

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN  
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



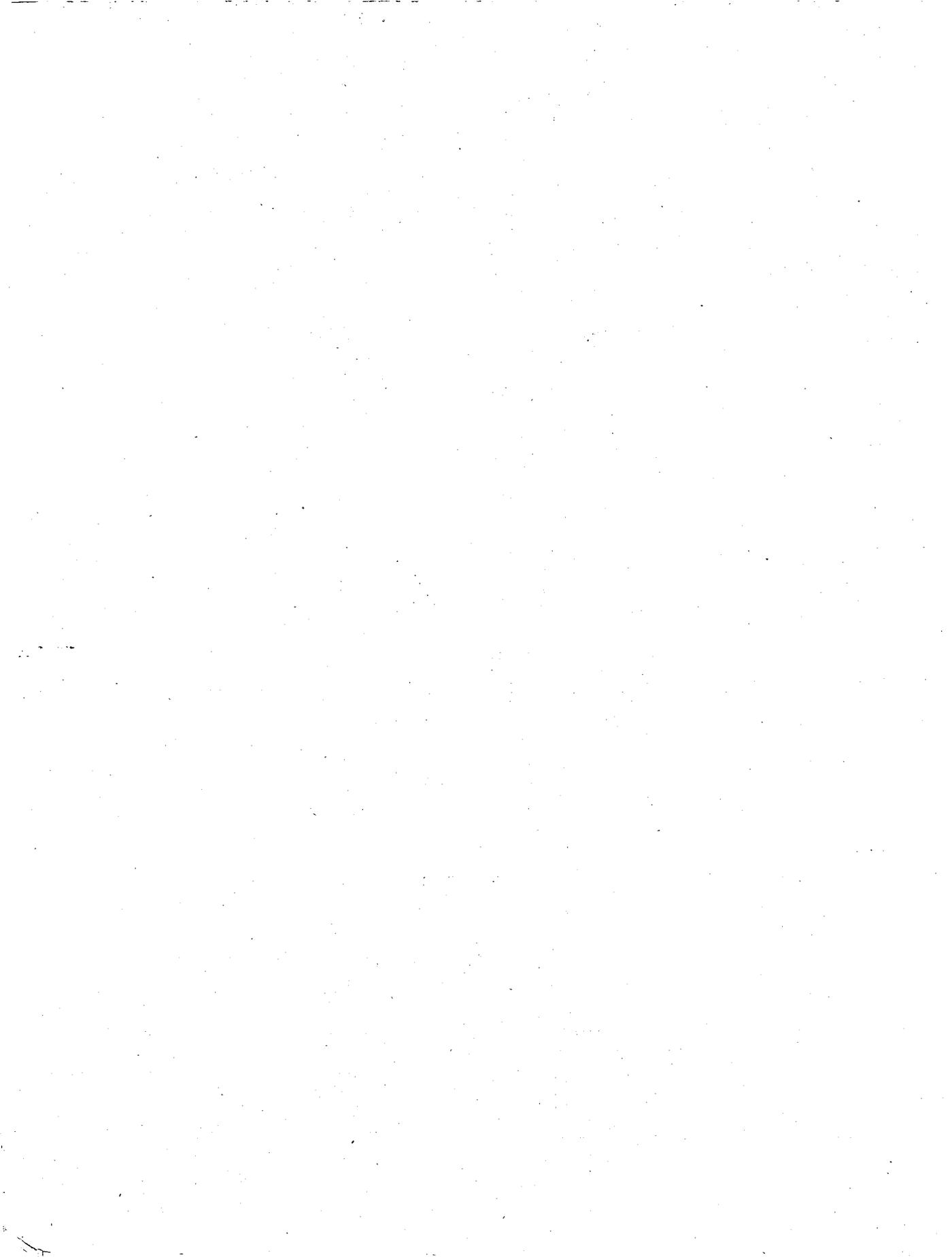
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JANUARY 1956 TO DECEMBER 1956

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DEIGHTON BELL

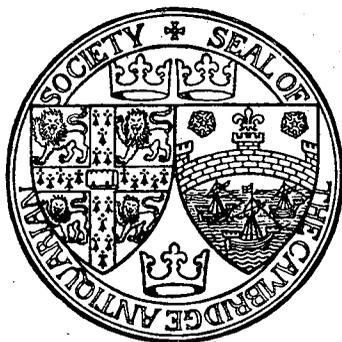
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## THE CLERGY OF WILLINGHAM 1300-1955 PART II

CANON F. J. BYWATERS, M.A.

THE religious and political strife in the reign of Charles I and during the Commonwealth affected the diocese of Ely more than many other dioceses of the country, for the bishop, Matthew Wren, was a prisoner in the Tower of London from 1642 to 1660. White Kennett<sup>1</sup> states that 'at the beginning of the late Confusions, several Patrons continued to make a regular presentation of their Clerks to the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Bishop gave them Institution without Power of giving them possession'. He gives examples, including that of EDMUND MAPLETOFT, who had been instituted to the Archdeaconry of Ely in February, 1646-7,<sup>2</sup> and to the Rectory of Willingham on 6 February, 1647-8. But NATHANIEL BRADSHAW was admitted to the benefice on 24 September 1647, the previous incumbent having died at the beginning of the month, and compounded for first-fruits on 10 February 1647-8, four days later than Mapletoft's institution.<sup>3</sup>

Bradshaw, a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, M.A. 1644, and Fellow 1645, signed the parochial registers from 1647 to 1661, in 1649 and 1650 as 'minister', but after 1651 as 'rector'. The baptisms and births and burials of his children are recorded in the registers, also the marriage of his sister, Elizabeth, to John Nye, the minister at Cottenham.

There is no evidence of his ordination to the diaconate or priesthood. Calamy gives much information about him. 'For some Years very adverse to the Work of the Ministry, till God visited him with the Small Pox, and under that Affliction inclin'd his Heart to undertake it. He was a Boanerges; well adapted to the People of Wivlingham, whom he found very Profane and Ignorant, but in a little time God was graciously pleas'd to give him numerous seals to his Ministry.' Some of the parishioners, however, reported to the Commissioners on 14 June 1650, 'we know who gave him the said parsonage, and for the cure of souls we have been better served, yet he preacheth twice a day, but soe little to edification, that he rather wearie the parish than profiteth them thereby'.<sup>4</sup>

He was assistant to the Commissioners for the counties of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon in 1654, by ordinance for ejecting scandalous, ignorant, and insufficient ministers and schoolmasters; and a member of the Cambridgeshire Association in 1656.

Palmer<sup>5</sup> has a story that his successor (Thomas Wren, 1662-79) scoffed at him for

<sup>1</sup> Kennett, *Register and Chronicle*, p. 879.

<sup>2</sup> Le Neve, *Fasti*, vol. 1, p. 352.

<sup>3</sup> A. G. Matthews, *Calamy Revised*, p. 69.

<sup>4</sup> Lambeth Palace, MS. S. 3. 301.

<sup>5</sup> S. Palmer, *Nonconformists' Memorial* (1802), vol. 1, p. 322.

his way of preaching. Bradshaw replied: 'Sir, I left four score and ten praying families in Willingham at my ejection, and I am afraid your ministry will never make them up an hundred.'

Kennett quotes from Bishop Wren's Register that the benefice was vacant in 1662 by Bradshaw's deprivation, and comments that had he conformed he could not have kept it, as Mapletoft would have returned had he been living in 1660.

After 1662, for some years, Bradshaw 'continu'd to Preach in his own and other Families. Then the Providence of God gave him the Liberty of a Pulpit in a small village, which he us'd with so much Prudence and Moderation, that he was conniv'd at for about Five Years. When that was denied him, he Preached at Childerley, and after that in London.' He became a licensed preacher in his own house at Hemingford in 1672. When

the Act for Toleration came forth, he return'd to his Old People of Wivlingham, and preach'd amongst them to the last Sabbath of his life. And desir'd no more of them than to pay for his Diet from Saturday Night till Monday morning, and his Horsehire from St. Ives, which was five miles distant, where he liv'd with Mrs Mason, his Wife's daughter. . . . In the latter Part of his Life he did his Master's Work in great Pain, and by a Scorbutic Dropsy ended his Pilgrimage at St. Ives, October 16th, 1690, in the 71st year of his Age. He was a very Considerable Man, of a Generous Temper, and undaunted Courage.

A register entry informs us that this former rector was buried at Willingham. '1690. Nathaniell Bradshaw bur. Oct. 18; a Barn preacher.' A later marginal note in pencil reads 'Late Rector of Willingham—a Faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ'. Later information indicates that the grave was on the north side of the chancel where Nathanael Naylor, a later rector, was buried in 1706. 'When Nathanael Naylor was buried there, a high churchman asked the sexton "Why do you bury him so near that fanatic?" An aged woman who was present and knew their different characters shrewdly answered "It can't affect them while they lie here, and they may be far enough off at the resurrection"'.<sup>1</sup>

An interesting comment upon Bradshaw is found in the *Calendar of State Papers*, 8 July 1661, where a letter from Brian Turner, M.A. and Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, written to Williamson is quoted. 'If the Act passes lapsing to the king all livings wherein the old incumbent is dead, and the new one not episcopally ordained, begs him to prefer his petition for the living of Willingham, Isle of Ely (*sic*) if it fall to the king's donation. He knows the present incumbent to be very culpable on many accounts.'

1646-7. EDMUND MAPLETOFT, M.A. of Pembroke College, Cambridge, was ordained deacon on 4 June, and priest on 5 June, 1615 at Peterborough. He became assistant curate to Matthew Wren (later bishop of Ely), rector of Teversham in that year,<sup>2</sup> and from 1617 to 1623 was assistant curate at Willingham, where in 1618 he signed the register transcripts and his daughter Mary was baptized in 1623. After incumbencies at Holbrook and Falkenham he became rector of Hardwicke and

<sup>1</sup> Palmer, *op. cit.*; Matthews, *op. cit.*

<sup>2</sup> A. Gibbons, *Ely Episcopal Records*, p. 366.

rector of Little Downham in 1641. He was ejected from both benefices by the duke of Manchester, who as Commissioner was dealing with 'Articles of Complaint' against 'malignant' incumbents. It was alleged at Downham that he 'preached against the Parliament, terming them a company of wicked Nabals... worse than devils (for there is government in hell), and saying that it is a dangerous thing to preach extempore, and that now the people run about after false teachers who preach in tubs and pray by the spirit'.<sup>1</sup>

The charge at Hardwicke was that 'he refused to read anything from the Parliament, but read many things from the King at Oxford with great boldness;... he commonly useth altar-worship, east-worship, and dropping-worship, with bidding canonical prayer'.<sup>1</sup> It was also stated that he had a wife and seven children at this date.

Bentham<sup>2</sup> and Kennett<sup>3</sup> both regarded Mapletoft as the rightful rector of both parishes when he was collated to the archdeaconry of Ely in February 1645-6, by Bishop Wren, and to Willingham in the following year, also to the first prebendal stall in March 1651-2. He died in December 1652, and had not been installed or given possession of the archdeaconry. Similar evidence is given by Walker.<sup>4</sup>

1662. THOMAS WREN, LL.D. (Peterhouse) 1662; M.D. (Oxford) 1660, Fellow of the Royal Society, was collated to Willingham in August 1662, after the resignation or ejection of Bradshaw.

He was the second son of Matthew Wren, who lost no time in compensating him for the hardships he had suffered. He had been admitted as a student at Cambridge, but was forced to leave during the imprisonment of his father, and studied at Oxford.

The pressures under which his Father lay for seventeen Years were such, that he could not (His Estate being taken away) allow his Children Bread, much less supply their Expences for living in Colleges, and the taking of their Degrees, only to have the Benefit of the Public Library etc. This Person... was much addicted to Musick while he studied in Oxon. (which was about eight years).<sup>5</sup>

Ordained deacon in 1660, Wren was immediately presented by his father to the sinecure rectory of Littlebury in Essex; and after his ordination to the priesthood in June 1661 was collated to the rectory of Northwold. He became the occupant of the Fifth Canonry Stall at Ely in January 1661-2, and rector of Willingham on 20 August 1662, also archdeacon of Ely in April 1663, and canon of Southwell in 1664. Having resigned Northwold in 1662, he held all the other preferments until his death in 1679.<sup>6</sup>

He and his brother Matthew presented a handsome rose-water dish and ewer to Peterhouse in 1661.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> W. J. Conybeare, *History of Cambridgeshire*, pp. 220, 221—quoting from the Articles of Complaint.

<sup>2</sup> J. Bentham, *History and Antiquities of Ely Cathedral*, pp. 242, 279.

<sup>3</sup> Kennett, *op. cit.*

<sup>4</sup> *Walker Revised*, ed. A. G. Matthews, p. 84.

<sup>5</sup> Kennett, *op. cit.* p. 220.

<sup>6</sup> Bentham, *op. cit.* pp. 255, 279; Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses*.

<sup>7</sup> T. A. Walker, *Admissions to Peterhouse*, p. 120.

There is no trace of his activities, if any, at Willingham, but the parish was served by ROBERT KING, ROWLAND MANLOVE and ANTHONY LISTAR during his incumbency.

Robert King, scholar of Caius College 1650-1, signs as curate in 1662. His children, Joan, Hester and Thomas, by his wife Frances (1667-70), were baptized at Willingham, and Frances buried 12 September 1670.

Anthony Listar or Lyster, M.A. of Emmanuel College, was licensed on 23 May 1674. His daughter Ann was baptized on 11 August 1674; a son John baptized and buried in January 1676; Thomas baptized on 13 December 1677, and another son John baptized and buried in August 1679.

Rowland Manlove, M.A., Fellow of Magdalene College 1665, was ordained deacon at London on 19 May 1665, and priest on 22 September 1666. After being perpetual curate of St Giles, Cambridge, in 1670, he became vicar of Long Stanton All Saints in 1673. There he married Anne Pask on 19 July 1677. A son Rowland was baptized at Willingham on 29 July 1678, and buried on 31 August of the same year. Other children were born at Long Stanton, where Manlove was still incumbent in 1685.

1679. WILLIAM SAYWELL, rector. A Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, in 1666, and D.D. in 1679, he had been vicar of Pevensey and prebendary and chancellor of Chichester since 1675, resigning the former appointment in 1679, but retaining the latter until his death. He was Master of Jesus College, Cambridge, from 1679, Vice-Chancellor 1685-6; canon of Ely from 1679, and archdeacon of Ely from 1681. His collation to Willingham was by Peter Gunning, bishop of Ely, to whom he had been chaplain, and whose executor he became in 1684. A codicil to the bishop's will included the instruction 'After all my legacies and payments are discharged, I will not that my executor Dr William Saywell should take to himself any more than £250, but employ whatever is remaining upon the present relief of some poor Vicars within the county of Cambridge and Isle of Ely where the impropriations are in the bishop'.<sup>1</sup>

Saywell was a contributor to *Hymenaeus Cantabrigiensis* in 1683, and the author of the following works:

1. The Original of all Plots in Christendom, 1680,
2. A Serious Enquiry into the Means of a Happy Union; or, What Reformation is necessary to prevent Popery? 1681.
3. Evangelical and Catholick Unity maintained in the Church of England, 1682 (written in answer to Baxter's *Answer to the Accusations*).<sup>2</sup>
4. The Reformation of the Church of England justified, according to the Canons of the Council of Nicea and other General Councils, 1688.
5. The necessity of adhering to the Church of England as by Law Established, or the Duty of a good Christian and particularly of Parents and Masters of Families under the Present Toleration, 1692.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kennett, *The case of Impropriations* (1704), p. 292.

<sup>2</sup> C. E. Whiting, *Studies in English Puritanism*, p. 533.

<sup>3</sup> *Dictionary of National Biography*.

On 2 October 1700 William Saywell made a will in which he left everything to his brother Samuel.<sup>1</sup>

On 14 November 1700 he made a codicil to that will; and the changes appear to suggest that the original will was made in a hurry and without much consideration.

Imprimis I give unto my loving wife, during her natural life one Annuity or yearly summe of £150 to be paid her by my executor yearly and every year during her natural life by half-yearly equal payments.

Item, I give to my brother John Saywell's two daughters £5 a year apeece until they attain to the respective ages of 21 years, if they respectively shall so long live; and then to each of them I give £300 if they shall so long live.

Item, I give to my sister Miers £50.

Item, I give to my nephew Andrew Mieres £10 per annum during his natural life.

Item, I give to my cousin Mr William Hussey £50 and to my cousin Thomas Hussey £10.

Item, I give to the church of Ely £100.

Item, I give to Jesus College £100 towards the adorning of the College Hall to be paid within six months after my decease; and I give £200 more to be paid within one year after the decease of my wife, to be applyed to such uses for the said College as my executor shall direct or appoint. And for default of such direction or appointment the same to be added to Dr. Proby's foundation towards the purchase of the advowson of a living.

Item, I give to St John's College in Cambridge £50 to be paid within one year of the decease of my wife towards the building of a new chappell.

Item, my will and mind is that my executor shall settle and assure or cause to be settled and assured upon such Trustees and their heires as he shall think fit a yearly rent or lands to the value of £10 per annum in trust for the benefit of the Schoolmaster in Willingham in the County of Cambridge and his successors schoolmasters there for the time being for ever for an encouragement to the Said schoolmaster to teach the children of the same parish their catechism and prayers.

Item, I give to the poor of Ely £10.

Item, I give to the poor of Willingham £10.

Item, I give to the poor of All Saints, Cambridge £5, and to the poor of Pentridge in Dorsetshire, where I was born £5.

Saywell died in London on 19 June 1701 and his body was buried in Jesus College Chapel.<sup>2</sup> Saywell's duties as Master of a college, an archdeacon and residentiary canon probably left him little time for the cure of souls at Willingham; that duty was left to others, among whom was his brother SAMUEL SAYWELL, Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, 1671 to 1685, and B.D. in 1680. Having been ordained priest at Ely in 1675, he became vicar of Hauxton with Newton in 1676, and was rector of Bluntisham from 1684 to 1708. For some years he was assistant curate at Willingham, officiating until the death of his brother. He too left land for charitable purposes in Willingham, Bluntisham and Earith. The rent of one portion in Earith Fen was to be devoted to mending and repairing the Church Causeways.

A memorial to him is on the north wall of Bluntisham Church.

<sup>1</sup> Baker MSS. vol. xxvi, p. 294.

<sup>2</sup> Venn, *Alumni*. A pencil note in the Parochial Register gives the date of death.

From 1690 RICHARD ROUTH, M.A. 1682, of St John's College, Cambridge, was assistant curate. Four of his children were baptized here, and from 1695 until his death he was also curate of Haddenham, where other children were baptized, and he himself was buried on 4 June 1714. 'Note that Some Dissenters fanatically entered are not taken Notice of here' (Parish Register), this indicates his attitude towards Dissenters, 1697.

In 1698, JOHN BROOKES, M.A. of Jesus College, and Fellow from 1698 to 1716, was curate. He signs the registers until 1701.

1701. After the pluralism of William Saywell, NATHANAEL NAYLOR, B.A. of Queens' College, held the benefice from 1701 until his death in August 1706. The register records that he was buried on the north side of the chancel, and was 55 years of age. From 1702 to 1708 WILLIAM KING, who had been ordained deacon at Lincoln under letters dimissory from the bishop of Ely in May 1702, and priest at Ely on 30 May 1703, was curate.

1706. JAMES MARTIN, M.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge, 1691, and Fellow of Queens' College in 1694, succeeded Naylor and held the benefice for thirty-two years: His wife Mary was buried on 26 September 1708, and in the register he wrote 'mihi semper amandum semper honorandum nomen'.<sup>1</sup> Cole stated that Martin was chaplain to the English factory at Lisbon, and a lady there who fell in love with him followed him privately to England in a very romantic manner; they met and were married. Was this Mary? In the register of his burial in the chancel in September 1738 there is a note 'By report a good man'. His grave slab is just inside the screen at the entrance to the chancel.

In 1714, ROBERT MANLOVE, M.A., Magdalene College, a son of Rowland Manlove of Long Stanton, and who was ordained deacon at Ely on 4 June 1710, was curate,<sup>2</sup> and in 1720 was succeeded by GEORGE ATTON, B.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge, ordained deacon at Lincoln on 29 January 1721, and priest at Ely on 20 September 1724. His sons John and Stephen were baptized at Willingham in 1721 and 1723 respectively, and he became perpetual curate of Little Raveley in 1725.<sup>3</sup>

1738. JAMES REYNOLDS, M.A., St John's College, Cambridge, 1705, rector. Cole wrote that Mr Reynolds's father was Philip Reynolds, butler of St John's College, and lived in All Saints' parish, where he died insolvent, and he cheated the University people and Dr Gower among them of a great deal of money, being what they call a money scrivener.

Ordained deacon at Ely in December 1706, and priest at Lincoln in March 1709, Reynolds was rector of Lackford from 1714 to 1752, and vicar of Swaffham 1737-8, resigning the latter on his collation to Willingham<sup>4</sup> by Bishop Butts, his father-in-law. The entry of his burial in the register states that 'He died on the 6th, that is the 17th September, 1752', referring to the adjustment of the calendar in that year.

<sup>1</sup> Venn, *Alumni*. Parochial Registers.

<sup>3</sup> Venn, *Alumni*, but Venn says he was rector of Willingham.

<sup>2</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

<sup>4</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

Though details of the incumbency of Reynolds are meagre, he seems to have given the villagers opportunity to talk about the assistants he engaged. In 1741 WILLIAM WINDLE, B.A. of Caius College where he was a scholar, 1729, was appointed. He had been ordained deacon at Norwich on 13 June 1731, and priest on 4 June 1732. A friend and associate of T. Duckett, who was expelled for atheism, he was summoned as a witness against him. He was obliged, by order of the bishop, to write a book in vindication of his faith and to purge himself from the scandal. He wrote *An enquiry into the Immateriality of Thinking Substances* (1738).<sup>1</sup>

Windle did not stay long, for in 1743 he was succeeded by THOMAS IBBOT. He also was a scholar of Caius, M.A. 1743, and ordained deacon at Norwich on 21 December 1740 and priest at Ely on 26 February 1743. The register records his appointment by the rector as curate and schoolmaster (the church school had been founded in 1593). 'He was somewhat disordered in his head, and was made worse by the perverse humour of the people of this parish, who for the most part are a factious set of persons, fanatically inclined, and consequently censorious of all those of another mode of worship' (Cole). He was rector of Beachamwell, 1764-87, and curate of Stoke Ferry, 1768-84.<sup>2</sup>

1745. JOHN BOWLE, B.A., Trinity College, Cambridge, ordained deacon at Norwich in June 1745, was appointed curate and schoolmaster. Cole says 'he was very much in the same style as Ibbot'. He left in 1747, and was 'standing for a Fellowship at Trinity College at the election on 1 October' (Cole).

1753. The collation of the next incumbent is an example of nepotism of the worst type, to say nothing of pluralism. JOHN GOOCH, scholar of Caius College, M.A. 1753, and in 1765 D.D. (then of Christ's College), became rector, collated by his father, the bishop of Ely. In May 1751 he married Mary Sayer of the parish of St Clement Danes in the chapel of Ely House, Holborn.<sup>3</sup> He was ordained deacon at Ely in February 1752, and priest on 24 August 1753. In that year he was 'sequestrator of Fen Ditton, not being of age to hold the living. The bishop has secured a promise in case of his death, from his successor, the Prime Minister, the archbishop of Canterbury and the Crown in case of a lapse. He is since made rector of Willingham, the bishop living just long enough to settle him in his preferment.'<sup>4</sup> Gooch was collated to Willingham on the day after his ordination to the priesthood. His father lived until 14 February 1754, but he had collated his son to the fourth canonry at Ely in September 1753.<sup>5</sup>

Gooch held these preferments until his death in 1804, a period of fifty-one years. He improved Fen Ditton Church, and part of the altar rail of Ely Cathedral was incorporated.

Cole says he had 'singular good taste in Alterations of this sort, and it was never

<sup>1</sup> Venn, *Alumni*; Venn, *Biographical History of Gonville and Caius College*, vol. II, p. 22.

<sup>2</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

<sup>3</sup> Gibbons, *Ely Episcopal Registers*, p. 34.

<sup>4</sup> Cole, quoted by Venn, *op. cit.* vol. II, p. 58.

<sup>5</sup> Cole, *History of Fen Ditton*.

shown to greater Advantage than in the conversion of his ungainly, awkward and ill-contrived Prebendal House at Ely into one of the most elegant in the Place'.<sup>1</sup>

He had two daughters, 'most accomplished and agreeable young ladies, for whose Instruction in Music, Painting, Dancing and every other Qualification requisite in Persons of their Situation in Life their Father has spared no kind of Attention or Expense. The Doctor is a most chearful and Agreeable Companion, and beloved and esteemed by all his Acquaintance.'<sup>2</sup> Mary Gooch married Dr Radcliffe, arch-deacon and canon of Canterbury, and Rachel Dr Richard Beadon, successively bishop of Gloucester and Bath and Wells.<sup>3</sup>

Gooch was a friend of Cole and of Michael Tyson, and they were with him at Ely when Bishop Hotham's tomb was opened. Cole wrote 'we saw his head'. Gooch was responsible for this act, also for pulling down the wall on the north side of the choir, and finding the bones of six Saxon bishops and Earl Brihtnoth. They are now on the south side of Bishop West's Chapel. Details were given by Bentham.<sup>4</sup>

In 1755, five new bells were hung in Willingham tower; on one the name of the rector was cast as Goode. Cole's encomium must be tempered by this entry: 'On Monday Mr Bentham told me that Dr Gooch had kicked his maid downstairs and flung a candlestick at her head, which she returned again.'

John Gooch died at the Palace at Wells, the home of his son-in-law, on 7 January 1804, and was buried in the cathedral there. An epitaph might have been supplied by Bentham, 'With the gravity of a Clergyman Dr Gooch united the easy manner of a Gentleman'.

For the greater part of Gooch's incumbency, the parish was in the charge of THOMAS PARIS, who was educated at the Perse School and Trinity College, Cambridge, B.A. 1745. Ordained deacon at Ely under letters dimissory from the bishop of Peterborough in 1748 and priest in 1750, he came to Willingham in 1759, where he remained for forty years. His wife Sarah Jane died in 1765, aged 34, and his daughter Ann, born in 1762, died in 1789, and was buried in the chancel, where the grave slab may still be seen. Paris died at Newington on 9 December 1800, aged 77 years.

From 1795 to 1803, JOSHUA WOOD, Fellow of St Catharine's College in 1795 and B.D. 1795, was also curate.<sup>5</sup>

1804. The next incumbent seems to have officiated regularly at Willingham, though he had assistant curates. He was GEORGE HENRY LAW, a son of Edmund Law, bishop of Carlisle. In 1781 he became Fellow of Queens' College, M.A. 1784, D.D. 1804. He was also a F.R.S. and a F.S.A. and married Jane, daughter of General Adeane, M.P. for Cambridgeshire. A daughter, Joanna, was married at Willingham in 1807 to Alexander Powell, of Baverstock, Wilts. Law became bishop of Chester in 1812, and in 1824 was translated to Bath and Wells. In the baptism register, after a baptism on 9 August 1812, is the signature 'Geo. H. Chester', and that date; in

<sup>1</sup> Cole, *History of Fen Ditton*.

<sup>3</sup> Bentham, *op. cit.*

<sup>5</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

<sup>2</sup> Cole, *op. cit.*

<sup>4</sup> Bentham, *op. cit.* Addenda, vol. 1, pp. 23-4.

the burial register, after a burial entry on 2 August, is the signature 'Geo. Henry Chester', dated 9 August.

In all ecclesiastical matters he was a staunch conservative, and strenuously opposed the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts, and all manner of church reform. At Chester, he proved an active and practical bishop, personally visiting every parish in what was then a very extensive and laborious diocese, doing much for the augmentation of small livings, the improvement of parsonage houses, and the restoration of the cathedral.<sup>1</sup>

In 1816 Law established at St Bees in Cumberland a 'Clerical Institution' for the instruction of candidates for ordination who were unable to obtain a university education. This represented the first non-graduate theological college under specifically Anglican auspices; it was the college which began the custom of inventing hoods for non-graduate theological students to wear in church.<sup>2</sup>

In 1840 Law founded the Theological College at Wells.<sup>3</sup>

From 1804 to 1805 JOHN MAUL was curate. In 1793 he had been sixteenth Wrangler; was a Fellow of Christ's College 1798-1815, and Senior Dean 1808 and 1810-15. 'He was one of the few Fellows of much character in the first decade of the nineteenth century.' Gunning tells how he was 'the only one who ventured to call upon the Master, Dr Browne for an account of his expenditure'.<sup>4</sup>

JAMES SLADE, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Emmanuel College, was ordained deacon at Peterborough in 1806, and priest 1807. He came to Willingham in the former year, where he married Augusta Law, daughter of the rector, in 1812, and was rector of Teversham 1811-16, and of Milton 1813-16. In 1817 he became vicar of Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire, and 'attained a wide reputation, both as a preacher and as an advocate of Church reform'. In days when little attention was paid to the education of the working classes, he threw himself heart and soul into their mental and spiritual improvement.<sup>5</sup>

It would be difficult to assess the result of the incumbency of the succeeding rector, appointed by the Prince Regent, as the benefice was vacant as the result of the Crown nomination of Law to the bishopric of Chester. His career was remarkable.

1812. HENRY BATE-DUDLEY. The *Dictionary of National Biography* designates him 'journalist—said to have been educated at Queen's College, Oxford, but though the letters M.A. and LL.D. are sometimes given under his name, it does not appear that he ever received a degree at either university'. He was born in 1745 and, having taken orders, succeeded to the rectory of North Fambridge after his father's death, but most of his time was spent in London, where he became well known as a man of pleasure. In 1773 an affray at Vauxhall Gardens brought him into considerable

<sup>1</sup> *D.N.B.*

<sup>2</sup> Archbishops' Commission Report, *Training for the Ministry* (1944), p. 33.

<sup>3</sup> *Dictionary of English Church History*, p. 46.

<sup>4</sup> Peile, *Christ's College Biographical Register*, vol. II, p. 327.

<sup>5</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

notoriety, and about this time he became curate to James Townley, the vicar of Hendon, and author of the celebrated farce *High Life below Stairs*. In 1772 *The Morning Post* was established and Bate became one of the earliest editors. 'The smartness of his articles and the excitability of his temperament frequently involved him in personal quarrels, which sometimes ended in a fight or a duel, and he then earned the nickname of the "Fighting Parson".'

One of these quarrels was recorded in the *Gentleman's Magazine* in 1810, on the death of Andrew Robinson Stoney Bowes, who was stated to have been 'first known in public by his duel (or rather pretended duel) with the Rev. Mr Bate, now Bate-Dudley, in consequence of that gentleman's speaking too lightly in his newspaper of the character of the late Countess of Strathmore, to whom Mr Bowes (till then Mr Stoney) was afterwards married, and from whom he separated in the course of a few years'. 'With respect to the sham duel asserted to have taken place between Mr Stoney and Rev. Henry Bate, afterwards Henry Bate-Dudley, the latter declared publicly in the Court of Common Pleas that the story was *utterly untrue*, and Sir Henry has often been heard to say that he never saw a man bleed as Bowes did: "He bled like a pig" was his expression.'

Bate left *The Morning Post* in 1780 and started *The Morning Herald* in opposition. In June 1781 he was committed to the King's Bench Prison for twelve months for a libel on the Duke of Richmond. He had bought the advowson of Bradwell-juxta-Mare in Essex for £1500 and in 1784 assumed the name of Dudley in compliance with the will of a relative. In anticipation of succeeding the absentee rector of Bradwell, whose curate he had been since 1781, Bate-Dudley had obtained a lease of the glebe and tithe, but the incumbent lived until 1797. When he presented himself to the benefice, the bishop of London refused to institute him on the ground of simony, and legal proceedings were commenced by Dudley. When a compromise was reached, it was discovered that the right of presentation had lapsed to the Crown, and in the exercise of its right the Chaplain-General of the army had been appointed. The case attracted considerable attention, and it was thought that Dudley had a grievance, since he had spent more than £28,000 during the lifetime of the previous incumbent, rebuilding the church, reclaiming and embanking the land and otherwise improving the benefice. Dudley is said to have been master of an Essex pack of hounds, and that his most famous run ended in the churchyard of Cricksea, or rather on the roof of the church there, for the fox in desperation scrambled up an ivy-covered buttress, followed by Sir Henry and three couples of hounds, and was actually killed on the leads of the chancel.<sup>1</sup>

Bate-Dudley was an intimate friend of Garrick, and an associate of all the wits of the day. He introduced William Shield to the public as an operatic composer, and was one of the earliest admirers of the talent of Mrs Siddons. He married in 1780, Mary, the daughter of James White, and sister of the celebrated actress Mrs Hartley.

Before his appointment to Willingham, he had composed comic operas. In 1804 he became vicar of Kilsoran in County Wexford, in 1805 chancellor of the diocese of

<sup>1</sup> W. Addison, *The English Country Parson*, p. 218.

Ferns, and in 1807 rector of Kilglass. He was a magistrate for seven English and four Irish counties.

His appointment to Willingham by the Prince Regent was in 1812; in 1813 he was created a baronet, and in 1815 appointed to the fifth canonry at Ely.

In 1816 riots broke out at Littleport and Ely, consequent upon the agricultural distress. Troops from Bury St Edmunds were sent to render assistance, and Canon Bate-Dudley preceded them (with others) on horseback from Ely to Littleport. The rioters were arrested and, before the trial at Ely, the three judges went to the Palace to breakfast with the bishop (Sparke), and then attended service in the cathedral, the bishop being preceded by his butler, carrying his sword of state. Among the anthems sung were two from Handel's *Messiah*, 'Why do the nations?' and 'Let us break their bonds asunder', also one composed for the occasion by Dr Highmore Skeats, the organist. Canon Bate-Dudley preached the sermon on the text 'The law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient'. It was afterwards printed (by request) and a copy is in the University Library, Cambridge.<sup>1</sup> The service closed with the Hallelujah Chorus. Later, the intrepid canon was presented by the inhabitants of Cambridgeshire with a piece of plate for his 'very spirited and firm conduct during the riots'. There is no record of the opinion of the people of Willingham as to the conduct of their rector, but we have an earlier opinion of no less an authority than Dr Samuel Johnson.

We talked of a certain clergyman of extraordinary character, who, by exerting his talents in writing on temporary topicks, and displaying uncommon intrepidity, had raised himself to affluence. I maintained that we ought not to be indignant at his success; for merit of every sort was entitled to reward.

Johnson: 'Sir, I will not allow this man to have merit. No, Sir; what he has is rather the contrary. I will, indeed, allow him courage, and on this account we so far give him credit. We have more respect for a man who robs boldly on the highway, than for a fellow who jumps out of a ditch, and knocks you down behind your back. Courage is a quality so necessary for maintaining virtue, that it is always respected, even when it is associated with vice.'<sup>2</sup>

Bate-Dudley died at Cheltenham in 1824, aged 79 years.<sup>3</sup>

From 1814 to 1815 JOHN JENKYN was curate. A graduate of St John's College, Cambridge, he was ordained deacon at Ely on 27 March 1814, and priest at Chester, by letters dimissory from the bishop of Ely on 19 March 1815.<sup>4</sup> His successor from 1815 to 1816, CHARLES CECIL BATES, M.A. of Christ's College, ordained deacon at Hereford on 26 May 1815, and priest at Ely in March 1816, became vicar of Castleton in 1818, and died there in 1853.<sup>5</sup> JOHN DAWSON WRIGGLESWORTH, B.A. of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, remained from 1816 to 1833, when he moved to

<sup>1</sup> Cambridge University Library: 6. 17. 10<sup>8</sup>; C. Johnson, *The Ely and Littleport Riots in 1816* (1893), reprinted 1948.

<sup>2</sup> Boswell, *Life of Johnson*, ed. J. W. Croker (1831), vol. v, p. 196, and note.

<sup>3</sup> *D.N.B.*; Bate-Dudley's works in U.L.C. include: *The Travellers in Switzerland, a comic opera in three acts* (1794), *Passages selected by distinguished personages, on the great literary trial of Vortigern and Rowena, a comic tragedy* (1795-8), *The Woodman* (Dublin, 1791), *The Vauxhall Affray* (1773).

<sup>4</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

<sup>5</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

be vicar of Loddon, Norfolk.<sup>1</sup> WILLIAM SMYTHIES BEEVOR, M.A. of Jesus College, Cambridge, ordained deacon in 1823 and priest in 1824 at London, was curate of Willingham from 1833 to 1840. He held curacies at Histon 1849–53 and Rampton 1853–6.<sup>2</sup>

JOHN BROCKLEBANK, B.D. of Pembroke College, Cambridge, who had been rector of Teversham and vicar of Melbourn from 1817, was collated to Willingham in 1824, retaining the former benefice with Willingham until his death at Teversham in 1843.<sup>3</sup>

ADAM FITCH, M.A. of Christ's College, ordained deacon and priest at Ely, who had been curate of Cottenham 1833–5, was curate of Willingham from 1840 to 1849. His twin children by Harriett his wife, Sidney Ivatt and Emily Ivatt were baptized here on 25 December 1848.<sup>4</sup>

In 1843 JOHN GRAHAM became rector. He had been fourth Wrangler and Chancellor's Medallist, Christ's College, in 1816; Fellow of Christ's College in the same year, and ordained at Salisbury 1818. Tutor of Christ's College 1828–30, he was Master 1830–48. Before his collation to Willingham, he was a prebendary of Lincoln in 1828, Vice-Chancellor in 1831 and 1840; and chaplain to the Prince Consort in 1841. He 'enjoyed the friendship of the Prince Consort and the respect of the Queen', and had been 'an even better lecturer in mathematics than in classics'.<sup>5</sup>

In 1835 he gave £105 to the University Library Fund.<sup>6</sup> When, in 1848, Graham was appointed bishop of Chester, the Mayor and Council of Cambridge tendered him an address of congratulation, the only instance in which a tribute of that kind had ever been offered by that body.<sup>7</sup> Brocklebank had died in May 1843 and, on 16 July of that year, Graham officiated at the baptism of twelve infants; each year he officiated at baptisms, marriages and burials, so he was not unmindful of his pastoral duties.

1848. ROBERT PHELPS, rector. In 1833 he had been fifth Wrangler, B.A. Trinity College; Fellow of Sidney Sussex College 1838–43; Hon. D.D. and Master of Sidney from 1843, and Vice-Chancellor 1847. He was presented to Willingham by the Queen, the Crown appointment of the previous rector to the bishopric of Chester having caused the vacancy, and held the benefice with his University appointment until his death in January 1890. During the forty-two years of his incumbency, Phelps was non-resident. There are no records of his having baptized anyone, nor having officiated at a marriage, but between 1850 and 1856 he officiated at nine burials.

He was 'notorious for his conservatism and belief in the old University customs and regulations; he refused to answer questions put to him (as Master) by the Royal Commission of 1874'.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

<sup>2</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

<sup>3</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

<sup>4</sup> Venn, *Alumni*, and Parochial Register.

<sup>5</sup> Venn, *Alumni*; *D.N.B.*

<sup>6</sup> Peile, *Christ's College Biographical Register*, vol. II, p. 371

<sup>7</sup> *D.N.B.*

<sup>8</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

WILLIAM RICHARD BAIN, Christ's College, M.A. 1848, was curate 1849-51; a son was baptized on 16 December 1850.<sup>1</sup>

CHARLES ALLEN ELTON, M.A. Sidney Sussex College, 1846, served for six years. In 1858 he was Headmaster of Gresham's School, Holt.<sup>2</sup>

SAMUEL DUTTON GREEN, of St Aidan's Theological College, who had been incumbent of Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia, was curate from 1858 to 1862, and was succeeded by WILLIAM SEDDON, B.A. Emmanuel College, who after working as curate of St John's, Grantham, assisted Dr Phelps from 1862 to 1866.<sup>3</sup>

EDWARD JAMES TALBOT LAUGHLIN, who came in 1866, was formerly an officer in the 2nd West India Regiment and 41st Royal Welch Regiment, and served in the West Indies, the West Coast of Africa, and the Crimea. He graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1851. A daughter, Susannah, who had been privately baptized at Sutton in November 1864, was admitted into the church on 9 June 1867; a son, Edward Hamilton Vipan, born 30 July 1871, was privately baptized on 8 August 1872, and received into the church on 24 August 1873; another son was baptized on 1 January 1874.<sup>4</sup>

Laughlin died on 20 March 1886 and was buried in the churchyard.

The last of the assistant clergy to serve the parish was WILLIAM HENRY LOWE, 1886-90. A brilliant scholar of Christ's College, he was Tyrwhitt Hebrew Scholar in 1872, and had rowed in the University crew against Oxford in 1868, 1870 and 1871. He was also Hulsean Lecturer in 1872. Ordained deacon at Ely in 1873, and priest in 1874, he was curate of Fen Ditton 1873-5, and of Milton 1880-2. From 1875 to 1891 he was lecturer in Hebrew. After leaving Willingham to become vicar of Fen Drayton, 1890-1, he was rector of Brisley and vicar of Gately, Norfolk, where he died in 1917.

Among his published works were *The Psalms with Notes* (1875-7); *Twelve Odes of Hafiz*, translated from the Persian (1877); *Fragments of Talmud—Babli Pesachim* (1879); *Commentary on Zechariah* (1882); *Palestinian Mishnah* (1883); *Life of the Emperor Akbar*, translated from the Persian (1884-8); *The Systemization of the Russian Verb* (1909); and various translations from the Russian.<sup>5</sup>

1890. JOHN WATKINS, rector. M.A. St John's College, Cambridge. Ordained deacon and priest at Ripon in 1870 and 1871 respectively, he was assistant curate to James Russell Woodford at Leeds. When Woodford became bishop of Ely in 1873 he appointed Watkins to Thriplow, and in 1878 to Gamlingay. During his incumbencies both churches were restored, and after his collation to Willingham the church, then described by the archdeacon of Ely as the 'black spot in the diocese', was completely restored, largely by Watkins' own generous benefactions. He died on 9 August 1906.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

<sup>2</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

<sup>3</sup> Venn, *Alumni*.

<sup>4</sup> Parochial Registers; Crockford's *Clerical Directory*.

<sup>5</sup> Venn, *Alumni*; Peile, *op. cit.* vol. II, p. 600; Crockford.

<sup>6</sup> Crockford.

1906. CHARLES HANNIBAL CROSSLEY, rector; M.A. St John's College, Cambridge. Ordained deacon at Ely 1882, and priest 1884, he was assistant curate at St Mary's, Bury St Edmunds 1882-5; rector of Nowton 1888-96; vicar of St Augustine's, Wisbech, 1896-1906, and rector of Willingham 1906-22, when he resigned.<sup>1</sup>

1923. ANDREW CAMPBELL HAIR, rector, M.A. St Edmund Hall, Oxford. After curacies at St Peter's Coventry, Long Melford, and St Gregory and St Peter, Sudbury, 1891-1905, he was vicar of Haverhill from 1905 to 1910 and of Holy Trinity, Ely, 1910-23. He was rural dean of Ely 1914-23, and of North Stowe 1929-37, also honorary canon of Ely Cathedral from 1933. He resigned in 1937.<sup>2</sup>

1937. FREDERICK JAMES BYWATERS, rector, M.A. Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge, and Ely Theological College. Assistant curate of Holy Trinity, Ely, 1915-23; temporary Chaplain to the Forces 1917-19, honorary Chaplain from 1921; vicar of Haddenham 1926-31; of Sawston 1931-7; rural dean of North Stowe 1946-56; Proctor in Convocation 1947-50; 1950; 1951-5, and from 1955; honorary canon of Ely Cathedral from 1949.

If it cannot be said that 'all these were honoured in their generations and were the glory of their times', few would deny that 'there be of them that have left a name behind them, that their praises might be reported'.

<sup>1</sup> Crockford.

<sup>2</sup> Crockford.

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

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