

Charter of Sir Thomas Erpingham and another,

FEOFFEES FOR THE LORD DE MORLEY,

*Dated 25th March, 8 Henry V., in the possession of the
Rev. Henry Wright of Thuxton.*

COMMUNICATED BY

G. A. CARTHEW, ESQ., F.S.A., M.A.I.

OF Sir Thomas Erpingham, the first party to the Indenture copied and translated below, I can say nothing that is not well known both to citizens of Norwich as the founder of the Erpingham Gate, and to all readers of English history in Shakspeare as "good old knight," and "old Sir Thomas Erpingham." (*King Henry V.*) His seal attached to it is of great beauty. Although an important party to this deed, he had no other interest in the manors and property which were affected by it than as a feoffee or trustee, jointly with Richard Drewe (the other conveying party), Henry late Lord Bishop of Norwich (Henry de Spenser the famous warrior), and others deceased, whose names are not given, for Thomas, a former Lord Morley, under a deed dated on Thursday after the Feast of St.

Margaret, in the second year of King Henry IV., answering to the 21st of July, 1401. This Thomas Lord Morley was summoned to Parliament from 1381 (5 Richard II.) to 4 Henry V. (1415), in which year he died, leaving Anne his second wife, daughter of Edward Lord Despenser and widow of Sir Hugh Hastings of Elsing; his estate descending to Thomas Lord Morley his grandson, then twenty-eight years of age, (Sir Robert Morley the eldest son having died in his father's lifetime) subject to the dower of his grandmother Anne, which entitled her to a life interest in one-third.

Isabella, the wife of Thomas the grandson, was a daughter of Michael de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and thereupon he called upon his feoffees to make a regrant and resettle the estate, which they carried into effect by the deed now produced, on the 25th of March, in the eighth year of King Henry V., which was the first day of the year of our Lord 1420 (old style), the limitation being to Thomas the party and Isabella and their lawful issue; but, in default of such issue, to the right heirs of Thomas the grandfather. At the time of his death, 14 Henry VI., 1435, he and Isabella were jointly seized of the estate. They were both buried in Hingham Church, we are told, under the fine inarched monument in the north wall.

Robert Lord Morley, his son, who was sixteen years old at his father's death, in the same year confirmed to Isabel his mother all her right in the manor and advowson of Hingham, and the fishery called Semer', and manors and advowsons of Aldby or Alby,¹ Hokering, Folsham, Morley Swanton, and the hundreds of Eynsford and Forehoe, with the advowsons of Brandon Parva, Bintre, Mateshale Burgh, and Hadisco Thorpe, almost all of which are mentioned and included in the charter now produced.

¹ Alby is in South Erpingham Hundred.

By the marriage of Alienora, the daughter and heir of this Robert, who died in 1442, with William Lovel, the barony and estates came into the Lovel family, who were also owners of the manor and estate of East Harling, which afterwards passed by purchase into the family of Wright, and with it apparently a great many old charters and deeds relating to other property besides Harling, which are now in the possession of a descendant, the Rev. Henry Wright, who has kindly permitted me to lay this deed before you, and to make a copy and translation of it.

Of Richard Drewe, the other conveying party, all I know is from Blomefield, who says that a person of that name was bailiff of the city of Norwich in 1398, sheriff in 1406, and mayor in 1412.

The following is a verbatim copy of the deed:—

Sciant psentes ⁊ futuri qd nos Thomas Erpyngham miles ⁊ Ricus Drewe concessimus dimisimus tradidimus ⁊ hac presenti carta triptita ⁊ indentat¹ confirmauimus Thome dno de Morlee ⁊ Isabelle uxori eius duas ptes manerioꝝ de Aldeby ⁊ Hokeryng cum ptinentiis in comitatu Norff. duas ptes cuiusdam piscarie in Hengham vocat Semer' ac duas ptes hundi² de Eynesford in eodem comitat³ cum ptinentiis una cum reversione tam ꝑcie ptis predci man⁴ij de Aldeby ⁊ ꝑcie ptis predci manerii de Hokeryng ⁊ terciē ptis predict⁵ piscarie qm̄ terciē ptis predci hundr̄ post mortem Anne nup vxoris Thome nup dni de morlee aui predci Thome nunc dni de morlee que predcas tertias ptes tenet in dotem suam ex dotacione predci Thome nup dni de morlee simul cum advocacionibus Prioratum ⁊ eccliaꝝ de Henhg⁶m Brandon Folsham Byntre Hokeryng mateshale Bergh ⁊ Hadesco Thorpp cum ptinentiis in comitat pedco cum omnibus dnijis waren⁷ libertatibus visib⁸ franciplegg⁹ redditibus ⁊ servič tam liboꝝ qm̄ natiuoꝝ homağ relev' escaetis cu¹⁰ sect cu¹¹

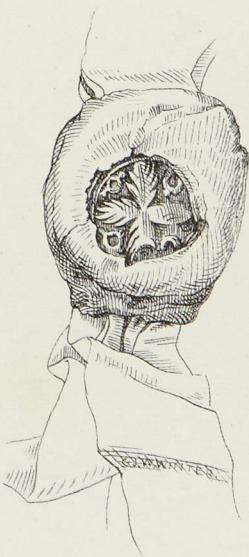
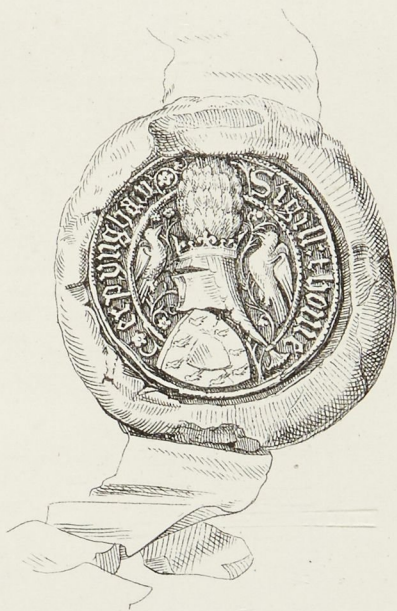
molendiñ villan cum eoꝝ villenaꝝ moris mariscis turbañ
 aquis piscar viis semitis cum omnibus aliis commoditatibus
 ⁊ p̄tin quibuscunqꝫ deis maneriis piscarie ⁊ hundred aut
 reuersionibus predcis qualitercumqꝫ spectantibus siue p̄tinent.
 Que quidem maneria piscaria hundred advocaciones cum
 omnibus p̄tinentiis suis predcis nos prefati Thomas Erpyngham
 ⁊ Ricus Drew vna cum Henrico nup Epo Norwiceñ ⁊ aliis
 iam defunctis in alia huius ex dono ⁊ feoffamento predci
 Thome nup dni de morlee p cartam suam cui⁹ dat
 est apud Aldeby die Jouis p̄x post festum sce margarete
 virginis Anno regni Regis Henrici quarti post conquestum
 sedo Heñd ⁊ tenend predict⁹ duas ptes manioꝝ piscarie
 ⁊ hundred predcoꝝ reuersiones ⁊ advocaciones prioratum ⁊
 eccliaꝝ cum omnibus p̄tinent suis predcis p̄dcis Thome nunc
 dno de Morlee ⁊ Isabelle ⁊ heredibus de corporibus eoꝝ
 legitie exeunt de capi⁹ dnis feod ill' p seruis' inde debet' ⁊
 de iur consuef. Ita qd si contingat predcos Thomam nunc
 dñm de Morlee ⁊ Isabellam sine herede de corporibus eoꝝ
 legitie exeunt obire qd tñc predce due ptes manerioꝝ
 piscarie ⁊ hundred predcoꝝ reuersiones ⁊ advocaciones prior-
 atum ⁊ eccliaꝝ cum omnibus p̄tinent suis predcis remaneant
 rectis heredibus predci Thome nup dni de morlee Tenend
 sibi ⁊ heredibus suis imppm de capi⁹ dnis feod ill' p sui⁹
 inde debet ⁊ de iur consuef imppu. In cuius rei testimoniũ
 tam uni parte presentis carte penes dcos Thomam nunc dnm
 de morlee ⁊ Isabellam ⁊ heredes suos predict⁹ reman qm
 alteri pti eiusdem carte penes rectos heredes predci Thome
 nup dni de morlee reman nos predci Thomas Erpyngham
 ⁊ Ricus Drewe sigilla nra apposuimus, tertie vero pti
 eiusdem carte penes nos remañ predci Thomas nunc dns
 de Morlee ⁊ Isabella sigilla sua apposuerunt Dat' vicesimo
 quinto die marcii Anno regni Regis Henrici quinti post
 conquestum octauo.

Two seals are appended: the first, circular, one inch and

four-fifths in diameter, on which is a shield inclined under a heaume and mantel, crested by a pyramid of feathers or leaves issuing out of a ducal crown, and supported on each side by an eagle or falcon with wings expanded. The bearing on the shield is an inescutcheon within an orle of martlets. The legend, *Sigill. thome erpyngham*. The second, a small circle containing a foliated cross between apparently two annulets (?) on the dexter side, and two martlets on the sinister or, between four annulets. Both are unfortunately somewhat obliterated, but as accurately as can be are lithographed in the accompanying illustration.

TRANSLATION.

Know, living and to come, that we, *Thomas Erpyngham*, Knight, and *Richard Drewe*, have granted, demised, delivered, and by this present deed indented, in three parts, confirmed to *Thomas Lord de Morlee* and *Isabella* his wife two parts of the manors of *Aldeby* and *Hokeryng*, with their appurtenances, in the county of Norfolk, two parts of a fishery in *Hengham* called *Semere*, and two parts of the hundred of *Eynesford* in the same county, with the appurtenances, together with the reversion of the other third part of the aforesaid manors of *Aldeby* and *Hokeryng*, and the third part of the aforesaid fishery, as also the third part of the aforesaid hundred, after the death of *Anne* late wife of *Thomas Lord de Morlee*, grandfather of the said *Thomas* now *Lord de Morlee*, which said third parts she holds in dower from the endowment of the aforesaid *Thomas* late *Lord de Morlee*, together with the advowsons of the priories and churches of *Hingham*, *Brandon*, *Folsham*, and *Bintre*, *Hokeryng*, *Mateshale Bergh*, and *Hadesco Thorp*, with the appurtenances in the same county, with all lordships, warrens, liberties, views of frank-pledge, rents and services both of freemen and bondmen, homages, reliefs, escheats, courts, suit of court, mills, villans with their villenages,



SEALS TO A CHARTER OF SIR THOMAS ERPINGHAM.

moors, marshes, turbaries, waters, fisheries, ways, paths, and all other commodities and appurtenances to the said manors, fishery, and hundred, or reversions aforesaid, whatsoever belonging or appertaining. Which said manors, fishery, hundred, advowsons, with all their appurtenances, we the aforesaid Thomas Erpingham and Richard Drewe, together with Henry late Bishop of Norwich and others now deceased, had from the grant and feoffment of the aforesaid Thomas late Lord de Morlee, by deed dated at Aldeby on Thursday after the festival of St. Margaret the Virgin,² in the second year of the reign of King Henry the Fourth after the Conquest. To have and to hold the said two parts of the manors, fishery, and hundred aforesaid, reversions, advowsons of priories and churches, with every of their appurtenances, to the aforesaid Thomas present Lord de Morlee and Isabella, and the heirs of their bodies lawfully issuing, of the capital lords of that fee by the services therefore due and of right accustomed. Provided, if the said Thomas now Lord de Morlee and Isabella shall happen to die without heirs of their bodies lawfully issuing, then the aforesaid two parts of the manors, fishery, and hundred aforementioned, reversions and advowsons of priories and churches, with all their appurtenances, shall remain to the right heirs of the said Thomas late Lord de Morlee, to hold to them and their heirs for ever of the chief lords of that fee by the services therefore due and of right accustomed for ever. In witness whereof, as well to one part of this present charter to remain in the custody of the said Thomas now Lord de Morlee and Isabella and their heirs as aforesaid, as to another part of the same to remain in the custody of the right heirs of the aforesaid Thomas late Lord de Morlee, we the said Thomas Erpyngham and Richard Drewe have affixed our seals; but to a third part of the

² St. Margaret, 20 July.

same charter remaining in our custody the aforesaid Thomas now Lord de Morlee and Isabella have affixed their seals. Dated the twenty-fifth day of March, in the eighth year of the reign of King Henry the Fifth after the Conquest.

Indorsed—

Carta de Halby, Hokeryng et Eynysforth.

And in a later hand—

The mannors of Aldbye, Hockeringe,
Hinghŋ mere & divers advowsons.