

KING'S NEWTON, DERBYSHIRE.

KING'S NEWTON HALL.

The hall is supposed to have been built by the Hardinge family about the year 1400. It was occupied successively by members of that family down to about 130 years ago, when it was sold to the Coke family. It now belongs to Earl Cowper, as successor to Lady Palmerston.

I will not trouble you with a pedigree of the Hardinge family, but may mention that Nicholas Hardinge married, for his second wife, Agnes, daughter of John Cantrell, Esq., in the 20th year of Henry VII.

There is a monument in Melbourne Church to Henry, the grandson of Nicholas Hardinge. It states that he died December 8th, 1613. His brother Nicholas succeeded to the hall and estate at his death, and married Isabell, sole daughter of Edward Webb, Esq., of Austrey, Warwickshire. His son Robert was knighted Feb. 2nd, 1674. He bore a conspicuous part as a Royalist during the civil wars, and raised a troop of horse at his own expense. King Charles II. paid him a visit at Newton, and scratched on a pane in the window of his dressing room, the words, "*cras ero lux*," which, when transposed, make "*Carolus Rex*." The pane disappeared rather more than 50 years ago.

Sir Robert and Lady Hardinge (occupants of the hall) were both buried in Melbourne Church. The date of Sir Robert's burial being Nov. 29th, 1679.

Sir Robert's grandson, Nicholas, purchased the Manor of Canbury, near Kingston-on-Thames, in 1691. He was Recorder of Kingston, and died and was buried there, April 13th, 1758.

The Hardinge Tombs in Melbourne Church were examined on the night of January 12th, 1860, in the presence of the Church Restoration Committee, but no coffins of Sir Robert or Lady Hardinge were found, as, up to the year 1694, it was the custom to bury the bodies at Melbourne wrapped in woollen.

John Hardinge of King's Newton, eldest son of Robert Hardinge, and brother of Nicholas before mentioned, married Alice Coke, daughter of Colonel Coke, of Melbourne, and Mary Leventhorpe, daughter of Sir Thomas Leventhorpe, of Hertfordshire, in 1711.

The Hardinges, like the Cokes, appear to have been a fine manly race; and after leaving King's Newton, many of them attained considerable eminence; notably, George Hardinge, who was in command of the "San Fiorenzo," of 36 guns and 186 men, attacked a French vessel, "La Piedmontaise," of 56 guns and 566 men, on three successive days. He fell just before the completion of the capture of the vessel, on the 8th March, 1808. A monument to his memory was voted by the House of Commons, and was placed in St. Paul's Cathedral. Viscount Hardinge, of King's Newton, distinguished himself highly at Albuera, and was afterwards Governor General of India. At the

battle of Moodkee, in 1845, as second in command to Sir Hugh Gough, he contributed much to the winning of the battle, and took a foremost part in the Sikh campaign on the Sutlej.

The present Rear-Admiral Hardinge is a descendant of this family, and has seen much active service.

The Coke family have never lived at this hall since it was in their possession. It has, during the past 60 years, or so been occupied by William Speechley, Francis Noel Clarke Mundy, Esq., Edward Abney, Esq., W. Jenney, Esq., Geo. Vandeleur, Esq., and finally by Robert Green, Esq., who was the tenant when the hall was burnt down on the night of the 17th April, 1859.

KING'S NEWTON VILLAGE.

The village belonged to the Crown in the reign of the Conqueror. Tradition says that Robin Hood was born at Chellaston, about 3 miles distant. In old ballads he was called the Earl of Huntingdon, and it would seem probable that a very large wood in the neighbourhood, known as the "Robin Wood," was so called after his name.

It is a matter of history that the Rebels, in their march towards the South of England, came as far as Swarkestone Bridge (about a mile distant), and sent a message to Melbourne that two thousand troops would be quartered there that evening. They beat a speedy retreat however on hearing that the Duke of Cumberland was crossing with a superior force from Lichfield to meet them.

An inn in the village is known as the Packhorse Inn, and parts of the old Packhorse-road still exist and are in use.

The foundations of an ancient cross are still to be seen at the junction of our roads in the village. The upper part of it is preserved at the adjoining house, belonging to P. Hubbersty, Esq. There is also a very old village well, called the Holy Well. On it is the following inscription, "FONS . sacer . hic . strvitor . ROBERTO . nominis HARDINGE 1662."

Several persons of considerable literary ability have lived here. Amongst others, Thomas Hall, a translator of Ovid, about 1640. Mrs. Green, Mr. Henry Orton, Mr. Kirke (the author of "Thurstan Meverell"), and last, not least, Mr. John Joseph Briggs, the author of "The History of Melbourne," "Guide to Melbourne and King's Newton," "The Trent and other Poems," and numerous contributions to the "Field," &c., as "Naturalist."

To his works I am much indebted for many of the foregoing notes.

May 8th, 1880.

Proceeding from King's Newton Hall, by way of the Holy Well and Ancient Castle, the party reached Melbourne Church,

where the Hon. Sec., at the request of Mr. Dashwood Fane, who had kindly prepared them, read the Notes which follow :—

CASTLE.

On the eastern side of the town, and of the road between the Railway Station and the Church, is the site of the Castle.

Opposite to the eastern end of Potter Street is a door opening into a garden, within which may be seen a fragment of old wall covered with ivy, now the only standing remains of the Castle, the principal buildings of which stood to the southward of that part.

A short distance to the northward is a long mound (now carrying a public footpath) which appears to have bounded the eastern side of the Castle Pool, now an orchard.

The date of the erection of the Castle is not known. It was parcel of the Honour of Tutbury, and of the Duchy of Lancaster, and as such a royal possession.

Leland (who travelled as "Royal Antiquary," 1533—1539) wrote "Mielburn Castille, a 2 miles from Dunnington, and is praty and in metely good reparation."

Camden (who travelled about 1580) wrote [according to Gough's version, 1806] "not far from the Trent is Melbourn, a royal castle running to ruin, in which John Duke of Bourbon, taken at the battle of Agincourt (1415) was kept 9 [18] years in custody." The duke died in 1433, the year of his release.

In 1602, by order of Queen Elizabeth, a survey was made by the auditor of the Duchy of Lancaster. To it was attached a drawing of the Castle, from which an engraving was afterwards made, showing the Castle in a perfect state, with the Church in the background.

James I. granted the Castle to Charles Howard, Earl of Nottingham, from whom it passed to Henry Hastings, Earl of Huntingdon, possessor also of Donington and Ashby Castles. It was suffered to fall into decay, and its destruction was perhaps hastened by injuries received in the contest between Charles I. and the Parliament.

CHURCH.

The Parish Church (St. Michael's) is a cruciform structure, having a central and two western towers, a nave (63 ft. by 18 ft. 6 in.), north and south aisles (each 63 ft. by 9 ft. 6 in.), space under central tower (17 ft. 6 in. square), north and south transepts (each 30 ft. by 14 ft. 6 in.), chancel (27 ft. 4 in. by 14 ft. 9 in.), and west portico (44 ft. 9 in. by 9 ft. 5 in.)

The nave is separated from each aisle by five stilted Norman arches, 20 feet high, resting on circular pillars 4 feet in diameter, on square bases, and sur-

mounted by arcades, in the outer walls of which are clerestory windows. The northern arcade has triplets of Norman arches within, and single Norman lights without. The southern arcade has a series of pointed arches in pairs, the easternmost a triplet within, and pointed lights in pairs without.

The central tower has three tiers of Norman arches in each of its four walls, the lower tier forming a passage round it; hagioscopes remain in the north-eastern and south-eastern of its four piers, all of which are remarkably massive.

There are obvious traces *outside* the Church that it had apses at the eastern end of the chancel, and at the eastern sides of the north and south transepts; and that the chancel had an upper story, and a Norman arcade running round it between the two stories, of which a single arch remains on each side next to the tower; and traces *inside* that the chancel was divided into two stories, with a vaulted roof to the lower story.

It has been conjectured that the upper story was the separate chapel of a religious community, who may have had access to it through a doorway (still apparent) at the eastern end of the south wall of the south aisle, and by the stairs in the south transept, and by the arcaded passages in that transept and in the south and east sides of the central tower.

Another view may be that this upper story was the "Church of St. Mary of Melbourne," mentioned in early records.

Curved portions of the chancel apse may be seen inside and outside the church; and inside, portions of two of its Norman windows, with a side shaft of each of those two windows, now closed.

When the apses were removed (date uncertain, but the engraving above referred to represents a square east end) the present obtusely-pointed five-light window was placed in the squared east end of the chancel, and the arches in the eastern sides of the transept and the Norman lights above them being closed, there were inserted in the north transept wall a square headed three-light window, and in the south transept wall a three-light decorated window, the latter of which is obviously made up of portions of two different windows, brought from elsewhere.

The four square-headed three-light windows in each of the two aisles are insertions subsequent to the construction of those aisles.

The lower portion of the central tower, having shafts at its external angles, retains its Norman character; the upper portion was at some period removed, and the present belfry was substituted, in which four bells were placed. They bear the dates 1610, 1614, 1632, and 1732.

In the south transept, in which is the organ (Bevington, 1860), are a recumbent effigy of a knight in armour, a tombstone bearing a floriated cross, and three alabaster tombstones of Hardinges, formerly of King's Newton Hall (1613, 1670, and 1673), ancestors of the Viscounts Hardinge, of King's Newton.

In the north transept are memorials of the Cantrell family, long, and still of King's Newton.

In the chancel are hatchments, recording the deaths of William, 2nd Viscount Melbourne, (1848), First Lord of the Treasury; Frederick Lord Beauvale, 3rd and last Viscount Melbourne (1853); and of their brother, the Honourable George Lamb (1834); and their sister Emily (1869), wife of the 5th Earl Cowper, and afterwards of the 3rd and last Viscount Palmerston, First Lord of the Treasury.

The fine Norman doorway in the west front, and those in the north and south aisles deserve notice; also the ancient font under the south-west tower; the carvings on the capitals of some of the piers; and the portion of a text painted in *fresco* on the south wall of the chancel.

A "restoration" of the church took place in 1860, at a cost of about £3000, under the direction of the late Sir Gilbert Scott. At that time the pyramids on the two western towers were erected; porches were removed from the north and south doorways; and the "vicar's door" in the south wall of the chancel was closed.

The bell frames having become decayed, it has recently become necessary to take down three of the bells, and they now stand under the north-west tower. An endeavour is being made to supply their places with a finer peal.

In front of the western end of the Church are remains of very ancient buildings, probably part of the early possessions of the Bishop-Rectors of Melbourne.

RECTORY AND VICARAGE.

The Domesday Survey makes mention of a Priest, a Church and a Mill, in the King's Manor of Milburne.

A.D. 1133, Henry I. founded the Bishopric of Carlisle: one of its early endowments was the Parsonage of Melbourne.

A.D. 1204, Pope Innocent III. nominated Benedict de Ramesey (Archbishop of Ragusa) to the Bishopric of Carlisle, and sent a special mandate for his admission to the Parsonage of Melbourne, to which King John gave effect.—*Rot. Chart. 4 John.*

A Bishop of Carlisle (it is thought, Walter de Mauclerc, 1223—1246) erected a mansion here, near to the Church, and imparked a part of the adjoining lands; and here the Bishops resided occasionally for some centuries, and sometimes held ordinations of priests for the diocese of Carlisle, during the inroads of the Scots in the neighbourhood of their palace in Cumberland.

John de Halaughton, Bishop of Carlisle (1292—1324) claimed the Parsonage of Melbourne, with Manorial rights: the Royal Commissioners admitted the former claim, but not all the latter.

The Valor Ecclesiasticus (27 Henry VIII.) estimated the Rectory of

Melbourne, united with that of Chellaston, at £45 per annum, from which the Bishop had to pay 3*s.* 4*d.* to the Prior and Convent of Breedon (on the Hill).

About 1629, the Right Honourable Sir John Coke, Knight (a younger member of the very ancient family of the Cokes of Trusley, in Derbyshire), being then one of the two Principal Secretaries of State, became lessee of the Rectory of Melbourne under the Bishop of Carlisle. The leasehold interest continued in his descendants till 1704, when, by agreement with the then Bishop of Carlisle, confirmed by Act of Parliament, the leasehold was converted into a fee-simple tenure in favour of his great-grandson, the Right Honourable Thomas Coke, M.P. for Derby, Vice-Chamberlain to Queen Anne and King George I. (1707—1727.) The property passed by the marriage of the daughter of Mr. Coke with Sir Matthew Lamb, Bart., to the descendants of that marriage, afterwards Viscounts Melbourne; and more recently by the marriage of the Honourable Emily Lamb with the 5th Earl Cowper, to the present (7th) Earl Cowper, K.G.

The Vicarage House, rebuilt about 1840, stands between the Church and the Great Pool—south-eastward from the former.

The patronage of the Vicarage was vested in the Bishops of Carlisle till 183—, when it was transferred to the Bishops of Lichfield.

HALL AND GARDENS.

The northern wall of the Hall is of the date 1629, having been rebuilt when the Rectory House of the Bishops of Carlisle was re-modelled, pursuant to directions (still extant) in the writing of Sir John Coke, upon his becoming the lessee as before-mentioned.

The eastern front (towards the Gardens) was built by Mr. Vice-Chamberlain Coke about 1722, from a design (it is supposed) of Mr. Gibbs, the well-known architect, who was engaged about that time in works at All Saints' Church, in Derby.

The Gardens were formed by Mr. Vice-Chamberlain Coke. The "Long Arbour" (yew) is of earlier date.

The Grotto, covering a mineral spring, has on a marble tablet the following lines by the Honourable George Lamb, viz. :—

' Rest, weary stranger, in this shady cave,
And taste, if languid, of the mineral wave :
There's virtue in the draught, for Health, that flies
From crowded cities and their smoky skies,
Here lends her power to every glade and hill,
Strength to the breeze and medicine to the rill."

The sculptured urn (in lead) in the southern part of the Gardens (called the Four Seasons) was a gift from Queen Anne to her Vice-Chamberlain.

The alleys of lime trees radiating from the urn give views of "Melbourne

Parks," the old embanked inclosure of which (and of adjoining lands) is still apparent, and bounds a grass drive about four miles in circuit. At its north-eastern angle is a depression, called in an early map "Prince Robert's [Rupert's] Gap."

In the north-western angle of the Gardens is a "Westeria" more than 70 yards in length.

Two of the terraces in the Gardens give views over the "Great Pool." It has existed from a very early period, and was brought into its now highly ornamental state about thirty years ago under the superintendence of Mr. F. F. Fox, the present agent of Lord Cowper. On the further side of it is a grove, with walks laid out by the liberality of the owners of Melbourne Hall for the enjoyment of the public.

A considerable stream, formed by those which pass through the deer parks of the Earl Ferrers (Staunton Harold) and Sir John Harpur Crewe (Calke Abbey), passes through the Great Pool, and issues from it partly at the Mill, whence it supplies the pools and some of the fountains in the Gardens, and partly by a picturesque rocky channel bounding the south and east sides of the Gardens.

The hall contains portraits of James I., Charles I. and Henrietta Maria, Charles II. and Catherine of Braganza, James II., Anne and Prince George of Denmark, George I., Anne Hyde, Duchess of York; George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham and his Duchess; Archbishops Abbott and Usher; John, 2nd Duke of Argyll (Field Marshal and K.T.); Philip, 2nd Earl of Chesterfield; Sir John Coke (Principal Secretary of State), Mr. Vice-Chamberlain Coke and his two wives, Sir Capel Bedell (in a Cavalier uniform), and many others.

May, 1880.

The party then proceeded to the Hall, where both gardens and house were thrown open to inspection, and the visitors were most hospitably entertained at tea by Mr. Fane.

The next expedition was made on July 3rd to Norbury and Ashburne. Breaks conveyed the party from Derby to Norbury Church, where Mr. J. Chas. Cox explained the various objects of interest, drawing special attention to the ancient glass in the windows, and to the monuments in the chancel. The old Manor-house, close to the Church, was also thrown open by its occupier, and its interesting specimens of oak carving and panelled rooms inspected by the party. Luncheon was taken at the "Green Man" at Ashburne, after which the Vicar of Ashburne, the Rev. F.