

St. John Maddermarket, Norwich :
its Streets, Lanes, and Ancient Houses,
and their Old-time Associations.

COMMUNICATED BY

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I propose in this paper to pass along the main streets of the parish as shown on the map, telling what is known of the principal houses and buildings and adding here and there any details of interest which we know concerning the inhabitants of the parish and any incidents connected with the streets.

St. John Maddermarket is a long-shaped parish, bounded by the River Wensum on the north, and running almost as far as the Market Place towards the south, while through it from east to west run two principal streets, the one formerly known as Wymer Street, and now as St. Andrew's Street and Charing Cross, which runs parallel to and in close proximity to the river, and the other Pottergate (which for a short distance is known as Lobster Lane) running midway between Wymer Street and the Market Place.

Let us then commence our ramble at the westernmost point of the parish in Wymer Street and pass eastwards, dealing first with that part of the parish which lies between the street and the river.

Standing then in the middle of the street, opposite the "Lord Camden" public-house to which the parish boundary marks are affixed, and looking westward we should, until a few years since, have seen the old Gurney house facing us at the point where Charing Cross divides into St. Benedict's and Westwick Streets. In front of this house, until early in the 18th century, stood the Shearers' or Charing Cross, from which was derived the present name of this portion of the street, though in earlier time it was known as the Tonsor or Shearers' Way, from the tundors or shearers of worsted, a trade which Kirkpatrick stated to be "now disused here but not many years since, here also next the river dwelt many Fullers who fulled the worsteds and other goods."¹

From the "Lord Camden" the parish boundary runs northwards more or less in a straight line to the river. All the land lying on this northern side of Charing Cross falls steeply down to the water and in early times appears to have been inhabited by the shermen and fullers, the proximity to the river being essential to their trades. It is not until we come to the first quarter of the 16th century that we know much of the houses which existed on this northern strip of the parish. Next the parish boundary stood at that time a house which belonged to Thomas Bawburgh, a mercer and Mayor of the city in the year 1530. His merchant's mark, Kirkpatrick tells us,² was upon the house, also St. George's cross and

¹ *Streets and Lanes of Norwich*, p. 55.
Norf. Arch., iii., p. 211.

the mercer's arms, while upon the gate were the letters "W.D.D. 1616," standing for Walter and Deborah Dobson, who resided here for many years. To continue Kirkpatrick's description, the house contained "a small hall of ancient form, very good wainscot ceiling in manner of Bacon's antique screen, with three ledges for maces." Bawburgh's mark was also carved upon the frieze of an old oak chimney-piece which was removed from the house about 90 years ago. On the site of this house now stands the shop of Mrs Townshend, which, I fear, has no attraction for the archæologist; but let me say, in passing, that in one of its rooms, which he used as a studio, I recollect, many years ago, paying a visit to John Joseph Cotman, the son of John Sell Cotman.

The premises adjoining Mrs. Townshend's are the property of Mr. Tyce, a portion of them having been a public-house called "The Jolly Farmers." When the owner, some time since, pulled down the back part of this house he discovered a fine oak covered ceiling, which had at one time been the ceiling of a lofty apartment, across which a floor had been put up to form sleeping rooms above. The original house having been of the 16th century, this lofty apartment was doubtless a large hall, similar to the one still standing on the opposite side of the street.

On the east side of Mr. Tyce's premises there ran a steep lane down to the river called "Blekstershole" and in the last century Nailor's Lane.

Towards the end of the 15th century the premises on the east side of Blekstershole were owned by Richard Hoste, a man of some importance, being Sheriff in 1462 and M.P. in 1467. They afterwards passed to Alan Percy, Rector of Mulbarton, and he

was rated for them in 1558. They consisted of many tenements, and these he in turn sold to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, who cleared the whole away and built a palace on the site. In 1602 this old palace is said to have been demolished and a new one commenced, which, however, was probably never completed, and in consequence of a misunderstanding with the Mayor, the eighth Duke had the greater portion of it taken down and the offices leased to the Corporation of Norwich for a workhouse in 1711.

Such is shortly the guide-book story of the Duke's Palace.

Of the earlier palace it is recorded that "it was exactly in the form of Surrey House in Newgate and the walls plastered with rough mortar in the same manner." We know also that between the palace and the river there were a fine bowling green and tennis court. In an old history of Mary, Queen of Scots, it is said that the Duke of Norfolk having incurred Queen Elizabeth's displeasure by his supposed attachment to the Scotch Queen, "the Monarch called the Duke unto her in a gallery and chid him very much that without her privy he had sued unto the Queen in the way of marriage and commanded him upon his allegiance to cease from any further meddling therein. He promised so to do willingly and gladly and doubted not to say (as though he cared not a whit for her) that when he was in his tennis court at Norwich he seemed to himself to be equal after a sort unto many kings."

If we know little of the first palace we are almost equally ignorant of the buildings of the later one. We have, however, two short notices of it from our local antiquaries, Kirkpatrick and Mackerell. The former says that "its great fault was sinking the cellars

too deep so that the water annoyed them much, also the first floor was too low and so the rest."

Mackerell, in his MS. History of Norwich, writes: "The Duke of Norfolk had a Palace that was a beautiful and noble structure when it was in its glory, and reputed to have been the largest house in England out of London. It was adorned with curious granaries of terras, and a large and spacious alley of the same, at first covered over from the weather, but laid open in the year 1672 by Henry, Duke of Norfolk, who built here a palace anew, but not living to see it finished, it remained so until the year 1711 when the late Duke gave orders to have it pulled down which was done that year accordingly."

In Edward Browne's diary we get many glimpses of the Duke's Palace and its entertainments in 1664, and these form the basis of Macaulay's description of Norwich in the third chapter of his History.

In the year 1671 Lord Henry Howard entertained here Charles the Second and his Queen and there is an exceedingly long and interesting letter extant, dated October 2nd, 1671, in which the writer (probably Thomas Corie, the Recorder) describes the visit.³

Thus far we have only heard of the palace in what Mackerell has called "its glory." Now let us see the reverse side of the picture as drawn by the pens of several visitors to our city.

On the 17th October, 1671 [less than three weeks after the royal visit] John Evelyn came to Norwich and stayed with Lord Howard, and thus records his impressions of his host's house: "Being come to the Ducal Palace, my Lord made very much of me, but I had little rest, so exceedingly desirous he was to

show me the contrivance he had made for the entertainment of their Majesties and the whole Court not long before, and which, though much of it was but temporary, apparently fram'd of boards only, were yet standing. As for the Palace, it is an old wretched building, and that part of it newly built of brick is very ill understood, so as I was of opinion it had ben much better to have demolish'd all and set it up in a better place, than to proceede farther, for it stands in the very Marketplace [Evelyn here refers, of course, to the Madder Market] and tho' neere a river, yet a very narrow muddy one, and without any extent."

After seeing the "remarkable places" of Norwich, under the guidance of Sir Thomas Browne, the diarist adds, "Being returned to my Lord's, who had ben with me all this morning he advis'd with me concerning a plot to rebuild his house, having already as he said erected a front next the streete and a left wing and now resolving to set up another wing and pavilion next the garden and to convert the bowling greene into stables. My advice was, to desist from all and to meditate wholly on rebuilding an handsome palace at Arundel House in the Strand."

It is probable that Evelyn's advice was acted upon and that the architectural designs which Kirkpatrick has preserved for us were never carried to completion. Evelyn's Lord Howard, having succeeded to the Dukedom on his brother's death in 1677, died in 1684, and his son and successor, when coming to Norwich in 1696, had a deservedly bad reception, for Humphrey Prideaux writes,⁴ "He faild of his main purpose w'ch was to entertain himselfe with ye ladys, for when he had made great preparations for a ball, none would

⁴ *Letters of Humphrey Prideaux*, C.S., p. 184.

come to it, which gave him that offence that he said he would never make one here more, and I think it is time for him to leave it of, when all that have any regard to their reputations think it scandalous to accept his invitations." The Duke, too, seems to have thought it "time for him to leave it of," for when Celia Fiennes visited the city about that time, she wrote "There is in the middle of the town the Duke of Norfolk's house of Brick and stone, wth severall towers and turrets and balls yt Looks well, wth large gardens, but ye inside is all demolished only ye walls stand and a few Roomes for offices but nothing of state or toller-able for use."

In 1708 occurred the quarrel with the Mayor, from which time the palace was deserted until 1711, when the greater part of it was pulled down. Between these two dates we get another glimpse of the palace in its decline, which confirms Kirkpatrick's opinion already quoted. Lord William Kingston, a younger brother of Lady Wortley Montagu, then an undergraduate at Cambridge, writing to his sister in 1710, says⁵: "I saw everything in Norwich worth seeing, which indeed I cannot say was very much. The town stands upon a large extent of ground, but I cannot say that the houses are mightily crowded. There stands in the middle of the town (and in the lowest part of it) a noble shell of a house belonging to the Duke of Norfolk and built by his grandfather, but certainly the worst contrived business that was ever designed. It would have stood naturally a great deal too low, yet not content with that they dug a hole to put it in, the rubbidge of which cost a thousand pounds to be removed so that now 'tis impossible it should be finished

and is entirely useless. Upon the least flood the water runs into the cellars and has weakened the foundation so much that (except it be pulled down) it will fall in a year or twos time."

Although a large portion of the site of the palace and gardens were leased to the Corporation, a considerable part was also leased to one Edward Freeman, a mason, of St. John's Parish, who sub-let to John Burgess, innholder, in August. 1719, all that newly-erected inn known by the sign of the Duke of Norfolk's Palace with a right of way to the watergate, and also Burgess was to be entitled to the tolls of all carts and wagons unloading grain at the staithe or quay within the palace yard at the rate of one penny per cart or twopence per wagon in money, or in lieu thereof the person belonging to such cart or wagon might expend threepence at the least in beer or other liquor at the said John Burgess' inn. John Burgess was evidently a shrewd man of business and a bit of a character, for in 1724 he inserted the following advertisement in the *Norwich Gazette*:—"This is to inform all persons who have within six years last past contracted any debts under 40s. with John Burgess at the sign of the "Duke's Palace" in St. John's of Madder-Market in Norwich for either Beer or Wine, That for a space of one year to come from Lady Day next if any person or persons so indebted shall spend sixpence or a shilling at the said John Burgess's House, for every sixpence or shilling so spending within that time, he the said John Burgess will wipe off and forgive the like sum of their old debt, Which is a pleasant way of Drinking themselves out of Danger. But all those who shall not have cleared their said debts in that time will be then forthwith sued for the same. Witness my Hand, John Burgess."

In the year 1806 the whole of the Duke's Palace Estate was offered for sale by public auction and nearly

all of it sold, and no link with its past remains save an old building at the back of the inn and a room in the Guardians' Office.

It is evident from the sale plan of the estate that the old building I have mentioned formed a part of a much longer building, which extended almost to the river and was just 31 feet wide by 190 feet long. The walls are very thick, and it seems probable that this old building, still existing to-day, may be a portion of the ducal bowling alley attached to the original palace of the 16th century.

In the year 1821 the new street and bridge, known as Duke's Street and Duke's Bridge, were constructed, the latter being until 1855 a toll bridge. In 1857 was built the Public Library, which, if its outside appearance does not appeal to us, its splendid local collections of books, prints, and manuscripts must ever be a delight.

Adjoining the Public Library stands a building once the Museum and Literary Institution and now the Guardians' Offices, and incorporated within it may still be seen a room which in early times was used as a chapel by the Roman Catholic community in Norwich.

As with other buildings connected with the Duke's Palace there is considerable mystery as to its origin. I should myself have hazarded the suggestion that it had formed a portion of the brick-built "left wing," of which the Duke spoke to John Evelyn, had not Eusebius Andrewes stated that "the handsome house and chapel were erected adjoining (the palace) for the use of the Catholics and Chaplain in the year 1764."⁶ Inasmuch as Andrewes was a well-known journalist,⁷ born in Norwich of Catholic parents in 1773, where he

⁶ *Handbook 3rd National Catholic Congress (Norwich)*, p. 151.

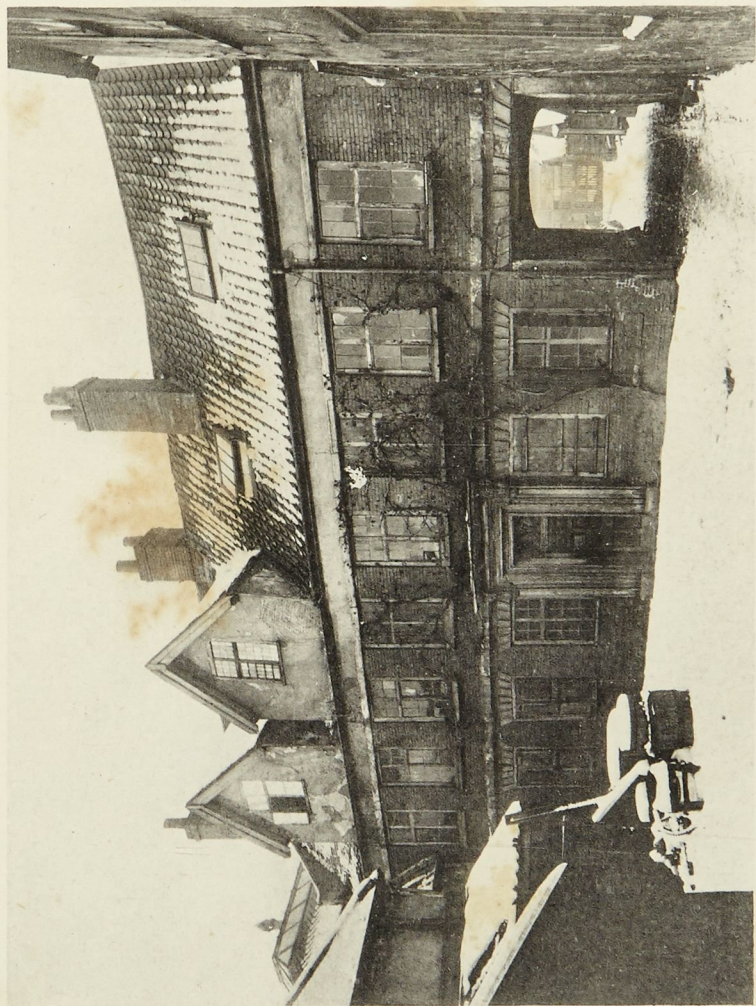
⁷ *A Great Gothic Fane*, p. 81.

was for fourteen years the manager of the *Norfolk Chronicle*, his statement that the chapel was built in 1764 must be accepted as correct. Before its erection, however, there appears to have been a succession of chaplains attached to the palace, of whom Alban Butler, the author of *The Lives of the Saints*, who came to Norwich in 1754, was the most eminent. The last of these chaplains was Edward Beaumont, who was also the first priest in charge of the Catholic Chapel on the opposite side of the Madder Market, of which I shall have to speak later.

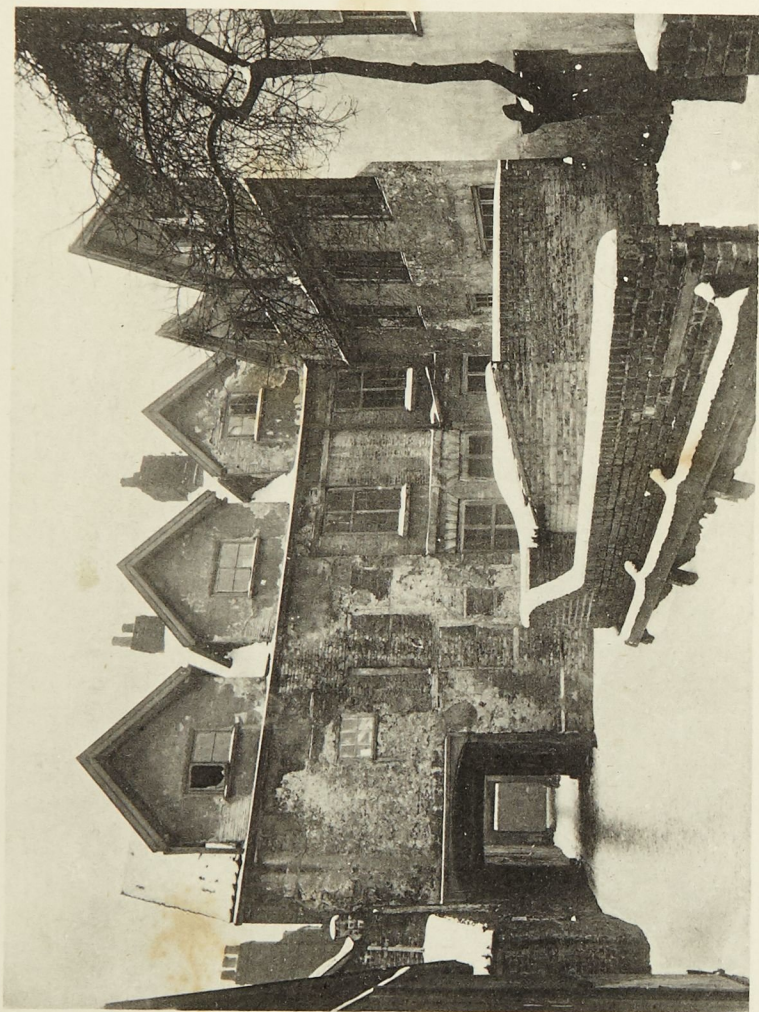
Adjoining the Duke's property on the east now stands Messrs. Harmer's Factory, which extends to the eastern boundary of the parish, and even beyond it. In the course of the erection of this factory many old and interesting buildings were pulled down—namely, the public-house called the "Golden Can," and the picturesque old courtyard known as Lockett's Court. Beneath the former was a particularly fine vaulted cellar, while the buildings around Lockett's Court formed the house of Christopher Layer, twice mayor of the city and twice its member of Parliament. Later it was the residence of a well-known Norwich family, the Barnhams, but perhaps its chief interest for us is that early in the last century there lived within the courtyard Detterville, the French priest, who here, and later in the Strangers' Hall, taught French and Italian to George Borrow.⁸

In the house which faced you on entering Lockett's Court there lived for several years the Norwich artist, John Sell Cotman, who in writing to Dawson Turner in 1806 says "In consequence of advice from several of my friends in Norwich I have taken a house in Wymer Street for the purpose of opening a School

⁸ *Lavengro*, chap. xiv.



J. S. COTMAN'S HOUSE, LUCKETT'S COURT.



LUCKETT'S COURT.

for Drawing and Design," and three years later he advertises that he has opened to the public, on the plan of a circulating library, a "Collection of Six Hundred Drawings."

On the other side of Wymer Street and stretching from the eastern boundary of the parish westwards to beyond Exchange Street was a high flint wall, much of which still remains, and was only broken at one point where a narrow pathway, called appropriately Hole in the Wall Lane, ran south to Pottergate. Behind this wall, at its eastern end, stood the parsonage house of St. Crouch, the site of which now forms the garden of what was, until recently, the minister's house of St. Andrew, whilst the western portion was the churchyard of St. Crouch. The parish of St. Crouch,⁹ which was dissolved in the middle of the 16th century, must have been but a small one, although it extended from the river to Pottergate, and on its dissolution the greater portion was annexed to St. John Maddermarket, only the parsonage site with one or two houses on its eastern side being added to St. Andrew.

The church of St. Crouch was desecrated when the parish was dissolved and, being annexed to the Prior and Convent of Norwich, was with its churchyard leased in the year 1549 to Thomas Codd and Thomas Marsham, aldermen, for a term of 500 years, at an annual rent of fourpence; the churchyard being described as bounded by the tenement of Robert Rugg, in part towards the south and west, and by that of Edmund Sellours in part towards the south and east. Blomefield has preserved for us the names of several incumbents and persons buried in the churchyard, but

⁹ See *E.D.P.*, 29th March, 1885; *Norfolk Chronicle*, 29th May, 1886.

since his time more has been discovered concerning the church itself. When the lower part of Exchange Street (originally called Post Office Street) was made in the year 1832, it passed through what had been St. Crouch's churchyard and this necessitated the pulling down of several old buildings, amongst others an old public-house known as the "Hole in the Wall," which adjoined the lane of that name. In carrying out this work it was found that the tavern had been formed out of the chancel of St. Crouch Church, and a drawing of it was made by Henry Ninham, from which it appears that the chancel was probably built in the Early English style with an open timber roof springing from carved corbel heads. There were traces also of a pointed east window which had been blocked up in later times, while the dimensions of the chancel were 26 ft. 6 in. by 19 ft. The rest of the church had disappeared and in 1832 the site formed a large yard. At the Hole in the Wall tavern there met weekly, at the end of the 18th century, a number of well-known Norwich literary characters, such as Dr. Frank Sayers, William Taylor, John Pitchford and others.

Several small houses appear in early times to have stood in close proximity to the churchyard. Thus in 21 Edward I., Thomas March granted to Richard de Knapton a messuage "in cimeterio Sancte Crucie"; in 1515 James London was buried in the churchyard by the corner against the sign of the Crown (which rather suggests that he desired in death to lie near the tavern he had frequented in life); and the late Mr. E. A. Tillet discovered an interesting entry in the Mayoralty Court Book for 1549:—"Forasmuch as Thomas Wynter being constable of Middle Wymer Ward the last night searched the house of Robert Exham

dwelling in St. Crouch's Churchyard for evil rule keeping and for that they be common scolds, at the which time Alice the wife of the same Exham did then brake the head of the same Wynter until the blood ran down to his shoulder, which thing she doth openly confess. Therefore it is ordered and agreed that she shall be set upon the cart and carried about the Market."

Formerly between Bridewell Alley and Dove Street there was no direct communication from St. Andrew's Street to Pottergate save by a narrow lane called Little Cockey or Crouch Lane (now School Lane), which running north from Pottergate branched into two at the south-east corner of St. Crouch Churchyard. One part, as we have seen, under the name of Hole in the Wall Lane, continued in a straight line across the churchyard to St. Andrew's Street, while the other, under the name of Almshouse Lane, turned at right angles to the west, crossed what is now Exchange Street, and then almost immediately turned north along the west side of St. Crouch Churchyard until it ran into St. Andrew's Street opposite Museum Court. This lane took its name from some almshouses which formerly stood at the south-west corner of the churchyard of St. Crouch and were the property of the parish of St. John Maddermarket, having been purchased in 1642 from John Bence. These houses were pulled down about the year 1830 with a view to the making of the lower portion of Exchange Street.

When this new street was constructed Hole in the Wall Lane was closed, as was also the lower portion of Almshouse Lane.

Little Cockey Lane (so named from the fact that the Great Cockey ran down the middle of it) or Crouch Lane forms the boundary between the parishes of

St. Andrew and St. John Maddermarket, and at the end of the 13th century the land lying on the west side of it belonged to Richard de Knapton, whom we have already come across as a purchaser of property near St. Crouch Churchyard. Later, as we have seen, Robert Rugg, Mayor in 1545 and 1550, was owner. His house stood close to the south-west corner of the churchyard, and under Messrs. Trevor & Page's shop are still to be seen its cellars. Mr. Page can remember an old dilapidated Tudor house standing over these cellars some sixty or more years ago.

On reaching Pottergate the parish boundary runs east for a few feet, turns south into Little London Street, and then turning west reaches what is now Exchange Street, thus enclosing within the limits of the parish the present Cornhall. On this Cornhall site early in the 18th century stood the house of William Herte, Mayor in 1512 and 1519, afterwards of Thomas Wynter (presumably he of the broken head, and whose head may well have swelled again when he became Sheriff in 1565). Later still, the house passed into the ownership of Alderman Robert Craske, being then the highest rated house in the parish. Alderman Craske probably acquired the property in the year 1614, as that date was carved on the doorway of the house together with the initials of himself and his wife. At the end of the 17th century it was owned by the celebrated Norwich physician, Sir Benjamin Wrench ("silver-tongued Sir Benjamin" as he was called), who is said to have resided in this house for fifty years. He had, however, a county seat at Mulbarton, whence he was wont to drive into Norwich four-in-hand. He died in 1747, and lies buried in the chancel of St. John Maddermarket Church. The courtyard in which the house stood came in after years to be known as Sir Benjamin Wrench's Court, and in an upper room, in what must have been

a very picturesque old house, were held the first exhibitions of the Norwich Society of Artists, the first provincial Art Society to be formed in England. This cradle of Norwich Art was often the subject of our local artists' pencils, and we have preserved to us many drawings and etchings of the old house. When Exchange Street was laid out in 1828 Sir Benjamin's Court with its garden, which stretched almost to Dove Street, was swept away, and on part of its site was erected a corn exchange from designs of Patience, a Norwich architect, which was the predecessor of the present building.

To reach Dove Street from Sir Benjamin's Court a short street, then and still called Lobster Lane (really only a continuation of Pottergate) had to be traversed. On the north side of this lane, at the corner of Crouch Lane, was a public-house, known as the "Boy and Cup," while further west was the entrance to a large yard attached to another tavern, called the "Sun and Anchor," and still further on the same side was a third public-house the "Lobster" inn, with large yard behind it, from which the lane derived its name. These tavern yards appear to have occupied what had once been the garden of Robert Rugg's house.

The sign of the "Boy and Cup" was a variant of that of the "Boy and Barrel," one of the numerous signs in honour of Bacchus, and it was probably a very old house (it appears in Arderon's List of Norwich Taverns, 1745-60), for in a Norwich newspaper for the 4th of December, 1802, it is recorded that on Wednesday last as some workmen were repairing the pump at the "Boy and Cup" public-house in Lobster Lane at the depth of 27 feet below the surface of the earth they discovered on one side of the well a Gothic entrance to a room, 10 ft. by 8 ft.

To Borrovians the "Sun and Anchor" tavern has more than passing interest because at one time it was kept by Ned Painter, the hero of that wonderful combat near North Walsham, which is so graphically described in the 26th chapter of *Lavengro*.

The "Lobster" inn was another old sporting house, which, under the sign of the "Old Lobster," we have seen on the north side of the lane, but at another time it was transferred to the south side, where it flourished for a time in a portion of Sir Benjamin Wrench's house as the "New Lobster." One of the sights of the "Lobster," but in which house I do not know, was old Thomas Scrape, the father of the landlady, who presided at a convivial party to commemorate his 105th birthday, and sang several songs on the occasion.

At the south-east corner of Lobster Lane, where it joins Dove Street, stood the house of John Latymer, M.P., in 1371, but all this property has been rebuilt in recent years.

Dove Street, or Dove Lane, was originally known as the Hold Thor, afterwards corrupted into Holtors Way. In the 13th century the Jews appear to have resided in this street, and its name may have been derived from an old tower which is said to have stood at the south-east corner of Dove Street, next the Market Place, and it has been suggested that possibly this tower may have formed the Jewish synagogue; but a far more probable derivation of the name is from the Hebrew words, Hoel Thora, meaning Tabernacle of the Law. It is, perhaps, significant that a painting of St. William of Norwich should have been depicted on the screen of St. John Maddermarket Church.

The house, which until recently stood at the north-west corner of Dove Street, was known as the "Edinburgh" Tavern and fell to the ground very

shortly after the great Dove Street fire in 1898. Over the doorway at the western end of the house was inserted an old stone inscribed ¹⁵⁸⁶ S R M which is a record of former owners and probable builders, Richard and Mary Scottow. Beneath this house were upper and lower cellars, which, however, were both broken through when the building fell. The upper cellar had an entrance from Pottergate Street with two pointed arches and recesses on either side of it. The remains of vaulting, when examined shortly after the fire, were found to be of brick probably of the 13th century. At the same time the lower crypt was also broken in except a semi-circular arch at the east end. There must then have been a house existing on this site before the year 1586, and Mr. Beecheno has discovered that this earlier house was occupied by Anthony Solempne, the Elizabethan printer of Norwich. In 1567 Solempne had set up a press in the parish of St. Andrew and there published several books in Dutch and, as a broadside, a copy of verses written by Thomas Brooke, Gent., of Rollesby, the day before his death. In the list of aliens in the Lay Subsidy Rolls for the parish of St. John's, dated the 7th June, 1581, there is this entry: "Anthony de Solempne Goods £8 Tax 28s. 8d." We have no proof that Solempne ever printed in his new parish, but as he appears also to have dealt in Rhenish wine possibly he devoted himself to this part of his business in later years.

Under the house lying on the south side of the Scottow house was another small cellar of somewhat later date than the others, having groining starting from corbels and two deep recesses extending in part under Dove Street and an original shoot arrangement from the room above.

In the year 1605 a dispute arose as to whether some tenements, occupied by Tompson and Miles, and the garden of William Bussye, situate next Dove Lane, between the houses of Richard Scottowe, vintner, and the said William Bussye, mercer, were within the bounds of St. John. Nicholas Sotherton, then eighty years old, deposed that the tenements always belonged to that parish as he knew to be true for that he was born in the house wherein William Bussye dwelt, which was in St. Peter Mancroft, and the tenements did at one time belong to his father; while William Prior, the parish clerk and sexton of St. John's, said that he had gone the perambulations in Queen Mary's time when they went to the gutter which doth include the tenements aforesaid to be within the parish and he had never heard question moved concerning the premises till seven or eight years whilst Mr. Weld was Mayor, who adjudged the said tenements to be within the bounds of St. John's parish, upon the information and report of Mr. Sotherton and Mr. Peterson, the goldsmith, deceased, who informed the said Mayor that the bounds of the parish did extend into the middle of the well which standeth within the yard right against the midst of the dwelling-houses of the aforesaid Miles. As to the garden of William Bussye, Richard Scottowe deposed that the parishioners in their yearly perambulations "fetched in" the said garden. I do not know the result of the dispute, but the evidence certainly appears to point to the property being within St. John's parish.

On the south side of Pottergate to the west of Scottow's House was a property owned by the brothers Thomas de Welborne and John de Welborne, in the middle of the 14th century, the latter of whom sold it to the citizens, who are still the owners. It extended

from Pottergate on the north to the Market Place on the south and abutted on the western boundary of the parish of St. John. This property is divided into two distinct portions, the northern part—namely, that in the parish of St. John—being very considerably lower than the southern part. In an Extent of the said property dated 1397 these premises are described as extending into three parishes (St. Peter Mancroft, St. Gregory, and St. John) and are said to be “divided in the form underwritten, that is to say, the higher part towards the south is a certain tavern (the ‘Common Inn,’ which in 1597 became the City Gaol) and the lower part towards the north is called le Worthsted Ceeld.”¹ Perhaps the best description of the use to which this hall, known as the Worstead Ceeld, was put will be found in Clause 5 of the Complaints of the Commonalty in 1414 addressed to Sir Thomas Erpingham:—“In the said city of ancient time there was made a great building by the Commonalty of the said City which is called the Worsted Seld, and for the same time it has been used there that no foreigner might bring nor sell any cloth of Worstead of what nature or assize soever it should be within the franchise of the said city except only in the said Seld until now of late that the market is destroyed by reason that the said prudeshommes and the said people of the company of the bachelery have used and still use to buy cloth in their own houses and elsewhere it pleaseth them without making the said purchase in the aforesaid Seld according to the usage aforesaid whereby such vendors leave off coming with their cloth to the said Seld and make their sale elsewhere,”² and consequently the receipts from the Seld fell from about £20 to 20s.

¹ *Records of the City of Norwich*, ii., p. 243.

² *Records of the City of Norwich*, i., p. 74.

I have mentioned that the "Common Inn" became the King's Prison in 1597, and in later years it was considerably enlarged towards the north and thus extended into St. John's Parish, which accounts for a number of entries in the Parish Registers relating to prisoners.

On the opposite side of the street to the Worstead Seld stands a very old house, recently restored, which for centuries belonged to the Prior and Convent of Norwich, and afterwards to their successors, the Dean and Chapter. In the Capitular Ledgers are enrolled a great number of leases of this house, which in the 18th century was called Payn's Tenement after a former tenant, the rent being 16s. per annum and five fat hens, the latter being usually compounded for 5s. Hens appear to have then been at pre-war prices. During future wars I should commend this form of rent as a simple mode of evading the Food Controller.

The adjoining house and garden, which bounded Payn's Tenement on the north and west, formed for many years a portion of the Sotherton Estates in this parish, and as it is the last house westward in the parish we will retrace our steps, and, passing under the tower of the church, we get a glimpse of those once very picturesque cottages standing in the church alley. Unfortunately they have been recently sadly defaced by a coating of cement.

Beyond these cottages is the entrance to a large courtyard, known as Farnell's Court, which derives its name from a celebrated Norwich pedagogue, who commenced his scholastic career in this court.

Beyond Farnell's Court there formerly stood next Church Alley some old houses, which were known as the Dancing Master's Estate and out of which an annuity of £1 per annum was left in 1678 by a

Mrs. Alice Powell to the poor of the parish. On a piece of ground in the rear of the Dancing Master's Estate was built about 1792 the Catholic Chapel, of which, as we have already seen, Edward Beaumont was the first priest. In the *Orthodox Journal* for November 19th, 1835, is an interesting article dealing with this chapel and its schools, and as the journal was at this time edited by our old friend Eusebius Andrews, he was most probably its author, and from it I make an extract or two. "The chapel was originally separated from the public street by a parallel row of houses. These houses, which for many years had been in such a state of decay that none would inhabit them, together with the adjoining ground, were purchased last autumn and pulled down. Thus the entire eastern side of the chapel was thrown open, and an area fronting the street of 66 feet by 59 feet was obtained. Upon this ground the present school and house were built, not on a parallel, but at rectangles, with the side of the chapel, . . . The chapel . . . was erected at a period when the state of the nation rendered privacy in the exercise of a proscribed worship, a grand object to the professors of the ancient religion. Hence the principal windows look into the adjoining garden, and the other side of the building was screened from public observation by the row of houses (now pulled down, as before mentioned) which stood between the chapel and the street, so that it could be approached only by a narrow passage, the door of which was kept locked, except during the hours of prayer."³

The church alley now enters the Maddermarket at a point where stands that important parochial institution—the parish pump. The churchyard slopes gently down

³ *Orthodox Journal*, iii., p. 319.

in an acute angle, and at its point our forefathers placed the parish pump, the spot thus selected for its erection receiving all the drainage of the churchyard. In the past the parishioners were called upon to keep this pump in repair, but I am glad to say I have never been invited to contribute towards it, and, better still, I have never yet had to drink its waters.

By wending our way through the narrow church alley on the west of the churchyard we have omitted to traverse the short street on its eastern side, which, though merely a continuation of Dove Street, exists from Pottergate to Maddermarket under the name of St. John Street. The houses on the eastern side have no interest until the "Golden Lion" public-house is reached. This was and is an old carriers' inn, and a hundred years ago was a very picturesque courtyard, as you may judge from Ninham's etching of it.

In this paper I am not dealing with the parish church, but had we passed down St. John Street you would have observed that the east window is apparently of an earlier date than any of the others, and this led the late Mr. J. H. Parker to suggest that at one time the chancel of the church probably extended over the street in the same way as the chancel of the adjacent church of St. Gregory extends over the alley there. There appears, however, to be nothing to support this theory. The east wall stands flush with the street, but this is accounted for by the following entry in the Corporation Books under date June 24th, 1579:—"The wall of St. John's Churche Yarde to be clean taken downe for the wydenyng of the strete: and so far as the parishioners will bestowe the coste, so as it may be done and reedefyed ageyne before the Quene's Matys commyng, they shall have allowed and payed out of the treasury V^{li}." Thus the street was widened a few feet

to enable Queen Elizabeth's procession to pass down it on her way to the Bishop's Palace.⁴

Much traffic and many another procession passed on its way through this short street. On a February night in 1563 the stately and impressive funeral procession of the Duchess of Norfolk slowly wended its way up this street to the church where she lies buried. A very different sight was that of the somewhat undignified passage of Will Kemp, the Elizabethan actor, who in 1599 ended his dance from London to Norwich in this street "by leaping over the churchyard wall of St. John's, getting so into Mr. Mayor's gates a neerer way."⁵ Yearly, too, there would pass from the Guild-hall the newly-elected Mayor, accompanied by his brethren and with all the pageantry of his civic dignity, to the Guild Feast to be held in the New or St. Andrew's Hall.

The open space by the parish pump has always been known as the Maddermarket, but curiously there appears to be no record to prove that a market for the sale of madder ever existed here. During the 18th century it was the custom for persons seeking employment to assemble on this open space, such persons being said "to go on the Palace." It was here that Dr. Rigby is reputed to have picked up a bright little lad as an errand boy, who in after years became known to all the world as John Crome, the famous Norwich artist.

At the north-east corner of the Maddermarket stood the house in which Francis Wollmer lived in the middle of the 16th century, while at the opposite corner of the market was a particularly interesting mansion. Here lived William de Blickling, bailiff in 1362 and

⁴ *Norf. Arch.*, ii., p. 198.

⁵ Kemp's *Nine Daies Wonder*, C.S., p. 17.

M.P. in 1366, while other owners were Ralf Segrym, M.P. in 1449, and Mayor in 1451, and John Marsham, Mayor in 1523, and his son Robert. In Mr. Rye's *Norris Collections* is an interesting note on this house. "In a large old hall almost demolished, now a place for cyder, in a window the 12 months painted, in another window, being a stone bow, the arms of Marsham and Claxton and in the same window the Merchants' Mark of Segrym." Norris's note also adds "This Hall was very grand, the old screens, buttery hatches, &c., remain."

Kirkpatrick also has this note on the house⁶: "The arms of Marsham are in the hall window of an old house in this parish, which fronts the street north and east, by the Duke's Place, and upon the woodwork of the old chamber windows, which ran the length of the house, now destroyed, was this mark, which is Marsham's, and also in a chamber window of the next house, southward of this towards the churchyard, is the said escocheon, and the mark upon a door, and R.M. The mark and initials held by an eagle. Also this rebus, the god Mars holding a shield.... and in his right hand a spear, with the letters 'ham' pendant upon his body, meaning Marsham."

In Charing Cross, just westward of this house, stands the gateway to the Strangers' Hall, and as I have so often spoken and written about the Hall I will not burden you with any detailed account of it in this paper, beyond saying that, in the opinion of those whom I consider most competent to judge, the Hall itself was probably erected about 1450 and the Oriel window an insertion of some 80 years later.

We have, in the course of our ramble, heard so many references by Kirkpatrick to "halls in the

⁶ *Norf. Arch.*, iii., p. 216.

ancient manner" that I am pleased to think we have one of the ancient halls "in the flesh," so to speak.

Sir Joseph Payne added certain rooms on the west to the original house, and what he thus occupied extended to the western boundary of the parish. You will notice that along the front of the shops of Mr. Tyce and Messrs. Havers a carved frieze runs most of the way, and behind Messrs. Havers' shop is a room which contains a wide open fireplace on which the merchant's mark of Nicholas Sotherton is carved. It is to this Kirkpatrick alludes when he says "This mark with the Grocers' Arms is upon a mantelpiece in the house late Sir Joseph Paine's in St. John Maddermarket, *Redde quod debes* often in the windows." Unfortunately this glass has disappeared.

We have now reached the point from which we started, and I am afraid it will be said that much of what I have told you has not been archæology of the orthodox dry as dust type, but my object has been to try to render interesting your future walks through the Maddermarket streets by telling you something of their past, though not necessarily of their long past. If when next you pass Messrs. Harmer's Factory you can picture to yourselves the old houses around Lockett's Court and the stalwart form of young George Borrow passing through it to his evening lesson in French and Italian, or if, as you pass the present Corn Exchange, you can conjure up a vision of Sir Benjamin Wrench's Court with the little stout man, whose face is very dark, and whose eye is vivacious (for so Borrow pictures John Crome), on his way to the exhibition room of the Norwich Society of Artists, then I feel I shall have done something to increase your interest in the topography of the streets of Maddermarket.