

MISCELLANEA.

TOMB OF KING HENRY IV. IN CANTERBURY,
CATHEDRAL.

It is very generally known that in the year 1832, to set at rest certain historical doubts, the Dean and Resident Canons of Canterbury caused this tomb to be opened. An account of the facts and discoveries was drawn up at the time by the Rev. Dr. Spry, one of the Canons present, but was privately circulated only; nor has any full statement of the proceedings, so far as I am aware, ever been published. It cannot but be desirable that the facts should be placed on more permanent record, and preserved from loss; and the kindness of Archdeacon Harrison enables me to print Dr. Spry's narrative here *in extenso*.

T. G. G. F.

"A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE EXAMINATION OF THE TOMB OF KING HENRY IV. IN THE CATHEDRAL OF CANTERBURY, AUGUST 21, 1832.

"One of the most remarkable of the monuments preserved in the Cathedral of Canterbury, is a very costly altar-tomb, erected in honour of King Henry IV. and Joan of Navarre, his Queen. All our historians have stated that King Henry was buried in this Cathedral; and no doubt was entertained that his body was really deposited in the tomb thus raised to preserve it, until the learned and inquisitive Henry Wharton discovered in the library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, a manuscript, which he published in the second volume of his *Anglia Sacra*, (folio, London, 1691,) wherein it is asserted that the body of the King was taken out of the coffin and thrown into the Thames, by those who were conveying it by water from London to Canterbury. As this was written by a contemporary, and purports to give an account received by

him from one who was himself an agent in the outrage, it has been admitted as evidence by all the writers who have undertaken to describe the Cathedral of Canterbury, and its monuments, from Batteley downwards.

“The manuscript is entitled ‘A History of the Martyrdom of Richard Scrope, Archbishop of York;’ and it is written by one Clement Maydestone,* an ecclesiastic, and a retainer of the deceased prelate.

“The passage is as follows:—

† “After the death of this King, a wonderful event occurred declaratory of the glory of the above-named Lord Archbishop Richard, and commending it to memory for ever. For in less than thirty days after the death of the said King Henry IV., one of his household came to dine at the house of the Holy Trinity, at Hounslow; and during dinner, while the company present were talking of the excellent conduct of that King, this person observed to a certain esquire, named Thomas Maydestone, who was sitting with him at the table, ‘God knows whether he was a good man; but this I know for certain, that while his body was conveying in a small vessel from Westminster towards Canterbury, to be buried there, I was one of three persons who threw the corpse into the sea, between Berking and Gravesend.’

“And he added, with an oath, ‘Such a storm of wind fell upon us, and the waves ran so high, that many nobles, who followed us in eight small ships, were scarcely saved from death, their vessels having been dispersed by the tempest.

* “Clemens Maydestone, filius Thomæ Maydestone Armigeri, fuit ordinis S. Brigittæ Confrater domus de Howndeslow.—*Tanneri Bibliotheca*, p. 500.”

† “Post mortem ejusdem Regis accidit quoddam mirabile ad prædicti Domini Richardi Archipræsulis gloriam declarandam et æternæ memoriæ commendandam. Nam infra triginta dies post mortem dicti Regis Henrici quarti venit quidam vir de familiâ ejusdem ad domum sanctæ Trinitatis de Howndeslow vescendi causâ; et cum in prandio sermocinarentur circumstantes de probitate morum ipsius Regis; respondit prædictus vir cuidam Armigero vocato Thomæ Maydestone, in eâdem mensâ tunc sedenti: si fuerit vir bonus, novit Deus; sed hoc verissime scio, quod cum a Westmonasteriâ corpus ejus versus Cantuariam in parvâ naviculâ portaretur ibidem sepeliendum, ego fui unus de tribus personis qui projecerunt corpus ipsius in mare inter Berkingum et Gravesend. Et addidit cum juramento; tanta tempestas ventorum et fluctuum irruit super nos, quod multi nobiles sequentes nos in naviculis octo in numero

But we who were with the body, being in peril of our lives, by common consent threw it into the sea, and immediately there was a great calm.

“ ‘ But the chest, covered with cloth of gold, in which the body had lain, we carried with great honour unto Canterbury, and buried it. Therefore the monks of Canterbury may say, that the sepulchre of King Henry IV. is with us, not his body; as also said Peter of the holy David, in the second chapter of the Acts of the ‘Apostles.’ God Almighty is witness and judge, that I, Clement Maydestone, saw that man and heard him swear to my father, Thomas Maydestone, that all which he had said was true.’—See Wharton’s ‘*Anglia Sacra*,’ Vol. ii., p. 372.

“ It is clear that this narrative is open to great suspicion; for, admitting that the known superstition of the sailors might have tempted them, in a moment of peril, to throw the corpse into the sea, it is scarcely probable that one of the King’s household, if he had been engaged in so culpable a transaction, would have spoken openly on the subject, and so shortly after the funeral, knowing, as he must have known, that King Henry V. would have visited such an offence with great severity. It should also be observed that Clement Maydestone is an interested witness. He was as ready to depreciate the character of the deceased monarch, as to extol the honour of his master, whom he conceived to have been wrongfully executed. And a writer who was so far under the influence of prejudice as to represent the punishment of high-treason as a martyrdom, and the death of the King as a judgment from Heaven upon a persecutor of the Church, would not hesitate in propagating, if not inventing, a story which he could construe into a proof of a Divine interposition, in honour of his patron’s memory.

dispersi sunt, ut vix mortis periculum evaserunt. Nos vero qui eramus cum corpore, in desperatione vitæ nostræ positi, cum assensu projecimus illud in mare; et facta est tranquillitas magna. Cistam vero, in quâ jacebat, panno deaurato coopertam, cum maximo honore Cantuariam deportavimus, et sepelivimus eam.

“ ‘ Dicant ergo Monachi Cantuariæ, quod sepulchrum Regis Henrici quarti est apud nos, non corpus; sicut dixit Petrus de Sancto David, Act. 2^o. Deus Omnipotens est testis et judex; quod ego Clemens Maydestone vidi virum illum, et audivi ipsum jurantem patri meo, Thomæ Maydestone, omnia prædicta fore vera.’ ”

“ Still, it has long been one of the *desiderata curiosa* of antiquaries to ascertain the truth or falsehood of Clement Maydestone’s narrative, by an actual examination of the coffin; and for this purpose the royal vault was opened on the 21st of August last, in the presence of a few individuals,* under the sanction of the Dean of Canterbury; and the following account has been drawn up from notes taken on the spot at the time, by one of those individuals.

“ On removing a portion of the marble pavement at the western end of the monument, it was found to have been laid on rubbish composed of lime dust, small pieces of Caen stone, and a few flints, among which were found two or three pieces of decayed stuff, or silk, (perhaps portions of the cloth of gold† which covered the coffin,) and also a piece of leather.

“ When the rubbish was cleared away, we came to what appeared to be the lid of a wooden case, of very rude form and construction, which the surveyor at once pronounced to be a coffin. It lay east and west, projecting beyond the monument towards the west, for about one-third of its length. Upon it, to the east, and entirely within the monument, lay a leaden coffin without any wooden case, of much smaller size, and very singular shape, being formed by bending one sheet of lead over another, and soldering them at the junctions.

“ This coffin was supposed to contain the remains of Queen Joan, and was not disturbed.

“ Not being able to take off the lid of the large coffin, as a great portion of its length was under the tomb, and being unwilling to move the alabaster monument for the purpose of getting at it, it was decided to saw through the lid, about three feet from what was supposed to be the head of the coffin.

“ And this being done, the piece of wood was carefully

* “ Present,—

The Hon. and Right Rev. The Lord Bishop of Oxford, Dean of Canterbury.

The Lady Harriet Bagot.

Hon. Sir Charles Bagot.

Rev. W. F. Baylay. } Prebendaries.

Rev. Dr. Spry. }

Mr. George Austin, Surveyor of the Cathedral.

John Pedder. } Workmen.”

Thomas Laming. }

† “ See Maydestone, above.”

removed, and found to be elm, very coarsely worked, about one inch and a half thick, and perfectly sound.

“Immediately under this elm board was a quantity of haybands filling the coffin, and upon the surface of them lay a very rude small cross, formed by merely tying two twigs together, thus +. This fell to pieces on being moved.

“When the haybands, which were very sound and perfect, were removed, we found a leaden case or coffin, moulded in some degree to the shape of a human figure; and it was at once evident that this had never been disturbed, but lay as it was originally deposited,—though it may be difficult to conjecture why it was placed in a case so rude and unsightly, and so much too large for it that the haybands appeared to have been used to keep it steady.

“In order to ascertain what was contained in this leaden case, it became necessary to saw through a portion of it, and in this manner an oval piece of the lead, about seven inches long, and four inches over at the widest part of it, was carefully removed. Under this we found wrappers, which seemed to be of leather, and afterwards proved to have been folded five times round the body. The material was firm in its texture, very moist, of a deep brown colour, and earthy smell. These wrappers were cut through and lifted off, when, to the astonishment of all present, the face of the deceased King was seen in complete preservation. The nose elevated, the cartilage even remaining, though, on the admission of the air, it sunk rapidly away, and had entirely disappeared before the examination was finished. The skin of the chin was entire, of the consistence and thickness of the upper leather of a shoe, brown and moist; the beard thick and matted, and of a deep russet colour.

“The jaws were perfect, and all the teeth in them, except one fore-tooth, which had probably been lost during the King’s life. The opening of the lead was not large enough to expose the whole of the features, and we did not examine the eyes or forehead. But the surveyor stated that when he introduced his fingers under the wrappers to remove them, he distinctly felt the orbits of the eyes prominent in their sockets. The flesh upon the nose was moist, clammy, and of the same brown colour as every other part of the face.

“Having thus ascertained that the body of the King was

actually deposited in the tomb, and that it had never been disturbed, the wrappers were laid again upon the face, the lead drawn back over them, the lid of the coffin put on, the rubbish filled in, and the marble pavement replaced immediately.

“It should be observed that about three feet from the head of the figure was a remarkable projection in the lead, as if to make room for the hands that they might be elevated as in prayer.

“J. H. S.”

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO A DISPUTE BETWEEN THE
SEVEN HUNDREDS AND LYDD CONCERNING THE
WATCH AT DENG MARSH.

COMMUNICATED BY W. J. LIGHTFOOT, ESQ., FROM A MS. BELONGING
TO HAWKHURST CHURCH.

A shorte rehearseall howe y^e 7 hundreds were comanded to watche at Dengmarshe Ano 1585 by y^e Lorde Lievtennante comandement wth a shorte discourse of their sute in y^t behalf and how often they did deny y^t service afterward wth a breefe of o^r answers against y^e men of Lydde proofes and allegations.

Ffirst after y^t y^e Pope had procured y^t Holy League as he called it to y^t end to overthrow y^e Gospell and to establish their Popery. The Spanishe Kinge, who was the greatest prince in y^t league, began nowe to turne all his force and power against o^r Queene and cuntry, and prepared a mighty navy for y^t purpose; and uppon this newes her ma^{tie} appoynted choyse persons to be her levtennantes in every sheir for to appoynte captaines and their souldiers to be trained, and so this newes beinge still encreased. Beacons wer comanded to be set up, and watches to be kept, and in y^e year afforsaide we of the 7 hundreds were comanded by o^r L. L. to send 12 men to watche at Dengemarshe, y^e w^{ch} wee did most willingly undertake as well in regarde of y^e present danger then thought to be at hand as also to testify o^r obedience to o^r L. L., thinking y^t change to have exceeded only by virtue of y^t his absolute

auctority, and not by pretence of any ordynary right or duty in lawe. But when we perseved y^t service was laide upon us by the earnest solistation of y^e inhabitants of Lydd upon information y^t ye same was due by lawe and accostomed to be done, and feeling y^t y^e burthen of findinge y^e saide 12 men to watch y^e said place, wole growinge to y^e sume of ninescore pounds yearly at y^e least, and considering y^e saide watche if it shold have continuance wold charge us and o^r posterities for ever, upon y^e earnest request of y^e 7 H. Mr. Thomas Roberts, esquier, in the yere 1587, sent Stephen Sharpy and Edwarde Batcocke wth a Petition enclosed in his leter unto o^r L. L. to this efecte y^t we might have a daye opoynted y^t y^e men of Lydde might shew by what right they callenged this service at o^r hands. This day was obtayned and a leter by o^r L. L. directed to S^r Tho. Scot and S^r Ja. Halles, who were his debities leutenants, y^t they shold send to y^e men of Lydd and apoynt a day to hear both parties what cold be saide of ether side, and to certify the L. L. accordingly. The place apoynted at Asetiford, and thither came S^r T. S. and y^e men of Lydd wth their councill, and ther was Mr. Roberts wth o^r councill, and y^e matter was thoughtly handled on o^r side y^e S^r T. S. was faine to answer for y^e men of Lydd, yet in y^e end he promised Mr. Roberts and o^r councill y^t he wold not certify untill their councill and oth had met at London and ther set downe their opinion in writing y^e wth opinions he wold certify unto o^r L. L., whereupon Mr. Roberts sent Edward Batcocke to London unto o^r councill y^t they shold set downe their opinions in writinge, but y^e Lydd men and their councill came not and in the meantyme S^r T. S. certyified o^r L. L. against us, and wold not performe his promise, and soe when did understand this we prepared o^r selves wth o^r councill and made searche in y^e Tower to see what might be found against us, or wth us, so haveinge o^r councill's hands o^r booke Mr. Roberts sent Ste. Shar. and Ed. Bat. wth o^r councill's books after o^r L. L., who was then at Dover ready to go as an imbasiter into Flaunders, and hee referred us unto Mr. William Lambarde, who tooke a breef out of o^r booke and certified o^r L. L. of y^e wronge we had, whereupon y^e L. L. called Ste. Shar. and Ed. Bat. unto him requesting them y^t they wold have patience, and mainteine y^e watch untill he returned againe out of y^e Lowe Countries; and then we shold com unto him, and he wold hear o^r cause, and set an order

hearin; before his retourne y^e Spanish fleete was com and gon
 againe, w^{ch} was anno 1588, and y^t year y^e L. L. discharged
 this watch at Dengemarshe, and the 7 H. never watched ther
 since though they wer three tymes since by S^r T. S. comanded
 to do that service at Dengemarshe, as it shall appear more
 plainly hereafter. Y^t year y^e L. L. appointed Mr. William
 Lambarde and Mr. Humfery Windam to have y^e hearinge of
 y^e controversie between y^e 7 H. and y^e men of Lydd and to
 signify unto him what their opinion was in y^t matter, and when
 they hadd seen the allegations of other side they gave in their
 opinion unto o^r L. L. y^t it was fitt that y^e controverse betweene
 y^e 7 H. and y^e men of Lydd shold be tried by a jurie of y^e
 common lawe, but y^e men of Lydd refused it and wold not
 agree to have a tryall at y^e common lawe. Upon this refussall
 Mr. Roberts caused a Petition to be drawne wth y^e cheefe men's
 hands of ye 7 H. unto y^e L. L. to this effect, y^t it wold please
 him to set downe some matter under his hand and seale y^t he
 did not comand us by any right in Lawe, but only by vertue
 of his Lieutenantship wherat he stayed, and wrote his letter
 unto S^r T. S. to this effecte y^t they of Lydd be presently re-
 quired to show some beter cause ether by matter of prescrip-
 tion or of lawe for the right of y^e saide watche then yet hath
 apeareed unto him or els in equity yeld to their said re-
 queste, the copy of w^{ch} leter is more at large to be seene—this
 was anno 1589. This somer by reason of some sturres upon y^e
 narrow sease wth y^e leaguers shippes watches were commanded
 to be kept, and S^r T. S. sent straight commandement unto S^r
 Richard Baker and Mr. Roberts y^t y^e 7 H. shold watch at
 Dengemarshe wth 12 men, and S^r R. B. made his warrants unto
 y^e constables of y^e 7 H. and wold have had Mr. Roberts set to
 his hand to the saied warrant but Mr. Roberts refused, and so
 y^e constables and ye 7 H. refused to do y^t service because S^r
 T. S. and y^e men of Lydd refused tryall of lawe. And then
 S^r T. S. went to y^e L. L. and complained y^e 7 H. because they
 refused to watche. But y^e L. L. said unto him y^t y^e 7 H. wer
 willinge to watch at his commandment by vertue of his Lieu-
 tenantship, but now he saw no cause to command them to y^t
 service, whereupon S^r T. S. wold have had an other day of
 meetinge at Asheforde, and sent for Mr. Roberts to meet wth
 him at S^r R. Bakers to y^t effect: but Mr. Roberts went not,
 whereupon S^r T. Scot willed y^e counstable of Cranbrooke to

speake to Step. Shar. and Ed. Bat. to meet wth y^e Lydd men before him at Ashetiforde upon a daye assigned but they refused to com, and then he sent to charge y^e 7 H. to watch at Den. by vertiue of his lieutenantie but the 7 H. wold not, wherupon he wrote his leter to some of y^e Lords of y^e Councell, in which leter he complained y^t the watches about Rumpney marshe were not kept, and further he desired in his leter y^t those men might come before their lordshipes to shew y^e cause why they refused to watche. To this effect y^e Lords of y^e Councell wrote to o^r L. L. ; and so by this means y^e cause was wrested from y^e L. L. to be heard before y^e Lords of y^e Councell, and by reason whereof Mr. Roberts was informed to intreat Mr. Doctor Giles Fletcher to deale for y^e 7 H. y^t was of credit amongst y^e Lords of y^e Councell and to follow there cause before them whereupon ther was diuer petitions drawne by o^r learned councell wth certeine briefes also of o^r cause to be delivered some at y^e councell tables and som to severall Lords of y^e Councell, and upon this o^r sute y^e Lords wrote their leter, unto y^e Queene's Attorney, and her Soliciter y^t they shold apointe a day y^t y^e 7 H. and y^e men of Lydd shold com wth their councell on ether side and when they had hearde y^e cause they shold certify y^e Lords whether y^e 7 H. ought to doe y^t service by lawe or not they apointed two days to hear y^e cause ; but y^e men of Lydd escused themselves, and said their warneinge was to shorte, and did not appear. And so y^e Attorney and y^e Soliciter certified y^e Lords of y^e Councell, and then y^e Councell was about to set downe an order against y^e men of Lydd but y^e Lord Cobham being o^r L. L. and one of y^e Councell desired y^e rest of y^e Lords y^t y^e men of Lydd first be heard what they cold say against y^e 7 H. for he saide he wold send them worde of y^e proceedinge against them and hearupon y^e men of Lydd became earnest suters at y^e councell table, and when Mr. Roberts heard of their suit he sent Edward Batcocke to London to learne how they pceeded there against y^e 7 H. and so whilst Ed. Bat. was ther they had procured out y^e Lords leter as wee had don before unto y^e Attorney and y^e Soliciter and Edw. Bat. watching therein met wth them at y^e Attorneys house when they delivered y^e Lords letter unto y^e Attorney, and y^e So: and urged y^e men of Lydd refused, and said they wer not provided, and then Ed. Bat. desired y^e At: and y^e So: y^t y^e L. L. might opointe y^e day of hearing and hearuppon y^e At: and y^e

Soli: willed us to go together unto y^e L. L. and so one did, and y^e L. L. apointed y^e second daye after for y^e day of hearing, and soe y^e mater being heard y^e men of Lydd fained they had beter proofes and saide y^t y^e L. L. had granted an other tyme to bring theirin, and soe upon this y^t day of hearinge tooke not his effect. And after by y^e sute of y^e 7. H. an other day was opointed by y^e At: and y^e Soli: for y^e hearinge of y^e matter w^{ch} was 1590, a litle before Eustide: After y^e daye of hearing many motions were made by Doctor Fletcher and Edwarde Bat: whoe gave atendance upon them for their certifiycate to y^e Lords of y^e Councell but still we were delayed by reson of perusinge of y^e writings and examinations of S^r John Parst and others about y^e Irishe maters but now this somner 1591 there came a leter from y^e lorde of y^e Councell to y^e Lord Cobham y^e L. L. y^t y^e Spanishe fleete was com upon y^e Coast of Britaine, and for feare of some danger upon this sea coast watches and beacons were comanded to be set up: and hearupon S^r T. S. and S^r Tho: Sands debity Lieutennants unto y^e L. Cobham their leter to S^r Rich: Baker and Mr. Thomas Roberts Esquier to have this watche at Dengmarshe renewed againe, but Mr. Roberts and y^e 7 H. refused to watche there, hear remaineth ther leter to be seen wth their hands to it. Then Mr. Roberts sent Edw: Bat: wth their leter to shew him unto y^e At: and y^e So: y^t they might see y^e necessitye of o^r sute, and so this year upon S^t Peter's daye y^e So: did drawe y^e certifiycate to this effect y^t y^e mater shold be tried at y^e common lawe by an indifferent jury of this county but before their hands cold be goten to this certifiycate, and soe to be retourned to y^e Lords of the Councell. Accordinge to their foresaide leter directed from them to y^e At: and y^e Solici: the men of Lydd came to y^e Quarter Sessions holden Canterbury at S^t James tide this year, and brought their learned councell and prefered to y^e Lord Chief Baron and to y^e Justice siting there 7 billes of inditment upon y^e statute of watches 3 of Henry 4 w^{ch} bills wer then put in to y^e Grand Jurye by y^e men of Lydd, and y^t Judge beinge sworne yet refused to finde their billes. Alsoe 1592 watches were comanded to be kept, and on Mr. Rooke, scent n^r sent his p^ept to y^e counstables of y^e 7 H. to have y^e watch at Dengmarshe performed, but y^e counstables and y^e 7 H. refused to doe y^t service their.

The Defence of the 7 Hundreds against the Men of Lydd touching the charge of a sea watch which they suppose should be maintained by the 7 Hundreds at Dengemersh by 12 men.

First the Inhabitants of Lydd seake to grownd this charge of the watch and ward to be kept at Dengemersh upon the statute of 5 H. 4. cap. 3, viz. that the watch to be made upon the sea coast through the Realme, shall be made by the number of the people, in the places and in maner and forme as they were wont to be made. And that in the same case the statute of Winchester be holden and kept, etc. And power is given to the Justices of Peace to enquire herof in their Sessions, etc.

For answer wherunto the 7 Hundreds doo alledge that these reasons following this stat. doth not bind them.

First the proofes w^{ch} they doo produce are papers only, and wthout date and doo lie dispersed in divers places, some in the keping of S^r Tho. Scott, and others in their own, an others in the Monkes' booke of Rochester being written in a spare leafe, at the latter end of the same booke, and may for that cause be thought rather to be some tale or heresaie than otherwise.

Besides their proofes doo not agree neither in the number of watchmen that shold watch nor in the places therin mentioned, for Rochester booke saieth that 9 men shold watch at Hoo. S^r Tho: Scott's booke speaketh not of this place.

Rochester booke saieth there shold bee 33 at Sheppey, their papers and S^r Tho: Scott's doo not mention that watching place.

Rochester booke saieth at Caule 3 men, their papers saie 4.

Rochester booke saieth at Graistone 12 men, their papers make no mention therof.

Rochester booke saieth at Elmes 6 men, their papers saie 9 men.

Rochester booke saieth at Broadhull 6 men, their papers saie 9 men.

Rochester booke saieth at Seabroke 12 men, their papers saie 13 men.

Rochester booke saieth at Sandgate 6 men, their papers saie 9 men.

And as these their proofes doo differ amongst them selves, so doo they varye from the Records of the Tower of London.

For whereas there came forth a writt in 8 H. 4 that the Hundreds of Larkefeild, Filborough, Sneate, Newchurch, and Worth shold watch at Broadhull now called Dymchurch. Rochester booke and their papers doo not agree wth that auntient writt, but have left out Larkefield and Filborough, and have put in Heane and Hame.

Another auntient writt came forth 41 H. 3 comanding 6 men and a constable out of the hundred of Stowtinge to watch at Sandgate, but one of their papers saie 2 men, and the other saieith one man out of the hundred of Stowtinge.

Besides the men of Lydd can not prove that at the tyme of the makinge of the saied statute of 5 of H. 4, or at any tyme before the 7 Hundreds were usually charged wth the watch at Dengemershe.

And it is apparent that by the space of fortie yers before the Statute of 5 H. 4 the 7 Hundreds were charged wth the maintenance of 6 Beacons wthin the 7 Hundreds to be watched by them of the 7 Hundreds by men* apointed for that purpose w^{ch} Beacons doo watch upon the Beacon of Farleigh standing upon the sea coast in Sussex, and were not charged wth any other watch during that tyme w^{ch} 6 Beacons watches continue untill this daie, and were commanded to be sett up in the last yere of the Raigne of Edward the 2 by the advise of the Spencers. And were established by commission in the tyme of Edward the 3, directed into all the shires of England lying by the sea coast for the maintenance of Beacon watches, as by the Records therof remaying in the tower of London may appere.

And for the writt of 8^o H. 4 shewed forth by those of Lydd the same may seeme a good prooffe that no such watch was at that tyme kept by the 7 hundreds at Dengemersh, for y^t there had any such watch ben then in use it had ben in vayne to have procured any such writt, It being in the power of the Justices of the peace by the saied statute of 5 H. 4 to have given remedie in that case according to the purverser of the saied statute.

Besides the saied writt is contrary to Rochester booke, and all the other papers, and therefore overthroweth them : for they affirme that the watch shold be kept at Dengemersh, being al-

* Wth eighteen persons apointed for y^t purpose.

most 2 myles from Lydd, and that by 12 men. And the writt saieth there shold be in Lydd towne two wards the one called the great the other the little ward, and that is to be done by daie and not by night.

And it resteth upon the men of Lydd to prove the execution of this writt, and that the service was accordingly performed by the 7 Hundreds which the 7 Hundreds are assured they can never doo: and then the saied writt maketh for the 7 Hundreds against the men of Lydd.

By all w^{ch} it may appere how their paper proofes contradict one another both for the number of watchmen and the places where the saied watches are to be kept as also howe those proofes doo differ from those auntient Records of the Tower so that it may seme very probable that the saied writt of 8 H. 4 for warding was procured by them of Lydd, and that they have not any Records remayning amongst them but a writt of 29 H. 6 and the Sherife warrant upon the same writt directed to the constable of the 7 Hundreds, but only in an old booke of theirs, neither can they prove that the saied service at Dengemersh was borne by the 7 Hundreds at any tyme but only in the yeere 1588 w^{ch} was done by the commandment of William Lord Cobham the Lord Leiuetenant of the countie of Kent.

It is also to be remembered that the said 4 watching places, Holmes Broadhull Shornclyff and Sandgate have 19 Hundreds assigned to watch there, and that 2 of the saied Hundreds have in them in parte and in all 30 parishes. And that those 4 watching places doo stand in 3 of those 19 Hundreds, viz. Holmes standeth in the hundred of Longeport Broadhull and Shornclyff in the hundred of Worth, and Sandgate in the hundred of Folkstone and that the residue of the saied 19 Hundreds adioyne to those 3 hundreds one by an other, having in the saied 19 Hundreds but 3 Beacons, and yet they are discharged from watching at those Beacons. Wheras the 7 Hundreds having in them 6 Beacons to be watched by them, have in them no more parishes in all and in part but 17 and that one of the said 7 hundreds, viz. Great Barnfield hath in it little above the halfe of one parish viz. Hawkehurst parish. And that betwene the nerest parte of the 7 Hundreds to Dengemersh there doo lye two hundreds viz. Langeport and Aloesbridge w^{ch} 2 hundreds have in them 12 parishes.

Now to prove that these 6 Beacons standing rownd together in the 7 hundreds, are of great use, and can not be spared.

First by veiwe of the plott of the saied Beacons it will appeare that those 6 Beacons in the 7 hundreds doo all stand on the south side of Kent against the midst and broadest parte of the shire and doo take their light from Fareleigh Beacon in Sussex, w^{ch} Beacon hath veiwe of all the Beacons on the Downs betweene Lewes in Sussex and Dover in Kent. And that the saied 6 Beacons doo geive light to 4 other Speciall Beacons of Kent viz. Westwell, Coxthoth, Ightam, and Birlinge, and that for these reasons as it semeth the saied Comissioners that were apointed in Edw: 3 tyme for the establishing of Beacons had a special care to provide so many Beacons in the 7 Hundreds: considering w^{ch} all that all those 6 Beacons in the 7 Hundreds standing in lowe grownds and being very wooddye and full of trees, might more easely be diserned and geive light to the other 4 Beacons at Westwell, Coxthoth, Ightam, and Birlinge then y^t there had ben but one, two, or three in the 7 Hundreds. And the saied comissioners did likewise find, that a smaler number of Beacons were sufficient for the other 19 Hundreds.

So that the 6 Beacons being established by commission in Edw: the 3 tyme as the rest of the Beacons of the Shire were, the statute of 8 H. 4 fo^r watches to be made upon the sea coast through^t the Realme, etc., may be entended to provide for the due keeping of these Beacon watches since no prooffe can be made by the men of Lydd of any other watch, but only in the tyme of E. 3 w^{ch} was before the commission for establishing of Beacons were directed forth as aforesaid. Between which and the making of the statute of 8 H. 4 was almost 40 yere, in w^{ch} space no prooffe can be made of the watch kept at Dengemersh by the 7 hundreds and therefore no cause why the saied 7 Hundreds shall be charged therwth upon the statute of 5 H. 4.

Neither can the men of Lydd prove the execution of those 2 writts, the 8 H. 4 the other in 29 H. 6. Nor can those of Lydd prove that ever the saied watch was kept at Dengemersh by the 7 Hundreds since 5 H. 4. But only in the yere 1585 w^{ch} was done by the absolute comand of William Lord Cobham the Lorde Leiuutenant of the countie of Kent.

[*The following Notes are from a smaller MS.*]

And further it is objected by y^e men of Lydd, y^t Anno 29 H. 6 watches were comanded by y^e kings write in certaine places of this shire by name at Bromhill w^{ch} layeth in Sussex, and not in Kent, and Dengemarshe, and in generall words at all other places ther lying upon y^e sea whear sea watches had been wont, and of right to be kept to y^e w^{ch} y^e said inhabitants saye y^t this is noe true write w^{ch} if y^e write had been true it wold have been found in y^e rowle in y^e tower as well as all other writs w^{ch} wer y^t year directed to the inhabitants of this county, and then is y^e Sherife's warrant utterly false w^{ch} if the write had been true, yet y^e men of Lydd must prove y^t y^e write was executed and done by y^e Seaven Hundreds accordinglye or otherwise this write is a good prooffe for y^e Seaven Hundreds against y^e men of Lydd. It is further objected by y^e men of Lydd y^t if the Seaven Hundreds doe refuse to watch at Dengmarshe or contribute to y^e same then all y^e other watches kept along y^e sea coast betweene Rye and Dover will refuse also w^{ch} they say is 56 men.

A false write
and a false
warant upon
y^e write.

This is a false objection, and easily proved not to be true. Ffirst their Rochester booke saith y^e number is but 45 men. Marden and Milton did refuse, and watched not at Cawle, w^{ch} is on of y^e 6 watching places between Rye and Dover, y^e other 4 watchinge places mentioned in their papyrs y^t is to saye Elmes 1, Deemchurche 2, Shone Cliffe 3, Sandgate 4. These hundreds have accostomablye done their service there haveinge no other beacons watch but only this, and so are bound by lawe and cannot refuse, and y^e most of y^t hundreds doe ioyne one to an other to y^e watchinge places. And also Rochester booke speaketh of 3 other watchinge places y^t is to saye 9 men at Hoo, 33 at Shepey, 12 at Graystone wth y^e names of every hundred these places wer not watched one by those hundreds when y^e tyme of service was.

Here their
owne proofes
prove them-
solve lyers.

These H : are
by lawe com-
peled to serve.

To conclude it doth evidently apear by these their paper proofes, and their contradictions on wth an other for y^e number of the watchmen in each place where their watches shold be mainteyned as they say, and also how they differ, and disagree

wth y^e ancient and true records y^t hath been taken out of y^e tower as is above to bee seen, and how they have procured y^e write of Henry 4 for warding nether have they remayninge any records amongst themselves but y^t saied write 22 H. 6 and y^e Sherife's warrant upon y^t write to y^e counstable of y^e Seaven Hundreds w^{ch} write cannot be found amonst no ancient records, but in an old booke of theirs nor yet at any tyme prove y^e execution of this service to be done by y^e 7 hu: but only this service y^t was done of late 1585 by o^r Lorde Lieutenant's comandement.

Seeing that the men of Lydd doe refuse to bring the controverse to be tryed at the common lawe, as the Queene's Attorney and the Queene's Soliziter hath certified to the Lordes of the Councell. And also Mr. Lambard and Mr. Windham hath certified the lyke unto the Lord Cobham o^r Lord Lieutenant. Therfor it is to be doubted by reason of the service that we have done that they will in tyme to come make means to the Lordes of Counsell or to the L. L. of the Shire that then shal be to compell us to doe that service againe. Therfor it is thought good by Mr. Thomas Scott, Esquire, (who hath the keeping of all those bookes and letters w^{ch} are mensioned hear in this booke) that if at any tyme hear-after the men of Lydd bring it in question, that the Seaven Hundreds may know whear to have all o^r alleagations and proofes w^{ch} hath been heartofore shewed, that they maye be ready wthout any further chardge to ioyne wth the men of Lydd in the tryall of this cause.

A true Coppy of y^e Muncke's Booke of Rochester for the smale watches upon y^e Sea Coast.

Hundredum de Hoo, 9 homines ad vigilandum Layenlede, viz: de Hundredo Hoo 2, de Malling 1, de Shomell 3, de Dartford 1.

Vigila de Shapeia.

Juxta Feversham freri de 33 homines unde de Milton et Marden xxv., de Boctonna 3, de Feversham 5.

Apud Dengemersh per 12, unde de 7 hundredis.

Apud Cawle per 3 homines unde de Milton et Marden.

Apud Greiston per 12 homines unde de Whitestable 1, de

Glengat 3, de Kinghamford 2, de Westgate 2, de Dunhamford 2, de Brugg 2.

Apud Elmes per 6 homines unde de St. Martino 2, de Oxneia 1, de Aleswestbridge 2, de Langeport 1.

Apud Broadhull als Deemchurche 6 homines, unde de Sterte et Worthe 4, de Newchurch 1, *de Ham* 2, *de Hear* 1.

Apud Seabrooke per 22 homines unde de Langbridg et Charte 3, de Calehill 3, de Bircholt 1, de Wye 5.

Apud Sangate per 6 homines unde de Foltstone 4, de Noningbregh 1, Stouting 1.

A true Coppy of Sr Thomas Scots papers and other gentlemen, w^{ch} thé men of Lydd have shewed from them.

First they say at Dengeneste by 11 men out of the seven hundreds.

At the Helmes by 9 men, the hundred of St. Marline's 2, the hundred of Oxneie 2, the hundred of Allowesbridg 2, the half hundred of Langport 2, the hundred of Ham 1 man.

At Broadhull als Deemchurche 9 men, the hundred of Streat 2, y^e hundred of Worth 2, y^e H. of Newchurch 2, the hundred of Filborn 3.

At Seabrooke als Shorneclieft 13 men, y^e hundred of Heane 2, y^e hundred of Langbridge and Charte 3, y^e hundred of Calehill 3, y^e hundred of Byrcheould 1, and y^e hundred of Wye 5.

At Sandgat by 9 men, y^e hundred of Foltstone 4, y^e hundred of Lovinbroughe 2, of Stoutinge 2, of Pelham 2.

At Cawle by 4 men of y^e hundred of Milton and Marden.

NOTES ON RUCKINGE CHURCH, BY THE REV. EDWARD MURIEL, RECTOR.

This Church, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene, consists of a Nave, North and South Aisles, Chancel, South Chantry and Western Tower. The Nave is divided from each aisle by three Decorated arches, supported on octagonal pillars, the capitals and bases of which are of the same design. There are three windows in each aisle, each of two lights with trefoil

heads; that at the east end of the north aisle has however three lights, and contains some remains of ancient glass, having in one of the quatrefoils the mutilated figure of St. Michael vanquishing Satan. The door in this aisle is Decorated and has a porch with remains of a good carved barge-board. In the south aisle is a fine Norman door.

The Chancel Arch is Decorated, and is supported on the south side by an octagonal Perpendicular pillar, which has evidently been put in at a later date, the arches having been altered to accommodate it. From the same pillar spring two other arches, one between the chancel and chantry, the other at the east end of the south aisle; the latter is small but massive, and springs on its southern side from a Norman impost. The Chancel is lighted on the north side by two lancets with cinque-foil heads. The east windows of both chancel and chantry are Decorated, and of design resembling each other, though the latter, which has been recently re-opened, is the more elegant; each has three lights like those in the aisles at Warehorne Church, with drip-stones of the roll moulding terminating in scrolls and heads. The Chantry is lighted on the south side by two geometrical windows of two lights each, and its south wall contains a small trefoil-headed piscina with stone shelf. Some good Perpendicular screen-work of three different designs is still preserved, inserted by a late Rector in the front of a new seat in the chancel, and another portion, bearing traces of blue and yellow colour, remains in its original position between the south aisle and the chantry. In the Chancel is an ancient oak seat, returning at the west end, which has on each side a standard terminating in a poppy-head of simple early character. There is also a fine Elizabethan Communion-table with bulge legs and a moveable top.

The Tower is the most ancient part of the church, being originally Norman, with alterations at later periods; its walls are nearly six feet thick, and have a fine Norman door in the west side with a late Perpendicular one inserted to reduce the size, and single lancets piercing the sides of the tower. In the bell-chamber Perpendicular windows of one light have been inserted, one on each side of each lancet, making three openings on each side in this storey. The tower is covered with a square pyramidal roof of shingle, but repaired with tiles, which is again surmounted by a small octagonal spire covered with lead.

There are unmistakable marks of fire on the stone-work in various parts of the arches and tower; and the roofs, which are late, were undoubtedly added after this fire, of which, however, no account has been discovered.

The internal dimensions of the various parts of the Church are as follows:—

	ft.	in.		ft.	in.
Nave . . .	54	0	×	35	0
North Aisle . .	54	0	×	8	2
South Aisle . .	54	0	×	8	2
Chancel . . .	35	8	×	29	0
Chantry . . .	35	8	×	29	0
Tower	14	9	×	14	9

There are five bells in the tower, with the following inscriptions:—

1. "Peter Wadel, Richard Lonkhurst. I. Lester made me 1740"
—with a shield containing apparently an inverted chevron.
2. "Samuel Knight 1721."
3. "John Waylett fecit me 1721."
4. "John Waylett fecit me 1721."
5. No inscription, but the date "1721."

List of Rectors from 1288 to 1870 (compiled from Ducarel's Abstract of Lambeth Registers, and the Parish Registers):—

1288. Oct. 14. JOHN DE CAMPIS, Subdeacon.
RICHARD VAGHAN, LL.D., resigned 1351, on
his appointment to St. Alphage, Canterbury.
1351. Oct. 4. ROBERT LUKE.
1352. Aug. 8. THOMAS DE OTTEFORD.
THOMAS DE TETFORD, Presbyter, resigned.
1361. Nov. 9. JOHN DE BARTON, who exchanged with
1371. Dec. 7. THOMAS DUFFIELD, of Medeham, dio. Lincoln.
1393. April 21. NICHOLAS BAUME *alias* ROGERS.
DAVID BAGGATOR.
1404. Jan. 18. ALAN HUMBLETON.
WILLIAM ELDYNGTON.

1408. Nov. 1. ROBERT COLLEGO.
WILLIAM THREDERE.
1416. April 26. JOHN TURNOUR, resigned.
1417. Feb. 11. RICHARD HOTALL, who exchanged with
1419. Nov. 8. WILLIAM LOWE, Rector of Kylkombe.
1428. March 5. JOHN WRABY.
1431. Feb. 12. THOMAS MOOME, resigned.
1446. Jan. 21. RICHARD ROFFIN.
1456. June 21. JOHN CHADDILBORTH, who exchanged with
ROBERT DOLYKE, Vicar of Aldenham, dio.
Lincoln.
1473. May 26. ROBERT STURDY, resigned.
1474. July 25. THOMAS COPLAND.
WILLIAM CHAMBLER, resigned.
1486. Jan. 13. WILLIAM SMYTH.
1489. Nov. 10. JOHN HAWKYNS, M.A., resigned.
1493. Oct. 20. RICHARD HUDSON.
1522. April 31. JOHN STODARD.
1530. Dec. 22. GEORGE MOLTON, LL.B., resigned.
1532. July 1. JOHN PORTER.
1533. July 1. HENRY GODFREY.
1546. June 6. JOHN BOY.
1571. Jan. 2. MATTHEW ALTON, resigned.
1573. Oct. 1. THOMAS GODWYN, resigned.
1580. Dec. 10. FRANCIS THERFOYDS.
1582. March 14. WILLIAM ASHBOLD.
1587. Sept. 2. RICHARD MATTHEW, M.A.
1600. Feb. 25. JOHN FULNETHBYE, B.D., resigned.
1608. May 25. ALEXANDER RAWLYNS, M.A., resigned.
1610. April 11. FRANCIS FOXTON, resigned.
1613. Feb. 12. WILLIAM MASTERS, resigned in favour of his son,
1627. Nov. 17. WILLIAM MASTERS, M.A., buried 1639, March
17.
1639. *THOMAS TAYLOR, buried 1652, Jan. 25.

* In "Proceedings in Kent, 1640," a work edited by our late learned Secretary, the Rev. Lambert B. Larking, for the Camden Society, is a curious petition to the House of Commons from the parishioners of Ruckinge, having reference to the population of the parish at that time, and complaining of the establishment of paupers in the farm-houses by the non-resident farmers, who were "not able to give releife but to receive, and not able to contribute eyther to Church

1656. FRANCIS CRASE.
1686. Nov. 26. JOHN LODGE, A.M., St. John's Coll., Cambridge.
1705. April 12. THOMAS BRETT, LL.D.; also Rector of Betteshanger, deprived in 1716 for not taking the oaths.
1716. July 18. FRANCIS MURIELL, M.A.; also Vicar of Debtling. He died July 5, 1750, and was buried in the South Chapel, All Saints' Church, Maidstone, where his Monument, with that of his wife, remains.
1750. Nov. 17. JUDE HOLDSWORTH, also Vicar of Tong.
1760. April 7. THOMAS WRAY, M.A.; also Vicar of Great Chart. Resigned, 1761.
1761. March 19. BEILBY PORTEUS, D.D., afterwards Rector of St. Michael, Harbledown, and one of the Six Preachers of Canterbury Cathedral. In 1765 he held the Rectory of Hunton: was made Rector of Lambeth in 1767; Bishop of Chester in 1776; and Bishop of London in 1787; he died in 1808.
1767. Oct. 20. JOHN JENKINSON, M.A., also Rector of Gillingham.
1780. Nov. 9. HOPKINS FOX, also Rector of Linsted.
1794. EDWARD TAYLOR, M.A., also Rector of Patricksbourne.
1807. *DANIEL JOANES.
1823. PATRICK KEITH.
1840. AMBROSE SMITH, resigned.
1853. CHARLES G. T. BARLOW, M.A., resigned on his institution to the Rectory of Stanmercum-Falmer, Sussex.

or poore, or to find armes to serve his Majestie." We find also from this, that "the value of the said Parsonage of Ruckinge is reputed to be worth cxx^l per annum at the least."

* Mr. Joanes lived in a very penurious way for many years, for the purpose of re-purchasing his father's estate in Wales. In his old age he was enabled to do so; but going there to take possession, and occupying, on the night of his arrival, the very bed in which he was born, was found dead in it the next morning. The Rev. G. R. Gleig's novel, "The Country Curate," is founded on this story.

1858. WILLIAM BROWN STAVELEY, M.A., of Catherine Hall, Cambridge, resigned on his collation to the Rectory of High Halden.
1861. Jan. 17. EDWARD MORLEY MURIEL, M.A., of Gonville and Caius Coll. Cambridge, present Rector.