

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF SIR JAMES
THORNHILL, MAY 16TH, 1711.

It is always interesting to the Archæologist and Historian to be able to consult the writings of chroniclers of a bygone age, who have taken the trouble to record their impressions in a reliable manner concerning the towns and countries they have visited. These diaristic records are all the more valuable when they are supplemented by views of buildings and sketches of scenery executed with knowledge and care. It is, therefore, a great pleasure to me to be able to place before the readers of the Institute Proceedings, the following transcript of a Diary written nearly 200 years ago, and dealing largely with Ipswich and the towns and villages in its immediate vicinity. I am indebted to Mr. Felix Cobbold, M.P., who possesses the original manuscript, for his permission to reproduce such extracts and sketches as I may deem advisable.

The portions of the Diary that I have embodied in this short article are those of purely local interest, and I have not continued the manuscript beyond the time occupied by the writer during his sojourn in East Anglia. Again, the limited space at my disposal has prevented me from publishing all the sketches and drawings, so I have confined myself to those which relate to the town and neighbourhood of Ipswich. Sir James Thornhill, the writer of the diary, was born at Melcombe Regis in Dorsetshire, in 1675 or 1676. At an early age he evinced artistic talent and was apprenticed to Thomas Highmore, Sergeant Painter to Queen Anne. He practised as an architect, but he was perhaps best known as a decorative painter. His principal works were the decoration of the dome of St. Paul's, with a series of eight designs in chiaroscuro

heightened with gold, illustrative of the life of St. Paul. He also designed Moor Park, Hants., painted the Great Hall at Blenheim, the Princess's apartments at Hampton Court, and his most successful work the Hall at Greenwich Hospital, 1708-27.

He excelled also as a portrait painter. Trinity College, Cambridge, possesses his portrait of Isaac Newton; his greater picture of the House of Commons in 1730, now in the possession of the Earl of Hardwicke. This latter picture was painted in conjunction with William Hogarth, who ran away with and married his only daughter, Jane, at old Paddington Church, March 23, 1729. In 1715 he was knighted by George I., and in 1719 represented Melcombe Regis in Parliament, the same borough that Sir Christopher Wren had previously been member for.

By his wife, Judith, he had in addition to the daughter Jane aforementioned, a son John, who succeeded his father as serjeant painter shortly before his death. Sir James Thornhill died at his seat at Thornhill, in May, 1734. Lady Thornhill survived her husband, and appears to have resided with the Hogarths at Chiswick, where she died November 12, 1757, aged 84, being buried in Chiswick Church.

JAMES THORNHILL his Book.

May ye 16 1711.

Wedn:

Mdmdums. for May 1711.

50£ Mr. Ed. Strong Jun has recd. of me J Thornhill May ye 17th 1711 for wch. he has given me a note of his hand to be accountable.

May ye 21st deposited into Mr. Tho. Strong's hand at ye 3 Tunn Tavern in Gracious Street £3 4s. 6d. joynt stock.

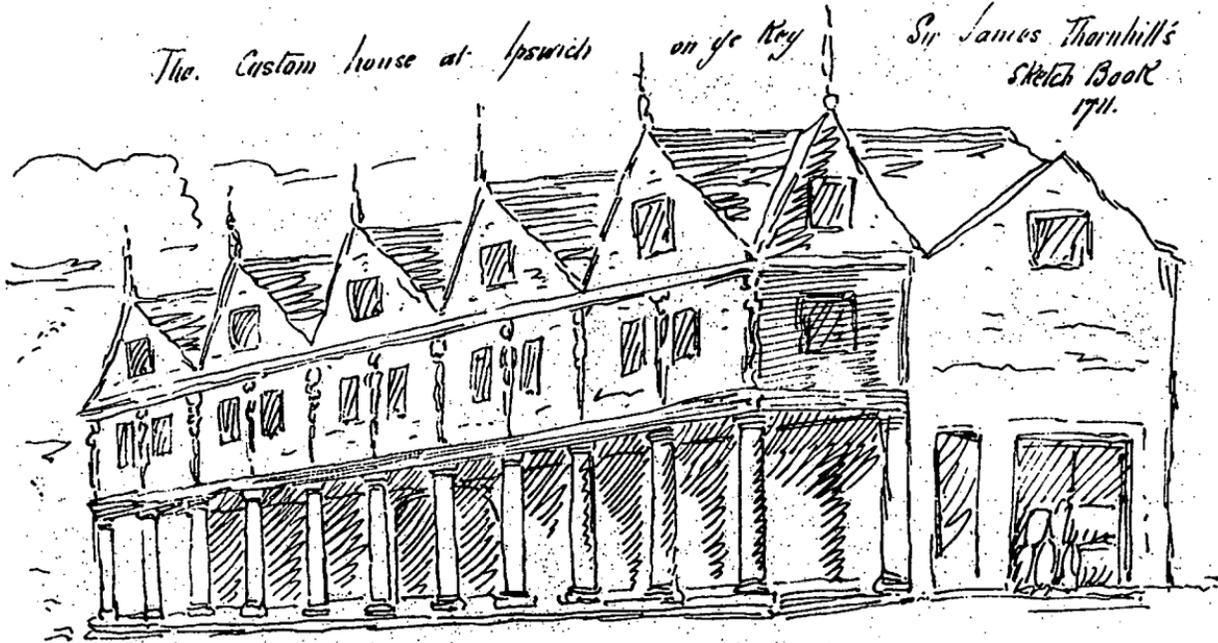
Took 19 Guineas in my pocket from London out of which lent at Ipswich May ye 23rd to

	£	s.	d.	
Mr. Ed. Strong	3	4	6	
Tho. Strong	3	4	6	
Jos. Roberts	3	4	6	for which they have

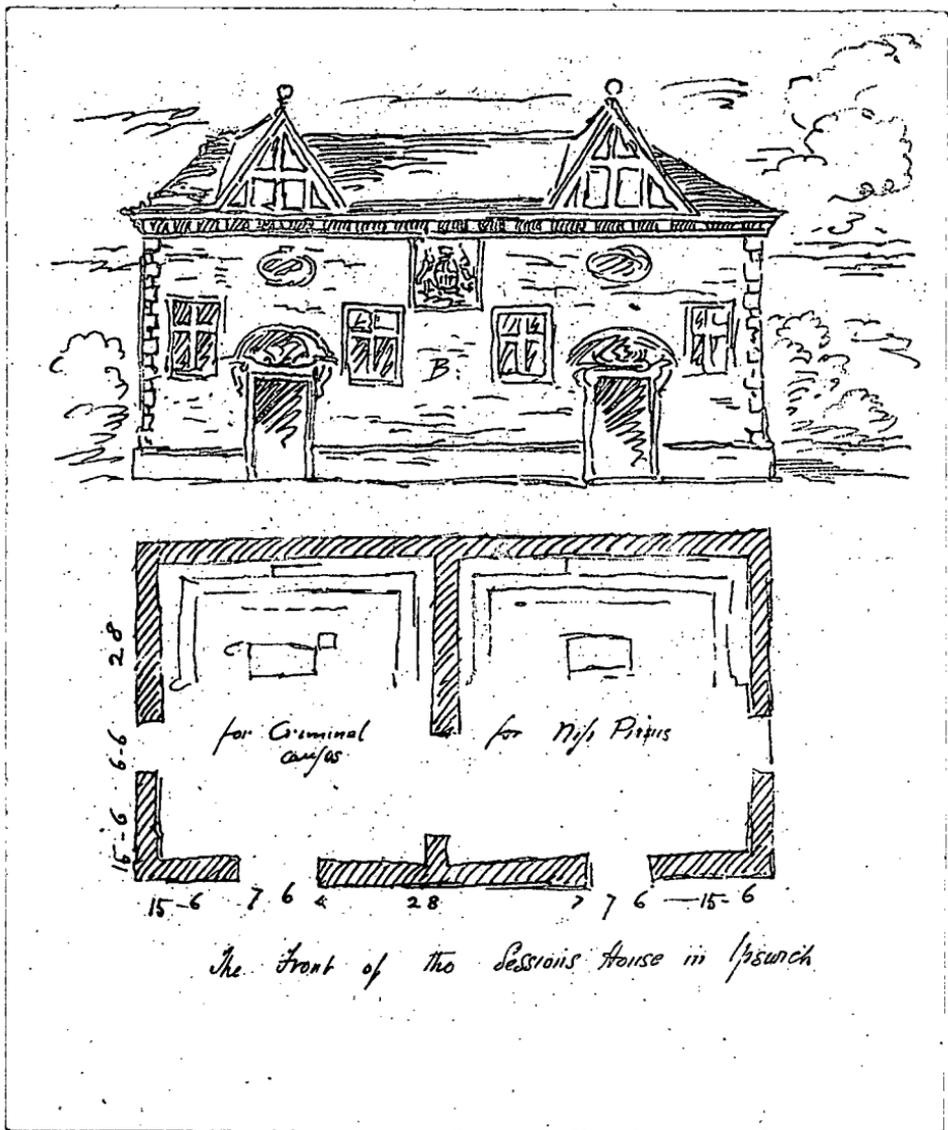
given me their respective notes.

The Custom house at Ipswich on ye Key

Sir James Thornhill's
Sketch Book
1711.



THE CUSTOM HOUSE.



THE SESSIONS HOUSE.

1711 May ye 21st O.S. Mr. Thornhill, Mr. Serg. Roberts, Mr. Ed. Strong Jnr and Mr. Thos. Strong got out from ye Cross Keys in Gracious Street at 3 a clock in ye morning for Ipswich in company with Mrs. Ann Mannock, daughter of Sr William Mannock of Gifford Hall in Suffolk, near Stratford, arrived at Ipswich about 10 a clock ye same evening.

The town of Ipswich is very large, has 12 Parish Churches, ye principall of wch. is St. Mary Tower in wch. is an Ecclesiastical Court kept every Tuesday. The Town is governed by 2 Bailiffs, 12 Portmen & 24 comū councill. The River as over ye leaf markt A is on ye North* side of ye Town wch. tho, it is so very large, ye inhabitants are very few, wch. gave occasion for Mr. Killigrew to tell K. Charles that Ipswich had a river without water, streets without names, and a town without people.

The principall are ye Sessions house markt B: Town Hall and Custom House, a very plain Timber Building standing on wooden pillars.

Sr. Wm. Parkers, Mr. . . . & Mr. Martins† are ye chief houses, this last an excellent situation on a fine rising hill looking southward having plenty of water and very good fish ponds, one of wch. has a brace of carp, wch. when ye threw in bread appeared on ye top of ye water & strove for ye bread till they devoured it all. The bricks are here very indifferent, the stone comes from farr . . . Mr. Martin having cap'd his peers wth Keiton stone & made the Pedestalls of Portland, ye paving is genly Newcastle stone—*Bentall* Brought by ye Colliers.

There is an excellent conduit of spring water in Whitehorse/ Street, wch. is brought from a water house near Mr. Martins park, by whose house is a very pleasant Bowling Green on ye north side of ye Town.

Near the Sessions House is a Charity House for 30 boys & 40 old women founded by Mr. Henry Tooley merchnt. of Ipswich.

In Ipswich are likewise 2 Charities founded by 2 Parties in a kind of opposition to each other & distinguisht by ye names of High & Low Church Charities & are as follow. The High Church began an establishment of 40 Boys, whose coats are grey faced with blew, black leather caps, Blew stockings & white metal Buttons; also 20 girls.

The low ch. Began one for 20 Boys, whose coats are a kind of cinnamon colour faced with red.

After which one Mr. Gravenor, ye Bailiff, on his own charge founded a charity for 20 boys more.

* This is an error it should be the South side.

† Mr. Martin's House was Christchurch Mansion. Sir William Parkers should be Sir William Barkers.

The chief of the Gentlemen founders of ye H. Ch. were Mr. Bridgeman, Mr. Clark, Mr. Martin, Majr. Edgar, Mr. Milleson Edgar, &c.

May ye 23d deposited into Mr. Tho. Strong hand our Treasurer 3 guin as joynt stock.

The chief of ye L. Ch. founders were Mr. Bayliff Coleman, Mr. Purplet, Capt. Bowls and Mr. Bayliff Gravenor above named, &c.
These foundations both began 2 years ago in 1709.

The churches in Ipswich are comly, built with freestone & flint disposed into panells and other figures like inlayd work thus. (Sketch not given.)

Wed., May ye 23d, a qrtr. after 12 at noon we went on board a small boat of about 6 Tunn at Ipswich, wch. we hired for 5s. to ourselves of Mr. Scott on ye Key & came to Harwich in 3 hours of wch. time we spent an hour a fishing. Wind at N.W. Sole, plaice, crabs, small whittings.

In ye Evening we went from Harwich to Landguard Fort wch. is a place capable of a good fortification whose plan is as underneath,* there are 70 Large cañon on ye 4 platforms or Bastions.

The governor, Jones, is lately dead, is to be succeed by C. Hamond, is garrisond, by invalids.

N.B. We drank a Bottle of excellent Barcelona at ye Suttlers in ye fort for 2s.

The Countrey on each side of Ipswich rising imēdiately from ye Town & Water & well wooded, makes ye prospect very agreeable to passengers on ye river.*

There are several agreeable seats in view twixt Ipswich & Harwich.

The com. price from Ipswich to Harwich in ye passage Boat is 4d. per head, which comes and goes every tide or 12 hours.

On ye east of Harwich close to ye Town are 2 oyster beds covered with board & tile thus,† about 40ft. by 20 Broad wth a little chañll to receive ye sea water for their preservation &c.

The pass for Holland cost us 2 Guineas & 6d. from ye Secretary's office in wch all our names were particularly inserted & more might have been for ye same money as it is a certain custom & rate.

The pass when we came to Harwich we delivered to Mr. Bickerston (who is Mr. Richd. Grey, Coñmissinsheres) Clerk, & who keeps the pass & gave us ye following ticket, we gave him a crown as a free gift & payd each 12s. 6d. for our respective passages & 6s. 6d. for each of our servants.

* Plan not given. † Sketch not given.

A View of Harwich taken from y^e Clif S. E. of y^e Town May 7th 1711



VIEW OF HARWICH.

May ye 23rd, 1711.

Received on Board ye Prince Pacqt. Boat
Messrs. Ed. Strong, Tho. Strong,
James Thornhill, Joseph Roberts,
John Beaver, George Turner, whole & half
Ric. Grey.

Orpin, an Herb growing at Harwich, boyld in milk very good for a cold and sore throat. My Ld. Orkney used it there on yt occasion.

N.B.—Ye same herb put into a water bottle will keep green all ye winter & grow against ye window in ye inside.

Memdn. Harwich coach comes Tuesd. & Fryd. from ye Saracen's head nr. Aldgate. pr each man 16s. & lye att Wittam. 45 Tunn.

In Harwich passage Boat per each passengr 3s. go from Harwich Sats. & Tuesdays, and are in Lond. next morning if a right wind.

Tuesd. & Fryd. being ye Foreign post nights in Lond., the mail arrives at Harwich Wed. & Sat. evenings, so yr wind and weather permitting.

The packet sails Thursd. & Sund. about 2 a clock, contriving to be on neither shore in ye night time.

Market day is Fryday att Harwich.

May 25th, 1711. Best Fr. Clarret in flat flasks containing a qrt and a little over is 4s. at ye 3 Cupps. Mr. Edys. Old French from private Houses is 2s., public 2 : 6d. Best new French in Bottles at ye 3 Cups. 3s. 6d.

There are in all 5 Packet Boats that go twixt Harwich & Holland.

Comdr.

- | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | The Dolphin, | Capt. Hunt, | who is at this time Mayor of ye town. |
| 2 | „ Eagle, | „ Stevenson | (The pacquets make 20 voyages |
| 3 | „ Marlborough | „ Cole | each in a year, in all 100. |
| 4 | „ Dispatch | „ Philipson & Ch. Bromil, | Mr. Scots cousin, Mr. |
| 5 | „ Prince | „ Lucas & Henre Stevens, | Mr., an ingenious man. |

The packet Boat is about 60 Tunn, and carries 100 men, sailors and all. But on occasion will carry 150 souls. The Capt. of a packet has 10£ a month, but by letting his cabin, etc., make as good advantage as some men of war by ye benefit of victualling his ships.

At Harwich is an excellent Brick—9 in. and $\frac{1}{2}$, wide 4 in. $\frac{1}{2}$, thick 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$. It is made at Hadley, about 10 m from Ipswich, of a lightish colour but very durable and fitt for paving only.

There an old Ditch round Harwich that seems to have been thrown up as an antient defence, but of very little strength now.

On ye shore near the cliff is found the copperas stone which they take up in druges as they do oysters.

In ye marshes near Harwich going to Dovercote is great quantitys of marsh wormwood of excellent use for killing worms in children. It must be boyld in milk, is also good for a pain athwart ye stomach in men or women used in ye same manner.

There is an hearb here growing amongst ye corn, called charleek, wch. we met sailors carrying home to use instead of spinnage, and they say as good.

Fryd., 7 clock, from Helv. sluice, ye Eagle Pacquet Boat came out and arrived at Harwich 3 clóck Sat. afternoon.

We saw here come to anchor, we observd. their good under examinn. at ye Custom House, viz., Portmantles, Cloak, Baggs, &c,

Advice.

Grease but don't clogg ye wheels; give nothing to ye C men, yt come on Board when ye Packt comes in, have nothing in yr pockets that you fear losing. Bleed according to yr illness, but take not away too much when you give ye key, shake hands with 5 or 10 fingers according to ye case. If you have a night gown yt is fine, wear it into Harwich and it is safe and just. It is good to take a shā post Boy from Harwich in ordr to pass thro' Mañingtree where ye Coach is genly. searcht and then you are past all danger.

You may make up and wear 6 shirts and ruffles, &c.

Near Woulton, about 3 mile from Landguard Fort, is an excellent spring wch supplies ye Fort carryed thro' leaden pipe 2 in. and qrtr diameter wch also becomes a perquisite of ye governmt by selling to outward bound ships at 2 pence pr Barrell.

There is on ye shoare of Lang. Fort very often found Amber large enough for necklaces and sometimes for cane heads, &c. Ye small amber sold there for 7d. per ounce. It is however more frequently found about 17 or 18 m northward from hence, on our own coasts, and is larger as you proceed more north; there are 7 or 8 different opinions concerning its nature and formation, some taking it for a gum from trees near ye sea, &c., but one that I find most reasonable and generally assigned, wch is yt it is a spurious matter from a certain rock in ye sea, tho' some say it is a part of yt Rock and wch whether one or the other is however at certain times drove on our coasts and is hard as you genely.

There is an hearb frequent on ye marshes & shoars called wart weed wch broke in ye stalk, send forth a perfect milk of a prodigious strong bitterness & wch when applyd to warts on ye hands or face after being cut will infallibly take them away.

Harwich.

The water here usd. for brewing, &c, is got from 4 wells about 50 or 60 feet deep, S.W. of ye town, wch. pumps erected by ye Brewers, but being something brackish they save all ye rain water they can. Each well supplies 45 cask of water & and is then empty wch is about one well in a day drawn dry.

Prince Pacquet Boat.

	£	s.		
Masters pay	3	10	per month	Henr. Stevens
Boatswain	2	10	"	Hen. Keeble
Guñer	2	10	"	John Traps
Carpenter	3	5	"	Wm. Smith
Surgeon	3	10	"	Wm. Keyworth

Each packet Boat carries 20 hands.

May ye 28th, 1711. Memdm. att Landgu. Fort.

We dined with Mr Scott, Mr Marshall, Mr Guñer & Dr Rust of Woulton, everyone fird a gun & I fired 2. Mr Marshall gave us 15 Gunns; wch with our own made 20.

Memdm. Capt. Steell was 4 years over a company att Landguard Fort, a partie friend of old Govnr Jones deceased, he used to lodge at Mrs. Haselforts ye Queenes Armes in Harwich when there.

She letting him in one night in ye dark held her tongue till a light was come, bless me says he I thought it had been ye man & that it was impossible for a woman to hold her tongue so long.

The Masters of ye Passage Boats twixt Harwich and London are Abraham Pidgeon, a particular acquaintance of Hen: Stephens, and is ye only confidant of his for French Clarret engn. for him at Hermitage Stairs about 3s. per [rust] there of him:—Tho. Phillips, Giles Baker, Tim. Hurlock, Franc. Gretham.

27. Met Capt. Guy of ye Nightingale, Capt. Waldson of ye Loo, an acquaint of J. Rowleys.

Capt. Guy went from Greenwich to ye Brill and returned to Greenwich in 3 days.

Mr. Bromill.

Gravesend, Dover, Deal and Harwich
The D . . . l gave his daughter in marriage
and further to fullfill his will
he flung in Helveet sluice and Brill.

May ye 29th.

We went again to Land gu: fort being ye annivrsy of K. Ch. 2nd Restoration. Ye Fort fir'd 21 guns. Dr. Rust preacht a serm. in ye old chappell there, after which we were entertained by Mr. Scott, Mr. Marshall, &c., very well

The place of burial is a qutr of a mile from ye fort N.E.

May 30th.

Made a deposit of 3 guineas to ye Treasurer, Mr. Th: Strong.

We went to Kings fleet a kind of Lake abounding with noble Tench, Bream, Eeles, Perch, Pike, Roach & Gudgeons. It is about 7 or 8 m. from Harwich N.E. Mr. Chapman a good plain honest maltster of Curton, & a man of good fortune, gave us ye diversions of ye fishing & entertained us at his own house afterward very freely, & Dr. Rust lent us his Charriot & 4 im'm Horses all ye day. There are 4 or 5 lakes in this marsh all plenty of fish. Kings fleet is about 2 m. in length, is very fresh, has no visible current into it nor any commū wth ye sea, from wch it is divided by a large Bank or causeway, whence you see Bargy whose Tower is tall and a sea mark, there is a ferry.

Fryd 1st. We went to Shotley at 9 in ye morning: stayd till 2 in ye aftern: pd 3s. for our wateridg and attendce of ye Boat:

At Shotley chalk is 6s. pr Tumbrill or Chaldron d.d: from Northfleet at Shotley ferry.

20 load an acre chalk will keep poor land good 20 years.

Sat. June 2nd.

We dined att ye Orange Tree att Dovercourt a place remarkable for this proverb, viz where all are speakers and no hearers, where ye Parson refused to preach because there was nobody in ye Church but himself ye sexton and an old woman saying he would not hang God's word on ye wall like a cobweb.

Sund 3rd inst.

Dined at ye 3 Cupps, in ye Even we went to Bobbitshole or ye sign of ye Anchor from whence after a short refreshmt we crost ye fields down to ye sea shore under Harwich Cliffs round which we went to ye Town. Here we observed by first taking up a little pebble wch as I chanced to squeeze twixt my fingers, fell in pieces, that all ye pebbles were nothing else but perished clay even to some 5 lbs. weight, and some stones not ppr to be called by that name of a vast bigness and formed in ye same nature in ye sides of that cliff. This put us on search for ye degrees of Petrification, wch we accord: met with in many instances & of wch we brought away severall examples from ye first formation in clay to ye hardest pebbles I have seen, ye medium degrees being capable of being cut with a knife.

On ye top of ye cliff next to ye grass it seems to be a tolerable mold or earth, then yellowish sand, then as you descend appear several degrees of clay, some part of wch is more evidently capable of petrification & runs in beds like stone in a quarry in this manner. Towards ye bottom of this cliff at A is a bed of clay of a closer body than what is either above or below it & is become almost stone. Great quantities of this clay being washt by ye

power of ye waves into ye sea before petrification make a part of ye shore it self, walking on wch you may perceive ye different impressions of ye feet according to ye petrification made by ye water, some part being perfectly hard as a rock. By Capt. Ch. Guy.

Of this stone ye Churches are built, Dovercourt wch is ye mother church of Harwich, ye streets are paved &c.

On this shore I took up a piece of oak about 5in. long that is petrified and very heavy, we had before heard that it was common but this was ye only bit that we could find.

It may be reasonable to suppose from ye aforesaid observations, that all pebbles upon ye severall beaches of wch ye sea shore is constituted, are either clay or earth petrified, or (if not so) small parts of Rock in or near ye sea rounded by a continual friction from ye surges and motions of it.

Saturd. 2.

We met wth Mr. Cornel Cloribus, a dealer in thread at Harlem, he recomd. us to ye Golden Fleece at Haerlem, from him we learn that lace of all kind pd. 2s. per yard duty to ye Cy., and Holland 8d. 29 per ell 50 Dutch ells in a piece ; 5 Dutch ells is ye same as 3 Engl. ells, wch just makes a full shirt.

Tuesd. Writ to Sr. J. Bateman and to Mr. Bateman.

Harwich, June 4th, Monday.

We went in a yawl wch we hird at Harwich for 6s. to Manningtree from 8 in ye morning to about 5 in ye even. when we returned.

The following churches, &c., present y'selves to our view in order thus—Hobrook Ch., North Shoar, about 5 m from Harwich, where there is a Bay called Hobrook Bay.

Stutton Ch., on ye same shoar, about 6 m from Harw.

Raveney Ch., S shoare, about 5 m from Harw.

Bradfield Ch., same shoare, about 8 m from Harw.

Misley Ch., same shoare, about 9 m from Harw.

Nether Hall, S shoare, about 8 m' from Harwich, where they load billets and faggots for London.

Brampton Ch., N. shoare.

New mill overshot, N shoare, about 9 m from Harw., they make rape oyle. Ye master of it is one Mr. Tho. Severn, who is old has been a most excellent penman and a great Reader, and wch is more strange has been and still is a lover of brandy and tobacco.

Just by is a pretty large House belonging to Tho: May Esqr called Brampton Hall.

Monday, 4th. Made a deposit of 2 guin to Mr. Thos: Strong Treasurer.

From ye head of Manningtree Water just by ye Town you plainly see ye ships beyond Harwich, in a pretty strait line Manningtree is about 10 m. from Harwich: as is Ipswich also is genly about 2 hours with a pretty good wind & ye Tide is about a m. & $\frac{1}{2}$ broad.

From Manningtree you see Dedham Ch. twixt 4 & 5 m. off. Also a large House belongg. to Dr. Dent a m. from Manningtree called Lawford Hall. He is a Preb: of Westmin.

About a m. & $\frac{1}{2}$ west of Mañingtree the Fresh water of Sudbury River meets ye salt wat. of Man: River. There are many seagulls & Barganders on Mañ. water.

Just against Mañingt. is a bridge called Middle Bridge & another a little further called Catway Bridge under each of which Barges frequently carry coals, &c., to Sudbury.

The Town of Mañingtree is but small and indifferently built, an ordin: Market. is supplied wth a good current of spring water sufficient for all ye inhabitts.

The Cock is ye best Inn in ye Town kept by Gabr: Wilkinson.

John Pierce is ye waiting officer here and has been this 20 years.

Tuesd dind		Eringo Roots all about Lang. Fort let per añ at
at ye 3 cups		£3 year genrly by ye govnr.

Wed. We went to Landg. Fort again wth Mr. Marshall dind there, in came Mr. Rob Bromil, Giles Baker, Tho. Phillips, Mr. Cole.

Eringo Roots also plenty in ye lower ground 'twixt ye Naes & Harwich Cliff.

In Corven Water near ye Naes are taken those oysters, which being sent by way of Colchester are in Lond. called by that name.

Oyster beds kept in low Houses just without Harwich.

Lobsters caught 3 or 4 leagues at sea.

Springs severall out of Harw. cliff: to the East chiefly is dayley fetched for Tea &c. to ye Town.

Tis from Ipswich & Mañingtree that Harwich is supplied with Garden stuff.

Boats goes every day from Harwich to Man & Ipsw.

Mackrell about Dartmouth & all ye way to Holland in shoals.

In Rotterdam Minheer Fliuk has ye finest cabinet in Holland.

Mrs. Green.

Minheer Fayol		Hayere fine Pictures.
Minh. Levi		Consult Mr. Roman.

Mr. Lilly Memdm. At Antwerp Le Laboureur or ye sign of Ye Laboureur, ye best Inn for Entertainment.

