

THE LAVINGTONS.

BAR-LAVINGTON, WOOLLAVINGTON, AND
WEST LAVINGTON.

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WOOLLAVINGTON—or as it is sometimes called East Lavington—and West Lavington are more interesting in relation to people of modern times, than to those of the remote period with which archæology principally concerns itself. The names of Wilberforce and Cobden, which are associated with these places, invest them with the kind of interest which grows with time. No doubt the Sussex Archæologists of the future will delight to enlarge upon every circumstance bearing upon that association; but as their careers have passed into the domain of history, even the modern archæologist is entitled to claim the fact of their being buried, the one at Woollavington and the other at West Lavington, as a circumstance which rescues these places from the obscurity which would otherwise have been their lot, as it is that of the ordinary agricultural villages of the South-downs. I will, however, conform to the usages of the Society, and begin my record in as remote a period as I can, with some account of Bar-Lavington, which does not share the modern distinction of the other places.

To begin with the face of the country and the character of the soil. It is amusing to speculate on the difference in the aspect of the country, if there be any, between what it is, as we see it, and as it appeared to the eyes of the occupants of the neighbouring Roman Villa,

at Bignor, when it stood intact, with its stately corridors and chambers embellished with mosaics, as we are told, of the times of Titus. How did the Southdowns then look? Very much no doubt as they look now. A Roman Colonist, journeying from the Villa to the Roman Mida or Midhurst, would pass through Bar-Lavington, Duncton, Woollavington, and finally West Lavington. Then, as now, a traveller would have the Southdowns immediately to his left, which, at Bar-Lavington veer off in a north-western direction towards Petersfield, after having thrown out a spur to the south, which ends in the racecourse and the lovely slopes of Goodwood Park. Then, as now, he would have crossed sundry streams of running water, and, as he entered what is now called Woollavington, he would have found himself close under the acclivities of the Downs. The undulating country between the north side of the Downs, and the low ridge, or rather line, of Petworth, Midhurst and Petersfield, may have looked somewhat different from what it now does, for, as this comprises the outskirts of the weald, it was most likely in the time of the Roman occupation much more densely covered with wood than it now is. The soil, of course, was the same—a mixture of chalk, marl, clay and sand. The towns and buildings in so peaceful an agricultural county as Sussex form, after all, so modified a feature in the landscape that, if the said imaginary Roman could come to life, he would say the general look of the country was much what it was fourteen hundred years ago. Great Britain, after the withdrawal of the Romans, was a prey to so many invaders, that I may be allowed to pass over the transition period, and come to the Anglo-Saxon times, after the country had become Christian, and the bishops of the diocese were seated at Selsey. Parish churches were early scattered through Sussex, but few of such a substantial and permanent character as to leave lasting traces behind them, and certainly the existing churches of Bar Lavington, Woollavington, and West Lavington were not amongst them.

Barlavington, or as it is commonly called Barlton, is surrounded by the parishes of Coates on the east, Dunc-

ton and Woollavington on the west, Sutton and Bignor on the south, and Burton on the north. It is described in Domesday under the name of Ber-leventone, and this leads me to make a few remarks on the probable origin of the name. Mr. Isaac Taylor, in his work on the etymology of words and places, points out how the name of nearly every place in the weald is formed, in part, by a syllable having reference to the vast forest which overspread a portion of this county. Keeping in mind this remark, in searching for the origin of local names, it is always well to consider the character of the country; now Bar-Lavington, as contrasted with Duncton and Woollavington, is certainly open and bare. I am therefore disposed to think the word "bar" is the same as the Anglo-Saxon "bær," meaning "open" or "bare," and "naked," and the Berleventone of Domesday meant "open" Leventone. But I will not be angry if the reader should insist on its signifying a "bar" or fence; or even if it had some reference to "barley," as the common people of the neighbourhood maintain. It appears to be described in the Great Survey, as under the Hundred of Redrebrige [Rotherbridge] as follows:—"Frewin held it of the Confessor by allodial tenure. Robert held it of Earl [Montgomery], and Cobelin was his sub-tenant. It was rated at five hides and had six plough lands. There were four serfs: two mills: seven acres of meadow and wood for two swine. In the time of King Edward (A.D. 1042-1046), it was valued at a hundred shillings: afterwards at sixty, and now [that is when the Survey was made], at 7 pounds."

It may be well to state, that the tenants *in allodium* were practically freeholders, holding of no manor. They paid a land tax to the King, and under some circumstances were subject to heavy mulcts. This tenure is thus described by Sir Henry Ellis—¹

"The tenure of Allodium, says Kelham, refers chiefly to possessors before the Conquest. It signifies an hereditary and perpetual estate free and in the power of the possessor to dispose of by gift or in sale, but common to

¹ "General Introduction to Domesday," Vol. i, p. 54.

the constant land tax of hidage, and in Kent on the commission of particular offences the King was entitled to pecuniary mulcts from all the allodial tenants and their men."

The mention in the extract from Domesday, given above, of wood for two swine, reminds me how the author of the Saxon Chronicle avows the shame he felt in describing the rapacity and meanness of the Conqueror in insisting, in his great Survey, or rather perhaps great Rate Book, that returns should be made of all kinds of stock, so that, in many places, the very pigs were enumerated; whilst more modern writers consider that we, at this time of day, are ill-judges of the intrinsic value of the "woods for swine" so continually mentioned in Domesday.

I cannot leave this early record of Barlavington (or, as it seems to be called sometimes, the manor of Crouch), without referring to what (if a novice in Sussex archæology may presume to say so) appears to be an unaccountable mistake on the part of well-established authorities on the antiquities of Sussex. Messrs. Elwes and Dallaway in their several accounts of this part of Sussex, place Barlavington in the Hundred of Bury. Now, it certainly appears in Domesday as under the Hundred of Redrebrige (Rotherbridge). Mr. Lower, in his "Compendious History of Sussex," distinctly says,² "Domesday, Barleventone; *vulgo* Barlington, Barlton and Belton, whence, perhaps, the local surname of Belton, in West Sussex, a parish in the Hundred of Bury;" but in his paper in these Collections on the Arun and the Rother, he places it in the Hundred of Rotherbridge. "The Western Rother," he says, "which, though only a tributary of the Arun, is in reality an important river, draining a very large and beautiful district, and giving name to the Hundred of Rotherbridge, *which comprises the parishes of Barlavington Woollavington, Burton, Duncton, Egdean, Petworth, Kirdford, Lurgashall, Northchapel, Tillington and Stopham,*" &c.³ In Domesday, Stopham is reckoned in the same Hundred with

² Vol. I., p. 26.

³ xvi. S.A.C., 259.

Barlavington, and Messrs. Dallaway and Cartwright correctly place it in Rotherbridge Hundred, although they describe Barlavington under the Hundred of Bury. But our modern authorities have not universally fallen into this mistake. for I cannot help regarding it as such, as Mr. Horsfield reckons it in Redrebrige or Rotherbridge, and it occurs in his list of the parishes in Rotherbridge, and not in his account of those belonging to Bury. As it is properly enough placed in the Rotherbridge Hundred in popular Directories, some may deem these observations superfluous, but as enquirers into the antiquities of a place are much more likely to be guided by histories than directories, the reader will perhaps pardon this digression, and not account it wholly without interest.

From the records of Domesday we pass to the fortunes of the soil, under the iron rule of the Conqueror. Ten years after the Conquest, Roger Montgomery was made Earl of Arundel, and an incredible number of manors in Sussex were bestowed upon him, in addition to the town of Chichester and Arundel Castle, and it was no doubt by his influence, when Stigand was bishop of the diocese, that the See was transferred in 1076 from Selsey to Chichester. But the family of Montgomery did not hold these vast possessions for many generations. The divided interests of William's sons and successors led to many insurrections, in which even the Norman nobility were involved, and in the reign of Henry I. Robert Montgomery, commonly called Robert de Belesme, from his mother's inheritance, eldest son of Roger, and now Earl of Arundel, having been implicated in one of these insurrections, appeared in arms against the King, and being shut up in his castle at Shrewsbury, was at last compelled to sue for mercy. Henry granted him his life, but he was ordered to quit the country forthwith, and his castles, honours, and estates were attached to the possessions of the Crown. When Henry I. died, in 1135, he left all his possessions in Sussex to his widow Adeliza, daughter of Godfrey of Lorraine, Duke of Brabant. Adeliza took for her second husband William

de Albini, and brought to him the Earldom and Castle of Arundel, and she gave to her brother, Josceline of Louvaine, the Honour of Petworth, to be held of the Earls of Arundel. In fact, it would seem as if she had created the Honour of Petworth, for Petworth was not, according to Parliamentary extracts quoted by Tierney, originally an Honour. "Petworth was not originally an Honour, having hundreds and liberties within itself: but was merely a town, parcel of and in the Hundred of Rotherbridge, parcel of the Honour and Manor of Arundel."⁴ It may be doubtful, even, whether it was called an Honour, when the group of manors in question was granted to Josceline. The Berleventone of Domesday, the modern Barlavington or Barlton, belonging to what was called the Honour of Petworth, thus passed to Josceline. Josceline espoused Agnes de Perci, daughter of William, Baron de Perci, of Northumberland, and took the name of Perci. From the Percies it passed to the family of the Dawtreys, by grant from Josceline to John de Hault Rey, or de Alta Ripa or Dawtrey—at least so Messrs. Dallaway and Cartwright in their history imply.⁵ As the name Josceline seems to have been adopted into the family of Dawtrey, it would appear as if there had been some connection between the brother of Q. Adeliza and this family, that is not quite easy to trace. In the reign of Edward I. the possessions of the Dawtrey family descended to Eva,⁶ sole heir of her grandfather, Sir William de Alta Ripa or Dawtrey, and she married Sir Edward St. John, who is described in Dallaway and Cartwright as Lord of the Manor of Barlavington, I presume in right of his wife. Some time between the reigns of Edward I. and Edward III. it became part of the endowment of Hardham Priory, a small Priory of Black Canons of St. Augustine, supposed to have been originally founded in the reign of Henry II. by Sir William Dawtrey, to whom the Manor of Hardham belonged, and, indeed (as it is stated), furnished the elements of his

⁴ Hist. of Arund. 24.

⁵ Vol. II., p. 259 under "Hardham."

⁶ Mr. W. D. Cooper mentions an Inq.

p.m. on her, 28 Ed. III., "*when she held Barlavington with Beaugenet,*" XII. S.A.C., 29, n. 3.

name, being situated on an eminence almost entirely surrounded by the river Arun. In the reign of Henry VIII., just before the dissolution, it was assigned to Sir William Goring. From this time it has descended to the present owner, Anthony John Wright Biddulph, Esq., a gentleman not unknown to the public in the history of the Tichborne Trial, as a witness for the "Claimant."

A curious evidence of the state of the game-laws in the times of the Norman Kings, may be seen by the terms of what may be called a license to preserve game, for such the Free Warren was, which was granted to William de Alta Ripa in the reign of Henry III.⁷, as correctly stated by Messrs. Dallaway and Cartwright, and not in that of Henry II., as given in Sir William Burrell's collections. The following extract is from the Rolls :—

Rex Archiepiscopis &c salutem. Sciatis nos concessisse et hâc cartâ unâ confirmasse pro nobis et heredibus nostris Willelmo de Alta Ripa quod ipse et heredes sui in perpetuum habeant liberam warrennam in dominicis terris suis de Berlavinton. Ita quod nullus warrennam illam intrare possit sine licencia ipsius Willelmi.

It would appear from Blackstone, that King John was the first monarch to put wildfowl in the same category with hares and rabbits. "Capturam avium per totam Angliam interdixit." In the age of our Norman Kings, hares, foxes, and rabbits were considered "*feræ naturæ*," and as the King, in theory, was the ultimate lord of everything in the land, "these animals," to quote Sir William Blackstone again, "being looked upon as Royal game, and the sole property of our savage monarchs, this franchise of free warren was invented to protect them, by giving the grantee the sole and exclusive power of killing such game as far as his warren extended, on condition of preventing other persons."⁸

This free warren was renewed in favour of Sir Edward St. John, in the reign of Edward I.

⁷ Cart., 26 H. III., Pars unica.

⁸ Blackstone's Com. Vol. II., p. 38 (ed. 1857).

The Church of S. Mary stands in a somewhat bare and dreary position. Mr. Charles Gibbon says⁹ its patron saint is unknown, but in Mr. Lower's "History of Sussex," it is described as dedicated to S. Mary.¹⁰ It consists of a long chancel, nave, and south aisle, with a bell turret at the west end, furnished with a ponderous bell—no doubt the original bell, named in a previous volume of these "Collections."¹¹ It is described by Dallaway "as a diminutive structure, with a nave and chancel only, and a low wooden turret." The change in its appearance is due to the zeal of the present incumbent. There may be seen on the north side of the nave, piers and arches, as of an aisle built up. Mr. Newman, the incumbent, informs me that the south side of the church was in the same condition when he undertook the restoration in 1873, and that he opened the arches, and formed the south aisle. The chancel appears to be a work of the 13th century. The rest of the building, I should conjecture, was the work of the priors of Hardham, when they were the patrons of the living in the 14th or 15th century, probably soon after the manor was attached to the Priory. The interior of the church is only remarkable for possessing the not uncommon evidence of antiquity, a hagio-scope.

The Registers date from 1656. There are no important monuments in the church or churchyard. The living is a Rectory in the Deanery of Midhurst. It is rated in the King's Books at £5 13s. 4d., in the Sussex Directory at £120, and in the Clergy List the income is set down at £68. The population is given in the Sussex Directory and the Clergy List at 132. In 1821 it was 94, which shows how very stagnant the population continues in these Southdown villages. The area of the parish is estimated at 780 acres, the principal proprietors of which are, besides Mr. Biddulph, Lord Leconfield and Mr. Foard.

Dallaway gives the following List of Incumbents and Patrons :—

⁹ XII. S.A.C., 84.

¹⁰ Vol. I., 27.

¹¹ XVI. S.A.C., 199.

	LIST OF INCUMBENTS.	PATRONS.
1404 . . .	Thomas Dalton . . .	Prior of Hardham.
1550 . . .	Robert Bredman . . .	Sir Henry Goring.
1595 . . .	Henry Duppa.	
1627 . . .	Gabriel Teyntor.	
1657 . . .	John Randell.	
1658 . . .	Francis Wittingham.	
1671 . . .	John Key.	
1690 . . .	John Dennis.	
1736 . . .	Thomas Newcomb.	
1788 . . .	Robert Watson . . .	Earl of Egremont.
	Thomas Brown.	
1870 . . .	William Newman.	

Woollavington is in the Rape of Arundel and the Hundred of Rotherbridge, the Redrebrige of Domesday. There is no mention of it under the name of *Woollavington*, or *Wolleventone*, corresponding with *Berleventone*, in Domesday, but still I have no doubt the actual territory is referred to. Horsfield, in his "History of Sussex," says, "Whether the *Loventone* of Domesday is identical with *Woollavington*, or with *East*, *West*, or *Mid Lavant*, in the Rape of Chichester, is uncertain. We have placed it in the most Western Rape, and Hundred of *Silletone*." On the other hand, Mr. Lower, in his "Compendious History of Sussex," in describing *East Lavant*, says—"The Domesday Manor of *Loventone* or *Lavitone*, by which this place is supposed to be meant, was held by Godwin, a priest, and afterwards by Osborne, Bp. of Exeter," and Dallaway considers the *Loventone* of Domesday, which is in *Sillitone* Hundred, as identical with *Woollavington*. These differences of opinion sadly perplexed me, until my attention was directed to Sir W. Burrell's MSS. Vol., in the British Museum. There I found my own surmise confirmed as to the mention of this manor in the great survey. "*Levitone* in *Redrebrige*" occurs under the head of "*Terra Osborni Epi.*" Osbornus was Bishop of Exeter. Burrell has entered the passage from Domesday under the heading of *Woollavington*, as if there could be no question in the matter; neither do I think there can be; for to what other place could "*Levitone* in *Redrebrige*" refer? By

a fortunate accident, I had the satisfaction of perusing this quotation in the original Domesday Book itself, kept with such jealous care in the Record Office, and I here offer a translation of it, being indebted to one of the learned curators of the treasures preserved there for the interpretation of some of the contractions, which study alone can familiarize any one with:—

“ Richard held of the Bishop Levitone in Redrebrige Hundred. Godwin the priest held it of King Edward in Frank-almoign. It was assessed at six hides. The land is . . . [illegible]. In the demesne there are two teams. Eleven serfs. Seven bordarii have four teams. There is a Church. In Chichester a haga [*qu.*, a house surrounded with an enclosure] value three pence [*qu.*, assessed at that?]. Twelve acres of meadow land. A wood for ten hogs. A [*grove*] for seven hogs. In the time of King Edward it was valued at ten pounds. Afterwards at six and now at ten pounds. All these lands pertain to the Church at Bosham in frank-almaign.”

It is evident the prefix “Wool” was added after the Conquest, at least as far as public documents were concerned. Sir W. Burrell quotes the following from the Fitzalan MSS.:—“30 Ed. I. R^d E. of Arundel d. seised of Wollavyngton.”¹² Thus, at any rate, it was known by its present name at the end of the thirteenth century, and probably long before, and, to descend somewhat later, both Bar-Lavington and Woollavington are found described in an old book of coloured maps of the counties of England of the date of 1579 (*temp.* Q. Eliz.), preserved in the Library of Chichester Cathedral, under the names of Bar-Lavington and Woollavington. The Manor of Woollavington extended nearly over the whole parish. It is bounded on the north by Selham, on the east and south by Duncton, and on the west by Graffham. The meaning of the prefix “Wool” has been differently interpreted. It has been ingeniously suggested to me, that as Blackie in his “Etymological Geography,” and other writers on the etymology of the names of places, consider Woolwich meant Hylvich, that

¹² Add. MSS. 5688.

is under or near to a hill [Shooter's Hill], Woollavington may mean Hillavington, and certainly its proximity to the steep part of the Downs encourages this idea; but as we find, in the earliest records of the parish, it was a very great place for sheep and other stock, and as the Anglo-Saxon "Wull," the German "Wolle," and English "Wool," all mean the same thing, I am inclined to think the natural etymology of the word is that which allies it to sheep and sheep-pastures. The extent and value of the manor in the reign of Ed. I. as given by Sir. W. Burrell¹³ is, "Redd. £21. 300 acr. terr. arab. £10. 300 acr. pastur. £5. 14 acr. prati £1 8s., perquis. cur. 13s. 4d." On the etymology of the name, Dallaway and Cartwright remark¹⁴—"This name occurs likewise in the counties of Wilts and Somerset, and its etymology is obvious, as affording a superior pasture for sheep. A Lavant, [the name of three villages, already described, in the Rape of Chichester] or source of water, immediately issuing from the base of a hill, supplied the other part of the original designation."

This parish was formerly divided into 4 hamlets. 1. Old Lavington, sometimes called East Lavington, the name by which the present parish is described in the Ordnance Survey; 2. Midhurst division, now called West Lavington; 3. Dangstone; 4. Fernhurst. It then contained 3,454 acres. It is now estimated at 2,370, as West Lavington has been taken out of it. Any one alighting here, with a view to visiting "The Bishop's Grave"—as the late Bishop of Winchester's grave is now commonly described and known in the neighbourhood of Petworth—will be rewarded by a most agreeable walk, having before him, nearly all the way, a picturesque view of the more western South-downs. Before he arrives at the little group of parochial buildings at Duncton, which Mr. New has created, he will pass the Roman Catholic chapel of S. Anthony and S. George, erected by the Biddulph family, and just overhanging the road. If he will ascend to the church-yard, he will enjoy an excellent view of Petworth and the

¹³ Add. MSS. 5688.¹⁴ Vol. II., p. 274.

neighbouring country, looking north, and if he should, by chance, be making this excursion in the month of July, he may not be sorry to know that, about half a mile below Duncton church, he will find a hostelry called "The Cricketer's Arms," kept by a local cricketer of repute, who will, if he does not belie the character of the South Saxon publican, supply him with any amount of beer he may be disposed to consume.

The best approach to the church is through the beautifully wooded Park, which stretches from the north side of Woollavington House in the direction of Duncton. This Park, however, I may add, is not the original Park, said to have been one of the ten Parks—[Tierney says in E. Montgomery's time there were 18]—belonging to Arundel Castle, and specifically mentioned in the documents relating to the transfer of Woollavington to the Crown, in the reign of Henry VIII., and its re-transfer in the reign of Philip and Mary to the Earl of Arundel. The old Park is now converted into a farm. This old Park, no doubt, was what Blackstone, in his "Commentaries," calls "a legal park," which did not necessarily imply the existence of a house. "A park," says he, "is an enclosed chase extending only over a man's own grounds. A park indeed properly signifies an enclosure; but yet it is not every common field or common, which a gentleman pleases to surround with a wall or paling, or to stock with a herd of deer, that is thereby constituted a legal park: for the King's grant, or, at least immemorial prescription, is necessary to make it so."¹⁵ I do not suppose the present Park can lay claim to either of these tests of a legal park.

But arrived thus far, I must pause before I advance further in my description of Woollavington House, and ask the indulgence of the reader, whilst I allude to my first acquaintance with this parish, particularly as it will serve to illustrate an interesting, although painful, circumstance in the history of the place. More than a generation ago (alas!), I was one of a party who came from Horsham to lionize Petworth House. Having

¹⁵ Vol. 2., p. 38.

enjoyed the pictures and the art treasures, and wandered through the magnificent conservatories and flower gardens of Petworth, and it yet not being late in the day, some amongst us, with very long coats and very straight collars, insisted on proceeding to Woollavington to see the church and parish of Mr. Manning, then Archdeacon of Chichester, for at that time (which is another fact, which will interest the future Sussex Archæologist) the present Cardinal Manning was rector of Woollavington and Graffham. Arrived there, we lunched in a secluded spot, and awaited the evening service. After waiting a long time with some impatience, a little maid came tripping up to us and informed us that the Archdeacon had gone to evensong at Graffham ; but his devoted admirers amongst us were not to be baffled or disappointed. They insisted themselves on going to evensong at Graffham, and accordingly thither we all went. When we reached the church we found the service was just over, and the congregation leaving the church, and so at last we encountered the Archdeacon. A few months after this interview Archdeacon Manning had ceased to be a member of the old historic Church of England, and had become, instead, a member of what I am tempted to call the Missionary Church of Rome. The ostensible reason for his taking this step was the unsatisfactory course the Gorham Controversy had taken, but his friends in London, who seemed better acquainted with his views and feelings than those in Sussex, had been long aware of the direction whither his theological speculations were leading him. Amongst the real celebrities of this little Sussex parish, Cardinal Manning must not be forgotten, and, as I am afraid we must consider his career, as a clergyman of what is undoubtedly the most ancient Church in this land, as past and gone, the same excuse which I have given for considering the careers of Bishop Wilberforce and Cobden as allowable in an Archæological paper, will hold good in his case, at least as far as concerns the local circumstances of his career antecedent to his conversion.

Woollavington House is a substantial, rather formal,

modern house, built by John Sargent, Esq., whose classical tastes evidently more inclined him to the modern style of architecture prevalent in the times of the Georges, than either to the mediæval, or to the transition style between mediæval and modern; or he never would have pulled down, as he is said to have done, the spacious Elizabethan house, with its four towers at the angles, which the Gartons built. We have already seen how the Earldom and Honour of Arundel came into the Albini family and to the Fitzalans, Earls of Arundel, and how the so-called Honour of Petworth passed to Josceline of Louvaine, Queen Adeliza's brother. It remains only to mention that, as Barlavington went with the said Honour of Petworth, Woollavington remained in that of Arundel. Hence this manor continued in the possession of the Earls of Arundel until the reign of that greatest disturber, next to William the Conqueror, of the ownerships of lands in this country, Henry VIII. In this King's reign, William, Earl of Arundel, exchanged it away for the lands belonging to Michelham Priory. At that time we may infer what its value was, from the entry of the manor in the Roll of the Honour of Arundel given by Mr. Tierney:—¹⁶

“Man. de Wollavyngton, cum redd'. et firm. val. per an. xxviii^d xii^s iii^d”

That trustworthy writer says, speaking of the Earl who made this exchange—“Arundel, who had advocated the ‘Divorce,’ shared afterwards in the plunder, and exchanged for nine of his manors and four woods in Sussex, obtained from the rapacious prodigality of his master, the site and demesnes of the priory of Michelham, together with numerous parks, manors and various other property in Sussex, parcel, formerly, of the endowment of the priory of Lewes.” And in a note he gives the names of the manors he parted with, and amongst them occurs that of Woollavington.¹⁷ In the Roll of a Subsidy levied 13 Hen. IV., the manor of Wulavington is assessed at £25.¹⁸

But it would seem that the Crown, in the reign of

¹⁶ Hist. of Arund., App. 1, p. 728. ¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 316 and 317 n. ¹⁸ x. S.A.C., 131.

Philip and Mary, formally restored the manor to the then Earl of Arundel. However, it was destined to leave that family, for in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, after having first been mortgaged to one Jackman, of Petworth, it was sold by Lord Lumley, executor of William, Earl of Arundel, for the sum of £4,000, to Giles Garton, citizen and ironmonger, of London. It was on the accession of this family to the property, that the old Elizabethan mansion was built, not in the old Park, where probably no house ever existed, but on a new site, within the boundaries of the present Park. The architect of this new building, which was adorned with the armorial bearings of the family, was a Mr. Lewis. The Mr. Sargent, who built this house, became possessed of this manor through right of his wife, having married Charlotte Bettesworth, whose father, Richard Bettesworth, of Petworth, had married Charlotte Orme, daughter and heir of Robert Orme, of Woollavington, which Robert Orme was a son of Robert Orme, of Peterborough, who married Mary Garton, the daughter and heir of Henry Garton, of Woolavington, M.P. for Arundel, 1670, and the direct male descendant of Giles Garton, the original purchaser of the estate.

Mr. Sargent was a man of literary tastes. He was a great friend of the poet Hayley, who, however, I am ashamed to own, is more familiar to me as the friend of Cowper, than by his own writings. Mr. Sargent wrote and published a book of poems himself, the preface to which is dated Lavington, July 30, 1784. It contains a Play called the "Mine," the scene of which is laid in Idria, in Hungary; an "Ode on Stonehenge," and another on "Mary Queen of Scots." This little book sufficiently evinces the cultivated and polished character of Mr. Sargent's mind. The dramatic piece is based upon a story which he found in some Italian letters, describing the fate of a nobleman of Vienna, who having shot a general in a duel, although apparently not fatally, was condemned to expiate his offence in the silver mines of Idria, whither his wife, a beautiful and delicate woman, followed him. "The Vision of Stonehenge" is an ode written on a tra-

dition, that Charles II., after the battle of Worcester, passed the night amidst those rude monuments of a remote apocryphal age, and whilst the giant stones cast, like mighty ghosts, their perplexing shadows around him as he lies down to sleep, visions prophetic of his future life pass through his drowsy brain. As the readers of the Sussex Archæological Society are not likely to have this book often in their hands, they will probably not object to have a specimen of the poetical lucubrations of this Sussex worthy. The King, after the weary day,

“Then pillows on the rocky bed,
In sore dismay, his faint afflicted head,
Portentous visions scare his closing eyes,
And mighty warriors march and British Kings arise.”

After touching on some of the most tragical incidents in English history, as a warning to Charles, the poet continues—

VIII.

Of harsh misfortune's chastening power,
Then own the blest control,
And learn in sorrow's wholesome hour,
To harmonize thy soul.
For if when Heaven to triumph guide,
Pleasure's maddening rites you seek,
And elate with prosperous pride,
Scorn the good, and crush the meek;
If grovelling in each sensual aim
You quench improving virtue's patriot flame,
Thy baleful sway will scourging woes attend,
Than exile days more sad or e'en thy father's end!

IX.

To foes a needy suppliant fly,
Thy people's love disown,
While shame, and griping penury
Besiege a Sovereign's throne.
Thy revels o'er, thy pleasure fled,
Where's a friend thine eye to close?
Hateful bigots round thy bed
Crowd, and break thy last repose,
No brother's tear is seen to flow—
Thy mangled relics, an unseemly show
Of funeral pomp, the tardy mockery wait,
While humbler mortals sigh and tremble to be great.

When rich men, like Mr. Sargent or Samuel Rogers, write and publish poems, they can afford to set them off to the best advantage, by enlisting the services of some skilful artist, and accordingly we find the present volume adorned with some very graceful illustrations by Stothard. Mr. Sargent was M.P. for Seaford and Queenborough; he died in 1830, and was buried at Lavington. This Mr. Sargent was succeeded in the possession of the family estates by his son, the Rev. John Sargent, who was educated at King's College, Cambridge, became Rector of Woollavington with Graffham, married Mary, daughter of Abel Smith, the eldest brother of a former Lord Carrington, by whom he had a numerous family. This Mr. Sargent was a man of some mark and literary distinction, like his father. He was the author of "The Life of Henry Martyn," the learned and devoted missionary, in India, who died at Tocat, on his way home, Oct. 16, 1812. This book has run through a large number of editions, and is, or, perhaps I should rather say, was, in former days, calculated to kindle the ardour of a young and devoted clergyman. Martyn, who whilst at S. John's, had much distinguished himself, was ordained a curate to Mr. Simeon in 1803, and no doubt was a contemporary and intimate friend of Mr. Sargent. An evidence of this intimacy is afforded by the monument erected to the memory of Mr. Sargent, in Woollavington church, for it appears that one of his sons was christened Henry Martyn, no doubt after his friend. It may be well, therefore, to give the inscription on the tablet in the church to Mr. Sargent's memory, in this place. It is as follows:—

In memory of
 John Sargent M.A.
 formerly of King's College, Cambridge,
 and for 28 years Rector of Graffham and Lavington.
 He was the eldest son
 of John Sargent, Esq^{re} and Charlotte his wife,
 of Lavington,
 and was born Oct^r. 10, 1780,
 and died May 3, 1833.

Also in memory of the two sons
of John Sargent M.A. and Mary his wife,
John Garton Sargent,
who was born Sep^r. 24, 1808,
and died Oct^r. 28, 1829,

and
Henry Martyn Sargent,
who was born Jan 15, 1816,
and died June 13, 1836.

“The memory of the just is blessed.” Prov. x. 7.

“They were lovely in their lives,

And in their death are not divided.” 2 Sam. i. 23

“Them that sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.” 1 Thes.
iv. 14.

“The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away,
Blessed be the name of the Lord.” Job i. 21.

Also in memory of

Mary

wife of the above-named John Sargent
and daughter of Abel Smith Esq^{re}.
She died July 6, 1861.

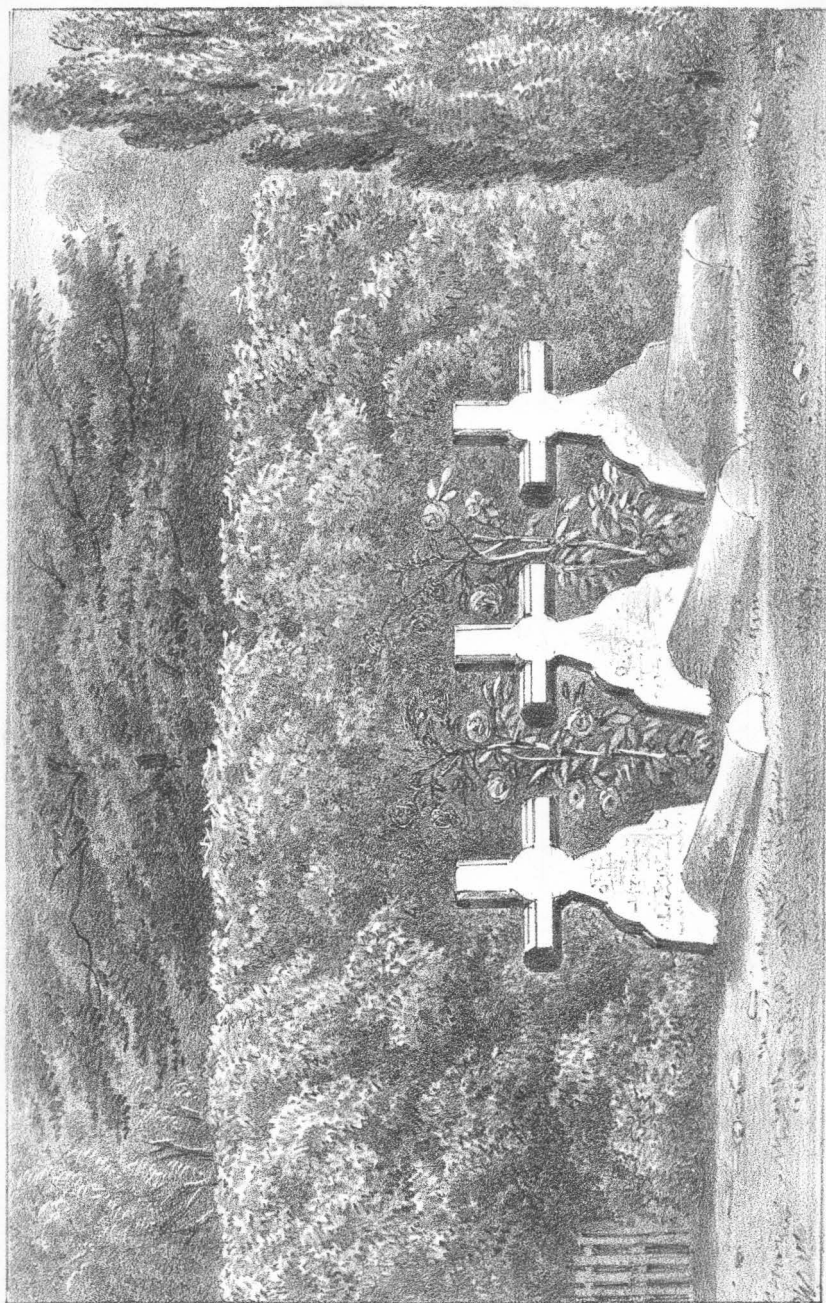
“Her children rise up and call her blessed.” Prov. xxxi. 28.

Mr. Sargent had a family of two sons and five daughters. The sons, as we perceive by the inscription above, died early in life; the property, therefore, once again descended, in the female line, to Samuel Wilberforce, D.D., the third son of the famous philanthropist, William Wilberforce, M.P. for Yorkshire, he having married Emily, second daughter of Mr. Sargent. Another of the sisters was married to Mr. Henry Wilberforce, elder brother of the Bishop, and a third became the wife of Mr., the present Cardinal, Manning.

Having brought the history of the family to this point, I will invite the reader to accompany me to the little church and churchyard of Woollavington. Both are sufficiently small, but they are situated in a spot of romantic beauty, and hallowed by associations of much interest, at least to Churchmen. The churchyard lies between the pleasure grounds of Woollavington House and the steep acclivities of the Downs. We have reason to believe that there was a church at Woollavington before the Conquest, in the times of Edward the Confessor, but we are quite certain it was not the present building, the oldest part of

which, I should imagine, could not date from an earlier reign than that of Henry III. It consists of a nave and south aisle, with a rather shallow chancel, having a three-light window at the east end, and a bell-turret at the west : but before entering it, let us go round to the south side of the church. Here are the graves of numerous members of the Sargent family. When the stranger looks round upon this simple rural burial ground, he will probably ask the question with some curiosity, "but where is the Bishop's grave?" and he will be directed to a row of graves under an ivy-covered wall at the west end of the consecrated ground, where he will notice three stone crosses, and be told that the middle one is the Bishop's grave, and that the other two are those of his eldest son and his wife. Simple and touching as the grave is, I am not afraid to own to a sense of some disappointment when I saw this very humble memorial of one who had occupied so conspicuous and distinguished a place in public estimation. An ostentatious memorial of the dead is offensive to good taste, but there is a fitness in these things, which the feelings desiderate, and which does not in any way savour of vanity and display ; whereas the feeling which the grave before us gives rise to, is one of fear lest so perishable a memorial should be destroyed and lost. I must, however, add that, when this impression was made upon me, I was not aware that the splendid monument in Winchester Cathedral to the Bishop's memory was in course of construction. It is a canopied altar-tomb ; but, whilst admitting the desirableness of having a memorial of every bishop who has filled the See in the Cathedral of the diocese, as an archæologist I do humbly protest against the growing and misleading practice of erecting monuments and memorials of a sepulchral nature in churches where people are not buried. We all must die, and be buried somewhere.

The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
 And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,
 Await alike th' inevitable hour—
 The paths of glory lead but to the grave.



W. Walton lith.

Harhart imp.

GRAVE OF BISHOP WILBERFORCE.

But if we are deserving of such kind of monuments, where our graves are, there ought these monuments to be. These three crosses, which gave rise to these reflections, bear inscriptions. On that of the Bishop, at the foot of the cross on the headstone, the following words are inscribed :—

Samuel Wilberforce,
Bishop of Winchester,
28 years a Bishop in the Church of God.
Died July 19, 1873, aged 67 years.

On the other two stones are inscribed the names of his wife, who died in 1841, and that of his eldest son, who died in 1856, at the age of 23. Opposite is a sketch of these graves so interesting to English Churchmen.

I find I cannot leave this subject without some notice of the circumstances attending Dr. Wilberforce's death. No individual death in the present generation has produced so startling a sensation as that which deprived the Church and society at large of the presence of the eminent Bishop of Winchester. It was more than sudden ; it was instantaneous. In a moment, the career of one of the most brilliant and conspicuous characters of the day was closed, to the infinite sorrow of the large class of his admirers. I give an account of the accident by which he lost his life, rather for the sake of those who may turn to these pages hereafter, than to enlighten the readers of to-day. The Bishop and Lord Granville were on their way to pay a visit to the Hon. Edward Frederick Leveson Gower, of Holmbury, near Dorking. They travelled by the South-Western Railway to Leatherhead, where a groom met them with horses, a distance of about seven miles from their destination. They proceeded by Rammore Common to Leith-hill. At a place called Evershed Rough they turned on to the grass for a canter. They were in conversation, when the Bishop's horse, stumbling at a stone, threw its rider. His lordship turned completely over, and fell on his head, at the same time dislocating his neck. As far as physical suffering was concerned, he could have experienced none. His countenance

in death was as placid as in life. His now historic name and great reputation might have procured for him a public funeral, but wiser counsels prevailed, and he was carried to his last resting-place in this secluded country churchyard, bequeathing, to the spot he loved so much, an abiding object of interest.

I need hardly state that the little church of Woolavington, which is dedicated to St. Peter,¹⁹ bears marks of the restorer's hand. Much was done to it by the present Cardinal Manning, who was Incumbent here from 1833 to 1851, when he seceded from the Church of England. The chancel of the church is shallow, but conspicuous for the ornate character of the altar-table. In the south aisle there are some interesting stained glass windows. One is a genealogical window, recording the dates at which the different possessors of the manor acquired it, from the time of Giles Garton. This window is a kind of index to the later history of the parish, and therefore these dates may here be usefully recorded.

Garton, MDLXXXVI.

Orme, MDCLXXI.

Bettesworth, MDCLVIII.

Sargent, MDCCLXXVIII.

Sargent, MDCCCXXI.

Wilberforce, MDCCCLLI.

In tracing the history of the Sargents, I have already given the inscription on the tablet to the memory of Mr. Sargent, who preceded Mr. Manning as Rector of the parish; the latter, in fact, as stated, having married one of his daughters, who died and is buried at Woollavington. There are, however, some modern brasses affixed to the walls in the south aisle, dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Wilberforce and the Bishop, the inscriptions on which are interesting, the first, under one of the stained glass windows, is as follows:—

This brass, and this window over, record the most dear memory of Emily Wilberforce, daughter of John Sargent and Mary, his wife. She was born April 25, 1807. Married June 11, 1828. Died 1841, leaving to mourn their loss her husband and five children.

‘Them which sleep in Jesus shall God bring with him.’—1 Thes. iv, 14.

¹⁹ 12 S.A.C., 103.

The brass to the memory of the Bishop corresponds in form to this of Mrs. Wilberforce. The inscription runs as follows:—

This brass records the most dear memory of Samuel Wilberforce, D.D., Lord Bishop of Winchester, Prelate of the most noble order of the Garter, 28 years a bishop in the Church of God. He was born Sept^r 17, 1807, died July 19, 1873.

Erected by his three surviving sons.

‘Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of glory.’
Rev. ii., 10.

Besides this brass, there is another memorial of the Bishop, and a very interesting one, which was placed in the church at the time of his death; this is the crozier which was used by him when Bishop of Oxford.

		LIST OF INCUMBENTS.	PATRON.
1428	. . .	Richard Arnold ²⁰	
1445	. . .	Peter Plowden.	Earl of Arundel.
1483	. . .	John Sutton.	. . . . .
1595	. . .	Henry Stoughton.	Sir Peter Garton.
1691	. . .	Daniel La Fitte.	. . . . .
1731	. . .	Robert Smyth.	Garton Orme.
1772	. . .	William Delap, D.D.	. . . . .
1819	. . .	John Sargent.	John Sargent.
1833	. . .	H. E. Manning.	. . . . .
1851	. . .	Richard William Randall	Bishop Wilberforce.
1868	. . .	Walter Hook.	. . . . .
1873	. . .	T. Rowley Lascelles.	. . . . .

Woollavington and Graffham have nearly always been held together, and are so at the present time.

Population of Woollavington	. . . . .	200.
„ Graffham	. . . . .	435.

The history of West Lavington up to 1850 is contained in that of Woollavington, being the Midhurst division of that parish, so there is not much here to engage the attention or excite the speculations of the archæologist.

²⁰ This name occurs in Mr. Cooper's S.A.C., 71. This of course does not imply Crown Presentations to Livings, XXI. that the Crown was *absolute* patron.

But West Lavington has been a parish long enough to have acquired a name, not likely to fall very soon into absolute obscurity. It was constituted a parish, and a church, parsonage and school were built here when Cardinal Manning was rector of Woollavington and Graffham, and when the late Bishop Wilberforce, patron of the living at the time, so often sojourned at the house already described. The unique and truly lovely churchyard has also become, what I even might venture to call classical ground—containing, as it does, the grave of Richard Cobden, which, I am assured, is continually visited on this account, by strangers who reckon themselves amongst the admirers and disciples of the great Free-trade Statesman.

The church of West Lavington, consecrated 27 Nov., 1850, and dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene,²¹ is in excellent harmony with the situation, and is in the transition style between the Early English and the Decorated, or what the Camden Society used to describe as “the 2nd Pointed.” It is one of Mr. Butterfield’s numerous ecclesiastical edifices, who has obligingly favoured me with the following particulars :—

“It consists of a nave with two aisles of the length of the nave, *i.e.*, 48 feet, and a chancel 32 feet long, with a small vestry on the north side of it. There is a porch at the south-west corner of the south aisle, of English oak timber framing, on a substructure of masonry. The interior of the church is largely constructed of local chalk. A belfry and spire of oak framing, covered with oak shingles, rises out of the nave roof at its west end.”

I may add, too, that there is some good stained glass, by Hardman, in the chancel: the roof is of tiles. The parsonage, and the school house adjoining the churchyard (with its picturesque thatched roof), were also built under the inspection of Mr. Butterfield. Monuments and tablets have hitherto not been allowed in the church; a rule which will not be departed from in the case of the first Incumbent, the Rev. James Currie, (who died only last April), as the present Incumbent, Mr. Hilton, assures me;

²¹ 12 S.A.C., p. 103.

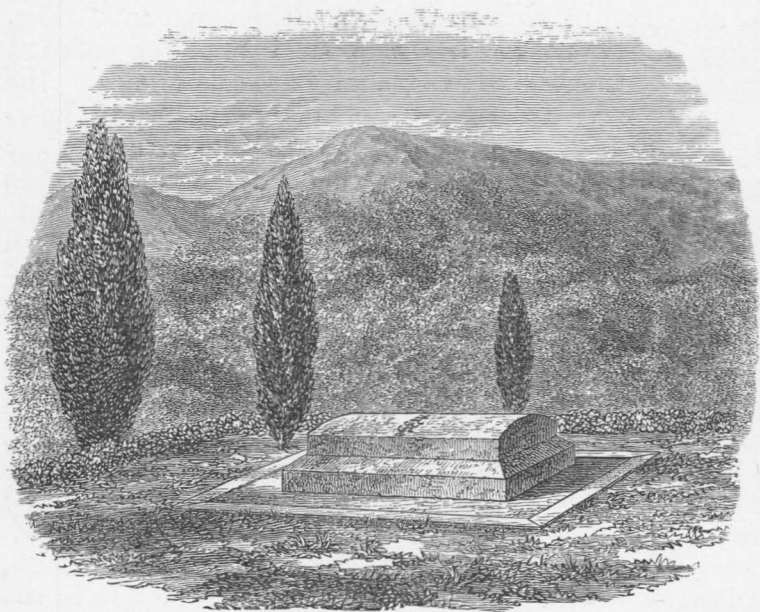
but a gravestone will be (if it has not already been) placed over his remains in the churchyard, whilst a brass, commemorative of his ministry, is to be put up in the vestry.

The churchyard of West Lavington, formerly a rabbit warren, is arranged in terraces, one below the other, on the hill side, commanding magnificent views of the South Downs. Nobody can walk along these terraces without being impressed with the beauty of the surroundings. At the south angle of the upper terrace the visitor will find the grave of Richard Cobden. The monument which covers the vault consists of a solid block of polished granite, on the top of which, in raised letters, are the words, "Richard Cobden." It may be remarked, however, that Cobden was not born in West Lavington, nor is Durnford House, which he built on the site of his father's humble farm-house, situated in Lavington, but in the neighbouring parish of Heyshott. He was buried here, no doubt because his only son, who died in 1856—which event was, perhaps, the greatest sorrow of Cobden's life—was interred here; whether from a natural partiality to so favoured a spot, or from any family reason, I cannot say. Cobden himself was buried at West Lavington, on the 7th of April, 1865, having died on the 2nd of April, at his chambers in Suffolk Street, London. As might be expected, many eminent men on that occasion stood around the open grave in this churchyard: Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright, Mr. Villiers, Mr. Milner Gibson, and many others. When his death was alluded to in the House of Commons, his inseparable friend, Mr. Bright, passionately declared "that his was the manliest and gentlest spirit that ever quitted or tenanted a human form."

When I visited the grave, it was in the month of July. I had just escaped from the noise and roar of the London streets in the height of the season. There was nothing to distract my attention from the beautiful prospect, glowing under the midsummer sun, save the birds rejoicing in the bright skies, and the thoughts, which a great career like Cobden's is wont to stir in the mind, when one con-

templates the grave where all that was mortal of such a one shall rest, until nothing which is mortal will remain.

Cobden has been called "an international man," not in the sense in which that epithet, since his death, has often been understood, but in a purer and higher sense; but, when I was at Lavington, I could not help reflecting that his views on foreign policy, when nationality is so much talked of, were almost as dead as himself. Yet who but international men can arrange the squabbles of



TOMB OF COBDEN.

nations, and curb the chafing temper of war? If a grasping spirit of nationality is to be the prevailing one throughout the world, adieu! to peace, and those blessings which England, of all nations, has such reason to be thankful for. When Cobden brought his natural good sense and genius to bear upon a question, his judgment was excellent, but latterly a little spoilt by the homage which was paid him, he sometimes advanced his opinions in a manner which weakened their influence, because it appeared in

the eyes of his opponents to savour of arrogance. Yet time has almost taught us to forget these trifling blemishes of temper, whilst the intrinsic qualities of his mind and character remain fresh in our memories. He has certainly acquired a lasting renown and a high place among the worthies of Sussex.

A sketch of the grave is given. His son and wife and grandchild are all buried here. He left five surviving daughters. About three-quarters of a mile from the churchyard an obelisk has been erected to his memory by Mr. Henry Court, one of his friends and admirers. It is visible from the Chichester road. The population of West Lavington is 194, and the Income £40.

A mile from the church brings one into the middle of the town of Midhurst, and this reminds me that our Roman Colonist was not to go further than Midhurst; and so, having come thus far, I will bid my readers farewell.

LIST OF INCUMBENTS.

PATRON.

1850 . . .	James Currie, M.A. . . .	Bp. Wilberforce.
1878 . . .	Musgrave F. Hilton, M.A.	Reps. of Bp. Wilberforce.
