

degenerative & hermaphroditic type of St. Thaddeus
I. Clark. Tradesmen's Tokens p. 29

ANTIQUARIAN COMMUNICATIONS:

Nonae Rolls.

Antiquities found at Corfe
BEING

Queens' Cole Rate 1642

Wm. Gillingham

PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE MEETINGS

Robt. Woodlark. 329.

Sir TH Robt. Rede.

Cambridge Antiquarian Society.

Tokens p. 16



VOL. I.

Cambridge:

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BELL AND DALDY, FLEET STREET; J. R. SMITH, SOHO SQUARE.

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1859.

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OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society.



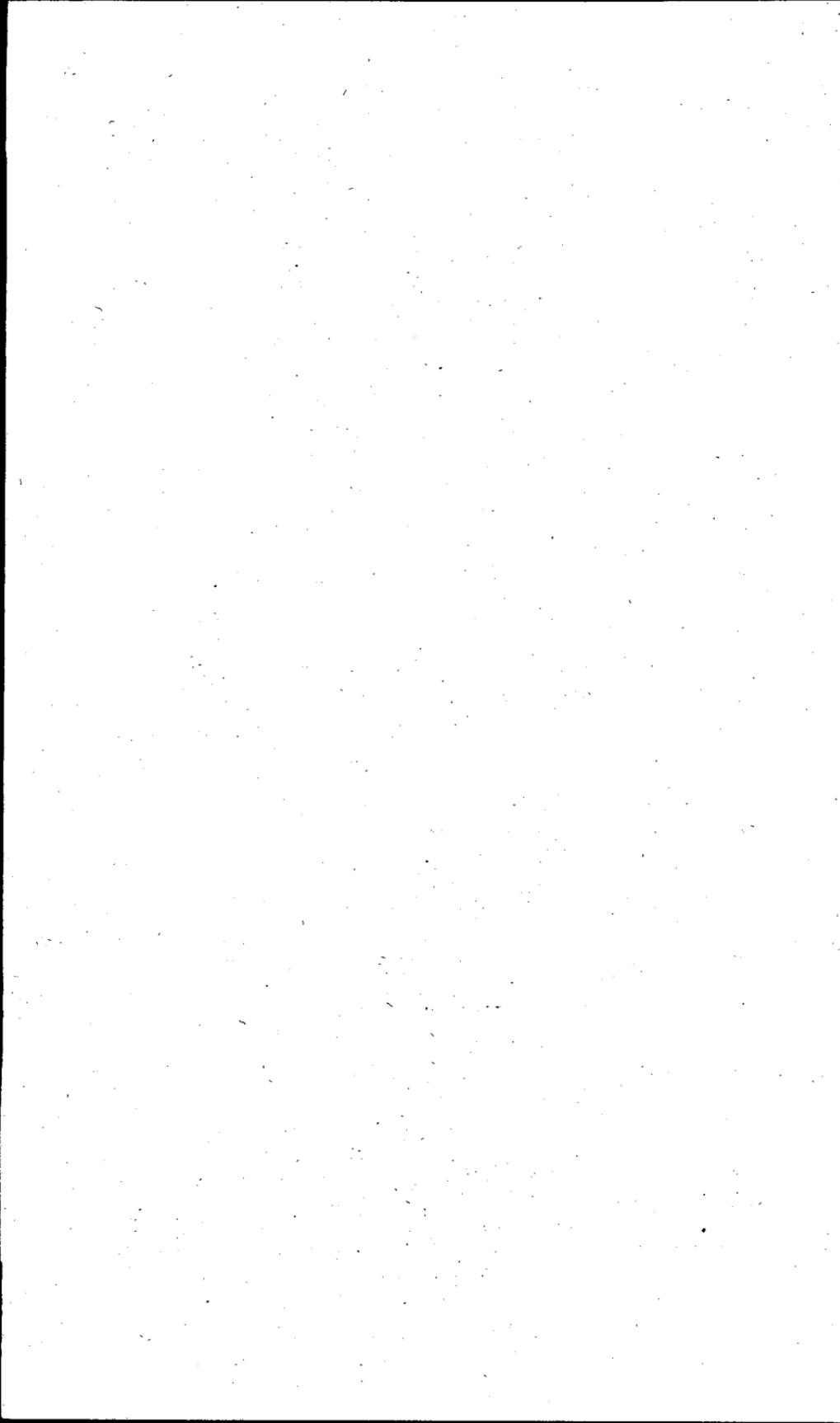
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CONTENTS.

		PAGE
I.	An Abstract of an Account of the Anglo-Saxon Legend of St Veronica. By C. W. GOODWIN, M.A.	3
II.	Notes on some Mediæval Seals in the collection of the Society. By A. WAY, M.A.	5
III.	Results of an examination of the "Nonæ Rolls," as they relate to Cambridgeshire. By the Rev. E. VENA- BLES, M.A.	7
IV.	A Catalogue of Tradesmen's Tokens known to have been issued in the County of Cambridge during the latter part of the 17th century. By C. C. BABINGTON, M.A.	15
V.	Some Account of a very scarce "Lyfe of St Radegunde." By the Rev. C. HARDWICK, M.A.	29
VI.	On Church and Parochial Libraries. By the Rev. J. J. SMITH, M.A.	33
VII.	On a Graeco-Egyptian Papyrus preserved in the British Museum. By C. W. GOODWIN, M.A.	37
VIII.	On some Roman Pottery found near Foxton, Cambridgeshire, and presented to the Society by John Bendyshé, Esq. By C. C. BABINGTON, M.A.	43
IX.	A Letter of the time of James I. addressed by St John's College to the Countess of Shrewsbury. Communicated by the Rev. JOHN RIGG, M.A.	47
X.	Suggestions towards the production of an "Athenæ Cantabrigienses." By J. O. HALLIWELL, F.R.S.	49
XI.	On some Antiquities found in Corpus Christi College in the year 1852. By C. C. BABINGTON, M.A.	51
XII.	Notes on some Roman Buildings at Cirencester, the Roman Corinium. By C. H. NEWMARCH, Esq.	55

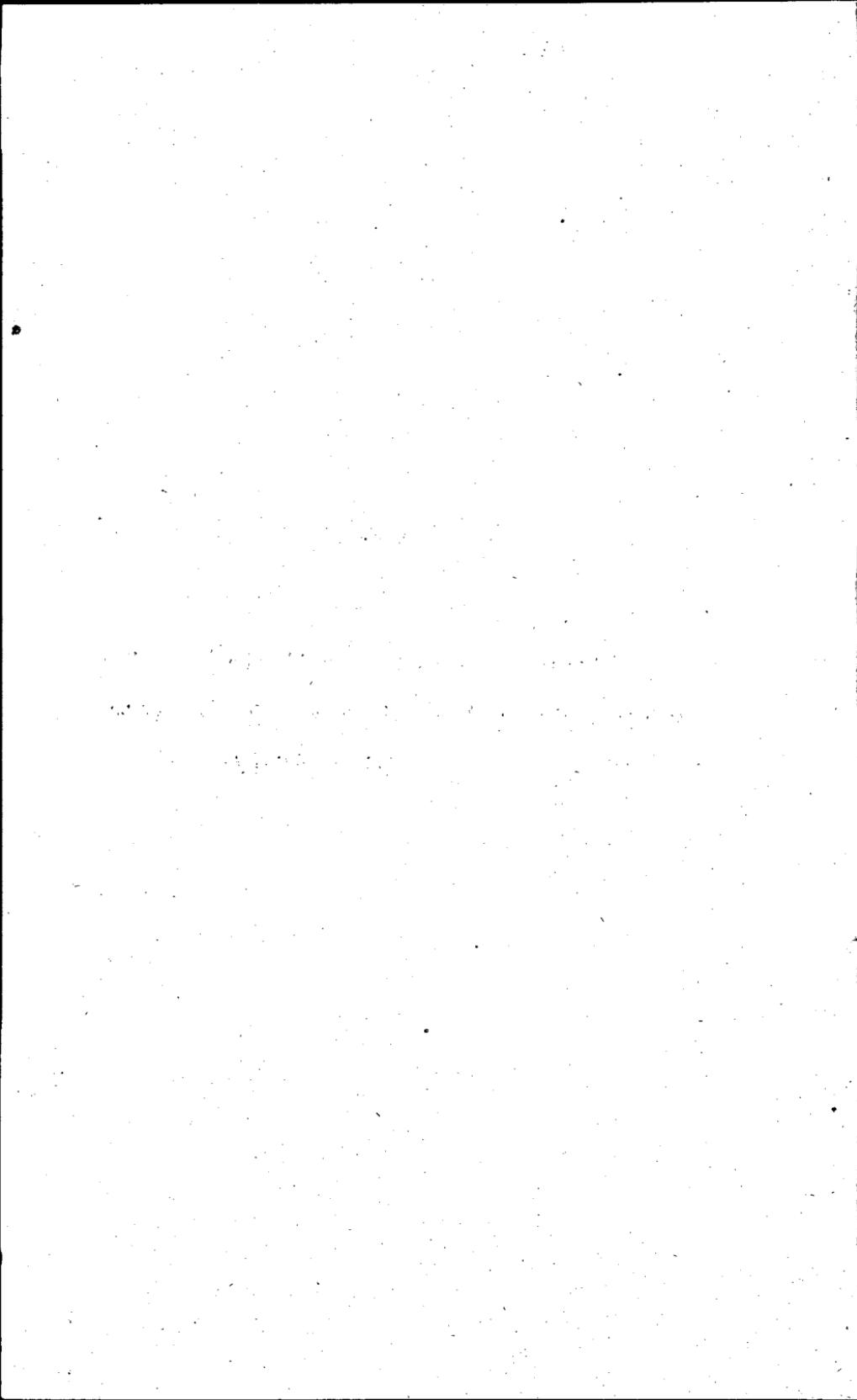
	PAGE
XIII. On the Orientation of King's College Chapel. By J. RIGG, M.A.	59
XIV. On the Origin of the name of Petty Cury, as applied to a street in Cambridge. By C. H. COOPER, F.S.A.	63
XV. Abstract of some Suggestions towards an "Athenæ Cantabrigienses." By the Rev. J. J. SMITH, M.A.	65
XVI. MS. Notes inserted in a copy of King Edward VI. first Prayer-Book, in the Church Library at Beccles.	67
XVII. The Vow of Widowhood of Margaret Countess of Rich- mond and Derby (Foundress of Christ's and St John's Colleges): with Notices of similar vows in the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries. By C. H. COOPER, F.S.A.	71
XVIII. A Letter from Oliver Cromwell to his sister Elizabeth Cromwell, with brief notes thereon. By C. H. COOPER, F.S.A.	81
XIX. "Articuli Universitatis Cantabrigiæ :" a form of petition addressed to King Henry V., about the year 1415, in vindication of some ancient usages. Edited, with a few notes, by the Rev. C. HARDWICK, M.A.	85
XX. On the Foss, or Devil's Ditch, near Brandon, and that near Swaffham, in the county of Norfolk. By C. C. BABINGTON, M.A.	95
XXI. Notice of two Catalogues of a Monastic Library. By the Rev. G. E. CORRIE, D.D.	97
XXII. Letters of Roger Ascham, communicated by the Rev. J. E. B. MAYOR, M.A.	99
XXIII. Mortuary Roll, sent forth by the Prior and Convent of Ely, on the death of John de Hothom, Bishop of Ely, deceased, January, A.D. 1336—7. By A. WAY, M.A.	125
XXIV. An Account of the Excavation of Tumuli, made by the Rev. J. J. Smith, near Bincombe, in Dorsetshire, in 1842, derived from his original notes in the possession of the Society. By C. C. BABINGTON, M.A.	141
XXV. An Ancient Calendar preserved in the Library of Jesus College. By the Rev. G. E. CORRIE, D.D.	147

	PAGE
XXVI. Notices of the Gift or Render of a Sore Hawk, with especial reference to a Fine levied in the Town Court of Cambridge, (21 Edw. III.) By C. H. COOPER, F.S.A..	169
XXVII. Lament of Eleanor Cobham, Duchess of Gloucester, when convicted of Sorcery. Edited by the Rev. C. HARDWICK, M.A.	177
XXVIII. On Two Fragments of the Acts of the Martyrs Chamoul and Justus, in the Sahidic dialect, on a papyrus in the British Museum. By C. W. GOODWIN, M.A.	191
XXIX. A Letter relating to the life of Cudworth, addressed to the University of Cambridge, by J. T. Mosheim ; together with the Answer of the University. Extracted from Baker's Manuscripts, and communicated by the Rev. J. E. B. MAYOR, M.A.	195
XXX. Notes on Chantries and Free Chapels ; with an account of those in the County of Cambridge ; together with the foundation charter of Ansty's Chantry at Stowcum-Quy. By the Rev. E. VENTRIS, M.A.	201
XXXI. Inventory of the Plate sent to King Charles I. by Queens' College, Cambridge, and receipt for moneys advanced for his service by the President and Fellows, 1642. With Notes. By C. H. COOPER, F.S.A.	241
XXXII. Materials for a Life of Dr Richard Sibbes. Communicated by the Rev. J. E. B. MAYOR, M.A.	253
XXXIII. On the Parish Accounts of Boxford in Suffolk, from A.D. 1529 to 1596. By the Rev. G. E. CORRIE, D.D.	265
XXXIV. On the earlier High Stewards of the University of Cambridge. By C. H. COOPER, F.S.A.	273
XXXV. Notices of the King's Seals for passes given to Labourers and Servants, in accordance with the Statute passed at the Parliament of Cambridge, Sept. 12 Ric. II. A.D. 1388. By A. WAY, M.A.	281
XXXVI. Notices of W. Millington, First Provost of King's College. By the Rev. G. WILLIAMS, B.D.	287
XXXVII. Robert Woodlark, Founder and First Master of St Catharine's Hall. By the Rev. C. HARDWICK, M.A.	329

	PAGE
XXXVIII. On the West Mere at Wretham, near Thetford, in Norfolk. By C. C. BABINGTON, M.A.	339
XXXIX. Letter from Rob. Booth of St John's College to Dr Clayton, Master, concerning the Second Court. By the Rev. J. E. B. MAYOR, M.A.	343
XL. The Actors in Dr Legge's Tragedy of Ricardus Tertius, performed at St John's College at the Bachelors' Commencement, 1579—80. By C. H. COOPER, F.S.A.	347
XLI. Manumissions of Serfs extracted from the records of King's College. By the Rev. G. WILLIAMS, B.D.	359
XLII. On a Bronze Falx found in the fens. By C. C. BABINGTON, M.A.	361
XLIII. Sir Robert Rede. By the Rev. T. BROCKLEBANK, M.A.	365

N O T I C E.

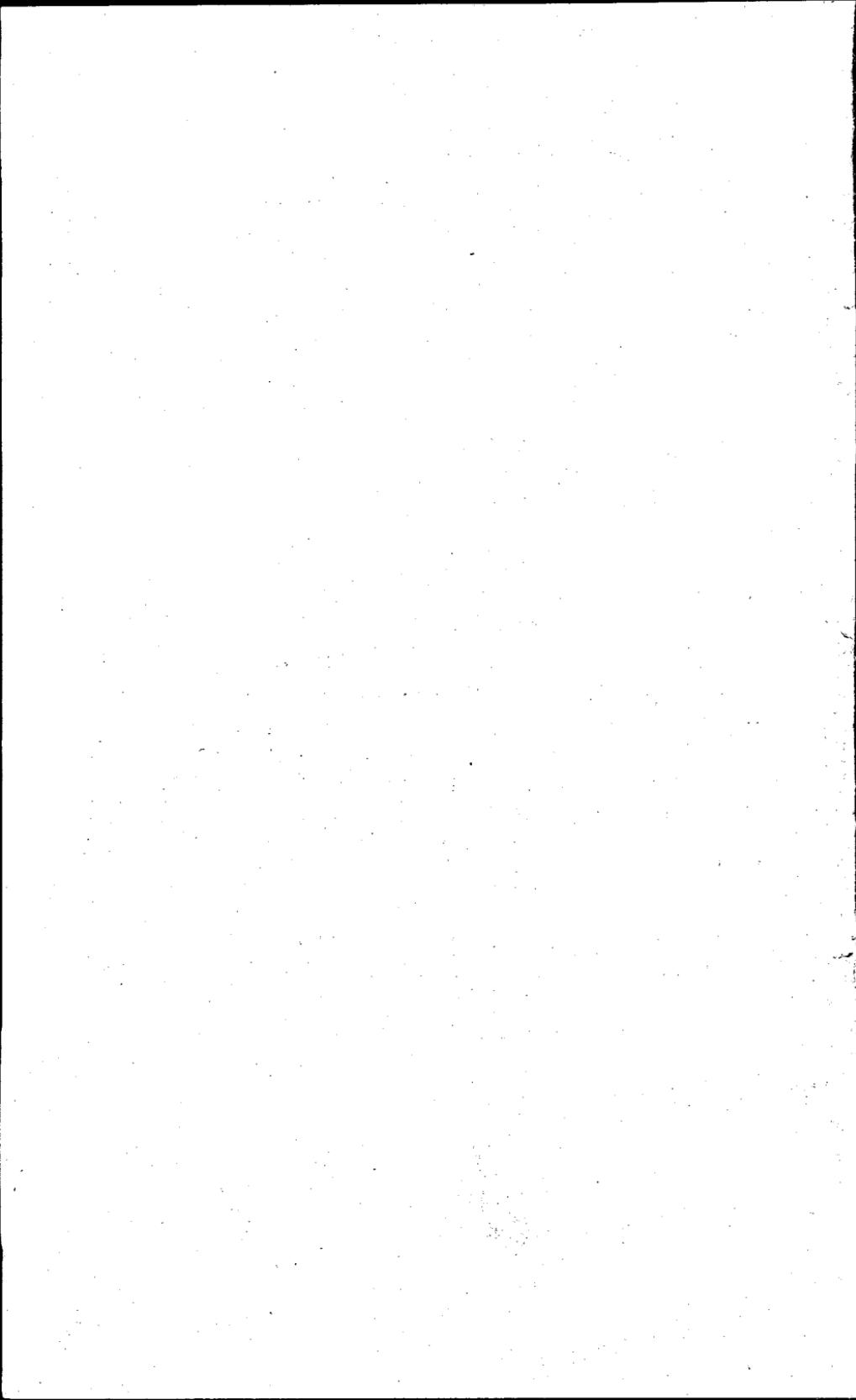
THE Society as a Body is not to be considered as responsible
for any facts or opinions advanced in the several Papers, which
must rest entirely on the credit of their respective Authors.



ERRATUM.

IN the Catalogue of Tradesmen's Tokens at page 21, the date of No. 49, John Newton's token, ought to be 1652, not 1653.

Also may be added at page 21 a second type of the token (No. 54) issued by Thomas Powell, which bears the date of 1667, but is in other respects similar to No. 54.



XLIII. SIR ROBERT REDE. By T. BROCKLEBANK, M.A.,
King's College.

[Read 23 May, 1859.]

SOME special interest is at this present time attached to the name of Sir Robert Rede on the occasion of the revival of his foundation for University lectures after many years of desuetude; and it is hoped that in the following notice some facts will be brought forward connected with him which are not mentioned by Mr Foss in his *Judges of England*, nor by Messrs Cooper in their *Athenae Cantabrigienses*. I will, however, briefly run over the main incidents of his life, as they are given by Messrs Foss and Cooper.

Sir Robert Rede¹ was son of William² and Joan Rede. The family originally came from Morpeth in Northumberland; his grandfather was a serjeant-at-law in the reign of Henry IV. and was settled at Norwich. Robert Rede was educated at Buckingham College in Cambridge, which about 1542 became Magdalene College, and was afterwards Fellow of King's Hall, which in 1546 was incorporated with and made part of Trinity College.

¹ So the name is spelt in every written document which I have seen; and on his seal the legend is engraved, *Sigillum Roberti Redē militis.*

² Mr Foss, who is followed by Messrs Cooper, says that his father was Edward Rede, who married Izod, daughter of Sir Humphry Stanley: but the deed, founding a fellowship at Jesus College, quoted at p. 373, and his Will, are conclusive on this point.

Whether he was educated at any school previous to coming to Cambridge, there is nothing to shew. He afterwards rendered important services to Eton College and King's College, but we have nothing which connects him with either as a place of education. In his Will he bequeathed money to King's College, "of which he was a brother," in allusion to his honorary connexion with that foundation, as will be mentioned hereafter: from this we may infer that his connexion with Eton College was purely a professional one.

Adopting the law for his livelihood, he was placed at Lincoln's Inn, where he became Autumn reader in 1480, and Lent reader in 1486, having previously received his preliminary summons to take on himself the degree of the coif. His name as an advocate appears in the Year Books from 1484, and his arguments were frequently reported. In 1494 he was appointed King's Serjeant, in 1495 a Judge of the King's Bench and was knighted; in 1506 he was made Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, paying to Henry VII. 400 marks for this advancement. Henry VIII. continued him in his office, in the tenth year of whose reign, 8 January, 15¹⁸, he died. His Will, which is to be found in the London Registry, bears date 29 Dec. 1518. In it he desires to be buried in the Chapel of S. Catherine at the Charterhouse, London. He had here founded a chantry, with a chaplain at a salary of £8 yearly for thirty years¹. He leaves a number of legacies to different religious houses, amongst others to the Austin, Grey and White Friars in London, to Syon Monastery, and to the Nunnery of Mallynge, where Elizabeth his daughter was a nun. Masses are to be said for the souls of William and Joan, his father and mother, and for his own soul. In addition to his bequests to King's College, he was also a liberal benefactor to the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford. His executors were Sir Robert Brudenell, Knight, Chief Justice of

¹ See Letters relating to the Suppression of Monasteries, edited (1843) for the Camden Society by Thomas Wright, Esq. p. 68.

the King's Common Bench, Thomas Willughby, Esq. (his son-in-law), Mr William Capon, Doctor of Holy Divinity and Master of Jesus College (where he had founded a Fellowship), Sir William Geffray, clerk, parson of Wythyham, and Sir Christopher Bland, chaplain and "my chantry priest at Chidyngstone".¹

Such was his career as a lawyer: we will now turn to his connexion with this University. It has been said that he was educated at Buckingham College and King's Hall, but he does not appear to have maintained his connexion with those Colleges, or to have made them the recipients of his bounty.

I first find his name mentioned in the books of King's College in 1489, when the College was bound in the sum of 100 pounds or marks (for the amount is variously stated) to Robert Rede, serjeant-at-law; this obligation² is dated 8 Feb., and on 12 July of the same year I find the College appointing him a kind of standing counsel to them, and, in consideration of his past and future services, assigning him a stipend of twenty-six shillings and eight pence yearly. This annual fee is secured on the manor of Withyham in Sussex, power being given to Robert Rede and his assigns to enter and levy distress upon the same if it remains unpaid; and I shall have shortly to shew his connexion with this particular estate, and why it was especially selected from the general bulk of the College property.

In 1490 a deed was executed which is here inserted at length, as shewing the intimate relation now existing between the College and Rede:

"Universis Christi fidelibus ad quos præsens scriptum pervernit Walterus Field, sacræ theologiæ professor, præpositus collegii regalis beatæ Mariæ et S. Nicholai Cantabrigiæ et scolares

¹ For these extracts from the Will I am indebted to the kindness and good memory of Mr Thompson Cooper.

² There are other obligations to Robert Rede, dated 14 Dec. 1490 and 20 January 1491, either for fresh sums or for a continuance of former loans.

ejusdem Collegii salutem in Domino sempiternam: Sciatis quod cum dilectus, nobis in Christo Robertus Rede seriens ad legem suam erga nos singularem benevolentiam neconon præcipuum favorem continue nobis impendat ac solitæ humanitatis beneficia nostræ reipublicæ conferre non desistat: Nos interim aliqua ex parte suis bene meritis satisfacere et condigna suis factis præmia conferre cupientes, admittimus ipsum ad nostram fraternitatem et acceptamus eum inter benefactores Collegii nostri prædicti connumerandum ut sit particeps omnium suffragiorum, precum, necnon operum meritoriorum nostrorum. Insuper cum pro suis per amplis in nos collatis beneficiis et conferendis eum minus præmiari censemus, concedimus igitur pro nobis et successoribus nostris quod quamceto supradictus Robertus Rede ab hac luce migraverit et dies obitus ejus ad nostram notitiam pervenerit, nos præfati præpositus et scolares cum conductitiis dicti collegii exequias ejusdem cum missa de Requiem in crastino si tunc absque impedimento commode fieri poterit alioquin alio die proxime tunc sequente quo impedimentum hujusmodi non occurrat, solenniter celebrabimus et celebrari faciemus. Et ut sibi majus augmentum meriti accrescat, promittimus fideliter nomen dicti Roberti Rede intitulari et ascribi in tabulis benefactorum nostrorum coram ipsis quotidie celebrantibus antepositis. Ad quæ omnia et singula præmissa indubitanter observanda, obligamus nos et successores nostros per præsentes. In cujus rei testimonium præsentibus sigillum nostrum commune apposuimus. Datum in Collegio prædicto sexto die mensis Maii anno Domini millesimo cccc^{mo} nonagesimo."

What was the especial form of Rede's benefactions to King's College I am unable to state; no trace exists in the present accounts to shew whether they were of a substantial or enduring nature, or whether, as is likely, they took the shape of counsel and advice tendered, as well as money advanced in times of difficulty. Most probably the latter: for in the year 1489 a Petition was presented to the King and Parliament by the Provost and Scholars of King's College, Cambridge, stating that many lord-

ships, manors, lands and tenements had been seized and taken away from them by divers other persons, and long time had been and yet be by them so occupied and withholden against all right and conscience, contrary to the foundation of the College, as well to the derogation and breach of the holy will of Henry VI. their founder, and praying that certain commissioners should call before them the occupiers of the estates, and finally determine the right and title of the said parties in the lordships, manors, &c.¹

As the welcome words, *Soit fait comme il est désiré*, were endorsed upon the Petition, and as its date coincides with the advances in money made by Rede to the College and his appointment as standing Counsel, we may reasonably conclude that his services were rendered and his money employed in the prosecution of this appeal; and on its favourable termination his exertions were rewarded by his admission into the Confraternity as a kind of Honorary Fellow, and participation in the benefits of the foundation, as mentioned in the Deed bearing date 1490, the year after the successful result of the Petition to Parliament².

Indeed the work which he had performed was of no ordinary kind, and was entitled to no common measure of gratitude. The civil wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, the violent death of the Founder himself, the triumph of the house of York, not only stopped the material works, but left the two Colleges of Henry VI. almost without funds for their daily support. Edward IV. seriously impoverished his rival's foundations, and even went

¹ See the Rolls of Parliament, 1489.

² The Petition proceeded from both Colleges founded by Henry VI. from Eton as well as from King's College. In a Consuetudinarium, or Custumary of the School, written about 1560, of which a MS. exists in the library of Corpus Christi College, it is stated: "Hebdomada electionis celebrantur exequiae Roberti Read, quibus interesse præpositum Cantabrigiæ et examinatores oportet."

I am, however, unable to connect the founder of this obit and anniversary with the subject of this memoir. They were certainly different persons. The deed of foundation is dated 10 Jan. 1510, the donor being simply described as "Robard Rede of Burnham, in the county of Bucks."

far to completely dissolve them. It is on record that "no fewer than forty of the Fellows and Scholars, besides conducts, clerks, choristers and other college officers, were in one day forced to depart the house for want of maintenance." This was at Cambridge, but at Eton the danger was as great, and in the early part of the reign of Edward IV. the College had but a bare existence and sent no Scholars to King's. The determined energy of William Westbury, Provost of Eton from 1447 to 1477, averted and even conciliated the hostility of the King, while tradition¹ asserts that Jane Shore exerted her favourable influence with Edward IV., "a Provost of Eton having been confessor of this celebrated and unfortunate woman." But it would appear from the terms of the Petition, that while the Colleges were saved from the main danger and their existence secured, the endowments were still withheld. Some estates were entirely lost, whilst into others wrongful claimants had intruded themselves, and, taking advantage of the general confusion, refused to deliver them up to their proper owners.

At this perilous crisis the Petition was presented to Parliament, and upon Rede, as counsel, must have rested the arduous task of proving the College title, and of dispossessing powerful lords and seigneurs², who, relying not so much on the goodness of their cause as on the weight of their Court influence and political power, would throw every obstacle in the way of a legal settlement, and who were naturally loath to render up possession of estates, whence, presuming on no strong opposition from weak

¹ This tradition is to some extent supported by the fact that both Colleges possess original portraits on panel of Jane Shore, for which it would be awkward to account, except on the understanding that she was their special benefactress.

² "The difficulty of enforcing the execution of the laws where great men were concerned, occasioned in 1488 the introduction of a new court of judicature (the Star Chamber by Stat. 3 Henry VII. c. 1), which was apparently well adapted to correct the evils of the time, but which by the abuse of its constitution, eventually became an instrument of tyranny and oppression." Foss's *Judges*, V. 2.

and clerical corporations, they had for several years derived their revenues.

The petitioners, however, succeeded in gaining a restitution of their rights: the main bulk of the estates granted by Henry VI. was restored to his foundations, and generally the property of the two Colleges placed on a permanent footing, which has not been departed from to the present day.

But this was not Rede's only connexion with King's College. His wife was Margaret Alfegh¹, of Chidyngstone, in the county of Kent. Now the manor of Withyham, which I have already mentioned as the security for the yearly fee to Rede as standing Counsel, was in 1459 leased by the College for ten years to William Hexstall, of East Peckham, Kent, armiger, and John Alfegh, of Chidyngstone, in the same county, "gentilman," I suppose a lower degree.

In 1462 William Hexstall disappears, and the manor is leased for seven years, the remainder of the previously demised term of ten years, to John Alfegh, "gentilman," as before; the rent to be paid half-yearly, by equal portions, in the Cathedral Church of S. Paul, London. In 1468, and 1476, it is again leased to John Alfegh; but in 1491 Robert Rede, serjeant-at-law, becomes the College tenant, has another lease granted to him in 1497, when he is correctly described as Judge, and a third in 1505.

In 1519, the year after Rede's death, the manor was demised to Thomas Willughby (a Judge of the Common Pleas in 1537), who married Bridget or Catherine (for she is variously described) daughter of Sir Robert Rede, and was one of his executors².

The manor of Withyham was afterwards demised to the Sackvilles, in the possession of which family it now remains, the

¹ In an Inventory of the books, &c. of the College Chapel, written in the reign of Henry VII. occurs the entry: *Textus Evangelii cum salutatione angelica ex dono Magistri Sterter et dominæ Margaretæ Rede.*

² See Foss's *Judges*, V. 249.

College having exchanged it with the then Lord Buckhurst for other property in Devonshire in the reign of Queen Elizabeth¹.

As an illustration of old manners and customs, it may be mentioned that John Sackville, armiger, paid for fine on entry in 1546 twenty pounds "et duodecim coclearia:" what amount of cash a dozen spoons represented is not stated.

There is still one other way in which Sir Robert Rede would have had dealings with King's College. Henry VII. during his lifetime contributed large sums of money to the building of the Chapel of King's College, and further gave by will £5000 for the completion of the works: as Sir Robert Rede was nominated in the King's Will one of his executors, he would have been brought into contact with the then College authorities in carrying out the testator's intentions.

So much has been said about the relations of Sir Robert Rede to the foundations of Henry VI. that but brief allusion can be made to his other benefactions.

By indenture tripartite (dated 18 Sept. 1518) between himself and Jesus and King's Colleges, Jesus College, in consideration of the receipt of one hundred pounds sterling², covenanted evermore to provide and have a Fellow and Scholar of the said College, a priest of good name and virtuous and sad conversation,

¹ Mr West, in his *Historical Notices of Withyham*, is entirely silent as to the connexion of the place with King's College for more than a century.

² Baker, in his *History of the Statutes of S. John's College*, says: "These were times when £120 was sufficient to found a fellowship (for the private foundations usually run thereabouts), and when £6 per annum was enough to maintain a Fellow: for whoever offered so much in lands towards a fellowship (by bishop Fisher's second statutes, 1524), such a benefactor could not be refused." And again, "The allowance for commons was the same as formerly, and £6 per annum was yet enough to found a fellowship, and £3 per annum was enough to found a Scholar: whence it may be observed that the college profited more by those that gave scholarships than it did by those that founded Fellows." See pp. xiii. and xvii. of the *Early Statutes of S. John's*, edited, with notes, by J. E. B. Mayor, M.A. Fellow of the College.

to sing masses at the altar of S. Catherine and S. Margaret (the names of his wife, and probably of his daughter) within the Church of the same College, for the good estate of Sir Robert Rede, Chief Justice of the King's Common Bench, while living, and afterwards for his soul when departed; and for the souls of Dame Margaret, late his wife, "Willyam and Johane, his father and mother, Richard, his brother, John and Thomas, and the friends and benefactors of the same Sir Robert and all Christian souls." He is to be called "Redis Scoler the Justice," and the mass to be called "Redis Mass the Justice," to have £3. 6s. 8d. yearly, and his dirges, chamber, barber, launder and all other profits and emoluments as other Fellows of the College.

There is a statement in Ackerman's *History of Cambridge* (Vol. I. p. 343), that Rede gave to Jesus College £100 to found a Fellowship, and a brewery near Magdalene College. Speaking of Magdalene College, Fuller says, with his usual quaintness, "This College alone, cut off from the continent of Cambridge, is on the north-west of the river, having the Rose garden on the one, and what is no rose (a smoking brewhouse) on the other side thereof, belonging this 150 years to Jesus College. It were no harm to wish this house either removed or otherwise employed on terms mutually beneficial to both societies."

By deed dated 30 Jan. 1503, the Abbot and Convent of Waltham S. Cross granted a yearly obit with execuies and masses for Sir Robert Rede, his wife Margaret and other relations. This deed will be found in Madox's *Formulare Anglicanum*, p. 338.

It remains only now to allude to the endowment of Sir Robert Rede for the lecturers, called Barnaby Lecturers in this University: it is not, however, necessary to do more than allude to it, for the instrument of foundation is given at length in the *Book of Endowments* (p. 187) recently circulated amongst members of the Senate. It is between the University, Sir Robert Rede's executors and Jesus College, and bears date 10 Dec. 1524. It provides

not merely for lecturers, but also for prayer for the founder's soul by the scholars who attended them, and for other religious observances¹.

In conclusion, let me express the satisfaction which we should all feel as true antiquarians that this foundation, small in amount though it be, and for many long years utterly useless, has not been ruthlessly swept away by the utilitarian spirit of the times, but has been judiciously revived in such way as at once to preserve the memory of the founder, and bring the University into contact with the first and choicest men of the age.

¹ There were formerly four sinecure lectureships with small stipends, which are now consolidated, and one lecturer delivers one lecture in Term time annually, the first having been given in May 1859 by Professor Richard Owen, F.R.S.