

THE COLLEGE AND PRIORY OF
HASTINGS,
AND THE PRIORY OF WARBLETON.

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AMONG the objects of archæological interest with which HASTINGS abounds, its Castrum, or Castle, now in ruins, is one of the most renowned—the page of history teeming with important incidents connected with it. Founded in Saxon, but much altered and improved in Norman, times, to adapt it to the requirements of a baronial residence, it is situated on the summit of a lofty eminence, to the west of the old town; the hill on which it stands, called, from this circumstance, “the Castle Hill,” forming one side of the deep valley in which this part of the present town is built. And although, on three sides of it, little more than the lower portion of its outside walls remains, enough is left to shew the substantial nature of the building, and that, when in a perfect state, it must have been a fortress of great strength.

But it is not so much with the *military* as with the *ecclesiastical* character of this Castle that I have now to do. For within it was established, at a very early period, a College of Secular Canons, called, from its position, “The College or Free Chapel of St. Mary in Castro.” Its foundation charter is supposed to be lost; on which account neither its original founder, nor the date of its first foundation, can be very accurately ascertained; but it is generally believed, if not to have been founded, to have been very liberally



J. Basire del. et sc.

HASTINGS SEALS.

endowed, by the Earl of Augo or Eu, a Norman nobleman, who, like many other of our ancient Sussex magnates, came to this country with Duke William, and he bestowed upon him, as a requital for his services in the struggle that took place for its sovereignty,—(at the battle of Hastings he was one of the Norman Duke's principal generals)—the Rape and Honour of Hastings. The College, as he established it, consisted of several secular Canons Prebendal. The exact number is not known, but they are supposed to have been ten, each of whom was distinguished by the name of the Prebend which he held.

A Dean appears not to have formed a part of the original foundation, but to have been added at a subsequent period, when a head of the College was found necessary to keep order, and to superintend the affairs of the house, and to make the collegiate establishment complete. At what time this essential addition was made, I have been unable satisfactorily to discover, but it was certainly prior to the year 1280, when a Dean of the College is specially mentioned. In the 3rd of Edward I. that King issued a mandate to certain Commissioners to visit the College, and to place in it a Dean. But this cannot be considered as an allusion to the first appointment of such a spiritual head, for Thomas à Becket is stated by Lord Littleton, in his History of Henry II., to have been *one* of the first, if not *the first*, Dean; and this will carry back the existence of such a dignitary presiding over this Free Chapel to a period anterior to the year 1171, when his murder took place.

But although, following the best historical sources of information accessible to me, I have stated the Earl of Eu to have been mainly instrumental in founding the College—for he placed it upon a broader and more enduring basis—some doubts have been expressed on this point. There are some writers who are disposed to think, with Tanner, that this Norman Earl had nothing to do with its establishment. Their doubts, however, appear to me to be based upon very insufficient grounds. These differences of opinion are easily reconciled. Such writers as maintain that the Earl of Eu had nothing to do with the foundation of the house, allude to its *first* foundation, which they look upon as Saxon, and,

consequently, as established long before he set foot on British soil; while such as assert that he was the founder, consider what he did in reconstructing the Saxon college was equivalent to a re-founding, and that he was thereby justly entitled to be looked upon in the light of a Founder. The Prebends were, almost all of them, more extensively endowed by him than they had previously been, and his enlarged endowments were subsequently farther increased by his successors and other benefactors.

Among the records in the Tower of London is a confirmatory Charter of Henry, Earl of Eu, of the date of Henry II., in which he regrets his inability to make much addition to the benefactions which his grandfather and father had made "to those hallowed places and sacred edifices" which they had founded and endowed, and which he held in the greatest veneration. On which account he felt it to be a duty more especially incumbent upon him to protect and preserve what they had thus devoted generally to God's honour and service, but more particularly what they had given to the Church of St. Mary in the Castle of Hastings, the rents and other emoluments of which were beginning to be diverted from their legitimate purpose into other channels. He, therefore, summoned before him the Canons of this Church and his Barons, and caused to be recited and scheduled in their presence such gifts as his ancestors and others had made to it. This deed is valuable, not only on account of its mentioning the number and names of the Prebends, with the names also of some of the benefactors by which they were distinguished, and the benefactions each had made, but as distinctly stating that Robert, Earl of Eu, was the founder of the College. He is called in it, "Fundator et Edificator Ecclesie Sancte Marie de Hastingses."

The Prebends, with their endowments, are stated in this deed to have been—

1.—The Prebend of the Chapel of WERTLING or GUYAMERDONS. Who or what this Guyamerdons was does not appear, but it was probably the name of the holder of the Prebend at the time, or of a benefactor to it. Its endowment is stated to have been—the Chapel of Wertling, with the tithes of all the demesne lands of the adjacent manor;

two virgates and one wist of land in the same manor, together with the hospes¹ attached to and dwelling upon it; the tithe of all the salt made on any of these lands, and a portion of land in the same manor for saltpans; the Chapels and tithes of Hou and Ninnefield; two wists of land in the marsh of Hou; the meadows and tithes of the Franchises; the tithes of Duingate, Cocherste, and Codinge; and one house within the Castle, probably as the prebendal residence; and the oblations made at the altar in the Castle at particular times.

2.—The Prebend of WILLIAM FITZALLAK, to which two benefactors only are named, viz., Robert, Earl of Eu, and Ralph de Balliol. Earl Robert gave to it the Church of Beckley, with the tithes, and half an acre of land belonging to it; the Chapel of St. Mary, at Bulverhithe; land near to the Monastery—by which is probably meant the Priory of the Holy Trinity, Hastings; one thousand herrings, or mackerel, yearly, with a certain portion of other kinds of fish; the Church of Stotting, with its tithes and lands; the tithes of Chiteham; a third part of the tithes of Blakebrooke; and two houses, one *in* and the other *beneath* the Castle. Ralph de Balliol gave to it a garden, situated at Besham.

The principal foundation of this Prebend was at Bexlei—now called Bexhill—on which account we find it designated at a later period, the Prebend of Bexhill. This Prebend was probably dissolved upon the Bishop of Chichester claiming and recovering Bexhill (which was attached to the Bishoprick in Saxon times) from the Earls of Eu, who had unjustly seized and detained it upon the Castle and Rape of Hastings being granted to them. In the 26th of Henry VI., a license was granted to Adam (Moleyns), Bishop of Chichester, to empark 2,000 acres of land in Bexhill, and to embattle the manor house, and, at the same time, to enclose

¹ Resident householders on a manor, paying a certain acknowledgment for the privilege of such residence, were called Hospites. They were also sometimes called Stagiarii, from whence, doubtless, comes our term, "an old stager." The following deed shows that, like the soil on which they resided, they were at the disposal of the Lord:—"Sciant presentes et futuri, quod ego, Henricus, Comes de Augo, confirmo Monachis de Sancto Pancratio (apud Lewes), unum hospitem in Belewarchum, quem Willelmus, frater meus, in sua vitâ ibi dedit; et tres, quos ipse moriens similiter donavit; quorum nomina sunt, Lardus, Stanardus, Seile, et Edmer Stumba; et cum hiis concedo etiam hospitem, quem Robertus de Criole ibidem dedit apud Springfeldam. Testibus," &c.

it with stone. The Bishops of the diocese had a residence here from a very early period.

3.—The Prebend of HUGH DE FLOCER, to which Walter Fitzlambert, who is mentioned in Domesday as holding Crowherste of Earl Robert, and Geoffry—who was probably the Geoffry de Flocer reported in the same survey as holding Gestelinges of the same Earl, and who is called below the brother of Hugh, from whom this Prebend is designated—are mentioned as benefactors. Its endowments consisted of lands, and the tithes of his own lands, and of those of his ancestors in Haylesham. This Walter is called the founder of this Prebend. In the foundation deed it is stipulated that, after the death or resignation of Hugh de Flocer, the then holder of the Prebend, his brother Godfrey should, with the Bishop's approval, be the next Canon; and that he should have, in addition to what the previous Canons had received, the tithe of Casebury, the Church of Gestlinges, with its tithes, and a house in the Castle.

4.—The Prebend of HUBERT DE MAYBENT, the emoluments of which Earl Robert is said to have increased by a gift of land, in what situation does not appear. Besides this, it possessed the tithes of Gygyntone, and a meadow just beyond the mill beneath the Castle.

5.—The Prebend of EUSTACE, to which Rainbertus, the Sheriff, with the full and free consent of Earl Robert, is stated to have been a benefactor. He gave to it the Church of Salehurst; the land and tithes of Somerville; the Church of Mountfield, with the tithes and a virgate of land belonging to it; the tithes of Hegea; the Church of Edymere, and lands and tithes in Boreham; the tithes of Marseland, of land under the Castle, of the meadow of Soanellus, of a meadow which Colebertus held, and of lands at Gertselle; a house in the Castle; and a meadow at Salenta. This Prebend was subsequently transferred by Henry, Earl of Eu, with the Lordship of Worste, to Robertsbridge Abbey.

6.—The Prebend of AUCHER. No benefactor is mentioned by name to this or any of the following Prebends. The land with which this Prebend was endowed was situated at West Thurrock, in Essex, on which account it was sometimes called the Prebend of Thurrock. Its endowment was

the Church of Thurrock, and the land belonging to it, with the meadows, marshes, and tithes of the manor. It also possessed one virgate of land at Castlebergh, and two houses, one at Hestrega, and the other in the Castle. To this Prebend was attached the supervision of the Grammar School.

7.—The Prebend of THEOBALD, to which the Churches of Peasemarsch and Dallington were attached, with the land belonging to them; the Church of Iden, with its land and tithes; the Chapel of Pleyden; half the tithes of Cicenore and Totton; two virgates of land at Haldenesham; the tithes of Bosenore, Checkingham, and Palisemore, at Rye; and the tithes of Hamstrete. To this Prebend belonged the superintendence of the singing school. It was sometimes designated the Prebend of Peasemarsch, probably from the circumstance of its endowment being derived principally from that parish.

8.—The Prebend of GEOFFRY DE BLANCHE. This Prebend was endowed with two houses in the Castle; and half a hyde of land at Gildewelthmere, with the tithes accruing from it; together with one and a half virgate of land “de Tinturna;” and two sheaves of the tithe of Blakebrooke; and the tithe of Estflete.

9.—The Prebend of RALPH TAYARD, the endowment of which was a house *in* and a garden *out* of the Castle; the tithe of a meadow, and of the lands generally of Osbert and of Underpark; half a hyde of land at Herthberga; the chapel of Wilting, and the tithe belonging to it; the tithe of Vilesent; the Chapel of Hollington, with the tithe appertaining to it; the Church of Yewerste, with its tithe and land; a meadow, with three virgates of land, at Prelham; the Chapel of Bodyham, with its tithes; and the customary fees arising from the burial of the parishioners of the same Chapel dying in Yewerste; and half a hyde of land at Tennegate.

10.—The Prebend of ROGER DANYELL, to which belonged a hyde of land in Bokeleary, and three virgates at Certesella; half a virgate at Smallfield; one virgate at Bargeham; the Church of Breseling, with the tithe and land belonging to it; one virgate, which Turnus held; and the Monastery

of Botherd; the tithe and land of Molma; and the Church of St. Andrew.

Besides these separate endowments of each Prebend, there belonged to the Canons in common, four ambras of salt, at Rye, the gift of Earl Robert; common of pasture for all their cattle, and pannage for their hogs upon the whole waste of the Lord. The clerks of the different Prebends engaged in duty are declared to be the Lord's Proctors in the different manors in which the churches served by them were situated, so long as they were so engaged. So far the endowment has reference to the food and clothing of the canons engaged in Church service. What follows belongs to the ornamentation and necessary uses of the church, and to the supply of its customary wants. To be so applied was the tenth penny upon the rendering of a valuation upon any part of the Earl's property in the Rape of Hastings, wherever it might be situated. Ralph Fitz-Ralph gave to the canons the tithe of his meadow under the Castle for the supply of incense for the church. Ranulphus, the vicar of Odymer, gave to them fifteen acres of land in that parish, with the consent of the Earl, the value of which was 40s., and which formed part of the dues of his church. He also gave to them the church of St. Andrew in Hastings, on which account this church might have been called, as we sometimes find it, "St. Andrew's of the Castle;" at other times, "Castle parish." In Odymer, Ingeramus de Augo gave to the canons the tithes of Wilting and Perrich; and Robert de Creol, for the salvation of the souls of his father and mother, gave to them a house which he held of the Earl, the situation of which is not mentioned.

In the 8th of John (1207) Reumond having been appointed to one of these prebends, while resident at Rome, had the King's license granted to him for safe conduct to and from England to take possession of it.

But although the original foundation charter of this college is supposed to be lost, we learn something of its contents, and of the free prebends of Hastings from a deed of inspeximus for John Duke of Brittany, dated the 22nd of Edward I. (1294), which refers to this confirmatory charter

of Henry, Earl of Eu; and it is called by the king "our free chapel." The tenor of this deed seems to imply continued irregularity in the payment of the rents and other pecuniary emoluments of the prebendal canons, as it directs the proceeds of their property to be paid over to them "entirely and without molestation." It then proceeds as follows:

"Moreover I grant and confirm to the treasury of the same church pertaining— (the collegiate church, that is, or free chapel in the Castle,) the tenth penny of my demesne lands to be paid yearly by my sheriff—viz., of Burgherse 12^d: of Chedinges (supposed to be Chiddingly), 2^s; of Filesham, 4^s; of Rokeland, 2^s; of Sandherste, 12^d; of Lunnesforde, tithe of the demesne of Robert Straborne, 6^s; of Knelle, 8^s; of Oxenbrigge, 14^s; of Leges, 4^s.; of Uppene, 2^s; of Merlay, 12^d; of Overflagg, 12^d; of Crocker, 18^d; of Barselle, 18^d; of Hora, 2^s; of Battel, 2^s; of the tithe of Winchelse, 12^d; of Forherste, 12^d; of Petersham, 12^d; and four houses (mansuræ) in Yestreche, which were given to it by William Fitz-Robert—viz., two houses which were Reinbert's, a third which was Kiss's, and a fourth which was near to the postern of Wigelsel 2^s; and a tenth of the profits of the Shrievalty of the county, then held and retained by William Fitz-Wibert."

These tenths he gave to the treasury of the Church of St. Mary, to be held by the canons belonging to it in perpetuity. He also confirms to it the lands of Betanasse granted to it by Engeler de Scotinges. Although later benefactions were made to this college, its possessions could never have been large; for at its dissolution the value of the deanery is stated to have been £20 only; and the aggregate value of the prebends, then reduced to seven, £41 13s. 5d.

Tanner mentions that the tithe of the earnings of the boats of Winchelsea belonged to the canons of the free chapel of St. Mary, Hastings.

In 19th Edward III. there is a visitation of this free chapel in the castle.²

Among the volumes of the Battle Abbey Charters in the possession of Sir Thomas Phillipps is a folio book in which many monastic rentals are bound up together; one of which is the rental of the College of Hastings, with the prebends and pensions belonging to it in February, 1594. It is headed—"Rents of the prebend of Hoo," &c, in the same college.

Thorpe in his descriptive Catalogue of the Battle Abbey Deeds pp. 147, 148, speaking of this rental, remarks that—

² Second Report of Public Record Commissioners, p. 188.

“In the rental of Hastings College are some interesting notices of the heirs of William Barker, for a rent going out of their lands called Parkegate hill, in the parish of St. Marye, within the Castle of Hastings—xij^d; of John Tufton, Esqre., for a rent going out of his lands within the parish of Northam, called Horner, xij^d; of William Shelley, Esqre., for a yearly rent going out of the manor of Knelle, in the said parish of Northam (Beckley?) viij^s.”

Knelle was an ancient seat of the family of Bealknap; from whom it passed by the marriage of Alice, daughter and heiress of Hamon Bealknap with Sir William Shelley, of Michelgrove, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas,³ and an ancestor of Sir John Villiers Shelley, Bart. and M.P., of Maresfield Park. “This rent,” the account continues, “is not to be had because it is in the Queen’s hands.”

A schedule of the property held by the college at a later period is given in a subsequent charter. But as none of the original property possessed by the prebends is there mentioned, this deed may be looked upon rather as a confirmation of after augmentations, than as having reference to the whole endowments of the college. The separate prebendal endowments are entirely omitted in it.

The descent of the Castle and Honour of Hastings may be very satisfactorily traced from the Conqueror to their present noble possessor. Having been granted to the Earls of Eu, they were held by them successively until the time of Henry III., when they passed to William de Yssenden in default of heirs male, by marriage with Alice Countess of Eu; and from their son to the Crown by escheat. Here they continued with but few interruptions till the time of Henry VI.,⁴ when they passed by grant into the family of Pelham, but in the same reign they were granted to Sir Thomas Hoo, afterwards created Baron Hastings, who is said to have been descended from the family of Eu: in 1st Edward IV. they were conveyed by his feoffees to William Hastings,⁵ in whose descendants they remained till 1591, when they were purchased by the Pelhams, in which family the manor and honour of Hastings still remain. The college, however, as we shall presently see, did not descend with the castle; but having escheated to the Crown, was not afterwards separated from it. The castle is stated to have been abandoned as a place of defence,

³ See Foss’ Judges, iv. p. 31.

⁴ See Suss. Arch. Coll. vol. ii. p. 161.

⁵ See also Suss. Arch. Coll. vol. iv. p. 151, and vol. viii. p. 120.

and the site of it to have been given to the canons of Hastings, during the reign of Henry III., to enable them to enclose it against marauders, and the encroachments of the sea, by a wall; the Crown, by whom the grant was made, reserving to itself the right of resumption in case of foreign invasion.⁶ At the dissolution of this and other monasteries, the revenues of the college were given by letters patent⁷ to Sir Anthony Browne, Master of the Horse to Henry VIII. Of the value of these revenues two statements have come down to us, one of which was probably based on an estimate taken at the time of the dissolution; the other a few years later. In the first valuation the Prebend of Ewhurst is, for some cause or other, omitted, though it is evidently included in the grant; and in the grant the Prebend of Brightling is omitted, though it is included in the valuation. How this happened it would at this distant period of time, be difficult to account for, particularly as accessible records are silent on the subject. Several of the members of this college must have been alienated at a very early period; the college at first consisting of ten prebends, while at the dissolution they were reduced to six. That the Prebend of Ewhurst had been suppressed appears from a grant made by the King in or about the year 1480 to Simon de Shoreham, in fee and of him of all the lands in the parish of Ewhurst formerly held and granted to him by the Prebendary of Ewhurst, for an annual rent of 6s. in money, and half a pound of wax for a light in the church. At this time the deanery of the college was endowed with the privilege of holding one prebend. The dean had also a residence, and some lands adjacent to the church, and rent charges and services arising from several prebendal and other manors and lands. He also had pensions varying in amount from the other prebends; retaining his pension from the Prebend of Salehurst, even after its transfer to the Abbey of Robertsbridge. Besides which he had 3s. 4d. as a pension from the vicarage of Fairlight; an annuity of 20s. from the Prebendary of Hollington, and the advowson of the Vicarage of St. Mary, also called *in* the castle, but which must

⁶ Horsfield's Sussex, vol. 1, p. 44.

⁷ Reprint. original: MS. in the British Museum, vol. iv., fol. 266 b; and also MS. Harl: 4316, p. 107.

surely mean *within* its precincts;⁸ and of which the present Church of St. Mary is the substitute; for no traces are to be found of a second church *in*, that is *within* the castle buildings; and to which church a parochial district was attached.

On the opposite page are engravings of two seals of this college, the only two I have been able to meet with. They are taken from a volume of drawings by Hewett in the possession of Charles Bellingham, Esq. of Brighton; one of which has already been published by Moss in his History of Hastings.⁹ To these I have added the seal of the reputed founder of the college, for which I am wholly indebted to the same work. As Moss's book came out in the year 1824, and is perhaps in the hands of but few members of our Society, a deviation in the present instance from our rule not to admit into our Collections representations of objects which have been already published will not, I trust, be deemed inexcusable. Without an engraving of these seals my paper would manifestly have been incomplete.

Much confusion now exists as to the location of the seven churches which Hastings appears at one time to have possessed. As the Church of St. Andrew is known to have stood beneath the Castle, another church near to it would scarcely have been required; and hence a difficulty arises in placing this Church of St. Mary in a similar position. To obviate this difficulty, it has been conjectured that there was a Church of St. Mary Magdalen attached to a hospital in Hastings, of this name; because, in the grant of this hospital, by Queen Elizabeth, to the Corporation, it is described as comprising "Magdalen and the Church fields." This, then, it has been thought, might have been the Church of St. Mary here alluded to. No church of this name is mentioned in Pope Nicholas' taxation; and the Hospital lands were in fact in the old parish of St. Margaret, the church of which has been submerged. The only churches there taxed are St. Andrew's sub-Castro, at £4 13s. 4d.; St. Clement's, at £5; St. Margaret's, St. Michael's, and St.

⁸ On 8th May, 1594, the Crown presented John Hodgekyns to the rectory of St. Mary *prope* Castrum de Hastings. Suss. Arch. Coll. vol. xii. p. 257.
⁹ P. 95.

Peter's, which are taxed together at £10; and All Saints, taxed at £5 6s. 8d.

But even if such a church had ever existed, it would have been too far distant to be described as *in* the Castle. Possibly, then, the free chapel of the Castle became, before the dissolution of the College, a parish church; and this conjecture seems to be supported, as will be presently seen, by its description in the grant to Sir Anthony Browne.

The value of the endowment of the Prebends in Pope Nicholas' taxation (1291), is—

“Prebenda de Wirtling, £16 13s. 4d.; ditto, de Hou, £16 13s. 4d.; ditto, de Ninnefeld, £16 13s. 4d.; ditto, de Brightling, £13 6s. 8d.; ditto, de Hollington, £4 6s. 8d.”

And at the time the dissolution took place, it was as follows:—PEASMARSH Prebend, the holder of which possessed the advowsons of the Rectorial Churches of Northiam, Beckley, Iden, and Playden, with pensions charged on them. He had also the Vicarage and Rectory of Peasemarsch, with the entire tithes of corn and hay accruing within the parish; and a prebendal manor, lying in the parishes of Peasmarsh, Northiam, and Beckley. From the Bishops' Registers we obtain the names of the following Prebendaries, with the dates of their incumbencies: 1492, Henry Medwale; 1502, Robert Wrothe; 1535, John Ducatt. The value of the patronage of this Prebendary, after deducting £3 6s. 8d. paid annually to the Dean as a pension, was £6 13s. 4d.

That of the HOLLINGTON Prebend comprised, among other grants, the advowsons of Ewhurst, Hastings—(which of the churches is not stated, but it was probably the Church of St. Michael, the boundaries of which are not now known, but the foundations of which were discovered near the White Rock, in 1814)—Bodyham, and the free chapel of Hollington. From the Battle Abbey records we learn that this Prebend was endowed with twenty-five acres of land in Hoo marsh. Its prebendaries, derived from the same and other sources, were—1390, Thomas Hilton; 1399, William Ervydsale; 1412, Richard Bolton; 1435, Thomas Fynes; 1438, Richard Vincent resigned, and John Wraby was appointed. The value of the patronage was £3 9s.

The Prebend of HOO was endowed with the Church of Hoo, and with lands and tithes in the same parish besides. In 1535, Robert Phipps was Prebendary. Its value was £3.

The Prebend of NINFIELD had attached to it the Church of Ninfield, and a pension from the Wartling Prebend. In the valuation this is stated to be the most richly endowed of the Prebends. In 1535 Simon Fowles was Prebendary. Its value was £2.

The Prebend of WARTLING was endowed with the Church of Wartling and thirty acres of land, and with the corn and all other tithes of the parish. In 1535 Thomas Garratt was Prebendary. Its value was £2.

These last three Prebends were at first but one Prebend—Wartling and Ninfield being comprised under the Prebend of Hoo, and their churches forming part of its endowment. But by an ordinance of Ralph, the second Bishop of that name, who held the see of Chichester from 1217 to 1222, each became a separate Prebend. This alteration is stated in the deed to have been made by letters patent, at the request of Peter de Collemede, chaplain at the time to the Pope, but formerly a canon of St. Mary's Hastings, with the full consent of Alice, Countess of Eu, the patroness at the time of the church; he having resigned the Prebend of Hoo for the special purpose of enabling the separation to be effected. It appears from the Episcopal Registers, that even after their ordination as three distinct Prebends, they were sometimes—the three, at other times, two of them—held together by one canon. The Prebendaries so holding, were—1406, Hugh Holbache, of the three parts; 1408, John Brandrethe, a third part; 1440, Henry Faukes, the same; 1504, James Whitstone resigned the three parts, and Robert Phillips was appointed to them.

Of the Prebend of BRIGHTLING no particulars are given. That it had a prebendal manor attached to it, and called by its name, we learn from Mr. William Wykewyke, the canon who held it in 1402, being called the lord of the manor of Brightling. This Prebend was charged with the payment of 23s. 4d. to the Dean of the Collegiate Church, and 6s. 8d. to the steward of the manor. On each side of the chancel

of Brightling Church is a shield, which Mr. Hayley supposes to be the arms—that on the dexter side, of William of Wykeham, and that on the sinister, of the College of Hastings. If William of Wykeham was ever a member of the Collegiate establishment at Hastings—and we may surely fairly infer from this that he was—it naturally leads us to conclude that he was the builder of this chancel. Moss, quoting Tanner and others, says that he was a Prebendal Canon of this College, having been so appointed by the king (Edwd. III.), February 17th, 1362-3, upon his return to this country from Rome, where he had been employed by the Archbishop of Canterbury. His name, however, does not appear in the list of prebendaries of three years later date. If, then, he was ever a member of the College, it could have been but for a short time only.

Nor are any particulars stated of the Prebend of WEST THURROCK. In 1535 Dr. Smythe was the holder of it. Its value, after paying £2 13s. 4d. to the Dean, as an annual pension, was £12 6s. 8d.

Besides these separate endowments, the prebendaries possessed other property of considerable value, which they held in common. The Church of Echyngnam was in the patronage of the canons generally; and it is stated in Pope Nicholas' taxation, that the Canons of Hastings possessed, in the parish of St. Benedict Wodewarf, property of the value of £1 3s. 4d.

Other prebends are mentioned in the Bishop's Registers—viz., the Prebends of STONE, of TAMWORTH, of MARLPAS, and of BULVERHITHE, as belonging to this college, of which I find no other record. Of STONE the prebendaries mentioned are—1406, William Stone; and 1413, John Prentice. Of TAMWORTH no prebendaries are given. Of MARLPAS in 1398, Simon Hoke; 1400, William Repington; 1401, Thomas Preston; and in 1404, Thomas Southwell. And of BULVERHITHE in 1398, Robert Eltysle; 1399, John Weston; 1402, Thomas Atte Lee, were the prebendaries. This last prebend is stated to have been endowed with all the tithes of a place called Walshe. These probably were among the first prebends, which have at different times been suppressed.

Of the situation of Stone, Tamworth, and Marlpas, I have

been unable to obtain any information, except that with regard to Stone there appears to have been a manor of this name, which, with Hastings College, is mentioned in a receipt given by Lord Pelham, as lord of the hundred of Battle.¹⁰ But of Bulverhithe the name still remains near Hastings. It had a chapel dedicated to St. Mary, which is mentioned in the Episcopal and other records, and the ruins of which still stand. About 100 acres of land, the greater part of which was long the property of the family of Cresset Pelham, is comprehended under this name. The Domesday Survey mentions, that "the Earl," meaning Robert Earl of Eu, received 43^{s.}, and "the Monks," which probably may be an allusion to the canons of St. Mary in Castro, "£4 from this manor." The chapelry of Bulverhithe is a member of the port of Hastings, from which it is distant about three miles westward; and from Bexhill eastward about two miles. In 1249 the prebend of Hastings, together with the chapel of Mountfield, and the churches of Salehurst and Odymer were appropriated by William de Etchingham, with the full consent of the chief Pontiff, to the Abbey of Robertsbridge. Among the lands too granted and confirmed to the same Abbey by Richard II., all the lands which the Monks held of the Canons of St. Mary Hastings are included. And in or about the year 1190 Geoffrey, Bishop of Chichester,¹¹ according to a deed among the MSS. purchased by the Earl of Ashburnham at the sale of the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos's library at Stowe, confirmed an agreement made between the same religious houses respecting tithes.¹²

From the Patent Rolls of the 7th of Henry IV.¹³ we learn, that considerable interruption was occasioned in the performance of the duties of the Collegiate Chapel by the non-residence of the prebendaries. Commissioners were therefore sent down by the king to enquire into the state of the College. They were directed to report both as to the regularity of the performance of the services, and as to the condition in which they found the chapel. After a careful visitation and enquiry

¹⁰ Burrell MSS.

¹¹ Episc. Reg: Sti. Ricardi, fol. 64, a, and b 32. Pat. 2 Edwd. II., pt. 2, m. 16.

¹² Bibl: Stowensis, vol. ii., pp. 100, 110-

¹³ Pt. 2, m. 10.

they reported, that though the chapel had anciently been honorably served in divine offices, yet at that time it had ceased to be so; its rents, profits, and other emoluments, even though liberally aided by the oblations of the faithful, having from their scantiness become insufficient for its reparation and support; and for the sustentation of the houses which had recently been erected within the Castle for the accommodation of the vicars and chaplains, and for the supply of the vestments, books, and ornaments, necessary for its use; for finding lights; and for the payment of the annual stipends of its vicars, chaplains, clerks, and others, whose duty it was to minister in it. It was therefore decreed, that to meet the expenses, and to make up for the gradually increasing deficiency of its revenues, the prebendal Canons who should henceforward be non-resident, should pay each of them a moderate and reasonable yearly pension out of their prebends in proportion to their value, towards the support of the resident and officiating vicars, chaplains, clerks, and other ministers. With this decree the non-residents at first refused to comply, on which account the rents and other emoluments of their prebends were sequestered, until the amount assessed upon each prebendal pension was fully satisfied and paid. This decree is stated to be "for the vicars of the King's free chapel at Hastings;" and commences—"The King to his beloved clerks, Master John Kingstone and Master John Wandestre, canons of our Free Chapel of Hastings, greeting."

Free Chapels, as the name implies, were entirely independent of Episcopal and all other Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. On which account they became the frequent subjects of dispute between their Royal Patrons and the Archbishops and Bishops for the time being, of the province or diocese in which they were situated. Nor was the Collegiate Church of Hastings exempt from these differences. Disputes as to jurisdiction and submission were continually arising, in consequence of the Dean and Prebendal Canons not being willing to yield obedience to the authority which the Archbishops of Canterbury and the Bishops of Chichester attempted from time to time to exercise over them. As early as the 7th of Edwd. I. (1279), we find William de Lewes and Walter de

Tothylle, two of its resident chaplains and canons, complaining to the king, that the then Bishop of Chichester (Stephen de Berkstead), and his official, "ungraciously and unjustly troubled them, by citing them to appear at their synod; and for their non-compliance, interdicting their church, &c." They therefore prayed the interference of the King, who immediately issued his writ to the diocesan, commanding him to desist. The Dean at the same time petitioned to be permitted from the same cause to resign his office, which was referred to commissioners sent down for the special purpose of visiting the College, and enquiring into the truth of the grievances complained of. They were also empowered to decide a complaint made by Walter de Tothylle, to whom the king had just given the prebend previously held by Galfred de Winton, that he was prevented from obtaining possession of the prebendal house which his predecessor had erected, as a residence for himself and his successors. He had therefore prayed the king's letters to be issued to the bailiffs of Hastings, to compel them "to do him justice in the matter, as he had not where to lay his head." And later in the same king's reign (27th year, 1299), the king was again solicited to interfere in protection of the rights of the College against a further attempt at Episcopal interference. Though willing to admit the Church of St. Mary in the Castle of Hastings to be a Royal Free Chapel, and not under Episcopal control, Gilbert de Leofard, the successor of Bishop Berkstead in the See of Chichester, maintained notwithstanding that the Prebendal Canons were under his jurisdiction, and therefore held that as vacancies accrued, those appointed to succeed them ought to be presented to and admitted by him, as had been the case with his predecessor. But as the king was advised that this was contrary to the long established rights and privileges of all his free chapels, while they continued in the king's hands, he issued another writ directed to Herbert de Berghershe, Warden at the time of the Cinque Ports, to enquire into the truth of the premises, and to certify the result to himself at the commencement of the next Session of Parliament, to which he had adjourned the settlement of the cause; when and where the Bishop was summoned to attend to support his

presumed right, and the Canons to defend their ancient royal privileges. The following year the matter in dispute continuing unsettled, we learn from the same Patent Rolls, that in consequence of the Bishop pertinaciously urging his claim to authority over the College, a day was appointed by the next Parliament for him to appear to substantiate such claim; against which time Giles de Garderoba and Walter de Agmondesham, with other of the Prebendaries named, were directed to enquire into any and everything which might be adduced in the king's favour, and to produce it at the time appointed. The result was a decision in favour of the king.

The Bishops of the diocese having thus failed in establishing their assumed right before Parliament to exercise Episcopal control over the canons, the Archbishop of the province, the next year (*viz.*, 29th of Edwd. I., 1301), set up a claim to a similar privilege; and, having given notice to the Dean of his intention to visit the College and its Prebendaries, the King issued a similar prohibition to him, which the Archbishop disregarding, and having declared his determination unaltered, the King proceeded to issue his writ, directed to Stephen Sprot, constable of the Castle, commanding him not to permit the Archbishop, or his commissary, to enter the Castle walls for the purpose of visiting the Royal Chapel, and to restrict him from exercising any kind of ecclesiastical jurisdiction over it and the canons. None therefore took place.

In the autumn of the following year (1302), the Archdeacon of Lewes signified his intention of exercising ordinary jurisdiction over the same chapel and canons, which was frustrated by a similar writ and prohibition.

The year following (31st of Edwd. I., 1303), a suit being then pending in the King's Court between the King and the Bishop of Chichester, as to the point in whom the right of institution to the prebends was vested, a vacancy occurred among the canons, which the King filled up by appointing John de Cadomo, one of his royal chaplains, to it. Upon which the Archbishop, who knew that the Bishop of Chichester was powerless in the matter, cited the newly-appointed prebendary to appear before him, to shew cause why he had

been guilty of what the Archbishop was pleased to call "his contemptuous intrusion." This led the King to issue another writ of prohibition, for the purpose of restraining the Archbishop from interfering in the affairs of his Chapel and College, until his right to do so had been established in a court of justice. This appears to have quieted the Archbishop for a time, for no further steps were taken upon this occasion. All was at rest until the year 1305 (31st of Edwd. I.), when the same Archbishop, availing himself of the opportunity of a metropolitan visitation, which he was then engaged in making of the Diocese of Chichester, determined to go to the town of Hastings, for the double purpose of visiting the King's Chapel, and excommunicating John de Wicheo, the keeper of the Castle, if he persisted in refusing to admit him within its precincts, and the canons themselves if, when so admitted, they did not submit themselves to his authority. Not succeeding in his endeavour thus to gain admission, he afterwards sent a commissary upon the same errand, who did by stratagem what the Archbishop could not accomplish by threats; for, watching closely for an opportunity of entrance when the bailiff, in the discharge of his official duty, might happen to be absent from the Castle, he succeeded in effecting his purpose; and so not only carried out the Archbishop's injunctions, but proceeded to an overt act, by discharging the Dean, and appointing William de Lewes—one of the canons, who had favoured his plans, and with whom a previous arrangement had been made—as his successor. To this Archiepiscopal indignity the king was not likely tamely to submit. Nor did he; for he again summoned the Archbishop to appear personally before him, on the morrow of the feast of the Holy Trinity, to answer "for these his high contempts and misdemeanours against the crown and his royal dignity; and the same Simon de Berghershe, Warden of the Cinque Ports, was directed by writ to go to Hastings, and, having satisfied himself of the truth of the complaint against the Archbishop, to discharge the new, and reinstate the old Dean.

Such were the unseemly disputes and disturbances which occasionally took place at this early period between royal and ecclesiastical authority, with respect to the prerogative

of free Chapels, which were happily put an end to, as far as the College of Hastings was concerned, towards the close of the year 1480, when it was finally arranged, by an agreement between Edward Story, Bishop of Chichester, and the Lord of Hastings Rape, the patron,¹⁴ that the chapel and canons should thenceforward be under the same ecclesiastical jurisdiction and visitation as the other clergy of the diocese; and that, with regard to the appointment of the prebendal canons, it should continue in the patrons for the time being, but that, as the Chapel had ceased to be in the patronage of the crown, their admission to their prebends should, for the future, be vested in the successive bishops of the diocese. At the time that this amicable arrangement was made, a suit was pending in the king's court as to the rights and privileges of the two parties claiming jurisdiction over this chapel—royal chapels retaining their exclusive privileges no longer than they remained in the hands of the sovereign.

It is somewhat singular that neither of the present ancient churches of Hastings was ever in the patronage of the dean and canons of this College. They belonged to the Abbey of Fescamp, in Normandy; that of St. Clement having been built by the monks of that foreign house where it now stands, towards the end of the reign of Edward I.; the safety of the original church having been endangered by frequent irruptions of the sea. By a deed among the Tower records, it appears that the land upon which it is erected was given for the purpose, in 1286, by Alan and Alicia Chesmongre, who were at that time residents of Hastings. Though this church was among the grants made by his royal master to Sir Anthony Browne, it was by a separate deed, and not until five years after the conveyance of the College and its revenues to him. The cause of this College grant is stated in the deed of conveyance to be "the good, and true, and faithful and acceptable counsel and service which he was at that time rendering, and which he had previously rendered, to Henry VIII., and for other causes and considerations." The deed then goes on very minutely to state what was included under it, viz.—"The Deanery and Col-

⁹ See a long deed in *Episc. Reg: D.*, fol: 50.

lege commonly called the Royal Free Chapel of Hastings, with its site and appurtenances; also the advowson, donation, free disposition and right of patronage of the vicarage of the parish church of the blessed Mary within the Castle, heretofore belonging to the deanery;" which plainly shews that the chapel had become a parish church, and had been used as such; but at what time it became so, and how long it had been so used, does not appear. The deed then goes on to recite "all the manors, messuages, lands, tenements, mills, meadows, portions of tithes, rents and rent-charges, services, &c., lying or being in the vills, hamlets, parishes, or fields of Hastings, Hoo, Howe, Gate, Ashford, Northiam, Seddlescombe, Knelle, Peasemarsch, Ruckland, Fulsham, Burwashe, Codedyng, West Thurrocke, Brightlyng, Farleigh, Wartlyng, Nenefeld, Crowherste, Saleherste, Beckley, Waghorne, Gestlynge, Iden, Playden, Hollington, Eweherste, and Bodyham, in the counties of Sussex, Kent, and Essex, to the Deanery and Prebends, &c., belonging, they being altogether of the annual value of £44 19s. 2½d." There was the usual reservation upon this grant—"to the king, his heirs and successors, of the lead, bells, and bell-metal, and of all jewels, ornaments, goods, chattels, and debts due and belonging to the Deanery, College, and Prebends." For this grant Sir Anthony, his heirs and successors, were to pay at the King's Court of Augmentation, and revenues of the crown, £4 9s. 11½d., at Michaelmas in each year, in lieu of all exactions and demands.

The Collegiate Church of St. Mary is now, like the Castle itself, in ruins. What remains of it, though small, is very interesting. For some time the walls were much obstructed from view by the great quantity of earth which had accumulated about them. But this obstruction was removed, and the ruins brought out more prominently in 1825, by the late Earl of Chichester, acting in accordance with the advice, and under the judicious direction of Mr. Kay, a London architect of some eminence. All that now remains of the chapel is a portion of the north side, in which is a deep circular arched recess, and a stone tower also circular, with a flight of steps running up it, the lower part of which only now remains. In the side wall is a range of arches, supposed to be the backs

of the Prebendal stalls. The arch connecting the nave and chancel still remains in a very perfect state. A portion also of the western end still stands, towering above the other walls. The length of the church may therefore be very accurately ascertained. Its width could not be so easily determined. In a space between two walls on the south side of the chapel are two stoned graves, prepared doubtless for the interment of two of the deceased canons. This then was probably a south aisle. Below the flooring of the nave stone coffins of great antiquity have been occasionally



discovered containing bones more or less decayed. Many pieces of the carved stone-work of this chapel are to be seen lying about the Castle banks. Of these some of the best parts have been thrown together in a lump in the centre of the turfed space. Lord Chichester's exertions deserve the thanks of all archæologists, leading as they did to the disclosure of some very interesting parts of the Castle; particularly about the original ancient entrance gateway, which was flanked with two circular towers. The walls of the Castle are here twelve feet thick.

William Prestwick, a Dean of this chapel, lies interred at Warbleton, where he probably resided and died. A farm in the parish is still called the Deanery Farm. His tomb, which is in the chancel of the church, consists of a slab of marble inlaid with brass, on which is his full length effigy. He is represented in the canonical dress of the period in which he lived, and as

standing under a canopy; round the stone of which, on inlaid brass, with the emblems of the Evangelists at each angle, is a long but now somewhat imperfect inscription in leonine hexameters, and engraved in old English characters. He died in 1436. Tanner gives no date to his appointment as dean. An engraving and full account of this tomb will be found in Vol. ii., p. 308 of our Sussex Archæological Collections. His father and mother were also buried at Warbleton.

The following is as correct a list of the Deans of this College as can well be made out. It is taken from Browne Willis, the Bishop's Registers, and other authentic sources:—

- 1167—Thomas a Becket.
- 1190—Peter.
- 1198—Michael.
- 1302—Giles de Audenard.
- 1312—Nicholas de Ferkband.
- 1322—Edmond de London.
- 1331—Thomas de Staunton.
- 1337—Walter de Lindrige.
- 1345—John Wade.
- 1359—John de Codyngton.
- 1369—Robert Leggatt.
- ? —Robert Crull.
- 1374—William de Grysell.
- Ditto—John de Harlestone.
- 1383—John Lyne.
- ? —John Nottingham.
- 1394—William Windsor.
- 1396—Richard Clifford.
- 1398—Gilbert Stone.
- 1400—John Garmouth.
- 1408—Henry Rumworth.
- 1411—William How, or Hawe.
- 1415—William Tanfield.
- 1436—William Prestwick, died.
- Ditto—William Walesby.
- ? —John Fowkes.
- 1458—John Kingscote.
- 1460—John Carpenter.
- 1535—Richard Brokysby.

At the time of the dissolution of this College the endowment of the deanery was let to Thomas, Earl of Wiltshire, at a reserved rent of £20 per annum.

A second religious house in HASTINGS was that of THE PRIORY OF THE HOLY TRINITY, which was situated a little to

the west of the Cliff, on which the remains of the Castle stand; and which is supposed to have been founded by Sir Walter Bricet, K^t.¹⁵ in the reign of Richard I. It was an establishment of black canons of the order of Saint Augustine. The Earls of Augo or Eu were very liberal benefactors to this religious house, as well as to the College within the Castle. The site of the priory, which was very low, with a haven running up close to it, as will be seen by the map of Hastings taken in 1746, and given in Vol. xii. p. 196, becoming endangered by the occasional overflowings of the sea, and the fast increasing encroachments which it was making here, the monks were compelled to abandon their dwelling, and to seek a resting place in some locality beyond the reach of these inundations. For the accomplishment of this an opportunity was granted them by Sir John Pelham, their excellent patron and friend, in the 14th of Henry IV. (1413), who, commiserating their houseless and forlorn condition, offered them lands in Warbleton on which to erect a new church and priory. These were very gladly accepted, and upon the monastic buildings being completed the monks removed their establishment to it; and there they continued to reside in safety until the time of the general dissolution. The letters patent from the crown empowering Sir John to make this change are given in the *Monasticon Anglicanum*, from which it appears that the king not only gave his consent to the removal, but that in consideration of the great expenses thus unavoidably incurred by the monks, and in aid of the burden which the sustentation of the new church and priory would bring upon them, the Manor of Mounkencourt in Withyham, with the advowson of the church, and "all the lands, tenements, rents, services, pensions, and all other commodities whatsoever, arising out of the same manor," were bestowed upon them. These had previously been part and parcel of the possessions of the alien priory and convent of Mortein in France, but had fallen into the king's hands in consequence of a war between that country and England, and are said to have been at the time of the estimated value of £25. 5s. 5d. per annum. These the prior and convent of "the New Priory" as it was called, to distinguish it from the old, and their

¹⁵ Leland's *Collectanea*, vol. 1, p. 82.

successors, were to hold and enjoy, free of all demands from the crown for the term of twenty years, commencing from the 19th day of December preceding the day of the grant, which was dated October 23rd, 1413.¹⁶ The advowson of Dallington, with the manor of Hazleden, in the same parish, but extending into Burwash as well, with all its rights and appurtenances, belonged to this Priory; as did also the rectories of Crowhurst, Ashburnham and Tycehurst—that of Ashburnham having been appropriated to it as early as the 21st of Edwd. I. (1293), at which time it was of the rated value of 15 marks.

Collins, speaking in his Peerage in commendation of Sir John Pelham, the re-founder of this Priory, says—

“That he departed this life full of honour; having been in the highest favour, and the most honourable employments, under two of the greatest monarchs of this realm, who were famed for their courage and all manly virtues, and who raised the glory of the English nation to such a degree as never to be forgot; so that it must have been owing to some uncommon instance of self-denial that he was not ranked among the Peers.”

He then goes on to speak of his piety, which, he says, is manifest “from his grant of land and tenements in Warbleton—where the family appears to have had a residence in the 14th of Henry IV.—to the Convent and Priory of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Hastings, for the building a new church and convent in honour of the Blessed Trinity; the old Priory, founded by Sir Walter Bricet, Knight, being rendered uninhabitable by the inundation of the sea. He likewise granted thereto lands, called Tornor’s lands, in the said parish of Warbleton, by his charter dated June the 12th, 5th Henry V. Also, in the 5th Henry VI., he lets to farm to the said convent his manor of Pelham (? in Sussex or Hertfordshire), and divers other lands, whereby he was reputed the founder of that Priory of Canons regular of St. Augustine, and became the patron.”

Of his son, Sir John Pelham, the same historian says, that “he was as pious as his father, for by his charter, dated at Warbleton, Sept. 4th, 1430 (9 Hen. VI.), he grants to Stephen, Prior of the Holy Trinity of Hastings, and the Con-

¹⁶ Pat. 14 Hen. IV., m. 19.

vent of the same place, all his lands, rents, and services in the parish of Warbleton, which belonged to Richard Leverer and Mr. John Waller, granted to him by his father, Sir John Pelham; and to the said charter is a fair round seal of green wax appendant, viz., Quarterly—in the first and fourth, three pelicans; and in the second and third, ermine on a fess, three crowns, and for the crest a cage on a helmet, and on each side thereof the buckles of a belt, circumscribed ‘*Sigillum Johannis Pelham.*’” This seal is engraved in *Suss. Arch. Coll. Vol. iii. p. 220*, in Mr. Lower’s paper on the “Pelham Buckle.”

This Sir John dying childless, his brother William Pelham became his heir, who also died without issue, February 24th, 1503. By his last will and testament, dated a few days before his death, he directs his body to be taken to the Church of Laughton, and there to have exequies and masses done for his soul, and from thence to be carried to the New Priory at Warbleton, and to be buried within the chancel there; and he gives to every church “as the waye lyeth between Laughton and this Priory the sum of 6s. 8d.” And he further orders that his executors do, as soon as may be after his interment, set up a plain stone of marble over his burial at the Priory, to be graved with his name [crest] and arms, and the day of his death.¹⁷ They are also required to find a priest to sing within the said Church of Laughton for his own soul, and for the souls of his father, mother, wife, and all his other friends. He further directs that his household be kept at his manor of Laughton till his month-day be past, on which day he wills that every one of his servants have a black gown and their wages.¹⁸

The reversions of these, and of all the manors and other lands belonging to the Priory, were granted by Henry VIII. to John Baker, his attorney-general, and are thus described in the deed—“The manor of Hazleden, with its lands, &c.; the rectories of Ashburnham and Tycehurst, and all the manors and lands, &c., belonging to the New Priory itself; all the lands in Burwash, Herstmonceux, Wartlynge, Dal-yngtun, Tycehurste, Ashborneham, Warbleton, Mayfield,

¹⁷ Horsfield’s “Lewes and its Environs,” ii., 157.

¹⁸ For a pedigree of the Pelhams, see Vol. iii., p. 214.

Hastingses, Holyngton, Bexhill, Westham, Willyngdon, Ewehurst, Brede, Adymere, Winchelsea, Ikelsham, Gestlyng, Fareleigh, Westfield, and Crowhurst, belonging to this Priory." The churches here mentioned had been confirmed to Hastings Priory, and the canons worshipping God therein, by Ralph de Neville, Bishop of Chichester, in 1237, at the instigation of the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church. About three-fourths of the Priory property now belong to the noble family of Cornwallis, and the other fourth to the Countess Waldegrave, late Mrs. Milward, of Hastings.

Tanner, misled probably by the newly-erected Priory at Warbleton being sometimes called "the New Priory of Hastings," gives it as his opinion, in his *Notitia of Hastings*, that the intention to remove this Priory to Warbleton was never carried out—the accommodation required by the houseless monks of the Holy Trinity Priory having been found for them through the charity of some well-disposed persons somewhere in or near to Hastings.¹⁹ In this, however, he is mistaken, as we have abundant evidence to shew. Bishop Robert Reade, in an episcopal progress which he made through his diocese in 1412, having visited the Priory at Ruspar, is stated to have slept at Cuckfield; and from thence to have proceeded to Eastgrinstead, where he held a visitation; and afterwards, passing through Maresfield and Buxted, to have slept at the New Priory, from whence he went the next day to Salehurst. This New Priory must have been the Priory at Warbleton, for the Bishop would scarcely have gone to Hastings in passing from Buxted to Salehurst—Warbleton would have been in his route. Had a new priory been provided for the monks near to the site of the old one, the spot on which it stood would surely have been traditionally known; some indications of it would have remained—all traces and remembrance of it would scarcely have passed completely away. It is true that Horsfield, in his account of Ore, a parish to the north of Hastings, tells us that its place house was built by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and afterwards converted into a religious house, and that about the premises and grounds relics of antiquity

¹⁹ *Monast. Anglican.* vol. vi., p. 168.

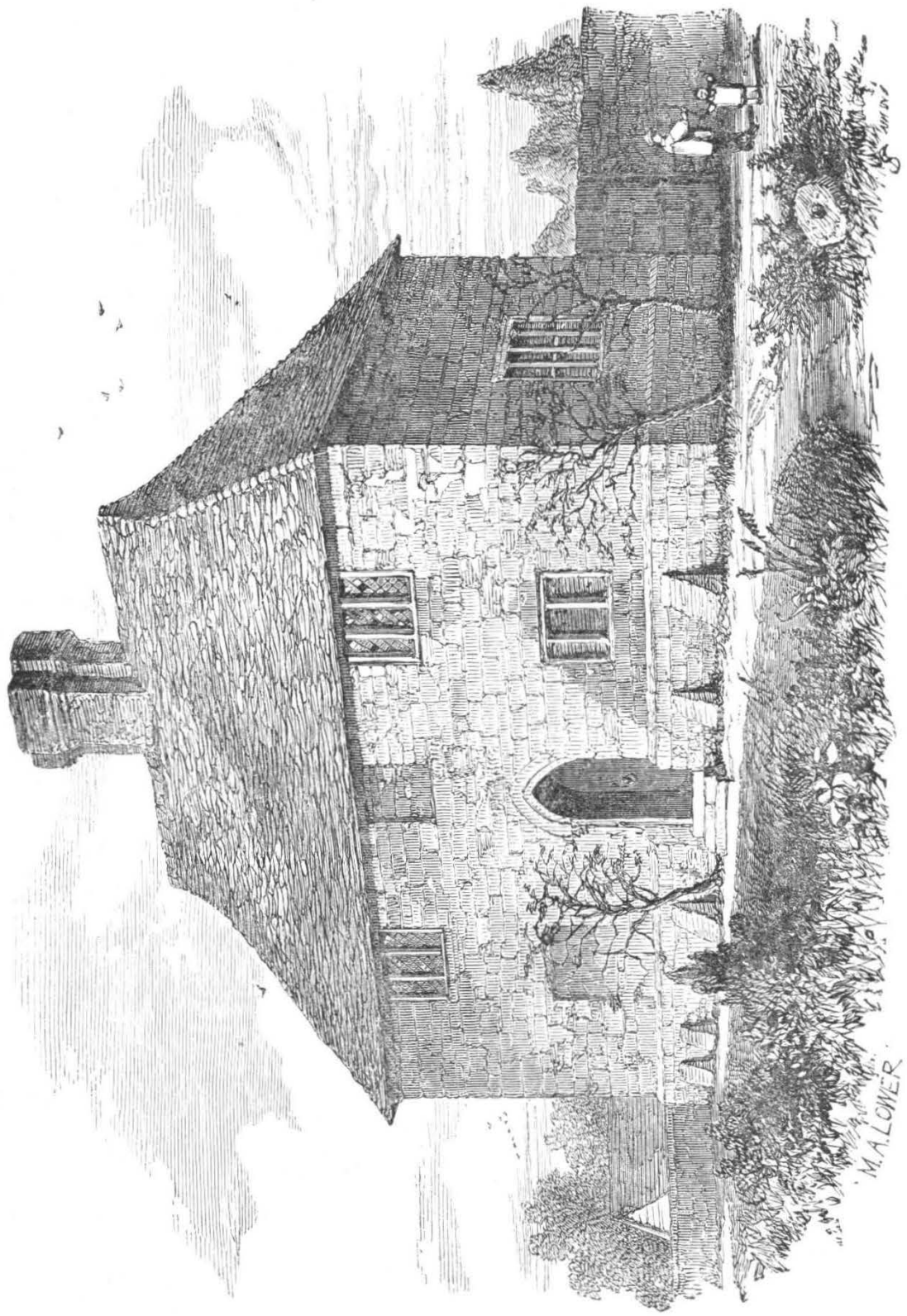
are not unfrequently found; still we have not a tittle of evidence to shew that this became the residence of the Holy Trinity monks, unless the house happened to be so occupied by them temporarily, after their old Priory became untenable, and their new residence was not ready for their reception.

In proof of the Holy Trinity monks ultimately settling at Warbleton, we have besides—first, the license of Henry IV. to Sir John Pelham to erect a house there for their accommodation, and to remove them into it; secondly, the evidence of the kind consideration of the same king, which led him to increase the endowment of their establishment, in consequence of the additional expenses they had thereby incurred; and, thirdly, the reputed site of the new building itself, which still bears ample testimony of a monastery of some kind having stood on the spot. It might have been that the patron's intentions were never carried out to the full extent he might at first have contemplated, and this may have led Bishop Tanner to think that no change to Warbleton ever took place. Warbleton was, in his opinion, too far from Hastings for a house there situated to be called *at* or *near to* Hastings, and to be justified in continuing to bear its name. Moss, too, seems to adopt Tanner's notion, for, in speaking of the New Priory, he says that it takes its denomination from the establishment of an earlier religious house there. He appears to consider the New Priory a re-building only of the old one. The fact, however, of the monks' removal to Warbleton is indisputable; and it might, notwithstanding its distance from Hastings—which Tanner calls ten miles, but which is much more—be still very reasonably called "the New Priory of Hastings," to keep up the remembrance of its former connexion with that town, and to distinguish it from the old one.

It is a singular circumstance that, in a document of so late a date as the survey of Henry VIII., now in the Augmentation Office, the New Priory should be designated in the heading "byside Hasting," which would seem to imply proximity to the town. A similar latitude of description was not, however, unusually adopted at that period. Rudborne, as quoted by Bishop Tanner, in speaking of Battle

Abbey, states that King William the Conqueror founded it; and he describes it as "Cænobium in honorem Sancti Martini apud Hastyng." This doubtless arose from Battle being an insignificant village only at that time, called, from its sylvan situation, "St. Mary in the Wood," and Hastings, though some miles off, being the nearest place of any consequence to it. Or he might have been misled by the old chronicler, Malmesbury, who, in speaking of the Conqueror's foundation of the same Abbey, says—"alterum monasterium *Hastinges* ædificavit Sancto Martino, quod cognominatur de Bello."

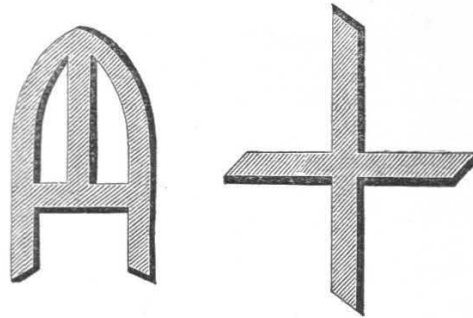
All that remains of the buildings of this New Priory is to be traced in and about a farm house, formerly the property and residence of the Lades, of whom it was purchased by George Darby, Esq., of Marklye, the present owner. It stands about a mile and a half eastward of the Church, and half a mile from the public road, on a spot now open and picturesque, but which must have been, at the time the priory was founded, in the midst of a large tract of woodland, rendering its site one of great seclusion; on which account, perhaps, it was selected—such a spot being adapted to the practices of the requirements and observances of a monastic life. The roads round about it, too, though now in a fair condition, must at that time have been so bad as to render the place almost inaccessible. In approaching the house, you at once see that it is no ordinary building which is before you. How much of it may be considered a part of the original edifice it would now be difficult to determine; but as the south front is of stone, and has a pointed arch doorway and mullioned windows, also of stone, synchronizing with the style of architecture prevailing at the time the Priory was removed to this site, there can be but little doubt that it was part of the original structure. And as the part running off from this at right angles, at the back, is constructed—the lower story of brick, and the upper of timber, the framework of which is filled up with lath and plaster—this, I consider, to be a more modern addition. An engraving of the ancient part, from a drawing with which Mr. M. A. Lower has kindly favoured me—with whom I visited the Priory at the commencement of February last—



WARBLETON PRIORY.

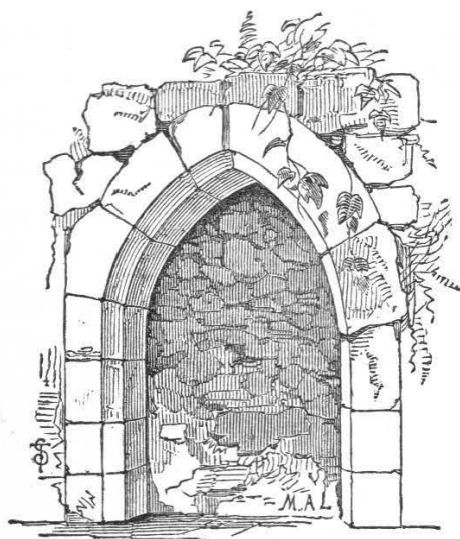
will be found opposite. It is a very accurate delineation of the south front. Of the mullioned windows, some are filled up with brick. It is worthy of notice that, of the entrance doorway of this part of the house, while the lower part, up to the springing of the arch, is plainly chamfered, the arch itself is moulded on each side.

The rooms of this portion of the house are square, and for the most part spacious. At the east end is a parlour with three large windows, north, east, and south, two of which are stopped. This might have been the chapter-room of the Canons. Across its ceiling is an immense beam of a semi-cylindrical form. The fire-places, too, of the rooms are all of them unusually large. The wide, open fire-place of what appears to have been the kitchen of the Priory, has within it an iron plate, lying horizontally, and raised an inch or two above the level of the brick flooring of the room, on which the wood was placed; and another, standing upright or nearly so, at the back of it, against which the wood rested during the time it was burning. Around this are the Pelham Buckle and a cross, alternately. The roof timbers, which are of oak, and very substantial, were the produce, probably, of the Priory estate.



The Chapel was a square room, some thirty yards or more to the east of the present house. Its length is thirty-eight feet, by about twenty feet in width, and its walls still rise above the surface of the soil, in one or two parts, more than two feet. But though it is now detached, there is ample evidence to show that it was once a part of the Priory buildings, for, between it and the house, extensive foundations are still to be traced, as well as across the garden to the south of the Chapel; and, at the east end of the orchard, parts of this garden cannot be cultivated, in consequence of the obstructions which the subterraneous walls present. Here are the remains of what appears to have been a long pond, but which I should have called a part of a moat if I could have found elsewhere any traces of its continuance,

which I was unable to do. On the east side of the flower garden in front of the house, and forming a fence to it, are an oast-house and a stable under one roof, the walls of which are very thick, and evidently constructed of some of the *debris* of the old Priory. The oast-house has been lately rebuilt, but the stable is of rude workmanship, and of some antiquity. Built into it I discovered fragments of the stone mullions of the Chapel windows. One piece had evidently been a part of the sill of one of the windows, as the hole remained in it in which an iron stanchion had been fixed.



On the east side of these, running east and west, is a cart-shed, in the back wall of which is the pointed-arch doorway here represented. In the stable, too, are the remains of an ancient entrance doorway. Among the loose stones of a detached and ruinous piece of wall, just to the south of the oast-house, I found three pieces of carved stone capitals, of an early English type, and a piece of flat moulding. One of

the capitals was circular, with a plain moulding round it; another was square, having floriated ornaments on each of its four sides; and the third was a fragment of a half-capital and shaft, both of which were ornamented with a kind of scroll pattern. These must have belonged originally to the Chapel.

Two human skulls, one of which was dug up on the spot, are carefully preserved in an upstairs apartment of the house, about which many strange stories are current in the neighbourhood. One has been in the house many years; the other was placed there by a former tenant of the farm. The older one is of a peculiar formation, having the appearance of the skull of an idiot. Of this skull the general impression of the people of the parish is, that if it were to be removed the cattle on the farm would sicken, and strange noises be heard in and about the house at night. This is said to have happened to the tenant to whom I have just alluded; and

from that time no female servant would live in the house. A man servant, whom he had brought with him out of Leicestershire, cooked and did all the work of the house for him as long as he continued to occupy the farm. This skull has, however, since been removed, more than once, without any very ill effects arising from it.²⁰ The tradition of the neighbourhood is, that the skull belonged to a man who murdered an owner of the house, and marks of blood are pointed out on the floor of the adjoining room, where the murder is supposed to have been committed, and which no washing will remove. The space under the roof of the house plainly indicates the restless spirits by which the house is haunted, and from whom the noises, supposed to be supernatural, proceed. They are owls that breed there, and from them, in passing in and out, and from their young, anxiously expecting their return, with a rat or mouse, or some other animal substance on which they are accustomed to feed, in their talons, all those fearful sounds and unearthly screams arise—scaring maid-servants from their propriety.

According to Henry VIII.'s survey, taken in the 26th year of his reign, the New Priory of Hastings possessed property in Icklesham parish, which, at the time of the general dissolution, passed into the hands of the crown. It is thus noticed :

	£	s.	d.
"Ikylsham redd' et firm' ibidem in tenura Willielmi Fynche, milit: et aliorum, per annum	1	14	2
"Resolucio Redd: Willielmi Fynche, milit: pro terris jacent' in Ikyl- sham, per annum	0	1	0

The family of Fynche resided at "Old Place House," which was situated on the north side of Icklesham parish, below the Church. The house is now taken down, but its site may still be traced.

A parochial district has sometimes been assigned to the Church of this Priory, previous to its removal to Warbleton; and in the parliamentary map of the Borough of Hastings, the parish of the Holy Trinity is mentioned, but erroneously,

²⁰ On one occasion it was placed by a profane hand in a branch of a neighbouring tree, where it remained a whole summer, during which time a bird's nest was constructed within it, and a young brood successfully reared.—M. A. L.

for no such parish, either connected with, or independent of, this house, ever existed. Jeake, in speaking of Hastings, says, "it is beautified with two churches, one called by the name of St. Clement's, and the other All Saints. But in their costumal, and some other early documents, other churches are spoken of, viz., St. Michael's, St. Mary of the Castle, a hospital dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, and the Priory Church, near to the town." The mistake here made, in calling this last-mentioned church a parish church, no doubt arose from the Priory being designated "the Church of the Holy Trinity at Hastings;" the term "ecclesia," as has been observed by Mr. Stonestreet,²¹ a resident of Hastings, and a gentleman well versed in the history of the antiquities of the town and neighbourhood, is often used in ancient bulls and records to designate a monastery. The term does not necessarily imply a parochial jurisdiction. If any such jurisdiction was exercised by this Priory, it was limited to its own demesne lands in Hastings and Gensyng, which comprised about 192 acres. Such a jurisdiction appears to have been sometimes possessed by other monasteries, and is not unlikely to have been vested in this; and such extra-parochial jurisdiction might very appropriately have been called that of the Holy Trinity. After lying waste many years, the Priory lands are now partially covered with buildings; the extension of Hastings westward making the part near the sea an eligible site for houses. The greater part, however, is still cultivated as a farm, called "The Priory Farm," on which the owner, Mr. Wastel Briscoe, has a residence, a part being enclosed as a paddock. The part built upon is known by names shewing its connection with the Priory.

From the circumstance of the same documents mentioning St. Mary Magdalen—a hospital or alms-house at Hastings for decayed people of either sex—as a parish, and some other deeds, of the date of Henry VI., calling it a Priory, we may, I think, fairly conclude that this hospital was, in some way or other, connected with the Priory of the Holy Trinity; for, though older records state it to have

²¹ See Horsfield's History of Sussex, Vol. i., p. 451.

been under the governance and visitation of the Bailiff of Hastings, and that the right of nomination to its benefits was vested solely in that officer, might it not, at a later period, have been attached to, and under the control of, the Priory? This hospital was founded by Petronilla de Cham, or Chams, of Hastings, who endowed it with the profits of five acres of land. The deed of endowment is supposed to be lost, but its contents are recited in a charter of confirmation of the date of the 21st of Edward I. (1293). By a deed of Elizabeth this charitable institution is invested in the Corporation of Hastings, who since that time have dispensed the proceeds in small gifts to the poor and needy of the town, at Christmas. By subsequent additions, and the improved rent of the Charity lands, the original endowment has been increased to about £105 per annum.

Nothing now remains of the dissolved Priory buildings at Hastings. "So complete," says Moss, in his notice of the Priory, "has been the decay of this ancient structure, that it may almost be literally said of it, that it has now scarcely one stone left upon another to repeat the story of its existence."²² A few years ago a small portion might be found, consisting of the fragment of an old wall built into a granary or drying-house, standing as a portion of the south and west boundary of a farm-yard at no great distance from the Priory farm house. But this has been lately taken down and rebuilt, and all is now gone. Rouse gives a view of it as it appeared in 1823, the year in which his "Beauties and Antiquities of Sussex" were published. Some of the materials have evidently been used in the construction of a large barn and hovel, and in the enclosure walls of the yard. In removing, some years ago, the mud from an old pond near to these remains, and which must have been in some way connected with the Priory grounds, a large excavation was discovered at the bottom, which, upon being measured, was found to extend to the depth of thirty feet or more. Portions of a sluice, with its flood-gates, were also brought to light, the whole being formed of timbers of a large size. These are supposed to have been the works of the monks,

²² Moss' History of Hastings, p. 79; and Monast: Angl., in the account of this Priory.

and intended to protect their house from the ravages occasioned by the overflowings of the sea. So frequent do these inundations appear to have been in early times, and so destructive the consequences by which they were attended, that the Dean and Canons of the Collegiate Church within the Castle petitioned Edward III., in 1332, for leave to repair the Castle walls, to secure their Chapel against them. How their Chapel could be so endangered—standing, as it did, four hundred feet above the level of the sea, and at that time at a much greater distance from it than it is now—is a difficulty which has never been cleared up. Some have applied it to the Priory, while others consider it to have had reference to a chapel below the cliff. But to whatever church the petition may apply, the frequency of these devastating inundations, for three centuries after the establishment of the Norman rule in this country, is quite certain. It is shewn, not only by the necessity which arose for removing this Priory to a more inland place on this account, but from the fact of all that part of Hastings which stands near to the Priory, and which, erected on a portion of its demesne lands, is designated after it, being built on a deep bed of shingle. There is also ample evidence that, at the time this Priory was founded, the land around it was covered with wood, a portion of the vast forest of Anderida, which must at that time have come close up to Hastings; for, at low tide, when what is usually covered with water opposite the Priory houses is left dry and exposed to view, it is found to consist of a black-looking deposit, in which timber of a large size is found embedded—the soil taking its colour, as is supposed, from the decayed vegetable matter which it contains. The course of a thick hedge has been distinctly traced, and hazelnuts are occasionally found in it, with their shells in a very perfect state. This subterraneous timber is in so sound a state, as to be capable of being worked up into trinkets for sale, by the Hastings mechanics.

That two religious houses, standing so near to each other as Hastings Priory and Battle Abbey, should be somewhat connected in their endowments, we cannot be surprised to find. Such a connection would be the natural consequence of their proximity to each other. The principal benefactors

to a religious house would be the owners of property in its immediate neighbourhood, and so we find it here. These two monasteries seem to have had benefactors in common; the illustrious families of their founders, the knightly family of Hoo, and the noble family of Hastings, successive owners of the Lordship of Hastings, being found among those who contributed liberally to their support, in some instances by donations of land, in others by land given to the one being charged with a payment to the other. This is manifest from the Battle Abbey chartulary.

Of Hastings Priory no chartulary is known to exist; and of its deeds all that the "Monasticon Anglicanum" gives, are the letters authorising its removal to Warbleton, and an abstract of the valuation of the property it possessed at the time it was dissolved.²³ I am able, however, to refer to a few charters relating to this Priory, and once evidently among its deeds, of the history of which I know nothing more than that the originals are, or rather, at the time of the publication of Nichols' "Collectanea Topographica,"²⁴ in which they are given, *were*, in the possession of Stacey Grimaldi, Esq., F.S.A., at his residence, at that time in Oxfordshire. They appear to be all of one, and that a very early, period; for a very accurate date, Mr. Nichols tells us in his preliminary observations, may be assigned to them, from the identification of names occurring among their witnesses with those of men whose date is well known. Thus, Walter de Scotney, one of them, was, we know, contemporary with Seffrid II., who was Bishop of Chichester from 1180 to 1204; and Peter de Scotney, the grantor of one of the charters, and the witness of two others, calls himself the son of this Walter. Some of the other witnesses, too, may be identified as belonging to the same æra, thereby affording us a connecting clue to the date to which they belong. The substance of these deeds, divested of their legal form and phraseology, is as follows:—

By deed 1, HENRY DE PALERNE gave to the Church of the Holy Trinity at Hastings, and its canons, the tithe of the corn of his demesne lands at Langport; having in view, in

²³ Vol. vi., p. 168.

²⁴ Vol. vi., p. 161.

doing so, the salvation of the souls of John, his father, his own soul, and the souls of all his ancestors and heirs. Out of this the canons were to pay to the Church of St. Mary, at Bourne (Eastbourne?) 2s. per annum only. From contributing to this grant the tenement of Gilbert, his official, is specially excepted, so long as it should continue in his own occupation. The witnesses to this deed are—Peter, formerly Dean of Hastings; Edmund and Justin, priests; Vincent, clerk; Edmund Fitz-Alan, junior; Walter Scotney, and others. To this deed a round seal of white wax is appended, having for a device a lion rampant. The motto is imperfect, the parts between brackets being missing, but it evidently was—

[SIGILLVM. HE]NRICI. DE. PA[LERNE]

In the valuation of Pope Nicholas (1291), the temporalities of the Prior of Hastings, at Langford, are rated at 6s. 8d. In the valuation of Henry VIII. the name does not occur.

By deed 2, it appears that ELIAS FITZ-GILBERT, of Rye, sold to the same canons, for three marcs of silver, fifty acres of wood, lying between the land of Gerard de la Flesham and that of Ralph de Ycklesham; and two acres of land lying adjacent to this wood, and near to the land of William de Kethenore, which lands he had from Ralph Borne, the lord, and which he resigned and quitclaimed to them for ever, in his court. The witnesses to this deed are—John de Gestlinge, Ralph de Yckelsham, Peter de Scotney, James Fitz . . ., Edmund Fitz-Alan, and others. The seal of this deed is gone.

Deed 3 is endorsed "MICHAEL DE HASTINGES." By it Robert de Cotelege, the son of John de Oxenel, gives to the Church and Canons of St. Trinity, Hastings, his right of advowson and presentation in a certain portion of the Church of St. Michael, Hastings, the tenement occupied by Michael, the Dean, for his life being excepted. And this he did for the salvation of the souls of himself and all his ancestors. This deed is witnessed by Helyas, Dean of Dallingtune; Richard, chaplain of Ticehurste; Ralph, parson of Icklesham; Master Gyles de Burne; Henry FitzAucher, the son of Richard,

constable, at the time, of Hastings; James Fitz-Alard, of Winchelsea; Godfrey, his son-in-law; William Fitz-Robert, of Hastings; William of Gensinges and others. The seal of this deed also is missing, but the green silk cord to which it was attached remains.

By deed 4, RALPH DE YCKLESHAM confirms to God and the Church and Canons of the Holy Trinity, Hastings, for the salvation of his own soul, and the souls of his ancestors and successors, one hundred acres of land, lying in Hopernot, on each side of the highway from Hastings to Rye, to be held of him and his heirs in perpetuity, and free of all claims whatsoever by payment of one pound of cummin annually to him, within twelve days of Christmas-day. This land is described as lying between the land of the Castle of Hastings, the land of the fee of St. Ledger, the land de Hulnec, and the land which Benedict de Gestelinges held of him. Adam was the Abbot at this time, to whom, and to the canons over whom he presided, he warrants this land against all persons, male or female, for the payment of one and a-half marcs of gold. He then provides against any future contingencies which may arise from a want of power on his part to warrant this land; in which case he declares that he gives it to them in exchange for other land of equal value. As a ratification and confirmation of the transaction, he set his seal to this deed of gift in the presence of John de Gestelinges; Walter de Scotney; Henry, his brother; James Fitz-Alard, of Winchelsea; Edmund Fitz-Alan, jun., of Hastings; Ralph, parson of Ycklesham; Bertin Fitz-Sampson, of Gestelinges, and others. To this deed a round seal is appended, an inch and a-half, or thereabouts, in diameter, on which is impressed a knight on horseback clad in chain mail, and having a long sword drawn in his hand, around which is—

SIGILL. RADVLPHI.DE.HICLESHAM.

It is attached to the deed by a parchment label. This Ralph seems to have been a considerable benefactor to Battle Abbey as well, four or five deeds of gift to that Abbey being included in Thorpe's catalogue, p. 41, among the witnesses to which some of the Canons of Hastings are to be found. See also Waldron, *ante* p. 84, *et seq.*

By deed 5, the same RALPH DE HICKLESHAM, and his heirs, ratify the gift which Robert the merchant, the son of Guido, made to the same Church and Convent of the Holy Trinity, in pure and perpetual alms, of all the marsh-lands which he purchased, as well of them as of others in their fee. These lands consist of six and three-quarters Flemish acres, which this Robert bought in the new marshes of Ycklesham of Hugh Fitz-Hardnothe; and five and three-quarter acres of the same measure, which he bought of Lambracht; and one such acre, which he purchased of Anselm; which lands he declares shall be held by them freely and peaceably. He also confirms to them the lands which the same Robert bought of him, to be held by them as the deed testifies—viz., three English acres of land, which Robert bought of him for three pounds, in his marsh of Hope, paying one shilling sterling annually, within the octave of St. Michael; and six English acres of the land called Hothernooke, which was situated between it and the cross of Hastings, which he gave to this Robert, and his heirs, in consideration of his service, for ever; he paying out of it annually a half-penny within the same period. By the same deed he also yields up to them, for ever, the way through his land to their own land. For these gifts Abbot Adam and the Convent appointed him, his ancestors, and successors, to be partakers of the benefits of the Priory. The witnesses to this deed are—Ralph, the parson of Ycklesham; William Soloman, and Walter de Lindherst, two chaplains of the same Ralph; Walter de Scotney; John de Gestelinges; Robert de Hastings; Vincent de Burne; John de Farelle; William de Gensinges; Jacob Packe, of Hastings, and others. A portion only of the fractured seal of this deed remains. Like the last, it was attached to it by means of a green plaited silk cord. In 1291, the temporalities of this house at Icklesham were rated at 6s. 8d., and, in the 26th of Henry VIII., at £1 14s. 2d.

By deed 6, HENRY, EARL OF EU, granted and confirmed for ever to the same house and canons, the churches of St. George, at Crowherste, and of St. Mary, at Ticehurst, and all that belongs to them, as the deed of Walter de Scotney, the donor, testifies. The deed is witnessed by Walter, presbyter of Germanville, and William, his clerk; John of Burne;

Gilbert St. Audoen; Ralph de Augo; Guido de Pilo cervino; Festinus de Merleville; Almandus de Granden; Giletus Fitz-Gimber, and others. Part only of the Count's seal remains. The material of which it is composed appears to be a mixture of green and white wax, and it is appended to the deed by a string of green and white thread. On it is impressed a figure of the Count on horseback. For an engraving of this seal, from a more perfect specimen published by Moss in his "History of Hastings," p. 92. See plate of seals.

Deed 7 is the grant alluded to in the preceding charter. By it PETER DE SCOTNEY grants and confirms to the Church of St. Trinity, Hastings, and to the canons worshipping God therein, the donation which his father, Walter de Scotney, had made to them of the Churches of St. Mary at Ticehurst, and St. George at Crowhurst, with all that appertains to them, in pure and perpetual alms, and free of all secular demands, for the salvation of the souls and bodies of himself and his wife Matilda, of his father and mother, and of all his relatives and friends, alive or dead; upon this condition, that the priests ministering in these Churches be chosen in common by the Lord of Crowhurst and the Chapter of the Church of St. Trinity. And if the priests of these churches, so chosen, shall be found incompetent by the lord of the soil and of the parish, he shall not be removed, nor shall a more efficient priest be appointed, except by the common consent of the same lord and chapter. By the same deed he further gives to the same canons, in exchange for a rent of 16s. contained also in the charter of his father—six acres of land in Ticehurst, lying in front of the entrance-gate of the Priory, beyond the king's highway to the west, and extending in length along the same highway to the river. He also confirms to the same canons the land of Waterdune, the meadow under the Castle, the salt-pan of Hoo, and the tithe of all his salt made throughout England which he then had, or might at any time thereafter possess. The names attached to this confirmatory deed as witnesses are Hugh, parson of Elham; William de Monceaux, the then constable of Hastings; William Morvin; William de Haltune; Oliver de Westfield; William de Gensinges; William de Bolun; Peter de Monceaux; Gilbert de

Gensinges; Richard Fritonden, and others. The seal appended to this deed is round and of green wax, and about an inch and a-half in diameter. Impressed upon it is the Scotney coat of arms, with the legend

SIGILL. PETRI. DE. SCOTENIE.

around it.

We learn from Domesday that Walter Fitz-Lambert, who was a benefactor to the Chapel of the blessed Mary in the Castle, held, at the time that survey was made, Crowhurst of the Count of Eu, and that he gave a virgate of land there to the Abbey of Battle. He, then, was the direct ancestor of the Walter and Peter de Scotney who are here mentioned. Their territorial designation is taken from an estate in Lamberhurst,²⁵ their place of residence upon it being called Scotney Castle. They were a family of some considerable distinction. One of them obtained an unenviable notoriety, having been tried and hanged at Winchester in the year 1259, for administering poison to Richard, Earl of Gloucester, and his brother William de Clare, from the effects of which the former died.²⁶ The arms of the family, as they are displayed on this seal, are not emblazoned in any of the ordinaries which have fallen under Mr. Nichols' observation. Tanner, quoting from the Episcopal Registers at Chichester of the time of Seffrid II.,²⁷ says that the Churches of Crowhurst and Ticehurst were confirmed to the canons by this bishop, as the gift of Walter de Seaton, which is a manifest error for Scoten, the abbreviated Latin word for Scotney. In Pope Nicholas's taxation (1291) the Church of Ticehurst is rated at £26 13s. 4d., and the vicarage of the same at £8. In Henry VIII.'s valuation the rectory of Ticehurst is stated to be £10 13s. 4d. At the former period the Church of Crowhurst is called a prebend, and is rated at £4 6s. 8d., and the portion of the Prior of Hastings in the same at £2 13s. 4d. In the 26th of Henry VIII., all that the Prior received from Crowhurst was a rent of £1 1s., called "Mede-rent."

²⁵ Harris's "History of Kent," pp. 380, 383.

²⁶ See Vol. vii., p. 52.

²⁷ C., fol. 70, b.

The 8th deed is called a chyrograph, or deed in two parts, of which each party to it holds one, and recites an agreement entered into between the Abbot and Convent of BATTLE on the one part, and the Prior and Convent of HASTINGS on the other; by the terms of which the Prior and Convent of Hastings were to receive the tithes of Boreselle, in the parish of Ticehurste, which the sacristan of Battle had been heretofore accustomed to receive, upon their paying him 2s. per annum within the octave of St. Martin (Nov. 11th), upon the great altar, without any contradiction, difficulty, or delay. But should it so happen that the 2s. were not so paid within the time appointed, the Abbey sacristan had full power to re-enter on the possession of the tithes, as if they had never been separated from his office; and any expenses he might be thus put to were ordered to be repaid to him by the Prior and Convent of Hastings, full restitution being made to him of all they may have received. And, that there might be no receding from this compact, but that both parties might feel themselves bound fully and fairly to carry it out, the seals of the Bishop of Chichester, and of the other contracting parties, were set interchangeably to it; the witnesses being—Richard, Chaplain of Ticehurste; Master John de; Godfrey de Wesenham, and Ernisia, clerks to the lord Bishop of the diocese; Matthew, gatekeeper of Battle Abbey; Vincent, servant of the Lord Abbot of Battle, and others. No part of either of the seals affixed to this deed now remains.

The 9th deed is a composition made between the Prior of COMB WELL, in Kent, and the Prior of HASTINGS, in settlement of a dispute which had arisen about the tithes of some land in Ticehurst, called Colinton. As any disputes in ecclesiastical matters have a tendency to estrange the hearts of men from the church, this deed commences by a recognition of the right attaching to all pious men to use their best endeavours to bring them to a satisfactory conclusion. With regard to the tithes in question, the Canons of the Holy Trinity Priory maintained that they belonged to their church as a parochial right, they being the owners of the Church of Ticehurst, which assumption was denied by the Canons of Combwell. The matter was therefore referred to

the judges for decision, as the delegates of the Pope, who put an end to it by an amicable adjustment, with the full sanction and consent of the Chapters of both Priories, in this way—The Prior and Convent of Combwell were to give up the great tithes accruing from three acres of land formerly held by Ralph Fitz-Emeric of the canons of that house, as a part of the demesne lands of Combwell; and the tithe of the herbage and pannage of their wood at Colinton, together with one penny due for Rome-scot,²⁸ for a house standing on the same land. They also demised to the same canons all the right they had in the Church of St. Peter, Hastings, to be possessed by them for ever, in the same manner as they had possessed it. And the Prior and Convent of Hastings warranted all these things, as far as it was in their power to do so, to the Canons of Combwell against all men, by means of this composition, so as to make them of perpetual validity. Both parties then renounced all actions heretofore entered upon, and all further recourse to law, and engaged, each with the other, firmly and faithfully to observe for ever the agreement hereby entered into; in testimony of which, the seals of both chapters are appended to this deed, made in the form of a chyrograph. It was executed at Hastings, December 15th, 1240. What portions remain of these seals are too much broken and defaced to be very accurately described. In the Nonæ return for the parish of Ticehurst, two holdings are mentioned as belonging to the Prior of Combwell, which are described as not sown the year the return was made, the ninth of which is stated to be worth 18s. 8d. The name Colinton does not occur in any

²⁸ Rome-scot was a scot or tribute, paid yearly to Rome, of one penny by every family or household in this country. It was sometimes called Peter-pence, from the circumstance of its being collected on the day of St. Peter ad vincula. It is stated by some to have been first granted by Ina, King of the West Saxons, in 725, upon the occasion of a pilgrimage which he made in that year to Rome, and not to have been wholly abolished until the 1st of Elizabeth; while others, among whom is Asser, assert it to have had its origin in the gift that Ethelwulf made of 300 mancusæ yearly to Rome—100 of which were to be appropriated towards supplying the lamps of St. Peter's with oil on Easter eve, another 100 to the same purpose at St. Paul's, and the remaining 100 to the use of the Pope himself. Although manca and mancusa are used, according to Spelman, by early historians promiscuously for the same money, they were, he tells us, distinct Saxon coins, and of different value. Manca was a square coin of gold, of the value of thirty pence; while a mancusa was valued at six shillings. Ducange makes the value of a manca fifty shillings; and the Leg: Canut: that of a mancusa a mark of silver. Mancusa is supposed to have taken its name from manu-cusa—made by the hand.

modern maps that have fallen under my notice. It is, however, to be found in the old Ordnance map. Combwell farm and a large wood called Combwell wood, both of them in Kent, are so placed as apparently to be in the parish of Lamberhurst.

These are all the deeds I have been able to discover bearing on the endowment of this Priory. They appear to have fallen into Mr. Stacey Grimaldi's hands accidentally. Thorpe mentions, at page 92 of his Catalogue that, among the endowments of the Sacristan of Battle Abbey, were pensions issuing out of the Priory of Hastings and the Rectory of Warbleton.

In Vol. vii. of the same "Collectanea Topographica," p. 118, Mr. Nichols gives "a muster roll of the Rape of Hastings," of the date of 1340, which is entitled, "Armyd men, as well horsemen as footmen, of the Rape of Hastings, anno 13th of Edwd. III., taken out of the Booke of the Abbye of Battele (the fyrste Booke)." The deed from which it is extracted is in the College of Arms, London, marked L. 17, and appears to have been written about the time of James I. The original is probably in the Webster chartulary, now in the possession of Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bart. The following are the number of men contributed by each of the religious houses, having either property or being situated within the Rape:—

"The Abbot of Begeham, for xx^{li} of land in Bokeland and Kechenham, 1 man at arms. The Abbot of Fescampe, for xxx^{li} of land in Brede, 1 man at arms and 1 Hobelar," or light-horseman.—Hobelers were generally tenants, who were bound by their tenure, among other services, to maintain a little light horse, with which it was their duty to give notice of invasion as quickly as possible, or, indeed, any other peril arising from the approach of an enemy on the sea side. They were required to be "ad omnem motum agiles," &c.—"The Abbot of Robertsbridge, for x^{ls} of land in Fodeland park, Odiham, Werthe, and other lands, ij men at arms. The Prior of Hastings, for viii^{li} of land in Bokeshull, Monksnesse, and Ecchine (Etchingham ?), j Hobiler.

No surrender of this Priory and its lands, nor any Minister's accounts, are to be found in the Augmentation Office; but, among its Monastic Records, there is a survey of the demesne lands belonging to it. It is without date, but was evidently taken some time before its dissolution. It is as follows, and is the only genuine account we have of the property, and its value at the time, which the Priory then

possessed. Mr. M. A. Lower, who knows the property well, informs me that some of the lands included in it may still be identified in Warbleton by the names here given to them:—

“An account of the demesne lands belonging to the New Priorie, byside Hastings. First, the site or sytuacion of the Priorie, with closures, gardens, and orchards, within the precincts of the said Priorie, conteyning, by estimation, four acres, 2s. Item, the Sawpit close, three acres, at 1s. 2d. the acre, 3s. 6d. Item, the Marlyng field, four acres, at 1s. the acre, 4s. Item, the Connyng Yerthe fylde, six acres, at 1s. the acre, 6s. Item, the Wyldeffylde land, sixty acres, 10s. Item, the Barneffylde, six acres, at 1s. 1d. per acre, 6s. 6d. Item, Moffkyn, with the rough ground, six acres, 2s. 4d. Item, Cockshote, one acre, 1s.; Hempffylde, twelve acres, 12s. Item, Cloblute lande, wyld ground, forty acres, 6s. Item, Perryeffylde, twelve acres, 8s. Item, Pelham garden, two acres, 8s. Item, the Deane, four acres, 2s. 8d. Item, Bodeslande, twelve acres, 4s. Item, Webbe, and Hagglatte, twenty acres, 6s. 8d. Kychine-wyshe, three acres, 2s. Item, Terryppe, Knell, and Brabryde, twenty acres, 13s. 4d. Item, a water-mylle, lying amongste the Demeans, £1. Item, Stevyn-croche, conteyning sixteen acres, 10s. 8d. In Dallyngton: item, the manor of Haselden, £3 6s. 8d. Item, Savyne, eight acres, at 1s. 4d. per acre, 10s. 8d. Item, a fylde called Hoppeselle Wyshe, and a parcell of ground lying besyde Stoneyherste, conteyning twelve acres, at 1s. per acre, 12s. In Herstmonherste, and Wartlyng: Item, of Chilthurst, in the parishes of Herstmonherste and Wartlyng, conteyning, by estimation, eighty acres, at 1s. per acre, £4.” This survey is signed “per Johannem Mores, per William Cavendysse, Auditores.”

King Henry VIII.'s valuation is as follows:—

“Rent of the Rectory of Tysehurste, £10 13s. 4d.; ditto, of Ashburnham, £2 13s. 4d.; value of the demesne lands of the Prior, for the use of the house, £13 10s.; of Assize Rents in Burwasshe, £1 4s. 6d.; of Rents in Herstemouncez, 7s. 6d.; in Dallyngton, £1 1s. 5d.; in Tysehurste, 17s. 2d.; in Asshburnham, 6s. 8d.; in Warbylton, 8s.; in Mayfield, £2 6s. 8d.; in All Saints, Hastings, £1 8s. 10d.; in St. Clements, ditto, £2 2s. 4d.; in St. Michaels, ditto, £8 2s. 2d.; in Hollyngton, £2 0s. 6d.; in Bexhill, £2 13s. 4d.; in Westham, 9s.; in Wyllyngdon, 2s. 3d.; in Ewhurste, 4s. 1d.; in Brede, 10s.; in Odymer, £1 10s. 2d.; in Wynchelsea, 8d.; in Ikilsham, £1 14s. 2d.; in Gestlynge, 7s. 4d.; in Farelye, 4s.; in Westfield, £1 19s. 10d.; in Crowhurste, £1 1s. Total, £57 18s. 3d. Outgoings, £6 9s. 6½d. Clear value, £50 8s. 8½d.

Land of the value of £2 1s. 8d. per annum, in Pease-marsh, is stated in this valuation to have been lost to the Priory at different times by the overflowings of the sea. A portion of it was let to John Austin, for £1 6s. 8d., and the remainder to John Aeston, at 15s. per annum. In 1488, the New Priory was exempted from taxation, on account of its poverty.

There are records in the Bishop's Registers of four visitations of this Priory—one in 1441, and another in 1442, by Bishop Praty; a third took place in 1473, by Bishop Storey; and a fourth in 1524, by Bishop Shyrborne. From these we learn somewhat of its state at these particular periods. In

1441, four canons and one celerer are reported as resident in the house; and the next year, besides the Prior, but three canons, and no celerer. A complaint was brought against the Prior of negligence and extravagance, on which account he was enjoined to reckon with the Chapter once in every year, under a penalty of 100s. to be expended in supporting the Cathedral Church of Chichester; and to take care that, for the future, his clear expenditure did not exceed £40 per annum. The house was stated to be twenty marks in debt; which, according to the following year's account, had been reduced to ten, a hope being expressed that, by the industry of the Prior, the whole might be liquidated before the end of that year.²⁹

In 1473, the visitation report enters more fully into the state of the Priory at that time. The Prior complained of Thomas Greene, vicar of Dallington, that he kept, for the purpose of appropriating them to his own private use, two cups of gold, of the value of 46s., which had been entrusted to his care; that he refused to celebrate with the other canons twice in the week, though enjoined to do so by the rules of the house; that he held the common seal in his private custody, and had availed himself of it to let certain lands and houses without the consent of his brethren; that the roofs of the vestibule, campanile, and chancel, had been suffered to fall into a state of considerable decay; and that instead of four, and occasionally five, resident canons, independent of the Prior, they were then reduced to two.

In reply to these charges, the vicar of Dallington stated that the seal was not in his custody, but in that of the Prior; that, with regard to the two cups being illegally in his possession, they were held by him as a security for 40s. then due to him from the house, and that for so detaining them he had the free consent of John Kemp, the predecessor of the present Prior.

In 1524, three canons and one novice are reported as resident in the Priory. Nothing of any particular moment was brought before the Bishop in the course of this visita-

²⁹ Reg: E., fol. 71-2.

tion. The only charge made by the Prior against any inmate of the house had reference to Thomas Hother, one of the canons, who was reported to his lordship as being frequently absent without leave from the house, and, though summoned to appear at this visitation, he had left the house to avoid doing so, of his own accord. Robert Jonys, too, another of the canons, complained that he was not treated by the Prior with the same civility and kindness as the other canons, and that the novice did not scruple to employ himself in creating discord between him and his brethren.³⁰

The following list of Priors is as complete as I can well make it out:—

- Adam. Grimaldi's Deeds.
 1266.—Thomas. Monast: Anglican:
 1400.—Richard Weston. Episc: Reg:, Reade, fol. 79. He is stated to have been elected from Michelham Priory.
 1402.—John Hassok: Episc: Reg:, where he is reported to have resigned this year, in consequence of infirmities which prevented his adhering strictly to the rule of the house. As a pension, he was allowed, for the remainder of his life, a rent of forty shillings per annum, charged on the manor of Haselden, in Dallington and Ashburnham, into whosoever hands it might fall.
 1410.—Richard Weston. Episc: Reg:
 1415.—Stephen Monkton. ditto, and Sir John Pelham's Charter.
 1441.—Stephen Lewes. Episc: Reg:
 1459.—John Kempe. ditto.
 1473.—John Smith. ditto.
 1521.—Thomas Harmer. ditto.

The endowment of the Prior in Crowherste was £31 13s. 4d.; in Ickelsham, 6s. 8d.; in Newham, 6s. 8d.; in Hastings, 13s. 4d., and rent, £5; in Northie, 13s. 4d.; in Iseldune, £1 6s. 8d.; in Langforde, 6s. 8d. Total, £40 6s. 8d. Prior de Hastings is stated, in Pope Nicholas' taxation, to possess, in Crowhurst, property of the value of £2 13s. 4d.

The only seal of this Priory that I have been able to discover is one, evidently of great antiquity, which I met with accidentally in a folio volume of drawings of ancient seals, made by that celebrated antiquary Sir Elias Ashmole, and preserved among the books in the museum which he founded at Oxford. It is marked, "Ash: 833, folio 348." The inscription which it bore is almost entirely broken away, but

³⁰ Reg: C., Shyrborne, fol. 18, b.

Sir Elias gives it as "SIGILLUM PRIORIS ET CONVENTUS S^{TE} TRINITATIS DE HASTINGES," to which he adds, "sine dato." An engraving of it forms the tail-piece of this paper. The drawing from which it is taken is probably unique.

In conclusion, I beg to express my thanks to the Rev. G. E. Haviland, Rector of Warbleton, and W. Durrant Cooper, Esq., F.S.A., for their assistance in the preparation of this paper.

