These appointments having been duly made, the members proceeded to discuss such general business as was transacted at all public meetings, viz., the admission of Freemen, registering Apprenticeship Indentures, hearing and determining complaints against the By Laws, &c., voting sums of money for charitable purposes, especially to widows of deceased members, to indigent members, or for local purposes.

Offences generally consisted of

	s.	d.
Setting up in business, not being free of the occupation, per day, fine	3	4
Not appearing at the Election Day, fine	3	4
Commencing a suit without leave, do.	3	4
Departing from the Company without Licence, do.	3	4

The next meeting was the Stewards Halls, generally held on a Whit-Monday. At first, it was the practice to audit the accounts of the retiring Stewards upon the Election Day, and having ascertained the amount found to be due, to hand a certain portion of it to each of the present Stewards, who had previously entered into a sufficient bond with sureties; then, to count and lock up the balance in the Inner Box, place this with the important records in the Outward Box, lock it, and then hand the four keys to the Key-keepers, and the Box to the Box-keeper. As the accounts increased the audit was transferred to the Stewards Halls. At one period the Halls were held on two consecutive days, the members dining together on the evening of the first Hall, and the past Stewards inviting the heads of the fraternity to breakfast on the following morning.

The Midsummer Meeting gradually took the place of the second Hall, which was abolished in 1802.

For many years the Hall Day opened with Divine service, the Rector preaching the sermon, for which he received 5s. At the Meeting held afterwards, the composition was read, for which the Clerk also received 5s.

The fees for admission into the occupation varied a good deal from time to time, especially in the case of a "Foreigner." Under the old By Laws a foreigner paid from 40s. to 13s. 4d., and a townsman from 10s. to 6s. 8d., but under the new, the fees were raised to £10 in the first case, and 33s. 4d., 20s., or 16s. 8d., according to the trade, in the other.

About the year 1750, the £10 fine was reduced to £5, and shortly afterwards to £3, or rather it remained at £5, but the fraternity was graciously pleased to abate £2. This was at the time when a number of actions were being brought against Hammermen for not taking up their freedom, in all of which the fraternity was successful. This so pleased the members that they unanimously invited their attorney, Mr. Peter Broom, to a supper, which was paid for out of the funds.

In 1804 the fee for admission was reduced to £1 11s. 6d.

Members would however under special circumstances reduce the fee, as for instance

Then John Hunt, ye elder, was admitted a freemast^r to ye trade of a smith haveing submitted to ye Company & his fine being considered by ye Company & on his being at a Greate charge and expense in ye waterworks & in ord^r to better looke after ye same Lowered ye same to three pounds w^{ch} is payd to Mr Steward Debitot to ye use of ye Company

I may mention that the fraternity of Hammermen paid £3 10s. towards the Waterworks in Castle Street.

Where a Hammerman continued to exercise his calling, and persistently refused to take up his freedom, notice was served upon him, not only that he would be proceeded against in the Town Court, but that he was liable to pay a fine of 3s. 4d. for every day upon which he continued to practice his calling. The records of the Borough shew that at least one Tradesman, who had been repeatedly fined for not taking up his freedom, sought protection from the Bailiffs and Council of the town, under the proviso contained in the Deed of Composition of 1575.

Whereas Martin Cropper hath for neare twenty yeares last past dwelled in this Towne wth his wife and children dureing w^{ch} time the sd Martin hath worked as a Pewterer and Brasier but he not haveing his Indentures to produce could not be made free of the Company of Ham'ermen in this Town by reason whereof the pewterers of this Towne have given the said Martin frequent disturbances by suits at Law & otherwise hindering him to follow ye sd Trade. It is therefore ordered that the said Martin doe for the time to come freely use and exercise the said Trade of a Pewterer & Brasier in this Towne for ye mainetenance of his wife & children Nothwthstanding ye pretended use or composicon of the said Company to ye contrary.

As nearly every meeting concluded with a feast or dinner, I feel that so important a function in the life of a Hammerman must not be omitted from this paper. These feasts were held at one of the numerous Inns—at the option of the Stewards—for which in time past Ludlow was so celebrated, and varied in number at different epochs. However, in 1727, it was resolved that the dinners, which every member was bound to attend, unless by leave of the six men, be reduced to two—one on the Election Day, and the other on S. Stephen's, but that the Stewards still have power to compel members to attend on the evening of each Quarter Day at some place of meeting, there to remain until the break up of the company, and then to pay their share of the evening's reckoning. Formerly to spend the usual 2d. a piece. At these dinners—each member paying for himself—latterly 2s. 6d. a head—a portion of the stock, generally from 21s. to 30s., was spent in wine, the Stewards laying out 2s. 6d. each. The wine fund was further increased by fines, payable by members absent from previous feasts, who also had to pay "an equall Clubbe with the rest." When the Stock became reduced below £20 only 10s. 6d. was allowed to be withdrawn for the wine fund.

At the Christmas dinner it was the duty of the Stewards to provide a piece of "Beife" at a cost not exceeding 10s—previous to 1727, 5s., and, until quite

recently, the late Stewards invited the heads of the fraternity to a breakfast on the morning of the Second Hall—their accounts being audited afterwards. It was customary also for the Stewards to provide cakes and ale, called the Livery, on the Election Day until the year 1797, when it was abolished, but renewed again in 1819, at the expense of the members, 1s. each, the Election Dinner being then transferred to the Midsummer Meeting. There were also numberless private feasts to which I have made no reference.

In January, 1615, the sum of 10s. was taken out of the stock to pay for taking of the "pues or seats" in the church, and as there are several entries relating to the seats, it will be better to trace their history consecutively.

The Hammermen held by a Faculty, granted by the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Hereford, five pews in the south aisle of the parish church, and in 1615 two pews, a large and small one, numbered 23 and 25 respectively, were added in the south gallery, which was, in 1708, put out at the expense of the fraternity without the great post that bears up the gallery. This gained one range more. These two pews were reserved for the Stewards, six men, and their families.

The numerical increase of the Society in the early part of the 18th century, naturally led to the overcrowding of the pews, so the doors were ordered to be kept locked, and keys to be supplied to members and their families only. This was done with a view to prevent the friends of members filling the pews. A doorkeeper, too, was appointed, whose duty it was to see that only people possessing keys passed into the Seats; by way of remuneration he received yearly from a Freemaster, provided he was not a past Steward, 6d., and from the wife of every Freemaster 6d. A few years afterwards he received, in addition to the money, a coat annually, which latter was paid for out of the stock at a cost of 20s. Matters, however, did not improve under this arrangement, for duplicate keys were

made, and friends took possession as hitherto. To rectify this, an order was passed, forbidding any person to use the pews, who had not kept Hall, under a fine of 1s., and further, forbidding freemen, who had not passed the chair, to occupy the seats unless there was room after the past Stewards and their wives had become seated; the freemen generally had a prior right to journeymen or apprentices. This arrangement appears to have worked well for a number of years, until a complaint was raised, that the widows of deceased members were in the habit of filling the pews with their friends to the detriment of the rightful users, and that when called upon to pay forfeit, they refused to do so. To remedy this evil a new set of locks and keys were ordered, but in less than 10 years matters had got back into the old groove. The fraternity, resolved that this state of things should no longer continue, appointed a Pew Superintendent,—the office of door-keeper had evidently fallen into disuse—who was to receive for his services 1s. annually, at Christmas, from each member, and with a view to strengthen his hands, Mr. Edward Collier, a member of the fraternity, made gratuitously a number of tin tickets, with some private mark or inscription on each. Two tickets were handed to each member, and it was the duty of the Superintendent to allow only those to sit in the seats that could produce one or more tickets. In order that this resolution should reach all parties, the Secretary was instructed to send a copy of this and the following resolution to every member, and to affix a copy of each on the South Door of the church. The second resolution set forth that every member, who should refuse to conform to the foregoing resolution, should not only be deprived of sitting in the said seats, but should be utterly excluded from all benefits and advantages whatsoever, arising from being a member of the Society. The large or double pew was now kept exclusively for journeymen and apprentices, the back pew for widows, and the three other pews for members indiscriminately,

the two pews in the gallery being reserved as heretofore for the Stewards and six men, and this arrangement prevailed until the galleries were removed, and both sets of pews swept away at the restoration of the church in 1860.

Amongst the payments made annually by the Stewards were these :—To the Rector on the Stewards' Hall Day for a Sermon, 5s. To the pew cleaner, 5s. to 8s. The sexton for ringing the bell at the meetings, each time 1s., besides his dinner at Midsummer and Christmas; and lastly, there was the 5s. or 6s. spent in candles to assist in the illumination of the church at Christmas, with 1s. to the candle-lighter.

The Hammermen also held seats in a Nonconformist chapel in Corve Street, and in 1735 contributed £8 towards the repairs.

In the year 1654, the fraternity passed this curious resolution :—" It is ordered by the Stewards and the rest of the Company that whosoever of the Company shalbe hereafter somoned to appe' att any meetinge shall were an apron and come into the Company with the same and shall not bring his coate or cloake uppon him if he have one to every meeting shall forfeite for every such offence the some of fower pence." Amongst the payments for the same year is an item of £2 10s. towards the organs, and in a few years afterwards of a similar amount to purchase six buckets for the use of the Company and the Corporation.

A minute for the year 1688 states, " that King James the Second was at Ludlow Castle this year." Undoubtedly this was the occasion when the Mayor (Mr. Humphrey Cornwall) presented his Majesty with the Keys of the Gates of the Town, the Maces, and a purse of Fifty Guineas, besides an address under the Common Seal, which latter was to be read by Mr. Edward Jones, the Town Clerk, unless His Grace the Duke of Beaufort should advise to the contrary.

Sometime during the year 1693, two new streamers were purchased,—unfortunately the cost is not given—

and it was the duty of the two youngest freemen to carry them on all State occasions at the head of the fraternity, when it marched in procession. The streamers were also paraded at the pleasure Fair held in the town annually, on May 1st. They were last carried, I understand, at the rejoicings held soon after the birth of the present Lord Windsor's father, the then heir to the Clive estates.

Two streamers much frayed, on one of which are the figures 1734, have been presented to the Ludlow Natural History Society, with the boxes and papers of the Hammermen. The arms of each trade are represented on a shield, which is surmounted by a helmet closed, the supporters being horses rampant, the mottoes being placed underneath.

The following are still distinguishable :—

Goldsmiths—Arms: The Trade Hammer; Motto, "By Hammer & Hand all Arts do stand."

Saddlers—Arms: Three Saddles, two over one; Motto, "Our Trust is in God."

Coopers—Arms: Implements of Trade, axe, &c.; Motto, "Love as Brethren."

Masons, Bricklayers, &c.—Arms: Tools for cleaning bricks, a bundle of laths, &c.; Motto, "In God is all our Trust."

Plumbers—Arms: Level, Leads used for taking Soundings; Motto, "In God is all our Hope."

Pipemakers—Arms: Junction Pipes; Motto, "Unite in Love."

Carpenters—Arms: The Framework of a House; Motto, "Honour God."

Masons—Arms: Compasses, Square, and Level; Motto,

Armourers—Arms: Swords crossed; Motto, "Pour parvenir au bon."

Plasterers & Slaters—Arms: Trowel, Hammer, & Brush; Motto, "Let Brotherly Love Continue."

Smiths—Arms: Horse Shoes; Motto, "Honour God."

Each streamer is about 15ft. long, and edged with fringe.

In this same year (1693), Richard Woodall, the Steward, was ordered to pay to Mr. John Smallman the sum of £3, towards the two new bells; this was supplemented in 1732, by a donation of £10, provided the Stitchmen gave £5.

The eight bells of the Church were ordered to be taken down and recast, at a Special Meeting of the inhabitants held on the 2nd February, 1731, when it was decided to raise the necessary funds by subscription. This amounted to £87 5s. 6d., of which the Company of Shoemakers gave £2 2s., in addition to the before-mentioned sums of £10 and £5. The total charge for re-casting came to £102 7s.

The Hammermen had been in the habit of appointing a Clerk from amongst the Members, but upon the death of James Meyricke, in 1710, Mr. Richard Perks, the Town Clerk of Ludlow, was appointed Secretary, and under his administration the proceedings of the fraternity are neatly and explicitly recorded; a register of the attendance is also kept. Under a By Law passed about this date, the Secretary was to receive for his remuneration, amongst other fees, 1s. upon the admission of a Freeman, being a Townsman, and 2s. 6d. being a Foreigner, also the sum of 1s. for enrolling an Indenture of Apprenticeship. These fees were supplemented by a couple of dinners yearly, one at Midsummer and the other at Christmas.

As far as I can ascertain the clerks were Richard Cole (1663-70), William Gardner (1670-90), James Meyricke, (1690-1710), Richard Perks, father, and then son, (1710-1761), Edward Perks, (1761-1785), Benj. Baugh, (1785-1793), and Richard Russell, (1793 to 1835). One of the first proceedings of Mr. Perks was to draw up, under the instructions of a Committee, comprising representatives of every trade in the fraternity, a new set of Articles or By Laws, which were approved at the Shropshire Summer Assize in 1715, by Sir John Blencow and Robert Dormer, Esq., Justices of Assize.

The preamble to these Articles sets forth that whereas several trades since the date of the old Composition, notably the Silversmiths, Watchmakers, Cabinet Makers, &c., have been found by experience to be beneficial to the Commonwealth of the Town, and also, properly belong to the fraternity of Hammermen, and

that by the education of apprentices the craft has become very numerous, and the keeping of their feasts and acts of charity more chargeable, and their Stock much reduced by suits at Law, and therefore, for the better encouragement of the Fraternity, the Bailiffs, Burgesses, &c., grant, establish, and confirm unto the said Fraternity, several Acts and Orders, amongst them these :—

That the Silversmiths Clockmakers &c., should be incorporated with the said Fraternity. That certain admission fees should be charged. That the fine for refusing to serve the office of Steward should be £5 and that the Fraternity may meet elsewhere than in the Church.

The following resolution passed about this time, seems worth recording :—

It was then ordered that every freeman of ye Company shall at every q'ter meeting pay to the Steward of ye Company for ye time being three pence a piece to make up the sum of forty shillings to be payd by the Steward to the Treasurer for the time being of ye Charity Schoole to be set up in this Towne & that ye overplus of ye monyes arising from such q'terly payments over and above ye forty shillings p. ann. shall be put into the box to be accounted by ye Stewards towards an augmentation of ye stock money and that the first payment shall begin & be made at ye next quarter meeting of this Company.

Although in the Articles it is stated that the Stock of the fraternity is much reduced, still the period between the years 1650 and 1750 must be regarded—numerically and pecuniarily—as the palmy days of the Society; take for instance, the year 1735, when the Stewards between them had the handling of £100. The disbursements this year amounted to £22, thus leaving a balance in favour of the Society of £78; out of this there was paid to John Bartlett for "eatinge and drinkyng," £2; "to John Challenger, towards the charge of his wife, she having lately breake her thigh, 5s.," and to the Deputy Town Clerke for his trouble and attendance on ye Company for ye time past, 10s. 6d. Amongst the payments for another year is, to the widow of Edward

Griffiths, out of the £10 paid by him for his freedom he having died soon after taking it, £2, and for dinner, &c., the same day, £3 4s.

The Hammermen Company was always most loyal; in 1705 a sum of £2 was voted to be spent on the 27th June, being a "publick day of rejoicing;" in 1727, the Six men met at the wish of the Company, for the purpose of making such orders and regulations, with regard to keeping the Coronation Day of King George II. (Oct. 11), as shall be best for ye honour and advantage of ye Company, and suitable to such a high and Regal Solemnity; again in 1746, when a public thanksgiving was proclaimed for the victory over the Young Pretender at Culloden House, the following resolution was passed:—

Then ordered that the two Stewards summon the whole Company within this Town or within summons to appear on Thursday next 9th inst. at the Market House in this Town about Ten of the clock in the morning with their Streamers and Formalities to walk in procession in the said Town being the day appointed for a public thanksgiving for the victory obtained by his Majesties army under the command of His Royal Highness William Duke of Cumberland agst the Rebels near Culloden House in Scotland the 16th day of April last past and that all persons of the said Company regularly summoned do appear and go along with the Stewards to take part of an entertainment at the house of M^{rs} Margery Wigley w^{ch} (or greatest part of it) will be paid out of the Company's Stock money in Respect to the Honour and Duty of the Day and those that neglect their appearance will be look't upon as Disobedient to the Company and Disloyal to the Government.

The Fraternity also took part in the procession of the Body Corporate, and the different Trades of the Town, both on the proclamation of King George IV. and King William IV., and on each occasion received £5 from the Corporation to be spent in Liquor after the dinner, at which all members were expected to be present, under pain of being considered disobedient to the Company, and disloyal to the King and Constitution. From the accounts, it would appear that the Hammermen made a demonstration at the Jubilee of George III.

During the year 1792, an attempt was made to abolish the Six men; it being thought prejudicial to the Company that they should have a power and prerogative superior to other members. The resolution was, however, rescinded. Another passed at the same meeting was treated in the same way at the next. This was, that "no wine, punch, nor any kind of spirituous Liquor shall be introduced by any member, nor drank by the Company at any of their meetings. The Steward to be accountable for good Ale and Cyder, where he keeps the meeting." The rescinding resolution concluded by stating that, "any member could henceforth drink whatever Liquor he thought proper, provided it was paid for by the members and not out of the Stock."

As the funds of the Fraternity consisted, wholly, I may say, for the fines were always spent in wine, of admission fees, the reduction from £10 to £1 11s. 6d. in the admission of a "Foreigner" soon led to a very serious reduction in the amount of the capital.

I append a statement of the accounts for the years 1753 and 1820, in illustration.

The Accounts of Mr. Henry Jordan, as Steward (1753.)

Debtor	£	s.	d.	Cred ^r	£	s.	d.
Stock Money	23	0	0	To the Rector for a			
Oct' 5 Mr. Lewis his				Sermon	0	5	0
fine for admission...	10	0	0	To a coate for Watkins	1	0	0
Mr. Harris do. ...	1	13	4	To Mr. Perks for Read-			
				ing the Composition	0	5	0
	34	13	4	To the Sexton ...	0	2	0
Disburst... ..	17	7	2	To Mr. Cooke for			
				looking after the			
				Seats	0	2	0
				To Mr. Broome p' Bill	5	16	0
				„ Mr. Lewis	5	0	0
				„ Mr. Flack p' Bill ...	1	1	6
				„ „ Thomas Mere-			
				dith	0	1	8
				„ „ Richard Wigley			
				p' Bill	0	10	6
				For Candles at Xmas	0	5	0

The following account is for the year 1820.

2nd August 1820.

Then the late Steward Page produced his accounts (as under) which were allowed accordingly (viz.,)

D ^r	£	s.	d.	Cr	£	s.	d.
Paid at the Election Meeting	0	5	0	Rec ^d of Mr. Maund late Steward bal ^{ce} of accounts	1	6	1
" Clerks Dinners at the Halls...	0	5	6	" of Mr. John Smith his fine of admission & for ticket	1	2	0
" Meyricke Dinner	0	1	0	" Mr. Richard Gabriel the like	1	1	0
" Clerks & Meyrickes Dinners at Xmas	0	6	6	" Mr Alex ^r Watkins the like & for his ticket ...	1	12	6
" At the Proclamation of the King out of Stock p order	1	1	0	" Mr. W ^m Cross his fine of Admission	1	11	6
" for Candles	0	5	0	" of Mr. W ^m Paytoe his fine of Admission	1	1	0
" Wood for Cleaning Seats & Tolling Bell	0	8	0	" of Ludlow Corporation on the proclamation of Geo. 4 th	5	0	0
" Repairing flags two different times	0	7	0				
" fortwo cupboards in the Seats in Church Locks &c.	0	1	0				
" Mr. James Goodwin the remainder of his bill for Ribbons	2	0	0				
" at Three Special Meetings the one on account of Mr. Salweys coming of age another on account of Mr. R. H. Clives Marriage and the other of the proclamation of the King	0	3	6				

D ^r	£	s.	d.	Gr	£	s.	d.
Paid at the proclama- tion Dinner the amount given by the Corporation .	5	0	0				
Balance...	2	10	7				
	<u>£12 14 1</u>				<u>£12 14 1</u>		

2nd August, 1820. Then the above balance of Two pounds Ten shillings and Seven pence was accordingly paid over by the late Steward Page to the present Steward Stead for the use of the Company

Signed M. Stead.
Wm. Page.

The item of £2 paid to Mr. Goodwin for ribbons is explained by the following resolutions passed on the 6th March, 1818 :—

Resolved that the members meet the Steward at ye Sun Inn at 8 o'clock to-morrow morning with the Flags belonging to the Society and each member wearing a white flavor in his Hat in order to walk in procession in escorting through the Town the Honorable Viscount Clive (one of the present Representatives for this Borough) and Lady Lucy his wife on their way to Powis Castle being the first time of his appearance here since his marriage with that Lady and in honor thereof and that such as fail to attend unless prevented by indisposition or other unavoidable cause be considered as disobedient to the Steward as well as acting disrespectfully to the noble pair.

Ordered that the Company with their Friends do return* (at 2 o'clock) to & partake of a plain Dinner at the Sun at 1s. 6d. each.

The favours cost £4 19s.—66 at 1s. 6d. each,—and were to be worn by members only, or those intending to become such. The other payments in connection with this celebration, including Ale for the Band, Belts for the Flags and Flagmen, amounted to 16s. 6d.

The history of the Fraternity, for the concluding twenty years of its legal existence, appears to have been one long effort to compel refractory Hammermen to take up their freedom. The initial step was taken

in 1815, when at a meeting convened for the purpose of hearing the Charter and other documents read and explained, the clerk received instructions to inform each Master Hammerman, not previously enrolled, that unless he forthwith took up his freedom, the alternative prescribed by the By Laws would be strictly enforced.

Matters seem to have gone smoothly for a few more years, several Hammermen coming in in response to the Clerk's circular. However, in 1820, certain members handed over to a firm of Solicitors in the town for their inspection, the records and other papers, to the great indignation of the rest, who, after unanimously condemning the conduct of such members as highly disrespectful and derogatory, passed several resolutions :

First. That in order to prevent the repetition of such an untoward occurrence a Box and 4 Key Keepers be appointed.

(These Officers seem to have been discontinued since 1793. The Clerk for many years taking charge of the Boxes, &c).

Second. That if any member on being duly summoned shall not attend and dine with the Stewards Six men and others at the Halls or Christmas meeting shall be fined 5s.

Third. That in order to encourage good fellowship amongst the Trade and to increase the number of members the Clerk be instructed to apply to all Master Hammermen to take up their Freedom &c as in 1815.

Fourth. That the son of a Freeman who had been apprenticed to a Foreigner should pay £1 5s. for his admission instead of £1 11s. 6d.

Fifth. That members should be properly enrolled.

Sixth. That every member unless incapacitated by Bankruptcy shall serve the office of Steward in his turn.

Seventh. That a partnership shall not exempt each member from the proper fines of admission.

Eighth, and lastly. That any member not conforming to these resolutions shall be expelled the Company.

During the next two or three years there are several minutes authorizing the Secretary, now armed with the opinion of Counsel, to take proceedings against various tradesmen, for following their occupation without being made free of the fraternity: when pressure was brought

to bear, however, they generally appear to have submitted and so matters would again quiet down for a time.

The crisis came in 1831, when the members determined to compel all so-called Hammermen—of which there were now a great number—to take up their freedom, so a test case was decided upon; further to avoid any suggestion of pique, it was decided to select the defendant by Ballot. The first six chosen took up their freedom rather than stand the brunt of an action, which was at last commenced against a Blacksmith in the Borough Court of Record, the damages being laid at £1 19s. To prevent the action being decided upon any side issue, Counsel was employed to prepare the numerous pleadings, his attention being especially drawn to the fact, that the fraternity based its claim upon the By Laws of 1576, which were founded, no doubt, upon the words in the Charter of King Edward the 4th, with which this paper commences.

The defendant, however, suffered judgment to go by default, thus practically admitting both the custom, and the fact of the fraternity having existed from time immemorial: the action thus resolved itself into a question of damages only. This was argued before the Court and a Jury, who assessed them at one farthing.

The death blow came in 1835, in the shape of the Municipal Corporation Act, which enacted (sec. 14), that :—

Whereas in divers cities, towns, and boroughs a certain custom hath prevailed, and certain bye-laws have been made, that no person, not being free of a city, town, or borough, or of certain guilds, mysteries, or trading companies within the same, or some or one of them, shall keep any shop or place for putting to show or sale any or certain wares or merchandise by way of retail or otherwise, or use any or certain trades, occupations, mysteries, or handicrafts, for hire, gain, or sale within the same; Be it enacted, that notwithstanding any such custom or bye law, every person in any borough may keep any shop for the sale of all lawful wares and merchandises by wholesale or retail, and use every lawful trade, occupation, mystery, and

handicraft, for hire, gain, sale, or otherwise, within any Borough.

The Fraternity drifted on for many years after this, until one by one its old members died off—its pews being swept away in 1860—until now, only a very few are left, and with the two Boxes, two Streamers, four Minute Books, the Charter, the old and new Compositions, and a few other papers, constitute all that remain of the ancient fraternity of Hammermen.

In conclusion, it seems remarkable, that a By Law, operating so palpably in restraint and not in governance or better ordering of trade, should have been permitted to remain in force for such a number of years, even if warranted by immemorial custom: and further, one would have looked for some lasting testimony, such as a charitable fund for the benefit of old members, or to assist beginners, from a Fraternity that had existed for centuries, and in that time had reckoned amongst its members many of the leading Tradesmen of the Town, besides neighbouring gentry.

I append a list of the members since 1829:—

When admitted.	Name.	Occupation.
5 th July 1830	Edmund Lechmere Charlton	Watchmaker
28 th Dec ^r "	John Jolley	Joiner
9 th August 1831	Andrew Hammonds	Mason
do.	George Day	Whitesmith
do.	William Davies	Joiner
do.	John Weaver	Joiner
do.	William Jones	Joiner
10 th Oct ^r 1832	The Honourable Rob ^t Henry Clive	Silversmith
do.	John Lloyd	Fletcher
do.	William Lloyd	Glazier
do.	Edward Blakeway Smith	Joiner
do.	William Urwick	Boyman
do.	John Grosvenor	Carpenter
do.	William Hodson	Ironmonger
do.	James Glaze	Carpenter
do.	Francis Massey	Joiner
do.	William Acton	Stone Mason
do.	Thomas Hotchkiss	Saddler

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10 th Oct ^r 1832	Thos. Beamt. Massey	Joiner
do.	William Gwynn	Plumber
do.	Thomas Bowen	Nailor
do.	Robert Atkins	Stone Mason
1 st Jany 1834	Richard Cadwallader	Blacksmith
do.	Samuel White	Painter
do.	Job Hunt	Coach Painter
15 th July 1834	George Morris	Fletcher
do.	Thomas Childe	Smith
do.	Robert Weaver	Mason
26 th Dec ^r 1834	Humphrey Salwey	Smith
do. 1838	Robert Page	Glazier
do. do.	Thomas Cooke	Plumber
do. do.	Joseph Timmins	Ironmonger
1842	Joshua Cooper	do.
	Edward Egginton	
	Thomas Halford	
	William Howells	
27 th Feby 1852	Thomas Cooke	Cooper
do.	Richard Williams	Plumber
do.	Herbert Sankey	Cooper
	&c.	

ABSTRACT OF THE GRANTS & CHARTERS CONTAINED IN THE CHARTULARY OF WOMBRIDGE PRIORY, Co : SALOP.

BY THE LATE MR. GEORGE MORRIS, OF SHREWSBURY.

(Continued from p. 380 of Vol. IX.)

- 261 viij Omnib' &c Joh'es ext'neus D'ns de 9. c.
Knokyn &c Nou'it &c me p' amore dei &
p' salute a'ie mee et regis Johis & pro
aiab' anc' & suc' concessisse to Womb.
Priory, totu' jus &c r'one maniu' mei de
Wrocwardin in tota illa t'ra nemor' et
pastura q'm illustris rex Henricus eis
dedit que se extendit in longitudine de
Watlingstrete vsq' ad le Hechegre'ne in
latitudine v^o int' boscu' meu' d'ce t're
contiguu' & sichetu' de curete de Stam-
ford in Watlingstret vsq' ad p'd'eum
Hechegrene. H.T. Will'o Ercalew, Hug'
fil' Rob'ti, Rob'to fil' Aherii, Joh'e de
Audelawe, Rob'to de Brokton, & m. a.
- 262 ix Sciant &c ego Joh' extraneus tercius fil' c.
Joh' extranei p' salute mea & pro aiab'
anc' & suc' concessi & confirmani to
Womb. Priory tota' donac'one' q'm pater
meus Joh'is eis dedit in bosco de Womb.
et carta sua confirmavit tend &c. H.T.
Hugone fil' Rob'ti, Willo de Hedlege, Joh'e
de Ondeslow, Rob'to de Brokton, Rob'to
de Brokton, Philippo de Peninton, & m. a.
- 263 x Omnib' Joh'es Extraneus tercius salt'
in d'no nou'it &c me p' amore Dei et
salute aie' mee et vxoris mee Lucie &
p'ris mei (anc' & suc') dedisse &c to
c1214-50

Wombr. Priory om'ia assarta et boscum q' hu'erunt ex concessione Joh' p'ris mei. Hend' &c imp'p'm H.T. Hug' fil' Rob'ti, Will'o de Hedleg, Nich' de Wylileye, (ob 1241) Galfrid Griffin cli'co, Berthram fr'e suo, Petro de Eyton, Thoma Corbet de Hedleg, (ob. 1246-7) Walt'o de Vpton, Leonard de Leg, Walt' fili suo, & m. a.

264 xj Omnib' &c Hamo Extraneus &c nou'it me p' amore dei & p' salute aie' mee (anc' and succ') consensu & assensu D'ni Joh's Ext'nei p'ris mei dedisse &c to Womb. Priory tota' p'te' mea' co'munis memoris de Womb scilicet int' me & d'niu Walt'm de Dunstaneuill. Hend' &c p' has diuisas de Stamford in Watling stret p' rubeu' sichetu ascende'do vsq' ad le Witesto' & de le Wytestoc vsq' ad le Thassichos & inde p' Watlingstret descend' vsq' ad p'd'cm Stamford. Quicquid igitur int' hos t'minos continetur videlicet t're et nemor ac pastura u'l alioru' aisiameto que ad p'tem mea' v'l ad man'iu' de Wroewardin p'tineba't hebunt et tenebunt p'fati cano'ici de Womb imp'p'm &c H.T. D'no Walt'o de Dunistaneuill, D'no Madoco de Sutton, D'no Walt'o de Kembrieton, Rector' eccl'ie de Ydeshall Rog'o Corbet, Ph'o de Pres, Rad' Briton' cli'co & a.

265 xij Omnib' &c Thom' Tuschet filius & h'es Rob'ti Tuschet &c Nou'it me concessisse to Womb. Priory imp'p'm lib'um ingressum et egressu' in boscu' meu' de Ket-teleg'cu' careccis & carrissuisac eor' op'ariis ad petram frangendu' & capiend' in q'rera mea in memorato memorato existente ubi co'modiis fu'it eisdem et inde cariad' ad edificia sua construend' et rep'and' quociens opus fu'it &c. Hanc aute' Concessione' p'd'cis feci canonic' p' salute aie' mee et anc. et succ. meor' Ita quod sing'iis annis imp'p'm die beati valentini martyr' facient sup'dca domo dinina sollempuit celebrar & om'ia que

s'ptant ad equias def'nctor' p' a'ia rob'i
p'ris mei et p' a'ia d'ni Joh'is Maunsell &
p' a'ia mea & a'ia m'rgr' vx mee cu' hu-
manitq' de nobis contig'it & pro a'iab'
om'i filior' ac anc. & succ. meor'. H.T.
Dnis Joh'e de Ercalewe, Joh'e filio Aer,
Joh'e filio Hug', Walt'o de Pedewartin
milit, Rob'to de Staunton, Joh'e de Stew-
ynnton', Herb'to de Wyke, Mich'ele de
Morton & a.

266 xiiij Sciant &c ego Thom Tuschet (same to
same for souls of self anc. & suc.) tota'
p'te' mea' bosci qui est in Caleng' int' me
et Dn'm Walt'm de Dunstaneuill Tend'
&c imp'p'm' H.T. as in last.

267 xiiij Valt'us de Dunstanuill omnib' &c
Sciant &c ego concessi et confirmaui
p'senti carta donac'one' p'ris mei Alani
q' fecit (to Womb. Priory) dimidiu' vide
licet ferendella' de leies q' eilricus tenuit
cum om'ib' filiis eiusde' eilrici vt illa'
terra' in p'petua elemos. possideant p'd'ci
cano'ici lib'am &c p'terea ego p' salute
aie mee vx mee et parentum meor' sup'a
dicti xiiij Ac's quas cum p'd'ca t'ra p'fati
cano'ici lib'e& quiete imp'petua elemosina
possideant. Test. Alano de Dunstanuill,
Rog' de Frellernill, Will'o de Hedlega,
PeresDerliton, Rad' Pantu', Rog'o de P'ston,
Walt'o cli'co de Dunstanuill, Walt'o de
Wattenuill, Thoma de leis, Rob'to de Lin-
ton & m. a.

268 xv Omnib' &c Walt' filii et her Henr
fil Leonardi de lega & Nou'it q'd cum
ante 1264 Petrius fil D'ni Petri de Eyton religios
vir Leori et conue'tur de Womb. liberu'
chiminiu' ad bigas et quadrugas vltia t'ra
sua de lega omib' anni temporib' eundi
co'cessorit & carta sua confirmauerit Ego
p'fat' Walt'us in d'ca villa de lega com-
porconarius liberu' chiminiu' vltra terra'
mea' om'ib' Anni temporib' p'd'eis religios
et om'ib' suis succ' ad bigas & q'drugas
cad' om'ia sua necessar agenda p' me et

her' meis vbi co'modius fuerit p'd'eis
cano'ic' imp'p'm concedo & presenti
scripto co'firmo &c. H.T. Rog'o Corbet,
Reginaldo de Chernese, Rog'o Charles, Pa-
gamo de P'ston, Joh'e de Appeleie & m.
a. Dat Womb. die S' Mark Evang. 13
Edw. 1.

- 269 xvj Omib' &c Thom' fil' Rog'i Ghest de
leg' &c Nou'it ego pro salute aie mee (&
anc.) dedi &c to Womb. Priory una'
nocha' t're in villa de leg' &c q' Joh'es
de Moeleston' q'nda' de me tenuit &c &
totu jus meu' &c (to same). H'ndu' &c
H.T. Madaco de Sutton, Walt' de Kem-
brut', Oliu'o de Knoll', Rog'o de Hadeleg
& m. a.

- 270 xvij Nou'it &c nos Edmund Botiler de q. c
Bridwyke & Ysold vxorem mea' remisisse
&c to Womb. Priory totu' jus &c in 4
solid' annui redd. de q'nda' ten in villa
de lie p'oris q^d quid'm ten' Joh'es Jace-
modo ten'. Dat Bridwyke in f. natu.
S. John Bap. 7 Rich. 2.

- 271 xvij Sciant &c Ego Henric' de lega dedi
&c to Womb. Priory q'nda p'te' t're mee
No'a h'u de lega cu' om'i sua Inuestitura & cu'
aq' curre'te' subtus t'ra' illa' vid. t'ra' illa
&c que se extendit in latit. juxta q'nda'
sichetu' currente' int' t'ra arabile de lega
et t'rra' p'no'inata' aq'da' fonea lenata
sup' p'deu' sichatu' vsq' ad fine' sup'dei
sicheti et a sup'sc'pta fonea in longit.
vsq' ad corulu' illi fonee p'pinq'ore et ab
illo corulo vsq' ad q'nda' grossa' Al'na
consignata et ab ip'a grossa alna con-
signata vsq' ad q'nda' alia' fonea' lenata'
sup' ripam Riuuli curre'tis int' boscu'
meu' de lega et boscu' comune' de Ydes-
halle et de Combreysleg. et ab ip'a fonea
sup'd'cam ripa' p'd'ci Riuuli constituta
vsq' ad t'ra sup'd'cor' cano'icor' q'm he'nt
apud grangia' de assarto Hen'dum &c.
imp'p'm H.T. Walt'o de Huggford,
Madoco de Sutton, Walto de Kembruton,

Herberto de Ydeshale, Hug' de Hadinton,
Hug. de Bolinchal, Thoma Rabas, Adam
de P'ston, Thoma de Pykestok & a.

- 272 xix Sciant &c. ego Walt'us de Dunstanuill
Tercius dedi &c pro salute a'ie mee (anc.
& suc.) to Womb' Priory tota' ripam
meam cujusdam Riuli current' int'
boscu' eor'dem canonicor' et boscu' meu'
de suelleshull et boscu' qui est in Caleng'
int' me et p'd'cos can' et licenciam stagnu'
faciendi et ip'ius stagni attachiame't et
agistiamen aque sup' tra' mea' de Stam-
ford in Watlingestrete cursum ascendendo
qn'tu' agistiamen tu aque occupar' poti't et
ip'ius stagni attachiamen't p'mis'it. Dedi
&c. (to same) licencia' tra' capiendi sup'
tram mea' ad p'd'cum stagni faciend' &
rep'and' quociens opus fuit &c Hend &c
imp'p'm' H. T. D'nis Joh'e de Ercalew,
Joh'e fil' Aer, Joh'e fil' Hug', Walto de
Pedewardine milite', Thom' Corbet de
Edleg', Rob'o de Staunton, Joh'e de
Stiinton & m. a.

- 273 xx Omnib' &c Will's Hod de Drayton &c
nou'it me &c remisisse &c to Womb.
Priory om'e jus &c ad exigen's u'l optime
aliqd esconerm' u'l com'una in vestura &
pessone seu h'bagio aliquo anno temp'e
in bosco p'd'cor' canoicor' ul succ suor'
quod vocatur Lespywyke imp'p'm H.T.
Rogo' Corbet, Petro dno de Eyton, Joh'e
de Eueroys, Joh'e de Stewinton, Willo'
Pr' nr' & m. a. Dat. Wombr. in Cras'
Ascens' d'ni 4 E. 2. q. c.

- 274 xxj Omnib' &c Joh'es fil' & heres Joh'es
Stewinton manens in Wyke in man'io de
Ydeshall &c nou'it q' cu' d'ns Waltus de
Dunstanuill t'cius Joh'em de Stiinton
p'rem meu' et heredes suos de raconabilis
estou'iis et aliis necessariis cu' p'tin' in
bosco de Lestwyke iuxta Wombrugg
carta sua feoffet q' boscu' (Womb. Priory)
tenent ex donac'one et concess. dnor'
Walti de Dunstaneuill p'dci et Thom

Touschet ac p'deis Joh'es de Stiinton
 Pat' meus p'dea' estou'ia & alia necessaria
 cu' p'tin in p'deo bosco de Lestwyke p'deis
 (Womb. Priory) imp'p'm' remisisset &c
 Ego Joh' de Stiinton fil' & her' Joh'es
 anted'ci totu'jus et elamiu' qd in p'deo
 bosco seu in communia pastura ejusdem
 bosci u'l aliquib' suis p'tin' h're potui
 Eccl'ie s'ci Leonardi de Womb' et can'
 &c p' me et hed' meis u'l assignat' meis
 imp'p'm' remisi et quietu clamam. H.T.
 D'nis Rogo' Corbet, D'no Will'o de
 Wroccesleye, Joh'e de Bekeburi & a.
 Dat. Womb. Sund. af. f. St' Leon' Pape
 2^d Ed. 1.

275 xxij Omnib' &c Joh'es de Stiinton' in
 Wyke in man'io de Ydeshall &c nou'it q. c.
 me &c relaxasse to Womb. Priory totu'
 jus &c in bosco de Leftwyk &c im'p'p'm
 H.T. Jo'he fil' meo et her', Ada' de p'ton',
 Pho' de Bekeburi, Ranulfo de Grenhul,
 Thoma de Brocton & m. a.

276 xxij Sciant &c ego Will'mq' fil' Valt'i con- q. c.
 cessi &c totu'jus &c Rob' de Gatacre &
 he'd suis de me & her' meis s. de dimidi-
 etate de magna lya &c q'm p'r illi' que
 sivit de pre' meo siue duelli in comitatu
 salopesburi. s. dimidia' hidam t're q'
 p' d'eus Rob't et her' suis debent ten'e
 de Baronia de Pulrebech in chef & in
 nochas t're q' sunt defendo de auberburi
 quas p'd'eus Rob't et her' sui debent
 ten'e de me et de meis her' inde annuat'
 redde'do ij solid & qinq' denar' michi
 u'l meus her' xv denar ad f. St' Mary in
 mar'co et xv d. ad f. s' Mich. p. om'i
 seuic' &c et p' hac concessione et quieta
 clamac'one sepedict' Rob't dedit mi
 duas marcas H.T. Baldewino de Hodenet,
 Rogo' de Hedlege, Steph'o de Staunton,
 & a.

277 xxiiij Sciant &c nos Daudid Glovere de
 shuffenhall et Isabell vx mee dedim' &c
 Joh'e Gurre nup' de Wombrug' vnu' dim'

Burgag' cu' omib' suis p'tin' cituat' in
villa de Schuffenhall int' ten' nup' Ade
Hampton et ten nup' Willi Nothull &c
et ext' a via regalis vsq. ad Riulu de
Sh. Hend &c imp'pm de cap d'nis feod.
H.T. Joh'e Pat' nost', Edmund Valle, Johe'
P'r nost', Ric'o Hugyns, Will'mo Hollewey,
Dat Sch. p'dict' die Martis af. f. S' Mark
Ev. 19 H. 6

278 xxv Sciant &c ego Phillip Gurry de
Shuffenall dedi &c Willo' Jowk vicar'
eccleie de Iddisall n Alano Whitfford n—
et Willo Eyton vnu' dimid burgum in
Shuffenall int burg' b'e marie ex utraq
p'te &c hend imp'pm de cap' dnis feod.
post decessu' Joha' vx mee ad inveniend
lum'e in capella b'e Marie P'orat' de
Womb. et ad repaco'em eiusdem &c H.T.
Thoma Wyke, Thoma Forster, Will'o
Hacton & a. Dat Shuffenall Th. af f. s'
Mark Evang. 1^s Ed. 4th

279 xxvj Omnib' &c Walt'us de Dunstaneuill
&c nou'it me p salute aie mee et vxoris
mee Hawiz de Prahens (anc. & suc.)
dedisse &c to Womb Priory duo molen-
dina que hui in man'io meo de Ydeshall
cum tota sequela hom'i meor' de d'co
man'io & cu lib'o cursu aq ueex q'am'
p'te mant & cu' repa'cone stagnor
quociens opus fuit solua' tu' ni molie'one
domus mee H'nda &c imp'pm &c d'ci v'
cano'ici q'nda capellanu' inuenient p'aia'
mea et vxoris mee p' aiab' (pred and
succ) in eccia sua de Wombruga cotidie
diuinu' celebrante imp'pm H.T. Abbate
Walt'o de Lilleshull, Abbate Ricardo de
Haemon, Rob'to P'ore de Wenlok, Walt'o
de Dunstanuill eli'co cognato meo, Rog'o
de Staleuilla, Thoma Basseth nepote meo,
Alano de Dunstanuill, Petro fil Torrecti,
& B. filio suo, Radulph Pant, Petro de
Eyton, Eugerano de Prahens & m. a.

280 xxvij Omnib' Waltus de Dunstanuill &c

o 1190 Nou'it' me p' salute aie' mee & vx' mee
Hawiz de Prahens necon p' salute aia'r'
tam p' decessor' q' successor' meor'
dedisse to Womb Priory molendina mea
de Ydeshalia salua molico'one domq' mee
& saluis molicionib' alior' quas ibi h're
debent, et 20 acras t're de bosco meo de
lehes jux^a t'ra Thome de lehes sicut ego
ip'e et legitimi ho'ies mei p'uidem
tenenda &c in p & p. elem. T.H. Abbe
Leonardo de Dublina, Abbe' Ric' de
Haemon, Abbe' Walto de Lilleshull, Rob'to
P'ore de Wenloke, Walto de Dunstanuill
cli'co cognato meo, Thoma Basseth
nepote meo, Eng'rano de Prahens, Petro
fil' Torrecti, & B. filio suo, Rad Pant, &
Willo filio suo, Petro de Hectona & m. a.

281 xxvii] Valt de Dunstanuill omnib' fidelib' s'ce
æccle'ie & om'ib' hominib' suis Anglicis &
Non. normannis sal'm notu' sit nobis me
dedisse &c to Womb. Priory t'ra q'm
pat' meus ei dederat s. t'ra q'm tenuit
eilric' de leis cu' om'ib' fili' eiusdem
eilrici in p'pet elem sola & qujeta ab om'i
s'uicio quod ad me p'tine at p' salute aie'
p'ris mei et mee H.T. Abbe' de Haemon,
Alano c'lico, Pet' fil' torret, Robo' fil' osb',
Hug' fil' War., Rog' de s'co mart' & a.

282 xxix AD. M.CC. octogesimo quarto die s'ci
Edmu'di confessore conuent int Phil'm
P'orem de Womb. &c &c et Hugone de
Haleston q' p'deis Hugo dedit &c to
Womb. Priory suis molendinum suu' de
Haleston cum cursu aque p' fossa tu' q'
fecit p' mediu' toftu' suu' q' disfrac'onauit
cora' Justiciar' Dn'i Reg' p' noua dis-
seysina' contra D'nm de Ydeshale salua
Pischaria d'ei fossati d'co Hug' et her
suis tend &c in p. & p. elim. cum libo'
chimino eundi & reddendo ad dem'
molendin' q' chiminu' huit de dono
Joh'is de la mare d'ni de Ydeshale p'
carta sua &c imp'p'm Ita q' no licebit
eide' Hug' nec her' seu assig. suis aliq^d

Edwd.

molendinu' fac'e u'l molere possit in toto man'io de Ydeshale. Ult' z' & concedit d'cs Hugo p' se her' seu assig' suis q'd d'ci P'ori' et Convent & succ. sui posuit p' voluntate sua d'em fossatu em'ndare exig'e rep'ar' & amplificar' p'ut viderint sibi melius expedire et si indigeant t'ra ad exaltco'm et emendaco'm p'dci fossati capiant vbi minq fit noc'um p'd'co Hug' Hugo et her' suis & plus ad qmodu' p'd'ci p'or & conuent sine om'i contradic'one &c dei Hugo (hrs or ass) q'ociens necesse fuit Concessit insup' des' Hug. P' se (h'rs & ass) p'des P'or & Conuentu' & succ' suis quod molentes ad dc'm molend possint ventilares sup' stagnu' suu' retro molendinu & quod he'ant omnimoda asiamenta placea' tr' est int molend' et vet're cursu' aque quociens cuq' volu'int sine impedimento alicui' saluo solio d'co Hug' & her' suis p'dci uo P'or' & Conuentu' concesserunt d'co Hug' & her' seu assignat' sui lib'ra moltura in molend suis de Ydeshale & de Haleston ad om'imoda blada sua s' necessaria ad sustentatco'm dom sue & familie et hospitu' p'x post blad intre-multa p' hac ante' donac'one &c d'ci p'or &c & suc p'sona' ydonea' et acceptabile cu' vestitu honesto & lecto decenti & alio apparatu necessario in canonicu' radend' ad p'sentaco'm d'ci Hug. (Hrs & Ass) admittent and post morte' presentati & admissi successiue aliu' modo p'dco p'sentabunt Ita qd imp'p'm vnu' in domo ha'nt celebratem p' aiab' eiusdem Hug. & alicie vxor eius (anc & suc) et d'ni Rob'i Burnell et mag'ri Joh'is de Kenleg' Radulf de Henkham & capitaliu' dnor' suor' de Ydeshale & om'i fidelu' Ita tamen qd d'cs can. sit ebdomadari et s'uiens et obediens in omib' sicut alii eiusde' con'uet cano'ici p'fessi Et ad ista pacis reformac'oem sine dole et fraude p'petuo fidelit obsuanda p'dci P'or & Hugo

corporale p'fater' sacrame'tu' volentes et concensientes qd p's que cont'dcam pacis reformac'om in aliquo vennet seu no' observaret eande' centu' solid' insubsidiu' t're s'ce et 40 sol. ad auru regine Anglie ex soluret quocienscu'q' resilivet ab eade' Et si forte contingat qd absit qd d'em molend' p'stratu' sine destructu' sit indico D'cs P'or et conu'et' soluti sunt de om'ib' su'iciis et conv'ecomb' sup'dcis' imp'p'm Et ad mai'ori p'missor' securitate vtraq' p's huic s'cpto ad modu' cirogphi' const'o cui vna pars penes d'em Hug' residet sigilla sua alt'natum apposuerunt H. T. Dno Rad' Abbat' de Lilleshull, D'no Thome Corbet, D'no Petro de Eyton, Joh'e Denorose, laure't Mag'ro ad Alimund, Willo' de Wyros & m. a.

- 283 xl Sciant &c ego Osb'tus* D'ns de Stircheleg p' salute a'ie mee (anc & suc) dedi &c to Womb. Priory vna' placia' t're de fedo meo de Stircheleg cu' ptin' suis & cu' bosco infra d'cam terra' contento &c que t'ra jacet int' tales diuissas subscripta s. ab alneo que stat in angulo prati q'd fuit Richardi filii Radulphi de p'ualega in ascendendo et eq'lit' extendendo vsq' ad quercu' que stat sup' ripa' antri in eode' bosco & ab illa quercu' eq'lit' extendendo vsq' ad q'nda alba' spina' que stat ad caput semite que appellat' fidheld s'ti & ab illa alba spina p' p'dcam semita' vsq' q'nda' corulu' que stat ad aliud capud p'dce' semite et ab illa corulo equalit' extendendo vsq' ad q'nda' alneu' magna' & vete'm q'm ego Osb't & p'd'ci cano'ici signare fecimus Et ab illa alneo vsq' ad alia alneu' p'pinq'ore' v'sus Dubitu' q'd app'llat' Eggebroc Et ab illa alneo ex directo vsq' ad p'd'em Dubitu' et ab illo loco in ascendendo p' illud dubitu' usq' ad locu' ubi diuisa que est int' t'ra de leya Leonardi & boscu' de Stirchelege descendit in p'f' dubitu' scilic' defursu'

sic.

* InConfirmy.
Charter called
Osbert s. of
Wm. I. d. of S.
v. p. 106.

- folilee et ab illo loco sicut extendit iux^a
 p'd'cam diuisa' in ascendendo vsq' ad
 p'monominata' alnea' que stat in angulo
 p'ti p'dei Ric'i filij Radulphi Hend' &c
 imp'p'm H.T. D'no Leonardo de leya,
 Rob'to de Brocton, Rog' de Eppeleg',
 Rob'o de Haeman, Walt' de H'pecote, Ric'
 fu'mense, Walt' Capp'lo de Stircheleg & a.
- 284 xlj Omnib' &c Walt'us de Dunstanuile
 t'eius &c Nou'it &c me p' amor' d'i & p'
 salute a'ie mee (& anc. & suc) dedisse &c
 to Womb. Priory tota' p'te' mea' illius
 nemor' quod est in. caleng' int' me &
 Thoma' Tuschet. Hend' &c imp'p'm
 H.T. D'no Joh'e de Ercalewe, Joh'e Aerij,
 Joh'e fil' Hug', Walt'o de Pedewardin,
 militib', Thoma Corbet de Haddeleg,
 Rob'to de Staunton, Joh'e de Stewynton,
 Michael'e de morto', Herb'to de Wyk' &
 m. a.
- 285 xlij Omnib' &c. Thomas Tuschet &c Nou'it
 me p' amor' dei & p' salute' a'ie mee (anc.
 & suc) dedisse to Womb. Priory tota'
 p'te' mea' co'munis nemor' de Wombr.
 scilt int' me et Joh'i Extraneum tened'
 &c scilt p' has diuisas de Stamforde in
 Watlingstrete, p' torrente ascend' vsq' ad
 bosed' hacwei & p' via illa vsq' ad Ruh
 elin p' via p'd'cam vsq' ad Sprungwell
 sich et inde p' torrente descend' ad Wat-
 lingestrete et inde p' Watlingestrete vsq'
 ad p'dem Stamforde quicquid igitur int'
 hos t'minos &c imp'p'm H.T. Baldwino
 de Hodenet, Willo de Ercalew, Hug' fil'
 Rob'ti, Rob'to fil' Aherii, Philippo P'sona
 de Wellinton, Rob'o de Hammas, Rob'to
 de Brocton, Johe Wallensi & m. a.
- 286 xliij Omnib' &c Joh'es de Cumbrey &c sciat
 p' salute aia' mea (p'ris & matris) p'dec.
 et her.) dedisse to Womb. Priory vna'
 v'gatam t're in Wethmundeshall cum
 augmet'o octo Acrar' quas p'sonas de
 Dodesich tenuit & cum prato illis octo
 acris t're adjacente &c H. T. Mag'ro

Rob'to de Salopesbia, Rog'o Corbeth,
Rob'to fil' Willi', Will'o de Hedlega, et
Hamone fr'e suo, Petro de Eitona, Pagano
de P'sona, & Eustachio et Rog'o fr'ib'
eius, Reginaldo de Tirna, Ph'o Welinton,
Mag'ro Ric' de Ideshall, Will'o Pantun,
H'b'to Malueisin, Walt'o de Eppelle,
Walt'o cli'co, Hugone Forestario, Edwino
& He'rico de lega & m. a.

for xliij aeo
next page
but one.

- 287 xlv Omnib' &c Rog' Cok de Brocton &c
nou'itis me dedisse &c to Womb. Priory
una annuiatate t'um solidor' arge'ti im-
p'p'm annuatim leuand p'cipiend de toto
illo ten' meo in Shuffenall quod quid'
Id'm fuit Ric'o le Bedell &c. Power to
distrain H.T. Willo de Leueresete, Joh'e
de Duerois, Joh'e le Taillour, Ric'o le
Spens', Joh'e Rosesone, Willo' de Holme
& a.

- 288 xlvj Omnib' &c Walt'us de Dunstanuilla
d'ns de Ideshal &c nou'ite me p' salute
a'ie mee et vxoris mee Hauwisie de
Prahens necno' p' salute aiar' om'i anc. &
succ. dedisse to Womb. Priory duo molen-
dina que hu'i in man'io meo de Ydeshale
vi^a molendinu' de Ideshale & molendinu'
de Pate'sford cu' situ locor' & cu' tota
sequela ho'inu' meor' liber' tene'ciu &
alior' de d'co manerio cu' lib'o cursu aque
&c. &c. Hend' &c imp'p'm d'co u^o can'oici
q'd'm cap'llm inenient p' a'ia mea et
vxoris mee Hauvise (anc. & suc) in
eccl'ia sua de Wombr diuina celebrante
&c H.T. Abbate Walt'o de Lileshull,
abbate Ric' de Hamond, Rob'to P'or de
Wenlok, Walt'o de Dunstanuill cli'co
cognato meo, Rog' de frala villa, Thoma
Basset nepote meo, Rob'to Corbet de
Hedleia, Petro de Eiton & m.a.

No Numb.
xlvij.

- 289 xlvij Sciant &c. ego Joh'is filius et heres
Thom' de Drayton p' salute a'ie mee
(anc. & succ.) confirmaui &c to Womb.
Priory concessione' et donac'one' q' p'd'cis
Thomas p'r meus eisde' fecit de redditu'

q. c. & c.

anno q'ng' solidor' & sex denar' quos d'cs
 Robtq Pollard p'or de lega et her sui
 eidem Thoma' et hered suis anuati'
 soluere tenebant' p' vna dimidia' v'gata
 t're in p'ca villa de lega p'or imp'p'm
 Habend &c imp'p'm H.T. Joh'e de Stew-
 inton, Joh'e Herb't de Wyke, Willo' p'r
 n'r, Will'o' Hode de Drayton', Ric' coquo
 leg', Rog' Cok & a.

290 xlix Sciant &c ego Thomas de Brocton iux'
 Suttone Madok dedi &c to Womb. Priory
 5 solid. & 6 denar' annui reddit' in quib'
 Rob't d'cs Pollard de leg' p'or et her sui
 michi p' vna dimidia virgata t're in
 p'dca' villa de Leg' prior' imp'p'm Hend
 &c in hunc modo vid' 2 sol. ad opus
 febrice, 2 sol ad luminar' ecc'ie p'dce et
 co'uetu' d'ce dom ad tenend an'iu'sariu'
 meu' met'uu' 18 den ad eo libere et
 quiete sic vnqua' elem. dari posset seu
 assignari &c. H.T. Joh'e de Stiinton,
 Joh'e fil' Herb'ti de Wyk, Will'o de
 deuises, Ric' Colle Rob'to de Clone, & m. a.

291 1 Sciant &c ego Robtus Monteforde d'ns
 de Ideshal p' salute a'ie mee nec no' &
 Pet'nille vxor mee & an'i lib' meor' (et
 anc) dedisse &c to Womb. Priory illam
 t'ram q' incluserunt in bosco de Wyk in
 loqui vocatur Crumphurste ab assarto q'
 vocat' Dobbernding' vsq. ad quercu' que
 stat in cornerio Haye d'cor' can' & quic-
 quid ampli' continet' infra d'cam Hayam
 q'm duodeci' acre q'm tenet ex dono D'n'i
 Walt' de Dunstanuill Concessi eciam
 quand placea' t're p' diuisas subscriptas
 vid' a quadam quercu' que stat in' corner'
 Haye dcor' canoicor' directe descendendo
 ad riuulu' qui currit int' boscu' meu' &
 boscu' de Stirchleg & sic ascend' p' p'dc'm
 riuulu' vsq' ad terra' d'cor' can' ex dono
 d'ni Walt' de Dunstanuill & sic descen-
 dend' p' t'ra dcor' can. vsq' ad d'cam
 quercu' in cornerio dce Haye Hend' &c
 H.T. Joh'e de Stiinton, Herberto de Wyk,

Walt' Marescall, Oliu'o de Knoll, Ric' Pat'
nost' & m. a.

- 292 ij Omnib' &c Magr. Joh' Joye Rector
Ecel'ie de Ydeshale &c Cum questionis
materia nota fuisset int' me ex p'te vna
& Womb. Priory ex alt'a sup decimis
unt'mentor' c'ilm suor' in memorata
parochia mea pastenc'm ego p'melgus
eor' ad'no p'p'a sibi indult michi exhibit
oculata q' fide inspect' sana q' mente in-
tellect' co'peri & p'pendi se fore tutos et
sufficient umementos a prestac'one dear'
deimar' p'textu d'cor' p'mlegior' Comuni-
cato igit' amicor' meor' viror' prudenciu'
& Juris p'itor' consilio a memorato peti-
c'one mea destiti & nulla' acc'one' temp'ib'
meis inposteru' m' co'petere noi'e eccl'ie
mee recognom cum ipor' a'ialia fuerint
in solo alieno & in parochia mea p'dea'
constituta. In cuiq' rei &c. Dat Womb.
die decolac'ois beati Joh' Baptist' 1269.

- 293 lij Breydeford Hundred Maugu' tent'
ib'm die lune bef. f. S^t Mark 25 H. 6.
Ap. 24, 1447 Will'o Poy'n Will' Coton' Will' Wode de
Dreyton Joh' Poy'n Thomas Sambrok
Will' Horne Jue Hadeley Radulf Hosey
Joh' Taylur de Rodon Will' Bokenall
Joh'e Lye de Eton' Nic'l's Codynton
qui dicant sup' sa'cmentu' suu' q' Stane
ford jux^a Wombr' no' est villat' p' se s'
infra metas lib'tat' de Hadeley & Ketley
& om'es desalt' & tuu'sq' ib'm stam' ille
debent p'sentar' in hundrewys de Breyd-
ford In cujus rei testio^m p'sent' sigillu'
officiu' appensu. Dat die sup'dei.

- 294 liij Omnib' &c Pho' p'or de Wombrugge
&c nou'itis nos dimisse &c Joh'i de
Steuinton (Hrs & Ass.) totu' jus' &c in
om'ib' assartis Wast' & axyame't que
p'deo Joh's (Hrs & Ass) H'ent in Man'io
de Ydeshall, &c Dat Womb. Sunday bef.
f. S. Tibureij & Waleriam 2 Ed. 2^d H.T.
D'no Rog. Corbet, D'no Walt'o de Hugge-
forde, D'no Will'o de Wrottesley, D'no

q. c.

Walt'o de Beysin, D'no Th'm Corbet & m.a.

- 295 xliiij Edwardus dei gra' Rex Angl. d'ns
 (Should be before No. 287). Hib'n & dux Aquit. dilco' sibi in x'ro Po'ri de Womb, sal'm licet de consilio n'ro pvideri fecimus q' null aliq' teneme'ta laicalia dimitteret Itaq' ad mortuam manu' deuenirent volentes tam'e vobis gra'm fac'e spalem dedim' vobis licenciam recipiendi molendinu Hugonis de Halghton in Halghton cu' p'tin' ad feodi firmam p'ut int' nos & ip'm co'uenir' poti't. Dedimq' ecia'eide' Hugoni licencia' dimittendi vobis molendinu' p'de'm cu' p'tin' sicut p'de'm est saluo m'r cui' libet. In cuj' Rei testimoniu' has l'ras n'ras fieri fecim' patentes. T'm' ip'o Westm' 2^a Sep. A. r. r. nono.

THE WYCHE.

- 296 j Sciant &c ego Rob' Sale'mon concessi dedi & Ric' Bernard (Hrs & Ass) vna salina in vico Maubanc &c tend &c infiedo Pro hac aute' donacone &c p'd'es Ric's dedit &c m'i & her' meis de se & her' suis gistame'tu' que molendini mei de Adelesta' sup' t'ra sua' de Werlesha' &c H.T. Petro de Stapeleg', Ric' Onoyli', Will'o Waschet, Rob'o Hetstal, Alexandro de Bonebur' & a. Ric' Onoyli
- 297 ij Notum sit &c. ego Thomas Basset diuina pietate dedi &c p' aia' Auu'eli' mei Walt' Dunstanuill & p' salute ai'e mee & Philippe vx mee (& anc.) to Womb. Priory tota' terram q'm emi ap'd Wichu' de Reginaldo Capp'illo H'nda &c. H.T. Gilib Basset, Rob' de Penke, Rob' Graye, Thom' Mascar, Gilib de Tus, Bria'o Pantulfe, Will'o le Knolin, Clemente p'sona, de Wich'o, Ric de Bresa, Rob' de Praerijis, Ernaldo de Noxbury, Adam de Burtun & a. q. c.
- 298 iij Ranu' Comes Cestr om'ib' &c Notu' sit &c me concessisse & p'nti carta mea con-

firmasse &c to Womb. Priory tota' t'ram
q^a Thomas Basset eis dedit (Prop^y in
last) H'nda &c H.T. Rann'o de Pe'r,
Rollando auenel, Pet^o Roaid, Inhello de
Lom'guero, b'eng'o Barchel Abb'e, Ric'
Pisce, Will'o de Serland & m. a.

- 30 *iiij* Sciant &c ego Philippa Maubanch dedi
&c p' salute ai'emee (anc. & suc.) to Womb.
Priory t'ra' mea' in Wichio q^m Thomas
Bascet maritus meus an' obitum suu'
emit de Reginaldo Capp'llo Hend' &c in
p. & p. elem. H.T. Hug' tuc' decano de
Wichio, Will'o p'sona de Ethelstanesfeld,
Brice Pant', Will'mo Chroilin, Rob' Bu'l'on
& m. a.

- 301 Universis &c Ric' Knoylyn &c Nou'it
me diuine caritat' intuitu et p' salute ai'e
mee (anc. & suc.) dedisse &c to Womb.
Priory quatuor su'mas salis co'tinentes
quadraginta bullones p'cipiendas in festo
s'ci mich' de quada' dimidia salina mea
ex oppo'ito dom' Hug' Plu'barij in villa
de Wico maubank de illa videl. cui' alt'a
medietate Radulf Tannator tenet. &c
H.T. Petro de Stapley, Herb'ta de Lee & a.

DE SALOP.

- 302 *j* Nou'it &c me Galfr. Rondolff de Salop.
fil Willi Rondolff de Nououo (sic) Burgo
p' me & her' meis &c inn'p'et' teneri &
obligat' (to Womb. Priory) in vno annuo
reddit' vj^s & oct' denar' eisd'm religio's
sing'lis Annis in f. Ann. b'e Marie & s'ci
Mich'is p'solue'd equis porco'ib' p' vno
mesuag' in vico Salop qui dicit' Mardewall
Power to distrain. H.T. Thom' Bekedon,
Reginaldo Perle, Joh'e Ganeall, (sic) Will'o
de Opton & m. a.

- 303 *ij* Sciant &c ego Thomas fil' Reginaldi le
Parchimener &c vendidi & om'o quiet' q. e.
clamam &c to Womb. Priory annu' red-
ditu' vj^d sing'lis annis &c p'cipiend' de illo
mesuag' cu' ptin' suis int' pont' q'd fuit
Rein'i M'ceri p' dimidia marca Arg'nti
q^m Euger' mercer' de Salop' m dedit &c

- q. Ghoc. H.T. Will'o Sho't, Rog'o Russell t'c p'posit Salop'bur', Will'o Talpeny, cli'co Clemente fil Petri & m. a.
- 304 ijj Nou'it &c me Galfr. Rondolff de Salop' fil' Will'i Rondolff de Nouo Burgo p' me & her' &c imp'p'm teneri &c to Womb. Priory in vno annuo redditu vnus Petre Cepis &c p' soluend' pro vno mesuag' apud le Shalles in Salop &c. Power to distrain. H.T. Thoma de Bekedon, Reginaldo Perle tunc Balliv' ville Salop', Joh'e Gamell, Will'o de Vptone, Warino de la tour, Simone calle, Thoma de Caldewale, & a. f'ta fiunt istas l'tras apud Womb. Sund. in crast. f. Laurencii martir' 2^d Ed. 2.
- 305 iiij Scia't &c ego Will's le lokesmith fil' Isabelle de Salopp' &c dedi Will'o filio meo & Henr' Wildegos socio suo Mesuag' cum p'tin in vico de Mardefole q'd & emi de (Womb. Priory) et situm est int' t'ra quonda' Galfrid Bonel et Edith Janekyn Hend' imp'p' Reddendo &c to Womb. Priory $\frac{1}{2}$ a mark &c et ball'is d'ni reg' de Salop 10 denar' et ob' ad t'mi de Hokeday Et mihi &c vnu' ob' arg'nti pro hac v'o donac'one &c deder'nt m' p'd'ci Will's et Henr' 42 marc' arg'nti &c. H.T. Joh'e fil' Hug' Will'an et Joh'e Russell t'c Ball'is, Johe' fil' Rob', Joh'e Hag'wasc, Will'o Darnell & m. a.
- 306 v Vniu'sis &c Mabilla quonda' vxor Michel de Roshul salute' &c nou'ite qd ego &c tenemur solu'e imp'p'm tres solid' annuati' (to Womb. Priory) et 6 denar. Balliuis d'ni regis salop' et tres q'dranc' ad t'minu' de Hokedey p' quodam mesuag' quod he'o de (Womb. Priory) quod situ est int' mesuag' Iuonis fil' Yuonis et domu' mea' &c Power to distrain &c H.T. Ric' Stury Ranulfo de Kent t'nc p'posit Salop', Ada' de Latuor, Baldwino de M'defol, nicholaole p'm'nt, Joh'e Vileyen.
- 307 vj Sciant &c ego Thomas fil' Will' Moysen co'cessi &c imp'p'm Rob'to fil' Walt'i et

her^s totu' jus &c qd h'ui in mesuagio in burgo salopbir' in vico de Gu'bestol qd est int' mesuagiu' Rob'ti fil' Martin & Messuag' Rog'i Pictor' & ita extendente a fronte illi' vici p' mediu' vsq' ad aliu' vicu' u'sus atriu' Eccl'ie s'ci Cedde p' septe' marcis arge'ti Reddendo to Womb Priory 12 denar H. T. Joh'e fil' Hug' & Rogo' fil' Pam p'p't Salop, Andr' fil' Rob'ti, Cleme'te fil' Petri & m.a

- 308 vij Sciant &c ego Henricus p'or de Womb. &c dedimus &c Rob'to filio Martini de Salop'br. pro homagio &c & p' 2 marks of silver q'da' mesuag' in Burgo Salop'br in vico de Gumbestolestret &c int. mes. Herb'ti le Choifer et mes q'd fuit quonda' Rog'i le Bonde cum tota t'ra illa que est int' d'em mesuagui' & via' sub cimit'eo s'ci Cedde tend' &c in feido &c Reddendo 8 denar' & to the Kg 8 denar. &c H.T. Baldwino de Hodeneth milite, Alano fil Jordani de Salop', Jacobo f're ei', Herb'to le coifer, Cleme'te fil Petri, Jacobo de forieta fil Martini, Will'o f're eius, Semone de foryeta, Hug' fil' Ricardi, Rob'to Borrey & m.a.

- 309 Sciant &c Ego Henricus (as in last) dedimus &c. Herb'to filio Walt'i coif' de Salop'b'r & seuico & homagio suo & pro 40 solid. arg. quodda' mesuagiu' in burgo Salop'br in vico de Gumbestol (same prem'es as 307) Habend' &c in feodo. Reddendo 12 denar. H.T. D'no Baldwino de Hodenet, Hug' fil' Hadhebu'a & War'io infante p'posit te Salop, Alano fil' ford', Reg'm de Hib'n, Rob'o infante, Andre' fil Hub'ij, Ric' villane, Rob'to Wischard & m. a.

DE GRENHUL.

- 310 j Uniu'sis &c Ric Grenhul &c nou'it' me concessisse &c D'no Walt' de Dunstanuill et her &c. molendinu' de Grenhull cum situ loci & omnib' p'tin &c vid' eu' tota sequela ville de G. & viis vndiq ad

idem molendinu' ducentib' ad quoscu'q'
ho'ies illuc accedere voln'tes & stagno
& cursu aque et piscaria in eade' aq'
a vado de Ric' Ford usq' ad p'd'cu' molen-
dinu' &c Hend' & s' & he'dib'u &
Reddendo &c vnu' par' albaru' cirotechar'
de p'cio vni' oboli v'l vnu' obolu' &c H.T.
D'no Joh'e Dunstanuill, D'no Walt' de
Hugeforde, D'no Ric' de Sanford, Dn'o
p'ore de Wombr., D'no Walt' de Kemb'c-
ton, D'no Yvene de Bricton & m. a.

311 ij Omib' &c Walt' de Dunstaneuill t'eius
&c nou'it me dedisse p' salute ai'e mee
(anc. and suc.) to Womb. Priory totum
molendinu' de Grenhulle &c q' emi de
Ric' d'no de Grenhull Hend'u' &c im-
p'p'm H.T. D'no Rob' de Halegtone,
D'no Joh'e fil Hug', D'no Walt' de Ped-
wrthyn, D'no Joh'e fil' Aer', Joh'e de
Ercalewe, Joh'e de Stiuinton, Herberto de
Wyke & a.

312 ij Sciat &c ego Will's de Ruton D'ns de
Ruton dedi &c to Womb. Priory duas
acras t're &c jacentes int' t'ram p'dcor'
canoicor' q'm hu't de dono quond'm Ric'i
de Grenhull & se extend'nt in longitudine'
de Ruhamstrete vsq' ad dutellu' de Had-
nition Tend' &c imp'p'm' H.T. Ph'o de
Bekebur' de Joh'e de Grenhull, Joh'e de
Stiuinton & a.

313 iiij Uniu'sis &c Philipp' P'or de Wombr'
&c. Nou'it q' cu' Alic' de Grenhull he'at
&c de dono &c Ric'i de Grenhull in p'm
feodum duas placeas t're in vasto suo de
Grenhull inf^a communa' n'ram nos &c
uolentes d'cam Alicia' de Grenhull occa-
c'one commune n're p'd'ce Aliq^ulit p'tur-
bare &c concedimq' eidem Alicie he'd &
ass. suis p' nobis & succ' n'rs q'd possit
no' obstante co'muna n'ra p'dca p'fatas
duas placeas t're p' singulos duos annos
arare et seminar' p' singulos t'rios annos
Warantizare & commodu' suu' fac'e lib'e
et pacifice imp'p'm' salua nobis et succ'

nr̄is & hom'ib' n'ris de Grenhull lib'a
com'una n'ra longa et lata sicut au'a vti
solebam vna cum libo' et largo ingressi
et egressi post croppum tam feni q^m
bladu' levatum &c imp'p'm H.T. Joh'e
de Stiinton, Joh'e Herberd, Will'o Hode,
Joh'e fil Tho^e, Rog' & a. Dat. Womb.
(sic) p'x post f. Purif. be' Marie A. r. r.
11 E. 2.

314 v Uniu'sis &c Philipp' p'or de Wombr'
&c Nou'it q'd eu' Gilb't' de Himuntu' &
Rosa vx' ei' he'ant de dono & concessione
Ric' de Grenhull inp'p'm feodu' duas
placeas t're in vasto suo de Grenhull infra
com'una' n'ram de Grenhull nos &c
uolentes d'eos Gilb'tum et Rosam vxore'
sua' occac'one com'une n're p'd'ce ali-
qualit' p'turbar' &c Concedim' eisde'
Gilb'to & Rose vxori' sue H'rs & ass
p' nobis & succ' n'ris quod possint &c
(as in last) H.T. as in last. Dat. Womb.
Wed. aft. f. Purif. b'e Marie A. r. r. 11 E. 2.

315 vj Sciant &c ego Rog'us de Wodehous
dedi &c Joh'i fil' Ric'i de Grenhull tota'
parte' mea' om'i t'rar' et teneme'tor' eu'
p'tin' que he'o u'l aliquo modo iur' vl
titl'o impost'mu h're pot'o infra feoda de
Hadynton Grenhull & ruton Hend' &c
de cap. d'no feodi &c imp'p'm H.T.
Will'o D'ns de Grenhull, Will'o de Farne-
cote, Joh'e le Clerke de ead'm, Joh'e
Adamson & a. Dat. Hadynton Wed. in
f. of Inv' of Cross A. r. r. 42 Ed. 3.

316 vij Sciant &c ego Will's Hyckeson de
Grenhull dedi &c Bartholomeo Grenhull
cap'llo de Wombr. et Joh'i Corkyn rectori
ecc'ie de Eton Costantyn om'ia t'ras et
tent' mea infra feod' de Hadynton que
hui'ex dono & feoffame't d'ci Bartholomei
& Cibille mat's eius Hend' &c de cap.
d'no feod. in p'p'm H.T. Rog'o Lowe,
Thoma Filkyn, Joh'e Hadynton, Joh'e
Jowkyn, & Thoma Cli'co de Wombr. & a.

Dat. Hadinton die lune px post f. Natiuit.
b'e Marie v'ginis 10 H. 4.

317 viij Uniu'sis &c Philipp P'or de Womb. &c
Nou'it q'd cu' Agnes quonda' vx Thome
le Turnor de Humenton' he'at &c de dono
&c Ric'i de Grenhul in ip'm feodum vna'
placea' t're in vasto suo de Grennull inf^a
comuna' n'ram nos &c uolentes d'cam
agneta' occacone &c (as in 313) H.T.
Joh'e de Stiinton & same date (wednes-
day).

318 ix Uniu'sis &c Joh'es de Grenhull &c
Nou'it me remisisse to Womb. Priory
q'nd'm annuu' reddit' vni' oboli q^u m'
solide tenebam' & her' meus p' molendini
de Grenhull imp'p'm' In cuiq' rei testi-
moniu' has lit'as meas eis fieri feci patent'
Dat. Womb. Tu. bef. f. Apost. Symon et
Jude A.D. M.CC. sept'ue.

319 x Hec est' Conueco f'ta int' fr'em
Walt'um P'ore de Wombr' et eiqde' loci
co'uet' ex una p'te & Joh'e dnm de
Grenhull ex alta' vid. s^d Priory concessernt
eide' Joh'i molendinu' suu' de Grenhull
ad p'petua feode' firma' Hend' &c eid'
Joh'i (h'rs & ass) &c cum aqua & piste &
cum bays & piscaria &c imp'p'm Red-
dendo vna' m'e' argenti saluo tu' p'deo
molendino d'cis can' et om'ib' succ' suis
quocienscu'q' aliquis u'l aliqui He'dum
ip'i Joh'is u'l alie' succ' eius infra
legitima' etate' extiterint tenendo &c
Power if s^d mark of silver not paid, rent
to be doubled & Bailiff of Brimestre to
enforce payment p' om'ia bona sua
mobilia et immobilia &c H.T. D'no willo'
de Hugesforde, Ph'o de Bekbur', Will'mo
de Burton, Joh'e de Pres, Joh'e de Stewyn-
ton, Walt'o Marescallo de Wyke, Herb'to
de ead'e & m.a

320 xj Sciant &c ego Walt'us de Dunstaneuill
dedi &c p' salute ai'e mee (anc & succ) to
Womb. Priory Molendin' de Grenhull
Hend' &c cu' situ loci & cu' om'ib' p'tin

suis vid' cu' tota sequela &c. &c. imp'p'm
H. T. Will's de Huggford, Rog'o de
Pinelesdon, Walt'o de Pedewarthin mili-
tib', Rad'o de Stanford, Joh'e de Prese,
Thom' de Brocton, Rog'o Bees de ead'm,
Rob'o Corbet, Joh'e de Stiinton & a.m.

- 321 xij Sciant &c ego Ric' D'ns de Grenhull
p' salute' a'ie mee et ar'ar' anc. et succ.
dedi &c to Womb. Priory duas dimidias
v'gatas t're cu' p'tin' suis in villa de
Grenhul seil' illa' &c q' pain aliqu' tenuit
et illam &c q' Will's fili' Thome tenuit
cum omib' prat' eisinde' t'e p'tinentib' &
vnu' pratu' q' appellabir' pratu' Alani &
p'tea vna' culturam &c que p'pinquor
est campo de Brocton & extendit se in
latitudine p' campu' de Brocton vsq' ad
Willenag'm de Grenhull et in longit. a
chemino viridi q' vadit de Brocton vsq'
u'sus Ruton' descendendo usq' ad riuulu'
que currit subt Hadinton Hend' &c
imp'p'm Concessi itaq' et dedi (to same)
imp'p'm lib'tate' vt ip'i h'eant in p'd'ca
villa de Grehull oues ducentas u'l arietes
in vtriusq' sexus ibidem ad pasturam
pascend' et inde remouend' qu' eis licuerit
et cet'a aueria que suffice' possint ad
d'cas t'ras vtilit' colendas et compostandas
si ita contingerit q' ip'i cano'ici u'l succ'
eor' assignauerint alicui d'cas t'ras tenen-
das concessi et dedi imp'p'm et quicu'q'
fu'int assignati eor' he'ant tanta aueria
in p'd'ca pastura de Grenhul que eis
suffice' possint ad d'cas t'ras colendas
& compostandas salua t'u d'eis can. &c
in eade' villa pastura p'd'ca ducentar'
ouiu' u'l tot arietu' sine vtriusq' sexus.
Concessi & eis & succ. eor' & dedi liber-
tate imp'p'm in aueria sua et assign' suor'
pascant in p'tis meis cum fena fuerint
leuata in omib' & culturis meis vna cu'
Aneriis meis cum fructus fuerint ablati
et in cet'is q'ib' pasturis vbicu'q' mea
p'paaneria pasc'ntu'l pasce' consueuerunt.
Also liberty to take stone in the quarries

Also liberty eundi et redeundi sup' tene-
me'tu meu' cu' bigis & carris et cet'is
pharelis p' mocioni eor' vtilib' &c also
q'd d'ci can' &c sine & quieti a sequela
curie mee q' ibide no' acceda't nisi eis
placuerit et ad com'odu' suu' fu'it &c
H.T. D'no Will'o de Hedeleg, D no Hug
fil' Rob'ti, D'no Odone de Hodeneth, D'no
Madaco de Sutton', Herb'to tc senescallo
de Ideshall, Oliuero de Knoll, Radulfo de
Stanton, Ada Pollard, Ada Wallensi et
m. a.

HADINTON

- 322 j Omnib' &c frat' Henric d'cs Prior de
Wombr &c Nou'it nos dedisse &c Ade
de Chorlet' & her' suis in feoda & her
editate vna' dimidia' v'gata' t're in Had-
inton &c illa scil' q'm Philippus Capellan'
de nobis tenuit ad t'minu' in excambijs
par'tis sue de Wichelee illius scli' p'tis
q'm p'dco Ade & Ali'e vxori sue contigit
in diuisione terr' de Wichelee sup' q'm
cepim' domos n'ras edificar v' Ada &
hered' sui' hebunt' & teneb'nt p'd'cam
dimid' v'gata' t're in hadinton libere &c
imp'p'm H.T. Baldwino de Hodenet,
Hug' fil' Rob'ti, Will'o de Hedlee, Walt'
de Stirglee, Rob'to de Broct', Rog' de
Besselawe & m.a.
- 323 ij Sciant &c ego Ricardus fili' Ric'i de
Bruges dedi &c Joh'e q'nda' vxori Hu-
gonis de Bekebur (h'rs & ass.) tota' t'ram
mea' q'm hui' in villa de Hadinton scil
vna' dimidia' v'gata' t're cum mesuagio
et cu' omib' p'tin ad d'cam terram p'tin
Hend' &c imp'p'm. Reddendo vnu' obolu'
argenti &c p' hac aute' co'cessione &c d'ca
Johanna m' dedit 40 solid. argnti &c.
H.T.D'no Henr'o Lyard, Ph'o de Bekebur',
Joh'e de Ruton, Ric' de Preston, Joh'e de
Grenhull, Ph'o de Poncesbur' & m. a.
- 324 iij Sciant &c ego Johan'a q'nda vxor
Hugon' de Bekkebur' p' salute ai'e mee
et anc. dedi &c to Womb. Priory vna'

dimidia v'gata' t're cu' mesuagio et crofto
 &c infra villam de Hadinton cum corpore
 meo cum qtingat me infata decede' illa'
 vid' q'm emi in mea viduitate de Ric' de
 Brugg de Opinton Ita vid' cu' qtingat
 me ext'um' diem vite mee claude' nome'
 meu' in martilogio dom scribatur &
 singul' annis inp'm die obitus mei
 anni'sariu' meu' celebretur et pro aia'
 mea spa'lit' oretur' H'nd &c inp'm &c
 H.T. Ph'o de Bekkebur', Joh'e de Gren-
 hull, Will'o de Ricton', Joh'e de Stiuinton,
 Herberto de Wyke, Rob'o Pollard, Will'o
 Bege de Brocton & m.a.

325 iiij Sciant &c Ego Johanna (as above) dedi
 &c p' salute ai'e mee (anc & succ) to
 Wombridge Priory $\frac{1}{2}$ virg. of land in
 Hadinton cum messuagio et crofto &c
 q'm emi' de Ric' de Brugge de Opinton
 Tend' &c imp'p'n &c H.T. Ph'o de Beck-
 ebur', Joh'e de Grenhulle, Will'o de Ruton,
 Hugon' de Bolinghal, Johe de Bispeston',
 Johe de Stiuinton, Herb'to de Wyke,
 Will'o Bees de Brokton, Joh'e c'lico de
 eadem' & m.a.

326 v Omnib' &c Haliena spousa Rog'i Mus-
 sun &c sciatis me dedisse &c to Womb.
 Priory, dimidia' v'gatam terr' in Hadin-
 tona que fuit secheti minor' cu' om'ib'
 p'tin' &c hoc aute' feci p' anima spousi
 mei Rog'i Muissun et pro a'iab' patris et
 matris mee (anc. & succ.). H.T. Mag'ro
 Rob'to Salop'bie, Ric' fr'e eius, Gregorio
 capll'no Wrocestrie, Ernaldo capll'no
 Opinton, Philippo de Welintona, magro
 Ric' Hideshalie, Will'o minore de Hedlega,
 Guidone de Sageburia, Reginaldo de Tirne,
 Ric' de Chesthulle, Alexandro de nouo-
 burgo, Rad' de Horleton, Gilb'to Mussun,
 Rad' de Perrin, Rob' Augeuin, Adam de
 Wrocworthin' & plur. aliis.

THE OBSOLETE PUNISHMENTS OF SHROPSHIRE.

By S. MEESON MORRIS.

(Continued from p. 382 of Vol. X.)

PRIVILEGE OF SANCTUARY.

THE privilege of sanctuary was closely connected with the privilege known as benefit of clergy. By the latter, the criminal evaded the just consequences of his crime through the sanctity he enjoyed by reason of the fact, or even the supposition, that he had been admitted into holy orders; by the former, he escaped by the sanctity which was attached, as was believed, to all consecrated ground.

In theory, privilege of sanctuary was an immunity from punishment rather than an actual punishment; in practice, it was a punishment, and of a somewhat serious nature too, inasmuch as it involved what was called abjuration of the realm, with *attainder*, and the immediate inseparable consequences of forfeiture of property and corruption of blood.

Privilege of sanctuary was known in England in the earliest Christian times, and, for many generations, sanctuaries not only defied the efforts of ambitious law-givers, but also proved themselves stronger than a mediæval police, and survived the legislative measures of successive parliaments.¹

¹ The statute 21 James I., c. 28, nominally abolished the privilege, but for many years afterwards there were sanctuaries in England, which became the subject of new statutes in the reigns of Will. III., and Geo. I.

Sanctuaries were places privileged for the safeguard of offenders' lives, being founded on the law of mercy, and the great reverence and devotion which the prince bears to the places whereunto he grants such privilege. It would appear that formerly the privilege was of a two-fold character—the one general and belonging to all churches and their precincts; the other peculiar and particular, allowed to various “places of tuition and privilege,” in consideration of the fact or the fiction that they had the authority of royal charter for their existence.

The practice of general sanctuary was as follows:—If a person accused of any capital felony (except treason or sacrilege) had fled to a church or churchyard for sanctuary, he was allowed forty days within which to confess his guilt before the coroner, who thereupon administered to him an oath to abjure the kingdom for ever, and assigned to him a port, to which he was to proceed with all due diligence, and with a cross in his hand, there to embark and never to return, unless the King's license were granted him to do so.¹ During the forty days privilege of sanctuary, and during the journey to the place of embarkation, the criminal was privileged from arrest, and if apprehended could plead his privilege. If he did not comply with the terms of the sentence by leaving the country directly, or if he afterwards

¹ The following was the form of oath generally used:—“You hear, Mr. Coroner, that I, A.B., have (*describing the offence*), and am the King's felon; and for that I have done many evil deeds and felonies in this same his land, I do abjure and forswear the lands of the Kings of England, and that I shall haste myself to the port of (*naming the port*) which you have given or assigned to me; and that I shall not go out of the highway; and if I do, I will that I shall be taken as a thief, and the King's felon; and at the same place I shall tarry but one ebb and flood, if I may have passage; and if I cannot have passage in the same place, I shall go every day into the sea to my knees, and above, attempting myself to go every day to my knees, and above, crying, *Passage for the love of God, and King N. his sake*; and if I may not within forty days together, I shall get me again into the church, as the King's felon.

“So God me help and by this book, according to your judgment.”

returned without license, he was condemned to be hanged, unless entitled to be allowed the benefit of clergy. It sometimes occurred that no vessel could be found to convey the criminal, at the port to which he journeyed, and then, in proof of his sincere desire to carry into effect the terms of the oath he had taken, he was obliged every day to go into the sea up to his middle, and after forty days he might return to his sanctuary. By this abjuration the blood of the criminal became attainted, and he forfeited his property. Among other corrections of this strange practice introduced in the time of Henry VIII., was one enabling the coroner to burn every person, so abjuring, on his thumb with a hot iron. That the towns of Shrewsbury and Ludlow were accordingly provided with the instruments necessary for that purpose, is conclusively proved by entries in the records, dated in that King's reign.

A *peculiar* sanctuary might, apparently, afford a place of refuge even to those who had committed high or petty treason¹; and a person escaping thither might, if he chose, remain undisturbed for life, though he still had the option of taking the oath of abjuration and quitting the realm for ever.

The ancient custom of assigning a port and forcing the sanctuary-men into exile seems to have been extinct in the sixteenth century, and certain towns became in fact places of permanent refuge for persons who should, according to ancient usage, have abjured the realm, after having fled in the ordinary way to a church.

Gradually, and principally by various Acts passed in the reign of Henry VIII., the protection of sanctuary was taken away from persons guilty of all the most heinous offences, until at length in the reign of James I.,

¹ In the earliest times traitors were probably not entitled to take sanctuary, but it is clear that in the reign of Henry VIII., and possibly before, protection was given even to a traitor. The statute 26 Hen. VIII., c. 13, enacted that no person accused of treason should enjoy the privilege.

in words at least, the privilege of sanctuary was altogether denied to criminals.¹

References to the practice of sanctuary in Shropshire are not at all numerous, but such particulars as have been discovered are of unusual interest, and serve, perhaps far better than elaborate treatises, to reveal among other things, the aversion of the laity to the clergy in the dark ages, and the wild and lawless scenes of the time, which seem to have given men new intensity of feeling and greater depth of thought, and to have left a shadow behind them which could not be wholly dissipated.

In 1472, a circumstance occurred at Shrewsbury to which public attention was greatly directed, and concerning which there was much controversy and some interesting correspondence.² An Austin Friar murdered a man at Shrewsbury, and then claimed the privilege of the house. Public opinion was so strongly opposed to the protection thus afforded the murderer, that the Friars became apprehensive that the sanctity of their church might be violated, and in their distress made an application to the Council of the Marches, and obtained the following order from the young Prince to the magistrates at Shrewsbury :—

By the Prince.

Trusty and welbeloved we grete you well. And forasmuche as the Priour of the house of Frereastyns of Shrowesbury in the name of himself and his covent hath put unto us a bill of compleynt shewing that where as now late it happened a frere by the suggestion of the Devil to kille a man in Shrowesbury forsaïd, and, as is surmised in the said bill, it was doon in his defence: whereupon the said frere hath taken the tuicion privilege and sanctuary of the said hous, which, as they

¹ Traitors were denied the privilege of sanctuary by statute 26 Hen. VIII., c. 13, s. 2; by 27 Hen. VIII., c. 19, sanctuary-men were to wear badges; and by 32 Hen. VIII., c. 12, the protection of sanctuary was taken away from persons guilty of all the greatest offences, such as murder, burglary, arson, and the like.

² Owen and Blakeway's *History of Shrewsbury*, Vol. ii., pp. 456, 457, and 458.

surmyse, is sufficiently privileged to kepe and defende suche malifactours so commyng to their said place askyng the tuicion and privilege of the same, from al maner arestyng or violent takyng out by eny maner officer. And where as we and our counsell be not veraily asserteyned of suche privileges, we have assigned the said Priour to be here before us and our said counsell the Tewesday next after Trinite Sondag nowe next ensuyng, there and then to shewe al suche privileges as thei clayme tochyng the premisses. Wherefor we wil and desire you to se that no man in the meane tyme attempt any thing with in the precincte of the said place: latyng you wite, that for the singuler love that we bere unto the said toun we wolde be right sory that eny thyng shulde be attempted by you or eny of thenhabitants of the same that shulde be ayenst the pleasir of God or the lawes of my most drad lord and fadre. Yeven undre our signet at the Castel of Ludlowe the xvj day of May.

The Friars were not alarmed without reason ; for some of the friends of the deadman actually entered the sanctuary in search of the murderer, and resistance being offered, a struggle ensued, in which another of the burgesses was killed in the church, which had to be re-consecrated in consequence. The serious nature of the conflict, and the important principle involved in the dispute, induced the Friars to appeal to a higher tribunal, and they placed their case before the King himself, who replied as follows :—

By the King.

Trusty and welbeloved we grete you wele : lating you wite that we be enformed how that through the obstinacy and wilfulnesse of certaine evyl disposed persones amonge you as in presumyng and violently taking out of a persone which requyred and recovered the greeth and privileige of the church of the religious men the Freres Augustines with in youre toun oon of the said persones was slain, and therby the said church polluted and suspended, wherby divine service and observaunce have eversith be embarred and not observed as it was accustomed to be : which souneth not only to thigh displeasir of God, but also to Ours. We therefor, right desirous of the said observaunce duely to be ministered, to the laude and praising of our Lord, as it accordeth, charge you that anon upon the sight of thise, ye doe truely and feithfully enquire of the doers and causers of the said pollution, and thereupon com-

mytte them to sure prison, to tyme it be proceeded there by the due ordre of our lawes, aswel for theyre punicion for their said presumpeion and offense, as for the provision of the charges and duties of the Bishop of the Diocese by theim to be born and paied for the reconsecracion of the saide church, whom by our other lettres we have desired to dispose him thidre in alle haste to that entente. Wherfor we charge you that the said duties be arredeyed ayenst his comyng among you. And that ye faile not hereof as ye will advoide our high displeasir soe that they have noo cause eftsoones to complaine and sue unto us for remedy. Yeven undre oure signet at oure palais of Westm' the ivth daie of Novembre.

This royal missive seems to have prevented further hostilities, but the Friars, anxious to effect a complete reconciliation, and to provide against a recurrence of such disgraceful proceedings and the withdrawal of the alms of the inhabitants, by which they were mainly supported, obtained a reference to two eminent personages, who subsequently made the following award:—

To all thoo these presentz schall see or her, the Right Worschipfull and reverent Faders in God the Byschop of Karlile and Thomas Abbot of Schrouysbury gretinge in our Savior.

Forasmoche as divers causes of contraversyes and discordes nowe late have be moved and stered betuyn John Wall priour of the hous of Freres austyns of the toun of Schrouysbury and the covent of the same on that oon partye, Thomas Mitton and John Trentham bayliffs of the seyd toun and other burges and inhabitants of the same on that othr ptye, for the polucon of the seyd Freres hous as wele as for the reconeylynge of the same, nowe late poluted by certeigne evyll disposed persones children of wykednesse not dredyng our Lord God, nor the censures of our moder holy chirche; we ther for, by the assent of botheseyd parties, takyng upon us by good advice and deliberacon diligently examenyng bothe seyd ptyes, as well herynge the complaynts as the onswers and replicacons of the same the seyd bayliffs burges and inhabitants for theym and all tho that schall succede afre them; to the honor and worschip of God and encreasyng of divine service with in the seyd hous to for¹ as for tranquillite and peace her aftr to be had, have promitted that yef so happen, as God defend, that the seid hous be poluted greved injured or offended contrary

¹ i.e. before.

to the right of the chirche, that then the seyd bailiffs burges and inhabitants and theyr successors for the tyme beyng schulbe assistent eydyng and helpynge to the priour and covent of the seyd hous for the defence of the same in all causes to theym rightfull, sheuyng theyr good benyvolence by weye of charite and almes to theym her aftre to be had in as large and ampull wyse as they have done at any time to for passed, aftre the merits of the priour and covent of the seyd hous for the tyme beyng. In wnesse wher of we the seyd bayliffs to for the seyd lords, in the presence of meny notabill persones, to thes presents have put to the seale of our office in feythe and trouthe of the premyssz at Schrouysbury in the seyd hous of freres Austyns the iiij^e daye of May the yer of our Lord God m^e.cccc.lxxij.

The Friary maintained its privilege of sanctuary to the last, for in the bailiffs' accounts as late as 16 Henry VIII., is an entry¹ :—

Solut' pro expensis vigilancium Thomam Jobbessone fugientem ad domum fratrum Augustin' pro feloniam, viii. d.

and again the bailiffs of the town for the period 1530-1531, expended a sum of 4d. in providing an iron marked with a letter, to burn persons abjuring the realm in the palm of the hand.²

A similar entry is made in a fragment of some old accounts of the chamberlain of Ludlow, for 1532-1533, from which it may be inferred that the authorities of that place were not unmindful of the duty imposed upon them by the recent statute of Henry VIII., for they also purchased an iron to burn persons abjuring the realm.³ A scarce paper, taken from the Cromwell documents at the Rolls House, printed *in extenso* in the *History of Ludlow*,⁴ contains an account of two malefactors, who, after having committed felony, claimed the protection of the church, and having

¹ Owen and Blakeway's *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. ii., p. 548.

² Owen and Blakeway's *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. i., p. 310.

³ The entry is :—"Pro uno ferro ad comburend' p'sonas abiurantes regnum." It is written upon a fragment of paper, much mutilated. The sum expended is quite illegible.

⁴ Wright's *History of Ludlow*, p. 384.

been abjured, proceeded to London, and were again apprehended for murder.

The men of Ludlow, not unlike the people of Shrewsbury in 1472, were evidently so enraged at a crime committed in or about 1299, that they entered and dragged from the church of the Friars of St. Augustine, near Ludlow, a clerk who had fled thither for his life.¹ This violation of sanctuary produced a letter from the Bishop of Hereford, dated August 16, 1299, addressed to King Edward I., conveying the Bishop's earnest complaint of this outrage.

The Wenlock Jurors at the Assizes of October, 1203, reported of a robber, who, after commission of his crime, took sanctuary in the church of Linley;² and, in 1292, the Overs Jurors at the Assizes made a presentment and recorded how, in 1291, a robber had taken sanctuary in Corley church, and after having confessed to many larcenies, had abjured the realm before Philip de Clinton, Coroner.³

The respect paid to churches as sanctuaries in ancient times is well illustrated by the case of a murderer, a Welshman, who some time before 1292 had taken sanctuary in the church at Alberbury, and after having remained there unharmed for five weeks, was, "in time of war," rescued by his compatriots.⁴ Another later case at Alberbury is strangely opposed to the apparent respect for the privilege disclosed by the last mentioned instance, for at the assizes of 1292 the Jurors for the hundred of Ford made a presentment, whereby they reported that an unfortunate individual named John Smith was discovered getting billet wood at Loton, and having fled for refuge to the Abbey church, was pursued by several persons and there murdered.⁵

¹ Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, Vol. v., p. 299.

² Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, Vol. ii., p. 42.

³ Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, Vol. iv., p. 359.

⁴ Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, Vol. vii., p. 89.

Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, Vol. vii., p. 96.

The sanctuary at Halston was the place of refuge at which Meyric Lloyd sought protection for the crime he had committed in putting to death an English Judge and several other officers of the Court.¹

It has been said that the churches at Sutton and Easthope were anciently much used as sanctuaries, and that on the door of Easthope church may still be seen an iron link or handle, which, it is surmised, was taken hold of by those who found it necessary to claim the privilege of sanctuary there.² It is very possible that this iron link or handle is an interesting relic of the ancient custom.³

It is difficult, in an enlightened and law abiding age, to realize the demoralising effects which must have arisen from the free and unrestricted use of the privilege of sanctuary, in times which are happily now a mere matter of history.

Possibly there were advantages resulting from the right of sanctuary to the weaker classes in a rude and lawless age, but, as may naturally be supposed, the permanent sanctuaries became in course of time an asylum where criminals of all descriptions were wont to reside, where the officers of justice were resolutely and completely set at defiance, and where he that was vile and polluted with crime found a sympathising friend of his own base and depraved kind. The custom had become so regarded as part of the public life, that the dread of innovation or some other cause preserved it from actual destruction, till the evils arising from sanctuaries had grown so enormous that it became absolutely necessary to take some decisive steps for its abolition.

¹ *Salopian Shreds and Patches*, Vol. vii., pp. 110 and 115.

² *Salopian Shreds and Patches*, Vol vii., pp. 78, 79, and 82.

³ On the door within the porch, forming the principal entrance to Durham Cathedral, is a curious metallic ring, or knocker, sculptured with a terrific visage, in bold relief, and well executed, with which persons claiming sanctuary in the night time were accustomed to alarm the inmates of the Cathedral.

BENEFIT OF CLERGY.

BENEFIT of Clergy, the *privilegium clericale*, was originally the privilege whereby the clergy obtained an immunity of their persons in criminal proceedings before secular judges. It was one of the strangest features in the criminal jurisprudence of this country, and had its origin in the very bountiful privileges and exemptions granted to the clergy by Princes and States anciently converted to Christianity. The extension of clerical power and independence in subsequent years gave new strength to the privileges which the clergy had previously enjoyed, and they claimed as an indefeasible right, that which had at first been merely matter of royal favour, founding their principal argument upon this text of Scripture:—"touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm." They obtained great enlargements of this privilege, extending it not only to persons in holy orders, but also to all who had any kind of subordinate ministration in the Church, and even to laymen if they could read, and applying it to civil as well as criminal causes. In this way an anomaly, which had sprung up in the rudest times, gained force enough to survive through ages of a very different complexion, and expired, only recently, when everything was changed except itself.

In early times, the tonsure was necessary for a successful assertion of the claim to clergy, even though no objection to the claim was raised by the ordinary, but in process of time a much wider and more comprehensive criterion was established, whereby the qualification of being able to read, a mark of great learning in days when the mass of the people was in the densest ignorance, was held sufficient, though the prisoner was neither trimmed with the clerical tonsure nor a clerk in holy orders. But, when learning increased and education became more general, it was found that reading was no longer a competent proof of clerkship or being in holy orders. What was at first a privilege giving

practical impunity to all members of the clerical body who had committed any offence, had become a privilege shared with them by educated laymen : and therefore in the reign of Henry VII. an act¹ was passed, which made a remarkable distinction between mere lay scholars and clerks that were really in orders, by providing that every person (not being within orders) who had once been admitted to his clergy, should not be admitted to the same a second time, and that every layman allowed the privilege should be burnt with a hot iron in the brawn of the left thumb, and marked with the letter M, if convicted of murder; and with the letter T, if convicted of any other felony.

The burning in the hand was invariably inflicted in open court, in full view of the judge, and immediately after the conclusion of the trial and conviction of the prisoner. The hand of the culprit was placed in an appliance consisting of a half handcuff on a hinge to hold down the wrist, with an iron staple large enough for the fingers, and then burnt with a small brand iron in the brawn of the left thumb. This appliance was attached to the bar, or some other suitable place, but it was not in every court that such convenient and necessary machines were provided. It is not improbable that at Ludlow the prisoners were branded while tied to the bar with ropes. In the accounts of the bailiffs of that borough for the year 1604, there appears a payment of 2s. for cords to tie the prisoners to the bar,² and from the nature of the items which immediately precede and follow the entry in question, it is more than probable

¹ 4 Henry VII., c. 13.

² 1604 :—"Item paid for cords to tie the prisoners to the barr 2s." The item which immediately precedes is that relating to the purchase of an iron for burning in the hand. The item immediately following is :—

1604 :—"It'm paid to three warders or billmen that attended at the barre 11s."

It was not customary to tie prisoners to the bar, except during the process of branding.

that the cords were purchased for the purpose of securing the prisoners during the infliction of the branding.

In recent times, the iron was, purposely, not much heated, except perhaps in serious cases, when it was sometimes effectually heated. This deception did not escape the attention of Charles Moritz, a young German, who, when visiting England in 1782, was much surprised at the custom, and in his Diary mentioned that a clergyman having fought a duel with another in Hyde Park, and killed his man, was found guilty of manslaughter, and was burnt in the hand, if that could be called burning which was done with a cold iron. The allusion to the practice of intentionally mitigating the sentence by using a cold iron as a mere matter of form, was, it is feared, only too well founded in fact.

In all the six ancient boroughs in the county of Salop, at which quarter sessions for the trial of prisoners were formerly held, there were in years past the necessary burning irons to comply with the statute of Henry VII. :—At Bishop's Castle, in 1615, a burning iron for convicts was purchased;¹ at Oswestry, in 1616, a similar investment was made;² at Much Wenlock, among the implements in the treasurer's box on August 16th, 1614, was one burning iron for felons;³ at Bridgnorth, the delivery by the two bailiffs to their successors in office of a marking iron to mark a convict clerk, is twice recorded in the reign of Henry VIII;⁴ and in 1604, the bailiffs of Ludlow purchased an iron to burn prisoners in the hand at a cost of 3s.;⁵ at Shrewsbury, no express mention of the existence of a burning iron can be pointed to, but the infliction of the

¹ 1615 :—"It'm paid for a irne to marke convyets—3s."

² 1616 :—"Item a iron for burninge felons—2s. 6d."

³ *Transactions Shrop. Arch. Soc.*, Vol. x., p. 136.

⁴ *Transactions Shrop. Arch. Soc.*, Vol. x., p. 140.

⁵ 1604 :—"Item paid for one iron to burne the prisoners in the hande—3s." There is another entry under date, November 27, 1648 :—"Pd Thomas Palmer for Irons for prisoners—2s. 6d." These may possibly have been burning irons.

punishment of burning in the hand, at a period when the branding was most carefully executed, has been recorded upon more than one occasion, as will be seen hereafter, and it is clear that one if not several burning irons were formerly in constant use at Shrewsbury.

When benefit of clergy was successfully claimed the accused was handed over to the ordinary, or in other words, to the safe keeping of the Bishop of the diocese, who usually sent a representative to watch the proceedings in court, and to receive clerks from the secular arm. After this stage of the proceedings the criminal was, according to the canon law, still able to exculpate himself before the Bishop by the ancient method of compurgation, and this even though he had confessed his guilt or been convicted by his country.

The practical effect of compurgation was that the accused could be saved by his own oath, and the oaths of a sufficient number of friends; accordingly, the popularity or unpopularity of the criminal was the pivot on which his guilt or innocence turned; the guilty but popular thief was invariably saved, while the innocent but unpopular prisoner was certain to be condemned.

It is worthy of remark here that there is a striking survival of this ancient practice in the custom which still obtains in criminal cases of calling witnesses to prove general character. The prisoner had but to find a sufficient number of compurgators, or fellow-clearers, who would make oath with him that he was innocent, and call the Lord to witness that the oath of the person whom they had to support was clean and unperjured, and henceforth he was a free man, purged of the offence with which he had been charged, blameless and of spotless good character in the eyes of mankind, and restored to the full enjoyment of all civil rights.

A system, by which there was always a fixed number of compurgators, and in which swearing was obviously a formality, and the idea of evidence in a modern sense

not entertained, could hardly have been better than organized and recognized perjury. The swearers, in words at least, swore to a fact and not simply to their belief, in short they swore that to be true which they did not know to be true, and which was generally untrue.¹ In some rare cases it is possible that the compurgators may have had actual knowledge of the innocence of the accused to justify their oaths, but it rarely happens to anyone to have certain knowledge of his own that another has *not* committed any definite crime; never, indeed, except when he has been present at the time of alleged perpetration and has seen, either that the deed was not of the nature supposed, or was not done by the person to be exculpated.

It was not until after the Reformation was firmly established that these mock trials were abolished; an act of the reign of Queen Elizabeth² enacted that the offender should not be delivered to the ordinary as formerly, but, upon allowance of clergy and burning in the hand, he should be set free, except that the judge might in his discretion inflict imprisonment for a term not exceeding a year.

Thus the law continued unaltered for upwards of a century, save that women, who by the common law could not have the benefit of clergy, were admitted to its advantages in certain cases and with certain restrictions.³

¹ The accused first swore :—"By the Lord, I am guiltless, both in deed and counsel, of the charge of which N. accuses me." Then each compurgator swore :—"By the Lord, the oath is clean and unperjured which N. has sworn." In the latter case, "N." stands, of course, for the accused. A belief, from the general character of the accused, that he must have been innocent of the particular offence with which he was charged, is the most favourable interpretation of which the oath of the compurgator is susceptible, but it is not the natural signification of his words.

² 18 Eliz., c. 7.

³ The statute 21 Jac. I., c. 6 allowed women, convicted of simple larcenies under the value of 10s. to be branded in the hand, without being called upon to read, and whipped, stocked, or imprisoned for

In the year 1698, a statute¹ was passed in the belief that many evil-disposed persons might be deterred from offending, should the brand upon them be made more visible; thieves allowed benefit of clergy were thenceforth to be burnt with the usual mark in the most visible part of the left cheek nearest the nose, which punishment was to be inflicted in open court, in the presence of the judge, who was directed and required to see the same strictly and effectually executed. Instruments to facilitate the effectual accomplishment of this cruel accessory to the allowance of the privilege of clergy were soon made, much after the manner of the more complicated style of branks, and, fortunately, an interesting example of an appliance, formerly used at Ludlow to imprison the head of the offender during the process of branding in the cheek, may still be seen in the museum of that town. A short description of this instrument will be given presently.

Had this statute long remained in force it would have indicated that civilization was dying out rather than progressing, but, only eight years afterwards, the law-givers of those days had the wisdom to discern that the barbarism lurking in the natures of people semi-civilised, or even wholly civilised, was not to be repressed by setting a barbarous example in the execution of the laws, and accordingly a new statute² repealed the previous act, and declared that the punishment of burning in the cheek had not had its desired effect by deterring offenders from the further committing crimes

any time not exceeding a year. By the statutes 3 and 4 W. and M., c. 9, and 4 and 5 W. and M., c. 24, the privilege was extended to women guilty of any clergyable felony, who were allowed once to claim the benefit of the *statute*, in like manner as men might claim the benefit of *clergy*, and to be discharged upon being branded in the hand, and imprisoned for any time not exceeding a year.

¹ Generally known as 10 William III., c. 23; in the Statutes of the Realm, however, it appears as c. 12, s. 6.

² Generally known as 5 or 5 and 6 Anne, c. 6; in the Statutes of the Realm it is given as 6 Anne, c. 9.

and offences, but, on the contrary, such offenders, being rendered thereby unfit to be entrusted in any service or employment to get their livelihood in any honest and lawful way, became the more desperate.

It must not be forgotten, that until the reign of Anne, it was necessary for a successful claim of clergy that the claimant should be adjudged able to read, though, as may be supposed, all manner of deceptions were practised, and it was seldom that the criminal was pronounced unable to read. The procedure differed but slightly from that still in use :—The criminal was informed that he had been convicted of the crime with which he had been charged, and was asked if he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him. He answered :—"I demand the benefit of clergy," whereupon a book was handed to him by the ordinary, commonly a Bible, and he was directed to read a few lines or a verse, facetiously called his *neck-verse*. Then the Judge asked the ordinary, "*Legitne vel non*," and the ordinary replied, "*Legit ut clericus*."

Whatever may have been the case in ancient times, it is clear, that, for many years prior to the abolition of the performance of reading, the portion of the ceremony which was intended to test the prisoner's knowledge had degenerated into a mere matter of form ; the criminal, if unable to read a single letter, was prompted by the ordinary, and frequently in a voice so audible that the whole court might hear, and a peer was always supposed to be able to read, and never burnt in the hand.

By the statute which abolished burning in the cheek, benefit of clergy was practically declared to be that which it had long been in fact, the means of shewing mercy to criminals convicted for the first time.¹ It was enacted that any person convicted of a felony to which benefit of clergy was not denied was, upon his own

¹ An act (50 and 51 Vic., c. 25), has recently been passed, having for its object the conditional release of *first* offenders in certain cases ; an instance of how frequently history repeats itself.

request, to be reputed and punished as a clerk convict, without any reading whatever. The effect was that the criminal always carried with him in his burnt hand the register of his previous conviction, which debarred him from enjoying the privilege a second time.

The judge was also empowered, at his discretion, to commit the clerk convict to the house of correction, or public workhouse, for a period not less than six months, and not exceeding two years.

Successive changes in the law in subsequent years effected material and merciful amendments of this clumsy fiction, by which alone justice was tempered with mercy even in the eighteenth century. In the reign of George III. branding was discontinued,¹ and in the reign of George IV. benefit of clergy was entirely abolished,² but to obviate all possible doubt as to any person still being entitled to the privilege, another statute,³ passed in the year 1841, abolished the privilege in the case of a peer of the realm convicted of felony, and enacted that every lord of parliament should plead to any indictment for felony, and, on conviction, be liable to the same punishment as any of her Majesty's subjects would be on such conviction.

A minute and lengthy enquiry into what crimes and to what persons benefit of clergy was allowed is quite unnecessary and not free from difficulty, from the fact that the history of the custom is intimately associated with a time when the law was in a state of transition, and when rude attempts were being made to evolve order out of chaos; it would appear, however, that, at different periods in the history of the privilege, there were numerous offences for which its advantages might not be claimed. The benefits resulting from a successful assertion of the claim of clergy, and the surprising frequency with which it was allowed to

¹ By 19 Geo. III., c. 74.

² By 7 and 8 Geo. IV., c. 28.

³ 4 and 5 Vic., c. 22.

criminals, will be better understood from the narration of some local examples of a representative character.

There are references to the custom as early as the thirteenth century, and the records of the various assizes and quarter sessions held at Shrewsbury abound with cases, in which the privilege was promptly claimed, and allowed in due form of law :—

In the year 1255, Master Walter le Palmer was indicted for entertaining one Roger de Kinver, an outlaw, and also for the murders of Matilda, aunt of John de Gatacre, and of William Kilmayn. He was put upon his trial in the crown court at Salop Assizes, in January, 1256. The official of the Bishop of Coventry demanded that he be surrendered to the spiritual power, being a clerk, and the King's Justices acquiesced in this demand, but directed the jury first to give their verdict on the Crown prosecution, in the words of the record, "to the end that it may be known what kind of character is thus surrendered." The jury pronounced him guilty of the murder of Matilda, but not guilty of the other offences, and he was handed over to the Bishop's official to be dealt with. Unfortunately, his fate in the Ecclesiastical court does not appear, though there is a full record of his ultimate composition with the civil power, for his *lay* possessions, seized by the Sheriff on behalf of the Crown.¹

At the Assizes at Shrewsbury in January, 1256, the murder of one Reginald le Gaugy was the subject of enquiry, and, among others, two clerks, Egidius (Giles) de Norfolk, parson of Burford, and William de Bruges, were tried for the crime, and after the jury had declared them to have been accessories, they pleaded their privilege as clergy, and were delivered over to the spiritual power.²

At the Shrewsbury Assizes of 1292, William de Ercalewe, a clerk, was indicted for larceny of fifteen

¹ Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, Vol. i., p. 51.

² Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, Vol. i., p. 379.

swine, the property of Alice, Lady of Ercall, and convicted. He claimed his privilege as a clerk, and the Dean of Salop having demanded him, he was delivered up to the Bishop of the diocese on account of his clerical privilege, who subsequently testified that the accused had lawfully proved his innocence of the said crime.¹

This is an excellent instance of the verdict of a civil power being over-ruled by the decision of the spiritual power. The evidence would appear to have been conclusive of William de Ercalewe's guilt, for the swine, when fat, were being driven by a swine-herd, whereupon two men in the service of William de Ercalewe seized them, and by his order they were afterwards slain and clandestinely put into his larder. The culprit here, too, was a married man, and yet he was allowed the privilege of clergy. There was evidently something undefined as to the clerkly status, and it is not at all improbable that in cases of privilege claimed by and allowed to clerks not really in holy orders, the Judges were often too lax and the ordinaries corrupt. In by far the great majority of cases the spiritual court declared the accused innocent, while the civil court declared him guilty. The jealousy excited by the privilege of clergy in a society in which partisanship was regarded as a virtue, may be easily imagined. The antipathy to the privileged class prominently displayed itself in the verdicts given by lay jurors upon charges preferred against those entitled to claim benefit of clergy. The lay jurors displayed their party spirit with a consistency which shows that facts and evidence alike must have been entirely disregarded; for a clerk they gave always a verdict of guilty, for a fellow layman a verdict of not guilty as often as they dared.

At the Shrewsbury Assizes of October, 1292, the jurors presented that Nicholas Brun, Goldsmith, of Bridgnorth, "bought old money for new," and had

¹ Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, Vol. vi., p. 187.

committed other offences. To all this Nicholas replied that he was a clerk; and the Dean of Salop, as the representative of the Bishop, claimed him in Court as not being amenable to the civil power. Before he was surrendered in pursuance of this demand by the spiritual authority, the Court, as usual, directed that a jury should return a verdict on the matters alleged against him, and the jurors accordingly did so, and acquitted him on every charge; nevertheless he was given up to the Bishop as acquitted by the temporal Court.¹

This case is mentioned as almost a single instance where justice was apparently impartially done by a lay jury, without the manifestation of that party spirit which has been before referred to.

On November 2, 1580, the quarter sessions were held at Shrewsbury, when so great was the number of prisoners for trial, that they were called "the great sessions." Fifteen persons were condemned, of whom five only went to the place of execution, "and the reast were sayvd by theire boockes."² At the Shrewsbury sessions holden on August 23, 1591, some of the prisoners were saved "by their boocke;"³ at the assizes kept at Shrewsbury in September of the same year, twenty-one persons were condemned, and ten of them "had their boocke;"⁴ at the sessions of gaol delivery in Shrewsbury on January 9, 1594, one prisoner "was sayvd by his boocke," and the rest whipped;⁵ at the county quarter sessions at Shrewsbury, on January 10, 1596, seven prisoners were burnt in the hand;⁶ at the assizes kept in Shrewsbury on July 31, 1600, all the condemned prisoners "had their boocks & were sayvd;"⁷ and at the Shrewsbury assizes on March 13, 1602, a number of prisoners there convicted

¹ Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, Vol. i., p. 312.

² *Transactions* Shrop. Arch. Soc., Vol. iii., p. 285.

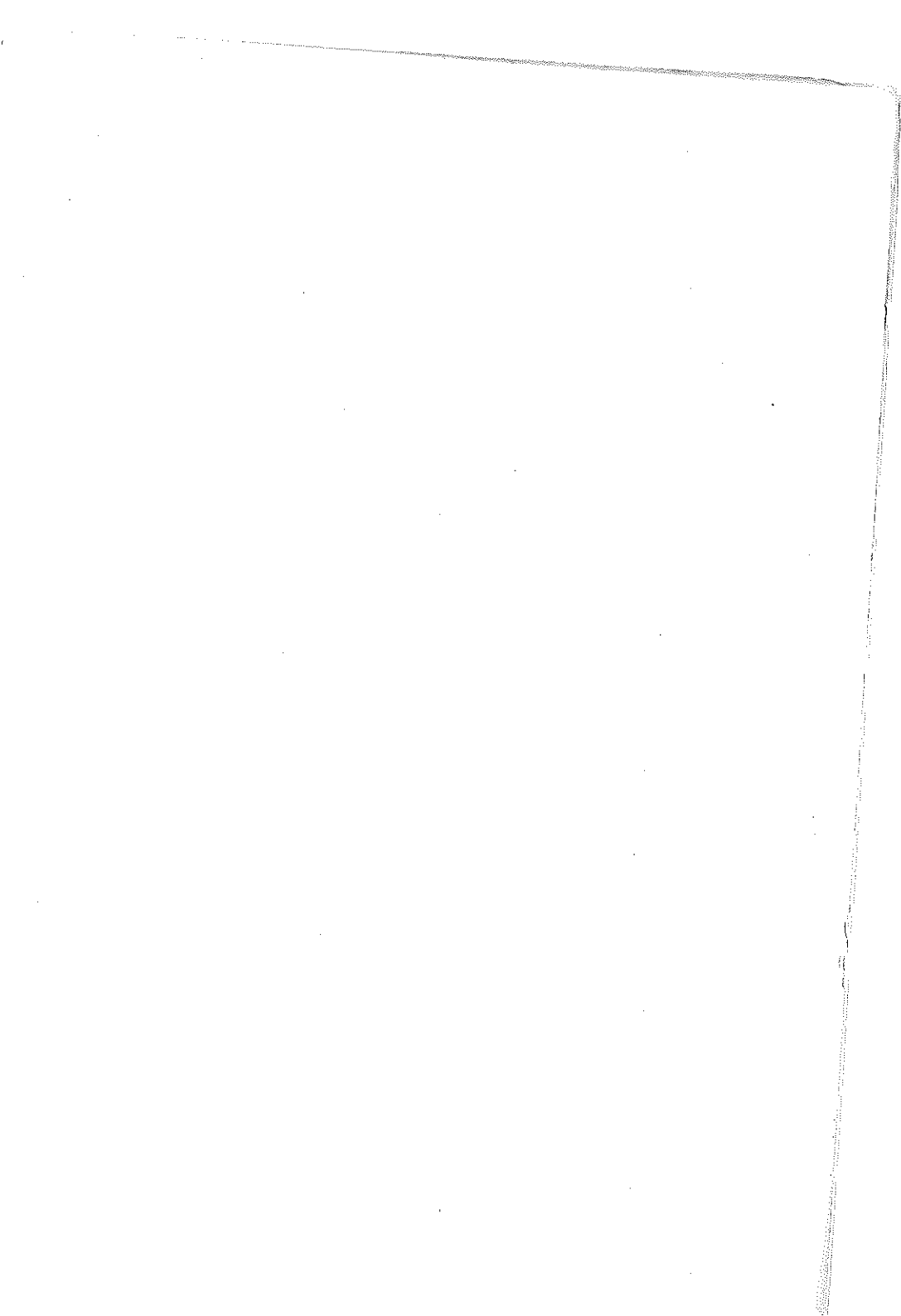
³ *Transactions* Shrop. Arch. Soc., Vol. iii., p. 322.

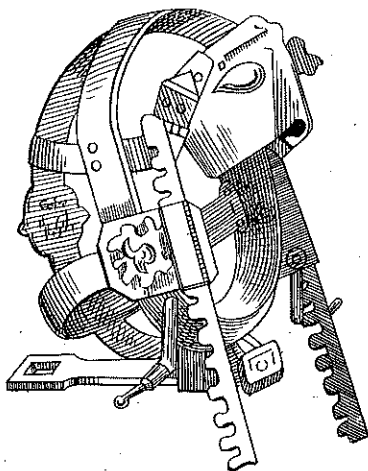
⁴ *Transactions* Shrop. Arch. Soc., Vol. iii., p. 322.

⁵ *Transactions* Shrop. Arch. Soc., Vol. iii., p. 328.

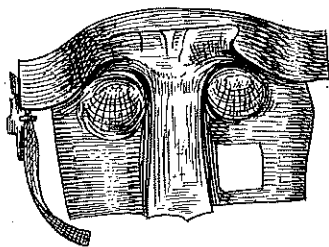
⁶ *Transactions* Shrop. Arch. Soc., Vol. iii., p. 336.

⁷ *Transactions* Shrop. Arch. Soc., Vol. iii., p. 345.





2



1. INSTRUMENT AT LUDLOW (TO FIT ON THE HEAD DURING THE PROCESS OF BRANDING THE CHEEK.)
2. THE VISOR. (NOW LOOSE BUT FORMERLY ATTACHED TO THE INSTRUMENT.)

were branded in the hand, in pursuance of the statute in that behalf.¹

In the Museum at Ludlow may be seen a very remarkable and probably unique example of an instrument to facilitate the execution of the punishment of burning in the cheek, in accordance with the provisions of the Act passed in the year 1698. The appliance in question was found in the deep well at the Castle, and has, for many years, been an object of great curiosity, and the purpose it was formerly constructed to serve, the subject of much discussion and conjecture ; however, there can be no doubt that it was used to secure the heads of offenders while, in the presence of the judge, they were branded with the usual mark in the most visible part of the left cheek nearest the nose. The instrument resembles in some degree a scold's bridle, but is deficient in one important particular ; there is no gag or tongue-plate. Several iron bands are joined together so as to form a kind of cage to fit on the head, with a strong bar, about two inches in length, at the bottom, having a square hole in the end, evidently intended to fasten the criminal to some convenient place during the infliction of the branding. On either side, at the front, is an iron-toothed rod, which can be drawn up and down by means of a small cog-wheel, and each rod is furnished with a pin at the bottom, to be dropped in between the teeth. To these toothed uprights a visor is attached, and drawn up and down, and fitted over the eyes and nose, so as completely to darken the eyes and cover the nose. There are no eye-holes, and no hole for the nose, but concavities in their places, and on the left side of the visor, close against the nose, and sufficiently high to expose the most prominent part of the left cheek, is a hole about half an inch square. The visor is at present loose, and one or two other portions are slightly broken, but with these exceptions the instrument is in an excellent state of preservation.

¹ *Transactions Shrop. Arch. Soc.*, Vol. iii., p. 350.

It is clear that the sentence of branding in the cheek was carefully carried into effect at Ludlow, and it is not difficult to imagine the awful suspense of the victim, as in total darkness, with his head uncomfortably weighted, and immovably fixed, he awaited the application of the hot branding iron, through the square hole provided for the purpose.

The records of Much Wenlock contain several interesting instances of this punishment :—In some copies made from the parish registers before they were destroyed by fire, under date February 7 and 10, 1541, it is mentioned that two men were convicted at the sessions and executed, “one of them refusing his clergy being no clerk.”¹ It is obvious from this entry that, in the sixteenth century, the privilege of clergy had not degenerated into a mere fiction, as it undoubtedly did in subsequent times. For many years the benefit of the privilege was strictly confined to clerks in holy orders, and they, and they alone, were allowed to save their lives by this expedient.

The quarter sessions records of the borough supply much valuable evidence of the frequency with which prisoners claimed, and were allowed their clergy, at Much Wenlock, down to but a few years before the date when the custom was totally abolished :—At the sessions held at Much Wenlock on July 24, 1761, Edward Short was indicted for stealing four geese value 21s., the property of Richard Browne, and being found guilty prayed and was allowed the benefit of clergy, and was ordered to be burnt in the hand and imprisoned for three weeks;² at the sessions, on September 18, 1772, John Green pleaded guilty to a felony, but claimed and was allowed benefit of clergy;³

¹ *Shropshire Notes and Queries* for April 16, 1886.

² July 24, 1761 :—Edward Short indicted for stealing four geese, value 21s., the property of Richard Browne. Guilty. “Pray’d his clergy; to bee burnt in the hand, to be imprisoned three weeks & then bee discharged.”

³ September 18, 1772 :—John Green indicted for stealing. Pled guilty. “Prayed his clergy; to be imprisoned till next Monday and burnt.”

and at the quarter sessions, held on March 12, 1818, Richard Trow was indicted for stealing six pecks of wheat, of the value of twenty shillings, and being found guilty prayed his clergy, and was ordered to be imprisoned for six weeks, and then discharged.¹

At Bishop's Castle there are but few cases in which allowance of clergy is recorded :—On May 6, 1754, Thomas Lewis was indicted for unlawfully stealing one cow, and upon his trial was found guilty, and ordered by the court to be burnt in the hand, and imprisoned for fourteen days,² and on October 4, 1797, James Jones pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing fifteen shillings in silver, and having prayed his clergy, was ordered to be imprisoned for seven days in the common gaol of the borough.³ These two instances are the only ones which have been discovered in the records after a diligent search extending over many years. The absence of entries, at a period when the privilege was so universally claimed and allowed is somewhat extraordinary.

There is a most interesting record of the trial of a clerical dignitary, named Peter de Rivallis, who was greatly connected with Shropshire in the thirteenth century, and appointed Dean of the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth, by letters patent of Henry III., dated at Westminster, May 8, 1223. In his early career he enjoyed an uncommon degree of Court favour, but subsequently provoked the Royal displeasure to such an extent that on July 14, 1234, he was tried at Westminster before the King with his Justiciars. He appeared in a clerical garb with the tonsure and broad

¹ March 12, 1818 :—Richard Trow indicted for stealing, at the parish of Hughley, six pecks of wheat, of the value of 20s., the property of Samuel Madeley. Guilty. "Prayed his clergy—to be imprisoned 6 weeks & then be discharged."

² May 6, 1754 :—Thomas Lewis indicted for unlawfully stealing one cow. Guilty. "Order'd to be burnt in the hand and imprisoned for 14 days."

³ October 4, 1797 :—James Jones indicted for stealing 15s. in silver. Pleased guilty. "Prayed his clergy. To be imprisoned 7 days in the common gaol of the borough."

crown, but with an *anelace*¹ hanging from his belt, and having been threatened with imprisonment in the Tower, remonstrated, saying he was a clerk, and might not be imprisoned or given into the custody of laymen.

There was an altercation, but, ultimately, Peter was committed to the Tower, the King confiscating all his lay possessions, "because under his clerical habit he wore a breastplate, and carried an *anelace* at his girdle, as became not a clerk."²

This most anomalous institution had, as already explained, mitigated to some extent the severity of the criminal law, but in a very imperfect and a very inconsistent manner. After more than a quarter of the nineteenth century had passed, the sentiment of human sympathy and compassion was growing strong enough to assert itself in its own name, undisguised by a cloak borrowed from a mediæval monk. It was by no mere coincidence that the abolition of benefit of clergy, of capital punishment for all minor offences, and of the pillory for all offences whatever, was the work of about ten years. These monuments of cruelty and superstition, which had survived for twelve centuries, would not have perished together in a decade had they not been altogether unsuited to the age. With them fell many an evil example; and, unless the teachings of history are false, or new and unforeseen causes check the national progress, murders and the greater crimes of violence ought to become fewer and fewer in proportion as each generation is further and further removed from the pernicious spectacles by which many of them were prompted.

¹ A large knife used indifferently at table, or as a dagger.

² Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, Vol. I., p. 333.

PRESSING TO DEATH.

PRESSING to death, which was called, appropriately enough, *peine forte et dure*, was probably the most terrible sentence pronounced in criminal cases in ancient times, and yet, notwithstanding the revolting nature of the punishment, the records of the county of Salop contain more than one instance of persons, who were endowed with resolution and patience to undergo so horrible a death, in order, apparently, to benefit their heirs by preventing a forfeiture of their estates, which would have been the consequence of a conviction after a verdict.

The origin of so cruel and inhuman a punishment is not clear; some writers have asserted that it was in use before the reign of Edward I., others, that whether the judgment ever subsisted at common law or not, the pressing portion of it was gradually introduced¹ between the times of Edward III. and Henry IV., being intended as a means of showing mercy to the delinquent by delivering him the sooner from the torments of a lingering death under a previous statute, which permitted strait confinement in prison accompanied by a process of slow starvation.

It is not improbable that a distrust of the fidelity of the gaolers in carrying out the sentence of *prison forte et dure* may have suggested the hideous cruelty by which an attempt was afterwards made to draw speech from the silent.

The judgment passed upon a person who, when put upon his trial for petit-treason, felony, or any capital crime, obstinately refused to plead, was:—"That the prisoner shall be remanded to the prison, and laid there in some low and dark house, where he shall be

¹ The practice was never expressly sanctioned by law, but it was applied by order of a judge, not indeed to extract evidence, but to make a mute prisoner plead, or to punish him for not pleading.

naked on the bare earth, without any litter, rush, or other clothing, and without any garment about him, that he shall lie upon his back, his head uncovered and his feet, and one arm shall be drawn to one quarter of the house, and the other arm to the other quarter, and in the same manner shall be done with his legs, and there shall be laid upon his body iron and stone as much as he can bear, *and more*, and the next day following he shall have three morsels of barley bread without any drink, and the second day he shall drink thrice of the water that is next to the house of the prison (except running water) without any bread, and this shall be his diet until he is dead," or, as anciently the judgment ran, "till he answers."

Death by three frightful ways, by famine, by weight, and by cold, was involved in this barbarous punishment, and so tender was the law of inflicting it, that the accused was first warned three times of the penalty which would attend obstinate silence and allowed a few hours for consideration, when, if he still persisted, the judgment was pronounced without distinction of sex or degree.

Local instances of the infliction of this horrible punishment are, fortunately perhaps, extremely scarce:—A child was cruelly murdered at Knockin Heath, his death being planned by three of his uncles, to whom, in the event of his decease without issue, his lands descended. The crime was discovered and the three uncles were executed at the assizes at Bridgnorth, which were held on March 19, 1590. Two of the murderers were hanged, but the third, who was subsequently stated to have been the actual murderer, was pressed to death, evidently preferring rather to endure the terrible *peine forte et dure* than forfeit his lands by attainder.¹

In the registers of the parish of St. Mary, Shrewsbury, the burial of a prisoner, pressed to death, is

¹ *Transactions Shrop. Arch. Soc.*, Vol. iii., p. 317.

recorded on August 28, 1628, and it has been said that there was a traditionary statement that the person, whose burial is thus recorded, was pressed in the Castle.¹

The accounts of the bailiffs of Ludlow for the period 1661—1662 contain an entry of considerable interest :—An unfortunate prisoner was ordered to undergo the torture of the press, and a fee of 1s. 6d. was paid to a man for attending him during the infliction of the punishment. The prisoner cannot be said to have displayed great courage or endurance, for, after having been placed under the weight, the remedy was so effectual that he succumbed and pleaded.²

For some centuries the *peine forte et dure* was rigorously applied, with the mere alteration, from humane motives, of making the weight sufficient to ensure death speedily, and of placing a sharp stone or piece of wood under the back with the same view, and of tying the thumbs together with whipcord, so as to compel the culprit, if possible, to plead, without resorting to the more terrible infliction.

It must not be assumed that the punishment always resulted in the death of the criminal; the year-book of 8 Henry IV., expressly states that a criminal may live many years after having suffered it, and there are cases in which prisoners were pertinacious enough to weary out their judges.

It was not until George III. had been twelve years on the throne that public opinion demanded the abolition of this disgraceful barbarity. The practice continued in the reign of Queen Anne, and was frequently enforced in the early part of last century.

A learned author remarks that, "to the honour of our laws," the punishment was abolished by a statute passed in the reign of George III.,³ which enacted that any person arraigned on any indictment for felony or

¹ Owen and Blakeway's *History of Shrewsbury*, Vol. ii., p. 385.

² 1661-1662 :—"It'm Timothie for 'tending a man prest but pleded—1s. 6d."

³ 12 Geo. III., c. 20.

piracy, and standing mute or refusing to plead, should be convicted of the offence; in other words the silence of the prisoner was to be interpreted to imply a confession of guilt. This act was, as it were, a harbinger of the happier days to come, when a person standing mute would be held to have pleaded not guilty. It was soon discovered that it would operate more powerfully as an example, and be more satisfactory to the mind of the public, if the prisoner should suffer death after an open manifestation of his guilt by evidence, than that he should be ordered for execution, only from the presumption which arose from his obstinate silence; accordingly an act of George IV.¹ enacted that the court might, if the prisoner when called upon made no answer, order the proper officer to enter a plea of not guilty.

Where it is a matter of doubt whether a prisoner be mute of malice or from some other cause, the court may direct a jury to be forthwith impanelled and sworn to try whether he be mute of malice, or *ex visitatione Dei*. A case of this description occurred at the Middlesex Sessions, on April 29, 1885. Alfred Cousins, a sailor, was indicted for having obtained money by false pretences, but in reply to the usual question as to whether he was guilty or not guilty, he made no answer. It was proved that the prisoner was shamming dumbness, and the jury then found he was "mute of malice," and he was removed from the dock but afterwards relented, pleaded not guilty, and was tried and convicted.

The brutalising effect the torture of the press had upon the whole population, can hardly be conceived in the modern age of refinement.

¹ 7 & 8, Geo. IV., c. 28, s. 2.

BURNING TO DEATH.

BURNING to death was, from the remotest times, the punishment inflicted upon women in England for every species of treason.

The manners of very early days must always remain in some obscurity, but there is strong evidence that fire, as an instrument of punishment, was not unknown to the Romans, and there is the testimony of a Roman author,¹ that the method of sacrificing criminals, used by those whom the Romans vanquished in Britain, was by burning them to death in cages of wicker-work, made in the form of some well-known idol, and large enough to hold many human beings at once.² The description is remarkable, not only as an evidence of the sternness with which crime was said to be repressed by a priesthood, but also from the resemblance which it bears to the punishment inflicted on traitresses in England as late even as the eighteenth century. Had women not been burnt in England a century and a half ago, had such scenes never been enacted in Smithfield, the story of the Roman might be disbelieved, but, unhappily, the horrors of a later time rest on evidence which is beyond all dispute, and innumerable entries in all the usual records, dating from an early period, only serve too clearly to establish the persistence of the punishment in England during past ages.

Down to the year 1828, there were two kinds of treason, high and petit; the latter consisting, according to an old statute,³ in a servant killing his master, a wife her husband, or an ecclesiastical person his superior. In all these cases there was a relation between the

¹ Caesar "De Bell. Gall.," lib. VI., c. 16.

² The assertion that human sacrifices were common in Britain is confirmed by Tacitus, ("Annal." lib. XIV., c. 30.)

³ 25 Edward III., Stat. 5., c. 2.

offender and the victim, involving confidence, faith, and obedience, violated by the offence; and such a prisoner was tried and punished as in cases of high treason; if a man, he was drawn and quartered with all the accompanying horrors, but, if a woman, the sentence was, to be drawn to the gallows and there to be burned alive. For centuries this punishment was literally carried into effect; the victim was drawn on a hurdle or sledge to the place of execution and there tied to a stake and burned with fire until she was dead, but, in later days, a custom was gradually adopted, by which the criminal was first strangled by being suspended from a peg fixed to the top of the stake, and, when quite dead, the faggots were piled round the stake and kindled and thus the body was soon reduced to ashes.

There are several local instances of the infliction of this punishment:—On July 31, 1578, a woman named Maud Whitfield was burned at Bridgnorth for poisoning her husband, William Whitfield,¹ and on Dec. 23, 1647, a woman was burned in the Dingle in the Shrewsbury Quarry for a similar offence.² Philip Henry, in his Diary under date July 12, 1681, mentions the case of a maid being condemned to be burned at Shrewsbury Assizes for poisoning her mistress.³

The horrible spectacle of a woman burnt at the stake for high or petty treason was not of such rare occurrence as might be supposed, for the murder of some master by his female servant or of a husband by his wife was not at all an uncommon event.

In 1784, only sixteen years before the conclusion of the eighteenth century, this judgment was recorded,

¹ *Transactions Shrop. Arch. Soc.*, Vol. iii., p. 280.

² Phillips's *History of Shrewsbury*, p. 211.

³ The passage containing this case also refers to other items, thus:—"July 12, 1681. Sam. Hughes at Salop Assize condemn'd for stealing a mare but favor'd to bee transported. A fire at Salop in Kil lane in a stable, one Roger Evans burn'd to death, in y^e Assize week there. A mayd living incontinently with her M^r and they agreeing to poyson y^e M^{rs} she was condemn'd to bee burn'd and hee to hang in chaines."

probably for the last time, in the case of Mary Bayley of Portsmouth, who was sentenced, "to be drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution on Monday the eighth of March and burned with fire until she be dead." She was executed by virtue of this sentence and her body was burned at the stake.¹ In the year 1790, the punishment of hanging, as in ordinary cases of murder, was substituted for that of burning.²

It is indeed surprising to find that the dreadful cruelty of burning women, for offences for which men suffered the milder punishment of hanging, was carried far into the eighteenth century. There was an obvious anomaly in burning a woman for murdering her husband, while a husband for murdering his wife was subjected to a more merciful death by hanging. The continuance of the practice down to the year 1790 cannot wholly be attributed to ignorance and prejudice; the spirit of the hideous old law still survived in the evil lessons and evil habits inherited from past generations.

It will naturally occur to every reader of history that, formerly, heretics, like traitresses, suffered death at the stake. Doubtless, at one time, the burning of heretics became almost as familiar to the English people as the bleeding heads and quarters of beheaded traitors, but a subject which has agitated controversial writers upon religion, and which, apart from its general interest has little local significance, may well be dismissed with a mere statement that there were periods in the history of this country during which numbers of men and women from all parts, including Shropshire,³

¹ The *Bath Chronicle* for March 13, 1784, records the execution.

² By 30 Geo. III., c. 48.

³ On July 16, 1546, Nicholas Belenian, a Shropshire priest, was burned to death in Smithfield (see *Fox's Book of Martyrs*, by Milner, Ed. 1838, p. 461), and about the last year of Henry VIII. another Salopian, named Oliver Richardine, of the parish of Whitechurch, suffered a similar death at Hartford-West (*Ibid* p. 788). The martyrdom of Nicholas Belenian is also mentioned, but by the name of "Otterdon" in *Early Chronicles of Shrewsbury* (*Trans. Shrop. Arch. Soc.*, Vol. iii., p. 258).

were burnt to death for reasons, other than those generally understood to constitute treason by the common law or by the statute of Edward III.

BOILING TO DEATH.

BOILING to death was, perhaps, the most vindictive and atrocious of all the kinds of punishments formerly used in England. It was not allowed by the common law, but, in order to deal more effectually, as was supposed, with the crime of wilful poisoning, which had previously been a very rare offence in England, and which was regarded as the most detestable of all species of deaths because it could, of all others, be the least prevented either by manhood or fore-thought, a new statute was passed in the twenty second year of the reign of Henry VIII.,¹ which made the offence high treason, punishable by this grievous and lingering death without benefit of clergy.

It seems probable that this extraordinary punishment was adopted by the legislature from the peculiar circumstances of the crime which gave rise to it. There is a statement in the preamble of the statute, to the effect that a cook named Rose,² had placed some poison into a large pot of porridge, prepared for the Bishop of Rochester's family and for the poor of the parish, whereby sixteen residents in the Bishop's house and a number of poor persons, who were fed with the remains of the porridge, narrowly escaped with their lives, and a man and a woman were killed outright. By a retrospective clause of the statute, Rose was ordered to be boiled to death, and a similar sentence was for the future to be passed upon all persons guilty of the heinous offence of wilful poisoning, which was thereafter to be deemed in law, high treason. Rose was

¹ 22 Henry VIII., c. 9.

² Variouslly described by historians as Rose, Roose, and Rouse.

publicly boiled to death in Smithfield, in pursuance of the statute, on April 5, 1531, and the event was duly recorded, among other chronological notes, in a list of the bailiffs of Ludlow, from the year of the grant of the charter of Edward IV., in 1461, to the year 1783.¹

On March 17, 1541, a maid was boiled to death in Smithfield, for poisoning, and again the fact was duly recorded in the same document at Ludlow.²

It is to be hoped there were no cases in the county of Salop in which the sentence of boiling to death was passed.

The horrible nature of the punishment was, apparently too much even for the law-givers of the sixteenth century, who were accustomed to impose upon criminals, sentences of a most severe description, for, no sooner was Henry VIII. dead, than an Act of Edward VI.³ repealed the boiling statute, or "Act for Poisoning," and by consequence the punishment which was instituted by it. This act is rather amusing and apologetic in its terms; it practically admits the extreme severity of the punishment, but adds that it was not established without great consideration, and, for the time being, was very expedient and necessary. There was doubtless some little ground for this statement, made, as it was, at a time when murder was more commonly committed in a less subtle manner than by the cup; when the danger of a bad example was by no means imaginary; and when chemistry was not a science which could lend its powerful aid to the detection of murder.

¹ 1531:—"Also, there was a cooke boyled in Smithfield for poysoninge." The occurrence is also related in Rapin's *History of England*, 2nd Ed., Vol. i., p. 792.

² 1541:—"A maide boyled in Smithfield for poyssoning three householders."

³ 1 Edw. VI., c. 12.

A RENTAL OF WROXETER, A.D. 1350.

BY THE LATE THOMAS WRIGHT, F.S.A.

THE following document is a rent roll of the manor of Wroxeter in the twenty-fourth year of the reign of Edward III (A.D. 1350). It will appear at once that a very small portion of the acreage of the parish, which is now estimated at 4774 acres, two roods, and thirty perches, was then under cultivation; for, reckoning the virgate at sixty acres (I believe the ordinary estimate in this part of the country), and the *noca*, or quarter of a virgate, at fifteen, we can hardly account for more than six or seven hundred acres, including a considerable quantity of waste. I am informed, moreover, that some of the land mentioned in this document is not now included in the parish. It is evident that a great part of the land was then waste,—the ground at Norton was a heath, which must have been extensive. Probably a part at least of the site of Uriconium was so covered on the surface with the ruins of buildings as to be left wild. One of the residents bears the very significant name of *Johannes atte Walle*, or John at the wall, which was in all probability given to him because his *messuage* was adjacent to a part of the ancient town wall. The whole parish at this time appears to have contained twenty-two messuagia, or houses of men holding generally about thirty acres of land, and eleven cottages. By the census of 1821, the latest to which I can at present refer, there were a hundred and twelve houses in the present parish. The *dominus*, or feudal lord, was the earl of Arundel.

There was one local name in this record which is interesting. Hugh Maunseil held a piece of pasture

"called le Rowemelne," *melne* being of course the usual old English word for a mill. It may, perhaps, be allowable to conjecture that the first part of the word is some corruption of Rome or Roman, and that the pasture received its name from the ruins of a Roman mill, or the tradition that there had been one there. There is, I am informed, a field through which the Bell Brook runs, on the right hand of the Watling-street road as we go to the *Horse-shoe* inn, which is still called Rue-mill, and which is no doubt the pasture in question. Perhaps the Romans had a mill on the Bell Brook, within the town.

It is also worthy of remark that, of four pieces of pasture held by the tenants in common, two have names compounded of the word *zete*, or gate. Chesterzete may mean the gate of the *chester*, or ancient city, from which the place received its modern name; and its position is thus not defined. Bowezete may possibly mean the southern gate, from the curve which, according to the plan, its walls seem to have made. Pole may have been named from a pool of water, and Wyggestan, from some remarkable monument of stone.

RENTAL OF WROXETER, A.D. 1350.

Rentale de Wrocestre, factum super compotum ibidem ad festum sancti Michaelis anno regni regis Edwardi tertii post con. xxviij^o.

Abbas de Haghmoun tenet per cartam unam placeam vasti juxta Tyrne fossato inclusam . . reddit vj.s. ad terminum Michaelis.

Abbas de Lilleshulle pro attachiamento stagni molendini de Tyrne. r. vj.d. ad eundem terminum.

Dominus Rogerus Corbet tenet Hadeley pro dimidio feodo militis. r. j. spervarium sorum ad dictum festum sancti Michaelis.

Johannes de Westoun Coyne tenet Westoun Coyne pro dimidio feodo. r. vj.s. viij.d. ad festum Annunciationis pro omni servitio.

Johannes le Poynour tenet j. messuagium et dimidiam virgatam terræ, et debet sumonere omnes liberos tenentes curiæ de Upton et districtiones et attachiamenta facere super eosdem.

Idem tenet per cartam domini unam placeam brusseti vocatam le Lee, et xxv. acras dimidiam regales vasti super brueram de Nortoun. r. inde per annum ad festa sancti Michaelis et Annunciationis per æquales portiones xxviij.s. xj.d.

Thomas de Smethecote tenet xxx. acras regales vasti super brueram de Nortoun. r. per annum ad ij. terminos prædictos xxx.s. et sectam curiæ de Wroxcestre.

Rogerus de Golyng hale tenet super eandem brueram xij. acras. r. per annum ad ij. terminos prædictos xij.s. et ij. apparenc' ad magnam curiam ibidem.

Idem tenet iij. acras regales ibidem. r. per annum iij.s.

Hugo Maunseil tenet j. messuagium et dimidiam virgatam terræ ibidem. r. per annum ad ij. terminos prædictos v.s. et sectam ad curiam.

Idem tenet j. placeam pasturæ ex tradicionem seneschalli vocatam le Rowemelne. r. ad ij. terminos prædictos xiiij.d.

Johannes de Donyntoun capellanus tenet ij. cotagia cum uno crofto, et iij. acras terræ regales super eandem brueram. r. ad ij. terminos viij.s. vjd.

Sibilla de Bromptoun tenet j. messuagium et dimidiam virgatam terræ libere ad terminum vitæ. r. ad ij. terminos prædictos x.s.

Idem tenet j. acram vasti sine scripto. r. ad ij. terminos prædictos xij.d.

Johannes Selke tenet j. messuagium et dimidiam virgatam terræ, et j. acram super brueram. r. xj.s. ad ij. terminos.

†¹ Ricardus Ady tenet j. messuagium, dimidiam virgatam et j. acram terræ super brueram. r. xj.s. ad eosdem terminos.

Thomas le Poynour tenet tantum. r. xj.s. ad eosdem terminos.

Rogerus de Wythintoun tenet tantum. r. xj.s. ad eosdem terminos.

¹† In each of the cases indicated by this mark the name of one tenant is crossed out to make way for another, the latter being the one given in the text. Thus, in the first instance, the name of the tenant was Adam Gurry, which is crossed out, and Ricardus Ady written above; so, in the second case, Adam de Harnegge occupied the place of Johannes Selk, and, in the third, Stephanus de Lee de Prestoun that of Thomas de Berewik. Stephen de Lee had given up the fishing after the rental had been written, and it was let out to Thomas de Berwick.

- Margareta le Hare tenet tantum. r. xj.s.ad eosdem terminos.
 Johannes Wyteacre tenet tantum. r. xj.s.ad eosdem terminos.
 Petronilla Baker tenet tantum. r. . xj.s.ad eosdem terminos.
 Margeria Hare tenet tantum. r. . xj.s.ad eosdem terminos.
 Eadem tenet j. placeam pasturæ juxta
 gardinum suum. r. . ij. gallinas ad Nat' Domini.
 Rogerus le Hare tenet j. messuagium,
 dimidiam virgatam terræ, et j.
 acram super brueram. r. . xj.s. ad ij. terminos.
 † Johannes Selk tenet j. messuagium,
 et j. nocam terræ, et j. acram super brueram. r. vj.s.iiij.
 d. ad terminos prædictos. Int' ad festum annuncia-
 tionis a^o xxvj^{to}
 Johannes de la Grene tenet tantum.
 r. . vj.s. ad terminos prædictos.
 Johannes Traverter tenet tantum. r. vj.s. ad terminos prædictos.
 Idem tenet j. parvam placeam in aug-
 mento gardini sui. r. . j.d. ad eosdem terminos.
 Johannes atte Walle tenet j. messua-
 gium et j. noceam terræ. r. . vj.s. ad eosdem terminos.
 Idem tenet j. nocam cum gardino juxta
 grangiam domini. r. . ij.s. ad eosdem terminos.
 *¹ Johannes Knott tenet j. messuagium
 et j. nocam terræ. r. . vj.s. ad eosdem terminos.
 Idem dat ad eosdem terminos pro j.
 placea in augmento terræ suæ. ij.d. et j. gall' ad Nat' Domini.
 Ricardus filius Reginaldi tenet j. mess-
 uagium, et j. nocam terræ, j. acram
 vasti, et j. acram campestram. r. vj.s. vj.d. ad eosdem ter-
 minos prædictos.
 Alicia relicta Hugonis filii Reginaldi
 tenet j. messuagium, j. nocam terræ,
 et j. acram super brueram. r. . vj.s. ad eosdem terminos.
 * Isabella Hare tenet j. messuagium, et
 j. acram super brueram, et j. pla-
 ceam. r. . vj.s. viij.d.
 Sibilla Jonkneros tenet j. messuagium
 et dimidiam nocam terræ. r. . ij.s. ad ij. terminos.
 Ricardus de Sywalde doun tenet j.
 cotagium et iiij. acras terræ. r. ij.s. ij.d. ad ij. terminos.
 Thomas Wychart tenet j. messuagium
 et vj. acras terræ. r. . v.s. ij.d.

¹ * Each of the sentences to which a star is prefixed, is marked *vac'* (*vacat*) in the margin, as being unoccupied, the tenant having quitted.

- Amicia le Traventer tenet j. cotagium
et iij. acras terræ. r. iij.s. ix.d.
- Matilda Wychart tenet j. cotagium et
iij. acras terræ. r. iij.s.
- Idem (*sic*) tenet unam forgiam. r. xij.d.
- * Johannes le Longe tenet j. cotagium
cum vj. acris terræ. r. vj.s. iij.d.
- * Thomas le Chaloner tenet j. cotagium.
r. ij.s.
- * Willelmus Fishare tenet j. cotagium.
r. ij.s.
- Willelmus Wychart tenet j. cotagium
et iij. acras terræ. r. ij.s. x.d.
- Isolda Raynald tenet j. cotagium et
iij. acras terræ. r. ij.s. x.d.
- Jonkin le Baker tenet vj. acras terræ
dominicæ et j. acram vasti sine
messuagio. r. iij.s. ij.d. ad dictos terminos.
- Petronilla Swetedoughter tenet j.
cotagium cum gardino. r. xvij.d. ad ij. terminos.
- Et prædicti tenentes tenent quatuor placeas pasturæ
videlicet pastur' de Chestre ete, Pole, Bowezete,
et de Wyggestan. r. per annum
ad ij. terminos. vj.s.
- † Thomas de Berewik dat pro licentia
piscandi super Tyrne. iij.s. iij.d. ad ij. terminos.
- Et villata de Atyncham dat pro aisiamento habendo ad riveram de
Tyrne vj.d. ad festum sancti Michaelis tantum.
Summa totalis redditus xvj.li. ij.s. xd.
- Unde { Ad festum sancti Michaelis viij.li. xiiij.d.
{ Ad festum Annunciationis viij.li. xvj.d.
Item, ad Nativitatem Domini iij. gallinas.
Item, ad Gulam Augusti j. spervarium, vel ij.s.
- (*In dorso.*)
- Item, de firma gurgitis ibidem.
- Item, de abbate de Buldewas vj. plaustratus claustruræ singulis
annis pro dicta gurgite reparanda ante Pascham quando-
cunque domino quærere placuerit.

NOTES ON SHROPSHIRE BIRDS.

BY WILLIAM E. BECKWITH, EATON CONSTANTINE.

(Continued from p. 238 of Vol. XI.)

COMMON DIPPER, *Cinclus aquaticus* (Continued).

Many similar opinions to the above might be given; but these are sufficient to show not only that this bird does not injure the ova, but also that it feeds principally upon the very insects which destroy them. And the following extract from Mr. W. Brown's book *Stormontfield Experiments on the Salmon*, gives some idea of the amount of damage done to spawning beds by one species only in its larval state. "The Messrs. Ashworth," he says, "proprietors of the Galway fishings, experimented on the May-fly, and their report is 'that the larvæ of the May-fly are known to be most destructive;' in proof of this being the case they say—'that one year we deposited 70,000 salmon ova in a small pure stream, adjoining to a plantation of fir-trees, and these ova we found to be entirely destroyed by the larvæ of the May-fly, which, in their mature state, become the favourite food of smoults and young salmon.'" At the same time that it is acquitted of injuring fish spawn, there can be no doubt that the Water Ouzel occasionally catches fish. Dr. Henry L. Saxby, writing to the *Zoologist*, 1863, p. 8631, after mentioning that, when living in North Wales, he had ample opportunities of examining specimens which were brought to him by gamekeepers, adds:—"The stomachs almost invariably contained water insects, but upon two occasions, much to my surprise, small fragments of trout in addition. I once saw my father shoot a dipper which, as it fell, dropped a living trout three inches in length. This is preserved, and upon each side the deep mark caused by the bird's bill can very distinctly be seen. Among my notes for the same year in which this occurred I made the following entry:—'Feb. 16th. This afternoon I saw three Water Ouzels at one time in the river, a little below the bridge. Two of them were feeding, and in a short time one appeared above the surface with a fish in its bill, almost as long as itself. This was brought ashore, and all three birds, after

having pecked at it for some time, left it. In the evening I saw them at the same fish." Mr. F. S. Mitchell, in his *Birds of Lancashire*, also states:—"The Dipper certainly feeds on fish sometimes, for on July 11th, 1879, I disturbed a bird from a nest, beneath which was quite a heap of young minnows, and Mr. T. Altham has observed a similar instance, they probably having been refused by the young."

In *Land and Water* for January, 1888, there are some interesting remarks from Mr. J. W. Willis-Bund and Mr. A. D. Bartlett, on its propensity for occasionally catching fish.

And some of my own notes corroborate the above statements. On the 2nd August, 1883, I watched a pair of Water Ouzels engaged in catching minnows, in a shallow pool by the mouth of Highley brook, and flying off with them, doubtless to their young ones. The next time was on May 30th, 1884, when I saw one with a small trout up Sheinton brook, and on July 15th, 1886, I again saw one, also with a little trout, up Dowles brook, but in both these latter instances the fish appeared to have been previously injured.

Still the damage it does in this way is slight; and there are few anglers who will not agree that to watch the blithe movements of the bird, or to listen to its wild merry notes, amply compensates them for the loss of a few fish.

Although the Water Ouzel is fond of building by some bridge or mill-dam, its large domed nest, owing to its close resemblance to a bunch of moss or dead leaves, is extremely difficult to find, unless the birds are watched. The first lot of eggs are usually five in number; and Mr. T. W. Bourne, who had good opportunities of observing this bird near Bridgnorth, told me that he believed it frequently reared three broods during the summer; and that he had found half-feathered young ones as early as the 3rd of April. All the specimens of the Water Ouzel that I have examined from Shropshire and North Wales have belonged to the common form, with the chesnut-brown markings on the lower part of the breast; and I have never met with the black-breasted bird, the *C. Melanogaster* of Gould's *Birds of Europe*, which is reported to have occurred in Yorkshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, and in Ireland. Probably *C. Aquaticus* and *C. Melanogaster* are only varieties or races of one species, as Dr. Churchill Babington, in his *Birds of Suffolk*, remarks:—"After examining a considerable number of specimens of *C. Aquaticus* and *C. Melanogaster* from various countries of Europe, I cannot but think that they must not be regarded as truly distinct species, but only at most as climatic variations. Specimens from the same country, and even from the same county, vary considerably in their plumage both above and below. Examples from Buxton in Derbyshire have comparatively less chesnut colour, when placed besides others from Dovedale, in the same county."

The song of the Water Ouzel may be heard in every month of the year. Along Cound and Sheinton brooks I have frequently watched it sitting on a stone, and singing merrily, though its perch was surrounded by ice.

MISTLETOE THRUSH, *Turdus viscivorus*.

Upon the whole the Mistletoe Thrush has increased remarkably of late years; though, as it is one of the first birds to perish in hard weather, a severe winter sadly reduces its numbers. This was the case in 1864, and after the winter of 1878, Mr. Bourne, who was collecting in the following spring, had some difficulty in obtaining its eggs. The long frosts of 1880 and 1886 were also very fatal to it, and many instances occurred of its being found dead or scarcely able to fly. Few birds change their nature more during the breeding season than this Thrush; and from being wild and shy it becomes bold and familiar, frequently nesting in gardens and orchards, and often close to houses. In choosing a site for its nest it is also extremely capricious, sometimes building three or four feet from the ground, at others from thirty to forty.

Armitage and Ley, *Woolhope Club Transactions*, 1869, mention a nest "placed on the ground on the top of a bare mass of stone;" but the Mistletoe Thrush generally makes choice of large trees which have spreading horizontal branches, and which are not easy to climb. Indeed, were it not for this habit, and the security afforded it by game coverts, its race would never have increased, as it builds early in the spring, before there is sufficient foliage to conceal its somewhat untidy nest.

I have many times been at a loss to know what it is that so often sucks the eggs of small birds. On passing a nest, one frequently notices that the old bird is not upon it, and further examination reveals only a few fragments of egg shells; yet there is no mark of prowling cat, and the place is not one to which Rook or Magpie would venture. The following extracts, however, throw some light upon the subject, and show that this Thrush, if not an egg-eater, sometimes partakes of nestling birds. Macgillivray, in his *British Birds*, Vol. ii., pp. 122-3, quotes a note of Mr. Thomas D. Weir's, where he says:—"It is not generally known, at least I do not recollect of having seen it mentioned in books of natural history, that the Missel Thrush is one of the most voracious of our native birds. Having shot all the Magpies and Carrion Crows which infested my immediate neighbourhood, I could not conceive for a long time what had been the cause of the destruction of so many young birds and eggs, until I observed one of them flying out of a nest in which he had been carrying on his murderous operations. As I was passing Balbairdie Loch, I saw one flying with something in its bill. It was, I suppose, a young Hedge Sparrow, as the robber

was keenly pursued by an old one, which attempted again and again to make it drop its prey, but alas! to no purpose, for it carried it off to its nest, where it no doubt afforded an agreeable repast to its greedy young ones. One forenoon, when going to my garden, I looked into a nest of a Thrush, which was built on a branch of a small spruce tree, a few feet from the ground, and contained four young ones nearly fledged. Having returned in the course of a few hours, I again peeped into it, when, to my astonishment I beheld one of them severely cut in the breast, and almost at the point of death. I could not imagine what had been the cause of this sudden catastrophe. The gardener, however, told me that whilst he was watching his bees, he heard the male and female Thrushes setting up the most doleful screams. He immediately ran to the spot, in the expectation of seeing a cat or a weasel; but in place of them he beheld a Missel Thrush in the very act of killing one of their brood. So determined was it in carrying into effect its daring attempt at murder that he got within a few yards of it before it observed him. A few days after this, the same person, in company with a friend, observed another Missel Thrush carrying a bird in its bill to its nest, which was built in the cleft of a tall plane tree, within a few yards of my pigeon house."

Mr. John Selater, in the *Zoologist* for 1876, p. 4986, also writes:—"Hearing the loud screaming of a young bird, and immediately following it the wild alarm notes of a male blackbird, which I saw flying towards a bare and solitary thorn, I ran expecting to find a cat or hawk the cause of the disturbance, and on reaching the spot, off went what I at the first moment took for a male Kestrel, but the next instant I both saw and heard, by his harsh notes, that the marauder was a Missel Thrush. I found the young Blackbird at the foot of the thorn, seemingly none the worse; but it might have been different if I had not appeared on the scene, and I wish now that I had not been so hasty, as I cannot prove he would have killed it; but I am satisfied in my own mind that he would. There was no nest of the Thrush anywhere near, nor was it a likely place for the Thrush to be looking for his usual food."

And, again, in the *Zoologist* for 1887, p. 263, Mr. A. E. Sandford, Mynehead Court, Somersetshire, says:—"During the dry weather which prevailed this spring, I one day saw a Missel Thrush fly up to the nest of a common Song Thrush, take out a young one, and carry it off to her own nest, and feed her young ones with it, and she continued her visits till she had carried off the four young birds only just hatched."

At the same time I may remark that no bird loses its eggs oftener than the Mistletoe Thrush itself; so that, even if it takes the eggs of other birds, as it occasionally does their young, some other bird—unless it robs its own kindred—must have an equal partiality for eggs.

And I think this taste on its part for young birds must be rather the exception than the rule; for in this garden, where a pair of Mistletoe Thrushes breed every year, I have never known them molest their neighbours' young ones. In the dry spring of 1888, two pairs of Mistletoe Thrushes built here, within fifty yards of one another, both nests being curiously placed, without the slightest attempt at concealment, close to much frequented walks, and at a height of only about nine feet. In some bushes between them were too other nests belonging to a Song Thrush and a Chaffinch; yet the Mistletoe Thrushes did not disturb them, and the four families fled in safety. Indeed, in defending their own, they protected the nests of the other birds; and I saw a male Kestrel and a Rook utterly routed by the old Mistletoe Thrushes. In fact, this habit, as noticed by Pennant, has gained for it in Wales the name *Penn y llwyn*, or Master of the Coppice; just as with us, from its loud wild song being often heard in wet stormy weather, it is called a *Stormcock*.

This Thrush is exceedingly fond of cherries, and does serious mischief in the cherry orchards of South Shropshire. It also takes currants and gooseberries from gardens, but wild berries are its chief food; and it eats those of the mountain ash, elder, bramble, bilberry (*Vaccinium Myrtillus*), whortleberry (*V. Vitis-idea*), holly, hawthorn, yew, and ivy, as they ripen, besides Portugal laurel berries, and the bright scarlet fruit of the *pyracantha*. Although named *ἰξοβόπος* by Aristotle, and *viscivorus* by Linnaeus, few modern writers speak from personal observation of its feeding upon mistletoe berries. In his *Birds of Sherwood Forest*, Sterland, after calling the berries the reputed favourite food of this Thrush, appears to assume that it eats them because he can in no other way account for the dissemination of the plant; and Smith, *Birds of Somersetshire*, says that its food consists chiefly of berries of all sorts, especially those of the mistletoe. It seems doubtful, however, whether either of these authors speaks from his own knowledge. As the berries of the mistletoe are frequently to be seen decaying upon the plant in spring, even after severe winters, I have always concluded that no bird cared for them; but Professor Newton very kindly informs me that, in the gardens of Magdalene College, Cambridge, where mistletoe abounds, he has year after year observed the Mistletoe Thrushes stripping off the berries. At the same time, he adds that he has never seen any other bird eat them, and that once during hard frost he saw a Blackbird, in the last stage of destitution, and so weak that it could scarcely perch, sitting with some berries within an inch or two of its bill, yet never attempting to take one.

Besides berries, this Thrush feeds, upon snails, slugs, insects, and caterpillars, in searching for which it may be seen hopping quickly over lawns, fields, and bare hill sides, but seldom stopping

to drag out earthworms like the Song Thrush. It is, to a certain extent, migratory, many of the birds that compose the large autumn flocks leaving before winter sets in.

FIELDFARE, *Turdus pilaris*.

The vexed question whether the Fieldfare or the Redwing is the most numerous of our winter visitors is of so little importance as not to be worth considering. The time of its migration is of more interest, as inaccurate observers frequently mistake the Mistletoe Thrush for this bird; and in consequence all early records of its arrival, unless well authenticated, must be looked upon with caution. Eyton mentions having once seen a flight of them on the 20th September; but this is a very early date; for, although a few may come sooner, it is not till towards the end of October that the great immigration takes place. From that time till the middle of November, Fieldfares are very abundant, many of those that then visit us being no doubt on their way further south. In spring they are the last of the winter visitors to leave, flocks of them being common in April, and I have a note of a few seen so late as the 4th May.

During its stay here, the Fieldfare prefers high upland ground and large fields, where it obtains its food principally upon the ground; and it does not care much for berries, unless frost sets in, when it eats those of the hawthorn, holly, yew, ivy, and when very hard pressed, the various kinds of hips.

On their first arrival, and, indeed, till the ensuing spring, the old and young Fieldfares are easily distinguished by the small size and dull coloured plumage of the latter; and it is these birds that are so often found starved and dying in severe weather, while the old ones seem to suffer comparatively little. In the long, hard winters of 1879, 1880, 1881, and 1886, which were very fatal to birds, all the dead Fieldfares that I examined were young ones that had neither attained their full size nor full plumage, their average weight being only 3 oz., whilst old birds usually weigh $4\frac{1}{2}$ or 5 oz.

After there has been a flood in the Severn, Fieldfares have a rich feast, and, at such a time, great numbers are to be seen along its course. The receding water leaves, besides other delicacies, thousands upon thousands of drowned earthworms lying on the surface, and it is amusing to see these birds partaking of them, in company with Redwings, Starlings, Rooks, Jackdaws, Pewits, and others: the Pewits wading into the shallow water, the Rooks gravely stalking along the edge, the Jackdaws hurrying about in all directions, or stopping round some defunct animal to get a taste of carrion, while each little patch of ground, as it appears above the water, is immediately occupied by Fieldfares, Redwings, Starlings, Wagtails, Meadow Pipits, and others, all striving for a share of the banquet. Gilbert White, in his 27th

Letter to Pennant, observes that Fieldfares generally roost upon the ground among heather, and in stubble fields; but numbers of them also retire at night to holly bushes, yews, and ivy-covered trees in woods, from whence I have often disturbed them after dark, when the birds were only distinguishable by their call-note.

SONG THRUSH, *Turdus musicus*.

Although a common resident many thrushes leave in autumn to pass the winter further south. About the end of August or the beginning of September migratory birds from the north also begin to arrive, and for a few weeks are very plentiful, especially in turnip fields, where they eat either small slugs or the more destructive caterpillars; and where, when disturbed by sportsmen, several may often be seen on the wing at once, though they never collect in flocks.

In spring, towards the end of February, or later if the weather is severe, a corresponding movement northward again takes place; but, as the birds then appear singly or in pairs, and only remain a short time, they attract little attention, though a few are to be found in almost every grass field.

The gardener who kills a Thrush, or destroys its nest, makes a mistake; for if its handsome plumage, unobtrusive habits, and beautiful song are not sufficient to gain his friendship, the destruction of the insects and caterpillars it consumes, especially when rearing its young ones, far more than repays the mischief that it does. It is true that in their season it takes a few cherries, strawberries, currants, gooseberries, and raspberries, but it is by no means an inveterate fruit-eater; and it is the only bird that regularly feeds upon the large grey snail (*Helix aspersa*), so troublesome in gardens. The Mistletoe Thrush, Redwing, and Blackbird eat these snails occasionally; but the Thrush hunts for them everywhere, pulling them out from box-edgings, rockwork, and other crannies, and breaking their shells either upon the hard ground or against a stone. I have noticed that in dry summers or severe winters, when earthworms are difficult to obtain, these snails constitute its principal food; and in the inclement winter of 1886-7, and the following dry summer, the broken snail shells lying in all directions in gardens testified to the number that had been devoured. When frosts set in, the Thrush is one of the first birds to approach our houses in search of food, and becomes so tame that it will come to the window-sill for crumbs; but, if the hard weather continues, it soon succumbs, and numbers of them die. In the three severe winters of 1879, 1880, and 1881, this was so much the case that their scarcity afterwards was a matter of common observation; and the severe cold in the end of February and beginning of March, 1887, sadly reduced their numbers.

The nests of birds are usually such wonderful structures, and so beautifully adapted for the requirements of the young, that it is impossible to understand why a bird that frequently lays in March should line its nest with a cold, comfortless compound of clay, cow-dung, and rotten wood, especially as this plaster renders it nearly water-tight, and often leads to the destruction of the contents ; for it is a common thing in spring after a heavy storm of snow or rain to find the Thrush's nests half full of water, and the eggs forsaken, or the young ones dead.

Hewitson, in his *Eggs of British Birds*, doubts whether this lining is partially composed of cow-dung, but there can be no question about it ; for not only are the birds to be seen collecting the substance, but in a newly-built nest it can easily be detected. I have, however, noticed that in dry weather it is more freely used than when clay or mud is easy to obtain. Although Thrushes usually build in some evergreen or low bush, one summer a pair had a nest in the ivy against this house, at a height of fifteen feet from the ground. The following curious episode in bird life is related by Hancock, in his *Birds of Northumberland and Durham*. "The Thrush," he says, "affords an interesting example of foster-parentship. On the 23rd of May, 1866, my attention was drawn by my friend the late Mr. Mawson, of Newcastle, to an instance of a Thrush feeding with worms two young Hedge Accentors. I saw the Thrush take worms several times to the nest of the Accentors, who quarrelled for the food thus brought to them. The feeding went on for several days, during which the parent Accentors were never seen, but the young birds were reared."

REDWING, *Turdus iliacus*.

A regular winter visitor, sometimes more numerous than the Fieldfare ; but its numbers vary in different years. On its arrival in October, I usually notice it first in this churchyard, where the yew berries attract it, and it afterwards feeds upon those of the hawthorn, holly, ivy, bramble, and pyracantha. In open weather it may also often be seen, in company with Fieldfares, searching after insects, their larvæ, and worms, in grass and stubble fields.

Severe winters are very fatal to the poor Redwings ; and in that of 1864, and again in that of 1886, two or three came to eat the crumbs we threw from the window. Indeed here this bird seems to suffer from cold much more than the Fieldfare, and I have seldom known it to feed upon snails. This, however, is contrary to the experience of Mr. John Cordeaux, who, writing from Ulceby, Lincolnshire, in the *Zoologist* for 1865, p. 9534, says :—"It is stated in some works on Natural History that Redwings are the first to succumb to severe weather. As far as my experience goes, this has not been the case during the late

severe frost and snow, for I have found Fieldfares starved to death, generally in the vicinity of running water, but, so far, not a single Redwing. During the frost the Redwings subsisted, I believe, nearly entirely on snails, both the large common snail and the pretty variegated sort; judging from the broken shells, the number of the latter snails destroyed by Redwings must be enormous. In a walk near the Humber, the other day, I saw several small flocks of Redwings, and every prominent stone was strewn around with the broken fragments of snail shells. I have lately on several occasions seen these birds hammering away against a stone. I do not think Fieldfares resort to the same diet, and have often watched to ascertain if they did so, but without avail; and had they been in the habit of feeding upon snails they would probably not have fallen victims to the frost." Although careful observation has done much to elucidate the laws that govern migration, many of them are beyond our comprehension; and it seems inexplicable that birds which have migrated from the north of Europe, should remain here to die, and that their wonderful migratory instinct does not induce them to proceed further south as the severity of the weather increases. It may be that a sudden frost of unusual severity partially disables them, for, after examining various kinds of birds that have been found dead in cold weather, I have come to the conclusion that the mischief in the first instance arises from frost-bite. This causes the legs and toes to swell and become almost useless, the skin of the toes becomes abraded; the bird is, in consequence, scarcely able to perch or hop, so that it cannot obtain food, and in a short time perishes. It is possible, too, that many of the Redwings found dead here are migrants from the north of England, which, having been driven south by stress of weather, have died on the journey.

A few supposed instances of the Redwing remaining to breed in Great Britain have been recorded; perhaps the best authenticated one being, as Professor Newton observes, that in North Wales, mentioned by Dr. Henry L. Saxby, Balta Sound, Shetland, in the *Zoologist*, 1861, pp. 7427-8. Dr. Saxby says:—"About the middle of May, 1855, I was so fortunate as to discover a Redwing's nest in a garden at Maentwrog, North Wales (near Festiniog, Merionethshire). It was placed in the heart of a large bay tree, at about eight feet from the ground, and was composed outwardly of moss, coarse roots, twigs, dead weeds, and a few shreds of old muslin; the lining consisted of fine grass, spread upon a thick, smooth layer of mud. It contained four eggs, very much resembling those of a blackbird, but rather smaller, of a pale greenish blue colour, minutely speckled with two shades of orange brown and reddish grey. In form and construction the nest was somewhat peculiar, being far neater than that of a blackbird, though much heavier and clumsier

than that of a song thrush. I repeatedly saw the bird upon the eggs, so also did several of my friends, so that there can be no doubt as to its species. I sent one of the eggs to the late Mr. Yarrell, who expressed much delight at the acquisition of a British specimen."

BLACKBIRD, *Turdus merula*.

The lively handsome Blackbird may certainly be called the *fruit-eater* among British birds. In orchards and gardens it takes cherries, strawberries, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, pears, and apples, as they ripen, and occasionally plums, although the last, whether in their cultivated or their wild state, as well as crabs, do not appear to be much relished by any bird. Of berries, too, it eats those of the mountain ash, elder, bramble, bilberry, whortleberry, holly, hawthorn, ivy, wild rose, and yew. Few people who possess a garden can have failed to observe the number of these birds, chiefly young ones, that arrive from the surrounding country as soon as the fruit begins to get ripe, and continue their invasion till the last apples and pears have been gathered. Then they again seek the woods and hedges, a few generally returning in winter to strip the berries off the Portugal laurels or to eat the fruit of the *pyracantha*. Yet, notwithstanding these depredations, the Blackbird does an immense amount of good by feeding upon insects and their larvæ, slugs, and worms, for during the time it is rearing its two or three broods, the whole family subsist entirely on food of this kind; and, as it is everywhere common, vast indeed must be the quantity consumed. Though in severe weather the Blackbird may come to feed about houses, and in stackyards, it is an excessively hardy bird, and rarely dies from starvation even in the coldest seasons, when it obtains food principally among underwood in plantations, in the bottoms of hedges, and in gorse coverts, where the overhanging bushes prevent the ground from being frozen. Pied or nearly white varieties of this bird are not uncommon, and in some instances this variation is hereditary, as the late Rev. F. B. Parkes told me that in the grounds of Atoham Vicarage a pair of Blackbirds, both of which were partly white, produced one or more pied young ones every year.

The Blackbird usually conceals its nest more than the Thrush, and builds lower down in hedges, shrubs, and bushes. Its first nest, which is built before the leaves are out, is frequently placed on the top of a ditch-bank, or under the overhanging sides of a brook; and in woods I have found it upon the ground among brambles.

RING OUZEL, *Turdus torquatus*.

The Ring-OUzel is a rather rare spring and autumn migrant in North Shropshire; while to the high hills and moorlands in the South it is a common summer visitor. In the North small

parties, usually of one sex, appear at the end of March or the beginning of April, and are then found about the base of the Wrekin, on Haughmond Hill, near Shrewsbury, and on heaths and mosses, preferring high or uncultivated places where gorse or heather grows; though occasionally I have seen them frequenting hedges along the banks of the Severn. At this season they stay for a few days only, and then depart for the summer, to return again about the middle of September, when small flocks, consisting of three or four broods, begin to arrive, and remain feeding upon berries for two or three weeks.

The only locality in this district where it breeds is, I believe, Haughmond Hill, and there a pair are generally to be seen in summer. In the South it nests on all the high hills, and is very numerous on the Longmynd, the Stiperstones, and the hills round Bishop's Castle and Clun. Indeed, Mr. Rocke speaking of it in this district, says that wherever the mountain ash grows, it is generally to be found.

The food of the Ring Ouzel is much the same as that of the Blackbird. For, though, at other times, a shy bird, during the fruit-season, it takes its brood to gardens near the moors, where they become bold persistent thieves, and eat plums, cherries, and all the common kinds of fruit. On the hills, it feeds upon bilberries and whortleberries, it is also excessively fond of mountain ash berries, and greedily eats those of the yew, elder, hawthorn, and bramble.

Although not unlike the Blackbird in general appearance the two birds are easily distinguished, even when the Ring Ouzel's white collar or gorget cannot be seen, as its alarm note is a loud chatter; and, when disturbed, its flight is much quicker and bolder. It generally, too, rises up into the air and flies off to a distance, and not, as the blackbird does, from bush to bush, or along a hedge.

This bird is usually considered as a summer visitor only to Great Britain; but Mr. Harting, in his *Handbook of British Birds*, classes it among the *resident* species. In a very interesting paper in the *Zoologist* for 1879, he also adduces several instances of its spending the winter in England, and mentions an individual bird that I saw feeding upon haws near the Wrekin on the 17th December, 1874. Since then, however, I have not been able to obtain any evidence that it ever remains in this county, or that it has been seen here during the first two months of the year.

In the autumn of 1877, all kinds of berries were very plentiful, and their abundance tempted the Ring Ouzels to stay later than usual. I heard of several being seen and killed on the 9th and 10th of November; and I saw two, both young birds, on the 2nd of December, after which date, however, no more were noticed. Still, it occasionally stays in the adjacent

counties, for in Dr. Bull's *Birds of Herefordshire*, I find the following passage bearing upon this subject:—"The Ring Ouzel," says the Rev. C. L. Eagles, "lives, sometimes all the year round, on the slopes of the Black Mountains. I have shot them in winter, and have often seen their nests in summer;" and the Rev. Isaac Harding has known a family remain on the Malvern Hills all the winter.

The Ring Ouzel usually builds in a ravine, or on the side of a hill, but rarely near its summit. The nest is generally concealed under a gorse bush or in some tall heather; though sometimes it is placed on a ledge of rock underneath an overhanging bank, and, less frequently, on the top of a crag. As long as it contains eggs the old birds give no clue to its whereabouts, but as soon as the young are hatched their solicitude betrays their treasure. The eggs are not very unlike those of the Mistletoe Thrush, and can scarcely be mistaken for Black-bird's, which not unfrequently breed on mountain sides.

GOLDEN ORIOLE, *Oriolus galbula*.

Although there is no record of the Golden Oriole having been killed in Shropshire, there are at least two well authenticated instances of its having been seen in the southern division of the county. I have previously noticed two of these birds that the late Rev. Canon Butler saw in spring, about the year 1866, when walking through a wood at Harnage, near Cound; and as he had been perfectly familiar with them on the Continent, and was sufficiently near them to see that they were both males, there can be no doubt about their identity.

Since then, in May, 1886, Miss M. B. Oldfield saw one of these birds in an orchard at Neen Savage, near Cleobury Mortimer, and watched it long enough to observe its graceful movements. On my sending her a specimen of a female Golden Oriole, she kindly wrote me word that the bird she saw was exactly like it, but with a brighter yellow back and blacker wings, and that she thought it was a male. Miss Oldfield also added that she knew the Golden Oriole, from having seen a pair in captivity. About the year 1876, a bird was described to Mr. Rocke, as seen by the Teme between Downton and Bromfield, which could hardly have been any other than a Golden Oriole. There is also evidence, although less satisfactory, of its having again been seen near Cound, in May, 1878, and near Hanwood in the spring of 1882, while Dr. Bull, in his *Birds of Herefordshire*, records on the authority of Mr. Charles Fortey, that one was seen by Mr. A. P. Rali, in Hay Park, near Ludlow, very near the borders of Shropshire in 1883.

When at large, and a passing glance is all that is obtained, the only other bird which can possibly be mistaken for the Oriole is the Green Woodpecker; and although on a near inspection the

two are utterly different, the resemblance is not altogether fanciful. For in Yarrell's *British Birds* (4 edit.) Professor Newton states that in Germany the Oriole is called *Wiedwall* and *Witwell*, and afterwards adds: "With these is clearly cognate the English 'Witwall,' though when this is nowadays used at all it is applied to the Green Woodpecker, probably as the bird which by its colours most recalled to our Teutonic forefathers the continental species so familiar to them."

Wherever this beautiful bird is found it ought to be protected, and not ruthlessly killed for the sake of its bright plumes. For, if unmolested, there is no reason why, like other kinds that visit us in summer, it should not remain to breed.

REDBREAST, *Erythra rubecula*.

A remarkable instance of a Robin's affection for its eggs occurred here this spring. The gardener found a nest containing five eggs upon a potato "tump," where it was impossible to leave it undisturbed, so I carefully took it up and placed it in a hedge about ten feet off. After a short time the Robins, which were twittering about all the time, went to it and examined it, and then the hen bird quietly resumed her sitting. A similar incident is also recorded in the *Field*, May 21, 1887, where Mr. G. B. Wollaston, writing from Chiselhurst, mentions that, in taking some fronds off a clump of ferns, he accidentally pulled out a Robin's nest with four eggs in it, and that on putting the nest under another fern a few yards off, he found the old bird upon it the next day. And for the following anecdote, showing how very tame and confiding these birds occasionally become, I am indebted to the Rev. R. E. Haymes. In the spring of 1884, a pair of Robins built in the Lectern in Holdgate Church, near Much Wenlock. In this strange nesting place, the old bird continued to sit, and even to feed the young ones during the services, though the Lectern stood close to the Reading Desk, and between it and the Harmonium. Five young ones were here brought up in safety, but unluckily perished just as they were about to fly.

It has always appeared to me unexplainable why the Robin is not more abundant as a species. It is a universal favourite, and its life is held almost sacred. Severe winters do not affect it; birds of prey never kill it; and though cats occasionally destroy it out of mere wantonness, they generally leave it unmolested.

Indeed, there must be a peculiar and disagreeable smell or taste about a Robin; for, when a cat kills one, it seldom carries it about or plays with it, as is its practice with most uneatable things. And while some are doubtless slain in the fierce battles they are constantly engaged in, there seems no foundation for the oft-told story that the young birds kill the old ones before winter sets in. Yet, notwithstanding this immunity from harm, no appreciable increase in the number of our feathered pets takes place.

In some of their ways of living Robins exhibit great difference of character. In cheerfulness and sociability, however, they may be said to be alike; for those that remain even during severe winters in woods and by the sides of streams, where their food consists only of insects and worms, seem as blithe and gay as their better fed relatives, who are constantly looking about and into our houses for crumbs and bits of meat.

These woodland Bobbies, too, are equally fond of seeking man's company, and hardly has the woodman begun his work, or the keeper to dig out a rabbit, before he is joined by a Robin, who, perched close to him, looks with sidelong glance, either for insects or worms that he may expose, or when meal time comes, for a share of his repast.

The Robin is the poor man's barometer, and a very good one he makes. If he sits low down in a bush, and dolefully utters a few short notes, it foretells rain or stormy weather, but if perched on the top of a building or upper spray of a tree, he merrily pours forth his song, fine weather is indicated; and if he does this in the evening of a wet or showery day, a finer morrow may be expected. In a garden, Bobby, though always welcome, is by no means harmless; for in the summer both red currants and raspberries form no small portion of its food.

REDSTART, *Phoenicurus rubicilla*.

Few of our summer visitors are more locally distributed than the Redstart; and it is only about parks and similar places, where the large partly hollow trees in which it delights are still allowed to stand, that it is to be found in any numbers. One or two pairs are often also to be seen, in the vicinity of some retired homestead, especially of an old fashioned one, whose usual surroundings of ruined walls or neglected orchards afford them ample choice of nesting-places. And at all times so much does this bird appear to enjoy human society, that, when by chance a pair betake themselves to the woods to breed, they usually build by a boathouse keeper's hut or sawpit—often in the structure itself. Like many other familiar birds, the Redstart selects various odd sites for its nest. Usually it is placed in a hole of some kind; but I have before noticed one built in the fork of a standard pear tree; on my sending it to the late Mr. Gould, he said that he had seen one in a similar situation; and since then I have twice found its nest in the angle between the stem and branch of a tree, in much the same position that a Chaffinch so often chooses. This species is more common in August than at any other time of year, as in that month migratory birds on their way south frequent for a time the outskirts of our woods and tall hedges. The Redstart subsists entirely upon insects and their larvæ and worms, and is accordingly a welcome visitor in gardens. In the *Zoologist* for 1863, p. 8680, Mr. J. Ransom,

writing from York, says:—"A pair of Redstarts, who have a nest in my garden, have done me great service by devouring those pests of the garden, the gooseberry grub. From frequent observations I am convinced that a pair of Redstarts (during the time their young require their attention) will destroy at least six hundred grubs and caterpillars in a day. I am glad to say that in our neighbourhood these pretty, interesting, and useful birds are on the increase." And upon this the Editor—the late Edward Newman—remarked:—"I am very glad to receive this information: I have never had ocular demonstration of any bird, except the Cuckoo actually eating the gooseberry grub." With reference to the statement made by Mr. A. G. More in the *Ibis* for 1865, p. 22, that the late Mr. W. H. Slaney had told him the Black Redstart (*P. tithys*) had been "frequently noticed in the neighbourhood of Hatton Hall during the breeding season," Colonel W. S. Kenyon-Slaney informs me that he has never seen it, though the Redstart is fairly common. There can be little doubt that Mr. More was mistaken, and that Mr. Slaney alluded to the present species.

STONECHAT, *Saxicola rubicola*.

In summer, wherever there are a few acres of gorse or heather one or two pairs of Stonechats are almost certain to be found: whilst over the more extensive heaths and mosses in North Shropshire, and on the hills and moorlands in the South, it is common and generally distributed. Sometimes, too, a pair take up their summer abode among rushes and long grass in half-reclaimed fields, or round the bed of the partially dry pools, so many of which are scattered along the northern boundary of Shropshire; but they never breed as the Whinchat does in the midst of cultivated ground.

In winter only a few remain, the great majority migrating south in autumn, at which season, they are often to be seen flitting along hedges in enclosed districts; whilst those that stay seek either the valleys among their favourite hills, or if the weather be severe, more sheltered places.

Even then, however, the Stonechat's love for the gorse never deserts it; and in mid-winter I have seen a solitary individual perched on one of the small gorse-bushes that are scattered here and there along the banks of the Severn.

Mr. G. J. Dumville Lees also informs me that at this season Stonechats are usually to be found round Moelydd Hill, near Oswestry—birds which have probably spent the summer on the neighbouring Welsh mountains. Towards the end of February or the beginning of March, the birds that have wintered here again seek the moorlands, and when in a few weeks their numbers have been augmented by migrants, all our heathery wastes are enlivened by these pretty active birds. In Sussex and the

adjoining counties the Stonechat is appropriately called a *Heathchat*, not only from its partiality for heather, but also because its note somewhat resembles that word.

Both the Stonechat and the Whinchat build on or near the ground, usually in or under a low bush or a tuft of grass or heather; and, as their nests are much alike, and are sometimes to be found near together, care should be taken to identify their eggs. The Stonechat's have the ground colour pale blue, with the rust-coloured spots clearly defined; while those of the Whinchat are of a darker blue, and the spots sometimes so faint that at first sight they appear to have none at all.

WHINCHAT, *Saxicola rubetra*.

The pretty Whinchat, so often to be seen flying along a roadside hedge, or perched upon a thistle or other tall plant in a field, is much more numerous as a species than its congeners the Stonechat and the Wheatear; for, not only is it found in company with these birds during the summer, on hills, heaths, and moors, but is also common throughout the cultivated parts of the county. Hewitson says that in one of the rich grassy vales in Westmoreland, where he was at school, this bird was abundant, and his words truly describe the places it delights in here. Meadows along the banks of rivers are peculiarly attractive to it; and in hayfields the *Utic*, as it is locally termed, is generally to be found, old and young perching on the swaths, and eagerly pursuing the numerous insects that have been disturbed in cutting the grass. It is also extremely fond of frequenting the sides of railways, where it finds secure breeding places on the embankments.

When inhabiting fields, the Whinchat usually builds by the side of a ditch, or an open drain, and seldom upon the flat ground. The full complement of eggs is almost invariably six. Gilbert White, in his 39th letter to Pennant, says:—"Whinchats and Stonechatters stay with us the whole year"; and Stevenson mentions two or three instances of this bird having been found in Norfolk in winter. So far as I know, however, it is only a summer visitor to Shropshire.

(To be continued).

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPT COMMISSION.

THE Commissioners appointed have been engaged in inspecting the Libraries of several gentlemen in Shropshire. Their reports are printed in the *Transactions* of the Shropshire Archæological Society, as they contain much local information.

It is intended that in future volumes other Reports shall be printed.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF STANLEY LEIGHTON, ESQ, M.P.

The following books are in the library at Sweeney Hall, near Oswestry :—

A folio volume, newly bound and lettered—"Mytton MSS. 1597—1690." It contains 64 letters and papers, 36 of which, relating to Thomas Mytton of Halston, Major-General in the Parliamentary army, have been printed in *Collections relating to Montgomeryshire* (vol. vii. p. 353, vol. viii. pp. 151, 293), with notes by their present owner. Among those which have not been printed are the following :—

f. 1. Writ of Privy Seal, dated March 6, 39 Elizabeth, to William Leighton of Plash, esquire, demanding a loan of 25*l.*, with a receipt for that sum signed by Francis Newport.

f. 29. Letter from Anthony Hungerford, dated at Stoke Castle, December 2, 1645. There are these forces gathering for the relief of Chester, 1,500 horse from Newark, 200 from Hereford, 150 from Ludlow and B[ridge] N[orth]. There is also expectation of force from Goring, and from other parts, as Lichfield and Dudley, besides the horse which came with the King to Oxford. They hope to be ready to march on Thursday or Friday, but they are not likely to come this way, because Ludlow and B[ridge] N[orth] are drawn to them already.

i. 45. Copy of the examination of certain prisoners, taken before Thomas Madrin, High Sheriff of the county of Carnarvon, Col. John Carter, Capt. Edmund Glynne. February 27, 1648. The six prisoners depose alike that they belonged to a vessel

called the Michael of Wexford (Waishford), and make statements about the imprisonment of Mr. Griffith Jones, and the plunder of his house at Castelmarch. They also give information about the impressment of seamen at Wexford to transport soldiers to England.

f. 81. Newsletter to Richard Mitton, dated London, April 24, 1690. It gives news from Vienna, Frankfort, Turin, Heidelberg, Paris, Madrid, and Edinburgh. "The Duke of Gordon is arrived at Brest with about twelve English and Scotch disbanded officers. The late Lord Jefferyes' house is taken for the Admiralty Office."

A small 4^{to} volume written on paper of the time of James I. It contains:—

f. 1. Copy of the confirmation by Henry VI. of the agreement between the Bailiffs and the Commonalty of Shrewsbury, with the oaths of the different officers of the corporation.

f. 21. "The names of the villages within the franchises of Shrewesburie."

f. 23. "A noate of those that have been bailifes of the towne of Shrewsbury, beginninge in the 46th yere of Kinge Edward the third," with historical notes in the margin. Among the notes are the following, the years being computed from March 25:—

1434. "Poles steple was sett on fier with lightninge, and also from St. Katarns Day till St. Valentyns day there was a frost that men might with cartes passe over Temes from place to place."

1455. "Queen Margaret gives bages, and my Lord of Shrowsbury and John Trentam varied, and had either of them a man slayne."

1459. "Pame Sondag Feelde."

1472. "The Duke of Yorke was borne at the Gray Fryers in Salop." (In other chronicles it is stated that he was born at the Black Friars.)

1488. "King Henry the 7th came to Salope."

1494. "King Henry 7th with the Queene and Prince Arther came to Salop, and the same yere the exchequier was built."

1496. "Prince A[rthur] died at Ludlowe."

1516. "This yere was ill may daie in London."

1535. "The Duke of Somersett and the Duke of Norfolk was in Salop."

1561. "4 June. Paules steeple was burned (was set on fier by lightninge) which began in the top of the steple and burnt downwarde and so consumed the steple, and 4 great ruffes in lesse the[n] 4 howers."

1563. "Mr. Astons second play."

1568. "This yere was a yerthquake in Salop, and this yere was Mr. Aston's third play."

1580. "Sir Henry Sydney, Lord President, kept St. George's feast in this towne, because he was a knight of the garter."

1604. "The plague was in Shrewsbury."

1630. "The plague was in Shrosbury."

1649. "This yehrs the plague begunn, and ended in June 1651.

1663. "The Castle was given to the King, who never requested it of the Towne."

1672. "This year was such a vast flood in Shrewsbury that it threw down the Welsh Gate, and did other great Spoyles besides."

1686. "King James came his progress in Holywell in September, and on the Wildecop, Mr. Mayor presented him with the keyes of the gates and a purse of gold. Hee received them and did give the keyes to Serjant William Bowers who was one of the Mayor's Serjants then, and hee kept them till the coming in [of] the Prince of Orange, and then delivered them in the Chequer. When King James was at super in the great chamber in the Counsell house, he caused the chamber to be propt up for feare of falling, and he had 3 dishes of flesh, 3 of fowle, and 3 of sweet meats, 9 in all, to super, and no more. Mr. Patrick Lamb his head cooke brought them all 9 to the table, and did present them on his knee. Hee brought all his household goods with him and his owne beere and wine and bed, etc. On the morrow being Friday all the fish that could be had was bought up and presented in order for his diner, and the Major and Aldermen being 12 and assistantts 24 came to attend him; but he stayd not to dine nor to see them, butt gott downe a private back staires, and for hast gott upon the wrong side the horse, and to Whitchurch that night. This I had from one that saw him take horse.

In the morning the Prisbyterian preachers, John Brian, Francis Tallantts, preachers at Oliver's Chappell in the High Streete, and Mr. Rowland Hunt, Doctor Jackson, Doctor of Physick, Daniel Jenks, Ironmonger, Joseph Pearson, cutler, presented him with a purse of gold supposed to be 100*l*., and were freely accepted, butt still lying the obligation on them to chuse such members for next parliament as should be for taking off[i] the penall laws and test, and to that he left behinde him William Pen, chiefe and head of the quakers, who began to speake at Mardoll head; butt the rabble supposing what hee would be att, the mobb gave a shoutt and over bawled him; so hee desisted and got his way, the mobb

knocking the bulks as he passed." Oliver's Chapel was so called after Thomas Oliver, a turner, who lived in the house. "When King James came into towne, a man climed up, and gott to stand on the top stone of St. Maryes Steeple, and held by the cross bar with a flagg in his hand all the while the King was touching for the King's Evil in the Church under him, and when the King came out of the Church, the man on the Steeple shot off[f] a pistol, which made King James ask what meant that, and it was answered him that it was for joy of his person. The King sayd it was a presumtious thing to doo itt. Butt I never could learne the man ever gott a farthing for his paines."

1687. "Mass was in a house of Mr. Jevons, which is betwixt the high cross and the high conduit sang openly, and one Judge Alibond, who satt then as judge of nisi prius, went of the Bench to Mass in that house."

1696. "A rejoyceing day was held for the discovery of the plott, and a great bonifire with aluminations, great store of wine, beere, tobacco att the Towne hall; and an effigie of the French King made in sumptuous maner, and caried along the streets, and burnt at the high crosse in most splendid maner."

1696, October 3. Curious account of an execution.

A folio volume, writen on paper in the 18th century. It contains a list of the Sheriffs of Shropshire from A.D. 1154, and of the Bailiffs of Shrewsbury from A.D. 1372, with historical notes in the margin, derived from various sources. The compiler copied many notes from the chronicle known as "Dr. Taylor's MS." of which an account is given in the *Transactions* of the Shropshire Archæological Society, vol. iii, pp. 239—352. The notes in this volume, however, extend down to the year 1789, and contain much information about the town of Shrewsbury which is not to be found elsewhere. Under the year 1610, there is a curious account of a riot, in which a mob kept possession of the School-house for four days and three nights, encouraged by one of the masters, named Ralph Gittins. Under the year 1642, there is a copy of an acknowledgement by Charles I. to Richard Gibbons, late Mayor of Shrewsbury, and Thomas Chaloner, late Master of the free school, for a loan of 600*l.* from the stock belonging to the School, to be repaid on demand. It bears date October 11, 1642. Some of the later entries relate to parliamentary elections, and to the affairs of Shrewsbury School. On f. 72, there is a list of the head Schoolmasters, and of the second, third, and fourth Schoolmasters from A.D. 1562 to A.D. 1783. At the end of the volume there is an elaborate index.

A folio volume of letters and papers of Edward Lloyd of Llanvorda near Oswestry. Among a number of documents of no general interest there are the following:—

A narrative of Capt. Edward Lloyd's services on behalf of the King during the Civil War, and of his subsequent sufferings, with an account of his losses amounting in all to 8,080*l.* 14*s.*

"The names of the malignant enymies to the King's Majestie in and about Oswestree," with notes of treasonable words uttered by them. (A.D. 1660 or 1661.)

"Articles against the phanaticall corporation of Oswestry."

A long and elaborate account of the state of the fisheries near Aberystwith, Dovey, and Barmouth.

Several news letters of the years 1680 and 1681 from Sir R. Owen, and Dr. John Gadsbury, to Edward Lloyd.

Mr. Leighton has also many documents relating to the Charlton family of Ludford. Among them are several mediæval deeds concerning property at Hebland, near Bishop's Castle.

The following passage occurs in a letter from E. S. to Job Charlton, Esq., dated Ma. 24, 1659[-60]:—

"The Lord Admiral Montague is gone to the navy to command it, by order from the Councill of State, and, as they say, carryeth good affections with him. The Nazeby frigott is rigging up very trimm, and diverse of the English shippes flourish with the King's colours. Nor is preparation at sea onely. At Whitehall all the froggs that crawled in King's chambers are commanded out, and the house is furnishing with rich hangings."

In another bundle of deeds relating to property in Middlesex in the reign of Charles II., mention is made of two bowling greens fronting the Haymarket and a portion of land lying north of the Tennis Court. Thomas Panton of St. Martin's in the Fields, and Sir Henry Oxenden, of Deane in Wingham, are among the persons mentioned.

I have to thank Mr. Stanley Leighton, not only for his hospitality at Sweeney Hall, but also for his active exertions in obtaining for me access to several other collections of manuscripts in the county of Salop. Separate reports on most of these will be found under the names of their respective owners. I have not, however, made any reports on the manuscripts of Mr. Heber Percy of Hodnet, Mr. Kynaston of Hardwicke, or Mr. Wolryche Whitmore of Dudmaston

Hall, inasmuch as they consist of title deeds and papers of no historical interest. The muniments of the Corporation of Oswestry may be here mentioned as being in very good order, Mr. Stanley Leighton having caused several volumes containing mediæval charters and other records to be handsomely bound in white vellum. Any longer report on them would be superfluous, as Mr. Leighton has himself published a full account of them with numerous extracts, in a series of papers contributed to the *Transactions* of the Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society. Notices of some documents relating to Oswestry are also to be found in *Bye-Gones*, an antiquarian periodical conducted by the late Mr. Askew Roberts of that place.

H. C. MAXWELL LYTE.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF R. JASPER MORE, ESQ.

The following manuscripts have been long preserved at Shipton Hall in Corvedale, co. Salop, formerly the residence of a branch of the Mytton family, but now the property of Mr. Jasper More, of Linley.

A small folio volume containing fragments of three different works, written on vellum and adorned with ornamental capitals, etc. The first gives some of the Sibylline prophecies, and the prophecies of Merlin. The second forms part of a bestiary, or treatise on natural history, illustrated by forty curious illuminations, the siren forming the subject of one paragraph and picture. The third forms part of a treatise on precious stones.

A roll of three membranes, closely written on both sides, containing an account of the fines paid to the Priory of Wenlock in the time of Prior Guichard, in the 15th year of Edward II. Some extracts from it are printed in Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*, vol. iii., p. 262.

A sheet of vellum richly illuminated in gold and silver, bearing the following letter:—"James by the Grace of Almighty God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, King of Great Britaine, France and Ireland, Defendor of the Christian Faith,

etc. To the High and Mightie Monarch, the Great Empour of China, etc., Greeting. The report of the greatness of your power and dominion in those Easterne parts of the World, hath stirred up a great desire in our Subjects to undertake a Voyage into your Countrey, to sollicite your friendshippe towards the settling of a Trade and Commerce with your people as they have already done with dyvers other Nations, as farr dissident from you; Wherein as Wee have willinglie offered them our Royall approbation, as a matter which tendeth to the Honour of Almightye God, and advancement of the Weale Publique, So Wee hold it our part not to deny them any thing that may add eyther respect and countenance, or protection and safetie, in such their laudable endeavours: Upon which inducements, Wee have bene pleased to offer these desires of our Subjects to your favourable construction, Perswading our selves, that as a Prince of Honour, and sence of your Subjects good, you will embrace this offer, and for their better encouragement, afford them libertie and safetie within your Dominions, for the settling of Trade and Commerce with your Subjects, with such Conditions of securitie and safetie as may be most convenient and necessarie for the Advancement and Mutuall profit and utilitie of each others Countries and People; In which respect Wee have given them power and autoritie to contract with you or your Officers, and Wee do not doubt but that their proceedinges will prove as acceptable to you as they have bene to other your Neighbour Kings and Countries, with whom they have traded, to their good contentment; And that in Conformitie thereof you shall Charge and Commaund your Officers and Governors friendlie to receyve, ayde, and assist our People, and protect them against the Envy and Malice of others that would goe about to wrong or interrupt them; And so Wee Committ you to the mercifull Direction of Almightye God; From our Pallace of Westminster the seaventh of Februarie, 1613, and in the eleaventh Yeare of our Raigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland. (Sign Manual) James R." There are marks of sewing, but not of any seal. The outside, which is also adorned with golden scroll-work bears the direction "To the High and Mightie Monarche, the great Emperor of China, etc." (It is believed that this document must have been brought to Shipton by a member of the Mytton family, who went to India and China in the early part of the reign of George III.)

A printed letter of Privy Seal, bearing the signatures of Charles I. and Edward Littleton, to Mr. Mitton of Shipton, requesting a loan of 30*l*. Dated at Oxford, February 14, 1643-4.

Letter from William Lenthall, Speaker of the House of Commons, to Colonel Copley in Yorkshire. In the name of the House, he thanks him and the officers and soldiers who were with him in the gallant action at Sherborne, where despite great disadvantage of numbers he had recovered a victory gained by the enemy. Dated at London, October 21, 1645.

Register of baptisms, marriages, and funerals, in the church of Shipton, from A.D. 1538 to A.D. 1792, in two books.

Transcript of a book formerly in the possession of Francis, Lord Newport, at Eyton, co. Salop, containing the Visitation of the county made by Robert Treswell, Somerset Herald, and Augustine Vincent, Rougecroix, A.D. 1623, that made by Richard Lee, Porteullis, A.D. 1584, and certain other genealogies.

At Linley Hall Mr. More has several hundred old deeds relating to property at Linley, More, Shelve, and Larden, co. Salop, some of which date from the reign of Henry III. The Abbot and Convent of Haughmond are mentioned in several of them, and others may be of considerable value to the future historian of Shropshire. It does not appear, however, that they contain any information of general interest.

H. C. MAXWELL LYTE.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF W. F. PLOWDEN, ESQ.

Although the family of Plowden has been seated at Plowden, in the county of Salop, for more than six centuries, its records are very scanty. Part of the library of Serjeant Plowden, the famous lawyer, remains in the possession of his descendant, but his correspondence has entirely disappeared. In a rapid search through the chest of muniments, undertaken by kind permission of Mr. Plowden, I did not come across any documents worthy of notice, except the three following:—

Agreement between Edward Sutton, knight, Lord Dudley, and Sir John Sutton, otherwise called Sir John Dudley, of the

one part, and John Butler, gentleman of the other, concerning the reversion of the manors of Aston in the Walles and Apple-tree (Appyltre), co. Northampton, after the decease of John Dudley, esquire, brother of the said Lord Dudley. Mention is made of the chapel of St. Alban in the Priory of Dudley. Dated August 29th, 21 Henry VIII. Signed by "Edward Lord Dudley," and by John Dudley. Seal attached.

Grant by John, Abbot of Westminster, and the Convent of that place, to Edmund Plowden of the Middle Temple, esquire, for his life, of a yearly sum of 4*l.* issuing out of the manor of Northampstead, in consideration of his counsel to be given to the Abbot and his successors (*pro consilio suo michi et successoribus meis imposterum impendendo*). October 14, 5 and 6 Philip and Mary.

Grant by Robert, Earl of Leicester, K.G. to the same, of a yearly sum of 5*l.* issuing out of the castle and manor of Kenilworth, for the like consideration. December 7, 8 Elizabeth. Seal, and signature—"R. Leycester."

H. C. MAXWELL LYTE.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF J. LECHMERE PARKINSON, ESQ.

Among the muniments at Ludford House near Ludlow there are a great number of mediæval deeds relating to property at Burford, Whetmore, Nash, Greet, Stoke, Whitton, Overton, Court of Hill, Hartall, Cainham, La Bower, Steventon, Sheet, Stanton Lacy, Ashford Jones, Ashford Carbonel, Upper Hayton, Lower Hayton, Ludlow, Colebatch, and other places, co. Salop, Ludford and Upton, co. Hereford, and Church Stoke and Mellington, co. Montgomery. The following are, perhaps, the most important to the topographer and genealogist :—

Grant by William de Whitton to Joan his daughter for her marriage (*ad se maritandam*), of half a virgate of land at Whitton. Witnesses:—Sir R. Abbot of Wigmore, William Carbonel, and twelve others named. Fragment of large seal attached. (Early 13th century).

Grant by Walter de Lacey (Lasey) to Robert the clerk, son

of Robert de Stanton, of a virgate of land at Nash (Akes) which Reginald son of Osbern formerly held. Witnesses:—Gerard of Anjou (Andegavensi), and ten others named. Heraldic seal attached, and counter seal. (13th century).

Grant by William Falconer, son of William Falconer of Ludlow, to the Hospital of St. Mary of Ludlow by the bridge of Teme (Thamed) and the brethren thereof, of twelve acres of land and eleven ridges (seillones) at Ludford, in consideration of thirteen pounds paid to him by brother Peter Undergod, founder and warden of the same. Witnesses:—Hugh Car-bunell, and seventeen others named. Large seal attached. (13th century).

Grant by Richard de Muchegros to Walter de Clifford, son of William de Clifford, in free marriage with Rose his daughter, of the land which he bought of Osbert Donvill in the vill of Nash (Eshse). Witnesses:—Walter de Clifford, Roger de Clifford, and eight others named.

Grant by William de Clifford lord of Nash (Esses), to John son of Walter de Weston, of a piece of land in the fee of Nash (Esses). Witnesses:—Sir Adam de Aumeruge, knight, William de Wetemore, and six others named. Seal attached. (13th century).

Grant by Walter de Clifford, son of William de Clifford, to Cecilia de Gocekinmeina, of half a virgate of land in the vill of Nash (Esshe). Witnesses:—Roger de Longeb', then steward, Roger de Bitterley (Buterleg), John Sturmi, and ten others named. Heraldic seal attached. (13th century).

Charter of William Devereux (de Ebroyeis), reciting and confirming several long charters of his father, Stephen Devereux, to the church of St. Leonard of Wormeley (de Pyonia), and the canons thereof. Witnesses:—Sir Antolin, Dean of Hereford, Sir William le Rus, Sir Richard de Montegarnier, Sir Henry de Ponebruge, Sir Walter Devereux, Sir Walter de Eylesford, Sir William de Bracy, Sir Roger de Clifford, knights, Sir John, Sheriff of Hereford, Sir Hugh de Clifford, Walter Marscall, and others. Dated Good Friday, A.D. 1256. Heraldic seal attached.

Release by Henry le Moneour of Ludlow to his son John le Moneour, of all his right in the manor of Whytton. Witnesses:—Roger, lord of Bitterley (Buterleye), Walter de Clifford, and five others named. Dated Wednesday after the feast of St. Peter in cathedra, 29 Edw. I. Seal attached, with legend—"Sigillum Henrici Monetarii."

Confirmation by Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury, of several charters of William de Bleys, Bishop of Worcester,

appropriating the churches of Priors Cleeve, Sodbury (Sobbery), Bromsgrove (Bremmesgrave), Grinley (Grynneley), and the chapel of Hallow, to the Prior and Convent of Worcester. Confirmation dated at Leicester, 5 Ides April, 1318.

The following persons are mentioned in deeds of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries:—Hugh Carbonel, lord of Overton and Ashford, and Juliana his wife, 16 Edw. II.; Howel Vachan, lord of Ludford, and Joan his wife, 4 Edw. III.; Sir Hugh le Cheine and Margaret his wife, 48 Edw. III.; Alice, relict of William Wasteneys, knight (with heraldic seal), 14 Ric. II.; William Suggedon (with heraldic seal), 22 Ric. II.; John Cornewail, knight, lord of Kenlet (with heraldic seal), 1 Henry IV.; Brother Hugh, Prior of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist at Ludlow, 1 Henry IV.; John, Abbot of the Monastery of St. James of Wigmore, 5 Henry VII.

Subsidy roll of the hundreds of Pershore and Evesham, co. Worcester, showing the amount paid by each individual. 21 Elizabeth.

Probate of the will of John Wytton, A.D. 1546.

Survey on paper of the castle of Bishop's Castle, co. Salop, in the time of Elizabeth. It mentions thirteen rooms covered with lead, a tower on the outer wall on the eastern side containing a stable and two rooms covered with tiles, two other rooms called "le new buyldinge" situate on the outer wall between the building over the gate and the tower called "le Prison Tower."

Part of a historical and descriptive account of the county of Worcester, written on twelve pages of folio paper, in or about the time of Elizabeth.

A bundle of articles, depositions, etc., against John Tyler, clerk, minister of Greet, co. Salop, with orders concerning him by the Committee for plundered ministers, and the Bishop of Hereford. A.D. 1649-1664.

"A bill of fees due to the King's servants [from] persons that receive the honour of Knighthood," with an acquittance to Sir Nicholas Lechmere, knight, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, for 8*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* paid by him on the occasion of his being knighted, A.D. 1689.

Besides the above. Mr. Parkinson has several hundred letters written to different members of the families of Charlton and Foley, during the reigns of William III., Anne, and George I. Some few of them relate to business matters, but the greater number are gossiping letters from ladies, describing the proceedings of the fashionable world in London and at Bath. Many of them are very whimsical and amusing. The following

passage occurs in a letter from M. Hill, dated London, Saturday October the 9th [1714]. "I know nothing of the King's person tho I saw the entry, which was not in any thing finner then what we have before had, tho the gentlemen were well dressd, but for want of ladys there was a great lose in the shew, as will be at the coronation, which certainly cant be near so fine as twas at the poor Queen's. When the Princess will come in is uncertain, tho she was expected at the Hague yesterday, but the wind is now against her coming over. The Prince promises the ladys a very gay court. They say hes much inclined to that sort of life, plays a pritty deal but very low. The King has supd with several the noblemen. He hates much granduer, he goes in a Hackny chair and pays em himself. He thinks our court has to much state. His 2 favourite Turks and Mademoisel Killmansect I guese you have heard of, tho perhapes not of the mistake that one of them led his Majesty into some nights agoe, when about 9 or 10 at night he was going to this Mademosels, who has a house in St. James Street next door to Lady Renelows, where this confidant knockd. The chair carried in and opened, but the King soon saw his mistake, set himself down, and ordered to the next house. Whether it proved a jest to him I dont hear, but a very good one it has bin to the Town, and this Lady withall is very ugly."

The main interest of this correspondence is social rather than political.

H. C. MAXWELL LYTE.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF THE REV. JOHN WALCOT.

The following papers from Walcot Hall are now preserved at Bitterley Court, co. Salop :—

1. "The names of the valletes or coppes (coppices) in the Lordshipp of Ladie Halton." [A.D. 1591].

2. Petition to Charles, Prince of Wales, from the inhabitants of Aston, co. Hereford, Elton, co. Hereford, and Lady Haulton and Hill Haulton, co. Salop, concerning his chace.

3. Petition from fifty-one inhabitants of Wrexham that Mr. Walter Cradock may be permitted to continue in the office of curate of Wrexham. January 14, 1636. Among the signatories are Sir Charles Vavasor, knight, and Edward Meredith, justice of the peace.

4. Copy of a letter from the lords of the Council to the justices of assize for the county of Salop. They have received a petition from Humphrey Walcott, Richard More, Richard Oakely, George Holland, and others, complaining that the taxes and assessments of the Hundred of Clun and Purslow, co. Salop, are "very disproportionable." The justices are ordered to make due examination into the matter, and to lay on the petitioners rates proportionable to those in other parts of the county. Whitehall, June 31, 1637.

5. Letter from A. Littleton to Humphrey Walcott at Walcott. He prays him to continue the loan of 150*l.* which he made to the writer's son Owen, "for his trade," until a little after Michaelmas, when he will have sufficient money from the Lord Keeper [Sir E. Littleton] for the repayment of it. May 10, 1641.

6. Warrant from Charles I. to Humphrey Walcott to deliver to the bearer the sum of 5,000*l.* for the maintenance of the army. He promises "in the name of a King" to repay the same with interest. Shrewsbury, September 23, 1642. Sign manual affixed.

7. Receipt from Lord George Digby to Humphrey Walcott of Walcott for "one horse and furniture, with a case of pistols for Prince Rupert's use, beinge the horse which hee entertaines in the traine troope of Saloppshire." Salop, October 9 [1642 ?].

8. Warrant from W. Waring and R. Oakeley to the High Constables of the Hundred of Purslow to make search for such soldiers employed in his Majesty's service as have lately put away their horses and arms contrary to statute. July 21, 1643. (Signatures torn).

9. Writ of Arthur, Lord Capell, Lieutenant-General to the Prince in the counties of Salop, Worcester, Chester, and North Wales, to supersede all proceedings against Francis Plowden and Henry Thompson, justices of the peace, and Robert Thomas, constable, concerning a dragoon mare sent from the town of Lydbury North, under the command of Capt. William Blunden, and sold by the soldier who was sent with her to William Rawlins of Ludlow, who has commenced a suit concerning her. Shrewsbury, Sept. 19, 1643. Signature and heraldic seal.

10. Writ of the Earl of Lindsey, requiring all whom it may concern "to forbear to doe or suffer to be done any violence, hurt, or damage" to the person or goods of Humphrey Walcott, of Walcott, Esq., who has shown himself "very dutifull and forward in the furtheringe and assistinge his Majestie and his aytayres," and has willingly received divers of his Majesty's

soldiers to be billeted in his house, Shrewsbury, October 12, 1643. Signature and heraldic seal.

11. A printed letter addressed to Humphrey Walcott, Esq., bearing the sign manual and privy seal of Charles I., and the signatures of Sir Edward Littleton, and S. Eure, requesting a loan of 150*l.*, or the value thereof in plate. Oxford, February 14, 1643[-4]. On the back is a receipt from Simon Weston (on behalf of Thomas Edwards, Esq., High Sheriff of Salop) to Humphrey Walcott for the sum of 150*l.* for his Majesty's use. May 13, 1644.

12. A memorandum in the hand of Humphrey Walcot as to the manner in which he obtained and paid the said sum of 150*l.* A.D. 1644.

13. Licence from Sir Thomas Myddelton to John Walcott of Walcott, gent., a prisoner at Red Castle, to travel thence "uppon his parolle" to his father's dwelling-house, upon promise to return within seven days. Red Castle, May 8, 1645.

14. Receipt from Sir Thomas Myddelton of Chirk Castle to John Walcot, for 50*l.* which he was contented to pay for his ransom. May 19, 1645.

15. Receipt from Richard Cheshire to Humphrey Walcot, Esq., for 50*l.* in part of what was assessed upon him "upon the propositions." August 29, 1645. Endorsed—"Acquittance from Mr. Jones and Mr. Cheshire for 130*l.* for proposition money paid in June and August, 1645."

16. Copy of an order for the repayment of 170*l.* to Humphrey Walcot, by the Committee of the Lords and Commons for advance of money, April 20, 1646, with other memoranda concerning his composition.

17. Printed licence to Humphry Walcott, whose composition for his delinquency is not yet perfected, to continue within the cities of London and Westminster, in order to attend his said composition. Six signatures. December 15, 1646.

18. Receipt from Richard Waring and Michael Herring, Treasurers of the monies to be paid into Goldsmiths' Hall, to Humphrey Walcott of Walcott, for 250*l.* in full of 500*l.* imposed on him as a fine for delinquency. December 28, 1646.

19. Certificate of the payment of 300*l.* by Mrs. Alice Walcott of London, of which she had lent 200*l.* on the propositions before assessment at Haberdashers' Hall. May 24, 1647.

20. Discharge of the estate of Humphrey Walcott from sequestration. Eight signatures. July 3, 1649.

21. Order by the Trustees for the maintenance of ministers that whereas Humphrey Walcot, esquire, has conveyed the rectory of Clunbury co. Salop, for the raising of 40*l.* a year for

the minister of the said place, the sum of 40*l.* a year be paid to Mr. John Reynolds, approved by the commissioners for the approbation of public preachers. November 10, 1657.

22. Letter from Lord Jeffreys, Lord Chancellor, to John Walcott, Esq., asking whether, if elected as a knight or Burgess to Parliament, he will support the repeal of the penal laws, and the Declaration for Liberty of Conscience, etc. Duke Street, Westminster, March 24, 1687-8. Signature and heraldic seal. There is a copy of the answer of John Walcott stating that he cannot in conscience comply with the Lord Chancellor's proposals. March 31, 1688.

23. "London the 10th September, 1692. In consideration of thirty-two guineas per cent. in hand receivd of Mr. Joseph Martyn, wee whose names are here under written evry one for himself oblige ourselves our executors and administrators to pay unto the said Mr. Joseph Martyn his heirs or assigns the severall summs that each of us shall under-write for, if in case Dunkirk a sea port town in Flanders has not been any time past in this month or shall not be on or before the 25th day of December next besieged, bombarded, or cannonaded by land, by King William or Queen Mary, or any of the confederates, or any forces commissioned by any of them. I George Walcott for myself am content with this assignment for 25*l.* this 10th September 1692, per me received." On the back is a transfer by Joseph Martin to Anthony Bondor of his right and interest "in the within mentioned policy," December 28, 1697, and an acquittance from Anthony Bondor for 14*l.*, March 1, 1697-8. Endorsed—"25*l.* for eight guineas."

24. Letter from Lord Herbert of Cherbury, concerning the invasion by the Pretender. March 1, 1743-4. (Printed in *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries*, 2nd series, vol. i., p. 315.)

25. "A new Ballad, to the tune of King John and the Abbot of Canterbury." It begins:—

"As soon as the wind it came kindly about."

It ends:—

"For the Devil w'ont take yee, If I turn yee away."

It reflects upon the Duchess of Kendal, Earl Stanhope, the Earl of Sunderland, the Duke of Argyle, and other Ministers.

Several old pedigrees of the Walcott family on vellum and on paper.

A bundle of acquittances to John Walcott for payments to the ministers of Bettus, Edgton, Clunbury, Llanvair, and

Shipton, by virtue of a commission from the Trustees for the maintenance of Ministers. A.D. 1650-1657.

H. C. MAXWELL LYTE.

THE MANUSCRIPTS OF E. LLOYD GATACRE, ESQ.

The following are the most interesting of the manuscripts belonging to Mr. Gatacre, of Gatacre, near Bridgnorth:—

Grant by Herbert de Rushbury (Ruisburi) to Hugh de Bechbury (Bekebiri) of his land of Golding (Goldene). Witnesses:—William Fitz-Alan, his lord, William and John, sons of the said William, William le Strange (extraneo), Reiner de Lee, Philip Fitz-William, William the chaplain of Wroxeter (Wroc'), Peter the clerk, Hugh de Wlonkest, Ralph Marescall, Thomas de Munet. Fragment of equestrian seal attached. (Date about A.D. 1190).

Grant by Ralph, Abbot of Haughmond, and the Convent of that place, to Hugh de Bechbury (Becchebi) of all their land of Golding, that is to say, the land which Felicia daughter of Engeland de Strettune gave to them, in exchange for which the said Hugh grants to them all his clearings (assarta) at Sundorne (Sundre). Witnesses:—John le Strange (extraneo), Reiner de Lee, Warin de Witelega, Robert Hunald, Hugh de Wroxeter (Wrochester), Ralph de Frodesham, Thomas de Burt', Ulgar de Picheford. Fragments of ecclesiastical seal and of a large seal, with device of a bird, attached. (Date about A.D. 1210).

Grant by Felicia de Lee to John Fitz-William for his service and 28s. of half a virgate of land in Golding, that is to say, the land which Osbert held. Witnesses:—Malcolm de Harley, William Burnell, Hamond son of Marscot, Hugh de Lee, Robert Honald, William de la Beche, Nicholas de Picheford, Richard de Eton. Fragment of large female seal, attached. (Date about A.D. 1206).

Grant by Roger de Badger (Bagesoure) to Roger son of Godwin of Bridgenorth (Brugia), for his service and 12*d.*, of forty-four ridges (seillones) of land at Astley (Estlega). Witnesses:—Roger the chaplain, brother of the grantor, Thomas Corbet of Tasley (Tesseleia), Geoffrey de Kingslow (Kinsedeia),

Walter de Castr[eyn], Richard de Castr[eyn], Simon de Dunfowe (Dunvothe), Richard his brother Simon Bunghy, Nicholas the clerk, Geoffrey son of Anketill, William Wendac. Equestrian seal attached, with legend "Sigillum Rogeri de Begesoure." (Date about A.D. 1215).

Grant by Andrew de Montgomery, clerk, to his son, John de Montgomery, of all his land in the vill of Hem, which descended to him from his father Howel. Witnesses:—John Corbet, lord of Leghtone, Roger Corbet, knight, Peter Corbet, his brother, Hugh Burnel, steward of Caus (Cawes), David Ap Kadwaladur. June 24, 1 Edw. III. (1327). Heraldic seal attached.

Grant by Agnes, daughter and heiress of Richard Berwick of Berwick by Attingham, to William Poynour the younger, and Richard Munton, rector of the church of Acton Burnell, of all the lands which descended to her on the death of her father in the fields of Aston under the Wrekin, Opynton, Donynton, and Esenbruge. February 2, Henry V. (1415). Seal attached.

Release by Joan, daughter of William son of Robert le Wodewarde of Aston under the Wrekin, to Richard de Berwick, of all her right in a messuage at Aston aforesaid. May, 48 Edw. III. (1374). Heraldic seal attached.

Grant by Roger Springhose, lord of Longnor, to Richard son of Osbert de Dudelburi clerk, of an acre and a half of seven ridges (saylionibus) in the fields of Berleye. Witnesses:—John Hovard, and four others named. Heraldic seal attached. (13th century).

Grant by Hugh, son of Hugh lord (domini) of Beslow (Besselowe), to Roger de Mokelegh, of a field at Beslow, called "le Gore." Witnesses:—Sirs Richard de Leighton and Roger Corbet, knights, and five others named. June, 34 Edw. I. (1306). Seal attached.

Grant by Richard son of Robert de Cherleton, and Amabilla, wife of the said Richard, to Roger son of Robert de Mokyleye, of all his land in the vill of Aston under the Wrekin, in the manor of Eyton Abbots and without. Witnesses:—Roger Corbet and Richard Leighton, knights, and five others named. November, 5 Edw. II. (1311). Two seals attached.

Release by Hugh lord of Beslow, to Roger de Mokylegh of a yearly rent of 3s., in the vill of Beslow. Witnesses:—Sir Richard de Leighton, knight, and four others named. November, 4 Edw. II. (1310).

Release by Edmund Lowe of Beckbury (Bekkebury) to Richard Munton, rector of the church of Acton Burnell, and Hugh Powelemer, chaplain, of all his right in lands, etc., in the vill of Newbold and Golding, and elsewhere within the domain of Cound (Conede). Dated at Newbold, Monday after the feast

of St. Mary Magdalen "the Martyr," 13 Henry IV. (July, 1412). Heraldic seal attached.

Release by Reginald le Gowe of Wenlock and Sibilla his wife to Robert de Drayton, of all their lands in the fields of Cound (Conede) and Harnage (Harnogn), which were of the dower of the said Sibilla as relict of Thomas Morgan. June, 42 Edw. III. (1368). Heraldic seal attached.

Grant by John son of Roger le Mulwarde of Leighton, to Edward Burnell, of an acre of land in the vill of Garmston (Garingston). March, 50 Edw. III. (1376). Heraldic seal attached.

Grant by Ralph de Picheford to Walter Bagot, of a rent of 2s. in Little Bridgnorth (Parvia Bruggia). Dated at Hereford, June 9 Edw. II. (1316). Heraldic seal attached.

Grant by Edmund de Pichford of Bridgnorth (Bruggenorth) to Joan daughter of his brother William de Pichford, of a rent of 5s. from a tenement in the street called Whiteburne, adjoining the tenement of John de Pichford. June 30, 26 Edw. III. (1352). Seal attached.

A small roll of vellum giving a list of the Bailiffs of Shrewsbury from the 9th year of Henry VI. down to 1543, continued in later hands down to 1589. There are in the margin a few historical notes, chiefly relating to local events.

A page of vellum probably taken from a book of Hours. On one side are some prayers in Latin; on the other a rude drawing in black and red ink of the dead Christ, erect in the tomb, showing His wounds. Behind the figure are different emblems of the Passion. Above the cross is the legend—"I.H.S. is my lorde and luste." Below the drawing is written in a character of the 14th or 15th century—"Saynt Gregor and opþ popes and byschops grañtes sex and twenty thousand 3ere of pdon 't thritti dayes to all p^r saies devoutelye knelyg afore p^r ymage ffyfe Pater nost' ffyfe aves and a cred."

A folio volume of 201 leaves of paper, containing notes and extracts on various subjects, taken in the reign of Elizabeth and in the early part of that of James I., apparently by John Bradeley. Most of the deeds transcribed in it, as legal precedents, relate to property in Shropshire and Worcestershire, and especially in the parish of Alveley in the former county. The following are among the contents:—

f. 11^b. Genealogical notes concerning the families of Dudmaston and Woolryche.

f. 13. "A breffe note of all my dedes of the landes in Upton uppon Severne, 25^o die Feb. 1592," from the time of Edward II.

f. 22. "A taske rowle made for the manor of Romseley." November 1577.

f. 22^b. Genealogical notes concerning the family of Whord, or Hord.

f. 26. Pleas before the justices in eyre at Bridgnorth, August 4, 1466, concerning the rights of the men of Claverley in the forest of Morf.

f. 33. Genealogical notes concerning the families of Asteley, Fillilodes, and Blyke (cf. f. 58).

f. 38^b. The oath of the Sheriff of Worcestershire.

f. 40^b. Licence from Sir Ralph Hopton, Marshal of the Marshalsea, to John Stone of Bewdley, an inn-keeper (inholder), a prisoner for debt, to go forth for one year. Sept^r 25, 5 Elizabeth.

f. 41. A bill of Humphrey Hill of Silvington, co. Salop, gentleman, aged eighty years, against Edmund Mound and Margaret his wife and William Wenor, who, he complains, assaulted him with "a longe pykestaffe, pikevell, and bering bill," so that he was "made blacke and blue."

f. 42. The boundaries of the Forest of Morf.

f. 62. Grant by Jane Cressett, widow of Richard Cressett of Upton Cressett, co. Salop, esquire, to her dear and loving kinsman and friend, Francis Woolryche of Dudmaston, esquire, in consideration of his great and friendly labour, care, and travail, of a chain of gold weighing 42^{li} 4^s of good and current gold of England, reserving however to herself for life the right to wear the same at any time. August 1, 1603.

f. 75. Rental of John Lee of Coton, son and heir of John Lee. A.D. 1467.

f. 76^b. A task-roll of the lordships of King's Nordley and Asteley. A.D. 1481.

f. 87. Will of John Hawkes of the parish of Holy Trinity Gloucester, "grandfather to Elenor the wife of Francis Baskervild sonne to Roger Baskervild." A.D. 1592.

f. 104. Inquisition taken after the death of William Fillilodes. A.D. 1360.

f. 107^b. "A note of certen evidences delivered to George Blyke," concerning property at Nordley.

f. 108. Ordinance by William de Fillilode, Roger de Asteley, Thomas de Asteley, Thomas de Wodehous, John de la Grene, and Nicholas de Fillilode, concerning the chantry at the altar of the Blessed Virgin on the south side of the body of the free and exempt royal chapel of Alveley (Alvitheleye), and the services to be there performed. A.D. 1361.

f. 129. A prayer arranged as an acrostic.

f. 129. "The names of all suche noblemen, bishops, and knights which gave their handes and consent to the proclamacon of James the firste, King of England, etc. 24 Marc

1602." A list of thirty-four persons, beginning with Robert Lye, Mayor of London, and ending with Sir John Popham.

f. 130. Translation of the "transeportacon" of the Low Countries, Burgundy, and the "county" of Charrolois, by Philip II., King of Spain, to his eldest daughter, married to the Cardinal Albert, Duke of Austria, and of the articles, etc., relating thereto. A.D. 1598.

f. 133^b. Ballad entitled "The Cardinal's Sege of Ostend," to be sung to the tune of "Live with me and be my love." Twenty-two stanzas, describing the progress of the siege. [A.D. 1601.] It begins:—

"The fyfthe of June that nowe ys past
Albertus Duke with Spanyardes stoore."

It ends:—

"Seventy wagons in the night
Were fild with bodyes, report goes truly."

f. 134. "A proper newe ballad intiteled The vewe of wayne delites, to the tune of the Merchaunt." Eighteen stanzas. It begins:—

"Now fye on factions fond
That wastes both landes and fee."

It describes and censures the prevalent fashions among women and men, the use of whalebone, false hair, huge ruffs, etc., in the time of James I. It ends:—

"In gawdes the glory but of foolles
That leades the way to hell."

f. 134^b. Ballad on the report of a woman at Brigstock in Northamptonshire, who lay dead for fourteen hours, and afterwards revived for the space of five days. Six stanzas. It begins:—

"Peruse this story gentell frendes
And gyve attentyve eare."

It ends:—

"Suche thinges as hathe Almyghty God
Commaunded to be tolde."

f. 135^b. List of the persons killed or taken in the fight at Edinburgh. September 4, 1571.

f. 136. "A true dyscourse of the late overthrowe given to the common enemy the Spanishe force at Turnehalt, the 14 of January last 1597, by County Moris of Nassawe, Prince of Orenge, and the States, assisted with the Englishe forces, sent by a gent of account that was present," and dated January 22, 1597.

f. 137^b. "A briefe and true declaration of the sikenes, last wordes, and deathe, of the King of Spayne, Phillip the Second . . . wryten from Madryd in a Spanishe leter and translated into Englishe." Printed in London by Edmund Bollifant for William Aspley, 1598.

f. 139^b. Verses about the campaign in the Low Countries. A.D. 1600. Sixty-two lines. They begin:—

"All you that are desierose and therein take delighte
To hear of blody battells, and of worthy warlike fight."

They end:—

"The battell ys wone, the day ys ours, take corrage by
this chanse,

An in the honor of this day our Engenglish crosse advance."

f. 140. Verses on certain justices of the peace in the county of Hereford——Scudamore, Sir Herbert Crofte, Sir Thomas Conysbye, Mr. Seborne, lord of Sutton, Mr. Severne, Mr. Harley of Bromton, Mr. Ryddall, Mr. Boodnam, and Mr. Morgan. A.D. 1604. Sixty-six lines. They begin:—

"When Mammon's sonne the shilde of love
With Crofte dothe cleve like turtle dove."

f. 141. "Newes of the vyage which was made to the seas, the 3 of June, being Thursday in Whytson weke, 38 Eliz. 1596, the Earle of Howard, Lord Admirall being generall."

f. 142. Verses on the different months. Twenty-four lines (by — Bucmaster?). They begin:—

"As trees berefte of lyvely sap, stand bare besene of leaf and bud."

Verses on the last four months of the year. Twenty-four lines. They begin:—

"September he may well abyde
A shower or twayne in tyme or tyde."

f. 143. Verses on the different months. A hundred and forty-six lines. They begin:—

"Stubbe land to make meadowes or earable land,
To better thy bees a newe seate must be found."

f. 144^b. Verses on the different months (by Thomas Twyne). Twenty-four lines. They begin:—

"Fell tymber downe, your gardens dige, dong well your
grownd, fallow your land,
Remove the peare and apple trees, good tyme to set these
thinges in hand."

f. 145. Verses on the different months (by ——— Watson.) Twenty-four lines. They begin:—

"Good wyne and spice, sayeth Janus, this monethe cannot
hurte thee."

Verses on the first eight months of the year (continued on f. 142). Forty-eight lines. They begin:—

"Kyndely me say is January
When pot doth freze nere to the fyer."

f. 145^b. Verses on the different months. Forty-eight lines. They begin:—

"Spiced cuppes and good wyne warmes the bloud
Let exercise thy physicke bee."

"The Song of the Rose" by Richard Lynevill. It begins:—

"The rose ys from my garden gone."

f. 146. Medical advice for the different months in prose.

f. 149. The titles in French of certain Knights of the Garter, about the 24th year of Elizabeth.

f. 153. Lists of noblemen and knights on various occasions in the 15th and 16th centuries.

f. 159^b. List of the arms of the 13th century on the north and south sides of Westminster Abbey, as they existed in 1603. (The blazon differs in some instances from that given from an earlier manuscript in *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries*, 2nd series, vol. iii., pp. 229-231).

f. 161. Notes on heraldry.

f. 167^b. A collection of Latin adages with their equivalents in English.

f. 170^b. A list of English earls and dukes from the eleventh century to the sixteenth.

f. 181. Latin precepts by Walter Haddon, dedicated to Sir Nicholas Bacon, 1561.

f. 182. A collection of English phrases with their equivalents in Latin.

f. 185^b. Petition to Sir William Cecil, Lord Treasurer from "the poore oppressed prisoners of the Kinge's Benche and Fleete," mentioning that more than fifty of them have lately died, besides others who became mad in consequence of their detention. (A.D. 1581-1589).

f. 186^b. A collection of English adages with their equivalents in Latin (continued on f. 191^b).

f. 189. Articles to be presented to the High Court, co. Salop, concerning ale-houses, felons, drovers, ingrossers, maltsters, recusants, wages, cottages, unlawful games, high-ways, etc.

f. 189^b. Articles issued by the High Court, for the punishment of rogues. May 30, 1614.

f. 190. Articles of enquiry concerning felons, idle persons, recusants, etc.

Regulations for the management of ale-houses.

f. 196. A short speech in Latin made by Queen Elizabeth to members of the University of Oxford, in which she acknowledges her own want of learning.

f. 196^b. A Latin epitaph on Sir George Blount, on a monument erected by his nephew and heir Roland Lacon. A.D. 1581.

A Latin epitaph on Sir John Blount, son and heir of Sir Thomas Blount, son and heir of Sir Humphrey Blount, and

Dame Catherine, wife of the said Sir John, daughter and heir-
ess of Sir Hugh Persall, by Dame Isabel his wife, daughter of
Sir John Stanley. (Temp. Hen. VIII.)

A Latin epitaph on Sir Humphrey Blount, son and heir of John
Blount, esquire, son and heir of Sir John Blount. October, 1477.

An English inscription in honour of Sir Thomas Blount and
Dame Anne his wife (A.D. 1513), from a window on the north
side of Stockton church.

An English epitaph on Margaret daughter of Sir J. Atherston,
who had four husbands.

f. 201. "A pleasant swete song" to the tune of Callivo. A.D.
1594. Ninety-two lines. It begins:—

"In sommer tyme when Phebus rays."

Ten pages of paper, folio, stitched within two leaves of an old
service-book. They contain a draft or copy of the orders made
by Sir Henry Sidney, Lord President of the Marches of Wales,
Sir Andrew Corbet, Sir John Throgmorton, William Gerard,
William Leighton, William Fowler, Walter Leveson, Thomas
Powell, Robert Needham, Rowland Lacon, William Gratwood,
Simon Kemsye, and Richard Lea, esquires, on behalf of them-
selves and others appointed by the Queen, to survey and amend
the sewers, etc., of the river Severn within the county of Salop.
A jury returned at Shrewsbury, March 24, 17 Elizabeth, present
the names of the weirs and stakings which stop the course of
the Severn and are noisome and dangerous to all passengers on
the same "with floates of wood, cobles, barges, or owes," and
the names of the owners of the said weirs and stakings:—1,
Hay Weir at Melverley, Edward Leighton, esq^r; 2, Shrawardine
Parva Weir, Henry Deyes and Roger Deyes; 3, Montford Weir,
Thomas Bromley, esq^r, Solicitor General; 4, Mitton Weir,
Thomas Bromley, as before; 5, Fitz Weir, Sir Andrew Corbet;
6, Halywell Weir, Joyce Maunsell, widow; 7, Pimley Weir,
John Yonge, esq^r; 8, Preston Weir, Rowland Barker, esq^r; 9,
a weir at Tyernes-mouth, Rowland Barker, as before; 10, Wrox-
eter Weir, Thomas Poynes, esq^r; 11, Eyton Weir, Dame Mar-
garet Newport, widow; 12, Eaton Constantine Weir, Sir Andrew
Corbet; 13, Cressage Weir, Dame Margaret Newport, as before;
14, the weir with two mouths, John Cunye, gentleman; 15,
Buildwas Weir, Edward Gray, esq^r; 16, Buildwas Weir below
the bridge, Edward Gray, as before; 17, Benthall Weir, Richard
Benthall, gent.; 18, Bower Weir, John Brookes, esq^r; 19, Robin's
Weir, James Clifford, esq^r; 20, Lyed's Weir, James Clifford, as
before; 21, Hay Weir, John Brooke, as before; 22, Swiney Weir,
George, Earl of Shrewsbury; 23, Apley Weir, Sir Thomas Lucy;
24, Quatford Weir, John Muckeleye, gent.; 25, Dudmaston Weir,

Francis Woolryche, esqr; 26, Arley Weir, Sir John Littleton; 27, Eymer Weir, Sir John Littleton, as before; 28, Dowles Weir, Sir George Blunt, and William Hill, gent. Item a "boylett" called Crouchill boylet adjoining the land of the manor of Atcham.

Orders made by the Commissioners:—

(1). That the owners of the different weirs between the place called "The Boat of Camerar" and Bewdley shall, before the last day of March next, leave 50 ft. in width of clean water in the deepest part of the river for the "ballengers" vessels and boats to pass up and down, and remove the willows and other trees, stakes, etc., on the sides of the boylets of the said weirs.

(2). That John Beest, gent., shall turn the river into its former course at Crouchill Boylet.

(3). That the hedges of the weirs or boylets, and the hedges at the mouths of each, shall not be more than 3 ft. in height above the ground.

(4). That all stakings, stakes, piles, hooks, engines, fences, "fishergartbes," locks, and other annoyance and "letts," upon the water side, shall be pulled up by the owners.

(5). That all trees, underwood, and bushes, upon the banks of the river, where mariners, bargemen, and fishermen ought to use their ropes to hale and draw their ballengers, barges, and boats, up and down, shall be cut down by the owners to a distance of 40 ft. from the bank.

(6). That the mariners, bargemen, boatmen, fishermen, and "haylers" of the ballengers, etc., shall have and enjoy the footways and line-ways on both sides of the river, and the necessary bridges over the ditches, and stiles over the hedges.

(7). That all persons claiming any trees or wood now lying in the stream shall remove them and any things which stop the water course or gather the gravel.

(8). That all weirs erected within the last fifty years shall be removed by the owners at their own cost.

(9). That certain alterations, minutely specified, shall be made at the weir above Buildwas Bridge, right against the mansion house of the dissolved monastery.

(10). That the mouths of the five weirs below Buildwas Bridge, viz., Benthall Weir, etc., shall be widened by the owners at their own cost.

(11). That whereas James Clifford, esquire, has made a "coal-delf," or coal-pit, in his lordship of Broseley at a place balled Tuckeyes, and cast all the rubbish, stones, and earth into the deepest part of the river Severn, he shall remove the same at his own cost.

H. C. MAXWELL LYTE.

TRANSACTIONS
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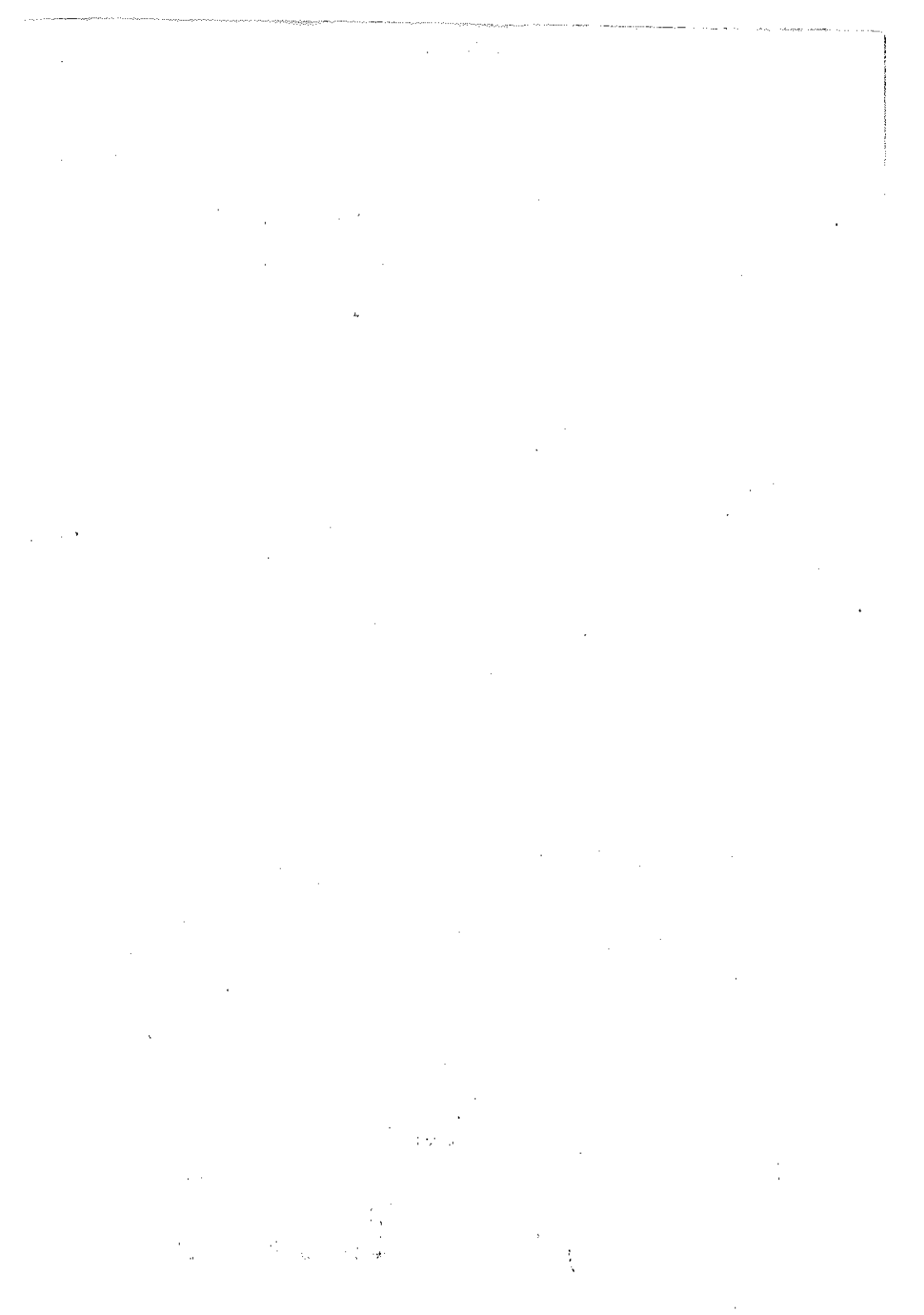
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SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of the Society was held at the Shire Hall on November 17th, 1887, the Rev. T. Auden presiding. There were also present—Rev. Canon Allen, Alderman Southam, Mr. Clement Southam, Mr. W. Phillips, Mr. Adnitt, Mr. J. R. Humphreys, Mr. R. Taylor, Dr. Cranage, Mr. J. M. Harding, Mr. Ralph, Mr. Sandford Corser, and Mr. Goyne (secretary.)—The Chairman having read a telegram from Mr. Jasper More, M.P., expressing his regret at being unable to attend, the Secretary read his report for the past year as follows :—

The Council of the Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society regret that they have not been able to diminish the debt owing by the Society to any considerable extent. Two accounts amounting to £14 8s. 3d. have been sent in during the year, connected with the museum, which have been paid, and the Council believe that every charge in connection with the museum has now been defrayed. They are glad to hear from the Library Committee that in the Free Library Buildings the museum forms a special attraction to visitors to the town, and that the attendance during the year has been very large. A special and most valuable gift of original drawings of Welsh Antiquities, splendidly bound in seven large volumes, has been made to the Society during the past year by the late Rev. G. L. Barnwell. This donation has been placed by the Council in the Free Reference Library, and will form a valuable work of reference to students in Welsh and Border Counties antiquities. The Council thank the writers of papers in the last volume of the Society's *Transactions* for their valuable contributions, and earnestly ask other friends to contribute articles on Shropshire (especially parish histories), for future volumes of the *Transactions*. The Council have decided to offer the few remaining complete sets of the Society's *Transactions* to new members at a great reduction in price in the hope that by this means the Society will gain a fresh influx of new members to fill up the losses caused by deaths, removals, &c. After these copies are disposed of, the complete sets of the *Transactions* will be difficult to procure except at considerably augmented prices.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report, said : Gentlemen, I really feel that I ought to apologise for occupying this position to-day, and I could well have wished that some one of much greater importance than myself were filling this post. I do so, however, at the request of the Council, and I have only one reason for hoping that I may perform the duties of the office with some measure of success—namely, that possibly, as one of the working members of the Archæological Council, I know something about the working of the Society, perhaps more than others who are officially holding

higher positions in regard to the Council. (Hear, hear.) It may, therefore, not be amiss if I spend a few moments in saying something about archæology and the working of the Society. In the case of most of those present my remarks will simply be reminders, as it were, but, as there are reporters present, some of the facts which the outside world may not know of, may, through the agency of the Press, go home to others outside this room. I do think that we are very right in cultivating archæology. I need not say that to you, but I do feel that archæology does not always have from the outside world the amount of support it should receive. (Hear, hear.) It claims attention from the fact that it is one of the oldest, and at the same time, one of the youngest of the sciences. It is as old as the creation of man as to the subject with which it deals, and yet, in itself, it is very young. It is, I think, not a little remarkable, that with the sole exception of the Society of Antiquaries, which led a very languishing existence from the 16th century downwards, not one of the English societies dates further back than the middle portion of the present century, and it is curious to note how entirely the study of antiquities of archæology, was ignored during a very important period, a period of pressing importance in English history—the 17th and 18th centuries. I looked the other day through the index of the *Spectator* for an instance of any interest shown in this subject, and throughout the whole of that work I found there was not a single allusion to anything like antiquarian pursuits, or any interest whatever shown in antiquarian affairs. And, if we come down to the end of the 18th century, some of you will remember that Cowper speaks of letting down buckets into empty wells, and growing old in drawing nothing up; and you will find that these words are used in allusion to scientific pursuits. But more of you, perhaps, may remember that very amusing poem of Burn's called "The late Captain Grose's peregrinations through Scotland for collecting the antiquities of that kingdom." It is the poem, you know, in which the well-known lines occur:—

A chiel's amang you taking notes,
And faith he'll prent it.

It describes this old gentleman, and speaks of the wonderful collection he got together, including the broom-stick of the Witch of Endor, enough old armour to supply the people of the Lothians with shoe nails for a whole twelve months, and also a collection of porridge pots and old salt boxes; and the only praise Burns gives to this antiquarian is that, occasionally, under the influence of good old port, he melted and became a genial fellow. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) It is very worthy of notice that it was reserved for the middle of the 19th century, the age of express trains, the age of bustle, with its tendency to go ahead in everything, it was reserved, I say, for this age, which reaches forward so much into the future, almost discounts the future in fact, to teach a true reverence and regard for the things of the past. (Hear, hear.) But it is when we come to history that we see the true value of archæology. It is, I think, impossible to be a true historian, impossible to take a really

intelligent interest in history, without possessing, at least, something of archæological feeling. Now, it was my happiness last year to spend some time in Normandy. I had read, and I suppose we have all read in our youth, about the birth of William the Conqueror. He was the son of Robert, Duke of Normandy, and among other places I visited was Falaise, his birthplace. There stands the grand old keep as firm as ever, and there exists the very window from which the Duke, who, you know, received the name of *Robert le Diable*, looked down on the women of the town whilst washing their clothes at the fountain, and amongst others, tradition tells us, he saw Arlette, and fell in love with her. I mention this because, when I visited the spot, and not till then, by studying the matter from an archæological standpoint, did I realise the influences which had surrounded William the Conqueror when a child, the circumstances and character of his father and mother, and all those other incidents and surroundings which helped to make William the Conqueror the great man that he was, and so had such an important influence in England, which we feel to this very day. (Hear, hear.) I need not say anything about archæological matters in regard to the Bible with reference to the important discoveries made in Egypt, Palestine, and elsewhere, which have thrown a flood of light on Biblical knowledge; but I should like to come nearer home. Last summer our annual excursion took us to Ellesmere, and was it not something more than interesting to see that pre-historic canoe, which was found near one of the meres whilst some of the excavations were being made? Did it not give us an immense amount of knowledge, as we thought, about that canoe and its issues, and of the times when our rude forefathers paddled about in the meres and marshes of the neighbourhood? Or, glance at the excursion of the year before when we went to Uriconium, and were brought face to face with the relics of Roman civilisation which we have unearthed at Wroxeter, and afterwards went to Wenlock, where we studied a later period—the middle age of English history—and thought of the wonderful monastic institutions which no doubt served a greater purpose in their own period, though we think them unsuited to modern days. But it is impossible, it seems to me, not to see the benefit we are deriving from archæology as regards the tuition of our own minds; but there is something more than that. I think we ought to pay greater attention to it and cultivate in others a love for it as far as possible, because of its great practical utility. We see this very pointedly in the matter of church restoration. It has fallen to my lot to assist in the restoration of two churches. I think I did the second better than the first, and if, though heaven forbid, I should have to restore another, I believe I should do it better still, because I should do it with a more strict adherence to the principles of archæology. I should like to say a word in reference to this as regards our own town of Shrewsbury. The attractions of Shrewsbury will always, to a great extent, centre in the old houses and other ancient buildings, and in caring for the old relics which exist in Shrewsbury we are really benefitting the town in a

very material degree. (Hear, hear.) The flood of tourists going westward into Wales and returning, is every year increasing, and it becomes us, as practical men, to look to our own town from an archaeological standpoint if we would really have tourists remain with us a while, and so benefit the town, and inspect those ancient relics which we possess. (Hear, hear.) I think it highly desirable that we should educate the archaeological feeling in every class. There is a story, you know, told of a farmer who lived near the old Roman wall in the north of England, and the nobleman who owned the property—Lord Lonsdale, I believe it was—proposed to erect some farm buildings close by. He was in great trouble as to how he should get the stone, as it had to be conveyed from a considerable distance, and whilst he was thus puzzling the farmer remarked that he could not think why his lordship wanted to spend money in having the stone fetched from a distance when there was plenty of it close at hand—he alluded to that very venerable and interesting relic of Roman civilization in England—namely, the Roman wall. (Laughter.) I need not say that that old farmer was not a member of any archaeological society, and had never had any archaeological sentiments developed in his nature. (Hear, hear.) Now, I should like to say a word about what the society has done during the past year. You are all aware that since the museum has been handed over to the Corporation the chief work of the society centres in the publication of its *Transactions*. During the past year a number of papers have been published. About one of them it does not become me to say much. It occupies, I am afraid, the larger portion of last year's volume, but I will not praise it, and I will not blame it. But I allude to it simply because there is a reference made in the report to parochial histories. I only mention the history of my own parish, because I think it sets a good example, which I hope many will follow, for parochial histories must always form a very large portion of that which is interesting in archaeological transactions. (Hear, hear.) Besides that paper there has been one on Birds by Mr. Beckwith, and I allude to this because I can half imagine that those present interested in natural history will think I am forgetting that our society is not only archaeological in its nature, but it is a natural history society. Then there has been a paper on the obsolete punishments of the county; also papers on one of the guilds of Shrewsbury—the Glovers' Company, I believe—by Mr. Drinkwater, and papers bringing out some of the historical records of Newport, Bishop's Castle, Wenlock, and Bridgnorth. So you will observe we have taken a wide range, and I think no one will say we have not tried to be representative in the papers issued. (Hear, hear.) But as a member of the Editorial Committee, I want to say this—that, however excellent the Editorial Committee may be, and however excellent the secretary of that Committee—Mr. Adnitt—may be, we can only deal with the materials sent to us, so that I should be very glad to urge on those possessing literary proclivities, as well as antiquarian tastes, and who have the leisure and inclination to set to work with their brains and pens as soon as possible, and give us a number of papers to select from. There is a great deal

remaining to be done in respect to the archæology of this county. There is one great work at any rate to be accomplished, and we should only be too thankful for it to make its appearance through the medium of our *Transactions*, and that is a continuation of Eyton's Shropshire, which does not come further down than the year 1800. That fails to touch many interesting works in the county. Take, for example, Battlefield. Battlefield is most interesting, but its history, practically, did not begin till after the period at which Mr. Eyton ends his record. This is a matter for all young archæologists to bear in mind—the continuation to a later period of those histories which he so well began. (Hear, hear.) If there is any county in England which ought to have a flourishing Archæological Society, that county is Shropshire. (Hear, hear.) I don't think there is any county in England that has more of antiquarian interest in it of almost all periods. (Hear, hear.) Therefore I repeat that if there is any county that ought to have an Archæological Society in a flourishing condition it is Shropshire. (Hear, hear.) But unfortunately this is not quite the case. On looking at the report we find that there is a certain debt still hanging about the neck of the Society, and thus it is that instead of being as flourishing as it ought to be it barely holds its own, and has almost a struggle for existence. I do think that if this were generally known by the intelligent and educated classes of this county we should have a large accession of members who would soon put this matter right, and it is with a view to inducing suitable members to join us that the offer alluded to in the report has been made, that those who join us at once should have the privilege of receiving the *Transactions* of the past years at a considerably reduced rate. I sincerely hope the expectations expressed in the report will be realised, and that this will be the means of winning to our ranks new members to fill up the gaps caused by death, removal, or other causes. I must again apologise for taking up your time, but I have thought, as you have kindly voted me to the chair I might occupy a few minutes in speaking upon these matters. (Hear, hear.) And I think the practical conclusion—you know we preachers always bring in a practical conclusion at the end. (Laughter.) The practical conclusion of the whole matter is that we should rouse ourselves to increased energy in the cultivation of the study we all love and do all we can to stir up others to the pursuit of a science, which is not a mere science of crotchets, but, as I have endeavoured briefly to show, a science of real practical value, of real practical utility—even in these modern days.

They serve not the present less, but more,
Who love the ages gone before.

(Loud applause.)

Mr. HUMPHREYS having seconded the adoption of the report, the resolution was at once agreed to.

Dr. CRANAGE proposed that the members of the Council be re-elected for the ensuing year.

Mr. RALPH seconded, and the motion having been carried, the

Rev. Canon ALLEN moved a vote of thanks to the treasurer—Mr.

T. Slaney-Eyton, which was seconded by Mr. HARDING, and agreed to.

Mr. PHILLIPS proposed that the auditors be re-elected.

Mr. T. SOUTHAM seconded, and the motion was adopted.

Mr. HARDING asked if anything had been done in regard to the old stone pulpit in the Abbey Foregate.

The CHAIRMAN replied that he was not in a position to make any definite statement in the matter, but believed that the question was *in statu quo*.

Alderman SOUTHAM remarked, with regard to the Library and Museum, that he wished to call the attention of the Council to the great desirability of using, as far as practicable, the reference library for depositing there all the old historical records they could find. It had always been the general desire that some one place should be found where old records, prints, and engravings could be deposited and taken care of, and that want had now been supplied. There was no doubt that hundreds of old records had been destroyed for want of proper care, and he had been told that there were in the strong room of the Shire Hall a lot of most interesting county records. If those were overhauled by some one competent to take the work in hand, assorted and placed in readable form, they would be of immense interest to the town and county—(hear, hear)—and, therefore, he thought this was a question which the society would do well to take into serious consideration. (Hear, hear.) He was glad to say that they had recently purchased a very valuable old book through the instrumentality of Mr. Phillips, and he believed it would be found to be of the greatest interest to antiquarians. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN observed that the book was an edition of Archdeacon Owen's little work on the history of Shropshire, and contained a number of original etchings by the Archdeacon's son, the Rev. Price Owen, the well known etcher. It was a most interesting book, and he thought he might add that they were very much indebted to Mr. Caswell, whose property it was, for the very reasonable terms on which he had parted with it, and also for his handsome donation.

Mr. ADNITT, with regard to the old records stored away in the Shire Hall, remarked that the Commissioners had been down some years ago to look at them, but were unable to do anything with them at that time owing to the manner in which they had been injured by the fire.

Mr. PHILLIPS said he was glad Alderman Southam had brought this subject forward, because he felt it was a matter of immense importance. If they wanted to get together the ancient documents connected with the town and county they must look to those in whose possession they were to help them, and he felt sure there were lying about, among other records, a number of old deeds of transfer property which would throw a deal of light on the history, both of families and of transfer property in the county, and which would be of infinite value to a society such as theirs. (Hear, hear.)

Alderman SOUTHAM remarked that if the matter were laid before the Mayor and Corporation by the Archæological Council, he believed some action would be taken.

The CHAIRMAN then moved "that this meeting thinks it is highly desirable that the ancient records of the borough and county, now in the Shire Hall, should be arranged by some competent and careful person or persons so as to be available for inspection by her Majesty's Historical Commissioners."

Mr. PHILLIPS having seconded the resolution, it was unanimously agreed to.

ANNUAL EXCURSION.

THE Annual Excursion took place on Wednesday, July 11th, 1888, when a party of members and friends assembled at the Shrewsbury Station to travel by the 10 20 a.m. train to Knighton, which had been selected as the starting point for the field day. In spite of the threatening aspect of the weather there was a muster of 22, including the Rev. T. and Miss Auden, Rev. E. de V. and Mrs. Bryans, Rev. A. T. Pelham, Rev. C. H. Drinkwater, Mr. Humphrey Sandford, Mr. W. Phillips, Mr. W. Beacall, Mr. Roff King, Mrs. J. R. Barnes, Mr. Luff, Mr. J. Leach, Bolton, Mr. Stokes, and Mr. F. Goynes, Secretary. The party, who travelled in a saloon, were joined at Craven Arms by the Ven. Archdeacon Lloyd and Miss Lloyd, and the Rev. J. G. Swainson, Wistanstow.

Arriving at Knighton at 11 30, the assembly proceeded, in four brakes, to

LLANFAIR WATERDINE,

where they inspected the little Church of St. Mary, a stone edifice in the Gothic style, consisting of chancel, nave, north aisles, south porch, and a turret at the north-west angle, containing one bell. The structure was rebuilt in 1854, at a cost of £1,000; there are sittings for 300 persons, and the pews are painted with the names of the respective occupants. The living is a Vicarage, tithe rent-charge £90, net yearly value £47, including glebe, with residence, in the gift of the Earl of Powis, and has been held since 1885 by the Rev. C. H. Bowman, B.A., of Christ Church, Oxford.

The principal object of interest here was the carved altar-rail of oak, bearing an illegible inscription: this was first mentioned and described in Vol. ii. of the *Archæological Journal*. Various speculations were made as to its probable date, and the general conclusion was that the work was by no means of remote antiquity. The Rev. C. H. Drinkwater here read a brief paper, as follows:—

Llanfair Waterdine (or Waterdene) Chapel of the B.V.M., was formerly a chapel-of-ease to Clun, *i.e.*, before 1593. It is now a perpetual curacy. The old chapel was a mean building, without a steeple. On taking down some wainscot in the old chapel some ancient carving was found, forming a panel about 34 inches long by 3 inches wide. This contains two lines of curious characters, of which no other instances exist. There are in all nearly 70 of them, containing 19 distinct letters. Two of them have been thought to resemble the word Maria, in Greek letters. If this conjecture is correct the character for M occurs twice, that for A five times, that for R five times, and that for I seven or eight times,

which would be about the proportion in any ordinary inscription for such letters. It has been thought that they are musical notes or neums, but they do not agree with the musical notation of the 11th century, which is probably about the date of the carving. Of other letters, P occurs twice, and O three times. A more satisfactory conjecture is that they are the very rough copy, made by an illiterate workman, of bad writing, the strokes of each letter being taken separately, at an unusual distance from each other, but even then they cannot be made out, and whether they are Saxon, Welsh, or Latin, cannot now be determined. The introductory character is something like what printers call an index. This is common enough in an Irish treatise, usually known as the "Book of Ballymote," a vellum MS. preserved in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin. This was compiled between 1370 and 1390. It is written in ancient Irish, and several characters in it correspond to the letters of this inscription, if inscription it be. A facsimile may be found in the second volume of the *Journal of the Arch. Institute*, pp. 269, 404. It has been discussed in other archaeological publications without any satisfactory result.

After this the party rejoined the carriages, and drove through picturesque and hilly country to Skyborry Green and Selley Hall. At the latter place the vehicles were left, and the party walked to

OFFA'S DYKE,

which, in this locality, is seen to the best advantage, the massive work being in nearly perfect condition. This wonderful earthwork was made by King Offa (757-95) to give further security against the continual incursions of the Welsh; and an old tradition says that every Welshman who passed this boundary was to lose his life. Offa was the greatest of the Anglo-Saxon monarchs before Alfred; his ditch extended from the river Wye along the counties of Hereford and Radnor, Shropshire and Montgomery. At Buttington it is lost for five miles; the channel of the Severn probably serving for that space as a continuation of the boundary. Just below the confluence of the Beale and the Severn it appears again, and passes by the churches of Llandysilio and Llanymynech, to the edge of the vast precipitous limestone rock. From this place it runs by Trefarclawdd, over the horse-course on Cyn-y-Bweh, above Oswestry, then above Selattyn; whence it descends to the Ceiriog, and then to Glyn, where there is a large breach, supposed to be the place of interment of the English who fell in the battle of Crogen. It then goes by Chirk Castle, and below Cefn-y-wern, crosses the Dee and Ruabon road near Plas Madoc, forms part of the turnpike road to Wrexham, to Pentrebychan, where there is a mount; then by Plaspower to Adwy'r clawdd, near Minera; by Brymbo, crosses the Cegidog river, and through a little valley upon the south side of Bryniorkyn mountain to Coed-talwrn, and Cae-dwn, a farm near Treuddyn chapel, in the parish of Mold (pointing towards the Clwydian hills), beyond which no farther traces can be discovered. It seems probable that Offa imagined that the Clwydian hills, and the deep valley that lies at their base, would serve as a continuance of this prohibitory line; he had carried his arms over most part of Flintshire, and vainly imagined that his labours would restrain the Cambrian inroads in one part, and his orders prevent any incursions beyond these natural limits, which he had decreed to be the boundaries of his new conquests. It is observable, says Pennant, that in all parts the ditch falls on the Welsh side; and

that there are numbers of artificial mounds, the sites of small forts along its course. These were garrisoned, and seem intended for the same purpose as the towers in the famous Chinese wall, to watch the motions of their neighbours, and to repel hostile incursions. The folly of this great work appeared on the death of Offa; the Welsh, with irresistible fury, despised his toils, and carried their ravages far and wide on the English marches. Superior force often repelled them. Sanguinary laws were made by the victorious Harold against any that should transgress the limits prescribed by Offa. The Welshman that was found in arms on the Saxon side of the ditch was to lose his right hand.

Resuming the journey at Selley Hall, the party proceeded to Clun, which was reached about 4 p.m. The first visit was paid to the

CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, CLUN,

which is one of uncommon interest. Before its restoration in 1877 it was remarkable at first sight mainly for its dampness and its nearly ruinous state of dilapidation. It had, indeed, reached such a state as to make extensive repairs a necessity. Before these were commenced the church consisted of a long nave and chancel, with broad aisles (north and south), and a western tower. The aisles had both been widened, and that on the south side had no evidence of being old. It had, however, remains of an open roof, of exactly the same width as the nave, and which had probably been taken from it. The original columns and arches between the nave and aisles remained, but in a dangerous state; and the clerestory windows above, being rendered useless by the erection of the aisle roofs, had all been blocked up. The east end of the chancel was quite modern, and the large north porch was completely modernised. Mr. Street, who was entrusted with the restoration, succeeded in preserving in its old shape and design so much of the work as was old, and few would have believed it possible that the mere restoration of old features which had been concealed or altered could have effected the change now seen from a most wretched and depressing interior to one which is now second in dignity and effect to few country churches. It was necessary to rebuild the whole of the columns and arches. The effect of these two arcades of four pointed arches, enriched with chevron mouldings, and resting on solid semi-Norman columns, is certainly very fine. The modern south aisle was removed, and an aisle of the same narrow width as the original aisle erected in its place; and this allowed of the clerestory windows on the south side being restored. They are simple round arched openings, placed over the columns, and with very deep splays to both jambs and sills. The old roof, the remains of which existed over the south aisle, was moved to the nave, and continued on to the chancel without a break; and the old roof of the north aisle was most carefully repaired. Both were completely concealed by ceilings, and now they are opened out to view the effect is extremely fine. The main roof has no less than eighteen arched principal trusses, with traceries all along above the

plates, and quatrefoil wind-braces between the purlines. The whole is a forest of timber, and of a design of which traces remain in many of the Montgomery churches. The east end is quite new. It has an eastern triplet, immediately over which is suspended a fine tester or baldachino, which existed covered with whitewash over the old vestry, and which was in 1877 restored to its proper position. A high traceried screen, with carved cornice, divides the nave from the chancel; and other screens occur under arches and across the north aisle. The unsightly north porch was equally carefully treated. An old staircase was found and repaired, and the parvis over the porch was also repaired. Among other things the ancient lych gate, which was removed some years ago from the entrance to the churchyard, was restored to its old place, and having been thoroughly repaired is now likely to last for centuries. Of merely decorative work in this church there is but little; it was felt that the one thing required was to let the old stone and timber tell their own tale, and this they do now most effectually. The noble transitional columns and arches, instead of being shored up to prevent their cracking and falling, are now in their first state absolutely as regards every feature in their design. The roofs which could only be discovered by an enthusiastic antiquary, above and behind the ceilings, are now seen in all their beauty; and both inside and outside all the arrangements of the church speak of reverence and care for God's house. The picturesque tower, with its low-tiled spire, is remarkable as being connected with the nave only by a small doorway. This at the restoration was left almost untouched, being the only part of the building which did not urgently require repair. The whole of the works of restoration were executed from the designs of Mr. Street, R.A., by Messrs. Fisher and Dyson, of Huddersfield. The windows, which are of cathedral-tinted glass, with double margins, were put in by Mr. Davies, of Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury.

The esteemed Vicar, the Rev. C. Warner, met the party at the Church, and kindly pointed out the chief features, to which we have referred. He mentioned that in the 17th year of the reign of Charles II. a brief was granted to raise funds for the re-erection of the church; after the usual preamble the document states that "Whereas the Church of the borough and Parish of Clun being the ancient and mother church of the Deanery and honor of Clun (heretofore large and strongly built), in the late unhappy wars happened to be burnt, some of the walls thereof only remaining, but the steeple with four large bells, and all the roof, seats, and timber work, utterly destroyed; and the inhabitants of the sd borough and parish being by means thereof bereft of their public place to assemble in for the service of God, have raised a yearly assessment among themselves of threescore pounds, to preserve the small remaining part thereof from absolute ruine, but the fire so shattered the stone of the walls, that the repairing and amending thereof will be to little purpose, so that the whole fabric must be taken down and new built, or else they shall be left without any public place for the service of God; the charge of new

building of the same fabric by the judgement and estimate of skilful workmen delivered upon their oaths before divers of our justice of the peace in our sd county will amount unto the sum of five thousand pounds and upwards, which is far beyond the abilities of the sd inhabitants to raise amongst themselves, they being unable through their poverty to continue their sd annual assessment. And the sd inhabitants having humbly besought us to grant them our gracious letters patent to license and authorise them to collect and receive the alms and charitable benevolence of our loving subjects towards the soucharge, and they being in great hopes by that means to obtain a considerable supply for re-building their said church, we have thereupon thought fit to grant their humble suit in that behalf rather than so pious an undertaking should be disappointed." The license empowered eight parishioners of Clun and their representatives to solicit alms throughout "our Kingdome of England, dominion of Wales, and our Towne of Berwick," and "parsons, ministers, vicars, and curates" were required to "exhort, persuade, and stir up" their flocks to liberally extend their alms in this behalf." Mr. Warner stated that the money collected by means of this brief was not immediately applied to the purpose for which it was intended, but was lost sight of for many years, until through the instrumentality of the Earl of Powis it was traced and recovered, the amount—£2,210 12s. 2d.—being applied towards the cost of the above-mentioned restoration, to which Lord Powis himself also contributed £1,802 for the chancel.

The re-opening services were held on Saturday, October 6th, 1877. From the church the party walked to the site of

CLUN CASTLE,

which is supposed to be the scene of Sir Walter Scott's novel, "The Betrothed." The site, which is partially enclosed and protected by the River Clun, is about 600 yards in length; it is occupied by a cluster of knolls or mounds of a soft, friable rock, which has been carved and scarped for the purposes of defence, so as to present with its decomposed and grass-grown surface much of an artificial aspect. Amongst these knolls stands out one high and of even a more artificial appearance than the rest. It forms a conical mound, about forty yards in diameter at its table-top, with very steep sides, and in height above its surrounding ditch about 60 feet; and the ditch, again, is about 30 feet above the bed of the river. The ditch covers the mound upon its southern and eastern sides, but to north and west the slopes descend to the river level, presenting a very formidable appearance. The part not so exposed is further protected by three works in earth, beyond the ditch; of which the larger, to the south-west, is of irregular figure, and about forty yards deep by seventy yards broad, having four irregular sides, of which the inner is concave and forms the counterscarp of the main ditch. Towards the river this platform is scarped towards the mound and the adjacent platform; its protection is a ditch, about 7 yards deep by

16 to 18 yards broad. The top is level, save that along the edges of the three outer sides is a narrow bank—a sort of parapet, on which was probably a stockade. At one point, where the platform approaches the mound, is a small spur, as though the ruin of the pier of a bridge, and which was evidently the main entrance to the keep or principal mound. The road to this bridge ascended the platform from the village on the south. To the east of this is a second platform of the same height and about fourteen yards deep by thirty yards broad, its larger face being concave, and applied to the main ditch. Its top is level, and has no trace of bank or parapet. The third earthwork, of no great size, stands to the east of the keep mound, and abuts upon its ditch to the west, and on the river to the north. These two sides are prolonged, and the fork or hollow handle between them is occupied by a depression, formerly a large pool, having a sluice-gate towards the river. Between the bank of this pool and the southern platform is a ditch, which seems to have been used as a hollow way leading to the river front of the mound. Between the mound and the west platform and the river are two lunated patches of meadow about 90 yards deep, the one 70 yards and the other 140 yards long; they were probably employed as a safe pasture in ordinary times for the garrison cattle, which, in case of an attack, could readily be taken up the platforms, or along the castle ditches into the precincts of the town. Such are the earthworks as they are now seen, and in general features much, no doubt, as they were seen when the Norman Picot took possession of his dangerous grant. They belong to the class known as burns, or moated mounds, and date from the ninth or tenth century. By whom they were thrown up, or rather carved out, is unknown; but it may safely be asserted that they represent the chief residence of one of those Englishmen who invaded and settled upon the Welsh territory, and whose duty it was to defend the often-attacked western border of the Mercian kingdom. The occupant of such a position must have been a bold and powerful leader; though whether he lived before or after the formation of Offa's Dyke is doubtful. The manor of Clun was originally granted to the Says, whose heiress, Isabel, daughter of Helias de Say, married William Fitz-Alan; and their son, William, built the castle 24 Henry III. It continued in the Fitz-Alan family (Earls of Arundel) until Queen Elizabeth's time, when, about 1549, Mary Fitzalan conveyed it to the Howards by her marriage with Philip, son of Thomas, Duke of Norfolk. From this noble family the property passed to the Walcots, from whom it was purchased by Lord Clive, and from him it has descended to its present possessor, the Earl of Powis.

In the time of Stephen, when Helias de Say was baron of Clun, this place and Obley were converted into an independent jurisdiction, known as the honour, or hundred, of Clun, which was not amenable to English law; and some of the feudal customs of the manor were very curious. One of these was known as "Amabyr," and gave the lord certain rights in regard to his tenants' daughters, from which

obligations they were released 3 and 4 Philip and Mary by Henry Earl of Arundel in consideration of the payment of £60.

An old record states that "Clunn Castle lay exposed to the ravages of the Welch wherefore it was well fortified 8 of Stephen, when ye Kingdom was in ye utmost confusion about the title to the crown, and in Richard ye First's time, according to the Welch chronicles ye King being in the Holy Land ye castle was taken by Rics Prince of Wales and all the territory laid waste. After some respite till 17. H. 3, Prince Llewelin in yt year came against ye town and burnt it, but could not take ye castle, wch damage was fully revenged ye 48 H. 3, by an entire rout yt ye Marchers gave ye Welch army at the battle of Clonne." By the same quaint document we are informed that "Ye power of life and death was ye most extraordinary privilege of ye lords of ye manor over ye tenants, as will appear from ye following :—' President Thomas, Earl of Arundel, Lord of Clunne, to all whom these presents shall come, greeting : Know ye yt we, at ye special request and desire of our sovereign Lord King Henry ye 8th, made unto us for his servant John Clon, as at ye humble pursuit of ye said John Clon, and as also in yt ye said John Clon had founded sufficient sureties in five hundred marks, yt ye and his partakers shall be of demeanour hereafter and agree and make amends to ye parties grieved, by ye sighte and judgement of any eight, six, or four indifferent gentlemen or substantial yeomen, as well as by ye said John Clon as by ye friends of one Roger Law, lately killed in Clun, have pardoned, and by these our present letters do hereby pardon ye said John Clon, late of Clun, gentleman, of all manner of murders and manslaughters by him committed and done within our said lordship, and we will ye said John Clon and all ye said persons shall be utterly acquitted, released, and discharged of all their offences on yt behalf against us and our heirs for ever, and yt ye shall be lawful inhabitants and tenants of our lordships as they and every of them should have been if ye said offence had never been committed and done.'"

During the time of William Boterell, third husband of Isabel de Say, Clun Castle was stormed and reduced to ashes by the Welsh under Prince Rees, about the year 1166, as above mentioned ; in 1272 the castle is said to have been small, with a bailey outside, containing grange, stable, and bakehouse, all enclosed by a fosse or ditch. At that time there were 183 burgesses in the town, and its weekly market produced £10 per annum, and its two yearly fairs £6. On the division of the Fitz-Alan property Clun and its castle were assigned at the value of £82 to the king, who made them over (with other revenues) to Roger Mortimer. Isabel, daughter of Sir Roger Mortimer, married John Fitz-Alan, 6th Earl of Arundel and Lord of Clun, and in 1302, when their estates were valued. Clun Castle was found to be worth no more than the expense of its maintenance, £20, and at that time there were only 85 burgesses. In 1317, Edmund Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, being at Clun, received a complaint of the excessive number of bailiffs employed by him in the district, and he

accordingly reduced their number by charter. In 1326 his successor confirmed to his burgesses the lands, liberties, and customs they had formerly possessed, and at the same time pardoned and exempted them from any retaliatory measures which might arise from their having recently adhered to Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, when he visited Clun and took fealty of them. In the same year, however, the Earl fell a victim to Mortimer's treachery, perishing on the scaffold; Mortimer enjoyed the forfeited estates for a while, and then met the same fate. Seven years later, Richard, Earl of Arundel, was restored to his seignury at Clun; and at the present time the place gives the title of baron to the Duke of Norfolk, the present representative of the Fitz-Alans, its former lords.

From the Castle a section of the party walked to

CLUN HOSPITAL,

a pleasing and picturesque refuge for old men, situate at the lower end of the town.

The Hospital of the Holy and Undivided Trinity was founded in 1614 by Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton; the original establishment was twelve decayed tradesmen and a warden, but as the funds of the institution had accumulated, the number was, by order of the Court of Chancery, increased to sixteen male inmates, who each receive 10s. weekly and raiment, in addition to being partially supplied with food. The management of the Hospital is vested in the bailiff, the vicar and churchwardens, the steward of the lordship, the rector of Hopesay, and the warden: and the statutes "ordain and establish that in the said hospital there shall be, for ever, One Warden and 12 Poor Men, who shall wholly give themselves to the Service of God, and to pray for the Peace, Tranquility, and Concord of all Christendom." The building consists of a quadrangle 40 yards square, a chapel, dining hall, and warden's house. The chapel has a fine window, adorned with the arms of the founder, the diocese of Hereford, and the Earl of Powis. Twice daily the brethren attend service in the chapel, wearing on week days long gray gowns, and on Sundays blue robes, with the badge of a white lion figured on the sleeve. The income of the institution is about £1,600, out of which two National Schools—one at Clun, another in Newcastle Township—are chiefly supported.

Some of the members visited the local hostelry—The Buffalo—where the courteous proprietress showed them the room in which Sir Walter Scott is said to have stayed during his visit to Clun.

The brakes were now rejoined, and a drive back by another route brought the party to Knighton, where, at the Norton Arms Hotel, they sat down, under the presidency of Archdeacon Lloyd, to a capital dinner, which was well served and duly enjoyed.

At 8 30 the party again entered the saloon at Knighton Station, arriving at Shrewsbury just before ten, having, in spite of the dull weather, spent a thoroughly enjoyable day.

LIST OF MEMBERS, 1888.

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 Auden, Rev. T., Shrewsbury

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 Boughton, Miss Rouse, Larden Hall, Wenlock
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 Bridgeman, The Hon. and Rev. J., Weston-under-Lyziard, Shifnal
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 Bryans, Rev. A. de V., Abbey Gardens, Shrewsbury
 Burd, Rev. J., M.A., Chirbury Vicarage, Salop
 Burr, G., Esq., Oaklands, Shrewsbury
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 Childe, Rev. Prebendary Baldwyn, Kyre Park, Tenbury
 Cholmondeley, Rev. R. H., Hodnet Rectory, Salop
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 Davies, G., Esq., Fire Office, Shrewsbury
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 Griffiths, George, Esq., Weston, Shifnal

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Tasker, Mr., St. John's Hill, Shrewsbury
 Taylor, R., Esq., Abbey House, Shrewsbury
 Thomas, Rev. Canon, F.S.A., Meifod Vicarage, Welshpool
 Thursfield, T. H., Esq., Barrow, Broseley
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 Warner, Rev. Charles, Clun Vicarage

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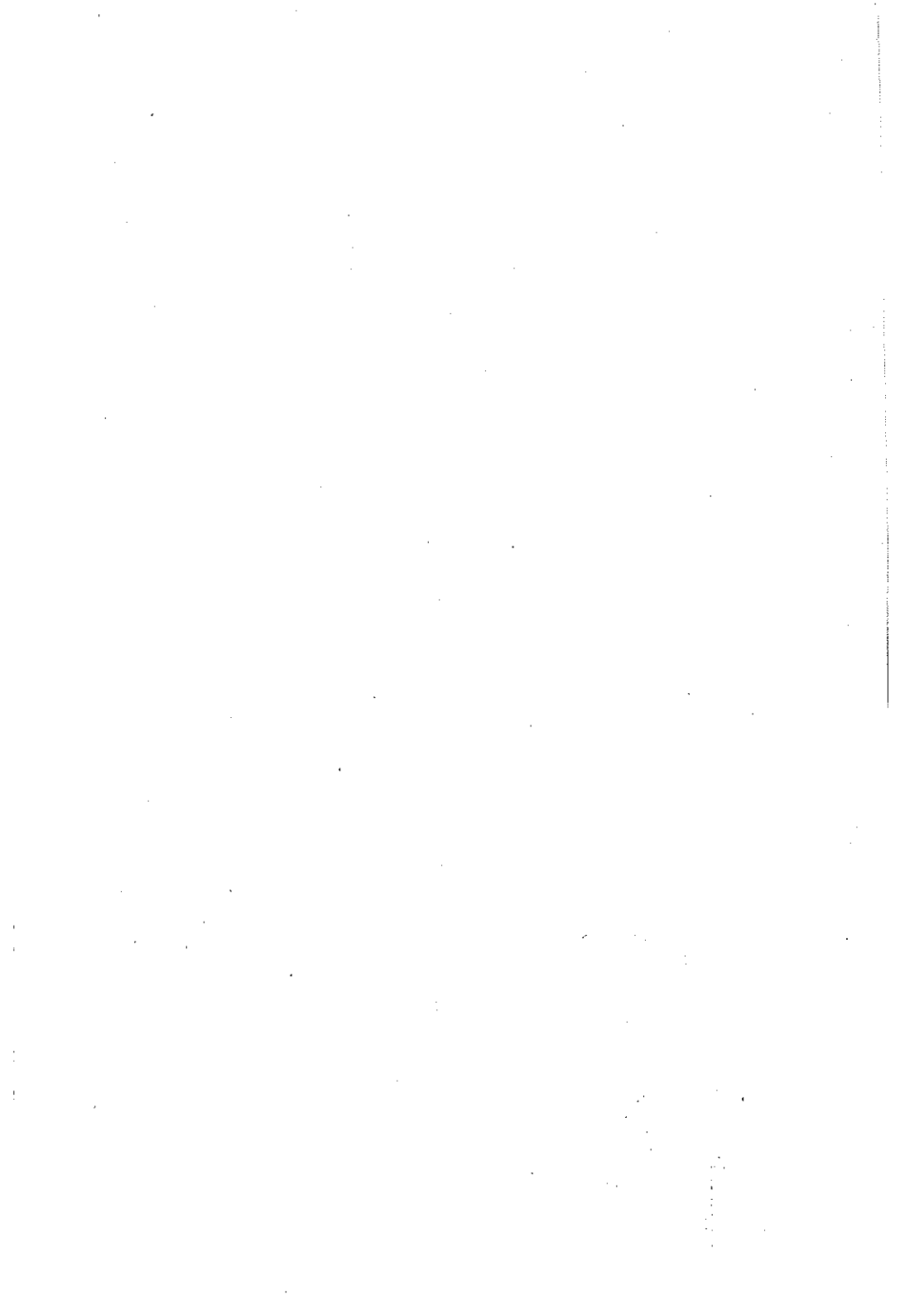
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..	195	5	0
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November 7th, 1887.

Examined and found correct,

(Signed) E CALVERT, } Auditors.
H. J. OLDBROYD, }

I N D E X .

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GENERAL INDEX TO TRANSACTIONS.

The Council have decided to prepare, if possible, an Index to the first ten volumes of the *Shropshire Archaeological Transactions*, and a Sub-Committee was appointed to consider the matter. The Sub-Committee recommend that there be four Indexes:—(1) General Index; (2) Persons; (3) Places; (4) Plates. The General Index to include as subdivisions, Authors, Arms, Pedigrees, Wills, Register Extracts, Churchwardens' Accounts, Church Plate, Bells, Monuments, Castles, Monasteries, Seals, &c. The Index of Persons to give Christian names (as well as Surnames), except where often in connection with the same place, and then once with "passim" added.

If this Index is to be carried out, co-operation will be necessary. One member has kindly undertaken the Pedigrees, another the Wills, another the Register Extracts, Churchwardens' Accounts, Bells, and Church Plate, and a lady the Index of Places. Will any members or friends, who will be willing to help in compiling the Index, kindly communicate with the Secretary to the Sub-Committee, the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, F.S.A., St. Michael's Vicarage, Shrewsbury?

The Council respectfully solicit Contributions of Papers for future volumes of the *Transactions* of the Society from Members and others, especially of Parochial Histories.

The Society is not responsible for the Statements, Opinions, and Errors of Authors of Papers.

SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL

AND

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