

DESCRIPTION OF PLACES ON THE BANKS OF  
THE RIVER THAMES, GIVEN DURING AN  
EXCURSION FROM BOURNE END TO MAGNA  
CHARTA ISLAND.

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*(The Anastatic Sketches illustrating this Paper have been presented by  
Mr. Lowndes.)*

Bourne End is situated in the parish of Woburn, which probably derives its name from Wyburne, the bourne or burn of the Wye running through the parish. And Bourne End marks the spot where the bourne ends, and empties itself into the river Thames. As the history of Woburn has been described in vol. iii., p. 16, of the RECORDS, I will merely point out that the manor, at the time of the Norman Survey, was the property of Earl Harold. The Conqueror seized it, and bestowed it upon a relative, Remigius, Bishop of Lincoln; and Walter Deyncourt, a relation of the Bishop, held it under him; and it continued in the possession of his family until the year 1422. By marriage with Alice, the sole heiress of the estate, it devolved upon William, Lord Lovel, who died 3<sup>d</sup> Henry VI. At her decease, she having survived her son, Sir John Lovel, the property devolved upon her grandson, Sir Francis Lovel (9th Baron), who, being a favourite of Richard III., was made, by that monarch, Chamberlain of the Household, Constable of the Castle of Wallingford, and Chief Butler of England. On Jan. 4, 1483, he was created Viscount Lovel. During the reign of Richard, one William Colingbourne was executed under colour of rebellion, but in truth for the following distich of verses, which he had composed against Richard and his ministers.

“The cat, the rat, and Lovel, our dogge,  
Ruled all Englonde under an hogge.”

Viscount Lovel subsequently fought under Richard's banner at the battle of Bosworth, and was fortunate enough to escape with his life. From Bosworth he fled to Colchester, where he took sanctuary, thence to Sir John Broughton's house in Lancashire, whence he escaped into Flanders. There he was received by Mar-

garet, Duchess of Flanders, the late king's sister; by whom he was sent into Ireland, to uphold the pretensions of Lambert Simnell. Thence invading England, his lordship is said to have fallen at the battle of Stoke, in 1487. Lord Bacon, however, says of him, in his history of the reign of Henry VII., "Only of the Lord Lovel there went a report, that he fled, and swam over Trent on horseback, but he could not recover the farther side, by reason of the steepness of the bank, and so was drowned in the river. But another report leaves him not there, but that he lived long after in a cave or vault." Tradition states that he escaped to his seat at Minster Lovel, in Oxfordshire, and secreted himself there, where he was sustained in a vault by the devotion of a female servant. This servant died suddenly without betraying the secret, when his Lordship was starved to death with a dog that was the associate of his captivity.

On the occasion of rebuilding a chimney at Minster Lovel, in 1708, "a large vault was discovered underground, in which was the entire skeleton of a man, as having been sitting at a table, with a book, paper, pen, etc.; and in another part of the room lay a cap, all much mouldered and decayed," which the family and others judged to be this Lord Lovel. "A melancholy period to the life and fortune of one of the greatest and most active noblemen of the era wherein he lived."

The estates in 2 Henry VII. were granted to Sir John Risley, Knt., the vast inheritance of the Lovels having been confiscated by an act of attainder. Dugdale, however, says that William, second son of William, Lord Lovel, had livery of Deyncourt, and that his wife died seized of it 4 Henry VII. Henry VIII., by patent (4 Henry VIII.), granted the Manor of Deyncourt to William Compton, ancestor of the Earls of Northampton, and a great favourite at court. He died in 1530, and at the time of his death was ranger of Windsor Great Park. His son, Peter, was a minor at the time of his death, whose wardship, during his minority, was committed first to Cardinal Wolsey, and afterwards to George, Earl of Shrewsbury, who married him, before he was nineteen, to his daughter, Lady Ann Talbot. Peter Compton, however, died a minor, Jan. 30, 1544, leaving a son, Henry, who was summoned to Parliament from May

8th. 14 Eliz., 1572, to Feb. 4th, 31 Eliz., 1589, as "Henrico Compton de Compton, Chev<sup>r</sup>." He died 1589, leaving William his son and heir, who, in 1618, was created Earl of Northampton.

In 1596, Queen Elizabeth granted the perpetuity of the manor to Robert Spencer and Robert Atkinson, Esqres., extending to the value of £30 4s. 11d. By the marriage of Anne, daughter of Sir William Spencer, with Sir John Goodwin, the manors of Woburn Deyncourt and Bishop's Woburn became united in the possession of the Goodwins. Jane, the only daughter and heiress of Arthur Goodwin (grandson of Sir John), married Philip, Lord Wharton, Sept. 7th, 1637, who, on the death of Arthur Goodwin, succeeded to his estates. He attached himself to the Parliamentarians, and was lord lieutenant of the county. Being strongly attached to the party of William, Prince of Orange, he had the honour of entertaining that monarch at his seat, Woburn.

At his death (1695), the property devolved upon his third son, Thomas, who in 1706 was created Earl Wharton. On Jan. 1st, 1715, he was created Marquis of Wharton, and dying on April 12th following, was succeeded in his estates and honours by his son Philip. Philip, after leading a life disgraceful to a man and dishonourable to a Briton, died in misery and obscurity in the small monastery of St. Bernard, near Tarragona, in Spain, A.D. 1731. At his death, the estate was sold to J. Morse, Esq., from whom it devolved upon Peregrine Bertie, Esq. From the family of Bertie it was purchased by Mrs. R. Dupré, in the possession of whose descendants it now continues.

Nearly opposite to the spot where we embarked, an ancient British canoe and an iron axe were discovered in March, 1871. The discovery was duly noted, at the time, in vol. iv., p. 122, of the RECORDS.

The first objects of interest that presented themselves on leaving Bourne End were the picturesque church and village of Cookham, on the right, and the hills of Hedsor, on the left. Giving precedence to the Buckinghamshire side of the river, I will describe the objects on its banks. And first to be noticed is the castellated building erected by a former Lord Boston, as a residence for his shepherd or other labourer employed on the estate. Hedsor, Edisore, or Heasore, is "significant of

the high cliffs, under which the river takes its silver winding way." The small parish of Hedsor contains 450 acres, of which 140 are arable, and the rest pasture and woodland. There is considerable difficulty in tracing the history of this manor, as it is not mentioned in the Domesday Book, and its early records are of very doubtful authenticity. Langley, in his history of the hundreds of Desborough (p. 174), states, "The first record I find is in 1223, when a fine passed between William de Hedsor and Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, who gave lands to the see." From 1282 till about the year 1457, the records relating to the manor appear to have been lost. In that year a family of Restwold was settled here, and in 1558 the manor was in the possession of William Hawtrey, Esq., Sheriff for Bucks that same year. In 1560 it was purchased by Roland Hynde, who, according to Langley, presented to the living in 1575. He died in 1608. The representatives of his son Roland, sold the manor and advowson to William Chilcot of Isleworth, Middlesex. He died in 1692, and Mary, his widow, survived till 1720, and from them the estate descended to the Parkers of Ratton, in Sussex. On the death of Mrs. Parker in 1764, the property was sold to William Irby, Lord Boston, from whom the present proprietor is descended.

The old Manor House, which was built by Roland Hynde in 1584, was pulled down about the year 1778, and a new one erected. This house has been likewise pulled down, and the present Lord Boston has erected another on the same site. The view from the terrace and the grounds is magnificent, embracing the old church tower of Cookham, the windings of the Thames, and a distant prospect of hill and vale which will challenge the admiration of every true lover of English scenery.

The Church is a small structure dedicated to St. Nicholas, and the presentation to it is vested in the Bishop of Oxford and Lord Boston; the latter having two turns to one of the former. The parish is small, and contained at the last census 225 inhabitants. In the church are some monuments to the memory of different members of the families of Hynde and Parker, and to some of the name of Ramus, who held the office of Page of the Bedchamber to George III. In the churchyard there is a magnificent yew tree, twenty-seven feet in

circumference; and here also repose the remains of Nathaniel Hooke, the author of several works, the most celebrated of which is his "Roman History." From the Court Rolls Lipscombe has taken the following extract:—

"1605. Imprimis. We present that Thomas Reading, on St. Stephen's daye, in Christmas 1603, did serve the first dish of the second course to the table of Roland Hynde" (the lord) "at dinner-tyme, and did bring with him to the house of the said Lord, two henns, one cock, one gallon of ale, and two manchets of white bread: and also we present, that on the same day, after dinner the said Roland Hynde did render unto the said Thomas Reading, a sparrow-hawk, and a couple of spaniels, to be kept by the said Thomas Reading, at his cost and charges, for the service of the said Roland Hynde, according to the tenure of his lands."—(*Lips.*, vol. iii., p. 579.)

The farm held by this tenure is called Lambert Farm, but the above service has been commuted for a money payment.

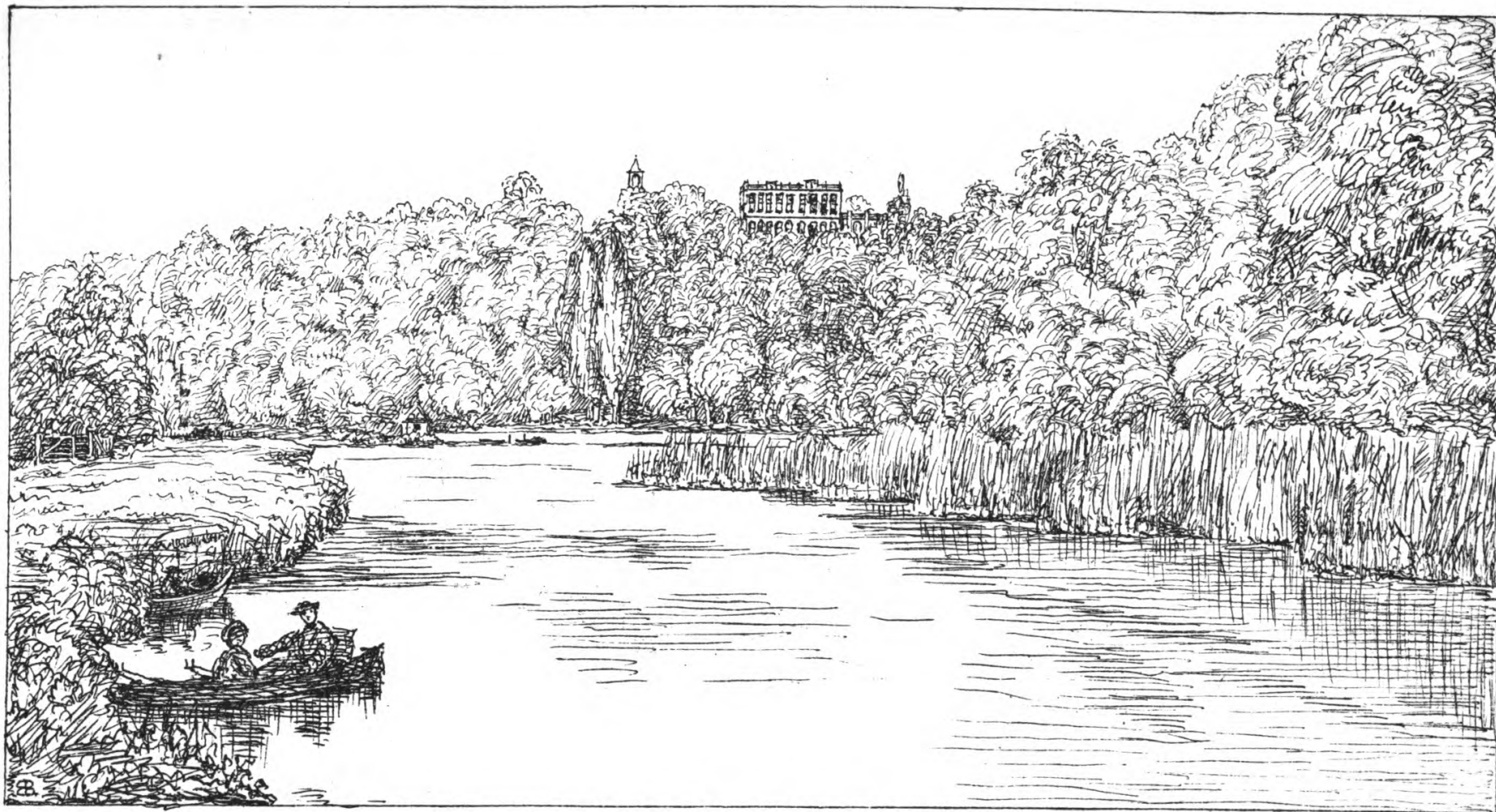
On our right hand is Cookham, in Berkshire, situated on the road that formerly connected the Metropolis with the West of England. This road passed through both Cookham and Burnham, but when, by the erection of Maidenhead bridge, it was diverted from its original direction, and turned through the town of Maidenhead, these two towns degenerated into two small country villages.

At Cookham there was formerly a market, which, at the time of the Domesday Book, was valued at twenty shillings, a large sum in those days, and sufficiently indicative of the importance of the place. The market has been discontinued for about six hundred years. Two fairs, however, were held here on May 16th and October 11th, but they are now discontinued. The principal manor in Cookham has, from time immemorial, been vested in the Crown. The suit-holders, or those who hold suit-hold estates in the manor, pay a heriot of the best horse and saddle; or should the deceased not have possessed a horse, the representatives had to pay the best of his household goods and half a year's quit rent. Like all other tenants of a manor being of the ancient demesne of the Crown, they were exempt from serving on juries, and toll free in every market. The former

exemption, however, no longer exists, it has been abolished by a recent Act of Parliament. The church is built in the Early English style, and has a good tower of flint at its west end. It is in the deanery of Maidenhead, from which place it is distant about three miles, and the presentation is in the gift of Mr. Rogers. In the church there are several monuments worthy of notice; amongst them is one to the memory of Sir Edward Stockton, a former vicar of this parish, who is styled "Pylgrym of Jerusalem, and canon professed of the house of our Lady, at Gisborough, in Yorkshire." In the north wall of the chancel there is an altar-tomb to the memory of Robert Peeke, "Master Clerk of the Spycery, under K. Harry the Sixt," 1517. There are likewise several good brasses and tablets to the memory of the families of Farmer and Tuberville. The manors are Great Bradley, Pinkneys, Bullocks, and Elynton. Great Bradley at one time belonged to the family of St. Quintin. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth it was granted by the Crown to Thomas Farmer. In 1705 it was purchased by the Tubervilles, and then passed into the possession of E. F. Colston, Esq., well known for his numerous and munificent benefactions to the city of Bristol.

Passing by Cookham we enter the New Cut, made in the year 1830, and thence into the Cookham Lock. The field, through which the cut was formed, is called Sashes, and at the formation of the cut a number of skeletons, Roman swords, and javelin heads were found; the latter are in the possession of Lord Boston.

We have now entered one of the most beautiful reaches of the Thames. On one side the river is bounded by lofty cliffs clothed with the thick woods of Cliefden and Taplow; on the other are richly cultivated fields, prettily situated houses, and bright and lovely gardens. As we leave the lock we notice the pretty house, well called Formosa, situated on an island of the same name, also an adjoining house, belonging to Lady Young, and which has been converted from an inn to the pretty mansion it now is. We next come to Bullocks, perhaps better known by the name of Whitesplace. The mead adjoining the river is Bartle Mead or Battle Mead, so called from its having been the scene of a skirmish between the Royalists and Parliamentarians, during the time of the



Ciefden.

Civil Wars. From this spot the vast cliffs of Cliefden, the property of the Duke of Westminster, are best seen. The house was built by George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, the favourite of Charles II. He spent large sums of money upon it, and those portions of his work which still remain evince the taste he had in decorating it. Evelyn speaks of Cliefden as "the stupendous natural rock, wood, and prospect of the Duke of Buckingham." Hither the Duke brought the Countess of Shrewsbury after his fatal duel with her husband. Pepys, in his Diary, writes thus, Jan. 17th, 1667-8 :—

"Much discourse of the duell yesterday, between the Duke of Buckingham, Holmes, and one Jenkins, on one side, and my Lord of Shrewsbury, Sir John Talbot, and one Bernard Howard, on the other side ; and all about my Lady Shrewsbury, who is at this time, and hath for a great while been, a mistress to the Duke of Buckingham. And so her husband challenged him, and they met yesterday in a close near Barne-Elmes, and there fought ; and my lord Shrewsbury is run through the body, from the right breast through the shoulder ; and Sir John Talbot all along up one of his armes ; and Jenkins killed upon the place, and the rest all in a little measure wounded. This would make the world think that the king hath good counsellors about him, when the Duke of Buckingham, the greatest man about him, is a fellow of no more sobriety than to fight about a mistress."

Lady Shrewsbury was Ann<sup>a</sup> Maria, daughter of the Earl of Cardigan, and is said to have held the Duke's horse, in the disguise of a page, whilst he was fighting with her husband. She married, secondly, George Rodney Bridges, son of Thomas Bridges of Keynsham, Somerset, and died April 20th, 1702. The property of this Mr. Bridges subsequently, at his death without issue, devolved upon one who has rendered the name of Rodney illustrious in the annals of English history. On March 16th, 1667, the Earl died of the wounds he had received in the duel, but the Duke was granted a pardon before he died, namely, on the 5th of February succeeding the day of the fight. In 1681, fourteen years after this occurrence, the poet Dryden published his "Absolam and Ahitophel," in which the well-known character of Zimri was drawn for the Duke of Buckingham. The Duke was so enraged at this, that he called upon the poet, and inflicted a severe castigation upon him ; at the same time, however, he presented him with a large sum of money, telling him that he gave him the beating for his impudence, but the gold for his wit.



Cliefden subsequently became the seat of George, Earl of Orkney, a celebrated military commander under John, Duke of Marlborough; and more recently of Frederick, Prince of Wales, father of King George III. The place has been rendered classical by Pope, who immortalized "Cliefden's proud alcove." Here also, on August 1st, 1740, was first played the national air of "Rule Britannia." It was composed by the poet Thomson, and set to music by Dr. Arne. In 1795, the house was burnt down through the carelessness of a maid-servant. In 1830, it was rebuilt by Sir G. Warrender, and was again burnt down, but was rebuilt, in 1849, by its late owner, the Duke of Sutherland, after a design by Barry. The estate belonging to Cliefden consists of about 436 acres, situated in the three parishes of Taplow, Hitcham, and Hedsor; the site of the house and grounds, including the park, occupying about 136 acres. The view from the grounds is magnificent, "unequalled along the Thames, except that" from the North Terrace at Windsor Castle. The woods around it abound with primeval yew-trees. They hang from the chalk cliffs, "their twisted roots exposed to the air, and cling and cluster round the winding walks and steep narrow staircases, which lead in every direction to the heights above." The wild clematis also hangs from the trees, and in their shade the atrossa, belladonna, and other rare plants, grow luxuriantly. In the cliffs there are several small caves, once inhabited, it is said, by robbers, in one of which a worthless tradition tells that the Princess Elizabeth took refuge from her sister Mary. Near the waterside a spring rises in a rocky basin, and falls into the river, near which the Duke of Buckingham built a picturesque cottage for the benefit of visitors.

The next place is Maidenhead, in Berkshire, part in the parish of Cookham, and part in the parish of Bray. Its name is said to have been derived from the fact that the head of one of the eleven thousand virgins, who were murdered with St. Ursula at Cologne, was preserved here. But as the town is called Maydenhithe, or Maidenhithe, in the earliest records, and as "hythe" means a landing-place on the banks of a river, it may be inferred that Maidenhead means the maidens' landing-place. As, however, Ashmole gives the first meaning to the name, we should not, perhaps, destroy the romance that is attached

to the place by this derivation. From a very early period a bridge across the Thames has existed here. In 1297, there is a record of one of wood, for the repair of which a tree was annually allowed out of Windsor Forest.

In 1352, John Husband gave a sum of money for the endowment of a chantry; and some of the principal inhabitants were incorporated as the fraternity or guild of the brethren and sisters of Maydeneth or Maidenhithe. Henry VI., by charter dated 1452, places the fraternity under the direction of the chantry-priest, who was to be called supervisor or overseer. It appears, from the charter, that one of the principal objects of the guild was to keep Maidenhithe bridge in repair; for which purpose a toll was granted at the bridge, and a toll for all commodities sold in the market. By this charter a weekly market, on Wednesdays, was also granted. After the Reformation, the town was incorporated anew, by the name of the Wardens and Burgesses of Maidenhead. King James II. granted another charter of incorporation, with the style of mayor, bridge-masters, and burgesses. Two of the burgesses, who are eleven in number, are elected bridge-masters. The high steward, the steward or recorder, the mayor, and the mayor of the preceding year, are justices of the peace in the borough. The mayor is likewise clerk of the market, coronor, and judge of a court which used to be held once in three weeks, for the recovery of debts not exceeding £20, which court was granted by James II. There was formerly a gaol for felons here. The corporation have a seal bearing the effigy of a maiden's head, with an inscription round it. On Jan. 5th, 1400, the bridge was the scene of a fierce skirmish between the new-made king (Henry IV.) and the partizans of Richard II. The Duke of Surrey (Richard's brother) held the bridge till night, so as to allow his friends to make good their retreat, and then, says the chronicler, stole away quietly, taking away with him all of the town, horse and foot, to serve King Richard.\* In 1688, the bridge was fortified to impede the progress of the Prince of Orange towards the Metropolis, and its defence entrusted to some Irishmen; but some of the townsmen of Maidenhead, beat-

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\* Chron. de Traison et Mort de Rich. II.

ing a Dutch march, in the night, so scared the Irishmen that they abandoned their post in great precipitation, leaving their cannon behind them. The present bridge was erected in 1772, from the designs of Sir Robert Taylor, at the cost of about £20,000.

At the Greyhound Inn, in the town, Charles I. was allowed to see his children in 1647, July 16, on which occasion the town was strewn with flowers and decked with green boughs. He passed two days with them, and during his stay he drove with them to Caversham, where they dined, and were entertained at the expense of the Parliament. The Greyhound Inn is now a small shop, the proprietor of which still kindly shows the small room, on the ground floor, in which the ill-fated monarch took leave of his family.

Another inn, called the Bear Inn, is also worthy of a passing remark, on account of the following story, which is told in connection with it:—

“James I. was out hunting one day in the neighbourhood, and being hungry, rode forward before his hounds to look after some luncheon. In his search he came to the Bear, and asked the landlord for something to eat. The host replied that he should be happy to provide him with anything he could, but that the Vicar of Bray and his curate were upstairs, and had ordered everything in the house, but perhaps they would let him (the King) sit down with them. The King, unknown to the landlord, went upstairs and asked permission for him to be allowed to share with the guests. This permission was given but glumly by the vicar, and cordially by the curate. During dinner the King told many stories that made them all roar with laughter. At last came the bill; the King, searching his pockets that were empty, exclaimed he had left his purse behind, and could not pay. The vicar angrily protested that he would not pay for him; but the curate expressed his pleasure in being able to do so, in order to make some return for the amusement he had given. The bill was discharged, and the party went on to the balcony in front of the house. The huntsmen coming up at this time, and seeing the King, went down on their knees in the street, as was then the custom. The vicar, overwhelmed with confusion, flung himself at the King's feet, and implored forgiveness, to which the monarch replied, ‘I shall not turn you out of your living, and you shall always remain Vicar of Bray, but I shall make the curate a Canon of Windsor, whence he will be able to look down both upon you and your vicarage.’”

*Bray* in Berkshire formerly gave its name to a hundred co-extensive with the parish; it is in the deanery of Maidenhead, and is said to have been the *Bibracte* of the Roman Itinerary. It is within the liberty of Windsor Forest, contains 16,462 acres, and has a population of 6714. This parish consists of four divisions, viz., Bray, Maidenhead, Touchend, and Water Oakley. From time

immemorial the principal manor has been in the hands of the Crown. The custom of the manor is, that in default of male heirs, lands are not divided among females of the same degree of kindred, but descend wholly to the eldest. In the parish there are seven manors or reputed manors, the particulars of which it is unnecessary to give here.

Archbishop Laud is said to have once held a farm in this parish.

The person who has conferred most fame upon this little parish is the celebrated vicar Simon Alleyn, who is said to have changed his religion four times. Fuller, in his "Worthies," thus describes the parish and the parson:—

"Bray, a village well known in this county, so called from the Bibraces, a kind of ancient Britons, inhabiting thereabouts. The vivacious vicar thereof, living under King Henry VIII., King Edward VI., Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth, was first a Papist, then a Protestant, then a Papist, then a Protestant again. He had seen some martyrs burnt (two miles off) at Windsor, and found the fire too hot for his temper. This vicar, being taxed by one for being a turncoat and an inconstant changeling,—'Not so,' said he, 'for I always kept my principle, which is this—to live and die the Vicar of Bray.' Such many, now-a-days, who, though they cannot turn the wind, will turn their mills, and set them so, that wheresoever it bloweth their grist shall certainly be grinded."

Some doubt has been thrown, of late years, upon the truth of this story, and the list of the Vicars of Bray has been quoted as an authority upon the point. But the story is undoubtedly believed in the parish, and such cases were not at all uncommon in his day.

The author of the song of the "Vicar of Bray" \* is unknown, but is supposed to have been a friend who visited Tonson at his house near Bray, namely, Downe Place. The date of the song is placed in the seventeenth century, though no doubt it has reference to the Vicar, to whom allusion is made by Fuller. In the church a flat slab of marble, without a name or date on it, merely a coat-of-arms, is pointed out as covering the last resting-place of Simon Alleyn.

Pursuing our course we come to Monkey Island, which derives its name from a fishing-house erected on it, by the third Duke of Marlborough, the rooms of which

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\* Bray has also the unenviable notoriety of having once had one of its constables hanged at King-ton, in Surrey, for highway robbery.—*Brit. Ant. Berkshire.*

were formerly decorated with paintings of monkeys in different attitudes. The house has had several additions made to it at different times; one of the rooms still retains the original paintings. It is now a river-side public-house, the resort of fishermen. Near it, on the same island, is a small building, the upper story of which is wainscoted of the early part of the Georgian period.

Next is Queen's Island, on which is situated Down Place, formerly the residence of Jacob Tonson, a publisher, and the Secretary of the Kit-cat Club. This club derived its name from one Christopher (better known as Kit) Catt, a pastrycook, at whose house in Shire Lane, London, the original meetings took place, and Kit was in the habit of supplying the members with mutton pies.

"Genial Jacob," for so he was called by Pope, succeeded in collecting around him some of the chief talent of his day, and the Kit-cat Club frequently met at his house. The club consisted of noblemen and gentlemen, at the head of whom was the Earl of Dorset. It originated as a convivial association about the time of the Revolution; but as the members of it were, generally speaking, of a Whiggish turn of mind, it gradually assumed a political character. Addison, Steel, Walpole, and Marlborough, firm and fast friends of the Hanoverian succession, were amongst its members. It is principally, however, from their portraits that the fame of the reunions of the Club has been handed down to posterity. These were painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller, and were all of one size, viz., 28 inches or 29 inches by 36 inches. This size has since been called the Kit-cat size. The best portrait is that of Tonson himself, who is represented holding a copy of "Paradise Lost," the copyright of which he held. He also published Dryden's works, but liberality towards authors does not appear to have been common with the publishers of that day, if we may judge from the following story. When Tonson, on one occasion, put the screw on too tight, the poet sent him some verses beginning a satire, thus:—

"With leering look, bull-faced, and freckled hair,  
With two left legs, with Judas-coloured hair,  
And frowsy pores that taint the ambient air."

These three lines he sent to Tonson, with the gentle addition, "Tell the dog that he who wrote this can write

more." Tonson did not wish to see more, and Dryden obtained what he wanted.

On the Buckinghamshire side of the river the square tower of Dorney Church and the gables of Dorney Court are seen embedded in trees. At the time of the Domesday Survey the manor of Dorney was in the hands of Milo Crispin, and subsequently it formed part of the possessions of the neighbouring Abbey of Burnham. It is now vested in the family of Palmer. In the reign of Charles II., Roger Palmer, the eldest son of Sir James, was owner of the property, and his wife was Barbara Villiers, Baroness Nonsuch, Countess of Southampton, and Duchess of Cleveland. Her husband was created Earl of Castlemaine in Ireland, and died without issue. From Sir James Palmer the present proprietor of the manor is descended. On 6th of March, 1572, Laurence Montague was presented to the living of Dorney. His son Richard was born there in or about the year 1578. He was educated at King's College, Cambridge, was made Dean of Hereford in 1616, and published an answer to Selden's "History of Tithes," in 1621. He engaged in a controversy with the Papists, and published a piece entitled "Appello Cæsarem," for which he was summoned before the House of Commons, and subjected to £2000 bail. He was made Bishop of Chichester in 1628, and translated to Norwich in 1638, where he died in 1641. In addition to the above, he wrote several works on the doctrines and discipline of the Church.

The next house is Water Oakley, the seat of Roger Eykyn, Esq., late M.P. for New Windsor. Passing the Willows, a small picturesque house, we came to Surley Hall, well known to all Etonian oarsmen. At a short distance from the (Bucks) shore is the primitive church of Boveney. This church, surrounded by elms, is of an ancient date, and of small dimensions. The exterior is covered with plaster and whitewash, and its interior merits attention from its massive timbers which support the tower and the roof. In one of the window-sills in the chancel are a few remains of ancient sculptured figures which, no doubt at one time, ornamented some portions of the building. The Church is dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen, and was originally an independent chapelry, maintaining its own poor, repairing its own highways, appoint-

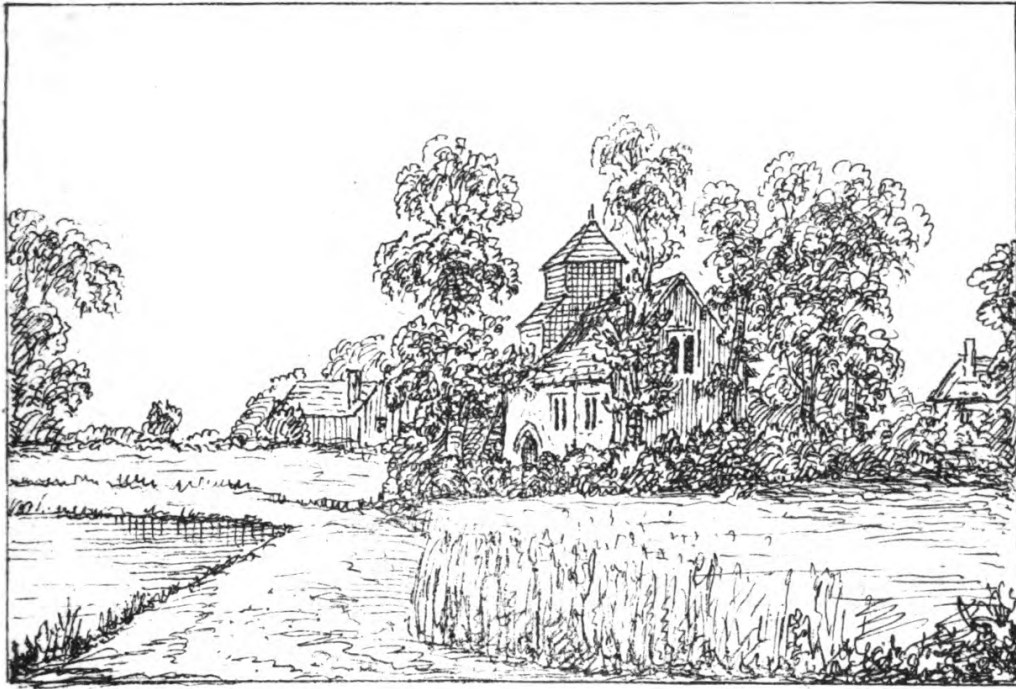
ing its own warden, and contributing nothing to the repair of the Mother Church ; but always in the hands of the Vicar of Burnham. The Rev. E. Hawtrey, who died in or about the year 1669, a Fellow of Eton and Vicar of Burnham, presented the advowson to Eton College, when Boveney Chapel was annexed to Burnham as its mother church, and styled a chapel-of-ease thereto. In 1737 an Act of Parliament was passed to make it a distinct cure, but the want of a sufficient endowment prevented the Act from taking effect. It is in the presentation of Eton College. Cole, the celebrated antiquary, was Vicar of Burnham from 1774 till the time of his death in 1780.

Boveney is in the hundred of Burnham. At the time of the Domesday Survey it was in two distinct tenures. One portion belonged to Reinbald, the King's priest, and the other to Gilo the brother of Ausculf, with Girard a tenant under him. The manor in the reign of Henry VII. was in the family of Peule, from thence it passed to the families of Lovelace, Dayrell, and Villiers.

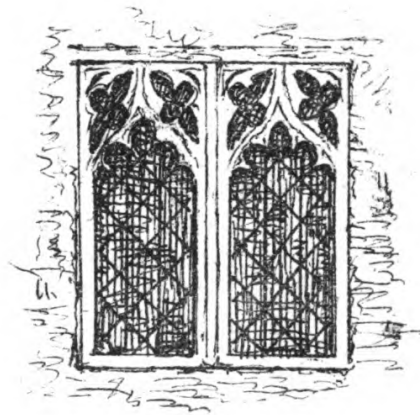
At the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries the fishery of Boveney was the property of the Abbess of Burnham, and valued at forty shillings per annum. In the 27 Henry VII. the Lady Margaret, Abbess of that monastery, demised all the water and fishing in the Thames to William Tudway, yeoman of Eton, for twenty-one years. At the surrender of this demise the Queen granted a further term of twenty-one years to Nicholas Tudway. In 1567 it was granted by the Queen on a lease of twenty-one years to John Bell, but this lease does not seem to have taken effect, for in the same year it was demised to John Smyth for twenty-one years, from the end of Nicholas Tudway's time.

Going through Boveney Lock we soon catch a view of the Sanatorium, erected for the accommodation of the Eton boys. It is a commodious brick building on the Dorney road, of a modern date.

There was formerly a sanatorium in the year 1563, in the parish of Cippenham. It was probably erected in consequence of the plague, which broke out in the month of June of that year. It appears that the College tenant at Cippenham was bound by his lease to take in any of the scholars for six months for one quarter free of charge ;



*Boveney.*



*Window in North Wall of Boveney Chapel.*



but if they stayed longer he was to have some reasonable remuneration for their maintenance. These farmhouse lodgings did undoubtedly take some in, as the following extract, taken from Collier's Guide to Windsor, will show:—

“ To Shepparde's wife for making clean the house at Cipnham for the children, iii June .....	xiid.
For straw for the children's beds there .....	iiid.
Given to Fisher the carrier, for his paynes labouring at Cipnham, about provision for the children of the colledge there, iii de of June.....	xiid.
Given to the good man Shepparde, of Cipnham, for his paynes coming to the Colledge of Duffelde, being at Cipnham ...	xiid.
To Nicholas Stourton for Chewte, and his expenses keeping the house at Cipnham.....	xiiid.

Passing by Clewer on our right, we come within sight of Eton and Windsor. *Eton*, previous to the foundation of its College, was of slight importance; and very little of its early history has escaped the wreck of time. But since the foundation of the College, the history of that institution, and that of the town, have been inseparably connected.

Eton College owes its foundation to the munificence of the last of our Lancastrian sovereigns—Henry VI. The date of the foundation is 1441, and the principal design of Henry in the establishment of it, appears to have been the education of scholars in grammar, who, being properly graduated in academical degrees, might be qualified for Holy Orders, and thus added to the list of the clergy. Fuller remarks:—“It was high time some school should be founded, considering how low grammar learning then ran in the land.”

By the charter it was provided that the College should be called “the College of the Blessed Marie of Etone, beside Wyndesore”; and by the same instrument it was provided that the College should be “edified of the most substantial and best abyding stuffe of stone, ledd, glass, and iron”; and that the walls of the said College, the outer walls, and the walls of the “Garden about the Precincte be made of hard stone of Kent.”

The original endowment was for seven sad priests, four lay clerks, six choristers, twenty-five poor grammar scholars, and twenty-five poor men, whose duty it was to pray for the king. The present establishment is a pro-

vost, vice-provost, fifteen fellows, a head master, a lower master, assistants, seventy scholars, seven lay clerks, and ten choristers, besides the inferior officers, and servants for the domestic offices of the collegians. There are two sets of scholars—those on the foundation termed Collegers, and those not on the foundation, termed Oppidans; the present number of both being about a thousand. The building was commenced in 1442, and in the following year, 1443, in order to furnish the scholars with every facility for completing their education, Henry incorporated two small Hostles, or Colleges, at Cambridge, and from this incorporation arose King's College. The statutes of the College are very similar to those of Winchester; the one set being transcribed without any material alterations from the other. In 1449 the present arms were granted to the new foundation.

Henry seems to have taken a great deal of interest in its success. It is said that he frequently spoke to the scholars, whom he met, about being docile and gentle, and that he frequently gave them presents of money, in order to secure their good will. The reign of his successor, Edward IV., brought, however, trouble to the College, for not only was its building checked, but a Bull was issued by Pope Pius II., for suppressing it, and merging it with the College of St. George, at Windsor. Edward also took from the College the lands of Deerhurst, which Henry had conferred upon it, and gave them to the College of Fotheringay, in Northamptonshire. They were, however, subsequently restored by Henry VIII. During the latter years of his reign, the College was threatened with Dissolution by Act of Parliament; but the death of the Prince averted its destruction. It was specially excepted in the Act for the Dissolution of Colleges and Chantries, in the reign of Edward VI., and since his time the College has enjoyed uninterrupted freedom and prosperity. Amongst those who have held the position of Provost of Eton have been some of the most celebrated men of the time in which they lived. First and foremost was William Westbury, Provost of the College in 1447, Head Master 1443. The name of Westbury is now almost forgotten, but every true-hearted Etonian will respect the name of one, who stood by his Alma Mater in the darkest hour of her history. When

Edward IV., influenced probably by dislike to Waynfleet, the zealous adherent of the House of Lancaster, and perhaps also at the instigation of the Earl of Warwick, had determined on the suppression of Eton, and its union with his new College at Windsor, Westbury gallantly stood up for Eton, and was one of its most able, ardent, and effectual friends. In consequence of his protest against the union and the incorporation, the King applied to Pope Paul II., acknowledging that he had been misinformed in the premises, and praying for a dissolution of the union. The Pope accordingly issued his commission to Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury, to act in the business as the case might appear to require. The Archbishop summoned the two Colleges before him, when Westbury "*se totis viribus opposuit*" for the rights of the founder. In consequence of this, the dissolution of the "Bulla Unionis" was sent from Rome to the Archbishop. Edward then—July 17, 1468—made certain remunerations, if not restorations, for the violence he had done to the College.

The next is Roger Lupton, who exchanged with King James the site and circuit of St. James' Hospital, in London, for other lands. Upon this site St. James's Palace is built.

In 1547 Sir Thomas Smith was Provost. He was not only one of the Revisers of the Book of Common Prayer, but was also Secretary of State to King Edward VI., and Elizabeth, and Ambassador to France. His successor was Henry Cole, who changed his religion three times. Born Roman Catholic, he became Protestant in Henry VIII.'s reign, and Papist again under Mary. He accommodated his opinion to the times.

Sir Henry Saville, founder of professorships of astronomy and geometry at Oxford, was a Provost of Eton.

Sir Henry Wootton, an eminent statesman of the time of James I., the friend and companion of Isaac Walton.

Provost Stuart was Clerk of the Closet to Charles I., and his successor, Francis Rous, was one of Cromwell's upper House of Parliament.

To enumerate the names of its most celebrated students and scholars, would be to enumerate the chief statesmen and scholars who have distinguished themselves in the history of England.

The day for the election of scholars to King's College, Cambridge, takes place at the end of July, when twelve of the head boys are put on to succeed as vacancies occur. Eton also sends two scholars to Merton College, Oxford, where they are called Postmasters.

One old custom formerly connected with Eton, but now abolished, was the procession made every third year on Whit Tuesday to a tumulus near the Bath road, which has acquired the name of Salt Hill. This procession was called the Montem, and the chief object of it was to collect money for salt, as the phrase was, from all who were present, and from passengers along the road. On that day persons of fame and station (many of them old Etonians) witnessed the procession; and Royalty frequently was present on that occasion. I quote from Brande's *Popular Antiquities* (vol. i. 434; Bohn's Ed.) the following account of it taken from one of the "Public Advertisers" in 1778, and which is supposed to be the oldest printed account of the ceremony.

"On Tuesday, being Whit Tuesday, the gentlemen of Eton School went, as usual, in military procession to Salt-hill. This custom of walking to the hill returns *every second year* (since every third year), and generally collects together a great deal of company of all ranks. The king and queen, in their phaeton, met the procession on Arbor-hill, in Slough-road. When they halted, the flag was flourished by the ensign. The boys went, according to custom, round the mill, etc. The parson and clerk were then called, and there these temporary ecclesiastics went through the usual Latin service, which was not interrupted, though delayed for some time by the laughter that was excited by the antiquated appearance of the clerk, who had dressed himself according to the ton of 1745, and acted his part with as minute a consistency as he had dressed the character. The procession began at half-past twelve from Eton. The collection was an extraordinary good one, as their majesties gave each of them fifty guineas. By six o'clock the boys had put off the finery of the day, and appeared at absence in their common dress."

It is said that the salt-bearers filled the mouth of any countryman—when he had given them a trifle—with salt, if he asks for anything in return.

This curious custom had, no doubt, its origin in the election of Boy Bishops, but into the details of which we cannot enter now. It was abolished in 1847, on the representation of the Master of the College to her Majesty and the Government, that its celebration was attended with certain inconveniences. The salt collected on these occasions was to pay the first boy his expenses at King's College, Cambridge, or other college.

Another old Eton custom, now abolished, was that of hunting the ram. For an account of this we are indebted to "Huggett's Collections," now in the British Museum.

"It was an ancient custom for the butcher of the College to give on the election Saturday a ram to be hunted by the scholars ; but, by reason (as I have heard) of the ram's crossing the Thames, and running through Windsor market-place with the scholars after it, where some mischief was done, as also by long courses in that hot season, the health of some of the scholars being thereby thought endangered, about thirty years ago the ram was ham-strung and, after the speech, was with large clubs knocked on the head in the stable-yard. But this carrying a show of barbarity in it, the custom was entirely left off in the election of 1747 ; but the ram as usual is served up in pasties at the high table." (Anno 1760.)

Browne Willis derives this custom from what took place in the manor of East Wrotham, Norfolk, which belongs to the College, where the lord of the manor after the harvest gave half an acre of barley and a ram to the tenants. If the tenants caught the ram, it became their property ; if they failed, the ram reverted to the lord again.

This seems to be a reasonable explanation of the custom, for in the "Gentleman's Magazine," August, 1731, p. 351, we find the following :—

"Monday, Aug. 2, was the election at Eton College, where the scholars, according to custom, hunted a ram, by which the Provost and Fellows hold a manor."

The old part of the College is built principally of red brick with stone dressings, and chimneys elaborately ornamented. It consists of two quadrangles.

The First Quadrangle has the Clock Tower, and is on the East side.

On the North side is the school called the Lower School.

On the West is the Upper School.

The Chapel is the most prominent feature of the South side.

There is also a small Quadrangle which is known by the name of the Green Yard, and upon this open the entrances to the hall and the provosts' and fellows' suites of apartments.

The new buildings contain some good dormitories and studies for the boys, and in addition to these there is a valuable library.

The College Chapel is supposed to stand upon the site of the old Parish Church of Eton. It was restored in 1843, by Mr. Shaw. The present Parish Church was erected in 1855.

Passing through the lock, we come to the Playing Fields, intersected by the Chalvey brook. The water of this small stream was once considered beneficial for the eyes; and the source of it is called Queen Anne's Well, from the fact that that Queen, and also Queen Charlotte, were wont to have the water brought from it to Windsor Castle.

In mentioning Eton, we cannot pass over in silence the Castle and Town of New Windsor, with which Eton is connected by a bridge.

*New Windsor* is a Parliamentary borough, of 10,114 inhabitants, and returning one Member to the House of Commons. It is chiefly celebrated for its Castle, one of the residences of the Sovereigns of England from the time of the Conquest. Ashmole, in his History of the Order of the Garter, states that the town of Windsor was of Saxon origin, and it was named by them Wyndleshora, from the winding banks of the river upon which it is situated. The first authentic notice that we have of the place is from the donation of it, which Edward the Confessor made to the monks of Westminster (as the Charter expresses it), "for the Hope of Eternal Reward, the Remission of all his Sins; the Sins of his Father, Mother, and all his Ancestors, to the Praise of Almighty, etc." The monks do not seem to have enjoyed it long, for William the Conqueror, in the first year of his reign, being enamoured with the situation, invited the abbot and monks to accept in exchange for it Wokendune, in Essex, a mansion called Ferings, with certain sokemen and their lands, one freeholder, and three houses in Colchester; since which time it has been in the hands of the Crown. The king being thus possessed, forthwith built a castle upon the hill, which in the Domesday Book is said to have contained half a Hide of Land, and is there noticed to be "parcel of the Manor of (Clivore) Clewer." William I. and his son Rufus are said to have resided there occasionally; but Henry I., after keeping his Christmas of 1105, and Easter of 1107 at Old Windsor, removed his court in 1110 from Old to New Windsor,

having just rebuilt and beautified the Conqueror's castle at the latter place. Having kept the Whitsuntide of that year at his new residence with great state and splendour, he seems to have made it one of his principal residences. It was at New Windsor, in 1112, that he married his second queen, Adelaide, or Adelia, daughter of Godfrey, Duke of Lancaster. In the Charter of Peace made between Duke Henry, Henry II., and Stephen, this castle is described as Mola de Windesor, the fortress of Windsor. In 1212 King John kept his Christmas there, and in 1215 that monarch betook himself to Windsor, after the signing of Magna Charta. Edward I. and Edward II. were frequently at Windsor, and Edward III. was born there, from which fact he is called Edward of Windsor. This last prince rebuilt the Castle, with the exception of the towers at the west end of the Lower Ward, viz., the Bell Tower, Garter Tower, and Salisbury Tower; and his love for the place of his nativity induced him to do what he could towards the adornment of the Castle. The celebrated William of Wykeham, one of the King's Chaplains, and subsequently Bishop of Winchester, was one of the superintendents of the work. The other superintendent was Robert de Bernham; and a grant of the same fee was allowed to both, viz., one shilling a-day while they were at Windsor; two shillings a-day when they went elsewhere about that affair; and three shillings per week to his clerk.

In 1344, Edward is said to have built a chamber, which he called the Round Chamber, 200 feet in diameter.

In 1359, the works under the direction of Wykeham, were commenced, and the King took down the old buildings, built other fair and sumptuous works, and for that purpose employed the best and most skilled workmen. In the following year, 360 men, diggers and masons, were impressed at the King's wages for the work of Windsor Castle. They were impressed by virtue of a warrant directed to the several Sheriffs, with command, under a £100 penalty, to send them to Windsor, the Sunday after the Feast of St. George, whence they were not to depart without Wykeham's leave; security having been first taken by the Sheriffs, and returned into Chancery. Of these workmen, London

found 40; Essex with Hertford, 40; Leicester with Worcester, Cambridge with Huntingdon, 40; Kent, Gloucester, Somerset with Devon, and Northampton, one with another, found also 40 apiece. And it was also further ordered that the workmen who absconded, might be apprehended, and confined in Newgate. Many did abscond. The plague having carried off a great number of the King's workmen in 1362, writs were issued to the sheriffs of the different counties to impress 302 masons and diggers of stone. The counties of York, Salop, and Devon, were to send 60 men each; Derby, Nottingham, and Lancaster, 24 each; and Hereford, 50. In 1363, the edifice was ready for glazing, and of twenty-four of the glaziers that were impressed for the King's service, twelve were to be sent to work at Windsor. The stone of which the buildings were formed was dug out of the quarries of Wellesfor, Newel, Carby, and other places. Very few commissions were issued after 1369, and none after 1373, so that it may be presumed that this noble work was then completed. The edifice comprised the Great Hall of St. George, the lodgings on the east and south side of the upper ward, the Keep or Tower, in the middle ward, the Chapel of St. George, and the houses of the custos and canons in the lower ward, with the whole circumference of the walls, with the towers and gates.

Henry VII. made considerable alterations, adding the stately fabric adjoining the King's lodgings in the upper ward.

Henry VIII. rebuilt the great gate at the entrance of the lower ward.

Edward VI. and Mary made also improvements in the Castle; and to

Elizabeth we are indebted for the terrace walk on the north side of the Castle.

Charles II. repaired some of the buildings which he found in a very dilapidated condition, and during his reign, Windsor was his chief summer residence.

In 1687, James II. received the Pope's nuncio at Windsor, to the no small umbrage of the people.

William III. resided here occasionally.

Queen Anne was also partial to the place.

The two first Georges, however, preferred the palaces of Hampton and Kensington to Windsor.



George III. was very fond of Windsor, and frequently walked on the terrace in the evening, attended by his daughters and courtiers. His son,

George IV., altered and modernized the Castle. Wyatt, or Wyatville, was his architect. It is to be regretted that the restoration of its Gothic architecture was not deferred to later times, when Gothic architecture was better understood.

To enter into the history of each part of the building is beyond the limits of this paper. I may add, however, that the four towers facing the approach by the river are known by the names of the George IV., Cromwell, Brunswick, and Prince of Wales' Towers. The prominent feature of all is the Round Tower, or Keep of the Castle. This structure was formerly the residence of the governor or constable of the Castle, and the prison of distinguished captives of olden times. John, King of France, and David, King of Scotland, were prisoners here in the time of Edward III. James I., King of Scotland, was also confined here in Henry IVth's reign. From the window of his cell, one morning, he espied a young lady gathering flowers in the garden beneath. She was Jane Beaufort, the daughter of the Duke of Somerset. The monarch fell in love with her, and subsequently married her. Earl Surrey was likewise imprisoned here for eating flesh in Lent. But the most celebrated building connected with the castle is St. George's Chapel. It was designed by Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Salisbury, in the reign of Edward VI. He died in 1481, and the completion of the work was superintended by Sir Reginald Bray, who afterwards built the fine chapel of Henry VII. at Westminster. The bishop was the first Chancellor of the Order of the Garter, and lies buried in the south aisle of the chapel. Close to St. George's Chapel, is a tower in the lower ward of the Castle, called the Winchester Tower. This tower was formerly the residence of William of Wykeham, and of Wyatville. Upon it are the words, "*Hoc fecit Wykeham.*" Edward III. translated this inscription—"Wykeham made this;" and felt much incensed at the architect endeavouring to take the honour of building the stately edifice to himself. He therefore called upon Wykeham for an explanation. The architect, seeing how matters stood, explained to the King that he was quite

mistaken, that the inscription meant, "*This work made Wykeham.*" "This work was the origin of Wykeham's greatness." The explanation seems to have met the approval of the sovereign, as we hear nothing more of the matter. Successive sovereigns have added to the beauty of St. George's Chapel; but there is not time to dwell upon their alterations or additions.

The three towers which we noticed as we approached the Castle from Boveney, are the Bell, or Cæsar's Tower, Garter Tower, and Salisbury Tower. Beneath the former there was, in olden times, a dungeon, the prison of the Castle; from it a subterranean passage is said to communicate with Burnham Abbey, about three miles distant, and on the opposite side of the Thames. There is little doubt that the passage, whatever be its termination, was constructed in order to facilitate the escape of the garrison at a period of anticipated peril. The curfew bell erected upon it gives the name to the tower. The Garter and Salisbury Towers form, perhaps, the oldest parts of the building.

The order of Knights of the Garter was first instituted at Windsor, and the castle and chapel form the head-quarters of that celebrated order. A flight of stone steps, called the Hundred Steps, leads from the street to the castle on the west side; close at the foot of the steps there was formerly a small house, the reputed habitation of Shakespeare's Mistress Page: it is now pulled down. At the foot of Peascod Street formerly stood the inn known as the Duke's Head. It derived its name from having been the house of Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. Thither Charles II. used to come from the castle, and thence the two walked to Filberts, the residence of Nell Gwynne.

Leaving the lock, and passing beneath Victoria Bridge, erected in 1851 from the design of Page, we come to Blackpots, where formerly stood a fishing-house, frequented by Isaac Walton, who frequently fished here with his friend, Sir Henry Wootton, the provost of Eton. This house is now also the residence of the present provost.

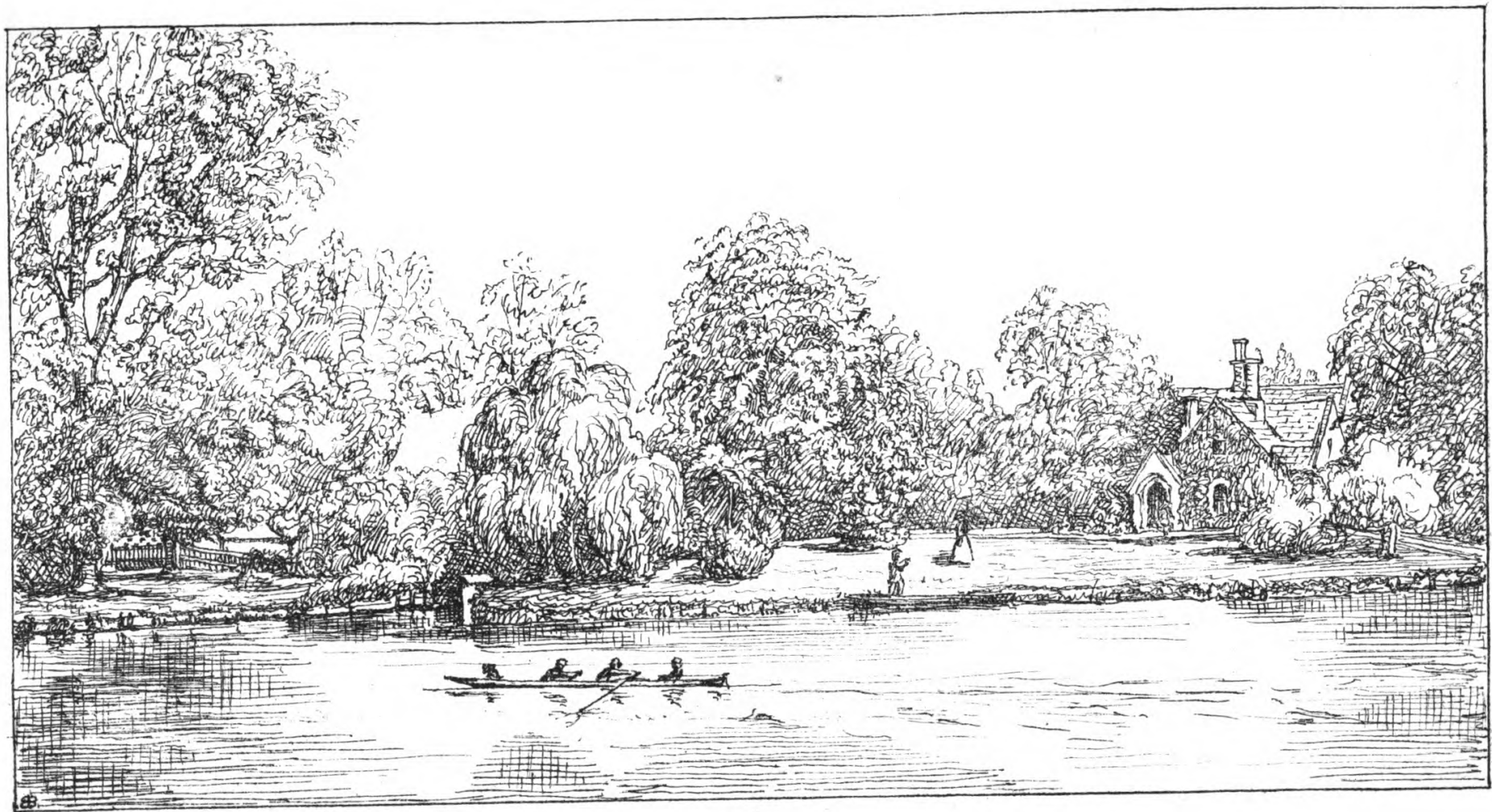
We next come to Datchett, which is in the hundred of Burnham. It was towards Datchett that Falstaff was being conveyed in the buckbasket, when he was thrown

into a ditch. The spot, which tradition states as the place of his ducking is at the end of Sheet Street, Windsor, which would be on the direct road from Windsor to Datchett.

The manor was conveyed in 1335 by Edward III. to William de Montacute, and from him it passed to Sir John Molyns. In 1558 it was leased to Sir Maurice Berkley, and Charles I. conveyed it to Sir C. Harbord and others, by whom it was conveyed to Sir William Wheeler. It then passed into the family of Wase, and is now in the hands of the Duke of Buccleugh. The advowson belongs to the Dean and Chapter of Windsor. A bridge across the Thames was constructed here in the reign of Queen Anne, which fell down in 1795. Subsequently one, part of wood and part of iron, was erected at the expense of the counties of Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. This latter bridge was pulled down in 1851. The wooden portion belonged to Bucks, that of iron to Berks. In former times horse races were held on Datchett Mead, and Charles II., who seems to have been partial to the place, frequently attended them. The prize on those occasions was a bell. Opposite to the foot of the old bridge there was formerly a footpath leading to Frogmore. At the Windsor end of this path there used to be a leafless stump called Hearne's Oak. This was not the tree to which allusion is made in the "Merry Wives of Windsor," but nevertheless for years it was called by that name. Hearne was a keeper in Windsor Forest in the time of Queen Elizabeth. For some fault having been dismissed, he committed suicide by hanging himself on a tree. His unappeased spirit is still said to walk beneath its shadow every night.

Leaving Datchett and passing beneath the Albert Bridge, erected in 1851, we come to Old Windsor Lock. We can see but little of this village, but the church stands behind the group of trees, yews and elms, that form so picturesque an object in the landscape.

Old Windsor is about two and a half miles from New Windsor. It was formerly an ancient town, and at the Domesday Survey it had ninety-five houses paying gable-tax to the Crown. The manor belonged once to the Saxon kings, who had a palace here; and here Edward the Confessor held his Court, as also William I. When



MAGNA CHARTA ISLAND.

Henry I. moved his Court hence to New Windsor, the old palace was neglected, and eventually fell into decay. The site on which it stood is now merely a matter of conjecture, all trace of it having disappeared. The old church still stands, and in the churchyard adjoining is a tomb inscribed to the memory of Mary Robinson. She was a frail and fair lady, an actress, who obtained some notoriety at the close of the last century, by her clever impersonation of the character of Perdita, in Shakespeare's play of the "Winter's Tale."

At a short distance from the river formerly stood King John's Hunting Lodge. There is an underground passage running from this place, which has been traced in the direction of Windsor Castle, and in it fragments of early English pottery were found.

Passing by Beaumont Lodge, once the residence of Warren Hastings, but now a Roman Catholic College, we come to the Bells of Ouseley, a riverside inn, noted for the accommodation it affords to visitors. On arriving at Magna Charta Island, the termination of our excursion, we were kindly welcomed, in the absence of W. Clifford, Esq., by his nephew, Mr. Poulton. The history of this island and the mead on the opposite side of the river, called Runnymede, together with the account of the Priory of Ankerwyche, I leave to others to describe; feeling assured that full justice will be done to these interesting places, and the spirit-stirring associations connected with them.