

THE ASHBURNHAM REGISTERS.

By ROSE FULLER WHISTLER, M.A., VICAR.

THE unnecessary and vexatious Bill which would deprive Incumbents and Parishioners of the custody of their Register Books and relegate them to the obscurity, not to say oblivion, of a Public Office, will hardly commend itself to the better sense of the country; nevertheless, as the unexpected continually happens in these feverish days, it will not be out of place to rescue one more of the series of our Parochial Records from the limbo of some possible London receptacle, and to add it to the number of those similar publications which seem to have been generally valued by the members of our Archæological Society.*

And, indeed, apart from this consideration, there are other reasons which may make a compilation of the Ashburnham Registers desirable. In the first place, they are prefaced by a full recital of the regulations from which such records originated; they also contain very copious entries relating to many obsolete customs to which the necessities of bygone ages gave rise, together with numerous references to well-known members of one of our oldest Sussex Families, and other interesting matter well worthy of transcription.

I propose, therefore, to cull from the original documents such entries as may appear to be most noteworthy,

* The Editorial Committee of the Sussex Archaeological Society beg to intimate that whilst many persons would heartily endorse the opinion of the Rev. Vicar of Ashburnham as expressed above, others are strongly in favour of having all parochial registers placed in national custody, and in a central office, for the sake, as they maintain, of greater security, and for convenience of reference.

merely adding a connecting link here and there, or a word of explanation where it may appear to be required.

The date of the earliest entry is 1538,¹ all the entries from that year until 1599 being collations from various sources then extant in the parish, as will appear from the following valuable memoranda :—

“ The Register Booke for the Parische Church of Ashboornham Wryten by comaundment of y^e Byshop of Chichester

in A^o Dm 1599

By me *John Philcox*² *Vicar of Ashboornham.*

In the eyghteenth yeere of the reigne of our Sovrign Ladie Elizabeth the Queenes ma^{tie} y^t now y^s in the mouneth of June were sent Her Commissioners w^{ch} inquired after pentioners ther penton pai^d & they being dead That the Parson, vicar, curat, Churchwardens & two or three of the most Aged men of best knowledge in everie parrish should aunser by oath upo' interrogatories as followeth ffyrst ye shall Inquire & certifie what Religious pson vz. prior, Abbote, moonkes, chanons, ffryers, noones chauntrie prieste, or other religious psons, that had retein^d any ffee, Annuitie, pention, or corrodie³ for lyfe or yeeres, out of any Abbie, chauntrie, or religious house graunted unto the' or amongst them by Kinge Henrie the Eight or Kinge Edward the 6th have died wythin y^e parrishe sythence Mychael in the two and thyrtyeth yeare of Kinge Henrie the eight (and upon what daie they, he or she died) what were ther names & snames, and of what religious house he or she was, what was the yeerlie extente of y^e ffee Annuitt, penton, or corrodie that they had and received at the tyme of ther deaths by reason of such chauntrie or religious house or other waies.

And ye shall inquire and certifie whither any chauntrie priest or other religious pson having anie penton of the Kinge were pmoted to any parsonage vicarage curate prebend or spirituall pmotion wthin this dioces by Kinge Henrie the eight, Kinge Edward the syxthe Queen Marie, or the Queenes ma^{tie} that now ys sythence Mychael in the two and twentieth

¹ The year in which the keeping of Parochial Registers was ordered by Thos. Cromwell, “lord privy seale.”

² The direct lineal descendant of this Vicar is James Philcox, Esq., of Burwash, now Clerk to the Ashburnham School Board.

³ Corrodie, from corrodo, a defalcation from an allowance or salary for some other than the original purpose.—*Johnson.*

“ Corrodies are a right of sustenance, or to receive certain allotments of victuals and provisions for one's maintenance. In lieu of which (especially when due from ecclesiastical persons) a pension or sum of money is sometimes substituted.”—“Blackstone's Com.,” Bk. ii., p. 40.

Also, “Some corrodies began by grant made by one man to another : and some are of common right, as every founder of abbies or religious houses had authority to assign such in the said houses for such persons as he should appoint.”—“Burn's Eccl. Law,” Vol. i., p. 408, edit. 1763.

yeere of Kinge Henrie the eight, and where and when he was so promoted, and what were the names of the same Benefice or spiritual promon, and the names of the psons so pmoted and of what yeerlie value the said Benefice is of in y^e Queenes booke.

Item ye shall inquire & certifie whither any temporall or Prvit pson either Lord, Knyght, Esquier, Gentleman yeoman of y^e Garde (Coo'md) or other officer, or any of the Kinges or Queenes servantes that had received any fee, penson, or corrodie of the Queenes ma^{tie} or any of Her progenitors, eyther out of any religious house, or by graunte fro' Kinge Henrie the eight, Kinge Edward the Syxthe Queen Marie or the Queenes Ma^{tie} that now is for any S^evice or office don or kept by them or any of them that died & were buried wthin y^e parish sythence Mychael in the three and thirtieth yeare of Kinge Henrie the eight, when and upon daie he died, what is his name & office, and what is the true extente of hys yeerlie annuitie penton or corrodie.

Item ye shall inquire and certifie what religious man or woman or any temporall psson havynge & receiving any fee annuitie penton or corrodie of y^e Queenes ma^{tie} y^t now is do remaine or liv at this psent daie, or did remaine or ust to live wthin your parrish & what be theyr names & where they do now remaine, or ust to liv and what be the true contente & yearlie value of the sd. annuitie, penton^s, or corrodie.

Item whither y^e Church booke appointed to be kepte in everie parrish for the registring of all Burialls, christnygs & weddings be duellie & pfectlie kept wthin y^e pishe as it ought to be, or not. And whose lacke or default the same Booke is not so duellie kept and how long ye have kept a perfect Booke of the same.

Our daie to Answer was three and twentieth day of Julie. And against that said daie I got and put together the past Register booke of the parrish church of Ashboornh^m out of the of old Bookes & loose papers left by my predecessor. The yeere of o^r Lord god in this booke y^s saied forth throughout to be begun & ended at y^e ffyve and twentieth daie of Marche in everie yeare and the things to be founde under the severall Titles, w^{ch} before were confusedly set downe.

And now in the one and ffortieth yeere of the psent reigne of o^r sovrign Ladie Queene Elizabeth the said Register Booke is by public authoritie comanded to be wrytten out into a parchment booke, and in all other parish churches the same lykewise to be don. All entrie in this Booke most faithfullie set doune as could be gathered out of the copies w^{ch} I had to followe. And for myne owne tyme in ther severall Titles not any thinge omitted.

By me John Philcox vicar of Ashboornh^m
Institute in An^o 1570."

In making this Register Book the worthy Vicar commences his task by recording the names of his predecessors as he found them in the scattered materials with which he had to deal, never omitting the prefix "Sir,"

which was customary until about the middle of the sixteenth century. He marks Anno Dni 1570 (my first yeare, 1570), and the identity of the handwriting leaves no doubt that he was not only the compiler of the more ancient records, but that his own hand transcribed them. We thus arrive at the names of the series of Vicars from 1538 to the present day, for the custom of noting each fresh incumbent, thus initiated, has been thenceforward regularly continued. It will, however, be observed that in order to complete the list as far as possible the names of the Incumbents, prior to 1538, are also given. These additions are derived from the MS. volumes of the late James Bennett Freeland, and have been courteously supplied by his son, Humphrey William Freeland, late M.P. for Chichester.

- " 1412. John Wryght⁴
- 1439. John Cook⁵
- 1441. John Coumbe⁶
- 1478. Henry Swayne
- William Smyth⁷
- 1529. Osmund Chub⁸
- 1538. S^r Robert Colson
- 1559. S^r Marmaduke Ormwood
- 1562. S^r Thomas Blackburn
- 1569. M^r Thomas Stile
- 1570. John Philcox
- 1607. Abraham Franck⁹
- 1632. John Benbridge¹⁰
- 1668. Antony Nethercott¹¹
- 1698. Henry Roby¹²
- 1704. Arthur Coster¹³

⁴ Instituted Feb. 17. Patrons, Prior and Convent of the Priory of Holy Trinity, Hastings.

⁵ Instituted March 30. Patrons, the same.

⁶ Instituted July 29.

⁷ Patrons, Prior and Convent of Hastings.

⁸ Instituted Feb. 8. Patrons, the same.

⁹ See S.A.C. xi., 226.

¹⁰ In "The Contribution of the Clergie within the Diocese of Chichester &c. 1634 towards the repairinge of S^t Pauls Church in London," see *Sussex Daily News*, 17 Oct., 1876, occurs "John Benbridge, vicar of Ashborneham, £00 s05 d00."

¹¹ "Instituted 25 June 1668 Patron Deane & Chapter of Canterbury pleno jure." *Liber Institutionum Public Record Office*.

¹² "Ashburnham. Henr. Roby instituted 24 Feb 1698 Patron Rex p lapsum." *Lib. Inst.*

¹³ "Instituted 5 July 1705 Patron Dec et Cap Cautuar." *Lib. Inst.*

1750. Charles Coldcall¹⁴
 1794. William Delves¹⁵
 1809. William Trivett¹⁶
 1830. Edward Warneford
 1840. John Read Munn
 1879. Rose Fuller Whistler¹⁷

- S^r Robert Colson } Weddings
 Vicar } Anno Dni 1539
- M^r John Jennyns & M^{rs} Jane Lunsford were married the nyne and twentieth daie of Aprill
1540. John Eastland & Joan Ticehurst were married the twentieth daie of October
 John ffarncombe & Margerie Byddenden were married the nynth daie of ffebruarie
1541. M^r Edmond Daniell and M^{rs} Alice Ashboornham were married the eyghtenthe daie of Julie
 Willm : Tycehurst & Alice Waller were married the ffyve and twentieth daie of Januarie
1544. Thomas Lovell & Alice Lyvett were married the ffyfthe daie of October
1557. James Brett & Jane Tycehurst were married the ffyfthe daie of ffebruarie
1567. John Tailor & Constance Isted were married the ffourth dai of Maie
1590. James Dulvie & Agnes Pynyon were married three and twentieth dai of Januarie
 John Pont & Margaret Bethell were married the ffyve and twentieth daie of Januarie
 M^r John Ashboorn^m & M^{rs} Elizabeth Beaumont were married at Staughton in Leicestershire the seven and twentieth day of November, ut dicit^r
 Reynold fuller & Elizabeth Shadwell of Hellinglie were here married w^a a Licence the eyght & twentie daie of Januarie
1599. M^r George Wentworth of Yorkshire and M^{rs} Marie Ashboorn^m were married the ffyrst daie of October being moondaie
 M^r Baker and Dorothy Pont were married the thyrteenth daie of November being Tuisdaie

¹⁴ "Instituted 30 June 1750 Patron Dean & Chap. of Canterbury." *Lib. Inst.* Drowned in the Vicarage well. "The following melancholy accident happened a few days ago . . . The Rev. Mr. Colcole, an aged clergyman, in a fit of insanity, jumped into his draw-well, eighty feet deep, and was soon after taken out dead." *Sussex Advertiser*, Oct. 28, 1793.

¹⁵ "Instituted 4 Feb 1794 Patron Dean & Chap. of Canterbury." *Lib. Inst.*

¹⁶ "Instituted 3 May 1810 Patron John Earl of Ashburnham pleno jure." *Lib. Inst.* The names of Trivett and Coldcall occur previously in the *Liber Institutionum*, as we find under "Arlington Sussex William Trivett instituted 21 Feb 1787 Patron Charles Coldcall M.A."

¹⁷ Ad multos annos. A.

1607. John Smythe Tycehurst & Alice Stile were married the elevinth daie of Maie
 M^r: George (Admyst ?) gentlema' and M^{rs}: Catherine Ashboorn-
 ham gentlewoman were married wth a Licence upo Tuisdaie the
 syx & twentieth daie of Januarie
 William Harvye & Clemence Pynyon were married the ffyfteenth
 daie of februarie."

These selected entries from the oldest register are chosen for the purpose of noting that the families mentioned are still to be found in the parish or neighbourhood, their names continually recurring in the books until the present day. The Ponts have died out, or migrated, for there are now none within the parish, but their name lives as the designation of a district called "Pont's Green." The honourable prefix of "M^r" is invariably to be noticed in the case of the Ashburnhams and their alliances, until a definite title takes the place of it. The books have been well kept and carefully preserved, although a small portion of the first pages of the Baptismal Register has been eaten away apparently by mice. The usual irregularity occurs about the time of the great Rebellion; no entries indeed appear in the years 1644 to 1646 inclusive, one only in 1647, when there is again a gap until 1649. Twelve entries only are to be found in the succeeding seven years, the usual number of weddings having previously been seven or eight at least. From 1656 to 1658 the few marriages recorded took place upon Register's certificates, before a Justice of the Peace, one of which will here serve as a sample of the rest.

"Anno 1652. John Reeve and Ann Greenefield both of the Parish of Ashburnham, the contract of whose marriage was three severall Lord's Days published in Ashburnham Church by Thomas Waters Parish Register vizt. y^e 9th y^e 16th & 23 day of November were married by M^r: Thomas Jenner justice of peace on the seventh day of December, 1652."

The last entry of the kind was made in 1660, and from that time forward no irregularity occurs.

Among the earliest baptismal entries we find the following:—

"Anno dni 1539

- Agnes the daughter of Thomas Tycehurst was Baptized the ffoure & twentie day of Julie
- Katherine y^e daughter of Thom^s Eastland was baptized the ffourteenth daie of October
1540. Andrew y^e son of M^r. Richard Sackville Esquier was baptized the seven and twentie daie of Mche
1541. Edward y^e soon of M^r. Richard Sackville Esquier was baptized the tenth daie of Maie
1545. George y^e soon of M^r. James Burton was baptized the syxteenth daie of Aprill
 Marie y^e daughter of M^r. Edmund Daniell was baptized the elevelnth daie of Maie
 John y^e soon of M^r. John Ashboornh^{am} Esquier was Borne into y^e worlde upo' Stⁱ. Barnabas daie being the seventeenth daie of Maie at Noythyh^{am} and the daie the next insuing he was there Baptized M^r. John Danyell & M^r. Nicholas pelham were his Godfathers and M^{rs}. Annie Sackville was his Godmother
1549. Thomas y^e sonne of M^r. John Ashboornh^{am} Esquier was baptized the tenth daie of November
1567. James Barden was baptized the last daie of februarie
1568. John the sonne of John Golding was baptized the nynth daie of Januarie
1573. Thomas the sonne of M^r. John Ashboornh^{am} Esquier was baptized the syxteenth daie of Julie
 M^{rs}. Katherine Ashboornh^{am} and M^r. John Ashboornh^{am} were borne, & baptized at Bordsell in Kent w^{thin} the Parish of Endebie in the yeare of our Lord God 1570 & 1571 They were the first born children of y^e said M^r. John Ashboornh^{am} Esquier, Their mother was the daughter of M^r. George ffane of Endebie aforesaid
 The Godfathers and Godmothers of the said M^r. Thom^s Ashboornh^{am} were Sr. Walter Waller knight & M^r. Thom^s ffane the elder high sheriff this said yeare of the Countie of Kent, his Godmother was old M^{rs}. Parker
1576. Joane the daughter of John Bene was baptized the eyght daie of Maie
 Richard the sonne of Richard ffrenche was baptized the eygth daie of Julie
1582. Wyllm the sonne of John Ashboornh^{am} Esquier was Baptized the seventeenth daie of Maie he was borne into the worlde the 27th daie of Aprill before, being ffridae, his Godfathers were Willm Morlye & M^r. Adam Ashboornh^{am} his Godmother M^{rs}. Parker inior deputies to the right honourable The Lord Treasure and the Earl of Huntington ut dicitur
1585. Walter the soon of John Ashboornh^{am} Esquier was baptized in the pson of the ffleet at London the twentieth daie of June his Godfathers M^r. Walter Covert Esquier & M^r. Loonard his Goddmother Ladie pelham

1588. The syxteenth daie of mche the wyfe of Abrah^am woodie being sicke, hath leave to eate meatte forbydden by Lawe this Lentontime for recovrie of healthe
1627. Marie the daughter of John Relfe baptized the 18th day of March.
1632. William the sonne of William Morris was baptized the 8th of July
1642. John the son of John Ashburnham Esq & Frances his wife was baptized the 4th day of August. His said Father being then in the North attending on Prince Charles then his M^r. : M^r. John Lumley & M^r. Laurence Ashburnham with the baroness of Cramond his Grandmother were his Susceptors."

The following entry is interpolated at the end of the entries for the year 1643:—

"Bertrand the third son of John Ashburnham Esq and Frances his wife baptized in Corpus Chri : Colledge in Oxford by M^r. Hooke on February first. The Lord Colepepper & Secretary S^r Edward Nicholas & the Lady Seymour the witnesses."

In 1645—an ominous blank of half a page—and in the following year there were the unusually large number of 23 baptisms. In 1648 there are various erasures and interlineations in a strange handwriting, and thenceforward until 1661 all order and regularity are lost until 1666, when a new vellum book is begun, and the entries are again duly made:—

"1666. Thomas son of Thomas Price & Thomasin his wife was christened by M^r. Tilden in October 1666 as was attested by M^r. Thomas Ashburnham & Steven Taunde who were his Godfathers."

Once more a gap occurs, with this solitary notice:—

"A^o D^m 1667 Nicholas Tanner baptized April 18th "

and in another hand—

"By Mr. Tilden as his Father Stephen Tanner saith 10^{br} 23 1668."

Then follows this entry:—

"The continuation of this Register-book was neglected by the former Vicar ; until the coming of Antony Nethercott M.A. to supply the Cure. Dec. 22, 1667, who was inducted as Vicar of Ashburnham Augt. 3, 1668.

1675. Memdum John Ashburnham son of W^m Ashburnham, Esq Grandson to John Ashburnham (of the Bedchamber to His M^y) was baptized Jan. 15th 1665 as appeared by a certificate under y^e hande of the Parish Register of Cheswick in the County of Middlesex."

There are other notices of Baptism of other members of the Ashburnham family out of the parish, entered in the Ashburnham Registers with the names of their several "susceptors." Nothing remarkable is entered in succeeding years, excepting that a separate leaf is reserved for the "Births and Baptisms of the sons and daughters of the Right Honbl. the Lord Ashburnham and Dame Bridget his Lady."

We may now pass from the Baptismal, to the Burial Registers, only remarking that the selection of the entries has again been made with reference to those families whose representatives, with only one or two exceptions, are living in the parish or district at the present day.

" The Buriings here folow Anno 29^o
Anno dⁿⁱ 1538 Henrie 8^{vi}

Thomas Byddenden was buried The ffyrst daie of October
1539. Richard Tycehurst was buried the eight daie of ffebruarie
1542. M^r John Sackville was buried the ffyrst daie of October
1543. Izabell Eastland was buried the ffourth daie of September
1549. Anne the daughter of John Ashburnh^m esquier was buried the
seven and twentie daie of Maie
Anno dmi 1558

Thom^as Braie began all
in loose papers 1559 Thomas Isted was buried the last daie of Aprill
1560. Thomas Braie was buried the syxteenth daie of October
1561. John the sonne of John Ashboornh^m Esquier was buried the six-
teenth daie of September
1562. John Ashboornh^m Esquier was buried the ffourteenth daie of
December
1567. Thomas frenche was buried the ffifteenth daie of Maie
1574. James Leverton y^e naylor¹⁸ fr^o Pannyngredge was buried the
tenth daie of Maie
1576. Thomas Wingfield, that old ffornicator, was buried the syxth daie
of Aprill
Wyllm Foldyth, a fforgeman, was buried the eighteenth daie of
Aprill

¹⁸ The first allusion to the Iron workers; Pannyngridge is the name of a very large wood adjoining the Furnace, often mentioned in connection with the iron works.

1580. Thomas the sonne of John Smythe, the smythe, was buried the last daie of September
Katherine the daughter of John Kyrrins, foorgeman, was buried the seventeenth daie of October
1582. Mychael the sonne of John Bene,¹⁹ the Collyer, was buried the thyrtieth daie of Maie
1583. Stephen Huckstep of Dallington sought his own death in a dytch, was buried here the eleventh daie of December
1584. M^{rs} Izabell Ashboornh^m widow of John Ashboornh^m Esquier departed this life upoⁿ Soondaie the fflower & twentieth daie of Maie and was buried²⁰ in the Church of S^t. Marie Overies neere London Bridge the second daie of Januarie being Tuisdaie
1585. Waulter the soone of John Ashboornh^m Esquier was buried the thyrd daie of Julie
1588. M^{rs} Dorothe the wyfe of John Yelding Gentleman fro. Berstone so called was buried the seven and twentieth daie of Julie
1589. John Ticehurst senior called Blind Tycehurst was buried the syxth daie of Januarie
1590. John a straying soldier could get no further & was here buried the thyrtieth day of November
1592. Nicholas Sawyer a wandering pson was buried the tenth daie of februarie

The ffourteenth daie of Marche
old Edward Beenie being sycke
hath leave to eate meate for-
bidden by Law this Lenten time
for recovrie of healtie

John Ashboornh^m Esquier was buried upo' Sat^ddaie in the evening
the fourteenth daie of October

1593. Thomas Cattrell, a wandering soldier was buried here, the seventh daie of Aprill
1596. John the ffyrstborne sonne of John Ashboornh^m Esquier was Buried the elevinth daie of August
1599. Gyles Selwyn the sonne of Gyles Selwyn of Laughton was buried the eleventh daie of Julie
1600. Morgan Lawrence a welshman from the Tent called Mynters was buried the twentieth daie of April being Thursdai
John Morrell at y^e tent called Afrykie was buried the twentieth daie of September "

There was probably about this time an influx of strangers to the Iron works, who, in the absence of other

¹⁹ A descendant of this John Beenie is now Parish Clerk, 1882; the family appears to have lived constantly in the parish, one member being specially mentioned in her deed of benefaction, by the Baroness Cramond.

²⁰ Compare the entry of the baptism of Walter, son of John Ashburnham, in 1585, and the inscription on the tomb of the son of this John Ashburnham in Ashburnham Church, as given by the Rev. R. F. Whistler, in his paper published in the "Report Sus. Arch. Coll.," Vol. XXXII.

habitations, were lodged in tents, the press of work being unusual and of a temporary character; a reference to "Suss. Arch. Col.," Vol. XVIII, 14, will show that migrations to and from Wales to the Iron works were not uncommon. It is remarkable, too, that several fields very near Ashburnham Forge, still retain the names of "America," "Africa," &c., the whole district being of a wild, heathy, almost uncultivated character, making the names chosen quite appropriate to the locality:—

- " 1601. The tenth daie of februarie was buried Letice the wyfe of Samuel Carpynter, fforgeman
 1607. M^r John Philcocks Vicar of this pshe was buried the 23 of Febry
 1625. Hester y^e daughter of M^r Herbert Pelham the 15th of August
 1627. John Gates was buried²¹ by leave from Herstmonceux the 29th June
 1631. Abraham Francke who was Vic: of Ashboonh^m was buried the of Januarie
 1636. Solomon Sothernden (an honest miller) was buried (with grief to the Parish) y^e fourteenth daie of Aprill
 1638. William Relfe²² sen. was buried y^e 17th daie of December
 1639. John Ashburnh^m gen buried y^e 17 of December
 1640. Mary the daughter of Gilbert Pynion al^s Spray was buried 25th Aprill
 1644. John Henly Clarke of y^e parish buried the 10th of July."

From this time forward until 1655 there are long blanks, very few entries, interpolations, and other irregularities, many notices being evidently set down from memory or private memoranda. The probability is that, in the great rebellion, the parish would be much disturbed, sharing the general confusion of the times, especially when we bear in mind the well-known loyalty of the Ashburnham family, and the likelihood that their adherents would be active in the same cause. After an empty page, the last previous date being Sep. 2, 1652, we

²¹ So several other entries about this time.

²² See "Herald Vis. of Sussex Harl. MSS.," 1067, fo. 376, &c. These Relfes purchased an estate of Sir John Ashburnham, and carried on the ironworks in Ashburnham and elsewhere. They are now represented by the Watts family, of Battle, and, in the parish of Ashburnham, by the children of the present Vicar, who married the daughter of the late James Watts, Esquire. See "Suss. Arch. Coll.," Vol. XVIII.

have the following entry as the heading of the burial notices, now again regular :—

“ March 24, 1655 and 1656

“ Since Thomas Waters and Thomas Clarke were sworne & made by Mr Thos : Collins Esquier Registrar March 24, 1655

Thomas Collins.”

“ 1669. John Evans, barber chirurgion 27th

Mr Alexander Wigge Clarke Master in Arts & Samuel } 31
Willard

1671. The Honble : John Ashburnham Esqr : buried June 21th after he had rebuilt the Parish Church & furnished it with rich utensils²³ & benee a Benefactor to the Vicar and Parish Clarke. Aged sixty and eight years and odd days

1672. The R^t Honble Jane late Countess Dowager of Marlborough wife of the Honble : William Ashburnham Cofferer to His Mty was buried March 28th.”

The 30 Car. II., c. 3, as is well known, enacted that “ for the encouragement of the woollen manufacturers, “ and prevention of the exportation of money for the im- “ porting of linen, no corps of any person shall be buried “ in any shirt, shift, sheet or shroud, or anything what- “ soever made or mingled with flax, hemp, silk hair gold “ or silver, or in any stuff or thing, other than what is “ made of sheep wool only, on pain of £5.”²⁴

It was further ordered that all ecclesiastical persons should take an account and keep a register of every person buried, and that one of the relations of the party deceased, or other credible person, should, within eight days of the interment, bring an affidavit in writing to the minister or parson that the said person was not buried otherwise than as this Act directs, or in any coffin lined or faced with any cloth or stuff but sheep's wool only.

It was also enacted that where the penalty was inflicted, one half should go to the Overseers of the Poor, the other to him who should sue for the same.²⁵

One exception, and only one, was made, viz., “ that no penalty shall be incurred by reason of any person that

²³ For a description of these “ utensils ” see Paper on Ashburnham Church in S.A.C., Vol. XXXII.

²⁴ “ Burn. Eccl. Law,” Vol. i., p. 189.

²⁵ *Ib.*, p. 190.

died of the plague." The recollection of that fearful scourge was too recent to admit of unnecessary interference with the corpse of any who might have sunk under that infectious malady.

We find accordingly very particular care taken that proper entries should be made in fulfilment of this remarkable Law, and they are thus headed: "Burials since the Act about burying in woollen." They are continued with extreme attention to the requirements of the Act from 1678 to about 1684. From that time less precise entries are made in this respect, until 1699, when again, and until 1704, the full particulars are methodically given in every case, with notices of affidavits in an opposite column in parallel lines.

Only in the burials of certain members of the Ashburnham family does there appear to have been a departure from the requirements of this Law, and in each instance of such departure we find that the penalty was duly enforced, and we have the Overseers' returns in the Parish Account Books that the moiety of it was properly applied to parish purposes.

The following are the instances alluded to as entered under their respective dates:—

- "1679. The Honble. William Ashburnham Esq late Cofferer to his M^{ty} was buried December the 16th And M^r: Thomas Franklin informed (the next day) John Ashburnham Esq that the Cofferer was not buried in woollen but not being upon his oath the five pounds penalty was paid to the Parish
1680. M^{rs}: Frances eldest daughter of John Ashburnham Esq & Bridget his wife was buried March the 9th & on the 12th M^r: Lovelace informed Capt : Shoyswell²⁶ of her not being buried in woollen."

Here this entry ends, but it appears from the Parish Accounts that the penalty was exacted and paid:—

- "1682. Bertram Ashburnham Esq²⁷ was buried March the 14th & William Lewes informed Roger Shoyswell Esq that hee was not buried in woollen whereof I gave notice to Richd. Diginson (by Edw. Bray) who demanded fifty shillings for the Parish use."

²⁶ Of Shoyswell in Etchingham.

²⁷ "1682. It: fifty shillings for the moiety of the forfeiture for Bertram Ashburnham Esqr: being buried contrary to the Act for burying in woollen - 2 10 0." — "Ashburnham Parish Account Book."

Here again we must refer to the parochial entries to ascertain that this demand was duly responded to:—

“The Hon^{ble} Mrs Ann Ashburnham daughter of the Right Hon^{ble} John Ld. Ashburnham & Dame Bridget his wife was buried 26 Augt. 1702”

“Memorand: y^t 02=10=00 due to y^e poore of this Parish by the Act for burying in Woollen which was not followed in this case. Memorand y^t y^e 2=10=0 was pd in to Tho. one of the overseers of the poore at Easter last 1703.”

This payment, some time delayed, was evidently required and at length satisfied.

One more entry relating to the Ashburnhams occurs about this time, but now with the usual notice:—“Recd. Aff.:

Thomas Ashburnham of the Parish of Warbleton was buried January the 9th 1702.”

“The probability is, that as the death of this member of the Ashburnham Family occurred at some little distance from home, there was, in this case, the customary observance of the Law.”

We have several notices of Briefs, issued under the authority of the Court of Chancery, ordering parochial collections for various purposes, and in some instances (one of which is subjoined) there is a full account of the object, with the names of the subscribers and of the several sums subscribed.

These collections appear to have been made in the parish of Ashburnham from the year 1661 to 1704, and among other objects for the following:—

- “1662. For a loss by fire of 4939£ by the inhabitants Netheringham in Lincoln
- 1661. For a loss by fire of 1000£ for David Long husbandman in the County of Wilts
- 1661. To the inhabitants of the town of Bullingbrooke for repairing their Church &c
- 1664. For Thomas Burchett of Weybridge in Surrey Butcher

9^{br}. 22 & 29

Collected for the reliefe of the poore distressed people of London by y^e late dismall fire the sum of six shillings & sixpence

A. Nethercott—Vicar

Simon Bray—churchwarden.”

Without dates

" Collected on Briefs

ffor Bainton	...	...	0	1	8
ffor Southmolton	...	...	0	1	9
for Samuel Allen	...	...	0	2	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
ffor Bradmore	...	...	0	2	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
ffor St. Torrington	...	...	0	3	0
ffor Darlington church	...	...	0	1	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
ffor Bassford Church	...	...	0	4	6

Slaves of Macaws

Collected on the Briefe for the redemption of English Christians
out of slavery in Africa 1700
(List of names given.)

Total ... 01 — 16 — 00

Collected on the Briefe for the exiled Protestants of Orange 1704

			s	d
Henry Roby Vica: Ashb	...	...	00	10 : 00
M ^r Palmer	...	...	00	01 : 00
M ^r Young	...	...	00	01 : 00
Robert Holman	...	...	00	01 : 00
Edwd. Avery	...	...	00	00 : 06
Hannah Simonds	...	...	00	00 : 03
			<hr/>	
			00 : 13 : 09 "	

The last we subjoin here, though dated 1670, as giving such a full list of names as may serve to identify the principal inhabitants of the parish 200 years ago:—

" A perfect duplicate of the collection for the Redemption of the English from their slavery in the Turkish dominion made and completed upon the fourth day of December, 1670, but published on the Lord's Day before and chiefly performed and demanded from house to house on the week days in the Parish of Ashburnham in Sussex.

			s	d
Anthony Nethercott Vicar	...	...	5	0
Mary Weeks widd	...	...	1	0
Thomas Plumer	...	...	1	0
John Thomas	...	...	1	6
John Catt	...	...	0	6
W ^m Hills	...	...	0	6
Richard Souton	...	...	0	6
Tho. Stace	...	...	0	6
Tho. Stace Jun	...	...	0	6
Margaret Picknell	...	...	0	6

			s	d
Ann Harvey ...	...	...	0	3
Ann Waters ...	...	...	0	3
Richard Baker...	...	...	0	6
Mary freind ...	...	...	0	6
Eliz. Buss ...	...	...	0	2
Jane Bray ...	...	...	0	2
Tho. Colman ...	...	...	0	4
George Ridgway	...	...	1	0
W ^m Budd ...	...	...	0	4
Rich ^d Mason Sen ^r	...	...	0	6
Rich ^d Mason Jun ^r	...	...	0	6
Eliz Smith ...	...	...	0	4
John Bray ...	...	...	0	4
Rich. Whiting...	...	...	0	4
Anthony Avery & his wife	...	...	1	6
John Levitt ...	...	...	0	6
Stephen Wood...	...	...	0	4
W ^m Walker ...	...	...	0	6
Thomas Lulham	...	...	0	4
Abraham Tishurst	...	...	1	0
W ^m Morrice ...	...	...	0	6
Thomas Kennard	...	...	0	2
Edw Graborne...	...	...	0	2
Rich Gaston ...	...	...	0	4
Abraham Whood	...	...	0	6
Ralph Thomas...	...	...	0	4
Rich. Thomas...	...	...	0	4
John Price ...	...	...	0	4
John Bawcomb	...	...	0	6
Richard Butcher	...	...	0	4
Robert Lattenden	...	...	0	6
Thomas Jenner & daughter	...	...	0	6
John Tishurst stw ^d	...	...	0	6
Henry Wood ...	...	...	0	6
Thomas Paine...	...	...	0	4
Thomas Marsh...	...	..	0	6
Thomas Wimble	...	...	0	6
John Chatfield	...	...	0	3
Thomas Alworke	...	...	0	3
Thomas Neeve...	...	...	0	6
Joseph Blewitt	...	...	0	4
Stephen Tanner	...	...	0	6
Sam. Robinson	...	...	0	5
Isaac Butler ...	...	...	0	4
Mary Weekes ...	...	...	0	2
Thomas Lambkin	...	...	0	2
Joan Beele ...	...	...	0	2
John Beele ...	...	...	0	3

			s	d	
Sam. Pocock ...	...	...	0	6
Martha Lavender ...	...	...	0	2
Mary Shepherd ...	...	...	0	2
Eliz. Turner ...	...	...	0	2
John Morris ...	...	...	0	6
James Godwin...	...	...	0	4
W ^m Turner ...	...	...	0	6
Soloman Sutherden ...	...	...	0	4
W ^m Norry ...	...	...	0	4
John Harvy ...	...	...	0	4
John Harvy ...	...	...	0	4
John Pannell ...	...	...	0	3
Abell Forster ...	...	...	0	6
John Baily ...	...	...	0	6
Ab. Wheatly ...	...	...	0	2
Sam. Tishurst...	...	...	0	4
Goodwife Tishurst ...	...	...	0	6
Jane Barker ...	...	...	0	2
Goodwife Easton ...	...	...	0	3
Eliz. Bray ...	...	...	0	4
Tho. Luck ...	...	...	0	6
Tho. Tailer ...	...	...	0	6
Tho. Wood ...	...	...	0	3
Tho. Wood ...	...	...	0	4
Sim. Bray ...	...	...	0	6
Rich. Bray ...	...	...	0	6
Isaac Critinden ...	...	...	0	6
M ^r . Monlae ...	...	...	0	6
George Neale ...	...	...	1	0
Sam: Plumb ...	...	...	0	6
Edward Bray ...	...	...	0	6
			li	s	d
Sume Total is 2 . 4 . 11					

Here occurs a memorandum which is valuable, as showing the amounts of various payments due by custom for the performance of certain ecclesiastical functions.

“Memdum upon search of the old papers formerly in the hands of Richard Walker churchwarden in the yeare 1666 & delivered unto Anthony Nethercott Vicar of Ashburnham (10)^{br} 22, 1668

The said Anthony having diligently & faithfully Perused all the Papers (which consisted chiefly of bonds for putting out parish children & poore rates and churchwardens accounts) & reserved all of them that may be of use for pressidents for time to come

I doe find these things remarkable

First that in the Booke of Accompts in K^e H. 8 time there is men-

tion of certaine churchlands to the value of ciiij^s y^e half or y^e whole years Quære whether a parcell of land in the occupaon of John Richards yeoman bee not that parcell consisting of 10 acres of very good land

2^{dly} That the clerks wages are cccij^s iij^d per annum (besides allowances for washing linnen & the Church) to be paid by a levy made by the Parishioners for which levy there are several pressidents

3^{dly} That for a grave to be made in the church the fee is vj^s viij^d to the Parish (& soe I paid as Executor for M^r Wigg's grave 1669²⁸).

Ita Dstor Ant. Nethercott

Vic. de Ashburnham

1^{obr} 11th Memdum also that I received for the search of the Register 1688 Booke about the age of Elizabeth & John Thackssbout iij^d as the customary fee paid in other parishes

Ant Nethercott

Recd of Samuel Robinson for churching his wife vi^d for myselfe & iij^d for the Parish Clerk according to the custome

A. Nethercott

Memd. that M^r Goodlad & M^r Wigg did receive of severall persons married by them the sume of three shillings for a marriage as the ministers fee & twelvecence for the Pariss^h Clerk's fee & accordingly I have received of Edwd Graborne & of Robt: Lattenden & John Baurcombe. But upon credible information given in by the most antient inhabitants I understand two shillings and sixpence only to bee due for marrying whereof two shillings for the minister & vj^d for the clerk

Memd^m it is the custome that if any person of another parish bee buried here that the vicar shall receive ten groats for his buriall fee. So received of R^d Thomas of Catsfield for his wife & of R^d Mason of Wartling his Executors 1680 And of Joseph Bluet of Dallington for his son 1682

M^r: John Ashburnham of the Bedchamber's executor he gave mee cloth for a gown cost five pounds

M^r: W^m Ashburnham cofferer to Qy M^{ty} gave mee five pounds for burying ye Lady Countess of Marlburgh.

M^r: Bertram Ashburnham gave mee a ginney for burying his sister M^{rs} Elizabeth Ashburnham (M^r: W^m Ashburnham Executor gave mee a gown worth at least five pounds.²⁹)

John Ashburnham Esq^{re} gave me two ginneys for burying his eldest daughter M^{rs} Frances Ashburnham And for burying his Unckle Bertram Ashburnham Esq^r: two ginneys

A. Nethercott.

And for burying M^{rs} Bridget Ashburnham one ginney

The Lord Ashburnham gave mee two guineas for burying his Lady mother Lady Harthope sometime wife to William Ashburnham the younger Esq^r: father to John Lord Ashburnham "

²⁸ This is added after the compilation.—R. F. W.

²⁹ This is interpolated afterwards.—R. F. W.

Here follows in quite modern writing :—

“Mr. Chilton Ld. Ashburnham’s Steward gave two guineas for burying Ld. Viscount St. Asaph son to John Earl of Ashburnham & Elizabeth his Lady.”

Two noteworthy entries alone remain to complete this notice, viz. :—

³⁰ “The names of such Poore Persons to whom the Ladie Ashburnham’s Benevolence hath been distributed every quarter.

A true copy of the Letter which the Parishioners of Ashburnham desired me John Benbrigge to draw up in their names to return thanks to the rt. honble: dame Dame Elizabeth Richardson for her charitable gift of four pounds per annum for fifteen yeares & her deed whereof is in the Public chest of the church & the copie thereof on the back side of the Title Page of this Register. And being signed by them it was delivered to her eldest son John Ashburnham Esque: who promised to give it her.”

Of these, the former contains the record of the recipients of this benefaction for two years, and then suddenly ends, although ruled columns were prepared for its continuance.

Of the latter, it may be sufficient to mention that the copy of the deed referred to no longer exists, at least in the Parish Chest, but was given *in extenso* in the Paper upon Ashburnham Church read before the meeting of the Society by Mr. Whistler in 1881; and of the Parishioners’ letter to Dame Richardson (dated Ashburnham, September 8, 1650), which is of the nature of a laudatory sermon, it may be remarked that although it might be interesting at a future time to print it as a specimen of the addresses of the period, it would be too long to introduce at the end of a paper already

³⁰ “The first quartridge was delivered to Mr. John Benbrigge at

Lady Day

1650

&

It was by me distributed

to

Robert Morris

William Slaters widow

Thomas Miller

Thomas Turner

Richard Beenie.”

sufficiently prolonged. With the names of the signatories to it we may therefore conclude :—

“ John Benbrigge, minister
 John Ashburnham, John Thomas
 William Dine, churchwarden
 Jefferay — Richard Weekes
 Robert Yielding, William Winssir
 John Ticehurst, of Barnhorne
 John Ticehurst, of Slivericks
 James Manser, John Rich
 Richard Walker, Thomas Towner
 William Gayne, Richd. Broune Collector for the Parish
 John Waters, Parish Clarke & Eliz: Waters
 William Earle, Richard Foorde
 Richd. Medhurst, George Ongly
 William Waters, George Wenham
 Stephen Outridge, Henry Mason
 John Taylor ”
