

THE RECTORY-HOUSE.

At the time of the Norman survey the church of Hawsted was endowed with 30A. of free land, to which it is remarkable that scarcely any addition has since been made. To the Rectory belong the great and small tithes of all the lands in the parish, except certain pastures, formerly part of the Park, which are subject to a customary payment of 7*l.*, but in the time of Queen Elizabeth the Rector received a buck and doe in lieu of tithe for these lands.

In the 31st year of Henry II. Abbot Sampson exchanged the advowson of Hawsted for that of Nowton, which then belonged to the Noels. Since that time the advowson has been uninterruptedly appendant to the manor.

Hawsted was the first ecclesiastical preferment of the pious Bishop Hall, to which he was invited, in 1601, by the accomplished Lady Anne Drury, granddaughter of Lord Keeper Bacon. The interesting circumstances attending his preferment to and stay at Hawsted have been related by the good Bishop himself in a species of autobiography, written in his old age, and prefixed to the third volume of his collected works, under the title of "Observations of some specialities of Divine Providence in the life of Joseph Hall, Bishop of Norwich."

Having been offered the mastership of Tiverton School, Devonshire, he went to London, and accepted that appointment at the hands of Lord Chief Justice Popham.

"No sooner (he writes) had I parted from the Judge then in the street a messenger presented me with a letter from the right virtuous and worthy lady (of dear and happy memory) the Lady Drury of Suffolk, tending the Rectory of her Haldsted, then newly void, and very earnestly desiring me to accept of it. Dr. Chaderton*, observing in me some change of countenance, askt me what the matter might be. I told him the errand, and delivered him the letter, beseeching his advice; which, when he had read, 'Sir (quoth I), methinks God pulls me by the sleeve, and tels me it is his will I should rather go to the

* Then master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, who had performed the kind

office of introducing Mr. Hall to the Lord Chief Justice.

east than to the west.' 'Nay (he answered), I should rather think that God would have you go westward, for that he hath contrived your engagement before the tender of this letter, which therefore coming too late, may receive a fair and easy answer.' To this I besought him to pardon my dissent, adding that I well knew that divinity was the end whereto I was destined by my parents, which I had so constantly proposed to myself, that I never meant other than to pass through this western school to it; but I saw that God, who found me ready to go the further way about, now called me the nearest and directest way to that sacred end.

"The good man could no further oppose, but only pleaded the distast which would hereupon be justly taken by the Lord Chief Justice, whom I undertook fully to satisfy; which I did with no great difficulty, commending to his Lordship in my room, my old friend and chamber-fellow, Mr. Cholmely, who, finding an answerable acceptance, disposed himself to the place. So as we two, who came to the University, now must leave it at once.

"Having then fixed my foot in Halsted; I found there a dangerous opposite to the success of my ministry, a witty and bold atheist, one Mr. Lilly, who, by reason of his travails, and abilities of discourse and behaviour, had so deeply insinuated himself into my patron, Sir Robert Drury, that there was small hopes (during his entireness) for me to work any good upon that noble patron of mine; who, by the suggestion of this wicked detractor*, was set off from me before he knew me. Hereupon (I confesse) finding the obdurateness and hopeless condition of that man, I bent my prayers against him, beseeching God daily that he would be pleased to remove by some means or other, that apparent hindrance of my faithfull labours, who gave me an answer accordingly. For this malicious man going hastily to London, to exasperate my patron against me, was then and there swept away by the pestilence, and never returned to do any further mischief.

"Now the coast was clear before me, and I gained every day of the good opinion and favorable respects of that honorable gentleman, and my worthy neighbours.

"Being now therefore settled in that sweet and civil country of Suffolk, near to S. Edmond's Burv, my first work was to build up my house, which was extremely ruinous†; which done, the uncouth solitariness of my life, and the extrem incommodity of that single house-keeping, drew my thoughts after two years to condescend to the necessity of a married estate, which God no less strangely provided for

* I have not been able to find any particulars of the person who exercised such evil influence over Sir Robert Drury; but the following entries in the parish register would suggest that he filled some office in the knight's household:—"1593. Peter Lilley, s'vaunt to the right worshipfull Sr Willm. Drury, Knight, late deceased, was buried the vijth of Maie. 1621. These are to testify and acknowledge that Susan Lillye,

the wife of Thomas, dwelling and dying in the Dayrie-house of Hawsted House, was with" [consent and leave] "carried to Whepstead church to be buried there."

† At the inquisition taken after the death of Sir William Drury, 1589, the parsonage-house is enumerated among the houses that were said to be well built and covered with tiles. It is now, however, only covered with thatch.

me. For walking from the church on Monday in the Whitson week, with a grave and reverend minister, Mr. Grandidg, I saw a comely and modest gentlewoman standing at the door of that house where we were invited to a wedding dinner, and enquiring of that worthy friend whether he knew her, 'Yes (quoth he), I know her well, and have bespoken her for your wife.'

"When I farther demanded an account of that answer, he told me she was the daughter of a gentleman whom he much respected, Mr. George Winniff, of Brettenham, that out of an opinion had of the fitness of that match for me, he had already treated with her father about it, whom he found very apt to entertain it, advising me not to neglect the opportunity; and not concealing the just praises of modesty, piety, good disposition, and other virtues that were lodged in that seemly presence, I listened to the motion as sent from God, and at last upon due prosecution happily prevailed, enjoying the comfortable society of that meet help for the space of forty-nine years*.

"I had not passed two years in this estate, when my noble friend, Sir Edmond Bacon†, with whom I had much entireness, came to me, and earnestly solicited me for my company in a journey by him projected to the Spa in Ardena, laying before me the safety, the easiness, the pleasure, and the benefit of that small extravagance, if opportunity were taken of that time, when the Earl of Hertford passed in embassy to the Archduke Albert of Bruxels. I soon yielded, as for the reasons by him urged, so especially for the great desire I had to informe myselfe ocularly of the state and practice of the Romish church; the knowledge whereof might be of no smal use to me in my holy station. Having therefore taken carefull order for the supply of my charge, with the assent and good allowance of my nearest friends, I entred into this secret voyage."

Having detailed some of the providential incidents of the tour, in which he distinguished himself as a Protestant champion, and composed his second "Century of Meditations‡," he proceeds:

"After some year and half it pleased God unexpectedly to contrive the change of my station. My means were but short at Halsted, yet such as I oft professed, if my then patron would have added but one ten pounds by year (which I held to be the value of my detained due) I should never have removed.

"One morning as I lay in my bed, a strong motion was suddenly glanced into my thoughts of going to London. I arose and betook me to the way. The ground that appeared of that purpose was to speak with my patron, Sir Robert Drury, if by occasion of the public preacher-

* The marriage of Joseph Hall, B.D., to Elizabeth Winyffe, daughter to Mr. George Winyffe, of Brettenham, 15 Nov., 1603, is recorded in the register of Bradfield St. Clare. Their eldest son Robert was christened at Hawsted, 26 Dec., 1605.

† Brother of the Lady Drury, whose invitation to Hawsted he had looked upon as so providential an interposition.

‡ Dr. Hall dedicated his first Century of Meditations to Sir Robert Drury, and his second to Lady Drury.

ship of St. Edmond's Bury*, then offered me upon good conditions, I might draw him to a willing yeildance of that parcel of my due maintenance, which was kept back from my not over-deserving predecessor; who hearing my errand, diswaded me from so ungainfull a change, which had it been for my sensible advantage he would have readily given way unto; but not offering the expected encouragement of my continuance. With him I stayd and preacht on the Sunday following. That day Sir Robert Drury meeting with the Lord Denny fell belike into the commendation of my sermon. That religious and noble lord had long harboured good thoughts concerning me, upon the reading of those poor pamphlets which I had formerly published, and long wished the opportunity to know me. To please him in his desire, Sir Robert willed me to go and tender my service to his lordship, which I modestly and seriously deprecated, yet upon his earnest charge went to his lordship's gate, where I was not sorry to hear of his absence. And being now full of cold and distemper in Drury-lane†, I was found by a friend in whom I had formerly no great interest, one Mr. Gurrey, tutor to the Earl of Essex. He told me how well my "Meditations" were accepted at the Prince's Court, and earnestly advised me to step over to Richmond, and preach to his Highness. I strongly pleaded my indisposition of body and my im preparation for any such work, together with my bashful feares, and utter unfitnes for such a presence. My averseness doubled his importunity: in fine, he left me not till he had my engagement to preach the Sunday following at Richmond. He made way for me to that awful pulpit and encouraged me by the favour of his noble lord the Earl of Essex. I preacht through the favour of my God. That sermon was not so well given as taken; insomuch as that sweet prince signified his desire to hear me again the Tuesday following; which done, that labour gave more contentment than the former, so as that gracious prince both gave me his hand and commanded me to his service. My patron seeing me (upon my return to London) lookt after by some great persons, began to wish me at home, and told me that some or other would

* This was the Lectureship of St. Mary's, then vacant by the absence abroad of Bishop Bedell. The parallel passages in the lives of these two eminent prelates are so striking as to deserve notice. Both were educated under Dr. Chadderton, of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, one of King James's translators of the Bible, and were constant companions and chamber-fellows. They left college the same year; Bedell to accept the preachership of St. Mary's, Bury, and Hall the neighbouring rectory of Hawsted. Both were travelling in foreign lands at one time; Bedell leaving England in 1604, and Hall in 1605; they each officiated as chaplain to an embassy and alike distinguished themselves by

their controversial encounters with the Jesuits. They were called to the rochet within a year or two of each other, and a long career of usefulness was in each case closed by severe trials.

† So called from Drury-house, built by Sir Wm. Drury, father of the Bishop's patron. In this house the learned Dr. Donne had apartments assigned him by Sir Robert Drury. From the Drurys it passed into the possession of the Craven family, and was then distinguished as Craven House. The Olympic theatre now occupies the site. Drury-lane lost its aristocratic character early in the reign of William III.—*Cunningham's Hand Book of London.*

be snatching me up. I answered that it was in his power to prevent. Would he be pleased to make my maintenance but so competent as in right it should be, I would never stir from him. Instead of condescending, it pleased him to fall in an expostulation of the rate of competencies, affirming the variableness thereof, according to our own estimation, and our either raising or moderating the causes of our expenses. I show'd him the insufficiency of my means, that I was forced to write books to buy books. Shortly, some harsh and displeasing answer so disheartned me that I resolved to embrace the first opportunity of remove*.

“ Now whiles I was taken up with these anxious thoughts, a messenger (it was Sir Robert Wingfield of Northampton's sonne) came to me from the Lord Denny (now Earl of Norwich), my after most honourable patron, entreating me from his lordship to speak with him. No sooner came I thither, than after a glad and noble welcome, I was entertained with the noble earnest offer of Waltham†. The conditions were like the mover free and bountifull. I received them as from the munificent hands of my God, and returned full of the cheerful acknowledgements of a gracious providence over me. Too late now did my former noble patron relent, and offer me those terms which had before fastened me for ever.

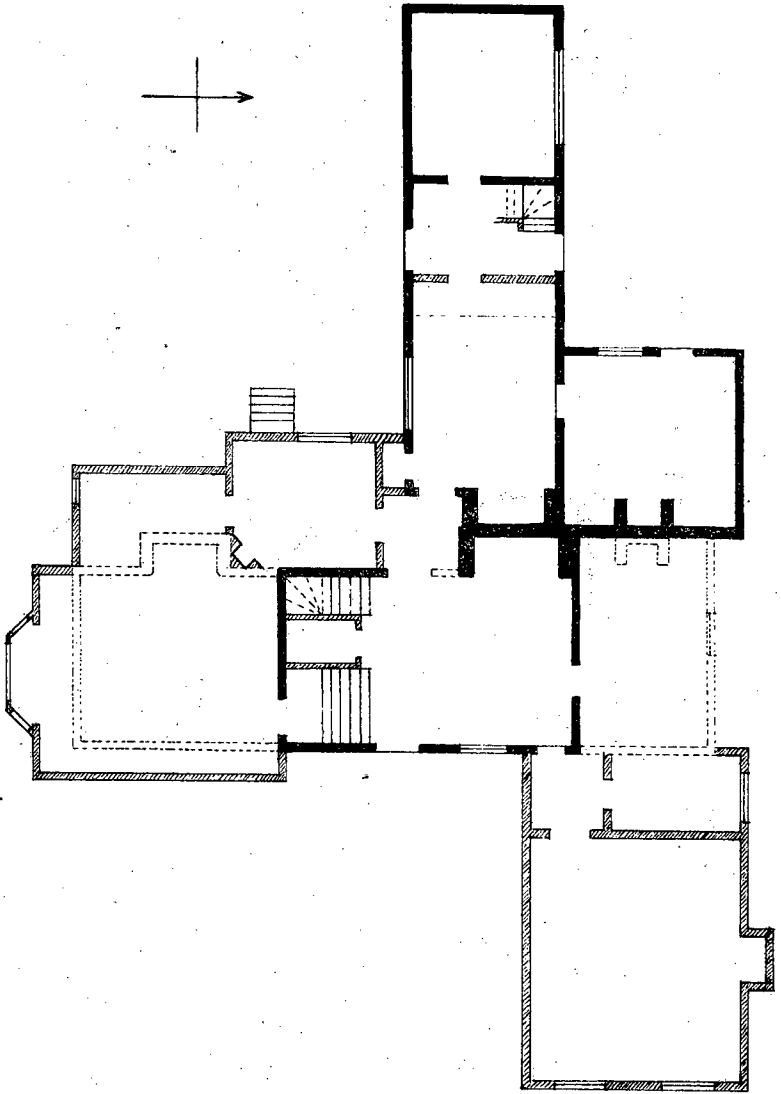
“ I returned home happy in a new master and in a new patron, betwixt whom I divided myself and my labours with much comfort and no less acceptation....I held close to my Waltham, where in a constant course I preach'd a long time (as I had done also at Halsted before), thrice in the week, yet never durst I climb into the pulpit to preach any sermon whereof I had not before, in my poor and plain fashion, penned every word in the same order, wherein I hoped to deliver it, although in the expression I listed not to be a slave to syllables.”

Of the Bishop's subsequent life it will be only necessary to say that in 1616, being then chaplain to the English embassy at Paris, he was promoted to the Deanery of Worcester. In 1618 he was one of the English divines deputed to the synod of Dort, and when compelled by indisposition to return home before its conclusion, the assembly took a solemn leave of him, and sent after him a rich gold medal, with a representation of the Synod. This medal is still preserved at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He refused the Bishopric of Gloucester, offered him in 1624, but in 1627 was induced to accept that of Exeter. In his

* A MS. note on the fly-leaf of the first volume of the Parish Register, written by Rev. Sir John Cullum, on the information of Mr. Lord, of Whelmetham, states that tradition has handed it down that

Hall resigned the living because Sir Robert Drury obliged him to submit to a modus for the herbage of the Park.

† Waltham Cross, Essex.



- Scale $\frac{1}{8}^{\text{th}}$ to A Foot -

J. JOHNSON, DEL. M.A.I.

OLD RECTORY HOUSE, HAWSTED.

new station he experienced much vexation from the overbearing influence of Archbishop Laud, whose violent measures against the puritans he refused to adopt in his diocese. In 1641 he was translated to Norwich, but joining with several of his brethren in a protest against the validity of laws made during their forced absence from the House of Lords, was, with them, committed to the Tower. He was shortly after released on bail, suffered sequestration as a royalist, and after experiencing various injuries and indignities, of which he has written an affecting account under the title of "Bishop Hall's Hard Measure," died on his own small estate at Heigham, near Norwich, in 1656.

The successor of Bishop Hall, Ezekiel Edgar, was deprived of his rectory in 1643 by the same fatal ordinance that ejected his predecessor from his bishopric, but he resided here till his death, in 1648.

The elegant historian of the parish, the Rev. Sir John Cullum, Bart., held the rectory till his death, but never resided in the Rectory-house.

At what period the Rectory-house was first built there is nothing to determine; but considerable remains of one erected in the 15th century still exist. This house was long and narrow, running east and west, having one stack of chimneys between the two principal rooms, and its main front to the south road, which according to tradition formerly ran close to the house. This tradition is supported by the fact that the entrance hall, with its moulded joists and beam, are of that period, and is now only used as a passage between the kitchen and the dairy, with a more recent staircase to the upper chambers, which are exceedingly small and inconvenient. The spacious fire-place in the principal apartment has chamfered stone jambs and oak lintel of the same period. The black lines on the annexed plan, for which I am indebted to Mr. J. Johnson, shew the original house.

The work of Bishop Hall is clearly traceable, and is shewn on the plan by dotted lines. The small room on the north side is traditionally said to have been the study where this zealous village pastor passed many hours in what was

so supremely the pleasure of his life, that to use his own words, "he earnestly wished his health would have allowed him to study, even to excess." That the room on the south side was designed to be the principal apartment is evident from the remains of the jambs of the fire-place, which are of moulded brick cemented on the face, and of Bishop Hall's period*. Whether this room and the chamber over it was pulled down to make way for the drawing-room of Mr. Gosling, who was appointed to the living in 1794, is uncertain; but old people who remember Mr. Gosling's additions, declare that there was no previous room on this site. Be this as it may, Mr. Gosling very wisely avoided the level of the old floor, which must have been very damp, by elevating it three feet, and by omitting the upper chamber obtained more height for his new room. Mr. Gosling's additions are indicated on the plan by shaded lines†.

Near to the house, on the south-east, is an aged yew tree, that is believed to have been planted full 300 years ago. It still flourishes a very handsome tree, though its growth on the east-side has been impeded by the close contiguity of the carriage road to the house.

SAMUEL TYMMS.

* There was formerly, somewhere in the house, a plate of lead, with this motto—"Imum nolo. Summum nequeo. Quiesco;" adopted, as Sir John Cullum thought, when the Bishop first settled here "and expressive of a mind not totally unambitious, yet content."

† Since the above notice was written

the house and grounds have been sold to H. C. Metcalfe, Esq., who has commenced pulling it down; and a further exchange of glebe having been effected with the same owner, a new house is now in course of erection between the church and the alms-houses, by the Rev. W. Collett, B.A., Rector.