

NOTES ON THE SITE OF THE PALACE OF KENNINGTON.

By HENRY MAC-LAUCHLAN, F.G.S.

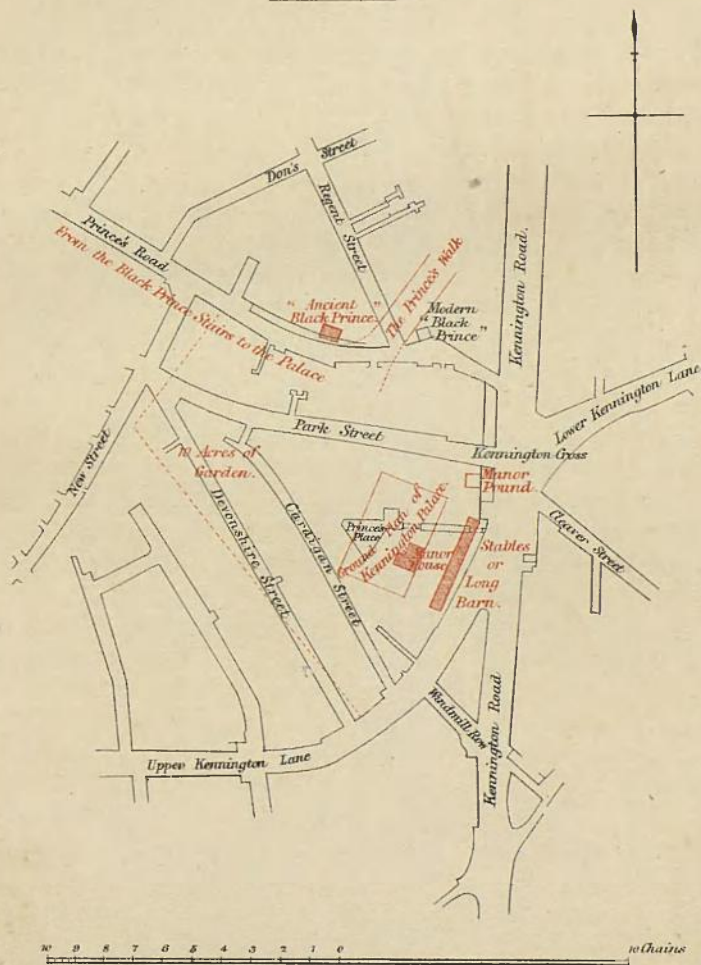
IN the small accompanying sketch the object has been to incorporate, on the modern map of the district, the proper position of the ancient Palace of Kennington, from a map made in the reign of King Charles the First, A.D. 1636. Two copies of this old map are in existence, one in "Ducarel's History of Lambeth," and the other in "Allen's History of Lambeth." The original is in the office of the Duchy of Cornwall, but its relation to the modern roads is not shown. The spot is known as Prince's Place at the Duchy Office, but as Ball's Yard in the neighbourhood, from the name of a recent occupier. In collecting the information necessary, I have to acknowledge the assistance of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Burt, and particularly that of Sir Edward Smirke, whose introduction to Mr. Bateman, of the Duchy Office, enabled me to verify the published maps of the ancient site; there is not a stone of the ancient structure now above ground by which it might be identified; the site is no longer marked on the maps of the day, and even the name has fallen out of the Gazetteers; so that a partial restoration from good authority may possibly not be without interest to archæologists. It is not intended here to write a history of the Palace of Kennington, but merely to give a chronological list of some of the principal events connected with it. In early times it is very probable that the space between the hills at Camberwell and the rising grounds at Deptford and Clapham, and as far as Lambeth, was originally a vast bay or lake, overnarrowed by the tide, and at low water a sandy plain; and that when the Romans fixed themselves in England they improved it by banking out the Thames and by draining.¹

The earliest historical fact on record relating to Lambeth

¹ Allen's *His. Lambeth*, p. 285. In 1720 this place gave the title of Earl to William Augustus Duke of Cumberland, second son of George 2nd, but he dying

without issue, November 8th, 1765, the title became extinct. At p. 354 the same author continues: "Opposite the White Hart (formerly a handsome mansion in

MAP OF A SMALL PART OF THE MANOR OF
KENNINGTON IN THE PARISH OF LAMBETH.
 SHEWING THE SITE OF THE ANCIENT PALACE IN RED
 AND THE PRESENT STREETS IN BLACK.



is the death of Canute the Second, called Hardicanute, which is thus told by the late Sir Francis Palgrave :—

A.D. 1042. "Goda, the daughter of Osgod Clapa, an English Thane of great wealth, was given in marriage to Towid the Proud, a powerful Dane, the king's banner-bearer or marshal, and Hardicanute graced the banquet with his presence at Lambeth. The potations were prolonged deep into the night. In the midst of the revel Hardicanute dropped speechless upon the ground, and a few days afterwards expired."²

A.D. 1086. The Manor of Kennington is thus described in the Domesday Book :—"Teodric, the goldsmith, holds of the King Chenintune. He held it of King Edward.

"It was then assessed for five hides,—now for one hide and three virgates. The land is for two ploughs and a half. In demesne there is one plough; and (*there are*) four villanes, and three bordars, with two ploughs. There is one serf, and four acres of meadow. It was worth, and is worth, three pounds."³

A.D. 1189. King Richard I., in his first year, 1189, granted to Sir Robert Percy, the custody of all his demesne lands in this manor, with a barn and other easements without the pale there, and the office of Steward of the Lordship of Kennington.⁴

A.D. 1259. In the 43rd Henry III., the custody of this manor was granted by the King to Richard de Freemantell.⁵

A.D. 1299. King Edward I. was at Kennington, August 14, 1299.⁶

The custody of the manor was granted to various persons by Henry III. The Parliament he held at Lambeth is supposed to have assembled here, and that he kept his Christmas here in 1231.⁷

A.D. 1338. The Duchy of Cornwall created; Edward, Duke of Cornwall, known as "The Black Prince," resided here.⁸ After his death, in 1377, it came to his son Richard,

which resided Sir Richard Manley in 1636) was a maypole, and behind the house, gardens in which on May-day all sorts of pastimes were held. Mention is made, in the European Magazine, of traces of a cross being discovered at Kennington."

² Francis Palgrave, "History of the Anglo-Saxons" in Murray's Fam. Lib., p. 325.

³ Domesday for the County of Surrey.

Extended and translated from the facsimile copy. Vacher & Son. 1862, p. 51.

⁴ Harl. MSS. 433, f. 63, quoted by Allen.

⁵ Pat. 43, Hen. 3rd, m. 2. Allen's Hist. Lambeth, p. 256.

⁶ Barrington's Obs. Anc. Statutes, p. 145, quoted by Allen.

⁷ Allen's Hist. Lambeth, p. 350.

⁸ Allen's Hist. Lambeth, p. 258.

afterwards King Richard II., who resided here with his mother at the time of the death of King Edward III.; and it is supposed that the sign of the "White Hart" Inn and the name "White Hart Street" were taken originally from the heraldic badge of Richard. He ascended the throne June 22, 1377, in which year John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, came to Kennington for shelter from the fury of the citizens of London.⁹

A.D. 1396. On the 13th November, the young Queen Isabel was conveyed from Kennington through Southwark to the Tower of London.¹

King Henry IV. was here when the Bishops and clergy made their complaints to him against Sir John Oldcastle and the Lollards.²

A.D. 1419. In the 6th of Henry V., Thomas Burcester was the Keeper of the Manor of Kennington.³

A.D. 1439. King Henry VI. was here in June 1437 and 1439.⁴

King Henry VII., a few days before his coronation, came from Kennington, and was entertained by Archbishop Bouchier at Lambeth.⁵

A.D. 1611. King James I., in his eighth year, settled the Manors of Kennington and Vauxhall on Henry Prince of Wales; and on his death, in 1612, on Prince Charles.⁶

A.D. 1615 and A.D. 1626. A survey of this manor was made in 1615; and in 1626 another survey was made, and about the same time the gardens and site of the palace were let for the first time. It was then a stone building 231 feet long and 156 feet deep, as appeared from an old plan in the possession of J. Middleton, Esq., the bailiff of the Manor.⁷

A.D. 1661. On the Restoration the King took possession of Kennington, and on the 26th January, 1661, demised to Lord Henry Moore, afterwards Earl of Drogheda, the capital messuage of this manor and lands parcel thereof, and of the Duchy of Cornwall, and the capital messuage of Vauxhall,⁸

⁹ Stow, 273, 274. Allen's Hist. Lambeth, p. 259.

¹ Stow's Annals. Allen's Hist. Lambeth, p. 325.

² Bishop of Winchester's Reg. Beaufort, 1, 44 b. Allen's Hist. Lambeth, p. 259.

³ Allen's Hist. Lambeth, p. 259.

⁴ Rymer's Fœd. vol. 10, 670, 724.

⁵ Stow's Annals. Allen's Hist. Lambeth, p. 352.

⁶ Allen's Hist. Lambeth, p. 259.

⁷ Allen's History of Lambeth, p. 260, and Nichol's History of Lambeth, p. 94.

⁸ Vauxhall, Faukeshall, or Foxhall, properly Fulke's Hall, and so called from Fulke de Breauté, the celebrated mercenary follower of King John. (Murray's

for 30 years, at the rent of £150, but with power to resume Vauxhall, making a proportional allowance of rent. The King did resume Vauxhall, and granted a new lease of the residue at a rent of £100.⁹

A.D. 1747. On the 18th July, 1747, a lease was granted for 31 years to William Clayton, Esq., of Harleford, Bucks, of the capital messuage of the Manor of Kennington, the great barn (see the Map), and eight acres adjoining, &c., &c., Fauxhall excepted.¹

Great changes have taken place on the site of the palace of late years ; what was once the resort of royalty is now a yard for carts and waggons, called Ball's Yard. Notwithstanding the above records of the palace, the site is very little known, nor has it been produced on any of the modern maps, and it is probable that not a stone can be pointed out of the ancient edifice, although much of the foundations may still exist.

Hand-Book of London, vol. 2, p. 859.)
 " Fulke de Breauté married Margaret, Earl Baldwin's mother, and thus obtained the wardship of her son ; he appears to have built a hall or mansion-house in the manor of South Lambeth during his tenure of it ; and from his time it was called indifferently Faukeshall, or South Lambeth, and is so termed in the tenth year of Edward 1st (T. Hudson Turner,

Archæol. Journ. No. 15, p. 275). See also Allen's History of Lambeth, where Fulke's adventures are related at length, p. 263.

⁹ Entry of warrants and grants of crown lands by the Earl of Southampton, Treasurer.

¹ Manning's and Bray's Hist. Surrey, vol. iii. p. 488.