

THE ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL OF GUILDFORD.

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[*Read in the building, 26th July, 1886.*]

PREVIOUSLY to the reign of Henry VIII, there appears to have been no free school in Guildford, and the want of such an institution seems to have attracted the attention of Robert Beckingham, a wealthy citizen and grocer of London, who during his lifetime gave to the Mayor and approved men a house and tenement near the Castle Ditch, and by his will, proved in 1509, devised a rent-charge upon lands at Bromley, in Kent, and Newington, in Surrey, for the purposes of erecting and maintaining a free school in the borough of Guildford. It is a trite saying that the world knows nothing of its greatest benefactors, so, very little is known of this educational pioneer. He does not appear to have lived in Guildford, although he held property in the town, as is evidenced by the gift I have just mentioned. It is probable that he was interested in Guildford through the Austen family, of whom I shall have to speak presently. John Austen, of Guildford, was one of the executors of his will. Robert Beckingham's good deeds, however, follow him, and after the lapse of nearly four centuries we can still honour his memory. It is worthy of note that the sum of £6 yearly is still received from the rent-charge on the property at Bromley. Nothing ever seems to have been paid out of the Newington devise.

The munificence of Robert Beckingham was made

the most of by the authorities, and a small free school seems to have been at once started. In 1520 the Mayor and approved men gave a large piece of land near the house given by Beekingham, for the purposes of the free school, and on this piece of land a school-house was erected. This continued to be used as a free school until the present building was completed. In 1550 Henry Polstead gave two messuages near the pillory in the parish of St. Mary towards the maintenance of the old school. Notwithstanding these benefactions, the keeping up of the school was a large charge to the borough, and the building itself being insufficient for its purposes, the Mayor and approved men were on the alert to augment its endowment and increase its size; and, in the reign of Edward VI, a favourable opportunity presented itself of carrying out their object. The religious houses had been suppressed by Henry VIII, in 1539, and by later statutes all the chantries, colleges, friaries, and fraternities, became vested in the King. Henry granted many of the vast estates of the Church to his favourite courtiers, and spent the large revenues arising from the remainder in gratifying his own inordinate vanity and lust. The poorer people had been deprived of their only teachers, the Roman Catholic priests and friars; but the Tudor King cared not for this, and took no pains to supply the want. The evil was a crying one, and, on the accession of the young King, steps were taken to remedy it by devoting some part of his revenue derived as aforesaid to the erection and maintenance of free grammar schools throughout the country. Edward seems to have been a willing contributor to this project, as the numerous schools bearing his name testify. The Mayor and approved men of Guildford made suit to the King for a share in his bounty, and secured the good services of William, Marquis of Northampton, who then resided, as Warden of the Manor, in the Royal Manor House in Guildford Park, and of Sir William More, of Loseley, through whose instrumentality Edward was prevailed upon to grant the prayer of the authorities.

The grant from the King bears date the 27th of January, 1552-53, and not in 1551, as is erroneously stated in Russell. The original charter, which through the kindness of the trustees I am enabled to produce, is in Latin, engrossed on vellum, but owing to its condition is scarcely decipherable. By these royal letters patent the King gives to the Mayor and approved men of Guildford for ever the sum of £6 : 13s. 4d. per annum, arising out of lands called "High Pollesdon," in the parish of Great Bookham, and of lands called "Champney," in the parish of Stoke D'Abernon, which rents formerly belonged to the chantry of Stoke D'Abernon. A further sum of £13 : 6s. 8d. was granted out of lands then in the possession of the Archbishop of York at Battersea and Wandsworth, which rents formerly belonged to two chantries at Southwell, in Nottinghamshire. These rent-charges were granted—I am now quoting from a certified copy of the charter (*see* Appendix A)—"on the humble petition of the Mayor and approved men of our town of Guildford, in our county of Surrey, and of many other of our subjects of our whole neighbouring country there, for the erecting and establishing of a grammar school there for the institution and instructing of boys and youths. Of our special grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion, will grant and ordain that hereafter there be and shall be one grammar school in the said town of Guildford, which shall be called 'The Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth,' for the education, institution, and instruction of boys and youths in grammar at all future times for ever to endure, and the same school of one schoolmaster or teacher, and one under-master or usher, at all future times for ever to endure."

The appointment of the master and under-master was by this charter vested in the Mayor and approved men and the Warden for the time being of the King's Manor of Guildford. The making of proper statutes and ordinances for the good governance of the school was left to the discretion of the Mayor and approved men and the Bishop of Winchester for the time being.

The rents conveyed by the charter were duly paid during the short lifetime of the grantor, and, indeed, until the 4th and 5th of Philip and Mary, in which year Nicolas Heath, then Archbishop of York and High Chancellor of England, detained the rent of £13 : 6s. 8d. under various pretences, the chief being that the said rent of right belonged to the College of Southwell. There was much litigation over the matter, and the rent remained unpaid until the 5th of Elizabeth, in which year an Act of Parliament settled the controversy in favour of the town, and the whole of the rents granted by the King are paid to this day.

It should be noted that this charter fixes the date of the foundation of the school as the 27th of January, 1552, old style; 1553, new style. It will be seen, therefore, that the date over the front entrance of 1550 is a mistake. So far, the efforts of the good men of Guildford had been crowned with success, but the work they had set themselves was by no means accomplished. Times were bad, as at present, and money was scarce, and it was not until the 28th of July, 1555, that they were enabled to acquire the piece of land upon which the present building stands. In September of the same year they purchased of John Parvish three acres of land between Schoolhouse Lane and Pewley Hill. "In 1557," says George Austen, in his manuscript, "the Mayor and approved men, at their own costs, began the large roome, now the scholehouse, with the great chamber and garrett over the same, and the same heeled with Horsham stone, and therein made many varie faier windows of freestone, well glased, the walles of which scholehouse are all of brick and stone, of a very stronge, statelie, and faire buildinge. The charge was above 400 marks." In this same year one Thomas Bignold, in the quaint language of Austen, "gave an acre of land in the common-field of Shalford, near Poyner's Pitt, and took it again in lease for 999 yeares, at the yearly rente of *xxd.*" This large sum is duly paid to the trustees by Colonel Godwin-Austen. Corporations are, however, long-lived, and it is gratifying to know that in the year

2556 this acre of ground will revert to the Royal Grammar School.

On the 10th April, 1565, Thomas Parvis writes to Mr. William Moore, Knight of the Shire, at his Manor of Loseley, about the unfinished school at Guildford, which the writer desires to see completed: "I marvel and am verie sorie that there come no moe good schollers thence to Oxford. If there be no school-master, there be manie well learned in latten, greke, and hebrue, with whome wolde to God I might travell for Guilforde. But were the schole once finished with honest stypende and reasonable condycions appointed for master and vssher, youe sholde haue shortlye, warrant yowe, suche sueters, as for all learninge, never came there yeat.—From Christ's Church, Oxforde." This letter is still preserved among the Loseley Manuscripts. The writer was the fifth master of the Grammar School.

In 1567, Thomas Blanks, a citizen and Alderman of London, gave £40 to the school. A Thomas Blanks was Mayor of Guildford in 1512, 1518, and 1525. In 1569, Mrs. Blanks, the widow of the above, gave £10. Thomas Jones, of Witley, about this time gave £20.

In 1569, John Austen—I am quoting again from his son George's manuscript—"finding a want of the rooms intended to be builded for the scholemaster and usher, and seeing no likelihood that the townspeople could perform the same, procured £106: 13s. 4d. of certain persons hereafter named, and was out of purse above £40." George Austen goes on to say "That the money was trulic and faithefully disbursed in buylding up the houses, sellar-rooms, lodgings, and chymneys, called the scholemaster's lodginge, all of brick and stone, of a strong and faier buildinge of three storyes high, covered with Horsham stone and in all poynts answerable to the former large roome or scholchouse."

The £106: 13s. 4d. raised by John Austen came chiefly from the county gentlemen of the day, among them being Sir John Woolly, Sir William More, Lawrence Stoughton, and others. John Austen, who

was one of the greatest benefactors to the school, was a merchant adventurer who held a large property in Guildford and its neighbourhood, and was an ancestor of Colonel Godwin-Austen, of Shalford Park. He sat as one of the members for Guildford from the 5th to the 13th of Elizabeth, and was Mayor of the Borough in 1566.

Following the order of date, we come to 1571, in which year William Hamond, at his own cost, built the usher's lodgings at the east end of the school, "in all things answerable to the master's," says Austen, "saving that there is no sellar." Mr. Hamond afterwards, at his own charge, built a gallery of brick and stone and a window of freestone adjoining to the High Street and leading between the lodgings of the master and the usher. This gallery seems to have been unfinished at the time of his death, and the "tymber work thereof," according to George Austen, "being slender and likely to fall," he, George Austen, in 1586, had a new frame made for the south side and converted into a library. In this good work Austen was assisted by Sir William More and others, and he tells us that by the means of Sir William More alone "he received from sundry persons for certen crimes committed (the punishments whereof were either corporal or pecuniary, at the discretion of the justices of the peace) divers good somes of money, all which in the whole did amount to the some of £72: 6s." Mr. Hamond died on the 10th April, 1575, and was buried in the church of Holy Trinity. Aubrey describes his monument thus:—"On the north side of the quire, on a monument fixed to the wall, under the statue of a man praying at a desk, is this inscription:—

"Here lyeth the body of WILLIAM HAMOND, Esquire, sometime Mayor of this Towne of Guildeforde, one of the chief founders of the free schoole of the same Towne and a liberall Benefactor of Baliol Colledge in Oxforde. The Memory of whos good Deeds, God grant may move others to doe the like. He departed out of this Worlde the xth of Aprill, MCCCCCLXXV."

By his will he directed that the schoolmaster of the

Grammar School should be presented and collated to the Rectory of Stoke whensoever it should be void. Under the will, John Crow, M.A., the then master, became Rector of Stoke in 1595. William Hill, afterwards master, succeeded Crow as Rector of Stoke in 1633. There appears to have been some question as to the right of Hamond to devise the advowson, and on the 20th July, 1650, with the consent of the Corporation, John Graile, then master of the Grammar School, conveyed the same to Nicholas Stoughton, whose family had formerly held the same, for a rent-charge of £7:13s. 4d. a year.

This great benefactor to the town—William Hamond—was born in Guildford, and acquired great riches. He three times represented his native town in Parliament, in the reigns of Mary and Philip and Mary; and was Mayor of the borough in 1549, 1558, and 1571, his father having served the office of Mayor four times. In addition to the great good effected by Mr. Hamond, he intended to found and erect a college near the Grammar School for the purposes of higher education. He did not found it because, says George Austen, “John Austen, the promoter of it, died; and Hamond, growing old and weak in mind, was influenced by Garnett, massing priest, sometime Fellow of Baliol, to give £1,400 to that college, which Garnett embezzled.” Garnett was well known in his day and generation; let us hope that worthy George Austen was misinformed with regard to the embezzlement.

Amongst the Loseley MSS. is a letter, dated 7 July, 1573, from Anthony Viscount Montague to William More, Esq., requesting him—

“to ascertain from his neighbour Mr. Hamond of Gilford whether he has in any way changed that part of his will by which he designed to provide a schoolmaster and an usher for the said town; it having come to the knowledge of the writer that attempts have been made to withdraw Mr. Hamond from his beneficent purpose towards the town.”

This no doubt refers to the same subject. Garnett had been at Cowdray with Viscount Montague for some time. In the same collection is a letter from Garnett

to William More, Esq., dated 11 October, 1571, enquiring—

“whether Loseley House be free from ‘mesles or small poekes,’ and whether Mr. More will be at home on the 18th inst., as lord Mountague purposes to visit him on that day, on the road to London. From Coudrey.”

In 1574 died John Parkhurst, Bishop of Norwich, who by his will gave £20 and all his Latin books to the school. John Parkhurst was born in the parish of St. Mary, Guildford, and was educated at the old free school in that parish. In addition to his gift to the Grammar School, he bequeathed to the Mayor and approved men of Guildford his best basin and ewer of silver, which have been carefully preserved.

In 1581, Simon Talley, vintner, and Mayor of Guildford in 1576, finished the usher’s lodgings at a cost of £10; and in the following year—1582—Robert Broadbridge, clothier, twice Mayor of the borough, did substantially glaze the windows belonging to the usher’s lodgings. In 1586 the master’s lodgings and the library were completed, at a cost of £72:6s., which sum was collected by George Austen from county and other gentlemen and ladies. Among other benefactors of the school we must briefly name Richard Webbe, of Littleton, who in the 27th of Elizabeth gave a messuage and garden in Stoke; Alice Polstead, the widow of the Henry Polstead I have before mentioned, who in the 28th of Elizabeth gave an annuity of £3:6s.:8d., charged upon her real estate; and George Austen, from whose manuscript, still preserved among the town records, I have quoted so largely, who devoted the later years of his life almost exclusively to the good of the school. He was the son of John Austen before mentioned. He sat as member for Guildford in the 1st Parliament of James I, and was Mayor of the borough three times, namely, in 1579, 1588, and 1600. On the 20th of December, 1607, he presented his manuscript to the Corporation (*see* Appendix B), and I should like to see this valuable record of past times printed for the instruction of the present generation. Since his day the material for a

complete history of the Grammar School is only to be found by carefully examining the records of the Corporation, and since 1835 from the minute books and papers in the hands of the Clerk to the Municipal Trustees.

I had almost omitted to mention the statutes for governing the school, the original copy of which is still in the custody of the Clerk to the Trustees. They are written bookwise on parchment which is in excellent preservation, are dated the 21st of September, 1608, and bear the signature of Thomas Bilson, the then Bishop of Winchester. These statutes are printed by Russell, in his *History of Guildford*, published in 1801, and contain many curious and interesting provisions which the time at my disposal will not allow me to discourse upon. The school was governed by this constitution until the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835, which divested the Mayor and approved men of their long-held trust, and placed it in the keeping of a new body of trustees. This necessitated new statutes, which accordingly were drawn up and engrossed, and signed by Charles R. Sumner, Bishop of Winchester, on the 11th of December, 1835. Most of the old statutes of any importance were recapitulated, saving that by No. 14 the number of free scholars was limited to six until the death of the then master, Mr. Ayling, and on his death they were not to exceed ten.

The following catalogue of the masters is taken from Manning and Bray:—

1555.—Thomas Barker was the first master appointed after the Charter of Foundation was granted by Edward VI, and two years before the school was erected.

1556.—Thomas Jerbard. He died 26th August, 1572. Roger Goad was admitted a Fellow of King's College, in Cambridge, from the foundation at Eton in 1555, and elected Provost of the same 19th March, 1569–70, being "fetched," as Fuller says, "from Guildford in Surrey, where he was a schoolmaster." If so, he must have been master some time before Jerbard's decease. He was also installed Chancellor of Wells March 6th,

1576, which he seems to have resigned in 1589, for he did not die till the year 1610.

1575.—Francis Taylor, M.A. His appointment is entered as in this year, but most probably took place on the advancement of Goad to the Provostship of King's; and this also will better agree with what is said of the two bishops, Abbot having been educated under him, whereof Robert, having removed to Oxford in 1575, could hardly have been a scholar of Taylor's if he had not been master sooner. He was instituted Rector of Lambeth on the presentation of his pupil, the Archbishop, in 1611, and is probably the same that was afterwards also Rector of Clapham. He died in 1618.

1580.—John Sandford.

— Thomas Parvish, student of Ch. Church, Oxford. He died 10th October, 1588, and was buried in the Church of St. Mary-le-bow, London.

1589.—John Good was buried in Trinity Church in this town, 6th September, 1594.

1594.—John Crow, M.A. He was instituted Rector of Trinity Church 24th March, 1595-6, and of the neighbouring Church of Stoke 7th March, 1598-9. He resigned the mastership in 1603 and died in 1633.

1603.—James Bladworth, removed into Kent, and died there about the year 1624.

1623.—William Hill succeeded Crow in the Rectory of Stoke 17th September, 1633, and died there in October, 1662.

1633.—George Holmes.

1645.—John Graile, M.A., died 4th January, 1697-8, æt. 88, having been master upwards of 52 years, as appears by an inscription to his memory in Trinity Church, where he was buried.

1697-8.—Samuel Pigot, M.A. He was instituted to the Rectory of Stoke in 1707, and to that of Windlesham in this county 17th January, 1717-18, where he died in 1754.

1717-18.—John Randal, M.A., was buried in Trinity Church 29th November, 1722.

1722.—George Stevens, M.A., and Rector of West Clandon, 1725, where he died in 1750.

1733.—Cornelius Jeale, M.A., was instituted Rector of Wisley 30th July, 1736, and died 29th October, 1762.

1757.—John Persall, M.A., who afterwards assumed the name of Peshall and the title of Baronet. Resigned in 1769.

1769.—Samuel Cole, M.A., the present master.

The following are from a later source:—

1819.—Rev. John Stedman, Curate of Holy Trinity and St. Mary.

1822.—Rev. Henry Ayling, Rector of Holy Trinity and St. Mary.

1837.—Rev. Charles Joseph Belin, who, after holding the mastership for many years, was succeeded by Mr. Fairhead and Dr. Merriman, the doctor being followed by Mr. Jeafferson, and he by the present master, Dr. Kincaid.

Of the many great and distinguished men who received the ground part of their education at the Royal Grammar School, I cannot at this time speak at length, but the very mention of the names of Robert Abbot, Bishop of Salisbury, George Abbot, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir Maurice Abbot, John Parkhurst, Bishop of Norwich, Henry Cotton, Bishop of Norwich, William Cotton, Bishop of Exeter, will show what a rich and somewhat unexplored field of interest lies before some Guildford student in this direction. I cannot refrain, however, from mentioning one other scholar, namely, Richard Valpy, master of Reading School, and great-grandfather of Mr. Valpy, the present esteemed Rector of Holy Trinity and Saint Mary. He presented some books to the library in 1773, and there is a tradition that he was the first to institute, and the last to abandon, the practice of having an old boys' dinner once a year. The library of the school contains about 700 volumes, some in fair condition, and others very much torn and dilapidated. The library was started by the gift of Bishop Parkhurst, since which it has been

augmented by gifts from John and George Austen, Richard and George More, of Loseley, several members of the Onslow family, including Arthur Onslow the Speaker, and others. A few purchases have also been made from time to time. The books mainly consist of early and heavy tomes on divinity, education, and the classics, from some of the early English and Continental presses, but there is no Caxton or Wynkin de Worde. The earliest dated book is 1485, and some of the books have still the staple and chain attached which bound them to the common desk for the convenience of the scholars. Of their value it is difficult to form an estimate, and I am quite willing to accept the opinion of the late Mr. Robert Godwin-Austen and the present Mr. P. W. Jacobs, as I find it recorded in a minute bearing date the 29th January, 1864, "that the books are very mixed, money value of them not great, but as showing the course of study in the past, they are valuable." A catalogue of them was taken in 1838, and two of the present trustees, Mr. David Williamson and Mr. George Jacobs, have at great expense of time and trouble made a new and elaborate schedule of the books during the past year. There are two scholarships attached to the school, which were founded by Joseph Nettles, of St. Mary's, Guildford, on the 27th November, 1691, and consist of presentations to either of the universities of Cambridge or Oxford. The yearly sum devoted to the maintenance of the scholars was originally only £10 a year; it was raised about 1765 to £24:9s., but is now, I believe, more than treble the latter sum. The scholarships are still extant, and duly used and appreciated. As regards the pecuniary position of the school, it was never sufficiently endowed, and as a consequence it has been in a periodical state of depression from its foundation to the present. As an instance of this I quote examples from the records of the corporation :

"13th day of February, 1765.

"At this Guild Merchant, the state of the Free Grammar School of this towne, called the Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth,

being taken into consideration. It appears that there is not one scholar taught in the said school, nor has been for nearly a twelvemonth past, so that the places of master and usher are reduced to sinecures; and the Reverend John Pearsall, Clerk, the master of the said school, and David Morgan, the usher there, have been paid their salaries to the fifth day of July last, although no duty has been done by them, or either of them, for near a twelvemonth last past. And it is the opinion of the Mayor and approved men at this Guild that it is owing to the intolerable negligence and misbehaviour of the said Mr. Pearsall, the master. Resolved, and it is ordered, that the payment of the salary to the said master be suspended till further orders."

Mr. Pearsall was suspended accordingly, but failing to be paid his salary, he commenced legal proceedings against the Corporation for the recovery thereof, and, much to the mortification of that body, was successful. Such was the low state of the school in 1765; but twelve years afterwards, as will be seen by the next extract, it was in a very highly satisfactory condition.

"24th November, 1777.

"John Martyr, Town Clerk.

"At this Guild Merchant the matter of the above summons was taken into consideration. And it is ordered that the Schoolwarden do forthwith pay to the Rev. Mr. Cole, the present master of the Free Grammar School the sum of one hundred pounds, in consideration of, and as a compensation for, his diligence, care, and industry in raising the same to its present flourishing state and condition, there being now educating there upwards of sixty scholars, and at his own expense hitherto for the space of eight years last past providing proper ushers and assistants, and that the sum of twenty pounds be paid him yearly in future for the same purpose during the pleasure of the Mayor and approved men, to commence from Michaelmas last, and to be paid in the same manner as his salary as master is to be paid."

All honour to the good and indefatigable Mr. Cole!

On the 1st July, 1819, a committee reported that the number of free scholars in the Royal Grammar School should be reduced to six. The revenue at that date is stated to be £87: 12s.—"Minutes of the Corporation of Guildford."

I have now, as briefly as I could with any view to completeness, given you as it were a consecutive abstract of matters relating to the Royal Grammar School of Guildford, its history, and its founders; and

have to thank my fellow-townsmen, the visitors, and the members of our Society for the patience with which they have listened to me. I wish also to publicly thank Dr. Kincaid for his courteous attention, Mr. Jacobs and Mr. Williamson for the aid they have given me in connection with the library, and Mr. Smallpeice, the Town Clerk, and Mr. Sparkes, the Clerk to the Trustees, for the facilities they have so kindly afforded me to inspect the documents in their custody.

APPENDIX A.

TRANSLATION OF THE CHARTER GRANTED BY KING EDWARD VI.

“Edward the Sixth by the Grace of God of England France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and in Earth of the Church of England and Ireland supreme Head To all to whom the present Letters shall come greeting Know ye that We at the humble Petition of the Mayor and approved Men of our Town of Guildford in our County of Surrey and of many other of our Subjects of our whole neighbouring County there for the erecting and establishing of a Grammar School there for the Institution and Instruction of Boys and Youths Of our Special Grace and of our certain Knowledge and mere Motion Will, grant and ordain that hereafter there be and shall be one Grammar School in the said Town of Guildford which shall be called The Free Grammar School of King Edward the Sixth for the Education Institution and Instruction of Boys and Youths in Grammar at all future times for ever to endure And the same School of one School master or Teacher and one Under Master or Usher for ever to continue We do erect create ordain and found by these presents And that our aforesaid Intention may take better effect Know ye that We of our special Grace and of our certain Knowledge and mere Motion Have given and granted and by these presents Do give and grant to the aforesaid Mayor and good Men of the said Town of Guildford in the said County of Surrey all that our yearly rent of Six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence issuing out of the Lands and Tenements called High Pollesdon with the Appurtenances now or late of Dame Joan Bray and now or late in the Tenure of Thomas Marter lying and being in the Parish of Great Bookeham in the said County of Surrey and out of the Lands and Tenements called Champney with the Appurtenances now or late of the said Dame Joan Bray and now or late in the Tenure or occupation of Thomas Hubberd lying and being in the Parish of Stokedaborne in the said County of Surrey And which rent formerly belonged and appertained to the late Chantry of Stokedaborne in the

said county of Surrey now dissolved and to the Cantarist of the same Chantry heretofore and until the Dissolution of the same late Chantry was accustomed to be paid. And all that our yearly rent of thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence issuing out of the Lands Tenements and possessions of the Archbishop of York in Battersea and Wandsworth in the said County of Surrey And which Rent formerly belonged to two late Chantries in Southwell in our County of Nottingham and to the Cantarist of the same two last Chantries before and until the Dissolution of the same late Chantries was accustomed to be paid as fully freely and intirely and in as ample manner and form as any of the Cantarists Chaplains Incumbents or any other Ministers of the said late Chantries or either of them or any other person or other persons heretofore having possessing or being seized at the said several Rents or either of them ever heretofore had held or enjoyed or ought to have had held or enjoyed the same or either of them And as fully freely and intirely and in as ample manner and form as all and singular the same premises by reason or pretext of a certain Act for dissolving and determining of divers Chantries Colleges free Chapels Gilds and Fraternities in our Parliament holden at Westminster in the fourth year of our Reign (amongst others) passed and provided or by any other Manner Right or Title whatsoever to our Hands came or ought to have come And as the same in our Hands now are or ought to be or to have been And which several yearly rents amount to the clear yearly Value of Twenty pounds To have hold and enjoy the aforesaid several yearly rents and every of them to the aforesaid Mayor and approved Men of the said Town of Guildford and their Successors for ever To hold of us our Heirs and Successors as if our Manor of Guildford in our County of Surrey by Fealty only in free Socage and not in chief for all rents Services and Demands whatsoever for the same in any manner howsoever to be rendered paid or done And also We have given and granted and by these presents Do give and grant to the aforesaid Mayor and approved Men and their Successors All the Issues Revenues and profits of the aforesaid rents from the Feast of Saint Michael the Archangel last past hitherto arising or growing To hold the same Issues Revenues and profits to the aforesaid Mayor and approved Men and their Successors of our Gift without Account, or any other thing for the same to us our Heirs or Successors in any manner howsoever to be rendered paid or done And further of our more Abundant Grace and of our certain Knowledge and mere Motion aforesaid We have given and granted and by these presents Do Give and Grant to the aforesaid Mayor and approved Men and their Successors and the greater part of them that they with the advice of our well-beloved and faithful Cousin and Counsellor William Marquis of Northampton our High Chamberlain of England and Warden of our Manor of Guildford in our said County of Surrey and of other Wardens of the same Manor hereafter for the time being may have and shall have full Power and Authority to name and appoint a Schoolmaster and Under Master of the School aforesaid so often as the same School of a Schoolmaster or Usher shall be void And that the same Mayor and approved Men with the advice of the Bishop of Winchester for the time being from time to time make

and may and shall be able to make good and wholesome Statutes and Ordinances in Writing concerning and touching the Order Government and direction of the Schoolmaster Usher and Scholars of the School aforesaid for the time being And of the Stipend and Salary of the same Schoolmaster and Usher and other things concerning and touching the same School and Order Government Preservation and Disposition of the Rents and Revenues appointed and to be appointed to the support of the same And which Statutes and Ordinances so to be made We will grant and by these presents Command to be inviolably observed from time to time for ever And We Will and by these presents Ordain that all the Issues Revenues and profits of the aforesaid rents and every of them by these presents given and granted for the support of the aforesaid School and of the Schoolmaster and Usher of the same be from time to time laid out and expended. And We will and by these presents Grant to the aforesaid Mayor and approved Men that they may have and shall have these our Letters Patent under our Great Seal of England in due manner made and sealed without any Fine or Fee great or small to us in our Hanaper or elsewhere to our Use for the same in any manner howsoever to be rendered paid or made Although express Mention of the true yearly value or certainty of the premises or if other Gifts or Grants by us or by any of our progenitors hereto made to the aforesaid Mayor and approved Men of the aforesaid Town of Guildford or their predecessors is not made in these presents Or any Statute Act Ordinance provision or Prohibition to the contrary thereof passed ordained or provided Or any other Thing Cause or Matter whatsoever in anywise notwithstanding In Testimony whereof We have caused these our Letters to be made Patent. Witness Ourself at Westminster the twenty-seventh day of January in the sixth year of our Reign.

By the King himself and of the
Date aforesaid by Authority of Parliament

ADAMS.

APPENDIX B.

PREFACE TO GEORGE AUSTEN'S MS., FROM THE ORIGINAL NOW IN
THE POSSESSION OF THE GUILDFORD CORPORATION.

To the Worshipfull his lovinge bretheren the Maior and approved
men of Guildeforde.

As I didd about xiiij yeres past take no smale paynes and travell for
the reducinge and setlinge the revenues of the free Grammer Schole
wthin this Towne into more certenty then before And also for the

manifestinge of many things touchinge the saide Schole whereof some were before very obscure; and other some, and those of good consequence, knowen to very fewe . . . catalogue of the ffounders and principall Benefactors to that Schole. So didd I then committ the same to writinge w^{ch} hath lyen longe by me not fullie fynished because I made stay untill the Statute and ordynance sett downe for the orderinge of that Schole should be duly considered of by the Bisshopp of Winton according to the ttes patente, thereof made and then to be sett downe in this booke in w^{ch} tyme I resolved wth my self not to publishe the same to you (as I formerly intended) by reson it was but in a playne and rude manner sett downe: And therefore to kepe it for myne owne use and for such as I should thinke fitt to see the same. But havinge shewed it to dyvers of my familiar friends, lerned and of good judgm^t I have been by them earnestlie perswaded to cause the same to be faier writton and lefte for the informinge of such as shall succede wth these perswasions prevaylinge wth me I have caused three copies to be faire writton out of myne. One of w^{ch} copies I have purposed for you and the same doe nowe present to you as a token of my love and affection to this corporacon. One other copie thereof I purpose to leve and comitt to the Librarie wthin the saide Schole there to be safelie kept amongst the bookes in that Librarie and the third I will reteyne in my hande to comitt to the custodie of some one that I shall think wil be carefull for the good of the saide Schole. What benefitt or good may be hoped for to the said Towne or Schole by this my travell I rather leve to the judgment of such as shall reade the same then to write thereof. My desier in regard of my paynes and travell herein taken is that if it shalbe acceptable to you and founde of good use that then you will kepe the same carefully for the better informinge of yourselves and others (that shall succede you) in the matters herein handled and to cause another copie or more to be thereof made for the more saffe kepinge of this Yf otherwise it shalbe thought vayne and of noe accompt the labor and travell hath beene myne and the charge of other copyes may be spared and yett I dare boldlie say that the thinges for the most part sett downe are such (as my travell excepted) cannott be hadd wthout greater charge and labor then most men will belove, howsoever it be taken I protest I have done it faithfullie and trulie, in love, for the good of you and yours Guldeford this twenteth of December 1607 restinge ever

Your very lovinge neybor and frend

GEORGE AUSTEN.

Wth holde not the good from the owners threof though there be power in thine hand to doe it.

Proverb 3 v. 27.

Remove not the anniecent bounds and enter not into the feilde of the ffatherles for he that redemeth them is mightie, he will defende there cause against thee.

Proverb 23 v. 10, 11.

A Monument for the Schole
of Guldeford
being

an historicall discourse wherein the pryvilegs charters donations and rights of the same Schole are conteyned, the ffounder and Benefactors thereof recorded the litigious titles clered doubts resolved and other matters importinge the state thereof collected by the studie travell and charge of George Austen.

Whereunto is added the principall matters recorded in an olde booke called y^e black booke in y^e tymes of divers kings viz^t E. 3. R. 2 H. 4 H. 5 touchinge the saide Towne of Guldeford by him abbreviated out of that booke.