

## Autographs

OF

SIR MILES HOBART AND ANTHONY HOBART,

WITH

SOME PARTICULARS RESPECTING THOSE INDIVIDUALS;

IN

A LETTER FROM JAMES COPEMAN, ESQ., OF LODDON,

Local Secretary,

TO DAWSON TURNER, ESQ., V. P.

Loddon, 10th June, 1847.

MY DEAR SIR,

When I had the pleasure to meet you at Yarmouth, a few days since, I told you that I had the autographs of Sir Miles Hobart and of his relative, Anthony Hobart; and I have now the pleasure of sending them. They may possibly interest some of

the Society, who may be disposed to draw inferences from hand-writing as to character: inferences that

may hold good in a general point of view, as those of the phrenologist deduced from the expansive forehead, or of the

*Miles Hobarte*

*Anthony Hobarte:*

physiognomist from the open countenance. The residence of the latter was at Hales Hall, adjoining Loddon. They were both Norfolk Justices, and in that character signed the enclosed apprenticeship document, dated 1st July, 1628, for the binding of James Shreeffe, till the twenty-fourth year of his age, to Thomas Codd. Miles Hobart is the celebrated personage mentioned in chapter li., by Hume, who does not so precisely relate the particulars of the memorable occurrence in the House of Commons on the 2nd March, 1628, as is done in Baker's *Chronicle*. "They locked the doors of the House, and gave the keys to Sir Miles Hobarte, one of their Members, to keep, and refused to admit the Usher of the Black Rod." Anthony was the son of Henry Hobart, by Margaret daughter of Thomas Rous, of Henham, Esq. (Blomefield, VIII., p. 19, *Hales Parish*.)

The third bell of Loddon Church has the following inscription around it: "Anthony Hobart, Esquyre, Churchwarden, Anno dni 1616." You are aware that his ancestor erected this beautiful building. An inscription on stained glass in one of its windows, of which I recovered some fragments, contained the following: "Orate pro aia Jaçi Hobart militis & attornati dni regis, qui hanc ecclesiam a primis fundamentis condidit in tribus annis cum suis propriis bonis, anno regis Henrici septimi undecimo."

The stables (now a farm-house) formerly of Hales Hall, once the seat of Sir James Hobart, are standing; and the foundation of the outer walls of the mansion were lately pointed out to me in the present stackyard. He died 26th December, 1525, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. His grandson, Sir Henry Hobart, Knight and Baronet, became also Chief Judge of the same court, and Chancellor to Henry and Charles, Princes of Wales. The Burial Register of Loddon records: "Henry Hoberte, Esquier, deceased this lief at Norwich the xxx daie of Aprill, and was buried at this our towne of Loddon the xx day of

May, Anno dni 1561." His tomb in the chancel has, on brass, "Of your Charitie praye for y<sup>e</sup> Soule of Henry Hoberte, Esquier."

Lady Dionis Williamson, who gave £2001 towards the rebuilding of St. Paul's, occupied the mansion, and died at the age of seventy-four on the 24th day of January, 1684. Her monument is on the north side of the chancel. On the south side, within the rails, is another tomb, thus inscribed on brass: "Here lyeth the body of James Hobart, Esq., and Frances his wife, daught<sup>r</sup> unto Sir Willia<sup>m</sup> Drury, of Hausted, in y<sup>e</sup> Count<sup>y</sup> of Suff., K<sup>t</sup>., who lived together 60 years, and had issue 8 So<sup>n</sup>es and 6 daught<sup>r</sup>s. She de<sup>p</sup>ted this life y<sup>e</sup> 12 of June, 1609; and he de<sup>p</sup>ted the 6 day of Februy, 1615. His age 91.

"FOR VIRTUE AND HOSPITALITY  
DEO HOMINIBUSQ. CARL."

Several of the Hobarts, even females, were, immediately after the bold affair at the House of Commons, excommunicated, as I find by a memorandum in the Parish Book of Loddon. "Audery Hobart, Frances Hobart, Roger, Miles, &c. These parties were excommunicate the 22 July, 1629, by virtue of a Warrant of the Lord's Grace of Canterbury, his Official. They were presented in the Visitation holden upon the death of the Rev<sup>d</sup>. John Jegon, last Bishop of Norwich, but did not appeare. Therefore upon contumacy." The Warrant is dated "7<sup>o</sup> die Junii, Anno 1629, Sub Sigillo Archyepisc<sup>o</sup>."

The Hobart Estate passed, with several Manors extending into Loddon and Hales, from James, the Son of Anthony Hobart, 12 Car. I. (See Blomefield, *Hales Parish*.) to Henry Humberston, Esquire, who had, with an amorous delinquent, unhappily incurred the displeasure of the churchwardens; or rather, the Ecclesiastical Law enjoined the official performance of an act which was not always done from the purest motives, but often to gratify private malignity.

“27<sup>o</sup> April, 1620.

“Loddon. The veredicte of Tho. Codd & Tho. Pecke, Churchwardens, William Smith, Rob<sup>t</sup>. Davy, and Henry Symond, Sydemen, sworn and examined the daie & yere abovesaid, in the ordinary Visitation of Samuell Lord Bishopp of Norwich, as followeth :

“They present Hen. Homerstone, Gen<sup>l</sup>., and his Wife, for not receivge the Holy Communion at Easter last past.

“Ede Browne sen<sup>l</sup> & eadm.

“They say their Minister is a M<sup>r</sup> of artes.

“They p<sup>s</sup>ent Ede Browne, ju<sup>r</sup>. for liveinge incontinently with one Eliz. \* \* \* , his late Servante, as the co<sup>m</sup>on fame goeth.”

I have drawn your attention to Loddon Church. Its font was once distinguished by the beauty of its sculpture; and, on turning to the books of the churchwardens (regularly kept from 1 Phil. and Mary 1554, to the present time), I find (A.D. 1642) on the same page which mentions the “League and Covenant” of the Cromwellian era, also the name of the barbarian employed to deface the font, and the price of his execrable labours.

	£.	s.	d.
“Laide out to <i>Rochester</i> , the glaser, defasinge			
of the Images in the Church . . . . .	. 0	6	0
Thomas Randandall for writinge Covenant . . . . .	. 0	1	0”

These books relate to every subject which busied the heads and hands, and agitated the feelings of the inhabitants; including subsidies, tasks, aids, benevolences, rents, wages, corn, food, materials, burthens, visitations, afflictions, rejoicings, &c. during the long period of nearly three centuries; but no complaint appears about Church Rates; for there were none, as the revenue of the Town Farm, left, it is believed, by the Hobarts, and augmented by Lady Williamson, rendered a tax of that description unnecessary.

I transcribe a few of the entries of an early date.

“ Hereafter followythe all suche somes of money as John Copping & John Felld, Church wardens, have payed & layd owt syns the last accownte beyng the x<sup>th</sup> day of March, in anno Regnorum Philippi et Mariæ Regis et Reginae primo & secundo.

Itm. to Wyll <sup>m</sup> . Abbottes for wayshing of xiiij surples and two towells . . . . .	viiij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd to the Wydow Dawson for hyr husbonds wags & for washyng & skoryng . . . . .	viiij <sup>s</sup> .
Itm. for ij. gyrdylls for the vestments . . . . .	iiij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd to the goodwyfe gorbowlld for the vysyters costes . . . . .	xiiij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd for v <sup>lb</sup> waxe . . . . .	iiiij <sup>s</sup> . ij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd to the myller for gryndyng of corn agaynste the drynkyng . . . . .	ix <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd to torner for makyng of the roode . . . . .	vj <sup>s</sup> . viij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd for tymber for the roode . . . . .	xij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd to Plafords wyffe for bere . . . . .	iiij <sup>s</sup> .
Itm. payd to the goodman Copping for j buyshelle of Whete against the gaudayes . . . . .	ij <sup>s</sup> . viij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd to John Fellds Wyffe for the wayshyng of one awter clothe & one towelle . . . . .	iiij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. to John Nockes for Kollers for the roode . . . . .	xiiij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd for drynk for the ryngers at Whyt- sunteyde . . . . .	xiiij <sup>d</sup> .”

A. D. 1556.

“ Itm. for a man to helpe the cloke maker a daye & for mete & drynke . . . . .	viiij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. for menddyng of the seppoulker . . . . .	iiiij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd to the baelye of the hundreth for marcyament of the town boottes . . . . .	iiiij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd to the baelye of the hundreth for the marcyament of the prevy breche . . . . .	iiij <sup>d</sup> .

Itm. payde for wypppe corde for y <sup>e</sup> waylle . . . . .		ij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. for wypppe corde for the rode lofte . . . . .		ij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd to Hethfelld for makyng of the Sepulker tymber and bord . . . . .	vj <sup>s</sup> .	vj <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd for the Pyckes (Pyx) . . . . .	v <sup>s</sup> .	iiij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd at Norwyche for bookes . . . . .	xx <sup>s</sup> .	
Itm. payd for iiiij <sup>lb</sup> waxe . . . . .	ij <sup>s</sup> .	iiij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payd for the makyng of the waxe . . . . .		vij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. to the tynkker for 1 Claspe for the byble . . . . .		ij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payde to Plafors Wyfe for ij ferkyns of bere for y <sup>e</sup> Chancele for y <sup>e</sup> gaudayse . . . . .	ij <sup>s</sup> .	iiij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. payde to John Felldes Wyffe for making of ij Rotchetes . . . . .	iiij <sup>s</sup> .	vj <sup>d</sup> ."

As the Roman Catholic Service and Ritual were then restored, we may account for several of these payments by referring them to the usages of that church, in accordance with which the parishioners were to provide at their own charge, amongst other matters, a Pyx, *three* towels (two to be laid upon the altar, and the third for wiping the hands), *three* surplices for the use of the priest, deacon, and sub-deacon; and a rochet.

The "byble," for which the "clasp" was charged, was, I suppose, "the bible of the largest volume," ordered by the 80th Canon, directed by the second of Lord Cromwell's injunctions under Henry VIII., and enforced by proclamation in the 33rd of his reign, under a penalty of 40s. (Vide Burn's *Ecclesiastical Law*.)

In the account rendered 20th January, 5 Phil. & Mary, appear charges in regard to the altar.

"Itm. payd to Rivett for the makyng of the hyghe aulter & pavyng . . . . .		xvj <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. to Gylberd for servynge of hyme . . . . .		iiij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. to Dawsons sonne for the lyke . . . . .		iiij <sup>d</sup> .
Itm. for Bordyng of them, in all tenne dayes . . . . .		ij <sup>s</sup> ."

Under 4th May, 1614:

“Imprimis, laide out for the aide due to the Kings Moste Excellent Matie for the Marriage of the noble Ladie Elizabeth, tenne shillings.”

Baker's *Chronicle*, after mentioning that “on the 14<sup>th</sup> February (1612), being Shrove Sunday, this happy marriage was solemnized in the Chapel at White Hall,” gravely informs us, “that the Bride was led to Church by two Bachelors (her Brother Prince Charles and the Earl of Northampton, Lord Privy Seal), attired all in White, having a rich Crown of gold upon her head, her hair hanging down at length, curiously beset with Pearls and precious stones, her train supported by 12 young ladies in White Garments,” &c.

With regard to the “aide,” you need not be informed that it was recognized by 25 Edw. 3, c. 11, as the existing law, thus:

“It is assented that reasonable aid, to make the King's eldest son a Knight, and to marry his eldest daughter, shall be demanded and levied after the form of the Statute thereof made; that is to say, of every Knight's fee holden of the King xx<sup>s.</sup>, and of every xx<sup>l.</sup> of Land holden of the King in socage xx<sup>s.</sup>, and no more.”

In 1614:

“Itm. for three quarters of hollane, for the Communion Copp, & to carry the bread to Church		xv <sup>d.</sup>
Itm. the 22 <sup>d</sup> of April, six pynts and bread	. iij <sup>s.</sup>	ij <sup>d.</sup>
Itm. the 24 of April, eight pynts and bread	. iiij <sup>s.</sup>	ij <sup>d.</sup>
Itm. for eight pynts of wyne and bread, 27 of Aprill	. . . . .	. iiij <sup>s.</sup> ij <sup>d.</sup>
Itm. the 2 May, nyne pynts	. . . . .	. iij <sup>s.</sup> iij <sup>d.</sup> ”

As the population of Loddon at that time was inconsiderable, the quantity of wine (thirty-one pints), from the 22<sup>nd</sup>

April to the 2nd May (ten days), could not, I imagine, be wholly used for a sacramental purpose, but on some festive occasion. Indeed, the parish officers appear to have been frequently lavish of good cheer.

“7 Eliz. Itm. layed out for wyne for the marriage of Robert Gryemes.

	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
“Payd this 24 <sup>th</sup> of Aprell, 1661, for 2 barrell of the best beere and 1 <sup>lb.</sup> of tobaco to give the Capitaine and his souldgers, on the appointment of M <sup>r</sup> . Homerston and M <sup>r</sup> . Lawes . . . . .	1	12	6”

In 1627 there is an entry relative to Yarmouth.

“Itm. laid out to Kempe the Constable upon a Warrant that cam from the lefetenant for the making of mounts at Yarmouth . . . . .	1	4	0”
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You will know to what this refers. A Copy of the Warrant of the Deputy Lieutenant, dated from the Maid’s Head, Norwich, 6th April, 1626, is given in Swinden’s *History*, p. 119, addressed to the Chief Constables of every Hundred in Norfolk, for a “Contribution towards the repairs of the Town of Yarmouth, and the walls, bulwarks, and forts there, in this time of danger, against attempts of the enemy; and it is to be presumed that there is no man that carrieth a true heart to his sovereign and to his country, but for the honor of the one, and the security of the other, he will willingly contribute.”

In conclusion of this rambling, and, I fear, already unconscionably long letter, I will venture to subjoin, what I hope may be new to most of our members, as taken from a book of great rarity, (Stevenson’s *Norfolk Drollery*, London, 12mo. 1673), and may be interesting, as illustrative of the character of the man, and of the style of the poetry of the

times, the following "Elegy upon Miles Hobart, Esq., who dy'd the Friday before Good Friday."

"What time we thought our *fasting* almost *done*,  
 Another *Lent* our mourning has begun.  
 A *Lent* two Fridays hath, both dy'd in blood:  
 Ah me (sweet *Miles*) the bad forestalls the good.  
 And yet, please you, we'l both good *Fridays* call,  
 His for himself, our Saviour's for us all.  
 He left no Widow to bedew his Hearse,  
 With fruitless, if not hypocritick teares.  
 But, as an Angel of a nobler sphear,  
 He was in this, as all things, singular.  
 Such was his lofty and prodigious wit,  
 No *Jacob's* staff could take the height of it.  
 And such his candour, *Titus*-like, he sent  
 None from his presence sad or discontent.  
 So just, so generous, so gentile was he,  
 No man can say, h' as lost an Enemy.  
 Coaches and numerous horsemen have wel prov'd,  
 How much lamented, and how much belov'd;  
 Who thought it not enuff at home to mourne,  
 But many Miles rid weeping to his Urn.  
 Where neither Brass nor Marble need be spent,  
 Name but *Miles Hobart*, 'tis a Monument."

I am,

My dear Sir,

Your truly obliged,

JAMES COPEMAN.

To Dawson Turner, Esq.

