

HALES PLACE AT HACKINGTON AND ITS PREDECESSORS.

BY SURGEON-CAPTAIN K. H. JONES, M.B., R.N.

ABOUT the year 1227 Archbishop Stephen Langton made his brother, Simon, Archdeacon of Canterbury, and built for him, or helped him to build, a residence at Hackington, near the city, and there he went to live, and apparently continued to do so at intervals until the end of his long life.

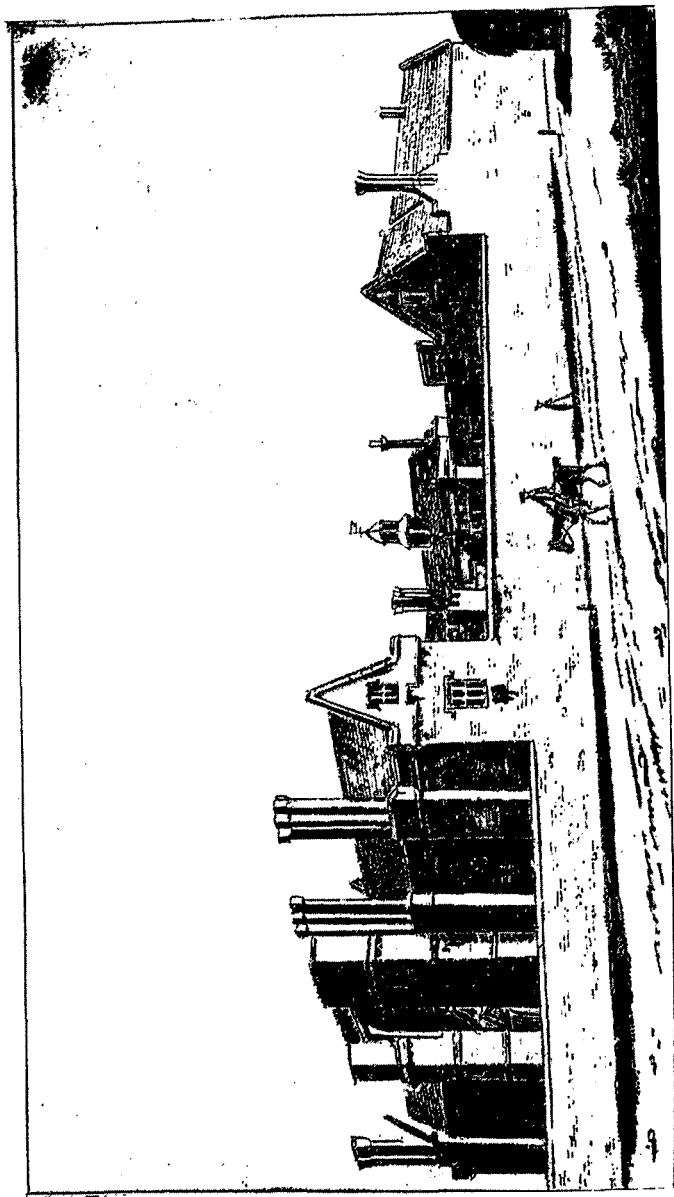
At the same time the Archbishop, or his brother, greatly enlarged and partially rebuilt the Church of St. Stephen at Hackington.¹

Of the house of this pre-Reformation Archdeacon of Canterbury no trace remains, unless it be some pieces of carved stone found buried in the grounds of the present Rectory. No doubt it was a pretentious and not very comfortable building in the Early English style, and in it there lived successive archdeacons for some three hundred years. In this house died two Archbishops, Arundel on February 19th, 1414, and Warham—the last archbishop before the Reformation—on August 23rd, 1533. As so often happened, these archbishops in each case were nearly related to the contemporary archdeacons.

At the Reformation the house and estate of the archdeacons fell into the hands of the Crown, and eventually, about the year 1562, Queen Elizabeth presented them to Sir Roger Manwood, whose name is so largely connected with Hackington towards the end of the 16th century.

When the archdeacon's house fell into Sir Roger Manwood's hands he found it in a very ruinous condition and he therefore decided to build it up again "in a manner suitable to his condition" as he expressed it.

¹ See *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. XLIV., pp. 253 *et seq.*



SIR ROGER MANWOOD'S HOUSE AT HACKINGTON.
From a drawing, in the possession of Dr. F. William Cock, by Francis Grose, F.S.A., 1759.

The illustration of this house is from a drawing made in 1759 by Francis Grose, F.S.A., and is almost certainly the only existing picture of the mansion originally built by Sir Roger Manwood. It is obvious from this drawing that Sir Roger did not repair, or extend, the old house which had stood for some three hundred and fifty years at Hackington, but erected an entirely new building in the style of the latter part of the 16th century. Why Francis Grose took his picture from the viewpoint selected and put in the foreground a long and ugly piece of straight wall, and where exactly in relation to the present lay-out of land and buildings the road in front of the said wall lay, is not clear at present. The original of this drawing belongs to Dr. F. W. Cock, F.S.A., of Appledore, by whose kindness it is here reproduced.

In this house the old people who inhabited Sir Roger Manwood's Almshouses hard by met each Sunday to have their mid-day dinner, and in this house lived Sir Roger himself and his son and grandson, Sir Peter and Sir John, after him.

Sir Peter was apparently very lavish and spent in entertaining much of the fortune which came to him from his father. He was a man of learning and he loved company, and no doubt he left his son, Sir John Manwood, far from well off. In any case, some time before his death in 1642, Sir John Manwood sold the place to Sir Thomas Colepepper, who had been Lieutenant of Dover Castle.

From Sir Thomas Colepepper the house and estate descended to his son, also named Thomas. The name of the house appears on an unexecuted deed of 1643 as St. Stephen's House. The second Thomas Colepepper had a rather wild and curious career. He married secretly a daughter of Lord Frecheville of Staveley in Derbyshire, and he became deeply involved in litigation about certain estates sold by his wife's father to the Earl of Devonshire, which sale Colepepper tried to get set aside. His legal expenses obliged Colonel Thomas Colepepper to sell the house and estate to Sir John Hales of Tunstall in 1675.



Drawn by T. M. Baynes.]

HALE[S] PLACE, NEAR CANTERBURY, KENT.

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[Engraved by H. Wallis.]



ST. MARY'S (JESUIT) COLLEGE.
Built on to Hales Place: Demolished 1928.

The Hales family retained possession of the old house until, in 1759, Sir Edward Hales thought fit to build himself and his successors the mansion known thenceforth as Hales Place, which stood on rising ground a little to the north of the old Place House. The new mansion being built, Sir Edward proceeded to pull down the old house, which Hasted in his *History of Kent* states stood close to the west end of the church.

When, a few months ago, the foundations were being dug for some shops at the side of the present drive and close to the west end of the church, the writer saw some foundations laid bare which, from the character of the bricks, were almost certainly those of a Tudor building, and there can be little doubt that they represented the remains of Manwood's "Great" or Place House.

Hales Place, of which a reproduction of an engraving, dated 1830, is given herewith, remained in the possession of the Hales family until late in the nineteenth century, the last representative being an old Miss Hales. The baronetcy became extinct in 1829.

Of this Mansion, Cousins, in his *Tour*, says that "if ever it be finished, it will be more fit for the residence of a monarch than for a simple country gentleman".

Sir Edward Hales, in the eighteenth century, introduced the famous, or infamous, impostor Cagliostro to his house to paint frescoes for him, but later he found the Italian on too tender terms with his daughter, and turned him out.

After Miss Hales died, Hales Place fell into the hands of the Jesuits, who built on to the original house very largely, for use as a College. They also built a Chapel, and this much-extended edifice is shown in our last illustration.

The Jesuits left in 1928, and the house and estate fell into speculative hands, and now Hales Place and St. Mary's College, as the Jesuits called their extension, have been swept away and have followed the Archdeacon's House and Manwood's Place House into oblivion.

In view of the rapidity with which the whole estate has now changed its character, for it is covered with modern houses, and in view of the ease with which things are forgotten, it seemed good to the writer to put on record, however briefly and incompletely, these few notes and the three illustrations which accompany them.