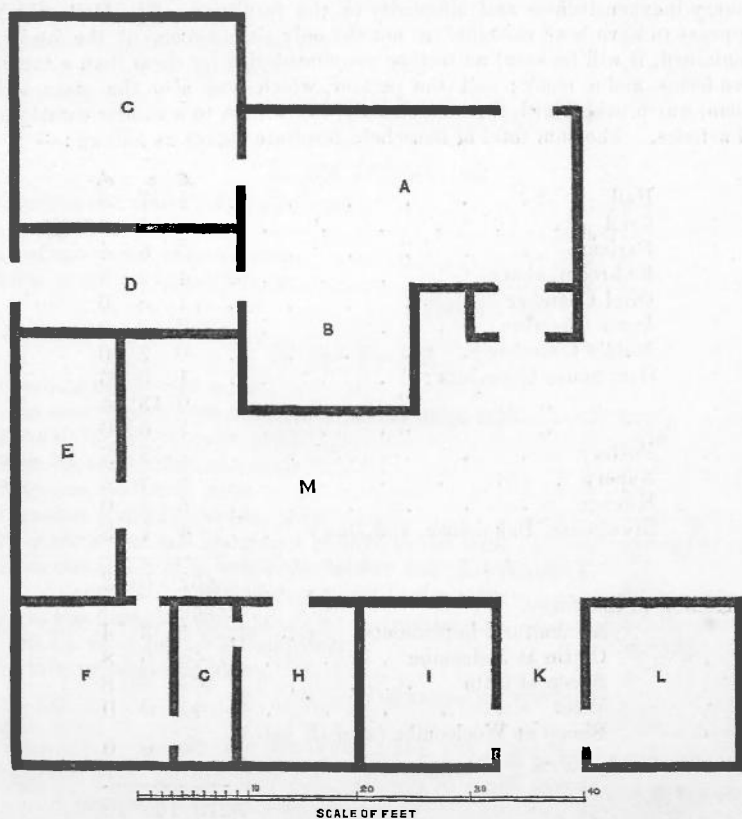


INVENTORY OF THE HOUSEHOLD AND PERSONAL EFFECTS,  
FARM-STOCK, &c., OF ROBERT BINGHAM OF BINGHAM'S  
MELCOMBE, DORSET; DATED 4TH ELIZABETH, A.D. 1561.

COMMUNICATED BY THE REV. C. W. BINGHAM, M.A.

My acquaintance with documents similar in character to that now brought under the notice of the Institute is not extensive, and I am not aware that there is anything very remarkable in the following Inventory. Many of higher interest have doubtless been brought to light; many more must be lying hid in muniment-chests throughout the country. It has, however, occurred to me, that it may not often be possible to identify, as in this



GROUND FLOOR.

- A Hall.
- B Oriel.
- C Parlour.
- D Passage to Hall.
- E Buttery, &c.
- F Kitchen.
- G Bake-House.
- H Brew-House.

- I Dairy?
- K Gate-house.
- L Larder.
- M Court-yard.

UPPER FLOOR.

- Chamber over Parlour.
- Middle Chamber (over the Buttery E).

UPPER FLOOR—(continued).

- Inner Chamber (over the Kitchen F).
- Oriel Chamber (over B).
- West Chamber (over I).
- Chamber over gate.
- Chamber over Larder (L).

case with tolerable accuracy, the precise arrangement of the houses to which such inventories may refer. After 300 years, the various rooms to which this document relates are still *in statu quo*, and, although deformed by a few additions and modernisations in the course of the last century, they are easily to be identified. I have thought it desirable to give a sketch of the ground-plan of the original house, as I presume it to have stood in 1561, which, I conceive, was not many years after the date of its erection.

Though of moderate size, the house was not without some pretension ; the Oriel, figured in Nash's *Mansions of the Olden Time*, is rather richly ornamented, and the owner, if not occupying a place among the very highest gentry of the county in wealth and position, was closely connected with them by descent and marriage. Under such circumstances, after making every allowance both for the difference in the value of money and in the state of the arts, it is impossible not to be struck with the extraordinary inexpensiveness and simplicity of the furniture. The Hall, which appears to have been the chief if not the only sitting-room of the family, contained, it will be seen, no further accommodation for them than a table, two forms, and a chair ; and the parlour, which was also the state bed room, was provided with three stools only, in addition to a similar catalogue of articles. The sum total of household furniture stands as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Hall . . . . .	1	17	8
Oriel . . . . .	0	15	6
Parlour . . . . .	5	6	4
Bed-room, above . . . . .	4	11	8
Oriel Chamber . . . . .	1	8	0
Inner Chamber . . . . .	2	16	0
Middle Chamber . . . . .	0	3	0
Gate-house Chambers : 1 . . . . .	1	0	6
2 . . . . .	0	13	4
3 . . . . .	1	0	0
Buttery . . . . .	1	19	2
Napery . . . . .	6	5	4
Kitchen . . . . .	5	2	0
Brewhouse, Bakehouse, and Dairy . . . . .	4	1	8

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£37 0 2

Adding to this for—

Agricultural implements . . . . .	5	3	4
Cattle at Melcombe . . . . .	40	6	8
Sheep at ditto . . . . .	47	6	8
Wool . . . . .	40	0	0
Sheep at Woolcombe (a small out- lying farm) . . . . .	50	0	0

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£219 16 10

we arrive at something under 220*l.* for the total amount of goods and chattels of a respectable and perfectly solvent squire in the days of Queen Elizabeth. There is an error of 4*d.* in the addition of the original document, for which I am not responsible.

C. W. B.

THE Inventory of all the goodes, cattalles, debtes, plate, Jewelles, and redy money, whiche lately were and dyd apperteyne to Robarte Bingham of Melcombe Bingham in the countye of Dorset, esquier, deceased, taken and made the iiij.<sup>th</sup> day of Decembre, in the iiij.<sup>th</sup> yeare of the reigne of our soveraigne Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God quene of Englande, Fraunce, and Irelande, defender of the fayth, &c., and prised by Hughe Keete, William Chyles, Edmund Hayes, and John Michell, ensueth.

## IN THE HALLE [see Ground-plan A].

Inprimis one foldinge borde and one plancke tablebourde .	xiiij. <sup>s</sup> iiij. <sup>d</sup>
Item one carpett clothe for the same tablebourde, price .	vj. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>
Item one joyned cubbourde and implements not prised .	
Item fyve cushions, price . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup>
Item two fourmes, price . . . . .	xij. <sup>c</sup>
Item the hangings of greene say . . . . .	vj. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>
Item one payre of awndirons . . . . .	vj. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>
Item one chayre . . . . .	xvj. <sup>d</sup>
Summa xxxvij. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>	

## IN THE ORYALLE [B].

Inprimis one sware ( <i>sic</i> ) tablebourd . . . . .	x. <sup>s</sup>
Item ij. fourmes, price . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup>
Item one payre of aundyrons . . . . .	iiij. <sup>s</sup>
Item in the entry one fourme . . . . .	vj. <sup>c</sup>
Summa xv. <sup>s</sup> vj. <sup>d</sup>	

## IN THE PARLER [C].

Inprimis one joyned table . . . . .	
Item one carpett clothe of dornix for the same table . . .	xv. <sup>s</sup>
Item ij. joyned fourmes, price . . . . .	xij. <sup>d</sup>
Item iiij. stooles and one chair . . . . .	xx. <sup>d</sup>
Item one cubbourd, price . . . . .	x. <sup>s</sup>
Item one standinge bedde, price . . . . .	xiiij. <sup>s</sup> iiij. <sup>d</sup>
Item curtaynes and hanginges of saye to the same . . .	vj. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>
Item one bedde of downe withe bolster and ij. pyllowes } and blankettes and coverlettes to the same . }	xl. <sup>s</sup>
Item one flockebedde . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup>
Item iiij. cushions of sylke, price . . . . .	vj. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>
Item syxe other cushions . . . . .	x. <sup>s</sup>
Summa v. <sup>l</sup> vj. <sup>s</sup> iiij. <sup>d</sup>	

## IN THE CHAMBRE OVER THE PARLER.

Inprimis twoo fetherbeddes with bolsters, pyllowes, and } coverlettes to the same . . . . . }	iiij. <sup>l</sup> vj. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>
Item twoo chayres . . . . .	xij. <sup>d</sup>
Item one presse, price . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup>
Item v. payre of harnes . . . . .	xvj. <sup>s</sup>
Item ij. bylles, and one tucke . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>
Item ij. bowes and one shefe of arrowes, price . . .	iiij. <sup>l</sup> iiij. <sup>d</sup>
Summa iiij. <sup>l</sup> xj. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>	

## IN THE ORYALLE CHAMBRE [over B].

Inprimis one standing bedde wythe a fether bedde, bolster,	}	xxvj. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>
and coverlette of howshold makinge, price		
Item rownde tablebourde, price	}	xvj. <sup>d</sup>
Item one chayre, price		
Summa		xxvij. <sup>s</sup>

## IN THE INNER CHAMBRE [over F].

Inprimis the hanginges of say	v. <sup>s</sup>	
Item one standing bedde, with tester and curtaynes to	}	L. <sup>s</sup>
the same of say		
Item ij. fetherbeddes and a flocke bedde to the same,	}	xij. <sup>d</sup>
and a bolster, price		
Item one foldinge bourde, price		
Summa		lvj. <sup>s</sup>

## IN THE MYDDLE CHAMBRE [over E].

Inprimis the hanginges of the same chambre, of stayned	}	ij. <sup>s</sup>
clothe, price		
Item one cubborde and a cheir ( <i>sic</i> )		xij. <sup>d</sup>
Summa		ijj. <sup>s</sup>

## IN THE YATEHOWSE CHAMBRE OVER THE LARDER [K].

Inprimis one standinge bedde with a fetherbedde, bolster	}	xx. <sup>s</sup>
and coverlett of home makinge, price		
Item one fourme, the price		vj. <sup>d</sup>
Summa		xx. <sup>s</sup> vj. <sup>d</sup>

## IN THE CHAMBRE OVER THE YATE HOWSE.

Inprimis a trussing bedde with a fether bedde and bolster	}	xij. <sup>s</sup> iij. <sup>d</sup>
Item a coverlett of home making		
Summa		pre. xij. <sup>s</sup> iij. <sup>d</sup>

## IN THE WESTE CHAMBRE OF THE YATE HOWSE.

Inprimis a standinge bedde with a fether bedde and bolster	}	xx. <sup>s</sup>
Item a coverlet of home making		
Summa		xx. <sup>s</sup>

## IN THE BUTTRYE [E].

Inprimis one cubbourde	v. <sup>s</sup>
Item ij. basons and ewres of tynne	v. <sup>s</sup>
Item one hande bason	xij. <sup>d</sup>
Item ij. payre of tynne candlestickes, price	v. <sup>s</sup>
Item three payre of candelstyckes of latten, price	v. <sup>s</sup>
Item viij. hoggesheddes	v. <sup>s</sup>
Item vij. barrells	ijj. <sup>s</sup> iij. <sup>d</sup>
Item xij. tynnen trenchers	ijj. <sup>s</sup> iij. <sup>d</sup>
Item two flaggens	vj. <sup>d</sup>
Item two standerds	xij. <sup>d</sup>

Item one bynne to putt bredd in . . . . .	xij. <sup>d</sup>
Item vj. plates for fructe . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup>
Item cuppes, trenchers, and bottelles . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup>
Summa xxxix. <sup>s</sup> ij. <sup>d</sup>	

## NAPERY.

Inprimis xx. pair of sheetes . . . . .	ijj. <sup>li</sup> vj. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>
Item ij. bourde clothes of diaper . . . . .	x. <sup>s</sup>
Item iij. dyaper towelles . . . . .	x. <sup>s</sup>
Item xij. diaper naptkinges ( <i>sic</i> ). . . . .	vj. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>
Item xij. other napkyns . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup>
Item one other fyne towell . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup>
Item x. playne bourde clothes . . . . .	xx. <sup>s</sup>
Item viij. pyllowetyes . . . . .	viij. <sup>s</sup>
Item ij. dosen other napkins and iij. other towelles nothing worth . . . . .	nihil.
Summa vj. <sup>li</sup> v. <sup>s</sup> iij. <sup>d</sup>	

## IN THE KYTCHE. [F].

Inprimis v. brasen pottes . . . . .	xxx. <sup>s</sup>
Item iij. skyllettes, price . . . . .	iiij. <sup>s</sup>
Item iij. cawdrons . . . . .	xiiij. <sup>s</sup> iij. <sup>d</sup>
Item one chaffer . . . . .	xij. <sup>d</sup>
Item one chafinge dysshe and twoo brandyshe . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup>
Item twoo dryppinge pannes . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup>
Item ij. freyenge pannes . . . . .	viij. <sup>d</sup>
Item iij. <sup>or</sup> greate broches and one small . . . . .	v. <sup>s</sup>
Item twoo reckes . . . . .	vij. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>
Item one barre of yron . . . . .	xij. <sup>d</sup>
Item iij. hanginges for pottes . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup>
Item iij. payr of cottrelles . . . . .	xij. <sup>d</sup>
Item a gredyrone . . . . .	viij. <sup>d</sup>
Item a brasen mortar and pestell . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup>
Item iij. dosen of platters . . . . .	xv. <sup>s</sup>
Item iij. dosen of podengers . . . . .	viij. <sup>s</sup>
Item ij. dosen of sawcers . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup>
Item xij. tynnen porredge disshes . . . . .	iiij. <sup>s</sup>
Item a marble mortar stoone . . . . .	viij. <sup>d</sup>
Summa v. <sup>li</sup> ij. <sup>s</sup>	

## IN THE BREWINGE HOWSE, BACKEHOWSE, AND DAYRYE.

Inprimis a furnes of brasse . . . . .	xiiij. <sup>s</sup> iij. <sup>d</sup>
Item a messhinge vate and ij. kyves . . . . .	xij. <sup>s</sup> iij. <sup>d</sup>
Item ij. yotinge stones . . . . .	x. <sup>s</sup>
Item ij. kneadinge tubbes, with a bultinge wytche, price . . . . .	ij. <sup>s</sup> iij. <sup>d</sup>
Item iij. <sup>or</sup> brasse pannes . . . . .	xxx. <sup>s</sup>
Item ij. siltinge trowes . . . . .	x. <sup>s</sup>
Item ij. other tubbes . . . . .	xij. <sup>d</sup>
Item one greate vate . . . . .	viij. <sup>d</sup>
Summa iij. <sup>h</sup> xx. <sup>d</sup>	

NECESSARYS APPERTINGE (*sic*) TO HUSBANDRY.

Inprimis two waynes furnished . . . . .	liij. <sup>s</sup> iiij. <sup>d</sup>
Item viij. yron chaynes, with yokes, staples, and crookes )	xx. <sup>s</sup>
apperteyning to systene oxen . . . . . )	
Item iij. creythes (?) and one dragge . . . . .	x <sup>s</sup>
Item iiij. <sup>or</sup> axes, iiij. <sup>or</sup> boryars, twoo sawes, iiij. <sup>or</sup> weddges, )	
iij. mattockes, and a pykes, twoo yron barres, with )	xx. <sup>s</sup>
other ymplementes appertayning to husbandry . . . )	
Summa v. <sup>li</sup> iiij. <sup>s</sup> iiij. <sup>d</sup>	

## ROTHER CATTELL OF ALL SORTES, HORSES AND MARES AT MELCOMBE.

Inprimis of plough oxen xvj. . . . .	xvj. <sup>li</sup>
Item iiij. <sup>or</sup> fate oxen . . . . .	v. <sup>li</sup> ij. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>
Item xiiij. mylche kyne and one bull, price . . . . .	x. <sup>li</sup>
Item xj. yearlinges of one yeare . . . . .	xl. <sup>s</sup>
Item xvj. hogges and swyne . . . . .	xl. <sup>s</sup>
Item iij. mares and ij. geldinges . . . . .	v. <sup>li</sup>
Summa xl. <sup>li</sup> vj. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>	

## SHEEPE AT MELCOMBE.

Inprimis cccc. ewys . . . . .	xl. <sup>li</sup>
Item lix. chilver hogges . . . . .	v. <sup>li</sup>
Item twentie rammes . . . . .	xlvj. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>
Summa xlvij. <sup>li</sup> vj. <sup>s</sup> viij. <sup>d</sup>	

## FLEES WOLLE AT MELCOMBE.

Inprimis xl. waightes . . . . .	xl. <sup>li</sup>
Summa precii xl. <sup>li</sup>	

## SHEEPE AT WOLLCOMBE.

Inprimis cccc. lxxv. . . . .	
Item xvij. rammes . . . . .	L. <sup>li</sup>
Item xij. other sheepe . . . . .	
Summa precii L. <sup>li</sup>	

Summa totalis ij.<sup>c</sup> xix<sup>li</sup> xvij.<sup>s</sup> ij.<sup>d</sup>

Concordat cum Registro.

ED. FLORENCE, Registrarius.

Endorsed :—

Inventory of y<sup>e</sup> household goodes and stock at Over Melcomb and Bingham on y<sup>e</sup> death of Robert Bingham, Esq., A<sup>o</sup>. iiij<sup>o</sup>. Elizabethæ.

## NOTES.

A few observations upon certain terms of comparatively uncommon occurrence, which the reader will not fail to notice in the foregoing Inventory, may prove acceptable. The greater part of these terms are to be found in the Unton Inventories, which have been edited by Mr. John Gough Nichols for the Berkshire Ashmolean Society. We may refer to the Glossarial Index accompanying those documents, which are of a period not long subsequent to the date of the Inventory here printed, for much curious information regarding household effects, furniture, &c., in the sixteenth century.

In documents of this description we are not unfrequently reminded of the activity of maritime and commercial enterprise, through which even from an early period the produce and manufactures of foreign lands were introduced into England. Flanders was long a great emporium whence our merchants derived many of the luxuries and even of the necessities of daily life. The table in the parlour at Bingham's Melcombe was covered, as the reader may have noticed, with a "carpett clothe of dornix," a tissue so called from the place of its manufacture, namely, Tournai, *Tornacum*,—in Flemish, Dornick. Hangings and carpets of a similar description were made in Norfolk about 1557, when an act was passed regarding making of "dornecks and coverlets at Norwich."

In the chamber over the parlour, among bedding and furniture, we find the few muniments of war in possession of the Squire of Melcombe; they consisted of five pair of harness, or body-armour, namely backs and breasts, frequently described by the term, a "pair of plates"; two bills, a tuck, or rapier ("*Estoc*, a rapier or Tuck," Cotgrave); two bows and a sheaf of arrows. Randle Holme, in his curious *Academy of Armory*, b. iii. p. 91, makes distinction between the tuck and the rapier, the latter having, as he observes, a blade with two edges, whereas the tuck had a four-square blade; but we find, in an Inventory of arms in the Royal Arsenal taken on the accession of Edward VI., in the custody of Hans Hunter, armourer at Westminster,—"two three-edged tockes with vellet skaberdes." This weapon, of Spanish origin, served only, as Cotgrave states, for foining, stabbing, or giving "the stoccado."

Among the articles of "Napery" occur eight "pilloweties," namely pillowcases: the term is not found in the Unton Inventories, in which these appliances of domestic comfort are designated "pillow beares," and occur in pairs. The word here used is derived from the French. "Une taye d'oreiller" is interpreted by Cotgrave as a "pillowbeer"; *Taie* is still used in French with the like signification.

Among the culinary appliances it may suffice to observe that two "brandyshe" were probably some description of apparatus for heating, raised upon trivets. In a list of kitchen utensils in a vocabulary of the fifteenth century in the British Museum (Roy. MS. 17, c. xvii), *Tripes* is rendered "Branderthe—Burnderthe," the word is written in various MSS. of the *Promptorium Parvulorum*—"Branlet—Brandeledé—Branlede," &c. "Reckes" were doubtless racks upon which spits, or other objects of culinary use, might be adjusted. Ray has given us, among his South country words, "a Cottrell, *Cornw. Devonsh.*—a Trammel to hang the Pot on over the Fire;" the term is still in use.

In the Brewhouse we find two "keeves," a term explained by Ray as used in Devonshire to designate "a Fat wherein they work their beer up before they tun it." Barnes, in his Glossary appended to Poems in the Dorset Dialect, observes that it is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Cyf*, a vat; and the verb to keeve or kive, to put the wort into the vat to work, is still used in Dorsetshire. The keeve appears to be the same word as the "Gyle tubbe" or "Yelfate" in the Unton Inventories. We are unable to suggest what may have been the use of "yotinge stones" in brewing. To yote (Ang.-Sax. *Geotan, fundere*) signifies properly to melt, to pour forth as molten metal, &c., and may here imply some object connected with seething or other household uses. A "bultinge wytche" is a box into which meal was sifted, still known as a bolting hutch; and "Siltinge trowes," a term which we have failed in the endeavour to trace in archaic or provincial expressions, may have been troughs used in straining liquids; a milk-strainer is termed in the North a siling-dish, and silt commonly signifies sediment.

The list of implements appertaining to husbandry contains a term which has not been satisfactorily explained, namely "broyars," possibly mauls or mallets, such as may have been used for braying or stamping clods of earth (Fr. *broyer*). Such implements were called in the fifteenth century "clottynge mallets."

Horned beasts, it may be observed, are still designated in Dorset, and in other parts of England, Rother Cattle; as likewise in stat. 3 & 4 Edw. VI. c. 19, mention is made of "Rother beastes, as oxen, steres, rontes, kyen, heighfers and calves." Piers Ploughman describes the husbandman driving his team of "fourer rotheren." Ewes of one year old are now called in Dorset "chilver hogges," as in the foregoing Inventory compiled in the days of Elizabeth. The origin of the term does not appear to have been explained by any writer on Provincial Dialect.