

## FURTHER TRACES, ON THE SOUTH DOWNS, OF THE WINTER CAMPAIGN OF THE CIVIL WAR OF 1643.

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To read Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion is, it has been said, to tread upon velvet. But if the figure may be allowed to pass current, as a tribute to the courtly grace of the grand old historian, it must yet be remembered that in the ordinary course of things, very little of the earth's space can be covered with velvet, and he who should determine to tread only upon this dainty foothold, would find his existence limited to a narrow circle, and be in danger of becoming a St. Simon Stylites. The history is sacrificed to the literary effect; the reader who closes the volumes has been captivated by sight and sound; and, admiring the heroic periods, and unusually sustained heights of the *sermo pedestris*, has failed to discriminate character, or obtain a distinct and living picture of events.

No doubt the times of which Lord Clarendon wrote were signally barren of historical record in the first instance; for in the civil war men fought rather than wrote; and even of the scanty documents that existed, few were preserved at all, or at least survived the Restoration. Men dared not preserve papers, a single line of which might ruin their house; and it is not uncommon, in the few State Papers that remain, to find the names assumed, and the language French; while there are some cases in which a common English letter breaks off into cypher.

The autumn of 1643 ushered in, as is well known, the second of the four years of Civil War. Charles and his

rival Parliament were at Oxford, and what may be called his depôt, under Sir Ralph, afterwards Lord, Hopton, was at Winchester.

On the Parliamentary side, Waller's headquarters in November, 1643, were at Farnham Castle. Clarendon notes that the county of Sussex was one in which "the king had hitherto had no footing."<sup>1</sup> This evidently means no army, or garrison, for the majority of the West Sussex gentry, with one or two marked exceptions, at that time were staunch Royalists. The most notable exception was at Petworth, whose owner, Algernon Percy, tenth earl of Northumberland, was one of the great Parliamentary leaders, second only to the earl of Essex, the General. One Henry Percy, however, seems to have commanded the ordnance at Gloucester for the King,<sup>2</sup> and afterwards Oliver Whitby, the Royalist Rector of Petworth, lay hid in a hollow tree for shelter, as Charles II. did in Boscobel oak. But just now the times were hard at Petworth for the Parliamentarians, and the journals announced that the Royalists had made a raid, and actually carried off some of the famous horses for which Petworth stables were renowned.<sup>3</sup> It is possible that the disaster is alluded to in the following letter, unaddressed, in a lady's handwriting, preserved among the State Papers of 1643:—

"MY LORD—

"Misfortunes are soe generall, that they ought not to bee taken notice of, unlesse that could mend their condition (which made me not trouble you with a relation of they Cavaliers). I am now goinge to London for all winter where I should be happy to meet you and peace (without it I beleeve you will not come there as yett). When I see Mr. Garrard I will tell him the danger he is in. Alleyne is not married nor will bee till the times

<sup>1</sup> Clarendon, book viii., p. 620.

<sup>2</sup> State Papers Domestic, 1643. No. 336 is a memorandum of the prices of ammunition for artillery. "Match. The ordinary rate is 30s. per cent.; for bocks and breets 1s. a peece; for iron shot 15lb. (£) a tonne. Asher Comper

before Gloucester the 21st Aug. H. Percy, general of the Artillery."

<sup>3</sup> Scottish Dove, 27 Oct., 1643. "The Cavaleirs have lately been at Petworth (in Sussex) the Earle of Northumberland's house, from whence they tooke twenty brave horse, and carried them to Oxford."—Bodleian (1), 5 S. A. C., 36.



—Harbort. N.Y.

EAST FRONT OF UP-PARK.

are beter, though I did not receive the letter you mention, I shall acknowledge your care of me which is to great a civility to be forgotten by

Yo<sup>r</sup>. Lo<sup>ds</sup> servent,

“ E. NORTHUMBERLAND.

“ Petworth, Nov. 4, 1643.”

With the exception of Petworth House, and the famous Mr. Yalden, of Blackdown Hill, who entertained Cromwell, the remaining powers of West Sussex and the neighbourhood of Hampshire, were Royalists.<sup>4</sup>

Mr. Stephens<sup>5</sup> remarks that £985 16s. 0d. had been sent to the king for his war against the Scotch by the Sussex clergy. On the immediate frontier of Hampshire, the seat of war, Sir William Ford, of Up-park, and Sir Edward Ford, his son (knighted at Oxford, and made sheriff of Sussex, and afterwards the commander of Arundel) and Sir John Caryll, his son at Harting Place, Parson Caryll, of Harting, and the Coopers of Ditcham, near Petersfield, were the most active and daring Cavaliers.

If, therefore the King had “no footing in Sussex,” it was not for want of friends.

Of course, on the seaboard, the Parliament cause was supreme.

By the autumn of 1643 the king's cause was beginning to wane. His standard had been set up in Nottingham, 22nd Aug., 1642. The first year had seen no very decisive engagement; Edgehill (1642) was a drawn fight, and in the summer of 1643 the Royalists were successful in the north and west. Waller had lost at Devizes, and Bristol had fallen into the King's hands. It seemed as if the Cavaliers were to succeed. But in August, 1643, Charles commenced the siege of Gloucester, the abandonment of which marked the turn of the tide against

<sup>4</sup> Memorials of the South Saxon See.

<sup>5</sup> Perfect Diurnall, Sat., 16 Dec., 1643, p. 168. “The Lord Generall, we are informed for certain, hath sent 500 horse to joyne with Sir Wm. Waller, which will be of great use to him; and Sir Wm. (as we heare) advanced the

last night from Farnham upon a further designe, some say to Petersfield; and that all the Kentish men have appointed to joyn with him there, and upon the taking in (sic) of that towne, where the enemy keeps a garrison, they are designed for Arundell Castle.”

the king, which culminated in the two following years in the disasters of Marston Moor, July, 1644, and Naseby, June, 1645. Meanwhile the first battle of Newbury in Sept., 1643, was indecisive, "neither party could think that they had much the better," though it showed unexpected strength in the London Trainbands. The death of Pym, in the early winter of 1643, somewhat revived the Royalists; and about this time Charles, whose object was to prevent Waller from marching to the west, and to join Sussex with Kent, which he heard was in his favour, assented to the proposals of the Sussex loyalists as conveyed by Sir Edward Ford, and ordered Lord Hopton to push south-east from Winchester, his quarters, and to seize Arundel before the winter set in.

The "Perfect Diurnall" of Friday, Nov. 23rd, 1643, reported, "By letters to Parliament this day we have it confirmed that Sir Ralph Hopton is reinforced with supplies from Oxford, Reading, and Basing House, and the common vote of the people speak him to be 8,000 horse and foot, but very much unarmed, that they press hard towards Kent, and some of them are got as far as Petworth in Sussex, but Sir William Waller will omit no possible adventures that may defeat their design, and the last night advanced with all his forces from about Farnham," &c.

Chichester, owing partly to the influence of Sir Wm. Ford, of Up-park, Sir Edward's father, was taken for the King, Nov. 22nd, and Captain Capcot, the Parliamentarian, surrendered Arundel Castle to Lord Hopton on Saturday, Dec. 9th, three days later than the town. Sir Edward Ford was left by Hopton as commander of Arundel before he withdrew his forces and returned to Winchester.

The cavalry force of Hopton in this brilliant feat passed over the downs to Arundel, *viâ* Petersfield, Harting and Marden; and in order to secure the line of communication, Petersfield and Harting Place were for the time garrisoned for the king.<sup>6</sup> Colonel Sir Edward Ford's own regiment was quartered at Harting and Uppark

<sup>6</sup> Royalist Compositions, Vol. ii., p. 240. Record Office. First Series.

throughout December to guard the passes in the hills, which were their chain of communication with Winchester and Oxford, and the possession of which secured their retreat.

The pleas of Sir Wm. Ford, of Uppark, and John Caryll, of Harting, at the close of the war, are to be found among the Royalist Compositions, and show clearly the positions stated above. Caryll pleads "That y<sup>r</sup> petitioner being at his father's house called Harting in Sussex, which is in the midway direct from Winchester to Arundell, and y<sup>e</sup> King's forces having made a garrison in the said house about December, 1643, Sir Ralph Hopton coming thither with part of his Armye commanded your petitioner to attend him to Arundell, where he de- tained your petitioner untill y<sup>e</sup> castell was taken by Sir William Waller." "Part of Hopton's army," means the cavalry; the infantry went south, probably by East Meon, and did not cross the South Downs in their march to Winchester, but attacked Lord Lumley's House, where Endymion Porter's son fell.<sup>7</sup>

Sir William Ford, of Harting, Knight, complained that "2,000 coards of wood had been cut down in Harting Park (Uppark) for satisfaction of wronges done to certaine countrey people thereabout by some parties of horse of Colonell Ford (his sonnes Regiment) and that on the returne of the army (from Arundell) the souldyers wanting bread, were appointed to fetch the same from the country men's houses," whereas he (Sir William Forde) had protected the peasants from the soldiers' violence.<sup>8</sup>

In parishes of importance, or in which there was a resident incumbent, the entries in the registers from 1642-

<sup>7</sup> Wounded. (Note.) Mercury, Wed. 13 Dec., 1643. "A party of Lord Hopton's horse entering Sussex, made an assault against Lord Lumley's House but were beaten back with losse by Colonel Morley. Endymion Porter's son was wounded and taken prisoner. They entered Arundel, Tuesday se'night last."

<sup>8</sup> Royalist Compositions First Series, Vol. xxv., 361. *Ib.* 349.

<sup>9</sup> The opposition paper Mercurius Britannicus, 21 Dec., 1643, answers this

taunt: "Aulicus tells us this week a long story of the Earle of Craford's forces, and he calls it a 'noble piece of cowardice;' it seems this is the thanks and honour the nobility get in serving this cause. Now, Aulicus, I do infinitely blame thee; cannot a nobleman in a time of danger secure himself, that he shall be jeered at next week; cannot the Earle of Craford make a little more than ordinary haste, but you call it cowardice? can he not leave his *sacke* behind him?"

1645 are a kind of barometer, or weather-gauge, of the condition of the place during the storm of the Civil War. Very generally the number of marriages in these years has dwindled to an insignificant proportion, and in many parish registers (such of that of Chalton, excellently preserved both before and after this date) there is no entry at all during the year named. A single line of the oldest register of the parish of Harting contains a veritable treasure-trove of old English history, and has been the clue to this paper. "There were 3 souldiers buried Nov 24th, 1643."

Following this hint, and assuming from the loyalty of the parish, that the "three souldiers" were King's men, I found, on enquiry, that there was a vague local tradition that there had been some fight under the Downs in a field on the east side of Harting, named the "Culvers," adjoining Harting Vicarage, and that "Oliver" had been in the town. Subsequent search verified this entry of the register to an hour, and the exact spot indicated by the old men's tradition. These three soldiers were part of the Royalist cavalry on their way to Arundel detached from Alton or Basing, by Ludovic Lindsay, 15th earl of Crawford, whose father had been killed at Edgehill, and who was Lord Hopton's chief cavalry officer.

The register dates the burial on (Friday) Nov. 24th. On the previous night, Thursday, Nov. 23, there had been as the "Mercurius Aulicus," or "Court Mercury," of Sunday, Dec. 10th, p. 707, describes, a fight at South Harting. It appears that the Royalist cavalry entered the village first, very weary from a long march, and took up their quarters. Some 400 of the much despised Parliamentary dragoons under Colonel Norton, a sort of flying squad of Waller's, whose object it was to harass Hopton's cavalry on the way to Arundel, accidentally, it seems, caught the king's men asleep in South Harting. But the six officers of the king's force who were quartered at Sir John Caryll's house near the church (Harting Place) were equal to the occasion, and passing along a lane at the back of the church, named Typper Lane, they cleverly placed themselves in the Culvers fields between the hills

and their enemy. Then relying on the fact that none are so much exposed to panic as those who are trying to frighten others, they charged the enemy, giving the signal, "Follow, follow," which, in the darkness, would give the impression to the Parliamentarians that some of the king's forces, on the way to Arundel, had been signalled back, and were coming down the hill in an avalanche!

The following is the text of the "Mercurius Aulicus" (Sunday, Dec. 10, 1643).

"This day I was certainly informed by an eye-witness of credit, of one of the noblest pieces of cowardice that ever attended a bad cause and conscience. It happened on Thursday, the 23rd of November last, that in the dead of night about six score of the Earle of Craford's Regiment came into a village in Sussex, called South Harting (a place sufficiently knowne by reason it is the constant seat of the noble Knight and brave housekeeper Sir John Carell). They entered the village very farre spent with travell, want of sleepe, and food, and extremely weather beaten with a rainie stormy night. These their sufferings and indispositions caused them presently to quarter themselves in the severall houses of the towne; onely six of the chiefe officers and one boy lay in the knight's house. Within lesse than an hour after (when all of them were now taking their rest) the famous Colonell Norton of Hampshire enters the village, not knowing (til he was in the towne) that any of the King's soldiers were there, but having notice thereof and of the assurance (by taking them utterly unprovided for defence) that he might safely shew a brave prooffe of his valour, he caused his men to rank themselves ten and ten, and so to make good every doore and house of the Towne that none might escape; which being done the rebels cry 'Horse, Horse' in the street, which the King's souldiers mistaking to be the call of their owne commanders, offered in diverse places to come forth, but were presently shot or killed, so that seeing no possibility of bringing forth themselves or their horses into the streete, almost all of them fled by back-ways on foote to save themselves, leaving the Rebels outrageously domineering in the Towne, shooting into all



houses, and at all persons, and barbarously using such of the King's men as their valour enabled to make any opposition.

“In this hurly-burly word was given to the six Officers in the Knight's house how the Towne and their souldiers were surprized by the Rebels. These 6 men with one boy tooke horse, rushing out by a back lane upon the 400 Rebels (for so have some of their owne company since protested to have been their number) and crying out, ‘Follow,’ ‘Follow,’ Follow’ (as if they had already chased them) charged in upon them with so much fury and undaunted courage that they routed them and presently drove them (killing and wounding them) quite through the towne, forcing them over hedge and ditch killing as many as the Rebels had done of theirs (that is some half-a-dozen) taking 2 Prisoners (one of which being the Trumpeter), wounding very many, having but 5 or 6 of their's, and but one of these much, wounded (the Earle of Craford's own cornet) but not dangerously, and brought off all their own Armes and divers of the Rebels Horse with all Captaine Betsworth's sute of Armes, &c.” [Probably Betsworth of Milland.]

“The Rebels having since been faithfully acquainted with the Truth of their beating, and how that their 400 Horse and Dragooners were so lamentably beaten and chased away by only six men and a boy (but when they were in their chase and flight here and there 2 or 3 souldiers stept out of their places where they hid and lent some blows to their fellows), one of the Rebels swore solemnly in these true and remarkable words, ‘By —— we deserve all to be chronicled for the veryest cowards that ever lived!’”

Thus far the King's soldiers had all their own way on both sides of the Downs. But the Ides of December brought a change. On the 13th of December, Waller, who had gone up to London, reinforced by the Train Bands, marched upon “a great village called Alton,” surprised it, slaughtered Colonel Bowles in Alton Church, and took a large number of prisoners,

who afterwards behaved well on the Parliament side, at the recapture of Arundel.

It was noticed that Alton was taken at the very time that the Cavaliers at Oxford were making bonfires of rejoicing at Pym's death.<sup>10</sup>

Lord Crawford commanded at Alton, and owed his escape to the speed of his horse. It was said by the Roundheads that Crawford left his sack behind him in Alton. There was a continual interchange of presents, out of good humour, between the generals of either side. For instance, when the King's forces were besieged in Arundel, they sent to Waller for a Christmas box of "sack, tobacco, cards, and dice," promising to return beef and mutton. Lord Crawford had jestingly asked Waller to send him some bottles of sack to Alton, promising that he would in return send a fat ox to Waller at Farnham. So sudden, however, was Waller's attack upon Alton that Lord Crawford had to fly for his life, and "leave his sack," which Waller had sent, "behind him." Hence the above-mentioned irony of "Mercurius." This is pleasantly chronicled in a letter probably written in assumed names among the State papers.<sup>11</sup>

"Mr. Brunelle, a Fryar, to father de Ventelet, Paris.

"London, 23rd December, 1633.

"Il y est Mardy passé huit jours (*i.e.*, Dec. 12) que my lord Crafford royallist envoya un messagere (au chastiau [château] de Farnham), au Chevallier Waller pour le prier de luy envoyer un rondelet de vin d'Espagne, et qu'en eschange il luy enverroit un boeuf gras. Lei<sup>t</sup> Waller envoy le vin d'Espagne, en demandant le boeuf c'on (qu'on) luy avoit promis. Crafford luy envoy dire que lui mesm (même) luy vouloit amener. Lei<sup>t</sup> Waller voyant que Crafford a moquée de luy ne manque pas (la nuist [nuit] venue) de s'en aller pour querire [acquérir, chercher] son boeufe, et au lieux d'une bette [beast], il en amena 565 prisonniers 15<sup>de</sup> Nre (*D're*, December?) sur

<sup>10</sup> "Bon-fyers with much triumph."  
Mercurius Civicus.

<sup>11</sup> State Papers Domestic, 1643, No. 440.

la place ayant esté tous enlevés en dormant, or mis (hormis, 'except') ceux qui s'enfuirent, de quoy Crafford en essoit l'une. My L<sup>d</sup> Hopton est forte puissant et a priz toutes ces places que je vous ay nômé dans ma dernier," &c.

The French in this letter bears mark of a prentice hand, and probably was the effort of some Englishman writing from the battle-field in such French as he could command as a protection; but the document is interesting from the explanation it gives of the manner in which Lord Crawford "lost his sack at Alton." The panic caused by the massacre in Alton Church caused the good people of Arundel superstitiously to avoid their's when Waller came to retake their town, lest they should be "smoked out of their Church," as the Parliamentary journals derisively described the issue of the fight at Alton.

We are able to fix the route by which Waller marched from Farnham to Arundel from an interesting letter of an officer of Waller's army, published in the "Mercurius Civicus" of Dec. 21st, 1643:—

"Lords Day Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> left Farnham about 2 of the clocke in the afternoon, marching towards *Hazleworth* (Hazlemere), our noble generall seeming to go another way to amaze the Papists and malignants, and the better to prevent intelligence; and about midnight came with his whole army to the said Towne where the Rendezvouz was that night. Monday sunrising his honour wheeled about towards MEDHURST where my Lord Mountacute's house is, (Cowdray) w<sup>h</sup> said Lord is a known and profest Papist: the house is now possest by the Parliament forces; where we staid that night and furnished the said Castle (for indeed it may well be called so in regard of the strength thereof), with all necessaries for defence to awe the Papists and Malignants, wherewith the s<sup>d</sup> towne is much infested and infected. Tuesday morning we marched from Medhurst, sending out a party of horse to *Petworth*, having thought to surprise the enemy there, but they fled before our successe, Hopton and the great ones to Winchester, and the rest to Arundel with bag and

baggage; all that night we lay on a heath within a mile of Arundel." Wednesday, December 13th, the siege began.

Probably this army of Waller's was the largest that entered Sussex soil since Senlac and Lewes. Two Kentish regiments joined it at Arundel, and made it there 10,000 horse and foot. The march of the main body over Blackdown hill must have been an imposing sight, as it passed the friendly mansion of the Yaldens, and it is strange that no local records or traditions remain concerning it. Probably some detachments went south and leapt upon the Sussex Weald by the bowery slopes of Hollycombe and Milland. *Medhurst* (i.e., *Midhurst*, still so called by our peasants who never say *Midhurst*) found itself the centre of a flood of men on that Monday night, December 11th, and Cowdray Park must have been full. Would that some of the old trees now standing could tell us of the camp fires that they saw that December night!

Leaving a store of ammunition at Cowdray, next morning they passed on by Cobden Hill<sup>12</sup> (whence the Parliamentary supplies were drawn afterwards to Arundel),<sup>13</sup> Cocking, Singleton, and Westdean. The siege of Arundel (December 13, 1643—January 6, 1644) has been minutely detailed, and the subject thoroughly exhausted, by Mr. Blaauw.<sup>14</sup> To understand the *relief* movements on the north side of the Downs, is the present object, and for this purpose it will be necessary to quote detached journals. During the latter part of the siege, just after Christmas Day, a desperate attempt was made by Lord Hopton for this purpose, who brought 2,000 horse and 1,500 foot from Winchester, but found himself outnumbered and out-generalled. Waller's rapidity was astonishing, especially if we remember that his movements were conducted in the teeth of an unusually bitter midwinter frost.

<sup>12</sup> This Down however was in Findon (5 S. A. C. 57, n. 84) a long way off. [Ed.]

<sup>13</sup> Paper on Civil War, in Sussex 5 S. A. C. Full relation of late proceedings at Arundel, Dec. 20th, Jan. 6th, 1643-4.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

“Wednesday, Dec. 27th, Sir Ralph Hopton came to Petersfield, and quartered his forces thereabouts. On the news of this the besieged began to hope again in Winchester and Oxford,” and “came forth to the balcony again,” where they had been shot down as easy marks before.

“Thursday, 28th December, a party of his Excellency’s horse (Parliamentarians) encountered with a party of Sir Ralph Hopton’s near Petersfield, and took prisoners 2 quartermasters, one sergeant, and two common soldiers.”

This shows that Hopton’s line of communications was harassed just under the Northern Downs.

Then came the eventful day of Friday, December 29th. On it, at seven o’clock in the morning, Waller recovered Chichester; and the same day, finding that Hopton now gave up his intention of marching by Chichester, issued his proclamation to the Constables of Singleton and West Dean to the effect that they should oppose to the utmost of their power the advancing Royalist succours. The reason of this is shewn in the entry of a diary of one of Waller’s soldiers before Arundel.<sup>15</sup> “Friday, 29th Dec. Hopton’s Army moved towards us as far as Mardin” (North Marden down, as we shall see) “and Westdin” (Westdean); the Royalists from the fall of the city being obliged to bear away to the north of Chichester, “and we brought our Ammunition that was at Midhurst<sup>16</sup> to Arundel.” Hopton appeared before Arundel in vain, and retired to the hills. He was pursued by Waller, who fought him on the downs in the middle of the day, Dec. 30th, but the London Train Bands and Kent, Surrey, and Sussex contingents of Waller, an army of 10,000 men, easily defeated Hopton’s 2,000 horse and 1,500 foot. After this, Hopton having a

<sup>15</sup> From Cowdray, which became from this time a Parliamentary stronghold. “Feb. 1644. The garrison of Colonel Norton in Cowdray House, which lies indeed as a forlorn hope between them and their enemies.”

<sup>16</sup> “Perfect Diurnall,” Jan. 8, 1643-4, “there is certain newes come this night

to the Speaker that Arundell Castell was surrendered this day about 9 of the clock to Sir William Waller.....And further that Sir Ralph Hopton is hemmed in between Chichester and Winchester, and that he can hardly escape Sir William’s forces.”

preponderance of cavalry "made a nimble retreat towards Winchester." On reaching the foot of the northern side of the downs at Harting, he found a second battle awaiting him, where the inexorable Colonel Norton of Hampshire was crouching like a panther, his dragoons anxious to set at rest the laugh about the "six men and a boy." This time the King's forces were totally defeated. It seems to have been again a cavalry regiment engagement; and between 200 and 300 of the Earl of Crawford's horse, a detachment of Hopton's retreating army, were taken prisoners.

Among the State Papers (Domestic) of 1643, is one dated 28th December, written by a royalist of the name, real or assumed, of Harrison, to a Mr. Jean Bradley, English gentleman of the College of Tournay, Paris.

"28, 10<sup>br</sup> 1643..... Sir William Waller was bravely repulsed and soundly beaten from Basing about five or six weeks ago, with the loss of the best part of a thousand of his men, and the diminution of his credit with the citizens. But since, it hath been his fortune (he being four or five thousand strong and the other but weak for number) to surprise at unawares, and after firm fight, with the slaughter of more of his side, to take two or three hundred of my Lord Crawford's men who were brought to this town (Farnham or Guildford?) in triumph about a week ago from South Harting (so I think the place is called) in Sussex."

The following is evidently another account of the same affair. It is from the "Perfect Diurnall" (Parliamentarian) of 15 Jan. 1643-4:—"There was also a malignant report spread about the City (London) this week of a great defeat given to Colonel Norton by the Hoptonians; the summe of which defeat, by a letter to his Excellency the Earl of Essex this day, amounts to no more than this. That upon the retreat of Colonel Norton from following the Hoptonian's whole body upon their seeming attempt to relieve Arundell, the Colonel entering of a town called *Harr*, met with two regiments of Dragoons under command of the Lord Crafford and Colonel Ellis, both which (after a short skirmish) he

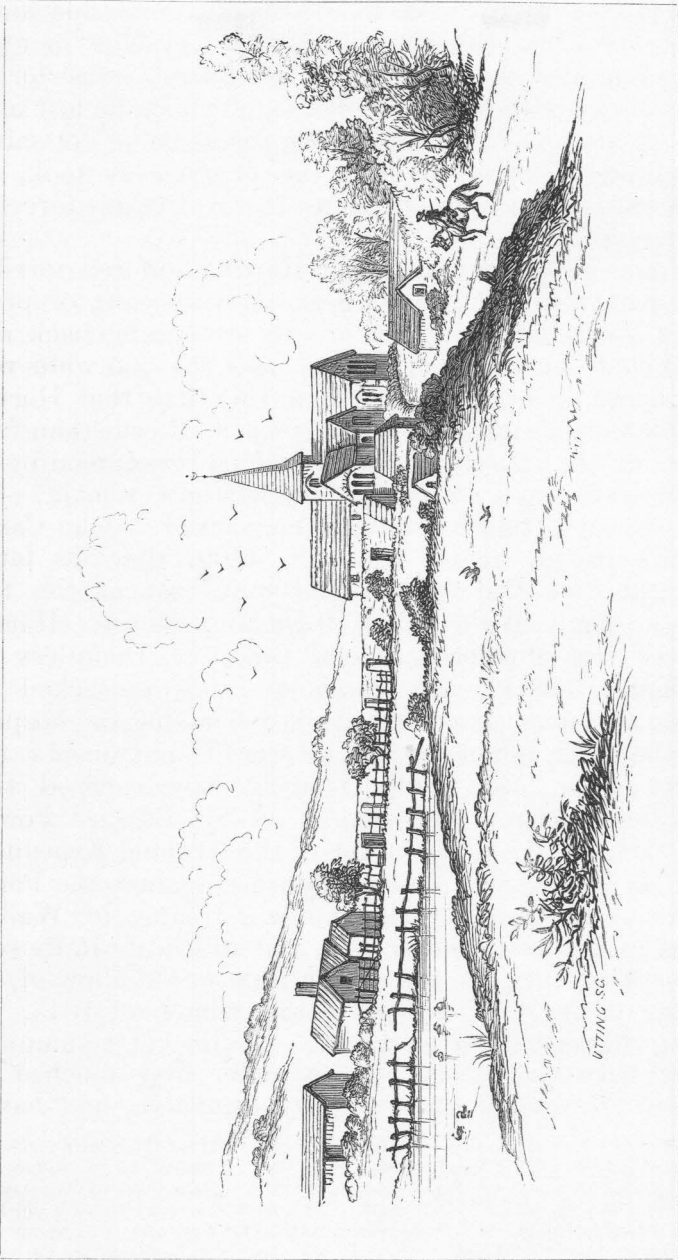
forced to retreat, with the losse of a Captaine and a Captaine Lieutenant of the enemy, besides many of them wounded and divers taken prisoners: he performed this service with onely fifty horse, of which he lost onely two or three men, the rest of the forces being got safe to Chichester, whither he sent the prisoners he took, and afterwards went himselfe with the rest of his forces to Portsmouth."

Under all this rough usage, Harting suffered terribly. The King's soldiers in the garrison were short of provisions, and when Hopton's broken army came back over the hills from Arundel, the cottages far and wide were plundered for bread. It was at this time that Harting Place (Caryll's mansion—a house with Elizabethan front south of the church, the site of which is occupied by the churchyard, and of which no vestiges remain)—and the church at South Harting were sacked. John Caryll, Pope's friend, writes, Oct. 29, 1709, that his father thought that their title deeds were lost at the time of the Civil Wars when "Harting House (Harting Place) was plundered several times."<sup>17</sup> Doubtless the ancient Church was denuded and ransacked on these occasions, and turned into a stable or hospital, as the case might be. The Caryll monuments (not thirty years old) could scarcely have escaped their first desecration at this time. As Sir Edward Ford of Up-park was the prime mover of the Arundel Expedition, and his father, Sir William, in arms against the Parliament at Chichester,<sup>18</sup> Harting was treated by Waller's army as the *fons et origo mali*, and still bears in its scars and seams, such as the frosty time would allow of, the traces of its hard usage in the winter of 1643. As being, moreover, the spot where the line of communications between Oxford and Arundel first touched the Sussex Downs, it was specially assailable, and having

<sup>17</sup> Caryll Correspondence, British Museum. Addl. 28,227, Vol. i., p. 82.

<sup>18</sup> Royalist Composition Papers, Ser. 1., Vol. cxiii., page 128. "26 Dec., 1645. Upon examination of ye Delinquency and Estate of Sir William Ford, of Harting, in the county of Sussex,

Knight. This Committee finds that he hath endeavoured to seduce and drawe away the harts of divers gentlemen where he lived from their obedience to the Parliamt. and that he appeared in actual warr against the Parliament at Chichester," &c.



SOUTH HARTING CHURCH.

From a Drawing by Grimm, in 1782.



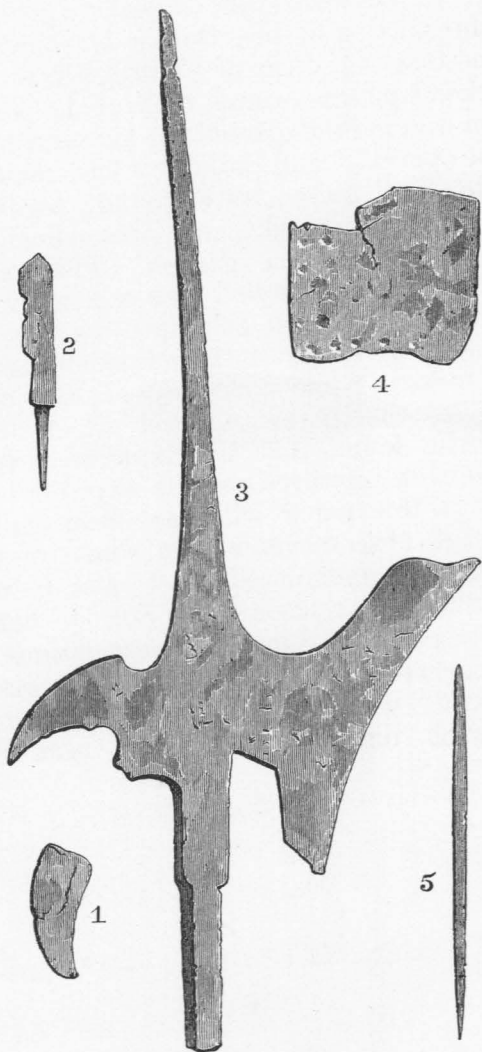
two regiments of King's horse to guard it, needed to be menaced by Waller when he advanced against Arundel. At the same time there is good reason why all particulars of the conflicts here were hushed up, for within a year after 1643, Sir Edward Ford had gained influence with the other side through his wife Sarah Ireton, sister of Cromwell's lieutenant, and £500 was all the fine put upon Sir William's life-interest in Up-park. His kinsman, Sir John Caryll, at South Harting, had to pay £3,500 by way of composition, £600 having been paid to Waller at Arundell Castle, where he was taken, not in arms. Hence both the squires of East and West Harting would be sure to smother up all records of the fights within their borders and their participation therein; and hence probably no notice has as yet been taken of this history; nor would there be any now, but for the silent and impartial record in the Church Register—"There were 3 souldyers buried, 23 Nov., 1643."

The village of South Harting stands upon a *plateau* approached by a hill about a mile due south of the present Rogate Station. Here, at a place called Bohemia Hollow the Upper Greensand is reached, and the old road shows the way in which they used the public ways for military purposes. It has regular trenches and escarpments, which form, with similar lines before Poppetts, to the north of Tarberry (an outlier of the Southdowns) and Upperton, the northern defences of the place. As you pass southward, the traces of ancient earthworks are still more numerous. About three-quarters of a mile south of Bohemia Hollow the Church of South Harting is passed, and the lower chalk reached at the foot of the Downs. Here a cutting which crosses the lowest part of the warren near South Gardens was long considered by popular belief to have been due to "Oliver," and no doubt was used by those who defended the foot of the Hills against Waller's troops. The road from Harting Church towards Chilgrove and Marden, a mile long from the church, is trenched at regular intervals of about 25 yards in two levels, one immediately corresponding to the other, so that the steep hill side still presents the

appearance of an old-fashioned man-of-war, with two lines of port holes for her guns. These little bastions were for the use of such small cannon as the "saker drakes" and "murderers" of the day, a few of which the Royal Army took with them to Arundel. The lower of these two roads is called the "White Road;" the higher, immediately under Up-park Palings, is part of the old Itinerary Cross Road from Chichester to Derby, as mapped by Ogilby in 1680. The two roads meet at the summit of the Downs, and here several mounds immediately facing the park palings, near "Two Beech Gate," are the graves of the dead. Several skeletons have been found here some years ago, and two more last year (1876), as the workmen were digging chalk to mend the road immediately opposite. The skeletons lie buried towards the east, in graves about two to three feet beneath the turf of the Down.<sup>19</sup> In the very hard winter of 1643, it would probably have been difficult to give them deeper sepulture. About a quarter of a mile further over the Downs, S. by S. E. towards Chilgrove, in the direction of Arundel, there is a regular encampment on the left hand, flanking a little coombe approached by another pass in the Downs immediately opposite East Harting, near Beacon hill, a road familiar to huntsmen, as it saves much of the steep ascent of their way to Chilgrove or Compton. Near this battery, which has five alignments one above another, the main road passes "Kildevil" Lane, whose euphonious name still proclaims its descent from the Cavaliers. Here probably Colonel Norton met the fugitives from Arundel. There is a large green mound south of Up-park House, in which tradition says a number of horses were buried, and there is a similar *tumulus* further to the south at the fern-beds between Compton and East Marden, called "Solomon's, *alias* Baverse's, Thumb." Some years ago a man grubbing a fence near Compton Down pulled up an ash stump that disclosed a nest of silver pieces of the time

<sup>19</sup> Permission has been obtained by W. Whitehouse, Esq., Down Place, South Harting, of the Lady of the manor,

Miss Fetherstonhaugh, to disinter the remains (skeletons)



CIVIL WAR RELICS, AT S. HARTING.

- 1 & 2. Handle (inverted), and Blade, of Knife.
3. Axe-pike.
4. Iron plate, with eyelets, worn on the back.
5. Iron pin, probably to fasten armour at the neck.

of Queen Elizabeth, no doubt hidden there before some local fight. In fact, that the fighting spread far and wide over this portion of the Downs is shown from the circumstance that the Vicar of Chalton (Rev. A. Locke) recently picked up some cannon balls of the period of the Civil War, in digging the ground for his school. An axe-pike of the period, and other relics, point to the same conclusion: these were found, together with a skeleton at Stonerwood, near Petersfield, by Rev. G. Taswell, in making a garden. The axe-pike is 22 inches long. It is handled like a modern spade, so that the wooden shaft was enclasped by the iron: the older pikes were driven into their wooden handles like modern hay-forks. Some skeletons were also discovered at Bepton, in the neighbourhood of Midhurst, by Mr. Eames, who found that the skull of a very large specimen had been fractured as by a sword-cut or shot.

The object of this paper will have been gained, if it lead to careful observation of the whole of this very wild and hitherto unexplored tract, and it would be well if the Sussex Archæological Society could send down some person to conduct the investigations. Much might be recovered, if all neighbouring registers and local muniments were searched, for the purpose of illustrating such discoveries as have been herewith recorded.