

## MILDENHALL.

First as to the position of the church of this enormous parish, for that opens out the whole subject of the way in which the parish itself has come to exist. In more than one sense Mildenhall has had an up and down existence; and been now larger and now less, before settling down into its present proportions. Let us look at the map, and we find its present appearance to be that of seven islands of chalk connected by beds of sand, forming one half of the parish; the other half being fen land. Carrying our minds a little further back to a period probably within the last thousand years; we may see this latter half of the parish one vast lagoon; which, at least in the winter season, must have embraced within its surface the three smaller and more outlying islands, and found its way more or less, by creeks and feelers, between the other three.\* Carry our minds a little further yet, and the extent of dry land must have been equal to what it is at present; for the later polished implements, the thin flint daggers, and arrowheads of exquisite finish, are found amidst fallen oaks and yews over the whole of what is now fen; and are yet more plentifully scattered, at least so far as the smaller implements are concerned, in company with scrapers in inexplicable numbers, over the surface of the sandy grounds. The later inundation, already referred to, was fluvatile†;

\* "Cake-street," formerly "Creek-street," and "Beck-(i.e. Brook)-row." Curious instances of the imperfect pronunciation of the district are to be found in the dropping of the "r" here, and the a sound given to the "ee," and in the inter-

change of "Th" and "F" elsewhere, in Thremil, or Fremil.

† It was probably brought about by some barring of the outlet of the Ouse waters to seaward.

but there must have been a period of marine inundation; during which the sand was deposited, severing the neolithic period from that in which the drift implements were formed, which have been obtained in great numbers from the Three Hills; and those yet more singular and rude implements that have been found amidst the brick-earth of High Lodge,\* mostly in cracks or pockets which have been washed full of sand, at a time when the sea must just have covered even this the highest island of the seven.† Long after High Lodge again stood clear of the ocean, the chalk islands would have only gradually re-appeared; and on the most attainable of these, the hamlet which is still the High Town, or Mildenhall proper, was formed; in the midst of which this, the only church of the parish, still stands. The outlying islands yet bear the name of islands, being called to this day Holms-eye, Little-eye, and Kenny (probably Kine-eye). Innumerable dunes or meols stud the surface of the intervening sands, from which the parish probably obtained the name of Meol-dene, or the plain of the sand hillocks. Some of these still have names; for example, the Earls Hills, by the Harst (probably the Hurst); the Priests Hills, not far distant from these last; and the Coldham or Coldholme Hills, between Little-eye and Holms-eye. Other collections of these hillocks lie in Aspal (once Aspen-hall) Close, South of Holms-eye; and in Brake Close, East of Mildenhall; others are covered by the fir plantations of Church-field.

If we take our stand in the High Town, an equilateral triangle, having a base of three miles or so from Little-eye on the East to Carrills [once Calk-hills, earlier Charnock (hills), earlier yet Chaden-halk or Sceaden-hough] on the West, would have its apex here; along that base line, or near it, lie now the villages and hamlets of Wilde-street,

\* High Lodge is a crowning cap of boulder clay overlying the chalk knoll against which the gravel of the Three Hills is piled.

† For further information on the subject of stone implements found at Mildenhall, of which a very large number have passed through the hands of the writer, see "*Evans' Stone Implements*," passim.

Holms-eye-green, Holywell-row, Beck-row, and West-row, &c., which contain some two-thirds of the population of the parish. For more than four miles beyond extend the fen lands of the parish, containing the not inconsiderable hamlet of Kenny Hill, and many scattered farm-houses and cottages. These during the period of the Church's supineness have provided themselves with some half-score places of worship of various denominations, leaving the grand old fabric of the parish church to be supported mainly by a portion of the dwindling population of the High Town.

Up to 1809 but little of the parish was enclosed; hence archaic names, lost long since in more settled districts, had till then survived to an extraordinary degree; some still survive, though they are fast disappearing; others may now be just rescued from the gathering mists of oblivion. Thus we still have Stock Corner, whence ran Stock Drove, now the Littleport-road, along which the cattle were driven by the edge of the sands to the summer pastures of Kine-eye; and near Stock Corner was the Hardesse or Hards, where men landed from the lagoon, which is now West Row fen. Another "Hardesse" lay outside Little-eye, pointing towards Undle-eye, which lies just on the border of the parish. Coplow, also written Copalow, probably Copullow, *i.e.*, the horses' mound, is the only instance of this termination in the parish. Of houghs or halks (*cf. hoch*, German) we have several whose names are fast vanishing. The Chaden-halk or Charnock-road still led at the beginning of the century from the High Town to Carrills' (*vid: supr:*); the Stapenhough way lay along the ridge of the island that lay next to that of Mildenhall proper; the Fremhow, Thremhow or Fremill (Thremeol) way led towards West Row. Of holms we have Bagge's-holm (now Backsum) Cold-holm, and Holms-eye. The old Saxon

\* In connection with these ancient stock lands it is interesting to notice the number of Border-Scotch names in the Rows, as Rutterford, Geddes (written Gedge, or Gates), &c., probably the names of drovers who wandered hither in the way of trade.

meadows north of the High Town are still called the Wongs (*wong* Sax := meadow or grindle). Of meols we still have Wamil, once Twamel, to the North-West, of which, more presently; and Fremil or Thremel, a little to the North-East of this. Aged people still regret the "Mere-baulks," or "smooth-breaks" of grass land, that divided the cultivated plots of the Fields on which they had common-rights; and the term "field" itself, still used in Norway for a raised-plain, in that day was applied, under the titles of Peterborough field, Church field, Loampit field, Holmseye field, Little-eye field, &c., to the various plainlands of the parish. One hamlet of the High Town still bears the title of "The Field."

Macaulay's New Zealander can never have more occasion to wonder over the ruins of London, than we have to marvel here this day amidst the signs which the relics of the past, whether of stone or of bronze or of iron, afford us of the extent to which this district was formerly populated; whether in palæolithic or neolithic times; or when Romans or Saxons spread themselves over the locality. Tradition also asserts that in mediæval times Mildenhall was widely resorted to by East Anglia as the great emporium for fish brought up from sea and fen to this the border-town of West Suffolk. Once, too, it was notorious for its timber market; and good indeed must have been the timber sold here, if we may judge from that of which the church roofs, the market cross, and many a chance moulded beam amidst the older houses is constructed.

The noble Church of Mildenhall now remains as the principal memorial of our past opulence and importance, and is the chief attraction for strangers; though the Manor-house of Wamil, of which we shall speak presently, contains much of scarcely inferior, though later, interest in an Archæological point of view.

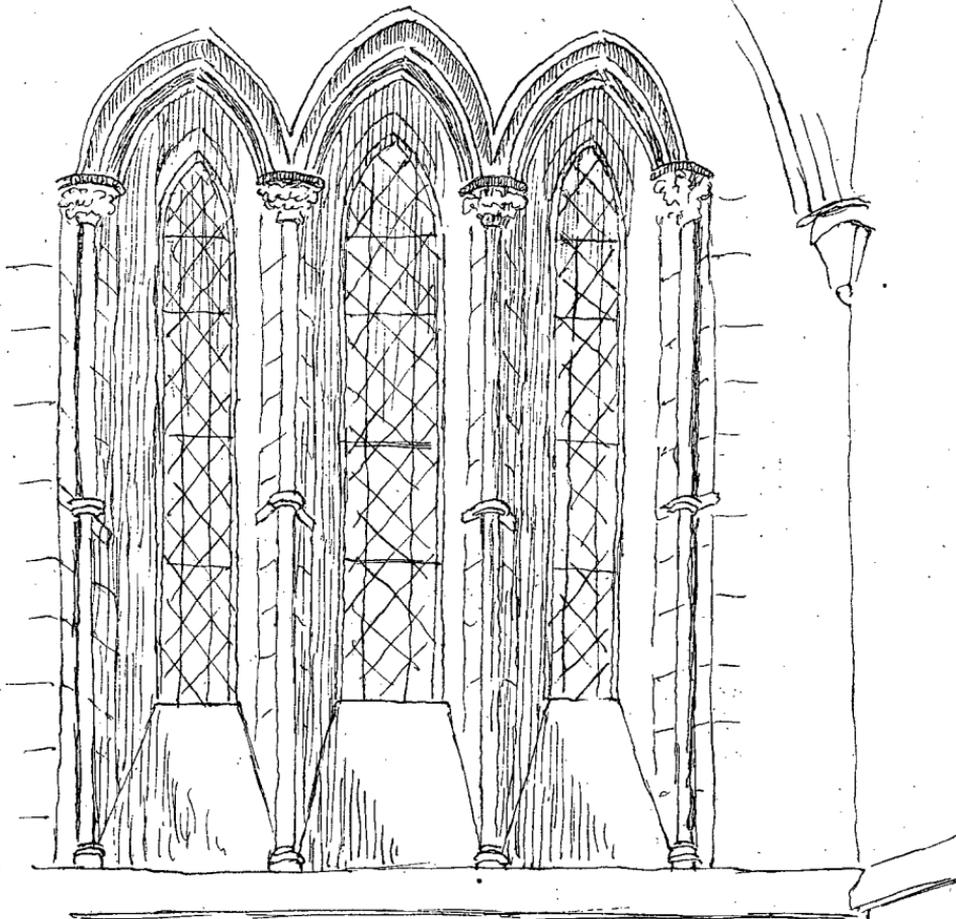
This Church, long called St. Mary's, is now known to have been dedicated, as that also of Isleham, to St. Andrew. Its length is 168 feet, its full width 65 feet. It has grown up piecemeal. The oldest part surviving is the Early English

Chantry to the North of the Chancel, now used as a vestry, and a place of meeting for the clergy of the Deanery. It is of very plain exterior, a mere box, and looks all the plainer for having its once highly-pitched roof replaced by a flat covering of lead, and has slight upright buttresses with simple octagonal cones for pinnacles at the outer corners, and midway on its Northern face; also a Campanile of higher elevation, but of similar character, at the South-West corner. Within, the triple lancet window to the East is deeply recessed, and set in well-moulded arches carried by pillars of Purbeck marble with foliated capitals; there are also two single lancets to the North. The roof is vaulted in two bays, with moulded ribs of clunch, resting on brackets of Purbeck marble. The stair of the Campanile was in Early Perpendicular times turned so as to give upon the rood loft, then introduced, as so often elsewhere, to the great detriment of the edifice, but long since removed; and again fifty years since replaced by a clumsy organ gallery, which also has now disappeared.

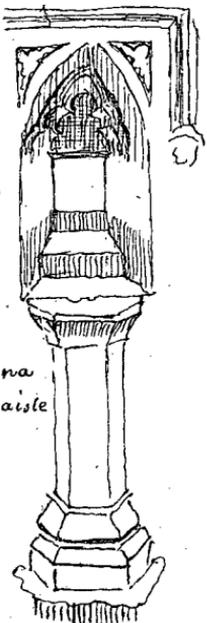
The noble Chancel is, in the main, Early English. Two of the original windows, of plain geometrical tracery, yet remain to the South; but it was modified by the introduction of Decorated windows, one to the East and two on either side, under Richard Wychford, Vicar, who lies near the altar steps, under a large slab of marble, in which the matrix of a large floriated cross of brass yet remains.

The East window is beautiful and very original in its tracery. It is divided below into six lights, of which the centre is the widest; the adjoining pair on either side of less dimensions, but equal to each other; and the two outer lights the narrowest. These last are virtually continued, by a chain of quatrefoils, twelve in number, round the head of the window, between which and the three pointed arches into which the centre rises, and the two pairs of side lights are gathered,\* is suspended an elliptic

\* See Drawing of the North-East corner of the chancel.



*E. window of Choir*



*Piscina  
in N. aisle*

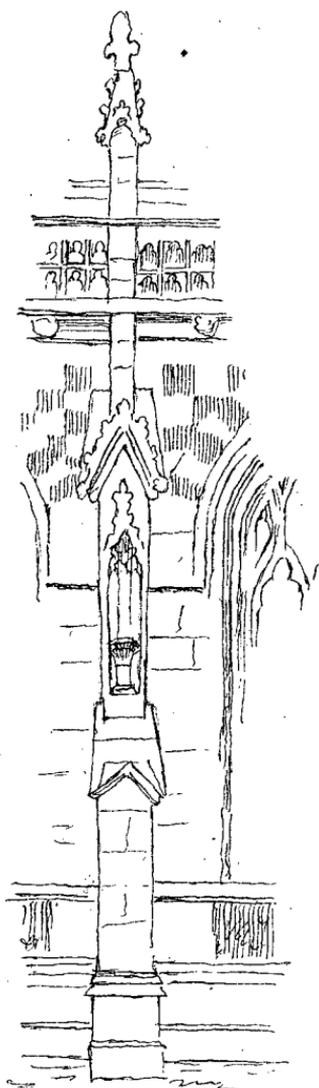


*Spandrel in N. aisle  
over organ*

*July 1872*

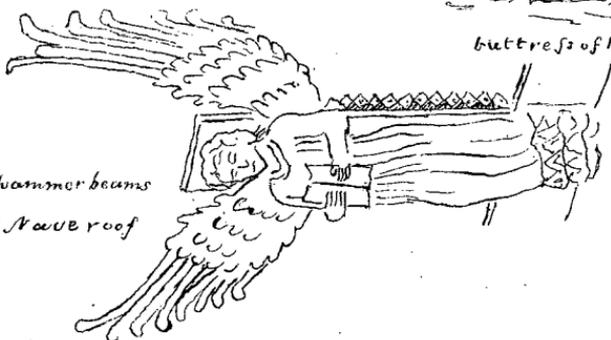


*N. E. corner of Chancel*



*buttress of Nave*

*Angel on hammer beams  
of Nave roof*



*AP 1872*

aureole, filled in by an octrefoil, bordered with tracery in the form of flowers and leaves; the whole of which was once doubtless suitably glazed. The other four windows, by the same designer, simple as they are, are yet more original. These are of three lights each; extraordinary prominence in *apparent* height is given to the central light, which is buttressed as it were by a trefoil rising from either side light, and they have been taken to symbolize the idea of the Unity exalted by the apparent subservience of the other two persons of the Trinity.\* There is an Early English double piscina to the South, unfortunately modified in the restoration; and adjoining, three Early English sedilia, gradated from the East, in the sill of the South-East window. These have columns of Purbeck marble, as have also the Decorated windows of the Chancel.

The Chancel-arch is a grand specimen of Early English design. It rests on either side on three splayed columns, separated by lines of dog-tooth moulding. These have fine foliated capitals, in the conventional style of the period; and the dog-tooth reappears along the outer verge of the mouldings of the arch itself.

The Nave measures 85 feet by 25 feet; the Aisles both 85 feet by 20 feet; thus giving unusual width to the body of the edifice (65 feet). All are Perpendicular; the North Aisle is of the earliest, the clerestory of the Nave, perhaps, of the latest date. The arcade on either side has five bays. The arches are very lofty, and are worked with the usual continuous mouldings, and pilasters on the centre of the inner face of each.

Up to twenty years ago a low Chancel roof of the XVI. century cut off part of the East window, and traversed the Chancel arch some way from its summit; whilst a heavy organ gallery was hung across the arch. This roof has now been replaced by a poor timber roof of suitable pitch. At the same time the gallery was removed, and the

\* Windows very nearly resembling these are to be found in the West Front of Fountain's Abbey.

present just tolerable benches made to replace the old box pews. None of the original fittings of the church remain.

The roofs of the Nave and Aisles are of open timber-work of the XV. century. The space between the tie beams and the principals in the Nave, and the spandrils beneath, are filled in with open tracery. The tie beams themselves have a double parapet, the one embattled, the other floriated, and bear at intervals seraphs with spread wings holding labels. The same ornamentation is continued along the side-boards. The hammer-beams, which alternate with these, take the form of angels with outspread wings. These, from their height, have quite escaped Dowse-ing. Their wings, where they have not had to be replaced in consequence of decay, though conventional in their construction, are yet unusually life-like in their action. There is no dead sameness or stiffness about their attitude, but a slight and cunning variety of position makes one feel as if the wind yet "swirled and fluttered in their curvèd pens." Two peculiarities are also to be noticed in this roof: one that the tracery of the spandrils differs in each; the other that the two Westernmost tie beams are straight, whilst the remainder are constructed at a slight angle.

In the roof of the South Aisle we have spandrils of deeply-panelled tracery. The timbers throughout are boldly moulded, and often richly carved; whilst grotesque figures show themselves in the angles of the work. In the hollow of the mouldings the swan and antelope of Henry V. are set at close intervals.

It is curious to notice here, that the older hostelry, which is opposite the East end of the Church still has for its sign the White Hart or Antelope, which was a bearer of this Monarch. It is not unusual in this way to find a relation and a proximity existing between the church or cathedral of any place and its principal hostelry\*; whilst we have only to remember such signs

\* Cf. the Lamb Inn, at Ely.

as the Rose and Crown of the Tudors, the White Horse of Hanover, and the Lion of the Plantagenets, to see how often the inn-sign was the gathering-sign of a party.

The four side windows of the South Aisle, of three lights each, are hardly equal to those on the North side; the East window is more worthy of the rest of the church.

The North Aisle is much the richest portion of the edifice, and must have been constructed at lavish expense. Without, it is decorated with chequers of flint and free-stone. The plinth rises in two gradations, the upper of which is headed by a fine double-moulding. A plain string course runs beneath the windows—another, well-moulded, runs from buttress to buttress, and bends round the head of the windows. The stone parapet is elegantly panelled in tracery. The buttresses \* are very ornate, and bear in each a beautifully-canopied niche. Other exterior niches are formed in either angle of the buttresses of the East end of the Chancel; these are covered by Early English canopies, connecting the buttresses with each other in a manner that is very unusual. †

The buttresses of the North Aisle are headed with crocketed pinnacles.

The roof of the North Aisle is magnificent. Most of the spandrels are filled in with Scripture subjects on their Western faces, such as "The Annunciation," "The Offering of Isaac," "The Burning Bush of Horeb," and "The Baptism of our Lord." Amongst the other subjects are "St. Michael and the Dragon," on the Easternmost spandril, and "St. George and the Dragon" on the Eastern face of the Westernmost. On the Western face of this spandril, which is over the organ, by happy coincidence, is represented an early specimen of the organ builder's art, blown with double bellows by one imp, and played on by another, both in tears. ‡ Saints, now

\* See Drawing.

‡ See Drawing.

† See Drawing.

alas mutilated, canopied by guardian angels with drooping wings, formed the pendant posts. The hammer-beams are carved into lions and dragons; a crowned huntsman with dogs, and a lady with elaborate coiffure; temp. Henry IV.

West of the entrance from the North Porch is the door of the original staircase to what is proved to have been a Ladye-chapel over the Porch. This communicated with the Aisle by a double-arched opening over the North door, now walled-up. Further on, an arched opening, with an "Annunciation" carved in the clunch of the spandrils, was once probably a low side window, perhaps of late introduction, from which all three altars were at once visible. Under the plaister of the modern external staircase signs of a canopy without seem to be detectible.

The East end of either Aisle was used as a chapel; one to St. Margaret, the other to St. John. That of the South Aisle has a grille opening on the Chancel, in the side wall which on either side intervenes between the arcade and the chancel arch. To the East it has a small square ambry, and had a rough fresco, of which a coloured tracing yet remains.\* That of the North Aisle has a small piscina on the inner face of the nave wall.† This is carried on a pilaster, not now reaching the floor, has a moulded canopy, and some traces of colour. At the back of it is a singular peep-hole towards the Chancel. Eastward, a small lancet, which was once the outer light of the Campanile of the Chantry, is deeply-channelled by the rope of the Mass-bell. The altar stone of one of these chapels lies in the floor at the West end of the Nave.

The Church has a Porch on either side, sufficiently large to give it almost a cruciform look. The South Porch is now ruinous; it once bore two niches, and has within two recesses, in place of windows, in either wall, decorated with stone tracery. The grand North Porch has a groined roof with carved bosses, and is lighted by two Perpendicular windows

\* It is in the possession of J. Read, Esq., Mildenhall. † See Drawing.

on either side, of two lights each, now half walled-up. The Ladye-chapel above has a well-designed window to the North, of two lights, and two smaller ones of the same character on either side. Externally, this Porch corresponds with the North Aisle; but whilst the parapet is the same, the pinnacles are replaced by low square cubes, whose recessed panels are filled with delicate tracery.

Mildenhall Tower is the great landmark of the district. It is 112 feet high, exclusive of the modern corner turret; 30 feet square at base; 27 feet 6 inches at summit. It is divided into four chambers, of which the lowest one, opening on the Church, will be considered presently; the next is lighted by four small lancets; the next not at all; the bell-chamber by four Perpendicular windows, of two lights each, filled in with stone shutters which, unfortunately, being uniform in colour with the tracery, give them a semi-blind appearance from a distance. This Tower was restored a few years since thoroughly, and at great cost; then the octagonal turret was added at the South-East angle, which rises to the height of the ringing-chamber, to contain the staircase up to this point, as it had proved a source of weakness so far when within the angle of the Tower; the original staircase remains from this point; a corner turret has been added over its *debouchure* at the summit, on the South-East angle of the Tower, the effect of which is rather questionable.

A lofty Perpendicular arch of continuous mouldings gives on the Nave, and an over-sized West window, resembling a glazed screen of stone work rather than a window, wider than the arch itself, is set over the Western entrance. In the sixteenth century the present stone gallery was introduced, forming below a sort of inner porch with a groined roof; this has a pierced parapet. A glazed screen of woodwork now fills up its Eastern arch. Under it is now placed a large plain altar-tomb of Purbeck marble, to Sir Henry Barton, Knight, a native of Mildenhall, Lord Mayor of London in 1416 and 1430,

*vis-à-vis* with the rude parish chest. An octagonal Perpendicular font, also of Purbeck marble, much defaced, bearing in its panels the crosses of St. Andrew and St. George in quatrefoils, now stands under the South-West arch of the Nave. Once it occupied the centre of the West end of the Nave, and the Barton tomb stood next it to the West.

The church pavement contains the matrices of many Gothic monumental brasses. Of the brasses themselves remain only, a label to Ricardus Baggot, 1620, a label to Henry Warner of Wamil and his wife and son Edward, and the effigy of the said Henry Warner, in excellent preservation, of the time of Elizabeth. He is represented in full armour, with the head-piece removed, and a ruff round the neck.

There is an engraving of one other, with a baldrich and dagger of white metal, done in the early part of this century from the original, which is doubtless in the store of some furtive collector, to be found in many collections.

The monumental memorials are singular rather than handsome. One, a heavy classical affair in alabaster and black marble, with recumbent effigies life size, of a very pretty knight, and his hard-featured dame, in the South aisle, is that of Sir Roger North, of Badmondesfield,\* now Bamsfield-Hall, Wickhambrook. To accommodate this, an obtrusive corbel has been ruthlessly hacked away and replaced by a rough end of timber.

Records exist of some half-dozen Guilds that kept the feasts of their several patrons in this Church. A charge recorded for the thatching of the Guildhall, makes us question where this was. Perhaps it was the dining-hall of the building in the South-West corner of the churchyard, now used as a Workhouse. But at an earlier period this must have been the residence of the Prior; as the old stone heading of the original entrance bears the arms of Edward the Confessor (a cross patonce between five martlets) and of the Abbey of Bury

\* Query. Is there a connection in meaning between Mondes and Mondesfield, which lie not far from Wamil in this parish and the above-named.

(three crowns).\* Edward the Confessor presented Bury Abbey with the Manor of Mildenhall. Jack Straw brought his mob hither, and seized on the then Prior, John of Cambridge, known to the public as a keen protector of the interests of the Abbey, and to his private friends as an accomplished musician, but to neither as a man of piety. Betrayed by his own serfs in an attempt to escape in disguise, he was stripped naked, his trunk flung out on "the Field,"† and his head carried before the rebels on a pole to Bury, and displayed before the gate of the Abbey.

In the Churchyard, to the South of the Chancel, are seen the foundations, and the rubble work of the Western gable of a Chapel of the Charnel, but all remnants of the stone casing have disappeared.

About a mile to the North-West of Mildenhall lies the Manor-house of Wamil, already referred to. The derivation of this name may be somewhat as follows:—In old deeds it appears as Twam-hill or Twamil; in some old maps as Tun-mel; both are evidently corruptions. I have already referred to the neighbouring rise, called Thremhill or Thremel; there is an evident connection between the names. Probably the termination of both was "meol" or "mel," a hillock; whether anything like a numerical signification is to be got out of the prefixes "Twa-" and "Thre-" I leave to those best acquainted with the manner in which languages are sometimes intermingled by commingling races to decide.‡

Wamil was one of four Manors in this parish to which residences were attached; the other three being the Abbot's Manor of Mildenhall, Carrills (*vid: supr.:*) near West Row, and Aspal just inside Holms-eye.

In the reign of Henry IV., when the North Aisle of

\* The same appear at the East end of the Nave of the church.

† Probably "Peterborough Field," which here lies next to the Churchyard.

‡ The commonest instance of this

mingling in the Fen is to be found in such names as Kenny-Hill, Sheppey-Hill, &c., which have replaced the old Kine-eye and Sheep-eye. Centuries hence they may appear as Shepill, Kennell, &c.

the Church was being built, we find the Manor of "Twamil" belonging to one Henry Pope, whose residence is believed to have been an old timber house on Thremil, at the beginning of the century still known as "Pope's farm."

But the present Manor-house is entirely connected with the Warner family. Warner, or Warrener, is no unlikely name hereabout; yet, in point of fact, the family seems to have been an importation, and the name a delusion. We find it at Besthorp, in Norfolk, in the fourteenth century. In 1374, one John Warner, of Besthorp, dying without heirs, devised his estates to one Thomas Whetendale in Cheshire, with the condition that he assumed the name and arms of Warner, so that in fact the Warners of Wamil were not Warners, but Whetendales after all.

Henry Warner, grandson of the Thomas aforesaid, married Mary, daughter of John Blennerhesset, of South-hill, Beds. Their eldest son, Sir Edward Warner, Knight, seems to have been the first of the family who resided somewhere on this Manor. The present occupier of Wamil imagines that he has found the foundations of an older Manor-house in the present garden; but more probably his residence was that on Thremil. Sir Edward, who was for a time Lieutenant of the Tower, and generally a man of note, had three sons, all of whom died before him without issue; and, dying in 1565, was succeeded by his brother Robert.

Henry Warner, son of this Robert Warner, succeeded his father in 1578. It was he who caused the erection of the present mansion, and whose brass in the Chancel of the Church has been already noticed. He represented the county in Parliament in the year 1599, and was at another time High Sheriff.

In 1592 he had bought the Tithe and Advowson of Mildenhall of Sir Francis Gaudy and Edward Latimer, and had become quite the leading man of the district. He had already received the honour of knighthood from Queen Elizabeth, about 1590. This may be the more easily accounted for by the fact that his father had at one time

fallen under the Royal displeasure of her sister for his adhesion to the Reformed faith.

From his brother Edward, who married an Irish lady and settled in that island, is descended the present Irish branch of the family.

Edward, the son and successor of Henry Warner, was unworthy of his parent. Such was his inveterate love of gambling, that his father made the following provision by will, namely:—"That should he in any one day lose more than £1 by play, he should—for the first offence forfeit his Manor of Mildenhall to the then Lord Justice of England; for the second, his Manor of Thornhill (Query: Thremhill); and for the third, the whole remainder of his property to his heirs, as one already dead, and "played out."

Of the next generation we hear nothing, so let us hope that it had at least the virtue of respectability. But Edward Warner's grandson, who bore his great-grandfather's honoured name of Henry, gradually dissipated what he himself had managed not to forfeit.

This Henry Warner in 1658 married one Dorothy Gaell, and a very few years after began first to mortgage his property, and then to sell it piecemeal. Yet it was somehow to this man that the Manor of Badmondesfield, or Bansfield-Hall, in the parish of Wickhambrook, now the property of *Warner Bromley, Esqre.*, was conveyed from its former possessors, the Norths, but perhaps somehow by way of exchange.

But one more Henry Warner, son of the above, lived in the ancestral home; and he, following in his father's footsteps, finally alienated the whole property of Wamil from his race. This man was still living in 1706.

Before parting altogether with a family that has gone out so discreditably, it may be well to add from how high a stock they had fallen, and that no less than a Royal one, for the Whetendales were a branch of the Royal Family of Sweden.

Over the stone gateway of the Basse-cour, which a little resembles the entrance of the Gate of Honour to Caius

College, Cambridge, and in which the original oaken gate studded with iron still hangs shrivelled and lined, are carved the arms of the Warners quartered with those of Whetendale and others. The Whetendale arms are thus given—Vert a cross engrailed argent; the Warner arms thus—Party per bend, argent and sable.

The Manor-house itself is a square and solid edifice of four floors. It has in its Northern elevation three corresponding tiers of broad-mullioned windows; and above, three dormer gables, the centre one carried up square for a certain distance, and flanked with rude pilasters, the other two springing from the floor level; all these gables, and the pilasters above-mentioned, and the corners of the whole edifice, are crowned with globes of stone. This front is but little changed from its original appearance. Strongly constructed of Isleham clunch, grouted; with quoins and mullions of freestone; generally but nowhere coarsely clad with ivy; approached by the original gate and gateway; fronted by the bassecour, of which the enclosure is yet standing; there, with its grass-piece without, yet dight with immemorial elms, in whose branches still swing the ancient vassalage of rooks, that chatter on eternally with the usual 'haut ton'-ned voices of their kind, and its pleasaunces stretching away to the rear, the old mansion has something about it unusually suggestive of the past. The South front of the mansion, looking towards the river, and the opposite parish of Worlington, is less regular, and is marred by the great square projection which contains the original staircase.

Within, the alterations are, of course, more numerous than without. Our ideas of comfort, and even of convenience, have altered greatly since the days when the great dining room of Wamil Hall, rush-strewn, and affording kennel-room for dog and hawk and what-not besides the human inhabitants, included the present entrance-hall and all the base of the main building to the East of it. A considerable part, however, of this space is still occupied by the dining-room of the present house, a noble apartment which is entirely

panelled out of the original wainscot. Even more strange to us would seem the arrangements of the next floor, where two bedrooms and a portion of the only passage from the staircase to the chambers on this floor occupy the space of the original State bedroom, which was over the dining-hall, and of equal size with it, and through which the occupants of the other chambers must have passed as a matter of course, though, it may be, behind a curtain. The original cornices and some part of the panelling of this great chamber remain, though, unfortunately, disguised with paint. But is it not just possible that this large apartment may have been to the ladies what the hall was to the gentlemen on the ground floor, for much more consideration for the other sex set in with the reign of the Maiden Queen.\* The rest of the chambers on this floor are spacious and lofty, but uninteresting to the Archæologist.

We arrive last at the most interesting feature of the Manor-house. The garret storey, dismantled and disused perhaps for nearly a couple of centuries, gives us a picture, untouched save by the flaws of age, of the nature of the arrangements made for the sleeping accommodation of a numerous train of domestics in their Manor-houses in the country, by the squires and knights of earlier generations.

We have here a gallery the length of the whole house, lighted at either end; three small chambers, occupying the dormers noticed without, project on either either side, six in all—these seem to have been *curtained off* as apartments for female domestics; whilst at the floor level, along the side walls of the gallery, are six recesses under the tiles resembling the bunks on board of a fishing smack, which probably served for the resting places of servants of the nobler sex.

The original staircase still stands throughout; it is a plain oaken stair, very broad and easy. Portions of the wall of the pleasure gardens remain to the South-West of the residence.

\* It is certain that by the reign of Queen Anne, *i.e.*, 100 years later, the "withdrawing-room" *upstairs* had become universal in houses of any pretension, and was almost always commensurate with the hall below.

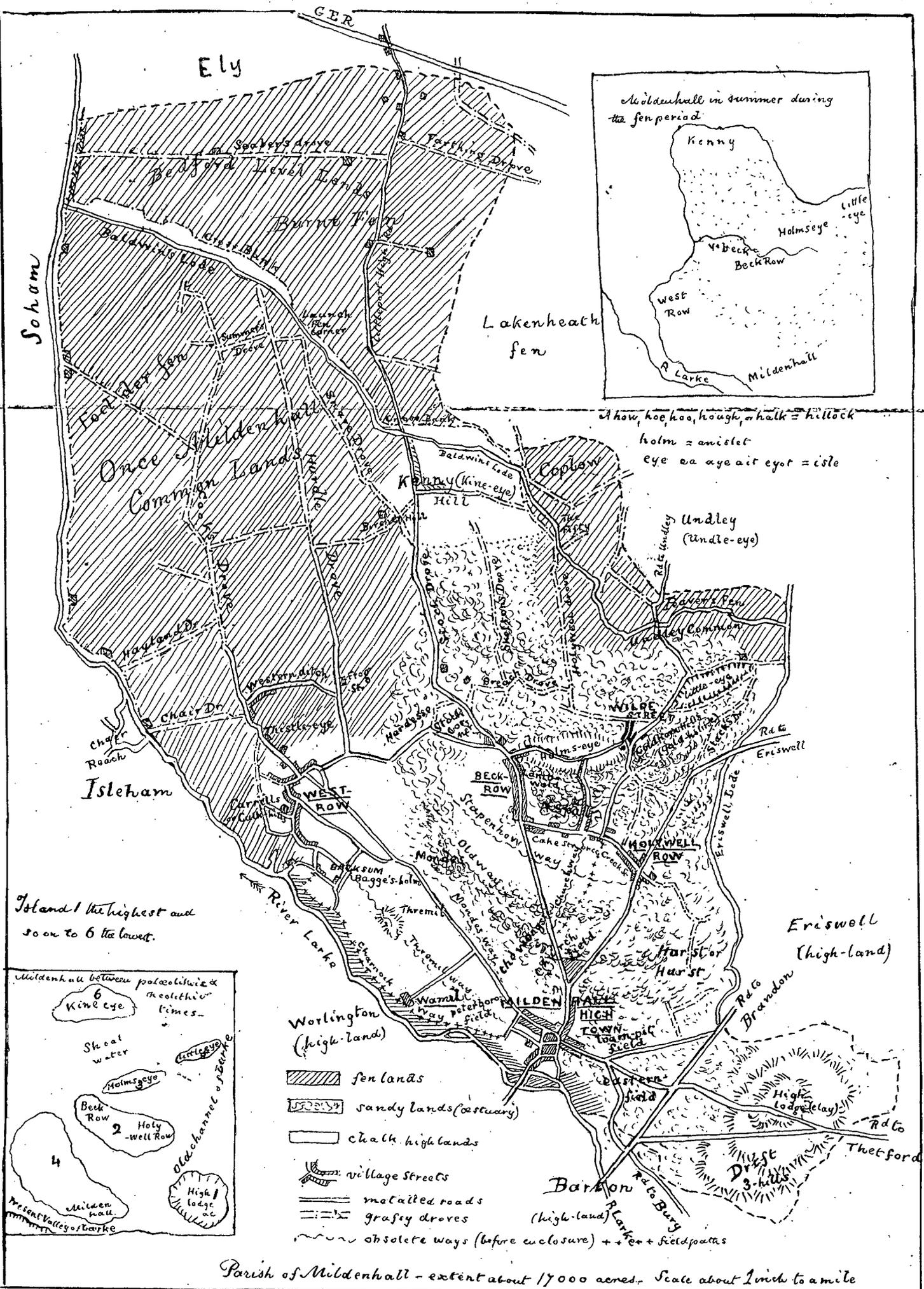
To leave the ground of fact, and pay, before closing, a moment's attention to the voice of tradition and superstition, let me say that this Manor-house has the respectability of possessing "A Ghost's Walk." To the North-East of Wamil will be noticed, past the mound called Fremel,\* a spot marked as Mondes. This is covered with plantations, under whose shade no rustic will walk at night for fear of looking upon the appearance of a certain Lady Rainbow, who is said "to walk" there. Mondes is off the present high road, but a small plantation having grown up opposite the gate to Wamil, the children of Mildenhall still keep up a pretence of audacity, which has been a favourite sport for centuries, by rushing in and out of this, and crying "One, two, three, old Lady Rainbow can't catch me." Now, curiously enough, I learn from the Will of Robert Warner, father of the builder of this mansion, that his sister Anne, the aunt of the latter gentleman, was married to a gentleman of the name of Raynbow, and had a daughter, Elizabeth Raynbow, cousin, therefore, of Sir Henry Warner. The said Lady Raynbow is also held to haunt the Manor-house itself, and to perambulate the country between there and Mondes. A ghostly poem from the Lady's lips, beginning with something like

" Many changes have I seen  
Since this way 'revenante' I have been,"

might prove of very considerable interest to Archæologists; and, considering how often the writer has passed over the haunted ground in the darkness, he almost wonders that the Ladye has not made him a spiritual medium for the benefit of the Society already. When she does, he will make haste to supplement the present paper.

\* On Fremel (Thremil) stood the original Manor-house, so that it is probably past the scene of her childhood that the restless lady, whose room at

Wamil still has its inexplicable sounds and appearances, extends her fearsome promenade.



Ely



A hol, hoc, hoo, hough, whalk = hillock  
holm = anislet  
eye = aye ait eyot = isle

Soham

Lakenheath fen

Once Mildenhall Common Lands

Isleham

Island the highest and so on to 6 the lowest.



- fen lands
- sandy lands (estuary)
- chalk highlands
- village streets
- metalled roads
- grassy droves
- obsolete ways (before enclosure) + + + field paths

Parish of Mildenhall - extent about 17000 acres - Scale about 1 inch to a mile