NAME.	DOORWAYS.
Stanton Bury Church	N. and S.
Stewkley Church	W., N., S., S. Chancel and N. Tower interior.
Stoke Mandeville Church	N.
Stone Church	S.
Stratford, Water, Church	S. and N. Chancel.
Turville Church	N. and S.
Twyford Church	S.
Upton-cum-Chalvey Church ...	N. and S. Tower interior.
Waddesdon Church	S.
Westbury Church...	
Winchendon, Over, Church... ...	S.
Worminghall Church	N. and S.

The History of Compton Wynyates.

By Walter Money, F.S.A.

IT has well been remarked that there is no spot so difficult to find, and no place better worth seeing in the county of Warwick, than the old moated mansion of Compton Wynyates. The greater part of the moat is now filled up, and the spot on which the old stables stood outside the drawbridge is now a verdant lawn, by the side of which the road winds which leads you to the hoary portal of this quaint and retired house, which stands in a deep hollow of the range of hills, of which Edgehill forms a part. In the quiet valley of the Vineyard, for so its name imports, the family of Compton have long been connected, and from it they have taken their name. The name of Compton appears in deeds as early as the twelfth century, but it was not until William Compton, who was left fatherless at the age of eleven, that the family assumed a high position in the country. William Compton was a page to Henry Duke of York, the second son of Henry VII. When the Duke of York became king, under the title of Henry VIII., William Compton became gentleman of the bedchamber, and was advanced to various offices and trusts. He was knighted, was created Chancellor of

Ireland, and led the rear guard of the King's troops at Therouene. It was this Sir William who built the present home at Compton Wynyates.

From whichever side you approach Compton Wynyates you cannot obtain a view till you are close upon it, and hence it is better locally known as Compton-in-the-hole than by its proper title. It is a brick and timber building of singular construction, and is quadrangular in plan with a projecting gateway or porch, leading to the inner court, over which are the Royal arms. The timbers have become dark with age, the bricks have lost their brightness, and the lighter mortar gives a venerable tone to the whole. In the gable to the right are what was known as the officers quarters, and beyond are the barracks. The turret leads to the prison, the cell, and the outer walls, for Compton Wynyates is a transition house. It is the style of a fortified dwelling, for the garrison occupied but a slight portion of the building, with a separate entrance from the family and domestics. As you approach the time beaten door and raise the heavy knocker, you cannot but be struck with the old-fashioned escutcheons, and the continued repetition of the Tudor badges on every panel and spandril, indications of the loyalty of the Comptons. On the right is the room in which King Hal made merry. On the left King Charles slept the night prior to the fatal battle of Edgehill.

Passing through the gateway you find yourself in the square court round which the house is built. The great hall is opposite to you on the right. You are struck with its grand bay window, with its turreted head, and ornamented frieze. The old hall is lofty, and retains the style and feature of the feudal age. In its oaken roof may yet be seen traces of the aperture, as at Penshurst, whence the smoke made its escape from the fire in the centre of the floor. It has its old minstrel gallery, and the screen beneath is curiously carved with fine tracery of leaves. In the centre of the screen is a cross panel, with a rude escutcheon of the arms of the Comptons. Pieces of tapestry hang on the walls. The dais, where the Comptons sat, is gone. The banners which waved in the smoky roof wave there no longer, and the arms and armour, trophies of hard fought fields, which were wont to cover the walls, have vanished. There is a solar, but it leads into a suite of rooms, and a new and spacious staircase leads to the rooms on either side of the quadrangle. And what rooms? Here is the ghost room, and here the secret chamber. In that spacious apartment Tudor and Stuart have rested. There is a stately chapel on the ground floor, which still

retains some of its fine panel work, but the beautiful painted glass window is gone, taken away bit by bit when Compton was dismantled and the furniture sold over a century ago. The whole roof can be traversed silently. Here are queer passages and queer rooms. It is a gigantic hiding place. If the inside of the house is a study, the chimneys are a marvel. They are of brick, twisted, knotted, turned, fluted, billeted, capped, zigzagged, and ornamental in every conceivable form. The house is the very home of romance and it has a romantic history—it was the married home of the heiress of Canonbury.

Sir William Compton had been dead 60 years when his grandson died in 1588, and Lord William Compton succeeded to the estates. In London the scions of many noble families were engaged in commerce, and making those princely fortunes which enabled them to found a family. Amongst the princely merchants of the time was Alderman Sir John Spencer, Knight, who was an opulent cloth worker, residing at Canonbury House, Islington. Sir John had been more than once Lord Mayor, and had distinguished himself by his munificence and hospitality. His public spirit and great generosity made him a great favourite with Queen Elizabeth, and his great wealth made him an object of wonder to the people. Elizabeth Spenser, the heiress of Canonbury, was the only daughter of Sir John, and was the object of many a young noble's devotions. She was the richest heiress of her time, and her father resolved that she should wed a sober citizen and merchant, and not one of the fly-blows of the Court. At Canonbury she was secluded from nobles and gentles of whatever degree, whilst her father was busy in the city. Elizabeth was a girl of spirit, and Lord William Compton a man of resource. They loved each other. As a baker's boy, he gained admittance to Canonbury House, and one day in the year of grace 1593-4, Sir John, on returning home, found that Elizabeth had flown. Concealed in a baker's basket, Lord William had carried her off, and Elizabeth Spenser was now Lady Compton. Sir John was deeply irritated at his daughter's conduct. The intercession of friends only added to the sore sense of wrong, when suddenly Sir John received an imperative message to meet Her Majesty at her Palace at Greenwich. He prepared to obey the mandate, and he was speedily in the presence of his Queen. Her Majesty received him graciously, and bade him welcome. She explained to him that she wished him to stand sponsor with her to the first child of a young couple whose father had abandoned them. Sir John

willingly consented, and still feeling his daughter's disobedience, promised to adopt Her Majesty's protégé as his own. Her Majesty smiled her thanks, and said the ceremony must be private, as befitted the condition of her poor little charge. Sir John bowed acquiescence, and the Court passed into Her Majesty's private chapel, where the baptismal ceremony was performed, Her Majesty giving the name of Spenser to the boy. The singularity of the incident and the beauty of the child affected Sir John, who at once proposed to make his new name-son his sole heir; and in order that he might not relent, asked Her Majesty to accept his estates in trust for the infant, which he promised to settle irrevocably by deed. Whether the generous offer was accepted by the Queen or not, her eyes sparkled with delight as she accepted the promise, stating that she knew it would be faithfully kept. Then turning to a side door, she said, in a loud tone, "You may enter." The door opened, and Sir John beheld Lord Compton and his daughter, who at once knelt at his feet. The astonishment of Sir John was increased when, before he could speak, the Queen said: "Sir John, the child whom thou hast just adoped is thine own grandson! Take these (his parents) also to your favour; extend to them your forgiveness, and make this one of the happiest hours in a Queen's life!" "Pardon! dearest father, pardon!" cried the weeping daughter. "Pardon!"—continues she, taking the child from an attendant and rising it in her arms,—"pardon for the child's sake!" Lord Compton also joined in the appeal which Sir John could no longer resist. With a voice nearly inaudible by emotion, he exclaimed, "Heaven bless you my children!" embracing them by turns; I do forgive with all my heart the past; and I most sincerely thank Her Majesty, who has brought about this event, and which shall ever be remembered as the happiest moment of my life!"

The son of the first Earl of Northampton—the child of the story, Spenser Compton—was commonly called the loyal Earl of Northampton, from his attachment to the cause of Charles I. The Earl was killed in the battle of Hopton Heath, and five years afterwards his house at Compton Wynyates was garrisoned by the Parliamentarian army. The eldest son and third Earl distinguished himself, like his gallant father under the royal banner, and was with the King during his successful campaign in Cornwall. On arriving at Newbury the Earl was despatched with 1,500 horse for the relief of Banbury Castle, which for 13 weeks had been gallantly defended by his brother, Sir William Compton. Having been reinforced by

Colonel Gage, the Earl advanced to Banbury, routed Colonel Fiennes and raised the siege.

It would be too lengthy a matter to pursue the fortunes of the succeeding Earls of Northampton. We should, however, be scarcely doing our duty were we not to express our grateful thanks to the present Marquis for the privilege afforded us of visiting his beautiful old house on a day when it is not thrown open to visitors, and also for another special favour in being permitted to have luncheon in the grand old banqueting hall of his fathers' ancient seat.

A Tour through Buckinghamshire.

By A. J. Foster, M.A., Vicar of Wootton, Bedfordshire.

(Continued from page 59.)

The very handsome and interesting Church of St. Mary, register 1564, stands at the north-west corner of the town at the highest point. It is cruciform, and on the top of the massive central Early English Tower there is a smaller tower, with spire, built in the 17th century. The main building is also Early English, but both aisles have had Decorated chapels added to them, which give the church the appearance of possessing four aisles. The western entrance and the south porch are capital examples of Early English work. The large Perpendicular west window was filled with stained glass given by Mr. Acton Tindall in 1862.

In the north transept there is a marble figure of a knight in armour of the 14th century. It is supposed to have been the effigy on the tomb of Sir James Boteler, the founder of the Grey Friars, and was discovered in the ruins of that Monastery at the beginning of this century. There is also in this transept a remarkable tomb of the wife and children of Sir Henry Lee of Quarendon.