

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

22 OCTOBER, 1894, TO 29 MAY, 1895,

WITH

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XXXVII.

BEING No. 1 OF THE NINTH VOLUME.

(THIRD VOLUME OF THE NEW SERIES.)



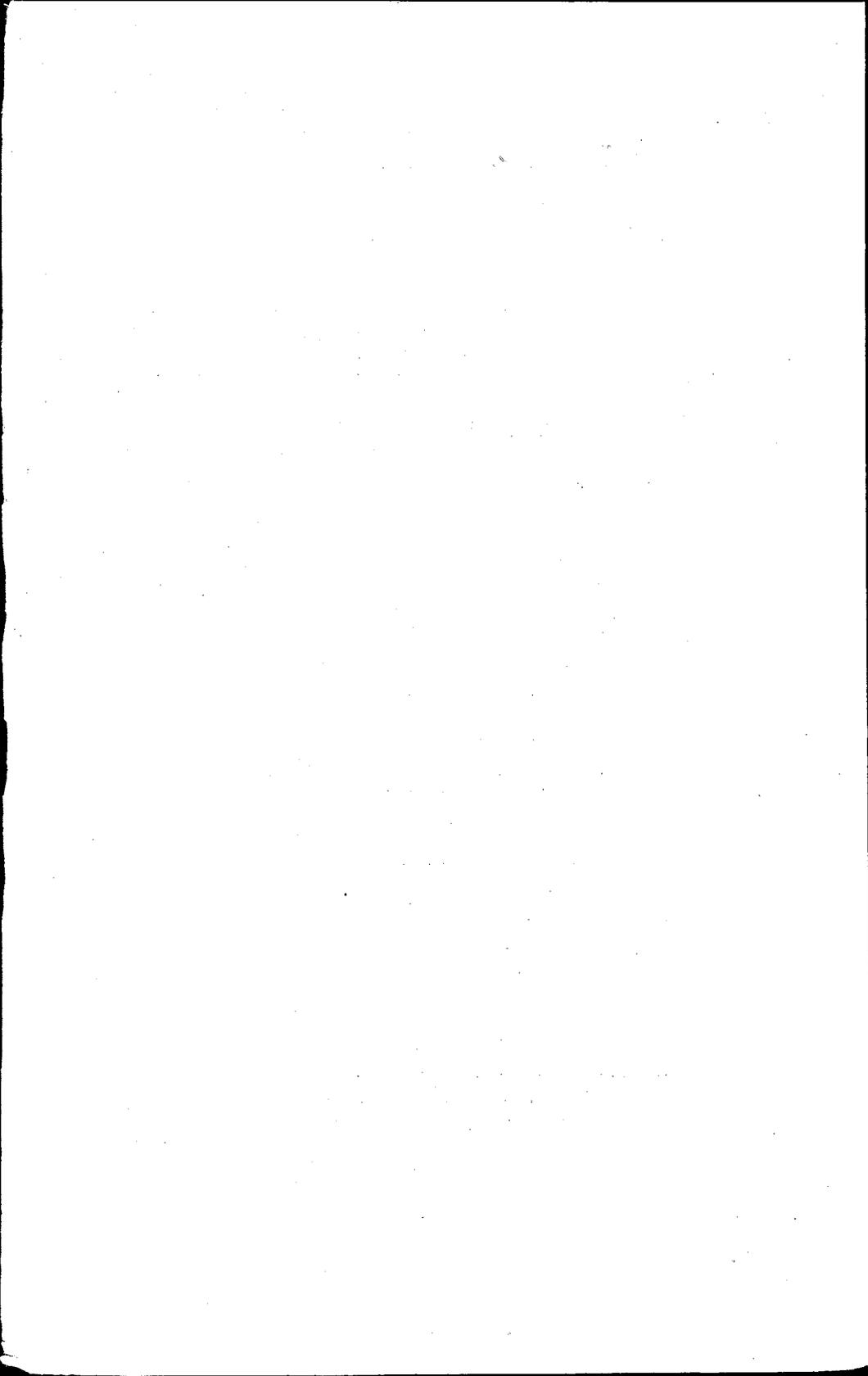
Cambridge:

DEIGHTON, BELL & CO.; MACMILLAN & BOWES.

LONDON: G. BELL AND SONS.

1896.

Price 7s. 6d.



WEDNESDAY, *May 1*, 1895.

W. M. FAWCETT, M.A., F.S.A., President, in the Chair.

The following member was announced as having been elected.

Mr AUSTIN KEEN, 13, Lindwood Road.

Mr ARTHUR GRAY made the following Communication :

ON THE WATERCOURSE CALLED CAMBRIDGE IN RELATION TO THE RIVER CAM AND CAMBRIDGE CASTLE.

The extremely valuable and interesting paper on the Castle Hill, Cambridge, which Professor Hughes read before the Antiquarian Society in Jan. 1893, may be said to have supplied almost the last word on the matter which it discussed. To the varied information which his paper furnished, derived both from documentary sources and the examination of the site and neighbourhood of the Castle mound, there is little to add. The object of this paper is to supply what he designedly omitted. His paper, published in the Communications to the Society, No. 35, says, "I do not now go into the question of the probable alteration of the course of the river in Magdalene College grounds." Upon that question, viz. of the relation of the river¹ to the outward ramparts of the Castle, it is the purpose of my paper to throw some light.

A problem in connection with the outer works of the Castle which has never been satisfactorily solved is that of the nature of its defences along the western portion of its southern face. The great bank in Magdalene College grounds sinks away to the present level of the soil near the Master's Lodge, and from that point to the termination of the bank which is carried down the hill from Story's almshouses by Honey Hill to Northampton St. there is not the smallest vestige of anything like a *vallum*. The line followed by the Castle bounds in this quarter

¹ See Plans to face p. 70.

is so little apparent that Professor Hughes, differing herein from Stukeley and from Professor Babington in his *Ancient Cambridgeshire*, marks the circuit at this point with a dotted line running north of Northampton St. and crossing Chesterton Lane near the Master's Lodge of Magdalene College¹. The evidence which I shall presently quote will, I hope, show not doubtfully that what I may call the traditional view, viz. that the Castle bounds were drawn wholly to the south of these roads, is the correct one.

I will begin by quoting again a portion of the extract from Stukeley which is given in Professor Hughes' communication, describing the traces of the outer lines of the Castle as Stukeley saw them about the year 1746. Speaking of his supposed Roman city of Granta he writes :

"I have in company with Mr Roger Gale trac'd the vestiges of that city without any difficulty, being an oblong square which was wall'd about and ditch'd ... In the garden of *Pythagoras's* school, south and west of that building, the trace of the ditch of the Roman Granta may easily be discover'd, and the turn or angle of it to which the angle of that building corresponds. Then the west side of the ditch runs on the outside of the late Mr Ketil's house, and turns quite on the outside of the town, on the north ; so round the outside of the Castle, through *Magdalen* college close, which is on the south side of it. The terrace walk in that close is the vallum wherein the Roman wall stood. Then it runs by the south side of *S. Giles's* churchyard to the garden of *Pythagoras's* school."

As Stukeley describes the outlines of his supposed Roman

¹ If the terrace was ever continued westwards in the straight line which it now follows in the Magdalene College grounds it must undoubtedly have crossed Chesterton Lane near the site of the present Master's Lodge, and then have passed through S. Giles's churchyard, as Professor Hughes supposes that it did. But it must be remembered that old S. Giles's church, which was destroyed in 1875, stood about 24 yards nearer to Chesterton Lane than the present church does. The terrace must in that case have passed most inconveniently near to the church, if it did not in part occupy its site. Of course it may be contended that the terrace at this point was destroyed before the old church was built. If so the Castle had no continuous earthwork on its southern side in post-Conquest times.

city as being in shape an 'oblong square' I do not think he meant that the enclosing vallum extended westward from Kettle's yard, which, I suppose, represents the neighbourhood of 'the late Mr Ketil's house,' to the neighbourhood of the school of Pythagoras, but that the southern line of defence was continued for some distance westwards from the angle where it met the vallum descending along Honey Hill. We cannot afford to slight any ocular evidence of 150 years back, and I am strongly convinced that Stukeley was right in asserting that the easily discovered traces which he saw were really traces of a ditch, and not of the fish-ponds of the old manor house, as Professor Hughes suggests. That he was right in supposing that the Castle bounds ran south of Northampton St. is conclusively shown by an ancient account of a perambulation of the Castle bounds contained in the *Liber Memorandum* of Barnwell Priory, generally called the Barnwell cartulary. This perambulation took place apparently about the year 1278. The account of it, I believe, has never been printed and is, I think, not generally known. For the loan of a transcript of the original volume in the British Museum I am indebted to Mr J. W. Clark. The account, which is in Latin, may be translated thus:

"At the close of the itineration of the Justices there came many king's briefs of Quo Warranto. For, two years previously, the king by advice of *dominus* John de Kyrkebi¹ had begun Cambridge Castle. Whereof by the king's precept inquisition was made by free lieges of the county concerning the Castle bounds (*procinctus*), who being sworn made a perambulation (*circuitus*). Beginning at the place called Armeswerk they went round the Castle *fossatum*, ascending as far as to the place called Aswykston, and then descending they passed through the middle of the *curia* of the Scholars of Merton through (*per*) the old *fossatum* as far as the river (*rivera*). And at last returning they gave answer on their oath that all this circuit belonged to the Castle bounds. On this occasion came king's briefs of Quo Warranto addressed severally to all who dwelt beyond the bridge

¹ John de Kirkeby, Bishop of Ely, 1286—1290.

in the Castle quarter. This caused universal alarm. Our Prior however made opposition, alleging that the Canons of Barnwell were originally founded at the church of S. Giles next the Castle, and there had very good buildings (*officinas suas satis competentes*) and two acres of land before their church gate towards the river (*ripa*) by gift of the Countess Maud. And that there the Canons remained for 20 years before they were removed to Barnwell by Pain Peverel. . . . The people also gave evidence of the annual procession of the Canons of Barnwell to the church of S. Giles."

This account specifies five points on the *circuitus* made by the jurors, viz. Armeswerk, Aswykston, the *curia* of the Scholars of Merton, the *vetus fossatum* and the river. Armeswerk I should have been tempted to identify as the 'earthwork' or terrace in Magdalene College gardens; but as one of the extreme points in the perambulation was the river and from there the jurors are said to have returned, presumably to the point of starting, it is more probable that it was a barbican on the river bank, protecting the river front of the Castle and the bridge from assault of an enemy approaching up stream. From here the jurors followed the *fossatum* up the hill and reached its highest point at Aswykston. The position of Aswykston is defined by the terriers of Cambridge Field. Of these ancient Field Books three copies exist in the muniments of Jesus College. The oldest is dated in the 17th year of the reign of Edward IV. (i.e. 1477), but the evidence of the names of the owners of the selions proves conclusively that it was drawn up originally in the reign of Edward III., and that it is in fact very little altered from a survey made at that time. Appended to two of these Field Books are certain explanations of the field names and principal landmarks mentioned in them. Internal evidence shows that these explanations date from the latter part of the 16th century, but there are indications that they are mainly copied from notes of much earlier date. Among others occurs this note:

"Ashwyke stone y^s by y^e hie crosse at y^e Castle end, south weste of y^e stone crosse, as it were a quayste cast of, hentingē-

don waye betwixt, and is nowe a hill, and once stood y^{er} on a lyttle stomped crosse."

A quoit throw is usually considered to be 19 yards. Aswykston stood at this distance S.W. of the stone cross which was on the eastern side of the Huntingdon Road opposite the point where it is joined by the road now known as Pleasant Row, anciently Hare Hill. This is made clear by the following notes:

"Hare hill abutteth his east hed upon hentingeten waye, sowthe from y^e stone crosse...y^e layne y^t cometh from S. Peter's churche abutteth on y^{is} hill."

"Huntingetonwaye beginneth at y^e hie stone crosse at y^e Castle end and is nowe a cawsie, recheth to Howse," &c.

From Aswykston the jurors are said to have descended and passed through the *curia* of the Scholars of Merton. This *curia* was of course the court containing the farm buildings of the manor house. The house itself must have been altogether external to the Castle limits, but the Merton College property extends quite up to the angle of Northampton Street, opposite Honey Hill, and from there follows a curving boundary near to the western end of the old Story almshouses, now called the Tanyard, and so to the Bin Brook.

Omitting for the present the *vetus fossatum*, which was the next point reached, we find the jurors continuing their route from the Merton Scholars' *curia* as far as to the river. It is certainly very surprising to find the river regarded as the southern boundary of the Castle. I think that it has never been hitherto doubted that the terrace in Magdalene College garden was the limit of the Castle in this direction. The language of the Barnwell Book however admits of no other construction, and the jurors must have had some apparent reason for tracing the bounds as they did. They were local men and cannot have made a mistake in pure ignorance. No doubt the claim set up by the Crown in consequence of their decision was not legally tenable; as a matter of fact it appeared in the sequel that the rights of the Crown even within the usually recognized boundaries of the Castle were very limited.

But that the Crown lawyers did set up very far-reaching claims is evident; there was general alarm, *timor omnes pervasit*; writs were served on all the dwellers beyond the bridge *ex parte castris*. I hope before I have done to show that, whatever may be said of the Crown claims, the jurors made no mistake in their delimitation.

I return to the *vetus fossatum*. This was evidently *not* regarded by the jurors as one of the Castle bounds, for they went *through* it. (*Per* can hardly be taken in any sense but 'through,' as in the words immediately preceding, *per curiam*.) They did not go *along* it, nor *round the corner* of it. And as this *fossatum* is characterized by the epithet *vetus* it is reasonable to suppose that it is not the same *fossatum* as that already mentioned; also that in the time of Edward I. it had probably fallen into disuse as a line of defence. Where are we to look for an obsolete *fossatum* which, like the Magdalene terrace, the jurors did *not* regard as a boundary of the Castle?

There is only one answer to the question. It must have been the ancient watercourse, called 'Cambridge,' which formerly crossed Magdalene Street under a bridge which was situated about 22 yards south of the angle formed by that street and Chesterton Lane.

This watercourse was either wholly filled in or arched over at a very early period. The bridge had disappeared before 1574, for Lyne, in his plan of the town made in that year, shows at the point where it stood in Magdalene Street a grating, marked T, and this is explained in the notes at the foot of the plan as "Crates ferrea, ubi olim pons Canteber, a Cantebro, unde Cantebrigia." The bridge was called Cambridge Bridge.

It will be convenient first to consider the course taken by this channel on the side of the street next to Magdalene College, where its direction is very clearly ascertained by documentary evidence. First I will recapitulate what has already been put on record by Mr Clark in the *Architectural History*.

In his account of the site of Magdalene College Mr Clark shows that in 1554 to the north of the college was the Master's

garden, marked in Hamond's plan of 1592 as a narrow parallelogram reaching eastwards from Magdalene Street. Parallel to this piece of ground on the northern side was another strip belonging to an inn called the Star, and further north from that another which belonged to an inn called the Green Peele. A conveyance of this last tenement, dated 1596, describes it as follows:

"a tenement called *le Green Peele*, together with the garden thereto adjoining, next to a tenement called *le Starre* on the south, and containing in length on that side from the king's highway to Magdalene College 232 feet; on the north lying partly next the tenement of Robert Russell commonly called *le Blacke Boy*, and partly next a ditch called *le Kynges Dytche*, and containing on that side from the king's highway to Magdalene College 232 feet; the west head of the said messuage abuts on the king's highway and contains in breadth between the aforesaid tenements called *le Starre* and *le Blakeboy* 52 feet; the east head of the aforesaid garden abuts upon Magdalene College and contains in breadth between the aforesaid tenement called *le Starre* and the ditch called *le Kynges Dytche* 52 feet."

The tenement above mentioned as the Black Boy is also described in a conveyance dated 1457 as bounded on the north by a "watercourse called Cambrigge," *cursum aquaticum vocat' Cambrigge*. This watercourse had become a lane before the end of the last century. It belonged to the Town of Cambridge, and was sold to Magdalene College by the Corporation in 1792. In the conveyance it is described as "a piece of ground formerly parcel of a lane which heretofore abutted upon an ancient Bridge called Cambridge Bridge." The length of the lane sold to the College was, as Mr Clark shows, 265 ft. 6 in. It therefore extended 33 ft. 6 in. further eastward than the eastern boundary of the Green Peele, and must have come very near to the old wall which runs from the New Building of Magdalene College towards the Master's Lodge. About this point it took a sharp turn, probably rectangular, to the south, and formed the eastern boundary of the ground belonging to the Star inn, as is shown by a conveyance of that

property in 1550, in which this portion of the watercourse is described as the property of the College.

So far the evidence of the *Architectural History*. It will be noticed that the lane north of the Green Peele was once the property of the Town. As we proceed I shall point out that the route taken by the watercourse is discoverable almost throughout by small and often very narrow pieces of ground which once belonged to the Town.

Continuing further southwards it must have passed through what is now the inner court of Magdalene College, thence through a small plot of ground which until 1791 was the property of the Town, and in that year was acquired by the College, and then joined the river almost at right angles. The point of junction is defined by two deeds dated Ed. III. 38, which are among the muniments of Jesus College, and relate to a piece of ground, afterwards occupied by a Brewhouse and extending from the Town plot just mentioned to the Great Bridge. Between this Jesus College ground and Magdalene College was a lane which existed until comparatively recent years and was called Salmon's lane, but in the 14th and 15th centuries was known as Kymbalton's lane. The deeds have reference to two cottages in this lane which are stated to be situated between a tenement of Thomas de Welles and the *Regis Fossatum* and to abut on the lane and the river.

Of the Cambridge Bridge, so far as I can ascertain, no vestige whatever remains at the present day. The house abutting on it on the eastern side of the street, now occupied as a shop by Mr Armstead, has a frontage to the street of 17 ft., which probably represents at this point the width of the ditch and its bank. On the opposite side of the road stands a very large old house, which in the last quarter of the 17th century was the residence of Mr Edward Story, well known as the founder of Story's charity. The house, which still belongs to the trustees of the charity, is now divided into three tenements, and the ditch must have passed near the party wall between the northern and middle tenement. Behind this house is a passage leading to the cottages which until

1844 were occupied as almshouses of the Story charity, and are now called the Tanyard.

The easternmost part of this passage, which was the courtyard of Story's house and is flanked on both sides by buildings thrown out from it, follows the line of the ditch; the ground westward of this courtyard in Story's time was a waste piece which belonged to the Corporation. In Alderman Newton's Diary, under the date Jan. 12, 1668—9, among some memoranda of business transacted by the Corporation occurs this note, showing that the ground was then Corporation property:

"Alsoe was granted to Mr Maior license to plant trees on the wast at the Castle end on the banke next Mr Storyes ground."

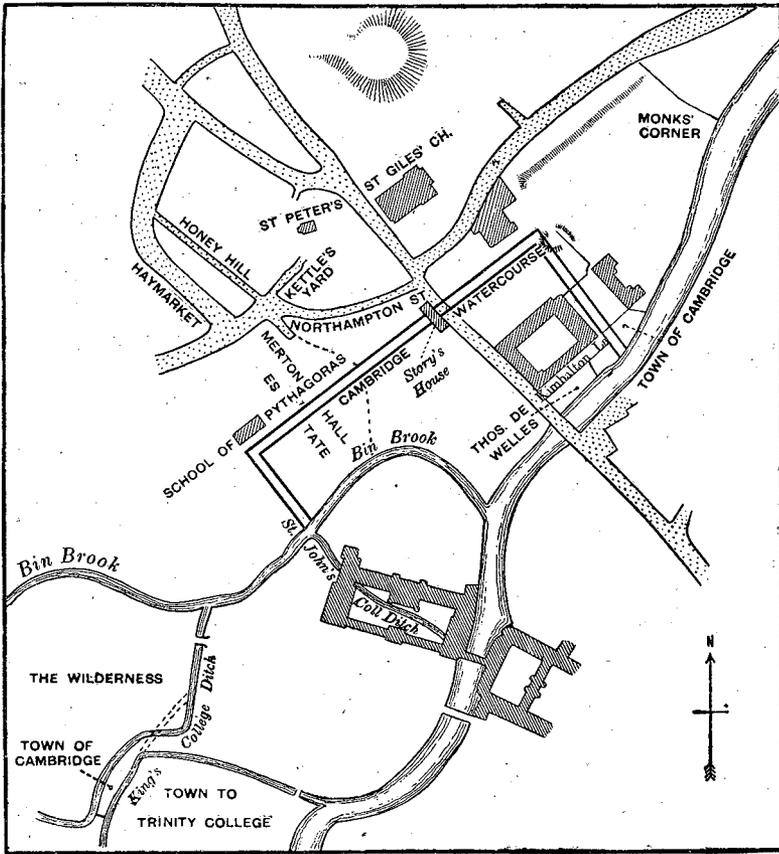
In the more open ground further west there are no surface indications to show what course the ditch took. The direction of the lane from Cambridge Bridge to the wall in Magdalene College garden was perfectly straight. If the ditch was carried in the same straight course westwards from Story's house it must have passed through the site of the almshouses. Just beyond them it would enter the Merton College property. If continuously followed it would pass about 40 ft. south of the School of Pythagoras and in a direction almost parallel with its southern wall, precisely where Stukeley says that he saw traces of it. I understand Stukeley's remark that the turn or angle of it corresponded with the angle of the building to mean not that from here it turned round the buildings first northwards and then eastwards towards Mr Ketil's house, but that it took a rectangular turn southwards from the S.W. corner of Pythagoras' School. A channel of about 190 feet would connect it with the Bin Brook.

The absolutely straight lines in which the channel was probably carried and the rectangular bends which it seems to have made in Magdalene College garden and near the School of Pythagoras sufficiently prove its artificial origin. Its name of King's Ditch, *Fossatum Regis*, seems to indicate a connection with the Castle. In two deeds belonging to the reigns of Edward I. and Edward II. which are among the

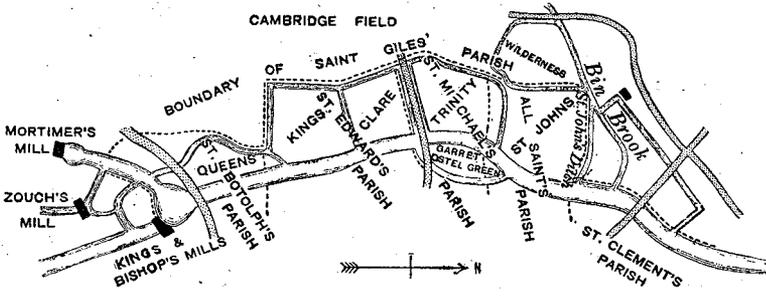
muniments of the Nuns of St Radegund I find mention of a *Fossatum Regis* in the parish of All Saints *iuxta Castrum*. It is impossible to doubt that this was the Castle ditch—no doubt in that quarter a dry one with a *vallum* to back it. A *fossatum Cantebrigie* in or near S. Giles' parish is likewise mentioned in the Hundred Rolls, which speak of a piece of ground belonging to the Hospital of S. John as 'quoddam messuagium extra fossatum Cant' in parochia Sancti Egidii jacens juxta viam quae ducit versus Sanctum Neothum.' Probably this *fossatum Cantebrigie* was the Cambridge watercourse.

The terrace in Magdalene College garden and the high banks at Mount Pleasant and on the eastern side of the Prison are simply escarpments of a steep natural slope. To raise a bank of corresponding height and steepness on the S.W. side of the Castle would have involved a formidable amount of labour. To divert, straighten, and deepen an existing watercourse was a simpler matter. From its lower end next the river the channel is drawn directly at right angles to the terrace in the Magdalene College garden, and close to its lowest end. Now, as will be seen from the plan, near the Master's Lodge the terrace quits the straight line in which it is carried and bends in a S.W. direction, which would bring it exactly to the rectangular bend of the watercourse. A portion of this spur has been effaced by levelling, but it reappears again on the outside of the ditch, in such a way as to cover its bend, in a bank along which the old wall already referred to is carried¹. The wall has no doubt protected the bank here from destruction, though some of it has been thrown down so as to fill the ditch, as the plan shows. There was no doubt also a low *vallum* on the northern side of the long reach of the ditch which crossed Magdalene Street. It survived

¹ It has been suggested to me that the bank along which the old wall is carried is not in fact an old earthwork but represents the natural level of the soil, and that the ground has been depressed on either side by levelling at quite a recent date. The bank is at least as old as Logan's plan, in which it is very clearly marked.



PLAN I. The Cambridge Watercourse and Neighbourhood.



PLAN II. The Cam and Watercourses derived from it.

at the end of the 17th century as the bank next Story's ground mentioned by Alderman Newton. Westward the ditch was prolonged so as to serve as the moat of the School of Pythagoras. The moat may very well have been far older than the Norman manor house, which, it may be conjectured, succeeded an earlier Saxon one on the same site.

The ditch in that part of it which served as the Castle fosse must have been of considerable depth. Magdalene Street, at the point where it was crossed by Cambridge Bridge is at the present day 10 feet above the ordinary level of the river. East and west from the street the ground slopes downwards. Probably the road has been somewhat raised here to ease the gradient of the hill.

I come now to speak of this watercourse in another connection, its relation to the Cam. Of course in one sense it was connected with the river because it discharged itself into it. But I am inclined to think that in some way it was also derived from it, and was once even regarded as a branch of it. Henry of Huntingdon, writing about the year 1133, speaks of old S. Giles's church as being situated *super fluvium Grentam*, a description which does not very accurately accord with its distance from the river at the Great Bridge, which is quite 160 yards away, whereas the Cambridge watercourse was within 40 yards of it. Henry was archdeacon of Huntingdon, and it is reasonable to suppose that he knew the locality. Perhaps we should not attach too much significance to his words, which may be understood as only generally descriptive of the site. But the more literal interpretation of them derives confirmation from the evidence of Gough, in his edition of Camden (II. p. 230), if it is deserving of credit. Of the Castle he says:

“The east (? south) side may have been bounded with the river, though now at a distance, wherein the terrace of Magdalen close may have been part, near which the river seems formerly to have run, for the deeds (in the Cottonian library) relating to the foundation of S. Giles' church mention the river as running close to it.”

The foundation charter of S. Giles's church is not contained in the Barnwell Book, and I have not seen the original referred to by Gough. There is however a curious passage in the Barnwell Book which, though it does not affirm that the church closely adjoined the river, shows conclusively that it was connected with it by a navigable watercourse. The writer of this part of the Barnwell Book, which was apparently composed in the time of Edward I., enumerating various gifts to the Priory of houses and lands in Cambridge, speaks of the already mentioned gift of the Countess Maud, consisting of "two acres before the church door." He quotes evidence to show that these two acres were situated near S. Giles's church, Cambridge, not near the Priory church, Barnwell, also dedicated to S. Giles. To this evidence he adds:

"And with this agrees the statement of a very aged palmer-pilgrim (*peregrini palmarii valde senis*) who said that he had seen ships (*naves*) come almost up to the door of S. Giles' church."

The point of this argument is that S. Giles's church, Cambridge, was much nearer to a navigable stream than the Priory church in Barnwell. If the only navigable stream near the Cambridge church was the present channel of the river this evidence would lose all its force, for S. Giles's church was not much nearer to the river at the Great Bridge than the Priory church was to Barnwell pool. It must be remembered that we have no evidence of the width of the Cambridge watercourse below the rectangular bend in Magdalene College garden. The breadth E. and W. of the Corporation ground where it joined the river was 24 yards, rather wider than the neighbouring reach of the river, but some part of this space may have been occupied by a barbican if Armeswork is placed here.

If the watercourse was indeed a branch of the Cam, at what point, we may ask, in the upper part of the river, are we to look to find the connection? The upper end of the ditch, whether it was carried as far as the School of Pythagoras, as I believe it was, or only extended to the S.W. angle of the Castle area, was manifestly connected with the Bin Brook. Now I

will quote from the Field Books an account of the course of this not very important stream :

“Bynbrooke begynneth at a spring in Whytewell [in another hand ‘at hardwhit at a place called berrie ward’] and y^{er} is called o^r Ladyes well of Whytewell, and so cometh by Coton, and so joineth itself wth other water corses, and so cometh by a Dytche on y^e eest side of King’s College close, once called a thousand wyllows, now y^e new close, and so parteth lytle feelde and Carme feelde, and so runneth down to a close called Merton Hall close, and so into y^e co^men streme.”

From this account we learn that the Bin Brook formerly joined the ditch which comes from the back of King’s College along the West side of the Trinity paddocks. The Bin Brook at present is made to throw off an arm which insulates S. John’s College Wilderness. This arm, save for a drain to carry off flood water, is entirely disconnected fr^om the Trinity ditch, being parted from it by the walk leading between the Wilderness and the Trinity paddocks. The Bin Brook is now held up by a weir at the back of S. John’s College New Court, and flows at a level nearly 2 ft. higher than the Trinity ditch.

This now insignificant ditch, which from the place of its first appearance in the character of a watercourse, may be called the King’s College ditch, interests me considerably. I have a hypothesis about it which is built on the purest conjecture, but which I hope to show is not altogether devoid of probability. I ask you to regard this ditch as an ancient branch of the Cam. At the present time it is so straightened that it has lost all appearance of being a natural watercourse, and its continuity is so broken by the roadways which cross it and the trenches which at College boundaries connect it with the river, that it is difficult to regard it as anything but a series of unconnected moats. But of its continuity and ancient importance there is a singular proof. Throughout its course from St John’s ditch to Queens’ Green it serves as the boundary dividing S. Giles’ parish from the parishes on the eastern side of the river; it divides what was distinctively called Cambridge Field from the township whose open fields were never known as Cambridge

Field, but as Barnwell Field; it parts fields which were tithable to the three parishes at the Castle end and to S. Clement's from fields which were tithable to the other churches in the town. The main channel of the river only serves as a parish boundary in one part of its course, viz. where it parts S. Clement's parish from the parishes north of the river, and S. Clement's, as I have said, alone of the southern parishes, drew its tithes from the Cambridge Field. The bounds of the parishes of All Saints', S. Michael's, S. Edward's, and S. Botolph leap the river as if it were the most insignificant rivulet, and follow the line of the King's College ditch. That the present channel of the river was not actually insignificant in the middle ages, nor indeed less important than it is now, is sufficiently proved by the number of hithes which lined it on its eastern bank, but the ditch probably held a much more important relation to it in the 13th century and earlier than it did afterwards.

The cause of the subtraction of the river water from the ditch channel was, it can hardly be doubted, the erection of the mills above Queens' College and at Newnham. Between the artificial cuts which carry the water to these mills an old river course is plainly visible in the low ground of Sheep's Green. On this old branch formerly stood the mill called Zouch's mill, which was removed after 1352 when the Newnham mill, otherwise Mortimer's mill, was erected. After the construction of the Newnham mill and the diversion of the upper stream into the raised channel leading to it, the old course of the river dwindled into insignificance. But even so late as the end of last century a relic of it survived in the stream which passed under one of the bridges called Small Bridges, close to the Hermitage, now Professor Darwin's house, and so along the ditch on Queens' Green, joining the main river opposite the Bodley court of King's College. I suspect, though I have no evidence to prove it, that the Queens' ditch formerly threw off a branch to the back gate of King's College, and so formed a continuous watercourse with the King's College ditch. At present the connection between the two ditches is made by a

trench carried along the South side of the King's College grounds. This trench may be a very old one, as it is the boundary between the parishes of S. Edward's and S. Botolph's, but it is not unlikely that when the course of the ditch was altered the boundary was altered with it. From King's College back gate the channel continued through low-lying swampy ground to the gate of S. John's College which stands between the Wilderness and the Trinity paddocks. Its natural windings have been confined between straight banks, and here again the parish bounds have accommodated themselves to the alteration in its course. Throughout this part of its course it passed through land which formerly belonged exclusively to the Town of Cambridge.

At the point where the ditch entered what is now the S. John's College grounds it had on its eastern side the Trinity paddocks, which belonged to the Town until 1613, when they were conveyed to Trinity College. On the west side it had the narrow strip along which the walk is now carried. This strip curiously enough remained in the possession of the Town until so recent a date as 1805. At the northern end of the paddocks and the strip the ditch now turns eastwards at right angles and passes into the river. But here we have a striking piece of evidence that this was not its old course. The boundary of All Saints' parish, which has so far followed the line of the ditch, continues without any turn across an angle of the Wilderness, where it is marked in the Ordnance Survey as 'undefined,' and reappears a few yards further on following the course of the Bin Brook. This undefined boundary clearly determines the point of the junction of the King's College Ditch and the Bin Brook¹.

After this junction the combined stream had on its western side another piece of Town land, now included in the Wilderness. On its eastern side was the land now S. John's College Meadows. When or how these meadows were acquired by the

¹ Since this communication was read I have observed that Hammond's plan of Cambridge (1592) distinctly marks the King's College ditch as flowing into the Bin Brook channel.

College I do not know; a portion of them adjoining S. John's ditch was once a garden belonging to the Hospital.

Beyond the Wilderness the land north and west of the channel belonged to the Merton Hall estate. The successive owners of this land before it came into the possession of Merton College are rehearsed in the Hundred Rolls, but evidence is lacking to show that the property ever belonged to the Town.

In conclusion I may observe that in exceptional floods the river is apt to reassert its right to its long disused bed, and that residents at the Backs of the Colleges will long recollect the great torrent that in November, 1894, swept along the course of the ditch, which perhaps none of them suspected of having once been the legitimate channel of the river.

MONDAY, *May* 20, 1895.

W. M. FAWCETT, M.A., F.S.A., President, in the Chair.

The election of the following members was announced: Mr W. H. Downing, Earl's Court, Olton, Birmingham; James Bennett Peace, M.A., Emmanuel College; The Rev. Charles Harold Evelyn White, F.S.A., Rampton Rectory.

Mr E. M. BELOE, King's Lynn, made the following communication:

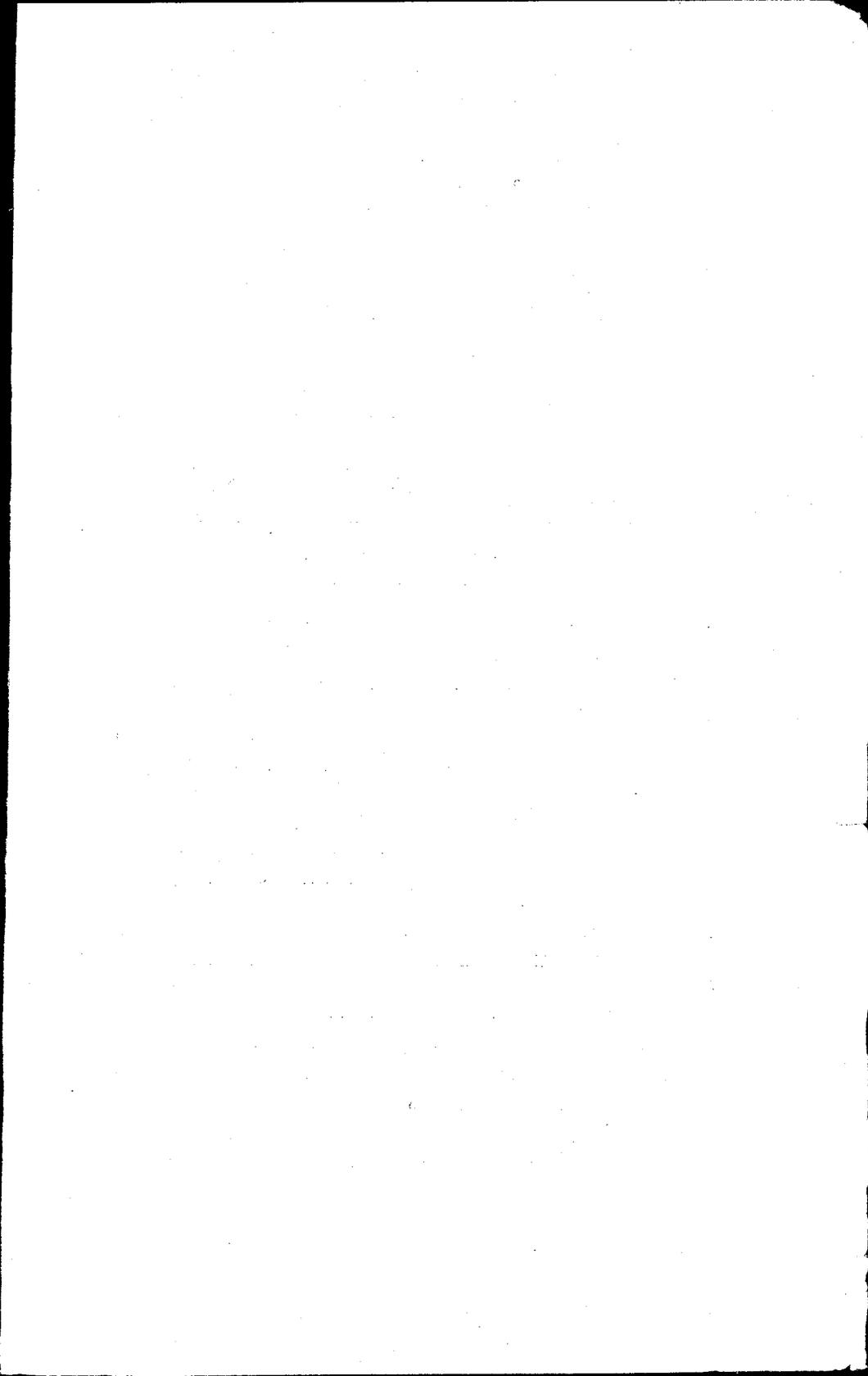
THE PADDERS' WAY AND ITS ATTENDANT ROADS.

I had the honour at a meeting of the Society on November 18, 1889, to trace the "Great Fen Road and its path to the Sea." I now treat of "The Padders' Way and its attendant Roads." With the Padders' Way is closely connected the system of roads attendant on it, and the forts raised on them for their defence and on the coast for its protection. These will form the subjects treated of in this paper.

Cambridge:

PRINTED BY J. AND C. F. CLAY,

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.



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