



MEDLÆVAL GOLD SEAL
OF THE
JURISDICTION OF SALTWOOD.

COMMUNICATED BY LAMBERT WESTON.

THE seal here engraved bears this inscription, "*Sigillum Jurisd' de Saltwode,*" i.e. "The seal of the Jurisdiction of Saltwode." I noticed it amongst a fine collection of rings, reliquaries, shrines, and other works of art, belonging to Mrs. Dyneley, widow of Richard Dyneley Dyneley, Esq., of Bramhope, J.P. and Dep. Lieut. in the West Riding of Yorkshire. It is not clearly known how it came into the possession of the Dyneley family. The seal has been examined by authorities, at the British Museum, and is pronounced by them to be of the fourteenth century. It is of the finest gold, and the reverse of the seal, as shewn in the engraving, was formed with a loop, whereby it was attached to the chain of office. It appears that the Archbishop of Canterbury had a

“peculiar” jurisdiction at Saltwood. This jurisdiction was exercised by a steward or other officer (appointed by the Archbishop), whose seal would be attached to all documents in connection with the liberty, the parks and the manor of Saltwood.

The manorial rights extended over Hythe, and the conjoined parks of Saltwood and Lyminge. This seal may possibly have been made about A.D. 1385, in which year Archbishop Courtenay improved Saltwood Castle, and added the ancient park of Lyminge to that of Saltwood. The church of Saltwood was dedicated to Saint Peter and Saint Paul, whose emblems, the key and the sword, appear prominently upon this seal. The heads of those saints are shewn, within quatrefoils, in the upper portion of the seal.

The parish of Cliff at Hoo was formerly the site of a “peculiar jurisdiction,” which was exercised by the rector, in matters ecclesiastical. His ancient seal bore this inscription “*S. Officialit' ✠ Jurisdictionis de lib'a p'och de Clyff.*” The modern seal was inscribed “*S: Peculiaris: Jurisdictionis: Rectoris: de: Clyff:*” *

* Hasted, *History of Kent*, 8vo, iii, 514.