

DAVINGTON PRIORY.

BY REV. CARUS VALE COLLIER, B.A., F.S.A.

DAVINGTON is situated in the Hundred of Faversham, in the lath of Scray, and in the county of Kent, being about forty-seven miles eastward of London.

The origin of the name of Davington or Dauntun, as it is sometimes spelt, is very uncertain. In a Saxon charter dated A.D. 962, says Mr. Willement, it is called Danitune or Danitun. Whether the name has anything to do with the Danes, as some think, has yet to be proved.

The discovery of Roman remains on Davington Hill points to the fact that that warlike people were drawn here for some special purpose. Mr. Jacob, in his *History of Faversham*, p. 3, tells us that vessels and urns of various sizes, together with medals of the Roman Emperors, from the reign of Vespasian to that of Gratian, were found; it is inferred from this that Davington Hill is the site of a Roman cemetery.*

I believe Davington does not appear in Domesday Book.

The Priory of Davington was founded in the year 1153 by Fulco de Newenham for nuns of the Benedictine Order.† Hasted‡ says that the prioress and convent were seised of the church “in proprios usus,” the same being appropriated to them at the foundation of the priory, and that by this appropriation they were obliged to find three priests and two clerks to perform divine service, and pay their wages. Hasted, however, quotes no authority for his statement, so that we must be content with the simple fact that a priory is said to have been founded in 1153.

* *Collectanea Cantiana*, p. 95.

† Tanner's *Notitia*, ed. London, 1714, p. 215.

‡ Hasted's *History of Kent*, quoted in Willement's *History of Davington*, pp. 7 and 8.

The earliest legal proof we have of the existence of the priory is the grant of confirmation of the 39th of Henry III. (1254-5) of its temporal possessions, together with an exemption of such possessions from all surrounding jurisdictions—an exemption which, before the statute of “*Quia emptores terrarum*,” would give to the lands a seigniorship or lordship (without a leet), and would constitute a manor.*

About the year 1280, the prioress, in common with all other landowners, was called upon by a “*Quo Warranto*” to shew her title to the possessions and liberties of the house. The charter of Henry III. was then pleaded on behalf of the prioress and nuns by their attorney Richard de Boylaund. The return to this Inquisition refers to Henry’s charter before mentioned, and shews that they were in full exercise and enjoyment of their rights and privileges. It was found there that “the prioress and her successors, in all places whatsoever, be quit of suits of counties and hundreds, of views of frank-pledge and law-days, of the tournes and aids of sheriffs, and other bailiffs and ministers whomsoever.”†

About 1320, new rules and ordinances were adopted for the better regulation of the priory. These were in accordance with the more rigid discipline of the Benedictines of Cluny.‡

A writ was issued 17 Edward III. (1343-4) to enquire into the means, etc., of the nuns of Davington. Both writ and return are set out in Dodsworth, and are printed in the *Monasticon*, but the return appears imperfect at the end.

Soon after the year 1380 Margaret, wife of John de Champagne, gave to the convent of Davington eight acres of land in Newenham, the Isle of Harty and Davington, together with some interest in the manor of Norton.§

In the 8th year of Richard II. (1384-5), Convocation having granted a tenth of the goods of the Clergy for the purposes of the war with France, the King directed a writ to the Abbot of Canterbury for a return of all benefices in the

* Willement’s *History of Davington*, pp. 8, 9.

† Willement, quoting *Monasticon*, p. 9.

‡ Willement’s *History of Davington*, p. 14.

§ *Topographer and Genealogist*, vol. iii., p. 198.

diocese. The return from the Priory of Davington of its possessions included the churches of Harty, Newenham, and Davington, worth £12, the church of Burdefield, worth £2 13s. 4d., with the temporalities which are valued at £14 6s. 8d., the whole amounting to £29.

In 1392-3, Thomas Chiche and others gave to the convent of Davington one capital messuage, and 150 acres of pasture for three cows and eight sheep in Harty, Newenham, Luddenham, and Preston near Faversham.

The monks of Faversham were continually at variance with the nuns of Davington, as well as with the people of Faversham. The Abbot of Faversham pretended that Fulke de Newenham had given that church to his abbey; but the Prioress of Davington claiming it by a like grant, both the abbot and prioress resigned it into the hands of Archbishop Hubert (?) in order that he might determine who had the greatest right to it.* He accordingly awarded Newenham Church to the prioress and nuns of Davington, they paying yearly therefore to the "Firmary," *i.e.* for the food and sustenance of the monks of the abbey of Faversham, two marks and a half.

In the year 1527, there were only a prioress, one professed nun, and a lay-sister existing in the house. The prioress died 11 March 1534, the nun died the following year, and the lay-sister left the place. From the return of the Escheator of the county, we find that the prioress at the time of her death was seised of the rectories of Davington, Stanger, and Newenham, with the advowson of the vicarages, together with the priory, the manor of Fishbourne, two parts of the manor of Monketon, more than 500 acres of land, and much property of various kinds. Such an estate at the present time would be of considerable value, and quite does away with the popular notion that the nuns of Davington were "very poor." However, since there were neither prioress nor nuns left in the nunnery, the establishment lapsed to the Crown.

At the foundation of the priory the number of nuns is

* Willement, note, p. 11.

said to have been twenty-six; in the reign of Edward III. the number was reduced to fourteen.

The priory having become derelict, the King, Henry VIII., became owner of its fabric and its lands. He held them for a year, and then granted a lease of them to Sir Thomas Cheney, Knt. A translation of the grant to Cheney is given in Appendix III. of Willement's *History of Davington*. The last paragraph is as follows:—

“Know all Men, that We (for the sum of £1688 12s. 6d. of lawful money of England, paid into the hands of our Treasurer of our Court of Augmentation of the revenues of the Crown for our use, by our beloved and faithful Councillor Thomas Cheney, Knight, Treasurer of our Household, by which we acknowledge ourselves to be fully satisfied and paid, and by these presents do acquit and release the said Thomas, his heirs, executor, and administrators), by our special grace and out of our sure knowledge and our own mere will, have *given* and *granted*, and by these presents do *give* and *grant*, to the aforesaid Thomas Cheneye, Knight, the whole site, circuit, and precincts of the said late Monastery or Priory of Davington, in our said county of Kent, and all the houses, edifices, gardens, orchards, and inclosures contained in the said site of the said late Monastery or Priory, and the whole aforesaid Manor of Fishbourne, and two portions of the Manor of Monketon, with all the appurtenances formerly belonging and appertaining to the Monastery and Priory of Davington, and the parcels of possessions thence late arising; and also all and singular the domains, manors, rectories, vicarages, chapels, advocations and the rights of the patronages of the Rectories, Vicarages, and Churches whatsoever, and also the messuages, lands, tenements, mills, meadows, pastures, commons, waters, fisheries, marshes, woods, underwoods, revenues, reversions, services, tithes, fiefs, farms, annuities, tenths, oblations, obventions, pensions, portions, knights' fees, wards, dowries, escheats, reliefs, heriots, fines, amerciaments, courts leets, views of frank pledge, chattels, waifs, assarts, chattels of felons and fugitives, free warrens, and all our other rights, jurisdictions, franchises, liberties, profits, commodities, emoluments, possessions and hereditaments, both spiritual and temporal, of whatsoever sort, nature, or kind they may be, and under whatsoever names they may be ranked and known, situate and existing in Davington, Fishbourne, Faversham, Overperston, Newnham, the Isle of Hartey,

Eslenge, Monketon, Durdeville, Minster in the Isle of Sheppey, Harball Downe, Norton, Sittingbourne, Sandwiche, Tenett, Ashe next Sandwiche, Sellinge, Lynsted, Stansted and Ospringe, in our said county of Kent, and elsewhere wheresoever in the said county of Kent, belonging or appertaining to the said Monastery or Priory of Davington, or heretofore held, known, or reputed to be parcels of the possessions, rights, profits, or revenues of the said Monastery or Priory of Davington."

Sir Thomas Cheney, to whom the Priory of Davington was granted, was present at the "Field of the Cloth of Gold," and was created a Knight of the Garter in 1539. He was Constable of the castles of Queenborough, Rochester, and Dover, and also Warden of the Cinque Ports. By his first wife Fridwith, daughter of Sir Thomas Frowyke, Knt., he had four daughters. By Anne, his second wife, daughter and coheir of Sir John Broughton of Tuddington, he left a son Henry, his successor. Sir Thomas died in 1558, and was buried at Minster, in the Isle of Sheppey. To his son Henry livery was granted of the capital messuage of Davington and various other estates which had been held by his father. He was summoned to Parliament in 1572 as Lord Cheney of Tuddington. He married Jane, eldest daughter of Thomas, Lord Wentworth of Nettlestead, and died without issue in 1587. He, 13 Elizabeth, alienated the manor of Davington, and the site of the priory, with all buildings, lands, etc., belonging to it, with one messuage and 140 acres of land in Davington, and other premises, and all liberties, etc., belonging to them, to John Bradborne, gent. John Bradborne resold the entire estate to Avery Gilles, gent. Avery Gilles died in 1573-4, and was succeeded by his son Francis, who in 1583 sold the property to John Edwards, Esq. Edwards lived at the priory, and made considerable alterations in the domestic buildings. He died in 1631, and was buried at Davington. Only one child survived him, namely Ann Edwards. She married John Bode of Rochford, but died, leaving no surviving child. John Bode married a second wife, namely Joan, daughter and coheir of Edward Strangman of Hadley. William Bode, their son, succeeded his father. William married Grace, daughter of George

Crimble of Hakewell, co. Essex, and died in 1691. His son and heir, John Bode of Davington Priory, married Mary, daughter of Sir Edward Boys of Fredville, Knt., by whom he had a daughter Mary, his successor, and a second daughter Elizabeth, who died in 1638. He married secondly Mary, daughter of Henry Heyman of Sellinge, Esq. He married thirdly Margaret, who survived him, on whom he settled the Davington estates for her life, with remainder to Mary, his daughter by his first wife. Mary Bode died unmarried in 1699, and was buried at Davington.

The next owner appears to be the Rev. John Sherwin, Rector of Luddenham. He died 1713-14, and was buried at Davington. He was succeeded by his nephew William Sherwin of Deptford, who died in 1725. Two more Sherwins appear as owners of Davington; the latter, William, was succeeded by his aunt Margaret, widow of Samuel Wood of Goodman Fields, merchant. She bequeathed the whole estate to Henry Jenkinson Sayer of Lincoln's Inn, Esq., who sold it to Thomas Bennet of Faversham. Thomas Bennett, by his will dated 1813, bequeathed the estate, with tithes, church, etc., to his daughter Mary, wife of Robert Turner, for her life; remainder to her five children equally. Subsequently to her death in 1817, her husband and children surviving, two of the fifths were purchased by William Jefferys of Faversham, who resold them to Julius Gaborian Shepherd, who had obtained previously the other three portions. In 1845 the whole estate was purchased by Thomas Willement, Esq., F.S.A.

Let us now turn our attention to the remains of the Priory Church and buildings. After hearing the history, one would expect to find a church built at a time when the zigzag ornament, with the usual accompaniment of moulded arches and the lighter and more graceful forms of Norman architecture, was in fashion. What we do find is a Norman church of the most simple character—a church which seems to belong to a period before 1153 (the year of the founding of the priory). I am of opinion that before Fulk de Newenham founded his priory he found here the remains of a Saxon church. The foundations appear to be certainly

older than the present building, and a good deal of the fabric seems to point to a time before the Norman Conquest. In the present tower I have noticed a triangular-headed window, now bricked up; and other parts of the building bear testimony to the fact that Newenham's Church was not the first building on this spot. Quite recently a wall was discovered about 13 feet from the south-west angle of the existing buildings; among the debris, which was accumulated on each side of this old wall, were found fragments of hard coarse mortar, reminding one of the mortar in the walls of the ruined church at Stone. Whole bricks too are built into the present church; and fragments of others were found, in company with coarse mortar, which certainly resemble the Roman shape. The piers vary slightly in thickness, the bays vary in width, and the clerestory windows instead of being over the crowns of the arches are arranged quite independently. The piers or pillars of the north arcade appear to be built of entirely the same materials as the walls. Each pillar is capped by small mouldings, and all have plain square bases.

The westernmost pillar on the north side, and the corresponding pillar on the south side, are very much broader than the pillars in the rest of the church, the cause of this being that they had to support two western towers. The tower on the north side has been destroyed, the southern one remains, and I think one may easily form some fair idea of what the west front looked like. The west end of the nave is graced by what has been a very beautiful semi-circular headed doorway, 12 feet 10 inches high and 6 feet 6 inches broad in its greatest measurements. The jambs of this doorway are enriched with three shafts on each side, the middle one in each case being ornamented with a band round the middle. The capitals of these shafts are ornamented with conventional foliage, which is characteristic of transitional work when the plainer Norman architecture was giving way to the Early English. The moulding of the head of this doorway has been cut into most elegant forms. In what remains one sees a course of dog-tooth ornament, a running pattern of foliage (in this course the stone

has been cut through) and a course of conventional flowers; over these mouldings appear to be the remains of a drip stone or hood mould. Above the west door are two ranges of Norman windows, the first range consisting of three, the second of two windows. The stonework about these is so much worn away by time and weather that it is now impossible to say whether they have been in any way ornamented.

The south-west tower is 77 feet 5 inches high from the ground to the top of the cross on the spire. The three lower stories of the tower are old. The topmost story and spire are modern, and replace a similar construction which was blown down through an explosion in a neighbouring powder mill. The second floor of the tower has been lighted by four windows, one being placed in the middle of each wall. One of these (facing north) has a triangular head, the rest having semi-circular heads.

The cloister was entered from the church by two semi-circular headed doorways, quite plain; one was behind the present pulpit, the other is now used to enter the house from the church. At the southern end of the cloister is a similar doorway which formed the entrance to the refectory.

The north aisle appears to have been built about the year 1220, and is in the plainest style of Early English work. It is lighted by five lancet windows; the one nearest the west has a hood moulding, while the one nearest the east end is very much smaller than the rest. At the east end of this aisle was an altar dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene; a pointed arched piscina remains, and above the place of the altar is a small arched recess carried by small columns; on the right of the altar is a pointed arched doorway, now opening into the vestry.

In the north aisle, and beside the porch, is the so-called holy-water basin, supported on a modern piece of stonework. The basin is of Norman workmanship, and composed of Caen stone. It is about 1 foot deep and 1 foot in diameter. The lip is embattled throughout. The side is divided into seven arched compartments or panels, formed by flat pilasters with capitals, supporting circular arches, which are again

divided into two lesser arches, the space between being relieved by a circle or hole cut in the stone. Two of the capitals are very finely cut. The pilasters have been variously ornamented, two have lines cut obliquely upon them, three have simply one perpendicular incision, and two have small niches. Below the arcade or panels is a mould composed of zigzags, circles, and knots, and still lower towards the foot of the basin are seven tiny arches, depressed and receding, each covering a human head.

A pointed arched doorway to the west of the aisle communicates with the churchyard. The present east end of the nave is closed at the lower part by an ancient wall 9 feet high, through which on each side is a pointed doorway, now closed up, but formerly leading into the parish church, now destroyed. This wall does not appear to have been continued upwards. Its purpose seems to have been to divide the lower parts of the original church into two separate portions. The partition wall would be sufficiently high to screen the monastic from the general congregation, and the vaulting would bear a continuous appearance, viewed from either division of the church. At the eastern exterior of the church, in 1845, sufficient portions of the piers, with the commencement of arches on both sides, remained to shew that they were of the same type as those in the nuns' church. The eastern wall pierced by the three graceful lancets is modern; it replaced a rubble wall pierced by a wooden-framed window of three lights.

The monuments in the church are more or less interesting. The oldest slab appears to be one now placed at the entrance to the tower; the following words are all that is left of the inscription: "ERCY + THOMAS," and "CY. DIEU." There is a stone coffin in the tower, which formerly was partly inserted in the north wall of the aisle, under an arched recess. A sculptured coffin cover was found in another part of the church. There appears to have been a large and handsome monument on the north wall of the aisle between the two easternmost windows; an elaborate fleur-de-lis finial is now all that remains. Among the brasses in the church two are very fine. On one are cut the figures of a man and woman

kneeling on each side of a Prie-Dieu, on which are open books. Behind the man a youth is kneeling; behind the woman is the figure of a maiden kneeling; on the ground two children are lying, swaddled. Above, in the centre, within an ornamental shield, is a coat of four quarterings; viz., 1. Ermine, a lion rampant-guardant gules, on a canton or an eagle displayed sable, for Edwards. 2. Azure, two lions passant in pale or. 3. A griffin segreant ermine. 4. Sable, three bulls' heads, 2 and 1, coupé argent. This brass is to the memory of Anna, wife of John Edwards, who died 8 March 1613.

Another brass plate has upon it a figure of a woman kneeling at a table, on which lies an open book. Towards the left, within a lozenge, surrounded by a wreath, is a coat of arms, viz., Sable, a chevron between three leopards' faces argent. This brass is to the memory of Katherina Lashford al's Lyshford, dau. of Edmund Lychford, gent., who died 25 April 1616, aged 25.

Other slabs and plates are to the memory of the following: John Edwards, who died 9 June 1631, aged 87 years.

Anne, wife of John Bode of Essex, gent., and of Davington Priory, dau. and heir of John Edwards of Davington Priory, buried 7 Sept. 1638.

Elizabeth Bode, dau. of John Bode of Davington Priory, gent., died 17 Aug. 1638.

Edward Bode, son of John Bode of Davington Priory, Esq., and Margaret his wife, died 26 May 1659.

Elizabeth, dau. of Robert and Anne Harrison, aged 4 months, buried 3 June 1722.

Edward Ward of Davington, died 4 Oct. 1729,* in his 59th year. He married Katherine, only dau. of Leonard and Cath. Mears of Faversham, by whom he left Edward and Mary.

Anna, wife of Robert Harrison, Rector of Luddenham, died 15 Sept. 1736, aged 34.

Mary Bennett, dau. of Bartho^w Bennett, died 22 Jan. 1780, aged 24 years. Also Mary Bennett her mother, wife of Bartholomew Bennett, died 27 April 1780, aged 62 years.

* Register gives 7 October 1729 as day of his burial.

John, son of Barth^w and Mary Bennett, died 24 Aug. 1781, aged 33 years. Also Bartholomew Bennett, died 22 Nov. 1795, aged 74 years. Also Thomas Bennett, Esq., died 12 Aug. 1813, aged 54 years, and Diana his wife died 22 Nov. 1826, aged 67 years.

Margaret, wife of Mr. Thomas, Surgeon, of Greenwich, died 10 Nov. 1785, aged 42 years, leaving two children, William and Margaret.

Hector Munroe, Esq., Lieut.-Col. in His Majesty's Service, died at Ospringe 31 March 1827, aged 54 years.

Robert Plaxton, 1831.

Harriott Jane Willement, died 20 Nov. 1851, aged 57 years.

Katherine, wife of Thomas Willement, died 4 Aug. 1852, aged 56 years.

Arthur Thomas Willement, son of Thomas Willement and Katharine his wife, died at Oxford 5 June 1854 in his 21st year.

Mary Griffith died at Davington Priory 7 July 1866, aged 67 years.

Rev. Henry Cosgrave, M.A., Minister of Davington from 1849 to 1857, died 9 Nov. 1857, aged 70 years.

The pulpit and reading desk are modern and made of fir, on which have been attached carved panels of various dates. The glass, font, reredos, and screens are modern. The communion table cover is said to be made out of some Pre-reformation hangings.

Perhaps it will be best to describe the buildings next in order, beginning with the old entrance doorway. It appears that the buildings were surrounded by a wall about 12 feet high, and strengthened by buttresses; some of these remain to this day. In the east boundary wall was an entrance, which is now replaced by one commonly called the "Step Gate." The principal entrance was by a doorway in the west boundary wall. Here is a pointed arch which at first sight appears to be Early English, but the mouldings seem too shallow for that period, and one is inclined to give it a much later date. Turning our steps in a north-easterly direction we arrive at the entrance hall door; this is Early

English. On entering we find ourselves in a square chamber, lighted by a pointed window of the Decorated period, of two lights surmounted by a quatrefoil. A similar window appears to have existed in the opposite wall, admitting light from the cloister. The ceiling, which has been lowered for the sake of domestic arrangements, was originally 15 feet 5 inches high, and was supported by a wooden arch springing from two brackets, formed of human heads, on the east and west walls. The walls of the hall in its original form were finished by an embattled cornice of oak. Above the hall were some low attics. At first, the boundary of the hall extended far into the present dining room, taking in the south window there, which I may say is a reproduction of a dilapidated one found in the wall. From the entrance hall we enter the western alley of the cloister. The massive chestnut ceiling has been lowered like that of the entrance hall, to make way for bedrooms. The open arcade between the cloister and cloister-garth has been filled up, and small oak window frames, of the time of Henry VIII., have been introduced to give light to the cloister. A small portion of the south alley is still left which retains the arch of the ancient lavatory, and the Norman doorway that led into the refectory. The rest of the cloister has been destroyed. Passing through a pointed arched doorway in the cloister, we enter the prioress' parlour. This chamber has been so much adapted to modern requirements that it suggests little or nothing of the austerities of a monastic life. At one time a passage led from the cloister into the precinct, cutting off the end of this room, but the passage was done away with, the space taken into the room, and the exit made up by a wall, pierced by a window of two lights filled with Flemish (?) glass of the sixteenth and seventeenth century. Retracing our steps along the cloister, we pass through a Norman doorway into the refectory; nothing but the foundations of the original chamber remain, the present drawing room and conservatory being built on those foundations. The refectory was destroyed by an explosion in 1781, and judging from the report of some who lived at the beginning of this present century, and who had seen it, it would seem to

have been an Early English apartment, lighted by long lancet windows, containing a gallery, a pulpit, and an organ. Adjoining the refectory was the buttery, entered by a doorway from the entrance hall. This chamber is lighted by a fine modern bay window, and a small square-headed window in the west wall, through which, I am told, doles were given.

The various lay-owners of Davington from time to time have made many alterations and additions. John Edwards did much to make the place a comfortable domestic dwelling. The Bennetts added some bedrooms and a laundry over the kitchen which now occupies the ground where the north alley of the cloisters formerly stood. These rooms are built against, and entirely cover the clerestory windows on the south side of the church. After the death of the last of the Bennetts who lived here, the place became much degraded. On the outside of the doorway leading into the old buttery there remained a very suggestive notice: "*John Bennett Turner, licensed to sell Ale, Beer, Cider, etc.*" Almost every room was occupied by a different family. The entrance hall had its arched entrance bricked up, and was used sometimes for a coal-house, and at others for a receptacle for rubbish.

A dilapidated wooden fence enclosed the churchyard orchards and paddock.

The services of the church were naturally irregular. There was a celebration of the Holy Communion once a year, and that on Christmas-day. The body of the church was used for all kinds of secular work. Sometimes it was the shelter into which the farmer could turn the teeming ewes at the lambing season; at other times the church was used as a repository of contraband goods.

In 1845, the owner, Thomas Willement, Esq., turned out the numerous inmates, cleaned and thoroughly repaired the walls, reopened the old entrance doorway, built a drawing room on the foundation of the old refectory, and transformed the buttery into a library; cleared out large quantities of rubbish, and, as far as possible, tried to restore things to their former sanctity and order.

In the tower was a single cracked bell, familiarly known as "Matilda Longsound;" this was replaced by a new peal

of three, cast by Taylor and Sons of Loughborough. Each bears the words, "Thynke and Thanke," the motto of Willement.

As one might expect, during the restoration of the church and buildings, and since that time, objects of interest have been discovered. The most important was a brigandine head-piece found lying on the top of an old wall, and between two wall-plates which support the gutter-plate between the gables. The wall appears to be about the age of Edward VI., the roof over it of the time of Henry VIII. "It is a head-piece formed of a series of small iron plates overlapping each other, and quilted between two pieces of cauvas. The metal plates are square, with the angles taken off to admit of the thread passing between and across them, and thus render them secure and immovable."*

An ancient bill-head has been dug up in the grounds, and the button and tip of the scabbard of a sword; these latter are of bronze. Various keys and encaustic tiles have been found, and a globular earthenware vessel with a neck or spout of about 6 inches long was dug up from under the floor of the prioress' parlour. A number of coins and tokens of no great rarity have, from time to time, been turned up. A small figure of a bishop in his robes, standing on a bracket and surmounted by a canopy, was found among some debris; this has been set up in the cloister, but, alas! it has been painted and grained.

A capital of a pilaster has also been found, having carved upon it the arms of Edward IV., viz., Quarterly, 1 and 4, a cross patonce between five martlets, for Edward the Confessor; 2 and 3, France and England quarterly. Supporters—On the dexter, a lion; on the sinister, a bull. These supporters, I imagine, refer to the white lion of Mortimer, Earl of March, and the black bull with horns, hoofs, etc., of gold, to the badge of the house of Clare, or Clarence, through which family the line of York derived their right to the throne.

The cross opposite the west door of the church was raised from the bottom of Faversham Creek. On the trans-

* *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries*, vol. iii., p. 263.

verse bar in front is incised the words, "Margēt Warmecourt." It appears from the roll of possessions of the priory 35 Henry VIII. that one "Thomas Warnecote," as it is there written, paid to the owner of Davington Priory the rent of a house "in which William Norton dwelt, in West Street." The shaft which now supports the cross is formed of portions of various twisted columns of marble, from the ruins of Faversham Abbey.

LIST OF PROIRESSES OF THE NUNNERY OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE
AT DAVINGTON, as given by Mr. Willement in his *History
of Davington*, App., vi.

Lucy de Apuldfeld, resigned 3 Kal. November 1350.

Margaret Borstall, appointed 2 Nones November 1350.

Isabella Northoo, election confirmed September 26, 1383.

Loreta Sorender, died 1 March 1436.

Alice Lindesey, election confirmed 1436.

Joan . . . , living November 30, 1498.

Matilda Dynemarke, who died 11 March 26 Hen. VIII., 1534, is mentioned in the report of the Escheator 27th of the same reign. This prioress, with one nun Elizabeth Audle, and one lay-sister Sybilla Monyngs were the last of the establishment.

The habit of the nuns of Davington was that of the Benedictine order; a black coat, cloak, cowl and veil.

INCUMBENTS OF DAVINGTON CHURCH.

RICHARD MILLES, A.M., July 12th, 1625. He was presented by the King's letters patent to the rectory, or chapelry, of Davington. (*Rym. Fæd.*, vol. xviii., p. 647.)

FRANCIS WORRAL, inducted 1666. He was presented to the living by Margaret Bode, widow.

JOHN SHERWIN, A.M., ob. January 17, 171 $\frac{3}{4}$. He was rector of Luddenham, and patron and proprietor of this church, in which he lies buried.

In the churchyard is a monument bearing the following inscription:—

Ad hunc parietem se condi voluit

JOHANNES SHERWIN, A.M. Ecclesiæ { de Luddenham, Rector.
de Devington, Patronus.

Favershamiæ natus

Oxonie institutus

Ubique in pretio habitus

utpote qui doctus, abstemius, pacificus, pius,

Quodque non reticendum

In re musica peritissimus ;

cujus ingenii venustatem

ne ipsa quidem canities potuit deterere,

Obiit 17^{mo} die Januarii An. D. 1715.

Ætatis suæ 74.

He was buried 24 January 1713-4 (Dav. Reg.).

THOS. LEES, Junior, A.M., March 9, 1713, ob. September 1728.
His father was Rector of Goodneston. He is buried at
Faversham.

ROBERT HARRISON, A.M., ob. 1755. Also Rector of Luddenham
and Perpetual Curate of Oare. He held the incumbency of
Davington from the year 1729.

ROBERT HALKE. Incumbent from 1766 to 1779.

FRANCIS FREDERICK GIBAUD, A.M., 1781, resigned 1794. Also
Vicar of Preston and Curate of Oare. (Vide *Arch. Cant.*,
Vol. XXI., p. 151.)

GEORGE NAYLOR, Incumbent from 1794 to 1799.

After the death of G. Naylor there does not appear to
have been an official appointment. Joshua Dix would seem
by the Registers to have officiated from 1812 to 1832 with
tolerable regularity, and John Birt, D.D., Vicar of Faversham,
from 1833 to 1847. Since the regular celebrations of services
beginning in 1849 the following gentlemen have been In-
cumbents :—

HENRY COSGRAVE, M.A., of Trinity College, Dublin, was appointed
in 1849 by T. Willement, Esq., to the incumbency. He
held the living till 1856. He was buried in the churchyard
on 14 November 1857. On the memorial stone is the fol-
lowing inscription :—

Here lie the mortal remains of
the Rev^d HENRY COSGRAVE, A.M.,
late Minister of this Parish,
who died on ix November 1857,
aged 70 years.

JAMES HENRY TOMLINSON BLUNT, M.A., of Exeter College, Oxford, was appointed to the incumbency of Davington December 31, 1856. He resigned in 1860. He became a Chaplain in India. He is now Rector of Braceborough in the diocese of Lincoln. Mr. Blunt married at Davington Church, 16 August 1864, Fanny E. Giraud of Faversham, a sister of the Town-Clerk of Faversham, F. F. Giraud, Esq.

MAXIMILIAN NUNES of King's College, London, was Incumbent of Davington for scarcely one year, namely, from January 23 to September 7, 1861. He died suddenly on 7 September 1861, aged 30 years.* He married 7 June 1859 Catherine, daughter of Henry Kendall, Esq., Surgeon, of Newmarket, in co. Cambridge.

JOSEPH WEST BRAMAH, M.A., of Merton College, Oxford, was Incumbent of Davington from 25 March 1862 to his death on 26 July 1884. He lies buried in the churchyard. The inscription on his monument is as follows :—

Have mercy, Lord—

Sacred to the memory of

JOSEPH WEST BRAMAH,

Clerk in Holy Orders,

who died July 26th, 1884, aged 64 years.

“ I am the resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord.”

“ By Thine Agony and bloody sweat, by Thy Cross and Passion,
by Thy precious Death and Burial, by Thy glorious
Resurrection and Ascension and by the Coming
of the Holy Ghost, good Lord deliver us.”

“ Where I am there shall also My servant be.”

In the church is a small brass plate bearing the following inscription :—

In the graveyard of this Church lie

buried the mortal remains of JOSEPH

WEST BRAMAH, M.A., Clerk in Holy Orders,

Incumbent of this Parish from 1862 to

1884. He died July 26th, 1884, aged 64.

EDWARD MOORE, M.A., of Christ Church, Oxford, was preferred to the living of Davington by Mrs. West Bramah. He was an Honorary Canon of Canterbury 1867 to 1886; Rector of Frittenden in the county of Kent from 1848 to 1869; and Rural Dean of West Charing. He retained the incumbency

* In the church is a small brass bearing the following inscription: “The Rev. Maximilian Nunez, Minister of this Church from 1860 to 1861. He died suddenly Sept. 7th, 1861, aged 30.”

of Davington from 1884 to 1886. He died in 1889, and lies buried at Osprige. Canon E. Moore's first wife, Lady Harriet Janet Sarah, sixth daughter of Charles William Henry Montagu Douglas Scott, fourth Duke of Buccleuch, was buried at Frittenden in 1870. His second wife, Charlotte Isabella Henrietta, daughter of Charles Devon, Esq., survived him, and was buried at Osprige in 1891.

THOMAS GIBSON HILL, M.A., of Queen's College, Oxford, held the living of Davington from July 30, 1886, until February 1892, when he accepted a Curacy from the Vicar of Croydon. Before his appointment to Davington he had been Curate of Faversham from 1882 to 1885, and Curate of Oare in 1886.

CARUS VALE COLLIER, B.A., L.Th. of University College, Durham, was preferred to the incumbency of Davington on the resignation of Mr. Hill. He was born at Sheffield in Yorkshire in 1864, and is the third son of John Collier, Esq., of Oakleigh, Bridlington, Yorkshire. Mr. Collier was Curate of Bridlington Quay from 1887 to 1889, and of St. Jude's Church (Moorfields), Sheffield, from 1889 to 1892. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and is connected with many other antiquarian societies. He resigned the living of Davington in 1895.

Among the objects of interest preserved at Davington Priory is a small paten of latten, said to have been found in the grounds; in a depression in the centre appears to be a representation of the Trinity. The figure of the Father in the attitude of blessing can be made out, and in front of Him is a crucifix. Whether a dove has also been engraved cannot now be asserted. Around this central group there appears to be a faint inscription, which I read as "Benedicamus patrem et filium et sanc spirit'm."

In the cloisters is an old leather jug bearing a date and the letters TA. In the library (or buttery) is a brass object said to be a bell and candlestick used in the office of excommunication. In the drawing room (or refectory) is a small but fine collection of paintings from old MS. Service Books, for the most part from the Monastery of Certosa, Pavia; the most remarkable being one of a Madonna by Franciscus Moronus, one by a pupil of Leonardo da Vinci, and an illuminated page of some ancient copy of the Gospels, bearing the arms of Pope Gregory XIII.