

## The "Land Buyers' Society."

COMMUNICATED BY

WALTER RYE.

THIS very curious MS. is from the library (vol. xxii. fos. 82-3) of J. H. Gurney, Esq., of Keswick, who has kindly allowed me to transcribe it; my attention having been drawn to it by the reference in Histl. MSS. Comm. 12th Rep. pt. ix. p. 135.

I regret I am unable to date it or to trace the purchases referred to either from my Calendar of Norfolk Fines or other sources, though from the figures given in the notes I should think the purchases were made about 1630.

"There is a societie or Combination lately sprang upp called the Land buyers. Theis lay their purses together and as they cane light on a mannor a Gentlemans seats or a good quantity of lande they buy it in grosse and make pfit of it by retailing it in pcells even to single acres as a purchaser will buye and by making other waste thereof Tendinge To the distruction of Gentry, Gentlemans seates and their hospitality mannors and Lordships.

"The severinge of lands and tillage from the Mansion houses contrary to the Statutes in that behalfe And to depopulation.

"The enhauncinge of the prices of lands and thereby of Rents fermes corne and other comodities.

"The making of a parity between Gentlemen and Yeomen and them wch before were laboringe men.

"The begetting of pride and stubbornness in them and by this means to become more refractory to the Government of the County.

"The landbuyers (were)

"Cooper (&) <sup>1</sup>

"Shipdham.<sup>2</sup>

"They bought at Darsingham the house of and land of Mr. Ritches.

"At Holme the house and land that was Mr. Reades (?) whereby they gayned 400<sup>l</sup>.

"The manor of Little Fransham of Mr. Mynn<sup>3</sup> where they sould the stone and tymber of some of ye houses.

"The manor of Great Fransham of him likewise where they have felled and defaced all the wood.

"The manor of Pickenham y<sup>e</sup> seate of Mr. Bradbury of Sr Henry Bedingfield,<sup>4</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> being bought and p<sup>t</sup> of the money paid they were driven to relinquish and take their mony againe for that it being liable to Mr. Bradburies<sup>5</sup> recusancy they could not compound w<sup>th</sup> Mr. Atterny.

"The Manor of Bercham Tofts of Mr. Reve the lawy<sup>r</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See Note 7 as to Geo. Cooper next page. The Coopers were an old family at Hingham.—*Bl. Norf.* ii. p. 431.

<sup>2</sup> In 1636 Richard Shipdham of Norwich, goldsmith, was one of the grantors of the manor of Great Fransham.—Tingey's "Norfolk Enrolled Deeds" (*Norfolk Archaeology*, xiii. p. 178).

<sup>3</sup> George Mynn presented to Little Fransham in 1559, and Henry Mynn died seized of Great Fransham in 1565.

<sup>4</sup> There were two of these Christian and surnames, who died in 1585 and 1654 respectively.

<sup>5</sup> Cordwell Bradbury was a Papist and patron of South Pickenham in 1630 (*Bl. Norf.* vi. p. 75).

wherein they stand interrupted by a lesse thereof assigned to S<sup>r</sup> Hamon le Strange.<sup>1</sup>

"The house and lands late at Doynham  
(Downham ?) pcell at to div<sup>3</sup>

"The house and lands there also late of Mr. Thorowgood."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> There were two of these Christian and surnames, who died in 1580 and 1654 respectively.

<sup>2</sup> The Rev. Thomas Thorowgood of Grimston (1654). Tho. Jessopp of Sharnburne, Yeoman, and George Cooper of Hingham were purchasers of rents arising in Great and Little Fransham in 1633.—Tingey's "Norf. Deeds" (*Norf. Arch.* xiii. p. 170).