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ON SOME SHROPSHIRE PLACE-NAMES.

By W. H. DUIGNAN.

THE analysis of place-names has made great progress during the last twenty years. The publications of Anglo-Saxon and Early English Charters and of the Early English Text, Philological, and English Dialect Societies have opened to the student new fields of information, and made local etymology a far more scientific enquiry than it formerly was.

Professor Skeat says:—"Our earlier writers had no means of ascertaining principles that are now well established, and instead of proceeding by rule had to go blindly by guesswork." . . . "Before attempting an etymology, ascertain the earliest form and use of the word; . . . observe history and chronology; observe phonetic laws." The greatest assistance is to be obtained from Anglo-Saxon charters; next in value is Domesday, wonderfully accurate considering its mode of compilation, but not so reliable as a local twelfth or thirteenth century charter. Norman clerks writing from sound, or in a language they imperfectly understood, were very liable to error.

The importance of the meaning of place-names cannot be questioned. It throws light upon local and national history, and social life, and gives interest to the locality.

It is remarkable at what an early period, and how thoroughly, the Saxons appear to have occupied Shropshire. Except on the border, Welsh names have been almost exterminated; the Romans have left, in names, no trace of their occupation, and Norman etymons are rare. The county seems to have been possessed by a hardworking unimaginary race, who gave the simplest

names to their farms or villages. Poetic or romantic etymologies from Anglo-Saxon roots may always be distrusted. It is otherwise in Ireland and the Highlands, where poetry and history are important and interesting factors.

The majority of place-names are derived from personal names, and, in construing them, we must remember that nick-names, pet-names, and short names were as common a thousand years ago as in the last century.

Some of my derivations are, doubtless, open to criticism or correction, though I have submitted all of them to an accomplished friend, Mr. W. H. Stevenson, the translator and editor of the "Records of the Borough of Nottingham." Of some of the places dealt with I have no personal or historic knowledge, and local antiquaries may be able to give better roots; but as the way to victory sometimes lies through defeat, so the way to truth often lies through error.

I am much indebted to Eyton for the ancient names. He only occasionally deals with etymology, and his opinions are always entitled to respect; but I have not hesitated to disregard or challenge them where I have thought them wrong. He wrote forty years ago, and sources of knowledge are open to us which were closed to him.

ABBREVIATIONS.—A.S., Anglo-Saxon; O.E., Old English—(Synonyms); M.E., Middle English; W., Welsh; A.S.C., Anglo-Saxon Chronicle; D., Domesday; Eyton, Eyton's *Antiquities of Shropshire*.

ACTON.—The root of all Actons is *Ache-tune*, *Ac-tune*, or similar forms, from the O. E. *Ac-tune*=Oak-town. Most of them now have suffixes from their early lords; Acton Pigot, from the Picots or Pichots; Acton Reynald, from the Reyners; Acton Scott, from the Scots or Escots; Acton Burnell, from the Burnells.

ALBRIGHT-LEE, near Shrewsbury, in D. is *Etbretelie*; in 1195, *Edbrieteleg*; in 1272, *Adbrihtleye*; probably from the O. E. personal name *Eadbriht*. The terminals *lie*, *leg*, *leye*, doubtless, represent O. E. *leah* or *lea*, open pasture or untilled land, giving us "Eadbriht's pasture."

ALBRIGHTON.—There are several Albrightons in Salop, and all have their roots in personal names—not always the same. Monks Albrighton, near Shrewsbury, is in D. *Etbritone*; in the 12th century, *Adbrichtone*; and in the 13th century, *Adbricton*, *Edbricton*, and *Adbricton-Monachorum*. These forms probably represent an O. E. personal name *Ealdbriht* or *Eadbriht*. “Monks” has been added (for distinction) because it belonged of old time to Shrewsbury Abbey.

ALBRIGHTON or ALBRIGHT HUSSEY is in D. *Abretone* and *Et-bretone*; in the 12th century it was *Adbrighton-Husey* and *Adbrighton-Hussey*; in the 13th century *Adbryghton* and *Edbricton*. This is certainly from a personal name, such as *Ælfbriht*. Miss Jackson (*Shropshire Word Book*, 515) says the name is locally pronounced “Aiberton,” which is curiously like the D. “Abretone.” The Hosé, Husé, or Hussey family held the manor from about 1165 for four centuries.

ALBRIGHTON, near Tong, in D. is *Albricstone*; in 1232, *Albrihton*. This certainly represents an O. E. personal name *Aldbriht*, *Albrikt*, or *Ælbriht* = *Aldbrites-tone* (town, &c.) Brighton, in Sussex, was anciently *Brihtelm-es-tone*. The *es* in place-names is usually the genitive, now omitted or shortened to *s*.

ALVELEY, near Bridgnorth.—D. *Alvidelege*; 12th century, *Alvithleg*, *Alvinelegh*; 13th, *Alvitheleye*; Eyton thinks from A.S. personal name *Ældythe*; but I have not met with such a name. The root is certainly a personal name, possibly *Eald-gyth* or *Ælf-gyth*. The 12th century *Alvinelegh* would rather give us *Ælfwine*. The terminal is, of course, A. S. *leah*, *leage*; M. E., *ley*, meadow, pasture, untilled land.

ARLEY (Upper), near Bridgnorth, but in Staffordshire, is *Earnleic* and *Earnley* in the charter of Wulfrán to the Monks of “Hamton” (Wolverhampton) An. 996. With such a good root it is unnecessary to look further. As *earn* in A. S. means an eagle, a romantic etymologist might offer us “the eagle’s pasture,” which, being nonsense, may be safely rejected. The root is, doubtless, A. S. *ærn*, *ern*, *earn*, a place, a house. “In A. S. the *e* would be pronounced like our *a* in *nate*, and the *a* hardly at all, the *r* well trilled. It is the influence of the *r* that has changed *ern* into *arn*. Familiar instances of this influence are *serjeant*, *clerk*, *Derby* (Darby), &c. The *n* would gradually drop.” (W. H. Stevenson). The terminal *leic* is a form of A. S. *leah*, *lea*, meadow, pasture, &c. “Upper” has been added in later times, doubtless to distinguish it from “Arley Kings,” six miles down Severn. As confirmatory of the view presented I may mention that Arley Kings was

"Ernleie." The A. S. (12th century) poems of Layamon commence:—"There was a priest in the land who was named Layamon; he was the son of Lucais—may the Lord be gracious to him!—he dwelt at 'Ernleie,' at a noble church with the good knight, upon 'Sevarne';—pleasant it there seemed to him—near Radestone, where he books read."

ASTON.—Every Aston I have met with has, when traced to its root, been *Estune*, *Estone*, or *Eston*=East-ton. Similarly all Suttons are *Suth-ton*=South-ton; Westons *West-tone* or *tune*; Nortons *North-tone* or *tune*. It is now often difficult to say of what place they were east, south, &c. The multiplicity of these names has, for the sake of distinction, led to many suffixes, such as Aston-Botterell, Aston-Pigot, &c., representing early lords of the manor.

ATCHAM, or ATTINGHAM has, apparently, a very pretty origin. Its D. form is *Atingeham*; in the 12th century we find it *Ettingham* and *Ettingeham*; subsequently *Echingham* and *Attingeham*. Eyton says the meaning is "the home of the children of Eatta." The church is dedicated to St. Eata, who was Abbot of Melrose in 651. Assuming Eyton to be right, the original name would be *Eatan-ing-ham*. *Ing* is an A. S. patronymic, meaning "son or descendants;" it was also used in the sense of "servants, devotees, or disciples; *hām* is, of course, A. S. for home, village, &c.

BELSWARDINE in D. is *Belleurdine*; in the 12th century, *Bodleswurth*; in the 13th, *Beddlesworth*, *Belleswurthin*, *Badels-wurthyn*, *Bedlesworthyn*; in the 14th, *Beddeleswerāyn*. Here the prefix clearly represents the O. E. personal name *Bedel*. *Wardine* is a well-known Shropshire termination, derived from O. E. *weorthign*, *weorthin*, *weorthing*, *worth*, which D. scribes generally mangled or abbreviated. The A. S. *th* was very much like our *d*, and this, combined with the difficulty which the Normans had in pronouncing *th*, perhaps led to "wardine." The meaning in O. E. is "property," "a farm;" hence, in this case, "Bedel's farm."

BERWICK MALVOISIN (or Maviston) in D. is *Berewic*, and in the 13th century *Berewike* and *Berewyk*. O. E. *Bere-wic*, literally a barley or corn village. In D. it is generally understood as a hamlet pertaining to a manor; but I think it came also to be applied to an outlying farm. The Malvoisins were lords of the manor in the 12th and subsequent centuries.

BISHOP'S CASTLE is in the manor of Lydbury North, which belonged to the Bishops of Hereford before the Conquest and down to the 2 Elizabeth. After Domesday, and before 1154, one of them built a castle here, called in the 12th century

"Lydbury Castle," but in the 13th *Bissopescastell*. Camden says that the "Castle Inn" occupies the site of the Bishop's Castle.

BISHTON.—Rather a common name. D. *Bispeton*; 13th century, *Bispeston*, *Bisopeston*, Bisshopeston; it belonged before the Conquest to some Episcopal See, probably Lichfield; but at the time of Domesday was in lay hands. Clearly O. E. *Bisscopes-ton* = Bishops town.

BLYMHILL.—D. *Brumhelle*; 13th century, *Blomenhull*, *Blumenhull*, *Blymenhull*, *Blymhyll*. Domesday is here untrustworthy. The later charters clearly give a personal name *Blum* or *Blom*, of which *en* is the genitive. We have thus *Blum-en-hull* (O. E. for hill) Blum's hill.

BRIDGNORTH did not exist, as a town or manor, before the Conquest, and is therefore not mentioned in Domesday. The castle was built by Robert de Belesme in 1101, and the bridge over Severn soon followed, or was contemporary. In the early part of the 12th century the town is mentioned as *Brigge*, *Bryege*, *Brug*, O. E. forms of "bridge." The suffix "north" first appears, I believe, in the early part of the 14th century, and has never been satisfactorily accounted for. The left bank of Severn was here the western boundary of the Forest of Morfe, and Camden suggests that the original suffix was *morfe*, and has been corrupted to "north." Some etymologists have accepted this view, which is open to serious objections. There is no evidence to support it. No record has been found in which the town is called *Brugge-morfe*. The suggested corruption is violent and unlikely; and there is, I think, good reason for the town being *Bridgnorth*. The A. S. C. tells us, under the year 896, that the Danes went to "Cwatbricge be Sæfern;" (one of the versions says "Brygge be Sæfern"). And further on:—"they then sat that winter at Cwatbryege," three other versions saying at "Brigge." Under the year 912 two versions of the same chronicle tell us that Æthelflæd, the Lady of the Mercians, built a burgh at *Brigge*. It is clear that Quat, four miles south of Bridgnorth, is the place referred to in the Chronicle, and that there was a bridge there over Severn. When a new town was built on Severn, and a new bridge over it to the north of an ancient bridge, and the new town was called "Bridge," nothing, it seems, could be more likely than for the natives, who then knew Quat as "Quat-bridge" or "Bridge," to give the new bridge to the north the name of *Bridg-north*. Camden's suggested etymology is mere guess-work. He calls the town *Burgh-morfe*, which it certainly never was, and he is as likely to be wrong in his suffix as in his prefix.

BROCTON.—There are many Broctons in the Midlands. *Broc.*, in O.E., is a badger, and *brōc*, a brook. Fanciful etymologists frequently take the "badger" interpretation; but our forefathers thought more of brooks than badgers. In the case of "Brockhurst," *hurst* (O. E. *hyrst*) meaning a wood, it is not unlikely to mean "Badger's wood." It would not, however, be always safe to conclude that Brocton means Brook-town. *Brōc* was a personal name (now represented by Brook or Brookes), and in A.S. charters "*brōcces-brōc*" = Brook's brook, is a not uncommon boundary.

BROSELEY.—D. *Bosle*; 12th century, *Burwardsley*; 13th century, *Burewardesley*. Domesday is, doubtless, here at fault, and the later charters are preferable. These give us A. S. personal name *Burhweard* = Burhweard's ley, or pasture. The shortening of the name, though striking, is not uncommon. Bescot, a hamlet and railway station, near Walsall, was "Beresmundes-cote."

CAUS.—D. *Alretone*, good A. S. for Alder-town; 12th century *Chaus*; 13th, *Cauheis*, *Caus*, *Cauz*; 14th, *Kawes*, *Kaus*, *Caus*. Eyton supposes "that Roger fitz Corbet, the Domesday tenant, built a castle here, and called it Caux, he or his father coming from the 'Pays de Caux,' in Normandy." The name must spring from some member of the de Caux family who came from Caux or Cahours, Department of the Somme. The 13th century scribes (above quoted) appear to have been confused between Cahours and Caux. This is one of the very few place-names the Normans have bequeathed to us.

CHELMICK, near Church Stretton.—D. Elmundewic; 13th century, Chelmundewyk, Cheilmundewik. A. S. personal name "Ceolmund," and *wic*, a dwelling, village, &c. = Ceolmund-es-wic. (The *Ce* is pronounced *ch*).

CHENEY LONGVILLE.—D. *Languefelle*; 11th century, *Longafield*; 12th, *Langafield*; 13th, *Langefeld*, *Longefeld*. A. S. *lang*, and *feld* = long field. The ancient meaning of *feld* was an open space of land = a fell. The Cheneyes were lords of the manor as early as 1315.

CHURCH STRETTON.—D. *Stratun*; 13th century, *Stratton*, *Stretton*, *Strettonedale*, *Strettondale*, *Stretton-in-Strettonedale*, *Chirch Stretton*. All Strettons, I know, lie on Roman ways, and Church Stretton is on, or near, the southern Watling Street from Wroxeter to Kenchester. A. S. *stræt*, a street, and *ton* = street town. "Church" is a mediæval addition to distinguish it from other Strettons. There was a church here before Domesday.

CLAVERLEY.—D. *Claverlege*, 1221, *Claverleg*. (The *g* in the terminals is equivalent to *y*). Doubtless, A. S. *clæfre*, M. E.

claver = the "clover" ley, or pasture. Clover is still called "claver" in the north of England.

THE CLEE HILLS are not mentioned in D., but Clee Stanton, which lies below them, is there called "Clee." In the 12th century they are described in charters as *Les Clies*, *Les Clives*, *La Clye*, *Cleyes*, *Chace of the Clyes*, *La Clee*. All these forms are derivatives of A. S. *clif*, M. E. *clif*, *clef*, *cleve*, and their declensions, signifying a rock, headland, a steep place. "Hills" is a later addition, the meaning of Clee having been lost. The hills were formerly a Royal forest by the name of "the Haye of Ernestry and Les Clives." Leland, who visited Shropshire about 1530, says:—"The hilles next to Wenlok be caullid the Broune Cle, and ther be Dere."

CLEOBURY MORTIMER.—D. *Claiberie*; 13th century, *Cleyburi*, *Clebury Mortimer*. Cleobury stands near the base of the Clee hills, and derives its prefix from them, *Cleo* being a plural form of A. S. *clif* (for which see Clee hills). For "bury," see Clunbury. It belonged to the Mortimers at the time of Domesday, and long afterwards. Cleobury means literally "the burh at the hills." There was a castle here, which is one of the meanings of *burh*.

CLUN.—D. *Clune*; 13th century, *Clune*, subsequently *Cloune*, *Clawne*, but generally *Clun*. I know of no place-names in England commencing with *Clun*, except in Salop. It is not an A. S. word, but clearly Celtic. It is lost in Welsh and Manx, but preserved in Gaelic and Irish as *Cluain* (pronounced "Cloon") = meadow or pasture bordering on bog. In Ireland about 1800 place-names commence *Clon* and *Cloone*, such as Clonmacnois = the meadow of the sons of Nos; Clonbane = white meadow; Clonboy = yellow meadow; Cloonybrien = Brian's meadow; Clonmel = the meadow of the bees, &c. The Domesday and first 13th century form, "Clune," would be pronounced "Cloon," as in Irish, and, I think, identify the word. "Clown," in Derbyshire, is *Clune* in Domesday, and has probably the same etymon.

CLUNGUNFORD.—D. *Clone*; 13th century, *Clonne-Geneford*, *Clune-Gonnef(ord)*, *Clungonnert*; 14th century, *Clonegoneford*. "Clun" here would have the same origin as "Clun" (q. v.) Domesday tells us "Gunward held it" (in Saxon time). Gunward, Gunner, Gunwar, or Gunnert, as his name was variously spelt, held several manors in Salop in the time of Edward the Confessor (Eyton).

CLUNBURY.—D. *Cluneberie*, 1263, *Clunbiry*. For "Clun," see "Clun." The terminations *berie*, *biry*, *bury*, are forms of A. S. *burh*, dative *birig*, a dwelling, village, town, &c. Clunbury would therefore mean the "burh" in the meadow,

CRESSAGE is a good instance of the need for etymologists to be "radical." Without research, and guided only by guess, a bold writer would perhaps offer us some reference to water cress, or the battle of Crecy; but a little pains gives us a safe and charming root. We find it in D. *Cristesache*; in the 12th century, *Cristesech*; in the 13th *Cristesich*, *Cristeseche*, and *Cristesach*. A. S. *Cristes-ac*, Christ's oak. The later *ch* is the Norman representation of *k*, and *e* is the dative case. Probably the Gospel was here preached to the heathens under some ancient oak.

EATON MASCOTT. D. *Etune*; 13th century, *Eton Marscot*; 14th, *Eaton Mascott*. A. S. *ea*, a river, water, &c.=literally water-ton. All Eatons, Etons, and Eytons that I have traced have a similar etymon. The Marescot or Marscot family were lords here in the 12th and 13th centuries.

HIGH ERCALL.—D. *Archelou*; 12th century, *Ercalou*; 13th and 14th, *Harcalu*, *Erkalewe*, *Herkelawe*, *Ercalwe*. The terminal is, doubtless, A. S. *hlaw*, *hlau*; M. E. *low*, *lawe*, a burial mound, tumulus; and I suggest the prefix represents the personal name *Ercol*, the A. S. equivalent to "Hercules." Though I have not met with "*Ercol*" in any A. S. record, I think it must have been a name. Hercules is still an occasional Christian and surname. I believe Ercall is pronounced Arcall, which is consistent with the suggested etymology, and with O. E. pronunciation. In the Red Book of Hergest (Skene's Four Books i., 457), in a poem which refers to the Wrekin district, we find:—

Were it the wife of Gyrrhmwl she would be languid
This day; loud would be her scream;
She would deplore the loss of her heroes.
The soil of Ercol is on courageous men,
On the progeny of Moryal,
And after Rhys great lamentation.

This appears to refer to a battle and to a burial mound at Ercall, and though the poem is only a 14th century production, it refers to events of the 6th century, and is probably founded on ancient MS. or tradition. I do not know if there is a tumulus at Ercall; so many burial mounds have been destroyed in modern times that its absence would hardly be an argument against its former existence.

CHILD'S ERCALL.—D. gives this as *Arcalun*; in 12th century charters it is *Her kall*, *Hercalewe*, *Erkalewe*, *Erkalwe*, *Erchelwe*; 13th century, *Arcalun*; 14th century, *Childs Ercalwe*. These roots do not give any new light on the personal name

before discussed, but rather confirm the view that it was "Ercol," giving us in A. S., *Ercoles-hlau*, the mound of Ercol. Since writing this I have bethought me of a manumission of serfs, published in Kemble's *Codex Diplomaticus*, No. 925, which, freely translated, runs:—"Geatfleda gave freedom for love of God and her soul's sake, that is Ecceard, smith, and Ælstan, and his wife, and all their offspring born and unborn, and Arcil and Cole, and Egferth, Eadhunes daughter, and all the men that bent their head for hireling food in the evil days," &c. It is clear from this that "Arcil" was an A. S. personal name, and in all probability represented *Ercol*.

FITZ, near Shrewsbury.—Without research one would say this is certainly a Norman name; but it is not. D. has it *Witesot*; 12th century charters, *Phittesho*, *Fittesho*, *Fitesso*; 13th century, *Fittes*, *Fittesho*, *Fitz*, *Fytesho*, *Fittes*. Unless the W in Domesday is an error for Ph, this case illustrates the difficulty Norman clerks sometimes had to understand Anglo-Saxons. Probably the Commissioners were told the name of the ville was Phittesho, or Fittesho, and the scribe wrote what he would pronounce "Witso." *Phittes*, or *Fittes*, is clearly the gen. form of a personal name. The termination *ho* is common in Devon and Lincoln shires, and occasional only in the Midlands. It is A. S. *hōp*, *ho*, *hoo*, the original meaning of which was a point of land formed like a heel or boot stretching into a plain, or the sea. Ultimately, I think it came to mean any kind of hill; but I have no authority for that opinion, except observation. Walsall, before the Conquest, was *Wales-ho*, which, rigidly interpreted, means "the hill of the strangers;" but "Wales" had come to be a personal name as early as the ninth century, and the probability is that Walsall means "Wales' hill." It changed the terminal *ho* to *hale*, and so become *Wales-hale*, in the early part of the 12th century.

GATACRE.—Always *Gatacre* since the Conquest. Probably A. S. *gāt*, goat, and *acer*, a field = goat field.

HADNALL, near Shrewsbury.—D. *Hadehelle*; 12th century, *Hadenhale* (several charters). The charters are preferable to Domesday, which here is certainly at fault; they give us the genitive form of a personal name; I suggest "Headda" = the hall of Headda. "Haden" is now a common personal name, and has, probably, the same root.

HARLESCOR, near Shrewsbury.—Not in D.; 12th century, *Herlaveschot*; 13th century, *Harlawscote*, *Harlescote*, *Harlawscote*, *Herlaveschote*. Probably A. S. personal name *Herelāf*, which, in M. E., would become *Herelave* = Herelafes-cot.

HAYCRUST, near Acton Scott. Without enquiry this would be as fine a field for guess as Cressage. It is not in D., but in 13th century charters it is *Havelhurst*, *Hauekhurst*. A. S. *hafoc*, M. E. *hævec*, a hawk, A. S. *hyrst*, M. E. *hurst*, a wood = Hawk-wood. "Hawk" was, however, a personal name, as now, and it is possible that the wood might be named after someone possessing or occupying it. In ancient language "wood" did not imply a collection of trees, but "wild land," timbered or otherwise.

HINSTOCK.—D. *Stoche*; 13th century, *Hinestok*, *Hinstoke*, *Hynestok*. Probably A. S. *Hina-stoc*, the hind's (labourer's) place. But here again "Hine" is a personal name, and though I have not met with it, probably was so in remote times. "Ina" was an A. S. name.

HOPE BOWDLER, near Ludlow.—This is a not uncommon instance of "change" of name. D. gives it "Fordritishope." *Hope* is a common prefix or suffix in Salop, and means a hollow, a valley; A. S. *hōp*; M. E. *hope*. The Domesday name would therefore be "Forthræds or Frōdræds valley;" but in the 13th century we find it *Hop*, *Hope*, *Hupe* Budlers. Eyton says:—"In the hands of the 'de Bollers' it acquired the name of Hope Bollers or Buthlers, of which Bowdler is the modern form."

HOPTON WAFRE.—D *Hoptone*; A. S. *hop-tone*, "the ton in the valley." *Hop* has several meanings, all connected with a valley. In the poem of Beowulf it is used in the sense of a fen or swamp. The "le Wafres," or "de Wafres," were ancient lords.

HUGHLEY, near Wenlock.—Not in Domesday; 13th century, *Lega*, *Lee*; A. S., *leah*, *leag*, pasture. *Hugh*, from Hugh de Lee, an ancient lord of the manor.

HUNTINGTON, near Ludlow. D. *Hantenetune*; 13th century, *Huntiton*, *Huntindon*; A. S. *hunta*, *tune*. The Domesday form is from the genitive plural *huntena*, and gives us "Hunter's town." But again "Hunta" was an A. S. personal name.

INGWARDINE.—This is one of the few Shropshire place-names of which we have record before Domesday. It is mentioned in the will of Wulfgeat of Donnington¹ (early 11th century) as *Ingewyrthe*; D. has it *Ingurdine*; 12th century charters *Ingurdin* and *Hingwordin*; 13th century, *Ingwordine*. I have no doubt "Inge" represents the A. S.

¹ *Transactions*, 2nd S., V. III., p. 36.

personal name "Inga," and that the accurate original name was "Ingan-wyrthe,"=the farm (or property) of Inga. This is a good illustration of the gradual passage of the A. S. *wyrthe*, &c., into *wardine*, as mentioned under Belswardine.

ISOMBRIDGE, near Wellington.—D. *Asnebruge*; 12th century, *Esnebrugg*; 13th, *Enesbrugge*, *Esnebrugg*, *Esombridge*; 14th, *Esnebrugge*. *Esne* in A. S. means a servant, retainer; but here it is evidently used as a personal name. It was a common name, and despite its meaning, frequently borne by men of rank. We may safely construe it as *Esne's bridge* (A. S. *brycg*, M. E. *brig*, *brugge*).

KINNERLEY, near Knockin.—D. *Chenardlie*; 12th century, *Kinardesleg*, *Kinardeslegh*; 13th, *Kinardly*, *Kinardeleg*. The D. *Ch.* being hard, we may safely attribute this to the A. S. personal name "Cyneheard," giving us *Cyneheard's lea* (pasture).

KYNASTON, near Knockin.—D. *Chimerestun*; 12th century, *Kineverdeston*. We may very well assign this to the personal name *Cyneward* (gen. *weardes*) *ton*, town (or dwelling.)

KINNERTON, near Bishop's Castle.—13th century, *Kynewardon*; 1534, *Kynnerdon*. The roots are few, but the earlier one is probably correct, and would give us the A. S. personal name "Cyneweard"'s *dun* (hill). The change from *dun* to *don*, and then to *ton* is not uncommon. It is well to say that all personal names suggested appear in A. S. charters, unless otherwise mentioned.

KINNERSLEY.—D. *Chinardeseie*; 12th century, *Kinardesey*, *Chinardesie*; 13th, *Kinardsleye*, *Kinardseye*. I should construe this to be A. S. personal name *Cyneheard* (gen. form *Cyneheardes*) and *eg*, M. E. *eie*, island or watery land; it may be a form of *ea*, a stream. The *Ch* in the D. form should be pronounced *K*.

LONGSLOW.—This is a very curious example of corruption. In D. it is *Walanceslau*; in the 12th century, *Wolncheslarwe*, *Wlenkeslarwe*, *Wlonkeslarwe*, *Wlonkeslowe* (frequently); 13th century, *Langeslarwe*, *Longislow*. The terminals *lau* and *larwe* represent A. S. *hlaw*, *hlau*; M. E. *low*, *larwe*, a funeral mound, tumulus. The prefix is perplexing; it looks like A. S. *wlonc*, proud, splendid (with the genitive *es* added). I have not met with it as a personal name, but a man might be named, or nicknamed, "wlonc" just as we have records of Norse "Prouds" in England, and the name "Roden," A. S. *hroden*, ornamented, adorned. I think we may venture to read this as *Wlonc-es-hlau*, the mound (or burial place) of *Wlonc*.

MEOLE BRACE.—D. *Melan*; 12th century, *Mole*, *Moles*; 13th century, *Meles*, *Meules*, *Meole*, *Meoles*, *Melesbracey*. The de

Bracey, Braci, or Brascey family held the manor in the 12th and 13th centuries. *Meole* is perhaps W. *moel* (my-oel) a hill, generally a bare hill; often applied to hillocks or sand banks.

MONK MEOLE.—D. *Melam*; 13th century, *Moole*, *Meola-Monk* (it belonged to the monks of Buildwas). For *Meole* see Meole Brace.

MYTTON, near Shrewsbury.—D. *Mutone*; 13th century, *Muton*, *Mutton*. Mytton or Mitton is a common place-name. All Mittons I know are situate upon the confluence of streams, and when traced back are "Mutton." I think it clear the root is A. S. *mutha*, gen. *muthan*, the mouth of a river; *mythe*, gen. *mythan*, has the same meaning, and I find all places named, or commencing *Myth*, are at a confluence. This Mytton is, I believe, near the junction of a stream with Severn. The well-known Shropshire family name "Mytton" was formerly "Mutton."

NEEN.—D. *Nene*. All Shropshire Neens are on the river Rea, which Eyton says was formerly called the Neen.

NEENTON seems to have changed its name. In D. it is *Newentone* = clearly New-ton; in the 13th century it is *Newton*, *Newton*, *Neynton*, *Neuton*; 14th, *Neinton*.

NEEN SAVAGE.—D. *Nene*; 1341, *Nein Savage*. A family of "le Savage," or "Sauvage," were its lords.

NEEN SOLLARS. D. *Nene*. "Sollars" is derived from a family of "de Solariis or Solers," who were its Norman lords. *Neen* must, I think, be derived from W. *neint*, pl. of *nant*, a brook, stream. There is a "Nene" in Northamptonshire, and a "Nent" in Cumberland.

NEWPORT was founded by Henry I. In the 12th century it is termed *New borough* (Novo Burgo); in the 13th *Neuport*; 13th and 14th, *Neuport* and *Newborough* (sometimes in the same document). A. S. *port*, a town (when used inland). Many ancient roads are called "the Portway," and are consequently supposed to be "Roman" ways leading to a seaport; but they are usually the way to the market town of the locality, though sometimes they are parts of a great road.

OAKEN GATES.—1535, *Okynpate*; 1536, *Wokynmatt*. The earlier form gives a little help. The ville is situate on a steep hill side of Watling Street. I think it is W. *ochr* or *ochren*, a hill side, and M. E. *gáte* and *yate*, a road, street = the street on the hill side. Throughout the Midlands there are many places named Ocker Hill, Hockerill, and Hockley, all on hill sides.

PEDWARDINE, near Brampton Bryan.—D. *Pedewede*; 13th century, *Pewarthyn*, *Pedewardyn*, *Pedwordin*. Probably from the A. S. personal name *Peada* and *worthyn*, a farm (see Belswardine) = Peada's farm.

OXENBOLD, near Shrewsbury.—D. *Oxibola*; 13th century, *Oxnebold*, *Oxenbode*; 14th century, *Oxnebold*; A. S., *Oxna-bold*, the cows-house.

PONTESBURY, near Shrewsbury.—In the A. S. Chronicle, under the year 661, we read :—"In this year Kænwealh fought at Easter at *Posentesburh*." This must be Pontesbury, as the name is unique. In D. we find it *Pantesberie*; in the 13th century, *Pantesberi*. *Posent* or *Pant* certainly represents a personal name, of which *es* is the genitive; but I have not met with such a name, or any like it; for *burh* see Clunbury.

RODEN, RODENHURST, and RODINGTON, all situate on the river Roden, near Wellington. We have here another A. S. root. Wulfgate of Donnington by his will (early part of 11th century) "grants his wife the land at *Cylles-hall*" (Kilsall, near Tong), "and at *Eowinglade*" (Evenlode in Worcestershire), "and at *Hrodene*, the while her day be," &c. In D. we find *Rodintone*; in the 13th century, *Rodene* and *Rodyn-hurst*. River names being generally more ancient than A. S. personal names, and important factors in place-names, we might readily suppose that the stream gave its name to the three places upon it; but A. S. *hrodene* means laden, laden with ornaments, ornamented, adorned—terms unlikely to be applied to a river, but not unlikely to be bestowed on some gorgeous individual. The surname "Roden" is not uncommon in the Midlands, though, as a place-name, it is confined to Salop. *Rodenhurst* mean's Roden's wood. The *ing* in Rodington is certainly patronymic, meaning "descendants of," and we may therefore construe that name as "the town of the descendants of Roden." Rivers rarely take their names from individuals, and often confer them, but I have met with local exceptions, verified by ancient charters.

RUYTON-OF-THE-ELEVEN-TOWNS.—D. *Ruitone*; 13th century, *Ruton*; 14th, *Ruitone*. Etymons embracing two languages should always have good evidence to support them; but Welsh and Anglo-Saxon are certainly sometimes mingled in Salop, and even in parts of Staffordshire. I think the prefix represents W. *rhin*, a slope or hill side, followed by the A. S. *ton* = the town on the hill side. There are two Rytons in Salop, anciently *Ruitone*, and *Rutone*. "Of-the-Eleven-towns" is said to refer to eleven "tons," or hamlets, supposed to be, or to have been, members of Ruyton. In an article in the *Transactions* of the S. A. Society, ix. 246, they are said to be Cotton, Eardiston, Ruyton, Shelvock, Shotatton, Wikey, Haughton, Rednal, Sutton, Tedsmore, and West Felton, but no authority is given for that statement. Eyton says the

existing townships are Ruyton itself, Cotton, Eardiston, Shelvoek, Shotatton, and Wykey; he supposes the other five are "lost." I am told that Ruyton is situate on a hill side, sloping to the river Perry.

SEVERN.—Roman, "*Sabrina*;" Early W., *Safren*; A. S., *Sæferne*, *Seferne*; Later W., *Hafren*. Professor Rhys says the early Welsh never had an initial *h*; but by the ninth century initial *s* had passed into *h*. He thinks the Romans and Saxons may have learned the name of the river from British Gauls, and not from the Welsh. As the Romans were in the habit of adopting native names so far as their language would allow, the etymology of Severn should probably be sought in some pre-Roman tongue. In Irish, *Sabhraun* (pronounced Savran) means a boundary, and was the ancient name of the river Lee, County Cork. The Severn was certainly in parts an ancient boundary, and possibly so in pre-Roman times. The conversion of "*Sabhraun*" into *Sabrina* by the Romans, and by the Anglo-Saxons into *Sæferne*, is not unlikely; but it is only a suggestion. In studying river names one is frequently landed and lost in the mist of some "unknown tongue."

SHERIFF HALES has had a chequered career in the way of names. We find it in D. *Halas*; in 1255, *Halys*; in 1259, *Hales Paunton*; in 1265, *Hales Trussell*; in 1281, *Hales upon Lousyerd* (Lizard); in 1327, *Sheriff Hales*. It was Hales Paunton because in the 12th and 13th centuries the Pantulfs, later known as Pantons and Pauntons, were its lords; Hales Trussell because the Trussells succeeded them; and Sheriff Hales because Rainold Bailgiote, Sheriff of Shropshire, was its lord in the latter part of the 11th century; Hales upon Lousyerd because of its vicinity to Lizard hill. Hales being a common name, it was found necessary to give some distinctive addition to most places so called; but why the titles of comparatively modern lords should be abandoned, and that of an early Norman lord preferred, does not appear. In this case Domesday is entirely right, "*halas*" being the plural of A.S. *healh*, a word of somewhat doubtful meaning, but used in most charters in the sense of meadow, pasture, or enclosed land. *Heales* is the genitive singular of *healh*, and the passage from *Halas* to *Heales*, and thence to *Hales*, would be natural. There are some place-names terminating "in Hales" (such as Betton in Hales) = Betton in the meadows, &c.

SHRAWARDINE.—D. *Saleurdine*; 12th century, *Snewardin*, *Shrawardine*, *Schrawurdi*; 13th century, *Shrewurthin*, *Schyre-worthdin*, *Schrewardyn*. Eyton says it is sometimes called "Castle Isabel," there having been a Royal border fortress

here. In 1272 the then lord had a wife Isabel (de Mortimer). Blakeway (*Hist. of Shrewsbury*, i. 170), says it derives its name from having been the residence of Anglo-Saxon and Norman Sheriffs, and that a charter dated at Shrewsbury, 25 March, 1292, gives the name "Schyreeworthin," meaning "the worth (farm) of the Shire reeve, or sheriff."

SHREWSBURY.—The earliest form of this name known to me is in a Latin charter of Æthered and Æthelfled, of Mercia, to Wenlock Abbey, An. 901, tested "in civitate Scrobensis." Under the year 1006 we find in three versions of the A. S. Chronicle *Scrobbesbyrigscire*, and in one version *Scropesbyri*. Under 1016 we have *Scrobsætan* in one version of the Chronicle, and *Scrobbesbyrig* in two versions. In Domesday we have it *Sciropberie* eight times. All "authorities" have agreed to interpret *Scrobbesbyrig* "the burgh of shrubs." Bosworth does so in his A. S. Dictionary, under "Scrobbesburh." Professor Skeat in his Etymological Dictionary, under "shrub," says:—"A. S. *scrob*, a shrub, preserved in . . . *Scrobbesbyrig*, Shrewsbury (lit. Shrubsbury)." Blakeway (*History of Shrewsbury*), Toller (A. S. Dict.), and Bradley (Stratmann's M. E. Dictionary 1891, under "schrob"), all adopt the same view, perhaps in deference to Bosworth, and without investigation. Notwithstanding this weight of authority, I venture to submit that "Scrobbesbyrig" means the burgh of "Scrob"—a personal name. "Scrobbesbyrig" is the gen. sin., and means literally (accepting the construction of authority), the town of a shrub. The pl. form should be "Scrobbabyrig," but if "Scrob" was used in the sense of a personal name we should expect to find it as it is, genitive singular, *Scrobbesbyrig*. The absurdity of any generation of men naming a place "the town of a shrub," or "the town of shrubs," never appears to have struck anybody; but "Scrob's" burgh, Scrob being used as a personal name, is sensible, and consistent with surrounding etymologies. "In civitate Scrobensis" in the charter of 901 is clearly "in the city of Scrob," the *ensis* being an adjectival suffix used in a genitive sense, as "of" or "belonging to." Was "Scrob" a personal name? Certainly. Eyton says:—"Richard fitz Scrobi or Scrob was a Norman, settled in England before the Conquest, and a favourite of Edward the Confessor. He held property in Salop, and estates in Herefordshire, where he was termed "Scribe." *Scropesberie* in one version of the A. S. Chronicle under 1006 is marvellously like this alias "Scribe," "Scroop," or "Scrope," as we find it in after times. We have Scrooby in the N. E. of Notts, D. *Scrobi*. Can anybody doubt that is "Scrob's village?" The only difference is that

under Norse influence, *sc* was sounded like *sk*. There seems reason to doubt whether *scrob* in A. S. does mean a shrub. Bosworth says it does, and quotes "Lye" as an authority; he also gives "scyribe" as "shrub." Toller deliberately omits "scrob," but gives "scyribe." I doubt if *scrob*, as a shrub, has ever been found in an A. S. charter. (The *sc* in *scrob* and *scyribe* would, in Mercian dialect, be pronounced *sh*).

SLEAP (near Wem).—D. *Eslepe*, 1255, and afterwards *Slepe*. The Domesday E may be discarded; it is only the French prefix to initial S. We then have plain A. S. *slæp*, a miry place. There is another *Sleap*, near Wellington, which was anciently *Sleppe*, *Slepe*. The etymology would be the same.

THE STIPERSTONES.—1190, *Tenefrestanes* (Forest of), 1224, *Stennfretaines* (Forest of), 1292, *Steyfrestanes*. This name being, I think, unique, has evidently perplexed the scribes. It is, however, clearly A. S. *stipere-stanes* = pillar (or upright) stones. I am told that masses of rock protrude on the hill, pillar like, and sometimes like Cyclopean forts.

WAPPENSHALL, near Wellington.—An etymological "guesser" might say this place had some connection with a "wappen-shaw." The earliest roots I have are *Whatmundeshale* and *Quatmundeshale* (without date). We may safely assign them to the A. S. personal name *Hwætmund*, giving us, in genitive form, *Hwætmundes-hale* (hall).

WEM.—D. *Weme*; 13th century, *Wemme*, *Weme*. Perhaps A. S. *hwem*, *hwemm*, a corner, angle. I do not know what it can be situate at the corner or angle of, unless it be of two rivers.

WENLOCK.—901, *Wimnic*; D. *Wenloch*. It is difficult to suppose that *Wenloch* can be a corruption of *Wimnic*. It is perhaps a change of name. *Wimnic* I can make nothing of. *Wenloch* may be W. *gwen-lloc*, white (or fair) mound. There is a place named "Barrow" two miles east of Wenlock, which points to the existence of a tumulus in the locality.

WOMBRIDGE.—12th century, *Wombrug*, *Wombrugge*. *Wombridge* and *Wombourne* are common names in the Midlands. I take the root to be A. S. *hwamm*, *hwomn*, *hwem*, a corner, angle, giving us in "Wombridge" the bridge at the corner, and in *Wombourne*, the brook at the corner. I have met in a charter with the words "æt wōn brycege," meaning "at the twisted bridge;" but I do not think that "wom" is a corruption of "won." *Wombourne*, in Staffordshire, is "Wambarne" in Domesday.

WREKIN, WROXETER, WROCKWARDINE.—I group these names, believing them to have the same root. Eytton assumes

the prefixes to be *W. wurch*, that which is high or round. The Wrekin is certainly high and round, and in the absence of a better etymology, and of all research, we might be content with Eyton's "guess" (he gives no reason or authority), though he does not account for the terminal *in*. The Romans called Wroxeter *Uriconium* (i.e., *Vriconium*), and a connection between that name and the Wrekin is accepted by many Celtic scholars. The British name of Wroxeter, according to Nennius (who wrote in the eighth or ninth century, as he tells us, "not trusting to my own learning, which is little or none at all, but partly from traditions of our ancestors, partly from writings and monuments of the ancient inhabitants of Britain, partly from the annals of the Romans," &c.), was *Caer Guricon*. I am told by an eminent philologist that *Vriconium* is a genuine Celtic combination, and in old Celtic would be *Wrikonion*; and that *Guricon* in modern Welsh is *Gwrygon*, and in old Welsh was *Wrycon* (the *g* being a later prefix before *w*); and further, that *Wrycon* is an old Celtic feminine personal name. Nennius is said to have been a Welshman, and to have written in Welsh, though only Latin and Irish versions of his work have survived to our time. The first mention we have of the Wrekin [in A. S. is in a fragmentary list of early territorial names (Chart. Sax. i. 415), classed as "about" the year 800. After referring to Mercia it says:—"Wocen setna is 7,000 hides." This document appears to be older than the shire-system, and has come down to us in a corrupt form. "Wocen" is generally understood to be a mistake for "Wrocen." A charter of Burgred, King of the Mercians (855) is tested "in loco qui vocatur Oswaldesdun, quando fuerent pagani in Wreocensetun" (in the place which is called Oswaldesdun, [Oswald's hill, probably Oswestry], when the pagans [Danes] were at Wreocensetun). In a charter of Edgar (963) the king grants lands at Plash, near Cardington, and Aston, near Lilleshall, "in provincia Wrocensetna." As Cardington and Lilleshall are twenty miles apart, "the province of Wrocensetna" must have represented a large district, and it would seem that Shropshire was not a recognised county before the end of the tenth century. The terminals "setna" and "setun" are the gen. pl. and dat. forms of A. S. *seta*, and mean "inhabitants," "men of." In another charter of Edgar (An. 975) the king grants lands at Aston, the bounds of which travel along "Wrocene" to Watling Street. Wroxeter in D. is *Rochecastre*; 12th century, *Wroxestree*, *Wrocestre*; 13th century, *Wroecestre*, *Wrokeestree*; 14th century, *Wrocestre*. The terminal is clearly A. S. *ceaster*, *cester* (dat. *ceastre*), a fortress, generally

applied by the Anglo-Saxons to the ruins of Roman cities. Wrockwardine in D. is *Recordine*; 12th century, *Wrocwrthin*, *Wrochewurthin*; 13th century, *Wrocwurdin*, *Wrochwurdin*, *Wrocwurthin*. The terminal is certainly A.S. *weorthign* (see Belswardine), a farm. The Red Book of Hergest (Skene's Four Books, ii. 288), though relating to events of the sixth century, is evidently a mediæval composition. It contains a verse which refers to Wroxeter or the Wrekin:—

Have I not gazed from Dinlle
Wrecon on the patrimony of Ffreuer,
With grief for its social enjoyment.

Dinlle means a fortified place, and as there is an old fort on the Wrekin, it is more likely that the bard "gazed"—with "eye in a fine frenzy rolling"—from a hill top than from low lying Wroxeter. In the original Welsh verse "Wrecon" is written "Urecon." I submit there is strong reason to believe that Wrekin has its root in a Welsh personal name, such as "Wrycon," passing into Roman "Vriconium," and A. S. "Wreocen," and that Wroxeter and Wrockwardine take their prefixes from it. The Roman form *Vriconium*, sometimes written *Vriconion*, supports this view, the suffix *ium* or *ion* meaning that the locality was the property or territory of "Vricon."

COMMITTEE FOR THE SEQUESTRATION OF
THE ESTATES OF SHROPSHIRE
DELINQUENTS.

BY R. LL. KENYON.

THE following letter is among the "Accounts and Papers relating to Sequestered Estates" in the British Museum, Add. MSS. 5,508, f. 113:—

GENT,

We received y^{rs} of the 29th of August last whereby we understand that you are authorized by the Hon^{ble} Houses of Parliament to put an ordinance of theirs of the 19th of June last in execution for the taking of accounts of all sequestered estates and receiving of such money which is in the hands of any intrusted or employed by the State in that business: and thought good to acquaint you that it pleased the hon^{ble} houses of Parliament upon the undertaking of this Committee to reduce this County unto the obedience of the Parliament it being then wholly in the possession of the enemy to grant a special ordinance of Parliament unto them for the raising of money both out of delinquents estates and otherwise for the pay of the forces raised or to be raised for the services of the Parliament in that County; and accordingly this Committee have employed and converted and by virtue of the said ordinance do employ the said money for the pay of such officers and soldiers in the County and the payment of many great sums of money charged upon this County for the pay of the arrears of officers and soldiers that have formerly served the State therein and for and towards several other necessary uses for the defence of the County; wherefore as we contend this committee is exempted out of the said ordinance by reason of the proviso therein contained; thus at present we rest

Your assured friends to serve you

H. MACKWORTH
TH. NICOLLS
SAM. MORE.

Salop 7th October 1648.

Vol. VI., 2nd S.

The letter is addressed—

"To our honoured friends Sam^l Avery, William Hobson, and Richard Hill, Esq^{rs} Commissioners for Sequestrations at Guildhall, London, these present."

On the 1st April, 1643, an Ordinance was made by the two Houses of Parliament for Sequestering Delinquents' Estates into the hands of Committees for each County nominated in the Ordinance, or to be nominated afterwards by the two Houses. This is printed by Rushworth and Scobell, but the names of the members of the Committees are not given.

On the 10th April, 1643, the Shropshire Committee was appointed by another Ordinance.

On the 13th June, 1644, an Ordinance was made "for raising of moneys for the maintenance of such forces as are and shall be raised in the County of Salop, for the service of the Parliament." It was, no doubt, this Ordinance upon which the Shropshire Committee of Sequestrations acted, and to which they refer in the above letter.

On the 17th December, 1647, an Ordinance was made "for appointing the Committee of Sequestrations in the several counties of England and Wales speedily to deliver in an account of all the sequestered lands and goods, and how they have been disposed of;" and it was followed by Ordinances on the same subject on the 9th August and 25th August, 1648. None of these Ordinances of 1644, 1647, and 1648 are printed by Rushworth or Scobell, but the latter gives the titles of them. We see by the above letter that the Shropshire Committee strongly objected to being called upon to give an account of the money they had extracted from the estates of their Royalist neighbours.

The signatures to the letter are those of well-known persons. The two former were among the Aldermen of Shrewsbury nominated in the King's Charter of June, 1638. They both, however, declared themselves against the King, and absented themselves from Shrewsbury while the King was there in 1642, and when he

left Shrewsbury he proclaimed them traitors, together with Thomas Hunt (ancestor of the Hunts of Boreatton). The Corporation accordingly declared that all three of them had vacated their seats as aldermen ; but all three were restored after Mytton's capture of the town in February, 1644-5.

Humphrey Mackworth was of an old Derbyshire family, and was the owner of Betton Strange, which had belonged to his family since 1544. He married a sister of Waller the poet. He was Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1645, and was appointed Governor of the town about 1646, and retained that office till his death. In December, 1648, he and the Garrisons of Shrewsbury and Ludlow petitioned Fairfax against making any treaty with the King, and that justice might be done without respect of persons. (Rushworth vii., 1374.) He was summoned on the 20th August, 1651, by Charles II., who had arrived with the Scottish army at Tong Norton on his way to Worcester, to surrender the town, but he refused to do so. He was Recorder of Bridgnorth and a member of Cromwell's Privy Council, and M.P. for Shropshire in 1654. He died in December of that year, and was buried in Henry VII.'s Chapel in Westminster Abbey. He was succeeded at Betton Strange by his son Thomas, M.P. for Shropshire in 1656 and 1658, and Sheriff 1669. Thomas's son Humphrey was knighted for his loyalty by Charles II., and Humphrey's grandson Herbert, was created a Baronet, and sold his Shropshire estates of Buntingsdale and Betton. The present Baronet is of Glen Uske, Caerleon.

Thomas Nicolls was of Boycott, near Pontesbury, and had been Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1636, and Sheriff of the county in 1641. He married Mary, daughter and co-heiress of John Kynaston, Esq., of Marton.

Samuel More was son of Richard More of Linley, M.P. for Bishop's Castle in the Long Parliament. His mother was an aunt of Sir Paul Harris of Boreatton, but he took the opposite side in the civil war, and defended Hopton Castle against the Royalists, but was compelled

to surrender it. After Shrewsbury had been captured by Mytton, "In regard of the great love and affection which Andrew Lloyde of Aston, Samuel More of Linley, Robert Clive of Stiche, and Robert Charleton of Apley, Esquires, four of the committyes of Parliament for the County of Salop, with the rest of the committee who were borne burgesses, have expressed to this Corporation," all four were admitted burgesses of Shrewsbury. More was governor of all the border castles from Hereford to Montgomery under Cromwell, and was returned to represent Shropshire in Parliament in 1656, but was excluded by Cromwell. He was Governor of Ludlow under Charles II., and died in 1662. He was an ancestor of the present M.P. for the Ludlow division of Shropshire.

Of the "committyes" who signed other letters, see Owen and Blakeway 1,460, ii. 498, 500.

Sir John Corbet was of Stoke and Adderley, and son of Richard Corbet, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1593. He was created a Baronet in 1627, but refused to subscribe to the forced loan of that year, and was imprisoned in the Gatehouse at Westminster, where Dean's Yard now stands. With four others he took out a writ of Habeas Corpus, which was argued before Sir Nicholas Hide and other judges, but they decided that the return to the writ, "detained by special command of the King," was good, and the prisoners were accordingly remanded. They were released when writs were issued for a new Parliament in January, 1627-8. In 1629 Sir John was Sheriff of Shropshire, and in that year the Privy Council ordered that for keeping the Trained Bands in good order a Muster Master should be appointed in each county, to be paid by money to be granted by the Grand Jury. Sir John declared at the Shropshire Quarter Sessions that this order was illegal and against the Petition of Right. For this he was again imprisoned and fined; but in November, 1640, he was returned to the Long Parliament as Member for Shropshire together with his first cousin, Sir Richard Lee; and after debates

of 4 June and 27 August, 1641, the House of Commons resolved that he ought to have reparation from the Council, that the information against him in the Star Chamber ought to be taken off the file, and the Lord Keeper Coventry (then dead), Archbishop, Laud, Lord Cottington, and others who had caused his imprisonment, ought to be proceeded against. Sir John was named in the Ordinance of 10 April, 1643, as chief of the Shropshire Committee of Sequestrations, and on 22 Sept. of that year he took the Covenant in the House of Commons. He was named in August, 1648, as a member of "the Committee of Lords and Commons to adjudge and determine scandalous offences." He was first cousin to the Royalist Sir Richard Lee, and to the father of the Parliamentary General Mytton. He married Anne, daughter of Sir George Mainwaring of Ightfield, and had 20 children, of whom 17 grew up. (See Rushworth i. 458, 473; ii. 10; iv. 7, 281, 381; Scobell's *Acts*; Phillips's *Civil War in Wales*, &c., p. 160).

Thomas Mytton was of Halston, and¹ became a Colonel in the Parliamentary Army. He was the most active and successful of the Parliamentary leaders in this county, and was the principal instrument in capturing Wem, Oswestry, and Shrewsbury from the Royalists. For the last of these exploits he received the thanks of the House of Commons on the 29th March, 1645. He was Parliamentary Sheriff of Shropshire in 1645, took Ruthin and Conway in 1646, became a Major-General, and was wounded in an attack on Anglesey in 1648. He was M.P. for Shropshire in 1654, and died in 1656, and was buried in S. Chad's, Shrewsbury. His family was of importance in Shrewsbury as early as 1313, and had been settled at Halston since about 1560.

Andrew Lloyd of Aston became a Colonel in the Parliamentary army, and was elected by a meeting of freeholders convened at Oswestry by the Parliamentary Sheriff, Thomas Mytton, to succeed Sir Richard Lee, a Royalist, as M.P. for Shropshire; but Mytton suddenly

adjourned the meeting to Alberbury, and there got a number of people who were not freeholders to elect a Mr. Edwards, a relation of his own. So at least says a petition to Parliament, a copy of which is at Aston; the date must have been 1645, as it was in that year that Mytton was sheriff. Sir Richard Lee had been captured in Shrewsbury in February, 1644-5, and after that event Mr. Lloyd had done his best to prevent Mytton from being appointed, as he wished, to be Governor of the town. It appears from some papers at Boreatton that Andrew Lloyd and his brother, and a number of other persons, went to hunt deer in Boreatton Park about 1666, and were there met by some keepers, who shot at them, and Mr. Lloyd was killed. A legal inquiry followed, but the result is not stated. Boreatton had by that time become the property of Mr. Lloyd's former colleague, Col. Hunt. Mr. Lloyd married a daughter of Thomas Powell of Park, and left several children; but the present family of Aston are descended from him in the female line only.

Robert Clive of Stiche is said to have been a member of the Long Parliament, but was not an original member. He must have been an active Roundhead, for the Royalists of Shrewsbury are said to have added the following clause to their Litany :—

From Wem and from Wyche
And from Clive of the Stiche
Good Lord deliver us.

Wem and Nantwich were Parliamentary garrisons. Robert Clive, however, must have overcome his republican tendencies, for he was Sheriff of the County in 1674. He was an ancestor of the present Earl of Powis.

Robert Charleton was uncle of the owner of Apley, who was a minor, and whose mother had married one Thomas Hanmer, and held Apley Castle for the King.

Thomas Hunt was son of Richard Hunt, who had been three times Bailiff of Shrewsbury, and who was the fourth of the twenty-four Aldermen of Shrewsbury.

nominated by the King in June, 1638. It is curious that in that list his name is immediately preceded by that of Hugh Harris, fourth son of Sir Thomas Harris of Boreatton, the estate in which the Hunts were to supplant the Harrises. Thomas Hunt was a Captain of the Militia in 1642, and had by that time become an Alderman of Shrewsbury, but, as mentioned above, he was expelled from that office. In 1643 he assisted Mackworth and Mytton to establish at Wem the first garrison the Parliament had in this county. In 1645, after the capture of Shrewsbury by the Parliament, he was restored to his office of Alderman, and in November of that year was declared to be M.P. for Shrewsbury, in place of the duly elected member, Francis Newport, who was a Royalist. On the death of Humphrey Mackworth in December, 1654, Col. Hunt was made Governor of Shrewsbury. In the following March Sir Thomas Harris appointed a rendezvous at Boreatton of a party who were to surprise Shrewsbury and hold it for Charles II., but the plot was discovered, and Sir Thomas was seized. He had been previously captured by the Parliament in Shrewsbury in 1644, and he and his widowed mother (for his father, Sir Paul, had died that same year) had then had to compound for their estate by a fine of £1,542. Probably this plot of 1655 ruined him, though he was not put to death for it, for shortly afterwards the Boreatton estate passed into the hands of Col. Hunt. The conveyance is dated 1663. Col. Hunt was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1656, and Mayor of Shrewsbury in 1657, and he died in that town in 1669. The Harris baronetcy became extinct in 1685. Boreatton is still owned by the descendants of Thomas Hunt, but Baschurch School still has an endowment given to it by the Harris family.

Leighton Owen was son of Mr. Robert Owen of Woodhouse, by his third wife, Mary, daughter of Thomas Leighton of Wattlesborough, through whom he obtained the estate of Braginton, in the parish of Alberbury. He was a captain in the Parliamentary

army, and became a Commissioner under the Act of February, 1649-50, "for better Propagation and Preaching the Gospel in Wales, ejecting Scandalous Ministers and Schoolmasters, and Redress of some Grievances." He left only daughters, co-heiresses, one of whom married one Edward Griffiths of Old Marton, in the parish of Whittington, and their grandson Samuel Griffiths was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1759.

The Committee of Sequestrations, then, or Committee of Parliament, as it was often called, for Shropshire, seems to have consisted of these persons ;—

Sir John Corbet, Bart., of Stoke and Adderley,
 Thomas Mytton of Halston,
 Humphrey Mackworth of Betton Strange,
 Thomas Nicolls of Boycott,
 Samuel More of Linley,
 Andrew Lloyd of Aston,
 Robert Clive of Stiche,
 Robert Charlton of Apley,
 Thomas Hunt, afterwards of Boreatton,
 Leighton Owen of Braginton.

All of them were men of high standing, and nearly all were of good old county families. All except Mackworth and Nicolls are represented among the county families at the present day.

Some of the facts stated in this paper about the Lloyds of Aston and Hunts of Boreatton are from private sources. The authorities for the rest of the paper, except the letter with which it begins, are Owen and Blakeway's *Shrewsbury*, *The Sheriffs of Shropshire*, Burke's *Peerage* and *Landed Gentry*, Rushworth's *Hist. Collections*, Scobell's *Acts of Parliament*, and Mrs. Stackhouse Acton's *Garrisons of Shropshire*.

THE OTTLEY PAPERS RELATING TO THE CIVIL WAR.

EDITED BY WILLIAM PHILLIPS.

PREFACE.

By the kindness of Colonel Cotes, of Pitchford, I have had the loan of a book, in MS., containing copies of a large number of original letters and papers addressed to Sir Francis Ottley, Knight, formerly Governor of Shrewsbury, and others, during and subsequent to the Civil War, preserved in the Pitchford muniments. The authors of the "History of Shrewsbury," Owen and Blakeway, inform us that "these papers had been communicated to Carte, who quoted them at iv., 455, but made little use of them. They form a most interesting folio volume, for the use of which we are indebted to the Honourable Cecil Jenkinson, M.P., of Pitchford." These local historians, however, being limited for space, and compelled to confine themselves chiefly to the history of the town, were unable to make more than a very limited use of them, and hence they have remained comparatively unknown to Salopians. In 1838 J. G. Nicholls printed a large number in his "Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica," from transcripts made by the late George Morris, of Shrewsbury, accompanied by brief but valuable notes contributed by the transcriber. But, inasmuch as this work is expensive, and possessed by few, it is thought desirable that a complete collection should be printed in these *Transactions*.

I would express my thanks to Colonel Cotes for his kind permission to print these interesting documents, and also to Mr. H. W. Adnitt, of Shrewsbury, for lending me George Morris's original transcripts and notes, which have saved me much additional trouble.

Canonbury,

Shrewsbury,

July 30th, 1893.

Mr. Morris's notes are denoted by his initials—G.M.

SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY, KNIGHT.

Francis Ottley, of Pitchford, Salop, Esq., was the eldest son of Thomas Ottley, of the same place, Esq., by Mary, daughter of Roger Gifford, M.D., co. Buckingham. He was born 1601, entered Shrewsbury School at the age of ten, and was admitted of Lincoln College, Oxford, 1618. He was fourth in descent from William Ottley, Esq., of Pitchford, Sheriff in 1500, whose father, Thomas Ottley, was third son of Phillip Ottley, lord of the manor of Oteley, near Ellesmere. Thomas, being a younger son, embarked in business in Shrewsbury, in the clothing trade, became a merchant of the Staple of Calais, and being eminently successful, purchased Pitchford in 1473, and founded that branch of the family of which Francis Ottley became so distinguished a member. In 1624 Mr. Francis Ottley married Lucy, daughter of Thomas Edwards, Esq., of the College, Shrewsbury, widow of Thomas Pope, she being eight years his senior, by whom he had three sons and a daughter. Charles I. ascended the throne the same year that Mr. Ottley married Mrs. Pope, and the King and he were within one year of being the same age. The state of public feeling regarding the restrictions imposed upon the King by the Commons, and the resistance he offered to those restrictions, divided the nation into two hostile parties,

and every man had to make his choice of King or Parliament. Mr. Ottley was an uncompromising royalist. In 1642 when the affairs of the King assumed so serious a turn, and it became necessary to secure his position in the provinces, he selected Mr. Ottley, as one in whom he could trust, to raise a regiment of two hundred foot. The commission is dated Sept. 10, 1642. Seven days later, another commission dated from Stafford commanded Mr. Ottley to employ this force in securing Shrewsbury "in these times of distraccion, against all assaults, surprise, or attempt, which may bee made against the same." How long after this the honour of knighthood was conferred upon him has never yet been determined, but it was certainly within this same month of September. The King having paid his memorable visit to Shrewsbury, where he received such a loyal welcome, he conferred a further honour on Sir Francis Ottley, by appointing him Governor of the town, which post he held till 1644, when, having voluntarily relinquished it, he was appointed to the more honourable office of High Sheriff, for the year 1645. He continued to serve the royal cause with unswerving fidelity, was taken prisoner at the battle of Worcester, and had to compound for his estate by the payment of £1,200. He died in London, Sept. 1, 1649.

THE OTTLEY PAPERS.

I. R. BROWNE TO FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1641.

SIR,

Having often writt unto you of many matters in Question but nothing perfected; I am now Ambitious to be the first Messenger that shall inform you of that you have so long expected, and, withall, to give your Worship many thanks for your undeserved Bountie, and shall studie some service that may be acceptable in part of a Merritt. May it, therefore, please you to understand that now it is concluded that the

Lord deputie, (about whom there hath been so much time bestowed) shall dye tomorrow upon Tower Hill in the view of the whole world. The King, in regard of some promise that he had made to him to save his life, was very unwilling to sett his hand to the Warrant for his execution, yet, in regard he was so hard pressed thereto by the Parlam^t, and seeing the Citizens to be so eager of it as that they would not be denied, and seeing many other dangers that have lately been discovered, he did condescend and sign it upon Monday Morning last, and then did also give the Parlam^t free leave to sit for two whole Years, and to do what they pleased for the Governm^t of the State; and if they did mislike any of his Officers or Serv^{ts} they should at their pleasure and discretion put in others, to chuse a new Lord Deputie for Ireland, and another man in the Lord Cottingtons place, being the Master of the Court of Wards, who is returned into the Country, and resigned his place; or whatsoever else they please to do in that time he will not contradict; upon Tuesday the last week there was strange Matters discovered to the Parlam^t, how as yet is not Certainly known; it's said by a Captain out of the North who sent them Word that the harte of our Armie was taken from them, and if they pleased to send for him he could discover more; certain it is there was some damnable conspiracie intended agst the State, in which there is already a great Company known to have been [concerned], it is said 50 at least, for which some are already fledd, as the Lord of Carnarvon; Mr. Henry Percie, the Earl of Northumberland's Brother, and a great favourite of the King's; Mr. Henry Jermyn the Queen's great favourite, a man looked upon by the whole Court, and every thing approved being done by him; also Sr John Sukling; one Cap^t Davenant; Cap^t Billingsley, and others. All these went away upon Wednesday last; tis thought the Queen had an intent to have gotten into France, and to that purpose had sent away her things to Portsmouth, p'tending to have a desire to see that town, and to live there for a while, she having a House not far from thence; she is now confined to Whitehall, and there hath been discovered a great deal of Plate and Jewels that she had conveyed to Portsmouth, where it is now stay'd: what this Plot shou'd be is not yet known, it is said an intent to bring in foreign Powers to Govern all parts of this Realme, intending to reduce it to popery; but of this you shall hear more hereafter; We have lost a brave Peer, the Earl of Bedford, who dyed some 5 or 6 days since of the small Pox; Secretary Windebank hath petitioned to the Parlm^t that he may have liberty to come over again, and doth promise to

discover strange Plotts and Stratagems against this state; tis said he is coming only stays for a Wind; this day the Sheriff of London had a Writt sent him for the Execu'n of the deputie tomorrow, when there is expected some great discovery from him who, as it is thought, should have been General of these Young Gallants that are gone: this being all at this time I humbly take my leave but remain,

Your Worpp' Servant

London

to command,

11th May, 1641.

RO. BROWNE.

This day the King sent a letter to the Parlaimeⁿ by the Prince for stay of Execuⁿ of the deputie some certain days; divers of the Lords went to the King and told him how dangerous it might be to the State, and that they durst not assent unto it, and told him that he knew the Londoners, if Justice might take place, had Offered to give £80,000, and to lend within a month £400,000, and the House of Commons would assent to grant 8 more subsidies; the King told them that it troubled his conscience censure (*sic.*) whether he had committed Treason or not; some say his Majestie wept &c.

But tis certainlie conceived that he will be executed tomorrow.¹

To the Worth Francis Ottley, Esq., at the Colledge in Shrewsbury, these del.

II. THE SAME TO THE SAME.

1642.

SIR,

I have here inclosed sent you his Maj^{ties} Answer to the Petition of the Parliament which I sent . . . weeks, now both the Petition and Answer are put . . . books, also the passages that happened at Hull, the Parli^t doth Justifie Sir John Hotham in all which he hath done and had £2,000 presently sent him to be disposed of amongst the Garrison as he should think fitt. Sr . . . Dorrill is sent for for stopping some Messengers between Hull and the Parlia^t tis concluded we shall have a Synod and there are Ministers p'sented 2 for every Countie by the Knights and Burgesses of the said Counties a list of their names is here inclosed, upon Friday

¹ Stafford was beheaded on Tower Hill, May 12, 1641. His last words were: "Put not your trust in Princes."

last the Kentish men came into London with their Petition, of which I have formerly sent you a Copie it being verbatim with that they delivered, their meeting was upon Black Heath where there met a very great Company but came not above 240 into the City having intelligence of their coming raised 2 trained Bands to Guard London Bridge, which they did and wou'd not suffer them to pass over untill every man did lay down his Sword which they did, and came along the City being most of them very Gallant Gentlemen well clad and well Horsed, only one disaster happened, that the Gent. Mr Lovelis that carried the Petition in his Hand, his Horse Stumbled and fell down under him, now tis commonly reported that the Petition fell down and in the Kennel, but neither he fell nor the Petition, nor lost his Hat of his head, but saved himself well and was quickly up again, notwithstanding it was a foul blur unto him, the House hearing that they were come into the City, and were coming to the House with their Petition p'sently Adjourned the House till the next Morning, notwithstanding the Gent. lay at that end of the Town (or the Major part of them) that night, and next morning went to the House with their Petition, which the House did so well like as . . they committed 2 or 3 of the chiefest Agents to the Tower, as Sr William Butele Mr Lovelies &c., there is another Petition coming up very shortly out of the same Countie to cross this Petition alsoe his Maj^{tie} sent for the chief Gents. of the Countie of York about him to advise with them what was to be done for raising of Strength . . . parts to do his Maje^{tie} Service, where Sir Francis . . . began and divers others drawing their swords to . . . but the Major part concluded and told his Maj^{tie} they would lay down their Lives and Estates to do his Majest^{ie} Service but they might . . . to make a difference between his Majestie . . . there are two members . . . of common . . . give Those Gentlemen many . . . their Fidelitie, the Scotts tell the King absolutely . . . comply with his Parlim^t and that his Majes^{tie} must not look for any Assistance from them, but they must stick to the Parlim^t, we hear dayly of very good News from Ireland and of Great overthrows that are dayly given to the Rebels.

Yo^r Servant

London 3 May, 1642.

Ro: BROWNE.

To the Worth Francis Otley Esq at the Colledge in Shrewsbury Salop These present.

The above two letters are those referred to by the historians of Shrewsbury in the following words :—

Before the introduction of newspapers, the only mode by which intelligence could be procured was by engaging the services of some person in London to write an occasional *letter of news*. One of these, from Mr. Ottley's correspondent, has been preserved, and contains so lively a picture of a most important crisis at the commencement of the period to which the present chapter refers, that we should willingly have introduced it in this place if our limits had not forbidden its insertion. O. & B., i., p. 430. It will be seen that these authors were ignorant of a second letter.

III. COMMISSIONS AND LETTERS FROM THE KING AND GENERALS TO FRANCIS OTTLEY AND OTHERS.

1642.

Instructions for our dearest sone Prince Charles And for our right Trusty and right wellbeloved Cozens and Councillors Thomas Earl of Arundell, John Earl of Bridgewater, our right trusty and well beloved Robert Viscount Kilmurry, William Lord Craven, Edward Lord Herbert, and our trusty and well beloved the Sheriffe and the other Comissioners in our Comission of Array for our County of Salop.

CHARLES R.

Whereas we have named you Comissioners in our Comission of Array for the County of Salop, and thereby give you several powers for the Arrayinge Trayninge Arminge leadinge and Conductinge of the Inhabitants of our said County, as by our said Comission, which we herewith send you, Appeareth.

Our will and pleasure is, and we charge and require you, that you, or three or more of you, doe forthwith send out your warrant to the Sheriffe of our said County for Summoninge the Inhabitants of our said County according to the said Comission, neverthelesse, being unwilling in our Princely care of our people to bring any increase of Charge upon them, wee hope for the present it wil be sufficient if only the Ancient Traynes and freehould bands of the County be Summoned and Trayned, you taking speciall care that they be well Arrayed and the number supplied with sufficient and able persons and under the Conduct of such Captaynes that are

persons of qualitie honor considerable Estates and Interest in the Countrey and not Straingers unless you find it shal be well pleasing to our people, and for the necessary defence of the Countrey, to make an augmentation of theire Armes.

And you are to take notice that Recusants being disabled by law to bear Arms are to be Assesed to find Arms for other men. And if their Tenants that are protestants beare Armes you are to receive them.

For the better knowledge of your particular duties herein you are all to take Coppies of these our instructions, and to take Transcripts of our said Comission, the original to remayne with one of those of the Quorum; and your proceedings herein we expect speedy and plenary Accompt. Given at our Court at York the 22nd day of June in the Eighteenth year of our Raigne.

IV. THOMAS FOWLER TO FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1642.

Sr—This Bearer d'd me yor l're this night, being Fryday night, with the protestation, the subscriptions unto w^{ch} I will promote what I can, & will return it by the time limited, though I must say therein we are something straighten'd; I fear many of my Neighbours have taken infection lately; Yet this Draught is so cleare, that (mee thinks) few should scruple the under writing of it. I will do what I can in it, and so I rest,

Yours Sr to serve you,

THOMAS FOWLER.¹

Whitchurch, Aug. 19th 1642.

To my much honor'd Friend Francis Oteley, Esq^r at the Colledge in Salop, p'sent these.

The "protestation, the subscription unto which" Mr. Fowler promises to promote, was that drawn up by the Grand Jury at the Shrewsbury Assizes, on the 8th of August, which expressed their "unanimous and thankful acknowledgements of the good laws, which through the King's goodness, had been enacted in this parlia-

¹ Of Harnage Grange. He married a daughter of Lord Liverpool, and by her was father of Sir William Fowler, created Baronet Nov. 1, 1704.—G.M.

ment; their readiness to obey his Majesty in all lawful ways for putting the country in a posture of arms for his defence; and their resolution to adventure their lives and fortunes in defence of his royal and sacred person." It was largely subscribed to at the time, and "abundance more subscribed afterwards."—*Vide O. & B., i. p. 417.*

V. WILLIAM PYGOTT TO THE SAME.

1642.

Sr,

I will, if God spare life, wait upon my Father Pygott to Salop upon Wednesday next, and be ready at the Place and time Appointed to meet my Brother, with as many of my neighbouring Ministers¹ as I can procure, and, in the mean while, as I have already, so I shall endeavour still to advance the remonstrance of this County with as many hands as I can: thus with my service presented I rest,

Your very loving and respective
Friend,

Edgmond Augst 21,
1642.

WILLIA.²

To the Worth my much respected
Friend Mr. Francis Ottley, Salop,
these present.

VI. RIC. AWNSHAM TO THE SAME.

1642.

NOBLE FRIEND,

I have acquainted Sir Robert Howard³ my Honourable Patron with the Contents of your letter, who rejoyceth much

¹ This was a meeting of the clergy in Shrewsbury to form an Association, for which they were severely threatened by the two Houses of Parliament.

² In the Parish Register of Chetwynd, under date, 1645, is recorded the burial of William Pigott, son of Thomas Pigott of Chetwynd, whom I suppose to be the man who wrote this letter; and his father, the Thomas Pfgott of Chetwin, gent., who compounded for his estate by paying £440.

³ Sir Robert Howard, of Chun Castle, co. Salop, Knight, 5th son of Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk, from whom he had that portion of the Shropshire property given him. He adhered firmly to his Sovereign, was Colonel of a Regiment of Dragoons, and had to pay for his exertions in the Royal cause £942 4s. 0d.—G. M.

to see you so cordiall in his Ma^{ties} service, and his Hono^r giveth you thanks for your care and paynes therein; and according to your desyre he will advance the Cause as farr as in him lyeth, and will, God willing, be at Salop on Wednesday, though he is not in very good case to travel for the present, for he hath not been out of his Bed since Saturday was seven night; thus in hast I rest,

S^r, Yo^r humble Servant,

Hopesay : Aug. 22^o.
1642.

RIC. AWNSHAM.¹

To my honored Freind,
Francis Ottley, Esq^r,
These.

VII. FRA. NEWPORT TO THE SAME.

1642.

SIR,

I desir'd D^r Smith to wryte y^u worde y^t I did intende then to bee at Shrewsbury on Wednesday next, but I have met wth occasions since, that make it doubtfull, & therefore, understanding y^t y^u have a desire to speake wth mee, I have now sent to y^u to lett y^u know y^t I will meet y^u to-day eyther at Tom Eyton's,² or at a little blind Alehouse in the longe-wood³ (the mans name is Purslow), w^{ch} y^u find best for y^r conveniency, I shall bee at eyther place by 4 a Clock in the afternoon, pray send me an answeare whether y^ul come or noe, & if y^u doe, w^{ch} of the 2 places before named y^u will come to, & y^u shall there find,

Sir,

Y^r Affectionate friend

High Ercall, Aug. 23th
1642, Tuesday Morning.

& servant,

FRA NEWPORT.⁴

¹ Rev. Richard Awnsham (or Ansham), was chaplain to a Regiment of Dragoons under the command of Sir Robert Howard, Knight.

² Afterwards Sir Thomas Eyton, Knt., of Eyton-upon-the-Wild-moors, near Wellington, where the family have resided nearly from the Conquest. His activity and zeal in the cause of his Sovereign were compounded for by the payment of £976. He was buried at Wellington, March 24th, 1658.—G. M.

³ Still called Longswood, and derives its name from an extensive wood then in existence, situate in the parish of Long, now generally called Longdon-upon-Tern.—G. M.

⁴ Francis Newport, eldest son of Sir Richard Newport, 1st Baron Newport, of High Ercall. Francis generally resided at Eyton-upon-Severn, in the parish of Wroxeter. He represented the borough of Shrewsbury in the "Short Parliament" of 1640, and in the "Long

SIR,

I make choise of y^e places
before mentioned as the most
secret ones I know of.

To my much esteemed kinsman
Captaine Francis Oately,
in Shrewsbury.
these

VIII. JOHN WELD TO THE SAME.

1642.

Noble captaine, I find by concurrent advertisments that it is full time for Shrewsbury, and other parts of this County, to be vigilant. S^r I shall rely uppon your care for the safty of that place, if you suppose you want helpe you shall want none that I am able to afford you. I wish some of my neighbours here abouts were as well minded as you; I resolve to try them. I have already given my best advise to Bridgnorth, and I think they will follow it, and so desireing to hear from you as often as you find occasion, with all our loving respects remembered unto you, I rest,

Y^r Servant,

Willey, 29 August, 1642.

JOHN WELD.¹

Parliament" which met November the 3rd the same year, being then only 21 years old. He was ardently attached to the Royal Cause, was one of the few members who voted for the acquittal of Lord Strafford, soon after which he was expelled from the house as a *malignant*. He was taken prisoner at Oswestry on the capture of that town June 22nd, 1644, and was with his father severely punished for his loyalty; his composition was £5,284, and his father's £3,287 6s. 8d. exclusive of £170 per annum settled. In 1694 he was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Bradford. In the chancel of Wroxeter Church, where he was buried, is a handsome mural monument to his memory, from which it appears that in 1668 he was made Comptroller of the King's household; in 1672 Treasurer of the same, from which he was displaced in 1680, "because he refused to have the established laws changed; so great was his innate zeal for the Church of England." In 1688 he was again "Treasurer and Cofferer to King William and Queen Mary," and was Privy Counsellor to Charles II., James II., William and Mary, and Anne; Lord Lieutenant of the county of Salop, and Keeper of the Rolls. He was born Feb. 23rd, 1619, and died September the 19th, 1708, in the 89th year of his age.—G.M.

¹ John Weld, of Willey, Esq., which he purchased from Francis Lacon, of Kinlet. He was Town Clerk of London, and at the period

Sr.—I pray peruse this enclosed copy of a letter sent to Sr Francis Kinarston, and shew it to Sr Vincent Corbet, and Mr. Eiton. I doubt not of their care, seing the dangers are so apparent. I have sent coppies to Sr Rich. Lee, Captaine Screven, and to Captaine Lloyd, and I shall this day speak with Sr Tho. Woldridge.

To my Honored freind,
francis Otley, Esquire.
present these.

IX. THOMAS EYTON (?) TO THE SAME.

1642.

COSEN FRANKE,

Though you Failed me at Morton Corbett in my way, I hope better of you now I am returned from Nottingham. I hear you are going yourself to-morrow from whence I came, lett me by all means speak with you, for I have a dispatch to you from the King & must impart unto you what I have already done, and how you must Apply yourself at Court, if you expect any good Issue, For never had Prince more Traytors about his Person, and good Intentions ingured by misinterpretations; I pray fail not to meet me at Atcham bridge, or Jack Dawes's House an Ale house over the way, by seven A clock tomorrow morning: this 4th I rest.

Sr Your Kinsman¹
To my much honour'd Kinsman
Francis Otley Esq^r at his house in Salop,
present these.

X. EDWARD HYDE TO THE SAME.

1642.

SIR,²

I acquainted his Maj^{ty} with your very good letter and [have]. . . a speciall commande from him (besydes

in question High Sheriff of co. Salop; was afterwards Knighted, and with his son Sir John Weld, junior, taken prisoner at the capture of Shrewsbury, February 22nd, 1645. He and his son had to pay heavy compensation for their loyalty, his being £1,121 18s. 4d., and his son's £757 2s. 0d. He died November 6th, 1666. The late Cardinal Weld was descended from Sir Humphrey Weld, younger brother of this Sir John Weld, who, in some of the letters is called Sir John Wilde.—G.M.

¹ This is probably Thomas Eyton, before noticed.

² Part of this letter, but erroneously dated the 18th, appears in the *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. i., p. 418, note 3.—G.M.

writinge to Mr. Mayor) to. . . .¹ a particular addresse
to you, as to a person his Maj^{ty} owes the. . . . vinge
much Service from, having been before informed of your greate
. . . . & Industry in his Service. I assure you he has a
very greate sens. . . . and that he may prevent any
inconveniencies which may prejudice t[he affec]tioness of that
place he hath so much reguarde of he resolves to visit, sooner
then he meant, that is, before he goes to Chester, and. . . .
unexpected accident divert him, he intends to be with you on
T. . . . next, otherwise you will be sure to receive some
ayde of horse and foot from him. But of this you shall receive
seasonable and publike intimation; I shall be very glad to
have any oppertunity to let you know how much I am,

Sr Your very affectionate
'humble serv^t

EDW: HYDE.²

Uxiter this 10th of 7 ber.
To My Worthy Friend Sr ffancis Ottley K^t 3
at his house in Shrewsbury these.

XI. THE KING TO THE SAME.

1642.

CHARLES R.

Charles by the grace of God King of Greate Britaine
ffrance and Ireland defender of the ffaith &c. To our trusty
and welbeloved ffancis Ottley, of our County of Salop, Esq^r.
greeting; whereas there are now at and near our Citty of
London great fforces leavying, and Moneys raising by way of
contribution and otherwise, towards the Charge of raising and
maintaining an Army or fforce by order of our two houses of
Parliam^t not only without our consent, but contrary to severall
expresse commands published by severall proclimations,

¹ The omissions are caused by part of the letter being torn off and missing.—G.M.

² Afterwards Earl of Clarendon.

³ Although Hyde addresses him as "Sir Francis," there is a royal letter of the same date as this (10th Sept.) from Nottingham, in which he is called "our trusty and welbeloved ffancis Ottley." Still more strange, another royal letter dated at Stafford seven days later (17 Sept.) in which he is called "Francis Ottley, Esq." Can it be that the writer, knowing the King's mind, anticipated the official creation?

Letters and Otherwise; and the same forces are Actually in so much forwardness, as that there are great numbers both of Horse and ffoote raised and marched into divers parts of our Kingdome, and a Generall and other principall Officers declared over the same: w^{ch} Army and forces what Effects and Consequences they may produce, if tymely care be not had, we know not: And therefore for the defence of our Royall Person, the two houses of Parliam^t, the Protestant Religion, the laws of the Land, the Liberty and property of the Subject, and privilege of Parliam^t, we have present occasion to have in readiness divers Regim^{ts}, and Companies of ffoote, well Armed and furnished with all things, necessary for such our service, to be imployed for these purposes in such sort as we under our Royal Hand shall direct in due form of Lawe. We, trusting to your fidelity, diligence, and dexterity in such Affairs, and intending to imploy you for such our service according to such directions as we shall give unto you, doe by these presents will and require you, and doe give unto you full power and authority for us and in our name, and for our Service, as aforesaid, to impress, raise, enroll, and retaine one Companie of two hundred ffoote, so furnished and Armed as aforesaid, wheresoever you shall be able within this our Kingdome of England and Dominion of Walles, who [shall] willingly and voluntarily serve us, as aforesaid for such Wages and entertainment by the Moneth, Weeke, or day, or for a longer or shorter tyme, as you, on our behalf, and they, shall Agree; and Whatsoever you shall do herein for us, and on our behalf we do promise to Allow of and Confirm. And, further, to give unto you full power and Authority as Commander, them to Arme, discipline, traine, Command, and in Warlike manner Order; and make Officers under you over the same, and with all possible expedition to conduct into our Towne of Shrewsbury, where we doubt not you will be well received, there to remaine as a Guard for the better Securing the said Towne, as well for the safety of the Inhabitants, as for our service, to resist and keepe out all forces that shall Attempt to enter the same by any Authority whatsoever not testified under our Royall signature. Willing and commanding all Officers and Soldiers w^{ch} by Virtue hereof you shall retaine, you to Obey, and readily to receive and accomplish your directions, commandments, and summons, in all things hereto Appertaining, or necessary to be done: as Also all Maiors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Commissioners of Array, and all other our Officers and Loving Subjects to be Ayding and Assisting herein, both unto you, and to all such

Officers and other persons whom you shall appoint under your hand and seal for the furthering and Advancem^t of this our especiall Service; for the w^{ch} these shall be to you, and to them, and to every of them, a sufficient warrant: given under our Signe Mannuall at our Court at Nottingham this Tenth day of September in the Eighteenth yeare of our Reigne, 1642.¹

XII. THO. HANMER TO THE SAME.

1642.

VERTUOUS SIR,

I shall entreat the favour of you to give me the meeting tomorrow at Ellesmere by Eleven of the Clock, my business cannot be well committed to paper, and my present Employments are so pressing that I have not liberty to come to Shrewsbury, otherwise I should not so farr have troubled you, I shall give also then an Account of such intelligence as I have from Nottingham, My servant cam from thence Yesternight so in hast I rest,

Yor Affectionate Friend & Servant,

THO: HANMER.²Overton, Sunday 11th Sept. 1642.

To my worthy friend Francis Oteley, Esq.; at his house the Colledge in Shrewsbury.

XIII. R. HERBERT TO THE SAME.

1642.

DEARE FRANKE,

I recy'd y^r letter late this night, but not so late as to make me forget either my thankfulness, or ye Account of what I know. The Kinge moves this way, and by a letter I had from him this morning all terms of peace are relinquished by the Parliament, and I myself com'anded to hasten y^e levys of my Regim^t and to make Shrewsbury my Rendevous. Be

¹ Noticed in the *History of Shrewsbury*, v. i., page 418, but erroneously dated September 4th. His Commission under the Sign Manuel for the command of the above is dated "From our Court of Stafford the seventeenth day of September."—G.M. See the Commission to follow.

² He was probably Sir Thomas Hanmer, second Baronet, who was M.P. for Flint 1640, and commanded a regiment of horse under Lord Digby on the royalist side. He died in 1678. (*Vide Alumni Oxonienses sub. nom.*)

advised if wth 500 men Itt be safe with the force and strength y^a have in y^r Towne, for me to strengthe and searve [? secure] ye place. I have not yet beaten my Drums, but shall this weeke; and in honnor Shropshire must assist in their contributions. I sent to y^r high Sheriff, and S^r R. Lee,¹ and must of all favers desire your Companie at Whitechurch uppon Fryday next. y^e Roundheads pray y^t 7 or 8 dayes were over, for then another Army would be formed (as they give out) to visitt these parts. The advise for scouts and intelligence, those of drajoney for y^e borders, are all of a high concernment; but above all to oppress in y^e reputation of a multitude, if not y^e quality and number of Arms: they beat us more in y^e impression of fables, and beleved among comon people, then any open force can prevaile. Be strong in y^r own designation, and as happy as my wishes and prayers can make you.

Y^r faithfull

R. HERBERT.²

Montg^r

13^o 7ber

1642.

To my much honord kinsman
Francis Otley Esq. at his house in Salop
present these.

XIV. THE KING TO THE SAME.

1642.

CHARLES R.

Charles by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, defender of the ffaith, &c. To our Trusty and welbeloved Francis Oateley, Esq^r, greeting. Whereas, out of our tender care of the peace and welfaare of our good Subjects wthin our Towne of Shrewsbury, w^{ch} we shall endeavour to preserve, wee have thought good to commit to you y^e charge of a Company of Voluntiers already raised, or to be

¹ Sir Richard Lee of Langley and of Acton Burnell, Knight and Baronet, Sheriff of the County of Salop 1639, and Knight of the Shire 1646. He was among the prisoners taken at the capture of Shrewsbury, and expiated his loyalty by the payment of £3,719 13s. 4d., with £169 9s. 0d. *per annum*, settled. He died about a month before the restoration.—G. M.

² This was Richard Herbert, second Lord Herbert of Chirbury. He was a Colonel in the King's service, raised a full regiment of foot, and a troop of horse, at his own expense, and compounded for his estate by payment of £1000.—G. M.

raised, wthin our said Towne, or elsewhere, for secureing y^e same in these times of distraccion, against all Assaults, surprise, or Attempt w^{ch} may bee made against the same. Our Will and Command, therefore, is, and wee doe hereby authorise you to take y^e said Company of Volunteers into your Charge, and them to Command, Traine, discipline, and exercise, as their Captaine and Leader: Willing and Commanding the said Soldiers to bee obedient, and ready to receive and accomplish y^r direccions, Commandm^{ts} and Summons, of yo^u, their Captaine, and of the Officers you shall appoint under yo^u in all things w^{ch} shall concerne, and bee for the preservation of our said Towne, and our good Subjects inhabiting there. And for soe doing, this o^r Commission under o^r sign Mannual and Signet, shall bee y^r Sufficient Warrant: Given at o^r Court at Stafford the seventeenth day of September, in the Eighteenth year of our Reigne, 1642.

[Seal.]

XV. W. BLUNDEN TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY, KNIGHT.

1642.

WORTHY COSEN,

On Saturday last I was served with a precept fr^m the Sherife to appear at the quarter Sessions, for my part, if I had not been sworne bailife this day, and tomorrow I must take the service of other things belongin to the town, which things being to be performed I hope will be sufficient excuse, whome for my part am and will be ready as any subject his Maj^y hath to be employ'd in what I may to my life. So with love you and my Lady, I rest,

Your Lo : Cosen

for the hands of his truly
Affected Cosen Sir Francis
Ottley, Knight this be dl'd.

W. BLUNDEN.¹

¹ Richard Blunden of Bishop's Castle, Esq., married (if I mistake not) Jane Ottley, an aunt of Sir Francis Ottley; and William Blunden was probably their son, hence a cousin to Sir Francis. We learn from an Order of the Corporation of that town that in conformity with a decision of the Association formed throughout the County of Salop for the prevention of "plundering of late so much exercised," William Blunden, Esquire, is given power to nominate "four able and sufficient inhabitants of the town of Bishop's Castle to provide four horses with riders, &c., at the general charge of the town." December 24, 18 Car. I. He is called Captain William Blunden in the Walcot papers at Bitterley Court, was elected bailiff of Bishop's Castle 1642, and died in office, a rather unusual event in the annals of that town.

XVI. W. BLUNDEN TO THE SAME.

1642.

SIR,

My desire is ever to Study to serve you : I had thought to have bine as this day in Sallop but by the return of some Soldiers of our towne of the trained bands, I found we needed not come tell further somons ; therefore their return made me think that you were more Safe then I hard, which if otherwise you shall find that my life shall not be valued to do my King and Country service, and will be found both in my self and others that I have any power [over] to speak of I shall not be knowing how things stand, and if at any time I shall hear of inferior to the least ones for desiring you to favour me in the least com'and I will be ready : soe with my respects to the worthy lady I shall ever rest

at Your Service

W. BLUNDEN.

To the Right Wor^{ll} his
truly respected Cosen Sir
Francis Ottley Knight
give this.

XVII. R. CHOLMONDELEY.

1642.

GENTLEMEN,—I have receyved yor letters and fynd your proposicions to the gen'rall discrete and like yo'selves, I have conveyed them accordinge to yo^r desires : I shall be willing in all occasions to serve you in all freindlie offices ; I send these to acquainte you the occasion of our dispersing the trayned bands to theire own houses ; it was partly in compassion to the people, it being now the heate of their Corne Harvest, principally the Assurance of the Army at Coventrie was removed upwards, but, if the News be certayne that I am Credibly Informed by a Gentleman that came post out of London friday morning, wee had need not only to gather them into a body but wthall to rayse the greatest strength evry County is able to doe, for he saith my Lo : of Essex upon Thursday came to Barnett wth a greate armie, and diverse pieces of greate Ordinance, I also hear by a Gent : of my Lo : of Leasters, w^{ch} came poast the same day from the Kinge, that his Ma^{tie} is removed from Nottingham, and tis thought he tooke this way towards Salop. he is some thousand stronge of horse upon the list, and is about tenn thousand strong in all, and hath Ordinance sufficiente for a great Armie, and wants nothing but

foot w^{ch} daylie repayre more and more to him; fiefteene hundred of his horse are Dragouners, the rest pistoles and Carbynes. The Gent: hoped when the King came to Shrewsbury that my Lo: Marquis of Hartford¹ would meet him wth eight hundred horse more; I shall intreate you, if you shall thinke good, to imparte the contents of this l're to the Commissioners of Mountgomry Shire, that soe we may all endeavour to make the King as strong as possible may be; 2 of the Commissioners of Array shall not fayle to meete uppon friday next, and acquaynt you all those results we have upon Wensday: Gentlemen I pray you esteeme as of one ready to serve you.

R. CHOLMONDELEY.²

[Sept. or Oct., 1642.—G. M.]

XVIII. THE KING TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY, KNT.

1642.

CHARLES R.

Whereas by reason of o^r sundrey and most important Occasions specially upon o^r present drawing out of this o^r Towne and County, together with the greatest part of o^r fforces there wilbe so much use of yo^r person and carefulness for y^e quietness and security of the same, as wee cannot think of sparing you out of this o^r County untill y^e pr^ent gen^{all} Distraccons shalbe better settled. Our expresse Will and Pleasure therefore is that you absent not yo^rself, or desert yo^r residence in this o^r County, or faile of yo^r Uttermost endeavo^{rs} for ye

¹ William Seymour, 1st Marquis of Hertford of the name, created Duke of Somerset Sept. 13, 1660, in which year he died.—G. M.

² George Morris considered that the writer of this letter was the first Viscount Cholmondeley. If so, he must have been Sir Robert Cholmondeley, created a Baronet 29th June 1611, and advanced in 1628 to the peerage of Ireland, in the dignity of Viscount Cholmondeley of Kells. His lordship was enrolled amongst the barons of England in 21st Charles I., as Lord Cholmondeley of Wiche Milbank, commonly called Namptwich; and further advanced the next year to the Earldom of Leinster. He married Catharine, daughter of John Lord Stanhope of Harrington, but died s.p. 2nd Oct., 1659, when his honours became extinct, but his estates passed to his nephew. (Burke's *Peerage*). He was High Sheriff of Cheshire 1620-21, zealous on the side of the King, and punished for his loyalty by the exaction of £7,742 as the composition for his estate. This letter was probably addressed to the Commissioners of Array for Shropshire, and certainly written about the 18th September.

peace and good of the same during o^r Absence, upon any pretence, order, Warrant, or Ordinance be it from one or both Houses of Parliam^t, or Other Whatsoever without first Obtaining o^r expresse Licence so to doe, as you tender o^r heavy Displeasure. And to the end you bee not forcibly constrained to goe of from this o^r Royall Com^{and}, We hereby will and require the high Sheriffe of this o^r County, all Maiors, Justices of Peace and other o^r Ministers and Officers of the same to be Ayding and assisting to you with requisite power for the defence and safeguard of y^r person family and Estate and every part thereof against all persons Whatsoever For w^{ch} this shalbe yo^r and their sufficient Warrant, Given under o^r signe Manual at o^r Court at Shrewsbury the 11th day of October in the Eighteenth year of o^r Reigne 1642.

To o^r trusty and welbeloved S^r Francis Oteley Knt.

XIX. EDW. HYDE TO THE SAME.

1642.

SIR,

If your man had enquired for me when he passed through this Towne (where his Ma^{ty} left me) in his journey to the Courte, he had sooner returned to you: concerning the managers of business at Shrewsbury, I can give you no particular direction, till I move the King in it. You have very ill luck if those parts are disquyett now his Ma^{ties} enemies are dryven so farr from you: I beseech you deliver this inclosed to the Mayor,¹ and advise with him about some fitt oppertunity to convey such monyes as remain in his handes for his Ma^{ty} to this place. sure by this time you have received a particular of the fight at Edge Hill, whence the enemyes remove to London in so poor a manner sufficiently expressed how great their loss was. The King hath since visited them as far as Brayneford [Brentford] and there hath defeated 3 of their best regiments taken 13 pieces of their ordinance and 600 prysoners: and now to shew the City how farr he is from the intention of entering that place with force he hath withdrawen his Army and is quartered at Redinge Henly, and himself means to winter about Oxforde, that if it be possible we may recover our witts agayne: there he will expect his Welsh and Western supplies: I beseech you remember me very kindly to M^r

¹ John Studley, Esq. He was a member of the Drapers' Company of Shrewsbury, and head of a family long resident and still existing in Shropshire.—G. M.

Babington and to your good Lady, and beleive I will be very glad of any occasion to expresse myself Sr

Your affectionate servant,

Oxford this 20 of 9^{ber}.

EDW: HYDE.

To My Worthy ffrriende Sr ffrancis Ottley Kn^t at his House in Shrewsbury these

XX. THO. BUSHELL TO THE SAME.

1642.

HONORED Sr,

loth I was to omittle this oppurtunitie of thanks to you and the rest of those noble gentlemen, w'ich have shewed themselves so truly well [? reall] for their King and Countrie, as the hole Courte and kingdom is sensible thereof, to the memories of your future posterites, wich I wish with all my soule may be recorded to all ages, and I doubt not but the next letter shall give you all a Carractur of my unfayned affection, as well as your unparalell deserts, without any ends of my owne but to serve you in true fidellitie, and so for the present I desire your dispensation, presenting to your vew this inclosed letter of news from London; but for the Currancies of our Oxford proceedings they are the enemy cam to assalt banbene [Banbury] one thursday last, and the sight of prince Rupert's forses made them Rune away. The King is in a good Condition of health, and his army encreseth dayly both by his frends and those that hearetofore weare his Enemyes. My lord Marquese will be at Oxford one fryday next, and it is thought their will be some great enterprise soone after. Sr Raffel¹ hopton is sett down before plimmouth [Teignmouth.—G. M.] 15 days since, and it is expected every day to hear he is in possession; my lord of Essex is in Widsor, the cittie begins to mutiny, and the thurd part of the Kings army is in reding; one Christmas day I gave the King a true account of all your Carriges, and what was your Chrismas desire before all the lords and gentlemen at Courte, the suces will follow your expectation or else accuse me for a bad Solisitur present my

¹ Sir Ralph Hopton, Knight, son of Robert Hopton, of Witham, Co. Somerset, served in the thirty years' war in the army of the elector palatine; made a knight of the Bath at the coronation of Charles I.; represented Bath in the first Parliament of Charles, and Somerset in the Short Parliament. In 1642 he espoused the side of the King, was appointed Lieutenant-General of the horse commanded by the Marquis of Hertford, displayed great zeal and bravery in the royal cause; created a Baron 1643; died at Bruges 1652.

love and servis to the high Sheriff the Coronell lifftenante
Coronell Sarjant Magor Skidmore¹ Ric Sr Thomas Eton
Sarjant magur warring² and the Mayer and his bretheren.

Yours

THO. BUSHELL,³

XXI. THO. BUSHELL TO THE SAME.

WORTHY Sr

All your desires are fulfilled before the Messenger came,
there is 23 barrells of powther mach and all things else to your
minds be you all as carefull of your owne lives and safties, as
my Lord Cappell will be redy to assist you with all his power
and I feare not the ajacent enemyes these hoping shortly to
see you I rest in hast

Your Servant to Command

for his honerd frend
Sr ffrancis Ottley
governor of Shrewsbury.

THOMAS BUSHELL.

for my true frend
Mr Simon Weston
and Mr Richard
Studly att Shrewsbury.

XXII. H. HASTINGS TO THE SAME.

1642.

NOBLE SIR,

I have Commission from his Ma^{ties} for the raising both
of horse and Dragoones, and therefore have sent this bearer to
Shrewsbury and desire he may beate up Drums for Volunteers:
I pray you Sr send away this letter with all speed, it much
concerns his Ma^{ties} Service.

So I rest

Worcester this Munday
morning 12 Decemb^r
1642.

Yo^r loving freind
to serve you

H. HASTINGS.⁴

¹ Scudamore.—G. M.

² Edward Waring, of Woodcote, near Shrewsbury, Esq.—G. M.

³ Master of his Majesties Mint. For further information see O. & B. *Hist of Sh.* i., pp. 423-427.

⁴ Henry Hastings, afterwards Lord Loughborough, second son of Henry, fifth Earl of Huntingdon. He was a zealous royalist, entrusted with the King's Commission of Array, fought at Edgehill two months previous to the date of this letter, and was now recruiting at Wor

ffor his worthy and much esteemed
freind S^r ffrancis Oteley Knight
governour of the Cittie of Shrewsbury
present this
Speed Speed.

XXIII. ORL. BRIDGEMAN TO THE SAME.

1642.

WORTHY SIR,

I pray help the bearer who goeth to Co. [court] with good post-horses, or other horses, from y^u to Worcester. More forces are come this day to namptwich for the enemy.

I had wayted on y^u at Whitchurch but that the imminent danger of this City prevented mee, and truly I dare not stir for fear of some treachery for we have discovered y^t the enemy designs for this city and relyes on his power here.

I shall be most willing to attend y^u at any safe place, but in respect of stragling Companyes abroad Whitchurch is not safe for us, but if you please to send word when y^u advance, or what further y^u desire (which must bee by Elsmere way and so to Wrexham) I shall not fayle to acq^e the Lords wth it, who are now here, and tell mee they can at this time not well spare mee fro' hence, in respect of my Interest here, and they will bee most ready to doe anything w^{ch} lies in their power to give y^u and y^r worthy countrymen content. I have written to court for a comission to make powder, if you please to give the bearer the mans name whome y^u will employ herein. I doubt not but hee will bring a Comission wth him, but if you have one from Bristoll hither it would be worth the jorney, for I fear the King can hardly spare y^t powder man who is at Shrewsbury. Sir I pray hasten to help us and so further oblige

Y^r humble serv^t

Chester Dec. 15, 1642.

ORL : BRIDGEMAN.¹

chester, which town Prince Rupert had taken the previous September. He took part in the battle of Hopton Heath in March, 1643; in the re-capture of Lichfield in April; and relieved Stafford in June. He was created Lord Loughborough 23rd Oct., 1643. In May, 1645, he joined the King's army before Leicester, and after its capture he was appointed Governor. He died in London, January, 1666-7.

¹ Orlando Bridgeman, afterwards [? see below] knighted. He was of the legal profession and successively Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and Lord Keeper, and

I beseech you to remember my humble Service to Sir Rich. Lea¹ when y^u see him, we want Trumpeters extreamely if y^u can I pray help us wth two and send them speedily to us.

To my very Worthy friend Sir Francis Oateley at his house in Shrewsbury.

XXIV. W. SMITH P.M.G. TO THE SAME.

1642.

HONOURED S^r

I am heartily glad of this Opertunity to express my Service and thanks to you for Yo^r many noble fav^{rs} I am desirous to serve you with the truest relations of News from these parts, it is said here this morning that we are to expect 4 Lords 4 of y^e Com'ons and 4 from the City to treat uppon Accom'odation; in the interim his Ma^{ty} is in good abillity with Gods blessing to deal with his Rebells according to their Merit: Sir I shall intreat you will speak to Mr. Alderman Rowley² as this inclosed letter will also do for £15 for which he stands

is said to have first introduced full bottomed Wigs into Westminster Hall. He resided in Kensington, was ancestor in the sixth degree to the present Earl of Bradford [1837], compounded for his estate by payment of £865 5s. 9d., and was buried at Teddington, Co. Middlesex, 1674.—G. M.

He was a son of Dr. John Bridgeman, rector of Wigan, and in 1619 Bishop of Chester. He was returned in 1640 to the Long Parliament, and knighted the same year; 1638, became Chief Justice of Chester; 1640, Solicitor to the Prince of Wales. On the death of Charles he submitted to Cromwell; 1660, presided as Lord Chief Baron on the trial of the regicides; died at Teddington 1674. At the time of writing this and the following letters he was assisting his father, the Bishop, in defending Chester.

¹ Before mentioned as Sir Richard Lee.—G. M.

² Alderman William Rowley, son of Roger Rowley, gent., of an ancient line seated at a place from which they took their name, in the parish of Worfield, a draper, admitted a Burgess 1594, built the fine brick mansion in Hill's Lane, Shrewsbury, known as Rowley's Mansion, was one of the twenty-four Aldermen appointed by the Charter of Charles I. in June, 1638. The occasion of his being in the custody of the Provost Marshal was when the King (Oct., 1642), after leaving the town to proceed to Bridgnorth, issued a proclamation "for the better peace and quiet of our county of Salop," and accompanied it by a letter in which he proscribed certain members of the Corporation of whom William Rowley was one.

engaged to me ever since his being discharged from my Custody, I shall entreat your help in the returning it to me hither by any trusty hand, and shall take it for a favour, As also that you will present my Service to Mr. Gibbons¹ Mr. Owen² and all the other Worthy Gentlemen with you, my humble Service to your Vertuous Lady and to your self Assurance that I am Sir

Your humble Servant

Oxford Castle
Dec. 19, 1642.

W. SMITH, P.M.G.

To my honoured Friend Sr
Francis Oately Knight p'sent
this with my Service
at Shrewsbury.

XXV. EDW. NICHOLAS TO THOMAS BUSHELL.³

1642.

Sr

I have given direcc'ons to my freinds att Shrewsbury to desire y^u to doe me the favo^r to give Charge to some of yo^r servants that y^u imploye about bringing the mint hither to take care to bring from Shrewsberry 4 or 5 trunks of myne in some of w^{ch} are papers, that much import his Ma^{ties} Service; this is a favour whereby y^u will very much oblige me. The King upon Collonell Hastings I're was very well satisfied wth y^e stay at Shrewsberry till after this day. I pray doe me the kindnesse to advertise me whether y^u have given order to bring hither trunks, whereby y^u will much oblige.

Sir

Oxon 21 Dec.
1642.

Y^r Affectionate freind and servant

EDW. NICHOLAS.⁴

¹ Richard Gibbons, of the Abbey Forgate, Shrewsbury, whose brother, Francis Gibbons, D.D., was appointed chaplain to the King, was also one of the Aldermen appointed by the Charter of 1638. He married Anne, daughter of Humphrey Sandford, Esq., of the Isle, near Shrewsbury, which lady was certified to the House of Commons as a popish recusant. He was taken prisoner at the capture of Shrewsbury.

² Probably Thomas Owen, Town Clerk, who was also taken prisoner on the capture of the town. He was seated at Dinthill, near Shrewsbury.

³ Charles I. appointed him Governor of the Isle of Lundy.—G. M.

⁴ Secretary Nicholas. This letter is in part printed in O. and B.'s *Hist. of Shrewsbury*, vol. i., p. 426.

To my worthy Freind
 Thomas Bushell sq^r
 one of y^e Wardens of his
 Ma^{ty} Mint at Shrewsbury.

XXVI. RICH. LLOYD TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY, KNIGHT.

1642.

S^r

My Occations are such that I cannot com by Shrewsbury therefore I must entreate you to stand my friend in this bussness of Raysing my Regement I have left orders w^h Major Holland and Jack Caulveley¹ for the resceiving of them, I pray you further it what you may and speake to the rest of my good frends to do the like for the sooner I have them ready the sooner I shall be able to doe the contry servis I will God willing be back w^hin this fortnight and till then and ever I will be

Your Servant

RICH: LLOYD.²

for his honored frend

S^r francis Otteley Knight

[No date. After Dec. 18, 1642]. present.

XXVII. R. LLOYD TO THE SAME.

1642.

HONOURED S^r

The Kings letters inclosed in y^{rs} I shall w^h all care and speed cause to be convayed for the manage of theire buisness in Cheshire, I can not excuse the passages, but inconsiderat acts of theires I hope will not occasion the Countie of Salop and Neighbouring Counties to neglect the Kings Service or theire own com'on safetie and p^rservation. I am confident there is still a designe to surprise Chester, and if there be not some considerations for new Consultations and advise to strengthen

¹ Jack Calveley—a younger branch of the Calveleys of Calveley Hall, Co. Chester.—G. M.

He was Captain of Dragoons in Colonel Richard Lloyd's Regiment.

² Colonel Richard Lloyd, of Llwynymaen, commanded a regiment of Dragoons in the royal army. He appears in the list of those who compounded for their estates as having paid £480, the place of his residence being written Lloyd-Amain.

these parts and yo^r p^{ts} wth a new Association, we shall be exposed.

Wrexham
this Wednesday,

S^r I am and shall remayne

Yo^r faithfull Servant

RI. LLOYD.

To his ever honoured

freind S^r ffancis

Otteley Kn^t at

Shrewsbury these.

XXVIII. WILLIAM ROBERTS TO THOMAS BUSHELL.

1642.

S^r

I have written severall l^{rs} of late unto you, but have receyved none fro' you, w^{ch} makes me doubt the miscarryinge of them, notwithstanding I have thought fitt to take this opportunitye to acquaint you wth the condition and tottering state of things heere wth us, all tradinge decayed, and yet our charge by intollerable taxacons soe encreasing that we hourelly expect some insurrection, whereof I think you will shortly heare.

Heere came out lately in print a resolution of the Knights and chiefe gents of the Countie of Salop,¹ w^{ch} is so much applauded that it is verily thought it will induce many other Counties to follow their example, being generally wished that by some wayes the peace of the Kingdome might be established, w^{ch} cannot be wthout a generall unitinge of the peoples harts to their soveraygne, thes distractions begetting nothing but confusion, and ruine, and wee wthin this Cittye are so disagreeing amongst ou^rselves, and so generally discontent, that wee feare mischief amongst ou^rselves more than the damage fro' abroad, god in mercye looke upon us, and put an end to these our troubles, Soe hopinge of yo^r health, I take leave, remaying

Yo^r humble Servant

London this 26 of Decemb^r

WILLIAM ROBERTS.

1642

To his much honored frend

Tho. Bushell Esq^r p^rsent these.

¹ This I take to be the "Ingagement and Resolution of the principall Gentlemen of the Countie of Salop," which appeared in a small tract of four leaves printed at Oxford by L. Lichfield, at the latter end of 1642, to which the names of 33 of the principal gentry of the County are attached.—G. M.

XXIX. GEORGE PHILLIPS TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY, KNIGHT.

1642.

Bristoll 26th Decemb^r 1642.

NOBLE SIR

Be pleased to excuse my boldness in p'suming to p'sent you wth these two lines w^{ch} are to inform you that I have in my custody some spanish pikes. I shew'd them to one of Y^r Soldiers viz: Young Reeve and bad him acquaint you of them; if they may anything serve you &c. in his Ma^{ties} service in your part as I am very willing to be a poor instrument therein, they will come at a very reasonable rate, I would have sent up some 30 or 40, by s^d Reeves at his last being here, but I durst not for fear of loosing them; the Parliaments forces being upon the River, I dare hardly write any news bec. [because] doe fear intercepting, yet will adventure two words you may therefore be pleased to understand—viz. that Collonell Essex was after much debating and stirr admitted into this Citty upon Fryday was fortnight with about 1500 Armed Soldiers—to the great joy of some whose Wives did petition the day before for his coming; but to the great Greife of others (and those the most understanding men) who did fear that the King's forces would p'sently draw this way and sett uppon the Citty, the Soldiers have hitherto behaved themselves very well and have done no wrong to any man, I wish they may continue so doing; we had news out of Cornwall last week that S^r Raph Hopton was slayne and his forces dispersed but I had advise two day since fro^m Exeter that that report was false, and that s^d S^r Raph is well and is almost 10000 strong; and that he is now uppon the borders of Devonshire, we had another false report came here of the taking the Lord Grandeson wth 1500 Horse at Winchester, but y^e number is exceeding diminshed, and s^d Lord and many Other Gentlemen gotten cleer of them and are wth his Ma^{tie}—the News out of the North, fro^m Hereford, and Worcester &c. you know better than wee in these p^{tes}; I do therefore forbear more, and Desiring y^r pardon for this p'sumption, wth humble Service p'sented Take my Leave

Y^r Worships in all
humble Service

GEORGE PHILLIPS.

To the Right Worth
S^r Francis Oately
these p'sent
in Sallop.

XXX. EDW. HYDE TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

SIR

If you receive not so full satisfaction by your man as you expecte, you must not attribute it to any negligence of your friends, or any disesteem in his Ma^{ty} towards you. I assure you the King hath a very just sense of your merit and lookes upon the service of that towne (where he received so great testimonies of duty and Loyalty) as the effect of your Care and industry, and therefore you may beleive he will never be unwilling to grante you any addition of power, who imploy it so well to his advantage, but in this business of Governour he makes some pause upon this scruple, he hath had of late ill luck in making Govern^{rs} of Cities and Townes, and tho' he hath always chosen loved and popular men for those places, yet private differences have so farr grown, that he hath been in danger to loose the Corporation. Now he says you are Comaunder of the Armes of the Town, and already have all authority to that purpose,¹ but he fears if he should send you an absolute Pattent of Governour, it may some day discontent the Corporation, however he resolves there shall be no other Governour but you, and if you and the Towne think it necessary that you should have an immediate Pattent lett us hear from you and it shall be dispatch'd, you shall hear more particularly to your satisfaction by M^r Babington, who shall inform you of many things which I dare not write — I writt when your m ent last to M^r Mayor, concerning moneys, but I hear nothing er were many subscripecons which were not payd, and I hear much hath been received since, I beseech you to move him, that I may hear from what remaines

¹ The King quitted Shrewsbury on the 12th of October, since which date Sir Francis Ottley had made such vigorous use of his military command that he had secured a complete ascendancy over all the discontented element in the town. The following is the form of protestation imposed by him on many hundred inhabitants of the town on the 2nd of January, 1642-3, and such as refused were threatened to be killed: "I. A. B., do in the presence of Almighty God protest and acknowledge without any mental reservation that I do detest and abhor the notorious rebellion which goes under the name of the Parliament Army, and will with my whole force and means to the uttermost of my power withstand their impious rebellion against our most gracious Sovereign Lord King Charles, our Protestant religion, our laws of the land, our just privileges of Parliament, and liberty of the subject." State Papers, Domestic Series, vol cccxcvii., p. 437.

in his handes and that he will send in a resented to his Ma^{ty} that he may see who keepe not his Ma^{ty} hears that you are fallen upon Armes at Shrewsbury of which he is extremely gladd, and would pursue it and that his Ma^{ty} if it be possible may have hence therefore I beseech you let me hear from you and speedily of Armes of all sorts you conceive it possible for his Ma^{ty} to receive from thence, paying the full pryces—— I have sent you severall Bookes which 'tis very fitt should be reprinted at Shrewsbury, and spread abroad about the county, in which his Ma^{ty} desyres your Assistance upon all occasyons—— I doubt not you will every day hear his Ma^{ties} affayres are much advanced: which God grante.

I am S^r your very Affectionate servt.

All Soules Colledge
this 5th of January.

EDW: HYDE.

I desyre you to send one booke of a sort to ff^r Newporte from me.

To My Worthy firinde S^r Francis Ottley Knt. at his House in Shrewsbury these.

XXXI. W. SMITH TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

NOBLE S^r

I once more encrease my ill mann^{rs} to you which is to let you know that in all his Majest^{ties} Garrisons I am allow'd a Deputy, Yo^{rs} being so I am bold to entreat you will allow of this my Deputy George Crosse, who being one born near you and as he tells me known to you wilbe the more readily well allow'd by you, my fees are 20^s for a Gent: 13/4^d for a Citizen, 10^s for a Farmer or Yeoman, and 5^s/ for a Co'mon Man so much severally for every day, I pray you let him have your Countenance and Assistance in his service, w^{ch} I assure myself he will perform dilligently and Honestly so rests

S^r Yo^r humble Servant

Oxford Jany. 6, 1642.

W. SMITH.

P. Marshall Generall.

I hope this Letter with Yo^r Comission and permission wilbe sufficient Authority for him, if not I will send him a deputation at large, but have done no more but this in other places, and am Obey'd.

For S^r Francis Oately

my most honoured Friend

This and my Service at Shrewsbury.

XXXII. THOMAS BUSHELL TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

S^r

This inclosed paper will give you an accompt of my ac'ons, and I hope yo^r goodness will excuse mee at yo^r Club of good fellowship for not writing particular letters to all those, whom I hono^r in yo^r parts in regard of my multiplicitie of busines. There are some persons w^{ch} seeke for the place of Governo^r of the towne of Shrewsbury, but I have stopt the Currant, and if the Mayor and some principle gentlemen will recomend you, I know the King hath that confidence in yo^r worth and Meritt that he will trust you before any who now stand for it, seale this l^re when you and my noble frends Sir Vincent Corbett¹ and S^r John Wilde² have read it, but be sure this letter of the Kinges be printed and dispersed at yo^r generall mustars: present my servise to those Vertuous Ladyes at S^r Jn^o Wildes, whom I shall ever hono^r and remayne the Servant of

Yours and their Commands

Januarie the 6th, 1642.

THOMAS BUSHELL.

The King will take it for an acceptable service, to procure amunition of guns, Clubbs, or bills, such as S^r Vincent Corbett gave me notice, of w^{ch} I acquainted his Ma^{ty}; care will be had for the paym^t, as soon as they shall be made and provided Weeklye.

for his honored frend S^r Ffrancis
Oatley Knight at Salop. these.

XXXIII. W. SMITH TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

NOBLE S^r

I have lately sent two or three letters to you which were only motives to know your and your Vertuous Ladys

¹ Sir Vincent Corbet of Morton Corbet, Co. Salop, Knight, and Baronet. This active and staunch supporter of the King had in July, 1643, a commission to raise a regiment of 1000 Volunteers. He was admitted of Queen's College, Oxford, 1634; elected Knight of the Shire, 1640; was one of the leading loyalists of the county, and married Sarah, daughter and co-heir of Robert Monson, of Carlton, Co. Leicester; created Oct. 23, 1679, Viscount Corbet of Linchlade for life. His branch of this ancient family terminated in his grand-daughter Beatrice, who married John Kynaston of Hordley, Esq. He died Dec. 28 or 29, 1656. —G.M.

² John Wild, of Willey, Esq. before noticed. —G.M.

welfare; the Assurance whereof I now have by your Servant; the continuance thereof I heartily desire; and entreat by your pen to know how happily your forces encrease; I also presume to encrease my former troubles to you by my request that you will be pleased to call upon Alderman Rowley for £15 w^{ch} he owes me, and promised long since to pay it to whom I should Appoint; I have now written to him to pay it to yourself, and entreat you will be pleased to take the trouble upon you of receiving and returning it to me. This day, at 4 in the morning, we have sent out some forces towards Ciceter; I hope you will Immediately hear good news of them; so S^r with my true Service to yourself, your Vertuous Lady, and all my Worthy Friends in Your Town, I rest

Yo^r humble Servant

W. SMITH P. Marshall Generall.

Oxford Jan. 6: 1642.

To my most honoured frend
Sir Francis Oateley Knight present
this with speed and my Service
at his house in Shrewsbury.

XXXIV. PETER VENABLES TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

NOBLE S^r

I lately received a letter from my Sister Mackworth, wherein she informs me, that having removed to Coventry, she sent for some Goods thither, which she left behind her at Shrewsbury; which were taken by some Soldiers that said that they were under Your Command, my request to you is, that you wilbe pleased if it be within your power, to help her to them again: and I shall take the same as a favour from you, soe, resting Confident of your good Assistance herein, I remain

Your Affectionate frend and Servant

PETER VENABLES,¹

Kinderton 7 Jan. 1642.

¹ The son of Thomas Venables, Esq., Baron of Kindeston, co. Chester; he was Sheriff of that county in 1634, and died Nov. 13th, 1669. Humphrey Mackworth, third son of Humphrey Mackworth, Esq., of Betton Strange, Salop, married his sister.

XXXV. ORL. BRIDGEMAN TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

NOBLE SIR

This day since noone I have received Intelligence that Sr William Brereton is at Heywood and some of his forces at Darlaston bridge and hee is raysing more, what his designe is is most uncertayne the report is he will come to nampwich so to Manchester, I doe suspect Bromfeild and some part of Shropshire: doubt not yⁿ have a Watchfull Eye and wee shall give yⁿ the best assistance wee can.

Sr I wrote to yⁿ yesterday my Lord Capells desire concerning a Regiment of horse, hee is able and willing to disburse moneys and whosoever knows him must give him a Character of a Gallant. if you think any Service may be done him in y^r parts, I beseech yⁿ write a letter (unless yⁿ please to direct it to him to whom I have made mention of yⁿ in my letter I send by this bearer) directed to myself which yⁿ may leave open or give order to this bearer to shew to his self [? host] wth my letter. with my Affectionate respects and service to yⁿ I remayne

Y^r very hearty Servant,

Chester Jan: 12. 1642.

ORL BRIDGEMAN.

To my Noble freind Sir Francis
Oteley at Shrewsbury these.

XXXVI. EDW. HYDE TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

SIR

I have acquainted his Ma^{ty} with the contents of your letter (I mean that of the 11th of this Month) for the other you mention is not yet come to my hands) concerning the Carbynes and Muskets with which his Ma^{ty} is very well pleased, and bad me tell you you could not do him a greater service then in helping him to store of such arms, and therefore, I have written by his Ma^{ties} direction to the Mayor of Shrewsbury to pay all such summs of money as he hath in his hands, which his Ma^{ty} hopes is a considerable sum, to you to be employ'd in the buying of Arms, and Dr Babington is appointed to received more money in other places, to be employed to the same purpose too: so that I hope you will not wante money for that supply, if you doe let me hear from you, and you shall receive new directions, for the King infinitely depends upon you. your Commission is dispatched and shall be sent either by this bearer or by another to morrow.

As soon as you have gotten any store of Arms into your hands, let me hear from you, and you shall speedily receive his Ma^{ties} commands for the conveyance of them hither, I am very heartily S^r

Your most Affectionate Serv^t

19¹ Jan. [1642-3].

EDW: HYDE.

To my worthy ffriende
Sir Francis Ottly Knt.² his Ma^{ties}
Governour of Shrewsbury.

XXXVII. ORL. BRIDGMAN TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

NOBLE SIR

I am much troubled at the reports I hear (w^{ch} may also be Inferred out of y^r Letter) of unkindnesses taken by the Gentlemen of Shropshire ag^t us. the reasons I hear are these, the one that wee made an agreem^t without them to the breach of the Association, the other that none of ours came to wayt on them.

Sir, I can assure y^a when wee made the agreem^t, w^{ch} was on Friday night, (although the appoyntment for y^e coming to Whitchurch was to have been 3 or 4 days before), wee neither heard nor knew of any forces at Whitchurch excepting some few of S^r Vincent Corbets, who, being written to on Wednesday or Tuesday to have advanced to Torporly on Thursday (being our general Rendevous), returned answer hee had not a considerable strength, nor could stir till he had order, as may appear by his letter to Collonell Hastings: and I desire not to be beleived in anything if to my knowledge I ever heard of any other forces at Whitchurch till Saturday night. when a letter came to my Lo: Chomley, from his Chaplayn, informing that after we were returned from Torporley on Saturday, (which was not till ten a Clock), there came some

¹ This letter is dated the 17th in George Morris's transcript, but I have followed the Cotes' MS.

² This is the first instance of Sir Francis being addressed as Governor of Shrewsbury, a post he had for some time anxiously coveted, and this letter enables us to fix within a day the date of his Commission, which must have been either the 16th or 17th January, 1642-3. The historians of Shrewsbury had evidently not seen this, as well as some of the previous and many other letters the late Mr. Ottley possessed.—G. M.

Gentlemen from Whitechurch thither: and as soon as I heard of it, I was bold in my lord Cholmlye's name, and my owne, to send a letter (to Mr. Sheriff)¹ I take it or y^r selfe informing of the truth, and acknowledging wth all thankfullnesse y^r readinesse to assist us. and undertaking to doe the like upon all occasions for y^e defence to the Uttermost of o^r power, w^{ch} letter, though it was 7 of the clock at night ere I heard of those Gentlemens being there, we sent instantly by a messinger of purpose, a Gentleman of my Lo. Cholmleys, to Whitechurch. The next day being Chrestmas day, and Sunday, and a Communion day, my Lo. Chomley and myself did, indeed, not stir out. hearing also that you disbanded on Monday, I made bold to write a 2^d letter to Mr. Sheriff, when I payd him the hundred pounds w^{ch} he had delivered to Colonell Hastings, making the same acknowledgements of our thanks —none of the Comissioners being in Chester but my Lo. Cholmley.

And, as touching the Association if the agreement bee well weighed, it will appear there is nothing in it tending to the least breach. and in truth in respect thereof there is like to be a breach amongst us, for some, willing to take advantage of the Parliaments declaration ag^t the agreement, and to get admittance for S^r Wm. Brereton,² and Sir Jo: Gell, to fall upon Lancashire, or Shropshire, or both, and upon us also, have begun to quarrell, and would have us to explayne the 6th Article for giving of free passage. we mett at Northwich where we told them wee must resist S^r William though he did no hostile Act here. and for the Article it leaves them at liberty not to be bound to joyne with us to resist any such forces as shall make this County a passage: but excludes not us from resisting, nor gives allowance for a passage, but only excepts that they are not bound to joyne to resist in such case, and the letter of the Article is playn accordingly. We are to meet agayn on tuesday about this business, but in respect of our Association wee resolve to Admitt no forces to passe to the hurt of our friends. And we hope you will stir up y^r friends, and all being equally concerned, that all private unkindness may be layd aside, and wee doe our utmost endeavor ag^t the Common Enemy.

¹ John Weld of Willey, Esq. before noticed.—G.M.

² Sir William Brereton of Handford, Co. Chester, one of the most active of the Parliamentary Generals, and by the Parliament appointed chief forester of Macclesfield and Steward of the hundred. He died April 7th, 1661.—G. M.

For this purpose I can advise nothing, but if S^r William Brereton and Gell come down (as how soon they will I do not know) wee shall be too weak without yⁿ supplye us, and I beseech yⁿ Sir Seriously consider it and bee pleased to Communicate it with all speed to y^r Noble Countrymen, who, I hope, will joyne wth yⁿ wth all speed to bring forces to the confines of the County. for I am assured their Ayme is at this place, and to Shrewsbury, wth all the force and speed they can yⁿ will excuse this tedious relation, occasioned by my desire that satisfaction my be given in this particular to all those Noble Gentlemen wth yⁿ, And to them and to y^r selfe, Sir, I shall ever remayne to my power

Y^r most faithfull Servant

Chester Jany. 20. 1642.

ORL BRIDGMAN.

To my Noble Freind Sir ffrancis
Oteley at Shrewsbury these present.

XXXVIII. THOMAS LEGH TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

SIR,

With my prime respects I salute you, &c.

It was our Misfortune here in Cheshire to enter into an Association, pacification, or cessation of Arms, (I cannot well tell what to call it) but I p^{ce}ive no probability that itt will hold with the faith of the Adverse (who for their own advantage and gain of time, have somewhat deluded us) Truth is we are resolved to Advance speedily to defend our Country, and do crave yo^r Assistance according to Accord of both Counties) that you will please yourself, and to move, and Occasion yo^r Country to draw what convenient forces (you think fitt) to our Borders to be instantly ready to Joyn with us to Suppress or defend the insolencies and incursions of Opponents; I will hope my Lord of Derby wilbe moving on the other side of Manchester, and (thereby and by our Stirring here) I hope we shall quell their cunning thoughts (not otherwise pacificall). Ther's to be another meeting on Tuesday next, but I expect no peacefull, p^{ma}nent conclusion, and, therefore, we prepare for tho'ther way; this I entreat you to make privately known to the Gentlemen, &c. near you Friends to his Maj^{ty}, who, I hope, will be secrett and forward to further his Service, and to whom (tho' too much unacquainted) I desire to Tender my respects, Writing my self

S^r yo^r Assured Friend and wellwisher

THOMAS LEGH.

I desire yo^r Answer

Chester 20th January 1642.

To my honerd and
especiallie esteemed
Friend S^r Francis
Oteley, Governor of
Shrosbury

This be p^sented.

XXXIX. THOS. WOLRYCHE, WM. WHITMORE, EDWARD CRESSETT,
EDWARD ACTON TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY, KNIGHT.

1642-3.

NOBLE S^r

We are bold to inform you that Mr John Byrch being here with us at o^r meeting about especiall business wherein he was concern'd was served with Yo^r Warrant while he was in O^r Company. We know not what you will lay to his Charge, and therefore for that we refer him to yo^r wisdom but in respect of great Occasions which some of us have with him, and w^{ch} he hath with divers men for whom he dealeth, if you may please to bail him that he beailable, we shalbe ready to Offer you good Bail for him, or if not if you can be pleased to give him leave to attend the p^sent Occasions from us and others until Thursday next you will do him a great pleasure, and we in his behalf shall be very thankfull unto you, And Assuredly remain

Yo^r very loving freinds

Bridgenorth
20 January 1642.

THOS. WOLRYCHE¹
WM. WHITMORE²
EDWARD CRESSETT³
EDWARD ACTON.⁴

To O^r noble friend S^r Frauncis
Otle Knight at Shrewsbury p^sent these.

¹ Sir Thomas Wolrich, Knight and Baronet, of Dudmaston, co. Salop, M.P. for Wenlock 1620, 1623, and 1625, commander of the trained bands, and Governor of Bridgnorth, a fervent royalist. He was twice sequestered from his estates, more than once cast into prison, and compounded for his estate in the sum of £730 14s.

² Sir William Whitmore, Bart., of Apley House, Salop, a son of Sir William Whitmore, Knight, who purchased the Apley estate in 1572. All his personal goods and chattels were sequestered for the sum of £583 3s. 2d., and he compounded for his estate by paying £5,000.

³ Edward Cressett, Esq., of Upton Cressett, Salop.

⁴ Sir Edward Acton, Bart., of Aldenham, Co. Salop, created a Baronet in 1643.

XL. JOHN HARRINGTON TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

Sr

It were an uncivill part in me to Comend (in Yo^r presence) your zeal and forwardness to preserve the Honour and Safety of this County; but Sir you highly deserve it and your praises and applauses extend farre and near into Other Countys altho' they are short of your deserts (if you will give me leave to say so much) but beleve me you have not done yet for I find that our County and Especially these parts are very slow to keep themselves secure and to satisfie the com'on expectation, the Divells have got possession of the Swyne and they are running into their own Ruin, I see very well that the design of raising a Thousand Dragoons is in a manner quashed every Hundred is to find 10 and every Alottment according to their proportions, but suppose they delude you they will say much and do nothing (as it seems many have done in this expedition of Sir Vincent Corbett) what will you do then? punish a Multitude? this cannot well be done, because although many will be faulty yet some will not; my Humble Motion therefore is: that an Assement be shortly made by some men of known worth and Loyalty; what every man in particular shall shortly do and he that refuseth to perform let his Person be secured, if I have said too much you must conceal my Errors and even be confident in

Yo^r Kinsman and Servant

JOHN HARRINGTON.

Bishton 25 Jany. 1642.

[No direction.]

XLI. ORL. BRIDGEMAN TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

NOBLE SIR

I wrote to y^u Yesterday, these are further to Certify y^u that wee have already brought into this Towne almost 500 Armed men and 200 more will be this night and 200 tomorrow night and 2 Troops of horse. Mr. Savage intended to have wayted on y^u but in respect of raysing of men I am afrajd it will not bee possible for his power is good I beseech y^u Sir return me as neere as y^u can y^e resolutions of

Mr. Sheriff and y^r other freinds. In great hast the bearer
staying on horseback. I remayne

Y^r most humble Servant

ORL BRIDGEMAN.

Chester Wednesday

3 a Clock. Jany 25.

[1642-3. Ed.]

It were well if forces lye at Wolverhampton that some
now and then would meet with the pacquett betwixt Lichfield
and Stone.

To my Noble freind
Sir ffancis Oatley at
Shrewsbury these.

XLII. ORL. BRIDGEMAN TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

NOBLE SIR

Sir Thomas Aston's¹ diversion to Stafford hath occa-
sioned S^r Wm. Brereton to be this morning at Namptwich,
where S^r Thomas Aston resolved to have been this after-
noon. I wrote to him what I thought, but I hope hee will
redeeme the time and wee shall strengthen o^r selves here, who
are neere upon 1000 in all, and had some part gone out (for
many cannot come being only trayned bands of Wales) who
were) but wee wanted horse wth w^{ch} hee helps to
supplye us. This Gentleman, Capt. Yarnam, deserves y^r favor,
being a most faithfull servt of the King. I am Sir

Y^r Affectionate Servant

Chester 28 Jan. 3.

ORL. BRIDGEMAN.

o'clock [1642-3]

I hope you will hasten y^r forces
to Whitechurch.

To my Noble ffreind
Sir ffancis Oatley at
Shrewsbury these.

XLIII. THO. ASTON TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

SR FFRANCIS

Wee have had a sharpe day of it, being desirous to
enter y^o Wych, wee found it p^possestt this morning by some 7

¹ See Note to next letter.

score brought in by Steele, w^{ch} were by all held an inconsiderable p^{ty}, and wee attempted to give them Alarum in 2 severall places at once to make an Essay if they would quitt the towne but y^t proving not fesible our Dragooners giving no fyre at all wee sought to retreat, but in our Retreat were encountred by all S^r Willm Brereton's fforce, through w^{ch} wee were forced to make our way; both sides are loosers, what wee know not, night being theyre, friend our enemy. but hither I have made a retreat and desire you wth all possible speed in y^e morning to dispatch away some Musketeers to make good this place or wth cut all question they will Attempt it to morrow and if possesst you may conclude the danger; I think they were sufficiently distressed not to be over hasty being I am assured I Kild a Scotch Officer y^t I took to be theyre prime man, and severall prisoners wee have, and many slayne, but you know how wee are p^pared for such encounter therefore I beseech you send to Mr. Sheriffe to make all possible hast:

Your Servant

Saturday¹ night about 2 a clock

THO. ASTON.²

To my honoured friend

S^r Francis Oatley Knt at Shrewsbury

or in his absence to be sent to y^e Sheriffe.

XLIV. JO: BIRCH TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

S^r

Uppon a letter rec: from Richard Reeve which is confirmed p^word of Mouth p^r young Henry Reeves; I have p^{tly} in Regard of myself and p^{tly} for the love I bear to free trade, made bould to Trouble you with these few lines which by order I write unto y^r Hon^r: it appears that whereas I sent to Shrosbury by Richard Reeve fower butts of Sack you have

¹ January 28th, 1642-3. On this occasion the Parliamentary forces claimed, and correctly so, the victory, having taken a considerable number of horse and foot prisoners.—G. M.

² Sir Thomas Aston of Acton, Co. Chester, first Baronet, was a zealous royalist, raised a party of horse for the King's service, was wounded in several engagements with the Parliamentary forces, and ultimately taken prisoner in a skirmish with them in Staffordshire, and confined in Stafford Castle, in endeavouring to escape from which he was wounded on the head by a soldier. The fever arising from this and other wounds not cured caused his death March 24, 1645. He was High Sheriff of Cheshire 1635.—G. M.

made seasure, or at least Stop, of them in Shrosbury as myself being one of the Malignant p^{ty} that have taken up Arms against the King which God forbid and I p'sume you are misinformed in that, now so it is that there being a free trade intended between Shrosbury and Bristoll the May^r my good frend and the Collonell Essex do desire by no means the least Jarr or occasion of breach and therefore by the same rule though they might have made stopag of the Goods and Trow of Shrowsbury yet neither they nor myself desire it, but they have engaged themselves to me to make good the 4 butts at 16£ a butt only it was thought good I should write unto you to know your pleasure and if you wou'd be pleased to lett my wines be disposed off according as I shall ord^r and according to free Trade which they are confident off (and young Henry Reeves Affirms it) then that y^r Hon^r would be pleased the next Spring to answer this my letter and to declare if I shall give order for the dispose of the Wines aforesaid which will make it to Appear that Y^r Hon^r desires a free trade as we also desire and for myself shall be ready to do you any reasonable service and so rest desiring that this great breach and misunderstanding may be made up

So prays Y^r Lo: Frend

Though unknown

Jo: BIRCH.

I desire to send my
Bro: to Shrewsbury
to dispose of the Sack
there and some other
Goods I shall send
up next Spring If y^r
Hon^r please to give
way.

To the Hon^{table} S^r Francis
Oatly Govern^r of the Town
of Sallop these present p^a
Frend whom God preserve

Bristoll: 28th Jan: 1642.

XLV. V. CORBETT TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY, KNIGHT.

SIR

This in hast, is onely to give you notice, of a skirmish we had, wth Breartons and y^e Nantwich forces, I cannot as yet certify of any p^{ticular} passage, onely thus far be satisfied for y^e present; the relation of it is not very good neither is it very bad, this much I wold request you y^t wth all Speede, you will

send unto Whitchurch all y^e Churgieons you can possible
p'vide for wee are in gr^t want of them. So I rest

Yours to serve you

Drayton

V. CORBETT.

Sunday Morning,¹
at 6 a clock.

To the Right Worth
Sir ffancis Oately governer
of Shrewsbury.

XLVI. THE KING TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

CHARLES R.

We are given to understand that some packs of wooll being the goods of William Jolley of Leeke in our county of Stafford, Gent. were staid in Shrewsbury, upon pretence or information that he had shewed himself disaffected to our Service, fforasmuch as we have rec^d a Certificate under the hands of divers justices of y^e peace of that o^r County of Stafford to whom the said Jolley is well known testifying his conformity to y^e Lawes and Religion established his loyalty to us, and that he hath offered to make Oath that he never assisted towards the support of y^e Army or any fforces in Rebellion against us, we have therefore thought fitt and doe by these presents require and authorise you forthwith after sight hereof to release and deliver back to the said Jolley or to such person as he shall depute, all y^e said packs of wooll soe staid and detained as aforesaid. And for soe doing this shall bee yo^r Warrant. Given at our Court at Oxford y^e 29th Day of January 1642.

To our trusty and well beloved S^r Francis
Otely Knight Governo^r of our Towne
of Shrewsbury.

XLVII. JOHN HARRINGTON TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

S^r

I made bold to express part of my mind to you in a letter w^{ch} was sent by Messenger from Sir Vincent Corbett to his Lady on Fryday last, and having this Opportunity I do again adventure to let you know by this Bearer that it is

¹ January 29, 1642-3.—G. M.

conceived that this County will be in as much danger by Domestick as foraigne Adversaries, if you and such as you are, prevent it not by your Speedy Care and Vigilance.

I am confident that the Bearer's Honesty and Sufficiency is of so much worth as will highly deserve your good Esteem and Imployment, so long and no longer I cou'd wish you to accept of his endeavours; but believe it you will find that some who privately desire the miscarriage of your designs will never want such acceptions [?] exceptions] against him as Constant wise men (as things now stand) cannot Judge considerable, I was hartily sorry to see Sr Vincent Corbett so poorly furnished with raw Soldiers and Young Commanders, if I am over bold you must excuse me Yett no longer than you find me Honest and Hasty and so I rest

Your Assured Servant and Cousin

JOHN HARRINGTON

Bishton 30 Jany. 1642
To his honourable Cousin Sr Francis Otteley Knight
and Governor of Salop these present.

XLVIII. EDW: HYDE TO SAME.

1642-3,

SIR

I am desyred by my old Landlord Mr. Acherley¹ to write to you in his behalfe, it seems he hath been threatened by some ill neighbours and so fears he may suffer by misinformation, he says he's very innocent and will always continue so, and indeed hath made so many protestations to me, that I believe him. I do therefore desyre you that you will not let him suffer by any general imputation without good prooffe: The King relyes much upon your diligence and interest in these unlucky tymes. I hope you will speedily receive such assistance, as will put new life into your parts.

God send us peace

I am Sr your very affectionate servt.

Oxford this
31 day of January.

EDW: HYDE.

To my worthy ffriend
Sr Francis Otteley Govern^r of Shrewsbury these.

¹ Mr. Acherley, the Head Master of Shrewsbury School, at whose house the writer stayed when the King was in Shrewsbury, Sept. 20, 1642.

XLIX.—TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY, KNIGHT.

1642-3.

SIR,—Upon some signification of his Mat^{ties} pleasure it is thought fitt by the Lords and others Com^{rs} of Array for the County of Chester, that the persons of S^r Richard Wilbraham¹ K^t and Baronett and of Roger Wilbraham² Esq^r bee secured until his Mt^{ties} further pleasure bee knowne concerning them. And because of the danger of these parts it is thought fittest to send them to Shrewsbury. Wee doe therefore desire you to take order that their persons be secured there until his Mat^{ties} further pleasure be known concerning them, for w^{ch} purpose some addresses are already made to court, thereof we doubt not of y^r Especiall care, and rest.

Your very assured friends to serve you
Chester Feb. 9, 1642.

DERBY³RIVERS⁴

¹ Sir Richard Wilbraham of Woodhay, Co. Chester, Knight, elevated to the Baronetcy May 5, 1625. He died in confinement at Shrewsbury the beginning of April following, and among the letters, &c., dated the 7th of that month (not 9th, as mentioned in Owen & Blakeway's Hist. of Shrewsbury, vol. 1, p. 421, n. 7) appears "a true copy of an Authority from Arthur Lord Capell to Sir Francis Oateley Kn^t Governo^r of the Towne of Shrewsburie and to all Commanders Officers and Souldiers under my Command" stating that "S^r Rich. Wilbraham of Woodhay in the Countie Palatine of Chester, Kn^t and Baronet is lately deceased at the Towne of Shrewsburie," and had before his death requested to be buried with his Ancestors in the Church of Acton in that County, and that the said Lord Capell had "condescended that the body of the said S^r Rich. Wilbraham be by y^e delivered out of yo^r Porters or Guards," and commands all Commanders, &c., under him to suffer the body and friends to the no. of 30 and their horses "to passe the Guards to Whytchurch and see in the direct way to Acton," without molestation. The altar tomb erected to his memory still remains in Acton Church, the inscription nearly obliterated.—G. M.

² I apprehend the Christian name of this gentleman is incorrect.—G. M.

³ James Stanley, K.G., 7th Earl of Derby of the name, and summoned to Parliament, V.P. as Baron Strange. He was one of the King's most eminent and active supporters, and long maintained his independence in the Isle of Man. He assisted Charles II's escape to Boscobel after the battle of Worcester, Sept. 3rd, 1651, was shortly afterwards taken prisoner, and illegally executed by sentence of Court Martial.—G. M.

⁴ John Savage, Lord Rock Savage, 2nd Viscount Savage, grandson and heir of Thomas D'Arey, 3rd Baron D'Arey, created Earl Rivers

R. CHOLMONDELEY²ROBERT KILLMOREY¹

THO. ASTON

THO. SAVAGE³GEOFFERY SHAKERLEY⁴

ORL BRIDGEMAN

THO. CHOLMONDELEY.⁵

To our very Worthy Friend Sr Francis
Oatley at Shrewsbury these

L. THO. HANMER TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

SIR,—Understanding that Sir Richard Wilbraham and Mr. Roger Wilbraham are recomended to your Custody and care by the Lords and others the Commissioners of Array of this County of Chester, and concerning that for the manner of their restraint, it will be much left to your discretion untill his Majties pleasure be further known, Upon their desires I am bold to entreat you to Afford them Such Accommodation of Lodging and other necessaryes as may be fitt Gentlemen, and may not contradict the Trust reposed in you, and I shall rest

Your Most Affectionate Friend and Servant

Chester 9th Feb. 1642.

THO: HANMER.

[directions torn.]

LI. EDW. HYDE TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

Sr

Your Comissyon was sent 8 days since by a Messenger Mr. Bushell undertook should deliver it safely, so I hope

1626, with Remainder to his son-in-law, Sir Thomas Savage, and his heirs male. Thomas John Savage, Earl Rivers, compounded for his estate by payment of £1,110, and died 1654.—G. M.

¹ Robert Kilmorey—Robert Needham, 2nd Viscount Kilmorey.—G. M.

² R. Cholmondeley—Robert Lord Cholmondeley before noticed.—G. M.

³ Thomas Savage of Beerton, Co. Chester. He compounded for his estate by paying £557.—G. M.

⁴ Sir Geoffrey Shakerley of Holme, Co. Chester. In Pennant's *Wales*, vi., p. 482, 4th edit., is an account of a gallant exploit performed by this staunch loyalist, who compounded for his estate by payment of £784.—G. M.

⁵ Thomas Cholmondeley of Vale Royal, Esq., Sheriff of Co. Chester 1638. He compounded for his estate by payment of £450, and died January 3, 1652-3.—G. M.

though it hath travelled slowly tis by this tyme safely come to your hands. Sir J. Wild is safely arrived heare, but hath yet given me no account of your desyres, so that I know not what to say to them. I am very sorry you can make no certayne provision of Armes. I understood by Dr. Babington that you had gotten fellows there to make musketts, however pray make what shifte you can for I assure you it will be the greatest service you can do his Ma^{ty} if you could help him to 1000 Armes.

Pray excuse me to Dr. Babington for not writing to him and tell him there shall be a letter sent by the next conveyance to the B^p to pay the tenths for the purpose he desyres, therefore desyre him to proceed in making provisyon. I wonder the Mayor of Shrewsbury hath receyved no more Money considering that of the Subscribers there is so much behinde. Excuse this hast of

S^r Your very Affectionate serv^t

Oxford this
9th of Feb.

EDW: HYDE.

This Gentleman S^r Ric. Byron is sent by his Ma^{ty} to commande the fforges for reducing Cheshyre. He is a right worthy Gentleman.

To my Worthy friend S^r ffancis Ottley Knt. at his House in Shrewsbury these.

LII. ORL. BRIDGEMAN TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

NOBLE SIR

This boy is going to Court, if you will command him any service he will bee a safe Messinger. S^r Richard Wilbraham and M^r Roger Wilbraham are seized on by order from hence and sent to Chirk Castle from thence to Shrewsbury, where they are to stay till his Ma^{ties} further pleasure bee knowne. Y^u are written to about it by the Com^{rs} and tomorrow they will bee at Shrewsbury in expectation of what o^r good neighb^{ers} of Shropshire will doe, wee stay here and rest

Y^r Assured servt

Chester Feby 10 1642.

ORL. BRIDGEMAN.

To my Noble freind
S^r ffancis Oatley at
Shrewsbury.

LIII. RI. LLOYD TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY, KNIGHT.

1642-3.

SIR

This gentleman coming from Cumberland upon his Ma^{ties} special Service of importance comes recomended from diverse of the Kings servants and freinds and particularly from Mr Bridgeman. His business requires special speede and therefore I beseech you to see to his accomodation for horse, otherwise the hindrance may turne much to the p'judice of his Ma^{ties} Service. If the Gentlemen of Shropshire doe not speedily and affectionately resent the troubles of Cheshire we shall all be sacrificed, ffor all the com'on people in Cheshire are poysoned. Sr Jo: Gell and some forces from my L^d Brooke are to Joyne wth Sr W. Brereton's forces and all in a body to harrowe these northern parts.

S^r I am y^r most humble Servant

Wrexham

Ri: LLOYD.

this 10th of ffeb. 1642.

for my much honoured
and noble freind S^r francis
Otteley at Shrewsbury these.

LIV. TOM. EYTON TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

FRANK

Here we are ready for any work we shall be set on, for our own Countrymen will give us no Wages. Yesterday the Neighbouring People gave us an Alarm, Betwixte 40 and 50 Issued out of Nampw^{ch}, did some harm by plundering and took away an honest sick Gent: and 2 of his Servants, and lighted on 2 or 3 of Ned Owens Men and returned. I know you have been told the discourse before this, I pray be a Means to send in unto me all my Soldiers of the Town, Dick Williams and the rest: well Adieu till I see [you] I rest in hast

Whitch: Sunday 11th Feb.
1642.

Thy Tom: EYTON.

To S^r Francis Ottley at Shrewsbury give these.

LV. THO. WILBRAHAM TO THE SAME.

NOBLE S^r

The Misereyes of these times mackes us right Sensible of Friends, I account myself much happy in finding you (by

testemony of your letter). I esteeme it a right act of your love, persist (noe Jelosey) to be your Friends Friend still in your care and favour to my Father; therein continue, and when I fayle to be ungratefull (*sic*), let all men forbear to write me man. For my man I solely appeal to you hoping my Inosensey may Acquit him, whereof be you Judge: my Duty bound me to enquire After my Father, (not knowing where he was) I assure you this was the only Cause I sent him, noe other believe I begge from you, but the truth, and that I will ever remain

Your Assured Friend to Com'and

Chester this 17 of
February 1642.

THO: WILBRAHAM.

LVI. T. EYTON TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

HONEST FRANCISCO

Having so fitt Oppertunity I thought good to give you Account of what we do here, and such Occurencies as have happened in these parts, this Morning about 10 a clock, Coll Hastings Marched out of Town with about 700 Horse; I speak with the least I am sure for they have 15 Colours, I suppose they walk toward where Sr W^m Brereton was last Night, whether he will stay for them or not I know not; which way he wheelles his Long face is not yet known here; last night he sent out betwixt 2 and 300 Horse, it was conjectured here either to plunder Sr John persalls or Mr Will^m Fitzherbert's House, but the more learned think he removed further of from Mr Hastings, as not willing to endure the breath of the Malignant: this Night we expect some News, what happens at Any time worthy your Cognizance [I] shall Studye to Acquaint you with, in the mean time I remain

Thy T: EYTON.

Stafford 18 Feb.
1642

To y^e Worthy Governor
of Shrewsbury Sr
Francis Ottley
these present.

LVII. THO. CORBETT TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

NOBLE SIR

The Bayliffs of Bridgnorth in the behalf of the Town having ben importunate with me to take upon me the Exer-

cising the young men in this Town and others in the County near adjoining for the defence of the Town upon any needfull design, I have ben perswaded by them to take the same upon me, and they having shewn me a letter which they intend to present unto the high Sheriff for a warrant unto me in that behalf, I pray be pleased to consider thereof, and Imp^t your advise unto me, and further Mr Sheriff's direction therein as you in your Wisdom shall think most convenient, and you shall Oblige unto you

Bridgnorth
55 Feb. 1642.

Your respective [*sic*] Kinsman
and freind who truly
Honoureth you

THO: CORBETT.

To my noble Friend and
kinsman Sir Francis Ottley Knight
at Shrewsbury
present these.

LVIII. WA. JAMES TO THE SAME.

SIR,

I would have gladly wayted uppon you, but false alarums call me to send out men for the discovery of Sir William Bruerton [who] is at Newcastle. Sir Thomas . . . sent unto me to send out. I have 2 Horses I believe will scarce recover for my servise any more, they have been so infinitely rid forth for the defence of Commanders when they are here with us, and at other times when occasions serve justly, and [we] have reasonable number to resist which I hope we shall have now: The Governor of Stafford is gone from Stafford quite away; Collonell Hastings upon his march towards Tamworth fell upon Russhall House, Mr Lees who is with Bruerton, upon tuesday last at 8 of the Clock in the morning, and continued untill 4 in the afternoon and then they Yielded the House unto them, tooke 21 Prisoners [with] the young woman, and so he hath left a considerable number of Men behind in that Howse; thus in hast I rest your
Humble servant

WA: JAM:

Sir I wou'd you would be pleased to send me an Answer by this bearer what you in your [Judgement] know me to [be entitled to] receive, for [that] I have been at a very great charge, it is very well known, which if you send any by this Bearer he is very honest.

To my much Honor'd Frend
Sir Francis Ottley Governor of Shrewsbury
My Service.

LIX. WA. JAMES TO THE SAME.

MY MOST HONNORED

I am fearfull of my neglect should procure a Jelosie from you but I hope Mr Betton hath acquainted you that the death of a father may Chaleng some privelidg, that I could not execute your Command; we have had this day a post from Oxford Gentlemen that are to Collonell hastings their designe it did me impertune, because they were absolut affected to his Majestie I have search cannot find that I would you may imagin were sent to a Man in our County; the Letter was to no purpose; we hear the Lord Brook is not removed out of Coventry; Walter howgrave came from Stafford this Instant, a neare Servant unto Sir Thomas Eieton brought this news: more I cannot inform [you]

Your Humble Servant
to command

Newport Feb. 26

To Sir Francis Ottley
Governor of Sallop
My Servis.

WA: JA:

LX. THOMAS LEGH TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

This Gentleman the bearer hereof one of an Approved fidelity to the King is desirous with some others in his Company to tender their Service to his Ma^{ty} and have requested me to trouble you with these lines which desire you so far to countenance them therein that by Yo^r means they may attayne that favo^r as to kiss his Ma^{ty}'s hand, the performance of which curtesie will oblige me ever to remayne

Y^r Affectionate Servant
Sweet Governor

Chester 27 Feb.
1642

THOMAS LEGH.

To my honored Friend
S^r Francis Ottley Knight
Governor of Shrewsbury
pre't These

LXI. HUGHE MAURICE TO THE SAME.

WORTHY S^r

My service remembered &c., being in Chester all the last week My Lady Wilbraham shewed me letters that she had

to her Husband Sr Richard Wilbraham : I read them my selfe,
and upon this I promised to convey them unto you, not doubting
but you will deliver them Accordingly ; for you may reade
them first : having not else at this p'sent I take leave and rest
Yours to

com'and

HUGHE MAURICE,

Feb. 27th 1642.

If you will write unto me I pray let your letter be directed
to Chester for I shall be there.

To the right Wo^{ll} Sir Francis Ottley Knight
at Shrewsburie these p'sent.

I pray deliver the Pre to M^r Edward
Morris of the Swanne
to be deliverd as above.

LXII. WILLI. RUSSELL TO THE SAME.

1642-3.

HONORED SIR,

Three Barrells of powder comming without an owner or
a pass I have stayed, and upon the receipt of your letter, I
should have immediately despatched it up to you, but having
entellegence of my Lord Brookes his forces neere this County
and not knowing what use I may have of it, though I cannot
complain of a great want, I shall desire as a Courtesie you will
not impute it to an unwillingness of observing your Commands
if I stay it some few days, assuring you that a farr greater
Courtesie you shall freely Command from Sir

Your Servant

WILLI. RUSSELL.¹

Worcester feb. 28, 1642.

To his honored frend Sir ffrancis
Ottley Governor of Shrewsbury these present.

¹ Sir William Russell, of Strensham, Co. Worcester, 1st Baronet,
one of the King's most zealous supporters. He was Governor of
Worcester, compounded for his estate by payment of £1,800, with
£50 *per annum* settled, and died 1669.—G. M.

LXIII. WALTER JAMES TO THE SAME.

SIR

1642-3.

I was Yesterday at Stafford, the report was then that the Lord Brooke was com unto Colshill and so far Uttecter which coming that way is to gether up forces for he in himself is not the . . . man that is reported, I have 3 kinsmen that are by Colshill, and Brooke hath sent unto them for the 20th part of their Estate which if they refuse to pay they shall be plunder'd &c. how that Miserable condition of that country is, I hope this day I shall hear, and then shall you have the rest of his removing, which I hope will be for hell, and then there will no need of intelligence, so in hast I commend my service unto you to be commanded

WALTER JAMES.

Newport Feb. 29th 1642.

To Sir Francis Ottley
Governor of Sallop
present these

Sir Francis Worsley is at Oxford,
his Souldiers at Stafford, and the
Town would gladly be shutt off
them if they could tell how.

LXIV. W. SMITH TO THE SAME.

NOBLE SIR

1642-3.

I return you many thanks for yo^r great favour earnestly desiring yo^r Occasions here wou'd engage me to some acceptable service: S^r Edward Hyde now Chanlo^r of the Exchequer hath accepted of Yo^r Appointment for the 15^o and I may have it when I will call for it, I am informed my good paymasters are again become Prisoners. If I had more and you less of their company I suppose it would be better for us both; peradventure you may ere long hear more to that purpose; we expect not the Queen here as yet this Month; we have now one come for a Safe Conduct for the Earl of Northumberland and the L. Say; but it is suppose his Ma^{ty} will not treat with a proclaimed Traytor.

S^r I present Yo^r Self and Yo^r Vertuous Lady with my
humble Service and rest

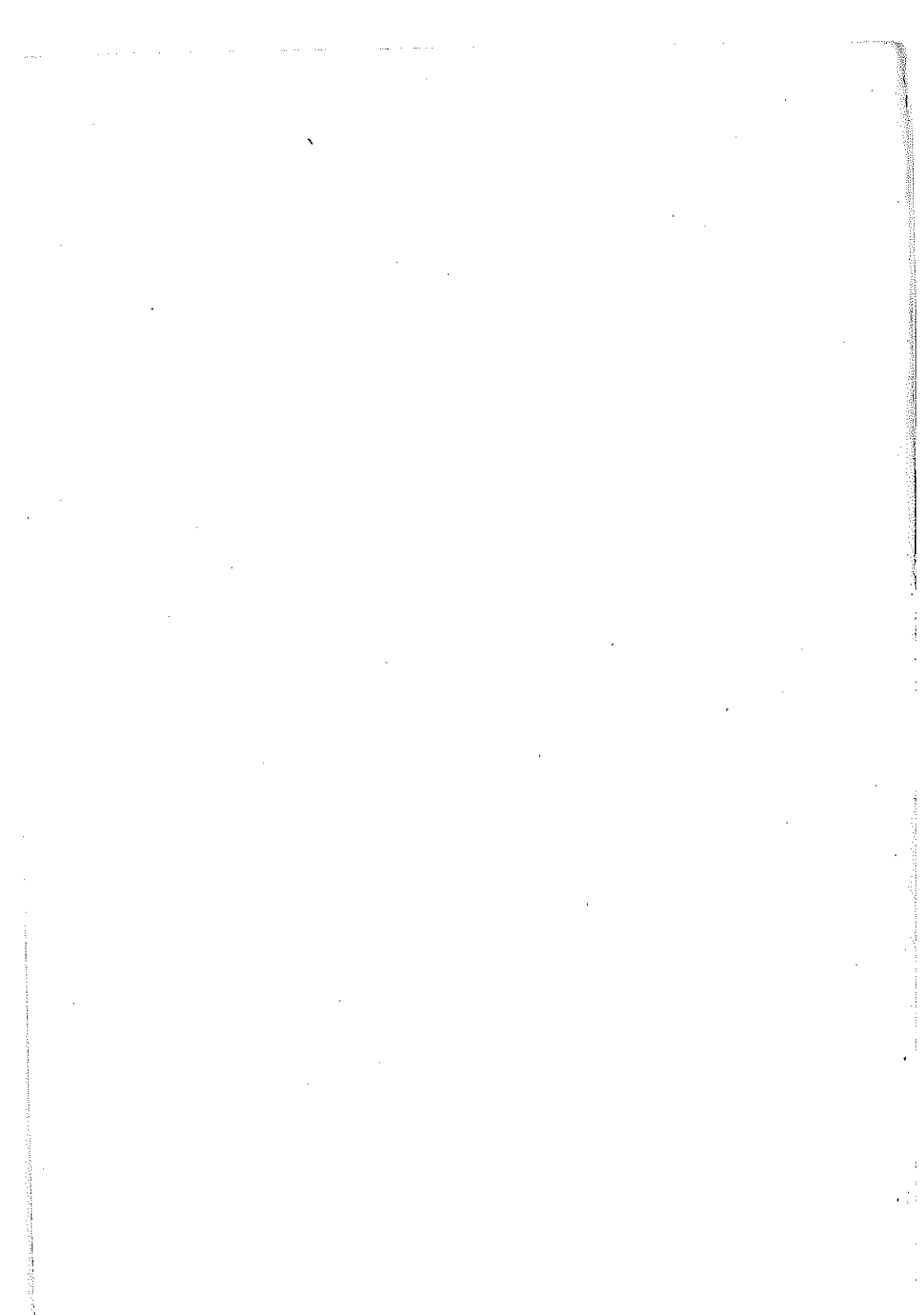
Yo^r Obliged freind and ServantOxford March 2^d 1642.

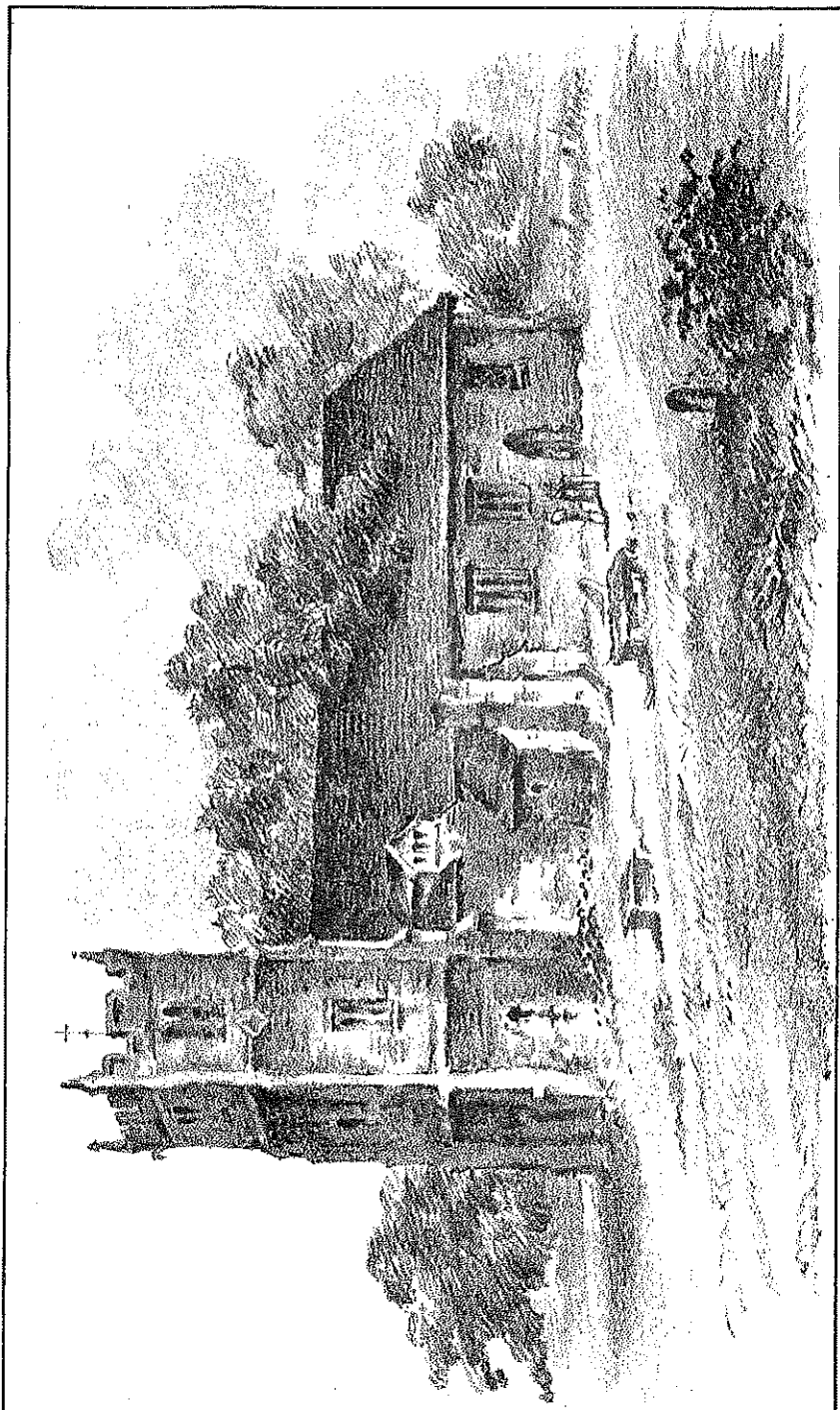
W. SMITH.

I had notice of your Welfare this day by my Man George Cross.

For the Worthily honoured S^r Francis Oateley Kn^t and
Governor of Shrewsbury present this with my service att
Shrewsbury.

(To be Continued).





ADHITT & NAUNTON, LITHS, SALOP

SELATTYN CHURCH, S. W.

SELATTYN: A HISTORY OF THE PARISH.

BY THE HON. MRS. BULKELEY-OWEN.

(Continued from 2nd Series, Vol. V., page 342).

CHAPTER VI.

THE CHURCH.

THERE must have been a Church at Selattyn from very early times, though not standing upon the present site.

Duke, in his *Antiquities of Shropshire*, tells us that "the people say the first Church was at Pentre Clawdd." No traces of that Church have ever been discovered, though it is quite possible that a Chapel may have existed there for the use of the Pentref or Hamlet.

The name of the field, "Bryn yr Hen Eglwys," facing the Rectory to the south, probably indicates the site of the original Parish Church.

The following legend of its foundation is given us by Pennant, who quotes from the MSS. of Edward Lloyd of Drenewydd:—"A noble Briton, being engaged in the chase, found in a thicket on this spot a white hind, which determined him (after the example of Ethelred, King of the Mercians, in the instance of St. John's Church, Chester), to dedicate it to sacred uses. He accordingly translated to this place the ancient Church which tradition says stood before on a spot still called 'Bryn yr Hen Eglwys,' or the hill of the old Church."¹

I see no reason to doubt that a noble Briton was the founder of the Church, though it is highly improbable that he was moved to build it by the example of one of

¹ *Tour in Wales*, vol. i., p. 360.

the Saxon conquerors. The lives of the Welsh saints abound in legends of deer. We read in the Life of Saint Cadoc of two stags who set "aside their wildness" and drew wood for the rebuilding of the Monastery of Lllancarvan [circa 447].¹

S. Illyd, founder of the famous College of Llanilltyd Fawr, or Llantwit Major [circa 520] protected a poor hunted stag that had taken refuge with him from its pursuers. It was afterwards tamed by S. Illyd and became useful in drawing timber for building.²

An angel foretold in a dream to Sandde, King of Ceredigion, the birth of his son, St. David, whom he compared to a stag, of which he gave Sandde the following beautiful definition, drawn partly from the symbolism of Psalm 42 :—"The stag," said the angel, "signifies power over the ancient Serpent ; for as the stag deprived of his pasture by serpents, and desiring a fountain of water, having received strength is renewed as in youth ; so he placed on high, as with the legs of stags, will deprive the ancient Serpent of mankind of his power of hurting against himself, and obtain the fountain of life by his constant shedding of tears ; and, daily renewed by the frugality of moderate food, will in the name of the Holy Trinity obtain a salutary knowledge, and begin to have power to govern demons."³

The Church of Llangar, or as it should be written, of Llan garw gwyn, near Corwen, has a legend that "a white stag was started in the thicket where the church now is, and that wherever he ran that became the boundary of the parish."⁴

The red stag of Llandderfel existed as long as 1730, when an iconoclastic Rural Dean ordered it to be decapitated.⁵

¹ *Lives of the Cambro-British Saints*, Rees's ed. 1853, p. 329. Nantcarvan means the "Valley of Stags."

² *Ibid*, p. 473.

³ *Ibid*, p. 419, from the Cotton MSS. Brit. Mus.

⁴ *Hist. S. Asaph*, p. 711.

⁵ *Ibid*, p. 678.

The first historic mention of the Church of Selattyn is given us in the Taxatio of Pope Nicholas, 1291. It is there called "Eccl'ia de Hilatwon," with a various reading, "Sulatwn," and is valued at £6 13s. 4d.; dec. 13s. 4d.¹

The advowson of the living was in possession of Fulk Fitz Warin, Lord of the Manor of Whittington, on July 7th, 1331, as we have seen by an Inquisition taken at that date² before Sir John de Hynkeley and Thomas Eggefeld, clerk. It was valued then at £5.³

It is there called "Ecclesia de Celatton." An anonymous and undated MS. has from this tried to supply us with a solution of the meaning of the name Selattyn. It says, "Syllattin, Syllatyn, or Sellatyn, takes its name from Cælestine the Pope, when St. Martin was Bishop of Tours."

We have but to look at the earliest known spelling, "Sulatton," to contradict this myth.

Various puns have been made upon the modern spelling of the name, such as "Selatti hi, i.e., shoot at her"; or that the village was so called from a local schoolmaster, who said, "I sell Latin."

On the first page of the Register we find, written in a modern hand by some would-be etymologist, "Different modes of writing the name of this place. Saleurdine⁴ written in Domesday book, 1586. Syllatin, Sillattyn, Slattyn, Selattyn, so written in 1800. Sillatin, see Pennant. Sillatton, see Chalice. Silatton, see 1587."

Others have tried to connect the name with "Sul," a Saxon word signifying ploughland. The origin of the name still remains a mystery; it has nothing to do with the patron saint, who is S. Mary.⁵

¹ *Hist. S. Asaph*, p. 667.

² Chapter i., p. 15.

³ The Church of Whittington was valued at £10. Thomas Eggefeld may have been an early Rector of Selattyn or of Whittington.

⁴ Saleurdine was in Baschurch Hundred.

⁵ Bacon's *Liber Regis*, and Browne Willis.

The Dedication Festival is 8th Sept., the Nativity of B.V.M.

In the Inquisition of 1412-13, we find the advowson valued at "six marks."

The Valor of 1534-35 gives it as in gross, "£13 6s. 8d.; clare, £12 9s. 6d.; dec., £1 4s. 11½d.

Selattyn was in the Deanery of Marchia until 27 Henry VIII., when an Act was passed, of which section xi. enacted, "that after the Feast of All Saints, the Lordships of Oswester, Whetington, Masbroke, and Knoking, with their members, should be taken, named, and known by the name of the hundred of Oswester, in the County of Salop."

We have no information as to the building of the present Church, and there is nothing in the building to lead us to any definite conclusion. There is an interesting relic of the earlier Church in the moulded head of the south window of the chancel. It has been formed from a large incised grave cover or coffin lid. The stem of the cross and part of the Calvary at the base, as well as some of the circles that formed the geometrical head can be readily traced. This slab is of 12th century date.

Several pieces of early English, 13th century stonework, were found within the north wall when it was removed during the alterations in 1890.

The old part of the existing Church is mainly perpendicular, of about the middle of the 15th century, when the present fine oak roofs were put on, and the windows altered to their present style.

It then consisted of a chancel 32 ft. by 18 ft. 6 in., containing a south door for the priest; and a nave 48 ft. by 18 ft. 6 in., internally under a continuous roof, and with nothing externally to denote the division between the two, but which was then marked internally by the increased richness of the chancel roof, and later on by a screen and rood-loft.

We learn from the Register that "the present steeple began to be built in May A.D. 1703. John Jones, B.D.,

Rector, John Thomas of Pentre Clawdd, and John Kyffin of Trivallyre, Churchwardens." A stone near its base on the south side bears the date 1704. It took the place of a former steeple, as we know from the Inventory taken in 1553, signed by the Rector, Robert Staney.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE EXCHEQUER.

Q. R. CHURCH GOODS, SALOP, $\frac{8}{21}$ M 8.

SULATIN.

Thys byll yndentyd made the [] day of May yn the sevynt^h yere of our moste dread soverant lord Kynge Edward the vjth bytwyxe Andrew Corbett,¹ Rycharde Maneuryng² Knyghtes, & Ryc'd Newport Esquier³ of the on party & Robert Stañee parson, Roberd Ap Gruff & John ap davyt cherche-wardesse, of the other partye. Wytnesyt that the sayd Roberd & Roberd & John ar bonden & do confesse ourselves by these presentes to be chargyd & bonden to save, kyepe unstolne, unsolde, unbelueyd, ij bells, on Chalyce of selver w^t the paten therto belongyng now yn the paryche [Church] & Stepull; as we wyll anser therforre. Yn wytnes whereof we have put to our hands the day & yere above sayd.

Robert Staney

This Commission throws no light upon any articles of value, such as jewels, crosses, vestments, etc., which the Church may have possessed before, it merely informs us what the Commissioners thought fit to leave in statu quo, they were empowered "to make seizure of all goods in Cathedral or parish Churches . . . and they were bound to leave no more than one Chalice for the Communion Service."⁴ It is not, however, likely that

¹ Sir Andrew Corbet of Morton Corbet, Co. Salop, Sheriff 1551, mar. Jane, d. of Robt. Nedham of Shavington; died 1578. (*Her. Visit. Shrop.*, p. 136).

² Sir Richard Manwaring of Ightfeld, Co. Salop, mar. Dorothea, d. of Sir Robert Corbet of Morton Corbet, Sheriff Shrop. 1507, who died 5 Hen. VIII.

³ Richard Newport of High Ercall, Sheriff Shrop. 1552, mar. Margaret, only d. and heir of Sir Thomas Bromley, Chief Justice.

⁴ Collier's *Ch. Hist.*, Book IV., p. 505.

they found anything in this little hillside Church of sufficient value to carry off for the King's treasury.

There is a diversity of opinion as to the structure termed a "stepull" in 1553. C. Hodgson Fowler, Esq., F.S.A., who restored the church in 1890, is of opinion that it was "probably a wooden bell turret rising out of the western bay of the nave, for during the recent works that bay was found to be of very common and comparatively modern work. It showed that some alteration had been made there, which would, of course, be the case, when the bell turret was removed and the present tower built in 1703.

This tower is very roughly built, and exceedingly rude in design, evidently the work of a local mason, who endeavoured to reproduce, and with very fair success, the general features of mediæval towers that he had, no doubt, seen elsewhere. It certainly was not built from the design of any of the architects then living, who were all working in English renaissance."

Dr. Cox, F.S.A., takes a different view of the question. He writes:—"The Tower is a remarkable venture for the time of Queen Anne. It consists of three diminishing stages, and is embattled. The general effect is picturesque and bold; no builder or architect of that period would have produced such work, unless they had to some extent copied a previous steeple. The belfry stage is lighted by four small windows of two lights, formed by a substantial central mullion, capped by a single stone moulded into two semi-circular heads. This seems to be a shallow reproduction of Saxon work, and I conjecture that the old tower was of late Saxon or early Norman character. Another special feature of the tower is the far projecting diagonal buttresses at the west, which graduate off in a series of steps. Altogether the tower is a striking feature of the Church, and not a little remarkable for the time in which it was built. Probably the old tower had been buttressed up and altered in early English times, as well as at a later date. The buttresses on the east that die away into

the nave, do not seem to have been interfered with in 1703-4."

Some small repairs took place in 1751. On the 21st December we find "Received by Thomas Conway and William Jaret the sum of £3 15s. in full for the repairs of the Church."

Somewhere early in the 16th century the Church was enriched by a very remarkable rood-screen and loft, with, doubtless, a rood with attendant figures on it. This screen and loft remained until 1751 or 2, as "at a Vestry held" Dec. 22, 1751,¹ "it was agreed that the Cancelli or partition between the Church and chancel should be taken away. Present Edd. Maurice [curate], J. Venables, Edd. Richardson, John Arthur." This was accordingly done, but fortunately all the heavier woodwork of it was used for making a gallery at the west end, where it was found during the recent work, though concealed by later additions.

Enough, however, remains to show that the screen had a central doorway, and three compartments on either side of it, and over it the loft extended 10 ft. into and over the chancel, forming thus a large room 18 ft 6in. long and 10 ft. wide. The alterations early in this century removed all traces of the means of access to the rood-loft; probably it was by a wooden stair in the chancel.

"In 1748 the chancel was reflagged and wainscoted by Rector Hanmer, with the help of some of the chief parishioners, in consideration of his allowing them seats there."² His work, though cut and altered in 1821, has recently been carefully restored, and still adorns the chancel.

It was usual for the patron of the living and for other "persons of quality" to worship in the chancel

¹ We learn from a book at S. Asaph Palace that most of the rood-lofts were removed in 1731, and that "some of the people objected." Possibly Rector Hanmer prevented this spoliation. It was removed the year after the appointment of his successor.

² Bishop's Book, S. Asaph.

and have sitting accommodation there from the very earliest times. It was enacted in the year 1287, by a Synod held at Exeter that "no one from henceforth may claim a seat in Church as his own, noble persons and patrons of churches alone excepted. He who for the cause of prayer, shall first enter a Church, let him select a place of prayer according to his will."¹

We have no record of appropriated seats at Selattyn earlier than the Chancel seats of 1748, though doubtless they existed, and we have fragments of the old Jacobean pews, which are now in the wall panelling.

Seats were allotted for money as far back as 1457-8 in the south of England.² At the Parish Church of St. Christopher le Stocks, of which Robert Staney became Rector in 1536, he found that in 1524 twelve persons had been chosen as assessors "to sesse every piew severally at a certain summa." We may be permitted to hope, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, that he did not introduce this practice at Selattyn.

The first mention of the traffic in pews in the nave is to be found in the Register under

May 28, 1766.

I, Peter Tomkies, in the Co. of Salop, shoemaker, do hereby consent and agree with the inhabitants of the Parish of Selattyn, that for the value of two shillings paid yearly to me by the churchwardens of the said Parish, a seat adjoining the Reading Desk be hereafter let unto the Parishioners for the use of the clerk to sit in, provided that only one person may be admitted to sit with him in the same seat upon the Sabbath Day. In witness whereof I have set my hand the day and year above mentioned.

PETER TOMKIES.

Witness

WM. EDWARDS. }
ROBERT HUGHES } Churchwardens.

¹ *Hist. of Seat Reservation in Churches*, written for Soc. of Antiquaries, W. J. Hardy, F.S.A., 1892.

² *Ibid* p. 5. At Yeovil.

By what right Peter Tomkies held this Pew and let it, history does not state; his right was evidently held to be hereditary, for the Rector, the Rev. J. R. Lloyd, eventually bought it for the use of the clerk from Edward Tomkies in September, 1785, and made a present of it to the Parish.

In 1772 a Brief was obtained for the rebuilding of the Church.

George the III. by the Grace of God. . . .

Whereas it hath been represented to us well upon the Petition of the Rector, Churchwardens, and the major part of the principal inhabitants of the parish of Selattyn Co. Salop upon the 15th Janry. xith year of our reign that the Parish Church of Selattyn is a very ancient building and become ruinous and unsafe and too small for the number of Parishioners and by the oaths of experienced workmen who have viewed the Church and made an estimate of the charge of taking down and rebuilding the same upon a moderate charge, which computation will amount to £1,250 and upwards, exclusive of old materials, which the saide parishioners are unable to raise amongst themselves being mostly Tenants. . . .

We grant unto them our most gracious letters patent to our loving subjects to ask and collect alms throughout England and our town of Berwick on Tweed, our counties of Flint, Denbigh and Radnor in Wales, and from house to house throughout our counties of Salop, Hereford, Stafford, Worcester and Chester to enable them to rebuild their said Church. . . .

We constitute and appoint the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of St. Asaph,¹ Sir Watkin Williams Wynn Bt.,² Rich. Myddleton,³ John Mytton,⁴ Robert Godolphin Owen,⁵ and John Owen,⁶ Esquires, William Wynne,⁷ William Worthington,⁸ D.D. Wm. Boyd, Wm. Roberts,⁹ Thomas Trevor,¹⁰ Joseph Dixon, David

¹ Jonathan Shipley, D.D.

² Of Wynnstay.

³ Of Chirk Castle.

⁴ Of Halston, Whittington Parish.

⁵ Of Porkington.

⁶ Of Penrhos.

⁷ Canon of St. Asaph, Vicar of Llanfechain 1735-1776.

⁸ Prebend of Meifod. Then Rector of Llanrhaidr-yn-Mochnant.

⁹ Rector of Whittington and Selattyn.

¹⁰ Vicar of Oswestry.

Griffiths, Joshua Adams, Owen Reynolds,¹ David Price² and John Jeffreys³ Clerks, the Minister and Churchwardens, to make and sign all necessary orders for the due collection of this Brief and advancement of the said charity. . . .

22 Janry. the 12th year of our reign.

Signed BATHURST.⁴

Fortunately the Church was only repaired and not rebuilt at the above date. The Parish Register informs us that it was "new Pewed in ye year 1772 and in ye year 1773 finished by Thomas Ellis and Edward Smallman Powers."

What the last word of that entry may mean I do not know, unless that they exerted themselves in begging money to pay for the work. Thomas Ellis was the Parish Clerk.

The next entry respecting the Pews refers to the Lord of the Manor, "Mr. Lloyd having caused the word Patron to be renew'd over the Rector's Pew in the Chancel."

He writes the following letter of apology to the Rector:—

Mr. Lloyd's compts. to Mr. Roberts and would have answered his note sooner had he seen his steward to know his reason for inserting the Patron's name on the Pew at Sellatin, but will give orders for the whole to be erased, and the Rector's only shall be put on it. For Mr. Lloyd would not deprive the Rector or Church of any emolument whatever.

Aston, Saturday Even. July 3, 1773.

Some slight alteration was made to the panelling in 1779, for we find "Paid to Charles Conway by order of Mr. Roberts for altering the wainscoating 4/4." He had been appointed Clerk on the death of Thomas Ellis in 1779.

On Nov. 5, 1788, the Vestry "ordered that a door be made in the end of the steeple, that the present

¹ Master Oswestry Grammar School.

² Vicar of Chirk.

³ Curate of Selattyn.

⁴ Brit. Mus. Harl. MS. 6,276, B. xii. 3.

door be built up and the space between Mr. Edwards¹ and Robert Lloyd's² seats be sold to the Wardens after they have properly pew'd the same." This new doorway appears to have been the principal one, until the recent alterations, when it was built up and the old south doorway re-opened and a new half timbered porch built by the Rev. T. Powell in memory of his brother-in-law, Rowland Jones Venables of Oakhurst, and of Harriet his wife.³

The south doorway was not built up until the following year.

Nov. 5, 1789, the Vestry "Ordered that the old door be built up level with the wall in the inside and outside of the Church, and made like the other part of the walls, also that the space within the Church be sold by the Churchwardens to the best bidder on the 21st day of December next at the Cross Keys in Sylattyn at the hour of 12 for the purpose of making a pew similar to the rest of the Pews in the Church."

This Vestry seems to have reached the lowest depth of degradation in ordering a sale by auction in a public-house of a portion of God's house.

The Old Porch was still left standing.

Nov. 5, 1791. The Vestry "agreed that the Old Porch be converted into a Vestry room and for that purpose the Churchwardens are directed to make a fireplace and window in the south end thereof and provide a table."

A sketch in India ink of the Church as it then was, was taken by D. Park, a Schoolmaster in Shrewsbury between the years 1806-1826. It is preserved in the British Museum. Our frontispiece is taken from it.⁴

The Vestry "also agreed that the vacant ground within the Church near to the old Door be disposed of, leaving a passage of 2 feet 6 inches at the side of Mount Sion seat to lead to the new Vestry room

¹ Of Oldport. ² Of Swanhill.

³ She is still living.

⁴ Add. MSS. 21,012 Plut. clxxv. H.

through a Door at the end thereof above which a window is directed to be made to give light under the gallery."

"The vacant ground above mentioned was sold to Mrs. Edwards of Oldport for one pound one shilling the same day."

The window then ordered to be made was probably the dormer window depicted in the sketch.

No further alterations appear to have been made until 1821, except that on 28th Oct., 1805,—

"The Vestry agreed to a lewn of 2d. per pound towards constructing a flue for Warming the Church. Estimate £23 13s. 3d."

The North transept was built in 1821, and the South transept in 1828. The Old Porch survived as a Vestry until the later date, when a new Vestry was made in the south transept, the pewing rearranged to suit the transepts, and the fine oak roofs of nave and chancel were concealed by a continuous arched plaster ceiling, without any ornamentation, which gave the Church the effect of a tunnel.

Such is briefly the history of the Church, and it remains only to describe more fully the ancient features and the alterations and improvements recently carried out.

Although, as before stated, no part of the present fabric can certainly be ascribed to the 13th century, the bowl of the Font is undoubtedly of that date. It is circular in plan, and has round its upper part a band of running foliage. The original shaft and base had been destroyed, and it is now fixed on a new one.

All the ancient windows are square-headed, with the exception of the east one, only two of them retained their original mullions and cusped heads, and they contain no old stained glass. In 1892 the east window, which contains three lights, was filled with stained glass¹ by his daughter, in memory of John Ralph, 1st Baron Harlech.²

¹ By C. E. Kempe, Esq., F.S.A.

² A window representing the Resurrection was placed to his memory in the south transept of Oswestry Parish Church by his wife Sarah, Lady Harlech.

The central subject is the Crucifixion, with the Blessed Virgin and St. John on either side. Below are hung three heraldic shields, the central one containing the Coat of Gore and Ormsby with Tyrell on an escutcheon of pretence, and the others those of Lacon of Porkington, Maurice of Clenneney, Gruffyd ap Cynan; and of Owen of Bodsilin, Wynn of Glyn, and Godolphin. The south doorway, of which such frequent mention has been made, is exceedingly plain, having merely a single chamfered order. Close to it, in the south wall of the nave, is a mutilated stoup, cut away, no doubt, for the pews.

But the glory of the Church, and altogether its most striking feature, is the very beautiful oak roofing. The nave roof is of five bays, divided by heavily timbered and moulded arched principals, with moulded purlins and cusped windbraces and heavy rafters. The chancel roof is of four bays with similar principals, but with arched panelling between them, with ridge and purlins, beautifully carved with running patterns of foliage, and each bay further subdivided by richly moulded and carved ribs into fifty compartments, each originally having a traceried head. Most of these tracery panels had been destroyed when the roofs were ceiled, but enough remained to show how very rich the effect must have been when all the 200 compartments were thus ornamented.

The recent works embraced a thorough and careful restoration of these roofs, all the old timbers being carefully repaired and made good and bolted together, the arched panelling entirely restored with all the old panels of tracery that had been left above the plaster ceiling, and a certain number of new ones added, so as to complete the Eastern bay of the Chancel roof, and bring it back to its original richness.

In 1890 the Church was enlarged and thoroughly repaired, a North Aisle of six bays being added, extending to the East wall of the modern North Transept, which is thus partially absorbed by the Aisle, its northern portion being left and used as a Vestry.

The South Transept has been shortened, and with a new South window and a panelled roof no longer looks a blot on the Church, while it serves both for an organ chamber and for additional sittings.

The Chancel has been brought out to nearly its original length, and re-seated with choir seats in oak, with a new floor of stone, in which the old ledger stones are relaid.

The inscriptions upon them are as follow:—

H. S. E.
 Robertus Owen de Porkington Eques auratus
 Ex antiquo Hwfæ ap Cýnddelw et Regis Oeni
 Gwyneth stemmate oriundus,
 Probitate et fortitudine Clarus,
 Nulli infestus
 Plurimis amicus
 Bonis omnibus charus
 dum vixit amatus
 Desideratus dum obiit
 3^o Kalendarum Aprilis
 MD.C.XC.VIII.
 Hic etiam in Sinu Patris Condormiunt
 Wilhelmus Owen qui 15^o April 1685
 Francesca Owen quæ 11^o December 1696
 Edwardus Owen qui 10^o Janu. 1697,
 obierunt.

The inscription is surmounted by a Shield bearing—

1. *Gules, a Chev. inter 3 lions ramp, or* (Owen of Bodsilin).
2. *Vert, 3 Eagles displayed in fesse or* (Maurice of Clennenney).
3. *Gules, 3 lions passant in pale arg.* (Gruffyd ap Cynan).
4. *Per fesse indented, Erm. and azure* (Lacon of Porkington).

On an Escutcheon of pretence—

Erm. a saltire gu. with a crescent for difference (Wynn of Glyn).

Here lieth

Dame Margaret Owen relict of Sir Robert Owen of Porkington Knt. and eldest daughter of Owen Wynn of Glynn in the County of Merioneth Esq who died April 10th 1727 aged 64.

Here also lieth

Her son Arthur Owen who died the 22nd day of July 1739 aged 46.

Here lieth

the body of Ellen Owen eldest daughter of William Owen of Porkington in this Parish Esq, and Catherine his wife, the only child of Lewis Anwill of Parke in the County of Merioneth Esq. Deceased the 20th of August 1702.

Aged 51.

Also William Owen of Porkington, Esq—son & heir of Sir Robert Owen. He departed this life 14th February 1767, in the 79th year of his age,

There is a lozenge-shaped shield at the top of the above inscription which is nearly obliterated.

Here also lieth the body of

Francis Owen son of William Owen, late of Porkington Esq, who departed this life Nov. the 16th 1774 in the 29th year of his age.

The above stones all lay on the south-east of the Chancel. The only one commemorating a Hanmer lay on the north side.

“Underneath is deposited the body of the Rev.^d Thomas Hanmer, M.A., late Rector of this Parish, who died the 27th Feb. 1749. Aged 71.”

also

The remains of William Leigh who departed this life 20th of March, 1805.

A small brass tablet lies on the floor to

“Harrietta

One of the Dau'rs of the R^d Wm. Roberts Rector of this Parish by Susanna his wife. Died April 13th, 1753, aged 3.”

The following Monumental Tablets hang on the walls of the Church :—

A wooden shield bearing the Hanmer Arms—*Az. 2 lions passant guardant, or.*, and the following inscription:

“Here lyeth interr'd the body of Mr. Thomas Hanmer of Pentre David, sonne to William Hanmer Gent., late of Lee who dyed the 24th of July in the year of our Lord God 1666.”

A small stone tablet bears the date 1679, between three nails, and a heart ; but whom it commemorates is not known.

"In memory of the late
Rev. Thomas Edwards of Mount Sion in this parish
Rector of Llanfechan in the County of Montgomery
he died the 5th of January 1800
aged 75 years.

Also of Jane his wife daughter of the Rev^d R. Maurice of
Bryn y Gwalie. She died the 27th of December 1814,
aged 80."

"To the Memory of Mr. John Owen, Penrhos,
In this parish Gentleman, who died May 9th 1807
aged 49."

"Sacred to the Memory of
The Reverend George Newton Kynaston Lloyd, M.A.
youngest son of the Reverend John Robert Lloyd LL.B. of
Aston in this County. He was thirty five years Rector of
Selattyn, and faithfully preached Christ crucified, proclaimed
the glad tidings of salvation and as a lowly follower of his
Saviour adorned the doctrine of the Gospel,
Born August 23rd 1786. Died January 17th, 1846.
Aged 59."

"Sacred to the memory of Owen Arthur Ormsby Gore,
youngest son of William Ormsby Gore, M.P., and Mary Jane
Ormsby his wife. Who was killed in action in Kaffirland
April vi. MD.C.C.C.LIII. aged xxxi.

Extract from Lieut.-Gen. Sir Henry Smith's despatch.

I deeply regret the loss of Capt. Gore of the 43rd Light
Infantry. He was one of the most distinguished Captains
under my command, as Intrepid as Judicious, beloved by
Officers and men."

"In Memory of Charlotte Husband, wife of the Rector of
this parish, daughter of Edward Jones, Esq., of Wepre Hall, in
the County of Flint, who died 31 July, 1857, and of Mary
Husband his sister, who died 23rd July, 1860."

"Sacred to the Memory of Thomas John Nicholas, M.A.,
late fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, who died 2nd of
December, 1866, aged 28 years."

There is also a brass

"In memory of William Ormsby Gore Esq^r ¹ born at Bath
March 14th A.D. 1779, died at Porkington May 4th A.D. 1860,

¹ The window representing the four Evangelists in the South
Chapel of Oswestry Parish Church was placed to their memory by
their eldest son, John Ralph Lord Harlech.

son of William Gore of Barrowmount and of his wife Frances Lady Morres, and of Mary Jane¹ [see note page 94] his wife born Sept 17, A.D. 1781, died at Porkington Sept 10th, A.D. 1869, daughter of Owen Ormsby Esq of Willowbrook and of his wife Margaret Owen heiress of Porkington, Glyn, Clennenney, Landyn and Willowbrook.

He represented the County of Leitrim in Parliament 1806, the Carnarvon boroughs 1830 and North Shropshire from 1835 till 1857, and was a great public benefactor to the County by promoting the formation of railways.

They both lie in a vault underneath the south transept of this Church."

The upper portion of this inscription is divided by an engraved Cross, below which is a shield. 1 and 4, Gore. 2 and 3, Ormsby, with a rose for difference. On an escutcheon of pretence. 1, Ormsby. 2, Chess-rooks (an augmentation granted to Ormsby). 3, Owen. 4, Maurice. Underneath the shield is the Gore motto "*In hoc signo vinces.*"

The tower, which formerly had only a doorway into the Church, has been opened to the nave by an arch and the font placed in it, being lighted by a new window inserted over the built-up west doorway.

The oak lectern was given as a memorial to Emily Lady Harlech by her five children.

The old oak Altar table was enlarged, and a new Credence table and Litany desk were placed in the Church.

The nave and aisle are seated with open oak benches, and the Church is heated with hot air.


Externally, all the stonework has been carefully repaired, the blue slates of the roof replaced by red tiles, and the ground lowered all round the church.

The tower contains three bells; the largest has been roughly repaired in modern times, and bears this inscription:—

The sceptre now Victoria sways
Fair Queen of Britain's isle,
May Heaven grant her length of days
With peace and joy the while.

1851.

Its shape is that of an early bell, and it is probably one of the two that swung in the "stepull," which was spared in the days of Edward VI.

The second bell is inscribed "A. B. Rudhall, Founder 1758." The third bell bears "A  Rudhall, Prosperity to this Parish, 1758."

This last inscription savours somewhat of a toast at a public dinner.

Abraham Rudhall was a well-known bellfounder of Gloucester.

There is but one entry in the Vestry Book concerning the bell—"1779. Paid to the bell as appears in the Church Book, 13s. 4½d." Whether this is a payment for ringing or for the repair of one of the bells we cannot tell.

Until a few years ago it was invariably the custom, as in so many Welsh parishes, to toll one bell for the funeral, and immediately afterwards to ring a peal. The writer of this history has often heard it rung.

It has a beautiful signification—the joyful entry of the soul into Paradise.

During the course of the late alterations in the Church considerable traces of wall painting were found on the south side of the nave, both on the wall spaces and on the jambs of the south and east windows.

The rough surface of the 15th century walls had received a thin coating of whitewash, and on that large figure subjects had been painted in red and yellow ochre. Between two of the windows a yellow bench could be detected, on which were seated two figures in brown robes, but neither here nor elsewhere could sufficient be uncovered to arrive at any conclusion as to the subjects.

The 15th century painting had apparently been rudely treated at the reformation in order to give hold to a further and thicker deposit of plaster. Upon this second layer were painted, probably temp. Elizabeth, letter texts with borders, portions of which came to light during the alterations.¹

¹ I am indebted for the above description of the Church Restoration to the architect, C. Hodgson Fowler, Esq., F.S.A., and for notes on the Church Tower and Wall-painting to the Rev. J. C. Cox, LL.D., F.S.A.

The old Churchyard contains some fine yew trees, taking one's thoughts back to mediæval times, when they were ordered to be planted in country Churchyards to provide bows and arrows.

In 1728 "the Lime walks in the Churchyard were planted the 5th and 6th March," and the Register further tells us that the "Trees were given by the Hon^d William Owen, Esq., of Porkington." They have all disappeared, unmindful of the law that forbids the parson to "cut down trees growing in the Churchyard, except for the necessary repairs of the Chancel, because they are planted and grow there for the ornament and shelter of the Church."¹

The oldest gravestone in the Churchyard is that of "John Phillippes, who died Marc 19 Ano Dom. 1620."

There is a large altar tomb of the kind usual at the beginning of the present century, marked "Mount Sion."

Two stone slabs with recumbent crosses mark the resting place of two Rectors and their wives.

"George Newton Kynaston Lloyd, M.A., Rector of this parish, born August 23rd, 1786; died January 17, 1846.

Also in memory of Anne Lloyd, wife of the above, born January 1st, M.D.C.C.XCIX. Died Nov. 22, 1886."

"Beneath lie the remains of Charlotte Husband, the beloved wife of the Rector of this parish, who died 31st July, 1857, aged 67.

Also of the Rev. John Husband, Rector of this parish, who died January 30th, 1869, aged 80.

Here lie the remains of Mary Husband, who died 23 July, 1860, aged 69."

An upright cross of white Sicilian marble is in memory of "Rowland Jones Venables of Oakhurst, born 14 Sept., 1812; died 15th May, 1868."

A stone marks the grave of a former parish Clerk, his wife and son.

"In memory of Thomas Nicholas, born Feb., 1794, died April, 1879.

¹ *Church Dict.*, Dr. Hook, edit. 1843, p. 167.

Also of Sarah his wife, born Oct. 27th, 1803, died January 6th, 1888.

In memory of Thomas John Nicholas, M.A., late fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, died 2nd Dec., 1866, aged 28."

A stone cross commemorates the grave of the first schoolmistress at Pantglas and her husband.

"Edward Rogers fell asleep April 20th, 1868, aged 74, also Susannah, wife of the above, who died June 27th, 1874, aged 82."

There are other gravestones too numerous to be recorded, some of which are much worn by the hands of time.

Hundreds were buried there, who lie uncommemorated—

"The silent stars are overhead,
The silent graves below :
A dream between—how quickly fled !—
Is all we know."

The sundial gives us the name of its maker, "Wm. Jared fecit 1759."

A lychgate was put up in 1892 by the parishioners and friends, in memory of Emily Lady Harlech, to whom also the new clock in the Church Tower is a memorial.

A piece of ground was given for a new Churchyard by William Lord Harlech, in 1886. The date of the conveyance of the land from him to the Churchwardens, Messrs. Vaughan and Morgan, is June 16th of that year.

A large white marble recumbent Cross marks the grave of his wife ; it rests upon a marble coping which bears the following inscription :—"In memory of Emily Charlotte, wife of William Richard second Baron Harlech, daughter of Sir George F. Seymour, G.C.B., G.C.H., born Aug. 19, 1824, died Jan. 10th, 1892." "Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life."

This new Graveyard is divided from the old one by a stone wall.

EXTRACTS FROM A FIFTEENTH CENTURY MS.

TRANSCRIBED BY E. CALVERT.

THE following transcripts have been made from a volume now in the Shrewsbury School Library. It is a small quarto (8½ by 6 in.) strongly, if rudely, sewn into a limp cover of vellum, of which the top and side edges have been turned over and stitched down at the corners of one flap, while of the other about half has been cleanly cut off. The cover has been part of an older MS. of church music written on a staff of four (red) lines, the words (from the Psalter) having been beautifully written in black letter with illuminated capitals.

The contents are made up of eight fascicles. No. 1 appears to have consisted of 24 leaves, of which the first three are much worn and mutilated. It is a copy of a part of "the Prick of Conscience," "Stimulus Conscientiæ," a poem written by Richard Rolle, the Hermit of Hampole, born at Thornton in Yorkshire, about 1290, died 1349. (See Prof. Henry Morley's *English Writers*, vol. iv., pp. 263-269).

The portion contained in this fascicle was probably somewhat less than the latter half of the poem, which runs to the length of 9,624 lines. The subject was divided by the poet into seven parts, of which we have here the 5th, "of Domesday," the 6th, "of the Pains of Hell," and a few of the opening lines of the 7th and last, "of the Joys of Heaven."

The whole poem was edited by Dr. R. Morris for the Philological Society in 1863.

On a leaf at the end of the poem are written some rough memoranda of arrears of tithe, e.g.

Charls Hill xij quarter oots xv^s to be peyd at Marttelmas nex commyng.

It. Raff Wyttyworth y^e holder xiiij stryke of oots xiiij^s to be payd at Mychelmas nex commyng a peke of wett xij^d half a peke of ootmell xj^dob.

It. xiiij borddnes [*burdens ? loades*] of hay xiiij^d, xiiij thruff of stray xiiij^d.

It. John Newton wyff a hep malt with other mor wet and malt.

It. Robert Bott wyff half a peke mell and half a peke of salt.

It. Jamys Newton xiiij^d.

Nos. 2 and 3 are of 16 leaves each, and consist mainly of sermons, but include the creed and bidding prayer given below. On the last outside page appear instructions as follows:—

(1) a drynke a gense y^e Seknes of y^e plage.

take a handfull of sauge of vertue and a handfull of herbe grace an handfull of elder leves a handfull of brambyl leves and stampe yam [*them*] in a brasyn mortar and yen [*then*] streyn yam thoro a far clene clothe with a quart of whyte wyne and yen [*then*] put yerto [*thereto*] a gud quantite of whyte gynger and yen drynke every day a sponfull ix days togeddr and after ye fyrst sponfull ye schall be suwer xxiiij howrs and after ye ix days ye schall be suer for ye holl yer [*year*] be grace of god.

(2) remedy for ye seknes if you have not dronkkyn ye drynke.

If it forton if y^t any be strekyn with ye sekness then take a handfull of water scabeos a sponfull of water of betyne a sponfull of fin triakyll [*treacle*] of gynne [*Guinea*] and gyff it to ye pacient and that schall causse all the vennym to go out and if it fortune y^t ye boghl [*boil*] com out yen take elder leves brambyl leves and musterd sede and stampe yam all togeddr and make a plaster of and lay it to ye boghl and it schall bryng out all ye venim and ye persone schall be holl by ye grace of god.

Nos. 4, 5, 6 contain sermons on 12, 16, and 7 leaves. No. 6, however, is of smaller sized page than the rest, being only $7\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $5\frac{1}{4}$. It differs also from the rest in the handwriting and colour of the ink, and must be

short of a leaf at the beginning, which contained the text and opening sentences of the sermon.

No. 7 has 16 leaves, 14 of which contain a "collation" on the words "Revertar in domum meam," Luc. xi. 24, and are followed by a much shorter address on the same text. This portion of the sermons is very carefully written. The character is very uniform and might be described as Court hand.

No. 8 appears to have had certainly not less than 10 leaves. Many are so torn that scarcely half the contents can be deciphered. The handwriting seems to be the same as that of the main body of the sermons.

The creed and bidding prayer are preceded by a treatise thus introduced:—

Her folowes a fruitfull and a compendius treytys specyally schewing wat meryte of pardon it is to hear a messe, and in speycall to see our Lord Jhu Cryst in forme of breyd: Geydyrd and drawne by dyvers holy doctors of the Kyrke.

At the end of this treatise appears the only date occurring in the collection. It is thus written:—mccccxxxiiij, and may be accepted as genuine. The metrical version of the Creed follows next. The ascription of the several articles to the apostles is borne out by Dr. A. Harnack in the pamphlet translated by Mrs. Humphry Ward for the *Nineteenth Century* of July, 1893, but it will be seen that St. Thomas is not included, and that the words "dead and buried; He descended into hell" are not mentioned. "Mortuus est et sepultus" were, in fact, ascribed to St. John, and the descent and resurrection to St. Thomas. This omission can only have been accidental.

The marginal rimes appear to be a kind of meditation consisting of short and somewhat desultory ejaculations.

In "The Lay Folks' Mass Book," according to the use of York (Early Eng. Text Society), edited by Canon T. P. Simmonds, a bidding prayer occurs similar, and in some passages identical with that given below, though scarcely half as long.

A very determined attempt has been made in the MS. to erase the line referring to the Pope and the Cardinals, but sufficient traces have been left to enable the original words to be restored with certainty.

The allusions to St. Chad of Lichfield and St. Mary of Coventry would seem to limit the use of the prayer to this diocese.

The spelling of the original is reproduced throughout, as well as the use of the character *y* for *th*.

METRICAL CREED.

Scriptura dicit Et qui bona egerunt ibunt in vitam eternam qui vero mala in ignem eternum. Item alia via secundum ap'los [*apostolos*].

<i>Peter.</i>	Credo peter began to saye I believe in god veraye	} y ^t made bothe day & nygt
	In deum that is god on hye patrem omnipotentem to y ^e we cry	} fad ^r full of myght
	Creatorem y ^{ou} formyst all thyng and was y'selffe w ^o ute any be- gynnyng	} y ^{ou} sees all y'ing in syzt
	Celi et terre and all y'ing y ^{ou} wrought	} Bothe sounne and mone and steres brygt
	heyven and erthe and all y'ing of nogt	
<i>Andreas.</i>	Et in Jhm Chr ^m sayde Andrewe And in y ^e fad ^r almygty Jhu	} Blessyd mot y ^{ou} be
	filium ejus unicum y ^e son and y ^e fad ^r toged ^r y'ay wone	} and all in ye trinite
	ye whyche y ^{ou} dyst us brynge fro then as we wer prasyng	} owt of many diverse cuntre
	dominum nostrum Lorde over all unto y ^r mod ^r y ^{ou} dyst us call	} In solemptyte y ^t syzt for to se
<i>Jacobus maior</i>	qui conceptus sayd James y ^e mor ye wyche was consayved of ih'u byfor	} as prophetts byfor can spell
	est de spiritu lord full of myght the holy gost in mary lyght	} and take bothe fleysche and fell

? Sancto natus y^{us} sothe to say } thow by[*buy*] us all
 ye holy byrthe on crystymas day } fro hell
 ex maria virgine
 By y^e virgine mary we wer made } In endles blys to
 fre } dwell

Joh'es Passus sub poncio seyde John y^e }
Evan- Evangelyst }
gelista. ye passyon of ih'u Cryst } Stode and it beheld
 Pylato crucifyxus ye erth can }
 qwake } on Calvery in y^t
 When ihu was crucefyed byfor } felde
 Pylat }

ye sonne y^e mone laft y^t syght }
 dedemen rose throghe hys myzt } suche syztts men
 } se bot seld [*but*
 } *seldom*]

Tercia die y^e sothe to say }
 Ryght evyn uppon y^e thyrd day } truly as I you tell
 Resurrexit a mortuis }
 Fro dethe to lyve hys body rose } hys lawes to fulfyll

Jacobus Ascendit ad celos seyde Jamys }
Minor the lesse }
 to heyven he styed yroghe hys } On holy Thursday
 grace }

Sedet ad dexteram Lorde full of } y^t all wyrshap may
 myght }
 and on his fadr ryght hand he } (*doubtful, much*
 sytts full ryght } *worn away*).

Dei patris ovr fadr on hye } y^{ou} set us in a
 y^t ovr believe can magnifye } seker way
 Omnipotentis almyghty Kynge } to be plesyng unto
 yⁿ schope y^{is} worlde and all thyng } y^r paye

Philip Inde venturus seyde Phelyp y^{is} }
 is to drede } men schall se in
 at domesday his Wordes indede } syght

Est judicare when y^{ou} shall deme } But y^t mercy pass
 as we have sued y^e to queme } y^t Ryght
 vivos et mortuos y^{re} is no nay } When we shall see
 qwycke and ded may dred y^t day } it in syght
 then we schall ryse both flessch } But bryng us to y^t
 and bone } blys so bryght
 and lord dem us never to payne }

- Barth.* then sayd bartylmew myld } In the Holy Gost
 steyvyn } I beleve
 Credo in Spiritum lord of heyvyn }
 Sanctum sanctorum holiest of all } y^u schope both
 fad^r and sonne in specyall } Adame and Eve.
- Matheus* Ecclesiam catholicam sayd Matt- }
 hewe } schall turne my
 And in teyching of Holy Chyrche } Sowll fro greff
 I trowe }
 Sanctorum communionem y^{is} is } and men fro yayme
 my trest } to meve
 Amonge all gud saynts for to rest }
- Symon* Remissionem peccatorum sayd }
 Symon } savyd schall I be
 And in remyssyon of synnes I }
 believe uppon }
- Tadeus.* Carnis resurrectionem said }
 Tadeus } icheman in is degre
 Owre flesche shall ryse byfor I hus }
- Mathias.* Et vitam eternam Mathy can say } Returned shall be
 Unto the lyfe y^t lastes ay }
 Unto that blys y^{ou} us bryng } Thre persons in
 fad^r and heyven kyng } trinite

(Last line nearly gone).

BIDDING PRAYER.

Deprecemur deum patrem omnipotentem pro fide et stabilitate sancte matris ecclesie: ye schall make yowr specyall prayers to almyghty god, and to our lady seynt mary, and to all the holy court of heyvyn, for ye state and welefar of al holy kyrke, fro ye hiest degre unto ye lowyst, and specyally for our holy fadyr ye pope of Rome with all hys trewe college of cardinalls.

for ye patryarke of Jerusalem, for ye holy crosse y^t Cryst suffyrd his passyon uppon y^t is in ye heythyn mens handys, y^t god for hys mercy bryng it owte of y^r handys into Cristyn men's kepyng, ye tytter and ye bettyr, for our gud prayers at y^{is} tym. Ye shall pray also specyally for all archyepyskopes and byschoppes, abbotys, pryours, and all men and women of relygyon, y^t god of hys gudness kepe yayme long yerein: Ye schall pray also specyally for ye archebyschope of y^{is} diocysys,

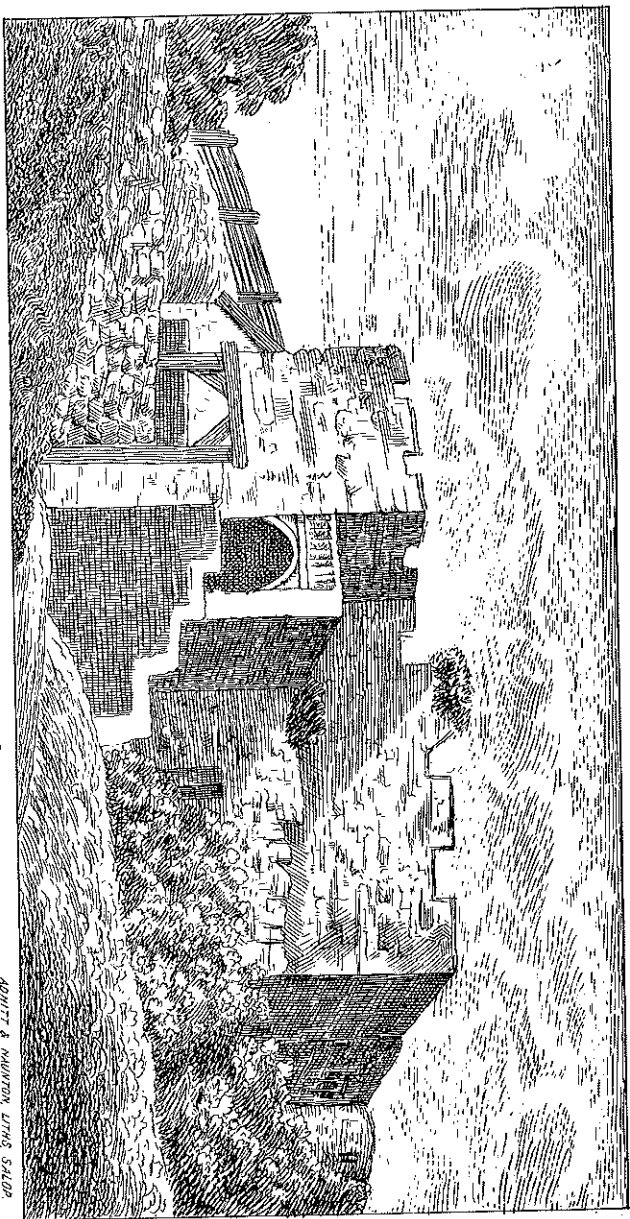
and for ye patrons of y^{is} kyrke, and for ye persone of y^{is} kyrke, for all oy^r persons and vycars and parysche prests yt onr (*sic*) and charge haffe takyn of Cristtyn mynes sowles, y^t god of his mercy gyffe thayme grace so for to enforme thayme, and yay for to wyrke thereaftyr, y^t it may be pleysyng to god, salvaco'n to ye sowles of bothe partyse. Ye schall pray also specyally for all prestys and clarkes y^t redys or synges in y^{is} holy place or in any odyr and all y^r mayntenys.

Of ye second party ye schall pray specyally for our soverayne lorde the kyng of y^{is} reyme, and ye quene for all oy^r lordes and states of y^e reyme, as dukes, Erlls, baronys, knyghtys, and sqwyars, and specyally for those lordes y^t hafe ye counseylls of y^{is} reyme in governance, that god for hys mercy gaff yayme grace such counseyll for to take, and so for to wyrke thereaftyr, y^t it may be pleysyng to god, salvac'on to y^r sowles, profytt and welfar unto y^{is} reyme, discomfetyng and overcomyng of oure enmys both bodely and gostly. Ye schall pray specyally for all ye comonty of y^{is} reyme of England, and of all trew Crystyn reymys, and specyally for ye comonty of y^{is} parysche, y^t ar her geydyrd at y^{is} time, for to her ye dyvyn seruyce, lyke as thay ar bound by y^e lawe; for all those y^t are absent by any resnabyll excuse, and wold be her and yay myght growe to y^r perposse, and for all those that ar absent withowt any resnabyll excuse or mysgovernauce, y^t yay may hafe grace for to amend yaym tyttor and bettyr throght our prayers at y^{is} tym. Ye shall pray also specyally for ye peese and tranquilety of y^{is} reyme, and of all trewe crystyn reymys; ye schall pray also specyally for all trew pylgrymes and palmers, y^t any gud gates hafe gone, or schall go, y^t god graunt us part of y^r gud ways, and yayme part of our prayers. And for all seefarand, y^t God saffe yaym, and kepe yaym, and brynge yayme saffe and sownde and y^r guddes whery^t they had levyst for to be. Ye schall pray specyally for all trew tylmen y^t truly labour and travells in ye worlde, end by y^r bodely labor upholdys both spiritual and temporall, accordyng to Goddys wyll and ye lawe of y^{is} land. Ye schall pray also specyally for all thayme that mendys brygges, cawsys, or wayes, y^t ye pepyll may passe withowte any hurt or paryschyng. Ye schall pray specyally for all ye fruttys of ye erthe, y^t God of his mercy sett suche temperans in ye weddyr, y^t ye fruttys may encreyse and multiplie and be geydyrd to Crystyn mens sustentac'on. Ye schall pray also specyally for all those gud men and women y^t dewly and trwly pays y^r tythes, y^r offerans, thayr dewtys to god and to holy kyrke, lyke as yay ar bound by ye law; and yay y^t do not so, y^t yay may have grace to a mende thayme,

ye tyttor and bettyr, for our gud prayers at y^{is} tyme. Ye schall pray also specyally for all those y^t ar seke or sory in y^{is} parysche, or in any othyr, and specyally for all women y^t gose bound with chylde y^t god in his mercy delyver thayme with gud and releyse theym of y^r paynes in tyme of traveling, and send the chylde crystyndom and (*some words irrecoverable*) purificacon of h (*the rest gone*).

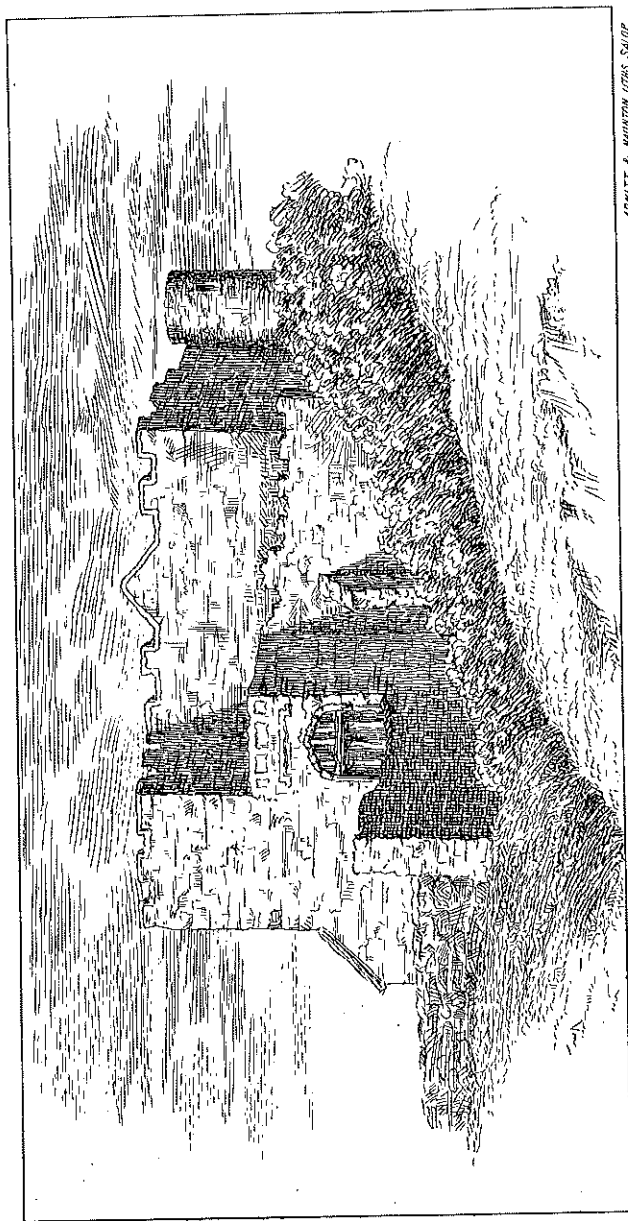
Ye shall pray also specyally for all those y^t ar of gud leffynge in y^{is} parysche, or in any oy^r, y^t God of is gudnes kepe thayme longe therein; and those y^t ar bound in det or in deydy synne, y^t yay may hafe grace to amend thayme ye tyttor and bettyr, for our gud prayers at y^{is} tyme. Ye schall pray also for all ye bredyr and ye systorys and ye gud dowers of Sent Chade of lichfield, and Seynt Mary hows of Co'ntre and specyally for all ye bredyr and ye systores yt ar in any gyldes y^t longys to y^{is} parysche. Ye shall pray also specyally for all those good men and women y^t gyffes or by(q)wytyt any manner of guddys unto thys kyrke, as bokes, bollys, cloys, lawmpes, lyght, awtor clothe, or towell, or any maner of a nowr mentys [*ornaments*], wherthrought ye serveyce of Almyghty God hase bene bettyr maynteynd a for tyme, or is zut [*yet*] at thys day, y^t God for y^r gud dede Rewarde thaym in joy and blys of heyvyn. Ye schall pray also specyally for y^e gud man and ye gud women y^t y^{is} day sent breyd unto y^{is} awter, wherof holy breyde shall be made, and for yay y^t y^e fyrst began and ye longyst holdys on.

On ye thyrd party, ye schall pray specially for the prisoners of Almyghty God, y^t is for to say, yowr fadyr sowle, yowr modyr sowle, yowr god fad^r sowles, your godmodyr sowles, yowr brodyr sowles, yowr systor sowles, your oyne sowles, yowr awnt sowles, and for all yowr kynne sowles, and specyally for all ye sowles y^t ye have had any maner of guddes of, wer throghe ye or any of yowrs hafe faryn bettyr for, or zut dose at y^{is} day. Ye shall pray specyally for all y^{os} sowles y^t ar in ye byttr paynes of purgatory, abydyng ye mercy of our lorde; and specyally for those sowles yt most nede haffe, and fewyst frendys hafe her lefte uppon erthe, for to do oght for y^{ame}. Ye shall pray specyally for all those sowles whose bodys or bonys are beyryd in yis kyrke or yis kyrke yeyrde, or any odr holy place. Ye schall pray also specyally for all those sowles y^e whyche y^t I haffe had any maner of gudes off, for to pray for thayme, and specyally for ye sowle of R.L.



ADNITT & MURTON, LITHO. SALOP.

OSWESTRY CASTLE.



ADRIATT & WINTON, LITHO, SALOP.

OSWESTRY CASTLE.

THE STORY OF OSWESTRY CASTLE.

By J. PARRY-JONES, TOWN CLERK OF OSWESTRY.

WE cannot boast in Oswestry of the romantic site of Conway, the fine architecture of Carnarvon, or the poetic associations of Ludlow, but the few rough stones which remain to show where our Castle stood form part of a structure whose story is fraught with memories of a time when Oswestrians played no mean part in English history.

Scenes from the earlier story of Oswestry and its neighbourhood figure in the dim and distant records of King Arthur and his Court, centuries before our Castle was built; the heathen King and the Saxon Saint were alike familiar with its site, and as to the Castle, the

NOTE.—This paper was read by me at Oswestry, January, 1893, as one of the series of lectures given at the request of the Oswestry Science and Art Classes and Offa Field Club in connection with the Technical Education Scheme of the Shropshire County Council, and it was then suggested to me that the information given should be retained in a permanent form as a paper to be published in the *Shropshire Archaeological Transactions*. This will account for some of the local allusions and the popular manner in which it is written. I should add, as I did at the lecture, that it is difficult to estimate the assistance I derived from Mr. Stanley Leighton's admirable compilation of the Records of the Corporation of Oswestry, which appeared in Vols. II., III., IV. of the *Shropshire Archaeological Transactions*. I must also express my deep indebtedness to *Bye-Gones*, which has been invaluable in bringing to light and preserving so large a body of information with reference to Border history. Since delivery of the lecture I have been able to verify the quotations and to add considerably to the information given after inspection of original documents in the British Museum and elsewhere. I must also thank the Hon. Mrs. Bulkeley-Owen, the Earl of Denbigh, Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P., Mr. R. Lloyd Kenyon, Mr. Edward Woodall, Mr. Arthur Minshall, Mr. David Roberts, and others for the loan of valuable books and documents.

Norman Chivalry under William the Conqueror and the Puritan Ironsides under Oliver Cromwell all knew Oswestry Castle, and associations with its story gather round the dramas of Shakespeare and the *Idylls* of Tennyson.

And first as to its site. Leland, who visited Oswestry in the time of Henry VIII., says:¹—"There is a Castelle sette on a Mont be likelihod made by hand and diche by South West betwixt Beterice Gate and Williho Gate to the wich the Toun Waul cummith." Pennant, in his history of Oswestry, no doubt deriving the suggestion from Leland, speaks of the "artificial mount" upon which the Castle is built, and gives this as a proof that it dates earlier than the Norman period, and says "the Britons and the Saxons gave their fortresses this species of elevation, while the Normans built on the firm and natural soil or rock." The recent excavations, however, showed almost conclusively that (while it is probable the site has been covered with the rubbish of ages), notwithstanding the statement of Mr. G. T. Clark, hereafter referred to, the mound itself is natural and not artificial, and that the highest available ground in the Borderland was chosen immediately fronting Wales, up to which the fertile plain of Shropshire gradually slopes. Mr. Clark, writing in *Arch. Camb.*, 4th Ser., vol. ix., page 185, says:—"The Castle mound, though standing on high ground, is wholly artificial and rather oval at its summit, which is about 60 feet by 100 feet. It is about 30 feet high, and perhaps 200 feet diameter. On its table top are some fragments of masonry composed of large rolled boulders laid in a thick bed of mortar, very rude, but very strong work. One fragment, which in places is about 8 feet thick, is 9 or 10 feet high, and near it are two other large masses, one of which at least is overthrown. The keep was of the shell type, and probably polygonal. There seems to be a further trace of masonry at the south-west side. The

¹ S. A. *Trans.*, Vol. IV., p. 142.

entrance was probably on the south-west side. It is probable that the masonry remaining is the work of William Fitzalan in 1155." The site has, no doubt, been much contracted as the town has increased, especially during the present century, since the Horse Market and Pitcher Bank have been carved out of it, and the "Castle Fields" have been covered with houses, over the site of what in my boyish days we used to call the "Cripple Bank." From the summit of Cynybwch, two miles nearer Wales, one sees what must have been the strength of the position in days before gunpowder was invented. On the one side rise in towering masses the hills of Wales, ending in the backbone of Wales, the Berwyns, penetrated by the Valleys of the Dee, the Ceiriog, and the Severn, while on the other side lies the fertile plain of Salop studded with villages, and upon the rising ground midway between stood the Castle of Oswestry. From it the incursions of the Welsh into Salop could be repelled, and shelter could be given under its walls while the villages of the plain were being ravaged by the spoilers; and if Wales were to be invaded by the route of either the Dee, the Ceiriog, or the Severn, its fortress served as a rallying ground for the English forces. So late as the Commonwealth Oswestry Castle was described as the "Key of Wales," and its possession was coveted alike by Norman warrior and Welsh patriot. The Castle must have been of considerable size to have contained so large a garrison as is afterwards mentioned, but it has been so completely destroyed that it is difficult to trace its outline. We have no plan of the Castle left, but I have here an enlarged drawing, the origin of which I have only succeeded in tracing to a sepia sketch by W. Williams (an artist of the last century, who took views of many Shropshire buildings), which is now in the possession of Mr. Adnitt of Shrewsbury; a copy of it is also preserved in the Bodleian Library, but no information can be gleaned there as to its origin. It will be seen that it represents a strong castellated structure of somewhat unimposing

aspect, with an outer gate and drawbridge. This sketch also appears in Edwards's *History of Oswestry*, and is there signed "J. Jones Dudleston Salop Sculpt Jan. 1819." "It had a tower called Madoc's Tower" (so Leland tells us), while the Bailey Head, as we now term it, formed the Ballium or Courtyard. The Barbican or outer gate, where the maimed and blind were relieved, would be situate on the site of the mound in Castle Street, cleared away about 30 years ago, and then called "The Cripple-Gate." It was probably approached by a bridge over the moat, which ran across the site of the New Municipal Buildings, as was found to our cost when the foundation was being laid last year, for it was damp with the moisture of by-gone ages and full of the bones of mediæval horses and the heel taps of Elizabethan shoes, and no explanation can be given of a singular layer or stratum of leather chippings about 20 feet in length and 6 inches deep which was found many feet below the surface.

The inventory of contents further on will give some idea of the number of rooms the Castle contained. It also contained a Chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas, the endowment of which was derived from lands whose identity it is impossible to ascertain. "Castell Croft, a croft under Wynne Wallis, a croft called 'Chyken-wall,' and the field called Cadogan Field."¹

It is difficult to give the exact date of the foundation of the Castle. There was no doubt a fortification at Old Oswestry, as it is now termed, Hen Dinas—the old fort—or anciently *Caer Ogyrvan*, from British times. To readers unacquainted with the locality I should add that Old Oswestry is a fine British encampment, now covered with wood, about three quarters of a mile from Oswestry, in full view of the Castle hill, and is the property of Lord Harlech. Here, legend tells us, Guinivere, King Arthur's unhappy Queen, was born, the daughter of Gogyrfan Fawr "His one fair daughter

¹ Eyton's *Ant. Salop*, vol. vii.

and she was fairest of all flesh on earth."¹ It was not until the days of William the Conqueror, however, that its neighbouring fortress, the Castle of Oswestry, makes its appearance in history. Dugdale says: "There was a Castle at Oswaldestre at the time of the Conquest," but there is no record in Domesday Book of the existence of any town upon the site of modern Oswestry. The legends as to the connection of "Oswald, Saint and King" with Oswestry belong to a period of four centuries earlier, and of these, interesting as they are, I cannot stay to speak now. They belong to the History of Oswestry as a town.

There is no doubt that a church or a religious foundation of some kind had existed in the neighbourhood from the date of Oswald's death in 637, but in *Domesday Book* the district round Oswestry is comprised in the Manor of Meseberie and Hundred of Mersite, while Oswestry does not appear by name. There is mention of a place called, "Castle L'uvre," and it is suggested by Eyton that this means "The Work," by which name the Normans styled a great military position, and it is probable that this was Oswestry Castle, but the first mention of Oswestry Castle by name, so far as I can gather, is contained in the Anglo-Norman Metrical romance, *The History of Fulk Fitz-Warine*, which was translated by Mr. Thomas Wright, and printed for the Warton Club. It tells the story of William the Conqueror's visit to the Welsh Border in 1068, two years after the Conquest. For two years the people had lain quiet, stunned under the feet of William, and it seemed as if the conquest was complete. But the quiet was treacherous. Suddenly all northern, western, and south western England rose as one man in rebellion. York was stormed, and the garrison of 3,000 Normans massacred. News reached William as he was travelling in the Forest of Dean. "In a wild outburst of wrath he swore by the splendour of God to

¹ Tennyson's *Idylls*, Guinivere.

avenge himself."¹ The Norman garrison in Shrewsbury was besieged. William marched to its relief and swept the Welsh border. The French chronicler tells that when William was on his march near the Welsh border he came to a ruined city, of which Mr. Wright says, "I am inclined to think that it may be Old Oswestry," where he hears a marvellous story of the giant Geomagog, whose uneasy spirit still ruled the city, and how Payn Peverel, the "proud and courageous knight," cousin of the King, with his "shield shining with gold, on which was a cross of azure indented," took fifteen knights with him in the midst of a tempest of thunder and lightning, and fought the fiend, who carried a great club, and was guarding a treasure of "oxen, cows, swans, peacocks, horses, and all other animals made of fine gold, and there was a golden bull which told the events which were to come." Whether the treasure still remains buried in Old Oswestry the chronicler fails to tell, but the Christian knight conquered and the chronicler proceeds:—

Ly roy s'en vet de yleque e Vent en une contre' joygnant a' la Blanche Launde qe jadys fust a' un Breterin Meredus filz Beledyns; e delees si est un chastelet q'est apellee Arbre Oswald mes' or est apelee Osewaldestre. Ly roy apela un chevaler Aleyn fitz Flaen e ly donà le chastelet on tut l' onour qe apent; e de cely Aleyn vindrent tous les grantz Seignors d' Engleterre qe orint le sournorin de Fitz Aleyn. Pus cesti Aleyn fist enlager mout le chastel,

which Mr. Wright thus translated:—

The King went thence and came to a country joining the White Laund, which belonged formerly to a Briton, Meredus son of Beledius, and beside it is a little Castle which is called the Tree of Oswald; but now it is called Oswaldestre. The King called a Knight Alan Fitz Flaen and gave him the little Castle with all the honor appertaining to it, and from this Alan came all the lords of England who have the surname of

¹ Green's *Hist. English People*, vol. i., p. 17.

Fitz Alan. Subsequently this Alan caused the Castle to be much enlarged.¹

This is the first mention of Oswestry Castle in history, if history it be, but Eyton shows that although Alan was actually Lord of Oswestry, it was not until many years after William's death. Humphrey Llwyd, the Welsh Historian of Elizabeth's reign, in quaint language tells us what is probably the real story. "The Normans having gotten into their hands all the lands and livings of the nobilitie of England began to spie into the commodities of Wales, and seeing that Robert Fitzhaman and the other knights that went with him had sped so well they made suite to the King to graunt them the lands of the Welshmen. Whereupon the King thinking that the best waie for him, as well as to encourage them to be the more willing to serve him, as also to provide for them, graunted to divers of his nobles, sundrie Counties in Wales to hold of him by knight's service as followeth: Roger Montgomery Earl of Arundel and Salop." Earl Roger in his turn conferred the Hundred of Mersete, comprising Oswestry, upon Warin as Sheriff of Salop. An English Sheriff, it has been said, "fills an office as thankless as it is unlaborious," as "involuntary as it is irresponsible;" but the Norman Sheriff or Vicomte was a provincial Minister nobly born, highly trusted and munificently rewarded. Earl Roger richly endowed his Sheriff Warin (surnamed the Bald), and gave him his niece in marriage. He is said to have been "little in body but great in soul." He died in 1085, and his widow married Rainald, another Norman noble, but she kept her first husband in mind, for she "gave for his soul a house in Shrewsbury and covenanted that she herself living in the said house as tenant to the Abbey, she would provide candles to light the Church every night for the whole year." This Rainald

¹ Wright's Trans. *Fulk Fitzwarine*, p. 14. Mr. Eyton's Annotation in that work is—"Meredus fitz Beledyns. Meredith ap Blethyn, the person alluded to, was a contemporary of William, and Prince of North Wales. He died in 1133."

is the Rainald mentioned in *Domesday Book*, and probably he added to the Castle then in existence.

His successor was the Alan Fitz Flaad I have mentioned, whose connection with his predecessor is obscure. Probably Alan had fled from Scotland to England, and tradition traces him to the Court of Macbeth. He was therefore the first of the great Fitzalan family, who for years were Lords of Oswestry.¹ John Davies, Recorder of Oswestry, in his *History*, dated 1635, preserved in the British Museum (to which I shall several times have to allude)² explains clearly the rights and privileges of the Fitzalans on the Welsh Border. They were Lords Marchers, and to them in common with other Norman nobles was given jurisdiction in the Marches adjoining Wales, on condition that they kept the Welsh in order and prevented incursions into England. The Marches were a sort of no man's land, neither belonging to England nor Wales, and their unhappy inhabitants often shared the fate of the Pitcher in the fable. Davies says:—

The Fitz-Alans hadd Jura Regalia and Royall Jurisdiction, Royall Seigniores under favor of service and Escheats as the King hadd. And in most parts Royal Jurisdec'on and the privelegis of Earles Palatine for they hadd their owne Officers and Courts of Justice where the Kings writtes and Officers hadd no authority, but in matters of treason only; otherwise all murders, felonies ac'ions reall and p'sonall and all other ac'ions whatsoever were heard and determined in their Courts. They hadd their private lawes they graunted p'dons even of murder, and of all kinds of felonies, they graunted priveleges, Infranchised and Incorporated their Towns. They hadd Constables of their Castles. They hadd their Exchequers, their Treasurers, Receavers and Auditors. They hadd Custodes portarum, keepers of their gates in their walled tounes. They hadd sometimes noble men and att all other times eminent knights and Esquires of the best quality to be their Stewards. They signed and putt their names before and above their ch'res and grauntes. They hadd their greate Seales. Their

¹ Eyton's *Ant.*, vol. x., p. 320.

² Harl. MS. 1,981; *Bye-Gones* Nov. 10, 1886; *Powys Fadog* vol. vi.

stiles ranne in the plural number. ¹“Nos. et de gr'a n'ra speciali.' Their seigniories were named and stiled honor's in w'ch they were great p'inces much like as if they hadd bine Kings. Solo Diademate Dispar.”

In fact, for all practical purposes, the Lords had exclusive jurisdiction within the lands granted to them.

The estates of the Fitzalans were enormous and comprised a large portion of the County of Salop. There is no doubt that the rule by the “Lords Marchers” had its unfavourable side. Often mimic war was waged between themselves, and it has been said “paramount in their Castles with hosts of armed retainers and backed by the influence of the Court of England they were in their dealings with the Welsh unscrupulous and domineering, illtreating the inhabitants, confiscating their property and ignoring their rights.” “As regarded its garrison in time of war Oswestry was far better provided than any other Castle in Shropshire. The fief of Fitz Alan, technically known as the Barony of Blancheminster, was enormous, and nearly every tenant therein owed some quota of service to Oswestry Castle.”² Whittington, for instance, was held subject to the service of one Esquire with a barbed horse at Oswestry for 40 days, and Berwick was held in 1255 by service of a horseman and a haubeck, helmet and lance at Oswestry Castle for 40 days in time of war.³

William the Conqueror passed away, and his son William Rufus also, and then rose the troublous wars between King Stephen and the Empress Maud, and from one end to the other England was desolated. One of the old annals tells us, “They filled the land with Castles, they greatly oppressed the

¹ “3 E, 4 Gray Lord Powis Sene'l ibim 7 E, 4 The Lord Maltravers 15 E, 4 John Dudley W. Arundel Miles Lord Maltravers 1 Hen. VII. 7 S'r W. Stanley afterwards Lord Chamberlayne, and 18 Hen. VII. S'r Gilbert Talbott were Senescalls here as app'th by the Court Rolls b'm.” This is Davies's marginal note.

² S. A. *Trans.*, Vol. X., p. 2,

³ S. A. *Trans.*, Vol. I. N. S., p. 198.

Vol. VI., 2nd S.

wretched people by making them work at these castles, and when they were finished they filled them with devils and armed men, while many thousands of the common people starved with hunger." No less than thirty-four Castles were built or enlarged in Shropshire and on the Welsh border about this time, of which Oswestry was one.¹ When civil war was raging there was no time to guard the Welsh frontier, and the border land was held by a very uncertain tenure, and Oswestry appears to have fallen into the hands of the Welsh princes, ever ready to take advantage of the troubles of their neighbours. Llwyd tells us, "Towards the end of the year 1148, Madoc the son of Meredith ap Blethyn, did build the Castell of Oswestry." And John Davies says:—"Maddock ap Meredith, Prince of Lower Powis, did build the Castle of Oswestrie called Twr Maddock An'o d'ni 1149, about the 4th yeere of the Reyne of Kinge Stephen of England, Owen Gwyneth being the Prince of North Wales."² Madoc is well known as the "friend of the King of England." He died in 1160, and left Brogyntyn, close to Oswestry, to his illegitimate son, Owen Brogyntyn. His tenure of the Castle must have been but slight, however, for William Fitzalan, son of Alan Fitz Flaad, without doubt, became Lord of Oswestry and Sheriff of Shropshire, and the Charter is still in existence by which he endowed the Abbey of Shrewsbury with the Church of St. Oswald and the Chapel of St. Martins.^{3 4}

William Fitz Alan's brother Walter left Oswestry during the reverses of the Empress Maud, and took refuge in Scotland at the Court of her relative David I., King of Scotland. The original connection of his father with Scotland made it natural that he should do so.

¹ Eyton's *Ant.*, vols. vii. and x.

² *Hist. of Os.*, Harl. MS. 1,981.

³ Eyton's *Ant.*, vol. x., 320-322.

⁴ Mr. Eyton's Annotation in *Fulk Fitzwarine* is—"Maelor, son of Meredith ap Blethyn, seems to have been possessed of Oswestry during the exile of William fitz Alan in Stephen's time," p. 188,

There he found favour and became Steward or Seneschal to the King, and was known as "Walter the Steward." Sir Walter Scott in *The Monastery* tells us that Walter's father "obtained from William the Conqueror the Castle of Oswestry in Shropshire," and points out that "Walter the Steward" became the ancestor of the Royal House of "Stewart," called from his name, and through them of our own Royal Family. It is singular to note that when the Castle Bank was being planted about 40 years ago a silver coin was found of the reign of David I., the protector of Walter Fitzalan, in whose hands one may conjecture it might have been. Oswestry Castle therefore has an association of which no other in England can boast, for here our Queen derives her ancestry. On William Fitzalan's death and during the minority of his son, Guy le Strange, the then Sheriff of Shropshire, was appointed custodian of his estate,¹ and the Record Office contains elaborate accounts of the income and expenditure, from which we get a fair idea of the importance of the Castle. Its garrison, we are told in 1165, consisted of 200 soldiers, who cost £5 3s. 9d., while one knight, two porters, and two watchmen constantly resident cost £18 5s. per annum for their maintenance, or 1s. per day between them—a somewhat small allowance one imagines, which would not provide many luxuries. A well sunk under the Castle cost £5 8s, the Castle Palisades 40s., and stores of war £6. We are told that in consequence of the war with Wales the expenses at Oswestry "were enormous, far exceeding the proportion paid at Castles within the border."

In 1165 a determined attempt was made by Henry II. to conquer Wales, and he made Oswestry his headquarters. Llwyd tells us that "he gathered an armie through all his domains in England, Normandie, Aniow, Gascoine, and Guienne, sending for succours from Flanders and Brytaine utterlie to destroie all that had

¹ Eyton's *Ant.*, vol. iii., p. 122.

life in the land and coming to Croes Oswalt called Oswaldestre incamped there." One can imagine the motley host headed by the King "with his square stout form, fiery face, prominent piercing eyes—a rough passionate busy man,"¹ surveying the Welsh hills from the Castle walls, while crowded round were the tents of the chivalry of France and the Netherlands. It is curious to note that in the construction of the Liverpool Filter Beds at Llanforda, close to the town and within what was probably the Castle Park, a silver penny of the time of Henry II. was found, which may easily have been lost by some soldier at the Camp. That must have been a brilliant scene in Oswestry seven centuries ago on the morning when Henry marched from the town up the road leading past Oakhurst towards Glyn Ceiriog, and there in the narrow Ceiriog Valley, crossed by Offa's Dyke, encountered the Welsh mountaineers, who were ready for the fray. Ilwyd graphically describes the battle and the defeat of Henry's army by the Welsh. Tradition says that the English soldiers who were left on the battle field were buried in the entrenchments near Offa's Dyke, in a place still called "The Place of Graves." Ten years afterwards William's heir, William Fitzalan II., came of age, and succeeded his father at Oswestry. Great events were stirring in the world outside, the crusades had ended in disaster, Saladin had reconquered the Holy City, and passionate appeals were being made throughout all Christendom to Christian soldiers to join another crusade to expel the Moslems from Palestine and win Jerusalem to the Cross once more, and Henry II. determined that an English contingent should join in the crusade; the "Saladin Tithe," a tax levied on all goods and chattels, and memorable as the first instance of taxation in England on personal property, was granted to the King in aid of the crusade. Sir Walter Scott begins his novel of "The Betrothed" by describing how "there

¹ Green's *His. Eng. People*, p. 161.

was a truce between the Welsh and the Lords Marchers who inhabited the frontier Welsh Castles. This was the time when Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, accompanied by the learned Monk Giraldus du Barri, preached the Crusade from Castle to Castle, from town to town, awakened the inmost valleys of his native Cambria with the call to arms for recovery of the Holy Sepulchre, and while he deprecated the feuds and wars of Christian men, held out to the martial spirit of the age a general object of ambition and a scene of adventure where the favour of Heaven as well as courtly renown was to reward the successful champions."

The novel describes a Castle named "Le Garde Dolorouse," on the Marches of Wales, and its inner life, and if not Oswestry Castle, it is certainly somewhere close at hand, with its Norman garrison and Welsh assailants under their Prince—the "torch of Pengwern"—so named because he had so frequently burnt the villages up to the Walls of Shrewsbury, the ancient Pengwern. Giraldus in his most interesting itinerary through Wales, dated about 1187, gives a vivid description of the dangers of the journey through the Welsh valleys, and describes how the Archbishop, ascending a hill, sat panting with toil on the trunk of a tree, and asked an attendant to whistle a tune, whereupon someone remarked that the Nightingale never came to Wales. "Wise bird the Nightingale," said the Archbishop. Giraldus proceeds to tell, "We directed our way from Chester to the White Monastery, and from thence towards Oswaldstre, where on the very borders of Powys we were met by Gruffydd son of Madoc and Elissa, princes of that country and many others." One can imagine the scene; the Archbishop in his robes with the crosier and the cross in front, and Giraldus, the courteous Archdeacon, who are met by William Fitzalan, the Norman Governor of the Castle, with his garrison, and the Welsh Prince clad in a simple tunic of white linen cloth with a chain of twisted gold links, and a thread of gold in his curling hair, with his attend-

ants carrying broad sharp short two-edged swords and light goat skin bucklers. Giraldus tells us the Welsh Prince was "a man not adorned by art but nature, bearing in his presence an inborn not an acquired dignity of manners." He says—"Some few of them having been persuaded to take the Cross (for several of the multitude had been previously signed by Reiner, the bishop of that place), we slept at Oswaldestre, or the tree of St. Oswald, and were sumptuously entertained after the English manner by William Fitzalan, a noble and liberal young man," John Davies, in his history, comments that this was "a neate comendacon of this young nobleman." One is glad to see that Oswestry hospitality was renowned even seven centuries ago. It appears that one Welsh Prince, "Owen de Civilioc" (who had been one of the leaders of the Welsh army against Henry II.) refused to accept the invitation to come to Oswestry, and therefore Giraldus says, "We excommunicated him because he alone amongst the Welsh princes did not come to meet the Archbishop." Giraldus had considerable opinion of his powers as a preacher, for he goes on to say, "Many people were induced to take the Cross through the gracious sermons of the Archbishop and Archdeacon" (the latter being himself.) One wonders what became of the Oswestrians who followed the Crusading Army which, under Henry II.'s son and successor, Richard Cœur de Lion, besieged Jerusalem, and conjectures the stories they must have had to tell when they reached home once more. One of the Crusaders who accompanied John Fitzalan was Maurice or Meurig Lloyd or Llwyd, of Llanforda,¹ and of him it is recorded, "The above-named Meurig Llwyd, finding himself and his tenants much oppressed by the English laws, did kill one of the judges, and hang divers officers in oak trees in Uwch Dwlas; whereupon he withdrew for his safety to the Sanctuary of Halston, and there put himself under the protection of John

¹ *Powys Fadog*, vol. vii., page 353.

Fitzalan, Lord of Oswestry and Clun. Meurig was made captain over a number of soldiers gathered in the marches of Wales. With these he went to the Continent, and for certain services rendered in the war was rewarded by the Emperor with a new coat of arms, viz., argent, an eagle displayed with two necks sable." He was the ancestor of the Llwyds of Llwynymaen and Llanforda. These arms are still to be seen on Llwyd's Oswestry town house, now called Llwyd Mansion, the property of Mr. Stanley Leighton, and now occupied by Messrs. Dutton. William Fitzalan granted the first charter to Oswestry about 1190, which is not to be found in any of the Borough Records, although John Davies gives a copy of it.¹ The title of "Siarter Cwtta" is disputed with the charter granted by Richard II. As this Charter is not published in the "Records of the Corporation of Oswestry," which appeared in Shropshire Archæological *Transactions*, Vols. II., III., and IV., I append the extract given by Davies.

Charter gutta or Charta brevis Will'mi d'ni fitzalan.

Sciunt tam p'sentes qua' futuri qd ego Willim' filius Will'mi filii Alani recepi in manu et ptec'one mea Burgenses meos de Blanc'moeter nominatim illos qui in ballio' meo messuagia receperunt ad emenda'one merchatu mei, et ego eos contra omnes manutenebo quatenus de jure potero; Quare id'm volo et firmiter p'cipio quatenus prefati burgenses teneant messuagia sua licite et in pace et honorifice libere et quiete in bosco in plano et in alibi locis. Concessi etia (*sic*) eiusdem Burgensibus qd p'dic burgagia teneant de me s'edu' leges et consuetudines et libertates quas Burgenses Salopia burgo suo habent. Cartam ratam in posteru' esse volui. Sigilli mei appositione et istoru' testnu' subscrip'one confirmavi, Joh'n Extranea Ham' fratris sui, Helie de fes, Philippi fil' Will'mi, Reg' de he, Will de Verdun, Reg. eli orm de Hesse et multis aliis.

A free translation would run thus:—

Short Charter of William Lord Fitzalan.

Let these present as well as future generations know that I William son of William son of Alan have received under my

¹ Harl. M.S., 1981, page 25.

hand and protection my burgesses of Blanc Minster by name those who have received messuages in my borough (?) for the sale of my merchandise, and I will defend them against all (persons) as far as I lawfully shall be able. Wherefore I myself wish and firmly give command as long as the aforesaid burgesses hold their messuages lawfully and in peace and honourably that they live freely and quietly in field in plain and in places elsewhere. I have also granted to the same burgesses that they hold the aforesaid messuages from me according to the laws and customs and liberties which the burgesses of Salop hold in their borough. I have expressed it as my wish that the Charter be ratified for the future. And have confirmed (it) by the placing of my seal and by the subscription of the witnesses—John stranger in blood, Ham' his brother, Helie de fes, Philip son of William, Reginald de he, William de Verden¹ Reginald . . . de Hesse, and many others.

On William Fitzalan's death King John was reigning (and in the usual fashion of feudal days, when all lands were held from the King), seized his estates, and held them during the minority of his son, the third William Fitzalan. Those were again troublous times in England. Wales was again up in arms, taking advantage of the English troubles, and under Llewelyn, its Prince, broke out in rebellion. King John marched direct from the eastern counties with a large army to Oswestry, and made it his head quarters, and stored in the Castle immense munitions for the war. He was successful in repelling the Welsh invasion, and drove Llewelyn into his mountain fastnesses ; but was soon recalled to England by the invasion of King Philip of France, whom the Barons had summoned to their aid. Imme-

¹ Davies, referring to this Charter, says—"The second Willia' fitzalan being Lord of Oswestry in the right of his wief Maud Verden graunted a ch're (w'ch is the antientest Ch're nowe extant) to the Burgesses of Oswestry. Will de Verden (inter alios), happily some kinsman of his wief, is witnesse to it. This Ch're beareth no date and is called Charter Gutta, id est Charta brevis, p'te of the Labell is to it but the seale taken from it. S'r Willia' Neve hath a Coppie of this Ch're I have translated it as I redde and understood it; happily I may be somewhere mistaken as unacquainted w'th that ould hand and character."

diately the King disappeared the canny Oswestrians seized upon the Castle stores, and, no doubt, feasted merrily; but King John was not to be served in that way, and so by a writ, dated 6th July, 1212, he commanded the custodian of Oswestry Castle "to sell no more corn, wine, or other stores of the King," and to replace the corn he had already disposed of, and also to provide "100 fat kine and also 3,000 head of geese and poultry for transmission whithersoever the King might order," and in the next month Robert de Vipont, the then custodian of the Castle, was ordered to give up 12 casks of wine, stored in the cellars of the Castle, to Thomas de Eardinton for the King's service. The Fitzalan heir by this time had come of age, and John fined him 10,000 marks for the privilege of doing so. Unable to pay, his lands were handed over to Thomas de Eardinton, who had taken possession of the wine. William died without paying the fine, and his son, John Fitzalan, not so meek as his father, at once seized the Castle by main force. He immediately united himself with the Barons in opposition to John, and was one of the memorable group who at Runnymede forced the unworthy King to sign Magna Charta.¹ Having obtained the sanction of the Pope, John set out to revenge himself upon the Barons, and marched towards Wales, and as Llwyd tells us, "came along to Oswestree, which towne being in the possession of John Fitzalan, he burned to the earthe" in the month of August, 1216. He was succeeded by Henry III., whose idea it was to make himself master of Normandy once more and to recover the absolute authority in England which had slipped from his father's hands; but he soon found himself face to face with the Welsh difficulty. Wales had long been prosperous under its Prince Llewelyn ap Iorwerth, who reigned for 46 years. After many struggles he had succeeded in consolidating

¹ These statements are mainly summarized from Eyton's *Ant.*, where the references are given.

his authority, and aimed steadily at securing the means of shaking off the English yoke. John had in vain tried to subdue him. His is one of the most chivalrous figures in Welsh history.¹ In him all the glories of ancient Welsh story had centered. Poet after poet sang of "The Devastator of England," the "Eagle of men that loves not to lie nor sleep." His figure "was majestic, towering above the rest of men," with "his long red lance, his red helmet of battle, crested with a fierce wolf." Mysterious prophecies came to nerve Wales in her last struggle. "Think you," said Henry III. to a Welsh chieftain, "that your people of rebels can withstand my army?" "My people," replied the Chieftain, "may be weakened by your might, and even in great part destroyed, but unless the wrath of God be on the side of its foe, it will not perish utterly. Nor deem I that other race or other tongue will answer for this corner of the world before the Judge of all at the last day, save this people and tongue of Wales." On Saturday, 25th October, 1226, Prince Llewelyn visited Oswestry Castle, on the King's invitation, to confer with John Fitzalan, the Bishops of Hereford and Worcester, and other Barons, to endeavour to arrange a border dispute. "After which," we are told by the Chronicler, "every party returned home." But Llewelyn's next visit was not so friendly. The little town had just been rebuilt after the devastation of the English Monarch, when in 1233 Llewelyn rushed over the border, as one of the bards sang, "The sound of his coming is like the roar of the wave as it rushes to the shore." Llewelyn reduced Shrewsbury, annexed Powysland, and as Llwyd tells us, "destroyed all the townes and castles in the countrie, burned the towne of Clunn, overthrew the Reddecastell in Powys, burned the towne of Oswestree, and so came home."² One pictures the scene, the flight of the

¹ Green's *His. Eng. People*, vol. i., page 128.

² Llwyd's *Hist. Camb.*, p. 288.

scared villagers from the Severn Valley and the Shropshire Plain, pursued by the active Welsh, whose shrill war cries spread dismay and death; the startled townsmen watching from the heights the smoke from the burning homesteads and taking refuge in the Castle while their houses, clustering under its walls, are destroyed, and, as the Chronicler tells, the Welsh "returning homeward with a great bootie." Life in Oswestry must have been too sensational to be pleasant in those days.

The Records of that year tell us that Hubert Hose with nine other knights were placed on garrison in Oswestry Castle for 20 days from September 28th to October 17th, at a cost of 2s. per day for each knight. In 1262 John Fitzalan granted to Oswestry a Charter, a copy of which is the earliest dated document among our Borough Records—"By the special grace and favour we bear and have towards our Burgesses and the increase and wealth of our Burgesses," &c. In 1272 the third John Fitzalan died, and again the Crown took possession of the Castle and its lands, and a full inventory is given of the estates.¹ I extract some of the items which are curious. The tenants of the Welsh part of Oswestry, near Trefflach, had to provide 40 marks per annum to supply the drink ("poturam") of certain Serjeants of the Peace; the proceeds of St. Oswald's fair came to £4 6s. 2d., and the tolls of the Borough to £27 11s. 11½d., while the sale of the produce of the Castle garden came to 2s. 6d., and the profits of the Borough Gaol 9s. 4d., and the "rents of the Welshmen" £4 19s. 6d. The wages of the Watchman, the Mower, and the forester at 1d. per day each came to £7 8s. 3d. per annum.

A new King now appeared, Edward I., a stern soldier, of very different metal from his predecessor, Henry III., determined to subdue Wales, "a born soldier, tall, deep chested, long of limb, capable alike of

¹ Ch. Inq. Post Mortem 56 H. III., No. 36.

endurance and action, and sharing to the full his people's love of venture and hard fighting. He was every inch a King, and his notion of kingship was a lofty and noble one."¹ The troubles of his father's last years had enabled the Welsh to shake off their last traces of dependence, but in 1277 Edward marched to North Wales and forced Prince Llewelyn to ask mercy, and for four years there was quietness on the border. Archbishop Peckham of Canterbury was sent by Edward to endeavour to pacify the Welsh, and Llwyd gives a most interesting correspondence between Prince Llewelyn and "His Holiness the Archbishop," which shows that Oswestry Castle and its Constable played an all important part in the history of the time, and illustrates the arbitrary rule of the Lords Marchers.

Humbleie complaineth unto your lordship, my lord Archbishop of Canturburie Primate of all England, Llewelyn ap Gruffyth ap Madoc, of the Constable of Oswaldes Crosse, the King and the men of that towne, who have spoiled the said Llewelyn of the third part of a towne called Lhedrot,² and his father's house without any law or right or custome of the countrie. Further the said Constable and his complices have against the lawes and the custome of the countrie spoiled the said Llewelyn of the common and pasturage, which he and his predecessors have had and used time out of mind; And further condemned the said Llewelyn for the said pasture in lxx markes.

Also the said Constable compelled the said Llewelyn to send two of his Gentlemen to him, whom when they came to him he caused to be hanged, which Gentlemen ought not by right to have beene hanged, whose parents had rather have given him three hundreth pound.

Afterward the said Constable imprisoned threescore of the men of the said Llewelyn (no cause alledged) but that a certaine Page spake a word: who could not be delivered out of prison, until everie of them paid ten shillings.

When the men of the said Llewelyn came to the said towne to sell their oxen, the said Constable would cause the beastes

¹ Green's *His. Eng. People*, vol. i., 315.

² Lledrod is a township in the Parish of Llansilin, Co. Denbigh, and is 6 miles from Oswestry.

to be driven to the Castell: neither would he restore the beastes nor monie to them. Further the said Constable and his men tooke awaie the cattel of the said Llewelyn from his owne grounde and did their will with them.

John de Oxindin had the custody of Blancminster in 1 Ed. I., and in 3 Ed. I. Bogo de Knovil was Custodian of the Castle of Blancminster.¹

In 1282 Edward marched with overpowering strength into the heart of Wales; the war lasted two years, but at last after stubborn resistance Llewelyn was defeated, his head carried to Edward, who "received it with great joy, and caused it to be set upon one of the highest turrets of the Tower of London." In the same year Edward expedited a Patent permitting the Bailiffs and Burgesses of Oswestry to levy tolls for twenty years in aid of the completion and repair of the town walls. The tolls are given most elaborately from 1d. for every measure of corn exposed for sale and every cloth of silk, brocaded and draped with gold, to one farthing for every 2,000 onions, and one halfpenny for every 1,000 herrings.² The walls, it is said, "were about a mile in compass, and had a deep foss on the outside capable of being filled with water from the neighbouring ditches." On 16th January in the same year Edward himself visited Oswestry, no doubt to ascertain how the fortifications were being carried out. The last flicker of Welsh patriotism had not died out however, for in a few years afterwards when Edward was busy with his Scotch wars, Llewelyn's son, Madoc, once more raised the Welsh standard, and we are told "came to Oswestree, where the people yielded unto him." Edward had to postpone his expedition to France for quite six months in order to put down the insurrection, and he visited Oswestry Castle again on 24th June, 1295, and the rebellion was finally crushed out in August, 1295. And from thence, as the

¹ Old MS. at Oswestry Grammar School.

² *Powys Fadog*, vol. vi., p. 372.

Chronieler tells, "the Welsh began to attend to the cultivation of the soil and the profits of commerce, so that at length the possession of property of their own made them less indifferent to its patriotism." The following is an extract from an old M.S. at Oswestry Grammar School:—"In 8 Ed. I., Isabel, mother of Richard, Earl of Arundel, had the custody of the Castle of Blaneminster and of the Hundred of Oswaldster during her son's minority, but two years after Edmund de Mortimer, her brother, supplanted her in the grant. In 18 Ed. I., Adam de Montgomery died Governor of the Castle. In 27 Ed. I., Peter Meuvesne de Berewicke justa Akinton died in the same office." In 1302 Richard Fitzalan, the then Lord, died, and an Inquisition was made of his properties.¹ It was certified that Oswestry Castle was "of no nett value because of the great expences more than £10 per annum attendant on its maintenance." "De quib ten' p'd'c'm' Castrum nichil valet p'p't magnas reprisas eo q'd nonsustent abit'r p' ann p' x libr'." Two years later Edward had given the custody of Oswestry Castle into the hands of his cousin Prince Amadeus of Savoy, and the Burgesses complained that he had altered the law so that "Whereas a Burgess of Oswestry if he wounded or maimed his fellow citizen was according to Oswestry law only amenable to a fine of 5s.," the Earl's Seneschal was in the habit of fining quarrelsome Burgesses £5 or £10 for a simple offence, and committed "other enormities," whereupon the king ordered a commission of men from Cause, Ellesmere, and Whittington, "honest men, favourable to neither party," to sit upon the question, but the result is not recorded and we are left in ignorance whether "5s. and costs" was sufficient penalty for the loss of a leg or arm. Oswestry quarrels were evidently frequent, and fines cheap in those days.²

¹ Ch. Inquis. Post Mortem 30 Ed. I., No. 130.

² Eyton's *Ant.* vol. x.

"Happy is the land which has no history." The Welsh wars were over, Edward had completely subdued Wales, and Oswestry had rest for a long period. In 1318 Earl Edmund Fitzalan was ordered to raise 200 foot soldiers from Clun and the neighbourhood of Oswestry for the Scotch war.¹

In 1324, nearly at the close of the reign of that weak and indolent Monarch, Edward II., Edmund Fitzalan, granted two shops "to our burgesses of Oswaldstree, situated in the row which is called Legge Street, betwixt the shops of the sons of Richard the Stranger and the tenement of William son of William the Baker." In 1326 the rebellion, which closed Edward's unhappy reign by his deposition, broke out. Earl Edmund, who adhered to the King, "assembled a multitude of his tenants at Oswestry for the King," but was taken prisoner near Shrewsbury, and executed at Hereford on 17th November, 1326. After his execution and through the favour of Isabella, Edward II.'s Queen, Roger Mortimer, Lord of Wigmore, the well-known head of the Lancastrian Party, obtained a grant of the Castle of Oswestry. He was created Lord of the Marches of Wales in 1328, but on his fall from power and his execution in 1330, the estates reverted to Edmund's son, Richard, the then Earl of Arundel.

In 1346 a writ directed Earl Richard to raise 200 men from Clun and Oswestry to attend the King in the French wars. The army sailed from Portsmouth on 10 July, and on 26 August fought the battle of Crecy, at which Arundel was present.² With the end of the fourteenth century and the reign of Richard II., Oswestry again figures in English history. One cannot do better than quote Davies's history :—

Richard Earl of Arundell (a noble patriott of an heroicke spirit of greate power and comaunde beinge of the Royall

¹ S.A. *Trans.*, vol. iii., N.S., p. 243.

² S. A. *Trans.*, vol. iii., N. S., p. 245.

blood) ioyninge with the Duke of Glocester the King's unckle and others for the Kings ho'ble weale and publiq good of the Kingdome was nev'thelesse through subornation of some upstart favorites of the Kinge and his flatterers (p'fessed enemies to the men of antient nobility), by the Kings p'curement condemned to death in the p'liament held the xxist yeere of that Kings raigne where the Prelattes deputed the house because they would not be pr'sent att the judgment of blood. And there it was ordained by Stat. 27 Ric. II. that the County of Chester should be a principallitie soe the King for his affec'on thereunto would have it. And for the encrease of the honor and state of princes w'ch should be there and for the ease and tranquility of the people of the said principallitie and of the counties of Flint and Shropshire and of the Seignouries w'ch be ioyninge to the same The castle of Lyons (nowe called Hoult) w'th the Seigniories of Bromfield and Yale to the said Castle belonginge, The Castle of Oswaldstree w'th the Town well walled w'th stone and the hundred and the Eleven Townes to the said Castle belonginge, The Castle of Isabell w'th the Seigniories of the same belonginge, the Castle of Dallilay w'th the app'tenances in the County of Shropshire and the rever'con of the Seignourie of the Cleve w'th all their tearme of app'tenances w'ch Edward Earle of Rutland houldeth for tearme of his life shall be from henceforth anixed united and incorporat to the said principallity of Chester and shall whoely abide and Remaine to the said principallity as p'cell and member of the same for ever. Soe that the said resiant Land tenants and all the inhabitants of the said Castles Seigniories and Townes shall have use and enioy all their antient Lawes Rights and Customes there of ould time reasonable hadd and used.

Richard Fitzalan was impeached, attainted, and beheaded all in a single day.

At the beginning of the present century there was an assize trial in which the burgesses of Oswestry tried to prove that the then Earl of Powis was not entitled as Lord of the Manor to take toll upon produce entering into Oswestry, and among other documents produced was the following curious Record, preserved in the Tower Rolls, containing an inventory of the contents of Oswestry Castle, the property of the unfortunate Earl of Arundel. It was translated from the original Latin as follows :—

21¹ Richard II., 1398. Taken at Oswaldestre in the Marches of Wales, by command of the King, the 9th Nov. on the attainder of Richard, Earl of Arundel and others; before John Spaigne, John Pygot the elder, clerk, Richard Kays, Serjeant-at-Arms of the lord the King; in the county and marches aforesaid, by virtue of a Royal Commission to the said John Spaigne and others directed. By the oath of William Morgan, Richard Salter, John Lloyd, Eigin ap Richard, Thomas Englys, William Haston, Thomas ap David, Eigin Cornesor, Jonathan Straunge, Thomas Robynson, Roger Dirlond, David Lloyd, Eigin ap Richard, Robert ap Gruffuth, David ap Ievan Vaughan, Madoc ap David Gethin, Griffith ap Meur, Ievan ap Howell ap Eigin, William Lloyd, Eynos ap Blethyn, Iorweth ap Ievan, Gruffuth ap David Vagan, John Salter, Gruffuth ap Ith, and John ap Richard, who say upon oath, that Richard, Earl of Arundel, was seized in his demesne as of fee, on the day on which he forfeited, and afterwards of the Castle, vill, and Lordship of Oswaldestre, with its customs and appurtenances, besides the fees of all the officers there, and besides all reprises made there one year with another £252 16s. 2d. Also that the said Earl was seized as of fee of one messuage in the vill of Oswaldestre by his deed enfeofed one John ap Willym, to have to him and his heirs for ever, worth yearly beyond reprises 6s. 8d. Also that the said Earl was seized as of fee of the reversion of another messuage then held by Alan Thorp, clerk, of the said Earl's grant, but its worth nothing yearly beyond reprises. Also that the said Earl was seized as of fee of the advowson of the free chapel of St. Nicholas within the Castle of Oswaldestre, worth 46s. 8d. Also that the said Earl of Arundel had within the Castle of Oswaldestre, on the 18th day of July last past and afterwards, the following goods and chattels, that is to say, *In the Wardrobe* there 5 yew bows, 4 elm bows, 20 sheaves of arrows, 6 cross bows, 5 lances with 6 heads, 1 gun, 1 barrel of gunpowder, 200 quirels, 3 pole axes, 2 sparthes, 3 broken jacks, 3 pair of gauntlets, 3 pallets, 1 bauderick for a cross bow, 1 table, 1 pair of stakes, 3 pair of fetters, 6 pair iron handcuffs with iron bolts, 1 cofer with 2 iron shamylls, 1 file, 1 hammer. *In the great Chamber* 1 cupboard, 2 tables, 4 forms. *In the Middle Chamber*, 3 chests, 2 forms, 1 table. *In*

¹ Ch. Inq. Post. Mort., 21 R. II., Nos. 1—11 (1398), Bundle of Forfeitures.

the high Chamber, 1 hand mill, parcel of a certain trepeget. In the Constables Hall, 3 tables, 4 tressels, 3 forms, 1 bason with a laver, 1 small chest. In the buttry, 1 chest broken at the top, 1 bucket with an iron chain, 1 barrel for weapons, 31 keys for different locks. In the Chapel, 1 vessel for the holy water, 1 missal, 1 gilt chalice, 2 linen towels with a frontal, 2 surplices, 2 chasubles, with apparels, 1 hand mill for grinding corn. In the Kitchen, 1 stone mortar, with a pile of wood. In the Larder, 2 broken hogsheads with 6 bushels of salt, Which said artillery, arms, goods, and chattels, are put into the custody of Madoc Lloyd, the deputy of Robert Leigh, Chevalier, constable of the castle aforesaid, for the defence of the same. Also they say there are in the parks of Bromhurst and Oswaldestre, 60 cart loads of hay by estimation at the price of forty pence per load (£10) left there for the use of the lord the King. Also they say the said Earl had there likewise on the 18th July aforesaid and afterwards, the arms and artillery as underwritten, 3 jacks, 3 pallets, 3 pair of gauntlets, 2 pole axes, 5 yew bows, 9 sheaves and a half of arrows, 1 lance, 6 lance heads, 2 chests for bows and arrows to be put, 3 cross bows, 100 quirrels, 4 leaden vessels, 2 brass pots, 1 iron spit, 1 iron bound bushel, 3 pair of fetters, 1 fetter rack, 1 ladder; but the jury are ignorant of what value, or in whose hands the said arms now are, but they say one Roger Glas, late constable of the said castle, and John de Pole late constable there and one William Bonastre late warden of the said castle, are themselves answerable to the said lord the king, for the said arms. And they say the said Earl of Arundell had likewise on the said 18th day of July in the castle aforesaid, 1 salting trough of the price of 3s. 4d., 6 chests, price 17s. 8d., 5 small cads (broken), 3 small pieces of broken cads, price 20s. 8d., 4 tubs 23d., 1 bolting pipe and 1 trough 12d., parcel of old timber, 6s., 1 brass pot, 1 pan, 1 gobard, 1 broken gridiron, in the whole 3s. 4d., 4 broken worsted landres of the arms of Arundel, 4d., 1 stall 13s. 4d. And in the park of Oswaldestre inferior 11 colts, whereof 3 are horses, and 8 mares 1 year old, price each 9s. 8d.; And in a certain house in the vill of Oswaldestre 601 fleeces of wool, weighing 2 sacks and $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a sack at per sack 100s., 50 gallons of honey, at 7d. a gallon. Also the said Earl had in the said Castle, 1 white stallion, price £10, 1 race horse called Young Sorrell, price £13 6s. 8d. And in the park of Oswaldestre superior, 16 horse colts, 13 of which are 3 years, and 3 of them 2 years old, price in the whole £66 13s. 4d. And they say that one Walter Ushere, late master of the horse of the said Earl

by connivance made between John Whethales, late Steward of the said Earl in the Lordship aforesaid, and one Adam de Peshall, knight, sold the stallions and colts aforesaid, without receiving any money, to one John Coltman by fraud and collusion, to the use and profit of the said John Whethales and Adam, by which the said John Whethales and Adam are answerable to the lord the King for the aforesaid £66 13s. 4d., the price of the said stallions, courser, and colts aforesaid. Also they say that Thomas Richardson, of Oswaldestre, took and carried away after the said 18th of July out of the Castle 60 fleeces of wool, weighing $\frac{1}{4}$ th of a sack, price 25s., whereof he is answerable to the lord the King. Also they say the said Earl had after the said 18th July, in the Castle aforesaid, £720 in money, and that one Thomas Harlying, late receiver-general of the said Earl, took and carried away the same, whereof he is answerable to the lord the King. Also they say that Alan de Thorp, clerk, late receiver there, delivered out of the Earl's money in his hands, 100 marks to Robert de Hilton, Esq., whereof the said Alan and Robert are themselves answerable to the lord the King. Also they say the arrears of the farms and rents of the castle, vill, lordship, and manor aforesaid unto the last vigil of St. Michael, which extend to £333, are in the hands of divers tenants, bailiffs, reeves, and other ministers there, who are accountable for the same. And they say that the rents and farms of the term of St. Michael last past do extend to £66 13s. 4d., and are in the hands of the tenants there, whereof the receiver is to be accountable. In testimony whereof to this Inquisition the persons aforesaid have set their seals, dated the place aforesaid.

It is clear that the Castles of Nobles were not furnished with any luxuries in those days. Richard II. shortly afterwards held a Parliament (known to historians as the Great Parliament) in Shrewsbury (probably in order to inspect the estates he had seized), which he adjourned to Oswestry, where one of the most memorable and dramatic scenes in the pages of Shakespeare took place. "Richard II. with the committee of Parliament in this town determined that the great dispute between the Duke of Hereford and Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, should be decided by single combat at Coventry, both Dukes having appeared before the King at Oswestry after the dissolution of

the Parliament held at Shrewsbury.”¹ One can imagine the gay pageant as the Monarch, so vain of his personal appearance, “handsome and golden-haired,” just thirty years of age, with his enormous retinue of servants, clad in costly liveries, and the nobles of his Court all vying in extravagance, rode over the Shropshire plain through the two long narrow streets of which Oswestry then consisted, up to the Castle. In his company were the two bitter foes, the Dukes of Hereford and Norfolk—the former better known as Harry Bolingbroke. On 19th March, 1398, in the Castle of Oswestry they appealed to the King, who ordered them to fight their quarrel out at Coventry.

Shakespeare begins his tragedy, “Richard II.,” with the scene, but by a poetical licence makes it take place in the Tower of London instead of Oswestry Castle.

Face to face,
And frowning brow to brow, ourselves will hear
The accuser and the accused freely speak—

And the noble appeal of Norfolk echoed through the walls of our old Castle—

My dear, dear Lord,
The purest treasure mortal lives afford,
Is—spotless reputation ; that away,
Men are but gilded loam, or painted clay.
A jewel in a ten-times-barr’d-up chest
Is—a bold spirit in a loyal breast.

The entertainment of the King was costly even in those days. There was no Local Government Auditor then, and the unfortunate Oswestrians had to borrow £100 from their Lord, which was to be expended partly “in divers labours and necessary negotiations when Richard, King of England, had occupied the said town,” and partly in defraying losses “during

¹ *Pennant's Hist. of Oswestry. Drake's Parl. Hist.*, vol. i., 493. The account of the Great Parliament will be found fully given in Owen and Blakeway's *Hist. of Shrewsbury*, where there is a similar reference to the adjournment to Oswestry or Oswaldstree, as Drake terms it. Pennant evidently quotes from Drake.

Owen Glendwr's rebellion."¹ It was during this visit and before the Parliament closed that Richard II. granted the first Royal Charter to Oswestry, which is still in our possession, and ornamented by a fine initial portrait of the King. Davies says the Charter was obtained because "the inhabitants of Oswestrie sued to Kinge Richard for it." Camden, writing in Queen Elizabeth's reign, says that "Oswestry Castle had a tower called Madoc's, in which was an apartment built by Richard II."²

Davies describes how Richard, Earl of Arundel, was "reputed a martire," and not only "soe, ye said Earle did often seeme to appeare unto him (Richard the Kinge) in so terrible and truculent a manner that breakinge his fearfull sleepe the King would curse the tyme that ever hee knewe him." And Davies attributes Richard II.'s deposition by the successful Henry Bolingbroke to the Almighty vengeance for this crime. Richard II. granted the lands and manors belonging to Richard, Earl of Arundel, to William Scrope, the newly created Earl of Wiltshire, but immediately upon Henry's accession, and in the first year of his reign an Act was passed (H. IV. cap. viii.) disannulling the forfeiture of the lands of the Earl of Arundel, and as a consequence "Soe disjoynted it from the late erected principalitie of Chester," and the Arundel family again became possessors of Oswestry Castle. Wales had been devoted to Richard II., notwithstanding his failings, and so notorious was its disaffection that when Henry's son knelt to receive a grant of the Principality as Prince of Wales a shrewd bystander murmured "he must conquer it if he will have it." One has no time to speak of Owen Glyndwr's rebellion, but Davies says that "some of the townsmen there and others of the neighbourhood joined Glyndwr in the rebellion." Oswestry was unfortunate again, for in the year 1400 Owen Glyndwr seized the town, and as a consequence it was nearly

¹ See Release from Earl of Arundel, S. A. *Trans.*, vol. ii., p. 207.

² Camden's *Britannia*, vol. ii., p. 420; Leland's *Itinerary* v., 39.

totally destroyed by fire "during the war of the Welsh people." It is said that the title of one of the suburbs, "Pentre Poeth," or "hot town," is due to this calamity. In compassion for the misfortunes of the town Thomas, Earl of Arundel, who had then been restored to his father's property, granted a pardon to those who had joined the rebellion, and gave a release of the £100 lent by his grandfather. This document is among our Records, and it describes in royal phraseology that "Our Welshmen of our jurisdiction of the hundred of Oswestry, who through the tenure of their same lands from antiquity held and should hold four of the gates of our town aforesaid with a number of Welshmen rose up against Us as Rebels at the instigation of a man named Kayes, and by force and aid held on with other Welsh Robbers and treacherously burnt as booty our aforesaid towne." One of the witnesses to the Release is David Holbeache, founder of Oswestry Grammar School, who is said to have been a relation of Owen Glyndwr.

The same Earl granted a Charter to Oswestry, by which it was provided that the burgesses should be discharged from all fees demanded by the constable of the castle or any of his menial servants for any felonies or trespasses done or committed out of the liberties when brought to the prison of the castle for the said offences, "saving that yearly on St. Stephen's Day the Constable might demand and receive unum panem, or else a penny at his own election for every mansion house in the towne and a farthing of every cottage." It is interesting to note that Davies in 1635 tells us referring to Beatrice Gate, "Others say that gate was built by another greate lady named Beatrix, daughter of King John of Portingill, and married to Thomas, Earl of Arundel and Surrey, in 1405, in the presence of Henry IV., King of England.

One hears little of Oswestry Castle during the Wars of the Roses and the end of the fifteenth century; but with the assistance of the Hon. Mrs. Bulkeley-Owen and

the late Mr. Howel W. Lloyd, I have succeeded in piecing together a curious incident, which throws light upon the unsettled state of the Marches.

In 1519 there is an entry in the Star Chamber Proceedings,¹ communicated to me by the Hon. Mrs. Bulkeley-Owen, in a suit in which the Earl of Arundel was plaintiff, and Meredyth ap Howel defendant, in which the Earl complained "that the said Meredyth without authority or assent of the said Lord by force entered the Castell of Oswestre in the March of Walys and denied entry to the Lord's servants. My Lord knowing that, sent to the said Meredith to avoid the said Castle, at last he was avoided. Then my Lord appointed one Ievan Lloyd a substanyall Gentleman constable there, when he came to enter and his patent proclaimed in the Court there after the custom, the said Meredith with others with him set on the said Lloyd and his followers, and killed and murdered them." After this Meredith and his followers "besieged the Castle and entered and took away stuff therefrom, and took Ievan Lloyd's brother and robbed and spoyled him, and kept him in prison."

There is but little doubt that in this remote part of the Kingdom, which was then a sort of no man's land, every man did what was right in his own eyes, while the feudal Lord only interfered when his own rights were molested. This is one side to the story. Glyn Cothi, the well known Welsh Bard of the fifteenth century, describes in glowing language the virtues of this same Meredydd ap Howel in a Poem (Cywydd) which he addressed 'To Meredydd ab Howell ab Morys and to the Towne of Oswestry (Croes Oswallt).' The late Mr. Howel W. Lloyd kindly translated the poem, as follows:—

A POEM BY LEWYS GLYN COTHIL.

To Maredydd ab Howell ab Morys and to the Town of Oswestry.

The town four ages old, will I not stake
On the dice, nor yet on the cards

¹ Bundle 18, No. 207, and Bundle 26, 343, and S. A. Trans., Selattyn: A History of the Parish.

I will not stake ancient Oswestry on the hill
On the draught-board nor at chess.
The best of any single town are its people,
The best of any one round Castle is its wine.
Has any Castle around its equal?
Or have better burgesses been found?
In it are the shops of Cheap,
And harmony and honesty also;
A cruciform Church under an angle of a hill,
Churchmen who call upon Oswald,
She will have none of the lawlessness that has been,
Nor breach of privilege; the London of Wales!
To the Castle of stone is he a captain,
The stoutest of all in the great town,
To the bright Castle on the wall a Maximus
Is Mareddydd the peer of Idwal;
A Hector is the son of Howel ab Morys,
The stalwart Earl of Llys Mechain;
Of chiefs has he been found most just
Of the stock of Einion, and of the Cyffins,
A lofty oak from Hendwr is this,
A youthful Dragon on Girion's side,
He belongs to the name of Rhydderch,
And the wise tongue of the ancient Gwaithvoer
In my mind is the name of Mareddydd,
The name of Lludd is in this spot.
The London of the oaks of twenty hills
Are the revellers of the town Oswald;
Beli made Caerllion,
Son of Dyonwal, as the Isle of Mona;
And there had the hero a thousand
Warriors, every hundred,
The son of Howel, with the pale steeds,
Is the second generous one of this pale Castle;
And its arm, as it hath ever been,
And Captain of its people of equal age;
A stag is Mareddydd over men,
He has become a man; an Eagle is he now,
A salmon of the salt water
Is the Stag on Oswald's Festival;
He is the excellent Captain,
His men are the shoal behind him,
Slender men, men smart and obedient,
Huge men and spearsmen glowing like embers,
Broad in the sun are their head pieces,
Fair is the haft of their axeheads of fire
Blazing on their azure poles.
Good in the hand are the bows; steel the axes,

Skilful is the step of the men in wheeling about ;
 That of the musicians is another step.
 Like Maelgwn the Old has he been ;
 They, as his family, follow him,
 He calls upon his soldiers,
 He turns with his men to the tavern,
 He pays for what they drink,
 He gives the contribution of Ivor of yore,
 A large jewel as far as Main,
 And yet is he in Mechain.
 In his fist are the heights of Edeyrniawn,
 He is the one sword of the South, and its genius,
 Let the multitude be drawn
 After Mareddydd, like the Town of Lud ;
 A prince of the town is he,
 A Trystan over the third part of Troy ;
 May God bestow three lives on his hairs,
 Three ages on the Stag of Oswald's land !

Edward Llwyd of Llwynymaen, near Oswestry, a descendant of the Crusader Meurig Lloyd, was Constable of Oswestry Castle under either Thomas Fitzalan, Earl of Arundel, who died 1525, or his son William, who died 1543.¹

Another recently discovered item in the same Records dated 1528-9, shows that matters were still in a somewhat unsettled condition in Oswestry, and that the Constable of the Castle failed to maintain order.

In most grevowes and humble wyse sheweth unto yo'r highnes yo'r power Orator and dayly bedsman Thomas ap Meredith of the Towne of Oswestre in the Marches of Wales that where your power Orator toke to ferme by a lease of the Abbot and Co'vent of the monastery of Shrewsbury the Tithes of the p'she Church and p'sonage of Oswestre for certen yeres yet enduring by force whereof your bedsman peasable and quyetly occupied the same the space of vii yeres passed untill of late that oone Sr Peres Bruerton Clerke on the ffeast of Seynt Chad in ye xx yere of yo'r noble Reigne p'tendyd and feyned title unto the said p'sonage and the same Sir Peter by the said p'tended title and the persons following that ys to wyt Edward Trevor constable of Oswestre John Trevor his sonne being

¹ *Powys Fadog*, vi., p. 354, where a copy of Edward Llwyd's Will is given.

wylfull gentlemen accompanied with diu's other mysruled p'sons of yo'r Lordship of Chirke as of divers other countreys to the number of two hundryed came at harvest in Ryatherovs maner, that ys to say wyth syths bowes arrows swords and sperys unto the Lordshipe of Oswestre and then and there made divers assaults and frayes upon yo' orators servants and from yo' orator both in forceable and ryotos man^r of the Teyth corne and hey of the same p'sonage to the sume of fflower score poundes and more to the undoing of yo' said orator,"¹ &c.

And the complaint proceeds to set forth most elaborately how this was followed up by the "murther of William Kyffin and the sore wounding of diverse true men of the parishe," and finally "they cam into ye towne of Oswestre the said viii daye and then [and there shotte arowes at yo'r orators sonne beying of x years of ayge but yt God savyd hym and so shotte at other Dyvers honest mennes houses of the same Towne in lyke forme so yt noo man durst come out of his house for Jeopardy of theyr lives to the enorme and horrible ensample of good Rule."

Edward Trevor, the Constable before mentioned, appears to have been guilty of other offences, as the following Record will show, extracted from Star Chamber Proceedings Henry VIII. It has never been published, and is interesting as containing an allusion to the Sanctuary at Halston, and also as an illustration of the troublous times on the Welsh Border.

Star Chamber Proceedings, Henry the Eighth, vol. x., p. 41.

To the Kyng our Sov^eeygn lord.

In the most humble wyse besecheth your g^acious hyghnes yo' pore and dayly oratryx Augnes Clayton wedowe late wyffe off Hugh Clayton that where the seyd Hugh Clayton was att Oswestre in the Lordshippe of Oswestre in Goddys pease and yo's Rychard Berkley of Oswestre aboveseyd yoman s^rvaunt unto Edward Trevo^r Constable of the Castelle of Oswestre in the seyd lordshyppe Thomas ap John carter of Oswestre aboveseyd and Edward ap John carter the iiijth daye off August last past att Oswestre aboveseyd wyth force & armys

¹ *Bye-Gones* Sept. 14, 1892, Star Chamber Proceedings.

that ys to say wyth byllys swerdys & buklers agenst yo^r pease made assaulte uppon the seyde Hugh Clayton and hym than & there shamefully & felonously bete wounded kyld & murdered and afterward the seyde Rychard Berkley was indyted before the coroner of the seyde lordshyppe for the deth & murder of the seyde Hugh Clayton as pryncypelle and the seyde Thomas ap John carter and Edward ap John carter were than before the seyde coroner indyted as accessories to the same murder and thereupon the seyde constable and John Trevor hys son Baylye of the seyde towne of Oswestre toke the seyde Thomas ap John carter & Edward ap John carter and put them in pryson and the seyde constable & baylye wylfully and favorably not having respect nor good mynde to your lawes and good justice suffered the seyde Rychard Berkeley than s^rvaunt to the seyde constable to escape and goo hys weye in to a sanctuary called Halstone and conveye hys goods & catallys theder wth hym where for trowght the seyde Berkeley after that he was indyted was wyth the seyde constable & baylye waytyng uppon them so that they myght have taken and put hym in pryson as they dede the seyde ij accessories and moreov^r your seyde oratrix sayth that the seyde constable & baylie have the rule of the seyde lordshippe of Oswestre by reason of there offyces and the people there wylbe muche moved & ruled by them and the seyde constable & baylie favo^r socor & helpe the seyde murderers and have don and so contynnially from hensforth intend to do So that yo^r seyde pore oratrix can ne shalle have noe justice ne remedy ayenst the seyde murderers for the deth of her seyde husbond acordyng to your lawes whereby the seyde haynous and shamefulle murder of her seyde husbond ys lyke to be unpunyshe into the ylle and most p^rilous exsample of oder ylldoers and myschevous murderers In consyderacion whereof and for asmuche as yo^r seyde oratrix can ne shalle not have indyfferent trialle & justice in the seyde lordshippe for due punysshment of the deth & murder of her seyde husbond because of the myght & rule that the seyde constable & baylie have in the seyde lordshyppe and for there grete favo^r that they bere to the seyde murderers to g^aunt your g^acyous letters of p^rvay seale to be dyrected to the seyde constable & baylie comaundyng them by the same to apere before yo^r seyde g^acyous hyghnes and yo^r most honorable councelle att yo^r palice att Westmester at a certeyn daye uppon a payne by yo^r g^acyous hyghnes to be lymet there to aunswer do and receive in the p^rmisses acordyng to ryght equite & justice and that your seyde hyghnes by your seyde honorable councelle wylle take suche dyreccion in thys behalffe that your seyde pore

oratrix maye have her due and conveyent remedy ayenst the seyð murderers for punyssment of the seyð murder by her apele or oderwyse acordyng to yo^r lawes so that the seyð murderers maye not escape unpunyssed by the favo^r supp^racion ayde and beryng of the seyð constable & baylie at the rev^ence of allmyghty God and in the weye of charyte and your seyð pore oratrix shalle dayly p^{ay}e to God for the p^rs^{va}cion of your most royalle astate long to indure.

[Endorsed] Clayton v^s Trevo^r & alⁱ.

Vocentur Edwardus Trevo^r & Johannes Trevo^r infraque relati per b^re de P.S. ad com['] coram d[']no Rege & con['] suo apud Westm['] in oct['] Hillarii p[']x sub pena cujus lib[']t eor['] c['] l[']i Ex mandato d[']ni Car^{lis} xxv^{to} Octobris

R. LEE.

Clayton v^s Trevo^r

An Inquisition was taken at "Ludlowe in Pentecost week 18 H. VI., upon the death of Beatrix Countess of Arundel,"¹ as to the dower of the Countess, which describes it as consisting of "parcel of the castle, town and manor of Oswaldestree, viz. in Castle of Oswaldestree, a new hall with an upper chamber annexed and other chambers and offices, also one third part of the Chapel there, third part of kitchen with larder, third part of a grange outside the castle, also the stable with a small granary with third part of garden next the Barbican, third part of Court house and third part of a well in the said Castle."

The privileges of the Lords Marchers were becoming more and more unsuited to the growth of the towns and villages. It was evident that a change must be made, and the Crown assume direct rule, and Davies tells us that "In 27 yere of the reign of Henry VIII. all ye Lords Marchers in England were extinguished, and their Royall authoritie subverted." And at the same time by Statute Oswestry with the other lands in the Marches was annexed "to and with the realm of England," and thenceforward the feudal rights of the Lords ceased, except in so far as chief rents were payable out of the lands and tolls collected at the four

¹ Ch. In. Post Mort., 18 H. VI., No. 28, Mem. 23.

gates of the town. In 1577 a document among the Aston Records shows that the Castle was still used as a place of residence, for a jury find "the Castle of Oswestry to have bin reputed the Lords chief house w'thin the lib'ties whether the same Castle had bin used as the Mansion House wherein the Lords of this Manur' themselves resident they knowe not, but they have heard that in times past the Lords Highe Constables had the use of the same Castle and dwelled therein of a long tyme. It hath nott bene inhabited att all nor occupied by any but by the Lords owne officers to the Lords use."

On the death of Earl Henry Fitzalan in 1580, without male issue, his daughter and heiress Mary married Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, and the titles and honours and much of the property of the House of Fitzalan were carried into the House of Howard. On the attainder of the fourth Duke of Norfolk for treason in connection with Mary Queen of Scots, his son Philip, although losing the Norfolk honours, retained the Earldom of Arundel in right of his mother, and the Baronies of Clun and Oswestry, and the title of Baron of Oswestry still survives in the Norfolk family. The Town Seal consists of the figure of King Oswald with an oak bough in his hand. It may be suggested that this is derived from the oak bough which is placed in the mouth of the white horse, the dexter supporter of the Norfolk crest, which is to be seen in the pictures of the New Gate in Church Street, Oswestry. The Inn which adjoins its site is known as the "White Horse," no doubt derived from this crest. Philip, Earl of Arundel, was the last Arundel who was territorial Lord of Oswestry, and met with a sad fate. He was one of the greatest scholars of his day, and Hepworth Dixon in his *Tower of London* gives his romantic biography. He died in the Tower in 1595, "not without suspicion of poison." In 1582, he granted to the town its first Constitution, still extant, signed "Arundell To these I agree so far as I may;" and the visitor to the Tower may see engraved

by the prisoner upon the walls of the Beauchamp Tower precisely the same signature with its curious "twirls," as is attached to the Charter.

Arundell

*Incipit plus affectionis pro christo in hoc
seculo tanto plus glorie cum christo in
futuro ARundell June 22
gloria et honore 1587
In memoria eterna optinenda
AT u. h. '3*

Davies also in his MS. gives an accurate transcript of the same signature. The Crown took possession of his lands, and in 1603 James I. granted by letters patent "the Lordship, Manor, and Castle of Oswestrie" to Philip's half-brother Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk, one of the Captains in the fleet which defeated the Armada, and to him John Davies dedicated his History "from his poore house at Middleton, near Oswestry, 15th Dec., 1635."

The Earl of Suffolk sold "all that Lordship, manor, and Castle of Oswestrie, alias Oswester," to Dame Elizabeth Craven, from whom it passed by descent to William Herbert, second Marquess of Powis, and hence through the female line to the present Earl of Powis, who is therefore Lord of the Manor of Oswestry.²

¹ The second signature is a facsimile of the inscription in the Tower.
² S. A. Trans., Records of Corp. of Oswestry, vol. vii., p. 53.

We have now arrived at the last scene of our story. Complaint had been made by the Earl of Arundel seventy years before that "The walls of the town were in ruins," and the suburbs had been long ago extended beyond their narrow boundary, but the four gates were still in existence and the Castle was a formidable fortification. This is not the place, even if there were time, to enter into the merits of the quarrel between Charles I. and his people. War is at all times an evil, and when the strife is between kindred and friends its horrors are intensified. On 25th August, 1642, the King's standard was erected at Nottingham, "about six o'clock in the evening of a very stormy and tempestuous day." On all sides preparations were made for the coming struggle. Wales, as a whole, was loyal to the King, Shropshire was divided; neutrality was impossible. To quote from Mr. Stanley Leighton's Records of the Corporation of Oswestry—"In the immediate neighbourhood of Oswestry the families which took the side of the Parliament were the Myddeltons of Chirk Castle, the Myttons of Halston, the Lloyds of Aston, the Powells of Park, the Bakers of Sweeney, and the Evanses of Trevelach. On the King's side were the Lloyds of Llanforda and Llwynymaen, and the Owens of Brogyntyn." Early in 1643 we are told "the lord Capelle [who had been nominated the Royalist Lieutenant-General of Shropshire, Cheshire, and North Wales,] "went lately to Oswestrie with 1000 horse and dragoones to fortifie the towne and told the inhabitants that it must be entrenched and strengthened, because he heard that some rebels were coming from London into that country." In 1577 it had been found that there were "voluntarie breaches by reason of sundrie doores made through the said wallles,"¹ and no doubt the walls had fallen into decay. Gough in his *History of Myddle* says—"The Governor of the Towne when it was a garrison for the King pulled down many houses that were without the

¹ S. A. *Trans.*, vol. viii., p. 169.

wall lest they might shelter an enemy. The Church also being without the Wall was pulled downe and the toppe of the steeple unto that loft where the bell frame stood. The bells were brought into the Towne and the Organs were embezzled." Gough probably exaggerates the harm done to the Church, but no doubt the Royalist Governor did considerable havoc to the structure. The Terrier of Church property of 1685 states—"Besides the churchyard there are joyned to it two little platts of ground belonging to the Vicar with a pool between them. On the one of these two platts of ground formerly stood a vicarage house, which was burnt and demolished to the ground under late wars; vidt. in the year of our Lord 1644 or thereabouts, when the Church was pulled down and many buildings burnt upon the account of a siege laid to the same town, being then a garrison."

That must have been a troublous autumn for Oswestrians, the Castle crowded with soldiers not always too particular as to "meum and tuum," for at Shrewsbury "they were conducting themselves with great swagger, resorting to violence wherever their exaggerated demands were not complied with, the country around suffered immensely, the soldiers were not regularly paid, and had to look out for food and forage." And again, "The soldiers could with difficulty be kept from breaking out into open mutiny because of their irregular payments, and they were left much to help themselves which they did by an indiscriminate sacking and plundering of houses — indifferent whether the houses belonged to friends or foes." This is no doubt a picture of what happened in Oswestry, while the destruction of the Church and the houses outside the walls and the consequent crowding of the town must have caused much suffering. The King's hopes were centred in the western shires and Wales. A crisis had arrived in the history of the war. Prince Rupert had been appointed "President of Wales," and was making a desperate effort, with the assistance of a large body of Irish, to subdue the rebellion in Wales, and to recruit the

Royalist forces there, and he had won the battle of Newark and had returned to Shrewsbury and Chester, where great rejoicings had taken place, and the Parliamentarians were much discouraged. Earnest representations were made to headquarters in London that aid should be sent to Shropshire and Cheshire. On the other side the Parliament was no less active; on 11th June, 1643, it appointed Sir Thomas Myddelton, of Chirk Castle, to be Sergeant-Major General for the six counties of North Wales, and the Earl of Denbigh Lieutenant-General for Stafford, Cheshire, and Salop. Myddelton was nephew of the celebrated Sir Hugh Myddelton (himself a burgess of Oswestry) who brought the New River to London, and, I may add, was the donor of the oldest and most valuable piece of plate in the possession of the Corporation of Oswestry. He endeavoured to gather recruits in London, although with slow progress, but in the meantime the friends of the Parliament were not idle in Shropshire. "The life and soul of the Parliamentary side was Thomas Mytton of Halston, brother-in-law to Myddelton. He was above all others instrumental in keeping together the friends of the Parliament in Salop, and in neutralizing in a great measure the influence of the Royalists there. His superlative ability as a military commander, his unswerving fidelity to the Parliament, and his eminent humanity to his enemies, place him in a more favourable light than any man in Wales or the borders who took sword in hand during that terrible struggle."¹ In August of 1643 Myddelton reached Shropshire from London with seven great pieces of ordnance, four cases of projectiles and 40 carriages of ammunition. On Tuesday, 11th September, Wem was captured from the Royalists and became the Parliamentary headquarters for Salop. Lord Capell with his army, 4,000 strong, attacked Mytton, who had only 300 men, but he re-

¹ Phill. *Civil War*, vol. i., p. 160.

pelled the attack with the invaluable aid of the women of Wem, so that it was said

The women of Wem and a few musketeers
Beat the Lord Capell and all his cavaliers.

Roundhead rhyme was somewhat hard upon Lord Capell, for it had been previously said of him

The Lord Capell with a thousand and a half
Came to Barton Cross and there they killed a calf ;
And staying there until the break of day,
They took to their heels and fast they ran away.

Poor Lord Capell ! Some time afterwards he was captured by the Parliament and beheaded in London, and the sword he wore on that day is preserved at Brogyntyn. An attempt was first made to capture Oswestry by stratagem, and *Mercurius Aulicus* of Tuesday, February 16th, 1644, describes the stratagem thus—"These worthy Rebels at Wemme this last weeke had a plot upon the Towne of Oswaldstree ten miles from Wemme. The contrivance was layd thus—the Governour of Oswaldstree Colonell Lloyd was to be invited to dinner to a gentleman's house, where he would have been surprized by forces from Wemme, who resolved instantly upon the surprize to carry him before his owne garrison and there force him to have caused his Officers to deliver up the Towne. To prosecute this plot the Rebells of Wemme were already upon their March, but two of their Scouts being happily taken, the Treachery was confessed and discovered to the Governour, who suddenly returned home, and secured the Towne, the confident Rebells being forced to returne to the place from whence they came." Col. Lloyd was a descendant of the Crusader Lloyd, and one of the Lloyds of Llwynymaen, and is described by Pennant as being of a "convivial turn ;" his carelessness however, got known and Sir Absett Shipman was appointed Governor in his stead. Col. Lloyd died 13 February, 1662, and was buried in the Llanforda vault on the north aisle of Oswestry Church, with this inscription on a flat stone—

Temporibus diris pietas regique Deoque
 Immota hac terra jam tumulata.

One who then durst be loyal just and wise
 When all were out of countenance here lies.

His wife Frances Lloyd, who died 15th December, 1661,
 is buried in the same vault, with this inscription—

Wise bove her sexe with peril of her life
 A loyal subject and a loving wife
 Her God and King restorde her heart run 'ore
 More than brimfull with joy could hold no more.

In after years Edward Lloyd, son of this Col. Lloyd, petitioned first of all the Parliament, and afterwards King Charles II. for relief, and in the Lloyd MSS. (the property of Mr. Stanley Leighton), he sets forth to the Parliament "That he was formerly seised in fee of certain houses in Oswestrie burnt down by Colonell Mitton in safety to the garrison to the damage of 2,000*li*," so that now "there remains only waste ground," and he prays this may be taken into account when his fine should be imposed. He wrote "The true narrative of Captain Edward Lloyd's actions and sufferings, how he gave his ma'tie all his plate and raised a Troope of Dragoons and armed them at his own charge, advancing likewise a month's pay to every soldier out of his own purse," how he sustained "frequent imprisonment, at least a dozen times; nor did their malice only rest on him, but extended itself to all his relations, his wife was likewise questioned for her life and hardlie escaped, a friend of hers hanged and a maid servant whipt to death for their fidelitie to his ma'tie in endeavouring to restore the garrison of Oswaldstre to their prestine loyalty," and he estimates his losses at £8,080 14s. 6d. After all his troubles, this Edward Lloyd was buried in the family vault in the Oswestry Parish Church in 1686.

To return, Cathrall in his *History of Oswestry* states that Fairfax and Mytton made an attempt to seize Oswestry by surprise, which Prince Rupert repulsed, but I find upon comparison of the records that this is a mistake, and that the repulse (derived from a chance

note in Pennant) took place in Cheshire, and not at Oswestry. But Oswestry did not long remain free from attack.

Mytton was ever on the watch for a favourable opportunity to seize the town when the garrison should be reduced, and it is clear the Royalist leaders were no match for him in audacity. Prince Rupert was now in Chester, and was much in need of ammunition. Mytton was at Wem, where the Parliamentary Committee for Shropshire had their head quarters. An arrangement had been made to send a large convoy of ammunition from Oswestry Castle to Prince Rupert at Chester. The latter was gathering his forces for the campaign, which was to end in three weeks in the disastrous defeat of Marston Moor. The Parliamentary leaders realised the importance of preventing reinforcements passing from Shrewsbury to Chester. Chirk village, on the direct route from Oswestry to Chester, was in the hands of the Parliament, although its Castle was still held by the Royalists. Therefore the convoy had to make a detour from Oswestry through Preeshenlle, St. Martins, and Bangor Iscoed. Through the kindness of the present Earl of Denbigh I have been enabled to obtain copies of the original correspondence. Mytton, who was ubiquitous, determined to waylay the convoy, and although he did not succeed in doing so, yet encountered a party of dragoons on their way from Oswestry to Chester. The following is his graphic description of the encounter. I may add that in Phillips's *Civil War*, vol. ii., p. 173, there appears another account by Mytton of the same event taken from "Two Great Victories," King's Pamphlets 163-3, but the letter I copy is his private report, and contains several additional particulars, and has never been published.

Wem 20 of June, 1644.

RIGHT HONO'BLE

I came hither about eleven of the clocke at night that daie I parted with yo^r honor I had not beene in bed one quarter of an hower till intelligence came to me that there was am-

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IMPORTANT NOTICE.

INDEX TO SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL TRANSACTIONS.

The Council of the Archæological Society propose to publish an Index Volume to the first eleven volumes of the Transactions (Series I.). It will contain full Index of Names, Places, Papers, Authors, Plates, &c., and a detailed General Index, &c. A limited number of copies only will be printed, and will be offered to none but Subscribers, at a price not exceeding Fifteen Shillings. Intending Subscribers are requested to send in their names as early as possible to the Secretary, Mr. F. GOYNE, Dogpole, Shrewsbury.

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