

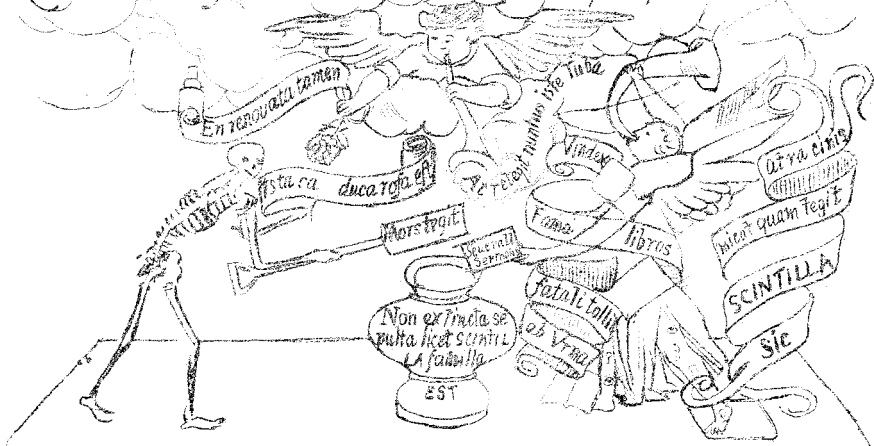
## BLETCHLEY MONUMENTS AND EPITAPHS.

The Rev. W. Cole, describing the Church, writes (Brit. Mus. Add. MSS., No. 5821): "Here are no ancient arms or anything memorable in the Church, save that A<sup>o</sup>. 1706 it was new paved and pewed, the Pillars painted and sentences of scripture hung up painted on boards and framed in convenient places, only an old crucifix which I patcht up: and the chancel neatly fitted up with a decent screen between the church and that: and an Altar piece of Norway oak erected at the east end, and roofed at top with wainscote and painted, and the whole embellished with diverse paintings at great charges and expences in an uniform manner throughout: and the north chancel hung round with the arms of the Lords of the Manor since the Conquest in frames." He also states that there was nothing ancient left or remaining in the memory of man in the Church more than appeared in his time: as care was taken in 1706 not to destroy anything. There was then in the east window of the south aisle the effigies of our Saviour on the cross and the two Marys: and in a north window St. Edmund the Marytr. . . . "there being not the least ancient gravestone remaining except the Grey monument."

### MONUMENTS AND EPITAPHS AT BLETCHLEY.

There is but one "brass" left in the Church; this is situated on the north wall of the chancel. It is 14 inches high by 12 inches wide, enclosed within a frame of alabaster, on the top of which is a mutilated crest described by Cole as "a demi-talbot rampant arg. spotted with torteaux and fire issuing from the mouth." It is so finely engraved as to resemble a copper-plate engraving rather than a sepulchral brass, consequently it defies the skill of the most expert "brass-rubber." From the style of the work its execution is attributed to Dr. Haydock, who engraved a similar but much larger memorial to Erasmus Wilson in Tingewick Church. It represents an altar tomb

*Qui multos ad Iustitiam adducunt ut stellae semper splendent. Dan. 1. 3*



*Hoc Monumentum Tho Sparke filius et Haeres pietatis ergo marrens posuit*

in the lower half; in the middle of the side of the said tomb is a portrait of the Rev. Dr. Sparke. On his right is shewn the kneeling figures of his sons, and on his left various figures representing the general public. On the top of the altar tomb and occupying the upper half of the brass is a skeleton with a shovel filling an urn; a figure, "Fame," full of tongues and ears, blowing a trumpet; and at the top of the brass an angel with a trumpet and, in one hand, a rose. Along the top is this inscription following:—

*Qui multos ad justiciam adducunt, ut Stellae semper splendebunt.* Dan. xii. 3. On the urn is inscribed, *Non extincta, sepulta licet, scintilla favilla est.* Issuing from the angel's trumpet and on scrolls of cloud are the words, *En renovata tamen ista caduca Rosa est,* and, *Mors tegit: at retegit nuncius iste Tuba, Vindex Fama Libros fatali tollit ab urna: Sic Scintilla micat, quam tegit atra cinis.*

Also the titles of his works, viz.: *Exhortatio ad Conformitatem Ecclesiae Anglicanae, Libellus de Successione: Responsio ad Johan. de Albinis: Catechism: Concio. Funeb. Vis naturae ac Virtus, Vitae, Explicatio: Myster, Pietatis: Conscientiae gravatae Levamen.*

Encircling the portrait of Dr. Sparke are the words: *Tho. Sparke SS<sup>ae</sup>. Theol. Dr. celeberrimus hujus Eccl. Rector vigilantissimus,* and, *Mortuus A<sup>o</sup>. Dom. 1616. Oct. 8. Aetatis suae 68.* Also on two small shields, *Scutum Fidei,* and, *Arma nostra sunt spiritualia.*

Also, over the kneeling sons, *Filioli charissimi, cavete vobis ab Idolis.* I. Joh. v. 21 and

Bis geniti, retinete Fidem, Zelumque paternum;  
 Haeredes vestri sic decet esse Patris;  
 Sic decet: O mea tunc quā molliter ossa cubabunt.  
 Si licet in Natis sic superesse meis.  
 Scintillam Scintilla meam si vestra sequatur,  
 Orba sua flamma non erit Ara Dei.

And over the "congregation": *Deum adorata. Rev. xxii. 9, and,*

Ut sacra in Populo signatur Epistola Pauli  
 Sic mea in hoc sancto lucet Imago Grege.  
 Corporis in Tabula datur imp'fecta, sed illa  
 Cordib' in vestris viva figura mei est.  
 Viva mei dixi? Christi at sit vera figura,  
 Sat mihi si Populus vera figura Dei.

And along the bottom of the brass, *Hoc monumentum Tho. Sparke filius & Hacres pietatis ergo moerens posuit.* Lipscomb adds to this, *Non ita vivi, ut me pudeat vivisse; neque mori timeo, quia bonum Dominum habemus.* (Now disappeared.)

There are two stone slabs in the church bearing indents of brasses which had vanished in Cole's time; he mentions them both. The smaller of the two is in the pavement of the north chancel; it is 52 inches by 24 inches. The indent is that of the figure of a priest, tonsured and in alb, etc., and measures about 20 inches in length, the indent of the inscription at the foot of the figure being about 20 inches wide by 5½ inches high.

The other slab is in the pavement of the chancel; it is 6 feet 4 inches long by 3 feet wide, and is indented for figure and shields. The figure indent is 37 inches long, and the inscription indent is 22 inches wide by 5 inches high. Cole says of this: "But if one may conjecture I take it to be laid for a rector: it is designed for a dignified clergyman; shape of cope and tonsure is noticeable, four escutcheons at four corners."

The margins of these indents are now become indistinct, and Cole's description was made when more precise definition of the border facilitated a probable surmise as to the nature of the brasses so long "reaved and gone."

On a slab of black marble 80 inches by 40 inches within the altar rails and close to the south wall with

the foot to the east, inscribed as follows:—

Thomae Willis  
 Thomae Medici celeberrimi filius  
 quem  
 pietas in Deum et Ecclesiam sincera  
 Fides in principem integra  
 constantia in amicitiiis conservandis illibata  
 indulgentia in conjugem summa  
 Bonis omnibus Maxime commendebant  
 Aetatis suae Anno XLI<sup>o</sup>  
 Annoque Salutis MDCXCIX<sup>o</sup>  
 Morte Heu H.S.E. immatura abreptus  
 Browne Willis Thomae filius Primogenitus  
 dum erga deum et parentes Pietatem Ostenddere  
 conabatur et monumentum optimis parentibus  
 Haud indignum erigere voluit templum hoc  
 in quo eorum ossa sunt recondita anno salutis  
 Reparatae MDCCV<sup>o</sup> exornavit.

Arms: A fess between 3 lioncels rampant within a border charged with 8 roundels: impaling; a chevron charged with 3 escallops between as many storks. Crest: A demi-lion gorged issuant from a mural crown.

(Willis impaling Browne).

On a similar slab to the last, placed within the altar rails, on the pavement close to the north wall,

M.S.

Aliciae Roberti Browne Dorsettensis Arm. Filiae  
 Thomae Willis de Blecheley Arm. conjugis  
 quae  
 Tredecim Liberorum Mater  
 cum carissimi Mariti Desiderium Ferre Non Potuisset  
 die post ejus obitum LIX<sup>o</sup>  
 Luctu et moerore confecta  
 conjugem quaesitura  
 Anno aetatis xxxv<sup>o</sup> salutisque MDCXCIX<sup>o</sup>  
 V<sup>o</sup> id Januarias e vivis excessit  
 Browne Willis Matri benemerenti  
 Pietatis et Doloris sui testimonium  
 H.S.P.C.

Arms: On a lozenge. Same as last, but no crest.

The two preceding Latin epitaphs are said to have been written for Browne Willis by the Rev William Wotton, B.D., Rector of Milton Keynes.

On a tablet of white marble, 29 inches by 17 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches, fixed to the south wall of chancel,

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of  
Gertrude Caroline

Wife of the Rev. W. Bennett, M.A.

Rector of this Parish. Who died Nov<sup>r</sup>. 2<sup>d</sup>, 1903.

THIS TABLET WAS ERECTED BY THE  
PARISHIONERS TO COMMEMORATE A  
PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5,040  
CHANGES, RUNG IN THREE HOURS AND  
TEN MINUTES BY

Fred. Sear .....	Treble	James George .....	5
Ernest Gale .....	2	Charles W. Clarke..	6
Harry Sear .....	3	Richard Nichols ...	7
Walter Sear .....	4	Valentine Sear .....	Tenor

FRED<sup>k</sup>. MEAGER }  
GEORGE COOK } Church Wardens.

JAMES COOK }  
PETER BROOME GILES } Sidesmen.  
GEORGE FRENCH }

In the north aisle of the chancel against the east wall is fixed a black tablet, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 14 inches, inscribed:

Here under resteth ye body of Rose / daughter of  
Andrew Inekforby, Marchant of Ipswich in ye county  
of Suff: / The onely wife of Thomas Sparke / Doct<sup>r</sup> of  
Divinitie and Parson of this / Church. She lived w<sup>th</sup>  
him a lovinge / helper fortie yeares and bare unto him  
/ ten children of whom five went to / heaven before her  
and five she left heare / behind her to followe her  
vertues and / godly example. She deyped ye vii<sup>th</sup> of  
Aug<sup>st</sup>. 1615 / Sixtie eight yeares, A fragrant Rose she

lasted / noe vile reproach her vertues ever blasted /  
Her autume past expects a glorious springe / a second  
better life more flourishinge. /

Thomas Sparke filius natu maxim' et moestissm' posuit /  
Eecl. 39. 13.

Harken to me ye holie children and / bringe forth  
fruites as the Rose.

Lipscomb describes the above as being in the chancel and enclosed in a white marble frame, now gone, and which bore this inscription:

HAEC MODO QUAE TOTO RUTELAVERAT IGNE  
COMARUM PALLIDA COLLAPSIS DESERITUR  
FOLIIS.

On the east wall of the aforesaid north aisle is fixed an ornamental escutcheon of white marble bearing these arms: "Argent two bendlets sable, in chief a martlet," impaling "argent on a chevron between three roundels sable as many crescents of the field." Tayler impaling Walker.

This escutcheon, which is about 13 inches square, is all that remains of a "very whimsical and large mural monument" formerly existing in the chancel on the north side within the altar rails. Cole gives a pen and ink sketch of it (Add MSS. No. 582I, p 172 (168), which conveys a better idea of its appearance than any written description.

The inscription (extracted from Lipscomb's History of Bucks) is as follows:—

On a mural monumental tablet of black marble, with a border of white, profusely decorated with carving, tracery, emblems, etc.—

Corona Fidei reposita est  
atque dabitur sed vincenti

Over the above words was a large gilt diadem supported by two angels, the words being within a circle enclosing a cross formed by four sceptres. On the dexter side, a head traced in faint outline, with a crown above it, and the words "Sepelitur Ars." On the sinister side: Arg. on a chev. sa. 3 crescents of the field betw. 3 ogresses. *Crest*: The sun rising. *Motto*: Walk in the light. In the centre, the head of a woman traced

in outline, within a gilt circle; and with this inscription: "Keepe Faith till Death." On each side of the portrait:

Faieth  
Walker

Walke  
by Faith.

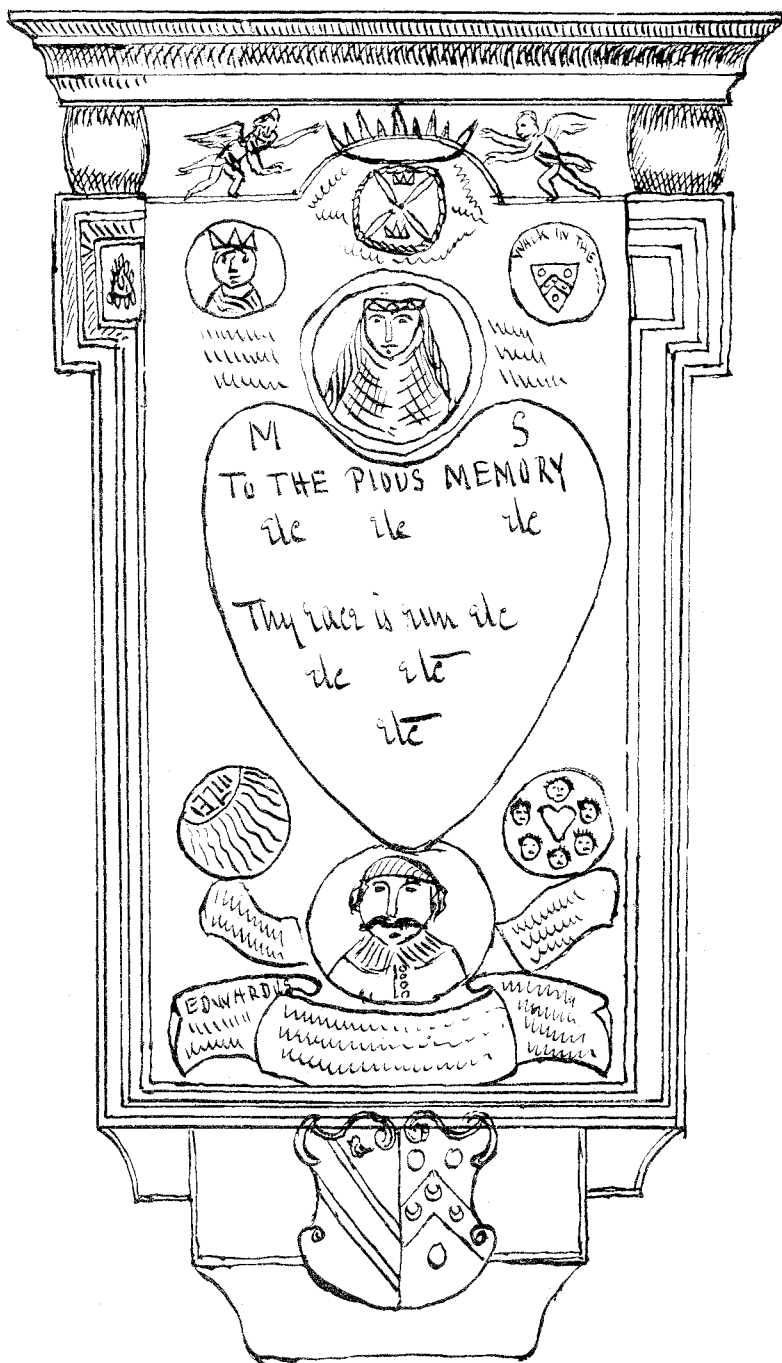
Well did thy life, word, anagram, agree,  
To Will and Walke Aright, was all to thee.  
Thy tender yeares were gracious; all thy life  
Was virtuous while a virgin, when a wife;  
Here thou didst walke by Faith, but now above  
By sight with him thy soule did dearly love.  
A happy change, thy life now full of blisse,  
Thy Christ thy Husband, Heaven thy jointure is.  
Within the tracing of a heart:

M. S.

To the pious Memory of that religious Gentlewoman, Mrs. Faieth Tayler, Daughter of Mr. William Walker, Minister of Chisweeke, in the Countie of Middlesex, and Grandchild of the Reverend Mr. Robert Key, Minister of Ware, in the County of Hartford. The deare wife of Mr. Edward Tayler, with whome shee lived nineteen years within five days, a most loving, faithful, and obedient wife; having issue three Sonnes, EDWARD, LIONEL, THEOPHILUS; and four Daughters, ANNE, JANE, ELIZABETH, MARY; whereof Anne, in her tenderest infancy went before her to Heaven; the other six survive to follow her godly example. Shee fell asleep in Christ, Anno Domino 1657, July 22<sup>d</sup> in the 47<sup>th</sup> year of her age. Thy race is runn, deare hart, and what though Death, Through thy swift pace hath made thee lose thy breath: A little resting shall the same restore  
Yea make't immortal to be lost no more;  
And while to rest thy body here lyes downe,  
Thy soul takes sweet possession of the Crowne.

Requiesce in FIDE placidè: requiesce desiderat etiam  
ad migrandū,  
Et te cum esse cum Christo maritus tuus moestissimi  
utriūq.  
Coarctatus Edwardus Tayler, M.A. Hujus  
Ecclesiae Pastor indignus in tempore opportuno etiam  
reversurus.





THE TAYLOR MURAL MONUMENT (DESTROYED),  
BLETCHLEY CHURCH.

On a circle round the outlines of a man's head :

SERVAVI FIDEM CONSUMAVI CURSUM.

Towards the dexter side a Greek inscription, and within a glory, another in Hebrew. Below which are the following words reversed :—

Quantum ad hoc mihi lucrum est mori.

On the sinister side, beneath six heads, placed like medallions, surrounding a gold heart, is another Greek inscription, with the following :—

Quantū ad hos p'manere in carne magis necessari.

And, below, the delineation of a skull :

EDWARDVS TAYLER:  
conjux desolatissim' heu'.  
lugubre hoc amoris  
monumentu amaro



SVPSTES ANIMO FIDI  
suae dilectissimae quod nollet  
nec non sibi posuit.  
An. Salutis 1657.

In the middle of the tablet

Non obiit EDWARDVS TAYLER, sed abiit mortalitate magis finita quam vita Anno. Dom. 1693, *aetatis* 83, *minist* 33. qui coelesti nunc arce receptus ex parte sui dimidius una cum anima. FIDES suae charissimae cum CHRISTO vivit. Utrorumq. vero corpora in cubilibus suis hic juxta requiescentia expectant: beatam illum spem et illustrem illum adventum gloriae magni illius DEI et servatoris nostri JESU CHRISTI Qui transmutabat corpus humilitatis nostrae ut sit in similitudinē corporis. gloriae suae. AMEN. AMEN. VENI IGITUR DOMINE JESU.

On a shield of veined marble, below the tablet:  
*Arms.* Arg. 2 bendlets sa. a martlet in chief: imp: arg. on a chev sa. betw 3 ogresses, 3 crescents of the field. *Tayler* imp. *Walker*.

Affixed to the east wall of the chancel aisle is a group of kneeling figures, *in relievo*, 14 inches high by 12 inches wide, representing a man with eight younger people behind him, all facing sinister. The costume is late 16th century, the man being in half-armour:

the colouring is now nearly gone and the little group much defaced. There is no inscription.

Cole states that this little monument was brought from the old church at Depiford by Dr. Browne Willis, who said that he was induced to do so because he also had eight children!

On the floor of the chancel aisle, with the foot touching the east wall, is a slab of stone 34 inches by 24 inches, inscribed thus:

Julia Essex Lowndes / Born October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1851 / Died  
Janry 23. 1852 /

The Lord giveth and the / Lord taketh away. Blessed  
/ be the name of the Lord /. Reginald William Selby  
Lowndes / Born Jan. 19th 1853 / Died February 6th  
1853. / The Beloved children of / Richard and Mary  
Selby / Lowndes.

On the floor of the above aisle is also a lozenge of white marble, with a side of 30 inches, with this inscription:

Eliot Willis. A.M.  
Coll: Trinitatis Oxon: Scholaris  
Hujus Ecclesiae B.V.M. Rector  
obiit July 14. 1752.  
Anno Aetatis suae 33.

Also, on the floor of the chancel aisle close to the north side of the Grey tomb, is a stone 50 inches by 26 inches, with the following inscription:—

Here / Lyeth the Body of Jane / the daughter of /  
Browne Willis. Esq. / and Katherine his wife / Who  
Dyed at Whaddon Hall / November ye 25 1710 / Aged  
10 months and 14 Days. / Also / Cath. Susan Amelia  
/ Daughter of the Reverend / Tho<sup>s</sup> Willis / Rector of  
this Parish / and of Cath. his Wife / Ob. March 5<sup>th</sup>  
1778 Æt. 9 months. /

In the north-east angle of the chancel aisle, and close to both walls, is a raised altar-tomb 6 feet 3 inches by 3 feet 2 inches. On the top is a white marble slab 72 inches by 34 inches, with an escutcheon of Willis, impaling Eliot, at the head, followed by this inscription:

Here under Resteth  
 The Body of Catherine only child of Daniel Eliot  
 of Port-Eliot  
 in the County of Cornwall. Esqr.  
 Wife of Browne Willis. Esqr.  
 Lord of these Mannours  
 By whom she had issue ten children,  
 of which Four Sons  
 and Four Daughters survive Her.  
 viz. Thomas, John, Henry, Eliot,  
 Gertrude, Katherine, Mary, Alice  
 Both She and Her Husband  
 Were Descended  
 From the Antient Lords of this and the Adjoining  
 Parish of Waddon  
 Where departing this Life  
 at Waddon Hall  
 October 2<sup>d</sup> Anno 1724  
 In the 38<sup>th</sup> year of her age  
 She was according to her desire  
 Here Interred.

At the west end of the tomb is an escutcheon of Willis impaling Eliot: and on the south side of the tomb are three escutcheons. The middle one is Willis impaling . . . ? . . . and the other two are Willis with a shield of pretence of Eliot. These shields are all tinctured and the tomb ornamented with colour, but the tints are now faded, and in places obliterated.

The most prominent and important sepulchral monument in the church is the handsome and interesting 15th century altar-tomb with recumbent effigy, situated under the arch between the chancel and north aisle. Lipscomb hardly notices this monument, and gives no details of it, but Cole gives a pen-and-ink drawing of it in his Vol. 20th.

The altar-tomb is 8 feet long, 31 inches wide, and 37 inches high; the ends are plain. Each side is embellished with three quatrefoils and other tracery. Within each quatrefoil is an escutcheon. On the north side the middle shield is "barry of six argent and azure, in chief 3 torteaux;" on either side of it the bearing is "barry of six argent and azure a label of

5 points gules:" and on the south side the middle shield is "barry of six argent and azure, in chief 3 torteaux." One of the other shields is blank, and the one bears "barry of six argent and azure, a label gules."

On the top of the altar-tomb is the recumbent effigy of a man in full plate armour. The figure is 6 feet 5 inches in length; the head is bare, and rests on a helmet, with mantling and crest which somewhat resembles a bunch of flowers on long stalks; the feet rest on the figure of a lion. The hands are bare and in the attitude of prayer. There is a ring on fourth finger of right hand, a ring on fore-finger of left hand, 3 rings on the fourth and 3 rings on the fifth finger of the same hand. The collar of eses (ss) is worn round the neck; the gauntlets hang with the sword at the left side.

The figure and the slab on which it lies are carved out of a block of white marble; and round the edge of the slab is the following inscription:—

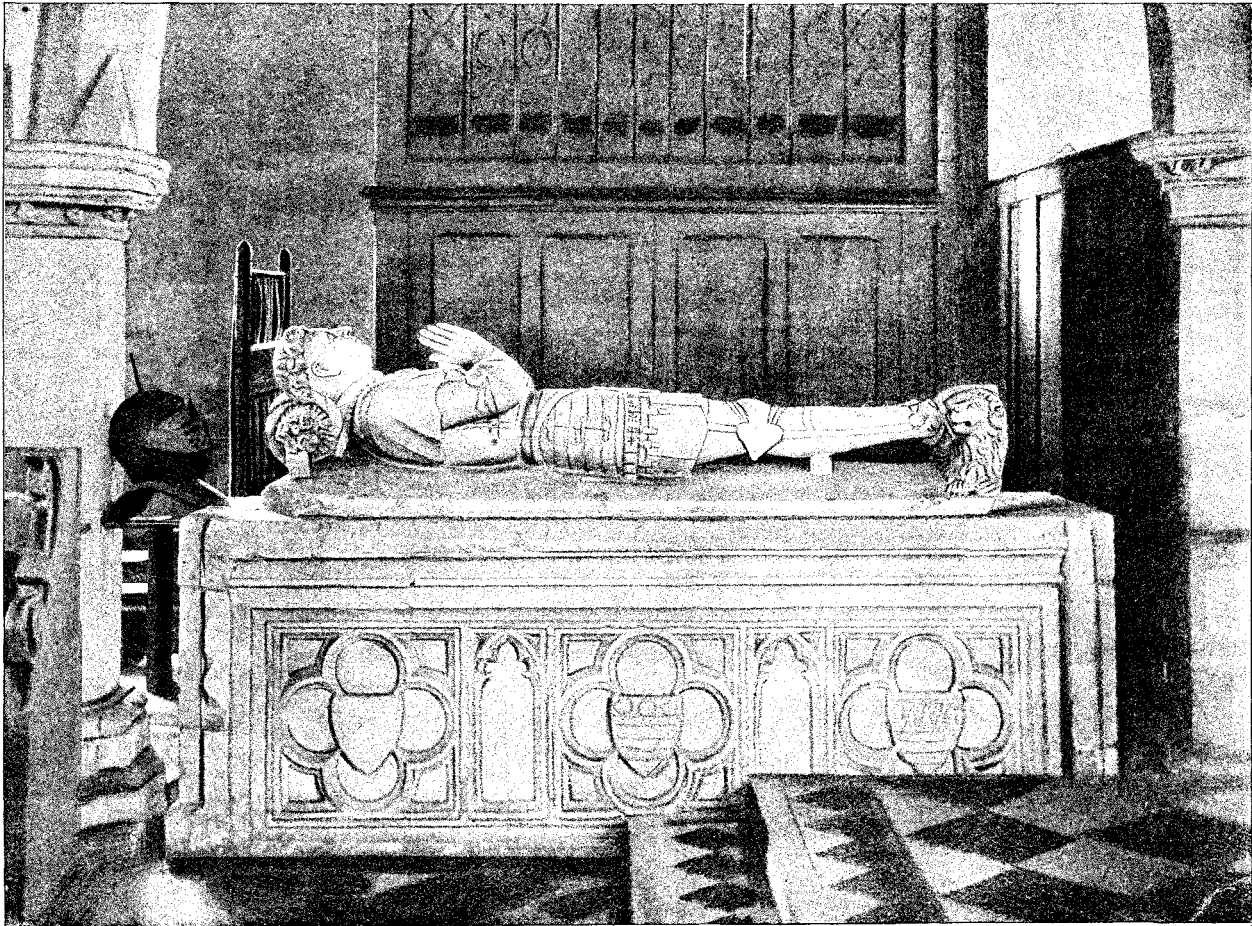
"In hac eccl. jacet sepult Richard Dom. Grey. Baro. Grey de Wilton qui obiit apud Walter Hall." ob. 1442.

There is loose about the above tomb a tilting or funeral helmet, with spike on top to support a crest.

There are two black slabs, each 43 inches by 21 inches, in the pavement on the south aisle, placed with their lower ends close against the east wall. They are inscribed as follows:—

Sacred / to the Memory of / Henry Stubbings / who died Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 1794, / aged 57 years. / Also of Sarah his wife / who died May 31<sup>st</sup> 1814 / aged 76 years. / Also of / Henry Watkins Stubbings / grandson of the above, / who died April 11<sup>th</sup> 1810, / aged 5 years. / Also of Thomas Hogg / who died Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> 1818 / aged 82 years. / Also of Jane his wife / who died Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> 1813 / aged 78 years. / Also of Ann their daughter / who died Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> 1815 / aged 43 years. /

This monument / is placed here to perpetuate the memory of the / best of parents, by William Henry Stubbings, / a native of this village: late Master of



THE GRAY MONUMENT, BLETCHLEY CHURCH.

the Academy / in Winslow, in this County, but now  
of Newnham / near Daventry, in the County of North-  
ampton. / A.D. 1822 /

Sola salus servare Deo Palma non sine pulvere.

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Sacred / to the Memory of / Henry Watkins  
Stubblings / who died on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August / 1824,  
aged 50. / He was formerly Master of / Winslow  
Academy in this / County, and late of Newnham /  
Academy in the County of / Northampton; and was  
uni/versally respected by all to / whome he was known.

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Lipscomb records the following epitaphs, which  
are now disappeared. On a slab in the pavement  
(chancel):

“Here lieth the body of Mrs. Faith Disney, the  
widow of Mr. Thomas Disney, Rector of Stoke-Hamond.  
She departed this life April the 5th 1706. aged 80  
years.”

The remains of the last stone, with the inscription  
undecipherable, are now in the chancel aisle.

On another slab: “Here under resteth the body of  
Mrs. Faith Tayler, the wife of Mr. Edward Tayler, who  
departed this life the 22<sup>d</sup> of May 1657.”

On another: “Hic subtus jacet corpus / Edwardi  
Tayler, Clerici / Hujus Ecclesiae nuper / Rectoris.”

Formerly there hung in the chancel aisle this framed  
record:

“Arg. a fess gu. charged with 3 fleur-de-lis, or.”

Matt. Disney. A.M. hujus.

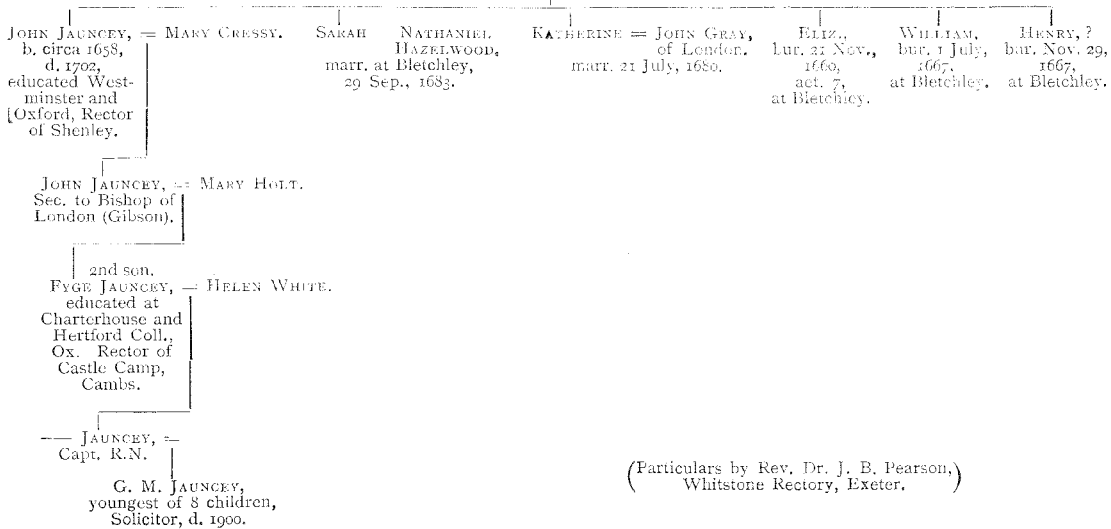
Ecel. Rector pacificus, residens, et homo antiquae  
familiae, doctrina modestia, caritate, et bonis moribus  
praeditus. Obiit Jan. 23. 1715. Aetatis 60.”

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Cole records (Add. MS. 5,821) the following epitaphs  
which had probably disappeared when Lipscomb wrote,  
as he does not mention them.

On a freestone near the middle part of this chapel,  
and about three feet from My Lord Grey's tomb, is  
this:

JOHN JAUNCEY. = MARY DEWSBRY,  
 d. 19 June, 1698, d. 1 Nov., 1695,  
 bur. 24 " " " bur. 5 " " "  
 at Bletchley, M.I. at Bletchley, M.I.



(Particulars by Rev. Dr. J. B. Pearson,  
 Whitstone Rectory, Exeter.)



“In memory of / Mr John Jauncey of this Parish / who dyed June the 19. 1698 / Mrs. Mary Jauncey his wife / who dyed November 1st 1693. / Mr Constantine Barnett, Brother / in Law of Mr. John Jauncey / dyed May the 3<sup>d</sup> 1692. / Mr William Dewsby Brother / of Mrs Mary Jauncey dyed / April 3<sup>d</sup> 1693 and was buried / near this place or the Chancel / Door.”

A little altar-tomb six feet from south chancel door: “Here lieth interred the / Body of Elizabeth / Jauncey the daughter / of Master John Jauncey / and of Mary his wife / who departed this / Life November the 21 / Anno. Dom. 1660 in the / 7 year of her age/. Here also resteth / the body of William Jauncey.”

Mr. J. Jauncey was Bailiff of the Manor to the Duke of Buckingham and Dr. Willis. Mr. W. Dewsbury kept the Post House at Stratford as I have heard. (Cole.) Mr. J. Jauncey kept the “Black Bull” Inn in 1650, and in 1681 pulled down the “George” because it hindered the custom of his house the “Red Lyon.”

One of his descendants states the tradition that John Jauncey was an ex-officer of cavalry, and was disinherited by his father, possibly for political reasons, but no evidence is given in support of this tradition.

Cole writes of the Rev. Fyge Jauncey in his Vol. IV. (5805), p. 94:—

“I think I remember this person several times at Mr. Cartwright’s, at Bletchley, while I was Rector there. If he is the same person, he was first admitted at Jesus Coll., Cantab., and after a short stay there removed himself to Oxford, married early a young lady from Lichfield, and was a tutor in a private family in Essex, where he had a living. His father was an officer in some Bishop’s Court, and lived in a street near Bloomsbury Square, where my friend Mr. Gray always lodged when in town. His grandfather, if I mistake not, had been Rector of Shenley, next parish to Bletchley, where some of the family lie buried, the great-grandfather keeping a public house at Fenny Stratford.”