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THE STORY OF  
COTTENHAM, Co. CAMBRIDGE.

THE MANORS IN DOMESDAY TIMES. The authentic history of Cottenham may be said to commence with the Norman Conquest, and is contained in three particular compilations, viz. *Domesday Book*, *Inquisitio Comitatus Cantabrigiensis*, and *Inquisitio Eliensis*. The first of these is too well known to need any considerable remark. It will here suffice to say that its date is generally agreed to be A.D. 1086. The second document—the Inquest for the County of Cambridge—exists in one single manuscript which dates from 1180 or thereabouts, and is preserved among the *Cottonian MSS.*, in the British Museum, under the reference number, *Tiberius A. vi.* Unfortunately, that portion which particularly relates to Cottenham has been lost, so that the scanty information Domesday affords will have to be supplemented by our third document—the Ely Inquest, an Inquiry into the holdings of the Abbey of Ely. It is contained in the same MS., as the Inquest for the shire and was probably drawn up in the first instance as a preliminary to the settlement of the possessions of Ely by William I. Domesday Book and the Ely Inquest regard Cottenham from different points of view. The first takes cognisance of all taxable property, omitting all irrelevant details: the second aimed at including all the property of the Abbey, and disregarded all else. Thus much for our authorities. Let us now examine the picture they disclose of Cottenham.

Cottenham, then as now, was included in the Chesterton Hundred, and its importance can be judged from the fact that of the eight jurors for the Hundred, named by the *Inquisitio Eliensis*, two were Cottenham men: viz. Sturmidus de Cotenham and Almar de Cotham, or Cotenham.

There were three great landowners: the Abbey of Ely, the Abbey of Crowland, and Picot the Sheriff of the County. Of the holdings of each, the Domesday Book gives a full account, while the Ely Inquest, as we have seen, deals only with what concerns itself, *i.e.* its own Manor and the land which Picot the Sheriff occupied.

The Ely Manor came into the possession of the Abbey from a certain Leofwin, who, being guilty of matricide, gave to the church of Ely "terram de Cothenham" amongst other estates.\* It contained ten hides—that is 1,200 acres—and sufficient plough land for 8 teams of eight oxen apiece. Of this land, 720 acres was held immediately by the Abbey, with a team of eight oxen, 'and,' adds the *Inq. Elien.* 'a second could be formed.' The rest of the land was held by 16 villeins—ten, the *Inq. Eliensis* wrongly states—and 10 cottagers with six teams of oxen. These villiens were legally free men, but owed to the Manor on which they were, and from which they could not depart, certain services, working for the lord two, three or more days in the week. The cottagers seem to have held very little land of their own (nine of them possess crofts in *Inq. El.*) but worked partly for the lord of the Manor, partly for the villeins.

In addition to these, there were two serfs, slaves who were as much the property of their master as a dog, with hardly any legal rights. There was also meadow land for the plough teams, pasture for the sheep, &c., of the town. At the time of the return its value was £5.

The Crowland Manor is given in much the same terms, except that mention is made of a fishery from which 500 eels were obtained—presumably per annum—and 12 pence is named as a present. This Manor is stated to be worth £6 per annum.

The Sheriff's Manor consisted of 600 acres with the usual tenants, pasture, teams, &c., to the value of 40 shillings at the time of the survey. From a fishery came 150 eels, and as the *Inq. Eliensis* alone informs us, 25 'fishes.' The land in question was occupied by three

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\* See *Historia Eliensis* Lib ii., Cap 1x., Ed. Stewart.

sokemen—two sokemen says the Abbey of Ely, careful only about its own—or holders of land under a bond, the nature of which is quite hypothetical. One of these, Oswi, it is interesting to note, is mentioned by name in the Ely Inquest. Some of this land evidently belonged to the Abbey of Ely, and had been occupied by Picot. In addition to this we read that the sheriff had also in his possession 40 acres and a croft of the Abbey of Ely, valued at 10 shillings, and 40 acres of plough land and 5 acres of pasture of the Abbey of Crowland.

Such are the particulars of the early tenure of property in Cottenham. It may be worth while to sum up these particulars in a few general facts previous to setting out the entries in the Domesday Book and *Inquisitio Eliensis* in an extended text and translation.

The Ely Manor comprised ten hides, or 1200 acres, and 28 able-bodied labourers are mentioned: the Crowland Manor consisted of 1320 acres with 21 labourers; while Picot, holding 600 acres, had 14 labourers and 3 sokemen or yeomen-farmers. The population of Cottenham, as far as can be gathered from Domesday, was 56, but of course many of these were heads of families, and perfectly free persons would not be mentioned. The acreage of the town was 3120 acres, and two fisheries produced 650 eels and 25 fishes per annum. In the *Hundred Rolls* (2 Edw. I.), Cottenham is reckoned at 27 hides or 3240 acres.\* The 11 hides of the Crowland Manor are described as “ut in terris, pratis, pasturis et mariscis . . . unde dictus Abbas et Conventus tenent in dominio de dictis undecim hidis duas hidas arabiles, et quinque hidas in pratis, pasturis et mariscis pertinentibus ad predictam villam.”

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\* The present estimate is somewhat above 7,000 acres. The difficulty however of reconciling the different land measures of the Domesday survey with those of later times is well known, and in the state of our knowledge it is impossible to arrive at any satisfactory conclusion. Much has been written on the subject, but particular mention may be made of learned papers by the late Mr. O. C. Pell and others in the two volumes of *Domesday Studies* issued in 1888—1891 under the auspices of the Domesday Commemoration Committee.

## LIBER CENSUALIS VOCATI 'DOMESDAY BOOK.'

[Terra Abbatie de Ely].

*In Cestretone Hundreto.* Manerium COTEHAM pro ix hidis se defendit. Terra est viii carrucis. In dominio vi hidae et i carruca. Ibi xvi villani et x cotarii cum vi carrucis. Ibi ii servi. Pratum viii<sup>to</sup> carrucis. Pastura ad pecuniam villae. In totis valentiis valet et valuit c solidis; Tempore Regis Edwardi viii libris. Hoc manerium iacetet iacuit in ecclesiae dominio de Ely.

[Terra Ecclesiae de Croiland].

*In Cestretone Hundreto.* Manerium Coteham tenet abbas de Croiland. Ibi xi hidae. Terra est viii carrucis. In dominio vi hidae, et ibi est una carruca, et altera potest fieri. Ibi xii villani et viii bordarii cum vi carrucis. Ibi i servus. Pratum viii carrucis. Pastura ad pecuniam villae. De maresca quingentae anquillae, et de presentatione xii denarii. In totis valentiis valet et valuit vi libris; tempore regis Edwardi viii libris. Hoc manerium fuit semper et est in dominio ecclesiae Sancti Guthlaci.

[Terra Picot de Grentebri].

*In Cestretone Hundreto.* In Coteham tenet Rogerus de Picot v hidas. Terra est iii carrucis. In dominio est una, et alia potest fieri. Ibi vi villani cum viii cotariis habent: carrucam. Pratum iii carrucis. Pastura ad pecuniam villae de maresca cl auguillae. Valet xl solidis: quando recepit, l solidis: tempore regis Edwardi lx solidis. Hanc terram tenuerunt iii sochemanui. Horum unus, homo sanctae Edeldredae, tenuit iii hidas et dimidiam, xiiii acris minus: non potuit idare quia erat de dominio ecclesiae; et alter, homo abbatis, i hidam et dimidiam habuit et dare potuit sine soca; et tercius, homo Wallef comitis, xiiii acras habuit et dare et vendere potuit.

In Coteham tenet Picot xl acras et i ortum de dominio ecclesiae de Ely.

In eadem Coteham tenet Picot xl acras terrae et v acras prati de dominio Ecclesiae Sancti Guthlaci.

DOMESDAY BOOK.

[Land of the Abbey of Ely].

*In Chesterton Hundred.* Manor. Cottenham gelds for 9 hides. There is land for 8 teams. In the demesne are 6 hides and 1 team. There are 16 villeins, 10 cotiers with 6 teams. There are 2 serfs. Meadow for 8 teams. Pasture for the cattle of the town. In total value it is worth and has been worth 100 shillings: in King Edward's time £8. This manor lies and laid in the lordship of the church of Ely.

[Land of the Church of Crowland].

*In Chesterton Hundred.* Manor. The abbot of Crowland holds Cottenham. There are 11 hides. There is land for 8 teams. In the demesne are 6 hides and there is 1 team and a second can be formed. There are 12 villeins and 8 bordiers with 6 teams. There is 1 serf. Meadow land for 8 teams. Pasture for the cattle of the town. From the marsh, 500 eels, and 12 pence from presents. In total value it is and has been worth £6: in King Edward's time, £8. This manor is and always has been in the lordship of the Church of S. Guthlac.

[Land of Picot of Cambridge].

*In Chesterton Hundred.* In Cottenham Roger holds of Picot 5 hides. There is land for 3 teams. In the demesne is one and another can be formed. Six villiens there, with 8 cotiers have one team. Meadow land for 3 teams: pasture for the cattle of the town. From the marsh, 150 eels. It is worth 40 shillings: when he received it, 50 shillings: in King Edward's time 60 shillings. Three sokemen held this land. One of these was a vassal of S. Etheldreda and held  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hides lacking 14 acres: he could not give his land because it was of the lordship of the Church: another, was a vassal of the abbot and held  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hides: he could give it away but without the soke: the third, a vassal of Earl Wallef, had 14 acres and could give or sell them.

In Cottenham Picot holds 40 acres and 1 croft of the lordship of the Church of Ely.

In the same Cottenham Picot holds 40 acres of land and 5 acres of meadow land of the lordship of the Church of S. Guthlac.

## INQUISITIO ELIENSIS.

*In Cestretone Hundreto.* Cotenham tenet abbas Eli x hidas. viii carrucis ibi est terra. i carruca et vi hidae in dominio, aliaque potest fieri. vi carrucas [habent] homines. x villani, i cotarius, ix de ortis suis, ii servi. Pratum viii [carrucis]. Pastura ad pecora villae. In totis valentiis valet c solidis; quando recepit c solidis; tempore regis aeduardi viii libris. Hoc manerium iacet et iacuit in ecclesia Sanctae Aedeldrethae in dominio

(*Fol. 45a., Col. i.*)

In eadem villa tenet Picotus vicecomes v hidas xiiii acris minus. iii carrucis ibi est terra. i carruca in dominio et alia potest fieri. i carrucam [habent] homines, vi villani, viii cotarii. Pratum iii carrucis. Pastura ad pecora villae. De marisca cl anguillae et viginti v pisces. Inter totum, valet xl solidis: quando recepit l solidis: tempore regis Edwardi iii libris. Hanc terram tenuerunt ii sochemanni: unus istorum, Osuui, iii hidas et dimidiam xiiii acris minus habuit de dominio Sanctae Aedeldrethae, et non potest vendere, et alter i hidam et dimidiam: potuit dare sine soca. Hi fuerunt homines abbatis Ely: et unus autem potuit et alter non potuit.

In eadem villa tenet Picotus vice comes xl acras et unumortum de dominio Sanctae Aedeldrethae et valet x solidis.

(*Fol. 45a., Col. 2.*)

## [Names of the Jury for Chesterton Hundred].

In Cestretone hundreto iuraverunt Rogerus de Cilderlaia, Giffard de Draitona, Gillebert de Histona, Sturmidus de Cotenham, Bruningus de Cestretone, Almar de Cotham [Cotenham C.]. Ledmarus de Draiton, Ernius de Cilderlaia, et omnes alii Franci et Angli de hoc hundreto iuraverunt. (*Fol. 39a., Col. i.*)

*Summary of possessions of the Abbey.*

## [At the end of the "Inquisitio Eliensis."]

Cotenham. ii dominicae carrucae, vi hidae carrucatae (?), xvi villani, decem bordarii duo servi. Hoc est, vi dominicae carrucae, xv hidae carrucatae (?), xxxv villani, xviii bordarii, vii servi. (*Fol. 67a., Col. ii.*)

(*Fol. 68b., Col. i.*)

NOMINA VILLARUM. Cotenham. vi carrucae.

(*Fol. 68b., Col. iii.*)

*Picotus vice comes.* In Cotenham. v hidae xii acris minus.

\*In Cotenham tenet rursus Picot hidam et dimidiam et unam virgatam ad servitiuni et iii alias virgatas de soca. (*Fol. 211A.*)

\* This extract occurs in a list of those who wrongfully keep back lands of the Abbey of Ely.



THE ELY INQUEST.

*In Chesterton Hundred.* The abbot of Ely holds 10 hides at Cottenham. There is land for 8 teams. In the demesne are 6 hides and one team and another can be formed. The men own 6 teams. There are 10 villeins, 1 cotier, 9 possessing their own crofts, two serfs. Meadow land for 8 teams: pasture for the cattle of the town. In total value it is worth 100 shillings: when received, 100 shillings: in King Edward's time, £8. This manor lies and laid in the lordship of the church of St. Etheldreda.

In the same town Picot the sheriff holds 5 hides lacking 14 acres. There is land for 3 teams. In the demesne is one team and another can be formed. The men hold one team, *viz.* 6 villeins, 8 cotiers. Meadow land for 3 teams. Pasture for the cattle of the town. From the marsh, 150 eels and 25 fishes. Altogether it is worth 40 shillings: when he received it, 50 shillings: in King Edward's time, £3.

Two sokemen held this land: one of them Osui held  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hides less 14 acres, of the lordship of S. Etheldreda and cannot sell: the other held  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hides and could give them away, without the soke. These were men of the abbot of Ely, and one could, the other could not [sell his land].

In the same town Picot the sheriff holds 40 acres and one croft of the lordship of S. Etheldreda and they are worth 10 shillings.

In Chesterton hundred the jurors were Roger of Childerley, Giffard of Drayton, Gillebert of Histon, Sturmibus of Cottenham, Bruning of Chesterton, Almar of Cottenham, Ledmar of Drayton, Ernius of Childerley; and all the other French and Englishmen of this hundred were jurors.

*Summary of Lands, &c. of Ely Abbey.*

Cottenham: 2 demesne teams, 6 hides of plough-land (?) 16 villeins, 10 bordiers, 2 serfs. That is 6 demesne teams, 15 hides of plough-land, 35 villeins, 18 bordiers, 7 serfs.

NAMES OF TOWNS.                      Cottenham.                      6 teams.

*Picot the Sheriff.*                      In Cottenham.                      6 hides less 12 acres.

In Cottenham Picot again holds  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hides and one virgate in slavery and other 3 virgates of soke.

FURTHER MANORIAL DETAILS. Of these Manors, that of *Crowland*, which, as some think, lay on the west of Cottenham, the site of the house lying off the present High Street, as will be hereafter mentioned, was given to the renowned Lincolnshire Abbey by a priest named Turketel, a grandson of Alfred the Great. At the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539 it passed to the Crown, and ten years later to Lord Edward Fiennes in exchange for other lands. The manor of the Monastery of *Ely* (since given to the See, but latterly in private hands), became subsequently known as *Pelhams*.\* The *de Lisle's* of Ridgmont and Rampton held the Manor, so called, formerly Picot's. There are now three other recognized Manors or sub-manors, *viz.* *Sahams*, *Sames* or *Kalys* (owned by the Burgoyne and Thursby families); *Burdeley's* or *Harleston's* (which passed, *temp.* Edw. iii., by co-heiresses to the Cottenham families of Marshall, and Chambers, and is now held by Christ's College, Cambridge); and the *Rectory Manor*. The Manors of *Crowland*, *Lisle's* and *Saham's* were purchased by the renowned Cambridge Carrier, Thomas Hobson, (members of whose family were for some time resident in the district), and are now possessed by representatives of the Musgrave family. The land has been for the most part enfranchised so that the manorial rights are now of small account. Those who may be said to represent the former 'free-tenants' (paying rents and rendering services) are now owners. It will thus be seen that the manorial history is very extensive.

Before the Justices itinerant at Cambridge (7 Henry I.) the Abbot and Convent of Crowland claimed a 'view of Frankpledge, Waif and Infang-thef' † over their several manors of Cottenham, Hokington and Draiton.

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\* This small Manor was given to the keeper of St. Mary's Altar at Ely in the time of Bishop Hervey le Breton (died 1131). It was originally the gift of Iwa, a Saxon noble, together with Wiyelingham (Willingham).

† In the *Subsidy* roll of 1 Edw. iii. (1326) under Cottenham appears the name of Wm. de Pelham.

† *Frank-pledge*: the original of our *Court Leet*, the right to view the frank pledges or Manor freemen, who were mutually pledged each for the good behaviour of the other. *Waif* and *Infang-thef*: the power to try cases of ownerless property and of theft or larceny within the liberty.

The respective rights of the several manors were unquestionably a source of frequent controversy. An instance of this occurs in a disputation (*temp.* Edw. iii.) regarding the manner in which the cutting of the fen turf by the free-tenants of the several lords should be undertaken. A sufficiency for each man's 'housbote' was claimed. The names given are as follows:—

For Lord de l'Isle	{ Symon Pagge.
	{ Symon Wade.
„ Abbot of Crowland	{ Symon Warloke.
	{ John Leet.
„ Lord of Burdeleys	{ Thomas P . . .
„ the Rector	John Sygare.
„ Lord of Pelhams	John Hervey.
„ Lord of Kaly's (or Sames)	William Sygare.

The Court Rolls of the *Rectory Manor* which are deposited in a large chest remaining in the Church, form a particularly large and valuable collection of early records, including writings that date from the beginning of the fifteenth century. Constituting, as they do, the title deeds of the copyholders of the manor, we are able to obtain the names of many of the early inhabitants, and can thus trace the descent of property held of this manor on certain conditions of suit or service, and gather many interesting particulars relating to old-time customs, etc. Concerning the origin of this manor, I am unable to furnish any particulars. It was certainly not in itself a Domesday manor, and is in all probability an off-shoot or sub-manor of the Ely holding. The first dated Court-roll in this collection (A.D. 1428) belongs to a period during which Maurice Wynter held the Rectory. As the benefice appears to have been more or less continuously filled by Clerks, either related to the Bishop or in some way closely connected with the See, and not infrequently holding other considerable preferment, it is reasonable to suppose that the manor was an early creation, designed, it may be, in a measure, to protect the interests of the Church of Ely in the neighbourhood and enlarge the influence of the parish church in the midst of conflicting

claims to pre-eminence. Of course this is merely conjectural, but I have an idea that the Crowland influence was far from being inoperative in the matter of a firm maintenance of *prestige*, and, to say the least, had to be considered.

In these documents we find the names of the 'homagemen,' the customs and services of the manor, the nature of the fines levied, payment of rent in kind, as *e.g.* in the form of fat capons, or 'wax of pollen' to be made into tapers for the High Altar on the Feast of All Saints, and much other interesting matter including full lists of the fourteenth and fifteenth century inhabitants. The series extends from 12 Richard II., to 9 Henry VII.\*

An entry of singular interest relates that in 1487, Thomas Gygner, Thomas King, Robert Leet, John, son of Simon Green and Nicholas Reynold were each fined twelve pence for digging in search of silver, without licence, on land called 'Jakes' next to 'Bigyngs Croft End.' In those times the earth was frequently the place chosen for the deposit of treasure, and the knowledge, real or imaginary, that money was stored away in the ground probably led to a frequent and inconvenient disturbance of the soil. In corroboration of this, I may instance the following, extracted from the Steel MSS., (*Topog. Cambs., c.1., Bodl. Libr. Oxf. under Rampton; it should really be under Cottenham*)† :—

"In Aug 1715 was found near 1000 pieces of old coin, upon London Hill, abt ½ mile from Rampton, the silver is good, it appears to be the coin of Henry II., [as some of the pieces whose image and superscription is fair discover]. It was first discovered by a shepherd who found a little earthen vessel (worn green with age) full. Several people of the town by digging a foot or two deep have also found several other pieces."

Regarding Turketel, who owned the Cottenham manor, we have some interesting particulars. Having been sent by his cousin, King Athelstan, to quell a disturbance at

\* A commencement has been made in the work of transcribing these Charters which are being printed with notes in *The East Anglian* (Vol X.) as opportunity permits. Those already printed refer mainly to properties at Cottenham and Westwick forming "the Church and Causeway Estate" of Cottenham.

† I am indebted to Miss Parsons of Horseheath for this reference.

York (A.D. 936), Turketel stayed the night at Crowland Abbey, then only occupied by three aged monks, the place having in 870 been set on fire by the Danes and ruined. The courage of these old inmates stirred in Turketel so strong a desire to devote himself and all that he possessed to the re-building of the Abbey that he forthwith endowed it with his manors of Wendlyngburg, Elmyngton, Worthorp Beby, Hokyngton (Oakington) and Kottenham,\* and gave his life to religion, being eventually elected Abbot. This gift was afterwards confirmed by a charter of king Etheldred granted in 948 from which we learn that a Church then existed in Cottenham.

After the death of Turketel in 975 the Danes continued to devastate the country and the manors of Hokyngton and Kottenham were not only burnt but the inhabitants slaughtered. In 1017-1032 the two decayed manors were re-built under Abbot Brihtmer. In the days of Canute the Abbot of Crowland, Leofsin, let the estate at Cottenham on the understanding that the tenants should supply the Abbey of Ely with provisions for one week in the year. The reason for such an arrangement is not clear, but it may have had some connection with a previous bequest to the Abbey of Ely of land at Cottenham by the Saxon Abbot, Leofwine, in 1016.

It is usually supposed that at Cottenham, the University, afterwards planted at Cambridge, had its commencement, Geoffrey of Croyland sending monks to lecture at Cottenham in the year 1106. Considerable doubt exists as to the veracity of a reputed history of Croyland which bears the name of Ingulph, who became Abbot of Croyland in 1085. It was on the death of this Ingulph that Geoffrey (or Geoffrid) prior of St. Evroul in Normandy was summoned by Henry I., to succeed him at Croyland, and he immediately set about the re-building of the oft stricken Abbey, the ruins of which are still in evidence. But it was with more enduring materials that this

\* In the Guthlac Roll of the twelfth century (c. 1160) 'Turketellus' is shown holding a scroll inscribed 'Ego Abbas Turketellus do tibi pater Guthlac sextam partem hereditatis mee Wenliburch (Wellingborough), Bebi (Beeby; Leic.), Coteham (Cottenham) Hokintune' (Oakington).

vigorous and learned man sought to build. To the Croyland manor at Cottenham he is said to have sent Gilbert (de Cottenham)\* one of the monks from St. Evroul, together with three companions, Odo, Terric and William. The particular habitation where they sojourned had been erected in 1032 by Brihtmer, the Abbot. It was probably on or adjacent to the site of what is known as "the Abbot's Close," to which in 1511, Wm. Pepis, senior, was admitted at a Court Baron of the Rectory. The ground in question is a spot of considerable interest owing to the fact that it is none other than that which comprises the elevated earthwork surrounded by a moat to which reference will be made later on. At different times the place has undoubtedly witnessed stirring events and been the scene of strife and conflict. The influence of Gilbert and his companions in maintaining the rights of Croyland was presumably of considerable weight. In one year, we find that as a result of Gilbert's advocacy one hundred marks were raised in Cottenham for rebuilding the ruined Abbey. It mattered not that the Cottenham folk knew neither Latin or French, but only the vulgar tongue, Gilbert, surnamed "de Cottenham," found a way to quicken their zeal by his own devotion.

An important Charter was granted by king Stephen about the year 1140, which gave the Church and monastery of Croyland exemption from taxation in respect of upwards of 13 hides of land possessed by the monks in Cambridgeshire, of which five-and-a-half hides were in Cottenham, "for the salvation of his soul and the souls of his children, his uncle king Henry, and his predecessors, kings of England, Queen Matilda his wife, Eustace his son, and the souls of the faithful departed."

One of the Abbots of Croyland, Robert de Redinge, had a sharp contention with certain Fen men and the litigation was long and tedious. In the course of one of his journeys to London in relation to this matter the aged Abbot was taken ill and died at his Manor house at Cottenham, where he was buried in 1191. His death

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\* Afterwards Abbot of Westminster. He died in 1140.

was doubtless hastened by the perversity of the fen men and his own devotion to duty.

THE PLACE-NAME, ETC. It may now be advisable before referring to Cottenham history of mediæval days to retrace our steps in order to gather a few details of interest in relation to times even more remote than those we have considered. The early English settlers in this locality occupied what was undoubtedly a position of great natural advantage; at first, in all probability, on the immediate fen border land, and subsequently on the higher ground, where habitations of the community would be gradually formed. The Domesday Survey, in what I regard as a very interesting connection, places us I venture to think, in possession of the origin of the place-name, Cottenham. Both constituent parts of the name embody a like feature, *viz.* the dwellings (*Cotan*) of the *Cotarii*, who were an important section of the population. They represent such of the inhabitants who dwelt in the home district, in contradistinction to those residing in and around the fen border. The *Cotarii* rendered service to the lord (gardening, &c.) and are usually contrasted with the tenants in the fields. The plots or crofts occupied by them were known as *Cots-land* or *Cotes*, the homestead ranging in extent from one to five acres.\* Occasionally they may have occupied plots in the open fields. Under the pressure of population the system of territorial serfdom was bound to break down, but Cottenham in its very name is a standing witness to the ancient order of things.

THE SETTLERS AND THE SETTLEMENT. The early British occupation which I have assumed flourished here upon distinctly favourable lines, readily lent itself to the plans of the invading Romans who would naturally avail themselves of such of the strategic resources as they found ready to hand.† In some such way it is not unlikely that a protective channel and other similar works

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\* A common name for the holdings was *lundinaria*, 'Monday-lands,' because the tenants were bound to work exclusively for the lord each Monday of the week. The *bordarii*, also mentioned in Domesday, were of a similar class.

† *Vide* "Cottenham, the supposed site of a Roman Camp," *Cambs. and Hunts. Arch. Soc. Transactions* Vol. 1. pp. 55-76.

of earlier date were utilized by the Romans, the reconstruction of which was in all probability largely carried on in the vicinity of what we know as Cottenham Lode.\* The artificial drains and canals that now traverse the lowlying ground, and the great embankments (largely due to the enterprise of the Roman settlers)† that protect the land from the sea, witness to the immense labour required to bring about the splendid results. These eminent engineers, largely we may assume to facilitate the escape of the flood waters and natural rainfall, constructed the great Car-dyke, the extent and importance of which is scarcely appreciated in our time. It now only appears in part in its dried up and diminished form, but it may fairly be assumed that formerly it made its way from Cambridge as far as York‡ and had a uniform width of nearly sixty feet. Along the entire line it is probable that strongly fortified settlements were placed, indeed a large number of these have been located. It is important to observe that to the north and north-west of Rampton traces exist of extensive earthworks of varying character in the adjacent parishes of Cottenham and Willingham, mainly designed it would appear to guard the passage into the Isle of Ely. The important Car-dyke§ was undoubtedly part of an elaborate system of defence. How far the artificial formations at Rampton and Cottenham (notably those marking the sites of moated residences of the feudal lords) were connected with any such system we must leave. They may originally have formed part of a subsidiary or second line of defence, if not indeed a part of the original plan, while they are in a direct line with 'Belsar's Hill.' Whatever the early history of these sites, there were undoubtedly fortified residences

\* *Vide* "Cottenham, the supposed site of a Roman Camp," *Cambs. and Hunts. Arch. Soc. Transactions*, Vol. I. pp. 55-76.

† They were 370 years in this Country.

‡ Not merely from Ramsey to Lincoln as is generally assumed.

§ Car=flat marshy tract of land, fringing higher ground (O.N. *ker*, land burdened with accumulated water). I would refer the interested reader to Mr. Arthur Bull's paper on "The Car-dyke," in the *Cambs. and Hunts. Arch. Soc. Transactions*, Vol. I. pp. 49-54, for much important information; also to the accounts of subsequent investigations, and other remarks, forming my contribution to this and allied subject matter, in the same publication.



of considerable importance, at first merely existing in the character of a stockade on the top of the vallum, developing in process of time into the castle or mansion of a feudal lord or opulent landowner.

DAYS OF CONFLICT. It was from the direction of Cottenham on the south-west, only five years after the battle of Hastings, that William the Norman directed his memorable land invasion of the Isle of Ely, which he approached from Cambridge by way of Impington and Histon, gathering his army it would seem in the vicinity of Cottenham and Rampton for the attack. Here, there is every reason to think, the lawless troops of the usurper Stephen may have assembled, and in the course of the work of raising fortresses as a means of defence, displayed particular energy, seeing that the Isle offered special means of protection.\* The anarchy following the death of Henry I., was particularly active in the neighbourhood of Cottenham, perhaps even in Cottenham itself.

Certainly an important feature in relation to the exciting times through which Cottenham passed in common with many other places in the neighbourhood exists in what I take to be the remains of a feudal stronghold, which in all probability occupied a much earlier entrenched position, enclosed by a double moat (p. 66). It appears to have formed one of a series of defensive earthworks, a conspicuous example of which is to be found at Rampton (a little to the south-east of the Church and in a line with the corresponding fortified enclosure at Cottenham) where the de Lisle's had their chief Cambridgeshire seat.† The Rampton mansion, of which considerable remains existed within the memory of man, and the foundations of which may be partially traced, has been entirely swept away, the moated enclosure and certain adjacent earthworks alone remaining.

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\* *Vide* Cambs. and Hunts, Arch. Soc. *Transactions*, Vol. I.

† A full account of this ancient and renowned family, together with particulars of their several possessions, etc., will be found in my *History of Rampton, Cambs.*, which it is intended to issue as a distinct publication and not in connection with the *Transactions, etc.*, of this Society as previously announced in Vol. I. pp. 105, 213.

During the civil war between Henry III., and his barons, when Simon de Montford endeavoured to force an entrance into the Isle of Ely, Walter of Cottenham a knight of the Isle, was arrested, it is said at the instance of John, prior of Barnwell, and hanged on the gibbet by the king's soldiers. The names of the barons who were in rebellion in the Isle of Ely are on record. The insurgents include Gerard de Insula, one of the lordly race holding possessions in Cottenham. In 49 Henry III., we find Robert de Lisle taking part with the rebellious barons. One of the same name had previously been in arms against king John, but returning to obedience on the accession of Henry III., had his forfeited lands restored. The de l'Isle's it must here suffice to say were a militant race, distinguished for courage, which was duly rewarded with high honours, emoluments and positions of eminence, including such dignities as that of knight-banneret, baron, the companionship of the Order of the Garter, etc. In consideration of his good services as sheriff of Cambs., and Hunts., John de l'Isle was in 25 Edw. III., appointed Governor of Cambridge and had a special grant. He died seized of divers manors including those of Wilburgham Magna, Rampton, Cottenham, Westwick and Coveney, leaving Maud his wife surviving and a son and heir, Robert, then of the age of twenty-two years. These de l'Isle's stood side by side with their king on the battle field and in the parliament, and Cottenham may well feel proud of the connection.

Another Robert, (summoned to Parliament 5 Edw. ii. —16 Edw. iii.) who in 8 Edw. ii. was ordered to be at Newcastle with horse and arms to restrain the incursions of the Scots, and some years later was engaged in an expedition into Flanders, subsequently assumed the religious habit, before doing which he was seized of the manors of Rampton, Cotenham and Westwyk, with the advowson of Wimpole, all which he settled on Alice the daughter of Robert de l'Isle, Elizabeth Peverell and Richard Bayeux for life with remainder to John, son of Robert de l'Isle and his heirs. This adoption of a religious life was a not infrequent course; scarcely was

the coat of mail discarded and the monk's cowl put on than death often ensued.\*

A remarkable cause to which I have elsewhere more fully referred, has some interest in relation to Cottenham. It is set out in an Assize roll of 11 Richard II. (1388)† and discloses the fact that at Cambridge before two justices, examination was made as to whether Robert de Lyle, John de Wyndesore, Robert de Wyndesore, William de Wyndesore and others had dispossessed Alice, who was the wife of William de Wyndesore of the manors of Rampton, Westwick, Impington and Cottenham Lyle. They alleged that the plaintiff '*per nomen Alicie Perrers*'‡ was banished from the realm of England by Parliament in the first year of the then present reign. To which Alice replied that pardon followed her marriage with William de Wyndesore. Statement and cross-statement follow in bewildering array. Robert de Lyle affirmed that he was tenant of the manors of Rampton, Cottenham and Westwick, apart from Johu de Wyndesore having any rights therein; Alice claimed to have been enfeoffed by charter produced, after the deed of pardon (8 Rich. II.) and that she was afterwards in possession until dispossessed by Robert de Lyle and others. De Lyle stated that he was seized of Rampton, Cottenham and Westwyk before Alice's banishment; that by deed dated at Coveney the Monday after St. Martin, 42 Edw. iii., he had, by the name of Robert de Insula de Rubio Monte, granted Rampton, Westwick, Cottenham and Pisshonbury

\* An interesting illustration is to be seen in the monumental effigy at Conington, Hunts. of a 14th century knight clad in chain mail and Franciscan habit.

† I have to thank Dr. W. M. Palmer for drawing my attention to this important document, an abstract of which he was good enough to send me.

‡ Alice Perrers was one of the ladies of the bed-chamber to Queen Philippa, and in his old age, the mistress of Edw. III. At the solicitation of the people the king put her away, but after the death of the Black Prince was recalled (1377). She was married to Sir William de Windsore (3 Rich. II.), and on their joint petition in the next Parliament the sentence against her was annulled, and divers manors and lands restored to her. On her death in 1384 he was stated to be heavily indebted to the king, and all his jewels, goods and chattels on his manor of Rampton were ordered to be seized by the sheriff, but as the manor of Rampton was in the liberty of the Bishop of Ely, the seizure was to be effected by him. By an Inquisition taken at Cambridge (*temp.* Hen. IV.) the de Windsores were found holding lands in Rampton, Cottenham, and Westwick.

(Herts.), to Robert de Assheton, clerk, and Henry de Smayth, clerk, to hold for ever they paying an annual rent of £160. The rent being in arrear while John de Wyndesore was tenant, de Lisle re-entered on their manors. It is a very involved affair and must have caused considerable commotion at the time, not only as a matter of litigation to the parties themselves, but in its far reaching effect upon those less intimately concerned and not least upon the inhabitants of the particular villages. An interesting instance of the disorders that occurred consequent upon the strife that was thus gendered is I think to be found in the record of an inquest held at Rampton (1 Rich. ii.) concerning the death of the Rector, John Stanton, which followed upon some angry words with two of Sir William de Windsor's servingmen, the Rector was first struck with a club by one of his assailants, while another stabbed him from behind, and both took to their heels. The possibility is great that the words said to have been uttered by Henry II., in reference to Thomas à Becket, had in effect, and for a like reason, been oft repeated by Sir William in the hearing of his servitors. Sir William de Windsor took a leading part in the putting down the Peasants' rising in 1381-2, in which revolt Cottenham took a very prominent part.

In the Assize roll (P.R.O. No. 103), there are some important particulars relating to this memorable insurrection of 1381-3, which have been fully set out, for the first time, in the pages of the *East Anglian* (Vol vi.) by Dr. W. M. Palmer. The trials at Cambridge, Ely and elsewhere of the insurgents taking part in the outbreak are precisely recounted. One of the most serious aspects of the riot was presented at Cottenham where the manor house of Roger de Harleston was sacked. He was a man of position and influence, supervisor of the Poll-tax collection, and a County representative in Parliament, and was, mainly in consequence it may be supposed, a mark for the virulence of the populace. We can picture the rebels setting out for Cottenham "committing divers felonies and seditious to the prejudice of the Crown and oppression of the people," and earning for themselves

the executioner's axe. Roger de Harleston had his tenements at Haslingfield, Milton, Denny and elsewhere similarly treated, while at Cambridge his house there was demolished by "the leaders of the people."\* One, Richard Martyn, who is described as chief among the Cambridge insurgents, led a body of men to Cottenham, and in an inquisition taken at Chesterton it was presented that on the Sunday before St. Barnabas' day, the cattle, timber, and other goods of Harleston were sold. It was further alleged that on the same day at Cottenham 20*lbs.* 'lane sordide in colore de blu'† was seized. At one time it seems that Roger was in hiding, for search was made for him. Sir William de Windsor and others acted under a commission from the Bishop of Ely in 1382 against certain malefactors, who, after assembling in conventicles, committed murders, perpetrated incendiarisms, etc. The stout-hearted and intrepid prelate, Bishop de Spencer of Norwich, in his crusade of 1383 "like a wild boar gnashing with his teeth, sparing neither himself nor his enemies," marched the following year into Cambridgeshire and did much to quell the tumult, not sparing even those who sought sanctuary in the churches.

A controversy between Henry de Castwigh, Abbot of Crowland (1324-1358), and John de L'Isle, related to 'agistments'‡ in six parts of Cottenham fen, is only another indication of the strained relations that continued to trouble the different sections of Cottenham folk in those eventful times. All such matters involved on either side a complete retinue of retainers, who shared the fortunes of their masters. About this period we happen to know the names of the Cottenham *cum* Westwick people which are preserved in the Subsidy roll of I. Edw. iii. (1326) to which I have already referred. They include Robert de Insula who heads the list, his assessments standing at vs. *ijd. ob.* and *iijs. jd. q.* Others are

\* The Sunday appears to have been largely chosen for riotous assembling. I find a Clement Harleston (probably of the same family and emanating from *Harlton*) possessed of Manors at Balsham, West Wrattling and elsewhere, *temp.* Hen. VII.

† Presumably a coarse *delaine* fabric of woollen material, perhaps merchandize.

‡ Profits from pasturage of cattle.

Henry Bernard (xviiij*d. ob.*), John Pepys (xvj*d.*), John de Burdeleys (vs. ij*d. ob.*), William Bernard (vs. iiij*d. q.*), Wm. Pepys (vd. *ob.*), William de Pelham (xij*d.*), Margaret ad Crucem\* (iiijs. ij*d.*). There are several other remarkable names, but scarcely any that occur at Cottenham to-day. While there is a William Abbot and an Alice Prior, no name appears that we can associate with Crowland.

Cottenham passed through the other tumultuous periods that mark the varied page of history, in common with the rest of the county, being despoiled or fleeced or buffeted with more or less of the equanimity which become those who bow under obligation to a superior force. In only an incidental manner shall I refer hereafter to any of such local events.

MARKET. In 49 Henry III. (A.D. 1264) a market on Mondays and a fair for three days (June 30th and two following days) at the festival of SS. Peter and Paul, were granted to the rector of Cottenham, John Walerand and his successors, owners of the Rectory Manor.† A fair is still held on Shrove Tuesday at "Church End," and the weekly market is still remembered by "the oldest inhabitant."

THE FAMILY OF PEPYS. The illustrious name of Pepys is mentioned in connection with Cottenham at a very early period. With the exception of the title taken in 1836 by Charles Christopher Pepys (Lord Chancellor), of Earl of Cottenham and Viscount Crowhurst (born 1781, died 1851), the name of Pepys in relation to Cottenham is little more than a memory, the family having wholly passed away from the district. The pedigree found at the end of Lord Braybrooke's edition of the famous '*Diary*' commences with:—

"Robert Pepys, of Co. Cambridge, from whom was descended  
 "Wm. Pepys, of Cottenham, Yeoman, only son. Will dated 20th  
 "March, 1518, proved 20th May, 1519; buried at Cottenham."

\* This name points to the existence of the village or Wayside Cross.

† An interesting monumental slab which ought to be in the Church at Cottenham, but is not, and to which I shall presently refer, I believe commemorates this rector, to whom Market and Fair were granted. He died in 1272.

But in his '*Diary*,' Pepys says under date 1667, June 16th:—

"Roger Pepys told me that . . . he will show me a decree in Chancery wherein there was twenty-six men, all house-keepers, in the town of Cottenham, in Queene Elizabeth's time of our name."

And further:—

1667. June 12th. "I met Roger Pepys newly come out of the country. He and I talked aside a little, he offering a match for Pall, one Barnes. . . . His father married a Pepys; in discourse he (R. P.) told me that his grandfather, my great-grandfather, had 800*l.* per annum in Queen Elizabeth's time, in the very town of Cottenham; and that we did certainly come out of Scotland with the Abbot of Croyland."

There then follows Lord Braybrooke's note, which in the light of the early course of events in Cottenham is a little difficult to understand. He says:—

"What this means it is not easy to say, probably Croyland is written in error. No connection can be traced between the 'Pepys' family and any Abbot of Croyland."

As the family of Pepys was located in Cottenham *certainly* as early as 1326 (and possibly much earlier), it is by no means improbable that they may have come in with the original Croyland folk. The '*memoir*' prefixed to the '*Diary*,' which states that the family settled at Cottenham early in the 16th Century is clearly inaccurate in this particular.\* In an old MS., found in the Church chest at Bolney, Sussex, entitled *Liber Talboti Pepys de instrumentis ad Feoda pertinentibus exemplificatis* (at one time in the possession of the great-uncle of the Diarist), there is this 'Noate written out of an old Booke of my 'uncle William Pepys':—

"William Pepys, who died at Cottenham, 10 Henry VIII., was brought up by the Abbot of Crowland, in Huntingdonshire,

\* In Blomefield's *Norfolk*, the family is stated to have been previously seated at Diss. A branch of this family was undoubtedly connected with Norfolk, and there were other Norfolk matrimonial alliances. Talbot Peapes (a son of Roger Pepys, of Impington), was a donor to the library of St. Peter Mancroft Church, Norwich, where Tenison, at one time Curate of Cottenham, was Minister. Roger Pepys, a son of Talbot Pepys, of Impington (living in 1684, *æt.* 67, married for his second wife, Barbara, eldest daughter of Sir Francis Bacon, Serjeant-at-Law, and a Justice of the King's Bench. She was buried at St. Gregory's, Norwich, March 2nd, 1657. He was of the Middle Temple, London; Recorder of Cambridge; and M.P., for the Borough, 1661.

"and he was born in Dunbar, in Scotland, a gentleman whom "the said Abbot did make his Bayliffe of all his lands in "Cambridgeshire, and placed him in Cottenham." \*

As the name appears, in Cottenham records a couple of centuries earlier, and seeing it occurs in the Rectory manor Court-rolls in 1431† and subsequently (sometimes as '*Pepes*,' as the name was and is properly pronounced) it is open to question how far the statement is correct in regard to William Pepys (*temp.* Henry VIII.). It is extremely unlikely that the family from the sixteenth century downwards had no connection with the Cottenham Pepys' of previous times.

The Crowland connection is a natural one, and it is quite possible that the very first representative of the Pepys family may have been brought up by one of the Abbots, and have come out of Scotland. It is a phase of the family history with which the writer of any future memoir of Samuel Pepys ought to make himself conversant.

An entry in the 'Diary' should at least prove entertaining to Cottenham folk, who may actually see their town advanced to a place among the counties:—

1667. Nov. 3rd. "To church, and thither comes Roger Pepys "to our pew, and thence home to dinner, whither comes by "invitation, Mr. Turner, the minister, and my cozen Roger "brought with him Jeffrys, the apothecary at Westminster, who "is our kinsman, and *we had much discourse of Cottinghamshire.*"

The latter expression may be regarded either as an intentional phrase for Cottenham, or merely a *lapsus calami*.

In the Subsidies of 1645 the name of Pepys is no longer found, but in parochial papers one is entered as "John Peapes, of Stoke Clare, in the County of "Suffolk, gent." Other entries of the name include: Peppess (1535), Pepes (1553), Pepys, Georgino (1569), Pepys, Edward (1585), Pepys, John (1589), Pepys, Richard (1615).

\* In a Cambridgeshire *Fine* (38 Henry VIII.) we meet with the following:—"Wm. Peppes, gent., v. John Russell and Alice his wife in Cottenham."

† Thomas Pepys and Alice his wife (1431) and another similarly named (probably son and heir) were fined for allowing cart horses to trespass on the lands of the Rectory manor, and William Pepys (son) for the trespass of his horse among the tithe corn.



Before leaving the Pepys family I may give one further extract from the gossip Samuel in reference to a Cottenham 'character,' and also by way of introducing an additional illustration of Cottenham life as it affects its commercial side. It mainly concerns the issue of the copper coinage known as trade tokens.

1667. Oct. 7. "They (copper tokens of the Reindeer Inn, at Bishop's Stortford, where Samuel Pepys stayed), bore the name "of a Mr. and Mrs. Aysworth, whom *I knew better than they think for*. It was this woman that amongst others was great "with my cousin Barnston, of Cottenham, and did use to sing to "him and did teach me 'Full forty times over.'" (A song which appears to have accorded well with the character of the woman, who was banished from Cambridge for her evil courses.)

A Cottenham tradesman's token was in circulation in the 17th Century. Upon the obverse it bore:

PHILIP CHAMBERS                      HIS HALF PENY

It had on the reverse side

IN COTTENHAM 1668.

surrounding the figure of a wild man with a club over his shoulder. These devices are often very interesting. A Proclamation of Charles II. put an end to the circulation of these tokens.

THE RECTORS. Some brief notices of certain of the Rectors of Cottenham may not be out of place here. The first recorded name is that of Stephen Rydel, a nephew of Bishop Rydel, and Archdeacon of Ely (*circa*. 1210). In 1310, Robert de Orford, who for some years was Prior of Ely\* and afterwards Bishop, retired to the Rectory of Cottenham, where he died in 1315. William Francis (Rector 1312-1320) was long engaged in a controversy relating to tithes at Westwick (then considered a hamlet of Cottenham), with the Abbot of Croyland, as Rector of Oakington, which was decided in favour of the Abbot.

Nicholas de Cantebrigia (Rector, 1334) was appointed Penitentiary† in 1346, and acted as a Vicar-general during the Plague. In 1375 Nicholas de Drayton,

\* A John de Cottenham was Prior of Ely in 1516.

† To prescribe rules of penance, act in special cases of conscience, and the like, with which the ordinary parish priest was not competent to deal.

Warden of King's College, was appointed Rector; being suspected of heresy he was imprisoned. In 1376 he was made a Baron of the Exchequer.

The extraordinary rapidity with which one Rector followed another towards the close of the fourteenth century is remarkable. In *twelve* years (1375-1387) there were no less than *nine* Rectors. Edward Burnell (Archdeacon of Ely) Rector (1379) died March 11th, 1385, leaving twenty pounds in gold for the Cottenham poor. In 1388, Thomas de Castro (Bernardi), at one time Rector of Bluntisham, was Rector. Laurence Bothe or Booth instituted Rector in 1444, became master of his college (Pembroke, Cambridge), and successively Vice-chancellor, Prebendary, and Dean of St. Paul's, London. After resigning Cottenham in 1456, he became Chancellor to Queen Margaret, wife of Henry VI. (the brother of Laurence Booth had previously held the same office). He was made Keeper of the Privy Seal, a tutor and guardian of Edward, Prince of Wales (aged 4), Bishop of Durham, and Archbishop of York previous to his appointment in 1471, as Lord Chancellor. He died in 1480, and was buried at Southwell, where two altar tombs occupied the Booth Chapel, long since demolished. Dr. Warkworth, Master of Peterhouse, was Rector in 1458; his effigy may be seen in a window of the college hall.\* During a vacancy of the See. (*temp.* Henry VII.) the king presented William Warham. He was at the same time Rector of Barley, Herts., Master of the Rolls and Archdeacon of Huntingdon. He afterwards became Bishop of London, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Lord High Chancellor (1504), not retiring from the Cottenham rectory until 1506. Archbishop Warham officiated at the marriage of Henry VIII., with Katherine of Arragon, and was succeeded as Archbishop by Thomas Cranmer, and as Lord Chancellor by Cardinal Wolsey, dying in 1532. Samuel Fleming, who was presented by John Pepys, of Cottenham, in April, 1581,

\* He had the Bishop's licence to farm out his rectory, a not unusual proceeding at that period.

was deprived in 1601.\* Next but one after him a brother was also Archbishop of York. Another brother was Bishop of Exeter.

Edward Leedes was appointed Rector in 1558, by Bishop Thirlby. Bishop Goodrich had previously collated him to Little Gransden, and made him Prebendary of Ely the same year. As Bishop's Commissary and Vicar-general he was employed in the general visitation ordered by the King's council for the suppression of altars, images, vestments, etc., throughout the diocese. Leedes also received from the Bishop the Rectories of Newton and Elm in the Isle of Ely. He became Chancellor of the diocese and was one of the Bishop's executors. Subsequently Leedes was chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Precentor of Canterbury, Master of Clare Hall, Rector of Snailwell, Rector of Littleport, Master of St. John's Hospital, &c. He resigned Cottenham in 1580, dying at Croxton, where he had an estate and of which parish he had been Rector.

John Davenant (Rector in 1620) was Fellow, and afterwards Master of Queen's. He attended the Synod of Dort in 1618, and was consecrated Bishop of Salisbury in 1621. Dr. Leonard Mawe followed (31 Dec., 1621). He was Master of Peterhouse, Chaplain to Charles, Prince of Wales, Master of Trinity, Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Among the rectors of Cottenham, John Manby, a son-in-law of Bishop Francis White, deserves special mention. He was collated March 25th, 1635, and ejected in 1641, being superseded by the intruder, Peter French (who married Robina, a sister of Oliver Cromwell in 1642), and John Nye (who also held the livings of Childerly and Croxton) in 1640. The rector was re-instated in 1650. Dr. Manby having been collated to Cottenham by Bp. Francis White (whose chaplain he was) married one of the Bishop's daughters, and resided on his benefice contrary to the general practice. He incurred the displeasure of a malevolent faction in

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\* Why Pepys should have presented I am unable to say. The rectory has ordinarily been at the disposal of the Bishop of Ely.

Cottenham\* and following the leadership of certain "lewd fellows of the baser sort" the intolerant party formulated the necessary complaint, and alleged that, conforming to the order of Bishop Wren, Dr. Manby had restored the permanent Communion table (or altar), that he upheld the observance of Saints' days, and the practice of the Offertory, together with other observances which in very truth were in harmony with the doctrine and discipline of the church, but contrary to the mind and will of unbridled fanaticism. Dr. Manby was in consequence cast into prison, and relentlessly persecuted for a period of eighteen years. Regarding French, it may be further observed that Cromwell ("the Lord of the Fens") bestowed a canonry at Christ Church, Oxford, upon his brother-in-law. French dying in 1655, his widow soon after married Dr. John Wilkins, Warden of Wadham College, Oxford, and afterwards Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, who then returned to the neighbourhood of her early married life. Dr. John Fitzwilliam, Canon of Windsor (Rector, 1674), was deprived as a non-juror in 1691. Altogether it would be difficult to find a more remarkable set of men, and circumstances so interesting as those we meet with in the succession of rectors at Cottenham.

MONUMENTS. Two portions of a fine purbeck marble slab, formerly in Cottenham Church, are now in the possession of the trustees of the Cambridge Archæological Museum, and are deposited in their Newnham storehouse, with numerous other objects of antiquarian interest for which there is not space in the museum itself. This monument, which is of late thirteenth century date, commemorates an ecclesiastic vested in alb, with apparel, decorated with the "fylot" pattern, and chasuble. The head is tonsured, and rests on a square cushion; the feet are long, being unduly extended. The centre of the slab is missing; only the upper and lower portions remain. Around the edge of the stone

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\* *Vide* "News from Cambridge, or, a brief relation of the wicked proceedings of these Informers, *viz.*, Stephen Perry, Tinkler, Edward Wallis, Cobler, and Christopher Heard, labourer." Printed 1675.

ran a Latin inscription in Lombardic capitals, much of which is of course wanting. This alone can be read:—

+ CHRISTE : AL[ME : DEVS:] - - - PREC[OR]:  
- - - [MISERERE:] MEI.

*(O Christ merciful God I pray Thee have mercy upon me.)*

The slab appears to have been long in use as a paving stone, face downwards, a very frequent misuse of ancient memorials of the dead.\* This singularly interesting monument was doubtless conveyed away as a fit object for a museum, during the last 'restoration' of the church, when in all probability much else of historical value was allowed to be carried off. Not infrequently we find, side by side with a respect for objects of antiquarian interest, a strange want of reverence for, if not an utter disregard of, a class of memorials that are entitled to the protection, not of a museum intended for curiosities, but of the sacred walls within which they were originally placed, and from which they ought never to have been allowed to pass. If the unconcern of past custodians is pleaded by way of palliation, may not a more enlightened age claim, as a simple act of restitution, that the proper guardians may now be entrusted with the safe custody of the church's own goods? Failing in this, we not only deprive a church of one or other of its, possibly, few remaining features of interest, but we in fact largely nullify its historical connection with the past, and dishonour those whose memorials are entitled to our unqualified respect. If the finely carved woodwork of the old stalls of a parish church call loudly for replacement† how much more the monumental slab of (as I suppose) a rector of so important a church as that of Cottenham.

There is a remarkable scarcity of monuments of all

\* An instance lately occurred at Rampton where two portions of an early coffin slab, incised with cross of a most uncommon design were discovered, the upper part having been utilised as a paving stone within the Church, the lower part in the Churchyard path. It has been carefully preserved in the chancel.

† The 14th century 'Miserere' seats formerly in Brampton Church, Hunts., now in the Museum of Archæology at Cambridge.

kinds, which can only be accounted for by the indifference displayed by those who were in authority, at such times when the church was in the hands of builders and 'restorers.' The only remaining memorial of ancient date has been thrust outside the building, where, by the wall of the north aisle, lies a portion of a coped coffin stone. In the chancel there are several slabs, of no particular interest, including one to John Dowsing, a member of an old and honourable Cottenham family. Two stones which have matrices for brass inscriptions\* tell the tale of modern pillage rather than of iconoclastic daring.

THE CHURCH. As we have already seen, a Saxon Church doubtless existed, in all probability on the site of the present building, prior to the Norman Conquest, and subsequently was rebuilt upon a greatly enlarged plan. There are to be seen embedded in the exterior south wall of the chancel fragments of early Norman masonry, presumably placed there at the time of a recent restoration, which attest the ancient character of the edifice. Of the Norman Church there is no further indication (unless the bases of the piers of the Chancel arch and nave arcade furnish such, which is doubtful), but from the style of the fragments of wrought stone in the south chancel wall it is likely that here formerly were to be seen massive circular piers, rounded arches, zig-zag mouldings, etc., the unmistakeable characteristics of a Norman Church. However slight the trace, there remains just a remnant of Early English work in a detached thirteenth century capital now deposited on the floor of the chancel, probably brought to light during restoration work.

The present Church is a fine and imposing edifice, of considerable size and some interest. If it can lay but small claim, as a whole, to particular attention, either in regard to age and architectural merit, it certainly possesses features of sufficient importance to render it an

\* In *Notes on the Cambridgeshire Churches* [by G. R. Boissier] 1827, mention is made in the five-lined description, of "some monuments with brasses." Cole (MSS., 5802) alludes to several others.

object that deserves attentive study. Lysons, the leading county historian, omits all reference to the Church; more recent writers are similarly content to pass it by without notice, or to essay to speak of it as placed "at the extreme northern end of the village and not worth seeking."\* Such a reflection is hardly justifiable, as the most casual observer will perceive, while a closer investigation will make it abundantly clear that the building is one which must on no account be slighted. It consists of chancel, nave with clerestory, aisles, south porch, north doorway opening into a modern vestry, and west tower. In the main, the structure may be regarded as work of the fourteenth (latter part) and fifteenth centuries. The chancel arch is perhaps earlier, the plain round form, loose joints and bases of the piers would seem to indicate work of the Early English period.

The lofty chancel is of early Perpendicular character, possessing particularly large and high windows. The east window is a modern copy of that in Prior Crauden's Chapel at Ely, and is filled with stained glass of no particular merit. It replaced an original of far greater dimensions as evidenced by the existing masonry. The roof is modern and poor and has been greatly lowered. The original roof-line may be traced on the exterior. The 'Priest's door' on the north side is without any distinctive feature. The interest within the chancel centres in the graduated *Sedilia* with canopies and *Piscina*, the whole in four divisions, surmounted by an entablature of conventional floral design, enriched with cusping, much of which remains unfinished. The work has been extensively repaired; traces of red colour are still discernible and at one time the whole was doubtless richly decorated. The piscina which occupies the easternmost of the four compartments has a twelve-foiled oblong opening or drain, in the centre of which is a plain ball of stone, having four holes beneath to carry off the water. The floor of the chancel has been lowered throughout. It was extensively repaired in 1842-3.

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\* *Rides around Cambridge* (p. 73) by Rev. E. Conybeare. Cambridge: 1902.

The nave arcade presents some points of particular interest. The five arches on either side are on a different level as will be noticed. An interesting series of finely-worked corbel masks or heads (without doubt for the most part portraits) mainly formed of clunch, occur within the spandrils, at the intersection of the arches in the nave and aisles, or in connection with the roofs. Commencing on the *south side* of the NORTH AISLE (E. end) are:—(i.) A man wearing close fitting hood and cape, covering shoulders; (ii.) A young man with long hair, curled, dressed in jerkin buttoned close in front with collar unbuttoned at throat; (iii) Floriated; (iv) Wanting; (v) Winged angel with hair gathered into a roll on either temple, holds small heater-shaped shield; (vi) Wanting. On the *north side* (E. to W.); (i) Floriated; (ii) Man with moustache, wearing seamless jerkin with collar; (iii and iv) Floriated; (v) Man with very mournful expression, a hand laid on either jaw (much worn); (vi) Female holding small shield. In the SOUTH AISLE, on the *north side* (E. to W.); (i) Plain; (ii) Head of man with long curling hair, wears coat buttoned up the front, with low collar; (iii) Floriated; (iv) A grinning jester who shows his teeth, wears hood and cape with scalloped edge; (v) Floriated; (vi) Wanting. On the *south side* (E. to W.); (i) Floriated; (ii) A young man with long hair (much worn); (iii) Floriated; (iv) Woman in low-necked dress, has long hair, bound by twisted head band; (v) Man, with contracted brows, wears beard and moustache and round flat cap; (vi) Floriated. In the NAVE on the *north side* (W. to E.):—(ia) Floriated; (ib) Wanting; (iia) Floriated; (iib) Young man with long hair and head band or crown—small wings appear to rise from the back of his shoulders;\* (iiia) Floriated; (iiib) Man with hair falling on both sides in tangled masses, he wears skull cap (or is tonsured) and high collar; (iva) Angel bearing shield; (ivb) Man with hair falling over either cheek in broad flat masses, rolled at end; (va) Angel with shield; (vb) Woman with

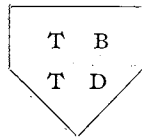
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\*.An interesting design, finely wrought.



flat-topped head dress, the band of which is worked in chevron pattern, the veil falls on either side of the face. Large projecting ears; (via) Angel with shield; (vib) Wanting. On the *south side* (E. to W.); (ia) Angel bearing shield; (ib) Wanting; (iia) A seventeenth century substitution for deficient original. At the sides are traces of the moulded stone. It now forms a roughly outlined shield, which bears the following lettering:

1622



the initials probably of churchwardens.

(iiia) A quarter circle bracket, plain (seventeenth century); (iiib) Woman with long hair, she has a collar (pierced with single holes) from which hangs a kind of square pendant ornamented with four dots, thus:— ∴ (iva) Angel holding shield; (ivb) Boy with long flowing hair, round cap and collarless jerkin; (va) Floriated; (vb) Man, with hood closely covering head and neck, he has slight fringe of beard on edge of lower jaw, and wears jerkin with large buttons up the front; (via) Floriated; (vib) Wanting.

The string course running from the cap of respond at the north-east corner of the nave joins that of the cap of pier of the chancel arch, while on the south side it falls some three inches below the upper moulding of the corresponding pier cap. It will be seen that the caps of the nave arcade, and also the stops on the north and south sides are different. On the south side the stops are semi-pyramids; on the north they are formed by uniting an ogival curve and a roll. The costume in which these demi-figures appear mark the period as that of about the middle of the fifteenth century. The nave arcade must be of somewhat earlier date. The later clerestory calls for no special remark. The roofs of nave and aisles are open and plain perpendicular, of good

character, that of the nave showing tracery in the span-drills. The north aisle possesses one feature that may be particularly noticed, *viz.* the north door, in conjunction with the window which is above it. The doorway itself is at once seen to have originally formed the outer entrance previous to the unwelcome addition to the original structure of an apology for a vestry. It is of early perpendicular date, boldly moulded chiefly of clunch, with (possibly) earlier grotesque drip-stone heads of barnack, considerably worn by exposure to the weather. The lower portion is hidden by the vestry floor which is at a much higher level. I am inclined to think that originally this doorway may have formed a porch entrance, and was moved inwards to be on a line with the north wall leading into the church. The three-light perpendicular window above is not central, and has an odd appearance placed to the west of the door. Although of fair proportions it is of lesser dimensions than the other aisle windows, and may at one time have formed the window of a porch. Alterations and additions have clearly been effected in and around this doorway, for there is a difference of style, construction and material. The arch of the doorway is depressed (*circa* 1425-1450). The position of a plain holy water stoup close by this doorway to the east in the north wall, is in itself a sufficient indication of some such alteration. This pre-reformation adjunct is now devoid of any particular character, retaining the mere form.

At the east end of this aisle is a very uncommon form of early piscina (which owing to its position behind the organ is much overlooked), connected with the altar formerly here. Of the dedication of this side chapel (or the corresponding chapel in the south aisle) I have no certain knowledge, but in the will of John Sygar (A.D. 1528) the gilds of St. Katherine and St. Ethelnote are mentioned as connected with this church.\* The piscina (18 in. by 17½ in.) is destitute of any moulded stone work

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\* Cole's MSS. 209.

\* Palmer's *Village Gilds of Cambridgeshire* (Trans. Cambs. and Hunts. Arch. Soc. Vol. i.)

being simply fashioned in the wall and has a four-foiled water drain. It is stirrup-shaped, and is remarkable for the original fresco with which the background is decorated, consisting of the well-known masonry pattern formed of single lines with the branching four-petalled flower in the centre of each space.\* A stone bracket with rose carved on the under side, is on the adjacent east wall.

In the south aisle at the east end, is the piscina (25 in. by 27 in.) with an eight-foiled water drain and stone shelf. Facing this piscina, some two feet above the base of the pier in which it is cut, is a narrow slit or niche,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. by  $3\frac{1}{4}$  in. of irregular form, having a circular head. At first sight I was inclined to regard this as an opening made for a relic of some kind, but in all probability it served a mere utilitarian purpose. At the west end it will be observed that the tower buttress, against which the aisle has been built, shows the line and angle of the high pitched nave roof of an earlier edifice. On the floor close by is the fine iron-bound oak chest (to which I have already referred) with five locks, in which are deposited the valuable series of documents relating to the Rectory Manor, the 'Church and Causeway' property, and other important papers, in excellent preservation.†

The recent opening out of the east tower arch, long blocked, has effected a much needed improvement. The lower portion of the tower is early fifteenth century work, built, or rather largely covered, with ashlar masonry. There is a buttress at either angle, rising to a height of some thirty feet. The upper part is formed of seventeenth century brick work, plastered over, and surmounted with four strange-looking bulbous turrets, fashioned it is thought after those which adorn King's College Chapel

\* This early form of decoration indicates late thirteenth century work, and deserves to be jealously guarded. Faint traces of painting on the chancel arch are mentioned as discernible in 1854. No notice of this piscina decoration has hitherto appeared.

† Among the miscellaneous papers is a report by Mr. Caley on the patronage of the Church from the time of the Norman Conquest. There appear to have been disputes at various times as to the patronage, and this may serve to explain the Pepys presentation to which I have already referred (pp. 78, 9).

with which however they have little in common. A variety of well cut lettering appears upon the lower face of the tower, over the west door, and upon the buttresses, indicating, it would seem, those who contributed, or were in some way connected with the work of re-building the tower which fell during a great storm in 1617. On the buttress at the south-west corner is:—

EDW NOR	IOHN NORM = AN . MARGRE	1617 NORMAN
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16 : M . N : 17.

beside many initials. On the west front over the door:—

JAMES : GRAVE 1617	SARA = GRAVE
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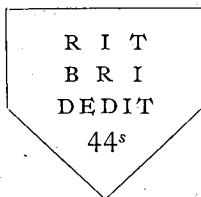
E. S.

T. W.

On the north-west buttress:—1617 THOMAS GRAVE.

On the north face of the tower:— M. C. W. C.

On the south buttress in a shield:—



There is a sun-dial on the south buttress dated 1885.

The fall and re-building of the tower is recorded upon an inscribed stone, now resting upon the chancel floor, but originally placed in one of the walls of a school

building that formerly stood in the churchyard north-west of the church. The inscription is as follows:—

THIS SCHOOL-HOUSE BEING  
DEMOLISHED BY THE FALL OF THE  
STEEPLE A.D. 1617. WAS REBUILT  
A.D. 1697 AT THE CHARGE OF  
MRS. KATHERIN PEPYS WHO ALSO  
GAVE A COMMONABLE HOUSE  
AND 100<sup>li</sup> IN MONEY FOR THE  
TEACHING OF POOR CHILDREN  
ALSO SHE GAVE TO Y<sup>re</sup> TOWN OF  
RANCE 100<sup>li</sup> IN MONEY FOR Y<sup>re</sup>  
USE OF Y<sup>re</sup> POOR.

The south porch has good pointed windows and bears indications of a parapet previous to the present battlemented construction. The south door is worth notice. The two heads supporting the drip-stone (probably portraits) are much worn and disfigured, that on the west side represents an elderly man with long beard and round high cap, the one on the left (presumably the wife) is less distinct. The door itself is a noticeable feature, the wood and iron work forming the original design. The upper portion of the carved work of the door has been much weathered, and is largely obscured by repeated coats of varnish or paint. The gable stone above the south porch is noticeable. It ends in a drip-stone termination over the slanting east end of the aisle, which in turn displays in the hollow of the moulded ridge good examples of grotesque sculpture. The gurgoyles on the exterior of nave and aisles form a remarkably fine series and are upon the whole well preserved. The uniformity of the several windows of the aisles (and, except in regard to size, the chancel windows are scarcely dissimilar), is a marked feature. Their recurring and regular form is to me, I must confess, a little monotonous. The ebb and flow of the tide architectural is not much in evidence here; the gradual disuse of the decorated style led to a strong appreciation of the blending of types, the old and the new, as seen in the tracery of these

windows, and the entire re-construction of the church, was carried out in all probability before the opportunity came of varying the set design.

The woodwork of the church generally is of oak, modern throughout, but good of its kind. The chancel screen (a latter-day substitution for the rood screen) is poor in design, and detracts from, rather than adds any dignity to the interior. A chancel screen can only be acceptable when it conforms to this ideal. The seats with slight exception are open benches with poppy-head designs, representing it is said a variety of flowers and grasses found in the neighbourhood.

The octagonal font at the west end of the south aisle is of no sufficient interest to call for particular remark.

It will be observed that there is no proper vestry. Indeed even in churches of the size and importance of Cottenham this is no uncommon feature. It is reserved for days when vestments are generally restricted to little more than the surplice, and the act of vesting has lost its significance; to build vestries, more often than not to the despoiling of a goodly fabric. It would be interesting to trace the use of the word 'vestry' as applied to purposes altogether foreign to its original meaning. The vestry meeting of past days, rarely 'select' even when so called, was intensely secular, and even now it has scarcely changed, despite its supposed exclusive church character. The meetings of parishioners for business purposes in ancient times were held at Cottenham in the south porch where documents were duly signed and witnessed (as appears from those in the church chest), etc., etc. Gradually it may be supposed the assembly acquired by custom a kind of right to meet 'in vestry,' where such opportunity was found; if the exact thing did not exist it was improvised.

**MURAL AND OTHER DECORATION.** In addition to a painting on the west wall of the tower, existing in Cole's time (although then so much defaced by the weather as to be very indistinct), there were on either side of the belfry arch, figures of (1) TIME, and, (2) DEATH with the words "I stay for no man"—"I spare no man," and the

further inscription (so often ironically used in like case) "Repaired and beautified in 1740." The church was then lavishly adorned with texts of Holy Scripture. In addition, there was a painted rood screen, and an altar piece with painted and gilt canopy. There were also figured on the mural and other memorials then existing divers armorial bearings, etc., the disappearance of which is highly reprehensible. No ancient stained glass, armorial or other, remained.

THE BELLS. In the time of Edward vi., there were only two bells and a sanctus bell entered in the inventory, but in another list (*Queen's Remembrancer*, 3, Edw. vi.) "ffowre grete bells and a sanctus belle" are mentioned. There is now a peal of six musical bells, (probably recast only in part out of the old metal) by John Briant of Hertford.\* The first has JOHN BRIANT : HARTFORD FECIT. AN : DOM : 1800. OMNES INCOLAE PLAUDITE. The second, third, and fourth, have the founder's name, etc. only. The fifth and sixth are remarkable for an array of officials' names, to the last of which is added REV<sup>d</sup> PEPLOE WARD : RECTOR. STATUTUM HOMINIBUS SEMEL MORI. Cole mentions only five bells:

THE CHURCH PLATE as recorded in an inventory of 1717 included :—

"One fair chalice of silver double guilt and paten to it with black leather case, the gift of Dr. Leonard Mawe deceased.

"One fair silver flagon with a cover to it *E dono Reverendi Thoma' Iskill Rectr* with a red leather case to it.

"One silver flagon double guilt with a red leather case to it of the gift of the Reverend Doct<sup>r</sup> John Fitz-william deceased.

"One pewter flagon.

"A silver bason for collecting y<sup>e</sup> offerings at y<sup>e</sup> communion given by y<sup>e</sup> Rev. Dr James Smith."

The inventory of such church goods as remained in the sixth year of King Edward vi., furnishes us with an interesting view of the conditions under which our forefathers worshipped, and in this particular instance an indication is given of the important position of the parish

\* Bryant (the name is so spelt in the Exning baptismal register, June 8th, 1748) had a somewhat remarkable history. He received a classical education, and worked under Arnold at the St. Neots' foundry, R. Taylor being under him.

church of Cottenham. The magnificence of the copes, one of cloth of gold, another of red silk set with pearls, together with other vestments, one of which displayed "a picture of Christe on y<sup>e</sup> back" is striking. The stately ritual was enhanced by divers articles of church furniture including one pair of organs which are rarely mentioned in these inventories. There were only two great bells and a sanctus bell, a lesser number than actually found in the small village church of the adjoining parish of Rampton. It is interesting in this connection to note that Henry Gooderycke, a prebendary of Ely, and probably a nephew or some relation of Thomas Goodrich, bishop of Ely, was a commissioner in various ecclesiastical causes, including that under which the church goods were confiscated in the reign of Edward vi. I have in the introduction to my two volumes of *Inventories of Church Goods (temp. Edw. vi.)* relating to (i) Cambridgeshire and (ii) Suffolk, when alluding to the varied character of the reforming tendencies of the commissioners in the different districts, dealt with what I conceive to have been a predilection shown by them in the retention or otherwise of certain ornaments. At Cottenham in the sixth year of Edward vi., the following from among the church goods were committed to the safe keeping of William Wimpole the elder, Richard Essex, William Lovell, Robert Smyth and Richard Brasyer, viz. the silver chalice, a cope of white silk, a cope of blue satin, with the several cloths, surplices and rochets, for the only maintenance of divine service within the said parish church. The continuation in use of the cope, at least, is thus clearly sanctioned, if not actually established. The vestments and other articles of value not so appropriated were measured apparently by their intrinsic worth rather than by any supposed ecclesiastical blemish. At all events the more precious the object the greater seems to have been the necessity for its non-inclusion among goods reserved for church use. This is significant of a policy of rapine. The Churchwardens of Cottenham at this time were John Reade and Henry Bryggs.

THE PARISH REGISTER dates from 1572.



CHARITIES. There are several Charities, viz. :—those of (1) *Mr. Moreton* who in 1671 gave the moiety of an estate in the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn for apprenticing children ; (2) *Mrs. Catherine Pepys*, who by will (A.D. 1703) gave a house and land for teaching sixteen poor children ; (3) *Mrs. J. Brigham* (1715) who gave a rent charge of £15 for the apprenticing of children ; (4) *Mrs. Alice Rogers* (died 1728) gave rent charges for a similar purpose and for teaching poor children ; (5) *Dr. John Fitzwilliam*, a former Rector gave a house and land for the benefit of the poor of Cottenham ; (6) *Thomas Maulden*, a house and land for a like object. In addition to the Townlands Charity there is the Church and Causeway Estate\* of considerable value which has from time to time been the subject of much litigation as the mass of documents in the parish chest sufficiently attest. Indeed the charities of this parish and the administration of the funds, before the Charity Commissioners stepped in, are known to have evoked considerable ferment and proved little short of a grave scandal. These charities in 1837 yielded the very considerable sum of £427 10s. od. A benefaction board in the church sets out the different charities.

MISCELLANEA. Among the presentments recorded in the visitation books at Ely, is one relating to a certain Richard Coverley who at Cottenham "taketh upon him to be a cunning man, being neither physician nor chirurgeon . . . to him divers do resort as to a cunning man or wizard."

The vigorous church discipline of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries was exacted of the parishioners of Cottenham in the form of open penance, chief inhabitants undergoing the ordeal by acknowledging in a loud voice their misdeeds before the whole congregation, after the reading of the Gospel, standing in the midst and craving pardon.†

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\* Formerly administered by "the seven men of Cottenham."

† I have dealt with this matter at large in the pages of the *East Anglian*, (Vol. vi. p. 207) where full particulars are given of a singular Cottenham case.

No account of Cottenham would be complete without some reference to the Rev. John Tenison who was curate here for nearly fifty years (1624-1673) under six rectors (three of whom were certainly non-resident). Through the troublous period of the commonwealth, and the distressing months when the plague desolated the country around, the good man pursued his simple life. He married in 1631, Mercy Dowsing, daughter of a respected inhabitant of Cottenham. The marriage took place in the adjoining village of Rampton.\* I am unable to assign any reason for this, seeing that neither family was in any way connected with Rampton, and the churches are a considerable distance apart. The second son of this union, Thomas, was born at Cottenham in 1636 (baptized May 2nd.), was educated at the Norwich Grammar School and eventually became Archbishop of Canterbury.

I have frequently been asked if the Dowsing's of Cottenham were in any way connected with the Suffolk family of the iconoclast, William Dowsing. I have been unable to trace any relationship, but some slight clue may be afforded in a Cottenham Apprenticeship Indenture bond of 1655, wherein Antony Matsome of *Stratford* Co. Suffolk, broadcloth weaver, bound himself in Ten pounds to set free his apprentice, Samuel Butler, son of Henry Butler of Cotnam, musician. Stratford, the abode of the Suffolk William Dowsing, about this time is thus brought into contact with Cottenham, and the two families not improbably were influential in bringing about the apprenticeship matter.

In an original certificate of the state of the diocese in 1563-1603 (*Harl. MSS.*, 594) the number of households in Cottenham is given as 121, while a return sent to the bishop of London in 1676 states the population to be 560, the number of "dissenters who obstinately refuse or wholly absent" 14.

The rectory of Cottenham was liable for an annual pension of £2 to the priory of Barnwell, which at the

\* Rampton Register, *Cambs. and Hunts. Arch. Soc.* Transactions, Vol. 1. pp. 212-236.

confiscation of property (*temp.* Henry viii.) became a fee-farm rent vested in the Crown. I am unable to say when it ceased to be paid or by what process it was apparently extinguished. This iniquitous form of rent-charge is still paid by many incumbents in respect of their benefices, but illegal exactions have of late led to a movement which has resulted in a change of front on the part of the owners\* to the advantage of some overburdened and impoverished rectors.†

I am obliged owing to lack of space to omit the lists I have compiled of Cottenham sur-names at different periods; also the field-names, wills of inhabitants and other topics of interest. One or two matters however, touching the fens, &c., ought to find brief recital.

The repair of the Aldreth bridge and causeway which had been destroyed in Simon de Montfort's rising was a controverted matter among Cottenham men as it was in subsequent times; so too was the vexed question of tithes. In 1343 it was set out in an agreement that *Smithy fen* according to custom should be every year laid 'in fence' from the Purification of the B.V.M. until the time of mowing and carting. The fen also was to be separated by furlongs of forty perches in length, in all of which John de Lisle and the Abbot of Croyland were to have first and second cast, and the townfolk were to have each a portion according to custom. The pennies received from the agistments in the other five fens, *viz.* *North Fen*, *Segeharwe Fen* (Setchel Fen), *Char* (or Car) *Fen*, *Tapping Moor*, and *Grekenhill Fen*, were faithfully to be placed in a box with two locks and taken out in the presence of the bailiff of the aforesaid Lords, and the bailiff of the Burdelay manor. So soon as nine pence received from agistments was deposited in the box, Lord John de Lisle, and the Lord Abbot were to have each four pence, and the Lord of Burdelay's the ninth penny. The demesne lands of the Abbot to be measured were

\* The fee-farm rents were largely sold (*temp.* Chas. i.) for small sums to any purchaser and are still marketable.

† This matter of Fee-farm rents has been largely dealt with in the *East Anglian*, Vols. x. and xi., also by the Rev. C. A. Stevens in his pamphlet "*Fee-farm rents and Monasterial Rent charges.*"

known respectively as *Three-rod-hill*, the *Butts*, *Alburgh-haye*, *Brad-meadow*, the *Headland*, *Mikel-Aldeburgh*, *Little Aldeburgh*, *Holme-meadow*, *Flegy-dole*, *Holme-hut*, *North-long*, *Foul Fen*, and *Frit Fen*. Windmills are mentioned as appertaining to the Croyland abbey.

While digging for foundations (September, 1904) in connection with the erection of additional buildings at the Baptist meeting house in the High Street, adjacent to the site of an old manorial residence,\* five blocks of wrought stone were brought to light. They were not *in situ*, but had been thrown in to form an earlier foundation. These stones when placed in order were seen to form part of a late fourteenth century doorway, making together about three feet of the jamb. In the adjoining yard I met with several fragments of barnack stone prominent among which was a portion of the socket base of a wayside or similar cross. Roger de Harleton had a licence granted to him in 1374 by Bishop Thomas de Arundel for a private chapel on his manor at Cottenham, and these stones are in all probability a part of that building. The habitation seems generally to be that regarded as *the* Manor-house owing to its long continuance and probably to its structural excellence.

Numerous fires that have occurred here are supposed to have contributed in no small degree to the present uniformity of buildings in the village. Several of the houses are fairly ancient and contain, especially in the interiors, interesting work of a bygone period. A great fire at Cottenham in 1676 when two-thirds of the town was consumed was the occasion of the issue of a brief for contributions, concerning which, entries are frequently found in the church accounts of various parishes throughout the country. A further brief was issued in respect of a fire in 1733, when Vincent Wayman, a quaker, incurred an estimated loss of £1,215. Several other serious fires occurred from 1827 to 1850.†

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\* A few yards to the north-west lies the square moated inclosure referred to at pp. 66, 69, 72.

† The number of incendiary fires in Cambridgeshire during the 18th and early 19th centuries is quite remarkable.

Cole (*Add. MSS.*, 5802), gives a drawing of the church (south prospect) showing the tower "adorned at the top by fair neat turrets in which are placed as many freestones and is the admiration of all the country thereabouts" (!).

Cottenham long enjoyed a reputation for its cheeses. Previous to the enclosure 14,000 or 15,000 cows are said to have been maintained on the rich pasture now largely brought under the plough. The fame of Cottenham is not restricted to such pleasant scenes of pastoral life, it has in bygone days gone out in very different directions.

In the compilation, &c., of these notes (which are necessarily of a somewhat meagre character), I am gratified to have had the assistance of two of my sons, Mr. H. G. Evelyn-White, scholar of Wadham College, Oxford, (Hon. Sec. of the Oxford Univ. Antiq. Society), and Mr. K. V. Evelyn-White (of Queens' Coll. Cambridge). I only regret that I am unable to have reproduced here some excellent sketches expressly drawn by the latter in illustration of this paper.

C. H. EVELYN-WHITE, F.S.A.

*ERRATA.*

p. 58, line 1, for *VOCATI* read *VOCATUS*.

p. 58, line 24, for *sochemanui* read *sochemanni*.

p. 63, line 12, for *Thomas P . .* read *Thomas Polket*.