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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.

All Donations will be duly acknowledged.

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.

Sir Richard Cave's letter to Prince Rupert, which follows, is interesting in this connection. (The date is erroneous.)

May it please your Highness,

I intended to have made use of Major Fox's and Sir William Russell's Horse, quartered near Shrewsbury, to go through to your brother; but, half way there, I met those Horse coming this way, who told me the sad news of the loss of Shrewsbury, which they say was betrayed by the townsmen. There are some gentlemen come hither who were there after the town was entered. Amongst others, Major Butler, in coming he escaped after he was hurt. The Castle is yet held by the Governor; but, as they say, not at all provided with victuals. I wish your brother had some experienced commanders by him. I do not hear of any one but old Roan. And now, I neither know myself, nor can I learn from others, how I may possibly pass to your brother. I mean, God willing, instantly to hire messengers at any price, to go to his Highness. I have spoken with Sir Robert Howard, and some other gentlemen. They are agreed to use their power in raising the country, if any considerable number come together, I will wait upon the gentlemen, with such as will follow them to Shrewsbury. It may work something if the Castle can but hold out, as I hope it will.

I have not time to write in ciphers. If I had, I should say more; for all, besides this, is not so well as I could wish, nor yet, I hope, so bad as some would make me believe. I shall adventure my letters to your brother to that purpose, as your Highness commanded me. I am much unsatisfied in their stay there where they are.

I am Sir

Your Highness' most humble devoted Servant

Ludlow Feb. 15, 1645.

RICHARD CAVE.¹

Sir Francis Ottley happened to be away from Shrewsbury at the time it was taken; but he was none the less unfortunate, for, being engaged near the same date, in raising forces for Prince Maurice, in the Hundred of Brimstree, in company with Sir William Whitmore, Sir Thomas Whitmore (his son), Mr. Owen,

¹ Warburton's *Prince Rupert*, iii., 59.

Mr. Fowler, Mr. Griffiths, and other Commissioners of Array sitting at Apley Park, they were all surprised and taken prisoners by Sir John Preen, one of Brereton's officers. The Prince had a very narrow escape on the same occasion.

The next letter does not relate to Shropshire, though none the less interesting from its being addressed to Colonel William Salusbury, whom I conceive to be none other than the celebrated *Hosannau gleision* (Blue Stockings), the brave and persistent defender of Denbigh Castle. As it would appear, the Colonel had left his command to attend upon Prince Maurice at Worcester, with a regiment of horse, and Jonathan Edwards, whom I take to be his chaplain, feels it to be his duty to send the Colonel a candid letter on the state of the garrison.

Jonathan Edwards was the third son of John Edwards of Wrexham, co. Denbigh. He matriculated at Jesus College, Oxford, 3 February, 1632, aged 18; took his B.A. 9 June, 1634; M.A. 24 April, 1637; created B.D. November, 1642; and was appointed Rector of Cathedine, co. Brecon.

CCXXIX. JONATHAN EDWARDS TO COLONEL SALUSBURY.

[?] 1644-5.

S^r

The Oppertunity of this Messenger to carry, and my hope that you are at Worcester to receave, this letter emboldens mee to present my service unto you, and acquaynt you with the receipt of some l^{rs} sent to you from the Countrey, which I durst not send unto you, lest they might miscarry by your removal (for I am not certayn whether this shall have the happines to come to your hands) or Absence from Worcester. I will keep them till I see or have directon from you. For newes from Court I refer you to the worthy bearer sergeant Littleton (Hee can pleasure you with more Certayne Intelligence than I can).

At the Leaguer all in general are as well as pilgrims, or an unsettld Colonye can bee. The sight doth often remember mee what our fore fathers estate was, and what Christians estate should be thought; never a clearer argument was presented

to mine Eyes that they did, and wee doe, dwell in houses of Clay.

From your Owne Regiment, give my Affection and duty leave to acquaynt you that they are not very well Contented with your Absence; they say they wonder if they onely should bee thought worthy to bee neglected and left desolate and like that beast they fight against, without a head. They Suspect their worth and Service, and are sorry if after so much travell and hazard and widowship endured, they should still keep together to have a few horse untried, they say not unworthy (that as yet must bee testified by their succesful valour) preferred and followed before them. That they find not your promise performed that they should go no further than your selfe went and that you would not leave them for any interest: when they Conceave diverse pretences have been sought and invented to separate and keep you from them. These murmurings are the same they daily vent, and if your returne doth not prevent it you shall find them executed and burned to a Desolation; your regiment will bee so thin that you will hardly conceive them a Commanded Company of your former Regiment which in your absence is likelier to fall in, if your Major leaves you to bee Left: Colonel in the Western Expedition.

My nature was never so servile as to flatter, and my engagement to you to great to Conceale from you what concerns your Reputation, and therefore I must and will take the Boldness to tell, you are strangely [*sic*] Censured for quitting the Command of such a regiment to follow a single troop (for that you wayted on Prince Maurice excuses not with many). You know best what is at stake, and I am assured your Judgement will direct you to Pursue your honour, and I hope your nobleness will pardon my boldnes in acquainting you with what I am sorry to heare, and should bee more sorry to see. With my prayers to God for your health and safe (and I hope) sudden returne, I rest, Sir,

Y^{rs} as I am Obliged to serve you

To the Hon^{ble} Colonel
Salisbury, these.

JONATH: EDWARDS.

Some time within the interval of five months which had elapsed since Sir Francis was taken prisoner, and the date of the next letter, he had succeeded in obtaining his liberty.

CCXXX. PRINCE MAURICE'S ORDER TO GOVERNORS AND GARRISONS TO PROVIDE ACCOMMODATION FOR SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY,

1645.

For as much as Sr Francis Oateley Knight high Sherriffe for the County of Salop is, by Speciall direction from his Ma'ty to raise the Posse of that County and to perform other Services of great and weighty Concernment whereby hee will bee required in discharge of his duty to bee in severall parts of that County, And to the end hee may bee well accomodated wth quarter befitting his Quallity, and Employment, These are to will & require you to provide & furnish the said Sr Ffrancis Oately Kn^t and his Retinue with good Quarters during his residence in your Garrison for dispatch of his Ma^{ts} Affayres, Hereof you may in noe wise fayle Given att Worcester this

24th day of July 1645.

To all Govern^{rs} of Garrisons
Officers Quarter M^{rs} & others
whom it doth or may Concerne.

About the 30th of July, the Scottish army had entered Herefordshire, and was approaching the capital under David Lesley, Earl of Leven. Immediate steps were taken to raise the *posse comitatus*, with a view of relieving Hereford. The effort ended in failure. The country was tired of war.¹ The following is a copy of a letter addressed to the county by Sir Barnabas Scudamore, the High Sheriff.

CCXXXI. RAISING THE POSSE COMITATUS IN HEREFORDSHIRE,

1645.

A Coppie of the l're from ye H. Sheriff and Govr'ne' both of the Cittie and County of Hereff. declaring his resolucon in Raising ye posse of ye County.

It beinge with greate and serious deliberacon consulted and advised of, by ye gentlemen of this County now resident in and abouts this Cittie, and p'sonally active in his Ma^{ts} p'sent service, how the best and rediest way might bee for the effecting of his Ma^{ts} Comaunds, and ye Advanceinge ye true p'testant Religion, the safetie of this County, ye freeing themselves from ye slavery of ye Scotch, who doe now invade this

¹ Gardiner, ii., p. 285.

County with a powerful Armie, They have therefore for ye preventing of this soe greate a dainger and ruine to this Kingdome, unanimously joyned together as one man, and have to that end envited you and the rest of the gentrie of this Countie, with their sonnes and servants to bee in ye best equipance you cann both with horse and Armes at ye generall meeting on Thursday next in Wigmarsh-sho by Tenn of the Clocke in ye morning being the last of this instant July, where wee shall meete with you and resolve of a speedy course for ye freeing our selves from this distraction now likely to fall upon us, and that none may pretend excuse in this greate tyme of necessitie for conveninge upon that day I doe further declare unto you ye intencions and resolucons of these gentlemen, that whosoever shall absent himselfe from that appearance (if not proved on oath to bee sicke or debillitated by age or some warrantable or just excuse not only for his absence out of this County, but from ye place of meeting), shalbe esteemed a newtrall and disloyall Subject, and remembered to all a disaffected p'son to ye safety and welfare of this County, in which hee must expect noe long existence, And that there might bee a cleare understanding of this their resolucon, it is desired by them that all private differences whatsoever may bee layd aparte, and that wee joyne together unanimously in soe good and pious a woorke, I shall not faile my selfe with ye best power I have to attend you there, and doe further engadge my selfe unto you (having recentment of the everlasting dishonor which wilbe recorded upon this nation if ye Scotch prevaile) that to the best of my skill and power I will live and die a servante to my Country and a true affectionate friend to all that shall joyne herein, This is a dutie befitts mee in a business of soe high a nature. I am desired to publish unto you they discerning ye small effects which ensue by his Ma'ts Comaund for summoninge ye Posse And therefore doe resolve with ye assistance of God to goe through with this woorke, whereunto wee expect your utmost endeavours, and alsoe that you will prompte it to all ye rest of your Gentlemen your Neighbours. And soe I rest :

Your asured Loving friend
and Servaunte.

[BARNABUS SCUDAMORE].

CCXXXII. COMMISSIONERS OF ASSOCIATION

1645.

For our honored Freinds Sr Francis Oatley, K^t high Sheriff
of ye County of Salop, Sr Thomas Woolrich Sr Edward Acton

and Sr Thomas Edwards and y^e rest of y^e Comissioners of ye Association for y^e County of Salop.

GENTLEMEN.

It hath pleased his Ma^{tie} upon y^e humble Desire of y^e Gentree of this Countie of Stafford to comand that y^e Comission of Association should bee wth all dilligence put in execution conceaving it the fittest redresse for the greevances of each Countie, & y^e procuring of a happy Peace. His Ma^{tie} hath comaunded Sr Robert Howard, Sr William Russell & Sr Walter Pye, to stay behind him & attend uppo' the service as well heere as in theire owne Cuntrys: Wee are confident of yo^r concurrence to prepare yo^r Cuntrie for his Ma^{ties} service & theire owne safeties & uppon notice from yo^u that yo^u desire any of o^r assistance wee shalbee ready to waite uppo' yo^u as

Lichfeild 16th August 1645

Yo^r assured freinds & servants

Sr Edward Acton and other
Gent of yo^r Countie are put
into ye Comission of Association. Mr Weaver can give yo^u
there names.

H. Archbold
Salop.

LOUGHBOROUGH
WA: ASTON
RO: HOWARD
WILL: RUSSELL
T. BAGOT ROBERT WOLSLEY
JOHN HARPUR
RIC. DYOS
GEORGE DIGBY. WAL PYE.

HENRY HASTINGS, LORD LOUGHBOROUGH.— On June 17th, 1645 (three days after the battle of Naseby) he surrendered Leicester to the Parliamentary army, which had been taken and sacked by Rupert only eighteen days previously. The next day he retired to Ashby Castle, which was closely besieged. On the 28th of February following (1646), articles of agreement were entered into between Col. Hastings, Governor of Ashby, and Col. Needham, Governor of Leicester, for the surrender and sleighting of Ashby Castle. Hastings was to leave Ashby (after the sleighting) and march to Bridgnorth or Worcester, with colours, trumpets, and drums, &c. In November, 1648, Parliament ordered that Ashby Castle should be demolished. Hastings survived the Protectorate, and on the Restoration was made Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire. He then lived

at Loughborough House, Lambeth. His will, dated 1 August, 1665, was proved P.C.C. 15 and 18 May, 1667 (62 Carr). He died, unmarried, in January, 1666, and was buried in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, near the body of his great-uncle, Edward, Lord Loughborough. [W. G. D. F.).

SIR WALTER ASTON, the eldest son of Sir Walter Aston of Tixall, co. Stafford, K.B. and Bart., and created Lord Aston of Forfar 1628, and died 1639, by his wife Gertrude, daughter of Sir Thomas Sadler of Standon, co. Herts. He succeeded as 2nd Bart. and Peer, and inherited Standon under the will of his uncle, Ralph Sadler, Esq., in 1660. He was a staunch and gallant supporter of the royal cause during the Civil Wars. He married in 1629, Mary, second daughter of Richard, Lord Weston, Lord High Treasurer of England, Earl of Portland, K.G. He died 23 April, 1678, leaving four sons and five daughters. (Burke's *Extinct Peerage, Vis. Staff.*, 1663). [W. G. D. F.]

SIR WILLIAM RUSSELL, of Strensham, co. Worcester, 1st Baronet, Governor of Worcester, (see LXII. note). He married Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Read, of Brockett Hall, co. Herts, Knt., and had eight sons and three daughters. He died 30th November, 1669, and was buried at Strensham, where is a monument to his memory, on which is a long inscription, of which this forms a part:—

Vir fuit . . . egregia erga regem temporibus
iniquissimis fide nec capitis periculo, nec
magna rei familiaris jactura unquam concussus.

H. BAGOT. Hervey Bagot, born 8th February, 1590. Created Bart. 30th May, 3 Charles I. Died 27th Dec., 1652. Married 1st, Catherine, daughter of Humphrey Adderley, of Weddington; and secondly, Anne, daughter of Sir Clement Fisher, of Packington, Knight, and widow of Sir Thomas Dilke, of Maxstoke, Knt., and had five sons. He was son of Walter Bagot, of Blythfield, by Elizabeth, daughter of Roger Cave, of Stamford, Esq. (See *Vis. Staff.*, 1663). [W. G. D. F.]

SIR ROBERT WOLSELEY, Bart. Son of John Wolseley of Morton, co. Stafford, by Isabell, daughter of John Porter, of Stallington, co. Staff.; created a Baronet 24th Nov., 1628; married Mary, daughter of Sir George Wroughton, of Wilcot, co. Wilts, and had issue three sons and three daughters. Clerk to the Patent Office in Chancery. (See *Vis. Staff.*, 1663). [W. G. D. F.].

SIR JOHN HARPUR, of Calke, co. Derby, 2nd Baronet, son of Sir John Harpur, of Calke, 1st Baronet, by Barbara, daughter of Anthony Faunt, of Foston, co. Leicester, Esq. He was Sheriff of Derbyshire in 1640; married Susan West, and died cir. 1669, aged 53. (Glover's *Derbyshire*, vol. ii., p. 185). [W. G. D. F.].

SIR RICHARD DYOT, Knight, son and heir of Anthony Dyot, Esq., by Catharine, daughter of John Harcourt, of Rownton Abbey, co. Stafford, Esq., "one of the councell to King Charles I., in his Court at York, for the northern part of his realme; Chancellor to the Bishop of Durham for that county palatine, and steward of this city" (i.e. Lichfield). He married Dorothy, daughter and heiress of Richard Donnington, of Stafford, and had issue six sons. St. Mary's Register, Lichfield, says: "1659-60, Mar: 8. Sir Rd. Dyot, Knt. *bur.*" The *Visitation of Stafford*, 1663, says, he "*died* 8 Martii 1659," from which it might be inferred that he died, and was buried the same day.

GEORGE DIGBY, of Sandon, co. Stafford, Esq., 2nd son of Everard Digby, of Tilton, co. Leicester, Esq., by Mary, daughter and heiress of Francis Neale, of Prestwold, co. Leicester, Esq. He bought Sandon from his half-brother, Sampson Erdeswich of Sandon; married Mary, daughter of Sir Walter Chetwynd, of Ingestre, co. Stafford, Knt., and had a son who died an infant, and four daughters, of whom the only surviving one, Jane, married Charles Lord Gerard. (*Vis. Staff.* 1663). He paid for his composition £1440.

HENRY ARCHBOLD, of Lichfield, Esq., L.L.D., Registrar and Chancellor to the Bishop of Lichfield and

Coventry; was knighted at Whitehall, 21st November, 1670. He paid for his composition £186 10s.

SIR WALTER PYE, of the Mynd, co. Hereford, was the eldest son of Sir Walter Pye, of the same place, Attorney of the Court of Wards, to whose memory there is a monument in the church of Much Dewchurch, in which parish the Mynd is situated; but where the son was buried is unknown. When the Parliament began to issue commissions of Lords-Lieutenants and Deputy-Lieutenants, independent of the King, Sir Walter Pye was appointed one of the latter for co. Bedford, instead of Hereford, where he resided, and where his property and influence were greater, a stroke of policy, it is thought, by which to divert his influence in another direction. But he took the earliest opportunity, in common with the leading gentry of Herefordshire, of declaring for the King, who appointed him a Commissioner of Array, and to the command of a regiment. When Waller laid siege to Hereford, in 1643, which surrendered on the 24th of April, Sir Walter Pye, with others, was taken prisoner, and conveyed to Bristol, and confined to the castle, but regained his liberty in the following June. His name appears in the list of persons who were at Oxford when the articles of surrender were agreed upon, June 22nd, 1646, and desired and obtained four letters for compounding for his estates, in the counties of Bucks, Hereford, Brecknock and Radnor. His moated residence, a few miles from Hereford, being capable of defence, was garrisoned by Sir Barnabas Scudamore, at an early date, but does not appear to have played any noticeable part in the war.

Captain George Mainwaring, mentioned in the following order of Prince Rupert, was the third son of Sir George Mainwaring, of Ightfield, co. Salop, Knt., and brother of Sir Arthur Mainwaring, of the same place, carver to the Prince of Wales. Tong Castle was twice occupied by the Royalists, on the second occasion, April 5th, 1644. From the letter below, it appears that

Captain Mainwaring's command did not begin till the 18th July, in that year, and ended with October 31st. This last date appears to be inconsistent with Symmons's statement, that Tong was burnt by the Prince when he drew out the garrison to the battle of York, which was in May. It was Capt. Mainwaring's misfortune to be taken prisoner at the capture of Shrewsbury, and we hear nothing more about him till this mention of him by the Prince. He was admitted of Brazenose College, Oxford, Nov. 19, 1602, æt. 15.

CCXXXIII. PRINCE RUPERT'S ORDER TO PAY CAPTAIN
G. MAINWARING'S ARREARS.

1645.

GENTLEMEN

Itt is knowne to you that Captaine George Mainwaring, A Gentleman of yo^r owne Countrey did some time Com'and in cheife att Tongue Castle, And itt is by him signified to me that, in Regard there was noe Established pay for the com'and, He was & still is unrecompenced for his Services, I Desire you that he be paid out of the next contribucon comeing to the Garrison of Bridge North, after the proportion of five poundes a week for the time of his Continuance in that Com'and, being from the 18th of July to the last of October 1644, By which he may be Encouraged and Enabled to apply himself to his Ma^{ties} farther Service, either in your parts, or where else he shall be Required,

Worcester 3^{to} Dec^r 1645.

I rest

Yo^r Freind

RUPERT.

Ffor the Gentlemen, Com^{rs} of
the Countie of Salop, Resident
in Bridgenorth, these.

CCXXXIV. EDWARD OWEN TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1645.

SIR

You must needs forgive me if I be troublesome unto you in desiringe some releife from you after my long imprison-

ment, what you can conveniently spare I desire may be sent me by this bearer, and I shall ever remain

Stafford the 1^o

Your humble Servant

Oct: 1645

EDW: OWEN.

To my most honored
Friend Sr Francis Ottley Knt.
and Coll:
these present.

The writer of the above was Lieut.-Colonel Edward Owen, second son of Sir William Owen of Condoover, Knt., by his wife Ellena, daughter of Sir Robert Needham of Shavington, Knt. He was born 15 May, 1623, and must have obtained through his family influence rapid promotion to have been a Lieut.-Colonel so young. He was the "Ned Owen" whom Tom Eyton tells us (Letter LIV.) lost some of his men at Whitechurch in 1643, when the Roundheads from Nantwich sent out a force to beat up their quarters. He married Martha, daughter of Thomas Owen of Salop, relict of Edward Leighton of Wattlesborough. He was made prisoner at the taking of Shrewsbury, and had remained so up to the date of this letter. The sum he paid for his composition was £207.

There are but few events to record in the military history of Shropshire during the past year. After Shrewsbury was secured by the Parliament army, vigorous efforts were made by it to reduce the smaller Royal garrisons. Siege was laid to High Ercall, but after continuing a fortnight, the attempt was abandoned, not before they had sustained serious losses. It was a strongly built residence, enclosed by a broad moat, and held with great gallantry by the defenders. April 17th, they lost Longford House, a seat of the Earl of Shrewsbury, taken by Prince Rupert. On the 24th, Col. Birch invested Ludlow, but in a short time withdrew without accomplishing anything. On the 7th May, the King left Oxford, with about 11,000 men, and passed through Droitwich on his way towards Chester. He slept at Chetwynd, the seat of the Pigotts, on the

20th, situated about two miles from Newport. Two rooms that he occupied are still shown in the older portion of the house, one of which looks out upon the Churchyard. On the 21st, while the army was resting after the long marches, a force under Sir Marmaduke Langdale, Major General, was despatched by night to surprise Wem, and said to have had but 150 men in it, but the enterprise was a failure. The King proceeded to Drayton, and while here, news arrived on the 22nd that Brereton, alarmed at the approach of the Royal army, had withdrawn from before Chester. This induced the King to alter his course into Staffordshire. The Parliament forces at Shrewsbury were more successful in some of their other attempts to reduce the petty garrisons. On the 8th of June, they captured Stokesay Castle, which belonged to Lord Craven, situated at the junction of several roads, commanding an important position. On the 23rd, Caus Castle surrendered to them, and on the 29th, Shrawardine Castle. A fortnight before this date the battle of Naseby was fought, in which the King's army was defeated, and his correspondence seized. On the 8th July, Lilleshall House was taken by the Parliament, and High Ercall was again beset, but they were routed by Colonel Vaughan, and Maurice states that "in their retreat the Parl. forces burnt Routon and Shraden Castles," by which he must mean *after* their retreat, as neither of these places lies between High Ercall and Shrewsbury.

On the 7th of August, the King, on his way from Brecknockshire and Radnorshire, was again in this county; and finally in September, after the Battle of Rowton Heath.

The only garrisons remaining to the King were Ludlow, Bridgnorth and High Ercall.

1646.

Sir Jacob Asteley, created a Baron Nov., 1644, was the son of Isaac Asteley of Melton Constable, Norfolk, and commenced his military training in the Netherlands.

He took up the royal cause in the Civil War with great zeal; was wounded at Edgehill; present at the siege of Gloucester, where he commanded a division, and when Essex, after relieving that city had fought the battle of Newbury (20th Sept., 1643), and had continued his retreat to London, Sir Jacob possessed himself of Reading. In 1644 he assisted Lord Hopton in the capture of Arundel, and shared in the defeat of Alresford 29th March. In the second battle of Newbury (27th Oct.) Asteley commanded the infantry in the King's escape from Oxford, when the army of Essex and Waller were closing on the city. At Naseby (14th June, 1645) the main body of the foot was led by Lord Asteley. He was routed at Stow-in-the-Wold, 21st March, 1646, where he made his memorable remark to his captors, some of whom brought the old soldier a drum to sit upon: "You have now done your work and may go to play, unless you will fall out among yourselves." At the time of writing these letters that follow he was endeavouring to raise forces for the relief of Chester, and to set in order the few disorganised garrisons that remained to the King in Shropshire. But the game was virtually played out, and neither courage nor skill could recover the lost fortune of the King. Lord Asteley died in 1652, at the age of 73.¹

CXXXXV. LORD ASTELEY TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1645-6.

GENTLEMEN

I have received both yo^{rs} of the 7th & 8th of this instant, & am very sorry that I can meet with no Guarison free from such like distempers; I wonder not a little that Sr Lewis Kirke should expresse such violence, & oppose o^r directions concerning Mr. Andrewes, & have the Guarison in such disorder; for the present I can say little, but pray yo^r most vigilant care & circumspection in preservation of the place, the enemy being busy, & having Designes upon that & every Guarison here.

¹ *Dict. Nat. Biog., &c.*

abouts. And I shall make all possible speed to yo^u that I can,
in the interim I rest

Gentlemen
10th Jan^{ry} 1645. Yo^r faithfull freind & humble servt
JACOB ASTELEY.

For my honoured freind
S^r Francis Oately High Sherriff¹ of Salop & others
his Ma^{ty} Com^{rs}missioners for the County at Bridgnorth.

CCXXXVI. LORD ASTELEY TO THE SAME.

1645-6.

NOBLE SIR

I am through the various distempers in all these
Guarisons enforced (as you see) to travell upp & downe to put
them in a posture of defence, & compose the differences
occasioned amongst the Governo^{rs} & those who relate to the
Guarison. This travellinge hath drayned my purse, so that I
must request yo^r furtherance in collecting & preparinge for
mee, against my coming to Bridgnorth my allowance for my
substance: I shall make all possible speed to yo^u, in the
mean while I doubt not of yo^r Assistance to my request, &
best care of his Ma^{ty} service, and so wishinge a good meeting I
rest

Lichfeild 10th Jan
1645

Yo^r Most humble Serv^t
JACOB ASTELEY

For my honoured freind
S^r Francis Oateley K^t High Sherife of
the County of Salop these.

CCXXXVII. NICHOLAS ANNOVER TO THE SAME.

1645-6

S^r

I understand that one Thomas Powell souldier under
Captaine Whiniard [or Whimard] hath taken away a bay
mare of Rowland Malkin of Kenlye, one of my Lord Newport's
tennants, whoe payes his contribusion to Bridgnorth; my
request unto you is that you would be favourably pleased to
cause the Souldier to restore the Mare to the owner, hee being

¹ No new Sheriff had been appointed by the King in the place of
Sir Francis Ottley. The Parliament at Westminster re-appointed
Mytton the 25th September, 1645, for this year

a man altogether unable to bear such losses; this being
granted I will oblige my selfe to remaine

High Ercall¹ 15 Jan.
1645.

Yo'r humble servant

NICHOLAS ANNOVER

To the right wor'll & his
honourd friend S^r Francis Oateley Knt,

CCXXXVIII. LORD ASTELEY TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF
BRIDGNORTH.

1645-6.

GENTLEMEN

I have received an Express lately from my Lord Byron
declaring the great extremity Chester is reduced unto; & I
have received severall Com'ands from his Ma^{ty} to endeavor the
raising of the seidge, and render that citty reliefe. I have
sent unto all Guarisons adjacent to supply all horse & foote
that can be spared wth safety to them. I have appointed the
Rendesvous of all the forces that can be rayased at Bridgnorth
the 27th of this instant; I shall desire yo^u also that yo^u would
prepare all the horse & foote that possibly may be spared out
of Bridgnorth (w^{ch} I hope will bee 100 Horse & 60 foote at
Least;) to be in readinesse to march at the time appointed. My
Lo. of Ormond writes that upon the first Westerly Winds (w^{ch}
happened yesterday) he had in readiness to transport fro'
Ireland 3000 foote well armed; I am also promised 800 horse
& foote in North Wales by the Lord Byron; I shall hope by
this means to doe the worke, and doubt not but every man of
honour will contribute their best Assistance herein. I desire
also yo^u would advance them 14 days paye for their reliefe or
Victuals at least. I suppose to see yo^u before that time, not
doubting of yo'r vigilance & care in all things I rest

Gentlemen

Yo'r Most humble servant

17 January 1645.

JACOB ASTELEY.

CCXXXIX. LORD ASTELEY TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1645-6.

S^r

I receaved y^r Lre and intend, God willinge, to be with
you at Bridgnorth upon ffryday next where I shall endeavour
what I can to settle all distractions, and to that purpose have

¹ It capitulated to the Parliament in the March following.

sent to Ludlowe for them there to meete, I shall desire yo^r selfe and the rest that they will p^rvide good accommodations of p^rvisions and Quarters against the 27th of this Month, for the Generall Rendevous at Brignorth; the number will bee two thousand horse and fifteen hundred foote. I shall also desire you will Against that tyme p^rvide the moneyes due for my entertaynment for then I shall have great occasion to use the same. And so expecting yo^r dilligence and care therein I rest

Dudley Castle 20th
Januarie 1645

Yo^r very loveing frend
JACOB ASTELEY.

You are in the meane tyme to p^rvide for Colonel Moulsworth and his Companie.
ffor ffrancis Ottley Knight High Sheriffe of the Countie of Salop.

Richard Wicksted, Clerk in Holy Orders, son of Thomas Wicksted of Shrewsbury, was born in that town, and baptized at St. Chad's, April 16th, 1619; admitted of Shrewsbury School, June 6th, 1631, at the age of 12. He married Sarah Lutwich, daughter of Edward Lutwich, Esq. (who died 1638), at Bridgnorth, Jany. 20th, 1639. Of his university course and early preferments, I have found no account, but he appears as Rector of Harley in 1650, where his wife died, and was buried August 28th, 1652. He survived her seven years, and was buried at the same place Nov. 19th, 1659. At the time of writing the two letters, he was under arrest at Ludlow for not having paid his arrears of money levied on him in the Hundred of Condover, Harley being in the Cound division of that Hundred. He appears to have remained in Ludlow till March 13th, 1646-7, for at that date he was admitted a Burgess of the town, if it be the same person; and the town being then in the hands of the Parliament points to his having a leaning to Puritanism. During the Commonwealth, his son Richard was apprenticed to Rowland Jenks, of Shrewsbury, Apothecary, for seven years, commencing in 1658, the year before the death of his father. In the Roll of the Ironmongers' Company, with which the Apothecaries were associated, the father

is described as "Richard Wicksteed, Minister of God's word at Harly." The son obtained his Freedom in 1665, and received apprentices of the same name, and presumably connexions of his family, from Cheshire, and the north part of Shropshire.

CXXL. RICHARD WICKSTED TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1645-6.

NOBLE SIR

After the presentation of my humble Service—It is the time wherein I beseech you to be active both for myself and Neighbours for our enlargement; which we shall not easily procure but by my Lord Ashley [*sic*], whose expectation here we are glad to hear of, and desire it may be speedily found by us: His Ma^{ties} order hath been read to us by Sr Tho: Edwards, wherein it appears that some Suggestion hath been made of the contribution of Condover Hundred that it hath been paid formerly to this Garrison; but what truth there is in that you very well know; upon that Order we are detained, and without the payment of the Money (which we cannot doe) we have no hope of liberty: what is remaining unpaid to you of the Arrears, if you send your discharge I shall not fail to give you content; for it seemeth by some whom I have used to sound Sr Michael Woodhouse, that he will not demand the same twice, if paid to you: and yet some who have paid you all do nevertheless find small effect of that Speech: Sr be you pleased to use your power with my Lord Ashley to right yourself and your Garrison; and I doubt not but Sr Lewis Kirke and the Gentlemen whom it concerneth in your Garrison will Assist you, for mine own part I cannot obey his Ma^{ties} command in sticking to my place if this course be held, for I have scarce bread to maintain myself my wife and family; Lieut^{nt} Col: Slaughter hath shewed himself an honest Gent: in writing to Sr W^m Vaughan of this Business: we as yet know not what it will work: but however it is I will be faithfull to you in the cause, and will suffer much, that I may show myself to be Sir

Your poor Neighbour

but true Servant

Ludlow Jan^{ry} 21^o 1645

Ri: WICKSTED.

Col: D'avilier cometh upon us for Horse and Arms, which I believe are to be raised for you, not for him, as is pretended; I

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MM

pray let your Servant Ned Evans send a copy hither to us of your Warrant.

For the R^t Wor^{ll} my much honor^d
S^r Francis Ottley Kn^t high Sherriff of
the County of Salop p^rsent these
wth speed.

CCXLI. RICHARD WICKSTED TO SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.
1645-6.

NOBLE S^r.

Since my last of yesterday; I find, and it is feared amongst us, that the hundred of Condover wilbe called upon to make up the summ of £200 which Sir M: Woodhouse saith he lent to Prince Maurice, and had power given him to levy it upon the Country; but I see no order for it, nor when it is to be levied; if anie where, it is probable that it is to be done in those places which are under the Contribucon of Ludlow, which Condover hundred never was: Anie pretence will serve to charge us, and to keep us poore: But, Sir, it is my humble suite to your selfe, to S^r Lewis Kirke, and S^r Ed: Acton, with the rest, that for my owne particular you will procure from my Lo: Ashley's hand my discharge hence: and for Horse and Armes to use your power in exempting mee from the disposall of Col: D'avelier; for I rather desire what is to be done to be accountable to you: I am verei sorrie to hear how Pitchford hath been used this last march, I trust the Generall will regulate those or else his Ma'tie will find much disservice from the Country, as is to be feared: Let me crave the favour to keepe these and my last lines to your selfe; that I may not be open to them here for advertisement. S^r I humbly take my leave, and pray for your health, and success in your affairs.

Ludl[ow]
Jan: 22^o
1645.

Yo'r servant
Ri: Wi[CKSTED]

I pray doe me that noble favour when you report my case to the Governour to present my service to him and the rest of the Gent: Mr Latham will doe mee anie favour he can, I am confident of it.
We poore ministers must petition his Ma'tie's protection, or wee are lost.

For the R^t wor^{ll} my much honoured
Sir fran: Ottley, Knt. at Brignorth, p^rsent these.
with my humble service.

CCXLII. SIR THOMAS EDWARDES TO THE SAME.

1645-6.

SIR

ffor your busines wth Devillier as I tould you in my last, soe I might iterate his Neglect. I have solicited daily to have his Warr[ants] sent forth, but to this hower cannot gett them, hee shuffles it to the Go^r that hee doth oppose them as a hinderance of his contributons, and yet I call upon him, and have promised that hee will Collect the money and use the first that comes in; you shalbee assured of Intelligence. I know you have heard Counj'tures of the party which were at Pitchford and those parts; Mary Griffithes hath byne wth mee, and shee will give you an account of her & my endeavors on your behalfe;¹ I lately suffered from Bromcroft Castle, the Lo: deliver us out of the hands of these Oppressors. With my hearty Respects to my good sister, & sweete cousins & my blessing to my daughter I rest

Ludlow Jan: 22
1645

Yo^r brother & servantTHO: EDWARDES.²

ffor Sr ffrancis Ottley
Knt. high Sheriffe of
Shropshire these.

The family of Cressett, which gave its name to Upton Cressett, a manor about four miles west of Bridgnorth, was at a previous date seated at Little Withiford. William Cressett, the earliest mentioned of the family, had a son Thomas, who lived in the reign of Edward II., and married the daughter of John, Lord of Upton, in consequence of which, his grandson, Hugh Cressett, Sheriff of Shropshire in 1435, succeeded to the estate of Upton. Edward Cressett, father of the writer of the two following letters, was a Justice of the Peace for Shropshire, in which capacity he appears in the Calendar

¹ The event in connection with Pitchford Hall, alluded to by Mr. Richard Wicksted and Sir Thomas Edwardes, has had no collateral light thrown on it, as far as I am aware. It was probably a case of plundering by the Parliamentary soldiers, of which no particulars have been preserved.

² The writer was created a Baronet Feb. 12, 1644-5. (Salmon's *Chronol. Hist.*, quoted by Webb, ii., p. 72, note).

of Prisoners, printed in this collection, No. LXXXI, and a Commissioner of Array. He was one of the Grand Jury who sat at the Assizes, 8th August, 1842, and signed the "Declaration and Protestation" to present to the King, while as yet he had not erected his Standard at Nottingham (see LXV.); he signed, also, the "Engagement and Resolution" for raising and maintaining forces at their own cost agreed upon by the gentlemen of Salop. He sat on a Council of War, held by Lord Capel at Shrewsbury, 3rd April, 1643, and at a meeting of the Commissioners of Array in Bridgnorth, May the 21st, 1645, where he was shortly afterwards slain. Richard Cressett, in praying for exemption from attending the meeting of the Commissioners, alleges as reasons the recent death of his father, his desire to live in retirement, and some unexplained danger of ruin. The latter may have been the risk he was exposed to from the Parliamentary soldiers paying him a visit at Upton Cressett, if he quitted his house on the King's business. But I am disposed to think that the true cause of his disinclination to act was that he saw enough to convince him that the Parliament would very soon be in possession of the whole county, and that he intended to join the winning side. It is certain that he was acting with other Parliamentary Justices of the Peace four years later, for I have seen a pass of that date given to Richard Ottley, son of Sir Francis, with his signature attached.

CCXLIII. RICHARD CRESSETT TO THE SAME.

1645-6.

SIR

Receiving a letter from you, Sir Edw: Acton and Collonell Billingsley, I thought it not improper to write an Answer in general unto you all, but presuming of your good wishes to me, I Address these lines to you, desiring your serious thoughts upon my excuse, who you know since my Father's death have lived a retired Life, and very great reason for it; Sr, I am confident I need not ask anything of you

that you can grant me, if you please to favour me so farr as to silence my name (if urged by any) you will extreamly Oblige him that is really yours, whilst I am

Upton Cressett
Jany: 26. 1645

Ri: CRESSETT.

For my honour'd freind
and kinsman S^r Fra: Ottley these.

CCXLIV. RICHARD CRESSETT TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF ARRAY.
1645-6.

GENTLEMEN

Uppon Saturday night I received Yo^r Lre: requiring my Attendance this Day upon my Lord Astley, In the condition and case I stand (so well known to you my Noble Friends and kinsmen) I p'sume to beg the favour to be Absent, Otherwise I Appeal to Yo^rselves whether I can expect less then certain ruin to ensue; this request (as I assure myself) is not beyond yo^r power to grant, for I cannot doubt it greater than Yo^r love to me & my children; and your regard to him who is gone in those he hath left behind; and now having p'mised this Confidence in your real Affection, I shall rely thereon in this favour (so conduceible to my safety) only as a corroboration to this my Opinion of you, And as a further Assurance of his Obligations to you who is

Upton Cressett
26^o January 1645

Your very humble Servant
Ri. CRESSETT.

For his hon^rable Friends
and kinsmen S^r Francis
Ottley, S^r Edward Acton, and
Collonell Francis Billingsley These

The activity of Lord Asteley during the early part of the year, in reorganising the few garrisons remaining to the King in Shropshire, failed to turn the tide of misfortune that had set in. The Shrewsbury Committee had no sooner gained High Ercall in March, which had long been a trouble to them, because of its close proximity, being only 8 miles distant, than they were enabled to despatch a strong force of horse and foot to Bridgnorth, on the 31st of the same month, and on the 26th of April, it was compelled to surrender on the terms expressed in the next paper.

CCXLV. ARTICLES OF SURRENDER OF BRIDGNORTH CASTLE.¹

1646.

Articles Agreed upon for the Surrender of Bridgnorth Castle the 26th of April 1646 Between Sir Robert Howard, Knight of the Bath, Governo^r, Sir Vincent Corbet, Sir Edward Acton, and Sir Francis Ottley Commissioners for the King. And Collonell Andrew Lloyd, Coll: Robert Clive, and Robert Charleton, Esq^{rs} Com^{rs} for the Parliament.

- I. That all Comissioned Officers of Horse, and all Captains of Foot, shall march away to any of his Majesty's Garrisons or Armys within forty Miles, with their Horses and Arms for themselves, and each of them to have a Servant with his Horse and Sword and their wearing Apparel, Free Quarter for 30 Miles and a Safe Conduct, and not to March less than Eight Miles a day, and any of the aforesaid Officers to repair to any of their own habitations.
- II. That all inferior Commissioned Officers shall have liberty to March with their Swords, and the common Soldiers without arms, to any of his Majesty's Garrisons or Armies within 40 Miles as formerly mentioned, on laying down their Arms; to live at their own Habitations, for a fortnight, and afterwards to take the Negative Oath, if they continue within this County, or Letters from hence to the Committees of the several Counties where they intend to reside, and to have papers granted them accordingly.
- III. That all Clergymen, Town'smen, and Countrymen, within the Castle, may have liberty to repair to their own habitations, provided they lay down their arms, and a fortnight's time allowed them for taking the negative oath, and not to live within a mile of the Parliament Garrisons; or otherwise, if they should desire it, to march to any of the King's Garrisons or Armies.
- IV. That all wounded and sick persons within the Castle shall have liberty to reside in the Low Town, or elsewhere, till they be fit to travel; and then to have passes to go home, or to any of the King's Garrisons or Armies.

¹ Printed in Bellett's *Antiquities of Bridgnorth*, and in *Calendar of State Papers* for 1646, with some unimportant verbal differences.

- V. That Sir Robert Howard, Sir Vincent Corbet, Sir Edward Acton, and Sir Francis Ottley, with each of them, their horses, arms, and two men apiece, with their horses and swords, and their masters wearing apparel, shall have liberty to march to their several habitations, and to continue there for the space of two months: to which time they are to make their election, whether they will go to make their peace with the Parliament, or go beyond Sea, or to any of the King's Garrisons or Armies, and to have passes accordingly,—they engaging themselves to do nothing prejudicial to the Parliament in the mean time.
- VI. That Mr Howard, Mr Fisher, and Mr Grovenor, shall march away with their horses and arms, and one man apiece, with their apparel and swords, to any place within forty miles.
- VII. That Lieutenant Col. Hosier and Doctor Dewen shall march away without horse or arms, to any of the King's Garrisons, or any other place within thirty miles; provided it be not within this County.
- VIII. That Mr. Milward, Chaplain of the Garrison, may have liberty to go with a horse, to his house at Leighton, in this County, and to take with him his manuscripts, and there to live, taking the negative oath within one month's time; or is to march away out of the County with the rest.
- IX. That the Clerks of the Commissioners may have liberty to march, as the rest of the inferior Officers, and to have the same conditions; and to take with them all papers concerning the Garrison, and their wearing apparel.
- X. That Lady Ottley, her children, and maid-servant have liberty, with their wearing cloaths, to go to Pitchford, or the Hay, and there to live unmolested.
- XI. That all women and children within the Castle, may have liberty to go to their own, or any of their friends' houses, provided it be not within one mile of this Garrison.
- XII. That all Gentlemen, Officers, and Soldiers, within the Castle, Strangers as well as others, desiring to go beyond Sea, shall have passes accordingly, and letters to the Committee of their several Counties, to afford them the like conditions as to the Gentlemen of this County, upon the surrender of this Castle here granted.

- XIII. That the chirurgeons belonging to the Garrison shall march away, and to have the same conditions as the inferior Officers.
- XIV. That the Gunners and Powdermen, with their mates, may march away as the rest of the common Soldiers.
- XV. That no violence, injury, or incivility, shall be offered to any who shall march out of this Castle, but be protected in all things, according to the tenor of these Articles; and that sufficient Hostages on both sides be given for the performance of all and every the matters here agreed upon.
- XVI. That the Governor, and the rest of the Officers, shall do their utmost endeavor to protect and preserve all the ordnance, arms, ammunition, victuals, provisions, goods, bedding, and all other accommodations necessary and belonging to the Castle, other than what is allowed to be taken by the aforesaid Articles; and all these safe and unspoiled, to be delivered up, together with the Castle, unto the Committee or whom they shall appoint; and that these Articles be confirmed by the Governor.
- XVII. That if these Articles be consented to, the Castle shall be surrendered by seven of the clock tomorrow morning; and those who intend to march to Worcester, to quarter in the Low Town, or any other Town within five miles of the Garrison, upon the return of the Trumpeter and Officer sent to Worcester; provided that they come within two days.
- XVIII. That if any Officer, or Soldier, shall in anyway maliciously spoil his horse or arms, or misdemeanor himself in his march, such misdemeanor shall not be extended further than upon the party offending; and upon them justice shall be done according to the discipline of war.
- XIX. That all Commissioned Officers be certified by the Governor of the Castle, and upon his certificate be allowed to march accordingly; and that all Troopers march away with their swords.
- XX. That Mr Edward Latham [? Lathom] be delivered to the mercy of the Parliament.

[Signed]

ANDREW LLOYD.
ROBERT CLIVE.
ROBERT CHARLTON.

With the fall of Bridgnorth the military and official career of Sir Francis Ottley ended. Henceforth he lived in retirement, and from some family letters, appears to have been exclusively engaged in completing with much difficulty his heavy composition with the authorities of Goldsmith's Hall, spending part of his time in London, and the rest in Shropshire. He lived to see the King, whom he had served so faithfully, beheaded January 30, 1649, and in less than eight months afterwards, Sept. 11, he himself passed away in the 48th year of his age. Where his remains were laid no one appears to know.

CCXLVI. A PASS FOR SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1646.

According to the Articles of Agreement, upon the surrender of the Castle of Bridgenorth into our Hands for the service of the Parliament, S^r Francis Ottley Knight, is hereby Licensed together with his Servants, Horses, Arms, & Wearing Apparell, quietly to pass all your Scouts & Guards to Pitchford, or the Hay, or Else where in the County of Salop, & to remain under the protection of the Parliament two Months, unmolested, in which he is to be at full liberty to make his Composition with the Parliament, or to March to any of his Majesties Garrisons or Armys Whatsoever, or else to go beyond the Seas, & to have passes Accordingly as he shall think fitt. Dated at

Bridgenorth this 28th day of April 1646.

To all Officers & Soldiers belonging
To the Parliament.

These are straightly to Charge & require you not to Offer Violence to the Person of S^r Francis Ottley his Lady, their children or Servants, or to plunder or take away any of their Goods or cattle without Special Warrant under our Hands to that purpose. As also to pass from this Garrison to Pitchford with their Horses Arms & Necessaries, without your Molestation, Given under our hands

Bridgenorth April 28 1646.

AND: LLOYD.

RO. CLIVE

ROBT CHARLTON.

To all Officers & Soldiers in the Parliament Armys.

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NN

CCXLVII. ELINOR DAVENPORT TO LADY OTTLEY

1646

GOOD MADDAM

My humble servis presented to your Ladyship; I have bine at bridgnorth with the sequestraters, mager Braine went with me to Mr Hunke Hed and wished him that I might have any thing that was my Lady Ottley's; hee sends me to Mr Kittelsby and with all bides me take a note what things I would have, I com to him and desire to lett me see what goodes my lady hath there, as beddes, and couertens, and any other things which is in his keping, hee sayes that my Lady Ottley desired nothing but her hemp and flax and that was praised: I asked at what rates, hee says, that in the trunk at xxx^s and that in the chest at xxx^s, but for anything elce hee would not unfurnish him selfe as yet, but when that they ware prayed then Hee will send mee word, for now the committe had sent a sworne man to praise those things which ware not praised. I wished them to use some conservency to so good a Lady as she is, they promise that they will do any curtsey they can, So I beesech, good maddam, when you send to my Lady Ottley, present my humble service to her, and I should bee glad if I could doe her Lady ship any servis that lyes in my power; this with my serves to my cozen Margret and all yours I remain

Your servant to command

ELINOR DAVENPORT.

My sister Davenport presents her humble serves to her Ladyship and bee seeches you to excuse her for not coming to wait on you.

By the Articles agreed upon at the surrender of Bridgnorth Castle, 26th April, 1646, it was provided "That Lady Ottley, her children, and maid servants, have liberty, with their wearing clothes, to go to Pitchford, or the Hay, and there to live unmolested." I presume that the writer of this letter had undertaken to see to her Ladyship's goods on her behalf, and that this is her report.

Thomas Lee, who writes to Lady Ottley in the next letter, was the son of Lancelot Lee of Coton, in the parish of Alveley, by his wife Jane, daughter of Thomas Clemson of Berrington, co. Stafford. Lancelot Lee was

a Justice of the Peace for Salop, who sided with the Parliament, and was appointed one of the Shropshire Committee. He was a kinsman of Sir Francis Ottley, his mother being a daughter of Richard Ottley, uncle of Sir Francis. Thomas Lee was of Lincoln's Inn, and it is not difficult to understand that on the strength of their relationship Lady Ottley had engaged him as her attorney, with the hope that he and his father might use what influence they possessed with the sequestrators, to obtain easier terms in valuing the produce of the farm in question, and placing on it an acceptable tenant.

"Cosen Kettlesby," mentioned by Thomas Lee, may have been of the family of Kettleby of Steple, or Stepple Hall, in the parish of Neen Savage, the difference of spelling the name being no obstacle to such an inference, considering what looseness existed then in spelling names. There was a Thomas Kettelby, who with Miles Ashton wrote to the Bailiff and inhabitants of Bishop's Castle, Feb. 23rd, 1645-6, stating that they had received orders from the Honorable Committee of Parliament to protect the town from the "violence and wronges of the comon enemye," in other words, from the Royalists. This might have been "Cozen Kettlesby."

CCXLVIII. THOMAS LEE TO LADY OTTLEY.

1646.

MADAM

My ffather w'th my selfe have bine with the sequestrators accordinge to your Desire, and they seeme to bee very willinge to lett us have it before any, but their rates of selling are very high, requiringe noe lesse then the one halfe of ye yearely value of it w'th all other payments besides, w'ch is very hard, espeacially consideringe how farr ye yeare is gone, a stocke at present beinge waitinge w'th all. They value it at Eight score pounds p' An'm, and say it lyes only in ye power of the Committee to lett it bee sett under ye above written rate, they haveinge an order from them to lett it noe otherwise; I conceive your Ladyship hath noe better way then to send your man Richards to ye Committee uppon ffriday where p'happs hee may meete with either Mr Hawkeshead or my Cosen Kettlesby, and they will acquaint ye Committee how ye

state of the busines standes, otherwise, if hee meete them not, hee without doubt by some friend's meanes may have accesse to them; yt it is very hard to give fourescore pounds p' A'um for it w'th all other Dues & Duties for it, consideringe their want of a stocke, & the forwardnes of ye springe, wich hee, beinge a notable husbandman, needes not bee tould what to say, and I thinke noe man fitter then hee to take it, for I see it is the manner of others to putt one of their servants to take their demeanes, as it were for them selves, ye hard corne, I beleeeve, yt is in the grownd wilbe given into ye bargain; for the pease and the barley, especially ye barley, the buyinge of it must be payed for; and for the corne in the barne you might resolve to take a course about, or else it wilbe all threshed up and sould; but I doe intend if possible to stop them tomorrow tell I doe learne from you what you have done, and for to bargain with them for it; but as for the other thinges that were in the Castle all that possibly can bee spared you shall have at such rates as they bee prayesd. Thus leavinge all to your better Consideracons with my ffathers and my most humble service to S^r ffancis, your Ladyship, and Cosens, wishinge all best that may bee I rest in hast

6^o May 1646.

Yor Ladyshipp's most humble
servant to Comaund

THOS: LEE.

My ffather uppon Consideracon since hee speake with you is afrayde yt you will make little of it unlesse it bee through your owne stockinge of it, there are such a deale of voyde grounds hereabouts, hee would have you bethinke your selfe likewise about it whether it wilbe best for you to take it all, or ye house and some of it. I pray lett there be noe time lost in this busines, and as soon as may bee lett Richards come to my ffather & acquaint him what is done, for my ffather hath p'ferred ye Sequestrators £20 p' A'um with all other payments and hee believes it were better proffer to the Comittee £20 more rather then lett it passe to others. I much feare what wee shall doe about ye corne in the barne, they can tell so well how many stricks it will come to, it had beime well if it had bin looked after before it was soe neere threshed.

CCXLIX. A PASS FOR MR RICHARD OTTLEY.

1646.

These are to desire you that you permit and suffer the bearer hereof Mr Richard Ottley with his Horse to pass all

your Courts of Guard and Scouts from Pitchford to this Garrison of Shrewsbury, to Speak with this Committee, without any your let or Interruption, given under our hands this 16th of June 1646.

To all Commanders Officers
and Soldiers, in the service
of the King and Parliam^t

p. Ro : CLIVE
AND : LLOYD
ROBT CHARLTON.

CCL. AN ORDER OF THE SEQUESTRATORS.

1646.

By me Thomas Farmer.
At the Com^{tee} of Goldsmith's Hall, London for Compounding with Delinquents according to an Order of the Honourable House of Commons you are hereby directed and required that you forbear to Meddle with any part of Sir Francis Ottley's goods not yet taken away or to Cutt any of his Woods, or sell or dispose of Any part that is felled or unfelled.
18 Junii

D. WATKINS

RICH. WARING

JEROM: ALEXANDER

JOHN ASHE

CHRISTOPHER HACKE

MICH: HERING.

CCLI. AN ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

1646

Die Jovis 8 Julii. 1646.

Ordered by the Commons Assembled in Parliament, that all such Persons as have presented Petitions at Goldsmith's Hall, or agreed to their Compositions, & shall not come in before the first of August next, and prosecute their Compositions to Effect, shall lose the whole benefit of favour intended by their Compositions and be reputed amongst those who still stand out, & have not rendered themselves to the Parliament,

This to be forthwith printed & published, and that the case thereof be referred to the Committee of Goldsmith's Hall.

H. ELSYNGE Cler: Parl. D: Com.

Vera Copia

CCLII. AN ORDER OF THE SEQUESTRATION COMMITTEE
REGARDING THE PROPERTY OF SIR FRANCIS OTTLEY.

1646.

At the Com^{tee} at Goldsmiths Hall London for the Compounding with Delinquents 24^o July 1646

GENT.

We formerly sent you a letter requiring you to Certify unto us the Value of the Estate real and personal of Sir Francis Ottley, Knight, & that you should deliver all such Writings which concern his Estate, that thereby he might the better proceed to a Composition for the same, and that you would forbear to Cutt & fell any of his Woods, or dispose of any already felled or Cut; these are therefore to require you to Yeald Conformity to our said Order, and to deliver unto the said Sir Francis, or to whom he shall Appoint to receive the same, a deed of Feoffment, made by the said Sir Francis Ottley's Father and himself for payment of Debt (and raising of portions to Feoffees in Trust) in case you have not delivered the same, and that you forbear to Cutt or carry any more of his Woods, or otherwise to prejudice him in any part of his personal Estate upon any pretence whatsoever, untill you shall receive further Order from this Committee therein, so not doubting of your compliance we rest.

To his very Loving and Much
respected Sister Mrs Mary
Harries at Crupton, these with
speed

Leave this with Mr John
Wathall Draper in the High
Street whom I pray to convey
with speed as above

JOHN ASHE. ANTHO: IRBY
D: WATKINS
JEREM: ALEXANDER
CH. PACKE.
SAM: MOYER
RICH: WARING

Shrewsbury p Post.

CCLIII. PROVISION FOR LADY OTTLEY BY ORDER OF THE
COMMITTEE.

1646.

Quinto die Sept: 1646.

It is Ordered that the Lady Lucy Ottley wife of Sir Francis Ottley Knight have a fifth part of the real estate of her said husband, and a fifth part of his personal Estate (yet undisposed off) Assigned unto her towards the Maintenance of her self and Children, according to the Ordinance of Parliament in that behalf.

E. H: RICH: MASON

Clerk to the Comtee.

On the capture of Ludlow by Col. Birch in May the last of the Royal Garrisons in Shropshire had fallen, and the Civil War was virtually at an end. And on the 22nd of June Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice "took the road, with their attendants, and their passes to the sea-coast; a sight for the curious. On Tuesday 'there went about 300 persons, mostly of quality;' and on Wednesday all the Royalist force, '3,000' (or say 2,000) 'to the Eastward, 500 to the North;' 'with drums beating, colours flying,' for the last time; all with passes, with agitated thoughts and outlooks: and in sacred Oxford, as poor Wood intimates, the abomination of desolation supervened!—Oxford surrendering with the King's sanction quickened other surrenders; Ragland Castle itself, and the obstinate old Marquis, gave in before the end of August; and the First Civil War, to the last ember of it, was extinct."¹

¹ Carlyle's *Oliver Cromwell*, i., p. 219.

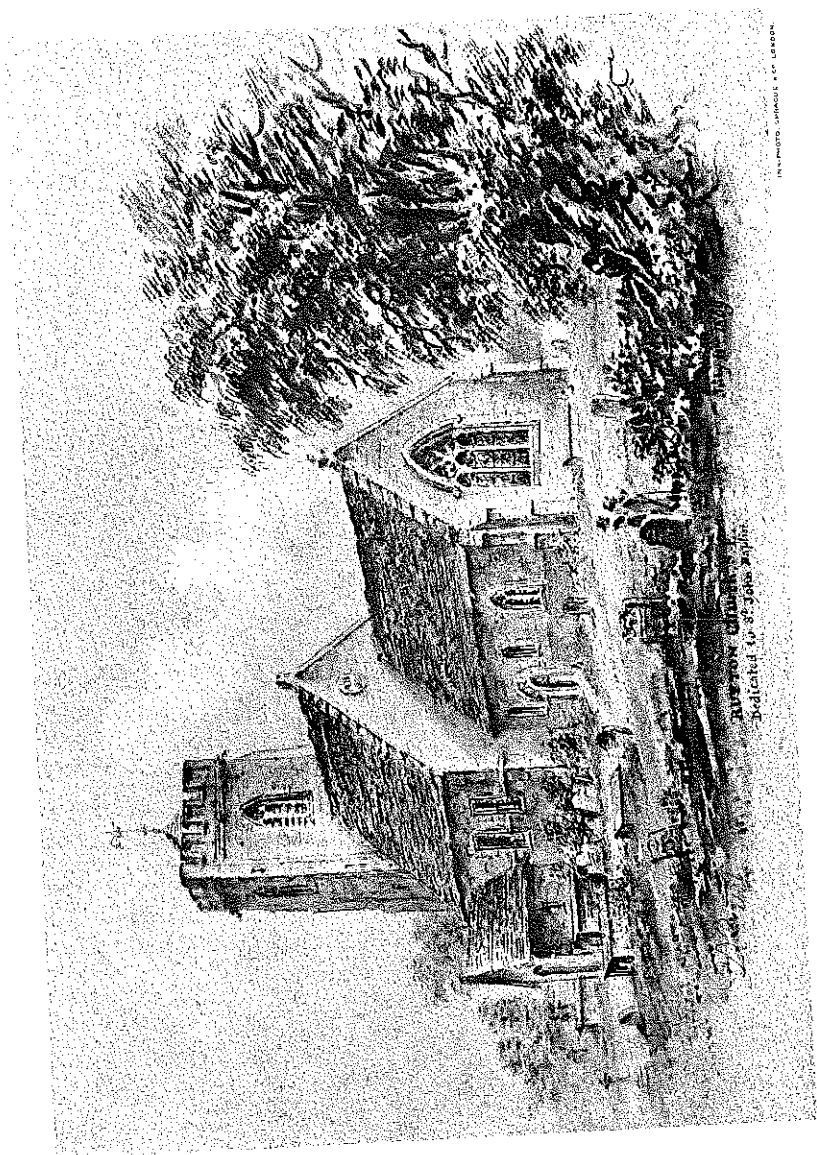
In concluding the task of editing, to the best of my ability, this very interesting collection of papers, I deem it necessary to append a few remarks.

Should I have laid myself open to the charge of presumption in undertaking this work, I can only reply that I entered upon it with much diffidence, and contemplated merely a transcript of the MSS., generously entrusted to me by Colonel Cotes, for insertion in our *Transactions*, accompanied by the brief notes of the late Joseph Morris. I soon discovered, however, that without much fuller comments on persons and events, the meaning and value of the MSS. could hardly be appreciated. It was necessary to construct a chronolo-

gical table of events relating to, and affecting Shropshire, during the course of the Civil War; and to collect from every available source such biographical notes of those who played their parts, as leading or subordinate characters, in the great drama of the period. These considerations opened my eyes to the gravity and largeness of my task, but not till it was too late to abandon it. I have done the best I could, and now trust to the lenient judgment of the reader. I ask no tolerance of errors, some of which I have already detected, and shall be obliged by having my attention called to those that have escaped me, which shall be noticed in a future list of corrigenda.

In addition to those persons to whom I have already expressed my obligations for their assistance, I must here mention the following:—Miss Auden, Dr. E. Calvert, Mr. Thomas Slaney Eyton, Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, Mr. H. T. Weyman, Mr. Samuel Butler, Mr. Rupert Kettle, and Mr. Robert Watkins.

WILLIAM PHILLIPS.



W. H. WOOD, ARCHT. & C. LONDON

RUYTON CHURCH.

By R. LLOYD KENYON.

THE Laws of King Edgar, first sole monarch of all England, made about A.D. 970, enact "That God's Churches be entitled to every right; and that every tithe be rendered to the old Minster to which the district belongs." "But if there be any thane who on his bocland [freehold land held by deed] has a Church at which there is a burial place, let him give the third part of his own tithe to his Church. If anyone have a Church at which there is not a burial place, then of the nine parts [left to himself after the tithe is paid] let him give to his priest what he will." Therefore, before this time, England had been divided into ecclesiastical districts, each attached to a Minster; and as the mass priest of the Minster is immediately afterwards distinguished from the Bishop and declared to be entitled to the tithe, these districts were what we call not dioceses, but parishes, and the Minsters parish churches. And as we find that 200 years later Ruyton was a part of Baschurch parish, we may presume that it was so from the beginning, and that the tithes of Ruyton were paid to the Church of Baschurch at least from the time of King Edgar to the time when Ruyton got an independent Church of its own.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, the owner of the Manor of Ruyton was one Levenot, who owned also the manors of Petton and Stanwardine-in-the-Wood, Sheet in Ludford Parish, Cardeston, and parts of Whitton and Little Withiford. The Manor of Ruyton at that time comprised only the Township of Ruyton, and, probably, Coton; for Wykey and Felton,

which are now included in it, were then independent manors, and included all the other townships now in the Manor of Ruyton. At the conquest they all passed, with the greater part of Shropshire, to Roger of Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, the conqueror of Montgomeryshire and founder of Shrewsbury Abbey, and he gave to his new Abbey, among other things, the advowson of the Church of Baschurch. When Domesday Book was compiled, about A.D. 1080 to 1086, one Odo held Ruyton and Stanwardine, under the Earl. The Earl's property passed successively, with the Earldom of Shrewsbury, to his sons Hugh and Robert, and was forfeited to the King by the rebellion of the latter in 1102. The Earldom was not reconstituted, and the enormous property was broken up, but Alan Fitz Flaald was made hereditary Sheriff of Shropshire, and was given more than 70 manors in various parts of Shropshire, besides many others elsewhere. Among the manors so given to him were Ruyton, Stanwardine, Felton and Wykey. They passed about 1114 to his son William Fitz Alan, then a child, and he, about A.D. 1155, or perhaps earlier, gave Ruyton, Wykey, and Felton to John le Strange to hold under himself. It is in William Fitz Alan's time that we find the first mention of a Church at Ruyton; for a Charter of Bishop Clinton of Lichfield, 1129 to 1148, confirms to Shrewsbury Abbey "The Church of Nesse with a pension of 10/-, the Church of Album Monasterium (Oswestry) with its Chapels and its pension of 30/-, the Church of Bascherch with its Chapels and its pension of 20/-, and the Church of Mudle (Middle) with its pension of 6/8;" and his successor Bishop Durdent, 1149 to 1159, confirms to the Abbey, "The Church of Nesse with its tithes, the Church of Album Monasterium with its tithes and its appurtenant Chapels, the Church of Baschirche with the Church of Rueton and the Church of Petton which pertain to it as Chapels, and the Church of Mudla with its tithes and Chapels." So that the chapels subject to Baschurch were those of Ruyton

and Petton, and both of them existed before the death of Bishop Clinton in 1148. The extremely disturbed reign of King Stephen is not a time at which one would have expected Church building to flourish, but as a matter of fact, a good many of such subject Chapels were built in Shropshire in this reign by laymen, and consecrated by the Bishops of Lichfield and Hereford, "as a protection for the poor and having respect to the warlike troubles of the time," as the Bishop of Hereford put it;¹ "necessity compelling," as Bishop Clinton of Lichfield says.

The architecture of this Church must have been Norman, for the Gothic style was not introduced for thirty years or more after 1148; and as the Norman style had quite gone out of use by the end of the 12th century, it cannot have been adopted in any subsequent restorations of the Church, therefore any parts of the Church now remaining which are built in the Norman style may be safely ascribed to a period before 1148. These parts are the north and south walls of the chancel, except a few feet at the east end, where it was lengthened in later times, and where the original termination may have been an apse; and the south wall of the nave. In the south wall of the chancel are a Norman priest's doorway and two Norman windows, of good work, with a string course connecting them both inside and outside. In the north wall are also two Norman windows connected by a string course both inside and outside. A similar string course runs along the outside of the south wall of the nave, though interrupted by the cutting of two perpendicular windows; and the doorway under the porch is Norman. The aumbries in the north wall of the chancel may be Norman, but are perhaps more probably later insertions; and the round arch on the outside of the same wall is probably modern, and perhaps connected with a vault outside, and never contained a door into the Church.

¹ Eyton i., 37, ii, 332.

Many of the stones in the Norman windows and elsewhere have had to be renewed, but substantially the two walls of the chancel and the south wall of the nave belong to the original Church, and were built before 1148. The style of work¹ belongs to a period probably not earlier than 1120, so that we may safely date the erection of the Church between 1120 and 1148.

Baschurch, the "minster" or mother Church of Ruyton, was a Collegiate Church, where several priests held the Rectory in common, as is still the case at Pontesbury. They were appointed by Shrewsbury Abbey, but received the income for their own use, and were not removable by the Abbey. They would therefore not be monks, but secular clergy. Probably they lived together, and one of them would periodically ride or walk over to Ruyton to perform the services there. But Novant, Bishop of Lichfield, between 1188 and 1194, by Charter appropriated the Church of Baschurch with all its appurtenances, after the deaths of the two existing incumbents, William Brun and Herbert fitz Alard, to Shrewsbury Abbey "for the use of their guests and of travellers, and of the poor," subject to an obligation to present at all future times to the Bishop a suitable person, who should receive a proper and sufficient portion of the income to enable him to support all the burdens properly belonging to the Church. Between 1208 and 1210, William Brun's portion fell vacant, and as the See of Lichfield and Coventry was also vacant, the official of the late Bishop inducted the Abbey into corporal possession of that Portion, an induction which was repeated in 1216 by the new Bishop. If William fitz Alard's portion was also vacant, the Abbey now became Rector of Baschurch, and the tithes, including those of Ruyton, were payable to the

¹ For my information as to the architecture of the different parts of the Church I am indebted to Mr. D. H. S. Cranage, who most kindly visited Ruyton and very carefully examined the Church on the 16th April, 1896.

Abbey. Henceforth one of the monks would be appointed Vicar of Baschurch, and would be responsible for the services at Ruyton also, but would be removable at the will of the Abbey.¹ The income of the Vicar of Baschurch was valued for Pope Nicholas' Taxation in 1291 at £5 2s. per annum.

But if the black robed² Benedictines ever came to Ruyton, their rule there cannot have lasted long. "John le Strange, Lord of Knokyn & of Ruton, held always with the King [John], and did damage to the prince [Llewellyn of Wales]'s people. And therefore the prince caused the castle of Ruton to be demolished, and took his people and imprisoned them; at which John was much grieved."³ This must have been in or about the year 1212,⁴ and it is very probable that the chapel would be partly destroyed with the castle, though, as we have seen, part of the present Church is certainly older than that time. And about A.D. 1230 to 1240 Ruyton had become an independent parish, for the name of "Walter, Parson of Ruton" occurs as witness to a deed of that date relating to land at Edgbold.⁵ We may suppose that this was done by the influence of John le Strange (the second), who died 1237-8. The Manor of Baschurch was now wholly in the hands of the Abbot of Shrewsbury, and the new Parish was constituted for the two adjacent Manors of Ruyton and Wykey, which belonged to le Strange; Felton was in the hands of another branch of the same family, and had a church of its own, and was therefore not included. Ruyton being the site of the Castle and Church naturally gave the name to the parish,

¹ See *Blackstone*, Bk. iv., pt. ii., ch. 1.

² The general Chapter of the Order at Northampton, A.D. 1225, allowed the gown to be black, white, or russet coloured cloth (*Monasticon* i., xlviii); but in later times at least it seems generally to have been black. (See *Encyclopædias* and Owen & Blakeway, i., 87).

³ *Hist. of Fulk Fitz Warine*, published by the Warton Club, p. 104.

⁴ See Owen & Blakeway, i., 91

⁵ Eyton ix., 324.

and to the united Manor, and Wykey and the townships belonging to it became townships in Ruyton. On the formation of the new parish, the Monks of Shrewsbury had to surrender their right to the tithes, but they were perhaps glad to do this in consideration of not being called upon to rebuild the Church, for the tithes in a district so liable to Welsh incursions and to hostilities between neighbouring Barons can have been of very little value. Le Strange became the patron; and doubtless himself did any restoration which the Church may have required.

At this period, therefore, between the destruction of the Castle in 1212 and the erection of Ruyton into a separate parish about 1238, it is likely that repairs or improvements were executed. The early English architecture prevailed, and was in its youth at this time; and to this period the westernmost pier with two smaller shafts attached to it, and its base, and the westernmost arch, certainly belong. The base of the next column is invisible, and those of the two easternmost ones are 100 years later; but the most easterly arch seems to be composed of stones similar to those in the westernmost, while the mouldings on the two western arches are much better than on the others, but the whole seem carelessly and clumsily put together. In all probability, the original Norman Church had no aisle, and Le Strange at this time built a chapel where the east end of the aisle now is, communicating with the Church by two arches; and the pier with two small shafts, which is at the west end of the present aisle, was at the west end of that chapel, with a similar one at the east end, which has since been cut away for the niche there, and one column in the middle, on which was probably the curious carved head still to be seen; and all the good and carefully worked mouldings on the existing arches belonged to the two arches so built by Le Strange; and the single carved corbel now in the wall of the aisle supported the roof of this chapel; but all were taken down when the chapel was enlarged

into an aisle in the following century, and re-built in their present positions. It may be that the Chantry which we find existing in Henry VIII.'s time was founded by Le Strange for serving an altar in this Chapel. The priest's primary duty would no doubt be to pray for the souls of Le Strange and his family.

In 1272, the Abbot of the Augustinian Abbey of Haughmond is said to have been a Le Strange, but whether this were so or not, in that year John le Strange, the fourth of the name, gave to Haughmond Abbey one acre of his own demesne in Ruiton lying near the King's way towards Whiteminster (Oswestry), and reaching in length from the house of William, son of John le Mazun, to the grantor's meadow; together with the advowson of the Church of Ruiton, with its appurtenances; so that the patronage now passed from the Le Stranges to Haughmond Abbey, which retained it till the dissolution of the Abbey. About the same time he also gave to the Abbey the Heath Mill, on condition that with half the profits of it they should maintain two lights to burn at the head and foot of the tomb of Johanna his wife.¹ It does not appear whether this tomb was in the Abbey or in Ruyton Church. If the latter, this land may have been part of that sold in Edward VI.'s reign.

The object of patrons in transferring their patronage to Religious Houses is thus stated in a remonstrance against appropriations addressed by the English nobility to Pope Alexander IV. in 1259 :²—"That they and their predecessors, out of respect to the appearing sanctity of Religious Societies in England, had liberally conferred upon them their right of patronage, that by that means they might have the power of choosing fit persons, and presenting them to the Bishops, as a more effectual provision for the care of souls and relief of the poor;" and they go on to say that "they found them-

¹ Blakeway MSS. in Bodleian.

² Kennet's *Parochial Antiquities*, 433.

selves frustrated in this pious intention, not only by Papal provisions that interrupted the right course of presentation, but chiefly because the religious, by clandestine and indirect ways, with neglect or contempt of their own Bishops, had obtained those Churches to their proper use, by concessions from the Apostolic See;" all of which, in spite of the remonstrance, was to be afterwards illustrated in the case of Ruyton parish. For the present, however, the income of the Church remained to the incumbent, the Abbey merely obtaining the right of presentation.

A tombstone of about this period, carved with an elaborate cross and some rude symbols, apparently the sole of a shoe and an axe head, was found built into the wall of the porch, when the latter was re-built in 1892. It is now placed in the aisle.

In the year 1288, King Edward I. promised to undertake a crusade to the Holy Land, and towards defraying the expenses, Pope Nicholas IV. granted him for 6 years the tenths of all ecclesiastical benefices, which tenths had for a long time been paid to the Pope. In consequence of this grant, the King had a valuation of all benefices made on oath, which was completed for the Province of Canterbury in 1291, and is called the Taxation of Pope Nicholas.¹ By this valuation all taxes on ecclesiastical benefices were regulated until Henry VIII. had a new valuation made in 1534. The Rectory of Ruyton was valued at £8 per annum. Perhaps we may consider this to be equivalent in purchasing power to £200 per annum at the present time, though the prices of commodities fluctuated so enormously that it is difficult to arrive at anything like an average value for them; in 1290 for instance, wheat rose from 2/- to 16/- per quarter, and this was far from being an isolated instance. In 1302, wheat is said to have been worth 4/- a quarter, a cow 6/-, a fat sheep 1/-.² Soon after 1301, when Edmund, Earl of Arundel,

¹ *Lingard* iii., 255; *Eccl. Taxatio*, Introduction, and p. 247b.

² *Fleetwood's Chronicon Preciosum*, p. 83.

succeeded to the title and to the suzerainty of Ruyton, he bought from John le Strange, the 5th of the name, all his interest in the place, and began to take active measures to develop and improve it. He granted a charter¹ to the inhabitants in the hope of encouraging the growth of a town, he obtained for them the right to hold a market and fair, and he in all probability rebuilt both the Castle and the Church. The decorated style of architecture came into fashion about his time, and the tracery of the east window of the chancel is very characteristic of the first few years of this century. No doubt, therefore, Edmund, Earl of Arundel, built the few feet at the eastern end of the north and south walls of the chancel, and the present east wall. The chancel may have previously terminated, as Norman chancels often did, in an apse. The aumbries in the north wall may be original, or may have been added at this time. West of them is a small square opening, smaller than the usual "low side windows," which has iron hinges for a door to open outwards from the Church. The present doors, both of this and of the aumbries, are new this year (1896).

In 1868, during the restoration of the Church², the foundations of a small chamber on the north of the chancel were discovered, and were then arched over and made into a vault, in which, in 1880, Mr. J. R. Kenyon, Q.C., of Pradoc, was buried. The east wall of this chamber was a continuation of the east wall of the chancel, and therefore it cannot have been built before the present east wall was built. It has been suggested that this chamber was built for the abode of a hermit, and that this small opening was its communication with the church. Hermitages existed in Shropshire and in the Diocese of Lichfield in various places from at least the 12th to the 16th centuries,³ and they were sometimes attached to

¹ Translated and explained, *Shrop. Arch. Trans.*, 2nd series iii, 238.

² Parish Paper for Dec., 1873, p. 111.

³ See index to Eyton; Owen and Blakeway, ii., 165; and *Diocesan Hist. of Lichfield*, pp. 154, 156, 162.

churches. That at St. Chad's, Stafford, was in exactly the same position as ours, on the north side of a Norman chancel, and with a very similar door of communication into the church. Another appears to have been in a similar position, and to have had an exactly similar door at Acton Burnell, and there is still in existence a chamber in a similar position at Stoke Prior Church, Bromsgrove, as to which records are said to exist proving that a hermit was living there in the time of Henry II. The hermitage, if it was one, at Ruyton, can hardly be as early as this, as Norman architecture was still prevailing throughout Henry II's reign, but it may have been built at the same time as, or shortly after, the restoration of the Church by the Earl of Arundel in the reign of Edward II. These hermitages were sometimes at least closed up so that the hermit had no means of egress; his food had to be brought to him by the neighbours, and he probably occupied himself in such work as copying or illuminating MSS, when not engaged in prayer or in giving advice to those who sought it. The hermits were sometimes of noble birth. A tombstone, which appears to represent a hermit knight of the 15th century, was formerly in St. Alkmund's, Shrewsbury, and is now in the Abbey. Perhaps the fact that Ruyton Church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist would make it specially likely to be chosen for the abode of a hermit.

Earl Edmund let the fishery of the Heath Pool to John, Rector of Ruyton, for life; but it turned out that the fishery had been granted to Haughmond Abbey, by John le Strange, before the Earl had bought le Strange's rights. The rector died in April, 1325, and in June, the Earl surrendered the fishery to the Abbey. He acquired for himself seven burgages in the Borough of Ruyton, which had been built on land belonging to the Church, giving in exchange to Haughmond Abbey some land at Upton Magna.

Unfortunately for Ruyton, Edmund, Earl of Arundel, took a very leading part in the disturbed politics of

his time, and finally, embracing the side of the King against the Queen and Roger Mortimer, he was taken prisoner on the 17th November, 1326, and beheaded at Hereford.¹ His estates were conferred upon Mortimer, and Ruyton lost the greatest benefactor and most powerful protector it has ever had.

Ruyton had now enjoyed its own tithes for 100 years. John fitz John, Rector of Ruyton, died on April 3rd, 1325, and on May 15th, John de Coventry was admitted as rector on the presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Haughmond. But the Abbot and Convent seem to have thought that now that the Le Stranges and Fitz Alans, who had so long been interested in Ruyton, had both of them lost their connection with it, there would be a good opportunity for the Abbey to make a profit out of it. Pope John XXII. was the reigning Pope, the second of the series who held their Court not at Rome but at Avignon. He was notorious above other Popes for his rapacity.² He carried to its height the system of reserving for himself the appointment to benefices vacated by promotion; and of providing incumbents for them who were often foreigners. He sold his appointments for money. In 1331 the Bishop of Lichfield had kept 40 benefices vacant for 3 years, in order to send their revenues to the Pope, and in 1332 he added 12 more to the number. The Pope died fabulously rich. To this Pope the Abbot and Convent sent a petition, accompanied, doubtless, with a handsome fee, stating that the value of Ruyton Rectory was only 12 merks (equivalent to £8), and asking leave to appropriate it. By a Bull³ dated the Ides of June in the 14th year of our Pontificate (13 June, 1330), the Pope granted this petition, gave the Abbot corporal possession as soon as the existing Rector

¹ Owen and Blakeway, i., 161.

² Milman's *Latin Christianity*, vii., 435, n. ; *Dioc. Hist. of Lichfield*, 142.

³ Copied in full in Blakeway's MSS. No. 3 in Bodleian Library.

should depart, set aside any assent or licence of the Bishop of Lichfield as altogether unnecessary, but reserved out of the income a "congruous portion" for the perpetual Vicar, which should be sufficient to maintain him properly and enable him to sustain the Episcopal charges and other necessary burdens. On 27th Feb. 1331, by deed dated at Prestecote, Roger Northburgh, Bishop of Lichfield, who had himself been nominated to the Bishopric by John XXII., recited the Bull, including the clause declaring his own consent unnecessary, but confirmed it, and for this confirmation he exacted his price. A precisely similar transaction had just taken place with respect to the living of Stanton-upon-Hineheath. There was an ancient right by which in the case of Rectories in this district, if the patron failed to present on a vacancy, two-thirds of the fruits of the living devolved upon the Bishop during the vacancy, and after a certain time, the right to collate to the living came to him. These possible sources of profit he lost when the Rectory was appropriated by an Abbey, and accordingly on the 3rd April, 1331, the Abbot had to agree to pay to the Bishop a pension of 2 merks yearly for his consent to the appropriation of the Churches of Ruyton and Stanton. Moreover, if the Bishop neglected to collate to a Rectory, the right devolved on the Chapters of Lichfield or Coventry. Remote as this chance of profit was, it was not to be parted with for nothing, and each of the Chapters made the Abbey pay them a pension of one merk annually for their consent to the appropriation of these two Churches. These pensions continued to be paid until the dissolution of the Abbey.

But remonstrances against the rapacity both of the Pope and of the Religious Houses were growing loud both in England and on the Continent. The Bishops and nobles were vehement in their complaints, and the popular feeling is expressed in the poetry of Piers Ploughman and Chaucer. We have seen the remonstrance made in 1259 by the English nobility. In 1280

a most severe letter was sent by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield,¹ condemning in no measured terms their conduct in taking the tithes from the parishes appropriated to them, and making little or no provision for the churches or resident ministers. He says with respect to Bake-well Church, which belongs to your chapter, "who can endure with patience to hear that the deacon and sub-deacon of so rich a Church have to beg for the necessities of life," and he proceeds with many unfavourable comments, to order what they shall pay in a number of different instances. In 1307 was passed a statute forbidding the sending money out of the Kingdom by Abbeyes or other religious bodies; and in 1351 a stringent statute against papal provisions was passed. And while the Bishops and nobles were thus trying to mitigate the evil, a strong feeling was growing up among the lower ranks of the people.

In the beginning of the 13th century had sprung up the orders of mendicant friars, a practical protest against the riches and corruption of the monks and secular clergy; and both of their two great orders, Dominicans and Franciscans, were established in Shrewsbury by the middle of that century. The friars were permitted to travel freely through the country, preaching, hearing confessions, and living on alms, and would be well known in Ruyton as elsewhere. In the time of John XXII. the Franciscans were in open collision with the Pope; many of them asserted that "there were two Churches, one carnal, overburdened with possessions, overflowing with wealth, polluted with wickedness, over which ruled the Roman Pontiff and the inferior Bishops; one spiritual, frugal, without uncleanness, admirable for its virtue, with poverty for its raiment; it contained only the spirituals and their associates, and was ruled by men of spiritual life alone." They asserted the absolute poverty of Christ and his Apostles,

¹ *Monasticon*, vi., 1246.

and that absolute poverty was the perfect way of life. A general chapter of the Franciscan Order at Perugia declared unanimously that to assert the absolute poverty of Christ, the perfect way, was not heretical, but sound, catholic, consonant to the faith. A bull of Nicholas III. distinctly asserted this. One of John XXII. declared it heretical. The General of the Franciscan Order published a protest against the Pope's opinion, and the administrator of the Order in England, together with the administrators in Upper Germany, Aquitaine, France, Castile, and six others, set his seal to the protest. And while the Franciscan friars appealed to the populace, William of Ockham, an Englishman, though settled in Germany, was arguing with the learned on the same side, and attacking on philosophical grounds the whole fabric of the Papal dominion. Clearly an alienation of tithes from the parish where they were raised to the kitchen of a distant Abbey would not pass in the fourteenth century in Shropshire or elsewhere without indignant protest. It would help to form the anti-clerical opinions of Wickliffe and of the Shropshire author of *Piers Ploughman*, both of them children at this time.

Now is Religion a rydere
 A romere about
 A ledere of love-dayes
 And a lond-buggere,¹
 A prikere on a palfrey
 Fro manere to manere
 An heep of houndes at his ers
 As he a lord were.
 And but if his knave knele
 That shal his coppe brynge,
 He loureth on hym, and asketh hym
 Who taughte hym curteisie.
 Litel hadde lordes to doon,
 To gyve lond from hire heires
 To religouse, that han no routhe
 Though it reyne on hir auters.²

¹ A land buyer.

² *Piers Ploughman*, Passus x., line 6217—6232. Written about A.D. 1362.

On the 29th November, 1331,¹ Roger Mortimer was hanged, and Richard Fitz Alan, son of Edmund, was restored to his father's earldom and estates, but it was too late for him to interfere to prevent the alienation of Ruyton tithes. He seems, however, to have regretted the impoverishment of the incumbent, for on April 16th, 1332, being at Oswestry Castle, he gave to William the Vicar and his successors, a messuage and curtilage in the Vill of Ruytone, to pray for the souls of the Earl and his ancestors, and in honour of St. John the Baptist of Ruytone.

On the 4th January, 1332-3, the Bishop admitted William de Tykelwardyn, Chaplain, as the first Vicar of Ruyton, on the presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Haughmond; and on the next day, the Abbot, with the consent of the Bishop, issued an ordinance, in which he recites that in past times the prior and canons had been supplied in the refectory in a moderate and simple fashion, so that often it seemed that the mouth of the ox which treadeth out the corn had been muzzled; but that lately the income of the Abbey had been to some extent, though not sufficiently, augmented. Accordingly he is about to build a new kitchen for the Prior and Convent, and the income from the parishes of Hunstanton, in the Diocese of Norwich, and of Ruyton, in the Diocese of Coventry [*i.e.*, Coventry and Lichfield], and also certain fish ponds, are appropriated for ever to the support of the said kitchen, and whatever beyond this it requires is to be provided out of the common funds of the Abbey. The advowson of Hunstanton, like that of Ruyton, had been given by the Le Strange family to the Abbey.

Thus was completed the alienation of the tithes from the living of Ruyton.

The Papal Bull enabled the Abbey of Haughmond to "ordain" the Vicarage of Ruyton, that is to assign its income, without any consent from the Bishop, and it

¹ *State Trials*, i., 54.

did so by a document dated from the Chapter House of Haughmond on the Monday after the conversion of St. Paul 1335. After reciting the annexation and union of the benefice to the monastery, it proceeds as follows :—¹

We wishing that the vicar in the said Church should be ordained, ordain the Vicarage as follows in the portions hereunder written. Firstly reserving to ourselves and our successors the Grange farm building and gardens adjacent which formerly belonged to the Rector, and one messuage with half a virgate of land in the Vill of Erdeston; and reserving to ourselves all kinds of tithes of all sorts of corn in the parish of the Church of Ruyton wherever growing except the tithes of gardens cultivated by the spade; and reserving to ourselves the tithe of wool of the whole parish of the aforesaid Church; also the tithe hay of that meadow which lies between the vill of Ruyton and the new park, which tithes we will to keep and we specially reserve to ourselves and our monastery; We have determined to ordain the portions of the aforesaid Vicarage as follows: Viz. that the Vicars from time to time may have and receive in the name of the said Vicarage for their congruous portion, that dwelling house which Jankin of Ruyton formerly held, with the dovecote and garden adjacent, which formerly belonged to the Rectory; Also that the said Vicars may have one virgate of land in the said Vill with its tithe, and two cottages in the said Vill of Ruyton. Also the tithe of milk, flax, hemp, bees, all mortuaries² whether live or dead, the tithe also of geese, young pigs, calves, chickens, and of fish ponds and fisheries, and the tithe of all mills built or to be built in the said parish except mills and fisheries belonging to ourselves. They may have also St. Peter's pence, viz. such as are not due to the Lord Bishop; and also the tithe of hay of the whole parish except that of the meadow above reserved to ourselves; the tithe of lambs of the whole parish; and moreover the oblations, and the tithe of all gardens of the whole of the aforesaid parish whether cultivated by the spade or by ploughs; also the pence arising from "broken wool," viz. from those places where there are six fleeces, from which there is not a

¹ A copy of the Latin original is in the Blakeway MSS., No. 3, in the Bodleian Library.

² Viz., legacies or gifts to the Church in recompense of tithes and offerings not duly paid. Eyton xii., 187; and see Statute 21 Hen. VIII., c. 6.

whole one for tithe, but instead of tithe a halfpenny is payable for each fleece; and everything else which belongs to the said Church under the head of altar dues or any other head (except the tithes of all kinds of corn, wool, hay, and the mills, fisheries and lands, above reserved to ourselves. And the said Vicars shall receive from us each year 8 bushels of grain at Ruyton on the Lords day next before Christmas; and they shall be subject to and pay the burdens below written, viz. 6/8 to the Archdeacon of the place for his entertainment at his visitation, and 2/- a year for the Bishop's Synod; they shall also cause the services of the said Church of Ruyton to be performed in all respects by chaplains and all other proper ministers at their own cost; but all other incumbrances on the said Church we take upon ourselves in exoneration of the Vicars.

The endowment of the Vicarage was therefore two houses, two cottages, and one "virgate"¹ of land, all in the township of Ruyton, and the tithes and dues above enumerated. One of the two houses, either the one given by the Earl of Arundel or the one given by the Abbey, probably stood on or about the site of the present Vicarage house, which is the only house now belonging to the living. The endowment continued substantially the same until in 1847 the tithes were commuted for a money payment varying according to the price not of the things which up to that time paid tithe to the Vicar, but of wheat, barley, and oats.

The bases of the two eastern-most columns of the aisle appear to belong to this period. Probably on appropriating the tithes the Abbey found it necessary to do something for the Church, so they took down the Le Strange Chapel and built an aisle instead of it, using up the good work of the Chapel, but doing the building as cheaply as possible, putting it together carelessly, and supplementing the good arches of the old work with very inferior new ones. The monks built beautiful churches for their own Monasteries, but

¹ Estimated by Eyton (xii., 209) at about 60 acres; but it varied in extent in different places. The glebe now contains $44\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and probably is much the same as the virgate given in 1335.

they generally took but little interest beyond a pecuniary one in the parish churches which they appropriated.

We have now traced the history of the Church and living of Ruyton down to its establishment upon its present basis in the year 1335, as a Vicarage, endowed with the same land as it holds now, with the same tithes as are represented by its present tithe rent-charge, with a Vicarage House on the site of the present one, and with a Church, the greater part of which was identical with the present one. Of the Rectors of Ruyton before this time we know only a few names. The first was probably that Walter, Parson of Ruyton, mentioned above as witnessing a deed about 1230 to 1240, and would have been appointed by John Le Strange, the Lord of the Manor; but in 1272 the patronage passed to Haughmond Abbey, which appointed all the incumbents from that time till the Dissolution of the Abbey. The last Rectors were John fitz John, who died 3 April, 1325, and John de Coventry, who was admitted 15 May, 1325, and must have "departed," to use the language of the Pope's Bull, by 1331, for

William de Tykelwardyn, Chaplain, was admitted by the Bishop as first Vicar on 4 Jan., 1331-2. The name is, no doubt, a local one, and very probably a corruption of Trilwardyne, the old name of a hamlet at Shifnal.¹ The word "Chaplain" answers almost exactly to our "Curate."² Some chaplains had separate charge of a Chapel subject to a mother Church, such as Ruyton had formerly been, some assisted the incumbent in the mother Church; in both these cases the chaplain took an oath to pay due reverence and obedience to the parish priests. There were also chaplains maintained by Lords of Manors for their Manor or house with the consent of the Bishop, and others who served Chantries,

¹ Eyton ii., 311.

² Kennet's *Parochial Antiquities*, Glossary.

which were foundations either separate from or attached to churches, endowed for the purpose of performing Masses and other services for the benefit of the soul of the founder or his family. To these last the chaplains were instituted and inducted like incumbents, and took an oath to observe the statutes of the founder. They would necessarily be priests. There was one such Chantry in Ruyton, of which William de Tykelwardyn may very probably have been chaplain, and which, as we have seen, was very likely founded by John Le Strange about 1238.

During William's incumbency statutes of Provisors and Premunire were passed to check the encroachments of the Papal Court. Bishop Norbury of Lichfield made a thorough visitation of his diocese, discovering and remedying many abuses.¹ The Black Death of 1349 carried off many clergy and others throughout the diocese. One of its effects was to cause the English language to be thenceforth used instead of French in the schools, the supply of French-speaking teachers being, doubtless, cut off.²

Atton, near Ruyton, now called Shotatton, is spoken of as a new vill in a deed of 1333, dated at Shrewsbury on St. Chad's day. By this deed it appears that a dispute had arisen between Master Richard de Longenorle, Rector of Straunge Nesse, plaintiff, and Sir Nicholas de Longenore (probably the same name and a relation of the Rector's), Abbot of Haghmond, and his Convent, defendants, about the tithes of this new Vill. The dispute was referred to the arbitration of mutual friends, and "it being found by the oath of credible witnesses that the said religious have been accustomed ever since the union and annexation of the parish Church of Ruyton to them made and appropriate to receive the whole third part of the aforesaid tithes and oblations, therefore the said Rector grants for him and

¹ *Diocesan Hist. of Lichfield*, 139.

² Owen and Blakeway, i., 167.

his successors that the religious may yearly take as the right of their Church of Ruyton the said third part of tithes and oblations of the said new town, under a penalty of 40/- to be by him and his successors paid as often as he or they shall molest them, and if the Rector or any of his successors shall make default in payment of the penalty he wills and grants, by assent of the ordinary and consent of his patron [Shrewsbury Abbey] that the official of the Archdeacon of Salop, or whatsoever other ordinary judge, after one monition may lawfully put the Church of Nesse under ecclesiastical interdict and suspend all persons willing to celebrate divine service therein until the penalty &c. be paid." This agreement was confirmed by the Bishop of Lichfield by deed of 1 April, 1334.¹ The division of the tithes may be accounted for if we suppose that the new Vill had been built on land hitherto in Ness parish, but owned by a Le Strange or some other person who was also owner of the manor of Ruyton and patron of the Church. The owner may then have assigned to Ruyton Church the spiritual care of the people, and also under the Statute of King Edgar the third part of the tithes of Shotatton, leaving the other two-thirds to the original parish of Ness, to which they are still paid, though the township is wholly in Ruyton.

Robert de Haston was admitted 18 Aug., 1358, but resigned in 1367, when he was appointed Vicar of Shawbury. He is not described in any way, but it seems to have been an advantage of the patronage being in ecclesiastical and not in lay hands that the person presented to the living was nearly always in priests' orders. This was by no means the case everywhere. Of ten Rectors of Felton during this century, no less than four were only acolytes, and two were probably minors, as they had leave of absence given them to study. Such instances were quite common,

¹ Blakeway MSS., n. 3, Shropshire Parochial Notices, in Bodleian Library, and see *post* under the year 1462.

and though the Council of Reading,¹ A.D. 1279, under Archbishop Peckham, made a canon against the practice, it was often not enforced. Possibly the name de Haston indicates that he came from Aston, near Oswestry. The *Vision of Piers Ploughman*, which has been already quoted, was probably published during this incumbency. The author is believed to have been a monk of Malvern, and to have been born at Cleobury Mortimer. A John Aston was one of the principal leaders of the Wyckliffites at Oxford at this time.²

Richard de Radenale, priest, admitted 16 Oct., 1367, resigned in 1385. He probably was a native of Rednal. In his time, in 1378, the Plague broke out again in the diocese, and seems to have carried off among others the Vicars of Loppington and Roden.³ The perpendicular style of architecture came into use in his time, and lasted for 160 years or more.

John Wygynton, chaplain, was admitted 13 June, 1385, and died in 1387. He may have come from Wigginton in Staffordshire. Surnames were very gradually adopted, and though they had become general by this time among the upper classes, the lower classes and peasantry, from whom parish priests were usually taken, continued for long afterwards to be named frequently from their trade or place of residence. On his death Richard Radenale returned, and held the living till his own death.

John Gamull, alias Russell, was admitted 31 May, 1395. He may have belonged to the family of Gamul of Knighton, in Staffordshire, whose pedigree in Ormerod's *History of Cheshire*, iii., 250, mentions a John in Edward III.'s reign, who died unmarried, and may have been a priest. A family of Gamel was well known in Shrewsbury at this time. About this time the religious excitement raised by Wickliffe

¹ *Hardoin*, vii., 783.

² *Wood's History of the University*, i., 480—510.

³ *Dioc. Hist. of Lichfield*, 156.

and the Lollards was at its height; and the Creed of Piers Ploughman was written somewhere on the Welsh border, containing a strong attack on the friars and praise of Wickliffe. Several similar poems were written and widely circulated, and the authorities tried to stop them by proscribing them and prosecuting the Wickliffites. A priest named William Thorpe was arrested for preaching their doctrines at St. Chad's in Shrewsbury in 1407, and tried before the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Act for burning heretics was passed in 1400; but statutes against Provisions by the Bishop of Rome were also made by the same Parliament. The battle of Shrewsbury was fought during this incumbency, and after it for some time the whole neighbourhood was open to the ravages of the Welsh, and Ruyton was very probably for some time in their possession.¹

Sir Thomas Wycherley, chaplain, was instituted 30 Aug., 1407, on the death of his predecessor. Like most of his predecessors, he was probably a Shropshire man, and may have come from Clive, where the family was settled by the 10th year of Henry IV. Wycherley the poet was born there in the reign of Charles I.² Ruyton may have been again ravaged by the Welsh in his time, as in 1409 they made another attempt on Shrewsbury, and ravaged the country round it. He resigned in 1411 to take the living of Baschurch, and.

Sir John Wycherley, chaplain, was instituted 14 Oct., 1411. The celibacy of the clergy was at this time pretty strictly enforced, so that he was probably not a son of his predecessor. The title "Sir" was used commonly for priests at this time, and indicated no civil rank. John Wycherley held the living nearly 50 years. The present tower is of the early perpendicular character of the end of the 14th and beginning of the

¹ The Platt Bridge was considered to be the boundary between English and Welsh territory. Gough's *Hist. of Middle*.

² *Athenæ Oxon.*, iv., 527. Visitation of Shropshire 1623.

15th century, and may have been built at the beginning of this incumbency, perhaps to re-place an earlier one damaged by the Welsh. It is said to contain stones which have evidently come from an earlier building, but they may have come either from an earlier tower, if there was one, or from the castle, which was then, in all probability, in ruins.

In the beginning of this incumbency the reforming Council of Constance met, deposed the Pope on account of his infamous life, but burnt the reformers John Huss and Jerome of Prague, re-asserted the existing system of doctrine and discipline, and accomplished no reformation whatever. In 1417 Sir John Oldcastle, one of the greatest patrons of the reformers, was arrested in the Marches of Wales by Lord Powis, and burnt in London. The reigns of the Lancastrian Kings were very unfavourable to reformations of religious doctrine, and if opinions akin to those of the Lollards took root in this neighbourhood, they were probably not openly avowed. Moreover, the distractions first of the French wars, and afterwards of the Civil Wars of the Roses, would prevent religious controversies from taking a very prominent place.

Sir John Gredynton, chaplain, succeeded on the death of Sir John Wycherley, and was instituted 9 April, 1460. In his time the dispute about the tithes of Shotatton, which had been settled in 1334, was renewed, Richard, Abbot of Haghmond, and his convent, and Sir John Gredynton, being on the one side, and Sir William Bikley, perpetual Vicar of Ness Straunge, on the other side. It was referred to Master John Clone, Bachelor of Degrees, Sequestrator and Commissary General of John, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, and he delivered his award in Wem Church on the Thursday after St. Luke's Day, 1462, when he ordered that "the Abbey and the Vicar of Ruyton should receive the third part of all tithes and oblations of the new town of Atton, according to the form and effect of the composition of 1334; save that the Vicar of Straunge

Ness should freely receive the whole oblations of the men and women of Atton offering for three solemn and accustomed days in the Church of Straunge Ness."¹ Accordingly, to this day, the Vicar of Ness receives two-thirds, and the Vicar of Ruyton only one-third of the Vicarial tithes of Shotatton, though the whole township is in the parish of Ruyton. The great tithes, having been appropriated by the Abbeys of Haghmond and Shrewsbury, passed on their dissolution into lay hands. Gredynton resigned in 1468, and was succeeded by

Sir John ap David, alias Walshe, chaplain, instituted 24 Aug., 1468. Surnames were not adopted in Wales till long after they had become universal in England. This Vicar was a Welshman, and there was a statute of 2 Henry IV. still in force that no Welshman should be received as a burgess in any borough or be made occupier or officer in the same; but Ruyton not being a Royal or Parliamentary borough, probably the prohibition would not apply here. This statute and many others against Welshmen were repealed by 21 Jac. I., c. 28, but had probably been practically disregarded long before that time. As long as the memory of Owen Glyndwr and his ravages were fresh in the neighbourhood, no Welshman could have been appointed to Ruyton, but Glyndwr had now been dead more than 50 years, and Welsh marauding, though not extinct, was on a smaller and less formidable scale.

Sir William Sulby, Chaplain, was instituted 18 July, 1480, on the death of Sir John ap David. For some time after this the Diocesan Registers appear to contain no entries relating to Ruyton,² and we cannot tell, therefore, how long Sulby held this living. The roof

¹ Blakeway MSS. No. 3, Shropshire Parochial Notices, in Bodleian Library. This confirms the supposition that Shotatton was originally in Ness parish.

² They have been very kindly searched for me by the Registrar, Mr. Hodson.

of the nave appears to belong to about this period, the latter part of the 15th century, and it may have been at the same time that the east pier between the aisle and the nave was cut away, and the niche, which is of perpendicular work, inserted to hold the statue of a saint. The marks of an earlier and higher roof are still to be seen on the outside wall of the tower.

Sulby may have been still in office in 1521, when Cardinal Wolsey ordered a list of 42 of Luther's opinions condemned by the Pope to be posted on all parish church doors, and that the incumbents should require all Luther's books in their parish to be given up.¹ This may have been the first intimation in many country places that the Papal authority was being seriously attacked. We have no means of knowing what the state of private opinion was in this neighbourhood before the beginning of Henry VIII.'s proceedings, or whether the doctrines of Piers Ploughman and his imitators, or the influence of Sir John Oldcastle, had left any dissatisfaction with the religious orders or with the established ceremonies or doctrines of the Church in this part of the Welsh borders. In 1511, the Bishop of Lichfield had tried some insignificant persons for heresy,² and in the following March had had one of them burnt at Coventry, then in his diocese; but there was exceedingly little overt expression of dissatisfaction. In 1526, however, Tyndale's translation of the New Testament was sent over to England,³ and so greatly stimulated the spirit of enquiry and reform that the Bishops published in every diocese a prohibition against the use of it.

In 1528 a clergyman, Richard Coton, for a sermon preached at Atcham, was sentenced to carry a faggot in procession round Lichfield Cathedral, and afterwards round Atcham Church.

¹ Strype's *Eccl. Mem.*, i., 57.

² *Dioc. Hist. of Lichfield*, 177.

³ Burnet's *Reformation*, i., 51.

In 1530 every incumbent was required to read to his parish a paper, signed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, and many others, stating that the King having called them together "to examine some books lately set out in the English tongue, they had agreed to condemn them as containing several points of heresy in them; and it being proposed to them whether it was necessary to set forth the Scriptures in the vulgar tongue, they were of opinion that though it had been sometimes done, yet it was not necessary, and that the King did well not to set it out at that time in the English tongue."¹ When Tyndale's translation was prohibited, it had been understood that the Bishops intended to put forth a better translation of their own. This proclamation put an end to that expectation, but must have set many people to think whether the prohibition of Tyndale's translation was justifiable. It is interesting to trace the steps by which the Reformation became an actual fact in a remote parish like Ruyton, where foreign intrigues and the rise and fall of Queens and ministers of state would appear to be of little importance, except as subjects for curiosity and gossip.

Richard Gittins is the next Vicar whose name we know. In 1533 the Act forbidding appeals to the Pope, and the King's appeal from the Pope to a general Council, were ordered to be published on every Church door in England, and thus the beginning of the Reformation was formally announced. In 1534 the whole net income for the first year, and the tenth of it for all succeeding years, of an incumbency were transferred from the Pope to the King, and in 1535 all livings were re-valued. In the record of this valuation, called *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, Ric. Gyttynceus is entered as Vicar of Ruyton, and his vicarage is valued at £6 per an., less 2/- for synodals.² The Rectory, belonging

¹ Burnet, i., 262.

² At this time 1d. would buy 2 to 3 lbs. of beef. Fleetwood's *Chron. Preciosum*.

to Haughmond Abbey, is valued at £7 2s., less the three payments of one merk (13s. 4d.) each explained above. The first fruits and tenths so given to the King were restored to the Church by Queen Anne, and form the nucleus of the fund known as Queen Anne's Bounty. The family of Gittins is still well known in Ruyton, and may not improbably be related to this Vicar.

In 1534 the Bishops were ordered to warn all the clergy to publish every Sunday the King's title of supreme head of the Church; and the Pope's name was ordered to be erased out of all service books; and in 1535 all the clergy were ordered to teach the King's supremacy, and books on the subject were sent to the Bishops to distribute among them.¹ The Bishop of Lichfield, Rowland Lee, was specially active in obtaining the acknowledgment of this title. The Archbishop of Canterbury also made a metropolitical visitation of his province with the special object of enforcing the acknowledgment of this title and the erasure of the Pope's name from the services.² This was the first alteration made in the services, and must be looked upon as the actual beginning of the Reformation in Ruyton and the neighbouring churches.

Next year, 1536, came down royal injunctions³ for further declarations in Church. On every Sunday for a quarter of a year, and after that twice every quarter, every incumbent was to make a declaration that the Bishop of Rome's usurped power was properly abolished, and that the King's power was supreme; and he was to declare the articles which had lately been agreed to by Convocation, of which the first was that all things were to be interpreted according to the Bible and the three creeds, and the others were explanations of the use and meaning of baptism, penance, communion, justification, images, adoration of saints, purgatory, and a number of

¹ Strype's *Ecc. Mem.*, i., 259, 285, 298.

² Burnet, i., 183, 256, 294, 296.

³ Printed by Burnet, iv., 90.

ceremonies. The explanations were orthodox enough, and justified the continuance of the old services and ceremonies of the Church, but the fact that the authorities thought the publication to be necessary must have made an impression on many men's minds that there was much that was questionable and in need of explanation. The injunctions further condemned the extolling images for superstition or gain, and ordered that the Lord's Prayer, Creed, and ten Commandments should be taught in English; that the Sacraments should be reverently administered, and that "every Parson shall on this side the feasts of St. Peter and Vincula next coming, provyde a book of the whole Bible, both in Latin, and also in English, and lay the same in the Quire for every man that will to read and look therein." This English Bible would be Coverdale's, printed in 1535, the only complete Bible yet printed in English.

In 1536 all monasteries with an income less than £200 a year were dissolved. This included Buildwas and a number of smaller foundations in Shrewsbury and elsewhere, but did not touch this immediate neighbourhood; but next year a visitation was ordered of all the remaining monasteries, and though there was no Act authorising their suppression, they must have felt that their danger was imminent.

In 1539 came down to all incumbents further injunctions from the King, to be read quarterly in Church.¹ They were to provide "one book of the whole Bible of the largest volume in English," and set it up in the Church, and encourage everybody to read it. No one was to trust in other men's works, or in pilgrimages, or relics, or saying over beads which they did not understand, all of which tended to idolatry. All images which were abused by pilgrimages or by offerings being made to them, were to be taken down; and the saying of ora pro nobis to the saints was declared unimportant,

¹ Printed in Burnet, iv., 101.

and might be omitted. Some minor alterations, such as abolishing the commemoration of St. Thomas à Becket, were also made. The same injunctions for the first time ordered the keeping of registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials in every parish. Upwards of 800 parishes still have registers of this date,¹ but those of Ruyton before 1719 are lost, and are believed to have been burnt in a fire at the Vicarage in the middle of the last century. The "Bible of the largest volume in English" was that called the "Great Bible," published this year by Coverdale under the authority of Cromwell. The order about the Bible, however, was in many places not carried out, and was repeated, with penalties, in 1541.² The Bibles were meant for private reading, but were sometimes misused and made centres for loud arguments and for disturbing the Church services. They were ordered to be "fixed" in the parish churches, and were generally chained to some desk or pillar. The clergy were forbidden to preach anywhere but in their own churches.³

In 1539 was passed the "Act of the six Articles," as it is called, though in the Statute Book it bears the remarkable title of "An Act for abolishing of diversity of opinions in certain articles concerning Christian religion." It was entirely in favour of the old doctrines, affirming transubstantiation, private masses, and auricular confession, that priests may not marry, that vows of chastity are binding, and that it is not necessary to administer communion in both kinds. This Act also was ordered⁴ to be read quarterly in all churches; but as it was known that the Archbishop of Canterbury had voted against it,⁵ it may be doubted whether it did much towards "abolishing diversity of opinions."

¹ Cox's *How to write the History of a Parish*, p. 60.

² Burnet, iv., 138.

³ Strype's *Ecc. Mem.*, i., 467.

⁴ Burnet, i., 417.

⁵ *Ib.*, 415.

At the same time, an Act was passed legalising all past and future surrenders of Abbeys, great or small, to the King, and on the 9th Sept., 1539,¹ the great Abbey of Haughmond, patron of the living of Ruyton and owner of the tithes and of the mills of the parish, was surrendered by the Abbot and ten canons, the Abbot receiving a pension of £40 a year, and the canons from £5 6s. 8d. to £10 each. If we remember that the whole net income of the Vicar of Ruyton at this time was only valued at £5 18s., the pensions will not seem to have been inadequate. The property of the Abbey passed to the Crown, and was soon sold, but the advowson of Ruyton was retained by the Crown till a few years ago, when it was transferred by way of exchange to the Bishop of Lichfield.

In 1542 Convocation ordered² that in every parish church a chapter of the Bible in English should be read to the people every Sunday after the Te Deum and Magnificat, without exposition.

In 1543 an Act of Parliament, however, forbade this, and repeated the prohibition³ of Tyndale's translation of the Bible, but authorised all others, and the Primers and other books printed in English for the instruction of the people before 1540; but "no women nor artificers, apprentices, journeymen, serving men under the degree of yeomen, husbandmen or labourers" might read the Bible, except that every noble woman or gentlewoman might read it for herself. All books contrary to the doctrine which since 1540 had been, or any time thereafter during the King's life should be, set forth by his highness, were forbidden; and all persons might teach and read in their houses the book which since the same year had been or should be set out by the King, with the Psalter, Primer, Paternoster, Ave, and Creed, in English. By

¹ *Monasticon*, and Burnet, iv., 84.

² *Strype's Eccl. Mem.*, i., 580.

³ Burnet, i., 516.

this Act a book called the "Necessary Erudition of a Christian Man," but popularly styled the "Bishop's Book," was made authoritative.¹ It was drawn up by a committee of divines, who sat by virtue of a commission from the King, confirmed in Parliament, and contained a definition of faith, explanation of the Apostles Creed, the seven Sacraments, the ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, justification, and good works, and was intended as a summary of the belief of the English Church upon these points. The Committee began its sittings in 1540,² and the book was printed on the 29th May, 1543, a few days after the Act making it authoritative had passed. It was issued with a preface by the King himself requiring "all people to read and print in their hearts the doctrine of this book."

In 1544 the King sent out an English form of Litany to be used in processions,³ and ordered it to be used throughout the Province of Canterbury. This was the last alteration in Church services made in the reign of King Henry VIII.; and the whole of the alterations in this reign were so slight that no new service books were printed, but the old ones continued to be used, with the erasure of a few passages, such as the prayers for the Pope and the offices for some saints days which were no longer to be observed.⁴ But men's opinions as to the authority of the Church had been shaken to their foundations by the rejection of the Pope and the dissolution of the whole of the monasteries; and the placing of at least one English Bible in every parish was an immense step towards a true conception of religion. Henry VIII.'s death on 27 Jan., 1546-7, greatly accelerated the Reformation.

¹ Burnet, i., 459.

² *Ib.*, 517, n.

³ Burnet, iv., 145.

⁴ Burnet, i., 473.

In 1547 it was ordered by Royal Proclamation that a copy of Erasmus' Paraphrase of the New Testament should be placed, together with the Bible, in every parish church; and Visitors were sent to every diocese with instructions similar to the injunctions of 1539. A book of Homilies was published, and ordered to be read every Sunday in all churches, and the Visitors were to see that all monuments of idolatry were removed out of the walls and windows of churches, as well as all images which were abused by pilgrimages or offerings to them, that there was a pulpit in every church for preaching, and a chest for receiving alms. Preaching had been hitherto so grossly neglected by the clergy, that it was thought necessary to order that all dignified clergymen should preach personally twice a year, and Bishops four times! The Homilies were to supply the incapacity of the ordinary parish priests. The first Act of the reign required the Communion to be given in both kinds, and gave the laity the right to communicate together with the priest. Another repealed the Act of the Six Articles and several other Acts against heretics, and thus restored some liberty of speech and thought about religious matters. A third gave to the King all chantries, colleges, and chapels, and all revenues belonging to any church for anniversaries, obits, and lights. The revenues were to be applied for the maintenance of grammar schools or preachers, and for the increase of vicarages, but were as a matter of fact applied for the general expenses of the Government, and altogether alienated from the Church. This Act affected Ruyton, as there was a Chantry of Our Lady here, endowed with $6\frac{1}{2}$ per annum; some lands in the parish producing an income of $6\frac{1}{8}$ per annum, left for maintaining lights, and a rent-charge of 6d. per annum also for a light.¹ No Chantry priest is mentioned, so probably the Chantry was served by the Vicar, whose

¹ Certificates of Colleges and Chantries in the Record Office, Cert. 41, nos. 8, 63, 75.

small income was therefore diminished by its suppression. The lands left for lights may possibly have been the moiety of the Heath Mill, left, as we have seen, by John le Strange about 1272, for maintaining lights at his wife's tomb. All these endowments were sold by the Crown, and on the 21st April, in the 7th year of King Edward VI.,¹ Daniel and Alexander Peate of Tewkesbury, Gentlemen, sold to John ap David ap Thomas of London, yeoman, lands in Ryton and in Shelvoxe and Acton in the same parish, late belonging to the Chantry or Service of St. Mary in the said parish, together with rents belonging to several other chantries in West Felton, Oswestry, and elsewhere, which had been granted to them by the King on the 17th of the same month of April.

In 1548 certain ceremonies,² such as carrying candles on Candlemas day, ashes on Ash Wednesday, and palms on Palm Sunday, were forbidden by proclamation; and disputes having arisen as to what images were superstitious or had been abused, and were therefore forbidden by former proclamations, it was now ordered³ that all images whatever should be removed out of the churches. Now, if not before, therefore, the crucifix must have been removed from the rood loft in Ruyton Church, and the statue out of the niche, and the rood loft itself, the doorway to which is still to be seen by the chancel arch, may have been taken down. In March, a form of Communion Service, adapted from the old Missal,⁴ was sent to every diocese, and ordered to be used from the following Easter; offices in English for morning and evening prayer, Litany, baptism, confirmation, catechism, extreme unction, and burial,⁵ were drawn up by a committee of divines, and were made compulsory as from Whitsunday, 1549, by Act of Parliament. Against this

¹ Blakeway MSS. in Bodleian.

² Burnet, ii., 94.

³ Order of Council, printed in Burnet, iv., 270.

⁴ Burnet, ii., 103.

⁵ *Ib.*, 121.

Act eight Bishops and three lay peers protested ; but it was carried into effect without any difficulty in the country, and the visitors found no complaint with respect to it in any part of the kingdom.¹ Thus was the first Prayer Book of Edward VI. substituted for the old services, and though a few alterations have since been made, yet substantially the Church services became then what they are now, and the Reformation was completed in its main features. In the same session all previous laws about fasting were repealed, but it was made an indictable offence to eat meat on Fridays, Saturdays, Ember days, or in Lent. Another Act removed all prohibitions against the marriage of priests.

In 1549 a visitation was made by the royal commissioners, whose instructions² were to forbid the use of ceremonies other than those appointed in the Book of Common Prayer, to insist that the teaching of the clergy should be in accordance with the law, that there should be no selling of the Holy Communion, and that it should not be celebrated in any church more than once on any day except Christmas and Easter Days. This last provision was meant to put an end to the celebration of private masses for the dead, for which the clergy used to be paid. An Act of Parliament required all the old service books to be given up to be destroyed, and all images which had formerly belonged to churches to be defaced. Henry VIII.'s primers, however, might be kept, provided that the invocations to saints contained in them were blotted out. ³Against this Act the Bishop of Lichfield and five other Bishops protested.

In 1550 a new form of ordination service was drawn up by a Royal Commission, by authority of an Act passed the previous year,⁴ and came into force in April ;

¹ Burnet, ii., 148, 164.

² Printed in Burnet, iv., 288.

³ Burnet, ii., 227.

⁴ Burnet, ii., 225, 228.

and an order in Council was issued to all Bishops to remove all altars, and to set up tables everywhere for the communion to be administered in some convenient part of the chancel.

In 1552 the second Prayer Book of Edward VI. was authorised by Act of Parliament, and was to be used from the Feast of All Saints in that year. The Confession and Absolution were added, extreme unction and prayers for the dead were omitted, and a few minor alterations made, bringing the whole of the services into almost the same form in which we now have them. The Act required all persons to come to Church every Sunday and holy day. An Act was also passed, in consequence of doubts having been raised on the point, making the marriages of priests good and their children legitimate. The 42 Articles of Religion which had been drawn up the last year were agreed to now by Convocation. And it being alleged that the Visitors for suppressing the chantries had embezzled a good deal of the profits of them, a strict enquiry was ordered into the matter, and many suits instituted about it in the Star Chamber.

Edward Deyos appears to have been Vicar in 1553. In that year¹ Visitors were appointed to examine and make an inventory of all Church plate; they were to give one or two chalices of silver, or more at their discretion, to every church, chapel, or cathedral, and were to distribute comely furniture for the communion table and for surplices. All the rest of the linen was to be sold or given to the poor; the copes and altar cloths were to be sold, and all the rest of the plate and jewels was to be delivered to the King's treasurer. There is nothing to show that Ruyton lost anything by this act of spoliation. The following Indenture, the original of which is in the Record Office,² was made

¹ Burnet, ii., 344.

² Q.R. Church Goods ³/₂₁.

between the Visitors and the representatives of the parish.

This Bill indented made the 13th day of May in the seventh year of our most dread sovereign lord King Edward the sixth between Andrew Corbett Richard Manwaryng Knt and Richard Newport Esquire on the one part and Thomas ap John Robert Arnwey Churchwardens Edward Deyos and Thomas Phelyps P Humphrey Ward and John Bedall and John Shelvoek on the other part Witnesseth that we the said Thomas Robert Edward and Thomas Phelyps Humphrey Ward John Bedall John Shelvoek do bind ourselves by these presents to have unstolen unsold or unembezzled one chalice of silver with the patent thereunto 3 bells now remaining within the Church of the . . . of Royton and we will answer therefor. In witness whereof we have put our hands the year and day above said.

This is unsigned, unless five crosses at the foot represent as many signatures; there are no witnesses. It shows, however, that a chalice and paten and three bells were in the church at that time, all of which have since disappeared. The P after Phelyps' name has a mark of abbreviation after it, and seems to stand for priests, and we presume that Edward Deyos, the first mentioned, was vicar, and Thomas Phelyps his curate. On the 6th July in this year the whole current of legislation was changed by the death of Edward VI. and accession of Queen Mary.

Queen Mary immediately upon her accession forbade all preaching whatever, even by a clergyman in his own parish, without licence from the Crown.¹ The issuing of these licences was put into the hands of Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester, and he had authority to send preachers to any cathedral or church he might think fit; thus the mouth of the clergy in favour of the Reformation was effectually closed. All King Edward's laws about religion were repealed by Parliament, and it was made penal to disturb the preachers or to hold

¹ Burnet, ii., 380, 382.

meetings to alter anything of religion established by law.

In 1554 the Queen sent instructions¹ to the Bishops to remove all married clergy and to punish heretics, and a large number of clergy were deprived in consequence.² All laws against the Papacy since the 20th Henry VIII. were repealed, and the laws against heretics were revived.

In 1555 first fruits were abolished by Act of Parliament, and the Church lands, tithes, and tenths, which were in the Queen's hands, were restored to the Church. In this year two Protestants were burnt at Lichfield, and two at Coventry.³ In 1557 another man was burnt at Lichfield.⁴

In 1558 the death of the Queen on the 17th November stopped the persecution, and the long reign of Elizabeth established the Reformation on a firm footing. She immediately issued a proclamation⁵ for reading in English the Gospels and Epistles, the Lord's Prayer, Apostles Creed, ten Commandments, and Litany, and forbidding the elevation of the host at mass.

In January, 1558-9, Parliament met, and immediately restored the Queen's supremacy and abolished the Pope's, restored the Prayer Book, with a few alterations made to meet the views of those who believed in a corporal presence in the Sacrament, and restored to her the Church property which had been surrendered by Queen Mary. Against all these Acts, Bain, Bishop of Lichfield, who had been appointed by Queen Mary, protested, and soon after, for refusing to take the oath of the Queen's supremacy, he was deprived. Of 640 parish clergy in the diocese, not more than 14 resigned their livings on this final establishment of the Reformation. Bain died before the consecration of his successor

¹ Printed in Burnet, iv., 333.

² Burnet, iii., 339.

³ Burnet, iii., 493.

⁴ *Ib.*, 543.

⁵ *Ib.*, 585.

Bentham in 1560.¹ Bentham was an active reformer, and had risked his life by ministering regularly to the Protestants in London in Queen Mary's reign. All preaching without licence from the Crown was again forbidden, and injunctions were sent all over England, similar to those of 1547, but with some additions. All images, of whatever kind, were to be removed from the churches. As offence had been given by some indecent marriages of priests, it was ordered that no priest or deacon should marry without allowance from the Bishop of the diocese and two justices of the peace, and the consent of the woman's parents or friends; all the clergy were to wear their habits, for order and decency, and were only to preach if licensed by their ordinary; every one was to go to Church on Sundays and holy days; the Common Prayer and Litany were to be used on Wednesdays and Fridays in all churches, and a communion table was to be made for every church. Visitors were sent round to see that these injunctions were obeyed, and in the result only 80 incumbents throughout England resigned on account of the changes now made. All who remained read in Church a profession of doctrine² drawn up for them by the newly-appointed Bishops. Thus the Reformation was completed, and the Church services were put into substantially the same form in which we have them still.

By Letters Patent of the 8th May, in the second year of her reign, the Queen sold for £234 to Sir Thomas Hanmer of Hanmer, the Rectory of Ruyton and all houses, lands, and other property in Ruyton belonging to the Rectory, the clear yearly value of the whole being £8 13s. 4d., "excepting out of the said grant all bells and all the lead in and upon the premises except the lead in the gutters and windows." The church bells had been committed to the care of the Churchwardens and others under Edward VI., but

¹ *Dioc. Hist. of Lichfield*, 221.

² Burnet, ii., 626, iv., 393.

were perhaps now taken away and sold for the use of the Crown, as none of the date of Edward VI. remain in the church.

In 1569 the Pope excommunicated and deposed the Queen, and excommunicated all who should obey her laws, thus making a formal separation between his adherents and hers, and for the first time establishing a separate sect of Roman Catholics in England.

The church still possesses a chalice with cover, dated 1570. It was, perhaps, substituted for the chalice mentioned in the Bond of 1553, which has disappeared. Round it is inscribed "The Parishe of Ruyton Ano 1570."

William Roberts appears to have been Vicar in 1571, for the Register of Middle Church has the following entry:—"1571, June 8. Gulielmus Roberts Verbi Dei Minister apud Riton, duxit Dorotheam Birche famulam Thomæ Wilson Rectoris de Middle. Nupti fuere 8 June." No regular dissenting congregations had yet been formed, much less were there any recognised dissenting ministers; but "the word minister became usual in these times for distinction from the idolatrous priests of the Romish Church."¹ We may gather from this description of him, no less than from his marriage, that Roberts was a thorough friend to the Reformation; and from his marrying a maid servant we may suppose that he was not of very distinguished birth. Both Roberts and Birch are common local names now. The secular clergy had never had much social standing, and had been much looked down upon by the religious orders; and the Reformation had made their position worse than before, by depriving them of the payments made for masses for the dead, of offerings made at the shrines of saints, and of other similar profits, besides taking away the pecuniary support which the monasteries, no doubt, gave to the churches dependent on them. Accordingly, in King Edward VI.'s time, many

¹ Strype's *Life of Archbishop Parker*, p. 127.

of them are said to have betaken themselves to trades for a livelihood, and to have become carpenters and tailors, and even alehouse keepers;¹ and it was alleged that "the greatest part of them were so ignorant that they could do little more than read."

Thomas Davis was instituted 23 Dec., 1589. A clergy list² of 1602 informs us that he had taken no degree, but was "a preacher in his owne cure by the L. Bishop of Coven. and Lich.," that is, he held the Bishop's licence to preach in his own parish, but not elsewhere. Many incumbents were not then allowed to do even this. He was still Vicar in 1628;³ we may presume, therefore, that he was the immediate predecessor of

John Edmonds, who was instituted 2 May, 1635.⁴ The two oldest bells now in the church are dated 1637, and were, therefore, made during his incumbency. Archbishop Laud was now actively promoting greater reverence and ceremonial observance in the Church services, and our bells may probably be due to his influence. They are the third and fourth of the present peal of six, and are inscribed respectively "Gloria in excelsis Deo 1637," and "Richart Paine, Richart Paine Wardens 1637." There is a memorial stone in the chancel to "Mr. Thomas Payne of Erdstuston who died the 18 of December 1705," and another to "Richard Payne son and heir of Richard Payne of Eardeston who

¹ Burnet, ii., 323.

² Shrop. Arch. *Trans.*, 2nd Series, vol. v., 258.

³ Blakeway MSS in Bodleian, Shropshire Parochial Clergy.

⁴ This is entered in the Book of Institutions in the Record Office under Ryton Rectory, the patron being the King; but under the same heading, and also under that of Ryton Vicarage is entered a presentation by Thos. and Edw. Corbett of one Henry Miller on 1 Dec., 1636. The King was the patron of Ryton Vicarage, and the Corbetts of Longnor were patrons of Ryton Rectory (near Shifnal), and two of them at this time were named Thomas and Edward. It is clear, therefore, that it was to Ryton Vicarage that John Edmonds was appointed, and that Henry Miller was Rector of Ryton, near Shifnal.

died the 27 of December 1706 aged 25." These may, probably, be descendants of the Churchwardens who procured the bells in 1637. Outside the east end is a stone to "Margaret, the wife of Richard Payne, late of Wikey, who departed this life y^e 21 day of January in the year of our Lord 1729 aged 85." John Edmonds was deprived of his living for "delinquency,"¹ by the Parliamentary party, and

Thomas Watmore was intruded into the living. As "Vicar of Riton" he signed a "Testimony of the Ministers of the Province of Salop to the Solemn League and Covenant," which is undated, but was "printed by F. N. for Thos. Underhill at the Bible in Wood St., 1648."² They "protest against the errors heresies and blasphemies of these times," and "avouch their ready assent to the Confession of faith presented to both Hon^{ble} Houses of Parliament by the Assembly of Divines called together and yet sitting by their authority;" and they detest the thought that "opinions eminently destructive to pietie and public peace, threatening and working the speedie ruine of Souls, should find Connivance and Toleration amongst us; being well assured that the Christian Magistrate cannot answer his neglect before God's tribunal if he be not an avenger to execute wrath on these evill doers: spiritual as well as temporal adulteries being an iniquitie to be punished by the Judges." This is signed by 59 Shropshire ministers, including Samuel Hildersam, Rector of West Felton, Stephen Lewis, Pastor of Baschurch, Richard Payne, Minister of Nestrage, William Rock, Minister of Aston. The great majority sign themselves Minister, Pastor, or Preacher, eight are Rectors, the Vicar of Riton is the only one who calls himself Vicar, and he had no right to the title, as his predecessor had been illegally deprived. The signatories would all be Presbyterians, not Independents, as the

¹ Blakeway MSS. in Bodleian, Shropshire Parochial Clergy.

² A MS copy is in possession of Mr. J. Parry-Jones, Oswestry.

former disliked toleration, while the latter were in favour of it,¹ though they would exclude popery and prelacy from its benefits. The minister in possession of Oswestry held Independent opinions, and did not sign this Testimony. The two Houses of Parliament had by ordinances of 1644 and 1645 abolished the necessity for ministers of the Church of England being episcopally ordained, and enacted that ordinations should be by the Presbytery;² and Watmore was presumably ordained in this way and placed at Ruyton some time after the surrender of Shrewsbury to the Parliament in 1645.

In Charles II.'s time some attention was paid to the church, and perhaps the present chancel arch was put in in his reign; for the two wooden tablets now fastened against the walls of the tower, on which the Ten Commandments are well painted in black letter, bear the date 1668, and were formerly above the chancel arch, together with the royal arms.³ They were, no doubt, removed when the chancel arch was repaired in 1860. And on the outside of the same wall, above the roof of the chancel, is a stone tablet inscribed "F. B., R. P., C—, 1676." One or two of the initials are not very distinct, but the last two letters were, probably, C. W., meaning Churchwardens, and F. B. and R. P. the initials of the Churchwardens who did the repairs at that time.

Bagshaw's *Shropshire Gazetteer* of 1851 says that the south side of the church was built about 1696. The wall, however, is certainly Norman, but it may have been restored at this time.

William Griffiths, Vicar of Ruyton, was buried there on January 2nd, 1720,⁴ and his widow Hannah on Dec. 17th, 1726. It was, probably, in his time that the

¹ Collier's *Church History*, viii., 297, 373.

² Collier, viii., 274, 302.

³ MS. description of Ruyton Church about 1846.

⁴ Parish Register.

fourth bell of the present peal was procured. It is inscribed "William Hood and Tho. Powell Ch. Wardens 1716." The oldest existing Register begins in his time. The first entry of a marriage is on June 11th; of a baptism, July 14th; and of a burial, August 10th, 1719.

Edward Jeffreys was instituted 5 Oct., 1720.¹ His son Richard² was admitted an under-graduate at All Souls, Oxford, aged 19, in 1731. The Vicar was buried at Ruyton, 14 Dec., 1751, aged 70, his widow Elizabeth 14 March, 1774, aged 84, and their son Thomas 25 June, 1791, aged 60. Their tombstones are outside the east end of the church, but were formerly placed on the floor of the chancel.³

The following table of the Vicar's dues at this time used⁴ to be against the north wall of the north aisle, but is now in the tower :—

Peter Basnett. Corbett Edwards. Wardens. 1736. There belongeth to the Vicar of Ruyton the offerings or oblations of the Widowers and Widows and the Widows and Widowers of all the servants and children Communicants of the Township of Shotatton together with the 3^d part of all other tythings, only excepting the offerings and oblations of married couples which is paid to the Vicar of Ness Strange.

Item there belongeth to the Vicar of Ruyton Mortuaries from 3/6 to 10/- according to the Statute of the 21 Hen. 8th.

Item for burying in the Chancel 6/8, and for burying in the Churchyard 1/4.

Item ye offerings for married couples p^r banns 2/6, with license without banns 5/-.

Item ye offerings for women after child bearing 1/-.

Item ye offerings at Easter, for each person at age to receive ye Holy Sacrament 2^d besides what each tradesman pays for his hand which is 4^d.

Item servants wages 1^d per pound, Smoak and garden 2^d.

Item for all lambs under number 5 ye Vicar is to have half one, if there be 7 he is to have a whole lamb if he please and

¹ Book of Institutions in Record Office.

² Blakeway MSS., No. 3, Shropshire Parochial Notices in Bodleian Library.

³ Parkes' "Drawings of Churches," &c., BM., Add. MS. 21,180.

⁴ Rev. Edw. Williams' MSS., Add. MS., 24,236.

pay to the owner 9^d, at 10 he is to have a whole lamb. Wool is tythed after the same manner per pound.

Item there belongs to the Vicar of Ruyton all tythe piggs and geese with eggs or fowls, y^e custom is to have a pigg at 7 and carry y^e odd on to 10. For every cow 1^d and every calf ½^d.

Item for every colt foaled in y^e parish 4^d.

Item there belongs to the Vicar all tythe bay and clover throughout the whole parish excepting the township of Wikey.

Item Hemp and Flax is gathered by the 10th handful or if bound by the 10th Sheafe.

Item y^e tythe of Ruyton Cornmill is 3/4, of the New Mill 3/4.

Item y^e Vicar hath 1 pew in y^e Chancel on y^e right side of y^e reading desk joining to y^e body of y^e Church.

Item y^e Clerks wages consists of 3^d for every mise place Cottagers pays 2^d Making a grave in y^e Churchyard is 1/- Officiating fees pence. Marriage offerings 1/-, and for women after childbearing pence.

One of the Churchwardens who put up this table is commemorated on a stone slab formerly in the church, but now outside the east end. The inscription is:—
“Peter Basnet elder son of Peter Basnet of Wikey. As his body lies in the silent grave It is a portion that we all shall receive. Ob. Nov. 1749, æt. 59.”

Francis Wilde, who was admitted Rector of Knockin in 1750,¹ was instituted to Ruyton, 6 May, 1752.² It is said that about the middle of this century the Vicarage was burnt down, and the old Parish Registers destroyed. If this happened just at this time, it may account for the living being allowed to be held together with that of Knockin. On the 9th September, 1759, Wilde's wife was buried at Ruyton, and the following inscription to her memory is on a brass plate on the south wall of the chancel:—“Underneath rest the remains of Hannah ye beloved wife of Francis Wilde, Vicar of this Parish, who died Sept. 6, 1759, aged 35. Conjux pia casta fidelis Infelix puerpera.” From this time Francis Wilde's name never appears on the Ruyton registers, which are signed by curates or clergymen from neigh-

¹ Blakeway's MSS. in Bodleian.

² Book of Institutions in Record Office.

bouring parishes. In the Knockin register, under the year 1759, is inserted a note that "Wilde Vicar of Ryton was Rector of this Parish and dyed July 1761." He never himself signed the Knockin registers, and after his wife's death he may have gone away and not resided in either parish. Neither of the registers record his burial. He died on the 13th July, 1761.¹

David Owen was instituted² 28 Sept., 1761, and the register records that on the 27th June, 1766, "Rev. David Owen of this Parish Batchelor was married to Ermine Digry of this Parish, Widow," which entry the bride signed by her mark. The witnesses are two Braddocks. The Vicar himself was not a man of much education, to judge from his writing in the Vestry Minute Book. In that Book there is an entry for wine in the year 1777, at Easter 11s. 6d., Michaelmas 4s. 8d., Christmas 11s. 6d. Similar entries occur in other years, and one of them shows that the price given for one bottle of wine was 3s. Apparently wine was got only on those three festivals, but a great deal was consumed then. Probably some of it was treated as a perquisite of the Vicar and Churchwardens.³ From Nov., 1775, to July, 1776, fifteen persons are entered as having died of small pox. On the outside of the priest's doorway in the south wall of the chancel is carved the date 1777. In this year the Rectory and tithes of Ruyton, together with the Manor, were sold by Lord Craven to a Mr. Ashby. This sale would include the rector's rights in the chancel, and the date may have been carved as a record of it. The tithes and rectorial rights have since become divided among a good many holders.

On the 12th July, 1785, the dwelling house of Richard Richards of Ruyton, was registered at Quarter Sessions as a place of religious worship for dissenters.

¹ *Gent's Mag.*

² Book of Institutions in Record Office.

³ See Churchwardens' Accounts of High Ercall, Shrop. Arch. *Trans.*, 2nd Series, vii., 237.

A brass plate formerly on the floor of the chancel was inscribed¹ "The Rev. David Owen died the 28th Oct., 1786, aged 77 years;" and on a stone outside the east end is "Underneath lieth the remains of Ermin Owen, relict of the Rev. David Owen, Vicar of this Parish, who departed this life the day of April, 1799, aged 77 years."

David Evans was the next Vicar, but was not instituted² till 26 Sept., 1788. As he lived till 1821, there are old men who still remember him and tell stories about him. It is said that he was a Welshman, and curate of Oswestry, and that he walked all the way to London to ask the Lord Chancellor for the living. His shoes were worn into holes and the Lord Chancellor's servant took him for a tramp, and refused to admit him, but he insisted on waiting, and succeeded in seeing the Chancellor. Lord Thurlow, who held the office, asked who his patron was, to which he replied, "The Lord of Hosts, for I have no other." Lord Thurlow rejoined, "This is the first application from that quarter I have ever had," and handed Mr. Evans over to a head servant to be taken care of for the night. On Mr. Evans' return home, he found the appointment had arrived before him. It is said that in his time Corbet, the ghost who troubled Coton, was specially active and malevolent, used to take off the wheels of carts, and do all kinds of other mischievous things. So the Rev. David Evans and five other ministers proceeded to Coton, and after praying and preaching there for more than two hours, they succeeded in getting the ghost into a bottle by about midnight. They then threw the bottle into the west corner of the pool in front of the house, under the oak tree which has now fallen, and is lying on the bank. The ghost was by this means laid for 1,000 years.³

¹ Parkes' "Drawings of Churches," &c., Brit. Mus. Add. MSS 21,180; Rev. Edw. Williams' MSS., ib. 24,236.

² Book of Institutions in Record Office.

³ Cooper, the old schoolmaster, aged 78, says that his mother remembered this performance.

Mr. Evans' entries in the Vestry Book are not more literate in writing and spelling than those of his predecessor; but the fabric of the church received some attention in his time. On 5 March, 1798, he enters that the Vestry resolved "That a galery be erected in the south aisle of the Parish Church of Ruyton across the belfry, and a new window to be made to give light to the galery above and the forms below, to be built at the general expense of the parish at large." On 9 Nov., 1799, it was determined to propose to the parish "that Mr. Telford who built the Platt Bridge be desired to inspect the church and to propose a plan for the levelling, repairing, pewing, and otherwise putting the church into good and substantial repair." Nothing, however, seems to have been done, for on 30 Nov., 1807, there was another resolution to raise a subscription "for the purpose of raising the floor and pewing the Church, and also for erecting a gallery at the west end of the same." Our picture of the church represents it as it was in 1809, and is taken from Parkes' "Drawings of Churches" in the British Museum.¹ In 1810 it was resolved that "The Committee formerly appointed to carry into effect the pewing and repairing the said Parish Church, which Committee have hitherto done nothing, be dissolved, and that the Vicar, the Hon. Thomas Kenyon, and Mr. John Broughall, Churchwardens, be authorised to apply for a faculty for new pewing, raising, repairing, and erecting a gallery within the said Parish Church;" and accordingly, in 1811, a contract by Richard Owen to do the work for £403 8s 8d. was accepted. It would appear from the above entries that the church had hitherto been supplied with forms only, and that pews were now introduced for the first time. The sittings were sold by auction to raise money for the improvements. In 1812 it was further resolved that a new window be made in the lower part of the said parish church, opposite the gallery; and that a

¹ Add. MSS., 21,180.

window be made over the belfry door, and to be glazed, the estimate for each of which works was £15. The small marble font, now in the church, but not used, was presented in 1813 by the Hon. T. Kenyon. The very rough stone one which had preceded it, is now concealed under the floor of the pulpit.

On the 12th June, 1815, it was "judged necessary to erect new Gates to the Churchyard with stone pillars;" and it was also "agreed that for the encouragement and it is hoped for the improvement of Psalm singing in Church, that an annual dinner be provided at the Craven Arms,¹ with such other refreshment as will make them comfortable for the evening, to be paid out of the poors loan." The National School was built by subscription in 1819, the site being given by the Misses Kinaston.²

Mr. Cooper, the former schoolmaster, says "Mr. Evans in his latter years was always chewing tobacco, and drank a great deal. When I was about five years old, I was playing with other children in the road about nine o'clock on a Sunday morning, when we saw the Rev. David Evans and Braddock the Clerk coming along. We stood aside and bowed to them, and they went into the Ball Inn.³ We saw them sitting inside with a jug of beer, and a sweep came into the room, who had slept in an outbuilding all night, and sat down with them. The Vicar said, 'Now we are two ministers meeting together' (both being in black). Then they got to high words, and at last the Vicar hit the sweep. The sweep did not hit him back, but swung round his bag and peppered the Vicar and Clerk all over with soot, so that when they came out, we could not tell the sweep from the Vicar, except that the Vicar always wore a velvet coat and breeches, and shoes with buckles,

¹ Now the Powis Arms.

² Bagshaw's *Shropshire Gazetteer*, 197.

³ It has long ceased to be an inn, and was lately occupied by Mr. R. Brown. The parish doctor now has his surgery there.

and we could see the buckles. The Clerk took him away and got him washed before service."

The following inscription is on a stone on the wall of the aisle:—"Sacred to the memory of the Rev. David Evans, 35 years Vicar of this Parish. He was born Jan. 1, 1753, and died June 1, 1821. Also of Mary his wife, who was born May 24, 1758, and died Aug. 11, 1826, at Lichfield, where she was buried. Also of John Griffiths, their son, who was born May 29, 1782, and died Nov. 10, 1804." Mr. Evans' son George had officiated as curate since 1817, and remained in charge of the parish after his father's death. It was long before the vacancy was filled up, for in March, 1823, George Evans still signs the register as curate; but the living was at last given to him.

George Evans signs the register as Vicar for the first time 8 Sept., 1823. He was baptised at Ruyton, 18 Oct., 1793. The Independent Chapel, which is the oldest dissenting chapel in the parish, was built in 1833. In 1837, the flagon, chalice, and paten now in use, and also a new organ, were given to the church by the Misses Margaret and Ann Kinaston of Ruyton Hall. At this time there had been a great increase in the population of Ruyton, as indeed of most places throughout the kingdom. A statement issued in 1844 informs us that the church then had 294 sittings, of which 264 were appropriated, and 30 free. In 1821 the population had been 862, and the number of inhabited houses 168; in 1841 the population was 1,081, the number of houses 208; and between 1841 and 1844 six additional houses had been built. It was, therefore, felt necessary to enlarge the church, and in 1844-5 the present north aisle was built at a cost of £628 12s. 6d., raised by voluntary subscriptions. On a wooden tablet in the aisle is the following inscription:—"This Church was enlarged in the year 1845, by which means 96 additional sittings were obtained, and in consequence of a grant from the Incorporated Society for promoting the enlargement, building and repairing of Churches

and Chapels the whole of that number are hereby declared to be free and unappropriated for ever, the provision of Church room previously to the alteration being to the extent of 294 sittings, 30 of which number are free." It is said¹ that in the rubble of the old wall pulled down for this enlargement were found several pieces of painted plaster, no doubt belonging to the previous aisle of the 14th century. At the same time a Church rate was levied to put the old part of the church into the same state as the new. The east window of the north aisle was painted at Munich about 1855, by a firm which had put up similar windows in Cologne Cathedral, and is a memorial to four children of the Rev. George Hunt, second son of Mr. Rowland Hunt of Boreatton, who all died in 1831-2. The figures of the two girls are portraits taken from a photograph of a picture of them. One of the brothers of these children afterwards became the Right Hon. George Ward Hunt, Chancellor of the Exchequer and First Lord of the Admiralty. The subject of the window is Christ blessing little children. The water behind represents the pool at Boreatton, and the hills are the Breidden. An inscription in memory of the parents of the children is on the north wall of the chancel.

In 1839 to 1847 the tithes of the parish were commuted, the Vicar receiving a rent-charge of £250 per annum, and being relieved from the necessity of collecting from his parishioners the various dues mentioned in the table quoted above.

A tablet in the chancel is inscribed: "Sacred to the memory of the Rev. George Evans, M.A., thirty-six years Vicar of this parish. He died October 6th, 1859, aged 65 years. Also of Elizabeth his wife, who died April 14th, 1866, aged 72 years."

Frederick Paget Wilkinson was instituted early in 1860. He had been Curate of Ponsonby, in Cumberland, 1854-5, Chaplain to the Bishop of Argyll and the

¹ By Jas. Cooper.

Isles 1855-7, Rector of Great Orton, Cumberland, 1857-9. In the same year, 1860, the Primitive Methodist Jubilee Chapel on the Brown Hill was built. Mr. Wilkinson at once took up energetically the repairing of the chancel, the necessity of which had been recognised before Mr. Evans' death. £37 was taken from the Church rate for repairing the chancel arch, but the chancel was repaired, re-roofed, and re-seated by contributions from the tithe owners in proportion to the amount of their tithes, amounting altogether to £248 11s. There were also considerable voluntary subscriptions.¹ The glass in the four small Norman windows was given by the Rev. John Evans and Canon Evans, nephews of the late and grandsons of the previous Vicar; one south window by Rowland Hunt, Esq., of Boreatton, the other by Miss Campbell. The east window was filled with glass by a subscription of £100 as a memorial to the two Misses Kinaston of Ruyton Hall, who had died in 1838 and 1845. A monument to them and several former members of the family is on the wall of the north aisle, and a stone in memory of others forms part of the pavement near the pulpit. The builder employed for the chancel was Mr. Morris of Oswestry, and the architect was Mr. Pountney Smith. It was completed early in 1862. At the same time an addition to the Churchyard was made at an expense of £112, paid out of the poor rate. The easternmost window in the wall of the aisle was filled with stained glass "To the glory of God and in memory of Frederick Lionel Wilkinson, died Jan. 27, 1864, aged 5 years." Soon afterwards the main body of the church was restored at a cost² of £1066 12s. 9d. The floor was lowered to one of the old pavements (one still older having been found some inches below), and was re-paved; the church was warmed with hot water, and was re-seated with open pews of oak; the gallery

¹ See *Parish Mag.* for April, 1871.

² *Parish Mag.* for March, 1871.

was removed, the large west window was filled with glass, a new organ was put up, and three new bells hung, being the 1st, 2nd, and 6th in the present peal of six. The 1st treble is inscribed: "1868. God save the Church our Queen and Realm, and send us Peace in Christ. Amen." The 2nd: "1868. Rejoice in the Lord." The 6th, tenor: "1868. We praise thee O God." The other three, dated 1637 and 1716, have been already described. They are in the key of B flat. A new and larger font, of Bath stone, was presented by Mr. Walford, and a new window near it, in the south wall, by the Rev. Leonard Slater, formerly a curate here. An inscription under it says that it is "To the glory of God and in memory of Frederic Silas, born 17 Feb., 1844, died 25 Nov., 1850; and George Grimshaw, born 15 March, 1845, died 29 Nov., 1850, the beloved children of the Rev. Leonard and Elizabeth Norris Slater." The church was re-opened after the restoration on Thursday, 17 Sept., 1868. Meanwhile at the other end of the parish the Hon. Mrs. T. Kenyon had built a new church at Pradoc, of which Mr. Rohde Hawkins was the architect, and Messrs. Morris the builders. The first stone was laid on the 18th June, 1860, the nave was opened 19 Oct., 1861, and the tower and chancel 1st Jan., 1865. Bishop Lonsdale gave leave for the sacraments to be regularly administered there on 28 Aug., 1867, and the first child baptised there after this was Lionel Richard Kenyon, a grandchild of the foundress of the church, who was baptised on the 1st Sept., 1867, in the small marble font given to Ruyton Church by his grandfather, which was brought over for the purpose. The font belonging to Pradoc church was given afterwards by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kenyon, in memory of their infant child, who died in 1863, and of Miss Emma Jane Kenyon, daughter of the foundress, who died in 1868. It was carved out of a stone from Mrs. Kenyon's quarry at Eardiston. The Holy Communion was first administered in Pradoc Church on the 15th Sept., 1867. The west window

was put in by the officers of the Shropshire Militia in memory of Rowland Whitehall Kenyon, youngest son of the foundress, and a Major in that regiment, who died in 1873.

In 1877, Ruyton Churchyard was again enlarged by the purchase for £100, from Mr. Minton, of the ruins of the old Castle, with 1 rood 24 perches of land. It was consecrated by Bishop Maclagan on Nov. 9th, 1881. In 1880 the church seats were re-arranged, and the whole of the sittings were declared free and unappropriated, to the great pleasure of the Vicar. In 1881 the Village Cross was erected at the expense of Miss Orde, the Vicar's sister-in-law, on the site of the Old Court House of the Manor. The hearse house was built in 1882. In 1883 a new clock was placed in the tower. In 1885 the two most easterly windows of the nave were filled with stained glass, and there is a small shield on the wall, which states that they were erected "To the glory of God and in memory of Richard Rowland Minton, who died Dec. 2, 1879; also Frances Anne, his daughter, who died March 11, 1864." In 1888 the tower screen was erected by Mr. John Humphreys of Hanley Hall, in memory of his niece, Catherine Basnett Oswell; and the Lych gate was put up by public subscription in memory of two sons of the Vicar, who died in 1886 and 1887, aged respectively 20 and 22. In the same year, on June 3rd, was held the first flower service in the parish, at Pradoc Church. In 1892 the church porch was rebuilt according to what is believed to have been its original 16th century design, by Mrs. R. R. Minton of the Hursts, Rock Ferry, Liverpool, in memory of her two sons, Richard Rowland and Thomas Powell Minton. In taking down the old one there was found built into the wall above the window the greater part of a 13th century tombstone, carved with an elaborate cross, with an outline of the sole of a boot on one side of it, and an object which may be an animal's head or a hatchet, on the other side. It is now preserved in the north aisle.

The porch was dedicated on the 5th August, 1892, when the Vicar preached what was to be one of his last sermons. He had been very unwell for some time, and on the 29th Oct. he passed away. The *Parish Magazine* in describing the funeral service says:—"It was a glorious service of praise and thanksgiving, a bright close of the earthly life of one of whose character the key note was charity—not only the charity that freely gave to those in need, but the still higher large-hearted charity that forgave the unkind word, that even when words of rebuke had to be spoken, were always followed with 'But I am sure you did not mean it.' He could not believe in intentional wrong-doing." On subscriptions being invited for a memorial to him, almost everyone in the parish contributed, and a beautiful reredos, designed by Messrs. Bodley and Garner, was dedicated by the Bishop of Shrewsbury on April 3rd, 1894. It represents St. John the Baptist, in whose honour the church is dedicated, baptising our Lord; on the right and left are two of his disciples, St. Andrew and St. John, and beyond them are St. Chad, the first Bishop of Lichfield, and St. Oswald, the champion of Christianity in this part of Mercia. On the 4th March, 1893, Mr. Wilkinson's widow followed him to the grave. The Primitive Methodist Chapel on Blackbow Hill was built in 1892.

William Backhouse Gowan was instituted 17 Feb., 1893. He was Curate at Farlam, Cumberland, 1877-9, and at Walsall 1879 to 1887, and Vicar of Ketley 1887 to 1893. The previous vicars had been presented by the Lord Chancellor, the advowson having come into the hands of the Crown on the dissolution of Haughmond Abbey; but in 1887, Bishop Maclagan succeeded in making an exchange, by which he gave up to the Lord Chancellor the presentation to some livings in Hampshire and one in Lincolnshire, and acquired that of nine in his own diocese, including Ruyton, Baschurch, and Fitz. Mr. Gowan was the first Vicar of Ruyton presented by the Bishop. In 1895 an alms dish in

memory of Miss Helen J. Hunt of Ruyton Park, was given by her sister. The church tower was struck by lightning on the 26th June, and was in consequence re-roofed and re-pointed; and in 1896 a Church Mission Room, erected through the exertions of the Vicar, was opened at Wikey.

The following are the inscriptions now in the chancel of Ruyton Church, beginning at the east end.
On the north wall :—

To Francis Thornes and his wife, given in the History of Shelvock.

Beneath this, a tile in memory of Bishop Selwyn of New Zealand and Lichfield, who died 1878.

Beneath this a small plate on a round headed stone, inscribed
"Adolphus Proctor, born 6th April died 23 April 1821."¹

M.S.

Odiosa Multis grata mors patriam in domum
Saram reduxit leviter mœrentem luto.
Plorata amicis pignus hoc solatio
Libens reliquit testulam argillaceam
Nuper coruscant lampade e cœlo data
Amans maritus æviterno marmori
Donat tuendam, posteri ne nesciant
Mortalibus luxisse dum vixit deo.
Saræ Willaston Matronæ pientissimæ
E vita ærumnosâ ad beatam
Cum gaudio translatae Gulielmus
Willaston coniugi dilectissimæ

M.P.

Obiit die Febr. 6 an^o 1622 ætatis suæ 31.

To Rev. George Evans and his wife, given above.

In the Churchyard lie the remains of the Reverend George Hunt M.A. Second son of Rowland Hunt of Boreatton in

¹ A Col. Proctor rented Ruyton Hall. This was, no doubt, his child.

RUYTON CHURCH.

the adjoining Parish Esquire. He was for 30 years rector of Barningham cum Coney-Weston in the County of Suffolk, where he laboured with earnest and unaffected zeal for the good of the flock committed to his care. He departed this life on the 19th of March A.D. 1853 aged 67 years.

Beside him rests Emma his wife daughter of Samuel Gardiner of Coombe Lodge Oxon Esq^{re} She died July 17th 1862 aged 66 years.

The East window in the aisle of this Church was designed as a memorial of four beloved children who died A.D. 1831-32. Emma Sophia aged 12 years, Julia aged 7 years, Edward Vernon aged 3 years, Emma aged 1 year. If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.

On the south wall of the chancel.

On three brass plates screwed on, one below the other :—

- (1) Twixt y^e altar & y^e south side of this Chavncell lie buried Rich Kynaston of Ruyton Gent who died Anno 1541 Tho his Sonne, Rich his sonne, Tho his sonne, who died July 6 1663 Rich his sonne, wth their sev^{al} Relac^{ons}; lastly Margaret the daughter of Tho Kynaston of Brandon Heath Esq. later wife to Tho Kynaston of Ruyton Gent She died March 10th 1676. In Memory Of whom Tho Kynaston her sonne In law cavsd this erected.
- (2) Here also lyeth the body of Tho Kynaston of Ruyton Gent who Dyed the 12th of Septemb^r Anno 1678 Aged 52 years.
- (3) Sacred to the Memory of Jane Kinaston only child of Tho Kynaston of Ruyton died July 1721 Wife of W^m Kinaston of Lee C^o of Salop Gent died at Ruyton August 1723 aged 92 Tho Kinaston Gent 2^d son of W^m & Jane Died 31st March 1762 Edw^d Kinaston Gent of Ruyton son of Edward 3^d son of W^m & Jane by Ann his

Wife, daughter of Doctor Gee dean of Lincoln
and one of the Prebendaries of Westminster
Died 24th of April 1792.

Margaret Kinaston

Died 22 Nov^r 1621 Aged 74 years.
Bowley, Salop.

Beneath this is the Brass to the memory of Hannah
Wilde, 1759, quoted above.

Sacred to the Memory of
Joseph Humphreys of Hanley Hall
Whose probity and integrity gained for
Him the esteem and confidence of all who
knew him no less than did his benevolence
and kindness endear him to his domestic
circle and more immediate friends

He died May 16 1851

Æt 70

To the Memory of Sarah Elizabeth Hunt
Youngest daughter of Rowland Hunt Esq^r of Boreatton
Whose humble piety, steady principle
Patient resignation, & constant solicitude
To promote the welfare and happiness of others
Secured the esteem of all who knew her worth
And endeared her with peculiar affection
to those she lived with.
Their hopes of her joyful resurrection
Rest on the merits and mediation
Of the blessed Redeemer in whom alone
She trusted for acceptance with God.
She died at Ruyton Dec^r 24th 1825 aged 34.

Also

Of her beloved friend and sister Susanna Frances Hunt
Who died 19th Jan: 1866 aged 83
The window in the chancel bearing the legend
"I was sick and ye visited me" was erected to her
Memory by her nephew Rowland Hunt,

Beneath the last is :—

To the Glory of God and in loving Memory of Alexander
William Hunt Lieut: xiii Bengal Lancers aged 24 the

youngest & dearly loved son of the Rev^d T. H. Hunt & Charlotte his wife. He met with his death by a gun accident at Bareilly Feb. 22 1888 to the inexpressible grief of his afflicted father and sorrowing brothers and sisters and of all his relations by whom he was most dearly and deservedly loved, surviving his mother only 3 months.

They were lovely and pleasant in their lives and in their death were not divided.

What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter.

This brass was erected by his sorrowing father.

On the north wall of the aisle, at the east end, is a tablet, at the head of which is a shield, the dexter side of which bears the Kynaston arms, argent a lion rampant sable. The inscription is:—

In a vault underneath
in the hope of a joyful resurrection
through the mercies of a redeemer
are deposited the remains of

William Kinaston Esq^r
one of the masters of the High Court of Chancery
Recorder—and a member in Parliament
For the borough of Shrewsbury
who died 174

Dorothy his wife who died 1730
Also Margaret their youngest daughter
who died 1806 aged 76

Relict of Edward Kinaston Esq^r
of Ruyton

Whose remains are interred by his uncle

Thomas Kinaston Esq^r
in this Chancel in 1792
also Edward only surviving son
of Edward and Margaret
who died 1795 aged 25
and M^{rs} Martha a daughter of

Thomas and Jane Holland
of Teyrden in the County of Denbigh
and niece of William and Thomas Kinaston
died 1756

also Anne youngest daughter of
Edward Kinaston Esq^r and Margaret his wife
Born Nov^r 16 1763 died Oct^r 8th 1838

also Margaret eldest daughter of
Edward Kinaston Esq^r and Margaret his wife
Born Ap: 25th 1762 died September 12th 1845
Enter not into judgment with
thy servants O Lord.

Above is a hatchment also bearing the Kynaston arms, with the same on a scutcheon of pretence.

There are two other hatchments on this wall, that in the middle has the Kynaston arms in the 1st and 4th quarters, and also in the 1st and 4th quarters of the 2nd and 3rd quarters of the shield.

The hatchment at the west end has the Kynaston arms in the 3rd quarter, and has an inscription on the margin, "Anna Maria Middleton died January 27, 1831. Buried at Great Comberton, Worcestershire."

Under the middle hatchment is the tablet to Rev. David Evans and his wife, quoted above.

Opposite the easternmost is a fourth hatchment, the arms on which appear to be: On a field azure semé de lys argent a lion rampant regardant argent.

On the south wall of the nave is the following table:—

Benefactions
to the

Parish of Ruyton in the eleven towns.

The ground for the garden, playground and erection of the school in the village was the gift of M^{rs} Margaret and M^{rs} Anne Kinaston daughters and coheireses of Edward Kinaston Esq^r of Ruyton hall.

Subscriptions for building the Schoolhouse and School 1817 and 1818

	£	s.	d.
The National Society	60	0	0
The trustees of the late Andrew Newton of Lichfield Esq ^r through the interest of M ^{rs} Muckleston of Walford	200	0	0
The remainder towards the expense of completing the building was subscribed by the land and tythe owners of the Parish, and principal inhabitants of the village and the vicinity	240	0	0
Total	500	0	0

1819

Subscription for the endowment of the School-
master &c.

The Earl of Bridgewater	...	...	...	33	0	0
The trustees of Andrew Newton Esq ^r	...	...	...	100	0	0
Bequest in the will of M ^{rs} Phillis Lane	...	...	...	72	19	2
Saved out of the annual subscriptions up to Mid- summer 1839	...	...	...	232	12	8
				<hr/>		
				438	11	10

1812

The Honourable Thomas Kenyon of the Pradoc
gave the baptismal font and the cushion and
ornaments for pulpit and reading desk

1837

M^{rs} Margaret and M^{rs} Anne Kinaston gave an organ
for the Church and a silver flagon chalice and
Paten for the Communion Service

1838

M^{rs} Anne Kinaston left a legacy of £50 which was
distributed to the poor of the Parish.

1866

Miss Hunt for the benefit of the scholars of Ruyton
School. Interest of 100 0 0

1880

R. R. Minton for the Poor of Ruyton. Interest of 180 0 0

The two inscriptions on this wall relating to the
erection of the windows have been quoted above.

TRANSACTIONS
OF THE
SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

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SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Annual General Meeting of this Society was held at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury, on Saturday, March 28th, 1896. Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P., F.S.A., presided, and there were also present—Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart, Major Heber-Percy, Captain Williams-Freeman, the Revs. T. Auden, F.S.A., C. H. Drinkwater, Prebendary G. H. Egerton and W. G. D. Fletcher, F.S.A., Dr. Calvert, Messrs. R. Lloyd Kenyon, J. Bowen-Jones, Humphrey Sandford, S. Clement Southam, H. R. H. Southam, W. Burson, G. Griffiths, and F. Goyne (Secretary).

ANNUAL REPORT.

The SECRETARY read the Annual Report of the Council as follows:—

In presenting their Annual Report the Council regret to announce the loss by death of two valued members of their body. Mr. John Calcott had been prevented by increasing deafness from taking much part in the work of the Council during the last few years, but he was formerly most regular in his attendance at the meetings, and at his death he showed his appreciation of the objects aimed at in the work of the Society by a valuable legacy of scientific books to the Shrewsbury Free Library. Archdeacon Lloyd, whose more recent death has left an unusually wide gap in almost all departments of public life in Shrewsbury and the neighbourhood, was not only a member of the Council, but a Vice-President of the Society. As such, he not only took deep interest in its work, but his wide and accurate knowledge of antiquity, especially as connected with Shropshire, made his advice of great value. His interesting paper on "The Shrewsbury Churches," read at the Annual Meeting four years ago, will be in the recollection of many, and he possesses a still more permanent memorial in the careful and conservative restoration which St. Mary's Church received during his tenure of that benefice. The Council regret that they have also lately lost the services of another member of their body, Mr. G. S. Corser, who has resigned on grounds of health. As regards the work of the Society during the past year, the *Transactions* have been issued with regularity, and, it is believed, have maintained their interest. The Council have also been in communication with the Camera Club with a view to securing a photographic survey of the county, and the subject is still under the consideration of that body. The Council have further directed their attention to the necessity of continuing the good work already done by Miss Jackson and Miss Burne in connection with the Folk-Lore of the county. There are still many unrecorded customs and superstitions of which it is desirable to take note before they vanish in the light of advancing education. The Council have appointed one of their number, Mr. S. Clement Southam, to give special attention to this subject. In the early part of the year the Council

received a communication from the Free Library Committee of the Corporation on the subject of the Shrewsbury Museum. Since the handing over of the contents of the Society's collection, on the formation of the Free Library, a dual control had existed which was not satisfactory; and the result of the negotiations referred to was a resolution unanimously passed at a special general meeting held for the purpose, March 29th, 1895, that the whole of the contents of the museum, together with all printed and written books in the Reference Library, belonging to the Society should be transferred to the Corporation as absolute owners for the use of the public. The Council wish to take this opportunity of alluding to another matter, though it belongs to the current year, not that covered by this report, namely, the course of lectures on English Gothic Architecture, just given for the benefit of the Society by Mr. D. H. S. Cranage, F.S.A., the author of the "Architectural Account of the Churches of Shropshire," now in course of publication. They have pleasure in recording the success of the lectures, and in expressing their sense of Mr. Cranage's great kindness in giving them. In conclusion the Council desire to express the hope that all discoveries of matters of archaeological interest in the county will be communicated to them for investigation and permanent record, and that those who value such pursuits will use their influence with their friends to secure increased support for the Society.—

(Signed) THOMAS AUDEN, M.A., F.S.A., Chairman of the Council.

The Statement of Accounts showed a deficiency of £50 3s 10d.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the Report and Statement of Accounts. He said that he wished to join with those who drew up the Report in expressing his own personal regret as well as the regret of the Society at the loss they had sustained by the death of Archdeacon Lloyd, who was a very practical and accurate archæologist, and the work which he did for that Society and also for local archæology was very considerable indeed. (Applause). He was glad to know that the Society was arranging for a photographic survey of the county. He could not help thinking that they should endeavour in every possible way to use the photograph; it was a very cheap way of getting an accurate account of places which from one reason or another passed away, and now that they had lost their library of books, they had no means of retaining those photographs except by handing them over to the Corporation of Shrewsbury, who would be very pleased to keep any valuable antiquities, photographs, or illustrations which they might receive. (Hear, hear). The Statement of Accounts was one that called for some consideration on the part of those belonging to the Society, for it appeared that on the whole there was a considerable deficiency; but he did not see how they could spend much less than they did at present. He did not see that there was any waste, or any expenditure on superfluities. They had a very small income, and they had great results; but at the same time, he could not help saying that if they could enlarge the Society they might be able to do a greater work than they had hitherto undertaken. (Applause).

The Rev. T. AUDEN, in seconding the motion, said that allusion had been made in the Report to the loss which the Council had sustained more especially by the death of the late Archdeacon Lloyd, and he should like to mention another loss among the Vice-Presidents,

namely, the Rev. Canon Bridgeman, of Wigan, who took a great interest in the Society, and had at different times contributed to the *Transactions*. The subject of his life and work would very soon appear in that journal from the pen of Mrs. Baldwyn-Childe. Reference had been made to the question of economy in regard to the Society's work. He might say that they had been trying to practise economy, and at the last meeting of the Council the question was brought forward, when a way was thought of by which they could economise to a small degree; but what they really wanted was additional members. (Applause). There was still a considerable number of persons in good positions in the county, whose names were conspicuous by their absence in the list of members; but he had already heard of several new ones, and he had succeeded in finding one or two himself in the last few days, so that he hoped they would soon be in a better position. It should be remembered that there was always a leakage going on from deaths and other unavoidable causes, and it was necessary to fill the places of those who were taken away. The only way in which they could really succeed in getting additional members was by each of the existing members trying to persuade his friends to join. (Hear, hear). He ventured to put this in a letter which he had sent out, and was thankful to say that it had already borne some fruit. (Hear, hear). He should like to mention in connection with the transfer of books to the Corporation that at the last meeting of the Free Library Committee it was suggested by a member, not connected with that Society, that, in consideration of the great benefit which, directly and indirectly, would accrue to the Corporation through getting possession of these records, there should be some recognition, and it was unanimously resolved that a subscription of three guineas be paid by the Free Library to the Society in consideration of the gift. He hoped that so good an example would be followed in other ways. (Hear, hear). He was glad to say, with regard to another subject alluded to in the Report, that the lectures on English Gothic Architecture had been a success in every way. The meetings had been well attended, and he hoped they would gain as a net result something like £20. (Hear, hear). Mr. Cranage, when he was kind enough to make the offer to give the lectures, said he was very anxious not merely to secure an audience, but to create a real interest in the work of that Society, in which he himself took a very deep interest. (Applause).

The motion for the adoption of the Report and Statement of Accounts was then put and carried unanimously.

Sir OFFLEY WAKEMAN moved that the following be elected Vice-Presidents of the Society:—Lord Hawkesbury, Lord Kenyon, Sir Walter Corbet, Bart., and Mr. H. D. Greene, Q.C., M.P. He remarked that it had been suggested to him by a high authority that he should take that opportunity to bring before the Society a matter which had been in the clouds for the last few months, but which was now about to take a more definite form. Some time ago, partly owing to the suggestion of Mr. Fox Davies, he was asked to take the necessary

steps for obtaining a proper and authorised grant of Arms for the county. It had been the custom for some time past for the county to use the borough Arms, but since it was possible for the county to obtain a grant of Arms for themselves, it was hardly becoming to go on using those belonging to the borough. (Hear, hear). Last summer he broached the subject to the late Chairman of the County Council (Mr. S. K. Mainwaring), and since then he had spoken to the present Chairman, and in each case received a favourable answer. He had also spoken to the Rev. T. Auden and the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher on the matter. As to the financial part of the business, he proposed that it should be a condition that no expense should fall on the public. (Hear, hear). That would not be at all right, and he would himself undertake to indemnify them from any expense, though, perhaps, he should ask some of his friends to help him in the matter. (Hear, hear). He had been in communication with the College of Arms, and thought there would be no difficulty on their part; in fact, he was in a position to say that the county would be able to receive a grant from them which would not depart widely from the old historical loggerheads. If the Society would give their approval to the proposal, it would strengthen his hands when the matter came to be mentioned to the County Council.

The Rev. Prebendary G. H. EGERTON seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

THE COUNCIL.

Mr. LLOYD KENYON proposed the re-election of the old Council, with the addition of the Hon. and Rev. G. H. F. Vane, the Rev. H. Stokes, and Mr. D. H. S. Craunage; and, in doing so, remarked that he did not quite understand how an addition to their number was going to get them out of their financial difficulties. They owed over £50, and the ordinary expenses were fully up to the ordinary income. He thought the Council would have to take into consideration whether it would not be advisable to publish less numbers of the *Transactions* for a few years until the Society was out of debt. (Hear, hear). With regard to the proposed grant of Arms, he thought it was quite right that the county should be put on a proper historical footing.

Mr. H. R. H. SOUTHAM seconded, and asked whether some of the outstanding subscriptions could not be got in.

The SECRETARY replied that the Council had considered the matter, and had decided that the assets of the Society were not worth more than the sum stated in the Balance Sheet.—The motion was carried.

ELECTION OF AUDITOR.

On the proposition of Captain WILLIAMS-FREEMAN, seconded by Mr. GRIFFITHS, Dr. Calvert was re-elected auditor, and a cordial vote of thanks was passed to him for his services during the year.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS.

The CHAIRMAN then delivered the following address:—At the annual gatherings of this Society our object is not so much to transact business and to pass accounts as to take note of what we have accomplished, and to discuss in a tentative way what in the future we might, under favouring circumstances, take in hand. In the modest and admirable words of the preface to Owen and Blakeway's *History of Shrewsbury*, we may say, "We have cleared away some errors, but we cannot flatter ourselves that none remain for the elucidation of future enquirers." (Hear, hear). In historical and archæological pursuits, the student looks at the past through the spectacles of the present, and as in each successive generation the standpoint is moved, so is the perspective changed, the colouring modified, the horizon enlarged. We note among the antiquaries of to-day a commendable desire to consult original documents, and to verify references. "It is not imaginable," says an accomplished writer, "to those who have not tried, what labours an historian, that would be exact, is condemned to. He must read all, good and bad, and remove a world of rubbish before he can lay the foundation." The unique situation of Shrewsbury, the centre not only of Shropshire, but of Wales—(laughter)—and the special facilities of communication with which our railway system has endowed it, seem to favour the idea of a federation of the Archæological Societies of the Principality with the Society of this county. At all events, the long and intimate association of, and co-operation between, the inhabitants of Salop and Montgomeryshire, the fact that the Powysland Club overlaps our boundary, and certain financial reasons which affect both Societies, afford some grounds for hoping that at some time or other the Shropshire and Powysland archæologists may agree to use at least one common volume for their publications. A rich, in other words, a large, society has great advantages, especially with regard to illustrating its papers and maintaining its staff. I think that the illustrations both in our volumes and those of the Powysland Club might be improved both in number and quality. The value of engravings can hardly be too highly estimated. They give a far more definite idea of things than letterpress. They explain a building, a monument, a costume, a portrait, indeed any artistic work which we desire to rescue from oblivion, better than the most exact, elaborate, and technical description. One of our Shropshire antiquaries, Farmer Dukes, compiled a list of books connected with this county, and also of portraits and engravings. The time has come when this catalogue may be largely supplemented. There is a wealth of original portraits often unnamed, sometimes misnamed, in our country houses, in our public buildings, museums, and libraries. They would well repay the trouble of listing, and possibly of reproducing in a sketch catalogue. Of late years there has been established in London a National Portrait Gallery. A local portrait gallery, in the shape of a book illustrated with sketches of the originals, notices of the lives of the

local celebrities, and references to the houses in which they are to be found, would be a great contribution to the history of this county. (Hear, hear). I have often spoken both here and elsewhere on the importance of preserving parochial registers by printing and indexing them. I make no apology for repeating myself on this occasion. The process of publishing these registers is going on slowly and uncertainly ; the process of decay is also going on slowly and certainly. This is a subject that has not been much, if at all, attended to by the fathers of the Church—the Bishops. They are overwhelmed with work of another kind. Among ordinary people there is much ignorance both of the importance and the extent and difficulty of the work. I commend this practical task to all Archæological Societies. It lies within the legitimate sphere of their operations. It is of pressing urgency. At a meeting of the Royal Archæological Institute here last year one of the members, who was an expert in this particular line, said there were only fifteen monumental brasses in Shropshire. I should like to see this statement verified. I suspect that there are more, and I am glad to note our Society is reproducing the brasses in its publications. In the British Museum there are two magnificent volumes of the sepulchral monuments of Shropshire by Williams. I do not know whether the work is absolutely perfect ; but certainly since his time many more might be added. A most valuable aid would be afforded to local history if the illustrations in these volumes could be reproduced on such a scale as to be included in a portable volume. In such a volume we should have an interesting evidence of the changes in religion, ideas, and taste. I have now lightly touched on many points, but by no means exhausted the subject, not for the purpose of criticising what we have done and are doing, but with the object of pointing out what an immense storehouse of material we have still within our reach ; and the trained antiquaries in this room are well aware of the many departments of our work to which I have not alluded to at all. (Applause).

On the motion of Mr. H. SANDFORD, seconded by Mr. CLEMENT SOUTHAM, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Stanley Leighton for his interesting address, after which the meeting terminated.

THE ANNUAL EXCURSION.

The Annual Excursion in connection with the Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society took place on Wednesday, June 17th, 1896, and although the pleasure of the outward journey was somewhat marred owing to the rainfall during the morning, the excursion was exceedingly interesting and enjoyable. A very attrac-

tive programme had been arranged, and the party included the Rev. T. Auden, F.S.A., Miss Auden, Miss Corser, the Rev. A. Thursby Pelham, Mr. W. Phillips, F.L.S., Mr. Humphrey Sandford, the Rev. J. Neale, Captain Williams-Freeman, Mr. S. Clement Southam, Mr. L. A. C. Southam, Mr. George Griffiths, Weston, Mr. E. Griffiths, Mr. Herbert Southam, Mr. Richard Phillips, Mr. J. Nurse, Mr. W. Bowdler, and Mr. F. Goyne (Secretary). The rain in the early morning had the effect of deterring a number of members from joining the excursion. The party met at the Shrewsbury Railway Station at ten o'clock, and travelled in a saloon carriage by the 10-5 train for Church Stretton. On arriving at Church Stretton, although there was a heavy downpour of rain, the excursionists entered the carriages which were in waiting at the station, and a move was made for Longville by way of Hope Bowdler and Wall. A heavy mist hung over the hills. On approaching Longville the rain abated, and the party alighting proceeded across the fields and through the woods to

WILDERHOPE,

which was formerly the seat of the Smallmans, but is now used as an ordinary farmhouse. It dates from the latter part of the 16th century, and has some very elaborate plaster ceilings. When all had assembled in the large "kitchen," the Rev. T. Auden read the following short paper on Wilderhope, which had been prepared by the Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, F.S.A.:—

The early history of Wilderhope is given in Eyton's *Antiquities*, vol. iv., p. 100, &c. There is also a description of the house in Mrs. Stackhouse Acton's *Castles and Mansions of Shropshire*, p. 44. The house is an interesting and well-preserved specimen of a stone house built in the latter end of Elizabeth's reign. According to Mrs. Stackhouse Acton, it was finished in the year 1593. The building is entirely of stone, with some beautiful plaster ceilings, the details of which it is difficult to make out, owing to the ceilings having been whitewashed over. The initials "FS." occur in the centre of a circle, with a legend which looks like "IST. VEM. AN. DROIT. V." round the circle. The initials "FS." and "ES." occur four times, also "IESU" in a shield, fleur-de-lis, portcullis, roses, and three feathers (Prince of Wales's). Mrs. Acton states that the motto is "Mal mea Dea est," also "ES. FS. RS. 1601," but I have not found RS. 1601, nor can I follow her reading of the motto. In a small panelled room adjoining the kitchen is the date 1672, and the letters "T. S. I." on panelling over the fireplace, thus showing when the room was panelled, and who did the work. There may have been an inscription outside the house over the front door, but if so, constant painting and whitewashing have obliterated it, if there ever were any. The house was, if not erected, at all events renovated by Francis Smalman of Wilderhope, who was buried at Rushbury, 25th July, 1599, and whose will was proved in the P.C.C. on 3rd August, 1599. The letters "FS." and "ES." on the plastered ceilings evidently

stand for this Francis Smalman and Ellen his wife. He had no legitimate issue, but by his will he "gave the glass in the windows of the house wherein he dwelt at Wilderhope to his nephew Stephen Smalman." He did not dispose of Wilderhope in his will, so probably he held it only as tenant to his brother Thomas Smalman, of Elton. This Thomas Smalman, who is described in his will as "of the Inner Temple, esq.," died 22 June, 1590, and was buried in the Inner Temple Church. By his will, which was proved in the P.C.C. on 2nd March, 1590, he devised his lands in Wilderhop and in Rushburie, which he had purchased from Rowland Lacon, Esq., and Richard Parramore, to his son Stephen in tail male, with remainders over to his other sons; and directed that his brother Francis should have a lease of the lands in Wilderhope for such a term as Stephen should grant him. From an Inquisition taken after the death of Thomas Smallman on 9 January, 1590-1, it appears that Francis Smallman had a lease of a messuage and lands in Wilderhope, formerly Richard Parramore's, for 40 years from Michaelmas 1584; and that Thomas Smallman in 1583 levied a fine and purchased the reversion of these premises from Richard Parramore, and also the farm of Wildertop and lands there from Rowland Lacon, Esq. He thus became possessed of the Manor of Wilderhope; and in 1586 he bought Nether Stanway and Neenton.

The initials "T.I.S." in the small panelled room refer to Thomas Smalman (great-grandson of Thomas referred to) and Jane his wife, a daughter of Sir Richard Prince. Thomas was a lieutenant in the Royalist army, and compounded for his delinquency in May, 1649, and on 23rd June was fined £140, which he paid on 6th Aug., 1650. He afterwards lived at Neenton, where he was buried 4th December, 1693. He must not be confounded with his uncle, the celebrated Major Thomas Smallman, of whom Mr. Wm. Phillips has given a full account in the "Ottley Papers," printed in the *Transactions*. Wilderhope was finally sold in 1720 to Thomas Lutwyche, of Lutwyche. It now belongs to Mrs. Hippisley.

The Smallmans are a family of great antiquity in Corvedale. One Richard Smallman held lands in Long Stanton as early as 1229. Richard, son of John Smalemon of Shipton, occurs in connection with land in Thonglands in 1315; and in 1327 he was assessed to the Subsidy in respect of lands in Rushbury and Shipton.

Mr. Auden announced that since he had left home Mr. Griffiths of Weston, had put into his hands a copy of a letter written by the late Rev. John Wakefield, Vicar of Hughley, to Lord Bradford, which contained some particulars which he had gathered in reference to his own parish.

He first referred to a rock near Wilderhope, called "Ippikin's Rock," which, he asserted, was the last of three on the Wenlock Edge, above the Lower Hill Farm, and lay in the direction of Church Stretton. Ippikin was a famous robber, and not very sparing of human life when it seemed to stand in the way of his "professional" success. He lived in a cave near the top of a rock, which was very

difficult of access, with a large band of followers. Lights were often seen in the cave by the people of the valley, but as there were a number of large forests around which were the resort of robbers, the peaceable people of the district were not much induced to provoke their displeasure by meddling with them. He was, however, killed at last, and his ghost was said to haunt the favourite rocks for some time after. An old inhabitant had stated that his father could remember when a large portion of the Kenley, Preen, and Cardington parishes was a thick wood or forest, and squirrels could jump from tree to tree from one end to the other. Another matter of interest in the letter was the reference made to "The Major's Leap."

After a battle, either of Bridgnorth or Worcester, a soldier of the Royalist party, Major Smallman, being pursued by a party of Parliamentarians, fled in the direction of Much Wenlock, in the hope of reaching his own house at Wilderhope, near Lutwyche, by tiring his pursuers. Being too closely followed to entertain any hope of escaping them he rode to the top of Wenlock Edge, and leaped from a rock which is situated near Blakeway Farm. The Parliamentarians, supposing him to have been killed by the fall, and not being able to learn the result except by going miles round, rode away. A crabtree broke his fall, but caused the death of his horse. The major escaped unhurt, climbed along the rock through the wood, and made his escape under cover of the Edge and the wood to his own house at Wilderhope.

Mr. Auden remarked that in reading the letter he had inverted the terms, since Mr Wakefield had described Major Smallman as a Parliamentarian, which was quite enough to cause his ghost to walk, for it was clear he was a Royalist. (Laughter).—A conversation took place as to the plaster work on the ceilings, and it was pointed out that at the period from which it dated there was one set of Italians who did the ceilings.

After examining other portions of the interesting old house, the walk was continued through the fields to

LUTWYCHE,

originally belonging to the family of that name, and now the property of R. B. Benson, Esq. On arriving at Mr. Benson's delightful residence the visitors were invited by Mr. and Mrs. Benson to partake of light refreshments before examining the various objects of interest which the building contains. A stone cup, found in the neighbourhood of Lutwyche, and which was said to belong to the Neolithic age, was exhibited by Mr. Benson. Mr. Auden said he had had an opportunity of showing the cup at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, and the general opinion was that it is British. It was found, in sinking a well, at Longville, in blue clay, 30 feet below the surface. It was very curious and interesting. Mr. Phillips pointed out that the doubt which existed as to the cup being British was due to the fact that it was found in a deep deposit of clay.

Mr. Benson then gave a brief description of Lutwyche, which dates in part from 1587. In front of the house are the letters and figures—"E. L., 1587." The house was built about that year by Sir Edward Lutwyche. The plaster decorations in the hall were very fine, and were probably done by Italian artists in the 17th or beginning of the 18th centuries. About 1776 the house and estate passed out of the hands of Lutwyche, and were owned by a Mr. Langford. The house was then of red brick and gabled, as it is now, but Mr. Langford covered it with stucco. His (Mr. Benson's) grandfather removed the stucco from the walls, and took up the court-yard in adding two rooms. Lutwyche was purchased by his (Mr. Benson's) great-great-grandfather about the year 1806. When the house was restored there were enough of the old bricks to be used outside, but the builder thought he was doing the right thing by using the old bricks inside and the new ones outside. (Laughter). Mr. Benson then described some interesting paintings, including Captain Riou Benson, who was killed at the battle of Copenhagen, Judge Lutwyche, and others.

On leaving Lutwyche, Mr. and Mrs. Benson accompanied the party in the carriages to Easthope Church, where they were met by the Rev. J. O. Crosse, the son of the Vicar. There was a church here as early as 1291, when it was valued at under £4 per annum, and paid 3s to the Vicar of Cound, but nothing of so early a date remains in the present building except the font. The east window is decorated, and in the south wall is a low side window of the 14th or 15th century, with the hinge still *in situ*. The woodwork is especially noticeable. The pews bear the inscription:—"Edward Ball of London gave this pulpitt and pewes to this parishe wheare he was borne: June: 28: Anno Domini: 1623." Opposite to this is:—"It is God that worketh in us both to will and also to worke: even of good will: E.B.: June: 28: Anno Domini: 1623." The most remarkable feature of the church is the ancient hour-glass, which is on iron scroll-work four inches in height, and six inches in breadth. The height of the glass is eight inches. To the middle is attached, projecting at right angles, an iron plate bearing the date 1662. The front and lower margins represent sections of Gothic mouldings. In the centre is a heart-shaped perforation, with a perforated "S" shape marking on each side. At the point where the date-bearing plate unites with the stand is a fleur-de-lis. The stand and glass are suspended from the pulpit by a strong twisted iron bent bracket arm. In the churchyard, under a yew tree, are two ancient crosses, said to mark the graves of two monks of Wenlock. Little is known of the history of Easthope Church. Its patronage in early days was in the hands of the lord of the manor. In 1383 William Garmston was deprived of the benefice, he having murdered John de Easthope, the patron. In 1777 the advowson passed to the Lutwyche family.

Before leaving the churchyard Mr. Auden tendered, on behalf of the visitors, thanks to Mr. Crosse, for accompanying them in the church. He at the same time expressed their deep thanks to

Mr. and Mrs. Benson for their kindness and hospitality. After the miserable drive they had, it was a pleasant "haven of rest" when they found themselves at Lutwyche.

The carriages then proceeded past Larden (the residence of Mr. R. J. More, M.P.), and the Moor House, and a halt was made at

SHIPTON HALL,

which is now unoccupied. It is a most delightful place. In 1549 the Manor of Shipton, which had belonged to the Prior of Wenlock, was devised by John Lutwyche to his cousin, Edward Mytton, of Worcester; but William Mytton, who was Sheriff in 1456, is described as of Shipton. The hall was for many generations the seat of the Myttons, and is a fine specimen of the architecture of Elizabeth's reign. Shipton Church, close to the hall, and which has the unusual feature of an Elizabethan chancel, was not entered, as the key was kept at a distance of a mile from the church. The Church was originally a chapelry of Wenlock Abbey, and after the Dissolution, was granted to Sir Thomas Palmer, Knight, subject to the payment of 53s. 4d. for the stipend of one chaplain for the cure and other observances celebrated at Shipton. He was executed for treason in Queen Mary's reign. From Shipton the drive was continued to

HOLGATE.

Here the church contains a fine Norman doorway, and a remarkable font, dating from the same period. Near the church is a large artificial mound, probably marking an early settlement, and adjoining are the remains of the mediæval castle originally founded by Helgot, one of William the Conqueror's followers, and last used as a garrison of the Royalists in the Civil War. In *Domesday* Holgate was called Stanton. Henry I. was entertained at Holgate by Herbert Fitz Benevento, on his way home from the Crusades. Later it passed to Thomas Mauduit, who had licence in 1232 for a weekly market. In 1253 the Baron had his own Court and his own gallows. About 1258 Holgate was alienated to Richard Plantagenet, King of the Romans, who conveyed it to the Knight Templars, who had a settlement at Lidley (Cardington). In 1284 it was held by Bishop Barnell, and in 1292 the old castle was not valued, because it yielded nothing. It passed later through the Lovels to the Duke of Norfolk. Leland says: "Holgate Castle standeth under Clee hilles . . . the Duke of Norfolk exchanged it for other lands with Mr. Dudley." It was too dilapidated in 1645 to be worth holding by the Parliament; but was earlier held for the king. With regard to Holgate Church, Mr. Auden explained that it had three prebends in 1210—the first and third were in the hands of the Abbot of Shrewsbury, and the second in the hands of the Lord of Holgate. In 1290 Richard de Eyton, prebendary of Holgate, gave Bishop Swinfield oats and hay

when at Stanton Lacy and Stokesay. The church is mainly Norman, with windows of a later period. The west tower was added in the 13th century, the lower part being Early English, and the upper part Perpendicular. In the west wall there is a curious opening. The church has lately been restored, and Mr. Auden said he was glad to see that its interesting features had not been destroyed in the restoration.

After leaving Holgate the drive was continued to Church Stretton, and the party returned in the saloon carriage to Shrewsbury, by the 6-55 p.m. train. The expedition was greatly enjoyed by all, and the arrangements made by Mr. Auden and the secretary (Mr. Goyne) greatly enhanced the pleasure of the excursion.

SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL

AND

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	£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand of Treasurer, Jan. 1, 1895	...	4	10
„ Members' Subscriptions	...	159	10
		0	0

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
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„ Messrs. Adnitt and Naulton, part payment of Account	...	15	0
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„ Rents, Rates, and Tithe, Wroxeter	...	4	8
„ Rev. W. G. D. Fletcher, Postage Stamps and Carriage of Parcels, as Editor...	...	1	0
„ Postage Stamps, General Correspondence, Calling Meetings, Collecting Subscriptions, &c. ...	...	2	13
„ Posting <i>Transactions</i> to Members and Carriage of Parcels	...	6	11
„ Commission	...	7	19
„ Subscriptions to Congress of Archæological Societies 1894 and 1895	...	2	0
„ Annual Excursion Deficit	...	0	3
„ Balance in hand of Bankers, Dec. 31, 1895	...	4	3
		164	0
		7	7

March 24, 1896. Examined and found correct,

(Signed), E. CALVERT.

Auditor.

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