

# Archæologia Cantiana.

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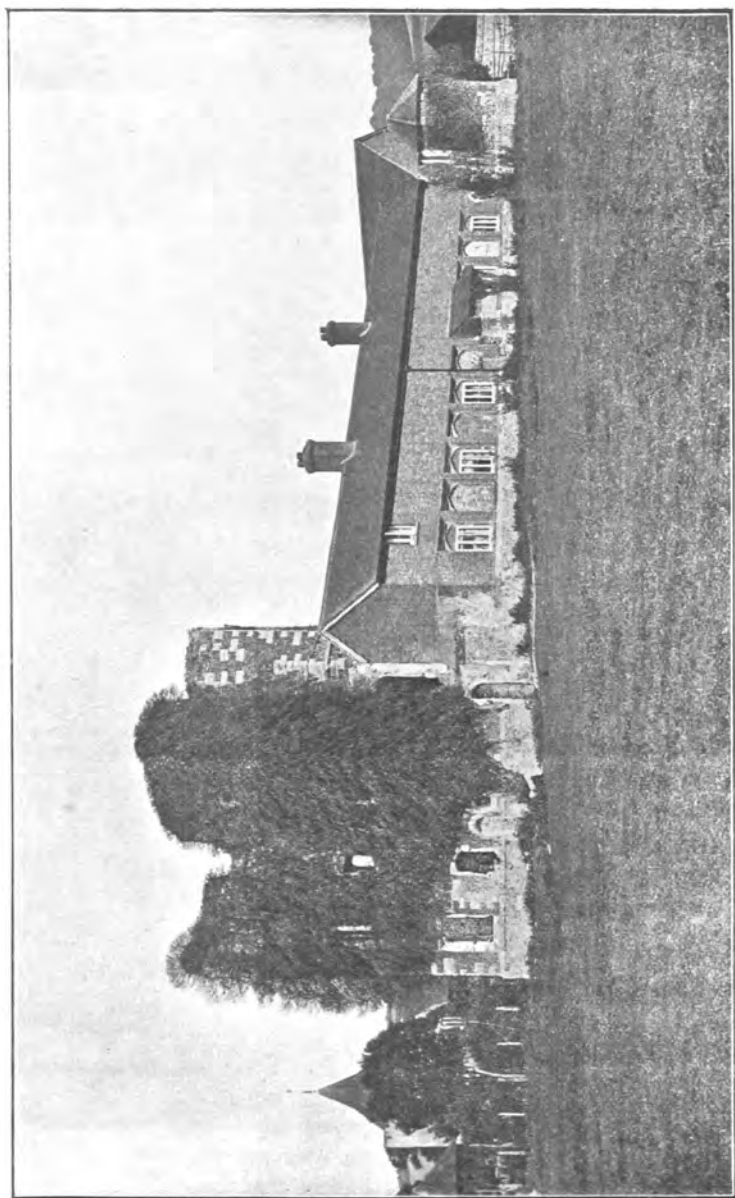
## THE MANOR HOUSE AND GREAT PARK OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTER- BURY AT OTFORD.

BY CAPTAIN C. HESKETH.

IN the quiet seclusion of Otford two notable witnesses to the new impulses in art, life, and religion, called the Renaissance, saw the light—the House built by Archbishop Warham, and the Prayer Book compiled by Cranmer.\* The latter lives to speak for itself, and with it we are no further concerned in this article; but the former has almost passed away, and that part which remains serves quite different purposes than for which designed, though still a mute testimony to that glorious youth of the modern world when the dead hand of the Middle Ages was yielding to the pressure of the new learning and the desire for a fuller and more pleasurable life.

The Wars of the Roses had destroyed the old intractable baronage, and the resulting greater security of life having released the designer from the mainly military considerations which had hitherto absorbed his powers of invention, enabled him to use his site so as to give expression to the new demand for houses which might be homes, and which should also testify to the ideals of culture and refinement that characterize the new age. Under this impulse there came into existence those grand Tudor mansions of long

\* J. R. Green. *Stray Studies*.



No. 3.—RUINS OF HOUSE NOW EXISTING, AND SHEWING THE GALLERY, WITH A  
FLOOR SUPERIMPOSED USED AS COTTAGES.

galleries, great windows, parapetted towers and towerettes, and fantastic chimneys, that afford so much pleasure to the inquisitive antiquary and the artist in search of beauty.

Warham proved himself a true child of his age in giving expression to the new social and artistic ideals when building his manor house, which in area alone seems to have covered some two acres of land, and which—but a description of the house may prove of greater interest if viewed in the long perspective of the connection of the archbishops with Otford.

The mastery acquired by the Normans was signified in many notable acts, and significant amongst their number, and one which played an important rôle in subsequent ecclesiastical history, was the division of the property of Christ Church, Canterbury, between the monastery and the archbishopric. This policy was initiated by Lanfranc.

Otford fell to the archbishopric, and the connection so established was maintained until 1537. It was the richest of the Archbishop's manors in Kent, and although it is not at present possible to state accurately the area of land embraced in the manor, certainly it was most extensive. According to the Red Book of the Exchequer, A.D. 1214, the following manors were held of the Archbishop as of his Manor of Otford: Eynesford, Lullingstone, Aldeham, Preston, Vilestone, Sundridge, Chevening, Shipbourne, and Orpington. From other records, Tonbridge, Penshurst, Brasted, Sevenoaks, and Shoreham can be added, and thus the area embraced would extend from Tonbridge through Penshurst to Chevening, thence to Eynesford, back through Shoreham and Otford to Tonbridge, with Shipbourne and Orpington as offshoots.

Lanfranc appears to have had a home at Otford, and it is recorded that Archbishop Theobald ordained Richard de Belmeis priest at Otford on September 20, 1152, but definite traditions of building a manor house commence with Becket, whose memory is kept green by quite a shower of curses that he rained down upon the place. Their

abundance was, however, no measure of their strength, and all fell impotently upon the land. That with which we are alone concerned had reference to a want of water for building. Upon making this discovery Becket drove his staff passionately into the soil, and lo! water flowed. The site of this memorable event is called "Becket's Well," and characteristically used to be reputed as possessing curative properties, but the good sense of the age declares it to be a plain Roman bath. Certainly something must be wrong with the form in which the tradition has reached us, for dame Nature seems to have been ever more than liberal with her endowment of water at Otford. The house figured in the quarrel between Henry II. and Becket, one Alanus recording that after Becket had been apprehended "the Bishop of London came to him, declaring that if he would surrender up to the King his mansion at Otford and Wingham, there was hope that he would recover the King's favour and that all would be forgiven" (*Old Otford*, by Dr. Hunt, and Foxe's *Book of Martyrs*). From Becket down to Cranmer there is almost continuous record of the residence of the archbishops at Otford. No description of the house of the Middle Ages is, however, known to exist, but some light is thrown upon it by Archbishop Peckham's Register, 1279—1292, where it is recorded that, in giving directions for the erection of the present church,\* he remarked of the manor house that "it is an offence that for so solemn a hall or palace as that which stands there, there should be nothing but a wooden chapel." The site of the old house may have been in the rectangular-shaped meadow whose north-west corner abuts upon the south-east of the present cemetery, and the "Castle Farm" house in the southern end of this field is in part probably the only existing relic of the pre-Tudor house.

Archbishop Dene (1501—1503) is reputed to have repaired the old house, yet notwithstanding Warham (1503—1533) erected a new one at the cost of £33,000. The manor

\* This statement may be questioned, but there are good reasons for making it, although too long for a footnote.

rolls, although very numerous for the period, are quite silent as to the building of the house. According to Somner (*Antiquities of Canterbury*) he first proposed to build at Canterbury, but failing to compose differences with the citizens for a site, built at Otford. Here he entertained Cardinal Campeggio on his first visit to England (July 1518), when, met by Warham at Sandwich, he travelled through Kent with 1000 horse, many in armour and gold chains, and came to Otford, remaining two days, during which time the Archbishop "made him good and real cheer and divers pleasures and goodly pastimes," and also Henry VIII., when in 1520, with a retinue of 4000, and his Queen with 1000, he rested at Otford en route to the Field of the Cloth of Gold. That such hosts could be entertained at Otford affords at once some idea of the resources of the house and manor, and of Warham's wealth; but it is Erasmus who supplies the best general idea of both the old and the new houses. Erasmus, who visited Warham at what the latter called his "power house," speaking first of the old manor house, says it was "A place more meet for a religious man's meditation than for a prince's pleasure, with which I myself could not have been greatly in love, till such time as William Warham bestowed so great cost upon it that he thought better to have raised a new house in the place than to have repaired the old, for he left nothing of the first work but merely the walls of a hall and a chapell." During the erection of this building Warham received news from Erasmus that he was suffering from stone, and facetiously replied: "What business have you with such a superfluous load of stones in your small body, or what do you propose to build *super hanc petram*? Stones are heavy carriage, as I know to my cost when I want them for building purposes. I presume you do not contemplate building a palace, so have them carted away, and I send ten angels to help you rid yourself of the burden."

This pleasantry finds no counterpart, however, in Lambarde, to whom the palace was well known (see Appendix II.), for he wrote rather bitterly that, "William Warham,

SKETCH PLAN OF MANOR HOUSE  
 BUILT BY ARCHBISHOP WARHAM  
 AT OTFORD. 1516 (CIRCA)

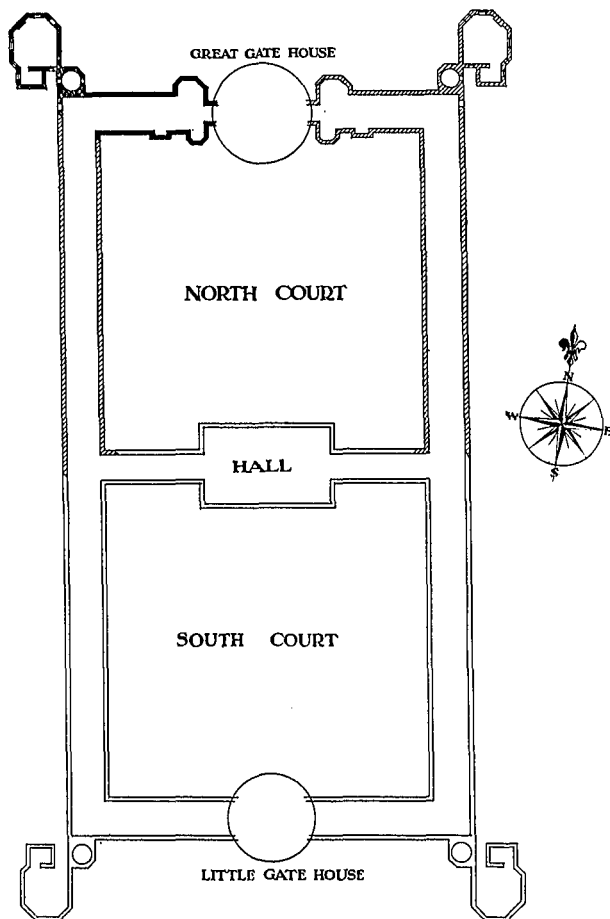


ILLUSTRATION N<sup>o</sup>1.

This Plan is based partly upon the existing remains of the House, and partly upon information detailed in the Survey made in 1573 (Appendix II.).

- (1) Existing remains are shewn blocked in. The lower portion and foundations of the South end are, however, still partly *in situ*, but are omitted from plan as too fragmentary to enable a fair representation of this end of the building to be drawn.
- (2) The portions hatched in are detailed in the Survey, but the length of the East and West galleries and the positions of the Gate Houses are pure conjecture.
- (3) The portions not shaded are also pure conjecture, but are based upon an examination of the Site, and are supported by the Survey (Appendix II.), and serve to indicate the general dimensions of the plan of the original building.

wishing to leave to posterity some glorious monument of his worldly wealth and misbegotten treasure, determined to have raised a gorgeous palace for himself."

Warham himself furnishes a slight account of the old and new houses when he raised the wages of George Guston, keeper of the manor, from two pence to four pence daily, because the former wage was granted when the "buildings were ruinous by neglect, but now sufficiently repaired and the great buildings with also the enclosure with towers new built and the various gardens new enclosed."

The general impression imparted by these extracts from the writings of eye-witnesses is reinforced by two detailed surveys of the house in decay, made in 1547 and 1573 respectively (see Appendices I. and II.), and these, together with the fragment that remains, enable a fairly complete picture of the building to be constructed. The description must, however, be conjectural to some extent, as the information in the surveys does not permit of each part being identified in its place, although, from the fragment that remains, the external appearance of the fabric can be accurately stated and the plan of the house built up with some certainty.

The shape was rectangular, the longer side facing west. The Great Gate House stood on the north side, and was connected by galleries to tall towers at the north-west and north-east corners respectively, and from each of these towers long galleries extended southwards. It is not satisfactorily established whether these galleries were connected by other galleries on the south, separated by the Lesser Gate House, but it is conjectured\* that such was the case, and also that towers stood at the south-west and south-east corners. The rectangular area thus enclosed appears to have been divided into two quads or courts by the great hall and the leads or smaller galleries which extended east and west from it to the north and south galleries.

North and south courts were thus formed, the latter

\* That there is warrant for this conjecture is shewn by the fragments that remain and Symondson's map, which has been recently reproduced in *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. XXX.

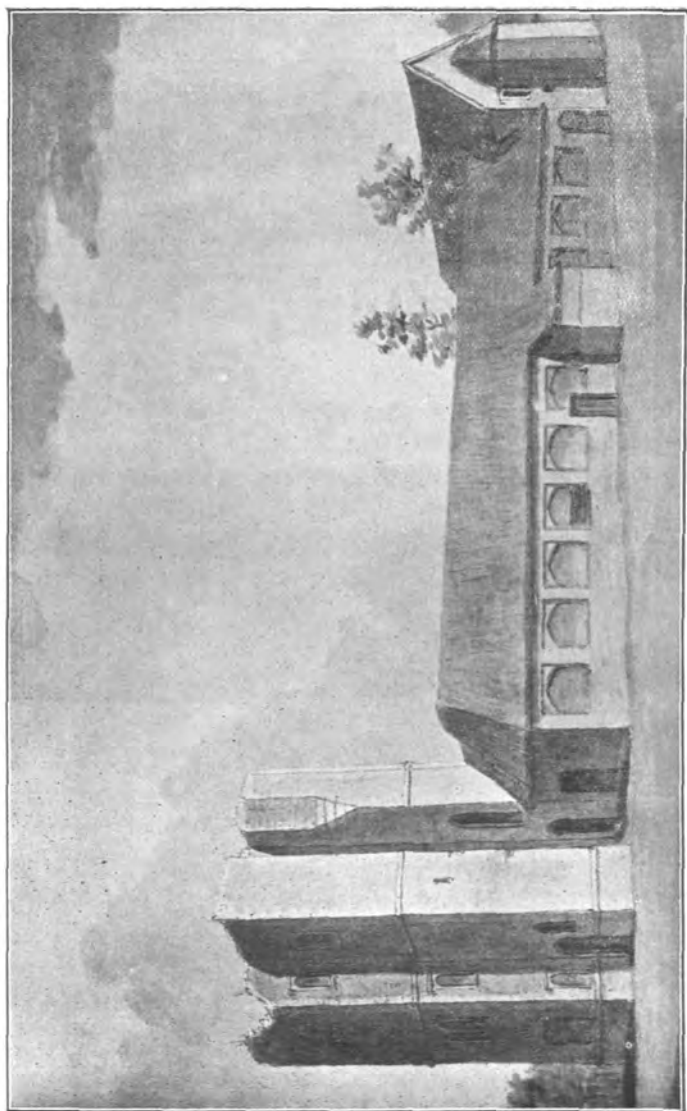
containing the living portion of the house with open galleries, and in it were the Great Chamber of Presence, The King's Privy Chamber, My Lady Mary's Chamber (subsequently Queen Mary), My Lady of Southfolk's Lodging, and the New Gallery. (These names were applied to the rooms, etc., after the Archbishop had exchanged the property.) Also the kitchen, the buttery, and the serving chambers at the east end of the hall, and close at hand was a school-room and chapel.

Two stone conduits, one in each court, conveyed water from east to west right through the house; these still exist. On the south side was the Privy Walk, a name which adheres to this day. The accompanying sketch plan, numbered 1, illustrates the foregoing remarks.

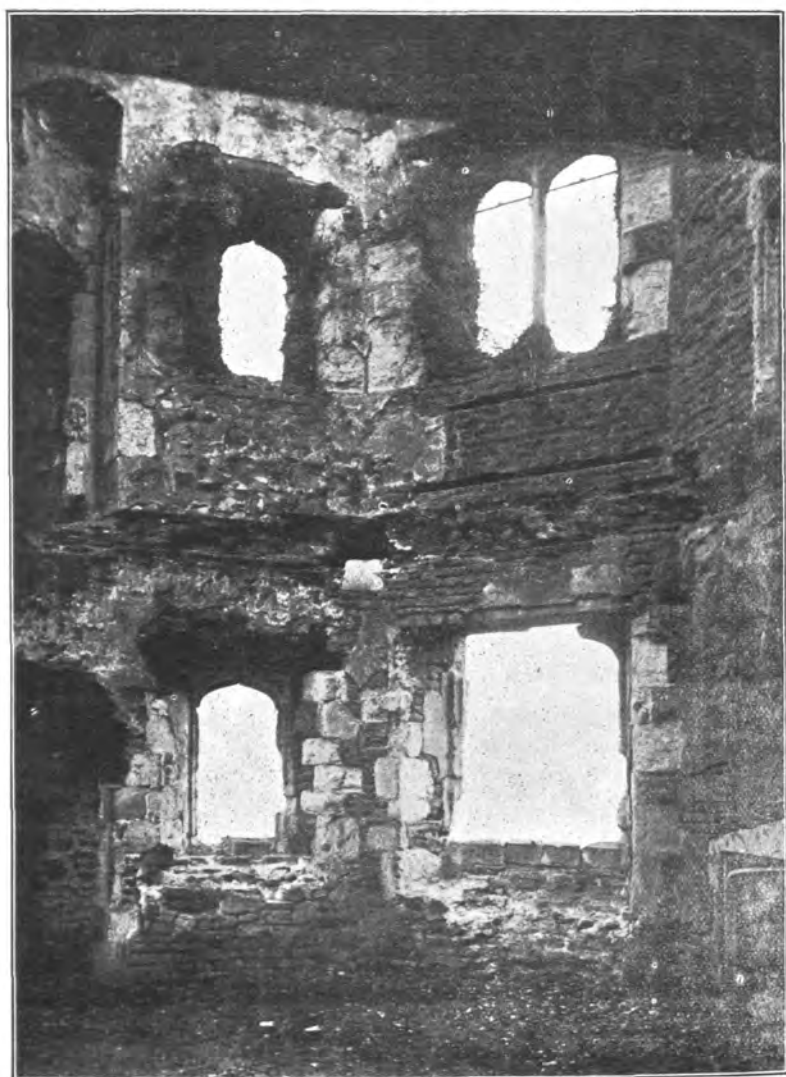
Such was the plan, which measures on the 25-inch Ordnance Survey about 440 ft. by 220 ft. The mansion would present the appearance of a long rectangular mass of red bricks of two floors resting upon a plinth of stone, a cluster of tall towers at each corner, a tiled roof, and projecting above a forest of those charming pieces of fancy, the twisted and graceful chimney of the Tudor period. The surface brickwork, in old English bond, was diversified by stone quoins and by a diamond-shaped network of dark brick relieved by two horizontal lines of stone-framed windows. The deficiency of 200 keys at the survey of 1573 affords some idea of the number of rooms in the house.

Of this stately house only the north-west tower, the lower floor of the north-west gallery, a small hall, and a portion of the outer wall of the south end are now in position. Illustration No. 2 is reproduced from a drawing made by Mr. H. Petrie about end of 18th century, and presents an excellent view of the actual remains of the house existing in his day, and No. 3 the ruin as it is to-day, an upper floor having been imposed upon the ground floor of the old gallery to form three cottages. The beautiful north end of a small hall at the end of the gallery is illustrated by picture No. 4. This hall is now used as a barn. Annexed to its south end is a small five-side tower, which was originally





No. 2.—SHEWING THE RUIN AT END OF 18TH CENTURY, AS DRAWN BY MR. PETTIE AND REPRODUCED  
IN PHOTOGRAPHY BY THE KENT COUNTY PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD AND SURVEY.



NO. 5.—SHEWING INTERIOR OF THE EXISTING MAIN TOWER.

one of the towerettes mentioned in the survey, and probably gave access to the galleries from the north quad by means of a spiral staircase.

The main tower has been gutted (illustration No. 5), but still shews traces of having contained three floors with doorways leading to the galleries. It is seven sided, with two towers adjoining, one which contained a spiral staircase leading to the various floors of the main tower and also giving access to the galleries, the other being apparently used as a "garde robe."

Of the artistry of the house there is not much evidence. The windows in stone are typical of the Tudor period, square hoods with plain lights (see illustration No. 4), and in illustration No. 2 the rubbed-brick windows which opened on to the north quad are shewn.

The tower still testifies to the oak panelling it once contained, and it is surmised that some of the panelling taken from the palace can be seen in the "Bull Inn" in the village. The same hostelry contains two Tudor fireplaces, and it is also possible that two more from the same source are preserved in the "Old Parsonage" in the village.

Above the fireplace in the "Bull Inn" are panels containing roundels of heads supposed to represent Henry VIII. and Ann Boleyn. I should rather suppose that if the carving of the lady was ever intended to represent a royal person it is more likely to have been Katherine of Arragon, both on the ground of the likeness, and because it is hardly likely that Warham, who was Katherine's counsellor, would have "hung" a portrait of her rival on his walls. They are also interesting, as they seem to bear witness to Germans or Italians having been employed on the ornamental work of the house, as was usual during the Renaissance period (see illustration No. 6).

As late as 1820 there was also in the same inn a chest with obscene carvings upon it, also said to have come out of the palace, and the late vicar (Dr. Hunt) possessed two fire dogs and an oak door (the latter he found in use as a garden frame), but all have been taken away.

The tower was gradually being disintegrated by ivy, but as this has now been cut it is hoped that the process has been stayed and that the 400 years of its existence will in consequence be further lengthened.

Such then is an account of the old house and its present condition, and it is curious that it never seems to have been mentioned in works on architecture, although in size, and especially its galleries, it would seem to have been a notable work of art in its period.

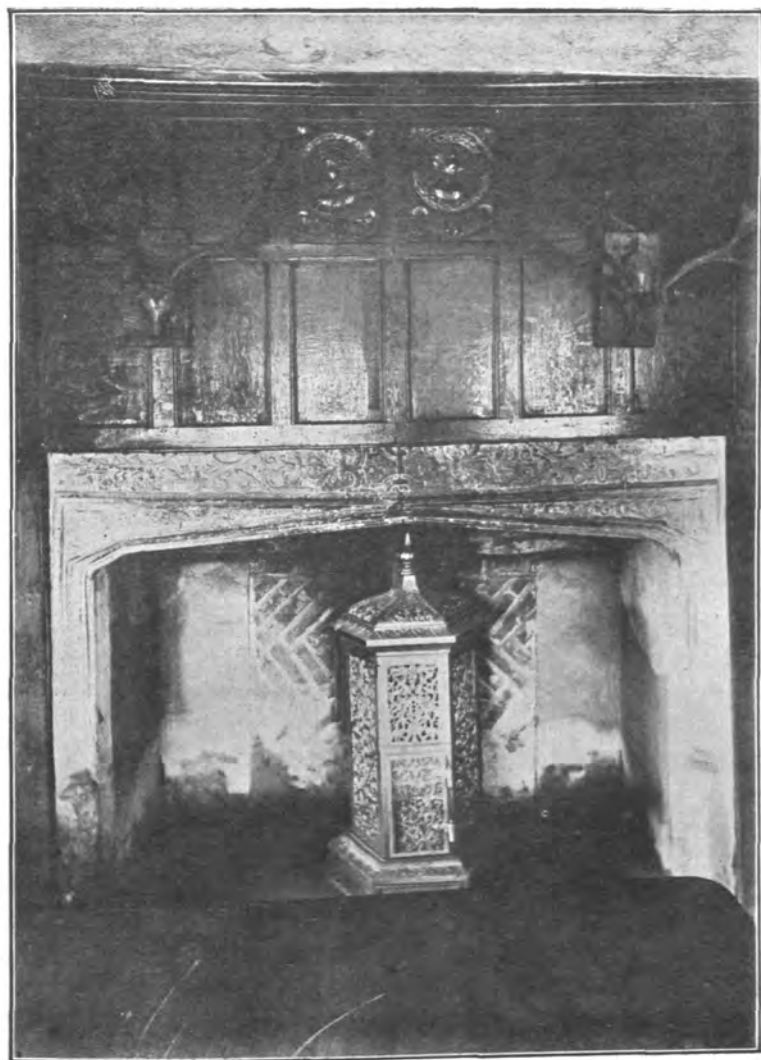
We now pass to the history of its decline.

Warham died in 1533 and the house passed to Cranmer, one of whose earliest duties there being to examine the famous "Nun of Kent," Elizabeth Barton. Later, when the exchange of the property with Henry VIII. had been mooted, he wrote to Wolsey on the 31st August 1537:—

"And concerning such lands of mine as the King's Highness is minded to have by exchange at Maidstone and Otford; Forsomuch as I am the man that has small experience in such causes, and have no mistrust at all in mine prince in that behalf, I wholly commit unto you to do therein for me as you shall be thought expedient, not doubting that you forsee as much for my commodity, as you would that I should do for you in such a like matter" (*Letters of Thomas Cranmer*, Parker Society, Edited by Cox).

The exchange was effected in 1537, and the following words of an eye-witness of the transaction exhibit so nice a picture of self-assertion and colossal selfishness on the part of Henry VIII. that it deserves extensive quotation:—

"I was by when Otteforde and Knole was gyven him (Henry VIII.)," wrote Ralph Morice. "My Lord Cranmer mynding to have retayned Knole unto himself, saied, that it is too small a house for his Majestie. 'Marye (saied the King), I had rather to have it than this house (meaning Otteforde), for it standith of a better soile. This house standith lowe and is rewmatike like unto Croydon where I colde never be without syeknes. And as for Knole it standith on a sounde parfainte holsome grounde. And if I should make myne abode here as I do suerlie minde to do nowe



NO. 6.—SHEWING FIREPLACE AND OAK PANELLING IN PARLOUR  
OF THE "BULL" INN, OTFORD.

NOTE ROUNDELS OF CARVED HEADS IN TOP PANELS.

and then, I myself will lye at Knole and most of my house shall lye at Otteforde.' And so by this means bothe these houses were delivered upp unto the Kinges handes, and as for Ottforde it is a notable greate and ample house, whose reparations yerlie stode my Lorde in more than wolde thinke."

The sequence shewed quite the opposite: he did rest at Otford, but never at Knole. Within ten years of Henry receiving the palace it was well advanced in decay, as is shewn in detail in Appendix I.

The next record is dated 1573, when Sir Henry Sydney (father of Sir Philip Sydney) made application to Elizabeth for possession of the palace.

Sydney desired to have in fee farm the Capital Mansion House, and was prepared to "enter into bonde and assurance to repayre, at his own charges, the said Mansion House and edifices thereto belonging which ys esteemed by the Survey will cost £1,868 16s. 2d., and the same by him so repayed to maintain for ever at his own charges for Hyr Majestie's access. So as he may be licensed to take down the Este Gallery and in place thereof to make two faire brick walls or stone walls" (*Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. V., p. 328).

This offer was based on a special survey made no doubt at the instance of Sydney in 1573 (see Appendix II. for survey). Nothing came of it.

The desire of Henry Sydney to possess the palace was inherited by his son Robert, and in 1596 another survey was made. Unfortunately, except the following, the entries regarding the house are illegible. The commissioners, Sir Thomas Fludde, Knight, Samson Lenord, Esq., George Goring, William Baylham, Robert Bosvile, and (name illegible) Willoughby, Esq., certified "in our opinions that if the saide house shoulde be repayed that nevertheles the same woylde not be fytt for Her Majestie to lye in, for that yt standeth in a very wett soyle uppou springes and vantes of water contynually ronninge under yt. And comonly the flowers (floors) and walls thereof in the winter are hoary and mustie. And besydes there are no woodes to any purpose uppou the saide manor. And they nothing nere

sufficente to ayer the saide house" (Exchequer K.R. Special Commission, No. 1165).

From this time it is clear that the place had deteriorated considerably, yet, notwithstanding, the eagerness of Sir Robert Sydney to possess the place was displayed in a regular outburst of epistolary appeal, thus—

On June 21, 1596, he wrote to Lord Burghley (Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, 1595—1597):—

"Pray move Her Majestie concerninge the ruinous condition of her Manor House at Otford. It will be seen by the certificate of Sir Thomas Fludde . . . in what state it then was, and it has since grown worse. I fear her Majestie will not be at the charge of repairing it, as your lordship thinks it is not worth it. If she were to bestow £1000 upon it, it would be but money lost; that sum would not make it fit for her to live in, and two or three years hence it would require mendinge again. If it is not wanted, it would be better to sell it to her use, while the timber and other things will yield money, than let it fall into utter ruin; in that case I and some friends would buy it.

"Otford being so near my house, I have long desired to have some estate in it, and once moved you in the matter and you wished I had it. I will buy it of the Queen, and rather than not satisfy her Majestie, if I may have a good estate in the Park, I will build a pretty house at my own charge, and keep it in repair so that she may dine there as she passes by. She is at nearly £20 a year charge as fees for the house and park. I would discharge her of that sum and give her a rent of £30 a year, so that Otford would be £50 more yearly to her more than before and she would save the money for the repairs which cannot be less than 4000 marks—£200 at least for the repair of the pales and rails of the park, and a £100 to keep it in order, the site being so wet and damp. I would take the timber in the Park at a valuation. I am in debt and must sell land if Her Majestie does not relieve me, although my greatest debts are merely growing from her service; yet I will not move anything unfit for her to give, for one to ask, or for

your Lordship to favour. I need help and desire some grace at Her Majestie's hands as living in her service, yet will not crave your Lordship to profer my name herein. I know it is not fit for you to move such suits, and that if you begin with me, you must end with a great many. I only beseech you to let Her Majestie know in what state her house is in, and give her your opinion what ought to be done."

On July 7, 1596, he wrote to Sir R. Cecil:—

\*"I humbly beseech you that it will please you to remember the matter of Otford to my Lord, your father, because I greatly desire that your Honour had spoken with him of it before his going into the country."

Again on October 22, 1596, he "reminds Cecil to further his suit for the lease of Otford. Has procured Sir John Fortescue to move it. The Queen likes well enough of it, and only stands to be certified of the decay of the house, the value of the Park, and the value of his offers; knowledge of which she has willed Fortescue to give her. Prays Cecil to second the suit."

The begging failed, as on August 16, 1601, Lord Buckhurst wrote to Lord Cobham "that Her Majestie has utterly refused to pass Otford, and with much ado was your purchase obtained, *i.e.*, Canterbury Park" (State Papers, Dom. Series).

These matters remained at an apparent standstill; but other events were at work in the interest of the Sydneys, and that which their eloquence and importunity failed to produce was forthcoming owing to the Irish question of that age. It is an interesting point in the story of the old village of Otford and its manor that they should have played a not unimportant rôle in the Irish question 300 years ago. Two thousand soldiers were to be sent to Ireland, and as they would want food the problem of supply arose. It is not to be wondered at that in view of the lively activities of the Sydneys the Treasury of the day could forget that Otford might be utilized in obtaining the

\* Cecil MS., Part vi., Hist. MS. Com.



necessary funds, and so we find Lord Buckhurst recommending Cecil to "move her Majestie, if it please you, as from me, for the sale of Otford and Dartford Houses, which brings £3000 of present money and saves £3000 more to Her Majestie. For this victualling requires great sums" (Salisbury MS., vol. xi.).

The necessities of the State thus gave the Sydneys their chance, and the old manor and its house passed permanently into private hands.

Thereupon the property was transferred to Sir Robert Sydney by Patent on November 5, 1601. Already he was the keeper of the chief messuage or mansion of the manor and of the Great Park, receiving

As Keeper of the house 2*d.* daily,

„ „ „ gardens 4*d.* daily,

„ „ „ Great Park £6 13*s.* 4*d.* yearly,

and upon payment of £2000 the Queen granted to him the capital messuage or mansion, all buildings, barns, stables, etc., adjacent thereto, the soil on which the premises stood, etc., the Great Park, the herbage, pannage, and soil thereof, three lodges therein, the deer and wild animals, etc., to be held of the Crown in chief for the 40th part of a knight's fee and the yearly rent of £30. The fees for the keepership were no longer to be paid, though again granted to the Sydney family by Patent, 11 Jas. I., Pt. 30. Further particulars regarding the keepership are detailed in Appendix III.

Sometime between 1601 and 1625 the Sydneys, having disparted the Great Park, transferred their own interests and also those of the Crown to Sir Thomas Smith and one Nicholas Crispe and to the heirs of the former for ever, "comveying and assuring the scite of the manor of Otford with the appurtenances, 3 messuages, 2 tofts, a dovecote, 3 gardens, 300 acres of land, 200 acres of meadow, 500 acres of pasture, and 100 acres of wood, with appurtenances in Otford." By his will, January 31, 19 Jas. I., Sir T. Smith bequeathed the property to his nephews Thomas Smith, Sir John Smith, John Smith, and Thomas Fanshawe (Inquisi-

tions Post-mortem, Charles I., Chancery Series, vol. ii., p. 154). Hasted's statement that this property was conveyed by James I. in his 12th year to Sir Thos. Smith is apparently incorrect, as in the document quoted it is definitely stated that the Sydneys conveyed to Smith. Moreover, one Crutenden, steward of the Sydney family, records the sum of £9000 as having been received from Smith by the sale (see *Antiquarian Repertory*).

The extent of land covered by this transaction is not quite clear, but a glance at Symondson's map, referred to above, shews that a paling fence enclosed a large area of land. By the survey of 1596 this must have represented the Great Park, or that part of it which was enclosed, the contents being 70 antler deer, 236 raskale deer, and 150 does, and the area in sandy ground 180 acres, woodland and bush 60 acres, chalk lands on the north-east 80 acres, moorish ground 40 acres, meadow ground 5 acres, and the land about the house and lodge 60 acres.

At this point the public records cease to convey further information, and I am indebted to Mr. Herbert Knocker for writing the following particulars, drawn, by the kind permission of the Earl Amherst, from the Amherst muniments, bringing the story, so far as concerns the mutations in the ownership of the manor and Great Park are concerned, down to the present day.

In the year 1705 Henry Smythe, who had then become possessed of the whole estate, after his marriage with his wife Elizabeth, conveyed the property to trustees with a view to securing the enjoyment of the property for himself for life, thereafter to his wife if she should survive him, the ultimate trust being in favour of their son Sidney Stafford Smythe in strict settlement. In this deed we get a good detailed description of the property, which by this time had been split up into three farms, called the Great Lodge of Otford Park in Otford and Kemsing 207 acres, the Place Farm in Otford and Kemsing 190 acres, and Greatness Farm in Sevenoaks, Seal, and Kemsing 257 acres. The total is 734 acres, and doubtless approximately represented the

original Great Park of Otford surrendered by Cranmer to the Crown as above stated. The whole lay practically in a ring fence, the boundaries being: on the north Otford Village Street, on the east the road known as the Pilgrims' Road, on the west the main road from Sevenoaks to Otford, while the southern boundary lay along the Maidstone Road, continuing to within a short distance to the north of Seal Church and the Back Lane leading over Childs Bridge to Kemsing Village.

In 1732 Sidney Stafford Smythe acquired his mother's life interest, and shortly afterwards married Sarah, the elder daughter of Sir Charles Farnaby of Kippington, the whole estate being in 1735 strictly settled on the husband and wife and the issue of the marriage.

By his will, made in 1733 and proved, with many codicils, on November 18, 1778, Sir Sidney, as he then was, devised the estate to his wife Lady Sarah, he having died a childless man. Lady Sarah died in 1790, having by her will bequeathed the estate to trustees upon trust for sale. It is interesting to note that she expressly left £300 to her late husband's heir-at-law, Lionel Smythe, Lord Viscount Strangford, on condition that he should release her late husband's estates from any claim he might have. This he did the same year.

In the meanwhile the trustees had offered the property for sale by public auction, and shortly after, by deed dated December 9, 1790, they conveyed the two northern farms to Robert Parker for £20,128, the Greatness portion going to a separate purchaser. The property is described as "the Farm commonly called The Great Lodge of Otford Park" and "the Farm called The Place Farm," with 48 fields, of which the most suggestive names seem to be "The Green Deer Lodge," the Knave's Corner, Morton Mead, the Privy Walk, Beckett's Well Piece, and Great Butt Field. The total acreage given is 439, and this lay in Otford, Kemsing, Seal, and Sevenoaks parishes. "The Ruins of the Ancient Castle and Palace of Otford" are expressly included in the Place Farm.

Robert Parker died in 1837, and under his will and partial intestacy the property devolved on his widow's death upon his cousins of the Marchant and Knight families, amongst whom it became split up into a considerable number of different interests, and who in the year 1844 sold the whole to The Right Hon. William Pitt, Earl Amherst. The estate was described as amounting to 439 acres, and, as before, expressly included "the ruins of the ancient Castle and Palace of Otford."

Thereafter the construction of the Chatham Railway and its branch to Sevenoaks somewhat cut up the estate, with the not unnatural result that the portions to the east of the Chatham Line have now been added to the Beechy Lees Estate, while other portions to the southward have passed into other hands. The ruins, however, and that portion of the farm which immediately surrounds them, continue to remain in the ownership of the successive Earls Amherst, and are now in the ownership of The Right Hon. Hugh, the present Earl, who is also Lord of the Manor or Prepositure of Otford and the owner of the outlying estate called Whitley Forest in the parishes of Chevening and Sevenoaks, which from the very earliest existing records appears to have always formed part of the demesne lands of the Manor of Otford.

Such then is the story of the palace and the Great Park. Two noticeable features connected with it are:—

(1) The relatively few hands through which it has passed from the eighth century, when it constituted part of a kind of "conscience money" paid by the conquering King Offa of Mercia to Christ Church, Canterbury, for the lives slaughtered in the battle at Ottonford in 773. Then about 1070 Lanfranc attached it to the Archbishopric until 1537, when the Crown resumed possession by exchange for other property. With a slight exception of a few years during the time of Henry VIII. and Edward VI., when the Duke of Northumberland possessed it, the State retained its hold until 1601, when, under the pressure of the Irish question, the property passed

finally into private hands. Thus during a period of 1221 years it had been transferred only ten times.

(2) The ruins are known as "The Castle." The origin of this term cannot be traced, but it is an interesting speculation whether the name is purely fanciful in origin because of the castellar appearance of an ivy-mantled ruin, or whether it does not possess a more solid basis, tracing its descent from primitive times when a defensive mound or earthwork may have existed, and especially during the anarchical struggle of our Saxon forefathers for an unified England. At that time Otford was an important strategic point in the defence of Kent, and especially from attack from the west, and the existence of a defensive work is not improbable.

I am indebted to Mr. Youens, Dartford, for the photographs reproduced, except No. 2.

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## APPENDIX I.

EXTRACT FROM A SURVEY MADE BY WILLIAM HYDE  
2 EDWARD VI. (Exchequer Records, Bundle  $\frac{497}{4}$ .)

The greate Halle being stated to be greatly yn decaye, in defaulte of leade for coveryinge of the same, by reason whereof the timber is rotten and the stone work yn many places readye to fall downe.

Also one gallerye at the upper end of the same halle besyde the seller, being all in decaye, so that the tymber and the stone worke thereof are fallen downe and nothing worth.

Also, two Chambers there, th'one called the Greate Chamber of Presence, and the other the King's Privye Chamber, being in greate decay in default of leade for the coveryinge and pypes of spouts of the same, so that the timber and stonework thereof are rotten, and ready to fall; and also the glass about the same is broken and fallen downe.

Also, the Queen's Privy Chamber and the other lodging thereto adjoining, being in like decay in default of leade for coveryinge by reason whereof the timber work in most places is rotten and ready to fall and the glass of the same chamber is rotten and fallen downe.

Also, two other chambers of lodging there, the one called "My Ladye Mary's Chamber" and the other "My Lady of Southfolk's lodging," being likewise yn decay yn default of leade for the coveringe and spouts and pypes for the same.

Also, the Pages' Chambers being in like decay yn default of leade for the coveryinge and also pypes and spouts for the same and the glass of the same chamber broken and fallen downe.

Also, one gallery called the "Newe Gallery" being likewise yn decaye yn default of leade for coveringe and pypes for the same.

Also, one little gallery between the great gallery and the kitchen being yn like decay in defaulte of leade for the gutters and also on the south part of the same building so that the timbers and stones there are rotten and like to fall downe.

Also, between the Greate Kitchen and the Privy Kitchen are divers small gutters much in decay and ruin in default of leade for the same.

Also, one gallery at the South East end of the Great Gate House is also in decay in default of leade for coveryinge of the same so that the timber work is rotton and the glasse thereof broken and fallen in pieces.

Also, one Gallery at the South West end of the Great Gate House, this being likewise in decay in default of leade for the coverying of the same so that the timber work there is rotton and the glass thereof broken and fallen yn pieces.

Also, one Little Gate House there, containing in length 46 feet, in breadth 28 feet, being almost uncovered in default of tiling, etc.

Also, one Barn, containing in length viii feet and breadth 40 feet, being uncovered in default of tyle.

Estimate for all repairs £106 14s. 0d.

APPENDIX II.

EXCHEQUER K.R. SPECIAL COMMISSIONS, KENT, No. 1100.

Date April 1573.

By virtue of a Royal Commission to Thomas Wotton, Esquire, George Multon, Esquire, William Lambarde, Esquire, Lewis Stockwith, Surveyor of the Works, and Thomas Fludde, Surveyor of all the Royal Honours, Castles, etc., in Kent, to survey the Mansion House of the Manor of Otford and the adjoining buildings, and to consider the necessary repairs, their statement to be sent in to the exchequer by the morrow of the Holy Trinity next, dated 21st April 15 Elizabeth. Inquest taken at Otford on 27 and 29 April 15 Elizabeth on the oath of David Polhill, John Wolffe, Richard . . . se (?), Robert Kywyn, John Browne, John Gylman, William Chapman, Sen., William Chapman, junior, John Walter, William Evesdowne, Henry Boston, Roland Christian, John Christian, Richard Fylder, Paul Walter, John Campe, James Wood, William Mylles, Thomas Wolfe, John Sone, and John Wickenden.

Fyrst, we fynde and present the pryncypall £ s. d.  
 Gatehouse being the north side of the house con-  
 teyninge three Rouffes and a small gallerye on  
 either side. The decays thereof . . . of chymneys,  
 Doores, halpaces and stayers, mendinge of flowers  
 (floors), plasteringe and other necessaries, the  
 repaire thereof will cost . . . . . 23 14 0

Item, from the saide gatehouse . . . . small gal-  
 leryes upon the westsyde, one Towre conteyning  
 three storyes. The decay therein ys the leades,  
 coyne, vent (loophole in embattled wall), and crest  
 (ridge of roof or ornament on top), chymney, stayers,  
 halpaces (landing on stairs), soyles of wyndowes,  
 plastering and other necessaries, the repaire thereof  
 will cost . . . . . 13 6 8

Item, one longe gallerye from the said Towre  
 southwards with lodgings adjoining upon the west  
 side of the same. The decays is gutters and pypes

of leade, tylinge, plasteringe, pavinge and newe £ s. d.  
 beams and ankers with other necessaries, the repare  
 will cost . . . . . 150 0 0

But rather yf hyr Highness so please to have yt  
 taken downe and newe buylded.

Item, from the gatehouse and small galleries  
 estward one Towre three stories high, the decaies  
 thereof is leade, vent and crest, plastering and  
 other necessaries. The repair thereof will cost . 2 10 0

Item, one longe gallerye from the sayde Towre  
 southward with ix lightes upon the estsyde thereof.  
 The decays thereof ys gutters, pypes of leade,  
 tylinge, newe beames and flowers to be layde,  
 plasteringe and other necessaryes. The repair  
 thereof will cost . . . . . 100 0 0

Item, one gallery leadinge from the foresaid  
 gallerye to the estende of the Hall, with the leades  
 between yt and the grene gallerye, and under that  
 ys the Buttrye, prevye kitchen, surveying place,  
 scullerye and larder. The decays ys the leads,  
 pypes, tylinge, vent and crest plasteringe and other  
 necessaryes. The repaire thereof will cost . 100 0 0

Item, the Hall, the extende thereof, the wall to  
 be taken downe to the grownde and newe made.  
 The Buttresses uppon the southsyde being iiiii  
 whereof iii ys to be coped, taken downe and enlarged  
 to the jame of a wyndow, with a beame and ankers  
 for the staye of the west end and a stone wyndow  
 in the same end. Tylinge, Shinglinge, plasterynge  
 and other necessaries. The repair thereof will  
 cost . . . . . 108 0 0

Item, the leads over the Grete Chamber, with  
 leades south and north from the same over sondrye  
 lodgings and iii Towers adjoining thereunto with  
 leade rouffes. The decays thereof ys the leads,  
 gutters, pypes, and crest shaftes of chymneis, and  
 setting new postes under the flowers of the Grete  
 Chamber, plasteringe and other necessaryes will cost 52 0 0



Item, the leades over the presence and privye Chamber with ii Towrettes adjoining thereunto with sundry lodgings under them. The decays thereof ys the gutters, the leades and pypes, shaftes of chymneis, lyntells and soyles of wyndowe, pavynge, plasteringe, flowers and partions with other necessaries, will cost . . . . . 250 0 0

Item, the leades of the Grene Gallerye and leads adjoining to the Hall at the West ende with certeyne lodgings under them. The decays thereof ys leade gutters, pypes, vent and crest, goyste and burdinge, plastering and other necessaryes. The repaire thereof will cost . . . . . 70 0 0

Item, a schole house buttinge uppon the Grete Chamber, the Grounde to be levelled and pavyd will cost . . . . . 5 0 0

Item, the lodgyng at the est end of the Hall over the scullerye, pantyre and surveyinge place, two stone walls to be taken downe and newe made. The decays ys the leads, gutters and pypes, tylinge and bourdinge of flowers, plasteringe and other necessaryes with a new buttress will cost . . . . . 70 0 0

Item, the Chappell Ruffe, moste part thereof to be newe shingled, the wardrobe under yt to be new joisted, burded and a new prycke poste, a stone hall with a wyndow to be newe made, plasteringe with other necessaryes will cost . . . . . 50 0 0

Item, a flatte Ruffe with a Towret uppon the South syde of the Chappell and the lodginge under the same. The decaies thereof ys leads, gutters, pypes, vent, and crest, lyntelles and soyles of wyndowes, plasteringe with other necessaryes will cost . . . . . 20 0 0

Item, uppon the south parte of the Hall a courte wheryn ys sondrye lodgings with open galleries, and a Towre of thre storyes highe. The decays ys the leades, ruffes, gutters and pypes, vent and creste, shaftes of chymneis, halpaces, underpyninges of

particions, levelynge of flowers, plasteringe and other necessarys. The repayre thereof will coste 200 0 0

Item, the Great Kytchyn, the Pastrye, two weate larders and iiii drye with chambers over them, the decayes of the walles, tylinge, plastering and other necessaryes the repayre thereof will coste . . . . . 50 0 0

Item, the pale about the wood yarde beeing viii rodds with a shade over the roning (p) to be newe repayred will cost . . . . . 13 0 0

Item, the plate, lockes and keys lackinge aboute the pryvye lodgings and galleryes to the number of two hundred with bolttes, handles and casementes will cost . . . . . 100 0 0

Item, there wanteth of newe glasse aboute the whole house m'm'viic and new settinge of olde with leade will coste . . . . . 19 0 6

Item, there wanteth in the other lodgynges and offices, shuttinges of doores and windowes, hookes, hynge, bolttes, upright barres and lockettes for wyndowe with stocke lockes and other yron workes will cost . . . . . 7 18 4

Item, the vaultes of stone and bricke that conveyeth the water frome the house to be repayred with newe sluces, square curbess, newe shuttinges and the paving of . . . . with a synke for the waste water. The repayre thereof will cost . . . . . 25 0 0

Item, the pale about the privy walkes some rayles and pale wantith with . . . . postes and new gates. The repayre thereof will cost . . . . . 22 0 0

Item, the conduyte house or well conteyning in length xxxvi foote and in breadeth xix fote to be taken downe and newe sett upp will coste . . . . . 30 0 0

Item, the pypes conveyinge the water from thence to the offices and small sestrens to be amended will cost . . . . . 13 0 4

Item, a colehouse and poultrye to be newe buylded beinge more decayed will coste . . . . . 30 0 0

Item, a barne conteyninge in length ciiii foote, £ s. d.  
 in breadthe xl foote, wantith Postes, groundselles,  
 underpynning, rafter bourds, tylinge, and other  
 necessaries. The repayre thereof will coste . 35 0 0

Item, a gatehouse of tymber and a stable on the  
 west syde wantith tylinge, plasteringe, gystes and  
 planks. The repayre thereof will coste . 20 0 0

Item, a stable on the est syde of the same gate-  
 house to be newe buylded, very lyttle remayneth  
 but the fowndacion. The buyldinge thereof will  
 coste . . . . . 50 0 0

Then follow the signatures of the Commissioners :—

GEORGE MULTON,  
 WILLIAM LAMBARDE,  
 LEWYS STOCKWITH,  
 THOMAS FLUDDE.

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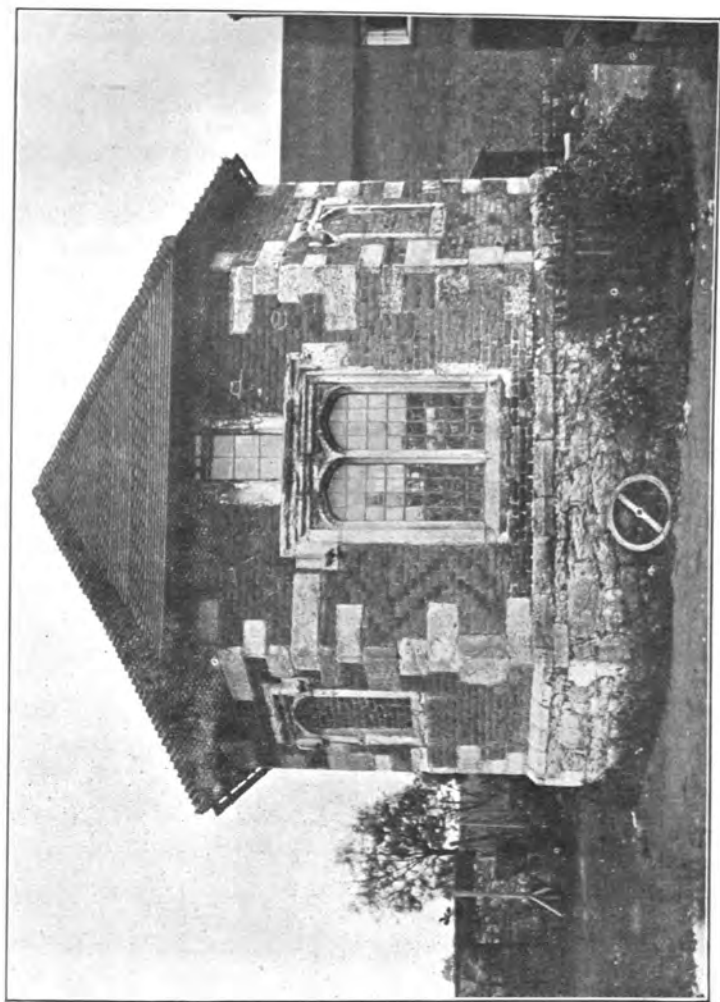
### APPENDIX III.

#### THE KEEPERSHIP OF THE PARK AND MANOR.

These offices, with that of Bailiff of the Manor, was of old standing, and with the kind help of Mr. Arthur Hussey numerous appointments during the mediæval period can be stated.

The first record available dates from 1385, with the appointment of Henry Parker “for his good services as the Keeper of our Park of Otteford, during the life of the same Henry Parker, having for the same 2<sup>d</sup> daily from the rent and income of the Manor of Otteford, and one robe of livery at the Feast of Nowel of the suite of our yeoman from us and our successors.”

Such were the terms of the appointment, and which held their ground right down to the last appointment made by the last Archbishop holding the property, except that in a later appointment it is made clear that the two pence daily



No. 4 — NORTH END OF "HALL" NOW EXISTING.

was made up of one penny from the Archbishop's revenues and one penny from "the fermer of our Manor of Otteforde."

Besides the keepership of the park, there was also a keepership of the manor, held usually by a different person, but also with a wage of 2<sup>d</sup> daily. In this case, however, some detail of the duties were given in the brevet of appointment, thus: Robert Butt villeyn "our sergeant or servient" (one part of the manor was known as Sergeants Otford or Otford Stuyens) "for his good services to us and our Church of Canterbury, the office of Keeper of our Manor of Otteford, with the fish ponds, gardens, and pigeon house there belonging to the same manor." This functionary was, apparently, the manager or bailiff of the estate. The wage remained at 2<sup>d</sup> daily until the time of Archbishop Warham, who raised it to 4<sup>d</sup> daily in consequence of the increased responsibility arising out of his enlargement of the buildings and extension of the grounds.

One curious feature of these appointments, as also of leases of the property of the demesne, was that the consent of the Prior and Monastery of Christ Church, Canterbury, was required for each transaction, but why this was so is not quite clear.

The following is a list of holders of these appointments between 1385 and the first appointment made by Henry VIII. The word in brackets signifies whether the holder was keeper of the park or of the manor:—

- |       |                     |          |   |
|-------|---------------------|----------|---|
| 1385. | Henry Parker        | [Park].  |   |
| 1412. | John Rougsthawke    | [Park].  |   |
| 1441. | John More           | [Manor]. |   |
| 1461. | Robert Butt villeyn | [Manor]  | } The same man apparently held both appointment for some time concurrently. |
| 1467. | Robert But vilen    | [Park]   |   |
| 1479. | Peter Parker        | [Park]   |   |
| 1486. | John Bosum          | [Manor]. |   |
| 1495. | Peter Parker        | [Manor]. |   |
| 1500. | John Michill        | [Park].  |   |

1500. George Guston [Manor].  
 1505. Anthony Sentleger [Park].  
 1518. John Palmer [Park].  
 1526. George Guston [Manor]. On this occasion wages increased to 4<sup>d</sup> daily because of increased responsibilities as noted above.  
 1530. Reginald Peckham [Park].

In addition to the officers named there was also a bailiff, John Alfegh occupying the post in 1475, and in 1500 Edward Ferrers was named bailiff of "Hotford in Kent by himself or efficient deputy during his life at wages of 4<sup>d</sup> daily and the other accustomed fees of that Office." In 1527 no less a person than Thomas Boleyn, knight, Viscount Rocheford, and father of Anne Boleyn, wife of Henry VIII., is recorded as bailiff with 4<sup>d</sup> per diem wages. In 1537, when Henry VIII. became possessor and the Manor an "Honor," it would appear that these offices all merged in a quite grandiose appointment of a Court Official, as, according to Hasted, Sir Richard Longe was granted by especial favour of Henry VIII. the offices of Keeper of his capital messuage or mansion of Otford, and the offices of High Steward and Bailiff of the honor of Otford, and Keeper of his woods and other profits belonging to the same, during his natural life; with the power of appointing deputies of the said several offices; as also the separate fees and wages following, viz.:—

Keeper of the said capital messuage	. 2 <sup>d</sup> per day.
Keeper of the gardens and orchards	. 4 <sup>d</sup> per day.
High Steward of the honor	. £6 13 4
Bailiff of the manor and Keeper of the woods	. 2 <sup>d</sup> per day.
Keeper of the King's two parks	. 4 <sup>d</sup> per day.
Under Steward of the honor, view of frankpledge and the courts and law days of the same	. £6 per annum.