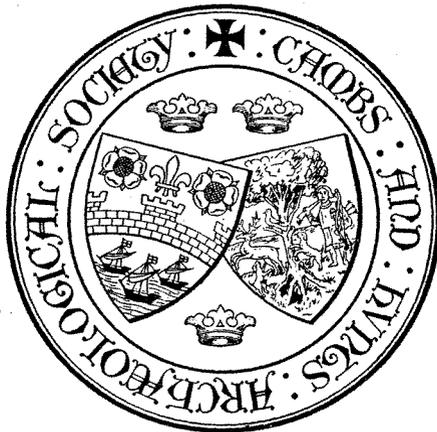


Transactions
OF THE
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VOLUME V. PART I.

EDITED BY THE REV. E. H. VIGERS, M.A.
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Contents of Part 1, Vol. 5.

Papers.

	PAGE
EPISCOPAL VISITATION RETURNS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, 1638—1662, by <i>W. M. Palmer, M.D., F.S.A.</i> ..	1
RECENT DISCOVERIES	39
THE MONASTERY OF ELY, by <i>S. Inskip Ladds, A.R.I.B.A.</i>	41

Illustrations.

	PAGE
THREE HUNTINGDONSHIRE CELTS	38
THE MONASTERY OF ELY.	
PLAN OF THE PRINCIPAL FLOOR <i>to face</i>	41
ELY CATHEDRAL WEST FRONT <i>to face</i>	45
DIAGRAM NO. 1. ILLUSTRATING THE DIVISION OF THE INFIRMARY IN 1541	61
DIAGRAM NO. 2. ILLUSTRATING THE DEANERY IN 1649	76
PLAN OF THE MONASTERY <i>to face</i>	88

EPISCOPAL VISITATION RETURNS,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE,
(DIOCESE OF ELY.)

PART II.

1662—1665.

By Dr. W. M. PALMER, F.S.A.

The following pages are a continuation from the proceedings of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archæological Society, Vol. IV, pp. 313-411. In these pages some additional documents relating to the same subject are considered. (1) Some further churchwardens' returns to the book of queries issued at Bishop Wren's second visitation, 1662. This book of queries follows almost word for word that of 1638, an abstract of which is printed in *Cambridge Village Documents*, pp. 44-52. The chief addition being a query concerning the abrenunciation of the Solemn League and Covenant. (2) An abstract of the reports of the Archdeacon on certain Cambridgeshire Churches visited in 1665.

I. CHURCHWARDENS' RETURNS, 1662-1665.

Some of these seem to be the ordinary quarterly returns and not answers to detailed visitation queries. They are written on sheets of paper of many different sizes varying from 8 inches by 6 inches to 16 by 6½. The frequency with which the wardens return *omne bene*, "All well," shows that they looked upon these "quarter bills," as mere forms. This brevity may have arisen from laziness or from want of understanding. In order that the truthfulness of these returns may be tested, extracts from the Archdeacon's Visitation of 1665 have been added where possible. From these it will be seen that there was a wide difference of opinion between the Archdeacon and the Churchwardens, as to what was proper and comely in Churches. Most of these returns were found by the writer amongst unsorted MS. in the Bishop's Muniment Room.

LITTLE ABINGTON.

Easter bill, 9 March 1663.

[John Richards and William Lofts recite nine headings from the book of visitation articles, but they had nothing to present.]

VISITATION RETURNS

1665. Pulpit and desk to be hung with green cloth half a foot deep. Tiling out of repair. Cover of font to be made decent. A napkin for communion table, books of Canons and Homilies to be provided.

BABRAHAM.

Lady Day 1663.

Omne bene.

1665. Jewell's *Apology*, Book of Canons, Table of degrees, and Book of Homilies wanting, etc., etc.

BALSHAM.

Lady Day 1663.

Richard Norden }
Richard Rule } Churchwardens.
Omne bene.

[Two years later there is a very different account.]

1665. 31 *Augt.*

Hen. Chapman }
John Daniel } Churchwardens.

- 1 The font cover to be made decent.
- 2 The church and chancel to be new whited where required and the commandments to be renewed.
- 3 The pulpit and desk to be hung with green cloth fringed half a foote deep.
- 4 The patten for the communion cup to be changed and made larger in the brim.
- 5 The window in the chancel where there is a doore hung, to be made up like unto the other bay of the same window.
- 6 The dore in the chancel to be strengthened.
- 7 The clark's seate to be removed and to be placed where the m^r and chwarden shall find convenient.
- 8 Book of Homilies and book of Cannons wanting to be provided.
[On 28 April, 1666, all these things are noted as "parata."]

BARTON.

25 April 1663.

Nothing more to present than heretofore.

1665. Font cover to be made more decent. Pulpit and desk to be hung with fringed green cloth.
 Church and chancel to be whited where needful.
 Carpet and napkin for communion table wanted.
 Chancel seats to be mended, Jewell's *Apology* to be new bound.

BURROW GREENE.

Michaelmas Quarter Bill 1663.

Our church is out of repair and we are unable to repair it.
 And we have nothing else to present.

James Disborough }
 Richard Gynne } Churchwardens.

[Two years later the same men give more details.]

1665. *Sept. 1.*

James Disboro
 Richd. Ginn

- 1 The font out of repaire in stoneworke leds and cover.
- 2 The two isles in the church and the middle thereof very much out of repair in the led timber and stone work, and partlie fallen down.
- 3 A new bible etc.*
- 4 A new surplice and hood wanting, to be provided.
- 5 The old patten etc.*
- 6 Cover of the pulpit to be amended.
- 7 Chancel out of repair in leds and stone worke.
- 8 Pulpit and desk to be hung with green cloth fringed half a foot deep.
- 9 Bells, etc.*
- 10 A linen cloth for table to be provided.

*See the GENERAL SURVEY at the end.

CAMBRIDGE ST. PETER'S.

(Not dated, but 1662 or 1663.)

Our minister declared his unfeigned assent and consent to all things contained in the book of common prayer and renounced the Solemn League and Covenant within the time limited by the late act of Uniformity.

Our minister hath frequently admonished the parishioners to send their children to be catechised, but as yet scarce any come. Our minister hath not yet read the 39 articles publicly since he came into the cure.

William Gynne and Robert Bateman do not come to church. There is scarce any of about 16 years who have received the Holy Sacrament as we know.

We have no recusants in our parish.

We have a chest with 3 locks for the alms for the poor, the keys are wanting, but we intend to procure others.

Bodleian: Gough, Eccl. MS. No. 3.

TRINITY PARISH, CAMBRIDGE.

Quarter Bill, 1666.

We present that Bryan Kitchingman late of the parish of All Saints gent, hath obstructed the ancient passage whereby the inhabitants of Trinity Parish did use time out of mind to goe in procession to continue the ancient bounds of the parish in, by and through, a certaine piece or parcell of ground belonging to certain almshouses, one part of the said ground abutting uppon the highway leading to the towne of Barnwell east, the other part lieth against the common pound west, one other part adjoineth to the almshouse north and upon the highway leading from Cambridge to Barnwell south and this he hath done at all times to the disturbance of the ancient custom of Perambulation.

[Kitchingman was an attorney and a nonconformist.]

CARLTON.

A Quarter Bill made by John Jaggard and George Vale, churchwardens and Robert Laurence and Laurence Knock, sidesmen for the towne of Carleton-cum-Willingham.

VISITATION RETURNS

Whereas we are enjoined and commanded to make diligent search and enquiry concerning all enormities committed in our parish faithfully to make presentment of them into the ecclesiastical Court we can find none at this time or any other since the last bill putting in worthy to be presented whereunto we have set our hands, May 8th, 1663.

Robert Sendell, Rector.

[In his writing. The men named above all sign also.]

CARLETON-CUM-WILLINGHAM.

1665. 31 Aug.

The font cover to be made new, and the well to be searched to make the water run away.

The pulpit and deske to be hung with greene cloth and fringed half a foote deep.

Church and chancell to be new whited and plastered.

Weatherboard for the steeple to be provided.

Church in the Tyling out of reparaire.

The old Patten to be changed and made larger.

A new carpet for the communion table and a new linen cloth and napkin to be provided.

Table of degrees wanting.

Church door on the S. side to be lined.

Rubbish in the churchyard to be carried away.

The clark's seat to be removed and placed more convenientlie.

COTON.

Lady Day Quarter Bill, 1663.

[Divided into the nine headings of Bp. Wren's Visitations Articles. Concerning Chapters 1, 2, 5, 7 and 9 there was nothing to present.]

- 3 [Church furniture,] we are provided with all things requisite, and for the possession of the church we have three tenements and some land to the value of 8 or 9 pounds a year, which is employed for repair of the church.
- 4 Our minister is of the degree of Master of Arts by name Gervase Fullwood, a licensed preacher who serves the cure himself.
- 6 We made a new choice of Churchwardens at Easter last according to custome and an account of moneys received is entered in the town book.

8 Schoolmaster physician or surgeon we have none, but a clerk or sexton we have.

Timothy Atkinson }
Cyprian Pemberton } Churchwardens.

1665.

Mr. Cyprian Pemberton }
Mr. Wm. Moulton } Churchwardens

The chancel at the north side wants thatching and the roof of the church wants slating. Ceiling and floor of church to be repaired and rubbish removed. Church and chancel to be whited and plaistered. Desk and pulpit to be hung with fringed green cloth. Book of Homilies to be provided.

[Other points mentioned in the next section.]

COTTENHAM.

October 4th, 1663.

John Woods }
John Wright } Churchwardens.

“ We present George Mayes for not maintaining his fence against the Churchyard by reason whereof the churchyard is rooted up, and lieth indecently.”

[The only presentment. Mayes was presented for the same on July 31, 1665, on which date many other defects were reported in the structure and furniture of the church. There was a crack in the east end of the chancel, and much plaistering was needed. Windows wanted glass, and seats and floor mending. The table of degrees, the book of canons, the box of homilies, and the book for strange preachers were missing. The pulpit was ordered to be painted and with the reading desk was to be hung with fringed green cloth. The whole church was to be whited and painted and inscriptions of scripture to be renewed, especially the ten commandments. The surplice was unclean and the wardens were admonished to wash it within a fortnight, and certify to the ecclesiastical court at Cambridge. A new chancel door was to be made and a new communion cloth bought, etc., etc. All these items had not been attended to by June, 1666, and the new wardens were given until Michaelmas.]

VISITATION RETURNS

Dr. John Manby the royalist rector had been ejected in 1644, and the rectory was in the possession of the well known puritan John Nye until his ejection after the Restoration. Dr. Manby was then again in possession until his death in 1671.]

DUXFORD ST. JOHN.

October 26th, 1663.

[The only presentment concerns a bastard child.]

1665. Weather boards for steeple to be provided. a new carpet and napkin for communion table, and books of canons and homilies to be provided; Jewell's *Apology* to be new bound, etc., etc.

DUXFORD ST. PETER.

March 9th, 1663.

We have nothing to present of any order or degree.

Thomas King.

Robert Frost.

1665. A decent cover to be made for the font. The east window to be taken down, so far as it is done up with brick and mortar and to be glazed. The desk and pulpit to be coloured when the church is whited, and to be hung with cloth fringed. Spouts of lead wanted on the north side, etc., etc.

FOXTON.

December 4th, 1663.

We do present upon 20th article 7th chapter that Richard Salmon, Hamond Bibyly and the wife of Thomas Bibyly have stud excommunicate at least four months upon contempt of Lawes ecclesiastical.

1665.

Phillip Brightwell	}	Churchwardens.
Roger Nelson		

- 1 The Font to be searched where the fault is that the water runs into the church, and to be amended.
- 2 The firewood laying in the church to be removed. A cloth to be made for the desk suitable to the pulpit.
- 3 The chancell out of repair, to be amended, in the wall southward; the door there to be amended and a lock made for it; church and chancel to be whited and plaistered where needfull.

- 4 A new carpet for the communion table. The cushion to the pulpit to be new covered and the cloth renewed and Patten for communion cup to be made larger. The chest to be repaired and 3 locks made to it. The Iland or Chappell on the north to be amended.
- 5 The door on the north side of the church to be strengthened and the locke amended.

FOULEMER.

Churchwarden's Bill for Michaelmas Quarter, made 5th day of December. [No year given.]

- 1 *Omne bene.*
- 2 We have had the booke of common prayer and the sacrament dayly administered, therefore we say *omne bene.*
- 3 Our church is putting in repayre to the rest *omne bene.*
- 4 Our minister is licensed by the Bishop of Ely—we have no terrier of the glebe land.
- 5 *Omne bene.*
- 6 *Omne bene.*
- 7 We present the widdow Renalls and Susan Woodly Spinster and the widdow Parish for not keeping their church, but going to meetings.
- 8 Wee have a Schoole master, his name is William Fowle, he is lycensed by the Bishop. Physicians and surgeons we have none. We have a midwife, whose name is Martha Spilman.
- 9 We present John Helty for he have had a child, but we do not know whether it were baptized.

Edward Goodin }
Edward Maulding } Churchwardens.

Robert Nunn }
Henry Fordham } Churchwardens.

1665.

The fence on the east and south of the churchyard wants repairs.

The buttress on the north wants repairs and the vestry.

The desk to be fringed and hung the couler of the pulpit cloth.

The doors of the church and chancel to be mended.

VISITATION RETURNS

The rubbish in the churchyard to be moved and the elders cut down.

The font to be searched, a new bell rope to be provided and the window glazed. Book of Homilies wanting, and a napkin for the communion table.

HAUXTON.

8th May, 1663.

Omne bene.

1665.

[The font would not hold water. Jewell's works, the Book of Homilies, and cloth for communion table, were wanting, etc., etc.]

HORNINGSEY.

Lady Day Quarter, 1663.

We know of nothing to present.

1665.

[Cover of font, the "sleyhting" of the Church, the tyling of the chancel, and the glass windows of both church and chancel to be amended; also the communion table. Jewell's *Apology* and the Bible to be new bound. Book of Canons and Homilies wanting, also napkin for communion table. Pulpit and desk to be hung with green cloth and fringe and the chancel whited.]

HORSHEATH.

Horseheath Bill, in answere to ye Lord Bishop's articles given into ye courte ye 5th of December, 1663.

Chapter 1 and 2 nothing to report.

Chapter 3. We have severall persons who will not contribute towards the repairing of our church nor towards the provision of such things as belong thereunto namely Quakers, most of them excommunicated.

"To the 18th art. of this chapter, in the late rebilious times the inscriptions of brasse were taken away but by whom we know not."

Chapter 4. "Our minister doth all things required in his own person, as we have formerly acquainted you with, more at large, but as for administration of the sacraments we will give you a

better accompt in our next bill at Easter, but our Minister doth ware white stockings and a white capp contrary to the tener of the 39th article of this chapter. Our minister doth not wear a square capp. but in all things else he is conformable in every particular, as far as we are able to apprehend."

Chapter 5. We have one George Bone who lives from his wife in a gentleman's house, we conceive by reason of his poverty.

Chapter 7. We present Walter Crane and his wife, John Adams and his kinswoman which lives with him, we cannot learn her name, Jacob Batten and his wife, John Ellis, Grace Ruggles, the wife of Thomas Washtaile, Widdow Pammont, the wife of John Lord, Thomas Wakeling, Thomas Richardson, most of these are excommunicated; also we present Thomas Richardson, and Thomas Vale for his common frequenting of ale houses, as for Holy dayes, the whole towne stands guiltie, but hopes of amendment, and for the parishioners receiving the Sacrament we shall give in a better account at Easter, in the meantime we desire your patience.

Chapter 8. Our clarke is about 60 years of age and can reade and singe.

Chapter 9. All things hath bin perused and observed as far as we are able to apprehend, but the archdeacon never gave our church a visit as yett, as for many things that is omitted we gave you a more particular account in our first bill, if it be desired we shall answeare every particular next Easter when we shall be better prepared.

Edward Webb, churchwarden.

My partner is dead and there is noe other chosen as yet.

Anthony Barker, sidesman.

[The document seems to be in Webb's handwriting.]

1665.

[At the archdeacon's visitation on Aug. 31st, Edward Webb and Anthony Barker, being churchwardens, the chancel was ordered to be new whited and plaistered; the reading desk to be hung with fringed green cloth; and there were wanting a new linen cloth and napkin for communion table, the book of Canons and Jewell's works.]

VISITATION RETURNS

ICKLETON.

*May 8th, 1663.**Omne bene.*

1665.

The door out of the church into the chancel to be amended, and the chancel door to be made stronger and have another lock. Chancel leads to be amended and the pavement made even.

IMPINGTON.

31 March, 1666.

[This is a small quarto book of 24 pages, containing detailed answers to the Bishop's book of visitation articles, by Henry Ranew and Thomas Tismond, churchwardens. Extracts only given here.]

We have a parish church and chancel standing and in use. We have a bible of the largest volume, a book of common prayer of the last allowance, a book of Homilies, the forms of service for 5th Nov., 30th Jan., and 29th May. We have a font of stone, fastened in the usual place, whole and clean, a decent communion table and a carpet of silk, a fair linen cloth laid at the administering of the sacrament, the table ordinary standeth the ends thereof being placed North and South at the east end of the chancel. We have not any steps to it, or rails about it. We have one convenient seate in which both divine service is read and sermon preached, which was seen and approved of by the chancellor last summer. We have a decent cushion, a large surplice and a hood and have had them about 5 or 6 years. We have a flagon of pewter and a communion cup and cover of silver and other ornaments necessary for the divine service. We have a poor man's box and a chest for the keeping of the books, communion vessels etc., and they are kept in the chancel. We have a register book of parchment and a paper book for strange preachers. We have neither vestrie nor vicarage house nor almshouse. There are no arms for souldiers in the church, nor are plays, feasts, leets, or musters in our churchyard. Men and women do not sit promiscuously together in church, there are no seats at the east end of the chancel, there are no galleries,

no tombs, no dusty withered garlens in the church, no grave-stones in the churchyard. There are inscriptions in brass upon some gravestones defaced before our time. Our minister is Mr. Thomas Wibrowe, he is a M.A. of Cambridge, and liveth here although he hath no house to dwell in belonging to his vicarage nor any ground on which to erect a house. He is a licensed preacher, constant in preaching, in priests gown, surplice and hood. He hath no other benefice. He doth preach to the people their obedience to the King and especially on 29th May and 30th Jan. He hath abrenunciated the Scottish covenant as by law required though he never took the same covenant. Sacrament four times a year. Some (who can conveniently place themselves), doe receive the Sacrament in the chancel the rest do receive in their seats, all receive reverently and kneeling. The tithes are valued at £15 to £16 a year, lately augmented by the impropiators the Dean and Chapter by £36. Holy days have been warned by our minister and the perambulation observed, though not every year. We have a private school taught by our minister in his house, who is licensed (as we have heard) by the late Lord's Grace of Canterbury, who bringeth his scholars to be catechised in the church at least once in the week etc. We have no physician or surgeon. We have no superstitious ringing of bells, and the clark doth toll the passing bell, and there is commonly a knell presently after the departure.

LANDBEACH.

Quarter bill made 25 April, 1663.

Having duly perused the articles given we have nothing to present.

Robert Taylor.

Francis Laurence.

LONGSTANTON ALL SAINTS.

Sept. 25, 1662.

Chapters 1, 5, 6, 9. Nothing presentable.

Chapter 2. Wee find only 2 person unbaptised, the one a daughter of Widow Coale of the parish about 12 years of age and the other a boy of 16 years old, an apprentice called Binge, whose parents live not in our parish.

VISITATION RETURNS

Chapter 3. Our surplice and hood are bought and making up. Our register and Terryar of glebe land shall be returned into court before appointed time. Our yearly revenue belonging to the church is £4 10s.

Chapter 4. Our Minister is Henry Gray, etc., see St. Michael.

Chapter 7. Wee find that Willyam Phipes, Richard Freeman and Martha Coale do commonly absent themselves from church.

Chapter 8. A sufficient parish clark, but neither schoolmaster, phisitian, etc.

Richard Mussell }
Stephen X Prior } Churchwardens.

LONGSTANTON ST. MICHAEL.

*Our Bill delivered in at the Bishop of Elye's Visitation
at Cambridge, Sept. 25th, 1662.*

Chapters 1, 2, 6, 9. Nothing presentable.

Chapter 3. We have all necessaries provided. Our surplice and hood are bought and making up. Our register and terrier of glebe land shall be returned into the Court, with the time appointed. Our yearly revenue belonging to our church is 3^{li} 5^s.

Chapter 4. Our minister's name is Henry Gray, M^r of Arts, who doth constantly observe the order of Holy church.

Chapter 5. Our parish is so small that we have none but poore labouring men to chuse for sydesmen; yet if it be indispensable, we shall chuse such and forthwith send them to be sworn.

Chapter 7. We have one Phillip Tayler who doth commonly absent himself from our church.

Chapter 8. We have a sufficient parish clerk, but neither schoolmaster, Phisitian, chirurgeon nor midwife.

Edward Haddow }
Thomas Morling } Churchwardens.

[These two Longstanton documents are in the same hand-writing, perhaps that of the vicar.]

VISITATION RETURNS

and peaceable in his conversation. He doth acknowledge and maintain the King's authority and hath renounced the covenant. He goes the Perambulation in Rogation Week. The fifth of November, the thirteenth of January and the twenty-ninth of May are duly observed and no other days in the year, in such solemn and public manner.

Henry Gray, Vicar.

Richard Murfett

Stephen Prior

} Churchwardens.

MADINGLEY.

Quarter Bill, May 16th, 1663.

Our church, chancel and churchyard fence are in good repair. Our minister performs all things as are enjoined. Our parishioners duly resort to the church both to service and sermon. Only two women refuse to come to church, Joan the wife of Thomas Cotton and Thomasin the wife of Thomas Cole, who were formerly presented. We have provided since our last bill, a surplice, a hood and a book of Canons.

Francis Ivat

John Ivat

} Churchwardens.

1665.

Table of degrees, Jewell's *Apology* and the book of Canons wanting. The elderne about the church to be cut down. The stone wall at the east end out of repair, etc.

MILTON alias MIDDLETON.

[*Undated.*]

We the chwardens of Milton have truly considered and diligently enquired of every one of these articles, and all the branches thereof and have used the help of our Vicar for the understanding and answering of them and doe make this true answer.

Chapter 1. Concerning 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 articles we find nothing to be presented, but concerning the 5 we answer that Mr. John Harris Lord of the Manor and Mrs. Martha Harris his mother, and Mr. Temps and his wife* are papists and refuse to repair to the church to heare divine service and to receive the holy communion.

* Mary Whiterod's name has been crossed out.

Chapter 2. Concerning articles 1—6 and 8—11 we find nothing to be presented, but to the 7th we answer that the children of the forenamed papists were not publicly baptised in our church, nor doe we know whether where, or by whom baptised in private, except the children of Mary Whiterod, which were all baptised in our church publicly, her husband, Robert Whiterod being a Protestant.

Chapter 3. We have nothing worthy to present, save only as followeth: we present Joseph Ramson for suffering the Vicarage house to be out of repaire.

Chapter 4—9. We have nothing to present.

Ellis Richards	}	Churchwardens.
Richard Foot		

1665. *Archdeacon's Visitation.*

Mr. Harris, his chapel defective both in timber and lead. The desk to be fringed with green cloth. A table of degrees, the book of Canons, the book of homilies wanting, also lock to Church door and napkin for communion table.

OAKINGTON alias HOGGINTON.

The Visitation Bill exhibited 25 Sept. 1662 for Michaelmas Quarter.

Chapter 1. All things are duly performed.

Chapter 2. We find nothing worthy presentment.

Chapter 3. We have all things decent and necessary save only surplus and hood.

Chapter 4. We have an able, godly and painful minister, by name Edward Kemp, being a bachelor in Divinity and a licensed preacher, who doth reverently discharge his duty.

Chapter 5. We find that one Richard Wayeman and his wife were lately married, but where and by whom we cannot say, nor were the Bans published in our parish.

Chapter 6. We find nothing worthy presentment.

Chapter 7. 5th article. We present William Allen, sen. and jun., Ellinor Allen, spinster, Margaret, wife of Christopher Morlin, Margaret Morlyn widow, Elizabeth, wife of Robert Tingle, all parishioners of our said town for their obstinate and wilfull

absenting themselves from our Parish church upon Sundays, and other days appointed.

Chapter 8. We have a schoolmaster by name Mr. Sharples who is a graduate of Christ's College in Cambridge, he hath continued with us these two years past, but whether licensed or not we cannot say. He is of honest and sincere life, religion and conversation, sufficient and diligent in teaching and bringing up of youth. We have no phisition or surgeon. We have a fit and able clarke.

Signed,
Edward Kemp, late Vicar. William Crosby }
William Chaplin } Churchwardens.

OAKINGTON.

Churchwarden's Bill, March, 1663.

We have nothing to present except that Alice, wife of William Garner, and Elizabeth wife of Robert Tingle do not come to church.

1665. *Archdeacon's Visitation.*

A new cover to the font to be decently made. The seat where Mr. Audley now sits is too high, ordered to be taken down and made even with the seat before it.

ORWELL.

Endorsed "*Orwell Lady day Quarter Bill for the year 1662, exhibited May the 30th, 1663.*"

Our church is in good repair, the leads, iron, timber, bells, ornaments and other furniture is not imbezeld nor sold.

We have a decent communion table and a decent carpet and another covering of Linnen convenient to be spread at the administering ye Lord's Supper.

We have a decent font of stone placed at the nether end of the church as formerly.

We have a convenient Pew to read divine service in, and a pulpit with a decent cloth and cushion, a large Bible and a booke of common prayer, published 1662, the Book of Homilies, the book of Ecclesiastical constitutions and a printed table of degrees of marriages, and a Register book in parchment.

Our churchyard is sufficiently fenced and decently kept.

Dr. Rowe is rector, our vicaridge is void, worth about twenty pounds a year.

The Vicaridge houses are all down, vz., the dwelling house, barnes and stables, so that the dilapidations are prized at two hundred pounds.

Elizabeth Adams, widow, William and Anne Cakebread do not resort to church.

We have a clerke twenty years of age at the least.

Edward Caldecott }
John Howard } Churchwardens.

1665.

The steeple wants plaistering, the churchyard walls and the vestry to be amended. A new cover wanted for the font and the same to be searched so as to hold water. Jewell's *Apology*, a napkin for communion table and a cloth for pulpit to be provided.

GREAT SHELFORD.

Quarter Bill for anno domini 1663.

Henry Webb }
Robert Fuller } Churchwardens.

We doe certify that having diligently perused the articles given us in charge by the Rev. Father in God, Matthew, etc., we find nothing in our parish worthy of presentment, butt all things are decently and orderly performed by our minister and no wilful neglect of God's worship amongst our neighbours.

1665.

Cover of font to be mended. Book of Canons and Homilies, the Table of degrees, a new paten, and flagon, and a carpet for communion table to be provided.

Windows in chancel and church want glazing etc., etc.

SHEPRETH.

December 3rd, 1663.

Our Vicarage is out of repair since our last return.

1665. Thomas Albone }
John Norrice } Churchwardens.

The walls, roof, and pavement of the church very much out of repair to be amended, also the gate house, and the ground

VISITATION RETURNS

in the churchyard in several places levelled. The font to be searched and the cover amended and made decent. The pulpit and desk to be hung and fringed with green. A table of degrees and a book of canons to be provided. Church and chancel to be whited.

SHUDY CAMPS.

Lady Day, 1663.

Edward Bryant }
William Hammond } Churchwardens.

Omne bene.

1665.

31 Aug.,

William Hammond }
Edward Flower } Churchwardens.

Sir Thomas Willis impropriate rector under Trinity College. Pulpit and desk to be hung with green fringed cloth. A stone for threshold of north door of Chancel, which is to be lined. Jewell's *Apology*, Book of Homilies, a third lock for church chest and weather boards for south side of steeple wanting. The windows on south side of chancel being stopped up to be new glazed. Cover for font to be made decent.

STAPLEFORD.

Bill for Michaelmas Quarter, 1663.

1 & 2. Nothing to report.

3 We have all things required by those articles, but we have not yet fully repaired our church.

4 Our minister is a graduate in the university of Cambridge, he observeth all things commanded by these articles.

5 We present John Prime of our parish being lawfully married to Elizabeth Vere widdow late of Trumpington, for liveing asunder from his wife, we know not in whom the fault is.

6 & 7. Nothing to present.

8 Our parish clerk is likewise sexton, he can read and write and likewise hath a competent skill in singing, being in every way fitting for the place, and concerning his wages he doth not make complaint.

James Beanckes }
Thomas Kidman } Churchwardens.

1665.

Font cover to be mended. Hangings for pulpit and desk, napkin for communion table, and King's arms, to be provided. Church to be whited.

THRIPLOE.

Quarter Bill, December the fift, 1663.

To the first, our church and chancell is in good repair, our church-yard sufficiently fenced all but one fleake of pales belonging to certaine lands which Henry Moule of Foulmire houldeth.

To the second, we have a decent communion table, with a decent carpet and an altar covering of fine linen, a decent font of stone placed at the neather end of the church.

To the third, we have a convenient pew to read divine service and a pulpit with a decent cushion, a large Bible of the last translation, and a book of common prayer published in 1662, a surplice and hood.

Our minister doth not baptize infants without Godfathers and Godmothers.

We have none that refuse to come to divine service, nor any unlawfully married.

We have a clarke of honest conversation sufficient for reading and writing.

We have considered the other articles and find nothing to present.

William Dearing }
 Timothy Blackman } Churchwardens.

1665.

John Hopper }
 John Clements } Gard.

- 1 The fence on the N. and S. sides to be amended, and the spouts of lead to be made larger and repayred.
- 2 The leds of the chancell to be amended where they want and the wall on the S. side out of repair, the ground to be levelled and the gate house mended.
- 3 A table of degrees wanting, to be provided, book of Homiliæ, and Jewell's works also.

VISITATION RETURNS

- 4 The pulpit cushion to be new faced with green cloth, and the pulpit desk with a fringe and a napkin for Communion table.
- 5 Vestry much decayed to be mended and the Church and chancel to be whited, pavement of chancel mended.
- 6 A new chest for the Church to keep the ornaments & vestments.

TRUMPINGTON.

May 30th, 1663.

Nothing to present since the last quarter bill.

1665.

Aug. 5th,

Rowland Frances }
Will. Emerson } Churchwardens.

- 1 The church and steeple want plaistering without, the pigeons to be kept out.
- 2 Font to be taken up and searched and a new cover to be made.
- 3 A chappell on the North side out of repaire in timber in leddes and lime work to be amended.
- 4 The pulpit and desk to be hung with greene cloth fringed. The church and chancel to be new whited and plaistered, and the chancel pavement mended.
- 5 A carpet for the communion table, a napkin for the same and a new Patten for the Communion cup, Jewell's works and a book of homilies, a booke of Cannons to be provided. To certifie of three locks to the church.

WATERBEACH.

Michaelmas Quarter, 1662.

Chapters 1, 5, 6, 7 and 9. Nothing to present.

Chapter 2. "Concerning public prayer and the administration of the holy sacraments, we say that all things have not bin performed among us in the same according to the cannons of the church and the rubricks, but now they are and we hope soe will continue."

Chapter 3. "We have the books and other decent utensils enjoined by authority and a whood and surpliss w^{ch} we shall git. Our communion table seat for our minister, and font duly placed, our church repaired and repaving, our churchyard not with profanation, etc."

Chapter 4. We have no lecturer or Curate but Mr. Sere (Sayer) or preacher, and licensed, an orthodox divine.

Chapter 8. No schoolmaster, physitian, midwife nor sexton. One clerke which doth performe his place orderly.

Churchwarden, Thomas Bankes.

WATERBEACH.

Easter, 1663. May 20th.

We have nothing to present and we have all church ornaments whatsoever.

WESTON COLVILLE.

8 May, 1663.

John Cockerton	} Churchwardens.	Edward Miller	} Sidesmen.
William Bridge		John Haylock	

"Whereas we are commanded by the canon to present all parsons that offend the King's majesty's lawes ecclesiastical, we have perused the said canon and articles, and it doth appear to us that we have not any to present in our parish."

Robert Haynes, Rector.

[The document is in his handwriting. He had been rector since 1645, so his religion must have been of a pliant character.]

1665. <i>Aug. 31,</i>	Will. Briggs	} Churchwardens.
	Abraham Rookes	

The deske to be hung with cloth fringed. Church to be new whited and plaistered. Cover of the font to be made more decent. Rubbish in church to be removed and ground to be made even.

A common prayer book for the clerk to be provided. A new case for the pulpit cushion to be provided. Tying and seats of church to be provided.

VISITATION RETURNS

GREAT WILBRAHAM.

25 April, 1663.

Omne bene.

1665. Aug. 28.

Thos. Smith	} Churchwardens.
John Burton	

- 1 There is a middle window in the East End of the Chancel stopped up, and 2 other windows, one on the N. side, the other on the South side of the chancel, to be taken down and opened and new glazed, and the rest of the windows partly stopped up with brick to be opened and new glazed, and so also to be glazed where it shall be wanting, and to be mended in the stone work without and within and the pavement; and the seates in the chancel to be mended and new floored, and the same to be sealed plaistered and whited.
- 2 The pulpit deske to be hung with green cloth fringed, a table cloth of linen and napkin wanting. The elders to be cut down in the churchyard and the rubbish removed thence.
- 3 The cover to the font to be made more decent and the font to be searched to make the water run away.
- 5 A larger chalice and patten to be provided. Jewell's works and book of Canons and table of degrees wanting.
- 6 The church to be new whited and plaistered.

WEST WRATTING.

October 23rd, 1663.

Our church is in good repair but our vestry is out of repair, but we intend to repair it as soon as we can.

Edward Burling.
Alexander Arch.

1665. Aug. 31.

Tho. Browne	}
Rob. Bell	

The church and chancell to be new whited and plaistered, chancell tiling to be amended.

Pulpitt and desk to be hung with green cloth fringed. Weather bords for steeple to be provided. Vestrie very much out of

repair to be amended. Steppes in chancel to be made as formerlie. A booke of homilies wanting. Pavement in the church out of repaire. Elders in churchyard to be stubbed up.

WILLINGHAM.

May 30th, 1663.

We have nothing worthy to present since our last bill. We present John Crispe, Matthew Benton, Henry Marshall, Jeremie Proctor, John Hallwell, William Biddall and John Norris for not coming to divine service.

Walter Crispe.

[the only signature.]

1665.

[Several wants and repairs noted, but *perhaps* included on "our last bill."]

WITCHFORD.

22 Oct, 1640.

[In the Bodleian Library, *Gough, Eccles. MS. No. 3*, are the original returns of the churchwardens to the Book of visitation articles. The answers are as little informing as possible, but the chapters are taken one by one. Under the fifth chapter is this. "We present that Alexander Day gent and Elizabeth Cray were married with a licence out of this court and there was no preparation made for a communion."

In the same volume are the original churchwardens returns, from which some of the items concerning Chatteris, Coveney, Downham, and Littleport on pages 43, 44, 45 and 51 of this volume were obtained.]

II. THE ARCHDEACON'S VISITATION OF 1665.

This is by far the most important document of the three, and, had funds been available, it would have deserved printing in its entirety. It is not the original note book of the Archdeacon's official, and it does not relate to the whole county. It is to be found in the Bishop's muniment room with portions of two other visitations for the years 1678 and 1685. It is catalogued in Gibbons' *Ely Episcopal Records*, p. 45, as "Parochial Visitations

1665 and 1678." It relates to the following portions of the county: Deanery of Barton, all churches. Deanery of Bourn, Hardwick only. Deanery of Cambridge, Fen Ditton, Fulbourn All Saints, F. St. Vigors, Hinton only. Deanery of Camps, all churches except Dullingham and Stetchworth, which were on a leaf which has been torn out. Deanery of Chesterton, all churches except Landbeach and Waterbeach.

The archdeacon in 1665 was Dr. Thomas Wren, son of the Bishop. The official who signs the visitation is Dr. Robert King.*

Altogether the notes of visits to 69 churches out of the 153 in the county have survived. Whether or not Dr. Thomas Wren accompanied his official it has not been possible to gather from the record,† but the dates allow us to follow the routes taken and to note how many churches were visited in a day. On July 31st and during the early part of August, Dr. King was working at the deaneries of Barton and Chesterton. On August 28th, he visited the churches of Fen Ditton and Horningsey, and then started on the large deanery of Camps, taking first Quy, the Wilbrahams, Bottisham, and the Swaffhams, altogether nine churches. Next day he did the churches of Pampisford, Whittlesford, Duxford, Ickleton and Hinxton, 6 churches. On July 30th, Babraham, the Abingtons, Hildersham, Linton, Bartlow and Castle Camps were visited, 7 churches. On July 31st he was at Shudy Camps, Horseheath, West Wickham, Balsham, West Wrating, Weston and Carlton. On September 1st at Brinkley, Borough Green and Westley Waterless. It was not until the following April that he visited Fulbourn and Hinton.

Perhaps the object of the Archdeacon's personal inspection of the churches was to find out how far his father's visitation articles of 1662 had improved matters. On the whole, it may be said that the church was getting in order. Such deficiencies as there were, were as much the result of want of money as want of good intention.

As an example of the reports, that relating to the church of Sawston is here printed in full.

* Dr. Thomas Wren was rector of Willingham and prebend of Ely, 1662-79, Archdeacon 1663-79. See Venn's *Alumni*. Dr. Robert King was official of the Archdeaconry of Sudbury, 1641-62, Master of Trinity Hall and Chancellor of Ely, 1660-76. Vicar general and principal Official of Bishop Wren, 1661-76. Venn's *Alumni*.

† See under Horseheath, p. 111, as to the personal visits of the Archdeacon.

SAWSTON.

1665. *Aug. 29th.* Thos. Blackburne }
 Thos. Cundeley } Churchwardens.

- 1 The cover of the font to be mended and made more decent. The church on the north side together with the steeple out of repair in the stone work, to be amended.
- 2 A booke of Cannons homilies and a table of degrees to be provided. The pulpit and deske to be hung with cloth fringed suitable to cushion.
- 3 The church and chancel to be new whited and plastered where it shall need. The deske to be raised a foot higher, wether boards for the steeple to be provided.
- 4 A new chest with three locks to be made to keep the register book in and things belonging to the church. The chancell doore and other doores to be lined. The pew on the N. side of the church next the chancel to be taken lower equal to the seate in the chancel. The boords on the south side of the chancel next the church to be taken downe.
- 5 The glass windows in the church to be amended.
- 6 Henry Huddleston, Esq., his Chappell very much out of repaire in the ledds and Timber work, to be amended.
- 7 Mr. John Greenall, his chappell out of repaire in the ledds and plaistering, to be amended.
- 8 A new register book to be provided in parchment and the paper one to be transcribed therein.
- 9 The steps in the chancel to be made as formerlie.

The first order of the archdeacon relating to the font is similar to others which occur frequently. Sometimes water would not stop in the font and sometimes it would not run out, and the font was ordered to be "searcht" or probed. There was something wrong with the font in 50 out of 69 churches reported on; and about half the satisfactory fonts were in the deanery of Camps. According to the returns for 1685 printed in *Proc. C.A.S.*, Vol. III, p. 325, etc., the fonts were still in a bad condition twenty years later. Order No. 3. "The church to be whited." This is a standing order. Even at Haslingfield, where no repairs were required,

nor any furniture wanting, the walls were ordered to be white-washed. About this time there is a charge in the Linton Churchwardens accounts. "For painting the church in white and the pillars in black marble, and colouring the door and the pulpit 47s. 6d."

Other points in this document will be noticed in the following remarks.

GENERAL SURVEY.

A general survey of some of the more interesting items in the Archdeacon's reports will now be attempted under various headings.

The Altar.

At Cottenham and Willingham, new communion tables were to be made. At Barrington and Pampisford, they were to be made half a yard shorter. At Hardwick the table was to be made 2 feet shorter. At Grantchester, to be taken lower. At Hinton, the base to be made lower.

The following items occur in relation to altar steps and rails.

Hinxton. "A step to be made before the rail and the other part of the rail to be underpinned, and the door of the rail to hung on."

West Wrattling. "The steps in the chancel to be made as formerly."

Fulbourn All Saints. "The steps to communion table to be made as formerly."

As only these few instances occur, we may conclude that the ascents to the altar had usually been made.

Vestments.

There are not many references to these. At Rampton, Stowcum-Guy and Borough Green, there were neither surplice nor hood. At Bottisham no surplice, at Fowlmere no hood. In each case they were ordered to be provided. In the Archdeacon's visitation in 1678, hoods were wanting at Arrington, Shepreth, Swaffham Bulbeck and Swavesey.

The King's Arms.

These were ordered to be set up at Coton, Harston, Hauxton and Stapleford. From which we may conclude that they were usually present in 1665, as they were in Cole's time a century later.

Position of Reading Desk and Pulpit.

As there are few references to this matter, we may suppose that usually the position was satisfactory. At Chesterton, Comberton, Bottisham and Babraham, the desk was ordered to be removed from the mid-alley to the front of the pulpit. At Cottenham, the reading desk was to be placed under the pulpit, and "the desk whereon the book lies to look to the northward." At Milton "the pulpit to be moved into the place where it formerly stood."

Hangings of Pulpit and Reading Desk.

In several instances these are ordered to be made of fringed green cloth. It does not seem that any liturgical significance is to be attributed to the choice of this colour.

Church Chests.

Some of the chests now existing must date from this visitation, for several new ones, each with three locks, were ordered to be made, viz., at Great Abington, Bottisham, Borough Green, Duxford St. John, Foxton, Orwell, Swaffham St. Mary ("the register to be kept therein"), Swaffham St. Cyriac, Stow-cum-Quy, Sawston, Thriplow, West Wrattling. At Arrington, Fowlmere, Fulbourn St. Vigors and Hinxton, three locks and keys were ordered for the chests there. At Thriplow this order was not obeyed because in 1678 it was repeated.

Church Plate.

Some of the most remarkable items relate to chalices and patens (always spelt patten). At Histon there was an order to provide a new chalice and a cover called a paten. At Swaffham Prior St. Mary, a communion cup was to be provided having a larger paten. At Great Wilbraham a larger chalice and a paten. At Hinxton a new communion cup was to be bought and the old one changed and a larger paten. At Horseheath and West Wrattling, the chalice or communion were to be changed and made larger, as well as the paten. In many cases the paten was considered too small. At Impington a new paten was ordered, larger in the brim. At Longstanton St. Michael, a new paten of silver was ordered larger than the cup by an inch in the verge. At Swaffham St. Cyriac, the paten was to be enlarged before Easter. At Little Abington, Balsham, Borough, Carlton, Coton, Comberton, Chesterton, both the Duxford Churches, Fowlmere, Foxton, Girton,

Hardwick, Horningsey, Harlton, Ickleton, Linton, Milton, Longstanton All Saints, Newton, Pampisford, Great Shelford, Shepreth, Swaffham Bulbeck, Shudy Camps, Trumpington, West Wickham, and Whittlesford, the patens were to be made larger. In 1678 at Histon one of the chalices was ordered to be turned into a paten, and at Duxford St. Peter and Swavesey, new patens of silver were to be provided, and at Great Shelford a plate for the communion table.

The flagons were also deficient. At Fowlmere the flagon for the communion cup was to be changed and made of a more decent fashion. At Chesterton "the lesse flagon to be made equal to the larger." At Over "a new flagon to be bought equal to the other." At Horningsey "the old flagon to be changed for a bigger, or else another to be bought equal to the old one." At Little Abington, Duxford St. John, Horseheath, Linton, Pampisford, Great Shelford, Stow-cum-Quy, and Swaffham St. Cyriac, new flagons were ordered.

These church plate items will probably be of interest to anyone who undertakes to edit the large collections for a detailed inventory of Cambridgeshire Church plate, made some years ago by T. D. Atkinson, J. E. Foster, and others. The MS., calling loudly for an editor, is amongst the archives of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society.

Books.

The service books mentioned in the archdeacon's reports are, arranged in the order of their importance in the eyes of the incumbent and churchwardens; Book of Common Prayer, Bible, Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical 1636, Book of Homilies 1563, and Bishop Jewell's *Works (Apology of the Church of England, 1564, and Works, 1611, ordered by King James to be in all churches).*

The Prayer Book was in good condition in most churches because it is only mentioned four times. At Newton the copy was ordered to be rebound; at Pampisford and Weston Colville the clerk was ordered to have a new copy, and at Babraham he was to have a copy of the last edition.

The Bible was deficient in more ways than one. At Bottisham, Comberton, Harston, Horningsey, Newton, Orwell, and Stapleford, it was ordered to be rebound. At Oakington it was to be made perfect and new bound. At Over "a bible much wanting, to be

new bound and made perfect." At Fen Ditton similar order. At Whittlesford "the church Bible to be new bound and made perfect or else a new one provided." At Pampisford, Borough Green, Coton and Arrington, a new Bible of the last translation was to be bought. By adding up we find that in 15 churches out of 69, the Bible was wanting, shattered or incomplete. The order to make perfect the Bibles with missing parts must have been difficult to carry out unless the Cambridge booksellers dealt in parts of Bibles. [They did and do still. J.H.B.]

With regard to the other books, the Book of Homilies was wanting in 29 churches, the Book of Canons and Jewell in 28. All these were ordered to be provided. It looks as if the Cambridge booksellers were in for a good harvest. But when we turn to the Visitation of 1685, it seems that the Archdeacon's orders in 1665 were not obeyed. For the condition of Prayer Books was much worse in 1685, whilst Bibles, Canon and Homilies were still deficient.

Registers.

At Great Abington and Castle Camps "a new register book in parchment to be provided." At Comberton "a new register book to be bought and the old one new transcribed therein." At Sawston a similar order. At Oakington "a new register book to be made or else the old one augmented." At Ickleton "The parchment register book to be augmented and the inscriptions in the paper book to be transcribed into the same." "Factum est."

Bells.

These are mentioned ten times. At Hardwick the saints bell, wanting a clapper, was to be amended; at Stapleford the Sanctus bell was to be new hung up; at Great Shelford it was to be renewed and removed to the belfrey. At Hauxton, three cracked bells were ordered to be recast. At Barton, Borough Green, Grantchester, Hinxton, Milton and Swaffham Bulbeck, single cracked bells were ordered to be recast. At the latter place one other bell was unhung. At Arrington ropes and wheels for three bells were wanted and at Stow-cum-Quy, five bell ropes. In 1678 the third bell at Harston and the fourth at Orwell were cracked and were ordered to be recast.

Structural repairs.

Several references to structural repairs will be noticed amongst the extracts already printed, and there are several others. At

Stow-cum-Quy it is stated that "the two windows in the chancel next the church being partly stopped up with bricks and mortar, to be taken down and new glazed, that there may be more light in the chancel." At Whittlesford: "The south side of church next the chancel commonly known by the name of the Lord's chappel, very much out of repair in the leads, timber work and stone, also glazing and pavement, to be amended and a new door there to be made."

The church of All Saints, Fulbourn, visited by Dr. King, April 11th, 1666, Robert and Thomas Ware being churchwardens, was already showing signs of decay, which caused it to fall down and disappear entirely, about a century later.

"The chancel very much out of repair on the roof and wants plaistering and whiting within and the sealing wants mending. The seats of the chancel on the floor and the pavement much out of repair. Where the east window is stopped up with clay, the clay to be taken away and the same to be new glazed. The north and south windows likewise. The church to be new whited and plaistered. The pulpit and reading desk to be hung with fringed cloth. The roof wants reeding and thatching, much out of repair in the sealing. The de . . . e (? device) over the pulpit to be taken down and a sound board to be placed there. The several heaps of rubbish in the church on the north to be carried way. The north aisle out of repair inside and outside."

Miscellaneous.

At Willingham and Comberton the town plough was ordered to be removed from the church. At Castle Camps the commandments were to be new written on a frame of wood, and a chimney in the chancel was ordered to be stopt up. (The chimney piece was still there in 1743.) Great Abington Church wanted re-thatching. At West Wrattling was this strange order given: "The two outward seats where servants sit, placed on the north side of the middle alley next the chancel to be removed."

The Archdeacon's orders with regard to the churches of Chesterton, Dry Drayton, and Histon, are given so that they may be compared with the returns noticed on pages 92-9. The 1665 return for Madingley is printed on p. 116.

Chesterton, 1665.

The pulpit and reading desk to be hung with green cloth with a fringe. A better cover to be provided for the font, or else the old one mended. A napkin for the communion table and a book of homilies wanting. The north side of the church wall in the stone work to be amended.

Dry Drayton, 1665.

A new cover to the font to be made.

The bible to be new bound.

Three keys to be made for the church chest.

Chancell ledgs to be mended.

A green cloth and fringed for the deske, and a new carpet and napkin for the communion table.

Histon, 1665.

William Peck, Robert Banks, Churchwardens.

Cover of font to be mended or made new. To find a chalice and a cover for it called a patten. Jewell's *Apology* wanting. Chancell to be new plaistered and whited, the seats mended and the pavement made level. Pulpit and desk wanting a green fringe.

The following is a list of some of the documents relating to Bishop Wren's episcopate at Ely which survive.

(A) In the Bishop's muniment room at Ely.

(1) Gibbons, p. 45, "1639(2)" marked on the back "X₁" About 100 leaves. Size 11 inches by 7 inches. On paper with paper binding.

An abstract of this record is printed partly in this volume, p. 29-41, and partly in *Cambridge Village Documents*, p. 37-74.

Contains the "comperta" from Wren's primary visitation.

(2) Gibbons, p. 45. "1639(2)." Marked on Back "Y₁" About 70 leaves. Size 11 by 7 inches. On paper, with paper binding. Similar to Court Book "W₁," relating to Isle of Ely alone.

(3) Gibbons, p. 45. "1662." Marked on back "O." About 44 leaves. Size 12 by 8 inches. On paper, with paper cover.

Contains lists of names only, of clergy, 1662-6, and churchwardens to 1667.

(4) Gibbons, p. 45. "1663-6." Marked on back "P." About 40 pages, size 11 by 7 inches. Three paper books, each bound in coarse brown paper and the three stitched together.

Contains lists of churchwardens only.

(5) Gibbons, p. 45. "1665-8." Marked on back "A 2." About 40 pages, some black and much foxed. Size 12 by 8 inches. On paper stitched with a backing of parchment.

This is really a court book, containing interesting items mixed with much formal stuff.

(6) Gibbons, p. 45. "1662-8." Marked on back "4." About 35 leaves. Size 12 by 6 inches. On paper and bound in coarse whitey brown paper.

This is only a fragment, it contains much about nonconformists.

(7) Gibbons, p. 45. "Visitation Book, 162-5-8-1686." Marked on back "Q." About 44 leaves. Size 12 by 7½ inches. On paper and bound in part of a parchment indenture between Edward Green, junior, and Robert Twells, concerning 67 acres

Contains dates of ordination and institution of clergy, 1665-8. Most valuable.

(8) Gibbons, p. 45. "Parochial Visitations, 1665 and 1678."

(a) This consists of two parts: neither have any distinguishing mark. 62 pages (1-4 missing). Size 12 by 8 inches. On paper stitched into a parchment indenture concerning Edward Green of St. Giles, Cambridge, 1650. Contains the archdeacon's visitation described in the present volume.

(b) 60 pages. Size 12 by 8 inches. On paper. Contains archdeacon's visitations for 1678 and 1685, stitched together without any covering.

(9) Gibbons, p. 87. "1637-8 Liber ex mero officio." So marked. 64 leaves. Size 10 by 7 inches. On paper bound in parchment.

Full abstracts printed in the present volume, p. 42-71.

(10) Gibbons, p. 88. "1661-65 and 1669." Size 12 by 8 inches. 180 leaves.

A rough paper book in Latin of the work done in the consistory courts relating to the whole county. Not easy to search.

(11) Gibbons, p. 88. "1662 Court Book (Isle of Ely)." Marked on back "Zj" 60 leaves. Size 12 by 8½ inches. On paper bound in a parchment indenture relating to the Rectory of Meldreth about 1600.

Records the "Acta" in Latin and English. A frayed and untidy volume.

(12) Gibbons, p. 55-6. Churchwarden's presentments, 1662 and 1663. All these, with the exception of Wentworth, which could not be found, are abstracted in this volume.

(13) Gibbons, p. 192. "Proceedings in the Consistory Court" and "Miscellaneous Correspondence." These contain many seventeenth century papers.

(B). In the diocesan registry at Peterborough.

(14) Marked on back "D." A folio volume about 2 inches thick. A court book in English containing presentments of all kinds, but only examined for entries relating to non-conformists.

(C) Bodleian Library.

(15) Rawlinson D. 340. Admission book of the register of the diocese of Ely, 1667-1681. 60 leaves. It records the taking of oaths of non-resistance and contains little detail.

(16) Bodleian Charters. Camb. 36. Orders promulgated by Matthew, Bishop of Ely, to be observed by those who offer themselves for the office of deacon or priest. Dated at Wilburton, 1 Sept., 1662. (Latin.)

1. To be a graduate. 2. To be 24 years of age if a priest, 23 years if a deacon. 3. To have a certificate of character for the last three years from three or four grave priests of the diocese. 4. To have competent title according to 33rd canon. 5. To be able to say the creed in Latin. 6. To be in clerical habit and to have a gown and surplice in which to be admitted. 7. To produce letters dimissary if from another diocese. 8. But if he shall bring no other title in advance except that of serving a cure of some kind, he shall take care that he, under whom he is about to undertake the duty of a curate, asks in his own handwriting, that he be admitted into Holy orders and also states expressly at what stipend he is going to accept him.

(17) Bodleian Library, *Gough, Eccles. MS. No. 3.*

This contains a miscellaneous lot of documents relating to the diocese of Ely. Amongst them are 54 churchwardens' returns for the year 1622. This is before Wren's time, but the character of these 54 returns bears on the difficulties of that Bishop. For with one exception they are "nil" returns, that is to say: the churchwardens had no complaints to make of buildings, furniture, priest or people; everything was in perfect order, which we know from later returns was not always the case. It was this habit of sending

in such returns, which Wren had to fight, and which made his insistence on his book of visitation articles being answered in detail so unpopular.

This volume also contains some returns for 1638 and later dates, which are noticed in the proper places. The materials from which this Gough volume was made up probably formed part of the hundredweights of documents sold from the Bishop of Ely's registry in Cambridge as waste paper, during the eighteenth century.

The volumes and documents enumerated above are but a small portion of the original body. The circumstance that the volumes are distinguished by letters gives us the opportunity of judging what portion of the records represented by bound volumes have disappeared. For the period before the Bishop's imprisonment, the volumes lettered "T" and "Z" are missing. For the period after the restoration, the volumes lettered "A" to "N" are missing, that is, 14 volumes. As there is still in existence a volume marked "A 2," it is possible that the other letters were duplicated also. Then there is a volume marked "4," and none marked "1" to "3." So at least 17 volumes of the regular series are missing.

Bishop Matthew Wren was one of the most industrious prelates who ever held the See of Ely. And if his carefully thought out books of articles had been properly answered, there would have been a very full meal for antiquaries of this age. It is not suggested that Wren invented the Book of Visitation articles, as such books were issued before his day. What he tried to do was to insist on their being answered.

That he was a diligent archivist, his labours at Norwich and Ely show. And in his earlier days, when living in Pembroke Hall, he carefully went through the muniments of that body and made abstracts, noting such details even as to whether or not a vicarage house had a dovecote attached. His note book in small neat handwriting is still in the treasury at Pembroke. The following letter belongs to this period of his life.

Mr. Stirrup was "registrar" to Dr. Eden, Chancellor of Ely. Wren was rector of Teversham from 1615 to 1635.

"Mr. STIRRUP,

"I pray let some ord^r be taken to scar my churchwardens at Tevershā, and make them repayre the church presently. I have often caused them to be spoken to and they neglect it, ayming to

drive it of, till new churchwardens come on. But there being much slating worke to do, it would then quite spoyle my church-yard, besides all the harm the church already hath, and doth take with the rayne pouring in. In the middle Ile also the earth was broken for a grave halfe a yeare since or more and is not yet new paved. Some glazing and other decencies are wanting. I desire Mr. Hoskins, that they may have charge immediately to do it, only I would not be taken to present them for it, or that they should be put to any charges, yf at the first admonition they presently do it. Remember my comendations to him: So I bid you good morne.

Y^r loving frind,

M. WREN."

Pembr. Hall.

April 4, 1625.

It is possible that forty years afterwards when his son held his archdiaconal visitation in 1665, he would not have been so mild in his methods. But whatever his faults, nepotism was not one of them, for his son Thomas the archdeacon was not extravagantly beneficed. So, with this relic of his early life, we bid the busy Matthew "Good morne."