

## HILLESDEN ACCOUNT BOOK, 1661—1667.

(BY THE EDITOR.)

(Continued from Page 198.)

## MINISTER'S STIPEND.

The Dentons owned the tithes of Hillesden and provided the incumbent with his stipend, in addition to which they paid the rent of the rectory.

		£	s.	d.
18—189	Paid to Mr. Christopher Canner, Minister of Hillesden, in full for his stypend for serving the cure there for one quartr. of a yeare ending at Michas 1661, as appears by Acqtc. ....	8	15	0
255—355	Paid to Mr. Samuel Dix, Minr., for serving the cure at Hillesden for one quarter of a yeare ending the 14th of April 1666, as appears by Acquittee ...	7	10	0

The last payment to Mr. Canner was down to 24 June, 1665<sup>1</sup>; shortly afterwards we find the following entries:—

		£	s.	d.
205—648	Paid to Mr. Tho. Berry for serving the cure at Hillesdon 3 Sundaies and a fast day ended 16 July 1665, at 10s. p. day	1	10	0
649	Paid to Mr. Franklyn for preaching at Hillesdon on the 23rd of July 1665 .....	10	0	
650	Paid to Mr. Berry for preaching there one fast day and two Sundaies ending 6 August 1665 .....	1	10	0
244—183	Paid to Mr. Berry for serving the cure at Hillesdon 2 fast daies and 7 sabbath daies ended 15 Octob. 1665 .....	4	10	0
247—231	Paid to Mr. Waters for the use of Mr. Franklin being for his serving the Cure at Hillesdon 3 Sabbath Daies ended 27 Aug. 1665 .....	1	10	0
248—248	Paid to Mr. Tho. Berry for serving the cure at Hillesdon one fast day and 12 Sabbath daies ended the 7th of January, 1666 <sup>2</sup> .....	6	10	0

<sup>1</sup> In Lipscomb Canner is shown as "1660 and 1663."

<sup>2</sup> The year has been altered to New style.

buried in Hillesden Church, and a floor slab in the North chapel, after giving his name, merely says that he "departed this life the 17th of October, 1698, in the 44th year of his age."<sup>4</sup>

The first reference to "schooling" is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
194—416 Paid to Mr. Finch, School-mastr. of New Colledge in Oxford, £2 for the schooling of Mr. Alexr. Denton and Mr. Edm. Denton, Sonnes of the said Edm. Denton, Esq., decd., for one quarter of a yeare ended in Feb. 1665. More to the said Mr. Finch for their entrance £2 in all, as appears by Acquittce. ....	4	0	0

Another payment of £2 covers the next "quarter ended on the 30 May, 1665." During the six months their board and lodging were settled by this payment:—

	£	s.	d.
199—523 Paid to Mrs. Dorothy Slade in Oxford the sume of £20 for the dyett of Mr. Alexr. Denton and Mr. Edmund Denton, and their maid's dyett for halfe a yeare ended 9 May 1665 .....	20	0	0

We are able to see the cost of their outfit to some extent down to July, 1665, in the following entry, one line of which refers to 1664:—

207—697 Paid to Mr. John Townsend of Oxford the sume of £14:13:5 for severall things hereunder mentioned being in part of his bill of £39:0:8 concerning Mr. Alexr. Denton, junr. and his brother Mr. Edmund Denton, betweene 14 March 1664 and the — day — of 1665, being the time of their removall from Oxford to Hanwell, viz. :—			
	£	s.	d.
For 1¼ ell of Holland and ldoz. of buttons delivered for their use in March, 1664 .....	10	0	

<sup>4</sup> This Alexander's second son became Recorder of Bucks, M.P. 1708-1722, and Justice of Common Pleas; it was he who rebuilt Hillesden House. Mr. Justice Denton's sister Elizabeth married Geo. Chamberlayne, their son (M.P. for Buckingham 1727-1734) was adopted by his uncle, Mr. Justice Denton, and assumed the name of Denton; his daughter married Wenman Roberts, and their son was no less a person than Thomas W. Coke, afterwards Lord Leicester, who sold Hillesden in 1823, see final paragraph.

£ s. d.

For 14 yards of french druggett which made each of them a suit and coate in Apr. 1665, and for other things belonging to the same .....	7	17	0
Paid to Mr. Slade in Oxford for $\frac{1}{2}$ year's dyett for the said Mr. Alexr. Denton jun., and his brother Mr. Edm. Denton and their maid due at the time of the said removall .....	5	0	0
Paid then to Mr. Finch, the School-mastr. of New Colledge in Oxford, for their schooling and writing for the said $\frac{1}{2}$ yeare .....	1	6	0
	<hr/>		14 13 0

Two things are to be noticed in this entry; the first is the fact that only a little more than a third of the total amount is entered, this is because the charge in respect to the elder son, Alexander, is generally charged "in the Accompt of Hillesdon Demesnes," the accounts we have concern the executors only, and it is only the expenses of Edmund which were paid for by them. The second point is a reference to "their removall from Oxford to Hanwell;" they did not return to Mr. Finch after June, but went to Mr. Geo. Ashwell, of whom we are told<sup>5</sup> that he was "son of Robt. Ashwell, of Harrow-on-the-Hill, born 8 Nov., 1612, Scholar of Wadham College 1627, and became a noted tutor there. After being Chaplain in the family of Sir Anthony Cope, lord of Hanwell, he became Rector of Hanwell, Oxon, in 1658; he died 8 Feby., 1693, and was buried at Hanwell." He was author of five theological works between 1653 and 1688.

We accordingly find that the next charges (though actually paid before that just quoted) indicate that the boys had gone to Hanwell.

204—646 Paid £3, being Mr. Edm. Denton's part of £10 paid to Mr. Geo. Ashwell for the dyett of the said Mr. Edmund Denton, his brother Mr. Alexr. Denton and their

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<sup>5</sup> Woods' "Athence Oxonienses."

		£	s.	d.
maid, for a quarter of a yeare to be ended at Michas. 1665, the remaying £7 being placed to the account of the Demesnes		3	0	0
248—234	Paid to Mr. Geo. Ashwell for the said Mr. Edm. Denton's schooling for halfe a yeare ending 25 Decr. 1665 .....	2	0	0

There are various payments of 2s. 6d. to Mr. Edmund "for spending money," but the most interesting items deal with his clothing:—

		£	s.	d.
256—378	Paid to Mr. Birtwissell (p. John Kersey) for gloves for Mr. Edm. Denton .....	2	6	
257—396	Paid to George Cary for a paire of boots for Mr. Edmund Denton .....	6	0	
259—432	Paid to John Kersey which he laid out for severall things for Mr. Edmund Denton, viz. :—			

		s.	d.
	For a hatt .....	9	6
	And for 2 paire of stockings ..	5	6
	And for 3 paire of gloves ...	3	0

289	284	Paid to Geo. Cary for two paire of shooes for Mr. Edm. Denton .....	18	0
290—312		Paid to Mr. Geo. Ashwell that he laid out for a suit of clothes and other things for Mr. Edm. Denton, as appears by two bills, whereof £4:8:0 is the halfe, the other halfe, being for his brother Mr. Alex. Denton, is placed to the account of the Hillesdon Demesnes .....	4	10
298—469		Paid to Mr. Edm. Denton for spending money, being in part of the Annuity allowed him by his father's will .....	4	8
300—493		Paid for a girdle and hangers with silver buckles for Mr. Edmund Denton .....	10	0
301—511		Paid to Geo. Cary for 2 paire of shooes and 2 paire of boots for Mr. Edm. Denton	1	7
			13	0

#### RATES AND TAXES.

The disbursements grouped under this heading in the table of receipts and payments come to a considerable sum, which exceeds the amount paid in labour in the six years and is equivalent to nearly 9 per cent. of the income derived from rents. The number and variety of them is even more surprising than the amount; for convenience they may be placed into groups which may be illustrated by the following examples:—

1. GOVERNMENT TAXES.

	£	s.	d.
41—636	Paid to Mr. Robt. Townsend for his $\frac{1}{3}$ part of the 6 months Assessments ending the 24th June, 1662, being part of the 18 months assessments lately granted to his Matie. by an Act of Parliamt. for the house and lands in Cowley which the said Dr. Townsend holds by Lease from Mr. Edmund Denton aforesaid .....		
	5	0	6
135—251	Part to Ferd. Lucas and Richard Haynes in full that was assessed upon the said Trustees part of the said Mr. Edm. Denton's lands in Hillesdon, the same being rated at £4 lands, towards the two first subsidies lately granted to his Matie. by Act of Parliament .....		
	1	12	0
137—307	Paid to my brother Rich. Haynes and Ferd. Lucas 17s. 2d. in full due for the said Trustees part of the said Mr. Edm. Denton's lands in Hillesdon upon an Assessment made for the payment of the trained Band officers according to a late Act of Parliament .....		
	17	2	
85—362	Paid to Robt. Friday 2s. which p. agreement with the Trustees was allowed to him for so much paid by him for his two fire-hearths for halfe a yeare ended at Michas 1662, by vertue of a late Act of Parliament <sup>6</sup> .....		
	2	0	
105—782	Paid to Robt. Friday that was allow'd him p. agreemt. with the said Trustees for chimney-rent for his house for half a yeare ended at Lady Day 1663 .....		
	2	0	

2. LOCAL AND SPECIAL RATES.

187—269	Paid to Tho. Dent and Joseph Lawrence £1: 4: 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ in full due upon a Leavy made 15 Octob. 1664 out of the said Trustees part of the said Mr. Edm. Denton's lands in Hillesdon, for repaire of the highwaies there .....		
	1	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
82—203	Paid to Francis Nelson, overseer for the Poore of Preston cu Cowley 10s. 7d. in full due upon a Leavy made 8 Novemb. 1662 for reliefe of the said Poore, the sume of 5s. 3d. for those, the said Mr. Edm. Denton's lands in Cowley which George Adams now holdeth .....		
	5	3	

<sup>6</sup> This and the next entry relate to the "tax levied by 14 Car. II. c. 2. It was productive of great discontent and therefore abolished by 1 W. & M. C10."—J. J. S. Wharton's "Law Lexicon."

19	16	Received of John Kersey which he returned to me from London by M <sup>r</sup> . Canner for the use of the said Trustees -	04	10	6
17		Rec <sup>d</sup> of Oliver Mayne 9:10:0, which with 8:17:6 formerly rec <sup>d</sup> of him (as appears by the 141 <sup>st</sup> peill of my Acco <sup>t</sup> (N <sup>o</sup> . 12) & 20 <sup>th</sup> mon <sup>th</sup> rec <sup>d</sup> of him as appears by the 161 <sup>st</sup> peill of the same Acco <sup>t</sup> makes 38:7:6, which is in full for his rent for half a year ended at Michas 1662 for his house & homestall & two Inclosures & for 10 acres of arable in Rimlow field & groats - - - - -	09	10	-
18		Rec <sup>d</sup> mon <sup>th</sup> of the said Oliver Mayne in part for his rent for half a year ended at Lady day 1663 for the lands last above mentioned - - - - -	07	10	-
19		Rec <sup>d</sup> of Robt Brashead jun <sup>r</sup> in part for his rent for half a year ended at Michas 1663 for his part of the new Park his homestall, & Maxway ground, & King-bridg <sup>e</sup> meadow & Lampards Dinn - - - - -	20	-	-
			80	03	02

SPECIMEN OF RECEIPTS (bottom of page 118 of original).

u: } 1	370	Paid to M <sup>r</sup> Tho: Denton s <sup>r</sup> 10 <sup>s</sup> in full for his Annuity - for one quarter of a year ended at Christmas 1662, - appointed to be paid to him by the said last Will as appears by Acquitt - - - - -	10	-	-
	371	Paid to Lin: Typpling & Tho: Butcher for hedging in Rimton field 3 daies a piece - - - - -	-	04	-
	372	Paid to John Hobbs for lopping in the new park 3 daies -	-	02	-
	373	Paid to Wille <sup>m</sup> Berry for cutting a hedge in the new Park wood 3 daies - - - - -	-	02	-
	374	Paid to Len: Typpling for carrying a Cart to Ability to M <sup>r</sup> John Smyth one of the Trustees afores <sup>d</sup> - - - - -	-	-	6
em. } 29	375	Paid to John Kerrey which I returned to him by M <sup>r</sup> Tho: Denton for the use of the said Trustees as appears by Acquitt - - - - -	04	04	-
			55	06	1

SPECIMEN OF EXPENSES (bottom of page 86 of original).

		£ s. d.
106—809	Paid in full for $\frac{3}{4}$ parts of a Bill of Militia Charges about Serving with a horse in the Troop for the County of Bucks from 7 May 1661 to 17 Sept. 1662, the sume of £1:4:8, being the said Trustees proporcon for their pt. of the said Edm. Denton's lands, the remaining $\frac{1}{4}$ part being paid by Mrs. Eliz. Denton .....	1 4 8
295—388	Paid to Tho. Dent. Constable of Hillesdon, 17s. in full due out of the said Trustees part of the said Mr. Edm. Denton's lands there for maymed souledeers, Kings Bench and Marshall seas for a quarter of a yeare ended at Christmas 1666, which is the double of the usuall quarterly payment by vertue of a warrant from the Justices of the Peace <sup>7</sup> .....	17 0
149—558	Paid to Rich. Thorpe, Constable of Preston cu Cowley 5s. 2d. in full due out of the said Mr. Edmund Denton's lands in Cowley for Certainty money for halfe a yeare ended at Lady Day 1664. Also paid 8s. 10d. for the like Certainty money then due from severall persons in Preston who are to be freed from payment thereof by their Agreement with the said Mr. Edmund Denton in his lifetime, in all so paid as appeares by Acquitt. <sup>8</sup> .....	14 0

<sup>7</sup> The explanation of this is contained in the following extract from Lambard's "Eirenarcha, or Of the Office of the Justices of the Peace," 1614, p. 621: "The Justices of Peace, at their generall sessions next after Easter, shall rate everie parish to a weekly summe not above sixpence nor under a halfe penie towards the reliefe of the prisoners in the Kings bench, Marshalsey, Hospitals, and Almshouses in the Countie, and rate the sums to be sent to everie of these places; and elect a Treasurer for that purpose, and punish him that refuseth. 43 Eliz. c 2." By another Act the Justices "shall yeerely rate every parish towards the reliefe of Souldiers and Mariners."

<sup>8</sup> Wharton ("Law Lexicon," 1860) describes this as "head-money paid yearly by the resiants of several manors to the lords thereof, for the certain keeping of the leet." This is probably incorrect; the typical entry given above at least suggests that it might be levied upon the land or tenement, and if cert-money (certitudo) is identical with "sheriff's aid," or "sheriff's yield,"—as seems probable,—it was in the nature of a land-tax paid to the sheriff for holding the courts of shire and hundred.



£ s. d.

13 Novr. 1666.

288—272 Paid to Tho. Dent, Constable of Hillesdon 6s. 1½d. that was assessed upon the said Trustees' part of the said Mr. Edm. Denton's lands in Hillesdon, upon a leavy renewed on or about this day for the reliefe of Newport Pagnell, it being sadly infected with the Plague ... .. 6 1½

21 Mar. 1666.

252—318 Paid to Mr. Wollesley, Deputy Receiver of his Matie's. fee farms rents and Tenths due out of the County of Bucks by the hands of Edm. Usher, messenger, the sume of £2:16:9, being the moyety of £5:13:6 for one yeare's tenths due to his Matie. at Michas 1665 out of Hillesdon manor. Also paid to the said Usher for half of the Acqte. 6d. and for ¼ of his fees to him and his assistant 7s. 2d. in all so paid, as appears by the Acqte. (the remaying moyety being placed to the Accot. of Hillesdon Demesnes), the sume of ..... 3 4 5

NOTE.—The rent last mentioned being due in the time of the great Plague could not be paid in with safety as at other times which occasioned the extraordinary charge of messengers' fees above mentioned.

3. CHURCH RATES.

81—290 Paid to Benedict Harding, Churchwarden of Preston cu Cowley 10s. 7d. due upon a Leavy made in August 1662 for repaire of the Church there, for the said Mr. Edm. Denton's lands in Cowley which George Adams now holdeth ..... 10 7

90—436 Paid to Mr. Mathew Leake (p. Mr. Tho. Cooper) for Procuracons and Synodals due out of the Rectory and Church of Hillesdon for the yeare 1662 13 3½

The origin of the levies known as "Procurations and Synodals" seems to be obscure; we are told that "Procurations are duties payable to the Bishops and Arch-deacons at the time of their visitation, which are not paid by any certain rule, but by some ancient taxation; for anciently the religious houses and Clergy-men at their own charge entertained the Bishops and Arch-deacons in their visitations, but at

length their attendants were so many, and their trains so great, that the Clergy and Religious Houses were horribly oppressed with entertaining of them; to avoid which they came to this composition, everyone to pay such a proportion to their visitors to be freed of that great oppression."<sup>9</sup>

Synodals are still more obscure, they are paid also "by some ancient Taxation; so that some pay more, and some less." However they arose, they were claimed by the Archdeacons for their Easter visitation; "by the name it should seem to be a contribution to the Archdeacon's charge in the Synod, they being anciently elected by the Deacons themselves as their representative."<sup>10</sup>

While dealing with taxes the following entry occurs more than once; beyond the remark that it exhibits a neat piece of accounting it seems to require no comment:—

	£ s. d.
84—338 Paid to Mr. John Carter for $\frac{1}{3}$ part of taxes for halfe a yeere ended at Michas 1662 for his lands in Hillesdon to be borne by the said Mr. Edm. Denton by agreement with him in regard the said John yeilded to pay for $1\frac{1}{2}$ yard lands, whereas by the pound rent it is not better than a yard-land (teste Mr. Edw. Butterfield) .....	8 1

This concludes the excerpts which it is proposed to make from a very interesting record; to have printed the whole volume in extenso would have afforded more valuable material for the student; but it would be a formidable undertaking which would not be justified by the rarity of the facts disclosed. As a local history of prices, and as throwing a few sidelights upon the social and economic history of the time, these articles seemed justified.

<sup>9</sup> Sir Simon Degge's "Parson's Counsellor," 1685, p. 230.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid. p. 231. Degge adds that "a learned and worthy divine" sent him a book concerning Synodals, "whereby he expected I might receive some satisfaction concerning the Original and Growth of them; at whose candle I should thankfully have lighted mine own, if it had given a clear light." Instead he is driven to castigate the author in several pages of great learning.

It is a matter of regret that little can be done in the way of identifying the several holdings; some of the field-names linger: Rimlow has become Rimleas, Lampards Den is still called Lampards, it lies near to Lenborough, and Blackslade may still be identified, but the absence of an old tithe map, and the fact that Hillesden seems to have been inclosed by consent, or at least without any Act or Award map being registered, cuts off a usual source of authentic information.

Knowing that the estate remained fairly intact until the days of T. W. Coke, application was made to the present Lord Leicester, but the only deed available at Holkham was the agreement for sale entered into between T. W. Coke and John Farquhar, of Fonthill Abbey, dated 5 Sept., 1823. By this deed it was agreed to sell the fee simple of the freehold manors or royalties in the schedule for £127,000 for 3,105 acres. The schedule alludes to "a map and survey taken in 1763," but enquiries made in various directions have, up to the present, failed to disclose the existence of such a map; even if it were available it might not disclose the various holdings mentioned in the accounts of a century earlier.