

RECTORS OF RIPPLE.

ADDITIONAL NOTES AND CORRECTIONS.

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IN 1905 the Rev. H. L. Beardmore (then Rector of Ripple) reprinted from *Archæologia Cantiana* (Vol. XXVII) the list of Rectors, with notes which he had compiled with much care from the Lambeth Registers and other sources.

Since I have been Incumbent several additions to, and corrections of, his statements have been brought to my notice. The most important of these relates to No. 17 in Mr. Beardmore's list, viz., Thomas Scott, *alias* Rotheram. Following the Rev. G. Hennessey, *Novum Repertorium Ecclesiasticum* (1878), Mr. Beardmore claims that Rotheram was Rector of Ripple in Kent (1460—1478), though the original *Repertorium* of Newcomb (1708) does not mention Ripple in connection with Rotheram. Hennessey probably took the statement from Cooper, *Athen. Cant.* (1858), vol. i., p. 1; and, indeed, as Rotheram was Provost of Wingham (1458—1463), and possibly Archdeacon of Canterbury (1466—1468), there was *à priori* likelihood that the Kentish Ripple, distant only a few miles from Wingham, might be the identical one. Canon H. Leigh Bennett, however, in his *Life of the Archbishop* (1901), p. 41, follows Nash. The latter (*History of Worcestershire*, ii., p. 299) claims Rotheram for the more important parish of Ripple in Worcestershire, and gives as reference Bishop J. Carpenter's Register, vol. i., fo. 162B. The precise extract, kindly

furnished by the Diocesan Registrar, sets the question at rest for ever:—

“Eccle’ie P’rochi xij die mensis Juli [anno] Dñi millimo
de Rippull cccclxjº in hospicio Dni Londoñ Rev^d Pater
Johes Wigorn: Epis’ contulit magistrum
Collacio Thomam Rotheram eccle’ie prochiali de Rip-
pull sue dioc’ p liberam resign magistri
Thome Graunt ultim^o Rectoris, etc.”

Two minor inaccuracies in Mr. Beardmore’s note should also be corrected: (1) R. was born in 1423 (not 1425); (2) the tomb in York Minster, as built by himself, is virtually non-existent; for it “was destroyed by fire in 1829,” according to Cooper, *op. cit.* (“much defaced”—Leigh Bennett, p. 154), and soon afterwards restored by Lincoln College, Oxford, of which he was the second founder.

And now as to facts of minor importance:—

(1) Mr. Arthur Hussey (to whom I am indebted for much of the material in these notes) informs me that, on April 6, 1283, Archbishop Peckham cited the Rector of Ripple for refusal to attend a celebration of Orders, and, on December 30 that year, ordered his Commissary (Martin de Hampton) to sequestrate the Church (probably for the same offence). This gives us a certain reference to the parish eleven years earlier than Mr. Beardmore’s doubtful No. 1 in 1294.

(2) As to No. 15: William Percier. No dates are given by Mr. Beardmore, but a friend has sent me the following extract from the Lay Subsidy Rolls 124/107 (18 Henry VI., 1440):—

“De Wiffo Rectore Eccle’ie pock de Ripple non ten hospic’ vjd.”
In the margin “amouetur.”

As the Roll distinguishes throughout between those who are householders (*hospicium tenet*) and those who are not, apparently this Rector lodged with one of his parishioners; and as the subsidy was levied on all aliens, the foreign

name Percier (probably a Frenchman) is tacitly corroborated.

(3) As to No. 21: John Denbye. In 1510 he was supervisor to the will of Wm. Kyriel of Deal, which gives a date twenty years before Mr. Beardmore's "*circa* 1530." In 1511 at Archbishop Warham's visitation there was no complaint: "omnia esse bene" (*Brit. Mag.*, vol. xxix, p. 634).

(4) Under No. 22, William Mann, who was Vicar of Northbourne 1554—1563, the following presentment to the Archdeacon was made:—

"1561. That Thomas Cawte withholdeth half a quarter of barley, which should be paid yearly, which he did heretofore, before M^r Colens did condescend to pay it, and promises to make writing (? righting) thereof.

"Their parson did convey [away] their Bible."

Vol. 1561-2, fo. 118.

(5) As to No. 23: Christ. Burton. In 1569 the following entry occurs in Archbishop Parker's Visitation (fo. 19):—

"Rectory: in patronage of Sir Thomas Kemp.

Rector: Dom Christopher Burton, who is not married, resides there, has one benefice, and is hospitable as far as he is able, not a preacher, has no licence to preach, not a graduate.

Householders 11

Communicants 42

That the parsonage is in decay and two houses fallen down. George Durbrand hath not received the communion since All Hallows last."

(6) Under No. 24, C. Dowsinge, M.A., we have two presentments:—

(a) "1595. Valentine Thurbarne, for that upon Sunday being the seventh of this month of December, he did unorderly remove himself out of his own pew or seat, wherein he hath used to sit . . . of a long time; & placed himself in a pew or seat . . . appointed for certain kinswomen or maid servants of M^r John Warren . . . & when they came to their pew, by means of Thurbarne sitting at the door thereof, they were letted to go in . . . , & were fain to go into the pew or seat of their mistress.

Also the churchwardens present V. T. for using railing, reviling or brawling speeches against them . . . in the Church or porch or churchyard, calling them . . . fools, asses, knaves . . . together with other unseemly & angry words." (Vol. 1585—92, fo. 51.)

(b) "1606. John Warren, gentleman, for quarreling in the Church with M^r John Gookin." (Fo. 82.)

These were the two chief parishioners at the time, one of them indeed Lord of the Manor, and so their quarrel, if not unexampled, was certainly *pessimi exempli*.

(7) To the incumbency of John Francis, M.A. (No. 25), the two bells that still remain belong. They bear date 1639, with the initials J. W. (for John Wilnar, the founder, of Borden: see *Stahlschmidt's Bells of Kent*, pp. 82 and 379), and E. W. (for Edward Cocke, Churchwarden).

(8) No. 28. Henry Yorke, M.A., was uncle to Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, being the eldest child of Simon Yorke of Dover. B.A. (Queen's Coll., Camb., 1662), incorporated at Magd. Hall, Oxf. (M.A. 1664). Henry Ullock, R.D., writes to Archbishop Sancroft (1683) saying he was then lately married, resided on his cure, and officiated in his own person. He took much interest in his distinguished nephew, and left him all his books and MSS. (*See P. C. Yorke's Life of the Lord Chancellor*, vol. i. (1913).)

One last note remains, though it is doubtful how far it actually concerns this parish.

Solomon de Ripple was a monk of St. Augustine's, Canterbury (to the Chamberlain of which house the manorial revenues belonged), about 1309, when he accompanied Ralph de Bourne, the newly-elected Abbot, to interview the King in London. He gave three books to the Library: (1) *Postills*, on the Song of Solomon, etc.; (2) a French *Trésor* and *Speculum S. Edm. Cant.*; and (3) another French book on the Order of Knights Templar (*see Customary*, H.B.S., 1902, vol. i., p. 23, and James' *Ancient Libraries*, pp. 212, 371, 372). It is rash to theorize, but one is tempted to surmise that Solomon was born in, or in some way closely connected with, the parish of Ripple.