

## RECTORS OF MERSTHAM.

BY

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THE following list is not exhaustive. As there was a Church at Merstham in 1086 at the latest, there must have been "Parsons" before the first named in the catalogue. But no Registers of the See of Canterbury are in existence prior to the time of Archbishop Peckham, so that the names of the earlier Rectors cannot be given; though it is possible that a few of them might be recovered from deeds in which they are mentioned as principals or as witnesses. There is, moreover, some confusion in the Registers between Mersham in Kent and Merstham (spelled without the "t"), both benefices being in the patronage of the Archbishop, and it cannot be determined in every case which of the two is intended. Usually the addition of the words "in the deanery of Croydon" decides the question, but not always.

THOMAS OF SHOREHAM, 1279. Then a "sub-deacon."

WILLIAM OF HALEBERGH, 1284.

ROBERT DE SEGRE, 1308. In a "Surrey Fine" of that date he is mentioned as Parson of Merstham. Aubrey, in his account of this church, says, "In the north window of the Chancel are these two Escotcheons, with a figure kneeling, in a blue robe; above, in large Saxon characters, "Robert † de Sacra." "These vanished," write Manning and Bray, "while Dr. J. Milles was Rector here."

ROBERT DE NORTON, Jan<sup>y</sup> 132½. Collated by Archbishop Reynolds "intuitu caritatis." A great ecclesiastical lawyer, who became Dean of the Arches, he had been presented to the rectory of Woodchurch, Kent, in 1314, but resigned it in the following year. He acted as

Proctor for the Archbishop at the court of Rome in 1322. In November 1322 the Rectory of Ickham, near Canterbury, was bestowed upon him. In vacating that benefice in July 1323, and this of Merstham for that of Ivychurch in Romney Marsh, he made a written protest that if his new preferment involved him in litigation he would return to his former livings! In any case he resigned Ivychurch in 1325, probably on account of an annual pension claimed by the Archdeacon of Canterbury. In 1326 he was appointed a Canon of Wingham. See *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. 14, p. 126.

It is not easy to say what really happened at this time. There seems to be documentary evidence for the above statements respecting Robert de Norton, but the Register, as I understand it, makes

WILLIAM ATTETYE, the Archbishop's Cross-bearer, rector in May 1321, the benefice being vacant by the resignation of ADAM DE PENYTON. This, in itself, would be intelligible, as Robert de Norton's appointment was made in what we should call 1322, but Attetye, not Norton, is said to have exchanged in 1323 with

ROBERT DE ERGUM, 1323.

GILBERT DE KELESHILL. He became rector of Kemsing by exchange with RICHARD DURAUNT, 28th February, 1338.

EDMUND DE ACRES, 1350. He is mentioned in a Surrey Fine as Parson of Merstham at this time.

GILES DE BAULERMULLE exchanged for St. Bridget's, London, with

THOMAS OF HOLBORN, 1355.

JOHN OF CONYNGTON, 1357, on the resignation of Holborn, who exchanged for Cheshunt. These three entries probably refer to Mersham as they cannot be reconciled with the following :—

WILLIAM DE ISLEP, alias Jocelyn, "chaplain," May 1356, when he was holding the confidential position of Cross-bearer to Archbishop Simon Islip, whose brother, nephew, or near relative, we may conclude him to have been. On 11th March, 1357, he was collated to the rectory of Cliffe-at-Hoo, but resigned it in November of the same year. Hasted says that he resigned the rectory of Tunstall, Kent, in 1358, and was again collated to it 16th December, 1358, on his resignation of Cliffe, and shortly after exchanged with John de Islep for the rectory of Foxley in Norfolk. In 1379 he seems to have held the Prebendal Stall of Bedford Major in Lincoln Cathedral. See *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. 15.

JOHN ALEYN, July 1356, exchanged for Brasted with

THOMAS WEYLOND, August 1356, who again exchanged for Lingfield with

ADAM PATEWELL, 1383.

WILLIAM HORNBY, 5th August, 1384. Domestic Chaplain to Archbishop Courtenay.

WILLIAM BYLDESTONE, 3rd April, 1395.

HUGH WOLTON exchanged for Frittenden (?) with

RICHARD LENTWARDYN, 9th July, 1409.

ADAM ASKE, LL.D., exchanged for the rectory of Hopesay, Shropshire, with

ROGER CAPTEYN, 2nd November, 1414. Being an exchange, the probability is that the two benefices were of about the same value at the time, and we find that in the modern Clergy List they are returned at nearly the same amount—the sum at which Merstham is “commuted” being that given as the income of Hopesay.

ROBERT BALLARD, 145 $\frac{2}{3}$ . Domestic Chaplain to Archbishop Kemp.

HENRY SHARP, LL.D. In 1486 he was Archdeacon of Rochester.

JOHN REDYNG, LL.B., 24th February, 1477, “on resignation of Henry Sharp, last rector.”

JOHN COLE, M.A., 1499, “on resignation of John Redyng.”

THOMAS HOBBSY, D.D. He died in 1509. Probably the same person as the Dean (or Canon) of Windsor and Warden of All Souls' College, Oxford. If so, he had twice been “Northern Proctor” for the University, in which capacity he had asserted the rights of the University against the people of Woodstock, who supported the High Steward in levying a tax for the King—a tax probably illegal, as it was afterwards remitted. The Steward was forced to yield, and to release Hobbys's brother from Bocardo, the prison in Cornmarket Street. In 1496, in reply to Henry VII's demand “as ye tendre the good and honour of this o<sup>r</sup> realme, and as ye tendre also the wele and suretie of y<sup>r</sup>self,” of a loan on the occasion of the invasion of England by the Scots, the Warden is reported by the royal Commissioner to have answered in the negative—“Hee hath given an oth that hee nedre may lend x<sup>li</sup> nedre xl<sup>s</sup> except he should borow hytt to his grete hurte.” See *Worthies of All Souls*.

THOMAS LINACRE, 1509. The most famous man connected with Merstham (though his connection with it lasted but one month) was

the new Rector, of whom Fuller writes in his *Worthies*: "Thomas Linaere Doctor of Physick was born in the town of Derby, bred in Oxford, whence he afterwards travelled beyond the seas, residing chiefly at Rome and Florence. Returning into England he brought languages along with him, and was the first restorer of learning in our nation. It is questionable whether he was a better Latinist or Grecian, a better Grammarian or Physician, a better Scholar or Man for his moral deportment. By his endeavours Galen speaks better Latine in the translation than he did Greek in the original. No Englishman in that age had so learned Masters—viz., Demetrius, Politian, and Hermolaus Barbarus: so noble Patrons viz., Laurence Medices, Duke of Florence, whilst he was beyond the seas, King Henry VII and VIII (to whom he was chief Physician) after his return into England; so high-born Scholars, Prince Arthur, with many Lords' sons his contemporaries; so learned Friends, Erasmus, Melancthon, Vives, &c. This Linaere founded two public lectures in Oxford and one in Cambridge (dutifully his respect to his mother, double above his aunt, for the study of Physick, and that students of that faculty of both Universities may meet the more conveniently together, he founded the College of Physicians in London. I much wonder at what I find in good authors, that Linaere a little before his death turned priest and began to study the Scriptures with which he was formerly unacquainted, insomuch that reading the 5th, 6th and 7th chapters of St. Matthew he vowed, 'That either this was not the Gospel or we were not Christians,' which speech (though much condemned by the relater thereof) is capable of a charitable sense as taxing men's practice so much different from God's precepts. He died Anno Dom. 1524 on the twelfth of October, and lieth buried in St. Paul's, under a stately monument built to his memory by Dr. John Caius, and a Phœnix is erected on the top thereof. Yea, I may call these two doctors the two Phœnixes of their profession in our nation, and justify the expression, seeing the later in some sort sprang of the ashes of the former, and Caius came not into general credit till after the decease of Linaere." Erasmus evidently thought most highly of him. "When," he wrote, "I listen to my friend Colet it seems to me like listening to Plato himself. In Grocyn who does not admire the wide range of his knowledge? What could be more searching, deep, and refined than the judgment of Linaere?" He is said to have been the first Englishman who read Aristotle and Galen in the original Greek. It has been remarked of Linaere: "His was the true philosophical mind which assimilated every particle of intellectual nourishment the age could afford, the mind of the truly educated man." His house in Knighttrider Street, where he died of the stone, with great pain, at the age of 64, was given by him to the College of Physicians, and long used as their place of meeting. Hasted says "he was born at Canterbury, and descended from the Lynacres of Lynacre Hall, in the county of Derby. He was educated in the school of the Priory of Christ Church in Canterbury, under the learned William of Selling, afterwards Prior, from whence he was sent to Oxford and chosen Fellow of All Souls' College. Entering into Holy Orders he was collated in 1509 to the

Rectory of Mersham." Merstham is certainly the parish of which Linaere was Rector, since in the original Register of the Archbishop it is described as being "in the deanery of Croydon," which Mersham, near Ashford in Kent, of course never was. Both livings are in the patronage of the see of Canterbury. It does not appear when Linaere first took orders, but he was not a priest till 22nd December, 1520, being then Rector of Wigan. His appointment to Merstham was probably intended merely to facilitate some other arrangement for his advantage, which took effect five weeks after his collation.

JOHN MITTON, 29th November, 1509, "on the resignation of Dr. Linaere."

ROWLAND PHILLIPS, 30th September, 1520, "on death of the last Incumbent." Probably the person whom Anthony Wood calls "an eminent preacher, Vicar of Croydon and afterwards Warden of Merton College, Oxford."

THOMAS ROGERS. In a Surrey Fine he is described as "parson of Merstham, temp. Henry 8," and may most reasonably be placed here.

JOHN WYSTOWE, 3rd September, 1557. Sir Thomas Saunders, Knight, patron for this turn. Under the year 1569 the Register states that "John Wystow, Parson of Merstham, was buried the 24th day of March." He had previously resigned, and either continued to live in the parish, or was brought here for burial, for we find

ROBERT COLE collated to the rectory in June 1568, "on resignation of John Westow." He is *probably* the person elected from Eton to King's College, Cambridge, 1541, who graduated B.A. 154 $\frac{2}{7}$  and M.A. 1550. During the reign of Mary, he and his wife showed much kindness to the distressed Protestants. He seems to have lived in or near London, but from time to time visited the Continent in order to keep up the correspondence between the exiles and their English friends. On 23rd December, 1559, he was collated by Archbishop Parker to the rectory of St. Mary-le-Bow, London. When the disputes arose about wearing the ecclesiastical vestments, he at first took part with the dissentients, but finally complied with the established order. Uniformity being decreed, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners gave "an object lesson" at Lambeth in 1565. We are told that "on this occasion Mr. Robert Cole, a minister of the city, lately a non-conformist but now reduced to compliance, was dressed out in full clerical panoply, and placed as the front figure in the meeting, while the chancellor of the Bishop of London thus harangued the auditory: 'My masters and the ministers of London, the Council's pleasure is, that ye strictly keep the unity of apparel, like to this man as you see him; that is, a square cap, a scholar's gown, priest-like, a tippet, and in the church a linen surplice; and invariably observe the rubric of the Common Prayer and the Queen's Majesty's injunctions, and the book of Convocation. Ye that will presently subscribe, write 'Volo'; those that will not

subscribe, write 'Nolo.' Be brief, make no words.'" All who refused were in the first instance sequestered, and afterwards several were deposed and deprived. Parker wrote to Cecil, 7th April, 1565: "Mr. Cole is now at the court in his hat and short cloak." The next year, 12th April, 1566, he says, "As for mine own 'peculiars,' 14 or 15, all be in order. Some did refuse, but now they be induced, and they be counted sortly learned with the best of them, as one Cole of Bow Church, and one Bedell of Pancras. And I can do no more." The Archbishop preferred Mr. Cole to the rectory of All-Hallows, Bread Street, 15th January, 1568. In Bradford's *Remains* are letters addressed to him by the martyr, and some pieces of his are contained in a collection of Exercises, Meditations and Prayers by "certain godly and learned men." He died about April, 1577.

JOHN IGULDEN, B.D., 2nd June, 1569, "on resignation of Robert Cole." Rector of Monk's Horton, near Ashford, Kent, 1568—70. Rector of Fordwich, 1572. Vicar of Milton-next-Sittingbourne, 1584—5.

STEPHEN BATEMAN (or Batman), 7th February, 1579, "on the resignation of the last rector." A native of Bruton, in Somersetshire, he received his early education in the grammar school of that place, and then proceeded to Cambridge, where he enjoyed in time the reputation of being a learned and excellent preacher. He is presumably the Bateman who in 1534 took the degree of LL.B., being then in priest's orders and a student of six years' standing. Archbishop Parker appointed him one of his domestic chaplains, and employed him in the collection of the noble library now deposited in Corpus Christi College. He is said to have collected for his patron not less than 6,700 volumes. He held the rectory of Newington Butts, and in 1582 was chaplain to Henry Lord Hunsdon.

In 1569 Bateman published *The trauayled Pylgrime, bringing newes from all partes of the worlde, such like scarce harde of before*, from which the following stanzas are taken.

## I.

Who woulde not trauaile all his life  
Such science for to knoe,  
As able is to rid from strife  
This carcase bare, and woe?

## II.

The state itself is nothing sure,  
Full soon doth vade away:  
No earthly thing doth long endure,  
But once it doth decay.

## III.

Why then is man so lothe to goe,  
This fickle life to leaue?  
Sith he so well the state doth know  
He doth himself deceaue.

## IV.

The pompous state and worldly welth,  
 Doth many mindes so blinde,  
 That when they should accomptes repay,  
 Most farthest are behinde.

## V.

The birde that in the cage doth sing  
 Sometimes both shrill and cleere,  
 In ayrie skye with better note,  
 As doth full well appeere ;

## VI.

Because his kinde is there to be  
 If he the cage may scape :  
 Most joyfull then beginnes his laye ;  
 No more for feare doth quake.

## VII.

But man's regard is nothing so,  
 The cage of sinne to flie ;  
 The greater plague doth oft ensue  
 When that the poor doth erie.

## VIII.

For many goods so well doth loue,  
 They care not how they get ;  
 So they may haue to serue their mindes  
 Their whole desire is set.

See *Cooper's Athenæ Cantab<sup>s</sup>*.

Mr. Bateman was the author of eight works. He died in 1584.

RICHARD WOOD, D.D., 7th December, 1584, "on the death of the last rector." Admitted a scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge, in November, 1562, he graduated B.A. in 1565, became a fellow, and took his degree of M.A. in 1569. In 1577 he proceeded B.D., and in 1579 was incorporated B.D. at Oxford. In 1583 he was created D.D. at Cambridge. In 1584 Archbishop Whitgift, whose chaplain he was, recommended him for the deanery of Ely or of Peterborough, in view of certain contemplated promotions. On the 27th of January, 1584-5, Dr. Wood was instituted to the rectory of All-Hallows, Barking. He also held the prebend of Portpoole in St. Paul's Cathedral. In 1587 he occurs as Prebendary of Yatton in Wells Cathedral. In 1587 a canony at Westminster was conferred upon him, and in 1591 the Archbishop collated him to the rectory of Bocking. About this time he resigned All-Hallows and Merstham. April 29th, 1597, he was installed a canon of Canterbury. The Archbishop in 1599 constituted him and George Meriton, B.D., joint deans of Bocking ; and 9th June,

1600, bestowed on him the rectory of Stisted. Dr. Wood died 15th September, 1609, and was buried the next day in Canterbury Cathedral. He is supposed to have assisted in some of the answers to the Marprelate tracts, was licenser of the press for Archbishop Whitgift, and was nick-named "Never-be-good" by Martin Marprelate.

THOMAS RAVIS, D.D., 27th October, 1591, "on resignation of Dr. Woode." Born at Malden in Surrey, of illustrious parentage (*claris natalibus*), he was educated as a King's scholar at Westminster. In 1575 he was admitted a student of Christ Church, Oxford; became Dean in 1594, and for two years held the office of Vice-Chancellor of the University. His portrait forms part of the well-known collection in the College Hall. By James I, Dr. Ravis was nominated one of the translators of the Bible, and was employed on the Gospels, Acts, and Revelation. In 1605 he was consecrated Bishop of Gloucester. Fuller says of him, "When many suitors greedily sought the Bishoprick, then vacant, the Lords of the Council requested Dr. Ravis to accept thereof. As he was not very willing to go thither, so (after his three years' abode there) those of Gloucester were more unwilling he should go thence, who had in so short a time gained the good liking of all sorts, that some who could scant brook the name of *Bishop* were content to give (or rather pay) him a good report." On the 2nd of June, 1607, he was enthroned as Bishop of London, where he died 14th December, 1609, and was buried in the Cathedral, "under a fair tomb, in the wall, at the upper end of the north part." The monument was, of course, destroyed by the fire which consumed Old St. Paul's. Before the erection of the monument the Bishop had been eulogised by his successor in the Deanery of Christ Church, Corbet, afterwards Bishop of Oxford and Norwich, in the following lines reprinted by Dean Milman:—

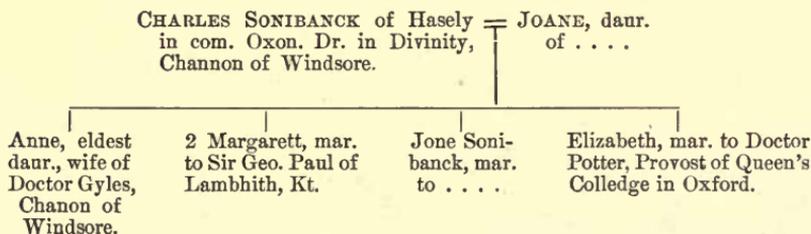
"And wisely do thy grieved friends forbear  
 Bubbles and alabaster boys to reare  
 On thy religious dust, for men did know  
 Thy life, which such illusions cannot shew.  
 For thou hast trod among those happy ones  
 Who trust not in their superscriptions;  
 Their hired epitaphs and perjured stone  
 Which oft belies the soul when it is gone;  
 And dar'st commit thy body as it lyes,  
 To tongues of living men, nay unborne eyes."

Mr. Walford says, in his edition of Brayley's *Surrey*, that the arms of Bishop Ravis, viz., a chevron gules between three ravens' heads, erased, sable, "by whose good means and assistance this work" (the rebuilding in 1610 of the old nave and tower of Malden Church) "was begun and brought to pass," are in stained glass in the east window, impaled with those of the see of London.

CHARLES SONIBANKE, D.D., 3rd November, 1598, "on resignation of Dr. Ravis." Anthony Wood, in his *Fasti*, says that he was a

Salopian by birth, and originally of St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, but afterwards of Christ Church. He appears, however, to have been a native of Brunswick. Wood adds, "I have seen a sermon of his, entitled *The Eunuch's Conversion*, preached at Paul's Cross, and published in 1617." He became eventually Rector of Wrotham, Rector of Great Haseley, Oxon., and Canon of Windsor. In the Merstham Register he is called "Right Worshipful," and there is an entry of the baptism of "Johanna the daughter of Charles Sonibanke Doctor of Divinity and Parson of the Reetorie of Mestham," November 25th, St. Catharine's Day, 1607. He was buried at Haseley, where, on a stone in the chancel, is the following inscription:—"Carolus Sunnibanke S.T.P. hujus ecclesie Rector, Windsorensis Canonicus, quod mortale habuit hic deposuit 14 October 1638. Veni cito domine Jesu." On a stone in New Windsor Church is, or was, to be read—"Here lyeth the body of Mrs. Joane Sunnibanke wife to Charles Sunnibanke D.D. and sometymes Prebendary of Windsor. She departed this lyfe Nov. 7th 1662 being aged 86 yeares"—and—"Sacred to the memory of John Hickmore of Aylesford in Kent, gent. of Clifford's Inn in London and one of the Filazers of the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster, in which after he had employed his services 60 years with the greatest fidelity and diligence, worn out with years and cares, he put off mortality in the 1656th year of Christ, in full hopes of mercy and immortality, aged 75. He left behind him Charles Hickmore, the only survivor of his children by Joanna Sunnibanke, one of the daughters of Charles Sonibanke D.D. of the Province of Brunswick, born in Germany. The sorrowing relict erected this monument to her dear and loving Husband. Reader—Consider the swift and flying hours, be Watchful and careful of Eternity and remember that you are a man and must descend into the dust." St. George's Chapel, Windsor, has, or had, this inscription:—"Here lyeth buried the body of Dame Margaret Paule, wife to Sir George Paule, Knight, and daughter to Charles Sunnibanke D.D. and one of the Canons of this Church, who departed this life on Sunday the 24th of January 1629."

The Visitation of Oxfordshire in 1634 contains this Pedigree:—



NORWICH SPACKMAN, M.A., 1611. From the tablet to his memory on the north wall of the chancel of Merstham Church, we learn that he was a native of Worcester, being the son of Thomas Spackman, M.D., of that city. Having received his early education at Worcester School,

he proceeded to Christ Church, Oxford, where he graduated M.A. and became Proctor. Eloquent as a preacher and upright in life, after an incumbency of six years, he died in the very flower of his age, 3rd July, 1617. His wife, Elizabeth, laments the shortness of their married life and expresses the hope of a future reunion.

“Norwicus Spackman e civitate Wigornîâ patre Thomâ Spackmano Doctore Medico natus, liberalibus disciplinis institutus in gymnasio Wigorniensi primo, tum æde Christi Oxoniæ (ubi et magistrali gradu claruit et procuratoriâ dignitate), quum annos sex hanc rexisset ecclesiam, tam vitâ probus quam concionib<sup>9</sup> disertus, in ipso ætatis flore occubuit die 3<sup>o</sup> Julij a<sup>o</sup> 1617.

“Hæc tibi nupta brevis quonda' monume'ta dicavit  
Et dedit insculptas Elisabetha notas,  
Heu breve conjugium mundi sperabitur ergo  
In cœlis posthac sponsus utriq' novus.”

He probably died of a contagious disorder, since he was buried, according to the register, on the day mentioned on the stone as that of his death. He was chaplain to James Montague, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and published a sermon preached before James I at Whitehall in 1614. His father, who was of Christ College, Cambridge, was the author of *A declaration of such grievous accidents that commonly follow the biting of mad dogs, together with the Cure thereof.*

THOMAS GOAD, D.D., 14th August, 1617, “on the death of Norwich Spackman.” Fuller, in his *Worthies*, says of him—“He was son to Dr. Roger Goad more than forty years Provost of King's College, Cambridge, but whether born in the Provost's lodgings or at Milton, Cambridgeshire, I am not fully informed. He was bred a Fellow under his father, afterwards chaplain to Archbishop Abbot, rector of Hadleigh in Suffolk. A great and general scholar, exact critick, historian, poet (delighting in making of verses, till the day of his death), school-man, divine. He was substituted by King James in the place of Dr. Hall (indisposed in health) and sent over to the Synod of Dort. He had a commanding presence, an uncontrollable spirit, impatient to be opposed, and loving to steer the discourse (being a good pilot to that purpose) of all the company he came in. I collect him to have died about the year 1635.” Elsewhere 1638 is given as the date of his death. He is said to have left an estate for the purchase of divinity books for King's College Library. The Communion Cup at Merstham Church was his gift. It bears this inscription, “Deo sacrauit & gregi suo dedit 1623 Tho: Goad Sct<sup>us</sup> Theol<sup>ogus</sup> Dr. Rector eccl<sup>iæ</sup> p<sup>o</sup>chialis de Mestham Comit<sup>atus</sup> Surrey.” There is an entry in the Register relating to a member of his family, presumably a daughter:—“1623 Mr. George Clarke and Mrs. Katharine Goad were married the 14th day of February An<sup>o</sup> Dni. 162 $\frac{3}{4}$ .”

WILLIAM DRURY, B.D., 21st April, 1625. Inducted 23rd April. A dispensation passed 24th March 162 $\frac{3}{4}$  to enable him to hold this

rectory with that of Leyborne in Kent. While at Merstham he lost a son, as appears from the Register—"Thomas Drury ye sonne of William Drury, Rector of Mestham, dyed ye 27 of August and was buried August 30th 1628."

THOMAS BUCKNER, D.D., 27th March, 1632, "on resignation of William Drury." In 1630 he was Rector of Sandhurst, Kent, which he resigned the year he was appointed to Merstham, and as his successor *there* was Walter Drury, evidently a young man since he lived till 1680, it is likely that an arrangement had been made between him and his predecessor *here*. In 1640 he was nominated Rector of Chevening, Hasted says "by the Parliament," and apparently held both benefices for the remainder of his life. Wood writes (*Fasti*) "of Magdalen College Oxford, D.D. 1638. About this time Prebendary of Winchester and dying in 1644, was, I presume, according to his desire, 'buried at the foot of his Uncle,' Mr. Adam Buckner, 'in the Chancel of the Church at Merstham in Surrey.'"

In consequence of the success of the Great Rebellion a new order of things had now arisen. We learn from the *Commons Journals*, 31st January, 164 $\frac{1}{2}$ , that "The petition of Mr. Blackwell, minister, was read, and it is ordered, 'That Mr. Serjeant Wilde do bring in an Ordinance for the instituting and inducting Mr. BLACKWELL in the Parsonage of Merstham in the county of Surrey, become void by the death of Doctor Buckner, the late Incumbent, in the gift of the late Archbishop of Canterbury (Laud) convicted of High Treason.' " Mr. BLACKWELL, who was probably a Presbyterian, continued in possession until his death, though the name of WILLIAM JOY occurs as "Officiating Minister" in 1645, and that of WILLIAM SHOVE in 1652 and 1653. On the 31st of August, 1653, he was dead; for under that date there is a "resolution" in the *Journals* "that Mr. ABRAHAM MURLINE be, and is hereby, vested and settled Minister of Merstham, in the county of Surrey, in the stead and place of Mr. SIMON" (elsewhere called WILLIAM) "BLACKWELL deceased." Mr. Murline's stay, however, if he ever came, was but short. In 1654 WILLIAM ANGELL held the Rectory. His wedding is thus recorded in the Register:—"William Angell, Minister of Merstham, and Barbara Williamson of the Parish of Margarets Westminster, were married the first day of January in the yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty-four"—*i.e.*, 1655 according to the New Style. At the restoration of Episcopacy with the Monarchy in 1660, Mr. Angell resigned his preferment. Calamy's account of him is, that "he was M.A. of Christ Church Oxford, the younger son of a gentleman in Worcestershire, much beloved by his Parishioners, who earnestly pressed him to stay, and offered to get one to officiate for him in what he scrupled; but he told them he should not like another should do that for him which he himself did not approve. Being ejected he became a school-master and bred many good scholars. He was of great moderation and charity. He died in March 168 $\frac{1}{2}$  and was buried in Old Bethlem."

JOHN HARRIS, B.D., 1660. On the 24th of August in the same year, immediately after the restoration of Charles II, Mr. Harris was installed as Prebendary of Inkbarrow in Hereford Cathedral. From the Register it appears that the Christian name of his wife was Jane, and that two sons, John and Thomas, and two daughters, Judith and Barbara, were born to him and baptized during his incumbency of Merstham. Of these the last named, Barbara, died two months before her father and was buried near him in this church. Within the altar-rails were formerly two slabs, which probably still exist beneath the tiles, bearing the following inscriptions: "Here lyeth the body of John Harris, Batchelor of Divinity, Prebend of Hereford, late Rector of this Parish, who departed this life ye 26 of October anno Domini 1678, aged 70 years," and, "Here lyeth ye body of Barbara Harris, daughter of John Harris, late Rector of this Parish, who departed this life ye 8th day of August anno Domini 1678 aged 12 years."

CHARLES TRUMBULL, LL.D., of All Souls' College, Oxford, was inducted 23rd November, 1678. He was the fourth son of William Trumbull, of East Hampstead, Berks, Clerk to the Signet, and the brother of Sir William Trumbull, Knight, LL.D., Ambassador at Constantinople and Secretary of State. He became Rector of Hadleigh in Suffolk, and left a daughter and heiress, Laurentia, who was married in 1699, at the age of 18, to Joseph Alston, Esq., of Edwardston. When Archbishop Sancroft celebrated Holy Communion for the last time in Lambeth Chapel, on Whitsunday, 31st May, 1691, the day of Tillotson's consecration, Dr. Trumbull, then Rector of Stisted, assisted by another non-juror, probably William Snatt, Vicar of Cuckfield, read the service and preached. He had been chaplain to the Archbishop, and administered the Sacrament to him the day before his death.

JAMES SAMBORNE, M.A., inducted 18th October, 1679. The Register records his burial, 18th February, 172 $\frac{3}{4}$ . It took place in the churchyard, where a stone to his memory yet remains. He was found dead in his bed at the age of 80. I have been told that when a thief on one occasion got into a pear-tree in the Rectory orchard Mr. Samborne (or Mr. Mills) went in pursuit, and was supposed by his enlightened parishioners to have fixed the man in the tree by some supernatural power. In Manning and Bray's *History of Surrey*, it is said that the Southcotes, who were then the chief family in the parish and very liberal to the poor, left Merstham in disgust, because Mr. Samborne refused to allow one of them to be buried in the church. There may have been a quarrel about fees, but I cannot help thinking that what was refused was permission to use the Roman Service. As owners of Albery Chapel they had surely the right to bury in it, though with the Anglican Office.

HENRY MILLS, M.A., of Trinity College, Oxford, was inducted 23rd February, 172 $\frac{3}{4}$ . He served the cure of Pilton and Chapelry of North Wootton, being also master of the Grammar School at Wells. We find him about 1700 Rector of Diunder, Somerset, and Prebendary of

Wells. In the Bangorian controversy he distinguished himself as an opponent of Hoadley. From 1711 to his death he was Chaplain of Whitgift's Hospital, Croydon. He published in 1732 an *Essay on Generosity and Greatness of Spirit*, praising the builders of hospitals, colleges, and schools. The paten now used at Holy Communion in Merstham Church was presented by him in 1728. He was buried in the chancel, where, on a slab, is this inscription to his memory: "Here lies the body of the Rev. Mr. Henry Mills, Rector of this Parish, who died April 12, 1742, aged 70."

THOMAS TANNER, D.D., May, 1742. A son of Dr. Tanner, Bishop of St. Asaph, the author of *Notitia Monastica*; he married Mary, daughter of Archbishop Potter, and in January, 1746, was installed a Canon of Canterbury. He vacated Merstham in order to hold the Rectories of Hadleigh and Monk's Eleigh in Suffolk. In Hadleigh Church is a mural monument for "Thomas Tanner, D.D., Rector, and Prebendary of Canterbury, who died 11 March, 1786, aged 68, and Mary his wife, who died 30 April 1779, aged 56." They left an only daughter, Mary, married to Richard Milles, Esq., M.P., of Nackington, whose daughter, Mary, became the wife of Lord Sondes.

JEREMIAH MILLES, D.D., was inducted in October, 1745. Born in 1714; he was the son of Jeremiah Milles, 42 years Vicar of Duloe, grandson of Isaac Milles of Cockfield, Suffolk, Rector of Highclere, Hants, and nephew and heir of Thomas Milles, Bishop of Waterford. On quitting Eton, he entered as Gentleman Commoner at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, proceeding B.A., 1733; M.A., 1735; B.D. and D.D., 1747. The greater part of the years 1733—1737 was spent by him in travelling through Europe with his cousin, Richard Pocock, afterwards Bishop of Meath. Numerous manuscripts descriptive of these and later expeditions, and a register of letters written by him from abroad, are in the British Museum. From December, 1737, to November, 1744, Mr. Milles was Precentor of Waterford Cathedral, to the adornment of which he contributed £50, and for a short time held a living near that city. On the death of his uncle in 1740 he inherited a considerable fortune. It is said that "he would have been content to remain in Ireland but that the habits of that country proved to be so little in unison with his tastes as to decide him to return to England." In 1741 he became a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, in 1742 a Fellow of the Royal Society, and about that time a member of the club formed for the investigation of Egyptian antiquities. He now married Edith, daughter of Archbishop Potter, and received from his father-in-law, in December, 1744, the Rectory of Saltwood, which he resigned in 1746 on his appointment to Merstham, and the Rectory of St. Edmund the King, Lombard Street, with the sinecure of West Tarring. At Tarring he repaired the hall of the old parsonage and adapted it for a charity school. In May, 1747, he became Precentor and Prebendary of Exeter. His wife died 9th June, 1761, aged 35. The following year, 1762, on the elevation of his friend Dr. Lyttelton (who died in his arms) to the Bishoprick of Carlisle, he was preferred

to the Deanery of Exeter. In 1767 he rebuilt the front part of the Rectory at Merstham, as appears by the date, with his initials, on a stone let into the south chimney. Dr. Milles became President of the Society of Antiquaries in 1769. He contributed several learned papers to the *Archæologia*. The great literary error of his life was his advocacy of the genuineness of the Rowley Poems, which entailed on him hostile criticism and ridicule from which his reputation never recovered. His contemporaries have borne fair testimony to his piety and integrity, as well as to the amiability of his disposition and manners. As a father, and latterly as a widower, charged with the welfare of a youthful family, he was especially deserving of praise. Miss Burney speaks of the sons "as very agreeable, appearing to regard their father only as an elder brother." "I have been a frequent witness," says Gough, the antiquary, "of the domestic happiness of Dr. Milles, who kept his children in that friendship and affection with him and with one another which all who knew him will bear testimony to with me." In 1775 Dean Milles was chosen Prolocutor of the Lower House of Convocation. He died 13th February, 1784, and was buried beside his wife at St. Edmund's, Lombard Street, where is a monument to their memory. A bust of him is in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries at Burlington House. The silver flagon used in Merstham Church was given by him in 1763; the year in which he presented the arms of the Trevors in stained glass to Glynde Church. He left three sons, Jeremiah, Richard, Thomas, and two daughters, one of whom married Captain Blake. In early life he made large collections for a history of Devonshire, and for illustrating the *Domesday* survey and the Danish coinage.

RICHARD RICHARDSON, D.D., of Queen's College, Oxford, 1784. A minor Canon of Durham. Precentor of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. He resigned Merstham in order to take preferment in the diocese of Durham, where he became perpetual curate of Witton-Gilbert and Rector of Elwick.

MARTIN BENSON, M.A., 1791. The Register contains the following "Memorandum, June the fourteenth, 1791, Martin Benson, A.M., was inducted into the Rectory of Merstham, vacant by the resignation of the Reverend Richard Richardson: and read-in on the 10th of July following." He was the son of John Benson, D.D., Canon of Canterbury and Vicar of Boxley, by his wife, Susanna, daughter of Dr. Oliver of Bath; and named after his great-uncle, Martin Benson, Bishop of Gloucester, 1735-52. On the nomination of his father he was licensed 21st September, 1783, to the Curacy of St. Michael, Paternoster Row. In December, 1787, Mr. Benson was presented by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury to the sinecure Rectory of Orgarswick in Romney Marsh, which he resigned on his appointment to Merstham. In 1786 or 1787 he became minister of what is now known as the Old Chapel at Tonbridge Wells, then, and until the erection of Trinity Church in 1824, the only place of worship belonging to the Church of England in the town. For many years he divided his time between

Merstham and Tonbridge Wells, enjoying much esteem in both places. At one period of his life he was Rector of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, and is said by Hasted to have succeeded his father in the Registrarship of the diocese of Gloucester. The only publication of his with which I am acquainted is a Sermon against cruelty to animals. Mr. Benson's first wife, described as a person of very engaging manners, was his cousin, the daughter of Dr. James Benson, Canon and Chancellor of Gloucester, by Anne, daughter of Allen, afterwards Earl Bathurst. The second was a Mrs. Aldersley, the possessor of considerable property. From an entry made by him in the fly-leaf of the Register, we learn that in "1792 the Parsonage House underwent a thorough repair: the wall which separates the garden from the farm-yard, the stable and other offices as wash-house, &c., were built, the garden laid out, the Chancel entirely new glazed and painted, by the Rev. Martin Benson, A.M., Rector, at the expense of £617:18s. 7½d., including £123:8s. received for dilapidations." A second entry tells us that "in 1815 the Parsonage House was enlarged by the housekeeper's room and an additional story to the servants' chambers." We are told that "in 1816 the new road from Merstham to Gatton was made and the old one shut up; in consequence, that part of the old road which passed by the Parsonage" (part of the Pilgrims' Way), "being useless, was given by Mr. Jolliffe, the Lord of the Manor, together with the waste by the side of it, to the Rectory; and was laid into the Parsonage garden: at the same time the old Poor House, which stood precisely at the present entrance into the Parsonage garden, was pulled down, and rebuilt on a piece of ground given for the purpose by Hylton Jolliffe, Esq., and at his expense." Under the year 1827 he writes, "A new church clock was this year given to the Parish by Sir William Jolliffe, Bart., M.P. It is said that sundry small pieces of land in the common fields had in former times been given (by whom is not known) to the parish for the maintenance of a church clock. From the general enclosures of land in the parish these lands could no longer be ascertained, though the reported gift was never denied. This donation, therefore, of a new clock may be considered as a compensation for the loss of lands which seem to have been appropriated to the same purpose." Mr. Benson was buried in the Chancel, in front of the Altar rail, as were also his first wife and their two daughters. The four are commemorated on the slabs placed over them, while to Mr. Benson himself an additional monument was erected by his Executors.

On the Chancel Floor:—

"Hereunder lieth the body of Mary the much lamented wife of The Reverend Martin Benson who followed her beloved daughters the xxi day of December M.D.C.C.XIII aged LVI years. In the same grave are deposited the remains of the Reverend Martin Benson 42 years the beloved Rector of this Parish who was translated to a better world April 1. 1833 aged 72 years."

"Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of Louisa Benson, the youngest daughter of the Revd. Martin Benson, Rector of this Parish, who exchanged this life for a better the xxix day of February

M.D.C.C.C.XIII aged XVIII years, as are likewise those of her sister Mary Anne Benson who departed this life Aug<sup>t</sup> the v<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1812 aged xxv years."

On a marble tablet on the south wall of the chancel :—

†

I. H. S.

"The just shall live by Faith.

"Sacred to the memory of The Revd. Martin Benson, Rector of Merstham, who, in the faithful discharge of every duty, as a kind and benevolent Minister of the Gospel, and Magistrate, maintained the respect, esteem, and attachment of his Parishioners, above forty years ; He was also Minister in the Chapel of Tonbridge Wells, during forty-three years, where he was equally valued by the inhabitants, and numerous visitors who frequented that place, and who sincerely lamented when from ill health he was compelled to relinquish his charge, which took place on the 10th of January, 1829. He obeyed with pious resignation his summons from Heaven to receive the promised reward of a well-spent life, on the 1st of April, 1833, in the 72nd year of his age. His mortal remains are deposited in this Church.

'Forgive, blest shade, the tributary tear  
That mourns thy exit from a world like this.  
Forgive the wish that would have kept thee here  
And stay'd thy progress to the realms of bliss.'

JOHN ADOLPHUS WRIGHT, M.A., of Christ Church, Oxford, 10th April, 1833. Mr. Wright considered the Rectory House at Merstham unhealthy, and for some time lived at Pendell in Blechingley. He published a volume of *Sermons on the Sabbath*. Just before he left the parish he gave a new stone reredos (removed in 1878) to take the place of the large French engraving of the Lord's Supper, which had long occupied the space above the Holy Table, and in the course of years had become torn and crumpled. In 1839 Archbishop Howley, to whom he was chaplain and whose daughter he married, preferred him to the Rectory of Ickham, near Canterbury. There he remained until 1874, when he resigned under the Act 34 and 35 Victoria, cap. 44, and retiring to Tick-hill Castle, Yorkshire, died there at an advanced age, 16th June, 1881.

JOHN MANLEY, M.A., University College, Oxford, 15th May, 1839. Previously Vicar of Westwall and of Godmersham, both near Ashford, Kent. He had been curate of Amersham, Bucks., of East Peckham, and of Wrotham, and married the daughter of the Rector of that parish, Dr. George Moore, Canon of Cauterbury (son of Archbishop Moore), by his first wife Lady Mary Elizabeth Hay, daughter of James Earl of Errol. During Mr. Manley's incumbency Merstham Church was twice "restored"; in 1860, and again, with better judgment, in

1875. In his time, also, the additional burial ground given by Lord Hylton, was provided for the use of the parishioners. Reference is made to it in the *Life of Bishop Wilberforce*:—"Feb<sup>y</sup> 4, 1873. Lavington. Up betimes. Wrote a little for Knox. After breakfast packed and wrote again. At 2.30 off. Wrote in train. At Merstham consecrated the Church Yard in the dark. Impromptu service in Church; preached on the scene—the darkness *outside*, the light *in*—the Parable of Death." Mr. Manley, who had long ceased to take any active part in parochial duty, died 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 1875. Mrs. Manley removed to Brighton, where she died 18<sup>th</sup> January, 1878, but was buried beside her husband in the churchyard, where is a stone with the following inscription:—

"In memory of



John Manley M.A. Rector of Merstham. December 28. 1875 aged 83. 'There remaineth a rest to the people of God.' And of Caroline Mary, his wife, who entered into rest 18 January 1878 aged 76."

Mr. Manley had an only child, who became the wife of George Lyall, Esq., M.P. for Whitehaven. She is buried at Gatton, but the east window of the Alderstead Chapel in Merstham Church has been filled with stained glass as a memorial of her, and bears this inscription, "In Dei honorem et Eleanoræ Harriettæ memoriam conjugis suæ desideratissimæ, Rectoris hujus ecclesiæ filia unica, xi Kal. Jun. abrepta A.S. M.D.C.C.LIII. æt. XXIX hanc fenestellam erigit Georgius Lyall."

WALTER FIELD, M.A., F.S.A., of Worcester College, Oxford, 1876. Mr. Field had been curate of St. Paul's, Kingston-on-Hull, of Streatham, and of St. Edward's, Romford, Secretary to the Canterbury Diocesan Church Building Society, and from 1864 vicar of Godmersham, Kent. He was author of *Stones of the Temple*. So far as concerns Merstham we may call him "nominis umbra." For the time he lived in the parish was less than a month. Having a great wish to visit Italy, he determined to avail himself of the interval between leaving Godmersham and settling at Merstham. At Rome he contracted the fever, but partially recovered and returned to England. He "read himself in" in Merstham Church on Sunday morning, was too ill to officiate in the evening, took to his bed and died that day three weeks, Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1876. He lies in the churchyard, as does his widow. The inscription on the stone is as follows: "In memory of Walter Field, M.A., F.S.A. 5 months Rector of Merstham. Formerly Vicar of Godmersham, Kent. Entered into rest, May 21, 1876, aged 52. 'Them also that sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him. Remember me, O my God, for good.' And of Lydia Ann, his widow, who died at Croydon, December 22, 1882, aged 52. 'Then are they glad because they are at rest. He bringeth them unto the haven where they would be.'" Mr. Field left a daughter and two sons, of whom the elder is Rector of Petrockstow, Devon.

AUGUSTUS JOHN PEARMAN, M.A., of Pembroke College, Oxford, 1876. Curate of Ashford, Kent, 1854. Vicar of Bethersden, Kent, 1857—1866. Vicar of Rainham, Kent, and Surrogate, 1866—1876. He resigned 1894, and removed to Rochester. Compiler of these notes on the Rectors. Author of *History of the Diocese of Rochester*, S.P.C.K.; *History of Ashford*; *Ashford, its Church, Vicars, College, and Grammar School*.

REGINALD ILLINGWORTH WOODHOUSE, M.A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, B.A., 1877; M.A., 1883; inducted January 28th, 1895, by Archdeacon Burney; ordained deacon in 1878 by Bishop Jackson of London for Archbishop Tait; priest in 1879 by Archbishop Tait, as curate of Holy Trinity, Beckenham. In 1880 became curate of Kensington under Dr. Glyn, Bishop of Peterborough, and was senior curate when he left, and in charge of Christ Church, Victoria Road. In 1887 Archbishop Benson presented him with the new district of St. Luke's, Bromley Common, which was cut off from Holy Trinity and formed into a separate Ecclesiastical parish. In 1894 Archbishop Benson presented him to the living of Merstham. In 1897 he was appointed surrogate by Chancellor Dibdin, D.C.L. Author of a *Life of Cardinal Morton*, and editor of the *Life and Poetical Works of James Woodhouse, What is the Church?* During his incumbency the new Parish of South Merstham has been formed, and a church and parsonage built.