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2

THE CHURCH OF STANWELL, AND ITS
MONUMENTS.

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STANWELL, though within a short ride from London, possesses the tranquillity and quiet charms of rural life as fully as if it were situated a hundred miles from that great city which, extending year by year, swallows up whole villages, and, like jealousy, "grows by what it feeds upon."

The name is pure Saxon, meaning Stone-well, and, though there is no record of the existence of a church here so early as at Staines, which was founded by Ermenildis, daughter of Wulfhere, King of Mercia, A.D. 675,* the manor is particularly mentioned in Domesday Book as containing fifteen hides, and held by Walter Fitzother; that it was then of the value of 14*l.* and also of like value in the time of Edward the Confessor, when it was the property of Azor, a domestic servant of the King. West-bedefunt, another manor in this parish,† is also mentioned in the survey.

* Leland's Collectanea, vol. i. p. 1.

† Domesday, fol. ed. i. 800.

William, the son of Walter Fitzother, being warden or constable of Windsor Castle, assumed the name of Windsor, which thenceforward became the family name, and his son William (who died circa 1194) procured from King Henry II. a confirmation of all the lands which had belonged to Walter his grandfather. The manor continued in the *same family until 1543*. King Henry the Eighth arbitrarily required Andrew Lord Windsor to exchange his estates here for the monastic property of Bordesley Abbey in Worcestershire. The circumstances are characteristic. The King, coming on a visit to Lord Windsor, was received with munificent hospitality, in the midst of which he announced his intention of making the exchange. Lord Windsor was utterly taken by surprise, and in spite of his objections to give up the inheritance of his fathers, he was compelled to obey. Lord Windsor had laid in great stores with the expectation of keeping Christmas at Stanwell, and when he was so summarily ejected he left them all behind, saying that the King should not find the house empty. The deed of exchange is dated 14th March, 34th Henry VIII*

The rectory was formerly a sinecure in the patronage of the Windsor family, and the rectors presented to the vicarage. In 1415 Richard de Windsor exchanged the rectory and advowson with the Abbot and Convent of Chertsey for the manor of West Bedfont in this parish. The rectory was appropriated to the abbey, and a vicarage endowed, *to which the abbots presented until the Dissolution of Monasteries*, when it passed to the Crown, which still presents to the living.†

THE CHURCH.

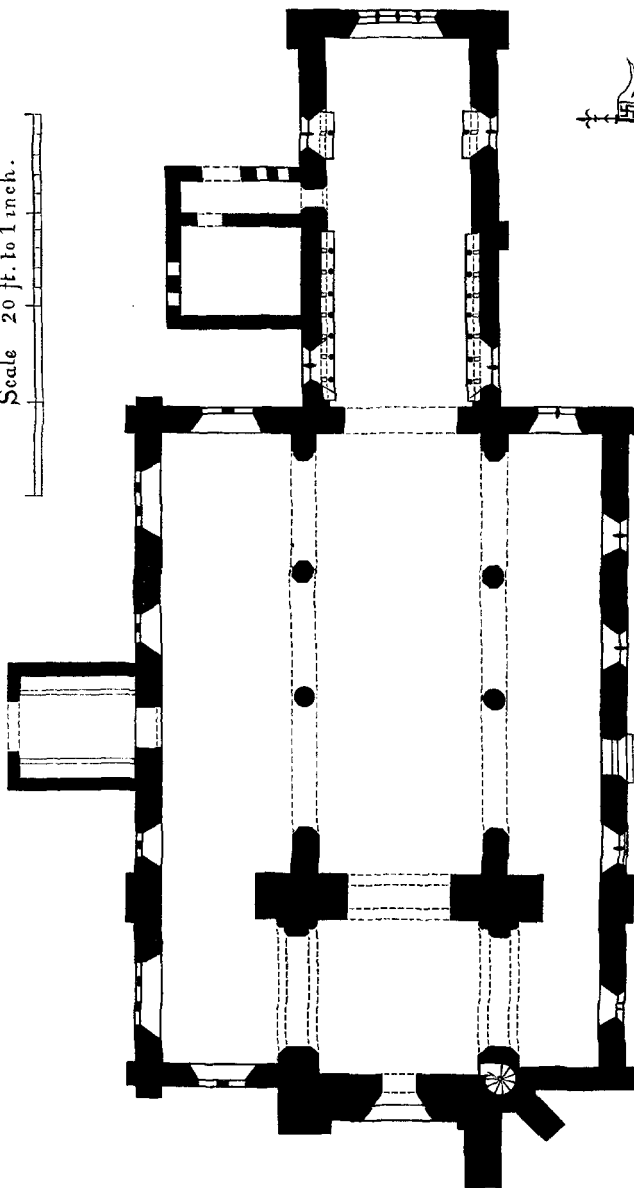
The church is an ancient structure dating from early in the thirteenth century, *say about 650 years old*.

The county of Middlesex abounds with venerable churches, though most are small, and exhibit but little that is remarkable

* Newcourt's Repertorium, i. 735, and Collins' Peerage, iv. 83; Lysons, apparently in error, says (v. 251) 33 Henry VIII.

† Lysons, Environs, v. 262.

Scale 20 ft. to 1 inch.



Stanswell Church.

either in richness of decoration or elegance of style, suffering extensively from pews, whitewash, and barbarism, and even (which to an archaeologist is important as an indication of conservation,) the hand of the restorer has rarely swept away the accumulated dirt and neglect of the last two or three centuries. Stanwell is one of the larger churches of the county, and in its chancel-arcading possesses a beautiful and uncommon feature.

It is dedicated to Saint Mary the Virgin. The orientation is three degrees north of east, being precisely the point at which the sun rises on the Feast of the Annunciation.

The building consists of nave and aisles, with engaged west tower, a very deep chancel, north porch, and vestry. The internal dimensions are as follows:—

					Ft.	In.		Ft.	In.
Tower	-	-	-	-	16	10	×	18	6
Arch	-	-	-	-	4	5			
Nave	-	-	-	-	47	4	×	18	3
North aisle	-	-	-	-	68	3	×	11	6
South aisle	-	-	-	-	67	8	×	8	5
Chancel arch	-	-	-	-	2	6			
Chancel	-	-	-	-	39	2	×	15	3
Extreme dimensions	-	-	-	-	110	3	×	43	3

Adopting a chronological arrangement, the nave-arcades, probably the tower, and possibly the south aisle, are the earliest; of the same date was the north aisle until a recent period, when it was demolished and the present aisle, of greater width, erected in its place. The chancel is late in the fourteenth century. The nave clerestory was added about the end of the fifteenth century, when the south aisle roof, and perhaps the aisle itself, were also built; the north aisle, and the porch and vestry, are new.

In consequence of the aisles being continued very nearly as far west as the tower, the latter stands on arches north and south, as well as east; these two arches are recessed and chamfered, and the piers have *semi-octagonal* pillars, with *poor mouldings* to their caps. The eastern arch is also recessed, widely chamfered, and continuous, that is to say, without caps or other break. There

is a west doorway with a three-light window over, having peculiar and very modern-looking tracery. A spiral staircase runs up at the south-west angle, and in the upper storeys there are but lancets. Within an embattled parapet rises a fine shingled spire of Perpendicular date, formerly surmounted by a large buck's head and antlers,* being the crest of the Windsor family, to whom the manor so long appertained, now superseded by an ordinary vane, on the top of which is a mere toy of the same design, scarcely noticeable. Middlesex possesses scarcely any old spires, this and Harrow being exceptional.

The tenor bell bears the date 1766. The other four are more recent, by Mears.

The west responds, commencing the nave arcade, are remarkably deep, the object evidently being to act as buttresses to the tower; they have semi-octagonal pillars and caps, with by no means effective mouldings. The next pier on either side of the nave is circular, with very similar mouldings to the caps, but better bases; then follow an octagonal pair (that on the south rebuilt, and the caps of both injured); and the eastern responds are semicircular.

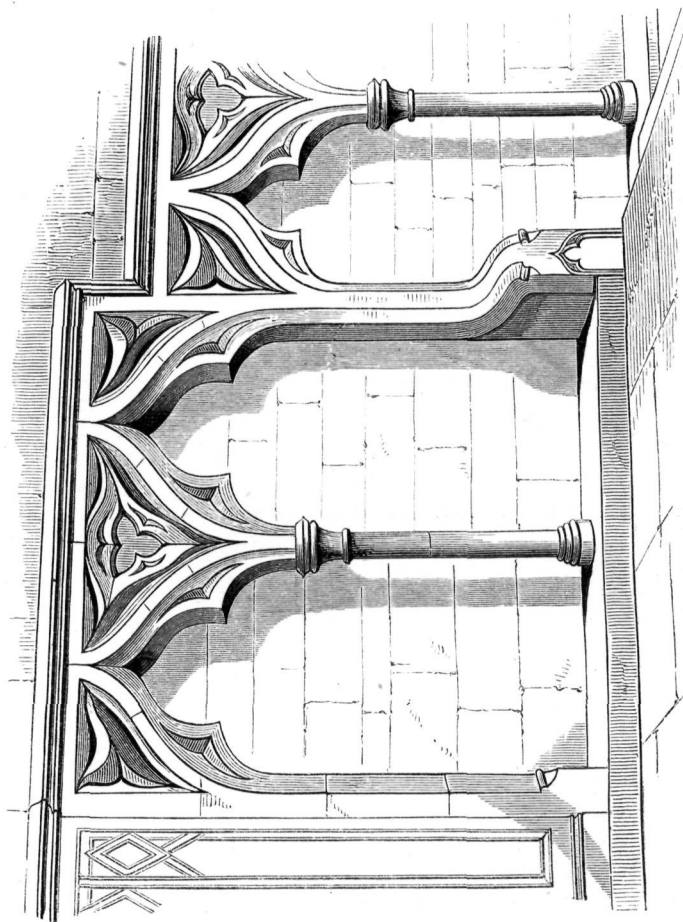
The arches are not recessed, and the chamfering looks modern; they are bounded by angular labels or dripstones. There is a blocked south doorway of Perpendicular date, with very deep hood-moulding. It is unnecessary to remark that the quasi-transept forming the western part of each aisle is new.

The imposition of a clerestory on the nave arcade has caused the walls to spread, as is especially observable on the north side of the chancel arch. On either side there are three square-headed



CAP AND BASE OF N.W.
RESPOND.

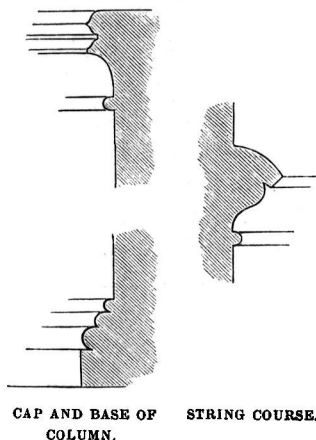
* Shown in the view of Stanwell Church, engraved in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for November, 1793.



CHANCEL ARCADING OF STANWELL CHURCH.

windows of two lights each. The roof is of the same date as the clerestory, good, and of moderate pitch. The south aisle roof is a lean-to of Perpendicular date resting on corbels, with carved heads of a king, queen, bishop, &c.; (*see Plate over-leaf*) the side windows are like those in the clerestory, and appear modern. The porch, which forms the north entrance, is new, of open timber-work, and forms a good and marked feature. The chancel arch appears new; it is lofty and open.

By far the most interesting part of the building is the chancel, which possesses an ornamental arcading along the whole of each side, resting on detached Purbeck shafts, mostly still remaining, and having well-moulded caps and bases, but unfortunately the well-intentioned but injudicious work of a period now some time past has fitted up the place with pews or stalls, hiding the greater part of this rich and unusual feature.* At and opposite to the priest's door, which is on the north, is a break in the arcading, adjoining which at two steps, or a foot, higher level are two equal sedilia of corresponding style, and no doubt further east is a piscina now hidden by the wainscoting. That the beauty of the chancel arcading, the leading feature of the church, should remain almost concealed is much to be regretted, and it may be hoped that before long the wood-work, which has nothing in itself worthy of preservation, will be removed.



CAP AND BASE OF COLUMN. STRING COURSE.

The exterior of the church is principally faced with flints, partly in squares alternating with stone. Ancient builders, when means were not abundant, availed themselves of whatever material a locality produced, and therefore here, as in the clay

* The church at Stone, Kent, is a good example of such an arcade; engraved in Mr. Street's monograph upon that church.

districts of Suffolk and Essex and in the chalk of Sussex, flint was extensively used. It will be noticed that there is scarcely a buttress to the walls, a fact accounted for by the material. The angles of the tower are strengthened by pilaster-buttresses of an early form.

There is no old tracery remaining in the windows. Those in the chancel and at the east end of the south aisle are of a kind of Decorated style, while those in the north aisle and quasi-transepts, in some respects fortunately, cannot be mistaken for old work.

One of the windows on the north side of the chancel was in 1844 fitted with stained glass to the memory of Sir John Gibbons, the colours being rich and well chosen.

The Font is a nondescript, dating from the last century.

At the time of the Dissolution there was at Stanwell a foundation, originally given for the finding of a lamp for ever, but by whom does not appear, there being no information upon that point in the account of sales made by the Commissioners. It comprised ten acres of land in socage,* of the clear yearly value of ten shillings, and was sold at twenty years' purchase, or ten pounds, to Sir Thomas Paston, knight of the King's household. The money was to be paid all in hand, and the King was to discharge the purchaser from all incumbrances except leases. This is dated 20th June, 2nd Edward VI.† Lysons states‡ that it appears by the chantry-roll (then) in the Augmentation Office, that there were, in 1548, 240 "*houslyng*" § people in Stanwell,

* *i.e.* paying a kind of fee-farm rent, but exempt from personal service. Tomlin's Law Dictionary, *sub voce*.

† Miscellaneous Books, 67, from Augmentation Office, now in the Record Office.

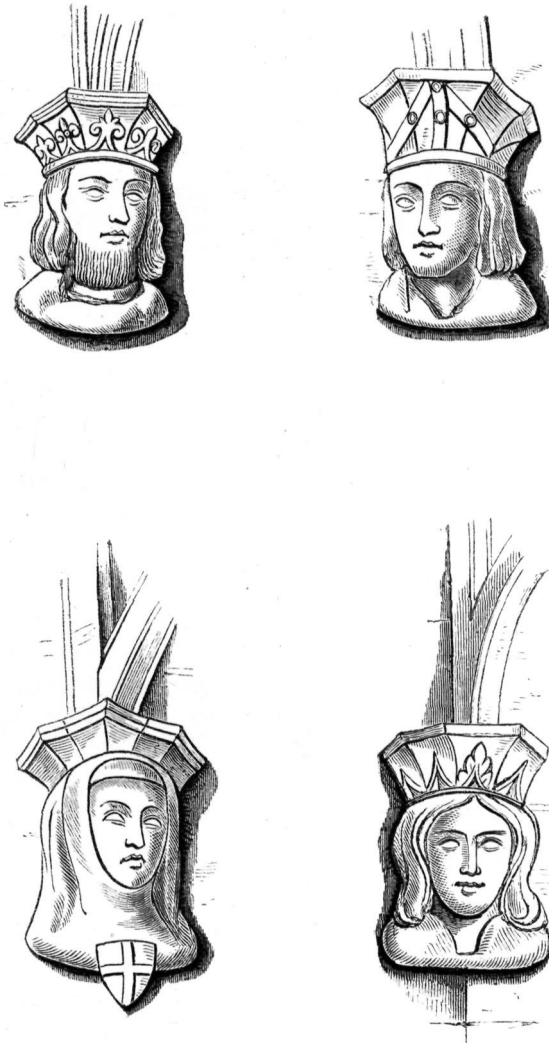
‡ Lysons' Environs, v. 263; I do not find at the Record Office the entry he mentions.

§ The noun *houzell* or *hussell*, the Holy Eucharist, and the verb derived from it, are not uncommonly met with in early writers; as in the *Morte Arthure*, circa 1440, recently printed by the Early English Text Society, where, at the end of his career, the King exclaims:—

"Doo calle me a confessor with Criste in his armes,

I will be howselde in haste, whate happe so betyddys."—lines 4315, 16.

And in Chaucer's *Parson's Tale*, at the end of the second part, and in the *Romaunt of the Rose* at lines 6389 and 6441; and in *Hamlet*, Act i. Scene 5. Even so late as Johnson's Dictionary it appears, as an obsolete word.



CORBELS IN THE SOUTH AISLE OF STANWELL CHURCH.

which in a previous note* he thinks means persons qualified by age to communicate, rather than actual communicants, or apparently equivalent to adults. But by the canons of A.D. 960 (temp. King Edgar) it was directed that every child be baptized within thirty-seven nights of its birth, and that no one remain too long *unbaptiz'd*;† and later, in 1322, by the canons of Archbishop Walter it is directed that children be brought to Confirmation as early as may be after baptism; upon which Lyndwood's Gloss runs—"Puer; qui est major septennio, sed minor 14 annis."‡ We may therefore take the 240 houslyng people to be the amount of population independent of little children.

THE PARISH REGISTERS.

The oldest existing registers here date from the year 1632, and their arrangement is notified in this memorandum at the commencement, in the handwriting of the earliest entries:—

The register for y^e yerres following are sett downe severally. Christnings at y^e beginning of this booke, Marriages about the middle, Burialls toward the latter ende. As is noted out to mee.

A note of divers of Colbrooke-ende, whose children's names are there registered (as I had them from Mr. Richardson), I have set downe in the last page of this parchment, for memories sake.

Though this is not signed, no doubt the volume was commenced by the Rev. John Macarnesse, who was instituted as vicar on 12th June 1632, on the retirement of Nathaniel Duckett, the previous vicar, who had held the living eighteen months only.§

The writing is very good and regular at first. The year ends on 31st December, except for a short time about 1641, when the ordinary custom was followed of reckoning the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25th, as the first day of the year.

The entries are throughout of the most meagre description, rarely giving the place of residence, or the occupation, or any in-

* Lysons, v. p. 5, note.

† Johnson's Canons. A.D. 960, par. 15.

‡ Gibson's Codex, 451.

§ Newcourt's Repertorium, i. 736.

formation beyond the name, and in the case of baptism the names of the parents, and the date of christening, marriage, or burial.

The earliest entries are as follows:—

Christnings, 1632.

David son of John Poole 20 Feb.

Burialls Anno d'ni 1632.

—— Wife of Mr. John Atkins was buried May y^e 30th.

Marriages Anno d'ni 1632.

Thomas Fly & Anne Osborne Widow were married Feb. y^e 18th.

The ordinary form of entry of baptism states the names of both parents, and it is very rarely other than husband and wife. Occasionally it mentions that the child was born and baptised on one day and died on the next; examples occur in 1633 and 1637.

Entries of marriages are few at first; in fact, but three in the year 1633, and in one of those the wife's maiden name is omitted; thus the clear inference arises that the registration was very partial.

In the record of burial the Christian name is occasionally omitted, but here it may have arisen from the fact that in a small population precision was not necessary for the identification of an individual; thus—

1633. — wife of olde — Spicer, Aug. y^e 15th.

1635. Olde — Spicer May y^e 30th.

Occasionally occur strangers whose names were altogether unknown:—

1637. A vagrant beggerman unknown, July y^e 24th.

1652. A Gloucestershire woman died at the Katherine wheele at Colbrooke-end & was buried the 22th of Sept^rbr.

1656. A poore woman died at Hammond's farme: buried on the 16 of Nov.

Apparently then (though not so now) a very unhealthy locality, for “a poore boy” died there and was buried on 24th December in the same year; a “poore maid servant of John Lidgold's, of Hamond's farme, on y^e 4 of June” 1657; “a poore man” on 15th August; and “another poore man” on

the 9th December in the same year; being five people from the same place, all described as poor, in little more than a twelve-month.

An indication of the increasing irreligion of the period appears by the notice of burial of children unbaptised, commencing in 1647. Bruno, or Bruen Ryves, who succeeded John Macarnesse as vicar,* being a decided churchman, was evicted about this period. He was a person of considerable eminence and a noted and florid preacher. After the living was sequestered, the King appointed him Dean of Chichester and master of the hospital there. At the Restoration he was appointed Dean of Windsor, and subsequently of Wolverhampton, to which was annexed the living of Haseley, Devon. He was at one time rector of Acton, having resigned Stanwell apparently in 1662. He died 13th July 1677, aged 81, when he was buried in the south aisle of St. George's Chapel, Windsor. He was the author of "*Mercurius Rusticus*" and various other works and sermons.†

During his deprivation, Edward Richardson, described as a pious minister observing all the commandments of Parliament, occupied his place.‡

In 1657 is mentioned the burial on 31st January of Thomas Sandford, a scholar of the free school, which was founded by Lord Knyvett in 1622.§

The records in the first volume almost cease from 9th February 1657, there being but one or two in 1658, after which the lost thread was taken up by the second volume; but the first re-commences in 1706. In fact the usual dislocation of the ordinary routine took place.

We may here pause a moment to note that the entries from Colnbrook Chapel are (as indicated) at the end of this volume; they relate to the years 1635 to 1637 only, and are thirty-four in number, chiefly of the families of Broughton, Spencer, Holiday,

* Newcourt's Repertorium, i. 737. In what year is not stated, but in the parish register is an entry of baptism of his daughter Elizabeth on 15th June 1639, so it was no doubt before that date.

† Wood's *Athenæ Oxonienses*, ii. 584.

‡ Lysons, *Environs*, v. 262.

§ See post.

and Browne. In the ordinary register is an entry of baptism on the 1st October 1641, at Colnbrook, of Gabriell Sedgwick.

Under the new regime a new book commenced, with the following note on the fly-leaf:—

10 Jan. 1656. Having seene 42 hands of the most substantiall men of Stanwell in recommendation of Robert Church, Clarke of the p'ish, to the Register's place, I have sworne and approved the said Robt. Church to be Register there for publications of marriages, births of children, burials, &c. according to the Act of Parl. 24^o Aug. 1653.

JOHN MORRIS.*

The clerk wrote a fair hand, and kept the books with regularity; but he did not long hold the office of register, for the following minute succeeds:—

6 Junii 1657, having seene a certificate under the hands of the maior part of the p'ish of Stanley (*sic*) for the choise of Thomas Sloper Mr of the freeschole there, for Parish Reg'er for publication of marriages, entering childrens births, burials, &c. I could not but according to the last Act of Parl 24 Aug. 1653, approve and swear the said Thomas Sloper.

JOHN MORRIS.

The schoolmaster's writing is not so good as that of the clerk; it continues till the 25th February 1660, when there is a change, and the records are very imperfect, and partly filled in until 6th October 1661, when order appears to be re-established, though subsequently in 1667 the entries are very irregular.

It may be observed that during this period (except circa 1655), it states that the children were "baptised," not "borne," though the latter was the more usual expression in the Puritan times.

The form of entry of marriage runs as in the following example:—

Publications of contracts of marriages in y^e parish church of Stanwell, and of marriages, anno 1653, as followeth: Betweene William Radcliffe of New Windsor, widdower, and Anne Not, of this parish, widdow, on the 1, 8, and 15 dayes of December, and married on y^e 27 day of y^e said moneth.

Nothing else noteworthy occurs in the register books up to the beginning of the eighteenth century, when the archæologic period

* He performed a similar duty at Heston, on 22nd April 1654.—Transactions of this Society, ii. 217.

may be considered as ended; but from that time are recorded a vast number of collections made under authority of briefs, mostly for the relief of sufferers by fire, and in amounts from ten pence upwards.

Of the surnames occurring in these records few are at all peculiar—such as Charnoll, Verger, Larchen, Pewton, Juer, Kettlepin, Gandar, and Gosling; and scarcely any of a distinctive character can still be found in the parish,* although in similar rural neighbourhoods descendants of the earliest-mentioned families frequently continue through many centuries and down to the present time.

Among the Christian names of females are Morris, Bettresse (Beatrice), Armenall, Cicely, Cornelia, Dionisia, Abigaill, Sybilla, Petronilla, and Bathiah. Adre we can trace from Awdry. Of the names of males it is only worth while to mention Gabriell, Onesiphorus, Gholiah, and Ahobiab.

Between 1669 and 1689 daughter is spelt dafter, dafther, or daufter; and the so-called Cockneyism of a superfluous H is evident in the name of Harmetege in 1685: it is no doubt the writing of the clerk.

Few localities are mentioned; these are—

The Moore (1641), about a mile west of the village;

The Place (1652), about half a mile west of the village;

Hammond's Farm (1656-7) in the direction of Staines;

Poyl Farm (1663) also existing;

Colebrook-end (1635-7 and 1641), lying to the north-west; and the Katherine-wheel (1652), and the Cross Keys (1658) there.

We gather that very few persons of position resided in the parish. Sir John Banks, and Dame Mary his wife, had a daughter, "Mrs. Bridget," who was buried 25th September 1636; another daughter, "Mrs. Anne," baptised 6th August 1637; a son, Charles, on 3rd October 1639; and a daughter, Arabella, 31st July 1642. He was a person of great note; as Attorney-General he conducted the prosecution of John Hampden, and was soon afterwards appointed Chief-Justice of the Common Pleas. Under

* Ex rel. vicar and churchwarden.

a Commission he sat as Speaker in the House of Lords, and as such had to preside at the trial of his friend Lord Strafford. On the troubles breaking out he joined the King at Oxford, but fortunately had friends on both sides. His wife was Mary, the daughter of Ralf Hawtry, of Ruislip, Esquire, which accounts for his connexion with the neighbouring parish of Stanwell. Their residence at Corfe Castle, in Dorsetshire, was during his absence besieged by the Parliamentarians, but vigorously defended by Lady Bankes, though unprovided with cannon (which she had been previously induced to surrender), and inadequately supplied in all respects; it held out for six weeks, until, on a false alarm, the siege was hastily raised.* Sir John, though impeached, by his absence escaped from further suffering than the seizure of his property: he died 28 December 1644, and was buried at Christ Church, Oxford. In 1645 the castle was again invested, and again defended by this lady, with equal courage and resolution, for forty-eight days, when it was taken, through treachery, and dismantled. Shortly after which Lady Bankes compounded for the forfeiture, and returned to Corfe Castle, which has since continued in uninterrupted possession of the family.† She died on the 11th April 1661, and was buried at Ruislip, where there is a monument to her memory.‡ Perhaps the history of this County cannot afford a parallel to her courage and heroism.

The next family of most interest, whose name appears in the Register, is mentioned thus:

Willoughby y^e son of y^e Honble. James Bertie, Esq. and Elizabeth his wife, was born at Lyndsey House in Westminster, y^e 28th day of Novbr. in y^e year 1692;

and other entries of the same family occur later. The Hon. James Bertie was the second son of the Earl of Abingdon, and married Elizabeth, daughter of George Lord Willoughby; their son Willoughby succeeded to the Earldom.§

The Lady Katherine wife of the Hon'able John Cary, Esq. was buried the 1st of September (1673);

* *Mercurius Rusticus* (1685), p. 13.

† Foss, *Judges of England*, vi. 249-254.

‡ Lysons, *Environs*, v. 211.

§ *Ibid.* v. 265.



SEPULCHRAL BRASS OF RICHARD DE THORP, RECTOR OF STANWELL.

and a son Edward (by a second marriage) was born 25th November, and baptised 14th December 1694. The Hon. John Cary was the great-nephew of Lord Knyvett, who left him a moiety of his estates; and ultimately, by a Deed of Partition, in 1678, he acquired the entirety of Stanwell manor.*

A Mr. George Stubbing is mentioned in 1638;

Mr. Peregrine Herbert in 1638 and 1643;

Felix Wilson, jun. gent. 1641;

Walter Williams, gent. 1642.

Marriages by licence were very rare; in 1641, was that of Robert Browning and Isabell, both of Eltham; and another occurred in 1663.

THE MONUMENTS.

The oldest remaining monument is a small slab, formerly inlaid in brass, with a short inscription and a shield of arms—the form of which indicates a date not later than the year 1400. Lysons speaks of one to Richard, son of William de Wyndesore, but gives no date; there is no other monument remaining to which his statement can refer. This slab now lies in the chancel floor.

Next is the brass of the demi-figure of a priest with this inscription: “*Hic iacet Ricardus de Thorp nup Rector Ecclie de Stanewell qui obiit vi^{to} die Mēsis Junii, Anno dñi Millio CCCC^o. Viii^o. cui⁹ aīe ppiciet⁹ dñs, amen.*”

It will be seen by the annexed illustration that he is represented in eucharistic vestments; † the plate, though very little worn, is rather bruised; it lies near the centre of the chancel floor.

Richard de Thorp was the last clerical rector of the parish. I have discovered his will, proved in the Commissary Court of London‡ on the 6th Ides (*i. e.* the 8th day) of June 1408.

* Lysons, v. 252.

† There is also a rough engraving of it in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1793, at p. 994, pl. 3, fig. 2.

‡ Commissary Court of London (now in the Registry of the Probate Court), Brown, 1408, fol. 5.

It is in Latin, and commences in the name of the Most Holy Trinity, and recites that the testator, being of sound mind, but infirm in body, makes his last will. Then follow an expression of Catholic faith and contrition for sins, and a devout commendation of his soul to God omnipotent, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all Saints; followed by a direction that his body be buried with ecclesiastical sepulture, but leaving a discretion as to detail to his executors, and merely directing that it be moderate and respectable without secular pomp. He bequeaths lxs. to be distributed on the day of his funeral, and desires 1,000 masses to be said for the benefit of his soul. Robert Roborne, his chaplain,* to celebrate in Stanwell church the divine rites for his soul, for that of King Edward III.† and for the living and dead for whom he was specially bound; and for his trouble during four years to have x. marks sterling. If the said Robert fail, then some other honest chaplain to be chosen in his place.

He bequeaths cs. to be distributed among the poor and beggars of the parish of Stanwell, or the neighbouring parishes, in sums, more or less, at the discretion of the executors.

To the church of Stanwell "de novo fabricand et construend" xls.‡

To Robert Pankeborne v. marks sterling, and six of his books, viz:—1 Portiphorium, 1 small Bible, 1 book called *Speculum Curatoris*, 1 Catholicon, abbreviated, 1 Ordinal of the Use of Sarum, 1 book called *Flores Psalterii*, and also a plain silver cup without a cover.

Amongst many legacies are gifts of money and plate to his brother Thomas de Thorp, and his niece Elizabeth, and to one John, the son of Robert de Thorp, and his wife Isabella. One Richard, son of Felix Ledred, he desires to be put out to learn some honest mechanical art.

The residue of his property is to be divided into three parts:—1, to go to the said Robert Pankeborne to celebrate in the church

* Equivalent to curate (?).

† Who, as guardian of the heir of Richard de Windesore, presented him to the living. Newcourt's Repertorium, i. 736.

‡ The south aisle may date from about this period.

of Stanwell at the expiration of the said four years, and after him to the sustentation of other honest chaplains in his place; 2, for the benefit of poor lepers and other infirm persons, and prisoners and recluses, and other pious uses, according to the discretion of the executors; 3, for the benefit of the said John de Thorp. The will is dated the last day of May 1408.

Richard de Thorp appears to have held the living of Stanwell for a long period, having been instituted on the 4th kal. September 1368, at the presentation of the King (Edward III.) as guardian of the heir of Richard de Windesore. During that period he had the appointment of three vicars, viz:—William Barnwell, 9th Oct. 1385, John Baker, 29th Nov. 1399, and John Plomer, S.T.P.* and after his own death the rectory became inappropriate, and the Abbot and Convent of Chertsey nominated the vicars until the suppression of monasteries. It appears probable that he resigned the living some time before his death, for it is stated that William Blakwell succeeded him, and was followed by John Ayleston, instituted on the 9th July 1408.†

There have been two other brasses, of which the stone matrices only remain; one with small figures of a civilian and wife, circa 1460, the other a demi-priest about the same date, but there is no remembrance of the persons they commemorated.

The most interesting monument in the church has met with a melancholy fate. It was an altar-tomb, with a four-centred canopy, over which a band of quatrefoils formed a cornice; in the back were matrices of brasses of a civilian on the dexter, and lady on the sinister, and their children behind them, all kneeling; between them, a plate probably bearing the conventional representation of the Resurrection; above each effigy a coat of arms, and beneath their feet the inscription, while in the background were scattered ten scrolls. This description is chiefly from an engraving in the "*Gentleman's Magazine*,"‡ corroborated by the present fragmentary remains of the monument. It stood against the

* *Newcourt's Repertorium*, i. 736.

† *Ibid.*

‡ *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1793. p. 993.

north wall of the chancel, east of the vestry door, and flush with the altar step; thence it was removed (about the year 1830) to the north aisle, and when that was rebuilt in 1863, the monument was, through the carelessness of the workmen and the clerk of the works or other person by whom they were supposed to be superintended, broken into fragments, part of which have been preserved by the vicar and are now lying in the churchyard.

It was the tomb of Thomas de Windsor (father of the first Lord Windsor), who died in 1483, at the age of 43. He was the son of Miles de Windsor, of Colnbrook (by Joan, daughter of Walter Green, of Bridgnorth, esquire), who died at Ferrara, on 30th September 1451, whilst on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Thomas was then aged 11 years. On the 5th June 1483, he was summoned to prepare and furnish himself to receive knighthood at the coronation intended to take place on the 22nd of the same month at Westminster; but in the interval occurred the murder of the King by the Duke of Gloucester.*

His will† is one of considerable interest, especially in the directions for the making of the tomb, which was to serve also for the Easter sepulchre. It commences thus:—

“ In the name of God, Amen. The xiiij day of the moneyth of August, the yere of oure Lord God M.cccc.lxxix, and the xix yere of the reigne of King Edward the iiijth I, Thomas Wyndesor, Esquire, of the parish of Stanwell, in the counte Middlesex, beyng in holt mynde and good memory, thankid be Almighty God, make, ordeyne, and dispose this my present testament and last will in maner and forme folowing, that is to say: First, I bequeth and recommend my soule to Almyghty God my maker and Savyour and to the blissid Virgyn our lady saint Mary, his glorious moder, and to all the holy company of Hlevyn, and my body to be buried in the north side of the quer of the chirch of our Lady of Stanwell, asfor the ymage of our lady, wher the sepultur of our Lord stondith; wherupon I will ther be made *a playne tombe of marble of a competent hight to th'entent that yt may ber the blissid body of our Lord and the sepultur at the time of Estre*, to stond uppon the same, and with myne Armes and a scriptur convenient to be sett aboute the same tombe by thadvyse of myne executors and overseers underwretyn. Item, I will that I have brennyng at my burying and funeral service iiij tapers and xx^{ti} torches of wax, every taper to conteyn the wight of x^{lb} and every torch xvi^{lb}, which iiij tapers and

* Collins' Peerage, vol. iv.

† Prerogative Registry, 7 Logge.

“Item: I will that there be ordeyned a convenient dynner at my monethes mynd, to the pleasure of god and to the comfort of my lovers and frendes, which shall like them to be ther at that time, with all other of my tenauntes of Stanwell. Item: I will that the vicar of Stanwell have xxs. for my tithes, if any happed afor tyme by me to be forgotten, and for to pray for my soule.”

† Our Lady's Psalter.

§ Candle burning before the Rood.

He enjoins the family to perform his will without frauds as they will answer before the High Judge.

He also leaves 10*l.* to be distributed to his poor tenants that are householders at Stanwell, with other householders of towns adjoining, viz. to the former 20*d.* and the latter 12*d.* as far as the money will go. He wills that his executors provide an honest and well-disposed priest to sing and say divine service in the said church, or in his chapel at his manor of Stanwell, during twenty years next after his decease, and have for wages 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* and “fynd hymself,” or else meat and drink, and 53*s.* and a gown; to the intent to pray for his soul and the souls of his father and mother, and Dame Alice Wich, and all other Christian souls.

He directs that his servants be kept at Stanwell with meat, drink, and wages for a whole year, and leaves legacies to several of them.

He wills that his wife, or son, or next heir, keep solemnly his obit, by note, with six priests and three clerks in the said church, the cost being charged upon the profits of his purchased lands.

The estates are left in trust until Anthony, his youngest son, attain twenty-one, if he so long live; and then to be made over to his son Andrew, or other who may succeed to Stanwell as next heir, and duly keep the obit.

Elizabeth* his wife to have rule and oversight of the manor of Bailham, Suffolk, during the nonage of his son William.

He directs that his “sonnes befounde to scole and to court at my coost and charge.”

After twenty years each son to have xx*l.*

His daughter Anne 100 marks towards her marriage; and his

* She was the daughter and co-heir of John Andrews of Baylham, Suffolk, Esq.¹ and Elizabeth his wife, who survived him. By her will dated on the Feast of St. Luke, 1474, she bequeathes to her daughter Elizabeth Windsor a blue gown, a powdre box of silver, and half the residue of her property, and legacies to the children Bridget, William, Elizabeth, and Alice. It leaves a large amount of charitable legacies, and directs burial in St. Dionys Backchurch. Proved 16th December, 1474, by Thomas Windsor, and Andrew Suliard, who was her other son-in-law.²

¹ Collins' Peerage, vol. vi.

² Prerog. Registry, 12 Wattis.

daughters Elizabeth and Alice to hold them content with what they had on their marriages.

To the other children a part of the issues of purchased lands at the discretion of the executors, and to receive money at marriage.

One hundred pounds to complete the performance of the will of Alice Wiche,* whereof he was Executor, "which appereth in the greate ligger of such debts as be Due unto her," and of amounts due to Lady Fowler and William Puttenham; and to the Lady Abbess† and Convent of Burnham, 20 marks in contentation of what she claims, if due, and if not, then that she and they may pray for his soul and all Christian souls.

The residue of the property he leaves to his wife Elizabeth, and appoints her an executrix with Sir John Tokett priest and Edward Cheesman, to each of whom he leaves £20. He appoints as overseers his cousin John Catesby‡ and John Holgrave, with £10 each.

The will, which runs to a very great length, was proved on the 15th February 1485 by the widow and Edward Cheesman. She afterwards married Sir Robert Lytton.

The directions given in the will as to the place of burial, and as to the tomb, point to a highly interesting ceremonial. The will directs that the testator's body be buried on the north side of the quire, where the sepulchre of our Lord standeth, and that

* Lady Alice Wyche was the widow of Sir Hugh Wyche, Lord Mayor of London. In her will dated 16th June, 1474, she leaves certain torches which may be unconsumed at her burial and month's mind, to Stanwell Church. She mentions her cosin,¹ Elizabeth (wife of Thomas) Wyndsor, to whom she leaves 100*l.* in plate and household furniture of the best she had; 20*l.* to their son Andrew; to their daughter her godechild 20*l.* and a silver cup; and to Elizabeth and William 10*l.* each. She appoints her "cosin" Thomas Wyndsor an executor with a legacy of 40*l.* The will with a codicil was proved 16th November, 1474.—(Prerog. Reg. 19 Wattis.)

† This was either Agnes Sturdy, who was Prioress in 1459, or Joane Radcliffe, who resigned in 1507.—(Tanner's *Notitia Monastica*, v. 545.)

‡ Sergeant-at-Law, 1469; Chief Justice of Common Pleas, 1481; died 1486.—(Foss' *Judges*, v. 42.) He was also overseer of Lady Wyche's will.

¹ Cosin merely indicating relationship; Elizabeth Wyndsor was her niece, and Thomas was that niece's husband.

there be made a marble tomb of convenient height, to the intent that it may bear the blessed body of our Lord, and the sepulchre at the time of Easter, to stand upon the same.

It was the custom* that on Maundy Thursday (*Feria quarta in Parasceve*) three Hosts were consecrated, one for the present mass, another for the office of the morrow, being Good Friday, upon which no consecration took place, and the third for the sepulchre. The mass being finished, a solemn procession was formed with torches and incense, and the officiating priest carrying the two unconsumed Hosts to the place prepared, *quædam assimilatio sepulchri*, and there deposited, and the doors closed. On the morrow one was consumed at the mass of the Presanctified, while the other remained in the sepulchre watched and with lights constantly burning, *usque Dominicam noctem Resurrectionis* (Easter Eve), when, a procession being formed, they proceeded to the sepulchre, and with much ceremony carried the chalice and host back to the altar, meanwhile singing the hymn *Vexilla regis*.

References to the Easter sepulchre frequently occur in old documents and parish accounts.†

Sir Andrew Windsor, the son of the above, succeeded to the estate at Stanwell. He was, with twenty-five others, made a Knight of the Bath on the 23rd June 1509, the day before the Coronation of King Henry VIII., and on the 3rd November 1529 was summoned amongst the peers of the realm, and on the 1st December took his seat under the title of Baron Windsor of Bradenham, Bucks.‡

His testament and last will is dated the 6th of March, 34 Henry VIII., "by the grace of God, of England, Fraunce, and Ireland, King, Defender of the faith, and in erthe of the Church of England and also of Ireland supreme hed." He commends his soul as his father had done, and prays for mercy; then directs—"My body to be buried in the quere of the Church of the

* See Sarum and Arbutnot Missals. At Rome the Mass is celebrated in the Sistine Chapel, and the Pauline Chapel is used for the Sepulchre.

† e. g. *Lincolnshire Church Goods*, edited by Edward Peacock, esq. F.S.A., 1866.

‡ Collins' *Peerage*, iv. 77 and *seq.*

holy Trinitie of Houndeslowe, in the said countie, whether I decease within the Realme of England or withoute of it, if it by any reasonable and convenient meanes may be conveyed thither; that is to sey, betweene the Pillers where my entire and welbeloved wife Elizabeth lady Wyndesore* lieth buried, where I will there be made a convenient Tombe of ffreestone, with such armes, ymages, and scriptures as shalbe thought best by the discretion of myn executours underwritten, and that my sonne George's† Tombe be fynyshed also accordingly." Then follow full directions for funeral, almost similar to those in his father's will, and directs his executors to keep an obit at Stanwell, or the parish where he happened to dwell, upon the day of the decease of his most loving father Thomas Wyndesore, Esquire (or within fourteen days) for fourteen years, with as many priests and clerks as his father's will was. And he charged with it the manor of Marche Baldyngton, otherwise Baldyngton Wyndesore, Oxfordshire, over and above sums already assigned for two chantries to be founded in the churches of Stanwell and Dorney "yf the lawes of this realme will it permytte and suffer." And he directs that at each obit there be distributed among the poor of Stanwell "in wheat one quarter for bred, and bere two kilderkyns, and w^t malmysse and cumfitts for the quere in like place as hath been used afore this tyme."

Amongst other bequests is one of his principal plate and "stuffe embrodred, as well beddes as aulter clothes," to his heir for life. He mentions his sons, William Wyndesore, Knt.; Thomas, with his children, Peter, Miles, Andrew, Agnes, and

* She was the daughter and co-heir of William Blount, Lord Mountjoy, and sister and co-heir of Edward Blount, Lord Mountjoy. Collins' Peerage, vol. vi.

† The eldest son; he married Ursula, daughter of Sir John Vere, knight, and sister of John, 14th Earl of Oxford; he died without issue. (Collins' Peerage.) Part of the inscription remaining upon his monument is given by Weever, in his *Funeral Monuments*, p. 529, (A.D. 1631); but it was lost before Lysons' time. The chapel was rebuilt about the year 1839. There is preserved a small monument, representing, in alto-relievo, a knight and lady kneeling opposite to each other, in the costume of this date (or rather later), but as the knight is here represented as being about 45 years of age, and the monument is of an inexpensive and ordinary character, it probably does not represent George Windsor.

Ursula; and Esmonde (who was knighted at the Coronation of Queen Mary, and then described as of Stoke Poges, Bucks);* and his daughters, Elizabeth, wife of Sir Peter Vavasour, of Spaldyngton, Yorkshire, Knt.; Anne, wife of Roger Corbett, of Morton Corbett, Salop, Esq.; and Edith, wife of George Ludlowe, of Hill Deverell, Wilts, Esq. (Another daughter, Eleanor, married, first, Ralph Lord Scrope of Upsal, and secondly Edward Neville, son of George, Lord Abergavenny, and her son succeeded to that peerage.†) He also mentions his sister, Margaret Wyndesore, late prioress of the late monastery of Syon,‡ to whom he leaves an annuity of 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* charged on the manor of Cranford; his brother Sir Anthony, and his children Anthony and Edith. To his said son William he leaves "my chayne of gold with the crosse of the same, garnyshed with diamondes and pearles; a spoone of gold; my cup of silver and gilte, called the helmett," &c. to remain with him according to his father's will, and afterwards to descend to his heirs male. He appoints as overseers Thomas Duke of Norfolk (with a legacy of £40), and his brother Anthony (with £10).

The document begins afresh as the last will; wherein amongst other things he appoints his son Edmund as executor to carry out the will of Edmund Dudley§ (of which testator was an executor) with Richard Fitzjames, Bishop of London, John, Bishop of Calyaple, master of St. Thomas of Acres, and John Collett, late Dean of "Powles." He directs that his executors or son, Sir William, performe and fulfill the wills of his father and mother, and lady Wiche, "according to th'entents of the same, which restithe and apperith in the Inventory, and my said kynde, loving, mother, Dame Elizabeth Lytton, and that also the last wills of

* Collins' Peerage, vol. iv.

† *Ibid.* iv. 86.

‡ She appears as prioress in the list of inmates made 31st August 1528; and at the surrender in 1539, when there was appointed to her a pension of 150 mares; and it is recorded that her brother Lord Windsor came over to see and persuade her to submit to the King's authority. Aungier's History of Syon and Isleworth, pp. 88 and 97.

§ Brother-in-law of Testator, having married his sister Anne. — Collins' Peerage.

my lady my Wife, and my sonne George Wyndesore, be fulfilled, for that remayneth undon moche part therof."

Besides the manors above referred to he mentions manors and freeholds and copyholds in the counties of Berks, Bucks, Essex, Gloucester, Hants, London, Middlesex, Northumberland, Notts, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Warwick, Wilts, Worcester, and York. A great part he leaves to his executors for seventeen years for payment of the debts which he owed to the King for lands lately bought—no doubt monastic and church lands.

He refers to the then recent Act of Parliament enabling persons holding manors and lands under the King by knight's service to dispose of two-thirds in value for the benefit of wife or children, or payment of debts or otherwise, at pleasure, but reserving to the King one-third of the clear yearly value for primer seisin, and fines, &c. and custody of wardship.*

The will bequeaths the residue to the son William, and appoints him as executor with Thomas Audeley, knight, Lord Audeley of Walden and Lord Chancellor† (with £50), and Sir John Baker, knight, Chancellor of the Tenth.

The whole document runs to an immense length, and the less important parts are necessarily omitted in the above notes. It was proved on the 31st July 1543.‡

Lord Windsor furnishes a paragraph for Spelman in his "History and Fate of Sacrilege." He was one of the barons who voted in Parliament for the transfer of monastic property to the King; and his vast estates show with what personal advantage. He died in 1543; his son William Lord Windsor died in 1558, and was succeeded by his fifth son Edward, who died in 1575; whose son and successor Frederick died in 1586; his brother

* Act 32nd Hen. VIII. cap. 1, ss. 4 and 5 (A.D. 1540).

† He was born 1488; Speaker of House of Commons, 1529; Sergeant-at-Law, 1531; proved a ready instrument to the King's designs; Lord Keeper of Great Seal, 1532, and very shortly Lord Chancellor. He acquired no inconsiderable share in the plunder of abbey lands, and amongst others the rich monastery of Walden, whence his title when he was created peer and K.G. in 1538; died 30 April 1544.—Foss's Judges, v. 126.

‡ Prerog. Registry, 23 Spert.

Henry became Lord Windsor, and died in 1605;* and his son Thomas Lord Windsor, who succeeded in 1610, died in 1642 without issue.† Thus five successive Lords Windsor had died within sixty-two years, while an average of five generations would be carried over 200 years.

His relative Lord Mountjoy‡ was another of the barons present on the same occasion. His son and successor, James, died in 1581; whose eldest son, William, died without issue in 1594, and was succeeded by his brother Charles, who died in 1606 without lawful issue.§

Lord Audley, previously mentioned, furnishes another example. His son, George, was succeeded by Henry; whose son George was attainted and beheaded, and the barony then became extinct.¶

Among the benefactions to the church of Stanwell there is recorded the gift by Lord Windsor of "the Horns-house," and twelve acres of land in Stanwell, for the "beautifying" the church;|| which Lord Windsor does not appear, and it is not mentioned in the will of the first Lord Windsor, above-referred to. But though the house has disappeared the property remains, and produces about £40 per annum.

The descent of the Earls of Plymouth is from the Windsor family; their arms are, Gules, a saltire argent between twelve cross-crosslets or; crest, on a wreath, a stag's head guardant erased proper, attired or; supporters, two unicorns argent, armed, crested, tufted and hooped or; Motto, *Je me fie en Dieu*.**

The most expensive and conspicuous monument in the church is a huge edifice on the north side of the chancel, to Sir Thomas Knyvett, Lord Knyvett of Escricke, Yorkshire, who died in

* Spelman's Hist. and Fate of Sacrilege, p. 221.

† Collins' Peerage, iv. 85.

‡ Referred to in Note, p. 125 *ante*.

§ Spelman, p. 220.

|| Ibid. p. 215; but Foss says he had no son to succeed to the title. Lives of the Judges, v. 133.

¶ It is recorded in the Table of Benefactions, whence probably Lysons obtained his information.

** Collins' Peerage, iv. 114.

1622, aged 77. The design consists of Corinthian pillars, supporting one of those peculiarly unmeaning architectural features termed a "broken pediment," beneath which are the effigies of Lord and Lady Knyvett kneeling on either side of a desk, with cherubs supporting their books; below are skulls crowned with chaplets of flowers, than which a more ghastly idea could scarcely be represented.*

Lord Knyvett was the son of Sir Thomas Knyvett, of New Buckenham, Norfolk. He was a Gentleman of the Bedchamber to Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards to Queen Anne, the consort of King James I.; to which monarch he became one of the Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber; and it was entrusted to him to discover the Gunpowder Plot, in which he happily succeeded. He was created Baron Esericke in 1607, but the title became extinct at his death. The Princess Mary, daughter of the King, who was entrusted to his care, died at his house at Stanwell on the 16th September 1607, aged eighteen months, after suffering from a burning fever for twenty-three days.†

His will, dated 38th July 1620,‡ commences with a confession of faith in the most Holy Trinity, and belief in "every Article of the Nicen, Athanasian, and Apostolike creed, littorallie, without ambiguitie or doubt; by which profession I was receyved at my Baptisme to be a member of the Church of Christ." He directs his burial in Stanwell church, "in due and convenient manner onely, fitt for a Christian (without pompe or superfluous charge or ceremony usuall at the funeralls of men as vaine by their titles in their lives, as by their pompes after their decease,) with onely a marble gravestone over me, with this inscription, 'I beleeve with these Eyes to my comfort shortly to see my Redeemer in the land of the lyvinge.'"§ And he charges his executrix expressly to carry out this order, leaving all other conveniences of blackes to his servants, and alms to the poor at

* There is an engraving of this monument in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1794.

† Lodge's Illustrations of British History, iii. 324.

‡ Prerogative Registry, 78 Savile.

§ Book of Job, chap. 9, verses 25-27. Some notes on this favourite monumental text appear in the Transactions of this Society, at vol. ii. p. 212.

her discretion. He leaves a schedule of legacies signed, and sealed with his arms; and the residue of his property to his "most heartily beloved wife." He mentions that he had inherited little beyond a title, but that his estate had come from his mother and his wife, though he had wasted much, and refers to and ratifies the settlement made on his marriage (he then being Thomas Knyvett, Esq.) with Elizabeth Warren, widow, dated (before the marriage) on 16th July, 36th Elizabeth.

In the schedule is a legacy of £20 each to the parishes of Stanwell and Staines, to be yearly employed as a stock for the relief of the poor. He mentions his cousins, Anthony Knyvett, of Westminster, and Thomas Knyvett, of the Middle Temple.

The codicil, which is dated the 17th July 1622, especially relates to Stanwell. He directs his executrix, within two years of his decease, to build within the town of Stanwell :—

"As well, one meete, fitt and convenient buildinge and rooms wherein to keepe a free schole, as alsoe one meet fitt and convenient house for the abidinge, dwellinge and necessarie use of one scholemaister for ever to keepe a free schole and to instruct children within the said towne;" and within the county of Middlesex or Buckingham, or one of them, to purchase in fee simple lands and tenements of the clear yearly value of £20, to be conveyed to six of the freeholders and inhabitants of Stanwell parish and their heirs for ever, for a place of instruction of poor scholars, and for the habitation and maintenance of the schoolmaster and his successors for ever. His executrix to have the nomination for life, and then the lord of the manor; she and they to see to the making of good rules and ordinances for the order, rule, and governance of the school and master, and for the stipend and allowance towards the maintenance and relief of the said master.

This will and codicil were proved on the 3rd August 1622 by Elizabeth Lady Knyvett the relict, the executrix.

His arms were Azure, a bend within a bordure engrailed sable.*

Lady Knyvett did not, however, long survive him, but died on the 4th of September following. By her will, dated on the 4th, she directs that her funeral be without pomp, and such as her late husband had appointed for his funeral. She directs that

* *Lysons' Environs*, v. 259.

his debts declared to Sir William Paddy, *knt.* and Humphrey Dyson, notary public, amounting to about £1,000, be paid. She bequeaths to her nephew Sir Thomas Thyn, *knt.* a "suite of hangings of eight pieces of the story of Elizeus" (? Elijah), and mentions her nieces Lady Christian Leigh and Mary Cranwell, and Anne her daughter, and Elizabeth Hampden, widow, to the latter of whom she leaves the residue of her property; and also mentions her brother Sir John Haywood, *knt.* to whom she bequeaths a silver basin and ewer which were his father's; and her cousin Sir Edward Moseley, *knt.* as overseer, with a legacy of £50 in plate.

The will was proved on the very next day, the 5th September 1622.*

One other benefactor to the school deserves to be mentioned, viz. William Heather† of the city of Westminster, doctor of music, who by his will dated 21st July 1627 gave to the scholars forty shillings a year for ever to buy them books, pens, ink, and paper, at the discretion of the vicar, schoolmaster, and churchwardens of the parish, chargeable upon his lands in Kent bought of Sir Thomas Walsingham and Edmund Skott, and upon which he also charged a yearly payment of £17 *6s. 8d.* for a "musick lector and the practize of musicke in the Universitie of Oxford for ever."‡

The fit and convenient building for the school and the master's house stands untouched: a good substantial structure of old red brick, of which one half is the school-room, the full height of the building, and the other half is the dwelling, consisting of two stories and an attic.§ The land purchased was near Aylesbury, and now produces an income of £90 per annum. The lords of the manor still present, and the original rules and ordinances remain unaltered.||

* *Prerog. Registry*, 84 Savill.

† *Lysons*, in error, calls him Thomas.

‡ The will was proved 16th August 1627 in the *Prerogative Court of Canterbury*.
86 *Skyner*.

§ There is a view of it in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for November 1793.

|| *Ex rel.* of present master.

In concluding this Paper it becomes a duty, as it is a pleasure, to acknowledge the kind courtesy and assistance of the Rev. R. Parry Burnett, the present Vicar of Stanwell, in affording every facility and convenience to the writer in his investigation of the building and registers* ; and to Robert Walker, Esq., for the drawings from which the illustrations are engraved.

* Every document and work mentioned in the Notes has been directly referred to by the writer.
