

than probable Litcote was the means employed for disposing of the church property the King then had in such abundance, for we notice his name constantly recurring as having purchased similar properties direct from the Crown, retaining them, however, seldom more than a year or two. Such is the case with his purchase of Wargrave Vicarage. After holding possession for less than two years, he disposed of it at a considerably enhanced price to George Kensham, gentleman."

1547. In 1547, Sir Alexander Unton, of Wadley, Faringdon, died "possessed of lands in Swallowfield." (See his will registered in Prerog. Court of Canterbury.) He was son of Sir Thomas Unton, who claimed descent from Sir Robert Danvers, of Ipwall, Oxon, who died 1467, so that he probably got this property as a descendant of the de la Beches.

1548. Katharine Parr, the last of Henry VIII.'s wives, having died in 1548, Swallowfield devolved upon Edward VI., who 1553. sold it in 1553 for £783 8s. 2³d. to the afore-mentioned Christopher Lytcott and Katherine his wife.

1553. The Manor of Swallowfield was rated together with the Manor of Shenfelde at 25 years' purchase, but, in consequence of a letter, received from the Marquess of Northampton (Katharine Parr's brother) the Manor of Shenfelde was appointed to remain in the King's hand because "it doithe lye nigh the Kinge's parke of Whitley." This appears to have been the first severance of the two manors.

THE PRIORY OF ST. MARY'S, HURLEY, BERKS.—The Vicar of Hurley is to be congratulated upon having re-discovered an original charter relating to his parish. Through the courtesy of the Dean of Westminster he has recently succeeded in obtaining a perfect and full copy of the original deed of gift by Geoffrey de Magnaville when he founded the Benedictine monastery at Hurley in the last year of William the Conqueror (1086). The transcript has been made on a large parchment broad sheet under the auspices of the Society of Antiquaries by an expert. Bishop Osmund of Salisbury is the principal witness to the charter. The monastery was founded as a cell to Westminster Abbey, and the original deed has been preserved in the muniment tower of the Abbey. It is in (abbreviated) Latin. Mr. Wethered is engaged in making a careful and complete translation of it into English. A copy of this charter deed appears in "Dugdale's Monasticon."