VISITS TO ROCHESTER AND CHATHAM MADE BY ROYAL, NOBLE, AND DISTINGUISHED PERSONAGES, ENGLISH AND FOREIGN, FROM THE YEAR 1300 TO 1783.¹

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"Lo, Rochester stondeth here faste by."—Chaucer.

The situation of Rochester has been peculiarly favourable for the observation and remarks of travellers: its Bridge, its Castle, its Cathedral, and its shipping must always have been objects of considerable attraction and interest to all who in former days, in their passage to and from the metropolis, Canterbury and its famed shrine, Dover and the Continent, would be pretty certain to halt at Rochester, secure a bed at an inn,—most probably the Crown (for as an inn it can boast an antiquity as high as the year 1300)—take some needful refreshment, and proceed then, in the words of Shakespeare, to—

"Satisfy their eyes
With the memorials and the things of fame
That do renown this city."

I have gathered up from time to time every stray note or notice by travellers—whether English or foreign—which I have happened to meet with, in print or

¹ Read at the Congress of the Archaeological Institute at Rochester, July, 1863.
manuscript, of my native place, Rochester, and its vicinity. Accounts of visits of this description have been generally overlooked in topographical works, but I think it will be admitted that they frequently supply valuable historical information; and as regards the observations of foreigners, are usually, if not strictly accurate at all, events entertaining.

The poet Southey, in one of his essays, 'On the Accounts of England by Foreign Travellers,' remarks:

"From such books a judicious reader may derive a double advantage; by the hasty conclusions which are drawn from misapprehended facts, and the many errors which he cannot fail to detect, he will learn not to rely implicitly upon the unfavourable accounts which his countrymen may publish of other countries; and by seeing things in the light wherein they are seen by strangers, he may sometimes be taught more justly to appreciate his own."

I commence with—

**King Edward I., 1300,**

Who, in February of this year, as appears from the Wardrobe Account of the 28th year of his reign,¹ made a progress into Kent, and passing through Rochester on the 18th of this month, offered the sum of 7s. at the shrine of St. William in the church of the Priory. On the following day, the like amount, specially termed "the King's oblation," is bestowed on the said shrine. On this day likewise (Feb. 19) the King gave 12s. to Richard Lamberd of the city of Rochester, in recompense for the loss sustained by him of a certain horse [haken] hired of him for the King's service, which, whilst crossing the Bridge, was blown over by the wind into the Medway, and there drowned. On Feb. 27th, on the King's return from Canterbury, he offered the sum of 14s. to the two shrines of Saints Ithamar and

¹ Published by the Society of Antiquaries, 1787, 4to, pp. 28, 30.
Paulinus, 7s. for each, in the church of the Priory; and on the same day 21 shillings are expended at Chatham church, viz. 7s. offered by the King to the image of the blessed Mary; a like sum given to the said image by Prince Edward, the King’s son; and a similar sum presented in the name of the Queen by Richard de Manton.

In further illustration of the dangerous state of the ancient wooden Bridge at Rochester, I would call attention to a curious French poem, narrating a catastrophe not unlike the foregoing, but attended with a more pleasant result, which happened about this time to a poor Minstrel or Harper, who was crossing the Bridge,—described as “very dangerous, and over which many a one had fallen.” He had reached the “mid-way,” when a violent gust of wind blew him into the Medway. In his distress he calls to the Virgin for help, *in English*:—

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Help wswyf, help wswyf,
Oiyr nu—I forga mi lyf.
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And “our Lady” graciously deigns to save him, he all the while harping her praises as he floated down the stream. At length he lands about a league from the city, and followed by a crowd who had witnessed the Minstrel’s mishap, makes his way to a church “situated in the said place,” to offer up his thanks to the Virgin for this miraculous act of preservation:—

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De voyle aukes dyrc,
Entre Lundres e Cunterbyre,
A Roucestr, ce oy cunter,
U checun jur a munte la meer,
Avait un punt mu periluz,
Dunt maint home fu dechus.

Ja en milu de le punt fu,
Taunt ly traversout le vent de su,
Ki en milu li ad gete,
Que Meduay est apelle,” etc.¹
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¹ This story (*fabliau*) of the “Harpur a Roucestr” is contained in a
It may not be uninteresting to mention here the fact of the Queen of Robert Bruce having been detained a prisoner in Rochester Castle from March till October, 1314. The writ issued by King Edward II. on March 12, printed in Rymer's 'Fœdera' (vol. ii. part 1, p. 244), commands Henry de Cobham, the Constable, to receive her into his custody; to assign for her use a suitable chamber within the said Castle; that the sum of 20s. be allowed for her weekly expenses; and also that she should be permitted at convenient times to walk, under safe custody, within the precincts of the aforesaid Castle and the Priory of St. Andrew.

The day of the Lady Isabel's freedom, however, was near: the battle of Bannockburn, so fatal to the English, was fought on the 24th of June, and on the 2nd of October the Constable of Rochester Castle is directed to conduct the wife, sister, and daughter of Robert Bruce to Carlisle, where an exchange of prisoners was made.

John was taken prisoner by Edward the Black Prince at the battle of Poitiers, and was a captive in England three years. On his way back to Calais (July 2, 1360) he made an offering at the church of Rochester of 40 crowns, valued at £6. 13s. 4d. On the following day, he dined at Sittingbourne ("Stiborne") and supped and slept at Ospringe.\(^1\)

\(^1\) From the Roll of Expenses during the Captivity of the French King in England, published by the Société de l'Histoire de France, 1851.
Sigismund, Emperor of Germany. 1416.

About the beginning of May, Sigismund passed through Rochester with a magnificent retinue of 1000 Knights (chiefly Hungarians) on his road to London to visit King Henry V. At Rochester ("Rotschetter") he was received by John, Duke of Bedford, the King's third brother. A narrative of this journey, written by a German in the Emperor's suite, is printed in Menckenius, 'Scriptores Rerum Germanicarum,' vol. i. The Emperor was created a Knight of the Garter at Windsor, and stayed in this country four months.

Louis de Bruges, Seigneur de la Gruthuyse. 1472.

He was an eminent patron of learned men, particularly of Colard Mansion, the first printer at Bruges, and possessed a magnificent Library of Manuscripts. He was received in England and entertained with great honour by Edward IV., who created him Earl of Winchester, in September, 1472. In the British Museum is a manuscript narrative of his arrival in England, from which the following passage relating to his reception at Rochester is extracted:—

"And when the Lord Grauthuse com to Rochester, he was presented by the Meyre and his brethren to his souper with wyne, capons, fezantes, partryches; and after souper with frute and swete wyne."

Margaret of York, Sister of Edward IV., and Widow of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy. 1480.

In this year Margaret visited her brother, being entrusted by Maximilian, Duke of Austria, with a negotiation, the object of which was to endeavour to withdraw the English monarch from his engagements with the King of France, Louis XI., and to obtain a supply of
troops. She informs the Duke of the success of the negotiation in two letters,—one dated London, 27 July; the other addressed from Rochester, 14 Sept., 1480.¹ She returned into Flanders towards the end of September, after staying in England about three months. This Lady was the patroness of William Caxton, England's first printer, at the time he was translating and supposed to be printing in Flanders.

HENRY VII. 1492-1498.

The Privy Purse Expenses of this Monarch show that Rochester was visited by him in the years 1492, 1494, and 1498. The sums paid on these occasions were as follows:

"1492. Oct. 18. To the fery bote of Rochester in rewarde ₤2 24. To the torches brened at Rochester . . . ₤1 1"

These expenses were incurred on the King's journey from Windsor to Sandwich.

"1494. April 8. At Rochester.
To the fery bote in rewarde . . . . ₤2"

This payment was made during the King's progress to Canterbury and Sandwich.

"1498. April 27. At Rochester."

It would seem from the above mention of payments for the "fery bote," that the stone Bridge—at that time a century old—was so much out of repair that the passage was made by the ferry; and an entry in the same document records that a few months after the date of his last visit, the King himself generously contributed the sum of ₤5, "To the Mayr of Rochester toward the

¹ The above Letters are printed in Münch's 'Margarethe von York, und Maria von Burgund,' ii. p. 19, etc. (1832.)
Brige there." Archbishop Morton had been then recently endeavouring to raise money by a method very different; for, in 1489, as we learn from his successor, Archbishop Parker, he had granted indulgences, remitting from purgatory all manner of sins for forty days to all persons who would contribute towards the repairs of Rochester Bridge.

**Charles V., Emperor of Germany. 1522.**

Some interesting papers relating to the Emperor's visit in this year—probably the most splendid royal visit ever paid to England—are printed in the 'Rutland Papers' of the Camden Society. According to the programme of the reception and entertainment, the Emperor and his numerous retinue (said to have amounted to about 2000 persons) were to be provided with lodgings at "Rochestre, or nere adjoyng thereunto in gentlemens houses." King Henry VIII. accompanied the Emperor from Dover. On the 31st of May, 1522, the two Sovereigns came to Sittingbourne, and on Sunday, June 1st, to Rochester, resting here the same night, and proceeding on the following morning to Gravesend. The wines consumed at Rochester were:

"Rochestre ij mealis—Gascon wyne, j dolium: Renyssh wyne—demy fatt."

The "nombre of lodginges: xiiij strange beyddes, c beyddes, and v[e] h[orses]."

In the British Museum there is a contemporary German account of the Emperor's reception and entertainment in England.¹ The passage relating to Rochester is as follows:

"On Sunday, the 1 June, we came to Raygestir, a little city and bishopric, and slept there that night."

The Emperor remained in this country six weeks.

¹ "Wie und in wellicher gestalt Kay. Maj. vō Bruck [Bruges] auss' gen Lunden in Engeland gezogen, ankömen und empfangen worden ist." ⁴⁵."
HENRY VIII. AND ANNE OF CLEVES. 1540.

The chronicler Hall writes as follows:

"As she [Anne] passed toward Rochester on New Yeres even, on Reynam Down met her the Duke of Norffolke and the Lord Dacre of the South, and the Lord Mountjoye with a gret company of Knyghtes and Esquiers of Norffolke and Suffolke, and the Barons of thexchequer, all in coates of velvet with chaynes of golde, which brought her to Rochester, where she lay in the Palace all New Yeres day [1 Jan. 1540]. On which day the Kyng, which sore desyre'd to see her Grace, accom- pany'd with no more than viii persons of his prevy chaumbre, and both he and thei all apparell'd in marble [i.e. made with wool or silk of various colours mixed together] coates, provedly came to Rochester, and sodainly came to her presence, which therwith was sumwhat astonied: but after he had spoken and welcomed her, she with most gracious and lovyng countenance and behavior him received and welcomed on her knees, whom he gently toke up and kyssed; and all that after noone com- moned [communed] and devised with her, and that night sup- ped with her, and the nexte day he departed to Grenewich and she came to Dartford."

The above passage was written eight years after the event. Stow's account is very different, but in neither is to be found the commonly accepted anecdote about the Flanders mare. Stow reports thus:

"The King being ascertained of her arivall and approch, was wonderfull desirous to see her, of whom hee had heard so great commendations, and thereupon hee came very privately to Ro- chester, where hee tooke the first view of her; and when he had well beheld her, hee was so marvelously astonished that he knew not well what to doe or say. He brought with him di- vers things, which he meant to present her with his owne hands, that is to say, a partlet, a mufler, a cup, and other things; but being sodainly quite discouraged and amazed with her presence, his mind changed, and hee delivered them unto Sir Anthony Browne to give them unto her, but with as small shew of kingly kindnes as might be. The King being sore
vexed with the sight of her, began to utter his heart's griefe unto divers: amongst whom hee said unto the Lord Admirall—
‘How like you this woman? doe you think her so personable, faire and beautifull as report hath beene made unto mee of her
—I pray you tell me true.’ The Admirall answered: ‘I take her not for faire, but to be of a browne complexion.’ ‘Alas,’ said the King, ‘whom shall men trust? I promise you I see no such thing in her as hath bin shewed me of her, either by pictures or report, and am ashamed that men have praised her as they have done, and I like her not.’”


A Spanish nobleman, whose Travels were written by his Secretary, Pedro de Gante.

“Saturday, the 9th of February, the Duke and suite departed from Canterbury and proceeded seven leagues to the town of Rochester, consisting of about 500 houses, near which flows a beautiful River. There is an elegant Stone Bridge of 11 large arches, and on the top of the parapet is on each side an iron railing.”

The Duke reached London on the 11th.

QUEEN ELIZABETH. 1573.

The Queen in her summer progress this year into Kent—termed by Archbishop Parker a “cold and wet progress”—arrived at Rochester on Saturday, September 18th. She remained four days at the Crown Inn—“the only place” (says Francis Thynne, a Kentish man) “to intertaine Princes comming thither; as in my time I have seene both King Philip and the Queene [Mary] to have rested themselves there.” On the Sunday, her Majesty attended divine service and heard a sermon in the Cathedral, and on the last day she was entertained by that charitable man, but withal most determined enemy to Rogues and Proctors, Mr. Richard Watts, to
whose house on Boley Hill the Queen herself, according to the inscription on the monument in the Cathedral, gave the name of "Satis," in answer, it is supposed, to some apology made by the host on the Queen's departure.

Unfortunately, very little is on record concerning this royal visit, or the owner of Satis House; the Corporation Records might, however, furnish some new information on the subject. That Watts was a man of money and considerable consequence, there can be no doubt: it is known that he represented the city in Elizabeth's second Parliament. I am enabled to adduce two new facts in his meagre biography. The one is, that on May 20, 1557, the ferm of a tenement and forty acres of land in Chatham, parcel of the possessions of the late Carthusian Monastery [i.e. the Charter House] in London, was sold to Richard Watts for £57. 8s. by virtue of a Commission from King Philip and Queen Mary for the sale of Crown lands, principally monastic. The original entry of this transaction is contained in the Harleian MS. No. 606, fol. 61. The other is, that in March, 1560, he was appointed by the Queen to be Paymaster, Surveyor, and Clerk of the Works for the making of a certain bulwark at Upnor [i.e. Upnor Castle].

1 The word Proctor, with which Master Watts's name is constantly associated, has long been a good joke aimed against the members of a well-known profession. The following quotation from Harrison's 'Description of Britain,' 1577, p. 107, affords an apposite explanation of the term as used by the benevolent founder of the charity, and as understood in his time:

"Among Roges and idle persons, we finde to be comprised all Proctors that go up and downe with counterfeit licences, cosiners, and suche as go about the countrey using unlawfull games, practizers of phisignomie and palmestrie, tellers of fortunes, fencers, bearwards, players, minstrels, jugglers, pedlers, tinkers, schollers, shipmen, prisoners gathering for fees, and others so oft as they be taken without sufficient licence." And as the word gradually lost its degraded significance, doubtless many a poor wayfarer, as his eye caught the strange inscription over the portal of the quaint-looking tenement in the High Street, has been led to think with
QUEEN ELIZABETH AND THE DUKE OF ANJOU. 1582.

The following is extracted from the narrative in Holinshed (Chron. 1587, iii. 1330) which is translated from the French:

"The Queene determined to accompanie the Monsieur to the sea-side; whereupon hir Majestie tooke hir jouruie with hir whole Court the first daie of Februarie, and lodged that night at Rochester. The next daie, abiding still at Rochester, hir Majestie shewed him all hir great ships which were in that place, into most whereof his Highnesse and the Prince and one of those 'Seven Poor Travellers'—friends of Mr. Charles Dickens—:

"Now I know I am not a Proctor; I wonder whether I am a Rogue."

The Statute 1 Edw. VI. c. 3, s. 19, enacts that it shall be lawful for all leprous and bedridden people, for their better relief, to "appointe their Proctor or Proctors, so there be not appointted above the numbre of two persons, for any one house of Leprouse beddred people, to gather the charitable almose of all suche inhabitauntes as shalbe within the compasse of iii miles of any of the saied houses of leprous and beddred persones." A similar saving clause is inserted in the "Act touching the punishment of vagabonds and other idle persons" (3 & 4 Edw. VI. c. 16). In a paper printed in the 'Arcaeologia,' xviii., 'On the word Proctor,' Sir Francis Palgrave says, "It seems, from a passage in Decker's Honest Whore (pt. ii.), that these Proctors were the mendicant lepers, the bearers of the clap-dish so often alluded to—

'You're best get a clap-dish, and say
You are a Proctor to some spittal house.'

These privileged beggars were deprived of the immunity which the statutes of Edward VI. had bestowed upon them, by the "Act for punishment of Rogues, Vagabonds, and sturdie Beggars." (39 Eliz. c. 4.) It declares that "all persons that be, or utter themselves to be Proctors, procurers, patent gatherers, or collectors for gaoles, prisons, or hospitals; all Fencers, Bearewards, common Players of Interludes, and Minstrels, wandering abroad," etc., are to be adjudged Rogues and Vagabonds. "The reasons," adds Sir Francis, "for refusing admittance either to a true Proctor of a lazar house, or to a simulated one, are sufficiently obvious." Rochester and Chatham had each its leper hospital.

I wish moreover to offer a remark respecting the curious coloured bust of Watts in the Cathedral: it has been variously stated that the bust is formed of marble, of stone, of plaster, and quite recently by Mr. Phippen, the writer of 'Sketches of Rochester,' 'of leather or some composition,' to which he adds, that it "formerly vibrated upon being touched, in a similar manner to the effigies of Chinese mandarins." This, however, is very improbable. My own suggestion is that it is of terra-cotta.
Lords of his traine entered, not without great admiration of the French Lords and Gentlemen, who confessed that of good right the Queene of England was reported to be Ladie of the Seas. Also he beheld how all those ships were readie furnished and well appointed. And hir Majestie told him, that all those vessels and the furniture of them should doo him service whensoever he would imploie them, for the which he most humblie thanked hir Majestie; and so after all the great ordinance had beene shot off, they returned for that day againe to Rochester. The third day they went to Sittingborne."

The Monsieur had come on an errand of love, and her Majesty was now cunningly practising a little bit of flirtation with the royal suitor.

**WILLIAM SMITH, ROUGE DRAGON PURSUIVANT. 1588.**

We must allow Master William Smith to have paid a visit to Rochester, in order to have accomplished so accurate a representation of the old city as seen in the accompanying etching. His manuscript, 'The Particular Description of England,' which he presented to Queen Elizabeth, is in the British Museum. (Sloane MS. 2596.) He writes as follows:—

"Rochester ys but a litle cittie, but very ancient, as may appeare by the walles thereof, which now in many places are gone to decay. Also the Castell, which seemeth to be builded when the Tower of London was, and is lyke yᵉ same building. The cheiffest Church is called St Andrewes. There is a very Fayer Bridge of stone, Founded by Sr Robᵉ Knolles, knight, wth a Chapell at yᵉ est end therof, which Bridge is builded upon pyles, lyke as London Bridge is, I meane, in the selfe same maner. The Eiver of Medway passeth under the said Bridge. . . . It is of such depth that all the Quenes Matᵗᵉş shippes do ryde there, at a low water, all along the River from Rochester to Upnor Castell. And thus much touching yᵉ Cittie of Rochester, whose Picture hereafter enseweth."
Rochester — 1588.

From a Drawing by W. Smith, Rouge Dragon Pursuivant.
THE DUKE OF SULLY, Ambassador from Henry IV.,
King of France, to James I. 1603.

In his 'Memoirs,' Sully says:—

"From Canterbury we came to Rochester, and on the way thither the nobility escorted us according to custom; but a thousand difficulties presented themselves with regard to lodgings, inasmuch as the inhabitants had effaced the marks which the King of England's own harbingers had made on the doors of their houses."

JAMES I. 1604.

The Count de Beaumont, the French Ambassador resident in England, in a letter dated July 18th, writes that James had been to Rochester to visit his fleet, and that he took so little notice of it that not only the seamen, but likewise persons of all ranks were much offended, and said that he loved stags more than ships, and the sound of hunting-horns more than that of cannon. (Dépêches, Royal MSS. 126, fo. 421.)

CHRISTIAN IV., KING OF DENMARK; JAMES I. AND HIS QUEEN, AND PRINCE HENRY. 1606.

Christian was brother to Anne of Denmark, James's Queen. The following is from the contemporary narrative, 'England's Farewell to Christian IV.,' by H. Roberts:—

"Time hath brought them neare the Citie of Rochester, where they are met with the Mayor and Bretheren of the Citie, who with reverence delivered his mace unto his Majestie; which graciously did accept the same, and re-delivered it to the Mayor, willing him to keepe it and to use it with justice as before. Which done, the Mayor taking his footecloth-horse which was ready, and rode on before his Majestie, bearing the mace before him throughout the Cittie to the house of the
Right Worshipfull Sir Peter Bucke,\(^1\) knight, one of His Highnes' officers of the Navie; which house was the lodging of the King of Denmarke, whom our King there left to his repose, and returned himselfe to the house of the reverend Byshop of Rochester, Doctor Barlow; and the Queene and Prince to their lodgings, which were all severall. The next day, being Sunday, which holy appoynted day of the Lord, their Majesties came to the Cathedrall Church of the Colledge, where they heard a most learned sermon by a reverende grave and learned Doctor [Parry]. The sermon ended, their dinners prepared aborde the shippes, and their boats and barges attending them, they sette forwardes to the waters side, where every officer in his place served; the Right Honourable Earle of Nottingham, Lord High Admyrall, being present, Sir Robert Mansell, Sir John Trevor, and others. The King had a note delivered him, contayning the names of every shippe, what burthen they weare, and what munition and men they had; which note his Highnes observed, and viewed every shippe as they rowed alongst, keeping their way untill they came to the shippe prepared for them to dine; which shippe was perfumed with sweete and pleaantaunt perfume, and hanged with cloth of golde all the sides within; wherein three chaires of estates was placed for the two Kinges and Queene. The dinner was furnished with all kinde of daintie provision, in such aboundant manner that the King of Denmarke marvelled where such store of meate should be dressed; and to see the manner of it, his Majestie tooke occasion after dinner to goe uppon a spacious gallarie made upon lighters betweene the two Royall shippes, the Elizabeth-Jonas and the White Beare, neere which two shippes ridde a great hulke, which was furnished with ovens for baked meates, and had in it three faire ranges to roast with; all which his Majestie in person saw, and thorowout that shippe, went from place to place, noting every roome.

"The time passing away, the Kinges tooke their barges, accompanied with the Queene, Prince, and noblemen, and rowed on towards Chatham, where they had sight of all the shippes, which were rich in ancientes, \(\dagger\) ensigns\(\) pendants, flagges, and streamers; and withall, so furnished with goodly men as might joy their Majesties to beholde; all which made so glori-

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\(^1\) This was "Eastgate House," which still stands, although considerably altered, in the High Street.
ous a show, that might well amaze the minde of a man to thinke on, being a friende, but terrifie the heart of the proudest enemie to see it. When their Majesties had viewed the whole fleete, they were rowed to the shore, where on a hill,\(^1\) very convenient, they might overlooke the whole navie, there was ordayedn places for them. When being seated, and the word given, every shippe in their due course discharged orderly their whole ordinaunce in such order and forme, the one shippe after the other, as was greatly pleasing to their Majesties, and gayned great credite to the gunners, performers of the service. The great shot then discharged was two thousand three hundred, besides the health at dinner, which was begun with shot and answered. This welcome\(^2\) most honorably performed, the Kingses gave the Lord high Admyrall and the Officers thanks for their paines and care taken herein, and returned to Rochester to their lodgings. That evening, the Gunners of the Navie shewed very excelent and rare fier-workes.

"The next morning, being Monday, and the 11th of August, the Kings, the Queene and Prince, with their traynes, set forwarde towards Gravesend, by the way so followed with people as was wonderfull, and did make the trayne of courtiers admire; yea, such was the multitude of people, Londoners and others, which came to Rochester, that thousands could get no lodgings or meate for their money."

Christian IV. paid a second visit in 1614.

PRINCE HENRY. 1611.

Phineas Pett, master shipwright of Chatham, enters in his MS. Diary particulars of this visit:—

"On Monday morning the 6th of May, the Prince's Highness took his barge at Whitehall by five of the clock. He was ac-

\(^1\) A windmill Hill," in another account. This windmill stood on the hill between the Quarry House and Frindsbury Church. It is seen in Almond's Plan of 1685, and in maps of the middle of last century.

\(^2\) A letter of the time mentions that "this thunder made such musique in the King of Denmark's eares, as he told the King if he had spent half his kingdom in a banquet, he could not have contented him so well." But it must be remembered that a dainty dinner had been demolished before the King of Denmark's witty remark.
companied with the Earls of Shrewsbury, Arundel, and Mar, Sir Thomas Chaloner, Sir Oliver Cromwell, Sir Robert Mansell, and some others of his household servants. About nine of the clock His Highness came on board, where we were ready to receive him after the sea-manner with trumpets and drumms; and after he had refreshed himself, the Lords breakfasted, and the watermen relieved with fresh spells, we went on against the tide till we came within Queensborough water, and it was ebbed before we could get as high as Upnor; and so passing about by all the ships, His Highness was landed at the Old Dock at Chatham a little before six at night; and thence walked on foot to Mr. Legat's house, where his supper was ready prepared for him and his train, to his great content. The Earl of Arundell was lodged at a Boatswain's house next Mr. Legat's; the Earl of Shrewsbury and the Earl of Mar were lodged at my house; the others of the train in other convenient places. Tuesday morning betimes, according to his Highness' directions over-night, barges and boats were ready to attend his Highness, who had broke fast, and was ready by seven of the clock, and took his barge and went first on board the Prince, and so from ship to ship of the Lower Reach, taking particular private information from Sir Robert Mansell and myself (none else suffered to come near) of the state and condition of each several ship, in his own table-book. This done, he landed and went to dinner, where he was very merry and pleasant, we having placed 15 great brass chambers in the garden to be fired when His Highness drank any healths; and were attended by Mr. John Reynolds, Master-gunner of his own ship, who carefully performed his charge. Dinner done, his Highness proceeded again in viewing all the ships and pinnaces in the Upper Reach, not leaving out any one which he was not on board of, taking the same course with them as was done with the others in the forenoon, by which time the day was far spent, and his Highness returned to his lodging, supper being ready against his coming.

"On Wednesday, after his Highness had broke fast, he took

1 Mr. John Legatt, a gentleman of property, resided in 1615 at his "Mansion House," called "Roome," which is still remaining.
2 Pett himself built this ship for the young Prince Henry. She was launched in September, 1610, at Woolwich, being the largest that had yet been built in England, and having cost upwards of £26,000.
his barges and went up to Stroud by water, all the ships of both reaches giving him a Royall farewell with their ordnance, which he commanded to be shot even over his barge, notwithstanding all persuasion to the contrary. He was landed at Stroud, where his coaches attended him; and thence went to Gravesend, whither I also waited on him, and there his Highness was received by the Magistrates of the Town with all their small shot, and the ordnance of the block-houses at his parting. In his barge he was pleased to grace me with kissing his hand, expressing how well he was pleased with his journey and entertainment.”

FREDERICK, ELECTOR PALATINE, afterwards King of Bohemia. 1613.

Who was now returning to his dominions with his bride, the Princess Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of James I. The following is translated from a contemporary German narrative, ‘Beschreibung der Reiss-Empfahrung, etc.,’ printed at Heidelberg in 1613:

“On the 13th of April, his Majesty [James I.] departed from Greenwich, and on the road rested at the house of a Jeweller: towards evening he arrived at Rochester. Here his Majesty and suite were met by the Mayor, who was accompanied by about 70 horsemen. His Majesty was then most honourably received by the Town-Council, who respectfully and with due congratulations presented his Highness the Elector and the Princess [Elizabeth] with a silver-gilt ewer. The next day His Majesty, Prince Charles, the Palgrave and the Princess walked out to view the ships and galleys; and shortly after their return the Elector and the Princess took an affectionate farewell of the King and Queen, who then returned to Greenwich. Prince Charles accompanied their Highnesses to Canterbury.”

CHARLES I. 1625.

Phineas Pett notices this visit as follows:

“The 28 of March, 1625, certain Newes was brought to Chatham of King James’ death, and the next day after, his Maj”
was proclaimed amongst us in the Navy at the Hill House:¹
the Masters, Boatswaines, Gunners, Pursers, and all belonging

to the Navy were present. All Aprill and May I attended at

Chatham to prepare the fleet, that was then bound to fetch over

the Queen. In the latter end of May, his Majestie came to Ro-

chester, where I presented myself unto him in the Dean's

Yard and kissed his hand, and had speech with him till he
came into the house, where he dined, and I attended all the
dinner, while thence I hasted home and waited his Majesties

comeing by towards Canterbury, who alighted at my house and

stayed there awhile, and gave me leave to drink his health, and

then returned to his coach, giving me charge to follow him.”

In vol. xii. of the 'Archæologia' is printed a series of

Letters to the Corporation of Rochester respecting this

visit of Charles I., at the time of his marrying the Prin-
cess Henrietta Maria. The original Letters are said to

be preserved in the Town Hall, Rochester. It appears

from these that the King intended to sleep at Rochester

as he went to and returned from Dover, and orders are

given to the Mayor to secure all the lodgings for the

accommodation of the retinues of their Majesties.

The return of Charles, in company with his Queen,
is thus narrated in a contemporary pamphlet, entitled,
"A true Discourse of all the Royal Passages... ob-

served at the Marriage of Charles I.,” 1625, 4to.

"On Wednesday the King and Queene departed from Can-

terbury, and rode in the most triumphant manner that might be
to Cobham Hall, finding all the high-waies strewed with roses

and all maner of sweet flowers, and here at Cobham they lodged

all that night, where there was all plentiful entertainment, and

nothing wanting that might adde any honour either to the

King or Kingdome. On Thursday the 16 of June, the King

and Queene departed from Cobham, all the waies prepared as

hath been before shewed, and so in most glorious manner came
to the city of Rochester,² where there was expectation of some

¹ See Note under Pepys's visit of April, 1661.
² In order to reach Cobham, the royal pair must have passed through
the towns on the preceding day; but by this arrangement of returning to
stay; but the day being spent too far, they rid thorough the City, notwithstanding the Maior, Magistrates and Citizens of that city gave both the King and Queene a noble and most hearty welcome, and the Recorder of the city made unto them a most learned and eloquent Oration, for which both the King and Queene returned back their royal thanks, and so passing away from the city, a brave volley of shot and great ordnance was delivered from the shippes which lay upon the River."

**Charles I. 1631.**

Phineas Pett has recorded this visit:

"Wednesday being the 15 day of June, all the shippes in the Navy at Chatham being compleatly trimmed in all points, rigged and all the sailes at yarde and ordnance on board, His Majesty attended by diverse Lordes came to Stroude about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, where the Officers of the Navy attended his Highnesse with barges and boates, and being imbarqued row down the river on board the *Prince*, and from her on board all the shippes rideing thereabouts: at His Majy imbarquing, the shippes did orderly discharge their ordnance. The King went to his lodgeing at the Crowne in Rochester; next morning betimes His Majesty took his barge againe and went on board the rest of the shippes rideing in the upper reach, beginning with the *Lyon* being the uppermost shipp, so to the rest in order, observing the course and order of the discharging the ordnance as the day before; then landed at the Old Dock and viewed all the ordnance upon the wharfe, then walked on foot to the New Dock, by the way takeing notice of the Rope house and storehouses without the dock gates; then came into the yard and viewed the stores and houses; after came into my lodgeings, where he stayed a pretty while; then went to the top of the hill on the back side, where His Majesty stood to see the ordnance fired from the shippes; from thence walked back to the Old Dock where His Highness took his barge to Rochester, by the way hovering to observe the trane bands placed in two battallions, and scarmished in warlike manner to His Majesties great content. His Majesty landed at Rochester and went to dinner, there called for the officers of the Navy, Rochester on the following morning, it was probably considered more gracious to confer this marked attention upon the city.
giveing them many thanks for their care and paines, then takes his coach to Gravesend, thence up by water to Greenwich."

**Norwich Officers. 1635.**

The following description is taken from a 'Relation of a Short Survey of the Western Counties of England. By a Lieutenant, a Captaine, and an Ancient [Ensign] of the Military Company in Norwich;' extracted from Lansd. MS. 213, in the British Museum. The party were mounted on horses, and seem to have made a very merry trio, determined to enjoy themselves under any circumstances. The Lieutenant appears to have been the journalist:—

"From hence [i.e. Gravesend] I am to passe to Rochester, and in the midway, I fear'd no robbing although I pass'd that woody, and high old robbing Hill (Gadds Hill) on which I alighted, and tooke a sweet and delightfull prospect of that faire streame, with her pleasant meads she glides through, and fertile downes of either county, a long and broad way. My way was very pleasant and faire to Rochester, which I found situated in a sweet and pleasant valley, having gliding by it a delightfull brave River, that runs through the heart of this county from the Towne of Bridges, (Tunbridge) and passing by her on 2 parts; over which to enter her, I mounted over a faire, stately, long and strong Freestone Bridge of 11 goodly arches, with strong battlements and iron raiies, all along on both sides, the which for its length, and without buildings on it, is not much inferior to that unparalell'd Londons. This was built at the very great cost and charge of a noble Knight (St Robert Knowles) and coped with iron by a right reverend Archbishop (Deane). The water noyseth, ebbeith and floweth every tide, according to the breadth of the streame, as that other doth. Close upon the banke of that sweet streame, and not farre from the Bridge, stands an old and ruinated Castle, of which there is yet soe much remayning as a man may adventure an ascent of 140

1 Leland (Itin. ed. Hearne, 1774, vii. 119) says that one John Warner, a Merchant of Rochester, made the new coping of the bridge, and Bishop Warham the iron bars.
staires up to the top thereof, without any great danger. The
moddell of this building sheweth strength and antiquity: the
yard is about 2 acres wall’d about, and hath on it 10 towers,
whereof there are 6 still standing, the other 4 being quite rui-
nated, and those that yet stand are much decay’d; it is also
intrench’d in with a ditch, into which they wold let in the flow-
ing of the tide at pleasure and drowne it, which was an addi-
tionall strength thereunto. As I found this Citty little and
sweet, so I found her cheife and best structures correspondent
to her smallnesse, which was neat and hansome, and neither
great nor sumptuous.

"And first I'le begin with her cheife seat the Cathedrall, which
was consecrated in Hen. the 1. time; and though the same bee
but small and plaine, yet it is very lightsome and pleasant: her
quire is neatly adorn’d with many small pillers of marble; her
organs, though small, yet are they rich and neat; her quiristers
though but few, yet orderly and decent; her Pallace and Deanery
though both little, yet are they both hansome and lively.¹ Her
monuments are but few, yet are they very ancient. First, 2
Bishops in blew marble, in their pontificall postures lye flanking
either side of the High Alter, so ancient as without name or in-
scription; yet one of them is suppos’d to be Bp. Gundulphus
who built a great part of the Castle, and that Tower yet stand-
ing there. He was appointed by Wm the Conqueror principall
Surveyor of that great worke, the building of that strong and
famous Tower of London. He also new built this Church more
faire than itt was before, and encreas’d her revenues much.
The monuments of Bp. Merton, Lord Chancellor to Henry the
3d and Founder of Merton Colledge in Oxford. Two old Monu-
ments, the one in Freestone, and the other in blew marble.
The monument of one Mr. Stritton, who had been 9 times
Commander of the silver ore [Mayor] there. Sir Alexander
Temple’s monument with his lady; and some few other of
churchmen and citizens, of later yeeres, which I will heere omit,
and diverse others also of antiquity, so dismembred, defac’d and
abused as I was forc’d to leave them to some better discovery
than I was able to render of them; as also the venerable shrine

¹ The Cathedrall, St. Andrew; Bishop Bowles; Dr. Baconquall, Deane;
Dr. Checke, Sub-Deane; Dr. Jackson, Prebend, and 4 more; 16 singing
men; 6 Petty Cannons; 8 Boyes.
of St William. In the Pallace, I view'd that which is not usuall in such a place, the Armory, which was taken away from a Lord (Forster) not farre remote from that city, in a little island thereby, by the Lᵈ Bishop of this diocesse, upon a speciall command from our late Soveraigne for some speciall reasons and there kept: And when prayers were done, I march'd from the Cathedrall into the city againe, which I found govern'd by a Mayor, with his mace and 12 aldermen. Betweene this Citty and Chattam, in that sweet streame where his Majesties Navy securely rides, I view'd 10 stately, goodly, faire ships newly equipped and trimm'd, well victuall'd and mann'd, ready to be sent to the rest of the Fleet; but just at that instant of my being there, there came a command from His Majestie for their stay and discharge, which made those press'd soldiers and saylors swarme thereabouts like bees and as busy as gnats, and (as it was much fear'd) would have beene much more busy, if strict and speciall care had not beene speedily taken over them, which might very well hasten Travellers away the sooner, not to run the hazzard of being benighted. Therefore away from the Kings Head, in the cheife street there, I posted to the next poste Towne (Sittingbourne).”

**French Ambassador, Jacques d'Estampes, Marquis de la Ferté-Imbaut, Marshal of France. 1641.**

The following is a translation from the Travels in England in 1641, written by a Gentleman in his suite:—

“"The country is beautiful, especially near the large village of Rochester, which is chiefly observable on account of its Bridge, furnished with high iron railings, that drunkards, not uncommon here, may not mix water with their wine.""

1 The 'Mercurius Rusticus' records the wanton mutilations and injuries done to the monuments in the Cathedral at the beginning of the Civil War, especially to Bishop Walter de Merton's monument, which fact is commemorated by an inscription thereon. The above evidence is valuable as to the condition of the monuments before the outbreak of England's troubles, showing that in 1635 they were much "dismembered, defaced, and abused," so that it behoves us to deduct something from the charges laid upon the Parliamentary rebels.

2 It is remarkable with what persistency our travellers allude to the iron railings on the Bridge; I am sure if the Rochester authorities of last century could have had any notion how highly they were appreciated by
VISITS TO ROCHESTER AND CHATHAM.

CHARLES II. Restoration. 1660.

The 'Mercurius Publicus' of May 31 announces as follows:

"On Monday the 28 of May, His Majesty came into Rochester about five of the clock in the afternoon, and went immediately to Coll. Gibbon's house,\(^1\) where His Majesty, the Dukes of York and Glocester lodged. After his Majesty had in his chamber eat something to refresh himself, he went to Chatham to see the Royal Soveraign and the rest of his ships, where he gave Commissioner Pett so much honour as to receive the entertainment of a Banquet from him. Thence he returned to Rochester, and about eight of the clock supped, shewing himself very courteous and gracious to the Colonel, who presented to His Majesty a very dutiful address, signed by himself and all the officers of his regiment, in behalf of themselves and the soldiers in it, which his Majesty received very graciously, and by many expressions to the Colonel, gave a testimony of his affection to him in particular, and to all the Army in general, of which his lodging with his Royal Brothers in his house was not the least demonstration. The next morning Mr Francis Clerke\(^2\) and Mr William Swan, both gentlemen of that county, received the honour of Knighthood from His Majesty. The Major and Corporation of the City presented His Majesty with a bason and ewer of silver guilt, of a good value, which was well received. His Majesty took his journey from Rochester betwixt four and five in the morning; the Militia forces of Kent lining the ways, and maidens stowing herbs and flowers, and the several towns hanging out white sheets."

1 This, I believe, was Eastgate House, still remaining in the High Street.
2 Sir Francis Clerke was subsequently M.P. for the City. He resided in an ancient mansion still remaining in Crow Lane. It is known by the name of "Restoration House." According to Rev. T. Austen, it was built by Sir T. Knight; and it seems to be of the time of Elizabeth or James I. In 1681 it was occupied by David Jones, a physician. It is shown in Almond's Plan of the City in 1685.
A loyalist contemporary pamphlet, entitled, ‘England’s Joy,’ etc., 1660, records the reception as follows:—

“From Canterbury he [the King] came on Monday to Rochester, where the people had hung up over the midst of the streets as he rode, many beautiful garlands, curiously made up with costly scarfs and ribbands, decorated with spoons and bodkins of silver, and small plate of several sorts, and some with gold chains, in like sort as at Canterbury, each striving to outdo others in all expressions of joy! On Tuesday, May 29th (which happily fell out to be the anniversary of His Majesty’s birthday) he set forth from Rochester in his coach, but afterwards took horse on the further side of Blackheath.”

The Republican, Ludlow, in his ‘Memoirs,’ remarks sarcastically:——

“Because it was suspected that the Army which had fought against him, might still retain some of their former inclinations, it was resolved that the King, with his brothers, should lodge at the house of Col. Gibbons, one of their officers at Rochester.”

Evelyn, in his Diary of 29 May, speaks of “trumpets, music, and myriads of people flocking, even so far as from Rochester; so as they were 7 hours in passing the city” [of London].

There is an entry in the ‘Customal’ of the City of Rochester, that the Recorder, Anthony Welldone, Esq., was dismissed from his office for refusing to address King Charles II. on his restoration, and for neglecting to take the Sacrament.

Samuel Pepys, Esquire, Secretary to the Admiralty, 1661.

“8 April. About eight o’clock, we took barge at the Tower, Sir William Batten and his lady, Mrs. Turner, Mr. Fowler and I. A very pleasant passage and so to Gravesend, where we dined, and from thence a Coach took them, and me, and Mr. Fowler, with some others come from Rochester to meet us on horseback. At Rochester, where alight at Mr. Alcock’s, and
there drank and had good sport with his bringing out so many sorts of cheese. Then to the Hill House\(^1\) at Chatham, where I never was before, and I found a pretty pleasant house, and am pleased with the armes that hang up there. Here we supped very merry, and late to bed; Sir William telling me that old Edgeborrow, his predecessor, did die and walk in my chamber, did make me somewhat afraid, but not so much as for mirth sake I did seem. So to bed in the Treasurer's chamber.

"9th. Lay and slept well till three in the morning, and then waking; and by the light of the moon I saw my pillow (which over night I flung from me) stand upright, but not bethinking myself what it might be, I was a little afraid, but sleep overcame all, and so lay till nigh morning, at which time I had a candle brought me, and a good fire made, and in general it was a great pleasure all the time I staid here to see how I am respected and honoured by all people; and I find that I begin to know now how to receive so much reverence, which at the beginning I could not tell how to do. Sir William and I by coach to the Dock, and there viewed all the storehouses and the old goods that are this day to be sold, which was great pleasure to me, and so back again by coach home, where we had a good dinner, and among other strangers that come, there was Mr. Hempson and his wife, a pretty woman and speaks Latin; Mr. Allen and two daughters of his, both very tall and the youngest very handsome, so much as I could not forbear to love her exceedingly, having among other things the best hand that ever I saw. After dinner, we went to fit books and things (Tom Hater having this morning come to us) for the sale, by an inch of candle, and very good sport we and the ladies that stood by had to see the people bid. Among other things sold there was all the States' armes [i.e. coats-of-arms] which Sir

\(^1\) The Hill House was situated on the Hill leading to the Upper Barracks just above Chatham Church, then within the boundary of the Old Dock. It was long used as the Pay Office for the Navy, and afforded lodging to the Commissioners and Clerks when sent from London. A View of it is contained in a Royal M.S. in the British Museum, being a Survey of Chatham Dockyard in 1698. On erecting the extensive fortifications about the middle of last century, the Hill House was pulled down, and the inhabitants from this point to a place called Smithfield Bank, (a name no longer remembered, but which is distinctly marked in Almond's M.S. Plan of 1685,) were obliged to quit their dwellings for the purposes of this great undertaking.
W. Batten bought, intending to set up some of the images in his garden, and the rest to burn on the Coronacion night. The sale being done, the ladies and I, and Captain Pitt and Mr. Castle took barge, and down we went to see the Sovereigns, which we did, taking great pleasure therein, singing all the way; and among other pleasures, I put my Lady, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Hempson, and the two Mrs. Allens into the lanthorn, and I went in and kissed them, demanding it as a fee due to a principall officer, with all which we were exceeding merry, and drank some bottles of wine, and neat's tongue, &c. Then back again home, and so supped, and after much mirth, to bed.

10th. In the morning to see the Dock-houses. First, Mr. Pett's, the builder, and there was very kindly received, and among other things he did offer my Lady Batten a parrot, the best I ever saw, that knew Mingo so soon as it saw him, having been bred formerly in the house with them; but for talking and singing I never heard the like. My Lady did accept of it. Then to see Commissioner Pett's house, he and his family being absent, and here I wondered how my Lady Batten walked up and down with curious looks to see how neat and rich every thing is; and indeed both the house and garden is most handsome, saying that she would get it, for it belonged formerly to the Surveyor of the Navy. Then on board the Prince, now in the dock, and indeed it has one and no more rich cabins for carved work, but no gold in her. After that, back home, and there eat a little dinner. Then to Rochester, and there saw the Cathedrall, which is now fitting for use, and the organ then a-tuning. Then away thence, observing the great doors of the church, as they say, covered with the skins of the Danes. And also had much mirth at a tombe. So to the Salutacione Tavern, where Mr. Alcock and many of the towne come and entertained us with wine and oysters and other things, and hither come Sir John Minnes to us, who is to come to-day to see the Henery, in which he intends to ride as Vice-Admiral in the narrow seas all this summer. Here much mirth, but I was a little troubled to stay too long, because of going to Hempson's, which afterwards we did, and found it in all things a most pretty house, and rarely furnished, only it had a most ill accesse on all sides to it, which is a greatest fault that I think can be in a house.

1 There is a learned Dissertation on this curious subject by Mr. Albert Way. See Arch. Inst. Journ., vol. v. 1848.
Here we had, for my sake, two fiddles, the one a base viol, on which he that played, played well some lyra lessons, but both together made the worst musique that ever I heard. We had a fine collacion, but I took little pleasure in that, for the illness of the musique, and for the intentness of my mind upon Mrs. Rebecca Allen. After we had done eating, the ladies went to dance, and among the men we had, I was forced to dance too; and did make an ugly shift. Mrs. R. Allen danced very well, and seems the best humoured woman that ever I saw. About nine o'clock Sir William and my Lady went home, and we continued dancing an houre or two, and so broke up very pleasant and merry, and so walked home, I leading Mrs. Rebecca who seemed, I know not why, in that and other things to be desirous of my favours, and would in all things shew me respects. Going home, she would needs have me sing, and I did pretty well, and was highly esteemed by them. So to Captain Allen’s (where we were last night, and heard him play on the harpsichon, and I find him to be a perfect good musician), and there, having no mind to leave Mrs. Rebecca, I did what with talk and singing (her father and I), Mrs. Turner and I staid there till two o’clock in the morning, and was most exceeding merry, and I had the opportunity of kissing Mrs. Rebecca very often.

11th. At two o’clock, with very great mirth, we went to our lodging and to bed, and lay till seven, and then called up by Sir W. Batten; so I rose, and we did some business, and then come Captain Allen, and he and I withdrew, and sang a song or two, and among others, took great pleasure in “Goe and bee hanged, that’s twice good bye.” The young ladies come too, and so I did again please myself with Mrs. Rebecca; and about nine o’clock, after we had breakfasted, we sett forth for London, and indeed I was a little troubled to part with Mrs. Rebecca, for which God forgive me. Thus we went away through Rochester. We baited at Dartford, and thence to London, but of all the journeys that ever I made, this was the merriest... and the pleasantest in all respects that ever I had in my life.”¹ (Diary, 4th edit. i. 165, etc.)

¹ Pepys records another visit to Chatham in 1665:—“October 2nd. Having sailed all night (and I do wonder how they in the dark could find the way) we got by morning to Gillingham, and thence all walked to Chatham; and there with Commissioner Pett viewed the yard; and among other things, a team of four horses come close by us, he being
Cossuma Albertus, Prince of Transylvania. 1661.

Cossuma Albertus, a Prince of Transylvania, in the dominions of the King of Poland, being worsted by the German forces, and compelled to seek for relief, came to our gracious King Charles II. for succour, from whom it is said he found a kind reception and a sufficient maintenance.

On the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 15, 1661, this Prince Cossuma was approaching Rochester in his chariot, attended by his coachman and footboy, when within a mile of Strood (and here I do not hesitate to lay the scene at the famous Gad's Hill, called by one of our previous travellers, that "high old robbing Hill—") the vehicle stuck fast in the mire; whereupon the Prince resolved to sleep in the coach, pulling off his coat and wrapping it about him to keep himself warm. Being fast asleep, his coachman, Isaac Jacob, a Jew, about midnight takes the Prince's hanger from under his head, and stabs him to the heart; and calling to his aid his companion—whose name was Casimirus Karsagi—they both completed the tragedy by dragging him out of the carriage, cutting off his head and throwing the mutilated remains into a ditch near at hand. The Prince was dressed in scarlet breeches, his stockings were laced with gold lace, with pearl-colour silk hose under them. The two men having possessed themselves of a large sum of money which the Prince had about with me, drawing a piece of timber, that I am confident one man could easily have carried upon his back. I made the horses be taken away, and a man or two to take the timber away with their hands."

Pepys was at Chatham again on June 30, 1667, busily investigating the circumstances connected with the disastrous expedition by the Dutch up the Medway, and examining the defences at Chatham and Upnor. It is not generally known that the celebrated marine painter William Van der Velde the younger was present in his own yacht during this engagement. The fine sketches which he executed on this occasion are now in the British Museum.
his person, then took back the carriage and horses to Greenhithe, where they left them "to be called for." On the following Saturday, an arm of the murdered Prince was brought by a dog belonging to a Doctor of Physic of Rochester, who was riding by the spot, whereupon search being made, the other remains were discovered.

Not long afterwards the Jew and the footboy were both taken in London, and being brought before the Lord Mayor, the footboy confessed the whole murder. They were tried at Maidstone Assizes before Sir Orlando Bridgman, and were sentenced to be executed—the coachman being hanged in chains at the place where this horrible and cruel murder was committed; of which there are two different printed accounts in the British Museum, dated respectively 1661 and 1662.

The Prince was buried with great solemnity in Rochester Cathedral, the particulars of which are extracted from the 'Mercurius Publicus' Newspaper for October, 1661:

"Rochester, 26 Octob. On Tuesday last [22d] the body of Cossuma Albertus, a Prince of Transilvania (which was most inhumanely murdered, robb'd and mangled, in the parish of Strood, within a mile of this place by his own servants Isaac Jacob, alias Jacques, by religion a Jew, his coach-man, and Cassimirus Kansagi his footman) was honorably interred in this place: the manner thus—His body being brought to the parish of Strood, was accompanied from thence to the West door of the Cathedral Church of Rochester by the Prebendaries of the said Church in their formalities, with the gentry and commonalty of the said City and places adjacent, with torches before them. Near the Cathedral, they were met by the Choir, who sung *Te Deum* before them; when Divine service was ended, the Choir went before the body to the grave (which was made in the body of the Church) singing *Nunc Dimittis*. Thousands of people flocked to this Cathedral, amongst whom many gave large commendations of the Dean and Chapter, who be-
stowed so honorable an interment on a stranger at their own proper costs and charges."

**Monsieur Samuel Sorbière, a French Physician, Philosopher, and Historiographer Royal. About 1663.**

He says:—

"Rochester is much larger than Canterbury, if you take in the suburbs, which extend about half a league along the Medway, upon which the Town stands. It is distant seven miles from Gravesend and the sea. We went out of town over a stone Bridge, that consists of several arches, and is adorned with a parapet of iron balusters, six feet high, to hinder people from going upon it, and their hats to be blown away by the wind. From this Bridge you have a very agreeable prospect of the river and of the suburbs of Canterbury [sic], as far as Chatham, where most of the men of war are built, and where after their return from sea they are usually laid up."

Monsieur Sorbière came up from Canterbury to London in a waggon, preferring this method of conveyance to the stage coach or travelling post. It was drawn by six horses and driven by a waggoner, a very merry fellow, dressed in black, who walked by the side. The author was not very complimentary towards England. His remarks seem to have excited great indignation here, and in no person more than in Thomas Sprat, Bishop of Rochester, who in 1708 published a smart Answer to the Frenchman's work, which he terms "an insolent libel on our nation." Referring to Rochester, the Bishop says:—

"He (Sorbière) commends the convenient form of Rochester Bridge, which he says is so contrived that mens' Hats cannot be blown over. Who can deny but in all this he is a very circumstantial and faithful relator? But I pray, Sir, mark that he spends very many more lines in speaking of each of these toys, than of the most magnificent Arsenal at Chatham, which lies just below that Bridge. Of this he only in passing says: 'here our ships of war are built, and here they are laid up..."
when they return.' And what was a fitter prospect to have stopp'd at? Where could the antient or present world have shewn a nobler sight? For there, in one view, he might have seen the ships that command the ocean . . . And without question, the Sovereign, the Charles, the Prince, the James, the Henry, the London, the Resolution, and above an hundred more, the best in the world, might have been thought worthy naming by him, that almost reckons up the windows and cellars in Canterbury, and expresses himself so well satisfy'd to see that there was care taken that a plume of feathers should not be disordered upon Rochester Bridge.'

CHARLES II. 1664.

"Whitehall, May 25 [Wednesday]. About 10 this morning, His Sacred Majesty returned to this place from Chatham, having been there since Monday last, together with his Royal Highness [the Duke of York, aft'w's James II.] and divers of the prime Nobility to take a view of his Navy, wherein His Majesty has received a singular satisfaction to find all things in so wonderful a readiness and in such excellent order."  (‘The Newes,’ May 26, 1664.)


This Prince made the Tour of Europe in order to relieve the tedium vitae occasioned by the conduct of his wife, the beautiful Margaret Louisa of Orleans. His ‘Travels,’ translated from the Italian manuscript, which has never been printed,¹ were published in a quarto volume in 1821:—

"On the 6th of June, 1669, he resolved to go to Chatham to see the place where several ships were burnt during the last war by the Dutch; and where one in particular, the Royal Charles, was captured and carried into Helvoetsluys, at which

¹ In the Grenville Library is a copy of this MS., as well as copies of large Views of places in England executed by the Italian artists who accompanied the Prince.
place it was seen by his Highness the year before, when he was on his tour in Zealand and Brabant. . . ."

The King's yacht met him near Upnor and took him down to Sheerness, on returning from which place he went over the 'Sovereign,' then at anchor in the Medway, of which huge vessel he gives a particular description; noticing also the 'Royal Charles,' "built to supply the place of the other of that name captured by the Dutch," and twenty-two other ships of war. He walks through the town of Rochester:—

"He saw, however, nothing worthy of notice except the Gothic Cathedral, which is deprived of all internal ornaments, like all the others in England; and the Castle, which is a square building, and according to an ancient tradition among the common people, is said to have been erected by Julius Cæsar. It stands near the Cathedral and also near the Bridge across the Medway, the latter of which has a parapet surrounded by an iron balustrade, to shelter passengers from the wind. . . .

"Rochester in former times was a very small place; but now being greatly increased by the erection of new houses and by the population of the villages, which extend to a great distance along the Medway on which it stands, it has not only become larger than Canterbury, the capital of the County of Kent, but is justly reckoned among the most considerable cities of this very fertile County, and among the best in England, its inhabitants being estimated at 16 or 18,000, who devote themselves to handicrafts or to the sea-service. . . . The buildings of this town are for the most part constructed after the English fashion, low and narrow, with pointed roofs; the windows project outwards, forming as it were, a gallery with several angles, and from the large quantity of glass, they render the front part of

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1 This ship was built at Woolwich by Peter and Phineas Pett. A Description was printed in 1637 by Thomas Heywood, the dramatist, and a large Engraving by John Paine published. Evelyn, on 19 July, 1641, "rode to Rochester and Chatham to see the Soveraigne—a monstrous vessel so called, being for burthen, defence and ornament the richest that ever spread cloth before the wind, and especially for this remarkable, that her building cost his Majestie the affections of his subjects, who quarrell'd with him for a trifle, refusing to contribute either to their own safety or his glory." She was accidentally burnt at Chatham on Jan. 27, 1696.
VISITS TO ROCHESTER AND CHATHAM.

the houses transparent, and the habitations very commodious and lightsome.

Monsieur Jouvin de Rochefort,¹ Treasurer of France.

1670.

Writes as follows;—

"Here [at Canterbury] we took the ordinary coach for Gravesine (Gravesend) in order to embark there for London, and we passed by Arbertoon (Harbledown); from thence we found some woods near Baten (Boughton) and Asbery (Ospringe). We passed through Grinsrit (Greenstreet), Sitingborn, Nieuvoeton (Newington) and Renem (Rainham) which has a fine tower to its church. We observed all along this road high poles, on the tops of which were small kettles, in which fires were lighted to give notice when there is any danger in the country, and robbers on the way. The towns and neighbouring villages are obliged to send guards to drive them away or take them, and to keep the highways always safe and secure for passengers; these likewise serve as I imagine in time of war to give notice to the neighbouring towns of the march of the enemy and of his designs; these poles are about a mile distant from each other, and to every one there is a small hut for those persons whose business it is to light the fires. We passed afterwards through Schatenne (Chatham) the street of which is paved and bordered by houses almost to Rochester. Rochester is situated at the influx of the river Medway into the Thames, where the sea has a reflux of more than two fathoms, which renders this town a good sea-port, and has made it chosen for a sea-arsenal, where every year there all built many ships of war. We there passed over a stone Bridge—one of the finest in England, and esteemed among its greatest curiosities. This Bridge is built on a rock and is much elevated; it is enclosed with iron balustrades above its walls: I should like to know whether these iron balustrades are meant for ornaments, or to prevent persons falling over in the night; be it as it may, we went to walk

¹ A translation of the portion of this author’s Travels relating to England was published in vol. ii. of the ‘Antiquarian Repertory,’ where the name was misprinted Jouvvin, and under this erroneous form he has been invariably quoted since.
near the Castle, at which place is the port: it will contain many vessels on account of its vicinity to the Thames, where there is a good road. We also saw an open space, near to which is the Cathedral and Episcopal Church, enriched with two high towers rising above its portal. The streets are as straight as a line, and the houses are inhabited chiefly by merchants and seafaring persons. We did not remark any fortifications capable of holding out against a siege, but its Castle and the number of vessels there might stop an enemy.”

JOHN EVELYN, Esq., of Wotton, Surrey, and Sayes Court, Deptford. 1672.

"May 31. I receiv'd another command to repaire to the seaside: so I went to Rochester, where I found many wounded, sick and prisoners newly put on shore after the engagement on the 28th, in which the Earle of Sandwich, that incomparable person and my particular friend, and divers more whom I loved, were lost.

"June 2. Trinity Sonday—I pass'd at Rochester; and on the 5th, there was buried in the Cathedral Mons'r Rabinière, Reare Admiral of the French squadron, a gallant person, who died of the wounds he received in the fight. This ceremonie lay on me, which I perform'd with all the decency I could, inviting the Mayor and Aldermen 'to come in their formalities; Sir Jonas Atkins was there with his guards, and the Deane and Prebendaries; one of his countrymen pronouncing a funeral Oration at the brink of his grave, which I caus'd to be dug in the quire. I went to see Upnore Castle, which I found pretty well defended, but of no great moment." (Diary, 4to, 1819, i. 454.)

JAMES II. 1688.

The visit and escape of the unhappy James II. enter properly into the History of England, and are too well known to need any further observation.

THE EARL OF ROMNEY [Henry Sydney]. 1694.

"On Tuesday, 29 May, the Rt Hon. the Earl of Romney, Lord
Warden of the Cinque Ports and Master General of the Ordnance came to Rochester, where he was met at the water-side by the Mayor and Aldermen in their formalities and by a great number of the gentry of the country, one of the Militia Regiments of Foot being drawn up on each side the street. And in the afternoon, the Mayor and Aldermen waited on his Lordship at his lodgings, and presented him with his freedom of the City. The 80th his Lordship saw Colonel Smithe’s Regiment of Militia Horse, and Sir Philip Butler’s Regiment of Militia Foot, drawn up about a mile from Rochester, and then proceeded on his journey to Canterbury.”—(‘The London Gazette,’ June 4–7, 1694.)

**Monsieur François Maximilien Misson, a French Littérateur. About 1697.**

“Rochester, a Bishoprick in the county of Kent, is a long, straggling City, dirty and ill-built, but its Bridge is finer than that of London, although it has not been so difficult to build, on account of its being somewhat shorter. You see at Rochester very great ruins of a Castle built by the Conqueror.”

**Peter the Great. 1697–8.**

In the ‘Post Boy’ for February 3–5, is this announcement:

“It is said that the Czar of Muscovy will go to Chatham to see a man of war launched, which he is to name.”

**Monsieur Aubry de La Motraye. About 1725.**

The following is a fair specimen of French-English, extracted from the author’s ‘Voyages du Sieur de la Motraye,’ three vols. fol., La Haye, 1732. Some of the engravings in this work were done by Hogarth.

“We lay at Dartford that night, i part’d the next day from my Freind and reach’d Rochester before noon, crossing the River Medway over a stone Bridge, one of the finest at least the longest in England. This City according to some writers is the Vigniacis of the Ancients and to others Durobrivis, it has
often and very much suffer'd from Fire and Wars, it consists chiefly of a long and broad Street, almost as Slevise in Holstein, that causes it to be call'd the longest at same Time the narrowest in England: viz. with Strand [Strood] which is only separated from it by the Bridge and may pass for a Town by it selfe. It is pretty well built, there is not however much worth observing there, the Cathedral is large enough and a Gothick building tho not of the best of this order, it was founded by Ethelbert King of Kent and dedicated to S. Andrew; i had seen it already. i observ'd nothing new in it but an Epitaph [sic] of a Physician, Augustus Caesar.

"That which deserves most attention and is seen with the greatest satisfaction is Chatham which with Strand [Strood] and Rochester, which between them holds the midle ["qui est entre deux"] makes up a kind of Tripolis or Triple City. Chatham is the ordinary and the safest Harbour of the Great Brittish Fleet, the Houses for Sea-Officers, Directors, Inspectors, Workmen, are extraordinarily well built. A numerous variety of Stately Buildings envirroning spacious Yards cover'd or spread, for great part, with Cannons, Mortars, Bullets, Bombs; with Anchors, Iron unwrought and other Things that can resist to the injuries of the weather, of divers high and large Magazines stored with all that belong to the equipping and fitting out the greatest Fleet that ever any other power was able to keep, Rop-yards of a prodigious extent and Bigness, Channels and Ditches regularly cut and full of water whereupon swim the Pin-Trees for masts, Oak and other sorts of Timber, with Docks for the building of new ships and repair the old ones, etc. This variety with the private Houses composeth Chatham which is no less populous than magnificent. Captain Falkner in whose Room i had a Bed in my return from Sweden on board of Admial Norris's [the Admiral Norris] would have me lodge at his House in Chatham, where i staid two day and he shew'd me all what that Time permitted to see. I went back againe thro Rochester and Strand, the Town-House and a Charity school are the best publlick buildings in Rochester and Strand."

WILLIAM HOGARTH AND HIS FRIENDS. 1732.

This visit was made by a merry party of five, consisting of Hogarth, Scott, Tothall, Thornhill, and Forrest.
The latter gentleman undertook the office of journalist, and the journal, illustrated with drawings by Hogarth and Scott, was printed in 1782. He remarks on the Castle and its well; Watts's hospital and its exclusion of proctors; Upnor Castle, which Hogarth sketched; Chatham Dockyard, and the 'Marlborough,' 'Royal Sovereign,' 'London,' 'Royal George,' and 'Royal Anne,' men-of-war lying in the harbour; and relates minutely their bill of fare at the 'Crown,' and how Hogarth and Scott played at hopscotch in the colonnade under the Town Hall.

DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON. 1783.

In the last year but one of his life, at the great age of seventy-four, and in the night of the 16th of June, 1783, Dr. Johnson was stricken with paralysis, which deprived him for a time of speech, but his marvellous understanding was mercifully spared. The circumstances attending this affliction were related by himself in a remarkable letter to Mrs. Thrale two days afterwards. On July 3rd, writing to Boswell, he says;—"The Physicians consider me as cured. . . . I designed to go next week with Mr. Langton to Rochester, where I purpose to stay about ten days, and then try some other air." Boswell remarks:—"Such was the general vigour of his constitution, that he recovered from this alarming and severe attack with wonderful quickness, so that in July he was able to make a visit to Mr. Langton at Rochester, where he passed about a fortnight, and made little excursions as easily as at any time of his life." I am fortunately enabled from sources other than the faithful chronicler James Boswell, to add a few particulars connected with this Kentish trip of the author of the 'Rambler.'

Mr. Langton, above mentioned, was Bennet Langton, Esq., one of Johnson's most valued friends. "Sir," said the Doctor, "the world does not bear a worthier man
than Bennet Langton.” On another occasion he exclaimed:—“I know not who will go to heaven if Langton does not.” This was the man who was now to entertain the great Doctor Johnson,—his “guide, philosopher, and friend,”—at his house in Rochester, but in what part situated, or how otherwise Mr. Langton was connected with the city, we have at present no means of knowing.

Johnson writes to Mrs. Thrale on July 8th:—

“Langton and I have talked of passing a little time at Rochester together, till neither knows well how to refuse, though I think he is not eager to take me, and I am not desirous to be taken. His family is numerous, and his house little. I have let him know for his relief, that I do not mean to burden him more than a week. He is, however, among those who wish me well, and would exert what power he has to do me good.”

The Doctor quits his cherished London, and on Saturday, July 19, the ‘Morning Chronicle’ announces this satisfactory intelligence:—

“We are happy to find that Dr. Johnson has recovered his health considerably at Rochester.”

It appears that while here he met a gentleman in whom we must be allowed to take considerable interest; this was the learned Recorder, John Longley, Esq., father of the present estimable Primate, and who lived at this time at “Satis House,” once the abode of Richard Watts:—

“My heart (said Johnson) warms towards him; I was surprised to find in him such a nice acquaintance with the metre in the learned languages—though I was somewhat mortified that I had it not so much to myself as I should have thought.”

Another anecdote from Langton’s collectanea is told of the Doctor during this visit:—Mr. Langton and he

1 Letters, published by Mrs. Piozzi, 1788, ii. 293.
3 Boswell, vii. 369.
having gone to see a freemason's funeral procession when they were at Rochester, and some solemn music being played on French horns, he said "This is the first time that I have ever been affected by musical sounds,"—adding, "that the impression made upon him was of a melancholy kind." Mr. Langton saying that this effect was a fine one,—JOHNSON, "Yes, if it softens the mind so as to prepare it for the reception of salutary feelings, it may be good; but inasmuch as it is melancholy per se, it is bad."

On July 23, the Doctor, on reaching home, writes thus to Mrs. Thrale:—

"I have been thirteen days at Rochester, and am just now returned. I came back by water in a common boat twenty miles for a shilling, and when I landed at Billingsgate, I carried my budget myself to Cornhill before I could get a coach, and was not much incommoded. . . . While I was with Mr. Langton, we took four little journeys in a chaise, and made one little voyage on the Medway, with four misses and their maid, but they were very quiet. I am very well, except that my voice soon faults, and I have not slept well, which I imputed to the heat, which has been such as I never felt before for so long time. Whether this short rustication has done me any good, I cannot tell; I certainly am not worse, and am very willing to think myself better."

A little more than a year rolled by, and Samuel Johnson was no more in the world.

Having now rambled over a period of nearly five centuries, we thus end these genuine notices of Rochester with our great English Lexicographer; and although there have doubtless been many and distinguished travellers through the old City since his time—our monarchs included—such records of their visits as we have met with, present but meagre, dull, court-news-like an-

1 Letters, published by Mrs. Piozzi, ut supra, p. 294.
nouncements, and are of little interest. But there is one celebrated description which we cannot pass over without notice, delivered at the prompting of the mighty Magician on Gad's Hill, by a well-known character, and an antiquary—a certain Mr. Pickwick—as he stood upon the old stone bridge of Rochester (now wholly gone) enjoying an uninterrupted prospect of the magnificent scenery on either side. With what feelings would he now regard that hideous obstacle—the Railway Bridge—which deprives the traveller of to-day of one of those beautiful views formerly beheld with so much delight! Its iron companion which has replaced the old stone arches and now spans the 'Medway smooth,' (not particularly smooth, by the way, at this part,) is worthy of all praise, but must surely be ashamed of its sadly deformed twin-brother. With iron bridges, however, Rochester passes from our province; standing on them we can no longer be said to tread what Thomas Warton so beautifully describes as—

"The winding ways
Of hoar Antiquity, bestrown with flowers."