

INVENTORIES OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
ALL SAINTS, AND OF THE CHAPEL OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, WYCOMBE.

ALTHOUGH a fair number of mediæval inventories of the goods and ornaments of our parish churches are now known, series of such relating to the same church are comparatively few. A single inventory is always more or less interesting, but the special value of a series is that the successive lists, if properly collated, will show the various additions, losses, or substitutions which have been made from time to time in the goods of a particular church.

The inventories under notice, of the Parish Church of Wycombe, are entered in the earlier part of the interesting MS. known as "Leger Book N<sup>o</sup> 1," which is now in the custody of Mr. John Parker, F.S.A.,\* on behalf of the Governors of the Wycombe Grammar School and Almshouse Foundation.† This MS. is a folio volume, written on parchment, and containing originally 226 numbered leaves, besides two at the beginning and one at the end which are treated as fly-leaves and not numbered. The following are missing: ff. 36-42, 44, 45, 104-107, 118, 119, and 157. Up to f. 144 the leaves are numbered in Roman numerals on the upper right hand corner, but from f. 145 the numbering is continued by a 16th century scribe in the middle of the leaf instead of at the corner. After f. 160 the leaves are again numbered on the corners in 17th century Arabic numerals.

The volume, which is bound in black leather, was the gift of William Redehode, mayor, in 1475, as appears by

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\* I am much indebted to Mr. Parker for affording me special facilities for transcribing and collating such of the contents of the volume as are printed in this paper.

† The Governors are now, and before a new scheme had been constituted the Charity Trustees were, the custodians of the Manuscript from the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act, temp. Wm. IV.

the following memorandum, in his own hand apparently, at the top of the first leaf:

In Dei nomine Amen Anno Domini Millesimo CCCCLxxv° et anno regni Regis Edwardi Quarti post conquestum xv° Ego Willelmus Redehode tunc Maior ville et Burgi de Wycombe ad honorem Dei beate Marie virginis et omnium sanctorum dedi istud librum Burgensibus dicte ville et Burgi vocatum *a regester* pro omnibus bonis cartis evidencijs redditibus et nominibus feoffatorum de omnibus terris et tenementis cum suis pertinentibus ecclesie parochiali de Wycombe predicte et dictis Burgensibus pertinentibus sive spectantibus infra villam predic- tam, etc.

On the verso of the same leaf, and in the same hand, is the following table of its first contents:

f. 1 *b.*] Kalendañ omnium bonorum cartarum evidenciarum actarum statutorum et concessionum ac nominarum [*sic*] omnium feoffatorum de et in omnibus terris et tenementis redditibus et servicijs cum omnibus Juribus et suis pertinentibus ad ecclesiam parochialem omnium sanctorum de Wycombe seu Capellam beate Marie virginis ibidem ac et Maiorem et Burgenses dicte ville et Burgi pertinent seu spectant scripti sunt in his verbis subscriptis videlicet pro bonis dicte ecclesie rectum [sexto et septimo foliis]\* sequentibus &c.

Bona Capelle beate Marie virginis	x
ibidem rectum folium . . .	viiij°
Carte et Evidencie predicte Capelle et	
Ville rectum folium . . .	xl
Acta et Statuta predicte Ville rectum	
folium . . . . .	lx
Concessionones Maioris et Burgensium	xx
rectum folium . . . . .	iiiij
[& ordinances of ples <i>added.</i> ]	

\* Written over an erasure.

Nomina feoffatorum omnium terrarum et tenementorum ibidem rectum folium . . . . .	cxx
Concessionēs Maioris et Burgensium facte Willelmo Redehode rectum folium . . . . .	cxl
Juramenta Capellani vocati le Boure- prest rectum folium . . . . .	clx
Voluntas Edmundi Cary senioris de terrīs et tenementis suis ibidem rectum folium . . . . .	xxxij <sup>o</sup>

(In another hand:)

Rentale beate Marie de Wycombe perti- nens ad Capellam sancte Marie ibidem rectum folium . . . . .	ccxx
Carta Johannis ffoulmere de Bekenysfeld husbondman rectum folium . . . . .	xxiiij

The numbers given do not, however, always agree with that of the leaf whereon the document is written. Thus the inventories of the church goods appear on ff. 3, 4 and 5 instead of 6 and 7, and are continued on ff. 7*b*, 8 and 8*b*, and Edmund Cary's will is on f. 33 instead of f. 32, and so on. The oath of the Bower priest, and other documents, are nevertheless correctly entered. From the time of the Commonwealth onwards down to early in the last century the volume has been used as a minute book and for memoranda of all kinds of the affairs of the Corporation.\*

The inventories include complete lists of the church goods, taken in 1475, 1503, 1518-19 and 1552, with two other lists, one dated 1549; also lists of the goods of the chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary for 1502 and 1518-19.

The inventory of 1475 is printed at length in Parker's *Early History and Antiquities of Wycombe*,† but without reference to the additions made to the list, nor has the spelling been always exactly given.

\* A memorandum written on the first fly-leaf: "Samuel Welles (?) His Book anon domeny 1669," points to the volume having at one time been in private hands.

† John Parker, *The Early History and Antiquities of Wycombe, in Buckinghamshire* (Wycombe, 1878), 106-108, 135.

The inventories of 1503 and 1518-19 are only cursorily mentioned in the same work, and the two Lady Chapel inventories are also but superficially dealt with. No apology is therefore necessary for printing the whole series in full, with every alteration and addition clearly marked. The printed transcripts have in each case been corrected from the original texts.

The inventory of 1475, though written throughout in English, has a Latin heading recording its compilation in the time of Nicholas Grove, John Porter, William Harper and Thomas Lytylpage junior, churchwardens. It enumerates (i) the ornaments of the ministers, (ii) the ordinary ornaments of the church, with (iii) the plate and (iv) the books. Appended are a number of additional ornaments given after the making of the inventory. The list is interesting as showing what were the ordinary ornaments of a well-furnished parish church, but it is provokingly bald in details, and it is often difficult for that reason to identify the same ornament in successive inventories.

Of the ornaments of the ministers there are enumerated in the original list ten complete "sewtes" of vestments and seven chasubles. The term "suit," as will be seen from the descriptions of particular examples in successive inventories, includes the chasuble for the priest, the dalmatic and tunicle for the deacon and subdeacon, the stoles and fanons, the albes, amices, etc. and one or more copes. The suits were for the most part of rich materials, one being of tissue or cloth of gold, four of baudekyn, two of velvet, and two of silk. As to colour, three were red, two of white, and two of blue, and there were single suits of green and of black. The copes of one of the blue suits are described as "of playne white silke." In only one case, that of the black suit for requiem mass, is the occasion of use specified. The seven chasubles do not seem to have been of much account, and only in two cases are the colours given, red and white. The white chasuble was probably for use during the first four weeks of Lent.

The church gear described consists for the most part of furniture for and about the high altar, and of ornaments used on special occasions. For the high altar we find six altar cloths (*i.e.* of linen), two frontals of black

and blue respectively, four stained cloths, with as many curtains, and two other stained cloths with a frontal of counterfeit cloth of gold. To these may perhaps be added the three palls of cloth of silk, the two curtains of purple silk, and the two altar cloths for Lent with the curtains belonging to them. For use at the high altar were also two "washing towels," with which may be included the five houseling towels. The pix canopy is described as of purple silk with four gilt buttons, but there was also another, probably for Lent time, of white cloth. This provision of alternative ornaments for use in Lent is seen in other items. Thus of the twelve corporas cases seven were of linen, and the two wooden lecterns had three cloths for Lent in addition to three other cloths. The altar cloths for that season have already been noted. The Lenten veil was of white with a red cross. For the Easter sepulchre we have the thing itself, which was of wood with a stool belonging to it, a stained cloth of gold powdered with gold and silver, and a linen cloth besides. Among other ornaments enumerated are seven "pillows" or cushions of silk and baudekyn, two purses, one with relics, a surplice "for the queire," *i.e.* the clerk, and a number of banners, with their staves, for the Rogation and other processions, with various silk pennons and pendants. Lastly we have three bells for the "bedman," a lantern and two houseling bells for the visitation of the sick, two biers and two parish coffins, and a pall for the herse of black silk. Two inferior palls are described as lost.

The plate given in the list was partly of silver for use on festivals, and partly of "laton" for ordinary use. The former included five chalices and patens, two cruets, two basons, two candlesticks, two censers, each with its incense ship and spoon, a cross and its foot, a jewelled pax, a chrismatory, and two little boxes, one containing relics; there was also a third reliquary in the form of a box of copper-gilt and enamelled. The "laton" staff included two candlesticks "to stonde uppoñ the hye auter," and another great pair "to stonde in the queir," a censer and ship, a pyx with an (inner) box of ivory, two copper-gilt crosses, and a third of "laton," a banner staff of copper-gilt, and a holy water stock. A cross "of tree" and a cross staff painted were probably for

use during Lent instead of the metal ones, and for carrying before the Sacrament at the visitation of the sick.

The church was fairly well provided with books. For the hour services there were two great "luggeris" (*i.e.* ledgers) or antiphoners, four portoses, and a legend. For processions there were six processionars. For use at the altar services were two massbooks, a responsory and five grails, and two "pystylbokys," no doubt a gospellar and epistolar. For occasional services there were two manuals, a dirgebook and a martiloge, and for the instruction of the ministers an ordinal and a catholicicon.

Throughout the original part of the inventory there is no mention of any other than the high altar, and little more than the necessary furniture and ornaments for that one seem to be scheduled. It is, therefore, difficult to understand why the ornaments of the other altars, of which there were certainly six in the church, are not given also. It almost looks as if these other altars were left entirely bare, and vested with ornaments common also to the high altar only in time of mass when said at them.

The additions to the list form three groups, as shown by the handwriting, but they are not dated. The first addition is that of an iron crowbar weighing 9 lbs. The second section contains fourteen items, apparently for the most part gifts. They include a suit of vestments of cloth of gold tissue, two white damask copes and two others of black worsted, a pall of "imperial," two blue altar cloths and a pair of curtains, a new hersecloth, a linen cloth with a cross of black buckram to cover the rood during Lent, a silver-gilt pyx and a new canopy for the same, a "kercheff of plesans," a purple sarcenet gown given to Jesus altar, and a pair of latten candlesticks standing in St. Nicholas's chancel. The third group includes a houseling towel, 20 yards long, with blue apparels at the ends, a blue silk banner with a figure of the Holy Trinity, and a silver-gilt chalice and paten for the chapel of the Blessed Virgin.

The following is the text of the inventory :

fo. iij.] Inventorium bonorum ecclesie parochialis omnium  
sanctorum de Wycombe factum ibidem in Anno

Domini Millesimo CCCClxxv<sup>o</sup> tempore Nicholai Grove  
Johannis Porter Willelmi Harper et Thome Lytylpage  
Junioris Gardianorum ecclesie predicte inprimis

- A Sewte of vestment<sup>ç</sup> of Rede bawdekyñ<sup>1</sup> beryng werke  
damaske branchis of gold with lyons & Byrdis of the  
same.
- Ad [*sic*] Sewte of Tusse<sup>2</sup> beryng werke branchis of grene  
w<sup>t</sup> levis of gold
- A Sewte of Rede velewet powdyrde with crownes of gold
- A Sewte of Blewe bawdekyñ beryng werke grene branchis  
w<sup>t</sup> byrdis of gold
- A Sewte of White bawdekyñ powdyrde w<sup>t</sup> byrdis of gold
- A Sewte of White bawdekyñ with damaske werke
- A Sewte of Rede sylke powderid with white branchis
- A Sewte of Blacke for requiem Mas.
- A Chesapytt<sup>3</sup> of Rede bawdekyñ powderid w<sup>t</sup> birdis of  
gold w<sup>t</sup> an awbe longyng therto.
- A Sewte of grene velewet except the cope beryng of grene  
bawdekyñ
- A Chesapytt<sup>j</sup> tenekytt<sup>4</sup> of sylke beryng branchis of blew-  
purpytt w<sup>t</sup> apys of gold with apparett<sup>5</sup> therto.
- A Sewte of blewsylke with Rayes of gold except the  
Awbys<sup>6</sup> & Copis of playne white sylke.
- A White Chesapytt with apparett therto ij Chesapyllis of  
sylke w<sup>t</sup> apparett therto ij olde Chesapytt of sylke vij  
pelowis<sup>7</sup> of sylke & of bawdekyñ iij pallis<sup>8</sup> of clothe of  
sylke powderid with gold vj auter clothis<sup>9</sup> to lye  
uppon the hye auter.

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<sup>1</sup> Baudekyn : a rich silk stuff woven with gold, originally made  
at Baldak or Bagdad.

<sup>2</sup> Tissue : any woven stuff, but usually applied to cloth of gold  
or silver.

<sup>3</sup> *I.e.* chasuble, the vestment worn by the priest at mass.

<sup>4</sup> *I.e.* tunicle, the vestment worn by the deacon and sub-  
deacon at mass.

<sup>5</sup> By "apparell" is here meant the amices, albes, girdles,  
stoles, and fanons worn with the chasuble and tunicles.

<sup>6</sup> Awbys=albes, the long linen vestment worn over the cassock  
at mass.

<sup>7</sup> Pelowis=pillows or cushions, used to lay the mass-book on,  
and for other purposes.

<sup>8</sup> The term "pall" was applied to a number of different things,  
such as altar hangings, carpets, and the like.

<sup>9</sup> These would be of linen. The usual number laid upon the  
altar at a time was three.

- A paff for the hersse of Blacke sylke a blacke saye<sup>10</sup>  
 clothe\* anothis of wolleñ \*
- Item v longe hoselyng Towellis<sup>11</sup> of Diaper ij waissching  
 towell for the hye auter a blacke ffronteff for the hye  
 auter with branchis of grene powderid with squereff<sup>12</sup>  
 of gold
- Item a blewe ffronteff w<sup>t</sup> branchis of grene powderid w<sup>t</sup>  
 hyndis of gold
- Item v Corporas cases of div'se clothis of sylke vij Corpo-  
 rassis casis of lynnyñ
- Item a purse of clothe of gold a purse of clothe of sylke  
 w<sup>t</sup> the reliquis<sup>13</sup>
- Item iij baneris of sylke with the stavis therto a crosse  
 ban' of sylke w<sup>t</sup> a staffe of Copur & gylt a Crosse  
 staffe peyntid iij ban' clothis of lynnyñ
- Item a Canape of purpuiff sylke with iij botons gylt<sup>14</sup> a  
 Canape of white clothe vj pynonnse<sup>15</sup> of sylke iij  
 pendanntis of sylke iij lecturne clothis
- Item iij steynid clothis for the hye auter w<sup>t</sup> iij Curtayns  
 ij steynid clothis [fo. iij b] with a fronteff counterfeet  
 clothe of gold for the hye auter ij Curtayns of purpyff  
 sylke ij auter clothis for lent<sup>16</sup> with the Curtayns<sup>17</sup> iij  
 lecturne clothis for lent.
- A staynid clothe of gold powderid with gold & sylver for  
 the sepulcur w<sup>t</sup> a lynnyñ clothe therto A sepulcur  
 of Tymber w<sup>t</sup> a stole therto

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<sup>9</sup> "Perditur" written over each item.

<sup>10</sup> Say was usually a sort of thin serge or woollen cloth, but sometimes the word was applied to thin silk.

<sup>11</sup> The houselling towel was a long linen cloth held by clerks before the communicants at mass, or sometimes laid upon a form at which they knelt. As will be seen below, where one of 20 yards (=60 feet) is mentioned, it was sometimes long enough to go right across the nave and aisles of a church.

<sup>12</sup> Squirrels.

<sup>13</sup> Relics.

<sup>14</sup> The canopy was the suspended tent within which the pyx or box containing the reserved Sacrament was hung.

<sup>15</sup> Pennons or streamers.

<sup>16</sup> During Lent it was usual all over England to cover up all ornaments, pictures and images with linen sheets, and in time the altar hangings and vestments of the minister were made white to match.

<sup>17</sup> Those at the ends of the altar, often called ridels or costers.



- A vayle of white w<sup>t</sup> a crosse of rede<sup>18</sup> ij Canstykkys of latoñ to stonde uppoñ the hye auter ij grete Canstykkys of latoñ to stonde in the queir
- A sensar of latoñ a shippe of latoñ a pyxbox of latoñ w<sup>t</sup> a box of Ivorie
- A Crismatorie of sylv' that weyth xxvij unce
- A Chalys w<sup>t</sup> a patent of sylv' & gylt that weyth xvj unce & j quart'
- A Chalys w<sup>t</sup> a patent of sylv' & gylt that weyth xvij unce j q<sup>art</sup>'
- A Chalys w<sup>t</sup> a patent of sylv' & gylt that weyth xxvij unce & di
- A Chalys w<sup>t</sup> a patent of sylv' & gylt that weyth xxx unce j q<sup>art</sup>'
- A Chalys w<sup>t</sup> a patent of sylv' that weyth xij unce & di
- A Sensar w<sup>t</sup> Cheynes of sylv' that weyth xxxvij unce
- A Sensar w<sup>t</sup> Cheynes of sylv' that weyth xxxiiij unce j q<sup>art</sup>'
- Item ij Shippes of sylv' w<sup>t</sup> ij sponys of sylv' that weyth xx unce iij q<sup>art</sup>' & di
- A Crosse of sylv' & gylt that weyth lxxiiij unce a fote of a Crosse w<sup>t</sup> a penacuff of sylv' & gylt<sup>19</sup> that weyth lxj unce ij crewette of sylv' that weyñ ix unce j q<sup>art</sup>' ij basyns of sylver<sup>20</sup> that weyñ xxx unce ij Canstykkys of sylv' that weyñ xlix unce & di unc'.
- Item a pax<sup>21</sup> of sylv' & gylt with v stonys that weyth xv unce a lytyll box sylv' & gylt that weyth iij unce a lytyll box of sylv' with dyv'se reliquis therin a box of Copur & gylt & enamild w<sup>t</sup> reliquis therin
- A Crosse of Copur and gylt another crosse of Copur & gylt w<sup>t</sup> iij stonys
- A Crosse of latoñ another of tree<sup>22</sup> a surplice for the queire

<sup>18</sup> The Lenten veil, or curtain hung up between the altar and the quire stalls during Lent.

<sup>19</sup> As the cross had a separate foot, it could also, as was often done, be mounted on a staff and carried in processions.

<sup>20</sup> The two basons were used for washing the hands of the celebrant at mass. One of them often had a spout at the side, that water might be poured from it from one bason to the other.

<sup>21</sup> The pax was an ornamental tablet passed round for the congregation to kiss during the mass.

<sup>22</sup> *I.e.* of wood. It was probably for use in Lent time.

Item ij Mas bokys to the hye Auter ij grete luggeris<sup>23</sup> in the queire iij portowis<sup>24</sup> a responsor w<sup>t</sup> a lytyll grayff v grayles vj p<sup>r</sup>sessioneris ij Manuellis j dirgeboke ij pystylbokys a legent j Ordinaff j Martilage a Cathalican<sup>25</sup> a lantorn<sup>27</sup> an halywaterstok<sup>26</sup> of latoñ ij lectornys of tymbur ij hoselyng bellys<sup>27</sup> iij bellis for the bedmañ<sup>28</sup> ij beris with ij Coffyns therto<sup>29</sup>

(*Added in another hand :*)

Item j Crowe of Ireñ weing ix li weight.

fo. iiij.] (*On the next page are the following additional entries in a neater hand than the foregoing :*)

Item a Sewte of Cloth of Golde 'Tyssu of the gyfte of s<sup>r</sup> John Stockton of london w<sup>t</sup> all the apareff

Item ij Copys of Whight Damaske<sup>30</sup> the orferasse of blew Damaske ex dono Willelmi Redehode

Item ij blac Copys of Worstye the orferasse of blew (orfe *struck through*) Worstede powderyd w<sup>t</sup> letters of Golde ex dono dicti Willelmi Redehode.

Item a pall of \* impiall<sup>31</sup> a [*sic*]

Item a pcessionary cov'yd w<sup>t</sup> blac Damaske

Item ij awter Clothis of blew Worstede powderyd w<sup>t</sup> flowrys of golde & spangyls of sylv'

Item ij Curteynes of blew Sarsenet frengyd w<sup>t</sup> sylke

Item a pyx of sylv' & gylt w<sup>t</sup> a lytyll pece of sylv' weyeng xvj uncel

<sup>3</sup> Struck through and again written over.

<sup>23</sup> *I.e.* ledgers=antiphoners or anthem books. They were usually laid on a desk in the middle of the quire.

<sup>24</sup> Portoses or breviaries.

<sup>25</sup> Probably the *Summa que vocatur Catholicon edita a fratre Johanne de Janua ordinis fratrum predicatorum*, a Latin grammar and dictionary of great repute written in 1286.

<sup>26</sup> The vessel for holy water carried in processions.

<sup>27</sup> The lantern and the houselling bells were used in taking the Sacrament to the sick.

<sup>28</sup> The bedeman was probably here the crier whose duty it was to "cry" obits. that is. give notice of them in the parish and ask for prayers for the souls of the departed.

<sup>29</sup> Every parish was bound to have a bier. Burial in coffins was the exception, but many churches had a common coffin with a hinged lid which was used to carry in the body to the grave. One still exists at Howden.

<sup>30</sup> A figured silk fabric perfected at Damascus.

<sup>31</sup> A fabric of uncertain character.

- Item ij Candystykkē of laten stondyng in seynt Nicholas  
[aw *struck through*] Chauncell
- Item a kercheff of plesans<sup>32</sup> w<sup>t</sup> a bordur of sylke & golde  
ex dono Johis Collard
- Item a Gowne<sup>33</sup> of purpyll Sarsenet<sup>34</sup> for Ih̄c awter ex  
dono dō Johis Collard
- Item a Cloth of blac worstede for the herse w<sup>t</sup> a whyte  
Crosse improwderyd in v placis w<sup>t</sup> the name of Ih̄c
- Item a Canape of launde<sup>35</sup> w<sup>t</sup> iiij botons of nedyllwerke  
ffrengyd rounde a bowte w<sup>t</sup> rede sylke & golde ex  
dono Margerie Bontyng
- Item a lynnyn Cloth w<sup>t</sup> a Crosse of blac bokeram for the  
Roode<sup>36</sup>

(*Added in apparently the same hand as the former part of  
the inventory :*)

- Item a Towell to hosyll peple<sup>37</sup> conteynyng by estymacoñ  
xx<sup>ti</sup> yerdē w<sup>t</sup> blew porellē at the ende
- Item a ban' Cloth of blew sylke chaungeable<sup>38</sup> w<sup>t</sup> a ffigure  
of the Trinite of the yefte of John Collard
- A Chales w<sup>t</sup> a patent of sylv' & gylte weyeng x uncel of  
the yefte of Will<sup>m</sup> Redehode ad [*dictam struck out*]  
Capellam beate Marie \*

(*The whole of the foregoing inventory is crossed out.*)

The inventory of 1503, like that of 1475, is in English, with a Latin heading. Unlike the earlier list, which, although crossed out, is singularly free from

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\* "Vacat" written after.

<sup>32</sup> This was probably a corporas. See a valuable paper by Mr. E. G. Cuthbert F. Atchley "on certain variations from the rule concerning the material of the altar-linen," in *Transactions of the St. Paul's Ecclesiological Society*, iv. 147-160.

<sup>33</sup> It was very common to give or leave garments to make altar hangings or vestments.

<sup>34</sup> A silk stuff first made by the Saracens.

<sup>35</sup> A fine linen (lawn) covering for the pyx.

<sup>36</sup> The rood, as well as the other images, was covered up in Lent.

<sup>37</sup> See note <sup>11</sup> above. This example had blue strips or apparells ("porells") at the ends.

<sup>38</sup> *I.e.* shot silk.

alterations, that of 1503 has many amendments, and a large number of items in its second half have been struck through. As the inventory stands its order is broken by the interpolation of a number of additional entries at the bottom of the first page and top of the second; otherwise it follows the arrangement of the list of 1475. A further series of added items is also given at the end which should properly have been preceded by the interpolated entries.

As might be expected, the 1503 inventory is to a large extent a repetition of the preceding list, with such defects and additions as would be likely during a period of nearly thirty years. In comparing the two lists it is not always easy to identify the items of 1475 with those of 1503, but apparently the differences apply to minor ornaments only. The chief gains in the new list, which of course incorporates the added entries of the old one, are a black worsted suit with golden letters R (the initial of the donor, William Redehode), two red silk copes, a "pair of vestments" of black velvet, with red, green, and white flowers, a cross-cloth of purple silk and another of sarsenet, etc. The plate is less by a chalice, but richer by another silver censer, a wooden chrismatory plated with silver, and an "oyle box" of silver. A few more books are added, as for example, a psalter with the collects and hymns, a collectar or book of collects, and a number of "quires" or music books for additional services. Two volumes of St. Augustine's works and another of St. Gregory's occur among the additional entries at the end. The other added items are mostly of vestments, including a complete suit of red, with frontals, curtains, etc. apparently for the high altar, with four albes, etc. "for children." The last of the additions, four stools for the chanters or "recter coryse" (*i.e. rectores chori*), is of interest as showing the adoption by parish churches of the uses of the cathedral and collegiate churches. In some cases there is a difference of description between the two inventories that suggests a replacement of an old ornament by a new, thus the white Lenten veil, instead of having a red cross thereon, appears with blue crosses, and two red silk curtains are described as purple; in this latter instance, as in some others, the change of colour may be due to fading or dyeing.

The text of the inventory is as follows :

f. iiiib.] Inventorium bonorum Ecclesie parochialis  
 Omnium Sanctorum de Wycombe facta [*sic*] ibidem in  
 Anno Domini Millesimo Quingentesimo tercio coram  
 Willelmo Aley tunc Majoré ibidem tempore Willelmi  
 Clerke Ricardi More Thome Peytefore et Willelmi  
 Schrympton gardianorum ecclesie predicte etc.  
 In primis

A sewte of vestimentē of Cloth of gold Tyssewe.

A sewte of Rede bawdekyñ w<sup>t</sup> byrdys & lyons.

A sewte of blak wosted w<sup>t</sup> a lett<sup>r</sup> of R in golde.

Item ij Copys of blak wosted w<sup>t</sup> the name of Redhode.

Item a sewte of Tyssewe w<sup>t</sup> flouris rede & levys grene.

Item a sewte of bawdekyn whyte w<sup>t</sup> birdē of gold & the  
 halfe sonne<sup>39</sup>

Item a nothir sewte of whyte bawdkyn w<sup>t</sup> Damaske flouris

Item ij whyzte<sup>40</sup> Copes of Damaske w<sup>t</sup> blewe orferace<sup>41</sup>

Item a sewte of blewe bawdekyñ w<sup>t</sup> grene flouris &  
 hyndē of golde

Item a sewte of Rede velewet w<sup>t</sup> Crownys of gold

Item a sewte of Rede sylke w<sup>t</sup> sterris & the flouredeluce<sup>42</sup>

Item ij Copys of the same be side the sewte

Item a sewte of blak w<sup>t</sup> flouris of golde in the cross

Item a p vestmētē<sup>43</sup> of blak velewet w<sup>t</sup> flouris rede grene  
 & whyte

Item a Cope of grene bawdekyn w<sup>t</sup> lyon Rampyōñ<sup>44</sup> of  
 gold [nowe a awter cloth *added in another hand*]

Item a Chesybyñ & an awbe of whyte sylke w<sup>t</sup> a cross  
 of gold

Item a Chesebyñ of grene bordealisaund'<sup>45</sup> w<sup>t</sup> a crosse of  
 raye sylke<sup>46</sup>

<sup>39</sup> A representation of the sun issuing from the clouds with long golden rays.

<sup>40</sup> White.

<sup>41</sup> Orphreys, the embroidered bands along the straight edge.

<sup>42</sup> Fleur-de-lis.

<sup>43</sup> A pair of vestments means a chasuble with its appurtenances, the amice, albe, girdle, stole, and fanon.

<sup>44</sup> Lions rampant.

<sup>45</sup> Bordealisaunder was apparently a striped cloth ("bord" or "burda") that took its name from Alexandria. It is commonly mentioned in inventories.

<sup>46</sup> Ray or rayed silk was woven in stripes.

Item a paff of blewe velewett  
 Item a Crossecloth<sup>47</sup> of purpuft sylke frengyd  
 Item a pall of clothe of golde  
 Item iij pallis of grene bawdekyn  
 Item ij sepulcr' clothis<sup>48</sup> leyd w<sup>t</sup> gold & sylver  
 Item ij aut'clothis of blewe wosted w<sup>t</sup> flowrys of gold &  
 spangeffç of sylv'  
 Item ij Curtens of purpuft sarcenett frenged  
 Item iij awt'clothis stayned  
 Item ij Curtens of rede sylke for the hye aut'  
 Item a bordur<sup>49</sup> for the hye aut' w<sup>t</sup> grene hyndys  
 Item ij aut'clothis of whyte w<sup>t</sup> the sygne of the passioñ<sup>50</sup>  
 Item a vayle of whyte w<sup>t</sup> blewe crossys<sup>51</sup>

[*Added in another hand at the foot of the page :*

Item a sewte of Red welwet broderyd w<sup>t</sup> flowrys of gold  
 w<sup>t</sup> iij walance  
 Item ij Copys of redde damaske broderyd w<sup>t</sup> gold  
 Item iij albys for chylderñ w<sup>t</sup> auft thyng to them<sup>52</sup>  
 Item ij awt'clothis of Red damaske for the hey awt'  
 Item ij curtens of Red sarcenet for the hey awt'  
 Item a westement of Red satten w<sup>t</sup> seynt Jhone the  
 baptyss yn the crosse<sup>53</sup>]

f. v] [*Added at the top of the page in the same hand as  
 the foregoing entries :*

Item a cope of Blew welwet w<sup>t</sup> angellys of golde  
 Item a westement of Seynt Georges of Red bawdkyn  
 Item [a altered into iij struck through and one written over]  
 westementç of Blew damaske w<sup>t</sup> angelys of golde of  
 the gyft of Mr Poynett]

(*The original hand resumes :*)

Item iij lecturneclothis too of them stayned

<sup>47</sup> A banner to hang from the cross when carried in processions on festivals.

<sup>48</sup> For the Easter sepulchre.

<sup>49</sup> The strip or frontlet sewn to the edge of the uppermost linen altar cloth.

<sup>50</sup> For Lent time.

<sup>51</sup> The Lenten veil.

<sup>52</sup> The boys who assisted at the altar wore amices and girded albes.

<sup>53</sup> One late form of orphrey for a chasuble was a broad stripe down the front and a cross on the back.

- Item [a herseclothe of blakcoton *struck through*]
- Item [a herseclothe of blak wosted w<sup>t</sup> the name of Jhus theron *struck through*]
- Item vij Towellys to hoseff w<sup>t</sup> pepff
- Item [ij *subsequently altered into*] iiij weschyng Towellis for the aut<sup>r</sup>
- Item v valauncē to put abowte the herse w<sup>t</sup> *Requam et nam*
- Item ij Corpaxe clothis iiij Casis for the Corpaxe
- Item myters of div<sup>r</sup>se sewte<sup>54</sup>
- Item ij Chaless' halowed w<sup>t</sup> ther patens [weyng (x *struck through*) ij<sup>xx</sup> unce xiiij unce *added in another hand*]
- [Item ij Chaless' suspendyd<sup>55</sup> w<sup>t</sup> ther patens (weyng xxiiij unce di & di qt<sup>r</sup> *added in another hand*) *struck through*]
- [Item a Crosse of sylv' & gylte (ij<sup>xx</sup> xij unce di & di qt<sup>r</sup> *written over*) w<sup>t</sup> the fote & the pynakyff (weyng beside ij unce j qt<sup>r</sup> & di qt<sup>r</sup> *added in another hand*) *struck through*]
- [Item iiij sensuris of sylver w<sup>t</sup> ther Cheynes whereof one is gylde (iiij<sup>xx</sup> unce xij *added in another hand*) *struck through*]
- [Item ij Schyppys w<sup>t</sup> ther sponys of sylv' (xx unce di *added in another hand*) *struck through*]
- [Item ij Candilstykkys of sylv' (weying l unce di *added in another hand*) *struck through*]
- [Item ij basyns of sylver (xxvij unce j qt<sup>r</sup> *added in another hand*) Item ij Crewetys<sup>56</sup> of sylv' (ix unce di *added in another hand*) *struck through*]
- Item a pyxe of sylv' & gylde w<sup>t</sup> a pece of sylv' theryn [weying *added in another hand*]
- Item a pyxboxe of sylv' & gylde [weying *added in another hand*]
- [Item a paxe sylv' & gylde w<sup>t</sup> v stonys theryn (xv unce *added in another hand*) *struck through*]

<sup>54</sup> An unusual item in a parish church inventory. Perhaps they were for the boy bishop.

<sup>55</sup> Disused.

<sup>56</sup> These are usually in pairs; the one for wine, the other for water.

- Item a Crismatory<sup>57</sup> of sylv' & pte therof gylde [weying  
*added in another hand*]  
 [Item a Crismatory of Tymbr<sup>58</sup> covered w<sup>t</sup> sylv' (xxj uncl  
dī dī q<sup>t</sup>' *added in another hand*) *struck through*]  
 Item a boxe of Ivery garnesched w<sup>t</sup> sylv' [ij uncl iij q<sup>t</sup>'  
*added in another hand*]  
 Item a boxe of Copur enameled  
 Item an Oyle boxe of [silv' (weying *added in another  
hand*) *struck through*]  
 [Item a sepulc<sup>r</sup> boxe wyth certen relykes  
 Item iij Crossys of Copur & gylde & one tre  
 Item a sensur & a schyppe of Copur<sup>59</sup>  
 Item ij Crossel for baners of laten  
 Item viij banerpolys  
 Item ij stremers of sylke one rede (anothir blewe *crossed  
out*)  
 Item a stremar of whyte sylke  
 Item a rede stremar w<sup>t</sup> thassumpcioñ of o<sup>r</sup> lady  
 Item iij rede baner clothis  
 Item a ban' of sylke w<sup>t</sup> the Molett<sup>60</sup>  
 Item ij baners of grene sylke  
 Item ij whyte baners w<sup>t</sup> the signe of the passioñ  
 f. v b] Item a whyte ban' wyth a blewe Crosse  
 Item a Crosseclothe of sarcenet paynted *all struck  
through*]  
 Item ij grete lyggers Callid Antiphon's in the Qweñ  
 Item iij Portewes. ij. Masbokys iij Grayles a legent a  
 Respons'  
 Item a Invitator w<sup>t</sup> the Grayles the Attia iij Manuett ix  
 pcession's  
 Item a Gospelar & the Pystoñ a Sawt<sup>r</sup> w<sup>t</sup> the Collettel &  
 the Imnes  
 Item a Martilage an Ordinatt a Collecto<sup>r</sup> iij Qweyres  
 noted of the visitacōn of owr lady iij Queyres of the  
 t<sup>a</sup>nsfiguracōn of Jhu & the masse also

<sup>57</sup> The box containing (1) the *Oleum Sanctum* for use before baptism, (2) the *Crisma* or cream for use after baptism and at confirmation, and (3) the *Oleum Infirmorum* for anointing the sick.

<sup>58</sup> Probably a less valuable one than the silver to carry to the sick.

<sup>59</sup> Perhaps for use in Lent.

<sup>60</sup> The mullet was a star. If not heraldic, this may have been an Epiphany banner.



Item ij Queyres *de nomine Jhu*

[Item ij payr of grete laten Candilstykkē *struck through*  
a payr of smallyr apon the hye aut<sup>r</sup>

[Item a Catholican *struck through*] a lantern a holywat<sup>r</sup>  
stok of laton ij lecturnys of Tymbr

Item ij hoselynbeffe ij bellys for the Bedmā ij berys  
w<sup>t</sup> ther Coffyns

[Item a kercheffe of plesauns w<sup>t</sup> a bordur of sylke

Item a gown of purpuif sarcenett a Canape of launde w<sup>t</sup>  
iiij botunys of nedyll werke a lynen Clothe w<sup>t</sup> a  
Crosse of blak bokeram for the Rode *all struck  
through*]

Item iij Crosse stafys, &c

*(The five following entries are added in a different hand :)*

[Item a strem<sup>r</sup> off grenesylike w<sup>t</sup> seynt Michel and seynt  
Kateryne

Item a nother strem' off grenesylike off saynt George  
*struck through*]

Item too Bokē on off saynt austens workē a nother  
of seynt Gregories worke wretten w<sup>t</sup> sex letters  
Wycombe<sup>61</sup> on the m'gent<sup>62</sup> off them w<sup>t</sup>out

Item a Cosshen off Cremsen welvett

Item iiij litil strem' to goo by the crosse uppon high days

*(In the same hand as the additions in the middle of the  
inventory :)*

It' iiij stoles for recter coryse<sup>63</sup>

The inventory of 1518-19 is throughout in English, and unlike its predecessors is recorded to have been taken and made on a particular day, 20th January, 10 Henry VIII. (1518-19). It is further written in double columns, with the exception of the usual additions at the end. Like the list of 1503, it contains a number of corrections, and various entries are struck out.

<sup>61</sup> This word actually contains seven letters.

<sup>62</sup> *I.e.* margin.

<sup>63</sup> Stools for the rulers of the quire (*rectores chori*). They sang from a desk placed in the midst of the chancel or quire whereon the ledgers or antiphoners lay.

The contents of the 1518-19 inventory will be found on comparison to repeat largely those of 1475 and 1503, but the arrangement is entirely altered, the plate appearing first, then the books, next the brasswork and vestments, and concluding with the other churchgear.

Although the brasswork is confined to candlesticks only, the list of them is of special interest, firstly because their places are described, either as standing in particular parts of the church or upon altars; and secondly because the altars themselves are named. We thus get (1) the high altar; (2) that in the "bourchancell," or "bowre" altar; (3) the altar of the Resurrection; (4) the Jesus altar; and (5) St. Clement's altar; to which must be added (6) the altar of St. Nicholas in "Seynt Nicholas Chauncell."\* Oddly enough the inventory contains no other items pertaining to any save the high altar. Like the list of 1503, that under notice has a large number of items crossed out, most of them being identical with those in the preceding inventory. The term "suit" as applied to the vestments only once occurs, the principal components being mentioned instead, beginning with the copes as being the more splendid. Ornaments for Lent and a black suit for requiem mass, as before, give us the occasion of use, to which must be added "a Cope w<sup>t</sup> white Rosys called the weddyng Cope," with a pair of tunicles belonging. The additional items also mention "a vestment for a wedin the crose red velvet purlyd w<sup>t</sup> gold," but in neither case is the colour of these wedding vestments given. The other additions call for no special notice.

The text of the inventory is as follows :

f. vii b.] The Inventor' of the Chirchegodē taken & made the xx<sup>th</sup> day of Januar' in the x<sup>th</sup> yere of kyng harr' the viij<sup>th</sup> in the p'sens of Thomas frere Mayr' Robert Astbroke w<sup>t</sup> div's' othir burgess' and deliv'ed unto John Wellis John Lytylboy Walt' Lichelade & Will<sup>a</sup>m Saunders Chirchewardens pticfer' ev'y pceff as here aft' dothe folowe

---

\* There seems also to have been a seventh altar, of the Holy Trinity, but it is not mentioned in these inventories.

- [ffyrst a Crosse Silver & gylte]\*  
 [Item a fote to the same Crosse silver & gylte]  
 [Item a sokett w<sup>t</sup> a vyse & a nott<sup>64</sup> to the same silver & gylt]  
 Item a crosse staffe<sup>65</sup> pte Gilt  
 [Item a lytyll Crosse w<sup>t</sup> pynakylle stondyng on the fote sylv' & gylt]  
 Item iij Chalices silv' & gylte  
 [Item ij othir Chalys suspended]<sup>66</sup> " w<sup>t</sup> ij pat' " added  
 [Item ij Candilstykke of silv' pte of them Gylte]  
 [Item ij Crewette of Silver]  
 [Item a paxe of silver & gylte w<sup>t</sup> fyve stones of cristall]  
 [Item iij Censers of sylver pte gilte]  
 [Item ij Schyppys of Sylv' pte gylt w<sup>t</sup> ij silv' sponys]  
 Item a pyxe of silv' & gylte w<sup>t</sup> a lytyll pese of sylver in the same  
 [Item anothir litill pyx of silv' & gylte]  
 Item a c<sup>s</sup>tmatory sylv' & gylte  
 [Item ij basyns of sylver]
- [Item a boxe cov'ed w<sup>t</sup> sylv' wyth xiiij† pece of brokyn sylv' & gylt and one cristall stone in the same]  
 Item iij othir Cross' of Cop & pte Gylte  
 Item ij grete boke called Antepnoners  
 Item iij oth' boke called Portowes  
 Item iij boke called Graylys  
 Item a pystyll boke & Gospelle *underlined*  
 Item a boke called a legend  
 Item a boke called a verse boke  
 Item a boke called Invitatoriū w<sup>t</sup> the v<sup>s</sup>us of the grayle  
 Item vj bokys called pcessionatts  
 Item [ij *altered into*] iij boke called manuelle  
 Item one masboke on ‡ old masboke  
 [Item a boke called Catholicoñ]  
 Item ij latyn Candilstykke called standerde  
 Item ij othir latyn Candilstykke stondyng on the hygh aulter  
 Item ij laten Standerde<sup>67</sup> in the bourchauncell

\* All the entries here printed within brackets [ ] are struck through in the MS.

† Written over an erasure.

‡ Written over an erasure.

<sup>64</sup> Vyse=vice, or screw. Nott=nut.

<sup>65</sup> For carrying the cross in processions.

<sup>66</sup> Suspended=disused.

<sup>67</sup> Standing candlesticks.

Item ij laten Candilstykkē oñ the bowre aluter	Rosys called the weddyng Cope w <sup>t</sup> dekeñ & subdek]
Item ij laten Candilstykkē oñ the Resurreccoñ aluter	Item a Cope of rede sylke dek & subdekeñ of the same w <sup>t</sup> byrdē off golde
Item ij laten Candilstykkē oñ Jhus ault <sup>r</sup>	Item a Cope of Rede velo- wet corse <sup>68</sup> w <sup>t</sup> Crownys a vest for dek & subdek lakkyng one ffanon
Item ij laten Candilstykkē oñ Saynt Clemētē aluter	Item ij blak Copys of wosted w <sup>t</sup> a vestment for deken & subdeken
Item a Cope of Clothe of gold a vestment to the same for dekeñ & sub- dekañ <sup>68</sup>	Item [a course blak Cope of Sylke <i>crossed out and</i> made a paille <sup>69</sup> <i>written</i> <i>over</i> ] w <sup>t</sup> a vestment for dek & subdek lakkyng ij fanons & appell for a sleve
f. viii.] Item ij Copes of purpyll velowet a vest- ment to the same dek & subdek	Item ij Copys of Rede sylk w <sup>t</sup> godely flowrys a vest dek & subdekoñ lakkyng ij stolys [lynnen <i>added</i> ]
Item a Cope of blewe velowet of Thomas Pym Gyfte	*Item a vestment of grene Dornekkē <sup>70</sup>
Item another Cope blewe velowet of Kateryn Pym Gyfte	*Item a nothir vestment of Dornekkē
Item ij Copys of white damask	*Item a vestment for lent w <sup>t</sup> albis
Item ij Copys of Rede damask	Item a course white vest- ment w <sup>t</sup> Deken & subdek [& lynens <i>written over</i> ] lakkyng appell for the honde
Item a Cope of sylk w <sup>t</sup> grene hyndē w <sup>t</sup> a vest- ment for deken & subdek	
Item [ij Copes <i>altered into</i> ] j Cope of white damask w <sup>t</sup> byrdē of gold a vest dek & subdek	
[Item a Cope w <sup>t</sup> white	

\* These three entries are partly crossed out.

<sup>68</sup> That is a vestment or chasuble for the priest, a dalmatic and tunicle or pair of tunicles for the deacon and sub-deacon, and a cope for the priest during the procession instead of the chasuble. The accompanying amices, girdles, stoles and fanons are included in the entry. See several of the following entries.

<sup>69</sup> Coarse velvet.

<sup>70</sup> Old vestments were often converted to other purposes.

<sup>70</sup> A coarse kind of damask wrought at Tournay, in Dutch "Dorneck."

Item iiij* albis w <sup>t</sup> amess' for Childern <sup>71</sup>	Item ij awlt <sup>r</sup> clothis of rede damask
†[Item a deacon & subdea- con] w <sup>t</sup> whitte Rosys & a vestment w <sup>t</sup> out lynens	Item a strem' of bokerh <sup>a</sup> m <sup>73</sup> Image of o <sup>r</sup> lady
†Item a nother vestement off Red Dornyx	[Item a strem' of blewe silk of Saÿt George]
†[Item an olde black vest- ment w <sup>t</sup> a rede crosse]	Item a strem' of sylk of Saÿt Erasma <sup>74</sup>
Item a vayle Cloth for lent w <sup>t</sup> a blewe Crosse	Item a ban' of boker <sup>a</sup> m Image of o <sup>r</sup> lady
[Item a fontecloth w <sup>t</sup> fyve Crosses] <sup>72</sup>	Item a ban' of bokerh <sup>a</sup> m of Saynt poule <sup>75</sup>
Item a longe Towell of Diaper	[Item a strem' sylk of Saynt George]
Item a long Towell playn cloth	Item a croscloth white for lent <sup>76</sup>
Item ij schorte Towell <sup>e</sup> playncloth	Item ij ban' clothis of the passion
Item a pall of blewe velo- wett w <sup>t</sup> fyne fflowrys	Item an olde ban' cloth of sylke
Item a [nothir <i>struck out</i> &] aut' cloth [ <i>written</i> <i>over</i> ] of worsted w <sup>t</sup> frence	Item a houselyng bell
Item anothir of the same w <sup>t</sup> the Image of Mary & of John	[Item an olde sawter boke]
Item ij Curtens of the same fringed	Item a blak sewte of vestment <sup>e</sup> for masse of Requiē wythe wosted & lecters R
	Item ij blake wosted Copes]

f. viii b.] (*Added in another hand* :)

Item an ault'clothe of Diap<sup>77</sup>  
Item an ault'clothe of playnclothe

\* Written over an erasure.

† These three items are added at the bottom of the column, but apparently in the same hand as the rest of the inventory.

<sup>71</sup> See note <sup>52</sup>, *ante*.

<sup>72</sup> Apparently for covering up the font when not in use.

<sup>73</sup> *I.e.* buckram : coarse stuff used for linings.

<sup>74</sup> Erasmus was a popular Saint.

<sup>75</sup> St. Paul.

<sup>76</sup> Apparently to cover up the cross in Lent.

<sup>77</sup> Linen cloth wrought with flowers or other devices and patterns, as distinguished from plain cloth.

- Item a towell of Dyaper  
 Item a fyne kerchet for a Corpaxe  
 Item a spruce Cofer<sup>78</sup>  
 Item iij fine kercheffe for Corpaxe  
 Item ij litell Candelstykē  
 Item ij stonys one berall & one glasse<sup>79</sup>  
 Item ij Towellys  
 [Item a pece of Cipres<sup>80</sup> for the Crosse *struck out and fot  
 written over*]  
 Item an ell of lynencloth  
 [Item a vestment for a wedin the crosse red velvet purlyd  
 w<sup>t</sup> gold]

(*In another hand*) :

- Item a [*cro struck out*] cloth for the crosse of changeale  
 [*sic*] sylke.  
 Item a pelo of crymsyn velvet garnyssyd w<sup>t</sup> gold  
 Item a pelo of grene sylke  
 Item ij curtens of red Sasnatt frang' w<sup>t</sup> whyte & blew  
 [Item a tuell of playne cloth w<sup>t</sup> vj barrē of blew in the  
 same towell]<sup>81</sup>  
 Item ij D' schetē for autur clothys  
 Item a towell for the lavatory<sup>82</sup>  
 Item vij corpprus & v corpus casce  
 Item a vestemēt of grene velvat w<sup>t</sup> roseys<sup>83</sup> of gold w<sup>t</sup>owte  
 poffe<sup>84</sup>  
 Item a crosse cloth of sylke w<sup>t</sup> the Image of the trenite  
 Item a new bānar cloth of buckram w<sup>t</sup> the Image of ou'  
 lady  
 Item a bānar cloth of grene sylke w<sup>t</sup> the Image of ou' lady

(*Added, each in a different hand*) :

- Item a sewte of vestimetē the wyche ys the gyff of Maist'

<sup>78</sup> A chest or box made of fir.

<sup>79</sup> For the holy fire on Easter Even. It is not usual to find these in a parish church inventory.

<sup>80</sup> Apparently a name for what we now call crape.

<sup>81</sup> D'schetes=half sheets, to cover the altar with.

<sup>82</sup> Or washing of the hands at mass. But the lavatory may be what is now called the piscina.

<sup>83</sup> Roses.

<sup>84</sup> Apparells.

- Robard Aschebrokethe colar<sup>85</sup> wytte dornaxe w<sup>t</sup> flours  
of Gold & iij copys be longyng to the same.
- Item D' a schet<sup>86</sup> the giffe of Margaret Walker
- Item a banar cloth of Grene sylke the Image of Seynt  
Katerne.
- It' ij antyphonars of pap one for som' & the other for  
wynter bought of M̄ Symond<sup>s</sup> of Wyndesore
- Item deliv'ed to philipe tayler by the handys of petre  
Butte iij aulter clothes they being churchewar-  
dens.

With the inventory of 1552 is involved the history of the various commissions issued about this time for the survey of the goods of the parish churches. The first, which was issued in 1547 and addressed to the bishops, provided for a return of church goods from each diocese. The changes then in progress seem to have led to much alienation, sale, or embezzlement of church ornaments, and the alleged object of the commission was to put on record and preserve for the use of the parish what remained in each church. There appears, however, sometimes to have been a not unnatural suspicion as to the ultimate object of the enquiry, and one of the acts of the Privy Council in December, 1547, bears interesting witness to the fact. It directs letters to be written to certain persons "thanking them for their paines taken in appeasinge the tumultuous assembly of the parisheoneres of Penwith," which tumult "(as the Counsell tooke it) began thorough the indiscreete and mishandlinge of their Comyssyon by the Archdeacon, William Bodeyn, who for avoydinge his owne payne to be taken therin tooke upon him to call together and assemble a multetude of all the parishes in one daye, wheras the letter purported that there should be severall enserch be taken in every place apart, and furder handled him selfe after such a mannere as thereby the people were perswaded that the enserch to be taken tended only to effect as yf therupon a confiscacon should have ensued to the Kinges Majesties

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<sup>85</sup> Colour.

<sup>86</sup> See note <sup>81</sup> above.

behalf, much contrary to the Counselles entente, who mente but only to see the same preserved entiere lie to the churches, without embeseling or privat salles."\*

A second set of commissions was issued in February, 1549-50, directed to the sheriffs and justices of each county, empowering the taking of inventories as before, but forbidding the sale or alienation of church goods by the parishioners or churchwardens without the leave of the Privy Council.

About a year later the mask was thrown off, and on 3rd March, 1550-1, "it was decreed that forasmuche as the Kinges Majestie had neede presently of a masse of mooney, therfore Commissions shulde be addressed into all shires of Englande to take into the Kinges handes suche church plate as remaigneth, to be employed unto his Highnes use."† This drastic act of robbery and sacrilege was not, however, carried into effect at once, and it was not until 29th January, 1551-2, that the Council directed the issue of letters to the *custos rotulorum* of every shire, "to delyver unto the Commissioners named in the same lettres such inventories as were before delyvered to theyre custody by other the Kinges Majesties Commissioners, of the plate, jewells, bells and other thinges belonging to the parishe churches within the same shieres."‡ The form of letter thus addressed to the Commissioners for Bedfordshire is entered, but without date, on the patent roll for 6 Edward VI., and followed by the names of the commissioners for each county. Those for Buckinghamshire were :

"THE LORD RUSSELL  
SYR MAURyce BARKELEY  
SYR EDMUND PECHAM  
SYR ROBERT DRURY  
GEORGE GIFFORD  
WILLIAM TYLDESLEY."

The commission repeats the usual tale of the embezzlement or removal of "somme part" of the church goods

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\* *Acts of the Privy Council of England*. Edited by John Roche Dasent (London, 1890). N. S. ii. (1547-1550), 535.

† *Ibid.* N. S. iii. (1550-1552), 228.

‡ *Ibid.* N. S. iii. (1550-1552), 467.



“in somme places,” and directs the taking of a new set of inventories to be compared with those previously made. “For the defaults and wants yf any shalle eyther of the said plate juelles belles vestyments or any other ornaments or any part of theym any manner of wyse” the commissioners were to make diligent enquiry and search “to knowe and understond by whose default the same hath bene removed embesiled aliened or dimynyshed,” and were empowered to imprison any persons who wilfully and stubbornly refused to obey their orders. The commissioners had no directions to seize the goods.\*

The Buckinghamshire commission was issued on 16th May, 1552, but the Wycombe inventory was not taken until 4th September.

The parishioners had only a short time before taken an inventory of their church goods for their own purposes. It is dated 24th April, 1552, and is of great interest and importance as showing what “Ornaments of the Church, and of the Ministers thereof, at all Times of their Ministration . . . as were in this Church of *England*, by the Authority of Parliament, in the Second Year of the Reign of King *Edward* the Sixth,” had continued to “be retained, and be in use” in the king’s sixth regnal year.

The inventory enumerates five “suits,” the word being used in the same sense as in 1475 and 1503, of black (2), white, blue and green, and red; copes, besides the four or five belonging to the suits, of red (2), and white; vestments (*i.e.* chasubles) of red (2), and blue, three old ones of red, green, and with flowers, and one of white bustyan, no doubt for Lent, together with the necessary albes and amices, etc.; also three albes “for chyl dren.” For the altar were hangings of blue and of red, with the accompanying linen cloths, “towels,” and eleven corporases with seven cases for them. The only metal ornaments named are two latten candlesticks. Almost all the articles can be identified among those not struck out of the inventory of 1518–19, but the omission

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\* For the full text of the Commission see *Seventh Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records* (London, 1846), Appendix ii. 307.

of the chalices and other necessary ornaments is difficult to account for.

The parish inventory is as follows :

- f. x b.] An Inventorie of the Church goodē that be lefte taken the xxiiij daye of Aprell in the vj<sup>th</sup> yere of the Reigne of ower soveraigne lorde Kinge Edwarde the sixte in the presentē of Mr. George Parteferr then maier and his brethern Wiffm Corwyn Edwarde Carye Rowlande Wytnall & Gilys Scidmor churchwardens.
- In p<sup>i</sup>mis a sute of blacke worsted w<sup>t</sup> .R. of golde & the lynen y<sup>t</sup> belongith therto w<sup>t</sup> one cope of the same
- Item an olde sute of white bawdekyn w<sup>t</sup> damaske flowrys w<sup>t</sup>oute a coope havinge ij albys
- Item a sute of blewe & grene bawdekyn w<sup>t</sup> hyndē of golde & a coope w<sup>t</sup> all the lynens therto belonginge
- Item a sute of Redde silke w<sup>t</sup> sterris & the flowredeluce lackynge all the lynen w<sup>t</sup> ij Coopis
- Item a sute of blacke w<sup>t</sup> flowris of golde in y<sup>e</sup> crosse wyth ij lynens therto belonginge
- Item a pawle of blewe velvet w<sup>t</sup> flowris of golde
- Item an aulter Clothe of blewe worstede w<sup>t</sup> flowris
- Item ij olde courteynez of sarcenet of purple colour
- Item ij Courteyns of Red sarcenet olde.
- Item j Coope of Redde velvet.
- Item j Redde Coope of Damaske w<sup>t</sup> flowris
- f. xj.] Item iiij Albys for Chyldren w<sup>t</sup> ij aulter clothis of Red damaske.
- Item a vestment of Red satten w<sup>t</sup> saint John baptist.
- Item a vestment of blewe damaske w<sup>t</sup> the albe therto belonginge.
- Item vij towellez of lynen & iiij litle towels for the aulter
- Item vij Casis & xj corporas clothis
- Item a vestment of Redde dorneckē wythous [*sic*] lynen.
- Item a pilowe of Red velvet.
- Item a pese of chaungeable sarcenet

Item five aulter clothis of lynen one of them ys diaper  
 Item twoo deske clothis  
 Item iij olde vestmentis with ij albys one of them Redde  
 wythe the crosse of saint george & an other grene  
 velvet and the thirde w<sup>t</sup> flowris redde & grene.  
 Item iiij silke stremers litle.  
 Item an olde grene aultre clothe.  
 Item a white Coope of Damaske wyth Imagis at the  
 orphrasies  
 Item v surplessez olde | wyth a lynen courteyn  
 Item xj cofers ij candilstickē of latten w<sup>t</sup> one chayre  
 Item a vestment of white bustyan wyth the lynen

(NOTE.—*The whole of this list is crossed out*).

The inventory taken by the Commissioners is dated 4th September, 6 Edward VI. (1552). It is unfortunately partly decayed along the right-hand margin, and the bottom is torn away. I have therefore ventured to restore the lost words, as far as possible, in brackets. The text is as follows: \*

#### Chepyng Wycombe.

This Inventory Indented made the iiij<sup>the</sup> daye of September in the syxte yeare of the Reigne of oure sov'eign Lorde Edwarde the Syxte by the grace [of] God Kyng of Englande Fraunce & Ireland Defender of the Fa[ith and] in earthe of the Churche of Inglond & Ireland the su<sup>m</sup>e hedde of [the] Churche goodē plate juellis & all other ornamentis pteynge to t[he said] Churche of Chepyng Wycombe in the County off Buk'. betwene the Righte honorable Sir Francis Russell knyghte · Lorde Russelle · Sir Morys Barkley · Syr Edmonde Peckam Syr Robte Druery · knyghtis · George Gyfforde & Willm Tyllesley · Esquyers of the one ptye Commission's [among other *struck out*] for

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\* The original is preserved in the Public Record Office (Exchequer Q. R. Miscellanea, Church Goods *32*). I am indebted to Mr. William Page, F.S.A., for the transcript of it here printed, which I have collated with the manuscript.

the seyd Church Goodde & other the pmisses by vartue of the Kyng his Maiestyes Comyssyon to theym directed beryng date the xvj\* daye of Maye\* in the sixt yere of the Reigne of our sov'aigne lorde and John Raunce Mayer Wylyyam Granet & Robte Puseye off the other ptye all whiche gooddis plate Juellē & ornamentē be Comyttid to the same Custodye of the seyd John Wylyyam & Robte untill such tyme as the Kyng his Maiestyes pleasure be furder knowon.

That is to sey

Friste [*sic*] one Sute of blacke worstede w<sup>the</sup> j [*sic*] copes one sute of blacke baw[dekyn] wythe owte a Cope one sute of redde sylcke wythe two Copis lackynge [all] the lynnens one lone vestm<sup>te</sup> of Redde sattane one cope off Redde Dam[aske] one vestmente off blewe damaske wythe the abe | one lone vestment [of red] dornykys wythout lynene thre olde vestmentis wythe ij abes one p[all off] blewe velvette ffowre aultar Clothys of damaske worsted & grene O[ne pair of] Curtaynys of sylcke fowre abes for Childreane five [corporas *written over in another hand*] Casys one pillo[w of red] velvette fowre strems off sylcke one pece of Chaungeable sylcke ij [Candlesticks] off lattene and two payre off orgaynis a sute off blewe bawdkyne wyth hindis off golde.

Itm fyve Greate bellis one Sauncebelle two handbellis and two sac[ring bells.]

Itm thre Chalysis wythe thre patentis two of theme gylte two . . . . . one lyttle Cuppe of sylv' & a Crismatorye of Sylver.

These parcelles  
be Comyttid  
to the safe  
Custodye off  
the above  
namyd.

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\* Inserted in another hand.

M<sup>d</sup> that these psellis following  
were sold

[C]opes solde	Firste one Sute of	
anno [qui]nto	tissue wythe a Cope one	
Rē hujus by	sute off Redde bawdekyne	
[Ed]warde	wythe a Cope one sute of	
Cary and	Redde velvete wythe a	
[Wyl]lyam	Cope one sute of whyte	
Curwyne	bawdekyne wyth a Cope	
Churche	Two whyte Copis of Dam-	=xlviij <sup>ii</sup>
wardens of the	maske one sute of Red	
same Churche	velvet wyth a Cope one	
w <sup>th</sup> the	Cope of Red Damaske Two	
C[onsen]te	Copis of blewe [velv]ette	
of Rychard	Two copis of whyte Dam-	
.....	aske [ . . . . . o]f whyte	
	damaske w <sup>t</sup> a cope	

p me Joh[n]  
Rauce[?]  
X  
Robard Pusey

lxviij<sup>ii</sup>

.. w<sup>th</sup> Mary & John one Sensure & one  
..... e one pix of silv' one litle box  
..... of silver — xx. fi

*Other matter torn away.*

On comparing the two lists it will be found that most of the items are common to both, but the Commissioners' list does not contain the following: an old suit of white baudekyn (lacking a cope), a cope of red velvet and another of white damask, all the altar linen, two desk cloths, five surplices, a linen curtain, the eleven coffers, the chair, and the white bustian vestment and its appurtenances. On the other hand the Commissioners enumerate certain ornaments not given in the parishioners' inventory, viz. two pairs of organs, five great bells, together with a sanctus bell, two handbells, and two sacring bells, three chalices and patens, two [? latten censers], a little silver cup, and a chrismatory of the same metal. The Commissioners append a list (1) of copes sold in the fifth year of the king's reign (1551-2) by the churchwardens, and (2) of pieces of plate that were probably

disposed of in the same manner. The sums realized, £48 and £20=£68, are equivalent to about £1400 at present value, and give some idea of the richness of the ornaments of which Wycombe church was thus despoiled.

It has already been noted that in the earlier inventories, and especially of that of 1518-19, a number of entries are struck through. There can be little doubt that this may be accounted for in a similar way to that disclosed by the Commissioners' list of 1552, the silver ornaments having been sold or confiscated, probably ultimately for "the King's use," and the parish having to be content with others of baser metal.

Within a few days of the close of the sixth year of the King's reign the final stage of this iniquitous and sacrilegious robbery of the church goods was reached by the issue of a commission to gather in the spoil. It is directed to the Comptroller of the Household, the Vice-Chamberlain, the Master of the Rolls, and five others, and instructs them (1) to receive all the inventories lately made and (2) "to collect or cause to be collected and brought togyther all and singuler redye money plate and Juelles certyfyed by our Commysioners aforesaid to remayne in any church Chapell Guild," etc. "causing the said ready money to be delyvered by indenture to our use to thandes of our trustie servaunt sir Edmond Peckham knyght and causing the said plate and Juellles to be delyvered lykewise by Indenture to our use to thandes of the maister of our Juell house for the tyme being." The commission continues: "And to thintent the said Churches and Chapelles may be furnysshedd of convenyent and comely things mete for thadmynstracion of the holy Communyon in the same Wee give unto you. . . . full power and auctorytye to leave or cause to be leaft out of the said plate for the same purpose and to the same use in everye Chathedrall or Collegiat Church where Chalyces be remainyng one or two chalyces by your discrecions [*defaced*]. And in every great paryshe where Chalyces be remainyng one or two chalycs by your discreacion and in every small paryshe or chapell where Chalycs be remainyng one chalice . . . . And we gyve unto you . . . . full power and auctory after the honest and comely furnytur of coverynges for the communyon table and surples or surplesses for the mynyster or mynysters

in the said churches or chapells by your discrecions to dystribute or cause to be dystributed and geven freely to the poore people in every parysh wheare the same churches and chapells stond and be The resydue of the lynnyn ornaments and ymplements of the said churches and chapells in suche order and sort as may be most to Godes glory and our honor. And we gyve unto . . . you full powe[r] and auctory to sell or cause to be sold to our use all and singuler copes vestments Aulter clothes and other ornaments whatsoever remaynyng or being within any of the said churches or chapells not appoynted by this our Commyssion to be leafte in the said churches or chapelles or to be dystributed to the poore as afore ys declared And also to sell or cause to be sold to our use by weight all parcells or peces of metall except the metall of great bell saunse bell in every of the said churches or chapells The money commyng of which sales so to be made informe before decayred and all other sommes of money whiche shall come and be brought into our use by vertue of this Commyssion We will ye shall delyver or cause to be delyvered by Indenture to thandes of the said syr Edmond Peckham to our use." The commissioners were further instructed to direct letters to proper persons in each county authorizing them "to make colleccion to our use of the said ready money plate and Juells and make sale to our use of the said coopes vestments and ornaments of sylke without gold sattyn of bridges dornix worsted Saye and of other thyngs appoynted to be sold as ys before declared and to leave in every churche and Chapell such Chalyce or Chalyces and such lynnyn fornyture for the same Churches and Chapelles as ys before appoynted and to dystribute the resydue of the said lynnyn ornaments and ymplements to the poore of everye paryshe in sort before declared, etc." \*

The date of this precious document, with its canting reference to "Godes glory and our honor" and its pretended solicitude for the poor, is 16th January, 1552-3, or within seven months of the death of King Edward.

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\* For the full text from the Patent Roll of 6 Edward VI. (pt. 7 m. 11 *in dorso*) see *Seventh Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records* (London, 1846), Appendix II. 312-314.

The beginning with "redye money" is a further proof that the object of these Commissions was simply plunder, since "redye money" can hardly be included under the head of superstitious ornaments.

On the page in the manuscript under notice immediately following the inventory of 24th April, 1552, is written by the same hand, but not at the same time, this list:

- f. xj b.] The Inventorye of the Churchgoodē now remaynyngē to the same.
- In p<sup>i</sup>mis thre Chalices with ij patentē
- Item j Coope of Redde velvet & an other of white damaske withe flowris of golde
- Item an olde sute of white lackynge a Coope & all the lynnez
- Item ij olde deske clothez & ij grete brasse pottez
- Item j Crysmatory of latten j Crosse of Cooper part gilte
- Item ij sencers of latten vij Candylstickē for the aulters
- Item j blewe aulter Clothe hanginge of Satten a brydgc
- Item ij stremers & ij Square banners withe iiij poolys therto
- Item ij olde pallys hanginge at the hight aulter
- Item ij painted hangingē for the other ij aulters
- Item ij herez for the ij aulters
- Item j vestment of redde velvet withe the albe to the same
- Item an olde white vestment of dorneckē w<sup>t</sup> the albe
- Item ij aulter Clothez of lynen olde w<sup>t</sup> iiij towels & ij short towellē
- Item a vayle for lent season of olde clothes paynted
- Item ij Candilstickē to sett talowe candellē in
- Item ij Crossez of tymber w<sup>t</sup> a Crysmatory of tymber
- Item ij Corporas casez with a corporez clothe
- Item a greate Antiphon' of pchement w<sup>t</sup> a grayll of pchement & an antiphon' of pap unbounde w<sup>t</sup> a grayll of pap unbound
- Item i pcessionall of pchement & ij of pap unbound
- Item an olde manuell & an other Manuell of pchement unbound



Item a Masse booke of a Small volume w<sup>t</sup> an ymnall of  
 pap  
 Item an olde Masse booke w<sup>t</sup> ij litle portuous & iij olde  
 surplez

At first sight this looks like a list of the church goods during Mary's reign, but a comparison of it with the parish and commissioners' inventories of 1552 shews that it is actually a list of such ornaments as escaped the wholesale robbery for the King's "use." It alone, moreover, of the inventories under notice is untouched and not crossed out. The church was despoiled of four suits, a red damask cope, three vestments, and several minor things, but the parish was allowed to retain three chalices and two patens, no doubt the silver ones of earlier lists; a crismatory, two censers, seven candlesticks, and two other candlesticks, all of latten; likewise a copper parcel-gilt cross and two "grete brass pottez"; two wooden crosses, and a second crismatory, also of wood. Also a red and a white cope, a white suit of vestments, a red chasuble and an old white one, with their albes, etc. Likewise blue and other hangings for the altars, and most of the altar linen, a corporas and two corporas cases, three old surplices, a Lenten veil, and various banners and other church gear. Amongst the items are most of those omitted from the commissioners' inventory, and oddly enough the list concludes with a number of service books apparently the same as those entered in the 1518-19 inventory, which had now been superseded, at any rate in part, by the issue of the Book of Common Prayer in 1549, the third year of Edward VI.'s reign.

Besides the inventories of the goods of the parish church, there are two lists, and possibly a third, of the goods, jewels, and ornaments of the chapel of Our Lady.\* This was not that part of the parish church in which

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\* See Langley's *History of the Hundred of Desborough, Bucks*, p. 55. He quotes from Browne Willis's MSS. (which are in the Bodleian Library) an indulgence "for the reparat<sup>n</sup> of S. Mary's Chapel in the Church Yard of Wycombe." I have a note of my father's to the effect that "The proceeds arising from the sale of S. Mary's Chapel and furniture were applied towards the erection of

stood the altar of St. Mary,† probably the same as that later called the Bower altar, but a separate building in the churchyard, stated to have been rebuilt during the 14th century.‡ It apparently had its own endowment, derived from certain rents, and was under the control of two or more wardens, commonly called “collectors of our Lady rent.” There was also attached to it a gild of brethren and sisters. Part of the daily duty of “Our Lady preist” is set forth in the following interesting agreement referring to the chapel of Our Lady, which is entered in the same manuscript register as the inventories :

f. cxl.] Wycombe

Ad Gildam Aulam ibidem tenentem xiiij<sup>o</sup> die decembris anno regni Regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum xiiij<sup>o</sup> coram Thoma Gate tunc Maiore ibidem cum concensu et voluntate omnium Burgensium ac tenencium Capelle beate Marie virginis ibidem ordinatum est that the preist hired y<sup>t</sup> syngeth or seyth mas at oure lady auter and all other preistes that shall be hired in tyme to come in the Chapell forsaid for ever to sey mas and bytwene the offratorie or that he wasshe at the lavatorie he shall t<sup>o</sup>ne hym at the auteris ende & p<sup>ay</sup> for the good state welfare & psperite of all the tenaunt<sup>e</sup> men & women bretheryn & susteris un to the said Chapell of oure lady and for the good staat welfare & psperite of Willyam Redehode & Jone his wyfe & of Marg'ie ffyssher t<sup>o</sup>me of their lyves & for all their kynred being alyve with *Deus misereatur &c. paternoster cum suffragiis &c.* and a Colet *Deus caritatis &c.* and aftur the decees of the said William Redehode & Jone his wyfe & of Marg'ie ffyssher to be prayed for with them that be departid out of this world it is to be understonde that whan the preist hath p<sup>ay</sup>ed for the quicke than he stondyng styll at the auteris ende shall pay for the sowlis of all the tenaunt<sup>e</sup> men & women and of all the sowlis of all the bretherin and susteris & benefactors of the same Chapell and in especyell for the sowlis of Richard Redehode Agnes & Agnes his wyfes & for the sowlis of all their kynred for the sowlis of William Lancastell Emme his wyfe & for the sowlis of all their kynred for the sowlis of John Covyntree & Jone his

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the four almshouses adjoining the Royal Grammar School.” He does not give his authority. These four almshouses were pulled down and the site of them is now a portion of the ground fronting the present school.—J. P.

† Parker's *Early History and Antiquities of Wycombe in Buckinghamshire*, 102.

‡ *Ibid.* 130–136.

wyfe and of all ther kynred for the sowlis of Henry Colleshill & Agnes his wyfe & for all ther kynred and for all Christen sowlis he shall sey *De profundis* with the versiclis & a colet *Inclina or fidelium* as in a tabyll stondyth upon the same auter opynly it apperith for the whiche dayly p<sup>er</sup>yers kept the forsaid Henry Colleshill yeve to the towne of Wycombe the rev<sup>er</sup>sion of his house with the gardyn lying therto bytwene the house of the Charnell that the preistis of the Charnell dwelle in on the Est part and the house of Thomas Gate sometime Jone Briggewateris on the West part the Kynges hyeway on the south part the whiche house the forsaid William Redehode hath repairid & made whiche costis & chargis draweth to [f. cxlb] the som of xiiij li also the forsaid William Redehode willet & graunteth y<sup>t</sup> aftur his decees be delyv'd to the keperis of oure lady auter & Collectors of oure lady rent a Chalys part gylt with this scripture on the fote *Grate pro animabus Ricardi Redehode Agnetis uxoris eius Willelmi Redehode et Johanne uxoris eius* weying x unces & more of troye wyght the preist to syngre this with on the werkedayes the forsaid Meyre Burgeys & tenaunct<sup>er</sup> wollen and grauntyn that yf the preist that now is y<sup>t</sup> seyth mas at oure lady auter & all other preistis that shall be hired in tyme to come to syngre at the forsaid auter shall pay dayly for ye forsaid lyvis & sowlis by name and yf it so fortune or happe the forsaid lyvis & soulis to be unpayed for by iij dayes in a moneth the forsaid preist to lese iiij d of his wagys to the reparac<sup>o</sup>n of the same Chaunsell as ofte tymes as he & any other in tyme to come so doth foryete the forsaid lyves & soulis unpayed for and yf it so be that the Collectors of oure lady rent the whiche shall pay for the wagys of the forsaid preist rebate not so moche of his wagys as ofte tymes as defawgte is founde and acounte theruppon in ther rekenyng is not do than the chirchemen to the behovith of the chirche to receyve the forsaid iiij d of the preistis wagys to be payed by the hondis of the Collectors of oure lady rent and they to acounte upon the same also the tabyll on the auter with names to be repayrid at all tymes when it nedith on the cost of oure lady rent.

On the next leaf (cxlj.) is also entered the following, under date 8th May, 17 Edward IV. (1477) :

Item ad visum Franc' pleg' tenentem in le Rye coram Ricardo Cary tunc Maiore cum concensu omnium Burgenisium ibidem videlicet viij<sup>o</sup> die Maij anno regni Regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum xvij<sup>o</sup> ordinatum est et concessum Willelmo Redehode et assignatis suis quod illos Duos Capellanos vocatos *oure lady preist & le Bourepreist* qui nunc sunt aut qui pro tempore erunt habeant et teneant illas ij

Cameras cum gardinis adjacentibus et suis pertinentiis nuper Henrici Colleshill juxta tenementum vocatum *le Charnell house* ex parte Boriali Cimeterij prout mete et bunde undique docent et proportant Habendum et tenendum predictas ij Cameras cum gardinis adjacentibus et suis pertinentiis predictis Capellanis tam diu ipsi habent et occupant servicia sua Reddendum inde annuatim predicto Willelmo Redehode et assignatis suis xiiij s iij d legalis monete Anglie ad duos anni terminos usuales scilicet ad festa sancti sancti [*sic*] Michaelis archangeli et annunciacionis beate Marie virginis per equales porciones. Solvendas annuatim per manus Collectorum redditus Capelle beate Marie virginis et firmarij Rectorie ibidem, etc.

The earliest of the inventories is dated 12th November, 18 Henry VII (1502), and has a Latin heading; the inventory itself is in English. It practically consists of two series of ornaments: (1) those of the altar; (2) those belonging to the image of Our Lady, or offerings made in her honour.

The altar ornaments include two chalices, one being that made in accordance with the directions of William Redhode above quoted; four corporases and their cases; three "pairs" of vestments with all their apparel; a white chasuble; a massbook; four linen altar cloths and a canvas covering, with two towels; three altar hangings and as many pairs of curtains; a pair of great latten candlesticks before the altar and a lesser pair "for prickets" upon it, together with a tinned candlestick and three more latten ones for tallow candles; and a pair of tin cruets.

The existence of the image of Our Lady is fixed by the mention of the silver-gilt crown upon her head. This is followed by some twenty items, including girdles, rosaries, brooches, rings, pieces of money, and other votive offerings of the usual kind. Similar inventories for like chapels have been met with elsewhere.\* The text of the inventory is as follows:

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\* Cf. the inventory of 1488 of the Chapel of "oure lady of the bryge" at Derby, printed in Cox & Hope, *Chronicles of the Collegiate Church or Free Chapel of All Saints, Derby* (London, 1881), 85; and that of the Chapel of St. Mary upon the Bridge, at Wakefield, taken in 1498 (*Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London*, 2nd S. xvii. 75).

f. xxj.] Anno regni Henrici septimi decimo octavo  
xij<sup>th</sup> of Novēbr.

Inventorium Bonorum Capelle beate Marie virginis  
ibidem &c Tempore Willelmi Aley & Hamlet Taylo<sup>r</sup>  
Gardiani I &c Deliv'ed befor Roberd Aschebrok  
Mayr

Inprimis ij Chalys one grete dobyll Gylde a nothyr parte  
therof Gylde w<sup>t</sup> a sc<sup>i</sup>ptur abowte the fote prayng for the  
sowlys of Wiffm Redhode & his ffrendis iiij Corpaxe  
w<sup>t</sup> the Casys iij p of vestmētē one grene w<sup>t</sup> branches  
anothir of grene sylke the thryd of wosted w<sup>t</sup> all ther  
apparell a whyte Chesebyll a Masboke iiij aut'  
clothis whyte & one Canvas ij Towellys iij auter-  
clothys & [iiij *altered to*] vj Curtenys ij grete latyn  
Candilstyke befor the auter ij latyn Candilstyke apon  
the awter for p'ketē a tynen Candilstyke iij latyn  
Candilstykyke [*sic*] for Talowe ij Crewetē of Tynne  
A Crowne of Silver apon owr ladyes hede & Gylde A  
brode Gyrdell whyte Corse<sup>87</sup> [sylv *crossed out*] the  
pendant and the Bokull dobyll Gylde w<sup>t</sup> vj stodis<sup>88</sup>  
Anothir Gyrdyll playn Corse the pendant & bokull of  
Sylver wyth viij stodis A Grene narowe Corse w<sup>t</sup> the  
pendant & bokull of silver A payr bedys<sup>89</sup> w<sup>t</sup> iij  
Golde ryngys of amb<sup>r</sup><sup>90</sup> rede & whyte ij of the Golde ryngē  
ameled A p bedis of geete<sup>91</sup> w<sup>t</sup> xj gaudes<sup>92</sup> of sylver x  
stonys of [Sylver *struck out*] Corall a p blakezete<sup>91</sup>  
bedys w<sup>t</sup> a ryng of silver iij p of ambur bedys corse<sup>93</sup>  
an owche of Silver & Gylte bokulwyse A Crucifixe of  
Silver & Gylte A Crosse Key of Sylver A harte w<sup>t</sup>  
the Tunge sylver & Gylte vj Ryngys silver & gylde

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<sup>87</sup> Corse: apparently the groundwork of the girdle. Cf. *Prompt. Parv.*: COORS of sylke or threde. *Textum.* SEYNT, or cors of a girdle. *Textum.*

<sup>88</sup> Studs.

<sup>89</sup> A pair of beads is the usual name for a rosary. It is sometimes called a pair of paternosters.

<sup>90</sup> Amber was much used for pairs of beads.

<sup>91</sup> Jet, another favourite material for a pair of beads, as also was coral.

<sup>92</sup> The large beads placed between the decades were called gauds.

<sup>93</sup> Coarse.

x ryngys of Sylver w<sup>t</sup> a Jomewe<sup>94</sup> of sylver a broche of sylver & gylte a [pey *crossed out*] peny Gyldē a grote of Sylv' iiij pens<sup>95</sup> of sylver a pece of Corall w<sup>t</sup> ij Typpys of sylver a Relyk closed in sylke a Chapelet of Tyssewe a Garment of Blak Damaske a pall of Grene sylke (*Added in another hand:*) a bedestone of silv' & amelled<sup>96</sup> (*Added in the original hand:*) Item a vestement of blewe damaske of the gyfte of Myhell Poy natt w<sup>t</sup> branchis Item a stone of Cristall closed w<sup>t</sup> silv' & a cheyn pte Gylte

(NOTE.— *Down the left side of the entry is a bracket and the word vacat.*)

The second inventory was taken 20th January, 10 Henry VIII (1518-19), and is throughout in English. It repeats for the most part the ornaments and jewels in the 1502 list, but omits the minor candlesticks, and it is not quite clear how far the chasubles in the former can be compared with those in the later list. Nearly all the votive offerings, save the five rosaries and a silver-gilt owch, seem to have been sold or otherwise disposed of before the taking of the second inventory, but others appear in their stead in the additional items. Among other new ornaments are three garments, no doubt to put on our Lady's image. The last item, also a new one, "a Curten clothe for o<sup>r</sup> lady lofte" is of interest as giving a clue to the furniture of the chapel. The added entries call for no special notice. The two crowns for the image of our Lady which are crossed out must have shared the fate of the pair of coral beads which was "sold to John Bitt." The inventory is as follows:

f. ix.] Our' lady

The Inventor' of the godē Jewellys and ornamentē belongyng to the Chapell of our lady made the xx<sup>th</sup> day of Januar' the x<sup>th</sup> yere of kyng harr' the viij<sup>th</sup> in the p'sence of Thomas frere mayr Robt Astbroke & other burgess' of the same borowgh then beyng wardens Thomas Gerard & John Kelehogge

<sup>94</sup> Jomewe=gemowe, or gemal, a double ring.

<sup>95</sup> Pennies.

<sup>96</sup> Enamelled.

- ffyrst a Chalice w<sup>t</sup> a scriptur rounde abowte the the [*sic*]  
ffote silver & gylte
- Item another Chalice silver & gylte
- \* [Item a Crowne for owr lady silv' & gylte w<sup>t</sup> ix [now  
vij *written over*] stonys in the border of the same]  
[Item anothis Crown lesse wyth eyght stonys in the border  
of the same]
- Item an Ouche of Silver lyke a bakyll<sup>98</sup> of Silv' & gylte.
- Item a Cristall stone wythe a Cheyne to the same Silv' &  
gylte
- [Item a p Coraff bedys w<sup>t</sup> xl stonys of Silver & gylte &  
ryng† of silver] sold to John Bitt *added*
- [Item a p *struck through* &] to payer [*written over in  
another hand*] of blak bedys w<sup>t</sup> xxj stonys of silv' &  
[one Ryng *altered to*] too Ryngē of Silv' [the Ryngē  
wher sold *added in another hand*]
- [Item a p] of bedys Rede amb<sup>r</sup> w<sup>t</sup> one peny of silv' upon  
them [they lakkethe the peny *added*]
- [Item an] othis p bedys of yolowe amb<sup>r</sup> w<sup>t</sup> gaudes of Jasp  
stonys & Castellon<sup>99</sup>
- [Item a p of] bedys amb<sup>r</sup> & glasse w<sup>t</sup> a ryng [*crossed out  
and ij Ryngē written over*] of Sylv' [the Ryngē wher  
sold *written over, and the following added in another  
hand:*] A p of blacke gettys bedys & anothis of  
ambur.
- Item a garment of Tyssewe w<sup>t</sup> a lyon theropon.
- Item a garment of blewe sylke w<sup>t</sup> floure de lucē
- Item a Chaplet for owr lady of Tyssewe.
- Item a garment to owr lady of white w<sup>t</sup> Grivyns
- Item a vestment of blewe Damaske w<sup>t</sup> flourys of the  
gyfte of Myhell Poy natt
- Item a vestment of grene wosted w<sup>t</sup> byrdē
- Item a vestment of grene w<sup>t</sup> the crossys<sup>100</sup> rede befor &  
behynd.
- Item a vestment of baudekyn the Crossys yolowe & blewe.
- Item an old Chesebyll of grene silk w<sup>t</sup> barres of Ray.

\* The entries in square brackets [ ] are struck through in the MS.

† Altered to "too ryngq" and then corrected again.

<sup>98</sup> Buckle.

<sup>99</sup> Perhaps a Castilian, or Spanish gold coin, hung on the end.

<sup>100</sup> The orphreys. See note <sup>53</sup>.

- Item [iiij *altered into*] oon Aulter [*Clothes altered into*]  
Cloth paynted
- Item an aulter Clothe of grene wosted w<sup>t</sup> byrdē
- Item ij Curtens of grene wosted w<sup>t</sup> byrdē
- Item iij paynted Curteyns
- Item a white valauns ffrenge w<sup>t</sup> thred.
- Item an olde valans of grene w<sup>t</sup> bestē
- Item a p of grete laten Candilstykkē called Standarde  
f. ix b.] Item anothir payr of latyn Candilstykkē stond-  
yng on the awt<sup>r</sup>
- Item ij \* aluterclouthis of lynen Clothe whyte
- Item a Masseboke præted.
- Item a lytell portewes called o<sup>r</sup> lady port'.
- Item a grene vestmēt w<sup>t</sup> letters **M** & **A** w<sup>t</sup>in the Crosse
- Item iiij Corpaxes w<sup>t</sup> Casys
- Item ij Crewettē of Tynne
- Item a pall of grene sylk
- Item a pax w<sup>t</sup> the Image of o<sup>r</sup> Lord.
- Item one Towell.
- Item a clothe for the awt<sup>r</sup> unhalowed.
- Item a Curten clothe for o<sup>r</sup> lady lofte.

*(Added in another hand) :*

- Item a payer of Ambur bedys w<sup>t</sup> vij stonys of sylver.
- Item a gyrdyll the pendentē w<sup>t</sup> awkament<sup>101</sup>
- Item [ij *struck through and*] iiij [*written over*] chyrchoys<sup>102</sup>  
w<sup>t</sup> a laude. | chirchohe. | .

*(Added in another hand) :*

- Item a payer of beddys of blake gete w<sup>t</sup> ij ryngē of sylffer  
[the Ryngē wher sold *added in a different hand*]
- Item a ryngē of sylffer of the gyfte of Ayliys Nycollis.
- Item a hankerclothe of the gyfte of Master Astbroke

*(Added in another hand) :*

- Item a gyrdyll w<sup>t</sup> grene corse the buckyll & pendent of  
sylver & vj stodē of sylver

---

\* Written over an erasure.

<sup>101</sup> Perhaps the same as alchemy or "alkamye," a metallic alloy imitating gold.

<sup>102</sup> Kerchiefs.



(*Added in the same hand as the first additions :*)

Item ij awter clothys of diapur.

Item iij halfe chette

Item a diapur towell & a nothir towell playne cloth

Item ij holde awter clothis torne oñ dyapur & a nothyr  
playne

[Item iij ffine chyrhoys *struck out*]

(*Added in another hand :*)

It' a shet & a crensch cloth<sup>103</sup> of the geffe of Mastrys  
Hastebroke & a shett of Mother Telbye & a selfer  
rynge of the gyfte of Teyler.

(NOTE.—*The whole of this inventory is crossed out.*)

On the page next to the foregoing inventory is a short list dated 11th October, 1 Edward VI., 1547, which seems to relate to the contents of the chapel of Our Lady, although that is not named, after the destruction of the image in the reign of Henry VIII. and the confiscation of the goods of all gilds and chantries under the Act of 37 Henry VIII. [1545] cap. 4. That the image of Our Lady had been destroyed is probable from the following extract from the Acts of the Privy Council which proves the destruction of the images in the parish church of Wycombe :

29 November, 1547.

John Bisse, of Wickham, have [*sic*] spoken and doone inconveniently against the taken down of images abused in the church of Wickham, and therefore having been committed a certen tyme to the Fleete, was delyvered and enjoyned to make oppen and solem declaration at Wickham of his fault.\*

The list under notice is as follows :

f. x.] Memorandum deliv'ide into the handis of  
[. . . . . and *erased*] John Standishe

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\* *Acts of the Privy Council of England*, N. S. ii. (1547-50), 147.

<sup>103</sup> Was this a crysom cloth ?

the xj<sup>th</sup> daye of octobre in the first yere of ou<sup>r</sup>e  
soveraigne Lorde Kynge Edwarde the sixe

- In primis ij chalices [w<sup>ch</sup> ij chalice were deliv'ide to  
simon Witnall then mayer *added by the same hand &  
the whole entry struck through*]
- Item a vestmente of blewe braunched Damaske w<sup>t</sup> a  
Redde crosse therupon w<sup>t</sup> all [*sic*]
- Item a vestment of Redde and blewe dormyckē w<sup>t</sup> a  
grene crosse therupon
- Item a blacke vestment w<sup>t</sup> [*a struck out*] grene [*birde  
struck out*] birdē & flowre de luce & the crosse  
w<sup>t</sup> splaide egils of golde
- Item a grene vestment w<sup>t</sup> a blewe crosse w<sup>t</sup> *Ihus maria*  
in golde
- Item a white vestment of dornickē w<sup>t</sup> a crosse of grene  
silke with the sterrys of golde therupon
- Item a masse booke w<sup>t</sup> a corporas case and ij corporasses  
therin
- Item a glasse paxe ij crewettē
- Item ij alter clothis of diaper & one of playne clothe
- Item an alter hanginge of blewe silke w<sup>t</sup> white flowrys
- Item v halfe Shetys. w<sup>t</sup> iij kerchevys.
- Item a yerde and a quart' of tyssue
- Item an other pese of tissue
- Item a canves clothe for the aulter.

(NOTE.—*All the items are crossed out.*)

All the items here given can be identified with entries in the inventory of 1518-19, with the exception of the red and blue, the black, and the white vestments, and the blue silk hanging. The "canvas clothe" may be that in the earlier list of 1502, and the 1½ yard of tissue perhaps formed part of the "garment of tyssewe" in the inventory of 1518-19.

What became of the various ornaments in these lists that were left by the commissioners does not seem to have been recorded.

In the present controversy on ritual matters it may be well to point out that whether the "Ornaments Rubric" refers to the second year of the reign of

Edward VI, or, as some think, to the first Prayer Book issued during his third year, we have clear evidence that at Wycombe chasubles and copes of various colours, altar hangings, crosses, candlesticks, censers, crismatories, the Lenten veil, etc. had been "retained" and were "in use" in the king's sixth regnal year; and this is by no means a solitary case. On the contrary, the evidence is overwhelming that a like state of things prevailed over a large part of England.

W. H. ST. JOHN HOPE, M.A.