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

The Society does not hold itself responsible for the Statements, Opinions, or Errors of Authors of Papers.

The MS. Indexes to the Names of Persons and Places that are mentioned in the First Series of the *Transactions* (Vol. I. to XI.) have been bound in five volumes, and are deposited at the Shrewsbury Free Library, where they can be seen at any time by Members.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

Any Member of the Society may obtain for his own use the first seven volumes of the Second Series of the *Transactions* at half price, viz., Three and a half Guineas per set, and the eleven volumes of the First Series (of which very few copies now remain) at Six Guineas per set. Application for copies should be made to Mr. F. GOYNE, Dogpole, Shrewsbury.

THE PROVOSTS AND BAILIFFS OF SHREWSBURY.

BY THE LATE MR. JOSEPH MORRIS.

THE following Account of the Provosts and Bailiffs of Shrewsbury is extracted from the MS. Shropshire Genealogical Collections of the late Joseph Morris of Shrewsbury, in ten folio volumes, and it is now printed in the Shropshire Archæological Society's *Transactions* by the kind permission of Edmund Cresswell Peele, Esq., J.P., D.L., to whom these valuable MSS. belong, and who has caused the transcripts to be made. It is entitled in the printed list of Mr. Morris's collections,—“Some Account of the Provosts, Bailiffs, Mayors, Recorders, Stewards, Town Clerks, and Burgesses of the Parliament for the Borough of Shrewsbury.”

Mr. William Phillips has kindly contributed the following biographical sketch of the author :—

JOSEPH MORRIS.

Joseph Morris, of Shrewsbury, was the son of Mr. John Morris of that town, by his wife Ann, daughter of Mr. George Vaughan, and was born April 24, 1792, and baptized at St. Chad's Church, June 3rd. At the age of fourteen he was apprenticed for seven years to the firm of Messrs. Joshua and William Eddowes, the proprietors of the *Salopian Journal*, and on the completion of his term of service became manager of the business, and editor of the paper, which at the time was the Conservative organ of the county, and consequently had a large circulation. In this capacity he was brought in contact with all the leading families of the district, and well informed on all social, religious, and political questions of the day, especially as they affected Shropshire.

In 1840, Mr. Morris after twenty six years connexion with the *Salopian Journal*, relinquished his position, and entered the office of Messrs. Loxdale and Peele, Solicitors, as cashier,

and the same year was elected Clerk of the Court of Requests, which office he held until that Court was abolished by an order in Council, in March, 1847, when he was awarded compensation by the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury. During the twenty years he was with Messrs. Loxdale and Peele his attention to business was most punctual, and the only time he had for his favourite pursuit—genealogy—was before and after his office hours.

Mr. Morris had soon acquired a high position in the estimation of his townsmen as a capable man of business, which led to his services being sought for many posts of usefulness and responsibility. He was chosen as Assessor in the interest of the Conservatives of the Municipal Revision Court; Chairman of the Directors of the Shrewsbury Poor Incorporation; and Churchwarden of the extensive parish of St. Chad, being one of the administrators of the numerous Charities of that important parish.

Outside these various occupations, he diligently devoted his leisure hours to the study of the history of his native county, and especially the genealogy of its families. In order to qualify himself more fully for this work, he sought access to every source of information within his reach: the County and Borough archives; the family papers and deeds in possession of the office with which he was connected; pedigrees in the possession of private houses; and Church Registers of not only this but of adjacent counties were the objects of his researches. The measure of his zeal and industry is supplied to us by the numerous and careful transcripts of scarce and valuable MSS. which he left behind him at his death. He rarely went beyond those which threw light on Shropshire and North Wales, and in so doing he acted wisely, as by concentrating his attention on a moderate field of research he was able to work it more thoroughly; hence his accuracy can be rarely challenged. To Joseph Morris, and his elder brother, George, who pursued similar lines of investigation, the students of local history and genealogy owe an unspeakable debt of gratitude. They were both chiefly known as extensive and careful transcribers and compilers, though they both contributed articles on biography and history to various publications of their day.

Joseph Morris inserted a clause in his will requiring his trustees to make the offer of his writings in the first place to the British Museum at a certain valuation, and if refused by that institution they were to be sold publicly. Although Sir Fredrick Madden, K.C., who was then head of the department, advised their purchase, they were declined. The Shropshire collection, consisting of ten large folio volumes, were purchased by the late Mr. Joshua John Peele of Shrewsbury, and the Welsh collection by the late Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart.

Mr. Morris married, February 12th, 1815, Elizabeth Abbot, by whom he had an only son, John, who died March 25th, 1825, aged nine years. He died April 19th, 1860, aged 68, and was buried in the General Cemetery, Shrewsbury. A short eulogistic memoir of him appeared in *Eddowes's Journal*, of which he had formerly been the editor, and another in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle*, then the organ of the Whigs, in which was a sharp criticism of his political career, but it concluded with the following passage:—"While we speak thus of his political bias and feelings, which his friends will admit were tinged strongly with extreme zeal, if not bigotry, we willingly bear our testimony to his honour as a man, and his ability as a scholar. He knew the Welsh language critically, was an admirable genealogist, an antiquarian of no mean attainments, and whose stores of knowledge were ever available to those who sought them. With his intimate friends and acquaintance he was cheerful and pleasant, and ready to pour out the funds of information stored in his retentive memory."

There is also a brief notice of him in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, of September, 1869.

We give below a list of his MSS., taken from a printed list preserved in the Shrewsbury Free Library, vol. 492.

JOSEPH MORRIS'S GENEALOGICAL MANUSCRIPTS CONNECTED WITH SALOP AND THE PRINCIPALITY OF WALES.

Lot I. SALOP.—Ten Large Folio Volumes, comprising
The Heralds' Visitation of Shropshire, 1623.

The Visitation of Shropshire made by Ric. Lee, Richmond Herald, taken in 1564 and 1584.

Notes and Additions from the Visitations of Lewis Dwnn, Deputy Herald for the Principality of Wales and the Marches thereof in the Reigns of Queen Elizabeth and King James I., and other sources.

Continuations and further Pedigrees from Public and accredited Private Authorities to the year of Mr. Morris's death.

Some account of the Provosts, Bailiffs, Mayors, Recorders, Stewards, Town Clerks, and Burgesses of the Parliament for the Borough of Shrewsbury.

Brief Notices relating to the Masters of Shrewsbury School, with a Summary of the History of that foundation.

Translations, Extracts, &c., from old Deeds and other valuable information as to several villages, estates, and families connected with Shropshire.

Valued at £630.

Lot II. WALES.—The Salusbury Pedigrees. In two vols., 4to. Collections made respectively by Owen Salusbury of Rug, and John Salusbury of Erbistock, between the years 1630 and 1677, or thereabouts.

Additions by other hands. Transcribed by Joseph Morris from the original MS., late in the possession of Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., but destroyed by fire at Wynnstay, 6 March, 1858, and consequently this transcript is presumed to be the only copy.

Additions from Family Pedigrees, and MSS. belonging to David Pennant of Downing, Richard Lloyd of Chester, and the Cae Cyrriog MS., and from Municipal Parish Records.

Valued at £18.

THE CEDWYN MANUSCRIPT. In one Quarto vol.

The *Manafon Manuscript Pedigrees*, partly in English and partly in Welsh, belonging to Rev. Walter Davies, A.M., Rector of Manafon, Co. Montgomery. Transcribed by J. J. Kerry, 1828-9.

Mr. Morris's Transcript

Valued at £18.

THE TAICROESION MANUSCRIPT. In one vol. 4to.

A collection of Pedigrees by John Ellis of Taicroesion, circa 1723. Transcribed from the MSS. in the possession

- of W. Williams, Beaumaris, with many additions by J. Morris. Valued at £27.
- PEDIGREES OF RADNORSHIRE, FLINTSHIRE, AND DENBIGH-SHIRE FAMILIES. One vol. 4to.
 Selections from the Original Visitation of those counties by Lewis Dwnn, with additions to the Flintshire Pedigrees by another hand *circa* 1620. Morris's Transcript was from a MS. belonging to John Madocks of Fron Iw and Glan-y-Wern. Valued at £27.
- VISITATION OF CAERMARTHENSHIRE, PEMBROKESHIRE, AND CARDIGANSHIRE. By Lewis Dwnn, Deputy Herald. In two vols. 4to.
 Morris's Transcript from the above belonging to John Madocks of Fron Iw and Glan-y-Wern, in 1831. Valued at £50.
- TRANSCRIPT OF WELSH PEDIGREES. One vol. 4to.
 From a certified copy in the possession of Edward Evans of Eyton Hall, near Leominster, Co. Hereford, which formerly belonged to that gentleman's ancestor, the Right Rev. Humphrey Humphreys, D.D., Bishop of Hereford. Copied in 1829. Valued at £14.
- TRANSCRIPT from a MS. in the handwriting of William Lewis of Llysnewydd, Co. Caermarthen, the property of Edward Protheroe, Esq., M.P. for Evesham. To Morris's Transcript he has added several Pedigrees, in 1830. One vol. 4to. Valued at £14.
- TRANSCRIPT from an original MS. (in the handwriting of Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt) in the possession of W. W. E. Wynne of Peniarth. 1 vol. 4to. Transcribed in 1830. Valued at £10.
- PEDIGREES, copied from MS. belonging to D. Jones Lewis of Gylfach, Co. Caermarthen, by J. Morris. 1 vol. 4to. Valued at £14.
- LLYFR SILIN, Yn cynnwys Achau Amryw Deuluoedd, yn Ngwynedd, Powys, &c. 1 vol. 4to.
 Transcribed by J. Morris. Furnishes valuable information of many ancient Families in North Wales, Powys, &c. Valued at £12.

TRIALS OF ESTATES. 1 vol. 4to.

The Hendwr Estates, &c., Merionethshire, Lloyd v. Passingham. Salop Assizes, 1826. Arms.

The Llandisilio and Llanlloddian Estates, in co. Denbigh and Montgomery, with descent of Major Harrison and others.

The Woodhall, &c., Estates, Salop, late the property of Thomas Woolley. Salop Assizes, 1825. Arms.

Valued at £5.

A COLLECTION OF PEDIGREES by Thomas ap Evan of Trebryn, in the Parish of Coychurch, Co. Glamorgan, compiled 1683, with many additions by Morris. 1 vol. folio.

Valued at £10.

TRANSCRIPT OF A MS. AT YNYSYMAENGWYN AND GWYDIR, to which are added transcripts of Miscellaneous Pedigrees from a MS. belonging to W. W. E. Wynne, supposed to be in the handwriting of Randle Holmes, and further additions from Mr. Pennant's and Mr. Lloyd's MSS.

Also Pedigree of Eddowes and other families. 1 vol. folio.

Valued at £12.

15 TRIBES OF NORTH WALES. 1 vol. folio.

Also Brochwel Ysgithrog; Ririd Flaidd; Cadrod Hardd; Rhiwallon ab Cynfyn, and divers others.

Valued at £5.

A VALUABLE COLLECTION OF PEDIGREES, relating to numerous families of the Principality of Wales, from MSS. belonging to Edward Protheroe, M.P., with a quantity of miscellaneous information relating to Wales and Salop added by Mr. Morris.

Valued at £12.

A MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTION OF PEDIGREES, in two vols., relating to Shropshire and Welsh families.

Abstracts of Deeds, Papers, and Writings relative to the Kynaston, Barker, and Corbet estates, dated 1735.

SUNDRIES, 4to.

Welsh Pedigrees, and Monumental Inscriptions from Welsh Churches, and English families.

Valuation of the whole, £923.

[p. 3765.]¹

SHREWSBURY.

The Ancient History of Shrewsbury generally has been so ably elucidated by Messrs. Owen and Blakeway that little can be added to their interesting statements. But with regard to its Municipal affairs, the accounts of those who have filled office in the town have been little more, hitherto, than a mere list of names and dates. I shall therefore, at least, be pardoned for endeavouring to collect from every authentic source to which I could obtain access, such memoranda relative to those who have filled places of honour and trust in my native town, as may tend to throw light on the history and more accurate local position of them or their families.

Of the Saxon period nothing has reached us relative to those inhabitants who had a local position here, excepting the names of 23 persons who filled the office of minters here under the Saxon Princes, and of these we have merely the *Christian* names; in fact, at that period there were no surnames.

When Roger Earl of Shrewsbury first took up his abode here, he appointed Warrin the Bald, one of his boldest and most discreet Norman followers, to be the *presidatum* or governor of the town, and gave to the said Warrin his niece Aimeria in marriage. This Warrin was the ancestor of the Fitz-Warrins of Alberbury and Wittington. The duties of Warrin, however, extended over the county generally, which he had in charge from the Earl, and he was, on the whole, rather the Sheriff of the County than the mere Governor of the Town of Shrewsbury, and the successors in his position have always been considered as holding the Shrievalty of Shropshire.

Over the Burgesses of the town, therefore, for mere local purposes, it became necessary to appoint another officer who is styled in the records of that period *Præpositus*, a term best rendered in English by that of Provost, who appears to have been at first little more than a collector of the rents payable by the Burgesses to the Norman Earls, and to have held his office during life, or at least, as long as he was able to give satisfaction therein to his patrons.

The names of those so appointed that have reached us by record are as follows :—

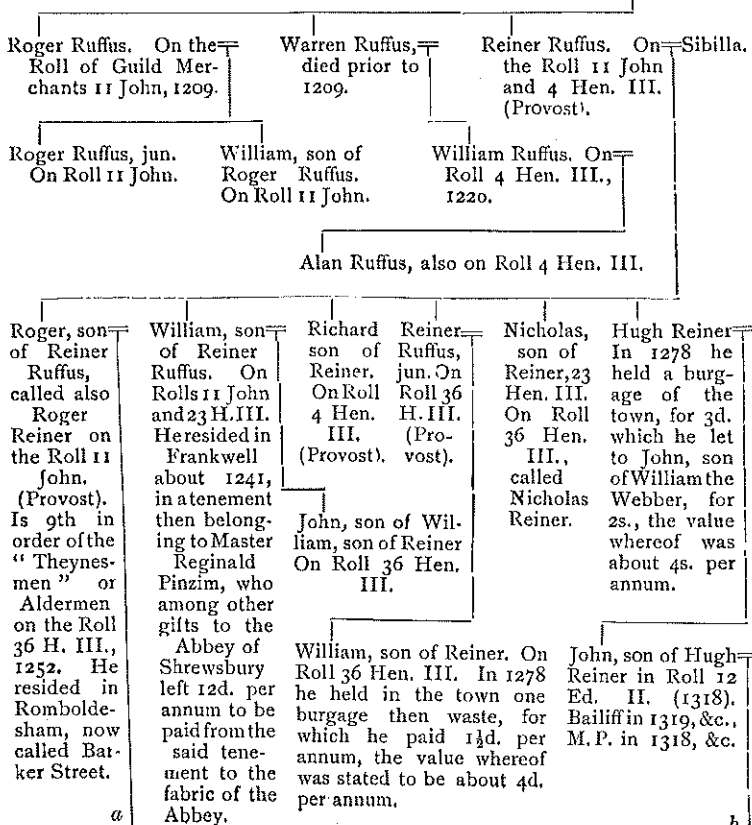
¹ The numbers placed within brackets refer to the pages in the original MS.

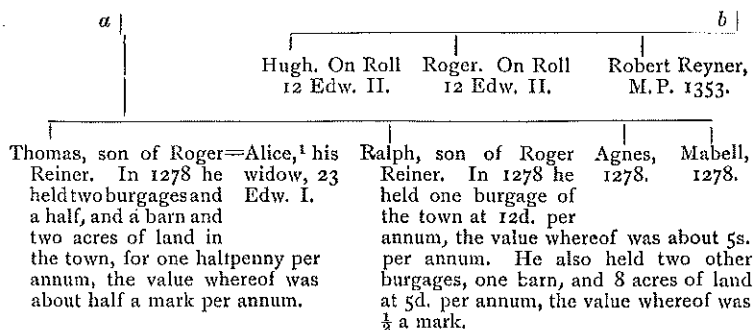
REINER *the Provost*, or, as he is sometimes called, the Prefect, who gave lands in the town fields of Shrewsbury to the Abbey of Shrewsbury, in the time of Henry the First.

ROBERT *the Prefect*, son of Andrew the Clerk. He bequeathed to the same monks all his land in the town fields after his mother's death.

AILRIC RUFFUS, supposed to be the person sometimes called *Edric the Provost*. He gave to the same monks other lands in the said fields. Several persons bearing the surname or addition of *Ruffus* were among the principal inhabitants and earliest provosts of the town, and their position and connection with each other I have thus traced on our early records:—
[p. 3766.]

AILRIC OR EDRIC RUFFUS, THE PROVOST.

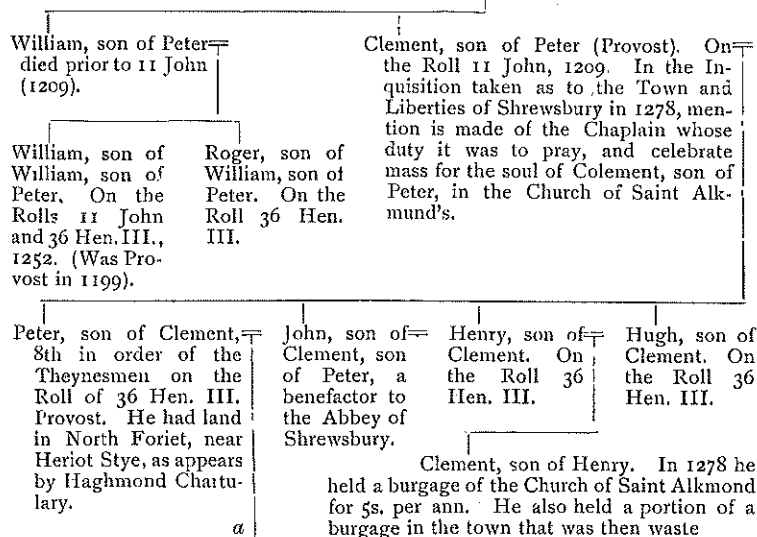




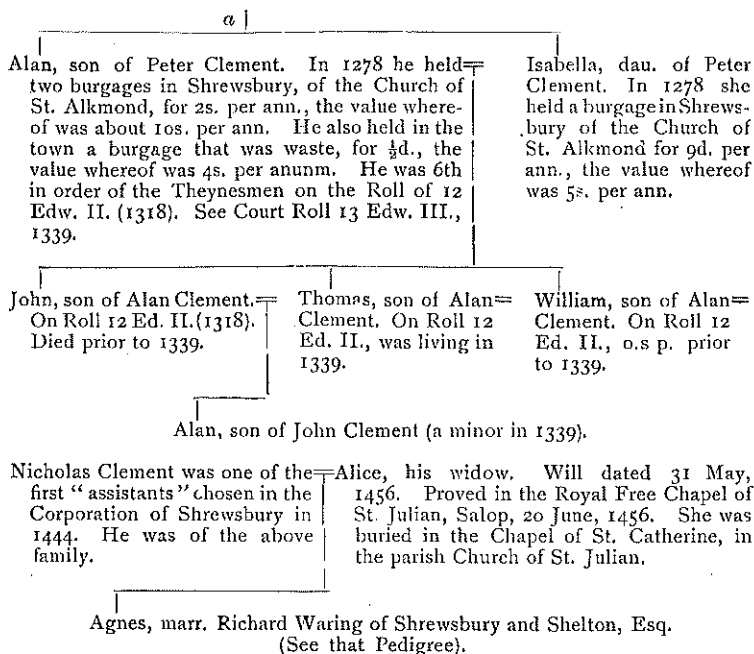
PETER *the Provost*. Messrs. Owen and Blakeway conjecture that "Peter the Provost" was brother of "John, son of Clement, son of Peter, Burgess of Shrewsbury, which John was a benefactor to the Abbey." This, however, could not be. The fact is, that "Peter, Burgess of Shrewsbury," was "Peter the Provost." He died prior to 1209, and among those who jointly held the office of Provost was his son Clement. The members of the family stand thus upon the Records:—

[p. 3767.]

PETER (the Provost).=



¹ Among the Cole evidences there is a grant from Alice, widow of Thomas Reyner of Salop, to William Prynce of Salop, cissor, of a piece of land in Romboldesham, lying between the Stone House, once belonging to Roger Reyner, and the land of Thomas Colle. The grant is dated 23 Edw. I., 1295.



THOMAS *the Provost*. He is named with other Burgesses of Shrewsbury on the Plea Roll of Michaelmas Term, 1201, as having previous to that date been parties in a suit against Stephen de Pimbeley, as to certain land in Pimbeley (Pimley) claimed by the latter.

[p. 3768.]

RICHARD RUSTICUS appears to have been the last person recorded as holding the office of Provost singly. He was also, probably, the first who held it jointly with another person. As we find that the Burgesses of Shrewsbury were first empowered to elect two of their body to the joint office of Provost in the first year of King John's reign, 1199, and that Richard Rusticus, and William son of William, once held that office together, I venture to place them as the Provosts of that year.

1199. RICHARD RUSTICUS and WILLIAM son of WILLIAM. The latter was then a young man. He was grandson of Peter

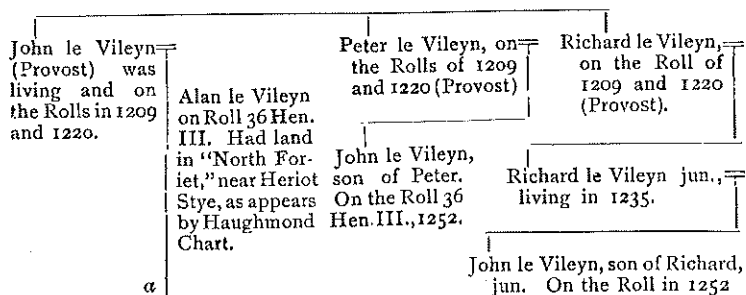
the Provost. The name of Richard Rusticus does not appear on the Roll of 1209, and, doubtless, he was then deceased. His colleague was living in 1252.

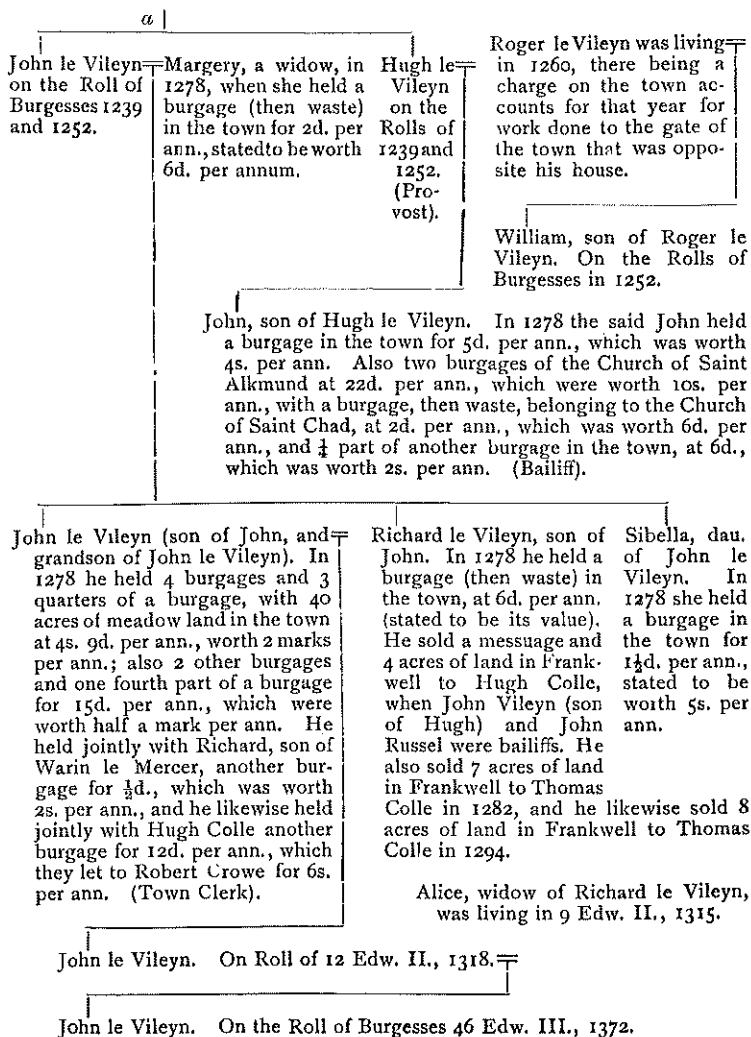
HUGH son of ETHEL, and WARIN son of WILLIAM were, probably, the next in order of the early joint Provosts, for the first named does not appear on the Roll of 1209, being then probably deceased, while the latter is there recorded on the first Roll of that year as "Warin fil. William fil. Odon." He probably resided in Romboldesham, for on the Roll of 23 Henry III. (1239), I find "William¹ son of Warin de Rumaldesham."

WILLIAM son of JOHN, and CLEMENT son of PETER. The first of these also appears to have died previous to 1209. The latter is on the Roll of that year, and will be found named on the page preceding this (*see page 9*), as one of the sons of "Peter the Provost." In the Haughmond Chartulary this William, son of John, is called "William son of William, son of John."

JOHN SEIMBEL and JOHN son of AGNES. The name of John Seimbel appears on the Rolls of 1209 and 1220. His colleague does not seem to have survived to the first of those dates.

JOHN VILLAN and JOHN LOUHE. I do not trace the name of John Louhe on any of the existing Rolls; he therefore, it may be presumed, was not alive in 1209, when our first Roll of Burgesses was made. John Villan appears on that Roll. The family that bore this surname appear to have been of some importance at that period, and afterwards "Roger Lewhe, burgess of Salop," made a grant of lands in Cotton 2 Edward II., 1308.





[p. 3769.]

WARIN INFANS and HUGH son of HUGH HATHEBRONDE. William and Richard, sons of Warin Infans, appear on the Roll of 36 Hen. III., 1252. The first of these might have been William, who in the Inquisition taken in 1278, is called William *le Child*, and he is stated to have held one

burgage and one acre of land in Coleham, at a rent of $\frac{1}{2}$ d., which was worth 4s. per annum. Agnes and Isabel, daughters of Hugh *le Child*, doubtless, of the same family, are stated in that year to have held a burgage in the town for $\frac{1}{2}$ d., which was worth 3s. per annum.

Hugh, son of Hathebronde, appears on the Roll of the 11th John, and he is probably the person above called Hugh son of Hugh Hathebronde. He was, doubtless, the father of William, sometimes called William Hathebronde, and at others William, son of Hathebronde, who is thus variously described on the Rolls of the 16th, 23rd, and 36th Henry III.

John, son of the same William Hathebronde, is on the Rolls of 36 Henry III., 1252; and in 1278 he held a burgage in the town at a rent of 2d. per annum, which was worth 5s. per annum. He also, jointly with Hugh Colle and others, then held a burgage in the town (once the property of "Master Reginald Pinzun") for a rent of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ann., which was worth 12s. per ann. It appears by the Chartulary of Haghmond Abbey that William le Enfant (Infans), above mentioned, had land in Wolferesforlonge (part of Castle Forgate).

ERNALD CORDE and GILBERT son of WIMUNDE. *Ernald Corde* does not appear on the Roll of 1209. It may therefore be inferred that he was not then surviving. John Corde, probably his son, appears on the Roll of 4 Henry III. by the name of John *de Corde*, and on those of the 16th and 23rd years of the same reign by the name of John Corde. In 1278, Alan Corde held a burgage in the town at a rent of 1d. per ann., stated to be worth 4s. per ann. He also held a burgage belonging to the Abbey of Shrewsbury, which burgage was in the town, and he paid for it a rent of $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. per ann., the annual value thereof being stated to be 3s. per ann. Peter Corde also in 1278 held a burgage in the town, then waste, at a rent of 2d., which was stated to be worth 4d. per ann.

Gilbert, son of Wimund, with his sons William and Robert, are on the Roll of 1209. It is there stated that the father of Gilbert was not in the Guild. Wimund, father of Gilbert, was, probably, the person who, in one of the most ancient

deeds of the Cole family, is called "Wiman," son of Wiman de Rooshalle. The deed (which is damaged) relates to the grant by the said Wiman of a messuage and half a virgate of land in Slepe.

[p. 377^o and 377¹.]

RICHARD PRIDE *and* RICHARD ENGLISH. The name of English does not appear (that I have discovered) on our existing records of the period in which Richard English lived. I presume, therefore, he was dead prior to 1209.

Richard Pride is on the Roll of that year, and he was, doubtless, the head of the family of that name, who were for a considerable period of importance in the town as Provosts, Bailiffs, and representatives thereof in Parliament.

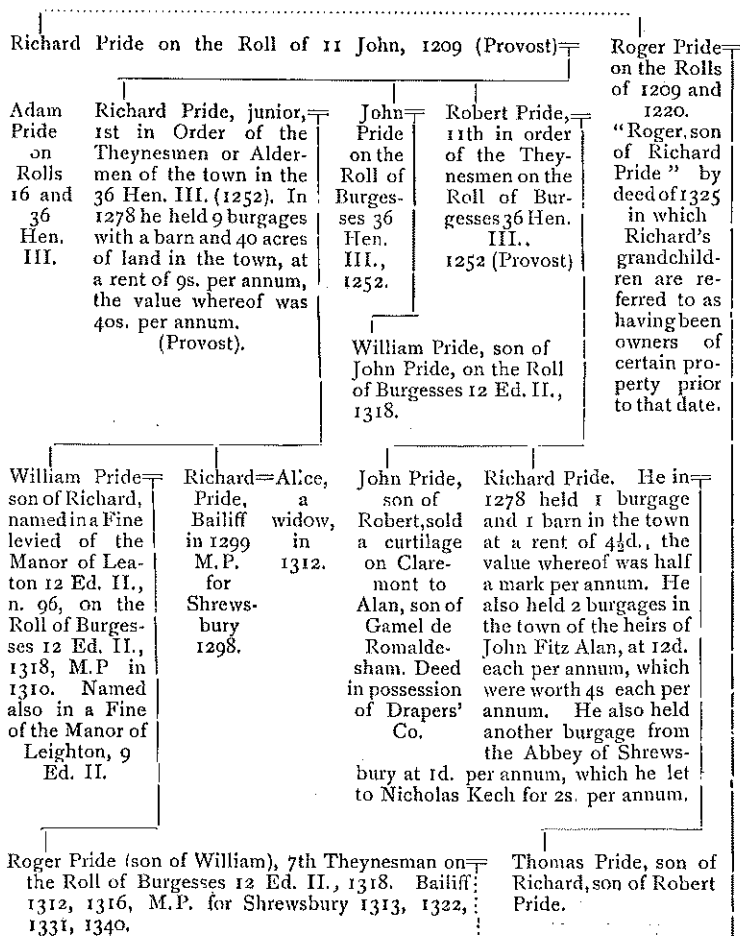
The name of Pride is variously written on the ancient Rolls as Pride, Pryde, *le Pride*, and *le Phrude*. In 1278, the family held numerous tenements and about 220 acres of land *in the town*, being more than any other family held, subject merely to the Crown rent for which the town was liable; consequently they had the freehold of nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of the land within the limits of the town at that period. It is not improbable that to the circumstance of their comparatively great wealth they owed their surname. *Le Phrude* would not be indicative of *pride* in the sense which is now usually understood by that term, but rather of the *gentility*, *wealth*, and *prudence* of the individual. And whoever the ancestor of this respectable family was, it is most likely he was one of the original burgesses of the town that was enabled by his prudence and care to purchase much of the land in the town that had been forfeited to the Crown by the original Norman Earls. Certain it is that Richard Pride and Roger Pride were sons of one who was previously a Burgess or Freeman of the town, as the Roll of 1209 states that they were of those whose fathers were in the Guild.

We do not trace the name of Pride in office in the town lower than the commencement of the 15th century, and we know that the heiress of one of its principal branches carried their part of the family property to William Tour, and from him, by another heiress, it passed to the family of Mytton. Another heiress of a younger branch, Margaret, daughter and heir of Richard Pride, sold the fields in the township of

Cotton, called the "Pride Ditches" (now called the "Purditches"), to John Stury of Shrewsbury, in 1362. She was then the widow of her first husband, Thomas de Drayton.

The sketch hereunder will convey some idea of the early position of this family, who are supposed to have resided in an old stone mansion on the north-west side of *Pride Hill*, near the Butter Cross, part of the remains of which are still to be seen there.

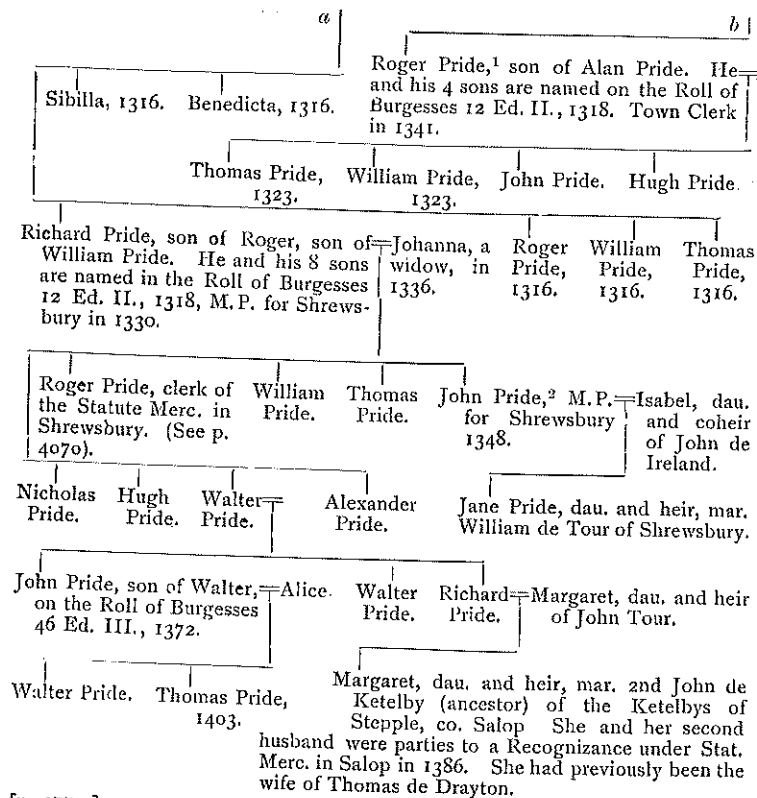
ARMS : Azure, 3 preeds (small lamperns) in pale hauriant, Argent.



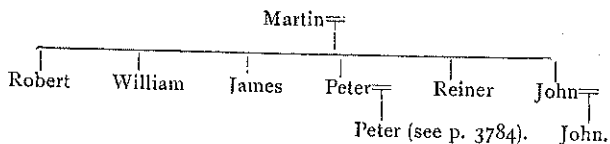
<p>William Pride, Bailiff in 1346, M.P. for Shrewsbury 1337-1338.</p>	<p><i>a</i>: Alice, a widow, 49 Ed. III., and then a party with her son to a Recognizance under Stat. Merc. 1375.</p>
<p>Thomas Pride, Bailiff in 1376, 1380, 1383, 1393, M.P. for Shrewsbury in 1378, 1385, 1390, 1393, 1401, and 1402.</p>	
<p>John Pride, son of Roger Pride of Salop. He in 1278 held the Ville of Edgebold at a rent of 1d. per ann., from Roger Sprenchose, who held the same under Adam Hagur, and the said Adam held it of the heirs of George de Cantelupe, who also held it under Roger de Mortimer.</p>	<p><i>b</i> William Pride. Sibil, mar. Adam Pride,² son of Roger Pride, 2nd Walter of Roger Pride, de la Barre. 36 Hen. III.</p>
<p>John Pride, son of William. He in 1278 held two virgates of land in Pulley at 1d. per ann. from John le Poer, who held the same under Roger Mortimer. He also held 2 burgages and 3 acres of land in Shrewsbury at 2s. per ann., which were worth 10s. per ann. built upon, with two that were waste, one barn and 30 acres of land in the town, at 5s. and 4d. per ann., which were worth 3 marks per ann.</p>	<p>Christian, a widow, 7 Ed. III. Alan Pride, son of Adam Pride, described as "Adam Pride Cleric," i.e., Town Clerk, in Deed of the Drapers' Co. Lucy Pride held in 1278 a burgage in the town at 12d. per annum, the value whereof was half a mark per annum. She also held 3 burgages, 1 barn, and 100 acres of land in the town, at a rent of 8d. per ann., the value whereof was 40s. per annum.</p> <p>Alan Pride (son of Adam, and grandson of Roger Pride). He in 1278 held one messuage and a nook of land in Shelton of Geoffrey de Fuston, on one of the Canons of the Church of St. Chad the Bishop for 10d. per ann., the value whereof was 2s. per ann. He also jointly with two others held a burgage in Frankwell, at a rent of 10½d., which was worth 6s. per ann. Alan le Pride "William le Bor" (Borey) were the two Goldsmiths to whom the care of the dies and the assays of the King's Mint in Shrewsbury were confided 34 Hen. III., 1250.</p>

¹ The above Roger Pride was a draper, and he recovered £10 damages against the Burgesses of Worcester in the Court of the King, 13 Ed. I., for taking toll of his flannels which he had taken to Worcester for sale, thus showing that the Burgesses of Shrewsbury had peculiar privileges at that early period. He held the Manor of Besford under Matilda de Erdington, and sold the same to Robert Corbet of Moreton. (Living in 1316).

² Adam, son of Roger Pride, and Alan, son of the said Adam Pride, sold land on Claremont to Alan, son of Gamel de Romaldesham (see page 3772). Their respective deeds are now among the evidences of the Drapers' Company.



Anno 1209 to —. GAMUL, *alias* GAMEL DE ROMOLDESHAM, and REINER son of MARTIN. The names of both these early Provosts appear on the Roll of 1209. Of the connections of Reiner, son of Martin, I find no mention on any other Roll. There they stand thus:—



¹ The lands of Roger, the son of Alan Pride, "and the house of John Pride," mentioned in a deed of the Drapers' Company 1 Ed. IV. These lands and house were situate on Claremont.—J. M.

² In the 22 Rich. II., 1398, John Pride held half a knight's fee in Yarkhill, in Hereford, under Roger Mortimer, Earl of March.

James, son of Martin, was benefactor of the Abbey of Shrewsbury, to which he left a messuage held by William Golichtly, in the lane called Ullothwithene.

The family of GAMUL, or GAMEL, were for a considerable period of importance in the town. In *Domesday* we find that one "GAMEL" held Upton Parva, in South Bradford, co. Salop, before the Conquest. There is however, nothing to show that he was connected with this Shrewsbury family, whose descent, however, may be thus traced on our ancient records.

ARMS:—Or, 3 hammers (2 and 1) Sable.

Gamel

"Gamel, junior," so called on the Roll of 1209, called also "Gamel de Romoldesham" on the Rolls of 1239 and 1252, on both of which he is marked as having paid all assessments due from him.

Alan, son of Gamel (de Romboldesham) on the Rolls of 1232, 1239, and 1252. He is 6th in order of the Theynesmen on the Roll of 1239. In 1278 he was living, and then held 6 burgages, one barn, and 20 acres of land in the town, at a rent of 12d. per ann., which were worth 20s. per ann. (Bailiff). He appears from various Deeds now in the possession of the Drapers' Co. to have been the purchaser of various lands and tenements in the town.

Richard Gamel. In 1278 he held a bur- gag in the town at 11d. per an., which were worth half a mark per ann. (son of Alan).	John Gamel. In 1278 he held a bur- gag in the town at 11d. per an., which were worth half a mark per ann. (son of Alan).	Juliana Gamel. In 1278 she held a bur- gag in the town at 11d. per an., which were worth half a mark per ann. (son of Alan).
--	---	---

William, son of Alan Gamel, held in 1278 four burgages in the town, which were then waste, at a rent of 25d. per ann., which were worth 3s. per ann.

Mabille, named in a deed (now in the possession of the Drapers' Co.), as wife of William Gamel.

John Gamel (see above) son of Alan, as by deed of Drapers' Co.
Richard, son of Alan Gamel. (Deed of Drapers' Co., see above).

John Gamel, 3rd in order of the Theynesmen on the Roll of Burgesses, 12 Ed. II., 1318, Bailiff in 1293, 1301, 1304, 1305, and 1311.

Thomas Gamel on the Roll of 1318, Bailiff in 1346 and 1353, M.P. in 1336.

α

John Gamel on the Roll of 1318, Bailiff in 1357.

a |

Thomas Gamel, also named on the Roll of 1318 as son of Thomas and grandson of John, and probably was only just then born and baptised. ¹ Died prior to 1379.	William=Edith. Gamel, 1375. 1375.
---	-----------------------------------

John Gamel on the Roll of Burgesses 46 Ed. III., 1372, Bailiff 1413, then called John Gamel, senr. (released to James Dyer tenements in Mardol, 14 Rich. II., 1391), then called "John, son of Thomas Gamel." Deed in possession of Drapers' Co.	Katherine, 1380.	Thomas Gamel, M.P. for Shrewsbury in 1393.
--	------------------	--

John Gamel, Esq., Bailiff in 1424, 1438, 1442, 1447, and 1451, Town Clerk of Shrewsbury temp. Hen. V. and Hen. VI., M.P. in 1425.	Elizabeth, 4 Hen. VI. Deed of Drapers' Co.
---	--

Agnes Gamel, dau. and coheir, mar. John Waring.	Elizabeth Gamel, dau. and coheir of John Gamel.	Robert Bryan, of Barton juxta Humber, co. Lincoln, gent., 2 Ed. IV., 1462. Deed in possession of Drapers' Co.
---	---	---

Walter Bryan gave a bond 6 Oct., 16 Hen. VII, 1500, to abide the award of parties named therein as to lands given by his uncle and aunt, and father and mother, to Degory Wartur. (Drapers' Co. Evidences).

[p. 3773.]

The family of Gamel resided (as we learn from the Burgess Rolls) in that part of the town which was then called "Romoldesham," or "Romboldesham," now known by the name of Barker Street. They followed the trade of masonry, for in the town accounts of the year 1260 there is an entry of £3 paid to John Gamel for building 100 feet of Gatepole wall, which was that part of the town walls at the bottom of Dogpole, and near the top of the Wyle. It is also stated on the same accounts that Alan, son of Gamel (and father of John Gamel), had lent the town for this work seventeen score of free stone from his quarry. Thomas Gamel represented the town in Parliament in 1393. His brother, John Gamel, senior, was Bailiff of the town in 1413, and several times had that office been filled by his ancestors. When the office of "Aldermen" was, by that name, first created in the Corporation in 1444, John Gamel, son of John last named,

¹ This original Deed is in the possession of the Drapers' Company. The feoffees of Thomas Gamel's property, William Bishop and William Boys, chaplains, delivered by deed all the houses, lands, and tenements of which they were such feoffees, to John, son of Thomas Gamel, in the 3rd Rich. II., 1379.

was one of the number. He was also Town Clerk of Shrewsbury, and filled the office (not then considered incompatible) of Bailiff several times, and with him the line of the family in Shrewsbury appears to have terminated, as he left only daughters and coheirs.

We learn from the Cole Evidences that Alan Gamel had lands in Frankwell, adjoining the lands of Hugh Colle; also that John Gamel, son of Thomas, granted (sold) a tenement in Doglane in the 45th Edw. III. to William le Yong of Salop, and another tenement in Shoplatch, in the 47th of Edw. III., to John de Wincesto of Salop. Alan Gamel above named, was a great purchaser of lands and tenements in the town.

It is not improbable that the ancient Cheshire family of Gamul, or Gamel, are derived from the same stock. They trace their descent from William, son of Gamel, or Gamul, whose son Stephen Gamul was of Knighton, in Staffordshire (close to the Shropshire border), in the 24th Edw. I., 1295, and their Arms are: Or, three mallets, sable. See page 4167.

Anno 1209 to —. PETRO VILLANO (i.e., Peter Villanus). See pp. 3768 and 3781.

JOHN CNOTTE. The name of John Cnotte does not occur in Messrs. Owen and Blakeway's list, but he certainly served the office of Provost. A grant from Alan Luvekin, son of Robert, to Roger Russel, of a piece of land in Coleham is witnessed by (*inter alia*) "Petro Villano et Joh'ne Cnotte t'c p'positis Salopbur." The original deed is among the evidences of the Drapers' Company, and they have also a grant from Peter, son of John Cnotte, of a messuage on Claremont, to Alan, son of Gamel of Romaldesham, which is witnessed by (*inter alia*) "Reyno" Porchet and Hugh le Vileyn, then Bailiffs.

ALANO DE SALTO and WARINO VLUHIC. These are also omitted in the lists hitherto published; but as Provosts they are witnesses to a deed in the possession of the Drapers' Company, by which Isolda Phune grants an acre of land in Coleham to Roger Russell.

RICHARD son of ALAN DE SHELTON, is on the Roll of 1268, Warin Vling is on the Roll of 1209, Alan de Salton is on the Roll of 1232.

[p. 3774].

1209 to {REINER RUFFUS. [See page 3766].

— {ROBERT son of WILLIAM. Supposed¹ to be the same with Robert Infans or le Child, who also occurs as colleague of Reiner Ruffus. By neither of these names, however, can I find him on the Roll of 1209. I presume, therefore, he died before that date. Thomas Infant is on that Roll, and by the name of Thomas Infans he appears on subsequent Rolls. William and Richard, sons of Warin Infans, appear on the Roll of 1239, Nicholas Infans is on the Roll of 1252, and on the same Roll I find the name of John, son of Peter *le 'fant*. He was, probably, brother of Warin Infans. See page 3769. Thomas, son of Thomas Infante, had a messuage in Romaldesham, as appears by a Deed in the possession of the Drapers' Company.

{ANDREW, son of HUBERT. See Robert, son of William,

{ROBERT LE CHILD. above, also the note, which proves he was also written as Robert Infante or Robert Infans

Andrew, son of Hubert, is on the Roll of the 11th John, 1209. William Andrew, probably his son, is on the Roll of Burgesses in the 36th Hen. III., 1252, and Hugh Andrew is on the Roll of Burgesses 12 Edw. II., 1318. I do not find any subsequent admission of a Burgess of the surname of *Andrew* on the Rolls, nor of the name of *Andrews*, which is synonymous. There is, however, a family of ancient Freemen bearing the surname of *Andrews*, of whose original admission there is no trace, except they derive from the Burgesses named *Andrew* above mentioned. In the year 1627, Richard Andrews, corvisor, son of Richard Andrews, corvisor, and grandson of Richard Andrews, corvisor, and innkeeper of Shrewsbury, claimed to be a Burgess as of right by descent. His claim was, after examination, admitted on the 24th September, 1627, and all the members of the same family—and they have been very numerous—have been recognised as Freemen by descent from that period. That this family had been of long standing and respectability in the town is clear, for in a MS. collection of local Armorial Bearings made at the close of the 17th century, the Arms assigned to "Richard

¹ I have since this was written seen a Deed of the Drapers' Company, which removes this supposition. It relates to lands in Dogpole, and is witnessed by Robert Infante and Andrew son of Hubert, then Provosts.

Andrews, innkeeper," above named, are "Gules, a saltire vert surmounted by a saltorel Or."

- { ANDREW son of HUBERT. See above.
 { REINER son of RUFFUS. See page 3766.
 { ANDREW son of HUBERT. See above.
 { HENRY son of IVON, *alias* IVO.

The family of Ive or Yoe, as it was variously spelt, descended from Ivo or Ivon, above named, continued to reside in or near Shrewsbury till the commencement of the 17th century. Henry, son of Ivon (sometimes written Ivo, and at others Ive), was with several of his brothers on the Roll of 1209, as will be seen by the following sketch:—

[p. 3775.]

To a Deed of 1388 is affixed a Seal with the legend "S. Thomas Yeo" surrounding a chevron between 3 birds.

Ivon					
Hugh, son of Ivon, on the Roll of 1209.	Henry, son of Ivon, on the Rolls of 1209 and 1219. Pro- vost.	Alan, son of Ivon, on the Rolls of 1209 and 1219.	William, son of Ivon, on the Roll of 1209.	Nicholas, ¹ son of Ivon, 2nd in order of the They- nesmen, on the Roll of 36 Hen. III., 1252.	John, son of Ivon, on the Roll of 23 Hen. III., 1239, 10th in order of the Theynesmen on the Roll of 36 Hen. III., 1252. Provost.

John, son of Nicholas, son of Yvon. He in 1278 held 1 burgage, then waste, and 24 acres of land, also one burgage then built upon, of the town, at a rent of 2s. per annum, and the value whereof was about 8s. per annum. He also held half a burgage at a rent of 12d. per annum, which was worth about 4s. per annum. He likewise held a burgage of the Church of St. Alkmund at 7d. per annum, which was worth half a mark.

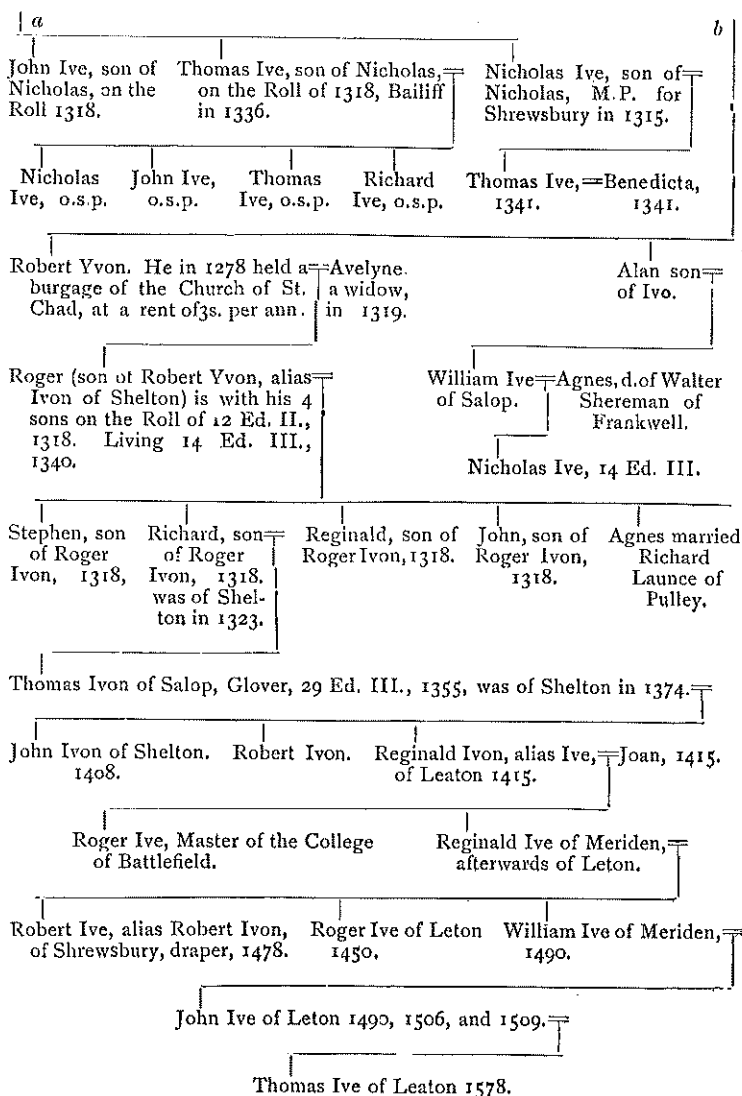
Ivo, son of John. He in 1278 held 5 burgages which were built upon, and 1 burgage then waste, with 20 acres of land and one barn, of the town, at a rent of 18½d. per annum, the value whereof was 20s. per annum, also one burgage at a rent of 1½d. per annum, worth 3s. per annum. He likewise held one burgage of Audulpho le Bracey for 12d. per annum, worth 2s. per annum. (Bailiff) then called "Ivo de Salop."

- Nicholas, son of John, alias Nicholas Yoe, in 1278 held 1 burgage of the town, for 12d. per annum, which was worth 5s. per annum, also 2 burgages of the heirs of John Fitz Alan, at 1½d. per annum, which were worth 4s. per annum. He was 4th in order of the Theynesmen on the Roll of 12 Ed. II., 1318, Bailiff in 1295.
- Hugh, son of John Ive, on the Roll of 1318.

a

b

¹ There was in 1278 a Chaplain whose duty it was to celebrate Mass in the Church of St. Alkmund for his soul.



Roger Yoe of Shelton is witness to a Deed in 1341. Thomas Yvons is witness to a Deed 1374. In 1440, John Launce and Roger Yoe are described as coheirs of Isabel and Joan Launce, daughter of Richard Launce of Pulley, by Agnes, daughter of Roger Yoe of Shelton. (Waring Evidences).

On the Tallage Roll of 7th Edward II., 1313, Nicholas Ive, who served the office of Bailiff in 1295, is taxed (with the

other Burgesses) for his moveable goods, which are stated to be on the Roll in number and value as follows:—Three draught horses, 10s., flesh, 6s. a mazer cup (that is, a cup made of maslin or mixed metal) 4s., two silver cups, 6s., six silver spoons, 6s.. Such were the moveable goods of one who was among the principal burgesses and residents of Shrewsbury at that period. We learn from a grant of land in the Haughmond Chartulary that Nicholas Ive had land in Castle Foregate, near the Castle.

Roger Ive, a member of this family, was Master of the College of Battlefield in 1421, and was a great benefactor to that establishment, as appears by his Will, which is dated in 1444. He was buried near the high altar of Battlefield Church.

Robert Yvon was a draper in Shrewsbury 18 Edw. IV., 1478.

John Ive of Leaton, yeoman, was party to a recognizance under Stat. Merc. in the Exchequer of Shrewsbury 1st Hen. VIII., 1509.

A Deed of John, son of Thomas Yvons of Shelton is dated in 1374. John Yoe of Shelton is witness to a Deed in 1408. In 1440, Roger Yoe, Clerk (doubtless, the Roger above mentioned), grants to Richard Gery of Lee, all the lands, tenements, rents, and services in Shelton, which he had of the gift of John Launce of Pulley, and Roger Yoe of Leton, son of Reginald Yoe of Leton. (From Deeds among the Waring evidences) J. M.

Ivo de Leton is on the Roll of the Guild Merchant of Salop 52 Hen. III., 1268.

[p. 3776.]

1209 to { THOMAS son of WILLIAM.

— { JOHN son of ROBERT.

Thomas son of William is on the Roll of 1209. Of his colleague I find no mention therein. One John son of Robert held several burgages, &c., in 1278, but he could hardly be the colleague of Thomas son of William, who was on the Roll in 1209. Thomas the Provost of Shrewsbury is named in the Plea Roll of Michaelmas Term, 1201. See page 3767.

{ RICHARD PRIDE. See page 3770.

{ WALTER son of FEIRWIN. He is on the Roll of 1209, followed by his son Richard, who also appears on the Roll of 23 Hen. III., 1239, by the description of "Richard son of Walter Feirwyn."

{ ROBERT DE SULTON, *alias* SOLTON.

{ WARIN son of WILLIAM. See page 3768.

Robert de *Solton* is on the Roll of 1209. He, doubtless, was of *Shelton*, within the liberties of the town; but I do not find any descendant of his on the Roll. We learn from the Chartulary of Shrewsbury Abbey that he had land in Frankwell. Pobella, the widow of Robert de Sholton, in the year 1315 gave a house in Shrewsbury to the Abbey of Buildwas.

{ ROGER son of WILLIAM, grandson of Peter the Provost.

{ See page 3767.

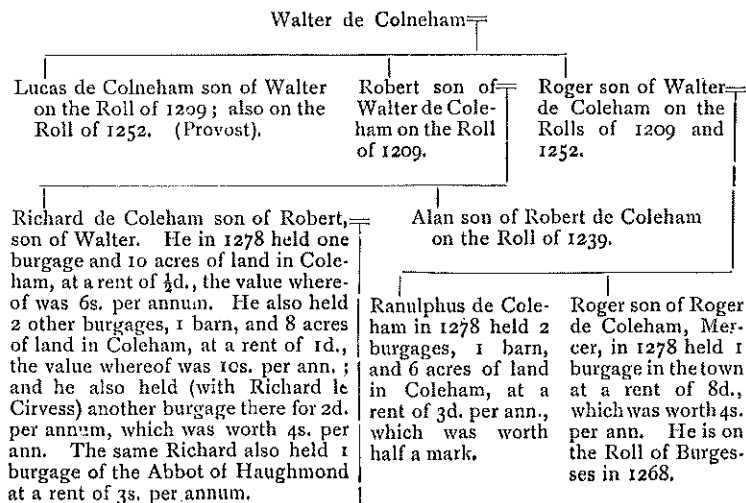
{ JOHN son of HUGH. On the Roll of 1209, with his brother

{ William son of Hugh.

{ LUCAS DE COLEHAM son of WALTER.

{ WALAM PONCER.

Lucas son of Walter is on the Roll of 1209, with Roger and Robert his brothers. The family stand thus on the Rolls:—



a		
Hugh son of Richard de Coleham. In 1278 he held 1 burgage of the Abbey of Shrewsbury at a rent of 12d., which was worth 2s. per ann.	John son of Richard de Coleham held 1 burgage and a barn in the town at a rent of 8d., which was worth half a mark per annum.	Mabilla, dau. of Richard de Coleham. In 1278 she held a burgage in the town at a rent of 2½d., which was worth 3s. per annum.

[p. 3777.]

The name of Walam Poncer does not appear on the Roll of 1209. John Poncer, probably his brother, is on that Roll, which has also the names of Richard and Nicholas, sons of Ivon Poncer.

Nicholas, son of Robert Poncer, no doubt of this family, was a person of considerable substance in the town. He bought the lands called Derfald and Wolheresfurlong from John son of Gilbert and Alice his wife, which lands he afterwards gave to Haughmond Abbey subject to the payment of a rent of 4s. per annum to the Rector of the Church of Saint Michael, in the Castle of Shrewsbury. Robert Poncer was the person who by the name of Robert son of John is described as the colleague of Robert Crowe in some deeds in the office of Provost. See page 3784. This Robert was son of John Poncer above named.

{ JOHN PONCER. On the Roll of 1209. See above.

{ JOHN SEIMBEL. See page 3768. In a Deed of the Drapers' Company relating to lands in "Doggepole," which is witnessed by these Provosts, the name of the latter is written "John Sibel."

{ ROGER son of PAGAN, *alias* PAYN.

{ JOHN son of HUGH. See page 3776.

"Pain" with Roger his son appear on the Roll of 1209. Roger son of Pain appears also on the Roll of 4 Hen. III., 1220. Thomas son of Roger Pain appears on the Roll of 16 Hen. III., 1232, and he is on the Roll of 1239 by the name of Thomas Payn.

In 1278, Ranulphus Payn, jointly with Nicholas Bonell, held 4 burgages of the Church of Saint Chad the Bishop for 6d. per annum "que quond'm fuit d'nicu' hospiciu' D'ni Ep'i Cestr.," the value whereof was 5s. per annum.

{JOHN DE HIBERNIA.

{SIMEON THURSTAN.

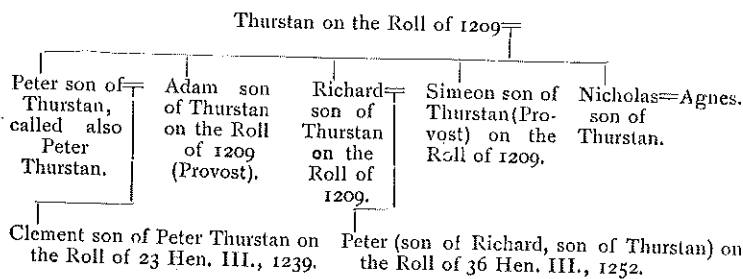
"John de Hibernia," i.e., John Ireland, is on the Rolls of 1209 and 1220. The family of Ireland in several of its branches, appears to have been connected with Shrewsbury at a very early period, which arose, probably, from the Abbey of Shrewsbury having possessions in Lancashire, where the Irelands were originally seated.

One branch of the family were amongst the earliest of the lessees under the Abbey of Haughmond, and "Master Walter de Hibernia, 'cook' of Upton-under-Haghmond," was admitted on the Roll of Guild Merchant in Shrewsbury, in the 12th of Edw. II., 1318. "William de Erland, mercer," is on the Roll of Burgesses 46 Edw. III., 1372. The title "Master" given to Walter de Hibernia above, shows that he was a person of some importance, and his style of "cook" was probably to denote that he took up his livery in the Guild with that company. He and his son John Ireland had, as appears by the Haughmond Chartulary, lands at Upton Magna.

[p. 3778.]

"David Yrelond son of Robert Yrelond of Oswestry, servant to Thomas Goldsmith," was admitted a Burgess of Shrewsbury 3 Hen. VII., 1487. He was a Mercer in Shrewsbury, and Bailiff several times, and from him the family of Ireland of Albrighton descended. (See the pedigree of Ireland of Albrighton).

Simeon Thurstan, the colleague of John de Hibernia, was also on the Roll of 1209, where I find also other members of his family, though their residence in Shrewsbury does not seem to have been of long continuance.



{ RICHARD PRIDE. See page 3770.
 { HENRY son of IVO. See page 3775.

{ ALAN son of HERBERT.

{ JOHN DE HIBERNIA. See page 3777.

Alan son of Herbert is on the Roll of 1209, where also I find the name of Herbert son of Walter, which Herbert was, probably, the father of Alan, as he certainly was of Richard, who is on the same Roll called Richard son of Herbert *Pellip*, showing that Herbert was a skinner, and Richard his son was unquestionably the ancestor of a family that afterwards acquired much property in the town and vicinity of Shrewsbury, and adopted for their surname that of the trade by which the foundation of their property and station was acquired, namely "Skinner." The eventual heiress of this family, Eleanor, sister of Thomas Skinner, was the first wife of Reginald de Mutton of Shrewsbury, who was by her ancestor of the Mittons of Weston-under-Lizard, and as she succeeded to the property of her brother, there can be no doubt that her nephew, John son of Thomas le Skinner, pre-deceased his father.

[p. 3779.]

ARMS: Per chevron, Or and Azure 3 fleurs-de-lis counterchanged.

Herbert, sometimes written "Herbert Pellipar," at others
 "Herbert Parmentar" on the Roll of 1209.

Alan son of Herbert on
 the Roll of 1209.

Richard le Parmenter son of Herbert
 on the Rolls of 1209 and 1220.

Richard le Parmenter. He
 in 1278 held 3 burgages of
 the town, at a rent of 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.,
 which were worth 10s. per
 annum.

William le
 Parmenter
 Bailiff in
 1278.

Thomas Parmenter of Foriet Monach.
 son of Richard, on the Roll of 1268.
 In 1278 he held 1 burgage of the
 town at a rent of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., which was
 worth 4s. per annum.

William le Parmenter (son of Richard) 11th in order of the Theynes—Johanna.
 men, on the Roll of 12 Edw. II., 1318.
 1327, Pat. 1 Edw. III., p. 1, m. 33, is a grant from the King
 "dilecto mercatori nostro Will'o le Parmenter de Salop non
 ponatur in assisus," &c. "P' br'e privato sigillo."
 Bailiff in 1306, 1321, M.P. in 1322, 1332, 1334, and 1335, he was
 M.P. also in 1340. He is called William Skynner, senior.

a

William le Parmenter (son of William) named on the Roll of 1318. 1343, he is called "William le Skynner le fil" in a Deed of Richard Earl of Arundel in the Exchequer of Salop, dated 17 Ed. III. He had a Royal license to found a Chantry in the Church of Saint Chad, 19 Dec., 20 Ed. III., 1346. Bailiff in 1344, 1351, and 1359. He and his father represented Shrewsbury in Parliament in 1335.

James, another son of William le Parmenter, named on the Roll of 1318.

Thomas le Skynner (son of William). Party to a recognizance under Stat. Merc. in the Exchequer of Shrewsbury 8 R. 2, 1384, also to another 16 R. 2, 1392, Bailiff in 1368, 1381, 1383, 1400, 1404. M.P. in 1376, 1379, 1380, 1383, 1384, 1385, and 1397.

Eleanor was the first wife of Reginald de Mutton, and carried the property of the Skynners to that family by this marriage.

John Skinner son of Thomas, o.s.p. Named on the Roll of Burgesses 9 Hen. IV., 1407.

The estates of the Skynner family were situate in Shrewsbury, Lynches, Fenemere, Coleham, Nobold, Withington, Hunkington, Hanwood, Woodhouse, and Preston Montford, as appears by two Deeds, of Settlement and Enfeoffment, dated respectively the 2nd and 13th of Henry VIII.—J. M.

These Deeds expressly state the above property to have once belonged to Thomas Skinner.

{ RICHARD PRIDE. See page 3770.

{ LAURENCE COX. See pages 3781 and 3787.

{ REINER RUFFE, junr. See page 3766.

{ LAURENCE son of EDWIN. See page 3812.

These four persons, as then Provosts, are witnesses to a Deed in the possession of the Drapers' Company, relating to a messuage in Dogpole, to which deed John de Foriet and others are also witnesses. They are not mentioned as serving together the office of Provost in any list hitherto published, nor have I met with any other mention of four Provosts at one time.

The Deed which thus records them was, probably, executed as the two first quitted and as the two latter entered upon office as Provosts.

[p. 3780.]

{ JOHN DE FORIETTA.

{ ALAN son of HERBERT. See page 3778.

Messrs. Owen and Blakeway have thought it probable that John de Forieta and John de Hibernia (both which names

appear as the colleagues of Alan son of Herbert) were the same person, but such was not the fact. John de Foriet and John de Hibernia are both on the Roll of 1209, where I also find the name of Peter son of John de Foriet. The same Peter is on the Roll of 16 Hen. III., 1232.

{ WILLIAM *son of* ROBERT.
{ ROBERT SITTE.

The first named of these was, probably, a brother of John son of Robert, mentioned on page 3776, but I do not find either his name or that of his colleague on any of the early Rolls. Robert Sitte was, there is no doubt, one of a family whose names often appear on our early records, and the spelling of which is, in old deeds, sometimes Sitte, Sotte, Sote, Schitte, and Schutte. They are supposed to have given their name to Shutte-place, now called Shoplatch, and they are believed to have resided in the old red stone building now used as the printing office of *Eddowes' Journal*.

William Shitte, Richard Sitte, Henry de Scet, and William son of Jervas de Sotteplace, appear on the Roll of 1209. Alan Sotte and Henry Schute are on the Roll of 36 Hen. III. Benedicta, widow of John de Schatt of Salop, and Nicholas de Schette of Salop are parties to recognizances under Stat. Merc. in the Exchequer of Salop, 2 Rich. II., 1378. Robert Sitte was one of the Burgesses named with Thomas the Provost on the Plea Roll of 1201. See page 3767.

In 1278, Nicholas Schutte held one burgage of the town at a rent of 4d. per annum, the value whereof was $\frac{1}{2}$ a mark per annum. His two sons Nicholas and Richard, were on the Roll of Burgesses 12 Edw. II., 1318, and from one of these John and Nicholas above mentioned were, doubtless, descended.

{ RICHARD WINNEPENNI.
{ ADAM *son of* THURSTAN. See page 3778.

Both these names appear on the Roll of 1209. The first also occurs in 1220, but there is no further mention of either.

{ RICHARD SCHITTE. See above.
{ LUCAS *son of* WALTER. See page 3776.

"Richard Sitte" and "Luca fil' Walt'i tunc p'posit" are (*inter alia*) witnesses to a Deed now in the possession of the

Drapers' Company, whereby "Petrus fil' Ade" grants to "Petro fil' Joh'is M'ceri" a curtilage on Claremont.

[p. 3781.]

{ PETER VILLANUS. See page 3768.

{ JOHN VILLANUS. See page 3768.

{ RICHARD VILLANUS. See page 3768.

{ WILLIAM *son of* WILLIAM. Sometimes called William son of William son of John, and at others William son of John only. See page 3768.

{ ALAN *son of* IVO. See page 3775.

{ HUGH CHAMPONOYS.

Hugh Champonoys is the 5th in order of the Theynesmen on the Roll of 36 Hen. III., 1252. In 1278, it may be assumed that he was not living, for Juliana Chaumpneis, described as daughter of Hugh Chaumpneis, then held a burgage of the town at 12d. per annum, which was worth 5s. per annum. She also, with John Russell, held three other burgages in the town at a rent of 5s., which were worth one mark per annum.

Roger Champeneis (with X'piana Gentill) in 1278 held a burgage of the Church of Saint Mary, at a rent of 22d. per annum, which was worth half a mark per annum; and Thomas Champeneys held two burgages at a rent of 2s. per annum, which were worth one mark per annum. The last named was Bailiff in 1282, and both were, probably, sons of Hugh Champonoys. I do not find the name on any of our Records subsequent to 1282, although Thomas Champeneys was M.P. for Shrewsbury in 1302. Peter Champonoys also served the office of Provost. See page 3784.

{ PETER *son of* CLEMENT. See page 3767.

{ ROGER *son of* REINER. See page 3766.

It appears from *Abbrev. Rot. Orig.*, p. 166, that Hugh Champeneys of Salop, in 2 Edw. II., 1308, recovered seisin of a messuage, &c., in Salop in that year, against Thomas Champeneys, and that the said Hugh was son of Roger Champeneys, p. 172. Petronilla, then the widow of Roger Champeneys, sold her right in 3 messuages in Romaldesham in Shrewsbury, 6 Nov., 1290.

NOTES ON THE FOREGOING ACCOUNT OF THE PROVOSTS.

Page 7. Morris has used the term *præsdatum* wrongly here as meaning "governor," whereas it should be "government." Owen and Blakeway (vol. i., page 38) state that Earl Roger gave to Warin the Bald "the government (*præsdatum*) of Scrobesbury." Morris has evidently misread this passage.

Page 15.—This old masonry still remains. Morris follows Blakeway in the opinion that it is the remains of Pride's mansion, but later observers consider that it is the base of a tower on the town wall, which wall extended along the brow of the steep declivity facing north-west, on which all the houses on that side the street were built. That Pride's mansion stood here is proved by a deed in Blakeway's MSS.

Pages 23 and 24. For some account of Roger Ive, first Master of the College of Battlefield, see the *Transactions*, Second Series, vol. i., pp. 322, &c. His Will is printed in Dugdale's *Monasticon*.

Page 30. The offices of *Eddowes' Journal* were on the left hand of the Gullet Passage, leading from the Market Square to Mardol Head, now in the occupation of Mr. H. H. Hughes, Wine Merchant, and Messrs. Lea, Electricians. Massive stonework is to be seen in the cellaring.

N.B.—The small figures in square parentheses refer to the pages in the Morris MSS., and are here inserted on account of the repeated references to them.

EDITORS.

MANOR OF RUYTON OF THE ELEVEN TOWNS.

By R. LLOYD KENYON.

WE have seen¹ that this manor includes three Domesday Manors, Ruyton, Wikey, and Felton, and derives its name from the eleven townships of which these manors were composed. Six of these are in Ruyton parish, namely, Ruyton, Coton, Wikey, Shelvock, Shotatton, and Eardiston; and five in Felton parish, namely, Felton, Sutton, Haughton, Rednal, and Tedsmore. They had previously been in two different Hundreds, and owned by three different persons; and it was from their union in the twelfth century under these exceptional circumstances that the manor got the name of the "Eleven Towns." This name occurs first in the Welsh pedigrees of Ririd Flaidd, who appears to have possessed this district during part of King Stephen's time, and to have been expelled by William fitz Alan. Court Rolls of the Manor from the time of Edward III. are still in existence, in all of which the manor is shown to consist of these eleven townships, and of no others. It is generally called in the Court Rolls the Manor of Ruyton, but not unfrequently the Manor of the Eleven Towns. This latter name occurs first in the Roll of the 2nd year of Richard II., when the "Court of the Eleven Towns" is distinguished from the "Court of the New Town of Ruyton," which was the Court for the Borough erected in a part of the township of Ruyton by Edmund Earl of Arundel, in 1308.² A charter to Oswestry of 2 Hen. IV. was ordered to be proclaimed in, among other places, "Ryton containing the eleven towns;"³ and in one of 8 Hen. IV. the manor is called "Ruytoun or

¹ *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1900, p. 64.

² See my history of this Borough, *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1891.

³ *Powis Fadoz*, vi. 318.

the eleven towns."¹ In a Court Roll of 11 Hen. IV. it is called "the Lordship of the Eleven Towns of the Lordship of Ruyton." A map of the manor, showing it to consist of these eleven townships, is in the possession of the family of the late Col. Edwards of Ness, Lord of the Manor.² A copy has been engraved for this account of the Manor.

The division of the manor between two parishes is accounted for by the fact that when the churches were built,³ about A.D. 1140, the three Manors of Ruyton, Wikey, and Felton were still independent, and Ruyton was in Pimhill Hundred and in the Parish of Baschurch, while Wikey and Felton were in the Hundred, and probably in the Parish, of Oswestry. All three were held under Fitz Alan, and probably by John le Strange under him; but Felton seems to have been held under John le Strange by a Hugh le Strange, who had no interest in either Ruyton or Wykey. Under these circumstances the Parish of Felton was formed between 1140 and 1155, for the Manor of Felton, together with that of Woolston and Sandford, which was held under Fitz Alan by the family of Constantine, and with the township of Twyford, of which we have no history till 100 years later, but which we then find held under Fitz Alan by the Fitz Philips, who were co-heirs of Hugh le Strange, and which therefore in 1140 was very likely held by Hugh le Strange, together with Felton, so that the parish was formed for the benefit of the two properties of Hugh le Strange and Constantine.

Twyford must have ceased to be in the same ownership as Felton when the three manors were united into one about 1155, otherwise it would have been included in the union. The Parish of Ruyton was not formed till about 1230, long after Ruyton Manor had been transferred to Oswestry Hundred, and united to the Manors of Wikey and Felton. The new parish was made co-extensive with that part of the

¹ Published in *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1879, p. 198.

² Eyton x. 112 n., explains the name as referring to "eleven towns which may at some time be supposed to have constituted the manor," but he thought that some of them were lost. But the eleven townships are correctly enumerated in Pennant's *Tour in Wales*, i. 345, and in Lloyd's *Powis Fadog*, vi. 361, both of which agree with Eyton in deriving the name of the manor from them, as does also the Report of the Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in 1835.

³ See my histories of them in *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1896 and 1897.

Manor of the Eleven Towns, which had not already been assigned to Felton parish, the old Manor of Ruyton being detached from the Parish of Baschurch, and the old Manor of Wikey from that of Oswestry. The name of the *Parish* is therefore not Ruyton of the Eleven Towns, but Ruyton *in* the Eleven Towns, and that is the name always used in the instruments of institution of a new vicar, and given in Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary*, as well as in Kelly's *Directory*, though Ruyton of the Eleven Towns, which is properly the name of the manor, is often, through ignorance of its meaning, used as that of the parish; in fact, the existence of the manor is very nearly forgotten, though for many centuries it was for all civil purposes a much more important entity than the parish.

We have seen that upon the formation of the manor William fitz Alan gave it to his friend and companion, John le Strange I., to hold under himself. I propose now to give some account of the successive Lords of the Manor, all of whom for more than four hundred years were men of great importance, not only to Shropshire, but to England. With the account of the Lords I shall give the general history of the manor in their times, reserving local details as to particular parts of the manor, so far as they do not affect the general history, to be dealt with in separate accounts of the different townships.

John le Strange, 1155 to 1178, was the first Lord of the united Manor of Ruyton of the Eleven Towns. He held it by military service under William fitz Alan, until the death of the latter in 1160, and then under his son William fitz Alan II., who married about 1175 a daughter of Hugh de Lacy of Ludlow.

Ruald, or Roland le Strange,¹ i.e., "Roland the Foreigner," held property in Norfolk under Alan fitz Flaald, and married Matilda le Brun, through whom a large property in Norfolk and Suffolk came ultimately to his descendants. He had four sons—John, Hamo, Guy and Ralph, all of whom obtained land in Shropshire, partly under the King, and partly under the fitz Alans, in the reign of Stephen or of

¹ Eyton x. 259.

Henry II., and next to the fitz Alans the Stranges became the most powerful persons in Shropshire. John, the eldest, was perhaps not much younger than William fitz Alan, and seems to have been with him before 1138, when the civil wars began.¹ Certainly he was constantly with him from 1155 to 1160, as is shown by the number of deeds he then witnessed, and he seems to have been present at his death in 1160.

John le Strange had already before this had a grant from the King of the Manor of Great Ness, and had succeeded his brother Hamo, who was dead, as tenant in chief of Cheswardine and of Betton.² In 1165 he was holding Middle and Glazeley and Abdon, in Shropshire, as well as property in Norfolk, under Fitz Alan,³ and before 1172 he had given Ruyton Mill to Haughmond Abbey. This is the earliest direct mention of his being owner of Ruyton. His brother Guy owned Knockin at the same time under Fitz Alan, and built Knockin Castle, and Guy's son probably built the Church.

We find this John le Strange in the King's service, and paying troops on the borders of Wales in 1168 and 1171, and his intimacy with the King is illustrated by his grant of the advowson of Cheswardine Church to Haughmond Abbey "for the well being of King Henry and his heirs and of myself and my heirs, and for the soul of [the late] King Henry and of his predecessors and mine." In like manner he gave an estate at Edgefield, in Norfolk, to Binham Priory, "for the well being of my soul and that of my Lord King Henry the younger and Queen Eleanor and their sons, and for the well being of William Earl of Arundel my Lord, and of Queen Adeliza, and of their children, and of my wife and heirs."⁴

John le Strange's wife's name was Hawise. He must have resided in this county a good deal, as he was a very frequent witness to Shropshire grants, and a constant companion of his brother Guy, who succeeded the first William fitz Alan as sheriff of the county. He seems to have paid a great deal of attention to Ruyton. We have seen that the manor was

¹ Eyton vii. 237, 286.

² Eyton vi. 183; x. 258.

³ Eyton vi. 34; x. 65; iii. 124.

⁴ Eyton x. 29, 265.

re-constituted for his benefit, and before that was done, he had probably built the Castle and the Church. Ruyton Park was also most likely made by him for the convenience of the Castle, and probably he built Ruyton Mill. The hamlets of Coton and Shotatton very likely were called into existence by the building of the Castle, and acquired a distinct existence as townships of the manor. Felton Church also was probably built by him, and the parish constituted by his influence.

John le Strange I. died in 1178, leaving four sons—John, Hamo, Ralph, and William.¹

John le Strange II., 1178—1238, succeeded his father. His feudal lord was William fitz Alan II. till 1210, when he was succeeded by his eldest son, William fitz Alan III. The latter died without issue in 1215, and his brother John fitz Alan I. succeeded him. This John, who was Lord of Clun in right of his grandmother, married Isabel, sister of Hugh d'Albini, Earl of Arundel, and died in 1240.

John le Strange II. took quite as active a part in public affairs as his father. He was at Westminster with King Richard I. in 1190, when he witnessed a charter confirming the Stiperstones Forest to Robert Corbet of Caus, and in 1226 he served on a jury to enquire into the title of Robert Corbet's son to this Forest. In April, 1194, he was with the King at Portsmouth, and in 1194 and 1195 was in the King's service at Carrechova (Llanymynech), of which his cousin Ralph was castellan, and where there were some silver mines belonging to the Crown. Ralph died in 1195, and during his illness John acted in his place.²

Ralph was owner of Knockin, and left three daughters his co-heiresses. Knockin Castle and Church had been built by him and his father, and were too close to the Welsh border to be left in weak hands. John le Strange therefore in 1197 and 1198 gave other lands to his cousins and their husbands, and acquired Knockin for himself,³ and from thenceforth he and his heirs are most commonly styled Lords of Knockin.

¹ Eyton iii. 128 ; x. 262.

² Eyton iii. 129 ; vii. 12, 21, 293.

³ Shropshire Feet of Fines, *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1898, p. 308.

In 1197, John le Strange had custody of Pole (now Powis) Castle, and was one of the most active of the Lords Marchers in enforcing English authority on the borders. Throughout King John's reign the Pipe Rolls and Charters show that he was constantly employed by the King, and in receipt of pay from him. The whole rent due from him for his Manors of Ness, Cheswardine, and Wrockwardine was constantly remitted.¹

In 1203 Hugh le Strange (of Felton) brought an action for 40 acres of land in Edeston (Eardiston), at the Shropshire Assizes, but William fitz Alan came and said that Erdeston "is in his Hundred, which owes no suit at the County Court of Salop, nor do the men of that Hundred come before the Justices or before the Sheriff, either for death, or burning, or for any summons. He also says that no grand Assize ought to be held in that Hundred, nor was it ever; and the whole county witnesseth this."² This establishes the fact that the Lord of the Hundred of Oswestry tried all cases, civil and criminal, within the Hundred, to the exclusion of the King's judges. Accordingly there is no mention of Ruyton in any of the Hundred Rolls or in the *Testa de Nevill*, all of which are of the time of Henry III. and Edward I.

In 1204, John le Strange ravaged the Leicestershire property of Roger la Zouche, who had renounced his allegiance to King John on the murder of Prince Arthur.³ In 1208 he was witness to a treaty made between King John and the Welsh at Shrewsbury; and in 1212 he was in charge of the King's military stores at Oswestry.⁴ In this year Matthew Paris tells us that after the King's excommunication by the Pope the Welsh made incursions across the borders, took several of the King's castles, and cut off the heads of all soldiers they found in them, burnt many towns, and carried off much spoil, which made the King extremely angry. With this the statement in the *History of Fulk Fitz Warine*⁵ is quite in accordance, that "John le Strange, Lord of Knokyn and

¹ Eyton ix. 21; x. 31.

² Assize Roll, published in *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1899, p. 249.

³ Eyton ii. 213.

⁴ Eyton vii. 244; x. 325.

⁵ Written probably about 1260, and published by the Warton Club, p. 104.

of Rutone, held always with the King, and did damage to the Prince (of Wales)'s people. And therefore the Prince caused the castle of Ruyton to be demolished, and took his people and imprisoned them, at which John was much grieved." Fulk Fitzwarren was in alliance with the Welsh, and therefore "John le Strange went to the King and told him that Fulk had caused him great loss of his people and demolished his Castle of Ruyton;" whereupon the King sent Sir Henry de Audley with John le Strange against Fulk, with whom they had a battle at Middle. Ruyton Castle therefore, was destroyed by Fitzwarren and the Welsh in 1212. The Close Rolls show that in 1218 John le Strange got an aid from the counties of Shropshire and Staffordshire to enable him to strengthen his castle of Knokyn, and in 1223 he had 20 merks out of the Treasury for the same purpose, and as nothing was said about Ruyton Castle, he very likely did not rebuild it, and determined to make Knockin, instead of Ruyton, his head quarters for this part of his property.

In 1213, King John appointed John le Strange Castellan of Carreghova, in 1214 he and Robert Corbet were the Royal Commissioners to swear to a truce with the Welsh, and in 1215 he was one of the very few Shropshire nobles who still adhered to the King. The only others who did so were Mortimer, Lacy, and Clifford. John fitz Alan threw himself on the side of the Barons, as did Fitz Warin and everyone else except those above named. On the 5th or 6th Aug., 1216, King John marched from Shrewsbury to Oswestry, perhaps through this manor, and after burning Oswestry he returned to Shrewsbury on the 11th.¹

At the accession of Henry III. John le Strange must have been about 60 years of age, and though he continued to take an active part in civil business in the county, his military activity seems to have ceased. In 1220 he was in charge of the Shropshire Forests. In 1226 he was one of the Royal Commissioners to meet Llewelyn, Prince of Wales, at Oswestry, and settle some disputes about lands on the Marches, and also to arbitrate between William Pantulf and Madoc ap Griffin at the same place; and in 1230 he appears

¹ Eyton vii. 17; x. 327, 359.

to have accompanied the King on an expedition into Brittany.¹ He showed his interest in Ruyton by adding to the Park the 32 acres of land which are now included in the Parish of Ruyton, on the further side of the River Perry from the Church; and although he does not seem to have rebuilt the Castle after its destruction in 1212, yet towards the end of his life he probably built and endowed a chantry chapel in Ruyton Church. It was the time when the custom of founding chantries was just beginning.² For the benefit of Haughmond Abbey he compelled all tenants of the manor to have their corn ground at Ruyton Mill.

John le Strange II. died more than 80 years old in 1237-8, and was succeeded by his son

John le Strange III. 1238—1269. His feudal Lord was John fitz Alan I., who died in 1240, leaving his son John fitz Alan II. a minor. He in 1243 inherited in right of his mother the castle and estates of Arundel, on the death of her brother, Hugh de Albini, last Earl of Sussex and Arundel; but Hugh's widow survived till 1282, and the Fitz Alans were not summoned to Parliament as Earls of Arundel till after this, though they had possession of the Castle of Arundel. John fitz Alan II. died Nov., 1267, and was succeeded by his son John fitz Alan III.

John le Strange III. was incomparably the most important man in the county. He was made Sheriff of Shropshire and Staffordshire in 1236, just before his father's death. Montgomery Castle was already in his hands. As Sheriff he had the custody of Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth, and Ellesmere Castles. He got the custody of the Fitz Alan Castles of Oswestry, Clun, Shrawardine and Montfort, on account of the minority of his suzerain 1240 to 1244, and for a similar reason he held Lacy's Castle of Ludlow 1241 to 1244, delivering them all up to their owners at the proper time. In 1240 he was also appointed Justiciar of Chester, with the custody of Chester Castle; but he resigned his Cheshire offices in 1245, and the Shrievalty of Shropshire in 1248. In 1260, when he must have been 70 years of age, he was in command

¹ Eyton vii. 20, 184; x. 328.

² Hist. of Ruyton Church, *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1896; *Dioc. Hist. of Lichfield*, p. 100.

of troops keeping order on the Welsh border, and in the rebellion of Simon de Montfort he adhered loyally to the King, though his eldest son, who was in possession of Montgomery Castle, took the other side. One of his daughters was married to Griffin ap Gwenwynwyn, Prince of Powis. This John le Strange probably built the Plat Mill in the bit of park acquired by his father on the further side of the Perry, and the Heath Mill in the township of Shotatton.¹

The Pimhill Hundred Roll of 1255 states that "John le Strange holds in the Vill of Mudle five geldable hides of the fee of John fitz Alan, by service of four Muntarii for 40 days at Oswestry, both for the said land and for all his lands which he holds of John fitz Alan in Shropshire." He held under John fitz Alan Glazeley, Abdon, Berrington, Longnor, Middle, Child's Ercall, and Ruyton; but Ruyton was in the Marches, not in Shropshire, so would not be included in the above reckoning. Muntarii were men-at-arms, and the service of two of them was generally considered equal to that of one knight. The inquest on the death of John fitz Alan in 1272 states that le Strange's service to him was "2½ knights fees in Mudell, Ritton, and elsewhere," adding therefore half a knight's fee in respect of the tenure of Ruyton in the Marches.

John le Strange III. died in 1269, and was succeeded by his son

John le Strange IV., 1269—1275. He held under John fitz Alan III., who died in 1272, when le Strange's service of 2½ knights' fees was assigned as part of her dower to Fitz Alan's widow, Isabel, daughter of Roger Mortimer of Wigmore, to whom was also given the Castle and Hundred of Oswestry, her son being an infant of 5 years old.² She married Ralph de Aderne about 1281, and seems thereupon to have had to give up to her brother Edmund de Mortimer the custody of Oswestry and Arundel Castles. She married a third husband, Robert de Hastings, in 1285, but was buried by the side of her first husband at Haughmond Abbey, where their tombstones are still to be seen. Their son Richard succeeded his father, and in 1291-2 was summoned to Parlia-

¹ See under the townships of Ruyton and Shotatton, to be dealt with subsequently.

² Eyton vii. 259; x. 66,

ment as Earl of Arundel, being the first of his family to be so summoned, though one or two of his predecessors, being owners of Arundel Castle, were sometimes spoken of as Earls of Arundel.

John le Strange IV. married, and was survived by, Joan, daughter of Roger de Somery, by Nichola de Albini, sister and co-heiress of the last Albini, Earl of Arundel. This John IV. was the first of his family who ever failed in loyalty to his King, as he took part in the rebellion of Simon de Montfort; but his father's loyalty seems to have protected him from punishment. He gave the Plat Mill to Shrewsbury Abbey, and the Heath Mill to Haughmond Abbey. The consideration for these gifts was that the monks should pray for the souls of himself and his relations, and maintain candles at his wife's tomb; but the gifts were probably at the time beneficial to the tenants of the manor, as the mills were more likely to be worked well and continuously by the monks than by any laymen. This Lord also gave to Haughmond Abbey the advowson of Ruyton Church, and an acre of land for a churchyard. This gift also was to the advantage of the inhabitants of the manor, as insuring the regular performance of divine service by a resident incumbent.

John le Strange IV. died in 1275, and the inquest as to his estate in Shropshire found that what he held in capite in the county was 4 carucates in Kinton and Nesse, by the service of one knight's fee, and that the whole of his estate was worth £10 per annum. He owed £200 to the King, which was remitted to his son and successor.

John le Strange V., 1275—1302, who was 22½ years old. About 1276 he married a wife named Alianore, and after her death he married Maud, daughter and heiress of Roger d'Eiville, who brought him a good deal of property, and was the mother of his three sons, John, Eubolo, and Hamo, of whom the eldest succeeded him at Ness and at Knockin, and the third at Hunstanton. In 1294-5 a great insurrection took place in Wales under a prince named Madoc, who destroyed Carnarvon, defeated the Earl of Lincoln at Denbigh, captured Oswestry, and "meeting with the Lord Strange with a company of Marchers not farre from Knookine, overthrew him, and spoiled his countrie miserablie, and

shortly afterwards he gave the Marchers another overthrow." But afterwards they defeated Madoc and took him prisoner near Caus Castle.¹ John le Strange's marriage, and that of his father, greatly increased the already considerable importance of the family; but though the family retained their position in Shropshire long after his time, they no longer had any interest in Ruyton; for in 1299 John le Strange V. conveyed his Manors of Middle and Ritton to a trustee, Ralph or Richard de Sherlee, who entailed Middle on John le Strange and his wife Matilda, and the heirs of their body. Ruyton was not entailed, but on the contrary, was soon after sold, with all its homages and fees, to Edmund fitz Alan, who succeeded his father Richard as Earl of Arundel and suzerain of Ruyton on the latter's death in Jan., 1302. In 1318 an inquest on the death of Guy, Lord of Glazeley, found that he held Glazeley under the Manor of Ruyton, and that the sale of that manor had passed the homage and services of Glazeley to the Earl of Arundel. Glazeley was reckoned as half a knight's fee. Great Withiford was also held under le Strange as a member of his Manor of Ruyton for half a knight's fee, and its Seigneury passed, like that of Glazeley, to the Earl of Arundel.²

We know of nothing done for the benefit of Ruyton by this fifth lord, but every one of his predecessors had helped to improve and develop it. They had probably built the Castle and the two Churches, and encouraged the growth of the two new townships of Coton and Shotatton; they had built three mills, and put them into the hands which were most likely to develop their business; and they had taken the best means of insuring the regular performance of the services of the Church. That the Castle and Manor should be in the hands of a powerful and loyal and trustworthy family like the le Stranges likewise tended to the security and prosperity of the inhabitants. But since their acquisition of Knockin Castle the le Stranges' interest in Ruyton seems to have slackened; they allowed this castle to remain in ruins, and Ruyton's prospects of development and importance were

¹ Lloyd's *Hist. of Cambria*, p. 279.

² Eyton ix. 314, 315.

certainly improved when the family of le Strange, great and powerful and benevolent as it was, gave way to the still greater family of fitz Alan, Earls of Arundel.

Edmund, Earl of Arundel, 1302—1326, was the representative of the first William fitz Alan of King Stephen's time, and succeeded his father Richard as the second Earl of the fitz Alan family in 1302. He was born in 1283, and in 1305 he increased the already great importance of his family by marrying Alice, sister and eventually heiress of John Plantagenet, last Earl of Surrey and Sussex of that line. Arundel was one of the greatest personages of the reign of Edward II., but to recapitulate the public doings of the Earls of Arundel would be to write a large part of the history of England. In 1310 he was one of the Lords Ordainers, who were practically Regents of the Kingdom superseding the King's authority, but on 9 Feb., 1320-1, he married his son to Isabel, daughter of Hugh le Despencer the younger, and from that time took the side of the King and the Spencers against the Queen and the Mortimers. In 1322 he was made Chief Justiciar of North and South Wales, in 1325 Warden of the Welsh Marches, and in May, 1326, Captain and Chief Supervisor of Array in Wales and in the Counties of Salop, Stafford, and Hereford.¹ In November of that year he was captured by the rebels near Shrewsbury, and beheaded. He had done a great deal for Ruyton, giving a charter for a borough, establishing a market and a fair there, and probably rebuilding the Castle and the Church, all of which has been set out in my accounts of the Borough and the Church.²

Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, 1326—1330, obtained the Manor of Ruyton on Arundel's attainder. Mortimer and Arundel were deadly enemies, though cousins, Roger being son of Edmund Mortimer of Wigmore, whose sister Isabel had married John fitz Alan III., and was grandmother of Edmund, Earl of Arundel. The Earl of March's possession of Ruyton was signalised by the alienation of the tithes from the Church to Haughmond Abbey. He was the favourite and paramour of the Queen, and after murdering the King

¹ Doyle's *Official Baronage*.

² *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* 1891 and 1896. The King's Charter for the market and fair is enrolled in the Record Office. See *Cal. Rot. Chart.*, p. 145.

the two governed the country until Edward III. deposed them, on which Mortimer was convicted of treason and hanged at Tyburn, 29 Nov., 1330.

Richard, Earl of Arundel, 1331—1376, was restored to his father's honours and estates on the attainder of the Earl of March. He was born about 1306, and was therefore quite a boy when he was married to Isabel Despencer. In 1345 he was divorced from her, and married Eleanor, Dowager Baroness Beaumont, daughter of Henry Plantaganet, Earl of Lancaster. Earl Richard was as active in public affairs as his predecessors had been. Chirk Castle and its territory, forfeited by the Earl of March, was granted to him in 1335. He was made Chief Justiciar of North Wales in 1334, Commander of the Army in the North 1337 and 1338, Chief Commissioner of Array in Shropshire, Feb., 1339, Sheriff of Shropshire for life 1345, Admiral of the Fleet 1346. In this year he raised 200 men from his Lordships of Clun and Oswestry for the French war, and took part in the victory of Creci; and in 1347 he was at the capture of Calais.¹

In 1347 John Plantaganet, Earl of Surrey and Sussex, died, and Arundel succeeded to his great estates in right of his mother. In that year Maurice de Berkeley and Edward de St. John le Nephew released to him and his heirs all their right in the Castles and Towns of Clone and Oswaldstre, in the Manor of Ruyton in the Marches of Wales, and in very many other manors in Sussex and other Counties.² They were very likely trustees of the settlement made on his first marriage. Arundel immediately executed a settlement, of which John de Shefford and John Sprot, Chaplain, were the trustees, by which all the said castles and manors were entailed on his male heirs by Eleanor his wife.³

The "Inquisition of the Ninth," or accounts for the tax levied in 15 Edw. III. for the expenses of the Scotch and French wars, does not include any parish in the Hundred of

¹ *Complete Peerage*; Doyle's *Official Baronage*; Lloyd's *Powis Fadog* i. 373.

² Close Roll 21 Edw. III. Lord de Berkeley had at this time a brother Maurice, who would be about 47 years old, and a son Maurice, about 17 years old, who had been married in 1338, at 8 years old, to a sister of Arundel's first wife. *Complete Peerage*.

³ Inquisition on death of John, Earl of Arundel, 18 Hen. VI.

Oswestry, so that during this reign the Hundred was still maintaining its independence of the King's officers, the Earl of Arundel exercising palatine jurisdiction here.

A large number of Court Rolls of the Manor of Ruyton are still in existence in the Record Office, the earliest of which are of the time of this Earl Richard.¹ They are records of the proceedings at the Courts of the Manor, and are written on both sides of long narrow slips of parchment, in abbreviated law-Latin. The strips when done with were rolled up into bundles, whence their name of Rolls.

The Manor Courts were of two kinds, the Great or General Court, called also the Court Leet and View of Frankpledge, and the Little Court, or Court Baron. The former was a Criminal Court, and was held only by such Lords as had, or were presumed to have had, a charter granting it to them from the King; the latter was a Civil Court, and belonged at Common Law to all manors.² The Steward of the Manor presided in both Courts, and the records were often entered on the same rolls. All residents in the Manor were bound to attend the Great Court, and could be fined if they were absent without valid excuse, the first entry on the rolls being generally of the names of those excused or "essoigned," as it was called. The names of the jurymen come next. These were the principal persons present, generally freeholders, and until the time of Elizabeth always twelve in number. Before the Court thus constituted each township was expected to appear by five of its inhabitants, and to present any crimes or misdemeanours, trespasses on the Lord's property or on the common lands, deaths of tenants, and all events which entitled the Lord to inflict a fine or require a heriot or other due.³ If the township did not appear it was fined; if its

¹ The reference in the Record Office is Portfolio 197, Nos. 119 to 143. They are of the following dates: 6, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 37, 38, 49, 50, and 51 Edw. III.; 2, 3, 6, 7, 13, 14, 17, and 18 Rich. II.; 4, 11, and 14 Hen. IV.; 2, 5, and 6 Hen. V.; 2, 4, 5, 6, and 13 Hen. VI.; 6 and 22 Hen. VII.; 1 and 2 Hen. VIII.; 3 and 4 Edw. VI.; 22, 23, 26, 27, and 28 Eliz.; and 4 and 5 Jas. I. Ruyton Court Rolls of 10 to 13 Will. III. are among the Shrewsbury Borough Records (Box lxxvi., No. 2719).

² Stephens' *Blackstone*, iii. 395; iv. 409.

³ A list of matters to be enquired into is given in a Statute of 18 Edw. II. Others were added by subsequent statutes.

representatives concealed anything they ought to present they were themselves fined. The number of five representatives was not always insisted on. "*Venerunt per quinque*" is a common entry, but sometimes it is "*venerunt per numerum sufficientem*." The offences presented were tried by the jury and a fine imposed, or occasionally the offender was ordered to be arrested. If a person summoned did not appear, he was called in five consecutive Courts,¹ and if he still did not appear he was outlawed, and his property in the Manor seized and confiscated for the Lord. The amount of the fine was, at least in later times, fixed by two valuers called "*Afferers*," one chosen by the Lord and the other by the tenants, and under Elizabeth and James I. their names are entered at the foot of the rolls. *Magna Charta* required that the Great Court should be held twice a year, after Easter and Michaelmas, and that the View of Frankpledge should be taken at the Michaelmas Court; and although this only applied to the Sheriffs' Courts, those of private Lords generally followed the same rule. The View of Frankpledge was properly the enrolling of all householders as sureties for each other for police purposes, and although this soon became obsolete, and is not alluded to in any of the Ruyton rolls, it was probably the origin of the practice, of which we have instances, of fining a township for the misdeeds of some of its inhabitants. The name View of Frankpledge came to be synonymous with Court Leet. It was at the Michaelmas Court that constables were elected. Serious crimes were generally tried, not by the Manor Court, but by that of the Hundred, by virtue of the Earl's Palatine jurisdiction, which exempted his tenants from appearing before a judge of Assize.

The Little Court, or Court Baron, was supposed to be held every three weeks, and was exclusively a Civil Court, of which, strictly speaking, the freeholders were the judges, and the Steward merely the registrar. In it all disputes as to rights to land in the manor were determined, and personal actions, such as debt, trespass, &c., were tried, where the amount in dispute was less than 40s. This was a considerable sum in the time of Edward III., but the diminution in

¹ Ducange, *sub voce* "*exigenda*."

the value of money made it more and more insignificant, and ultimately deprived this Court of nearly all its importance. The "Customary Court," in which copyholders' estates were transferred, and all matters relating to their tenures transacted, was theoretically¹ a different Court, but it is not distinguished in the Rolls from the Court Baron. In it byelaws were made and proclamations issued as to the management of the common lands which the several townships possessed, and as to the Lord's parks and pasture lands to which the cattle of the tenants were admitted on payment, and the amounts paid are entered on the rolls. In and after the time of Queen Elizabeth a Constable was appointed in Court annually for each township for police purposes.

Separate Courts were held for the Borough, which is always referred to as "Villa" or "Nova Villa" de Ruyton, and for the rest of the manor, which is generally called "Patria," i.e., the country district of Ruyton; but the Steward, who presided, was nearly always the same person for both. The Courts were held on the same days, and were often recorded on the same strips of parchment.

The earliest Roll which we possess is imperfect, beginning with the latter part of the record of a Court which ends "Sm^a 15^s 2^d de anno pdco," i.e., the total receipts of the Court for the last year were 15s. 2d., a sum which must be multiplied by 25 to give any idea of what it would represent now. The record which follows, on the same side of the same skin, is of a Court Baron of the Country Manor. The left hand margin, on which was entered the amount of the fines imposed, has perished, but in other respects the skin is fairly perfect. The following is a translation:—

Court held on the Saturday next after St. Dionysius day in the 6th year of King Edward.

Richard son of Thomas of Wotton excuses himself against Stephen de Felton in a plea of trespass by Roger Dodd. (2d. in margin).

Marg. de Coton against John of the Forest in a plea of debt by John the Chandler.

John Saa against John de Dourghton in a plea of . . . by Thomas de Coton advocate for one court. (3d. in margin).

¹ Stephens' *Blackstone*, iii. 395.

Jen ap Griffit gives to the Lord 2d. for leave to convey to John son of Henry of Wyke his land in Wyke aforesaid, and the said John conveys it to the said Jenkyn and Alice his wife and their heirs, the said John son of Henry warranting it.

Richard son of Nicholas the steward [prepositi] gives the Lord 12d. for having entrance into six acres of open land [sex acras campestris] in the field of Ruyton, and is to pay an annual rent of 2 shillings, by equal portions on the feasts of St. Michael and of the Annunciation.

Thomas the Tailor gives the Lord 4d. a year for having his protection [pro advocaria habenda], viz. at the feast of St. Michael 2d. and at the feast of the Annunciation 2d. For entering into it 6d.; and if he shall dismiss the protection he will double the rent.

Madoc the bailiff [ballivus] is in mercy (i.e., liable to be fined) for not producing John of Felton, whose surety he was, to answer to Thomas of Coton in a plea of trespass, and is assigned to the next Court.

Juliana of Twyfort in mercy for her cattle found on the Lynke.
(Against this entry is written in the margin "poor widow").

Philip of Twyford for 4 cattle in the same place.

Thomas Bor for 2 pigs in Toddeley.

Richard Impeas for 3 pigs in the same.

Thomas le Grys for 2 pigs in the same.

Ralph the Carpenter for 1 pig in the same.

Madoc ap Ithel for 2 pigs in the same.

Thomas Ball (or the Bailiff) for 2 pigs in the same.

Thomas son of Thomas of Twyfort for one sow and 4 hogs in the same.

William Drewra for 2 pigs in the same.

Thomas . . . for one sow in the same.

Tangast son of Rerid for 2 goats in the Bury.

Henry the Tailor for 2 pigs in the same.

Richard Impeas and Madoc the bailiff are in mercy for not having Madoc the bailiff to prosecute the complaint of the Township of Rednal in the plea above entered.

Richard le Grys gives the Lord 6d. for bail and surety against John de Felton to proceed against the said John in a plea of debt, viz. of 4s. 11d., and the said John is to be summoned, and Ralph Payn is made the attorney of the said Richard.

Total 6s. 2d. and fine remitted 2d.

So ends the first record of a Manor Court which we possess. It is very intelligible and modern in its ideas. The names of places are those which they bear still. Wooton, Felton, Coton, Wykey, Twyford, Rednal, need no explanation. The "field of Ruyton" would be the open space, probably of plough land, in that township, which the Lord let off in strips to the different householders of the township. The strips would all be open land, marked off from each other by the plough or by some mark, but not separated by fences, and six of these strips of a reputed acre each,¹ by no means necessarily adjoining each other, Richard now took for 2s. a year. The ordinary rent days then, as now, were Lady Day and Michaelmas. The place-names the Link, Toddeley, and Bury, all exist now, and occur frequently in subsequent rolls. As to persons, we find a few surnames, Saa or Say, Drewra or Drury, Impeas; but most are described by the names of their fathers, or their trades, or their homes. There are one or two "ap's," showing that Welshmen were admitted to be tenants. The name Rerid may be derived from Ririd the Wolf, who held Ruyton in the reigns of Henry I. and Stephen. Grice means a little pig,² and perhaps Thomas and Richard le Grys were named after this.

With respect to the matters dealt with by the Court, we see that if a plaintiff or defendant wished to postpone a cause entered for trial, as Richard son of Thomas and two others did, he had to pay a fine of 2d. or 3d., and that if, like John of Felton, he did not appear when the cause was called on, his surety might be fined. The suits are chiefly for trespass or debt. Jenkyn ap Griffith makes a marriage settlement by transferring his land to a trustee, who re-conveys it to Jenkyn and his wife and their heirs; the transaction is published in open Court, and recorded on the rolls, and a fee is paid to the Lord for his trouble. It was a simple and efficacious form of land registration, which is still practised with respect to copyhold land.

Thomas the Tailor pays 6d. for having the Lord's protection, and 4d. a year during its continuance. If he should cease to wish for it (on account of leaving the neighbourhood

¹ As to acres, see Maitland p. 373, &c.

² It is common in Piers Ploughman.

or for any other reason) he is to pay twice the rent for that year. The protection appears¹ to mean protection for his person and property, and the right to share in all privileges of the patron's tenants, as for instance to sue in his Courts and buy and sell in his markets. Thomas, probably, was not a tenant of the Earl, otherwise he would have had his protection without paying specially for it. Payments for entering into the Lord's protection are not unfrequent on the Rolls, even as late as the reign of Henry VII. The annual rent seems to be always 4d., and if an initial payment is made, which is not always the case, it is 6d. In the 31st year of Edward III., John the Shepherd, and in the 37th year, Alice, daughter of Richard the Tailor, of Felton, pay 8d. (that is, double the year's rent) to go out of the protection, but the latest entry of this kind I have noticed is in the 50th year of Edward III., when Reginald of Atton goes out of protection.

Madoc the Bailiff probably was the person in charge of some of the Lord's woods or pasture grounds in the neighbourhood of Felton. Bailiffs are often mentioned in this connection on the Rolls, and have to give account to the Steward of their receipts on behalf of the Lord. The entries at the end of the Roll show the nature of some of these receipts. On subsequent Rolls sales of timber and underwood and of turf, rights of pasturage, and of keeping pigs and fowls, are frequently mentioned, and come to substantial sums. In this particular Court the total receipts were only 6s. 2d., and it is interesting to note that the fine of 2d. imposed on a "poor widow" was remitted, although she was not too poor to own cattle.

On the back of the same skin are the records of two more Courts, but being on the imperfect side of the skin much of them is illegible. One of the two was a Great or Leet Court, at which all the eleven townships made presentments, many of them identical with those of the next Court, now to be set out.

The following is the first complete record of a Court Leet,

¹ See Index to Eyton; and below, under the 17th year of Richard II., for the result of dying without this protection.

more. Also they present as Sutton does about the encroachment.

Halghton present nothing and agree in all things presented by the last named township.

Wike present nothing.

Total 31s, 11d.

The above two Rolls are fair specimens of the subsequent ones, and there is nothing entered in them which is not very like many later entries. The townships of Ruyton, Eardiston, and Tedsmere are collectively fined for the misdeeds of their inhabitants, all the inhabitants of each township being held to be perpetual bail for each other. Twyford is also fined, but as it was no part of the manor, it is not clear how the fine could be enforced. When hue and cry was raised, it was everybody's business to help to give warning and to catch the wrong doer; those who neglected to do so were fined, but anyone raising hue and cry improperly was himself fined. Instances of both kinds are very common on the Rolls. Shelvock had presented the intestacy of William at a previous Court, and had then given an inventory of his goods. Among them was one leather wallet, three augers, one dart, one spear, and three tunics and one cloke.¹ The valuation now put on them does not seem excessive. The relations would probably be allowed to have them on paying this sum to the Lord.

In the 31st Edward III. we have upon the Court Rolls the record of a third kind of Court, called a "Court of Labourers." In 1349, the 23rd year of the King, the Black Death greatly diminished the number of labourers to be had, and a Statute was made, which recited that because a great "part of the people, and especially of workmen and servants," late died of the pestilence, many seeing the necessity of masters and great scarcity of servants, will not serve unless they may receive excessive wages," and enacted that persons without a trade or property must serve if wanted, and take the wages which were usual in the King's 20th year, on pain of imprisonment; and masters paying excessive wages were to forfeit

¹ "1 scarc., 3 terebr., 1 hast., 3 tunicas, 1 cloka." The meaning of *scarcella* is given in Ducange.

three times the wages promised. This proving ineffective, the Statute of Labourers, 25 Edward III., defined the amount of wages to be given for many kinds of work, and required that the "same servants be sworn two times in the year before Lords, Stewards, Bailiffs and Constables of every town, to hold and do these ordinances." Those refusing were to be put in the stocks for three days, or sent to gaol. Boot and shoemakers, tailors, and many other tradesmen, were also forbidden to take more for their work than they did in the 20th year of the King. Accordingly in the Ruyton Manor Court 27 Edward III. it was ordered that proclamation¹ be made in successive Courts that Margaret, daughter of Richard Nicols, and a great many others of both sexes, must surrender; and if they do so, they are to be arrested and kept in safe custody, so that the bailiff may produce them at the next Court to answer to the Lord with respect to the Statute of Labourers which they had broken. They were probably people who had left the manor to get higher wages elsewhere. In the 31st year we have the following records of Courts held for the special purposes of the Statute.

Ruyton. Court of Labourers of the Country Manor held on Thursday next before the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary in the 31st year.

Henry Cutte puts himself in the Lords favour and fealty and finds these sureties, viz. Richard Holigost.

Maria his wife puts herself [&c., the same words are repeated after each name] sureties viz. the said Henry.

Maria wife of Eynon Cutte, sureties viz. Henry Cutte.

Richard Holigost and Elena his wife, sureties viz. Henry Cutte and Nicholas of Monford.

[Omitting the formal words and the names of the sureties the rest of the persons who submit themselves are] John the Shepherd; Jeven Jenkyns and Gladys his wife; Genll. wife of John and Mabel her daughter; John Jenkyns; Jevan Earon and Marjory his wife; Jevan Vaughan; Roger Taylor and Juliana his wife; John Brown; William Mene; Thomas Russell junior; Geoffrey of Stanwardine; Tang, wife of William; Tad Voil; John of Baggeley; John ap John; Eyn. of Sutton; Henry son of

¹ "Exigent;" see Stephen's *Blackstone*, iv. 471.

Nicholas Brown; Deykin the Herdman; Thomas the Mercer; Alice of Felton; John servant of Jevan; Geirvill Gorpyn; Agnes wife of Gutor; John son of Sybill and Alice his wife; John son of Jevan; Kadma daughter of Jevan; Jevan of Whittington; Mabel daughter of John; John son of Mabel; John the Tailor; Richard and Thomas sons of Jevan; Alice Hert; William Jankyns; William of Coton; Alice daughter of Richard; Jevan servant of John Aleyns; John son of Alan; Isabel servant of John Aleyns; Jenkyn ap Jevan; Alice daughter of William of Wycherley; William son of Jenkyn; Agnes wife of William Stedmon; Eynon Cutte; Amicia of Felton; Weyan servant of the Vicar; Constance wife of Nicholas Hobbe the weaver; Hugh of Fernhalgh; Ith. ap Jenkyn; Tanny son of the Sawyer; Cad. servant of Philip Aleyns.

Court of Labourers of the new town of Ruyton held [the same day.]
[The names are entered in exactly the same way, and are]

Alice and Alianore servants of John of Cyneton; John the Baker and Alice his wife; Marjery Gerbagge; Johanna wife of Thomas Tibbesone; Agnes wife of Hugh Swettmon; Stephen of Milford and Emma his wife; Cecilia his daughter; Margery of Albenbury; Alice wife of John of Coton; Stephen son of John Jenkyns; Deykin servant of Thomas Madyns; Gilkyn servant of the same Thomas; Richard of Adecone and Cecilia his wife; David the Carver ("Cissor") and Cecilia his wife; Reginald the Cart maker ("le Cartwright"); Weyan wife of Cad; Dughy of Wike; Margeria of Sonford; Alicia Boltes; Emma the bowmaker ("le Fletchere"); Margeria the dyer ("heuster"); Nicholas of Farleye; Uncia of Trevenant; Richard Gefesome; John Champion; William the Smyth faber; Margeria daughter of Geffe; William Cabote; William Jenkyns and Cecilia his wife; Margary of Muridon; Alicia servant of William Jenkyns; Isabel of Gyrthe; Thomas of Wiken; John the Marchall faber; Henry Rago; Richard son of Stephen of Milford; Amicia daughter of Thomas of Coton.

Altogether 54 persons in the Country Manor and 37 in the town put themselves in the Lord's favour in this way, and each paid 6d. for so doing. It will be seen that the use of regular surnames among the peasantry had become fairly common, though very far from universal. "William le Smyth

faber" and "John le Marchall faber" seem to be instances of surnames in course of formation, as Smith, Marshal,¹ and faber all mean the same thing, but the two former names were probably inherited together with the trade, and faber is added to them to show that the trade is still practised.

The other occupations mentioned are, in the Country, Shepherd, two Tailors, Herdsman, Mercer, Weaver, Sawyer; in the Borough, Baker, Carver, Cartmaker, Bowmaker, Dyer, and two Smiths; and there are five persons in the Country and five in the Town described as servants. In addition, we may be sure that Richard Holigost was the keeper of the Holy Ghost weir mentioned on another Roll of this same year, and took his name from it. The list of occupations proves that the Charter of 1308 had not succeeded in making Ruyton any more of a town than it is now; except those of weaver, bowmaker, and dyer, they are all practised here still. It is noticeable that many persons are described as of places outside the manor. It is pretty certain that they must have been living within the manor when this Court was held, and they are, probably, described as of the places from which they came. There must, therefore, have been a good deal of migration from one manor to another, notwithstanding the efforts made by Parliament to prevent it.

These are the only records which we have of Courts of Labourers; but proceedings under the Statute of Labourers for taking excessive profits are common in subsequent Courts Leet. Thus in this same 31st year John the Tailor was fined 2d. "for taking excessive profit as himself acknowledges;" he left the Manor and did not pay the fine, and was therefore outlawed, and three persons, whose occupation is not described, were fined for not having arrested him. Madoc the "Salde" was also outlawed for leaving the manor.

Subsequent Court Rolls are far too numerous to be translated in full. I propose to give in my accounts of successive Lords of the Manor such entries as are of interest concerning the whole manor, and to reserve transfers of property and local details to be dealt with under the heading of the various townships concerned.

¹ Johnson's *Dictionary*.

The value of money is illustrated by the following particulars. In 6 Edward III., Stephen Wynmar died intestate. His property consisted of four bushels of light wheat (siliginis), value 2s. 4d., four bushels of oats, value 9d., and "a fourth part of the seed of two bushels of wheat for increase." Moreover, Thomas Mychel owed him two bushels of wheat. His heriot was fixed at 12d., and the bailiff was charged with the fourth part of two bushels of wheat which had been sown.

In 27 Edward III., Isold, daughter of Thomas of Eytton, a tenant in Shotatton, died. Her goods were 5 bushels of corn (frumenti), 3 of light wheat (siliginis), 3 of oats, and one coffer (arca), and the whole were valued at 2s. The price of corn fluctuated enormously. In the same reign, Stephen the Shepherd, of the new town of Ruyton, complained that Reginald of Wyke had killed ten bullocks of the value of 8s. each, to the loss of the said Stephen of six marks (i.e., 80s.). In the 31st year, Madoc son of John died, and his heriot was an ox worth 7s., and in addition a cow worth 4s. for his land in Erdeston; and 8 fleeces of wool, which became the property of the Lord at the same time as escheats were valued at 40d.

In the 37th year, Roger Symonds "passed away" (transivit) at Atton, and on his premises there was a "hoggett" of ale worth 13s., which was taken as a heriot.

In the 49th year, Agnes the Fringemaker of Pale stole a smock (camisia) of the value of 6d., of the goods of the wife of William of the Mill.

An undated Court Roll of this period tells us that John fitz John, a tenant in Old Ruyton, died intestate, and therefore his goods escheated to the Lord. They were, a cow worth 4s., another old one worth 12d., a brass tub worth 12d., a chest worth 12d., a thrave of light corn (siliginis)¹ worth 16d., two dishes and one saucer worth 12d.

Besides the fines, escheats, and heriots, of which examples have been given, the Lord got a profit by selling the wardship

¹ Siligo was a kind of corn with a grain very white, but lighter and less nourishing than wheat. A thrave was 12 sheaves. Ainsworth's *Dictionary and Index Juridica*.

of tenants under age, and the right of betrothing them; thus in the 28th year William of Halghton gave him 40d. for the marriage of Anchug, daughter of William Bowyn, and custody of her lands till she should come of age. She held one messuage and five and a half acres of meadow land in Halghton by military service.¹ In the 32nd year the Lord brought an action in the Manor Court to have it declared that he had the custody of the person of Sibyll Payn, and the right to her marriage; but she denied it and produced a deed to warrant the denial. In the 38th year the wardship and marriage of Reginald, son of John Hugyns, a minor, was sold by the Lord to Roger of Atton and his heirs for 66s. 8d.; and the marriage of Agnes, daughter of Thomas Jenkyns, was granted to Reginald of Wike for 20s. But there is no record of the sale of any wardship or marriage after the time of this Earl.

In the 27th Edward III. an order was made by the Lord that all tenants should show by what warrant they claim to have pasture and turf in the Lord's pasture lands. The tenants of Felton say that all except four persons claim nothing except by purchase from the Lord or his bailiff. These four are ordered to show their deeds at their peril, and all subsequently do so, and get them allowed. Teddesmere, Wikey, Erdeston, Shelvak, Atton, and Coton merely claim all their usual and accustomed privileges. Sutton and Rednal say that from time out of mind they have been accustomed to have and dig pasture and turf in the said townships without impediment; and Halghton says the same as to all tenants who hold in fee there, except certain persons, one of whom thereupon shows a grant by a former Lord. Nothing is said about the township of Ruyton. Prosecutions for taking pasturage and turf improperly from the Lord's demesne are frequent in subsequent Rolls, the penalty being a fine, generally 2d. or 3d.

In a Court held on Monday after the octave of Epiphany, 31 Edward III., the fisheries of the Country Manor were

¹ On 22 April, 1700, the Jurors of the Country Manor presented the death of Susanna, late wife of William Evans, and daughter of Thomas Bowen, gentleman. They do not say in what township she held lands.

enquired into. One called the "Holy Gostwere" was let to Nicholas Hobbes for 12d. per an. and an initial payment of 12d. for possession. It was, probably, on the Perry, in the township of Ruyton. Those called Hancokeswere, Crongbagh, Burywere, the fishery of William the Wythe, and the fishery of Wodested mill were in the hands of the Lord. The Abbot of Salop showed deeds entitling him to the fisheries of the Plat Mill and Kyngeswere, and Agnes of Wiken showed one entitling her to the Wikey fishery. At the same Court a summons was issued to the Abbot of Haghmond to prove by what warrant he held the Vill of Caldecote, which appears to have been a dependency of Knockin.¹ When a new tenant succeeded to land he came into Court, proved his title, and did fealty. Instances occur throughout the whole period for which we have Court Rolls, even as late as William III.'s reign. The mode of doing fealty was prescribed by a Statute of 17 Edward II. A freeman was to hold his hand over the Book and say "Hear this you Sir R., I will be faithful and loyal and keep faith with you for the tenements which I claim from you and I will acknowledge you loyally and will loyally do to you the customs and services which I ought to do at the terms assigned, so help me God and the Saints." A Villein was to hold his right hand over the Book and say "Hear this you my Lord R., that I, W., will be faithful and loyal and will keep faith with you for the tenement which I hold from you in villenage and that I will be subject to your justice in my body and my goods, so help me God and the Saints."

As to offences dealt with by the Manor Courts under this Earl, assaults on the highway, and assaults in which blood was drawn, were very common. Hue and cry was often raised, and anyone raising it improperly was fined. Two persons were fined 6d. and 12d. respectively for driving away and impounding some oxen of John of Wodecote, who raised hue and cry after them. Many were fined for not mending their hedges to the injury of their neighbours. This penalty was inflicted by consent of the tenants of the several townships, and in some townships was 6d., in others 12d. Some-

¹ Eyton x. 376.

times the whole, sometimes only half, went to the Lord. In the latter case, perhaps the complainant got the other half. John the Marshal (i.e., the smith) of old Ruyton was fined for improperly raising a bank on his own ground. Several were fined for brewing and breaking the assise of ale. The charter to the borough had granted that no one in the Lordship of Ruyton should brew, sell, or buy there without leave of the burgesses, so that brewing or selling beer outside the borough was a finable offence; but there are few of the Court Rolls which do not mention such brewing and selling. The penalty for all these offences was a fine of a few pence. But there were more serious offences than these. Ralph Hert of Teddesmere was fined 40d. for not arresting a robber who was in his house to his knowledge. One person was committed to the custody of the bailiff for carrying off Alice, daughter of John; and two others for theft. Thomas Payne and John his brother were indicted in the 28th year for the death of William le Grys, but did not appear. In the 32nd year John of Crickheath and Ririd of Maesbrook were outlawed because they had been summoned at five Courts on an indictment for felony, and had not appeared; and Madoc of Halghton, the bailiff, sold the goods of John of Sanford, an outlawed felon, for 5s. 10d. Several indictments for theft are entered on the Rolls, but the defendants do not seem to have appeared.

The civil actions were chiefly for trespass or debt, or to try the right to land. Thus Walter de Huggett brought one in the 27th year against Henry Roger for keeping unlawful possession of a house and $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres; but most of these actions will be more conveniently mentioned hereafter in histories of the particular townships concerned. One was brought, apparently by the Lord, against a person who unlawfully erected a boundary mark against a neighbour who was under age.

In the 38th year there is the following remarkable entry:—
 “The Bailiff is ordered to cause to be levied from the suitors of this Court £66 13s. 4d. as penalty for a judgment erroneously given by the said suitors in a certain plea between’ (here follows a blank space). The sum was enormous, but, of course, was never levied. Interlined is “P ni adjudicatum

est per dnm et ejus —," i.e., probably, the Lord decides that the penalty shall be nothing.

As to the officers of the Manor, the Steward in 6 and 12 Edward III. was Nicholas de Barton, in 28 Edward III. he was William le Younge. Madoc was bailiff in the 6th and 31st years, and in the latter year is described as of Haughton. In the 37th year two bailiffs were elected in Court for the Country, and in the 49th year for the Town.

In the 27th year we get the first lists of the Jurymen at the Manor Courts. They were the principal people present. Those for the Country Manor were—Thomas of Coton, Jenkin son of John of Wyke, John son of Jervase of the same, John son of Hugh, Richard le Grys, Richard le Grys of Sotton, William of Haughton, Jenkyn ap Ithel of the same, Ralph Hert, Thomas fitz Philip, Roger son of Thomas, Nicholas Hobbe. The number, twelve, was not always adhered to in later times, but the jury is generally referred to as "the twelve," though the number may be more.

Earl Richard died 24 January, 1375-6, which was the last day of the 49th year of King Edward III., and was buried with his second Countess at Arundel. He was succeeded by his son,

Richard Earl of Arundel and Surrey, K.G., 1376—1397, who took the title of Surrey in right of his grandmother, heiress of the Warrennes. He was born in 1346, and married Elizabeth, daughter of William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton. He took a distinguished part in national politics, but very little in those of Shropshire, where he seems to have held no local appointments. On the very next Tuesday after his father's death the Steward of the Manor of Ruyton held a Court to receive the fealty of the tenants to the new Earl. The Roll is headed "Court of the Lord Richard Earl of Arundell and Surrey son and heir of the Lord Richard Arundell lately Earl there, held at Ruyton about the recognition and fealty of his tenants of his Lordship as well as of the Country as of the town of Ruyton done to him as will appear below on the Tuesday next after the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul in the 50th year of King Edward." A few ordinary suits for debt, trespass, and the like follow, and then

The townsmen of Coton, Atton, Wyken, Ruyton, Erdeston, Sutton, Teddesmere, Radnall, Halghton, Shelvak, Felton, with all other townsmen and tenants as well free as bondsmen by birth [nativi] of the said Lordship of Ruyton wherever they may be came into Court and acknowledged themselves to be faithful and humble in all things both as to their bodies and as to their goods and chattels sincerely and of free will to the Lord Richard Earl of Arundell and Surrey son and heir of the Lord Richard Arundell lately Earl there and that they hold in chief of the said Lord Richard all the aforesaid lands tenements townships and manors with their appurtenances by the rents services and customs both with respect to their bodies and to the said lands tenements townships and manors respectively hitherto accustomed and rightly to be accustomed in future. And they did fealty to the said Lord Richard before the Lord William Bealshawe, John Sher., David Holbache, Peter Vaughan, attorneys of the said Lord Richard as well general as special deputed entrusted and sent for this purpose and received by virtue of the commission on this account directed to them at Arundell.

The marginal note on the Roll is "Fealty of the tenants of the Lordship of Ruyton." William Bealshawe took a lease of land in Shotatton this year for himself, besides acting on behalf of the Lord in letting land in Sutton.

David Holbache did not share in the fall of the Earl, but was employed with respect to the property by King Richard II. In 1406 the House of Commons petitioned in his favour that the King would enable him to hold offices and buy land in England notwithstanding the Act of 2 Hen. IV., c. 12, which forbade these things to whole born Welshmen. He was therefore of Welsh parentage. The grounds of the petition were that he and his ancestors had always been loyal to the English Crown, as well before the conquest of Wales as after it, and that during the present rebellion (that of Glendower) he had lost in Wales lands and rents to the value of 200 marks (£135) and more, and in goods and chattels destroyed more than 2,000 marks. He must, therefore, have been a rich man before this time. Letters patent were granted to him in accordance with the petition, and he represented the county in the Parliaments of 1406 and 1407. At the same time he was an auditor of the accounts of the war, and one

of eleven appointed with the Speaker to superintend the engrossing of the Rolls of Parliament. About this time also he was Steward of the Hundred of Oswestry, and founded Oswestry Grammar School, but died next year.¹

On the back of the same skin which contains the record of the fealty of the country tenants is "Court of the Town of Ruyton held on behalf of the Lord Richard Earl of Arundell and Surrey about the recognition and fealty of his tenants there under one and the same form as appears below in that behalf on the day and year below stated." Below evidently means on the other side, for the rest of the record of this Court consists only of pleas of trespass, &c., with fines of 2d. to 12d.

In the first year of this Lord, 50 Edward III., a proclamation was made in Court that tenants of free tenants of the Lordship were to have right of pasturage on the common lands, though they might hold nothing themselves directly from the Lord.

In 2 Richard II. the first Court is headed "Court of the Eleven Towns," instead of the usual "Ruyton Patria." This is the first time the name "Eleven Towns" occurs on the Rolls, but it is not uncommon afterwards.

In 7 Richard II. a claim by the Lord of dues from a tenant was tried in the Manor Court, and allowed.

In 17 Richard II. there was an enquiry held as to whether the Steward had not been letting the land too low. The Jury found:—

That a certain meadow of Lynk lately let to William Madoc and Richard of Twiford at the time of its being let by Sir John Harleston then steward there for 8s. per an., at that time could not be let otherwise because it was then a marsh, but that the said William and Richard by hedging and ditching and planting all round it and by getting rid of the water from it had spent 7s. 4d. on it, and it is now improved in value to 16s. a year. Also as to the Flax-polle meadow let to Richard son of Thomas of Felton by the same Steward and Receiver for 4s. per annum, it could not then be let better, but the said Richard had spent on it in enclosing it and

¹ Rolls of Parliament, vol. iii. 577, 583, 590, 600. Deed of 9 Hen. IV. with respect to Oswestry Grammar School, to which Gwenhwyvar his widow is a party. *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1882, p. 2; *Return of Names of M.P.'s*, 1878.

getting rid of the water and rooting up thorns and brambles and otherwise 6s. 8d., through which expenses it is worth 4s. per annum more, and is therefore now worth 8s. And the Moot of Felton is worth 3s. per an., and was formerly let for 2s. 4d. And Rednal Meadow is now worth 8s. per annum to hold in severalty, but if it was inclosed with hedge and ditch it would be worth 20s., but it would cost at least £10 to enclose it.

It is noticeable that the jury which gave these findings was composed of William Madoc, William the Parker, John of Wike, and their nine associates, William Madoc being the tenant of the Lynk meadow, the rent of which was in question.

Under this Earl there was a great deal of disorder and turbulence in the manor. Prosecutions for assaults, assaults on the highway, assaults with blood drawing, were very common. Hue and cry was often raised. There were prosecutions for using false measures; for breaking down boundary marks; for rescuing a distress. The butchers in the town were frequently fined for selling meat too dear, and many persons outside the town were fined for brewing and selling ale contrary to the assise, i.e., to the rules made in the town under the charter, or for importing it from Shrewsbury. In 6 Richard II. "John le Grant came and paid a fine to the Lord of 5s. for having ridden a mare of John Eynions out of the Lordship against his will." In 13 Richard II. several persons were presented "for hunting with dogs and greyhounds in the warren of the Lordship of the Eleven Towns," proving that the Lord of the Manor claimed a right of warren in the manor. In 17 Richard II. John of Adecone broke into the house of Agnes of Adecone in Ruyton; and the bailiff accounted for 6s. 6d. of the goods of John Tanner, a felon and outlaw, seized by him, and for 51s. 6d. received from the goods of Cadogan, a Welshman, who died out of the Lord's protection. As Wales had been annexed to England, Welshmen were no longer foreigners or enemies, so Cadogan's goods must have been seized by virtue of a general claim by the Lord to the goods of all persons dying in his dominions who had not formally submitted themselves to his protection. But this is the only example of such claim that I have found.

The following valuations and inventories of goods occur. In 50 Edward III., William de la Bathe of Atton had been outlawed, and the townsmen presented that besides his goods previously valued for the Lord as having been forfeited by the outlawry he had the following, viz., one sword with a pommel, value 4d., one three legged stool, one cooking pot, one spade handle and two augers, two corn measures and one dish, which are valued at 2s. 3d., and one quarter of oats value 20d.

Two oxen taken as heriots this year were valued at 7s. and 9s. respectively, and a calf in 13 Richard II. at 5s.

In 17 Richard II. John de Bokeden was indicted for three thefts: of a buckler of the value of 13d. of the goods of William Fombour of Shrewsbury, which buckler he stole at Shrewsbury on the Saturday after the feast of All Saints 16 Richard II., and brought with him to the Eleven Towns; of 6s. 8d. in silver of the goods of Richard the Shepherd of Erdeston, stolen at Erdeston on the Wednesday in the feast of St. Martin; and of a mantle of red cloth worth 4d. of the goods of a certain Esquire of the Lord of Powys, stolen on the vigil of St. Margaret last past, at Shrewsbury. He was ordered to be arrested, and was called at several subsequent Courts, but did not appear.

On the Court Rolls under this Earl are endorsed accounts of the complete receipts from the Manor Courts for two separate years. These do not include the rents or dues for land, but consist of the Court fees and fines, and all casual receipts, such as those from timber, and from cattle taken in to graze on the Lord's land. The following is for 51 Edward III. :—

		£	s.	d.
Patria	Sum of all pleas and perquisites of the Court of the Country of Ruyton this year	6	5	6
	Fishery of Rednal Mill Pool...	0	1	0
	Admission to a tenancy	0	1	0
Villa	Sum of perquisites of the town of Ruyton	0	11	7
Park there	Underwood sold from Ruyton Park and elsewhere less tithe	12	16	8
	Wood sold in the Park	1	7	5
	Attachiements made in the Park	0	11	11
	Agistments valued in the Park	0	10	6

		£	s.	d.
Hem Park	{ Wood blown down in Hem Park and sold	0	4	0
	{ Turf sold in Hem Park	0	0	4
bosc. Fornis	{ Wood blown down and sold in bosc.			
	{ Fornis	0	5	6
	{ Attachments made in bosc. Fornis ...	0	2	10
	From turbary receipts in Felton ...	0	16	2
	From turbary receipts in Halghton ...	0	4	0
	From proceeds of honey in Ruyton Park	0	2	0
	From attachments of the Lord's farm there	0	1	4
	From pasturage of Toddeley, Bucley, and the Bury	0	4	0
		<hr/>		

From this deduct expenses of Steward in holding the
Courts this year, 20s. 5d.

The receipts for 14 Richard II. were:—

	£	s.	d.
From Courts	3	3	0
Pannage in Ruyton Park	0	7	0
Sale of croppings and wood	4	6	8
From the same Park and Wood	0	8	2
Agistment in the same	2	18	0
Parkmede	0	3	5
Hem Park	0	2	0
Toddeley	0	1	6
3 Sales in Felton pasture	0	8	6
Sale of old posts	0	5	6
Sale of alders	0	2	0
	<hr/>		

In 17 Richard II. the names of the Country Jurors were John of Wiken, William Madocus, John Parker, Richard Thomassons, William Thomassons, Roger Saa, William Payn, William de Syninton, William of Halghton, John Bron of Erdeston, Richard Hoskyns, Madoc son of Hugh.

On 21 Sept., 1397, the Earl was beheaded for treason, in which he had been engaged most of his life, and thereupon his estates, including the Manor of Ruyton, were forfeited to the Crown.

King Richard II., 1397—1399, now became immediate Lord of the Manor of Ruyton. An Inquisition¹ on the death of the Earl of Arundel, taken at Oswestry on the 11th November, 1397, found that on the day on which he incurred forfeiture and afterwards, the Earl was seised in his demesne as of fee of (among other properties) "the Manor of Ruyton with its members and appurtenances in the Marches of Wales, and it is worth per annum in all its payments beyond the charges on it £56 2s. 7d." "Also of the patronage of the Church of Felton in the said Marches, and it is worth per annum 20 marks," i.e., £13 6s. 8d. The accounts of the King's receipts from the manor are still preserved in the Record Office.² The first is headed "Account of Hugh de Knevett, the King's receiver of the Lordship of Chirk and Hundred of Oswestry and the Eleven Towns by commission from William Bagot, Knight, Superintendent General and Receiver of the Lordship, Hundred, and Towns aforesaid, viz. from the vigil of St. Michael in the 21st year of King Richard II., to the 20th day of April in the same year,³ for half a year three weeks and a day before the King granted to Robert Parys, Esqr., Chamberlain of Chester,⁴ the Receivership aforesaid, as is contained in a certain brief under the privy seal of the 3rd July in the 22nd year."

The receipts from Oswestry Hundred and from a great number of manors in and near it follow, and among them is the following:—

Ruyton. And of £15 received from Thomas of Erdeston now bailiff there for dues by one tally against £44 11s. 6d. the account of the said bailiff from the vigil of St. Michael in the 21st year to the vigil of St. Michael in the 22nd year and not more for the reason aforesaid: total £15.

Amobyrr. And rent of Amobyrr⁵ of the Hundred of Oswestry

¹ Printed in Lloyd's *Powys Fadog*, i. 378.

² Ministers' Accounts, Bundle 1234, Nos. 6, 7.

³ Richard II.'s 21st year began 22 June, 1397. The profits of the Earl's estates are accounted for as from 28 Sept., 1397, a week after his execution.

⁴ He was Chamberlain of Chester 1393 to 1399. Ormerod's *Cheshire*, i. 55.

⁵ The "Amobyrr" of a daughter of persons of various ranks is fixed in the Welsh laws at various sums from a pound and a half to 24d. It is there said to be given "when her father in her presence has said he has given her to a man." Probably rent of Amobyrr means a payment in commutation of the sums which under these laws would be paid to the Lord on a girl's betrothal. For a further discussion of this custom see *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1888, p. 263.

Kanthende (?) Mochnant Kenllet and Ruyton nothing here for the reason aforesaid. Total Nothing.

Total receipts	...	£131 10 6½
expenses	...	3 15 0
		<hr/>
owes	...	127 15 6½

Accounted for at Holt.

The next is the account of Robert Parys from 20 April in the 21st year, to Michaelmas day in the 22nd year, and recites that he was appointed by letters patent Chamberlain and receiver of all dues and profits of the King's Lordship of Bromfield and Yale, Chirk and Chirkland, Oswestry and Oswestry Hundred, with the eleven walled towns, and of the castle of Shrawardyn with the lands and lordship annexed thereto, and was to account to the King for all profits up to Michaelmas day in the 22nd year, "after which feast the said Robert is to give account elsewhere."

Among the receipts accounted for is

Ruyton. And of £29 10s. received from Thomas of Erdeston now bailiff there for dues by one tally against £44 10s., as is contained in the account of the said bailiff from the vigil of St. Michael in the 21st year aforesaid to the vigil of St. Michael in the 22nd year. And not more for the reason aforesaid.

*Advowry.*¹ And of 60s. received for rent of advowry of the whole hundred of Oswestry as David Holbech asserts, viz. from the vigil of St. Michael in the 21st year aforesaid to the vigil of St. Michael in the 22nd year for one whole year.

Amobyrr. And of (various sums under this head for the Hundred of Oswestry and other places, among others) 6s. 8d. received for rent of Amobyrr of Ruyton and the eleven towns so let [sic dimiss.] for the same time.

Sale of Muttons. And of £7 8s. received from Alan de Thorp late Receiver of Oswestry and Chirk, on account of the arrears of the said Alan by the hands of John Penreule paid in silver coin in exoneration of the said Alan in respect of the aforesaid muttons of the Ruyton flock of Richard late Earl of Arundel sold by the said Alan to the said John.

¹ Advocaria is the Latin word. It means the patronage or protection given by the Lord. Holbech appears to have contracted to pay the Lord 60s. a year and receive what advowry fees he could get.

In this same Roll of "Ministers' Accounts" for this year are payments made for the garrisons of Oswestry, Shrawardine, and Chirk, which were garrisoned by Scrope, Earl of Wilts, for the King; also for ordinary carpenters and plumbers' work at those castles and Holt, but there is no payment on account of Ruyton Castle.

From these Ministers' Accounts we learn a good deal about Ruyton under Richard II. We find that the Earl of Arundel kept a considerable flock of sheep there, for his agent sold, all at one time apparently, £7 8s. worth, and the price of a carcase of mutton¹ at this time was from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d., so that he must have sold 100 sheep to make the money. We find also that Ruyton was subject to the Welsh custom of Amobyrr, or payment of a sum to the Lord for each girl betrothed, which was worth to the Lord 6s. 8d. a year, and that his other rents from Ruyton came to £44 11s. 6d. (or £44 10s., the two accounts differ to this extent). This is a good deal less than the £56 2s. 7d. at which the Inquisition just quoted valued the manor, but perhaps profits from the Earl's own sheep and cattle in the manor made up the difference. Alan de Thorp was the Earl's agent or receiver for Oswestry and Chirk Hundreds, and David Holbech appears to have contracted for the Advowry rents, and was probably a sub-agent. On the forfeiture of the Earl's estates, the King appointed first Sir William Bagot, whose deputy was Hugh de Knevett, to be receiver of Oswestry and Chirk Hundreds, and afterwards Robert Parys, Chamberlain of Chester. Thomas de Erdeston was the resident bailiff of Ruyton Manor under them. The eleven towns are mentioned as a special addition to the Hundred of Oswestry, and in one account are entered as "the eleven walled towns;" but this must have been merely a careless reading by a Chester clerk of the Act of Parliament next cited, for it is very unlikely that any one of the eleven towns had ever been walled with anything more than a mound and a stockade, and probably few had these in Richard II.'s time. Even Ruyton Castle, though it was still kept up, was of very little importance.

¹ Eden's *State of the Poor*, vol. liii., Table of Prices.

By an Act of Parliament passed at Westminster at the end of September, 1397, 21 Richard II., c. 9, Chester was made a Principality, to belong always to the King or his eldest son; and the Castle of Holt with the Lordship of Bromfield and Yale, Chirk Castle and Lordship, "the castle of Oswaldestre with the town well walled with stone, and the Hundred, and eleven towns to the said Castle belonging," Shrawardine Castle and Lordship, and Daliley¹ Castle, and also the reversion of the Lordship of Clun after the death of the Earl of Rutland, all of which had belonged to the Earl of Arundel, were annexed to the principality of Chester. This explains the appointment of the Chamberlain of Chester to receive the rents, and the fact that after the end of the current year he was to "account elsewhere," i.e., no doubt to the treasury office of the new principality. This Parliament was adjourned to Shrewsbury, and sat there from Monday to Thursday, January 28 to 31, 1397-8, in great state, and was then prorogued; but the King remained at Shrewsbury at least a week longer, and was at Oswestry on the 23rd February, where he heard the quarrel between the Dukes of Hereford and Norfolk, which forms the subject of a scene in Shakespeare's Richard II. He most likely passed through the Manor of Ruyton on his way from Shrewsbury to Oswestry, and, at any rate, the people of Ruyton had ample opportunities of seeing him and most of the great people of the land.

King Richard was formally deposed 30 September, 1399, and the Parliament which met 6 October repealed all the Acts of the Parliament of 21 Richard II., and annulled the judgments given in it, thus repealing the annexation of Ruyton to Chester, annulling the forfeiture of Arundel's estates and restoring them to his son.

Thomas, Earl of Arundel 1399—1415. He was born 1381,² and was present in Parliament as Earl of Arundel as early as 23 October, 1399,³ though the petition of the Commons for his restoration seems to have been a month later. He was made Captain at Oswestry and Warden of the Marches of

¹ This is described in the Act as being in Shropshire, but I do not know where it was.

² Doyle's *Official Baronage*.

³ Rolls of Parliament.

North Wales, October, 1404, Warden of the Town of Shrewsbury and the Marches in Shropshire 3 Oct., 1405, and Joint Commissioner for a Loan in the Counties of Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Stafford, Salop, and Hereford in 1410, and was Justice of the Peace for Shropshire, Surrey, Sussex, and Wilts, an unpaid office which was at that time conferred on only a few great men, who sat with eight paid justices for each county, under an Act of 14 Richard II., c. 11.

The Earl married Beatrix, natural daughter of John, King of Portugal, and settled on her for life, among other property, the Lordship of Ruyton. Accordingly in 1405, the presentation to the Rectory of Felton, which was appurtenant to the Manor of Ruyton, was made in the name of the Countess, not of the Earl; and the Court Roll of 12 Oct., 14 Hen. IV. is headed "Court of Thomas Earl of Arundel and Beatrix his wife."

In 1407 the Earl granted a charter to the Borough of Oswestry,¹ which contained a clause "That no one should be allowed to go with any cattle, corn, victuals, merchandise, or anything else for sale which is in our Lordships of Oswestry, Molverley, Kinnerley, Edgerley, Ruyton, or the eleven towns, to any fairs or any foreign market, nor to send them to be sold by any one else, before he shall have tried the market of our said town of Oswestry with them by exposing them for sale there; and if after so exposing them or any of them there for sale and not selling them, he shall have gone with them to any fair or other foreign market, and thence returned with them or any of them to our said Lordships or to any of them, he shall be bound to try again the market of our said town of Oswestry as often as this shall happen under a similar penalty to the above," i.e., 6s. 8d.

Under this Earl the Court Rolls are full of crimes of violence and of complaints against the clergy. The invasion of the county by the Percies and Glyndwr would be favourable to the former, and the growing irritation against the Church, stimulated by the Lollards, may partly account for the latter, the details of which will be given in the accounts of the townships of Ruyton and Felton. Many

¹ Printed in *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1879, p. 198.

assaults were committed, sometimes with drawing of blood. There were several prosecutions for brewing and breaking the assise; for breaking hedges or not keeping them up; for trespasses, or obstructing roads; for taking forcible possession of tenements; for breaking the Lord's cross or other boundary marks. The Lord's cross was a mark put up by the bailiff to separate the lands allotted to the different tenants, or the lands of one township from those of another. Instances of its being broken will be found in the accounts of various townships. In 11 Henry IV. Jankyn Hordeley of Ruyton gave the Lord 40s. for having a general pardon as well for having taken by force a heifer from William Heikyns, as for all other felonies, trespasses, &c., by him committed. In the same year (1409) the Jury reported that on Thursday before St. Andrew's day in that year, Meredith ap Ririd Vachan, Jen. Vachan of Penllyn, and David Irbogh, as wicked robbers had at West Felton feloniously burnt the houses of Jem Boile and robbed him and his son Roger of goods and chattels to the value of £20, and carried off Roger Boile and Hugh Richardson to the County of Merioneth, and there caused Roger to be put to death. Thereupon Thomas of Erdeston, the Lord's bailiff, seized a foal belonging to Roger Boile as a heriot due to the Lord on his death, and the tenants valued it at 11s. 8½d., at which price Roger Boile's representatives would, no doubt, be allowed to redeem it. This was the year in which Owen Glyndwr made his last serious attempt against Shrewsbury and its neighbourhood, and, no doubt, the raid upon Felton was by some of his followers. We see by this that Thomas of Erdeston, bailiff of the manor when it was in the hands of King Richard, retained his office during the greater part of the Earl's life.

In 13 Henry IV., the miller at Rednal Mill murdered Thomas Horde with a sword, and was outlawed.

In 14 Henry IV. and 1 Henry V. half a dozen persons are named as entering into the Lord's advocacy, and paying 4d. each (i.e., per annum).

Among civil actions, we find John, Abbot of Haghmond, resorting to the Manor Court in 4 Hen. IV. to recover a debt of 6s. 11½d. from one William Chalens. It is worth noting that in this year the following names appear on the Rolls:—

Walshmonson, Reynoldson, Jackson, Madocson, Smytheson, Ricson. So many terminations in "son" seem to mark a distinct step towards the use of surnames instead of mere patronymics.

Earl Thomas died 13 Oct., 1415, without issue, leaving as his coheireses his three sisters, Elizabeth, Dowager Duchess of Norfolk, who had become the wife of Gerard Ufflete, Knight; Joan de Beauchamp, Lady Bergavenny; and Margaret wife of Roland Lenthall, Knight. The two former were twins, 40 years of age, the last was 33. Much of his property went to them, but by virtue of the entail on male heirs executed in 1347, Ruyton, with Clun and Oswestry, &c., became the property of his kinsman John de Arundel, Knight, subject to the life interest of the Countess Beatrix.¹

Beatrix, Countess of Arundel, widow of the late Earl, became Lady of the Manor of Ruyton, 1415—1439. Her name appears at the head of the Court Rolls, and the word Lady is throughout substituted for that of Lord. She married after the death of the Earl of Arundel, secondly, Sir Gilbert Talbot, K.G., Lord of Blackmere and other places, who died 19 Oct., 1419; thirdly, John Holland, Earl of Huntingdon.² She died without heirs 23 Oct., 1439.

Neither people nor clergy were less quarrelsome under the Countess than under her husband. Jankyn Marretson was summoned, but did not appear, for rescuing a distress from the Lord's bailiff and his servants while collecting the Lord's dues, the penalty for which was 15s. Hue and cry was raised against him. Breaking the Lord's cross was a very common offence, punished generally by a fine of 6d. It seems to have been worst in Rednal and Sutton, and in one case the whole of the Rednal tenants were found guilty of it. Assaults were very common, and many people had to give sureties to keep

¹ See Inquisitions post mortem 4 Hen. V. and 18 Hen. VI. on Earls Thomas and John. A different Inquisition of the former date, but referring to Castles Dinas Brân and Holt and the Lordship of Bromfield and Vale, is printed in Lloyd's *Powys Fadog*, i. 383.

² Collins' *Peerage*, iii. 11. This adds that after his death she married John Fettiplace, ancestor by her of the late Baronets of that name. But the Earl of Huntingdon survived till 1446, and the Inquisition on the death of Beatrix speaks of her as Countess of Arundel, does not allude to any subsequent marriage, and states that she died without heirs. It is printed in Lloyd's *Hist. of Powys Fadog*, i. 385.

the peace. Under the Statutes of Labourers, in 5 Henry V. William of Forton was fined 12d. for giving to Wen the Wright excessive gain and hire, viz., 3d. a day, and Wen was fined the same for taking it. Roger Evason had given more wages in autumn time than the Statute required, and Jenkin Millward and Jenkin le Webe had taken them; and Thomas Millward and Wen of Haghton had given to reapers more wages than the Statute required.¹ Each of the five was fined 6d. Brewing ale and breaking the assise was very common. In 4 Henry VI. the townsmen of Felton were fined for concealing and not presenting a case of this kind which they knew of; Jankin Bocher of Teddesmere, butcher, baker, and carrier, was presented by both Teddesmere and Erdeston townships for taking excessive gain in the sale of victuals; and Hugh Dew, the Lord's miller at Rednal, was fined 12d. for taking excessive tolls.

These were the lighter offences. Serious crimes and felonies were extraordinarily plentiful. In 6 Henry V. Jankin son of Griffin le Webe of Wikyn was convicted of having feloniously stolen on the Longemore in the field of Halghton, on the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude, 5 Henry V., two black cattle worth 20s. of the goods of Wen of Halghton, and one worth 10s. of the goods of William Vachmer of the same place, and of having withdrawn himself out of the manor for fear of the said felony. His goods consisted of one "assr. deble" worth 16d., various cattle worth 9s. 6d., corn in his barn worth 5s., and a bushel of malt worth 5d.; and some seed sown in the field. After being summoned in vain at four Courts, he came and gave 60s. to the Lord to be free of all felonies hitherto committed by him, and for all his lands and chattels, to be paid by three instalments.

Next year Matthew Taillior son of Tudor feloniously killed Thomas of the Wood, a tenant, by a dagger in his breast and right side. Matthew's property was accordingly valued with a view to its forfeiture. In 2 Henry VI. Dew ap David

¹ By the Statute of 1350, reapers were to have 2d. a day during the first week of August, and 3d. a day during the rest of August, without food or any other perquisite. For haymaking only 1d. a day was to be given. But a Statute of 1389 empowered Justices to fix wages by proclamation twice a year, in accordance with the price of provisions.

ap Griffith, a Felton tenant, who took part in robbing certain tenants of the Earl of Stafford, and for that felony forfeited his lands and chattels to the Countess, paid her 20s. in the Country Court for her pardon; and Hugh Ames of Hoghton, who had committed felonies and so forfeited his goods and chattels, came to the town Court and paid 20s. for his life, and his goods and chattels were restored to him. This is the only allusion I have found to the power of life and death being exercised by the Lords of Ruyton as such.

In 6 Henry VI. William Eigan of Kendeley in the County of Salop, and John of Harnage Grange, yeoman, were outlawed for not coming to answer an indictment which charged that they had come with force and arms, and of malice aforethought against the peace of the Lord into the Lordship of the Eleven Towns, and there with one accord attacked one Thomas Wike and followed him to Shelvock, and there assaulted him in the house of one Thomas Cartwright. He raised hue and cry, but they escaped. This appears to be the last outlawry mentioned on the Rolls.

Riehard son of Jenkyn ap Egan of Knockin was presented for burglary at Felton, and others for helping him to escape when hue and cry was raised.

On the Sunday after the feast of the Purification, 6 Henry VI., John Muridon, the chief bailiff of the manor, with a jury, held an inquest on view of the body of Hugh Horde, and found that he had been feloniously killed that same day by Philip de Berceley at Erdesnull, in the field of Rednal, with a Bill,¹ and that he died intestate. His goods were therefore seized by the Lord as escheats. They consisted of an ox worth 13s. 4d., a cow worth 8s., two young heifers worth 6s. 8d., and a young bull worth 3s., one yearling worth 20d., one sick ewe worth 16d., and corn in the field valued at 13s. 4d., and corn cut in the field kept for paying the Lord's dues, and all the other property in the house valued at 6s. 8d., and two little pigs valued at 8d.; and the Steward allows that all these goods may be taken possession of by Agnes, widow of the said Hugh, at the price named, for payment of

¹ "Scotebille," apparently, in the Court Roll. Perhaps a battle axe.

which she gives sureties. The Bailiff is ordered to arrest Philip de Berclay.

It is curious that two Hordes should have been murdered, Thomas by a Rednal man in 1411, and Hugh in the township of Rednal in 1427. The Hords of Walford had died out before this, and those of Bridgnorth seem to have had no connection with this neighbourhood. Possibly the Hordes who were killed took their name from Hordley, which adjoins Rednal. A William Hord of Shrewsbury was one of the first trustees of Oswestry Grammar School in 1407, and M.P. for Shrewsbury 1414—1417, and in several subsequent Parliaments.

The following are instances of bye-laws made and enforced in the Manor Court. In 6 Henry V., proclamation was made in Court that no foreigner of a different township of the Eleven Towns should overload another township by pasturing his animals upon it; and that no tenant of the said Eleven Towns should keep more animals than his neighbours except in proportion as his lands and tenements in the same township should require, under a penalty of 20s. and a fine of as much to the Lord. In 2 Henry VI. there was a presentment from Shotatton that Jenkyn Phelipson had impleaded William Henyn in the Court of Sanford contrary to the Statute and Edict in that behalf made that no tenant should implead another except in the Lords Court. In 5 and 6 Henry VI. several persons were presented for turning out their cattle to graze in autumn time contrary to the bye-law; and in the latter year proclamation was made that no one must come to the help of complainants in the manor unless licensed by the Lord's ministers with the consent of the Court, under a penalty of 16d.; but the following record of the previous year shows that a similar bye-law had already been made, the object being, no doubt, to prevent decisions of the Manor Court being obtained by force. It is a record of the Country Manor Court of 5 Henry VI.:—

By order of the Steward the assessment is carried over to this year upon Thomas Willems, Clerk, who was indicted by the jury of the great and first general Court of last year for that he had brought with him into the Manor Guttyn ap Dd. ap Gr. and other

foreigners of other parts to attend the day of trial between himself and Cr Taillior contrary to the statute and ordinance for a penalty on that behalf made by leave of the Lord's minister and by assent of all the inhabitants in the manor under a penalty of 40s. and a fine of as much to the Lord. And the Court said that Cr Taillior on the aforesaid day place and occasion brought with him into the Manor Marus Lloit John ap Owen Gruff ap Owen and Gr. ap David to the same trial against the said Thomas Chaplain. And that David Dug and Owen of Sutton who had put themselves in the Lord's favour were followed by Thamlus Mylleford outside the Lordship to North Wales contrary to the aforesaid penalty. And that Matthew Taillior and Richard his son who had put themselves in favour brought with them Roger ap Dd. and Hoell Gough and other outside foreigners to attend the trial against Adam of Halghton and the aforesaid penalty. And that Roger Evason and John his son brought Jankyn de Chiroshith and other foreigners of the Lordship of Powys to attend the trial between them and Dew ap Atha Canol, against the aforesaid penalty. And that the townsmen of Felton by the presentments of that Court concealed and left unprested Jankyn ap Ath and that he had broken the assise of the sale of beer.

It will be observed that the "foreigners" introduced were all Welshmen. The first named, Guttyn ap David ap Griffith, had only a few years before been guilty of violent assaults in Ruyton Park, and was, no doubt, a dangerous man. There were many statutes against Welshmen, especially those of 4 Henry IV., one of which, c. 28, forbade congregations of Welshmen in any place of Wales, and may perhaps have been held to apply to the Welsh Marches. There were also many statutes passed under Henry IV. and V. against riots and unlawful assemblies.

In 5 Henry V. Roger Westwode, Rector of Hodnet, entered an action for debt in the Town Court against Richard Barker of Hodnet; but he did not proceed with it, and no reason is given why such an action should have been brought at Ruyton.

The Lord's protection was sought even by such great people as the Abbot and Canons of Haghmond, who in 4 Henry VI. gave him 6d. in the Country Court to have his protection against injury to their possessions in the Lordship of Ruyton, under a penalty of 10s. to be paid to the Lord,

The object, of course, was to make it the Lord's interest to take proceedings. Next year the Abbot and Canons were attached in the Town Court by their goods and chattels to the value of 10 marks for not coming to answer Thomas Carte of Coton in a plea of debt.

David Holbache was Steward of the Manor in 5 Henry V. He may have been son of the founder of Oswestry School, who, as we have seen, was dead in 9 Henry IV. He was M.P. for the County 1410 and 1414, and for Shrewsbury 1413 and 1417.¹ He is described as of Dudleston in 1409, and his Welsh pedigree is given in *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1882, p. 240. His Will is dated in September, 1421, and a deed (copied at the Heralds' College) executed by his widow Gwenhoevar 7 April, 2 Henry VI. (1424), shows that he was then dead.

William Burley was Steward in 2 Henry VI. We have seen him acting for the Countess in presenting to the Rectory of Felton as early as 1405. He was, probably, the William Burley who married the daughter and heiress of William Tour of Shrewsbury, by his wife the heiress of the Prides, and whose own daughter and heiress married Thomas Mytton, ancestor of the Myttons of Halston, and carried into that family all the Pride property in and near Shrewsbury. He was elected one of the first Aldermen of Shrewsbury in 1444, and was six times Bailiff of Shrewsbury.²

Thomas le Younge was Steward in 5 Henry VI. He was, very likely, the owner of Shelvock, and of the same family with Thomas Yonge, who became Archbishop of York, and bought the Manor of Ruyton in the time of Queen Elizabeth. On 16 Oct., 6 Henry VI., Thomas le Younge held the Court for the Country Manor, and Hugh Borth, Lord of Montholley, held that for the Town; and on 6 Jan. following the latter held both Courts.

In 2 Henry VI. Jankyn Adcote was chief bailiff of the Country Manor.

The Jurors on 14 Oct., 5 Henry V. for the Country were Philip of Wikey, William Henkyns, Roger of the Wood,

¹ *Return of Names of M.P.'s*, 1878.

² Owen and Blakeway, i. 212.

William of Sutton, William Eignons, Jenkyn Gouch, Jankyn Peverheoll, Richard Parker, Samier of Felton, William of Kyngton, Richard of Schelvak, Janyyn of Hallghton.

The Countess Beatrix died 23 Oct., 18 Henry VI. (1439), and the inquest on her death found that on the death of the late Earl the Lordship of Ruyton (with much else) descended to John de Arundel Knight, as his kinsman and heir male, but that Beatrix held it in dower, with its members, by knight service; that its value yearly, beyond reprises (charges on it) was 53s. 4d.; rents of assise, 40s.; 30 acres of arable land, valued at 4d. per acre; 80 acres of pasture land, valued at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per acre. This was the net value for taxation after deducting expenses; the gross receipts from the Manor under Richard II., we have seen, were £44 10s., besides profits from sheep and cattle.

William Earl of Arundel, K.G., 1439 to 1487, now became Lord of the Manor, by virtue of the entail on heirs male made in 1347.¹ He was born in 1417, and succeeded to the Earldom in 1438. He was a J.P. for Salop, as well as for many other counties, and the only other local appointment he held was that of Warden and Chief Justice in Eyre of all the Royal Forests South of the Trent, to which he was appointed 1 July, 1483,² by Richard III. Unlike nearly all the other great nobles of this troublous time, he managed to retain both his life and his estates through the whole of the Wars of the Roses, but he seems to have done so by taking as little part in politics as possible. Edward IV. attached him to himself by inducing him to marry a Woodville, sister of Edward's Queen;³ but he did not share in the fall of the Woodvilles under Richard III., and seems to have managed to live in peace with each of the four bitterly opposed Kings, Henry VI., Edward IV., Richard III., and Henry VII. There are no Court Rolls of his time, and we do not know how far Ruyton was affected by the wars and revolutions, which seem in most places to have done much less injury to the trading classes than they did to the great nobles.

¹ Inquisition on death of John, Earl of Arundel, 18 Henry VI.

² Doyle's *Official Baronage*.

³ Lingard, v. 185.

Shropshire was chiefly in the interest of the Yorkist faction, the Duke of York owning Ludlow and representing the Mortimers; but Lord Audley of Redcastle was one of the principal Lancastrian leaders. The Duke of Buckingham, who rebelled against Richard III., was the representative of the Corbets of Caus, and was apprehended in Shropshire. Henry VII. slept in Shrewsbury on his way to the battle of Bosworth; so that the people of Ruyton must at least have been much interested in the contests between the two factions; and about 1475 the Court of the Marches at Ludlow complained of "great murder, burning, and manslaughter done by errant thieves and rebellious of Oswestry Hundred and Chirkes Land," and commissioned the Marquis of Dorset and Sir Richard Grey, the King's step-sons, to raise troops in Shrewsbury to punish the malefactors.¹ Ruyton, probably, had more than the interest of curiosity in these misdeeds and their punishment.

Thomas Earl of Arundel, K.G., 1487—1524, succeeded his father, in whose lifetime he had been summoned to Parliament as Baron Maltravers. He was J.P. for Salop, but had no other local appointments.² His Court Rolls mention very few offences beyond a few affrays, breaking assise, and non-mending of hedges. In 6 Henry VII. three heriots were taken on the deaths of tenants; a cow worth 5s., a young bull worth 5s., an ox worth 8s. In 22 Henry VII. John Footeman and others gave bail in £10 that Philip Footeman would appear before Ralph Brereton, the Steward there in Oswestry gaol, for a punishment of seven days. In 2 Henry VIII., before John Trevor, Brereton's deputy, a jury found that William Bramlowe, husbandman, late of Smethcote in Shropshire, on the Sunday before the feast of St. George in that year, at Myddelton above Leomynster, in the County of Hereford, with force and arms, that is, with sticks and knives, broke and entered the house of John Geffreys and feloniously stole 13s. 4d. in money found there, and carried it off to Atton, in the jurisdiction of this Court, against the peace of the King

¹ Owen and Blakeway, i. 252.

² Doyle's *Official Baronage*.

and of the Lord Thomas Earl of Arundel, whereupon he was captured and taken to the bar of the Court by the Constable of Oswestry Castle. Being asked if he would be tried there, the said William said that he ought not to answer as to the said felony nor as to anything else, because before his arrest by the said Constable he had put himself under the protection of the liberty of Riton, and received it from Thomas ap David of Atton, according to the custom of the country and of the Court. Whereupon the said Thomas being examined on his oath, saith that the said William on the Monday after the said Sunday came to Atton and begged from the said Thomas the freedom of protection there for this reason, viz., that he had been present at the killing of a certain man, and for all other causes objected against him he sought to be admitted to the said liberty to save his life. And the said Thomas then and there granted him the said liberty, and received him into protection as a tenant of the Lord, and received from him fees for the same, viz., ninepence, of which the Lord ought to have four, the bailiff four, and the clerk of the Court one. And thereupon the Court was asked to give its verdict whether the plea of the protection and liberty by the said William was good or not, and whether his admission in the way above stated as a tenant of the Lord is sufficient or not. And they by William Dug, who was appointed to give judgment, say that the said William has sufficiently received the said liberty, and that the said Thomas and any free tenant of the Lord there has sufficient authority to confer the liberty and protection in manner aforesaid. Whereupon the said William is delivered to the bailiffs to be taken to the Castle there until conciliators about the aforesaid." The rest of the skin is torn off, but the conclusion of the whole is entered at the top of the next skin:—"To the Lord's castle of Oswestry, there let him remain in prison until he has paid a fine to the Lord for the aforesaid crime and contempt, or has been otherwise released by the Lord."

This is a curious instance of the way in which the privileges of the Lords Marchers could be extended to shelter any criminal from the superior Courts. It is not to be wondered at that the right was taken away in the next reign.

The above is the only serious crime mentioned on any of the existing Rolls of Henry VII. or Henry VIII., and it was not committed in Ruyton or by a Ruyton man. A great many people put themselves under the Lord's protection. Among others, in 6 Henry VII. Humphrey Kynaston came to the Court and gave the Lord 6d. that no one might unjustly evict him from the lands lately of Janyn of Haughton in Haughton; and Marjery and John Balle did the same with respect to their lands within the Lordship of the Eleven Towns, and William Stevynson as to his land in Halghton, and David Kynaston as to lands in Sutton and Teddesmere, late of Thomas Thamlus, as to which there was to be a penalty of 20d., i.e., a wrongful evictor would have to pay the Lord 20d. for the wrong doing. In 22 Henry VII. Roger Thornes gave 6d. that neither Jenkyn Woth nor anyone else should unjustly interfere with a certain tenement in Atton under a penalty of 10s., but thereupon Jenkyn came and asserted that his wife had a right to it. Roger Thornes was the owner of Shelvock. The object of getting the Lord's protection appears to have been to make it the Lord's interest to take proceedings against persons injuring the property in question, by giving him the right to recover a penalty from the wrong doer.

An action was entered in 2 Henry VIII. by David ap John against John Rector of Hordley, who was twice fined for not appearing to defend it.

In 22 Henry VII. (1506), Ralph Brereton was Steward of the Hundred of Oswestry, and in 1 Henry VIII. (1509), he was Steward of the Manor of Ruyton, and John Trevor Deputy.

The Jurors of the Country Manor 7 Oct., 6 Henry VII., were, William Roger, John Bille, John Gof, Thomas Thomkin, John Caldecot, Richard Johnes, Richard Stevynson, John Brown of Erdeston, Philip of Wyke, Roger Shelvak, George Hugyn, David ap Richard.

On 11 Oct., 1 Henry VIII., they were John Payn, John Bill, John Williams, William Kynaston, William Stevyn, John Davy, William Dug, Richard Phelips, Roger Higley, Thomas ap Davy, Thomas ap John, John Foteman.

William Earl of Arundel, K.G., 1524—1543, succeeded to Ruyton on the death of his father, but held no local appoint-

ments except that of J.P. for Shropshire, and as there are no Court Rolls of his time, we know very little of events in the manor. We have seen that the Lord of the Hundred of Oswestry had exclusive power to try all kinds of offences within his Hundred, and that the King's writ did not run there. This power was greatly abridged by the Act of 1534, 26 Henry VIII., c. 6, which enacted that all felonies committed in a Lordship Marcher should be triable at the assizes of the adjoining county, notwithstanding any acquittal in the Lordship Marcher, provided it was tried within two years; and next year, by 27 Henry VIII., c. 26, all Lordships Marchers were annexed to some county, and made subject to the general laws of the realm. By this Act the Lordships of Oswester, Whetington, Masbroke, and Knoking, with their members (which would include Ruyton), were to be known by the name of the hundred of Oswester in the County of Salop, and to be subject to the sessions and assises for that county. A proclamation to the same effect is printed in *Archæologia* xii. 89.

This Earl married Anne, daughter of Henry Earl of Northumberland, and was succeeded by his only son,

Henry Earl of Arundel, K.G., 1543 to 1566. He had been summoned to Parliament as Lord Maltravers in his father's lifetime. He held no local appointment in Shropshire, but distinguished himself in 1544 at the siege of Boulogne, and was high in the confidence of Henry VIII., who made him Lord Chamberlain and one of the guardians of Edward VI. He actively promoted the accession of Queen Mary, and was greatly trusted by her, and at first also by Elizabeth, to whose hand he is said to have aspired. Afterwards he fell into disgrace as being to some extent a supporter of the party of the Queen of Scots; but he seems through all the changes of the period to have retained the reputation of being a thoroughly honest man.¹ He is said to have been the first person to introduce the use of coaches into England.

¹ There is an engraving of a portrait by Holbein of him in Lodge's *Portraits of Illustrious Personages*, with a biography, from which most of the above facts are taken. A few others about him and Lord Lumley are given in my account of West Felton Church. As to Arundel House, see Wallford's *Old and New London*, iii. 71.

Arundel Street, Strand, preserves the memory, and is on the site, of the great house which had belonged to Lord Seymour of Sudeley, and was bought after his attainder by this Earl. He married first Catherine, daughter of Thomas Grey, second Marquis of Dorset; and secondly, Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Arundel of Lanherne, in Cornwall. By the latter he had no children; by the former he had three, all of whom he outlived: a son who died young; Joan, who married John, Lord Lumley, and died without issue; and Mary, who married Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, whose son Philip inherited through her the Earldom of Arundel.

The only Court Roll of the time of this Earl is of 3 and 4 Edward VI., and is for Ruyton town only. It records nothing of any general interest, not even the name of his steward. On the back of the same skin are entered Courts held for the third part of the Manor of Oswestry, the townships included being Dudleston, Middleton, Weston, Wigginton, Bronygarth, Prenoll, and Ifton.

In April, 1559, the sweating sickness devastated Oswestry, and is said to have carried off 500 persons there. Ruyton would suffer in trade, even if the disease did not invade it.

The Rectory of Ruyton, with all the tithes, mills, lands, and other property belonging to it, had passed to the Crown on the dissolution of Haghmond Abbey in 1539; and by Letters Patent of 8 May, 2 Elizabeth, 1560, the whole except the Church bells and the advowson of the living, which were retained by the Crown, was sold to Sir Thomas Hanmer of Hanmer for £234. Probably he immediately resold most of the property to the Earl of Arundel, as we find the latter dealing with the tithes in 9 Elizabeth, and they remained the property of the Lords of the Manor till Lord Craven sold them separately about 1788.

This Earl settled Ruyton and other property on his daughter Joan and her husband Lord Lumley; but in 5 Elizabeth they got a license from the Crown to alienate a very large quantity of land, viz., in Porkington, Bagnell, Aston, Hisland, Middleton, Fernill, Yernworth, Mesebury, Henlley, Whittington, Frankton, Haughton, Rednal, Ruyton, Treverlawde, Erdeston, Ewton, Ebnall, Swyney, Kynarley, Edgerley, Wotton, Felton, Clunburie, Duddleston, Yston

[Ifton ?], Oldmarton, and Churchstretton. In 6 Elizabeth John Davies and others had license to alienate 40 messuages, 1 mill, 1 water mill, 1,000 acres of land, 300 acres of meadow, 500 acres of pasture, 200 acres of wood, with their appurtenances in Ruyton, alias Ryton, Porkington, Whittington, Sweeney, Hisland, Bagnell, Hynford, Wygynton, Yston, Duddylston, Felton, Twyford, Wotton, Measbury, Argoyd, Rednall, and Aston.¹ Almost all of these are mentioned in the license of the previous year to the Earl of Arundel, and all were, probably, included, for Hinford and Argoed are townships in Whittington and Kinnerley respectively, Wiginton is part of Ifton Heath, and Twyford may have been included in Aston. No doubt the licensees were trustees for Lord and Lady Lumley or the Earl. In 9 Elizabeth a further license was obtained by the Earl and Lord and Lady Lumley to alienate the tithes and manors of Riton, Kynnerley, and Molverley, the advowson of Felton Rectory, and all the Earl's lands, &c., in Ryton, Old Ryton, Kynnerley, Molverley, Cotton, Atton alias Shotatton, Shelvocke, Wykey, Tedsmere, Yarston, Felton alias Westfelton, Haughton, Sutton, Rednal, Baschurche, Egerley. It will be seen that each of the eleven towns is separately mentioned in this license, in pursuance of which, in the same year, the Earl and Lord and Lady Lumley sold the manors of Righton, Kinnerley, and Molverley, and the advowson of Felton Church, to Thomas Yonge, Archbishop of York, and George Lee as trustee for the Archbishop.²

This terminated the long connection of the Fitz Alan family with Ruyton, which they had owned either as feudal superiors or actual possessors since about A.D. 1109, or for more than 450 years.

Thomas Yonge, Archbishop of York, was therefore Lord of the Manor 1566 to 26 June, 1568, when he died. He was born at Hogeston, near Pembroke, in 1507, and was son of John, son of Brian Yonge of the County of Pembroke, but was very likely descended from the Yonges who had owned Shelvock from the reign of Edward III. to that of Henry VI. He was educated at Broadgates Hall in the

¹ Calendar of Patents in Public Record Office.

² Duke's *Shropshire*, p. 315.

University of Oxford, which stood where Pembroke College stands now, and was principal of the Hall 1542-6. He married first a daughter of George Constantine, registrar of St. David's, and secondly about 1552¹ Jane Kynaston, great niece to the Humphrey Kynaston of Stokes, who seems to have owned property in Ruyton, and whose grandson Francis Kynaston was at this time owner of Oteley, Humphrey having married the heiress of the Oteleys of Oteley. Both his own and his wife's family connections would therefore make Ruyton attractive to him. Other particulars about him are given under the heading of Felton Church.

Jane Yonge, widow of the Archbishop, became Lady of the Manor under his will for 21 years—1568 to 1589. Her trustee, George Lee, is said to have been unfaithful, and to have retained her property for some time for his own use.² But the only Court Rolls of her time which we possess are of 22, 23, 26, 27, and 28 Eliz., A.D. 1579 to 1586, and in all of these "Jane Yonge, alias Kynaston, Widow," is stated to be the Lady of the Manor, and there is no mention of Lee. The Steward who held the Courts for her was John Vaughan, Gentleman (generosus); but from Sept., 1585, the "Little Courts," or Courts Baron, at which there was generally hardly anything to do, were held by Thomas Kynaston, gentleman, as deputy, or in one instance, by Edward Thornes, who is also described as "gentleman."

The Court Rolls differ in several respects from those of previous reigns. On the one hand, they contain no notices of serious crimes, these having been withdrawn from the cognizance of Manorial Courts by the legislation of Henry VIII. On the other hand, the increased fines imposed bear witness to a great diminution in the value of money; and some offences are mentioned which were only made such by recent legislation. At the foot of the Roll of two of the Great Courts also we find now for the first time the names of two "Afferers," who were persons sworn to assess the fines on offenders according to their consciences.³ In the reign of

¹ Wood's *Colleges and Halls in the Univ. of Oxford*, p. 614; Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*; Willis' *Cathedrals*; *Dict. of Nat. Biography*.

² Strype's *Annals of the Reformation*, I., ii. 300.

³ Ainsworth's *Dictionary*.

William III. one of the two is stated to act for the Lord, the other for the tenants, and this was, no doubt, the case under Queen Elizabeth also. The juries, which in previous reigns always consisted of 12 persons, now vary in number; sometimes there are 15, sometimes only 6 or 7. Elections of constables by the several townships are first entered on the Roll of the "Great Court" of 2 Oct., 26 Eliz. (1584). Old Ruyton is not mentioned on this Roll; Atton, Felton, Sutton, Rednal, and Erdeston elected two constables each, and Cotton, Shelvocke, Tedsmere, Wykey, and Haughton, one. The next election was 13 Oct., 27 Eliz., when Old Ruyton and Wykey, as well as the five which did so before, elected two constables, and Cotton and Shelvock one each, but Tedsmere and Haughton, though represented at the Court, made no election.

The smaller offences committed in former reigns were repeated in much the same degree in this. Assaults with bloodshedding were pretty common, but instead of being fined 4d. or 6d., were now fined 2s. 6d. or 3s. 4d., and common assaults were fined 6d. The assise of bread and ale was broken as often as ever, and the offender was generally fined 6d., and 6d. or 1s. was the penalty on those who did not mend their hedges abutting on the common fields of the townships, or who put cattle improperly on those fields. These offences and trespasses on the Lord's parks, chiefly to get firewood, were extremely common. One presentment was of "William son of David for petty pickings of garlic and onions." He was not fined, and was perhaps a child with a perverted taste.

There were several new offences. A great many men were fined at each Great Court from 6d. to 2d., each for "not using a cap according to the Statute;" and on 2 Oct., 1584, the whole of the inhabitants of the townships of Felton and Rednal were presented by their own representatives and fined 18d. and 8d. respectively for this offence. It was made such by the Statute of 13 Eliz., c. 19, which in order to encourage the wool trade, required that every person above the age of 7 should wear on the Sabbath and holidays upon his head a cap of wool made in England, under a penalty of 3s. 4d. for every day of not wearing it."

"Maids, ladies, gentlewomen," noble persons, persons with landed estate of 20 marks a year, and persons who have borne any "office of worship" were exempted. In Ruyton the fine was frequently inflicted, but was generally reduced to 2d. The Act must have been very unpopular, and was repealed by 39 Eliz., c. 18.

The inhabitants of "Yeardeston" were fined 2s. in 23 Eliz. "for the defect of their Buttes." By 33 Hen. VIII., c. 9, s. 4, the inhabitants of every city, town, and place were to make and maintain butts for archery, under a penalty of 20s., and to exercise themselves there on holy days and at other convenient times. This was not repealed till 1845, by 8 and 9 Vict., c. 109, s. 1.

In 26 Elizabeth Richard Kyffin, alias Lloyd, of Felton, was fined 4d. for keeping a "Mastyffe dogge" contrary to the Statute. An old Statute of 13 Richard II., st. 1, c. 13, forbade all persons who had not 40s. a year in land to keep any dog for hunting, or to use ferrets. This was repealed as late as 1881, by 44 and 45 Vict., c. 59, s. 3.

At the same Court, John Colley of Rednal was fined 6d. for playing tennis contrary to the Statute, and John Vaughan and Edward Kynaston of Haughton, were fined 2d. each for challenging to a game of bowls. These and many other games were forbidden by 33 Hen. VIII., c. 9, s. 16, to artificers and labourers, except in their masters' houses at Christmas time, the object being that they might employ themselves in archery instead. In 27 Elizabeth four persons at Atton were fined 8d. each for playing at bowls. The prohibition was repealed by the above mentioned Act 8 and 9 Vict., c. 109, s. 1.

On 2 Oct., 26 Elizabeth, Roger Thomas and Richard Shelvock were fined 2s. each for putting hemp into the river Perrey. By 33 Henry VIII., c. 17, hemp and flax were not to be watered in any stream or pond where beasts are used to be watered. Several persons were presented for this offence in James I's reign. The growth of hemp and flax was a very common industry throughout the manor till nearly the middle of the 19th century. They were spun by the women in the cottages on spinning wheels, and made into coarse towels or sheets by weavers in the village. The two last

weavers in Ruyton were John Williams and William Price, in the second quarter of the century. The latter lived in the cottage by the Vicarage gate.¹ At the Grimpo John Jones was weaving at least as late as 1859. Several fields within the manor retain the name of Flax-pool, Hemp-yard, &c.

In 27 Elizabeth a boar and a sheep were seized in Erdeston as estrays, and next year two white sheep in Tedsmere. Tame animals so seized, whose owner was unknown, might be proclaimed in the Church and in the two nearest market towns, and if not claimed within a year and a day after this they belonged to the Lord.²

In 28 Elizabeth, two persons in Felton were fined 6d. for selling bread and ale by unlawful measures.

In the Great Court of 13 Oct., 27 Eliz. (1585), proclamation was made that every inhabitant of the eleven townships should keep his pigs ringed with rings from the feast of St. Michael to that of Saints Philip and James, and with pegs during the rest of the year, under a penalty of 6d. for each offence, of which 3d. should go to the Lord, and 3d. to whoever should catch them. This bye-law was based on an Act of 35 Henry VIII., c. 17, renewed and made perpetual by 13 Elizabeth, c. 25, which enacted that if pigs went into a wood without rings or pegs, the owner should forfeit 4d. for each pig, of which half was to go to the owner of the wood, and half to the informer.

In the Little Courts the proceedings were almost exclusively for debt or trespass, and more often than not the cases were not tried, being, no doubt, settled out of Court. The party not appearing had to pay a Court fee of 4d., as had also the defeated party when a case was tried.

Several transfers of property are entered on the Rolls. New tenants did fealty as formerly, and paid relief, and if the succession was on the death of the previous tenant, the best animal became due to the Lord as a heriot. In one case this is stated to be a cow worth 30s. In earlier reigns we have seen that a cow was valued at only 5s. to 8s.

The Afferers, or assessors of fines, named in these Rolls were, on 6 Oct. 22 Elizabeth, Richard Brown and Roger

¹ Jas. Cooper is the authority for this.

² Stephen's *Blackstone*, ii. 583.

Byll; and on 22 May, 23 Elizabeth, Roger Byll and Richard Jones.

The Jurors 6 Oct., 22 Elizabeth (1578) were, Richard Jones, Roger Bill, John Gof, Roger Shelvock, David Jones, Roger Phellyps, John Bede, John Byll, Senr., William Footeman, William Edwards, William Jones, Roger Shrygley. On 22 May following there were 15, viz., Roger Byll, Thomas Phellyps, William Jones, Henry Footeman, John Hygley, Thomas Lyeth, William Footeman, John Bede, David Jones, Roger Shelvocke, William Oliver, Thomas Wycherley, Roger Edge, John Phellips, Thomas Richards.

On 2 Oct., 26 Elizabeth, there were 14, of whom the two first, Thomas Lloyd and John Kynaston Lloyd, are described as "generosus," or gentleman, a description not equal to that of John Hanmer and Edward Kynaston, who are described as armiger (Esquire), and are among those excused from attending the Court.

There were 14 also on 1 April, 27 Elizabeth, the names being nearly the same, and 15 on 13 Oct. and on 17 April following.

Mrs. Yonge was still Lady of the Manor, when in 1588 the people of Ruyton saw

"Stream in crimson on the wind the Wrekin's crest of light,"

and knew that the Armada was attempting the conquest of England. But next year the term for which the manor was left to her expired, so, though she lived till 1614,¹ she was succeeded in 1589 by her son

George Yonge, 1589 to 1613. He afterwards became Sir George, and was probably the George Yonge who was knighted at the Tower, 14 March, 1603-4, in honour of King James's accession.² On 1 Sept., 41 Elizabeth (1600), he paid £13 6s. 8d. for license to alienate a third part of the Lordships and Manors of Ryton, Kynnerley, and Melverley, a third part of Ryton and Hem Parks, and a third part of all the woods known by the names of Johns Wood, Talorne Hierne, the olde wood, Todley Wood, the Earles Wood, the Englishe Wood, and the Welshe Wood, and the third part

¹ Willis' *Cathedrals*.

² Metcalfe's *Book of Knights*, 1885.

of all houses, lands, mills, fisheries, &c., &c., in the manors, and the third part of the advowson of Felton Church, to Richard Thornes, Esq. He seems to have at some other time conveyed the other two-thirds to the same purchaser, for his mother bought back the whole from Richard Thornes by deed dated 29 May, 5 James I.¹ The conveyances to Thornes were, no doubt, intended as mortgages only, and Sir George Yonge is named as Lord of the Manor in the only Court Rolls which we have of his time, viz., May, 1606, to April, 1607, which are earlier than the re-conveyance by Thornes to Jane Yonge.

The Court Rolls of Sir George Yonge's time are the latest in the Record Office. The presentments which are most common on them are for breaking the assise of bread and ale and selling by unlawful measures, for common assault, for trespass, or for allowing pigs to go unringed, or for not repairing hedges. Several matters made offences by recent statutes are also presented. But it is significant that a great many people applied for leave to absent themselves from the Courts, and that many were fined for being absent without leave. Since the Courts lost their jurisdiction over serious offences they had become dull, and must have often been used rather for the purpose of spiting and annoying neighbours who had committed trifling irregularities. Some of the Statutable offences, moreover, were things which public opinion hardly thought to be offences at all, and the presentation of these must have been unpopular. The Court Leet, therefore, was falling into disrepute; and the diminution in the value of money was making the Court Baron, which could deal with no action for more than 40s. value, of less and less use. It is no wonder that the tenants took every opportunity of buying out the Lord's rights, that copyhold tenures were gradually turned into freeholds, and that the rights of the Lord of the Manor over the freehold tenants were gradually extinguished, and have long ceased to exist. All the townships except Coton, however, regularly appeared at Sir George Yonge's Courts.

¹ Orig. 5 p., 41 Eliz., rot. 99; and 4 p., 15 Jac., rot 72.

Some new offences occur in these Rolls. The tenants of Eardeston (now first spelt in this way) are presented "because they have not got a certain net called a Chaffe Net, according to the form of the Statute." A Chaffe Net was a net to catch birds.¹ By 24 Hen. VIII., c. 10, every township containing more than 10 households was required to keep a net for catching choughs, crows, and rooks. The time and manner of using the net was to be fixed by the Court Leet. The Act was originally a temporary one, but was prolonged by various Acts of Elizabeth's reign, and not repealed till 1856, by 19 and 20 Vict., c. 64. A Rednal tenant was presented for fishing with unlawful nets in the Perry. By 1 Eliz., c. 17, a mesh of less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. was unlawful, and the Steward of any Leet not enquiring about such unlawful fishing was to be fined 40s. The Tedsmere people presented that "Joanna Gof, widow, is living in a certain cottage erected in the sd. township by lease from Thomas Gof for two years contrary to the form of the Statute in that behalf." The Statute referred to was, probably, 31 Eliz., c. 7, which forbids the erecting of any cottage (with exceptions for certain places and occupations) without at least 4 acres of land being attached to it, and enacts that no more than one family may reside in one cottage. The Act was to be enforced by the Courts Leet. Probably the widow had not got, and did not want 4 acres of land to look after. Indictments under this Act were frequently presented at the Quarter Sessions for the county. The Act was repealed 15 Geo. III., c. 32. A tenant in Eardeston was presented for giving a lease of some land for four years without the Lord's license, he being a copyholder. Copyholders cannot, unless by special custom of the manor, let their land for a longer term than a year. Several Felton men were presented for playing cards, and one for keeping cards in his house for sale. Labourers and artificers were forbidden to play cards by the Statute 33 Hen. VIII., c. 9, already quoted, which also made it unlawful for anyone to keep a common house or place for this or any other forbidden game.

The election of Constables appears to have been irregular.

¹ Promptorium Parvulorum

On 27 May, 1606, Shelvock and Haughton elected one Constable, Wikey and Atton two each, and the others none; on 27 Oct., Atton again elected two different ones, Tedsmere elected one, and Eardeston two; the others again made no election; and on 17 April no township elected.

In 4 and 5 James I. the Steward of the Manor was John Reynolds, gentleman, but the Courts Baron were generally held before Edward Thornes, gentleman, who also signed the Roll of the Court Leet of 17 April, 1607, "per me Edw. Thornes Record. ibm." The Steward presided at this Court. Thornes, who calls himself "Recorder," no doubt, made up the Roll, and was, in fact, the clerk or registrar of the Court. He may have been Edward Thornes of Molverley, a second cousin of the owner of Shelvock. The "afferers" of the Courts Leet were, on 27 May, 1606, Thomas Wytcherley, gentleman, and John Payne, yeoman; on 27 Oct., 1606, John Wyky and Edward Wylliams, gentlemen; and on 17 April, 1607, Thomas Warde and Edward Wylliams, gentlemen. In every case they were members of the Jury.

The Juries, or Homage, as they are called, consisted of 15 or 16 individuals. Their foremen ("prolocutores"), who are here mentioned for the first time, were respectively John Kynaston of Sutton, John Wyky, and John Kynaston, gentlemen. The members of the Jury were often also representatives of their townships, and as such took part in making the presentments, which the Jury afterwards had to confirm. For instance, on 27 Oct., 1606, the following composed the Jury:—John Wyky, gentleman; John Payne, John Browne, gentleman; John Hygley; William Brayne; Edward Wylliams, gentleman; Richard Phellyppes; Thomas Richards; Roger Momnford; John Footeman; John Jones; Richard Wylliams; Thomas Edge; John Chyver; Richard Williams, William Shelvock. Each not described as gentleman is described as yeoman. Of these, John Payne and Richard Wylliams represented Eardeston; Richard Phellyppes, Thomas Richards, and William Shelvock represented Wyky; John Footeman represented Rednal; and Richard Williams Sutton. It was quite common, both now and previously, for representatives of townships and members of the Jury to present themselves and be fined accordingly.

In 8 James I. Sir George Yonge sold to Thomas Kynaston, gentleman, 2 messuages, 2 cottages, 30 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, 50 acres of wood, 70 acres of furze and heath, and 20 acres of moor, in Ryton, Westfelton, Haughton, Wykye, Erstone, and Teddesmere.¹

On 20 Feb., 9 James I., he got for 80s. a license to alienate Ryton Park and one messuage, two cottages, one dovecot, two gardens, two orchards, 200 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 500 acres of pasture, and 40 acres of wood in Ryton, to William Willaston; and on 1 April, 11 James I., he had for £6 13s. 4d. another license to alienate to the same purchaser the Manors of Ryton, Kynnerley, and Meverley, 100 messuages, 20 cottages, 20 tofts, 30 barns, 2 mills, 50 gardens, 50 orchards, 1500 acres of land, 700 acres of meadow, 1500 acres of pasture, 1000 acres of wood, 5000 acres of furze and heath, 2000 acres of moor, and £10 of rents in Ryton, Olde Ryton, Coton, Atton alias Shotatton, Shelvocke, Wykey, Tedsmere, Yarston, Felton alias Westfelton, Haughton, Sutton, Rednal, Gasthurthe, and Egerley, with view of frankpledge, &c., &c., and the advowson of Felton.² This terminated the connection of the Yongses with Ruyton. They had owned the manor less than 50 years, but seem to have been residents of some importance within it for 250 years. The figures in the above licenses are round figures, and those in the last apply to the three manors indiscriminately; but the very large proportion which wood, furze, heath, and moor bear to the cultivated land should be noted. In all of the licenses "land" evidently means plough land.

William Willaston was Lord of the Manor of Ruyton 1613 to 1621. The name of none of his family occurs on the Court Rolls, and there is nothing to show why he bought it. The tablet to his wife now in Ruyton chancel is the only trace of his short connection with the place. On 1 December, 19 James I., he had a license to sell the Manors of Ryton, Kynnerley, and Meverley, and 109 messuages, 21 cottages, 23 lofts, 2 mills, 30 barns, one dovecote, 60 gardens, 60 orchards, 1860 acres of land, 780 acres of meadow, 1840

¹ Orig. 4 p., 12 Jac., rot. 63.

² Orig. 8 p., 9 Jac. I., rot. 203; 5 p., 11 Jac. I., rot. 51.

acres of pasture, 1010 acres of wood, 5110 acres of furze and heath, 2100 acres of moor, £10 of rents, in the manors and townships enumerated in the license of 11 James I., to Elizabeth Craven, widow, Sir William Whitmore, George Whitmore citizen and Alderman of London, and William Gibson. Elizabeth Craven was the real purchaser, the others were trustees. The number of acres and the number of houses, cottages, &c., sold by Willaston was slightly larger than the number he had bought from Sir George Yonge. William Willaston died before 1628, in which year his executor, William Cockyn of London, Merchant, presented to the living of Felton.

Elizabeth Lady Craven, 1621 to about 1635, was one of several daughters¹ of William Whitmore of London, and widow of Sir William Craven, Lord Mayor in 1611, who died in 1618. Her eldest brother, Sir William Whitmore, purchased Apley, and was Sheriff of Shropshire in 1620. George, the second brother, was Lord Mayor in 1631. William, her eldest son, was created in 1626 Lord Craven of Hampsted Marshall, in the County of Berks, and distinguished himself greatly in the wars in Germany and the Palatinate. Her two daughters married Thomas, Lord Coventry, and Percy Herbert, Lord Powis, respectively. She must have died before 1636, as in that year we find "the Lord Craven" taking proceedings to enforce his rights as Lord of the Manor against Francis Thornes of Shelvock.

William, Lord Craven of Hampsted Marshall, 1635 (?) to 1697, succeeded to the property, but was abroad in the service of the King of Sweden, the Elector Palatine, and the States of Holland, for the whole time from 1631 to 1660. He sent, however, considerable pecuniary assistance both to Charles I. and Charles II. during this time. When the Rebellion broke out, John, his younger brother, joined the King, and by patent at Oxford of 21 March, 1642-3, was created Lord Craven of Ryton, in the County of Salop, though William was in possession both of the title of Craven and of the

¹ She was the eldest according to the Heralds' Visitation, taken in her lifetime, and therefore, probably, correct; fourth according to Collins' *Peerage*. Biographies of her husband and her brother, the Lord Mayors, are in the *Dict. of National Biography*.

Manor of Ruyton. But on 27 March, 1643-4, John and his brother were both "absent beyond the seas." John married a daughter of William, Lord Spencer, but died without issue in 1650, and the peerage of Craven of Ruyton died with him.¹ By his Will he founded the Craven Scholarships at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the gaining of one of which is now one of the highest rewards for classics attainable by an under-graduate.

On the capture of Shrewsbury by the Parliamentary forces in February, 1644-5, the Rev. Thos. Challoner, headmaster of the School, was expelled, and came to Ruyton and set up a school there, but got tired of it and left it after seven months. He submitted unwillingly to the Commonwealth, and was re-appointed to Shrewsbury on the restoration. He was a very successful master, and a distinguished Greek scholar.²

Lord Craven's estates were confiscated by Parliament by a resolution of 16 March, 1651, and an Act of 3 Aug., 1652; but he recovered them at the Restoration, and was created in 1664 Earl Craven of Craven, in the County of York. He was one of the Lords proprietors of the Province of Carolina, in Nova Scotia, Colonel of the Coldstream Guards, Lord-Lieutenant of Middlesex, and High Steward of the University of Cambridge. He was deprived of his offices on the accession of William III. He is said to have been privately married to the Queen of Bohemia, sister of Charles I. He died without issue 9 April, 1697, aged 88 years and 10 months. The Earldom became extinct, but he had obtained a special limitation of the Barony of Craven, by which it went on his death to William Craven, great-great-grandson of Henry Craven, elder brother of the Lord Mayor.

A religious census taken in 1676 shows that there were then 240 Conformists, 2 Papists, and 2 Nonconformists in the Parish of Ruyton; and 432 Conformists, no Papists, and 5 Nonconformists in that of Felton.³ The numbers include all inhabitants over 16 years of age.

¹ Collins' and Lodge's *Peerages*; Rushworth's *Historical Collections*, v. 574.

² MS. entry by him in the School Register of 1644, in possession of the School. Radclyffe's *Memorials of Shrewsbury School*.

³ *Shrop. Arch. Trans.* for 1889, p. 82.

William, second Lord Craven of Hampsted Marshall, 1697—1711, was born 4 October, 1668, and was made Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire in 1702, and Lord Palatine of the Province of Carolina in 1708. Court Rolls of this Lord's time, 1698 to 1702, are entered in a book in the possession of the Borough of Shrewsbury.¹ John Edwards, gentleman, was Steward. But the Courts had now lost almost all their utility, not a single criminal case was brought before them. No doubt the jurisdiction of the magistrates was found more satisfactory. Every township was generally represented, but when they presented anything, it was generally that so and so "owes suit and service and has made default," whereon he was fined 6d. Two persons, Thomas Upton of Felton, and Edward Williams of Ruyton, were presented for living in cottages to which four acres of land were not allotted, contrary to the Statute quoted above; but the fines were only 6d., and the presentments were continued for several years against the same person, and were therefore evidently ineffectual. One or two townships were fined for letting their pound be out of repair. Shelvock never appeared at these Courts. Every other township elected a Constable each October, Rednal always elected two, Wykey did so on one occasion only. Probably each township might have one or more, as it liked. The only other business at these Courts was the reporting of incroachments and trespasses on the Lord's wastes, and of any deaths or alienations of property by which heriots or fines became due to the Lord. As to these dues, a special enquiry was held at a Court of 17 Nov., 10 William III., before 13 jurors, whose report was as follows: unlike all the rest of these as well as former Courts Rolls, which are in Latin, this report is in English.

The Jurors aforesaid being (among other things) charged to find out what Chief Rents Heriots and Relieves are due and payable to the Lord by and according to the Custome of the said Manor upon their oaths say and present as follows.

First they say and present that the Chief Rents particularly mentioned and expressed in the Rental of this Manor whereunto they have this day subscribed their names are of right due and

¹ Shrewsbury Borough Records, Box lxxxvi., No. 2719.

payable to the Lord of this Manor yearly from the freeholders therein named for the several messuages and lands therein expressed in such sort and manner as in and by the same is set forth and expressed and that the same rent and every part thereof hath been paid to the Receiver for the use of the Lord of the said Manor accordingly.

Also upon the reading of the ancient Records of this Manor this day produced to them in the said Court And also upon the testimony of several witnesses then and there sworn on the behalf of the said Lord they further say and present that upon the decease of every freeholder of this Manor the Lord of this Manor by custom is and ought to have his best beast for a herriott if any chief rent be paid to the Lord for any messuage or lands that such freeholder died seised of And that the heire at law either by discent or conveyance of such messuage or lands being of full age ought to relieve for the same and pay to the Lord four shillings and one penny for such relief.

And they further present and say that upon every alienation of any messuage or lands within this Manor, the Lord of the said Manor by custom of the same Manor ought to have the like herriott, if the Lord bee paid any chiefe rent for any such messuage and lands sold and alienated, and that the purchaser of any such messuage or lands ought to relieve for the same and pay to the Lord four shillings and one penny for such relief.

And they further say that there is also due to the Lord by custom of this Manor severall herriotts upon the death of every freeholder dying seised of severall messuages or lands within this Mannor for which severall chief rents are paid to the Lord in such sort and manner as in and by the said Rental is laid down and expressed.

They further say that where there is no chief rent paid for any messuage or lands, there is no herriott upon the death or alienation of any freeholder nor no relief due to the said Lord.

It will be seen from this report that the reliefs payable had become fixed in amount and nominal in value, and that the annoying incident of a heriot was the only thing of practical value which the Lord got from his freehold tenants. Most of the other profits, such as those from sale of wardships and marriages, had fallen into disuse long before, and had been legally abolished on the restoration of Charles II.

There is one new feature in these Court Rolls. Thomas Reeves was presented and fined 12d. for exercising the trade of a butcher, to which he had not been apprenticed for seven years, contrary to the Statute. A similar presentment was made in the town Court. The Statute was that of 5 Eliz., c. 4, s. 31.

The foreman of the Jury is always mentioned on these Rolls. The names are, for the Country Manor, Thomas Vaughan 17 Oct., 1698, and 17 April, 1699; Samuel Rogers at the special inquiry 17 Nov., 1699; Richard Williams 7 Oct., 1699; Thomas Phillipps 22 April, 1700, and 13 May and 13 Oct., 1701; Peter Basnett 12 Oct., 1702.

The Afferers were, 17 Oct., 1698, and 22 April and 12 Oct., 1700, Richard Davies for the Lord, and John Hood for the Country; 7 Oct., 1699, Richard Williams and Richard Basnett.

Such Court Rolls as exist of a later date than 1702 are in private hands, and not easily accessible; but the Courts had by this time ceased to transact any important part of the business of the inhabitants of the manor, and the Rolls therefore henceforth can throw very little light either on the history of properties or on the manners and customs of the people.

The expenses of maintaining the poor at this time were for the Parish of Felton, £7 per annum; for that of Ruyton, in 1693, £7 15s.; 1694, £9 1s. 11d.; and 1695, £9 17s. 1d.¹

William, second Lord Craven, died at Combe Abbey in Warwickshire, 9 October, 1711, and was succeeded by his eldest son,

William, third Lord Craven, 1711—1739. He was a minor at his accession to the property. He married in 1721, but his wife and only child both died before him, and he was succeeded by his brother

Fulwar, fourth Lord Craven, 1739—1764. He died without issue, and was buried at Hampsted Marshall. He gave his name to Craven Street, Strand, which was his property, and had hitherto been called Spur Alley.²

¹ Phillipps' MS. in Shrewsbury Free Library, No. 11,226.

² Walford's *Old and New London*, iii. 134.

William, fifth Lord Craven, 1764—1769, was eldest son of John, brother to the second Lord Craven. He was M.P. for Warwickshire from 1747 till his accession to the Peerage in 1764. He married, but died without issue.

William, sixth Lord Craven, 1769 to 1788, was the only son of John Craven, Rector of West Felton 1735 to 1752, and was baptised at Felton 1738. He was created Hon. D.C.L. of Oxford 1773, on the instalment of Lord North as Chancellor.

In 1775 a private Act was passed for dividing and inclosing a moor called "Boggy Moor, otherwise Baggy Moor or Bagley Marsh," and other moors and waste grounds in the Manors of Baschurch, Hordley, Stanwardine in the Wood, Weston Lullingfield, and Stanwardine in the Fields. It recites that they are subject to inundations and are frequently overflowed, and that the River Perry, dividing the Parishes of Baschurch and Hordley from those of Ruyton and West Felton, is very crooked and angular, and is obstructed by certain shoals and erections; and it gives power to Commissioners to straighten the river and to take down the dwelling house called Wikey's Wear, and Ruyton Mill and the Plat Mill, giving compensation to the owners; and to make ditches and watercourses in the Parishes of Ruyton and West Felton, as well as in the manors above named, for the purpose of draining the moors in question. An Award as to the mode in which the river is to be yearly cleaned out, and at whose expense, was made 14 March, 1783, and inrolled in the King's Bench. Under this Act Wikey's Wear and Ruyton Wear were partially removed, and some other improvements made in the river.

In 1861 was passed the Baggymoor Drainage Act, under which the Perry from the Plat Bridge to Rednal Bridge is now regularly cleaned out, at the expense of a rate on the adjoining lands. It was under this Act that the Plat Mill Wear, Ruyton Wear, and Wikey's Wear were finally cleared away, a new cut made for the river between Ruyton and Boreatton, and the Wikey Bridge erected instead of the ford which there was there previously.

In 1777 Lord Craven sold his Ruyton property to one John Ashby on behalf of Lord Clive, but Lord Clive

declined to take it, and Ashby died in 1779 without having paid for it. Accordingly, in 1786, almost the whole was re-conveyed to Lord Craven by order of the Court of Chancery. He immediately took steps to sell it in different lots; he sold Ruyton Park, some of the great tithes, and other property, in 1788, and perhaps it was at the same time that he sold the manorial rights to Lord Clive.

Edward, second Lord Clive, 1788—1836, was eldest son of the great Indian statesman and general, succeeded to the title of Clive on his death in 1774, was created Earl of Powis in 1804, and died in 1839. The name of the Powis Arms public house in the village records Lord Powis' connection with Ruyton. It was previously the Craven Arms, and probably received its first license under the sixth Earl of Craven. The following Manuscript notice of the meeting of a Court Leet shows to what depths these Courts had now fallen:—

I am desired to give Notice that the Court Leet and Court Barron of the Right Honourable Edward Earl of Powes will be held at the Court house in Ruyton upon Monday the 24th Day of October 1825 at Eleven on the Clock and Rejurn the Meetin to Dine to Edward Bendbows by Order of Thos. Alexander

Bailiff.

Edward Benbow kept the "Admiral Benbow" public house, an annual dinner at which was now the principal business of the Court, and was paid for by the Lord.¹

By deeds of 24 and 25 August, 1836, the Earl of Powis sold to John Edwards, Esq., of Ness Strange, the Manors of Ruyton, Kinnerley, and Meverley, with all chief rents, heriots, and reliefs payable to the Lord, the fishery in the Perry, the Court House and some cottages and quarries in Ruyton, and the "Clem Parks" Stone Quarry in Haughton, with other property in the other manors. Clem Parks is probably a mistake of a copyist for Hem Park. Lord Powis reserved certain rights over the Cliffe Hill.²

John Edwards, Esq., of Ness Strange, 1836—1850, held a Court Leet regularly. He married in 1806 Charlotte

¹ Report on Municipal Corporations, 1880.

² Abstract of Title.

Margaret, daughter of Rev. George Martin, Vicar of Great Ness, by his wife Lady Mary Murray, daughter of the third Duke of Athol.

In 1848 the Shrewsbury and Chester, now Great Western Railway, which runs through the townships of Wikey, Haughton, Rednal, and Sutton, was opened for traffic.

Mr. Edwards died 26 July, 1850, and was succeeded by his eldest surviving son,

George Rowland Edwards, 1850—1894. He was born in 1810, and became a Colonel in the Hon. East India Company's service. The last Court Leet ever held was on 20 Oct., 1851. The chief rents and heriots were offered for sale to the landowners of the manor; and the Court House was sold in 1854 and pulled down.¹ Almost all property and rights in the manor have thus been alienated from the Lords of the Manor, and although the Lordship is still vested in Col. Edwards' representatives, its existence is, probably, unknown, and certainly unimportant, to the majority of the inhabitants. Col. Edwards married Catherine Jane, daughter of Major-General Armstrong of the H.E.I.C.S.² He died 3 March, 1894.

The history of the Manor practically ends with the cessation of its Courts in 1851. There remains only to trace the steps by which they have been deprived of all their functions.

Throughout the Middle Ages the Manor was the unit of administration in the same sense that the parish is now, and the Manor Courts were its machinery. Through them private property was transferred and common property was administered; through them public order was maintained, and through them the Statutes of the Realm were enforced. We have seen that in 1534 and 1535 Henry VIII. withdrew from them the power of trying felonies, which they had greatly abused, and made the Marches of Wales subject to the general laws of England. Thus the jurisdiction of county magistrates became available for the trial of all public offences in these manors, and would soon be found more satisfactory than that of the Manor Courts.

¹ Report on Municipal Corporations, 1880.

² *History of Powys Fadog*, iv. 349; and Great Ness Register.

The Police continued to be appointed in the Manor Courts as long as those Courts existed. In 1834, when the Municipal Commissioners made their report, constables were still appointed in Court for every township, and were the only local police in existence; but a County Police force was established about the time that the Courts ceased to meet, and the Parish Constables Act of 1872 seems to make the appointment of Constables by any Court Leet illegal. Parish Constables were appointed till a year or two ago, but they were appointed by the magistrates, not by the inhabitants of the manor or township.

The first step towards substituting the Parish for the Manor as the unit of civil administration seems to have been the passing of the Act of 1572, 14 Elizabeth, c. 5, which imposed on each parish a legal liability for the relief of its own poor, and required the Churchwardens to levy and collect the rate. The relief of the poor was looked upon as a purely ecclesiastical matter, and there was no intention of making the Parish a civil unit, but the imposition of a poor rate was a precedent for other rates, and it was found most convenient to levy them through parish authorities. Overseers of the Poor were first appointed under an Act of 1597, 39 Elizabeth, c. 3. It was not till 1776 that a return was required by Parliament of the money they raised and spent. It then appeared that for the year ending Easter, 1776, the total amount raised in England (excluding Wales) was £1,679,585, out of which were paid County Rates amounting to £131,387 18s. 11d.; for rents of Workhouses or other habitations for the poor, £78,176 4s.; for litigation about settlements, &c., £33,935 18s.; and directly on the poor, £1,523,163 12s. 7d.¹ The repair of roads was at common law a charge on the parish,² probably because it was always looked on as a charitable act. But by prescription a township might separately maintain its own roads, and this was the case with each of our eleven townships. The parish,

¹ Eden's *State of the Poor*, i. 363. In vol. ii. will be found a very full account of the management and expenses of the Houses of Industry in Shrewsbury, Ellesmere, and Bishop's Castle, in 1795, with particulars as to wages, prices, &c., in the neighbourhood.

² Stephen's *Blackstone*, iii. 241.

however, was required by 13 George III., c. 78, to appoint a surveyor to see that the roads were repaired by somebody. At the Easter Quarter Sessions, 1803, a Mr. George Read indicted the inhabitants of the Parish of Ruyton for not repairing the road from Ruyton to Wykey. For non-appearance to this Indictment a fine of £108 was imposed on the parish by Quarter Sessions, and was levied on William Birch, one of the inhabitants, who was afterwards reimbursed by a rate of 1s. 8d. in the £ on the parish. The money was paid by order of the Court to Mr. Rowland Hunt of Boreatton, and by him expended in repairing the road.¹ This is an illustration of the ordinary mode of procedure. The townships continued to be liable to repair their own roads until 1863, when by order of Quarter Sessions all the township roads were transferred to a Highway Board, to which the Parishes of Ruyton and Felton each sent one representative. The functions of the Highway Board were transferred by the Local Government Act, 1894, to the District Council, to which Felton, in respect of its large rateable value, now sends two representatives. Since losing their roads the townships have had no functions or corporate life of any kind.

With respect to the transfer of private property and the management of common lands, the Courts of Ruyton Manor have been deprived of their functions by the sale to the landowners of all the rights possessed by the Lords, and the conversion of all land held by copy of Court Roll into freehold; and by the enclosure and conversion into private freehold property of nearly all the common lands. Such common lands as remain are practically under no management at all, and only last year an Act was passed conferring certain powers over them on the District Council.

The Manor and its Courts are therefore practically dead, for want of tenants of the manor and of business for the Courts; and any history of future events here will have to be a history of the Parishes of Ruyton and Felton, not of the once important but now dead and forgotten Manor of Ruyton of the Eleven Towns.

¹ Churchwardens' Accounts; and "Case" with opinion of Sir John Richardson, 1806, at Pradoc.

The Census returns show the population of the two parishes which comprise the Manor to have been as follows:—

In 1801, Ruyton	720	...	...	Felton	926
1831, "	933	...	...	"	1,093
1841, "	1,083	...	...	"	1,087
1851, "	1,165	...	...	"	1,088
1861, "	1,200	...	...	"	1,067
1871, "	1,149	...	...	"	1,059
1881, "	1,113	...	...	"	1,065
1891, "	1,105	...	...	"	1,080

The rateable value, according to the County Rate basis, has been as follows:—

In 1837, Ruyton	£ 5,648	...	...	Felton	£ 8,276
1857, "	6,500	...	...	"	9,600
1869, "	8,241	...	...	"	10,573
1878, "	9,287	...	...	"	14,048
1886, "	8,860	...	...	"	13,275
1892, "	8,105	...	...	"	12,354
1897, "	8,849	...	...	"	13,960
1900, "	8,749	...	...	"	13,797

In 1897, for the first time, agricultural land was assessed separately from other property; it is now, in 1900, rated at £4,924 in Ruyton, and at £6,320 in Felton.

The following poem, written about 1840 for a local gathering, mentions most of the then inhabitants of Ruyton and their good qualities.

RUYTON ASSOCIATION.

To a village called Ruyton one day in fine weather
 The Alphabet sent deputations together,
 To a feast where the cup of enjoyment might flow,
 And in friendship extinguish the smould'ring of woe.
 A was absent however, though first on the list,
 And all felt how much Alexander was missed.
 For B were the Bickertons, Basnett, and others,
 All men of good metal, and two of them brothers;
 Brown, and Broughton the Doctor, whose skill does so frighten
 Old death that he cries "What's the matter in Ruyton?"
 C was old Comberbatch, lets give him a shout,
 For he's one of the very best neighbours about;
 And Corden include, with his Reverence of Ness,¹

¹ Rev. H. C. Cotton, Vicar of Great Ness for 27 years, died 4 Oct., 1850

So known for relieving the poor in distress.
 D gave, not one Davies, but doubled it o'er,
 Each a team in himself, aye and half a horse more.
 E cannot so easily one rhyme be clapt in,
 For first there's our loyal magnanimous Captain,¹
 And then there's our Vicar,² who true doctrine teaches,
 I wish *we* could practise as well as *he* preaches.
 F seemed to forget us, and so stopt away,
 Never mind he may furnish his quota some day.
 G gave us a gentleman Glover, and know, Sirs,
 In his next neighbour Griffiths a whole gross of Grocers.
 H was honoured in Humphreys, and that very rare man
 The prince of good company Samuel Harman.
 I was idle; but J gave us Jebb, and that's plenty,
 For at home or abroad he is equal to twenty.
 Now the next you're expecting, but what shall I say,
 Or how shall I compass the merits of K?³
 As landlord or magistrate? let's fill a bumper,
 And I need name no name, for you know who's the plumper.
 L contributed Large-ly, and M made us merry,
 Morris, Mansell, and Minton were grand ones, aye very;
 Nor omit we Tom Maddocks, our sensible farrier,
 Who has got a good wife and done nothing but marry her.
 N has sent us in nothing; we had Oswells for O,
 And who are better than they I should like to know?
 For P Q R S there at present is room,
 But unless they're tip top let 'em still stay at home.
 T stood up in Timmis who furnished the board
 With all that earth, water, or air could afford.
 U was utterly blank when his ticket was drawn;
 V sent us a volume of virtues in Vaughan.
 With the next and last letter I shall but briefly trouble you,
 All were warranted trumps who were turned up by W;
 There was he⁴ whom Miss Slaney the peerless in worth
Hoped to find, and *has* found, the best husband on earth:
 And he, dont you see, when I mention him, Wood,
 How merry Grig Hill shakes its forested hood?
 And to end with the other, lets charge great guns and small,
 With a cheer of his own to jolly Bob Wall.

¹ G. R. Edwards, Capt. and afterwards Col. in the Hon. East India Co's Service.

² Rev. G. Evans, 1823—1859.

³ Hon. T. Kenyon of Pradoc.

⁴ W. R. M. Wynne, Esq., married in 1839 a daughter of R. Slaney, Esq., M.P., and was living at Ruyton Hall 1840-2.

THE REBELLION OF ROBERT DE BELESME.

BY THE REV. THOMAS AUDEN, M.A., F.S.A.

THE rebellion of Robert de Belesme and its suppression by King Henry I. must always have great interest for those who care for the past history of their country in general, and for Salopians in particular. The circumstances had a most important relation to the development of the Kingdom as a whole, and many of those circumstances took place within the limits of our own county.

In the following paper I propose especially to call attention to certain incidents which have not perhaps received all the attention they deserve.

Robert de Belesme, it will be remembered, was the eldest son of Roger de Montgomery, the friend of the Conqueror, who was appointed by him the first Earl of Shrewsbury, and rewarded with estates which were practically co-extensive with the County of Salop, in addition to possessions elsewhere. Earl Roger assumed the habit of a Benedictine monk in his Abbey of Shrewsbury in 1094, and soon after died, his bones being laid to rest in the great Church between the high altar and the altar of the Lady Chapel.

It will be remembered that he was twice married, his two wives being the greatest possible contrast to each other, both in personal character and the influence they exercised. The first was Mabel de Belesme, who brought her husband large continental possessions indeed, but who was almost wholly selfish and cruel, and her influence almost always for evil. The second was Adeliza of Puisse, with whose coming to meet her husband is associated the story of the erection of a church at Quatford, near Bridgnorth, related by Eyton.¹ She

¹ Eyton's *Antiquities*, vol. i., p. 106.
Vol. I., 3rd Series.

appears to have encouraged and supported her husband in all his numerous efforts on behalf of the Church, which marked the latter part of his career.

Robert de Belesme, as already stated, was Earl Roger's eldest son, by his first wife Mabel, and the son seems to have inherited the bad qualities of his mother. The possessions which fell to his lot on the death of his father were the Norman estates, his next brother Hugh taking estates in England, together with the title of Earl of Shrewsbury. Hugh, however, who is described by the chronicler Ordericus as of gentler disposition, fell in battle with King Magnus of Norway some four years later, and Robert purchased from William Rufus his title and estates.

These events were speedily followed by the death of King William in the New Forest, and the seizure of the English crown by his younger brother Henry, to the exclusion of the elder, Robert Curthose, who had inherited the Norman Duchy, and who was at the time away on a crusade. It was inevitable that many of the Barons would oppose this usurpation on the part of Henry, and support the claim of Robert. It was inevitable because it was with them, not a question of right, about which they cared little, but a question of self interest, about which they cared much. Robert of Normandy was careless, easy going and weak; Henry was for his time cultured, skilful, and extremely astute. The rule of Robert, therefore, held out to the Barons the promise of almost unlimited licence to do what was right in their own eyes; under that of Henry they must expect to be called to account for any misdeed of which they were guilty. Accordingly his accession was greeted with discontent, which soon ripened into rebellion, and among the foremost of those who thus refused allegiance was Robert de Belesme. He had shown his turbulent and unruly disposition when quite a young man by assisting Robert Curthose in his rebellion against his father, the Conqueror, and again during the reign of William Rufus, but so far, his operations had been confined to Normandy. On his succession to the Earldom of Shrewsbury he made himself felt in this county. His first work seems to have been the erection of a new Castle at Bridgnorth, possibly incorporating with it the Saxon burh already placed

there by Ethelfleda,¹ the Lady of the Mercians, and according to Ordericus, he "transferred the Town and people of Quatford to the new fortress."

The chronicler then goes on to say that "he also laid claim to the lands of Blida in right of his cousin Roger de Buthlei, and obtained a grant of them from the King for a large sum of money."² Where was this Castle of Blida? Roger de Hoveden³, certainly, and apparently all the other authorities except one, speak of it as Tickhill, and it becomes a question what place is meant. The choice at first seems to lie between Tickhill in Yorkshire and Blyth in the adjoining part of Nottinghamshire, but one naturally thinks whether it cannot be found nearer to the Earl's other possessions. It is a question which cannot be solved with absolute certainty, but Owen and Blakeway have put the matter so clearly that I quote their words:—"This fourth castle of Earl Robert is by all the other historians (except the Welsh *Brut y Saeson*, which styles it *Bledense*) called Tykehil or Tickenhull. The castle of that name in Yorkshire was anciently connected with Blythe (in *Domesday* Blide) in the county of Nottingham, and was holden at the time of that survey by Roger de Busli, so that there can be no doubt that in the opinion of Ordericus it was the Yorkshire Tickhill. It may be justly deemed presumptuous at this distance of time to hint a suspicion that the historian was mistaken; yet we can find no trace of any connection between the Earl of Shrewsbury and the county of York; but lower down the Severn is a place bearing the same name, and of great importance to the Norman Earl, as securing to him the possession of that river, on which his other castles at Quatford, at Bridgnorth, and at Shrewsbury were seated. This is Tickenhill, near Bewdley, which bears unequivocal

¹ Camden says of Bridgnorth: "'Twas first built by Ethelfleda, Lady of the Mercians, and walled round by Robert de Belism, Earl of Shrewsbury, who relying upon the strength of the place, revolted from Henry the First." *Britannia* (ed. 1695), p. 542. Eyton, however, thinks Ethelfleda's castle was on Pampudding Hill, on the other site of the valley towards Oldbury. *Antiquities*, vol. i., p. 131.

² Ordericus Vitalis. *History*, book x., ch. vii.

³ Roger de Hoveden (Rolls edition), vol. i., p. 159.

marks of having been an ancient castle, erected on a position of great strength; and if, from the recesses of his Norman Abbey, Ordericus, hearing of that attack upon Tickenhill, fixed upon the wrong place, and gave to the Worcestershire Tickenhill a name (Blida) which belonged only to the Yorkshire one; or if, hearing of an attack upon Bewdley, he was deceived by the similarity of name, and transferred it to Blida, the mistake in either case was natural."¹ I call attention to the matter as one which seems deserving of further investigation.

But to return to the narrative. Henry, as already stated, was no sooner seated on the English throne than Robert de Belesme, with two of his brothers and other nobles, entered into a conspiracy to place the crown on the head of Robert Curthose. Henry, however, came to terms with his easy going brother, and summoned Robert de Belesme to court to answer an indictment containing no less than forty-five charges of offences against himself and his brother, the Duke of Normandy. Belesme thought it prudent to make his escape, whereupon he was proclaimed an outlaw, and the King proceeded to take measures to enforce obedience. His castle at Arundel in Sussex yielded without much difficulty, and the King next advanced to Blida, whose garrison came out to meet him, and joyfully acknowledged him as their liege lord. It should be remarked that this order of proceeding seems in favour of the identification of Blida with Tickenhill, near Bewdley. It would lie on the direct line of march from Arundel to Bridgnorth, which was the King's next destination, whereas to reach the Yorkshire Tickhill he must have gone far northward out of his way.

At the point referred to, however, Ordericus, after his manner, makes a digression about Norman affairs, and it is a little difficult to gather what interval elapsed between the surrender of Blida and the King's next step. This was to besiege Bridgnorth with a large force. Belesme had retired to Shrewsbury, leaving Bridgnorth in charge of Roger son of Corbet, Robert de Neuville and Ulger the hunter, with a

¹ Owen and Blakeway, *History of Shrewsbury*, vol. i., p. 55, note.

force of eighty hired soldiers, and he expected it to sustain a long siege. The account of what occurred must be given in the words of Ordericus himself¹ :—

The earls and barons of the realm now met and consulted together as to the means of reconciling the rebellious earl to his sovereign. They said among themselves : " Should the king succeed in crushing this mighty earl and carrying his resentment so far as to disinherit him, as he is endeavouring to do, he will then trample us all under foot like feeble women. Let us therefore use our utmost efforts to plant the seeds of concord between them, that we may serve in a lawful way both our sovereign and our brother peer, and thus make both of them our debtors by putting an end to their quarrels." In consequence, one day they all went to the king in a body, and earnestly addressing him in the middle of the camp, used a variety of arguments calculated to soften the royal asperity. At that moment there happened to be some provincial troops, to the number of three thousand, drawn up on a hill close by, who becoming aware of the intentions of the nobles, shouted aloud to the king : " Henry, lord king, trust not these traitors. They are endeavouring to deceive you, and prevent the vigorous exercise of your royal justice. Why do you listen to those who persuade you to pardon a traitor, and let the conspiracy against your life go unpunished ? For ourselves, we are all ready to stand by you faithfully and second all your undertakings. Press the siege vigorously ; close in upon the traitor on all sides ; and make no peace till you take him, alive or dead." The king's resolution was strengthened by the voice of the people, and returning shortly after listening to them, he negatived the proposals of the factious nobles.

Particular attention is called to this passage because of the light which it throws on the life of the period, both in its political and social aspects. It will be observed that the picture it presents contains several distinct groups of characters. There is the King himself, accompanied by what Ordericus describes as " the military force of the whole of England ;" there are the citizens of Bridgnorth, and separate from them, though closely associated, the mercenary force of eighty men at arms, who formed a special garrison ; there

¹ The quotations are made from Forester's translation (Bohn).

are the body of barons who would be accompanied by their immediate dependents; and lastly, the adjoining hill is occupied by "provincial troops to the number of three thousand." The exact expression of the chronicler should be noticed: it is "*tria millia pagensium militum*"—literally "three thousand soldiers belonging to the villages"—and it at once becomes a question who these village soldiers were. The solution to the question is probably to be found in the transition as regards military organization, which was then going on. In Saxon times, military operations were carried on by the national *fyrð*—a kind of militia, consisting of the men of the counties and hundreds, acting under their various theyns, but with little principle of cohesion, and incapable of a long campaign. The irruptions of the Danes caused King Alfred to introduce some modifications in the direction of what became known as the feudal system, and Canute made the further introduction of what was practically a small standing army in his *hus-carles*, or military household. Normandy in the meantime had adopted the feudal system with more or less completeness. Every holder of land held it as a tenant under the obligation to furnish a certain proportion of fully equipped horsemen for military service, serving under the banner of the baron, who was tenant in chief, and who in turn was bound to serve with his knights under that of the King, in whom all the land was theoretically vested. The Conquest introduced this military tenure into England, but it did not eradicate or displace the previous system. It was William's policy to disturb existing institutions as little as possible, so long as they did not interfere with his own aims, and especially in the earlier part of his reign he did all he could to impress on the English people the idea that he was king by right of orderly succession, and not of mere conquest. The result of all this was that in many aspects—and among them that of military organization—the reigns both of William himself and of his sons was a period of transition. In the words of Bishop Stubbs¹:—"The baron led his own knights under his own

¹ *Constitutional Hist.*, vol. i., p. 491 (Library Edition).

banner, the host was arranged by the constable or marshal under the supreme command of the King; the knights who held less than baronial fees under the crown appeared with the rest of the forces of the shires under the command of the sheriffs. The infantry must have been furnished almost entirely by the more ancient *fyrð* system, or by mercenaries."

In Ordericus' account of what occurred at Bridgnorth we have, apparently, all these elements brought before us. The King is present with a considerable force, to the composition of which we have no certain clue; but in the passage his claim to service is not universally accepted, nor is such a thing seemingly expected. He listens to suggestions from two distinct bodies of men who are not his enemies, but who yet appear as independent of him and of each other. These are first, the barons who are only concerned in the struggle because the interests of their own class are imperilled; and secondly, the *pagenses milites* on the hill side.

Who—it must be repeated—were these soldiers from the villages? Owen and Blakeway¹ identify them with "the country gentlemen of Shropshire," "lords of manors holding under their great earl," but their number—even allowing for some exaggeration—seems to preclude this view, apart from the question how far the Latin expression suggests such a rendering. It seems rather to suggest the gathering of the local *fyrð*, furnished by the hundreds of the surrounding district, and headed by the sheriff or some local officer, whose interests were those of the district as a whole, and not of any particular class of its inhabitants. If this supposition is correct, it would be a force, not exclusively Norman—as Owen and Blakeway suggest—nor yet exclusively Saxon, as Hallam² appeared to hold, but composed of both elements—Saxon as regards the rank and file, but with Normans at the head,—and so in itself a proof of the way, in which as regards the great mass of the people, the racial hatred was passing away, and Norman and Saxon, awaking to the consciousness that their interests were identical, were fast blending into one great English nation. Henry himself had given a stimulus

¹ *Hist. of Shrewsbury*, vol. i., p. 56.

² Hallam, *Middle Ages*, quoted by Owen and Blakeway.

to this tendency at his accession by his Charter of liberties, and still more perhaps by his marriage to an English princess, and now he was reaping his reward in the support of the English people.

Ordericus goes on to relate that the King accepted the advice shouted from the hill side, and pressed the siege, with the result that the townsmen capitulated.¹ The mercenaries in the castle were kept in ignorance of the capitulation till it had taken place, and flew to arms to prevent its being carried out, but the King's troops were admitted amid the cheers of the populace, and after a short blockade the garrison were allowed to march out of the castle with their horses and arms.

Robert de Belesme meanwhile was nursing his wrath, now largely mingled with fear, in his castle at Shrewsbury. The next proceedings must be given in the words of the chronicler himself:—

The king now issued orders for his army to march by the Hunel Hegen, and lay siege to Shrewsbury, which stands on a rising ground washed on three sides by the river Severn. The road through a wood on this route is called by the English Hunel² Hegen, which in Latin means *malum callem vel vicum*. This road was for a thousand paces full of holes, and the surface rough with large stones, and so narrow that two men on horseback could scarcely pass each other. It was overshadowed on both sides by a thick wood in which bowmen were placed in ambush ready to inflict sudden wounds with hissing bolts and arrows on the troops

¹ Ralph de Pitchford received from the King a grant of land at "Little Brug" as a reward for assistance on this occasion. The story as given by Grose (*Antiquities of England and Wales*, vol. v., p. 3), is as follows:—"Sir Ralph de Pitchford, one of the King's commanders, behaved himself so gallantly, that Henry granted him an estate in the neighbourhood, called The Little Brugge, to hold by the service of finding dry wood for the King's great chamber in the Castle as often as he should come there." Eyton commenting on this (vol. i., p. 354), adduces evidence to show that Ralph de Pitchford was probably related to Uger the Hunter, mentioned above as one of those left in charge by Belesme, and he thinks that the service rendered on this occasion was not so much an act of bravery as the exertion of his influence with his presumed kinsman within the castle to procure its surrender. The tenure at Little Brug and its condition are mentioned as late as 1292. (Eyton, l.c.)

² In Delisle's French edition, from which Forester made his translation, the word is printed *Huvel*; but Owen and Blakeway are almost certainly right in adopting the reading "Hunel."

on their march. There were more than sixty thousand infantry in the expedition, and the king gave orders that they should clear a broad track by cutting down the wood with axes, so that a road might be formed for his own passage and a public highway for ever afterwards. The royal command was promptly performed, and vast numbers of men being employed, the wood was felled, and a very broad road levelled through it.

Apparently the usual route from Bridgnorth to Shrewsbury was up the valley of the Severn—a long and circuitous course—but the King (evidently acting under the guidance of someone possessing accurate knowledge) chose a route much shorter and more direct. The reason why this shorter route had been avoided was that it involved the crossing of Wenlock Edge, which was steep and inaccessible in itself, and covered with forest. What Henry exactly did is best seen by a study of the Ordnance map of the district. The Priory of Wenlock, of course, already existed, and had recently received fresh life from Robert de Belesme's father, the great Roger, and had, no doubt, gathered round it a small settlement; but the King left this to the right, as the present road leaves it, and passing over the steep ridge in a direct line for Shrewsbury, he reached that town quickly by way of Harley and Cressage. The passage just quoted from Ordericus relates the difficulties of the passage, and how the King overcame them. It is significant that he adds the wish on the part of the King that the broad track he formed might be a public highway for ever afterwards. A glance at the Ordnance map is sufficient to show the importance of his work, and ultimately the complete fulfilment of his wish.¹

¹ It is interesting to compare the description given by Giraldus Cambrensis in his *Itinerary of Wales*, which contains the account of his journey in company with Archbishop Baldwin, to preach a Crusade in that country. The visit to Wenlock, which he records, took place in 1188. His words are (bk. ii., c. 13), "Profecti sumus inde (from Shrewsbury) versus Gueneloch per arctam viam et prœruptam, quam Malam plateam vocant." The description goes to show that in the 86 years which had elapsed, King Henry's broad road had been much neglected, and that its condition had again earned its old bad name. It is however worth noticing that the *malus callis* (bad footpath) of Ordericus has given way to *mala platea* (bad broad-road) in Giraldus' version, the change being of the nature of an "undesigned coincidence," which goes to confirm the veracity of both narratives. Probably the complete formation of the road extended over a very considerable period.

The expression used by Ordericus, and his description of the wooded character of the district further suggests whether it has not left its impress in another way by giving its name to the town. Just below the Edge we have Cressage, which is almost universally accepted as being Christ's ack, that is, Christ's oak. Is it possible that Wenlock is Hunel ack, and that in the appellation Wenlock Edge we have embodied in a single name all the characteristics which Ordericus speaks of in connection with the place?

To return once more to the story. The quick appearance of the King in the neighbourhood of Shrewsbury took Belesme by surprise, and he resolved to tender his submission. Henry, however, would make no terms with him, and he was compelled to meet the King at the entrance of the town and lay the keys at his feet. Henry contented himself with confiscating his estates, and gave him a safe conduct to the coast. His banishment, the chronicler tells us, was greeted with a tumult of joy on the part of the English people.

These events took place in the autumn of 1102, and from this time Belesme never saw Shropshire again. He appears, indeed, to have visited England three years later, but without any effect as regards the restitution of his estates, and this visit was soon followed by an invasion of Normandy by the King and the capture of duke Robert at the battle of Tenchebrai. There is a strong suspicion that in this battle Belesme purchased the favour of Henry by treachery to Robert; at any rate, he succeeded in making peace with him, and received the restoration of some of the privileges held by his father in Normandy. After this we lose sight of him for some years, but in 1113 he again came into contact with Henry. He presented himself at his court in the character of envoy from the King of France, but the English monarch connived at his arrest and seized his estates. In the following year he sent him as a prisoner to England, and he languished for the rest of his days in Wareham Castle. That fortress has now crumbled to the dust, and little except the site remains to tell of its former importance, but those who know the quiet Dorsetshire town will remember the wonderful earthworks which surround it—relics of warfare waged long before the erection of the castle in which Robert de Belesme

pined and died. The exact date of his death is unknown, and Henry of Huntingdon¹ moralises over such an end to greatness.

It may be more to our purpose to say a word as to his character. Ordericus says of him :—He was of a subtle genius, deceitful and wily: in person he was stout and of great strength; intrepid and formidable in war; he was a fluent speaker, but desperately cruel; his avarice and lust were insatiable; he was an able manager of important affairs, and toiled with the utmost patience through the greatest worldly trials; he displayed great skill in constructing buildings and machines, and other difficult works, and inexorable cruelty in tormenting his enemies. He did not honour, cherish and clothe Holy Church as a son should a mother, but dishonoured, oppressed and stripped it as a stepson would treat his mother-in-law. (Book viii., ch. v.) Henry of Huntingdon and William of Malmesbury describe him in similar terms. His character was bad enough, no doubt. We may well accept the verdict of Bishop Stubbs that he was “an utterly selfish tyrant of the worst feudal stamp;” but it should not be forgotten that we have heard only one side. His biographers were all ecclesiastics, and as such saw everything from the standpoint of the interests of the Church. For example, in estimating the character of Robert’s mother, Mabel de Belesme, the judgment of Ordericus is clearly influenced by the fact that she bore hatred to his own Abbey of St. Evroult, and it is his highest praise of her successor, Adeliza of Puisset, that by her example she brought her husband to the love of monks. The same fact is apparent in his character of Robert himself, quoted above. Robert de Belesme, in fact, seems to have been ready to sacrifice everyone who stood in his way, whatever his position and whatever his character, but we may well believe there is an element of exaggeration in some of the details of meaningless acts of barbarity which are to be found in the accounts of Ordericus and the other chroniclers.

Anyway, his rebellion was productive of good to others if it brought ruin to himself. Shropshire was rid of a rule that

¹ Letter to Walter, p. 311 (Bohn’s edition).

was cruel and oppressive, and its numerous manors by passing into the hands of the King came under the force of that tide of prosperity, civil and religious, which was just then beginning to rise in this country, and which by degrees, flooding first the towns, and then the villages, left an influence for good which is not wholly unfelt even in the present day.

A FOURTEENTH CENTURY ROLL OF NAMES,
PRESERVED AMONGST THE SHREWSBURY
GILD-MERCHANT ROLLS.

TRANSCRIBED AND EDITED BY THE
REV. C. H. DRINKWATER, M.A.

IN the Historical MSS. Commissioners' Report of the Shrewsbury Records, the Rev. W. D. Macray describes this Roll¹ after this manner:—"13. A curious very small Roll of the same reign (Henry III.) contains a list of names in sections divided by crosses, without any heading or explanation, except that one section with seven names is headed '*Masuns.*'" He then gives the names (which will be found below). The most curious feature of this Roll, however, is that nearly all the names in the main column of this Roll are buttressed by two other names, and attention is called to this fact by lines drawn from each one to its two supporters. That these were names of sureties, guarantors, compurgators or the like is apparent from the one numbered 64, to which the word *plegius* is prefixed. Now *plegius*, according to Blount (*Law Dictionary, sub verbo*) is equivalent to "*fidejussor*, a surety or gage. *Plegii dicuntur personæ qui se obligant ad hoc ad quod, qui eos mittit, tenebatur*—Sureties are persons so called who bind themselves to that to which he who puts them forward, is himself bound (*Grand. Cust. Norm., cap. 60*). Fifty-five names out of the whole number of sixty-seven are thus provided, while twelve seem to stand on their own merits.

As there are neither endorsements, nor even a heading, nothing can be gathered to show the object of this roll. Conjecture is worse than useless; our only hope would seem to lie in finding a similar roll with a heading and a date. The date

¹ This Roll is numbered 50a in the printed Calendar of the Shrewsbury Borough Records.
Vol. I, 3rd Series.

may be approximately gathered by comparison with a roll already published, that of 1352 (2nd Ser., iii. 265), for over 40 names are identical. This then would be in the latter half of the 14th century, as may be further seen by the more modern shape of some of the letters.

The scribe, or if there were two, the one who added the names of the sureties, was not very competent, nor was he a native of the county. The writing is bad, and the spelling execrable. He evidently wrote from dictation, and used a faulty pen upon a rough skin. *Monterey* becomes *Munderowe*; *Lodelawe*, *Ledewe*; and *Oswaldstree*, *Osswaldusstre*; *Leintwardine* is made into *Tecntwardine*, so glaringly that even Mr. Macray was deceived by it; while the abbreviations for the letters *m*, *n*, and *r* are for the most part disregarded.

ROLL OF 14TH CENTURY.

¹ Johannes le turnour Fuscus



² Rogerus goldsmit

³ Johannes del Ruckyn

²³ Ricardus Prodom }

⁴ Ricardus le sporier

²⁵ Ad del Newport }

⁵ Rogerus de Welinton

²⁴ Johannes Bodi

⁶ Johannes Lokier

²⁶ Ricardus fabr'm sub Wile

⁷ Hugonn de Preston

²⁷ Rogerus Maddins Rle
(or Perle)

⁸ Thomas de Caldecote

²⁸ Johannes Smit

⁹ Henricus le carder

¹⁰ Johannes de Polileg

²⁹ Johannes fabr'm sub Wile

¹¹ Tomas le forbur

³⁰ Ricardus Lowe

¹² Walterus de Feccenam

³¹ Rogerus Pele

¹³ Ricardus Russel

³² Nicholaum fab' sub Wile

¹⁴ Rogerus de Welinton

³³ Rogerus de *Cundes*

¹⁵ Ricardus Russel

³⁴ Ricardus le Barbur

¹⁶ Johannes de Kanni-
betone

³⁵ Willelmus de Pimbeley

¹⁷ Willelmus de cedewey

³⁶ Daud Campperith

¹⁸ Nicholaum le sadeler

³⁷ Rogerus goldsmit

¹⁹ Johannes de Chustan

³⁸ Hugo Buskin

²⁰ Johannes de Muridon

³⁹ Johannes le smit de porta
castori (? castelli)

²¹ Johannis del Lonwe

⁴⁰ Willelmus le mercer

²² Nicholaum de Caus

- ⁴¹ Willelmus Mustard
⁴² Johannes Galis
⁴³ Daudid de Nortun
⁴⁴ Johannes Lokier
⁴⁵ Johannes de Colnam
⁴⁶ Robertus de Hinton
⁴⁷ Reinaldus le scriueyner
⁴⁸ Johannes le Smit
⁴⁹ Ricardus Lowe
⁵⁰ Johannes Bydi
⁵¹ Walterus de Brome
⁵² Willelmus Munderowe
⁵³ Johannes del Ree
⁵⁴ Johannes le freremon
⁵⁵ Johannes Dirli
⁵⁶ Tomas le brouster
⁵⁷ Hugo Glowe
⁵⁸ Henricus le Rede
⁵⁹ Rogerus de Vptun
⁶⁰ P de Colnam
⁶¹ Tomas le Kent
⁶² Johannes Bety
⁶³ Tomas de Ovintun
⁶⁴ Tomas Carter
⁶⁵ Willelmi de Smtli"
 plegius ⁶⁶ Willelmus de
 Smerecote
⁶⁷ Ricardus Carter
⁶⁸ Beggi de Lodelawe
⁶⁹ Begus de Lodelawe
⁷⁰ Johannes Carter
⁷¹ Rogerus le creweyn
⁷² Rogerus le creweyn
⁷³ Johannes le smit

 †
⁷⁴ Atha le Sauwier
⁷⁵ Tomas de Mutton
⁷⁶ Daudid famulus Rogeri
 de Yate

⁷⁷ Willelmus frater eius
⁷⁸ Johannes Minton
⁷⁹ Ricardus del Clewe
⁸⁰ Reinald le couper
⁸¹ Robertus de Lace
⁸² Hugu Wigeyn
⁸³ Eygnon le couper
⁸⁴ Water de Hegulton
⁸⁵ Willelmus de Stedewey
⁸⁶ Robertus le couper
⁸⁷ Begus de Ledewe
⁸⁸ Henricus le carder
⁸⁹ Ricardus de Wentwergegh
⁹⁰ Johannes le ficher
⁹¹ Tomas Borrey
⁹² Daudid frater eiusdem
⁹³ MASUNS
⁹⁴ tt. Willelmus de Draytun
⁹⁵ Rogerus Gotbere
⁹⁶ Rogerus de Farnecote
⁹⁷ Johannes le smit
⁹⁸ Rogerus le hunte
⁹⁹ Hugu le Barbur
¹⁰⁰ Johannes le smit
¹⁰¹ Tomas de Helecote
¹⁰² Willelmus Abburberi
¹⁰³ Willelmus de Rodene
¹⁰⁴ Ricardus Lowe
¹⁰⁵ Water de Abbeton
¹⁰⁶ Hugu le Barbur
¹⁰⁷ Bnge de Ledelowe
¹⁰⁸ Tomas de *tecntwardine*
 (? lei . . .)
¹⁰⁹ Hugu le Barbur
¹¹⁰ Bnge de Ledelowe

 †
¹¹¹ Rogerus de Bettun
¹¹² Benet le bray
¹¹³ Johannes Odenet

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 114 Tomas de Harlascete | 145 Willelmus de Mumgomery |
| 116 Rogerus de Octun | 146 Willelmus de Osswald- |
| 118 Ricardus de Kenewret | dusstre |
| 117 Reyne le scherer | 147 Ricardus le scenner |
| 118 Hugo le liskyn | 148 Lucas (? Lucia) de Ellus- |
| 119 Willelmus de Rodene | mere |
| 120 Johannes de I'ebedene | 149 Henricus Obel |
| 121 Rogerus Troye | 150 Daudid de Borleton |
| 122 Ricardus de Betton | 151 Robertus de Mumgomery |
| 123 Hugo le Webbe | 152 Henricus Challener |
| † | 153 Johannes le Webbe |
| 124 Steuene Chekun Webbe | 154 Phillipus de Berinton |
| 125 Ricardus Capp | 155 Willelmus de Monnford |
| 126 Ricardus del Chewe | 156 Johannes Blace |
| 127 Tomas le dyer | 157 Ricardus Wentwerine |
| 128 Ricardus de Pichford | 158 Angin (? Agnes) Mustard |
| 129 Willelmus de Rodene | 159 Ricardus del Chewe |
| 130 Maiot Waghan | 160 Willelmus comut |
| 131 Johannes le smit | 161 Edithe Borrey |
| 132 Johannes Bydi | 162 Ricardus Sturi |
| 133 Willelmus de Wesberi | 163 Johannes Paye |
| 134 Johannes Dun | 164 Marioria Borrey |
| 135 Dau le plemmer | 165 Robertus de Mornus |
| 136 Willelmus Roleg' (? B) | 166 Johannes deltoni(?tour) |
| 137 Robertus de Hukton | 167 Reinold le Webber |
| 138 Rogerus de Welinton | 168 Willelmus de Lye |
| 139 Hufe le Webbe | 169 Rogerus de Wiggewe |
| 140 Ricardus de Betton | 170 Johannes fillius eius |
| 141 Rogerus Cruze | 171 Phinse le Webber |
| 142 Ricardus de hennecote | 172 Robertus Thormns |
| 143 Ricardus Lowe | 173 Willelmus de Cedewey |
| 144 Willelmus Fowele | |

BAPTISMAL NAMES (with times of recurrence, if any).

John, 35; William, 29; Richard, 24; Roger, 19; Thomas, 11;
 Hugh, 10; Robert, 7; David, 6; Henry, 5; Beogus, 4;
 Nicholas, 3; Reinald, 3; Walter, 2; Water(?), 2; Adam, 1;
 Atha, 1; Augin (Agnes), 1; Benet, 1; Blace, 1; Editha, 1;
 Eygnon, 1; Lucas (Lucia), 1; Maiot, 1; Marioria, 1;
 P., 1; Philip, 1; Phinse, 1; Reyne, 1; Steuene, 1.

SURNAMEs (with line reference).

Alburberie ⁽¹⁰³⁾; Bety, Bodi, Bydi, ^(82, 24, 132); Blace ⁽¹⁵⁶⁾; Borrey ^(91, 161, 164); Buskin ⁽⁸³⁾. Campperith ⁽³⁶⁾; Capp ⁽¹²⁵⁾; Challenger ⁽¹⁵²⁾; Chekun ⁽¹²⁴⁾; Comut ⁽¹⁶⁰⁾; Cruze ⁽¹⁴¹⁾. Dirli ⁽⁵⁵⁾; Dun ⁽¹³⁴⁾. Fowele ⁽¹⁴⁴⁾. Gales ⁽¹¹²⁾; Glowe ⁽⁶⁷⁾; Gotbere ⁽⁹⁵⁾. Lowe ^(30, 40, 104, 143). Maddins ⁽²⁷⁾; Minton ⁽⁷⁸⁾; Munderowe (? Monterey) ⁽⁵²⁾; Mustard ^(41, 168). Obel ⁽¹⁴⁰⁾; Odenet ⁽¹¹³⁾. Page ⁽¹⁶³⁾; Pele ⁽³¹⁾; Prodm ⁽²³⁾. Roleg ⁽¹³⁰⁾; Russel ^(13, 16). Sturi ⁽¹⁶²⁾. Thornns ⁽¹⁷²⁾; Troye ⁽¹²¹⁾. Waghan ⁽¹³⁰⁾; Wentwerine ⁽¹⁶⁷⁾; Wigeyn ⁽⁸²⁾.

TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS.

Barbur ^(24, 106, 109); Carder ^(9, 88); Carter ^(64, 67, 70); Couper ^(80, 83, 86); Dyer ⁽¹²⁷⁾; Fabrim (?) ^(29, 32, 35); Ficher ⁽⁹⁰⁾; Forbur ⁽¹¹⁾; Goldsmit ^(2, 37); Hunter ⁽⁹⁸⁾; Lokier ^(6, 44); Mercer ⁽⁴⁰⁾; Plemmer ⁽¹³⁶⁾; Sadeler ⁽¹⁸⁾; Sauwier ⁽⁷⁴⁾; Scenner ⁽¹⁴⁷⁾; Scherer ⁽¹¹⁷⁾; Scriueneyer ⁽⁴⁷⁾; Smit ^(28, 39, 48, 73, 97, 100, 131); Sporier ⁽⁴⁾; Turnour ⁽¹⁾; Webbe ^(123, 124, 130, 153, 167, 171).

DESIGNATIONS.

Le Bray ⁽¹¹²⁾; Le Bronssler ⁽⁵⁶⁾; Le Creweyn, ^(74, 75); Le Freremon ⁽⁶⁷⁾; Le Kent ⁽⁶¹⁾; Le Liskyn ⁽¹¹⁸⁾; Le Plemmer ⁽¹³⁵⁾; Le Rede ⁽⁶⁸⁾.

PLACE-NAMES.

Abbeton ⁽¹⁰⁵⁾; Alburberi ⁽¹⁰²⁾; Berintun ⁽¹⁵⁴⁾; Bettun ^(120, 140); Borleton ⁽¹⁶⁰⁾; Brome ⁽⁵¹⁾; Caldecote ⁽⁸⁾; Caus, ⁽²²⁾; Cedewey ^(17, 173); Chewe ^(126, 159); Chustan, ⁽¹⁹⁾; Clewe ⁽⁷⁹⁾; Colnam ^(45, 6060); Cundes ⁽³³⁾; Drayton ⁽⁹⁴⁾; Ellusmere ⁽¹⁴⁸⁾; Farnecote ⁽⁹⁰⁾; Febedene ⁽¹²⁰⁾; Fecce-nam ⁽¹²⁾; Hegulton ⁽⁸⁴⁾; Helecote ⁽¹⁰¹⁾; Hennecote ⁽¹⁴²⁾; Hinton ⁽⁴⁶⁾; Hukton ⁽¹³⁷⁾; Kannibetone ⁽¹⁶⁾; Kenewret ⁽¹¹⁶⁾; Lace ⁽⁸¹⁾; Lodelawe (or Ledewe) ^{68, 69, 87, 107, 110}; Leintwardine ⁽¹⁰⁸⁾; Louwe ⁽²¹⁾; Lye ⁽¹⁶⁸⁾; Mornus ⁽¹⁶⁵⁾;

Mounford ⁽¹⁵⁵⁾; Mumgomery ^(145, 151); Muridon ⁽²⁰⁾;
Mutton ⁽⁷⁵⁾; Neuport ²⁵⁾; Nortun ⁽⁴²⁾; Octun ⁽¹¹⁶⁾;
Osswalddusstre ⁽¹⁴⁶⁾; Ovinton ⁽⁶³⁾; Pichford ⁽¹²⁸⁾;
Pimbeleg ⁽³⁶⁾; Polileg ⁽¹⁰⁾; Porta *Castelli* ⁽³⁰⁾; Preston ⁽⁷⁾;
Ree ⁽⁵³⁾; Rodene ^(103, 119, 120); Ruckyn ⁽²⁾; Smerecote,
^(65, 66); Stedewey ⁽⁸⁵⁾; Tour (Toni) ⁽¹⁰⁰⁾; Upton ⁽⁵⁰⁾;
Welintun ^(5, 14, 138); Wentwergegh ⁽⁸⁰⁾; Wesberi ⁽¹³³⁾;
Wiggewe ⁽¹⁰⁰⁾; Wile ^(20, 29, 32); Yate, de ⁽⁷⁰⁾.

TWO SHREWSBURY BURGESS ROLLS, TEMP.
HENRY III., LATTER HALF OF
13TH CENTURY.

TRANSCRIBED AND EDITED BY THE
REV. C. H. DRINKWATER, M.A.

THESE two rolls¹ are described by the Rev. W. D. Macray² as "two rolls of the time of Henry III., distinguishing the persons who paid 3d., 4d., and 7d. respectively. These are evidently Burgess Rolls, but had been placed amongst those of the Subsidies." This is a correct description, yet only from internal evidence can it be decided that these two rolls *are* Burgess Rolls, for they have no headings which will bear out any description. If they are Gild-Merchant Rolls, they would not be like any of those previously transcribed, all of which (except one, which is evidently a continuation of that to which it is attached) have a heading. No more can they be called Subsidy Rolls for much the same reason, the want of any heading, and also because the *same* sums are attached to the names. It only remains to treat them as Burgess Rolls, and herein I agree with the Rev. W. D. Macray.

The date can only be approximately fixed by comparison of some persons' names here and elsewhere. *Petrus filius Martini*, at the close of the 2nd Membrane, was Provost A.D. 1261, and *Robertus Pally* was Provost A.D. 1256. Two other names, according to the lists in Owen and Blakeway, occur as Provosts temp. Henry III. without specified dates, and we thus conclude that these rolls represent the latter part of the reign of Henry III. and the second half of the 13th century. The majority of the other names are not found in documents

¹ Shrewsbury Corporation Muniments, Box II., No. 50B.

² Historical Manuscripts Commission, Fifteenth Report, Appendix, Part X., page 8. Mr. Macray goes on to state that they have already been printed, and here he has fallen into error, confounding them, no doubt, with two rolls transcribed and published in the *Transactions* for 1896 (2nd Series, viii. 21).

already transcribed, or if, in some cases the surnames are alike, they are preceded by a different Baptismal name, as though a son had accepted a deceased parents' responsibilities.

Certain peculiarities of spelling also indicate a later date and a less careful copyist, for some marks of abbreviation are altogether neglected, one of which is *Ada* for *Adā* (i.e., Adam). The documents are well preserved. No names on the *face* are illegible, and only one or two in the *dorse* of the 2nd Membrane. One scrivener is responsible for the whole, for there is no change of handwriting.

R. de illis qui ^{iiij}^{or} denarios sunt dituri.¹

ⁱ Herebertus Sekesuldre	iiij.d ^{xxv}	Johannes tinctor.	iii.d
Willelmus Kaue (or Kane)	iiij.d	Hugo Carpentarius.	iiij.d
Alanus filius Ade de Solton.	iiij.d	Petrus ruffus.	iiij.d
Ada filius Ade de Solton	iiij.d	Robertus de Wenloc'.	iiij.d
^v et Symon frater eius.	iiij.d	Iuo de Foriet.	iiij.d
Ricardus le vinetor.	iiij.d ^{xxx}	Johannes de Hagemon.	iiij.d
Radulfus de Stallis.	iiij.d	Ricardus Carpator	iiij.d
Hugo pistor.	iiij.d	Phillipus de Colenham	iiij.d
Ricardus le Wager.	iiij.d	Walterus tinctor	iiij.d
^x Robertus pictor.	iiij.d	Herni' pistor.	iiij.d
Willelmus Crispus.	iiij.d ^{xxxv}	Radulfus seruiens Hen-	
Ada Tranel	iiij.d	rici de Kent	iiij.d
Ada de Watliston.	iiij.d	Willelmus de Suggecota	iiij.d
Hugo filius Clerici.	iiij.d	Madinus	iiij.d
^{xv} Henricus de Oleton (or		Nicholas Bacun	iiij.d
Orleton)	iiij.d	Ithel	iiij.d
Rogerus seruiens Reineri	^{x1}	Ada de Viridi'.	iiij.d
ruffi.	iiij.d	Ricardus de Weston'	iiij.d
Robertus de Hereford.	iiij.d	Swein pistor.	iiij.d
Johannes de Pullileg.	iiij.d	Warinus de Herdewic'.	iiij.d
Willelmus de Pullileg.	iiij.d	Ada Iope sutor (? Jopere)	iiij.d
^{xx} Philippus de Prestecote.	iiij.d ^{xlv}	Johannes Bengel	iiij.d
Walterus le Nermeris	iiij.d	Cradoc.	iiij.d
Willelmus de Barewe	iiij.d	Ricardus niger.	iiij.d
Thomas le Barbur.	iiij.d	Rogerus Carpentarius.	iiij.d
Ricardus senex Dunvoe.	iiij.d	Warinus de Biketon.	iiij.d

¹ ? Daturi, vel debitori.

¹ Johannes de la mare.	iiij.d	^{1xxxv} Robertus Budde.	vij.d
Ricardus de mole	iiij.d	Hugo filius athebrod.	vij.d
Willelmus filius Aldithe.	iiij.d	Willelmus filius Alexandri.	vij.d
Wilotus faber.	iiij.d	Ada filius Warini de Ru-	
Johannes sub Wila.	iiij.d	moldisham.	vij.d
^{iv} Ada gener Ade pistoris.	iiij.d	Willelmus filius Warini.	vij.d
Johannes de Crucker.	iiij.d	^{xo} Henricus de Acton Junior.	vij.d
Warinus ulniger	iiij.d	Petrus filius Vicomitis.	vij.d
Ricardus de Watlesburch	iiij.d	Thomas filius Petri filii	
Willelmus Quecke	iiij.d	Adelp'.	vij.d
^{ix} Ricardus Hele.	iiij.d	Johannes le paumer.	vij.d
Willelmus Choin.	iiij.d	Radulfus pelliparius.	vij.d
Johannes Selvode.	iiij.d	^{xv} Henning filius Warini.	vij.d
Rogerus Bec.	iiij.d	Willelmus filius Galfridi.	vij.d
Willelmus furnerus	iiij.d	Stephanus filius Alexandri	vij.d
^{ixv} Robertus Louekin.	iiij.d	Robertus le Gris.	vij.d
Galfridus mesiger.	iiij.d	Willelmus Carpator	vij.d
Haukinus pistor.	iiij.d	^o Robertus filius Hildebrod.	vij.d
Willelmus de Lodelawe.	iiij.d	Hildebrod.	vij.
Thomas Sory.	iiij.d	Willelmus Kut.	vij.d
^{1xx} Petrus le Wager	iiij.d	Willelmus Crispus.	vij.d
Johannes seruiens Hugo-		Willelmus filius Radulfi	
nis Campon'	iiij.d	Brun.	vij.d
Ada pistor.	iiij.d	^{ov} Ricardus filius Siwardi le	
Johannes Corde.	vij.d	Wanter.	vij.d
Henricus de kent.	vij.d	Johannes Prin.	vij.d
^{1xxv} Reinerus filius Willelmi		Alanus pelliparius.	vij.d
de Coches.	vij.d	Willelmus filius Roberti	
Ada filius Amine	vij.d	le Sermon	vij.d
Ricardus faber.	vij.d	Abertus filius Roberti.	vij.d
Hugo filius Roberti filii		^{ox} Nicholas filius Berneri.	vij.d
Galfridi.	vij.d	Rogerus faber.	vij.d
Nicholas Selc.	vij.d	Willelmus Phec.	vij.d
^{1xxx} Thomas glupsi	vij.d	Ricardus Carpentarius de	
Thomas Bundi	vij.d	Colenham	vij.d
Willelmus filius Willelmi		Robertus Skile	vij.d
Perle.	vij.d	^{oxv} Johannes filius Willelmi	
Willelmus filius Stephani		de Baschurche	vij.d
de Rumoldisham.	vij.d	Rogerus le paumer.	vij.d
Robertus le mesiger. vij.		Nicholas filius Vmfridi.	vij.d
(erased)	iiij.d	Johannes infans.	vij.d

Ada filius Jurdani	vij.d	Walterus Saddoc	vij.d
^{xxx} Johannes filius Iuonis.	vij.d	Warinus Krate	vij.d
Ricardus le vileyn Junior.	vij.d	Willelmus filius Hathe-	
Willelmus Ghoc ¹	vij.d	brod.	vij.d
Warinus Ghoc	vij.d	Johannes Marescallus	vij.d
Jacobus Bonel.	vij.d	^{xxxv} Johannes Pilche.	vij.d
^{xxx} Johannes le turnur.	vij.d	Walterus Mustard	vij.d
Galfridus Bunel.	vij.d	Johannes filius Alwini.	vij.d
Abertus.	vij.d	Robertus Hagerwas.	vij.d
Ricardus filius Philippi		Willelmus Putthoc.	vij.d
filii Lucie.	vij.d	^{xl} Willelmus forestarius.	vij.d
Willelmus filius Ordrici.	vij.d	Hugo filius Warini kleg.	vij.d
^{xxxx} Willelmus Winter.	vij.d	Rogerius Carnifex.	vij.d

End of First Membrane.

SECOND MEMBRANE.

Scilicet de omnibus denariis. et . . . iiij.d.

ⁱ Thomas filius Willelmi	^{xv} Hugo carectarius de Col-		
de Stafford.	iiij.d	nam.	iiij.d
Hugo le Masun	iiij.d	Willelmus Flint.	iiij.d
Walterus Garcio Warini		Radulfus Page.	iiij.d
ulniger'.	iiij.d	Ricardus le cupeholdere	iiij.d
Ricardus filius Dioce (or		Jacobus de Foriet.	iiij.d
Diote)	iiij.d	^{xx} Henricus Kapel	iiij.d
^v Robertus filius Basille	iiij.d	Johannes le Vilein.	iiij.d
Rogerius filius Ricardi		Herebertus de Lodelawe.	iiij.d
Crispi.	iiij.d	Ricardus flenbotemator.	iiij.d
Nicholas Pelliparius.	iiij.d	Ada filius Ade Budelli	iiij.d
Ada Katel.	iiij.d	^{xxv} Robinus carpentarius.	iiij.d
Willelmus de Ellesmere.	iiij.d	Rogerius Stompichenen.	iiij.d
^x Ricardus filius Berneri.	iiij.d	Nicholas de Brug.	iiij.d
Ricardus Dunvoe Junior.	iiij.d	Radulfus de Basel	iiij.d
Thomas de Otinham		Hulle kide.	iiij.d
(? Etinham)	iiij.d	^{xxx} Robertus mercerus de	
Simon de Wila.	iiij.d	Wroccestr'.	iiij.d
Willelmus Purcel de Ros-		Willelmus Purcel corui-	
sale.	iiij.d	sarius.	iiij.d

Gamel de Rumaldisham.	iiij.d	Ricardus le turnur de	
Willelmus Perle senior.	iiij.d	Colenham.	iiij.d
Ricardus franciscus faber	iiij.d	^{lxxv} Willelmus filius Willelmi	
^{xxxv} Willelmus Trigel.	iiij.d	Prin.	iiij.d
Willelmus Benfix.	iiij.d	Rogierius filius Thome	
Johannes Gotknaue.	iiij.d	clerici.	iiij.d
Ricardus Dun (erased).		Robertus Blunduscarnifex.	iiij.d
Meilerus de Foriet'.	iiij.d	Ricardus de Hereford.	iiij.d
^{xi} Ricardus filius Ade de		Wilkinus filius Ade de	
Solton.	iiij.d	Crossee	iiij.d
Philippus Aquator.	iiij.d	^{lxx} Robertus marscallus	iiij.d
Simundus Carpentarius.	iiij.d	Henricus pistor.	iiij.d
Henricus pistor.	iiij.d	Radulfus de Kent.	iiij.d
Alanus filius clerici gener		Robertus le mesiger	iiij.d
clementis. (erased).		Radulfus le Chapiler.	iiij.d
^{xlv} Ricardus Mody.	iiij.d	^{lxxv} Henricus de Brug.	iiij.d
Nicholas filius Ade bal-		Willelmus filius Reineri	
lach (all erased),		le parchiminer.	iiij.d
Ricardus filius Ernaldi.	iiij.d	Nicholas Juuenis (erased)	
Willelmus de Honkiton.	iiij.d	Thomas filius Ricardi filii	
Hugo de Westburi.	iiij.d	Bernerii	iiij.d
ⁱ Badde de Mungumeri.	iiij.d	Walterus de mungomeri	iiij.d
Galfridus le Waite.	iiij.d	^{lxxx} Willelmus Styr	iiij.d
Ada Hanfin (or Haukin)	iiij.d	Alanus de Wethale.	iiij.d
Willelmus filius David		Ricardus de Ruston.	iiij.d
Walensis	iiij.d	Willelmus gener sacerdotis.	iiij.d
Reinerus olifer	iiij.d	Petrus Aquator.	iiij.d
^{lv} Hugo Blonchenut	iiij.d	^{lxxxv} Reinerus de Mola.	iiij.d
Ada le Cotiler.	iiij.d	Rogierius Cughel.	iiij.d
Thomas de Lodelawe.	iiij.d	Alanus Talpeny.	iiij.d
Willelmus seruientis Ri-		Rogierus de la Dale	iiij.d
cardi Crowe ¹	iiij.d	Alanus de goldene	iiij.d
Ricardus de Lodelawe	iiij.d	^{xo} Henricus filius Osberti.	iiij.d
^{lx} Thomas Bengel	iiij.d	Nicholas le furbisur	iiij.d
Nicholas Carpentarius de		Henricus filius Gilberti	
Colnam.	iiij.d	de Colnam iiij.d (erased)	
Walterus filius Henrici		Thomas de Besseford iiij.d	
Carpentarii	iiij.d	ad seruiciam	
Thomas filius Asselme.	iiij.d	Henricus filius Iuonis ²	iiij.d

¹ Provost temp. Henry III.² Prætor temp. Hen. III.

^{xv} Hugo filius Jurdani keg' (or keng)	vij.d	^{cx} Hugemhon. Robertus Pally. ¹	vij.d
Ricardus franciscus faber (erased)		Nicholas Juuenis.	vij.d
Ricardus le Wanter.	vij.d	Willelmus Putthoc Junior.	vij.d
Ricardus Dhu'.	vij.d	Willelmus gangelard.	vij.d
Ricardus filius Willelmi Was.	vij.d	^{cxv} Willelmus Bhil.	vij.d
^c Johannes Bonel.	vij.d	Ricardus Craue ²	vij.d
Willelmus filius Gurdani.	vij.d	Wilkinus Baril.	vij.d
Rogerius le sermon.	vij.d	Petrus filius Martini. ³	vij.d
Petrus filius Ade filii Warini le palmer	vij.d	Willelmus russel Cissor.	vij.d
Alanus gener clementis.	vij.d	^{cxv} Nicholas Phec.	vij.d
^{cxv} Nicholas filius Ade Kal- lach.	vij.d	Thomas Potheloc.	vij.d. viij ^o
Simundus filius Kiloti.	vij.d	quietus	
Ricardus Cruhete	vij.d	Ricardus filius Warini infantis j ^o . vij.d	
Ricardus filius Ernaldi (erased)		† Herebertus filius Johannis le hopperus.	vij.d
Rogerius Menerel.	vij.d	Willelmus filius Galfridi le hoperus vij.d (erased)	
		iiij.d. cum seruicio iij.d.	

ENDORSEMENTS TO SECOND MEMBRANE.

(A) (*Contemporary, but all erased*).

¶ Willelmus de stalera	.iiij.d
Nicholas filius Willelmi Flint de colnam	.iiij.d
Alanus filius Martini de Colnam	.iiij.d.
Radulfus filius Ricardi filii Hereberti	.iiij.d.
Thomas seruiens Ricardi le crumpe	.iiij.d.
Willelmus Culkin	.iiij.d. quietus
Ricardus le Archer	.iiij.d
Ada Scriptor	.iiij.d
Magister Willelmus le Derisseger	.iiij.d
Ada mahur	.iiij.d
Thomas filius Thome Borrey	.iiij.d
Johannes seruiens Reineri de Dokepol.	.iiij.d

¹ Later than 40 Hen. III., Provost 1256.² Provost temp. Hen. III.³ Provost A.D. 1261.

(B) (*Contemporary endorsement, erased*).

N arreragium de fratre Petri Junioris finalem paceationem.
et de fratre Nicholai Wastelard
,, Petro filio Alani talpeny
,, Ricardo filio Alani filii Berneri.

(C) (*Modern endorsment*).

Bailiffs' Accounts.
List of Burgesses.
t. H. 3.

(D) *Roll of Burgesses, no date.*

APPENDIX, No. 1; BAPTISMAL NAMES

(with times of recurrence).

William, 57; Richard, 43; Adam, 25; John, 24; Robert, 18;
Thomas, 17; Nicholas, 15; Roger, 13; Hugh, 12; Henry, 12;
Warin, 12; Alan, 10; Peter, 9; Radulf, 9; Walter, 7;
Galfrid, 6; Reiner, 6; Herbert, 4; Philip, 4; Abertus, 2;
Alexander, 2; Clement, 2; Ernald, 2; Hildebrod, 2; Iuo, 2;
Jacob, 2; Jurdan, 2; Simon, 2; Simund, 2; Stephen, 2;
Wilkin, 2; Adelp', 1; Alwin, 1; Amine, 1; Asselm, 1;
Badde, 1; Basel, 1; Cradoc, 1; David, 1; Dioce, 1; Gamel, 1;
Gilbert, 1; Haukin, 1; Henning, 1; Herni', 1; Hugenhom, 1;
Hulle, 1; Ithel, 1; Kilot, 1; Lucia, 1; Madinus, 1; Martin, 1;
Meiler, 1; Ordric, 1; Osbert, 1; Robin, 1; Swein, 1; Wilot, 1.

51 Names.

No. 2. SURNAMES AND DESIGNATIONS, with references.

j. and ij. refer to the Membranes. E, to the endorsement.

Aquator, ij. 41, 84. Bacun, j. 38; Ballach, ij. 46; Baril, ij. 47;
Benfix, ij. 36; Bengel, j. 45, ij. 60; Bhil, ij. 115; Blonchenut,
ij. 55; Bonel, j. 124, ij. 100; Borrey, E; Brun, j. 104; Badde,
j. 85; Bunde, j. 81; Bunel, j. 126. Campon, j. 71; Choin,
j. 81; Corde, j. 73; Crispus, j. 11, 103, ij. 6; Crowe, ij. 58,
116; Cruhete, ij. 107; Cughel, ij. 86; Culkin, E; Dhu, ij. 98;
Dun, ij. 38; Dunvoe, j. 24, ij. 11. Flint, ij. 16, and E;
Franciscus, ij. 34, 96. Gangelard, ij. 114; Garcio, ij. 3;
Ghoc, j. 122, 123; Glupsi, j. 80; Gotknaue, ij. 37. Hagerwas,
j. 138; Haufin, ij. 52; Hele, j. 60. Infans, j. 118, ij. 122.
Juuenis, ij. 77, 112. Kallach, ij. 105; Katel, ij. 8; Kafel, ij.
20; Kaue, j. 2; Keg, ij. 95; Kide, ij. 29; Kleg, j. 141;

Krate, j. 132; Kut, j. 102, Louekin, j. 65. Mahur, E; Mesiger, j. 66, ij. 73; Meuerel, ij. 109; Mody, ij. 45; Mustard, j. 136. Niger, j. 47. Olifer, ij. 54. Page, ij. 17; Pally, ij. 111; Perle, j. 12, ij. 33; Phec, j. 112, ij. 120; Pilche, j. 135; Potheloc, ij. 121; Prin, j. 106, ij. 65; Purcel, ij. 14; Putthoc, j. 139, ij. 113. Queche, j. 59. Ruffus, j. 27. Saddoc, j. 131; Sekesuldre, j. 1; Selc, j. 79; Selwode, j. 62; Skile, j. 114; Sory, j. 69; Stompechenen, ij. 26; Styrc, ij. 80. Talpeny, ij. 87, and E; Tranel, j. 12; Trigel, ij. 85. Walensis, ij. 50; Was, ij. 99; Wastelard, E; Winter, j. 130.

No. 3. TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS.

Budellus, ij. 84. Carpator, j. 31, 99; Carectarius, ij. 15; Carpentarius, j. 26, 48, 113, ij. 25, 42, 61, 62; Carnifex, j. 142, ij. 67; Cissor, ij. 119; Clericus, ij. 44, 66; Coruisarius, ij. 31; Cotiler, ij. 56. Faber, j. 53, 77, 111, ij. 34, 96; Flenbotemator, ij. 23; Forestarius, j. 140; Furnerus, j. 63. Marescallus, j. 134, ij. 73; Masun, ij. 2; Mercerus, ij. 30. Pelliparius, j. 94, 107, ij. 7; Pistor, j. 34, 42, 55, 67, 72, ij. 43, 71. Sacerdos, ij. 83; Sutor, j. 14. Tinctor, j. 25, 33; Turner, ij. 64. Ulniger, j. 57.

No. 4. APPELLATIONS.

Le Archer, E; Le Barbur, j. 23; Le Cupeholdre, ij. 18; Le Chapiler, ij. 74; Le Cotiler, ij. 56; Le crumpe. E; Le Derisseger, E; Le furbisur, ij. 91; Le gris, j. 98; Le hopperus, ij. 123, 124; Le Masun, ij. 2; Le Mesiger, ij. 73; Le *normeris*, j. 21; Le palmer, ij. 103; Le paumer, j. 93, 116; Le parchiminer, ij. 76; Le Sermon, j. 108, ij. 102; Le vileyn, j. 121, ij. 21; Le vinetor, j. 6; Le wanter, j. 105, ij. 97; Le Wager, j. 9, 70; Le waite, ij. 51.

No. 5. PLACE-MAMES.

Acton, j. 90	Colenham, j. 32, 113, ij. 15, 61,
Bale (or Hale), ij. 88	64, 92, E
Barewe, j. 22	Cruker, j. 56
Baschurche, j. 115	Dokepol, E
Basel, ij. 28	Ellesmere, ij. 9
Besseford, ij. 93	Foriet, j. 29, ij. 19, 39
Biketon, j. 49	Goldene, ij. 89
Brug, ij. 27, 75	Hagemon, j. 30
Coches, j. 75	Hale (or Bale), ij. 88

Herdewic, j. 43	Solton, j. 3, 4, ij. 40
Hereford, j. 17, ij. 68	Stafford, ij. 1
Honketon, ij. 48	Stalera, E
Kent, j. 35, 74, ij. 72	Stallis, j. 7
Lodelawe, j. 68, ij. 22, 57, 59	Suggecote, j. 36
Mare, de la, j. 50	Viridi, j. 40
Mola (Meole), j. 51, ij. 85	Watlesburch, j. 58
Mungumeri, ij. 50, 79	Watliston, j. 13
Oleton (or Obeton), j. 15	Wenloc, j. 28
Otinham (? Atingham), ij. 12	Wethale, ij. 81
Prestecote, j. 20	Westburi, ij. 49
Pullileg, j. 18, 19	Weston, j. 41
Rossale, ij. 14	Wila, j. 54, ij. 13
Rumoldisham, j. 83, 88, ij. 32.	Wroccestre, ij. 30.
Ruston, ij. 82	

REMARKS.

Among the *Surnames* (Appendix 2) a few are uncommon. ex. qr., Benfix, Blonchenut, Cruhete, Haufin (or Hanfin), Kaue (or Kane), Mahur, Queche, Stompechenen.

Appellations (Appendix 4), Cupeholdre, Derisseger, Hopperus, Normeris, Sermon, Waite.

Place-Names (Appendix 5), Bale (or Hale), de la Mare (unless Delamere in Cheshire), Oleton, Suggecote, Viridi, Watliston.

Of these I cannot offer any explanation, some may be owing to the ignorance or carelessness of the writer; others genuine, but altogether obsolete.

Some of the remarks which Mr. Birch makes respecting Domesday book are very pertinent and strictly applicable to our Borough documents. I quote from his Popular Account, only omitting a word or two. Ex. qr. (p. 51), "Scribes were guided by phonetics rather than by strict adherence to their original manuscript." In our case we may not suppose that there was an original manuscript, but that they were guided by the *sound* is plain enough, and that they had no previous experience to preserve them from error is likewise plain, and they certainly did not contemplate that their work would be studied and criticised in after ages. Again Mr. Birch says (p. 51): "In several of these names the etymologically correct

spelling which is found in the *Inquisition* has undergone corruption in passing through the pen of the foreign scribe . . . who depended evidently to some measurable extent upon his own phonetic differentiation. This phonetic factor seriously interferes in many instances with the true etymology of place-names; and this to so great an extent that we cannot accept Domesday forms of names of places as evidence of the ancient forms of the words; unless they are supported by other contemporary examples of use." Of this phonetic corruption very many instances may be found in the rolls now transcribed. Either the places have vanished, leaving no trace behind, or else they are hopelessly corrupted by the scribe, who was not merely a stranger to local nomenclature, but also ignorant of everything outside his own narrow sphere of writing down amounts of subsidy. A third extract may be of some interest to our readers (from p. 134): "We may trace in these names . . . the germs of many of our modern surnames." We are also able to see how heterogeneous was the race . . . Celts, Danes, Normans, Anglo-Saxons, Jews, and natives of almost every European nation are plainly indicated," and with regard to appellations and designations his remark is very apposite, after a review of the lists now printed, as well as of those in previous papers: "Many of the terms employed are difficult of interpretation, and even the learned Ducange, who has devoted more attention to the subject than anyone since his day, is unable to throw any light on some of the obscurer names of officers and offices" (pp. 137, 138).

SOME PETITIONS TO THE BAILIFFS OF SHREWSBURY.

BY THE REV. W. G. D. FLETCHER, M.A., F.S.A.

THE following Petitions are extracted from a large number comprised in Bundle 2623 of the Shrewsbury Corporation Muniments, which extends from 1580 to 1670. The Bailiffs had great power and influence throughout the town and liberties; and every man who had a grievance, or had sustained injury from a fellow-townsmen, or who wanted justice done to him, or desired to be released from prison, or who was suffering from poverty, would send in a petition to the Bailiffs. These Petitions are couched in very similar form, and no doubt were generally drawn up by certain scriveners or clerks, who were paid a small sum for their labour. They throw very great light upon the names and customs of the period, and a few extracts may prove of some interest. There are many thousands of Petitions amongst the Corporation Muniments, and they are tied up in 28 bundles.

The first two documents are letters from Sir Edward Leighton of Wattlesborough, and Sir Andrew Corbett of Acton Reynald, dated in 1582 and 1618.

I have Receaved lres, worshipfull, from the poore man Eavinyns Hughes, Butcher, by the w^{ch} I ab pred [[?] apprehend] that he nowe Remayneth in warde for dybts [[?]] onlye due unto me. Trewe it is I dyd procure processe from the Counshill agaynst hym, even, unto plasure [[?]], whereupon suche order ys taken wth hym by my man Edward Lightbond for the payments due unto me that I was and yett am contented to Release hym of that processe. Wherefore yf he be detryngned in warde onlye for that my cause I prairie you See hym released and thus wth my hartie comendacons I wishe you all goodnes.

At Watlesburghe this fourthe of November 1582

Yo^r ffreind and well wysher

ED: LEIGHTON.

[Endorsed.] To the worshipfull Wm Tenche and Edward Owen
esquires Baylyffes of the Towne of Salop. de' these.

Good M^r Bailiffs,

Wee are exceedinglie troubled in our neighborhoode, by two leude and false persons, one Roger Griffies and his wief, tennants to William Kilvert of Grinsill, in a cottage, an out seate, to w^{ch} scante an acre of land belongeth, wthin yo^r liberties of Shrewesburie. My request therefore is (for thavoydinge of such further enormities as are immence to the neighborhoode adioyninge by the continuance theare of their bad members) that you wilbe pleased to take some course for their removall, as in Justice shall appertaine, and for y^t you may at large understande howe hurtfull theis ill weedes are unto us, I leave the further relacon of the same to theis bearor, whoe will attend yo^r pleasures for thaccomplishm^t of soe good an office (if I may be soe much beholding unto you as to yeld my suite that faverable allowance). And soe wth my verie hartie comendacons doe reste

Yo^r verie lovinge frende

Acton Reynalde this
29th of Maie 1618.

AND. CORBETT.

[*Endorsed.*] To the Wor^{ll} the Bailiffs of the Towne of Shrewesbury give thees.

[*In another hand.*] Roger Grifis, Jone Grifis, George Griffis their sonne.

In some of the Petitions we get local details bearing on the Civil War. The six which immediately follow relate to this period. From them we learn something about the fortifications of Shrewsbury, the making up a tower in Bromcraft Castle, and the names of several who fought or died for the Parliamentary cause. The first is undated, but is probably about the year 1644.

To the right wor^{ll} the Maior Aldermen and Comon Counsell of the towne of Shrewsbury.

The humble peticon of Thomas Tipton.

Humbly sheweing

That yo^r Peticoner hath a Lease to him graunted from the late Bailiffes and Burgesses of this towne, of the tithes of ffranckwell, att the yeaily rent of 28^{li} 3^s 4^d per annum. That yo^r peticoner duly paid his rent soe long as he could enioy his tithes according to his Lease. But soe it is if it may please yo^r wor^{pps} that the Inhabitants and Land-houlders of these parts, from whome yo^r

peticoner is to receaue his tithes, alleadging that the most parte of theire arrable grounds are cast open and laid waste and theire other grounds digged up and spoyled for the making of ffortifications for defence of the towne, and the grasse eaten by the horses of his Ma^{ties} Troops, soe that they can not make any benefitt att all of theire said Lands, refuse to pay theire tithes and duties, by w^{ch} meanes yo^r peticoner is exceedingly damnified and not able to pay his rent.

May it therefore please yo^r wor^{ppes} the premisses considered to graunt an order that yo^r peticoner may out of his rent nowe in arreare have some reasonable allowaunce by way of abatem^t towards his losses already susteyned, And that for the future he may be allowed a reasonable proporcon by abatem^t of rent yerely according to his losses, or ells to accept of the surrender of his lease and free him from the rent

And yo^r peticoner as in duty bound shall daily pray for yo^r wor^{ps}, &c.

To the Right Worll. the Maior Aldermen and Assistants of the Towne of Shrewsbury.

The humble peticon of Thomas Langford of the said Towne ffreemason.

Humbly sheweth that hee hath bene a workeman to this Corporation for the Space of 20 yeares, and when a Garrison was placed in Bromcraft Castle yo^r petitioner adventured his life to make up the Towre there, when other workemen refused it, as is well knowne to most of the ho:ble Comittee. That beinge married wthin the Towne to a widdowe not havinge any childe by her nor likely to have any, yet is very desirous to make himselfe a ffree Burges of this Towne, if yo^r. wor^{ppes} will be pleased to accepte of such reasonable fyne, and to bee paid at such reasonable tymes as yo^r petitioner is able to paye the same.

The p'misses considered, his humble desire unto yo^r wor^{ppes} is to accepte of vli, whereof xxs. in hande and xxs. yearely upon good securitye till the vli. bee paid. And your petitioner as in his duty hee is bound shall ever pray for yo^r wor^{ppes}.

7^o Aprilis 1648.

To pay xls. in hd. and xxs. yearely upon good security till vli. be pd.

xv^o April.

Agreed to pay xxs. in hand and xxs. yearely upon good security

To the Right Worth the Maior Aldermen and Assistantes of the
Towne of Shrewsburye.

The humble peticon of Thomas Wright the yonger free Mason.

Humbly sheweth that hee hath bene a worke man to this Corporacon sev'all yeares. That hee hath ventured his life in the Parliament Service since the begininge of the warrs and nowe is one of the County Troope and by God's assistance will continue in the said service soe long as there is use of him till the unhappye differences in the kingdome be settled, yet is notwithstanding the danger hee is in upon the said service is willing to make himselfe a free Burges of this Corporacon if yo^r wor^{pp}s will be please to accepte of a reasonable ffyne and to be paid at such tymes as yo^r petitioner is able to paye the same.

The humble desire of yo^r petitioner is to accepte of xx^s in hand and xx^s yearly upon good security, till the some of v^{li} bee fully paid, and yo^r petitioner as in dutye hee is bound shall ever praye for yo^r wor^{pp}s And this for gods love.

25^o Augusti 1648.

Agreed unto.

To the Righte Worth the Maior Aldermen and Assistants of the
Towne of Shrewsbury.

The humble petition of William Bradshawe ffeltemaker
of the said Towne

Humbly showeth that yo^r petitioner was bound apprentice to the Trade of ffeltemakinge w^{thin} the said Towne, that he served seven yeares to ye said Trade, and is a freeman of the Company of ffeltemakers w^{thin} the said Towne. That havinge married the widow of Humfry Payne Baker whoe suffered much and dyed in the Parliamente Service, is willing to make himselfe a free Burges of the said Towne, if yo^r Wor^{pp}s will be pleased to accepte of the ffyne to bee paid at such reasonable tymes as hee is able.

The p^rmisses considered his humble desire unto yo^r wor^{pp}s is to accepte of xl^s in hand and xx^s yearly upon good security till the some of v^{li} bee fully paid, and soe to admit him a free Burges; and yo^r petitioner as in dutye hee is bound shall ever praye for yo^r wor^{pp}s

25^o Augusti 1648.

Agreed unto.

To the Right Worth the Maior Aldermen and Assistantes of the
Towne of Shrewsbury.

The humble peticon of Raph Griffithes of the said Towne, Clothier.

Humbly sheweth that yo^r petitioner was bound apprentice to the Trade of a Clothier and Weaver within the said Towne: that having served his Apprentiship was made a ffreeman of the said Companye, and since the begininge of this war hath ventured his life in the Parliamente Service and continued therein till after this Towne was fullye settled under the Comaund of the Parliament, and nowe beinge marryed unto a Burges daughter of this Towne is very desirous to make himselfe a ffree Burges of this Towne if yo^r Wor'pps will bee pleased to accepte of his ffyne in such reasonable sorte as hee is able to paye the same.

The p'misses considered his humble desire unto yo^r Wor'pps is to accepte of xxs. in hand and xxs. yearlye upon securitye till the some of v^{li} bee fullye paide, and soe to admitte him a ffree Burges of this Towne, and yo^r petitioner as in dutye hee is bound hee ever restes bound to praye for yo^r Wor'pps. And thus for gods love.

Agreed unto.

28 7mbris 1648.

There is a torn petition without date, of one John Duckett of Shrewsbury, Inhowlder, who wants to be admitted a Free Burgess of the Town. He pleads that "in the beginning of these troubles he was stripped by the King's partie of most of his meanes in regard of his affection to the Parliamente, and after Weme was made a Garrison he went thither for his safety, and then the remaynder of his goods was taken from him, and beinge employed under the Comissary at Weme and Oswestrey to get in oates and such like provision he was taken prisoner near Meverley by the King's partye, and broughte to the howse of correction in this Towne, till hee was exchanged by the meanes of the ho'ble Committee, and upon the takinge of this Towne hee was likewise employed by the Comissary. Wherein hee contynued his faithfulness unto the Parliamente, and havinge settled himselfe hee is very desirous to make himselfe a Free Burges of this Town," on reasonable terms. The rest of this petition is missing.

Another petition of Walter Baker, a very poore man, who hath two children dangerously sick, and his wife lately dead,

states that he was a hollyer, and having two poore horses by which he endeavoured to get his family maintenance, it so fell out that he hired one of them 3 weeks ago to one Moses Holebrooke, a barber, to go to a meetinge at Elsmeeere, beinge comanded by his Capt: Robert Corbet Esqr. But at his cominge back by an inundation of the water about Cotton hill unfortunately was drowned. And the said mair became astreafe to the Towne. He prays the Mayor and Aldermen that he may have his mair again towards the reliefe of him and his foure children. "And dought not but that God that seeth in secrett will reward you openly."

There is a petition without date (but in a bundle some of whose documents are dated 1583), to the bailiffs, auditors and six men of Shrewsbury, in which one Arthur Bromley pleads for remission of his fine, he being "fined and extrayted owt for wearing his hatt upon the Sabbath Dayes, which was bestowed upon him, and being not hable to buy a capp, and also for bringing his horse throughe St. Chadds churcheyord."

A petition of John Buttry, who was committed to prison for eating flesh in Lent, in the month of February, 1599, has been alluded to in a previous paper in the *Transactions*, 2nd Series, vol. xii., p. 48.

The inhabitants of Bickton, who had an able and well-qualified preaching minister, whom they were unable sufficiently to maintain, ask the bailiffs to consent to their inclosing a portion of Bickton Heath for his benefit. Their petition is as follows:—

To the Right Worth the Maior Aldermen and Assistances within
the Towne and Liberties of Shrewsbury.

The humble Petition of the Inhabitants in and about Bickton.

Humbly shewe unto your Worshippes the great Inconveniency your petitioners have been at for want of A preaching Minister in the Chappell of Bickton, And further shewe that at present they are provided with an Able and well qualified Minister, but your petitioners are altogether unable to raise of themselves sufficient mainteynance.

The Premises consider'

Your petic' humbly pray that you would be pleased to give your consents for the inclosing in of A parcel of Bicktons Heath which had been formerly inclosed lying neare Widd. Maunsell, and another fl[torn] parte of the Heath lying neare Edward Rees conteyning about 20 Acres, and that the same may be graunted for such time and to such persons as to your Worships shall seeme meet, in trust for the Benefit of the preaching Minister there, and ye same grant at any time to be annulled when your Worps please. And your peticoners shall &c.

[Signed] GEORGE GRIFFITHS. JOHN TYTHER. GEORGE HOPTON.
ROGER EVANS, his mark. ANDREW MATTHEWS. ROGER
GOUGH. GRIFFITH ROBERTS. PINCE [torn.]

Referred to ye Chamb' and Coroners.

A petition of "the Fraternitie or occupacon of Weavers and Clothiers," of the year 1617, throws a little light on the troubles that constantly arose between the Companies and the Tensors of Shrewsbury. They state that by their Composition, upon Monday after Corpus Christi the Wardens of the Fraternity had to nominate two worthy and sufficient men to succeed them in office, and strife sometimes arose as to whether the persons nominated were "sufficient." To prevent discussion, Robert Ireland and Michael Chamber, then bailiffs, summoned the Aldermen and Counsellors together, when it was decided that no Tensor should be admitted and chosen warden of any company, if there were sufficient burgesses without, and for want thereof a worthy Tensor might be chosen, with the consent of the bailiffs; and this Act was duly confirmed by a Common Hall. They now complain that Daniel Porter, a burges, hath elected Thomas Walker, a tensor, to be Warden, notwithstanding this decree; and that he was elected before when Robert Betton and John Garbett were bailiffs, and when the burgesses of the Company complained they would not admit him Warden. On a former occasion exception was taken to one Richard Hawkshed, a tensor, and the late Recorder, Richard Barker, Esq., displaced him, and a new Warden, being a burges, was elected in his stead. They aver that there is a Company of Tensors, who have combined themselves against this decree; for Mr. Bayliff Donne offered the said Walker his burgessship for 20s. down and 20s. a year, but Walker's

answer was "that if Mr. Bayliffe would give him iij^{li} freele he would not com in a Burges." They pray the bailiffs not to admit Walker, being a Tensor, to be Warden of the Fraternity; but that one Richard Poole, who is a burgess, and whom they have nominated, may be sworn before the bailiffs to be Warden.

There is a curious petition signed by 26 "Inhabitants of the Wild Coppe and Under the wilde," in which they complain that their trading has much decayed and their estates are much impoverished, by reason of "ye continuall goeing of the markett people with their carrage of merchandize throughe Beeches lane a back way into the Towne, and not bringinge the same uppe the Wyld Coppe as usually they have done." They pray that the bailiffs will take some course to restrain all kind of carriages and passages of horses through Beeches Lane.

The following is a petition in 1630 from the Head School-master of the Free School, asking the Corporation to make a Letter of Attorney, to deliver him livery of seisin of a messuage and premises in Kingsland, recently acquired by him of the Corporation.

To the Right Worth the Bayliffes Aldermen Councillors and
Comons of the Towne of Shrewsbury.

The humble peticon of John Meighen, gent. Cheefe Schoolem^r of
the said Towne.

Sheweth that yor peticoner hath a graunte under the Comon Seale of this Towne in ffee farme for ever at vj^s viij^d yearly rente of one Messuage or Tenement one Barne one Curtilage and 2 parceles of Lande lyinge and beinge in the pasture called Kingsland as by the said ffee farme appeareth in wch. feefarme there is noe letter of Attorney made to execute livery and seisin.

Hee humbly prayeth that yor Wor^{pp}s will be pleased to make a Letter of Attorney to Ric. Peate and Roland Tench to deliver him livery and seisin of the premisses. And in soe doinge he shall reste thankfull unto yor Wor^{pp}s.

2 Septembris 1630.

To move it to the Comons. Agreed by the Comons.

The Inhabitants of Bickton and Callcott within the Liberties of the Towne, on 3 July, 1668, petition the Mayor with

regard to their inclosing and sowing parts of the waste or common grounds within the township. They say that "the Cottages are increased, and allmost on every part of the Wast or Common ground within the said Township new ones erected annually, and making enclosures thereto." And they have broken up those parts of the waste or Heath enclosed, and have sown grain thereon. And now the Officers have informed them that they are amerced 12d. per acre, and are likely to lose the whole crop. The petitioners while "humbly confessing the Soyle thereof to be in yor. Wor^{ps}," pray that they may be permitted to reap the fruits of their labour, and that the ameracements may be mitigated.

The Coroners and Chamberlains were ordered to go over and speak to the persons that had inclosed, and as they have submitted to permit them to carry away their corn on paying 2s. an acre. The enclosers on August 4th signed their submission. They were Tho. Baskerville, George Griffithes, John Tyther, Andrew Mathewes, George Evans, Michael Weston, Edward Littlehales, Thomas Weston, Thomas Davis, Roger Poulter, Roger Evans, John Nesse, and R. G. (no name given).

About 1682, Tymothy Waringe of the Isle, within the Township of Up Rossall, and Tymothy Seamore, one Tisleley, and Thomas Phillips, all of the Isle aforesaid, having right of common in waste lands called Up Rossall heath or common, and desiring to have liberty from their Worships, "whose soyle the said Comen or Waste land is," to enclose it, and break up and plow the same, and "to raise corne and graine for the good of the Comon wealth," petition the Mayor and Aldermen for leave to do this for 3 years, "under such chieftys and rentes for such Inclosures," as they should impose. Leave was granted; and in Jan. 1685, they present another petition, saying that "the first crop hardly countervaileinge ye charge, and the second yeare being a drye yeare and ffrosty the crop or product thereof did not amount to the tenth parte of theire charges," and ask leave to plow the said Small heath within the township of Up Rossall to sowe one crop of oats. This was "allowed, att 20s. to be paid in hand."

The three "Sargeants att Mace" of the town (Basill

Waringe, John Tenche, and Thomas Jukes) petition the Mayor to mitigate and abate part of the rent they pay for the toll of the Cornmarket. They complain that "by reason of the distracons of thees times," the grain (and especially oats) does not come to the town now as it formerly did, as it has been from time to time seized upon for his Majesty's Service by the Lord Capell in his time, and others his highness's Commissioners since, so that the amount of toll taken in the Cornmarket has greatly fallen off.

Alice Morris, of the Castle Foregate, petitions for relief. She complains that her husband William Morris "was maliciously prest away for a souldier by one Captain Hesketh from his wife and children on the 16th January last (no year is given); and the officers of the parish of Ormskirke in Lancashire, ye which was our abode, hath sinc then removed me with four children to ye parish of St. Mary's in Shrewsbury, where your poor petitioner hath continued about eleven weekes, and cannott subsist no longer without releife, but is and hath been for about a fortnight almost ready to perish for want with her children, and are not able to continue nor live without ye speedy care and protection of your Worship's favour."

In the petition of Richard Stubbes of Shrewsbury, butcher, we have an alleged custom of the town stated as to the descent of butchers' shops. He says "it hath been a custome amonge the fraternitie of Buchers of this towne, wherof the memorie of man is not to the contrary, that every of those xj shoppes within the towne of Shrewsbury, being used for butchers shoppes, should allwayes discende and come to the use of the nearest and next of kine being butchers of any tennant w^{ch} should use the same," which was "a custome of longe antiquitie." He complains that he had a shop by descent from William Stubbs his father, who had the same by custom of descent from John Stubbs his father; but for lack of means was forcibly dispossessed of it, in the time of Thomas Sherer and Thomas Lewis, bailiffs [1581], who put in one Roger Jones, on condition that Stubbs should receive 5s. yearly, and be allowed to occupy the shop when he or his son (being a butcher) should be able to occupy it. He also claimed the shop of his deceased uncle Richard Blakemore,

who gave him the key before his death; but says the sergeants-at-mace want to put in one Thomas Riton. He prays the mayor to let him have his uncle Blakemore's shop.

Sometimes we get genealogical details in these petitions. George Gravener, baker, on 28 Sept., 1648, petitions to be admitted a burgess. He says he has four sons, George, aged 23, Edward aged 20, Richard aged 18, and Thomas aged 16; and he wants them all to be free burgesses. His petition was refused.

Isabell ap Edward, a "poor beedes woman in the Allmshows," complains that one Ann Ryder came into her Room in the Almshouse with threatening speeches, saying "that shee would cutt ye poore petitioner's thrott, and hath robed hir of hir poore apparell, . . . a payre of sheetts of her bead, and a keetall the wch. yo^r poore petticoner had to dresse her meate for her relyeff." Being "a poore ignorant p'son," she prays the bailiffs to call Ann Ryder before them for the redelivering of the goods to petitioner.

These extracts from one bundle of Petitions will show the great variety of matters that were referred to the Bailiffs for their consideration. The reading of hundreds of Petitions every year, and their consideration of each and their judgment upon it, must have made the duties of the Bailiff's office no sinecure.

The Petitions in the other bundles are of equal interest with those already given. Many of them contain incidental references to troubles connected with the Civil War. There is a petition from John Gennoe and Elizabeth his wife, of Frankwell, to the Mayor and Justices of Salop, praying that they may be released from prison, to which they had been committed for illicit ale-selling. They state that Elizabeth's "former husband was a prisoner for the State's service, and died at the siege against Ercoll;" and that when she married John Gennoe, one Phillippe Webbe caused them to be plundered by the Cavaliers, who took a piece of cloth worth 50s. or thereabouts, and almost all they had; and that Phillippe Webbe "persisting in his auld inveterate malice," informed against them for ale-selling, and caused them to be imprisoned. William Morryes, a Cordwainer of Shrewsbury, on 21 Jan., 1647, prays to be admitted a burgess, on paying 20s. down

and 20s. yearly, on account of "his good affection to the Parliament party," and that he had suffered great loss and damage, and had for four years "done good and faithfull servis to the state, both by sea and land." The Council agreed to admit him on his paying 40s. in hand and 20s. yearly. There is a petition, dated 12 July, 1649, from one Adame Jones, clothworker. He states that in 1642, when the town was a garrison for the King's party, he was standing sentinel at the Provost Marshall's door, when one Griffith Harris, baker, passed by and asked him "what he the rogue did there guarding his fellow rogues, intimating some of your worships then prisoners," and gave him a blow with a cudgel upon his head; whereupon petitioner, "as well in his own defence, as in the justification of your worships," gave Harris a cut on the head, for which he was presented and liable to be distrained. He now prays that, as it was "committed in the time of war, and not only so, but in the just vindication of himself and your worships of that opprobrious aspersion cast upon you," he may not be estreated. His ingenious plea was successful!

Thomas Thornes in 1582, "being sore abused with woords by on Richards," unadvisedly gave him a blow, for which he was committed to the Stone Ward, and now petitions the bailiffs to set him at liberty. Two years later Thomas Higgons of Lincolns Inn, a burgess of Shrewsbury, who had taken a lease of two chambers situate upon the Stone Bridge, petitions that he may make "a very fitt staier to the said Chambers;" and this he was permitted to do at the yearly rent of one penny. In 1595 several petitioners complain that one Thomas Griffithes had pulled down certain butts, which they had erected near to the Hermitage in Coleham, for the "most lawdable and comendable" practice of "artillery" (that is, the long-bow); and they pray the bailiffs that he may receive condign punishment for his offence, and be compelled to re-erect the Butts.

MISCELLANEA.

[Under this heading the Editors will be pleased to insert notes and short articles relative to recent discoveries in the County, or other matters of archæological or historical interest. Communications are invited, and should be addressed to the Editors, c/o Mr. F. Goyne, Dogpole, Shrewsbury.]

I.

WHERE WAS FETHANLEAG ?

Under the date Anno 584 the Anglo-Saxon chronicler says :—
 “In this year Ceawlin and Cutha fought against the Britons at the place which is named Fethanleag, and Cutha was there slain ; and Ceawlin took many towns and countless booty ; and wrathful he thence returned to his own.” Ceawlin, it is hardly necessary to state, was King of the West Saxons, and in company with his brother Cutha he had, in 577, defeated the Britons at Deorham, a little to the north of Bath, and got possession of that city as well as Gloucester and Cirencester. From this it may be fairly inferred that the expedition of the two brothers in 584 was northwards, up the valley of the Severn, and Dr. Guest (*Conquest of the Severn Valley*), followed by Mr. J. R. Green (*Making of England*) and most modern writers, ascribes to Ceawlin in this expedition the destruction of Uriconium, “the white city in the valley” sung of by Llywarch Hen. Probably most of those interested in the question will accept this as at least highly probable ; but I venture to think that Dr. Guest was on much less certain ground when he went on to identify Fethanleag, which formed the turning point of the expedition, with Faddiley in Cheshire. He does this on the assumption that after the conquest of Uriconium the West Saxon King would next attempt the subjugation of Deva or Chester. But if this were the case, would he choose the route by Faddiley ? That village is situated in the south-east portion of Cheshire, some four miles or so from Nantwich. It seems much more likely that, instead of going so far to the east, he would have chosen the route marked out for him by the Roman road between Uriconium and Deva, especially as this would enable him for the greater part of the way to march along the valley of the Dee, and so follow the general custom of Saxon invaders wherever such a valley offered itself.

An alternative to Faddiley is suggested in Thorpe's translation of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, viz., that Fethanleag is Fretherne in

Gloucestershire. This is situated on the Severn, some nine miles south-west of Gloucester, and its position seems to make the suggestion improbable, except on the supposition that the sphere of Ceawlin's operations was much more circumscribed than has been supposed. If in 577 he got possession of the important towns of Gloucester, Cirencester, and Bath, it is hardly likely that a battle fought only seven years later at a place within the sphere of those towns would be described in the words of the chronicler, as one in which he took many towns and much booty, and returned in anger to his own country. Of course, it is possible that his own country might mean the Wiltshire Downs, from which apparently he first swooped down on Gloucestershire, but if the suggestion of Fretherne be correct, I think we must seek for the destroyers of Uriconium, not among the West Saxons from the south, but among the West Angles or Mercians from the East.

Miss Burne (*Shropshire Folk-Lore*) makes a further suggestion that the site of Fethanleag may have been in Herefordshire, on the supposition that Cutestorne, one of its Hundreds, may derive its name from Cutha's Thorn. The suggestion is ingenious, and would fit in with many of the apparent facts, but there is no attempt to identify the site of the place mentioned in the Chronicle, and like the suggestion just dealt with, it would leave the destruction of Uriconium unaccounted for.

I venture to make yet another suggestion for the identification of Fethanleag. In the Parish of Shenstone, in the County of Stafford, some four miles south-west of Lichfield, and about two miles from Wall, there is a hamlet which bears the name of Fotherley, or Footherley. I am inclined to think that we have in this the Fethanleag of the Chronicle, and for the following reasons. Assuming that Ceawlin marched up the Severn valley and took Uriconium—as appears most likely—what would probably be his next step? Would his aim be Chester at all? If we turn to Henry of Huntingdon's Chronicle, we find there a parallel account of the doings of Ceawlin. It differs in some slight particulars from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, apparently confusing Cutha, Ceawlin's brother, with his son Cuthwine, but the words in which he describes the battle of Fethanleag are as follows:—"In the twenty fifth year of his reign Ceawlin and Cuthwine again fought with the Britons at Fethanleag. The battle was fought with great loss and fury on both sides. Cuthwine, overcome by numbers, was struck down and slain; and the English were routed and put to flight. But the King Ceawlin succeeded in rallying his troops, and snatched the victory from those who had been at first victors, and pursuing the vanquished, gained much land and great booty." (*Huntingdon's Chronicle*, Bohn's edition, p. 53). Then in the next sentence we have the statement that Crida was the first King of Mercia, and this is followed by a record of the death of Ceawlin. How comes it that the founding of the Kingdom of Mercia is mentioned at

this particular point? The Chronicler has already spoken of the foundation of other Kingdoms in connection with some contemporary event—it seems at least probable that there was a similar connection in his mind with regard to Mercia. Anyway, as Mr. J. R. Green points out (*Making of England*, p. 85, note), it must have been about this time that that Kingdom began to make itself felt as a power, since it attained its highest greatness under Penda some half century later. My theory about Fethanleag is this: that Ceawlin conquered the Upper Severn Valley and destroyed Uriconium in 584, as suggested by Dr. Guest, but that having achieved this success, he became aware of the rising power of Mercia, on the right of his northern march. It is quite true that this was not a British power, properly so called, and thus at first sight there appears a contradiction to the statement of the Chroniclers that at Fethanleag the battle was with Britons, but it seems a sufficient answer to this to quote the words of Green (*Making of England*, p. 200). “The battle of Deorham marked more than a change in the relation of the conquered to the conquerors. It marks a change in the relations of the conquerors themselves. From this moment the strife of Englishman and Briton, though far from having reached its close, sinks into comparative unimportance; and what plays the first part in English politics is the strife of Englishman with Englishman.” A battle which took place in an expedition ostensibly against the Britons, and which was fought close to the Romano-British town of Etocetum, might not unnaturally be recorded as a battle with the Britons by chroniclers not writing with local knowledge; and so the difficulty—though I wish to give it its full weight—seems slight, in view of the probabilities of the case, and the certainty that the time had come when internecine rivalry and strife were inevitable. My conclusion then is that Ceawlin, hearing of what was going on in Mercia, felt that it involved a greater menace to the spread of his power than lay on the side of Cheshire, and so from Uriconium he turned eastward along the Roman Watling Street, which stretched away, straight as an arrow, towards Mercia, and by its breadth and openness invited his advance against these new foes. That road took him direct through Uxacona (Oakengates) and Pennocrucium (Penkridge) to Etocetum (Wall), and there, almost within sight of its ramparts,—whether already in ruins or not, we do not know—he encountered the Mercian forces at Fethanleag or Fotherley. The result was a doubtful success, as far as Ceawlin was concerned. He took possession of much land and booty, but the encounter had shown him the strength of the enemy—had convinced him that no real extension of West Saxon influence was possible in that direction, and so he retraced his steps full of wrath. It was a great battle, and had great results for Shropshire; for if my theory is correct, we owe to the Battle of Fotherley that clear line of division between Mercian and West Saxon influence, of which the boundary

of the Dioceses of Lichfield and Hereford, and the differing customs and language of North and South Shropshire, are outward manifestations which survive to this day.

THOMAS AUDEN, F.S.A.

II.

SAXON AND NORMAN COINS MINTED AT SHREWSBURY.

In the *Transactions* for 1898, Mr. Lloyd Kenyon has described a large number of coins that were struck at the Shrewsbury Mint from the reign of Æthelstan to that of Henry III. Most of these coins are to be found at the British Museum. It is astonishing that only two of these Shrewsbury coins are preserved in our own local Museum, viz., one of Æthelstan and another of Edward the Confessor, and both coins were very generously given by Mr Kenyon himself. It is surely desirable that the number of local coins in our Museum should be very largely augmented. There must be many such dispersed in the hands of private persons. Owen and Blakeway enumerate many coins of the Shrewsbury Mint as being, in 1825, in the possession of Mr. Sharp of Coventry, Mr. J Haycock of Shrewsbury, Miss Hunt of Boreatton, and the historian Rev. J. B. Blakeway. Where these coins are at the present time, it is impossible to say. I venture to suggest to Members of our Society, and to readers of the *Transactions*, that if they have any coins locally minted, and would give or lend them to the Shrewsbury Museum, they would be rendering a very great service to numismatists. I feel sure that Mr. Kenyon would be willing to identify any doubtful coins that might be submitted to him.

W. G. D. FLETCHER, F.S.A.

III.

ROMAN URNS AND LAMP FOUND NEAR WHITCHURCH.

The following articles were found at Sedgford, Whitchurch, in the year 1899 :—

(1) A Cinerary Urn, originally about 10 inches in height by 7 inches wide, full of ashes and fragments of burnt bones, portions of the cranium and vertebrae of a human adult being traceable, and identified by Dr. Arthur Watkins. This urn was dug up about 2 feet below the surface in sandy soil, and was surrounded by roots, which had penetrated the interior. It is of crude workmanship, and the colour (yellow-grey) and quality of the pottery are very similar to many of the Uriconium specimens.

(2) Near the Urn was found a wrought iron lamp, and an iron pin or bar. This lamp is in shape much like the Roman pottery ones, with a protruding circle for the wick, and measures 4 inches in diameter. It has no cover. An arm at the back rises $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the base, and bends over the circle for the oil. The Museums at Shrewsbury, Chester, York, &c., were searched for an iron lamp of similar type, but in vain. At last the authorities of the British Museum showed an example from the Payne collection found at Sittingbourne, Kent, and not yet exhibited, which is almost a facsimile. The high arm bending over the lamp with something like a ring at the extremity is there, and the explanation suggested was that the arm was made to hang the lamp to a nail on a wall. But there was no nail with this Sittingbourne lamp. The iron bar or pin, found with the Whitchurch lamp, which had puzzled us so much as to its use, now seems satisfactorily accounted for as the nail to hang the lamp on the wall of the mausoleum. It measures $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length.

(3) There were found at the same place in November, 1900, fragments of a lipped urn without handles, of dark brown pottery, standing when perfect about 6 inches in height. Some white dust was noticed about the fragments.

(4) A few coins have also been found, but they are of no great interest, an Irish Farthing, $\frac{1}{2}$ groats, &c. A first brass Trajan in good preservation was dug up on my grounds a few hundred yards from the Sedgeford spot.

I am guarding all these specimens to place in a case in the new Free Library Buildings which are being erected in Whitchurch, and there is every hope that other specimens which have come to light in past years will be given up by their present possessors to form a local collection, which will always have a supreme interest to everyone dwelling in the neighbourhood.

EDWARD P. THOMPSON.

Paulsmoss, Whitchurch.

IV.

CHANTRY IN EDSTASTON CHAPEL

"The King hath founded a Chauntrie in the Chapelle of Hedistastune in the Parishe of Wemme in the Countie of Salop." This is an entry, now numbered 935, in a manuscript book in the British Museum, said to have belonged to Lord Treasurer Burghley (Harleian MSS., 433). The King referred to is probably Richard III. For though the MS. registers grants, &c., passing the Privy Seal, Royal Signet, or Sign Manual in various reigns, the adjoining entries seem to refer to the short reign of Richard III. (26 June, 1483—22 Aug., 1485), and No. 824 records the gift to Lord Stanley of castles and lands which formerly belonged to Henry Stafford,

Duke of Buckingham. This unfortunate nobleman was beheaded in 1483, after being betrayed to the High Sheriff of Shropshire by his servant Ralph Bannister. Bannister was lord of the manor of Lacon, near Wem, and it was there that the Duke had taken refuge and was apprehended. The story may be read at length in Garbet's *History of Wem*, page 363, and a tradition of the betrayal and its consequences yet lingers upon the spot.

No. 873 in the same manuscript records a "Warrant for striking out two taitles to be levied on the Abbot and Convent of Shrewsbury for Richard Lawrence yeoman 29 July an. 2" (of Richard III. ?) What does this mean?

GILBERT H. F. VANE, F.S.A.

V.

SERMON BY MATTHEW FOWLER, D.D., 1661.

The only work by Matthew Fowler, D.D., who died on Dec. 26, 1683, after having been rector of Whitchurch, in this county, for 17 years, which the British Museum appears to contain, is "Totum Hominis." This was a sermon which Fowler preached on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 1661, at S. Michael's, Cornhill, he being at the time incumbent of S. Paul's, Hammersmith. The sermon is dedicated to John Hacket, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, and it is interesting to find that the occasion was "a festival meeting of the nobility, gentry, and other natives" of Fowler's own county of Stafford. These are addressed as "the flower of my own dear native Country," and are "about to seal their friendship" by feasting together. The sermon certainly bears out the author's reputation for learning, for he quotes the original Hebrew of the Old Testament, the Septuagint and the Vulgate, Plutarch, Salvian, Juvenal and Bishop Andrews, with equal impartiality. While upholding loyalty, as his text, his experience, and his predilections all compelled him to do, he acknowledges that there may be bounds to allegiance, and quaintly urges his hearers not to be "mingled with such as have teeth in their tongues."

GILBERT H. F. VANE, F.S.A.

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OLD FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BUILDINGS, SHREWSBURY,

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Honorary Curators of the Museum :

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CONCHOLOGY	CHARLES FORTEY, Esq.
GEOLOGY	C. CALLAWAY, Esq., M.A., D.Sc. (Lond.), F.G.S.
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ZOOLOGY	MR. H. E. HARRIES.
ARCHÆOLOGY	REV. T. AUDEN, M.A., F.S.A.
FINE ARTS, &c.	W. BEACALL, Esq., J.P.

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.

BLAKEWAY'S HISTORY OF SHREWSBURY LIBERTIES.

A few copies of this History, separately paginated (500 pages), with Title-page and Contents, have been reprinted, and may be obtained by Members only, at the price of 11s. in sheets, or 12s. 6d. in cloth. Application should be made at once to Messrs. ADNITT AND NAUNTON, Shrewsbury.

SHROPSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, 1901.

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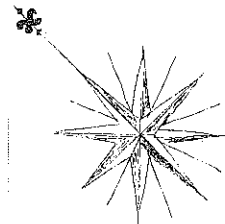
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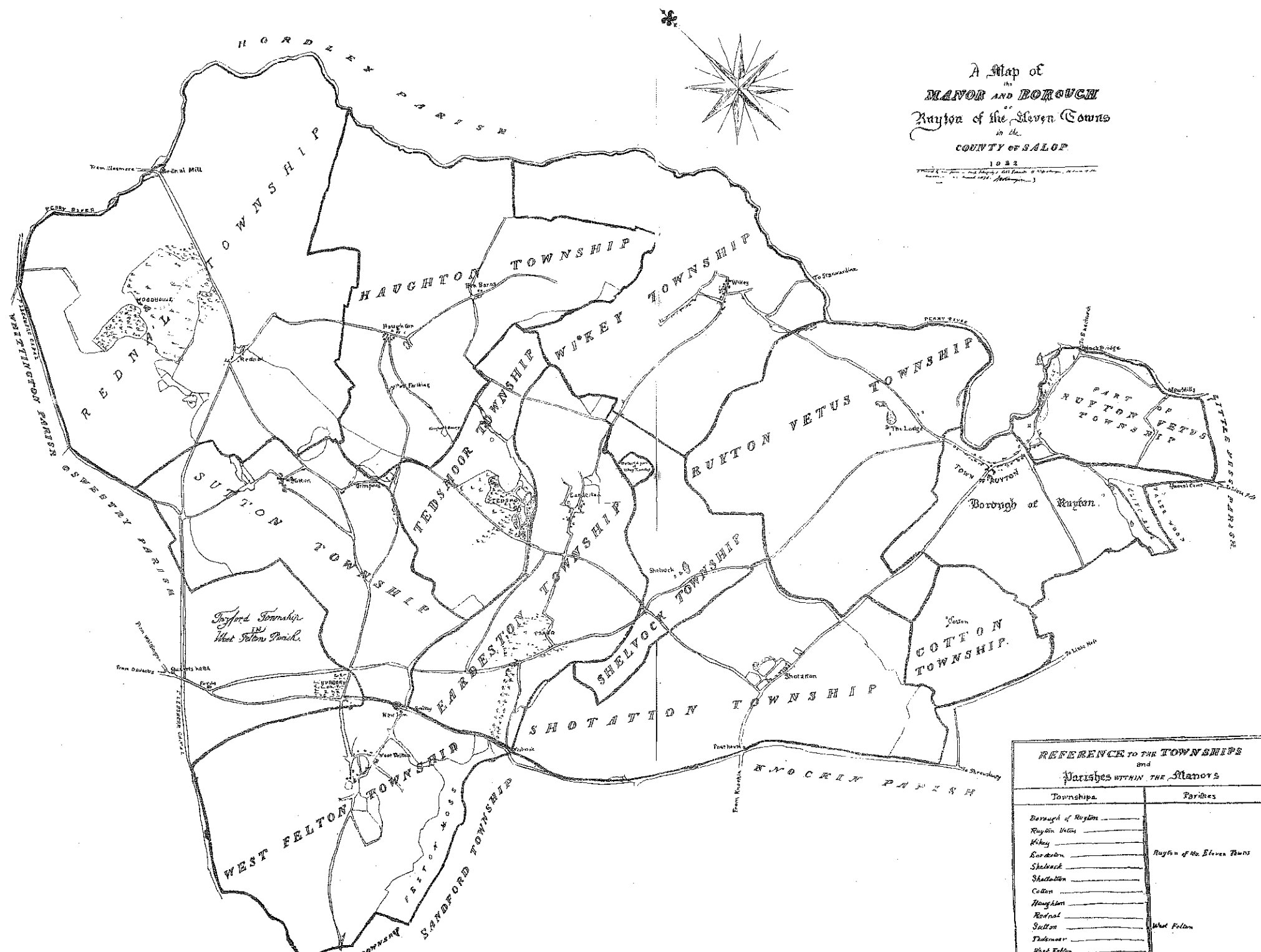
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A Map of
the
MANOR AND BOROUGH
of
Ruyton of the Eleven Towns
in the
COUNTY OF SALOP.

1832
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REFERENCE TO THE TOWNSHIPS and Parishes WITHIN THE MANORS	
Townships.	Parishes
Borough of Ruyton	Ruyton of the Eleven Towns
Ruyton Vetus	
Wikey	
Earleston	
Shelvock	
Shotatton	
Cotton	
Haughton	West Felton
Rednal	
Sutton	
Tedsmoor	
West Felton	