

## MATERIALS FOR A HISTORY OF HESSETT.

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### PART II.

Dedication of the Church. A will, preserved in the Bury Registry, settles the question of the Dedication of the Church. Richard Nunne, of Hessel, who deceased in 1447, bequeathed a sum of money to the high altar of S. Ethelbert, King and *Martyr*.

The Feast of S. Ethelbert is found in the Roman Martyrology, compiled by Usuardus towards the close of the ninth century, and printed in 1515-21;\* but is not in the calendar of either the York or the Sarum Missal, although the Sarum Use had been accepted in the county of Suffolk.† In the Hereford Missal the Saint is commemorated, as in the Martyrology of Usuardus, on the 20th of May, which is "a principal Feast," and for seven days after with great solemnity, as the Patron of the Diocese and of the Cathedral. The Festival, though absent from the Sarum Missal, is inserted in the Calendar prefixed to "The Encheiridion," or "The Hours according to Sarum Use," printed in 1528 and in 1530; and is noticed in the Martyrology of Cologne and Lubeck, printed in 1490.

With the exception of the Cathedral of Hereford, and the Church of Marden, in Herefordshire, built on the spot

\* *Acta Sanctorum*. Maii Tom. IV., p. 702.

† Mr. Maskell remarks:—"We have proof of the acceptance of the Use of Sarum in the county of Suffolk, from the fact that one of the Ordinals of that

Church, preserved in the library of the British Museum, was one of the service-books of the parish church of Rysby.' *Ancient Liturgy of the Church of England*; Preface lxxiii. There is no record either of the date of its acceptance, nor of the Use which it displaced.

where the body of the murdered Ethelbert was buried, all the Churches\* dedicated in his honour are either in, or upon the borders of, the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, which formed the old kingdom of East Anglia, and the ancient Diocese of Norwich. It was only natural that the memory of a Prince, so holy and so considerate of his people as he is reported to have been, should have been treasured by his Christian subjects; and that he himself should have been early enrolled by the popular devotion in the canon of the Saints.† The monks of Bedericksworth, ever anxious to raise their monastery into eminence, seem to have attempted to turn this popular devotion to account; and, with the view of adopting him as their patron, to have spread abroad reports of his miraculous agency in behalf of their community. For the author of one of the Abbey Registers quotes from a life of S. Ethelbert the quaint remark, "that it pleased God to adorn with the miracles of S. Ethelbert the place prepared for his kinsman, the celebrated King and Martyr S. Edmund."‡ Mr. Freeman§ considers it to be a proof that "he was much thought of long after," that his name is given to one of the great gateways leading to the Cathedral Church of Norwich, which was not founded till the end of the eleventh century. The gateway now existing is of the date 1275.

Robert Braunch, who was presented by the Rectors. King to the Rectory in 1381, was not improbably the same person as was in 1384 Master of the College or

\* The author of *The Calendar of the Anglican Church* states that six Churches in Norfolk, and three in Suffolk are dedicated in this name: Otten Belchamp, Essex, in the names of S. Ethelbert and All Saints; and Tannington, Suffolk, in

the names of S. Mary and S. Ethelbert." The three Churches in Suffolk are Falkenham, Herringswell, and Hessett; but in Norfolk I cannot discover more than five: Alby, Herringby, Larling, Thurton, and Wretham.

† The Sequence in the Mass for S. Ethelbert's-day in the Hereford Missal celebrates his holiness as a man and a king:—

Sceptri florens majestate,  
Sacra morum honestate,  
Ethelberte, micuisti,  
Dum hic regnum tenuisti.

Regni culmen quamvis nactus,  
Nulla carnis labe tractus,  
Cælebs semper exstitisti,  
Quia Deum dilexisti.

‡ See Yates's *History of Bury*, p. 21.

§ *Old English History*, p. 87.

## Hall of the Holy Trinity, Cambridge, now called Trinity Hall.

The Church. The Church, though of moderate dimensions, presents features of great beauty and interest, which justify a careful examination and a lengthy description. Most of these are undoubtedly due to the architects who rebuilt the vestry, nave and aisles, and tower, and erected the chapel and the porch. No records remain to explain the causes which led to the destruction of the old building, and we have little beyond the architectural details to tell us the dates of the new. I do not think that these will warrant us in fixing an earlier date than the first quarter of the fifteenth century to the earliest part of the work, namely, the vestry proper. The architect of the new work has retained certain portions of the old work; for example, the chancel with its two doors, and the door of the north aisle, which are of the late Decorated period; and a careful observer will notice that the cills of the windows of the south aisle retain the stools of the old Decorated mullions. A similar economy in the use of old material may be seen in the cills of the windows of the north aisle of Gazeley Church. The clumsy construction of the newel staircase inside the tower, at the south-west angle, (necessitated by the elevation of the belfry floor above the much-heightened arch of the tower), by which the western window is forced out of the centre towards the north, gives ground for thinking that the old Decorated tower is the core of the present tower.

Measurements of the Church. The Church, as originally rebuilt, consisted of a nave, with north and south aisles, and western tower, a chancel, and a vestry. The following measurements give its internal dimensions:—

|                     |   |         |           |         |       |          |   |      |
|---------------------|---|---------|-----------|---------|-------|----------|---|------|
|                     |   | Ft. In. |           | Ft. In. |       | Ft. In.  |   |      |
| Length } of Chancel | { | 27 5    | of Vestry | {       | 13 11 | of Nave  | { | 41 0 |
| Breadth }           | { | 16 5    |           | {       | 8 9   |          | { | 16 8 |
|                     |   | Ft. In. |           | Ft. In. |       | Ft. In.  |   |      |
| Length } of North   | { | 41 3    | of South  | {       | 42 1  | of Tower | { | 10 7 |
| Breadth }           | { | 8 8     | Aisle     | {       | 8 6   |          | { | 10 0 |

The Chapel. The eastern wall of the vestry ranges with the eastern wall of the chancel; and between the western wall of the vestry and the east wall of the north aisle a space was originally left of about 14 feet. This was at a later date formed into a chapel by the continuation of the aisle wall to meet the vestry wall; leaving the vestry to project externally 21 inches to the north. At the same time a low arch of two centres, with pier-shaft, capital, and base, resembling those of the nave arches in all details excepting the beads of the caps and of the base, which are circular instead of five sides of an octagon, was opened into the chancel; and another like to it into the aisle. The window in the north wall is of the same design and good workmanship as the windows of the aisles; and was most probably removed to its present position from the east end of the aisle, where it had originally been placed. At the same date the walls of the vestry which batter considerably from the plinth, were heightened without a batter; the old cornice, with two gurgoyles on the north, being retained; and a solar was constructed above it either for a priest or an anchorite. The restorer has within the last ten years obliterated many interesting details in the interior. Before the eastern wall of the chapel was re-plastered there were visible the richly-moulded base; and also marks of the embattled parapet which the vestry originally had. The vestry, which measures internally 13 feet 11 inches by 8 feet 9 inches, has a late flat-headed three-light window in the eastern wall, inserted most probably when the building was heightened; and immediately above it is the single-light foliated flat-headed window of the solar.

The history of this structure is written in an inscription, in black letter, which, commencing at the East, runs along the cornice of the solar, the chapel, and a portion of the aisle:—*Prep for the s[owles] of Jhon hoo & Katrynne hys wyf the qweche h[at]h mad y chapel æwery deyl hepteynd y westry & batylmentyd y hele.*

The letters *owles* have been designedly injured, but are

ANNO DOMINI

FROM THE INSCRIPTION ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE NORTH WALL OF THE VESTRY OF HESSETT CHURCH.

SCALE,  $\frac{1}{4}$ <sup>TH</sup> OF THE ORIGINAL.

**1811**

FROM THE INSCRIPTION ON THE VESTRY OF HESSETT CHURCH.

ORIGINAL SIZE.

still legible; and the word following **qweche** has been almost destroyed by the insertion of a leaden spout beneath the gargoyle; two letters remain perfect, **h** at the beginning, and **h** at the end; but by comparing the lower portions which remain of the other two letters with letters in other parts of the inscription, it will be determined at once that they are **a** and **t**. The inscription is in itself remarkable, as well for the beauty of the lettering, of which specimens are given, as for two words which it contains, *qweche* and *æwery deyl*. In *qweche* the employment of *qw* for *wh* or *hw* is an instance of Northern usage prevailing in the East Midland district.\* Robert Manning, of Brunne, or Bourne, in his work "The Handlyng Synne," which he began to compile in 1303, uses "euery deyl" very often; sometimes as one word, more frequently as two; and always at the end of a clause. Thus he writes in The Prologue:—

" Handlyng yn spechē ys as weyl  
As handlyng yn dedē euery deyl." 116.

And in line 12,240 of the poem:—

" At the cherche y shroue me weyl  
Plenerly of euerydeyl."

The expression signifies *every bit, the whole of*. So that the words of the inscription "mad y chapel æwery deyl," mean, "built the whole of the chapel," that is, from the ground; whereas he only heightened the vestry.

But the spelling of *æwery* is also to be noticed. The diphthong at an early date had given place to the simple *e*. The latest use of it, given in *A Dictionary of the Old English Language*, by Stratmann, is in The Brut of Layamon, written in the Worcestershire dialect in 1205.

The vestry and chapel must have been finished before 1492, for in that year John Hoo died. His will, which was

\* Mr. Richard Morris in Grammatical Notes, Appendix II. to *English Gilds*, published by the Early English Text Society, notices that the East Midland

Gilds employ *qw* for *wh* or *hw* (as *qwat* for what); but that the London Gilds (as well as the Cambridge ones) contain no instances of *qw* for *wh*. P. 460.

made in 1490, was proved in 1492, and is preserved in the Bury Registry; in it he bequeaths to the fryers of Babwell xvs., and a like sum to the fryers of Sudbury, "to have a trentall of seynt gregore for my soule and for the soule of myn wyffe Katteryunn." This mention of "myn wyffe Katteryunn" identifies him as the John Hoo named in the inscription. And as he bequeaths nothing to his wife, but mentions his children and his grand-children, we may conclude that Katrynne pre-deceased him, and that he probably built the chapel after her death; it cannot be of a date much earlier than 1480.

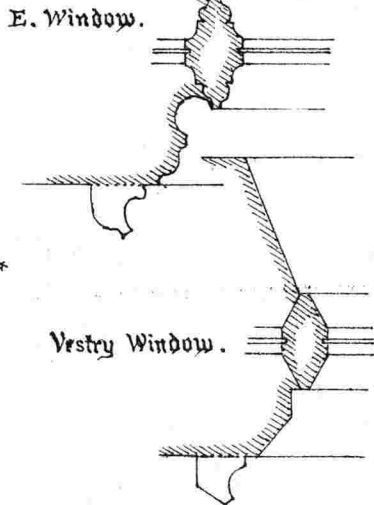
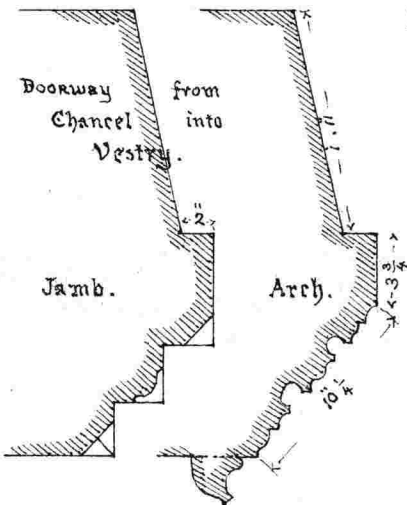
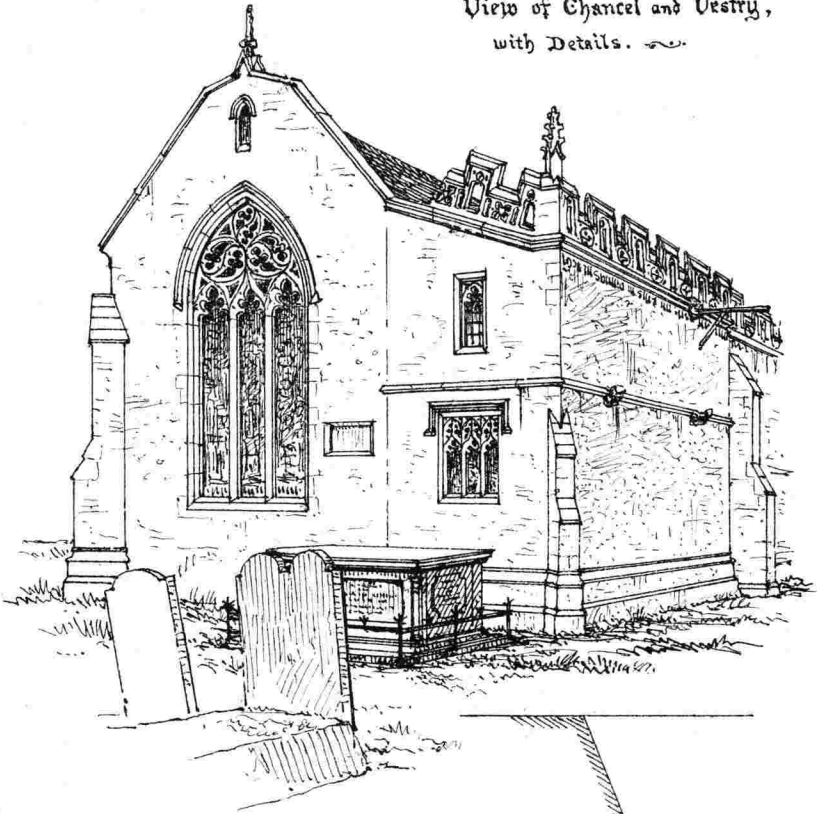
The embattled Parapets. The concluding words of the inscription, "and batylmented the hele," that is, the north aisle, draw attention to a very striking feature of the Church, namely, the embattled parapets, which are on all parts of the building except the chancel. In all, the coping is continued up the sides of the merlons, and forms a continuous line round them. The parapet of the tower, to be described later on, surpasses all in beauty; but the parapet of the south aisle is very beautiful, and the earliest in date. Here, all the merlons, except the central, are pierced with long panels, of which the heads are trifoliated, and the squares beneath the crenels are pierced with quatrefoils. The central merlon has a sunken panel, with trifoliated head, and carries a pinnacle set diagonally, which is continued down the face of the sunken panel to the plain band above the cornice; the construction is more clearly shown in the engraving. At the eastern and western angles is a pinnacle set square.

In the parapet of the nave the merlons are alternately pierced and sunken panels with trifoliated heads. Each of the sunken-panelled merlons carries a pinnacle set diagonally; and beneath each crenel under the coping, and between two narrow sunken panels with trifoliated heads, is a quartrefoil pierced, holding in the cusps alternately a shield and a four-leaved flower. The parapet is returned at the east end, and runs up the gable *at right angles to the line of the slope*: a most displeasing construction,



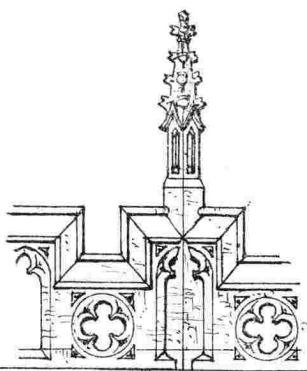
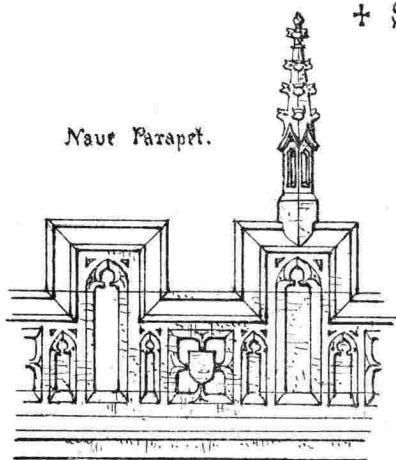
+ S. Ethelbert, K. & M., Hessest.

View of Chancel and Vestry,  
with Details.

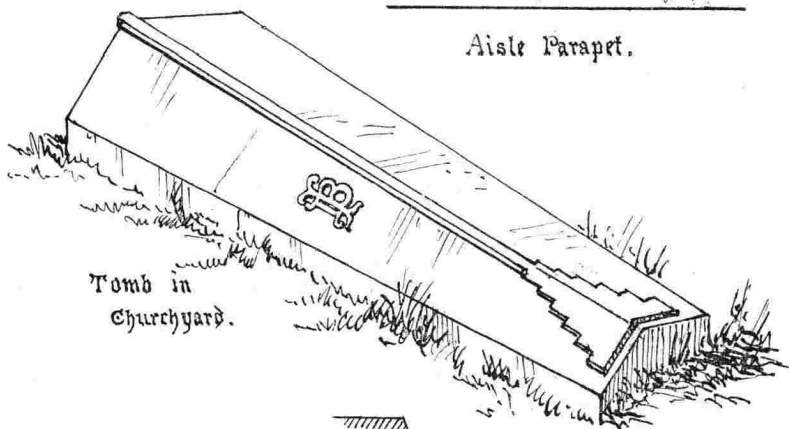


+ S. Ethelbert, K. & M., Hessest.

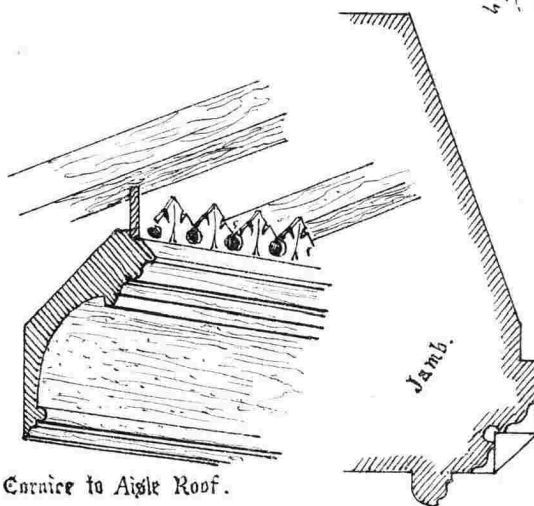
Nave Parapet.



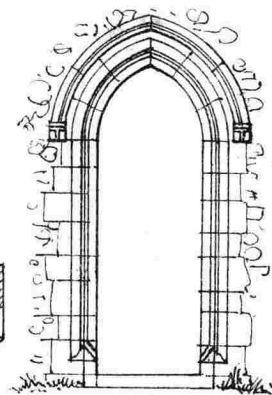
Aisle Parapet.



Tomb in Churchyard.



Cornice to Aisle Roof.



Priest's Door.

which distorts the two outside and the central panels. Above the central merlon are the remains of a cross; and on the merlons right and left of the central are pinnacles set diagonally, at right angles with the horizon, and not with the slope. The pinnacles at the angles are set square.

The architect who designed for John Hoo the battlement of the north aisle has made an inferior copy of this. The increased width of the pierced panels and of the cusped openings, and the clumsy manner in which the return up the eastern slope of the vestry is finished, contrast unfavourably with the elegant design and finish of the parapet of the nave, and betoken want of skill in the designer.

The Exterior of the Chancel. The chancel is a late Decorated building, having on the south angle a diagonal buttress of two stages, terminating in a gablet. The base of the south wall and of the buttress is formed of a bead with a single reversed ogee moulding, overhanging a plinth of ashlar, beneath which run a chamfer and a band of Barnack stone. The east window has three lights with cinquefoliated heads and moulded mullions; and a hood-mould, of which the terminal heads have been destroyed. The tracery is uncommon, if it be not unique, for Mr. Freeman has not represented the like. It is formed of two *ellipses* below and one *circle* above, all three filled with "the flamboyant translation of the wheel tracery." Over the window is a niche with a hood-mould that is returned; and to the north of the window, just above the level of the cill, is a shallow sunken oblong panel with a frame of Perpendicular mouldings. The eastern wall, which is rough-cast, is gabled; and has a flat coping surmounted by the remains of a weather-beaten cross. The gable is very much depressed towards the apex; and a glance at the roof, which is covered with lead, will show that it has been considerably lowered, and mutilated in form; and that the gable was depressed to fit it to the changed elevation of the roof. The priest's door, which has been worked afresh after the pattern of the old, has continuous mouldings and a hood-

mould of good character. On either side of the doorway is a two-light window of reticulated tracery : that towards the east is of modern construction, and has been inserted in the place of a Perpendicular supermullioned window of three lights. It is to be regretted that this window was destroyed, and with it a small lancet window, with a trifoliated head and a hood-mould that was above the priest's door : but the destruction of these two might have been pardoned, if the ruthless hand of the restorer had not most unnecessarily removed a small flat-headed window, which had been inserted between the Perpendicular window and the eastern wall ; and which, when the description of the interior is given, will be found to have a special interest attached to it.

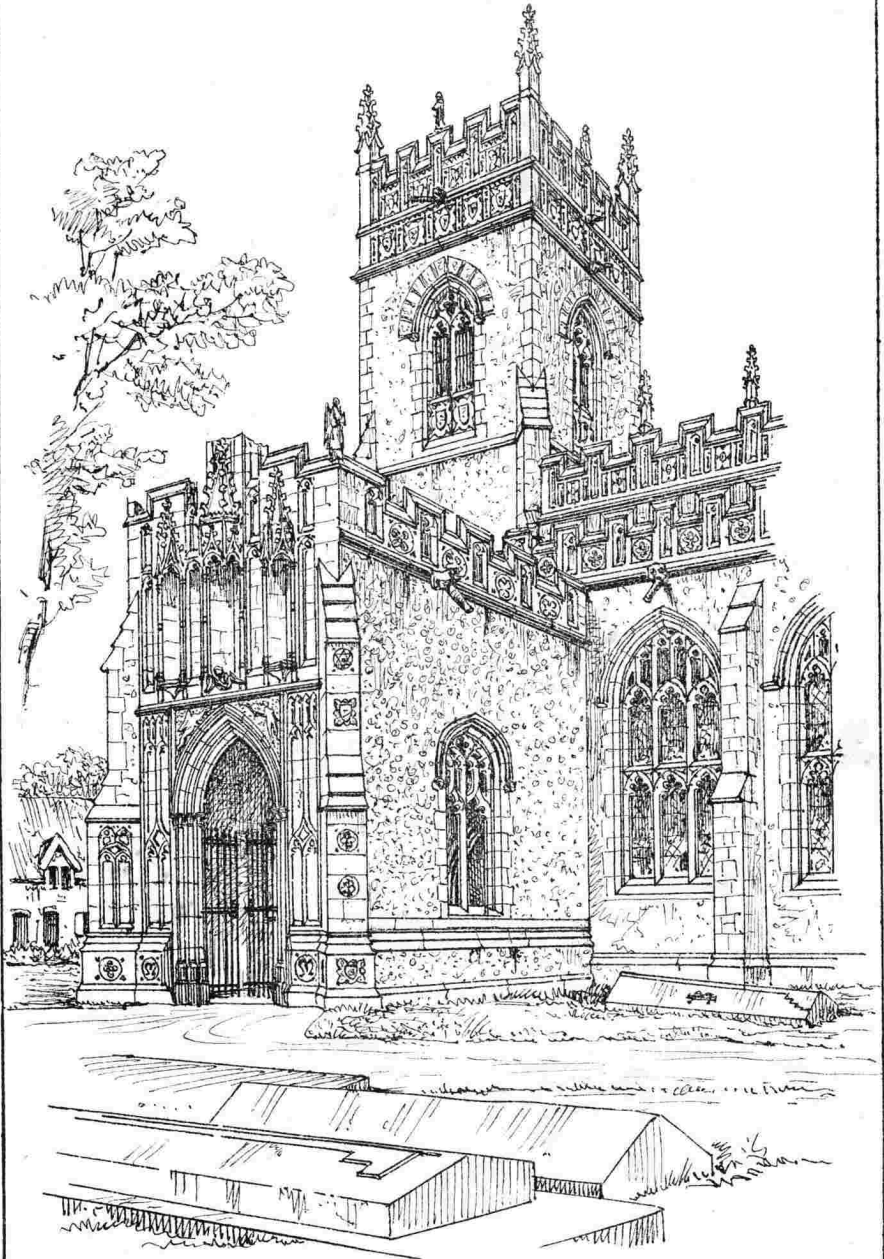
The Exterior  
of the Aisles  
and the  
Clerestory.

The north and south aisles have on the side three Perpendicular windows of three lights, supermullioned and transomed with cinquefoliated heads beneath ; and at the west end a window of similar design : the window at the east end of the south aisle is Perpendicular, of three lights, with cinquefoliated heads, supermullioned. The splays of all are panelled both on the outside and on the inside : and each has a hood-mould which is returned ; and the return is continued into the buttresses in all except the chapel window. The hood-mould of each of the windows at the west end is returned, and is continued into the buttress, but not into the tower. There is a buttress at the angle of each aisle set diagonally, and a buttress between each window ; all are of good projection, and of two stages, and terminate in a slope beneath the cornice of the parapet. The door of the north aisle is late Decorated ; and of the south aisle late Perpendicular, with continuous mouldings. Their position will be seen on the plan to be at the extreme west of the north and south walls of the aisles. A south porch was added towards the close of the fifteenth century, measuring internally 13 feet 6 inches by 10 feet 6 inches.

In the clerestory, which is of considerable elevation, are four Perpendicular windows, of three lights, with cinquefoliated heads, and supermullioned. A careful examination

† S. Ethelbert, K. & M., Hessest.

View of South Porch, Tower, &c.



of the junction of the walls with the tower has led me to think that a lower clerestory was originally designed. For, up to a certain point the clerestory walls are built *into* the buttress of the tower; but above this they are simply built *against* the buttress, which had been previously completed, and not even jointed into it. The architect seems to have grown dissatisfied with the original elevation of the clerestory, and to have sought to remedy it as economically as he could, without disturbance of the buttresses. The surmise is strengthened by an examination of the work in the interior. There remains above the chancel arch the weathering of the roof of the Decorated nave, *which runs down to the string-course moulding*, above the nave arches. But, above the tower arch, at the very least *four feet higher* than the string-course moulding, and immediately under the pendant post, starts another weathering, which could be traced throughout, until the Churchwardens obliterated it in the present year by a coat of whitewash, with which they have also disfigured the other walls of the Church. The elevation and the slope of the weathering forbid the supposition that it could have any connection with the roof to which the weathering over the chancel arch belonged. Again, in the first chamber of the tower there is a single-light window on each side; that on the eastern side, which gave into the Church, but is now blocked up, has its cill eighteen inches lower than the cills of the windows on the other sides; and the window itself is of smaller proportions. This lower position and diminished size are not needed with the present roof; but were almost necessitated by the lower elevation of the roof of which the weathering remains. Again, the walls of the arcade, between the responds and the tower, are incorporated into the buttresses from the base upwards, so that a squench is avoided; and this construction is carried as high as the disused weathering; but above that point, as on the outside, the clerestory walls are simply plastered against each buttress, which must have been previously completed. It may be surmised from these facts

that the tower, the aisles, and the nave arcade as high as the string-course were built up together; and that according to the original design the clerestory was much lower, and the window cills were made to rest upon the string-course, after the construction seen in S. James's Church, Bury S. Edmund's: but that the lower clerestory turning out ineffective, as any one who pictures it to himself from the exterior will see that it must have been, the present was built; very possibly under the direction and after the designs of another architect, who retained the parapet designed by his predecessor. Whether the roof was ever constructed as originally designed, I do not pretend to say. Mr. Hartshorne has remarked\* that "churches were progressive in their erection, commenced by one person and finished by his successor;" "which will at once explain why incongruities so frequently exist, and why we see such perpetual modifications and adaptations." The very considerable batter of the walls in the interior above the string-course makes it clear that the architect, who directed the building, had misgivings lest a greater weight should be placed on the piers than they were originally calculated to carry, and sought security by this expedient.

The Exterior  
of the Tower. The tower is of split flint-work, square, and of three stages, with an unusually ornamented parapet. On each face of the second stage is a single-light trefoiled-headed window with a hood-mould; and of the belfry stage a window of two lights. The buttresses are of four stages, set diagonally; in width *two* feet, in projection at the north and south angles of the base nearly *five* feet; they terminate in a plain slope which starts at the set-off of the belfry stage. The base consists of a bold bead and single ogee moulding, overhanging a plinth of "flush-work" in three rows of alternate squares of Barnack stone and split flint.

The west window, which is not central, but nearer to the north side, is Perpendicular, very depressed, of three long and narrow lights with cinquefoiled heads, subarcuated with

\* *Archaeological Journal*, Vol. III., p. 292.

complementary light, and the fenestellæ transomed. The hood-mould is carried below the level of the springing of the arch to the bottom of the tracery; and above the hood-mould is a relieving arch formed of narrow strips of stone alternated with split flint. The belfry windows are all four alike, of two lights, with cinquefoiled heads and alternate tracery, the centre figure being an irregular quatrefoil. They are transomed, about a third way up the lights; and beneath the transoms, which have on their underside a string of Tudor flowers, are panels, carrying a shield within a geometric figure, and separated from each other by a narrow sunken panel with trefoiled head. The belfry window on the west side is not central, but immediately over the west window on the first stage.

The parapet is of two stages, and stands on a bold overhanging cornice, with an ogee hollow; in which is a quasi-gargoyle, not central, but over the belfry window; an ingenious and successful device to disguise the eccentric position of the window. The upper stage is a battlement of five merlons and four crenels, with a crocketed pinnacle at each angle of the tower, and on the central merlon of each side an angel holding a shield. On the north and south sides the long panels in each merlon are pierced with trefoiled heads; on the east and west sides the outer panels only are pierced, the others being sunken and solid; but all the panels, whether pierced or sunken, have at their base a bold Tudor flower, erect, and reaching a fourth way up the panel. Beneath the coping of each crenel is a string of Tudor flowers, of different design in each of the four spaces; and under this a quatrefoil, carrying a shield in the cusps, between two sunken panels with trefoiled heads. The first and third shields bear each the letter I; the second and fourth bear each the letter B. The battlement is separated from the lower stage by a cornice, with a central gargoyle, and with a string of Tudor flowers immediately beneath it. This string of flowers surmounts five geometric figures, of a square upon a circle, which are separated from each other by a sunken panel with trefoiled head; and the flowers are



of different design over each of the five figures. In the central figure is a Swan sessant, which, *on the east side only*, turns its neck over its back. The other four figures each bear a shield; and on the first and the third of them is the letter I; on the second and fourth the letter B.

It is hardly possible to convey by words a correct idea of the beauty of this parapet, which is remarkable, even in a county which can boast of so many exquisite parapets. Yet it has great interest as well as beauty, from the occurrence of the Swan, in conjunction with the letters I and B. There can be little doubt that these are the initials of the person who caused the tower to be built; but there remains an enigma to be solved; namely, whom the initials I. B. denote, and by whom the Swan, the badge of the family of Bohun, could be legitimately placed upon the work.

Tradition makes John Bacon the builder of the tower. The family of Bacon had lived in Hessett from the time of Henry II. Richard Willyam, in 1459, appoints John Bacon an executor of his will; and other Hessett wills, preserved in the Bury Registry, show that from 1462 to 1513 there were in Hessett a John Bacon, the elder, and another John. That the Hessett branch of the family was possessed of considerable wealth is evident from the will of Stephen Bacon, who unquestionably belonged to that branch; and who, in 1444, left lands in the town and fields of Hessett, Rougham, and Bradfield Monachorum to his only son John. And as the architectural details enable us to fix the date of the erection of the tower about the middle of the fifteenth century, it may be that this John, the son of Stephen, was the builder of it. If the initials I. B. had not been accompanied by the badge of the Swan, there could have been little room for questioning that he was.

The possession of the Manor of Lovaines, in Drinkstone parish, and of lands in Hessett, by Henry Lord Bouchier, afterwards Earl of Essex, led me for a long time to think that he or his wife were in some way connected with the building. In the 51st year of Henry III., Muriel, the widow of Matthew of Lovaine, had a grant of the Manor of

Drinkestone Hall or Lovaines, and of a market and a fair. Matthew de Lovaine succeeded to the Manor, which descended to his son John Lord Lovaine, who married Margaret, daughter and heiress to Thomas de Weston, and died in the 24th year of Edward the Third, leaving two daughters, Eleanor and Isabel. Isabel died without issue: Eleanor married Sir William Bouchier, Knight, who became Baron Lovaine in the right of his wife. Sir William Bouchier, son and heir, succeeded on the death of his mother, in the 21st year of Richard the Second, as Lord Lovaine, and was created Earl of Eu in Normandy, in the 7th year of Henry the Fifth. Mr. Gough, in a most interesting paper on the Swan of Buckingham, published in *The Records of Buckinghamshire*,\* says that "William Bouchier, Earl of Eu, married the Lady Anne of Gloucester, widow of Edmund, Earl of Stafford, and so became entitled to the cognizance of the Swan." He died in 1421, and was succeeded by his son and heir Henry, Lord of Lovaine and Baron of Eu. This Henry succeeded to the Barony of Bouchier on the death of Elizabeth, daughter of Bartholomew Lord Bouchier, and was created Viscount Bouchier in 1447, and afterwards Earl of Essex in 1461. He married Isabel Plantagenet. On the 6th of March, 1440, he was admitted, together with Humfrey Earl of Buckingham and others to the Fraternity of the Abbey of S. Edmundsbury. Fraternity † was considered by the monks, who admitted to the privilege, not only to confer great spiritual benefit to the person enrolled from a participation in their prayers and devotional offices, but to carry with it obligations also; and to secure favour and protection to the community. Hence it was that Wicliff denounced "lettres of fraternity" as one means used by

\* Vol. III., No. 7, p. 269.

† At the end of the Exeter Pontifical, in a later hand than the earlier portion, is the Form of admission to Fraternity, which concludes thus:—"Magister ad petentem dicat we take yow maister N. into oure Bretherdon, graunting to yowe

the spirituall parte taking of all masses, matynes, evensongis, praiours, fastingis, abstinencis, wacchis, laboros, and other good dedis, the wheche to the praysing of God buthe don among us, and all oures." *Liber Pontificalis*. Edited by Ralph Barnes, Esqre. Exeter, 1874.

“the freres for wyning of worldli good or worldli worschip that thei coveten;” and that Piers Plowman wrote :

“For while Fortune is thy friend, friers will the love,  
And fetche thé to their fraternitie.” f. liii., b.

If I could have dared to have retained the idea which first struck me, that so great a person as Isabel Plantagenet would omit the armorial bearings of her family and adopt a Badge of her husband's, I might have been satisfied with the conclusion that the initials I. B. are the initials of Isabel Bouchier, Countess of Essex; and that piety had led her to a religious work worthy of the wife of one who was both a landowner in Hessest, and a frater of the Abbey. And as “Badges were used by their owners for every variety of decorative purpose, because they were well known and understood;” the Bohun badge, the Swan, would not be out of its place alongside of her initials. But the coat of Henry Bouchier, Earl of Essex, and of his wife Isabel, which is emblazoned on the first page of a Psalter, written about the middle of the fifteenth century, convinced me that the supposition could not stand; and that if Isabel had been the builder, her arms, and more probably the Bouchier knot, would have appeared upon the tower. The coat emblazoned here is:—Quarterly, 1 and 4, Argent, a cross gules: 2 and 3, Gules, a fess argent between 12 bezants disposed above 3 and 3; below 3, 2, and 1: impaling quarterly, France and England, a label of 3 points argent, each bearing 3 torteaux. Supporters, two eagles argent, armed and beaked or; the bird on the left stands on a fetterlock or, and Bouchier knot.\*

There is, however, another, and a more probable, way of accounting for the Swan.

In 1454 John Boon, or Boone, or Bohun, was elected Abbot of St. Edmundsbury;† and held the Abbacy until his

\* This Psalter is “MS. Reg. 2. B. xiv.,” and has in it a record of her decease. “VI. non. Oct. [Oct. 2.] Obitus illustrissime dn'e dn'e Isabelle, comitisse Essex', cōsorsitis Henrici Bourghier, Comitiss Essex', ira dn̄icali E. A° dni

Mmo ccccmo lxxxiiijs.” J. G. Nichol, *Collectanea Topographica*. Lond. 1834. p. 395.

† Dugdale, *Monasticon*, Vol. III., p. 115.

death in 1469. He is one of the few Abbots of whose birth and antecedents nothing is known, and of whose doings after his election little is recorded.\* It appears that branches of the family De Bohun were settled on the borders of Suffolk, and in Suffolk, in the reign of Edward I. In 1274 Alicia de Bohun held the Manor of Riddlesworth, in Norfolk, which in 1275 was in the possession of John de Bohun.† John de Bohun, son and heir of Franco de Bohun, of Midhurst, Serjeant of the King's Chapel, and sealer of writs in the reign of Edward I., who died in 1284, had lands in Pakenham.‡ His son John had in Pakenham a messuage and one carucate of land; and also lands in Elmset, Offton, and Somersham; and was the owner of Elmset;§ and the son of this John had a grant of the Manor of Elmset.|| In 1329 William de Bohun had freewarren in Elmsete, Eston, Somersham, and Floketon, Suffolk;¶ and a family bearing the name of Bohun was located at Fressingfield\*\* some years before the election of John Bohun to the Abbacy; for another John Bohun, who had acquired an estate there by marriage with the heiress of Robert Dallinghoo, died in 1458, leaving five children, of whom Edmund and Richard were his executors. If John Bohun were connected with this, or with some of the other branches of the great family of Bohun resident in, or near to, Suffolk, he may have obtained the Abbacy through the powerful interest of Henry Bouchier, Earl of Essex, who, as is stated above, was admitted into fraternity in 1440: "for in the elections of the

\* "A moated building in Fornham All Saints, converted into dwellings, called Aldridges, near the Church on the North side, occupies the side of Aldreds, which was an occasional retreat of Abbot Boon." Gage, *Thingoe Hundred*, p. 243.

† *Genealogies of Suffolk Families. MSS. pen. Sir J. Blois*, p. 70. See Davy's *Suffolk Pedigrees*, under Bohun. Brit. Museum. Addit. MSS., 19119.

‡ Davy's *Suffolk Pedigrees*.

§ Davy's *Suffolk Pedigrees*.

|| *Ib.*

¶ *Cal. Rot. Chart.*, p. 161.

\*\* S. Wilton Rix. *The Diary and Autobiography of Edmund Bohun, Esqre. Introductory Memoir*, p. vij. In the deeds at Fressingfield the name is spelt Bown, Boune, Bohn, Boun, and Bohun.

Abbot interest was often used, and sometimes in a very boisterous form.”\* And as Badges were the insignia, not of eminent personages only, but of “powerful houses; † and were borne by *all* the followers, retainers, dependants, and partisans of those personages and houses;” and “were used by their owners for every variety of decorative purpose, because they were known and understood;” and would readily and certainly distinguish the person bearing them: Abbot Bohun, even though he were sprung from a cadet of the great house, might very reasonably have considered himself to be so far *of* the house as to be entitled to wear the badge.

It remains to be noticed that the Swan appears upon the tower with closed wings, but neither gorged nor chained. It occurs also with closed wings and without coronet and chain above the arms in a seal of Humfrey of Bohun, Earl of Hereford, the grandfather of Alianore, widow of Thomas Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester; and also in the brass of the Duchess Alianore, in S. Edmund’s Chapel in Westminster Abbey, who died in 1399; intermingled with Swans gorged and chained and with opened wings.‡ The direct line of the family of Bohun terminated in the Duchess Alianore and in her sister Mary, who married Henry of Lancaster, afterwards King Henry IV. “The Swan became the Badge of both their husbands; and it has been supposed, with great probability, that they first added the golden coronet and chain.”§ If Abbot Bohun were, as I suppose, a descendant from a cadet of the great house, he would naturally take the Badge, as originally borne by the house, without the augmentations made by the husbands of the last of the direct line.

But did John Bohun build the tower at his own cost? and are the letters I. B. his initials? It is very possible, and far from improbable. The solidity and beauty of the

\* Fosbrooke (referring to *Monasticon*, I., 275) *Monachism*, Vol. I., p. 77.

† Mr. Gough. *Records of Buckinghamshire*, Vol. III., p. 249.

‡ Boutell’s *English Heraldry*, 228.

§ *Ib.*, p. 256.

tower prove that it was rebuilt by some one who was able to expend a large sum upon it. And as the Manor of Hesselton, and the advowson of the church, belonged to the Abbot, this rebuilding would be a fitting work for John Bohun, and the decoration of the Swan a proper use of the Badge.

If the initials were upon the tower only, this solution might be deemed satisfactory: but they are found also upon the porch, in a monogram, which is repeated upon the lid of a stone coffin in the churchyard near the porch. The monogram upon the coffin can hardly be any other than that of a John Bacon: and, if it be, the monogram upon the porch is also that of a John Bacon. And if we adopt the opinion that the initials upon the tower are also John Bacon's; we may suppose them to indicate that John Bacon built the tower, and placed the Swan upon it, to record that the work was done when John Bohun was Abbot.

It is very difficult to account for the absence of the armorial bearings of the Bacon family. That they were entitled to bear arms, and that they bore them, is asserted by all who have traced their pedigree, and is confirmed by a shield existing in the church. William,\* the brother of Robert, the first of the family we find mentioned by the name of Bacon, was settled at Monk's Bradfield in the reign of Richard I.; and he is taken notice of among the knights bearing banners in the reign of King Philip II. of France. He bore† for his arms a beech tree proper in a field argent. According to Cox,‡ in the reign of Edward III. the Bacons of Hesselton assumed the arms of D'Anvillers, or D'Avillers, of Arwerton; upon the marriage of Isabella daughter and co-heiress of Sir Bartholomew D'Avillers: Argent, 3 escutcheons gules, with this augmentation, on a fess engrailed as many mullets or. But a more probable account is given by the Rev. F. Blomefield in a manuscript pedigree of the Bacon family, on the authority of Mr. Scipio Squire;

\* Wotton. *The Baronetage of England*,  
p. 1.

† *Magna Britannia et Hibernia*.  
App. 334.

‡ Collins. *English Baronetage*, p. 1.

who "states in his book" that this coat was granted to William and his son Stephen Bacon and their heirs in the time of King Henry V. However this may be, these, impaled with Rowse of Dennington, are found upon a bench in the south aisle; and in the *Visitation of Suffolk*\* in 1560 are given as the arms of Thomas Bacon, of Hessel, Esqre.; who married Ann daughter of John Rowse of Dennington in 1513 and deceased in 1540. Sir William Betham† remarks that, "the Bacons of Hessel were, from the first, men of the shade, not camp, and therefore, in those ages, more affected to hieroglyphical devices and rebuses than armorial escutcheons;" but he gives no reasons for the statement. Unless he had something more on which to form his judgment than the single occurrence of a hieroglyphic device upon Hessel church, he seems to have drawn a very wide conclusion from a very narrow premiss.

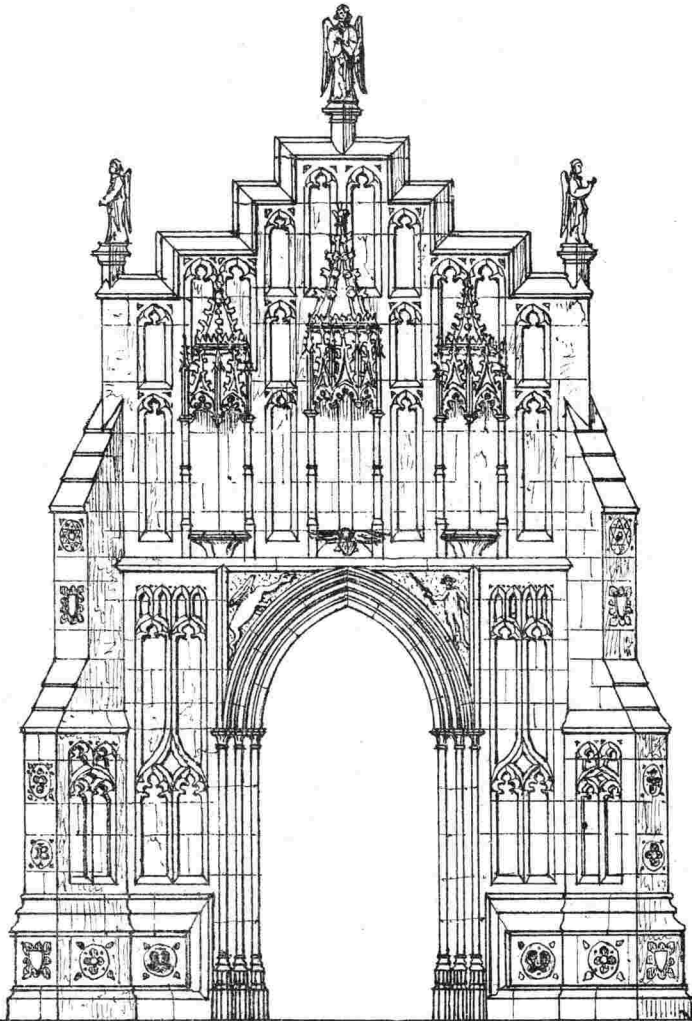
But whether we give the building of the tower to John Bohun, or to John Bacon, the Badge of the Swan will fix the date of *its completion* to be somewhere between the year 1454, when John Bohun was elected, and 1469, when he died. That other portions of the church were in process of re-erection in 1459, appears from the will of Richard William, Rector of Hessel, who bequeathed *vis. viiid., ad reparacionem sive ad fabricam ejusdem ecclesie*; and that portions were unfinished in 1473 may be gathered from the will of John Heyward of Hessel, who gave *xxs.* to the fabric of the church.

The Porch. The porch is of a later date than the south aisle; for it is built into the diagonal buttress of the south-west angle, so that its western wall ranges with the western wall of the aisle. The base consists of a bead, above a double reversed ogee moulding, which overhangs a deep plinth of Barnack stone, ornamented with a variety of geometric panels originally inlaid with split flint: and beneath the plinth runs a wide chamfer surmounting a plain stone band. The bead and mouldings are mitred round the

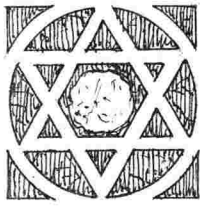
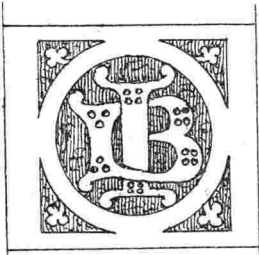
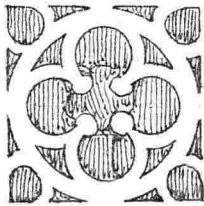
\* *Harleian MSS.* 891.

† *The Baronetage of England*, p. 1.

† S. Ethelbert, K. & M., Hessest.



Elevation of South Porch. (RESTORED)



Flint-Panelling on Buttresses, &c.



buttresses which are set diagonally. On the plinth of the western side the four central panels carry the letters G. S. K. B. : and on the plinth of the front, the panel nearest to the doorway on the west is charged with M, and that on the east with I.H.S. The eastern and western walls, of flushwork, are each pierced with a two-light window, prepared for glazing if not originally glazed, cinquefoiled, supermullioned, and of subarcuated design, beneath a depressed arch, with a hood-mould continued downwards below the springing of the arch to the bottom of the tracery, and terminating in heads. The cornice and embattled parapet are a very careful and well-wrought re-production of those of the south aisle ; into the wall of which they run just below its cornice : the centre merlin of the western side carries a stool for a figure or pinnacle : and a sharp eye will at once detect the unaccountable insertion of a large quatrefoil under the crenel to the north of this. The buttresses are set diagonally, and are of two stages, terminating in a slope : they are of ashlar on their faces and front sides and of flushwork on their northern sides. The outer doorway is of three orders, of which the centre is the largest, carried by shafts : all three shafts have good capitals ; the outer and the inner have good bases ; but the central has none. The doorway stands within a square frame, formed by a label, which is continued through to the buttresses on either side, and by two mouldings which rise from a fourth shaft, from which also springs the outermost moulding of the arch. In the spandrils are S. George on the one side, and the dragon on the other ; evidently, as I conceive, an allusion to the cradle of the Bacon family in West Suffolk, S. George's, *alias* Monk's, Bradfield. Mr. Drayton Wyatt informs me that similar spandrils, with S. George and the Dragon, exist over the porch-door of Great Bromley, Essex, which is dedicated to S. George. This carving of S. George and the Dragon, together with the monogram I.B. which occurs among the very beautiful panels on the buttresses, and which is reproduced on the coped coffin-lid that lies to the east of the porch in the yard, leads me to think that the porch was :

erected by John Bacon. I conjecture that he is the John Bacon, of Hessel, who died in the year 1513. The space on either side between the door-way and the buttresses, is panelled up to the label; as is also the contiguous side of the lower stage of each buttress. Above the label on projecting brackets stand three niches, the central semi-hexagonal and higher than the two outer, which are semi-elliptical: all three have vaulted and elaborately groined tops internally, under projecting canopies, which are enriched with crockets and finials. These niches are separated from each other by three narrow panels, and from the buttresses by two narrow panels, one above the other, with trifoliated heads, the lower panel sunken, the upper panels pierced: two similar sunken panels occupy the space above each canopy under the embattled parapet. At each angle stands an angel holding a shield. Unfortunately the upper portion of the parapet above the canopies has been destroyed, but sufficient remains to guide to a perfect restoration, as will be seen from the drawing of the elevation. The roof of the interior is fairly panelled: and close to the doorway in the south-east corner, not attached to the wall or to the floor, is the base of what might have been taken for a benatura, if it were not of such unusually large proportions; it is most probably a piece of the base of a churchyard cross; though it must be owned that it does not seem to have any connection with the shaft that was found in the well that formerly existed in the churchyard.

In addition to the shaft of the cross there is still remaining in the churchyard, the slab of the <sup>The</sup> Churchyard. tomb of William de Redenese; the tomb itself, which existed at the time of Dr. Davy's visit, has been removed, and the inscription can now with difficulty be deciphered. Near the porch, on the eastern side, is the coffin-lid of John Bacon, with the monogram, and another, without inscription, like to it. They are both of the dos-d'ane form; with a bold circular moulding running along the top and terminating at the narrow end in a calvary; but they are without the transverse mouldings at the broad end which usually form the arms of a cross.

Beneath a large and very old holly tree directly opposite to the porch a group of seven coffin lids has been collected, all of similar construction : and to the north of the church lies the greater portion of another lid, slightly coped, with a richly-carved cross upon it.

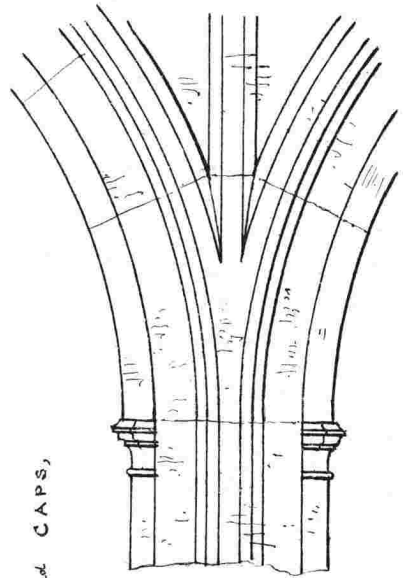
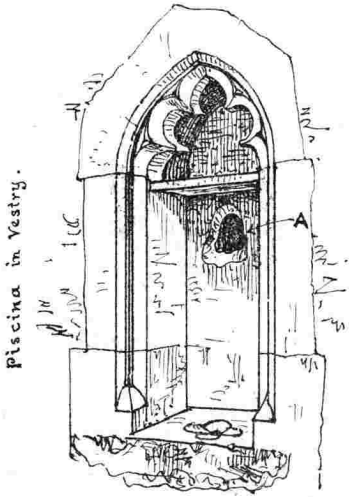
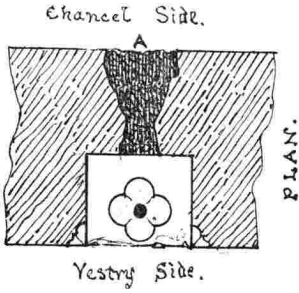
The Interior of the Chancel. The chancel arch is perpendicular, and less than equilateral, and too plain to call for description. The rood-screen, of considerable merit, originally carried a loft upon a coved-cornice ornamented with small ribs ; for the shafts and capitals, from which the ribs sprang, still remain. The rood-loft was approached by a newel staircase in the wall at the east end of the nave, through an unusually narrow and low doorway, only twenty inches in width, and five feet four inches in height to the top of the arch ; the upper doorway is of even smaller dimensions ; both are too narrow and too low to admit of the passage of the deacon in his dalmatic for the reading of the Gospel : and the staircase can have been used only by the sacristan or the acolyte who tended the rood and the lights. From the position of the top door-way it is clear that the cornice of the rood-loft must have projected nearly three feet. In each of the two panels of the lower part of the screen, to the north of the door, is a singular opening, escutcheon-shaped, in measurement three inches by two inches and a-half, apparently designed to give a view of the altar to worshippers, in certain parts of the front seats, or when kneeling before the image of S. Ethelbert. The screen has been re-painted in very good taste ; and, wherever traces were visible, in the ancient colours and patterns : and an attempt has been made to give a finished look to the mutilated top by the addition of a crest of flower ornament and of finials : but although too much praise cannot be given to the accomplished amateur who designed and with her own hand executed the work, it must be confessed that the additions are not in keeping with the rest of the screen. The roof is entirely hidden by mortar and wash ; and has been much mutilated : apparently it was waggon shaped. The old seats remain ; they are

returned against the screen; and are unusually low with a wide book-board: the moulding of the so-called Dean's stall is finished with the figure of a mitred Abbot; and the spandrils of the panels contain the pelican in her piety and other figures; but the workmanship is not remarkable. The sedilia, of three steps, occupy the window-cill; there was no piscina, nor any trace of one in the wall, before the restoration of the chancel a few years ago: but in the process of removing the Perpendicular window, of which I have already spoken, fragments of an old piscina were discovered, from which the existing one has been copied; and the old bason, octagonal and fluted, has been re-placed in its proper position. In the north wall, about two feet from the east wall, is a small quatrefoiled lychroscope or squint, five and a-quarter inches square, pierced into the vestry, through the back of the fenestella of a piscina on the vestry side of the wall; at the height of three feet from the floor of the chancel. This lychroscope was directly opposite the small square-headed window, of which I have already lamented the removal; and may have been in some way connected with it.\* As there remains still so much to be learned of these curious openings, it is mortifying to find that a feature has been removed, which might have helped to throw further light upon their use. All the glass, with the exception of one figure in the east window, is modern.

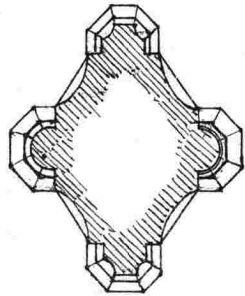
The Interior of the Vestry. The vestry is entered by a late Decorated doorway; the door itself is good; framed, with over-lapping planks; studded with nails, and ornamented with some very good iron work. On the inside, immediately below the top hinge, and above the bottom hinge, are two large blocks, extending right across the door, each containing a lock, with different keys. The parish chest is banded with iron, and is protected by a complicated system of lockwork, which requires three keys and a screw of peculiar construction to open it: in this chest have been preserved the two great archæological treasures of the church, the

\* See the article "On some Perforations in the Walls of Churches," *Archæological Journal*, Vol. III., p. 299.

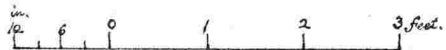
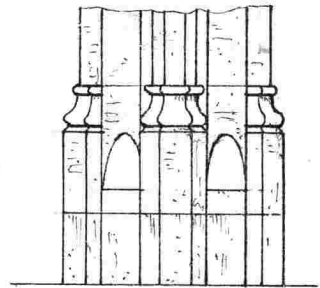
† S. Ethelbert, K. & M., Hoxsett.



OF NAVE PILLARS.



BASE,



Burse or Corporas-case and the Sindon or Pyx-cloth, which have already been described. The piscina, of which the bracket is gone, although the bason is perfect, has a *credence shelf* immediately above the squint: which I conceive to be evidence that there was an altar in this vestry. Some ancient tiles of good character and workmanship remain: and in the western wall is the original square fire-place with chimney; at the top of which on the outside, but hidden by the parapet, is an octagonal shaft, covered with a head-stone or lid or cap, that is fluted on the underside with six flutes to allow the escape of the smoke. A rude ladder leads up to the chamber above; formed of two solid beams, four inches by three, chamfered on the underside; to which on the upper side are pegged or nailed risers, made of squared timbers cut diagonally, six inches in height, and six in width. Similar step ladders are to be seen, as I am informed by Mr. Drayton Wyatt, at Clare in Suffolk, and at Mountnessing in Essex. At the top of the staircase is a heavy trap door of oak, banded with iron, and studded with nails, and furnished with a lock; whence it may be presumed that the solar was a place for the secure keeping of the Church goods, as well as a dwelling for a priest.\* In a pedigree given by Dr. Davy, Nicholas, the son of John Bacon, Chamberlain of the Exchequer, Secretary to the King, Master of the Rolls, and Dean of S. Martin's-le-Grand, from the 1st to the 7th of Richard II., is styled "Capellanus de Hessett." This has led me to think that a chantry was placed in this vestry; which was erected a little earlier than, or about, the date of the chaplaincy of Nicholas Bacon. I have searched in vain for the list of Suffolk chantries, which must have existed, though it is not now to be found: for "in 1555 or 1556 Nicholas Bohun accounted to the collector of the rents of the late chantries in Suffolk." † But though there exists no direct evidence of a chantry, beyond the fact that

\* "Chantry Chapels were sometimes chosen as the safest places for keeping things of value." *The Church of our Fathers*, Vol. III., p. 115.

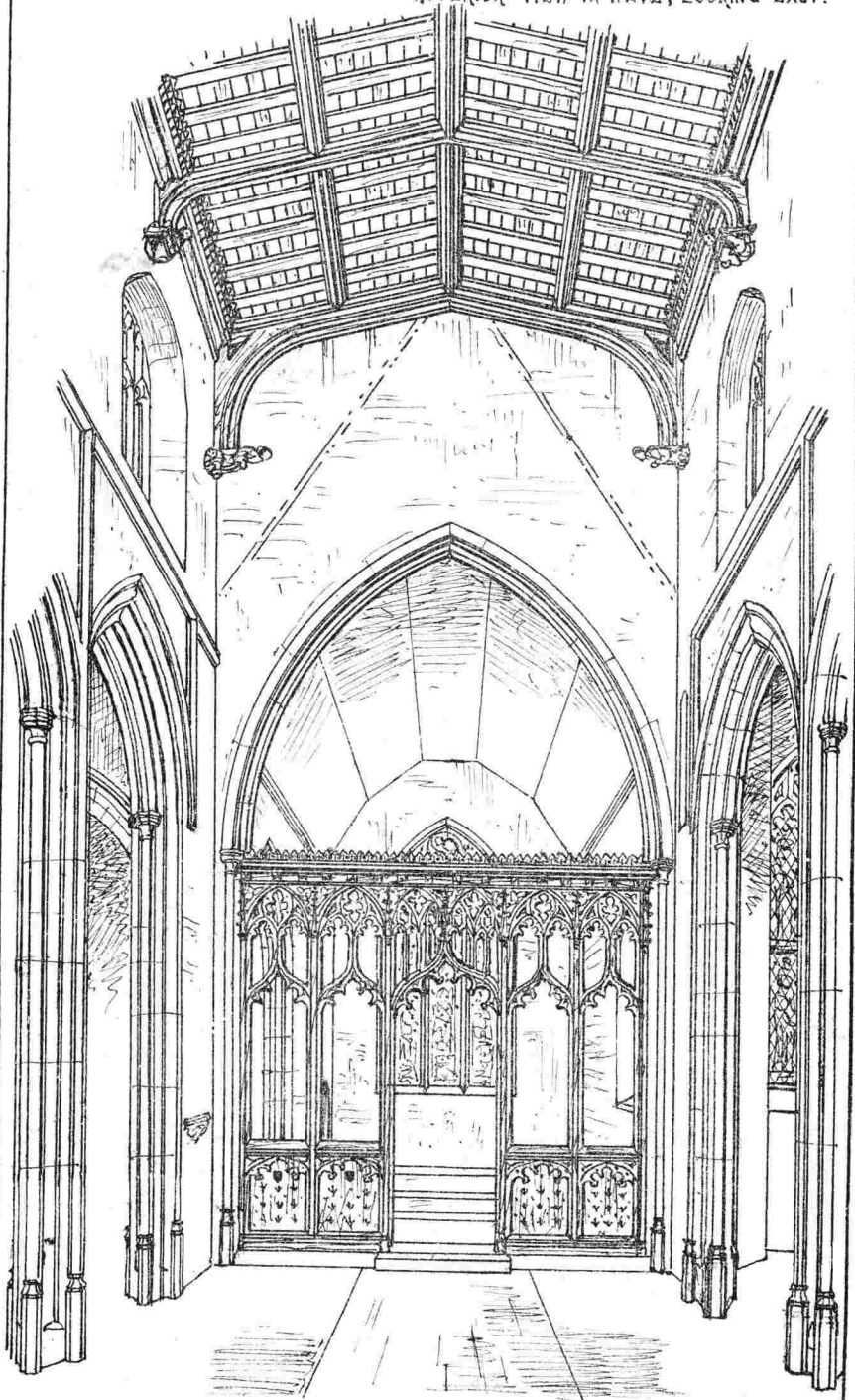
† See the Introduction to *The Diary and Autobiography of Edmund Bohun, Esquire*, by Mr. S. Wilton Rix.

Nicholas Bacon was Chaplain, the vestry has two marks of the residence of a chantry-priest or ankret; the squint directly opposite to the small low window on the south side; and the fire-place. Nothing now remains in the solar but a few fragments of stone carving; and some pieces of painted glass, of great beauty, which were removed from the chancel windows, and ought to be replaced.

The Interior of the Nave. The nave is separated from the aisles on either side by four arches, which are very slightly four-centred, and are supported on three piers and a respond on the east and on the west. The responds do not abut from the tower and chancel walls: but are distant from the tower eighteen inches, and from the chancel wall, two feet nine inches. The piers are 14 feet 6 inches from the floor to the spring of the arch; and in arrangement partake of a parallelogram, set diagonally, with a diameter from east to west of 2 feet, and from north to south 3 feet 1 inch. The eastern and western shafts are circular, and start from a base at a height of two feet from the floor: at the spring of the arch is a very narrow impost moulding, about 2 inches deep, with a much narrower bead about three inches below it; both are octagonal, as is also the bead of the base: the circular shafts are continued up under the soffitt of the arch to the crown and form the lower moulding of the arch. The shafts on the north and south are almost square, with hollow chamfers that leave a face of two inches and a-half: in the nave they are carried up with a continuous impost into a string-course of similar design: this string-course runs the whole length of the nave about three inches above the crown of the arches, and terminates in the chancel wall, on the north side, but on the south side is returned downwards to the west of the upper door of the rood stairs. Between the responds at each end and the western and eastern walls, are wall-spaces; at the west to act the part of buttresses to the tower; at the east to admit, on the south side, of the rood stairs, and on the north, of the tabernacle of S. Ethelbert, of which the bracket is visible: most probably, if the plaster were removed, the tabernacle itself would be discovered. The

† S. Ethelbert, K. & M., Hessest.

INTERIOR VIEW IN NAVE, LOOKING EAST.





roof is of a very slight pitch, and of a very weak construction: its present condition is simply dangerous, and calls loudly for the interference of the parish authorities, and the watchful superintendence of the members of this Institute. It consists of five well-moulded principals, with carved spandrils and arched springers, supported each by the half figure of an angel who holds a ribbon label: and of three intermediates, also well-moulded with springers supported by angels, who carry, some of them shields, others crowns. The purlins and ridge-piece are also moulded: and the well-moulded cornice on each side was surmounted throughout by a crest of flower-work of which portions remain. The clerestory has already been described: it remains only to place on record that in the westernmost window of the north clerestory there is a fine figure holding a clasped book, and some very good diapered quarries; in the second window from the west is a well-executed figure of a bishop: and in the tracery of all four are remains of angels. The pulpit, lectern, and desk are modern, and quite unworthy of the church, although the carving is good. The benches, of a very late date, are utterly devoid of merit: a striking contrast to the very beautiful benches that are to be seen in the north aisle of S. George's Bradfield.

Interior of the Aisles. The roofs of the north and south aisles are alike and of great beauty: they have flowered spandrils, originally supported by angels; and a richly moulded cornice surmounted by a ridge of flowers. At the intersection of the principals and the purlin are flat projections on which once existed carved bosses.

In the south aisle there is a good late Decorated piscina, with fluted bason, quite perfect, cleaned but unrestored. Immediately above it is a wall painting of a female saint holding in her hand a church; very probably S. Etheldreda, as the Abbey of Ely held land in the parish. The Creed is written over the painting in fine black letter: the following passage from Strype explains the circumstances which led to this disfiguration:

“ In 1561 the Dean of St. Paul's\* provided for the Queen on New

\* Strype, *Annals of the Reformation*, Vol. I, part i., p. 408-410, Oxf. Ed.

Year's day a Book of Common Prayer, with fine cuts and pictures, representing the stories and passions of the Saints and Martyrs. The Queen, considering this to vary from her late open injunctions and proclamations against the superstitious use of images in churches, ordered the book to be removed, and the old one brought back: and after service reproved the Dean for his act. This matter occasioned all the clergy in and about London, and the churchwardens of each parish, to search their churches and chapels; and caused them to wash out of the wall all paintings that seemed Romish and idolatrous, and in lieu thereof suitable texts taken out of the Holy Scriptures to be written."

It has already been stated that Suffolk was easily accessible from London, and much frequented by the royal purveyors. It was also visited by Elizabeth herself. And as Suffolk was "notorious for dissenting weaknesses,"\* it is none other than we should expect, to find that the clergy and churchwardens followed the example of their London brethren, and, combining scruples with loyalty, obliterated pictures that displeased the Queen.

Between the second and third windows are traces of another mural painting, scarcely distinguishable, which was obliterated by a text of Scripture in Roman character; and between the third window and the door is a gigantic S. Christopher: this is a very unusual position, for the Saint is ordinarily placed above the north door.

The east window of this aisle appears to have been a S. Nicholas window, for the glass that remains in two of the lights certainly represents him. In the southern light he is figured as an old man with a beard, blessing four children who are playing at his feet with golf sticks and balls. The figures in the other light have been robbed of their heads; but the subject is very easily discerned. S. Nicholas stands in the centre, with one figure at his feet, apparently distributing gold, and a lesser figure holding a golden cup. Mrs. Jameson † says that "of this story there are innumerable versions." She gives the following, adding that it is sometimes a daughter, and sometimes a son, who is delivered from captivity:

"A rich merchant, who was a Christian and a devout worshipper of S. Nicholas, had an only son, who was taken captive by the heathen,

\* *The History of Stowmarket*, p. 132.

† *Sacred and Legendary Art*, pp. 402-404.

and made cupbearer to the king. One day, as he filled the cup at table, he remembered that it was the Feast of S. Nicholas, and he wept. The king said, 'Why weepest thou?' and the boy told him, saying, 'This is the day when my parents and my kindred are all met together in great joy to honour our good S. Nicholas; and I, alas, am far from them.' Then the king, most like a pagan blasphemer, answered, 'Great as is thy S. Nicholas, he cannot save thee from my hand!' No sooner had he spoken the words than a whirlwind shook the palace, and S. Nicholas, appearing in the midst, caught up the youth by the hair, and placed him, still holding the royal cup, suddenly before his family, at the very moment when his father had distributed the banquet to the poor, and was beseeching their prayers in behalf of his captive son."

Mrs. Jameson states that this miracle, or rather parable, is "in the chapel of S. Nicholas, at Assisi, in windows of the cathedrals of Chartres and Bourges, and in the ancient Gothic sculpture." Angels of different orders are in the openings of the tracery.

In the easternmost window of the south side are very beautifully painted canopies in the heads of three lights: in the centre window also are three fine canopies; and in one of the lights the lower portion of a subject, representing our Blessed Lord throned, with the wounds in His feet, and beneath Him two angels upon a tower blowing trumpets. The westernmost window has also the remains of three canopies, and the figure of a civilian holding a sword. I have detailed minutely the remains of the glass, because it is of such a fine character: and it ought to be recorded that more than a quarter of a century ago one of our Vice-Presidents, Mr. Porteus Oakes, commissioned Mr. Warrington to renew the leading and replace the whole of the glass *in situ*; a praiseworthy example, which it will be well for all true church-restorers to follow.

A bench in this aisle of very rude workmanship has for a poppy-head an angel, now headless, holding a shield, that bears the arms of Bacon impaling Rouse. It has already been stated that Thomas Bacon of Hesselton married Ann Rouse of Dennington in 1513 and deceased in 1540.

In the wall between the chapel and the respond at the east end of the north aisle is a poor piscina; and in the pavement are two inverted coffin-lids. There

is also a piscina in the chapel. Only a few pieces of painted glass remain in the tracery of the chapel window: the arms, of which Dr. Davy speaks, have all disappeared, viz.: a chief, erm; Bury Abbey; and S. Edward the Confessor. In the easternmost window of the north side of the aisle is a magnificent Resurrection, almost perfect: and a portion of an Annunciation; the Blessed Virgin at a prayer-desk and before her a label, much broken, on which may be seen *Ecce . . . . Ia*, the commencement of her devout reply to the angel, *Ecce ancilla Domini*. The heads of each upper light contain the head and bust of an angel: and the tracery is filled with angels. In the centre window the beautiful canopies have been preserved in all six lights: there is also a fine Scourging; a portion of a subject, which at once is seen to be S. Peter cutting off the ear of Malchus: and also, a portion of a Presentation in the Temple, indicated by the words on a label, *transibit gladi*. Each of the heads of the upper lights of the westernmost window is filled with the bust of an angel: and in one light is a painful representation of the fifth gulf of Hell to which Dante \* consigns the barterers or public speculators: "a glutinous thick mass" of boiling pitch; in which the victims kept rising to the surface, and ever and anon devils, as they saw a head appear,

" Grappled him with more than hundred hooks :  
E'en thus the cook bestirs him, with his grooms,  
To thrust the flesh into the cauldron down  
With flesh-hooks, that it float not on the top."

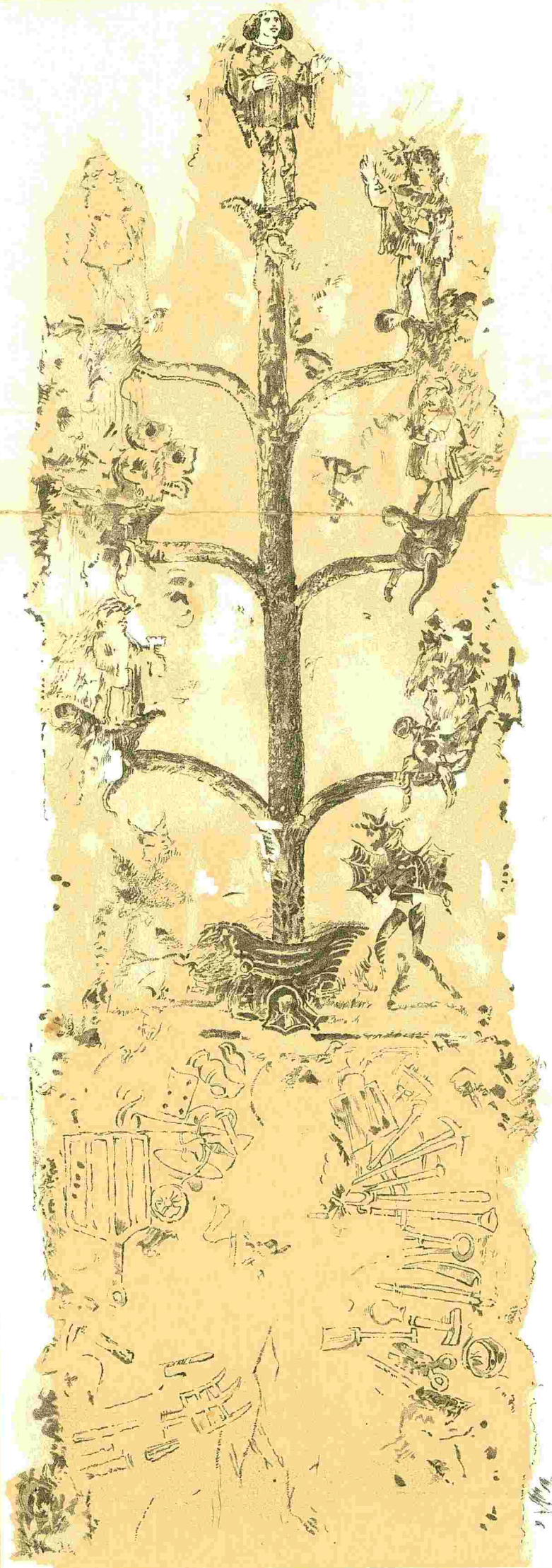
There is another subject in this window, which has sorely perplexed me; but which, after much enquiry I conjecture to represent the legendary story † of the charge of unchastity made against the Virgin Mary before the tribunal of the high priest, as is recorded in the Protevangelium of James, and in the Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew; and her proof of the falsity of the charge. I have corresponded with Mr. Baring-Gould; and he agrees with me in thinking

\* Canto xxi., 49.

art, Didron gives one portion of it as common. *Manuel d'Iconographie Chretienne*, p. 156.

† Strange though it seems that this legend should have been represented in

MURAL PAINTING, NORTH AISLE, HESSETT CHURCH.



that the subject must represent this legend; for he knows of no other young female saint to which it could refer: and also that the artist has made the mistake of giving a crown and sceptre to the judge instead of a mitre, as if she had been brought before Herod and not before the high priest. I have a faint recollection that this explanation was also given by the late Dr. Rock, when he either saw the window, or was furnished with a description of it.

In the space of the wall between the central window and the easternmost is a large mural painting of the greatest interest. The design embraces two subjects; the uppermost, a representation of the seven deadly sins; the lower, an allegorical picture of a figure surrounded by all kinds of instruments of handicraft and amusement, of peace and of war.

Mr. Dewing has kindly placed at my disposal a letter, that has reference to this painting, from the Rev. R. Hart, of Catton, Norfolk, who has made the wall paintings of Norfolk a special study. On the 5th of April, 1868, he writes:

“ Nearly every wall painting that I have ever seen may be reasonably assigned to the latter half of the fourteenth century: those of Hesselst being on the same artistic level as the wall-paintings at Catfield in this county; which, from the costume, was in all probability painted in the reign of Richard II., that is between 1377 and 1399; and.....this may have been the case so far as the Hesselst paintings are concerned, specimens of the two adjacent styles, Decorated and Perpendicular, having been found in Hesselst Church. The fragmentary painting of the seven mortal sins is very mean and poor comparatively to what I have seen at Catfield-or Brooke: but the Allegorical Painting is a subject of unusual interest which I have never met with before. I suppose it to represent the chequered life of a Christian, *assailed* indeed by the cares, sorrows, pleasures, and temptations of this mortal life, yet *ultimately* triumphing over them, as symbolized by the nimbus.”

It is quite possible that the upper portion of the painting was executed somewhere about the date assigned by Mr. Hart: and that the architect retained the old wall of the Decorated period. The costume of the figures is like to that worn in the reigns of Henry IV., and of Henry V.; but it is not so unlike to that worn in the reign of Edward IV., as figured in the Royal MS. 15 Edward IV., as to enable us

to assign it with certainty to the earlier date. There is little about the painting which calls for remark. The seven deadly sins are represented by figures of men, who stand in inverted goat-skulls, growing as fruit upon a tree that is rooted in hell: at the foot are two fiends, coloured red, apparently inviting to the commission of deadly sin.

But the six of diamonds, which occurs in the lower subject, proves that this part of the paintings is of a much later date than 1399. For it is a playing card of the picquet pack, which was invented by Etienne Vignoles, called La Hire, not earlier than 1420, and probably between 1420 and 1440.\* And it was not until 1454 that a method of manufacturing these playing cards at a comparatively cheap rate was discovered, and that their use could become general: a date which is a few years subsequent to that which I have given to the erection of the aisles.

Since Mr. Hart received certain notes upon this lower part (for I gather from his letter that he has not seen it,) a new feature has been brought to light, which makes his explanation inadmissible. The artist who copied the drawing, † by careful cleaning brought to light, amongst other details, in the nimbus a portion of the cross ‡ which ordinarily distinguishes our Blessed Lord. The position of the right hand of the Figure beneath an open wound in the right side is also peculiar to Him.

A similar Painting, the only other known, existed in the parish church of Lanivet, in the county of Cornwall, but is now destroyed. Through the kindness of the Secretary I am able to reproduce the lithograph published in the Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall. It is thus described by Mr. T. A. Couch:

“It was a figure of Christ, of life size, painted in black, yellow, and claret; the back-ground filled in with a motley assemblage of various designs, many difficult, if not impossible of recognition. Among them

\* Paul Lacroix. *The Arts of the Middle Ages*, p. 237.

† I regret that the lithographer has reproduced it so badly.

‡ Christi corona per crucis figuram a

sanctorum coronis distinguitur: quia per Crucis vexillum sibi carnis glorificationem: et nobis meruit a captivitate liberationem, et vitæ fruitionem. Durandus. *Rationale Div: Off: Lib. i. c. iii.*, 20.



A Mural Painting  
in Lanivet Church, Cornwall.

HEIGHT OF FIGURE, 3 FEET.



might be distinguished various instruments of torture ; as, an axe, a wheel, a knife, and shears. Besides these, there were : a hand holding an open book, a spindle, a horse-shoe, a fish, a candlestick, dice, &c., &c., all apparently without arrangement, and serving simply to fill up the groundwork of the great central Figure."

This description applies with singular fitness to the painting at Hesselst: and it is worthy of remark that the playing card in the Hesselst design occupies the position of the die at Lanivet. Mr. Couch continues :

" Mr. Norris thinks this a representation of the Passion filled in at the back by emblems of saints and martyrs. Amongst these emblems he is able to point out a scourge, of the form seen in Abbot Ramrigg's chantry in S. Alban's Abbey ; dice ; chalice and cover (a common device) ; hand on a book, a general emblem of martyrdom, specially given to S. Barnabas ; the sponge ; the light of the world ; S. Matthew's and S. Jude's joiner's square ; S. Dunstan's pincers."\*

In the lithograph there is no appearance of the scourge described by Mr. Norris ; but there is a remarkable object, not noticed by him, a rod on which are suspended six candles by their wicks.

It is impossible to accept Mr. Norris's explanation, *mutatis mutandis*, for the Hesselst Allegory ; because, in the first place, a six of diamonds is not an emblem either of a Saint or of the Passion ; and in the second, the same emblem occurs more than once ; and the same Saint would be thus represented with an unmeaning frequency.

But easy though it is to question and gainsay the interpretations which others have given of the Allegory ; I own myself unable to offer any other that is satisfactory. I would, however, venture to suggest thus much : that the emblems which surround our Blessed Lord may be emblems of trade and handicraft and amusement ; and possibly some of the poems and stories of the Middle Ages, such as those which are now being reprinted by the English Text Society, or some of the illuminated manuscripts of the Middle Ages, may hereafter be found to guide to the meaning of such emblems, when they are placed, as in these two paintings, around the Figure of the Risen Christ.

That trades and tradesmen are represented by emblems

\* *Journal of the Royal Institution of Cornwall.* No. IV., October, 1865, p. 79.

is well known. Mr. Hudson Turner,\* in a Dissertation upon "Personal-Seals in the Middle Ages," states:

"Those who were not entitled to armorial distinctions.....fashioned their seals according to their own taste. For a time they were content with the small variety of devices already described: the fleur-de-lis, birds, Agnus Dei, &c.; then rebuses on the Christian or surname were adopted; these were quickly followed by *symbols of occupation or handicraft*; thus the miller would bear an ear of corn fleur-de-lisé; the musician his viol or croute; the farrier or smith proclaimed his calling by a horse-shoe, and the schoolmaster figured on his seal with that valuable instrument and symbol of discipline, the birch."

To the same effect is the statement of the learned authors of the Introductory Essay to Durandus on Symbolism: †

"The earliest kind of monumental symbolism is that which represents the trade or profession of the person commemorated. The distaff represents the mother of a family: a pair of gloves a Glover; so we have a pair of shears, and the like."

And Mr. Edward Charlton ‡ has shown, as I think, conclusively, that certain symbols on the sepulchral slabs existing in the counties of Northumberland and Durham, namely, the shears and the key, are appropriate emblems of a female. Now if such an use of emblems or symbols had been customary for seals and for sepulchral slabs, it is not unreasonable to conjecture that they might be continued in allegorical designs such as these two under consideration.

The symbols which occur at HESSETT and LANIVET, and the trades symbolized, are placed side by side: commencing on the left side of the picture, above the right hand of the Figure:

| HESSETT. |                     | LANIVET.            |               |                     |                |
|----------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1        | A patten ... ..     | A patten maker.     | 1             | A bason ... ..      | A potter.      |
| 2        | A jug ... ..        | A vintner.          | 2             | A hand holding a    | } A scrivener. |
| 3        | A playing card—     | } A card maker.     | book ... ..   |                     |                |
|          | the six of          |                     | 3             | A covered cup or    | } A priest.    |
|          | diamonds ... ..     | chalice ... ..      |               |                     |                |
| 4        | A scourge ... ..    | } A schoolmaster or | 4             | A die ... ..        | A dicemaker.   |
|          |                     | constable.          | 5             | A covered salt ...  | A salter.      |
| 5        | A musical pipe ...  | A musician.         | 6             | A pair of scissors  | A tailor.      |
| 6        | An awl ... ..       | A shoemaker.        | 7             | A candlestick and   | } A glover     |
| 7        | A shuttle ... ..    | A weaver.           | candle ... .. |                     |                |
| 8        |                     |                     | 8             |                     |                |
| 9        | A flaying knife ... | A skinner.          | 9             | A pair of gloves... |                |
| 10       | A wheel ... ..      | A wright.           | 10            |                     |                |

\* *Archæological Journal*, Vol. V., p. 4.

† P. 106.

‡ *Archæological Journal*, Vol. V., p. 253.

## HESSETT.

|    |  |                 |
|----|--|-----------------|
| 11 | A gridiron ... ..                      | A cook.         |
| 12 | A balance with<br>meat ... ..          | } A butcher.    |
| 13 | A spoke-shave and<br>hatchet ... ..    |                 |
| 14 | A ball... ..                           | A ball maker.   |
| 15 | A candle (?) ... ..                    | A candle maker. |
| 16 |  |                 |
| 17 | A three-pronged<br>three-barred fork } | }               |
| 18 | A hammer and axe                       |                 |
| 19 | A spade ... ..                         | A gardener.     |
| 20 | A flail (?) ... ..                     | A thresher.     |
| 21 | An anchor ... ..                       | A mariner.      |
| 22 | A pair of pincers                      |                 |
| 23 | A saw... ..                            | A sawyer.       |
| 24 | A pair of scissors                     | A tailor.       |
| 25 | A bason ... ..                         | A potter.       |
| 26 | A two-pronged<br>fork ... ..           | } A husbandman. |
| 27 | A hammer ... ..                        |                 |
| 28 | A pair of bellows                      | } A smith.      |
| 29 | A pair of tongs                        |                 |
| 30 | A scythe ... ..                        | A reaper.       |
| 31 | A pair of shears... ..                 | A wool-stapler. |
| 32 | A trumpet ... ..                       | A trumpeter.    |
| 33 | A cord ... ..                          | A cordwainer.   |
| 34 | A harquebuss rest                      | A soldier.      |
| 35 | A mason's chisel                       | A mason.        |
| 36 | A sword ... ..                         | A knight.       |
| 37 | A sieve ... ..                         |                 |
| 38 | A brace bit... ..                      | An armourer.    |

## LANIVET.

|    |                                |                               |
|----|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 11 | Six candles on a<br>pole... .. | } A candle maker.             |
| 12 | A large knife ... ..           |                               |
| 13 | A purse or a<br>wallet ... ..  | } A merchant or a<br>pilgrim. |
| 14 | A jug ... ..                   |                               |
| 15 | A mallet and pegs              | A tent maker.                 |
| 16 | A saw ... ..                   | A sawyer.                     |
| 17 | A distaff ... ..               | A matron.                     |
| 18 | A webb ... ..                  | } A webster or<br>weaver.     |
| 19 | A pair of tongs ... ..         |                               |
| 20 | A bow ... ..                   | An archer.                    |
| 21 | A horse-shoe ... ..            | A farrier.                    |
| 22 | A club... ..                   | A fuller.                     |
| 23 | An axe ... ..                  | A carpenter.                  |
| 24 |                                |                               |
| 25 | A pair of shears... ..         | A woolstapler.                |
| 26 | A shovel .. ..                 |                               |
| 27 | A cap ... ..                   | A hatter.                     |
| 28 |                                |                               |
| 29 |                                |                               |
| 30 |                                |                               |
| 31 | A cross-bow ... ..             | A bowman                      |

I do not pretend to accuracy either in the names, or in the interpretation, of the emblems: to some I have added a query: others I have left unnamed: and of others I cannot determine the name or the meaning. The scourge of the Hessett painting is of the form seen in Abbot Ramrigg's chantry,\* and the mason's chisel resembles one figured in the *Archæological Journal*.† The appearance of instruments used in games, such as the card, the die, the ball, amongst the emblems, seems to give a slight support to the later date which I have assigned to the painting. After the battle of Tewkesbury in 1471 which put an end to the Wars of the Roses, the populace, betook themselves with zest and avidity to sports and amusements. The Government of Edward IV., alarmed at the prevalence of these sports,

\* See *Calendar of the Anglican Church*, 1st Ed., p. 162.

† Vol. I., p. 301.

amongst which the ball was very general, (as for example, bandy-ball, trap-ball, club-ball, and bowling-ball), and at the neglect of the bow, the favourite weapon of war; condemned the sports by an Act passed in 1478; and ordered the instruments used in them to be destroyed, dice amongst the rest; and shooting-butts to be erected in every township.\* The popularity in this county of foot-ball, called to this day in Norfolk and Suffolk *camping*, may be gathered from the mention, in several instances, in the authorities of the XV<sup>th</sup>. century, of land appropriated to this game, and called *camping-land*; or, as is mentioned in Cullum's *Hawstead*, under the date 1466, *the camping-pightle*.† Ball-makers and dice-makers may have been, in proportion, as numerous then, as the makers of croquet, and badminton, and lawn-tennis are now. The card-makers may have been more scarce: Lacroix ‡ states that in 1454 cards were converted into an object of trade, and mercers were accustomed to sell them: but that in France the civil and ecclesiastical authorities prohibited and condemned them by ordinances; which princes and lords, as a matter of right felt themselves above, and the lower orders and the dissolute did not fail to infringe. The appearance of a card at Hessett is probably due to the family of Bouchier, and other great families in the neighbourhood, who were connected with France, or had taken part in the wars there; and "master card makers," though not regulated by statute in France until 1581, did nevertheless exist there; and in all probability plied their trade in England also.

I have sought in vain for confirmation of an idea which I have entertained, that the allegory was connected with a Gild, and was painted at the order of a Hessett Gild, near to where the Gild altar stood. In that most interesting and instructive volume, published by the Early English Text Society, *English Gilds*, there is a Return of the Gild of S. George, Norwich; § which was not composed of men of the same craft, but numbered amongst its members an Arch-

\* Charles Knight. *Old England*, Vol. I., p. 384.

† Mr. A. Way in a note on "*Camping*,

or player at football," *Prompt: Parv*: p. 60.

‡ *The Arts of the Middle Ages*, p. 237.

§ P. 453.

bishop, four Bishops, an Earl, many Chivaliers, and the wives of some of them; Priests; a Patyn-maker; a Wright; Fischmen; Tailours; Cordemakers; Peyntours; Bocheres; Turnours; Merchaunts; Couperes; Carpenteres; Gloveres; Freseres; Candeleres; and a Freemason. The emblems of many of these trades are seen in the paintings at Hessett and at Lanivet. And as English Gilds are all distinguished by "two very striking characteristics, the second one universally expressed; the first, respect for law and its established forms; the second, the constant sense of moral worth, and the endeavour to attain it";\* I conceived the idea that possibly the whole painting was designed, to warn "the bretheren and sisteren" against the seven deadly sins, and to encourage them to conquer them; as well as to carry on their social intercourse, and trade, and amusements, as men and women ransomed by Christ's Passion from necessary bondage to Satan, and empowered by His Resurrection to rise above sin to holiness of life. But I cannot bring forward any thing to support this interpretation. Though there are amongst the Tower Records Returns of Gilds and their Ordinances from many parishes in Suffolk, none can be discovered from Hessett. I am obliged to leave the allegory very much in the obscurity in which I found it.

The tower is entered through an arch of good perpendicular work. In the tracery of the window were exquisite figures of angels playing on musical instruments: these have been recently removed; but will be replaced. The figure had been lost from the first opening: in the 2nd was an angel, in white glass, playing the cithern, the ground blue: in the 3rd, an angel, playing the bag-pipe, the ground ruby: in the 4th, an angel, with trumpet, the ground blue: in the 5th, the figure of a man praying, and wearing a blue surcoat: above him a coat of arms: in the 6th, an angel, with cithern. The heads of three canopies remain in the lights.

The newel staircase and the bells have already been described: and I have already mentioned that the bells

\* *English Gilds. Introduction, p. xxxix.*

have been twice re-cast. A very curious and unusual enquiry is made in the Visitation Articles\* of "The right worshipfull Mr. Doctor Bostock, Arch-Deacon of *Suffolk*; Anno Domini 1640:" from which it may be inferred that a vicious habit of melting Church bells prevailed in this county:

"5. *Item*, Have your bells or any or them been made lesse upon the last yoating of them? If yea, by whose default, and what is become of the mettall that was so saved out of them?"

This is a late use of the word "yoat," which is not to be found in Johnson or Halliwell. It is the old Anglo-Saxon "Geotan, fundere, effundere; *to found, pour, cast*. Guton. Fuderunt, 'they have made them a molten image': Deut. 9, 12."† In a note on the word YETYN METALL in the *Promptuarium Parvulorum*, Mr. Albert Way gives many examples of the use of *yett*; and adds: "BELLEYTARE, *al belleyeter*, a bell-founder, a term of which the tradition is preserved in Billiter-lane, London, the locality where founderies were anciently established."

Immediately in front of the tower arch is the  
 The Font. font, standing upon an octagonal base four feet six inches in diameter: around the plinth of which runs a band of depressed quatrefoils, two to each of seven sides of the octagon; the eighth, to the west, being made to project thirteen inches to serve as the kneeling stone. Upon the three sides of the kneeling stone is an inscription in two lines:

ON THE NORTH SIDE. ON THE WEST SIDE. ON THE SOUTH SIDE.

**Orate pro animabs rti hoo et augnetis  
 Axis eius q istum fontem fieri fecerunt.**

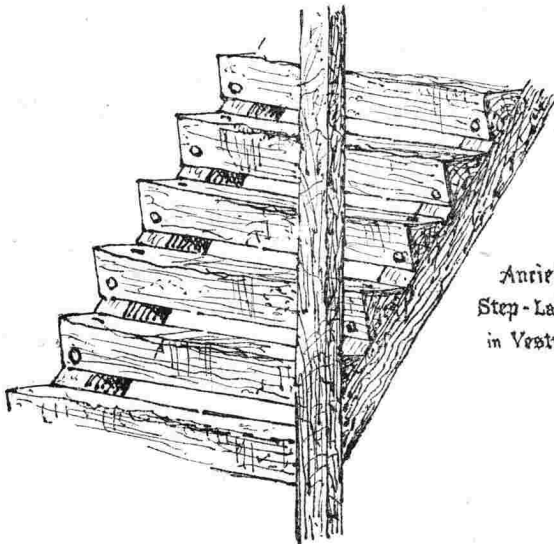
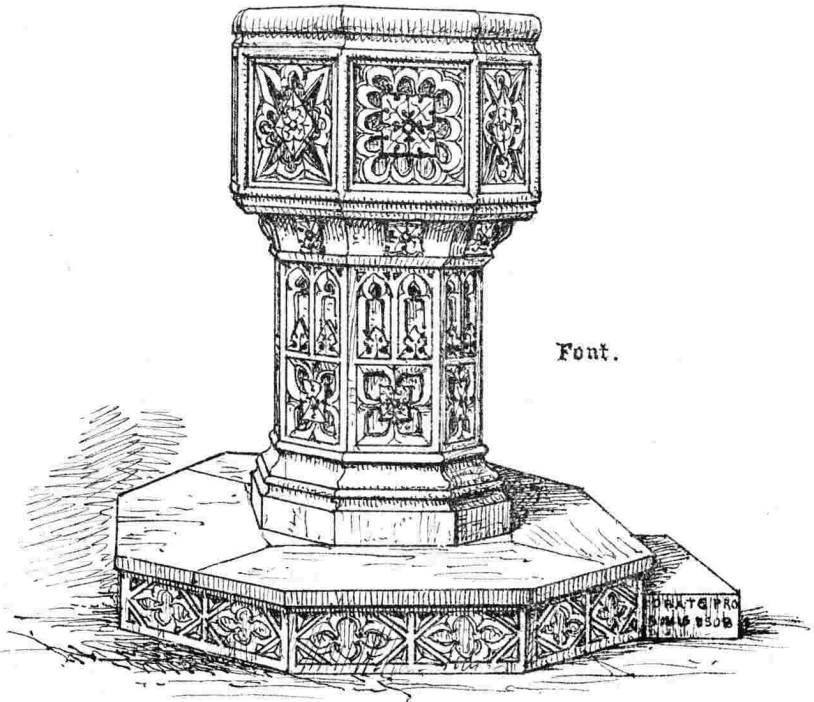
The will of Robert Hoo, dated 1500 and proved in 1510, mentions "myn wyf Augnes": and this Robert and Augnes were no doubt the donors of the font. Notwithstanding its late date, it is of good design and execution. Each face of the octagonal bason is carved with a different flower, which

\* *Appendix to Second Report of the Royal Commission on Ritual*, 1868, p. 596.

† Lye. *Dictionarium Saxonico et*

*Gothico-Latinum*. See also the word in *A Dictionary of the Old English Language*, by Dr. F. H. Stratmann.

† S. Ethelbert, K. & M., Hessest.



Ancient  
Step-Ladder  
in Vestry.

is set either in a square, or in a quatrefoil, or in the common geometric figure of a square described on a circle: and the lead, which is ancient, is plumbed round the bold upper moulding. The bason is supported by an octagonal shaft of Purbeck: each side of the octagon having at the base a quatrefoil holding in the cusps a flower; and above the quatrefoil two sunken panels with a Tudor flower erect at the base, as in the panels of the tower parapet. Around the font the pavement is composed of six inverted coffin lids.

In 1845 Mr. T. W. King, Rouge Dragon,\* wrote: "No topographical work can be considered complete without a collection of monumental inscriptions accompanying it." I have therefore copied all that now exist in the interior of the Church; and have given two others which Martin reports to have existed at the time of his visit; but which have disappeared:

"Here lyeth the Body of Thomas Aldrich Esqre who departed this life the 9th of June Anno Domini 1709. Ætatis suæ sixty five.

"This upon a loose Brass formerly fixed against the North Chancel wall":

"HIRE LYETH MARYE HERINGE THE WIFE OF THOMAS HER: ESQRE, & ELDEST DAUGHTER OF RICHARD CORNWALLIS ESQRE, BURIED Y<sup>e</sup> 28 OF JANUARIE 1607."

Monuments. In the vestry, is a flat stone, which was formerly in the chancel below the altar step and close to the vestry door:

"In hope | of a blessed Resurrection. | Here resteth all that was mortal | of RICHARD NESLING, A.M., | the late worthy Rector of this Parish and Bayton. | Having faithfully discharged all | Pastoral offices during the space of | forty and three years, | and after the example of St. Paul | having endeavoured to keep a conscience | void of offence towards God and towards man, | he died April IXth MDCXXXIV, | aged LXXVI."

Above are the Arms:

NESLING: a child in a cradle an Eagle standing thereon; impaling Or a bend, 3 fusils.

Below the Shield is the motto:

In Christo spes ultima justi.

\* *Archæological Journal*, Vol. I., page 140.



To the north of this stone was formerly in the chancel a stone inscribed

MARGARET NESLIN.

This, together with three that have been robbed of their brasses, and two others which appear to have had no inscriptions upon them, has been also placed in the vestry.

Upon the south wall of the chapel is a rectangular tablet of black marble in a white flowered border of Jacobean character, bearing an inscription in capital letters :

“Here lye interred the Bodyes of EDMUND | BACON Esq. and ELIZABETH his wife daugh- | ter of RICHARD CORNWALEYS Esq. which | EDMUND and ELIZABETH lived happily | together in wedlocke by the space of | LII yeares and had issue viii sonnes and viii | daughters. ELIZABETH dyed uppon the | xxv<sup>th</sup> of December 1624, and EDMUND upp- | on the ix<sup>th</sup> of February next following.”

Above are the Arms :

BACON: argent on a fess engrailed between 3 escutcheons gules 3 mullets of the field ; impaling

CORNWALEYS: Sable guttée d'or on a fess argent 3 Cornish choughs. The crest is broken ; but sufficient remains to show it to be, On a torse a talbot passant holding in his mouth a deer's leg.

On the east wall of the chapel, a large monument of different coloured marbles :

“THOMAS ALDRICH Armiger | Antiqua et equestri Aldrichorum | Familia de Aldrich in Com: Stafford natus. | Hunc | Bonis literis instruxit primo | Schola Regia Buriensis. | Postea in Æde Christi | Oxonium | Optimarum Artium studiis | Excoluit, PERPOLIVIT. | Uxorem habuit Elizabetham | Gulielmi Cromptley Armigeri Filiam. VIR | Fide in Principem, in Patriam, in Ecclesiam, | Stabili et inconcussa ; | Assidua in Pauperes Liberalitate : In Omnes Munificentia | Perquam laudabili. | Obiit x<sup>o</sup> Mart. A.D. MDCXXXIX, Ætat LIIII.”

At the base is a Shield on which, at the time of Dr. Davy's visit, were emblazoned the Arms of

ALDRICH: on a fess vert a bull passant argent ; impaling

CROPLEY : argent ermined on a chief gules 3 owls of the first.

But these are now entirely obliterated.

On the north wall of the chapel, to the east of the window, is an oval tablet of white marble :

“MICHAEL WILLIAM | LEHEUP Esq. | died | June 22nd. 1809, | aged 53.”

“His Relict | MARY WYCHE LEHEUP | died January the 8th 1828 | aged 69.”

“An Infant daughter | MARY SPRING LEHEUP | died Oct<sup>r</sup> 28th. 1785.”

Immediately below this is another tablet of white marble :

"Sacred | to the Memory | of | MICHAEL PETER LEHEUP Esq. | who died | 10th December 1837 | Aged 55."

"Also of ANN LEHEUP his wife | Who died | 24th July 1833, | Aged 42."

"And of MERIELINA AGNES | their only child | and wife of | MICHAEL PETER CARPENTER | who died | 20th April 1837 | aged 26."

On the same wall to the west of the window, is a small tablet of white marble :

"Near this place | Lyeth the body of | BENJAMIN PICKERING, Gent. | Who was buried the 10th | day of December 1739 | Aged 69 years."

And immediately above this is another small tablet of white marble :

"In Memory | of | Mrs. ELIZABETH LEHEUP | daughter of | MICHAEL LEHEUP Esqre. | and ELIZABETH his wife, | who died April 10th. 1810 | aged 77 years."

On the floor of the chapel is a stone now covered by the organ :

"Hic | Læta spe resurrectionis | Conduntur reliquiæ ELIZABETHÆ ALDRICH | Quæ filia fuit secunda | GULIELMI CROPLEY Armigeri | Obiit xviii Feb. A.D. MDCCXLI | Ætat 62. | Hoc marmor pietatis ergo | Suis sumptibus deponi dedit | Cognatus ejus obsequentissimus | THOMAS MORDEN, A.M."

At the head of the Stone are the arms of CROPLEY : on a pile 3 owls 2 and 1. Crest, on a helmet and torse a lion couchant between 2 branches of a tree.

In the nave, beneath the pulpit, on a very large stone upon the floor :

"Here lyeth y<sup>e</sup> Body of | THOMAS ALDRICH Esqre. | who was buried y<sup>e</sup> 19th of | March 1691."

Further westward, on a stone upon the floor:

"Here lyeth the body of Ann Wyrley | Widdow of Roger Wyrley Esqre | of Hamsted Hall in | Staffordshire | and Sister to Thomas Aldrich Esq. of Hessett ; | who dyed y<sup>e</sup> 9th of February 1713 | in the 79th year of her age. | Prov<sup>s</sup> Chap<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> last ver<sup>s</sup> y<sup>e</sup> last. | Her own Works Praise her in y<sup>e</sup> gate."

Above the inscription, in a lozenge, are the Arms of WYRLEY : a chevron between 3 lions rampant : impaling ALDRICH : on a fess a bull passant.

On the wall of the north aisle towards the east is a plain mural monument of veined marble :

“Hic jacent THOMAS Le Heup Arm<sup>r</sup> et Jana | Uxor ejus filia Petri Hamon de Cadomo Arm<sup>ri</sup> | Illa moritur 24<sup>o</sup> die Decembris An<sup>o</sup> Dñi 1725, Ætatis | Vero suæ 59<sup>no</sup>. Ille secutus 26<sup>o</sup> die Decembris | An<sup>o</sup> Dñi 1736<sup>to</sup>, Ætatis suæ 69<sup>no</sup>. Quatuor habuere | Filios, quorum Tres sibi Superstites Ambo | Reliquerunt.”

“Hic jacet ELIZABETHA UXOR dilecta Michaelis | Filii natu Secundi ipsorum Thomæ et Janæ Primo genita | Cohæredum THOMÆ GERY Militis, grato marito | quatuor peperit liberos. Quorum Michael & | Elizabetha Infantes jam Supersunt Nata annos 26<sup>os</sup> | Obiit 12<sup>mo</sup> die Martii An<sup>o</sup> Dñ 1739<sup>no</sup>.”

“Parentibus et Uxori bene meritis | posuit Michael Le Heup. | Hic etiam Situs est, idem MICHAEL LE HEUP Armiger | Obiit 23 die Julii Ann Dom 1749 ; | ætatis quinquagesimo secundo. | Ex ANNA MAGDALENA HENRICI PIERCY de Cambes | Armigeri Londinensis; Filia unica, | quam iteratis nuptiis uxorem duxerat ; | Filium unum HENRICUM, filias duas, Janam Sibyllam & Mariam, | Superstites reliquit. | ANNA MAGDALENA, adhuc infans, mortua est.”

Above on two shields are the Arms :

1. LE HEUP: Gules 3 Beehives between 8 bees volants : on an escutcheon

GERY : Gules, 2 bars or, on each 3 muscles of the field, on a canton of the 2nd a leopard's face azure.

2. LE HEUP : impaling azure, 3 quivers full of arrows or, 2 and 1.

On the same wall, to the westward, is an oval tablet of white marble :

“MICHAEL LEHEUP Esqre | died | April 9th, 1792, | aged 60. | MERIELINA LEHEUP his wife | died | April 3rd 1792, | aged 58. | They were lovely and pleasant | in their lives | and | in their death | They were not | divided.”

Against the south wall of the south aisle is an oval tablet of white marble :

“Sacred | to-the memory of | MERIELINA AGNES ROGERS | wife of | the Rev. THO<sup>s</sup> ELIS ROGERS | Rector of this Parish. | She was the daughter of | MICHAEL WILLIAM LEHEUP Esqre | of Bury St Edmund's, | and departed this Life | May 12 1816 | Aged 25.”

And on the same wall further eastward is a marble tablet :

“Hic reconditur LIONELLI BACON de Hessett in agro Suffolciensi  
Humanum depositū

Ex antiquissima Baconum Familia Oriundi

Qui in his SEDIBUS, a Patre ad Filium, a tempore HENRICI 2di  
Usque ad ANNUM 1651 Continuata serie Comorati sunt.

AT SISTE PEDEM LECTOR ET SCIAS

Hanc esse Radicem ex qua feliciter \* arborescebat Familia illa Bacō  
Nobilissima, Tot Clarissimis togæ muneribus Insignita. Quæ Artiū  
Liberaliorū semitas, prius Invias, calcavit sola, Sola NOBILITAVIT.

Hoc gratitudinis ergo, posuerē LIONELLO,  
Post duas nuptias illiberi, e Sororibus NEPOTES.

ANNA

Uxorū ejus altera, non moribus minus quam quod ex Perillustri  
Croftor Familia celebris, una hic jacet. Quæ obiit An<sup>o</sup> Salut  
MDCLIII.

Nihil ultra sit suspitii.

RESURGEMUS.

Above are the Arms :

BACON : on a fess between 3 escutcheons 3 mullets, without tinctures :  
Crest, on a torse a talbot passant holding in his mouth a deer's leg.

Below the inscription, the Arms :

1. Honing (?) On a bend 3 Lozenges
2. CROFTS, 3 Bulls' heads coupéd 2 and 1.

### THE FAMILY OF BACON.

The inscription on Lionel Bacon's monument claims a very early origin for the Bacon family ; and genealogists with one consent admit the claim. All the Baronetages record, at greater or less length, that the Bacons sprang from Grimbald the Norman, who is said to have been related to William de Warren, Earl of Surrey : that Reynold, or Ranulf, the second son of Grimbald, assumed the name of Bacon, and was lord of Thorpe in Norfolk, which was afterwards called Bacons : that the name Bacon arose either from the Saxon word *Buchen*,† in English, beech trees ; or from another Saxon word *Boc*, as applied to "land ‡ the possession of which was secured by book, *i.e.*, charter" in contradistinction to *Fole*, land which "belonged §

\* The word *feliciter* is spelt *felicititer* ; and the spelling has been followed in the text.

Bachone, and by Matthew of Westminster, Baucan or Baccoun.

† Stubbs, *Documents illustrative of English History*, p. 515.

† Camden says that Buckinghamshire and Buckenham in Norfolk, were so called from *Buchen* or beech trees ; as also *Buchonia* in Germany. The family name is spelt by Trithemius, de Bacchone or

§ Thorpe, *Ancient Laws and Institutes of England*.

to the community, and could be possessed in severalty, but could not be alienated in perpetuity:" and that no family has produced a greater number of distinguished men. In the opinion of Playfair, "the Bacon name is one of the greatest wonders of the biographical dictionaries." From the East Suffolk, or Baconsthorpe branch,\* during the latter half of the twelfth, the thirteenth, and the fourteenth centuries, sprang three Judges distinguished by their learning, and three Generals illustrious by their bravery. John Bacon,† of the same branch, was Chamberlain of the Exchequer, Secretary to the King, Master of the Rolls, and Dean of S. Martin's-le-Grand from the first to the seventh year of Richard II. But more renowned than all others of this branch are Robert,‡ who died in 1248, the friend of Grosteste, Bishop of Lincoln, the compiler of Glosses on the whole of the Scriptures, and the biographer of S. Edmund of Canterbury, his tutor: Roger,§ the Franciscan, who died in 1284, known commonly as Friar Bacon, but to theologians as the Wonderful Doctor: and John, the Carmelite, who died in 1350, surnamed Bacondorpius, and styled the Resolute Doctor, author of *Quaestiones in quatuor libros Sententiarum et Quodlibetales.*¶

If the nephews of Lionel Bacon had had in memory these worthies only of the Baconthorpe branch, they would have been justified in celebrating highly the praises of their family. But it is more probable that they referred to the great Lord Chancellor Bacon, who alone of the family could claim to have been himself ennobled and distinguished by high legal honours, and at the same time to have advanced and ennobled learning. But in claiming him as a scion of

\* Sir W. Betham, *Baronetage*, p. 4.

† *Ib.* An abstract of his will is given in *Testamenta Vetusta*, p. 120.

‡ Hofmanni *Lexicon Universale*.

§ *Ib.*

¶ *Ib.*

¶ QUODLIBETUM, Scholasticis, pluribus abhinc saeculis, de quo in utramque disseritur partem, ex eo dictum, quia, *quod libet*, defenditur. Hinc *Quodlibetariae quaestiones* eadem notione. Ducange. He adds that these were banished "e saniori Theologia, quod curiositati fere servirent, non utilitati."

the Hessett family, they have asserted what it is not easy to prove. For the Lord Chancellor was the great-grandson of John Bacon of Drinkstone, who can only be called of Hessett because he removed his residence into that parish sometime before he made his will in 1500. And if the pedigree is to be trusted, which is attached to the grant of arms made to the Lord Keeper in 1568, and signed by Dethick and others of the College of Arms; the Drinkstone branch of the Bacons had not been allied to the Hessett branch in the direct line, for many centuries. So that the boast, that the noble tree had grown out of the Hessett root, can, in this case, only be justified by the fact that the Drinkstone branch, at a date earlier than the reign of Edward II. to which Dethick carries it back, came of the Hessett stock.

Sir William Betham gives a second pedigree, drawn up by Mr. Whiting, of Lincoln's Inn, in the reign of Charles the Second, which cannot be reconciled with that set out by Dethick. Dethick makes John Bacon of Hessett, late of Drinkstone, to have been the son of John Bacon, who was the son of Walter Bacon of Drinkstone: Whiting makes this same John to have been the son of Edmund, the son of John Bacon of Drinkstone, who was the eldest son of John Bacon of Hessett. Dethick represents Sir Edmund Bacon to have married in the latter part of the fourteenth century Margery the daughter of Robert Quaplode; and traces the descent of the Lord Chancellor directly from this marriage: Whiting asserts Margery Quaplode to have been married to William Thorpe, whose grand-daughter Margery, the heiress of John Thorpe, was married to the above-mentioned John Bacon of Drinkstone, the eldest son of John Bacon of Hessett, whose second brother William continued to reside in Hessett, and, according to Mr. Scipio Squire's book, received a grant of the arms borne by the Hessett branch. If therefore the pedigree set out by Dethick is to be trusted, we are reduced to the painful necessity of viewing the epitaph as an instance of that anxious vanity with which men seek to appropriate to themselves a ray of the halo of

glory that has crowned one of their own name, by asserting kinship with him.

But we are relieved from this necessity by the absence of authority for the pedigree set forth by Dethick. The wording of the grant betokens an apparent anxiety to free the College of Arms from any responsibility as to the accuracy of the statements; and to throw it upon the Lord Keeper and one of his gentleman ushers: which in itself creates suspicion. Most diligent search has been made, by more than one, in the College of Arms, in the collections of the British Museum, and in the old writings of the Abbey of Bury, to which the grant refers; and no proof has been found. There is no will of a Bacon of Drinkstone in existence of an earlier date than 1500. Playfair gives it as his opinion that this pedigree cannot be authenticated by as many proofs as another printed by himself, which is substantially that set out by Whiting. But this too lacks proofs of a most important fact; for there is no trustworthy evidence of the marriage of Margery Quaplode, whether she was the wife of Sir Edmund Bacon, or of William Thorpe. A statement in a "Manuscript of the Baronets," in the possession of T. Wotton in 1741, seems to have inclined Collins\* to the belief that she was the wife of William Thorpe. But the evidence is of the weakest character: it is merely the release of lands by John de Quaplode to William Thorpe, in the 23rd year of Edward III.; which, being of the date of her marriage, may be conjectured to be a part of her portion. The evidence receives a modicum of support by the appearance of the name of John Thorpe, as an executor of Stephen Bacon in 1444; whose elder brother John is stated by Mr. Whiting to have married the daughter of John Thorpe, the grand-daughter of Margery Quaplode.

But though there is difficulty in proving the descent from Margery Quaplode, there is none in proving the

\* *Baronetage*, p. 2. Johannes filius Edmundi de Quaplode remisit dno Willo de Thorp militi terras in villis Quaplode et Holbeck dat apud Quaplode ultimo die

Maii anno 23 Ed. III. Ex autograph penes P. Le Neve. MSS. of the Baronets in the custody of T. Wotton.

statement in the epitaph that a branch of the Bacon family settled in the neighbourhood of Hessett in the reign of Henry II.: at the same time it is confessed that it is not easy to give the continuous line of descents, down to the reign of Charles II. In a Register of Bury Abbey, called *Registrum Album*,\* a deed is mentioned of a tenement in Monks Bradfield held by William Bacon, which had formerly been held by Eddicus Schutte (as I understand it) in the time of Abbot Baldwin. This William is represented by Sir William Betham to be the brother of Robert Bacon, whose descent from Grimbald was transcribed out of a Register of Binham Priory, by the Rev. Francis Blomefield, then (1735) in the custody of Sir Thomas Witherington, and now in the British Museum.† According to Wotton,‡ “in a little book of the Abbot of S. Edmundsbury, fol. 229, there is a deed between Abbot Sampson, who was elected in 1180, and William Bacon of arable land in Bradfield.” Wotton states§ that this is the William Bacon taken notice of among the knights bearing banners in the reign of King Philip of France; who bore for his arms a beech tree proper in a field argent: but he gives no reference to the authority whence he derived the information. He is equally reticent of the grounds on which he concludes that William Bacon, who married a daughter of Thomas Lord Bardolf,|| is William Bacon of Monks Bradfield; nor has Sir William Betham troubled himself to supply them. Proof is wanting of this; and also of the descents of Wydo and Robert Bacon from this marriage. Mr.

\* Brit: Mus: Add: MSS.: 14,847, fol. 27.

† See Dugdale, *Monasticon*, under Binham Priory.

‡ *Baronetage*, p. 2. Sir William Betham adopts this statement. I have been unable to verify it.

§ *Baronetage*, p. 2. The reckless way in which statements have been made without reference to authorities, and have been

copied by writer after writer on the Bacon Family, is most surprising, and most perplexing.

|| Dugdale, *The Baronage of England*, Vol. i., p. 681. “Thomas Lord Bardolf, gave three parts of the Lordship of Brade-well in marriage to his three daughters; the first married to Robert de Scto Remigio, the second to William Bacon, the third to Baldwin de Thoni.” *Testa de Neville, Essex*.



Whiting's pedigree, which Wotton adopts, sets them out thus:

William Bacon = dr. of Thomas Lord Bardolf

William Bacon

Adam Bacon, temp. Ed. I.

Wydo Bacon of Monk's Bradfield

Robert Bacon of Hessett

It is refreshing to come once more upon documentary proof. In the *Register Lalcynheth* Wydo Bacon\* is said to hold a messuage and lands in Monks Bradfield; and Robert Bacon† in Hessett, on the inquisition of the itinerant Justice Salamon in 1286. And it has been concluded by Wotton and others, though the grounds of the conclusion are not stated, that Wydo and Robert were brothers, and that Wydo died childless. Robert, the first of the family who settled in Hessett, is said to have married Alice Burgate or Borgate, and by her to have had a son John, who was settled in Bradfield and Hessett. Wotton adopts the descents set out by Mr. Whiting; and there does not appear to be evidence of other:

Robert Bacon = Alice Burgate

John Bacon =  
of Hessett and Monks  
Bradfield

John Bacon = Helen Gedings  
of the same places

1st, Helena, dr. of  
Sir George Tillott  
of Rougham

John Bacon = 2nd Julian, dr. of  
— Berdwell

Nicholas Bacon  
Chaplain of Hessett

John Bacon of  
Drinkstone = Margery Thorpe

William Bacon = Isabel dr. and  
of Hessett heiress of  
Shelton.

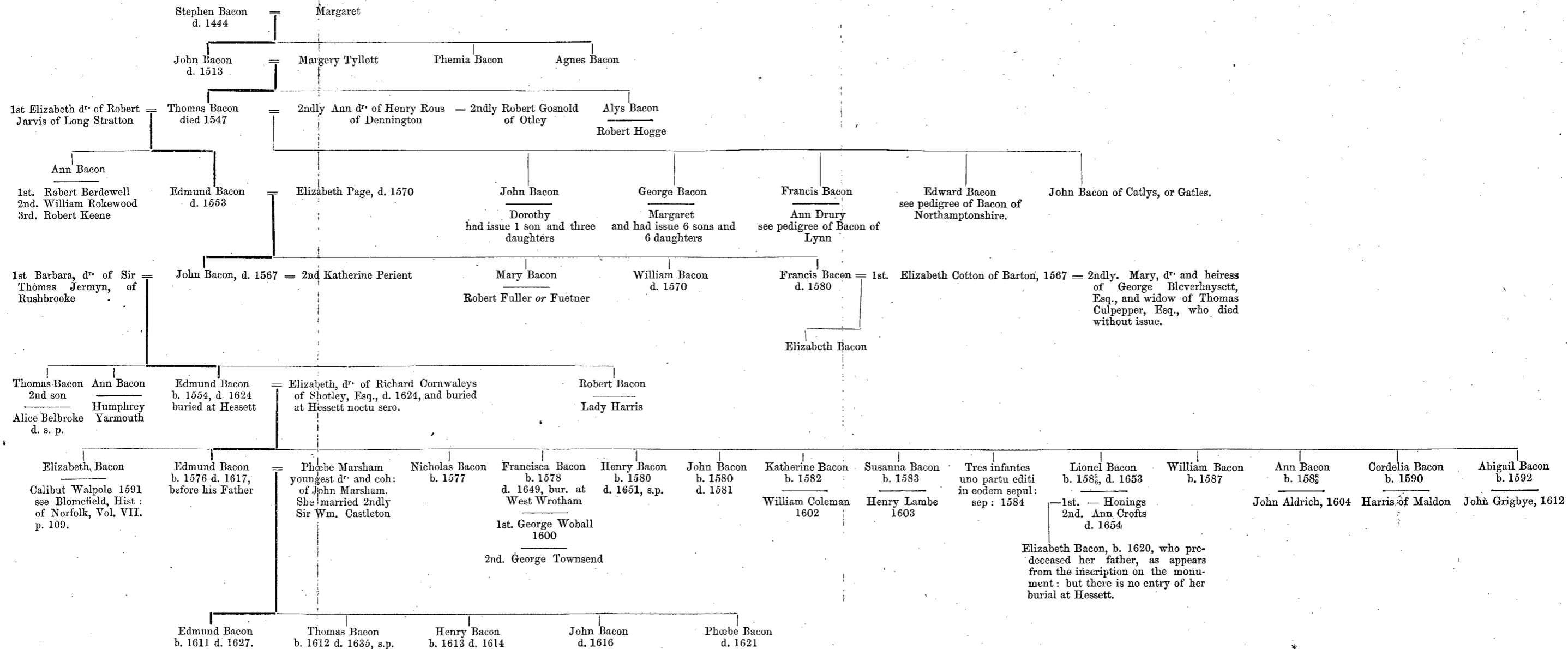
\* Bradfeld Monachorum. Item Wydo Bacon tenet de eodem conventu i. messagium xx. acrarum terre i. acre prati ii. acrarum pasture i. acre bosci de supradicto feodo Sancti Edmundi et reddit per annum viiis. Fol. 184. Harlei: MSS., 743.

† Heggese. Robertus Bakon tenet i. messagium de dicto Johanne de Herst de dicto feodo S. Edmundi et reddit per annum vii. Idem tenet i.

acram terræ de dicto Herveio de Heggese et reddit per annum iij. Item tenet i. acram terræ de Willelmo de Buchman per servicium l*z*. et idem Willelmus de dicto Abbate et Abbas de Rege. Idem tenet i. acram terræ de Alexandro de Brandestone per servicium iij*z*. et idem Alexander de Abbate per idem servicium et Abbas de Rege de Baronia S. Edmundi. Fol. 205. Harlei: MSS; 743.

## PEDIGREE OF BACON OF HESSETT,

SET OUT AND PROVED FROM THE WILLS OF THE BACONS AND FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS OF HESSETT.



According to Page, John Bacon, the son by the first marriage, removed to Drinkstone and was the founder of that branch : and Whiting's pedigree sets out the descents to Robert the father of the Lord Keeper, as follows :

John Bacon = Margery Thorpe  
of Drinkstone |  
|  
Edmund Bacon = Elizabeth Crofts  
of Drinkstone |  
|  
John Bacon = Agnes, dr. of Thomas Cokefield  
ob. 1500 ; see |  
his will |  
|  
Robert Bacon = Isabel Gage.

And here we part company with the Bacons of Drinkstone: their pedigree, regularly examined and proved from this date, is found in every Baronetage under Bacon of Redgrave, who sprang from Sir Nicholas the second son of this Robert.

But the pedigree of the Bacons of Hessett has not up to this time been correctly printed. And, though it may seem at first a very bold assertion, it will nevertheless be proved true by undoubted evidence, that the pedigree of Bacon of Hessett, given in the *Visitation of Suffolk*, 1561, by William Harvey, Clarencieux, and copied by other heraldic writers, is in one respect incorrect. That set out herewith has been proved from wills and other documents, which are printed, either at full length, or such parts of them as bear upon the descents.

Stephen Bacon, who is said to have been the son of William by his wife Isabel Shelton, deceased in 1444 ; leaving a widow Margery, a daughter Phemia of full age, a second daughter Agnes, and a son John who was under the age of 21 years. He left lands in Hessett, Rougham, and Monks Bradfield ; and his executors were Edmund Bacon (as I suppose) of Drinkstone, and John Thorpe, probably the brother of Margery, whom Whiting represents to be the wife of his brother John of Drinkstone.

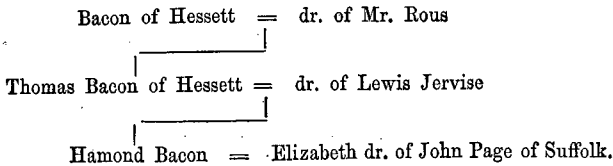
John Bacon succeeded to the estates at the age of 22 years ; and either through the accumulations made during a long minority by his guardians, or from money and lands

brought him by his wife, the property was largely increased during his tenure. From his will, dated 1508, it appears that his wife's name was Margery; and as he provides a sangrede for the souls of Roger and Katheryn Tylott immediately before a bequest for a sangrede for his own and his wife's soul, it may be inferred that Margery was their daughter. He names two children, Thomas, and a daughter Alys, married to Robert Hogge: and he disposes of his property to his grandson Edmund, and his son Thomas, and his daughter Alys; leaving reversions of certain lands to Thomas the brother of Edmund, with remainder to John the brother of Edmund and Thomas. He mentions Elizabeth late the wife of his son Thomas; and Ann his wife at the date of the will; and it appears that at this date Edmund, the eldest of his grandchildren, and therefore all the others, were under the age of 22 years.

Thomas Bacon succeeded on the death of his father in 1513. He married twice, as was seen from John Bacon's will, first Elisabeth Jarvis, who died in his father's lifetime, leaving him a son Edmund and a daughter, who was then the wife of Robert Kene. This daughter was named Anne, and was married three times; first to Robert Berdewell of West Herling; then, in 1513, to William Rookwood; and, after his death, to Robert Keene, of Thrandeston, whose widow she was in 1558.\* Thomas Bacon married secondly, during his father's lifetime, Anne the daughter of Henry Rowse of Dennington. In his will, dated 1546, he names his wife Anne, and his sons Edmund, John, George, and Francis; and bequeaths to Anne his wife, in addition to other property, "a pencion and yerely rent of ffoure pounds sterling." To Edmund his son he wills all his lands and hereditaments, with a few named exceptions, "to descende and remayne according to the lawes of this realm." It is certain, therefore, that the Thomas Bacon who had a wife named Anne was the father of Edmund the rightful heir to the estate.

To John his son he leaves lands in Tostock, directing him, "his heires and assignes to perform and do all such things as by the last will of my father I was appointed to do." The will of John Bacon contains a bequest of lands and tenements in Norton and Tostock to "Thomas my son and Anne his wife and their heirs" with remainder to Alys and her heirs; and special directions that "for defawte of such issue they be sold and the money thereof be disposed for the soules aforesaide to the most pleasure of God." This clearly distinguishes Thomas, who had a wife named Anne, to be the son of John Bacon who died in 1513. One other point to be noticed is that he does not name a son Thomas; therefore Thomas, the brother of Edmund, named in John Bacon's will, must have died before his father; and before the year 1539, at which date the Parish Register begins, since there is no entry in it of his death.

But Harvey, in the *Visitation of Suffolk* in 1561, gives a different account, setting out the pedigree thus:



Hamond is clearly a clerical error for Edmund, who married Elizabeth Page; and he is here represented to be the son of a Thomas Bacon by a daughter of Jervise, and the *grandson* of Thomas and a daughter of Mr. Rous. It is true that he was the son of Thomas by his wife Elizabeth Jervis: but in his will dated 1553 Edmund describes himself to be the *stepson* of the daughter of Rous: for, referring to the clause quoted above from his father's will, he charges a tenement in Thurston "with the annuitie which I am bounde to paye to the said Anne," "my mother-in-law," who had married "Robert Gosnolde of Otley gentilman." Harvey's ignorance that Thomas Bacon married twice is unaccountable, as the *Visitation* is dated only fourteen years after his death. And as great credit is commonly given to the pedigrees set

out by him, any charge of error must be substantiated by the most certain evidence. To make this evidence complete, reference must be made to the inscription on the monument of Sir Francis Bacon in S. Gregory's Church, Norwich. Sir Francis Bacon is there said to have derived his origin from Thomas Bacon of Hessett, his great grandfather, (proavo suo,) who died in the first year of Edward VI., by Ann Rowse his second wife, the daughter of Henry Rowse, of Dennington.\* Thomas Bacon of Hessett, who died, and was buried in Hessett Church, in 1547, the first year of Edward VI., names in his will his wife Ann, and a son Francis; this Francis was the father of another Francis, who had a son John settled at Lynn, who was the father of Sir Francis Bacon. If Harvey's pedigree were correct, Thomas Bacon, who married Ann Rowse, would have been great-great-grandfather, *abavus*, not great-grandfather, *proavus*, of Sir Francis.

It has been stated above on the authority of a certain Mr. Scipio Squire, who wrote a book that is referred to in a pedigree of the Bacons set out by the Rev. F. Blomefield and copied by Dr. Davy in *Suffolk Families*, that the arms known to have been borne by Thomas Bacon were borne by William and Stephen Bacon in the reign of Henry V. But in Vincent's *Visitation of Northamptonshire and Rutlandshire* in 1618,† these arms are stated to have been "given to Thomas Baken of Hessett in Suffolk per Tho: Wriothesley Garter and Thomas Benolt 9 May a<sup>o</sup> 6., H. 8, 1504," a clerical error for 1514. This grant does not exist in the College of Arms; but the arms with a crest are entered in the *Visitations* of 1561, and 1577; and the meagre and incorrect pedigree is added, which has been given above.

\* "Qui ex THOMA BACON (Proavo suo) de Hessett in comitatu Suffolciæ Generoso (anno primo Edwardi Regis Angliæ Sexti defuncto) per Annam Rowse uxorem suam secundam et Filiam HENRICI ROWSE de Dinington in Comitatu predicto Armigeri, originem suam deduxit." Blomefield, *History of Norfolk*, Vol. iv., p. 275. This inscription outdoes that on the monument

of Lionel Bacon in bombastic eulogy; commencing with the questions: "Quis hic tandem? Quem lugens rigida Niobe? Cui nam Lacrymas marmore exudas? Quem nemo non luget; cui nullus non illachrymatur, nisi marmore durior. Ne sileant homines saxa loquantur."

† *Harlei: MSS.*, 1094, f. 210 b.

Through the great kindness and personal help of Sir Albert Woods, Garter, to whom I offer my warmest thanks, I have discovered a way of reconciling this discrepancy. There is a manuscript in the College, marked "E. D. N. 56. C. Barker's Grants;" the heading of it is, "Patents of Armes Sir Christopher Barker, Knt., was Garter Principall King of Armes, Being dilligently collected and sett downe after the true manner of their General Grauntis and Confirmations of the said Garter Kinge of Armes from the time of Henry 8 unto the 3rd of Edward 6." On folio 63b the arms are tricked without a crest, and in the margin a note "In time of Henry V." The arms without crest are also tricked in pencil in Benolt's Book, "2 G. 4, fol. 9b.;" which is undoubtedly of the time of Henry 8, and in which the larger number of the arms are given with the tinctures in water-colour. It is headed "Crestes of Armes granted;" and the title leads to the supposition that the grants of crests only are contained in it. The drawing of the Bacon arms was never finished; nor was the crest added. But the gift, which Vincent records to have been made by Wriothesley and Benolt, was most probably the crest borne after 1513 by the Hessett branch of the Bacons, a talbot's head erased per fess *sab.* and *arg.*, holding in his mouth a sheep's or deer's foot *or.*

After the dissolution of the Monastery of S. Edmund Thomas Bacon acquired by purchase\* in 1541 the Manor of Hessett with the Advowson of the Church, Chevins Wood, and Monks Wood, and other lands and hereditaments in Hessett, Beyton, Bury, Thurston, Drinkstone, and Monks Bradfield, to hold them of the King in capite by the service of the twentieth part of a Knight's fee and on the payment of an annual rent of £2 7s. †

Edmund Bacon married Elizabeth the daughter of John Page of Weelley, Suffolk: and died in 1553, leaving to his

\* "All my londes in Hessett, which I purchased of the King's highness." Thomas Bacon's Will.

† *Harlei: MSS.*, 1232, p. 171. See

also *Index of Inrollments in Exchequer*, lib. 10, Durham, fol. 23. "Lre paten de Maner de Heggesset in com Suff concess Tho Bacon et hæred impm. Dat xii<sup>o</sup> die Maii a<sup>o</sup> xxxii<sup>o</sup>. H. 8.

widow Elizabeth, during her life natural, his Manor called Hedgesett Hall in Hedgeset with all the lands both free and bond, medowes, pastures, rents and services, and also his capitall howse in which he was dwelling, with all manner of landes, medows, pastures, rents and services to the same belonging and appertaining; as well as the lands which he had purchased lately of Sir Thomas Jermyn. Other of his possessions he left to his sons John, William, and Francis then under 21 years of age, his daughter Mary Fuetner, and his brother-in-law Robert Kene, and there is a gift and bequest of three score pounds sterling "to John Bacon my son of Callys;" of whom I shall say something a little later on. By an inquisition made at Bury on the 2nd of June, 1554; he was found to hold of the King in capite, by service of the twentieth part of a Knight's fee and a rent of 9s. 1d., the Manor of Hessesett, with the Advowson of the Church, two woods, Chevins and Monks, six messuages with 760 acres of land in Hessesett and Monks Bradfield: to hold of the King in socage three messuages with 519 acres of land in Thurston, Drinkstone, Bayton and Tostock: to hold, by fealty only, of the Manor of Lytton in Norton one messuage called Barton Mere, with 248 acres of land; and to hold of the King in socage as of his hundred of Thedwastre one messuage and 228 acres in Thurston at a rent of ten shillings.\*

John Bacon never came into possession of the estate; for he died in 1566<sup>6</sup>/<sub>7</sub>, three years before the death of his mother. He resided at Troston, and had married twice; first, Barbara the daughter of Sir Thomas Jermyn of Rushbrook, by whom he had two sons, Edmund and Thomas, and a daughter Ann, married to Humphrey Yarmouth; and secondly Katherine Perient, by whom he had a son Robert, who married Lady Harris, as appears from the will of Edmund the brother of the said Robert.† The second son

\* *Cole's Escheats*, Vol. iii., p. 28.  
Brit: Mus: 758.

† "And for a like remembrance of my love and hartie affeccōn I doe give unto

my loveinge Brother Robert Bacon Esquire, and to the Lady Harris his wife and to the wife of my sonne Lionell Bacon to every of them a peece of plate of the like value," *i.e.*, five pounds.



Thomas married Alice Belbrooke, and died without issue. John Bacon left no will; and on the first of February 156<sup>6</sup> administration \* was granted to George Peryent, brother of Katherine Bacon relict of John Bacon, with the consent of the said Katherine, of all the goods and other possessions. And by an inquisition † taken on the 26th day of May 1567, he was found to have had the reversion of all the manors, messuages, lands and tenements which formed the jointure of his mother; and to have held of Sir Nicholas Bacon, the Lord Keeper, as of his hundred of Blakeburne, lands and tenements in Troston, Great and Little Livermere, Ixworth Thorpe, Sapiston, and Honington. His son and heir was declared to be Edmund, who on the day of his father's death was of the age of thirteen years and thirteen weeks. His widow Elizabeth died in 1570, and in her will ‡ she mentions by name her daughter Mary Fuller, spelt *Fuetner* in her husband's will: Anne and Thomas, the children of "John Bacon *my eldest son*": "Frauncis my son," and "Elizabeth daughter of my sonne Frauncis" "Thomas sonne of my sonne Edmund": and "*my son* John Bacon *the younger*." This is the same as is styled in Edmund her husband's will, "John Bacon my son of Callys": but I cannot discover what led them to give to two sons the same Christian name. As she makes no mention of William, or of any children of William, it may be presumed that he was dead, and had left no issue.

Edmund, the son of John Bacon, married Elizabeth a daughter of Richard Cornwallis of Shotley. On his monument it is stated that they "lived happily together in wedlock by the space of fifty-two years." And as Elizabeth died in 1624, they were married in 1572, when Edmund was only nineteen years of age. They had a large family of eight sons and eight daughters; in which are to be reckoned "tres infantes uno partu editi in eodem sepulchro sepulti," as is written in the Register under the date of the 11th of August, 1584. Seldom has there existed greater

\* Prerogative Court of Canterbury.  
 † *Harlei: MSS: 639. fol. 145-6-7.*

‡ Bury Registry. Liber Aldrich, fol. 40b-42a.

probability of the continuance of a family; and yet within thirty years after the death of Edmund, the male line of the Bacons of Hesselst had ceased to exist. For some reason which does not appear, Edmund Bacon obtained, in 1606, licence\* from the King to alienate the manor of Hesselst; and in his will he states that he has already made conveyance of his manors, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, according to his mind and good liking. From the entry of the burial in the Register, "Elizabeth Bacon uxor Edmundi Bacon Armigeri, sepulta 25 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1624 noctu sero," I suppose that his wife died of the typhus fever, which seems to have prevailed in this part of Suffolk for many years.

Their son Edmund married Phœba Marsham, the youngest daughter and co-heiress of John Marsham of Badwell Ash: and died in 1617, seven years before the death of his parents. He had four sons Edmund, Thomas, John, and Henry, of whom John and Henry died before their father, and one daughter Phœbe, who died in 1621. Edmund, who was thirteen years old on the day of his father's death, died in 1627: Thomas, the second son, who was born on the 29th of October 1622, died on the 18th of Dec<sup>r</sup> 1635, having held the estate but a short time, if at all; for in the will of some of the Bacons twenty-three years is styled the legal age.

Henry Bacon, the uncle of Thomas, and the third son of Edmund and Elizabeth, succeeded, and died without issue in 1651. I infer, therefore, that Nicholas, the second son of Edmund and Elizabeth, died before Thomas Bacon. And on the death of Henry, Lionel, the fifth son of Edmund and Elizabeth succeeded: and, although he married twice, died without issue surviving him. And the estate was then parcelled out amongst his sisters, and their respective

\* *Index Original*: Vol. 19, fol. 39. Brit: Museum. "Rex licenciam dedit Edmundo Bacon alienare manerium de Hedgesett *alias* Hesselst in Comitatu Suffolciae Johanni Cornwalys Armigero et aliis." Cowell says: "If Tenant

*in capite* alien (*i.e.*, alter from one man to another,) his estate without the King's Licence, then by the Statute of 1 E. 3, cap. 12, a reasonable fine shall be taken, whereas at the Common Law, before that Statute, they were held forfeit."

husbands, Calybut Walpole, George Townsend, William Colman, Henry Lambe, John Aldrich, — Harris of Maldon, and John Grigbye; in accordance, I suppose, with the directions given in the conveyance made by their father. It is difficult to understand why the date of Henry's death, 1651, is said on the monument of Lionell to have terminated the residence of the Bacon family in Hesselsett; unless we are to suppose that Lionell never resided in the parish, and that Henry was the last who occupied the Hall.

With the death of Lionell the name of Bacon became almost extinct in Hesselsett. Three entries alone are made in the Register after that date: Mrs. Anne Bacon relict to Mr. Lionel Bacon Esquire in 1654, Henricus Bacon viduus in 1661, and Anna Bacon vidua in 1677. The name of Edward Bacon appears as a witness at a marriage in 1654: but whither he went, or what became of him, does not appear.

From Calybut Walpole and Elizabeth Bacon sprang the Earls of Orford; as may be seen from the pedigree set out by Mr. Blomefield in the *History of Norfolk*, Vol. vii., p. 109.

The inscription on the monument of Thomas Aldrich tells us that the family of Aldrich is an ancient family, and was settled in the county of Stafford.

#### THE FAMILY OF HOO.

A branch of the large and widely-scattered family of Hoo was settled at Hesselsett in 1286; for the itinerant Justice Salamon reports that William Le Hewe held of the Abbot one messuage with two acres of land at an annual rent of eightpence.\* They seem also to have had land at an early date in Monk's Bradfield, and to have had large possessions in Rougham: for in the twenty-first year of Edward I.,

\* Willelmus le hewe tenet i. messu-  
agium ii. acrarum terre de dicto Abbate

de dicto feodo et reddit per annum viiid.  
*Registrum Lakynhethie.* Har: MSS. 743.

A.D. 1293, Sir Robert Hoo puts his seal to a deed, witnessed by John de Herst of Hessett, by which John de Gedding, son and heir of James de Gedding, gave a messuage, lands, liberties, &c., in Rougham to Robert, son of Thomas de Bradefielde called Tillotte and Cicely his wife. And this same Sir Robert in the third year of Edward II., A.D. 1309, granted his tenements in Rougham to Robert the son of Thomas de Bradefield and Cicely his wife; which Robert, in 1319, granted his lands to Peter Osborne, Rector of Thorpe Abbots in Norfolk, with license to give the reversion, after the death of Robert and Margaret his wife, to the Abbey, to the use of the Sacristan.\* The manor of Hoo, from which I suppose the Rougham family was named, had been given to the Abbey by Earl Ulfketel; † and was styled Old haugh, Le Hoo, and Eald Hoo; a form which survives in the name of a residence in Rougham, Eldo House. In the third year of Edward II., A.D. 1310, this manor belonged to the office of Sacristan: ‡ and in 1312 William de Hoo was Sacristan of the Monastery and Archdeacon of Bury.§

From the title of the tenant in possession, "John off hoo," used in his will dated 1485, and used again of another in the Parish Register in 1558, "Johes at Hoo," it may be inferred that the seat of the family was the Hoo, a part of the parish of Hessett lying close up to Rougham. John Hoo, who died in 1485, had two sons, whom he names in his will, John and Robert, and more than one daughter, whose names do not appear; for he directs that his dowers may have refusal of certain lands, if they come to be sold, provided they will give the same price as any strange man will give. His wife Kateryn appears to have been the daughter of Reynold Tylley, for in his will he mentions lands "y<sup>e</sup> wiche," he says, "I holde in y<sup>e</sup> seyde towne of

\* Dr. Davy. *Add: MSS. British Museum*, 19,109.

† *Registrum Kempe*, fol. 47a.

‡ *Registrum Thomæ Abbatis*.

§ *Har: MSS. 230*. This contains "Formulæ plurimorum instrumentorum sive Registrum Willielmi de Hoo Sacristæ Monasterii S. Edmundi de Burgo et ejusdem loci Archidiaconi."

Hessett of the dymyssyon and ffeffement of Reynold Tylley late of Hessett forseyd."

Robert, his son, had a wife Agnes, who joined with him in the gift of the font to the church: he died in 1500, childless, as his will leads me to suppose; and his wife survived him. Of John I can find no further trace: and I presume that either he or his eldest son was buried in 1558, and styled in the Register John at hoo.

The family appears to have resided in the parish down to 1700: the name is spelt Hoo, Yue, and Howe; and in 1594 the description *yeoman* is given after the name of John Howe.

It is worthy of record that at the meeting of the parishioners in 1654 to appoint "the Minister" "to be allso the parish and publike Register" of Births, Marriages, and Burials, neither the name of Hoo nor of Bacon appears among the signatures.

### HESSETT WILLS.

The Hessett Wills, of an earlier date than 1552, are twenty in number. Of these three are in the Norwich Registry, one in the parish chest of Hessett, one at Somerset House, London, and the remainder in the Bury Registry. The earliest is the will of Stephen Bacon, dated 1444. It is of material service in solving the difficulty which genealogists have found in distinguishing between the Hessett branch and the Drinkstone branch of the Bacon family; for this reason, it is printed in full, together with the will of John Bacon who died in 1500, and the other John who died in 1513. The wills of Richard Willyam, of John Hoo, and of John Creme have also been printed at length; because they throw light upon several matters connected with the church and parish. But it has been thought unnecessary to do more than catalogue the remainder; excepting where they contain the name of Bacon amongst the executors or supervisors.

In order to unravel the history of the Bacon family I

have printed other wills of a later date than 1552; some at full length; others, only in part.

The following passage from the description of "The Liberties of the See of Norwich," given by Mr. Blomefield,\* will explain how it comes to pass that some of the wills are in the Bury Registry, and others in the Norwich, and others in the Registry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. "As to the PROBATIONS OF WILLS, another emolument of the *spiritualities*; it appears by the registers, and depositions taken A. 1510, (Depos. N. 191), that the rural DEANS had the probate of all wills, where the deceased had no moveables but in their DEANERY only; and where the deceased had moveables in two deaneries, and in one *Archdeaconry*, then probates belonged to the ARCH-DEACON, and if they had goods in two archdeaconries, those probates belonged to the *Bishop*, who had the probate also of the wills of all *noblemen, gentlemen of arms, rectors, vicars*, and the whole *clergy*; though by virtue of the *ordinary* prerogative, all persons not having *bona notabilia*, or personals to the value † of £5 in different dioceses, might prove their wills in the *Bishop's Court*, if they would; but if they had *bona notabilia* they were always obliged to prove such wills in the *prerogative* or *archbishop's court*, as they now are."

This statement will account for the place of probate, and of custody, of most of the Hesselton Wills. And I hazard a conjecture that John Creme's will, preserved in the Parish Chest, which has the seal appended, and the memorandum of probate indorsed, was proved before the Rural Dean.

#### Stephen Bacon.—1444.

In dei nomine Ego Stephanus Bacon de hegesset sana mente et bona memore existens xxiii<sup>o</sup> die mensis maii Anno dni m<sup>o</sup>cccc<sup>o</sup> xliiii<sup>o</sup> condoto testam<sup>o</sup> meum in hunc modum In primis lego aiam meam Deo omnipotenti

\* *History of Norfolk*, Vol. iv., p. 554. I have given Mr. Blomefield's italics and capitals.

† "Habens in bonis minus C solidis sterlingorum non dicitur habere bona

notabilia." Lyndwood, *de Test. c. stat. v. laicis*. This sum was confirmed by 25 Henry VIII., c.v.: and by the 93rd of "The Constitutions of the Church of England;" intituled "*The Rate of Bona Notabilia liable to the Prerogative Court.*"

beate marie virgini et omibz s̄tis corpz q̄ meū eccl̄iasticę sepulture  
 Item lego sūmo altari in eccl̄ia de heggesete p̄dic̄t p̄ decimis et  
 oblat̄ionibz meis oblit̄ seu minime psolut̄ ii: s̄ Item lego margerie  
 uxori mee et Johi filio meo om̄ia hostiliamenta mea quouismode domui  
 mee spectant̄ except̄ inde inferius legat̄ It̄ lego Agneti filie mee unā  
 ollam añ p̄ assignacōem p̄fate margerie ux̄is mee It̄m lego Joh̄e filie  
 mee j̄ pateff̄ en̄ p̄ assignacōem eiusd̄ margerie Residuū v̄o om̄ium  
 bonoz meoz sup̄ius non legat̄ do et lego executoribz meis subscript̄  
 ad vendend̄ recipiend̄ et disponend̄ p̄ aīa mea et aīmabz quibz teneor  
 in missaz celb̄acōne et elemos̄ largicōe put̄ ipi meli⁹ viderit deo placere  
 et aīe mee expedire hui⁹ autē testamēn̄ mei ordino et facio executores  
 meos videlicet p̄fatā margeriā uxorē meā Edmundū Bacon et J̄hem  
 Thorpe ad p̄sens testamētū meū fideit̄r exequend̄ et Adam Bereve de  
 Thurston facō et ordino eoz sup̄visorē In cui⁹ rei testiōm huic p̄senti  
 testimēto meo sigillū meū apposui.

Dat̄ loco die et anno sup̄dictis

Volūt⁹ eiusd̄ testr

Oīmbz ad quoꝝ notitiā p̄sentes lit̄e p̄uefint Stephanus Bacon de  
 heggesete salutē in d̄no sempit̄no Sciatis q̄ hec est ult̄ia voluntas mea  
 sup̄ disponē om̄i terraz et tētoꝝ meoz cū suis p̄tīn̄ que Edmūd⁹ Bacon  
 Ad Bereve Joh̄es Thorp et Walterus Nunne hēnt de dono et  
 feoffamento meo in vill et campis de heggesete Roughm̄ et Bradefelde  
 monachoz videlicet in primis volo quod margeria ux̄or mea hēat oīa  
 p̄dicta p̄ras et tēnta mea cū suis p̄tīn̄ exceptis inde quattuor acris p̄re  
 quas nup̄ p̄quisivi de margareta Nobele sine aliquo p̄ wasto seu  
 d̄p̄trucōne quousq̄ Joh̄es fili⁹ me⁹ peruen̄it ad legitimā etatem et tunc  
 volo qd̄ ipse Joh̄es hēat medietatē oīm terraz et tētoꝝ meoz p̄dctoꝝ  
 ut ip̄e soluat seu solm̄ faciat agneti sorori sue quadragenta solidos  
 legat̄ monete et alterā medietatē eozdē p̄raz et tētoꝝ meoz volo qd̄  
 p̄fata margeria hēat ad f̄m̄m vite sue ut ip̄a margeria soluat seu solm̄  
 faciat Joh̄e filie mee quadraginta solid̄ legat̄ monete Ita qd̄ quest̄  
 dictaz filiaz meaz erit heres alteri⁹ de pecunia p̄dicta si aliqua eaz  
 obierit infra legitimā etatē. Itē volo qd̄ quilibet quattuor p̄xoz meoz  
 erit heres alterius de p̄ris et tēntis meis p̄dictis modo quo sup̄ior alt̄  
 eoz obierit inf̄a legitimā etatē Et si om̄es morian̄t infra legitimā etatē  
 tunc volo post mortē p̄fate margerie qd̄ om̄ia p̄dicta p̄re et tēnta cū suis  
 p̄tīn̄ vendant̄ p̄ exec̄ meos in testō meo nōiat̄ et qd̄ denarii inde recept̄  
 disponā̄t p̄ salute aīe mee et aīe dict̄e margerie et aīaz om̄i amicoꝝ  
 meoz defunct̄ in missis celebrand̄ et in aliis opibz caritatis It̄m volo  
 qd̄ quattuor acre p̄re quas nup̄ p̄quisiui de Margareta Nobele vendant̄ p̄  
 exec̄ meos ad inveniendum unū idoneū Capellm̄ celebrantē p̄ aīa mea  
 et aīabz quibz teneor p̄ unū annū integrū in eccl̄ia de heggesete  
 q̄moci⁹ comode fieri pot̄it post obitū meū It̄m volo qd̄ p̄fat̄ margeria  
 hēat oīa blada mea gest̄ sup̄ p̄ras meas p̄dictas et oīa alia catella mea  
 tam viua q̄m̄ mortua que remanserint post debitoꝝ meoz psolutōem et  
 expens̄ fuñal̄m meaz complementa It̄m assigno p̄fat̄ J̄hi filio meo sex  
 cum̄ ordii It̄m assigno alano filiō meo unā acr̄ ordii in le wellefeld

It volo quod q exēc mei hēant aliquid p labore suo p discrecōem p̄fat  
 margerie ux̄is mee In cui⁹ rei testiōm p̄sentibz sigillū meū apposui  
 Dat vicesimo quarto die mensis maii anno dñi millesimo cccc<sup>mo</sup> xliiij<sup>o</sup>  
 Regni v<sup>o</sup> Regis henrici sexti post conq̄ue Anglie vicesimo secundo : :  
 [Liber Baldwyne, f. 44. Bury Registry.]

*sine aliquo pro vasto seu destructione.* These words do not occur in any of the Bury Wills printed by Mr. Tymms. Ducange explains: "VASTUM, Destructionem significat. Magna Charta: Custos terræ huius modi hæredis qui infra ætatem fuerit, not capiat de terra hæredis, non nisi rationabiles exitus, hæc sine destructione et Vasto hominum, vel rerum." In John Creme's will the clause is "withouten ony voluntary wast." Cowel defines: "It is spoyl made either on houses, woods, lands, &c., by the tenant for life or years, to the prejudice of the heir, or of him in reversion or remainder. Whereupon the Writ of *Wast* is brought, for the recovery of the thing wasted and liable damages."

### Richard Nunne.—1447.

He leaves a sum of money to the high altar of S. Ethelbert King and Martyr.

[Liber Baldwyne, f. 80. Bury Registry.]

### Richard Willyam, Rector of Hessett—1459.

In dei noīe Amen vicesimo sexto die mensis Aḡllis Anno Dñi Millesimo cccc<sup>mo</sup> quinquagesimo nono Ego Ricus Willyam R̄cōr Ecclie poch̄ de Heghsete compos mentē videns michi mortē pielm iminerē condo testm̄ meū in hūc modū In p̄mis lego aiām meā deo om̄ipotentī, b̄te marie e om̄ibz sc̄is corp<sup>o</sup> q̄ meū sepeliend̄ in Cancellō eiusd̄ ecclie in aliquo loco put executores mei infra scripti duxerint ordinand̄ It lego ad repacionē siue ad fabricā eiusd̄ ecclie vjs viijd̄ Itm̄ lego matrice ecclie de Nor<sup>co</sup> xxd̄ Itm̄ lego xl̄s ad emendacionē cuiusd̄m vie inḡ Heghset p̄dict̄ e Bekton si alij villani infra duos annos post decessū meū man<sup>o</sup> adiutores apponere voluerit ita q<sup>d</sup> substancialit̄ e durate fiat als p non legato heat It volo q<sup>d</sup> tabernactm̄ Sc̄i Ethelberti de nouo pingat̄ ex sumptibz meis It lego ffr̄ibz de Babwell x̄s ad celebrand̄ vnū trentale Sc̄i Gregorij p̄ aiā mea pentū amicoz e oīm fideiliū defunctoz Itm̄ lego Ricō Boyton iiijbz mixtiliōn Itm̄ Johne By ijbz mixtit It Thome Swyft iiijbz ordij vjs viijd̄ It Agneti Talbott jbz mixtiliōn Itm̄ Witto Potter vjs viijd̄ vnū cooptoriū virid̄ coloris l lodicē e l linthiamē It Nicho Potter l cooptoriū lodicē e linthiamē It Johne Potter vnū cooptoriū lodicem e linthiamen Itm̄ Witmo Nuñe filiolo meo iiijd̄ It Ricō Brastrete fit iiijd̄ Itm̄ Ricō Heyward fit iiijd̄ It Walfo Nuñe vjs viijd̄ It d̄o e lego om̄es puen<sup>o</sup> fruct<sup>o</sup> oblationes e om̄ia alia comoda que pueniēt e pueniēt ante Sinodū p̄x̄ post fm̄ Sc̄i Michis p̄x̄ futu<sup>r</sup> post dat p̄sen de dēa ecclia mea pochiali de Heghsett Roberto Wolman R̄cōri ecclie de Toftis e Johne Bakon de Heghsett p̄dict̄ executoribz meis vt ip̄i ordinēt e disponāt de eis̄ ad satisfaciē creditoribz meis e p̄ alijs oīabz que substinebūt racōe p̄sent e sepulture meē Residuū v<sup>o</sup> oīm bonoz meoz nō legatoz comitto disposicōni executoz meoz supius nōiatoz vt conuertāt illud in p̄os usus p̄ aiā mea e aibz quibz teneor



put melius viderint expedire e lego executoribz meis pdicē p laboribz suis vz Roberto Wolman xiijs iiijd e omnia mea puluinaria sedilia e Johani Bakon xs Hiis testibz Waltero Nunne Petro Tyly e Walfo Tyly e aliis Dat die menē e Anno supradictē It Johani Skott ijb3 mixtionē Itm Waltero Tyly ijb3 mixtilionis.

*iii busselos mixtilionis.* Fleta, quoted by Ducange, explains that eight pounds of corn make a bushel; and eight bushels make a quarter. MESTLYONE OR MONGE CORNE, MIXTILIO Prompt: Parvul: Mr. Albert Way in a note describes "Meslin-bread," to be a bread "made of equal parts of wheat and rye"; and quotes Forby as the authority for the statement that "it was formerly considered as a delicacy in the Eastern Counties, the household loaf being composed of rye alone." The mixed grain termed maslin is commended by Tusser." He adds: "Cotgrave gives *Metel*, messling, or misslin, wheat and rye mingled, sowed and used together." Another kind of mixed corn commonly grown in the Eastern Counties was dragge, or dredge. See "Dragge," and Mr. Albert Way's note in the *Promptorium Parvulorum*.

*lodiceum.* The more usual word is blanketum.

*filio meo: i.e.,* either, god-child; see *Capitulare Aithonis Episcopi Basil c 21. Filiolus aut filiola spiritualis de fonte, aut de confirmatione:* or nephew; see Blount in *Nomolex. Anglic. Ego Johannes Lovet. . . . dedi. . . . Waltero le Blount fratri meo, et Johanni filio suo, filiole meo, quindecim solidos annui redditus.* Ducange.

*synodum proximam post festum Sci Michis pz futur post dat present.* A constitution of Edmund Rich, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1234, orders: "Rector Ecclesie decimas nondum perceptas ante annuntiationem Divæ Virginis non vendet." By Canon Law the custom was confirmed that every beneficed priest, who was alive at the close of the Feast of the Annuntiation, was entitled to the fruits of his benefice up to Michaelmas, if he died between that day and Michaelmas; but was not entitled to them if he vacated the living otherwise than by death: "a quo die fructus de consuetudine cedere debent ad ipsorum Rectorum, si ante fructuum hujus modi perceptionem decesserint, legata vel debita persolvenda." Lyndwood, *Provinciale*, p. 23-25. "In 1255 Walter de Suffield, in the Synod held at Norwich, confirmed by public decree this ancient custom of his diocese, that all Rectors and Vicars, who were alive on Easter-day, might make a will of all the profits of their livings to the Michaelmas following, except the *offerings, mortuaries, and fees*, that immediately belongs to him that serves the cure; saving to the Bishop the profits of all livings void by the Incumbents dying between Michaelmas and Easter, and all such profits as shall not be disposed of by the persons dying between Easter and Michaelmas, by an express clause in their wills: and accordingly beneficed persons in this diocese generally had a clause in their wills to dispose of such effects." Blomefield, *Hist: of Norfolk*, Vol. iv., p. 347. But it appears from the will of Sir Robert Cooke, Vicar of Haughley (*Bury Wills*, p. 128), that in 1528 the Bishop had no right to these profits: but that a priest dying between Michaelmas and the Annuntiation was entitled to the profits of his benefice up to the latter date, if he disposed of them by will: "Item I wyll that myne executors have all the profyts of my benyfyce to our Ladys daye the Annoncyacion." The half-yearly Courts of the Bishop for Ecclesiastical causes were termed Synodus; and were held at Lady-Day and Michaelmas. Barbosa states that the payment termed "Synodaticum" was made to the Bishops "ut ad synodum celebrandam alliciantur."

### Edward Boldero.—1462.

He makes John Bacou Senior, of Hessett, one of his executors  
[Liber Baldwyn, f. 343. Bury Registry.]

### John Heyward de Hessett.—1473.

He leaves to the Fabric of the Church, xx̄s.  
[Liber Baldwyn, f. 564. Bury Registry.]

### William Wade.—1480.

He appoints John Bacon Senior, an Executor.  
[Liber Hervey, f. 214. Bury Registry.]

## Walter Nunne.—1484.

He makes John Bacon *the elder*, of Higgesett, Supervisor unto his Executors.

[Liber Boner, f. 26. Bury Registry.]

## John off hoo

In the name of God. Amen. I John of hoo of Hessett heyl of mynd in good memory beyng the xx<sup>ii</sup> day of the monyeth of Octobē in the yeer of our lord god m<sup>cccc</sup> lxxxv make my testament on thys wyse ffyrst I bequethe my soule to god Almygthy & to our lady seynt mary & to alle the seynts of hevyn & my Body to be buried in crysteyn beryene of the cherche of seynt Ethelred of hessett aforseyd also I asyngne to y<sup>e</sup> hygh aut<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> same cherche for my tythes & oblaciōns for gotyn or payd to lytyll & for the helthe of myn soule xx<sup>d</sup> Also I bequethe on to y<sup>e</sup> fryers of Babwell to have a trentall of seynt gregore for my soule & for y<sup>e</sup> soule of myn wyffe Katteryne & for y<sup>e</sup> soules y<sup>t</sup> we be bounde to pry for xv<sup>s</sup> & to y<sup>e</sup> fryers of sudbury und<sup>r</sup> the same forme xv<sup>s</sup> Also I asyngne on to one discrete p<sup>ste</sup> to syng for y<sup>e</sup> soules above seyde be y<sup>e</sup> terme of a yeer viii merke Also I wyll & I asyngne to eche chyld of y<sup>e</sup> chyldryn of myn sons & my daughters ij sheep Also I bequethe & I asyngne to my sone John and to y<sup>e</sup> eyers male of his Body lawfully be gotyn w<sup>t</sup> ought ende alle y<sup>e</sup> lands & tents medewes & pastures w<sup>t</sup> her ptyncens y<sup>e</sup> wiche laste I holde in y<sup>e</sup> seyde towne of hessett of the dymyssyon & ffefement of Reynold Tylly lat<sup>e</sup> of hessett forseyd And also I asyngne on to y<sup>e</sup> seyde John my sone and to heyers male of his Body lawfully begetyn w<sup>t</sup> oute ende iiij pees of londe and a pes of medew w<sup>t</sup> her ptyncens lying in the seyde town of hessett of y<sup>e</sup> wyche on pes of londe ys countyd for j Acr of londe & it lythe in the ffelde called y<sup>e</sup> cherchefeld by syde y<sup>e</sup> londe late of Rog Bradstrete on y<sup>e</sup> northe pty & it abuttyth ageyns y<sup>e</sup> weste upon y<sup>e</sup> londe late of Edmund Bacon and a no<sup>r</sup> pece of lond as counted for ii acres of londe and it lythe in the same ffelde betwyne y<sup>e</sup> londe of Wat<sup>r</sup> Nvne on y<sup>e</sup> southe pty & y<sup>e</sup> lande of y<sup>e</sup> Cōvent of Seynt Edmund of Bury on y<sup>e</sup> northe pty The iii<sup>de</sup> pece of londe lythe in y<sup>e</sup> feld called Westefeld by syd y<sup>e</sup> lande of y<sup>e</sup> seyde cōvent on the southe pty and y<sup>e</sup> hele to the west abuttyth upon y<sup>e</sup> londe of John Bacon and y<sup>e</sup> iii<sup>th</sup> pece of londe lythe in the townes of Hessett aforseyd & Beketon in the ffeld called heyfeld upon y<sup>e</sup> wente called Brakelond be twyn y<sup>e</sup> londe of y<sup>e</sup> seyde cōvent on y<sup>e</sup> southe pty and y<sup>e</sup> londe of Melford College and y<sup>e</sup> londe of y<sup>e</sup> seyde cōvent on y<sup>e</sup> pty of y<sup>e</sup> northe and y<sup>e</sup> seyde pece of medew ys countyd for iii Rode of medew called pekesale medew be side y<sup>e</sup> pastur of y<sup>e</sup> manre of Drenkeston halle on y<sup>e</sup> est pty and ye hele on to y<sup>e</sup> northe abutt upon y<sup>e</sup> medewe of y<sup>e</sup> pry<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> mon<sup>st</sup>ery of Seynt Edmund aforseyd and yff it happe y<sup>e</sup> seyde John my sone w<sup>t</sup> outer eyer male of his Body lawfully begetyn to desces Than I wyll

alle y<sup>e</sup> forseid londs and tents medew fedyns and pasturs in y<sup>e</sup> wyche late I hadde of y<sup>e</sup> dymyssyon & ffeffment of y<sup>e</sup> forseid Reynold Tylly & y<sup>e</sup> forseid iiii pecs of londe & j pece of medwe w<sup>t</sup> her ptynences integratly remayn onto myn sone Robrte & to y<sup>e</sup> eyers male of his Body lawfully begotyn w<sup>t</sup> owten ende and yff y<sup>e</sup> seyde Robre dysses w<sup>t</sup> outen eyer male of his Body lawfully begotyn That thene I wyll all y<sup>e</sup> forseid londs & tents medew fedyngs & pasturs late of y<sup>e</sup> forseyd Reynold Tylly & y<sup>e</sup> forseyd iiii pecs of londe & pece of medewe w<sup>t</sup> all her ptynences be solde be y<sup>e</sup> beste p<sup>ce</sup> y<sup>t</sup> it may be solde & y<sup>e</sup> mony theroff be fynally disposyd in good dedys of charyte for myn soule & for y<sup>e</sup> soule of myn wyffe Kateryn & for y<sup>e</sup> soules of all our godduers y<sup>t</sup> we be bounde to pray for Also I wyll y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> seyde Robrte my sone have to holden to hym and to his eyers male of his Body lawfully begetyn w<sup>t</sup> owten ende a mesuage & j pece of londe & pece of woode w<sup>t</sup> her ptynences in y<sup>e</sup> towne of hessett aforseid of y<sup>e</sup> wiche y<sup>e</sup> seyde mesuage is byled & lythe in y<sup>e</sup> strete called y<sup>e</sup> cherche strete be twyn y<sup>e</sup> mesuage & pytyll late of John Trenchemer on y<sup>e</sup> pt of y<sup>e</sup> northe & y<sup>e</sup> pytyll called lawneys on y<sup>e</sup> southe pty and y<sup>e</sup> forseyd pece of londe and pece of woode ys counted for iiii acres of londe & wood conuently lying be twen y<sup>e</sup> psonage of y<sup>e</sup> cherche of hessett a forseyd on y<sup>e</sup> south pty & y<sup>e</sup> londe of y<sup>e</sup> seyde maner called lawneys & ye londe late of John Trenchemer and y<sup>e</sup> londe of oither men on the northe pty and yff it happe y<sup>e</sup> seyde Robrte w<sup>t</sup> outen eyer male of his body lawfully begotyn to dessesen Than I wyll y<sup>e</sup> seyde mesuage pece of londe & pece of woode w<sup>t</sup> her ptynences remayn holly and integratly on to y<sup>e</sup> forseyd John my sone & to y<sup>e</sup> eyers male of his Body lawfully begotyn w<sup>t</sup> owten ende & yff it happe y<sup>e</sup> forseyd John my sone w<sup>t</sup> owten eyer male of his Body lawfully be getyn to decessen Thanne I wyll y<sup>e</sup> seid mesuage pece of londe and pece of woode w<sup>t</sup> her ptynees be solde be myn executors or be y<sup>e</sup> executors of myn executors at y<sup>e</sup> beste p<sup>ce</sup> y<sup>t</sup> they may be solde and y<sup>e</sup> money therof receyved for y<sup>e</sup> souls above seyde of good dedes of charyte fynally be spent and yff ony of myn dowers wyll buy any of y<sup>e</sup> seid tents londs medews fedyngs pastures & woods w<sup>t</sup> her ptn aforseyd or ellys ony pcell of them than I wolde y<sup>t</sup> they be pferred be for any other men yff they wyll gyf & pay as myche as another straunge man wyll pay The Residwe of my goods boy<sup>e</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> moveablys and on y<sup>e</sup> onmoveablys above not assigned ne bequethyn I geff & bequethe & assigne on to the disposyon of myn executors under wretyn and named y<sup>t</sup> they be ther dyscressyon reson & conseyent dyspose them for myn soule & for y<sup>e</sup> soule of myn wyffe Kateryn & for y<sup>e</sup> soules y<sup>t</sup> we be bounde to pray for & for all crysten sowles in messys singing and in pore men releveyng in noyous wayes amending and in other good dedes of charyte doying as they thynke most plesing to God & pfyte above seyde Also I will pray & reqwyre all my syngler feffours y<sup>e</sup> wyche be feffed unto myn behoue of & in alle y<sup>e</sup> londes tents medew fedyngs pasturs & woods w<sup>t</sup> her ptynences or of or in ony pcell of them that they delyver her stocke y<sup>t</sup> they have after y<sup>e</sup> tenor & strenkthe forme & effect of thes my psent testament & last wyll whan they be desyred be myn executors And of this

myn pesent testament I ordeyn and make myn executors Syrre Wat hoo herry Colge of pakenhā and John Nvnne of Drinkeston and I assigne to eche of myn executors for her labor vi<sup>s</sup> viii<sup>d</sup> be the records & wyttewesses Rog Bradstrete George Skotte John Creme & other Dat place & day & year above seyð

Proved 5th April, 1492

[Liber Boner, f. 98, Bury Register.]

*in the year of our Lord god m<sup>c</sup>cccc lxxxv.* This is a strange clerical error. The will was proved on the 5th of April 1492; and therefore must have been made in 1485. To the carelessness of the writer must also be attributed the erroneous statement concerning the dedication: "the cherche of S. Etheldred of hessett aforesyd:" for the mention of the hygh auter at the same cherche is fatal to the supposition, which might otherwise have been entertained, that "ye chapel gweche he mad euery deyly" was dedicated to S. Etheldreda.

*one discrete p<sup>re</sup>ste.* Most commonly the direction is that an *honest* priest be found, that is, a respectable man, entitled to reverence, "of good name and fame and honest conversation": sometimes "*kunning*" is added to honest, in the sense of learned: capellus *ydoneus*, a good p<sup>re</sup>ste, a virtuously disposed p<sup>re</sup>ste as is convenient to the ordyr of priesthood, a p<sup>re</sup>ste of good gyding and disposycion, a chaplain of good condition, a good and loyal man, a convenable and virtuouse p<sup>re</sup>ste; such are the expressions generally used in the Bury Wills, and in the Wills contained in the Volume edited by Sir Harris Nicholas, under the title *Testamenta Vetusta*. According to Lyndwood (*Provinciale* p. 119), the honesty of the clergy consisted in abstinence from gluttony, drunkenness, immodest conversation, a hurried gait, ostentatious dress, questionable society, familiarity with women, worldly business, plays and players, taverns, dice and knuckle-bones, and all superfluity of ornament in person and house. The term *discrete* does not occur in the *Bury Wills*: it is found twice in *Testamenta Vetusta*: "one p<sup>re</sup>ste, whom I will be honest, *aiscrete*, able, cunning in reading and singing" (p. 428): "a godly and *discreet* man be chosen to edify the youth of the parish." Dr. Irons, commenting on the words "let him come to me or to some other discreet and learned minister of God's word," remarks: "It is a term well known in the Canon Law. It does not mean any common virtue which a man may attribute to himself; but definite virtues ascertained by the Bishop or ordinary. 'Discrete' canonically means 'approved by the Bishop as discreet'; it is a technical term. Thus a priest may be discreet for one thing, and not for another; discreet for hearing confessions, and not discreet for matrimonial causes.... Hence the virtue itself came to be called *discretio*, *ie.*, including all the fitness required for the particular work." Lyndwood (*Provinciale* p. 80) notes: "Discretio idem est quod Divisio, Scientia, Discussio, vel quarumlibet rerum consideratio ad quod tendat, secundum Januen et dicitur *Discretio* omnium Virtutum esse Mater."

*ye wente called Wrakelonde.* WENT or WEND is derived from the Saxon *Wendan* to wend, or go. Cowell defines wend to be "a somewhat large circuit of land containing a number of acres;" and quotes *Rentale Regalis Manerii de Wye*, page 31, "Tres sunt Wendi, viz., Doun Wend, Chilton's Wend, et Brousford Wend, et in quolibet wendo sunt decem juga." This guides us to the origin of the expression: *Jugum* is a juger of land, so called because it can be ploughed in one day by one yoke of oxen. The Latin equivalent, given by Cowell, for Wend, viz., *perambulatio*, suggests that it contained as much land as could be gone through by a yoke of oxen in a day. Halliwell defines it to be a furlong of ground.

*fedyns, or fode.* *Pastum, alimentum, alimonia, victus. Promptorium Parvulorum.*  
*all our goddvers.* The words are curiously written; and it is hard to read them; but I think that they are correctly given. They occur just where the expression "our benefactors" commonly is found, of which they are the equivalent. Joane Lady Bergavenny (*Testamenta Vestuta* p. 225) bequeaths "ccc marks to find two priests, perpetually to sing for.... all my good doers, and all christian souls." The expression seems to be taken from the form of Bidding the Beads: in the Sarum Use, this is, "For alle the soules that hath done eny good to this cherche, and for alle crysten soules" (Maskell, *Monumenta Ritualia*, Vol. III., p. 346.) In the York Use; "Also ye shall pray specially for.....all christian souls of whom we had any good of." (Dr. Rock, *The Church of our Fathers*, Vol. ii., p. 371.) Mr. Tymms cannot be right in the explanation which he gives of "for all the sowlys that I have any god of," viz., "any goods of." *Bury Wills*, p. 86.

*tyled, built:* from the Anglo-Saxon *bulden*. In the *Ludus Conventiæ*, the form *bilde* occurs: in Religious songs, about 1225, *thi bûr is sône ibuld*. See a *Dictionary of the Old English Language* by Dr. Stratmann. The first letter of the word is clearly b; otherwise I should have preferred to read "tyled"; as in John Baret's will (*Bury Wills*, p. 32), "of the long tylyd hous and gardeyn."

William Cowy, of Monks Bradfield.—1486.

He makes John Bacon the elder of Hessett supervysor of his will.

[Liber Boner, f. 94. Bury Registry.]

## Robert Brown, of Hessem.—1488.

[Liber Boner, f. 89. Bury Registry.]

## John Bacon.—1500.

In the name of god Amen the xvii<sup>th</sup> day of y<sup>e</sup> moneth of August in the yer of o<sup>r</sup> lord M<sup>ccc</sup>ccccc I John Bacon of Heggysset late of Drenkeston heyle in mende And good memory ordeyne And make this my p<sup>re</sup>sent testament on this wyse ffyrst I bequeth my soule to god Almyghty to oure lady seint mary And to all the seint<sup>e</sup> of hevyn And my body to be buried in cristen berya<sup>th</sup> of the chirch of Heggessett aforesaid It<sup>m</sup> I assignez to the hey Auter of y<sup>e</sup> same chirch for my tythes foryeten or paid to lytyll And for the helthe of my soule iii s̄ iiiii d̄ It<sup>m</sup> I assynez to the hey Auter of the chirch of Drenkeston iii s̄ iiiii d̄ And to the emendacon of the same chirch iiiij m̄c̄ And to the curate of the said chirch to have deryge And masse viii d̄ And for Ryngyng xii d̄ And iii s̄ iiiii d̄ to be delte to the pour folke of the same towne It<sup>m</sup> I assignez to the hey<sup>3</sup> Auter of ye the chirch of Tostoke xii d̄ It<sup>m</sup> to the curate for deryge And masse viii d̄ And for ryngyng iiiii d̄ And vi s̄ viii d̄ to be delte to the pour folke It<sup>m</sup> I assignez to the frer<sup>e</sup> of Babwell to have xxx masses for my soule x s̄ And j cūbe whete And j cūbe barley It<sup>m</sup> I wyll have a dyscrete prest to synge for my soule by the term of on yere It<sup>m</sup> I assigne to iche of my godchylde<sup>n</sup> xij d̄ It<sup>m</sup> I wyll y<sup>e</sup> if my wyfe Agnes dece<sup>se</sup> in the sekene<sup>s</sup> that she is in At this tyme as it is moste lyke y<sup>e</sup> she sha<sup>ll</sup> that my estylmet<sup>e</sup> of my housold be equally deptyd be twyx my chylde<sup>n</sup> Roberd John Margery And Jone And if it happe the said Agnes my wyfe to recure of her said sekene<sup>s</sup> than I wyll that all my said estylmet<sup>e</sup> be at her disposicon And that she have a competet levying p<sup>ro</sup>vided be the disc<sup>o</sup>on of myn executor<sup>e</sup> It<sup>m</sup> I wyll that myn teñt in heggyssett a fore said remayne in to the hand<sup>e</sup> of myn executor<sup>e</sup> tyll my sone John be of the Age of xxiiij yer<sup>e</sup> And than I wyll that the said teñt w<sup>it</sup> the p<sup>ro</sup>tyence<sup>e</sup> remayne on to the said John my sone And to the heyr<sup>e</sup> male of his body lawfully begotyn And for defaute of lawfull Issewe of the said John to remayne onto my kynesman Thom<sup>as</sup> Bacon gentylman vnder the condic<sup>o</sup>n that he pay xx m<sup>ar</sup>c onto myne executor<sup>e</sup> It<sup>m</sup> I wyll y<sup>e</sup> my tenēt in Drenkeston the which late I purchasyd of Thom<sup>as</sup> Musket be sold be myne executor<sup>e</sup> paying on to the said Thom<sup>as</sup> or to his assignez the money that I owe for the purchasyng of y<sup>e</sup> same teñt and y<sup>e</sup> Resydue of y<sup>e</sup> money to helpe to the fullyllyng of my testament It<sup>m</sup> I wyll that all my other laud<sup>e</sup> And tent<sup>e</sup> meddowys And pastur<sup>e</sup> w<sup>it</sup> all her ptine<sup>e</sup> lying in Drenkeston a foresaid And Tostoke remayne in to the hand<sup>e</sup> of myn executor<sup>e</sup> tyll the said John my sone come on to the age of xxiiij yer<sup>e</sup> And tyll myhelmesse next after that paying on to Ser George Tysoo prest such dute as is owyng on to hym at the date

of y<sup>is</sup> þsent wrytyng for a close called Caldewell-yard And I wyth that at Myheltmasse next afr that my sone John be of Age of xxiiij yer<sup>e</sup> that all the said lond<sup>e</sup> And tent<sup>e</sup> medowys And pastur<sup>e</sup> w<sup>t</sup> her p<sup>ti</sup>n remayne on to the said John my sone And to the eyr<sup>e</sup> of hys body lauffully begotyn And if it happe the said John to deceesse w<sup>t</sup> ought lauffull Issewe of hys body lauffully bogotyn thanne I wyth that all the said lond<sup>e</sup> And tent<sup>e</sup> medowys And pastur<sup>e</sup> w<sup>t</sup> all her app<sup>rt</sup>enn<sup>e</sup> remayne onto my sone Roberd And to the heyr<sup>e</sup> of hys body lauffully begotyn And for defaute of lauffull Issewe of y<sup>e</sup> saide Roberd to Remayne onto the eyr<sup>e</sup> male of my doughter Margery Neue Itm I wyth that my maner lying in Barton be syde Myldenale w<sup>t</sup> all the lond<sup>e</sup> e tent<sup>e</sup> medows pastur<sup>e</sup> rent<sup>e</sup> And pncys lying in the townes of Barton and Myldenale a fore said remayne in to the hand<sup>e</sup> of myn executor<sup>e</sup> tyll the said my sone Roberd be come to the full age of xxij yer<sup>e</sup> And than I wyth y<sup>t</sup> all the said maner w<sup>t</sup> all the p<sup>ti</sup>n as it is a bouesaid remayne on to the said my sone Roberd And to the heyr<sup>e</sup> of his body lauffully begotyn paying on to myn executor<sup>e</sup> iij m<sup>ar</sup>e yerly be terme of x yer<sup>e</sup> next folowyng After hys entryng into the said maner w<sup>t</sup> the p<sup>ti</sup>n vnto the p<sup>fo</sup>rmyng of y<sup>e</sup> charg<sup>e</sup> of y<sup>is</sup> my testamēt And iff it happe the said Roberd to deceesse w<sup>o</sup>ute lauffull Issewe of hys body begotyn than I wyth that the said maner w<sup>t</sup> a<sup>ll</sup> the p<sup>ti</sup>n remayne into the hand<sup>e</sup> of myn executor<sup>e</sup> tyll the said my sone John be of the said age of xxiiij yer<sup>e</sup> And than the said maner w<sup>t</sup> a<sup>ll</sup> the p<sup>ti</sup>n remayne vnto the said my sone John And to the eyr<sup>e</sup> of his body lauffully begotyn paying on to myn executor<sup>e</sup> As it is assigned Aboue to be payyd be my sone Roberd And if it happe bothe the said Roberd and John to deceesse w<sup>o</sup>ute Lauffull Issewe of her bodys begottyn than I wyth that the said maner w<sup>t</sup> all the lond<sup>e</sup> And tent<sup>e</sup> w<sup>t</sup> a<sup>ll</sup> her p<sup>ti</sup>n lying in Berton forsaid And Myldenale be sold be myn executo<sup>r</sup> or by the executor<sup>e</sup> of myn executor<sup>e</sup> And in massys syngyng And other good deed<sup>e</sup> of charyte fynally be spent And if my kynesman Thom<sup>as</sup> Bacon gentylman wyth bye the said maner w<sup>t</sup> all the said p<sup>ti</sup>n lying in Berton and Mildenhale that he have it An C m<sup>ar</sup>c w<sup>i</sup>nne the pryce before any other man And I wyth that none of the said Land<sup>e</sup> ne tent<sup>e</sup> ne maner w<sup>t</sup> ther p<sup>ti</sup>n a boue assigned on to my said sones Robert and John be no farther intayled but only on to the said Robt And John And fesympyth on to the Issewe of them And I assyne on to my dought<sup>r</sup> Jone xxli whanne she comyth to the age of xx yer<sup>e</sup> And I assigne on to Jone the daughter of my sone Wythm xxli whanne she cometh to the age of xx yer<sup>e</sup> And if it happe the said Jone and Jone or on of them to deceesse w<sup>t</sup> inne the said age of xx yer<sup>e</sup> thanne I will that the said money on to her or them assyned be at the disposicon of myne executor<sup>e</sup> The Resydue of a<sup>ll</sup> my good<sup>e</sup> And catall<sup>e</sup> a boue not bequethen j geue and bequeth vnto the disposicon of myne executor<sup>e</sup> y<sup>t</sup> they pay my dett<sup>e</sup> And receyue the dutes and dett<sup>e</sup> to me owyng e fulfyth y<sup>is</sup> my þsent testamēt And last will w<sup>t</sup> affecte And I ordeyne and make executor<sup>e</sup> of y<sup>is</sup> my þsent testamēt and last wyth my sone Robt Bacon and Thom<sup>as</sup> Bereve of Bury

seint Edmūd And I assyneȝ to jche of myn executor<sup>e</sup> for her labour xx<sup>s</sup> made the day and the yer a boue said by thes wytnesse Ser Robt Craske pson of Heggyssett afore said Ser George Tysoo prest John Bakon the elder Thom<sup>s</sup> Bacon gentylman Thom<sup>s</sup> Creme the elder c Aliis

Proved 15th September, 1500.

[Liber Cage. f. 26, Norwich Registry.]

### John Creme, 1500.

In y<sup>e</sup> name of God Amen the xxx day of y<sup>e</sup> monyth of September in y<sup>e</sup> yere of our lord m<sup>c</sup>ccccc John Creme of Heggessete heyl in meende & in good memory ordeyne & make y<sup>s</sup> m<sup>o</sup> p<sup>s</sup>ent testament on y<sup>s</sup> wyss fferst I be quey<sup>e</sup> my sowle to god almyghty & to our lady seynt marye & to all y<sup>e</sup> seynts heavene & my body to be beryde in y<sup>e</sup> esterne beryens of y<sup>e</sup> cherche of Heggesset a for seyð It I be quey<sup>e</sup> unto y<sup>e</sup> hyg awt<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> seyð cherche for my tythes for geten or payd to litill & for hely<sup>e</sup> of my sowle vj<sup>s</sup> & viij<sup>d</sup> It<sup>m</sup> I assyne unto y<sup>e</sup> ffriers of Sutbury, v<sup>s</sup> It to y<sup>e</sup> ffriers of Babwelle, v<sup>s</sup> It I assyne unto my wyff Margarete all my stuff of howsold It I assyne unto y<sup>e</sup> seyð Margarete my teñt w<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>t</sup>in in wheche we dwelle in at y<sup>e</sup> dat of y<sup>s</sup> p<sup>s</sup>ent wrytyng to holde to her w<sup>t</sup> outen ony voluntary wast time of her lyff And aft<sup>r</sup> her decesse I wole y<sup>e</sup> seyð teñt w<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>t</sup>in be sold by my executors, and in good dedes of charite fynally be spent It I assyne unto y<sup>e</sup> seyð Margarete yerly duryng her lyff xij<sup>s</sup> iij<sup>d</sup> It I wole y<sup>t</sup> my clos called Clotes be in y<sup>e</sup> ffeffment of xij laull men of y<sup>e</sup> seyð towne of heggessete And I wole y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> ferme of y<sup>e</sup> seyð clos be dysposed yerly & ppetually in forme und<sup>w</sup>reten y<sup>t</sup> ys. to seyne I wole y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> curat of y<sup>e</sup> seyð cherche of heggessete have yerly at my yerday for dyrige & messe iiii<sup>d</sup> & a messe peny It I assyne to y<sup>e</sup> Sexteyn for rynging vij<sup>d</sup> It for lygt brennyng at dirige & messe ij<sup>d</sup> It I wole y<sup>t</sup> there be delt at ye seyð my yerday to xij pore men of ye same tow xij<sup>d</sup> It I assyne yerly unto y<sup>e</sup> cherchereves of y<sup>e</sup> same town to provyde feythfully y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> seyð dirige messe lygt ryngyng & almesse be yerly do as it ys aforeseyd vij<sup>d</sup> It I wole y<sup>t</sup> xx<sup>d</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> ferme of y<sup>e</sup> seyð clos called Clotes remayne yerly and perpetually unto ye esement of y<sup>e</sup> taxes of our sovreyñ lord y<sup>e</sup> Kyng and I wole y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> pore folke of y<sup>e</sup> same town of heggsete y<sup>t</sup> be under y<sup>e</sup> valour of x. marcs be released by y<sup>e</sup> seyð mony, and none other pleple It I wole y<sup>t</sup> my son herry creme have y<sup>e</sup> seyð clos in ferme by fore any other men, peying yerly to y<sup>e</sup> cherchereves of y<sup>e</sup> same town of heggssete iij<sup>s</sup> & vj<sup>d</sup> and discharge y<sup>e</sup> seyð clos yerly of y<sup>e</sup> rent of iij<sup>d</sup> And yf y<sup>t</sup> happe y<sup>e</sup> seyð herry to be lachas, and pay not yerly y<sup>e</sup> seyð ferme of iij<sup>s</sup> & vj<sup>d</sup> unto ye seyð cherchereves at my yerday, thanne I wole y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> seyð cherchereves leten y<sup>e</sup> seyð clos to ferme unto hym y<sup>t</sup> wole geve most yerly for y<sup>e</sup> ferme of y<sup>e</sup> seyð clos It I assyne unto my doughte margarete halyday yerly time of her lyff vj<sup>s</sup> & viij<sup>d</sup> It I wole y<sup>t</sup> my clos called Osmundes be sold by my

executors unto y<sup>e</sup> performing of my legatē in y<sup>e</sup> my present testament assigned And I wole y<sup>t</sup> Richard Sharp have y<sup>e</sup> seyde clos called Osmunds by y<sup>e</sup> pryce of xx marcs to be payd in v yeer next folwyng after my decease by eleven porsyones of good & lawfull mony of yngland Alle my other londs a bove not be quethen ne assigned I wole they be sold by my executors and in good deeds of charytie ffynally be spent The resydue of all my goods a bove not be quethen I geve & be quethe unto y<sup>e</sup> dysposysyon of my executors y<sup>t</sup> they pay my detts & reseve y<sup>e</sup> dewties to me owyng & perform this my present testament into effect Executors of this my present testament I ordeyne & make Gaffrey Talbott of Tymworthe Richard Sharp of heggesete a for seyde & Adam Barnard of Thurston And I assigne to eche of my executors for her labour vj s̄ & viij d̄ made y<sup>e</sup> day of y<sup>e</sup> yer a bove seyde, by these witnesses Ser Robt Craske parson of Heggessete a for seyde, Roger heyward Thom<sup>s</sup> Halstre & other

It I wole y<sup>t</sup> my sone herry creme, after y<sup>e</sup> decease of my wyff Margarete, have my tenement with y<sup>e</sup> pertin a bov assigned unto y<sup>e</sup> seyde my wyff margarete, paying to my executors xvj marcs of good & lawfull mony of yngland, to be payd in vj yers by eleven porsones next folwyng after y<sup>e</sup> decease of y<sup>e</sup> seyde my wyff margarete

[The Parish Chest, Hessett.]

*esterne beryens.* Beryen is the Anglo-Saxon word for tomb or grave: in the Old English Homilies of the 12th and 13th centuries, edited by Dr. Morris, it is spelt *berien* and *burien*: and in the *Promptorium Parvulorum*, *beryyng*, and *birying*. Whether *esterne* be eastern, spelt in the *Promptorium* "eesterne," and in The Story of Genesis and Exodus, written about 1250, *esterne*: or extern, outside, as used by Shakespeare, in Othello, I. i., "in compliment *extern*:" I am unable to decide.

*only voluntary wast.* One of the Articles demanded by the Barons, and accepted by the King, in *Magna Charta* was "si custos terrae fecerit destructionem et *vastum*, amittat *custodiam*."

*unto y<sup>e</sup> esement of y<sup>e</sup> taxes.* This was a most merciful bequest. Sir W. Parker, in his exhaustive history of Long Melford (would that he had added an Index!), remarks: "Notwithstanding the miserable condition of the lower orders, they were forced to bear part of the national taxation; and one of the clauses of *Magna Charta*, for their relief, prohibited that villeins should be amerced beyond safety to their wainage; the meaning of this protection being that the villein should not by excessive fine or taxation be deprived of his rude cart or wain, wherewith he rendered service to his lord, in carrying out manure to his lord's land, harvesting and the like; for otherwise the wretched creature had to carry it all on his back." P. 244.

*lachas.* "LACHESSE, or tarryng laches, or teryng." *Prompt. Parvul.* Mr. Albert Way notes, that "in the Vision of Piers Ploughman this word signifies negligence, Fr., *lachesse*"; that "Chaucer says in the *Person's Tale* 'then cometh lachesse, that is, he that when he beginneth any good werk, anon he wol forlete and stint it'; and that "Gower observes that 'lachesse' has this property, to leave all things in arrear." In an entry made in *The Hall Book* of the Corporation of Leicester (*A Chronicle of the Church of S. Martin's, Leicester*, p. 197), on the 18th of March, 1477, the word occurs: "And yf the maire be *lacheous* in execution," and also in an enactment of the Guild of S. George, in the same Chronicle (p. 238), of the date 1523: "yf ye seyde Meyr & Chambleyns be negligent or lachius." Edmund Paston writes to Margaret Paston, 1481, "I deme her mynde hath been other ways occupyed than as to huswifery, which semeth welle by the *lachesnes* of the tylthe of her landdes." Vol. iii., p. 27.

The family of Creme was resident in the parish until



the death of William Creeme in 1582: the name then disappears from the Registers until the year 1671, when Thomas Creame married Margaret Abbot.

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Robert Hoo, of Hegesset, 1510.

[Liber Johnson. f. 2, Bury Registry.]

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John Bacon, the elder, 1513.

In the Name of god Amen This present writing indentyd made att hedgessett the xx<sup>i</sup> day of Marche in the yer of our lorde m<sup>c</sup>ccccviiij. witnessyth that I John Bakon of hedgessett forseyd the elder w<sup>t</sup> an holle e a gode mynde being att hedgessett aforseyd the day and yere of our lorde abovesayde make and ordeyn my tesamet and last wyll in mañ e fourme folowyng fyrste I bequeth my soule to almyghty god my creator e redemer to his most blessed mother our lady sent ma<sup>y</sup> and to all his seynts e my body to be buried in the churchyard of sent albryght in hedgessett aforeseyde he my frends Itm I bequeth to the hie awter in the sayde churche of hedgessett for my tythes and oferings forgotten or to lityll payde and for the helthe of my soule xx<sup>s</sup> Itm I wyll that margarett fuller my sister shall have a tenntry sett in hedgessett aforseyde in the churchgate strete by the ij tenñtriez the alis wilton and Isabell Soper dwellin to hold to the saide margaret for time of her lyf and xl dayes after her descease and after that terme I wyl the same tenntry and the ij tenñtriez that the saide Alys wylton and Isabell soper dwelle in shal remayn for almesse houses for ever and I wyll that myn executours shall have the rule and ov<sup>r</sup>sight of the saide ij. almesse housys and to repaire and kepe them up wele and sufficiently duryng ther lyves and after the discease I wyll thei that shall be owners of my londs and tēnemēts in Hedgessett forseide callyd Bacōus that Thom<sup>s</sup> my son now occupieth shall alwey repair bylde and kepe up the saide ij almes housis wele and sufficiently att all tymes nedefull of ther coste e charge for ev<sup>r</sup> and I wyll that thei shalbe pte takers of the praiers of the sayde pour folks that shall be dwellers therein for ther labour Also I wyll that the owners of saide londs for the tyme being shall alwey have the rule e gyfte of the saide ij. almes housis as often as nede shall require for ever Also I wyll the saide margarett fuller my syster shalhave my tēnt called rers w<sup>t</sup> thappertenēnes sett bi the churchyard of hedgessett forseide ij pykkyls of londe longing therto e a close callyd Crowchis w<sup>t</sup> the frute garden longing to the same close being in Hedgessett forseide to have e to hold the saide tenemet of Reris ij pykkyls close and garden with thappertenēnes to the saide margaret e her assignez duryng her lyfe e xl dayes after her discease and after that I wyll the said tenemet of

rerys ij pyghtells close e garden shall remayn to Edmude Bacon my  
 granson e to theirs of hys body lawfully begotyn and for defawte of  
 such yssue to remayn to thom<sup>as</sup> my son and to theirs of his body law-  
 fully begotyn Itm I bequeth to Robt yve my svant vj s̄ & viij d̄ Itm I  
 wyll the saide Robt Ive shall have a cotage and a close called Berwards  
 in hedgessett for sayde to hold to the same Robt duryng his lyfe and  
 after that to remayn to the saide Thom<sup>as</sup> my son Also I wyll that the  
 saide Tho<sup>ms</sup> my son shall have all my londs e teñts medowes fedings  
 pasturs woodys Rents e sruyes w<sup>t</sup> the libertez comoditez and apper-  
 tenances therto belonging in the townys of hedgessett and monks  
 Bradfeld excepte those teñts pyghtells close gardyn and cotage and  
 almesse housis that ar afor bequested to hold to the said Thom<sup>as</sup> me  
 son during his lyfe for the wyche I wyll and charge the saide thom<sup>as</sup> my  
 son that he shall fynde a preste gode and honeste to sing and pray for  
 my soule and all my gode frends souls that I am in dette or bounde to  
 in the churche of hedgessett forseyde by the space and terme of iij  
 holle yers imediately folowyng after my discease paying to the said  
 preste for his stypend xvj s̄ for the same iij yearys and after the  
 discease of the saide thom<sup>as</sup> my son I will that all the sayde e tents w<sup>t</sup>  
 all the prmises in hedgessett e monks Bradfeld excepte the saide iij  
 almesse houses w<sup>t</sup> all such implemets cattalls e hostylments that the  
 saide Thom<sup>as</sup> my son have of myn w<sup>t</sup> the tenemet that he dwelith nowe  
 in as be expressyth in certen billes indentyd thereof made betwyxt  
 hym e me shall remayn to the saide edmude Bacon e to theirs of his  
 body lawfully begoten w<sup>t</sup> the charge of the saide iij almesse houses  
 in man<sup>r</sup> e fourme aforseyde and for defawte of such issue of the saide  
 londs e teñts to the sayde Thom<sup>as</sup> e edmude afor bequestyd to remayn  
 to theirs of the saide Thom<sup>as</sup> my son lawfully begottyn w<sup>t</sup> the charge of  
 the saide iij almesse houses and for defawte of suche issue to remayn  
 to Robt Bacon of drenkston e to theirs male of body lawfully begottyn  
 w<sup>t</sup> the charge of the saide almesse housys and for defaute of suche  
 issue to remayn to John Bacon Brother to the said Robt Bacon e to  
 theirs male of the body of the same John lawfully begotten w<sup>t</sup> the  
 charge of the saide iij almesse houses e for defawte of suche issue to  
 remayn to alis my doughter e to theirs of her body lawfully begottyn  
 w<sup>t</sup> charge of the saide iij almesse housys e for defawte of suche issue  
 all the saide londs and teñts w<sup>t</sup> all the pmisses I wyll thei shalbe sold  
 be myn executours or be ther executours or ells be suche faithfull  
 p̄sons as the last holders of the same londs e teñts shall assigne w<sup>t</sup> the  
 charge of the saide iij almesse houses to the entent that the mony  
 therof may be disposed for my soule and all my gode frends soulys that  
 I am indette or bounde to in gode deds of charyte to the moste plesur  
 of god Itm I wyll that the saide edmude Bacon whan he comyth to  
 the full age of xx<sup>iiij</sup> yers shall have all my londs e pasturs called  
 fayrchilds in thurston and my place called Broke place in bektion w<sup>t</sup>  
 all the londs medowes pasturs e fold fre wiche that Thom<sup>as</sup> ladyman  
 hath now in ferme to hold to the saide edmude e his assignes during

the life naturall of Thom<sup>as</sup> Bacon his father and after the discease of the saide Thom<sup>as</sup> Bacon I wyll thatt all the saide londs and pasturs called fairchilds & my place called Broke place w<sup>th</sup> all the londs and other the p<sup>ro</sup>misses that the said Thom<sup>as</sup> ladyman hath to ferme shall remayn to Thom<sup>as</sup> Bacon brother to the saide edm<sup>und</sup>e and to theirs male of the body of the saide thom<sup>as</sup> lawfully begotten and for defawte of suche issue to remayn to John Bacon brother to the saide edm<sup>und</sup>e & Thom<sup>as</sup> and to theirs male of his body lawfully begottyn and for defawte of suche issue to remayn to theirs of the body of the said Thom<sup>as</sup> my son lawfully begottyn. It<sup>em</sup> I wyll the saide edm<sup>und</sup>e whan he cometh to the full age of xx<sup>iiij</sup> yers shall have all my londs & te<sup>n</sup>tys medowes & pasturs in Rough<sup>am</sup> that Roger Simond hath to ferme to hold to the seyde edm<sup>und</sup>e and to theirs of his body lawfully begotyn and for defaute of suche issue to remayn to theirs of the body of the saide Thom<sup>as</sup> my son lawfully begotyn and I wyll thatt myn executours shall have the rule & take the issues and p<sup>ro</sup>fits of all my sayde londs and te<sup>n</sup>tys w<sup>th</sup> the p<sup>ro</sup>misses in Thurston Bekton and Rough<sup>am</sup> to the saide edm<sup>und</sup>e bequestyd tyll the same edm<sup>und</sup>e come to his full age of xx<sup>iiij</sup> yers to thentent to fynd hym honestly & sufficiently therw<sup>th</sup> and that comyth on besyde the charges of the saide edm<sup>und</sup>e to be disposyd for my soule in gode dedys of charyte to the most plesur of god It<sup>em</sup> I wyll that the said edm<sup>und</sup>e Bacon after the discease of Thom<sup>as</sup> his father shall have a close in Redgrave called haw close a te<sup>n</sup>t in thurston called kents & a tenemet called Rosys in the same town w<sup>th</sup> all the londs & pasturs to the saide ij te<sup>n</sup>tys belonging and xxxij acres lond be it mo<sup>re</sup> or less lieng in fornh<sup>am</sup> sent genovefe & other townys thereto adionyng as they aper be my eydence to hold to the saide edm<sup>und</sup>e and to theirs of his body lawfully begotyn and for defaute of suche issue to remayn to theirs of the body of the saide thom<sup>as</sup> my son lawfully begotyn, and for defaute of suche issue to be sold after the rate abovesaid & the mony thereof to be disposyd for all the saide soulis in gode deds of charyte to the most plesur of god also I wyll that the saide thom<sup>as</sup> my son & anne his wyfe shall have all my londs and te<sup>n</sup>tys wyth thappartenn<sup>ces</sup> in norton and Tostok exepte those londs called Bryghtevys whiche I purchysyd of John Bloys to hold to the saide Thomas and anne duryng the lyves and either of them lengest lyvyng and after ther discease of them to remayn to theirs of ther bodyes lawfully begottyn between them and for defawte of suche issue to remayn to theirs of the bodies of the saide Thom<sup>as</sup> my son lawfully begottyn and for defaute of suche issue to remayn to alys my doughter and to theirs of her body lawfully begottyn and for defawte of suche issue to be sold after the rate above saide and the mony thereof to be disposed for the soules aforsaide to the most plesur of god also I will that the saide Thom<sup>as</sup> my son shall have all my londs and te<sup>n</sup>tys in Ereswell w<sup>th</sup> the fold fre & all other thapp<sup>ro</sup>ten<sup>ances</sup> to hold to hym during his life and att hys discease or afor I wyll he shall gyve the same londs and te<sup>n</sup>tys in Ereswell to oon of his sones than being a lyve beside the saide edm<sup>und</sup>e to remayn to that

son and to theirs of his body lawfully begottyn and if the saide Thom<sup>as</sup> my son have no sone a lyve att his discease but the saide edmude I wyll the saide londs and teñts in Ereswell shall remayn to the saide edmude & to theirs of his body lawfully begottyn and for defawte of such issue to remayn to theirs of the body of the said Thom<sup>as</sup> my son lawfully begottyn and for defawte of suche issue to be sold and the mony thereof to be disposyd for the saide soules in fourme aforsaide also I wyll if the saide Thom<sup>as</sup> my son die w<sup>out</sup> issue y<sup>t</sup> was begottyn between hym & elizabeth late his wyfe that all the londs and teñts medowes fedings and pasturs w<sup>t</sup> the libte of a fold in thurston Berton the more pakenh<sup>am</sup> and Rough<sup>am</sup> called Berton mere that I p<sup>r</sup>chased of Roger drury of cowling the son of wy<sup>th</sup>m drury shall remayn to theirs of the body of the saide Thom<sup>as</sup> my son lawfully begottyn and for defawte of suche issue to remayn to the said alys my daughter and to theirs of her body lawfully begottyn and for defawte of suche issue to be sold after the rate a forseide and disposed for the sayde soulys in gode dedys of charite to the moste plesur of god also I wyll that my londs and teñts w<sup>t</sup> the comodities thereto belonging called Gatles in Berton forseide shall alwey remayn according to the effecte of a dede indentyd thereof made also if it fortune the saide Thom<sup>as</sup> my son to dye afor his children com to ther full age of xx<sup>iiij</sup> yers I wyll all the londs & teñts w<sup>t</sup> all the p<sup>r</sup>misses that to any of them shall be remanyng shalbe in the rule and gydyng of myn executours to take the p<sup>r</sup>fits therof tyl thei come to ther full age af<sup>r</sup> xx<sup>iiij</sup> yers to fynde them therw<sup>t</sup> honestly and that mony that comyth ou<sup>r</sup> that charge to be disposed for my soule and all my goode frends soules in gode deds of charite to the moste plesur of god also if it fortune at any tyme hereafter all my saide londs & teñts w<sup>t</sup> all other the p<sup>r</sup>misses abovesaide or any of them to stond voyde of issue intailyd & be nott assigned to be sold I wyll the same londs and teñts w<sup>t</sup> the p<sup>r</sup>misses shall be sold by myn executours or by ther executours or ells by such feithfull p<sup>r</sup>sones as the laste holders therof shall assigne to the entent that the mony therof shalbe disposed for my soule and all my gode frends soules that I am indette or bounde to and for all cristen soulys in gode deds of charite to the most plesur of god Also I wyll that all my londs and pasturs called Bryghtevys in the townys of thurston and Tostoke and a tent w<sup>t</sup> a pece of land lyeng tog<sup>rd</sup> in the town of Rough<sup>am</sup> in the strete called high Rough<sup>am</sup> that is now in the tenu<sup>r</sup> of Austyn sampson shall remayn to the sayd Thom<sup>as</sup> my son and theirs of his body lawfully begottyn and out of the same londs and pasturs called Bryghtevys I wyll and charge the saide Thom<sup>as</sup> my son & his heirs to pay eu<sup>r</sup> yere w<sup>out</sup> ende to the p<sup>r</sup>son of hedgessett for the tyme being iij<sup>j</sup> s̄ iij<sup>d</sup> for to kepe or do to be keypd a sangrede or certein in the church of hedgeset forseide for my soule & all my frends & beñfactours soules that I am in dette or bounde to also I wyll that the holders of the saide londs called Bryghtevys shall eu<sup>r</sup> yere for eu<sup>r</sup> pay to the p<sup>r</sup>son of hedgessett forseide for the tyme being att a convenient tyme in lente iij<sup>d</sup> for to sey diryge & messe of

requiē for the saide sowles e ij d̄ for fynde lyghts of waxe to brenne at the said diryge and messe Also to the sexten of hedgessett chyrche for the tyme being yerly for eu<sup>o</sup> viij d̄ for to ryng at the saide diryge e messe e to fynde the ryngers brede e ale Also I wyll that the holders of the saide londs of Bryghtevys or ther deputie shall eu<sup>o</sup> yer w'outyn ende pay e dyspose ij s̄ to the moste pore an nedy folks being dwellers w'in the sayde towne of hedgessett alway in the ij<sup>de</sup> or the iij<sup>de</sup> weke of lent also I wyll whan ony pore man being a dweller w'in the saide town of hedgessett is chargyd as colyour after the olde custume to gadre the rent longing to the lorde abbot of Bury sent edmūde shal have eu<sup>o</sup> yere w'out ende towards his labour xx d̄ paide out of the saide londs of Bryghtevys be the holders therof also I wyll the pson of Tostoke for the tyme being shall have eu<sup>o</sup> yere for ever to say paide oute of the saide londs of Bryghtevys be the holders thereof iij s̄ iij d̄ for to kepe a sangrede in tostoke chu<sup>o</sup>che for the saide soules also I will the pson of Tostoke for the tyme being shalhave eu<sup>o</sup> yere for eu<sup>o</sup> iij d̄ for to say dirgs and messe for the seyde soulys in lent at a cōvenient tyme and iij d̄ for to fynde lyghts of waxe to brenne at the saide diryge and messe Also I wyll the pson of Tostoke shall alwey warne xii of the moste pore e nedy folks dwelling in the saide town of tostoke to be at the saide dirygs e messe to pray for the saide soulys e thei to have eche of them for ther labour j d̄ paide oute of the saide londs of Bryghtevys be the holders therof Also I wyll the pson of Rough<sup>m</sup> for the tyme being eu<sup>o</sup> yere for eu<sup>o</sup> shall have paide out of the saide londs of Bryghtevys iij s̄ iij d̄ be the holders therof for to kepe or do to be kep'd a sangrede or a certeyn in the churche of Rough<sup>m</sup> forseide for the sowles of Roger Tylliott e kateryn his wyfe e John tylliott the son of them the soules of me the saide John Baçōn and mergery my wyfe Roberd hogge e Alis his wyfe And I wyll that if itt fortune the psones of hedgessett and of tostoke and Rough<sup>m</sup> afor seide for the tyme being or ony of them to make defawte and kepe nott the sangreds dirige e messys w' lyghtys of waxe eu<sup>o</sup> yere for eu<sup>o</sup> according to the fourme abovesaide wele and effectualy as ther dutie is to doo than I wyll the mony that the saide psonys of hedgessett tostoke or Rough<sup>m</sup> or ony of them shuld have whan thei or ony of them make defawte shalbe disposed e gyven in almesse to the moste pore e nedy folks being dwellers w'in the saide townys of hedgessett Tostoke e Rough<sup>m</sup> after the discrestion of them that shalbe holders of the saide londs and pasturs to this assigned Also I wyll that eu<sup>o</sup> yere whan it shall fortune the mony shall nott be paide to the collioursheppe in hedgessett as is afor specified that then the same mony shalbe disposed to pore folks in the saide town of hedgessett be the holders of the saide londs thereto assigned Also I pray e require all my cofeoffez and feoffez that be infeoffyd of and in all my seid londs and tents w' all ther pmisses in this my testament e last wyll namyd e exp̄ssed that thei shall deli<sup>o</sup> such astate and possession as thei have therin according to this my wyll whan so eu<sup>o</sup> thei shalbe therto required

Itm I bequethe to the saide edmūde Bacon a sylu<sup>o</sup> peace vi. silu<sup>o</sup> sponys my countor my best Braspott a brasen mortar and my best cawdron of bras and the residue of all my stuffe of household not bequest I wyll it shall remayn holly to the seide edmūde and I wyll that Margaret my syster e Robt craske clerke shall have the keping of the stuffe of the saide edmūde till he be full xviiij yers of age Itm I bequeth to anne Berdwell xx s̄ Itm I bequeth to the saide edmūde Bacon xij c of my shepe that I have going at Wrothm iij c shepe that I have going at troston and ij c shepe going at thurston and I wyll myn executours shall have the rule and oversightt of the saide shepe to the p̄fite of the saide edmūde tyl he come to lawfull age and if the saide edmūde die afor that age I wyll the saide shepe to the saide edmūde bequested shalbe sold by myn executours and the mony therof to be disposed for the wele of my soule also I wyll the saide thom<sup>s</sup> my son shall have ij m<sup>l</sup> of my shepe if he pay p̄fourme and fulfyll such payments as he hath p̄mysed to pay to anne his daughter Itm I bequeth to eche of my godchildern xvj d̄ The residue of all my gods e catalls moveable e vnmovable not bequested nor assigned e all my detts I assigne them vnto my executours vndernamyd to take selle receyve and dispose them in paying of my detts bringing my body honestly to therthe fulfilling this my testamet e last will and other gode dedys to be don for my soule and all my gode frends souls that I am indett or bounde to as myn executours shall think beste to the most p̄lesur of god and p̄fite to the said soules and all cristen soulis and of this my p̄sent testamet and laste wyll I make myn executours the saide thom<sup>s</sup> my son Robt Craske clerke Robt Bacon of drenkeston and edmūde tyllott of kyngeshaugh in Rough<sup>m</sup> and I bequethe to eche of myn executours for the labour x s̄ also I wyll that all my londs and tents w<sup>t</sup> all the p̄fites and comodites therto belonging in the town of Troston or ony town therto adionyng that I lately p̄chased of edmūde felton of sudbury gent shall alwey remayn according to thentent e effecte of certeyn indenturs therof made between me e sr Robt craske clarke w<sup>t</sup> other as itt apperith in the saide indenturs bering date the xx<sup>ii</sup> day of february in the xxij yere of the reygne of kynge herry the VII<sup>th</sup> Itm I wyll that a pece of medow longyng to Rough<sup>m</sup> halle lieng in the medowe called parkeshale in hedgesse shall remayn to the saide margarett fuller my syster and hyr assignes during hir lyfe and after her discease I wyll the same pece of medow shall remayn to the saide edmūde Bacon e to his heirs.

Proved on the 26th day of April, 1513.

[Liber Johnson, f. 119. Norwich Registry.]

*forty days after her decease.* This is a curious provision, of which I find no other example. In *Magna Charta* it was provided that "a widow might remain in her house for forty days after the death of her husband." If the husband of Margaret Fuller were alive in 1513, it may be that John Bacon wished to extend the privilege, appertaining to a widow, to a widower.

*Pylkyls.* This is an earlier use of the word than is given by Halliwell; who quotes Dean Colet's Will, made 1519: "escheats, *pyghtys*, meadows, &c." *Testamenta Velusta*, p. 572. It is a word confined to the Eastern and adjoining Counties. Forby derives the word from the Italian

*piccolo*; but this is not very likely; and he interprets it to be a *small* piece of enclosed ground. Mr. Isaac Taylor (*Words and Places*, p. 249) says that "round the Anglo-Saxon homestead were enclosed fields." Mr. Ford has sent me an entry in the Poor's-rate for St. James's Parish, Bury St. Edmund's, for 1771:—

|  |      |
|--|------|
| "Mrs. Ann Dashwood, for house, coach-house, stable, and barn .. .. . | £26  |
| The same for a Pightle at the end of the Garden .. .. .              | £4." |

There is a field at the Grange Farm, in the East Gate street, still called the Pycles. The idea of a *enclosed ground* suggests a possible derivation. Dr. Stratmann quotes from *Robert of Gloucester's Chronicle*, written about 1300, "stakes of irn he pighte in Temese gronde." A piece of ground, *pighte* with stakes or a fence, would easily pass into *pighte*; just as a place, *stoke* or stuck with piles, became a *stoke*; and a place made of *felled* trees was a *fold*. How *pighte* became *pightle* it is hard to say. Pitchley in Northamptonshire is called Picts-lei and Pichtes-lea in *Domesday*: and though Mr. Isaac Taylor thinks this to be a *laga* or settlement of the Picts; it is not impossible that it may be a *pichte laga*, an enclosed lea. The pronunciation of this name Peitchley is not much dissimilar from Pightle. If this be so, *pightle* may have been *pighte-lea*, or *pighte-læs*, whence *pykkyls*. Gazeley and Westley were in the reign of Edward I. Gesele and Wesle. But this is the mere conjecture of one who possesses that dangerous thing, a very little knowledge.

*fold fre* is identical with "liberte of a fold" which occurs a little lower down in the Will. It is the privilege of *Foldage*, or *Freefold*, called in some old charters *Faldsoca*, "which anciently several Lords reserved themselves of setting up Folds for Sheep in any fields within their Manors, the better to manure them; and this not only with their own, but their tenants' sheep." Cowell. *The Interpreter*.

a *sangrede* or *certain*. Mr. Tymms says (*Bury Wills*, p. 252), that "the particular service known by the name of *sangrede* is not ascertainable." But the expression "a *sangrede* or *certain*" seems to imply that *sangrede* is another name for *certain*. According to Dr. Rock (*Church of our Fathers*, Vol. 3, p. 127), "A *certain* consisted of saying, for certain persons, every day, at or after Mass, those same prayers which, by the use of Sarum, each parish priest was enjoined to put up to God, on Sundays, for all souls departed." He states in another place (Vol. ii., p. 372), "that, in the bidding of the beads, the prayers for the dead form a distinct part by themselves, and have their own psalm, versicles, responses, and collect. Unto such a portion of the 'beads,' it looks as if there had been given by the people an exclusive designation; and it would seem that in the provincial speech of our Eastern Counties, it was known under the name of *sangrede*." The following extracts from Bury Wills throw light upon the service. John Baret directs (p. 30), that "iij. s. ivd. be payed yeerly for a *sangrede*, that my soule, my fadrys and my modrys sowlys and my frendys may be prayd fore in the pulpit on the Sunday, and the parysh priest to do as moche as a *sangrede* requerith." "According to the Sarum Rubric the bedes were to be given out in cathedral and collegiate Churches by the celebrant standing in front of the rood-loft. . . . . in parish Churches, after the Gospel, and either from before an altar, or from the pulpit," *ante aliquod altare in ecclesia vel in pulpito ad hoc constituto*. (*Church of our Fathers*, Vol. ii., p. 361.) Margarete Odeham (p. 80) directs: "I wyll that aftyr myn decesse be song and kept yerely" (*i.e.*, all through the year) "wythoute ende in the chyrche of Seynt Jamys of the same burgh a *sangrede* for the sowlys of the seyde John Odeham, Margarete hys wyff, Anne and Margarete their daughters, the soule of John Forster, and for the sowlys of the bretheryn and susteryn of the seyde gyld." Compare with this the bequest of Simon Lyster of Hengham (*Blomefield's Norfolk*, Vol. ii., p. 426) of lands "to the entent to fynd and kepe a *certain* in the said church for ever, for the sowles of John Lister my father, Margery, my mother, Will. Lister, and Katherine his wife, &c., and the soules of me and my wife." John Hedge (*Bury Wills*, p. 100), "beqweths to the curate of the sesd Church iiii. s. iiiid. for a *sangrede* to be prayed for in the *bedroule* for my soule, and all my good frends soull by the space of a year complete." A rubric quoted by Dr. Rock (*Church of our Fathers*, Vol. 2, p. 355), from an Anglo-Saxon manuscript suggests the derivation, and also that it is the equivalent of *bede-bidding*. "This gebed man sceal singan aet offrunga for hine sylfne, & for his brother, & for geswysterna & for ealle tham, the he on gebedraedenne bið and for eal Cristen folc: *i.e.* This bedeman shall sing at offering-time for himself, and for his brother and for sister, and for all them that he beeth

bound to pray for, and for all Christian folk." Now *bede* is prayers: see Dr. Stratmann and *Promptu: Parvul: and sang* is in this Anglo-Saxon Rubric the equivalent of prayer: as in "even-song," *evening-prayer*: and *rede* is *ræd*; i.e., *counsel, advice, exhortation, notice*: see Dr. Stratmann, and Mr. Lye; the equivalent of *bidding*." So that *sangrede* may mean the exhortation or notice to pray or sing; the bidding of the *bedes*; for *certain* private individuals in particular who were dead: hence, "A certain."

*colyours, collioursheppe*. Kelham, in "A Dictionary of the Norman or Old French Language collected from Acts of Parliament, &c.," gives COILLOURS, collectors, from COILLER, to collect, gather in. "The olde custume," of which I can find no other mention, was most probably confined to the parish of Hessem; and as John Bacon left so large a sum as *xxd.* to "the pore man," the work must have been arduous; he may have been charged to collect the rents of villein cotters of the Abbots' Manor, which in the Melford Manor were very small sums, and in Hessem may have been too small for a paid collector to gather. See Sir Wm. Parker's *The History of Long Melford*, p. 302.

*my best Braspot, a brazen mortar & my best caudron of brass*. Stephen Bacon in 1444 left to his daughter Agnes *unam ollam aeneam*, and to his son John *unam patellam aeneam*. Even to so late a date as 1520 like bequests were made: Margaret Cage of Monk's Bradfield, whose Will is in the Bury Registry, *Lib. Brydone*, fol. 312, gives John the son of Robert Bacon "a gret brasse pot," and Barbara Bacon, "a grete pewter platter." Margaret Paston in 1504 gave to William Lummer her son "two brass pots," with all her brewing vessels; and to her son John Lummer, "a brass pott," and four platters, and four dishes, and four "sawcers of pewter." These were all, it may be presumed, cooking utensils: for among the goods given by William Paston to William Joye are enumerated "iiij. stondes pro servitio: j. stonde in coquina; ij. patelle cum ligaminibus ferreis; j. parva patella cum ligamine ferreo; j. magna olla ennea; alia olla ennea minor; j. parva olla ennea." *Letters*, London, 1875. Vol. iii., p. 419. In "A Pictorial Vocabulary" of the 15th century, edited by Mr. Thomas Wright, F.S.A., are two rude pen-and-ink drawings of an olla or *flaget*; i.e., a flask or leathern bottle; which appears to have been made in the same shape of brass. It is a cruet, or modern coffee-pot, of very large dimensions: a globular vessel standing on a conical base with a long and some what narrow neck; having on the one side, a handle fastened at its extremities to the globe and the neck; on the other, a curved spout, like the spout of a garden watering-pot: and across one drawing, and above the other, is written, *a olla*. It is worth noting that in the *Promptorium* the vessel is named thus, "BRAS-POTT. *Emola*:" and Ducange explains *Emola* to be *vas coquinarium*, sicut *caldaria vel coculum: vaisseau de cuisine*. Alexander Neckam in *The Treatise De Utensilibus*, written in the 12th century, mentions that there ought to be in the kitchen, OLLE, which he explains to be *poz*, TRIPODES or *treves*, UNCUS a *croc*, CREAGRA a *caudrun*, AENUM a *paele*, and PATELLA a *paele*, and SARTAGO a *graunt paele*.

*j cūbe yghete and j cūbe barley*. According to Dr. Stratmann "cumbe," which is now spelt *comb*, is an Anglo-Saxon word; he gives only one instance of its use, namely, in the *Promptorium Parvulorum*, of which the date is about 1440. Lye does not mention "cumbe" in the sense of a measure; but gives it in the sense of a valley, surrounded by hills on every side. Ducange also interprets *cumba*, as used by the Anglo-Saxons, in this sense; in which it is still used in Devonshire and Cornwall. Can the measure have obtained its name from its resemblance to a valley? In the Will of Stephen Bacon, given above at p. 59, the word occurs in a Latin form, "sex *cumbas ordii*:" and the Latin word is found also in the *Promptorium*, page 97: "Cowme of corfe. *Cumba*." Alexander Neckam in the 12th century mentions a *cumb*, *corus*, and a *buscel*, *batus*, among the necessary utensils of a granary.

*estylmets of my housold*. *Estylmet* is an unusual way of writing the word: the more common ways are *ostilment, hostilment, hostiliament, and hustilmentys*; in Stephen Bacon's Will, given above, page 59, the Latin form *hostiliamenta* occurs. In the *Promptorium Parvulorum* the word is thus explained: "HUSTYLMENT (or *harneys*, or *hurdyce*, *supra*,) *utensile, suppellex*." Referring, as directed *supra*, we find: "HARNEYS, or *hustylment* (instruments *longynge* to *howsolde*), *utensile*:" and "HURDYCE, or *hustylment* (*hurdyse*, H. P. *hustysment*, K, and *vstylment* s.) *utensile* (*suppellex*, P.)" As the *Promptorium* is not easily accessible, I may be pardoned for quoting Mr. Way's notes in full: "*Suppellectilia, hustelment*." MEDULLA



GRAMMATICES. (This is of the date of the middle of the 15th century.) This term is used in the original MS. by the first-hand, in Bodl. Libr. of the earlier Wicliffite version: "Thou shalt annoy of it the tabernacle, &c., and the candlestik, and the hustilmentis of it (*utensilia*, Vulg.)" Exod. xxx. 28. It occurs in several documents connected with the Eastern Counties, e.g., Joanna, relict of Sir T. Hemgrave, made, about 1421, a will under constraint of her second husband, devising to him personal effects and a sum of money, "1150 marcs, with other jewel and hostelment that were mine other husband's goods and mine, as stated in her protest." *Hist. of Hengrave*, p. 93. John Hakone of Wynetone makes the following devise in 1437: "I wyll that alle necessaries and hustylments longyng to myn howsheold, that is to sey, to halle, chaumbyr, and kechene be disposed to the use of my wife." Norwich Wills, *Harl. MS.* 10, f. 267. In the *Paston Letters*, ij. 26, are mentioned "gownes, crossebows, and quarells, and all other hostelments to the maneur (of Caistor) belonging." In 1492, Robert Parker bequeaths to his wife all his "hostiliaments, utensels, and jewellys, to his house pertaining." *Cullum's Havstead*, 17. (Compare with this Stephen Bacon's bequest: "omnia hostiliamenta mea quovismodo domui meae spectantia." WM. C.) The word seems to be taken from the old French *oustillement*, ROQUEF, '*ouillimens*, stuff, household furniture, or implements.' COTGRAVE." *Prompt. Parv.* p. 255. On HURDYCE Mr. Way notes: "In Coer de Lion 'hurdys' are mentioned repeatedly, lines 6127, 3969; 'hurdices,' K. Alis. 2785, but evidently signify barricades, pallissades, or large shields named pavices. See Ducange, v. *Hurdicium*. It may in the sense above given have been used metaphorically." P. 253. Ducange remarks that Fortescue, in the English version of his book *De Laudibus Legum Angliæ* has the word *Hustelments*.

*be equally deptyd.* In the *Promptorium Parvulorum* the word occurs: "DEPARTYN'. *Divido, partior.*" Mr. Way quotes in illustration a bequest of Lady Fitzhugh, A.D. 1427; I wyl yat myn howsheold s'uantz have departed emäg theym a C marc;" and Palsgrave: "To departe, deuyde thynges asunder that were myxed or medled together; departe this skayne of threde, *desmester*. Departe or distribute the partes of a thyng to dyuers persons *mespartir*, and he adds, French, *departir*, to separate or distribute; in low Latin, *dispertire*." But he has entirely overlooked the use of the word in the Old Sarum Ordo ad faciendum sponsalia: "tyl dethe us departe;" which, though retained in all the early revisions of the *Book of Common Prayer*, and placed in the Scotch edition of 1637 thus, "till death do us depart," was corrupted in the last revision of 1662 into "till death us do part."

*this my p'sent testament and last will.* This was not mere verbiage in 1500: for, according to Lyndwood, page 173, there is a difference between a Testament and a Last Will: "Potest dici, quòd Testamentum dicitur, quando fit cum solemnitate requisita; item quando est perfectum et consummatum, aliàs non. Sed licèt non fuerit perfectum et consummatum, est tamen ultima Voluntas. Sic etiam et Donatio causa mortis potest dici ultima Voluntas, sed non Testamentum. Et ubicunq; deficit solennitas a Lege requisita, constat tamen de dispositione bonorum facta per defectum [*MS. Eton. defunctum*] quae postea non mutatur; haec potest dici *ultima Voluntas*. *Codicillus* quoque pro ultima Voluntate habetur." Dr. Cowell in *The Interpreter* has: "Of Testaments there are two sorts, viz., a *Testament in writing* and a *Testament in words*, which is called a *Nuncupative Testament*, which is, when a Man being sick, and for fear lest death, want of Memory or Speech should come so suddenly upon him, that he should be prevented if he stayed the writing of his *Testament*, desires his Neighbours and Friends to bear witness of his last Will, and then declares the same before them by words which after his decease is proved by Witnesses, and put in writing by the Ordinary, and then stands in as good force as if it had at the first in the life of the Testator been put in writing, except only for Lands, which are devisable but by *Testament* put in writing in the life of the Testator." See *Coke on Littleton*, lib. ii., c 10, sec. 167. *Plowden*, fol. 541." In connection with this it is worth noticing the clause with which the Will of Thomas Bacon, 1546, opens: "I Revoke all myn oldè wills and testaments by me made in writing or by mowthe speking afore the Date hereof and will that no persone nor persones take any aduantage by reason of them but the same to be utterly voide and of noone effect." At page 116 of the 2nd Volume of the *Paston Letters* a statement is made by John Paston to the Lord Chancellor concerning a last Will of Sir John Fastolf: "And also the seid comenauntes and apoyntements eftsonis callid to remembrance be the seid Sir John Fastolf, the same Sir John, for certeyn consideracions movyng hym, be his word, without writyng,

discharged your seid besecher of the seid somme of iij<sup>m</sup> mark, &c." Nuncupative Wills have ceased since 29 Charles II., which requires all wills to be in writing.

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Thomas Wylton.—1521.

[Liber Newton, f. 80. Bury Registry.]

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William Royse.—1530.

[Liber Fuller, f. 109. Bury Registry.]

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Richard Scharpe.—1534.

[Liber Poope, f. 8. Bury Registry.]

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John Bacon, of Hessesett, 1536.

He was the eldest son of John Bacon of Heggeseete, late of Drinkstone, whose will was proved in 1500, and brother of Robert the father of the Lord Keeper. He married first Agnes; and secondly Margery; and Margery outlived him; and, as appears from the Parish Register, was married in 1539 to William Page, of Bury St. Edmund's. He gives the best of three gownes to his son-in-law, John ffreer, the next to his son-in-law George Taylour, and the third to his son-in-law Thomas ffryer: certain lands in Hessesett and Bekton, "bothe ffree and coppye," and a medow in Drinkstone in full recompense for her dowerye, with money and goods, "all his neete and bullocks," "and all the apparell belonging both to hir bodye and his bodye," to his wife Margery: other lands and sheep to John Bacon his son, at that time under twenty-one years of age: and money to Elizabeth his daughter, then under twenty-one years of age. He gives also to Margery his wife "all my corne or malte lyinge in annye of my solers:" (his will is dated in November;) "and also my corne groynge of myne oune wheresoeuer it growe." "Item I wyll that all the Resydewe of my tenements and grounde shall remayne

after the last will and fourme of John Bacon my ffather bothe in Dreynton and Tostocke." . . . "Item I give to John my sonne all my intreeste ryght and tyle and my parte of the Indenture and fferme of the hoole Manno<sup>r</sup> of Brandon fferye to the whiche Roberte Bokon my brother and I have junctely to gyther of the Busshoppe of Elye, when the saide John my sonne come to the age of twentye years w<sup>t</sup> one stocke of six hundred shepe the w<sup>ch</sup> goo upon the saide ffarme . . . "the whiche sheepe shalbe two hundred ewys and two hundred wethers and two hundred hogges" \* . . . "Item I give unto the saide John my sone my best brasse potte my best ffetherbedd my best couerlytt my best paier of blanketts my best paier of sheetes my best bolster and ij of my best pillowes w<sup>t</sup> ij of my best pillowberis to them belonginge w<sup>t</sup> bothe the hangings of the howses of bothe the newe chambers w<sup>t</sup> all the bedstedys and stoles and one counter there being." . . . "Item I will have bought for me and for bothe my wyffes one grave stone of marbyll the price thereof twente shillings And I will have graven theruppone Wee praye yowe for to praye for the soules of John Bakon and Agnes and Margerye his wyffes, one whoes soules Jesu have mercye Amen." Pillowberis does not occur in *Testamenta Vetusta*: but in *Bury Wills*, p. 116, Agas Herte leaves "ij pelow beres," "ij pelowberis," and "ij pelows w<sup>t</sup> the berys." The earliest use of the word that I can find is in the *Canterbury Tales* of Chaucer, c. 1390, to which Dr. Stratmann refers: "pilwebere, *pillow-bear*: Cant: Tales, a. 694." In the third volume of the Paston Letters, p. 402, it occurs in the will of Dame Elizabeth Browne, who in 1487 bequeathed to her daughter Mary "ij fyne pelow beres:" and on page 409 of the same

\* "Hog. A term for a sheep from six months old till being first shorn. Some say from a lamb; others a sheep of a year old. The last meaning is the one intended by early writers." "HOGATTES. 'Bidens, a sheepe with two teeth, or rather that is two yeres old, called in

some place hogrelles or *hogattes*.' Elyot, 1559." "HOGGET. A sheep or colt after it has passed its first year." "HOG-MUTTON. A sheep one year old. *Lanc.*" Halliwell, *A Dictionary, &c.* "HOGGET, Hog, a sheep a year old, after its first shearing. N. Fr. *hogetz*." Forby.

volume is an inventory, in which is named "a pelow bere." Halliwell quotes "vij pylloberys," from an inventory MS. *Cant. Ef.* i, 6, f. 58; and renders it "a pillow case, also called a *pillow slip*, a *pillowtie*. Pillow is the Anglo-Saxon pule; spelt in the *Promptorium* pilwe: and the earliest use Dr. Stratmann gives of pule is in the form phuluwi from a Fragment of Ælfric's Grammar of the 12th century. I give Dr. Stratmann's definition of *bere*, *beris*, and *berys*: "bere, *L. Germ.* büre? bear (bier), *toral*, *Chauc. b. duch.* 254; *comp.* pilwebere:" and according to him bere is a coverlet. In this sense Chaucer uses it in the passage quoted by Mr. Tymms and also by Mr. Wright; who gives pillow-cover as the equivalent:

"And many a pilowe, and every bere,  
Of clothe of Raines to slepe on softe."

The "*fyne pelowberes*" bequeathed by Dame Elizabeth Browne must have been of linen: but as Chaucer witnesses, they were sometimes made of very rich material. The word was used by Bishop Hall, who died in 1656, in the first of the Sixth Book of his Satires; in which he is ridiculing the dandies who feign sickness to show, as Davies writes, "their night-cap fine, and their wrought pillow, overspread with lawne."

"When Zoilus was sick, he knew not where,  
Save his wrought night-cap, and lawn pillow-bear;  
Kind fools! they made him sick, that made him fine;  
Take those away, and there's his medicine."

I conjecture that the odd expression "bothe the hangings of the howses of bothe the newe chambers" means wall-hangings of tapestry, saye, and arras; as distinguished from bed and window hangings.

[Prerogative Court of Canterbury. Lib. Crumwell, fol. 10.]

Thomas Bacon, 1546.

This will opens with the usual bequeathing of soul and body, and with this clause: "And I Revoke all myn olde wills and testaments by me made in writing or by mowth speking

afore the date hereof." It is valuable for two reasons : first, it shows that there were priests resident in Hessett in addition to the Rector ; and secondly, it helps to clear up an error in the pedigree set out by Harvey in 1561. Canon Raines has shown\* of how great value the services of the chantry priests were in large parishes and country districts ; and how deplorably destitute of the preaching of the Word, and of the sacraments, very many districts necessarily became, when the faithful remonstrances and discreet pleadings of Cranmer and Tonstall were set aside, and the chantry endowments were seized by the rapacious greed of men desiring to be rich. Hessett must have been robbed of some of its clergy, for the will contains this clause : "I bequethe to every manne womanne and childe inhabiting in the said-toune of heggesset at the day of my buriall twoo pence To the parsonne xij<sup>d</sup>, and to euey priest inhabiting in the same toune viij<sup>d</sup>. And to euey straunge priest iiij<sup>d</sup>." From another bequest it may be inferred that Thomas Bacon had in his house a "capella indotata," or free chapell. Considering that Hessett Hall was at some distance from the Parish Church, and close to outlying houses in Bradfield and Rougham, this chapel must have been a great boon to the poor and infirm, at a time when "noyous wayes" were not uncommon and locomotion was difficult.

"Also I geve to the said Anne my wife all such chapell stuffe as she caused to be made syns she was my wife And to Edmonde my sonne my chales a vestement and alle the other chapelle stuffe the whiche was myne before I married Anne my wife."

"Also I geve and bequethe to Edmonde my sonne all my londes tenementis and hereditaments both free and cople lying in Wolpet Elmeswell Whetherdene and Nortone the profits whereof were wonte to be employed aboute the fynding of a priest to thentent that my said sonne Edmunde

\* *A History of the Chantries within the County Palatine of Lancaster. Introduction,* pp. xxi.-xxx. The Chetham Society.

and his heires shall fynde a priest to pray for my father's soule and my soule and all my frendes soules foreuer."

The clause which determines Edmund and John to be the sons, and not the grandsons, of Thomas Bacon, who married Anne Rous, has already been quoted at page 49 above.

"Also I will and bequethe to my said wife Anne oon yerely rent and pencion of ffoure pounds sterling goyng out of all my londes in Hessel aforesaid, which I purchased of the King's highnes."

He leaves a large amount of valuable plate: to Anne his wife, a bason and one Ewer of silver, his best goblet with a cover of silver, his best goblet without cover, a Salte of silver with a cover parcel gilte, his best flatte pece of silver, and a dosen of the best silver spones: to his son Edmund, his best gilte standing cuppe withe a cover, and foure silver spones: to his son George, a gilte Salte withe a cover, a goblet without a cover, a standing gilte cuppe with a cover, and foure silver spoones: to his son Francis a flatte pece gilt with a cover and foure silver spones: and to his son Edward a gilte Salte, a flatte pece of silver, and foure silver spones.

He names his wife Anne; and leaves the manor and lands to his eldest son Edmond; and other lands and bequests to his sons John, George, Edward, and Fraunces; makes Edmonde John and George his executors; and Nicholas Bacone Attourney, supervisor of his will.

[Liber. Alen., f. 41. Prerogative Court of Canterbury.]

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William Hoo.—1542.

He appoints Alys his wife, executrix.

Liber Colman, f. 27. Bury Registry.]

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Robert Bacone, 1548.

He was the second son of John Bacon, of Heggese, of

late of Drinkestone, whose will was proved in 1500; and he was the father of the Lord Keeper.

The will is dated "the x<sup>th</sup> daie of the monethe of August in the yere of the Reigne of Kinge Edwarde the sixte the secounde yere:" and the date gives interest to the following bequest:

"Item I bequeathe to the high aulter of the same churche for my tythes to lytle paide iiii. iiiid. Item I bequeath to the high aulter of the churche of Drynkstone *xxd.*"

He leaves lands to Isabell his wife for life, with remainder at her decease to James Bacon his son, and a "tenement lyinge in hesset to give and to sell."

"Item I give to Isabell my wyfe all my horse neate swyne corne malte woode bedding sixe silver spones of the best and a silver pece All the brasse and pewter and all other stuf of housholde with all myne Apparell (except a salte of silver and gilte with a cover of silver and gilte and xij silver spones) the whiche Saite with the cover and xij silver spones I give to James my sonne to be delyuered to hym immediatly after my decease."

"Item I give and bequeathe to Thomas Bacon twentie marks a yere yerely to be taken out of the manor of Yngham in the Countie of Suffolk according to the covenants of syrteine Indenturs made betwext Robert Bacone and Nicholas Bacone his sonne as therein more playnly apperith."

And then he proceeds to make certain bequests to Nicholas his son; and he makes James Bacon his son executor. He does not name any daughters in his will: but in the pedigree set out by Sir William Betham there appear two daughters, Barbara married to Robert Sharp, and Ann married to Robert Blackman. And in the will of Margaret Cage of Monks Bradfield, dated 1520, there are bequests to Barbara and Anna Bakon, the daughter in Robert: "I wyll y<sup>t</sup> Robt. Bakon have my medew lying of Walsham and I wyll y<sup>t</sup> he dyspose y<sup>e</sup> walue thereof for y<sup>e</sup> helthe of my soul & my husbands soul in dedes of

charytie." "And I wyll that John Bakon y<sup>e</sup> sone of Robert Bakon," who evidently died before his father, "have a gret brasse pott Anna Bakon a panne & Barbara Bakon a grete pewtar platter." I suppose that he had made ample provision for his daughters, either on their marriage or "in the covenants of syrteine indentures" to which he refers in his will. The will ends thus: "I have wryten this wille w<sup>t</sup> myne oune hande and subscribed my name the yere and day abovesaide." His eldest son Thomas married Jane Brown and was settled at Northaw in Hertfordshire, and died without issue: Nicholas became the Lord Keeper: James was an Alderman of London, and died in 1573. The name of the wife of Robert Bacon is wrongly given in the majority of the printed pedigrees: it was Cage, not Gage. Robert Bacon was buried in the church of Hessesett.

[Prerogative Court of Canterbury. Lib. Populwell, f. 19.]

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### John Sheperd.—1552.

[Liber Buxton. Bury Registry.]

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### Edmunde Bacon, 1553.

He was the son of Thomas Bacon who died in 1546. The following clause shows that the keeping of the year-day with doles survived after other parts of the obit were abolished:

"I will have dealte the day of my burialle to the poore and nedye people of the same toune twentie shillings. Item I will have dealte and given to the poore people of that same toune that daye xii monthes twentie shillings And so fourthe by the space of fyve yeres euery yere twentie shillings."

He gives to Johne Bacon his eldest sonne his "best goun of chamblet furred with foynes," or fooynes; *i.e.*, according to Mr. Albert Way in a note upon the word in the *Promptorium Parvulorum*, polecat or fitchet, or according to



Ray, martin. Mr. Way adds: "In the Inventory of the wardrobe and jewels of Henry V. taken in 1423, at his decease, are mentioned 'gounes de noier damask furrez de sides de foynes et marterons,' and the value of this kind of fur is ascertained by the following entry: *ij. panes de foynes, chascun cont' c. bestes, pris le pec' xd. xii li. xs.*; the *marteron* being more costly, *pris le beste xiiid.* Rot. Parl. iv. 236."

He leaves the larger part of his lands with the manor and advowson of Hessett to his wife Elizabeth for her life: other lands to his eldest son John; and bequests of land and money to his son William, to his son Fraunces at this date under twenty one years of age, to his daughter Marie Fuetner, who is called Mary Fuller in the will of his widow, and to his brother-in-law Robert Kene: and mentions "one Anne Gosnolde my mother-in-law" (once in the will by a clerical error called brother-in-law), "now the wief of Robert Gosnolde of Ottley gentilman;" and he names "one annuitie of sixe poundes by yere, which I am bounde to pay to the said Anne during her lief naturalle;" *i.e.*, bound by his father's will. And it seems that he had called two sons by the name of John, as is made clear in his widow's will: for he makes this bequest: "Item I give and bequeathe to John Bacon my son of Callys threescore pounds sterling." If Elizabeth his widow did not call him "*my sonne John Bacon the younger*" after naming "*my eldest sonne John*," I should have supposed him to have been illegitimate. The name in the Will is distinctly "John of *Callys*," but it ought to have been written, either Gatles, as in the Will of John Bacon, the elder, or Catelys, as in the Inquisition taken at the death of John Bacon, the eldest son of this Edmund, "*omnia illa terras tenementa . . . vocata seu cognita per nomen de Cateleis.*" He bequeaths plate, but no articles of brass: to John his eldest sonne "a Basyne and Ewer of silver and parcell-gilte, a standing Cuppe with a cover duple giltet Sixe silver spones wherof one dubbyl gilte and his bes, Salte with a cover duple gilte:" and to his wife Elizabeth,

“two bowlls of sylver and parcell gilte, a silver salte with a cover parcell gilte, two Dosome silver spownes and one goblete of silver to give sell and do with them as she shall thinke best.”

[Prerogative Court of Canterbury. Liber Tasche, fol. 20.]

John Bacon, of Troston, 156<sup>6</sup>/<sub>7</sub>.

He was the eldest son of Edmund who died in 1553; and he died intestate. But administration\* was granted on the first of February, 156<sup>6</sup>/<sub>7</sub>, to George Peryent, brother of Katherine Bacon, relict of John Bacon of Troston armiger with the consent of the before-named Katherine. An inquisition was held on the 26th day of May next following; which is given here at length to show the great size to which the property of the Heggesset branch of the Bacon family had grown at this the date of its greatest worldly prosperity.

Suff. Inquis. capt apud Bury Sci Eddi xxvj<sup>o</sup> die Maii a<sup>o</sup> Regine Elizabethæ nono coram Edo Ashfyld, armigero escaetore post mortem Johannis Bacon de Troston armigeri per sacramentum Johannis Rokwood &c. Qui dicunt &c.: Quod dictus Johannes Bacon Tenuit revercionem Manerii de Heggesset cum pertinentibus Monasterio de Bury dudum spectantis ac advocacionem Ecclesie de Heggesset predicti ac duos boscos unde unus vocatur Chevenes Wood alter vocatur Mounkswoode ac tota terre et sola eorundem boscorum in parochia de Heggesset Ac totam capitalem mansionem sive messuagium in quo Edmundus Bacon dum vixit habitabat ac sex messuagia cc acras terre xl acras prati cc acras pasture xx acras bosci xl solidorum redditus cum pertinentibus in Heggesset ac Bradfyld Monachorum Ac tota illa terras tenementa prata pastura redditus et servicia jacentia in Heggesset predicto Beyton Thurston et Tostocke nuper perquisita de Thoma Jermyn Milite Ac diversa alia terras tenementa redditus servicia et hereditamenta in villa et campis de Beyton Bury Thurston Derinckston et Rougham et alibi in comitatu Suffolcie parcella dicti manerii de Heggesset quod scitus manerii de Heggesset et cetera premissa in Heggesset et Bradfyld Monachorum dicto nuper monasterio spectantia sunt clari annui valoris viii l x s xid

Et quod predicta terre et tenementa et cetera residuum ejusdem

\* Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

manerii dicto nuper Monasterio pertinentis jacentia in Beyton Bury Rougham Dringeston et Thurston predictis sunt clari annui valoris xxxs

Et quod omnia alia predicta terre et tenementa in Heggesset et Bradfyld Monachorum predictis que non fuerunt parcella dicti nuper monasterii sunt clari annui valoris xl

Et quod predictum manerium de Heggesset cum suis pertinentibus Ac predictus boscus vocatus Chevyns et Monkswood ac omnia predicta terre et tenementa et cetera premissa in villis de Heggesset Beckton Bury Thurston Drinkston Rowgham et Bradfyld Monachorum dicto nuper monasterio spectantia tenentur de Domina Regina in capite per servicium militare videlicet per xx<sup>am</sup> partem unius feodi militaris ac redditum xixs Id annuatim solvendum

Et quod omnia predicta terre tenementa et cetera premissa que non fuerunt parcella dicti nuper monasterii in Heggessett et Bradfyld Monachorum tenentur de Ambrosio Jermyn milite ut de maneriis suis de Bradfyld Monachorum et Rushbrooke in socagio per fidelitatem tantum redditus separalis pro diversis parcellis inde diversorum separalis redditus attingit in toto ad xvs xid ob. in pecuniis et v modios ordii prout per rentale patet preterquam predicta terras et tenementa in Rowgham que tenentur de Roberto Drury in socagio ut de manerio suo de Rougham per fidelitatem et redditum pro omnibus serviciis

Et omnia illa terras tenementa prata pascua pasturas boscos redditus servicia cum libertate duarum faldarum cum aliis suis pertinentibus vocata seu cognita per nomen de Cateleis ac omnia illa terras et tenementa cum pertinente quadam Johannis Tillot in villis de Magna Barton Rougham et Thurston

Et quod predicta terre et tenementa vocata Cateleis et cetera premissa nuper Johannis Tillot in Magna Barton Rougham et Thurston tenentur de Awdley armigero ut de manerio de Barton Magna per fidelitatem tantum et valent per annum xiiii vis viiid

Ac reversionem sive remanentiam unius messuagii sive tenementum cxi acrarum terre iiii acrarum prati lxxx acrarum pasture iiii acrarum bosci ac libertatem unius falde cum pertinente nuper in occupatione Rogerii Chenery in Thurston predicto Et quod predictum messuagium et cetera premissa in Thurston predicto nuper in occupatione Rogerii Chenery tenentur de domina Regina in socagio ut de hundredo suo de Thedwastre per redditum xxd per annum et valent clare per annum viii

Ac tria alia messuagia cclxxx acras terre x acras prati cc acras pasture ix acras bosci cum pertinentibus in Thurston Drinkston et Tostocke ac unum messuagium tres acras terre in Hessett predicto nuper perquisitum de Heyghward vidua tenentur de domina Regina ut de hundredo suo predicto in libero socagio per fidelitatem tantum et non in capite et valent per annum viii

Ac omnia illa terre prata et pasture redditus et servicia in

Heggesset Rougham et Thurston nuper perquisita de Roberto Drury armigero consanguineo et proximo herede Johannis Drury Armigeri tenentur de domina Regina ut de Hundredo suo predicto in libero socagio per fidelitatem tantum et valent per annum xls

Ac omnia illa manerium messuagia tenementa curiam faldam et pasturam et alia hereditamenta que nuper fuerunt predicti Edmundi Bacon sui in Troston Lyvermere parva Ixworth Thorpe Sapstone et Honyngton

Et quod xliiii acre terre arrabilis et xiiii acre de Bruera libere falde parcellae predicti manerii terrarum et tenementorum in Troston predicto tenentur de Roberto Ashfield armigero ut de manerio suo de Stowlangtoft per servicium militare videlicet per quartam partem unius feodi militaris per redditum iis et ad finem cuiuslibet xxi septimanarum ad wardam castri Norvicencis *ixd*

Et quod predictus Johannes Bacon obiit xiiii die Januarii anno Regine Elizabethae nono Et quod Edmundus Bacon est eius filius et heres propinquior Et quod idem Edmundus die obitus predicti Johannis fuit etatis xiiii annorum et xiiii septimanarum

Et quod omnia alia terre et tenementa in Troston predicta Lyvermere magna Lyvermere parva Ixworth Thorpe Sapston et Hunington tenentur de Nichola Bacon Milite Domino Custode magni sigilli Anglie ut de hundredo suo de Blackborne per diversos separales redditus attingentes in toto ad xv s *id* Ac per redditum iiii combarum et duorum modiorum avenarum

[D'Ewesii Collectanea. Harl. MSS. 639, f. 145.]

Two words occur in this Inquisition which in my experience are not common in Wills, although they occur not uncommonly in charters; namely, CURIAM and BRUERA. According to Ducange, the sixth of the fourteen renderings which are given to CURIA is, "Praedium rusticum, possessio, *Curtis, mansus*, German Hof." He quotes from a charter of Pope Leo IX., and from another charter of 1380; and from Speculum Saxonicum Lib. 2. art. 54 § 3: *Ubi pretium Pastori solvitur de mansis seu Curiiis*. Art. 49. *Unusquisque tenetur partem Curiae suae sepire*. Art. 50. *Qui Curiam sepit virgis etc.*" But in the draft of a deed, in the third volume of the *Paston Letters*, p. 422, the word "curia" occurs followed by *lete*; "eo quod messuagia, terra, pastura, bruera, mariscus, curia lete, redditus, servicia predicta, officium et agistament' profic' valorem supra specificatum [non] excedant." Here the word evidently means *court*: and as it occurs in juxta-position to the same words in the Inquisition, it may mean court also there.

Ducange gives: "BRUARIUM, BRUERA, ARMORIC. *Brug*, Ericetum, ager sterilis, vepribus et dumetis horridus:" and quotes from Matt. Paris: *Erit torneamentum in bruera de Stane*: from the Lives of the Abbots of St. Albans: "*In montanis vel brueris*:" and refers to Bracton: *Jus falcandi herbam vel brueram*. One of the statutes of King Robert the Third of Scotland ordered that moor and heather should be burnt only in the month of March. "*Bruera*. Briars or other brushwood heath. In Bishop Langley's Register it is thus explained: "*Bruera nostra vulgo dicta lyng*." Ling is the North-country name of *Calluna vulgaris*." *Glossary to Boldon Book*. Surtees Society. Archdeacon Hale, in *The Domesday of St. Paul's*, explains it to be "probably brushwood;" but in the *English Vocabulary*, already so often quoted, it is rendered "lingge;" which, as Mr. Wright notes, was largely used for making brooms and other domestic purposes.

#### Elizabeth Bacon, 1570.

Elizabeth Bacon, widow of Edmund Bacon who died in 1553, and mother of John who died in 1568, commences her will with a statement that she makes it "consyderinge the uncertenty of deathe." The bequests are entirely of money, plate, furniture, and clothes. She leaves to her daughter Mary, "nowe the wyfe of Robert Fuller," spelt Fuetner in Edmund Bacon's will, her "two best gownes the one with velvet slevs ioyned to the same and the other lyned with fustian and garded with velvet;" her "kirtle of damask," her "kyrtell of grograyne two best petycotes and two hoodes:" To Margaret Grenegrasse she gyves and bequethes "a kyrtell of russett welted with velvet a sylke thrymmed\* hatt one smocke and one rayle:" † To the widow Bucknam, an "owlde blacke gounede with

\* "A hat with very long nap of silk, resembling a hat of shaggy fur." *Bury Wills*, p. 256.

† A gathered linen cloth worn by

women round the neck in the day, and round the neck and partially over the head by night. Halliwell, *Dictionary*, p. 664. *Bury Wills*, p. 259.

coney one smocke and one rayle:" To "the wydowe Bucknam of Bradfelde sometye so called Ursula Jarves my owlde black gounede edgede with coney one smocke and one rayle:" To her servant Alice Browne, "a coffer standing one the right hande within my closet one paier sheets a smocke and a partlet:"\* And "to the maker of my grave xiid." She mentions by name her daughter Mary Fuller: Anne and Thomas, the children of "John Bacon *my eldest son*;" "Francis my son;" and "Elizabeth daughter of my sonne Francis;" "Thomas sonne of my sonne Edmunde;" and my son John Bacon *the younger*." This is the same as is styled in Edmund her husband's will, "John Bacon my son of Callys" or Catlys; but I can discover nothing that explains the giving to two sons the same Christian name. As she makes no mention of William, or of any children of William, it may be presumed that he was dead, and had left no issue.

[Bury Registry. Liber Aldrich, f. 40.]

### Edmund Bacon, 1624.

His will opens with the statement that he has "allready made conveyance of his mannors, lands, tenements, and hereditaments according to his minde and good likeinge:" and that he is now disposing of his "poore personall estate." His first bequest is as beautiful as it is simple: "ffirst and above all things I commend my soule into the most mercifull hands of allmightie God, assuredly trustinge, that by the death and meritts of my sweet Saviour Christ Jesus, I shall have free remission of all my sinnes and transgressions, and that I shalbe pertaker of the heavenly ioyes prepared for his elect; my bodie I comitt to the earth from whence it came."

He leaves to the poor of Hessett, Woolpit, and Drink-

\* A ruff or band formerly much worn about the neck by both sexes, but more latterly exclusively by women. The term

was sometimes applied to the habit-shirt." Halliwell, *Dictionary*, p. 605. *Bury Wills*, p. 259.

stone twenty shillings, and to the poor of Beyton ten shillings; to one servant ten pounds; to each of fouer other servants, six pounds thirteen and fourpence; and to each of three other, three pounds. He makes provision for the poor of Hessesett: "Item I will that soe soon after my death as convenientlie maie bee my executors shall deliver into the hands of six men or moe of the honest inhabitants of the towne of Hedgessett aforesaid five pounds of laful English money to bee employed to some profit and to remayne in a stocke for the releife and benefitt of the poore of y<sup>e</sup> said towne of Hedgessett for ever, and the same five pounds to bee so disposed of from tyme to tyme and at all tymes as that some six or moe of the honest inhabitants of the said towne of Hedgessett for the tyme beinge in all tymes to come maie allwaies have the government of the same five pounds and the disposition of the profit which shall be rayseed thereof at all times to the benefitt of the most poore and needy people of the saide towne of Hedgessett. . . . Item I will that soe soone after my death as convenientlie may bee my executors shall deliver ten pounds into the hands of those honest inhabitants of the saide towne of Hedgessett which shall have the government of the aforesaid five pounds given for a stocke for the poore there as aforesaid and they to have the government of the saide tenn pounds for the releife and benefitt of Jane Janings my poore servant duringe all her life and out of the same ten pounds and of the profite which maie bee made thereof by some ymployment thereof to bee made to give what shalbe needful towards the mayntenance releife and comfort of the said Jane duringe her life And after her decease the saide ten pounds or what shalbe left thereof vnspent by the said Jane to goe and bee alwaies employed to the increase of the aforesaid stocke given for the benefitt of the poore in Hedgessett as aforesaid and to bee allwaies employed as I have appoynted the said five pounds to bee for the releife of the poore in the said toune of Hedgessett."

He mentions that his eldest son Edmund has deceased; and

names ten of his children who are alive. He calls "the wife of his loveinge brother Robert" the Lady Harris: to her, to Robert Bacon, and to the wife of his son Lionel, "for a remembrance of his love and hartie affeccyon," and to each of his ten children "in remembrance of his love," he gives "a peece of plate of the value of five pounds, to bee bought and delivered to eury of them" by his executors.

He leaves his plate and household stuffe, mentioned afterwards in his will, to his well-beloved grandchild Edmund Bacon, the sonne and heire of his eldest sonne Edmund Bacon deceased when he shall attayne to his full age of twentie and one yeres; and if the saide Edmund his grandchild shall die before the age of twenty-one to his grandchild Thomas, the brother of the said Edmund his grandchild, to be delivered to him at his full age of twenty and one yeres. The plate named by him is "my best bason and ewer of silver parcell gilt, my nest of bowles with the cover to the same silver and gilt, my standinge cuppe silver and gilt, my silver salt gilt, my trencher salt of silver aud gilt, my dozen of apostle spoones of silver parcell gilt."

He bequeaths to his "welbeloved Grand Child Edmund Bacon" his "Tables, Lyverie Cupbord, [*i.e.*, "A store cupboard, whence things were *livre'* or given out as wanted for use, or probably for the *liveries*, or meal served in the bed-chamber, *temp.* Eliz., after supper;" Tymms, *Bury Wills*, p. 267.] best Carpett, sidebord cloth and cupbord cloth of Turkey worke, and my Turkey worke stooles and chayres in my parlor:" and also "all the Tables, Chests, Bings, Cupbords, and Beerestalles in my Buttery and Seller." "Turkey and Persian carpets," writes Charles Knight in *Old England*, Vol. ii., p. 234, "were in use but not on the floor, except occasionally in regal apartments. Our forefathers still trod upon rushes or mats, and kept their valuable carpets upon the *tables* where their beauty would be more readily seen and preserved;" and also, it would seem from Edmund Bacon's bequest, upon "The stooles and chairs of the



parlour." Bing, derived by Stratmann from the Old Icelandic *binge*, and rendered in the *Promptorium cumera*, is a bin for corn, flour, wine, &c. :—"the proper word," Forby says: and Mr. A. Way notes in the *Promptorium*: "The word *binna* occurs in a deed of the year 1263, in Chron. W. Thorn, 1912, where it signifies a receptacle for grain. *Cumera* is explained by Uguitio to be *vas frumentarium de festucis*, and no doubt the bin was anciently formed of wicker-work, as in German *benne crates*, Belg. *benn corbis*. In the Indenture of the delivery of Berwick Castle in 1539, occurs "in the pantre, a large bynge of okyn tymbar with 3 partitions." *Archaeol*: xi., 440.

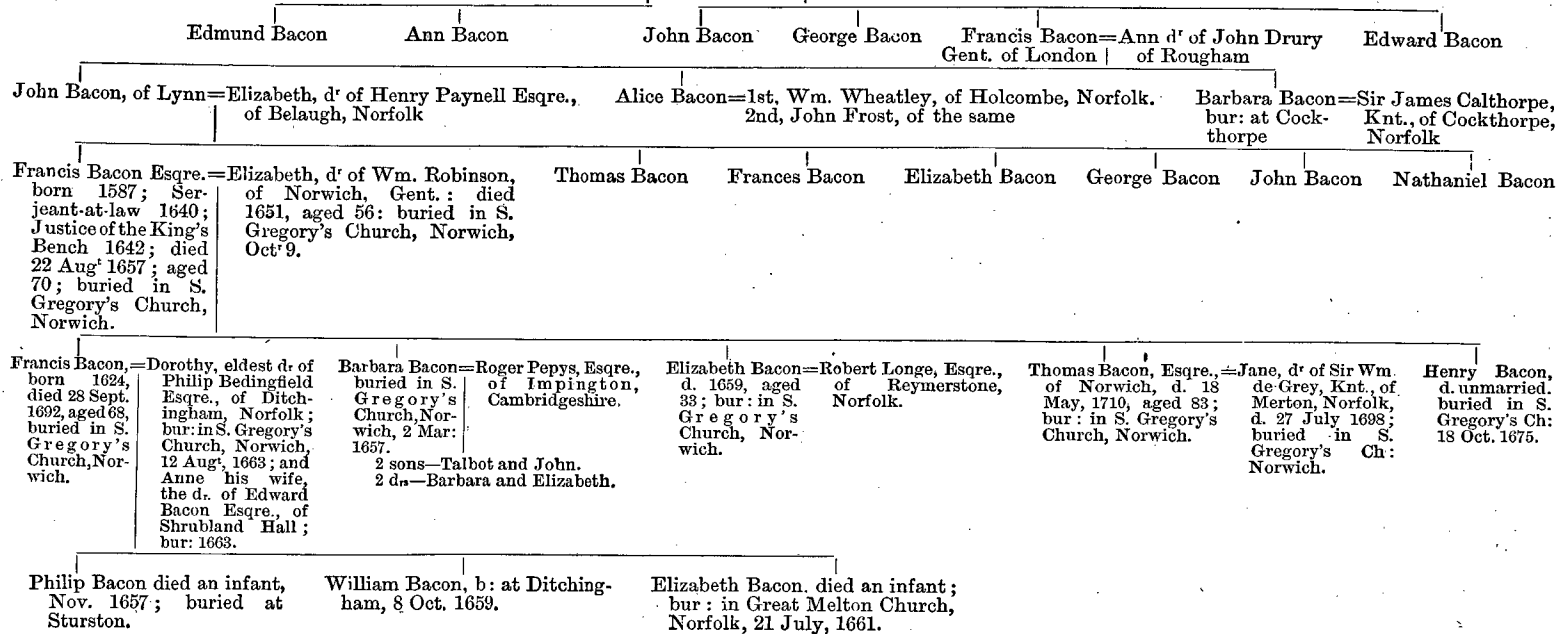
And after sundry gifts to his sons Nicholas, Henry, and Lionell, and his daughter Cordelia, he makes Henry Bacon and Cordelia his executors.

[Prerogative Court of Canterbury. Liber Clark, f. 48.]

Search has been diligently made, but in vain, for the wills of Henry Bacon, who died in 1651, and of Lionell Bacon, who died in 1653: they are not to be found at Bury, or Norwich, or in the Consistory Court of Canterbury. In one of the Indexes of the Bury Registers there is a statement, quoted by Mr. Tymms, *Bury Wills*, ix.: "Plebs miserrima cum maximo suo damno et detrimento apud (nescio quae tribunalia Londinensia) ad Cromwelli libitum, coacta est se sistere ad testamenta proband." Mr. Tymms seems to have abided in ignorance of the locality of this tribunal; and of the place of custody of the Wills; no wonder, therefore, that I have been unable to discover it.

PEDIGREE OF BACON OF LYNN, AS SET OUT BY DR. DAVY.

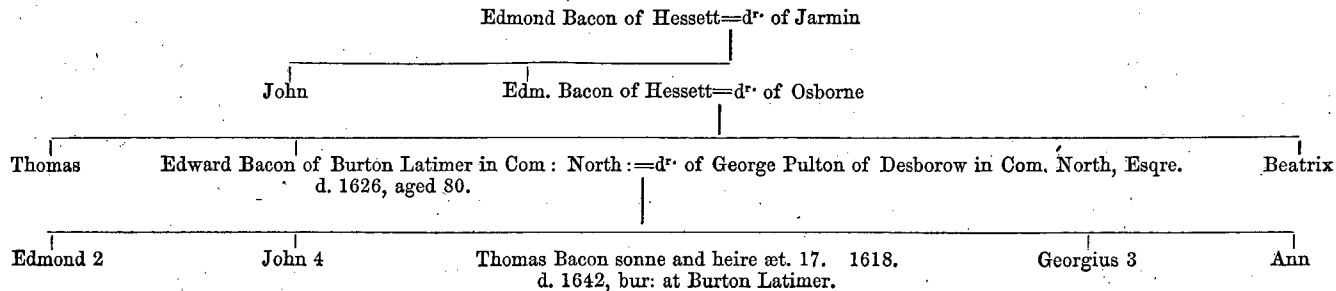
1st. d<sup>r</sup> of Jarvis=Thomas Bacon=Anne Rowse



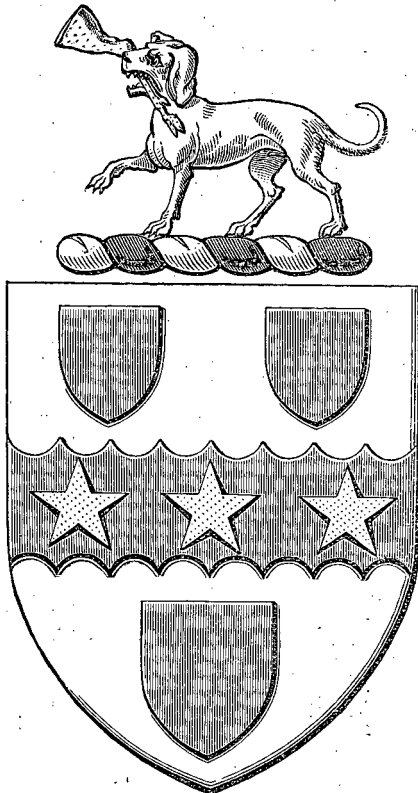
# THE PEDIGREE OF BACON OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE,

DESCENDED FROM BACON OF HESSETT,

As set out in *The Visitation of Northamptonshire* made and taken by Augustine Vincent Rouge Croix, Marshall and Deputy to William Camden Esqre., Clarencieux King of Armes for the South East and West parts of the Realme of England from the River of Trent, Anno Domini 1618 and 1619. *Harleian MSS.* 1094. f. 210 b.



I cannot connect this branch with the Hesselset family, unless EDMOND is erroneously written for Edward. This is not improbable. For Bridge, in his *History of Northamptonshire* (vol. ii., p. 233) represents Edward Bacon, who had Burton Latimer, to be the second son of *Edward* Bacon of Hesselset in Suffolk; whereas the pedigree makes him the second son of *Edm.*: Bacon.

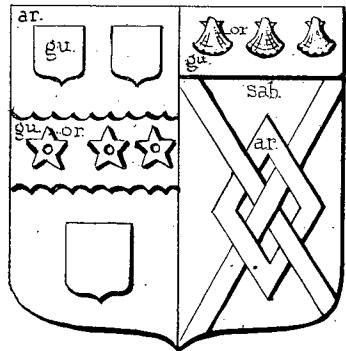
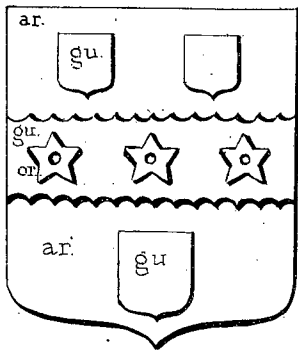
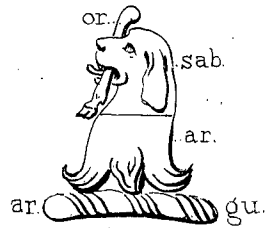
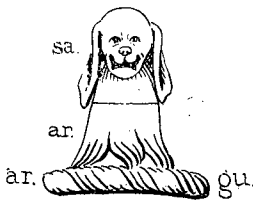


Arms and Crest of Bacon of Hesselset,

From the Monument of Lionel Bacon, in Hesselset Church.

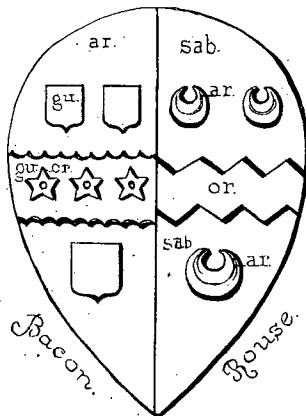
It is quite clear from Vincent's *Visitation* that Edward Bacon of Burton Latimer was a descendant of Thomas Bacon of Hesselset, who died in 1547: for Edward

ARMS AND CRESTS OF BACON,  
 OF  
 Hessett and Lynn,  
 From St Gregory's Church, Norwich.



Bacon, of Hessett, & Lynn.

Bacon. Robinson.



Bacon.

Rouse.

In Barker's "Grants" the mullets are pierced sable: in Denolt's "Crests of Arms," pierced gules: in "The Visitation of Northamptonshire" pierced azure: and the fess engrailed is in all three gules.

wore the arms of this Thomas Bacon; and Vincent states that these arms "were granted to Thomas Baken of Hessem in Suffolk p Pro: Wriothesley Garter and Thomas Benolt Clarenceux 9 of May a° 1504. a° 6. H. 8." I have already discussed this statement and shown the grant to have been of a crest only. . . And unless Edward be the grandson of Edward Bacon, the son of Thomas, there is no one mentioned in the Wills or in the Registers from whom he could have sprung. George and Margaret Bacon had a son Edmund, born in 1550; but a very slight calculation will show that he could not have had a great-grandson of the age of 17 in the year 1618; even supposing that he, his son, and his grandson, had each married at the age of 21.

Bridge, in the *History of Northamptonshire*, states that the property descended to the posterity of Thomas, and finally passed to Dr. Perkins, who married the widow of Mr. Bacon, the last possessor.

The Arms of Bacon of Northamptonshire differ slightly from the Arms on Lionel Bacon's monument. They are: *Argent*, on a fess ingrailed, between three escutcheons *gules*, as many mullets *or* pierced *azure*. The mullets on the monument do not appear to be pierced: and I have given them as I have found them: nor are they pierced on the coat carved on the bench end: but they are given pierced in Harvey's *Visitation*. It is to be noticed also that the Crest given in Harvey's *Visitation*, and also on the monument of Sir Francis Bacon in S. Gregory's Church, Norwich, is a Talbot's *head erased*, and not a Talbot passant, holding in the mouth a deer's leg.

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It has happened to me, as it has to others, to get information about matters too late to make use of it in my paper: and I append a few notes which have been collected from time to time as the paper was passing through the Press.

The Parish  
Register.

The early portions of the Parish Register are written most beautifully by Mr. Anthony Rous, the Rector of the Parish, who became Rector of Weeting in 1600, where he was buried in 1631. In the year 1584 is the entry of the birth of his son John, whose Diary was published by the Camden Society in 1856: "Joannes filius mei Anthonii (& Margerie) Rous vicesimo sexto Aprilis 1584<sup>o</sup>." John seems to have inherited from his father the "beautiful caligraphy" for which he was distinguished. In 1585 is the entry "Thomazina filia 1<sup>a</sup> Anthonii (& Margerie) Rous verbi ministri vicesimo die Martii 1585<sup>o</sup>:" And in 1588 another: "Margeria uxor mei Anthonii Rous vicesimo secundo Decembris 1580." On the Title-page he has placed this record:

Soluit Ecclesia ista Domine

Reginae pro Primitiis xj.<sup>li</sup> xij.<sup>s</sup> j.<sup>d</sup> ob. { decima viz }  
{ deducta ex } valore 12<sup>li</sup> 17<sup>s</sup> 11<sup>d</sup>

Decima xxv.<sup>s</sup> ix.<sup>d</sup> ob.

Subsidio xxij.<sup>s</sup>

Episcopo pro procuracionibus in Visitatione iij.<sup>s</sup> ij.<sup>d</sup> ob.

Synodo Annunciationis xij.<sup>d</sup> ob.

Michaelis xij. d. ob.

Archiepiscopo pro procuracōibus Visitationis vi. s. v. d.

Archidiacono pro procuracionib. { personalis } visitationis vj.<sup>s</sup> viij.<sup>d</sup>  
{ annualis }

Procuratori Cleri cū eligitur ex ur̄a Archim̄atu, iuxta taxationem ep̄i vel ejus vicarie generalis j.<sup>d</sup> vel j.<sup>d</sup> ob. de qualibet libra valoris p prima & secūda sessione Parliamenti sorte varia, alternis vicibus. Iste procurator Cleri coitus vocatur Clericus Conuocationis.

This is followed by a statement written apparently by his successor, Robert Boning :

Regi pro pensione exeunte de Rectoria duos denarios solvend : Thetfordiae loco quo Audit Regis nominatur singulis annis. qui non solvit poenas luit. Proclamatio Regis Buriæ postibus affixa solutionis diem statuit.

This payment to the King most probably arose thus. According to the old Canon Law the Founder of a Church was entitled at the time of its foundation to reserve to

himself a payment out of the endowment. In the *Excerpta ex Responsionibus Regiis*, there occurs the words: "Item si Praelatus alicujus Ecclesiae vel Advocatus petat a Rectore pensionem." Lyndwood glosses on *Pensionem*. "Quae in quantum hic loquitur de Patrono, imponi potest in limite foundationis eidem solvenda:" page 97. As I understand his statements concerning the Right of Patronage, this payment could be left by the patron to his heirs, but could not be alienated by gift or by sale. If this be so, it makes for my contention that Hessett was erected into a Parish, after the gift of the Manor to the Abbey by Earl Ulfketel; and the Abbots, who seem to have acquired the right of patrons by *endowment*, retained this payment to themselves. At the Reformation all pensions, belonging to the Abbeyes, were seized by the King. I have in my possession a statement made to me by the late Rector, Mr. Blake, that there is an annual charge upon the living of *twopence* payable to the Lord of the Manor of Eldo: this is clearly the payment mentioned on the title-page of the Register; but how it came to be transferred from the King to the Lord of the Manor of Eldo does not appear. And I may mention here that a payment of sixpence is claimed by the Lord of the Manor of Desning from the Vicar of Gazeley, of which no account can be given excepting that it is a customary payment. I suspect it to be a pension originally charged on Gazeley Vicarage, by the Priory of Stoke-by-Clare; transferred to the King at the Reformation; and in some way, that has escaped record, made over to the Lord of the Manor of Desning.

On a blank page, at the end of one of the half quires of parchments that are stitched together and form the Register Book, and in the middle of the year 1671, are two interesting Memoranda, written by Samuel Kendall, the Rector:

"Memoranda by vertue of his Ma<sup>ties</sup> lers patent for y<sup>e</sup> losse by fire in Wapping neare London collected in Hegesset y<sup>e</sup> sum of two shillings & eyght pence towards y<sup>e</sup> said losses reparations."

"And also by vertue of his maiesties les patents there was a collection made in the pish Church of Hegesset towards y<sup>e</sup> reliefe of many poore Christians undone by fire in y<sup>e</sup> twoo pishes of Bartholomew Exchange



and Bennetfink London And the money so collected is paid to the Chief Constable of this hundred."

In addition to these collections for the sufferers by the Great Fire of London are mentioned Collections towards the re-building of the Parish Church of Condober in the county of Salop ; toward the Church & Garrison of Pontefract in York ; towards the great loss by fire in Illmynster in Somerset ; for the re-building of the Church & Garrison of Scarborough in Yorkshire ; towards the fire in Chertsey in Surrey ; towards a great fire in Drayton in Salop ; and for Mr. Dutton of Chester, this last "by his majesty." Who Mr. Dutton was, or what he had done or suffered, to entitle him to a collection under his Majesty's letters patent, is at present a mystery to me.

The Tower  
and  
the Swan. Abbot John Boone appears to have borne a large share in re-building the Church of S. Laurence Norwich. "The ancient church that stood here was wholly pulled down about 1460, in the time of JOHN BOONE, abbot of *Bury*, at whose expense, jointly with the assistance of that monastery, the parishioners, and several benefactors, living and dead, that most beautiful regular pile which is now standing, was erected and finished in 1472."\* Legacies were given in 1468 by *Walter Black*, in 1469 by *William Petyson*, and in 1472, by *Simon Denyse*, towards finishing the steeple."† The Tower of Hissett may, in like manner, have been the sole work of John Boone ; or the joint work of John Boone, and John Bacon ; or the sole work of John Bacon.

That John Bacon's Arms do not appear on the Tower is no proof that the work is not his. The Advowson belonged to the Abbot, as Lord of the Manor ; and therefore whoever might have built the Tower he would be bound, as an act of recognition of his superior, to place upon it the Arms or the Badge of the Lord. One use of Badges was to indicate territorial rights or possessions.‡ And information has been given me that on

\* Blomefield, *Hist. of Norfolk*, Vol. iv., p. 261.

† *Ib.*

‡ Boutell. *English Heraldry*.

the borders of Wales, a few years ago, were to be seen in or upon the houses of ancient families, of high birth and entitled to bear arms, the armorial bearings or the Badges of the Lords of the Marches. And with this information came a reference to a passage in a Letter of Edward Lord Stafford written in 1589 to Richard Bagot, an ancestor of Lord Bagot, and printed in the *Quarterly Review*,\* and also in Burke's *Rise of Great Families*; † "To prove that you were no better than vassals to my hews, my Stafford Knot remayneth still in your parlour; as a hundred of my poor tenants have in sundry shires of England." Therefore, the Swan need not betoken more than that when the Tower was built John Bohun, as Abbot of Edmundsbury, was territorial Lord of Hessel.

As I am referring to the arms of the Bacons, Mr. Scipio Squire. it may be well to give here what is known of Mr. Scipio Squire, mentioned at page 50. He was buried in the Cloisters of Westminster Abbey on the 29 September 1659. Colonel Chester in his *Registers of Westminster Abbey*, has given all that is known about him. His will as "Scipio Le Squire Esquire Senior Chamberlain of the Court of Receipt in the Exchequer," dated 23 Sept 1659, was not proved until 16 January 1662-3. He directed to be buried in the Cloisters, near the monument of his friend Mr. Arthur Agard. He was admitted to Gray's Inn 10th August 1627 as of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Gent. His wife and children survived him. Some mention of him may be found in the autobiography of Sir Simonds D'Ewes 1642. Of "his book" I can find no trace: he seems to have been an amateur herald or genealogist; for there is in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries of London a few manuscript pages of a Collection for Devonshire. And as these pages were in the press Messrs. Sotheby sold a valuable collection of manuscripts of Scipio Le Squire Esqre.

Herveus de Hegesete was one of the ten jurors of the Liberty of S. Edmund who sat at the Inquest in the reign

\* Vol. xviii., p. 289.

† P. 133.

of Edward I. This Hervey, at the Visitation of Salaman, held of Walter de Lindholt and John Kyng one messuage by service of five pence: and of the Abbot eight acres of land, one of meadow and two of pasture by service of five shillings; and, as was stated in an early part of this paper, Robert Bacon held of Hervey one acre by service of two pence.

Dr. Davy has placed in his "Notes on Hessett" the following extracts:

Chart. A.° 17 E. j. p. unica. n. 7.

Petrus de Chauvent Impeton, Cestreton Howes, lib. Warr. Cantabr. Rogham, Heggesset, lib. Warr. Suff.

Cal. Rot. Chart. p. 118.

Esch. A.° 38. Ed. iij. n. 41.

Walterus Beneyt & als pro abbate et conventer de S<sup>o</sup> Edmundo.

Origin: de A.° 37. H. 8. p. 4. Not. 1.

Rex 7 die Sept<sup>r</sup> con. Thomae Duci Norff. Maneri de Oldhawe et Le Hoo, ac etiam maner de Rougham p.

Index Or: in Museo Brit: Vol. iv., fol. 158.

The Royal Purveyors. As early as the year 1484 the Royal Purveyors were regarded as burdensome and oppressive: for in the 152nd Entry of the Patent Rolls 2 Rich. iij. is "Special Protection (against the King's purveyors, &c.) to the inhabitants of *the Town and Parish of Harowe*."

Appendix to the Ninth Report of the Deputy Keeper, p. 138.

The Salt-peter Man. In 1635 the Guildhall of Norwich "was near being demolished by the servants of the deputies for *salt-peter*, who digged in the vault or cellar under the council chamber above three feet lower than the foundation, and would not forbear at the court's request, till three or four of the *aldermen* went to the council at London, and made them desist from the *salt-peter* works." Blomefield's *Hist. of Norfolk*, Vol. iv., p. 234.

Grants of Manors &c. the property of the Abbey. In the Inventory of Particulars for Grants, preserved among the Records of the late Augmentation Office, is mentioned: \*

\* Appendix ii. to the Ninth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records. p. 212.

BACON, GEORGE, 28 May, 36 Hen. 8. Sec. 2. Request to purchase (1)—Manor of *Pakenhame* otherwise *Netherhalle* (Suffolk), late of the *Monastery of Bury St. Edmund's* (Suffolk), Memorandum (2); Valuation of Vicarage of *Thraston* (Suffolk), (1); Farm in *Rowgham* (Suffolk), late of the *Monastery of Bury St. Edmund's* (Suffolk), the Commissioners' Answer, and Woods (2); Farms in *Rowgham*, *Hegessett*, *Becton*, and *Tostocke* (Suffolk), late of the *Priory of Thetford* (Norfolk), Commissioners' answer, and Woods (2). Summary and Particulars of Sale. (1.)—9 Membranes.

GERMYN, THOMAS, 20 February, 31 Henry 8. No request. Farm of the Manor of *Bradfeld* (Suffolk), with its Members, late of the *Monastery of Bury* (Suffolk), and Woods, Farm of parcel of the Manor of *Oldhall* (Suffolk), with Farms in *Welnetham* (Suffolk), late of the *Monastery of Bury* (Suffolk), Farm of the Manor of *Stanton* (Suffolk), with its Members, late of the *Monastery of Bury* (Suffolk), and Woods, (5); Farm of the Manor of *Thorp Hall* (Norfolk), late of the *Priory of Dartford* (Kent) (1)—6 Membranes.

It remains for me now to return my sincere thanks to the numerous friends and correspondents who have helped me in my long labours, and specially to Sir Albert Woods, F.S.A., Garter; to Charles Wodehouse, Esqre., Deputy-Registrar of the District Registry of Bury St. Edmund's, and his able and most obliging clerk, Mr. Goodchild; to J. J. Vincent, Esqre.; to Messrs. Clayton and Bell, who placed at my service the exquisitely-copied drawing of the Wall-painting; and lastly to J. D. Wyatt, Esq., F.S.A., to whom I am more indebted than I can express. Nor ought I to leave unmentioned the patience and forbearance of E. M. Dewing, Esqre., our Secretary, and the great help that he has given me.

WILLIAM COOKE, F.S.A.

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*The Illustrations which accompany the Rev. Canon Cooke's able and interesting papers upon the history of the Parish of Hesselton have been with one exception provided by the liberality and munificence of the Author.*