

DERBYSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

Bishop Pursglove of Tideswell.

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IN the north side of the chancel of Tideswell Church, in the Peak of Derbyshire, just outside the altar rails, lies the tomb of Robert Pursglove, some time Bishop of Hull and Suffragan to the Archbishop of York. The stone into which the memorial brasses are fixed is not quite in its original position; for in 1875, when there was a considerable restoration, more especially of the interior of the church, the top of the tomb, which had previously been raised some eighteen inches from the floor, was lowered and made level with the pavement, and at the same time the slab was moved about a foot westward, so as to fit in with the new sanctuary step. In the centre of the stone is a brass, on which is engraved a full-length effigy of the bishop. He is represented as vested in amice, alb, dalmatic, chasuble, stole, jewelled gloves, mitre, and sandals. His pastoral staff is over his left shoulder, and, being a bishop, of course it points outwardly. The corners of the

slab are inlaid with symbols of the four Evangelists, and connecting these are ribands, on which is the following inscription:—

“Christ is to me as life on earth, and death to me is gaine
Because I trust through him alone, salvation to obtaine.
So brittle is the state of man, so soon it doth decay.

So all the glory of this world must pas and fade away.

“This Robert Pursglove sometyme Bishoppe of Hull decessed the 2 day
of Maii in the yere of our Lord God, 1579.”

Below the figure, on an oblong plate, is the following inscription:

“Under this stone as here doth ly a corps sumtime of fame
in tiddeswall bred and born truely Robert Pursglove by name
and there brought up by parents care at Schoole and learning trad
till afterwards by Uncle dear to London he was had
who William Bradshaw hight by name in pauls wch did him place
and yr at Schoole did him maintain full thrice 3 whole years space
and then into the Abbeye was placed as I wish
in Southwarke call'd where it doth ly Saint Mary Overis
to Oxford then who did him Send into that Colledge right
And there 14 years did him find wh Corpus Christi hight
From thence at length away he went A Clerke of learning great
to Gisburn Abbey Streight was sent, and placed in Priors seat
Bishop of Hull he was also, Archdeacon of Nottingham
Provost of Rotherham Colledge too, of York eak Suffragan
two Gramer Schooles he did ordain with Land for to endure
one Hospital for to maintain twelve impotent and poor
O Gisburne thou with Tiddeswall town lament & mourn ye may
for this Said Clerk of great renoun, lyeth here compast in clay
though cruel Death hath now down brought this body we here doth ly
yet trump of Fame Stay can he nought to Sound his praise on high
Qui legis hunc versum crebro reliquum memoreris
vile cadaver Sum tuque cadaver eris.”

It has frequently been conjectured that this oblong brass, on which are cut the doggerel lines which give a biography of the bishop, is not one of the brasses which were originally placed upon the tomb. It is thinner than the others and of different material. The character of the lettering, too, is inferior. It has been assumed that it was put in later to replace one that had been removed or defaced, because the inscription showed a too great leaning to the unreformed faith.

1. Robert Pursglove
 taught at School and learned
 at London he was had
 his name in parishes which did
 obtain full their whole years
 placed as I was
 doing by St Mary Over
 and into the Guild of

EXUVIÆ
 Lau: Brierly
 vic hujus Eccle
 siæ v. id. Jan. 1680
 Nescitis horam

PALIMPSEST BRASS. (PURSGLOVE—BRIERLY).

I think, however, that I am able to throw some little light upon the history of the present brass. In an old book of accounts of Tideswell School (1672-1713) there is an entry, dated December 21st, 1705, to the effect that the rent of some land at Taddington belonging to the school, amounting to £2 14s. 10d., was, by the decision of the school governors, to be used for the restoration of the founder's tomb: "This is agreed shall be laid out for brasse, etc., for repaire of the Bishoppes Tombe w^{ch} is stolen off."

In the year 1901, whilst the writer of this article was vicar of Tideswell, the home was broken up of a family, various members of which at intervals had supplied churchwardens to Tideswell from a distant period. At the back of an old cupboard, where it may have lain for very many years, was found a piece of brass measuring $8\frac{3}{4}$ ins. by $6\frac{1}{4}$ ins. It is a palimpsest. On the one side of it is a memorial to Laurence Brierly, a former vicar of the parish, who died January 5th, 1680-1. On the other side are parts of eight (second to ninth) of the twenty lines of the rhythmical epitaph quoted above from Bishop Pursglove's tomb. The lettering on the palimpsest is of a superior character to that on the tomb, and corresponds in style with the engraving of the marginal inscription. The inscription on this fragment may, it is true, be a portion of a spoilt brass; or it may be a portion of the original one which had become loosened from its place owing to the rivet heads being worn away. If this were so, instead of being refixed at once, it seems to have been taken away for safety, perhaps to the vicarage, and on the death of the vicar to have been cut up by his representatives and the fragment in question lettered on the reverse side to mark his tomb. Dr. Cox,¹ however, is of opinion that this is a portion of the original brass; but that it was removed, probably in 1578-9, when fierce action was taken against the recusants, who were a strong body in North Derbyshire, because it contained expressions that were not considered in accordance with the reformed faith;

¹ *Athenæum*, October 12th, 1901 (p. 498).

possibly that it concluded with a request for prayers for the soul of the departed prelate. But, if this were so, it is difficult to understand why the effigy, in which the bishop is vested in what are commonly looked upon as pre-Reformation vestments, was not removed also, unless this brass tends to prove, as it possibly might, that these vestments were worn and considered legal in the year 1579.

In the Bodleian Library at Oxford is a MS. volume of Church Notes, written by Ralph Sheldon,¹ a friend of Anthony à Wood. The inscriptions are mostly of the date 1674, collected partly in 1671. (Sheldon died in 1684, more than twenty years before the restoration of the brass alluded to above.) In describing "the tombe of Robert Pursglove," in Tideswell church, he says, "On the flat stone are these following verses— Under this stone, etc., . . ." and then follows the inscription word for word as the present one, excepting that the two last words of the third line are "learning trade" instead of "learning trad," and the seventh line reads as follows: "And then into a berrye was placed as I wish," as though Sheldon did not understand that "the Abberye" meant "the Abbey" of St. Mary Overy at Southwark. In 1674, then, or at any rate as late as 1671, within ten years of the death of Brierly, and the utilisation of the piece of brass containing a fragment of the Pursglove inscription for his memorial, the words of the inscription upon the bishop's tomb were the same as they are at the present time. But in 1705, according to the entry in the Tideswell Grammar School account book, the brass containing them was missing. As bearing upon Dr. Cox's conjecture, it may be added that the inscription which Sheldon copied concluded with the same Latin words with which it concludes to-day, "Qui legis hunc versum," etc., and in his day the marginal legend was identical with the present one.

¹ Sheldon's *Church Notes*, pp. 54, etc. (Bodleian Library, Wood, C., 10.)

The writer had the palimpsest fixed to the wall of the church immediately above Bishop Pursglove's tomb at Tideswell, so that the lettering on both sides of the brass might be seen.

In Tickell's *History of Hull* is given another version of the metrical inscription, presumably Tickell's own composition—¹

“Under this stone a corps is laid,
 Sometimes a man of fame;
 In Tideswell he was born and bred,
 Robert Pursglove was his name.
 Brought up by parents' tender care,
 And master's learned rules;
 'Till afterwards his uncle dear
 Sent him to best of schools.
 He, William Bradshaw, London's fame,
 In Paul's the youth did place;
 in gentle sort did him maintain
 Full three times three years space,—
 Then sent him to an Abbey fair,
 By William Giffard founded,
 Who Bishop was of Winchester,
 And in good works abounded.
 'Twas called Saint Mary Overies,
 In Southwark near the Thames,
 For Canons regular, their bliss
 To seek by holy flames.
 They taught much more the learned youth
 Who was to Oxford sent,
 In Corpus Christi, where to truth
 His mind was freely bent.
 Four years he in that College stay'd
 In learning most renown'd;
 To Gisburn sent, he there display'd
 That knowledge which was crowned.
 For he was placed in Prior's Hall,
 And Govern'd o'er the rest.
 Bishop of Hull he was withal,
 By Heaven supremely blest.
 Archdeacon, too, of Nottingham,
 Provost of Rotherham,—
 A College once of noble fame,
 And of Hull suffragan;

¹ *History of the Town and County of Kingston-upon-Hull*, by Rev. John Tickell. Hull: Lee, 1798.

Two Grammar schools he did erect,
 An Hospital ordained.
 For youth he never would neglect,
 And old folks he maintain'd:
 O Tideswell fair and Gisbrough towns,
 Mourn and lament ye may,
 Since he that loved you dear is gone,
 And but a lump of clay.
 And, yet, tho' dead, he seems to speak,
 Come, Mortal, come and see,
 And think, tho' I'm a corpse to-day,
 To morrow you may be.
 Death's cruel dart has laid him low,
 Yet can't suppress his fame:
 Immortal is the happy soul,
 And lasting is his name.
 Christ's more to him than life on earth,
 A blest exchange is given;
 From piercing grief to rapturous mirth,
 From this vain world to Heaven.
 For true it is the state of Man
 Is brittle like the glass,—
 Whose time is deem'd but as a span,
 And quick away will pass.

Anthony à Wood,¹ from a careless reading of the rhythmical inscription (which he speaks of as "twenty rude and barbarous verses in English," and of which he goes on to say, "being too many to set down in this place, I shall for brevity sake pass them by"), has asserted that Bishop Pursglove, "in the place of his nativity . . . founded a Grammar School there and an Hospital for twelve poor and impotent people." And in this erroneous statement that he founded an hospital, or almshouses, at Tideswell, he has been followed by some number of topographers and compilers of guide books, etc., etc. As the inscription upon the bishop's tomb shows, the hospital was founded at Guisborough (or Gisborne), and not at Tideswell; and a grammar school was founded in each place. As will be seen (page 24), the poor at Tideswell were not forgotten; but the help came to them from half-yearly doles, and not by means of almshouses.

¹ *Athenæ Oxoniensis*, by Anthony à Wood, vol. i., pp. 604, 605.

The Purseloves, or Purslows, were a family of yeomen, who resided in Tideswell and in the neighbourhood at least as far back as the year 1431, for in the "Inquisitions and Assessments relating to Feudal Aids"¹ we find it recorded that in that year "Richard Purslows de Tyddeswell, yoman, has holdings in Tyddeswell . . . xxs." In 1441-4-7, William Purselove² is mentioned as being vicar of Tideswell. In the view of Frank Pledge,³ at Tideswell, April 23rd, 20 Henry VI. (1442), the name of Thomas Pursclous (a little later the name is written "Purslous") appears amongst the jurors, and again in 1452⁴ Thomas Pursgloves (possibly the same man) is one of the jury. Nearly twenty years later, at a "view of Frank Pledge," of George, Duke of Clarence, held at Tideswell, January 3rd, 10 Edward IV.⁵ (1471), William Purseloves is mentioned as acting as juror. In 21 Henry VII.⁶ (1505), John Purselove, of Wheston, is charged with others with being "seen in the forest by night with greyhounds and bows." And three years later (1508),⁷ Henry Pursglove is presented at Litton "for assaults." Robert and Laurence Pursglove and twenty-two others were fined for lopping trees and carrying off undergrowth in Ashop Wood, at a great court of attachment held at Tideswell, October 30th, 1559.⁸

The last we hear of the Purseloves at Tideswell is the entry in the parish registers of the burial of Dorothy Pursglove on December 21st, 1661; but at Edale, by will dated October 20th, 1700, one Robert Pursglove⁹ left the sum of £20, the interest of which was to be given to the poor. And at the present day there are Pursgloves at Bakewell and at Eyam and other places in the vicinity.

¹ *Inquisitions and Assessments relating to Feudal Aids in P.R.O.*, 1234-1431. London: Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1899, I., pp. 280-287.

² *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, 1908, vol. xxx., p. 13

³ *Court Rolls, Duchy of Lancaster* (Muniment Room at Belvoir). Pym Yeatman, *Feudal Hist. of Derbyshire*, sect. v., pp. 344, 348.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Yeatman, *Feud. Hist.*, sect. v., p. 353.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 354.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 385.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 391.

⁸ *Victoria History of Derbyshire*.

⁹ *Charity Commissioners' Report: Derbyshire*, p. 278.

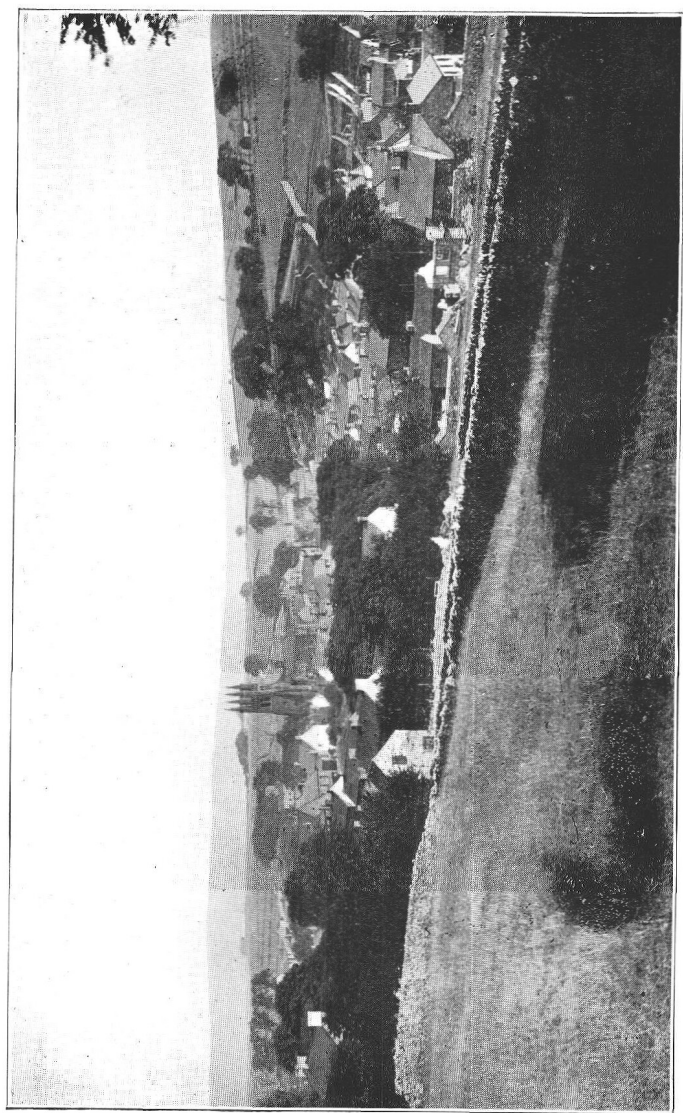
We turn now to Bishop Pursglove. As the inscription on his tomb bears witness, Robert Pursglove was a native of Tideswell. The exact date of his birth is unknown, but it may fairly be assumed to have been some time between the years 1500 and 1503. He was the son of Adam Pursglove¹ and Mudwina his wife. His mother was a Bradshawe, and in all probability was a member of the Peak family of that name, to a branch of which, John Bradshaw, the regicide, belonged some generations afterwards. There is no tradition remaining in his native place as to the position occupied either by the house in which he was born or by that in which he spent some of his closing years. At Tideswell he passed his early years, and here, too, he received the rudiments of his education. His mother's brother, William, resided in London. He was in all probability the William Bradshaw who in 1509 was a member of the Shearman's Company,² and who in the same year served as one of the churchwardens of the parish of St. Michael, Cornhill. Young Robert attracted the notice of his uncle, who took him to London and educated him at his own cost.

St. Paul's School, situated then at the east of St. Paul's Cathedral, had just been founded, or, as has recently been asserted,³ re-founded, by John Colet, the dean of St. Paul's, whose lectures and sermons at Oxford, at London, and elsewhere had attracted so much attention. At this school boys, to the number of 153, in accordance with the number of fishes mentioned in the twenty-first chapter of St. John's Gospel, were to be educated without charge. They were to be boys who could already read and write and who were of good capacity. This regulation shows that young Pursglove to be admitted to St. Paul's School must, before coming to the metropolis, have attained to some measure of education. At this famous school he remained for nine years, and made considerable progress in learning. So much indeed did he feel

¹ *Charity Commissioners' Report, Derbyshire: Tideswell*, p. 513.

² *Reliquary*, original series, vol. xviii., p. 33.

³ Correspondence in *Times* newspaper, July, 1909.



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that he owed to it that the schemes for the government of the two schools which he himself founded half a century afterwards at Tideswell and at Guisborough were based upon that of the seminary of religious and useful learning at which so many years of his own boyhood were spent.

After leaving St. Paul's he was sent for a short time to the Priory of St. Mary Overy, sometimes called St. Saviour's, Southwark. The name was derived from St. Mary over the Rhe (or River), or St. Mary at the Ferry. It was founded before the Conquest as a convent for nuns. In 1106 it was re-founded by two Norman knights. A century later it was destroyed by fire and rebuilt, a chapel being added which was dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene. John Gower, the poet, restored and beautified it in 1398, and founded a chantry. He had been married here by William of Wykeham in 1397. Both he and his wife were buried here, and his monument still remains.

Robert Pursglove did not remain many months at St. Mary Overy, but proceeded thence to the University of Oxford, where for fourteen years he was a member of the newly founded Corpus Christi College. Here he would be a contemporary of Cardinal Pole's. Here he took the degree of S.T.P., or, as it is nowadays more usually written in its abbreviated English form, D.D. He left Oxford about the year 1534 or 1535. It must, I think, have been during the time of his residence at the University that he acquired the nickname "Silvester"; but why it is hard to say. Certainly it could not have been from the surroundings of his native town, unless the science of arboriculture had many more votaries thereabouts in those days than is the case at the present time.

Apparently he left Oxford to become, by the appointment of Thomas Cromwell, superior of the Augustinian monastery at Gisborne, or Guisborough, at the foot of the Cleveland hills in the north-east of Yorkshire. Cromwell, in 1535, had been made Visitor-General of English Monasteries, and at once commenced to carry out those reforms which before long

culminated in the dissolution of the monasteries and in the diversion of their revenues. Charges of incontinency had been brought against James Cockerell,¹ the former prior, and he had been compelled to resign his position. And Pursglove, or Silvester, as he was now called, became prior in his place. To this the following extracts refer:—

Letter from Lancelot Colyns to Cromwell—

“20 Feb., 1535. Have not yet executed your commission in taking the resignation of the prior of Gisburne, etc.”²

“Remembrances of James Cokerell made in his host's house at the sign of the George in Stamford, 19 April 28 Henry VIII. (1537), of his money gold and silver plate and other goods, in his own or other mens hands, said money delivered to Mr. Silvester now prior of Gisburne since his own resignation. Among the items are:—Delivered to prior Silvester towards his charges at his election, £100 in gold &c., &c.”³

Cockerell had apparently some hope that Silvester (Pursglove) would be ejected and that he himself might again be restored to his office—

“The said quondam (prior,—viz. James Cockerell) confesses that about Martinmas (last) Sir James Fras Bigot ‘rose’ the country to bring him back to Guisborowe and reform the house. He rode with him and wrote a letter to the Earl of Westmoreland asking him, as the new prior was not chosen formally according to the laws of God and the old custom, to send his advice how a new election might be made for quieting the country. His letter is forthcoming, wherein he shows that the new prior was put in by the extort power of Lord Cromwell, wherefore the commons judged him no prior, and intended his accounts lawfully taken to expel him and choose a new prior by virtue of the holy ‘comentie’ and by the assent of all the religious brethren belonging to their chapter.”⁴

In 1538 Robert Silvester, “prior of Gisb.,” and Tristram Teshe were appointed commissaries for the election of a prior of Whitby, and there is in existence a notarial certificate, dated 7th October, 1538, as to the election, signed by them.⁵

¹ Gairdner's *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.*, vol. viii., p. 380.

² *Ibid.*, vol. viii., p. 380.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. xi., i., § 979 (p. 441).

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. xii., i., p. 499.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. xiii., ii., pp. 216, 217.

On the following day, 8th October, 1538, "Rob. Silvester, prior of Gysburne," and Tristram Teshe wrote to Cromwell relative to the election to Whitby, as follows:—

"We tried first to get them to remit the election to us, to have nominated him that your Lordship commanded us in your letters, or else to remit it to your Lordship; but they would agree to neither."¹

Some months before this time the Archbishop (Lee) of York expressed a wish that the prior of Gisborne should be appointed to the office of Suffragan Bishop. His former suffragan had incurred his displeasure in consequence of a sermon which he had preached; and he himself much needed further assistance, for the sinews of his hands were so contracted that he could not write, and he was unable to get about his diocese, for he was too impotent to ride.²

1538, 22 May, Robert Silvester, prior of Gisburne, to Cromwell—

"The abp. of York has made motion to me to execute the office of his suffragan if the King should admit me thereto. If appointed by your Lordship's preferment, I will gladly accept it. 22 May. (Signed.)"³

1538, 2 July, Archbp. of York to Cromwell—

"Has sued more than three months for a bill to be assigned for a suffragan, of whom he has great need. Has named the prior of Gisborough for one, whom he hears Cromwell likes."⁴

13 October, 1538. Archbishop Lee to Cromwell—

"Is sorry to trouble him so often with his suit for a suffragan. The bill has been in Wriothesley's hands ever since Easter and the Abp. hears Cromwell has put in the name of the prior of Gisborough. Begs him to get it signed as he has great need."⁵

Accordingly the names of Dr. Richard Langrige, Archdeacon of Cleveland and chaplain to the Archbishop of York, and Dr. Robert Silvester (Pursglove), prior of the monastery of

Gairdner's *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.*, vol. xiii., ii., p. 221.

² *Ibid.*, vol. xiii., i., p. 492.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. xiii., i., p. 386.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. xiii., i., p. 492.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. xiii., ii., p. 233.

Gisburne, were submitted to the king, and, as the following letter shows, Pursglove was chosen:—¹

Pro Episcopo Suffraganeo Sedis Hullensis A.D. 1538. (An. 30 H. 8 Pat. 30 H. 8 p. 3 m. 3.)

Rex Reverendissimo in Christo Patri ac Prædilecto Consiliario nostro Edwardo Eborum Archiepiscopo totius Angliæ Primati, salutem.

Cum vos Nobis significaveritis quod Diaecesis vestra Episcopi Suffraganei solatio, qui Vestri solitudinis partem sustinere consuevit, destituta est et existit,

Et ideo, Discretos Viros Dominum Robertum Silvestre Priorem Monasterii de Gisborne & Magistrum Ricardum Langrige, Sacrae Theologiae Professores Clericos, ac Ordine Sacerdotali rite insignitos, de legitimo Matrimonio natos, & in ætate legitima constitutos, Virosque in spiritualibus & Temporalibus multum circumspectos, quibus de Canonicis nichil obviat Institutis quominus ut afferitis ad Episcopalem Suffraganei Dignitatem admitti possent & deberent, nobis per literas suas sub magno sigillo præsentastis,

Humiliter & devote supplicantes, quatenus nos alterum ipsorum sic Præsentatorum, ad aliquam sedem Episcopi suffraganei infra Provinciam Eborum existentem nominare, Ipsique sic nominato, Stilum, Titulum, & Dignitatem talis Sedis Burgorum & Villatarum in Statuto prædicto nominatorum donare dignaremur,

Unde Nos, ex Gratia nostra speciali & mero motu nostro, Dilectum nobis Robertum Silvestre dicti monasterii Priorem, alterum ex dictis Præsentatis, Episcopum Suffraganeum sedis Hullensis infra Provinciam Eborum prædictam nominamus, eique Stilum, Titulum, & Dignitatem ejusdem sedis suffraganei Damus & Conferimus, atque hæc vobis Tenore Præsentium significamus;

Requirentes vos quatenus eundem Dominum Robertum Silvestre, sic per Nos nominatum, in Episcopum Suffraganeum ejusdem Sedis Hullensis Consecratis, Eique Benedictionem ac omnia Episcopalia Insignia conferatis, cæteraque omnia & singula quæ vestro in hac parte incumbunt officio Pastoralis juxta modum & formam statuti in Vigesimo sexto anno Regni nostri apud Westmonasterium editi & provisi, peragatis,

In cujus, &c.,

Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium, vicesimo tertio Die Decembris. (1538.)

“Robert Sylvester, or Pursglove,” was consecrated Bishop Suffragan of Hull by Archbishop Lee on the 30th of December, 1538.²

¹ Rymer's *Fædera*, VI., pt. iii., p. 19; cf. also *Lansdowne MS.*, 127 (British Museum).

² Stubbs, *Registrum Sacrum Anglicanum*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, second edition, 1897 (p. 101); Nichols' *Bibliotheca Topog. Brit.*, 1790, p. 46; see also MS. list of Suffragan Bishops, by Rev. H. Wharton, 1769, etc., in Lambeth Library.

At once he began to set to work, and there are records of ordinations held by him on March 22nd, 1538-9, as well as on April 5th, September 20th, and December 20th in the same year. Other ordinations held by him were on February 21st, 1539-40; December 18th, 1540; March 12th, 1540-1; and April 12th and April 16th, 1541. At these ordinations he ordained 46 acolytes, 62 subdeacons, 80 deacons, and 105 priests. The priests in these lists are entered as Presbyteri, which appears to show that presbyter and sacerdos were convertible terms. After April, 1541, there is a gap of some few years in the registers, some leaves having probably been lost during the time of the great rebellion. The ordinations alluded to were all held at York, excepting those on September 20th and December 20th, 1539, which were both at Guisborough.¹

Shortly before his consecration as bishop, and possibly with a view to his episcopal stipend, Pursglove had been collated to the prebend of Langtoft in York Cathedral, on October 1st, 1538. He resigned this on being collated to the prebend of Wystowe, on May 2nd, 1541.²

The bishop not only took his title from the town of Hull, but he resided there also. The following extracts from some letters written some sixty or seventy years after Bishop Pursglove's death are interesting as bearing upon the appearance of the bishop himself and upon his home. They are taken from *Sketches of Hull Celebrities, etc.* :—³

Pages 5 to 9 (the spelling is for the most part modernised)—

"I now apply myself to the grand building, which is one of much grace and beauty, called the Bishop's Palace. It is situated at the South corner of the Bishop's Gate in High Street, and the approach is from the Low Gate Street by a long Pavement arch at each end, and hath iron

¹ Letters in *Church Times*, by John R. Lunn, 28th July and 4th August, 1882.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Sketches of Hull Celebrities, etc., or Memoirs and Correspondence of Alderman Thomas Johnson* (twice Mayor of Kingston-upon-Hull), etc., from the year 1640, by W. A. Gunnell. Hull: Walker & Brown, etc., 1876.

gateways to pass through. This path is decked with shrubs and trees and sweet smelling flowers, with a grass plot at each side, ornamented with bunches of Crysants, rose trees, and elders, which perfume the air and make it one of joy and allurements; and the stillness and quietness of the whole place, together with the blooming of the trees, cannot fail to make the mind dwell upon the marvellous goodness of Almighty God, and offer up prayers of thankfulness to His Holy Name for the security, He promised to those who have faith to believe in His sacred word.

“The aforementioned mansion is three stories high, and was the residence of the Suffragan Bishop Pursglove till his death, which took place about the year 1579. He was, I understand from my old father, a big man, rather stout, with broad face, expanded nostrils, dark eyes, and, contrary to the custom of the day, wore his hair lopped; always dressed in black with a pilgrim hat hanging down at the back; black breeches, black hose and shoes, and, although buckles had gone out of use a century before, he continued to wear them. He was looked upon as a Prelate of the highest order.

“This stately abundance is built in the Tetrastyle, for the Front has a support of four white marble pillars all channelled, and the square pedestals are made of fair rose-coloured granite. This building is adorned with a manikin turret at each end, and a large one in the middle. It is beyond comparison, and is placed right back from the street; and its side is in the High Street, and its orchard stretcheth into Scales Lane, where it hath a broad archway with massive gates for its back entrance. The mansion is of great form, and hath at this time all the appearance of being the residence of an ecclesiastic. The whole ground is ornamented in the grandest order that it is possible to conceive, and the embellishment catches the eye of every passer-by. The Fostal is enclosed with two massive iron gates with stone Kytt square pillars, and the walls bedecked with marble copings. The Fostal garden is adorned, as are many others in the town, with circular walks and flower beds of the most beautiful kind. The doorway is approached by eight marble steps. At the top of the doorway are three golden crowns placed in a massive frame. It is the largest house in the town (and there are some fine ones), having eighteen pointed windows in the front, and eight pointed dormers on the roof, all with stone frames, and the brick and stone are of the most beautiful kind. Near the top of the house is a marble figure clutching a Bible with one hand, whilst the other points with a forefinger to a reading. Below each window is a cluster of winged angels. The whole appearance is one of grandeur and splendour. The roof is pantylid, which is unusual in the town, most of the houses being thatched. In the garden stands an arched building, one storey high, which has been a church or sanctuary, built of brick and raised pieces of square stone inlaid at the ends. The building faces east, and has pointed roofs and frontals. In the middle frontal is a clock with the year 1508 painted

on it; and the Sanctus bell, now silent, hangs from the roof. Overhead in the midway is a winged dove with an olive branch in its mouth. The whole ceiling is ornamented and decorated with stars and other emblems of righteousness. The entrance is through a stone arch. This spot was used by Bishop Pursglove's Prebendarie, as a sanctuary for consecrations and for doing Psalter for keeping the people holy. In one corner is a marble font of great splendour, resting on three marble stones, carved with cherubs and seraphs and other sacred and divine devices. All of which are at this time, and have been for many years past, desecrated by being made a chamber for storing ammunition, and is often looked upon by the people as an act of the basest sacrilege by having it put to such a warlike, deplorable, and deadly use. The entrance to the church is through a broad archway in Scales Lane. The whole of the magnificent mansion above-named and described is now, and for many years has been, the abode of the Governors of the town, and at the present time is the dwelling-place of Governor Glenham."

Page 165. A.D. 1660—

"Glenham, Hotham, Fairfax, Overton, and others (Governors of Hull) lived here. At the back of the building all the ground is surrounded by a wall, 6 ft. or 7 ft. high, on the top of which are placed five or six large cannons. In the midst of the ground is an old building, now an ammunition store, but which was at one time Pursglove's Church, where a prebendary preached to the people on the Sabbath day. One sentryman paces at the front of the house, another at the back."

Bishop Lane, in Hull, still bears witness to the position once occupied by Bishop Pursglove's residence.

In 1544 we find the bishop purchasing for £300 an estate in Shropshire, which included the manor of Walton Stoterton,¹ and which had previously belonged to Wigmore monastery.

Whilst resident at Guisborough the bishop appears to have been not unmindful of his relatives, and to have accepted them as tenants of monastic lands.

1545. Grants in March, 1545, "To Robert, Archbishop of York . . . the rectories and churches of Gisborne . . . tithes of grain and hay and demesne lands in Hutton next Gysborne, which belonged to Gysborne mon., in tenure of Adam Pursglove."²

Corlass, in his account of Bishop Pursglove, says that one of Queen Mary's severe commissions against the Protestants was

¹ Gairdner's *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.*, vol. xix., part i., p. 493 [812, § 19].

² *Ibid.*, vol. xx., part i., p. 214.

directed to the Bishop of Hull.¹ I have been unable as yet to find his authority for this statement.

Bishop Pursglove remained at Guisborough as prior until the dissolution of the monastery. Whilst here he is said to have kept great state, and to have been served only by gentlemen born. It is reported that he acted as commissioner to the king in the inquiries into other priories, and that he persuaded the abbots and others to resign their houses.²

22nd December, 1539. Surrender by Robert (Bishop of Hull, prior of Gisburn, and the convent) of the monastery and all its possessions, etc.

Pensions assigned upon the dissolution, etc.

"Gysborne, Yorks., Robert Pursglove, Bishop of Hull, prior, 250 marks."³

The amount of pension, then, that he received was £166 13s. 4d., representing about £2,000 of our money—a very large sum in those days.

In 1481 a college had been founded at Rotherham by Archbishop Scott, "to the honour of the Holy Jesus." It consisted of a provost, five priests, six choristers, and three masters, one of whom was to teach music, another music, and the third writing.⁴ Bishop Pursglove was appointed provost of this college in 1541, and held the office until the college was suppressed early in the reign of Edward VI.

Archbishop Lee died September 13th, 1544. He was succeeded by Robert Holgate, by whom Bishop Pursglove was continued in his office as suffragan.

Meanwhile it was not forgotten by those in authority in the State that Pursglove was a man of wealth.⁵

¹ *Robert Pursglove, Bishop of Hull*, by Reg. W. Corlass. Hull: J. M. Taylor, 1876 (p. 6, note).

² Dugdale, *Monast. Angl.*, quoted by Ord, *History of Cleveland*, 1846, p. 121 (note).

³ Gairdner's *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.*, vol. xiv., part ii., p. 164.

⁴ Dugdale, *Monast. Angl.* (Bohn), vol. vi., p. 1441.

⁵ Gairdner's *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.*, vol. xix., part ii., p. 171.

1544. Augmentations, 29th September (money "lent" for invasion of France).

"Aids given by clergymen and lawyers . . . Bishop of Hull £100."

To this probably the following also refers:¹ "Names of such as had letters from Bulloyn . . . the suffragan of Hull £100."

A convocation of clergy was summoned to sit on November 5th, 1547, and on October 18th Archbishop Holgate issued a commission to Robert Hullens (*i.e.*, Bishop of Hull), "epo suffraganeo nro," John Rookebye, LL.D., Vicar-General, and George Palmer, LL.D., Archdeacon of York, to preside for him in it.

On January 29th, 1549-50, Pursglove was collated to the archdeaconry of Nottingham, which was then in the diocese of York, and which was vacant by the death of Dr. Cuthbert Marshall. In this it should be noticed that he took the oath of renunciation of the authority of the Pope. He is mentioned in the Injunctions, given by Archbishop Holgate to the Dean and Chapter of York, instituting preaching turns at the cathedral.

August 15th, 1552. Forty-eight Sundays had been provided for; the remainder were arranged as follows:—

"And forasmoche (as) there are yet fyve Sondayes to make oute the hole yere, for whiche Sondays wee thefforesaid Archbysshopp as yet have not yet sufficientlie advised our self whome to charge with sermons for the same, and therefore we do desire our lovinge brothers and ffrendes, Mr. Deane of York, Robert Bushop of Hull, Mr. John Rokeby, Mr. Geffray Downnes and Mr. Robert Babthorpe to supplie sermons for the said Sondaies to such tyme as we shall further provide for the same, that is to say, The xliixth Sonnday, The Dean of this Church The fiftie Sunday, the Bishop of Hull. The lj. Sondaye Mr. John Rokeby, The lij. Sondaye Mr. Geffray Downes, The liij. Sunday Mr. Robert Babthorpe." ²

On September 14th, 1553, another commission to preside in Convocation was issued to Bishop Pursglove, with the same

¹ Gairdner's *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.*, vol. xix., part i., p. 612.

² Letter in *Church Times*, August 4th, 1882, by J. R. Lunn.

associates as before, with the addition of Geoffrey Downes, Chancellor of the Church; John Dakyn, Archdeacon of the East Riding; Robert Babthorpe, Sub-dean; and Richard Farley, LL.D.¹

Archbishop Holgate was deprived by Queen Mary, and was succeeded in the archbishopric by Nicholas Heath, who issued a letter on January 7th, 1554-5, constituting Bishop Pursglove, "Hullens' ep' confratrem nrum," his proxy for an enthronisation. This shows that he conformed to the changes under Queen Mary.²

On September 7th, 1588, he was appointed Prebend of Oxtan in Southwell Cathedral. This office carried with it institution to the rectory of Blidworth, south part, the responsibility attached to which was the duty of preaching once in six months.

The late vicar of Blidworth, Rev. R. H. Whitworth, shortly before his death, wrote to me as follows:—

"I give you the following from one of the Southwell books:—

"Septimo die Mensis Septembris anno dñi millmo quingo quinquago octavo. Coram venerabilibus viris &c., &c., comparuit Reverendus in X^o pater Robertus Sedis Hullensis Epus et Ltras mandatoriales Reverendissimi in X^o patris Nicholai Ebor Archiepi anglie primas et Metropolitanus et Aplice Sedis Legat hujusq. regni anglie cancellarii, de sua ad canonicatum et prebend alterius prebende de Oxtan in eadem ecclia Suthwellensi admissione exhibuit. Idem capitulus dics Reverendum p̄rem ad canonicat et prebend antedict per panis et libri traditionem ut moris est admisit." ³

On April 4th, 1559—

"Dns Wilmus grenwode Cler ad vicariam perpetuam ecclesie parochialis et prebendalis de blythworth ad presentacionem venerabilis viri Robti permissione divina Hullensis Episcopi dictae vicariae jure alterius prebendae suae de Oxtan promotoris admissus fuit et canonice institutus." ⁴

This was forty days before the publication of Elizabeth's Act of Uniformity.

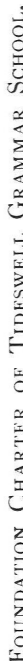
Pursglove declined to take the oath of supremacy to Queen

¹ Letter in *Church Times*, August 4th, 1882, by J. R. Lunn.

² *Ibid.*

³ Letter from Rev. R. H. Whitworth.

⁴ *Ibid.*



Elizabeth, and resigned his preferments.¹ Daye was installed Archdeacon of Nottingham in 1560. Henry Harvey, Master of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and Vice-Chancellor of the University, was put into the canonry of Oxton, and he appointed William Elmley to the vicarage of Blidworth, early in 1560, in place of Greenwood, who had apparently resigned for the same reason as the bishop.

Admission to a canonry by "delivery of bread and a book" was not unusual in some of our Cathedrals, though I know of no other instance on record at Southwell. It was a sign or symbol of the temporal and spiritual sides of the office.

The following extract shows that he was, in the year 1561, regarded as a recusant:—²

"A.D. 1561. Schedule, signed by Edmund Grindall, Bishop of London, Bishops of Ely and Chester and three other Commissioners of recusants who are at large but restricted to certain places, with their characters.

Name.	Confined to	Characters.
Robert Pursglove, late Suffragan of Hull, and before an abbot or prior.	within 12 miles of Ugthorp, Co. York.	Very wealthy, stiff in papistry, and of estimation in the country."

On giving up his preferments and positions of dignity, Pursglove retired for a time to his native town, and appears to have resided during the remainder of his life either there or at Dunston, in Derbyshire, or in the neighbourhood of Ugthorp, in Yorkshire.

In 1559, the year of his deprivation, he obtained letters patent from Queen Elizabeth (dated November 18th) to found a Grammar School at Tideswell, which was dedicated, like his own old school at St. Paul's, to the child Jesus. His statutes in some respects seem to have been based upon those of Colet, and the school was actually founded in the following year, the deed bearing date June 18th, 1560.

¹ There was considerable opposition to the Oath of Supremacy in the Chapter at York. Cf. *History of the English Church*, edited by Stephens and Hunt, vol. v., p. 41, etc.

² *Calendar of State Papers*, Domestic Series, Elizabeth, 1601-1603, with Addenda, 1547-1565, p. 521.

One of the portions of the quadrupartite indenture, in which the statutes are incorporated with the foundation deed¹ (to which a list of the books given by Pursglove to the school is added), is still preserved at Tideswell. It was written by the bishop's own hand. And the charter, with considerable fragments of the great seal of Queen Elizabeth, are still in the possession of the authorities there. In addition to these are :—

A later copy of the school statutes.

Lease from the Master, Vicar, and Wardens of Tideswell, to Adam Pursglove, of Hoton in Cleveland, with consent and special licence of Robert Pursglove, Clerk, founder, late Bishop, of messuage in Tideswell in occupation of Wm. Chrichlowe, and of land in Wheston (except one cottage in occupation of Wm. Chrichlowe, situated on south side of brook at Tideswell), for 200 years at rent of 3s. 6d. 3 Feb. 6 Elizabeth (1563-4).

There are also various deeds concerning lands at Priestcliffe (near Taddington), as well as deeds relating to the Bedfordshire estates.

During his lifetime Bishop Pursglove kept in his own hands the appointment of the "Master of the Scholars." After his death the choice lay with the Dean and Chapter of Lichfield, who for upwards of three centuries had been rectors of Tideswell and patrons of the vicarage there. If they did not exercise their right within twenty days, the appointment passed to the vicar and churchwardens of Tideswell, and if within another sixteen days no master had been chosen, the right of presentation for that turn passed to Robert Tunstead, of Tunstead, Thurstan Alleyn, and Robert Pursglove, of Wheston; John Hill, of Hill; and Hugh Needham, of Wormhill, and "their heires or ye more part of ym being or inhabiting within ye sayd parish of Tideswell." The master must be "sufficiently learned and exercised in grammar, honest in conduct, discreet and sober in behaviour, of good name and fame, being a priest in orders"; or if a suitable priest could not be found, then a

¹ The letters patent are given in Latin, the statutes follow in English.

layman, if otherwise properly qualified, might be appointed. But he must be unmarried, and if at any future time he were to marry, then "immediately after his marriage he shall be removed and utterly put from the said office for ever."

The vicar and churchwardens of the parish were, together with the master, to be the corporate body who were to look after the estates and other school property, and generally to manage the affairs of the school. Before his admission, the Master, in the presence of the vicar and wardens and six honest men of the parish, was to take an oath that he would act faithfully towards the scholars, that he would not alienate any of the school property, and that he would, to the best of his power, keep the statutes of his school, nor in any way would he attempt to alter them. This done, the vicar or one of the wardens was to "put the master of the scholars into possession of his said office by delivering into his hands the hasp or key then being in the lock of the school house door," saying, "Sir, you are elected and nominated to be master of the scholars of this school of Jesus, to teach the scholars hitherto resorting, not only grammar and other profitable and virtuous doctrine, but also good manners and virtuous living, etc."

The vicar and wardens, too, were only allowed to be admitted into the "corporation," or governing body of the school, after they had taken a solemn oath upon the Holy Gospels that they would not alienate any of the possessions of the school or attempt to change the statutes. If at any time the master were a drunkard, a dicer, carder, or negligent in teaching his scholars, or use any notable crime or offence, he was to be warned three times by the vicar and wardens, there being an interval of at least twenty days between each admonition, and if he did not then amend his faults the vicar and wardens were to remove him from his office for ever. The master had for his dwelling-place the chambers over the school, and as salary £10 a year. This would be equal to about £150 of our money. The simple lodging provided would hardly

satisfy the requirements of the present day. Nor would the amount of holidays allowed be considered sufficient either by master or pupils. He was not to absent himself from the parish or from his scholars more than twenty days in one year without special leave being obtained from the vicar and wardens of Tideswell. He was not, moreover, "to give remedy" to the scholars above one day in the week, and not that "customably," but on some reasonable occasion; but "he might cease teaching the scholars yearly from the Feast of St. Thomas until the morrow of Twelfth-day; and from the Wednesday before Easter to the eighth day after Easter; and from Whitsun-eve to the morrow after Trinity Sunday." The school hours, from Lady Day to Michaelmas, were from 6 till 11 and from 1 till 6, though boys residing in the town were to be back at school at 12.30 instead of at 1. During the six winter months school did not commence until 7, and was concluded at 4.30. The school was to be divided into four forms. In the lowest form were placed the young beginners, "commonly called petties," who were taught their letters and to read perfectly. These little boys were taught by the older ones under the direction of the master, though he himself was to devote two hours a week to their instruction. The boys in the second form were to be taught the "introduction of grammar, commonly called the eight parts of speech, as the same be set forth at this present and generally used throughout this realm." And the boys were to be so exercised therein, "not only that they can orderly decline their nouns and verbs every way forwards and backwards by cases and persons that neither case of noun nor person of verb can be required, but that without stop or study they can presently tell it." They were to be taught, moreover, the "concorde of Latin speech," and then to "learn verses of manners made by William Lilly, beginning *Qui mihi*, etc., precepts of Cato, with such other little books wherein is contained not only the eloquence of the tongue, but also good plain lessons of honesty and godliness whereby they may be induced also to perfect pronunciation."

The third form were to be further instructed in Latin grammar, and to be taught Terence, Æsop's Fables, Virgil, Tully's¹ Epistles, etc. And every day the boys in this form were to have given to them "English to be made into Latin." The fourth form boys were to study Sallust, Cæsar, Horace, Ovid, Tully's Epistles, Eutropius, Erasmi Verbum ad rerum, etc., and if he were himself skilled therein, the master was to teach them the rules of versifying; daily they were to translate from English into Latin and from Latin into English, "and at certain times to write also epistles, one of them to another, and the master to peruse the same translations as epistles amending what he findeth wrong therein." With the scholars of the second, third, and fourth forms, Friday afternoons were to be given up to writing "until such times as they can handsomely write their own Latin and lessons, the master also doing his diligence to instruct them therein." The scholars of the two higher forms were only permitted to speak Latin in school, excepting when they were teaching the lower forms. "If any scholar will not be ordered by his master, in all lawful and honest causes, concerning his learning, honest living, good manners, or reasonable corrections, or wilful disloyalty, or refuse to observe and keep such statutes of the school which on his behalf ought to be observed, then forthwith he shall be expelled, and put forth from the said school, and not be admitted again until he have obediently submitted himself to his said master promising to abide by his order and correction for this before committed and from henceforth to amend the same." The education given was without charge, excepting that on admission each boy paid fourpence, and that, unless he could daily write the lessons with his own hand, he was not allowed to remain in the school more than a month "except he have convenient books, requisite for his form."

The Elizabethan age was in very truth a time of religious controversy; yet the religious education of the children was not neglected. And by the statutes of the Tideswell Grammar

¹ Cicero. (Marcus Tullius.)

School it was ordered by the venerable founder that "the master of the scholars, every morning before the beginning to teach, and likewise every evening before they depart from the school, he, together with his scholars, kneeling all devoutly upon their knees, say such psalms and other prayers as I hereafter may appoint and signify unto them, written with mine own hand, and the same psalms and prayers shall be set upon a table to remain within the same school, in such a place where the said master and his scholars may conveniently come unto them." It takes one back in thought to the bishop's own boyhood's days. Perhaps there still lingered in his memory the words which Dean Colet, the founder of his own old school at St. Paul's, had addressed to his scholars, "Lift up your little white hands in prayer for me who pray for you." Perhaps in these prayers, of which, so far as we know, no record remains, the good bishop may have written one petition which he wished these Tideswell boys, children some of them or grandchildren of some of his old playmates in his childhood's home, to use on his behalf as they lifted up their little white hands in prayer to God.

And whilst he remembered the children, Bishop Pursglove did not forget the poor. He willed that the residue of the revenues, after the payment of the master's salary and the necessary repairs to the buildings, etc., had been met, should, by the master of the scholars, vicar and churchwardens together, in the presence of six honest men of the parish of Tideswell, be given to the poor of the parish, and more especially "to such as should be aged and impotent, blind, lame, and most needy." It was evidently in his mind that about a fourth part of what was received should be given to the poor. And, by a recent enactment of the Charity Commissioners, the same principle is still adhered to, for whereas the estates now bring in about £200 a year, it has been ordered that £50 annually should be distributed to those who are in need.

in hanc hanc fonder qd hanc stole qd. Jephth in Diddeshall
hanc hanc tanc hanc stole qd. hanc hanc solomong
tanc hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc stole fcs hanc hanc
hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc

Augustinus de civitate dei
Epistole
Psalterium in magno volumine
cantorantibus ecclesie et communis
liber de decretis

Primum volumen plurimum de vitiis
Secundum volumen plurimum de vitiis
Vulgaria Ecclesie hanc hanc

Epistole
Epistole
Opuscula hanc de vitiis hanc et hanc hanc
Epistole hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc
Epistole hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc
liber Epistole hanc hanc hanc

Epistole hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc
Tullius de finibus bonorum et malorum
Tabula de reformatione
Epistole hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc hanc
Epistole
Augustinus de vita christiana
Invenit hanc hanc hanc

PORTION OF CATALOGUE OF BOOKS GIVEN BY BISHOP PURSGLOVE
TO TIDESWELL GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The deed was signed by Bishop Pursglove, in the presence of Roger Ratcliffe, Esq., Robert Northem, Dean of Cleveland; W. Fieldsend, Vicar of Tideswell; John Backhouse, Edward Thornhill, etc., etc. And to it was appended a list of books given to the school by the bishop, consisting of twenty-six volumes, some of which are theological or devotional, others classical.

The first master, Robert Siward, was appointed by the founder, in 1560, and also in all probability his successor, John Cooke, in 1575. A list of head masters will be found on page 68 of my *Tideswell and its Church* (fifth edition).¹

A year later Bishop Pursglove founded a somewhat similar charity at Guisborough, in Yorkshire, of the monastery in which place he had been for some five years (and the last) prior. The statutes of the school were almost identical with those of Tideswell, and it, too, was to bear the name of "the School of Jesus." But in addition, at Guisborough he founded a hospital for twelve poor people, six men and six women, who were to be at least sixty years of age and unmarried. They must have dwelt in Cleveland for three years, and were "to be admitted according to need, all partiality set apart." If they married they were "to be removed for ever." They were to have "for their lodgings six rooms within the said almshouse, viz., two of them together in one chamber, having several beds for every one of them; and to receive for their weekly sustenance and relief the sum of twelve pence each, every Sunday, at the said almshouse; and every year at the Nativity of St. John the Baptist to have forty shillings divided equally amongst them, first in repairing their beds and then in such apparel as they have most need of."

The Guisborough foundation differed from that at Tideswell in the composition of the governing body. Whereas at the latter place it consisted of the vicar of the parish, with the churchwardens and the "master of the scholars," who also

¹ *Tideswell and its Church*, by Rev. J. M. J. Fletcher, fifth edition. Tideswell: Chapman.

had the distribution of the doles half-yearly to the poor; at Guisborough the trustees were personal ones and not official ones; for it was left to Roger Toccotts and George Conyers and their heirs to appoint to the schoolmaster's office and to the rooms of the poor. One of these trustees was soon altered, for from 1561 to 1569 the wardens were Roger Tocotts and John Chapman; from 1575 to 1582 they were Robert Wilson and Robert Pursglove; from 1583 to 1587 they were Robert Pursglove and Robert Netherwood; and from 1588 to 1592 they were Robert Pursglove and Ralph Sergeant.

Here, too, he gave a library for the use of the schoolmaster. It consisted entirely of theological works, fifteen volumes in all, and not, as at Tideswell, partly of classical and partly of theological books.

Some of the bishop's relatives had settled in the vicinity, for we find that rents were received from lands in the occupation of William Pursglove, John Pursglove, Richard Pursglove, and Christopher Pursglove. And there are various deeds still in existence of the sale of divers properties to Robert Pursglove, variously described as of Tideswell, Dunston, Hoton, or Ugthorp, in one at least of which he is described as "*nuper sedis Hullensis episcopus suffragensis*"; or of his conveyance of lands, etc., to "the wardens, master of the scholars, and the poor people of the hospital of Jesus at Gisburne," etc., etc.

During his closing years the limitation of his abode to within twelve miles of Ugthorp seems to have been removed, for in 1567 we find him described as "of Tyddyswall co. Derby," and in 1573-5-6 as of Dunston, co. Derby." That he felt that his days would be spent for the most part in Derbyshire is evident from a letter¹ dated October 28th, 1569, written to "the right worshipful Mr. Roger Toocotts and my lovyng frend John Chapman," from "Tyddiswall," asking them to continue as wardens and to admit poor persons when necessary, "because I am now most part abidyng in Derbieshire and beyng so farr off can not psonallie my selfe execute thautoritie to me in the saied statutes reserved. Robert Pursglove."

¹ Preserved at Guisborough.

At Dunston, which is near Chesterfield, where some of his friends and kinsmen,¹ the Eyres, resided, or at his native town, he spent the last years of his life, and according to the directions given in his will, his body was laid to rest in the parish church of Tideswell, where in his infancy he had been baptised in the old font which still stands near to the tower arch,² and upon which the rays of the setting sun as they have passed through the great west window must, during so many years, have fallen. It was the church to which he must often have gone with his parents in the days of his childhood. Close by the glorious edifice, which locally goes by the name of "the Cathedral of the Peak," was the school which he had founded. In the town resided many of the poor who were recipients of his bounty. And perhaps for him, too, Tideswell had the same fascination which it still has at the present day for so many who have been "bred and born" there, but who have spent some part of their lives elsewhere, a love for the old home which makes them long to come back from time to time, and to desire at last, as was the case with him, to lay their bones therein.

¹ Edward Eyre, of Holme Hall (b. 1487, d. 1538), married, as his second wife, Alice Pursglove, the Bishop's sister, by whom he had Thomas and Robert, mentioned in his will, overleaf. By his first wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Ralph Reresby, of Thribergh, co. York, he had Anthony, whose son, Gervase, is also named.—See Jewitt's *Reliquary*, vol. xli., p. 42, and Hunter's *Familia Min. Gent.*, vol. ii., p. 555, Harl. Soc., where, however, Hunter has John instead of Thomas; see also p. 44 of this *Journal*.

² See the frontispiece.

APPENDIX

BISHOP PURSGLOVE'S WILL.

The following is a copy of Bishop Pursglove's Will, which will be found in Somerset House (Arundell, 32):—¹

In dei nomine Amen. I Robert Pursglove Bishoppe of Hull, The laste daie of Marche in the yeare of oure lorde god a thowsande ffyve hundrethe and fowerscore beinge whole in bodye and of good and perfecte Remembraunce in minde Consideringe that nothing is more certaine than Deathe intende withe godes grace not to Departe from this worlde intestate Declare and make my laste will and Testamente in manner and fourme followinge (that is to say) ffirste I Committe my soule to all mightie god Assuredlye trustinge throughe the merrittes and passion of Christe my Redemer and Savior to lyve everlastinglye in his heavenlye kingedome with his electe and blessed Sainctes And I bequeathe my bodye to be buried within the prishe Church of Tideswall if I happen to dyceasse within xxtie myles thereof And if it happen otherwyse then to bee buried in the parrisshe Church where it shall please god to call me to his mercye And towcheinge the bestowinge of my worldye gooddes I have already delyvered ffourtie poundes to my lovinge and trustie ffrienes Gervase Eyre of Keeton² in the Countye of York and Rowlande Eyre of Hassope in the Countie of Darbye Esquiers theie to bestowe the saide ffourtie poundes amongeeste the poore people and for the necessarye Charges of my funeralles at the daye of my buriall in suche places and order as is declared in twoe Billes indented made betwixte me the said Robarte Jarvis and Rowlande subscribed withe oure handes and sealed withe oure Seales bearinge Date the eleventh Daie of Marche laste paste And in consideracion of performaunce of suche thinges as I have putte the saide Gervase and Rowlande in truste I geve unto eider of theyme quission of blewe Tissewe I geve also and bequeathe vnto Thomas Eyre of Donstone gentleman the vse and occupacō of one standinge Cuppe of sylver gilte withe a Cover waighinge thirtie and nyne ownces the vse also and occupacion of three Goblettes of sylver giltet withe one Cover waighinge threscore ounces Twelve sylver spoones havinge Pictures on the endes giltet waighinge Twentie and three ounces one large fyne peece of fyne Arras havinge Imagerye vpon yt and the Storie of Christes passion my beste ffetherbed withe a bolster one Mattresse twoe blanckettes one white Rappinge one large beade Coveringe havinge the Picture of a Bishoppe vpon yt and lyned withe canvas All the wch Beddinge nowe is or lately was in the Chamber over the Dyninge Parlor of the sayde Thomas, The saide Thomas to have the vse and occupacō of all the

¹ See also *Reliquary*, original series, vol. xviii., pp. 223-4.

² Kiveton, which he sold to the Osbornes; he was also of Newbold, near Chesterfield.

+ Christ is to me as life on earth, and death to me is gaine

This Robert Pursglove Sometime Bilhoppe of Hull decessed the 2 day of May in the yere of our Lord God. 1579.



Because I trust through him alone. Salvation to obtaine So brittle is the fate of man. Is soon it both decayed.

Under this liene as here doth in a corpe sumtime of fame
 in abbeshall bred and borthen ROBERT PURSGLOVE by name
 and after brought up by parents care at Schole & learning
 till afterwards by UNCLE deare in London he was had
 into WILLIAM BRADSHAW fight by name in poble to his
 and y^e at Schole did him maintain full byter 3 whole years
 and then into the Liberte was placed as a 3 with
 in Southwarke call'd where it both in Saint MARY OVERIS
 to Oxford then who did him send into that Colledge
 And there 14 years did him find wh^{ch} Corpus Christi
 Promission at length shew he won a Clerk of learning yepth
 to GISEBURG ABBET Strete was sent and placed in Priore last
 BISHOP of HULL he was also ARCHDEACON of NOTTINGHAM
 PROVOST of ROTHERHAM COLLEDGE too. of YORK was SUFFRAGAN
 the GRAMER Schooles he did graduat. with LAUD for 1600
 one HOSPITAL for to maintain himself impotent and poor
 O GISEBURG then with TIDESWELL TOWNE learned a m^{uch} more
 for this same CLERK of great renown. lyth here came in
 though crasse DEATH had him de^d brought this BODY to here
 yet trump of FAME may can be taught to sound his poble on high

Qui legis hunc brevem crebro reliquum memoreris
 vile cadaver Sum laquei cadaver rete.

So all the glory of this world with me and my kindred

BISHOP PURSGLOVE'S TOMB AT TIDESWELL.

premisses Duringe his lyfe naturall onely, And after his Decease I will that Edward Eyre the eldest sonne of the saide Thomas Eyre shall have the vse and occupacōn of the premisses Duringe his lyffe naturall And after his Deceaze I will that his heirs males of his bodye lawfully begotten shall have the vse and occupacōn of the premysses Duringe their lyves naturall. And for lacke of suche heires males, I will that Vincente Eyre the secounde sonne of the sayde Thomas Eyre shall have the vse and occupacion of the Premysse During his lyffe naturall And likewise after his Deceaze his heires males of his bodye lawfully begotten to haue the vse and occupacion of the premisses Duringe their lyves naturall, And fynally for lacke of such heyres males as is aforesaide, I will that suche personnes as of righte by lawe oughte to have the premisses, shall have all the same to theyme theyre heyres Executors and Assignes forever. I geve to Roberte Eyre Brother to the saide Thomas Eyre onē Bason of sylver withe an Ewer pcell giltied weighinge three score and Thirtie and flower Ounces, One flatte standinge Cuppe of sylver withe a Cover giltied waigheinge Thirtie and flower ounces, One salte of sylver giltied with a Cover waigheinge seaventene ounces, Three Candlestickes of sylver, waigheinge xxv ounces, And one single Counter wth all thinges therein Conteyned. I geve vnto Marye Eyre, Ellenor Eyre, and ffraunces Eyre Daughters of the saide Thomas Eyre all my half yeares pencion wch was Due vnto me at the ffeaste of Thannunciacion of or blessed ladye the Virgyne laste paste oute of the possessyons of the late Monasterye of Gisborne dissolved, Savinge onely Twenty poundes thereof whiche I Reserve and geve to my Executor for suche travayle as he shall happen to take for obtayninge of the sayde pencion, and I doe ordayne and make the beforesaid Thomas Eyre the full and onelye Executoure of this my laste will and Testamente, And the same will well and trewlye in every pointe perfourmed, The Resydewe of my gooddes theenne Remayninge I doe geve to the saide Thomas Eyre, trustinge and Chargdeinge hym, as hee will awnswear before god, to applye and putte all the same to honneste and proffyttable vses of hym, and his, wythowte wastinge or myspendingne annye parte thereof. In witness wheareof I the fforesayde Roberte Pursglove have subscribed my name and sette my Seale to theise presence the Daie and yeare above written. p me supradictum Robertum Pursglove. In the presence of vs, Gervys Eyre, Rowlande Eyre, George Allotson the Wryter, Thomas Wyllcockeson.

The Will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury by his executor, Thomas Eyre, on August 22nd, 1580.

When the chancel of Tideswell Church was re-floored in 1874-5, Bishop Pursglove's tomb was opened. It was hoped that a chalice might be found buried with the bishop, or some other mark of his priestly or episcopal condition discovered. Nothing, however, was to be seen within the tomb but the

skeleton of a man some 5 ft. 7 ins. or 5 ft. 8 ins. in height. There were not traces even of a coffin to be found.

The good Bishop Pursglove's name is still held in honour in the neighbourhood of Tideswell. For a long period of time Tideswell Grammar School was the only place of education in the immediate neighbourhood; and many a poor widow or orphan, and many a poverty-stricken man, has had reason to thank God for the seasonable assistance rendered through the "Pursglove Dole."

An engraving of Bishop Pursglove's tomb is given in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for December, 1794 (plate ii., page 1101); in the Cambridge Camden Society's *Illustrations of Monumental Brasses*, 1846 (*cf.* pp. 19-27); in Ord's *History of Cleveland* (*cf.* pp. 190-194) is given a wood-cut of Bishop Pursglove taken from the Cambridge Camden Society's *Illustrations*; and Dr. Cox, in his *Derbyshire Churches*, vol. ii., p. 305, gives a full-length effigy of the bishop taken from the brass.

In the ninth report of the "Historical MSS. Commission," Appendix, Part I. (pages 348, 349), is given a list of the MSS. of the Wardens, Master and Poor of the Hospital of Jesus, of Gisburne in Cleveland, co. York:—

- 11 August, 3 Elizabeth. Robert Pursglove's Deed for the foundation and establishment of his hospital at Gisburne, with series of statutes for the regulation of the school and government of the charity.
- 5 June, 3 Elizabeth. Letters Patent, under the great seal, of Licence and Incorporation for the Establishment of a School and Almshouse at Gisburne in Cleveland.
- 14 April, 7 Elizabeth. Deed of sale of (property) by the Lady Katheryne Bigod, of Mulgrave, to Robert Pursglove, of Ugthorp, co. York, clerk, for £18.
- 14 April, 7 Elizabeth. Bond of Lady Katharyn Bigod to Robert Pursglove for the due performance of what she has covenanted.
- 1 April, 8 Elizabeth. Deed of sale of Manor and Lordship of Pickton for £553 7s. 8d. by Thomas Gower to Robert Pursglove, of Hoton, near Gisburn in Cleveland.
- 20 May, 9 Elizabeth. Deed of gift of the Manor of Pickton . . . by William Pursglove and Ralph Oltefelde to Robert Pursglove, clerk.

- 30 May, 9 Elizabeth. Power of Attorney by Robert Pursglove of Tiddeswall, co. Derby, to Christopher Pursglove and James Marshal, of Ugthorpe, co. York, to take seisin for the said Robert of the manor of Pickton with its appurtenances from William Pursglove and Ralph Oltefelde.
- 2 June, 9 Elizabeth. Conveyance by Robert Pursglove of Tyddyswall, co. Derby, clerk (of lands, &c.) at Ellerbie to the Wardens, Master of the scholars, and the poor people of the Hospital of Jesus at Gisburn.
- 24 July, 15 Elizabeth. Grant by Robert Pursglove, of Dunston, co. Derby, clerk, of a yearly rent of £19, to be had for ever out of his manor at Pickton . . . to the Wardens, &c.
- 26 April, 27 Elizabeth. Deed of gift by Robert Pursglove, of Dunston, co. Derby, clerk, "nuper sedis Hullensis episcopus suffragensis" to Edward Thornell and John Pursglove, of Ellerbie, co. York . . . of land . . . on consideration of payment of 20s. a year to Wardens, &c.
- 27 April, 18 Elizabeth. Deed of gift by Robert Pursglove, of Dunston, co. Derby, clerk, to George Lasynbie, of Moston, and John Pursglove (of various lands, &c.) in trust for the use of Robert Pursglove, of Hoton and Gisburne, son of Adam Pursglove, and his heirs and assigns, so long as the said Robert Pursglove, of Hoton, his heirs and assigns, shall pay a yearly rent of £10 6s. 8d. to the Wardens, &c.
- 27 April, 18 Elizabeth. Deed of gift by Robert Pursglove, of Dunston, co. Derby, clerk, of lands at Pickford in trust to the use of John Pursglove, son of Adam Pursglove, on yearly payment of £3 3s. 4d. to the Wardens, &c.
- 27 April, 18 Elizabeth. Deed of gift by Robert Pursglove, of Dunston, co. Derby, clerk, to Thomas Eyre, of Dunston, gent., of various lands, &c., in Ellerby in trust to the use of John Pursglove, of Ellerbie, son of William Pursglove, so long as he shall pay rent of 40s. to the Wardens, &c.

Extract from *Further Report of the Commissioners for inquiring concerning Charities*. County of Derby. Tideswell.

Page 275 (513)—

"It appears from a schedule of documents relating to this property (the Tideswell and Wheston estate, belonging to the Tideswell Grammar School), which was found amongst the papers belonging to the charity, that a farm in the occupation of William Crichlow, and which had been purchased of Henry Bradshaw, by Adam Pursglove, the father of Robert Pursglove, was conveyed by the said Adam Pursglove and his wife to the master, vicar, and wardens of the school, and that a release was executed by the said Robert Pursglove to the Corporation. We have not been able

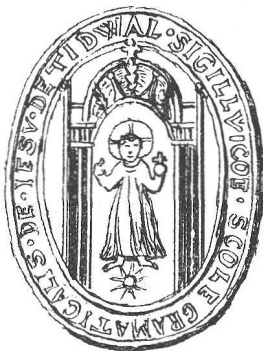
to discover where the deeds referred to in this schedule now are; it is supposed that they were placed in the hands of an attorney at Chesterfield, with a view of instituting proceedings for the recovery of the land; but that they are now lost, he having died in a state of extreme poverty.

"The only authentic document we have been able to procure relating to these conveyances is the note of a fine levied in Easter-term, 4 of Elizabeth, a copy of which we have obtained from the Chapter-house at Westminster, from which it appears that Adam Pursglove and Mudwina his wife levied a fine of certain premises in Tideswell, Litton, and Wheston, to the said master, vicar, and wardens, in consideration of £40."

SEALS.



GUISBOROUGH GRAMMAR
SCHOOL.



TIDESWELL GRAMMAR
SCHOOL.