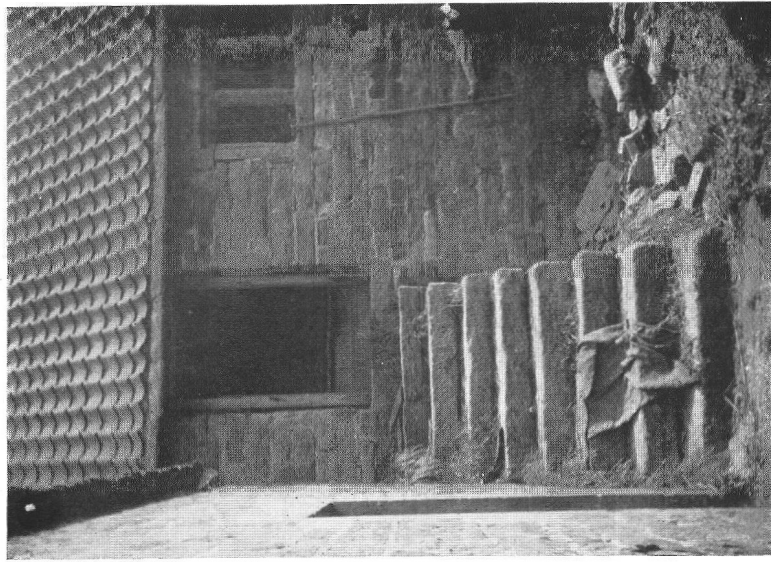


PLATE I.



Roadnook.—The Barn of 1683.

PLATE II.



Roadnook.—Outbuildings to the Farm Yard.

The Spatemans of Roadnook.

By CANON PRIOR.



WHATEVER antiquarian interest centres round the two John Spatemans of Roadnook is due to the fact that, conjointly, they spanned a period which saw more political and ecclesiastical change than any other time of English history.

About the time shipwrits were causing considerable indignation amongst the clergy and gentry of Derbyshire, the elder Spateman purchased Roadnook of one Thomas Brailsford, Churchwarden of Morton. The younger John Spateman died, and Roadnook was sold just before the assize sermon of Dr. Henry Sacheverell, so that their joint lives covered the greater part of the Stuart régime in England.

It was a time of social, ecclesiastical, and political upheaval, and the elder Spateman seems to have been a fair sample of the man who pushed himself to the front and took advantage of the changes amidst which he lived.

Sir Thomas Gresham's Exchange marked the rise of a new middle and commercial class, but it was not foreign trade alone that made men rich—money could be made in England. Many a fortune has been made by war. 'Tis an ill wind that blows no one good, and Edge Hill and Naseby were not fought without the expenditure of many bullets and cannon balls.¹ Moreover, after 1666 a new London had to be built—old St. Paul's and eighty-nine churches had to be replaced. No wonder the Derbyshire lead miners flourished; no wonder that most of our picturesque stone halls and farmsteads bear date the last quarter of the seventeenth century.

¹ One of lead ploughed up at Owlcotes weighed over 10 lbs.

The Spatemans were amongst the number of those who amassed wealth in the lead mines.

John Spateman's relationship to the Sitwells, his second marriage with the widow of the Romanist and Cavalier, Sir Matthew Palmer, of Southwell, whose small estate of 130 acres ultimately descended to his great-grandson, Samuel Clarke,¹ gave him a certain social status.

As a J.P. and Public Registrar, whose presence was necessary at weddings, he was at Renishaw in 1656² at the marriage of his cousin, Mary Sitwell, to William Revell, of Ogston, and again at Barton when Francis Sitwell married Katherine Sacheverell. Under the year 1673, in the *Biog. Britain*, he is described as "Jo: Spateman, of Rhoad Nooke, Esq.," and by that time his social importance was assured.

Ecclesiastically, Spateman was one of those Puritans within the Church who were attempting to leaven the Church with Presbyterianism. He found at Morton congenial spirits in two successive rectors, Richard Barlow and Edmund Nicholson. In 1635, Barlow, taking advantage of the introduction into the Church of a new—the present—altar, placed it in the nave and railed it round.³

The entry in the churchwardens' book is as follows:—

"Item paid for a Communion Table and a
reele about it £2 12 0."

The parishioners would have none of these new-fangled notions, and appealed to the bishop. Hence in 1636 we have:—

"Paid the aparitor for his fees for giving us	s. d.
warning to alter the real	2 6
Paid to Henry Revell for alteringe the raile in	
the Chancell and timber which he broughte to	
mend it withall	2 11 "

And, alas! alas! :—

"Received for the Reale which was sold to Blackwell	7 0 "
---	-------

¹ *Wolley MSS.*, 6695, p. 328.

² *Sitwell and Sacheverell Correspondence*, p. xxv.

³ As at Lyddington, co. Rutland.

The parishioners won the day, to the great discomfiture of the Puritan rector and Spateman. The altar was placed, according to Laud's injunctions, in the chancel, but the parish lost perhaps a priceless altar rail.

From 1653 to the Restoration, Roadnook was a veritable Gretna Green. Many a young couple journeyed there to be joined in wedlock by John Spateman, the magistrate for the neighbourhood. It was there Leonard Wheatcroft¹ was married. Indeed, during those years the only wedding at Morton was: "1658, 3 Feb.—Mr. John Curtis and Mrs. Ann Revell," a man of some repute and who lived at the Ford.²

In 1672 Spateman broke loose from the parish church of Morton Holy Cross and the able ministrations of the rector, Edmund Nicholson, late vicar of Chapel-en-le-Frith, who in 1660 had preferred income to principle.³ Roadnook was licensed as a Presbyterian chapel, and occasionally his relative, John Oldfield, the great Greek scholar and ejected vicar of Carsington, ministered there.⁴

From the ecclesiastical standpoint, therefore, the man is of interest as being amongst the Puritan Churchmen who came out disappointed at the result of the conference at the Savoy, from which they had expected much.

Politically, although he is of sufficient importance in the county as early at 1641 to be invited to sign the well-known petition to the king, and does sign it,⁵ yet at the outbreak of the war his purse is at the disposal of Sir John Gell, and, as a reward, five years after the king's head had rolled on the scaffold at Whitehall, he is placed on the Commission of the Peace by Cromwell, and becomes the man of importance in the neighbourhood.

(Continued on page 48.)

¹ *Derb. Arch. Journ.*, vol. xviii., p. 42.

² *Wolley MSS.*, 6705, p. 57.

³ It is the reverse of creditable to Derbyshire that it produced so large a percentage of time-servers. *Vict. Hist.*, vol. ii., p. 31.

⁴ Dr. Cox, *Derb. Churches*, vol. i., p. 8. *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*: "once a fortnight."

⁵ *Derb. Arch. Journ.*, vol. xix., p. 23.

Spatem

[This pedigree adds to the information and corrects one or two errors in the

William Spateman, of Tansley. = Ag
Bur. Crich. Will dated 3
March, 1584; proved 4 June,
1588.

John Spateman, yeoman, = Wife bur. Crich,
of Tansley. Bur. 1610.
Crich, 1634. Will
proved June, 1634.

John Spateman, = Elizabeth. Will dated
Mayor of Derby. 1676. Died at Quick-
Died 1671. Malt- sall. Left £5 to poor
ster. of Derby, interest to
be paid on Good
Friday.

Sara, = Ed. Brough, Mary, = Stephen Samuel, Church, = Mary, d. of Anna. John
bap. of Quick- bap. Fflamsteed. warden of S. Francis ob.
1622. sall. 1625. 1651. Goodwin.

John Fflamsteed,
Astronomer Royal,
b. 1646, d. 1719.

1653. Mayor of
Derby, 1667,
1676, 1689. Will
dated 1698,
proved 1700.

Ann Mellor = John Sp
man, of R
nook. Crich, 16

John, d. 1729.
Left £10 to S.
Werburgh's.

Samuel.

Mary.

Francis.

Thomas.
Sara.

Ann Palmer, = John Spate-
bur. 1705.*

man, bap.
1638, bur.
1707.*

Sarah = Dr. Bryan.

Rebecca
= Gerv.
Disney.

Henry Wigley, = Mary = Jno. S
of Wigwall, of W
bur. 1683. wort
be f
1709

1687.*
Sarah, bap. = Samuel Clarke,
1668, bur. of Chester-
1717.* field, 1658-
1741.

Dr. Cox, D. { Anne.
Ch., vol. ii., Bridget.
p. 562. { Mary.

Samuel, bur.
1754.

Spateman.

Anna Maria,
bap. 1699,
bur. 1723.

Katherine.

John, bap. 1668,*
bur. 1669.*

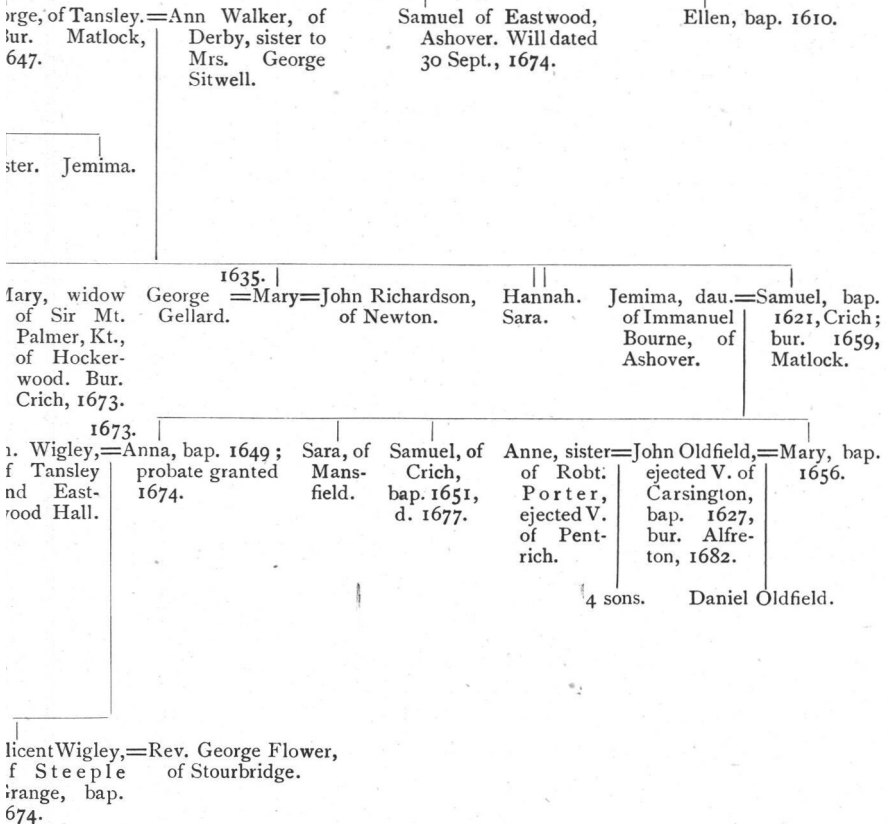
Samuel, (bap. 167,
bur. 1706.*

* Morton Register

edigree.

the family appearing on page 4 of the last Journal, Vol. XXXVI.—EDITOR.]

Edmund of Rowthorne.



The Spatemans of Derby are an elder branch of the same family,¹ and are of interest not merely because two (if not three) of them were chief magistrates of the borough and benefactors to St. Werburgh's, but chiefly because Elizabeth, widow of the man who lived on Brookside,² refers in her will to the Flamsteeds.

The Morley registers have the entry :—

“ 1645, Nov. 24.—Stephen Flamsteed, of Darby, Batchelor, and Mary Spadman, of Denby, Spinster, were maryed together.”

John Flamsteed (named after his grandfather), the first Astronomer Royal, says of himself : “ I was borne at Denby, 5 miles from Derby, Aug. 19, 1646, my Father having removed his family thither because the Sickness was then in Derby.”³

Our pedigree shows that another Mary Spateman became the second wife of John Oldfield, the ejected vicar of Carsington.⁴ Ten years after his death she took out letters of administration, and it may be of interest on a future occasion to record the estimated value of the books, the spoons, the saddle, the pillion and bridle of this worthy divine, of this scholar who was hunted from pillar to post, and who to the last undertook long journeys to minister to scattered flocks.

But what about the stock from which this Spateman family sprang?

Descending from Tansley Moor to Matlock, on the north side of the road may be seen a recently restored farmhouse, in the gable of which is a date-stone, bearing initials :—

1629
G . A . S

Here lived George Spateman, the father of John of Roadnook, who in 1647 left £80 for the Matlock Free School

¹ John Spateman's Will, 1634.

² Glover's *History of Derbyshire*, vol. ii., p. 607.

³ Hone's *Every Day Book*, vol. i., 1091.

⁴ Daniel Oldfield, the only child of this union, gave the Ashover estate, which he inherited through his mother, to Joshua John Oldfield, M.D., of London, who sold it to Obadiah Bourne, Rector of Ashover.—Hunter, *Min. Gent.*, p. 1058.

and £20 for the Matlock poor; and here, too, probably lived his father and grandfather.

The grandfather, William, left to his son Edmund "a lease in Rowthorne of Thomas Hardwicke of Hardwicke and Elizabeth his wife, dated 1573."

William and John of Tansley were farmers, pure and simple. They bequeathed cows and sheep, ewes and lambs. They dabbled not in lead.

John, the future owner of Roadnook, however, before he was of age, left the old homestead to his younger brother Samuel. He had an eye to trade. He hastened to be rich.

The Gells of Hopton, the Babbingtons of Dethick, the Greensmiths of Darley, the Manners of Haddon,¹ had amassed wealth by lead—why should not he? Success crowned his efforts. He bought Roadnook, and the plain "John Spateman"² of 1638 four years later is classed amongst the gentlemen of Derbyshire who pressed for a reconciliation between King and Parliament, before subsequent events broke them off into the opposing parties of Cavaliers and Round-heads.³

A sidelight on the man himself is supplied by a document amongst the Revell papers in the possession of the late Lieut. G. Turbutt, of Ogston.

Internal evidence points to the date of the fragment as being 1655.

"Me.—About the latter end of the last summer Mr. William Revell and John Clay, going to Wessington to pay money to George Taylor, who was the Collector for the Army, and finding him from home, then we went to an Alehouse⁴ within half a quarter of a mile of Mr. John Spateman's dwellinge house, and there wee found him after delight with Mr. John Spateman and divers others. Presently after our cominge to them there was one whoe began a health to Mr. John

¹ *Vict. Hist.*, vol. ii., p. 331.

² Morton Registers.

³ Sir G. Sitwell, *Derb. Arch. Journ.*, vol. xix., p. 23.

⁴ The Horse and Jockey, Wessington.

Revell, which when it came to Mr. John Spateman, he took the cup into his hands and said, 'Let us now drinke to an honest man, nameinge Phillopp Stanhop,' after which wee left them, but how long they stayid we knowe nott.

"Me.—That Mr. Spateman suffers wakes and plough bullocks within his parish without any restraint, and constant bouleinge near his own house in the day tyme, and cardinge in his own house, some tymes for whole nights together, to the undoeinge of many.

"Me.—That we are credibly informed that Mr. Spateman hath kept many who are enemyes to the State from beinge bound."

Be it observed the above must be accepted as an *ex parte* statement. The Revells, during the eclipse of the Monarchy, had suffered much at the hands of the Spatemans. The seat of the local magnate had been shifted from Ogston to Roadnook, but the suggested irregularities are difficult to reconcile with Calamy's assertion that "Esquire Spateman was a worthy gentleman."¹

In 1648 John Spateman rounded off his little estate at Roadnook by the purchase of the manor of Lea.²

In 1650 he was appointed a "Trier." He was placed on the Commission for the Hundred of Scarsdale to prepare a survey of the possessions of all benefices, and to report on the character of the incumbent as it appeared in the eyes of the Roundheads. In 1653 he was placed on the Commission of the Peace, from which, of course, he was removed at the Restoration. In 1662 he obtained a grant of arms from W. Dugdale. In 1671 he and his "groove fellows" were defendants in an action brought by the Rector of Matlock³ to recover a tithe of lead ore, and in 1681 he died, and was buried with his wife, grandfather, and great-grandfather at Crich.

Four years after succeeding to his father's estate, the younger John entirely rebuilt Roadnook.

¹ *Ejected Ministers*, vol. ii., p. 172.

² Lysons's *Derbyshire*, p. 22.

³ *Wolley MSS.*, 6676, pp. 162-171.

It served King James's purpose to nominate Romanists and Presbyterians on the Commission of the Peace, but it was the younger Spateman who was an active magistrate for the last two years of James's reign.¹

That he must have been removed from this post on the flight of James is clear from the fact that in 1702 the Duke of Devonshire used his influence to secure the reappointment of "Mr. Spateman, a man of estate and very active and useful in the county"; whilst the Earl of Scarsdale writes to Thomas Coke: "As to Spateman, I can affirm it from the information of neighbours that he is a constant frequenter of Conventicles, and caused a meeting house to be built for that purpose at Alfreton. Pray get my Lord Nottingham to speak to the Queen about this, for if by any inadvertency Spateman sh^d get in again, it w^d be a blow to the honest gentlemen here—never to be recovered."²

Spateman did not "get in again." He was not reappointed a magistrate, and although, with forty-five other Derbyshire gentlemen, in 1690 he signed an agreement concerning the sheriffalty, by which limits were to be placed on the hospitality dispensed and the number of livery men maintained by the sheriff,³ yet neither he nor his father were ever called upon to discharge that office.

A perusal of the Wolley MSS.⁴ reveals John Spateman as a shrewd man of business—the managing director of lead mines at Winster, Wendesley, Wirksworth, Elton, and Matlock—a man involved from time to time in litigation with regard to trespass underground, and in 1691 brought to book by the Earl of Devonshire, who the year previously had secured a lease of the rights of the Duchy of Lancaster, owners of the Lordship of the High Peak.⁵

In 1698 a revision of the agreement of 1617 was made at

¹ In *Vict. Hist.*, vol. ii., p. 139, there is some confusion between Spateman, father and son.

² *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.*, xii., part iii., pp. 14, 15.

³ *Sitwell and Sacheverell Correspondence*, vol. ii., p. 17.

⁴ *B.M., Add. MSS.*, 6677, p. 201; 6681, pp. 624, 640, 840, 902.

⁵ *Vict. Hist.*, vol. ii., p. 331.

Morton with regard to the liability of landowners for the repair of the churchyard wall. There appear to have been in the parish forty-five¹ oxgangs of land enclosed, and each oxgang of land carried with it responsibility for eighteen feet of wall. "Mr. Spadman" is credited with three oxgangs, as against Mr. Revell's five. A portion of the wall built by Spateman in brick stands to-day between the rectory and the church.

In 1707 John Spateman, jun., died, following closely to the grave his wife and only son. By his will,² which was proved by his "loveing cousin, Mr. Clarke the elder,³ his good cousin, Mr. Richardson, of Newton, and Thomas Nightingale, of Lea," he left his widowed daughter-in-law, Millicent, in enjoyment of the settlement he had made on his son for life. He left Hockerwood Park, which he had inherited from his mother, to Samuel Clarke, and the residue of his estate to be divided between his "kindred,⁴ special friends and acquaintance" at the discretion of his executors.

Samuel Clarke, who has left us an inventory of Samuel Spateman's belongings,⁵ lived till 1741, and bequeathed £10 per annum to his son, Spateman Clarke, and £500 to his daughter Katharine, on condition she did not marry the Rev. Mr. John Holland, Chaplain to Joseph Offley, of Norton, Esq. To his son, Samuel Clarke, he left his estate at Hockerwood and his lands and lead mines in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Roadnook, which is now part of the Ogston estate, lies just off the Alfretton and Matlock road, at the extreme south of Brackenfield parish and close to Wessington green. There is still a portion of the building left, which is of considerable architectural interest.

¹ *Reliquary*.

² *B.M., Add. MSS.*, 6695, p. 328.

³ The Clarkes of Somersall.

⁴ *Wolley MSS.*, 6666, p. 615:

George Flower, of Stourbridge, and Millicent, his wife.

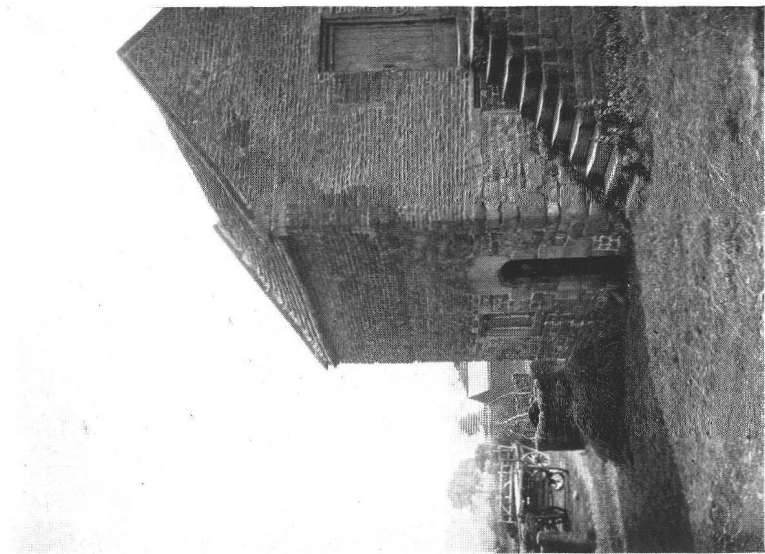
Mary Slack, widow.

Samuel Clarke, of Chesterfield, and Sarah, his wife.

Sir John Statham, of Wigwall.

⁵ Lichfield Wills, 1707, Ap. 16.

PLATE III.



Roadnook.—The Forge, showing the different periods of construction.

PLATE IV.



Roadnook.—Date-stone over the Forge.

The *small shed* (now used as a forge), Plate III., bears evidence of being constructed at three different periods. The walls on the ground floor are of stone; above that of early brickwork, the size of the bricks averaging $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. by $8\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.; and above that again is a gable of bricks, measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $9\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.

The windows in this shed have mullions 4 in. in width and molded. This is unusually slender for Derbyshire Tudor work. The hinge to the Tudor door is of the same design as one at Wingfield Manor, and of beautiful proportions.

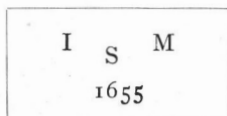
The date-stone, 1673,¹ Plate IV., is of gritstone, and the design is of such refinement that it would have been more suitably carried out in lead, and suggests the thought that the designer was accustomed to work in this material.

The appearance of the brickwork round the stone, as well as that of the large barn, suggests the probability that John Spateman, senior, built the second story of the forge and inserted the date-stone, the top story being added by the younger John when he rebuilt Roadnook.

An oval window over the date-stone is blocked up, and over this is an insurance plate, with the Nottingham arms beautifully modelled, and the strap ornament round has upon it, "Nottingham and Derbys."

The *large barn*, Plate I. (facing page 43), with its open timber roof, is of great interest structurally, and has a date-stone over the doorway on the south side, 1683.²

A date-stone on a lintel of the doorway leading into the large walled garden escaped the attention of Adam Wolley.



The bowling green is bounded on the west and south by a brick wall with a stone base and stone coping, the bricks measuring 9 in. by $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.

¹ *B.M., Add. MSS.*, 6697, p. 242.

² *B.M., Add. MSS.*, 6705, p. 7.

The present farmhouse has been refaced with stone at a late date, but the kitchen wing remains in its original state, and possesses an interesting cheese press and door. The oak door in the kitchen and in the attics are an early type of panelled door, the styles and rails only being molded. The key-plate is of good workmanship and design.

The Roadnook of Thomas Brailsford was converted into Roadnook Hall by the younger Spateman in 1685, and an elegant shield of arms (Spateman impaling Palmer) adorned the east front.¹

At John Spateman's death, Roadnook was sold to Edward Nevil, of Newhall, for £3,800.² Some fragments of a plinth mold lying in the orchard to-day suggest the thought that Sir Edward Wilmot, a subsequent purchaser, demolished the Hall when it had completed its century in 1768, in order to use the materials elsewhere. One of these stones has a mason mark cut upon it in the shape of an hour-glass.

The bowling green under the yews, the steps to the gazebow in the kitchen garden, together with the picturesque barns, give the place to-day an old-world air.

Four fields, where the Midland Railway crosses the Amber in Brackenfield parish, still bear the name "Spadman Meadows," and this is the only relic of a family that once played a big part in this locality.

The writer is indebted to Mr. C. C. Thompson, of 3, Market Place, Derby, for his kind trouble in photographing and measuring the remains of Roadnook, as well as for his architectural notes, which have greatly added to the interest of this article.

¹ *B.M., Add. MSS.*, 6670, p. 375.

² *B.M., Add. MSS.*, 6666, p. 615.