



The spot marked on the map as the site of the small Chapel dedicated to St. William in the Wood, is now scarcely distinguishable from the surrounding heath, save by very slight traces of its foundation, and a small patch of short smooth grass, amongst which "the wild thyme grows," but free from furze and the coarser plants which flourish all around. About twelve months since, having never seen the spot, I went in search of it; but being without any clue to the place, and seeing no ruined walls as I expected, to indicate its locality, I despaired of finding it. I inquired of an old shepherd who was tending his flock, though with little hope that he could tell me aught of the Chapel of St. William in the Wood; and was surprised to learn from him that I was very near it, and if I followed that sheep-track for about an hundred yards, I should come to it. I asked how I should know the place: his answer was, "You can't mistake it; the grass is short and fine: 'tis holy ground; and no weeds will grow upon it."

Magdalen Chapel is now used as a barn, and is in a very dilapidated condition; but several interesting remains of its Norman architecture are still visible. Near the chapel was the mustering-place of the city trained-bands, the shooting-ground, and wrestling-place. To this place, on St. Mary Magdalen's-day, in the reign of Henry VIII., the Mayor and Corporation repaired with great pomp, for the purpose of "setting the watch" for the approaching winter; and at that time the watchmen attended with their harness or armour fresh scoured, and made a gallant show.

Thorp Wood was cut down and destroyed by the rebels under Kett in 1549. One of its trees, a large branching one, became celebrated as the "Oak of Reformation:" under its shade the arch-rebel and his compeers sat in judgment upon the citizens and gentlemen whom they had taken prisoners.

I have still farther sent a Description of the ancient Boundary of the Precincts of the Cathedral, as claimed by the

Prior and Monks; and an Account of a View taken in the tenth of Henry VIII. of certain lands in Lakenham and Eaton, for the purpose of settling the disputes between the Prior and Citizens, touching the right of commonage, shackleage, &c. in those hamlets.

If you will have the kindness to introduce these papers to the notice of the Committee, I hope they will print any or none of them, as they may think proper.

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

WM. C. EWING.

Boundary of the City and Hamlets of Norwich.

Temp. Philip and Mary.

1. From the river Wenson, by the exterior part of the rivulet called Trowys Eye, to the bridge of Trowys.
2. From the bridge of Trowys, by the exterior part of the bank of the same rivulet, to the bridge of Lakenham.
3. From Lakenham Bridge, by the same outward bank, to the bridge called Hartford Bridge.
4. From Hartford Bridge, by the outward bank of the same rivulet, to Cringleford Bridge.
5. And from thence, by the outer part of the same rivulet, to the bridge of Erelham.
6. And from the same bridge of Erlham, by the outward and Western part of the village of Erlham, direct to the King's Bank, called the King's Bank of Heilesden.
7. And from the same bank to the bridge called Heilesden Bridge.
8. And from the same bridge to the water of the late water-mill of Heilesden, called the Old Mille Dam.
9. And from the same water, by the common way leading through the middle of the village of Heilesden, direct by the

common lane leading on the Eastern part of an inclosure called Heilesden Wood.

10.* And from the North end of the same lane, by a certain green way leading directly to a certain parcel of land upon which a certain cross called the Whyte Crosse was formerly built, being in the King's way leading from the said City to Horsham Sancte Fidis.

11.† And from the same parcel of land directly to the North part of an inclosure called Little Mushold, and by the North part of the same inclosure.

12. And from thence directly to the North part of a sort of inclosure called Wrenne Park, and from thence to the junction of two ways North and East of the foresaid inclosure. Of which two ways, one leads to the City of Norwich, and the other to the Chapel of the blessed Mary Magdalene.

13. And from the foresaid junction of the said ways directly to an inclosure lately called the Safferne Close, leaving the said inclosure on the part of the North.

14. And so from the said inclosure upon a green way directly leading to the wood called Saint William's Woode, and including the said wood.

15. Then by a certain green way lying on the North part of the aforesaid wood, directly to the East end of the wood called Thorp Wood.

16. And so to the high way leading from the said City of Norwich to the village of Thorpe.

17. And by the same way in a Western direction to the North end of a common way.

18. Leading from the said high way to the river of Wenson, near the Manor of Newton, called Newton Hall.

19. And by the same river, in an Eastern direction, by the whole length of the same river to a certain cross called Hardley Crosse. And so returning, including the whole

* At this spot the lower portion of a stone Cross still remains.

† Idem.

breadth of the aforesaid river of Wenson, to the exterior part of the bank called Trowys Eye.

Boundary of the City and Hamlets of Norwich.

Temp. Edw. VI.

Viz. From the abovementioned water of the Wenson, by the outward bank of the rivulet called Trowes Eye, to the bridge of Trowes; and from the aforesaid bridge of Trowce, by the exterior part of the bank, to the bridge of Lakenham; and from the said bridge of Lakenham, by the same bank, to the bridges of Hertford Briggs; and from the two bridges called Hertford Briggs, by the same bank, to the bridge at Cryngilford; and from thence, by the same bank, to the bridge of Erleham; and from the same bridge of Erleham, by the exterior part of the village of Upper Erleham and Nether Erleham, by the said water of Wenson, including the same water of Wenson, to a certain Cross situate in the King's way towards Heylisdon, from the gates of the said City called Coslanygatis;* and from thence, by a circuit by a certain Cross towards Horsham St. Faith's called the White Crosse; and from thence, by a circuit to a certain Cross standing in the King's way towards Catton; and from thence, by a circuit to a certain Cross standing in the King's way towards Sprowston, to the North of the Chapel of the Hospital of St. Marie Magdalene; and from thence by a circuit to the outside of the wood of St. William; and from thence to a certain Cross standing near the wood called Thorp Wood, in a certain way leading from Norwich to Possewik, upon the hill called Seynt Lennard's Hill; and from thence to the said water of Wenson towards Newton Hall, including the said water of Wenson; and by the same water of Wenson from the said Newton Hall to a certain Cross called Hardeley Crosse.

* Now St. Martin's at Oak.

*Description of the Ancient Boundary of the Precincts
of the Cathedral.*

This is the precincts of the libertes and ffrauncheses of the Cathedrall Chirch of the holy Trinite of Norwich, like as it is shewed and takyn by kyng's chartours writyngs, and tried of late by records of Jugements on the kyng's laws; that is for to sey, from a place called Lovell stathe,* abutting upon the rever towards the Est, directly ascendyng onto the common wey called ovyr Consford wey, oncludyng a certeyn grownde sumptyme onhabite parcell of the parisssh of the Chirch of merssh, and sumptyme called Soka Epc., wych is nowe onwalled to the grey ffryers, which inclosyng puttith us nowe on to a streighter precincte, that is for to sey, to cume abouth the seid Grey ffryers walls northward on to a wey under the Awmmers graneris right up ascendyng thurgh a lytill lane sumptyme called Newgate, betwyn the Chirch yerd of Seynt Cuthbert and forsayde grey ffryers, like as it apperith by evident tokens, onto the forsayd over Consford wey; and from thense by the mydde wey of the same strete northwardes, levying Erle Bigottes palayce which is nowe the ffleur Delyce, the Popyngaye, and Ratonrowe,† and the Crosse of Seynt Mychell upon Tumelond on the ryght hand, by the mydde wey a fore the modre Chirch gret gates a bowght the Charnell wall; and from thense by the mydde way ledyng up to the mydde brigge called Seynt Marteyns brigge;‡ and from thens down Estward by the mydde Water to the Cite Wall be twyn the ffryers Carmelits and Poke-thorp medows; then from that wall downe Estward, havying

* Adjoining south to Sandling's Ferry.

† The South end of Tombland was called "Ratton-row;" and the corner house next King Street, or Conisford Street, was a noted tavern, called the "Popingjay."

‡ St. Martin's Bridge, now Whitefriars Bridge.

lete, scruteny, and puneshment, as well upon the lond bothe sydes of the water, turnyng a bought to the forsayd lovell stathe.

Also the precincts of Seynt Powles hospitall, into the mydde wey a bought the Parissh of Seynt Powle.

More ovyr Almanner ryghts of the ffayers from the Son ryse on the vigill of Pentecost yerly onto the Son be down the Tuesday after the octaves of Pentecost, as wel wythin the Cite and every parte theroff as wyth owte a leuge a bought the sayd Cite. §

The Vewe taken of the bounds yn varyans for the Comyn betwene the Maire and Cominaltie of the Cite of Norwich, and the Prior and Convent of Norwich, by the right honorable Thomas Erle of Surry, and by Sir Humfry Conyngesby, knyght, and John Caryll, Justices of Assises, by the specyall commandment of the right reverend ffader yn God Thomas lorde Cardynall, legate of the see of Rome, Archbisshop of Yorke, Chaunceler and prymate of England, takyng to them for assystans and Counsell Sir Thomas Wyndham, knyght, one of the kyngs Councelers, the xxvj day of March the x yere of the reign of kyng Henry the viijth.

In primis the seid Erle, Humfrey, John, and Sir Thomas, wythin the seid day and yere, takyng with them the seid

§ Blomefield says that in 1524, by means of the Cardinal (Wolsey), a composition and final agreement was sealed between the Prior and City, by which the City resigned all jurisdiction within the walls of the Priory, and the Church resigned all jurisdiction without their walls, and within the walls of the City, to the said City, viz. Tombland, with the fairs kept thereon, and all things belonging to the fairs, Holme Street, Spitelond, and Raton-rowe, with full power to join and hold them with the other city leets.

Prior and dyvers of his brether and his Counsell: And in like wise the Maire of the seid Cite with dyvers Aldermen of the same and the Counsell of the seid Cite, went out all to geders at Nedeham gates* of the said Cite southward toward Lakenham, and as they went yn the hye wey ledyng from the seid Cite to a brygge called Hertford brygge there lyeth on the East syde of the seid wey, dyvers londs beyng all arable betwene the Towne dyche of the seid Cite on the North syde of a vylage in Lakenham afforesaid, on the South syde of which londs, that is to sey, all the londs from the Towne Dyche to a Crosse standing yn the seid hye wey to Lakenham belong to dyvers Citizens and inhabitants of the seid Cite, and to dyvers other persons: And the residue therof, that is to sey, from the seid Crosse to the seid village belong to the seid Prior and Convent. In all which londs betwene the seid dyche and village it is witnessed by dyvers olde men of the seid Cite and also by dyvers tenants of the Prior, that the Citizens of the seid Cite have had in shak tyme, after the Corne caryed away, comyn for there bestes. *Item*, there be oder londs lyeng on the South syde of the seid village betwene the same village and the watter rynnynge by Hertford brygge, of which londs parte lyeth in tillage and parte lyeth in pasture. In all which londs the seid Cite claymeth lyke comyn, that is to sey, yn the pasture grounds all the tymes of the yere, and yn the arable grounds yn shak tyme; nevertheless they brought not sufficient proves to have eny Comyn yn that ground. And on the contrarie parte the seid Prior brought yn witnesses that the Catell of the seid Cite were dystreyned when they come within the seid bounds, and within the seid bounds lyeth the vij acres of londe which the Citizens of the seid Cite relessed all there right by fyne to the prediccorys of the seid Prior yn the tyme of kyng John.

And on the West syde of the seid wey, ledyng from the

* Nedeham Gates, now St. Stephen's Gates.

seid Cite to the seid brygge, lyeth next to the Towne dych dyvers arable londs. And on the South parte of the same arable londs lyeth a grete pasture to ward the seid brygge unto a hill distyng downe unto the same brygge and lyeth betwene the same hye wey on the East parte and the Town of Eyton, and extendeth unto the same Towne and yn to the same Towne on the West parte. In all which pasture it is proved by witnes and also aggreed by both parties that the Citizens of the seid Cite have always had Comyn yn the seid Comyn pastures for there bestes all the tyme of the yere. In which pastures lyeth dyvers parcels of londs that have ben occupied with tillage. And the seid Prior claymeth dyvers parcels of the londs within the seid bounds to be his severall, to eyre* and sawe, at his pleasure. And the seid Citizens to have no Comyn theryn but onely yn shak tyme; and for the proof of the seid severall londs, the seid Prior brought yn dyvers witnesses that dyd see the same parcels both eyred and sowed, some of them xl yers past and more, and some of them syth that tyme. Nevertheless dyvers olde men of the seid Cite depose that they have knowen the seid londs this lx yers and more, and that the Citizens of the seid Cite have used there Comyn theryn aswell as yn odyr places. And that by all the same tyme they never sawe the seid parcels ered ne sowed, &c.

Item, there is another grounde betwene the seid hill distyng to the seid brygge and the Ryver comyng by the same brygge, and extendeth from the seid hye Wey unto the Town of Eyton, grete part of which is arable and lyeth to tillage, and parte thereof is medowe and more, in which medowe and more, the seid Citizens clame Comyn of pasture all the tymes of ther yere, and yn the seid arable grounde yn shak tyme. As for this article it is shewed by witnes that grete parte of the seid medowe belong to the seid Prior, and parte to the Abbot of Seynt Benetts, and parte to dyvers

* Eyre, to plough.

oder persons, and they have ever used to mowe the same, and that the Citizens nor none oder used to have Comyn there but yn shak tyme when the corne and hey were caryed away. And then to Comyn aswell yn the seid more, as yn the seid medowe and londs, unto our Lady day in March.

Item, where my lorde Cardynall ordred that the seid Prior shuld ley out to the Comyn xl acres of londe, which the seid Maire and Citizens seyid that it was the xl acres specyfyed yn the seid fyne, and seyde that they wold shewe where xxxiiij of the seid xl acres lyeth. The seid Commyssyoners have herd and seyn all that ever they can sey or shewe theryn, and as yet they can neyther fynde ne have eny contente therof.

Item, the seid Commyssyoners vewed and sawe a pasture grounde lyeng by the wode syde on the Est parte, and at the wode end at the North parte yn Eyton afforeseid. In which grounde it is agreed by both parties that the seid Citizens have ever used to have Comyn, and also in the arable grounde lyeng therto in shak tyme. And it is shewed unto the seid Commyssyoners by the seid Maire and Aldermen, that the grounde where as the seid wode groweth was taken out of the seid Comyn, and sett with accornes and nowe is a wode. And for the proff therof, one Walter Colls of Eyton afforeseid, deposeth that he sawe his ffader ere the seid grounde and set it with accornes aboute l. yers paste and more, and that he helped to geder the accorns to sett the grounde withall, &c. †

† Blomefield says that, about 1524, the City resigned to the Church all right and prescription of commonage in Eaton and Lakenham, and the Prior's lands in those towns; and the King, to settle it firmly, licensed the City to receive, and the Prior and Convent to convey to the City for ever, eighty acres of ground and pasture, parcel of the said Common, now called the *Town Close*, in lieu of such right of commonage.