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The Council of the Society respectfully request Donations of any objects of interest relating to the County, especially Books, Prints, Drawings, Coins, Prehistoric Stone and Bronze Implements, Specimens illustrating the Archæology, Botany, Zoology, and Geology of the County, &c., &c., for deposit in the Museum.

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LICHFIELD WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS.

The Council of the Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society, having decided not to continue the issue of the Calendars of Wills and Administrations in the various Peculiar Courts at Birmingham, Derby, and Lichfield, since they do not relate to the County of Salop, nor of the Alphabetical Index of names of testators to the whole series, beg to inform those members who wish to complete their sets, that the Calendars of the above-named Peculiars and also the Alphabetical Index can be obtained on payment of five shillings. Names of intending subscribers should be sent to the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, St. Michael's Vicarage, Shrewsbury.

2 Edward II. (1308), Rog. le Fox filius Joh'is de Preston j'x' pontem de Moneford grants to his son William y° clerk 6 & $\frac{1}{2}$ acres in campis de Preston.

S. D. Mich. fil. Reyneri Ruffi & Marg'ie ux' mee grant to Ri. our son and his wife Alice, daughter of Hen. de Echgebaldenham $\frac{1}{2}$ a virgate in Preston j'x' pontem de Moneford. H. T. : D'n'o Godefrido tu'c vicar. eccl. S. Alkm. Sal., Alano Spremhose, Rog. de Hondeslowe.

[The foregoing account of PRESTON MONTFORD is very incomplete. At Domesday the Manor was a divided one.¹ The larger portion occurs in Ruesset Hundred, and belonged to St. Alkmund's Church :— "The same Church held and still holds Prestone. Here is one hide, geldable. In demesne there is one ox-team, and two villains with one ox-team. Its former value was 8s. ; it is now worth 5s. Eluard holds it." The smaller portion was in Baschurch Hundred, and was held by Roger (either fitz Corbet or de Lacy, it is not certain which) under Earl Roger :—"Roger holds of the Earl Prestone. Godric held it, and was a free man. Here is one virgate of land. In demesne is half an ox-team. It was worth, and is now worth iij s. There is a wood capable of feeding ten pigs." The possessions of St Alkmund's, about 1145, passed to Lilleshall Abbey. On August 31, 1199, King John confirms to Lilleshall Abbey their possessions, including Preston juxta Moneford, as appurtenances of St. Alkmund's Church.² By an Inquisition taken in September, 1317, it was found that Roger de Forde held a virgate in Preston-juxta-Moneford under the Abbot of Lilleshall at the rent of 3s., and that Hugh de Forde was his son and heir. From the association of the smaller part of Preston with Montford (which also belonged to Roger at Domesday), the whole of Preston got the name of Preston Montford. The connection between Preston and Montford lasted no longer than Domesday, except in name. Earl Roger's virgate in Montford seems to have become annexed to the St. Alkmund's portion, going with it to Lilleshall Abbey, and ultimately to have fallen with it into the Liberties of Shrewsbury.³

In 1327, the following inhabitants of Prestone, in the Hundred of Pemenhall, were assessed to the Lay Subsidy :—Roger de Prestone, Richard de Shawebur', Alan de Staunton, William Addeson, Geoffrey le Wodeward, John de Addesone, John Bercar', William Gogh, William fil' Isabell, William fil' Fabri, and John Grey.

Preston Montford continued to belong to Lilleshall Abbey, until its dissolution in 1538. The Minister's Accounts of 1541 show that the Abbey had received 12s. for profits of the tithes of Preston Mountforth.

¹ Cf. Eyton vii., 194-6, and x., 128-9.

² Cf. Owen and Blakeway, ii., 266 ; Walker's *Brief History of Lilleshall*, 13.

³ Eyton, vii., 194.

In 1580, the Book of the General Musters for Shrewsbury and the Liberties names the following soldiers as residing at Preston Monvart and Dyntle:—Harrie Calcot, John Calcot his man; John Hussey, John Fallows and Roger Fallows his sons-in-law; Richard Groves, William Calcot, Richard Swayne, Thomas Wright, John Lee, John Gate, and Richard Sponley.¹ In 1587 these names occur under Preston Monvert—John Fallowes, constable; Henry Calcott; John Hussey, Thomas Wighte, William ap William, John Calcott, and Richard Lewis.²

The pedigree of Calcott, of Preston Mountford, was duly recorded at the Heralds' Visitation of Shropshire in 1623.

The estate came ultimately into the possession of the Hill family; and in 1829 Sir Rowland Hill, the then owner, conveyed it by way of exchange to Col. John Wingfield of Onslow, Sir Francis Brian Hill being then tenant. On Col. John Wingfield's death in 1862 Preston Montford came to his nephew, Col. Charles George Wingfield, on whose decease on 5 May, 1891, it passed to his son and heir, Charles Ralph Borlase Wingfield, Esq., of Onslow, the present owner of Preston Montford.

The Report of the Charity Commissioners for Salop, vol., xxvii., pp. 240-1, states that Widow Baugh, mother of George Baugh of Shrewsbury, gave by will certain money for the purchase of lands in Preston Montford rented at 20 marks per annum, one-third to be paid to the Minister of St. Chad's and two-thirds to the poor of Shrewsbury. Certain lands formerly belonging to Sir Rowland Hill and since to John Wingfield, Esq., have been considered as charged with the payment of £13 6s. 8d., or 20 marks.—Ed.]

EXTRACTS FROM MORRIS'S SHROPSHIRE REGISTERS.

MONFORD.

- 1590, March 21. Johan Calcot, widow, bur.
 1642, May 4. Samuel, s. of Thomas Caukat, gent., bapt. ; bur. 11th.
 1692, Feb. 27. Edward Bright & Mary Calcott of Ensdon, mar.

FORD.

- 1597, Feb. 1. Dorothy, d. of Henry Calket, bapt.
 1610, Feb. 19. Alyte, d. of Henry Calcott, bapt.
 1632, Aug. 10. George Calcott of H. [? Horton], bur.

ALBERBURY.

- 1637, Feb. 28. Henry Calcot of Ford, bur.
 1660, May 7. Sarah, wife of John Calcott of Ford, bur.
 1681, Jan. 3. John, s. of Francis Calcott of Ford, & Eliz., bapt.
 1682, March 18. Dorothy, d. of Fras. Calcott, gent., of Ford, & Eliz., bapt.
 1686, Ap. 18. Elizabeth, wife of Michael Calcott of Preston Monford, bur.

¹ Cf. *Trans.*, 2nd Series, ii., 278-9.

² *Ibid.*, iii., 140.

PULLEY.

Pulley, anciently Poliley, is partly in the parish of St. Julian and liberties of Shrewsbury and partly in the parish of Brace Meole and hundred of Cundover.

That the use of a necessary of life once known to the inhabitants of a country should ever become obsolete, and that even while the soil continued to furnish the material in inexhaustible abundance, can only be accounted for by some of those tremendous convulsions of civil society which extinguish all knowledge even of the most useful arts. This was the case with fossil coal. That our British ancestors were acquainted with its use is certain: because, as Mr. Brand has observed, in the mass of erudition which he has accumulated on the subject in his *History of Newcastle*, vol. ii., pp. 241 et sqq., they had a primitive name for it, *Glo*; and the name of the place now before us proves the same fact: *Pwlliaw*, pits, evidently alluding to the coal pits upon Pulley common. Mr. Whitaker (*History of Manchester*, bk. ii., c. 8, sec. 1) adduces other proofs that the Romans and Britons used coal in this island; and the passage of Solinus, cap. 22, describing the temple of Minerva at Bath—"In cujus æde perpetui ignis nunquam canescunt in favillas, sed, ubi ignis tabuit, vertit in globos sicut"—can refer to nothing but a fire of pit coal, and the agreement by which one Wulfrede in the year 852 contracted to furnish the convent of Peterborough with "sixty fodder of wood, and twelve fodder of *græfan*" (Chron. Sax. sub ann.) proves that the Saxon invasion had not interrupted the use of this most important article, if Bishop Gibson is warranted, as I conceive him to be, in rendering this last word, *carbo fossilis*.¹ It must then have been the

¹ *Græfan* is certainly something *dug up*: but whether the mineral coal, or that fossil wood found in mosses, particularly Whixall moss between Wem and Whitchurch, and by many naturalists conjectured to be the basis of coal, I would not undertake positively to pronounce. I incline, however, to believe it coal. "Pulley, so-called perhaps from

Danish devastations which destroyed all knowledge of coal for nearly four centuries.

The whole of Pulley was in the Saxon times the property of Edgitha, queen of Edward the Confessor. But I suppose she held it as two manors, for its division between two parishes is, in all probability, as old as the original introduction of that mode of dividing the country.

[MORTIMER'S MANOR.]

At the time of Domesday that part of Polelie which is in the parish of Meole was held in chief of the Crown by Ralph de Mortimer, lord also of the manor of Meole. It was rated to the Danegeld at one hide and a virgate. What follows is not very intelligible. "The land is five carucates.¹ There are three radmans, and four villans and 5 bordars with vii^{or} carucates."¹ If this means that there were five carucates in the demesne, and also seven carucates occupied by the radmans, &c., the total makes a very unusual increase of tillage in the course of less than a century. It is not easy to decide what number is designed by vii^{or}; the numerals evidently denote seven, but the termination "or" seems to belong to quatuor, four. Even nine carucates is a great many to have sprung from one hide and a quarter.

The earliest notice I find of this place after Domesday is in the chartulary of Haghmon Abbey:—Maurice de Pulilega grants to Haghmon abbey an acre in Pulleley with the buildings thereon, lying between the land of Osbern, and that of Isabella the mother of Engelard. H. T.: Roberto Infante, Andrea filio

the Welsh 'pwl,' a ditch, there remaining to this day on Pulley common a large entrenchment." (God. Edwards.) Pulley, Pyllau, pits, plur. of pwl.

¹ [Not carucates but ox-teams. "The land is sufficient for five ox-teams. Here are three radmans, and four villans, and five boors, with seven (qu. four) ox-teams. In King Edward's time, the manor was worth 30s.; its value afterwards and now was and is 40s." Cf. Eyton, vi., 212.—Ed.]]

Huberti, tunc prepositis Salopesbur', &c.¹ The two persons last named are parties soon after to another gift of land to another house of religion.

Ralph Marescall² of Burton, by the assent of his wife Isabel and for their souls' health and that of Thomas his son, grants to God and the altar of St. Mary in the abbey of Salop, a messuage with a croft thereunto belonging in the town of Pulileg, viz., that messuage which is before the house of Brun of Pulileg, to find light before that altar, and that the custos of that altar for the time being may manage (tractabit) the premises at his pleasure. Witnessed by Ralph his son, and Engeland de Pulileg. (C. A. S. 414.) This must have been immediately before his death, since the confirmation by Isabel, his relict, is attested by the same persons (*ib.* 415).

In 37 Henry VIII. (1545) lands and tenements in Pulley and Monks foriet were granted in free burgage to Richard and Robert Tavernor. This was, I suppose, Marescall's grant above mentioned.

This Ralph Marescall³ had a serjeanty in the royal forest, and the Polileys were also connected with the same department. Philip de Polileye was a forester of fee in the forest of Lythewode in the reign of Edward I. Engeland de Poliley occurs in the 18th of the same King.

In the 7th of Edward I. (1278), on an hundred roll of that year, it is stated that Audulph le Bracy holds a moiety of the town of Pulleleg within the liberty of the town of Salop, and that he hath there four free tenants, viz., Elgebard de Puleleg, William fitz John, Roger Lance, and John the Welshman. Engeland de

¹ [The date of this grant is c. 1222.—Ed.]

² In *ye l'esta de Nevill*, 12 and 13 John, Ralph Marescoll and Tho. de Bureton owe a serjeanty of keeping Briwode, &c.

³ [Marescall's estate in Pulley was in Teodulf's manor. Blakeway has very much mixed up the two manors in Pulley. Eyton's account is more intelligible. Cf. Eyton, vi., 206—213.—Ed.]

Poliley occurs in 18 Edward I. (1289). It was, perhaps, from the circumstance of his forester's residence here that Henry III. had granted to the township of Polilegh herbage in Lythwood, and that three parts of the town had been laid to the royal forest. By the Commission of 28 Edw. I. (1299) they were ordered to be deafforested.

In 9 Edw. III. (1335) it is found that Philip de Polyley held on the day of his death 6s. of yearly rent here by the service of keeping the King's hedge (haia) within the forest of Salop, and that William de Polyley was his son and heir.

I find a William Pulleley of the Lythe in 14 Edw. IV., but no further proof of their connection with the place from which they derived their name subsequent to the date last set down.

A property here was part of the possessions of the Burnell family, for in 10 Edw. II. Sir John de Hanlo, and Maud his wife, the heiress of that house, enfeoffed Hugh le Despenser the elder, the reigning favourite of the day, and Sir William de Handlo, clerk, among other things in a rent in Polilegh. This was for the purpose of a reconveyance in tail male, in consequence of which it descended to their grandson, Hugh, Lord Burnell, who died seised thereof in 5 Henry V.

Richard Launce of Polyley married Agnes, daughter and heiress of Roger Yrons of Shelton.

18 Henry VI., "We John Launce of Polyley and Roger Yve, son of Reginald Yve of Leton, coheirs of Isabel and Johanna, daughters and heirs of Richard Launce, late of Polyley, and Agnes, his wife, who was daughter and heiress of Roger Yvors of Shelton, grant all our lands, &c., in Shelton to Roger Yve, clerke, and Richard Gery.

In the Meole part of Pulley is a farmhouse, now much modernized and greatly reduced in its dimensions, which appears to have been formerly a place of some note, from the remains of a square moat, by which it was surrounded, from an ornamented chimney, and from a

parlour bearing evident marks of antiquity. The windows were filled with roundels of stained glass, descriptive of several months of the year—March, a man digging, with a flaggon of liquor by his side; April, one frightening birds from the corn; June, a labourer weeding corn; September, threshing; November, killing a pig, which is done not by our present mode of sticking, but by felling with a hatchet; and December, an infant with crown and sceptre and covered cup, also a cypher.

[In the M.S. are eight rough drawings in circles, evidently representing the stained glass.]

On the main beam in the ceiling, in old English characters, the pious wish and moral exhortation:—“Plente and grace Be in thys place Sey well or ells be stile,” and under the window was carved the devout ejaculation, “Jhu Mercy, Lady Helpe.”

This house I should assign as the residence of the Polileys.

[TEODULF'S MANOR.]

Pulley in the parish of St. Julian.

The other of Queen Edgith's manors of Polelie was included in the grant to Earl Roger, under whom it was holden at the time of Domesday by one Theodulf, a small land-holder. It had been assessed to the Danegeld at three virgates. It consisted of only one carucate,¹ which Theodulf occupied himself with the assistance of one servant, but he had also two bordars.

In 37 Eliz. Richard Owen of Whitley died seised of lands and hereditaments in Pulley holden of the Queen by knight service as of her castle of Montgomery. This,

¹ [Not carucate, but ox-team. Teodulf was probably a Saxon, and soon displaced. His tenure at Pulley, being an Escheat in the hands of the Earl or King, was constituted a Serjeantry, of which Gilbert Ralph and Roger Bocharte were the first tenants. Roger Bozard died in 1194, leaving two infant daughters and co-heirs—Isabella, who married Ralph Marescall, and Alice, who married first Thomas de Echingham and afterwards Elias de Burton.—Ed.]

no doubt, was in that part of Pulley now under consideration, which, as has been stated, belonged to the Norman Roger de Montgomery.

The following belongs to the same head :—

Parcel of the late Monastery of Lilleshall: farm of one acre of land with a curtilage in Pulley within the parish of St Julians demised to David Wotton at the will of the lord,—6^d per ann.

This land was sould to Arthur Lowe by indenture dated the 1610: & was by him sould back to the patentees by indenture dated the of June, 1611, & by them surrendered to y^e King's Majestie 19th June, 1611. (Rawlinson's MSS. in bibl. Bodl. vol. of *Several Places in England*.)

Thomas Cotton, Esq., of Pulley, served the office of Sheriff in 1678. He married Alice, one of the nineteen children of Sir John Corbett, Bart., of Adderley. His daughter and heir, Sarah, married Edward Owen, Esq., of Woodhouse.

[Blakeway has not kept distinct the two manors in PULLEY.

Mortimer's Manor was that part of Pulley now in the manor of Meole Brace. After Domesday it does not appear as a separate manor, nor as anything more than a member of Meole Brace. It passed with Meole Brace to Mortimer's Feoffees, the Cantilupes and Bracys, who thus became mesne lords of this part of Pulley. At the Assizes of 1221, William, infant son and heir of Stephen de Purileg, sued Audulf de Bracy for a virgate in Purileg. At the Assizes of 1256, John de Bracy was found to have disseized William de Rodene and Alice, his wife, of half a virgate in Pulilegh.

Teodulf's Manor was that part of Pulley which was afterwards in St. Julian's parish, and now Bayston Hill. On Teodulf's forfeiture it was constituted a Serjeantry by the tenure of keeping the Forest of Lythwood, of which the first tenants were Gilbert Bocharte (or Boschart) and his sons, Ralph and Roger. On the deaths of Gilbert and Ralph, the land came to Roger Bocharte. He died in 1194, leaving two infant daughters, Alice and Isabella. Alice became the wife first of Thomas de Echingham, and afterwards of Elias de Burton; whilst Isabella married Ralph Marescall. Elias de Burton was dead in 1227, and from this time Ralph Marescall seems to have obtained both shares of this manor. His widow, Isabella, was dead in 1249, when it was found by Inquisition that she held 3½ virgates in Polilegh, worth 6s. per annum, by service of keeping the Forest of Lye (or Lythwood). Her son, Ralph Marescall, succeeded to Pulley, but died about 1262-3, leaving a son and heir, Engelard de Pulileg. On Engelard's death in 1289, his son, Philip de Pulileg, succeeded to Pulley.

Pulley foreign and Pulley vetus were part of the old Liberties of Shrewsbury. In 1327, the following inhabitants of Polileye in the Liberties were assessed to the Subsidy:—John de Bettone, William Neel, and Alice de Polileye; whilst under Polyleye in Condoover Hundred the following were assessed:—William Enge, Reginald Partrych, and William Bronnyges. In 1352, Richard de Polileye paid 12d. on a taxation of the Liberties. In the Court Books, Pulley Vetus and Pulley fflorens. occur amongst the Libertates Wardæ Lapidææ. Poliley occurs in 1385, and Pulhley in 1395, on the Court Rolls of the Liberties. On an Inquisition of the Liberties taken in October, 1515, it was found that Pulley was a hamlet of Betton, and in the parish of St. Juliana the Virgin; and (in another part of the Inquisition) that Betton and part of Pulley were within the Hundred of Condoover, and were taxed to fifteenths and tenths to 12s. 11d.¹ Amongst the Trained Soldiers of Shropshire in 1580, these names occur:—Pulley: Mr Edward Ireland, Thomas Bolde, Thomas Wykie, Ffrauncis Croket, Richard Vikers, Raffe Ffuret, Jeu'n ap David. Pulley Old Liberties: Richard Suker, Thomas Suker his servant, Richard Betton, Arthur Simons, Thomas Goughe his servant, Arthur Durnenge, George Mylward, Arthur Mylward and William Mylward his servants, John Mylward, Ric. ap Richard, William Dagar, Arthur Suker, Houmffrey Nocke, John Mylward, John Corles.² In 1587 there is a similar return for Pulley Old Liberties and Pulley New Liberties.³

The Irelands of Lythwood sprung from Robert, second son of David Ireland of Shrewsbury. See pedigree in *Visitation of Salop*, 1623 (Harl. Society, p. 271).

The old house above referred to was formerly the property of Thomas Jelf Powys, Esq., and now of Mr. G. E. Kinnersly, and was tenanted formerly by several members of the Hiles family, but now by Mr. Wm. Thomas of Meole, Miss Norris occupying it. It contains many old oak beams and marks of antiquity. On the east side it is timbered, and there are vestiges of a moat. In the farmyard is an old dovecot. The ornamented chimney and the carved inscriptions are not now visible, but six roundels of glass remain in the parlour window. They are as follows:—No. 1, unintelligible; (2) "lady," (?) in old English characters; (3) an ornamented shield, with a scroll across it, and a black and gold cable border round it; (4) a man reaping barley, "August" (?); (5) a man weeding corn, "June;" (6) a man threshing with a flail, "September."

The Meole portion of Pulley now belongs to several landowners, Messrs. Bather, Kinnersly, Hiles, Lee, &c.; and the St. Julian's portion belongs to Mr. Hulton-Harrop and others.—ED.]

¹ Cf. *Trans.*, 2nd Series, ii., 73, 75.

² *Ibid.*, 280-1.

³ *Ibid.*, iii., 142-3.

PIMLEY.

Pimley in the parish of Uffington, but liberties o. Shrewsbury.

In a charter of *inspeximus* to the abbey of Salop, 2 Henry III. (1226), Fulke, the Sheriff of Shrewsbury, is stated to have granted Pimlye to that religious house in the time of Henry I., with the body of his wife (*i.e.*, for her sepulture within their precinct), with the assent of his son Henry. But this grant should seem not to have been acted upon; I suppose from some defect of title in the grantor—at least I find no other trace of any connection between this place and that abbey.¹

Stephen fil. Uverardi de Midelton² grants to ye Abbot of Haghmon *partem meam de ripa de Pimbelega ad quam firmatum est molendinum eorum & tantum de terra mea quantum sufficit ad bene firmandum stagnum ejusdem molendini*; also grants *quod firment molendin' p'd'c'um ubicumq' voluerint inter vadum subtus & proquinquius molendino & ipsum molendinum*; also grants *la mora que est inter predictum vadum & molendinum*. H.T.: Will'o fil. Alani, Hug' Pantulf, Will'o de Boter', Rob. de Girrons, Petro filio Tor' [qu. Toret], Marscoto, Will'o de Wudeton, Alano de Etlega, Will'o de Hercolou, Odo de Odenet, Widone de Sauburi, Rob. fil Aerii, Rad'o Hose.

¹ [This is an error of Blakeway's. Eyton points out that the Seignery of Pimley remained with Shrewsbury Abbey until the dissolution. Fulke, who was a sort of Under-Sheriff to Rainald, granted Pimelega to the Abbey between 1121 and 1136. His gift is recorded in the Confirmations of Stephen, the Empress Maud, Henry II., and Henry III. Cf. Eyton, vii, 304.—Ed.]

² [Stephen de Pimbelega, son of Unerarde de Midelton, was the Abbot of Shrewsbury's feoffee at Pimley. On February 8, 1189, a Fine was levied between Stephen de Pimbelg and the Abbot of Lilleshall concerning a bosc in Hennehot and Pimbelg. The Canons of Haughmond had a mill called Pimley mill, in Uffington Manor, but situated on the rivulet of Pimley or Pimbroc; and Stephen makes three grants to them. Cf. Eyton, vi., 368, vii., 304-5.—Ed.]

Stephen, son of Unerard de Midelton, grants to Haghmond his part of ye bank of Pimbelega, &c.

Stephen de Pimbelega grants to the canons of Haghmon permission to make their stank of the mill and pool of Pimbeleg, upon his land there; and to raise and extend it there as much as they please, ita quod tota gista aque vivarii—so that the whole *stress* (qu. French jet d'eau) of the water of the pool may be upon his land of Pimbeleg. He likewise gives them leave to take of his land wherever they will, absque nocumento terre culte, to strengthen, raise, and extend their stank. Also that they may have their bays on his said land, that the water of the pool may freely and sufficiently issue, cum tota terra que est inter cursum aque baiarum & ductum veterem de Pimbel'. And he covenants that neither himself nor his heirs shall move any claim against the canons on account of the loss of water, que per cursum aque baiarum possit evenire terre mee de Pimbel'. Likewise that neither he nor his heirs shall ever fish in the pool. This grant is attested by Sir John fitz Alan, Sir Thomas Mandut, and Robert his brother, and therefore probably belongs to ye reign of King John.¹

By another deed he gives them as much of his tilled land of Pimbel' as is between a certain oak marked on both sides with a cross, across his tilled land strait to a certain maple (acernum), which stands on the bank of Pimbroc underneath towards the said brook, together with the said two trees.

De donac'o'e molendini de Pimbel' sicut d^t Rex Henr' secundus:—Ex dono Roberti de la Mara etc. cum una mansura in ipsam villam de Offinton cum molendino de Pimbel' quam terram cum molendino, pater suis eis antea donavit.

Vide indenturam de molendino & aliis ibidem dimissis Nicholas Forbour Salop, & etiam composic'o'em inter Monasterium de Haghmon & Lilehill pro redundac'o'e aque ibidem.

¹ [This deed, says Eyton, must have passed after 1215, and so twenty years later than the first of Stephen's three grants.—Ed.]

A fine¹ in y^e court of our lord y^e king of Salop on Monday in y^e morrow of St Michael 4 John (1202), before G. fil earl of Essex and chief justiciary, W^m fitz Alan, Hugh Pantulf, John Strange, Rob^t Corbet, Rob^t de Boudles, &c., between Stephen de Pimlegh, demandant, and y^e burgesses of Salop, tenants of y^e whole pasture in Pimeley and Derfeld to y^e hedge of Pimlegh. Stephen grants it to y^e burgesses, they paying an annual rent of 1 lb. of cumin—per manus præpositorum de Salop—and they pay him 6 marks of Silver. (E cartis penes Joseph Loxdale de Salop, anno 1792.)

24 Eliz. (1581-2), Anthonye Forster of Watling St, gent., releases to John Young, jun^r, of Charney, co. Staff, gent., his right in y^e great tithes of y^e towne fyld and territory of Rodon in p^{sh} High Ercall.

30 Sept., 32 Eliz. (1590), Deed to declare y^e uses of a fine. John Yonge of Charnes, co. Staff, gent., levied a fine w^hin 3 y^{rs} last past to Edw. Hussey, co. Sal., Esq^r, and John Badeley of Elerton Grange, co. Staff, gent., of all messuages, pastures, &c., of y^e s^d John Yonge in y^e p^{shes}, fieldes, &c., of Salop, Uffington, and Pimley. It is now declared to be to y^e use and for the promotion of John Yonge the younger, son of y^e s^d John Yonge.

3 Jan., 1618, John Young of Pimley, gent., John Young, jun^r, gent., son and heir-apparent of y^e said John Young y^e elder, and Ellener, wife of Young, jun^r, sells to S^r Francis Newport of High Ercall, Kt., y^e s^d tithes reputed or taken to belong to y^e late chapel of Roden, in which Wm. Horner of London, dec^d, and Ri. Horner, late of Pimley, dec^d, and y^e s^d John Young had any estate.

11 Car. I. (1635), Agg. to advise w^h counsell what course to take ag^t M^r John Younge for inclosinge Pimley wood out of the Oulde Heathe, whereby y^e inh^titants of this J. are hindred there com^{on} of pasture in Pimley wood afs^d—and of the rioltie belong^g to y^e corporation.

Mr. Yonges case.

John Yonge, y^e plf., lies seised of y^e capital messuage or reputed manor called Pimbley, and of a piece of wood ground called Pimley wood, parcel of y^e s^d manor or capital messuage, and thereunto adjoining, w^{ch} beyond memory was divided by

¹ [This Fine is not noticed by Eyton. Stephen de Pimley had been engaged in a suit with the bailiffs and burgesses respecting his land at Pimley, and had established his right thereto. Cf. Eyton, vii., 305.—Ed.]

divers meare stones from a great common called the ould heath, but left uninclosed by reason it was full of woods . . . the plf. purposinge to sell y^e s^d wood, about Jan^y, 1635, inclosed y^e s^d Pimley wood and for 2 y^{rs} quietly depast^d y^e same.

The bailiffs and burgesses of Shrewsbury pretend^e r^t of common to y^e s^d wood, ordered y^e fence to be thrown down: whereupon y^e s^d John Yonge in Easter term, 1638, declared in King's Bench ag^t them . . . and had judgement . . .

In Trin. term, 15 Car. I. (1639) y^e s^d John Young obtained a similar judgem^t ag^t Houmfry Raven and o^{rs} as tenants unto one M^r Tho. Jones of a parcell of ground called the Close behind the Castle, clayming to have common of pasture in y^e s^d Pimley wood.

Witnesses brought to prove, that a litell brooke runninge from Hencot under the Bowebridge to be the uttermost extent of y^e soil belonginge to y^e J. of Shrewsbury, and that the Owld heath lyeth betwixte y^e s^d Bowebridge and Pimley wood.

———— to prove that the owners of Pimley tyme owte of minde, duringe the time of pannage have imployed a servant constantly to keepe all sorts of cattel out of y^e s^d wood savinge his owne and such as did asiste there.

Old Heath: This whole common was formerly belonging to y^e abbot of Lylleshall, and so were y^e several lordships of Abright Lee, Harlescote, and Hancot in y^e p'shes of S^t Alkmund and S^t Mary, tog^r w^h y^e farme called Pymley in y^e p'sh of Uffington.

The M. of Abr. lee contiguous to y^e waste (of Pymbley) was granted to James Leveson, whose son Richard, 8 Mar., 7 Edw. VI. (1553) grants it to Sir Rowland Hill and Jas. Barker for £256 14s. 8d.

[PIMLEY is not mentioned in Domesday. Eyton is of opinion that it was then included in the Manor of Upton, although it was in the parish of St. Mary's, Shrewsbury.

Stephen de Pimley, before referred to, was succeeded in his estates by his son, William de Pimbeleg. William had two sons, Geoffrey and William. The Hundred Roll of 1255 states that "Geoffrey de Pembeleg is lord of Pembeleg, and holds it of the Abbot of Salop for 5s. per annum." Pimley passed presently to the Burnells, and Bishop Burnell by deed gave his manor of Pymbeleye to Thomas de Wythington and his wife Isabella, which Isabella was *consanguinea* of the Bishop. Thomas de Wythington was living from about 1289 to 1318. The manor afterwards came to the Yonges.

Adam de Pembeley was assessed to the Subsidy of 1327, under Downton. In a Court Book of 1508, the following inhabitants of

Pymley are named: Thomas Trentham, senior, William Yonge,¹ William Humfreston, the Abbot of Salop, Thomas Otteley, and William Clerke. In 1564 John Younge, gent., and Richard Horn occur; and in 1597, John Yonge, gent., and John Yonge, junior. In the Court Books it occurs amongst the Libertates Wardæ Castrensis.

Pemeley was added to the Liberties of Shrewsbury by the Charter of Henry VII., dated 14 Dec., 1495.² At an Inquisition of the Liberties taken in 1515, it was found that the tenants, residents, and dwellers within and of the town of Pym'eley within the hundred of Bradford, for their goods and chattels moveable within the said town of Pymeley were taxed to a certain entire fifteenth and tenth to the sum of 7s.³

In the list of the Trained Soldiers of Shropshire in 1580, under Pymley, occur these names:—Richard Horner, and George Man, Roger Hunte, and William Hylton his servants, Mr. Thomas Ponsburie, William Robinson, and Richard Robinson.⁴ In 1587, John Yonge, gent., John Illedge, and Homfrey Blackey occur.⁵ This Thomas Pontesbury was probably son of George Pontesbury of Allbrightlee, and was buried at St. Alkmund's 16 March, 1605. (See *Vis. Salop*, 1623.)

The Pimley estate ultimately came to the Corbet family of Sundorne. Pimley House was erected in 1849 by Andrew William Corbet, Esq., for his residence during his mother's lifetime. He died in 1856; and it has since been tenanted by Mr. Jonathan Scarth, Captain Shackerley, and Mrs. William Sparrow. The present owner of Pimley is the Rev. George Corbet, of Sundorne Castle.—Ed.]

ADDITIONS TO PULLEY.

[Mr. George Edward Kinnersly's estate in Pulley was purchased about 1852 by his grandfather, Mr. Edward Kinnersley of Newcastle, Staffordshire, and of Binfield Manor, Berks, from the Hon. Henry Wentworth Powys. He died 8 June, 1868, leaving a son, Mr. William Thomas Kinnersly, on whose death in 1876 the estate passed to his son, Mr. G. E. Kinnersly.

Mr. Thomas Hiles's estate in Pulley belonged to his great-grandfather, Mr. Thomas Hiles.

Mr. Hulton-Harrop's estate in Pulley belonged formerly to Mr. Thomas Parr of Lythwood Hall, who sold it to the Rev. Robert Hornby, from whose family it was purchased by the present owner.—Ed.]

¹ [See Pedigree of Young of Charnes in the *Vis. of Stafford*, 1614, and in the *Vis. London*, 1568; and also of Yonge of Caynton in the *Vis. Salop*, 1623.—Ed.]

² [See Owen and Blakeway, i., 268, &c.—Ed.]

³ Shropshire Archaeological *Trans*, 2nd Series, ii., 75.

⁴ *Ibid*, 278.

⁵ *Ibid*, iii., 140.

PRESTON GOBALLS.

The extensive donations of land settled upon their ecclesiastical foundations by our Saxon ancestors was a measure not merely of their piety, but of their poverty also. They had little but land to bestow: and land unoccupied and uncultivated was of trifling value among a people whose numbers were extremely inadequate to the extent of their territory. That such was the state of this place at the time when it was granted to the Church of St. Alkmund in Shrewsbury I infer from its name: Preston, the priest's town, evidently implying that it had not, before that event, attracted sufficient notice to have received any appellation. The circumstances attending this donation are lost in the obscurity of the ninth century, the date of St. Alkmund's foundation, and therefore we are unable to determine whether Preston had been a part of the possessions of the Mercian kings, and bestowed upon her rising church by its royal foundress, Edelfleda, or whether it was one of the ten prebends granted to it by King Edgar, but the latter seems the most probable opinion.

Under the canons, Preston was so much improved as to be assessed at four hides to the *dane-geld*; yet it was found to have been waste at the time of the Norman Conquest. The cause of this, in the absence of all records, it is impossible to ascertain—but many circumstances conspire to shew that even Church property in those days of commotion was not so sacred as, from the terrors of superstition, one might suppose it would have been: and the collegiate church of St. Alkmund appears to have been in a condition peculiarly undefended, and from the extent of its possessions, for it was the richest of our Shrewsbury Churches, to have been in a superior degree an object of the rapacity of the Norman invaders.

In the numerous train which Roger de Montgomeri brought over with him when he came to take posses-

sion of the Earldom of Shrewsbury was a priest named Godebold. He was one of the three "wise clerks," whom, as Ordericus relates, the Earl retained in his service, and by whose counsels he directed all his measures. (Lib. iv., p. 522.) Thus, though devoted to the service of religion, he maintained somewhat of a secular character, and by the influence of his patron was enabled, in common with his fellow chaplain Nigel, the Earl's physician, to speculate largely in Church property at the expense of the canons of St. Alkmund. Among other of their possessions he is found in Domesday to hold from that church Frestone, which from him has been denominated in all after ages, Preston Gobalds, and which was then comprehended within the Hundred of Bascherche. He retained one carucate¹ in his own demesne; two more carucates were occupied by two villans, three bordars, and two Norman settlers; and the commissioners were of opinion that there was room for two more carucates of arable land. It was then valued at ten shillings, which was, I suppose, the rent that Godebold paid his landlords.

The place, however, subsequently reverted to St. Alcmund's, and as part of its possessions was confirmed to Lilleshull Abbey by King John in the first year of his reign (in Aug., 1199). (Dugd. Mon.)

The Iter of Henry III.² found four hides here holden by the Abbey; and the same religious house by deed without date grants common in Preston Gobald to William Banastre. (Inter cart. R. Hill bar.³)

In 28 Edw. I. the Abbey holds Preston Gobolde with its members, it was holden in chief of the King, was gildable, and belonged to the church of St. Alcmund. (Feodar. hund. de Pymhill.³)

¹ [Not carucate, but ox-team, in this and the two following places.—Ed.]

² [Eyton terms it, the Pimhill Hundred Roll of 1255. Cf. Eyton, x., 171.—Ed.]

³ [Eyton assigns the date 1279 to this Pimhill Tenure Roll.—Ed.]

In the *Nomina Villarum*, 9 Edw. II. (1316), Thomas de Roshall is stated to be lord of the manors of Preston Godale and Roshall. By the former is evidently intended this place, but in what right the said Thomas was lord of it, whether *pleno jure* or as lessee of Lilleshull Abbey, I have not seen.

In 17 Edw. III. (1343), the Abbot and Convent of Lilleshull grant pannage in their wood of Preston Gobald to John of Acton Reynes and his wife. (Cart. R. Hill bar^{ti}.)

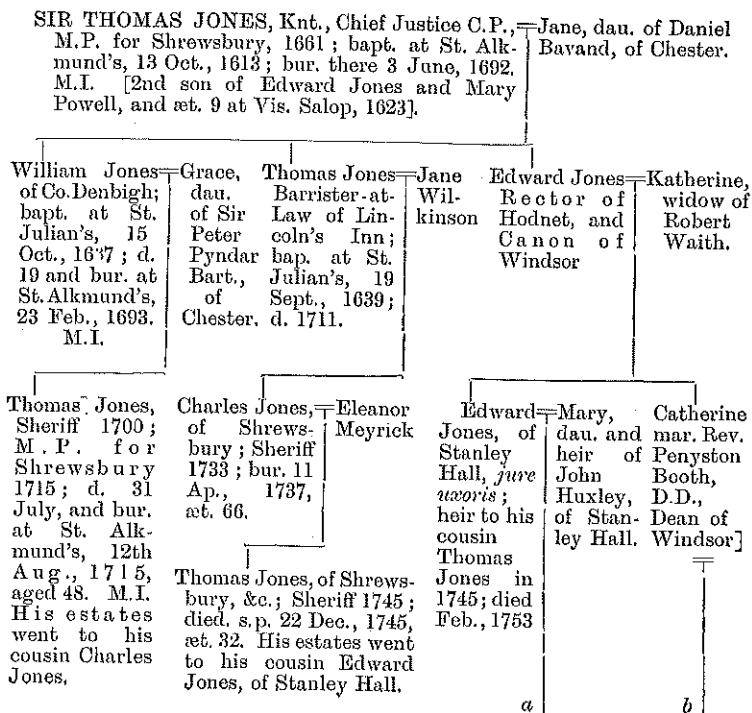
Messuages in Preston Gobalds, late parcel of the Abbey of Lilleshull, with the tithes of Mereden and Lee, were granted to Edward Hosier 35 Hen. VIII. (1543) (MS. Edwards), and he is called of Preston (which I suppose means this place) in the Visitation. By writ of Privy Seal dated 22 June in the following year, Edw. Hosyer, gent., has licence to alienate to Richard Trentham, John Makeworthe, Roger Luter, and Thomas Hosyer lands and tenements in Preston Gobalds and tithes in Mereden and Lee and others in Okyngton to his own use in tail male and with remainders over. (Harl. MSS., 1765.) Mr. Edward Hosier had an only daughter, Elizabeth, married to John Draycot, Esq., and to this gentleman and his wife he conveyed *the manor lordship* and lands in 7 Eliz. (1564). In 13 Eliz. (1570) the manor, with tithes, oblations, and lands here, were holden by Geoffrey Hosier, a relation; but this could have been only as a trustee, for in 21 Eliz. (1578) the manor and lands and the *rectory* were alienated by John Draicott, gent., to Edw. Basset and others to uses. (MS. Lethieull.)

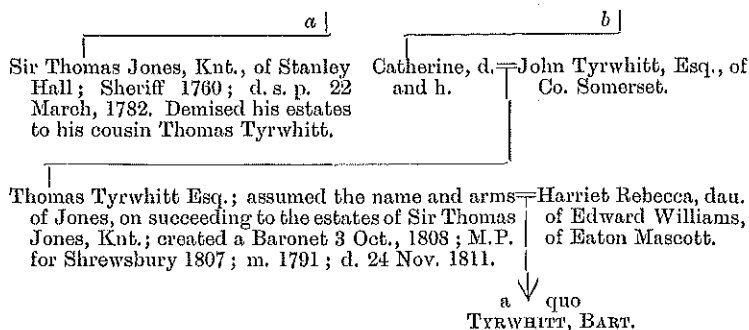
Roger Luter,¹ gent., late alderman of Salop, is styled of Preston Gobbolds in 38 Eliz. (1595).

¹ [Thomas Luter married Katherine, one of the daughters of John Corbet of Lee, Sheriff in 1526. Reginald Corbet, a grandson of John, married Margery, daughter of Roger Luter, and had a daughter Ann who was a year old at the Vis. Salop, 1584. Roger Luter occurs Bailiff of Shrewsbury in 1514, 1519, 1543, 1551, and 1562.—Ed.]

[The manor and estate of Preston Gobalds seems to have passed to the family of Jones of Uckington and Shrewsbury, whose pedigree was recorded in the Vis. Salop, 1623. Thomas Jones (son of Edward Jones and Mary Powell), aged 9 in 1623, became Lord Chief Justice C.P., married Jane dau. of Daniel Bavand of Chester, and was buried at St. Alkmund's 3 June, 1692. He had issue (1) William Jones, (2) Thomas Jones, and (3) the Rev. Edward Jones, Rector of Hodnet and Canon of Windsor. This rector had a son, Edward Jones of Stanley Hall, who ultimately succeeded to the Shropshire estates, and a daughter, Catherine, who married the Rev. Penyston Booth, D.D., Dean of Windsor, and left an only daughter and heiress Catherine Booth, who married John Tyrwhitt, Esq. Edward Jones of Stanley Hall died in February, 1753, and left an only son, Sir Thomas Jones, Knt., who died s.p. 22 March, 1782, having devised his estates to his cousin, Thomas Tyrwhitt, Esq. (son of John Tyrwhitt and Catherine Booth).

The following Pedigree, which is compiled from various sources, will show more clearly the devolution of the Shropshire estates in the Jones family :—





On Sir Thomas (Tyrwhitt) Jones' death in 1811, his estates came to his son—Sir Thomas John Tyrwhitt, 2nd Bart., Sheriff 1816, M.P. for Bridgnorth; he married Eliza Walwyn, daughter of John Macnamara, Esq., and died 5 Oct., 1839, leaving issue—Sir Henry Thomas Tyrwhitt, 3rd Bart., who married Emma Harriet, Baroness Berners, and died 26 Jan., 1894, leaving with other issue a son—Sir Raymond Robert Tyrwhitt, Bart., of Stanley Hall, the present lord of the Manor of Preston Gobalds, and Patron of the Advowson.

Two farms in the parish belonged to Robert Aglionby Slaney, Esq., of Walford Manor, and are now held by his grandson, Thomas Slaney Eyton, Esq.

Preston Gobalds comprises the hamlets of Merrington, Romere Heath which was enclosed c. 1810, Old Woods, and Lea Hall.

Lea Hall was anciently called Reyner's Lee, from Reiner de Lee who held it under Lilleshall Abbey in 1196, and afterwards Lee near Pimhill.¹ The Pedigree of this family was entered at the Vis. Salop, 1623. Sir Richard Lee, Bart., of Langley and Acton Burnell, died in April, 1660, leaving two daughters and coheirs. The elder of these, Rachel Lee, married Ralph Cleaton, Esq., and had for her inheritance the Lea Hall and other estates in Shropshire. These passed to her descendants; and Lea Hall was ultimately sold to Sir Thomas (Tyrwhitt) Jones, Bart., and now belongs to his descendant, Sir Raymond Robert Tyrwhitt, Bart.

There was also a member of Preston Gobalds called Cherlton, which belonged to the Abbot of Lilleshall, and contained a hide of land.²

The population of Preston Gobalds in 1801 was 314; in 1841, 388; and in 1881, 426. A Religious Census taken in 1676 shows that there were then in Preston-Gobballs 133 Conformists, 9 Papists, and no Nonconformists.³

¹ Cf. Eyton x., 172-3.

² Cf. Eyton, viii., 219; x., 173.

³ Cf. S. A. Trans., 2nd Ser., i., 82.

The following inhabitants of Prestone Gobald were assessed to the Lay Subsidy of 1327—Richard son of Roger, Thomas le Prees, Richard son of Geoffrey, William de Penynton', Richard Peynn, Amelyna Dun, Juliana the widow, John Aletes, Roger son of Geoffrey, John Rosote, Roger Crompe, and John de Lee. By King Henry VII.'s Charter to Shrewsbury, dated 14 Dec., 1495, the tenants and inhabitants of Preston Gobal are included within the Liberties of Shrewsbury, and are to contribute to all aids, subsidies, and tallages, &c., and from henceforth have the freedom of all fairs and markets, &c.¹ In the Court Books, Preston Gobalds is included in the Liberties of the Castle Ward. The list of Trained Soldiers of Shropshire in 1580 gives these names under Preston Gobalds—Roger Luter gent., Evan ap Thomas, Arthur Luter, and Richard Gennal his servants, John Loppington, Ffrancys Loppington, William Forton, John Williams and John and Edward Williams his sons, Richard Douns, Edward Brethyn, James Spristowe, Roger Drurie, Hounffrey Fallowes, Hounffrey Duddleston, Roger Befford, John Lye, Richard Dunford, John Foster, Thomas Meredith servant to Mr Dracot, John Croft and John Partridge servants to Mr. Lea, Evan ap Morrys, Jeffrey Shelvox, William ap Rees, and Ffrances Harding his man.² A similar list for 1587 gives 34 names under Preston Gubbolls, including Mr. Dracott and four servants, — Lee gent. and four servants, and Arthur Luter gent. and two servants.³

The report of the Charity Commissioners for Salop, vol. xxvii., p. 448, mentions that Richard Brethens left by his will in 1777 £100 to the poor of Preston Gubbalds, and that the interest was annually laid out by the Churchwardens in the purchase of coals for the poor.

THE CHURCH.

There was a Church here at a very early date, but it was probably never reputed more than a mere dependency of St. Alkmund's till after the Dissolution. Its Ministers are not named in the Diocesan Registers, and their emoluments have no place in Church Valuations.⁴ The old Church, which was dedicated to St. Martin, was taken down in 1866, except a portion of the East and South walls. A new aisle, as large as the old fabric, was built at the side, and now forms the main building. The old South doorway and window in Chancel still remain; the latter has two new lights inserted on the South side. The present Church consists of nave of three bays, chancel, South aisle, South porch, and Western tower. The old octagonal font is figured in Eyton. In the Church is a curious long stone slab; and a monument to an ecclesiastic, with a cross patonce on his breast. In the Vestry is a Library for the use of the officiating clergy, the gift of

¹ Cf. Owen and Blakeway, i., 268-9.

² S. A. Trans., 2nd Series, ii., 276-7.

³ *Ibid.*, iii., 138-9.

⁴ Cf. Eyton, x., 172.

Charles Mather, Esq. On the North wall is a brass in memory of William Stevens Burd, M.A., Christ Church, Oxon, Vicar of Preston Gubbalds 1849—1880, who was born at Leighton Buzzard 27 Dec. 1817, and died at Preston Gubbalds 27 August, 1880. The East window was also erected in his memory. The Church is in the gift of Sir Raymond R. Tyrwhit-Wilson, Bart., and is endowed with a portion of the Old Mills Farm, Criggion, consisting of 58 acres; also with a Rent-charge of £10 in the parish, and Tithe Rent-charge in the Parish of Holy Cross, Shrewsbury, apportioned at £65 17s. 2d. In the Churchyard are the steps and shaft of an ancient Cross. A Benefaction Table, 1794, states that Thomas Jones, Esq., gave £10 10s., Rev. John Jones £7, and Rev. John Muckleston £5 5s. In 1841, Lady Tyrwhit contributed £10 10s., and R. A. Slaney, Esq., £10, towards repairing the Church. The restoration in 1866 cost £1,600. The Communion Plate consists of Silver Chalice and Paten; also a flagon; and a two-handled silver Cup, one handle now missing. On the Paten are the initials G. L. and R^LA., the gift, probably, of some members of the Lee family.

(Exch.Q.R. Church Goods, 6 Edw. VI., Salop 8-10, m. 10.)

The p'yshe of P'ston Gobbl:

S^r John Samerfylde curat ther John Haynes Will'm Symons Wardens Will'm lopynton John Hayward p'sheners ther present the xvijth day of August in the sixte yere of the Rayne of Kyng Edward the sixte before S^r Adam Mytton Knyght Roger Luter & Rychard Wyytaces bailies of the towne of Salop that they have ij lytyll bells, iiij vestments, ij albes, and a cope.

The colo^r of the vestments ij green say, one white fustyan, another of chamlet.

John Haynes
William Symons

John S^rmerfilde
Will'm lopynton
John Hayward

(Exch.Q.R., Church Goods, 7 Edw. VI., Salop 8-12, m. 6.)

This Indenture made the xxiiijth day of Maij Anno R.R. Edr. vj^{ti} vijo betwene S^r Adam Mytton Knyghte John Corbett esquier & Roger lewes comissioners by vertue of the kings letters of comission to them emongst other directyd on the one p'tye & S^r John Sumerfylde curate ther Will'm trenthyn James Bryde John hayne John Hayward & Will'm lopyngton p'yslners of the p'yshe off Preston Gobbs of the other partye Witnessethe that ther ys remainyng in the said p'yshe churche ij lyttyle bells w^t bells the said comysioners on the king's majestyes behallff streytly chargyth & commandythe them sowely to kepe unsolde ne otherwise imbesylllyd untill suche tyme as the king's ma^{ties} plesure be unto them further signified and declaryd. P. me Jhon Sumerfeld.

* * * * *

INCUMBENTS OF PRESTON GOBALDS.

(From Blakeway's Parochial Clergy ; MS. Blakeway 15, fo. 42)

John Somerfeld, clk., was curate here 32 Henry VIII. (1540), with a salary of £4 13s. 4d. which is allowed by the Crown on the Ministers' Accounts of that year for the dissolved abbey of Lilleshull. [He occurs also in 1553.]

John Billingsley, 1613.

William Tecka, curate, 1621 ; sep. 28 Jan., 1641.

Thomas Orpe, minister here after his ejection from Staunton Hine heath. [Formerly Schoolmaster at Tarporley. Vicar of Stanton-on-Hine-Heath, from which he was ejected by the Parliamentary Committee, but restored in 1662. Minister also of Battlefield. Died 9 Dec., 1677, aged 66. See Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*, ii., 323-4. He was born at Wilkesley, Cheshire, 1611. Son of Thomas Orpe, pleb. Matriculated at St. Mary Hall, Oxford, 13 Oct., 1632, then aged 21.]

John Billingsley, curate temp. Car. II., see KINNERLEY,

John Gower, minister, 1663 ; sep. 27 Apr., 1672.

Richard Lloyd, minister, 1696. [Qu. M.A. St. Mary Hall, Oxford ; son of Thomas Lloyd, gent. ; born at Emstrey 1652 ; rector of Petton 1691.]

Samuel Pearson, son of the Vicar of the Abbey, is styled of Preston Gubbalds, in his admission to burgesship 1721. [Son of Rev. Samuel Pearson, M.A. ; bapt. at Holy Cross, Shrewsbury, 29 Nov., 1684.]

Richard Poolmore, curate, 1736.

William Bagley, curate, 1737 ; ob. Mar., 1783. [Sometimes signs Registers as "Minister."]

[Thomas Jones, curate, 1783-4.

R. Howell, curate, 1787-90.]

John Jones, curate, see HANWOOD ; ob. 12 Feb., 1793. [Signs as "Minister" 1787-91.]

Thomas Frank, B.A., 1800. [Signs Registers from 23 Oct., 1797, to 1804, and from 1825 to 1835. Son of Edward Frank, gent. ; born at Oswestry, 1755. Of Brasenose Coll., Oxford, matric 27 May, 1773, aged 18 ; B.A., 1777. Died at Coton Hill, Shrewsbury, 22 Jan., 1849.

J. Davies, curate, 1805-21.

B. Maddy, curate, 1836-1846.

H. Moller, officiating minister, 1846.

William Stevens Burd, 1849-80. Son of the Rev. George Burd. Born at Leighton Buzzard 27 Dec., 1817. Of

Ch., Ch., Oxford, matric. 11 May, 1837, B.A. 1841, M.A. 1847. Died at Preston Gobalds 27 August, 1880.

Joshua Brownjohn, 1880-1892. Theological Associate K.C.L. Died at St. Cross, Winchester, Oct., 1893. Formerly Vicar of St. Benedict, Norwich, 1871-4, and Rector of St. Stephen's, Ipswich, 1876-80. The East window was erected in his memory; and there is a brass on the North wall.

John Alexander Kelly, instituted 10 Nov., 1892. Of Trinity Coll., Dublin, B.A. 1862, M.A. 1869. Born at Sandymount, co. Londonderry, 25 Aug., 1839. The present Incumbent of Preston Gobalds.

For many of these particulars I am indebted to the Rev. J. A. Kelly.—Ed.]

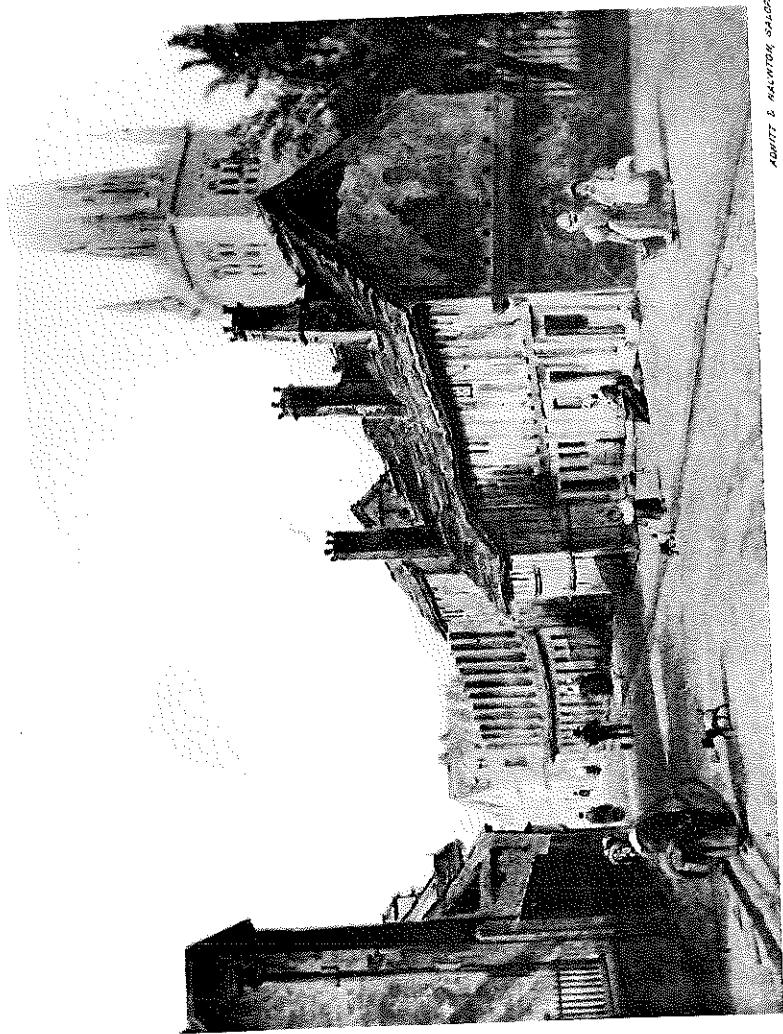
EXTRACTS FROM THE REGISTERS OF PRESTON GOBALDS.

(From G. Morris's MSS. Shropshire Registers, &c.)

(Commences 1559).

- 1560, Ap. 18. Edward, son of John Williams, bapt.
- 1560, Ap. Margaret, daughter of Adam Colfoxe, bapt.
- 1564, Sept. 21. Edward, son of Mr. Edward Owen, bapt.
- 1564, Oct. 5. Richard, son of William Colfoxe, bapt.
- 1570, Ap. 25. Robert and Thomas, sons of John Lee, bapt.
- 1570, Oct. 18. Elizabeth, daughter of George Irelande, bapt.
- 1575, Oct. 5. Tymothie Edwards and Alse Colfoxe mar.
- 1577, Aug. 11. Leonard, son of Leonard Chambers bapt.
- 1578, Jan. 9. George, son of Leonard Chambers, bapt.
- 1581, Feb. 25. Reignold Corbet and Margery Luter mar.
- 1583, Ap. 14. Richard, son of Thomas Wollascot, gent., bapt.
- 1583, Feb. 14. Wm. Tecka, clerk and Ellen Drurye mar.
- 1585, July 2. Sara, daughter of Harry Calcott, bapt.
- 1587, Feb. 20. Roger, son of Mr. Robert Luther, bapt.
- 1590, Dec. 14. Edward, son of Mr. Robert Luther, bur.
- 1591, Ap. 25. Thomas, son of Mr. Robert Luther, bapt.
- 1591, June 11. Katherine, wife of Roger Luther, gent., bur.
- 1591, July 18. Mr. Rd. Thomas and Dorothy Wycherley mar.
- 1591, Aug. 4. Margaret, daughter of Humphrey Lee, Esq., bapt.
- 1591, Jan. 22. Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Robert Luther, bur.
- 1592, Ap. 13. John Wycherley bur.
- 1592, July 23. Richard, son of Mr. Rd. Thomas of Leaton, bapt.
- 1593, Ap. 8. Marye, daughter of Humphrey Lee, Esq., bapt.
- 1594, June 2. Cyselie, daughter of Humphrey Lee, Esq., bapt.
- 1595, May 1. Mary, daughter of Thomas Corbet, gent., bapt.

- 1595, July 24. Samuel, son of Mr. Richard Thomas, bur.
 1595, Oct. 7. Eleanor, daughter of Humphrey Lee, Esq., bapt.;
 bur. 17th.
 1597, Dec. 3. Reignold Corbett, gent., bur.
 1600, Sept. 14. Richard, son of Humphrey Lee, Esq., bapt.;
 b. 7th.
 1601, July 16. Thomas, son of Ellyn Scot, bur.
 1601, Jan. 9. Yevan Lloyd of Dyther, bur., dyeing at Al-
 brighton.
 1604, July 10. Ann, daughter of Tho. Jukes, bapt. at Ad-
 brighton.
 1604, July 31. Thomas, son of Robert Goughe, bapt. at
 Adbrighton.
 1604, Aug. 9. Margaret, w. of Roger Thomas, bur.
 1605, July 1. Rd. Kilverte and Margt. app Rees, mar.
 1605. Roger Hussey and Eller Peirte mar.
 1606, Aug. 10. Robert, son of Roger Hussey, gent., bapt.
 1607, June 11. Elinor, dau. of Humfrey Sandford, gent., bapt.
 1608, Feb. 26. Dorethee, daughter of Richard Kilvart, bur.
 1612, July 26. Fraunces, dau. of Francis Kynaston, Esq., bapt.
 1613, July 26. Edward, son of Francis Kynaston, Esq., bapt.
 1614, Ap. 23. Fraunces, daughter of Roger Hussey, bapt.
 1614, Nov. 15. Robert, son of Rd. and Margt. Kilvarte, bapt.
 1615, Jan. 3. Edward Muckleston, gent., and Mrs. Mary
 Corbett, mar.
 1616, June 18. Robert, son of Richard Kilvarte, bur.
 1616, July 8. Rd. Hussey, gent., and Anne Burde, mar.
 1616, Sept. 13. Margt., wife of Rd. Kilvarte bur.
 1616, Oct. 4. Mary, daughter of Roger and Ellyn Hussey, bapt.
 1616, Mar. 6. Sara, daughter of Edw. Muckleston, gent., and
 Mary, bapt.
 1617, Sept. 21. Margt. daughter of Rd. Hussey, gent., and
 Anne, bapt.
 1618, Nov. 15. Andrew, dau. of Roger Hussey and Ellen, bapt.
 1618, July 4. Frances, daughter of Edward Fowler, Esq., bur.
 1619, Ap. 7. Margery, daughter of Edw. Muckleston, gent.,
 and Mary, bapt.
 1619, July 7. Barbara, dau. of Sir Francis Kynaston, Knt., bur.
 1620, Aug. 8. Symon Meyricke and Mrs. Margt. Clyve, mar
 1620, Jan. 21. Mary, daughter of Edw. Muckleston, gent., and
 Mary, bapt.
 1620, Mar. 9. Margt., dau. of Roger and Ellyn Hussey, bapt.
 1621. William Tecka, curate, signs the Register.
 1622, Feb. 24. Wm. Colfox jr. and Cyceley Spyser mar. at
 Battlefield,



ADMITT & WALTON, OSLOR.

St. Mary's Almshouses - Erected 1450, taken down 1825.

THE DRAPERS' COMPANY CHARTER.

BY THE REV. C. H. DRINKWATER, M.A.

OF the numerous Fraternities and Gilds which once existed in Shrewsbury, the Drapers is the only one which survives in any shape or form. It has undergone the usual vicissitudes, but through them all has managed to retain some of its property, now used for charitable purposes, and to maintain its Hall, its furniture, and "a fine old carved chest" full of books, papers, and other documents, some day, it is hoped, to be carefully examined and given forth to the world. When this is done, some interesting revelations respecting its past history and connexion with the municipality may be hoped for. But among these documents we do not expect to find its "Ancient Charter," for that is believed to have been destroyed by fire.

In the early years of the present century there was a lawsuit, and search was made for the Charter, and that it was not found we may conclude from the production of an office copy in *English* made from the Records which were then deposited in the Tower of London. This office copy was found among family papers a few months ago by a gentleman now residing in Wales, whose father, at the time above referred to, held office in the Corporation, and may be supposed to have retained it when the trial was over. It was sent to me as a curiosity, and finding it to contain, in addition to its main purpose, some matters of interest to antiquaries, I made enquiries respecting the original, with the result above stated. Subsequently I found in the

Shrewsbury Free Library, in one of the MS. volumes compiled by the learned and industrious Leonard Hotchkis, M.A. (Head Master of the Free School from 1735 to 1754), his transcript of the original Latin Charter. This I am now able to set before the public, and have added to it the "office copy" of the translation before alluded to.

In most respects they agree; some slight inaccuracies and one omission were noticed in the collation, but nothing of importance. We may suppose Mr. Hotchkis not to have had sufficient experience in reading documents of that remote age to have enabled him to preserve the exact force of the abbreviations used, or to distinguish between such as are somewhat alike, but I think in extending them, according to the wish of the Council, I have managed to obviate any mistakes which would tell against the general accuracy of the whole. The omission is of the clause whereby the King authorised "the Master and Wardens and Brothers and Sisters and their Successors to have a Common Seal to serve for ever for their Businesses and Acts." This seal, however, may still be found in the ancient carved chest which exists among their property.

We shall miss some other items of great interest which the parchment original would have given, such as the additional seals attached, and the names of the attesting witnesses, but we must be grateful for what we have, and hope, when the contents of the chest are overhauled, to obtain some further particulars of a Company which has existed in our midst for more than four centuries.

Drapers Salop'

Pat. 1° E. 4 p° 3. m. 6.

Rex omnibus ad quos &c. Salutem. Sciatis quod cum dilecti Nobis homines mistere pannariorum Ville nostre Salop' et eorum Predecessores et non modico tempore transacto intimam et fraternam delectionem habentes, adeo quo valebant florescere et augere, intime affectantes ad laudem et honorem Dei Summi et Individue Sancte Trinitatis, unam fraternitatem

sive Gildam de seipsis facere fundare et stabilire preponentes quedam divina servicia Ornamenta. Necnon alia diuersa Caritatis opera ibidem per longum tempus elapsam annuatim ad decus Altissime Sancteque Trinitatis infra Ecclesiam Parochialem et Collegiatam beate Marie de Salop' pie exhibuerunt inuenerunt ac Caritative sustentauerunt et continuauerunt pacifice et quiete, ipsique metuentes et intime advertentes dictam fraternitatem non posse perdurare eo quod fraternitas illa rite et legitime non sit fundata et stabilita quamquam eadem fraternitas pie et devote continuata existeret, nobis humillime Supplicauerunt quatenus eorum piis et devote intencio'ibus in hac parte velimus intime delect'cois affectu benignissime confovere. Nos premissa deliberantes et ponderantes et ut fraternitas sive Gilda de huiusmodi hominibus Mistere predictae infra Villam predictam perpetuis futurisque temporibus habeatur et inde sinentur perseveret proinde volentes ac ad fundandam huiusmodi fraternitatem sive Gildam de supradictis hominibus super personam nostram ob devocionem quam penes Gloriosam Sanctamque Trinitatem specialiter gerimus et habemus assumentes nosque fundatorem fraternitatis sive Gilde illius imperpetuum appellari, Volentes, ad laudem gloriam et honorem Santissime Trinitatis volentesque ea que ad ejus laudem vel honorem sunt vel esse possunt potius Augmentari quam minui ut singulariter tenemur de gratia nostra speciali et ex certa sciencia nostra quandam fraternitatem sive Gildam de prefatis ligeis nostris hominibus de dicta mistera pannariorum Ville nostre predictae ac quibuscumque aliis Christi fidelibus de eadem fraternitate sive Gilde esse volentibus ad inveniendum, et sustentandum unum Capellanum divina singulis diebus pro statu nostro ac statu fratrum et sororum ejusdem fraternitatis sive Gilde dum viximus et pro anima nostra ac inclita memoria carissimorum patris nostri Ricardi et Edmundi Nuper Comitum Rutelandie fratris nostri ac aliorum progenitorum heredum et successorum nostrorum et (pro) animabus fratrum et sororum ejusdem fraternitatis sive Gilde illius postquam ab hac luce migraverimus et (pro) animabus omnium fidelium defunctorum celebraturum ac ceteras pauperes personas utriusque sexus pro statu et animabus predictis apud altissimum (altarem) similiter imperpetuum exoraturi et deprecaturi in predicta Ecclesia Parochiali sive Collegiata fecimus fundavimus creavimus, ereximus et stabilavimus ac per presentes facimus fundamus creamus erigimus et stabilimus perpetuis futurisque temporibus duraturis, Propterea de uberiori gratia nostra concessimus

fratribus et sororibus fraternitatis sive Gilde predictæ sic per nos factæ fundatæ creatæ erectæ et stabilite quod fraternitas sive Gilda illa sic per nos facta fundata creatæ erecta et stabilita fraternitas sive Gilda Sancte Trinitatis de hominibus mistere pannariorum Ville nostre Salop' in perpetuum nuncuparetur et quod fratres et sorores fraternitatis sive Gilde illius sic per nos factæ fundatæ creatæ et stabilite sint per se una Communitas perpetua corporata in re habeantque successionem perpetuam et dilectos nobis Johannem Knight hominem de mistera predicta Ville nostre predictæ in Magistrum ac Degorium watur et Ricardum watur alios de Mistera ejusdem Ville in custodes sive Gardianos fraternitatis sive Gilde illius ordinamus preficimus creamus pro anno proximo futuro et volumus et concedimus quod iidem Magister et Gardiani ac fratres et sorores fraternitatis sive Gilde illius eorum successores quascunque personas eis grato animo adherentes in fratres et sorores fraternitatis sive Gilde illius recipere et acceptare possint. Ac capellanus et pauperes supradicti in Ecclesia Parochiali sive Collegiata predicta ut predictum est pro statu animabus predictis celebraturi et oraturi juxta ordinac'oem majoris et sanioris partis eorundem fratrum et sororum et successorum suorum in hac parte faciendum quodque fratres et sorores ejusdem fraternitatis sive Gilde predictæ et eorum successores ex nunc unum Magistrum et duos Gardianos de se ipsis pro sana Gubernac'o'e ejusdem fraternitatis sive Gilde de anno in annum et quociens pro commodo et honore fraternitatis sive Gilde illius fuerit expediendum eligere possint ac ipsos ab eorum successoribus remove et expellere Necnon alium magistrum et alios Gardianos in officia predicta eligere et facere valeant juxta Ordinac'oem Majoris et sanioris partis eorundem fratrum et sororum et successorum suorum in hac parte faciendum. Et quod Magistri et Gardiani fraternitatis sive Gilde predictæ cum sic electi fuerint ac fratres et sorores ejusdem fraternitatis sive Gilde per nos ut predictum est fundatæ et stabilite et successores sui Magistri et Gardiani ac fratres et sorores fraternitatis sive Gilde Sancte Trinitatis de hominibus mistere pannariorum Ville nostre Salop' imperpetuum nuncuparentur iidemque Magistri et Gardiani ac fratres et sorores et eorum successores per nomen Magistri et Gardianorum ac fratrum et sororum fraternitatis sive Gilde Sancte Trinitatis de hominibus mistere pannariorum Ville nostri predictæ per se sint persone habiles et capaces in lege ad perquirendum et recipiendum in feodo et perpetuitate terras tenementa et alias possessiones quecunque tenendum eis et eorum successoribus

imperpetuum. Ac eciam quod iidem Magistri et Gardiani ac fratres et sorores et eorum successores per idem nomen et sub eorum nomine placitare et implacitari respondere et responderi possint in quibuscunque curiis placeis et locis nostris heredum et successorum nostrorum ac in curiis placeis et locis aliorum quorumcumque tam coram nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris quam coram Justiciariis et Iudicibus Spiritualibus et temporalibus quibuscunque in omnimodis accoi'bus realibus personalibus et mixtis sectis querelis et demandis secundum leges et Consuetudines regni nostri Anglie ad omnia alia facienda et exercenda et recipienda prout in eorundem modo quo ceteri ligei nostri persone habiles et capaces infra idem regnum nostrum placitant et implicitantur ac faciant et facere poterint in Curiis et locis predictis Secundum leges et Consuetudines predictas. Necnon quod predicti Magistri et Gardiani ac fratres et sorores et eorum successores¹

congregac'oes licitatas et honestas de seipsis ac Statuta et ordinac'oes licitas tam pro dicto Capellano et pauperibus supradictis pro statu et animabus predictis in forma predicta celebraturis et deprecaturis quam pro salubri Gubernac'o'e fraternitatis sive Gilde supradicte secundum necessitatem exigenciam quociens et quando opus fuerit facere valeant licite et impune sine occasi'oe impedimento proturbac'oe vel molestac'oe nostri heredum seu successorum nostrorum Justiciarorum Escaetorum Vicecomitum Coronatorum aut aliorum Ballivorum vel Ministrorum nostrorum vel heredum seu successorum nostrorum quorumcumque. Ac insuper de gratia nostra speciali et ex certa scientia et mero motu nostro dedimus et concessimus et per presentes damus et concedimus prefatis Magistro et Gardianis ac fratribus et sororibus fraternitatis sive Gilde predictae omnia illa terras et tenementa redditus et servicia cum suis pertinentiis que nuper habuimus simul cum Margareta Daking et Rogero Webbe tam in Villa Salop' quam eciam in forieta Monachorum. Calneham et Castelli forieta in suburbiis Salop' ac alibi infra libertatem ejusdem Ville ex dono et feoffamenti Nicholai Gerard nuper de Salop armigeri Ac etiam omnia illa terras et tenementa redditus servicia cum suis pertinentiis in Salop que nuper habuimus ex dono et feoffamento hugonis Dyer alias dicti hugonis Berewick, Habendum et tenendum omnia terras et tenementa redditus et servicia predicta cum suis pertinentiis

¹ Clause omitted respecting a Common Seal.

universis prefatis Magistro et Gardianis ac fratribus et sororibus fraternitatis sive Gilde predictæ et successoribus suis de nobis et heredibus nostris per servicia inde debita et de jure consueta ad capellatum et pauperes predictos sustentandum et alia pietatis opera faciendum imperpetuum Et ulterius concessimus et licentiam dedimus pro nobis et pro heredibus nostris quantum in nobis est prefatis Magistris et Gardianis ac fratribus et sororibus fraternitatis sive Gilde predictæ et eorum successoribus quod ipsi terras tenementa et redditum ad valorem quadraginta librarum per Annum que de (nobis) immediate non tenentur in Capite de quibuscumque personis vel persona ea eis dare legare vel assignare et volentibus vel volente perquirere et ea recipere et tenere possint sibi et successoribus suis imperpetuum. Statuto de terris et tenementis ad Manum Mortuum non ponendo edito aut quod expressa mencio de specialitate et certitudine predictorum terrarum tenementium reddituum et servitorum inde de vero valore annuo eorundem in presentibus minime facto existit non obstante Et hec de gratia nostra speciali absque fine seu fœdo ad opus nostrum vel heredum nostrorum pro premissis vel aliquo premissorum solvendo

In cujus rei &c. Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium xij die Januarii. per breve de privato Sigillo et de dato &c.

Amongst the Records of the Court of Chancery kept in the Tower of London (to wit) the Patent rolls of the 1st Year of the reign of King Edward after the Conquest of England the 4th p. 3. m. 6. it is thus contained.

<p><i>For the Men of the Mystery of Drapers of the Town of Shrewsbury</i></p>	}	<p>The King To all to whom &c. Greeting Know ye that whereas our beloved the Men of the Mystery of Drapers of our Town of Shrews- bury and their predecessors for no inconsiderable Time past having a close and fraternal Affection insomuch that they have been able to flourish and increase being earnestly zealous for the praise and honour of Almighty God and of the holy undivided Trinity and with the purpose of making founding and establishing of themselves a Fraternity or Guild have piously exhibited found and charitably supported certain divine Services ecclesiastical ornaments and also have peace- ably and quietly kept up divers other works of Charity and piety there for a long Time past yearly to the Glory of the</p>
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most high and sacred Trinity within the parish and collegiate Church of the blessed Mary of Shrewsbury And they fearing and deeply considering that the said Fraternity cannot continue for that the same Fraternity is not rightfully and lawfully founded and established although the same Fraternity may be piously and devoutly continued have humbly besought us that We would please to cherish with our most benignant and especial Favour their pious and devout Intentions in this Behalf We the premises duly considering and providently desirous that there be a Fraternity or Guild of such Men of the Mystery aforesaid within the Town aforesaid at all future Times for ever and that it be continually kept up and taking upon our own person to found such Fraternity or Guild of the Men abovesaid on account of the Devotion which we specially bear and have towards the glorious and holy Trinity And being willing to be called for ever the Founder of the same Fraternity or Guild to the praise Glory and Honor of the most holy Trinity and desirous rather to augment than to diminish those Things which are or may be to the praise or Honor of the same as We are particularly bound of our special Grace and of our certain Knowledge and mere Motion have made founded created erected and established and by these presents Do make found create erect and establish in all future times for ever to continue a certain Fraternity or Guild of our aforesaid liege Men the Men of the said Mystery of Drapers of our Town aforesaid and other faithful Christians whomsoever willing to be of the same Fraternity or Guild to find and support one Chaplain to celebrate divine Service every Day for our Estate and the Estate of the Brothers and Sisters of the same Fraternity or Guild whilst living and for the Souls of us and of our most dear Father Richard of famous Memory and of Edmund late Earl of Rutland our Brother and of other our progenitors Heirs and Successors and the Souls of the Brothers and Sisters of the same Fraternity or Guild after they shall have departed this Life and the Souls of all faithful Men deceased and also to support certain poor persons of both sexes who shall likewise pray and intreat for the Estate and Souls aforesaid at the high Altar in the aforesaid parish or collegiate Church for ever Moreover of our more abundant Grace We have granted to the Brothers and Sisters of the Fraternity or Guild aforesaid so by us made founded created erected and established that the same Fraternity or Guild so by us made founded created erected and established be called for ever the Fraternity or Guild of the holy Trinity of the Men of the Mystery of Drapers of our Town of Shrewsbury and that the Brothers and Sisters

of the same Fraternity or Guild so by us made founded erected and established be by themselves one perpetual corporate Community in Deed and Name and that they have perpetual succession and We ordain appoint and create our beloved John Knight a Man of the Mystery aforesaid of our Town aforesaid as Master and Diggory Watur and Richard Watur others of the Mystery of the same Town as Keepers or Wardens of the same Fraternity or Guild for one Year next coming And We will and grant that the same Master and Wardens and the Brothers and Sisters of the same Fraternity or Guild and their Successors may receive and accept any persons whomsoever well affectioned to them as Brothers and Sisters of the same Fraternity or Guild And that the Chaplain and poor persons aforesaid celebrate and pray in the parish or collegiate Church aforesaid as is aforesaid for the Estate and Souls aforesaid according to the Ordinance of the greater and more discreet part of the same Brothers and Sisters and their Successors in this Behalf to be made, And that the Brothers and Sisters of the same Fraternity or Guild aforesaid and their Successors henceforth may be able to elect one Master and two Wardens from themselves for the wholesome Government of the same Fraternity or Guild from Year to Year and so often as for the Advantage and Honor of the same Fraternity or Guild it shall be expedient, and them from their [offices] to amove and expel and also may be able to elect and make another Master and other Wardens into the offices aforesaid according to the Ordinance of the greater and more discreet part of the same Brothers and Sisters and their Successors in this Behalf to be made And that the Master and Wardens of the Fraternity or Guild aforesaid when they shall have been so elected and the Brothers and Sisters of the same Fraternity or Guild by us as aforesaid founded and established and their Successors be called for ever the Masters and Wardens and Brothers and Sisters of the Fraternity or Guild of the holy Trinity of the Men of the Mystery of Drapers of the Town of Shrewsbury And that the same Master and Wardens and Brothers and Sisters and their Successors by the Name of the Master and Wardens and Brothers and Sisters of the Fraternity or Guild of the holy Trinity of the Men of the Mystery of Drapers of our Town aforesaid by themselves be persons fit and in the Law capable to acquire and receive in Fee and perpetuity Lands Tenements and other possessions whatsoever to hold to them and their Successors for ever And also that the same Master and Wardens and Brothers and Sisters and their Successors by the same Name and under their Name

may plead and be impleaded answer and be answered in any of the Courts and places whatsoever of us our Heirs and Successors and in the Courts and places of others whomsoever as well before us our Heirs and Successors as before any spiritual and temporal Justices and Judges whomsoever in all manner of Actions real personal and mixed Suits plaints and Demands according to the Laws and Customs of our Kingdom of England and to do exercise and receive all other Things in the same manner as other our liege Subjects persons fit and capable within our same Kingdom may plead and be impleaded and perform and do in the Courts and places aforesaid according to the Laws and Customs aforesaid¹ And also that the aforesaid Master and Wardens and Brothers and Sisters and their Successors may have a common Seal to serve for ever for their Businesses and Acts and that they and their Successors may be able lawfully and with Impunity to make lawful and honest Assemblies of themselves and lawful Statutes and Ordinances as well for the said Chaplain and poor persons aforesaid celebrating and praying for the Estate and Souls aforesaid in Form aforesaid as for the wholesome Government of the Fraternity or Guild abovesaid according to the Exigence of Necessity so often as and when it shall be requisite without the Hindrance Impediment Disturbance or Molestation of us our Heirs or Successors Justices Escheators Sheriffs Coroners or other the Bailiffs or Ministers whomsoever of us our Heirs or Successors Moreover of our special Grace certain Knowledge and mere Motion We have given and granted and by these presents Do give and grant to the aforesaid Master and Wardens and Brothers and Sisters of the Fraternity or Guild aforesaid All those our Lands and Tenements Rents and Services with their Appurtenances which We lately had together with Margaret Dakkes² and Roger Webbe as well in the Town of Shrewsbury as also in Monksforegate Calneham and Castleforegate in the suburbs of Shrewsbury and elsewhere within the Liberty of the same Town of the Gift and Feoffment of Nicholas Gerrard late of Shrewsbury Esquire and also all those Lands and Tenements Rents and Services with their Appurtenances in Shrewsbury which we lately had of the Gift and Feoffment of Hugh Dyer otherwise called Hugh Berewik³ To have and to hold all the

¹ Clause omitted See the Latin..

² Daking.

³ Berewick.

Lands and Tenements Rents and Services aforesaid with all their Appurtenances to the aforesaid Master and Wardens and Brothers and Sisters of the Fraternity or Guild aforesaid and their Successors of us and our Heirs by the Services therefore due and of right accustomed to support the Chaplain and poor persons aforesaid and to do other Works of piety for ever And further We have granted and given Licence for us and our Heirs as much as in us lies to the aforesaid Master and Wardens and Brothers and Sisters of the Fraternity or Guild aforesaid and their Successors that they may be able to purchase Lands Tenements and Rents to the value of forty pounds by the Year which are not held of us immediately in Chief of any person or persons whomsoever willing to give bequeath or assign the same to them And that they may be able to receive and hold the same to them and their Successors for ever the Statute passed for not putting Lands and Tenements to mortmain or although express mention in these presents is not made of the specialty and certainty of the aforesaid Lands Tenements and the Services thereof and of the true yearly value thereof notwithstanding and this of our special Grace without Fine or Fee to the use of us or our Heirs for the premises or any of them to be paid In Testimony whereof &c. Witness the King at Westminster the twelfth Day of January.

By Writ of privy Seal and of the Date &c.

10th June, 1824.

Translated from an Office

Copy of the Inrollment.

HENRY WM. HEWLETT,

Gt. James Street.

In the *Calendarium Rotulorum Patentium de Anno 1 Regis Edwardi Quarti* (A.D. 1461, 2), there is mention made of this Charter. The words are there brief enough, but very significant—"Peramplæ libertates concessæ pannariis villæ Salop'"—very great liberties granted to the Drapers of the Town of Salop—words which seem to imply that the provisions of this Charter were unusually liberal, such as were seldom conferred on any fraternity. The trade in wool and in woollen goods was of the very highest importance to

the prosperity of the realm, and not merely more restrictions were placed upon the importation and exportation of the raw material and the manufactured article, but it was fostered by ample privileges of every kind. The London Drapers had been incorporated only 23 years before, and 5 years later, in 1466, 7, they received only *amplam confirmationem libertatum*. The situation of Shrewsbury on the borders of Wales may partly account for the favour it received, and possibly the King may have desired to strengthen the bonds of attachment to his dynasty in the case of the inhabitants of the most important town of the Marches. Neither Hereford, Worcester, or Gloucester appear to have received similar charters, or to have had such fraternities established by Royal Charter. Mr. Hibbert says:—"There arose considerable competition for the lucrative market which the expansion of Welsh industry was every day rendering more profitable. The inhabitants of Chester made a vigorous attempt to obtain the erection in their city of "a staple for the cottons and friezes of North Wales." Shrewsbury was, however, enabled to prevent the completion of the scheme (Influence and Development of English Gilds, Cambridge University Press 1891, page 92).

To the above copies there is now appended an Act of Parliament of the 8th year of Queen Elizabeth, which throws some light upon the altered circumstances of the Fraternity a century later. The religious and charitable provisions of the Charter, though not abolished, for they still exist, seem to have fallen into the background, and are only incidentally referred to, while the acquisition of wealth and the maintenance of their commercial privileges have become the main objects of their care. The trade with Wales had been for many years a monopoly, and had risen to such a height as to become an object of jealousy and envy to others not so well qualified to carry it on as

they were, and there had been much intrusion and encroachment. This may be gathered from the fact of a Statute having been passed in the previous reign (Philip and Mary) to secure them against the intrusion of others, giving them a monopoly of the Welsh trade, and imposing heavy penalties upon such as infringed it. Such intrusion was to be expected. Increasing civilization had abolished many restrictions in other matters, and the population, since the cessation of the Wars of the Roses, had increased rapidly, and envious eyes regarded the Drapers as being somewhat out of date. It is interesting to note the signs of their prosperity—that they were able “to set on work above 600 persons at one branch of their craft—that they had dealings in Foreign parts,” and, incidentally, that they were afraid of being compelled to restrict their charitable relief, the area of which had evidently been enlarged.

The following Act of Parliament concerning the Drapers' Company of Shrewsbury was passed in the year 1566.

Anno octavo Regine Elizabethæ.

CAP. VII.

An Act touching Drapers, Cottoners, and Frizers of Shrewsbury.

Forasmuch as in the Town of Shrewsbury in the County of Salop, there hath been time out of mind of man, and yet is, a Company, Fraternity, or Guild of the Art and Mystery of Drapers; which said Company, Fraternity, or Guild, hath been by a great time lawfully Incorporated, and made a Body Politick: (2) which said Corporation and Fraternity, hath by reason of a certain Trade and Occupation of buying and selling of Welsh Cloth and Lining, commonly called Cottons, Frizes, and Plains, which they have had and used amongst them, been able not only to live thereby, but also have at their common costs provided Houses and other Necessaries for poor people within the said Town of Shrewsbury, whom also with further relief they do weekly help and maintain: (3) And by the same their Trade aforesaid, have used most commonly

Drapery, 55
Who may use
the Trade or
Occupation of
Drapers in
Shrewsbury,
or the
Liberties
thereof, &c.
What benefit
the same
Company
have received
and done to
others by
buying and
selling of
Welsh Cloth
and Lining.

to set on work above six hundred persons of the Art or Science of Sheermen, or Frizers, within the said Town of Shrewsbury, whereby as well they, as their poor Wives and Families, are wholly maintained and kept; (4) To the impeachment and hinderance of which said Trade, divers Artificers, and other persons within the said Town of Shrewsbury, not being of the said Company or Mystery, nor brought up in the use of the said Trade, have of late with great disorder, upon a meer covetous desire and mind, intromitted with, and occupied the said trade of buying Welsh Cloth or Lining, having no knowledge, experience or skill in the same; by reason whereof, the said ignorant and unskilful persons have and do buy commonly and daily such Welsh Cloth and Linings as is defective, and not truly made according to the good Laws and Statutes of this Realm in that behalf provided: (5) By means whereof, the said Trade is greatly decayed and discredited, to the great loss and hinderance of such poor Sheermen and Frizers, as were wont to be set on work thereby, and of all others that were wont to be maintained and relieved by the said Trade, as well in making as working of the said Frizes, Cottons and Plains, and to the great deceit, damage and hinderance of all the Queens Majesties Subjects that buy and provide the same, and to the slander and discredit of the said Commodities in Foreign Parts, where, by the occasion aforesaid, they are grown out of estimation and credit.

The inconveniences that unskilful persons do, that deal in a Trade where of they are ignorant.

II. And where moreover in the Parliament holden at Westminster, in the fourth and fifth years of the Reign of our late Sovereign Lord and Lady, King Philip and Queen Mary, upon good and deliberate advice, amongst other things it was enacted, That no person or persons which should buy to sell again, by way of retail, or otherwise, any of the said Welsh Linings, should dress or work, or cause to be dressed and wrought within his or their dwellinghouse or houses, or in any other place by himself or his servant, any of the said Welsh Linings, but should put the same to some such person or persons as should be of the Art or Science of Sheermen, Cottoners, or Frizers, to be by them wrought and dressed, upon pain of forfeiture for every Welsh Cloth or Lining frized or cottoned to the contrary, Six shillings and eight pence,

The good intent of the Statute of 4 & 5 P. & M. 5.

as in the same Act doth appear: (2) Sithence which time, divers persons for the defrauding of the said Statute, have caused others to buy the said Frizes, Cottons and Plains, and than to take the workmanship thereof unto themselves, of such buyers, using the like fraud, by buying and turning work over unto the same persons of whom they receive work, to the manifest defrauding of the good intent and meaning of the said Statute:

By what fraudulent means the good intent of the said Statute is defeated.

III. For remedy whereof, and for the benefit and relief of the poor men that be Sheermen and Frizers, (2) Be it enacted by the authority of this present Parliament, that from and after the Feast of Easter next ensuing, no manner of person or persons whatsoever inhabiting and dwelling within the said Town of Shrewsbury, or the Liberties and Franchises of the same Town, other than such as have, or shall have served as Apprentices in the said Occupation and Science of Drapers, or be, or shall be free of the said Science or Mystery, shall occupy, use, exercise or frequent the said Trade, Art, Mystery or Science of buying of the said Welsh Cloth or Lining, Cottons, Frizes and Plains, nor having any Factor or doer for him or them in the same, nor by any colour, engine or fraud, by any Occupier of the said Frizes, Cottons, and Plains, (3) upon pain that every person and persons, inhabiting as is aforesaid, and occupying, using or exercising the said Trade, Occupation or Science of buying of Welsh Cloth and Lining, and not authorised by this present Act, shall lose and forfeit for every piece of the same Clothes so bought, Six shillings and eight pence.

No person inhabiting in Shrewsbury, shall occupy the Trade of buying of Welsh Cottons, &c., unless he be free thereof. Rep. 14 El. 12.

IV. And over that, be it further enacted, That no person dwelling and inhabiting, as is aforesaid, and using and occupying the said Trade of buying of Frizes, Cottons or Plains, shall use or exercise the Faculty of Frizing or Cottoning, upon pain to incur such like forfeitures for every offence, as is above mentioned: (2) The moiety of all such pains and forfeitures above mentioned, shall be to our Sovereign Lady the Queen, her Heirs and Successors, and the other moiety to such person or persons as will sue for the same in any Court of Record, by Action, Bill or Plaint of Debt; wherein no Protection, Essoin, Injunction or Wager of Law shall be allowed and admitted.

He that occupieth the Trade of buying of Frizes, Cottons, &c., shall not exercise to Frize or Cotton.

V. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That this present Act, or any thing, sentence or matter therein contained, shall not extend, or be in any wise prejudicial or hurtful to any such person or persons as have heretofore used, occupied, or frequented the said Trade, Art, Mystery or Science of buying or selling of Welsh Clothes or Linings aforesaid, but that every such person or persons which hath or have used the said Trade or Science as is aforesaid, shall and may have and enjoy the like benefit, commodity and advantage, as well in buying and selling the said Welsh Clothes and Linings as otherwise, in as large, free and ample manner and form, as if this Act had never been made.

A Proviso for them that occupied before the Trade of buying of Welsh Cloth.

VI. And further, to the intent the said poor Sheermen, Frizers and Cottoners, may be the better relieved and maintained, (2) Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all and every person and persons occupying and using, or which hereafter at any time shall occupy or use the said Trade, Science or Art of buying or selling of Welsh Cloth and Linings aforesaid, and shall from the Feast of Easter next ensuing, deliver any Welsh Cloth or Linings aforesaid, to be cottoned, frized, dressed or wrought, to any Sheerman, Cottoner or Frizer, shall deliver, content and pay to the said Sheerman, Cottoner or Frizer, ready and present money for all his said work, without any colour, fraud or engine whatsoever, and shall not deliver any Ware or other thing whatsoever in contentation or satisfaction of his said work, or any part thereof, (3) upon pain that every person offending in that behalf, shall forthwith lose all such Liberties, Freedoms and Priviledges, which he hath or shall have, as one of the said Company, Fraternity or Guild of the said Art and Mystery of Drapers; and also shall for ever after, be utterly disabled and excluded to use, occupy or enjoy, by himself, or by any other for him, or to his use, the said Trade, Art, Mystery or Science of buying or selling of Welsh Clothes or Linings; This Act, or any other matter or thing whatsoever to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

Occupiers of the Trade of buying and selling Welsh Cloth, shall pay to their Sheermen ready money.

There are words and phrases in the Act which are not readily understood at the present day, some of which I will endeavour to explain. *ex. gr.*

Welsh Cloths must mean woollen cloth, more or less of the nature of what we now call flannel, serge, and tweed.

Linings I take to be linens; first manufactured in England by Flemish weavers, under the protection of Henry III., in 1253. Before that era, woollen shirts were worn. The cultivation of both flax and hemp was insisted on by Henry VIII.

Cottons.—When cloth is finished or rises to a regular nap, it is said to *cotton*. This word may therefore be regarded as denoting such cloths as had a nap raised by teasles, and which were *sheared* to an uniform length by the faculty of shearmen, or sheremen, whom they employed in such numbers.

Frizes or *friezes* denotes a coarse narrow cloth much in use. Garments having long wool were said to be friezed. Archdeacon Nares says it was a sort of coarse warm cloth, probably made first in *Friesland*.

Plains, or *playns*.—Cloth simply woven, without any after-dressing.

Sheermen or *Frizers* (Scherman, tondeur) cloth dressers, who clip off the nap uniformly.

Intromitted, interfered.

Essoin or *essoine* here signifies an excuse.

Wager of Law.—When one *wages his Law* (*vadiat legem*) he shall bring with him so many of his neighbours as the Court shall assign (Sir Edward Coke says eleven) to swear with him, that they think he hath sworn truly; who in the civil law are called *Compurgators*. Coke on Littleton says it is called *Wager of Law* because in old time the Party did engage with Surety to make his Law by such a Day.

Engine or *Ingene* means contrivance, from Latin *ingenium*.

N.B.—The illustration which forms the frontispiece to this paper is a reproduction by Mr. H. Hughes, of Belmont, Shrewsbury, of a water-colour in his possession, painted by Mr. Philip Brown about 1825.



Yours truly
Joseph F. O. Bidgeman

IN MEMORIAM: THE REV. AND HON.
GEORGE THOMAS ORLANDO BRIDGEMAN,

HONORARY CANON OF LIVERPOOL.

BY MRS. BALDWIN CHILDE.

By the death of George Bridgeman, Rector of Wigan, Shropshire, Staffordshire, and Lancashire have sustained the loss of one of their most indefatigable and learned recorders of family and place history. He died at the Hall, Wigan, on Monday, Nov. 25th, 1895, and although since 1888 his health has caused anxiety to his friends, he worked bravely on, amid the arduous duties and numberless calls of a large parish, and literally died in harness.

His self-denying life, his devotion to his work, his loving sympathy and kindness and courtesy to all, and his enthusiastic interest in everything he undertook, will be long remembered by his many friends and parishioners. He lies buried near his wife's grave in the Churchyard of Blymhill, Staffordshire.

The Hon. George Thomas Orlando Bridgeman was the second son of the second (Bridgeman) Earl of Bradford, and was born at Castle Bromwich August 21, 1823.

The family of Bridgeman hails from Devonshire, and Edward Bridgeman was Sheriff of Exeter in 1578. His grandson and heir, John Bridgeman, was Rector of Wigan from 1616 to 1643, Chaplain to King James I., and consecrated Bishop of Chester 1618.¹

¹ There is a picture of Bishop Bridgeman at the Hall, Wigan, on which is painted in one corner the "Earth" (a globe) and far above it a sunny heaven, with a reference to Luke xvi., ver. 26, and these words, GRATIA DEI PONS HOMINI—being a play upon the Bishop's name, Bridgeman.

He died at his son's house at Moreton, near Oswestry, in 1652, and is buried at Kinnerley, Shropshire. His son and heir, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and afterwards Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, purchased the advowson of Wigan shortly after the Restoration, and the presentation still remains with his descendant, the present Earl of Bradford. By his marriage with the daughter and heiress of John Kynaston of Moreton, near Oswestry, the connection of the Bridgemans with this county commenced, and was further increased by the marriage of Sir John Bridgeman (his grandson) with Ursula, sole heiress of Roger Matthews of Blodwell, Shropshire.

Through the marriage of Sir Orlando Bridgeman of Castle Bromwich, in 1719, with Lady Anne Newport, the Bridgemans became possessors of Weston in Staffordshire and the representatives (in the female line) of the ancient Shropshire family of Newport of High Ercall, which for many centuries has taken an active part in the history of the county.

An ancestor of the Newports was living in Shropshire in the reign of King John, and Thomas Newport, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1404, obtained the Manor of High Ercall by marriage with Anne, daughter and sole heir of John de Ercalewe, whose arms the Newports quartered.¹ William Newport, Sheriff of Shropshire 1472, greatly increased his family estate by his marriage with Elizabeth, one of the four daughters and coheirs of Sir John Burgh of Wattlesborough and Mawddwy. Her descendants share with those of her three sisters the representation of the ancient families of Clopton, Mawddwy, the Princes of South Wales, and the Princes of Upper Powys. Sir Richard, a member of the Marches of Wales, became by his marriage with the heiress of Lord Chief Justice Bromley the possessor of the beautiful estate of Eyton-on-Severn, near Wroxeter. Sir Francis, his son, built a fine gabled

¹ See Bridgeman's *History of the Newport Family*, page 6.

house at High Ercall (which still exists as a farmhouse). The date, 1608, and the builder's name are recorded on a stone inserted in the wall; it was garrisoned for Charles I. The Peerages which were bestowed on the Newports are now extinct, and the immense possessions which they inherited through the successive heiresses of the Ercalls, Burghs, and Bromleys have passed away to others.

Mr. George Bridgeman was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, and took his M.A. degree in 1845. He spent one year at the Theological College at Wells, and in 1849 was ordained Deacon by George (Murray) Bishop of Rochester, his title to Holy Orders being Domestic Chaplain to his father. He served the Curacy of South Fleet, and in 1850 the curacy of Bolton-le-Moors in Lancashire.

The same year he was presented by Lord Forester to the Rectory of Willey, with the perpetual Curacy of Barrow.

1853 he was instituted to the living of Blymhill.

1863 was appointed Rural Dean of Brewood.

1864 he was instituted by the Bishop of Chester to the important charge of Wigan in Lancashire.

1865 appointed Rural Dean of Wigan.

1868 became Honorary Chaplain to the Queen.

1872 Chaplain in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

1872 he was collated by the Bishop of Chester to an honorary Canonry in Chester Cathedral, and in

1880 he was transferred to Liverpool, on the creation of that Diocese.

Mr. Bridgeman was J.P. for the counties of Salop and Stafford, Chaplain to the Wigan Volunteers, a member of the Governing Bodies of Rossall School, Cleobury Mortimer Agricultural College, Wigan Grammar School, and Standish Grammar School.

He built the Rectory (the Hall) at Wigan from designs by Mr. Street. He built a Nurses' Home there, and largely contributed to various improvements in the Parish Church.

He was one of the original Vice-Presidents of the Shropshire Archæological Society, and was one of the Trustees of the William Salt Library at Stafford and a member of the Editorial Committee of the William Salt Archæological Society.

His contributions to the *Transactions* of the Shropshire Archæological Society were:—

Some Account of the Families of Beysin, Morehall and Clopton
Lords of Billingsley, co. Salop, vol. i., p. 281.

The Mitton and Ludlow Pedigrees, vol. ix., p. 391.

Some Account of the Family of Bromley of Eyton-upon-Severn, vol. i., p. 1.

Some Account of the Family of Forester of Watling Street
and now of Willey in the County of Salop, vol. iii., p. 151.

To the Historical Collections of a *History of Staffordshire* he contributed:—

The Manor and Parish of Blymhill, vol. i.-ii., 1830-1.

The Parish of Church Eaton, Orslow, High Onn, Little Onn,
Shushions, and Marston, co. Staff., vol. iv., 1884.

An Account of the Family of Swynnerton, vol. vii., 1886.

History of the Church and Manor of Wigan, published by the
Chetham Society, 1888.

The Princes of South Wales (Wigan), 1876.

The Princes of Upper Powys, *Collectanea Archæologia*, 1862.

Ancient Lords of Mechain, *Arch. Cambrensis*, 1863.

The Welsh Lords of Kerry and Arwystli.

Genealogical Account of the Family of Newport of High
Ercall, co. Salop (Bridgnorth).

The Life of Bishop Bridgeman, *Palatine Note Book*, 1883.

(Edited) A Private Letter from Bishop Bridgeman concerning
Loans¹ paid by the Clergy of the Diocese of Chester,
1620, 1622, 1624, 1634, 1636, 1639 (belonging to the
Earl of Bradford), 1885.

The Family of Simpson of Babworth (Manchester), 1890.

(Edited) "Recollections of School Days at Harrow more than
Fifty Years Ago," by Rev. H. J. Torre (Manchester),
1890.

A History of Weston (unfinished).

¹ Contributions, Subsidies, and Ship Money.

"A DESCRIPTION OF YE CLEE, YE L'DSHIPS,
COMONERS AND STRAKERS ADJOYN'D,
MADE ABOUT 1612, 10 JAC."

TRANSCRIBED BY THE REV. R. C. PURTON, M.A.

THE following Survey of the Forest of Clee is among the Papers at Faintree, an estate once belonging to Oliver Briggs, brother of Humphrey Briggs of Ernestree Park, for whom apparently it was made.—R. C. P.

Here is shewed wh'ch is the Forest Soyle. And adjoining to which is the soyle of y^e Wast of sev'all L'dships within the Jurisdiction of the said Forest [margin].

The Forrest Wast of Lesclives, al's Cley, al's Cleys, al's Clee, al's Browne Clee is the Top of all the Hill, and one slang thereof doth extend and descend down to the Pale of Ernestry Parke between two places upon the Hill, the one whereof lying southward is a dingle or Gutter extending from a Place called Hay Meadow down to a place in y^e Parke call'd the Pale Head, and the other is a Place near Cleobury way near Ditton wood called the Driving out at the Head of a Place called y^e Sidelong Way lying northward and descending from thence down to the Pale at y^e South East Corner of Pugsmore, within that Place is y^e utter bound of y^e L'dsh'p of Ditton. And under y^e rest of the s'd Clives al's Browne Clee there lieth several wast woods and piles belonging to sev'all L'dsh'ps lying under y^e s'd Lesclives and within the Jurisdic'ion of y^e s'd Forest, and severally known by the ancient meares and bounds in manner as hereafter followeth.

The Wast wood of y^e L'dsh'p of Ditton doth reach up near Cleobury way and y^e s'd place called the Driving out and extendeth from thence along Ditton wood head under the s'd Clives unto a mear Oak between Ditton wood and Cleobury Wood at y^e head of Cleobury wood near or over ag'st a Gate

called Colledge Gate, and from thence Cleobury wood extendeth along the head thereof und'r the s'd Clives unto y^e upper Oak of y^e Mear between Cleobury wood and Burwarton wood, and from thence Burwarton wood extendeth along the head thereof under the s'd Clives unto the Upper Oak of the Mear between Burwarton wood and Loughton wood and soe from thence the lower p'te of y^e s'd Clives extendeth along the Head of Loughton Wood to a Place which was called the New Lodge, which the Earl of Shrewsbury did build, wh'ch M^r Norton did lately pull down, and hath erected a new House in y^e place, and a warren of coneyes about it near to a Place called Bottrell's Cross, and soe from thence to and along y^e head of y^e West Wood or soile of y^e L'dship of S^t Milburge Stoake under y^e said Clives unto a place called y^e Mouknop. And from thence along y^e Head of y^e West Soile of S^t Margarets Clee under y^e said Clives near unto a Place called the King's Shield and from thence along the Head of Waste Soile of the L'dship of Abdon under y^e said Clives unto a place called y^e Pale as afores'd.

Soe that this is the true Boundary of Lesclives, al's Cleys, al's Cley, al's Clees, al's Clee, al's Brown Clee, and the true mears and Bounds of y^e West Woods and Soiles lying in y^e sev'all L'dships under y^e said Clives al's Brown Clee, as appeareth by y^e Antient and continuall Use thereof. And any other mears were nev' truly known or accounted to lye above y^e s'd Woods and y^e said Mear Oaks. It is to be noted that y^e s'd Lesclives, al's Cleys, al's Clee (Cley?), al's Clees, al's Clee, al's Brown Clee is an entire thing of itself and lyeth upon y^e top of y^e Hill from y^e Heads of Dittons and Cleoburys Woods to about y^e place called Bottrel's Cross and above the afores'd L'dships of Ditton, Cleobury, Burwarton, Looughton, Whethill, Stoake S^t Milburge, S^t Margaret's Clee and Abdon in manner as is before set forth and may appear by y^e ancient and continuall Use thereof for ye Commoners inhabiting in y^e afores'd sev'all L'dships have had always severall Use of Common upon y^e said Waste Soiles within their s'd severall L'dships as belong to their severall Tenem^{ts}, and so de causa Vicinage over the whole Forest and not otherwise, for if any of them did Staff drive or turn out their Cattle unto any other of the West Soiles then wherein they inhabited w'ch was their place of true right of common, they were amerced and punished in y^e Swanimott Court.

And the rest of y^e Com'oners as namely the Inhabitants of Cold West Heath Norncott Tugford Holgate Brocherton Ashfield and Ruthall are com'o'ly called y^e Strakers and have

right of Common upon y^e fforest Wast or place called Lesclives, al's Clees, al's Brown Clee by reason of their Inhabitancy within y^e Jurisdiction of y^e s'd Forest and in no o'r place of y^e s'd Forest other than de causa vicinage, as may likewise appear by y^e antient and continuall use thereof. But must only Staff drive their Cattell over y^e s'd L'ds'ps Wasts unto y^e Forest Wast called y^e Clives or Clee or Brown Clee, and not turn them off before they come thither whereby may appear their right of Com'on to be there. And their common over the rest to be only de causa vicinage.

For Cold Weston are and doe use to drive their Cattle through a place p'cell of the s'd Hill called Stokes Gorst, and from thence to a place called Whitstones, and from thence up a Rack Way between y^e Wast Soil of St Milburge Stoake and y^e wast Soil of St Margarets Clee unto y^e said place called y^e Mouknop, and may then and there turn out their Cattell to y^e Wast Soil called Lesclives or Hay Meadow (being p't of y^e s'd Clives) and not before, which plainly appeareth to be y^e lower Skirt of Lestclives of y^e uppermost p'ts of y^e L'dships of St Milburge Stoake and St Margarets Clee for that they cannot put of their Cattell till they come to y^e s'd Clee above y^e s'd Mouknop whereby Cold Westons right of Com'on is upon y^e Wast Soil called ye Clives al's Brown Clee and not upon any of y^e Wasts of y^e o'r L'dships, but only de causa vicinage, as y^e rest of y^e Strakers have their right of Common as afores'd, as is well knowne to ye Country.

And the Strakers Inhabiting in y^e Townships of y^e Heath Nornecott and Tugford are and have used to drive up their Cattle along a way betweene y^e said Waste Soile of St Margaret's Clee and y^e Waste Soile of Abdon, near unto a place called ye Kings Shield, and there are to put of their Cattle in the s'd place called the Hay Meadow being p'cell of y^e said Clives al's Brown Clee as aforesaid, and if they Staff drive or put them off before they come to that place they have been used to be fined and amerced.

And the Strakers inhabiting in Brockerton and Holgate are and have always used to drive up their Cattle thorow Ernestry Parks to a place called the Pinfold Close and from thence up the pale side through a place called Abdon's Marsh to a place called y^e Pale Head and from thence up y^e sidelong way to y^e s'd place above Ditton's Wood called the Driving Out which was their Common and usual place to turn off their Cattle before they can put them off. And then they may put of their cattle above y^e s'd place and not before into y^e said Clives al's Clees al's Clee al's Brown Clee.

And the Strakers inhabiting in Ashfield and Routhall are and have always used to drive their Cattell up Pugsmore and the said Wast Wood of Ditton until they come to a place where a Birtch did lately stand at Ditton Wood Head below Cleobury Way, and then might turn out their Cattle above that place, whereby most plainly appeareth that those places are the uppermost parts of the Lordship of Ditton and the lowermost part of the Forest Waste soile of Lesclives al's Clees al's Clee al's Brown Clee. And it is to be noted that Strakers did pay yearly Rents for their Common upon the said Clee and some of them doe soe still which they call by y^e name of the Clee Rent.

The names of y^e, sev'all Townships and Places which did appear at y^e Court Swanimott of Humphry Brigges Esq^r for his Forest of Clee al's Brown Clee in the County of Salop, held at Ernestry within the sd Forest y^e 4th day of December in the year of the Reign of our Sov'aign Lord King James of England France and Ireland the fifteenth and of Scotland y^e fifty-first, before Rich^d Dod Esq. then and there deputed Steward &c.

Aston, Tugford, Nornecott, Heath, St Margaret's Clee, Stoke St Milborow, Kingston, Bockleton, Newton, Downton, Cold Weston, Bromdon, Whettle, Loughton, Burwarton, Cleobury North, Middleton, Darrington, Sidnall, Ruthall, Holgate, Brockhampton, Ashfield, Ernestry, Bottrell's Aston, Heywood and Norton, Pryor's Ditton.

All which Townships have Com'on of pasture on the Clee Hill.

NOTE.—The rights here described appear to resemble the "Venville" tenure which still obtains on Dartmoor. The word "Meare" from the context is evidently the same as Mark, March, and signifies boundary (A. S. Mearc,—the final sound being lost). As regards the word "Straker," there is a M. E. word "straken," to roam or wander, which occurs in Piers Ploughman, which represents the dialect of this neighbourhood. It is applied here, apparently, to the outlying districts, and the inhabitants would have to travel some distance (*Cp.* our word "Tramp"). "Swanimott" represents A. S. Swán-gemót, an assembly of Herdmen or "Swains" (*Cp.* Blackstone, Bk. iii., cap. 6). For "*de causa vicinage*," *Cp.* Blackstone, Bk. ii., cap. 3.—R. C. P.

THE OTTLEY PAPERS RELATING TO THE CIVIL WAR.

EDITED BY WILLIAM PHILLIPS, F.L.S.

(Continued from Vol. VII., Second Series, p. 360.)

BEFORE passing from the year 1643, a brief survey of the general situation of the King's affairs in Shropshire may be permitted.

The appointment of Sir Francis Ottley Governor of Shrewsbury in January, and the strong garrison established there under his command, kept in check the element of discontent in the town, but not without much difficulty. It was found necessary that he should exact from the inhabitants, on pain of death, a declaration of loyalty, worded in the most stringent terms.¹

Most of the influential families in the county espoused the Royal cause, but many of them assumed a neutral position, and not a few were antagonistic. Nevertheless the wealth, social influence, and military power on the side of the King predominated, and Shropshire was universally regarded as a Royalist county. Up to the month of August no Parliamentary garrison existed within its borders, Nantwich in Cheshire being the nearest. This, however, was particularly active, Sir William Brereton making it the base of his operations both for Cheshire and Shropshire. An attempt was made by Sir Thomas Ashton to obtain possession of it in January, which entirely failed, and he sustained a severe loss. It is probable that this disaster led the King, in the following March, to appoint

¹ Cal. St. Pap., 1641-4, p. 437.

Vol. VIII., 2nd S.

a more capable commander-in-chief in the person of Lord Capel—a brave man, an experienced soldier, and a great favourite at Court—to act in Shropshire, Worcestershire, Cheshire and North Wales, under the Prince of Wales. He commenced without delay an inspection of the three garrisons, Shrewsbury, Ludlow, and Bridgnorth; ordered the defences of those towns to be further strengthened, and a more careful watch to be kept. Puckering, one of his officers, states that he established, at Shrewsbury and Chester, powder works,¹ and “mills for iron,” and that he was thus enabled to supply powder to Prince Rupert, when he sat down before Lichfield; and that he raised his regiment to 400 men, while Colonel Wynn raised a regiment of foot in Denbighshire, and Sir Michael Woodhouse raised another. With these forces he occupied Whitchurch, where he would be able to secure his line of communication between Shrewsbury and Chester, and at the same time keep in check the Nantwich garrison. It was not till July that he occupied Oswestry, ordered the inhabitants to make good the defences, and placed as Governor there Edward Lloyd of Llanforda, thus securing the road into Denbighshire.

The Parliament observed these precautions to retain a firm hold of Shropshire with much concern. In April they appointed a strong Committee of twenty of their friends “for the Association of the counties of Warwick, Stafford, and Salop.”² And in June was

¹ Sir Francis Ottley employed a “powder-man” before Lord Capel’s appointment here. See Letter xxiii.

² 10 April, 1643.

The Committee appointed by an Ordinance of Parliament for the Association of the Counties of Warwick, Stafford, and Salop:—
William Pierpoint, Esq., of Tong Castle, M.P. for Wenlock.
Sir John Corbet, of Stoke and Adderley, Knt. and Bart., M.P. for Shropshire.

Sir Gilbert Cornwall, of Burford, Knight.

Sir Morton Briggs, of Haughton near Shifnal, Baronet.

issued a commission to Sir Thomas Middleton to be Sergeant Major-General of the forces in North Wales. The first step was to discover where they could establish the most effective garrison for the annoyance of their adversaries. Wem was the only town unoccupied near the centre of the county, and although only 10 miles from Shrewsbury and $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Whitchurch, they boldly determined to occupy it. Garbett's account of this event is as follows:—"After the taking of Bristol, July 26th, 1643, the gentlemen above mentioned (Mr. Mytton, Mr. Mackworth, and Mr. Thomas Hunt, M.P. for Shrewsbury), attended by Mr. Richard Baxter, the famous dissenting minister, having got a small body of troops about the latter end of August, settled a garrison at Wem, being the first the Parliament had in this county. To fortify the town, a rampart, or wall of earth, was thrown up: which began at Drayton gate, a little beyond Robert James's house (which house was built for a sentry), and ran along the side of Sandland's yard, and about four-score yards into Cordwall, where it formed an angle, defended by a wooden tower," and so continued,

Richard More, Esq., M.P. for Bishop's Castle.

Thomas Mytton, of Shrewsbury, Esquire.

Robert Corbet, of Stanwardine-in-the-Wood, Colonel and afterwards

Major-General in the Parliamentary Army, Esquire.

Andrew Lloyd, Esq., of Aston, Colonel in the Parliamentary Army.

Thomas Nichols, of Boycot, near Pontesbury, Esquire.

Humphrey Mackworth, of Betton Strange, Esquire.

John Corbet, of Auson, Esquire.

Launcelot Lee, of Coton, near Alveley, Esquire.

Robert Talbot, Esquire.

Samuel More, of Linley, Gent.

Thomas Hunt, M.P. for Shrewsbury, Gent.

Hereules Kinnersley, of North Cleobury, Gent.

William Rowley, of Shrewsbury, Gent.

Thomas Knight, of Shrewsbury, Gent.

John Proud, of Shrewsbury, Gent.

John Lloyd, of Shrewsbury, Gent.

(K.P., 118-7, Phillips' *Civil War in Wales*, ii., 122. I have added their residences, &c.)

enclosing the town. The earth thrown out of the ditch made the wall, which was strengthened by a palisade, a whole coppice in the township of Lacon being used for the purpose. All houses and buildings without the wall were burnt, to prevent their giving shelter to the enemy.¹

The occupation of Wem was a challenge too bold to remain long unaccepted by Lord Capel, although it was not till October that he endeavoured to recapture it.² He mustered all the forces that could be spared from Shrewsbury and the surrounding garrisons, taking his position on Prees Heath, midway between Whitechurch and Wem, with 5,000 men, designing to attack it before the defensive works were finished. But discovering that Sir William Brereton with his Cheshire forces had quitted Nantwich to defend Wem, he suddenly changed his purpose and marched to the former place to secure it in their absence. In this his Lordship was mistaken. Sufficient strength remained to keep him at bay, so that after some skirmishing he marched back under cover of the night by a different route, evading Brereton who had discovered his tactics, and hastened to Nantwich only to find that Capel had retired. A rapid march of twenty miles over a bad road, and the fact that night had overtaken the Parliamentary forces, compelled Brereton to allow his men some rest, before returning to protect Wem. He commenced retracing his steps at four o'clock next morning. In the meantime the Royalists had commenced their attack upon Wem, in which there were only about 300 men under the command of Col. Mytton. These with the assistance of the townspeople defied the Cavaliers,

¹ Garbett's *History of Wem*, p. 216, in which the entire course of the defensive work is precisely traced.

² Puckering states that "a little before this my lord had shewn us great gallantry and skill in storming and taking Loppington Church, where the enemy had fixed a garrison, till my Lord forced them out, and was the busiest among his soldiers in carrying faggots to the porch." (Duke of Beaufort's MS., Hist. MSS. Com.)

and it is asserted in an account of "W.B.,"¹ "that one of Colonel Mytton's drakes killed sixty of the King's party at one shot." Puckering states that when at break of day they were before Wem they dismounted about eighty horse, stormed it, and some of their men on the works laid hold of their cannon, but unluckily it fell out "that notwithstanding all this, Wynn, Colonel of the Welsh regiment, being there settled [*i.e.*, killed] Colonel Scriven of the trained bands, and Major Broughton, of Sir Michael Woodhouse's regiment, being shot, all the example and persuasion of my Lord Capell could use to them did signify nothing, the soldiers would not fall in again, but lost this glorious opportunity of recovering Wem with so much ease and good contrivance, as the greatest soldiers, and most experienced in the world, could not have designed better. Indeed this moved my glorious Lord's stomach so much, that after shedding several tears of rage and anger he would not remove out of those trenches, which he had so lately mastered, although they made many desperate shots at him, until he had taken out his pipe, and his friends in a moment forced him away."² The Roundhead account avers that all the time of the action lord Capel sat smoking his pipe about half a mile from Wem, on the Soulton road. Had he boldly led his men on to the attack, and stormed several places at once, he could not have failed of success; there being only forty soldiers, and an undisciplined rabble of men and women to oppose him. The women particularly distinguished themselves, which gave occasion to this rhyme:—

"The women of Wem, and a few musketteers
Beat the Lord Capel, and all his cavaliers."

By this time Brereton had returned towards Wem, and Lord Capel, being in no humour to face him,

¹ "A true relation of a great Victory obtained by the Parliament's Forces against the Cavaliers near Chester."

² Hist. MSS. Com.

marched in the direction of Shrewsbury by the Lee Brockhurst road ; when at Lee Bridge, about two and a half miles from Wem, Brereton caught him up, and a skirmish ensued. Favoured by the nature of the ground, and night coming on, the Royalists were not pursued.

Besides Colonel Wynn (of Melai, Denbighshire) slain,¹ Colonel Scriven, Colonel Willis, and Captain Manlye wounded (the first mortally), there were taken prisoners Captain Chapman, Captain Davies ; there were six carriages of bodies taken away, and thirty more left on the ground. The only important officer slain on the Parliament side was Major Marrow.

This event had the natural effect of raising the spirits of the discontented party in Shrewsbury, who at once commenced to lay a plot for the betrayal of the town ; but the Governor was too vigilant for them ; he seized the ringleaders, and committed them to prison, some of whom were afterwards executed. The following entry in the Mayor's Accounts, 29th Dec., 1643, relates, doubtless, to the gallows used on the occasion :—

Item, for timber to make a gibett ..	...	0	9	0
It. for three men, theyer work at the same ..	...	0	3	6
It. for John Davies his time to carry the same...	...	0	1	6

In September a cessation of arms in Ireland was arranged, by which a large body of troops was set at liberty, and in an unfortunate moment the King accepted their services in the war with his English and Scottish subjects. On November 18th, 2,500 landed at Mostyn to defend Chester, and on the 29th Lord Byron joined them with a force of 1,300 men, and took command of the whole. Hawarden Castle, taken by Brereton on the 11th November, capitulated on the 2nd December ; Beeston Castle and Crewe House were

¹ Colonel William Wynn was buried at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury Oct. 27. Owen and Blakeway, ii., p. 222.

captured in rapid succession, and Nantwich was the next place aimed at. Never since the beginning of the war had the prospects of the Parliament in these parts been more gloomy. Two of their Committee, "A.L.L." [Andrew Lloyd] and "R.C." [? Robert Corbet, of Stanwardine], wrote to Humphrey Mackworth, Dec. 21st:—"The enemy are potent in Cheshire. Nantwich is surrounded, the country round about plundered, 19 colours more of the Irish come over, and no considerable force to contend with the enemy." They entreat Mackworth "to represent our forlorn condition to ye Parliament, for whom we have desperately engaged our estates and lives. We hope they account us friends worthy of some consideration and pitty, and not to suffer us to perish in ye midst of mercilis men."¹

During the temporary cessation of operations on the approach of Christmas, several persons of distinction appear to have met together within the walls of Shrewsbury, where the usual civilities to eminent visitors were shown to them by the Mayor, Mr. Robert Betton, junr. Lord Byron, who had recently been created Baron Byron of Rochdale, as a reward for his valiant services in the first battle of Newbury, and had been still more recently made Field Marshall of Cheshire, Shropshire, and North Wales, arrived here the day after the date of his appointment:—

Nov. 30 (1643.)

Bestowed upon Lord Biron, a gallon of sack, vi^s
2^u of Sugar, and 2 doss. [dozen] cakes, viii^d

Sir Nicholas Byron, Governor of Chester, arrived the 2nd January.

Paid for 1^u of sugar and 1 dossen of cakes bestowed on Sir Nicholas Biron, iiijs.

Colonel Robert Ellice, of Groesnewydd, near Wrexham, and no doubt many others, were here to discuss

¹ Lord Denbigh's MSS.

the position of affairs, and congratulate each other on the improved condition of the King's cause in Shropshire and the surrounding counties.

1644.

The year 1644 at which we have now arrived, an eventful one in the history of the war, when a new commander in the person of Prince Rupert appears in Shropshire, a large influx of Irish soldiers takes place, and the official position of Sir Francis Ottley is changed, affords us a much reduced correspondence. This arose from the additional help in the performance of his onerous duties rendered to the Governor of Shrewsbury by Sir John Mennes, Mr. Arthur Trevor, and other officers appointed by Lord Capel; and the necessity of his laying much of his correspondence before the council established for conducting the more important business of the garrison. Early in January Sir Robert Ellis was busily engaged in raising 1,200 men in Denbighshire and Flintshire, in which work he was assisted by Captain Morris, and he is shortly after found co-operating with Col. Sir William Vaughan in the capture of Apley Castle.

CLXXXIX. SIR ROBERT ELLICE TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1643-4.

SIR

I have thought it more proper for Mr. Thomas Atkis to be a conductor of the Artillery for the present then to be with me, I entreat you to Assure him I will take a particular care to Advance him upon all occasions, and I am confident he will not repent the employment, nor my care of him, in all things I shall testify my thanks to you for your favours; the Bargeman Richard Bartlam will bring my letter to you if he have not done it already, I again humbly desire you to send a guard along with the Barge.

Ruabon Jan^{ry} 13th

1643.

For y^e right Worth S^r Francis
Oteley Knt, Shrewsbury

Your humble Servant

ROBERT ELLICE

CXC. THE SAME TO THE SAME.

1643-4.

SIR

I have a necessity of my Armes here for men who will be raised before the Arms can be brought hither. If your Town have occasion of my Men I shall with more willingness bring them thither then any other place I know, being engaged both to the Gentry, and others, for their love to me, but I wou'd not have any March without Arms both for disorder, & Scorn if they should be beset. I desire your favour for Horses to Welch Pool, for the bringing of 200 Mosquetts; by this you shall much oblige him who is bound to be,

Y^r faithful Servant,

To his much honored Friend Sir

ROBERT ELLICE.

Francis Oteley Kn^t Gov^r of Shrewsbury.

CXCI. THE SAME TO THE SAME.

1643-4.

SIR

I moved you, att my being at Shrewsbury, for one Steven Davis who hurt one by Oswestree, but the man being now recovered, I desire Cap^t Morris may have his Soldier for his Maj^{ties} Service, so I humbly desire you to procure his release. Pray send word to Cap^t Hosier that as soon as he hath any considerable number of Men he would draw them to Chirk Castle, where I am now with as Many as Cap^t Morris and myself have raised, perhaps I shall have another employment will be worth the pains.

Chirk Castle
Jany 16th 1643.

I rest

Y^r humble Servant

ROBERT ELLICE

To y^e right wor^d his much honor'd
Friend S^r Francis Oteley K^t
Shrewsbury.

Captain George Hosier, alluded to in the above letter, was the son of Richard Hosier of Cruckton,¹ by his wife Mary, daughter and co-heiress of Francis Brooke, of Cotton, co. Salop, and was a Captain of

¹ See CLXXX., note.

Horse in the regiment of Sir William Vaughan. He was appointed, after the Restoration, Governor of Shrewsbury Castle, where he dwelt, at which time he enjoyed the confidence of Francis Lord Newport, the Lord Lieutenant of Salop, by whom he was entrusted to maintain the town against the frequent plots for its betrayal. In 1663, Lord Newport writes to his friend Sir Richard Ottley, son of the former Governor, "It is believed there was a design lately for the surprise of Chester Castle, and by what George Hosier writes to me this last post, I believe no less for Shrewsbury;" and he further adds, "I have written to George Hosier that in that case he be aiding to you with his soldiers, for their present securing in the Castle." He was nominated a member of the Common Council of Shrewsbury in the new Charter of 1664, a document which never came into force. In 1665 he appears to have held the Commission of Colonel. The date of his death is not recorded, but he was dead in 1680. He married Eleanor, daughter of Francis Smith, of Burton, co. Salop, by whom he had Richard Hosier, who bought the manor of Berwick, near Shrewsbury, from Samuel Jones, Esqr., in 1699.

Walter Waring of Owlbury, near Bishop's Castle, was the son of Edmund Waring of the same place, both faithful to the cause of the King. The latter came into possession of the estate by marrying the daughter and heiress of Richard Broughton of Owlbury, Esq., to which property the writer of this letter succeeded on the death of his father. It would appear that loyalty ran in the blood of this family, for it is stated that Walter's younger brother, Robert, a student of Christ Church, Oxford, happened to be a junior Proctor at the Visitation of that University by the Parliamentary Commissioners, when he "boldly withstood their self-constituted authority." (*Trans. Shrop. Arch. Soc.*, v, 76.) The reference to the "Generalissimo" may be to Prince Rupert; but this is only conjecture. It is certain that the loyal county gentry

regarded with slight favour, and with no little suspicion, any attempt to supersede the local Commissioners of Array; while for the impetuous Prince they moved much too slowly.

Walter Waring compounded for his delinquency by paying £511.

CXCII. WA. WARINGE TO THE SAME.

1643-4.

S^r

I shall desire you sometimes at y^r leasure to Acquaint us with y^r freshest News, we recive it here so various if it be good, & so encreased if bad, that I am doubtfull of all, & refer it as Puritans do to the Text, which I account your lines; this day we were all sum'on'd to Ludlow by a single Sold [sole] Commissioner cased with a Collonell; if this may pass for Current certainly the Array is Extinct, and we are all slaves to the Generalissimo; I refer it to your Sage Wisdom that perchance can tell me, this was not done without the consent of Others the Commissioners, & my Jelousy of his Ambition hath bred in me these vain Surmisses: however I send you the true Copy of his Warrant that Yourself may Judge of it and will remain

Your's to Serve you

Owlbury 17 of Jan.

WA. WARINGE.

Excuse me to S^r Thomas Eyton; I cannot perform his Commands this week, for on Fryday I shall be misled with a tedious Mountain Journey; if you could hear of an Honest Usurer that would trust out £100 by Candlemas, he might preserve me from the spleen of M^{rs} Eliz. Wrotesley; my servis to my Colonel & S^r Richard Lee

Y^{rs} W: W:

For S^r Francis Oteley Knight
at his House in Shrewsbury
these.

Sir Thomas Eyton of Eyton, Knight, mentioned in the preceding letter, was the son and heir of Sir Philip Eyton of Eyton, Knt., by his wife Maria, daughter of David Yale, LL.D., Chancellor of Chester. He was born 1606, admitted of Oriel College, Oxford, 1624, Knighted October 10, 1642. He married Margaret, daughter of Richard Thornes of Shelvock, Esq., by

whom he had a large family. His name appears to the Declaration and Protestation agreed upon by the Grand Jury to be presented to the King, August 8, 1642; and is ninth on the list of those gentlemen of Salop who signed the "Engagement and Resolution" for raising and maintaining forces at their own cost for the defence of the King and the country, 23rd October of the same year. He served in the regiment of Colonel Scriven, and died March, 1658.

The next letter is in the handwriting of Mr. Thomas Edwardes of Kilhendre, who, as we have seen in a previous letter from him (CLXI.), was engaged in the exchange of prisoners, a task that had brought on him much odium on account of the jealousies it provoked, and which in disgust he declined further to perform. The six months which have elapsed have not tended to restore his composure of mind, and he writes this confidential letter to his kinsman, Sir Francis, expressing his determination to live a more secluded life. As a specimen of the applications for help with which he was assailed I may give a short undated letter from Elinor Cound to Lady Ottley, requesting her ladyship to use her influence with Mr. Edwardes to obtain the release of the writer's husband—not from the enemy as a prisoner of war, but from the Commissioners of his Majesty for raising the subsidies, which it would appear Mr. Cound had not paid.

MADAM,

I would humbly desire the favour of your Ladyship that you would be pleased to write to Mr. Edwards to desire his best favour and assistance for the redeeming of my poor husband who your Ladyship knows is no wise answerable for the contribution of the whole towne, and whom I am willing according to my best ability to ransom. Thus hoping your Ladyship will compassionate my distress, with my best prayers for our good Master, your Ladyship, and all yours, I rest

Your Ladyship's poor Servant

To the much honoured
Lady, the Lady Ottley

to be Commanded

ELINOR COUND.

these present.

CXCHIL. THOMAS EDWARDES TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1643.4.

WORTHIE SIR,

Not omitting my respect to your selfe and good Lady I writt unto you of a desire I had to see Sir Thomas Eyton the rather for that I could have menconed him to a Convenient habitacon, yf hee bee resolved to remove. It is parte of my owne dwelling, which, yf any frend of yours want, you may commaund. I desire to confine my selfe to a narrowe . . . theis troublesome tymes and should the rather part with it to a person of worth. I have revealed the secreet of my most private thoughts unto youre selfe craving your advise and assistance; re saluting you with my service

I continue your

Janu. 17

alisesman to serve,

1643.

THO: EDWARDES.

To the right Wor'pp my ever
honor'd kinsman Sir Francis

Ottley Knight, att the Coledge Salop, present.

A few contemporary letters from other sources may be introduced here with advantage, as they will help to a clearer conception of local events. The first is from Sir John Mennes, reputed to be the rival of Sir Francis Ottley, to Prince Rupert:—

. . . But for my part I can do his Majesty no service here at all, being made useless by the insulting people, who now tell us their power, and that three of the commissioners of array may question the best of us, from which power good Lord deliver me, and rather send me home from constable to constable to the parish I was born in! I have not heard from my Lord Byron since his loss, but by a letter written to the High Sheriff and governor, which in effect bids us be careful of ourselves, as he will be of those parts, for that the gentlemen are somewhat troubled that they can expect no help from him. Money is a thing not spoken of, neither do I perceive your Highness's last letter prevail at all with them, more than yesterday night. They first proffered to give every troop 6^d, and, after some dispute, they would have made it up to 12^d if it would have been received. I must crave your Highness's pardon if I quit the place, for I have not wherewithall to subsist any longer, having received but £22, now in

eleven months, and lived upon my own, without free quarters for horse or man. The fortune I have is all in the rebels' hands, or in such tenants' as have forgot to pay. The ammunition is not as yet come from Worcester, that I can hear of. This inclosed was sent me from Stafford, whence I hear they intend to draw more force this way from Coventry, which will soon make the neuters of these parts declare themselves, and, I fear, startle some that have been accounted firm. I hope your Highness will pardon this long scribble from the most humblest of your servants,

Hebb, two in the afternoon.

JOHN MENNES.¹

Prince Rupert was appointed Captain-General of all the forces in Shropshire and the counties adjacent January 6, and immediately afterwards informs the Governor of Shrewsbury of the fact. The above letter from Mennes was not calculated to give the Prince a very favourable impression of the state of Shrewsbury, and may account for the sharp tone pervading his letter.

CXCIV. PRINCE RUPERT TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1643-4.

SIR

His Ma^{tie} is pleased to entrust to my care his army in Shropshyre and the countreyes adjacent, together with his interests there. In which command I cannot but with very much apprehension thinke upon Shrewsburie in your Government, and the safetie thereof. Especiallie since I understood of a late designe for the betraying thereof to the Enemy, for which you have divers persons in prison, but I doe not here they are brought to justice by any proceedinge against them, soe that the punishment may goe to some, the Example and Terror to all. I must strictly require from you an accompt of that place, which is the Head quarter of those Countreyes, and where I intend to make my owne residence duringe the time of my stay in that commaund, and therefore must recomend to you the particulars followinge: and require you to call together the Gentlemen and Townesmen to assist you in such charges as will be requisite for the coveringe of

¹ Warburton's *Prince Rupert*, ii., 371. I have not been able to discover where "Hebb" is situated, but on the word of Warburton I take the letter to be from Shropshire.

the Castle of Shrewsbury, and the dividing and disposing thereof into Roomes capable and fittinge to receive the stores; soe as such amunicion as from time to time shall be sent into those parts for his Maties service there may lye dry and safe. I desire this to be done with all possible speed, for I have this day sent awaie 50 Barrels of Powder to begin your stores. Other proportions of that, and all other kind of amunicion, will be speedily brought thither, and for the better security of the stores, which are the sinewes of the King's busines, I pray you, by the advice of Sir John Mennes, to consider of an accommodacon for such as shall be the Guard of that place, by erecting of a Courte of Guard and hutts for the Souldiers, for such numb^r of men, and in such manner as you and Sir John Mennes shall thinke best for his Maties service. I have no more to say to you at present, but shall willingly receive yo^r Letters from time to time concerninge yo^r affaires, and you shall be sure of all possible assistance and encouragement from mee.

Your very Lovinge Freind

Oxon, this 25th day of Januarie, 1643.

RUPERT.¹

The Governor of Shrewsbury
Superscribed For Sir Francis Ottley, K^t
Governor of Shrewsbury.

To this Sir Francis Ottley sent the following reply:—
May it please your Highness.

Our country is heartily glad that his Majesty has intrusted the care of our county into your hands. I shall be obedient to perform your commands. All things shall be performed with all expedition so far forth as the time and season will permit, against your Highness's coming. Justice hath been executed, and one of the corporals under my command hanged for neglect of his duty in his place that night as the enemy approached. The hutts and the court of guard shall be ready before your Highness's coming. There is one other condemned, but judgment is deferred till your Highness's coming hither. Our hearts do long for your

¹ This letter is taken from Owen and Blakeway's *History of Shrewsbury*, the authors having obtained it from the late Sir John Bickerton Williams of that town. The original does not appear at present to be amongst the Ottley Papers at Pitchford Hall, nor could George Morris have seen it there, otherwise he would have copied it,

presence to settle the distractions and complaints amongst us.

I rest

Your servant ready upon all occasions humbly to serve you,

FRANCIS OTTLEY.¹

Shrewsbury, this last day of January, 1643.

A few days after Sir Francis had despatched the above letter, Sir John Mennes wrote again to the Prince, who had already left Oxford on his way to Shrewsbury, but was detained on the road. Mennes's letter is dated the 9th of February, in which he says "that his Highness must be seen here, and I think felt too, before this hard-hearted people will believe you are coming."²

The first successes of the Irish troops, already mentioned, were followed up by a victorious encounter at Nantwich and Middlewich, narrated by Sir Robert Byron to the Marquis of Ormond, in a letter dated January 9th. In this engagement were slain 300 and upwards, 274 taken prisoners, and a good store of excellent arms and ammunition secured. Sir Robert was wounded, as were also three captains, a lieutenant, and 41 soldiers; 15 being killed.³

As a counterbalance to this, Colonel Mytton, Governor of Wem, struck a successful blow in Shropshire on January 12th, which is recorded in one of their own papers. Obtaining private information that "the inhuman upstart, Lord Byron," having besieged Nantwich, was sending "a strong convoy to Shrewsbury for arms and ammunition,"⁴ Colonel Mytton allowed them to pass through Ellesmere, then the nearest way open between Chester and Shrewsbury, resolving to await their return. "The rebels furnished themselves with

¹ Warburton's *Prince Rupert*, ii., p. 368.

² *Ibid.*, p. 373. Mennes made mischief wherever he went. See Archbishop of York's letter to Prince Rupert. *Ibid.*, vol. iii. p. 55.

³ Carte's Coll., i., 34; Reprint in Phillips' *Civil War*, ii., 117.

⁴ "True Relation of a Notable Surprise," &c. King's Papers, 140-9; also in Phillips.

eight large barrels of powder, seven hundred weight of match and other ammunition," and quartered the first night at Ellesmere, eight miles from Wem, and sixteen from Shrewsbury. Mytton marched from Wem in the night, which, according to Puckering, was "very dark and tempestuous," and fell upon the convoy in the darkness, captured the whole of the ammunition, took prisoners Sir Nicholas Byron, Governor of Chester, Sir Richard Willis, Serjeant-Major-General of the Horse, his brother Major Willis, Captains Offley, Hatton, Dixon, and one other, besides 100 inferior officers and men, and 250 horses and arms.

Another event adverse to the King, and affecting the safety of Shropshire, took place about this time. The Irish troops, flushed with victory, sat down before Nantwich, but on the 25th (January) Sir Thomas Fairfax marched from Manchester to release it, which he was successful in doing. He took prisoners Major-General Gibson, Sir Michael Ernely, Sir Richard Fleetwood, Col. Geo. Monk, Col. Warren, Sir Francis Button, Lieut.-Col. Sir Ralph Dove, Major Hammond, 14 Captains, 20 Lieutenants, 26 Ensigns, two Cornets, besides non-commissioned officers, 1,500 common soldiers, and six ordnance. It is said that 120 women followed the Camp, of whom many had long knives.¹

Other troops were on the way from Ireland, a large detachment of which was designed for Shropshire, as appears from a letter to the Prince from Sir John Mennes:—

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HIGHNESS,

I have just now received a letter from my Lord Byron, which tells me that 1700 foot are landed out of Ireland, under the command of Tillier and Broughton. These his Lordship intends to send hither, because they cannot make provision there. I shall endeavour here to make what shift I can to assist them, which must be in providing victuals—for money

¹ Sir Thomas Fairfax to the Earl of Essex. Rushworth, pt. iii., vol. ii., 302.

is a thing we hear not of—if your Highness be pleased to write to the high sheriff, to command him to bespeake hose and shoes for them. I know that may be readily done, or any other thing that is not ready money. We have here about five hundred suits of clothes, which I have stayed for your Highness. They should have been sent to Chester; but their own clothes were good enough to run to the enemy.¹ The rebels have forgot their late victory, and reassume their wonted fears and jealousies, which I hope will continue to their confusion, which I am sure will be much hastened by your Highness's presence, which we all greedily expect, though none more than

Salop, Feb. 10th

Your Highness's most humble servant,

The foot will be here within
five days.

JOHN MENNES.²

Brian Crowther was an influential and active Royalist, and Justice of the Peace for the county of Radnor, of which county he was High Sheriff in 1639 and 1645. "He was a gentleman of unblemished respectability and honour; many arbitration cases were referred to his decision, and particularly a tedious and prolonged litigation between Smalman and John Crowther, his relative, at the instance of the Archbishop of Canterbury." (Williams's *History of Radnorshire*.) He married the sister of Mr. Herbert Price, of Brecknock. Symonds writes:—"Tuesday (Nov. 11, 1645) to Knighton, a pretty towne, Com. Radnor. Here Mr. Crowder, the Sheriff of the Shire, lives."

CXCV. BRI. CROWTHER TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1643-4.

WORTHY S^r

I am informed that one William Jones, a Lieutenant to S^r William Brereton, was taken at the last Battle between my Lord Byron and the Rebels at Nantwich, and is now a

¹ "Eight hundred of the prisoners [Irish taken at Nantwich] took the Covenant and enrolled themselves under Fairfax." Gardiner, i. p. 295.

² Warburton's *Prince Rupert*, ii., 373.

Prisoner in the Goal of Shrewsbury; lest he should be any way exchanged or ransom'd I have purposely sent this bearer, one of the Corporals of our Garrison now in Knighton, to inform you that the aforesaid Will^m Jones (if he be apprehended) is in our County indicted for Murder, Burglary, and several other Crimes, and hath fledd for the same, and since for this two years last hath born Arms against his Majesty, both in the City of Gloucester and in the Castle of Brompton, both being in Actual Rebellion against his Majesty; Plundering also and Pillageing divers of his Majesty's good Subjects; that it may appear he is Indicted I have sent you a Copy of the record, My humble desire is that you will favour me so much as to give license to this bearer to View the Prisoners in your several Goals (who well knoweth the man), and upon his discovery you will Cause him to be detained till a Writt be sued forth for his removal into this County to take his Tryal, And for this your Especiall favour not only expressed herein to me, but also to our whole County, You shall ever engage me to be, S^r

Your humble Servant

Knighton 7 Feb.
1643.

BRI: CROWTHER.

To his much honored Friend S^r Francis Oateley
Knight at the Garrison of Shrewsbury
present these
with my Service.

Colonel Francis Billingsley of Astley Abbotts Manor, co. Salop, was the eldest son and heir of Francis Billingsley of the same place, by Bridget, daughter of Thomas Vernon of Haslington, co. Chester. He married Eleanor, daughter of Thomas Kerry of Bin Weston, co. Salop, took up the Royal cause at an early date, signed the "Ingagement and Resolution of the Gentlemen of Salop" in 1642, held a commission in the trained bands of Bridgnorth as Lieutenant, afterwards Lieut.-Colonel, under the command of the Governor Sir Lewis Kirke, and fell in the Churchyard of St. Leonard's, when the town was besieged, March 31, 1646. He was buried at Astley Abbotts. His sword was preserved by his family down to recent times, and was presented to St. Leonard's Church by Mr. Joseph Instone in 1884.

Mr. Hubert Smith considers that the Royalist Colonel was not the son of Francis who married Bridget Vernon, as stated above on the authority of the late George Morris (MS. Pedigree, in possession of T. S. Eyton, Esq.), but the son of the Francis who married Eleanor Kerry. (*S. A. Trans.*, vol. ix., p. 384.) I am unable to decide which is the correct descent.

CXCVI. FRANCIS BILLINGSLEY TO THE SAME.

1643-4.

Sr

According to promise I shall now acquaint you that Capt: Benett is so happily recover'd from those desperate wounds, which that desperate Fellow Co. Clyve,¹ gave him, in the Quarrel of Quarter Master Edge that we have Just encouragement to hope the danger of Death is passed—Yet I have now received Commands from the Capt . . to desire

¹ Robert Clive of the Styche, co. Salop, belonged to an old family of distinction seated there for many generations, and was a remarkable man, and a "desperate fellow," owing to his zeal, courage, and activity on behalf of the Parliamentary cause in Shropshire and Cheshire. He sat in the Long Parliament as M.P. for Bridgnorth, and was appointed one of the Committee of Parliament for his native county. Immediately after the capture of Shrewsbury, the Mayor and Corporation "In regard of the great love and affection" expressed to the town by "Andrew Lloyd of Aston, Samuel Moore of Linley, Robert Clive of Stiche, and Robert Charlton of Apley, Esquires, four of the comittyes of Parliament for the county of Salop," bestowed on them their burgessship. At the surrender of Bridgnorth to the Parliament in April, 1646, the same three signed the articles of capitulation as Commissioners for the Parliament. It is said that while the Royalists were dominant in Shropshire, they had so great a dread of Robert Clive, and the Roundhead garrisons of Wem and Nantwich, that they were profane enough to add a new clause to the Litany:—

From Wem and from Wych
And from Clive of the Styche
Good Lord deliver us.

What the nature of the quarrel which led to Robert Clive's assault upon Capt. Benett was we are left to conjecture, but as Quarter-Master Edge was mixed up with it it probably had to do with providing commissary stores for the garrison of Bridgnorth in some way or other, to which Robert Clive objected.

your favour that both of them may be secured, until such time as a Councell of Warr may pass upon them. Which (being well acquainted with Your inclination to do Justice) I presume yow'll readily grant. And if you please Also to Acquaint Sir John [Mennes] with this request, you will further oblige both the Capt: and also

Brydgnorth
7 Feb. 1643.

S^r Your Unworthy Brother
But most Humble Servant

To the very much honor'd S^r Francis FRAN: BILLINGSLEY.
Ottley Knt. and Governor of Shrewsbury
p'sent these.

The urgent necessity for money to carry on the War was daily increasing, and the Oxford Parliament authorised the King to issue Privy Seals for a loan of £100,000 in February. It also granted at a later date an excise, in imitation of the excise ordinance at Westminster. The Privy Seals were issued on printed forms, with blank spaces in which to fill in the name of the person, and the sum required from him. The one addressed to Sir Francis Ottley has been preserved, though somewhat damaged. A similar one exists among the muniments of the Rev. John Walcott of Bitterley Court, co. Salop. The sum required from Sir Francis Ottley is small, owing, doubtless, to the great sacrifices he had already made for his Sovereign. The document bears a receipt on the back from Simon Weston, on behalf of Thomas Edwardes, Esq., High Sheriff of the county, dated May 13, 1644.

CXCVII. A PRIVY SEAL TO THE SAME REQUIRING A LOAN.

CHARLES R.

Trusty and welbeloved we greet you well, Whereas all our Subjects of the Kingdome of England and Dominion of Wales, are both by their Allegiance and the Act of Pacification, bound to resist and suppress all such of our Subjects of Scotland, as have in a hostile manner already entered, or shall hereafter enter into this Kingdome, And by Lawe your Personall Service, Attended in a warlike manner for the resistance of this Invasion, may be required by us, which we

desire to Spare, Chusing rather to invite your Assistance for the Maintenance of our Army in a free and Voluntary expression of your Affections to our Service, and the Safety of this Kingdome. And whereas the Members of both Houses of Parliament Assembled at Oxford, have taken into their consideration the Necessity of Supporting our Army, for the Defence of Us and our People against this Invasion, and for the Preservation of the Religion, Lawes, and Liberties, of this Kingdome, and thereupon have agreed upon the Speedy raisinge of the summe of one hundred Thousand pounds by Loan from particular Persons towards the which themselves have advanced a very considerable proportion, and by their Examples hope that our Well Affected Subjects throughout the Kingdome will in a short time make up the Remainder; Whereby we shall not only be enabled to pay and recruite our Army, but likewise be enabled to put our Army in such a Condition as Our Subjects shall not Suffer by free quarter, or the unruliness of our Soldiers, which is now in present Agitation, and will (we no way doubt, by the Advice of the Members of both Houses Assembled) be speedily effected. We doe towards so good a worke, by the Approbation and Advice of the said Members of both Houses there Assembled, desire you forthwith to lend us the summe of *thirty pounds*¹ or the value thereof in Plate, toucht Plate at five Shillings, and untoucht Plate at four shillings and four pence per ounce; and to pay or deliver the same within seven daies after the Receipt thereof, to the hand of Our highe Sheriffe of that our County, or to such whom he shall appoint to receive the same upon his acquittance for the Receipt thereof, who is forthwith to returne and pay the same at Corpus Christi Colledge in Oxford, to the hands of the Earle of Bath, the Lord Seymour, Mr John Ashburnham, and Mr John Fettiplace, or any of them, who are appointed Treasurers . . . and issuing thereof by the said Members (by whose order only th s . . . sposed) and to give receipts for the same, the which we promise to . . . all enable us, this summe to be advanced with speed. We are . . . ur Selves to such Persons as your Selfe, of whose abillity and Affection . . . dence giving you this Assurance, that in such further Charges, that t . . . st Defence shall inforce us to require of our good Subjects, Your for . . . s bursments shall be considered to your best advantage. And so presuming you will not faile to expresse

¹ Filled up in writing.

your affection herein, We bid you farewell. Given at our Court at Oxford, the 14 day of February, in the nineteenth year of our Raigne 1643.

By the Advice of the Members of
both Houses Assembled at
Oxford

By his Ma^{ty} Com^{and}
Salop, to
S^r Francis Oteley.

[signed] ED: LITTLETON, C.
SAMP: EURE.

Sir Edward Littleton, Lord Keeper, was the son and heir of Sir Edward Littleton of Henley, in the parish of Bitterley, co. Salop, by Mary, daughter of Edmund Walter of Ludlow, Chief Justice of South Wales. He was born in Shropshire, and baptized at Munslow March 5, 1589-90; became a gentleman commoner of Christ Church, Oxford, 28 Nov., 1606, and took his B.A. Ap. 28, 1609. Entering the Inner Temple he soon became eminent in the profession of the Law, was made Solicitor-General 1634, and knighted at Whitehall the following year. January 27, 1639, he was appointed Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and January 23 following Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, in the place of Lord Finch, "for which place," says Clarendon, "he was excellently fitted: being a man of grave and comely presence, his other parts were over valued; his learning in the Law being his masterpiece." On February 18, 1641, he was created a Peer of England by the title of Lord Littleton, Baron of Munslow, co. Salop. After the King established his Parliament at Oxford, the Lord Keeper remained for some time with the Parliament at Westminster, but in July he followed the King, having first sent the Great Seal. He was now created LL.D., made one of the King's Privy Council, and received his commission of Colonel of a Regiment of Foot. He died August 27, 1645.

A cousin of Sir Edward, Thomas Littleton, parson of "Suckly," and Vicar of Hales Owen, took an opposite side to the Lord Keeper, as appears from the Earl of Denbigh's MSS. Basil, Earl of Denbigh, issued an order dated April 16, 1644, to all commanders, officers,

and soldiers for the service of the Parliament, or under his command, to forbear to molest, disturb, or seize upon the person, goods or chattels of Thomas Littleton, parson of Suckly, and Vicar of Hales Owen, "a laborious painful minister, and well affected to ye Parliament." He was the son of Thomas Littleton of Stoke St. Milborough, uncle of the Lord Keeper.

"Sir Sampson Eure was of the family of Ralph, the 3rd Ld. Eure, who was King's lieutenant in the Principality of Wales in 1608. Sir Francis Eure, brother to the above, married Ellin, elder daughter and co-heir of William Maurice of Clenenny, the son, by Margaret daughter and heir of John Lacon of Porkington, of Sir William Maurice, Knt., of Clenenny. The Eures were thus connected with the neighbourhood of Oswestry. The Barony of Eure became extinct in 1698." (Stanley Leighton, Shrop. Arch. Soc. *Trans.*, vol. iii., p. 139, note).

CXCVIII. RALPH FREEMAN TO THE SAME.

1643-4.

S^r

The wisest (as those which are soe reputed tell mee) are more curius to find & sease, a Judas att home, then serius to distroy a knowen enimie abroad, and ye only way to shew religion & to gayne honor, which to ye sons of fame are ye noblest spurs, is loyaltie to there prince; a gallant man daires cutt ye thred of a brother, or sease a neybor, yt with a betraying looke impudently gazes in the face of Majestie, should that trator fortune suffer in ye action that gallant brave man fall, hee on the ground lyes both as brave & gallant; nor is more subject to Contempt then are ye holy relicks of a temple which as if they were intier, should have a reverence: for those pretending good-ons, I informed you of att Shrowsbury, whoes companies you see much desier there, if you will be pleas'd to seale a warrant up in a letter for them all my faculties att once shall doe you service.

I Rest yor moust

humble Servant

feb. ye 18th 1643.

Pray be pleas'd impart your news.
To ye worshipfull S^r francis Otly
present this with my service.

RAPHE FREEMAN.

This somewhat ambiguous letter betrays a strong feeling of discontent with the conduct of men whom the writer does not venture to name, though it be in a private letter, and thereby reflects the tone of mind too prevalent at this time among the King's loyal subjects.

Prince Rupert arrived in Shrewsbury February 18,¹ and at once set himself with his usual energy to suppress the discontent of the garrison. He found an angry populace, an unpaid army, and a divided command; but the lack of money was the most serious difficulty to contend with. From this had arisen free quarter to the men, not unacceptable to them, but highly vexatious to the better class of officers, and ten-fold more so to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

One of his first acts was to instruct his Commissary General, Sir William Bellenden, to provide large stores of provision, and abolish free quarter.² This is the report of Sir William :—

May it Please Your Highness.

By Sir John Mennes letter, your Highness will understand the success of my Lord Byron's proceedings and ours since your Highness parted, and how much our condition is bettered. Monday last we discharged free quarters, not without some growling amongst the soldiers; and whereas your Highness did appoint 3s. worth of provisions to be given each souldier a week, I have only caused issue so much as comes to 1^s 10^d, which I did by the advice of some of the officers, it being sufficient with the shilling in money that

¹ Mayor's accounts, 19th February :—

A note of Wyne, Cakes and Sugar bestowed upon Prince Rupert his highness.

2 quarts of Sacke,	one q ^t clarett	1 q ^t white wyne at,	xx ^s
One Sugar loffe	10 ^{li} 4	...	xx ^s
3 doss. of bisketts	...	...	vj ^s
3 doss. of ffyne cakes	...	...	vj ^s

lij^s

pd. w^{ch} was bestowed on Prynce Rupert his Trumpeters xx^s

² This letter appears to exonerate Prince Rupert from the charge of sanctioning free quarter. See Owen and Blakeway, i., p. 444.

your Highness has appointed for them: more would have caused a waste. Neither could we, without danger of mutiny, hereafter have lessened the proportion once given them; this I hope your Highness will approve of. There comes in great store of provisions, so that we do promise your Highness a full magazine of corn at your return. I cannot as yet give your Highness any account of the conclusion your commissioners have made in North Wales till Sir Thomas Hanmer and Mr. Wayett return, which will be about the middle of the next week.

Your Highness's humble servant

Salop, March 30, 1644.

W. BELLENDEN.

CXCIX. AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GARRISON AND THE
SHREWSBURY CORPORATION.

1643-4.

A True Copy of the Agreement and Order made
betwixt the Governour and Mayor of Shrewsbury
the 19th day of February 1643.

It is this day Agreed betwixt the Governour and his Officers, subscribed on his part, and Mr Mayor, The Town Clerk, Aldermen and others on his part Subscribed, that the Governour should have for his Service done to that day by himself and Officers one full Months full pay According to a list then Shewed, with an Establishment of the pay due to every Officer, which came to the value of four Hundred and two pounds, and after that Day the Governour to have his full pay after the rate of £20 a Week and all the rest of his Officers in the said list named their half pay constantly paid them afterwards.

The GOVERNOUR.¹
Major BUTLER.²

Capt. OTTLEY.³
Capt. OWEN.⁴

¹ Sir Francis Ottley.

² An officer of the garrison appointed by Sir Francis Ottley, part of whose duty it was to inspect the repairs of the fortifications. From the Mayor's accounts we learn that he superintended the construction of a sentinel house in Frankwell during the months of March and April of this year, which Mr. Francis Sandford had previously been engaged upon.

³ Already mentioned (Letter ciii.) as the brother of the Governor. He was the second son of Thomas Ottley, Esq., by his wife Catharine, daughter of John Mackworth of Betton Strange; born 2nd March, 1602, now 22 years of age.

⁴ Probably Capt. Thomas Owen of Whitley, near Shrewsbury, taken prisoner at the capture of the town, then a Lieut.-Colonel.

Capt. NEEDHAM,¹
 Advocate TREWIS,²
 The MAYOR.³
 The TOWN CLERK.⁴

Mr GIBBONS, Alderman.⁵
 Mr FOSTER, Alderman.⁶
 Mr JOHN HARDING.⁷
 Mr LEWIS DAVIS.⁸

It will be observed that this agreement is dated the day after the arrival of Prince Rupert. But the document being signed by the Mayor and his friends was not of much value, for the town had been already exhausted, and even Rupert could not "get blood out of a stone."

Sir William Herbert, K.B., created Baron Powis of Powis Castle, co. Montgomery (here called Red Castle, from the colour of its walls, a name it had long borne, though there was another of the same name in Shropshire, once the residence of the Audleys), April 2nd, 1629. He died March 7th, 1655, aged 83. (G.M.) The allusion to certain good news in Lord Powis's short letter cannot now be traced, though it is not unlikely that it was the appointment of Prince Rupert as President of Wales, which took place on the 5th of February, and must have been highly gratifying to the owner of large estates in the Principality. It is probable that the Prince was a guest at Powis Castle in the following August, for we learn from the *Weekly Account* that the Prince's own regiment of horse was

¹ A member of the family of that name seated at Shavington, in this county, and probably identical with Capt. John Needham, who was killed while on guard with five men at the capture of Shrewsbury.

² Advocate Trewis, or Treves, appears also as Mr. Treves, being present at a sitting of the Commissioners of Prince Rupert Nov. 1 of this year.

³ Robert Betton, Junior, Esq., son of Alderman Robert Betton, Mayor in 1639-40, by Margaret Edwards.

⁴ Thomas Owen of Dinthill, near Shrewsbury, Esq. (See xxv. and cxiv.)

⁵ See Letter xxiv., note.

⁶ Robert Foster, Alderman.

⁷ John Harding, an Assistant in the Charter granted by Charles I. to the town.

⁸ Also an Assistant in the same Charter.

quartered at Welshpool, and was surprised by Middleton and Mytton in a night attack, nearly a hundred of them captured, including a Captain, a Cornet, and a Quartermaster, and 200 horses. A month later Middleton marched from Montgomery Castle to Welshpool, and on the 3rd of October took Red Castle, seized Lord Powis, "the greatest blasphemer in the world," according to the Roundhead reporter, "his brother, and a seminary priest, whom they at Oxford will tell you, is employed to settle the Protestant religion." Also they took forty horses, 200 arms, and about fifty prisoners, one hundred of them escaping out of the Castle in the dark.¹ Sir Thomas Middleton sent Lord Powis to the garrison of Wem, afterwards to Stafford, and finally on parole to London, where he resided at his lodgings in the Strand. The *Sequestration Papers* mention as paid in June, 1645, a Fine of £1,192, of which the county of Montgomery paid £818 9s., the balance of £373 11s. being still due at that date. Sir Percy Herbert was fined £1,007. Lord Powis in his old age, infirm and weak, had, in August, 1645, by Resolution of Parliament, £4 a week allowed him for his maintenance in prison out of his estate, by the Committee of Sequestration. The venerable nobleman lingered until 1655, when, as above stated, he died at the advanced age of 83.²

CC. LORD POWIS TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.
1643-4?

SYR,

I receaved your letter of the 17 of this Month full of very good newes and for itt can send you nothing in retribution but thanks, and give you assurance that I am, and ever will bee

Red Castle this
20 of February.

Your most faythfull
frend, and humble servant
Powrys.

For his most worthy
frend Syr Frauncis Oteley
at Shrewsbury, these.

¹ *The Kingdom's Weekly Intelligencer*.

² Montgomery Collections, 1881, p. 307.

John Talbot, 10th Earl of Shrewsbury (son of John Talbot, Esq., by Eleanor, daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Baskerville, Knt., of Brinsop, in Herefordshire), resided at Longford, near Newport, Shropshire. He married Mary, daughter of Sir Francis Fortescue, K.B., of Salden Hill. Symonds in his *Diary* informs us that Longford House was made a garrison by "the rebels" in 1644, who held it till Prince Rupert took it, at the same time he took Tong Castle. "Colonel Young is Governor (May, 1645). Young's estate £300 per annum, his wife a clothier's daughter." The Earl was declared a Recusant, and all his property was seized by the Parliament. He died Feb. 8, 1653-4.

CCI. THE EARL OF SHREWSBURY TO THE SAME.

1643-4?

S^r

This gentleman, Mr Witaker, is my very good frend, and one thatt I have byn very much beeholdinge unto, for the car hee had of my son's health; hee is dessigneinge to spend some tyme att Shreusbury and I can assure you hee is a very stonch man; whatt curtesie you shall please to afford him shall be esteemed as done to your

very assured lovinge frend

Longford 21. ffe.

SHREWSBURY.

To my very worthy frend

S^r ffancis Oateley, Knt.

Governor of Shrewsbury

give thys.

CCII. OWEN GRIFFITHS TO THE SAME.

1643-4.

NOBLE SIR

Yesternight, being with the Governor of Worcester, 48 prisoners of Waller's¹ Company (all Horsemen) were brought here, taken at Pershore just in my way to Oxford, which hath

¹ Probably engaged in a foraging expedition sent out from Gloucester, now in the hands of the Parliament, which town was in great distress, and an effort was made about this time to victual it, without success. Gard. i., p. 320.

Stayed & stopt me a little of my Journey, but now believing the coast is clear I go on; Waller himself with one Man by 3 in the Morning Yesterday called for a Farrier at Pershore, & finding the Town naked, presently, his Forces a 1000 or thereabouts, came in and Pillaged, and so ran away, but the Country rose up and took these Prisoners, whereof 2 are quartermasters, besides some Captains; it is believed Waller, designing to stop in Gloucester, the Prince being near, made for Warwick Castle or Coventry, I pray God it be not to join with Brereton, or some Other, in those parts upon the edge of Cheshire, to do some mischief Elsewhere. I am

Woster 21: Feb:

Your True Servant

1643.

To the R: W^{or}th^{ship} Sr Francis

OW. GRIFFITHS.

Oateley Knight, the Noble

Governor of Sallop p'sent with all due Respects
& speed.

CCHII. INFORMATION LAID BY WM. CHILD AGAINST FR. BURNE
AND WIFE.

1643-4.

The Informacon of William Child of Aston Botterell in the County of Salop, glover (now set forth a dragoonier for Aston Botterell) against ffraunces Burne & his wife, taken before the Bayliffs of Bridgnorth the 23th of this instant ffebruary 1643

Saith—That he this Informer being p'duced for the Townshipp of Botterell Aston to show himself before his ma^{ty}s Justices of peace imployed for raysing Dragoneers for p'te of the said County for his Ma^{ty}s service upon Munday the 13th day of this month came into the house of the said ffraunces Burne to drinke, the said ffraunces Burne then desired this Informer to speake privately wth him conceininge his imployment as to be instructed what he went aboute, whether he went upon a good cause or not; but this Informer refused soe to doe; then the said ffraunces Burne fell upon this Informer in this manner, doe you know what you goe aboute? doe you goe upon your own will or are you enforced to goe? or to that effect; to which this informer replied, he was not enforced; then the said Burne wished this Informer to be advised what he did, & to be instructed; and he replied, he very well knew what he went aboute, & wold not be instructed by him. Then the said Burne replied againe, that he loved this Informer so well, whereas he had heretofore killed

Calves at Botterells Aston, he shold kill no more there, or to that effect; and thereupon both the said fraunces Burne & his wife, did vouch severall places of Scripture to dissuade this Informer's intencion, and this Informer th'upon did instance unto them one place in Scripture to this effect, viz^t, As Solomon saith A good man giveth an Inheritance to his Children, and the riches of the wicked are laid up for the just; and thereupon this Informer told the said Burne he was a Round head, in the p'sence of one Thomas Rea, & one Patchet a tanner in Bridgnorth & other p'swasions they both used to desswade this Informer not to undertake the said service; and further saith not.

Convenit cum originali

Ex^r p. Sc X^r Totti

According to an interesting MS. in the collection of the Rev. John Webb, Apley Castle, to which our next paper relates, was garrisoned some time in 1643, probably late in that year, by Lord Capel, who appointed Lieut. Honer Governor of it, but the plundering and exactions of Honer annoyed the neighbourhood so much that Mr. Hanmer, who had married the widow of the late owner, Mr. Francis Charlton, and lived with her in the Castle, went to Shrewsbury to lay a complaint against him. So far from getting any redress, he was arrested and committed on the charge of High Treason. When Prince Rupert came to Shrewsbury in the beginning of 1644 he referred the subject to the Commissary General, Sir William Bellenden, who having heard the case of Hanmer and Honer made his report to the Prince, which was to this effect:—That Mr. Hanmer must consider whether he will man and maintain Apley Castle at his own charge, or leave it to another; or have it blown up. If he shall choose to keep it himself, and should hereafter lose it to the rebel enemy, that then the damage that shall accrue to the house in the recovery thereof, shall be refunded out of the estate. This was dated March 9th, 1643-4. The declaration he made was this:—"I Thomas Hanmer, do hereby declare that with his Highnesse's good leave and approbation, I will man, defend, and maintayne

my house, or Castle of Appley against the rebel enemy, under the authority of this pretended Parliament at Westminster, at my own proper charges in defence of his Majesty's just cause.—Thomas Hanmer." "Let this be done accordingly, signed Rupert." "Testor Will. Leven, Ad. General, Salop, March 14th, 1643-4."¹

A few days after he armed his servants and some of his tenants in accordance with his declaration. The house was taken by the Parliament troops, who plundered it to the amount of £1,500, and he was again made prisoner. Ten days afterwards it was recaptured for the King by Sir William Vaughan and Sir Robert Ellis, and the conditions of surrender will be found below. The Royalists sequestered the estate, seized upon the remainder of the property, estimated at £3,000 or £4,000, dismantled the house, and carried away the lead to cover the Castle of Shrewsbury.

The Castle to which the above account relates was built by Mr. Hanmer at a cost of £6,000, and stood less than two hundred yards from the present mansion of Sir Thomas Meyrick, Bart.; when it ceased to be occupied, the masonry being of a substantial character, the building was utilised for stabling and other purposes. The moat which protected it has been filled up, except a small part which now forms a fishpond. There is a drawing of the old house in Mrs. Stackhouse Acton's *Garrisons of Shropshire*.

CCIV. ARTICLES AGREED UPON FOR THE SURRENDER OF
APLEY CASTLE.

1643-4.

March 24th 1643.

Articles agreed upon betweene Coll Ellis & Sr W^m Vaughan K^{nt} for his m^{ty}, wth Capt W^m Brayne & Leiftenn^t Rich: Tayler & the rest of the officers in Garrison in Apley Castle.

¹ Memo. C. W. in Herefordshire ii., p. 50.

- 1 That the Comanders at Apley havinge yielded themselves & their souldiers prisoners it is agreed unto by Coll. Ellis & Sr W^m Vaughan that only ten of such as wee shall choose, shall remayne prisoners as Hostages till theire others be to the equall qualitie & number of those in Apley both officers & souldiers released that are imprisoned having taken Arms by his mat^{ys} comand either at Wem or any other Garrison.
- 2 It is agreed by both sides that no souldiers that have served in Ireland shalbe taken for any of the ten that are to remayne prisoners, but may without breach of Articles remayne in Sr W^m Vaughan his Regim't, if they will not returne to Weme.
- 3 The house is to be imediately surrendered and the souldiers to march away to Weme without molestacon of his ma^{ty}s forces, leavinge theire Armes & amunition, they marchinge away with theire Clothes untouched.

Cap Brayne
for
Captayn South-
wood
L. Taylor
for
L. Bayly and
the like for the
rest.

signed by
WM VAUGHAN
ROBT ELLICE.

Sr I have sent you a copy of the articles agreed upon at the delivery up of Appley: let me intreat you that for the honour of souldery they may be p^rformed; we have p^rformed them on our pt, let me intreat the like from you, and you thereby shall bind mee to bee

Yo^r Servant

THOMAS HUNT.

Sir William Vaughan came into Shropshire in command of an Irish regiment early in 1644, and one of his first recorded services was taking part with Colonel Ellice in this siege and capture of Apley Castle. In September following (28) he was appointed Governor of Shrawardine Castle, the seat of Henry Bromley, Esq., where he earned for himself the cognomen of "The Devil of Shrawardine," a name not undeserved, for he pulled down the Church and chancel, the parsonage house and out-buildings, on the plea of military necessity. From here also he raided the surrounding country with his Irish soldiers, plundering the houses of friends and

foes.¹ It was on one of these raids that Colonel Mytton, having received private intelligence, surprised and took him prisoner with twelve lieutenants, and other officers. His captor conducted him to the Castle, where he undertook to negotiate its surrender with those he had left in charge, but Sir William Vaughan was no sooner on the safe side the drawbridge than he drew it up and left the Roundhead Colonel to do his worst. The latter thought he had captured a gentleman—he found he had let slip a knave; but he retained his twelve lieutenants and other prisoners. Sir William Vaughan is often heard of during the war. He was present at the attempt to regain Montgomery Castle in September, 1644. Trevor, in writing to the Marquis of Ormond, says:—"Sir William Vaughan was the occasion of fighting the enemy in that place; but as my Lord Byron tells me, contributed not much to the action." (Cart's Coll. Orig. Lett., i., p. 64.) In July, 1645, when the Parliamentary troops were besieging High Ercall house for the second time he, with what strength he could obtain from surrounding garrisons, marched there to relieve it, which he succeeded in doing effectually. *Mercurius Belgicus* states that "he behaved himself so gallantly that he totally routed the besiegers, killed a hundred on the place, and took 400 prisoners with all their baggage." When the King came into Shropshire, shortly after the battle of Naseby, Sir Marmaduke Langdale and Sir William Vaughan, with 300 men, formed the royal escort. At this time he appears to have held the rank of General of the Horse in Salop, Worcester, and Stafford, conferred on him by the King. According to Symonds the King was in Ludlow August 7th (1645), and Sir Marmaduke Langdale and Sir William Vaughan again formed his escort. When Chester was besieged by the Parliamentary troops under Brereton in November, Vaughan was in command of a force of 1,700 horse and

¹ Gough's *History of Middle*, p. 40.

1,000 foot at Denbigh, made up largely of Irish, with a design to raise the siege, but Brereton was able to tell off a select force of 1,400 horse and 1,000 foot under Colonel Jones, with which Colonel Mytton with some auxiliaries co-operated, and completely routed Vaughan, driving him to seek shelter under the Castle, where he rallied his men; which he had no sooner done than Mytton again put him to flight, and chased him eight miles on the road to Conway, inflicting on his troops severe punishment. It was estimated that above a hundred of his men were slain, and about four hundred were taken prisoners, with "divers men of quality."¹ At the end of the war Vaughan returned to Ireland, where at the fatal battle of Rathmines on July, 25, 1649, serving as Commissary General of Horse, he fell in the first charge, his death contributing much to the calamity of the day.²

The Hon. Francis Newport of High Ercall, of whom some particulars have been already given (note to Letter VII.), who comes before us in the next letter, suffered so much after being taken prisoner at Oswestry in June of this year, that a short narrative gathered from the MSS. of Lord Denbigh should not be omitted. He was first taken to Wem, where the Parliamentary Committee of Shropshire wrote to Lord Denbigh expressing their opinion that he should be removed elsewhere, "in regard to an especial respect this place bears unto my Lord Newport and his friends;" but it would appear that Lord Denbigh had given Mr. Newport an assurance that he should not be removed till it was seen whether some exchange could be found for him. He wrote to remind his Lordship of this; and in the meantime an important Parliamentary officer, Lieut.-Colonel Pudsey, being a prisoner at Shrewsbury, wrote to Lord Denbigh (11 July), stating that the Governor of that town would accept no

¹ *True Informer*, No. 51.

² Clarendon *Hist. Reb.*, vol. viii., p. 98.

exchange for him except Mr. Newport. So far as his Lordship was concerned he agreed to the exchange, but the Committee were of another mind, and wrote to his Lordship (13th) deprecating the enlargement of Mr. Newport, "he being an exceedingly potent man in the county, and very active in raising men and money for the King's cause," and request he will admit of no exchange, but send him to the Parliament to be dealt with, "he being a Parliament man (*i.e.*, a Member of the House), and so active against the Parliament from the beginning." The Committee had their own way, and he was removed to Stafford. From here he writes (27th) again to Lord Denbigh, complaining that contrary to his Lordship's orders Sir Gerard Eyton, Major Manley, and himself are to be sent to Eccleshall Castle, "where is no accommodation in any respect fit for a gentleman," and requests that he may be retained at Stafford, or sent up immediately to London. The all-powerful Committee, however, disregard the comfort of the prisoners and the wishes of Lord Denbigh, and to Eccleshall they were sent. The three prisoners write again to Lord Denbigh, from whom alone they anticipate any consideration, in a joint letter, complaining of their sufferings at Eccleshall, aggravated by all the circumstances "that tyranny and baseness can be guilty of." "Our accommodation is so untoward at present that we have scarce philosophy enough to undergoe it; but that doth not so much beget this address as the noble sense we are assured yo'r lordship is swayed by to any gentleman's misfortune, which we throw ourselves upon as men that would not owe a favour of that nature to any other than yo'r lordship." In a postscript Newport asks Lord Denbigh, if he must be sent to London, that he may not be sent to the Tower, or to Peter-house, but may be committed to some private house on his own parole, or any other engagement.

Immediately afterwards the Commons passed a vote that Sir Thomas Middleton, since relieving Oswestry,

and taking Mr. Newport prisoner, is to have all the profit of Lord Newport's and his sons' lands, during the war, for the maintenance of his soldiers.

CCV. FRANCIS NEWPORT TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1643-4.

SIR,

I am inform'd that some Troopers have brought a Billet from you for 3 horses in my uncle sir Ri. Leveson's stable: now, Sir, I am to let you know that my Father hath procur'd a Protection from my L^d Capell, both for his owne houses and stables and alsoe for my uncle Leveson's, and there is likewise a particular ticked [*ticket*] procured from Captaine Jennings for the securinge of this Stable for my Uncle's use, which I can assure you to bee very true, though the man that had it delivered to him was soe foolish not to leave it there. My desire to you is, Sir, in my Uncle's behalfe (who you well know deserves not to be prejudic'd by any of the King's servants) that you would give your assistance for the securinge of the Stable and the Haye, and to withdraw the Billett now granted, and you will much favour my Uncle and mee,

Y^r humble Servant,

High Ercall, March 30.

FR. NEWPORT.

To my much honord Kinsman

Sir Francis Oatley, K^t

Governo' of Shrewsbury, these.

[Printed in Owen and Blakeway's *History of Shrewsbury*.]

In March Sir Francis Ottley visited Oxford to pay his homage to the King, when he doubtless took the opportunity of explaining his position in regard to his office of Governor of Shrewsbury, and defending himself against the insinuations of incapacity made against him. Mennes having Prince Rupert's ear, had done all he could to prejudice his case in the Prince's mind. But Charles owed much to the example of fidelity and self-sacrifice set by Sir Francis in Shropshire, which he had not been backward to recognise and acknowledge. The King could satisfy the Prince in no other way than by at length removing him in favour of the Prince's own nominee, and could only do

justice to Sir Francis by conferring upon him some new honour that would be a fair compensation for the loss of his governorship.

Sir Francis returned to Shrewsbury on the 29th of March, and was received by the Mayor and Aldermen in the customary manner.

A note for Wyne Cakes and Sugar bestowed
upon S Fr: Oateley at his return from Oxford.

1 g ⁿ of Sacke at 20 ^d	...	...	...	...	vij ^s viij ^d
1 Dossen of fyne cakes	...	...	...	...	ij ^s
1 ^h of Sugar	...	...	...	...	ij ^s
					<hr/> xi ^s viij <hr/>

CCVI. MAJOR GOULDEGAY TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1644.

NOBLE Sr

I formerly sent unto you by a Drum of Yours (being thereunto invited by the receipt of a former courtesey from you) for the exchange of two of my Souldiers now Prisoners with you (Viz.) John Maxee and Thomas Robinson, but being doubtfull whether you received it or no, Causeth me to be further troublesome unto you, and to desire that you would so much the more engage me to you as to send me these two Men hither with a Paroll, and I do hereby promise you by the word of a Gentleman immediately upon their coming hither to enlarge 2 of your's here of like Quality, and shall remain

Wem this 30th of
April 1644.

Yo^r Servant
Major W^m GOULDEGAY

To Sr Francis Oteley
Governor of Shrewsbury
These p'sent.

Major Gouldegay distinguished himself in the battle of Nantwich January 28th, 1643, between Sir William Brereton and Sir Thomas Aston, by dismounting his dragoons, and turning his horses upon the enemy, throwing them into the direst confusion, and thus contributed to the defeat of the Royalists. It was on this

occasion the Roundhead Press accused Sir Vincent Corbet of crawling away on all fours lest he should be discerned, and then ran on foot bareheaded to Over, six miles—probably a flight of imagination on the part of "Our Own Correspondent," rather than of the worthy Baronet, though the rout of the Royalists was complete.

Everyone has read the highly interesting letters written to her son Edward by Lady Brilliana Harley from Brampton Bryan Castle, before, and during, the siege of that place in 1643. The letters were printed by the Camden Society in 1854, from the MSS. in possession of her descendant, the Lady Frances Vernon Harcourt, which had been for many years neglected at Eywood, the seat of the Harley's in Herefordshire. Lady Brilliana—her husband, Sir Robert Harley, a determined and active Parliamentarian, being detained by his duties in London—held Brampton Bryan with conspicuous courage till her death, which took place soon after the first siege in October, 1643. Dr. Nathaniel Wright of Hereford, her physician, one of her truest friends, held the castle in the second siege, but surrendered it, at mercy only, to Sir Michael Woodhouse, Governor of Ludlow, on the 17th April, 1644, after a resistance of three weeks, when there were taken 67 men, 100 arms, two barrels of powder, and a whole year's provisions. Three of Sir Robert Harley's youngest children were among the prisoners.

Frequent mention is made in Lady Harley's letters of a Mr. Phillips of Ledbury, who was very kind to her in the midst of all her troubles, and after receiving information from a messenger she had sent to Hereford to observe the conduct of her enemies, she writes to her son, "that all at Heariford cried out against your father, and not one said anything for him, but one man, Mr. Phillips of Ledbury said, when he heard them speak so against your father, 'Well,' said he, 'tho Sir Robert Harley be low here, yet he is above, where he is,' " alluding to the high estimation in which he

was held in London. Possibly the William Phillips of the following letter was of this family. Lokere, from whom Phillips had received the letters, is several times mentioned as Looker or Loocker by Lady Harley, he being the medium through whom she communicated with her son Edward. She writes (April 10, 1640), "I have sent you by Loocker some violet cakes;" and again (May, 1643), "I received your letter very well, which came by Looker." What the correspondence was found on Phillips we shall never know, but it could have been of little importance at this time, for Lady Harley was dead, and Brampton Bryan Castle had been dismantled by the Royalist forces.

The number of these secret messengers must have been great, as they were largely employed by both sides during the war, and such a hazardous business doubtless called forth much ingenuity to escape detection. Our local historian, Gough, gives a good account of one of these men :—

This Richard Clarke was the son of Richard Clarke, of Middle Wood. Hee was naturally ingenious. Hee had a smooth way of flattering discourse, and was a perfect master in the art of dissembling. Hee was listed for a soldier on the Parliament side in Wem, whilst hee was yett but a mere boy. There was nothing of manhood or valor in him, and yet hee was serviceable to the officers of that Garrison by carrying of letters to theire friends and correspondents that were in Garrisons of the adverse party. Hee had an old ragged coate on purpose which he would putt on, and goe as a beggar boy. Hee carryed a short stick, such as boys call a dog staffe. There was a hole boared in the end of it, and there the letters were putt, and a pegg after them, and that end hee put in the dyrt. If hee mett with soldiers, hee would throw his sticke att birds, soe that it might goe over the hedge, and then goe over to fetch it. When he came to the Garrison, he would begg from doore to doore, and consort himselfe with beggars untill hee came to the place he was to deliver his letter. When a maid came to the door, hee would disyre to speak with the Master, from a friend. When the Master came hee would give him his sticke, and goe to cleane the stable untill the master brought his stick and then returne begging as beefore. (*History of Middle*, p. 106, Shrewsbury edition.)

CCVII. THOMAS EDWARDES, HIGH SHERIFF, TO THE SAME.

1644.

GOOD BROTHER,

This evening was brought before mee one William Philips of Lentwardine who being tipling in this Towne & discovered to have the letters inclosed. I examined him whence hee had these letters & he saith they came from the Lady Harley & were delivered him by a tenant of hers one Lokere that lyves in Lentwardyne, hee would not confess any more, but hee hath byn often noted to passe this Towne as a comon Intelligencer from that Castle into these parts. Hee would fayne have intreated mee to open these letters, but seeing to who they are directed, I would not adventure of my selfe to doe it, but have sent him & the letters unto you. Not doubting of your Vigilancy to advise with Sir Rich: Lee, Sir Jo: Weld, or others, what to doe with them, and also knowing your power to bee farre above myne in this *Case* & to your wisdome I send him and them, being

Your brother assured to serve
you

Stretton, May 10.

THO: EDWARDES.

1644.

To the right wor.th

Sir Ffrancis Ottley, Knt.

Governour of the Towne of Shrewsbury these
present.

(Seal)

We shall now have our attention occupied for a moment with the financial business between the Governor of Shrewsbury and the Corporation, which appears to have been in a most unsatisfactory condition, and which Prince Rupert was determined to bring to a settlement. But Corporate bodies clothed with certain legal rights and privileges conferred upon them by a succession of Royal Charters extending over many centuries were, in those days, not easily intimidated even by a Prince of royal blood. It is a fortunate circumstance that amongst the Ottley Papers there is a transcript taken, at some period unknown, from the books of the Corporation (the books not now to be

found), of all the more important resolutions bearing on the business. Several extracts have already been given (following Letter LXVII.) of what was done by the Corporation up to the beginning of 1643; a continuation of them from that period to the present will convey a sufficiently clear idea without much comment. The first relates to the latter part of 1643; the month is not named.

The Corporation remonstrate to an order from Lord Capel, commanding the Governor, Mayor, and Aldermen, to raise money for the Pay of his Lordship's Troops, quartered in the Town.

An Assessment of £1000 ordered for Defences of the Town.

The Governour demanded £380, for a Month's Pay, for himself and Officers, which the Corporation Scruple the Payment of.

1644.

The Corporation remonstrate to an Order from Prince Rupert's Commissioners to pay £100, for work at the Fortifications.

They disown a pretended Agreement said to be made between Sir Francis Ottley and Them, for Payment of two, Sums to him, the one of £775, and the other of £402 for the pay of him and his Officers: and likewise called on him to produce his Patent; for as the Inhabitants of the Town were all Soldiers, or maintained Soldiers under them, (if they did not do their Duty in their own Persons) they conceive Soldiers should not Contribute to Maintain their Superior Officers.

A copy of the agreement for the £402 has been given, No. CXCIX., dated 19 February.

It is now May, and no steps have been taken by the Corporation to pay the Governor's claim. This claim is fully set forth in the next paper.

CCVIII. PAYMENTS DUE TO THE GOVERNOR.

1644.

A breife note of the Agreement betwixt Sir Francis Ottley Governor of Shrewsbury and Mr Mayor of the said Town and also what hath been received by the Governour from the Town,

since the time he first took the employment of a Soldier upon him for the defence of the said Town.

Received at Several Times as by note ¹ may appear.	326	9	0
Upon the ninth of February Last 1643 upon an Agreement betwixt the Governor and Mayor, the Governour did Agree, and was Content to Accept, of one Month's pay for himself and all his Officers, for all their former Servis done to that Day, being then a year and half, which Month's pay came to	402	0	0
Whereof received but only the Sum of	124	9	0

So there is due in Arrears of that month	277	11	0
It was likewise Agreed the 19 th of February that after that Day the Governour should receive his demand, being £20 a Week, and all his Officers their half pay.	}		
Which, to this present day being the 10 th of May, is 11 Weeks which comes to, for the Governour at £20 a Week, the sum of			
And all the Officers half pay for the said 11 Weeks,	220	0	0
Due in all upon this Agreement betwixt the Governour and the Mayor	555	10	0
The Mayor is forthwith to Satisfie Sir Francis Ottley and his Officers According to their Agreement, Salop May 1644.	1053	1	0

¹ The Particulars of what hath been received from the Town, since the first Employment by the Govenor.

The 25 of October 1642	...	...	...	30	0	0
The 13 of January 1642	...	...	...	10	0	0
The 28 of January 1642	...	...	...	10	0	0
The 20 of May 1643	...	...	...	60	0	0
The 24 of June 1643	...	...	...	30	0	0
At Several times After	...	...	...	22	0	0
The 16 of February 1642	...	...	...	50	0	0
The 24 of February 1643	...	...	...	40	0	0
The 27 of February 1643	...	...	...	5	0	0
The 8 of March 1643	...	...	...	20	0	0
The 9 of March 1643	...	...	...	5	0	0
The 16 of March 1643	...	...	...	4	9	0
				326	9	0

CCIX. PRINCE RUPERT'S ORDER THAT THE GOVERNOR BE PAID.


1644.

1. That the Commissioners may hear and Examyne all S^r Ffrancis Ottley's undertakings for the quartering of horse and foote within the Towne and Liberties of Shrewsbury, and allsoe his bills of other Engagements.

2. That a Settled course may be taken hereafter for the payment of S^r ffrancis Ottley, his Officers and 800 Souldiers,

Shrowesbury this 16th of May 1644.

It is my pleasure that this Paper bee delivered to the Commissary Generall, to y^e Commissioners & that they doe take a speedie Course for S^r Francis Ottley's Satisfaction.



What the "settled course" the Commissioners were to take is left us to conjecture; there is nothing to show that the Corporation paid the whole of the claim; and on the 1st November the Commissioners again sat to consider the subject, and finally determined to confiscate the rents arising from the Shropshire estates of the "recusant" Earl of Bridgwater for the purpose.

Further extracts from the books of the Corporation will present the case for the town, as against the Commissioners, who claimed heavier contributions than the inhabitants could afford.

A Committee was appointed to draw up a statement to lay before the Governor the financial position of the Corporation.

A Committee appointed to acquaint the Governor of the Poor Estate of the Town, and that they are not able to provide

and Maintain a Troop of Horse within the Town for the Reasons following, viz.

- 1st When the Town was ordered by Prince Rupert's Commissioner to pay in Contribution Money they were promised that no free quarter should be put upon them.
- 2nd Consider the Charge of Fortifications, buying of 8 Pieces of Ordnance, making of Gunpowder, providing of Coals and Candles for the Several Guards, and the payment of Subscription Money, and Privy Seals.
- 3rd That the whole Revenue of the Town will not pay the Coals and Candles for the Centrys.
- 4th Consider the Stopping and Decay of Trading, especially that from Wales, in Cottons, Cheese, and Cattle, and from hence to Wales in Malt, and other Commodities.
- 5th That the Horse here quartered in the summer have Eaten the greatest part of the Meadowing and Pasture Ground in and about the Suburbs of the Town, and that the Town is not furnished with Hay.
- 6th That the Provision which they were used to have formerly for Hay, was from Montgomeryshire, which was taken from them by the enemy.
- 7th That most of their horses were stolen from them by the Soldiers.
- 8th That the Lands within the Town and Liberties are over valued and will not give above half the Rent they were formerly set at.
- 9th That the Town was indebted above £800 and paid use for the greatest Part of it. Whereof the greatest part had been incurred since his Majesty came there.
- 10th That notwithstanding all these Losses and Charges the Town was contented to pay an equal proportion with the County for raising so many Horses as they shall think fitt.¹

This representation probably had some effect in moderating the amount next assessed; and the assessment was at once complied with.

Ordered that the Assessment for £200 be forthwith levied upon the Abler sort of People, according to the Order of Prince Rupert's Commissioners, for payment of the Officers of this Garrison.

¹ These ten resolutions are printed in Owen and Blakeway's *History*, but differ somewhat in the wording, which I cannot account for.

CCX. SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY TO LIEUTENANT RICHARD JONES.

1644.

Whereas Thomas Benyon one of yo'r Company in my Regim't is ymployed as a Smyth in the Towne workes for the Sharp-inge of picks and other Tooles, and by consequence cannot neglect the said ymploym't. Therefore you are hereby authorized to give him Libertie to departe from his guard att fower of the Clocke in the morninge the sev'all tymes it shall fall to his turne to watch; whereby he may followe his daylie Service therein. And this shalbe his discharge and warrant for you in that behalfe. Salop the xxjth day of May 1644.

Francis Otley

This last paper, although one of no moment, is useful as showing that the Governor had not yet ceased to hold office, the exact date of his surrender of which has never been really ascertained. Blakeway in his *Sheriffs of Shropshire* states that "in the middle of 1644 he was glad to relinquish his post, and accept the office of Sheriff for the ensuing year; whereas in the *History of Shrewsbury* we are told that it is certain his government continued from February, 1642-3, to November or December, 1644. The first date here given is nearest the truth, but could we fix the date of his successor we should be still nearer the mark.

In reference to his successor the authors of the *History of Shrewsbury* write as follows:—"Richard Baxter, the celebrated non-conformist, relates in his Life, that in the summer of 1643, Sir Fulke Hunkes, the brother of his Step-mother, was made Governor by the King, 'But at last, the gentry of the county and he agreed not; he being too much a soldier, and too civil for many of them, and they procured him to be removed; and Sir Richard Otley first, and after Sir Michael Ernley, made Governor. Sir Fulke was confident when he went, that their drunkenness and carelessness would shortly lose the town.' Here are

various mistakes. The historical relations of Baxter are as little to be depended upon as those of Burnet. Not from any intentional falsification in either of those eminent persons; but because both of them, writing from recollection, many years after the facts occurred which they propose to record, and not distrusting their memories, took no pains to ascertain the truth of what they deliver. The mistake of Sir Francis's Christian name is trivial, compared with the misstatement of the date of his government, which, it is certain, continued from February, 1642-3, to November or December, 1644."

I have given this paragraph entire to enable the reader to judge the value of the criticisms I have to offer. That Baxter was wrong in the date when Sir Francis was Governor, and his Christian name, cannot be questioned; but that he was wrong in his statement that Huncks was appointed to succeed Sir Francis in the office, cannot be maintained, as the following extracts from contemporary writers will show. *Mercurius Civicus* records that "by letters out of Cheshire, dated the 7th of this instant, August, it is advertised that Col. Mytton lately faced Shrewsbury with his horse, and with another party kept Montford Bridge towards the Welsh gate, within three miles of Shrewsbury, and wheeled about the town with another party through Crow-Meole and Brace-Meole, to Atcham Bridge, where Col. Hunke, the Governor of Shrewsbury lies, and drove away many of his horses, calves, and sheep, and did much hinder Shrewsbury fair, which was that day."¹ In a letter from John Williams, Archbishop of York, to the Marquis of Ormond, 20 August, 1644, occurs the following passage:—"The Prince [Rupert] is recruiting amain, and will get up arms and cannon; ammunition will be found his greatest difficulty. He hath sent already horse and

¹ *Mercurius Civicus*, No. 64, Aug. 15, 1644; quoted by Roland Phillips, vol. ii., p. 194.

foot to Shrewsbury (complaints and suspicions being cast upon Hunkes, the new governor), and will, as we hear, draw that way himself."¹ Again, Samuel More, the brave defender of Hopton Castle, a man well informed on all that transpired at the time, in a letter from Wem, 18th August, 1644, writes:—"Colonel Broughton is made Governor of Shrewsbury, and Sir F. Hunkes is gone to Chester."²

In the face of such evidence it cannot be doubted that Sir Fulke Hunkes was appointed Governor of Shrewsbury in place of Sir Francis Ottley, though he could have held the post little more than a month. It is also certain that Colonel Broughton succeeded him for a short period, a fact not recorded by our historians, Owen and Blakeway. It would further appear that Sir Francis Ottley ended his governorship some time in the month of July.

The occasion on which the next letter was written was when Prince Rupert had gone towards York with the object of relieving it, and the King was left to deal with Waller. On the 28th of June the King was manœuvring round Banbury, seeking an opportunity to fight Waller to advantage; "but Waller's tried skill availed him here, and on the following morning the Royal army turned off towards Daventry, in the hope of enticing Waller to leave the strong position which he had taken up." The battle of Copredy Bridge occurred the next day, in which Waller was beaten, and lost his park of artillery. Notwithstanding this success of the King, he thought it better to return to his old quarters at Evesham, where he remained some days, and on the 7th held a council of war which determined him to attack Essex before help could reach him.

¹ Ormond's Letters, in *Archæologia Cambrensis*, vol. xv., 3rd ser., p. 322.

² Original Letters, in the possession of Stanley Leighton, Esq., M.P., printed in *Montgomeryshire Collections*, vol. viii., p. 372.

CCXI. THE KING REQUIRES TEN TONS OF CHEESE.

1644.

S^r

His Ma^{tie} being advanced to Evesham hath by his L^{rs} from thence dated 6th Instantii Required me Speedilie to p^rvide and send Tenn Tonne of Cheese from these parts to be delivered to the Mayor of Worcester, who shall give the owners satisfacc^on for the same according to the Markett Rates. I desire you therefore that yo^u send in this night or soe soone after as possiblie yo^u can to Bayliffe Synges house att Bridgenorth One Tonne of A good sorte of Cheese whether ould or this Year's making, and there shall be an Officer appoynted to Receive the same and to attend itt to Worcest^r and to Demand and Receive the moneys for itt there, which shall upon his retourne bee speedilie paid to everie p^rson who shall soe send in. Letting you further know, that as I have sent to his Ma^{tie} an Account how I have p^rceeded in his Com^{and}s by sending him a Catalogue of the names of the p^rsons and the p^rporcons from them required Soe I must if there be A faile in any one—signifie the same to his Ma^{tie} for my owne Excuse: I rest

Yor Loveing freind to serve
Yo^u L: KIRKE

Bridgenorth
7^o Julii 1644.

Sir Lewis Kyrke, of London, Knt., was Governor of Bridgnorth, and had to pay for his zeal in the Royal cause £150. [G.M.]

The first Governor of Bridgnorth was Sir William Pennyman, as appears from the following entry in the books of the Corporation of that town:—"For wine bestowed on Sir William Pennyman, Colonell, who was appointed by his Majesty, Governor of this Town, 10, October, 1642, 3^s 4^d." This is probably the same person who at a later date was Governor of Oxford, of whom Clarandon writes:—"Upon the death of Sir William Penniman, who had been Governor of Oxford, to the great satisfaction of all men, being a very brave and generous person, and who performed all manner of civilities to all sorts of people, as having had a good education, and well understanding the manners of the Court, . . . the King conferred that charge upon

Sir Arthur Aston." (*Hist.*, iv., p. 550.) It would appear that before March 28, 1643, he had ceased to hold the office in Bridgenorth. "The Town at this Common Hall doth unanimously consent and also desire, that John Bromley, Esq^r may be Governor of this Town, yf it may please the King's most Excellent Majesty to confer that place upon him." But whether the wishes of the Corporation were complied with there is no evidence to show. In 1644 (the month not given) an order of the Corporation mentions Sir Lewis Kirke as Governor. He was probably appointed on the advent of Prince Rupert in these parts. He was an active and energetic officer, though not particularly discreet. Thomas Dabridgecount, writing to Prince Rupert, March 11th, 1644, informs his Highness that Colonel Kirke writes "from Bridgnorth that Tuesday, the 14th is a day on which cattle are usually driven out from Wales into the enemy's garrisons into Staffordshire, which he shall stop, until he has commands from the Prince." (Warburton, ii., p. 385.) Sir Michael Woodhouse did the same thing at Ludlow, which elicited a letter from the Archbishop of York, from his castle at Conway, to Prince Rupert, preferring a plea for his Highness's protection of the poor cattle drovers, whom he calls "the Spanish fleet of North Wales, which brings hither the little gold and silver we have," from the oppression of Sir Michael Woodhouse, against whom they had petitioned. (*Ibid.*, iii., 56.) Sir Lewis Kyrke was removed from the governorship of Bridgnorth in the early part of 1646, in consequence of insubordination and "violent opposition" to the directions of Lord Asteley, regarding certain matters of discipline in the garrison; and Sir Robert Howard was appointed in his place, which he held up to the taking of the town by the Parliament in April following.

Major Thomas Smallman (of Wilderhope, co. Salop), the writer of the two following letters, held a commission in the regiment commanded by Sir Francis Ottley.

Genealogists are almost unanimous in regarding Thomas Smallman, son of Francis, by his wife Abigail, daughter of Hugh Morris, of Lorian, co. Denbigh, as the Major; but I venture to think they are mistaken. That there were two of the name, differing in age by 24 years, both officers in the King's service, the older uncle of the younger, and the latter heir of Wilderhope, can be easily proved.

In a list of indigent officers "Certified out of the Connty of Salop, by his Majesty's Commissioners appointed by Act of Parliament for that purpose" [1665], preserved among the Ottley Papers, there is the following entry:—"Thomas Farnalls Cornett to Major Thomas Smallman, in the Regt. of Sir Francis Ottley." And in another paper in the same collection headed:—"To his Most Sacred Majesty, the Humble Petition of his Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, Deputy Lieutenants, and all other Officers of the Militia of the County of Salop" [1661], tendering their services at the Restoration, there is subscribed the name of "Thomas Smallman, Lieutenant." The difference of rank can only be explained on the ground that there were two officers in the King's service of the same name. At the time the two following letters were written, which are without date, but from internal evidence must be referred to 1644, Lieutenant Thomas Smallman, baptized at Rushbury 3rd October, 1624, was not of age, and it is hardly possible to believe he could have risen to the rank of Major; or, judging from the tone of these letters, that they could have come from the pen of so young a man. His uncle, on the other hand, was 44 years of age, and obviously, according to his second letter, more impecunious than we can suppose the owner of Wilderhope to have been, which had not yet been compounded for.

The following references are doubtless to the younger man, the heir of Wilderhope, who appears to have been not in the least inferior to his uncle in zeal for his Royal master. In the report of the Proceedings of the

Committee of the Lords and Commons sitting at Derby House, Oct. 10, 1648, Mr. Thomas Smallman was in custody, and it was resolved that he be set at liberty upon paying £20. On Nov. 24 following it was resolved that "Smallman and Stockton be discharged from Peterhouse upon giving security;" and Thomas Smallman, of Wilderhope, co. Salop, entered into a Bond for his personal appearance before the Committee of Lords and Commons sitting at Derby House, when summoned, under a penalty of £500. (Cal. St. Pap., 1648-9.) We further find the following in a list of Shropshire compounders:—

A Particular of the Estate of Thomas Smalman of Wilderton [*sic*] in the County of Salopp, Esq^r for which he hath compounded at Goldsmith's hall, 26^{mo} die Junii 1649.

The Manor of Wilderton with appurtenances,	p. ann.	...	...	...	60	0	0
In Stanton Lacy, Newton, and Ludlow, and							
Cheiff Rent in Thonglands	p. ann.	...	...	...	40	0	0

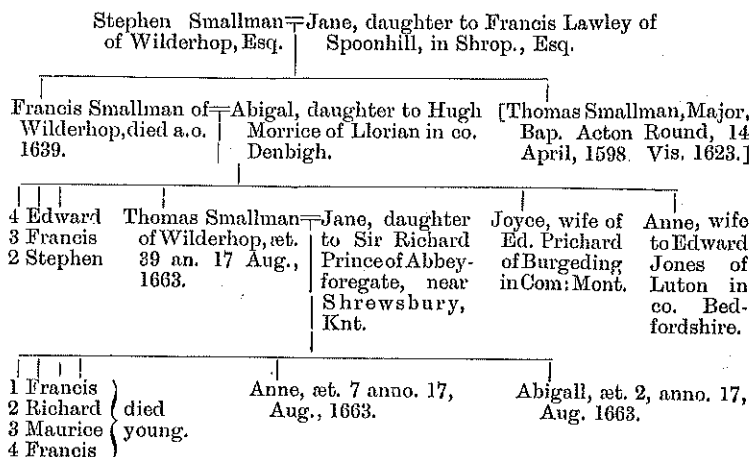
The old family mansion of Wilderhope (variously spelt as Wildertopp and Wilderton), on the Wenlock Edge, three miles north-east of Rushbury, still exists, and is now occupied as a farm house; it is an interesting specimen of an early seventeenth century dwelling built of stone. On the ceiling of one of the rooms are the initials F.S. E.S., and over the door 1601, probably Francis Smallman, second son of Edward Smallman of Neenton and Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of George Hopton of Bitterley; "E.S." standing for his wife, Ellen Smallman. If this be so, the house must have been finished the second year after his death.

Three miles north of the house is a steep limestone rock, conspicuous on the west side of Wenlock Edge, which bears the name of *Smallman's Leap*. The tale runs that while most of his neighbours were on the Parliamentary side, Major Thomas Smallman was a zealous Royalist, and that on one occasion a few of Cromwell's troopers visited the house in his absence, and returning home shortly afterwards he followed

them by a circuitous route, and contrived to meet them in a narrow defile on the road to Ludlow about night-fall. By a sudden attack the Major is said to have killed two or three of the troopers, and to have recovered his property. It was not his fate to remain long in peace. Another stronger body of Cromwell's troopers surrounded his mansion at Wilderhope, when he had only time to mount his horse, and being closely pursued by them through Mogg Forest, he at length reached a cliff on Wenlock Edge, where rather than surrender himself he made a bold and daring leap into the dale below. The horse is said to have been killed, but the Major escaped with some bruises, and lived to witness the Restoration. (Hubert Smith, *Salopian Shreds and Patches*, Nov. 12, 1879.)

I am indebted for the following pedigree of the Smallmans, embodying the Heralds' Visitation of the County of Salop, 1663, to the kindness of the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, of St. Michael's Vicarage, Shrewsbury. It will enable the reader to understand what I have advanced above.

Ludlow, 17 Aug., 1663.



CERTIFIED BY MR. THOMAS SMALLMAN

Extracted from the Visitation of Co. Salop, 1663, by me George W Marshall Rouge Croix, 9th Sept., 1893.

CCXII. THOMAS SMALLMAN TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1644.

S^r

Ludlow

the 4th Sep^r

My humble Service presented to you: I believe you have heard of our misfortune: which I had acquainted you withall before this, but that I stay'd for the list of the Prisoners from Shrewsbury, which my Quarterm^r hath; my humble request to you is that you will be pleased to use what means you possibly can for the enlargem^t of our Men [that] are taken. I vow to God I never saw men behave themselves more gallantly then they did, and therefore I hope you will be the more mindfull of them. In the mean time I desire you would furnish me with some money to releive them. Coll: Davileir wonders you did not send the Men to me you promised and to that end hath sent my Quarterm^r, I desire you would send what men you can by him with all Speed may be, for I believe we shall go upon present Service, thus hoping to hear from you ere long with my Service to my Lady and the rest of my Friends, I humbly take leave and rest

Your Friend & Servant

THO: SMALLMAN

To the right hon^{le} Sir
Francis Ottley Knt and Coll:
at Bridgnorth these.

This reference to a defeat may be to that sustained by a body of Royalist troops at Malpas, Cheshire, composed of drafts from various regiments in Shropshire and neighbouring garrisons, then on its way to Shrewsbury, and thence to the King. Brereton being at Nantwich received information of its movements on Saturday evening, Aug. 24, marched on Sunday night reaching Malpas at break of day, and immediately charged the Royalists with such vigour and success that they were completely routed, with the loss of several of their field officers. Colonels Conyers, Baynes, and Hesketh were slain, Sir Marmaduke Langdale wounded, and many officers and men taken prisoners. Brereton reports the event, and states that the Royalists "were then upon their march towards

Shrewsbury, and so to the King; but fled back towards Chester, where they could not be admitted, but were looked upon very scornfully, because they were beaten back by so inconsiderable a number, which they exceeded ten to one." Brereton has tinged his sketch with a little Parliamentary paint. (King's Papers, 172-8.)

CCXIII. THOMAS SMALLMAN TO THE SAME.

1644.

Humble Service p'sented: Mr Warring hath sent to me to send [some] money to him to supply his wants in Prison, which (had I been [able]) I should not failed to have done, we have received [no] money since I came to Ludlow, whereby I am sure [you] will conceive that I cannot be able to do what I [desire], especially were I able I should not fail to relieve so gallant a Man as Mr Warring is, [my] humble request to you is that you would be pleased to [send] him some relief by this bearer for the present [need]. The] first money I receive I shall both furnish him [with and] the rest to the Utmost of my Ability, and in the [meantime I humbly] take leave & rest

Yo^r faithfull Servant
to Command

10th

THO: SMALLMAN

To the right Worth
Sr Francis Oatley Kn^t
and Coll at Bridgnorth
this.

This letter is much damaged, the words in brackets are conjectural.

CCXIV. A RECEIPT FOR CHEESE.

1644.

24th of September 1644.

Rec. of Rich: Meare of Buildas 1200: weight of Cheese w^{ch} is to bee d'd. in Shrewsberry by the Constable, for his Ma^{ty} use & for w^{ch} hee is to receive or to bee allowed att the Rate of 2^d the pound.

By mee

Rich: Hofer:

We find in the next document Sir Francis Ottley was sitting as one of the Commissioners of Shropshire, but not as Governor. It may have been this which led the authors of the *History of Shrewsbury* to state that his government, "it is certain, continued from February, 1642-3, to November or December, 1644." But we have seen that long previous to this sitting of the Commissioners he had been superseded in the office.

CCXV. A SITTING OF PRINCE RUPERT AND THE COMMISSIONERS.
1644.

Primo die Novembris An'o d'no 1644
Att a Sitting of the Commission^{rs} of Prince Rupert
his hignesse in Shrewsbury

Present
The high Sheriff¹
S^r francis Ottley
Mr Owen²
Mr Lacon³
Mr Smith⁴

Sir Vincent Corbett
Mr Sandford⁵
Mr Treves.

It is Ordered that all the Rents of the Lord of Bridgewater that are unreceaved and to bee recaved within this County be receaved by S^r Francis Ottley, for Satisfacon of all arreares

¹ Mr. Thomas Edwardes.

² Roger Owen, of the Council House, Shrewsbury, son and heir of Sir William Owen, of Condover, Knt. Both father and son were active adherents of King Charles, and both were punished for their loyalty, the father not so severely as the son, the former being let off on payment of £314, whilst the latter had to pay £700. Roger married Alice, daughter of Gilbert Gerard, Lord Gerard, and was buried at St. Mary's, Shrewsbury, March 1st, 1660-1.—G.M.

³ James Lacon, of West Coppice, co. Salop, Esq. He compounded for his estate by payment of £554, and died 1667.—G.M.

⁴ Probably Francis Smith, of Burton, co. Salop.—G.M.

⁵ Arthur Sandford, of Sandford, Esq., grandfather of the celebrated Herald and Genealogist. His name appears to the "Engagement and Resolution," above-mentioned. He was a zealous supporter of the King, was taken prisoner at the capture of Shrewsbury, Feb. 22nd, 1644-5, but died before the general sequestration of property. His son and heir, Francis, who imitated his father's example, had to compound by payment of £459.—G.M.

due to him and his Office's, be former engagement for quartering and Cloathing of his Souldi's, And the future pay of himselfe, Office's and Souldi's, hee rendering a accompt thereof when he shall bee thereunto required by Prince Rupert his highnes, or his Com^s for this County.¹

John Prideaux, Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, was elevated to the see of Worcester, Nov. 22nd, 1641, and died July 20th, 1650, aged 72. [G.M.] He was the fourth son of John Prideaux, of Stowford, Devon; educated at Exeter College, Oxford; Rector of his College from 1612 to 1624; Vice-Chancellor from 1619 to 1621, from 1642 to 1626, and 1641 to 1642. He was Chaplain to Prince Henry, King James, and King Charles I.; and Regius Professor of Divinity in Oxford. Though much impoverished by the Parliamentary sequestrators, he appears to have retained a cheerful mind. Being once asked how he did, he replied, "Never better in my life, only I have too great a stomach, for I have eaten that little plate which the sequestrators have left me; I have eaten a great library of excellent books, and have eaten a great deal of linen, much of my brass, some of my pewter, and now I am come to eat iron; and what will come next I know not." He was reduced to such distress that in his will he could bequeath his children nothing but "pious poverty, God's blessing, and a father's prayers." (*Alumni Ox.*; Walk, *Suff. Clergy*; Southey's *Book of the Church*.)

CCXV. THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY:

1644.

S^r

I am intreated by Mr Hyde this bearer, to mediate for him that he may be eased in some sort of the taxe that is layd upon him. Heeretofore the subduction of the mayntenance of the ministry hath beene held Sacriledge, and their depress-

¹ Abbreviated in Owen and Blakeway. The original is signed, but not decipherable.

ing taken as an affront to their master (to whose Service they are consecrated) w^{ch} hath never sped well. Of your zeal to God's Church and Ministers none that know you doubt, which makes mee confident you will doe in this case what you may. I was sorry that you left Worcester so soone but trust wee shall see you hear soone agayne. This bearer will in forme you of occurrences. With my devoted service to your Lady and the blessing of god uppon you and yours, I rest,

Your faythfull freind
in Christ to be commanded

Wocest 9^{bris}
15^{to}

JO. WIGORN

For the Right
Wors^d S^r Francis
Oatley.

Probably Randolph, or Randle, Hyde is the person referred to, who was Rector of Billingsley, co. Salop, in 1624, and of Sidbury in 1631, neither of which places is in the Diocese of Worcester, but we may suppose that he was a friend of the kind Bishop who used his influence to save him from the assessment. Randle Hyde, B.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, and M.A. of Oxford, was the father of the learned divine, Thomas Hyde, D.D., Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Richard Meyer, collector of the Assessment of the parish of Buildwas, made his return to Sir Francis Ottley, who preserved it amongst his papers, and hence we have become possessed of an unique document. Richard Meyer is the same man, although his name is spelt Meare, from whom Lieut.-Colonel Richard Hosier obtained 1,200 weight of cheese for the King's service two months prior to the date of this return, the receipt for which has also come down to us by the same means. I am informed that a Richard Meire was born at Berrington in 1604, who died in 1673, an ancestor of Mr. George Meire now living at Eyton-on-Severn. It is not improbable that this is the same individual who gathered the Assessment.

CCXVI. ASSESSMENT OF BUILDWAS.

1644.

Mony payd by Richard Meyer for p'te of the [Assessment] of Bylewas [Buildwas] in 1644.		
Payd for two assesments at vj ^d p. ⁿ at xlvj ⁿ p. } an ^d u. the som ...	2	6 0
p'd for one assesment at xij ^d p. ⁿ at xlvj ⁿ p. ann. } the som of ...	2	6 0
p'd three assesments at iiij p. ⁿ at xlvj ⁿ p. ann. the } som of ...	2	6 0
pd one other assesment at vj ^d p. ⁿ at xlvj ⁿ p. an. } to madley garrison...	1	3 0
p'd into Wellington fieve severall times to } Colonell Hosier use and S ^r Willa' Vaughan in } p . . . unto the value of ...	0	15 0
sent into madley by Comand of major Curenfield } towards alsoe for souldiers...	0	2 3
pd. towards the bildinge of the Senterly house and } gard of Bylewas Bridge ...	0	13 0
the 17 th of 9 ber 1644.		
Payd by me Richard meyer to M ^r Edward Evans } Servante to S ^r fra. Ottley the som of ...	2	4 9

It has been supposed that the Madeley Garrison referred to in the above was at the house of Sir Basil Brooke, Knt., a short distance from the town of Madeley, the ruinous shell of which is still to be seen, and is known as Madeley Court. It is a stone structure about the date of James I., or some portions as early as Elizabeth, carrying the symmetry and solidity of that period combined with not a little elegance in its Italian details, and is altogether suggestive of a knightly residence. It is surrounded by a high wall enclosing a spacious court-yard, and what must have been an ornamental garden, entered beneath an imposing gate-house. With a moderate force this place, in the absence of artillery, was capable of defence against a considerable body of men. But I have not been able to discover any evidence that it was ever garrisoned. In the parish register of Madeley there occurs this entry :—" 1645. Careless, William, b^d April

14, at which time ye Church was garrisoned by a p'ty of ye Parlt^t commanded by Capt. Ferrington." It seems probable, therefore, that they had driven out the Royalists from the Church, and occupied it for the Parliament. The situation is a commanding one, from which it would not be an easy task to dislodge a determined force.

When the Corporation of Shrewsbury decided in the month of March, 1643, to fortify Montford Bridge, and to set up turnpikes at the ends of the bridges of the town, they wrote to James Lacon of West Coppys, to send them workmen who made the turnpikes at Buildwas. (Owen and Blakeway, i., p. 433.) The sentry-house was a necessary addition.

The Privy Seal dated the 14th February appears to have been unsuccessful in providing adequate funds for the King's necessities; the following reads like a compromise, suggested by the sheer impossibility of exacting all that was needed from an impoverished country.

CXXVII. UNPAID LOANS

1644.

Oxon Die Sabbathi 21^o: Die Decembris
1644

Whereas L^rs were sent to severall p'sons for Loanes towards the raiseing of 100 000^l, and the Sheriffs of the severall Countyes to whom they were appointed to make paym^t thereof were directed upon their default of paym^t to require them to make their p'sonal appearance at Oxford. And because, as passages now are, their appearance may be dangerous for p'vention thereof, to such as are well Affected to his Ma^{ty}s Service, it is ordered by the Lords and Com'ons of Parlia^t assembled at Oxford, that the Sheriffe of each County, and such others as shalbe employed in the collectinge of the said Loane moneys, where they shall find cause, may receave such considerable p'portions as they can gett, upon every of the said Let^res, in p'te of paym^t, and give discharge accordingly, And that the severall Sheriffs (soe as they doe not admit frivolous Allegac'ons) may take the Answers of the said p'sons touching the residue, and shall certifie the same, togeather with the reasons Alleadged by them for Mittigac'on, to the Lords and

Com'ons here assembled, to the end that according as the same shalbe by them allowed, or disallowed, further course may be thereupon taken ; But where the said p'sons to whom such letters for Loane are directed shall not pay a considerable p'porc'on the said Sheriffs are to p'ceed according to their former direcc'ons.

Exam^d

NATH: SMITH

NOAH BRIDGES

When the usual time arrived for appointing the new High Sheriff, the rival Parliaments each appointed its own. The Westminster Parliament appointed Thomas Mytton of Halston, who had served its cause so well, then Governor of Oswestry. The exact date of the appointment of Sir Francis Ottley by the King has not transpired, but the following instructions to him regarding the Loan show that it was prior to the 23rd December, and therefore some days earlier than Mytton's appointment.

CCXVIII. THE KING AND PARLIAMENT AT OXFORD ON
UNPAID LOANS.

1644.

Charles R.

Trusty and Well beloved we greet you well: whereas heretofore, by the advice of the Members of both Houses of Parliament here Assembled, We directed our Letters to diverse persons within the County of Salop, for the Loan of severall summes of Money therein mentioned, towards the raysing of one hundred Thousand pounds for the Support of our Army, for the defence of us and our people, against the late invasion from Scotland, the sad Effects of which Invasion doe not only still Continue but daily encrease and (unless speedily prevented) are likely to grow worse to the Apparent Ruine and Destruction of this whole Kingdom, Which summs of Money, or the Value thereof in Plate, by Our said Letters we desired should be paid to the hands of the Sheriffe of our said County, or such as he should appoint, for which purpose we sent the said severall Letters to our late Sheriffe, with Schedule of the particular Summes desired at the names of each particular person appearing, together with another Letter from Us to our said late Sheriff, desiring his case for a speedy Delivery of the said Letters for Loane to the parties to whom they were

directed, and to give Them notice that such as Should not conform to our desires therein should forthwith doe, and be dealt with as in the said Letters is expressed. And that such Money or plate as Our said late Sheriffe should receive, Should be by him returned and payd here at Oxford at Corpus Christi Collodge to the Hands of the Earl of Bath, the Lord Seymour, Mr John Ashburnham, and Mr John Frettiplace, or any of them (being appointed Treasurers, and to give you Receipts for the same) with diverse other directions therein, as by our said former Letters more at large appeareth; whereof we have yet had little or no Accompt, to the great prejudice of Us, and the welfare and safety of Our Kingdomes. Forasmuch as our continuall desires and endeavours for Peace cannot but have the better success when it shall appeare to the World, that our Army is in a condition to defend Us, and our Kingdomes against all such as shall oppose that Peace (whereunto the Service aforesaid being to furnish us with money to support our Army, not only much conduceth, but will admit of no delay) we do therefore hereby will and require you, that immediately upon the Receipt of these Our Letters, you doe make two severall Certificates in Writing, one to the said Lords and Commons here assembled, another to our said Treasurer, what is become of the said Letters and Schedules, and to express the number of them, and the Persons names to whom they are directed, and what summe or summes of Money or the Value in Plate, you or either of you have received, and of whom, and how the same is disposed of, together with the names of such as have not payed, or shall alleadge and pretend payment, and not shew such an acquittance as in our said Letters is mentioned, together also with the answers of all such defaulters of payment; And what you or either of you have done in the pursuance of Our said former Directions. And these are further to require you or either of you, that what Moneys you or either of you have already received (and not returned hither or Otherwise disposed of by Order and Direction from the said Lords and Commons here Assembled, or by our Order with their approbation), and any Considerable Summe that you shall hereafter receive (unless it shall otherwise be or hath been ordered and directed to be disposed of by the said Lords and Commons or by us by their advice and approbation), you doe now forthwith so much as you or either of you have already received, and what you shall hereafter receive within fourteen days after the Receipt thereof, return and pay to our said Treasurers here as aforesaid. And you shall also now, and from time to time

hereafter, send to our said Lords and Commons here assembled, and our said Treasurers, severall true Certificates of all such Moneys as you have received or hereafter shall receive, and of whom, and the names of the defaulters of payment, together with their answers, and your further doings in pursuance of these and our former instructions concerning the premises. And because we desire that all our Subjects should be equally dealt withall, without respect of Persons; these are further to require you our now High Sheriffe, that immediately upon receipt hereof you give particular and personall notice to all and every person (as well our Commissioners as others) that have not payed or Satisfied the Summe or Summes of money in the Letters to them directed, mentioned, that they are forthwith to pay the same, or within fourteen days notice, personally to attend the Lords and Commons of Parliament assembled at Oxford, for such further proceedings therein as shall be meet; In the collecting and receiving of which Money, and all and singular the premises, we desire and expect your uttermost endeavours, care, and dilligence, and an exact and perfect Account thereof. And in regard of the danger and hazard of miscarriage of papers, in respect of the obstructions of the passages, these are to require you to make and send by severall Conveyances Duplicates of all such Certificates, as you shall now, or at any time hereafter make concerning the Premises, one whereof to be directed to the said Lords and Commons here assembled, and another to our said Treasurer. And for your better Assistance in the premises, you or either of you are hereby required, to desire all and every of our Commissioners, not only to pay the summes of them desired, but also to joyne their best endeavours with yours for the accomplishment of the premises, whose Conformity and good example in Payment will be more prevailent with Others. Of all which fail you not, as you tender the Good and Welfare of Us, and our Kingdoms. Given at our Court at Oxford y^e 23th of December 1644

To our Trusty and well beloved
the now, and last Sheriffe of
Salop.

By y^e Advice of y^e members of
both houses of Parliament Assembled
at Oxford.

The chief events in Shropshire this year are the following. The Prince, as already stated, arrived in Shrewsbury on the 18th¹ of February, where he made all necessary arrangements for settling the differences of the garrison, and selected a detachment to accompany him to the north, with others drawn from elsewhere in the neighbourhood. In his official orders he is styled :—"Prince Rupert, Count Palatine of the Rhine, Duke of Bavaria and Cumberland, Earl of Holderness, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, Captain-General under his Highness Prince Charles, Prince of Great Britain, and of all the Forces of Horse and Foot within the Kingdom of England, Dominion of Wales, and Town of Berwick," &c. He appears to have had a large establishment, and to have lived in state, the liveries of his footmen costing £200, being equal to £600 of our money.²

While inspecting the various garrisons, he was "On the fifth of March, passing near Market Drayton," when "he learned that Colonel Fairfax was there with his regiment of seven hundred men. The Prince was accompanied only by his own troop, but sending orders for his regiment to move up, he dashed into the town, drove in the mustering troops, and forced them into a 'close;' a few hours afterwards the cavalry arrived, forced the close, and took the whole regiment prisoners."³ "He continued to dart about through the associated counties, sometimes at night, sometimes at early morning, sometimes in broad noon; with a troop or two of cavalry, affronting strong towns, and daring whole battalions. From Wem, Whitchurch, Tamworth, Edgembaston, Hull, Lichfield (where Sawyer, an attorney, served him with refreshments, on his knees); from

¹ Gardiner states, on the authority of Dugdale, that he was here on the 21st, but the Corporation accounts previously quoted leave no room for doubt that his first arrival was on the 18th. Warburton says "about the 19," (ii., 376.)

² *Ibid*, 379.

³ *Ibid*, 389

all these places I find letters written anxiously by Lord Denbigh's commanders, stating that Rupert was coming." On the 8th of March he had returned to Shrewsbury, and on the 15th he was at Bridgnorth, on his way to Newark, where he arrived on the 20th, raised the siege, and appointed Sir Richard Byron governor. He then appears at Hereford (23rd), Oxford (25th), and on the 29th was in North Wales issuing his orders and proclamations. In the meantime Aply Castle had been gained for the King.

The same day that Prince Rupert arrived in Shrewsbury, Samuel More of Linley, with a small force of twenty-six men, occupied Hopton Castle, the property of Mr. Wallop, a Parliamentarian. Sir Michael Woodhouse drew out his forces from Ludlow, and after several successive attacks compelled the garrison to surrender unconditionally, the occupation by More having only lasted a little over five weeks. The castle was then so far demolished by its captor as to render it incapable of further defence. According to *Mercurius Britannicus*, Sir Michael was guilty of great brutality to the men taken prisoners.

Brampton Bryan Castle, Herefordshire, the seat of Sir Robert Harley, situated about four miles south of Hopton Castle, was immediately after besieged by Sir Michael Woodhouse, and was surrendered to him on the 17th of April. The gallant Lady Brilliana Harley had shortly before caught a severe cold and died, otherwise the defence might have been prolonged.

Longford House, near Newport, the property of the Earl of Shrewsbury, which had been seized by the Parliamentary troops, was, as we have already stated, recovered for the King by an Irish force under Tillier, April 2nd, and Tong Castle on the 5th.

May the 16th Prince Rupert is again at Shrewsbury, on the 18th at Nantwich, the 19th at Whitchurch, the 20th at Chester, and on the 23rd beats the enemy in a skirmish before Knutsford, wins the pass of Stockport, takes the town, and thereby relieves Latham

House, so long and so bravely defended by the Countess of Derby. The Prince soon afterwards left this part of the country, clearing his way towards York.

During this time little occurred in Shropshire till June the 19th, when Colonel Mytton, constantly on the watch to strike a blow at the enemy, surprised a small force designed to escort ammunition from Oswestry to Chester for the Prince. It took place at Duddleston, five miles north-east of the former place, where he captured 27 prisoners; but what was of more importance learned the weakness of the Oswestry garrison.

Four days later, Lord Denbigh and Col. Mytton, taking advantage of there being but a small force at Oswestry, marched to that town, and after meeting with a vigorous but short resistance won it for the Parliament, taking prisoners 14 officers, 19 non-commissioned officers, and 305 men, besides 80 townsmen found in arms. A quantity of arms and ammunition was also taken, and Mytton was appointed Governor.

Oswestry being but a short distance from Shrewsbury caused its capture to be felt as an irritating disaster by the garrison of the latter place, and Col. Hunckes, the then Governor, made an effort to regain it on July 2nd. Lord Denbigh, who was at Nantwich, receiving prompt information of the movement, despatched Sir Thomas Middleton with all speed to raise the siege, who performed his task successfully, routing the enemy, and chasing them nearly to the walls of Shrewsbury; Col. Marrow, to whom Hunckes had entrusted the command, was near being taken prisoner, and would have been but for the speed of his horse. Francis Newport, son and heir of Lord Newport, was taken with other officers and men, and many arms and much ammunition.

We are indebted to Gough, the historian of Middle, for an account of an interesting incident that occurred during the time Mytton was Governor of Oswestry:—

Prince Rupert came this way, with a great army, and made his Rendezvous on Holloway Hills and took his quarters all

night at Cockshutt, and the next day he made his Rendezvous at Ellesmere. Att which time Mr. Mitton of Halston was Generall¹ of the Parliament forces in this county, and was a valiant and political commander; and hearing the Prince made only his rendezvous at Ellesmere, and intended to go forward, the Generall, hoping to find some straglers in Ellesmere that stayed behind the army, came with a troop of horse throw byeways; but when he came to the gate that goes out of Oateley Parke,² he found that he was come too soone, for there was three or four troopes of horse at Oately Hall, which got between him and home; and, therefore, when hee and all his men were come throw the gate, they shott a horse dead up to the gate to keep it from opening; but the others soone broke downe three or four ranks of pals, and followed so close that all the Generall's men, before they came to Ellesmere, were taken, except the Generall, and one George Higley, a little fellow. Att last, one that had a good horse, overtook the Generall, and laid his hand on his shoulder, and said, "You are my prisoner;" but Higley struck the other in the face with his sword, which caused him to fall. and so the Generall and Higley turned down the dark lane that goes to Birch Hall, and the others went strait into the town, but the Generall and Higley escaped: and when they went to Welsh Frankton,³ there they made a stay, and one other of his men came to them. The Generall had lost his hat; but being furnished again, he went to Oswaldstree, a garrison for the Parliament.⁴

1645.

The new year opens with a still more gloomy outlook for the Royal cause. Prince Rupert had come to set all things right: he left them worse than he found them. Neither money nor men were to be had, and a bitter discontent and disunion were rife amongst the King's warmest adherents. Prince Maurice, a man

¹ Mr. Blakeway, when quoting this incident in his *Sheriffs*, alludes to Gough styling Mytton "General," as though Gough was wrong, but he was certainly appointed Major-General, with the chief command in North Wales.

² Probably in the same position as the present gateway near the south-east end of the Mere.

³ About $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the park-gate, south-west.

⁴ Page 42.

of far less ability, was sent to accomplish a task in which his brother had failed. He was appointed Major-General of Worcester, Salop, Hereford, and Monmouth, and made Worcester his headquarters.

There was no man who felt more interest in the success of the Royal cause in Shropshire, or worked more zealously for it, than Sir Robert Howard of Clun Castle, Knight of the Bath. His career is deserving of a brief sketch. Elected M.P. for Bishop's Castle 21 Jany., 1623-4, he was re-elected in 1625, 1626, 1628, and to both the Short and Long Parliament in 1640; in 1642 he was appointed one of the Commissioners of Array for Shropshire, and for discharging the duties was expelled the House; his name stands third on the list of the gentlemen who engaged to raise and maintain forces for the defence of his Majesty and the country (No. LXIX.), and when the King and his Parliament removed to Oxford Sir Robert Howard joined them. He commanded a regiment of Dragoons, and took an active part in the defence of Bridgnorth in 1646, of which town he had been appointed governor in the place of Sir Lewis Kyrke, and when it capitulated to the Parliament on the 26 of April in that year he with others signed the Articles of Surrender. He died 22 April, 1653, and was buried at Clun, where a brass in the Church commemorates his name.

Immediately Prince Maurice received his commission, Sir Robert Howard obtained an interview with him to learn the wishes of his Highness regarding Shropshire. The following letter was the result of that interview—a letter which, while evincing the loyalty of the writer, does honour to him by its generous recognition of the valuable services rendered by Sir Francis Ottley to the King's cause.

CCXIX. SIR ROBERT HOWARD TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1644-5.

S^r

I find his Highness soe inclineable to any thing that may conduce to y^e Generall satisfaction of the Counties and

rectifying of all abuses ; that it were unseemly in us who are thereby concerned not to answer him in the like measure of dutifull respect, which will the better appeare by condecending to his last demands mentioned in his letter ; I would likewise freindly advise you to tender the reputation of your County whose example gave first life to his Maties affayres (a great part of which glory redounded to your self) that they whose Loyalty hath beene soe conspicuous bee not out ballanced by other Counties, who have unanimously condecended to give an hundred pounds p^r month towards his High^s Intertaynment. which as it is expected by his High^s soe is it most earnestly desired by all who wish well to your County and in particular by
Sir

[? Jany. 1644-5.]

Your humble Servant

For my much honoured
freind S^r Francis
Ottley High Sherriffe
of Shropshire, these.

RO. HOWARD.

The next letter has neither address nor date ; from internal evidence it should come in here, and most likely was written in reply to the preceding from Sir Robert Howard. Mr. George Morris considered it was addressed to Prince Maurice, which is obviously improbable.

CCXX. SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY ON THE MODE OF LEVYING.

1644-5.

S^r

At my first Assembling of the County, I found no small Distraction arisen betweene the Commissioners and the other Gentlemen of the County about the contribution for the Pay of the Souldiers and Garrisons, and the Proportion to be Levied for that service, w^{ch} is now happilie composed and Accorded : Nevertheless, howsoever, the Gentlemen have consented, for the Present to hold the forme of Levie by Poundage, w^{ch} they have used for these divers moneths, yet They both formerly did, and now earnestly doe, require That this Levie, hence forward, may be Proceeded in accordingly as is directed by the Letter of the Articles agreed upon by the Lords and Commons Assembled at Oxon, namely, according to the Old Division of Alottments ; and They doe undertake, both to use such Dilligence that all Inequallitie of those

alotm^{ts} and Divisions shall be rectified, and the full pay for the Officers and Souldiers Limited in his Highnesses Establishment shall be Justly brought in, Provided that the Numbers and Musters in every Garrison be, as is there Established; But because the Countie now much Exhausted, is heavily Charged with the Pay of many Supernumerarie Officers, whose Companies are much weakened, and some of them almost extinct, it is their Humble Desire that his Highness will be pleased to provide for the Moderating and easing of the Countrey's Burthen, by some other way of Disposing Those Officers, and Reduction of their Commands: These things, Sr, they doe by me Recommend Respectively unto yo^r Sollicitation, that his Highness may be Moved both to Declare what his pleasure is, concerning that proposition of Alotments, and to frame such Favourable Answers to their second Desire that the Counties' Charge may be Eased, and their Chearfullness in the Service thereby increased; you may further be pleased with Tender of my Humble Service to Represent unto his Highness, that the Gentlemen lately imployed in the presenting of the Counties' Petition to his Ma^{tie} are now at Ludlow, on the behalf of this Countie, Perfiting an Association with the Counties of Worcester, Hereford, Monmouth and Stafford; and that I am now very Intent upon the Aestimating and Considering of the Posse, that men may be presently Listed for his Ma^{ties} Service according to o^r Declaration, and the Proceedings of the Westerne Association. The Commissioners have Addressed unto his Highness a l're, not much varying (I believe) from the sense of this: My Time is so Taken up with the Other Service that I could not Attend the Draught and Subscription thereof: This is All w^{ch} I have to Represent and Signifie unto you, saving that I am Sir

Yo^r very Respective freind and serv^t

Salop, Jany: 12^o
1644.

FFRANCIS OTTLEY V. C.

CCXXI. PRINCE MAURICE TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF SALOP,
1644-5.

GENTT

This day, I received a letter from Sr Lewis Kyrke, Governor of Bridgnorth, alleading that his Warrants for the Advancement of the Works att Bridgnorth were disobeyed, w^{ch} I cannot avoyde to take notice of, being sent downe by his Ma^{ty} to advaunce the affayres of those parts for the good of his Ma^{tyes} Service. To the intent that I may ease & Cheerish your

County as much as may bee, therefore, I desire to knowe what their greivances & dislikes are, & why, & upon what grounds, the Govenor^s Warrants were neglected, that if reason be Shewed, I may doe the Countrey that right, w^{ch} in Justice they may expect, or, how ever, see those things perfected, which conduce to the securiety of those parts, & the better Serving his Ma^{ty}; w^{ch} is all att present I have to say but that I am,

Gentⁿ,

Worcester,

Your lo. freind,

19 of Jany. [1644-5.]

MAURICE.

To his Ma^{tyes} Comission^{rs}
of the County of Salop.

Com^{er} of Salop

Shortly after the date of the above letter Prince Maurice left Worcester on his way to render relief to Chester, arriving at Shrewsbury on the 4th of March. The Mayor's accounts of the year include this entry:—

February the 4th 1644.

Paid a bill for Wyne Cakes and shugar bestowed upon Prynce Morris his highnes.

2 g's of Sacke	...	...	...	0: 13: 4
2 small sugar Loaves	...	...	...	0: 12: 0
4 doss of Cakes	...	...	...	0: 8: 0

				1: 13: 4

Lewis Davies.

Sir Michael Ernley wrote to Sir Francis Ottley the next letter, which, although familiar to the readers of Owen and Blakeway's *History of Shrewsbury*, must be printed here to complete the collection. This officer probably succeeded Colonel Broughton as Governor of Shrewsbury, October 21 in the preceding year, for I find the following entry in the Mayor's accounts:—

October ye	Paid for Cakes and Sugar	} xj ^s iiij ^d
21. 1644.	bestowed upon S ^r Michael	
	Ernly, K ^t and Governor of this town.	

Lewis Davies.

Sir Michael is said to have descended from an ancient Wiltshire family, and to have been an experienced soldier. He came from Ireland in charge of the troops

sent by the Marquis of Ormond, November, 1643, and took part immediately on landing in the siege and capture of Hawarden Castle. He was also in command of the reserve in the encounter with the enemy at Middlewich, when victory fell to the Royalists, under Sir Robert Byron. And again, in the battle before Nantwich, between Lord Byron and Sir Thomas Fairfax, he and Colonel Warren were in command of the centre, which, by its hasty retreat "without almost fighting a stroke," led to the loss of the day, and the capture of several officers and men, of whom Sir Michael was one. How long he remained in the hands of the enemy is not stated, but, as I have said, in October he was appointed Governor of Shrewsbury, which post he occupied till the taking of the town in February, when he was again made a prisoner. Being now in the last stage of a consumption he died in April, and was buried at St. Mary's Shrewsbury, on the 28th.

CCXXII. SIR MICHAEL ERNLEY TO THE SAME.

1644-5.

S^r

Although you pleased to joyne wth the gentlemen of this County to promise me contributions speedily to be brought in for the subsistence of this Garrison, yet, neither you nor they, have performed, By meanes whereof I am in extreame hazard of a Mutiny, which I can noe lesse than conceive to bee the ayme of those that have brought mee to this distrac^on. Here is not now any moneys towards the pay of the Soldiers twelve pences. I shall desire you to give them notice hereof, and to take some present course that I may be presently supplied, otherwise I must be enforced to suffer the Soldiers to live as they may. I also desire you to give me your speedy answeare of the Letter you receivid from Prince Maurice his highness, and what assistance of the County I may expect from you for the Diverting of the Enemies course from Chester. I hope you and the Gentlemen of the County will send mee noe less then a thousand. If they shall prove backward in a busines of soe great consequence to the Service of his Ma^{ty}, I am Confident, you must conclude with mee, that they want affection to his Ma^{ts} service, and that all other their

undertakings are noe more then mere pretences. I shal
desire your answeare by the Bearer. And soe extreame hastily
rest,

Salop 25 Januarii
1644

Yo^r humble Servant,
MIC: ERNLEY

ffor his Ma^{ty} Speciall Service,
to S^r francis Ottley, high Sheriffe
of the County of Salop, theis

p[']sent
MIC: ERNLEY.

hast hast
post hast.

CCXXIII. SIR W. BELLENDEN TO THE SAME.

1644-5.

NOBLE S^r

I am not able to exprese the earnest desire His H^s
hath, to come into Shropshire; which before this would have
been accordingly performed, if the disorders here did not
necessarily require His stay. By His H^s letter directed to
yourself, the Com^{rs} & Gentry of the County, you will particu-
larly understand His desires, & I am confident that therein
you will apply your self for His H^s satisfaction; nothing being
desired but the security of your County, & therein the advan-
tage of his Maj^{ties} Service. Pray S^r, let it be your worke in
particular to gain the publick consent of 100^{lb} per month,
forth of your County, for His H^s Intertainm^t the like some
being agreed upon from each of the three other Counties under
His H^s Com^{ands}. None doth more consider the extraordinary
Charge that the County hath longe suffered then myself, but
this is not only fitt, but necessary, & I am sure that His H^s
will no sooner come amongst you, but, by his Application to
do Justice, & to remove the just greivances of the County, it
will be found money well employed: my haste will allow me to
say no more, but that I am

S^r

Worcester,
this 27th of Jan'y,
1644.

Your Affectionate &
humble Servant,

W. BELLENDEN.

For my very Worthy
friend S^r francis
Ottley High Sherriff of
the County of Salop
these.

The interest of the next paper lies in the earnestness which the High Sheriff has thrown into it, and the undiminished zeal for the King's cause it displays, which raises it to a much higher level than a mere official document.

CCXXIV. SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF
MUNSLOW HUNDRED.

1644-5.

Salop ff.

Gentⁿ Comissioners of the hundred of Mounslowe, I sir francis Ottley, Knight, high Sheriff of the County of Salop, By the vertue of his ma^{ties} authority to me given, have given you the Comission of the posse comitatus, & by that I sumon your hundred to furnish me with three hundred able fighting foote men, with the best armes they can produce, to wayte upon me for the expelling of the Rebells out of this County that are against his ma^{ties}, And to expulse them, if our power is able, that therby every man may reape the frute of his owne labours in peace and quietnes. The King tould me that this County put him upon his leggs, and if we can settle the Crowne upon his head, it wilbe an honour to us and our posterity. Let this be an encouragem't to you rather to dye then to out live this our endeavour;

Salop the first
of feeb. 1644.

Your loving frend,
FFRANCIS OTTLEY, V.C.

Now or nev'; when I shall give you
the day to be in a readinesse, we have
such an opportunity, yf we loose that,
we are lost.

for his ma^{ties} speciall service
ffor the Comissioners of the Hundred
of Mounslowe, the Knights gentlemen
of the posse Comitatus

Take a Coppy & send it to the rest of the
Comissioners

CCXXV. COMMISSION OF CORNET GEYWOOD.

1645.

Sr frauncis Ottley Knight high Sheriff
of the County of Salop & Coll. of one Regim^t of horse
To Corronet Geywood

By vertue of his Ma^{ties} Comission to mee directed I doe hereby

Constitute and appoynt you, the above named — Geywood, to bee my Corronett of one Troope of horse under my Comaund, hereby requiring all Inferiour offic^{rs} and souldiers under my Comaund to bee obedient unto you as theire Corronett, and that you carry and demeane yourselfe as Corronett of one Troope of horse as of Right thereunto belongeth.

We have now arrived at a period in the history of Shropshire when there happened an event which, of all others in the course of the Civil War, was the most disastrous and far-reaching, namely, the capture of Shrewsbury by the Parliament. It has been so well to'd by Owen and Blakeway that it would be presumption on my part to offer a new version of the event. But as those authors confess to have derived their information from the Ottley Papers, which they regretted they had not room to print, it may be well to give them here. A few bearing on the same subject are added from other sources.

As to the agencies at work within the town, which brought about its betrayal, truth compels me to say that a certain number of the Royalists therein contributed to the result. The thraldom the inhabitants were in, under the military rule of foreign officers, the endless exactions wrung from them, and the hopelessness of a better state of things arriving, induced some to reveal the condition of the town to the enemy. Sir William Owen of Condover, a Commissioner of Array, while he was signing warrants in that capacity, and chiefly resident in Shrewsbury, kept up a constant communication with the Parliamentary Commissioners from their earliest establishment in Wem; and divulged the intended movements of the Royalists.¹ It is even affirmed that he offered them Condover House, "a strong stone building within three Myles distance of Shrewsbury."² It was not everyone who could patiently endure the treatment they received from their

¹ *Webbs Civil War in Herefordshire*, i., 383.

² *Ibid.* from S. P. 2, xxxi., 169.

own party with the same docility as Mr. Thomas Edwardes. On one of Prince Rupert's journeys through the county, he found that gentleman, who was at the time High Sheriff, somewhat behind in collecting his levies of money for the £9,000 laid upon Salop, and nine troops being quartered within a short distance of Church Stretton, where Edwardes lived, the Prince sent a warrant to him to send the next day £500, and such provisions as he could raise; non-compliance being threatened with displeasure and plunder. All his endeavours failed to make up the amount: a hundred musketeers were accordingly ordered to his house, who, we are told, carried the threat into execution.¹

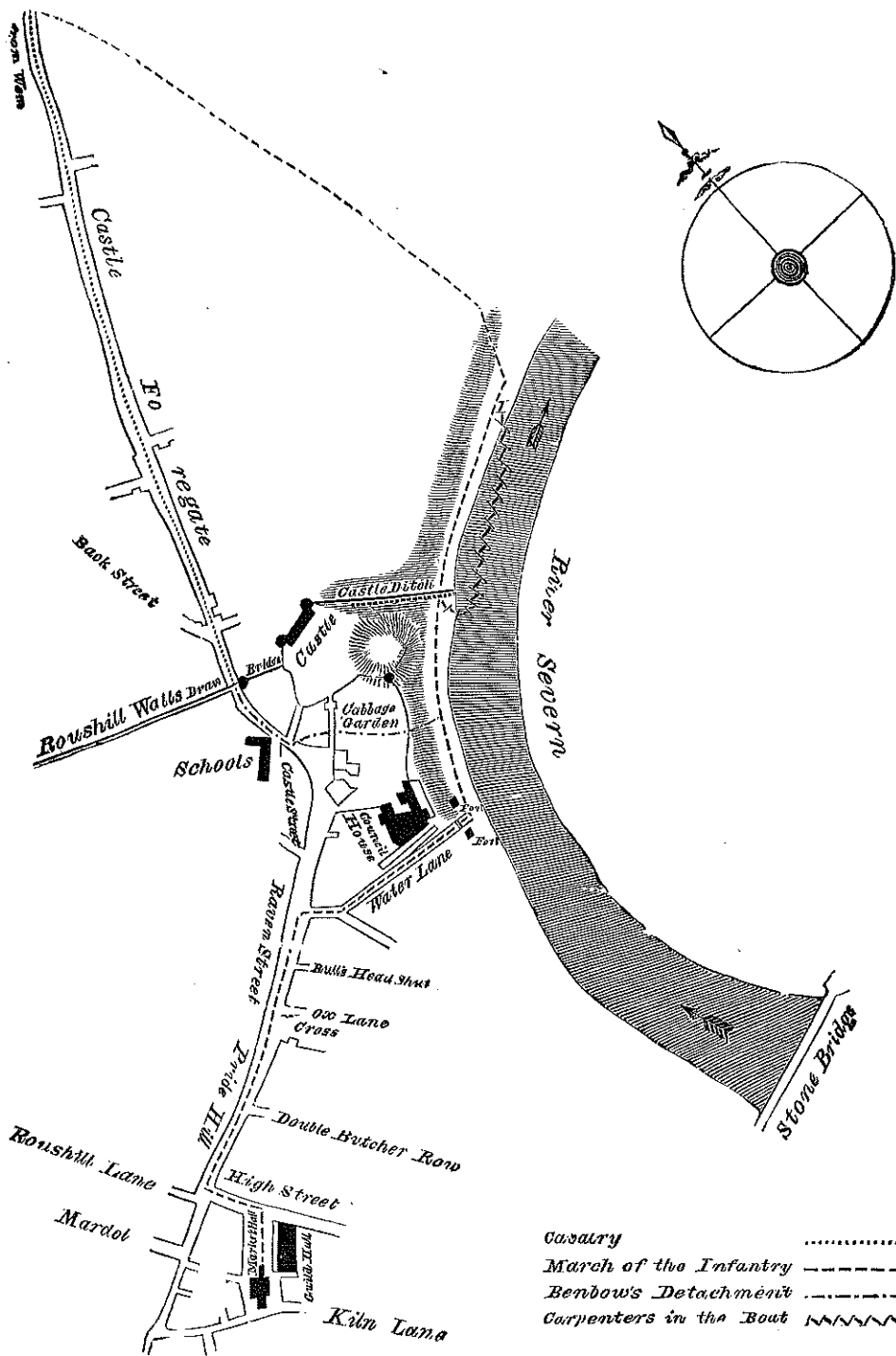
But the active movers in the plot to deliver Shrewsbury were certain Parliamentarians, who had been long watching for the opportunity, and now found it in the reduction of the forces by Prince Maurice on his way to Chester, and the inability of the Governor through sickness to keep a sufficiently rigid guard of the town. Mytton was fully informed of how things stood, and promptly embraced the chance.

The accompanying plan will aid the reader to understand the nature of the fortifications, and the way it was approached by the enemy.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN.

Wem is nearly due North of Shrewsbury; a force approaching from that town to this must pass over the narrow neck of land, or isthmus, which lies between the points of nearest approach of the river Severn. In the Plan the river on the East side is shown; on the West side it runs at the extremity of Rowsell Walls. It is easy to trace the entire line of defence across the isthmus. The Castle Ditch started from the river, and extended to the Eastern tower of the Castle. It was deep and wide but without water, and had a strong palisade of wood along its inner margin. From the

¹ Webb's *Civil War in Wales*, i., 383.



Cavalry
 March of the Infantry
 Bendows Detachment
 Carpenters in the Boat ~~~~~

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Western tower of the Castle a wall ran for a short distance South, and then in a Westerly direction across the main road and so, under the name of Roushill Walls, down to the river. At the place marked on the Plan "Draw-bridge" there was an arched Gateway, flanked by towers, and built of stone. Beneath the arch were strong doors and a portcullis; in front, extending from it down to the river, was a broad deep ditch, containing water, crossed by a draw-bridge. This was called the North, or Castle Gate. A little south of this was a second gate of a similar character, called the Inner, or Burgess Gate. The river entirely surrounds the town, except at this well defended isthmus. There was a bridge crossing the river on the South side, near which the present English Bridge was afterwards built.

All other explanations are sufficiently clear on the Plan itself. (I am indebted to the Manager of the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* for the use of this Plan).

ORDERS DRAWN UP BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE
FOR THE TAKING OF SHREWSBURY.

1645.

Wem Feb. 14, 1644.

It is this day ordered that Lieutenant-Col. Rinkinge, doe command the partie of horse and foote which shall this night be sent out according to the order of the Commyttee, and that Collonell Mytton, Col. Lloyd, Col. Hunt, and Captayne Robert Clive doe go along with the said party, and that noe one shall have power to give any order for the managing of the design except the said Leiuetenant-Collonell, without the consent and directions of the gentlemen of the Commytte, which shall go out with him.

AND. LLOYD.
RO. CLIVE.
SAM. MORE.
THOMAS HUNT.
ROBT. CHARLTON.
LEIGH. OWEN.

This is a true copie of the first order, teste Frattinke (?)

Feb. 21st.

It is this day ordered that Leiuetenant-Col. Reinkinge do command the parties upon this present designe, and that he do informe all the souldiers both of horse and foote that in case the designe be effected that £2000 shall be given unto the Staffordshire and Cheshire horse and foote under the command of Colonell Bowyer, and that a like proporcion shal be allowed unto the Shropshire forces under the commande of the Commyttee of this county, and that the said Leiuetenant-Col. may assure all those who shall expresse their valour more particularly than others in attemptinge this design, that they shall have extraordinary satisfaccion, as he shall thinke fitt; and the said Leiuetenant-Col. is to give notice that yf any souldier after his entry into the towne of Salop, shall plunder anythinge that such soldier shall not only lose his present reward, but be proceeded agaynst for tryall of his life, accordinge to the marshall law.

AND. LLOYD.
RO. CLIVE.
SAM. MORE.
THO. HUNT.
ROBT. CHARLTON.
LEIGH. OWEN.

Copia vera concordat cum originali teste Frattinke.
(*Mytton Letters* in the Muniments of Stanley Leighton, Esq.
Vide Montg. Coll., vii., 374.)

CCXXVI. THE CAPTURE OF SHREWSBURY.

1644-5.

Abstract from a printed Account
entitled

Shrewsbury taken, published by Order. 1645.

Part of a Letter from the Committee of Shropshire for the Parliament to Sir Will^m Brereton, Bart. Commander in Chief of the Cheshire Forces.

We are possessed of Shrewsbury this Morning, we entered Horse and Foot, and all in it, we are now staving of the Soldiers from Plundering. we have not yet time to give you a list of the Prisoners, but many of Quallity, the Governour and Sir John Wylde and his son, with many more. we

beseech you to consider how to Improve this Advantage, and the Destruction the Prince must needs receive by it.

Salop 22^a Feb. 1644.

Your Servants &c.
 THOMAS MITTON.
 SAM^l MORE.
 ROB^t CHARLTON.
 ROB^t CLIVE.
 THOS. HUNT.
 LEIGH. OWEN.

The Castle holds out yet
 for Ought we know.

CCXXVII. THE SHREWSBURY COMMITTEE TO THE HOUSE
 OF COMMONS.

1644-5.

An Extract out of the Letters, Written from the Committees of Shrewsbury to the Speaker of the House of Commons, with the list of the Prisoners.

RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR,

It hath pleased God Miraculously to deliver the Town of Salop into our Hands, with all the Commanders, Officers, and Soldiers therein, a list of the Chief of them we have sent enclosed: upon the 22^d of this Month we drew out of our Garrison of Wem, Moreton, and Stoke, 250 Horse and the like Number of Foot, Sir William Brereton having sent us 250 Foot and 350 Horse, which Party, by our Order was Commanded by Lieut^t Coll: Rincking (in the Marshaling of the design he deserves much Honour) and Captain Wyllier and Master Huson a Minister led on the Firelocks, with 50 Troopers dismounted, under the Command of Lieut^t Bendebue; they led on their men with undaunted Resolutions after whom followed 350 Foot, which by Severn Side Stormed the Town, near unto the Castle Wall and marched into the Market House, and then Surprised the main Guard, and then sent a Party to Secure the Castle foregate Gate, which was Effected without much Difficulty, and after a quarter of an Hour, the Draw Bridge was let down, and the Gate opened, where Coll Mitton Coll Bowyer and all the Gentlemen of this Committee, with the Horse entered, and imediately became Masters of the Town; Within four Hours after, the Castle was delivered upon Quarter for all but the Irish, to March to Ludlow, and then the Enemy delivered up a Strong out work in Frankwell upon

bare Quarter of their Lives, by 12 o'clock we became Masters of the Castle and Town, wherein were taken many Considerable Prisoners (whereof the names of many are yet unlisted by reason of a want of time to Secure them) good Store of Ammunition and great Store of Ordnance, It was our care to preserve the Town from plundering, but the promises of a large reward would not satisfie the Soldiers, our Horse the Day before had a Long March, they being sent to Surprise St Will^m Whitmore, and St Tho. Whitmore, his son being a Parliamentary man, which was Effectuated, and they brought safe to Wem. Sir we shall not trouble you further, but to Subscribe ourselves,

Your most Humble Servants,

Salop.

Feb. 24, 1644.

A. LLOYD.

THO. HUNT.

ROB. CHARLETON.

SAM. MOORE.

RO. CLIVE.

LEIGH. OWEN.

In this List are inserted the following prisoners, more than those in a former list :—Chas. Smith, Ed. Palmer, Mat: Wightwicke, ancients, Vin. Taylor, Tho: Dewe, Ham: Davies, Rich^d Brayne, Serjeant, Nic. Proud, Clerk, Master James Laton, Master Leadall, Moses Hodehkys, George Bucknall, Corporal Patrick Lawry, an Irishman, 49 other Prisoners.

CCXXVIII. ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

1644-5.

Part of a Letter from another Person.

Shrewsbury was taken about 5 o'clock this Morning, the Prisoners are many and considerable and the Prize great; Sir Mich^l Ernely, Governour, Sir John Wylde and divers others, The Town is Rich; and its said all the Princes Treasures and carriages were left there; I hope this Victory will be pursued. Feb: 22nd 1644. [1645]

While Prince Maurice was Advancing with his Forces on the Welch side the River Dee, to Relieve Chester, Sr Will^m Brereton's Forces being all on the North side of the River, on Tuesday Feb. 18th 1644. Sr W^m Brereton (having received instructions from the Committee of Shropshire of a design which they had against Shrewsbury, therefore desired a Party of his Horse and Foot to join with Col: Mitton), he made no delay, and Col: Bowyer an able Soldier was designed for the Business, under whose command, Sir W^m Brereton put four

hundred Cheshire and Staffordshire Horse, three hundred Staffordshire Foot, and a Company of his own Regiment, and sent them on Wednesday the 19th to Wem, well armed and fit for present service, he also sent divers Petars [Petards] and other necessities for the Storming of Shrewsbury, to break open the Gates, or for the like Service. On Thursday the 20th Col: Mitton with five hundred of the Shropshire Forces met Col. Bowyer with the aforesaid Forces at Wem, their number in all being about twelve Hundred, and there they received instructions from the Committee for carrying on the Business against Shrewsbury, Coll. Mitton himself is one of that Committee, a very gallant Soldier and one that is full of Valour, and Cordial for the Publick good, as appears by all his Actions, having in all that he hath done received but very little pay, yet is not less active in preferring the Publick before his own private Interest. The next day they were designed to March against Shrewsbury, the strongest Garrison in Prince Maurice's Association, and not much inferior to the strongest Garrison the King hath in all England; On Friday the 21st Coll. Mitton and Coll. Bowyer with the said 1200 Forces marched from Wem, They marched all night notwithstanding the coldness of the Season, and the Darkness of the Night; Coll. Mitton led on the Van, And Coll. Bowyer brought up the rear, the Army being drawn into a formidable marching Posture, in which they Marched all Night.

On Saturday, February 22nd 1644 [1645] they drew near to the Enemy's Garrison about 3 or 4 o' the Clock in the morning, Coll. Mitton led on the Horse, and Coll. Reynkings the Foot, and so they marched up to the very Works about 4 o'clock.

At five that Morning Coll. Mitton having passed some of his Foot in Boats on Severn, Commanded by Coll. Reynkings, with Carpenters and others fit for the employment, when they came to the Walls, the Carpenters Sawed down the pallasadoes, and the Soldiers helping one another to get over, slew the Centinels and Surprised the Soldiers in the Court of Guard; from thence they went to the Magazine and the Chief Works possessing themselves of them before they opened the Gates to the rest of the Foot; The Governour and Many of the Great ones were surprised in their Beds: when they had thus made all sure they opened the Castle Gates, and let in all the Horse and the rest of the Foot, the Enemy within, being exceedingly amazed, fled and threw down their Arms, others crying Arm, Arm, which Opportunity our men took, marched in and opened the Gates, thus Horse and foot all entered and with the Spilling of very little Blood gained the Town, When

they had made entrance through the Gate, and Guarded the Town, Our men some went into one Street, and some into another, to Search for the Chief Officers and Soldiers, and great care was taken to get between them and the Castle, they took the Governour and divers other Considerable Men besides other purchase [booty.] The Committee of Wem going along with them, they took great care that those who were well Affected in the Town might not Suffer, and, therefore, the Officers kept off the Soldiers from plundering the Town, that so the Committee might see right done, and none but Malignants Suffer.

Cruelly had the good people been long handled by the Cavaliers in that Place, so were not a little glad that Coll. Mitton had taken it.

The Committee gave notice hereof to S^r W^m Brereton, who took care to have Forces lye near them, to releive Coll. Mitton, if Occasion should be.

The whole Country desire that Coll. Mitton should be made Governour, who is an Honest, Cordial, well Affected man of true Integrity.

About 12 o'clock at Noon the same Day was the Castle surrendered upon Condition that the Officers and Soldiers therein should March away with their Arms, and leave the Ammunition in the Castle, and all the Officers and Soldiers in the Town behind them, but there were many Papists, and some Notable Agents, that fled and ran away as soon as they heard that our Forces had made entrance.

A List of Particulars taken at Shrewsbury by Coll. Mitton on Saturday Feb. 22^d 1644.

Eight Baronets and Knights.

Forty Collonels, Majors, Captains, and others of Quality.

Two Hundred other Prisoners.

One Captain and five Soldiers slain.

Fifteen pieces of Ordnance taken.

Many hundred of Arms.

Divers Barrels of Gunpowder.

Prince Maurice's Magaziene.

The Town and Castle and all the Worke.

Divers Carriages and Baggage of the Prince.

Besides other Prisoners, and purchase [booty] not yet Discovered.

We Lost only two men.

For the Nominal Roll of prisoners the reader should consult Owen and Blakeway's *History of Shrewsbury*.

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