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NOTES ON SHROPSHIRE BIRDS.

By WILLIAM E. BECKWITH.

Continued from p. 318, 2nd Series, Vol. II., Part II.

PARROT CROSSBILL, *Loxia pityopsittacus*.

Although the Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union do not, in their *List of British Birds*, published in 1883, include Shropshire among the counties where this rare visitor has been found, there is strong evidence of its having occurred here on more than one occasion. In the fourth edition of Yarrell's *British Birds* Professor Newton states that:—"The first notice of this bird's appearance in Britain is that of Pennant, who, in 1766, after remarking (*British Zoology*, p. 106) on the 'two varieties' of Crossbill, of which Edwards had accurately figured 'the lesser kind' that he had seen frequently, while the other was very rare, says:—"We received a male and female out of *Shropshire*, which were superior in size to the former, the bill remarkably thick and short, more incurvated than that of the common kind, and the ends more blunt." This larger Crossbill, at first considered only a variety of the common bird, has for many years received specific recognition from the most approved authors, and its claim thereto need not be discussed here."

Next we have Rocke's note that he had "seen two specimens of this bird obtained near Oswestry." This was about the year 1852; but as both birds were purchased by Henry Shaw, and eventually placed in the Clungunford collection, their identity cannot be questioned.

And lastly comes the specimen killed at Shifnal, in February, 1862, which was shown to the late Thomas Bodenham in the flesh, and at once purchased for his collection. This was a female, apparently a bird of the year, and was pronounced by Gould to be an undoubted example of this species. It passed, on Mr. Bodenham's death, into the possession of Mr. Thomas Dickie, of Pembroke.

These instances, I think, justify the Parrot Crossbill being retained in our county avi-fauna; but it should be remembered that there is a large parrot-like form or race of *L. Curvirostra* which nearly resembles this bird, and too much care cannot be taken in submitting supposed specimens of this rare species to competent authorities for identification.

The habits of the two birds appear to be much alike. Wheelwright who unfortunately wrote under a pseudonym only—that of an “Old Bushman”—in his *Ten Years in Sweden* says:—“The Parrot Crossbill feeds more upon the pine cones, the Common Crossbill on the fir cones. I have heard some hazard an opinion that these birds are not distinct species, but such an idea cannot be entertained by any one, who, like myself, has had the opportunity of watching the birds in a state of nature, and does not merely study dry skins.

STARLING, *Sturnus vulgaris*.

I am glad to say that the Starling is an abundant and rapidly increasing species; for, nearly resembling its corvine allies, in many of its habits, it differs from them in this essential particular, that, whilst it does an immense amount of good, it does little or no harm. Indeed, if its raids upon cherry trees be excepted, I know of no charge that either the farmer or the gardener can bring against it; though both are deeply indebted to it for the many services it renders them.

Yarrell says, that when insect food fails, the Starling will eat grain, and no doubt in very severe weather it does pick about among heaps of refuse. The flocks, however, that are so often seen in newly sown cornfields, are searching, not for grain, but for insects and caterpillars; often those destructive ones of the *Agrotis* moth and Daddy Longlegs which have been brought to the surface by the tillage operations.

Starlings usually resort to grass fields and lawns to feed; and, when the latter are frequently visited by these birds, the unsightly worm-casts that so disfigure a neatly kept lawn or tennis ground soon disappear.

Some people dislike and even destroy Starlings, because they persist in building in chimneys and other inconvenient places; but this may easily be prevented by fastening a piece of wire netting so as to stop their ingress.

Any hole into which it can squeeze, no matter whether high or low, in tree, rock or building, affords this bird a nesting-place; and it also often builds among ivy and in the sides of stacks.

At all times gregarious by nature, it prefers to breed in either large or small colonies, as it finds accommodation; though a pair frequently nest by themselves. This latter is a habit, indeed, which leads to one of the worst traits of their character; for many times, on visiting a Woodpecker's hole in spring, have I found it tenanted not by the rightful owners, but by a pair of Starlings.

In February and March the soft whistlings of a flock of these birds perched on a tree-top sound rather musical; the more so, perhaps, on account of their association with the song of the Lark, the cry of the Pewit, and the visible approach of spring. And when, the pairing-time having arrived, the male his feathers

glittering with metallic lustre, keeps time, as it were, with head and wings to his varied notes, his appearance is really beautiful. Pied varieties of the Starling are not uncommon; and, in the summer of 1890, a young one, purely white, was killed at Eaton Constantine.

Mr. T. Middleton Howells assures me that he has seen three Starlings at Highfield, near Shrewsbury, engaged in building one nest; and in the *Field* of April 21st, 1888, a correspondent signing himself H., writes:—"In connection with the nesting of Starlings, I have observed from my boyhood a fact which I cannot find alluded to in any work on natural history.

It is that three birds engage in constructing the nest, such as it is. On its completion, the third (a bachelor, I presume) disappears, and the parents carry on the rest of the duties," It would be interesting to watch whether this curious habit is of frequent occurrence, and to ascertain if the third bird does actually depart on the completion of the nest, and also, if possible, to which sex it belongs. Dr. Babington, in his *Birds of Suffolk*, thus relates an almost similar eccentricity on the part of Rooks:—"At Cockfield Rectory, Rooks attempted several times to make their home, but never with success till about four years ago, when one pair built a nest; a third bird was always with them and sat on a neighbouring tree, cawing as if to encourage them, or perhaps to teach them the art of nest-building. It was observed by two persons that the bird which sat upon the nest had food brought to her by both the others."

In autumn and winter, Starlings resort by thousands to the sides of pools, where they roost among the reeds. At Colemere, near Ellesmere, it is a very pretty sight on a calm, still evening, early in November, to watch them assembling. At first a few come and begin to fly round, now high, now low, over the mere; soon they are joined by flocks of all sizes from every side, until a mass of birds is rapidly sweeping through the air, occasionally dividing into separate flocks, then uniting with a sudden rush in one dense phalanx. These evolutions continue till dusk approaches, when, flying a few times close over the tops of the reeds, the birds drop suddenly down among them, and, after a few minutes' flustering and clamouring, settle for the night. An almost similar scene may be witnessed at the neighbouring Croesmere Mere, Almond and Hencote pools, Tibberton pool, near Newport, and other places where reeds abound.

It is curious that arboreal birds should travel long distances, as from the numbers observed they must do, to roost in such places; but Gray speaks of a more extraordinary habit still, when he relates that:—"On the river Clyde, where the sailing channel is indicated by barrel-shaped beacons, I have found thousands of Starlings roosting at nightfall. By rowing up to one of these hollow perches, and tapping it with an oar, I have been diverted with the screaming uproar which ensued, and the ludicrous

celerity with which the birds made their exit by the bung-hole."

In Shropshire the Starling is a partial migrant, as many birds leave us for the winter. The multitude that congregate at Colemere rapidly dwindle away till at last only a few roost there. On fine, calm days, more especially in autumn, these birds sail about in the air like House Martins, catching insects; and sometimes a flock of them may be seen engaged in this way of feeding.

They are also fond of the blight that so often attacks fields of peas; and they frequently perch upon the backs of animals to seek for parasites.

Stevenson, in his *Birds of Norfolk*, favours the opinion that the great increase in the numbers of this bird is due to its having two or three broods in the year; but this is not usually the case. At Eaton Constantine I was able to watch some fourteen pairs, and they rarely attempted even a second brood. The young ones generally flew by about the middle of June, and old and young then betook themselves to the fields for the rest of the summer. Perhaps it is owing to the fact that birds of prey rarely molest them, for I do not remember ever to have found the remains of a Starling that had been killed by a Hawk.

It is very amusing to see a small party of these birds leading and guiding, as it were, a large flock of rooks or pewits.

ROSE-COLOURED PASTOR, *Pastor roseus*.

I have previously mentioned a bird of this species that was killed between Shrewsbury and Meole Brace, near where the Cemetery now stands, in the autumn of 1841. It was said to have been accompanied by another; and Locke considered the evidence sufficient to justify him in stating that two specimens had occurred near Shrewsbury. I am now able to record a third, for Mr. J. Wollaston Montford, kindly sends me word that, in the autumn of 1857, his father killed one at Brockton, near Lydbury North, and that it is still in the possession of Mrs. Griffiths, Bishop's Castle.

This very rare and irregular visitor is closely allied to the Starling, and when visiting this country has several times been found in company with that bird.

The beautiful Pastor is a native of the East, and appears like the Waxwing and Crossbill in the North, to wander hither and thither, and not to migrate in any particular direction.

RAVEN, *Corvus corax*.

Formerly this bird was a common resident in the county, especially on the high moorlands; and many people now or recently living could point out numerous old nesting sites. The persistent use of poisoned flesh by gamekeepers and shepherds has, however,

almost exterminated it, and if a pair attempt to breed, their eggs or young are taken. Country people, too, dislike and persecute it; partly on account of its mischievous habits, and partly because of the foolish superstitions still attaching to its presence. Eyton, whose remarks apply chiefly to the north of the county, writing in 1838, says that the Raven is "often observed in Wales, and that a few pairs breed in Shropshire, and have been known to build in the same trees from time immemorial, in spite of the nest being robbed every year."

One case of such persistent nesting occurred at Longner, near Shrewsbury, where, though carefully cherished by the Burton family, some mishap befell the old birds, about the year 1848, and the young ones perished. The Wrekin then became the last stronghold of the Raven in North Shropshire, and here a pair bred in peace up to the year 1857 or 1858; but after that, though the birds were occasionally seen in the spring they did not build in their old nesting places. James Handy, who died in 1874, at nearly ninety years of age, and who had lived close by, could remember several pairs breeding about the hill—one of them in a large unclimbable oak, which must have been like the tree at Selborne described by Gilbert White, and another on the crags at the top, where a small hollow in the rock is still known as the Raven's Cup.

In South Shropshire, the Raven maintained itself to a much later period, for writing of it from Clungunford, in 1865, Roake says:—"This fine bird still exists in considerable numbers on Clun Forest, the Stiperstones, and other high localities. I have myself seen it this summer when looking for the Curlew's nest. Occasionally its wild croak is heard passing over this house, but I fear it has been driven from most of its former breeding-places." The Rev. F. O. Philpott also informs me that up to about the year 1874, a pair built in Linley Wood, near Bishop's Castle; and in 1884 some young ones were taken from a nest in a quarry near Church Stretton. This latter locality has been frequented for many years by a pair of Ravens, whose usual fate was to have their nest destroyed, though they occasionally reared a brood.

As an accidental visitor the Raven will still continue to be known, for it is not uncommon in Wales, and it is of a roving, or perhaps migratory habit, in spring and autumn. Thus the Rev. J. B. Meredith saw one feeding on the bank of the Verniew, near Maesbrook, on the 18th April, 1887; one was trapped near Baschurch in the spring of 1888; and I have notes of one or two having recently been seen about the Clees Hills, where the late Mr. Thomas Woodward told me there used to be three or four breeding-places; on the Longmynd, and on Clun Forest.

Ravens are sometimes gregarious, or perhaps some carcase attracts them to assemble together. Writing under date of January 12th, 1888, Mr. Ruddy informed me that Mr. H. Robertson had seen twelve near Corwen.

My most intimate acquaintance with this bird was one summer at Windermere, where evening after evening a sable company of seven came flying up the lake, having probably been foraging along the shores of Morecambe Bay, and being now bound for some roosting place in the cliffs above Ambleside. Their deliberate flight and expanse of wing contrasted strongly with a flock of accompanying Jackdaws which, noisily hurrying to their roost, looked little larger than Blackbirds, in comparison. In spring, besides their ordinary croak, Ravens utter a sound not unlike the hoarse bark of a dog, and, when doing so, usually turn half a somersault in the air.

CROW, *Corvus corone*.

Although inferior in size and strength, this bird, in its habits, closely resembles the Raven. In the enclosed districts of North Shropshire the Crow, from continued persecution, has become rather scarce; but in the wild and more open localities in the South it is still common.

Within the last thirty years a large number of Crows collected to roost upon the Wrekin, where at that time the keepers seldom disturbed them. Towards night they might have been seen wending their way in a straggling flock, usually of about eighty or a hundred; but one evening in January, 1865, I counted a hundred and forty-three. Now however, they are much scarcer, though a few pairs still build upon the hill. This assembly consisted, I believe, entirely of Crows, without any Rooks accompanying them.

A curiously large and sudden collection of these birds took place at Attingham, in the spring of 1871, when the dam at the mouth of the Tern gave way, and the lowering water left thousands of mussels, *Anodonta cygnea*, on the mud. A great number of what were at first supposed to be Rooks gathered to this feast, but it was soon discovered that they were Crows; and on looking at them through a telescope, I could not see a single Rook in the company. It is easy to conceive how gregarious, or even semi-gregarious, birds find out a supply of food by watching each other; but what a marvellous instinct must have directed these Crows, which are nowhere plentiful, to such an unexpected banquet.

The varied appetite of the Crow admits of its having very few friends; for besides feeding on carrion, including dead and dying fish, left on the land by floods, it kills young and weakly animals, sucks eggs, and takes grain of all kinds, whilst it only occasionally does some good by devouring insects and caterpillars.

At a farmhouse near the Wrekin all kinds of young poultry, more especially ducklings, were constantly carried off by these birds.

The Crow usually builds in high trees, either in fields or open woods; but in this respect it accommodates itself to circumstances, for Mr. H. Auden found a nest on the Longmynds in a bush only about eight feet from the ground, and Mr. Mitchell, in his *Birds of Lancashire*, states that, "among the hills of the Lake District, it is placed in thorn bushes hardly out of arm's length." The eggs are slightly larger than those of the Rook, which they much resemble.

I strongly suspect that the Crow sometimes interbreeds with the Rook. In March, 1882, a solitary nest was built in a small wood at Leighton, some distance from the rookery, by two birds, one of which was a Rook, as evidenced by the white space at the base of the bill; while the other from its larger size, black face, and hoarser croak, was apparently a Crow. It might have been a black-faced Rook; but I do not think that it was, as, when flying, it appeared to be altogether larger than its companion, and at all times was a much shyer bird. Unfortunately the nest was deserted before any eggs were laid. An old gamekeeper once assured me that when a single nest was built not far from a rookery, it was often the result of this cross-pairing; and that he had frequently shot both the birds. If persons who have the opportunity would watch these isolated nests, they might be able to confirm his statement. It would, however, be necessary to procure the two parents, as the Rook sometimes breeds before it has lost the black bristles at the base of its bill.

On the moorlands of South Shropshire the Crow, notwithstanding constant persecution, is often to be seen. It is, to some extent, a migratory bird; for I have noticed that keepers' "gibbets"—by no means bad criterions of the abundance or scarcity in the district of those ill-fated creatures they are pleased to designate "vermin"—contain Crows more frequently in spring than at any other season.

HOODED CROW, *Corvus cornix*.

An accidental visitor of rare occurrence during its migrations in spring and autumn, and one which is most frequently found after high gales. This Crow is another example of a migrant that is rare in the west and common in the east of the kingdom; for, whilst it is a regular and numerous winter visitor to Norfolk and Suffolk, it is scarcely known in Wales.

Unlike the Raven and the Carrion Crow, it does not appear to have been more numerous in bygone years than it is at present, as Eyton only records one killed at Eyton on the Wealdmoors; and Rocks says:—"Occasionally met with, but not very common: has been killed here in one instance." In October, 1881, a Hooded Crow was obtained at Walcot, near Bishop's Castle, and another at Ellesmere; there is specimen in the Shrewsbury Museum which was shot at Tedsmere, in the spring of 1885;

one was caught at Willey Park, in March, 1889; and two others were killed, one near Leebotwood, and the other near Market Drayton, in October of the last-named year.

Besides these instances of its appearance, the late Mr. Thomas Woodward, of Hopton Court, near Cleobury Mortimer, informed me that it occasionally occurred about the Cleve Hills. Mr. R. B. Benson once saw one near Church Stretton, and probably a few others have been seen.

In North Wales, only one has come under Mr. Ruddy's notice, this was a bird killed near Palé, in November, 1887, and which was an unknown species to the local gamekeepers.

To English game-preservers the Hooded Crow is comparatively harmless, as it migrates northward before the breeding season begins; but the Scottish sportsman regards it in a different light. Its food is much the same as that of Raven and the Crow, though during its stay in England it is more maritime in its habits, and principally subsists on shell-fish and refuse strewn along the sea shore or the banks of tidal rivers.

Although for a long time regarded as different, there is now a very general opinion that the two Crows are merely varieties or races of one and the same species.

In the fourth edition of Yarrell's *British Birds*, the editor, Professor Newton, writes:—"Evidence accumulated during many years, through the observation of ornithologists of many countries and of many schools, seems at last to compel the conclusion that no specific distinction can be maintained between the birds long known scientifically as *Corvus corone* and *Corvus cornix*, and in English as the Black or Carrion Crow and the Grey, Hooded or Royston Crow.

True it is that each for the most part may be readily recognized from the other by its different coloration; that each has a different range, and, to some extent, slightly different habits; but when we find that, in the districts in which both occur, they breed together commonly and indiscriminately, that the offspring sometimes combine the characters of both parents, and sometimes favour one or the other of them, or that in the same brood all three phases appear, or again that the progeny of parents belonging to one form may present all the characteristics of the other, it seems almost impossible for a scientific naturalist to retain the time-honoured belief that the two forms are distinct species." And to this he adds:—"In the technical sense of the term, not an atom of structural difference has been found between the Black and the Grey Crows. Taking in hand a typical specimen of each, there is nought to distinguish them but colour."

Hancock and Gray too, both of whom have had good opportunities of studying these birds in Scotland, are of opinion that they are only forms of one species.

ROOK, *Corvus frugilegus*.

The question whether the Rook is a friend or a foe to agriculture will ever remain a debateable one; but the fact should not be lost sight of that, whilst it does some harm for a few weeks, it undoubtedly does a great deal of good during most of the year. At the same time, now that nearly all its natural enemies have gone, it seems incumbent on owners of rookeries annually to restrict the number of the birds by killing at least a portion of the young ones, and so prevent them from increasing to an undue extent.

There can be no doubt that in spring and autumn the Rook does considerable mischief in newly-sown cornfields, especially in those which are sown early or late; for, when the sowing is general, the birds scatter themselves over so wide an area that the grain they take from any one field is inappreciable. Besides, I have frequently killed Rooks on freshly-sown land that, on being opened, proved to have been feeding more upon caterpillars than upon corn. In spring, the Rook is very fond of digging up newly-planted potatoes; and in summer it does considerable damage in fields of ripening beans and peas, as well as among corn that has been laid by storms. In autumn, too, its visits to walnut trees are troublesome; and in severe winters it pecks into turnips, causing the root to rot, and pulls the thatch off stacks. These are its chief misdeeds, so far as the farmer is concerned; and doubtless, in moderate numbers, Rooks benefit rather than injure him. Unluckily they sometimes do unintentional mischief; for when they flock to a field where the crop has been attacked by caterpillars, they uproot the plants in order to reach the grub.

In spring and summer, especially when the ground is hard, and grubs are, in consequence difficult to obtain, they become very omnivorous, and prey, amongst other things, upon young birds, including poultry, carrion, and eggs of all kinds. In such seasons I have known several Rooks taken daily in traps, baited with egg-shells or pieces of flesh. They also, like Crows, resort to fields that have been flooded, to feed upon stranded fish and mussels; but with the exception of acorns, which they are remarkably fond of picking off and from underneath the trees, they do not eat any wild fruit or seeds of weeds.

It is difficult to distinguish between the young of the Crow and Rook, but the latter has a smaller bill, thinner legs, and is altogether a less robust bird than the former.

After the first moult the Rook usually loses the facial bristles which cover the base of the bill, and begins also to lose the surrounding feathers, leaving at first a small, and, as the bird gets older a larger circle of bare, white, warty skin, by which it is easily known.

This, however, is not invariably the case; and, occasionally,

Rooks are found a year and more old that have lost neither the bristles nor the feathers. They are thus only to be known from Crows by the purple glossy colouring of their backs, and the more silky texture of their feathers.

On the 4th June, 1875, I obtained one of these black-faced Rooks which still retained its facial bristles and feathers, although it had been breeding; and again on the 3rd of September, 1881, I killed another, also a bird that had bred, with feathers on the face like a Crow, but in all other respects a veritable Rook. Both of these specimens were in good plumage, and appeared to be healthy birds.

Several times, too, in the breeding season, I have noticed black-faced Rooks mated with others. It may be that the occasional retention of these feathers for so much longer a period than usual, is accidental; or it may be that, if my surmise that the Crow and the Rook sometimes mate together, be correct, these black-faced birds are their progeny, and in this particular resemble their Crow parent. From being a wary and unapproachable bird, the Rook, as soon as pairing-time commences, becomes not only tame and familiar, but seems to delight in the society of man. So much is this the case indeed, that when it builds in woods, it prefers the trees nearest to some house; and it also likes to build in towns.

When the young can fly well, they are taken off to the fields, and, though the rookery is visited almost daily, no birds roost there till the breeding-season begins, early in March. Probably in winter Rooks resort, like Starlings, to certain favourite roosting places. At Eaton Constantine, from October till the end of February, a large straggling flock passed over the village every morning, flying towards the south-east, and in the afternoon returned towards the north-west; but whence these birds came, or whither they went, I could never discover.

In severe weather Rooks become very tame, and many are thoughtlessly killed. In the intense frost of December and January, 1890-1, in many places they came to feed with small birds on the grain and crumbs thrown from windows; and they were also seen to kill starved and weakly birds.

JACKDAW, *Corvus monedula*.

The most abundant of the family, except the Rook, the quaint, merry Jackdaw is common alike in country and in town; breeding in hollow trees, ruins, churches, and other buildings, wherever it can find a suitable hole.

About Bridgnorth, where it is very numerous, it inhabits holes and cavities in the sandstone rock, nesting in large or small colonies, as it finds accommodation; and Mr. C. R. Gaven informs me that in Chetwynd Park, near Newport, it nests down rabbit-holes, on the slope of a steep hill locally called a "scaur."

Occasionally, too, it lays in old Rooks' nests, or builds amongst ivy; and I fear that one cause of the decrease of the White and Tawny Owls is that their holes are too often invaded by this noisy bird.

Standing one day on the English bridge in Shrewsbury, I was amused by a Jackdaw which was building in a neighbouring turret. Several times it happened that when carrying sticks by the middle, it could not get them through the aperture; so, flying off onto the roof, it took them by one end, and thus easily pushed them in to its mate.

After the breeding season is over, Jackdaws leave the towns, and go about either by themselves or, more generally, in company with Rooks; but in severe weather they quickly resort to the neighbourhood of houses and farm-yards.

Few articles in the way of food comes amiss to this bird, for it picks up street refuse, kills young birds, sucks eggs, and eats grain of all kinds, as well as carrion. In dove-cotes it is an especial nuisance, for not only does it so terrify the inmates that they quickly forsake the building, but it will kill both the old and the young pigeons.

In fact it is, I should say, the most mischievous and least useful of the tribe.

After all these iniquities, however, the Jackdaw is such a gay, light-hearted fellow, that he will ever possess friends who will be sure to encourage him, and even to laugh at his misdemeanours. In spring, too, his glossy dress of black and grey gives him a dignified look so totally at variance with his real character, that it adds a ludicrous air to his grave appearance.

MAGPIE, *Pica caudata*

Although much persecuted on all sides on account of its propensity for sucking eggs, the lively, handsome Magpie is still a common resident. And apart from this weakness, it is a harmless, nay, even useful bird; for though it occasionally kills a young or weakly chick, it does not care for grain, and is usually to be seen hopping over grass fields searching for grubs and worms. No egg, however, is safe from it; and one summer I knew of a pair that watched a turkey laying in a hedge, and, as soon as she had left the nest, proceeded to suck the egg. The Magpie, is to a certain extent, migratory; and during some winters flocks of twenty, or thirty, or even more, are to be found throughout the season, but usually they pass on southward in autumn, to reappear in spring. At this season Eyton had evidently noticed these migratory flocks; though he erroneously attributed them to the assembling together of the birds engaged in breeding, when he says:—"More than two or three of these birds are seldom seen together; but in March and April, after they have built their nests, I have observed flights of forty or fifty roost in the same plantation."

The winters of 1860-1, 1864-5, 1869-70, 1879-80, and 1880-1, were remarkable for the abundance of Magpies; and as the severe weather caused a scarcity of food, great was the slaughter among them. It was not unusual, indeed, to take five or six from the same trap in a single day.

The well-wooded district around Ellesmere, surrounded as it is by a wide tract of partly-enclosed, partly-wild country, is a very usual place for these migratory Magpies to tarry in. One afternoon, early in March 1880, I counted no less than sixty-four crossing over Crosemere Mere to roost in an adjacent plantation of thick firs; and although I never again saw so many, large numbers came for several evenings to roost in the wood round Colemere Mere.

Mr. G. H. Paddock, also informs me that near Newport, in the spring of 1885, he saw as many as thirty-seven together.

In spring, too, I have sometimes observed these birds passing over at a considerable height, and evidently intent upon travelling, their prolonged and even flight being quite unlike their usual desultory motion when flitting from tree to tree.

The Magpie chooses various sites for its large-domed nest, which in early spring, is a conspicuous object in some poplar or other tall tree. It would seem that the birds then hope to escape molestation from the height of the position; for, after the leaves are fully out, lower situations are chosen, and twice I have found a nest in a thick hawthorn bush, less than six feet from the ground, so that the eggs could easily be seen. Few nests, too, are made more use of than that of the Magpie, as for years after the original owners have vacated it, both Great and Blue Tits, House and Tree Sparrows, occupy its interior. Then as the dome decays, the Kestrel and the Sparrow-hawk lay in it; and in the last stage of its existence, the Wood-pigeon uses the platform whereon to deposit her two eggs.

Varieties of this bird are seldom seen; but in November, 1864, a bird of the year with purely white plumage and bill and legs nearly so was killed at Upton Magna.

The Magpie does not appear to be common in North Wales.

JAY, *Garrulus, glandarius*.

This handsome bird is still common in many of our large woods, though it suffers heavily at the hands of gamekeepers; for, not only does it suck eggs and kill nestling birds, but its bright plumes are ever in request for making artificial flies, and for ornaments. It is also mischievous in gardens which lie in the neighbourhood of woods, as it greedily eats cherries, as well as beans and peas.

At the same time, it consumes a considerable quantity of insect food; for some young ones that were taken by a keeper's son at Leighton, and put into a cage near the nest, so that the old ones

could feed them, were chiefly supplied with caterpillars, varied now and then with beans and peas.

Few birds are more watchful than the Jay, and anything unusual stirring in a wood, whether by day or night, is almost certain to call forth its harsh scolding cries. It has also a peculiar faculty for concealing itself; and will sit motionless in a tree or bush, its bright eyes peering in all directions, till it deems all danger past. When undisturbed, especially in "spring, its common note is a soft whistle, varied now and then with a low croak. Although seldom seen far away from woods, its great liking for acorns and beech-nuts induces it in autumn to wander into the open country; and it may then be seen in small parties, flitting from tree to tree. The nest of the Jay is usually well hidden, and placed at no great height, either in a low tree or a bush. About the Wrekin, where these birds are still very common, a favourite site for the nest was a hawthorn, surrounded by tall gorse; and I have found it occasionally built in a high brake of gorse.

Eyton, who had unusual facilities for watching this bird in the thick woods about Eyton, noticed that if its eggs were "touched or disturbed" they were "sure shortly to disappear," and suggests that they may be "carried off by the bird to some safer situation." In woods where game is not much preserved, Jays are often gregarious in winter; and it is not unusual to find fifteen or twenty together.

It is curious how birds of even the size of a Jay become paralysed with fear at the sight of a hawk; though they are seldom attacked by it. One day I was walking up a dingle near the Wrekin, when a Sparrow-hawk flew by; and I afterwards found several Jays, that had been feeding by the brook, so frightened that they would scarcely fly; but kept hopping and creeping among the bushes.

The Starling, Raven, Jackdaw, Magpie, and Jay are the only British birds that are able to imitate the human voice. Of these the Raven is said to be the most proficient; then the Magpie, Jay, and Starling, and lastly the Jackdaw, which seldom gets beyond calling itself "Jack."

It is needless to say that the barbarous practice of slitting the tongues of these birds rather detracts from their vocal powers than contributes to their development.

GREEN WOODPECKER, *Picus viridis*.

This bird is more generally distributed than the other two species; as its fondness for ants, which in summer and autumn constitute its principal food, leads it to stray from woods on to bare hills and uplands. And when, as often happens on high ground, there is a combination of wood interspersed with open glades, abounding in ant-hills, the Green Woodpecker is certain to be found.

This is the case about the Wrekin, where in spring in warm showery weather, its loud ringing laugh and the variations of its repeated taps on some tree, are delightful rural sounds.

The Heighoe, as it is commonly called, is also fond of frequenting parks where old trees are decaying, as well as pollard willows by streams and pools where insect food abounds.

It is a pleasing sight to see a pair of these birds boring a hole for their nest. After a circular orifice has been made either in the bole or one of the larger branches of a tree, as true as if marked out by a compass, one of them enters and stocks away the wood, while the other remains close by, ready to share the task; and so rapid is their united work, that the ground beneath is soon thickly strewn with chips. Indeed, when not seeking for its nest, I have often been attracted to it by noticing the fragments thus thrown out lying at the foot of a tree.

This, the largest of our Woodpeckers now that the Great Black Woodpecker, *P. martius*, is no longer considered to be British, is much more shy than the two next species, and seldom comes near houses. It is a very beautiful bird, whether in the adult or immature plumage; and is seen to the best advantage when clinging to a tree before commencing its search for insects. Yet its gay dress often brings about its destruction; and ruthless people shoot it down in order to secure its plumes, or to have it stuffed for an ornament.

This bird excavates a nesting hole in a single tree just as often as in a wood; though in the former case it is usually disturbed by Starlings. In its choice of a tree, no particular kind seems to be preferred; but probably its instinct usually leads it to select one where inward decay has begun, and the process of boring made easier in consequence. I have frequently found it breeding in the ash, wych and common elms, alder, willow, sweet chestnut, and crab, and less commonly in the poplar, sycamore, walnut, and oak. The eggs which are laid upon fine dust and chips, without any attempt at a nest, are pure shining white, but occasionally they become spotted and stained from contact with the wood.

Before the young can fly, they climb about the tree, and are then fed by the old ones with moths and caterpillars. I once came upon a family of three young ones near Leighton, and after watching their parents feeding them for some time, walked towards the tree, when the old birds, throwing off their shyness, flew round and round, uttering a low plaintive laugh, and now and then alighting on the ground close by. In the meanwhile the young quietly but quickly retreated into their hole.

This Woodpecker suffers severely in hard winters; and in such seasons is no doubt migratory. In those of 1860-1, 1874-5, 1879-80, 1881-2, numbers were brought to the birdstuffers in a miserable state of starvation; and many of them were said to have been killed with stones.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER, *Picus major*.

Although rather rare in summer, there is no woodland district where one or two pairs of this bird are not occasionally, if not regularly, to be found breeding ; whilst in some winters it has been so numerous that migrants must certainly have visited us. The years 1864, 1868, 1874, 1879, 1880, 1882, and 1889, were remarkable for the number of Spotted Woodpeckers obtained and seen during the months of October, November, and December ; most of which, as is often the case with visitors from the North, were either females or young birds, the old males being apparently better able to withstand rigorous seasons than their partners or offspring. The breeding habits of the Green and the Spotted Woodpecker are much alike, except that the present bird more frequently nests in parks and woods than in solitary trees ; and, as such places are seldom invaded by the unscrupulous egg-collector or the bird-nesting boy, it has a better chance of rearing its brood.

This immunity from danger, has, indeed, so contributed towards its increase that it is now resident in localities where a few years ago it was only of occasional occurrence. In 1838, Eyton wrote that it was "not so common as the other two species ;" while Roche, in 1866, says :—"Much more rare than the preceding bird, though a good many are to be found in this county. They also breed pretty regularly with us. I knew of a nest last year on the banks of the Clun, which I trust came to maturity." But Mr. G. H. Paddock, in his *Notes on the Birds found near Newport*, published in 1890, remarks :—"I see this species so frequently that I must look upon it as being the most common Woodpecker in our neighbourhood ; though a dozen or more years ago this was not the case, the Green Woodpecker then being the one which I most frequently saw and heard."

My own notes, too, for more than thirty years, evidence that it has much increased of late, and that it now constantly breeds near Shifnal, round the Wrekin, about Ellesmere, Oswestry, Haughmond hill, Berwick, Attingham, and along the valley of the Severn from Atcham to the confines of Worcestershire ; whilst in South Shropshire it is even more generally distributed. This bird does not often bore a nest-hole for itself. An oak near the Wrekin was bored by a pair of Green Woodpeckers in 1874, and occupied by them for several summers ; then for some years a pair of Spotted Woodpeckers nested in it, after which the original excavators again took possession. The tree in question, I may remark, was apparently a healthy and growing one, as up to the year 1888, neither its bark, foliage, nor branches, showed signs of incipient decay.

This bird frequently, also, hollows out a shallow receptacle for its eggs in the decayed wood of old and pollard trees ; and at Coumd a pair for many years reared their brood in a fissure of a partly split tree only four feet from the ground.

With the exception of a sharp note like the syllable *gick* quickly repeated, the Spotted Woodpecker has no vocal note; it produces, however, a very remarkable instrumental one, which probably serves as an amatory call, and is also made by both sexes when their nest is in danger.

This sound, which can be heard for some distance, and is like a continuous creaking or hammering, is made by the bird rapidly and repeatedly striking some dead and naked branch; whilst it now and then turns round or runs up and down as if highly proud of itself, and eager to secure a point that will give off the loudest vibrations.

When the bird is alarmed, however, it produces the same sound from any part of a tree, or even from a rail; and the best way to observe the operation is to stand quietly by its nesting-tree.

This species is more familiar than the last, and is not unfrequently noticed in gardens and orchards; it is also more arboreal in its habits, and is rarely seen upon the ground.

Besides insects, this Woodpecker is said to eat fruit, acorns, and nuts; but the late Henry Shaw, who was in the habit of examining the food of birds sent to him for preservation, was of opinion that both this and the next species ate vegetable matter only when it was decayed and contained insects or their larvæ.

Writing from Palé, near Corwen, Mr. Ruddy informs me that the Green Woodpecker is common, the Great Spotted Woodpecker scarce, and the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker rare in that part of Wales.

(To be continued).

HISTORY OF SHREWSBURY HUNDRED OR LIBERTIES.

BY THE LATE REV. JOHN BRICKDALE BLAKEWAY, M.A.

Continued from 2nd Series, Vol. II., p. 358.

CROWMEOLE AND GOOSEHILL.

A TOWNSHIP IN THE PARISH OF ST. CHAD.

AT the time of the Domesday survey, and no doubt also in the Saxon times, though that is not expressed, the Bishop of Chester held one manor, Melam, in the hundred of the city, i.e., within the liberties of Shrewsbury. "Non est neque fuit hospitatum;"¹ that is, as I understand it, those who occupy it under the Bishop do not reside upon it. As it appears from Domesday that the Bishop had certain cottages and burgesses in Shrewsbury,—(the burgesses of that time and long after were little better than cottagers),—it is probable that they were employed in the tillage of this property, from which they could so readily return home every night to their cottages in the town.

Buildwas Abbey was erected some time between 1128, when its founder, Roger Clinton, succeeded to the see of Coventry, and 1139, when it is noticed in a charter of King Stephen; and either Clinton or one of his immediate successors granted to those monks the

¹ [Hospitatum, a word equivalent to colonatum. It occurs elsewhere in Domesday: a domus hospitata is opposed to mansio vasta. The Bishop's manor was not occupied by any Burgesses or other Free Tenants, nor was it geldable. Domesday states that in the time of King Edward it rendered 20s.; it now renders 17s. 4d. Cf. Eyton vi., 359, 360.—Ed.]

tithe of corn, for so I understand the words "collecta bladi," of this manor. This Collecta was called Church-omber,¹ i.e., as I suppose, an alms given to the Church. But the manor itself continued in the see till 1192, when Hugh Nonant, the fourth successor to Clinton, conferred upon the monks of Buildwas, "*villam de Meola cum omnibus pertinentiis suis, et burgenses² de Salopesburi ad nos pertinentes*"—the vill of Meole with all its appurtenances and the burgesses of Shrewsbury to us belonging—"et collectum bladi³ quæ appelletur

¹ [Eyton points out that the impost called *Cherchombre* was an ecclesiastical due, a right to collect corn, a charge assessable on the Hundreds of Recordine and Conodovre by the Bishops of Coventry and Lichfield. This charge was made over by Bishop Peeche to the monks of Buildwas; and payment to these monks was sometimes resisted. Cf. Eyton vi., 327-9, 359.—Ed.]

² [Were these burgesses of Shrewsbury thus made over resident on the land of Meole, or within the walls of Shrewsbury? Eyton points out that sixteen burgesses of Shrewsbury, not connected with Meole, had belonged to the Domesday Bishop of Chester; and he suggests that some of these burgesses were occupying the land of Meole in the time of Bishop Clinton. *Ibid.*—Ed.]

³ WINTERDYNE, Nov. 21, 1814.

DEAR SIR,

I am extremely sorry that it is not in my power to give you a satisfactory explanation of the phrase, "collectum bladi." The obvious meaning of the words might seem to refer to Tythe in kind, when applied to a particular parish, but it appears from a charter confirmed to Buildwas by Ric. Ist., A.D. 1189, that this privilege extended to the Hundreds of Wroewardyn and Cundover, "*et collectam bladi quæ vocatur Chirtumber de duobus Hundredis de Wroewordin et Conedovere*;" of course, it could not be Tythe.

I conceive this claim must have been something of the nature of what was called *Chirset* or *Churchesset*, which was a tribute of corn presented to the Church on St. Martin's Day (see Cowel). The word Ambry, pronounced also Aumbry, is a contraction of Almonary. It was a place in the Monasteries where the provisions destined for the poor were kept and distributed. Now we have only to suppose the word Church-omber, or rather *ombre*, coming from a Norman with an accent on the last syllable, and Church-ambry becomes Chirt-ambrière, which may reasonably be interpreted Church-alms, a Church tribute. The change from ombrière to ombre is very easily allowable. This is conjectural, and I have in vain looked into all the Glossaries for

Churchomber quam predecessores nostri habuisse & eisdem Monachis contulisse nos pertinentem ad manerium de Buildwas & Meoles."

CONFIRMATION BY HUGH, BISHOP OF COVENTRY AND LICHFIELD,
TO BUILDWAS ABBEY, 1192.

Omnibus Sancte Matris ecclesie filiis ad quos litere presentes pervenerint, Hugo servac'one divine Coventrensis episcopus salutem in vero salutari Noverit universitas vestra nos attendentes predecessorum nostrorum bone memorie Rogeri Walteri Ricardi episcoporum instituta et eorum in similibus premia ratione volentes sequi vestigia intuitu quoque honestatis & pauperitatis monachorum de Bildewas, concessisse eisdem et presenti carta nostra confirmasse locum de Bildewas in quo Deo militant sub regula beati Benedicti et ordine Cisterciensium cum omnibus pertinentiis suis in bosco & plano in piscariis in aquis in pasturis et pratis et omnibus aliis ad eundem locum pertinentibus Villamque de Meola cum omnibus pertinentiis suis et burgenses de Salopesburi ad nos pertinentes et tenuram que fuit edrici juxta lichesfeld et iij^{or} solidos in molendino de burna et dimidiam mansuram in foriate apud cestre que fuit herberti scriptoris et collectam bladi que apellatur Chirch-omber quam predecessores nostri habuisse et eisdem monachis contulisse noscuntur pertinentem ad manerium de Bildewas & Meoles, inperpetuum possidenda & suis iuribus profutura. Ut autem hec nostra concessio futuris temporibus rata et inconcussa permaneant eam sigilli nostri ualitura inperpetuum munimine consensu animus et auctoritate capituli nostri de Couentre et capituli nostri de lichesfeld dependentibus eorum sigillis communiuimus. Data

Church-omber, nor is the word known in the offices in London, as occurring in other deeds. It would have given me great satisfaction if I could have furnished a better account, but I can only say—"Quod est, eo decet uti."

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

W. M. MOSELEY.

Upon looking at the Survey of Buildwas at the Dissolution, I perceive the Abbey had a tenement at Monke Heys, let to Hugh Burley at the rent of 13s. 4d. per ann., and a farm at Monke Meyll et Monke Eye, alias Crowmeole, let to Will. Mytton at the rent of £13 6s. 8d. per ann. Nothing is said of Tythe or other dues. (*Quære* if Church-omber is connected with Ember, a circuit or course, whence ember weeks?)

apud Bildewas anno pontificatus nostro quinto, die dominica in festo S^{ce} Cecilie, multis uenerabilibus personis astantibus, Anno ab incarnatione domini M^o C. xc. ii^o. His testibus : Hugone abb'e de Salopesburi, Rob. abb'e de Basigbeg, Ricardo abb'e de Hagemo', Rob'to priore de Weneloc, Willo filio Alani, Rodberto Corbet, Henrico archidiacono de Stafford, Ricardo archidiacono de Salopesburi, Mag'ro Rob'to de Salopesbi, Mag'ro Ricardo de gnevsale, Mag'ro Willo Duredent, Mag'ro Henr' de Bredeshale, Rog' Corbet, Willo de hedlehe, Stephano de Stantun, Ricardo de lehtun, Macolumbo de Herlehe, Alano de Bildewas & multis aliis.

(*Ex autographo penes prænob. com. de Bridgewater*).

In the Hundred Roll or feodary of the liberties of Shrewsbury, about 7 Edward I., the Abbot of Byldewas is stated to hold the grange of Meole within the liberty and hundred of Salop of the gift of Roger, formerly Bishop of Chester, from the first foundation of the Abbey, and there are there in demesne five carucates of arable land, and they are worth by the year £10 ; also one acre of meadow worth by the year half a mark. "Item 1 molend aquat'. et 1 molend equar.", I suppose a water-mill and a horse mill, worth by the year £4, and a fish pool of half an acre. It is a proof of the slight way in which any researches of antiquity were conducted in those inquests, that the donation is said to have been made at the foundation of Buildwas, which did not take place for half a century afterwards. (But Mr. Moseley says that Monk Meole was granted to Buildwas at the foundation!) All the monastic orders were of use in reducing the country to a state of cultivation. The Cistercians, to whom Buildwas belonged, were more especially so. Agriculture was one of their express objects (Whitaker's *History of Whalley*, p. 107). They kept most of their land in their own hands ; and hence, in the entry just quoted, this is called the grange of Meole. The same entry further shows the good state to which they brought their land, for five carucates at £10 is 4d. an acre, equal, according to the usual computation, to 9s. 4d. of present money. However, in the Valor of Pope

Nicholas, not ten years later, both the quantity and quality of their land is reduced in value; the carucates are but four, and the rate of each only 14s., little more than $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. an acre; but the profits of their stock is £5 15s. 3d., and their mill £1.

In the 27th of the same reign, 1299, among the assizes of Salop in the Chapter House of Westminster, is one to ascertain whether William—(on the very same roll, but just before he is called *Henry*, and that, I believe, was his real name)—abbot of Buldewas, had disseised Robt. Ivon of Shulton of common in Meles monachorum, belonging to his freehold of Shulton. The abbot's bailiff pleads: "quod Meles Moygnes non est villa nec hamelettum," that Monk Meole is neither township nor hamlet: "et si convincatur esse, tunc &c.;" and if it be proved to be township or hamlet, then he pleads that the name of the place is Shelton, not Shulton; and if it be proved to be Shulton, then he pleads that——; but I did not think it worth while to transcribe the remainder of the record, as at last it was adjourned, and therefore I am unable to state the final result.

26 Edw. III. Hugh abbot & y^e convent of Buldewas, demise to Tho. de Mutton of Salop, for 99 years, a certain placea of land of our lordship of Monkemele, called Monkysuge, which Galfrid Randulf of Salop formerly held of our ancessors.

8 Hen. IV. David Holbache grants to Reginald Mutton of Salop his estate & term in the grange of Monkemele, he paying the ferme & dues to Buildewas Abbey.

7 April, 26 Hen. VIII., Stephen abbot of Byldwas & the convent demise to Richard Mitton of Morehalle, co. Warwick, Esq., all their lands, etc., in Monkemeole & Monk-Eye, otherwise called Crow-mele, for 99 years, after the determination of a former lease of the same granted 2 April, 22 Hen. VII., by William late abbot and the convent to William Mitton late of Shrewsbury, Esquier.

[This last lease would expire at Lady Day, 1706.]

On the Dissolution, the manor or grange of Cormeil and Monkmeil was granted to Edward Grey, Lord Powis, in 29 Henry VIII.,—(The clause in the original grant of Henry VIII., which, by the favour of Mr. Moseley I inspected, signed at top with the royal signature from the stamp which he made use of, is,—“and also all those manors or granges called Harnage grange, Hatton grange, Ruckley grange, Stricheley grange, Cormeil and Monkmeil grange, Bilton otherwise Bicketon grange.” In the grant of King James, as extracted in *MS. Edwards*, it is “the manor or grange of Monkmeyle grange, Monkheyes, Monkmeyle, Monkey, Crowmeil, Biketon and Bilton,”)—with the other possessions of the monastery of Buildwas, from whom they vested in his natural son Edward Grey.¹ What has been said of the alienation of Bicketon by that gentleman to Edward Foxe, of the subsequent recovery to him and Edward Leighton, of Charles Foxe’s feoffment to Thomas Leighton and others, and of it holding by the feoffees in 36 Elizabeth, equally applies to this place. In some of these conveyances it appears by the name of Monk eye; and in 1 Jac., 20 March, the manor or grange of Monckmeyle, Monckheyes, Monckeye, Crowmeil, Bikton, and Bilton, and all other manors or granges, and other lands in villa predicta are granted to Henry Fox, Esq., in fee of the old rent (*MS. Edwards*).

31 Oct., 11 Jac. [1613],² Richard Coxe of London, gent., conveys to Henry Foxe, of the Hurst, Esq., a moiety of the manor farm and grange of Crowmyle, alias Munkmyle and Munkey, and a moiety of the

¹ [In Additional MS., 30,322, is given, at fo. 69, the Inquis p. m. taken 14 Aug., 1 Elizabeth, after the death of Sir Edw. Graye, Knt., Lord Powes, which relates to Crockmill, Bickton, and Munkhill Granges; and at fo. 90, the Inq. p. m. taken 30 Dec., 7 Elizabeth, after the death of Richard (son of George) Vernon, Esq., which relates to the same.—Ed.]

² [See this Deed in Additional MS. 30,321, fo. 96.—Ed.]

manor farm and grange of Bicton granted by King Henry VIII. to the late right honble. Edward Greye, knt., lord Powis.

Nov. 23, 13 Jac. [1615].¹ The said Richard Coxe, then of Eastnor, co. Hereford, Esq., and sheriff of y^e same, declared the use of a fine of the above to Richard Mytton of Hallstone, Esq.

As to Crowmeole, it was the place anciently called Monke-eye. In the compotus of Buildwas Abbey in the hands of Mr. Moseley, at the time of the dissolution, one of the heads is, "Monke Meyll et Monke Eye, alias vocat' Crowmell." William Mytton was tenant of this at the rent of £13 6s. 8d. per ann. There was also a tenement at Monke Heys, which I conceive to be the same as Monk eye, let to Hugh Burley at the rent of 13s. 4d. per ann.²

The tithe of herbage of pasture called Monky mele, in the suburb of Salop, belonged to the collegiate church of St. Chad, under which at the time of the dissolution of colleges 1 Edward VI., it was holden by Nicholas Purcell at a rent of 13. 4d. It was then 22 June, 1548, leased to Geo. Beston, Esq., for twenty-one years with the rest of St. Chad's possessions. With them it was on the 21st of Elizabeth, 11 April, 1579, granted out to her favourite, Sir Christopher Hatton, by the name of the tithe of Munk Eye, parcel of the dissolved College of St. Chad. Sir Christopher the day following conveyed it to Tho. Crompton and John Morley, who, on the 30th of April in the following year, sold it to Thomas Owen and Rowland Watson, Esquires, of Lincoln's Inn, the first of whom was a judge, a native of this town, and the founder of the Condovery family; and he and Watson on Nov. 28,

¹ [*Ibid* fo. 109.—Ed.]

² [The Valor of 1535-6 describes the Buildwas estate of Crow Meole and Monk Meole as *Cronyet* and *Monkemeyt*. It then realised £13 6s. 8d. per annum; also from Monkehayles a revenue of 13s. 4d. arose. The Ministers' Accounts of 1536-7 give the same two sums as arising from Monkmeyle and Monke-eye. Cf. Eyton vi., 360.—Ed.]

1588, conveyed these tithes¹ to the Corporation of Shrewsbury. In this purchase, which was made with the money bequeathed by Thomas Blakemore, notary publick of London, towards the maintenance of a preacher in St. Chad's Church, the tithes are called those of corn and hay in Monk eye.

As to the tithes of Crowmeole, Edward VI., on the 1st June, 1549, granted the tithes of corn and hay of the grange of Crowmill to John Southcote and Henry Chiverton (or Chevinton), who, on the 4th of March in the following year, convey them to Roger Luter and Catherine his wife.² In 1605, March 3rd, Thomas Luter, son and heir of Roger, and Thomas his son, sold them to Hugh Harris, who had also another grant 6 May, 1609, from Robert Luter. Hugh Harris and Eleanor his wife, May 8, 1614, to Leonard Hinckes; Hinckes on July 1, 1633, to Nicholas Tench, merchant, of London, whose son, Nathaniel Tench of London, Esq., in 1674, Dec. 18, settled them on feoffees for the benefit of the minister of St. Chad's.

As the Cistertian houses were exempt from the payment of tithes, etc., even if this had not been the case, the house of Buildwas was entitled to the *collecta bladi* in Monke meole from the time almost of its foundation, the right of the College of St. Chad to these tithes must ascend to a period of the remotest antiquity, anterior to the claim of Cistertian exemption, and at least cœval with the age of Roger de Clinton.

[By Indenture, dated 29 March, 1637, 13 Charles I., and made between the Bailiffs and Burgesses of Salop of the one part and Richard Pool, Clerk, M.A., on the other part. It was witnessed that the said Bailiffs and Burgesses did appoint the said Richard Pool to be Minister and Curate of St. Chad

¹ [In the Indenture of 28 Nov., 81 Elizabeth, they are thus described:—"All these their tithes of sheaves, corn, grain, hay, and of the herbage of a certain pasture called Monk Eye, in the suburbs of the said town of Salop."—Ed.]

² [Hugh Edwards, by deed 6 March, 1550, releases and confirms the same tithes to Roger Luther.—Ed.]

(vacant by the resignation of Peter Studley, Clerk, M.A., late Minister and Curate there); and did grant unto him (*inter alia*) all the tenths and tithes of corn, grain, hay, or herbage arising in one pasture called the Monk Eye, lying in the suburbs of the town of Salop, for three score years, if the said Richard Pool should so long live, and should be dwelling within the said town, and preach within the said Church. A similar grant was probably made to the succeeding Incumbents of St. Chad's.

The following is a further abstract of Mr. Tench's settlement of the tithes of Crow Meole, referred to above:—

By Indenture, dated 18 December, 1674, 26 Charles II., and made between Nathaniel Tench of London, son and heir of Nicholas Tench, late of the City of London, merchant, deceased, of the one part, and Rowland Middleton, Esq., Mayor, Adam Ottley, Thomas Baldwin, Esqs., Samuel Lloyd, Richard Taylor, Thomas Cotton, Roger Griffith, William Thine, John Hill, Edward Gosner, Arthur Hincks, and Robert Forrester, Aldermen, Inhabitants of the Town of Shrewsbury, of the other part, It was witnessed that the said Nathl. Tench did grant, bargain, &c., unto the said parties, All those the tithes and tenths of corn, grain, and hay, and all other tithes and tenths whatsoever growing upon the farm and grange of Crow Meole in co. Salop, To hold to them, Upon Trust that an anniversary sermon in divinity be duly preached yearly in the parish church of St. Chad on the 6th June (being the birthday of said Nathl. Tench) by the Minister of the said parish for the time being, And to pay the rents unto such Minister half-yearly: in default of the Minister preaching such Sermon, or of his not residing in the parish, then the same to go to the poor of St. Chad's parish.

In a letter addressed to the Mayor and Corporation, and dated 2 Feb., 1674-5, Mr. Nathl. Tench states that he "had some while since an inclination to dispose of those tithes, bought by my father Mr. Nicholas Tench deceased, and from him descended to myself, unto the Church again. I thought I could not do it more justly than to return them again to that very Church, to which by the ancient deeds it doth appear that they did formerly belong, which is the Church of St. Chadd in your town."

The estate of Crow Meole, otherwise called Monk Meole and Monk Hill, was for some period the property of the Mytton family; and in November, 1824, the late John Mytton of Halston sold it in lots by public auction. Part of the estate was conveyed by Mr. Mytton, 25

March, 1825, to John Geary, who, on 25 March, 1835, conveyed it to Richard Newcombe. Other part was conveyed by Mr. Mytton, 25 March, 1825, to Robert Niccols, who, on 25 March, 1837, conveyed it also to Mr. Newcombe. Both portions were subsequently sold to Richard Gardner, on whose death they devolved on Henry Gardner; and on 2 October, 1886, the trustees of Henry Gardner conveyed the estate to Mr. William Humphreys of Shrewsbury, the present owner. The property consists of 33 acres and a house. Mr. Humphreys also owns the Bowbrook estate and cottage, containing 32 acres, and 22 acres of land at Cophthorne.

Goosehill, now called Bow-Brook, is an old house, with 17 acres of land. Ferny-Goosehill adjoining also contains 17 acres. It was formerly Mytton's property, and afterwards belonged to Miss Jenkins, Admiral Jenkins, General Jenkins of Cruckton, and now to Mr. Wingfield of Onslow. It is now reputed in Bicton parish, though formerly it belonged to St. Chad's.

In a Court Roll of 1392 (*Curia Magna*, 16 Rich. II.) Monkemeole occurs as one of the Liberties of Shrewsbury; and in the Court Books 1668-1674 Munkmeol and Gooshill are named amongst the Liberties of the Welsh Ward. In a Court Roll of 1592-3, under Monkemeole and Gooshill, these names occur:—John Benyon, David ap John, Roger Tidder, and Richard Gittins miln'.

From the following Inquisition, dated 14 March, 1428-9, taken after the death of Reginald Mytton of Salop, it appears that he died seised in fee of (*inter alia*) the Manor or Grange of Monkemeole within the liberties of the town of Salop, and of two carucates of land in Monk Eo within the said liberties; that the said Manor or Grange was worth 20 marcs per annum, and the said two carucates six marcs; and that they were held of the King in capite; and that William Mytton was heir, being son of Richard, who was son of the said Reginald, and was then aged 18 years; and that the said Reginald died on the 20th December, 1424; and that Hugh Burley of Bromecrofte, received the rents and profits of the said Manor and lands. The following is the text of this Inquisition:—

INQUISITION POST MORTEM REGINALDI MYTTON DE SALOP, 1428-9.

Inquis. p. m. 7 Hen. VI., No. 68.

Inquisitio capta apud Wenlok xiiij die mensis Martij Anno regni Regis Henrici sexti Septimo coram Ricardo Laken Escetore domini Regis in com. Salop' et march' Wall' eidem Com adjacentibus Virtute officij sui per sacramentum (of 12 men) juratorum, qui dicunt super sacramentum suum quod Reginaldus Mytton de Salop obiit seisitus in dominico suo ut de feodo de Manerio sive Grangea de Monkemeole cum suis pertinentibus infra libertatem ville Salop', de duabus caru- catis terre cum suis pertinentibus in Monke Eo infra [predictam]

libertatem, de octo tenementis infra villam Salop' et de decem solidatis annue redditus ibidem, Solvendum ad festa pasche et sancti Michaelis Archangeli equis portionibus. Et dicunt quodum predictum manerium sive Grangea cum suis pertinentiis valet per annum xx marcas, et quod predictæ due carucatæ terre valent per annum vj marcas et quod predicta octo ten' valent per annum vj*li*. Solvendum annuatim ad festa supradicta equis portionibus. Et dicunt quod predictum Manerium sue Grange terre et tenementa predicta cum suis pertinentibus tenentur de domino Rege in capite per quod servicium ignorant. Et dicunt quod Willielmus Mytton est consanguineus et heres propinquior predicti Reginaldi, videlicet filius Ricardi filij predicti Reginaldi, et est etatis xviiij annorum et in custode domini Regis existens ratione aliarum terrarum et tenementorum in Com. Salop' Stafford' et Werw' de domino Rege tenentur in capite per servicium militare nuper Margarete matris dicti Willielmi Mytton nuper defuncte Et dicunt quod predictus Reginaldus obiit xx die Decembris Anno regni Regis nunc tertio. Et dicunt quod Hugo Burley nuper de Bromecrofte in Com' predicto redditus exitus et proficua predictorum Manerij sine Grangee duarum carucatarum terre octo tenementorum et decem solidatos annui redditus cum omnibus suis pertinentibus a tempore mortis predicti Reginaldi usque diem captionis huius Inquisitionis recepit percepit et habuit et in presenti recepit percepit et habet. In cuius rei testimonium huic Inquisitioni tam predicti Escætor quam juratores predicti sigillæ sua apposuerunt Datum loco die et anno supradictis.

The presentment of men, arms, and furniture, temp. Elizabeth, made by the constable and delivered to headquarters in the year 1580, contains the following:—

MONKE MEOLE & GOSHILL.

Roger Wood, a byll.
 John Benyon, a spere, and pole axe.
 John Cadwalleder, his man.
 Thomas Tyther.
 Edward Tyther, his sone.
 Robt. Benyon, armor a jack.
 Thomas John,
 Hugh ap Rob'te, } his men.
 William Phillips,
 Harrie Broke.

See *Transactions*, 2nd Series, ii., 279.

--ED.]

EDGEBOLD.

Quære IF IN MEOLE OR ST. CHAD'S?

The name in Domesday is Edbaldinesham. *Inq* is a Saxon termina of descent from *cong*, young, as Godophin, the son of Godoph, &c. Edbalding therefore is, I suppose, the name of the first Saxon settler, and he the son of Edbald or Ethelbald.

In the time of Edward the Confessor it was holden by his Queen Edgithe,¹ in common with the neighbouring manors of Meole and Pulley; and at the time of Domesday it had passed with them into the hands of Ralph de Mortimer. It was rated to the Danegeld at one hide, but there were two carucates² of arable land. One of the tenants was a free man, and so, I suppose, of Saxon descent; he paid 8s. a year rent for his land. There was a wood capable of fattening 20 swine.

The tenure of this township on the Hundred Roll of 7 Edward I. is a striking example of that practice of sub-infeudation, which it was the object of the statute *Quia emptores*, in the 18th of that reign to prevent. "John son of Roger Pride holds the township (villatum) of Egebaltenham of Roger Sprencehose by the service of 1d. yearly; and the said Sprencehose holds it of Adam Hagur by 12d. yearly, and he of the heir of George de Cantelow by 8s. yearly, and the said heir of Roger de Mortimer, and it belongs to the manor of Meole."³

¹ [Eddid in Domesday, i.e., Edith. The Survey states that in King Edward's time the Manor was worth 40s.; since then it was waste. The Manor was in the Domesday Hundred of Conodovre.—Ed.]

² [Not carucates, but teams.—Ed.]

³ [Edgebold, as also Mortimer's part of Pulley, was afterwards annexed to Meole, and so Cantilupe or De Bracy became its mesne-lord. An Inquisition taken at Meole Brace, 18 Dec., 1273, on the death of George de Cantilupe, found him to be seised of a moiety of the Manor of Melesbracy, which he held under Roger de Mortimer; among his rents is one of 8s. receivable from the Lord of Egbaldenham, who did suit at the Manor Court of Melesbracy. Cf. Inq. 1 Edw. I., No. 16; Eyton vi., 214.—Ed.]

In 40 Edward III., Richard de Canes of Salop, chaplain, grants to John de Upton of Salop, and Benedicta his wife, all the land "which I had of the feoffment of Tho., son of Tho. de Bykedon of Woodcote, in vill de Woodcote & Egebaldeham, and in the fields of Heywode, with a particula of wood called Wythene mar', annexed to Horton wood."

In the 13th Henry VI., John Parys of Salop, was lord of this manor, for on Nov. 2 in that year, he came before Thos. Forster and Wm. Boerley, bailiffs of the liberty of that town, and other persons worthy of belief, and claimed on John Richardes of Crucketon, to be his neif (nativum) as pertaining to his said manor of Eggebald. The proceedings on this claim are extant in the book entitled A in the exchequer of Shrewsbury. The termination of the suit was favourable to the freedom of Richardes.

The next person I find in possession of this manor is John Byest, gent., of Atcham, who at his death 30 June, 29 Elizabeth, is found to have been seised of the "manor or lordship of the vill of Edgebold holden of the Earl of Arundel" (*Co. Es., v. 3, p. 99*). On the partition of his estates between his four sisters, this place fell to the share of the eldest, Anne, wife of Edward Cludd of Orleton. At the Inquisition after her death, 44 Elizabeth, the manor is found to be holden of the bailiffs and burgesses of the town of Salop in free socage; and such is also the finding upon the death of her son Edward, 11 Jac., and grandson Charles Cludd, 5 Car. On this last occasion it is stated to be holden of the said bailiffs by fealty alone.

I believe Mr. Cludde sold it to the Rev. George Scott.

[Edgebold, a township of Meole Brace, chiefly consists of two farms, called Upper Edgebold and Lower Edgebold, the property of Mrs. Scott, of Betton. The former has an old house, probably once moated. From a very early date Edgebold was in the Liberties of Shrewsbury. In the Court Rolls of 1385 and 1392 (*Curia Magna*, 9 and 16 Rich. II.) Eggebaldenham or Eggebaldon is named. In the Court Books 1668-1674, "Newton and Edgbold" occurs amongst the Liberties of the

Stone Ward. In a Court Roll of 1672-3, under "Newton and Edgebold," appear these names,—Joseph Offley, John Wright, Thomas Prichard.

In a Roll¹ preserved amongst the Corporation Muniments, being a Taxation of Tenths in the Town and Liberties, undated, but probably temp. Edward II. or III., Edgebold is thus named :—

EGGEBALD

Henr' Tommes habet in bonis xxxs. inde x^a iij^s.
 Will's fil' Rog'i habet in bonis ij marcas et dim. inde x^a xld.
 Thomas lle'ni habet in bonis xxij^s. viij^d, inde x^a xxviij^d.
 lle'ns fil' lle habet in bonis lxvs. inde x^a vjs. vjd.
 Petr' fil' Henr' habet in bonis di' marc' inde x^a viij^d.
 Sma' xvs.

The presentment of men, arms, and furniture, made in the year 1580, for Edgebold, is as follows :—

"NEWTON AND EDGEBOLD.

George Russell, a byll.

Edward Benyon.

John ap Robart.

William Jennins.

Thomas ap Edward."

(See *Transactions*, 2nd Series, ii., 281.)

Edgebold was at the time of the Domesday Survey in the Hundred of Conodovre. It was since detached from Conover Hundred under the construction put by Roger de Mortimer on the Charter which he obtained from Henry III. after the Battle of Evesham; and has since been annexed to the Liberties of Shrewsbury. Queen Edith's estate near Shrewsbury, consisting of Meole, Edgebold, and a great part of Pulley, had probably passed from her to William fitz Osborn, Earl of Hereford; had been forfeited by his son, Earl Roger de Bretolio, in 1074; and had then been granted by King William I. to Ralph de Mortimer. It is probable that, in Mortimer's hands, Edgebold and a great part of Pulley became so involved in Meole, that all three Manors are occasionally described as Meole. It was found by Inquisition, held 13 December, 1273, on the death of George lord Cantilupe, that the rent of the Lord of Edgebold was 8s. In the *Valor* of 1534-5, the receipts of the Abbot of Haughmond from Edgebaldenham and five other places amounted to £2 8s. 8d.²—Ed.]

¹ [The Roll also relates to fforeate castr', Colnham, ffrankeville, P'soia maiorum ville Salop, Newbald, Newton, Meole Braci, Henneccote, Eggebald, Scheilton, Polyley, Sutton.—Ed.]

² [Cf. Eyton vi., 5, 350, 357; viii., 287.—Ed.]

GRINSILL.

Ancient Griveleshul: a small parish of about 800 acres, in the Liberties of Shrewsbury.

The well-known quarry of excellent freestone in the hill behind the church has been worked from a very early period. Willielmus Quarriator, or the quarrier, occurs in a deed of the 13th century; and if the name of the place contains an allusion to the same remarkable feature of the parish, it must have been used in the time of our Saxon ancestors. Gravenhul may denote the dug hill: an appellation sufficiently appropriate to an eminence now so much frequented for materials of an excellent quality for building.¹ This etymology is, however, much too uncertain to rely on: gravenhul may equally signify the tumulus, or sepulchral hill, and in this sense may have some connection with Gravel hill, near Shrewsbury, where are now no traces of any hill whatever; or the derivation may be somewhat entirely different from either of these significations. *Grinsel* is the name of a hill in Switzerland, one of those which bound the valley of Hasli. (*Stobbey's Travels*, vol. i., p. 106).

In the Saxon times four persons of the names Leviet, Godric, Seward, and Algar held Griveleshul. This is a pleasing picture of the liberty and equality of the Saxon times. Small as was their property, for the whole was only rated at 2 hides to the Danegeld, they were all free, though two of them must have occupied jointly one of the three manors into which the whole was divided. On the Norman conquest this little knot of independent freeholders fell, in common with numbers of their brethren, to the all-powerful grasp of the Norman Earl of Shrewsbury, under whom it was holden at the time of the Domesday survey by a person

¹ No strata at Grinsill, but a solid bed of stone, which may be cut out to any size. (Mrs. Botfield).

named Walchelin.¹ Three free men, either the descendants of some of the persons mentioned above, or it may be themselves, occupied a part of the lands under the new grantee, and paid him an annual rent of 7s. ; but in the time of the Confessor, the whole was valued at 32s., though in extent no more than 2 carucates :² a fact from which we may perhaps infer that small subdivisions of property are more adequate to the payment of heavy rents than the modern race of land agents will easily be induced to believe.

The name of Walchelin stands at the head of the noble families of Ferrars and Maminot. But I have no reason to believe that the proprietor of Grinshill belonged to either of them. His property in Shropshire was inconsiderable, consisting merely of this manor and the distant one of Faintre, and as Payn de Faynthro, by a deed witnessed by two priests, Adam, and Richard son of Gervase, gave all his land in Griveleshul to Haghmon Abbey, I conclude that he was a descendant of this Walchelin. Certain it is that the canons of Haghmon were possessed of property here from an early period, though there is some diversity in the accounts of the quarter from which they first got a footing here, for in other records John Fitz Alan (the first of that name died in 1239) is stated to have given them Gryns-hull or Greleshull.

To the following grant I can assign no date,³ but it must be very early if the William fitz Alan who attests it was the first of that name. Ralph de Orleton confirms to Haghmon Abbey his father's grant of half a

¹ [Walcheline occurs also in Domesday as Earl Roger's tenant at Faintree, near Bridgnorth. Faintree was a Serjeantry, and its subsequent lords may have been Walcheline's lineal descendants ; but Grinshill became wholly annexed to the Fief of Fitz-Alan, and was bestowed by them partly on the Orletons, and partly on the lords of Stanton-Hineheath. Cf. Eyton x., 141.—Ed.]

² [Not carucates, but teams.—Ed.]

³ [Eyton assigns the approximate date 1190-1200, to this confirmation by Ralph de Orleton.—Ed.]

virgate in Grimeneshul. Witnessed by William fitz Alan, &c. (*Cart. R. Hill, Barti.*) This grantor's father¹ was probably Ralph de Horleton, who by that name grants to Robert, son of Richard de Franketon, all his land in Grimeneshul, viz., one virgate and a half to be holden by the grantee, of him the said Ralph.² Witnessed by Vivian de Roshalle, &c. For it appears that the superiority of this land, thus reserved to Horleton was by him made over to the prior of Wombridge, who released to Haghmon all the right of himself and his convent in three half virgates in Gremeshil, which Robert de Franketon held of them hereditarily.

The next deed³ which I have seen respecting this place presents the Abbey of Haghmon as possessing the lordship here. In the time of Gilbert, Abbot of Haghmon (I suppose that Gilbert who sate from 1241 to 1253), Matthew, son of Richard de Hull of Clyve, brought an assize against that abbot, and brother Richard de Dounton, brother Stephen de Overton, brother Philip le Graunte, Richard, son of Stephen de Grileshil, William, son of Henry of the same, and three other persons, for disseising him of his common of pasture in Clive: the abbot and certain of the others plead that the said common is in Grileshull and not in Clyve, and so it is found by the jury. Wherefore it is considered that the defendants be *sine die*, and that

¹ [Blakeway is in error here. Ralph's father was Adam de Orleton, who, before the year 1172, granted half a virgate in Grinshill to Haghmond Abbey. The same Adam about 1175 attests two Charters of the second William fitz-Alan, whose vassal he probably was at Grinshill. Cf. Eyton x., 141.—Ed.]

² [This deed, which is dated about 1220-5, shows that the residue of the Orleton estate in Grinshill was 1½ virgates. By it, 6 marks was paid to the grantor, and a rent of 3s. reserved. This rent of 3s. Ralph de Orleton seems afterwards to have given to Wombridge Priory, so that Robert de Frankton became the Prior's tenant. Cf. Haghmon Chartulary; Eyton x., 142.—Ed.]

³ [Eyton says that the date of this Assize Roll is between 1284 and 1304. It is rubricated in the Haghmon Chartulary as relating to Sansaw Heath. Cf. Eyton x., 161.—Ed.]

Matthew take nothing by his assize, but be in mercy *pro falso clamore* (C. A. H.)

It has been observed above that the Quarry at Grinsill has been worked for many centuries. John son of Richard son of Edric of Grileshull grants to Haghmon Abbey a certain land in the bruery of Acton, inter veterem fossatam et ductum de Herdewike, and certain other land in Grileshull, which William Quarriator sometime held. This deed is witnessed by Sir Robert de Grendona, then sheriff, who served that office from 1251 to 1256, Sir Thomas de Rossale, Sir Thomas de Lee, Wm. Banastre, Robt. Slinge, &c., and contains the names of several other places in that neighbourhood, as Duddenaer forlonge, Pilote forlonge, Ring crofte forlonge, the field towards le Clive sub magno monte, an acre in transverso Clinanne, Wibaldewike, Balde-wike pole.

In the catalogue of knight's fees in the hundred of Pimhill in 28 Edward I., the Abbot of Haughmond is stated to hold Grinshill in free alms of John fitz Alan.

From the following deed it would appear that the family of Burnell had some claim here,¹ for in the Haghmon Chartulary is a memorandum of a partition made between the Abbot of Haghmon and Edward Burnell of three wastes in Grileshull, called Rowne-

¹ [The Burnells held half a hide, or one quarter of the Manor. In the 13th century it was held by the Stantons under Fitz Alan; and by the Actons of Acton-Reynold under the Stantons. This estate was usually coupled with that of Acton-Reynold, and was held in precisely the same way. In 1292 Reyner de Acton granted to Philip Burnell, a fourth part of the Manor of Grineleshull, after the death of Reyner. This occurred before 1308, when Edward Burnell, son of Philip, was in full seizin of this fourth part. A parcel of waste land in Grinsill was divisible, and on 15 Feb., 1308, was divided between the Abbot of Haghmon and Edward Burnell; the Abbot three-fourths, and Edward Burnell one-fourth of the waste. The Burnell estates in Grinshill eventually went with Petronilla, sister of Philip Burnell, to William de Ercalewe; and their son, William de Ercalewe, is named in the *Nomina Villorum*, 1316, as Lord of the vill of Acton Reyner and Grinehull. Cf. Eyton x., 62-65, 143-4. See also under ACTON REYNOLD in *Transactions*, 2nd Series, vol. i., 312-5.—ED.]

hethe, Smaleheth and Brandheth; three parts out of four belonged to the abbot. Sir Richard de Harlegh attended as seneschall of Burnell; the wastes were measured by the perch of *25 feet*. Mention is made of the gate between the field of Grileshull and the field of Sonsawe, called Lampoorsyate. This partition was made on the morrow of St. Valentine, in the first year of King Edward, which must mean King Edward II., as it is stated to have taken place in the presence of Richard, Abbot of Haghmon, and as Edward Burnell was not born till about the 15th of Edward I., and died in the 9th of Edward II. But I believe this claim of Burnell merely arose from his possession of the neighbouring manor of Acton Reynold, and that his pretensions to common in Grinsill were only pour cause de vicinage.

The abbey continued undisputed lords, and in 13 Edward II. had a grant of free warren in their Manor of Greneleshull, as there written. The following extracts from their Chartulary respect roads and boundaries: an Inquest was made at the court of Herdewike 15 Edward III., concerning the road reaching from the wood of Brochurst by that of Shirwode, to the wood of Acton Reyn', in order to ascertain whether it be common for all passengers either with waggons or laden horses. The jurors (Richard Gery of Acton, Wm. Wigge of Grileshulle, Jn. Tece, Wm. Swifte of Hadenhalle, and five others), say that they have always seen the same commonly used; but they say that the bailiffs of the lords of Acton and Grileshul caused all persons carrying wood, stones, *or salt*, to be attacked, who made fine to those bailiffs for their passage, so that it appears that it is not a common highway. This is entitled, *Nota viam infra Grileshull*. "*Limites quedam ville de Grileshull: In primis unus limes incipit ad Milnepole de Herdewike in Austro, et se extendit per ductum aque usque ad viam quæ ducit ad Grileshull, et de illa via usque ad portam de Smaleheth, et de illo loco usque ad लेकर, et de illo loco usque*

ad Geristy et ad Hawiscoos et usque ad Pinchebroke, et de illo loco usque ad le heithende et usque ad Birchehill et sic ad portam de Okeley et sic ad locum primum ubi incepit." This is taken from a roll of court held at Herdewike 15 Edward III. (C. A. H.)

Pinchbrook is now (at least was when Gough wrote his *History of Middle*) called Peinsbrook; and in an old deed I find it written "rivalis qui dicitur Paynesbroc," whence it may seem to be derived from the name of Payn de Faintre, whom we have seen as an early, perhaps the first, grantor of his property to the abbey.

I find mention of a rivulet of similar name in the Chartulary of Salop Abbey. Reyner son of Godwin grants to Salop Abbey a part of an acre lying between Wm. Kox's land and the land of the said abbey, and reaching from a mete made by our joint assent usque in rivulum qui vocatur Pintesbroc, in exchange for an orchyard (ortum) lying between the wall of the city (civitatis) of Salop and the orchyard formerly belonging to Agnes wife of Roger son of William. His Testibus: Richardo Schitte et Luca prepositis Salop (No. 176). There is nothing in this description to enable us to ascertain the situation of the rivulet. Pinse is the Shropshire name for a minnow.

In the *Nomina Villarum*, Wm. de Cocelewe, perhaps Ercalewe, held Acton Reyner and Greneshull.

In the *Pipe Rolls* of 8 Edward I., Margareta soror et una de heredibus Johannis de Moreton et Ricardus de Grimeshull qui habet in uxorem Agnetam sororem et heredem ejusdem Margarete 6 marcas 8s. 2d. de relevio suo, sicut continetur in rotulo 53.

In 28 Edward III. (1354), Isabel, daughter of Richard de Hoston granted to Sybil daughter of Atkyn de Pychfort one messuage lying between the tenements of Hawys de Fenymer and Sir John Horri, and half a virgate of land in the town and field of Grilsull; and in 12 Henry IV. (1411), Sibill (probably the grantee in the last deed) then widow of William Adams of Hoston, granted the premises to her son John Adams,

who two years afterwards, 1413, conveyed the same to Robt. Lee of Uffington, William Ellesmere, chaplain, and William Child, chaplain. These two last persons in 1 Henry VI. (1422), alienate the property to Richard Colfoxe,¹ parson of Hanmere, and Wm. Sumpnour, chaplain. In 7 Henry VI. (1428), John Adames of Heston, releases his right therein to Somnor (as the name is there written), and he in the same year granted the property to Haghmon Abbey (*E. cart. Ric. Hill barti.*), in whom, I presume, it continued to the Dissolution.

On the Dissolution, I find land at Greenshill holden by John Leveson in 37 Henry VIII.

By licence dated 31 Dec., 8 Elizabeth, 1565, John and Thomas Leveson alienate land in Grinshill, and the Manor of Hardwick and messuages and lands there, to Richard Langley and Thos. Downton, which was, however, I believe only for the creation of some trust or family settlement. From the time of the Dissolution, and indeed for a long time before, I have seen no mention of a manor of Grinsill; the abbey, as appears, kept their court at Hardwick, which thence, I suppose, came to assume the name of a manor, which it had attained by the 13 Edward II., when the religious had a grant of free warren in their manor of Herdewyke, and that manor, I understand, covers the whole parish of Grinsill. In 1637, Sir Andrew Corbet, Knt., held the Manor of Acton Reyner and the Manor of Grinshill.

GREENS-HILL.

(*From Harleian MSS., 6826.*)

The whole tithes of this place are impropriated to the patron, Richard Clayton, Esq., who allows his curate £6 per annum. About the year 1699, Mr. Jones, late alderman of London, left a considerable sum of money for the augmentation of poor benefices, of which

¹ [*Cf. ante*, p. 196.—ED.]

this church had £200, with which lands to the value of £10 per ann. were bought and settled upon the minister.

Richard, Bishop of Coventry, by the same deed whereby he gives Lebotwood to the canons of Haughmon, appropriates to that monastery by the express consent of his chapter, and "actually delivers to the abbot and canons the church of Sagesbury with all its chapels, viz., of Acton, Grineshill, Morton, and Widi-forde with all their appurtenances to be possessed for ever."

Schetton : pro communa pastura est cum Grileshull.

(C. A. B.)

GRINSILL.

I.—One.¹

II.—No.

III.—Freeholders : Principal Inhabitants, Mr. John Kilvert, Mr. John Wood, Mr. William Merrington, Miss Davies and Mrs. Embrey. Inhabitants not freeholders, Mr. Evan Jones, Mr. John Lead, William Brookes, Thos. Owen, William Downes.

IV.—No.

V.—No.

VI.—No.

VII.—One Manor covers the whole Parish (viz.) the Manor of Hardwick.

VIII.—Sir Richard Hill, Bart.

IX.—About 800 acres.

HARDWICK.

The name of Hardwick denotes, I presume, its adaptation to pasturage—the wick, or residence of the herds.

From Dugdale's *Monasticon*, vol. ii., p. 528, it appears to have been part of the possessions of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, in 1185, if indeed this be the place intended. On the Dissolution we have seen it vested in the family of Leveson. In 17 Elizabeth, Walter Leveson, Esq., purchased the Manor of Hardwick, otherwise Hardwick, otherwise Hardewick, other-

¹ [For the Questions, to which these are Answers, see under ALBRIGHTON, 2nd Series, Vol. I., pp. 101-2.—Ed.]

wise Hordwick, of John Leveson, Thomas, son and heir apparent of the said John, Robert Stauneford, Esq., John Brook, and others, by fine levied in Easter term of that year; and in 22 Elizabeth livery of the manor was made to him.

The 22nd year of Queen Elizabeth is 1579-80, yet, according to a MS. of Bowen's, who quotes original deeds, Richard Tyler had the Manor of Hardwick two years before. He had three daughters, Dorothy, Alice, and Elizabeth, the first of whom married in 1576 Wm. Whitcombe, brother of Thos. Whitcombe of Berwick Mavesyn. She had to her purparty Hardwick house and lands; and in the settlement made upon her by her father, it is styled the farm or grange of Hardwicke, with its appurtenances in Hardwicke, Grinsill, Hadnall, and Heston, or elsewhere. Her grandson, William Whitcombe, Esq., is styled of this place in 1663.

[The Manor of Hardwicke, which includes Grinshill, subsequently became vested in the Hill family. In 1781, when Grinshill was enclosed, Richard Hill, Esq., was Lord of the Manor of Hardwicke. It has since passed by purchase to the Corbet family, Sir Walter Orlando Corbet, Bart., of Acton Reynold, being the present Lord of the manor. The acreage of the parish of Grinshill is 827a. 3r. 1p. The Act for enclosing Grinshill, Sansaw, and Clive was passed in 1781; and the Inclosure Award is dated 4 July, 1783. The chief landowners are J. J. Bibby, Esq., of Hardwicke Grange, Sir W. O. Corbet, Bart., J. M. Kilvert, Esq., and the Wood family.]

THE CHURCH.

[Grinshill Chapel was originally a mere dependency of the Church of Shawbury,¹ but at the same time an ancient foundation. The Chapel and a Cemetery were founded in the reigns of King Stephen or Henry II., by the Lord of the fee. Bishop Peche's fourth Charter² indicates Grinshill as subject to Shawbury, and shows that that prelate granted an appropriation of the mother Church and its dependencies to Haughmond Abbey. The Charter runs thus:—

“Ricardus, Dei gratia Coventrensis Episcopus &c., Noverit universitas vestra nos de expresse assensu Capituli nostri appropriasse

¹ [Cf. Eyton viii., 146. The other Chapels which were dependencies of Shawbury were Acton Reynold, Moreton Corbet, and Great Withyford.—Ed.]

² [Bishop Peche was Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield from 1161 to 1182. This Charter was probably made in the last ten years of his episcopate.—Ed.]

Monasterio de Haghmon, et actualiter tradidisse Abbati et Monachis ejusdem, ecclesiam de Sagesbury cum omnibus capellis suis, scilicet de Acton, Grineshull, Morton, Wideford, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis in perpetuum."

This appropriation to Haughmond Abbey was ratified by Bishop Hugh de Novant, 24 November, 1190.

The present Church, dedicated to All Saints, consists of a Nave and bell turret containing one bell. The former Church was entirely taken down in 1839-40, with the exception of a portion of the west wall, and a new Church erected on the site. On the south side it was built on the old foundations.

In the Church are four Monumental Tablets, three on the north wall, and one on the south. Of these, three are to members of the Wood family, and one to the Embrey family. The tablet on the south wall commemorates the Rev. John Wood, 15 years Incumbent, and Patron, who died 18 May, 1864, aged 63; and Elizabeth his wife, who died 21 February, 1879.

In the Churchyard, on the south side of the Church, is the shaft and base of a cross. There are many tombstones to the memory of the families of Wood, Kilvert, Embrey, &c.

The Vicarage house was erected in 1878.

The patron of the Vicarage is the Rev. John Ravenshaw Wood.

The Communion Plate consists of a silver cup, paten, and flagon, the inscriptions on which are as follows:—

Paten: "The gift of M^{rs} Margaret Eyton to Grinshill Church 1689 Daughter of Thomas Eyton of Knowlton in Flintshire, Gent. Shee then living with the Lady Corbett at Acton Reynold." Arms: Ermine a lion rampant.

Cup: "The Gift of Mrs. Judeth Corbet 1776."

Flagon: "A Gift to Grinshill Church 1880."

There is also a pewter flagon, given by Fran. Price in 1704. A Paten, given at the same time, is lost.]

INCUMBENTS OF GRINSHILL.

(From MS. Top. Salop, C. 9.

GRINSILL.

William Sugar, ob. 1675.

James Atcherley, 1800.

John Pitchford, M.A.

[The foregoing list is very incomplete; the following, chiefly compiled from the Registers, is more accurate.

William Sugar, curate of Grinshill and Clive, minister of Broughton; married at Broughton 16 Oct., 1628, Mary Otley; bur. at Broughton 17 Nov., 1675.

Samuel Jones, curate 1681.

William Janns, minister 1695. His son Thomas was bapt. at Grinshill, 31 May, 1695.

- Samuel Betton; son of Edward Betton of Shrewsbury, born there 1692; matric. at Wadham College, Oxford, 29 March, 1709, then aged 17; incumbent of Astley 1728, and the Clive 1729; died 22 Oct., 1761.
- James Atcherley, 1761 to 1804; M.A. Magd. Coll., Cambridge; Third Master of Shrewsbury School 1755, Second Master 1763, and Head Master 1770 to 1798, when he resigned on a pension of £100 a year from the School; Incumbent of Astley, 1762; Vicar of Lydbury North, Salop; died at Bridgnorth, 3 March, 1804, bur. 6th. See "History of Shrewsbury School," p. 130. The patron of Grinshill in 1761 was Watkin Wynne, Esq. The Rev. James Atcherley and Miss Eleanor Griffiths were mar. at St. Chad's, 15 Dec., 1766; and five of their children, Roger, Eleanor, John, Arabella, and Dorothy, were bapt. at St. Mary's from 1768 to 1775.
- John Pitchford, 13 April, 1804, to 1814; M.A. Ch. Ch., Oxford, son of Rev. Richard Pitchford; born at Upton Magna 1774; mar. at Grinshill, 14 June, 1804, Margaret Embrey, (see 2nd Series, II., 358); vicar of Colwich 1807 to 1828; died 1828. The patron of Grinshill in 1804 was John Wood, Esq., of Harcourt Park.
- Francis Salt, 1814 to 1841; M.A. Ch. Ch., Oxford; son of Rev. Francis Salt; born at Bridgnorth, 1795; also Incumbent of Broughton, and Head Master of Wem Grammar School; died 14 April, 1841. During his incumbency Grinshill Church was re-built. The patron of Grinshill in 1814 was John Wood, Esq.
- Sebastian James Gambier, 1841 to 1849; also Incumbent of Lee Brockhurst; and afterwards Vicar of Sandgate.
- John Wood, 1849 to 1864; also patron of Grinshill; M.A. Ch. Ch., Oxford; son of Mr. John Wood; born at Grinshill, 1801; vicar of Dawley to 1849; died 18 May, 1864, aged 63, and bur. 21st at Grinshill, M.I.
- Daniel Rowland Williams, 1864 to 1868; M.A. Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; rector of Bowers-Gifford, Essex, since 1872.
- Christian Mortimer, 1868 to 1872; M.A. Clare Coll., Cambridge; rector of Pitchford 1880 to 1890; Diocesan Inspector of Schools 1876 to 1890; Canon of Lichfield 1890.
- John Cooper Wood, 1872-3; M.A. and late Scholar of St. John's Coll., Cambridge; formerly Head Master of Hales Owen Grammar School; rector of St. Kenelm-in-Romsley, 1867 to 1872; Incumbent of the Clive since 1873.

Edward Watson Ellis, 1873-4; vicar of Foxton, Leic., 1874; formerly rector of Cranmore; author of "History of the Church of England."

John Wright, 1874; M.A. St. John's Coll. Cambridge; formerly curate of Wem, 1865 to 1874; also Vicar of Broughton since 1876. The present Incumbent.

The following also sign the Registers as Curates of Grinshill:—

Richard Parsons, 1806-7.

Robert Smyth, Curate, 1811.

John Steward, Curate, 1833-1841.

William Hombersley, Curate, 1848. Qu. since rector of Kirk-Ireton.

Frederic William Griffiths, Curate, 1857-9; now vicar of Coalpit Heath, Bristol.

T. A. Pope, Curate, 1865.

E. Williams, Curate, 1865.

For much of the foregoing information I am indebted to the Rev. John Wright, M.A.—[Ed.]

PARISH REGISTERS.

The Parish Registers of Grinshill commence in 1592. The earliest Register is a copy of the original Register, made in 1718, and has this heading:—

"A Copy of the Register Book of Greenshill Transcribed out of the Originall from the year 1592 to this present year 1718."

- 1592. ffeb. 13, Jane, dau. of Richard Maddox and Jane his wife, bapt.
- 1593. March 20, Mary Buckley, widd., bur.
- 1595. Dec. 11, John Rogers and Eleanor Key, widdow, mar.
- 1597. Ap. 26, William Kilvert and Margaret Pate mar.
- 1598. Mar. 10, Frances, dau. of William Kilvert, bapt.
- 1600. June 9, Humphry Embrey, bur.
- 1601. Ap. 5, Joan, dau. of William Kilvert and Margaret, bapt.
- 1602. Mar. 23, John, son of Robert Embrey and Joan, bapt.
- 1603. Aug. 14, Robert, son of William Kilvert and Margaret, bapt.
- 1606. Mar. 7, John, son of William Kilvert and Margaret, bapt.
- 1609. Mar. 10, Thomas Embrey bur. at St. Julian's, Salop.
- 1610. Ap. 10, Anne, dau. of William Kilvert and Margaret, bapt.
- 1610. Ap. 11, William Wycherley, senior, of the Clive, was bur.
- 1612. Jan. 10, William, son of Richard Embrey and Joan, bapt.
- 1615. Nov. 20, Humphry, son of William Kilvert and Margaret, bapt.

- 1616. June 3, Thomas Scriven, sen., and Margaret Corbett, widow, mar.
- 1618. July 21, Elizabeth Wychley of the Clive was bur.
- 1618. Mar. 6, Mary Whycherly was bur.
- 1619. Oct. 10, William Russell and Frances Kilvert were mar.
- 1620. Oct. 6, Jane wife of Robert Embrey was bur.
- 1622. Ap. 17, John Atcherley was bur.
- 1626. Sept. 8, Elizabeth Embrey, widd., was bur.
- 1627. Aug. 1, Margaret wife of William Kilvert was bur.
- 1627. Oct. 14, Peter Hufia, son of John and Mary, bur.
- 1627. Dec. 22, Roger Whycherley of the Clive was bur.
- 1630. feb. 10, Joan, dau. of William Kilvert, was bur.
- 1630. feb. 25, Richard Hussey and Margaret Embrey, mar.
- 1633. Aug. 25, Anne, dau. of Rd. Hussey and Margaret, bapt.
- 1644. May 26, William Kilvert was buried.
- 1646. Nov. 3, Robert Embrey was bur.
- 1653. Nov. 9, John, son of John Embrey and Elizabeth, bapt.
- 1659. Nov. 12, Thomas, son of John Embrey and Elizabeth, bapt.
- 1660. Dec. 12, William, son of John Embrey and Elizabeth, bapt.
- 1663. Aug. 27, Robert, son of John Embrey and Elizabeth, bapt.
- 1665. Oct. 19, Frances, dau. of John Kilvert and Frances, bapt.
- 1668. Ap. 21, John, son of John Kilvert and Frances, bapt.
- 1671. Ap. 27, Sarah, wife of Thomas Embrey, bur.
- 1674. Sept. 17, John Kilvert was bur.
- 1676. Jan. 15, William, son of John and Elizabeth Embrey, was bur.
- 1679. Ap. 25, Robert Kilvert was buried.
- 1688. Aug. 6, John, son of John and Martha Embrey, bapt.
- 1694. May 30, William, son of John and Martha Embrey, bapt.
- 1695. May 31, Thomas, son of William Janns (minister), and Jane, bapt.
- 1697. Mar. 10, Frances, dau. of John and Margaret Kilvert, bapt.
- 1697. Mar. 30, Wm. Cureton (free mason), was bur.
- 1700. July 28, John and Abigaill, son and dau. of John and Margaret Kilvert, bapt.
- 1702. May 5, Robert Embrey and Anne Peak mar.
- 1715. Jan. 27, Frances Kilvert, widow, was bur.
- 1718. May 24, Mr. Edward Hanmer and Mrs. Frances Kilvert, mar.
- 1719. Oct. 18, William, son of John and Mary Embrey, bapt.
- 1726. Mar. 14, William Embrey bur.

- 1727. July 21, John Kilvert bur.
- 1727. Jan. 17, John Embrey, senr., bur.
- 1729. May 4, John, son of John and Elizabeth Kilvert, bapt.
- 1729. Mar. 29, Mrs. Frances Embrey, widow, bur.
- 1733. Feb. 9, Henry Minor and Mary Highway mar.
- 1737. Mar. 5, Roger, son of John and Elizabeth Kilvert, bapt.
- 1742. Ap. 28, John Kilvert bur.
- 1742. June 27, Margaret, dau. of Scarlett and Margaret Lloyd, bapt.
- 1749. Nov. 29, Mrs. Margaret Kilvert, widow, bur.
- 1752. Mar. 4, Robert Embrey of Wellington, and Margaret Kilvert of this parish, mar.
- 1755. July 25, Mr. Robert Embrey, son of John and Mary, bur.
- 1755. Aug. 3, Robert, son of Robert and Margaret Embrey, bapt. (born 1st).
- 1762. Jan. 23, Richard Wood of Lee Brockhurst, and Elizabeth Kilvert, mar.
- 1764. July 24, John, son of John and Ann Kilvert, bapt.
- 1766. Oct. 14, George Wycherley and Elizabeth Davies mar.
- 1767. May 17, William, son of George and Elizabeth Wycherley, bapt.
- 1767. Oct. 29, Mr. John Embrey bur.
- 1767. Jan. 29, John Wood of Hodnet, and Mary Embrey, mar.
- 1768. Dec. 28, Elizabeth, dau. of George and Elizabeth Wycherley, bapt.
- 1770. Ap. 16, William Kilvert bur.
- 1772. Oct. 3, Thomas Kilvert bur.
- 1779. Dec. 5, Ann, dau. of George and Elizabeth Wycherley, bapt.
- 1780. Jan. 9, John, son of John and Ann Wood, bapt.
- 1780. May 7, Margaret, dau. of Robert and Ann Embrey, bapt.
- 1782. Feb. 17, Adam, son of George and Elizabeth Wycherley, bapt.
- 1784. June 20, Hannah, dau. of George and Elizabeth Wycherley, bapt.
- 1786. Sept. 10, Mary, dau. of George and Elizabeth Wycherley, bapt.
- 1789. Jan. 4, Jeffery, son of George and Elizabeth Wycherley, bapt.
- 1790. Ap. 26, William Kilvert (from Wem) bur.
- 1792. Mar. 16, George Wycherley bur.
- 1792. Aug. 18, John Kilvert and Catherine Clarke mar.
- 1793. Jan. 2, John, son of John and Catherine Kilvert, bapt.
- 1795. May 3, Andrew Corbett, son of John and Catherine Kilvert, bapt.

1796. Ap. 3, Richard, son of John and Catherine Kilvert, bapt.
 1804. June 14, Rev. John Pitchford of Upton Magna, and Margaret Embrey mar.
 1807. May 12, William Embrey, son of John Wood, gent., and Margaret, bapt.
 1809. Oct. 30, Ann Embrey, widow of Robert Embrey, gent., bur.
 1810. Feb. 11, Samuel Ravenshaw, son of John and Margaret Wood, bapt. (born Feb. 7).
 1811. Sept. 5, William Kilvert of Shrewsbury, bur.
 1816. Oct. 17, Robert Henry, son of John and Margaret Wood, gent. and patron, bapt.

These names occur in the earlier Registers:—Kilvert, Embrey, Pate, Maddox, Hamlet, Newnes, Felton, Edge, Webb, Cureton, Hensen, Palmer, Wood, Allen, Key, Woodall, Pain, Oar, Oare, Latewood, Cope, Jennings, Hayward, Ward, Hoult, Holt, Savage, Juckes, Onslow, Piggott, Minor, Minshall, Walford, &c.

The Registers are as follows:—Vol. I., a copy made in 1718, extending from 1592 to 1718. Vol. II., 1719-1812. Vol. III., Marriages, 1757-1811. Vol. IV., Baptisms, 1813—Vol. V., Burials, 1813—Vol. VI., Marriages, 1815-1837. Vol. VII., Marriages, 1837—

Amongst the Marriage Licenses preserved at Lichfield are these:—

1697. Thomas Embrey and Frances Kilvert. To marry at Grinshill.
 1696. Peter Huffa and Frances Wycherley. To marry at Wem.
 1697. William Tyler and Elizabeth Embrey. To marry at Wem or Grinshill.
 1687. Roger Haughton and Margaret Wycherley. To marry at Shawbury.
 1687. Jevon Hatchet and Ann Wicherley. To marry at St. Julian's, Salop.

[The Report of the Charity Commissioners for Salop, 1815-1839, Vol. xxvii., p. 447, mentions the following benefactions to the parish of Grinshill:—

Major Richard Corbet, by Will, £20; and his sister, Mrs. Judith Corbet, by Will, £20; Eleanor Allen and Thomas her son, £20; William Key, £50; Thomas Ebrey, £10; Rev. Mr. Price, £10; John Kilvert, £5; and persons unknown, £9.

These moneys were laid out in the purchase of a house, barn, &c., and eight fields containing 10a. 2r. 20p., at Cotton, in the manor of Wem, for the use of the minister and poor for ever.

On 21 Nov., 1757, John Embrey, the then churchwarden, leased the premises for a term of 100 years to Thomas Millington, at the yearly rent of £4 18s., with a covenant on the part of the lessee to build a messuage and barn. This lease was subsequently purchased

by John Hill of Cotton. The rents were paid to the minister, the schoolmaster, and the poor.

Sir Andrew Corbet, in September, 1830, gave £15 15s. to the poor of Grinshill.

Amongst the estates of the Shrewsbury Free School, was a Schoolhouse at Grinshill, built for the scholars to retire to in case of infectious disorders. By the Free School Ordinances of 1577 it was provided that "a house shall be provided within the county for the masters and scholars to resort to in time of plague." (*History of Shrewsbury School*, pp. 46, 89, 98). A site containing about two acres was purchased from William Killvert and Robert Emerie in 1617, during the headmastership of John Meighen, and a Schoolhouse was soon erected. In 1635 Mr. Meighen resigned his office, and received an annuity of £20 and the use of the Schoolhouse at Grinshill during his life. When the plague broke out in Shrewsbury in 1649, the School was removed to Grinshill. (Gough's *History of Myddle*).

Mr. Blakeway says, "Colet, Dean of St. Paul's, gave his house at Stepney for the abode of the master of St. Paul's School in the time of any pestilential sickness. Is not something of this kind in the life of Sir Thomas Pope?"

Amongst the Corporation muniments is a bundle of deeds relating to the School at Grinshill: the following is an abstract of these deeds:—

Indenture dated 20 September, 14 James I. (1617), between William Kylvart, alias Kylford, of Grynshill, yeoman, and Robert Emerie of Grynshill, yeoman, of the one part, and Thomas Jones and Roger Blakeway, bayliffes of the towne of Shrewsbury, and John Meighen, cheife scholemaster of the free gramer schoole in the sayd towne of Shrewsbury of the other part; In consideration of £25, the said William Kylvart and Robert Emerie did grant bargain and sell unto the said Thomas Jones, Roger Blakeway, and John Meighen, All that Close or parcel of land situate lying and being in Grynshill aforesaid, containing about two acres, in the tenure of said William Kylvarte, called the woodes way alias Kylvartes woodes way, To hold to the said Thomas Jones, Roger Blakeway and John Meighen from St. Luke's day next ensuing for the term of 2000 years, at the yearly rent of one peppercorn. Executed by William Killvert.

Indenture dated 3 October, 14 James I. (1617), between the said William Kylvart alias Kylford and Robert Emery of the one part and Andrew Studley second scholemaster of the free gramer schoole in the towne of Shrewsburie of the other part; the said William Kylvart and Robert Emerie did give grant enfeof and confirm unto the said Andrew Studley and his heirs, All that the said Close or parcel of land, to hold unto and to the use of the said Andrew Studley his heirs and assigns. Executed by William Killvert and Robert Emery.

Deed Poll dated 22 August, 11 Charles I. (1635), under the hands and seals of the said Thomas Jones and John Meighen, Reciting the

before mentioned deed of 20 September, 14 James I., And that since there had been a new schoolehouse and lodgings erected upon the said premises or some part thereof out of the stocke of the free grammar schoole of Shrewsbury for the masters and schollers of the said schoole to resort unto at such times as the said town of Shrewsbury should be visited with any plague or other infectious disease ; The said Thomas Jones and John Meighen being the surviving lessees did give grant assign and set over, All the said new schoolehouse, lodgings, messuage and premises and term of years, to John Prowde, John Wightwicke, Adam Webbe, Richard Berrington, John Lloyd, and John Ridgeway, during the residue of the said term of 2000 years. Executed by Tho. Jones and John Meighen. [Seals heraldic affixed.]

Deed Poll dated 18 June, 1636, under the hands and seals of the said John Prowde, John Wightwicke, Adam Webbe, Richard Berrington, John Lloyd, and John Ridgway ; being power of attorney to Rowland Tenche of Shrewsbury, yeoman, in their names and stead to enter upon All that newe erected Stonehowse commonly called the contrey Schoolehouse and all that yorde pasture or parcell of ground to the said newe erected Schoolehouse belonging situate in Gryncell within the liberties of the town of Shrewsbury aforesaid. Executed by all the parties.

Indenture dated 18 June, 12 Charles I, (1636), between the said John Prowde, John Wightwicke, Adam Webbe, Richard Berrington, John Lloyd, and John Ridgway, of the one part, and John Lowe of the Towne of Shrewsbury, Draper, of the other part ; the said parties did demise, set and to farme lett, All that newe erected Stonehowse commonly called the contrey Schoolehouse, unto the said John Lowe, from the 10th May last for five years, Upon special Trust that the said John Lowe shall be plaintiff in an action of trespass for the trial of the title in law of the said parties to the said Stonehowse yarde pasture or parcel of land, and if upon trial judgment and possession be obtained, then to surrender up the residue of the term to the said parties.

In 1828, the Schoolhouse was let to the Rev. Dr. Gardner as yearly tenant, at the rent of £4 4s. It has since been occupied as a private school by Mr Richard Barkley and Mr. Meredith. In 1873, the Trustees of the Free School sold the premises to Dr. Flinn ; and they subsequently passed to H. C. Williams, and are now the property of Mr. Thomas Edwards, M.B., and called the Grange.

South-east of the Church is the old stone manor-house of the Kilverts, apparently erected in 1624 by John Kilvert, as appears from the inscription "I. K. 1624." The family have built a new residence adjoining their old house. The present representative, Mr. J. M. Kilvert, is eighth in direct lineal descent from William Kilvert, the vendor of the land to the Trustees in 1617, and who died in 1644. The Kilverts have long resided at Grinshill, and have several

royal descents from Edward III., through the marriage in 1792 of John Kilvert with Catherine, dau. of the Rev. William Clarke, by Catherine his wife, dau. of Andrew Corbett of Shawbury Park.

The following articles were issued by the Bailiffs of Shrewsbury to the constables of the various townships within the Liberties in the year 1569; and the answers of the constables of Grinshill are here given.

Articles set forthe to all constables by Mr. Bailiffes of the towne of Salop by virtue of the Quene's Ma^{ty} l'res unto them directed the xvth day of Aprill in the xjth yere of the raigne of our sovaigne Lady Elizabeth &c. anno d'ni 1569.

Inp'mis to enquire what number of alehouses be in ev'y towne or village.

It'm how many of them kepe comenly logens.

It'm what sort of gestes they comenly lodge, whether travelers by the way on horseback or most comonly on foote, and whether they be strangers or men knowen nere about, and whether they lodge or reset one man ij daies or nights together, and what be their names.

It'm whether they or any other comfort wth meat drink or lodging any vagrant vacabonds comenly called beggers, and how oft and when they did releve them.

It'm whether the constables or township suffer any such to beg in their towne or hamelet, and suffer any to escape unpunished, and when and how often any such have bin suffered

It'm whether and how many kepe alehouses or tipling houses and not bounden before this time according to the Lawe.

An answere made by the constables of Grinsell unto the articles before rehersed, whriten this p'sent the vij day of May anno D'ni 1569.

Inp'mis ye shall understa'd ther ys but one alehouse in the towne.

It'm as for comune lodginge the be onestly stored when time requireth.

It'm as for straungers or gestes ther ys none reset nor maintained passingeone night nether horseman nor foot man and those whiche are both honest and clene.

It'm ther ys no vagabond beggers nether maintained nether relyeved.

It'm the Constables suffer noe suche unpunished, nether heretofore have done.

It'm the ale seller hathe bene bounden before this time accordinge to the lawe.

It'm whether they suffer any unlawfull games to be playd w^hin their houses and who be the players when and how often they have playd and suffered there.

It'm to enquire what ev'y alehouse spendith wickly in their houses in wheat and malt so comenly one wicke with another.

It'm whether any sell bread or ale at any time upon sondaies or any other feastiall daies during the tyme of devyne service.

It'm whether the kepe good and godly rule in their houses and recett nether suspects as the yes houres or bandes.

It'm whether they by any goods of straingers not knowing how the seller cam by it.

It'm whether prestes or mynisters be oft repayrers and haunTERS to their alehouses, and what be their names.

It'm whether ev'y parish do releve the poor wth their parish according to the statute I or no.

It'm he suffereth no unlawfull games to be plaid in his house.

It'm the spence of wheate and malt one wicke wth another ys scarcelye half a stryke of wheat and not a stryke of maulte.

It'm ther is nether bred nor ale soold at noe undue times as service time and suche like.

It'm ther ys bothe good and godly order kepte and noe suspected persons reset nether by yes houres or bandes.

It'm ther are noe goods bought of straungers.

It'm the prist ys noe oft reparer nor haunter of ale howses, but wth onest companye, as occasion constrainethe.

It'm the poore in ther paryshe are releved accordinge to the statute.

In the Court Books of 1668-1674, Grinsell is named amongst the Liberties of the Castle Ward. In a Subsidy Roll, Assessment for three months, 1644, inhabitants of Gryncell paid £8 12s. 6d., and £2 3s. 6d. remained unpaid by Robert Emery, Robert Kilvorte, Richard Cureton, John Edge, and Samuel Griffis. In a Court Roll of 1647-8, these names occur under Grinsell:—Richard Cureton, Wm. Maddox, yom', Wm. Maddox, weaver, Richard Heath, John Edge, Tobias Trevor, Thomas Hotchkyes, Samuel Griffis, Richard Cureton, Thomas Roberts, Robert Kilvorte, and Thomas Atcherly. In a Land Tax document, without date, Robert Embrey of Grinsill, occurs as owner of two tenements worth £24 per annum.

The Quarries of thiek bedded free-stone yield splendid material for building purposes. The strata belong to the Lower Keuper beds of the Triassic system. Generally, the beds are remarkably deficient in fossil remains; but in some spots forms of the greatest interest have been discovered, especially the bones, footprints, and even the long trail made by the animal as it alighted on the mud, of the

Rhyncosaurus ; also the footprints of the Labyrinthodont Cheirotherium, whilst impressions of raindrops and ripple marks are pretty abundant. No complete specimen of the Rhyncosaurus has yet been found, but portions are in the possession of Miss Kilvert of Grinshill, and in the Shrewsbury Museum. The whole formation is lacustrine, similar to what might take place on the shores of the Caspian Sea, and it is closely connected with the salt beds of Cheshire. Similar beds in the neighbouring counties are estimated at from 150 to 250 feet thick. Some years ago copper was extracted from some mines at Grinshill, but the scheme was abandoned as unremunerative.¹—Ed.]

¹ Communicated by the Rev. J. D. La Touche.—Ed.]

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SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual meeting of the members of this Society was held on Saturday afternoon, January 17th, 1891, at the Guildhall, Shrewsbury. Mr. R. Lloyd-Kenyon presided, and there were also present:—The Rev. T. Auden, Dr. Calvert, Alderman T. Southam, Mr. Wm. Phillips, Dr. Whitwell, Mr. A. Sparrow, Mr. G. Griffiths, Mr. J. M. Harding, Mr. T. M. Howells, Major Southam, Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, Mr. G. S. Corser, Mr. H. J. Oldroyd, Captain Hyslop, Mr. H. W. Adnitt, and Mr. F. Goyne, Secretary.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The SECRETARY presented the Annual report, which read as follows:—

The principal work of the Society outside of the preparation and issue of the *Transactions*, during the year covered by this report, was the excavation of the Crypt of old St. Chad's; but as this formed the subject of a supplementary report, presented to the last annual meeting, and since printed, there is no need to speak of it again in detail. It may, however, be mentioned that the Council propose to provide an entrance to the excavations from Princess Street as soon as they receive the promised permission from the parochial authorities of St. Chad's. During the year some correspondence took place between the Council of this Society and that of the Society of Antiquaries of London, as to further excavations at Uriconium. The London Society declared themselves unable at present to take up the matter, but there is some hope that when they have completed the exploration of the Roman remains at Silchester, on which they are now engaged, they will be prepared, with the co-operation and assistance of this Society, to turn their attention to Uriconium. The *Transactions* during the year have contained several papers of permanent interest. The publication of the Blakeway MSS. has been continued at intervals, and it is proposed to make further transcripts at the Bodleian Library during the coming spring. The *Transactions* have been further varied by including in them a portion of the Calendar of Wills preserved at Lichfield, relating to Shropshire and other parts of the ancient diocese. It is unnecessary to point out the value of this calendar to those interested in genealogy. In connection with this, it may be mentioned that during the year a second volume of "Transcripts of the Broseley Registers" has been issued by Mr. A. F. C. C. Langley, who is a member of this Society, and offers the work to members at half-price. The Council have taken great interest in the preservation of the Abbey pulpit, in concert with the authorities of the parish of Holy Cross, and correspondence with regard to it is still going on with the directors of the Shropshire Railways. The subjoined balance sheet shows that the financial position of the Society is steadily improving, but the Council cannot help adding that the improvement would be more marked if so many members did not allow their subscriptions to fall into arrears.—THOMAS AUDEN, M.A., F.S.A., Chairman.

The SECRETARY also presented the annual balance sheet, which showed that there was a balance due to the Treasurer of £22 5s. 4d., but the members' subscriptions in arrears amounted to £73 10s.

The CHAIRMAN said it was his duty to move the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, both of which seemed to him to be very satisfactory. Before he did so, however, he would like to return thanks to the committee of the Society for having asked him to take the chair at that meeting. He was proud of having been so honoured, and he was very glad to come to do anything he could for the Shropshire Archæological Society. (Applause). He was proud of the Shropshire Archæological Society, because he was proud of Shropshire, and was interested in everything which concerned the county. (Applause). He considered that archæology, quite independent of its intrinsic interest, materially affected their interests at the present day. It was one side of history, and also an essential part of it. History could not exist without a knowledge of all they included in the one word archæology. (Hear, hear). It had been said "Happy is the people who have no history." It was true there might not be much in that—he did not think that there was—but he had never heard it said "Happy is the people who, having a history, do not know it." Archæology was the science of knowing history, and there was hardly a greater incentive to noble deeds to us in the present day than a knowledge of noble deeds done in times past. There was no better safeguard against mistakes at the present than a knowledge of the mistakes which have been committed in the past. (Hear, hear). Our ideas of beauty and justice, and our aims, hopes, and fears in this life, were very largely fashioned by the knowledge of the ideas which influenced our ancestors in all their successes and failures. (Hear, hear). So he claimed for archæology that it had a distinct tendency to elevate, guide, and ennoble our aims in life. To turn to the Society, had this helped them, as it ought to have done, in their knowledge of the history of their ancestors? He thought they could not look at the last few numbers of their magazine without being satisfied that it was well filled with articles not only of interest at the moment, but articles which were really the material for history. It gave them a sort of repertory, in which they could find materials upon which the future historian of the county could work. (Hear, hear). He would like to make a suggestion all the same. The articles were very satisfactory indeed, but the magazine was not a record of all that was said and written in connection with the archæology of the county, and he should like the committee to consider whether someone could not undertake to collect, during the year, all important information about archæology which appeared in the different newspapers of the county, most of which had an archæological column. He would like to see their *Transactions* a real record of the progress of the archæology of the year, and the real authority to which any future historian of the county might turn, and that when he had exhausted that he might feel he had exhausted practically all that had been written on archæology.

That could not be said of their magazine at present, and he thought it would not be difficult for the editors to make a resumé of what had been written on this subject elsewhere, either in the shape of occasional notes in the magazine or something of that sort. He had himself written an account of the Borough of Ruyton for the *Transactions*—(loud applause)—but he did not know whether it was worth while reading it there or whether he should leave it to be printed in the ordinary course in the magazine. If at the end of the ordinary business the meeting cared to hear what he had written, he would be glad to read it to them, but in the first place he would move the adoption of the report and statement of accounts. (Applause).

The Rev. T. AUDEN said, in rising to second the resolution, he only wished to make one remark, and that was to call attention to the last paragraph of the report, which was to the effect that the financial statement proved that the position of the Society was one of progress, but the report went on to say that the progress would be more marked if the members of the Society did not allow their subscriptions to fall into arrears. He hoped that paragraph would be noticed, not only by those present, but that it might be noticed by members at a distance who were in arrears. (Hear, hear). It had already been mentioned that this year there was over £70 of arrears, in two cases extending over four or five years. He did not think this was for the want of "dunning" on the part of the secretary. It would be seen that they had an abundance of money to pay all their liabilities if the arrears were all paid up. Therefore he wished through the medium of the press to call attention to the fact that there were considerable arrears. He wished to say a word as to the Blakeway manuscripts. They had almost exhausted those which were transcribed nearly twelve months ago, and arrangements would shortly be made for further transcriptions. They would be made, as before, by one who was thoroughly competent for the work, and only at the expense to the Society of the amount paid out of pocket. He begged to second the adoption of the report.

Alderman SOUTHAM said he should like to ask if it was known whether any estimate had been made as to how much of the money in arrears was really available and likely to be collected?

The SECRETARY said there was a considerable number of those in arrears who would agree to pay after their subscriptions were about three years in arrear, when they would make out a cheque for the amount, but would not do so before.

Mr. SOUTHAM, after examining the book, said that it was about the best overdue list he had ever seen. He noticed that the clergy were very largely represented, but there was some satisfaction in knowing that they would raise the whole or nearly the whole amount of arrears. He considered they ought to devise some means by which they could get it in, as it seemed clear that the old way was not satisfactory.

The SECRETARY said that he had actually written to some members no less than eighteen times on this subject.—The report was then adopted.

Mr. SPARROW said that there was one paragraph in the report which he should like to make a remark upon, with reference to the excavations at Wroxeter. He was aware that the London Society of Antiquaries had their hands very full with the excavations at Silchester, but the time, doubtless, would come when they would be able to turn their attention to Wroxeter. He anticipated that when they did so the result would be of far greater importance than that realized by the excavations at Silchester. (Hear, hear). None of them knew what might be recovered or what might be the result of a systematic excavation at Wroxeter. So far as he knew there had never been a thoroughly systematic excavation there. He was quite sure if the excavations at Wroxeter were to be set about in earnest, and the whole thing carried out systematically, the result would be highly satisfactory. (Applause). It would not only be highly satisfactory to the country at large, but more especially so to Shropshire, and he was sure that their Society would take the greatest possible interest in the matter. (Hear, hear.) He would be glad to help in any way he could. (Applause).

Alderman SOUTHAM said there was one matter mentioned in the report in which for three or four years he had taken great interest, namely, the venerable old pulpit in Abbey Foregate. (Hear, hear). It had been within an inch of destruction half-a-dozen times, but in an extraordinary manner Providence had always interposed and saved it. (Laughter). There had been rather a determined effort to remove it within the past few months, the Shropshire Railways Company having pretty well made up their minds that it is in their way, and that they should remove it. The Society had done all they could to prevent them carrying this out. Providentially the Company had found it would cost them about £100 to remove the pulpit, and as they were a little hard up for money, that counted with them at the present time. He hoped that they would never have money enough to remove the old pulpit—no matter how much they might have for other purposes—because he felt thoroughly convinced that once the pulpit was removed from its original position, the whole sentiment of the thing was gone, and it would not be the same thing. (Hear, hear). Therefore, so long as he was spared, he should do all he could to prevent it being removed, and he hoped those who came after him would do the same. It was a matter of great importance to everyone, but more especially to any society calling itself an Archæological Society. (Applause).

ELECTION OF NEW VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The Rev. T. AUDEN said he wished to make a proposition, which he was sure would meet the approval of those present, and it was that they should add to the list of their vice-presidents Mr. Lloyd-Kenyon, who had so kindly taken the chair that day. (Applause). He would like to join with him the name of another gentleman who took considerable interest in this kind of thing, and whose name

would meet with the approval of everyone present. He referred to Mr. Heywood-Lonsdale. (Loud applause). He had great pleasure in moving that the names of these two gentlemen be added to the vice-presidents of their Society. (Renewed applause).—Mr. PHILLIPS seconded the proposition, and it was carried.

The CHAIRMAN said he was much obliged to those present for having elected him a vice-president of their Society. He might say that the motion was entirely unauthorised, and that he had not the slightest idea that it was Mr. Auden's intention to move any such motion. (Laughter). Mr. Heywood-Lonsdale was in the town that day, and no doubt if he had known of this, he would have been delighted to be present. He was sure that Mr. Heywood-Lonsdale, as well as himself, would be very proud to be a vice-president of their Society. (Applause).

ELECTION OF COUNCIL, &c.

Mr. DOVASTON moved the re-election of the Council. He remarked that the members of the Council were compelled to face many troubles and difficulties for the benefit of the Society, and he considered that the Society were very much indebted to them for their willingness to continue their duties. (Applause).—The proposition was seconded by Alderman SOUTHAM, and carried.

Mr. SPARROW proposed a vote of thanks to the auditors for their services during the past year, and also that they be elected for the ensuing year.—This was seconded, and carried.

THE BOROUGH OF RUYTON.

The CHAIRMAN read a paper on "The Borough of Ruyton," which has since been printed in the Society's *Transactions*, 2nd Series, vol. iii, pp. 237-252.

A VOTE OF THANKS TO THE CHAIRMAN.—THE BOROUGH RECORDS.

Mr. SOUTHAM said it would be within the recollection of some of those present that they had appointed a committee to examine and report as to the condition of the Records of the Borough of Shrewsbury, which were fast sinking into a very bad state, and very soon would have been utterly valueless. That committee had been working since its appointment, and he thought had succeeded very well, and he would ask Mr. William Phillips, who had taken a very prominent part in the matter, to give the meeting some information regarding these records as they now stood. (Applause).

Mr. W. PHILLIPS asked, before complying with the request of Mr. Southam, to be allowed to propose a vote of thanks to the chairman for the very able paper he had prepared, no doubt with a great amount of labour and very great difficulty. This paper, of course, would appear in the *Transactions* of the society. He thought they should feel very much indebted to Mr. Ll. Kenyon for compiling so good a

paper, and favouring them by reading it that day.—Mr. SOUTHAM seconded, and said they would all be much indebted to Mr. Kenyon for his very interesting paper.

The CHAIRMAN said that of course a paper on a purely local subject must prove rather dull to those that did not know the neighbourhood to which it related ; but it was only by working out the history of different localities that they could do any good as an archæological society. To work up the small details upon which an historian could work seemed to him to be the real object of their society, and for that reason he had offered his humble contribution.

Mr. W. PHILLIPS proceeded to refer to the work of the committee appointed to inspect the records of the borough of Shrewsbury. He said that they had been working at them for a very long period, and they had found a very much larger task than they had anticipated. He was very glad to say, however, that they had made very considerable progress, which they would be able to judge of when he told them that there had been dusted, cleaned, registered, folded up carefully, and labelled, 2,277 rolls. (Applause.) Of course it was not possible for them, in doing so, to give much attention to their contents beyond learning their general purport. He might mention that out of that number there were 1,400 relating to matters connected with the borough. He had no doubt that, when put into order, these would be a very large resource for those interested in the history of the borough, and even the county. (Applause.) There were a great many of these rolls which related to things beyond what was called the franchise of Salop, but it was left to the committee to arrange these in proper order, according to their date and so forth. The committee found that many of these rolls, and in fact the bulk of them, were in such a condition as to be of interest, but there were some that had been exposed to the damp so much that they were indecipherable. They could just find out their subjects by reading their headings. They were now within a reasonable distance of terminating their labours, and hoped at a future time to be able to report fully in the matter. That, however, was all the information he could give them at present. (Applause.)

THE ABBEY PULPIT.

Mr. GRIFFITHS said he wished to say one word as to Mr. Southam's remarks about the Abbey Pulpit. It was a treasure that must be especially dear to the inhabitants of Shrewsbury, but at the same time he did not think there was any use in placing the new railway companies in a more awkward position than they were at present. If they were as impecunious as Mr. Southam had made them out to be they could not expect them to be generous, and if that building was in the way it would be for archæologists and those chiefly interested in its preservation to find some means of removing it. He was not quite sure whose property it was ; whether it belonged to the Corporation of Shrewsbury, or the Vicar of the Abbey, or whether it did not really belong to the railway company. (Mr. Southam and others :

No, no.) He wished to make the suggestion, as a practical course to adopt out of the difficulty, that, if the pulpit was in the way of the railway companies when providing their new station, it would be possible to rebuild it just across the road in the churchyard of the Abbey—(Mr. Southam: No, no)—in the same way as the Bellstone was in the National Provincial Bank of England at Shrewsbury. This had been moved so many yards north of its original position. He only made this suggestion as a reasonable way out of the difficulty.

Rev. T. AUDEN said he would like to inform those present of what had been done in regard to this matter. The Council of the Society, as had been seen by their report, had taken a very great interest in the subject, and two or three months ago appointed a sub-committee to act in concert with the authorities of Holy Cross in reference to it. It had been spoken of two or three times at the Council meetings, and there had been a joint meeting of the committee appointed in the matter, and of the vicar and churchwardens of Holy Cross who had taken action in it—in fact, the matter was still being considered, and correspondence was going on in regard to it. He had laid before the last meeting of the Council a letter from the chairman of the Railway Companies, and in this he stated that the pulpit was not in any danger of being removed yet. (Mr. Southam: Hear, hear.) Of that he (the speaker) felt perfectly certain, and thought that any definite action on their part at the present time would be a mistake. He could only assure those present who were outside the Council that the Council was keeping as sharp a look out in the matter as it possibly could, and he was quite sure that it was not proposed to relax the vigilance they had exercised so far. (Hear, hear, and applause).

No Excursion of the Society was made this year. It was proposed to visit the part of the county lying west of Bridgnorth, and arrangements were partly made by the Council for this purpose; but owing to various causes, particularly the prevalence of Influenza, it was found necessary, first, to postpone, and eventually to give up altogether, the Excursion for this year.

LIST OF MEMBERS, 1891.

- Adnitt, Mr. H. W., Belle Vue, Shrewsbury
 Allen, Very Rev. Canon, Belmont, Shrewsbury
 Auden, Rev. T., M.A., F.S.A., Belmont, Shrewsbury
- BRADFORD, Right Hon. Earl of, Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire
 (*President*), Weston Park, Shifnal
- BROWNLOW, Right Hon. Earl, Belton, Grantham
 Babington, C. C., Esq., F.S.A., F.R.S., 5, Brookside, Cambridge
 Baldwin-Childe, Rev. Prebendary, M.A., J.P., Kyre Park, Tenbury
 Barker, John, Esq., Old Grammar School House, Shrewsbury
 Barnes, Thos., Esq., The Quinta, Chirk
 Barnes, Col. J. R., J.P., Brookside, Chirk
 Barton, Rev. J. M., M.A., Hadley Vicarage, Wellington, Salop
 Beacall, W., Esq., J.P., Sunfield, Shrewsbury
 Benthall, E., Esq., Glantwrch, Ystalyfera, Swansea Vale
 Beresford, Robert de la Poer, Esq., M.D., Oswestry
 Bidlake, G., Esq., Wellington, Salop.
 Borough, J. C. Burton, Esq., B.A., D.L., J.P., Chetwynd Park,
 Newport, Salop
- Bridgeman, the Hon. and Rev. Canon, M.A., J.P., The Hall, Wigan
 Bridgeman, the Hon. and Rev. J., M.A., J.P., Weston-under-Lyziard,
 Shifnal
- Broomhall, J., Esq., J.P., Surbiton, Surrey
 Burd, Rev. Prebendary, M.A., Chirbury Vicarage, Salop
 Burr, George, Esq., Oaklands, Shrewsbury
 Bulkeley-Owen, Rev. T. M., B.A., J.P., Tedsmore Hall, West Felton
 Burson, Mr. W., Whitehall Street, Shrewsbury
 Burton, Rev. R. Lingen, Little Aston Vicarage, Sutton Coldfield,
 Birmingham
- Calcott, John, Esq., Oakley Street, Shrewsbury
 Calvert, E., Esq., LL.D., Kingsland, Shrewsbury
 Cholmondeley, Rev. R. H., M.A., Hodnet Rectory, Market Drayton
 Clark, G. T., Esq., F.S.A., Talyarn, Llantrissant, Pontyclown, R.S.O.
 Clay, J. Cecil, Esq., Market Drayton
 Clayton, Rev. Prebendary, M.A., The Rectory, Ludlow
 Clowes, Rev. Albert, M.A., Clee S. Margaret, Bromfield, Salop
 Cook, Alfred, Esq., Q.C., 8, Kensington Park Gardens, W.
 Colville, H. K., Esq., J.P., Bellaport, Market Drayton

Corfield, Lt.-Col. F. Channer, Ormonde Fields, Codnor, Derby
 Corser, G. Sandford, Esq., The Crescent, Shrewsbury
 Cortissos, C. Esq., Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury
 Cranage, J. E., Esq., Ph.D., Wellington, Salop
 Corbett, John, Esq., M.P., Impney, Droitwich.

Darby, Mrs., Adcote, Shrewsbury
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 Dovaston, Adolphus, Esq., Twyford, Sunnyside Road, Ealing,
 London, W.
 Dovaston, J., Esq., West Felton, Oswestry
 Drinkwater, Rev. C. H., M.A., St. George's Vicarage, Shrewsbury
 Duignan, W. H., Esq., Rushall Hall, Walsall.

Egerton, Rev. Canon, M.A., Middle Rectory, Shrewsbury
 Egerton, Rev. W. H., M.A., The Rectory, Whitchurch, Salop
 Eytton, T. Slaney, Esq., D.L., J.P., Walford Hall, Baschurch

Feilden, Rev. O. M., M.A., Frankton Rectory, Oswestry
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 Shrewsbury
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 shire
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 Fortey, Chas., Esq., Ludlow, Salop
 Fisher, Ed., Esq., F.S.A. Scot., Abbotsbury, Newton Abbot

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 George, Mr. E., Column Villa, Shrewsbury
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 Griffin, Harcourt, Esq., J.P., Pell Wall, Market Drayton
 Griffiths, George, Esq., Weston, Shifnal
 Guildhall Library, London, E.C.—C. Welch, Esq.
 Greensill, Frank, Esq., Marina, Douglas, Isle of Man

HARLECH, Right Hon. Lord, Brogyntyn, Oswestry
 HILL, Right Hon. Viscount, Hawkstone, Salop
 Harding, W. E., Esq., Kingsland, Shrewsbury
 Harding, Mr. J. Millard, The Square, Shrewsbury
 Hawkins, Miss, St. Mary's Court, Shrewsbury
 Herbert, Hon. R. C., M.A., D.L., J.P., Orleton, Wellington, Salop
 Heywood-Lonsdale, A. P., Esq., B.A., D.L., J.P., Shavington,
 Market Drayton
 Hignett, T. H., Esq., St. John's Hill, Shrewsbury
 Hodges, E., Esq., Edgmond, Newport, Salop

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 Howells, T. Middleton, Esq., Highfield, Shrewsbury
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 Hyslop, W. Campbell, Esq., Stretton House, Church Stretton

Jebb, Arthur Trevor, Esq., J.P., The Lyth, Ellesmere, Salop
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 Welshpool
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 Juson, Mrs., Monklands, Shrewsbury

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 King, Roff, Esq., Sutton Road, Shrewsbury
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 Kittermaster, Rev. F. W., M.A., Bayston Hill Vicarage, Shrewsbury
 Kynnersley, T. F., Esq., Leighton Hall, Ironbridge, Shropshire

Langley, Alfred F., Esq., Golding, Peterston Super Ely, Cardiff
 Leach, F., Esq., B.A., Highfield, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury
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 Lloyd, Ven. Archdeacon, M.A., Edgmond, Newport, Salop

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 Marshall, Wilson, Esq., Colum House, Shrewsbury
 More, R. Jasper, Esq., M.A., D.L., J.P., M.P., Linley Hall, Bishop's
 Castle
 Morris, Mr. W. B., Pride Hill, Shrewsbury
 Morris, S. M., Esq., Swan Hill Court, Shrewsbury
 Moss, Rev. Prebendary, M.A., The Schools, Shrewsbury
 Myers, Rev. E., F.G.S., Claremont Hill, Shrewsbury

Naunton, Mr. W. W., Kingsland, Shrewsbury
 Norton, Rev. F. C., Ditchling Vicarage, Sussex

Oswell, A. E. LLoyd, Esq., Coton Hill, Shrewsbury
 Owen, A. C. Humphreys, Esq., Garthmyl, Montgomeryshire

Powis, Right Hon. Earl of, Powis Castle, Welshpool
 Parry, Rev. W., D.C.L., Fitz Rectory, Salop
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 Peele, E. C., Esq., Kingsland, Shrewsbury

Pelham, Rev. A. T., M.A., Cound Rectory, Shrewsbury
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 Pickering, T. E., Esq., The Schools, Shrewsbury
 Piper, E. J., Esq., Belle Vue, Shrewsbury
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 Rouse-Boughton, Miss, Larden Hall, Much Wenlock

SUTHERLAND, His Grace the Duke of, Lilleshall
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 Salwey, T. J., Esq., The Cliff, Ludlow
 Sandford, Humphrey, Esq., M.A., J.P., The Isle, Shrewsbury
 Sandford, Folliott, Esq., Belmont, Shrewsbury
 Severn Valley Field Club—Rev. R. C. Wanstall, Condover Vicarage
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 Smith, F. Rawdon, Esq., Eastfield, Ironbridge
 Southam, Hbt. R. H., Esq., The Hollies, Shrewsbury
 Southam, S. C., Esq., Elmhurst, Shrewsbury
 Southam, T., Esq., J.P., The Hollies, Shrewsbury
 Southwell, C. J., Esq., Hookfield House, Bridgnorth
 Sparrow, Arthur, Esq., F.S.A., D.L., J.P., Preen Manor, Shrewsbury
 Spaul, W. H., Esq., Oswestry
 Stanier, F., Esq., J.P., Peplow Hall, Market Drayton
 Stanton, George, Esq., Coton Hill, Shrewsbury
 Swainson, Rev. J. G., M.A., Wistanstow Rectory, Craven Arms

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				Commission
							<u>£174 10 7</u>

16 Jan., 1891.

Examined and found correct,

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

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GENERAL INDEX TO TRANSACTIONS.

The Council have decided to prepare, if possible, an Index to the first eleven 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.

To carry out this Index, further co-operation is still necessary. One member (Mr. H. F. J. Vaughan) has kindly undertaken the Pedigrees and Arms, another the Wills, another the Register Extracts, Churchwardens' Accounts, Bells and Church Plate, another (Mr. A. F. C. Langley) the Names of Persons, and a lady the Names of Places. Will any members or friends, who are willing to assist in compiling this Index, kindly communicate with the Secretary to the Sub-Committee, the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, M.A., F.S.A., St. Michael's Vicarage, Shrewsbury?

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

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