

THE PALACE OR MANOR-HOUSE OF THE BISHOPS OF  
ROCHESTER AT BROMLEY, KENT, WITH SOME NOTES ON  
THEIR EARLY RESIDENCES.

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A few words by way of introduction. Sir Coles Child, Bart, the present owner of Bromley Palace, and of any rights that may be attached to the manor, has kindly allowed me to study the long and able account of Bromley, which, with the help of various experts, was prepared by his father, who bought the estate from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1845. To this he devoted much time in his later years. It is unpublished and forms the basis of the paper by W. T. Beeby, M.D. in *Archaeologia Cantiana*, vol. xiii, 1880, called 'The Church and Manor of Bromley.'

Mr. Coles Child died in 1873, aged 59.

I. BROMLEY AND THE BISHOPS OF ROCHESTER.

The origin of Bromley as a place of habitation need here only be referred to in the briefest way. The authority for the statement by Hasted in his *History of Kent* that land here was given to a bishop of Rochester in the latter part of the eighth century is not convincing.<sup>1</sup> Unquestionably A.D. 955, King Edgar granted ten sulings at Bromley to Bishop Elfstan. The king's son Ethelred seized it and gave it to a minister, but afterwards repenting, he restored six out of the ten sulings to the see of Rochester. We do not know if the Saxon bishops ever lived here, but their ownership of a considerable amount of land rather suggests a dwelling.

Passing on to the time of Domesday, finished A.D. 1086, we are told that the bishop of Rochester then held Bromley as lord of the manor, but although it answered for six sulings in the time of King Edward the Confessor, the amount of land had been reduced to three sulings.

<sup>1</sup> E. Hasted, *Hist. Kent*, ed. 1797, i, p. 552. In Dugdale's *Monasticon* ed. 1830, i. 154, it is said that 'Offa, king of Mercia, gave jointly with Sigereð, king of Kent,

A.D. 747, Frindsbury and Wickham to this church (Rochester) to which was soon afterwards added the manor of Bromley.'

*The Actual Episcopal Palace of Bromley belonging to the See of Rochester taken before the Year 1756*



*This view is inscribed, to the much respected Memory of the Right Hon. St. Levis de Wilton, late Lord, Bp. of Rochester, who having was in that See, almost 26 Years, the Ornament of his Throne, dyed much lamented on Feb. 28. 1756. A. D. 84.*



VIEW OF BROMLEY PALACE BEFORE 1756.

There were thirty villeins (*villani*) and twenty-six bordars (*bordarii*), which, allowing for their families, might imply a population of over 200.

There was a mill, no doubt a water-mill, where corn was ground for the manor, windmills apparently not coming into use in England until long afterwards. No church is mentioned; if the bishops had a house they had a chapel, which perhaps afforded accommodation enough. But between 1115 and 1124 there *was* a church.<sup>1</sup> The Domesday survey records no landowner except the bishop, This state of things however did not last long, and afterwards, by sub-infeudation, dependent manors were carved out in the parish, one of them a rectorial manor, entries from the Court-roll of which exist. There were also lands held by knight-service.

One of the most famous bishops of Rochester was Gundulf (1077-1108) and Hasted thought that he built the palace<sup>2</sup> or manor-house. Mr. Coles Child believed it to have been older, arguing that a structure for which Gundulf was responsible could hardly have become ruinous in the course of a century, because architectural works with which his name is usually associated, for instance the keeps of the Tower of London and of Rochester Castle, seem almost indestructible. We know that, A.D. 1184, Bishop Gilbert de Glanville, who had been one of Becket's scholars, found his house at Bromley so inconvenient and so out of repair that he rebuilt or thoroughly restored it. We may however bear in mind that Glanville seems to have had a taste for expenditure of that kind, for he rebuilt several other episcopal houses.

In the year 1205 this prelate obtained from King John a grant of a weekly market at Bromley on Tuesdays throughout the year—an indication perhaps that the inhabitants had increased in numbers. There was protracted strife between him and the prior and monks of Rochester; he is said to have plunged them into such costly litigation that they were obliged to turn into money the silver shrine

<sup>1</sup> In the *Registrum Roffense* mention is made of a church being reclaimed with the manor from Odo of Bayeux in 1076. This, however, was written long afterwards. Dr. Beeby mentions payment for chrism rent about 40 years after the Domesday account. The basin of the font is Norman.

<sup>2</sup> So called for centuries. Then however it would only have ranked with other episcopal manor houses. As the late Canon A. J. Pearman remarked in *Arch. Cant.* xxxiii, 1918, p. 131, 'Palace' by rights should apply to a bishop's house in his cathedral city.'

of St. Paulinus, which dated from the time of Archbishop Lanfranc and had been much resorted to by pilgrims. He died in 1214, and in spite of their opposition was buried in Rochester Cathedral, where on the north side of the presbytery opposite the sedilia is a tomb generally believed to be his.

To vent his wrath one of the monks was said to have composed the following doggerel about the bishop :—

Glanvill Gilbertus, nulla bonitate refertus,  
Hic jacet immitis, et amator maxime litis.  
Et quia sic litem dum vixit solet amare,  
Nunc, ubi pax nulla est, est aptior inhabitare.<sup>1</sup>

Of these lines the following free translation has been suggested :—

Here Gilbert Glanvill lies, who in his life,  
Was harsh, unfriendly, loving legal strife,  
Since peace he hated, now in lowest—well !  
Where there is no peace let him aptly dwell.

In spite of the fine monument, according to a chronicler, he was buried like Jews and heretics, without the divine office.<sup>2</sup>

In 1235 Richard de Wendover, rector of Bromley, was elected bishop of Rochester by the monks. The archbishop of Canterbury refused to confirm the election, declaring him to be ignorant and in every respect unworthy. The real ground of his refusal, apparently, was that he claimed the right of naming the bishop. The monks appealed to the pope, who after three years confirmed the election. He was the only rector of Bromley who reached this dignity. He died 12 Oct. 1250, and by the king's command was buried in Westminster Abbey.

In A.D. 1255, when his successor Laurence de St. Martin was bishop, the small value of Bromley manor and the unproductive nature of the soil are referred to in the *Registrum Roffense*, p. 63, thus : ' The sworn valuers of the manor of Bromleghe say that the yearly rent there amounts to £23 and no more, and they say that the buildings there cannot be sustained except from the rent, because the arable lands do not repay the necessary expenses, each year

<sup>1</sup> *History of Rochester* by W. Shrubsole and the Rev. S. Denne, D.D. 2nd ed. 1817, p. 120.

<sup>2</sup> Cott. M.S. Nero D2, f. 127b and Wharton's *Anglia Sacra*, 1, 347.

made about the same. The valuers say that the buildings there require yearly 60s.'

In October, 1261, Roger Forde, abbot of Glastonbury, was killed at Bromley palace, he being then on a journey to defend the rights of the church. He is said to have been a man of great learning, and was buried in Westminster abbey. Laurence de St. Martin was at that time still bishop of Rochester.

In Lysons' *Environs of London* (vol. iv, p. 309) mention is made of Forde's death, and Willis' *Mitred Abbies* (vol. i, p. 91) is given as the authority. He refers to 'Continuatio Will. Malmesbury,' which appears to be a manuscript in the Bodleian Library. William of Malmesbury wrote 'De antiquitate Glastoniensis ecclesiae.'

When Thomas de Ingoldisthorpe, who was consecrated bishop of Rochester in 1283, died, May 1291, it appears from a taxation of the episcopal manors that he had at Bromley in rents of assize £23 10s, etc. There were then two mills valued at 40s. per annum. We may I think assume that the first (mentioned in Domesday) was by the mill-pond on the Ravensbourne now included in the grounds of the house called Mill Vale, but where was the second ?

Bishop Thomas de Wouldham died at Bromley 28 Feb. 1316-17, and from some motive of policy his death was kept secret for three days. A copy of his will, dated 1316, is given in the *Registrum Roffense*, p. 113. Among his executors he names John Frindsburie, rector of Bromley. The bishop's interests and those of a previous rector, Abel de St. Martin, had clashed, dues having been levied by him on tenants of the rectorial manor, so that these persons were called upon to pay twice over; but the difficulty must have been adjusted. John Frindsburie afterwards got himself into trouble by contumacious behaviour to a later bishop. It seems that in 1329 he was deprived and Hugh de Pennebridge collated in his stead, but Frindsburie 'sent his chaplain to Rochester, and at the high altar, with bell and candle excommunicated his bishop; which excommunication was afterwards revoked, and at a subsequent visitation of the diocese by the archbishop, the rebellious rector was severely punished; nevertheless he eventually retained the living.'<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Beeby in *Arch. Cant.* vol. xiii, p. 158.

Hamo de Hethe, so named from Hythe his birthplace, bishop from 1319 to 1352, had been chaplain to Thomas de Wouldham, whom he succeeded,<sup>1</sup> and then prior of Rochester, and was chosen by the monks with the consent of the archbishop. The pope however refused to confirm him, and appointed John of Puteoli, confessor to Queen Isabella, wife of Edward II. After more than two years Hamo was confirmed, but had to pay heavily to the pope. It was doubtless on this account that in 1320 he was obliged to sell the woods at Elmstead for 200 marks. He also found the buildings belonging to the see dilapidated, and in 1337 he spent a considerable sum on the farm buildings at Bromley. Among the Cotton manuscripts in the British Museum there is an account, dating probably from his time, of the stock that ought to be left at Bromley on the death or translation of a bishop. After enumerating one cart-horse, value 13*s.* 4*d.*, sixteen oxen, four stallions, one hundred ewe lambs, etc., it descends to such minutiae as three barrels, one table, one brass pot and one porridge pot. William Dene, the bishop's notary public, wrote a life of him with much detail, which is printed in Wharton's *Anglia Sacra*, pp. 356-377.

In 1421 John Langdon, sub-prior of Christchurch, Canterbury, was elected and consecrated the following year. He had been one of twelve Oxford scholars appointed to enquire into Wycliffe's doctrines in 1411. In 1432 he was engaged in an embassy to France and he died and was buried at Basel. During his episcopate he granted a lease of some woodlands in Bromley for 419 years, which was afterwards with difficulty revoked by Bishop Wellys.

We are told that Thomas Brouns, bishop 1435-1436 (preceding Wellys) resided much at Bromley during his short tenure of the office. He was afterwards translated to Norwich, and was ambassador to France in 1439. I cannot connect William Wellys, bishop 1437-1443, especially with Bromley. The Rev. C. H. Fielding<sup>2</sup> says there is an illuminated portrait of him kneeling before the cross of St. Andrew at the beginning of his register.

<sup>1</sup> The Rev. C. H. Fielding (*Records of Rochester Diocese*, 1910, p. 11) says that Thomas de Wouldham desired to be buried 'in ecclesia cathedrali Roffensi vel alibi pro

disposicione executorum meorum,' but that he was not buried in the cathedral.

<sup>2</sup> *Records of Rochester Diocese* by the Rev. C. H. Fielding, 1910, p. 11.

After this time there appears to be no special reference direct or indirect to Bromley for many years, excepting that in 1446 Bishop John Lowe obtained from King Henry VI. a charter for a market once a week,<sup>1</sup> and for a fair or fairs, which are referred to again on p. 167.

In 1504, when John Fisher was appointed bishop, the income attached to the see appears to have been about £300 a year. Incidentally it may be mentioned that in 1507 Bishop Fisher received in the parish church of Bromley an act of abjuration of certain errors and heresies by one Richard Gavell from Westerham. In 1532, three years before Fisher's downfall, a bailiff's account tells us that Bromley manor was let for no more than £6 13s. 4d, and the warren produced 165 couples of rabbits. The farmer was Robert Fisher, perhaps a relation of the bishop.

In 1550 John Ponet or Poynet succeeded the famous Nicholas Ridley, who had been installed Bonner's successor in the bishopric of London. Ponet, at one time Cranmer's chaplain, was allowed to hold with the see his other church preferments. In an order of Council dated 29 June, 1550, it is said that 'he hath no house to dwell upon,'<sup>2</sup> that in Bromley being perhaps out of repair. He was translated to Winchester in 1551, and deprived on the accession of Mary, when he fled to the Continent. A supposed scandal about his marriage or marriages has come down to us, some particulars of which are given in *Notes and Queries* for 27 June, 1914.

In the latter part of the sixteenth century there is nothing special to record about the mansion at Bromley, which after the Reformation was the chief home of the bishops of Rochester. John Yonge died there on 10 April, 1605, after holding the bishopric for twenty-seven years. The parish register gives the date of his burial, and in the nave of the parish church is an inscription to his memory. His arms, impaled with those of the see, were on a brass plate attached to the gravestone.

John Buckeridge, who became bishop of Rochester in 1611, being translated to Ely in 1628, was also buried in Bromley church, but there is no inscription to his memory.

<sup>1</sup> We have seen that in 1205 Gilbert de Glanville had obtained a grant of a weekly market on Tuesdays. Query, did

Lowe merely get the day changed to Thursday?

<sup>2</sup> *Strype, Eccles. Mem.* vol. ii, p. 524.

The following is an extract from the burial register : ' 1631. The last of May. The Right Reverend Father in God John Buckeridge, the Lord Bp. of Ely sometime Bp. of Rochester. He left £20 for the benefit of the poor of Bromley parish.'

December 14, 1629, John Bowle was elected bishop, and in the following year George Abbot, archbishop of Canterbury, supplies the information that ' Rochester was in the summer beat from his house in Bromley by the Plague.' It may be added that in 1665, the year of the great visitation of that disease, there were various deaths from plague at Bromley which are recorded in the register. We are told in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, but I have not yet found the contemporary reference, that Bishop Bowle died ' at Mrs. Austen's house on the Banckside the 9th of October, 1637, and his body was interred in St. Paul's church London in the moneth following.' The lady must have been Anne, widow of William Austin, who died in 1633, and to whose memory there is a fantastic monument in Southwark Cathedral, then St. Saviour's parish church, also commemorating his mother Lady Clarke. A return made by Archbishop Laud to Charles I, 1634, seems to imply censure of this prelate for remissness in the discharge of his episcopal office.<sup>1</sup>

We now reach a period when sources of information become much fuller than has been the case hitherto. From the local point of view perhaps the most popular, at any rate the best known, of our bishops from the time of the Reformation was John Warner, a native of London, son of Harman Warner, merchant tailor, who, after holding several livings, among them those of St. Michael Crooked Lane and St. Dionis Backchurch London, became chaplain to King Charles I, and dean of Lichfield, and was consecrated bishop of Rochester in 1638. The primate, Laud, having requested a copy of a sermon by Warner, he addressed a letter to Laud from ' Bromleigh,' March 8, 1639-40.<sup>2</sup> Being an active loyalist, he was ejected from his see, his lands and goods were sequestered, and after keeping possession of the palace against the sheriffs for some time he had to leave Bromley in disguise. The

<sup>1</sup> *History of Rochester* by W. Shrubsole and the Rev. S. Denne, 2nd ed. 1817, p. 151.

<sup>2</sup> *Life of John Warner, Bishop of Rochester*, by Edward Lee-Warner, 1901.

sequestration of Warner's property was the result of an ordinance by which the estates of bishops, deans and chapters were forfeited, and, as Mr. Child points out, among the commissioners named to enforce the orders of parliament in Kent was Augustine Skinner,<sup>1</sup> who on 1 March, 1648, purchased the manor of Bromley. He therefore appeared in the double capacity of seller and buyer. The price paid by him was £5,665 11s. 11d., and it remained in the hands of his family till the Restoration.

After that event Warner was one of eight surviving bishops who again took possession of their dioceses. He was then about 79 years old, having been born in 1581, and he died at Bromley palace 14 October, 1666, leaving by will £8,000 for the erection of the buildings of Bromley College, which is a foundation for the benefit of clergymen's widows, and a rent charge on the manor of Swaton, Lincolnshire, to provide pensions and a stipend for the chaplain. The founder had expressed a wish that the college should be near Rochester, but no convenient site was found in that neighbourhood. This noble foundation has since been much enlarged, and there is a branch establishment in the grounds for the daughters of widows who have lived with their mothers in the college. The buildings, near the London end of the town, form a picturesque group. The original design is not unlike that of the college founded by Sir John Morden at Blackheath in 1695, the architect of which was Sir Christopher Wren. Morden was a trustee and afterwards treasurer of Bromley college.

Besides making other charitable bequests, Warner, who had private means, left £800 for the repair of the palace. He was buried in the chapel of Magdalen College, Oxford, of which he had been a demy and afterwards a fellow. There is rather a pathetic portrait of him in the Bromley College chapel, which has been rebuilt. He is depicted as a careworn man of advanced age, kneeling on a crimson cushion with gold tassels. The painter is unknown. A similar portrait is at Walsingham Abbey in Norfolk, the family seat of the Lee-Warners, who are descended from his sister. He had been married but left no children, and the name of his wife is at present unknown. It has

<sup>1</sup> Called Captain Skinner in the *Journal of the House of Lords*, vol. x, p. 263, 16 May, 1648.

been said that she was Bridget, widow of Robert Abbot, bishop of Salisbury, and according to another account she was widow of George Abbot, archbishop of Canterbury, but each statement has apparently been disproved in *Notes and Queries*, the former in the issue of 20 August, and the latter in that of 24 December, 1898. Record Office papers show that Bishop Warner's wife was alive 4 December, 1643, also that during his wanderings in the west country, 1643-1646, he went to stay with his 'wife's nearest kindred,' then living at Bromfield, Shropshire, and thence with them to Ludlow until his 'new coming to London after a dangerous sickness.' On 31 October, 1908, a query appeared in *Notes and Queries*, and in it the following words were quoted from the diary of Dr. Thomas Foxe (*Royal Historical Society's Transactions*, 1877, vol. v, p. 58) : '1648, May 26, my dear wife Ann Honeywood (her maiden name and born at Pett near Charing in Kent on Nov. 26, 1588) died at my cousin Ursula Warner her house in Bromley.' The writer, who 'has reason to suspect' that this lady was the wife of the bishop, asked for information about her, but there was no reply. According to most accounts Warner died at Bromley palace, 14 October, 1666, but Shindler, in his *Register of the Cathedral of Rochester*, 1892, p. 65, says that he died 21 October, aged 86, and was buried in the chapel of St. John, Rochester Cathedral.

Warner's successor in the bishopric, by name John Dolben, had served as an ensign in the King's army. He had fought and been wounded in the battle of Marston Moor, and was afterwards so badly wounded at the siege of York that he kept his bed for a twelve-month. At the end of his military career he was a major. Having been ordained in 1656, after the Restoration he soon made his mark as an ecclesiastic, holding various important offices, among them the deanery of Westminster, which he was allowed to retain when he was consecrated bishop of Rochester. Dolben restored Bromley palace, doubtless applying the money left by his predecessor for that purpose. John Evelyn in his diary, August 23, 1669, writes : 'I went to visit my excellent and worthy neighbour, the Lord Bishop of Rochester at Bromley, which he is now repairing after the dilapidations of the late Rebellion.' In 1683 Dolben became archbishop of York, being succeeded at

Rochester by Francis Turner, who was translated to Ely in the following year.

The next bishop of Rochester was the well-known Thomas Sprat, appointed in 1684, who wrote the history of the Royal Society and an account of Cowley, for whose monument he composed the inscription. A well-known work of his was his reply to Sorbière's remarks on England, 1864. Various letters by him, addressed to Sir Christopher, then 'Dr.' Wren, are printed in the *Parentalia*, and as a versifier he figures in Johnson's *Lives of the English Poets*. This prelate, while residing at Bromley in 1692, became the victim of a strange conspiracy, being suddenly arrested on the information of a rascal named Robert Young, who, when imprisoned in Newgate, drew up a paper for the restoration of King James, to which he appended the forged signatures of Sprat, Sancroft, Marlborough and others. He employed as his emissary one Stephen Blackhead, who took to the bishop at Bromley a letter forged by Young which purported to come from a doctor of divinity. Sprat was for the time deceived, and Blackhead, not being carefully watched, contrived to drop the letter into a flower-pot in a disused parlour. Young soon afterwards asked to be heard before the Privy Council in a matter of urgent importance. He told the story of the alleged plot, and messengers were sent to Bromley on 7 May, 1692, with a warrant to arrest the bishop. The latter afterwards gave an account of the whole affair,<sup>1</sup> wherein he graphically described how, immediately before his arrest he 'was walking in the orchard at Bromley meditating on something 'he' intended to preach the next day,' when he 'saw a coach and four horses stop at the outer gate, out of which two persons alighted.' He was arrested and his rooms were searched for the incriminating document. Young asked specially that they should examine the flower-pots. It was not then found, and after ten days he was allowed to return home. Meanwhile Young had sent Blackhead to recover the paper, which he passed on to the government with a cunning explanation. The bishop was recalled,

<sup>1</sup> It is called 'A Revelation of the wicked Contrivance of Stephen Blackhead and Robert Young, against the lives of several Persons, by an Association under their

Hands,' 1692. It is praised by Macaulay. In *Arch. Cant.* xiii, 165-166, Dr. Beeby quotes from it the bishop's account of his arrest.

examined before the Council and confronted with Blackhead, whom he drove to confess the truth. In consequence Sprat was set at liberty, on 13 June, 1692, and during the rest of his life he kept the anniversary as a day of thanksgiving for the deliverance. Blackhead absconded and Young was sentenced to stand thrice in the pillory. Some years afterwards he was hanged for coining. Bishop Sprat died of apoplexy at Bromley on 20 May, 1713. He was also dean of Westminster and was buried in the chapel of St. Nicholas, Westminster Abbey, but his monument was moved to make way for the Northumberland tomb.

The next bishop of Rochester was another historic personage, Francis Atterbury, a favourite of Queen Anne, and during the last four years of her reign one of the leading public men in England. With the see he was allowed, like so many of his predecessors, to hold *in commendam* the deanery of Westminster: and here it may be remarked that our bishops often, indeed nearly always, had other preferment, the reason being that until the readjustment of episcopal revenues by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners appointed in 1834, the see of Rochester was not only the smallest in the kingdom but also the most poorly endowed. I would add that the feeling against pluralities is to a large extent of modern growth. In 1720 this prelate was imprisoned in the Tower during seven months for his supposed connection with an attempt to restore the Stuarts. On his release he was deprived of all ecclesiastical offices and banished from the realm. He left England on June 18th, 1723, never to return. Among Pope's miscellaneous writings are lines 'on Dr. Francis Atterbury, bishop of Rochester, who died in exile at Paris, 1732, his only daughter having expired in his arms, immediately after she arrived in Paris to see him.' In fact, he died 17 February, 1731-32; his body was brought to England, and privately buried in Westminster Abbey on the 12th of May following, in a vault which had been prepared by his direction in 1722.<sup>1</sup>

Atterbury's correspondence with leading literary men gives interesting glimpses of his life in Bromley. He seems to have passed much of his time at the palace, and to have

<sup>1</sup> *History of Rochester*, by W. Shrubsole and the Rev. S. Denne, 2nd ed. 1817, p. 175.

been greatly attached to it. In a letter addressed to Matthew Prior, 26 August, 1718, he writes: 'My peaches and nectarines hung on the trees for you till they rotted.' In another, addressed to Pope from Bromley, 27 September, 1721, is the following passage: 'I am now confined to my bedchamber, and the matted room where I am writing, seldom venturing to be carried down to the parlour to dinner.' He also writes to the same correspondent: 'I never part from this place (Bromley) but with regret, though I generally keep here what Mr. Cowley calls the worst of company in the world, my own.' Again he mentions his sundial with the motto, *Vivite, ait, fugio*, and elsewhere sends an epigram on it which is quoted by Canon Pearman.

After his imprisonment in the Tower he defended himself at the bar of the house of Lords. In his speech he referred to the palace incidentally as follows: 'Out of a poor bishopric of £500 a year, for it was clearly worth no more to me, I did in eight years lay out £2,000 upon the house and other appurtenances, and because I knew the circumstances in which my predecessor left his family, I took not one shilling for dilapidations from his executors.' In the registers of Bromley parish church the burial is recorded of 'Sarah Atterbury from y<sup>e</sup> College, æt 83, on January 11th. 1789.' She was the widow of the Rev. Osborne Atterbury, who was son of the ill-fated bishop.

In 1731 Joseph Wilcocks, who had been bishop of Gloucester, succeeded Samuel Bradford as bishop of Rochester, being installed dean of Westminster on the same day. It is noteworthy that later he refused the archbishopric of York, the reason given by him being that 'this church is my wife and I will not part with her because she is poor.' In this he almost repeated expressions that had been used long before by Bishop Fisher. We are told that 'he kept the house and gardens at Bromley in remarkable neatness. That was his constant amusement even when drawing near his end.' There is a memento of his residence here in the form of a lead cistern, having on it his name and arms and the date 1732, which is now in the garden, south of the present house. Wilcocks was dean of Westminster when the upper portions of the western towers were being built, partly from the designs of Sir

Christopher Wren, supplemented by Hawksmoor. A representation of them was placed on his monument in the abbey, his grave being under the south-west tower. His son Joseph Wilcocks was a benefactor of Bromley College.

The next bishop was Zachary Pearce, translated from Bangor to Rochester in 1756, who also became dean of Westminster, and with difficulty obtained leave to resign that office when through old age he felt that he could not satisfactorily perform the duties of both. It is said that this was the first occurrence of the kind. He wrote a poem called 'The Wish, 1768, when I resigned the Deanery of Westminster.' In 1761 he had also declined translation to the see of London. The late George Warde Norman recorded that Bishop Pearce used to have public days at the palace, where he entertained those of his friends and neighbours who chose to be present. A similar custom was kept up later at Lambeth palace, and within the present writer's memory at Wentworth Woodhouse, Yorkshire, the home of the Earls Fitzwilliam. Pearce resided occasionally at Ealing, where he died in 1774, aged 84. He was buried in Bromley parish church, by the side of his wife who had predeceased him. He left £5,000 to Bromley College. His monument at Bromley is on the south side of the chancel, there is also one to him in Westminster Abbey.

Bishop Pearce was succeeded by John Thomas, who had been chaplain to George II and George III, and was already dean of Westminster. He married first Lady Blackwell, daughter of Sir William Clayton, in whose house he had been tutor, and secondly Lady Yates, widow of a judge. Finding the old palace much dilapidated he pulled it down and built the present structure. He was the last bishop of Rochester buried at Bromley church, his monument is dated 1792. The bust to his memory in Westminster Abbey is copied from a portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

His successor was Samuel Horsley, translated from St. Asaph to St. Davids' in 1788, and to Rochester in 1793. He had been a friend of Dr. Johnson, a member of his Essex Head Club, and attended his funeral. He wrote a version of the Psalms, and commentaries on Isaiah and Hosea. We are told that during Horsley's residence at Bromley palace his favourite exercise was rowing,

presumably on the existing pond, once part of the moat. It is remarked about Horsley in Birkbeck Hill's edition of Boswell's *Life of Dr. Johnson*, that Gibbon 'makes splendid mention of him.' On the other hand William Windham in his diary (published 1866) says that he 'had his thoughts wholly on church preferment.'

The next bishop was Thomas Dampier (1802), who had been dean of Rochester for twenty years, and was translated to Ely in 1808. Educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge, he was distinguished by his love of literature and collected a fine library.

Dampier was followed by Walker King, about whom the only facts of importance known to the writer are, that during his time Bromley Common was enclosed, and, that he managed to obtain for his own family at a low price, a lease on lives of the great tithes of Bromley parish with the glebe and church-house, from George Norman, to whose father James it had come by marriage with Eleonora (or Ellonora) Innocent, her father having obtained it by marriage with Elizabeth Emmett. There is an inscription in Bromley church to a son and daughter of Bishop King, both of whom died young. A grandson was Edward King, bishop of Lincoln 1885-1910, son of Walker King, archdeacon of Rochester; another grandson, the Rev. James King, has been described as 'an excellent parish priest albeit a hunting man.' King's successor, by name Hugh Percy, who is mentioned in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, only held the bishopric for a few months, being translated to Carlisle.

In October, 1827, Percy was succeeded by George Murray, who had been bishop of Sodor and Man, and who became the ninety-sixth in the list of the bishops of Rochester, and the last residing at Bromley palace. He was grandson of the third duke of Atholl, and son of Lord George Murray, bishop of St. David's. As already remarked, Rochester was a very poor bishopric, and Murray, according to the then custom, held another ecclesiastical office, being nominated dean of Worcester in 1828. He married Lady Sarah Hay, daughter of the earl of Kinnoull, and had a large family. One of his sons was the late Canon Francis Murray of Chislehurst, another was that distinguished public servant Sir Herbert Murray, K.C.B.,

sometime governor of Newfoundland. Among the bishop's descendants are the Marquess Camden, Lord Hampton, and the Rt. Hon. Sir George Herbert Murray, G.C.B. It may perhaps be mentioned without offence, as a record of conditions that have long ceased, that when the third duke of Atholl disposed of his sovereignty or lordship of the Isle of Man to the Crown, he retained his right of nomination to the bishopric of Sodor and Man. It became vacant when George Murray was 29½ years old. According to the ordinal in the Book of Common Prayer, 'every man which is to be ordained or consecrated Bishop shall be fully thirty years of age,' and in 1814, six months after the occurrence of the vacancy, he was appointed by his cousin, the fourth duke, I would add that he was a man of fine presence and much beloved, who acquired great influence at Bromley which he always exercised for good.

In 1845 a scheme was launched by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners involving drastic changes in the diocese of Rochester. The Commissioners recommended the purchase of an estate at Danbury near Chelmsford in Essex for the future residence of the bishops, and the sale of the manor and palace of Bromley, of which as before mentioned the late Mr. Coles Child became purchaser, with fairs, market, and other franchises, as well as the greater part of the demesne lands which had hitherto been held by the bishops. Bromley was for a time excluded from the diocese of Rochester, but was afterwards restored. The bishops have changed their dwelling again and again since they left a place with which they had been associated since Saxon times.

## II. THE BUILDING.

What precedes has related chiefly to the connexion of the bishops with the palace and manor of Bromley. I will now mention a few facts about the actual building, which before the Reformation was merely a manor-house, like others in the diocese, occupied from time to time. We already know that it was reconstructed by Bishop Glanville towards the end of the twelfth century, and that in 1550 it was not thought a suitable residence, but no details about it are forthcoming until after the sale of the manor, which, as I mentioned on page 155, was bought by Augustine

Skinner for £5,665 11s. 11d. According to an order of the Lords and Commons reported in the Journal of the house of Lords, vol. x. p. 217, on 20 April, 1648, the sheriff of Kent was enjoined to remove Bishop Warner from the manor house and deliver it to Augustine Skinner. From this, and from statements by Hasted and other writers on Bromley, I supposed that Skinner bought the whole property, which may have been the case; but how can it be reconciled with the fact, referred to by Mr. Lee-Warner,<sup>1</sup> that in compliance with 'an ordinance of Parliament A.D. 1648' (probably the order referred to above) the *palace* was sold on 27 September, 1649, for £557 to C. Bowles and N. Andrews? It was then described as 'one great messuage where the Court is held, four rooms, a gallery divided into two rooms, and four chambers, the ward, a prison, wash-house, kitchen and three rooms, with an orchard and garden.' This is really the first detailed information on the subject, and it does not tell one much, but the existence of a prison and of what had been a long gallery are interesting. Details of the repair by Bishop Dolben in 1669 cannot now be found.

In 1699 Bishop Sprat obtained leave from the archbishop of Canterbury to demolish the chapel and gatehouse of the palace, and they are thus reported on<sup>2</sup>: 'It is an old piece of building which is the gatehouse to the said house, and at the entrance on the left hand is a roome which hath been used for the Chappell, which Chappelle is in length, including the outward roome at the entrance—24 feete, and in breadth including a closett on the south side—used for servants, 18 feet. The said Chappell is wainscotted 8 foote high with oake wainscott, with the old fashioned little pannells. The roof of the chappell, by reason of the Gatehouse, is uneven, not all of a highth. On the right of the entrance at the Gate is a roome used for a porter or a gardener. There is no chimney in the said Building and the dwelling house is distant from the said Building the length of the Courtyard.' It is evident from this report that the chapel must have been extremely cold in winter.

<sup>1</sup> *Life of John Warner, Bishop of Rochester*, by Edward Lee-Warner, 1901, p. 38.

ff. 126, 127, Lambeth Library. See also Dr. Beeby's paper, *Arch. Cant.* xiii, 155, where however the report is not given verbatim.

<sup>2</sup> Copied from Tenison's Register, vol. 1,

The bishop proposed to make a new chapel in the house 'one pair of stairs high'; that must be surely on the first floor. The suggested chapel was viewed and found to be 39 feet long, 'divided by a partition which makes the inner chapel to be 25 feet 6 inches long, and the outward chappell for servants 13 feet 6 inches long,' the whole being 20 feet wide. The chapel was to be made 'very decent' with an altar and rails. We are told that 'the inner part is wainscotted the high of the wall.' The bishop intended to panel the outer or ante-chapel with wainscot from the old chapel. Mr. George Oxenden, who drew up the report to the archbishop, said that in his opinion this would be much more convenient than the old chapel, which being detached could not suitably be used in bad weather, and also hindered the view from the main building. Our engraving of the old palace as it was before 1756, copied from that in the folio edition of Hasted's *History of Kent*, shows an irregular building of various ages, the greater part of it, to judge from the mullions and transoms of the windows, being perhaps Tudor. A gabled portion to the left, its gable and pilasters surmounted by vase-like ornaments, appears to be more modern or reconstructed. The upper part of this may quite likely be Bishop Sprat's chapel, approved by the archbishop and consecrated in 1701. On the opposite side of the house is an avenue which would lead to the main entrance.

If Horace Walpole may be believed, the structure in its last years was not an imposing one, but he is hardly a safe guide. On 5 August, 1752, being then at 'Battel,' he writes as follows to Richard Bentley, son of the famous scholar: 'While they were changing horses at Bromley we went to see the Bishop's palace, not for the sake of anything that was to be seen, but because there was a chimney in which had stood a flower-pot, in which was put the counterfeit plot against Bishop Sprat. 'Tis a paltry parsonage, with nothing but two panes of glass purloined from Islip's chapel in Westminster abbey, with that Abbot's rebus, an eye and a slip of a tree. In the garden there is a clear little pond teeming with fish. The Bishop is more prolific than I.'<sup>1</sup>

The present brick mansion with stone dressings is a

<sup>1</sup> *Letters of Horace Walpole, fourth Earl of Orford*, edited by Peter Cunningham, chronologically arranged, 1891, vol. ii.

good example of a building of Bishop Thomas' time. On the pediment in front are the bishop's arms impaling those of the see, and the date 1775. The chimney-piece in the library also has these arms. It has been thought, by Canon Pearman<sup>1</sup> among others, that the chapel to the left of the main entrance has survived from the former chapel, but the fact that it is on the ground floor is against this idea, nor does it agree in any way with the chapel as described above. Its north or outer wall is externally like the rest of the north wall. The existing colonnade or verandah at the back of the house facing the ornamental water was added by the late Mr. Coles Child, also a porch containing modern stained glass, and a new kitchen. There is a pretty dovecote in the garden which belongs apparently to the time of Thomas' rebuilding.

Without extensive excavations it would be impossible to make out the plan of the old palace. It must have been rebuilt more than once and frequently added to, and perhaps no feature of very much interest would be discovered. Dr. Beeby writes that 'the masonry supporting the ancient drawbridge, the remains of which consisted of flint and chalk cemented together by mortar which had become as hard as stone, were discovered by Mr. Child—about forty-five yards north of the present front entrance; and it was then impossible to open the ground to the south without meeting with foundation walls, the lower portions of which were constructed of blocks of chalk.'<sup>2</sup>

The original structure and grounds appear to have occupied about two acres and to have been surrounded by a moat. What is left of this moat at the back of the palace has been widened and forms an ornamental pond. Through a valley in the grounds flows a branch of the Ravensbourne, once nearly as important as the main stream, though, as far as I am aware, it never had a name. Its sources are chiefly in Holwood Park and it used to receive some accession from the Crofton woods and from Blackbrook. It receives the overflow from Bromley Palace pond, and after passing under the high road between Mason's Hill and Bromley, joins the Ravensbourne a little farther north-east. The point of junction is now, I think, covered over, and both watercourses have sadly degenerated.

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Cant.* vol. xxxiii. p. 146.

<sup>2</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, vol. xiii. p. 153.

## III. ST. BLAIZE'S WELL BROMLEY.

As to the famous well associated with the palace Hasted says<sup>1</sup>: 'There is a well in the bishop's grounds near his garden called St. Blaize's Well, which having great resort to it antiently on account of its medicinal virtues, had an oratory attached to it dedicated to that saint. It was particularly frequented at Whitsuntide on account of a remission of forty days enjoined penance to such as would visit this chapel and offer up their orizons on it the three holy days of Pentecost. This oratory falling into ruins at the Reformation, the well too came to be disused, and the site of both in process of time became totally forgotten.'

The well of chalybeate water close to the pond was described in 1756 by Thomas Reynolds, surgeon. His pamphlet, now of great rarity, is a dull affair, but gives the following details: 'It was discovered in September, 1754, by the reverend Mr. Harwood, his lordship's domestick chaplain, by means of a yellow ochrey sediment remaining in the track of a small current leading from the spring to the corner of the moat, with the waters of which it used to mix. It is very probable that this spring has been formerly frequented, for in digging about it there were found the remains of steps leading down to it made of oak plank, which appeared as if they had lain underground for many years.' Hasted also mentions these steps, probably copying from Reynolds. The latter retired from his profession, and lived in the neighbourhood of Bromley for the express purpose of drinking the waters instead of those of Tunbridge Wells, which place he had before been in the habit of visiting.

Hone's *Table Book*, 1827-28. vol. ii, pp. 65-68, contains an account of the 'Bishop's Well.' He describes it as trickling through an orifice at the side to increase the water of a moat or small lake. Above the well was then a roof of thatch supported by six pillars, of which he gives a well-known illustration. Mr. Coles Child replaced it by a tiled roof. Our view from a photograph is dated 1880; it came to grief in a snowstorm seven years afterwards. The well remains intact, but the overflow of water is hardly perceptible; the existence of iron in it is shown by a yellowish deposit.

<sup>1</sup> E. Hasted, *History of Kent*, i, 551, ed. 1797. Lysons in his *Environs of London* adds

that the remittances of penance were granted by Lucas, legate of Pope Sixtus IV.



ST. BLAIZE'S WELL, BROMLEY.

St. Blaize, with whom the well is commonly associated, was according to tradition bishop of Sebaste in Armenia, and was martyred in 316 during the persecution of Licinius. He was patron Saint of wool-combers, because his flesh was said to have been torn by iron combs. A paper on him was read by Mr. H. Ling Roth before the Society of Antiquaries 3 December, 1914, and is printed in the their *Proceedings*, 2nd ser. vol. xxvii, with many illustrations. The late Mr. Leland L. Duncan, F.S.A., M.V.O., etc., mentioned the image of St. Blaize in Bromley church in his *Churches of West Kent, their Dedications, Altars*, etc. In 1456 Thomas Ferby, for promoting a clandestine marriage at St. Paul's Cray church, was excommunicated, and had to present a wax taper of a pound weight at the image of St. Blaize in Bromley church and in Chislehurst church, and for two years to allow exhibitions to two scholars at Oxford. Again in 1458 Walter Crepehog, who had promoted an illegal marriage, was ordered to be whipped three times round the market-place at Rochester, and with other penalties, to present a torch of the value of 6s. 8d. to the image of St. Blaize at Bromley.

St. Blaize was also connected with the early history of Bromley from the fact entered on the Charter Roll, 25 and 26 Henry VI, no. 22, when the day of the weekly market was granted or changed to Thursday, that there was a further grant to John Lowe, bishop of Rochester, to hold a fair on the vigil, day and morrow of St. James the Apostle, and another fair on the day and morrow of St. Blaize. These continued until, on the application of the commissioner of police, they were suppressed by an order of the magistrates of Bromley, 23 January, 1865. The present writer remembers being taken as a child to the fair and being presented with a 'fair-ring' from one of the stalls in the market-place. These functions were then held on 15 February and 5 August. St. Blaize's day appears to have been originally 3 February.<sup>1</sup>

The saint was popular in Kent, which was a wool-producing county. There are still slight remains of a church, or rather a chapel, dedicated in his honour in a detached portion of Aylesford parish, and Mr. Duncan has shown that at least thirteen churches contained images

<sup>1</sup> It is still 3 February in the western Church. 15 February and 5 August=3 February and 24 July (eve of St. James) O. S.

or altars associated with him. The tradition that the parish church (of St. Peter and St. Paul) at Bromley was originally dedicated to St. Blaize appears to be quite unfounded.

The ancient chapel of St. Blaize in the south transept of Westminster Abbey was once famous. It was used as a vestry and for other purposes after the dissolution, and finally destroyed. An informing article about this chapel by Henry Poole, master mason of the abbey, is in *The Antiquary*, vol. iii, p. 241. His ground plan shows it immediately north of the chapel of St. Faith, with which it is still sometimes confused.

Many years ago there was a controversy as to the true site of St. Blaize's well. On 14 June, 1862, the late Mr. Robert Booth Latter, a much respected inhabitant of Bromley, who had no mean claims as an archaeologist, in agreement with others published a letter, to the effect that he could find nothing in any history to warrant the conjecture that the chalybeate spring close to the pond was St. Blaize's well, and he believed that the true site was 'at the head of the large upper pond now drained off, in springy ground, not far south of the huge oak tree blown down about three years since in the paddock in front of the palace.' He also spoke of 'about four courses of circular brickwork,' indicating apparently the top of a well, having been removed from there some time previously by Mr. Coles Child. The latter replied, contending that the well near the moat has curative properties, and the description of old oak steps found in 1754, which had led to it, justifies the belief that it was ancient. The other well was '317 yards away, and contained perfectly pure water.' He also quoted John Dunkin, who in his *History of Bromley*, 1815, after mentioning that, in spite of what had been written by Reynolds and Hasted, St. Blaize's well was believed by Wilson<sup>1</sup> to be 'about 200 yards NW. of the mineral spring in a field near the road with eight oak trees in a cluster, on an elevated spot of ground adjoining,' wrote as follows: 'I am informed that the present bishop is of the same opinion, though to me this well appears to have been originally designed to supply

<sup>1</sup> *Bromley and five miles round*, by Thomas Wilson, 1797, p. 24.

the adjoining moat. Besides, I conceive an additional argument in favour of the mineral well may be drawn from the ignorance of the age, as the clergy could not fail to ascribe any benefit derived from this water to the special interference of the saint.' It should be added that the late Canon Francis Murray of Chislehurst, who had passed his boyhood at the palace, in a letter addressed to the *Bromley Record* expressed his agreement with Mr. Latter.

On 12 May, 1916, through the kindness of the present owner, I had the opportunity of examining a brick reservoir in the paddock some distance north of the palace, which formerly supplied the ornamental pond or moat with pure water. It was rather below the present ground-level and was then roofless and dry. The measurements were, length about ten feet, width four feet, and depth eight to nine feet, the ground plan being oblong. The bricks composing the upper part were, I think, modern: those below looked older and were covered with a mossy growth. Sir Coles Child pointed out more than one inlet which had communicated with springs in the neighbourhood, and an orifice for the outlet, whence the water originally flowed by a pipe into the uppermost of three ponds on the east, within the palace grounds. These were connected, and the lowest fed the moat. They were filled up within the memory of man. It can hardly be doubted that they had been stewponds for supplying fish; similar stewponds at Trottescliffe, formerly one of the episcopal manor houses, will presently be mentioned. Many years ago, building operations having taken place in the Widmore Road (to the north) the water from the reservoir partially failed. To supplement it a well was then sunk nearer the Widmore Road. When that road was widened a few years ago, the modern well was inadvertently filled up by the borough council. They cleared it at the request of the owner, and it now supplies the moat through a pipe following the line of the old ponds, and produces a flow of fresh spring water even in the driest season. The old brick chamber which I saw has been obliterated. The house was formerly supplied by a deep well in the kitchen.

The question still unsolved is the original position of St. Blaize's Well; I have merely put together what I could

find of existing evidence. Probably most people, including the present writer, share Mr. Child's belief in the existing well by the moat on account of its curative properties.

#### IV. SOME EARLY RESIDENCES OF THE BISHOPS OF ROCHESTER.

I had written a paper on the early residences of the bishops of Rochester other than that at Bromley before I knew of the account by the late Canon A. J. Pearman which first appeared in the *Rochester Diocesan Chronicle*, and was republished in *Arch. Cant.* vol. xxxiii, (1918). What follows, containing the results of my previous researches, has been re-written in the light of the information supplied by Canon Pearman's paper. It was felt that the account of Bromley Palace should be supplemented by detailed reference to other dwellings of the bishops once famous, but now almost forgotten.

#### THE EPISCOPAL PALACE AT ROCHESTER.

In an article by W. B. Rye, published in 1887,<sup>1</sup> he says, 'That the bishops had a residence here in very early times is clear from documents printed in the Registrum Roffense, in which Bishop Gilbert de Glanville is said to have rebuilt (*circa* 1200) the Palace, which had been destroyed by fire; and Bishop Lowe, on March 27th, 1459, dates an instrument from his "New Palace at Rochester," which implies that he had again rebuilt it.' Canon Pearman mentions that in 1513 proceedings connected with the election of William Tisehurst to the abbey of Lesnes, 4 April, took place in the chapel within the palace of John, bishop of Rochester, within the precinct of the monastery.

In 1524 (not 1542, as Canon Pearman is made to say), after the then bishop, John Fisher, had told his friend Erasmus that he was suffering from illness, the latter wrote to him as follows: 'I shrewdly suspect that the state of your health depends in a great measure upon your situation. The near approach of the tide as well as the mud which is left exposed at each reflux of the waters, renders the air harsh and unwholesome. For my part

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Cant.* xvii, 67.

I would not live in such a place for three hours without being sick.' Cardinal Wolsey lodged there 4 July, 1527. In a letter written on the following day to King Henry VIII he said: 'I was right lovingly and kindly entertained by the bishop. On the arrest of Fisher in 1534, for refusing to take the oath to the succession, an inventory was taken of his goods at Rochester palace and at Halling, which formed the subject of a paper communicated to the Society of Antiquaries by Mr. Peacock in 1872. Mr. Rye in his paper of 1887 gives an account of the old palace, with its tiled roof as it was then, also an illustration by Herbert Baker. In the Fisher inventory we read of 'his own bedd chamber' having a great study within it, a 'north studye' a 'south galorye' a 'chapell in the side of the south galorye,' a 'wardrobe' a great chappell,' a 'little chamber nexte the same,' a 'great chamber nexte the same,' and many other rooms and offices. It is doubtful if after his time it was ever regularly occupied by the bishops. As mentioned on a previous page, Bishop Ponet, who succeeded in 1550, was allowed to hold other church preferments on the ground that he had no residence. The palace was however kept up to some extent, for James I visited Rochester with his brother-in-law, Christian IV of Denmark, and was lodged there. It is described in the return made to the parliamentary commissioners of 1647 as 'one great messuage called the palace, where the Bishop's Court is held, four rooms in the tenure of Bathe, a gallery divided into 28 rooms and four chambers, the ward, a prison, wash-house, kitchen, three rooms, one orchard and one garden.' According to Pearman it was sold in 1649 to Charles Bowles and Nathaniel Andrews for £556 13s. 4d. and this corresponds with the names of the purchasers of Bromley Palace given by Lee-Warner, the price paid being probably identical. Query, what is the explanation? In the case of Bromley the real purchaser seems to have been Augustine Skinner.

After the Restoration the palace again came into the hands of the bishops, but they did not live there. Mr. Rye, in his paper of 1887, gives an account of the building with its tiled roof as it then was: Mr. George Payne, the Kentish antiquary, in later years made it his home. Since his time there has been little change. The surviving

portion is the centre.<sup>1</sup> Canon Pearman reminds us about its later history and medieval remains found there, and adds: 'The name of the "Old Palace" should not be applied, as is commonly done, to the house in St. Margaret St.' which belonged to Francis Head and was settled by him in 1678 on the bishops of Rochester. In fact they let the property on lease until it fell into the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

#### LAMBETH, SOUTHWARK, ETC.

North Lambeth was given by Goda, sister of Edward the Confessor and wife of the count of Boulogne, to the monks of Rochester. About 1198, the archbishop of Canterbury having acquired it from them, he obtained the agreement of Gilbert de Glanville, bishop of Rochester, by granting him a piece of land as a site for a residence. The house then erected was rebuilt on a more sumptuous scale about twenty years later. Called 'La Place' it remained the town house of the bishops of Rochester for over 300 years. John de Sheppey of Rochester died there 19 October, 1360; and in 1530 Bishop John Fisher was at 'La Place' when a serving man, by name Rouse or Rose, tried to poison him, but succeeded only in killing members of the household. By act of parliament in 1539 'La Place' was granted to the bishop of Carlisle in exchange for a mansion at Chiswick.<sup>2</sup> Thus it came to be called Carlisle House, and having being sold by parliament for £220 in the time of the Commonwealth, after the Restoration it reverted to the bishop of Carlisle but was not again used as his residence. After many vicissitudes it became a boarding school and in 1827 was pulled down, the site being covered by about eighty small houses.

The later name is preserved in Carlisle Street, Lambeth. There is an engraving of 'the bishop of Rochester's ancient palace, Lambeth,' 1798, in J. B. Malcolm's *Views within twelve miles round London*.

<sup>1</sup> For further reference to the Bishop's Palace at Rochester see paper entitled *Mediaeval Rochester* by the Rev. G. M. Livett, *Arch. Cant.* vol. xxi, p. 42, and Sir Wm. Hope's vol. on *The Cathedral Church and Monastery of St. Andrew, Rochester*, 1902.

In Harris's *Hist. Kent*, is a view of the Palace, 1719.

<sup>2</sup> *Lond. Top. Record*, xii, 1920, p. 7. Paper on *Mediaeval London Houses*, by C. L. Kingsford, F.S.A.

The Chiswick mansion was held for a very short time, the bishop of Rochester, in 1543, exchanging it with Lord Russell for what had been the inn of the prior of St. Swithin's, immediately west of Winchester House, Southwark. Stow, in his *Survey of London*, 1598, says: 'Adjoining Winchester House is the Bishoppe of Rochester's inne or lodging, by whom first erected I do not now remember me to have read, but well I wot the same of long time hath not been frequented by any bishoppe, and lyeth ruinous for lack of reparations.' In Churchwarden's Accounts of St. Saviour's, temp. James I, we are told that 'about forty years since' it was one great house and a great garden and now consisted of sixty-two tenements.' There is still a Rochester Street, Borough Market.

#### HALLING.

An early residence of the bishops was at Halling in Kent, about six miles from Rochester. There was episcopal property here in the time of Domesday: 'The arable land is seven carucates. In demesne there are three carucates and fifteen villeins, with nine bordars having six carucates. There is a church and two servants, and 30 acres of meadow, and wood for the pannage of five hogs.' In 1184, Richard, archbishop of Canterbury, died at Halling<sup>1</sup> on his way from Wrotham to Rochester, and in the following year it is said to have been rebuilt by Gilbert de Glanville on his succession to the see of Rochester. In 1316 Bishop Thomas de Wouldham by will left timber to replace the hall roof and otherwise repair it. The building was again repaired and enlarged by Bishop Hamo de Hethe, and we learn that a vineyard was then attached to it.<sup>2</sup> Lambarde tells how in 1325 Hamo de Hethe sent a present of grapes from the Halling vineyard to the king. Apparently blackberries were then mixed with the grapes, perhaps on account of their sweetness. In Lambarde's time the site of the vineyard was a meadow. It must have adjoined Halling churchyard. The Rev. T. S. Frampton in *A glance at the Hundred of Wrotham* 1881, mentions a prison that

<sup>1</sup> Dugdale's *Monasticon*, vol. iii, p. 1,  
*Reg. Roff.* p. 11.

<sup>2</sup> *Arch. Cant.* vi (1866), 322.

belonged to the bishops of Rochester at Halling. We have seen that there was a prison attached to the mansion at Bromley and one attached to the palace at Rochester. In 1467 Bishop Lowe died at Halling.

It has been said that Bishop Fisher, who resided chiefly at Rochester, sometimes moved to his manor house at Halling, where he could have more repose and perhaps breathe purer air. Lewis in his *Life of Fisher*, vol. ii, p. 77, tells us that when the bishop was residing at Halling on the river Medway, some thieves broke into the house at night and carried off nearly all his plate. In an article on the Dalison documents, in *Arch. Cant.* xv, 389, note 1, Canon Scott Robertson records that Elizabeth, daughter of James Oxenden of Dean, who married William Dalison of Halling (eldest son of Sir William by his second wife Mary) resided at Bishop's Place until she moved to Hamptons. Her husband died in 1642, and she was at the latter house in 1649.

Hasted says<sup>1</sup> that in 1715 great part of the ruins survived, but 'within the last twenty-five years most of it has been destroyed for the sake of the material.' However, according to a writer in 1859,<sup>2</sup> a gatehouse and some walls of the hall and chapel then remained. He held it to be part of the work of Bishop Hamo de Hethe between 1320 and 1330. On 15 January, 1918, the following information was supplied by the Rev. E. C. Linton, vicar of Halling: 'I regret to say that there remains nothing of the ancient buildings but part of a wall with the springing of an arch built into a barn or oast house. The destruction seems to have occurred at the establishment of the cement works.'

#### STONE BY DARTFORD.

Unfortunately I have no notes of my own about the episcopal manor-house at Stone, but Canon Pearman gave rather a detailed account of it. See *Arch. Cant.* xxxiii, 1918, p. 137. We learn that in Saxon times the see had property there; in Domesday it is called Estanes. There

<sup>1</sup> E. Hasted, *Hist. Kent*, ed. 1797, vol. ii, p. 381.

<sup>2</sup> *Domestic Architecture in England from*

*Richard II to Henry VIII*, part ii, p. 304 (by the editor of the *Glossary of Architecture*, Oxford, J. H. and J. Parker).

is a valuation of the reign of Henry III, but the first definite statement about a dwelling is a record that Gilbert de Glanville rebuilt all of it that had not been consumed by fire. Canon Pearman gives other early references. Hasted says that in his time the house had long been occupied by the farmer of the demesne lands and that the only ancient thing about it was the great chimney in the centre. The estate having passed into the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners was sold by them in 1856.

## TROTTESLIFFE.

Hasted tells us about an episcopal mansion at Trottescliffe which had a history not unlike that of Halling, having been built in the time of Gundulf or soon afterwards, and repaired or rebuilt by Gilbert de Glanville. In *Arch. Cant.* vi, pp. 364-5, it is said that according to an enquiry held 47 Henry III, 1263, Hugh de Cressy, then deceased, had held the manor of 'Trottesclev' of the bishop of Rochester by service of half a knight's fee, and it was worth £11 a year; also that his brother Stephen de Cressy was his next heir, and forty years old and more.

Again like Halling it was enlarged and occupied by Hamo de Hethe, who kept Lent at Trottescliffe in 1322 and who in or about 1328 resided there for a whole year. Canon Pearman mentions other visits paid by this bishop. He was still alive at the time of the 'Black Death,' 1348-49. The account of his stay here by William Dene, notary public, who has been mentioned on page 152, gives some idea of its horrors. Extracts from the Latin are here translated as follows: 'In that year an unheard of pestilence raged in England. The bishop of Rochester from his moderate household lost four priests, five squires, ten serving men, seven young clerks and six pages so that no one remained to serve him in any office.' Again: 'Throughout the whole year (1349) the bishop, an old and decrepit man, remained at Trottesclyve languishing and grieving over the sudden change of the age, because in every manor of the bishopric buildings and walls fell to ruin, and that year there was hardly a manor that returned a hundred pounds'<sup>1</sup> No

<sup>1</sup> *Anglia Sacra*, vol. i. p. 175.

doubt Bromley suffered with the rest, but of this we have no record.

According to Hasted the bishops continued occasionally to make their home at this manor-house until some years after the Reformation, 'about which time this, as well as the rest of the ancient manors and mansion-houses in this country excepting Bromley, were leased out by them for lives or years to different tenants.'<sup>1</sup> In Hasted's time the Whitaker family had been for some generations lessees of the manor and mansion-house under the bishops of Rochester, and resided in the latter. The Rev. Charles M. Shepherd, rector of Trottescliffe, in a letter dated 8 February, 1918, gave me this interesting but rather sad account of the later vicissitudes of the place: 'All the bishop's property here, and he owned nearly all the parish, has passed into other hands. Mr. Wingfield Stratford bought it all from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in the sixties of last century, and since his death it has passed to Mr. J. Whitburn of Addington Park. There is nothing left of the old bishop's house, except (that) internally the rooms of the farmhouse as it now is are very high. About fifty years ago, a tenant, deeming it damp, gave it a coat of cement all over, utterly destroying its character. There is however an old red brick gateway which leads up to the front of the house.'<sup>2</sup> What its age is I cannot tell, whether it is a remnant of the episcopal age or a relic of the Whitaker period. The Whitakers were here for many years. Before them I think the Attwoods had the land under the bishop. There are still three old ponds left, which in old days were tench ponds to supply the bishop with fish. There were until quite recently many old outhouses and buildings, but they have all been swept away, every fresh tenant of the land requiring the place to be made more tidy and fashionable as they considered, and so the old had to go.' The 'tench' ponds remind one of the chain of ponds now filled up at Bromley.

<sup>1</sup> E. Hasted, *Hist. Kent*, ed. 1797, vol. iv, p. 552.

<sup>2</sup> The Rev. Sydney W. Wheatley, F.S.A., has kindly examined the gateway for me and photographed it. He reports that the gate pillars are about 12 ft. high, square in plan. They are of fine red brick and are surmounted by stone balls. The space

between them is 12 ft. and they have a considerable length of walling attached to them on each side. They appear to date from the 17th century. In the neighbouring church is an old pulpit from Westminster Abbey. It may be added that Trottescliffe or Trosley, as it is sometimes called, is now an insignificant place. It is near Wrotham and West Malling.