

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.

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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.

The chancel has original stalls of the 15th century. The architecture and roof of this portion of the church are very interesting, and the triplet Early English east window has been filled with stained glass copied from that found at Chetwode Priory on the western side of the County. There is in the chancel an Easter Sepulchre of Early English date, and on the north side beyond the organ-chamber is a sacristy with an upper story.

South of the vestry, which is on the south side of the chancel, is a Decorated building supposed to be the Lady Chapel, beneath which is a Saxon crypt.

The hanging wardrobe in the vestry should be noticed. It is said to be early 16th century work.

The round font is Norman.

The church was restored under the direction of Sir Gilbert Scott 1869.

The Museum of the Buckinghamshire Archæological Society is in the street leading to the church.

The Rectory of Aylesbury was once appropriated to the Deanery of Lincoln Cathedral. Afterwards it was annexed to a Prebendal stall, and remained a peculiar of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln. Buckinghamshire it will be remembered was formerly in the diocese of Lincoln. Cardinal Pole held the Prebend. Dr. John Hasket, who made an appeal to the Long Parliament on behalf of Cathedral Establishments in 1641, and who was a munificent restorer of Lichfield Cathedral, held the stall. Laurence Chaloner, the first Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, a member of the Hampton Court Conference, 1603, and one of the Translators of the Bible, was also Prebendary of Aylesbury.

The Prebendal House near the church is famous as the residence of John Wilkes. He had been as a boy at a school at Aylesbury under a Mr. Leeson. There was an intimacy between the family of Wilkes and that of Mead of the Prebendal House. A marriage was arranged between young Wilkes who was 21, and Miss Mead who was 32. A daughter was born, and the couple who had lived in the house which was given up to them by the wife's mother, then separated. The political connection of Wilkes with the town was as follows. He was returned at a bye-election in 1757. In 1763 the famous No. 45 of the "North Briton" was published. Next year Wilkes was expelled from the House of Commons, and a new writ was ordered for Aylesbury. He never sat for the Borough again.

Wilkes was Colonel of the Bucks Yeomanry, but was deprived of his commission. He took an active part in local affairs during his residence, as magistrate and member of the Vestry, and gave some new west doors to the church. In the church-yard wall is a tablet which he erected to William Smart his gardener.

Wilkes was succeeded in the representation of Aylesbury by Anthony Bacon the creator of Merthyr Tydvil in Glamorganshire. Richard Russell, Lord Worthing, sat for Aylesbury 1851.

WALTON to the south of the town was once a hamlet. It is now a separate ecclesiastical parish. The Church (Holy Trinity) was built 1842.

In Walton Street there is a Baptist Meeting-house built in 1801. There was a branch of Coram's Foundling Hospital at the Crofts', Walton, in the last century.

The County Gaol on the Berton road, east of the town, was built in 1845. The Buckinghamshire General Infirmary on the north side of the town was built in 1862.

The water supply and sanitary arrangements of Aylesbury are particularly good. Water brought by pipes from the Chiltern Hills is supplied not only to the town, but also to many of the neighbouring villages.

Thus it is that the neighbourhood still keeps up the reputation given it by Michael Drayton :—

“ For Aylesbury's vale that walloweth in her wealth,
And, by her wholesome air continually in health,
Is lusty, firm, and fat, and holds her youthful strength.”

Aylesbury ducks and Aylesbury butter are well-known products of the rich land.

Charles Knight, the Publisher, who was connected with the County, having property through his mother at Ivor, founded the “ Berks Gazette ” at Aylesbury, 1824.

(To be continued.)

