

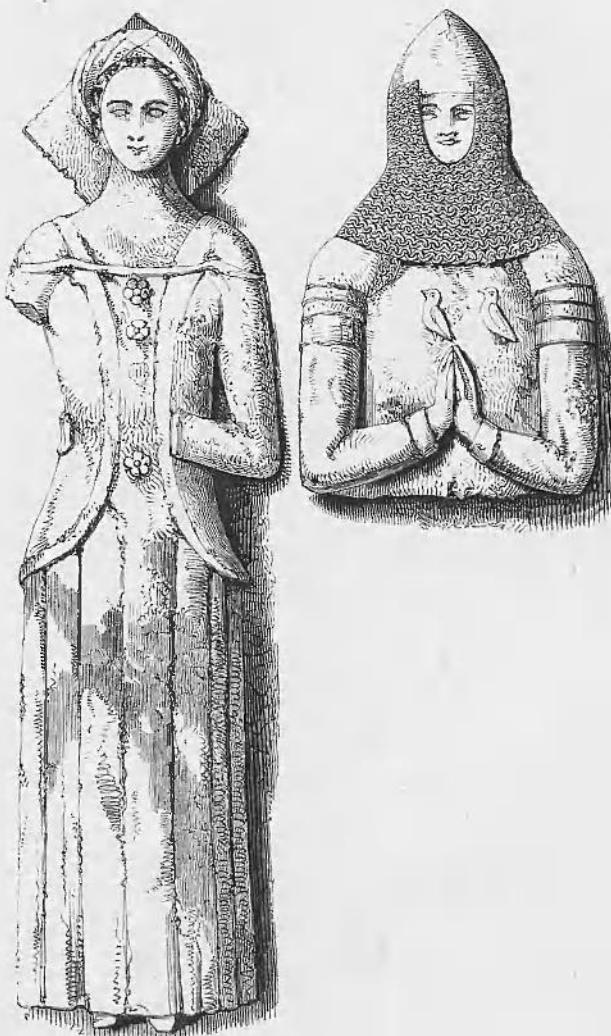
AN ACCOUNT OF TWO MONUMENTAL EFFIGIES FOUND AT  
CHENIES, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

THE rural village of Chenies is romantically situated about five miles from Chesham, on a lofty ridge, from which is seen a beautiful landscape seldom surpassed in English scenery. This parish, originally called Isenhamsted, received its present appellation from the Cheney or Cheyne family, who resided there, and possessed the manor and advowson, from about the middle of the thirteenth, to near the close of the fifteenth, century.

Leland, who visited this place, thus describes the manor-house : "The olde house of the Cheyneis is so translatid by my Lorde Russel, that hath that house on the right of his wife, that little or nothing of it yn a maner remaynith ontranslatid ; and a great deale of the house is even newly set up, made of brike and timber ; and fair logginis be new erectid in the gardene. The house is within diverse places richely paintid with antique workes of white and blak. And there be about the house 2 parkes, as I remembre." (Itin., vol. i., fol. 122, begun about 1538, 30 Henry VIII.)

A considerable portion of this house still remains, and presents some interesting specimens of various styles of architecture. But my attention was particularly attracted to two monumental effigies which lie in the cellar of this house, and which have been "so translatid by my Lorde Russel, that little or nothing of them yn a maner remaynith ontranslatid." It may be well, therefore, to preserve some memorial of them before they are translated into concrete or paving stones. They consist of the effigies of a warrior and a lady, boldly sculptured in hard, close-grained stone. The effigy of the lady is in the best state of preservation, but it has lost the right arm and both hands, and has in other parts been very much rubbed and worn. The head, which rested on a lozenge-shaped pillow, now separated from it, is attired in a caul encircled by a fillet ornamented with rosettes ; and buttons, similarly ornamented, fasten the robe from the neck to the waist. Above this garment is worn that singular jacket with which ladies adorned or disfigured themselves at

MONUMENTAL EFFIGIES AT CHENIES, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.



Mutilated Effigies, removed from the church of Chenies. Date, about 1400.  
Supposed to have been the memorials of Sir John Cheyne, and  
a Lady of the same family.

(From a drawing by Mr. W. Slater.)

the commencement of the fourteenth century, and which some have supposed to be the dress designated by the term, surcot overt. A band, which doubtless fastened a mantle, still remains across the chest, but the mantle is entirely effaced. The dress altogether closely resembles that on the effigy of Joan of Navarre, second wife of Henry IV., king of England. The queen died in 1437, but her effigy was doubtless made soon after the king's death, which occurred in 1413, and to about this period the effigy before us apparently belongs.

The head and chest alone of the warrior remain, but they clearly indicate the date of the effigy. His pointed bascinet, mail gorget, and emblazoned surcoat, present the usual characteristics of knightly effigies at the close of the fourteenth and beginning of the fifteenth century. Of his heraldic bearings two martlets alone remain, which occupy the middle and sinister chiefs.

Had we no other evidence than their apparent date, I should not hesitate to assign these degraded but interesting monuments to the Cheyne family; but I have collected a few historical notices of them which place the matter almost beyond a doubt. Leland, in continuation of the passage above quoted, says, "The Maner Place stondeth at the west ende of the paroche chirche. In the paroche (church) on the northe side of it, as in a chapelle, be 2 tumbes of the Chaynes Lordes of the Manor ther, and the smaul [vil]lage bering their name." About twenty years after Leland's visit, viz., in 1562, a large sepulchral chapel was built for the Russell family at the north side of the chancel, and the Cheyne tombs, together with the chapel containing them, must have been then removed, and were probably destroyed, for they no longer exist. Two of the effigies, however, seem to have been spared, as appears from existing notices.

The Gentleman's Magazine, for 1790, contains a description of the Russell Chapel, in which we are told that "in arches of the north wall are very old figures of a warrior and a lady."

Lysons, in his account of this parish in 1813, says, "In the church are some memorials of the Cheynes. Two ancient tombs, which are now in the adjoining chapel, are supposed to belong to the same family." A gentleman, who visited Chenies in 1837, gave a friend this animated

description of the monuments there. “The chapel adjoining the church is now the burial-place of the Russell family, and is full of the gorgeous, painted, and gilt monuments of Elizabeth’s and James’s days. There, too, lie the ancient lords of the soil—but see the changes and chances of this mortal life! Its vicissitudes are not ended with the grave—men, honoured in their generation, ‘who loved the church so well, and gave so largely to it, it should have canopied their bones till doom’s day,’ have been shoved away into any hole and corner to make way for their powerful successors. One figure is built into the wall, and another is cut in two by the superincumbent weight of a huge Russell monument, his clasped hands raised in prayer, as if appealing against this degradation.” This degradation, however, was not even yet completed. On its being observed, that some of the Russell monuments had become tarnished from the dampness of the chapel, it was deemed expedient, as the clerk’s wife informed me, to remove, not the accumulated soil from the outer wall, but the ancient effigies, in order that the recesses which held them might be built up. And, although there is abundant room in the chapel for fifty such effigies without interfering with the other monuments, these interesting memorials were altogether cast out of the sacred edifice and deposited in the cellar of the adjacent manor-house. There they lie, forgotten and degraded, on the cellar floor of that house, where the personages whom they represent, lived in feudal magnificence, and probably entertained the reigning monarch of their day.<sup>1</sup> The mutilated warrior is evidently the figure which has been so graphically described, and there can be little doubt that these effigies belonged to the Cheyne tombs mentioned by Leland. They evidently belong to a period when the Cheynes were lords of the manor, and the figure of the warrior may be assigned to Sir John Cheyne, Knt., who was lord of the manor during the latter half of the fourteenth century. His predecessor, Alexander Cheyne, died between 1325 and 1359; probably soon after the first date, which appears too early for the costume of the effigy. His successor, John Cheyne, probably his son, is styled *domicillus*, and appears to have died in youth. On his death the manor and advowson passed to Sir John Cheyne, of Drayton Beauchamp, who was buried in Drayton Church in the year 1468, under

<sup>1</sup> Lysons says, Edward I. and Edward III. occasionally resided at Isenhamsted.

a slab, bearing a fine double-canopied brass (now destroyed), commemorating his own death and that of his first wife, Joan, daughter of Sir Robert Fitz-Marmaduke. The mutilated effigy of the knight must, therefore, as before stated, be assigned to Sir John Cheyne, who was Lord of Isenhamsted, during the latter half of the fourteenth century. In 1359 he presented to Chenies Rectory. (Browne Willis's MSS.) In 1372, he was sheriff for the counties of Bedford and Buckingham. (Fuller's Worthies). In 1379, and 1382, he paid ten marks towards the expenses of war. (Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. vii. 211-341.) In 1395, a royal letter, given at length in Rymer's *Fœdera* (vol. vii. 807-8), is addressed to him as Deputy-Constable of England, respecting Thomas de Beverley and Walter de Strathern, two knights, who were bound by a penalty of a thousand pounds, English money, to give satisfaction by the ordeal of battle concerning a charge of treason preferred by the former against the latter, and Sir John Cheyne was commanded to enforce the mandate. This is the last notice of him I have met with ; and in 1401, John Cheyne, *domicillus*, was in possession of the family inheritance, from which we may conclude that Sir John Cheyne died between 1395 and 1401, a period which well suits the apparent date of the effigy.

A few words must now be said respecting its armorial devices. The Cheynes of Drayton Beauchamp bore chequy or and azure, a fess gules, fretty argent ; and as they are known to have been nearly related to the Cheynes of Isenhamsted, the martlets on the broken effigy may seem to militate against assigning it to a member of that family. But this objection is unimportant. Indeed, persons seem often to forget the difference between the usages of heraldry in mediæval times, and those at the present day. At present the several members and branches of the same family take a pride in strictly adhering to the arms of their common ancestor. In former days, when heraldic devices were more significant, and were badges of distinction in the battle field, warriors sometimes acquired new emblazonments, and thus appear distinct from the rest of their family. Distinctive bearings could indeed only be acquired by some signal achievement ; by an alliance with the heiress of a family entitled to bear arms ; or by a grant from the Sovereign, as a special mark of his favour.

Consequently a multiplicity of arms borne by the same family may sometimes be a proof of superior dignity ; and, perhaps, few families acquired a richer assemblage of armorial honours, than those which have been attributed to the Cheynes. From fifty to sixty distinct coats were borne by them, even while heraldry was subject to such laws. No less than eleven of these contained martlets, and from the situation of those on the effigy under consideration, they might belong to at least five out of these eleven, but to which it is not easy to decide. An early Buckinghamshire branch bore, argent a fess between three martlets gules ; and Lipscomb speaks of having seen these arms on a piece of old carving, now lost, in the church at Drayton Beauchamp. Probably these were the arms on this effigy, but it is impossible to speak with confidence. It is evident, however, from what has been said, that the martlets on the effigy are not any evidence against, but rather in favour of, its being a Cheyne.

The variety of arms borne by this family, and the numerous branches into which it was divided, all occupying nearly the same position, have caused no little confusion and perplexity among genealogists and county historians. I will endeavour to correct some of these discrepancies respecting the branch before us. Lysons, in his account of this manor, says, "It had long been in the crown, previously to the reign of Edward III., to which monarch Thomas Cheyne, the first of the family who settled in this county, was shield-bearer." Lipscomb, in his History of Bucks, likewise calls the Cheynes of Isenhamsted "a branch of the Cheynes of Drayton Beauchamp," conveying the impression that the former had issued from the latter ; whereas it is highly probable that the Cheynes of Drayton sprang from the Isenhamsted branch ; and that Thomas Cheyne, whom Lysons supposes to be the first of the family settled in this county, was in reality a younger brother of Sir John Cheyne, to whom we have assigned the effigy at Chenies. (See Rymer's *Fœdera*, vol. vi. 357.)

This Thomas Cheyne of Drayton, who was first valet-de-chambre (*unus valetorum cameræ*), and afterwards esquire (*scutifer*) to Edward III., received from him in 1364 a grant of the reversion of Drayton Manor, &c., after the death of John Lord Cobham (Cal. Rot. Pat., pp. 174—179.) Lord

Cobham died in 1377 ; consequently, the manor of Drayton was not in the possession of the Cheynes till that period, which was long after the manor of Isenhamsted had been in the family.

As no consecutive account of these early lords of the manor has been published, I will subjoin a brief notice of them, which must, however, be premised by a few words on their name.

Every antiquary is aware of the difficulty of identifying ancient names, owing to the various modes of spelling and contraction used by our ancestors. No name has suffered more from this "epidemical disease," as Fuller calls it, than the name of Cheyne. It is said to be derived from the French *Chêne*, or *Chesne*, and is commonly Latinised by *De Querceto*, *De Caneto*, and *De Casineto*; but its English contortions are endless, and have occasioned no less confusion than the variety of arms borne by the same family. The name of the same individual may be found thus variously written, — *De Chednoy*, *De Cheney*, *De Cheigny*, and *De Chyngnie*; while his ancestors, lords of the same manor, are written — *De Kausne*, *De Kan*, *De Shaine*, *De Cahaaignes*; and his successors, *Cheyne* and *Cheney*.

Browne Willis, Clutterbuck, Lipscomb, and other county historians, consider *Cheindyt*, or *Chenduit*, merely another variety in the same name.<sup>2</sup> Certainly, the Cheynes almost invariably succeeded the Chenduits, and if they are one and the same family, we may trace the Isenhamsted branch, though perhaps not uninterruptedly, from the Conqueror's reign, as I now proceed to show.

Ralph, whose immediate successor is termed "the widow

<sup>2</sup> I cannot concur in this opinion for the following reasons :—

1. Both names occur in the Battle Abbey Roll.

2. The armorial bearings assigned to the two names are invariably strikingly different.

3. Both names occur cotemporaneously in ancient records, but are never in such records, as far as I have seen, applied to the same individual; or in any indubitable instance to the same family. Both names are found strangely varied and contorted, but never entirely losing certain indications of original distinction.

4. The Chenduits of Langley held lands in the counties of Hertford, Bucking-

ham, and Northampton, during nearly two centuries, and retained the same name the whole time in the several records of these different manors; but as soon as the lords of these manors are called Cheye, the name Chenduit finally disappears, except in the instance of Isenhamsted, where Sir John de Chedney appears to have acted for Sir Stephen de Chenduit in his absence.

These reasons appear to me conclusive against the identity of the names. The mistake, if mistake it be, has doubtless arisen from the Cheynes inheriting the possessions of the Chenduits which was probably the result of a matrimonial alliance.

of Ralph de Chenduit," held lands at the Domesday Survey in Langley, Herts, and in Cheddington, Ashridge, Pitstone, and Elstrop, a hamlet of Drayton, in Bucks.

Ralph de Chenduit held the same lands after his mother's death. (B. Willis's MSS.)

William de Chenduit received from King Henry II. a grant of "lands in Langley, Pitstone, and Ashridge, which Ralph his father held." (Willis's MSS.<sup>3</sup>)

Ulion de Chendit, in King John's reign, gave the manor of Ashridge, with Pitstone, and other appurtenances, to Richard, Earl of Cornwall. (Chauncy's Herts, and Lipscomb's Bucks.)

Ralph de Cheinduit, in 1205, contested a suit with Roger de Sumery, respecting the patronage of Shenley church (Chauncy's Herts, vol. ii. p. 452). In 1233, and in 1235, he paid for one knight's fee in Cheddington, and for another in Hysenhamstead (Testa de Neville, pp. 146, 258, 261). In 1242 he attested a royal mandate (Rymer, vol. i. p. 405), and died the next year (Matthew Paris, p. 536). He had frequent disputes with the Monks of St. Alban's, and was more than once excommunicated, which may account for Alexander de Chenduit presenting to the rectory of Isenhamsted in 1232, while Ralph was certainly in possession of the manor. He was the first of his family who possessed Isenhamsted, and appears to have resided there.

Stephen de Chenduit probably succeeded Ralph; but in 1257 he was with Richard King of the Romans in Germany (Rymer, vol. i. p. 622). He was probably abroad also in 1264; for in this year, Sir John Cheyne, or Chedney, presented to Isenhamsted rectory; but in 1267 Sir Stephen de Chenduit presented to it. (B. Willis's MSS.)

Sir John de Chedney was Sheriff of Beds and Bucks from 1279 to 1283. (Fuller's Worthies, and Willis.)

Bartholomew Cheyne was patron in 1296;

Alexander de Cheyne in 1325; and

Sir John Cheyne, to whom we have assigned the broken effigy, in 1359.

John Cheyne, Domicillus, was patron in 1401: and

John Cheyne, Esq. (probably the same as the following), in 1415.

<sup>3</sup> See Leland's Itin., vol. iii. page 195, for some account of the Chenduits of Langley.

Sir John Cheyne, knt., of Drayton Beauchamp, presented to the rectory in 1461. He bequeathed the manor and advowson to his second wife Agnes, daughter and (after her brother's death) sole heir of William Cogenhoe—not Nicholas, as stated by Willis,—Lord of the manor and advowson of Cogenhoe, co. Northampton. (See Bridges' Northampton, vol. i. p. 52.)

This Agnes, widow of Sir John Cheyne, married Sir Edmund Molyneux, but retained the name of Cheyne, and dying about 1494, was buried in Chenies Church, under a double-canopied brass, commemorating her own and Sir Edmund's death. The brass still exists; but the date of Lady Cheyne's death is effaced. The following extracts from her will, which is dated 20th November, 1494, may correct some mistakes which are found in various historical and topographical works. “She desires to be buried in the chancel of Isenhamsted Church, and bequeathes £20 for 1000 masses; to each of the churches of Chenies, Drayton, and Cogenhoe, 20s., and an annuity of 10s. to the Prior and Monks of King's Langley, and their successors for ever, according to her husband Sir John Cheyne's will; and the residue of her estate to her nephew Davy Philips and her niece Anne his wife, and their heirs; and in default of their heirs, to her cousin Guy Sapcote; and in default of his heirs, to John Cheyne of the Bois and his heirs. And as to her manor and advowson of Cogenhoe, co. Northampton, she wills it, if John Cheyne of the Bois will let her feoffees and executors perform her last will, and her husband Sir John Cheyne's will, to him and his heirs; but if he disturbs, vexes, or troubles her feoffees and executors, she then wills and directs the said manor to be sold, and the money thereof coming to be disposed of for the wele of her soul, Sir John Cheyne's soul, his father and mother's souls, and her father and mother's souls, and all Christian souls.” (Browne Willis's MSS.)

By virtue of this will, Chenies became the property of David Philips and Anne his wife. In 1498, David Philips was Sheriff of Bedfordshire and Bucks; Anne his wife died in 1510, and is buried in Chenies Church, under a slab with a handsome canopied brass, displaying her effigy and this inscription:—“Hic jacet dna<sup>4</sup> Anna Phelyp vidua quondam

<sup>4</sup> This word is an interlineation in the original.

uxor David Phelip militis domina d' Thorno in Com. Northamptō et Isenhamsted Cheyne in Com. Buk, que obiit primo die Augusti, Anno Dni. MCCCCC decimo, cuius anime p'picet Dè Ame." Anne, daughter and heir of Sir Guy Sapcote, succeeded Lady Philips in her manors of Thornhough and Isenhamsted. She married Sir John Broughton of Tuddington, Bedfordshire, and subsequently, John Lord Russell, afterwards created Earl of Bedford, who, in her right, became Lord of Isenhamsted. (See Hutchins' Dorset, vol. ii. p. 329,<sup>5</sup> and Collins' Peerage, vol. i. p. 247.) A doubt having existed as to the right of Sir John Cheyne or his widow to alienate the manor of Isenhamsted, for greater security, John Cheyne of Drayton, the heir male of its ancient proprietor, conveyed it in 1560 to the Earl of Bedford, in whose family it still continues. (See Lysons, p. 584.)

Clutterbuck, in the endeavour to correct Collins, seems inadvertently to have fallen into an error, which it may be advisable to point out. In his History of Herts, vol. ii. p. 529, he says : "Sir John Broughton of Thornhaw, Northamptō, married Agnes, daughter and heir of Sir Guy Sapcote, Lord of the Manor of Thornhaw, (in Collins' Peerage erroneously called nephew and heir of Dame Agnes Cheyney, of whom he was in reality the Grandfather)." We have seen in Agnes Cheyne's will, that Sir Guy Sapcote was her cousin. Clutterbuck has confounded that lady, who died in 1494, with Anne, daughter of Sir John Broughton, who married Sir Thomas Cheney of Shurland, in Kent, and who was living towards the close of the sixteenth century.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> At page 336 the Russell monuments at Chenies are fully described.

<sup>6</sup> For the drawing, from which the accompanying representation of the effigies

at Chenies has been supplied, we are indebted to the pencil of Mr. Slater, architect, London.