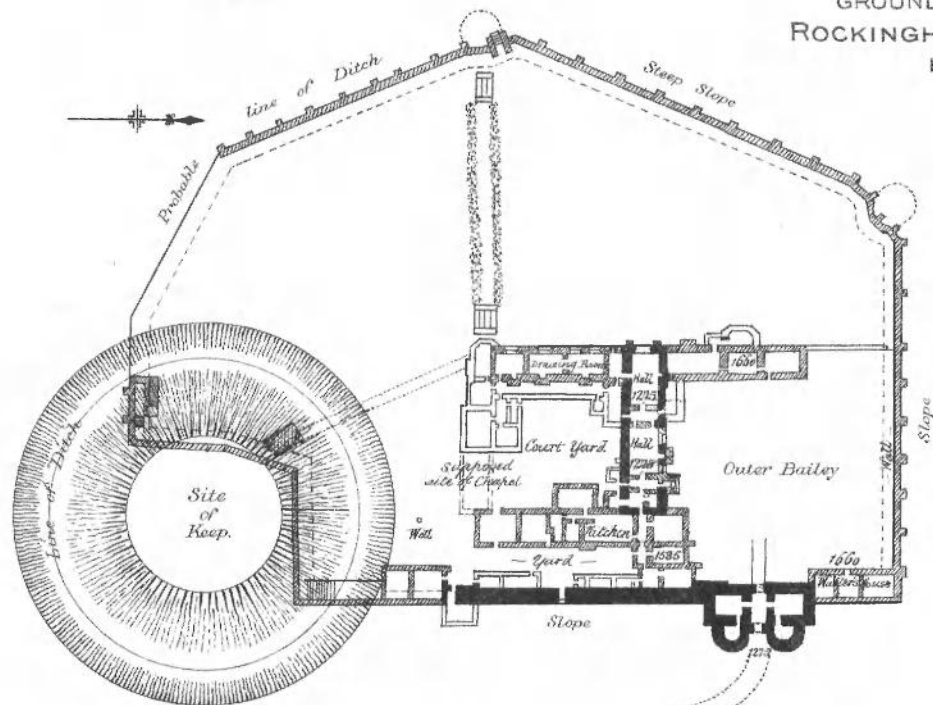


GROUND PLAN OF  
ROCKINGHAM CASTLE  
1872



Walls thus  
 ——— " " 1275  
 - - - - - " " 1535-1660  
 ——— " " Modern

Scale of 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 feet

## ROCKINGHAM.

BY G. T. CLARK.

Within the north-eastern border of Northamptonshire, abutted upon by the shires of Leicester, Rutland, and Lincoln to the north and east, and by that of Huntingdon to the south, is a large tract of rather elevated land known as the Forest of Rockingham. Its natural limits are the vallies of the Nen and the Welland, whose general parallelism is continued in their course across the Holland fen to their common termination in the Wash. Towards the west this platform is further cut off by the Ise, which rises about four miles from the Welland and falls into the Nen by Wellingborough. The tract thus marked out by Nature and long known as the Forest extends east and west twenty-four miles from Oxendon bridge to that of Stamford, and is at its widest between Rockingham and Thrapston, about twelve miles. The position, when the meads of the Nen and the Welland were marshes, and the fens scarcely navigable, was one of great strength, and occupied at an early period by invaders and colonists of Danish blood, whose traces are largely preserved in the topographical nomenclature of the district. The soil, chiefly derived from the subjacent oolite, is not naturally fertile, and long remained as forest, which even now, though cultivation has made immense progress, is represented by large patches of woodland, such as the well timbered parks of Rockingham, Boughton, Blatherwick, Burleigh, Drayton, and Dene; the wilds of Morehay and Sulehay; the Bedford purlieus; and the chase of Geddington.

Rockingham, which gave name to the forest and to a much smaller tract of land still known as the Shire, is

placed upon the right or south bank of the Welland, just above the point where the influx of the Eye brook marks the meeting of the counties of Northampton, Leicester, and Rutland. The village stands on ground rising from the river, and above and to its south, immediately over the parish church, is the Castle. The castle is a marked feature in the landscape, as it is placed upon a sort of promontory which juts out from the table land of the forest towards the Welland, and is protected on each side by a deep ravine, two of many by which the steep margin of the valley is intersected. South-west of the castle, and divided from it by the larger ravine, is the Park, a very ancient enclosure, at one time containing red deer, which however had disappeared before Leland's visit; and behind, and south of the castle and the park, is the tract of recently enclosed land called the Shire.

Rockingham seems to be a name of English formation, purely descriptive. The castle stands on the "Rock;" between it and the Welland is the broad and fertile "Ing," or meadow; and the "Ham" represents the village, whether enclosed by bank, ditch, or hedge. Nevertheless, ancient and home-born as is the name, and important as must ever have been the position, the place is not to be found in any record previous to the Conquest, though a similar name occurs in Kent as Roegringham, in a charter by Cœnulf of Mercia, A.D. 811. It may be that the name is found elsewhere, for among the followers of Archduke Philip at his meeting with Henry VII in 1500 occurs "le Sieur de Rockingham de Flanders" (*Letters of Henry VII*, p. 88). The earliest mention of the place is in Domesday, where it is stated that the King holds Rockingham. Bovi held it in the time of King Edward with sac and soc. It was waste when King William ordered a castle to be made. No doubt here, as generally elsewhere, William's decision was guided by the existence of an earlier work. It is evident, from an inspection of the remaining earthworks, and from a comparison of them with others, such, for example, as Brinklow, that they belong to the class of moated mounds, and consequently are far older than the Conquest. Bovi no doubt dwelt here, and it was his strong dwelling that the Conqueror ordered to be converted into a castle.

Enough remains to shew that the earthworks were composed of a conical flat-topped mound or donjon, with a base court attached on one side. The mound seems to have been about 100 feet diameter on the top and not less than thirty feet high. It was circumscribed by its proper ditch, which, to judge from indications on the south side, must have been broad and deep. To the north of the mound was the base court, of an irregular but rounded figure, covering about three and a half acres. The outline of this court corresponded generally with the contour of the ground, the slope of which formed a part of the defence. The court abutted upon the north face of the mound, outside its ditch, and covered about one third or five-twelfths of its circumference. Thus the greater part of the mound, as at Brinklow and Earls Barton, was outside the general line of defence, of which it formed a part. Also it was posted on the side of the work opposite the high ground, between the heads of the ravines, and naturally, as at Brinklow, the weakest side. In advance of the mound, at some yards distance, is a bank and ditch crossing the approach, and again in advance, about a furlong from the keep, is a second ditch, even now containing water, and dividing the castle precinct from the Shire. Probably these outworks are of later date than the keep. There are also other works to the east, beyond the ravine, and especially one large bank which now forms the central line of an avenue of lime trees. These works are irregular, and were possibly thrown up when the castle has been besieged. On this side are also some small tumuli, placed two and two, said to cover the remains of cottages.

The changes made by the Norman builders, and by those who in their turn destroyed the Norman walls, have much effaced the traces of the early fortress. The bank, which no doubt encircled the court, has been thrown back so as to raise and level up the interior platform, and for the main ditch has been substituted a scarped revetment about eight feet high, surmounted by a parapet, which represents the curtain wall. At the foot of this are the remains of the ditch, and lower down the hill certain terraces, which look as though they had been defended by lines of stockade for musketeers during the

Parliamentary siege. These irregularities of the surface have been thought to represent a British camp, for which the situation is, no doubt, suitable. Of the mound there remains only a semilunar bank, which formed its northern edge. The central and southern parts have been removed and thrown into the ditch, the line of which is indicated by a slight but clear and broad depression. This was evidently done when the Parliament obtained the place, to render it indefensible. It is also evident that the base court was subdivided, as at Brinklow. This is shewn by the levels of the different parts. One division ran north and south, cutting off on the east the entrance ward with the lodgings. The other ran east and west, and subdivided the western ward. The three courts are on different levels, the entrance court the lowest by six or eight feet.

Whether the Conqueror built a work in masonry or merely strengthened the existing defences is unknown. There is no masonry extant of that century. But he or his successors certainly placed a shell keep upon the mound, and built a wall round the court. This wall seems to have had six faces, and to have occupied a circuit of about 490 yards. It still commences at the top of the keep mound, descends the slope, crosses the ditch and runs 134 yards in a straight line, forming the east front of the castle. The lower courses of this wall, which is nine feet thick, may be Late Norman. The upper part, twenty-five to thirty feet high, is probably Decorated, as is the gate house, which is in this front. Towards the north-east angle the wall has been rebuilt and supports a seventeenth century building. At this, at a right angle, the wall is replaced by a revetment of late date, and runs westward for eighty-three yards, having the church, &c., below and in front of it. The direction of the wall then changes to the south-west at an angle of about  $160^{\circ}$ , which was capped by a round mural tower, of which the foundations remain. This face is ninety-four yards long, and ends in an angle of  $130^{\circ}$ , where no doubt was another drum tower. Then follows a side of sixty-four yards, ending in an angle of  $140^{\circ}$ , followed by a side of forty yards, then by an angle of  $150^{\circ}$  and a short side of twenty-five yards, which ends in the keep mound in a

mass of masonry, which, if not wholly original, is so in part, and formed of old material. Thus the whole circuit of the court wall from one side of the keep to the other is about 440 yards. The two western faces rise directly over the ravine. The two to the south-west are some way from its edge, and here are no traces of a revetment; and there was no doubt a ditch. The wall is now removed, but indications of its foundation are seen on the turf in dry weather. The distance from one end of the wall to the other, measured across the keep, is fifty yards, which thus complete the circuit of the court.

Between the two masses of masonry which mark the abutment of the two ends of the outer wall upon the keep, is a third which points north-west, and shews the line of a cross wall which divides the entrance from the western wards. The line is followed by the later buildings and by the western end of the castle hall. The place of the cross wall branching westward from this is indicated by a double yew-tree hedge, and a step of about four feet.

The gate house is composed of two half round towers, twenty-six feet diameter, flanking a gateway of ten feet opening. The towers spring from a block sixty feet broad and thirty feet deep, having no internal projection, so that the towers and a part of the block stand out from the wall forty-seven feet, giving a fine bold character to the entrance. The towers are of two stages, divided outside by a string course, and crowned above by a plain embattled parapet resting upon a second string. The gateway has a low pointed arch over which the string is continued and raised so as to form a square head. The entrance passage, ten feet broad, is thirty feet deep. Within the portal is a portcullis grove, rounded and narrow, as for an iron grate, and behind it a rebate for folding doors. At the other end of the passage is a second portal, also with gates. Each portal has had a bold internal drip, now cut flat. A plain cornice shews that the original roof was of timber, and flat. The present and new beams have by an oversight been laid lengthways. On each side is a small heavily moulded door, with an equilateral head, in very excellent style. The north tower contains two chambers, one sixteen feet

by eighteen feet, with a loop into the court yard, and from which a small decorated doorway opens into a front half round chamber of twelve feet span, having three loops to the front beneath deep arched recesses. In the south tower are also two chambers. That in front has two loops only. The other chamber has a door into a guardrobe in the south wall. The roofs were all of timber, and the internal doorways heavy but excellent decorated. The gatehouse has been much repaired. The plinth is new. The exterior has been chisel drafted, and the jamb mouldings of the portal apparently recut. The towers had till lately conical roofs which however were not original, and the parapet, though in excellent taste, is modern. The loops are cruciform with short cross limbs, and oilllets below. The late Rev. T. James attributed this gateway to the year 1200.

Upon the curtain wall, a few yards south of the gate house, is a door, and near it a loop, both of decorated date, and which evidently belonged to a mural tower now replaced by a modern larder.

Entering the castle by the gateway, on the left and in front are the lodgings, buildings of very various dates. The entrance to the house on the left is however older than any other part of the front. It is an original door of decorated date, and in a good style, and opens into what was once the hall or an antichamber leading into it. Opposite is a corresponding door, of the same age, which opens into a yard or court set round with buildings of all ages. The hall has long been converted into two floors, and is traversed by two partition walls, but the lateral or exterior walls are original, and contain two fireplaces now covered up, but indicated by broad exterior buttresses, and several windows, no longer in use, and but partially seen. The place of the west window is occupied by a large Tudor or Stuart insertion. This is the only part of the present house that can be certainly shewn to have belonged to the ancient castle, and it was probably begun about 1275.

The space within the ancient walls from the doors to the west end measures about twenty feet by eighty-five feet, too long for the proportions of a hall, so that it is probable that the actual hall was confined to the western

portion of it, which contains one of the fireplaces and the jambs of four of the original windows.

Between the east end of the hall and the curtain wall is a fine pile of building bearing date 1585, the work no doubt of Edward Watson. This contains the kitchen and various offices, and probably includes parts of the ancient building. Another building on the north east side of the court, and a long line of buildings facing the west, and containing the end of the hall, are dated 1660. A building on the curtain wall between the gate house and the keep is dated 1669.

The present cellars lie between the hall and the keep, and are conjectured, though modern, to occupy the place of the castle chapel, and near them is the well, though it is doubtful, from an old plan, whether there was not also a well in the keep.

With the exception of the lower part of the eastern curtain wall there is no masonry visible that can by any possibility be of the eleventh, and probably none of the twelfth century. In the church yard are some fragments in the Norman style, but they are not supposed to have come from the castle. Over the inner portal a stone carved in a sort of cable moulding has been inserted, but this does not appear to be Norman, and in any case has only lately been placed there.

The works of Henry III and Edward I are represented by the upper part of the curtain, the gate house, and the doors, walls, and windows of the hall, and probably by the three blocks of masonry that abut upon the keep mound, though two of these may be in substance earlier. All the rest of the castle is the work of the several grantees, and mainly, if not wholly, of the ancestors of the present owner. The general result of the mixture of buildings of so many styles and ages is exceedingly happy. The rooms, though not lofty, are comfortable and picturesque, and filled with fittings and furniture in harmony with their age and dimensions, and also with modern appliances. The walls, of the stone of the country, have a venerable aspect and are covered with climbing plants, and the platforms of the several wards, and interior of the keep mound, are lain out in lawns and



flower gardens, whence the view over the village and beyond the Welland is very extensive.

Leland, who visited the castle in the reign of Henry VIII, while it was yet a military building, has left a description of it, and what he then saw :—"The castelle of Rockingham standith on the toppe of an hille, right stately, and hath a mighty dicke, and bullewarks agayne without the dicke. The utter waulles of it yet stond. The kepe is exceeding fair and strong, and in the waulles be certein strong towers. The lodgings that were within the area of the castelle be discovered and faul to ruine. One thing in the waulles of this castelle is much to be noted, that is that they be embattelid on booth the sides, so that if the area of the castelle were won by cumming in at either of the two greate gates of the castelle, yet the keepers of the waulles might defende the castelle. I marked that there is a stronge tower in the area of the castelle, and from it over the dungeon dike is a drawbridge to the dungeon toure."—*Itin.*, i, 14.

The mighty ditch and bulwarks beyond it refer probably to the keep and the ground to its south, where alone a ditch was needed. The keep was, of course, a circular or polygonal shell upon the mound. The strong towers on the walls were no doubt drums like those of the gate house, capping the angles of the curtain wall. The double parapet was not unusual, and with a wall nine feet thick by no means impracticable. Where the strong tower stood is unknown, but it must have been within the court, north of the keep, and beyond the ditch of the keep or donjon, to which its drawbridge gave access. Of the second great gate no tradition is preserved, but it could not possibly have been any where save to the south, as on the other sides is no practicable approach. The latest works are two towers by Mr. Salvin, one plain, square, and solid, near the keep, the other octagonal, light and lofty, placed near the end of the hall. They are a great and judicious addition to the building.

It so happens that there exists a still later evidence for the condition of the keep in a plan probably representing the temporary works thrown up during the Parliamentary attack, for the defence of the keep from an attack on the outer or south front. This shews the summit of the keep

covered with buildings arranged in a polygon eighty feet diameter, with an open court in the centre. Outside these, along the edge of the mount, is a line of stockade, 180 feet long, resting on the walls of the court, and strengthened by two bastions of timber. The bottom of the ditch forms a covered way, and along the counterscarp is placed a second line of stockades, 240 feet long, and also resting at each end on the walls. The ends of the curtain and of the intermediate wall abutting on the keep are also shewn. On the south margin of the keep is a well. This plan is specially interesting, as it not only shews that there was a building upon the mound, but lays down a plan of defence which in all probability is precisely what the Conqueror found here in use when he ordered a castle to be made.

Among the Fabric rolls in the Public Record Office are several entries relating to Rockingham Castle, from which the following extracts were made by the late Mr. Burt.

A small roll, 4th Edward I, of masons' and carpenters' work, amounting to £37 6s. 6½d.

A fragment of a roll, undated, but early in the same reign: Expenses of a mason "*circa turrem faciendam et murum turris ex parte meridionali punctuandum et petras in muro debiles et fractos extrahendas et alias petras ibi ponendas et petras ad eundem murum scapulandas.*" A carpenter was employed "*circa chevrones ad lardarium faciendas et fenestras ad celarium (the cellar) sub oriole reparandas et faciendas.*" Two masons are employed upon "*murum castri ex parte orientali porte facientes;*" and others upon the walls generally. There was also a payment "*plumbariis facientibus et coeperientibus parvam cloacam super murum castri versus ecclesiam Rok'*," that is, on the north curtain.

Another roll, 4th-5th Edward I, contains in two membranes a record of the expenses "*ad petram liberam frangendam apud Pukesalter;*" also of two men "*operantes super gradus aule Regine;*" and of a carpenter "*ad garderobam Regine carpentandam ad tascam et cendulandam, 40s.*"

5th-6th Edward I are three entries: a mason and other men were employed "*circa novum oriolum ad*

hostium magne camere et veteram aulam erigendam." Others were engaged "circa mantellam magni turris faciendam et erigendam;" and others "circa cumilum parve camere juxta le viz et fenestram et alia in garde-roba Regis facienda."

5th-8th Edward I is an incomplete roll of five membranes, written, but not closely, on the front and back. The entries relate to works upon the walls, the chimney, and other parts of a chamber "ultra volticium (draw-bridge) circa crestos ad murum versus mantell' (mantlet) turris." Also repairs of the "porta de Durr'." Also to windows, &c., of the same, carpenters' work, and the door of the new turret. To masons, "ad novam cameram faciendam de veteri aula;" to carpenters for doors of the great cellar and new turret. The stone was quarried and conveyed from Weldon. Masons, &c, were engaged "circa cameram magnam Regis corrigendam;" and carpenters "circa claustrum faciendum et porcheam camere Regine co-operiendam." At the end of the dorse of one of the membranes is the pious valediction addressed either to the accounts or the building, "Deus te comburet vel Diabolus!" something in the style of "Deil pike out the een," said to have been invoked by old Q upon those who examined into the building accounts of Drumlanrig.

6th Edward I, a roll of three membranes, mentions men engaged "ad veterem aulam faciendam et emendam."

6th-7th Edward I is a roll of five membranes, closely written on the face and partly so on the back. The entries are "circa novum turriolum faciendum;" "circa coquinam faciendam." Carpenters' work about "unam januam ad barbecanum et unam januam ad mantellum versus turriolum juxta magnam turrem." Masons were engaged "circa cameram Regine faciendam," and cutting stones, "ad circularem fenestram in magna camera Regis." The expenses appear of Master Ralph the painter "circa parvas cameras juxta cameram Regine dealbandas" (white washing);" also masons engaged "circa chimineum in magna camera Regis et muros ad cameram ultra volticium faciendos." Again, the expenses of Ralph the painter "circa cameram Regis dealbandam," and "circa cameram Regine dealbandam." A car-

penter was employed "*circa claustrum et hostiam ad camere Regine faciendas.*" Master Richard "*circa cameram ultra volticium faciendam et terram juxta coquinam removendam.*" Of stores there were, "*In iiij libras ære et dimidiam empt' ad opus cement' confectis cum thure code et pictivæ ad cementum faciendum.*" More stone from Weldon; slates from Haringworth; "*In vitreis fenestris emptis ad cameram Regine, 10s.*"

7th Edward I is a roll of two membranes. The expenses of a mason "*in magno horre crestando;*" of men "*fodientes petras in quarrerria juxta castellum ad fundamentum aule cohoperiendum.*" Masons "*ad muris aule, solarii, capelle, et garderobe cohoperiend' et super fundamentum stabule per ij dies;*" also a mason "*ad capellam prosternendam in turre.*"

Another roll of the same date contains the trades of the workmen employed. One master mason, four *cissores* (trimmers or dressers of stone); four *cubitores* (bedders); six *servitores* (helpers); two quarrymen at Rockingham; six carpenters; two makers of boards and laths; and two sawyers.

8th-9th Edward I, six membranes. A complete roll of works for the year, Michaelmas to Michaelmas, naming however but few places; only the tower, the chamber, near the new chapel; men engaged "*circa capellam et cameram domini Regis faciendam;*" also "*circa murum aule et fundamentum celarii.*" The stone came from Weldon and Haverne.

9th-10th Edward relates to small works only.

13th-14th Edward I, a full roll, Michaelmas to Michaelmas: Masons are busy "*super capellam;*" "*super kernellos;*" carpenters, "*super magnam capellam Regis;*" masons, "*circa fenestram Reginæ inter duos turiolos erigendam,*" and "*circa murum et fenestram celarii reficiendam*" and "*circa unum baterat intrantem magnam cameram et circa dictum murum et fenestram;*" also "*circa gabulam capelle et circa turiolum,*" and "*super turiolum et murum versus magnam portam juxta boveriam;*" also a carpenter was engaged "*super sedem Regine ad capellam.*" The total thus expended by and according to this roll was £103. 0s. 12d.

15th-16th Edward I, also a full roll, Michaelmas to

Michaelmas. Masons engaged "circa novum turiolum juxta coquinam," a carpenter, making "gistas ad turriolum de Holebrooke," a mason "cooperiens ij turiolos, muros aule, et in aliis locis emendans cohopenuram murorum." Two masons "perimplentes warderobam Regine et viam de aula usque cameram Regis et domum Lawyte' juxta capellam, et facientes astr' (astra are fire-places or hearths) in v caminis in turri et iiij caminis in castello ad tascham 8s.' . . . . circa murum versus turrin erigendam et turridum versus turrin."

Mention is made of "stagnum," or tin, for solder. The gables of the solar or upper floor, next the sun. "Cyntles or cindules" are shingles for roofing. "Viz," from "vis," a screw, is a spiral staircase. "Vertevellis" are hinges, and "gumphis," the big hooks on which they turned. Gudgeon and pintle.

The above entries shew much attention to the lodging of the King and Queen, and but little to those of any one else, or to the fortifications. The old hall is probably that which preceded the present structure, and was no doubt Norman. The cellar under the oriel is mentioned. The magna turris was probably the keep, and the drawbridge that which crossed the keep ditch. The barbican was no doubt a timber structure outside one of the two outer gates. The old chapel, probably that in which the council met, was destroyed, and a new one erected. The new hall seems to have been in progress 8th-9th Edward I.

The history of Rockingham is closely bound up with that of the forest, of which its constables or castellans were almost always seneschals. It has been shewn that the Conqueror here ordered a castle to be made, and probably therefore he visited the spot. In 1095 it was selected by Rufus as the place of meeting for the nobles and prelates of the realm to discuss with Archbishop Anselm the important question, "Utrum salvâ reverentiâ et obedientiâ Sedis apostolicæ posset Archiepiscopus fidem terreno Regi servare, annon?" When the King arrived from Normandy, 29th December 1094, he found Anselm about to accept his pall from Urban II, whom the king had not acknowledged as pope, and the question arose whether the recognition of Urban was consistent

with fidelity to the crown. The meeting took place at Rockingham on the fifth Sunday in Lent, 11th March 1095. They met in the chapel, when Anselm called on the prelates for their advice. The prelates inclined to the feudal rather than the ecclesiastical view of the question, which they rather avoided, and decided that Anselm had treated the king with disrespect. The meeting was adjourned to the Monday, when the prelates agreed that the assembly was one of vassals of the crown, and not a synod, and they and the nobles advised Anselm to submit himself to the king. On the Tuesday a deputation of the prelates met Anselm. They persisted in regarding the difference from the secular point of view only, offering an opinion that as a vassal of the crown the Archbishop was in the wrong, but declining to go further, or to pass any censure upon their ecclesiastical superior. The meeting then broke up, Anselm refusing to give way. Soon afterwards the king acknowledged Urban and received his legate, but without consulting or informing Anselm. All this shews that Rockingham was then an important place. The chapel must have been more than a mere oratory in the keep like those of Arundel or Lincoln, and there must have been some sort of accommodation for the assembly, composed as it was of laymen of high rank and of bishops, in an age when men of that order were not remarkable for asceticism.

The forest is said anciently to have extended to Northampton, but the boundaries, as fixed by various perambulations from Edward I to Charles I, limit it to Oxendon and Stamford bridges. It was divided into the Bailliewicks of Rockingham, Clive or Clyffe, and Brigstoke, each under a bailiff and verdurers, and in each of which was a forest lodge, kept in repair by the crown. At Geddington on the Ise was a larger residence, often visited by the sovereigns, where a great Curia Regis was once held, and where still remains one, the most perfect, of the memorial crosses set up by Edward I to his Queen. Many manors also were held of the castle by the tenure of castle-guard. There is no regular list of these, but it is known that among them were Little Billing, Cottingham, Aldwinkle, Cogenhoe, Harwedon, Hanington, Horton, Isham. Uphall, Wotton, and the

Barony of Chipping-Warden, which itself was served by similar tenures. Also an inquisition, 18th February, 18th Edward I, shews that the Manor of Wahul was held of the king per Baroniam by the service of one knight's fee, and sixty-nine shillings each Michaelmas for the Ward of Rokingham Castle. The sums for which the service was commuted ranged from twenty pence to seventy-five shillings annually, and were assessed at five shillings for a knight's fee. The collection of these sums was the business of a special officer who held half a virgate of land by this tenure, besides hous-bote and hey-bote in Cottingham wood, a right to grass his horse in the Abbot of Peterborough's meadows at Eston, and his diet when the king or his constable were in residence. He seems to have been called the castle bailiff, and in Henry III's time, when Geoffrey de Rokingham held it, the office was hereditary. There was also a weyte or watchman, who mounted guard at night, and held the weyte fee by the tenure of castle-weyte. Simon de (or le) Weyte held the office 36th Henry III.

In 1137 we are told in the *Anglo Saxon Chronicle* that the Abbot of Peterborough, under its indomitable abbot Martin, that "good monk and good man," recovered from William Malduit, who held the Castle of Rockingham, the lands of Cottingham and Easton. Malduit was only constable, but in the lawless reign of Stephen, the keeper of so strong a place must have exercised very independent powers. The castle, however, was never actually alienated from the crown, and was frequently visited by the kings, together with Brigstoke and Geddington, and forest laws were very strictly enforced, through the Justice "in itinere forestarum." In 1139-40 (5th Stephen) the king had a vinedresser at Rockingham, for whose livery was allowed thirty shillings, and twenty shillings were spent in procuring necessities for the vineyard. In 1183, 11th February, a great assembly, 'Curia Regis,' was held at Geddington to discuss the question of a crusade. In 1189-90 the Sheriff of Northamptonshire accounted for one hundred shillings for the rent of Rockingham.

In 1194 King Richard was here.

Henry II and Richard I allowed £4 11s. 3d. for the

castle porter and two watchmen. The custos or constable purchased his office. In 1157-8 Fulk de Lisoriis accounted for twenty pounds for the old rent of the forests of Rockingham and Selveston, and a similar sum was accounted for as the new rent of the same forests. In 1199 Robert Mauduit paid for it one hundred pounds by four quarterly payments. He had already held it. King John was here at least fourteen times between 1204 and 1216, and dated many instruments from hence. In 1204, 5th May, the county of Rutland and the vill of Rockingham had been settled in dower by John on Queen Isabella. He probably retained the castle. In this settlement he followed precedent, for in 1209 Pope Innocent called upon him to restore to Berengaria, Richard's queen, her goods, among which is specified "*In Nordhantonscire Rokingham cum pertinenciis ejus*" (Rymer). The dower was confirmed 5th May, 1215. In 1204 the Patent Roll shews that King John granted to Samson Wascelin, "our clerk," the church of Rockingham with the attached chapel of Manneton, in free alms for life. In 1205, Scogernel, a king's messenger, had ninepence for going to Rockingham. In October, 1207, Earl David (of Huntingdon) had paid the king in his chamber at Rockingham, by the hand of Peter de Stoke, £100 due on an imprest, and in 1208 Hugh de Nevil was to be prepaid his outlay, estimated by competent persons, on the king's houses at Roginham and Clyve.

In 1209 and 1210 occur divers entries in the Mise Roll concerning William Aquarius, who provided the king's bath. Of eight baths, he had made one at Northampton. There is no bath at Rockingham. There are payments for the "*rancini*" of Thomas Marescal staying at Northampton and Rokingham for six days with the royal wardrobe, while the king wandered [*'spatiatum'*] among the forests and rivers. He thus visited Geddington and Clyve, where he lost 4s. 10d. at tables with the Earl of Salisbury, and afterwards 4s. 11d. Also the keep of twenty-nine horses and twenty-four valets (*garçones*) for three days at Rockingham, with a workshop (*fabrica*) cost 24s. 5d.

The frequency of the royal visits was in some measure due to the necessity for supporting the household from



the local resources; wine however, notwithstanding the vineyard, was imported and kept in store, especially at Southampton, and there delivered to the king when needed. Thus in 1212, sixteen casks of wine were imported of which five went to Rockingham, three to Clyffe, and four to Geddington; and John while here, 10th July, acknowledges the receipt of a coat of mail which had belonged to the constable of Chester. Here also, according to the Mise Roll, John ordered 100 marcs given him by the burgesses of Nottingham to be expended in making a tower "in mota de Notingham."

The castle was also a prison. In 1213, Gilbert de Gartington was to be set free from thence, with his chattels, on bail; also Robert de Mara, taken at Carricfergus, was freed at the request of the legate. In 1214, the chancellor was directed to purchase five dolia of the best wine in London and to send them to Clyffe, Geddington, Rockingham, and Selveston. In this year £127 8s. 6d. was allowed for works on the new tower and chamber in the castle, and Peter de Barr and Nicholas de Hugevill foot crossbowmen were sent to be employed in the defence of the castle, at six pence per day each. In January, 1215, the chancellor was to send more red wine. In March the king has restored to William Earl of Albemarle the manor of Rockingham, which had belonged to Alice his paternal aunt (*amitæ suæ*). This may be either Alice de Romeli his mother's mother, or Alice Mareschal his sister. He is to have "*homines, res, terras, et omnes possessiones.*" In May, William de Harcourt is to be well received at the castle if he needs hospitality. It appears that the late custos had been enclosing, for the king gives to Roger de Nevil the whole assart of Rockingham which Hugh de Nevil had assarted or cleared, and adds common of pasture in the vill for his stock, by the tenure of a pair of gilt spurs annually.

1216, 4th March, of the prisoners sent by Lady Nichole de Haya to Nottingham four are to be transferred to Rockingham. The custos of the castle seems to have been trespassing on the powers of the sheriff, which the king sets right. Probably there had been a disturbance at Rockingham for John directs the constable of Nottingham

to liberate on a fine a prisoner taken there. Later in the year the garrison must have been discontented, for the custos is ordered at once to pay their arrears of livery to the men who garrison the castles of Northampton and Rockingham, so that they may have no excuse for desertion. The constable is to retain for the use of the castle the manors of Geddington, Cliff, Brigstock, and Corby. He is to act as escheater in order to give seizin of Blaston and Weston to Ralph Fitz Peter. This is one of the first orders made in the new reign, and is tested by the Earl marshal "teste Comite." Henry the III was probably at Rockingham many times, certainly in 1220, 1226, and 1229.

1217, the abbot of Peterborough asks not to be distrained for his castle guards. This is granted, but the knights who hold the abbot's fees are to do the service. In 1218 Richard Trussell was fined for taking his dogs through the forest. In 1219 to Hugh de Nevil is restored the bailliage of the forest and of Clyve, Gettington, and Brigstoke. The offices being connected with land the constable is to give seizin. 25th June the king sent his huntsman, Richard de la Hunt, to chase in the forest, and during his stay the sheriff is to provide for him and his two horses, two valets, a bearward (bernarius), a whipper in (veltarius), four greyhounds, and fourteen chiens de meute (canes de mota necessaria). He is also to have salt for salting the venison which he may take, and a carriage to convey it to the king as needed. Occasionally an order is given to allow some great man to take three or four bucks or does, but it is evident the number named are not to be exceeded. 19th July, Walter de Preston is sent to take forty bucks for the king's larder. In November, William Earl of Albemarle, in charge of the castles of Rockingham, Sauvey, and Biham, had refused to give them up, on which the sheriffs are warned that he had been excommunicated by the legate and no person is to aid him in holding the castles. The earl, however, resisted, and this castle was actually besieged and taken by surprise 28th June, 1220 (*Hist. Anglor*, ii, 242). Henry was here in person, and allowed William de Albini three and William de Insula two bucks. William de Preston and Richard

de Watervill are also allowed twenty each, probably for the king's use. A little before this, in May, 1220, Isabel, the king's mother, wrote to inform him that on his account rather than her own she had married the Comte de la March, and requested that her husband might be allowed her dower, which included Rockingham Castle (*Letters of Henry III*, i, 115). In July the bailliaiges were returned to Hugh de Nevil who had a charter from King John, and in November, Fulk de Breaute had one hundred pounds for his expenses during the siege, which he seems to have conducted. Sauvey and Rockingham when taken were found to be utterly bare of provisions, not three loaves of bread being found in the two.

Henry seems at first to have granted his mother's request, but 2nd September, 1221, Richard de Ripariis had the custody of the whole land which the Comte de la Marche had held in England of his wife's dower, and the good men of Rockingham were to answer to Richard for the rent of the vill, as they had done to the earl and his wife.

Other entries relate to the same year. The constable is allowed large timber for the repairs of the king's houses and the "turris" of Rockingham, and the sheriff is to allow twenty marcs for the same. Also Hugh de Nevile is to take a forest verdurer and good men "de visneto" (from the "venue" or place whence the jury came) of Cottingham and Carlton, and measure the assart which the Abbot of Peterborough had licence from King John to make. If 100 acres or less the abbot is to be left in peace, if above that area Hugh is to take possession and report.

16th April, 1222, the men of Rockingham are informed that Queen Isabel and her husband are again allowed the dower lands. In May the Earl of Albemarle had made his peace, and under King John's charter, touching the lands of Hawise, his mother, he is acquitted of relief and other charges for his farm of the manors of Rockingham, Clyffe, and Brigstoke, from the day on which he took charge of the castle to the 18th November, 1219. In this month the king sent ten marcs for the repairs of his

houses and the same for the castle, to be applied as far as it would go.

1223, the abbot is not to be distrained in time of peace for more than four shillings, castle guard, according to the tenor of the charter of Richard I. 13th September, it appears that Alianor, the king's aunt (grandmother), formerly Queen of England, had the fair of Rockingham as part of her dower, and she being dead Isabel and the Comte de la March are to have it with all the dues. 31st October, the custos has five marcs from the sheriff for the repairs of the gutter of the king's chamber. 1224, in this year ten casks of wine were sent to Rockingham, and the carriage from Southampton to be paid by the sheriff, and later on ten dolia more. Walter the Miller has an oak for the repair of the bridge, one conveniently situated is to be chosen. In 1225, the sheriff was to take with him proper men, skilled in carpentry and masonry, and see to the repairs of the king's chamber in the castle, and for this sufficient timber was to be allowed. The Bishop of Ely had an order for ten bucks from an Essex forest, but because they were hard to take he had a similar order on Rockingham, to be used should the first attempt fail. A certain Ivo de Dyen taken in the forest had fined to King John eight marcs and a palfrey for his freedom, and paid it to the constable, for which he now has a quittance. William de Cantilupe has two bucks and two does from the forest to put into his park at Eston. Martin de Patishull has ten bucks. Some timber allowed for the castle is to be selected by the foresters and verdurers, who are to take a receipt (talliam) for it from the sheriff.

In 1226 ten dolia of wine were sent to the castle. In this year Ralph de Trublewill was to have timber from some convenient spot where the forest would not be injured, for the bay of the king's vivary at Brigestoke and the repair of his houses. The custos has twenty marks from the sheriff for works at the chapel and other parts of the castle. The sheriff of Beds is also to supply twenty marcs for these works; a load of lead is ordered for the gutters of the roof. 15th August, the constable is to have two bucks in season [in horis]. 24th July, 1227, the constable is to pay over his receipts for the

past and present year from Rockingham fair to Thomas de Cyrene, or his bailiff of that vill, and he is to leave them with him in future. William de Cantilupe is allowed to take two bucks in season. In 1230 three casks of wine were sent to the castle from Boston.

After some lapse of time an inquisition of the 34th Henry III, 1249-50, states that the castle was left ruinous by Sir Robert Basselewe, the last constable. It mentions the tower, the walls, and their battlements. The chapel was destitute of fittings for divine service

1250, Geoffrey de Rokingham, who probably held the Weyte fee in capite under the castle, had died, and his executors were allowed administration on giving security for the debts due to the king. 1284-6, the estate was not wound up, and Master Hy. Sampson brought before the Barons of the Exchequer the pieces of a tally for £4 levied by the Sheriff of Rutland, which tally was by mischance broken. Sampson seems to have been an executor. 1251, the sheriff is allowed 8s. 2d. for the carriage of the king's venison from Rockingham to Westminster, and Elias de Hanvill is to take sixty oaks from the king's woods of Clyve, Brigstoke, and Cottingham for works at the castle.

In 1253-4 Ernald de Bosco, justice of the forests south of Trent, had charge of Rockingham forest between the bridges of Stamford and Oxendon, excepting the castle and its appendages; and he was directed to make "Trencheyns" where it seemed most expedient in the forests of Rockingham and Clyve. Two years later Hugh de Goldingham had the same charge, and four men were imprisoned in the castle for trespass. They paid two marcs to be allowed bail until the advent of the Justice in eyre.

1260-1, the king committed to Alan la Zouch the castle and the forest from bridge to bridge, and John de Oxindon and Walter le Batiller were his attorneys to account for the issues of the county and forest to the king.

1269-70, Henry Engayne had license to impark ten acres of forest, probably near Blatherwick. In 1271, at the close of Henry's reign, Edward Earl of Cornwall his

nephew had the manor of Rockingham, and obtained a grant for the town of a Friday market.

Edward I was at Rockingham in 1275, 1279, 1290, and 1300, on the last occasion for eight days in April.

3rd Edward I, 1274-5, the jurors of the Hundred found that when the king came to Rockingham and staid there, he used to have grass (herbagium) in grazing time for all his horses in the Abbot of Peterborough's meadows on the Welland, and the constable claimed the same, but it appeared that since the time of Abbot de Cauz these rights had been lost, as well as a right to take large timber for the repairs of the castle, and wood to burn and for fences from the Abbot's wood of Cottingham. Also, about twenty-five years before, the abbot by "pourpres-ture," or unlawful enclosure, had encroached upon the king's common of pasture in Estiburg, to what extent was not known. Also Robert Oliver had appropriated a slice of the king's meadow, 20 rods by 2 feet, to enlarge his millrace, and Geoffrey Fitz Peter had built a wall in the king's highway in Rockingham, and enclosed land 80 ft. by 8 ft. Another entry states that the abbot, who held the manor of Cottingham in capite, had enclosed an assart there, on which was formerly common of pasture attached to the castle, and worth 40s. per acre. Also for three years Berenger le Moyne and the men of Henington had ceased to do suit in the Hundred court of Polebroke, worth 7s. 4d. per annum, and castle guard 20s. It appears also from the same Hundred rolls that it had been the custom from ancient times to celebrate divine services in the chapel within the castle, for which 50s. was allowed annually by the sheriff. The celebration had ceased for eight years before 1268. The vill of Rockingham had been in the hands of the king's predecessors, and was given by King Henry to the King of the Romans, whose son Edmund Earl of Cornwall inherited it, and had the manor. The advowson of the parish church of St. Leonard was wont to be in the Crown, but the jurors were ignorant, "*Utram data esset domino Regi Alim' cum manerio de Rokingham an non.*" Manton chapel was attached to the manor, and Henry had given it to the last pastor who was still alive. The abbot, on his side, but half a century

later, had counter-complaint to make." (*Pet. in Parl.*, ii, 22).

1276-7, the Abbot of Pipewell was relieved from the toll for chiminage, or right of way through the forest. Thomas de Blatherstone had 9d. for his expenses with the king's greyhounds and 2d. for bread for them, and another 5½d. for bread when Master Richard de Holbroc staid at Rokingham, and for the greyhounds of the Abbot of Laund for nineteen days 19d, in all 8s. 6½d. for greyhounds.

In the year 1279 was an outlay on the castle, the details of which are preserved.

1279-80, Lawrence de Preston, one of a family who held Gretton manor, complained of Roger de Hollande, constable, for "estovers," or wood for the use of the house, taken from the woods of the Abbot of Peterborough in Cottingham, from William de Latimer in Corby, and from Preston's own wood at Gretton "pro nimia oppressione," in taking more than were due to him. Ralph Basset was allowed to assart and cultivate 38 acres in Weldon in the forest.

1280-1, the king granted to Robert Fitz-Roger of Wanton that part of the bailliewick of Bulay in the forest which is in the king's hands, and the charge of the wood of Fernes for life, saving to the king the rights of vert and venison. 1281, 8s. 2d. are allowed the sheriff for carriage of the king's venison from Rockingham to Westminster. 1282, Richard de Holebroke has the custoship of the castle and seneschalship of the forest, with the king's rents of Whytele and the manors of Saham, Oveston, and Silveston, for three years, and 1285 Holebroke is again constable and has £637 17s 8½d. for monies expended by him in repairs of the castle during the past seven years. It is therefore probable that Holebroke held office before 1282. As he was by far the most active person who held the office, and as most of the older part of the castle is his work, it will be convenient here to quote from the Miscellaneous Rolls for the 9th and 10th of Edward I, a translation of the instrument by which Holebroke was appointed constable, which may be taken as the general form for all, and may thus be rendered :

“Concerning the Castle of Rokingham and the office of the seneschalcy of the forests and the divers manors committed.

“The king commits to Richard de Holebroke the custody of the king's castle of Rokingham and the office of the seneschalcy of the king's forests, between the bridges of Oxon and Staunfford, with the king's rent from Whitele, and with the king's manors of Saham, Oneston, and Silveston, to be held with all their appurtenances from the feast of St. Michael in the year of the king's reign the 9th, until the end of the three complete years next following, unless in the meantime the king should be induced to order otherwise concerning the aforesaid castle. Rendering thence to the king annually at the king's exchequer from the issues of the aforesaid castle and seneschalcy 80 pounds. From the manor of Saham 56 pounds, and from the manor of Selveston 15 pounds, that is to say, one moiety at the feast of the Holy Trinity, and the other moiety at the feast of St. Martin next following. So however that the aforesaid Richard shall take nothing in the aforesaid forests or in the king's park of Silveston, except a reasonable estorvery (what is necessary) for constructing the houses of the aforesaid castle and for maintaining those and other houses which are in the king's aforesaid manors, and should it be necessary, for repairing them. And he may have herbage in the aforesaid park, preserving sufficient pasture for the king's beasts there. And should it happen that in the meantime the king should retake that castle into the king's hand, he shall preserve the aforesaid Richard without loss. In witness, &c. Witness the king at Westminster the 16th day of November” [1282].

1288-9, Walter de Langton was allowed to impark his wood of Ashley and twelve contiguous acres, all in the forest. 1289-90, Holbroke, still constable, was allowed £8 11s. 11½d. for the expenses of the funeral of Walter de Levy, one of the suite of John de Brabant, who died at the castle and was buried at Pipwell. His bowels, however, were left at Rockingham, and there was a feast at his funeral. 1290-1, Elias de Hamul succeeded Holbroke, paying the same rental. In this year great com-



plaints were made to the king of Holebroke's conduct, Wm. de Latimer, who held Corby and a wood in capite at 10s. per annum, complained that Holebroke had cut down great oaks without number, destroying his wood, taking cart loads of underwood and branches, and had quartered charcoal burners upon it for six years at £10 per annum each. Also that he had kept about 80 swine and 100 goats there for a year in all seasons and contrary to the charter. Lawrence Preston of Gretton made a similar complaint. Both accused him of converting public funds into his private property. Holbroke denied the charges, and the king promised an enquiry. (Plac. in Parl. 1, 36)

1291-2, Thos. de Lodington was allowed to impark five acres in Maleswood in the forest. 1293-4, Elias de Hamul was sent to Germany, and Thomas de Hamul appointed in his room. 1295-6, the constable is to take charge of William, son of Sir John de Moravia, Herbert de Mirham, Alex. de Fitz-Gley, and Gregory Fitz-Owen, prisoners taken in Dunbar castle. Money is allowed for their sustenance. 1296-7, W. Beauchamp Earl of Warwick holds the castle and forest during pleasure, and, 1298-9, is succeeded by Adam de Welles.

In July 1299 Edward I settled the dowers of Margaret the sister, and Isabella the daughter, of the King of France, on the marriages of himself and his son, and in the places settled on the latter occur "Geytington, Eston, Torpeyl, Brikstok, Clyve, and the castle and vill of Rokingham, with its forests, etc.," and the schedule gives the following interesting particulars of their value. Geytington, farm of the vill, £48; of the market, 6 marcs, total £52. Eston, £40. Torpel, £100. Brikstok, with park and wood, £104 13s. 4d. Clyve, with the forest, £110 6s. 3d. C. and V. of Rokingham, with forest, etc., £80, being the farm of the castle and seneschalship between Oxon and Stamford bridges. (Mise roll, 27 Edw. 1.) Queen Eleanor's dower settled on her marriage was £4,500 per annum. (Cal. rot. Chartarum.)

1301, John, son and heir of Richard de Holebroc, was allowed £614 10s. 6d. for extensive repairs to the castle in his father's time.

The entries during the reign of Edward II are also

tolerably numerous. 1307-8, Baldwin de Manners became constable on the same terms as Welles, as did Alan la Zouch 1311-12. In the next year Roger de Norwich had the vill of Rockingham and the manor of Little Weldon. 1313, Aymer de Valence Earl of Pembroke was custos, &c., on the usual terms, and Richard Edward had Little Weldon. De Valence himself, or by his deputy, was to provide munition for the castle out of the issues of his custodship.

1314-15, the Abbot of Pipewell was allowed 5a 3r. 10p., at a perch of twenty feet, for ever, from the king's waste in the forest, at a rent of 2s. 11d. 1315, the king being lord of the manor of Rockingham, the Saturday market was confirmed. 1319-20, John Gifford, clerk, had a grant of 85a. 3r. 9½p. in the forest in fee at the south side, in Tottenhowe, to be cleared and built upon. Also he has "common" for his animals. 1323-4, beside a number of castles, the vill of Rockingham is committed to Humphrey de Walden and Richard de Iken, and next year to Iken and Richard de Wynfarthing. 1324-5, John de Mosteyn was constable. Edward III is known to have been at Rockingham four times, and he here tested a score of documents, many of which are diplomatic instruments of great importance, and drawn up with much care. Queen Philippa probably had the castle in settlement on her marriage in 1327, for in 1329 Edward granted her 60 acres in the forest, in aid of the repairs of the castle then a ruin. William la Zouch was allowed to make a "saltatorium" or deer-leap within his manor of Haringworth in the forest, and next year Simon de Drayton had leave to impark Elsdale, Neusdale, and Lappe, containing 60 acres, also Wynescross of 10 acres, the latter outside the forest. Drayton was also constable and seneschal, paying yearly £80. He was of Drayton, now one of the best preserved and charming old manor places in the forest, and which has never been sold or alienated. An order was issued for enquiry into the oppressions done by Robert de Veer while constable, and the Bishop of Lincoln had leave to add 60 acres to his park of Luddington, county Rutland, but within the forest, and to enclose the same within a stone wall. 1335-6, Master William de Nassington had a pardon and

fined a marc for "pour presture" and encroachment of 13a. 3r. at Kaluhey, occupied by John of Kyngeswood, parson of Hakebourn. 1336-7, Walter de Basley, the king's clerk, had a grant of two oaks in the forest from the queen, and had taken four, for which he is in prison. John de Verdon, constable, is to release him on bail. Verdon held office by the queen's grant for life, paying £80 per annum to the king's consort when alive, and on her death to the king. 1338-9, the king took the homage of Hugh, son and heir of Margery de Nevill, deceased, for 6 acres of arable, 1 of meadow and pasture, and 20s. rent in Medbourne, held by the service of giving a barbed arrow whenever the king came to the castle.

1339-40, the forest wastes were to be measured; and two years later were to be enquired into in the forests of Rockingham, Salcy, and Whichwood. 1345-6, Thomas Wake of Blisworth had license to assart 250 acres of land and pasture within the forest for which the præpositus and brethren, chaplain of John Gifford's Chantry in Cotterstock and their successors are to pay annually 1d. per acre. They also pay a fine of £5. The lands are "nuper arentatis." 1347, the Lieutenant of the Tower of London is to send 10 Scots prisoners to John de Verdon constable of Rockingham, or his deputy Thomas Stone. 1348-9, Simon Simeon has leave to enclose his wood of Grafton in the forest with a little ditch and a low hedge, and five years later he has permission to inpark it.

20th Edward III, 1346-7, the king, in aid of the repairs of the castle, "*qui noviter dirutus est et prostratus*" grants to the queen 60 acres of wood in his park of Bukelestroke within the forest on lease for her life. (Abb. Rot. Orig.) The queen however had it not all her own way, for 1356-7 is a memorandum for staying her assarts in the forest. In this year the Abbot of Pipewell has the advowson of Geddington, and is to restore to the king in fee his lands in Benefield.

1371-2, and again in 1375-6, the king confirms the queen's grant to Walter de Wright of pannage, herbage, dead wood, "*copreneo*," brushwood (*cablicio*), bullrushes (*cirpos*), and all fallen branches, within the park of Brigstoke, and the bailliewicks of Geddington and Bulay,

within the forest of Rockingham, also timber for the park pales for life, at £10 per annum. 1371-2, Henry Mulso has a lease for five years, at £42 per annum, of all the king's "rentes d'assart" in the forest. 1375-6, Almaric de St. Amand, chivaler, has the castle and forest at the old rent of £80. 24th August, 1375, the truce of Bruges between England and France was confirmed by Edward, "Don' a nostre chastel de Rockingham."

In 1381, Sir John de Clyfton claimed to hold the manors of Rockingham and Wymundham by the service of butler at coronations, which service he complains had been usurped by the Earl of Arundel.

The importance of the castle and the exclusive jealousy of encroachment on forest rights were now on the decline. Encroachments were made upon the woodlands both for private parks and for cultivation, and the castle was neglected. The forest offices were however still coveted, and continued to be so for some centuries. 1387, Sir William de Thorpe had the bailliewicks of Brikestoke, Gettington, and Bulay for life. 1396, William Brancepath has the charge of the lordship of Rockingham for twelve years at £4 2s. 1d. At this time it was under the Duchy of Cornwall.

The reign of Henry IV opens upon Rockingham with a grant of the charge of the park of Clyve for life, and early in that of Henry V is an appointment of itinerant judges to hear pleas in Rockingham forest.

1439-40, Henry VI granted to the master of the College of Fotheringay 20 acres of waste in Shortwood, near Southwick, in Kingscliff bailliewick for 3s. 4d., with permission to assart. In 1440, the vineyard mentioned in the reign of Henry I was extant, and worth 4s. per annum; and 1442-3, Sir Robert Ross, one of the king's carvers (*trencheatorum*), and much employed in diplomacy, has a grant in tail male of the castle and lordship of Rockingham, and the seneschalship of the forest from Stamford to Oxendon bridges, the supervisorship of the parish of Brigstock, pannage, etc., at £75 16s. 8d. per annum, which was held by Henry his son in 1450. 1445 the tenants of Southwick manor are allowed common of pasture in the forest. 1450, Richard Duke

of York is constituted justice in eyre of the southern forests, and of Rockingham between the bridges, and of the king's parks of Cliffe and Brigstoke for life. An entry in the "*Inquisitiones ad quod damnum*" shews that between 1448-55, the "men and tenants" of the town of Northampton held the office of king's escheator. In the long list of crown revenues enumerated in the proceedings of Parliament, 28th Henry VI., 1450, the farms, rents, pasture and profits of assarts in Rockingham forest are set down at £26 3s. per annum. In 1454, Henry settled upon Queen Margaret, with much other property, the castle, lordship, manor, and forest of Rockingham, with its assarts, rents, etc., the vill of Brigstoke, and the bailliewicks of Brigstock and Clyffe, etc.

Edward IV first appears in the forest by a concession in 1462-3 to the tenants of his vill of Nassington and Yarewell of an annual tax called Woodhallmarc exacted by the officers of the forest; he also granted them free common for their beasts in Seveley and generally in the forest.

1462-3, the king made an ample grant to William Lord Hastings and Ralph Hastings, Esq., to be constables of the castle and forest of Rockingham and bailiffs of Clyve and Brigstoke &c. for their lives; Lord Hastings also had the manor of Stoke d'Albini. 1467-8, Edward settled the manor upon his queen, Elizabeth Widville, with the castle and forest, for life.

One of the old forest laws forbade those who held woods of their own within the forest boundary from enclosing them after felling the timber, for the protection of the rising wood, for more than three years. The king in Parliament, 1482, 22nd Edward IV, extended this time to seven years.

Henry VII, soon after his accession, confirmed to John Lord Welles the office of constable and steward of the castle, lordship and manor of Rockingham, and of master forester of all the parks within the forest. He seems however, 4th March, 1498, to have settled the whole upon Elizabeth his queen for life. In the schedule attached to the king's declaration, *pro hospitio Regis*, 1485, 1st Henry VII, the revenues of Cliffe, Brigstocke,

Geddington, the Forest, Corby, and Gretton, are set down at £208.

Edward VI, 1551-2, granted the manor, as part of the Duchy of Cornwall, to Edward Lord Clinton. 27th June, 1553, occurs a grant to Lord Robert Dudley and William Glaseour of tenements in Rockingham, and in Eston, co. Leicester, late parcel of the lands of the late William Lord Parr, and late in the occupation of Edward Watson. This was Sir Edward Watson who had the manor of Rockingham, 28th Henry VIII, and was father of Henry Watson, æt. 16, 16th Henry VIII. Probably, however, that was a sub- or mesne-manor, for the castle and manor of Rockingham were in the crown in the reign of Philip and Mary.

In 1570, 21st April, the Earl of Northampton informs Cecil that Edward Watson of Rockingham has been required by the Council to contribute 100 marcs to the loan. Probably this should be 1600, or £337 10s., for he adds that in his opinion not more than £50 should be required of him. (*State Papers, Dom.*)

In 1571 Sir Walter Mildmay has a grant of forest land, probably near Apethorpe.

In 1592 the Lord Treasurer Burghley has the keepership of the forest for life, excepting Great and Little Brigstock parks, as the late Lord Chancellor had it. When Lord Burghley died the keeper or wardship was given, 1598, to his son. From this time the grants of bailliewicks, forest walks, lands, and forest offices are very numerous.

In 1601, 23rd December, Elizabeth granted the forest in free socage to be held of the manor of Hampton Court to Edward Watson and William Whitock, for £96 1s. 4d. What this grant meant is uncertain: not the whole forest, for the keepership of this was granted to Lord Burghley, Sir William Cecil, and Lord Roos, with survivorship.

26th October, 1604, the deer had become scarce, and Lord Burghley was restrained from killing any for three years. In this year an inquisition was directed into the forest lands held by the king's tenants, the crown interests having evidently been much neglected.

In January, 1605, notice was given that James inten-

ded to visit Rockingham, and commissioners sat, probably to check abuses, before whom, 14th June, Sir Thomas Tresham was summoned for his discourses on the misgovernment of the forest under Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth, matters which he hoped James would reform.

In 1609 the commissioners were prepared to agree to compositions from the holders of assarted lands, excepting however in Clyffe and probably some other parts of the forest. They were also selling the woods, but as the game had been diminished by unlawful hunting it was ordered that for three years no claims for deer should be allowed save under the sign manual. At that time Sir C. Hatton was keeper of the Launde of Benyfield in the forest.

29th October, 1609, Sir Edward Watson wrote to Lord Salisbury that the king's tenants in Cotingham and Middleton desired to purchase these lands, and he himself offers to purchase his court leet and view of frankpledge.

2nd June, 1610, John Browne has £170 0s. 4d. for the repairs of the lodges of Geddington, Morehay and Gretton woods.

In 1611, 19th September, Sir Lewis Watson of Rockingham had license to travel.

1615, 12th June, Sir Robert Lane was proceeded against by the Attorney-General for encroachment on the forest.

1616, Sir Edward Watson, whose effigy is seen in the church, became possessed of the manor of Rockingham. 1619, 20th June, George Marquis of Buckingham had a grant of Rockingham park, which, in the same year, he conveyed to Sir Lewis Watson; and 1621, 23rd March, Buckingham, then Lord High Admiral, had a grant of 200 oaks from Westhay walk, to be selected by himself. 1624, 14th May, the Earl of Exeter, then Lord Warden of the forest, mentions the land of Murie as one of the prime walks. The verdurers seem to have been country gentlemen of consideration in the neighbourhood; Sir Thomas Tresham was one. 20th July, Robert Lane, who had been displaced by the Montague interest with the Earl of Exeter, asks Lord Salisbury to replace him as keeper of Geddington woods. In 1625, 23rd March a

warrant is issued for the repairs of the chief lodge in Corby woods, and £16 and 10 tons of timber are allowed.

1628, 29th January, John Lord Mordaunt has the forestership of Farming woods at £10 per annum, with a fine of £1150, and Edward Lord Montague has that of Geddington at £10, with a fine of £850. Soon after he purchased the timber, and is mentioned as having the revenue of Rockingham bailliewick. Nicholas Pay and others had a grant from Lords Peterborough and Westmoreland of all timber trees in the walks of Morehay, Westhay, and Farming woods for £2000, and Lord Montague that of Geddington walk for £1000. He also had a grant of the office of master forester and keeper of Rockingham bailliewick for three lives. These two lords seem to have been in favour with Charles I, and on the death of the Earl of Exeter in 1629 to have managed the forest in their own interests. In 1630-1 Mary Countess of Westmoreland seeks to have her son made justice in eyre for the forest, of which it will give her the command. In 1635 Sir Christopher Hatton claims Gretton and Weldon woods in the Forest Court, by grant from Queen Elizabeth, as does Sir W. Tresham Geddington by grant from James I. In this year, 11th Charles I, was held an "eyre" for Rockingham forest. Certain tenants claimed "Suite-Thornes," by the custom of the manor, in addition to house-bote, hedge-bote, gate-bote, and common of pasture.

In 1637-8, 13th Charles I, a new perambulation was ordered, to settle the bounds, which were finally agreed to as those of 20th James I, and made the subject of an Act of Parliament 17th Charles I. Deeforestation was allowed on reasonable composition, only the Surveyor General was to set out the bailliewick of Rockingham, Clyffe, and Brigstock, to be retained for the king's sport. Lord Treasurer Juxon was president of the new commission, which met in London, at London House, in 1638. At that time Henry Earl of Holland was justice in eyre, and seems to have had much to do. Richard Lane was his deputy. In 1638 Sir C. Hatton applied for leave to fell a coppice. The verdurers are to certify the acreage to the chief justice, and whether the wood may be felled without injury to the game. The certifiers



are Sir Lewis Watson and Charles Cockayn. Thomas Dove, a verdurer, has leave from the chief justice to hawk in moderation. There are great complaints of poaching. In this year William Earl of Salisbury had a release for two fines of £1400 and £6000 inflicted by the justice, probably for serious encroachments, and his park at Brigstock, which had been laid open, is to be re-parked. 1638-9, John Norwich of Brampton pays £400 for encroachments and Brampton is disafforested.

In 1639 the troubles had commenced, and 29th June the manor of Rockingham was confirmed to Sir Lewis Watson, who held the castle for the king. In 1643 the tide of civil war flowed towards Northamptonshire. 5th April, the castle had been besieged and taken, and Lord Grey of Groby was in command for the Parliament. He fortified it strongly with palisades, and therein sheltered his troops and certain of the disaffected clergy. 7th May, the castle contained a strong garrison and was used to preserve the peace of the district. 19th May, Sir Lewis Watson was captured by Colonel Hastings and taken to Stoke Albini. The colonel was active throughout the forest. 5th June, Sir John Norwich was the parliamentary governor of the castle, and had engaged and routed the king's guards. 9th June, 500 horse appeared before the castle, and a party blockaded it while the rest rode to Weldon. The garrison, however, were too strong, and captured nine or ten of the king's chief officers who came that way from Oxford. 29th December, Lord Grey proposed to dismiss Colonel Horsman, then in charge of the castle, but the Parliament upheld him.

In 1645 Norwich was in command, and took many prisoners, lodging them in the castle. Sir Lewis probably distinguished himself in the field, for 1st June he was created Baron Rockingham of Rockingham Castle. 7th June, the king marched from Harborough to Daventry, and on the 14th the battle of Naseby was fought, whence many prisoners were sent to the castle.

In August, 1660, with the restoration, Lord Rockingham appears, and finding a scarcity of deer, begs the usual warrants may be restrained. In 1661, at the coronation, Edward Lord Rockingham, as tenant in capite of Little Weldon, claimed to be keeper of the king's dogs.

This was referred to the king. The manor was held by the service of keeping twenty-four buckhounds and six harriers. With the civil war the value of the castle as a place of strength ceased, and it became the residence of the Watson family, as it has since remained.

Some years ago the late Mr. Hartshorne drew up an account of the castle, which, with copious notices of its descent, and of its connexion with the forest was printed in the first volume of the *Transactions* of the Institute. Since then, the Rev. H. J. Bigge, for many years rector of Rockingham, has paid much attention to the subject, and has made collections concerning it, for the use of which the present writer is much indebted.