

APPROACH TO ORFORD CASTLE FROM THE TOWN.

(From an old oil-painting. By kind permission of G. Crisp, Esq.)

ORFORD AND ITS CASTLE.

BY VINCENT B. REDSTONE.

In my former paper on Orford Castle I made several assertions which recent and more thorough research compels me to modify, and in some instances to contradict. The apparent inaccuracies were due to the fact that I relied upon the accredited statements of various historians who had not made investigations among the original State Records to verify their assertions. Take, for instance, the fact stated by Camden, that the sea has deserted the town little by little. This I shall be able to point out cannot have been the case, seeing that the King's Marshes lay between Orford and the sea before the castle was built. It is more probable that the shipping industry has declined owing to the silting up of the mouth of the River Ore, the navigation of the stream being thereby greatly impeded. Minor authors have made many absurd statements concerning the history of the town. King, in his "Munimenta Antiqua"* considers that "among such works of the Britons, as appear to be imitations of the works of the Romans, may be ranked the leaning tower of Caerleon and Orford Castle in Suffolk," betraying his complete ignorance of its architecture. A subsequent writer erroneously fixes a definite date for its foundation, saying that "Orford Castle was built in 1072 by Robert de Olly, a Norman." This error is perpetuated in a recent work,† and arose from the fact that the originator of the state-

* Vol. III.

† Gentleman's Magazine Library, Co. Suffolk, p. 171.

ment was unable to distinguish the black letter characters, "r" and "x," thereby reading Orford for Oxford.* "Robert, eldest son of the Lord de Olyly who was rewarded by William I. with many lordships and manors in England, built the castle and bridges of *Oxford*."

As previously stated, there is no mention of Orford in the Domesday, and the earliest record of the hamlet of Sudburn under this name is when Robert Malet granted the market and tolls of Orford to the Priory which he founded at Eye. The manor and advowson were the property of the Monks of Ely; the district formed part of the Liberty of St. Etheldreda, and belonged to the Honour of Eye. Upon the disgrace of Malet, the Honour of Eye fell into the King's hands, 1102; and in 1156 Henry II. gave the Honour to his Chancellor, Thomas à Becket, who retained possession of this Honour and the Honour of Berkhamstead until 1162.†

When a great barony fell by forfeiture or escheat into the hands of the Crown instead of being incorporated with the general body of the county or counties in which it lay, it retained a distinct corporate existence, and the whole apparatus of jurisdiction which it had before. Under the title of an Honour it continued in the possession of the King, and was farmed like a shire, or was granted out again as an hereditary fief. It was separable from the Crown at a moment's notice. It is very certain that every Honour had its fortified aula, or castle. Robert Malet may have constructed Eye Castle upon the site of earlier Saxon defences.‡ The Honour was bestowed upon Becket as "The Castlery of Eye with seven score soldiers,"§ and when Becket was required by Henry II. to give an account of a revenue of £300 derived from the two Honours which he held, he claimed to have used the money for the repair of the two castles, and of the Tower. Upon the recovery of the Honour of Eye its castle was the only Suffolk

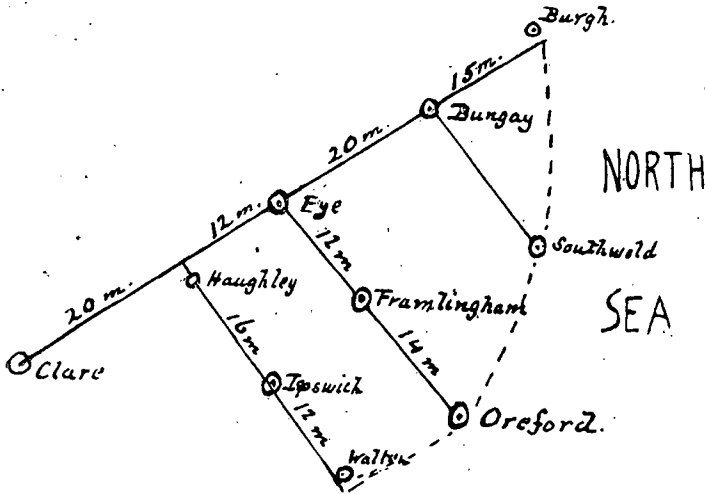
* Blomefield's Norfolk, Vol. v., p. 506.

† Stubb's Constit. History, Vol. I., p. 501.

‡ Proceedings Suff. Inst., Vol. II., p. 117; Vol. v., p. 103.

§ Morris' "Life of S. Thomas à Becket," p. 28.

castle which was not in the hands of the barons. It will be well to give a description of the position of the various castles then existing in the county, and a conclusion may be drawn therefrom why Henry II. or his Justiciar, Richard de Lucy, deemed it expedient to erect a royal castle near the mouth of the Ore.



A straight line drawn upon a map of Suffolk connecting Clare with Burgh Castle will be found, after passing a little to the north of Haughley, to go through the towns of Eye and Bungay. A line nearly at right angles to this line and passing through Haughley will join Ipswich and Walton. A similar line passing through Eye will connect Framlingham and Orford; and a line parallel to the latter line will join Bungay and Southwold. The castle at Southwold was the house of the Earl of Hereford, which was fortified in 1260; the castles of the other towns were all standing in the reign of Henry II. As I have before stated, of these Suffolk Castles Eye was the only castle in the King's hands until Orford Castle was built in 1165. The Flemish mercenaries landed without hindrance therefore upon the Suffolk coast; there was no landing place for the royal forces. By erecting a

castle at Orford a garrison could be maintained to hem in the soldiers of Earl Bigod at Framlingham, and to check the continual arrival of reinforcements from Flanders to assist the forces of the Earl of Leicester. In the time of the Barons' War, King John derived great advantage from the existence of a fort at Orford.

Ralph Coggeshall, who rejoined his abbacy in 1223, narrates among the various wonders stated to have occurred in Suffolk an account of a sea-monster confined in Orford Castle.*

DE QUODAM HOMINE SILVESTRI IN MARI CAPTO.

Temporibus Henrici regis secundi cum Bartholomeus de Glanvilla custodiret castellum de Oreford, contigit ut piscatores ibidem in mari piscantes, hominem silvestrem intra retia sua comprehenderent; qui castellano prædicto traditus præ admiratione, ex omni parte nudus erat, ac speciem humanam in omnibus membris prætendebat. Capillos autem habebat, sed in superficie quasi divulsi et demoliti videbantur; barba vero proluxa erat et pineata, circa pectus nimium pilosus et hispidus. Prædictus vero miles fecit eum custodiri diutius diebus ac noctibus, ne mare posset adire. Quæ ei apponebantur avidè comedebat. Pisces vero tam crudos quam coctos sumebat, sed crudos inter manus fortiter comprimebat donec omnis aquositas consumeretur, et sic eos edebat. Loquelam autem nullam edere voluit, vel potius non potuit, etiam per pedes suspensus et sæpe dirissime tortus. Ad ecclesiam quamquam adductus nulla omnino venerationis vel alicujus credulitatis inclinatione, quotiens aliqua sacra cerneret. Cubile suum semper in occasu solis festinanter petebat, usque ad exortum solis in eo recubans. Contigit quoque ut eum ad portum maris semel adducerent atque eum in mari dimitterent, locatis ante eum fortissimis retibus triplici ordine. Qui mox maris ima petens, atque retia omnia pertransiens iterum atque iterum de profundo maris se emergebat, et spectantes super ripam maris diutius spectabat, sæpius se mergens, et post pusillum emergens, et quasi spectantibus insultans quod eorum retia evasisset. Cumque diu in mari ita lusisset, et jam omnis spes reversionis ejus sublata fuisset, venit iterum sponte usque ad eos in maris fluctibus natans, mansitque cum eis iterum per duos menses sed cum postmodum negligentius custodiretur et jam fastidio haberetur, clam aufugit ad mare, et nusquam postea comparuit. Si autem hic mortalis homo exstiterit, sive aliquis piscis humanam prætendens speciem, sive aliquis malignus spiritus fuerit in aliquo corpore submersi hominis latitans sicut de quodam legitur in vita beati Audoeni, non facile diffiniri potest, maxime quia tam multa miranda a tam multis de hujusmodi eventibus narrentur.

* *Chronicum Anglicanum*, p. 117, Roll Series.

The next writer who gives us any information about the town is Dennis Piramus, the French poet, who accompanied Henry III. and his court to France. The composition of the poem from which is taken the following description of the Danish attack upon the town of Orford, and the plundering and murdering of its inhabitants, may be set down approximately as having been written about 1240. The author appears to have woven in his "La Vie, Saint Edmund le Rey" a tradition current in the town during his days that Orford was attacked and burned by Yngwar before the martyrdom of S. Edmund. The sacking of the town is graphically described,* but in giving credence to the facts related in the poem, allowance must be made for the use of poetic licence. "Orefort" could then scarcely claim to have been "a great city famous from antiquity":—

l. 2095. "Se mistrent en la halte mer
 "Unc ne finerent de sigler,
 "Tanquil vindrent a un port
 "Ke la gent clayment Orefort,
 "Ke dunc ert une grant cite
 "Anciene de antiquite."

l. 2119. "Kant les genz fur en lur liz
 "E les peuples furent endormiz
 "En la cite subdeynement
 "Entra il e tute sa gent.
 "Quant veit que les ad si supris
 "De katre parz unt le feu mis.
 "Dunc pristerent tut comunalment.
 "Le aver, les dras, le or e le argent.
 "La cite mistrent en carbut."

l. 2152.

[Yngwar had sailed Eastward upon the high seas as if departing homewards. Silently the ships came to a port which the people called *Orefort*, then a great city of ancient renown. The coming assault is described as similar to a raid made by a fox on a poultry yard. When the inhabitants were in their beds, and asleep, Yngwar and all his followers suddenly entered the town. When he saw the townfolk were taken by surprise he set fire to the four quarters of the town, seized all

* Memorials of S. Edmund's Abbey, Vol. II., p. 196.

the goods and money within it, and reduced it to ashes. The next forty lines of the poem describe all the horrors attending such a night attack.]

Abbo, in his life of S. Edmund, speaks of this attack, but does not mention the name of the town. It is probable that Henry III. landed in the neighbourhood of Orford on his return from France, and that the poet, struck by the grandeur of the recently erected castle and church, readily believed the local tradition concerning its antiquity.

The true history of the town and castle will be found not so much in these traditions handed down to us by monk and poet as in the carefully kept accounts of the Exchequer entered upon the Pipe Rolls. A detailed account of the expenses incurred in the erection of Orford Castle first appears in the Pipe Roll, 10 Hen. II. The series of publications by the Pipe Roll Society first brought to light the fact that the castle was erected in the reign of Henry II., and as there exist no other such accounts of the erection of a Suffolk Castle, a copy of extracts from the various Pipe Rolls will be of more than ordinary interest to the Suffolk antiquary. Through the kindness of Lord John Hervey, I have been able to furnish the reader with abstracts from the published series of Pipe Rolls, 10 Hen. II. to 15 Hen. II. The abundance of material in connection with the subject, which may be obtained from the unpublished Pipe Rolls, is so vast that I have only been able to provide the reader with a summary of the various entries in the original documents which I had not time to examine thoroughly.

The building material used in the construction of the castle was obtained from the rocks upon the sea-shore, and it was necessary first to make a road (*calcea*) along which to convey it.

10 Hen. II. Vol. VII., p. 35. *Norfolch et Suthfolchia.*

Idem Vice Comes (Oggerus dapifer) reddit comptum de xviii libris de firma de Oreford de tribus partibus anni: In thesauro xvi libere. Et debet xl solidos. Idem reddit comptum de Eodem debito: In operatione Calcete et Molini de Oreford xl solidos. Et Quietus est.

The earlier Pipe Rolls mention no accounts of money due to the King from Orford, so that the town became part of the royal manor in the year 1163, the year in which Becket was compelled to resign the Honour of Eye. In this year Ogger, the Steward, Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, expended forty shillings in the making of a road and mill.

11 Hen. II. Vol. viii., p. 5. Norfolch et Sudfolchia.

HONOR. EYE.

Idem Vicecomes reddit Compotum de xxiiii libris de firma de Oreford. In thesauro liberavit in ii talliis. Et Quietus est.

p. 6.

Idem Vice Comes reddidit Compotum de lvi libris et xiiii solidis et vi denariis de Consuetudine Navium de Oreford.

The momentous year, 1164, in which the Constitutions of Clarendon were drawn up, saw a delay in the commencement of building operations, which were not begun until the year 1165, "when a great earthquake was felt in Ely, Norfolk, and Suffolk, so that it overthrew them that stood on their feet, and made the bells to ring in their steeples."*

12 Hen. II. Vol. ix., p. 17. Norfolch et Sudfolchia.

[Expenses of Oggerus Dapifer out of the farm of Norfolk & Suffolk.]

Et in Operatione Castelli de Oreford cc et lvi libras iii solidos et ix denarios per visum Bartholomei de Glanvilla et Robert de Valeinis et Wimeri capellani.

Idem Vice Comes reddit Compotum de c libris de Cremento Comitatum numero.

In Operatione Castelli de Oreford c libras per visum eorundem. Et Quietus est.

p. 35.

HONOR EYE.

Et in Operatione Castelli de Orford c et quater xx et xiiii libras et xvi denarios per visum Bartholomei de Glanvilla et Roberti de Valeinis et Wimeri capellani.

Vice Comes reddidit Compotum de lxiiii libris et xii denariis de Navibus de Oreford. In Operatione Castelli lxiiii libras et xii denarios per visum eorundem. Et Quietus est.

Vice Comes reddidit Compotum de xxvi libris et vi solidis et viii denariis de villa de Oreford. In Operatione Castelli ejusdem xxvi libras et vi solidos et viii denarios. Et Quietus est.

* Stow's Annals, p. 52.

Vice Comes reddidit Compotum de XL libris et XVIII solidos et X denariis numero de firma Wihtoñ. In thesauro XXI libre et XII solidi et VII denarii.

In Operatione Castelli de Oreford XIX libras et VI solidos et III denarios per visum eorundem. Et Quietus est.

Whilst superintending the building of Orford Castle, Ogger was Constable of Eye Castle. The total amount of the returns made in connection with the work proceeding at Orford in 1165 was £560. In these accounts mention is first made of Wimar the Chaplain as one of the overseers. He became Rector of Orford, and one of the Justices Itinerant. It is probable that it was under his auspices that the church of Orford was erected, the Norman remains of which are so distinctly visible.

13 Hen. II., Vol. xi., p. 18. [Expenses of Oggerus Dapifer &c.]

Idem Vice Comes reddit Compotum de C libris numero de Cremento Comitatum. In thesauro XXXII libri et V solidi et I denarii.

Et in Operatione Castelli de Oreford XIX libras et VI solidos et X denarios per visum Bartholomei de Glanvilla et Roberti de Valeinis et Wimeri Capellani. Et debet XLVIII libras et VIII solidos et I denarium. Idem reddit Compotum de Eodem debito. In thesauro XXX libre. Et debet XVIII libras et VIII solidos et I denarium.

Idem Vice Comes reddidit Compotum de C solidis de firma de Bercholt. In thesauro I solidis.

Et in Operatione Castelli de Oreford L solidos per visum eorundem.

p. 33. De Perpresturis et Escaettis

Idem Vice Comes reddidit Compotum de XII libris et VIII solidis de firma de Niwenton. In thesauro VI libre et IIII solidi.

Et in Operatione Castelli de Oreford per visum Bartholomei de Glanvilla et Roberti de Valeinis et Wimeri Capellani VI libras et IIII solidos. Et Quietus est.

Idem Vice Comes reddidit Compotum de C solidis de firma de Chaluelega. In thesauro L solidi.

Et in Operatione de Oreford per visum eorundem XIX solidos et VII denarios. Et debet XXX solidos et V denarios

Idem Vice Comes reddidit Compotum de C solidis de firma de Fileby. In thesauro L solidi.

Et in Operatione de Oreford per visum eorundem L solidos. Et Quietus est

Idem Vicomes reddidit Compotem de X libris de firma de Uppetona. In thesauro C solidi.

Et in Operatione de Oreford per visum eorundem C solidos. Et Quietus est.

Idem Vice Comes reddidit Computum de c solidos de firma de Buccheshala. In thesauro L solidi.

Est in Operatione de Oreford per visum eorundem L solidos. Et Quietus est.

Idem Vice Comes reddidit Computum de xv libris de firma de Hintlesham de parte Regis. In thesauro vii libre et x solidi.

Et in Operatione de Oreford per visum eorundem vii libras et x solidos. Et Quietus est.

Idem Vice Comes reddidit computum de XL libris et xviii solidis et x denariis numero de firma de Wihton. In thesauro xx libre et ix solidi et v denarii.

Et in Operatione de Oreford per visum eorundem xx libre et ix solidi et v denarii. Et Quietus est.

Idem Vice Comes reddidit computum de LX libris et xii denariis de navibus de Oreford hoc anno.

In Operatione de Oreford LX libre et xii denarii per visum eorundem. Et Quietus est.

Idem Vice Comes reddidit Computum de xxvi libris et xiii solidis et iii denariis numero de firma ejusdem ville.

In Operatione Castelli per visum eorundem xxvi libras et xiii solidos et iii denarios. Et Quietus est.

p. 35.

HONOR EYE.

[Among Ogger's expenses it is stated as follows.]

Et in Operatione de Oreford per visum eorundem c et LXIX libre et v solidi et x denarii. Et ad Munitionem Castelli de Oreford xxxviii solidos et iii denarios per breve Regis. Et Bartholomeo de Glanvilla xx marcas ad Custodiam Castelli de Oreford per breve Ricardi de Luci. Et Stephano de Ely x solidos de liberatione sua per breve ejusdem.

Summa denariorum quos Vice comes misit in Operatione Castelli de Oreford ccc et xxiii libre.

The expenses incurred for the year 1166 mark the rapid progress with the work, which was so far completed as to necessitate the appointment of Bartholomew Glanville as constable. He was brother to the famous Ranulf Glanville, and was sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, 16—22 Henry II. If the wild man of the sea* was imprisoned when he was constable of the castle, it must have been captured between the years 1166 and 1180. No mention is made in the Pipe Rolls of this capture, but it is stated that a heavy expense of nine shillings was incurred for the carriage of a huge fish (*crassus piscis*) to the King. The liberatio (a gift, or livery presented by a lord to his

* Vide page 208.

official at certain times of the year) given to the Bishop of Ely may have been in return for the erection of the Castle in the Liberty of St. Etheldreda. It is interesting to note that half the royal revenue from various manors in Suffolk was contributed towards building expenses. Repairs had been going on at Eye Castle during this year.

14 Hen. II. Vol. xii., p. 15. OREFORD.

Idem Vicecomes (Oggerus dapifer) reddidit Comptum de xxvi libris et xiii solidis et iii denariis numero de firma de Oreford. In Operatione de Oreford xxvi libras et xiii solidos et iii denarios per visum Bartholomei de Glanvilla et Roberti de Valeinis. Et Quietus est.

p. 31. ^f

Everwicsc̃.

Randulphus de Glanvilla reddidit Comptum de firma de Euerwicscira

Idem Vice Comes reddidit Comptum de xxx libris de firma de Scardebure. In thesauro xiii libri et xviii solidi et viii denarii.

Et in Operatione Turris de Scardebure xiii libras et xi solidos per breve Regis. Et in Tignis et Bordis et pro eis ducendis apud Oreford l solidos et xiii denarios per breve Regis. Et Quietus est.

The King was absent in France, and his justiciar, Richard de Lucy, hastened on the work of defence against the descent on the East Coast threatened by the Count of Flanders. Bartholomew Glanville appears to have forwarded from Orford to his brother Ranulphus, at Scarborough, a quantity of beams and timber to be employed in the erection of Scarborough Castle.

15 Hen. II. Vol. xiii. p. 94.

OREFORD.

Idem Vice Comes (Ogerus dapifer) reddidit Comptum de xxvi libris et xiii solidis et iii denariis numero de firma de Oreford. In Operatione Castelli de Oreford xxvi libras et xiii solidos et iii denarios per visum Bartholomei de Glanvilla et Roberti de Valeinis. Et Quietus est.

Idem Vice Comes reddidit Comptum de lxx libris et xvi solidis et vi denariis de Consuetudinibus Navium de Oreford hoc anno.

In Operatione ejusdem Castelli lxx libras et xvi solidos et vi denarios per visum eorundem. Et Quietus est.

p. 95.

HONOR EYE.

Et in Operatione Castelli de Oreford lxx libras et xvi solidos et x denarios per breve Ricardi de Luci et per visum Bartholomei de Glanvilla et Roberti de Valeinis.

Summa denariorum quos Vice Comes misit in operatione Castelli de Oreford hoc anno c et xxxii libras et vi solidos et viii denarios.

16 Hen. II. Vol. xiv., p. 2.

Et in Operatione Castellī de Oreford LII libras per breve Regis et per visum Roberti Valeinis et II Normannorum de Gippeswic.

OREFORD.

Ogger dapifer reddidit Computum de XIII libris et vi solidis et VIII denariis de firma de Oreford dimidio anno.

Et xxx libris et VIII solidis de Consuetudine Navium de Oreford hoc anno.

Et pro claudendo Marisco de Oreford et excolenda terra ejusdem Marisci III libras XI solidos et VII denarios. Et in Operatione Castellī d Oreford XVII libras XVI solidos et XI denarios per breve Regis.

In Operatione Castellī de Oreford CXII solidos et x denarios per breve Regis et per visum II Normannorum de Gippeswic.

Summa denariorum in Operatione Castellī hoc anno LXXV libris ix solidi et ix denarii.

Idem Vice Comes reddidit Computum de XXXVII libris et XIII solidos et VI denariis de Navibus de Oreford hoc anno. In operatione ejusdem Castellī XXXVII libras et XIII solidos et VI denarios per visum eorundem. Et Quietus est.

p. 18.

HONOR EYE.

Et in Operatione Castellī de Orefold LV libras et XII solidos et III denarios per visum Bartholomei de Glanvilla.

The expenses incurred this year were mainly for shutting in, and for draining the marshes which lie opposite the castle upon the other side of the river Ore, and which are known to this day as the King's Marshes. These marshes were hired by the King from the owner Oslach, and a yearly rent of four shillings was paid to him for this, and many subsequent years. It is difficult to state what was the work done by the two Normans from Ipswich; from the nature of the work it may appear that they were skilled surveyors in the King's service.

In an earlier Pipe Roll, 5 Henry II., mention is made that these two Normans* of Ipswich gave an account for the receipt of 50 marks; 25 marks were paid into the treasury, and the remainder were used as payment of wages by them to William Cadman.

* Percyvale's Great Domesday-Book throws some light upon the social position of these two Normans. In the account given of the election of the bailiffs and coroners of Ipswich in the Churchyard of S. Mary-le-Tower, the names of the first to hold these positions of honour under Ipswich's new charter are given as;—Bailiffs, John son of Norman, and William de Belines; Coroners, Peter Peper, Norman Alynth, Clement le Palmer, and Semanus de Ponte. Alynth was probably Alnodus of the Pipe Rolls. *Liber* I., cap. xiiii.

Orford was not called upon for a grant in aid of the marriage of the King's daughter, to which Dunwich contributed £133 6s. 8d., and Ipswich £53 6s. 8d.

17 Hen. II., p. 4.

OREFORD.

Wimarus Capellanus reddidit Computum de LXVII solidis et VIII denariis de veteri firma de Oreford. In thesauro liberavit. Et Quietus est.

In reddidit Computum de XXVI libris XIII solidis et IIII denariis de nova firma, Et de XXXV libris XVI solidis et VIII denariis de Consuetudine Navium hoc anno. In thesauro Nichil. Et pro claudendo Marisco de Oreford ad Crementum firme ejusdem ville XV libras per breve Regis et per visum Randalphi clerici et Godwini Bigot, et Ade clerici. Et pro novo Molendo faciundo XII libras IX solidos et IIII denarios per breve Regis et per visum predictorum. Et pro MCC ovibus ad predictum Mariscum XXXI libris, Et pro VI bobus et II equis XXIV solidis per breve Regis. Et pro I horreo XXI solidis Et pro I Bovaria I marca. Et pro I Navicula ad oves adaquandas V solidis et III denariis per breve Regis. Et pro semine ordei et avene XIII solidis per breve Regis. Et pro Corredio II servientum in eodem Marisco XIII solidis et VIII denariis per breve Regis. Et pro Calceia ejusdem ville reficienda XL solidis per breve Regis. Et per predictum Instauramentum amodo Oreford. XL libris numero præter consuetudinem Navium. Et VII libris et VI denariis. Idem reddidit Computum de eodem debito. In terris datis Radulpho filio Oslac XII solidis de tribus annis. Et debet VI libras VIII solidos et VI denarios.

Apparently the work was now so far completed that it was necessary to collect sheep and oxen, to furnish food-supply for the garrison to be established within the castle. To convey the cattle over to the marshes a wherry was provided for the use of two herdsmen, who may have resided at the newly erected mill. A cow-house was built for the two oxen for the sum of a mark; the barn which was built cost twenty-one shillings. According to Stow, a measure of wheat sufficient to make enough bread for the daily use of 100 men cost one shilling in the year 1177; the cost of the provender for twenty horses for one day was fourpence. It appears from the above account that one pound was paid for a hundred sheep; if the price of an ox be considered as one shilling, it will be seen that a horse was of a much higher value, viz., nine shillings. The "*Conredium*" consisted of anything necessary to support life, either as food or clothing; the "*Instaurum*"

implied all things belonging to husbandry, cattle, horses, tools.

18 Hen. II., p. 24. OREFORD.

In Operatione Castelli de Oreford viii libris x solidis per breve Regis pro visum Roberti de Valeinis et ii Normannorum de Gipeswic.

Thord, Radulphus, Joscelin, Jordanus, Alured veteres monetarii debent xiiii libras.

Oger dapifer debet xxv solidos iii denarios de veteri firma de Oreford.

Weimar Capellanus reddit Compotum vi libras viii solidos vi denarios de veteri firma de Oreford. Novo firma xl libras. In thesauro xxxix libras xvi solidos. Et in terris dantur Radulpho filio Oslach iiii solidis pro escambio terræ suæ quæ clausa erant in Marisco. Et reddit Compotum de xl libris v solidis iv denariis de Consuetudine Navium de Oreford.

19 Hen., p. 116. OREFORD.

Et in operatione i magni fossati circa Castellum de Oreford cum Hericia et Brestachia, et in Operatione Pontis lapidei de eodem Castello lviii libras ii solidos et viii denarios per breve Richardi de Luci et per visum Roberti de Valeinis et ii Normannorum de Gipeswic. Et in Guarnitione Castelli de Oreford pro cc Semis frumenti ad mensuram de Gipeswic, xxi libras xiii solidos et iv denarios. Et pro c Baconibus x libras per idem breve. Et pro d Caseis iv libras iii solidos iv denarios per idem breve. Et pro ferro xl solidos. Et pro Sale xxv solidos. Et pro Pensis Sepi. xxi solidos. Et pro Caablis et minutis cordis xx solidos per idem breve. Et pro tribus Manumolis iv solidos Et pro Carbone xxv solidos per idem breve de quibus v solidate misse sunt in Castello de Oreford, xx solidate amisse per rapina Flandrensium.

Item in liberatione ii Navium de Oreford missarum ad Sandwiç de xv diebus l solidos per breve Regis.

In liberatione Militum de Oreford qat xxvii libras vi solidos per breve Regis.

Wimar Capellanus reddidit Compotum de cv solidis quos recepit de consuetudine Navium.

Bartholomew de Glanvill debet xxx libras recognoscit se recepisse de eadem consuetudine.

While Henry II. was in France quelling an insurrection in Aquitaine,* his Justiciar was engaged in defending his dominions in England against the Earls of Leicester and of Norfolk. On the 29th September Leicester, with an army of Flemings, landed at Walton, and laid siege to the castle without any result. He proceeded with his forces to attack Haughley Castle, which he captured and burnt; the

* Matthew Paris "Chronica Majora" Roll Series, p. 290.

garrison consisting of thirty soldiers were made prisoners. He next marched towards Framlingham Castle, where he was met by Earl Bigod and his soldiers. The Flemings, who had landed in the neighbourhood of Orford, found that strong preparations had been made to receive them. A great ditch had been excavated around the castle, and a wall was raised so that an entrance could be gained only by crossing a stone bridge, protected on either side by two strong forts. The foundations of the bridge and forts still remain. A garrison of seventy-five men was thrown into the castle; also a store of provisions (two hundred seams of wheat, two hundred sides of bacon, five hundred cheeses, and a supply of tallow and salt) and a quantity of material, iron, ropes and cordage, which had escaped the plunder of the enemy, who in the attack upon the convoy had seized the greater part of the charcoal. From the accounts of the following year we may judge that the Flemings attacked the forts, which they partially destroyed, but did not succeed in capturing the castle. As the Earl of Leicester was marching on to Leicester, his forces were attacked by the army of Richard de Lucy at Fornham, near Bury, and all the Flemings, Normans, and Frenchmen who had come with him were made prisoners, on the 17th October, 1174. Two ships from Orford and twenty from Dunwich formed a fleet to guard the coast for fifteen days. The payment made for the services rendered by the Dunwich ships was nearly the same as that given to the soldiers who held Orford Castle for the King. Bartholomew Glanville commanded the garrison.

20 Hen. II. p. 37

OREFORD.

Et Bartholomeo de Glanvill^a xx libræ ad faciendum prestitum^e
 xx Militum residentium in Castello de Oreford per breve Richardi de Luci
 et Phillippo de Hastings xx libras ad tenendum Milites in Castello de
 Norwic quando Willemus Comes de Flandrenium fuerat ad Bungheia
 et ad Framingeham per breve Regis Ad conducendum D carpentarios ad
 Regem ad Sileham LXXVI libras et VIII denarios. Et in operatione
 Castellⁱ de Oreford pro reperanda Breteschia in eodem Castella XI libras
 xix solidos et III denarios per visum duorum Normannorum

Et in solutis per breve Regis Radulpho Britoni v marcus pro
 Domibus suis qui asportati fuerunt in Castellum de Oreford.

*i. e. Glanvill receives an impost of £20 to pay the garrison of
 Oford.*

Et in operatione Castelli de Waleton VIII libras IX solidos x denarios per visum Simonis Fitz Simonis et Rogeri Sturmi.

21 Hen. II.

[Return made by the Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk.]

In liberatione Alnodi Ingeniatoris et Carpentariorum et Cementariorum quos secum duxit ad prosternendum Castellum de Framillingeham XIV libras XV solidos et XI denarios per breve Richardi de Luci per visum Roberti Mantel et ipsius Alnodi. Et idem ad persequendum fossatum ejusdem Castelli XXV solidos et I denarium Randulphus et Godard redderunt Compotum de VII libris XIII solidis de exitu de Oreford preterito anno tempore Warre quæ habuerunt in Custodiam.

Randulpho filio Oslach III solidos.

Randulphus et Godard redderunt Compotum de VII libris X solidis et VI denariis de exitu de Oreford.

William, Count of Flanders, landed in Norfolk and marched southward to Bungay, thence to Framlingham to join Bigod. After the defeat of the rebels five hundred workmen, carpenters and masons, were despatched to raze the castles of Bungay and Framlingham, and to fill up the fosse under the superintendence of Alnodus, the engineer. The destruction of the fortresses was complete; besides the loss of his castles, the rebel Earl was compelled to pay a fine of one thousand marks for a previous rising in 12 Hen. II., in which year, for complicity in the same rebellion, the Abbot of S. Edmund's Bury paid a fine of two hundred marks to redeem the King's debt to the Jews, Aaron and Isaac, of Bury.

Walton Castle fell into the King's hand. I have been unable to ascertain what part was played by the castles of Ipswich and Clare in this struggle. From the unpublished Pipe Rolls I obtained the following extracts.

23 Hen. II.

[The returns of Bartholomew de Glanvill]

Richardus filius Humfridi et Randulphus clericus et Adam clericus et Hamelin mercator reddiderunt in Compotum de veteri firma IX libris XVI solidis.

24 Hen. II.

Wimar Capellus reddidit in Compotum de firma de Norfolk et Sudfolc.

Pro instauratione de Orford XL libras VI solidos et IV denarios Rogerus le Bigot in Thesauro liberavit pro vetera firma de Orford in tempore Warre de Comite Hugone XIII libros et VI denarios.

From various entries in this Roll it appears that Hugh Bigod had collected the royal revenues from Orford in the time of the rebellion, during which period he had seized the Honour of Eye. Roger Bigod, his son, paid into the Treasury the sum of £673 3s. 6d., exacted as a fine from Earl Hugh, besides many other sums which had been illegally retained. The Castle of Eye was given to the Bishop of Ely, who made a return for necessary repairs. The following year Wimar, as Sheriff, made a return for an expense of 66s. 8d. for repairing the damage done to the Castle in the time of war.

25 Hen. II. Wimar's returns as Sheriff, for this year, as far as Orford is concerned, are brief. He states that of the £40 ferme received from Orford, he paid the usual rent of 4 shillings for the hire of the King's Marsh, the remaining amount found its way into the treasury.

26 Hen. II. Wimar again made returns for Norfolk and Suffolk, and among these returns it is stated that Stephen de Glanvill paid, on behalf of his father, Bartholomew de Glanvill, the usual ferme of Orford.

30 Hen. II. Wimar still acted as sheriff this year; he was appointed Justiciar in 1172. In his returns he stated that he received the ferme of Staverton and Hollesley, and that two mills had been destroyed in the latter village through an inundation of the sea. A like mishap occurred at Orford, and he was obliged to expend the sum of £3 towards the erection of a new mill. There is a curious statement made, in the returns of Wimar for this year, to the effect that he received 53s. 4d. from the Jews of Beccles for hanging a man there.

32 Hen. II. Stephen de Glanvill owed, on behalf of his father, £39 3s. 4d., which had been received from Orford during the first war against the King's eldest son, Prince Henry.

1 Ric. I. Wimar stated that Manserius, a Jew of Ipswich, owed 4 oz. of gold for permission to lend out on usury 20 marks to William de Verdun, and to his freeman, Bert. Solomon; another Jew of Ipswich, owed 1 mark.

The lands of Hugh Bigod at Staverton and Hollesley were now held by the king.

3 John p. 324.

Robertus de Grey reddidit XL marcis de firma de Oreford in thesauro. Et ad custodiam Castelli de Oreford xxx marcas.

Homines de Oreford debeunt LX marcas sicut comptum in Rotulo primo anno.

Homines de Gipeswic debeunt LX marcas per habendis libertatibus suis.

“In the reign of Richard I. the towns of Dunwich, Ipswich, and Orford were endeavouring, as it seems, to get themselves put out of the sheriff's charge in order to answer the ferme to the King by their own hands. For that purpose in 6 Richard I. Orford was fined in sixty marks.”*

“Homines de Oreford debent LX marcas pro habenda villa sua in manu sua et pro habenda carta sua.”†

King John is said to have granted charters to several towns, but it is evident that Orford received its charter from either Henry II. or Richard I., and that Ipswich, although obtaining its charter in 1 John, had not paid the money for the grant in 3 John. The latter King showed greater wisdom in the matter of the dispute concerning the right to the advowson of Orford Church than he did in his contest with Pope Innocent III. about the See of Canterbury. Wimar, who as Justiciar, was one of those Churchmen who had devoted their chief time to the great administrative system which Henry II. had perfected, is mentioned for the last time in the year 1200, as Vicar of Orford.‡ It is probable that Wimar died in this year, for on 19th May, 1200, Galfridus de Burgo, Clericus, Persona de Ecclesiæ, was granted letters of presentation by John de Grey, then Archdeacon of Cleveland, to the Vicarage of Orford, which was stated to be in the King's gift. The Bishop of Ely justly laid claim to the right of presentation, and on 17th

* Maddox Firma Burgi, p. 223.

† Magn. Rol. 6 Ric. I. Rol. Cancellarii, p. 324.

‡ Patent Charter, 2 John, Mem. 35.

February, 1202, the king sent letters to John de Grey, Bishop of Norwich, and to Geoffrey Fitz Peter, to the effect that the Church or Chapel of Orford belonged to the mother church of Sudbourne, and that the right of presentation was to be given up to the Bishop of Ely. The family of De Grey was in high favour with the king. King John sought to place John de Grey, Bishop of Norwich, into the vacant see of Canterbury; in 1201 letters were sent to Theobald de Valeins for the restoration of Orford Castle, which was then placed in the keeping of Robert de Grey; * in 1205 Walter de Grey was granted the Chancery for life. † Geoffrey Fitz Peter, in the same year, 1205, held the honour and castle of Berkhamstead. ‡ Some writers have made the conjecture that the man-fish mentioned by Coggeshall, was "a prisoner obnoxious to the Lord of the Castle, or one of his friends, a priest, perhaps, if we allow the shaven crown of the monster, whose detention was dangerous, while his discovery was guarded against by tales adapted to the credulous nature of the times." § Many historians place the time of the occurrence as happening in the reign of King John. It is a curious fact that when the Bishop of Norwich held the custody of the Castle in 1205, an entry is made in the Exchequer Rolls of an expenditure of 6s. 6d. for a guard to convey William de Tresgor, parson, from Orford to Oxford. || John held his court at Oxford, March 27—29, 1205. The "parson of Orford" was the Bishop of Ely's man, a prelate, who, having published the papal interdict, was compelled to seek refuge on the Continent.

During the period when the Bishop of Norwich held the castle, the town was full of life and activity. The King's ships set out from Orford to convey to the royal guard of Newcastle-on-the-Tyne 120 measures of corn, valued at £45 9s. 4d., 120 measures of barley of the value of £29 4s. 6d. Two galleys, having four captains and seven score able seamen, were furnished by the towns of

* Cal. Rol. Cart., p. 100.

† Rymer's *Fœdera*, Vol. I., p. 93.

‡ *Ibidem*.

§ Davy ms., sub "Orford."

|| Pipe Rolls, 4 John.

Orford, Beccles, and Yarmouth, to join the King's fleet at London. Hugh de Oreford was commander of these galleys. The Bishop of Norwich attended to the repair of the chapel in the castle. This part of the castle is one of great interest. There still exist the old Norman pillars and capitals, aumbry, piscina, and altar, where the prelate said mass, the iron-clad warrior kneeled before his Maker, and the rough soldier offered up his vows.

In 1209, John of Cornwall made a return* to the Treasury of 40 marks for the ferme of Orford, and 30 marks for the custody of the castle. Notice was also given that Ipswich still owed 60 marks for its charter. I have not yet come across any entry certifying the payment of this debt to the "rapacious" John.

During the war between king and barons the castle frequently changed hands, but the town appears to have been loyal to John, when Roger Bigod sided with the barons. In 1215, John Marshall was commissioned constable of Norwich and Orford Castles, but on 19 July, 1215, a mandate was issued to him to give up Orford Castle to Hubert de Burgh.† The following year, 1216, John took Bigod's Castle at Framlingham, and despatched the prisoners and hostages to Norwich and Orford Castles. The latter castle was in the custody of William de Evermue, who was ordered to send the two prisoners, Joscelin de Oye and Odo de Verdeilet, to Dover Castle. The King sent letters of commendation to the burgesses of Orford: and because of their loyal support their goods and wine were declared to be free from duty in all ports of the realm. In 1203, Geoffrey fitz Peter, the Justiciar, shipped a quantity of wine sent by William de Breos for the King from Orford. When the Dauphin invaded England, Magister Henry of Yarmouth and Nicholas fitz Robert furnished the constable of Orford Castle with a quantity of timber to repair the building. Hubert de Burgh retained a quantity of the materials for the defence of Orford, and was able to send the remainder

* Pipe Rolls, 10 John.

† Cal. Patent Rolls, pp. 144 and 150.

to Dover* for the King's use. But after the capture of Berkhamstead Castle by Louis, De Burgh gave up to him the castles of Norwich and Orford, "pro tempore parvi treugis." At this time Louis held all the castles of Essex and Suffolk.†

The Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk still held the castles of Norwich and Orford, notwithstanding the petition of Pope Honorius III., 1220, that no person should have the custody of more than one of the King's castles at the same time.‡ In 1221 a mandate was issued to pay to the Sheriff the sum of 5 marks for the repair of Orford Castle and the construction of a bridge, and also the sum of 100 shillings to repair the sheepfold in the King's marshes.

For the years 1224, 1225, and 1226, Richard Aguilon was constable of the Castle. His soldiers, under the command of Richard of Waldingfield, were attacked by the garrison of Colchester Castle, when conveying a supply of corn which had been purchased of the monks of that town. There were wreckers in Orford in those days. A ship laden with wine, sent by Richard Renger, Lord Mayor of London, to Robert, Earl of Chester, was wrecked off the coast, and the inhabitants seized the goods, and stored the wine in their own houses.§ The country was in a disturbed state, Henry le Clavering entered the house of Radulphus de Sunderland at Benhall, and kept it by force fortifying it with ditch and paling. The garrison of Orford Castle found there one soldier and fourteen servants of Henry le Clavering. These they took prisoners and confined in the Castle.

In 1236 Thomas de Ingoldsthorp was constable,|| and in 1238 a John de Ingoldsthorp was ordered to give up the castle to William de Hakeford.¶ In 1240 it was commanded that the sheriff should maintain the Castles of Norwich and Orford at his own charge, and, accordingly, the next year the said castles were committed to Hamon.

* Col. Rol. Litterarum Clausarum, Vol. I., p. 268b.

† Annals of Dunstable, p. 47. ‡ Rymers' Fœdera, Vol. I., p. 160.

§ Col. Rol. Litterarum Clausarum, Vol. II., pp. 21, 37.

|| Rolls Originalium, Vol. I., p. 1.

¶ Com. de Saccio 19 in tergo 22 Hen. III.

Papelew, under the same form and authority that Henry de Necketon had held them.* Robert le Sauvage was constable in 1250, Philip Marmion of Tamworth in 1261, William de Swineford in 1268,† and William de Boville in 1271. During the war between Henry III. and the Barons there was a constant struggle for the possession of Orford Castle, and it is possible that the number of silver pennies of the reign of Henry III., which were found beneath the flooring, *en rouleaux*, during a recent restoration of Sudbourne Church, were placed there by one of the contending parties. The Barons constituted Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, Governor of Orford Castle, after the battle of Lewes,‡ 1264, an honour said to have been conferred upon Hugh le Dispensers.§ Roger Bigod held the Marshallship by right of his mother Maud, and during his tenure of office he wrought great injury to the trade of Ipswich. Bigod desired to establish a central market at Harwich. He refused to permit his men from Orford to enter the Orwell in order to buy and sell goods at Ipswich. He compelled the merchants to land their goods at Harwich, which town was in the Earl's hands. To prevent the embarkation of any goods at night he ordered the vessels to be dragged on shore, and took away from them anchors, rudders, and sails.|| There had been a great seizure of royal lands by the Barons. Under writs of *quo warranto* it was discovered that the Prior of Butley held a market in Categrave, William de Huntingfield one at Benges, and John de Rames one at Saxmundham, to the injury of the town of Orford and of the King whose property it was. Great complaint was laid before the King's Justices on account of the rapacious cruelty and flagrant misdemeanours of Hugh de Dyneneton, Constable of Orford Castle, 1272—1276. Robbery was carried on with impunity, for Dyneneton was in league with criminals. Two of the King's bailiffs entered Categrave to arrest

* Blomfield's Norfolk, Vol. III., p. 47. † Add. Note, p. 230.

‡ Bright's Medieval Monarchy, Vol., p. xlvi.

§ Dugdale's Baronage, Vol. I., p. 39; Patent Roll, 48 Hen. III.

|| Hundred Rolls, Edward I., p. 199.

certain thieves claiming the protection of the Governor and of William de Valoynes. Dyneneton seized one of the bailiffs, Hugh le Swon, and after detaining him within the dungeon of the Castle for three days compelled him to abjure the town, 1273. In the same year William Short de Culpho, and John Fitz Capellus, soldiers of the garrison, slew a townsman, William Haldane. Dyneneton would not allow the coroner's bailiffs to seize the body in order to hold an inquest, but taking it out to sea in a boat sunk it far from the shore. The soldiers of the Castle carried on their depredations beyond the limits of the town. Robert de Wereslei, William le Poer, Richard le Poer, Richard Joseph, and others went by night to the house of William of Butley and violently assaulted him. They carried him off to the Castle, and scourged him until he died. What was more terrible still in those days of strong superstitious fears Dyneneton sought to bury the body at midnight, "without the sanctuary," in opposition to the will of inhabitants. Many were the heinous crimes laid to his charge; for three long years he exacted unjust dues upon all who came into the town either by land or by sea. History is silent concerning the justice the "English Justinian" meted out towards so great a criminal. The King in 1277 landed at Dunwich on the 8th April, and proceeded to Framlingham, where he stayed for two days. He then journeyed to Orford where he remained one day, 11th April, and then took ship, landing at Walton to take the road for Ipswich.

In 1289, Walter de Waleyns held Orford Castle and town,* and in 1302 William de Cleydune was granted the free warren of Sudbourne and Gedgrave.† There was an inexplicable exchange of land at this period. Roger Bigod, the fifth and last Earl of Norfolk of that name, received from Edward I., among other possessions, lands in exchange for the lands of Edmund Comyn. In the interchange of territorial possessions the castle and town of Orford, to the value of forty pounds, were regranted

* I.P.M. No. 54, 17 Ed. I.

† Charter, 30 Ed. I., m. 7.

from the Earl to Edmund Comyn, 1304. Neither noble possessed their lands for a long time. In the following year Bigod died and made the King his heir; and in the next year, early in February, 1306, Edmund Comyn, with his kinsman, John Comyn, was murdered in the Church of Dumfries.

“ Schyr Edmund Comyn als wes slayn
And othir als of mekyll mayn.”*

Edward Comyn held the manor of Fakenham at his death, 1289, of the king in capite, by immediate charters in writing.

There is a final war-like blast sounding from the banks of the Ore, when the order of the King is issued in 1307 to fortify and safely guard the Castles of Orford and Framlingham. These are the only two Suffolk castles mentioned among the fifty-three royal castles of England for that year; the one retained since its construction by the paramount power, the latter, a royal possession, and a baronial gift. Their ruins alone mark the greatness of the Baronial and Plantagenet fortresses in Suffolk.

The appointment of Robert of Orford as Bishop of Ely in 1307, marks as it were a new period in the town's history. Seldom, or ever hereafter, is the sound of arms heard within its streets; but there arises continuously the sounds attendant upon the busy life of exchange and mart, and among transactions of commerce. Orford sent representatives to one of the earliest of Parliaments. In 1306 it was represented by Adam Wymond; in 1307 by Jeffrey Pistor and William Habbe. A request was made by the King in 1307 to the Mayor, bailiffs and burgesses of Orford, to lend the King the sum of 200 marks.

Foreign merchants were allowed by the various Charters of Edward I. to visit the realm. Chief among these traders were the cloth merchants of Flanders, who imported into their country vast quantities of wool shipped from the Suffolk coast. Piracy was of frequent occurrence. Some English merchants sold goods to the value of £1,000

* Barbour's Bruce Canto II., l. 37.

at Bruges in Flanders, and bought in exchange cloths, spices, wax and diverse merchandise, to the value of £1,500; freighted by William Faght of Sluys in his ship "Cogskerewater." Certain malefactors followed the vessel, boarded her off the Suffolk coast between Orford and Orewell, slew both merchants and crew, and conveyed the ship back to Sluys.* It is not surprising therefore that when the inhabitants of Orford heard of the attack they should board the Flemish ships within the port, steal the goods, and sink the craft. Richard Sparwe, of Dunwich, was ring-leader of these Orford rioters. He received the King's pardon, and was allowed to retain the goods he had stolen. No penalty of outlawry was incurred.†

Ipswich sent two ships, Orford and Dunwich each one ship, to join a fleet under command of Simon de Monte Acuto, to fight against the Scots. The fleet was collected by John de Peyton and John de Norton, clerk.‡

The bold attack of foreign pirates close to our shores, caused a commission to be appointed to enquire into the condition of Orford Castle, and William de Monte Acute, and Master John de Percy, were commanded to appoint a keeper should there not be one within it, 28 Jan., 1311. The next year it was ordained that the keepers of the Castles on the sea-coast were to be appointed by the King with the consent of Parliament. Edward II., 28 October, 1312, made a grant for life to Nicholas de Segrave (in place of land to the value of £100 a year, with which the king had promised to provide him) of the castle and town of Orford to the value of £40 a year; and £60 a year out of the ferm of the town of Ipswich. In pursuance of this grant a mandate was issued to Roger de Wyngfield to deliver to Nicholas de Segrave, the castle and town, with all the armour and munitions which were in his custody.

The following is the "Extent of the town and Castle of Orford made at Orford in the presence of Hugh de

* Cal. Close Rolls, p. 438.

† Patent Rolls, 2 and 5 Edward II.

‡ Rymer's Fœdera, Vol. I., p. 174.

Staunton, and William de Rungeton upon the day next after the feast of S. Margaret, 11 Edward II. (1318).” “The true value of town and castle as given by William le Marchant, William le Spicer, Stephen Hewell, senr., Godfrey de Loudham, Peter de Hewelle, Stephen le Poer, Aleyne Bele, Hugh Ernald, [] de Bellynge, John de Tunstalle, John le Verdoun, Sayerman Syward, John le [], Robert le Eston, Nicholas Comyn, Thomas Clerband, William Menolf, John de Stapleton, Marchand de Homerfield, and Thomas de Naunton, was pasture belonging to the castle on this side the river $\frac{1}{2}$ acre value 2s. per annum, and no more belongs to the castle; 8 acres of arable land, a small portion of which the town claims, value 30s. per annum; a certain wind-mill value 100s. per annum; a return arising out of the town value 35s. per annum; the toll of the market and fair, 100s. There had also lately been erected a water-mill, but it was recently submerged by the sea. There was also a marsh containing 6 acres, value 2s. per annum.”

There is an interesting fact to be recorded in connection with the appointment of a Thomas of Canterbury to the Vicarage of Orford in 1308. He had held the living of Sudbourne-cum-Orford for ten years; when a mandate was issued by Pope John xxii. to Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury, to assign to Walter de Blacolvelse, M.A., perpetual vicar of Wisbeach, the Rectory of Sudbourne, with the chapel of Orford, value £34, void by the cession of Thomas of Canterbury, who held it as a pluralist without papal dispensation. On obtaining Sudbourne, Blacolvelse was to resign Wisbeach.* Five years later the King asked the Pope to grant a dispensation to a Suffolk cleric, William de Culpho, to hold a plurality of benefices.†

A windmill had been newly erected by William de Claydon, lord of the Manor of Orford, and the inhabitants took their corn thither to be ground, so that the profits of the King's mills were greatly diminished.‡ The “People of Orford” petitioned the King to have the right and

* Cal. of Papal Letters. † Rymer's Fœdera, 1323. ‡ Cal. Close Rolls, 1323.

privilege to grind corn at the King's mills, as granted to them by Henry III., for a fee ferme of 6s. The privileges of the charter were confirmed.*

John, son of William de Claydon, died, seised of the manor of Orford, of the heirs of Richard Stirmy, a descendant of the Lords of Buxall, 1335. In 1336 a grant was made to Robert de Ufford for life of the town and Castle of Orford, and in 1368 the Earl died seised of them. For the further history of the town research should be made among the archives of this ancient borough, and doubtless from the town records may be drawn many facts of interest which will throw light upon the government of the town during the days of its prosperity, when wealthy merchants and opulent mayors kept Orford to the front as a leading port of Suffolk and of England.

* Ancient Petitions, No. 33,135.

Nelson, immediately after his first reconnaissance of the preparations made by Napoleon in 1801 for the invasion of England, wrote, "I have now more than ever reason to believe that the ports of Flushing and Flanders are much more likely places to embark men from than Calais, Boulogne, or Dieppe."* He advised, therefore, that the East Coast should be guarded by three squadrons, one to be kept near Margate and Ramsgate, another to be stationed near the centre, between Orford Ness and North Foreland, and the third in Hollesley Bay. The ships of the latter squadron were always to keep an eye towards Solebay, where it was expected that Napoleon would put half his army ashore.

Orford Castle and fee farm granted to the men of the town before 42 Henry III. †

Consideratio de Oreford. Quia Rex concessit Willelmo de Swineford. Comitatus Norf. et Suff. custodiendos quamdiu Regi placuerit. ita quod habeat omnes exitus quos Robertus le Sauvage habuit, reddendo per annum c marcas plusquam idem Robertus le Sauvage reddidit pro eisdem Comitatibus, Et constat quod idem Robertus habuit Castrum de Orford cum exitibus villæ de Oreford, quos Rex postea tradidit Homini- bus ejusdem villæ ad feodi firmam pro xxx ĩ annuis de quibus respondere debent per manum, suam Consideratum est, quod prædictæ xxx ĩ allo- centur prædicto Viccomiti in villa sua. ‡

* Mahan's Life of Nelson, pp. 508—510.

† Maddox's His. of the Exchequer II., p. 207.

‡ Memor. 42 Hen. III., Rol. 17b.