

G O D E B Y,

in ancient writings called *Gawdeby*, *Gauteby*, *Gutby*, *Gouteby*, *Gowteby*, *Gouteby* *Quatremars*, and *Gaudeby* *Maureward* (the two last additions being from the names of early owners), is bounded on the North by Eastwell; on the East by Waltham; on the South by Scalford, Caldwell, and Wykeham; and on the West by Long Claxton.

It is situated about six miles distant from Melton Mowbray, the nearest market-town; 20 from Leicester; and, in the ecclesiastical division of the county, is within the deanry of Framland.

Godeby was held in the time of Edward the Confessor by *Leuric*, the son of *Leuin*, with the privileges of *rac* and *foe*; and at the time of the general survey was returned as a member of the manor of Melton, then held by *Gaisfrid de Wirce*, and containing six ploughlands and ten acres of meadow¹.

A moiety of this manor the Conqueror gave to *William Peverell*.

Sir Nicholas de Verdun had some property here, at least he possessed the advowson, in 1221².

The next family whom we find here are the *Bassets*³.

By an inquisition taken after the battle of Evesham, 1265, it was found that *Ralph Basset*, then slain, was possessed of a moiety of the manor of Gauteby, worth annually 18 marks; and that *John Tibetoft* took seisin, and the rent thereof for the quarter due at Michaelmas, being 4 marks and a half⁴.

The next possessors were the ancient family of *Quatremars*, lords of Overton Quatremars (now Coleorton) in this county; and in the Testa de Nevill, Gauteby Quatremars is described, about 1240, as consisting of nine ploughlands; and paid 6s. towards the sheriff's aid; 2s. for suit, and 4s. for frankpledge.

Sir Adam de Quatremars, the last male of the family, left an only daughter *Ada*, who brought this lordship, by marriage, in the latter end of the reign of king Henry III. to *Geoffrey Maureward*⁵.

In the Itinerary of 1280, Godeby, Eastwell, Eyton, and Braunston, answered collectively as one vill.

In 1295, *Elizabeth* (the wife of *John de Albini*) died seised of five virgates of land in Guthby, which were held of Master *William de Bois*; and were worth 20s. 1½d. a year. *Hugh de Busby*, son and heir of the said Elizabeth, was then of full age⁶.

In 1301, *William de Maureward* died seised of half a knight's fee in Gouteby, which he held of Roger de Moubray, deceased⁷.

The abbot and convent of *Croxton* had an annual rent of 20d. from a toft and croft in this township,

demised by them to *William de Beruby* and *Hingusa* his wife.

"Habemus in Gouteby annum redditum 20d. recipiendum ad duos terminos, scilicet, ad Pascha 10d. & ad Mich' 10d. de Wilielmo de Beruby & Hingusa uxore sua, & heredibus eorum, pro uno tofto & crofto, cum edificiis, que ipsi & heredes sui tenent de nobis per circographum; pro omni servicio, salvo forinseco; ita quod non liceat eisdem heredibus dictum toftum cum crofto dare, vendere, &c. sine licentia⁸."

In 1343, *Ralph Basset*, of Drayton, died seised of a third part of one knight's fee in Gouteby, which *John de Maureward* then held⁹.

In 1346, *William de Maureward*, on the aid then granted for knighting Edward of Woodstock, the king's eldest son, was assessed 20s. for half a knight's fee lying in Goadby, parcel of the fee of Basset¹⁰.

In the same year, *John de Maureward* died seised of a moiety of the manor of Gouteby, which he held of Joan, relict of *Ralph Basset* the elder, by the service of half a knight's fee, and paying 6s. per annum, towards the warding of Rockingham castle; and *William de Maureward* was his son and heir¹¹.

Nov. 6, 1353, Edward III. granted to *William Maureward*, and his heirs, liberty of free-warren in all their demesne lands at Overton Quatremars and Gouteby Maureward. "Hiis testibus, venerabilibus patribus Simone archiep' Cant', totius Anglie primate; Simone Eliens' cancellario; Johanne Wygorn', thesaurario nostro, episcopis; Johanne, duce Lancastr'; Ricardo, com' Arundel; Johanne de Moubray; Guidone de Bryan; Johanne atte lee, seneschallo hospicii nostri, & aliis. Dat' per manum nostram apud Westmon', sexto die Nov. anno regni nostri tricesimo septimo¹²."

In 1361, *John de Moubray*, of the Isle of Axholme, died seised of one knight's fee in Gouteby, which *William de Maureward* then held¹³. He had also the moiety of one knight's fee at Blifewell¹⁴ grange, co. Leicester, which the abbot of Gerendon held.

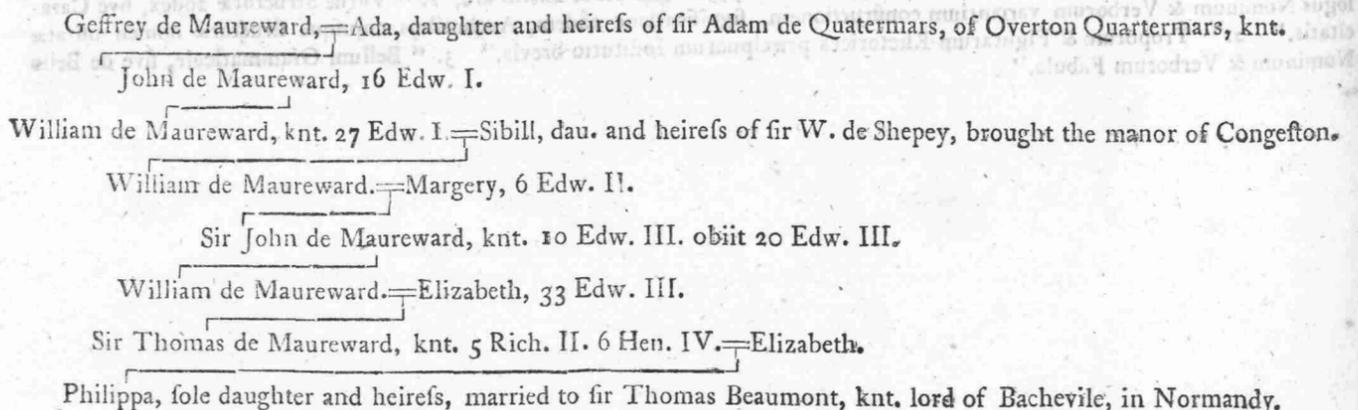
In 1380, *Roger Beler* died seised of 12s. rent in Gouteby, which he held of *sir Thomas de Maureward*¹⁵.

In 1391, *Mary*, wife of *Roger Beler*, who first married *John Seintclere*, died seised of 12s. rent in Gouteby, which she held of [*sir Thomas Maureward*] the heir of *William de Maureward*, knt.¹⁶

In 1392, *Thomas Moubray*, late duke of Norfolk, died seised of a moiety of one knight's fee, with the appurtenances in Gouteby¹⁷.

Sir Thomas de Maureward, living in 1404, was the last of that name who possessed this lordship.

Pedigree of MAUREWARD, of GODEBY.



¹ Domesday, p. 235. b. col. 2. See the original return under *Melton*. ² See p. 197. ³ MS. Cave, from MS. Chetwynd.

⁴ See the Appendix to our History of Leicester, p. 36. ⁵ MS. Chetwynd. ⁶ Esch. 22 Edw. I. N^o 24. Leic.

⁷ Esch. 19 Edw. I. N^o 47. Leic. ⁸ Peck, MSS. 4935; Registro de Croxton, in 24^o MS. apud Belvoir, fol. 35. b.

⁹ Esch. 17 Edw. III. N^o 59. Leic. ¹⁰ Rot. Aux. 20 Edw. III. ¹¹ Esch. 20 Edw. III. N^o 26. Leic.

¹² Ex ipso orig. sub magno Ang. sigillo, penes Will' Busby, de Stoughton, com' Leic', arm', 7 Aug. 1741.

¹³ Esch. 35 Edw. III. Pars 2. N^o 10.

¹⁴ Alio exemplo "Blifewell." PECK.—It appears, by one of the entries cited p. 150, from the lord treasurer's remembrance office, under 1577, that Blifewell is another name for Godeby Grange.

¹⁵ Esch. 4 Ric. II. N^o 14. Leic.

¹⁶ Esch. 15 Ric. II. Pars 1. N^o 5.

¹⁷ Esch. 1 Hen. IV. N^o 71. Leic.

Philippa, the daughter and heir of the last fir Thomas Maureward, was married to fir Thomas Beaumont, knt. lord of Bacheville in Normandy, youngest son of John the first lord Beaumont¹; and brought to her husband the manor of Godeby, and divers other lands in this county.

In 1445, John Chaunce gave and confirmed to Nicholas Brabazon, esq. Thomas Laceby, and John Ingulton, chaplain, a messuage and a bovate of land, with the appurtenances, in the town and fields of Gowteby Maureward; which messuage was situated near the highway called Hebelane, and extended lengthwise towards Wickham on the East. "Testibus, Willo Kireby de Gowteby predicta, Willo Alwold de eadem, Willo Barkeley de eadem, Johe Clein de eadem, Roberto Parsons de eadem, & multis aliis. Dat' apud Gowteby predictam, in festo Conversionis Sancti Pauli, anno regni regis Henrici Sexti post Conquestum Anglie vicesimo tertio."

In the subsidy of 1445, Godeby was rated at £1. 16s. 6d.; and an abatement was made of 7s.

Sir Thomas Beaumont died in 1457, possessed of the manor of Godeby, in right of his wife Philippa Maureward².

In 1461, John Beaumont, esq. died seised of the manor of Godeby, held of John duke of Norfolk, by knight's service; John Beaumont being his son and heir³.

In the same year, it appeared that John Moubray, duke of Norfolk, died seised of one knight's fee in Gouteby which John Beaumont held; and also of half a knight's fee in Bleffwell⁴ Grange, co. Leicester, which the abbot of Gerendon held⁵.

May 16, 1462, king Edward IV. granted the manor and lordship of Godeby (late parcel of the forfeited possessions of John Beaumont, esq.) to Richard Hastings, esq. and his heirs male⁶.

In 1464, John Beaumont, esq. attained of high treason, was seised of the manor and demefne of Godeby⁷; and on the 8th of November that year, king Edward IV. granted the manor and lordship of Godeby, with the advowson of the church there (late parcel of the forfeited possessions of John Beaumont), to Richard Hastings, esq.⁸

William Beaumont, the next possessor, left four sons, Richard, George, Edward, and James.

Richard Beaumont, esq. died Oct. 29, 1526, possessed of the manor of Godeby, the advowson of the church, a capital messuage, 100 acres of arable land, 40 of meadow, and 40 of pasture, all held under the lord Berkeley, as brother and coheir of John duke of Norfolk, by the service of half a knight's fee⁹.

In 1556, Nicholas Beaumont, of Cole-Orton, esq. was ordered to shew his title to Gawdeby grange¹⁰; and, in 1570, was again directed to shew cause why the manors of Cold-Overton, Overton Quatermers, and Godeby, should not be seised into the queen's hands¹¹.

By this Nicholas Beaumont the manor of Godeby was soon after sold to George Villiers, of Brokesby,

esq. who was cited, in 1577, to shew by what title he held Gawdeby grange, otherwise Bleffwell grange¹².

By an inquisition taken at Leicester, Aug. 23, 1606; it appeared that George Villiers, knt. deceased, was seised of the grange of Godeby, held of the king in capite, by knight's service; that he died 4 Jan. 1605-6; and that William Villiers, esq. his son and heir, was then aged 27 years and upwards¹³, who was afterwards the first baronet of the family, and died 1629.

Sir George Villiers, his son and successor, rebuilt the antient mansion-house; and over the hall-door are still his arms, impaling those of Dynham, of Barstall, Oxfordshire, cut in stone without colours¹⁴.

This estate continued in the family of Villiers for some descents, till fir William Villiers (who by the register appears to have died in 1669) alienated the manor of Godeby to Henry Lowe, esq. by whom it was devised to his son Samuel Lowe; who, dying unmarried in 1735, was buried in a vault at the upper end of the South aisle of the church here¹⁵.

This estate afterwards was directed by the court of Chancery to be sold, for the benefit of creditors; and was purchased, in the year 1735, under a decree of that court, by Peter Wyche, esq. who almost entirely rebuilt the mansion-house, and greatly improved the gardens and grounds contiguous to it.

The revenues of this lordship were described by Mr. Wyche, in 1757, to be about £1000. per annum, being then all inclosed, and let to farm at 12s. per acre by the year at an average¹⁶.

Mr. Wyche held both a court leet and court baron for this manor; out of which an annual quit-rent issued, payable to the heirs of Samuel Barnadiston, esq; and the farther sum of 10s. was paid yearly to the hundred court of Francis earl of Huntingdon¹⁶.

The parish, at that time, consisted of about 18 families; but, as the estate is entirely pasture land, no teams were then kept within it¹⁶.

In 1765, an act¹⁷ was passed for vesting the estate late of Peter Wyche, esq. at Godeby Maureward, to be conveyed to the most noble John marquis of Granby, or as he should appoint; and for applying the purchase-money (which was £30,000.) in manner, and for the purposes, therein mentioned. The purchase was, the manor of Godeby, with the advowson (the next turn only excepted, which Mr. Wyche had given by will to Mr. John Law, son of Mr. Stephen Law), and all the lands and tenements thereto belonging; containing together (including the ground-plot of the mansion-house, with its appurtenances, 1038 acres, 2 roods, 13 perches; and let (exclusive of the manor-house, garden, fish-ponds, groves, and canals) for £613. 3s. 6d. or thereabouts.

In consequence of this act, the whole estate was conveyed, in 1766, to his grace John third duke of Rutland; by whom it was given to the present owner, Edward Manners, esq. who resides in the mansion-house, which has a very fine park; and within the grounds are three or four large pools, lying most

¹ Lineal ancestor of fir Thomas Beaumont, of Cole Orton, afterwards viscount Beaumont; and of John Beaumont, of Grace-dieu, esq. Burton, p. 117.

² Baronetage, 1741, vol. III. p. 235.

³ Esch. 1 Edw. IV. N^o 46. Leic.

⁴ Esch. 1 Edw. VI. N^o 18. Leic.

⁵ "Blifwell," alio exempl. Pæck.

⁶ Pat. 2 Edw. IV. Pars. 1. m. 13.

⁷ Esch. 4 Edw. IV. N^o 47. Leic.

⁸ Pat. 4 Edw. IV. Pars. 2. m. 2.

⁹ Cole's Inquisitions, Harl. MSS. 960. See more under Cole-Orton.

¹⁰ Mich. Rec. 3 and 4 Philip & Mary, Rot. 7.

¹¹ Ibid. 12 Eliz. Rot. 107.

¹² Trin. Rec. 19 Eliz. Rot. 35.

¹³ Esch. 4 Jac. I.

¹⁴ The colours are, Argent, on a cup Gules, five escallops Or. On a canton Argent, a sinister hand, coupèd Gules, Villiers; impaling four fusils in fess Ermine. See plate XXI. fig. 6.

¹⁵ E Registro parochiali.

¹⁶ Ex informatione Petri Wyche, armigeri, 1757.

¹⁷ Subsequent to the passing of the above act, in which are stated several family settlements and other transactions relating to this manor, too long to be here copied, the marquis of Granby, by indenture, dated June 27, 1765, assigned the contract he had entered into with Mrs. Wyche, as mentioned in the act, to John duke of Rutland, who thereupon became the purchaser of this manor. From the particular of the estate, drawn up by Mrs. Wyche's agents, previous to lord Granby's purchase, it appears that the manor or lordship of Godeby, otherwise Godeby Marwood, was about eight miles in circumference, and full of game, with the perpetual advowson and right of presentation to the rectory of Godeby, then estimated at £110. a year.

The mansion-house and offices entire, with gardens, orchards, coach-houses, stables, &c. complete; containing in the whole about 14 acres; together with fish-ponds and canals, containing 26 acres.

The total of the demefne lands, when first purchased by Mr. Wyche in 1735, were

Purchased afterwards,

Acres 1038 2 34

The annual rental of the whole estate, in the hands of Mrs. Wyche and her tenants in 1764, was

Out-payment for tithe, land-tax, and quit rents,

£.612 12 2

130 3 0

conveniently

conveniently in a descending line one below another; the lowermost of all, containing near 10 acres, being called *The Belle Mere*, on account of its rural beauty and dimensions; and containing a constant supply of fish of all kinds common to this part of the kingdom; particularly trout, perch, gudgeons, and pike, which last are often of an extraordinary size.

In 1564, there were 33 families in Godeby.

No freeholder is mentioned here in the book of 1630.

At the general election in 1722, six freeholders polled from this parish; and one only, *William Brown*, senior, in 1778.

The nett expence of the poor in 1776 was 34*l.* 5*s.* 5*d.* Medium of three years, 1783—1785, 40*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.*

The number of families in 1791 was 33, of inhabitants 188, of freeholders 3.

The produce of this place varies from that of the vale, and the soil is lighter and finer.

Here are no particular, or remarkable, hills, woods, or springs, nor any quarries of lime-stone, coal, &c. excepting a quarry of brown stone for building, and some pits of marle.

Mr. Peck has made a remark in the margin of his *Burton*, under Godeby, which shews that he thought it peculiarly subject to showers:

“Every day a shower of rain,

And upon Sundays twain.

“*Anglia ventosa; si non ventosa, venenosa.*” RAY.

“In this parish, when any person dies, the baker goes about with bread, and gives to every house as many penny-loaves as there are persons in the family; also a piece of plumb-cake. This is a relick of Popery, such doles being originally given to move people to pray for the dead.

“The children here have regularly a bonfire on All Saints Day; which is another relick of Popery, reminding that the Saints many of them passed that way to heaven.

“We had lately four left-handed masons in Godeby, all of them good workmen, and no other of the trade here. Their names were *Thomas Killingley*, *William Wayte*, and *John* and *Francis Watchorn*. The last three are yet living, 1729. I myself always write with my right-hand, yet always make a pen, bowl, or throw a stone, with my left; nor can I well do otherwise.”

From the registers, of which the first begins in 1542, the second in 1656, Mr. Peck had made the following copious extracts.

1. Mr. Edward Beaumont, buried Nov. 27, 34 Henry VIII. [1542.]
2. Jone, daughter of Mr. Nicholas Beaumont, buried Sept. 24, 1 Edw. VI. [1547.]
3. John Bysshop, rector, 2 Edward VI.
4. Francis, son of Nicholas Beaumont, baptised Aug. 30, 4 Edward VI. [1550.]
5. John Smith, parson, buried July 2, 5 Edward VI.
6. Dorothy, daughter of Mr. Nicholas Beaumont, baptised Nov. 4, 5 Edward VI. [1551.]
7. George, son of Mr. Willyam Beaumont, buried Jan. 16, 1559-60, [2 Elizabeth.]
8. Thomas and George, sons of William Wilkin-son, baptised Feb. 23, 1565-6. [8 Elizabeth.]
9. Thomas and George, sons⁴ of William Wilkin-son, buried Feb. 17, 1568-9. [11 Elizabeth.]
10. William Wilkin, parson, buried Oct. 30, 1574.
11. Edward, son of fir George Villiers, baptised Feb. 15, 1583-4. [26 Elizabeth.]
12. Samuel, son of fir George Villiers, baptised

June 9, 1590.

13. Samuel, son of fir George Villiers, buried July 22, 1590.

14. John, son of fir George Villiers, baptised June 9, 1591.

15. Mr. William Bret and Mrs. Katharine Beaumont, married Nov. 9, 1592.

16. Dorothy, daughter of William Villiers, baptised Dec. 9, 1592.

17. Margaret Bysshop, baptised March 9, 1601-2.

18. John, son of Thomas Villiers, buried Dec. 27, 1603.

19. William Villiers, buried Jan. 6, 1603-4.

20. Sir George Villiers, knt. buried in Godeby chancel^s, Jan. 5, 1605-6.

21. Dominus Willielmus Reyner, & domina Maria Villiers, matrimonio conjuncti 19 Junii, 1606.

22. Sir William Fielding^o and Mrs. *Susan* Villiers married April 8, 1607.

23. John Bysshop, M. B. and parson of Godeby, buried July 17, 1613; succeeded by John White.

24. Anne, wife of Mr. Anthony Beaumont, buried Jan. 16, 1613.

25. Mary, daughter of Mr. John White^r, baptised Sept. 27, 1618.

26. Lady Marie Villiers^o, eldest daughter of Christopher earl of Anglesey, died Jan. 21, 1625, at Horn-ingham, and was buried here the 24th of January.

27. Leonard Holman, rector, 1640.

28. Mary, daughter of Mr. Leonard Holman, baptised Feb. 4, 1640-1.

29. Mary, wife of Leonard Holman, buried Feb. 13, 1640-1.

30. Leonard, son of Leonard Holman and Elizabeth his wife, baptised Aug. 29, 1643.

31. Mary, daughter of Leonard Holman, buried March 25, 1644.

32. Mary, daughter of Leonard Holman, baptised June 11, 1645.

33. Leonard, son of Leonard Holman, buried November 23, 1645.

34. Rebecca, daughter of fir George Villiers and dame Margaret his wife, baptised Sept. 6, 1647.

35. Margaret, daughter of fir George Villiers and dame Margaret his wife, baptised Sept. 27, 1648.

36. Valentine, son of Leonard Holman, baptised Feb. 21, 1648-9.

37. Valentine, son of Leonard Holman, buried March 5, 1648-9.

38. of fir George Villiers, b . . . Feb. 5, 1650-1.

39. of fir George Villiers, buried March 20, 1650-1.

40. Elizabeth, daughter of Leonard Holman, baptised September 20, 1652.

41. son of William Villiers, baptised March 12, 1652-3.

42. Leonard Holman, rector, buried Jan. 1655-6.

43. Katherine, daughter of fir George Villiers and dame Margaret his wife, buried Jan. 9, 1656-7.

44. Jane, daughter of William Villiers and Elizabeth his wife, baptised April 6, 1657.

45. Katherine, wife of John Richardson, rector, buried Aug. 28, 1660.

46. Alicia, daughter of fir George Villiers and dame Margaret his wife, buried Oct. 3, 1660.

47. Elizabeth, wife of William Villiers, buried Jan. 7, 1667-8.

48. Dame Margaret, wife of fir George Villiers, bart. buried Oct. 3, 1660.

49. Robert Freckleton, minister of Burley on the

¹ On this subject I find the following note of Mr. Peck: “Fishing in Godeby Bellemeer, I baited with a living perch, and caught another. I saw the head of a great eandock taken out of a pike’s belly caught there. Gudgeons breed mightily in the new ponds there; and perch both breed and grow prodigiously.”

² “In 1727, Samuel Lowe, esq. of Godeby, sent for a parcel of trout out of Derbyshire, which were brought in buckets of water on mens’ heads, who walked night and day with them, and were delivered alive at 12*d.* each, and put into his ponds, being then each about 4 inches and a half long. This present summer, 1729, he took two of them, which I saw and ate of, grown upwards of 10 inches long.” F. P.

³ It should seem these twins were born on the same day as they were baptised, died and buried on the same day. F. P.

⁴ The chancel here spoken of, I conceive, is that now uncovered; that being, I think, the old burial place of the Villiers. F. P.

⁵ This fir William Fielding was afterwards created earl of Denbigh. Sir William Dugdale, Bar. vol. II p. 441. says, he married *Mary*, daughter to fir George Villiers of Brokesby (sister to George duke of Buckingham); but I follow the register, and believe her name was *Susan*. F. P.

⁶ 1638, Mr. John White gave in a terrar as rector. F. P.

⁷ Her funeral sermon was preached by — Jay.

Hill. co. Rutland, buried Dec. 13, 1668.

50. Sir William Jeffon, of Burleigh-park, in the parish of Loughborough, co. Leicester, and Penelope Villiers, eldest daughter of Sir George Villiers, of Goadby Marwood, bart. married Jan. 23, 1669-70.

51. John Wilcox, of the parish of, in Nottingham, clerk, and Mary Nix, of Goadby, spinster, married April 9, 1679.

52. Mr. John Richardson, rector, buried Sept. 17, 1681.

53. Mary, daughter of Timothy Chamberlain, rector, and of Mary his wife, baptised July 2, 1692.

54. Villerya Chamberlain, born Oct. 20, 1693.

55. Anne, daughter of Timothy Chamberlain, rector, and of Mary his wife, baptised April 3, 1696.

56. Timothy Chamberlain, rector, buried Jan. 22, 1697-8.

57. William, son of John Laughton, rector, and Dorothy his wife, baptised Feb. 20, 1699-700.

58. Henry, son of Edmund Carter, rector, and Elizabeth his wife, born Oct. 16, baptised Oct. 28, 1703.

59. Abraham, son of Edmund Carter, rector, and Elizabeth his wife, baptised Sept. 28, 1704.

60. Elizabeth¹, wife of Edmund Carter, rector, buried Oct. 12, 1721.

61. Edmund Carter, rector, died Dec. 2, and was buried in the chancel Dec. 4, 1722.

62. Francis Peck, B. A. was presented to this church, May 3, 1723, by Samuel Lowe, esq. and instituted May 4, by Edmund [Gibson] lord bishop of Lincoln;

elect of London. The said Francis Peck was born in St. John Baptist's parish at Stanford, in Lincolnshire, May 4, 1692; so that he was on the day of his institution exactly 31 years of age.²

Here end Mr. Peck's extracts.

The four following extracts were taken by Sir Thomas Cave in 1757:

1. Samuel Lowe, esq. lord of Godeby, buried 1731, æt. 37.

2. Henry Luffe succeeded rector on the death of Francis Peck 1743, presented by Peter Wyche, esq.

3. Memorandum. On Sunday, Aug. 4, 1751, was held in this church a private ordination, by the right reverend John Thomas, lord bishop of Lincoln; when the Rev. Mr. Nathaniel Smith, the present vicar of Hough, in Lincolnshire, was admitted into priest's orders; assistants at the imposition of hands, the Rev. Mr. Chancellor Taylor, Mr. Archdeacon Neve, and the Rev. Mr. Luffe, rector. Preacher, the lord bishop; reader of prayers, morning and afternoon, the archdeacon Dr. Neve.

4. 1756. John Warham presented to this rectory by Peter Wyche, esq. but was not instituted. *Mamæ suæ obiit*; and was succeeded by Benjamin Pritchard.³

On examining the register in 1791, there appeared from 1566, the first part of it then legible, for twenty years, 67 baptisms, and 56 burials; for the twenty years ending 1790, 81 baptisms, and 52 burials.

The CHURCH,

which is dedicated to St. Dennis, consists of a nave and two side aisles, with a chancel on a line with the nave, all leaded, but not very large. See a view of it, taken by Mr. Pridden in 1791, plate XLI.

The steeple is a small stone-embattled tower, with small pinnacles at each corner of it; in which hang three small bells thus inscribed.

1. T. N. cast me 1694. W. Whalley, Churchwarden.

2. God save his church. Leon. Davis, Churchwarden, 1710.

3. I. H. S. Nazarenus, Rex Judeorum.
Fili Dei, miserere mei.

The shafts of the columns, which form four arches on each side the nave, are all octangular, and not unproportionable; and the arches they support are rather inclined to a point at the top (but not absolutely so) than round.

The windows of the South aisle are of different forms, both round and pointed arches, and some square; but those of the North aisle are all square, with three lights in each.

Several fragments of painted glass demonstrate this church to have formerly been adorned with those common, and solemn, ornaments of former ages. In the East window various heads are grouped together⁴; the Deity; St. John Baptist's head in a charger; a bishop⁵; the Virgin; part of a naked figure of Eve; and some others; also a modern figure of St. Luke.

Mr. Burton mentions only two coats here:

1. Azure, a fess Argent, between three cinquefoils Or, *Maureward*; plate XLI. fig. 7.

2. Or, nine mascles voided in cross Gules, fig. 8.

Those of *Maureward* still remain in the middle light of the middle window, and also in the next window Eastward; but the other coat is gone.

The font seems to be of the same age with the church, and is large enough for immersion; it is oc-

tangular, as well as the pillars, and has no other ornament round it but small arches all unlike (cut in relieve), resembling Gothic windows. See plate XLI. fig. 5.

In the bottom or sill-stone of the middle South window is the piscina; which Mr. Peck styles "a *sacrarium*, or hole, like a small dish channeled, and hollowing gradually down to a central point, which was open and continued down through the wall to the earth itself in a kind of tube or pipe; plate XLI. fig. 15. Upon this hollow," he adds, "the priest used to lay any broken, corrupted, or damaged wafer or host, and then wash it down by pouring holy water after it, that it might not be polluted by the touch of any common hand, or profaned by any other vulgar use⁶."

On the roof of the nave were formerly ten coats carved in the wood work, five on each side, being probably the arms of so many benefactors who had contributed either to the building, or the support, of the fabrick.

The first shield on the North side next the chancel is now gone; and next below going towards the steeple stands the coat of *Berkley*, plate XLI. fig. 9. The next in succession, fig. 10; then follows fig. 11; and, lastly, fig. 12, which is the fourth on the South side of the roof; the first, second, third, and fifth, being now all gone. These seem to be of the same age with the church itself; but were overlooked by Mr. Burton or his informer⁷.

On the chancel roof, over the East window, is a cross in stone, near a yard high, (see plate XLI. fig. 16); and on the East end of the roof of the nave another figure of about the same proportion, fig. 17; and over the entrance into the South porch stands a piece of circular cross work, fig. 18.

The form of this little cross is very ancient⁸, and much resembles the celebrated *Crux Nigra*, or iron cross, dug up at Sevekeham, now Abingdon, Berks⁹,

¹ She gave a small silver patin to this church. F. P.

² Some of these, as Sir Thomas Cave was informed by Mr. Peck, were removed from the rectory-house into the church.

³ Mr. Peck informed Sir Thomas Cave, that in his memory there stood, in the middle South window, part of the figure of a mitred saint or abbot.

⁴ Peck, MS.; referring to the following curious passage for his authority: "In a little church near to Ancona, in a very moist place, I found the *ciborium* full of wafers; those that lay uppermost stuck to one another, and those at the bottom were turned into a kind of glue or jelly: and forasmuch as it was evident that some of them were wholly spoiled, and the rest in a fair way to be so too, after that mass was ended I cast them all into the *sacrarium*, which is a hole made in the wall express for this purpose, and poured upon them great quantity of holy water, to make them sink to the bottom, and to cleanse the orifice of the *sacrarium*. This was at that time all the ceremony I used to bury that, which I then believed to be the body of our Lord. Others have found the hosts full of worms; and in other places, the rats have eat them up whole." Observations on

⁵ Journey to Naples, wherein the Frauds of Romish Monks and Priests are farther discovered. London, 1691, 8vo, p. 113.

⁶ Sir T. Cave, MS. ex informatione magistri Fran. Peck. ⁷ Sir T. Cave, MS. ⁸ Mon. Angl. vol. I. p. 96. a. sub Abbendon.

on rebuilding that monastery; which some have imagined to have been given to it by the emperor Constantine (who was born there), and made of the nails used in the crucifixion of Christ, and by which many miracles are said to have been performed. It is very probable the founders of churches in after times, out of respect to this famous and remarkable cross, caused those outward symbols of Christianity (which they always placed on such churches as were erected by them) to be carved in some degree of similitude to this which was held in so great esteem by devotees of those days.

In 1221, sir *Nicholas de Verdun* was patron of the church of Godeby.

In 1230, *William de Quatremars*¹ was patron. The then parson was Adam, instituted by the then bishop of Lincoln Hugh. The church of Melton had then 48 thraves of corn, to wit, 24 thraves *iv'nagii* or *invernagii*², and 24 thraves of oats. It had also the principal mortuary of the inhabitants who lived in the fee of W. de Moubray, and burial of the dead. The monks of Gerendon had the tithe sheafs of one carucate of the fee of William de Moubray. The church paid two shillings to the mother church [of Lincoln]; and to the church of Melton four thraves *iv'nagii*, and

four thraves of oats³.

In 1344, the procurations were, 7s. 6½d.; the rectory was taxed at 18 marks; and paid 2s. for Peter-pence.

In 1534-5, the procurations and synodals were 11s.; a pension was paid to Dr. Basset of £.8. and the value of the rectory was estimated to be £.16.

In 1650, the rectory was returned worth £.40. and the incumbent as "sufficient."

It appears by several entries of payment in the parish register (particularly in the year 1729, on the death of William Whalley, senior, and in the year 1731, on the death of Mr. Edmund Harrison), that the rector is entitled to mortuaries; and farther, the rector receives £.56. *per annum* from the lord of the manor, as composition-money, upon the inclosure of the lordship; which, with other dues paid by the tenants at a certain rate *per acre*, and also a good glebe, amounts in all to upwards of £.100. *per annum*⁴.

In 1740, the clear yearly value was £.112.

The present value in the king's books is £.16.

The episcopal procurations are, 1s. 9d.; the archidiaconal, 11s.

The wake is kept the second Sunday after the feast of St. Michael⁵.

RECTORS.

Walter de Clinton was conditionally nominated to the rectory in 1221; and fully presented to it in 1223⁶,

Adam de Overton, 1230,

Robert le Bennysues, 1251,

John de Gouteby, 1277.

John Smith, 1534.

John Bishop⁷, Bachelor of Physic, was buried 1613.

John White died rector 1639.

Leonard Holmes occurs 1643—1655.

John Richardson, 1656—1681.

Timothy Chamberlain⁸, Oct. 11, 1681,

John Laughton, M. A. June 21, 1698; resigned in 1700.

Edmund Carter⁹, M. A. June 28, 1700,

Francis Peck, B. A. May 4, 1723; died M. A. 1743,

Henry Luffe, July 29, 1743,

John Warham presented 1756; died before institution¹⁰,

Benjamin Pritchard¹¹, July 19, 1756,

Samuel Dixon, Dec. 19, 1778,

Edmund Cartwright¹², Feb. 23, 1779,

PATRONS.

Sir Nicholas de Verdun.

William de Quatremars.

William Maureward, laicus.

Sir William Villiers, bart.

Sir George Villiers, bart.

Henry Lowe, esq.

Samuel Lowe, esq.

Peter Wyche, esq.

John duke of Rutland.

Dr. John Law, archdeacon of Rochester.

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS.

On the right hand of the door from the South is an arch in the wall, adorned with some rude carvings, where it is supposed the founder of the church lies buried. As the general form of the monuments of such pious men is much in the same style in all churches where we find any at all; and the reason why one particular fashion was observed in these memorials, very probably, was not only to distinguish the tombs of such religious founders from those of other men, but also that their bones might ever lie undisturbed and quiet; their bodies were therefore generally laid one half in the church, and one half in the wall itself.

By the remaining architrave of a large arch on the North wall of this chancel, there seems to have been another building, perhaps a burial-place, adjoining to it; of which now neither tradition, nor any vestigia, enable us to give a farther account.

At the upper end of the South aisle is a square place, railed in with iron rails, being the burial-place of the Villiers and other former owners of this place; among whom are deposited the remains of Samuel Lowe, esq. a later proprietor of it.

An old stone near the rails on the South side the communion-table, seems (though now not legible) to be the memorial Mr. Burton¹³ mentions, which in his

¹ He was called William de IIII mare' in the Matriculus; which, in this instance, again confirms what has been already more than once mentioned, that the original record, though beginning with 1220, contains a series of several later years.

² *Ivernagium, Ivermagium, Ivergium, Ivernal, Hybernagium, Hyvernagium*, from the French word *hyver*, corn sown before winter, *Blé yvernage*, winter corn, as opposed to Lent corn, or *Blé du Mars*. It is generally confined to rye. Du Cange, and Charpentier in voce *Hybernacium* and *Ivernagium*.

³ See the Matriculus, p. lxii.

⁴ Sir T. Cave, MS. dated 1757.

⁵ Sir T. Cave, MS. ex informatione magistri Franc. Peck, rectoris ecclesie de Godeby, & Petri Wyche, armigeri, 1741.

⁶ "Waltero de Clinton, clerico, ad ecclesiam de Godesbeck, per Nicholaum de Verdun presentato, commissa est custodia ejusdem ecclesie, ita quod dictus Walterus per septennium proximè sequens habeat magistrum continue in scolis de quo addiscat, & qui omnes fructus ecclesie prefate percipiat, & ipse Walterus de prefata ecclesia necessaria inveniat in scolis per dictum septennium, & presentabit dominus N. de Verdun ipsum magistrum domino episcopo in proximo adventu suo." Rot. Hug. de Wells, ann. 13. dorso. He was either under the proper age, or incompetent, and required a tutor.

⁷ Walterus de Clinton, subdiaconus, ad ecclesiam de Godesbeck, ad presentationem Nicholai de Verdun, militis." Ibid. ann. 15.

⁸ He signed the register from 1544; but most probably, as was customary, he signed a transcript of older times.

⁹ He built the parsonage-house, and was succeeded by John Laughton, A. M. presented by — Tate, esq. of Burley, by Loughborough, whose sister he married, in right of Henry Lowe, esq. lord of Godeby, then in Jamaica. In 1700, the church of Godeby being then vacant by the resignation of Mr. John Laughton, Edmund Carter was presented thereto by — Tate aforesaid, in right of Henry Lowe, esq. then also in Jamaica, the said Edmund Carter having married another sister of the aforesaid Mr. Tate. F. P.

¹⁰ Mr. Carter published an Affize Sermon, 1712.

¹¹ Afterwards rector of Ewelme, in Oxfordshire.

¹² This gentleman, the present rector, is a prebendary of Lincoln.

¹³ See the extracts from the register.

¹⁴ P. 117.

time was inscribed,

Reg. gift. Sire Thomas Maureward.

The Harleian MS. preserves the same fragment, and adds another :

Orate pro bono statu Dni Mauricii Marmion et Johannis et Thome filiorum ejus.

Three very handsome monuments are fixed in the North wall of the chancel, to the memory of a father and two sons of the family of *Wyche*; and three neat blue stones, with inlaid borders of white, lie over their remains in the chancel, inscribed with their names only.

The middle part of these monuments is black sepulchral marble, round that is a narrow border of dove-colour, and, farther outward, a fine variegated red; above are urns of pure white :

1. "Near this place

lyeth the body of

Master PETER WYCHE,

who died Jan. 16, 1757,

aged 15 years, and 10 months.

In his disposition he was truly amiable, always attentive to instruction, and, for his years, had made a considerable progress in learning; his illness, though acute, and of long continuance, he bore with resignation as a Christian ought to do; never known to despair, or to repine at his afflictions; through the merits of his Saviour he ever relied on the mercies of the Almighty; and being now delivered out of the miseries of this life, rests in hope of being received into that where none are to be found."

2. Under the arms of *Wyche*, Azure, a pile Ermine, charged with an escutcheon of pretence quarterly; 1. and 4. Or, on a chevron between three cranes Azure, a bezant; 2. and 3. Argent, in chief 2 parrots Vert, between them an anchor Sable; under which four stripes Azure and Argent, and a lion passant Gules; as in plate XLI. fig. 14.

"Near this place

lieth the body of

PETER WYCHE, esq.

He died Nov. 1, 1763,

in the 55th year of his age.

Reader!

imitate his virtues, and forget his faults.

His virtues were such as rendered him useful to society, beneficial to mankind, and happy in himself.

His faults, whether public or private, were such as fully proved the frailty of human nature to be the source of human errors.

As he lived, so he died, an example worthy of imitation."

3. On the third :

"Sacred

to the memory of

JOHN WYCHE, esq.

Lieutenant of the second troop of horse-guards, and youngest son of Peter Wyche, esq.

He was a youth of an open and generous temper, of an amiable disposition and improving judgement; he gave the fairest hopes of accomplishing the designs of a good and religious education, and becoming an ornament to his profession and country.

¹ The only "Sir Thomas" of this family died in, or soon after, 1404. See p. 194.

² As this is a family which has produced some eminent persons, an account of them, drawn up by Mr. Peck in 1741, for Mr. Wotton's edition of the Baronetage, shall accompany the history of this parish. See p. 205.

³ Mrs. Sufanna Lowe, his widow, was living, at Godeby, in 1735.

⁴ Peck, MS. 1740; from original deeds then in his possession.

He had scarcely shewed the plan of a just character to the world, when Death, who makes no distinction between young and old, cut him off in the prime of life, to be mourned for by his friends who loved him, regretted by his soldiers who respected him, and lamented by all who knew him.

Let this example of mortality be useful and instructive.

He died of a violent fever

on December 14, 1768,

aged 24 years."

On a flat stone in the South aisle near the porch :

"H. S. E.

FRANCISCUS PECK, A. M.

hujus ecclesie rector, &

prebendarius de Lincoln.

Excessit e vita nono Julii,

anno Salutis humanae MDCCCLIII.

Illi Mors gravis incubat,

Qui notus nimis omnibus

Ignotus moritur sibi."

On a black marble in the South side of the church, and at the East end, separated by iron rails :

"To the memory of SAMUEL LOWE, esq.

who died the 25th of July, 1731, aged 37."

Upon a stone in the South side, near the above place :

"Here lieth the body of Nathaniel Stone,

who died September 27, 1769, aged 73."

Next to it, on a blue stone, inlaid with white :

"Here lieth the body of Edmund Harrison,

who departed this life August 23, 1731,

aged 40 years."

On a small flat stone, near the tower :

"Here lieth the body of Richard Healy,

who died March . . . 1741, aged 40 years."

In the church-yard :

Ivel Shuttleword died April 13, 1764, aged 75.

John Coates died Oct. 10, 1784, aged 70.

Sarah his wife died Feb. 10, 1748, aged 26.

Anne his wife died Dec. 27, 1781, aged 66.

Thomas Coates died Feb. 9, 1775, aged 32.

Matthew Coates died Jan. 11, 1766, aged 82.

Mary, wife of Matthew Coates, died Dec. 22, 1758, aged 39.

CHARITABLE BENEFACTIONS.

"Dec. 9, 1^o Annæ 1702. Edmund Carter, rector of Godeby Marwood, Thomas Franks, of the same place, gent. and Leonard Davie, of the same place, fellmonger, for the sum of £.120. purchased of John Voysey, of London, merchant, one oxgang of land at Harby, co. Leicester, for the use of the poor of this parish, the rent thereof to be yearly expended in coats, corn, or the like; or otherwise disposed of among them at the discretion of the rector, churchwardens, and overseers, for the time being. This money was given by several of the Villiers (their particular names I cannot learn) except £.12. given by Henry Lowe, esq."

The return made to the house of commons, in 1786, in answer to the enquiry respecting the charitable donations in this parish, may be seen in p. 7.

MEMOIRS of the Rev. FRANCIS PECK, M. A. and rector of GODEBY.

This learned and industrious Antiquary, a younger son of Robert and Elizabeth Peck, was born in the parish of St. John the Baptist, at Stamford, in Lincolnshire, May 4, and baptized May 12, 1692; his father, as it is noted in the register, being that year one of the overseers of the poor for that parish¹.

It appears, by a memorandum of his own, that his mother's maiden name was *Jephson*: "My grandfather and grandmother," he says, "by the mother's side were man and wife near 60 years. They had six daughters and one son, all which are yet living [1729]. Serjeant Jephson² is the youngest, and he is turned 47.

We have not discovered at what seminary he received the early part of his education; but it was probably at the grammar-school of his native town. He completed his studies at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took the degree of B. A. 1715; and of M. A. 1727.

The first work discovered of his writing is "TO ΤΥΧΟΣ ΑΓΙΟΝ; or an Exercise on the Creation, and an Hymn to the Creator of the World; written in the express Words of the Sacred Text, as an Attempt to shew the Beauty and Sublimity of Holy Scripture, 1716," 8vo.

The next is, a poem, intitled, "Sighs on the Death of Queen Anne," not published³ till 1719; subjoined to which are three poems, viz. 1. Paraphrase on part of the 139th Psalm; 2. The Choice; 3. Verses to Lady Elizabeth Cecil, on her birth-day, Nov. 23, 1717. At the end of this work he mentions, as preparing for the press, "The History of the two last Months of King Charles I;" and solicits assistance. This never was published. In p. 64, he mentions a poem on Saul and Jonathan, not then published.

In August, 1719, he occurs curate of King's Cliff, in Northamptonshire.

In the second volume of Prior's Miscellaneous Works, 1748, 8vo, p. 45, are verses by Mr. Peck to Prior on his Solomon, dated Jan. 20, 1719-20.

He published a Sermon preached at Stamford on the Mayor's inauguration, 1720, 8vo.

In 1721, being still curate of King's Cliff, he offered to the world proposals for printing the History and Antiquities of his native town.

In 1723, he obtained the rectory of Godeby⁴ from Samuel Lowe⁵, esq. who at that time was lord of the manor, and patron of the advowson.

In 1727, Mr. Peck drew up a poetical description of Belvoir and its neighbourhood⁶; and in that year his first considerable work appeared, under the title of "Academia Tertia Anglicana; or, The Antiquarian Annals of Stamford, in Lincoln, Rutland, and Northampton Shires; containing the History of the University, Monasteries, Gilds, Churches, Chapels, Hospitals, and Schools there," &c. containing XLI copper plates; and inscribed to John duke of Rutland, in an elaborate dedication, which contains a tolerably complete history of the principal events in

that illustrious family, from the founder of it at the Conquest. The conclusion is so characteristic of Mr. Peck's manner, and so intimately connected with the subject of the present work, that I shall be pardoned if I transcribe it:

"As travellers, antiquaries, foreigners, and the nobility themselves throng to visit your Grace, to see your magnificent and delightful dwelling, and to behold the country from it; as the great Leland himself was formerly there, and went thence to Stanford⁶; so, from Stanford, I, the meanest of your servants, now most humbly wait on your Grace, to lay this collection at your feet. And here, my Lord, I cannot but look with surprize at the Country; with admiration at You! for Belvoir Views are indeed the finest I ever saw. But there is one View, and that infinitely the finest of all, which you see hence, and yet no man living besides can discern from this or any other place: I mean, Two and Twenty Manors⁷ of his own, all lying within sight of his own castle. Thus emphatically are You LORD OF BELVOIR; and most eminently, as your very name imports, a DOMINUS DE MANERIIS. And as your tenants of all these, and a great many other manors, grow old and rich in your farms⁸; as the son succeeds the father, and so on, from one generation to another, till what they so easily rent looks more like a freehold than an estate held of another; You appear more like a Father than a Master of them; and are truly a PRINCE at the head of a numerous People. From Belvoir your Grace likewise sees Croxton Park-house, that elegant retirement of your own choice and building. From the same rich prospect you also behold two other curious seats⁹, and four other goodly manors¹⁰, all, by your most happy marriage, now added to those above. And thus Fortune, who never permitted any man even to vie with your ancestors in the great number of their manors to be seen from their own castle, at length raised You thence to behold a yet greater number of your own than ever any of your predecessors did. The King too, as if his Majesty and Fortune contended who should do most for your glory, hath also graciously appointed you lord lieutenant and custos rotulorum of the county of Leicester, knight of the most noble order of the Garter, and one of the lords of his bed-chamber. What are yet, if any thing can be, more valuable than all these things, in your Family, your Grace is blest with a most accomplished Lady, and a beautiful blooming offspring; in yourself with a most lively, agreeable, person, good sense, and a sweet demeanour. What therefore to wish your Grace more I know not; unless it be, that, as you so well adorn what you now are, so you may long, and happily, enjoy what you now have; and, if it be possible for Nature, or Fortune, to do any thing more for one whom they have already done so much for; as you rise in years, may you grow in riches, in honour, in virtue, in every great endowment, and most desirable blessing! And this, my Lord, shall always be

¹ Register and Parish Book of St. John the Baptist, Stamford.

² Francis Jephson, esq. was serjeant at arms to the lord chancellor, and serjeant at mace to the house of peers; in which offices he was succeeded by his son, Richard Jephson, esq. whose death, in 1789, was attended with some circumstances rather singular. Mr. Jephson, in his 78th year, being exceedingly feeble, his wife (Mrs. Judith Jephson), about ten years younger, was particularly careful of him. They had lodgings near Sydenham wells, for the sake of the old lady's drinking the waters. On the 28th of August, going down stairs with Mr. Jephson, and having hold of his coat, she was seized with a paralytic stroke on the stair-case, and fell to the bottom with so much violence, that she never spoke afterwards. It was with difficulty Mr. Jephson, whom she dragged down with her, could be persuaded that he had not caused her fall, and consequent death; and he survived her only till the 2d of September. They were buried on the 9th in one grave at Chessunt, Herts, where they had some time lived.

³ It probably had before been printed among the academical verses on that occasion.

⁴ This presentation was purchased by Mr. Peck for £.400; which is the more memorable, as it shews how little this industrious man could get. G. A.

⁵ In Mr. Peck's History of Stamford, the View of that town is inscribed "To the honoured Samuel Lowe, Esq. Member of Parliament for the Borough of Aldborough, and one of the kind Encouragers of the Work, with the sincerest thanks for his many favours."

⁶ "From Beauvoire castle," says he, "to Croxton two miles; and from Croxton I rood a six miles farther into a little through-fare caullid by good pasture and corn grounde, but and little woode, Then I rode a six miles farther by grounde, and there I enterid to the cawsey of Wathelingstreet, that there goith betwixt Ankester and Staunforde." Itin. vol. I. p. 115.

⁷ Belvoir, Croxton, Bescaby, Saltby, Sproxtton, Waltham, Eaton, Braunston, Knipton, Harby, Hofs, Plungar, Barkston, Redmile, Granby, Sutton, Bottesford, Normanton, Easthorpe, Muston, Wolfthorp, and Eagle. F. P.

⁸ This was written before the modern system of inclosures became so fashionable. G. A.

⁹ Averham and Kelham. F. P.

¹⁰ Averham, Kelham, Rollston, and Syerston. F. P.

my sincere prayer, not only for your individual self, but every branch of your most illustrious House."

The publication of Mr. Peck's volume was evidently hastened by "An Essay on the antient and present State of Stamford, 1726," 4to, by Francis Hargrave, who, in the Preface to his pamphlet, mentions the difference which had arisen between him and Mr. Peck, on account of the former's publication unfairly forestalling that intended by the latter. Mr. Peck is also therein roughly treated, on account of a small work he had formerly printed, intituled, "The History of the Stamford Bull-running."

In 1729, he printed a single sheet of "Queries concerning the Natural History and Antiquities of Leicestershire and Rutland;" reprinted in 1740.

Mr. Peck was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, March 9, 1732; and in that year he published the first volume of "Desiderata Curiosa; or, a Collection of divers scarce and curious Pieces relating chiefly to Matters of English History; consisting of choice Tracts, Memoirs, Letters, Wills, Epitaphs, &c. Transcribed, many of them, from the Originals themselves, and the rest from divers antient MS Copies, or the MS Collations of fundry famous Antiquaries and other eminent persons, both of the last and present Age: The Whole, as nearly as possible, digested into Order of Time, and illustrated with ample Notes, Contents, Additional Discourses, and a complete Index." This volume was dedicated to lord William Manners, then one of the representatives in parliament for the county of Leicester, and one of his majesty's lords of the bed-chamber¹; and we find in it two pieces by Mr. Peck; the one, "A brief Discourse on the antient Divisions of the Night and Day, as also of the Hours of Prayer, and the Number of each, as the same was read at Belvoir Inn, before a Society of Gentlemen and Clergy there, on the 12th of March, 1730;" the other, "A Description of Burghley House, and of all the principal Paintings and other Rarities now to be seen there, in a Letter to Roger Gale, Esq."

"This work being intended to be carried on in several other volumes of the like sort, the Publisher designs (while those volumes are printing) to get the heads of the principal persons, therein mentioned, engraved from original paintings by the best hands. For which reason, the subscribers are desired not to bind up their books till the whole work and all the plates are finished, that the said prints may then be inserted in their proper places. Any Gentleman, who will lend the Editor an original picture of any of the underwritten persons, for a copy to be engraved from it, will be reckoned an Encourager of this work; and any Gentleman, who will give the plate of any such head; will be esteemed a Patron. Heads proper for the first volume (if original pictures and other encouragements can be procured) are, queen Elizabeth; prince Henry; sir William Cecil, lord Burleigh; Henry Hastings, earl of Huntingdon; Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester; Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury; Thomas Cecil, earl of Exeter; Edwyn Sandys, archbishop of York; William Chaderton, bishop of Lincoln; sir Christopher Hatton; sir Francis Walsingham; or those of any other eminent persons mentioned in the course of it."

At the end of this volume, Mr. Peck announced his intention of publishing a second, and actually gave a

list of the contents; which by no means correspond with those of the volume published in 1735, and inscribed to Dr. Richard Reynolds, bishop of Lincoln²; for which the author thus apologizes: "As this second volume does not consist of any one of all those pieces mentioned at the end of vol. I. and there proposed to make up vol. II; it may be necessary to inform the reader, that those papers (though postponed at present) are designed to follow, and that with addition of others of the like sort, which I hope will make good amends for the delay. I shall conclude this Preface," he says, "with the following lines upon the picture of Time, as expressed in my title-page:

Years are the teeth of Time, which softly eat,
And wear out curious books in manuscript.
Fire is the scythe, wherewith he down doth mow
Ten thousand precious volumes at a blow:
Blest Printing best of all his rage withstands,
And often chains his feet, and ties his hands;
Rescued from whom here various Authors meet,
And, all united, form a splendid treat.
So numerous flowers in one rich nosegay join,
And still more fragrant smell and brighter shine.

Scribendam die meo lustrico, 4 id. Maii, 1735."

No more than 250 copies of these volumes having been printed, they soon became scarce and high-priced; but they were re-printed, in 1779, in one volume, 4to, by Mr. Thomas Evans³, bookseller; and the plates which were used for that edition are now my property.

On the death of William Musgrave, M. A. rector of Aldwincle St. Peter's, co. Northampton, in 1736, Mr. Peck obtained, by the favour of bishop Reynolds, the prebendal stall of Marston St. Lawrence, in the cathedral church of Lincoln.

Mr. Peck next printed "A complete Catalogue of all the Discourses written both for and against Popery, in the Time of King James II; containing in the whole an Account of Four Hundred and Fifty-seven Books and Pamphlets, a great Number of them not mentioned in the three former Catalogues; with References after each Title, for the more speedy finding a farther Account of the said Discourses and their Authors in fundry Writers, and an alphabetical List of the Writers on each Side, 1735," 4to.

He was editor, in 1739, of "Nineteen Letters of the Reverend and truly learned Henry Hammond, D. D. (Author of the Annotations on the New Testament, &c.) written to Mr. Peter Stainnough and Dr. Nathaniel Angelo, many of them on curious Subjects, &c." These were printed from the originals, communicated by Mr. Robert Marsden, archdeacon of Nottingham, and Mr. John Worthington.

The next year, 1740, produced from him two volumes⁴ in 4to; the first, inscribed to Auditor Benson, as "a professed admirer of Milton," is intituled, "Memoirs of the Life and Actions of Oliver Cromwell, as delivered in Three Panegyrics of him, written in Latin; the first, as said, by Don Juan Roderiguez de Saa Meneses, Conde de Penaguiao, the Portugal Ambassador; the second, as affirmed, by a certain Jesuit, the Lord Ambassador's Chaplain; yet both, it is thought, composed by Mr. John Milton (Latin Secretary to Cromwell), as was the third: with an English Version of each. The whole illustrated with a large Historical Preface; many similar Passages from the Paradise Lost and other Works of Mr. John Milton,

¹ This dedication is in the style of an independent private clergyman to a neighbouring gentleman of distinguished worth. "It was your Lordship's affable demeanor," he says, "which first won me, as well as so many others, to love and honour you; and, since that, a personal experience, that, whenever you express a kindness for any man, you not only do it in words, but also shew it in your actions."

² In this address he tells the Bishop, "The antiquities of the church of Lincoln (which make a considerable part of this volume) being mostly collected by one of your predecessors [bp. Sanderfon], and now published by a clergyman of your diocese, have even a natural claim to your Lordship's protection, both as you are the present worthy successor of the author, and the diocesan of the publisher. But I address them to you, not only upon those accounts, but also as what I persuade myself will not be unacceptable to a Prelate who bestowed even the remains of his palace on the repairs of his cathedral. And now, my Lord, under your piety and conduct, may your church of Lincoln every day recover more of its antient beauty. As for the rest of these collections, my Lord, they consist of other matters, many of them very remarkable, either for their antiquity, or curiosity, or usefulness, in supplying the defects of our former historians." Bishop Reynolds had contributed the plate of St. John the Baptist's church to the History of Stamford; and afterwards gave Mr. Peck a prebendal stall at Lincoln.

³ Who died May 1, 1784. See some account of him, Gent. Mag. vol. LIV. p. 296.

⁴ "Whilst these two volumes were in the press, and now almost finished, I lost my dear friend, that truly learned and most accomplished gentleman, William Cowper, esq. late Clerk of the Parliaments, who was the delight of all that knew him, and my infinite regret, died Feb. 14, 1739." F. P.

and Notes from the best Historians. To all which is added, a Collection of divers curious Historical Pieces relating to Cromwell and a great number of other remarkable Persons¹ (after the Manner of *Defiderata Curiosa*, Vol. I. and II.)" Among these is "A Discourse on Local Proverbs, in a Letter, written by himself, to a Brother Antiquary."

The second volume, which is dedicated to Arthur Onflow, esq. Speaker of the House of Commons², has the title of "New Memoirs of the Life and Poetical Works of Mr. John Milton; with, first, an Examination of Milton's Style; and, secondly, Explanatory and Critical Notes on divers Passages in Milton and Shakespeare, by the Editor. Thirdly, Baptistes; a sacred Dramatic Poem in Defence of Liberty, as written in Latin by Mr. George Buchanan, translated into English by Mr. John Milton, and first published in 1641, by Order of the House of Commons. Fourthly, The Parallel, or Archbishop Laud and Cardinal Wolfey compared, a Vision, by Milton. Fifthly, The Legend of Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, Knight, Chief Butler of England³, who died of Poison, Anno 1570, an Historical Poem, by his Nephew Sir Thomas Throckmorton, Knight. Sixthly, Herod the Great, by the Editor⁴. Seventhly, The Resurrection, in Imitation of Milton, by a Friend. And, eighthly, A Discourse on the Harmony of the Spheres, by Milton; with Prefaces and Notes."

Mr. Peck's "Explanatory and Critical Notes on divers Passages of Shakespeare," at a period when that species of criticism had not arrived to the perfection it has since attained by the united labours and genius of several successive commentators, deserve particular commendation. He seems indeed to have first pointed out the mode, which has since been successfully pursued, first by Dr. Farmer, then by Mr. Steevens, and since by Mr. Malone, Mr. Reed, and many other persons, of illustrating one passage by another. "When I sat down," he says, "to read Milton's poetical works, I often thought, as I went along, that he had Shakespeare in his eye; I therefore read him next. And, in reading him, I noted every thing which I imagined would be of use to explain Milton; and again (as I was then naturally led to do so) every thing which arose in my own mind, and, I conceived, would help to explain Shakespeare. The few I now publish are also a small specimen of a much larger number of that sort; and, as they were written thus accidentally, are sent abroad with those on Milton (to which they owe their rise) not with any design to disparage what others have written on Shakespeare, but purely to do justice to that great genius, and to shew, that (after all the pains which several gentlemen have so industriously taken to clear up that poet) there is yet room for abundant observations of the like sort, whenever any good critic in these matters shall think fit to bestow his farther labours upon him⁵."

He took also much useful pains in arranging "A new Catalogue of the several Editions of Shakespeare's Writings (whether single Plays or Poems printed separately, or Copies of his whole Works printed collectively), ranged in an order of Time, according to the several Impressions; with Remarks."

In the preface to the second volume⁶ he makes "grateful acknowledgements to the honourable Cuthbert Constable⁷, of Burton Constable, in com. Ebor. esq. who generously gave him the plate of Milton prefixed to that volume, and for his other favours."

"The picture here spoken of," Mr. Peck says,

"was a half length, drawn when he was about five and twenty. The original was once the property of Sir John Meres, of Kirkby-Belers, in com. Leic. knight, but is now mine; and you have a good print of the head prefixed to this work. However, as the plate exhibits the head only, and as no engraving can express the colouring of the complexion and drapery, and perhaps something of the features, I shall here add a short description of the whole. Milton is here drawn sitting in a red velvet chair, in a russet coloured night-gown, lined with blue. His hair, a dark brown; parted on the crown, and some locks hanging (as the fashion of the times then was) pretty much over his forehead; his eyes, inclining to black; his nose large and strait; his mouth and all his features handsome and very agreeable; his lip and whiskers (an essay towards a beard) of a thick, lightish, down; his complexion fair and florid; yet, through the mellowness of the paint, a little, and but a little, inclining to brown; his shirt open at the neck, but tied at the wrists with great bow-knots of black ribbon; his right hand resting in his lap, and holding the verge of his night gown between his thumb and fore-finger; his left hand lying over an open book, on a table covered with a loose red velvet table-cloth. The open dexter leaf of the book numbered page 30. And on the edge of the book, a label, inscribed PARADISE LOST, with a c not an s; as he often wrote it. By the way, the Paradise Lost, here alluded to, is not the Paradise Lost of X or XII Books, but the Dramatic Poem of that name; and which, in part, he wrote early⁸."

As Mr. Peck appears to have plumed himself on possessing this original picture, it is painful to conclude this account of it with the opinion of Mr. Granger: "The print is much like the portrait from which it is taken; but it is evidently not genuine. It was in the possession of Mr. Peck's widow⁹."

In this volume are four plans⁹ of those "poetical projects," on which, Dr. Johnson observes, Milton "had digested his thoughts into one of those wild dramas which were antiently called Mysteries;" and refers to them as being in MS. in a library at Cambridge. The original is at Trinity College.

From the second volume Dr. Johnson has reprinted a letter of Cowley, when retired from *the hum of men*. "By the lover of virtue and of wit," says the Doctor, "it will be solicitously asked, if he now was happy. Let them peruse one of his letters accidentally preserved by Peck, which I recommend to the consideration of all that may hereafter pant for solitude."

In 1741, Mr. Peck communicated to Mr. Wotton, for a Baronetage then printing, the curious article on the family of Wyche, which follows this Memoir.

In 1742, he published his last work, "Four Discourses; viz. 1. Of Grace, and how to excite it? 2. Jesus Christ the true Messiah, proved from a consideration of his Miracles, in general: 3. Jesus Christ the true Messiah, proved from a consideration of his Resurrection, in particular; 4. The Necessity and Advantage of good Laws and good Magistrates: as delivered in two Visitation and two Assize Sermons. By Francis Peck, M. A. Rector of Godeby Maureward, and Prebendary of Marston S. Lawrence in the church of Lincoln." The Visitation Sermons (one, preached at Melton Mowbray, April 17, 1725, at the visitation of archdeacon Trimmell; the other, at the same church, July 11, 1739, at the triennial visitation of bishop Reynolds) are inscribed "to the

¹ A portrait of Hampden, "de pictâ Tabellâ apud virum illustrem Richardum Ellys Baronetum," is inserted in vol. I. which Mr. Peck notices as "a present from that learned and obliging Baronet."

² "The translation of the Baptistes having originally had the sanction of the House of Commons," says Mr. Peck to the Speaker, "may now, not improperly, appear under the protection of yourself."

³ Of which see Gent. Mag. vol. LXIII. pp. 911. 1089: in answer to enquiries after it, *ibid.* p. 787.

⁴ These two poems were inscribed, "To the very reverend and learned John Newcomb, S. T. P. master of St. John's college, Cambridge, in acknowledgement of his favours."

⁵ Memoirs of Milton, p. v. ⁶ Q. father of William Constable, esq. of that place, who died, in his 78th year, April 1791.

⁷ *Ibid.* p. 103.

⁸ Granger, vol. IV. p. 36.

⁹ "Three of these plans stand the three first in our author's own MS copy of his many intended dramatic pieces. Which observation, and that of his being drawn (when he was but twenty-four or twenty-five years of age) with his hand on a book intitled Paradise Lost, amounts almost to a demonstration that he had begun and made some progress in a dramatic poem of that name, when he was even so very young; a wonderful instance this of his forward parts and most early ripeness of judgement." F. P.

right reverend and learned Richard lord bishop of Lincoln, his honoured lord and benefactor;" and the Affize Sermons (one, before Mr. Justice Parker, at St. Martin's, Leicester, March 29, 1741, being Easter-day; the other, before Chief Baron Probyn and Mr. Justice Page, at St. Mary's, Leicester, July 30, 1741), to his "very good Friend and Neighbour, Peter Wyche, of Godeby Maureward, esq. high-sheriff of Leicestershire;" to whom he was chaplain for the year.

At this period Mr. Peck had in contemplation no less than nine different works; but whether he had not met with encouragement for those which he had already produced¹, or was incapable of executing them by reason of declining health, is uncertain; none of them have yet been made public. The greater part of them he had announced in 1735.

Of two of these we are able to state the progress; and as the materials for the others may still exist, and some of them be worthy the public attention, the proposed titles are here given.

1. "The Natural History and Antiquities of Leicestershire." The whole of Mr. Peck's MSS. relative to this work (which devolved to his widow in 1749 on the death of their son) were purchased, in 1754, for ten guineas, by sir Thomas Cave, who had himself been many years engaged in a similar pursuit. Whilst I cannot but lament that, by the death of that worthy and intelligent Baronet in 1778, the task of Historian of Leicestershire devolved to one so inferior in abilities; I am proud to acknowledge the liberality of the last sir Thomas, who handsomely presented me with the whole of the collections which had been formed by his grandfather. To the present respectable baronet also, the Rev. sir Charles Cave, I am indebted for a friendly introduction to his nephew, for many of his own very useful notes and observations, and still more for the politeness with which the favour was conferred.

The progress which Mr. Peck had made was considerable, particularly in the Hundred of Framland, in which he resided; and for the greater part of the county he had abstracted the Clause and Patent Rolls, the Escheat Rolls, and *Inquisitiones post mortem*², from the records in the Tower, and other public-offices; but had not fully prepared one single parish for the press.

His copy of Burton's History, in which he had made several remarks, and noted down many useful references, I purchased (1793) from Mr. Adams, bookseller, of Loughborough, after it had lain many years in the library of the Rev. John Alleyne³, B. D. and fellow of University college, Oxford, late rector of North Cerney, in Gloucestershire, to which he was presented in 1780 by his college, and died after one day's illness Nov. 1, 1793. This copy is a striking proof of the patient industry of Mr. Peck, who has transcribed fourteen complete pages that were torn out when the book came into his possession, which he thus prefaces: "Chasmata in hoc exemplari supplevit, pro-

priâque dextrâ transcripsit, Franciscus Peck, A. M. Antiquarius Stanfordinensis, 10^o die mensis Aug. 1727."

Towards the Natural History Mr. Peck's collections were but slender; and they will be found, such as they are, interspersed in the different parishes to which they relate. His intention was to have digested them under these distinct heads: "Stones, Salt, Long Life, Herbs, Earthquakes, Crevices, and Apparitions."

For the last-mentioned of these articles, in this enlightened age, an apology was perhaps necessary; and Mr. Peck had actually prepared one. "The reader," he says, "may be surprized to find here an article of apparitions⁴, and perhaps think me a very credulous person for believing there is any such thing. All these matters, he may sneer and say, may be accounted for as so many instances of the spleen, imposture, or the like. And no doubt, a great many may. But, with submission, I think, not all. For, though I believe, with the author of 'The Reality of Apparitions⁵,' that a guilty conscience may make a murderer fancy that he sees a spirit; that the vapours or hip may have the same power on melancholy persons; that many tricks and juggles have been carried on by people in confederacy to carry on their amours, and for other purposes, merry, base, or the like; though I believe, with the same author, that the souls of the dead never stay to shew themselves to the living, upon any account whatsoever, after they are once freed from the body, but immediately pass on to a place of happiness or misery appointed for them, where they know nothing of what afterwards happens here; yet, I believe with the same author, that Providence, for its own wise end, does sometimes send both good and bad spirits, with commission to speak and shew themselves to us in the shape of departed friends, or enemies, or others, as occasion requires; and that, as an imposture may be distinguished by nice judges from an apparition or spirit, so that good or bad spirits may as easily be known from each other by considering the nature of their errand, the manner of their appearance, or the like; and that, let such a spirit be either good or bad, with a good conscience on our side, we need not fear it. And, lastly, that, should such a spirit appear to us, we must not ask it impertinent questions⁶."

2. "Monasticon Anglicanum, Volumen Quartum, all from Originals never yet published." This work, part of the collection which was bought by sir Thomas Cave, consisted of five volumes in 4to. fairly transcribed for the press, in Mr. Peck's own neat hand, under the title of "Monasticon Anglicanum Supplementis novis adauctum: quo comprehenditur Arboris Præmonstratensis Ramus Anglicanus, per omnia triginta & unum Angliæ Walliæque ejusdem Ordinis Cœnobia; è Chronicis, Registris, Cartis, aliisque Testimoniis antiquis MSS. & authenticis, ad ipsa Monasteria olim pertinentibus, & hætenus ineditis, five imperfectè & mendosè perquam editis, abundè illustratus. Cujus pars I. Generalia; II. Specialia; III. Cœnobilii

¹ Which, from the following apology, we may presume to have been the case: "When I printed my first proposals for the life of Milton, I designed to have engraved a plate of sir Nicholas Throckmorton, to set before the life of that unfortunate gentleman; but afterwards I imagined that the picture of sir William Davenant (as the life of Milton is my principal work, and as Milton saved sir William's life, and sir William in return saved Milton's) would be more proper. However, when I came to see Mr. Auditor Benson's fine medal of Milton, I judged that would still be more suitable than either of the other two. Indeed I would have engraved them all, but this I found would be too chargeable, unless I had met with greater encouragement, to bear the expence of it." P. vi.—At the end of several of his tracts he repeats this notice: "I print entirely at my own charge; and any gentleman who pleases to favour me with his orders for any of my books (or with his correspondence) is desired to direct to me at my house at Godeby, near Melton, in Leicestershire, and no where else."

² The *Inquisitiones post mortem* were made by the escheators of each county upon the death of any of the king's chief tenants, or tenants *in capite*; so that every person there mentioned, who had an inquisition *post mortem* taken, may be considered as one of the higher or lower nobility or gentry of England; these lower persons being they who were formerly the house of commons, till it was otherwise settled by Simon Montfort. And these Escheat Rolls are now the grand registers of their deaths, age, matches, heirs, &c. of both. And just as the king had his escheators and feodaries to take these accounts of his tenants *in capite*, so each of those tenants *in capite* had a steward, or other officer, who kept an account of their vassals or persons who held under them; their vassals estate, as I conceive, escheating into their hands at their decease, just as theirs did into the king's. In the Escheat Rolls, whenever you read *consanguineus* or *consanguinea*, and *heres*, you must understand grand-son or grand daughter, not cousin. F. P.

³ Mr. Alleyne, the son of an attorney at Loughborough, was born there in 1731; matriculated March 14, 1745, of Trinity college, *pleb. fil.*; ordained deacon at Bugden by Dr. John Thomas bishop of Lincoln, Dec. 23, the Sunday before Christmas-day, 1750; his title Edgcot, co. Bucks, given him by his friend Mr. Granger, vicar likewise of Shiplake. Mr. Alleyne was appointed master of Magdalen school 1752, concerning which he made some MS collections. He was ordained priest by the same bishop the Sunday before Christmas-day 1755. In 1764 he applied for the mastership of the Grammar-school of Bristol corporation, but failed. He corrected the press for a volume of his friend Dr. Horbury's Sermons, for the benefit of his widow, and assisted in composing the Index to Dr. Chandler's *Inscriptiones Antiquæ*, 1774.

⁴ On this head, see under the parish of Redmile.

⁵ Lond. 1727, 8.

⁶ Peck, MS.

Croxtoniensis Librum de Domesday continet; omnia Latinâ, Gallicâ, Anglicâ, ad eorum Exemplaria literatim expressa. Opera & Studio F. P. A. M. Ære incisa adduntur aliquot Insignia, Sigilla, Monumenta, & Ædificiorum Reliquiæ."

On the 14th of May, 1779, at the suggestion of Dr. Gifford, these volumes were presented to the British Museum, by the then Sir Thomas Cave, after the death of his father, who, twenty years before, had it in contemplation to bestow them on that excellent repository. They are extremely valuable; and have furnished many useful articles to the publisher of this History.

3. "The Lives of William Burton, Esq. Author of the Antiquities of Leicestershire, and his Brother Robert Burton, B. D. Student of Christ Church, and Rector of Segrave in Leicestershire, better known by the Name of Democritus Junior." I have some brief notes by Mr. Peck on the lives of these two learned brothers, little more than an outline; and it is probable that he had proceeded no further. He always professed a profound veneration for the character and abilities of Burton, and actually possessed some of his MSS. "I have now in my hands," he says, "two fair MSS. one of the famous Mr. William Burton, the Leicestershire Antiquary; the one in folio, the other in quarto. In the quarto MS. is a roll of the arms of a great number of religious houses." These are now in the collection of the Rev. Sir Charles Cave.

4. "The History and Antiquities of Rutland."

No trace of this article appears; but it is possibly lurking in the corner of some library where it accidentally fell on the death of Mr. Peck. He lived almost on the spot; and had certainly made some considerable collections for it.

5. "The History and Antiquities of the Town and Soke of Grantham, in Lincolnshire." No trace of this appears among any papers that I have seen.

6. "The Annals of Stanford continued," vol. IV.

7. "Desiderata Curiosa, vol. III." The articles advertized at the end of vol. I. and mentioned in the Preface to vol. II. to have been kept in reserve, have not yet been discovered. I have a few scattered fragments, intended as a continuation.

8. "The Life of Mr. Nicholas Ferrar, of Little Gidding, in the County of Huntingdon, Gent. commonly called the Protestant St. Nicholas, and the pious Mr. George Herbert's Spiritual Brother, done from original MSS." Among the intended works advertized in 1735, this was to have been the first published². Dr. Peckard, master of Magdalen college, Cambridge, who published "Memoirs of the Life of Mr. N. F. 1791," seems to have had the use of some loose and unconnected papers of Mr. Peck's first draught, which was to have been compiled from a folio life of his brother by John Ferrar³.

9. "New Memoirs of the Restoration of King Charles the Second (which may be also considered as an Appendix to Secretary Thurloe's Papers), containing the Copies of Two Hundred and Forty-six Original Letters and Papers, all written annis 1658, 1659, and 1660 (none of them ever yet printed). The Whole communicated by William Cowper, Esq. Clerk of the Parliament. With large Historical Notes by the Publisher, F. Peck, M. A."

In 1731, Mr. Peck drew up a curious "Account of the Afshebys and de la Launds, Owners of Bloxham, in the county of Lincoln;" which yet remains⁴

in MS. At the end of it, Mr. Peck makes his acknowledgements to Nevile King, esq; of Grantham, "a gentleman whose learning is equal to his good-nature, and whose good-nature is exceeded by none," for the use of a thin folio MS. compiled by Thomas de la Laund in the reign of king Henry VIII, and containing "a full account of many law-suits and other troubles, which the said Thomas had with the Knights Hospitalers, and particularly with Frere Thomas Babington, then farmer of Temple Bruere; which contentions had forced him to rummage all the evidences he had by him concerning either that place or his own family, and to take copies of them with his own hand⁵."

Mr. Peck concluded a laborious, and, it may be affirmed, an useful life, wholly devoted to Antiquarian pursuits, July 9, 1743, at the age of 61 years; and, by his last will, dated July 17, 1742, directed his body to be buried, without any funeral pomp or vain needless expence, in the parish church of Godeby, if he should die there, just within the South door, on the left hand behind the door⁶; the coffin to be carried by four poor men of Godeby, and two of Eastwell, who were each to have 2s. 6d. He gave also 20s. more to the poor of Godeby, and 10s. to the poor of Eastwell; and requested that the Rev. Mr. Edward Dixon, vicar of Buckminster, and the Rev. Mr. Francis Stephenson, vicar of Awlton, would attend the funeral, and, meeting his corpse in the church-yard in surplices, one of them read the burial-service in the church, the other in the church-yard; each of them to have a scarf, hatband, gloves, and a ring of 20s. value, inscribed with his name. He left to Anne his wife £.400; a silver tankard, a freehold house at Bysbrooke, co. Rutland, his larger picture and her own, both by Mr. Collins, and such goods as were not otherwise disposed of. To Francis his son £.200; his smaller picture by Mr. Collins, his two-eared silver cup, his silver spurs, all his gowns and caffocks, his organ, and all his books both printed and written (except the remaining copies of his own printed works, which are ordered to be sold), desiring him not to part with the same till he shall be 30 years of age, when it is presumed he may be better able to judge of them⁷. To Anne his daughter £.400. a freehold house at Stamford, and his picture by Mr. Highmore. To his sister-in-law, Hannah Curtis, three freehold houses at Stamford; with the pictures of our Saviour, the Blessed Virgin, and Queen Elizabeth, which hung in her room at Godeby. He left also a small remembrance to his aunts Mary Jephson, Hannah Jephson, Grace Jephson, and Anne Lea; and to his nephews Robert and James Peck.

On the death of Mr. Peck, his widow retired to Harlaxton, in Lincolnshire, where she was living in 1755. By this lady, who was the daughter of Mr. Curtis⁸ of Stamford, he had two sons; Francis⁹, born at King's Cliff in 1720, afterwards rector of Gunby, near Colsterworth, co. Lincoln, who died in 1749; Thomas, baptised at Godeby, March 22, 1726, who died young, and was buried at Wymondham; and one daughter, Anne, baptised Jan. 30, 1731; now [1794] the widow of Mr. John Smalley, lately an eminent farmer and grazier, at Stroxtun, in Lincolnshire, who died in September 1793, in consequence of a mortification which began in his hand, shattered some little time before by the bursting of a gun.

¹ Collection of Historical Pieces, 1740.

² "All these are in great forwardness, but Mr. Ferrar's Life will be published first." F. P.

³ Preface, p. xi. See also Gent. Mag. vol. LXI. p. 456.

⁴ It is annexed to his History of the Preceptory of Temple Bruere. Brit. Mus. MSS. 4937.

⁵ Several other curious articles in this volume were transcribed "e codice MS. penes amicum Leicestrensem, 1732."

⁶ This was complied with; see the epitaph, p. 199.

⁷ The son not living to the age of 30, the books devolved to his mother. See p. 203.

⁸ Among the subscribers to the first volume of Mr. Peck's "Desiderata Curiosa," in 1735, are "Edward Curtis, of Stamford, Gent." and "Noah Curtis, of the same place, Gent." These were probably his wife's father and brother.—In a note at the beginning of his Burton, where the arms of his father and mother are delineated, he says, "F. Peck may quarter the arms of Anne Curtis; her brother being dead without issue, and her elder sister and both her children being dead *sine prole*." In a mezzotinto print of Mr. Peck, by Faber, from a painting taken by Mr. Highmore in 1735, and prefixed to the second volume of his "Collection of curious Historical Pieces," the arms are introduced thus quartered. In the portrait which accompanies the present memoir, drawn from the life by B. Collins, junior, in 1731, the arms of each are given separately, from drawings by Mr. Peck.

⁹ A friend has sent me, from Harlaxton, co. Lincoln, the following epitaph: "Francis Peck, A. M. late rector of Gundy, interred June the 17th, 1749, in the 29th year of his age."

MEMOIRS of the Family of WYCHE, compiled by Mr. PECK in 1741; with some Additions, 1794.

For the name, there was antiently a province in Mercia, called *Wiccia*, and the people *Wiccii*, the capital of which province was *Worcester*¹.

The word *Wic*, in German, is said to signify a bay, a creek, or winding of a sea, or river²; in Saxon, sometimes a bay, and sometimes a castle³; and the salt-pits in Worcestershire and Cheshire were, by the old English, called *Wiches*, or salt-holes⁴; and in both these shires we find many considerable persons of the name of *Wyche*.

Of these, the first is, *Peter de Wyche*, who, in 1159, was one of the witnesses to the convention between Roger, prior of Malvern, co. Wigorn, and William Burdet, founder of Waucot-abbey, co. Warwick, which he made a cell to Malvern⁵.

The next is Saint *Richard de la Wiche*, who was born at Wiche (*Droitwiche*); educated first at Oxford, then at Paris, then at Bononia, then at Orleans; at his return, made chancellor to St. Edmund, archbishop of Canterbury, and at length chancellor of the university of Oxford⁶; afterwards provided to the bishoprick of Chichester by the pope, and consecrated by the holy father himself on the first Sunday in Lent, 1247⁷. He so governed the charge committed to him, that all men revered him very greatly, not only for his great learning, but much more for his diligence in preaching; and, above all, for his integrity of life and conversation⁸. He died the 2d or 3d of April, 1253, in the 56th year of his age, and was buried in his own cathedral⁹. He was canonized in 1262, the form whereof, with the office appointed to be used on his festival, may be seen among the MSS. in the library of Corpus Christi college, Oxford, N^o 154; and on the 16th of the kalends of July, 1276, his body was taken up from the place where it was first buried, and put into a rich shrine. The ceremony of this translation was performed by Robert, archbishop of Canterbury, in the presence of king Edward I. and of all the nobility and prelates of England¹⁰. His life was written by Ralph Bocking, a Dominican¹¹; an abridgement whereof by Mr. Elmer (as also his last will) may be seen in the library of Trinity college, Cambridge, MSS. N^o 262.

Barnes¹² has a *Thomas Wiche*, an esquire of England, who, in 1373, 47 Edward III. was kept by the duke of Bretagne (John Montfort, son-in-law to the king), captain of his strong castle of Hennebond, whilst he himself took refuge a while in England for fear of being betrayed by his own people into the hands of the French king. Sir Bertram de Clequin, constable of France, having a design against this fortress, sir Robert Knolles, the duke's lieutenant in Bretagne; sent to his assistance sir Thomas Prior, a valiant knight. The constable, coming to the siege with a great force, made a vow, he would sleep that night in the castle, and threatened them, townsmen and all, with death, if they any way assisted the castle. The soldiers, however, under their two captains, defended themselves valiantly, and, being taken by escalade, were all put to the sword, excepting only those two¹³.

The next of this family whom I read of, is another Richard, called *Richard de Lollard*, a contemporary, and, in all probability, a companion of the famous

John Wicliff. The answer of this Richard, to the articles objected against him, may be seen among sir Thomas Bodley's MSS. at Oxford¹⁴, and his recantation in the King's library, at St. James's, MSS. N^o 349.

The next is another Richard, called *Richard Wyche of Wico Malbano*¹⁵, that is, Wyche Malbanc, (so named from William Malbedeng, or Malbanc, who had that place given him by the Conqueror¹⁶) now Nantwiche, in Cheshire. He had issue,

Sir *Hugh Wyche*, mercer, sheriff of London in 1444¹⁷, and lord-mayor in 1461¹⁸, died in 1466, and was buried at St. Margaret's, Lothbury, where, before the fire, he had a fair monument, signifying, that he gave to his third wife £3000. and to poor maids marriages 500 marks¹⁹. After his death, the lady Wyche brought an action in the king's bench against the parson of St. Margaret's, for that the said parson had taken away a coat of arms and certain penons, with the arms of sir Hugh Wyche, her late husband, and a sword, forth of the chapel, where the said Hugh was buried²⁰. This lady was buried in St. Dionis Backchurch, to which she gave lands for sermons, &c.²¹

The next of this family whom I read of, is father *Richard Wyche*, a Cistercian monk, of Whalley abbey, co. Lancaster; who, in 1521, then studying in St. Bernard's college, Oxford, went out B. D. in that university²².

The next I read of is *John*, a secular, some time master of St. Peter's college, at Lingfield, Surrey, where he lies buried, with this inscription:

Hic jacet Dñus Johannes Wyche, quondam Magister istius Collegii Sancti Petr. de Lynfield; qui obiit xvi Die Maii, a^o Dñi M.CCC.LII. cujus anime propicietur Deus. Amen²³.

The next is *Richard Wyche*, of Davenham, co. Cheshire. He had issue,

Sir *Richard Wyche*, of London, merchant, who married Elizabeth, daughter of sir Richard Saltingfall, knight, lord-mayor of London, by whom he had twelve sons, and six daughters²⁴. He died Nov. 20, 1621, and lies buried at St. Dunstan's in the East, where, before the fire, he had a fair monument in the North aisle of the chancel²⁵:

“ Here lyeth the body of Richard Wyche, merchant and citizen of London, free of the Company of Skinners: amongst whom (having born all Offices), his Life and Carriage was exemplary. He married Elizabeth, the daughter of sir Richard Saltingfall, knight, some time alderman and mayor of this honourable City of London; by whom he had issue, 12 sons and 6 daughters, viz. Richard²⁶, Thomas, Susan, Daniel, George, Samuel, Peter, Elizabeth, James, Mary, Anne²⁷, Edward, Julius, William, Henry, Abigail, Nathaniel²⁸, Rebecca.

Sons { 4 { deceased,
 { 8 { living;
Daughters { 2 { deceased,
 { 4 { living.

¹ Camden, ed. Gibson, vol. I. p. 617.

² Ibid. p. 220. 460.

³ Ibid. p. 327.

⁴ Ibid. p. 617.

⁵ Mon. Angl. vol. I. p. 367. b.

⁶ Godwin de Præfulibus Angl. p. 553.

⁷ Anglia Sacra, vol. I. p. 492.

⁸ Godwin, ibid.

⁹ Ibid. & Angl. Sacra, vol. I. p. 494.

¹⁰ Wharton, vol. I. p. 502.

¹¹ Godwin, præd.

¹² Life of King Edward III. p. 853.

¹³ Ibid. p. 854.

¹⁴ In huperoo Bibl. Bodl. codex MS. N^o 154.

¹⁵ Stow, p. 558. a.

¹⁶ Camden, vol. II. p. 675. a.

¹⁷ Stow, p. 565. a.

¹⁸ Ibid. p. 568. b.

¹⁹ Ibid. p. 292. a.

²⁰ See more of this case, under Edmondthorpe, p. 180.

²¹ Ibid. p. 218.

²² Fasti Oxon. vol. I. p. 37.

²³ Antiquities of Surrey, vol. III. p. 61.

²⁴ Inscript. tumuli D. Petri nepotis, infra.

²⁵ Stow's Survey, vol. I. B. II. p. 45.

²⁶ Richard, alderman, and brother to sir Peter, left Edith his daughter and heir, wife to Dr. John Sympsen, of Chester-street-yard, London. Gwillim's Display of Heraldry, p. 384.

²⁷ Anne was second wife to Robert Charlton, of Whitton, in Salop, esq. and had only one daughter, who left issue Lettice, married to John Bright, of Acton, in the same county, esq.

²⁸ Nathaniel Wyche, esq. is styled president to the East Indies; and amongst the sermons of Dr. Nathaniel Hardy, dean of Rochester, is one, intitled, “The Pious Votary and Prudent Traveller, characterized in a Funeral Sermon, occasioned by the Voyage of Nathaniel Wyche, esq. President to the East Indies, preached in the Church of St. Dionis Backchurch, London, March 14, 1657.” Ath. Oxon. vol. II. p. 466. He must have died before his voyage.

He yielded his soul in peace to his Maker,
the 20th of November,
after 67 years pilgrimage here amongst men;
whose latter years were bestowed
in expectation of his end,
express in settling his estate here on earth,
and in preparation of his soul for Heaven,
where it now remains in peace and happiness."

Peter, sixth son of Richard aforesaid, was a merchant, afterwards knighted, made one of the gentlemen of the privy-chamber to king Charles I.¹ and for twelve years his ambassador² at Constantinople³, being the eighth in number of those English gentlemen, who had been vested with that character⁴. This *fir Peter* married *Jane*⁵, daughter of *fir William Meredith*, of Wrexham, co. Denbigh, knight⁶, paymaster in the reigns of queen Elizabeth and king James I. of their majesties army. In 1633, while *fir Peter* was ambassador, happened that dreadful fire at Constantinople, which consumed 70,000 houses⁷. *Sultan Amurath IV.* in his letters to king Charles, according to the flourishing way of the East, styles this *fir Peter* "one of the chief of your most esteemed, *fir Peter Wyche*⁸." And again, "your ambassador, the honoured amongst the people of the Messiah, the esteemed and famous lord, and your trusty *fir Peter Wyche*, whose end be happy⁹. And again, "the most honourable among the Christian lords, *fir Peter Wyche*, your ambassador¹⁰." The said *Sultan*, at the instance of *fir Peter*, for a while took off the *narge*, or custom, on all English cloth brought into Turkey¹¹. How it came afterwards to be laid on again, those, who then began to make up two sorts of Colchester bays, would (if alive) be best able to relate.

While *fir Peter* was thus ambassador at the Porte, his lady being there with him, the favourite Sultana queen desired one day to see her, whom she had heard so much talk of. Whereupon lady Wyche (accompanied with her waiting-women, all neatly dressed in their great verdingals, which was then the court fashion,) attended her highness. The Sultana received and entertained her very respectfully; but withal, wondering at her great and spacious hips, asked, whether all English women were so made and shaped about those parts? To which lady Wyche answered, "that they were all made as other women;" and shewed her the fallacy of her apparel: at which the Sultana, who verily believed it had been her natural and real shape, was with much difficulty convinced of the truth¹².

After his return¹³, *fir Peter* was made comptroller of the household and a privy-counsellor; and, as such, signed the king's declaration, bearing date June 15, 1642, disavowing any intention of war¹⁴. He was a very honest, plain man (saith the Noble Historian), and gratified *fir Thomas Jermyn* very liberally for his white staff, when the Court was very low¹⁵. The plain English whereof, as I am told by a descendant of his, is, that he lent the king £.30,000; and, dying

soon after, thereby much hurt himself and family¹⁶.

This *fir Peter* died at Oxon, in the beginning of December, and was buried on the 7th of the same month, 1643, in the South aisle adjoining to the choir of Christ Church there¹⁷; leaving then behind him *Jane*, a daughter, married to *fir John Grenville* earl of Bath¹⁸, by whom he had issue five sons and eleven daughters; whereof *Jane* was married to *William*¹⁹, second son of *fir Thomas Gower*; and *Grace*, to *George*, eldest son of *Philip*, son and heir of *fir George Carteret*²⁰; and *Peter* and *Cyrill*, both afterwards knighted. His monument has this inscription;

"D. Petro Wyche²¹, Eq. Aur.
Ric. F. Ric. N.

Ex Davenham, in com. Cestriæ oriundo,
Per ann. XII ad Portam Ottoman. legato;
Sacri hospitii Contra-Rotulatori;
Divo Carolo a secretioribus consiliis:
Flagrante Bello Civili, a Regis Domini sui, latere
Solâ morte divulso, An. Dom. MDCLXIII.
Janæque ejus uxori prudenti, filiæ
D. Gul. Meredith, de Wrexham, in com. Denbigh,
Eq. Aur.
Numerosâ prole beatâ (e quibus superfunt solum
Jana, comitissa Bathon. Petrus, & Cyrillus, Eq. Aur.)
comitibus in vitâ individuis, & tantum non in morte,
(iisdem nempe die, horâ, loco, & morbo correptis),
sed non, nisi post tristem hujus xvii annorum viduitatem,
Hoc tandem tumulo iterum unitis,
simulque in cœlum migraturis,
parentibus charissimis
P.
Cyrillus²²."

I come now to his eldest son, *Peter*, and his descendants, the senior branch of this family. This *Peter* was born in London, admitted gentleman commoner of Exeter college, Oxon, April 29, 1643, aged fifteen years; left the said house in October 1644, went to Trinity hall in Cambridge²³; there took the degree of M. A.; and afterwards travelled. Soon after the restoration of king Charles II. he received the honour of knighthood; was incorporated M. A. of Oxon, 1663 (being then also F. R. S.), and was afterwards employed in several embassies; as envoy to the court of Muscovy in 1669²⁴, and arrived at Riga on the 1st of May (on his way to which place he was complimented by the magistrates of Dantzick; entertained at Coningsberg by the elector of Brandenburg; and honourably treated through the territories of the duke of Courland²⁵), resident at Hamburg, &c. from which last he returned in 1681²⁶. This *fir Peter* first invented the geographical cards, in 52 copper plates. He also translated the Life of Don John de Castro, viceroy of India, wherein are seen the Portuguese Voyages, Discoveries, and Conquests, in the East-Indies, by *Jacintho Freire*, of Andrada, into English; Lond. 1664, fol. Likewise, a short relation of the river Nile²⁷; from a Portuguese MS. (at the desire of the Royal Society), Lond. 1669, 8vo.²⁸

¹ Continuation of Knowles's History of the Turks, printed as an Appendix to the said History, as collected out of the dispatches of *fir Peter Wyche*, by *Thomas Nabbes*, p. 10.

² *Sir Peter* succeeded *fir Thomas Rowe*, as ambassador at the Porte, in 1628. *Knolles's History of the Turks*, p. 1497.

³ Inscript. tumuli. ⁴ *Nabbes*, p. 10.

⁵ *Jane* was sister to *fir William Meredith*, of Hensley, in Denbigh, bart. which title expired in his descendant the late *fir Roger Meredith*, of Leeds-abbey, in Kent, bart.

⁶ Inscript. tumuli. ⁷ *Nabbes*, p. 20. ⁸ *Knowles*, p. 1429. ⁹ *Nabbes*, p. 3. ¹⁰ *Ibid.* p. 42. ¹¹ *Ibid.* p. 6.

¹² *Anthro-metamorph.* by *John Bulwer*, M. D. Lond. 1653. 4to, p. 547.

¹³ From *Sir Peter's* dispatches were chiefly collected the additions made to *Knolles's History of the Turks* from 1618 to 1637. *Ath. Oxon.* vol. I. p. 363. ¹⁴ *Clarendon*, vol. I. p. 636. ¹⁵ *Ibid.* vol. II. p. 205.

¹⁶ Ex informatione *Petri Wyche*, arm. ¹⁷ *Dugd. Bar.* vol. II. p. 480.

¹⁸ *Sir John Grenville* was made earl of Bath for his eminent services in the business of the king's restoration, and was the person he intrusted with his private message to general Monk, and afterwards with his public letters to both houses of parliament, &c. He had also a warrant under the privy-seal, that, in case general Monk died without issue, the title of duke of Albemarle should descend to the said earl. *Collins's Peerage*, vol. IV. p. 428.

¹⁹ *Sir William Leveson Gower*, bart. grand-father to *John* the first lord Gower.

²⁰ *George*, first lord Carteret, father to *John* the late lord. These two had the Bath estate.

²¹ *Sir Peter* died Dec. 8, and his lady the day after, at the duke of Ormond's. *Letters by Carte*, vol. I. p. 26.

²² *Le Neve's Mon. Angl.* vol. IV. p. 211.

²³ This *Peter* had a grace at Cambridge for B. A. June 2, 1645, as a member of Queen's College, though he might remove to Trinity Hall, incorporated at Oxon July 14, 1663, where he had been first of Exeter college.

²⁴ *Ath. Oxon.* vol. II. p. 954. See more of him in the Life of *Greaves*, vol. I. p. vii. 434-436.

²⁵ *Kennet*, vol. III. p. 296. a. ²⁶ *Ath. Oxon.* *ibid.*

²⁷ This relation of the Nile was republished lately; and in a preface some insinuations are thrown out on *Mr. Bruce*, as having availed himself of the work without acknowledgement. ²⁸ *Ath. Oxon.* *ibid.*

He married Isabella, daughter of sir Robert Bolles, of Scampton, co. Lincoln¹, baronet, (by Mary², daughter of sir Edward Hufley, of Hunington, co. Lincoln, bart.) and had issue, 1. John; 2. Bernard, a merchant³ (of whom hereafter); 3. Peter, who died at Cambray, unmarried; 4. George, a merchant, who died at Pondicherry, unmarried.

Of these, *John*, the eldest, was envoy extraordinary at Hamburgh; married Bethesda, daughter of Mr. Savage; and had issue, Cyrill, and a daughter Sophia, the wife⁴ of Dr. John Thomas, some time preacher to the English merchants at Hamburgh; who was afterwards rector of St. Vedast, Forster-lane; and dean of Peterborough; elected, but not consecrated, bishop of St. Asaph, 1743; being almost immediately translated thence to Lincoln, and to Salisbury in 1761. He died in 1766⁵.

Cyrill Wyche, esq. only son and heir, was, at the age of nineteen, appointed resident at Hamburgh by queen Anne; sent by king George I. his minister to the Circle of Lower Saxony, and afterwards his envoy extraordinary to the said Circle, and by his late majesty advanced Dec. 20, 1729, to the dignity of a baronet. He continued resident to the Hans Towns many years, and was afterwards envoy extraordinary to the court of Russia. Sir Cyrill married Anne, daughter of Mr. Magnus Wedderkop, first minister to the late duke of Holstein, by whom he had issue two sons, *Magnus*, an ensign in the army, who died unmarried in the 22d year of his age, 1740; and *John*, who died young; and two daughters, Frederica and Amelia; the eldest of which was married to Mr. Holmer, counsellor of state to the duke of Holstein.

Bernard, second son of the second sir Peter Wyche, was an East-India merchant, and settled at Surat, where he married Elizabeth, daughter of an English merchant of that place. This lady was afterwards married to Mr. John Robinson, another English merchant there.

They had issue, *Peter*, born Dec. 25, 1708, at Surat, which he left at a very early period of life; and was educated, at the Charter-house, London, and at Jesus College, Cambridge. Inheriting from his father a handsome fortune, he spent a considerable time in foreign travels; and, on his return, settled at

Godeby Maureward, the lordship of which town he purchased in 1735 of the heirs of Samuel Lowe, esq. of that place; and had a handsome seat there, for the most part of his own building. Mr. Wyche, who was high sheriff of the county in 1741, was very ingenious; made diamonds in such perfection, that a gentleman at Bath had nearly parted with a ring of four or five hundred pounds value for his of twenty pounds; and was also particularly well-skilled in the doctrine of mechanism. Dr. Stukeley, in 1760, addressed a paper to him, on a new method of constructing arches, "having been long acquainted with his sagacity in the improvement of building without timber, and making arch-work of the most commodious form; the one for prevention of fire⁶, the other in lessening weight, and many other curious contrivances of the like nature⁷."

Mr. Wyche died Nov. 1, 1763, in his 55th year.

By Elizabeth, his wife, only daughter of Mr. John Browne, of Boston, co. Lincoln, merchant (by Mary his wife), he had two sons, *Peter*, born March 3, 1740-41; who died Jan. 16, 1757; and *John*, who was promoted Jan. 26, 1768, from a cornetcy, to be a lieutenant and adjutant, in the horse-guards; but died soon after, of a violent fever, at the age of 24⁸. Mr. Wyche had also two daughters, one of whom died before him. His widow resided some time in Great Ormond-street; and, after having long languished under a cancerous complaint, died, Feb. 25, 1784, at Bedgbury in Kent, the seat of John Cartier, esq. leaving one daughter, who, being both deaf and dumb, was committed by her mother to the care of her friend Mrs. Cartier, sister to the Rev. Dr. Law, arch-deacon of Rochester; their father, Stephen Law, esq. having been many years governor of Bombay.

We come now to *Cyrill*, second son of the first sir Peter Wyche above mentioned, and his descendants, the junior branch of this family. This Cyrill was born at Constantinople, when his father was ambassador there, and had his name from his godfather, Cyrill Lucar, or in Latin *Cyrillus Lucaris*, the learned and worthy Greek patriarch, who was afterwards murdered through the intrigues of the Jesuits⁹. This Cyrill, the patriarch¹⁰, by the way, was a good man, who employed one Nicodemus Metaxa, a caloyer, or monk,

¹ Blomefield, vol. I. p. 491.

² Le Neve, MSS. vol. II. p. 80.

³ Ex inform. Peter Wyche, arm.

⁴ She was his second wife, and left no issue.

⁵ See a most excellent story of this most excellent story-teller and a Lutheran parish priest near Hamburgh, *Gent. Mag.* vol. LIV. p. 80; and other particulars of him, vol. LIII. pp. 463, 1008. G. A.

⁶ Some letters on the subject, which passed between Mr. Wyche and the count of Espie, were printed in "The Manner of securing all Sorts of Brick-buildings from Fire; or a Treatise on the Construction of Arches made with Bricks and Plaster, called Flat-arches, and of a Roof without Timber, called a Bricked-roof." See *Monthly Review*, 1766, p. 234. Mr. Beckford, who in 1755 (see *Gent. Mag.* vol. XXV. p. 90) suffered much by fire, was desirous of re-building his house at Fonthill, on the plan laid down by the count D'Espie; and this pamphlet contains the correspondence which ensued on that subject between our author and Mr. Wyche, who wrote to the count, at Mr. Beckford's desire, for instructions, and for workmen who had been used to construct such buildings. Whether Mr. Beckford did actually put this scheme in execution, and how far it might answer his expectations, we are not informed; but the design appears to be very curious; and to have been successfully tried in France." *Monthly Review*, vol. XXXIV. p. 234.

⁷ *Gent. Mag.* vol. XXX. p. 364.

⁸ See his epitaph, with those of his father and brother, p. 199.

⁹ *Fast Oxon.* vol. II. p. 163.

¹⁰ "Mr. Peck having mentioned this Cyrill the patriarch (from whom, I find, they derive that name), I shall make some addition to his account, as he was the greatest man, perhaps, which the Greek church has produced in its fallen state. He was, at 12 years of age, sent to study at Padua in Italy; and, when he had finished his studies, travelled into Germany, where he joined with the Protestants, whose spirit and doctrine he carried with him into Greece. He was afterwards sent into Poland by Meletius Piga, patriarch of Alexandria, to traverse the Union, which some of the Greek bishops in Lithuania designed to make with the church of Rome. On his return to Greece, he found Meletius at the point of death, who was then at Constantinople, and performed the functions of patriarch, Cyrill himself having some years before this been chosen patriarch of Alexandria in his room. He was at last chosen patriarch of Constantinople 1621, in which office he had scarce continued one year, before the zeal of some of his false brethren, joined to the artifices of the French ambassador, for the interest of the church of Rome, occasioned his being banished. He was soon however restored, at the instance of the English ambassador (sir Peter probably), but was continually persecuted by the same party, and several times dispossessed of the patriarchal dignity; and at length, when nothing could shake his principles and constancy, they procured him to be sent prisoner to a castle on the Black-sea, where he was strangled, June 27, 1638. Dupin's *History of the Church*, vol. IV. p. 256, &c. Dupin, as a Popish writer, is to be referred to for only the former part of this account; see for the other the account of this Cyrill in Collyer and Bayle. Dupin observes, p. 255, that with those types Metaxa brought from England he proposed to print Catechisms agreeable to his own principles; and that Metaxa himself had printed in England a book, containing the faith and doctrine in the Greek Church, composed by Cyrill, and dedicated to king Charles I. It was Cyrill who recovered the first and part of the second Epistle of St. Clement, to the Corinthians, which were read in churches in the Council of Laodicea, A. D. 364, and sent it as a present to that prince, after it had so long been given over as lost. He sent also to archbishop Laud the Pentateuch, with the various marks invented by Origen, now in the Bodleian library. He presented to king Charles I. the beautiful MS. of the Old and New Testament, which belonged to the patriarchs of Alexandria, whence he brought it on his advancement to the see of Constantinople. He was strangled in the boat as soon as he had well put off towards the castle, and in sight of the shore. There are some things in his death much to his honour, and worth recording." (From a MS. note, by the Rev. Robert Smith, rector of Woodston, in Huntingdonshire, sent to Mr. Wotton as a continuation of the article it illustrates.)—"Cyrillus Lucaris, born at Crete, 1572, was a man of extensive learning and knowledge of the world, who had travelled through a great part of Europe, and was well acquainted with the doctrine,

monk, of Cephalonia, to buy a fount of Greek types in England, and therewith set up a Greek press at Constantinople, for the benefit of his own nation¹. There they printed Bishop Jewel's Apology, translated into Greek, and divers other pieces; which (with a famous MS. of Photius, some time patriarch of Constantinople, and the only copy of that book in the world, given the English ambassador by a Greek bishop, as the greatest rarity of the East, and by him entrusted with Mataxa, to be transcribed by his deacons; that, having double copies, so great riches might not perish in one bottom) were, by the contrivance of the Jesuits, all seized by the vizier; and, though the printed books and types were afterwards restored, yet this MS. (which consisted of lectures, determinations, and other discourses against the church of Rome) could never be recovered. The ambassador moved the vizier, who used all his power; and the patriarch published an excommunication for many months, if perchance any Greek had bought it of the soldiers, to return it, but in vain².

We return to Cyrill his godson; who went out M. A. of Christ Church, Oxford, in the times of the usurpation; was afterwards knighted, secretary to the lieutenant in Ireland, F. R. S. and created LL.D. 1665, at which time he was a burgher in parliament for Kellington, in Cornwall³; as he was for East Grimsted in 1681; for Saltash 1685; and for Preston 1702. In the beginning of July 1693, the lord Capel, sir Cyrill Wyche, and William Duncombe, esq. were constituted lord justices of Ireland⁴; and, in 1700, the said sir Cyrill was, by the then English

house of commons, appointed one of the thirteen trustees, to see to the resumption of the forfeited estates in Ireland⁵.

This sir Cyrill purchased Poyning manor, in the parish of Hockwold, co. Norfolk; with divers other manors there; and dying Dec. 29, 1707⁶, was buried in St. James's church, Westminster. He had three wives; 1. —, daughter of sir Thomas Jermyn; 2. —, relict of sir Herbert Perrott, of Haroldstone, co. Pembroke; 3. —, daughter of — Evelyn, of —, Surrey, esq.⁷

Jermyn Wyche, esq. a son by the first wife, married Mary, only daughter of John and Mary Hungerford. He was M. P. for Fowey 1713; died Jan. 7, 1719, and was buried at Hockwold, where he hath a neat monument, with this inscription:

“Jermyn Wyche, armiger,
Cyrilli Wyche, militis, filius;
qui uxorem duxit Mariam Hungerford,
unicam Mariæ et Johannis filiam,
virtutum, et rei ex æquo hæredem;
de quâ tres, qui supersunt, suscepit liberos.
Vir sciens, prudensque legum vindex acerrimus,
obiit 7° Jan. 1719.

Hoc marmor, pietatis et amoris ergo, posuerunt
Maria Wyche, filia & uxor⁸.”

The issue of this Jermyn Wyche were,
Cyrill Wyche, of Hockwold, esq. high sheriff of Norfolk in 1729; and two daughters, Catharine, married to the Rev. Robert Wright, rector of Herling, in Norfolk; and Mary, to Robert Clough, of Felwell, in the same county, esq. all living in 1741⁹.

and discipline, of the Protestant and Roman churches. This prelate declared openly, and indeed with more courage than prudence, that he had a strong propensity to the religious sentiments of the English and Dutch churches, and had conceived the design of reforming the doctrine, and ritual, of the Greeks, and bringing them nearer to the purity, and simplicity, of the Gospel. This was sufficient to render the venerable patriarch odious to the friends of Rome; and accordingly the Jesuits, seconded by the credit, and influence, of the French ambassador, and assisted by the treacherous stratagems of some perfidious Greeks, continued to perplex, and persecute, the good man in various ways, and at length accomplished his ruin; for, by the help of false witnesses, they obtained an accusation of treason against him; in consequence of which he was put to death, in the year 1638, by order of the emperor. The confession of faith drawn up by him, dedicated to James I. and intended to be printed in England, afterwards at Constantinople in Metaxa's Greek press, and dedicated to Charles I. was published in Holland 1645, and was again printed in Aymon's "Monumens authentiques de la religion des Grecs," p. 237. By this confession, it appears evidently that he had a stronger inclination toward the doctrine of the Reformed Church than to that which was commonly received among the Greeks. Nor was he ill-affected towards the Lutherans, since he addressed several letters to the Swedish clergy about this time, and solicited their friendship, as appears by Archenholtz's "Mémoires de la Reine Christine," vol. I. p. 486; vol. II. Appendix, p. 113. Aymon has published in the work already referred to (p. 1—199), twenty-seven letters to the clergy of Geneva and other doctors of the Reformed Churches; in which his religious sentiments are more plainly described. The author of "Voyage dans la Suisse Occidentale," 1781, 4 vols. 8vo. vol. II. p. 6. mentions the application from this Cyrill Lucaris to the churches of England, Holland, and Switzerland, to bring them into an union with the Greek church. He miscalls him Lascaris; and represents him as a turbulent schemer, and a great intriguer, who was plotting to deliver Cyprus to the English. But this seems a misrepresentation, and contrary to the general character given by all others who mention him. See more of him in Greaves's Miscellaneous Works and Konig's Bibliotheca. What follows is the MS. addition of Abednego Sellers to his copy of the latter book, in the possession of G. A. "Cyrillus Lucaris, Patr. C. P. confessionem fidei Græcæ & Latine; scripsit etiam Epp. ad Vytenbogard, &c. homilias quarum Fr. E. in Synodo Bethlehemitica, quæ Synodus, sanctissime mihi affirmavit D. D. Huntingdon, scriptis mandata fuit Parisiis, tandem Hieros. missa, ut calculo episcoporum Græcorum, firmaretur. In Cyrillum Lucarim invehit Peter Arcuolius, Ep. Ded. ante lib. 7 de concordia. Patriarcha Timotheo C. P. vi veneni extincto, alium quendam Cyrillum pseudopatriarcham Alexandrinum, furivæ alumnum, κακῆς κοραϊκῆς κακῆς ὄντος, solutâ Turcarum Imperatori pecuniâ obrufit. V. loc. Our learned countryman Dr. Pococke was particularly happy in this prelate's favour, and drew up an account of his untimely end, which being accidentally lost, he communicated a verbal account of it to Dr. Smith, who published from it. "Narratio de vita, studiis, gestis, & martyrio Cyrilli Lucaris," which makes the 3d part of his "Miscellanea" published at London 1689; as also by Hettinge, in his Analecta Historico-Theologica Appendix. Dissert. vol. VIII. p. 550;" and separately, under the title of "Collectanea de Cyrillo Lucari, Lond. 1707," 12mo, which he thus concludes: "Cyrillum Lucarim, ob inculpatores mores, nullis probis commaculatos, & ob acerbissimas vitæ calamitates & cruentam mortem, quam obiit religionis evangelicæ defendendæ causâ, quicquid censet D. Arnoldus, & sanctum & martyrem habeo." See Mosheim's Eccl. Hist. vol. IV. p. 402, 403. Biog. Brit. art. Edw. Pococke, vol. V. p. 3373. note []. See also "Lettres anecdotes de Cyrille Lucar patriarche de Constantinople, Amst. 1717," 4to; Sir Thomas Roe's Negotiations, 1740; & Colomesii Clementis Romani Epistolæ, 1687, pp. 344. 351. 356.

¹ Knowles, p. 1491.

² Ibid, p. 1493, 4. ³ Facti Oxon. ibid. ⁴ Kennet, vol. III. p. 658. a. ⁵ Ibid, p. 781. a.

⁶ Blomefield, p. 491. 494.

⁷ Ex informatione Cyrilli Wyche, de Hockwold, in com. Norf. arm.

⁸ Blomefield ubi sup.

⁹ Ex inform. præd.