

REMARKS, BY JAMES COPEMAN, ESQ.,
 UPON
 A MANUSCRIPT OF THE YEAR M.D.LVII.
 The Property of E. R. Pratt, Esq., of Ryston ;
 CONTAINING
 AN ACCOUNT OF THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS RESIDENT IN THE FAMILIES
 OF THE SEVERAL OCCUPANTS OF LAND IN THE DIFFERENT PARISHES OF THE HUNDRED
 OF CLACKCLOSE, NORFOLK,
 AND THE QUANTITY OF CORN IN THE POSSESSION OF EACH.
 COMMUNICATED BY
 DAWSON TURNER, ESQ., V.P.

THE manuscript above alluded to, containing 110 pages, fairly written, and evidently proved, as well by the handwriting as by the water-mark of the paper—a hand and star—to be of the time it professes, was confided to my care, three or four years since, by the kindness of the Rev. George Henry Dashwood. It appeared to me from the first to be well deserving of the attention of our Society; could but a satisfactory light be thrown upon its history and object. But here unexpected difficulties presented themselves. I submitted it to the greater number of those friends whom I regarded as most likely to be qualified to assist me; but no one was able to point out any Commission or Proclamation under which the presentment was made; nor could they agree, whether it was to be regarded as designed to serve for the basis of an intended taxation, or as the means of putting Government in possession of the quantity of the different kinds of corn actually in hand, with the view either of guarding against famine, or of providing food for the troops in the event of a hostile incursion. Very remarkable also did it appear to them, as to myself, that numerous, extremely numerous, as such returns must necessarily have been, supposing them to have been made by every hundred of

every county in the kingdom, not a single other should be known to be extant or should have been heard of. Even Sir Francis Palgrave, Deputy-Keeper of the Records, could tell me of no one in any of the great national repositories under his charge. And thus I continued in obscurity and unable to act, till, upon shewing the manuscript to our valuable Local Secretary, Mr. Copeman of Loddon, his learning and acuteness supplied the desired clue. With his permission I subjoin his letter to me on the subject; prefixing to it the general heading of the document and a portion of the return of the Parish of Barton, the first in the book, as a specimen of the whole—a sort of “*ex pede Herculem.*”

CLACCLOYS HUNDREDE.

The certifiat and verdic mayd and delyverede by George Wyllowyhby, esquyer, Umfry Shuldham, esquyer, Robart Mylles, gent., Thomas Ingylbryght, Wyllm Walkr, John Dolyvale, Rychard Guybone, Rychard Harple, Xpöfer Mas-ham, John Olyet, Wyllm Walphin, Thomas Constable, Thomas Pranke, John Hubarde, yemē, according to the articles unto the whiche thay were sworne and chargid to present, the xiiij daye of Marche, in the thyrde and fourthe yeres of the raygnes of o^r soüreigne lorde and soüreigne lady Kyng Phillippe and Quene Mary, by the grace of God Kyng and Quene of Englonde, ffrance, Naples, Jerusalem, and Ire-
londe, &c.

Bartone.

George Gänar, in his howsholde vij p̄sons.

In barly viij combes.

In malt j combe.

In rye iiij combes.

He shall sow this yere xvj ac^r w^t barly. — ij^{lb}.

He haithe a kyll.

Robart Menyke, vj pšones.

In barly xij combes.

In malt vj boschells.

In rye ij combes.

He hath a kyll.

He shall sow this yere xxiiij acf. — ij^{lb}.

George Roose, vj persones.

Dothe sow this yere ij acf. and di.

In barly iiij combes (for ñkett ij combes iij bs. and di. boshell);

& in malt ij combes;

& j combe rye. — ij^{lb}.

Henry Goodryke, iij pšones.

He haith no grayne nor malte. — not^s.

George Seykes and his wyfe:

have no grane. — not^s.

— Sekes, iij pšons: no grayne. — not^s.

John Mower, iiij pšons: no grayne. — not^s.

John Austyn, viij persons.

Doth sow this yere xxx acf.

He haith a kyll.

He have viij combes barly. — ij^{lb}.

Thomas Kandlar, iiij persones.

He haith a kyll.

He sowethe this yere xij. accf.

He haith but iiij combes barly. — ij^{lb}.

Robart Kempe, viij pšons.

He hayth a kyll.

He haith ij combes malt of mable brushe of Dounham, & vij combes malt, & v combes ; in barly xxx combes.

In meslyn viij combes.

Sowythe this yere xxiiij ac̄ w^t barly. — ij^{lb}.

John Aschwell, iij p̄sones.

He haith j bs. & di. rye. — not^g.

John Harply, v p̄sones.

He haith a kyll.

He soweth this yere xx ac̄ w^t barly.

He haith in malt iij combes.

In barly x cōbes.

In rye j bs. — ij^{lb}.

Abram Kortyne, x p̄sones.

He haith a kyll.

He soweth this yere xl ac̄ in barlye.

In barly xxxv combes.

He oweth to m^r John Teryke, esquere, xx combes barly for ferme.

In rye v combes.

In malt iiij combes. — ij^{lb}.

Roger Emnytht, iiij p̄sons : haith no grayne but iij boshels, & he must sow this yere iij ac̄ barly. — not^g.

John Farrar, p̄sone of Saynt Andrews :

v p̄sons. He haith a kyll. He sowethe this yere xxvj ac̄ w^t barly.

Haith in barly xxiiij combes.

In rye viij cōbes, & iij combes of rye for the m̄kett.

Thomas Stedeman, ix p̄sons.

Haithe a kyll. He sowethe this yere xl ac̄ barly.

He haithe in barly vj combes, & x combes for the ñkett.
 In malt xx combes, & x combes for the ñkett.
 In meslyn xij combes; vj combes for the ñkett.
 In wheate iiij combes, & ij combes for the ñkett.
 Mr Dethyke must have v combes barly for ferme.

Loddon, 25th June, 1849.

MY DEAR SIR,

After reflecting upon Mr. Pratt's curious manuscript, relative to the proceedings taken in the 3rd and 4th Philip and Mary in Clackclose Hundred, I feel myself only the more confirmed in the opinion I gave you; and have, in compliance with your wishes, committed the following remarks concerning it to paper.

I observe that the manuscript professes to be a certificate and verdict, made and delivered by fourteen persons, according to articles to which they had been sworn, and which they accordingly presented.

There will, I submit to you, be no great difficulty in ascertaining the particular occasion of this "Certificate," and the cause of some persons having a mark of £2. opposite to the description given of their property, whilst others are exempted from contribution by the exonerating word, "nothing;" the richer proprietors and occupiers being charged 40s. each, whilst the comparatively poor were passed by scot free.

The occasion alluded to was a *subsidy*; but this document might also serve to point out the quantity of corn in the Hundred, and (under legislative authority) a class of agricultural offenders, and those who were liable to the repair of gaols and bridges.

By an Act of Parliament of 2nd and 3rd Philip and Mary, c. 23, a subsidy of the laity was granted, of 8*d.* in the pound on property of the value of from £5. to £10.; of 12*d.* in

the pound on property of the value of from £10. to £20.; and of 16*d.* in the pound on property of the value of from £20. and upwards; but the subsidy of the clergy was in the same year fixed at 6*s.* in the pound.

To levy a subsidy in accordance with the law and custom of that period, the Lord Chancellor, or Keeper of the Great Seal, issued into every Shire, City, Town, and Borough, a Commission to personages whom he approved; and they directed a precept to such number of "substantial, discreet, and honest persons" as they deemed requisite. Each of them was sworn before the Commissioners as follows: "I shall truly enquire with my fellows that shall be charged with me of the Hundred, &c., of the most value of the substance of every person abiding within the limits of the places that I and my fellows shall be charged with; and thereupon, as near as may be, truly present and certify before you the names and surnames, and the utmost substance and values of every of them, as well of lands, tenements, and other hereditaments, possessions, and profits, as of goods, chattels, debts, and other things chargeable; without any concealment, love, favour, affection, dread, fear, or malice, as near as God will give me grace."

After making this Inquisition, the "substantial, discreet, and honest persons" were to sign a "Certificate," and deliver it to the Commissioners.

These acts were done in Clackclose Hundred by George Wyllowby, Esquire, and his thirteen companions, named in your manuscript, in the well-known course of that period; as appears by the minute directions of an Act passed one or two years afterwards (1st Eliz. c. 21), which granted a subsidy and two fifteenths and tenths, "*to be paid, taken, and levied in manner and form aforetime used;*" and which provided, that from the property of each owner and occupier "a deduction was to be made of every sum which he or they do owe, and in his or their conscience intend truly to pay."

That rule was observed in your manuscript; for we find that Abram Kortyne and Thomas Stedeman were liable to their landlords for corn which had not been rendered.

My attention having been particularly drawn in your extract relating to Barton parish to the name of "John Farrar, p̄sone of Saynte Andrews,"—whose household consisted of five persons, and his possessions of twenty-three coombs of barley, with a kiln for making it into malt, and eleven coombs of rye (three being for sale), besides sufficient barley for the seed of twenty-six acres, intended to be planted—I looked into Blomefield's *Norfolk*, and discovered a notice of this John Farrar, in Clackclose Hundred, (Parish, Barton,) showing that, though learned, he was unmarried, unlicensed, non-resident, and inhospitable.* He succeeded Henry Gardynere, who had been deprived in 1555, "being a secular married priest."

I beg your excuse for this digression about the personal and, in some respects, not enviable qualities of the man, and now proceed to the auxiliary or incidental uses of the manuscript.

At the time of making this Inquisition, it was important to obtain the information which it supplied with reference to the quantity of corn in the district. Baker, in his *Chronicle*,

* Under the head of Barton All Saints, *Blomefield*, Vol. VII., p. 286, the name of John Fayrhawr, alias Farrar, occurs, as "presbyter, non conjugatus, satis doctus, non residet, non hospitalis, in Rectoriâ suâ de Barton Andreâ non prædicat, nec licentiatus."

To "keep hospitality," is a phrase found continually in the questions of the Episcopal Visitations. The Injunctions of Edward VI., 1547, in Cardwell's Documents, have, "whether they be resident upon their benefices and keep hospitality, or no; and, if they be absent, whether they do make the due distributions among the poor parishioners, or not. They shall gladly receive persons sufficiently licensed to declare the Word of God." Again, in 1554, it is asked, "whether the Minister, being able, do keep hospitality, feeding his flock with his good living, with his teaching, and relieving them to his power." And, in the return made by Bishop Cox, of Ely, to Archbishop Parker, the answer in one case is, "non alit hospitium."

under the reign of Queen Mary, says, "In her fourth year before harvest, wheat was sold for four marks the quarter, malt for four and forty shillings the quarter, and pease at six and forty shillings and eight pence." This, of course, was a famine price; and an Act of 2nd and 3rd Philip and Mary records a lamentation, that, "Contrary to a laudable custom, divers purveyors had of late excessively frequented the markets of Cambridge and Oxford, and thereby given occasion to make victuals more scant and much dearer, to a notorious decay of scholars, *which also in this great dearth is likely to increase*, to the hindrance of God's service, the dishonour of the Realm, and the discomfort of all good and holy men loving learning and virtue." And, about the same time, that is, in 1st and 2nd Philip and Mary, c. 5, there is a dolorous preamble, that "sundry covetous and unsatiable persons, seeking their own lucre and gains, daily do carry and convey innumerable quantity, as well of corn, cheese, butter, and other victual, as of wood, out of this Realm into parts beyond the seas; by reason whereof, the said corn, victual, and wood, *are grown into a wonderful dearth* and extreme prices, to the great detriment of the commonwealth."

In order to ascertain the quantity of corn and grain in the realm, and the state of cultivation of the soil, a general inquiry was instituted at that very time by the legislature (2nd and 3rd Philip and Mary, cap. 2); which enacted, that "Commissions shall be awarded to certain persons, to hear and determine all defaults and offences committed since 10th Henry VIII., contrary to the statutes 4th Henry VII., and 7th Henry VIII., c. 1. The Commissioners shall bind by recognizance, in good sums of money to the King and Queen's use, the persons offending in any decays or defaults, for the re-edifying of decayed houses, for the converting of pasture into tillage again, and for the destroying and diminishing of conies in a ground in or near any corn-field, not being lawful warren."

Your manuscript regarding "Claccloys Hundrede," contains the precise information which was then demanded, relative to the number of persons in each household, the quantity of grain and malt in store, and the quantity of corn about to be used or planted for future crops.

The ominous "ij^{lb}." may, besides answering the purposes of the subsidy, indicate the defaulters, who were bound in those "good sums" to observe the legislative requirement in the management of their occupations.

This statute of 2nd and 3rd Phil. and Mary, cap. 2, was in confirmation of 4th Henry VII., cap. 19; and by looking at the preamble of the latter, which is very curious, we shall see clearly what was meant to be redressed:

"The King, our Soueraigne Lord, having a singular pleasure about all things to auoide such enormities and mischiefes as bee hurtfull and prejudiciall to the common weale of this his land and his subjects of the same, remembreth that, among other things, great inconveniences daily doe increase by desolation and pulling downe, and wilfull waste of houses and townes within this Realme, and laying to pasture lands which customably have bene vsed in tillage; whereby idlenesse, which is the ground and beginning of all mischiefes, daily doth encrease. For where, in some townes, two hundred persons were occupied and lived by their lawfull labours, now there are occupied two or three heardmen, and the residue fall into idlenesse; the husbandrie, which is one of the greatest commodities of this Realme, is greatly decayed; Churches destroyed, the service of God withdrawn, the bodies there buried not prayed for, the Patrons and Curates wronged, the defence of this land against our enemies outward feebled and impaired, to the great displeasure of God, to the subuersion of the pollicie and good rule of this land, if remedie be not prouided."

As these grievances continued, Henry VIII. caused it to be enacted in the seventh year of his reign, (cap. 1) "If any

person shall decay a town, a hamlet, or house of husbandry, or convert tillage into pasture, the immediate lord of the fee shall have the moiety of the offender's lands until the offence be reformed."

We find by Baker, that in the harvest of the year after this Inquisition, (that is, 5th Philip and Mary,) "there was a great mortality, and especially of priests; so as many churches were unserved, and much corn was lost in the field for want of workmen; whereupon ensued a great scarcity, so that corn was sold for 14s. a quarter, and wood sold in London for 13s. a thousand billets, and coals ten pence a sack."

When the inquisition was completed, it also effectually served another purpose; in shewing what persons were liable to the repairs of gaols and bridges, under the Statutes of 22nd Henry VIII., cap. 5, and 23rd Henry VIII., cap. 2, by the ownership of lands of the annual value of £2., or by the possession of moveables worth £20.

I am aware that to the general reader who seeks amusement only, this reference to Acts of Parliament must necessarily be dry and uninteresting; but in attempting to explain and illustrate a statistical document of this nature, I was glad to have access to sources so authentic as the Statutes of the Realm, some of which, being obsolete, are not to be found in the huge volumes printed for public use, but exist in the black-letter tomes of bygone ages. If you think my labour in collecting these materials will be of the slightest service with reference to your manuscript, I shall feel gratified; but should you deem me to be in error, you will oblige me by kindly laying aside this paper, as an unsuccessful effort on the part of,

My dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

JAMES COPEMAN.

To Dawson Turner, Esq.