

Clavis: Oake

OUTLINES
OF THE
History and Antiquities
OF
BROMLEY,

IN KENT:

CHIEFLY EXTRACTED FROM PHILIPOTT, HASTED, LYSONS, &c.

By JOHN DUNKIN.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

AN INVESTIGATION

OF THE

ANTIQUITIES OF HOLWOOD HILL,

IN THE PARISH OF KESTON.

BY PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR,

ALFRED JOHN KEMPE, Esq.



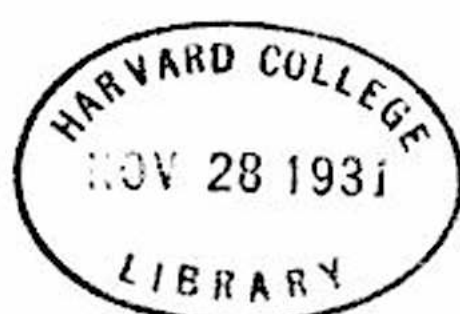
BROMLEY:

PRINTED BY AND FOR J. DUNKIN; AND SOLD BY GALE, CURTIS, AND
FENNER, PATERNOSTER ROW; AND J. FORSTER,
KENSINGTON.

1815.

B_n 5168.254.20

✓ *



Gross fund

TO THE
RIGHT REVEREND FATHER IN GOD
DR. WALKER KING,
LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER,
THE FOLLOWING
OUTLINES OF THE HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF HIS
MANOR OF BROMLEY
IS MOST RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,
BY HIS LORDSHIP'S OBLIGED
AND OBEDIENT HUMBLE SERVANT,
J. DUNKIN.

ADVERTISEMENT.

The general applause bestowed on the elegant description of the Antiquities of Holwood Hill, immediately after its appearance in the Military Register, only renders it necessary to state, that the ready consent of the author to permit it to accompany a Sketch of the History of Bromley, together with his generous offer of etchings of the camp, the coffin, dagger, &c. is only a continuation of the many acts of friendship which the publisher has experienced from Mr. Kempe; and it is hoped, that its appearance in this form, together with the illustrations, will render it still more desirable.

As the title imports, the chief part of the History and Antiquities of Bromley is compiled from the writings of Philipott, Hasted, Lysons, &c. and was originally written for the private information of the writer, at the London Institution, a few days previous to his becoming an inhabitant of this town. Subsequent inquiries produced several additions to those extracts, but no idea of publication occurred. This event has been produced by the repeated inquiries of strangers who have visited this place, and the wish of many of the inhabitants to obtain a correct account of the parish. How far these pages may gratify the public, time only can ascertain: but it is the duty of the writer to acknowledge his obligations to John Wells of Bickley, Esq. the Rev. J. J. Talman, Mr. Latter, and several other gentlemen, who kindly favoured him with, or permitted access to public or private documents.

As some apology for the rough manner in which many

parts are drawn up, the writer begs to state, that there was no regular MS. and that many pages were actually printed from detached parts of sentences, written in the hurry of business, and while the compositor was waiting for them. Some may not indeed consider this as an excuse; but peculiar circumstances in the situation of the writer, only allowed of the alternative of adopting this plan, or suppressing the publication altogether.

Should the inhabitants of Bromley and its vicinity favour this sketch with their approbation, and the gentry of its neighbourhood furnish accounts of the several former possessors of their different mansions and estates, together with pedigrees of their families, or biographical notices of their relatives, at some future period a correct history of its neighbourhood may be expected.

C O N T E N T S.

	Page
Etymology	7
History of the Manor	ib.
The Palace	13
Boundaries of the Parish	15
Description of the Town	16
The Parish Church	18
Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction	24
Population	27
Charity School	28
Bromley College	29
Manor of Sundridge	34
Simpsons	36
Premises of lesser note	38
Plaistow	39
Freelands	ib.
Wigmore	40
Southborough	41
Bromley Common	42
Conclusion	44
Investigation of the Antiquities of Holwood Hill	45
Extracts from the Vestry Book	55

THE
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES
OF
BROMLEY.

BROMLEY is a small market-town, in the county of Kent, giving its name to the hundred in which it is situated, and has, from a very early period, formed part of the demesnes of the bishoprick of Rochester.

ETYMOLOGY.

It was anciently written, in Saxon, *Bromleag* and *Bromleah*; in Latin, *Bromlega*, which signifies, a field or pasture where broom grows.

HISTORY OF THE MANOR.

Ethelbert, King of Kent, gave to Bishop Eardulph and the church of Rochester land in Bromley, containing six furlongs.

It is probable that, in the wars of the succeeding period, these lands, or at least a part of them, were alienated, or seized by some of the monarchs, and perhaps retained by their successors, until the ninth year of the reign of King Edgar, A. D.

967,* when that monarch, in consideration of Bishop Alfstan paying 80 manest† of the finest gold and six pounds of fine silver, besides 30 mares of gold paid to the king's prefect, granted to St. Andrew and the church of Rochester certain lands at the place commonly known by the name *Æt Bromleage*, containing ten hides, called by the Kentishmen *sulings*, with all liberties and emoluments whatever, except the repelling invasions and the repairing of bridges and fortifications.

His son, King Ethelred, on some dispute with the bishop of Rochester, laid waste the lands belonging to the see; and, in 987, gave to his minister, Ethelsine, (by whose advice he had taken several estates from it) ten plough-lands in Bromley; but afterwards repenting of the injury he had done to the church, with much contrition, in the year 998, in the presence of the convent of Rochester and his principal nobility, declared what he had done was by the pernicious advice of Ethelsine, and then restored to the church six plough-lands here, together with the privilege of the woods in the weald.‡

One Birtrick, a Saxon nobleman, and Elfwithe, his wife, of Meopham, in this county, bequeathed, by their testament, made in the time of Alfstan, Bishop of Rochester, who died A. D. 984, their land at Bromley, after Birtrick's life, to St. Andrew's priory, in Rochester, as Elfric their lord had bequeathed it for him and his ancestors.

* In the 8vo edition of Hasted, vol. i, p. 553, is a note,—"The date of this charter, in the *Textus Roffensis*, is misprinted; for King Edgar did not begin his reign till 959, and Dunstan, who signs himself a witness, as archbishop of Canterbury, did not come to that see till 960."

† Sommer thinks a mancus not a coin but a weight, and in payments a mancus or mark of gold was equal to ten of silver, and each of these worth 30 Saxon pence, or 7s. 6d. of our money.

‡ At that time the weald acknowledged no private proprietor but belonged wholly to the king, so that on the royal donation of a parcel of land out of the weald to any person in the nature of what is since called a lordship or manor, it was the usual custom, to render it more complete, to accommodate it with an additional grant of common pannage; and there is scarcely any ancient grant to the churches of Rochester or Canterbury without this additional liberty.

After the conquest, Odo the great Bishop of Baieux, the king's half-brother, siezed on the possessions of the church of Rochester at Bromley, among many other estates belonging to it. He, however, did not keep them long; for Archbishop Lanfranc recovered them again in the solemn assembly of the whole county, held on this occasion, by the king's command, at Pinnenden Heath, A. D. 1076. The archbishop afterwards restored them to Bishop Gundulph and the church of St. Andrew at Rochester, which donation was confirmed by Archbishop Anselm and several of his successors.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor Bromley continued to be estimated at six sulings. Whether the whole of them came into the hands of the Bishop of Baieux I do not find; but it is certain only three of them returned, after the above adjudication, to the church of Rochester.*

At the time of the survey Bromley was entered in Domesday book as follows,† under the article

Terra epi Revecestre.

Isde' eps' ten' Bronlei IN BRONLEI HVND. p. vi. solins se defd. T.R.E. & mo' p. iii Tra'e xiii car'. In dao sunt. ii. car & xxx uilli. cu' xxvi bord. lnt xi car Ibi i mold de iv sold. & xii. ac' pti Silva e porc. T.R.E. & post. ualuit xii lib. & x sol. modo xviii lib. & tam' reddit xxii lib. ii solid. minus.

Translation.

In Bronlei hundred. The same Bp. holds Bronlei, was taxed at 6 sulings T.R.E. and now at 3. The arable land is 13 carucates. In demesne are 2 carucates and 30 Villains, with 26 Borderers having 11 carucates.

* Hasted, vol. i, p. 89.

† A particular description of the mode in which the survey was taken will be found in the History of Diocesis, together with an explanation of the terms, measures, &c. used in Domesday book.

There is one Mill of 4s. and 2 acres of meadow, wood for the pannage of 100 hogs, T.R.E. and afterwards was worth 12l. 10s. now 18l. and yet it yields 21l. all but 2 shillings.*

On a taxation of the bishop of Rochester's manors, in 1205, 40th Henry III. a jury returned on oath, that Bromley, as then let to farm, was worth 23l. per annum; that the buildings could not be sustained but from the rent, because the arable lands did not repay the necessary expenses laid out annually about them; and further, that the buildings required the expense of 60 shillings yearly.

And again, at the latter end of the above reign, Thomas de Mapeham, Sacrist of the church of Rochester, and others, being sworn and examined before the master of Stroud Hospital, commissioned for that purpose by the pope's legate, concerning the value of the bishop's manors, affirmed that the manor of Bromley was worth, in annual rent, as well in money as in hens, eggs, and ploughshares, the sum of 24l. 16s.; that the manor had two ploughs, though there were not in reality two plough-lands; that they were not, together with the pasture ground, worth more than 60s. 10d. per annum, on account of the sterility of the land; and that there was one mill, from which were received two marks per annum: Sum total 29l. 2s. 7d. In a subsequent valuation, the manor of Bromley was estimated at 50 mares.

In a taxation of the manors of the bishop of Rochester, made in the 20th year of King Edward I. A. D. 1291, it appeared that the bishop had at Bromley, in rents of assize 23l. 10s., in ploughshares 8s., in hens 12l. 6d.; and that there were two mills worth 40s. per annum, and two carucates of land worth 60s. per annum, and in the profits of herds and live stock 13s. 4d., in reliefs, heriots, and other perquisites of court 20s.,

* This mill still exists on the Ravensbourn; at the period of Domesday was used for the purpose of grinding corn; was afterwards converted to a paper-mill; but its machinery is now used for polishing mirrors, and is in the occupation of Mr. Fenton, a glass manufacturer in the Strand.

in pannages 5s., in eggs 1s., in the sale of wood 20s., and from a carucate of land let to farm 16d.

An ancient MS. in the Cotton Library contains the following statement of what ought to be left on the manor, on the death or translation of every bishop :

“ There ought to remain at Bromleghe, on the bishop’s manor, 1 cart-horse, value 13s. 4d., 16 oxen, 4 stallions, 8 cows, 1 bull, 100 ewe sheep, 5 rams, 5 sows, 2 young boars, 25 hogs of one year old ; that seed for the land ought to be found, or paid for out of the assets of the deceased ; also that one carter and one harrower ought to be maintained out of the said assets ; that there ought to remain sundry utensils and household furniture, such as tables, casks, pots, &c. But these things, as well as those on the other manors of the bishop, being in the custody of the archbishop, were, during the vacancy of the see, either destroyed or lost ; but now, by the long vacancies of the see, or the reservations of that of Rome, they will be all made away with and lost, and the buildings themselves will probably run to ruin, the temporals be diminished, and the woods destroyed.”

In the 21st King Edward I. Thomas de Woldham, Bishop of Rochester, claimed certain liberties, viz. the return of the king’s writs, assize of bread and ale, view of frank pledge, and pleas of withernam* in his manor of Bromley, as well of his own tenants as those of the parson of the parish ; and he complained that Abel de St. Martin, parson of Bromley, caused, in like manner, amerciements to be levied of the tenants of his church, when it happened they were amerced at the bishop’s view of Bromley, for breaking the said assize, notwithstanding which, the bishop causing the same to be levied by his bailiffs too, the tenants were twice punished for the same default ; whereupon the jury found upon oath, that the bishop had a right to the said liberties, and that he found his church seized of them upon his coming to it. Upon which the par-

* Withernam, “ Placito de vetito namio,” or Withernam, in common law, is taking or the driving a distress to a hold, or out of the county.

son submitted, and fined half a marc. The same year the bishop was summoned to answer the king in a plea of *quo warranto*, why he claimed the above privileges, &c.: as to the returns of writs, he answered that the manor was within the precincts of the archbishop, and that the bailiffs of the bishop received such return by the hands of the archbishop's bailiff; therefore he prayed judgment, &c.: as to the other liberties, the bishop said that he and his predecessors, beyond the time of memory, had these liberties in the said manor, and used them without interruption; on which the jurors found for the bishop; and the record of these pleas was, at the request of John de Shepney, Bishop of Rochester, exemplified by *in speximus* under the great seal, July 10, 30th King Edward III. A. D. 1355.

In 1320, 14th Edward II. Bishop Homo de Heth was necessitated to sell the wood of Elmsted, in Bromley, for 200 mares, to pay the debts which his church had incurred in soliciting the affairs of it at the church of Rome.

In the 25th and 26th of Henry VI. the bishop had a most ample confirmation of all former charters and liberties, and a grant of a weekly market, on a Thursday, in his manor of Bromley, and one fair in the village on the feast of St. James the Apostle, and another within his manor on the day of St. Blaize. These fairs have, since the alteration of the calendar, been held the 5th of August and 14th of December.

The manor appears from this period to have remained in the quiet possession of the successive bishops of Rochester until the great rebellion, when the parliament passed an ordinance, October 9, 1646, for the abolishing archbishops, bishops, &c., and for settling their lands in trustees, to be disposed of according to the appointment of both houses. Another ordinance passing, November 16 following, for the sale of them, to satisfy the debts due from the state upon the public faith, the manor of Bromley, with its appertments, as part of the bishoprick of Rochester, was sold to Augustine Skinner, for 5665*l.* 1*l.* 1*l.*, in which situation it remained till the restoration of King Charles II. May 29, 1660, when it was returned

again, with the palace, to Dr. John Warner, Bishop of Rochester, in whose successors both have remained ever since.

After this period no memorable circumstance, specially connected with the manor, seems to have taken place.

In the 4th of George III. an act passed for extinguishing the right of common upon certain commonable lands and grounds, within the parish and manor of Bromley.

THE PALACE.

The origin of the palace in this place is generally ascribed to Bishop Gundulph, the greatest architect in the days of the Conqueror. The building seems however to have been a mean and inconvenient habitation, and erected of such frail materials that, in the time of Bishop Walleran, who died in 1184, it was become so ruinous that his successor, Gilbert de Glanville, Chief Justice of England, was obliged to rebuild it in a more commodious and substantial manner.

Here Roger Forde, Abbot of Glastonbury, a man of great learning and eloquence, was killed in the time of Bishop Laurence de St. Martin, on a journey which he undertook to defend the rights of his church, on the 6th of the nones of October, A. D. 1261.

The Bishops having constantly resided at it since the reformation, it has received many additions and alterations at different periods. Bishop Sprat, in 1699, by licence from the archbishop of Canterbury, pulled down and rebuilt the old chapel, besides engaging in several other very considerable repairs.

While this bishop resided at the palace, a parchment was found in a flower-pot, forged by a conspiracy, of which Bishop Sprat printed an account, in a pamphlet, entitled *A Relation of the wicked Contrivance of Stephen Blackhead and Robert Young against the Lives of several Persons, by forging an Association under their Hands.*

Bishop Atterbury expended considerable sums on this edifice; but one of the greatest benefactors to it was Bishop Wil-

cox, whose reparation of the buildings, and improvement of the gardens and grounds about the house, was executed with much taste and elegance, after which it remained, with little alteration, till Dr. Thomas, on his promotion to the see, in 1774, finding the house much dilapidated, pulled the whole of it down, and erected a small neat brick edifice on the site of the old palace,* which now forms the chief residence of the present bishop.

The palace is most pleasantly situated on the east side of Bromley, and about a quarter of a mile from the town: it is at present the only one belonging to the see of Rochester. The south side commands an extensive prospect of the surrounding country.

There is a well in the bishop's grounds, near the gardens, called St. Blaze's Well, which being greatly resorted to anciently, on account of its medicinal virtues, had an oratory annexed to it, dedicated to that saint. It was particularly frequented at Whitsuntide, on account of a remission of 40 days' enjoined penance, granted by Lucas, legate to Pope Calixtus VI., to such as should visit the chapel, and offer up their orisons in it on the three holy days of Pentecost.†

This oratory falling to ruin at the reformation, the well too became disused, and the site of both in process of time was forgotten, and continued so till the well was discovered again in the year 1754,‡ by means of a yellow ochrey sediment|| re-

* A view of the ancient palace may be seen in Hasted's Kent.

† Lyson's Environs.

‡ Notwithstanding the above positive assertion of Hasted, (probably copied from a pamphlet published by Mr. Reynolds, stating the particulars of the discovery), Wilson says "the well dedicated to St. Blasius is about 200 yards north-west of the mineral spring, in a field near the road, with seven oak trees in a cluster, on an elevated spot of ground adjoining."---I have been informed that the present bishop is of the same opinion; though to me this well appears to have been originally designed to supply the adjoining moat. Besides, I conceive an additional argument in favour of the mineral well may be drawn from the ignorance of the age, as the clergy would not fail to ascribe any benefit derived from this water to the special interference of the saint.

|| This sediment was first observed by Mr. Harwood, the bishop's chaplain.

maining in the tract of a small current leading from the spring to the corner of the moat, with the waters of which it used to mix. In digging round the well there were found the remains of the old steps leading down to it, made of oak plank, which appeared to have lain under ground many years. The water of this spring is chalybeate, and rises at the foot of a declivity, at a small distance eastward from the bishop's palace. The soil through which it passes is gravel, and it issues immediately from a bed of pure white sand. The course of the spring seems to be about north-north-east and south-south-west from its aperture; its opening is towards the latter; and as Shooters Hill bears about north-north-east from its aperture, it probably comes from thence. The water being thus found to be a good chalybeate, was, by the bishop's orders, immediately secured from the intermixture of other waters, and inclosed. Since this, numbers of people, especially of the middling and poorer sort, have been remarkably relieved by it from various infirmities of body and diseases.*

Soon after the discovery of this well its waters were analyzed by Mr. Thomas Reynolds, surgeon in this town, who published a pamphlet describing their qualities as similar to those of Tunbridge Wells.

BOUNDARIES OF THE PARISH.

The parish is bounded by Beckenham, West Wickham, Hayes, Keston, Farnborough, Orpington, Chislehurst, Lee, and Lewisham. It contains about 3000 acres of land, of which 350 are wood, 250 waste, the remainder arable and meadow, but chiefly the former. The soil is various, but principally clay and gravel. The parish pays 296*l.* land-tax, which is at the rate of 9*d.* in the pound.†

* Hasted, vol. i, p. 93. The folio edition is referred to throughout this work.

† Lyson's *Environs*, vol. iv, p. 307; London 1796.

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN.

Bromley is pleasantly situated on a hill, on the high road from Hastings to London, and is distant from the latter about ten miles.

It consists of two principal streets, the first of which is entered on the road from London, having the workhouse (erected in 1731) on the western side, and the college on the eastern. This street ends with a handsome row of houses, having the church on the right, and the Bell Inn on the left hand.

To the east of the Bell Inn is a convenient market-place, where a weekly market is held on Thursdays. In the centre stands a commodious market-house, the lower part of which is used by those persons who attend the market, as a place of sale; and in the room above are held the meetings of the Commissioners of the Court of Requests, who assemble and hear causes every other Thursday: it is also frequently used for sales by auction.

The market-place leads into the other street, situated on the Tunbridge Wells road, having the White Hart Inn on the eastern side, and ending with the delightful house of Colonel Jackson.

The greater part of the town is inhabited by tradesmen, none of whose dwellings can be said to present a handsome appearance; though there is a considerable trade carried on, chiefly occasioned by the number of gentry who reside in the neighbourhood.

The College and the seat of Stewart Erskine, Esq. may be considered as the chief ornaments of the town, though the mansions of Colonel Jackson and E. Waller, Esq. are deserving of notice.*

* The seats of Mr. Erskine and Colonel Jackson have been built about fifty years.

The streets are well paved; but it is to be regretted that no plan is formed for lighting them by night.*

Boarding Schools.

Here are several good private schools for the education of the rising generation.

The extensive establishment for young gentlemen, now under the direction of Mr. R. Rawes, has existed for more than a century; and those of the Rev. J. Baker, Mr. Hibbert, and the Rev. J. Pieters, are deservedly celebrated for the excellency of their several plans.

The boarding schools of Mrs. James, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Chaiklin, have long maintained their celebrity, from the number of accomplished young ladies who are daily finishing their education in those establishments.

Meeting-house.

Near the market-place is a small meeting-house belonging to the dissenters of the Independent denomination. The preachers are chiefly supplied by the Itinerant Society, which also supports a sunday school in this place. The congregation is very small, and the chapel itself a mean structure.

Stage-coaches.

A convenient communication is held with the metropolis by means of the stage-coaches, two of which leave Bromley at nine in the morning, one for Gracechurch-street and the other for Charing-cross; the former returns at three and the latter at four in the afternoon. An evening coach also leaves Bromley at five in the afternoon for Charing-cross, and returns from thence at twelve the next day. On Sundays these coaches set out at seven in the morning, and make two journeys to London.

* A few years ago the streets were partially lighted, but the funds were found inadequate, and the plan was abandoned.

THE PARISH CHURCH.

The parish church is a spacious structure, built of flint and stone, and generally understood to be dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul.* It consists of a chancel, nave, and two aisles: at the west end is a square embattled tower with a cupola.

The antiquarian here finds little to gratify his curiosity, except the ancient door by which he enters the church on the southern side, (probably coeval with the structure), and the square font, whose plain circular arches are supposed to have been once ornamented with engraved brasses, all of which have long been lost. This font is of Norman architecture.

Weever says, in his days it was reported, that in the wall of this church once lay the portraiture in stone of Richard de Wendover, sometime parson of this parish, and afterwards bishop of Rochester, who died in 1250, and was buried at the king's express command, at Westminster. It is supposed that the ornamented gothic arch in the chancel wall is the remains of this tomb, and it is not unlikely that the above *portraiture in stone* was placed beneath the arch.

* In Wilson's Description of Bromley is the following paragraph: "I have met with a very old account which says, 'this church was originally dedicated to St. Blaise: but for the last 700 years it has been considered, and certainly is that of St. Peter and St. Paul.'—It is much to be regretted that Mr. W. has not given his authority, as no such account is to be found in any author I have had an opportunity of consulting.

In opposition to the above opinion, I have been informed that the late Bishop Dampier always maintained that the church was dedicated to St. James, from the circumstance of one of the fairs being held on that day; an opinion evidently grounded on the idea of this fair originating in a meeting of the people to celebrate the dedication of the church, according to an old custom; and that the charter was only a confirmation of a more ancient fair, as happened in many other instances. I understand the bishop's opinion was adopted by several persons, and the bills of mortality made out accordingly. But I conceive this mode of argument very inconclusive; for the same reasoning equally applies to the fair of St. Blaise; and if any "very old account" is in favour of the latter saint, the bishop's argument is completely overturned; at any rate, the opinion of "the last 700 years" is entitled to the most serious consideration.

In 1360 was buried in the south aisle* Walter de Henche, once rector of the parish, and afterwards bishop of Rochester; and the following French inscription was written on his tomb.

*Icy gist Master Water de Henche
Qi fut Persone de Bromleghe 1360.†*

Anciently on the north side of the nave was a confessional, probably destroyed soon after the reformation; but the doorway and steps leading to it remained till the late building of the north aisle.‡

The interior of the church is modernised, and commodiously fitted up with pews for the use of the congregation. The handsome pulpit is the gift of John Wells,|| of Beckly, Esq. The reading desk, &c. are probably those given by Bishop Sprat, in 1705. The elegant altar is distinctly seen from most parts of the edifice.

“ On the north wall of the chancel is the monument of Bishop Pearce. On the south side of the chancel are the monuments of Harrington Bagshaw, Curate of Bromley, Rector of Woolwich, and 40 years Chaplain of Warner’s College, 1759; Abigail, his wife, daughter of Sir John Busby, Knt. 1783; Thomas Bagshaw, A. M. Curate of Bromley, Rector of Southfleet, and 54 years Chaplain of Warner’s College, 1787; and a wooden tablet in memory of James Young, merchant, 1687. On the floor are the tombs of Anthony Calthorpe, Esq. 1594; Richard Thornhill, Esq. 1600; John Yonge, Bishop of Rochester, 1605; John Travel, Esq. of London, 1652; Catalina, relict of Thomas Needham, late Rector of Stoke Dabourn, 1676; Robert Pynsent, gent. 1679; Mariabella, wife of John Whelley, of Freeland House, merchant, 1701; and William Willson, Esq. 1776.

In the nave are the tombs of John King, of London, draper, 1603; Jane, daughter of John Brewton, gent. wife of

* Lysons, vol. iv, p. 317.

† Weever’s Monument. p. 338; London 1631.

‡ I am indebted to the Rev. Dr. Smith for this information.

|| This is said to have cost 70l.

Henry Bodenham, Esq. of Folston, Wilts, 1625; Owen Gethin, gent. 1654; Thomas Woodstock, 1694; Edward Wyat, Esq. 1758; William Everest, gent. 1777; John Wigginton, 1784; and Elizabeth, wife of Dr. Samuel Johnson.*

"At the east end of the south aisle is a wooden tablet with the arms and quartering of Stile, and an inscription, denoting that the pews beneath were appropriated to the sole use of the Stiles, ancient owners of Simpson's Place, and were then (1727) the property of Lady Elwill. On the same wall is the monument of John Mansell, Esq. of Chickley, Bucks, 1625. On the floor are stones to the memory of Edward Brewster, apothecary, 1674; James Gosling, Esq. 1765; the Rev. John Derby, Rector of Southfleet, 1788; Henry Savage, Esq. 1785; Mary, wife of Charles Gore, Esq. 1785; and Mrs. Mary Dunes, 1788.

"On the west wall, under the gallery, are the monuments of Peregrina, wife of Lewis Bussy Mansel, 1721; and Jane, relict of Charles Scot, Esq. of Gorembury in North Britain, (of the noble family of Buccleuch) 1767. Above are the monuments of Thomas Chase, Esq. 1754; Sophia Maria, wife of Thomas Raikes, 1810; and Mary, the wife of William Lyndon, Esq. (daughter of Richard Aske) 1780. On the south wall is that of Mary, wife of the Rev. Thomas Winterbottom, Rector of Ashurst and Vicar of Burling, Kent, 1720. At the east end is a marble tablet to the memory of John† Hawkes-

* Epitaph written by Dr. Johnson.—*Hic conduntur reliquæ Elizabethæ antiqua Jarvisiorum gente Peathingæ apud Leicestrienses ortæ, formosa, cultæ ingeniosa, pia, uxoris primis nuptiis Henrici Porter, secundis Samuelis Johnson, qui multam amatam diuque defletam hoc lapide contexit. Obiit Londini, mense Mart. A. D. MDCCCLIII.*

Mrs. Johnson was buried at Bromley, in consequence of her disconsolate husband having committed the disposal of her remains to Dr. Hawkesworth, who resided at this place. How long and how severely that excellent man felt the loss, appears from the frequent mention of his dearest wife in his devotions, and from the above epitaph, written but a few months before his own death. Lysons.

† Dr. Hawkesworth resided for several years in a large house, situated near the Bell Inn, which has been pulled down since his death. This writer was editor and principal author of the *Adventurer*; he wrote also the *Eastern Tale of Almoraz and Hamet*, and several dramatic pieces, among which was *Edgar*

worth L.L.D. 1793; his brother-in-law Mr. Benjamin Brown, 1777; and Thomas Chase,* Esq. 1788." *Lysons*.

Affixed to the wall, at the west end of the south aisle, is the following list of benefactions to the parish :

John Buckridge, Bishop of Ely, by will bequeathed the sum of 20l. to be employed in some yearly benefit for the poor of the parish ; with which, and the addition of some little money besides, a purchase was made of a house in Nichol-lane, rented at 40s. per annum, which sum, necessary repairs being deducted, was to be distributed every Good Friday, or near that time, among the most necessitous inhabitants.

Rev. G. Wilson, late Rector of Chiselhurst, at his death left by will 200l. to be laid out in a purchase, the annual income of which he directed to be appropriated to the benefit of the charity school in this parish for ever ; to which was added 200l. by L. Tolson.

Jasper Green, Vicar of Woodnesborough, by will, 1660, gave 20s. yearly to the poor of the parish. Hasted.

Dr. John Warner, Bishop of Rochester, bequeathed 20l. in money for the use of the poor in this parish. Hasted.

Henry Keightly, of Bromley, gave by will, 26th May 1520, out of his estate at Pope-street, Eltham, 12 pence yearly, towards mending the highways in this parish.†

and Emmeline, a Fairy Tale, acted with much success. He received a considerable sum of money for drawing up a narrative of the first voyage to the South Seas. He also translated *Telemachus*, and was for some years editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*. His widow died at Bromley, 25th September 1796.

* Inscription.—Sacred to the memory of Thomas Chase, Esq. formerly of this parish, born in the city of Lisbon, the 1st of November 1729, and buried under the ruins of the same house where he first saw the light, in the ever memorable and terrible earthquake which befel that city on the 1st of November 1751, when, after a most wonderful escape, he, by degrees, recovered from a very deplorable condition, lived till the 20th of November 1788.

† Before the reformation it was considered a very great act of piety to leave money for the mending of highways, all of which were repaired by the services or donations of individuals, as parish rates were unknown,

1638. *Richard Hollingsworth, citizen of London, gave a large silver chalice and patine for the communion service.*
1705. *The Right Rev. Thomas Sprat, Bishop of Rochester, gave a cushion and cloth of black velvet and gold tabby for the communion table, also the tipe, pulpit, and cushion for the same.*
1715. *Mrs. Helen Sprat, relict of the said bishop, gave a silver gilt chased chalice and cover for the communion service.*
1734. *Mr. Thomas Moore left a legacy of 50l. to the charity school.*
1739. *Mrs. Eleanor Emmet gave to the charity school 100l. and caused 40s. to be annually charged on the eight houses adjoining the college, to be given to the poor of the parish by the churchwardens, on St. Andrew's day.*
1796. *Mr. R. Booth gave 100l. to the charity school, to be added to the stock in the hands of trustees*
1808. *Mrs. Rebecca Booth, widow of the above, gave to the charity school 100l. 3 per cent. reduced bank annuities, to apply the interest in bread, to be distributed on the 2d Sunday in the months of January, February, March, October, November, and December, for ever, after morning service, in 20 loaves of the value of 6d. each, to such poor families, who receive no alms, as the trustees think proper.*

The gallery over the south aisle was erected in 1765. and in the same year the three gothic windows of that aisle, which had hitherto retained their original form, were altered into their present state, and another added to correspond with those alterations.

The tablet over the north aisle says "that Dr. Thomas, Bishop of Rochester, gave 500l. towards the erection of that part of the edifice in 1792.

The tower appears to have received little alteration since its erection. It formerly contained only five bells of heavy

metal; but. in the year 1772, they were recast, and three others added.*

The church-yard abounds with tombs and monumental inscriptions. To notice all would swell these pages beyond their intended limits, and a selection might perhaps be ascribed to caprice. The *inhabitant* and *visitor* can easily consult them, and to the *distant reader* they might appear uninteresting. The epitaph which perhaps merits the most attention is placed at the east end of the church, erected to the memory of Elizabeth Monk, who died 1753, aged 101, and written by Dr. Hawkesworth. It having been so often transcribed into different volumes may excuse its omission in this place.†

A writer in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, for June 1747, says, "In 1733, as the parish-clerk was digging a grave in the church-yard, close to the east end of the chancel wall, he dug up a funeral garland or crown, artificially wrought in filagree work, with gold and silver wire, in resemblance of myrtle; its leaves were fastened to hoops of larger wire of iron, which were something corroded with rust, but both the gold and silver remained very little different from its original splendour. The inside was also lined with cloth of silver."‡

A part of this curious garland, together with a piece of the cloth of silver, the writer of the above account states that he kept by him as a choice relic of antiquity. He further

* In the belfrey is a board which states, "that, on January 7, 1773, the bells were taken down to be recast, and their number increased from five to eight: that they were finished on May 29, when a set of young men in Bromley in Kent joined in articles to learn to ring. On the 21st of September 1774, they rang a half quarter peal of bob majors, which is 5040 changes, which they completed in three hours and four minutes." A list of the ringers is subjoined.

† I quote the following inscription on a tomb on the south side, from its singularity.—"Here under lye the remains of Mrs. Avis Hiddesley, widow of the late Mark Hiddesley, Rector of Marston and Vicar of Sittingbourne, in this county, afterwards Rector of Witton, in the county of Huntingdon, who died in 1726, who had sixteen children born alive and baptized, five of them in one year and five days. She died in Bromley College, 25th November 1743, aged 71."

‡ Selections from *Gentleman's Magazine*, vol. i, p. 136; London, 1811. To this custom Shakespeare also alludes in the plays of *Hamlet*, act v, scene 1; and *Cymbeline*, act iv, scene 3.

adds, that these garlands were anciently carried solemnly before the corpse by two maids, and hung upon some conspicuous place within the church, in memory of the deceased. Growing out of repute about forty years ago, they were thought by many as very unbecoming decorations for so sacred a place, they were ordered to be taken down, and the inhabitants were strictly forbidden to hang up any more for the future: yet several people, unwilling to forsake an ancient and delightful custom, continued still to make them, and they were carried at the funeral as before; but, instead of being left in the church, they were taken to the grave, and put upon the coffin, over the face of the dead. This, he adds, he had seen done in many places; and from the circumstance of this garland being found in the churchyard, the custom seems not to have been unknown at Bromley.

ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION.

Philipott says Bromley was given to the church of Rochester by one John Later, a goldsmith, of London, as appears by the records of the church of Rochester, but Harris very justly observes no such record is to be found.*

The most ancient intimation relative to this church is, that it paid nine pence chrism to the mother church of the diocese.

This church was recovered from the grasp of Odo Bishop of Baieux by Archbishop Lanfranc, in the solemn assembly of the county at Pinnenden Heath, as an appendage of the manor. It was confirmed to the bishop and church of St. Andrew at Rochester, by Anselm, in 1101, and afterwards by several of his successors in the see of Canterbury.

In the time of King Edward I. it was valued at 30 marks.

Richard Fryson, parson of the church of Bromley, sued one Harry Ferrou in Bromleigh for the recovery of a messuage

which he claimed to belong to the church in free alms, and he recovered seizin of the same by view of the jurors impannelled thereon, 35. Henry VI.

This church was a rectory in 1541, and valued at 39l. 12s., but was soon after appropriated to the bishop of Rochester, it which state it still remains, the church being served by a curate appointed by the bishop. It is not in charge in the king's books.

On the abolition of episcopacy this parsonage was valued as a part of the possessions of the bishop of Rochester, Dec. 16, 1650. The return states that the rectory of Bromley had a manor belonging to it, a good mansion-house with a gate-house, a large barn of 11 bayes, two small barns, and other buildings and appurts, and the glebe land was worth 50l. per annum, and the quit rents 8s. 9d. yearly; that the tithes were worth 130l. yearly, and a small tenement 2l. yearly and upwards: all which (the tenants in the manor here having common of pasture in the glebe land, and common mead, which last contained about ten acres, from Lammas day to Michaelmas day) were let by John Bishop of Rochester from the 10th of February 1639 for 21 years, at the yearly rent of 61l. per annum and 40 quarters of oats; and it was returned that the same, tithes and all, were worth, to be let by the tenant, 183l. per annum.

Since the appropriation of the rectory to the bishopric of Rochester, it appears to have been usual to grant leases of it; and accordingly we learn from Lysons, that John Younge was lessee in 1646. In 1706 the lease was in the possession of William Emmet, Esq., whose grand-daughter brought it to Mr. John Innocent; and that it was subsequently carried to George Norman, Esq. the present lessee, by his father's marriage with Mr. Innocent's daughter.

The rectory-house is a large and substantial mansion, built at a short distance from the church, and let as a boarding-school to Mrs. Chalklin.

† Hasted, p. 96. Lysons, vol. iv 317.

*LIST of RECTORS and CURATES,**

Presented by the BISHOP of ROCHESTER, Patron.

RECTORS.

Richard de Wendover or Vendene, 1226 and 1238.

John Sudbury, in the reign of Henry III.

Abel de Sancto Martino, in 1292.

John de Frendesburie, deprived in 1329.†

Hugh de Penebregge, collated in 1329.

Walter de Henche, died in 1360.

William Fryston, in 1456.

Wynando, in 1465.

CURATES.

James Deyer, 1604.

Stephen Constantine, 1607.

John Preston, 1608.

Jasper Greene.

William Wallis, buried September 29, 1624.

John Hodges, A. B. 1627.

Noah Webb, 1628.

Robert Rainsford, 1630.

Richard Rathbone, 1634.

Thomas Smith, buried September 22, 1639.

Robert Antrobus, 1640.

Joseph Jackson, 1647.

Henry Arnold, 1626; ejected 1662.‡

Thomas Pike, 1666.

David Barton, 1667.

Edmund Lees, 1670.

S. Grascomes, 1681.

* This list is copied from the 8vo edition of Hasted.

† John de Frendesburie was deprived by the bishop of Rochester for disobedience, and the bishop placed Hugh de Penebrigge in his room, notwithstanding which John thrust him out by force.

‡ This gentleman was among the 200 ministers ejected for nonconformity by the Bartholomew act.

George Wilson, 1682.

Thomas Johnson, 1684.

Edward Roman, 1686.

Henry Maundrell, B. D. 1689.*

Samuel Bowles, 1695.

Harrington Bagshaw, 1698; died May 29, 1739.

Joseph Symms, A. M. June 1739.

Thomas Bagshaw, 1744.

Henry Smith, D. D. 1787, present curate.

Afternoon Lecturer, John Baker, A. M.

To the curacy is added, at the discretion of the bishop of Rochester, 38l. out of the interest of 2000l. left by Bishop Warner to augment poor benefices within his diocese. The curate also receives 20l. per annum out of the great tithes.†

POPULATION, &c.

Lysons says the register of baptisms begins in 1558, that of burials in 1578, and that of marriages in 1575; that these afford the following comparative state of population, deducting the fractions.

		Average of Baptisms.			Average of Burials.
1580 to 1589	-	24	-	-	19
1680 - 1689	-	34	-	-	38
1730 - 1739	-	43	-	-	47
1790 - 1794	-	82	-	-	69
1795 - 1799	-	84	-	-	62
1800 - 1807	-	73	-	-	57

In 1665 seven persons are said to have died of the plague.

This parish was noted by Wilson for the longevity of many

* Mr. Maundrell was the author of the celebrated book of "Travels from Aleppo to Jerusalem," which journey he undertook while chaplain to the factory at Aleppo.

† Lysons, p. 317. This writer acknowledges himself indebted to the Rev. J. Baker for much of his information relative to Bromley.

of its inhabitants, some of whom he describes as still living at a great age; and that several had died during his residence at Bromley between 80 and 100 years old. In corroboration of this account, Lysons says that Mary White, widow, died at 100 years of age, and was buried January 9, 1800; that two persons of 99 years were buried since 1795, and since the same period three of 92 years, two of 93, one of 95, one of 96, and one of 98 years of age.

The following is the return of the population in 1811.— There are 472 inhabited houses, seven uninhabited, and eleven building. There are 634 families, 207 of which are employed in agriculture, 213 in trade and manufactures, and 214 not comprised in the preceding classes, of which 1431 are males, 1534 females, and the total number is 2965.

CHARITY SCHOOL.

A charity school for clothing and educating a certain number of poor children was established in this place before 1718, and was till lately supported by the interest of 1000*l.* 3 per cents, an annual subscription, and a collection at a charity sermon. The number of scholars consisted of thirteen boys and the same number of girls.*

The above school, in 1814, was abandoned, and a new one established upon the plan introduced by Dr. Bell,† which was considered as offering a more expeditious and extensive mode

* Lysons. From an appendix to the *Environs*, published by the same author, we learn that there was a school in the workhouse, supported by private benefactions, for 40 children, who were taught reading and the Church Catechism; also, that the bishop of Rochester and a few of the principal inhabitants supported a Sunday school for 25 girls, who were partly clothed and educated.

† Two candidates for public favour offered themselves with similar plans of instruction, Dr. Bell and Mr. Lancaster, both claiming priority of invention. Dr. Bell, however, acknowledges himself to have seen a part of his plan practised at Madras; and it is not impossible Mr. Lancaster might have read or heard of the same about that time: thus, both possessed of the outline, might have improved upon it, and offering themselves at the same period to general notice, the public voice was divided.

of instruction than any hitherto known. How far it may answer the expectations of the public time only can discover.

This institution, which bears the name of The Central School, is supported by the subscriptions of the gentry and tradesmen in Bromley and its neighbourhood.

The number of children educated is unlimited, and at present consists of about 100 boys and 70 girls. Mr. Elliot is the master of the boys, and Mrs. Frost superintends the education of the girls.

Two adjoining school-rooms were erected for this purpose in the gravel pits between Bromley and Mason's Hill, of the following dimensions: that for boys 33 feet 6 inches by 29 feet 6, and that for girls 28 feet 2 by 27 feet, which dimensions were adopted from necessity, in order to accommodate the building to some old materials bought for that purpose. A cottage is also built, adjoining the schools, for the use of the schoolmaster.

It is calculated that 250 children may conveniently assemble in these schools, and receive a religious and otherwise useful education, suitable to their circumstances.

BROMLEY COLLEGE.

This noble foundation owes its origin to John Warner, who was bishop of Rochester from the latter end of the reign of Charles I. till the beginning of the reign of Charles II., and not unlikely designed to commemorate the restoration of that monarch, together with the re-establishment of the ancient church. The institution was designed to provide for the honourable retirement of 20 clergymens' widows, of small incomes, to be elected out of any diocese, but a preference was always to be given to the widows belonging to the diocese of Rochester. By will, bearing date 1666, Dr. Warner empowered his executors, Sir Orlando Bridgman, Lord Chief Justice, Sir Philip Warwick, Knight, Dr. Thomas Pierce, and Dr. John Lee, to raise a sum of money adequate to the erection of such a building, out of his personal estate; and char-

ged his manor of Swayton with the annual payment of 450l., namely, 50l. for the chaplain, and 20l. to each of the widows. The edifice was designed to be erected as near Rochester as possible; but no healthy and convenient spot being found, power was given by act of parliament, passed in 1670, for the purpose of explaining and settling some part of the bishop's donation, to the executors to erect the building in some other part within the diocese, and the north end of Bromley was accordingly selected. Provision being made for repairs out of the widows' pensions, the act of parliament before mentioned charged an additional 5l. per annum on the said manor; at the same time enacting that no part of the widows' pensions be reserved for that purpose: but this being thought insufficient, Sir Orlando Bridgman left 200l. for repairs,* with which a fee farm of 10l. per annum was purchased in the borough of Southwark, and payable by the sheriffs of London. These sums have however been since found inadequate, and contributions have been made at different times for this purpose. In 1704, Dr. Plume, archdeacon of this diocese, left 100l. towards its support. Archbishop Tennison, who died in 1715, left 105l., half to the widows and half for repairs; and the same year the trustees gave 50l. a voluntary contribution for the same purpose. In 1737 Mr. Clark, Archdeacon of Norwich gave 5l. 5s.; and in 1757 Mrs. Swift gave 10l. for repairs.

1767. The Rev. Alexander Jephson bequeathed 200l. for repairs, and in 1768 Archbishop Secker gave 500l.

Joseph Wilcox, Esq. (son of Bishop Wileox), completed the inclosure of the College Grove, by building a wall on the eastern side, which cost him 120l.; and Mrs. Wolfe (the mother of the general who fell at Quebec) left by will, in 1765, the sum of 500l. to repair the building.

The comforts of the widows were considerably increased by the liberality of Jeffrey Hethrington, Esq., who, for many years before his death, (which happened in 1767), applied the interest of 200l. old South Sea annuities to the purchase of

† See the tables of benefactions in the chapel.

coals and candles in Bishop Warner's College. After his death, this sum was settled in perpetuity by his surviving brother and heir the Rev. William Hethrington, with this alteration, that the dividends should henceforward be paid to the widows in equal shares, for their own purchase of these necessities.

The widows' funds were further augmented by Bishop Pearce, who transferred 5000*l.* old South Sea annuities into the names of his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Bishop of London, and others, when a deed of trust was executed to declare the uses of this benefaction.

1770. Mrs. Lydia Street gave by will 500*l.* which her executrix Mrs. Robinson refused to pay, it being void in law.

In 1773 Lady Gower gave 500*l.* for the widows.

In 1782 William Pearce, Esq. brother of Bishop Pearce, left 10,000*l.*, in failure of issue from his great-nephew, William Pearce, Esq., and his great-niece, afterwards wife of J. F. Abbot, Esq., (both of whom are now deceased without issue) for the purpose of building ten houses, and endowing them with 20*l.*, besides 10*l.* per annum additional to the chaplain's salary. The houses were built in 1804.

1788. Mrs. Helen Bettenson, of Branbourne, Kent, left 10,000*l.* to build ten additional houses in the college. These were built a few years ago.

1793. The Bishop of Rochester gave by will 300*l.* for repairs.

The chaplain's salary has been further increased by the interest of 100*l.* per annum, 3 per cents, left by the late chaplain, Mr. Bagshaw.*

The income which the widows now altogether receive from the college is 80*l.* 10*s.* per annum; and the chaplain's salary, which had been augmented from 50*l.* to 60*l.* per annum, received a further increase of 40*l.*, when the trustees directed that divine service should be performed in the college chapel on Sundays, which formerly was not usual, the wi-

* Lysons' Environs.

dows being then accommodated with seats in the parish church.

The present edifice consists of two quadrangles, each of which is surrounded by a piazza. The chapel is a neat building in the centre, forming a part of the east side of the first quadrangle; and though originally intended for the accommodation of 20 widows, is sufficiently large to contain 40, with their families, without inconvenience.

When the college consisted of 30 widows only, upon an average of many years about two vacancies occurred annually; and the trustees generally met once, sometimes twice, in the year to fill them up. In 1805, when the ten new houses were filled, in order to obviate the necessity of calling meetings too frequently, and when it might be inconvenient to some of the trustees to attend, they made it a rule to meet only when there should be three vacancies, and ordered the quarterly payments of the vacant houses to be appropriated to repairs; a regulation which, from the inadequacy of the funds to that end, has been of the most essential service to the institution, and eventually must be of the greatest advantage and comfort to the widows, though occasionally productive of distress to individuals, by delaying their admission into the college.

This college was exempted from payment of taxes by act of parliament passed 30th Geo. II.

The funds of this institution were originally vested in twelve trustees, viz. seven official and five elective. The archbishop of Canterbury, bishops of London and Rochester, dean of St. Paul's, judge of the prerogative court of Canterbury, archdeacon of Rochester, and chancellor of the diocese of Rochester, are trustees ex officio; the other five are elected as often as a vacancy happens, and it has been deemed advisable that two of the five should be persons eminent in the law.

The present trustees are
His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.
The Lord Bishop of London.

The Lord Bishop of Rochester.

The Lord Bishop of Lincoln as Dean of St. Pauls.

The Rev. Dr. Law, Archdeacon of Rochester.

The Right Hon. Sir John Nichol, Dean of the Arches.

Dr. Swabey, Chancellor of the Diocese of Rochester.

Lord Viscount Sidney.

Lord Chief Justice Sir Vicary Gibbs.

His Honour the Vice Chancellor Sir Thomas Plumer.

George Norman, Esq. Treasurer.

G. Lee Warner, Esq.

Multon Lambard, Esq.*

These trustees have full power and authority, by act of parliament, to make such orders and rules for the well-government of the college, and the due execution of their trust, as to them, or the major part of them, shall seem meet and convenient.

The present Chaplain is the Rev. James John Talman.

Service is performed regularly every day at 11 o'clock; and on Sundays there are prayers and a sermon in the morning, and prayers in the afternoon.

* Multon Lambard, Esq. of Seven Oaks, was appointed a trustee with the late Lord Amherst, in consequence of their being the joint executors of Mrs. Betenson's will, who, in 1788, bequeathed 10,000l. 3 per cents for the erection and endowment of ten new houses, now constituting the north and south wings of the new quadrangle, and built upon the same plan and elevation with the houses of the old foundation. The purposes of their appointment being accomplished, on the decease of the surviving executor of Mrs. Betenson's will, the trusteeship of the college will revert to the original number, and so remain.

MANOR of SUNDRIDGE*

Is a seat towards the north-east corner of this parish, among the woods, and was formerly the residence of the noted family of the Blands or Blounds, who were anciently lords of Guisnes, in France. One of them had three sons, who came into England with William the Conqueror: one of these returned to France again, the other two remained in England, the former settling in Suffolk and the latter in Lincolnshire: from these the several families of Blunt in this kingdom are descended.

Of a younger branch was Peter le Blund, owner of this place in the reign of Henry III.; in the 39th year of which he was made constable of the Tower of London. His descendant, Edward le Blund, was possessed of Sundridge, 20th Edward III. 1345, as appeared by the book of aids for levying 40s. on every knight's fee throughout the kingdom, for making the Black Prince a knight, in which Edward le Blund was assessed for one fourth of a knight's fee, which John le Blund held in Bromley of the Bishop of Rochester; soon after which this family ended in a female heir, who carried this seat in marriage to Willoughby; from which, after some years, it passed by purchase to Booth, whose descendant, William Booth, was found by inquisition to die seized of the manor of Sundrigg, in the 1st Henry VII. held of the bishop of Rochester by knight's service, and by the service of making suit at the court of the palace aforesaid, and that Robert Booth was his son and heir; in whose descendants Sundridge

* A manor consists of a grant of land previous to the reign of Edward I. either from the king or the lord of the adjoining manor, to which is annexed a certain degree of jurisdiction, as court baron, &c. In the case of Sundridge and Simpsons, the lands were granted by the bishop of Rochester, to whom the lords owed suit and service, and were consequently bound to attend in his courts.

continued till Sith Booth, Esq. dying without male issue, one of his daughters and co-heirs carried it in marriage to Thomas Bettenham, of Shurland in Pluckey, Esq. whose great-grandson, Stephen Bettenham, of Bromley, gent. gave it in marriage with his daughter Anne to Robert Pynsent, third son of John Pynsent, of Chudleigh, Devon, and prothonotary of the common pleas. He died at Sundridge, Dec. 30, 1679, ætat. 74, without issue, and was buried in the chancel of the church. This gentleman was succeeded in the estate and seat by Thomas Washer, of Lincoln's Inn, Esq. and barrister at law, who dying in 1749 without male issue, Mary, his only daughter and heir, carried it in marriage to William Wilson, Esq. high sheriff of the county, in 1766, who died possessed of it August 1776.* In 1792 the manor was sold by his grandson, William Wilson, Esq. to Edward G. Lind, Esq., and in 1796 purchased by Claude Scott, of Chisslehurst, Esq. who pulled down the old house, and erected near its site a handsome mansion for his own residence. Availing himself of the natural scenery, his taste has formed some beautiful pleasure grounds; and had his exertions to introduce a body of water in front of the house been crowned with success, Sundridge might have vied with any of the most charming seats in the country; even at present, its local beauties and elegant architecture never fails in exciting the most pleasing sensations in the mind of the spectator.

This mansion has been lately given by Mr. Scott to his son, Samuel Scott, Esq. who has made it his principal residence.

* Hasted, p. 93.

SIMPSONS.

Is an estate in this parish, which was formerly of much greater account than at present. It was anciently owned by the Bankwells a family of good repute in this neighbourhood. In the 31st Edward I. 1302. John de Banquel was possessed of this estate, and had that year a grant of free warren* in all his lands of Lee, Bromley, &c. to him Cicele his wife, and their heirs.

After this family were extinct, it came into the possession of the Clarks, one of whom, William Clark, in the reign of Henry V. having obtained the king's license, erected a strong but small building of stone, with an embattled wall, and encircled it with a deep moat.

His posterity did not continue in the possession of this place; for about the latter end of the next reign, John Simpson resided here by right of purchase, and having much improved the mansion, it adopted his name, by which it has been called ever since.

In the 11th Edward IV. 1470, Robert Simpson died seized of it. His descendant, Nicholas Simpson, the king's barber, alienated Sympson to Alexander Basset, who, in the reign of Henry VIII. conveyed it by sale to Sir Humphrey Style, of Langley, in the parish of Beckingham, knight, son of Jacob Style, alderman of London.

His descendant, Humphrey Style, of Langley, Esq. dying without male issue, his only daughter and heir Elizabeth carried this estate in marriage to Sir John Elwill, Bart. who dying in 1727 without issue, Edmund his brother succeeded him in title and estate, and about the year 1732 conveyed

* Free warren is the power of granting or denying license to a person to hunt on particular estates.

Simpsons to Hugh Raymond, of Great Saling, Essex, Esq. who settled it on his only son, Jones Raymond, Esq. in tail general, with remainder to his eldest daughter Amy, married to Peter Burrel, Esq. and her issue male. On the death of Jones Raymond, 1738, without issue, Peter Burrel, of Beckenham, in right of his wife above mentioned, became entitled to it, and died in 1756, leaving issue by her, who survived him, two sons and two daughters. Since this period it has passed through the same hands as Langley, and is now the property of Lord Gwyder.

A lease of the estate was granted to Samuel Rickets Esq. who sold it to Col. Jackson about twelve years ago, in whose possession it remains.

From a careful examination by the present writer, it appears that the deep moat extended close to the walls of the ancient castellated building on the north, east, and south sides, and that the angles were secured by a strong buttress projecting into the moat. The whole extent of the foundation of the eastern wall, together with the two buttresses which still remained perfect, were found by admeasurement about 34 yards in length; and the breadth of the building, as far as could be conjectured from its ivy-mantled walls on the south, about 14 or 15 yards. These foundations are built of large flints intermixed with stone and cemented with strong lime mortar. It is probable that the building was square, and entered by a drawbridge on the northern side; and from the circumstance of the wall not extending to the verge of the moat, had a small terrace on the east. The apartments inhabited by the lord of the domain probably either lined the outer wall, and were lighted from a small court in the centre, or consisted of an isolated building within the walls, as was generally the case in castellated mansions, and perhaps, the best plan that could be adopted for the purposes of defence.*

The present building is formed of brick and timber, and appears to have been erected in more settled times on a part of the foundation of the ancient structure; probably on its de-

* See King's Munimenta Antiqua, and Oxford Castle.

cay, and about the sixteenth century. The interior indicates it as designed for the residence of a gentleman of that period. The fire place of the hall, doorways, &c. still remain, though much disfigured by the alterations occasioned by its conversion into a farm house, in which state it has remained for many years. The moat on the western and northern sides has been filled up by the present inhabitant Mr. Jeremiah Ringer who has occupied the house for more than fifty years.*

The ancient road leading to this mansion lay through a part of what is now Col. Jackson's pleasure ground.

PREMISES OF LESSER NOTE.†

It appears by the book of knight's fee, in 9th Edward I. Simon de Cray held half a knight's fee in Brumlaige of the heirs of William de Pincerna, alias Le Botiller of the Bishop of Rochester; that the heirs of John de Braybroc held a sixth part of a knight's fee in Brumle, and Richard Fitz-Jeffery held eight parts in Bromley.

William de Latimer died 1st Edward III, 1326, possessed of land in Bronleigh, his son then 26 years of age, who doing his homage, had livery of land of his inheritance, and in 3d of same reign, obtained a charter of free warren for ever of all his land in Bedford, Norfolk, and this place, in which he had the king's pardon for having purchased the office of

* This time-stricken mansion offers a favourable opportunity for any daring ghost to play his vagaries; and it does not seem to have been neglected: for I was solemnly assured that noises had been often heard in and about the house, sometimes as if the furniture fell down and broke to pieces; and that once a lady appeared dressed in white, with a lighted torch in her hand, accompanied by a gentleman in dark clothes, with a high-crowned broad-brimmed hat which flapped over the sides of his face !!!-----After this marvellous occurrence I presume my reader is prepared to hear any other wonder; and therefore I take the opportunity of informing him there is a tradition, that Bromley church was first attempted to be built at Wigmore, but what the workmen built by day was carried away by night, and fixed on the spot where it now stands, so that the architect was at last obliged to acquiesce, and then the building regularly proceeded !!!

† Hasted. vol. i, p. 95.

coinage in the Tower of London and city of Canterbury, of Maud, the widow of John de Botecourt, who held it by inheritance of the king in capite.*

PLAISTOW

Is a hamlet of Bromley, and the residence of several very respectable families; but its chief ornament is PLAISTOW LODGE, the seat of the Hon. Hugh Lindsay. This mansion was a few years ago the residence of Peter Isaac Thelluson, Esq. a gentleman of extensive property, who died in 1797, and by will bequeathed the whole of his vast fortune into the hands of trustees, directing them to lay out the accumulating produce in land, the whole of which, in case of failure of male issue from his immediate descendants, after three generations, are to be sold, and the moneys issuing from the sale to be applied, under the direction of parliament, towards enabling the sinking fund to liquidate the national debt.†

In 1810 this seat was occupied by Thomas Maltby, Esq. under a lease from the trustees to Mr. Thelluson's will, and in 1812 purchased by the present resident, the Hon. Hugh Lindsay, the brother of Lord Balcarras and Lady Hardwick.

Plaistow contains about forty two houses.

FREELANDS

Is situated between Plaistow and Wigmore, and is the handsome residence of Mrs. Moore, widow and relict of the late Archbishop of Canterbury. In 1701 it was the property of John Whalley, merchant. A lease of it was afterwards granted to Robert Nettleton, Esq. Governor of the Russia Company. Since that time the lease has passed through the hands of Mr. Wells, Robert Adair, Esq. the late surgeon-general, and Thomas Raikes, Esq. deputy governor of the bank.

* Hasted, p. 93.

† Appendix to Lysons.

In 1810 it was in the possession of Charles Browne, Esq. who left it on the death of Mrs. Browne, and is now the property of Mrs. Moore.

WIGMORE.

This hamlet is about one mile east of Bromley, and contains 30 houses, some of which are very handsome. Of these BICKLEY may perhaps claim the superiority, which is a fine seat built in 1780 by John Wells, Esq. on a considerable eminence, and commanding an extensive and delightful view of the surrounding country. The estate was formerly in the possession of Thomas Jukes,* Esq., who had a hunting seat here, and kept a remarkable fine pack of fox-hounds, which were hunted under the famous Potter. In 1759 it was purchased by the above-mentioned John Wells, Esq. who immediately formed the plantations and laid out the pleasure grounds which surround the present mansion. At his death Bickley became the property of his brother, William Wells, Esq. and from him descended to his eldest son, the late Admiral, by whom it was sold to his brother, John Wells, Esq.† the present proprietor.

By this gentleman the house and pleasure grounds have been considerably improved; and the library, which is chiefly his own collection, is deservedly esteemed as one of the choicest and most valuable in the neighbourhood.

At a short distance from Bickley, on the right hand of the road leading from Bromley to Chisselhurst, is the residence of the Hon. John Olmuis, (brother of Lord Carhampton and the late Duchess of Cumberland) one of the commissioners of excise, held under a lease from ----- Farrant, Esq. barrister at law, and grandson of Godfrey Lee Farrant, Esq. late register of the court of admiralty, by whom it was considerably enlarged. Since the death of Mr. Farrant it has been suc-

* At that time the greater part of what is now Mr. Wells's pleasure ground was covered with bushes and furze, used as a cover for foxes, &c.

† In 1812 this gentleman was high sheriff of the county.

cessively inhabited by ----- Johnson, Esq. and Samuel Scott, Esq. the present owner of Sundridge.

SHAWFIELD LODGE is a handsome seat built 30 years ago by John Harrison, Esq. On his death in 1814, it became the property of his brother Andrew Harrison, Esq., and is now the residence of the Rev. William Kindleside.

Andrew Harrison, Esq. and Mrs. Jukes reside in the adjoining mansion.

At a short distance is the residence of Mr. Telford, formerly occupied by Mrs. King, sister to the late General Hyde, who left it, at his decease, to a son of the Rev. Mr. Woolaston, of Chisselhurst, from whom it was purchased by John Wells, Esq. of Bickley, who has granted it on lease to the present proprietor.

Attached to this estate is a remarkable ancient edifice, with an handsome entrance, bearing the initials A. B. and the date 1599 in front. At that period it is probable it was the chief mansion in the hamlet, but all tradition of the name of the family by whom it was built or originally occupied has long ceased. It is probable that after it had fallen to decay, so as to be no longer fit for the residence of a gentleman, the neighbouring mansion was built on the estate, and the present let to poor families.

On the green is a small meeting-house, belonging to the methodists, erected about 40 years ago. The congregation is very small; but there is public worship every Sunday afternoon, chiefly conducted by the local preachers in connection with the followers of the late Mr. John Wesley.

In Wigmore lane is the pleasant summer residence of Henry Barlow, Esq.; a house late in the occupation of Mrs. Munn, and the villa of the late Sir T. Trigg, now inhabited by Mr. Hayes.

SOUTHBOROUGH.

This hamlet is chiefly remarkable for the tradition of its having anciently been the court of a baron who exercised the

power of judging in capital offences. At a farm now in the occupation of Mr. Alexander, some of the aged inhabitants assert, in the memory of their fathers, stood a gate-house, the windows of which were strongly grated with iron bars, and had formerly been used as a prison. They further say, that at a more distant period there stood a court-house near the opposite farm, and executions occasionally took place on a spot not far distant. There are however no records which countenance any such tradition, and the circumstance of this hamlet constituting a part of the manor belonging to the bishop of Rochester, generates a strong suspicion that the whole is fabulous, or at least exaggerated by the mistakes of the ignorant rustics.

In this hamlet are the pleasant seats of Thomas Newnham Esq. and Governor Cameron. It only contains 16 houses, though some of those occupied by the farmers appear to have been erected as early as the reign of James I.

The hamlet is about two miles distant from Bromley.

BROMLEY COMMON

Is a very extensive piece of waste land, on the side of which several gentlemens' seats are erected. The first on the right hand, now in the occupation of Mr. Martin, was some years ago the residence of Thomas Chase, Esq. a gentleman who narrowly escaped with life, amidst the ruins of Lisbon, in which city he resided at the dreadful earthquake of 1751.* About 70 years ago this house was in the possession of Mr. Brit.

At a short distance is the handsome mansion of George Norman, Esq. which, after successively passing through the hands of Mr. Balls and Mr. Guy, was purchased by James Norman, Esq. By this gentleman the edifice was considerably enlarged and improved, and several judicious alterations

* See inscription to the memory of Thomas Chase, Esq. p. 21.

introduced into the pleasure grounds. At his decease it became the property of his son, George Norman, Esq. the present proprietor, who has enriched it with a noble library and a valuable collection of paintings. By considerably enlarging the Ravensbourne, which passes through the pleasure ground at the back of the house, a handsome body of water has been introduced with great effect, which, together with the tasteful arrangement of the plantations, never fails of gratifying the spectator.

About a quarter of a mile distant, on the same side of the road, is OAKLEY FARM, formerly belonging to Mr. Brother-son, and afterwards to Captain Mitford. It was subsequently occupied by Mr. Potts, but has since been sold by Admiral Cornwallis to Major Rhode, by whom it is at present inhabited.

The seat of Colonel Kirkpatrick, on the south side of the common, was built a few years ago for his own residence, and is a very elegant mansion, commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country.

Near it is the late residence of the Rev. Sir Charles Far-naby, Bart.

Several cottages are scattered around the common, which have a pleasing effect in relieving the eye while contemplating this extensive waste. Here the botanist may find every species of heath which this kingdom produces; the gravelly nature of the soil scarcely admitting of the growth of any thing except this plant, a dwarf furze, and rushes. In the summer months, when the former of these are in bloom, the appearance of the common is extremely beautiful; but it cannot fail of producing regret in the mind of the spectator, that so large a tract of land is unproductive.

There are 25 houses on this common and 18 at Mason's Hill.

CONCLUSION.

Having thus traced the outlines of the history of the parish as far as public records and some private documents will admit, in conclusion it may not be amiss to state, that the immediate neighbourhood of Bromley affords as many beautiful prospects of the surrounding country as can be found within several miles of the place. From Martin's Hill (near the church) an extensive view opens over Hayes, Hayes Common, West Wickham, and the rising grounds of Keston and Holwood Hill to Cæsar's Camp, extremely diversified by the contrasted abodes of grandeur and poverty, and all the various tints of umbrageous foliage. From the Tunbridge road the scene is retraced with infinite variations, while the high ground of Wigmore carries the eye over an immense tract of country only bounded by the distant hills. Nor in the enumeration must Bromley Hill be forgotten, ornamented on the left by the handsome seat of Charles Long Esq. and on the right by that of the Hon. Hugh Lindsay, while the eye is extended over the distant space, which includes, besides innumerable hamlets and villages, the proud capital of England, and extends to Hampstead and Highgate.

AN INVESTIGATION
OF THE
ANTIQUITIES OF HOLWOOD HILL,
IN THE PARISH OF KESTON.*

THERE are perhaps few vestiges more worthy the attention of the antiquary, than the intrenchments remaining on Holwood Hill; the easy distance of their situation from the metropolis would have led one to suppose, that long ere this every man would have been tried to fix the period of their formation; and that the society established in London for the furtherance of these interesting studies would have suffered no circumstance or opportunity to escape which might have thrown a light on the subject. On the contrary, little more than cursory mention is afforded by some antiquaries, vague conjecture by others: coins, military weapons, earthen vessels, nay jewels, have been turned up from time to time by the plough, and destroyed, lost, or ignorantly disposed of by the rustic cultivators of the soil.

Large portions of the works have been razed to their foundation, and not one antiquary on the spot to examine their structure, or to rescue their fortuitous contents from oblivion.

* This little tract was first printed in the *Military Register*, vol. i, 1814.

The few observations here offered are the result of personal examination; and though the writer is far from presuming to draw from them any determinate conclusion as to the æra in which the camp was formed, yet they may perhaps lead more able hands to examination and research on the subject.

Cæsar's Camp, the name given to these fortifications by immemorial tradition, is situated on that side of Holwood Hill which forms a sort of inclined plane, in a northerly direction: this site commands a fine view into the counties of Kent, Surrey, Middlesex, Essex, and probably Hertford, while the spires of the ancient Augusta beautifully diversify the distant landscape; it is easy therefore to imagine how well this spot was chosen as a military position. Hasted* describes the camp to be of an oval form, and nearly two miles in circumference; but one might conjecture from the present remains, that it was not more than half that number in circuit, and that it partook in some degree of the ordinary plan of Roman encampments, oblong with rounded corners: there is an angle of this description to the north-west, which strongly militates against the idea of its having been a perfect oval; the western and northern sides now alone remaining, and a thick wood covering the latter, renders the task of determining the precise shape extremely difficult.

The whole extent of these remains (which may perhaps comprise about one half of the original work) measured along the interior vallum, is about 800 paces. The western side is double ditched; on the northern only one foss is discernable, but it is not easy to conjecture, by reason of the obstructions before mentioned, if there was, or was not, originally another. The inner trench is about 54 feet in width, the outer 42 (these admeasurements are made from the centre of the top of one vallum to the centre of the top of the other); the depth of the inner trench may be about 30 feet, that of the outer considerably less. The appearance of the inner vallum or rampart of earth is exceedingly grand and imposing. These

* History of Kent.

valla, when pallisadoed, according to the practice mentioned by Vegetius, must have presented very formidable obstacles to an assailing enemy. The camp has at present two entrances, one to the north the other to the west; it is doubtful whether the northern entrance were original, or if it have been broken through in later days to form the high road which formerly passed through the centre of the camp. The western aperture undoubtedly conducted the garrison down to the pellucid springhead of the river Ravensbourn, a few paces below the camp, whence they derived a copious supply of excellent water,

May it not be conjectured, that this little river, from the works of Holwood Hill, was formerly called *Roman'sbourn*? *Raven* for *Roman* is a corruption authorized by other examples: or did it arise from the Danish *Reafin** having been often displayed upon it where it was navigable, nearer to its conflux with the Thames?

South of the spring there runs out for 6 or 700 yards, in a westerly direction from the camp, an elevated ridge, ditched on the southern side; crossing a ravine, it is obliterated, or was discontinued within a short distance of the spot where the mill now stands.† This ridge might have been a sort of military way, or perhaps was intended as an outwork for the protection of the watering place. The point of contact of the ridge with the camp was probably destroyed when the Right Hon. William Pitt, the late possessor of Holwood, diverted the road from its former course, and directed it through the work in question. This alteration took place in consequence of Mr. Pitt having obtained a grant from the lord of the manor of Wickham of a large portion of Keston Common, for the purpose of enlarging his grounds, in which the whole of

* A banner of the Danes.

† A similar work appears to attach to the Roman camp at Walton-upon-Thames, from which runs a rampart of earth, and a trench, as far as St. George's Hill, in the same parish.---Ambulator, p. 272.

the camp then became enclosed; a belt of birch, Spanish chesnut, and fir, was planted round the ancient works, and clumps of the latter disposed on their summits. But the alterations, alas! did not stop at the point where they might justly have been reckoned improvements; a considerable portion of the entrenchments were levelled with the surrounding surface.

As venerable antiquity could not rescue them from destruction, it is, as before hinted, much to be lamented that the structure of the ramparts was not minutely examined by some zealous antiquary, when so excellent an opportunity was afforded for investigation.

The writer of this sketch has learned from the country people in the neighbourhood, that they were formed by the gravel of the soil being thrown on the trunks of oak trees, numbers of which were dug out in a sound state, black as ebony from age, and applied to the purposes of fuel. The writer, in the year 1813, in vain endeavoured to procure one bit of the wood as a sacred relic. He also understood that at the period of these alterations a sword and some coins were found, with a great number of earthen pipes, which might be of the sort used by the Romans in the conveyance of water into their baths.

The hand of time and the wild graces of nature have conferred on these ancient bulwarks an appearance of the most romantic description; the groups of dark fir trees which mark the summit of the interior vallum, the oaks which are seen growing in the hollow of the trenches beneath, scarcely attaining with their branches the tops of the mouldering ramparts, the purple flowered heath, hoary moss, and yellow broom, with which they are every where covered, the expanse of distant country melting from the blue into æther, together with the solitude of the place, combine to form a scene which must lead the pensive mind to melancholy reflections on the transitory nature of all human grandeur, and the rapid lapse

of ages, in the scale of which the longest life of man is but as a line.

Innumerable rabbits now form the only garrison of this fortress, and seem to threaten, by their burrows, a destruction which time has not been able to effect. The splendid legions of imperial Rome have ceded their station to these fur-clad miners: "her generals and her consuls are no more," and where they erst have trodden, "hisses the gliding snake through hoary weeds that clasp the mouldering ruin."

About a quarter of a mile from the camp, and at the bottom of the south-western declivity of the hill, is a large and elevated tumulus, to which the country people give the singular name of the *War-bank*.

In this tumulus there have apparently been several sepulchral cavities; one of which, a vault or chamber, about twelve feet long, built of flint, with layers of a peculiar sort of large Roman tile, turned up at the edges,* lies perfectly open to view. Several stone chests have been dug up at this place; one of which, six feet three inches in length, was traced with some difficulty to an out-house of the manorial residence of Wickham Court; on the side of this chest is an entablature with a moulding completely in the Roman stile of ornament, on which the name of the defunct might have been inscribed. The spot where another of these chests still lies has been pointed out to the writer, and which being casually discovered and opened a few years since, was found to contain the bones of a man: it was again covered up, being in too mutilated a state to serve for a *horse-trough*! Being within two or three feet of the surface of the ground, an accurate examination of the chest and its contents would cost but little trouble.

* Tiles of a similar description are mentioned in the 8th vol. of *Archæologia*, p. 80, to be found at Reculver (Regulbium) in Kent, and are considered as ducts or channels for heating a bath.

The field in which these sepulchral remains are situated belongs to the farm of Mr. Chapman of Keston, whose workmen, in making a hedge and dyke close to the War-bank, discovered several coins, some gold rings set with jewels, a spur, a dagger, an earthen vessel of rude workmanship, and a key; the most valuable of these articles are lost to the antiquary; the key, about an inch and an half long, and apparently of a Roman make, with a brass coin of the Emperor Nero, are still in existence. It is said that the plough is every where obstructed in this field by the foundations of buildings, which may be traced by the corn growing thinly in places where they stood.

These circumstances and the distance from London, not more than twelve miles in a direct line, confirm the opinion of those who are for placing the Noviomagus of the Imperial Itinerary at Keston.*

Having said thus much of the present state of Keston Camp, and its immediate vicinity, it may be well briefly to cite the opinions of those antiquaries who have touched on the subject.---Philipot conjectures it to have been made by Cæsar, in his second invasion of Britain: Hasted is of opinion that this was the camp in which Aulus Plautius waited for reinforcements from the Emperor Claudius, after his fourth action with the Britons: Horsley says, it has been supposed from its size to be a station for horse, remarking at the same time that the largest known station for horse did not take up a tenth part of the compass.

Few of these opinions seem formed on any accurate or personal inspection of the work itself; some describing it as double trenched, others as treble; some as oval in its form, others as square: while the antiquities at the War-bank are entirely unnoticed.

Will not Cæsar's description authorize the conjecture that Keston Camp was primarily a British Town?---"Op-

* Somner, Stillingfleet, and Salmon.

pidum autem Britanni vocant quum silvas impeditas vallo atque fossa munierunt, quo incursionis hostium vitandæ causa convenire consueverunt. Eo proficiscitur cum legionibus locum reperit egregie natura atque opere munitum. Tamen hunc duabus ex partibus oppugnare contendit. Hostes paulisper morati militum nostrorum impetum non tulerunt, seseque ex alia parte oppidi ejecerunt: Magnus ibi numerus pecoris repertus.”*

Any person examining the site of Keston Camp will readily allow that it answers exactly, in many points, to this description of a British town. It must formerly have stood in the midst of thick oak woods, a considerable portion of which agricultural labours have not yet eradicated; and if it exceeds in its area the space commonly allotted by the Romans for their camp, it may be very well supposed, that the flocks and herds driven by the Britons for security into their towns, would require an extent of ground equal to this to contain them, the strength of the valla, and the trees on which they appear to have been formed, correspond with the expressions “egregie opere munitum.”

To suppose this the identical town mentioned in the passage above quoted from Cæsar, would be liable to many objections.† But if these fortifications were originally British, of which there appears no small probability, no one will dispute their posterior occupation by the Romans. On the other hand, it may be urged that the form of Keston Camp, differing from the ordinary mode of Roman castrametation, makes but little against its being a Roman work.

The quadrangular plan was sometimes departed from, as

* Cæsar, lib. v, cap. 7.

† The British town which Cæsar stormed has always been considered as Verulam, where the Romans had afterwards a station.

appears by Vegetius.--“ Interdum quadrata, interdum trigona, interdum semi rotunda, prout loci qualitas aut necessitas postulaverit castra facienda sint;” and again, “ semi rotunda seu oblonga castra Galbæ fuerunt.” The trenches at Old-boro’ Hill, near Ightham, in Kent, which are considered as Roman, follow the edge of the hill, which is a noble military position.

Perhaps, on the whole it may be reasonable to surmise that these fortifications were originally British; that they were afterwards occupied, and perhaps improved by the Romans, as a permanent station; and a town called *Noviomagus** was built in the valley below, of the existence of which the remains in the *War-bank* field afford some proof. On the declension of the Roman Empire, this town was probably sacked and destroyed, in the wars between the Saxons and Britons;† those who fell in the contest might be buried at the place since traditionally called the *War-bank*, and this will account for the Roman ornament carved on the coffin found at that place, the Roman arts and manners having, from a settlement of four hundred years, been engrafted on the Britons; and Christianity being introduced, the practice of burning the dead was left off. The sepulchre was formed from the rubbish of the ruined town, and thus the tiles of a bath were built into the wall.

It is now high time to bring these remarks to a termination: on the justness of his conjectures, the writer hopes that more competent antiquaries will be tempted by actual observation and research to decide; his object will be then fully accomplished. With all his respect for Roman arts and Roman arms, he shall be happy to find Hol-

* Keston is supposed to derive its appellation from *Kæsar’s* or *Cæsar’s* Town; perhaps the word is only a Saxon corruption of *castrum*.

† The small key dug up at the *War-bank* appears to have been exposed to the action of fire.

wood hill a spot on which the modern British soldier may exclaim,—

“ Here the rude but free inhabitants of my native country undauntedly withstood the disciplined power of Rome, and compelled even Cæsar to return the *explorator* rather than the *conqueror* of—

—“ This England hedged in with the main;
This water-walled bulwark, still secure,
And confident from foreign purposes.”

EXTRACTS FROM THE VESTRY BOOK.

The earliest vestry book is partly composed of papers relative to the assessment of the inhabitants, and the relief of the poor, which seems to have been bound with some fresh paper. The earliest date is 1688.

1688. In this year the assessment was at 1s. in the pound amounting to 66l. 2s.

1703. Oct. 14. Ordered that John Doodny the beadle have a newe blew coate bought him and a paire of stockings betweene this and Christmas

Dec. 19. Ordered that an inventory be taken of every ones goods who shall become standing pensioners to this parish.

1704. March 18. Forty shillings allowed to Mr. Bagshaw for repairing the church yard fonte. (probably and font.)

In this year it seems to have been customary for the poor relieved by the parish to wear a badge, and in consequence it was ordered 'that the allowance be taken off the Widow Meridith for refusing to wear the badge, and as a further punishment an order was made for the conveyance of her house and appurtenances to the Overseers.'

1705. Oct. 14. Ordered that all seated in pews by the churchwardens be registered, and have keys to their pews, and all the pews in the church be numbered, and the pews in gallery to be lettered.

The altar being very ruinous, a new one was erected, painted, and gilded as it now stands, the footplace paved with black and white marble, and the whole inclosed with rails and banisters by subscription of the inhabitants. At the same time the body of the church was paved, and locks placed on the pews. By the subsequent bills and receipts it appears the whole expence of the altar was 52l. 7s. 8d.

1707, Dec. 26. Ordered that a rate of 6d. in the pound upon full rents be levied upon all landholders and other inhabitants of Bromley, for and towards the repairs of the church, only 3d. being levied before.

1716, May 20. The churchwardens are allowed to expend upon the minister and parishioners such money as they in their discretion think proper, when they go on perambulation on the 23d.

1736. Whereas our poors' rate has increased of late years more and more, so as to become almost impossible to be raised, by reason of the great number of the poor; it is therefore agreed upon erecting a workhouse, and the overseers are directed to seek a convenient spot for this purpose, and deliver in an estimate of the expence.---Afterwards estimated at 400l. on a life annuity.

1732-3. At a public vestry it was agreed to request and choose William Emmet, Esq. and John Righton to treat and agree with the parishioners of Beckenham, upon the joining and settling the poor of each parish jointly together in the workhouse of Bromley.

1761. Resolved, that it is the opinion of this vestry that Dr. Hawkesworth is eligible to serve parish offices, notwithstanding his degree of doctor in the civil law,* and therefore the list appointed to be returned to the next bench of justices, by order of vestry, for their choice of overseers. Mr. Edward Bromden immediately following Dr. Hawkesworth.

1763. Ordered that no pew in the church be hereafter disposed of without a fine levied by a vestry.

A vestry called at the request of William Scott, Esq. lessee of the half-yearly land in the parish, under the bishop of Rochester, for an application to parliament for inclosing the same the whole year, and extinguishing the inhabitants' and others' right of common thereon; and what the parish will take as an equivalent. At a subsequent vestry, the parish agreed to accept 40l. per annum rent on the said land, which terms were accepted by Mr. Scott.

1764, April 19. Motion made and carried for the erection of a gallery in the church.

1765, Jan. 20. 280l. borrowed for this purpose on a life annuity of 8l. per cent, on the respective lives of B. Brown and Susanna Rogers, for the above purpose.

1769, Aug. 2. An apartment ordered to be built at the farther end of the workhouse, for receiving distressed families, which had hitherto been put in the watch-house.

1770. Two men appointed to traverse the town, to impound swine found wandering in the streets: for each of which so impounded, the overseers are directed to pay these men 3d. And that the inhabitants may know these men are on duty, one of them is ordered to carry a bell, and ring it twice a day, opposite the College-gate, the Bell, the White Hart, and the Three Compasses.

1771, Oct. 20. Ordered that a vestry be held concerning the intention of erecting a new gallery over the old one. On that day the plan agreed on, and a subsequent estimate by H. Staples states the expence at 32l. 10s.

1772. The bells ordered to be recast, and 250l. borrowed for that purpose on a life annuity.

* Much dispute arose between the Doctor and the parish, on their choosing him overseer, though it seems that he afterwards served the office.

FINIS.

Collated B. Guaritch Ld.

11

9/11/31.

