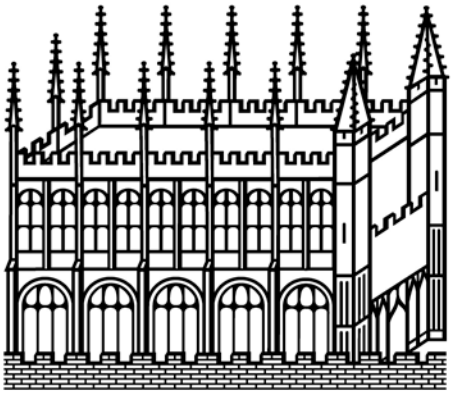


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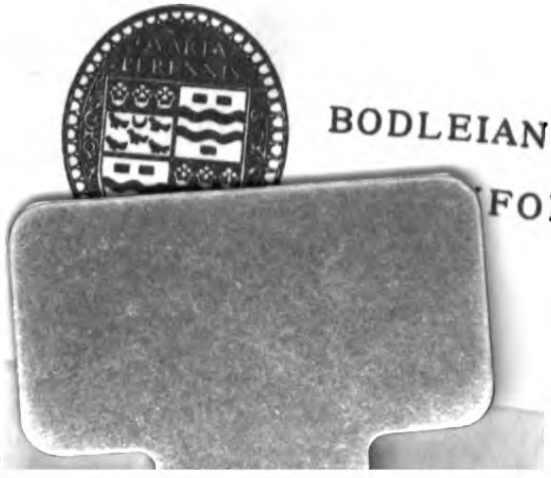


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T. C. Croker
from his friend
W. Jerdan

July 1835

Gough Add.
Dorset.
8: 12.



Map enlarged.

A. Detail

B

THE

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

OF THE

BOROUGH OF LYME REGIS

AND

CHARMOUTH.

By GEORGE ROBERTS.

Lyme,—" Massiliam locum, Græcâ comitate et provinciali parcimoniâ mistum ac benè compositum."—*Taciti Agricola.*

WITH SEVERAL EMBELLISHMENTS.

LONDON:

SAMUEL BAGSTER, No. 15, PATERNOSTER ROW,
AND No. 6, VERE STREET, OXFORD STREET;
AND WILLIAM PICKERING, CHANCERY LANE;
LYME REGIS: LANDRAY, AND BENNET & DUNSTER.

1834.

LONDON :
S. BAGSTER, JUN., PRINTER,
14, Bartholomew Close.

Mild is the clime, though sullen winter reign,
Though frost, with iron grasp, extend his chain;
Some secret charm soon bursts the crystal band,
And strikes the sceptre from his livid hand.
The piercing winds, whose ice-flaked tempest blows
From hills deep buried in a waste of snows,
Soon as they touch this bland, enchanted ground,
Confess the spell, and feel their rigours bound.

MS. poem by a gentleman of Oriel College, when sojourning at Charmouth.

TO

THE VISCOUNT HINTON,

AND

THE HONOURABLE VERE POULETT,

THIS ATTEMPT

TO ILLUSTRATE THE HISTORY OF A TOWN,

AND THE

EVENTS OF A PERIOD WITH WHICH THEIR ANCESTOR,

THE FIRST BARON POULETT,

WAS SO INTIMATELY CONNECTED,

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

THE AUTHOR;

WHO DEEMS AN ACQUAINTANCE WITH GENERAL AND LOCAL HISTORY
NOT LESS INDISPENSABLE TO ALL IN THEIR SPHERE, THAN
OTHER BRANCHES OF INSTRUCTION WHICH HE HAS
HAD THE HONOUR AND GREAT PLEASURE
OF IMPARTING TO THEM.

PREFACE.

THE present account of our borough could never have been produced without the *first* attempt. The individual who sets out upon researches into antiquity, is completely at the mercy of all who are possessed of documents: if these are withheld, the author cannot be blamed, though his work must be deficient. The result of the first attempt, in 1824, was, that many finding that a young man had taken great trouble, without being remunerated, showed what they possessed; and nothing since that date, in any way connected with Lyme, has failed to be referred to the author. The fruit of the great researches made in our national depositaries, of which the author has availed himself, was not communicated when he last put together his little collection. He cannot but forcibly call attention to the period when he first collected information respecting the rise of the town, as a watering-place, and this for his first work. Had he not then done so, who

could, in 1834, inform him? The generation of aged persons existing at that time, appear to have been just ready to depart from this life; and the whole, rich and poor, have all paid the debt of nature! Fifteen years the author has found to be an important period in our local history. Had he not chronicled what he was told by the aged, most of the little events that have occurred within the last eighty years would have been lost, as all the local facts connected with Monmouth's rebellion, and even of the civil war, were at the decease of a preceding knot of old persons, who happened to find no one devoted to the preservation of local and historical details.

Some set but little value on all such knowledge, perhaps from considering that it is not conducive in the highest degree, to the present or future advantage of mankind, overlooking the fact that in the annals of a borough, there are examples by which our cotemporaries may be instructed and forewarned; and that, "whatever withdraws us from the power of our senses,—whatever makes the past, the distant, or the future predominate over the present, advances us in the dignity of thinking beings."* Besides, the bulk of every local history is not made up, in the present day, to use the language of

* Dr. S. Johnson's Tour in the Western Islands.

Gough's complaint, of "incorrect pedigrees, futile etymologies, verbose disquisitions, crowds of epitaphs, lists of landholders, and such farrago."

Those who patronised the first account led to this work. The author can address them in the language of Prospero:—

"Your breath has filled my sails."

While some in their station have an opportunity for a display of patriotism before the nation at large; others, however bent on serving their fellow-men, can, but in their more confined sphere of action, show a *minor patriotism*, the love of their native place: and even in this, how different are the means which station affords! The one man, by his hospitality, gives his town a good name among strangers; another, by a very liberal expenditure, adds to its prosperity; a third watches over its internal government; while a more humble individual, during the leisure which his profession allows, seeks in the past all that appears possessed of interest, or worthy of imitation, attracts attention to his native town, and so labours to be conducive to its welfare.

When the first account of Lyme was published, respectable topographical works contained very incorrect statements respecting its history and local features, which, in many instances, have been corrected.

The author's first attention to the subject may be traced to an early date. When a school-boy, he was much noticed by the late capt. Follet, who questioned, and sometimes assigned the school-boy tasks, translations, &c. On one occasion, he put into his hands the MS. of the siege of Lyme, which he valued as being unique: this was to be copied at school, instead of writing from copy-slips; the possession of the only copy ever allowed to be taken was to be the reward. The possession of this MS. set the author upon a train of thought as to what he really knew of the history of his native place, and he found his knowledge to consist of, 1st. That the Cobb extended farther out; 2nd. That the town had been besieged, when the women were very valiant; 3rd. That Monmouth landed here, and failed in his enterprise; 4th. That the town had been inhabited by rich merchants, who had given place to lacemakers; 5th. That the election contests had been very violent. He well remembers considering that he only knew the dates of two events; that he had never heard of any transaction before the siege. He left the school-room, determined to inquire of those most likely to know (these he considered to be the oldest persons) all the particulars they had ever learned about Lyme. This involved by no means an idle vow, but one he strenuously acted up to; and from that day,

when about eleven years of age, he took every opportunity to gratify the increasing pleasure he felt in hearing old inhabitants relate their traditions of the place. The state of the town when they were young, with the stories related to them by their parents, made up the sum of their information. He also read descriptions of the town in topographical works. Gervase has pictured, in most expressive language, the author's youthful feelings—"The mind being preoccupied and busied with a virtuous search, is ever ready to catch hold of whatsoever can advance or illustrate the excellence of the thing in which it is employed."

The publishing, during the author's absence at a grammar-school, in 1817, of "A Picture of Lyme Regis and Environs," by a stranger who staid here two days only, which was necessarily meagre and unsatisfactory, forcibly recalled his attention to a history, which he commenced upon settling here, and finally published in 1823, making use of the materials which he could then procure. He has subsequently visited the Bodleian library, Oxford; the Tower; and the library of the British Museum, on several occasions. Though his work appears in an unpretending form, it contains information that could not be procured by Fuller and Hutchins, in their day, both venerable names, of whom he desires to speak in terms of high reverence.

His work, such as it is, furnishes a specimen of an attempt at blending remote and modern history, biography, and general local information, in one cheap volume, in which the author's private remuneration is but little considered. This he presents to his native town, and trusts it will prove entertaining, and that the information will be found beneficial. To the many individuals to whom he has occasioned trouble in the course of his researches, he returns his sincere thanks; and begs to acknowledge the courtly urbanity of many distinguished in the republic of letters, keepers of records, the clergy, and dissenting ministers, &c. More particularly is he indebted to H. T. de la Beche, esq., F.G.S., &c., who kindly presented the coloured geological map, and revised the geological notice. The other embellishments have been made at the author's own expense. The drawing of the fossil he was kindly allowed to purchase, when on the stone, by T. Hawkins, Esq., F.G.S.

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES

OF THE

BOROUGH OF LYME REGIS

AND

CHARMOUTH.

At the deepest part of the great west bay, whose extreme points are Portland Bill and the Start, in 3° 43′ west long. and 50° 48′, north lat., stands the ancient town of *Lyme*, in Dorsetshire, scarcely a mile from the confines of Devon. A range of hills, exposing their steep fronts to the sea, extends some miles to the eastward towards Portland, whose abrupt cliffs terminate the view in that direction. The scenery westward is generally bold and imposing, and the whole line of undercliff to Axmouth is strikingly beautiful.

The town, which is protected by walls and jetties from the violence of the sea, is built between two romantic hills of five hundred feet in height, and on the ascent of each presents a very picturesque appearance. It is distant from London one hundred and forty-three miles; from Dorchester twenty-four, and from Exeter twenty-eight. The parish is in the hundred of Whitchurch Canonicorum; and though in the diocese of Bristol, it is a peculiar of Sarum.

Long known to be a healthy residence, its mild and salubrious climate, in which it participates with the southern coast of the two most westerly counties, has now obtained that attention from science it was before denied. Comparisons with the climate of Montpellier, and some parts of Italy, have been instituted with immediate reference to remedial agency: how favourably to our south-western coast, let the great number of families who, within the last fifty years, have turned their course hither and settled, be adduced as correct evidence.

Curiosity leads so many to inquire into the earliest account of their country, that most writers of history have said something of the rude period, as it may be styled, if only about Brutus, or other uncertain subjects, in order to gratify this taste: some, no doubt, to remove all appearance of imperfection in their work, or deficiency in their own depth of research. Any mention of the Celtic nations, the descendants of Gomer, would be quite out of place here.

To the British period we must look for the origin of the name our town bears. The sole authority for assigning any importance to it in the time of the Britons, is Mr. Lhuyd, who is quoted by Baxter, in his *Glossarium Antiquitatum Britannicarum*, &c., London, 1709. Assigning the *Londinis* of Ravenna's Chorography, (in the Vatican MS. *Lindinis*,) to Lyme, he asserts that it was called by the Britons, *Lhonborth*, or a naval harbour, and synonymous with *Lhong-dinas*. The learned Dr. Gale, in his edition of the anonymous Ravenna's work, 1709, offers no conjecture as to the appropriation of *Londinis* to any modern town. He gives two readings, *Lindinis*, from the Vatican MS., and *Landinis*, from the King of France's library. This does not add strength to Lhuyd's supposition.

This place was also called *Limia*, from the little stream. Baxter calls the river *Limia*, restoring it from the corrupted *Cimia*, and derives it from Lim. iii., a torrent.*

Gildas, Nennius, Bede, and Henry of Huntingdon, who give the names of the British cities, have nothing by which can be traced Baxter's reasons for supposing this to have been an important place. The south-western coasts were evidently well peopled. The Rev. Thomas Racket exhibited in 1832, to the Society of Antiquaries, some Greek coins found in Dorsetshire, presumed to afford evidence of very early traffic of the Phœnicians and other ancient navigators with the aborigines—the *Durotriges.*†

The south-western parts of this country were divided among three powerful tribes, the *Belgæ*, who from the opposite coasts had taken possession of Wiltshire, Somerset, and Hampshire;—the *Morini*, who conquered the *Durotriges*, a Celtic tribe, the old inhabitants of Dorsetshire; and the Danmonii, or Devonshire men. The latter spoke the Cornish Celtic, at Exeter, until after the extinction of the Saxon Heptarchy. (Seyer's History of Bristol.) Richard of Cirencester writes, that all Britain south of the Thames was first possessed by the Senones, who under Brennus, traversed Gaul and sacked Rome.

In the time of Julius Cæsar, the petty tribes of Britain waged war against each other with a fury exhibited in our days by nations that speak different languages. The intrenchments, or hill-forts, in the west, are mostly assigned to the Britons, and are

* The scholar will find some curious etymological disquisitions on the words *Limia*, p.152, and *Londinis*, p. 155, of the same work.

† Gentleman's Magazine.

vestiges, if this opinion be correct, of the wars of our ancestors. An ignorant shepherd whose attention I directed to several barrows near Abbotsbury, and questioned him as to what they were, waved his hand across the horizon, which the high downs formed, and told me, that was "*high champion ground.*" The intrenchments near Lyme have been considered as forming two lines of forts, which constituted the frontier defence of two hostile tribes. Since most of these pages were written, a work entitled "The British and Roman remains in the vicinity of Axminster, in the county of Devon: London, 1833," by James Davidson, Esq., of Secktor, has issued from the press. The author assigns to the Morini, extending from the sea-coast northwards, Hawksdown, or Hochsdun, Musbury, Membury, Lambart's Castle, Pillesdon-pen, and Ham-hill;—and to the Danmonii, Woodbury, Sidbury, Belbury, Blackbury, Hembury, Dumpdon, and Neroche.

The hill fortresses of supposed earliest origin, within the range of the map attached to this work, are Hawksdown and Musbury. Hawksdown, or the High hill, stands close above the village of Axmouth, and was evidently connected, as Mr. Davidson observes, with the village and estuary of the river, by a covert way. Musbury is two miles distant: the name is from the Anglo-Saxon "maeꝛc," largest and greatest, and "beoꝛg," a heap or mound. This intrenchment, called Musbury fort, is placed in a most interesting situation on the projecting point of a hill, which rises from the river Axe. "On the south," says the same writer, "the view is bounded by the ocean between Hochsdun, and the lofty cliffs at Beer cove. A little farther west, the eye reaches the hills of Southleigh, Farway, and Gittesham, including the in-

trenchment above Wiscombe park, called Blackbury, with its beacon. Beyond Shute hill and the beacon there, is seen Dumpdon, near Honiton, with its conspicuous earth-work, and at a yet further distance, the great intrenchment of Hembury; while towards the north-west, the elevated ranges of Long-bear-down, and the Yarcombe hills, arrest the sight. Northwards the intrenchments of Neroche, in Somersetshire, may be discerned; and eastward those of Eggardun, in Dorsetshire, are distinctly visible. The view from this position embraces no less than twelve hill fortresses of similar character, from either of which, a beacon signal might be communicated to the others, and so on to a vast extent of country."*

These forts have given rise to various opinions. The main point of dispute is whether they are British or Roman. Polwhele considers Musbury to have been thrown up by the Romans to check the progress of the Saxons. It was long supposed that the Romans penetrated no farther than Exeter.

Those who view these and other similar works as British, consider them to be improperly styled "camps;" being strong-holds or fortified towns, within whose defences, some chief, with his dependents, resided; and to which the inhabitants of the neighbourhood retreated when attacked by any of the bordering tribes, and not constructed for the occasional protection of marching armies.†

In a field now enclosed, though the land is not cultivated, at the most westerly point of the grange of Shapwick, in the parish of Axminster, to the right of a lane leading north from Charton, distant about three and a half miles from Lyme, are four tumuli or barrows. One stands alone; the three smaller ones are contiguous. On the same side of the lane, half

* British and Roman Remains, p. 12. † Seyer.

a mile nearer Charton, is a mound which I hesitate to assign to any particular period or use.* Let no explorer ask any workman for the *barrows:* they are known by the appellation of *hummocks,* a word in common use by navigators.

In speaking of the Britons of this coast, who differed much from those of the interior, those savages, as they are sometimes made to appear, let us not forget that they sent to the Veneti of the opposite coast of Britany, supplies. The latter had vessels built of oak, which Cæsar describes, lib. iii. § 13, to have had anchors attached to chains instead of ropes, and sails made of leather, the better, as he conjectures, to endure the violent gales of the ocean.† They used chariots likewise. Why may not the art of tanning have been known?

An endless subject of controversy is, whether Seaton, or Hembury fort, beyond Honiton, is the site of the ancient *Moridunum,* or hill fortress. The etymologists rest upon the name, which would apply to Sea town, by Goldencap hill; from Hembury fort a fine view of the sea is to be obtained, though somewhat distant. Those who would refer to British origin, do not deny the occupation of these works by the Romans as military posts: but they only allow the legions of that nation to have used what the Britons had before constructed for their domestic wars. Hembury fort is a stupendous work; Hawkesdowne is every way inferior; and it may not be generally known to antiquaries, that there is a tradition of the existence of an earthwork on the clift

* Thomas Northmore, Esq., of Cleve, the proprietor of Charton, forming a part of a manor formerly called Down Umfraville, obligingly directed me to this spot in 1832.

† Very recent trials have been made in the navy of a *leathern* storm-sail, which was found to resist the wind when canvas was split. This has been cried up as an invention of the moderns!

between Beer and Seaton, which has fallen into the sea. Some querns or handmills of curious construction, found near Musbury, came into the possession of Professor Buckland, in 1830; who presented them to the Oxford museum.

The following is a description of a piece of antiquity found in 1817, by a man who was digging a hole for a gate-post in the parish of Uplyme. It was "a golden ornament or utensil, in the form of a rod, about fourteen inches long, and rather more than the eighth of an inch in diameter, except towards the ends, where it gradually increased in size, and finished like the top of a ramrod, but without ornament of any sort. It was in quality better than our standard gold, flexible, and in weight about two ounces. This interesting article was sold to a watch-maker at Axminster, who, acquainted only with its intrinsic value, consigned it to the melting-pot." One precisely similar was found near Horchester, in this county. What these were, no one knows. Conjecture has assigned them to the Druids, as used in their mysterious rites.*

The Roman military roads or juridical ways appear in many instances to have followed the British track-ways. Whether Moridunum be assigned to Seaton or not, it appears that the Romans had a naval station there. Seaton marsh was in former times an arm of the sea, which tradition says was recovered to the land in modern times. A violent storm threw up a beach at the entrance, and the people there about, by means of a dam, confined the river Axe, and gained a very considerable portion of land.

The road from the Iceni on the Norfolk coast, to the Land's end, was called from that people, the

* Davidson, 27.

Via Iceniana, or Ickling dyke. It passed through Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire, and Oxfordshire, to Streatly-upon-Thames; where one branch of a division that took place there continued to Old Sarum, Woodyates, Dorchester, Eggardun, Bridport, Chideock, Charmouth to Axminster, Honiton church, Exeter, Totnes, &c., to the Land's end. The principal line of this ancient British, and afterwards Roman way, of the several branches into which it is divided at Dorchester, passed through Charmouth. It crossed the downs from the western side of Dorchester to Eggardun hill; thence through Loders, by Boar's-barrow, to the eastern entrance of Bridport and Chideock, (once called Chid-wick,) to Morcombe lake, by a spot called Cold harbour, over Stone-barrow hill through Charmouth, over Greenway head, by Pen inn, to Axminster. Its descent from Stone-barrow hill is clearly visible from Lyme. The road has been twice diverted of late years; that nearest the sea is the old British and Roman way. A local paper contained an advertisement in 1833, of "Icen Cottage," near Dorchester, to be let. At Charmouth, were lands in the reign of Richard II. and Henry VI., held by the earl of March, called the *Strete* lands; and near the extremity of Lyme parish is a coppice called "Street."* These, together with Stone-barrow hill, and Cold harbour, all prove that language will sometimes outlive the monuments of a by-gone age. Some of the way was broken up near Askerswell, that the materials might be used for a parish road. The road was as compact as any wall, and was constructed precisely on the present plan, upon which such unbounded praise has been lavished.

The Vicinal or Port-way diverged at Hogchester,

*Hutchins and Davidson.

where is an old farm-house, said to have been a conventual structure, and from Charmouth continued to Lyme parish. It followed the British track-way, —*Colway*, or the ridge-way, and proceeded from Colway lane, by Clappentail lane, to the Sidmouth road; which it joins at a cross way, called Morgan's grave, from a suicide who was interred there. This way continued in precisely the line of the present turnpike to the Axe bridge, and Colyford. Branches from this elevated road lead off in north and south directions, to Lyme, Axmouth, Seaton, &c. The names of places on the line for several miles are very interesting.

Some workmen, sent by the possessor of Hogchester, found not long since some coins; and a few years ago, a man employed in removing a heap of stones at Holcombe bottom, in Uplyme, provincially termed a "stone-barrow," discovered an earthen vessel containing a very large number of Roman coins, which he carried to Exeter for sale. In 1818, twenty-two coins of Antoninus Pius, Trajan, Lucilla, wife of Lucius Verus, and one of Marcia Octacilia Severa, wife of Julius Philippus, were found in a field called "Shellacres," on Higher Wild farm, near Greenway head.*

The Saxons were long troublesome to the Romans, who had an officer styled Count of the Saxon shore, with garrisons in different parts of Britain to defend the country.†

The Romans took their departure about A. D. 446. The celebrated Arthur, prince of Cornwall and Devon, and Aurelius Ambrosius, a Romanized Briton of ability, appointed general in chief of all Britain, had in 495 to oppose Cerdic the Saxon, and his son Kynric, who landed at Chadsford, in

* Davidson, p. 56. † Amm. Marcell. lib. xxviii. cap. 7.

Hampshire, from five ships.* Cerdic became possessed of Dorset, &c., and died A. D. 534.†

The West Saxons having been converted to Christianity, their kings, in order to show their piety and sense of religion, were induced to found and endow religious houses. A monastery was established at Sherborne by Ina, king of the West Saxons, in 712. In a curious MS. in the Cotton Library,‡ of the kings who were founders of the church at Sherborne, appears the first mention of Lyme, which Camden quotes.

Kinwulf, king of the West Saxons, gave, A. D. 774, to the church of Sherborne, the land of one manse on the west bank of the *Lim*, not far from its mouth, so long as salt should be boiled there for the said church to supply manifold necessities.—Ut sal coqueretur ad sustentationem multiformis necessitatis. Though the South Saxons understood the making of salt, yet we are assured by the venerable Bede, that they were ignorant of the very necessary and useful art of fishing. They could catch no other fish but eels, till they were instructed by Wilfrid, bishop of York, and his followers, who took shelter in their country, A. D. 678. Though a dreadful famine raged, the people could not catch any thing but eels. The bishop collected all the eel nets, and sent his own servants to sea and caught fish.§

This statement, if meant universally, is scarcely credible, seeing that the Romans must have instructed their predecessors, the Britons, in the art of catching, and the practice of eating fish. British oysters were celebrated at Rome, and it is remarkable that the names of many of our fishes are derived from

*Asser. †Saxon Chron. ‡Faust. A. xi. fol. 23. a.
§Bede, Hist. Eccles. vol. iv. c. 14, quoted by Dr. Henry, vol. iv. p. 99.

Roman-British denominations. See Whitaker's Hist. of Manchester, b. i. ch. 10.

During the Saxon period, the neighbouring coast was particularly subject to the invasions of the Danes, concerning whom so much has been written. In 787, the Danes, Northern men, or Normans, landed at Portland from three ships, to reconnoitre the country, which they did without interruption, as the Saxons had neglected their marine. A. D. 833, according to the Saxon chronicle, though some of our historians place the event in 831 or 832, a dreadful battle was fought at Charmouth. The Danes having met with repulses in other parts of the kingdom, sailed to Charmouth, where having landed, Speed says, "they made cruel ravage and slaughter." Their fleet consisted of thirty-five ships, containing a powerful army: their whole force, Huntingdon remarks, must have amounted to 17,500 men; other writers have estimated their numbers at about 15,000. Egbert collected the whole force of the county, and marched to attack them, after they had continued their ravages, according to Matthew of Westminster, about a twelvemonth. The king had nearly succeeded in cutting them off as they were forming; he threw them into great confusion, but continual supplies of men from the ships turned the scale in their favour. The Saxons were routed: the night alone prevented their destruction by the infuriated invaders, by the favour of which, Speed says, the king hardly escaped. Among the number of the slain were two earls, his principal officers, Dudda and Osmond, Wigen, bishop of Sherborne, and Hereferth, bishop of Winton. The Danes, finding a settlement would be liable to the attacks of the brave Egbert, retired to their ships with precipitation, and set sail. They continued to hover about the coast. In 840, they

effected a landing on the same spot, (æt Carrum,) from the same number of ships. Ethelwulf's army, which he headed in person, advanced to encounter them: a bloody battle ensued, which, after a desperate struggle, terminated in the Danes remaining masters of the field, though they shortly afterwards retired without any spoil. A successive series of invasions followed.

Before proceeding to say more of the Danes, some notice must be taken of Coney, or Conig castle, (marked in the map,) a very extensive earth-work south of Lambart's castle, another work of similar character, and situated on a high ridge, the western boundary of the vale of Marshwood, about three miles northward of the mouth of the Char. The name is derived from the Anglo-Saxon "cyng," or "cyning," a king. "It was in all probability," says Mr. Davidson, "the camp of Egbert, when he encountered the Danes at Charmouth." The road from Charmouth to Lambart's castle passes through Coney castle. The eastern side is fenced with triple mounds; the western is bounded by a precipice.

Alfred, the founder of a marine for the protection of the western coast, had ships of 60 oars, some with more. They were built neither after the Frisian nor Danish manner.*

The treasure of Glastonbury abbey, the *Secretum Abbatis*, or Abbot's Secret Book, is now in the Bodleian library, Oxford. In this ancient record, fol. 212 a, is a grant from Athelstan, the king, to earl Athelstan, a noble adopted by him, as is stated in express terms, of six manses, *aseluli* (?) by the stream, at a place where people of long standing and in common language have given the name *at Lym*. The lands were to be free from all base or villain

*Saxon Chron.

service, *(servili jugo)* except in two particulars:* the erection of a bridge, and joint erection of a strong-hold, *(expedicione pontis arcisve coedificatione.)* The grant concludes in the style of that period:—"Finally, if any one against our will shall agree, by acting fraudulently to violate this our grant, may he endure icy blasts from the winged army of malignant spirits, unless he first repent," &c.

Frère Bernard, in his prayer at the dedication of St. Sauveur's church, in Guernsey, A. D. 1154, entreated for protection to that church, *de foudre, d'orages, de feux étincelans, de flammes volantes,* DRAGONS DIABOLIQUES. The marquis of Bath has a copy of the abbot's register.

Just nine hundred years have elapsed since this grant was made, and the expression *at Lyme* is of every day occurrence. Since that period a town has been built, called, from the river, Lyme; so we now mean *at the town of Lyme*, whereas the Saxons spoke of the river, *at Lyme*, that is, by the river Lym.

The *arx*, or strong-hold, calls for some notice, and furnishes occasion for further mention of the Danes. In the years 981, 987, 988, 999, the Danes plundered this coast, as Hoveden and Bromton inform us, and failed at the *castle* of Exmouth, in 1001. In Guernsey are the remains of two famous castles, called, from their situation, the *Château des Marais* and *du Vale*, into which all the inhabitants drove their cattle, and took their effects upon the approach of these freebooters.† Their invasions, during 200 years, were sometimes attended with mer-

* In the document *three*; though two only are stated. This grant is printed in the splendid edition of Dugdale's Monasticon.

† In 1008 every 310 hides of land had to furnish one vessel; every eight hides a helmet and breast-plate, to defend the coast.—*Seyer's Bristol.*

cantile objects; that is, with selling, plunder, and buying goods. Rollo spent the winter in England. Previously to his invasion of France, he sent envoys to king Alfred, saying, "We will not lay waste your kingdom, nor will we take away plunder or carry it to our ships: we only ask permission for both parties to buy and sell peaceably." It will be difficult to reconcile the swift marches of the Danes, their retreats, sometimes without annoyance from the inhabitants, and in some places being favoured by them, but by supposing that a great proportion of these plunderers were native inhabitants of England, mixed up with Scandinavians and others. Florence of Worcester, relating a victory gained by the English, A. D. 918, says, "they killed many thousands, both of the pirates and of the others." In the reign of Edgar, says Bromton, there was scarce a village of England where the Danes did not dwell with the English. They were particularly favoured by the women, as they were very cleanly, and set off their persons with care. *"Athelstan favoured them much; they were predominant in the best towns in the kingdom, and all the West Saxons kings employed them as mercenaries in the conquest of the other kingdoms, and quartered one Danish soldier on each house capable of maintaining one." Their armies were universally pagan; the contemporary historians call them *Pagans* more frequently than *Danes*. In our romances and legendary chronicles they are often called Saracens in the same sense as Pagans. Thus Robert Ricart says, "Duc Rollo le Fort was a Saresyn, come oute of Denmark into France."† Asser, in his

* The following entirely from Seyer's Bristol.

† There is a place at Guernsey called by this name from some of these Normans or freebooters having taken post there.—*Berry*.

life of Alfred, always calls them Pagans: "The word *Danes* not once occurring, as I think, in an unsuspected passage: and the English armies being for the most part Christians, and so called by the old historians. The Danish invasions had all the appearance of a religious war. As a further proof of this it may be added, that the Welsh, who were Christians, appear, from the preceding accounts, to have joined even the Saxons against the Danes, apparently because they were pagans. It appears probable, therefore, that the Danish invaders were always joined by great numbers of Danes resident in England, and by many such native English who were still pagans, and marched with them for the sake of plunder, or through hatred of Christianity, as their forefathers joined the pagan Saxons 400 years before."

The interest that attaches to Athelstan's reign, from the mention of the site of our town, is increased by other circumstances of historical importance. A confederacy was formed against that warlike prince by the Britons, who occupied the *western coast*, by the Scots and by the Danes, the inhabitants of the eastern coast from the Tweed to the Thames, aided by adventurers of the same race from Iceland, and by crowded squadrons of freebooters from Scandinavia. He completely routed these confederates at a place called Brunanburgh, of which the situation is stated in our histories to be unknown. Some suppose it to have been fought in the north of England. The renown of this terrible battle has preserved the remembrance of it in the Scandinavian legends.* The register of Newenham abbey, near Axminster, in the valley

* Langebeck, Rerum Danic. Script. xi. 419, quoted by Sir J. Mackintosh, who says the situation is unknown.

of the Axe, contains an account of a great battle that began at Kaletyne's down and continued to Colecroft. *(See the map.)* Athelstan gained the victory at Brunanburgh over the Danes in 938, who, in the language of the Saxon chronicle, "carried their provender to their horses of the sea," *i. e.* ships. To this period must be referred the construction of Honeyditches, an entrenched camp of the Danes, near Seaton. There is scarcely any thing to be seen of this in the present day: the name and spot are known and retained by the people around. Honeyditches is a corruption of *Anlof's ditches*, the name no doubt of the general. There is at Colecroft, near Axminster, the "king's field," where an ancient ring was lately found. Thorolf and some Saxon earls were interred near Axminster, so called from the minster erected that prayers might be said for the souls of the slain.*

The battle of Brunanburgh and its locality, a doubtful point of history, requires a long and patient investigation to free it from the load of uncertainty under which it lies buried. The Newenham register, unhappily, does not describe the engagement as that of Brunanburgh.

Nothing can be met with on record from this period till after the Norman conquest, when Domesday book was compiled. Lyme is mentioned in connection with the bishop of Salisbury, the abbot of Glastonbury, and a thane, named William Belet. The extracts may be thus translated:—

"The *bishop of Salisbury*, to whom the abbot

* The site of this important battle, and the proceedings consequent upon Athelstan's victory, have been enquired into by a gentleman residing near Axminster, (James Davidson, Esq., of Secktor,) whose history of that town and neighbourhood was not published owing to the insufficient number of subscribers.

of Sherborne was subject. The same bishop holds Lyme. There is land to one plough; and has never paid the geld. Fishermen rent it and pay fifteen shillings to the monks for the privilege of fishing. There are four acres of meadow. The bishop has one house, yielding sixpence.

"*William Belet's possession.*—The same William holds Lime. Alueue did in king Edward's time, paying geld for one hide. It is arable land: one plough. There is one villain, with half a carucate and thirteen salt-boilers. The mill there pays 39 pence. There are three acres of meadow. The pasture is three furlongs in length and one furlong in breadth; and one furlong of wood in length and breadth. It is worth sixty shillings.

"*Land of the holy Mary of Glastonbury.*—The church itself holds Lym. In king Edward's time it payed geld for three hides. There is land to four ploughs. Ulviet held it, and still holds it of the abbot, having two ploughs, nine villains,* six bordars, and four acres of meadow there. The pasture is four furlongs in length and two in breadth; and ten acres of wood. There are thirteen salt-boilers, who pay thirteen shillings. The whole is worth sixty shillings."

William I. confirmed the possession of this property to the abbey by charter.†

The Exeter Domesday makes mention of the abbot of Glastonbury's manor of *Lim;* but as six hides are stated to have paid the geld, we may presume that the land lay in Lyme and Uplyme. One peculiarity of the Exeter record is, that it has an

* *Villains*, the lowest order of servants. *Bordars*, persons of a less servile condition, who held a bord or cottage with land, on condition of serving the lord's table with provisions.

† MS. Ashmole, 790, fol. 24, and Dugdale's Mon. vol. i. p. 23.

account of the animals; and in this manor, "the bishop had sixteen villains, and four bordars, and four slaves, and five beasts (oxen), seven pigs, 26 sheep, and four goats."

Twenty-six saltmen appear a large number, and sufficient to make a great quantity of salt. Entries for salt works are frequent for Kent and Sussex; more rare for Dorset and Devon. No rock or fossil salt was then known: the first was discovered in the year 1670.

See Brownrigg's art of making common salt, quoted by Dr. Campbell in his Political Survey, 2 vols. 4to. In a fortnight's time, in a dry summer, they make, in France, as much salt as furnishes the whole consumption of the kingdom, and supply foreign markets besides.

Harding Fitz Ednoth, son of Ednoth the staller or master of the horse, a lawyer and prepositor of Bristol, held lands here, which abbot Hurlewin, of Glastonbury, forced him by legal process, between the years 1101 and 1120, to give up. The dean of Bristol, in a communication to Seyer, the historian of that city, supposes he would not surrender upon the expiration of his lease. This man is said to have descended from one of the *Vickengers*, or sea-kings, (such as Rollo,) from whom the house of Berkeley derives its origin.

Pope Eugenius III., by a bull, A. D. 1145, confirmed the previous grant of Lyme and its fishery to the abbey of Sherborne.*

Lyme had become a town, beyond all doubt, of some importance as a little sea-port in the reign of Henry III. A series of entries respecting it from the Patent and other rolls, to be found in the late and as yet incomplete edition of Rymer's Fœdera

* Reg. Mon. Schirb. Lelandi Itin. ii. p. 82.

Literæ, &c., commences 38 Henry III., A. D. 1254. Gilbert of London was commissioned to impress ships capable of carrying sixteen horses, and others of whatever tonnage, to convey the queen and Edward, her son, to Gascony. The writ was addressed to the bailiffs of Lyme. Towards the close of Henry III.'s reign great enmity existed between the men of Lyme and Dartmouth, from some cause which cannot now be ascertained. Tradition is silent. In the patent rolls of the tower, 49 Hen. III. m. 17, is a writ issued by the king, 4th of May, and addressed to Martin Littilbor, and two others, for them to inquire upon the oaths of good men of Dorset and Devon, as to who were the perpetrators of many "enormous transgressions" upon the sea, between the men of Lyme and Dartmouth (Dertemue), particularly in a certain conflict, when blows, wounds, and homicides, *(verberationes, vulnerationes, homicidia,)* were dealt to each other. The king anticipated great disturbance in these parts unless a stop was put to this petty warfare; and directed the sheriffs of the two counties to summon witnesses to attend the inquisition, and arrest the guilty. Nothing can be learnt of the result of this prompt measure; nor which town had been the aggressor.

Henry III., in the 55th year of his reign, granted a fair and market to the town.* The market, we shall see, was abused. Lyme was now becoming a rising place, though, as Coker observes, it made no great figure till the next reign.

The reign of Edward I., who has been termed with justice the English Justinian, was an eventful one in the history of our town.

In the pleas of Quo Warranto appears a curious

* Hutchins, who quotes Cart. m. 2.

trial, before John de Reygate and his associate justices itinerant, at Sherborne, 6 Edw. I. It exhibits an instance of the proneness of men to take advantage of and extend the action of royal grants to their own benefit. The trial I have translated thus:—

"Elias de Rabayne was summoned to show by what right he held a market in the town of Lyme, set up to the injury of the free market of Bridport, without the assent and will, &c. And one William Gyselham, who came as evidence on the part of the king, stated that the aforesaid Elias set up the said market without authority. He says, that whereas Elias used to hold the market on Monday, now he holds it every day of the week, to the injury of the free market of our lord the king at Bridport, and takes toll any day of the week without authority and beyond his fee, &c. And Elias comes, and says he has a free market of his own in the said town of Lyme, and has a right to hold it, by grant from our lord Henry the king, father of our lord the king, now on Monday; and that he was called upon to enrol his warrant to that effect in chancery. He says he does not hold a free market except on a Monday, and in accordance with the above grant. And he says the market there is not to the injury of the free market at Bridport; and also that he takes no toll, nor causes any to be taken in the town of Lyme. He prays enquiry. The jury upon their oath affirmed that Lyme market on Monday was an injury to Bridport market, which is held every week on Wednesdays and Saturdays, because goods which ought to be and were customarily sold at Bridport are brought and sold at Lyme, five miles and upwards and less than six; and that Elias and his bailiffs take toll in Lyme, as well from their own as from others' fee,

and have for six years past taken toll of every boat laden with corn."

Elias de Rabayne, who figures in this trial, failed in his attempt to outwit the good men of Bridport. He was a very cunning fellow, and aspired to a higher mark. He found the king too hard for him. *Magnis tamen excidit ausis.* The story is this :— John de Baieux, or Bayocis, died, seised of one-fourth of a fee in Lyme, &c., &c. He left two daughters, heiresses. The king granted the marriage of one to Elias de Rabayne, who appears to have been an eminent man, perhaps the lessee-tenant of the abbot of Sherborne here. Under cover of this grant Elias carried the other daughter beyond the sea, that he might defraud the king of the custody of the moiety of that barony, and the other co-heiress of her inheritance. The king sent his precept to the sheriff to seize the estates of John de Baieux. Records mention an extent 9 Edward I. Coker says Elias forfeited his lands, probably for this offence.—*See Hutchins,* vol. i. p. 594.

In the extent it appears that he held two mills in demesne, a water-course, and a rent of £4. 18*s.* 8*d.* from the free men and villains.

In the 8th Edward I. a jury certified the abbot of Sherborne's claim of the assize of bread and beer at Lyme.* About this time that manor came to the crown, whether by exchange or purchase is not known. The same thing happened to the abbot of Glastonbury's manor. Hutchins supposes, that William Belet's portion of the parish was swallowed up in one of the other two; and that both united might have been granted either to the town or some particular persons. Dorchester castle, with a forest,

* Willis, Not. Parl. Plac. Jur. and Assis. and de Quo Warr. c. Dorset 8 Edw. I. R. 13 Dorset.

was granted to William Belet, 55 Hen. III.* So late as 1327, when the Testa de Neville was compiled, to obtain information of the scutage to be levied for the Scottish war, Robert Belet held lands here by knight's service. Frome Belet took its name from this family. The Glastonbury manor has been confounded with Colway: it extended over Lyme and Uplyme. Gregory Charlemayne held a place in Lyme of the abbot by knight's service, and yearly rent of 4*s*. and suit of court at Uplyme. Lyme is distinguished as *Nether-lym supra mare*. The Saxons occasionally styled it *Estlim*. Having now become the king's demesne, it assumed the addition of *Regis*—Lyme Regis, or King's Lyme, the first of which it has ever since retained.

Edward I. granted a charter, April 3, in the 12th year of his reign, when at Carnarvon, in these terms:—

The king, &c., greeting. Know ye that we will, and have granted for ourselves, and our heirs, that our town of *Lyme*, in the county of Dorset, shall henceforth be a *free borough*, and that the men of the same town shall be *free burgesses;* that they may have a *merchants' guild*, with all things to such guild belonging, in the said borough, and other liberties and free customs, which, by our charter, we lately granted to our burgesses of Melcomb, and which our citizens of London, by the charters of our progenitors, sometime kings of England, have reasonably used up to this time in their affairs and merchandize, without let or hindrance of the justices, sheriffs, bailiffs, or any other officers for ever; directing and strictly enjoining for us, and our heirs, that no one trouble, disturb, or molest them in person or property, contrary to the liberties and free customs aforesaid.

* Savage's Dorchester.

The *Merchants' Guild* was an association of tradesmen, to protect and regulate their several trades. Liberties were sometimes granted to a merchants' guild—here to *all!* The importance of this will be apparent, when it is shewn, that by the laws of William I., buying and selling and making a profit, were strictly confined to boroughs, and not permitted elsewhere, probably for the sake of securing the custom of the king or the lord. We find by the trial 6 Edward I., that our townsmen had in vain attempted to hold a market all the week. The revenues of boroughs arose from reserved rents of the lands and houses, and fines for renewals; for the burgesses were the lord's tenants; here the lord happened to be the king. Other sources of revenue were licenses for trade, customs, or merchandize, the third penny, toll of mills, &c., which revenues, either wholly or in part, the lord usually let to farm at a certain rent.

The freedom was enjoyed by all the members of the guild; but the government of it belonged to the burghers only, or to those who held the lands and tenements.

There exists no document exhibiting the precise bounds of the borough, though these are well known. The parish contains 1600 acres; the borough about 40. It now extends but little beyond the town. There are, however, thirteen detached closes, which have enjoyed all the immunities and privileges of the borough. One of these Lanchy-craft, (a Saxon name, implying a *sloping field*,) is at the extremity of the parish. Tradition is silent as to the reason for including these portions of land. Probably they belonged to the king at the period of the first charter, or to some influential persons.

The grant of these liberties conspired in an eminent degree to the prosperity of the town. Mer-

chants resided here, and transacted the business of a considerable extent of country.

A question has been raised, and discussed not unfrequently during the fourth century after the grant of this charter, as to whether this was the *first* charter granted to Lyme. It was a most important point to decide whether ours is a borough by *prescription* or by *charter*. It is true that no mention is made of any pre-existing charter, nor that this is the first. Bailiffs of Lyme are addressed in the reign of Henry III.

It may be presumed that this first charter was too indefinite in its allusions to Melcomb and London, or that something more particular and expressive was requisite. No later than Jan. 1, in the 13th Edward I., the year after the first charter was granted, the king, when at Bristol, granted a charter of full liberties, which is here translated and accompanied by explanations.* These are rendered necessary in order to elucidate several words and customs of the 13th century.

Edward, by the grace of God, king of England, lord of Ireland, and duke of Aquitaine, to the archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, earls, barons, justices, sheriffs, rulers, ministers, and all his bailiffs and faithful subjects, greeting. Know ye that we have granted, for us and our heirs, to our burgesses of Lyme, in the county of Dorset, all the liberties granted to our citizens of London; viz. that no one shall be *compelled to plead without the bounds* of the borough, concerning any thing save of foreign tenures, our moneyers and ministers excepted, and what shall happen to be done against the peace of our realm, which acccording to the common law of the realm is wont to be determined in

* Rot. Pat. 1 Hen. IV., pt. 8, m. 20, where it is recited.

those parts where such trespasses shall have been committed; excepting likewise, pleas concerning merchandize, which, according to the merchant law, are wont to be determined in boroughs and fairs: so however that disputes may be settled by four or five of the aforesaid burgesses, who may be present in the said boroughs and fairs: saving to us amerciaments therefrom in any way arising, which they shall faithfully answer to us and our heirs under heavy forfeiture. We have likewise granted to our said burgesses, to be *quit of murder (quitanciam murdri)* within the said borough and *portsoken*. And that none of the said burgesses shall *wage battel (faciat duellum.)* And *that they may discharge themselves* concerning pleas of the crown, which shall happen within the borough aforesaid, and the suburbs thereof, according to the ancient custom of the city of London, except however that which is excepted in the liberties of the city of London; that it shall not be lawful to *swear positively* upon the *graves of the dead* of that which the deceased would have said if living, but that in the place of such who before their deaths were chosen to make proof of matter controverted *(ad eos disrationandos)* for those who were summoned or arraigned of things belonging to pleas of the crown, other free and lawful men shall be chosen, who shall do without delay, what ought to have been done by the aforesaid deceased if living. And likewise, that no one shall *take lodgings* within the bounds of the borough and portsoken, by *force or delivery of the marshal, (capiat hospicium per vim vel liberationem marescalli.)* We have also granted to our burgesses, that throughout our whole land and dominions, wherever any of them shall come with their goods and merchandize, and also in all sea ports, as well on this side as beyond sea, they shall

be *quit of all toll and lastage*, and all other custom, except our prisage of one tun of wine before, and another behind the mast, at twenty shillings a tun, to be paid in the manner in which we and our predecessors have usually taken this prisage.* And if any one wheresoever, here or beyond sea, or in our sea ports, shall take toll or lastage, or any other custom, contrary to this grant, excepting prisage, from the men of the borough aforesaid, after he has thus improperly acted, the bailiff of Lyme may *take distress* on that account at Lyme. We have likewise granted to them that a *hustings* shall be held *once every week*, and this only for one day. Yet nevertheless, that the business which cannot be terminated that day, may be held over to the next day, and not beyond. And that *justice shall be administered to them* for their *lands and tenures* within the borough, according to the custom of the city of London; so that as well *strangers* as others may appoint attorneys *(attornatos facere possint)* to prosecute and to defend them, as is customary elsewhere in our courts. And that they shall not be questioned for any *miscellinge* in their imparlances, that is to say, if they have not declared altogether well. And that pleas may be held for *all debts contracted* at Lyme, and sureties there given to them, *(vadimoniis sibi factis,)* according to the custom of London. Moreover, for the improvement of the said borough, we grant that all the burgesses shall be free of *cheldewith*, and of *yresgive*, and *scotale;* so that the bailiffs of the said borough, or any other person, shall not make scotale there. And that the said burgesses shall justly have and hold their

* King John fixed the price of a tun of Poictou wine at 20*s*., Anjou wine, 24*s*. Henry III. repealed this, and white wine was sold at 8*d*. a gallon; red wine at 6*d*.—*Hoveden*. Prisage was afterwards called butlerage.

lands, tenures, and sureties, and also their debts, whoever do owe the same. And that *no merchant shall go out to meet merchants*, coming by land or water with their goods and victuals to the borough, to purchase or sell again, until they are come into the borough, and have exposed their wares for sale, *upon forfeiture of the thing bought*, and imprisonment, from whence he shall not be discharged without severe punishment. And that no one shall *expose his wares* for sale, which have to pay custom, till the custom due be levied, upon pain of forfeiture of the whole weight of what shall be otherwise so exposed to sale. And no merchant, stranger, or other, shall *buy or sell any goods by weight*, that ought to be weighed, unless by our *weights and beam*, upon pain of forfeiture of the goods. And for the *security of the debts* which shall be due to them by their contracts or loans, we will cause them *to be enrolled* in our exchequer, by recognizance of those who shall be bound to them in the said debts; yet so as that no debt shall be enrolled, by recognizance of any one, who is not there known, or unless his person be identified on the testimony of six or four lawful men, who shall be sufficient to answer as well for the debt as for the damages which shall happen to any one by such recognizance, if the same happen to be falsely done under their names; and for every pound to be enrolled in the said exchequer, one penny shall be paid for our use, for the burthen of maintaining those whose office it is to attend to the inrolment. These *liberties* and *free customs* we have granted to them and their heirs, *to be held so long as they behave well* and faithfully to us and our heirs, together with other just and reasonable customs which the citizens of London, in the time of our predecessors, and of us, have enjoyed, as well

touching the form and manner of pleading about tenures and sureties for money, as of other matters affecting them and our borough, so long as such customs are not contrary to justice and right laws. Moreover, concerning our Jews,* and our merchant-strangers, and other things touching us and our borough aforesaid, out of the above grant, we and our heirs will provide as we shall better see expedient.†

Quit of all murder. This is that when any murder had been committed in Lyme, and the murderer escaped, the town should not be fined for not producing the malefactor.

Wage battel. A presumptuous appeal to Providence, under an expectation that heaven would unquestionably give the victory to the innocent or injured party. The person accused pleaded "Not guilty," and threw down his glove, declaring he would defend the same by his body; the appellant or accuser, by taking up the glove, stipulated on his part to accept the challenge. A plot of ground was then set out, sixty feet square, inclosed with lists, with a court erected for the judges. At sun-rise the champions took an oath against sorcery, in some such form as this:—"Hear this, ye justices, that I have this day neither eat, drank, nor have upon me neither bone, stone, nor grass; nor any enchantment, sorcery, or witchcraft, whereby the law of God may be abased, or the law of the devil exalted. So help me God, and his saints." The champions were bound to fight till the stars appeared in the evening. They were armed in civil cases each with a baton or staff an ell long, and a leathern target. The man who yielding, or becoming *recreant*, pronounced the

* All Jews were banished the realm in 1290.

† This charter is from the Patent Rolls in the Tower, 1 Henry IV., who recites and confirms it.

word *craven*, was reckoned infamous. By special mention in this charter, the citizens of Lyme, as those of London, were exempted from the trial by wager of battle, an intolerable grievance, because fighting seemed to be foreign to their education and employment. See any Encylopædia.

Hustings; a supreme court.—*Oldfield.*

Miskening; when one falsely or unduly prosecutes another.—*Oldfield.*

Cheldewith, Leirwite, or Lecherite money was paid by way of penalty for corrupting a bond-woman. The king, the lord of the manor, relinquished his privilege, as he expressed it, *ad emendationem burgi.*

Yresgive, sometimes Ieresgieue, or Geresgieue; a reward or bribe given to the king's or other officer, for connivance and being favourable in their office.—*Oldfield.*

Scotale; from *scot*, a gathering, and *ale*. Scotales were abuses put upon the king's people by his officers, who invited them to drink ale, and then made a collection, to the end that they should not vex or inform against them for the crimes they had committed, or might commit.—*Oldfield.*

Going out to meet merchants, &c., with their goods and victual, or *Regrating.*—See Douce's Illustrations of Shakspeare, for a cut representing the punishment of a regrator, who appears in a kind of pillory.

See Maitland on the Charters of London. Some of these are very similarly worded to the one now illustrated. Indeed there is a striking resemblance in the wording of most municipal oaths, orders, &c.

The same year John Percevant and Robert Walkelyn, two burgesses, sent to the king's court, on behalf of the commons of the town, to dispatch affairs for the townsmen, made an acknowledgment in chancery for the debt of seven marks to

the king's chancellor, to be paid to his use the Whitsuntide following.*

The townsmen do not appear to have been contented that their detailed charter of liberties should be an useless instrument. They, as it would seem, were unwilling to attend at Sherborne, at the assizes, but desired justice to be administered within their own borough.

When John de Metingham, Elias de Beckingham, &c., the justices itinerant, were at Sherborne, in the octave of the Holy Trinity, 16 Edward I., the king directed a writ to them. In this he set forth that he had lately granted the burgesses and men of Lyme a charter, by which they were not to implead or be impleaded out of the town, upon their own tenures or upon trespasses done to one another. He directed that one justice should go to Lyme and associate to himself some discreet knight, to take upon them pleas there on the part of the royal consort Eleanor, on whom he had conferred his town of Lyme. Elias de Beckingham, the justice, took Ingeramus Lewales, knight, and proceeded to hold the first ASSIZE AT LYME. The record was long preserved in the corporation-chest, and was exemplified by queen Elizabeth, in 1571, under the seal of the exchequer.†

Gregory Charlemayne was mayor. There were bailiffs called sheriffs, after the liberties were granted, to wit, Geoffry Walkelyn, who came and answered of his time, &c. There were coroners from the same period of time, &c. to wit, Henry le Taverner and William Brakefoot, who came and answered, &c. Geoffry Walkelyn, the head bailiff, called sheriff in the borough, was sworn. The jurors were William Tuluse, John Pertanaunt, Walter Carey,

* Madox Firma Burgi. † Collection of L. Follet, Esq.

Geoffry de la Funtoyn, Philip Bertie, John de Byng, Geoffry Balbe, John Smoke, Philip de Hendstoke, and William de Hibernia. They presented that Wymany, the daughter of Wymany Torald, was found drowned in a certain ditch, in 1285. The first finder came, and no ill-treatment appeared to have been offered to the deceased. The jury not having mentioned the coroner's name nor that of the finder, were at mercy. The jury returned that Gregory Charlemayne had sold twenty tuns of wine *contrary to the assize;* William Goodrich, two tuns; William Gill, eight tuns; Richard Cok, two tuns; Henry le Taverner, eight; Geoffry le Fevre, four; and Ralph le Parker, two tuns; therefore they were at mercy. They found that William de Bonorle, John Purden, and Alice de Chelmesford, were taken in the borough upon suspicion of theft, and imprisoned therein for three weeks, and that afterwards William and Alice in the night escaped from the place of custody in the aforesaid borough, and getting to the church of St. Michael of Lyme, acknowledged themselves to be *thieves*, and abjured their kingdom before the coroner.* The few following lines in the copy that has been read by me, are obscure. It appears that "the sheriff, Geoffry Walkelyn, had to answer for the chattles of William, four-pence; the sheriff and borough to answer for those of Alice, three-pence. John Purden was afterwards brought before the mayor, sheriff, and burgesses, in full hustings, who acquitted him, as there was no charge. The sheriff had to answer at the same time for the chattles of William Fitzwilliam Levannere, of Godmanneston, a thief, 3*s.* 4*d.*"

* Trial by ordeal was abolished 3rd Henry III., who commanded his itinerant justices to observe that, as the Romish church prohibited such a practice, thieves and murderers should abjure their kingdom.

Alice, the daughter of William le Brewere, charged Adam le Taverner with violence offered to her person against her will, &c., he having come into the great street and carried her into his house, &c. Adam defended the charge with success, as it was proved that Alice was of bad character. She was committed to gaol for her false charge, but was afterwards liberated by the justices because she was *poor!* Walter le Taylor was acquitted upon a charge of stealing three shillings' worth of gold from John Goldsmith. The jury presented William Gill, William Colliford, John Attewath, John Pekham, Richard Cok, Peter Coggere, William Brookland, and William Goodriche, for not coming the first day of the assize; therefore they were at mercy.

Thus ended the first assizes held at Lyme, perhaps the last. Many curious facts are stated in this record, which are not to be found elsewhere.

The ancient common-seal bears a ship represented in the sea, having a pennon with three tails at the mast-head, charged with the cross of St. George. On the sides of the mast are banners displayed, one exhibiting the three lions passant gardant of England; the other the coat armour following, viz.—one and four, a castle, triple towered; two and three, a lion rampant. These were the arms of king Edward I., and of his first queen, Eleanor, daughter of Alphonso, king of Castile, and determine, as Mr. Davidson states, the date of the seal to be between the years 1272 and 1290. At the front of the vessel is the representation of the crucifixion, with the attendant Virgin and St. John. At the stern is St. Michael the archangel, and patron saint of our church, holding a crosier and trampling on the dragon; on his left arm is a shield with the cross of St. George. On the border of the seal appear the sun, moon, and a star, with the legend.



There is another seal of great antiquity, used by the mayor, containing a letter folded, with the legend, *Sigillum offisie majorvs.*

The sending our first representatives to Parliament, appears to call for some observation. The circumstances were so different five hundred and thirty-seven years ago, to those of the last election in 1832, that we may not err in briefly digressing, to consider the general history of the former period.

Oldfield* says, that in the year 1294, Edward I. had been obliged to exact no less than a *sixth* part of the moveables of his laity and *one half* from the clergy, for his expedition into Poictou, and to make head against the Welsh! War breaking out in France, and his intention to invade Scotland, made him have recourse to the new project of summoning the representatives of all the boroughs to Parliament, as in the Saxon times, fearing to drain money except through representatives. Writs were directed. Many boroughs declined returning any member. The king excused when he could not

* Introduction to the History of Boroughs, 6 vols. 8vo. London, 1816.

have men who would comply with his wishes. Boroughs of opulence had some of them no writ, as they were presumed to be too independent.

Towns in the time of William I., as Hume says, were composed of really nothing but a number of low, dependent tradesmen, and this continued to be the case for a considerable time. The representatives of towns along the coast were mostly tradesmen, no landed qualification being required. They were an object of contempt to the great men of the land, from their station in society. Our first representatives were WILLIAM TULUSE and GEOFFRY LE KEU, who went to the Parliament held at Canterbury in 1295. Each had two sureties. These were Geoffry le Fevere, (the goldsmith?) John Wymond, John le Peleter, (the currier) and Henry le Tanner, all of Lyme.

Glanville Sharpe states that there were only 145 places that sent members to this Parliament.* Our townsmen went to perform an office which they could not refuse, being tenants of the king. No honours were to be reaped; a tedious journey had to be performed. To give the greatest degree of satisfaction was probably attained by staying the least possible time. When they returned, they brought their bill of daily charge and travelling expenses both for going and returning, which was addressed as a Writ *de Expensis*, to the mayor and bailiffs.† This the town paid. Each member received two shillings *per diem*. Our members never made their appearance at the parliaments held in the north, &c., from 1295 till 1306, and in 1323 they staid, *p.* iiii *dies*, four days! Towards the middle of the nineteenth century, a few persons in

* Report of Committee temp. James I.

† See W. atte Gate, and Geoffry le Cok's writ tested at Westminster in 1311, in the Close Rolls, m. 16 d.

trade in Lyme, spent a thousand pounds in endeavours to return a favourite candidate!

No tradition exists of a remarkable occurrence—the visit of Edward I. to Lyme in the year 1297. A courtly letter to the earl of Flanders, and another to the countess, appear in the new edition of Rymer's Fœdera, from the German Rolls in the Tower.

The time of the king's stay, and his reception, are unknown. Few could then record the remarkable occurrences of the town, so we lose all description of the manner in which the worthy burgesses displayed their loyalty to their king and landlord. The private letter of the king to a lady in a foreign country, informs us he was at Lyme, and in good health, 14th May, 1297. Edward frequently travelled about in the west of England. He was at Bristol, Sept. 22nd, 1276, and went with his queen to Glastonbury, to take up the bones of King Arthur. In 1284 he kept Christmas in the same city, and in 1285 he visited Exeter, where, upon the escape of a murderer, the mayor and four more were hanged! These were indeed strange times, if we view them with present notions. Society was altogether upon a different footing. If none of our townsmen have handed down to us an account of the king's visit and reception, nor of the numbers and quality of his attendants, historians have fully described a moving court. In Henry I.'s time, the multitude that followed the court, committed waste and spoil without control. Wives and daughters fled at the approach of the court, till the king ordained that all those who were convicted, should have their eyes pulled out, or their hands or feet cut off.

Peter of Blois, chaplain to Henry II., paints in his description of a court life, the prodigious crowds, confusion, and bustle with which the royal progresses were attended. "When the king," says he,

"sets out in the morning, you see multitudes of people running up and down as if they were distracted; horses rushing against horses; carriages overturning carriages; players, ... gamesters, cooks, confectioners, mimics, dancers, barbers, pimps, and parasites, making so much noise, and in a word, such an intolerable tumultuous jumble of horse and foot, that you imagine the great abyss hath opened, and that hell hath poured out all its inhabitants." P. Blesens, epistle 14.

The king's letter is here inserted as a local composition, and a specimen of the letters of that reign. It appears in Rymer, vol. i., part 2, page 864, and is headed, *Comitissæ Flandriæ littera responsalis.*

Roy à la contasse de Flandres, saluz. Dame nous receumes vos lettres, les queles monsire Johan de Gaure, e monsire de Verboys, chevaliers vostre seigneur, nous porterent de par vous;

Par les queles nous avoms entendu, entre les autres choses, en celes lettres contenues, que vous avez grant desir de oir bones noveles; de quoi nous vous mercions cherment:

E nous fesoms a savoir, que nous estoioms en bone sauntee, quant ceste lettre fut faite, Dieu merci; la quele chose nous desirons mult saver de vous:

E nous prioms, qe vostre bon estat nous voillez faire saver tote les foiz, qe vous averez a coe convenablete:

E, endreit de ces, que vous nous avez prie, qe nous pensoms del estat des besoignes vostre seigneur, les queles nous tenoms noz propres, e les queles les chivaliers avant dits nus unt mustre bien e sagment;

Sachez, dame, qe nous mittroms la peine, qe nous porroms, de celes bosoignes avancier; e du plus pris nous prendroms, pur tant qe vous nous en avez prie.

Car piecia n'esteimes prie de dame pur nule bosoigne avaunt ore.

Donnees a Lym, le xiv *jour de Maii, &c.*

In Rymer are many letters to the earl of Flanders. In August, 1297, the king wrote that he was coming to drive out the king of France, who was ravaging the earl's country.

Quarrels and violence between individuals had caused the French king to summon Edward to pay homage; upon whose refusal, an army entered his territories. Our king, to strengthen himself, sought an alliance between his son and the daughter of Guy, earl of Flanders. This earl and his family, upon a discovery of this intended match, were invited to a merry-making at Paris, where they were imprisoned. All but the daughter were afterwards liberated; when Guy took up arms, and presuming upon assistance from Edward, defied the king of France. The latter marched with an army of 60,000 men, when Edward advanced to the relief of his ally. Staying some time at *Gant*, after many disappointments, his person was in danger from the townsmen. No later than the 20th of October, 1297, the king notified a truce between him and the king of France, to the bailiffs and good men of Lyme; a prorogation of the truce, 14th of December, and again, 4th of February.

The king, by a writ dated 10th Dec. 1299, announced that Boniface the pope, to whom the matter had been referred, had directed by his award, that the king should marry Margaret, the king of France's sister, and assign a dowry of fifteen thousand pounds *Tournois* in lands and tenements properly situated; that he, considering the honour and high condition of Margaret, had voluntarily added three thousand more. [Four pounds *Tournois* for one pound sterling, making the dowry to amount to

£4500.] Among other places made over was the town of Lyme, with its appurtenances, to the value of thirty-five pounds, ten shillings.*

About this time, mention is first made of a religious house of Carmelite friars, of which only the following particulars are now known:—It was found not to the king's prejudice if he granted licence to William Daie, or Dacre, to give a messuage and eight acres of land there to the friars of the order of the blessed Virgin Mary of mount Carmel, to build, *de novo*, an oratory and house for their habitation for ever; which premises were held of the king *in capite*, as parcel of his farm of Lyme, by service of paying yearly to him for the said farm 15*s*. 10*d*. They were mendicants, had little or no endowment of lands, and were called White friars, from the colour of their habit.†

In the *Originalia*, vol. i. p. 121, dated 1302, is a writ addressed to Thomas de Verblyngton, and Peter de Donewych, in which it is recited, that although the towns of Seford, Shoreham, Portsmouth, Poole, Southampton, Wareham, Plymouth, Teignmouth, Bridgewater, Lyme, and three others, had agreed to send one ship each (Southampton two) to the Scottish war; yet these towns had not sent any ship, to the great contempt of the king, and manifest delay in finishing the war. These two persons were to adjudge such punishment as they thought proper.

Plymouth, Portsmouth, and Lyme were required to furnish the same quota. What punishment was inflicted remains unknown. In the year 1300 the most minute taxation on record was made. The

* See Rymer's Fœdera, under the date given.—Margaret's age was eighteen. Boniface may not always have been able to make so agreeable an award to sovereigns of sixty-four years of age.

† Esc. 19 Edw. II., Rot. ad quod damnum, 15 Edw. II. Bishop Tanner calls him *Tay*. Not. Mon. additions.

collection of it must have been dreadfully harassing. Morant, in his History of Colchester, p. 46, gives an interesting inventory taken on the occasion:—ROGER THE DYER had in his treasury, or cupboard, 1 silver buckle, price 18d.; 1 cup of mazer, (maple,) pr. 18d. In his chamber, 2 gowns, pr. 20s.; 2 beds, pr. half a mark; 1 napkin and 1 towel, pr. 2s. In his house, 1 ewer with a bason, pr. 14d.; 1 andiron, pr. 8d. In his kitchen, 1 brass pot, pr. 20d.; 1 brass skillet, pr. 6d.; 1 brass pipkin, pr. 8d.; 1 trivet, pr. 4d. In his brew house, 1 quarter of oats, pr. 2s.; wood ashes, pr. half a mark; 1 great fat for drying, pr. 2s. 6d. Item, 1 cow, pr. 5s.; 1 calf, pr. 2s.; 2 pigs, pr. 2s., each 12d.; 1 sow, pr. 15d. Billet wood and faggots for firing, pr. 1 mark.—Sum, 71s. 5d. The fifteenth of that, 4s. 9d. John Fitz-Elias, weaver, had 1 old coat, pr. 2s.; 1 lamb, pr. 6d.!!

In the 24th of Edward's reign, a *seventh* had been raised in this manner. Are we to be surprised at vessels *(bene munitæ)* having been sometimes withholden? The towns mentioned are too distant from each other for us to suppose they acted in concert; they were probably taxed beyond what they could well bear.

In the third year of the reign of Edward II., June 18th, 1310, the bailiffs and good men of Lyme were ordered to send one ship to the war in Scotland, manned and properly fitted out at the expence of the town. It was to go to Dublin, and convey the earl of Ulster to Scotland, and remain till Michaelmas. The king addressed his trusty and loyal bailiffs and good men and inhabitants in French, which may be rendered thus:—"We understand that you, and the other good folk of our realm, ken full well, how that Robert de Brus, our traytor and enemy, and his allies and abettors aforetime, and specially

during the truce that we granted now and aforetime, have traitorously done to us and our lieges all kinds of harm and deceit they could, and now never cease to do from day to day what is in their power to disinherit us and our said lieges," &c. The king promises that whatever is done shall not be cited to the prejudice of the townsmen, nor used as a precedent in time to come.* August 2, the ship was directed to be taken direct to Scotland against the enemy, *ad ipsos gravandos et impugnandos quanto virilius poteritis*, &c.*

About the year 1320, the abbot of Ford granted a charter of free borough to a certain part of the parish of Charmouth, within specified boundaries, with a view to improve the property. In this document, which is in the archives of Exeter, are the terms of an offer to persons to build. Four perches of land in breadth, and twenty in length, were to be had for building, at sixpence a year; the rent to be paid half-yearly.

In the 14th Edward II., the burgesses of Lyme paid the king four marks for the inspection and confirmation of the charter of 13 Edward I.† This stood as in the original grant. *Except*, nevertheless, the aforesaid clause, to wit, and that they shall be *able to discharge* themselves concerning pleas of the crown, which shall happen within the borough aforesaid and the suburbs thereof, according to the ancient custom of the city of London; And also *except* that which is excepted in the liberties of the city of London, That it shall not be lawful to *swear positively upon the graves of the dead*, of that which the deceased would have said if living. In like manner, *except*, That in the place of such who before their deaths were chosen to *make proof of mat-*

* Rymer, from the Rot. Scot. † Originalia, vol. i. p. 258.

ter controverted for those who were summoned or accused of things belonging to pleas of the crown, other free and lawful men shall be chosen, who shall do without delay what ought to have been done by the aforesaid deceased if living.

In the 20th Edward II. a writ was addressed to the mayor, bailiffs, and community of Lyme, to make a diligent search for letters conveyed through our town, either into or from this country, and to arrest suspected persons, and send their names to the king.* He was aware of his wife's intended treason: she was then living in France with the young Mortimer.

Edward III., April 3rd, 1327, directed the bailiffs of Lyme not to allow a member of any religious fraternity to go abroad, without a special licence.*

The same king, Feb. 12th, 1328, granted the town to his mother Isabella for life.*

In the Tower is a very important document, among the Patent Rolls, 2nd Edward III. part 2, m. 15, which contains the first mention of the COBB; and places beyond all doubt, that the curious structure, so named, was of earlier construction than this reign; and like other works, famous for antiquity, must be viewed with additional veneration from its head being veiled in the obscurity of remote age. The occasion of this mention of the Cobb, was a petition to the king and council from the townsmen, setting forth that their town was situated on the sea, where no harbour or place to secure ships *(portus seu applicatio navium)*, existed, except a certain work called *Le Cobbe*, built of timber and rocks *(de maeremio et petris)*, which was beat down and quite destroyed by the violence

* Rymer.

of the sea; and that they had no means to rebuild and support the work, without assistance from other sources. They therefore prayed the king to grant them a *kaiagium* or keyage,—permission to take a duty upon goods, towards the repair of that work. The king considering, as he expressed, that the work if completed would conduce in the greatest degree to the advantage of the town, and being desirous to advance the interests and honour of the townsmen, granted them permission to take and collect, by persons duly authorised, for whom they were to be responsible, for the repair of that structure, on all goods belonging to townsmen or not, salt or other commodity, brought into or sent from the town by land or water, for five years upon every pound, one penny; upon every ten shillings, one halfpenny; or what is equivalent to eight shillings and fourpence per cent. This keyage was granted for five years, 24th October, 9th Edward III., when two marks were paid: again, 18th of this reign for three years, *in auxilium cujusdam kaiæ pro* DEFENSIONE, *villæ prædictæ reparandæ et emendendæ*. This sentence, were it not for the context, would seem to apply to the key, and not to the Cobb.

Edward III., in the fifth year of his reign, granted the burgesses the town at fee-farm, for an annual rent, paid into the exchequer, of thirty-two marks, *i. e.* £21. 6*s.* 8*d.** The city of Oxford let in this reign for £40, or sixty marks. The rents of houses and stalls in the market, toll of all things that were brought for sale, fines, &c., were paid to the council of the burgesses or townsmen, instead of the king's agents. It will be found that much that is

* Rob. Cart. 5th Edward III. m. 26, n. 76—Madox, Willis et Rot. Parl.

known at different periods from this date respecting the town, must be attributed to this farming it out to the burgesses. Their inability to pay was set forth in documents, which caused inquiry to be made by the king, whose officers examined into the truth of the statements; and in their reports necessarily introduced many interesting particulars that would otherwise be now unknown. It may be truly said, that for two or three centuries prosperity furnished nothing, but calamities every thing, to this work. The former was enjoyed in silence; but when the latter pressed grievously upon the townsmen, they sent statements of their afflictions which have now become *history*.

There was a hospital for lepers in Lyme, dedicated, as Dugdale and Tanner record, to St. Mary and the Holy Spirit. It must have been established at an early period. On 10th cal. Dec. 1833, indulgences were granted by the pope to collect alms towards repairing the fabric and its bell-tower.* There is every reason to suppose that it existed solely by charitable donations. In the Chantry-roll it is valued at £1. 18*s.* 11*d.* per annum. By this it is evident that the inhabitants had been visited by that afflicting disease, leprosy, which was introduced and spread over Europe, from Egypt, according to most authors, in the tenth and eleventh centuries. The infected persons were cast off from society, and

* The popes frequently granted indulgences to these establishments in order to their support, which held good for a certain number of years, on the repetition of a specified number of paternosters and ave-marias. The usual tenor of these bulls was that a contribution secured the donor of pardon "for all synes forgotten and offences done against fader and moder, and of all swerynges negligently made," &c. Mr. Flight's house, in Broad street, is supposed to have been built on the site of the former hospital. In old deeds it is called the Tower house.

not permitted to ask alms unless by a procurator appointed for that purpose. The poor of France, about the period of their great revolution, entertained an opinion that potatoes produced leprosy; and fields planted with that root were obliged to be guarded, as the people pulled them up to prevent the recurrence of so dreadful a disease. In the south of England, it is thought that the eating oatmeal occasions cutaneous diseases!*

The king, 6th November, 1336, addressed the mayor and bailiffs, and required that ships from the west, bound to Gascony, should assemble the day after St. Andrew's day (Nov. 30), at Portsmouth, to sail in convoy; as single ships were frequently taken. The French fleet was waiting for this expedition; and Hugh Courtenay was directed, 27th November, to keep a good look out for the enemy about Dartmouth.†

Edward III. granted, A.D. 1340, the burgesses of Lyme, licence to build a water-mill, in the *Mullehulle*, (the low ground at the mill,) and to make a trench to convey the water to and drive the said mill. The burgesses obtained this by stating that they were "oppressed with so many continually increasing causes and adversities."‡

There is something interesting in this little grant. The portion of land herein described was rated at 2*s.* in the king's rent-roll; the total amount of which for the whole town, was 32 marks. His majesty, upon receiving the petition, addressed his escheator for the three western counties, who made a return to chancery; and the king then ventured to issue the grant, and fix the value of the mill at seven shillings above the accustomed fee-farm.

* Communicated by the late T. C. Carpenter, M.D.
† Rymer, Fœd. ‡ Collection of Lisle Follet, Esq.

The grant is rather long, and settles that the payments should be half-yearly. What would sovereigns of the present day think of having to trouble themselves about the Lyme mill—whose existence most of the genteel visitors are quite ignorant of? Ellis, in his Letters, shows that Elizabeth's minister was addressed, and had considered the case of a mutinous schoolboy!

It appears in the Nonæ Rolls, 14th Edward III. that thirty burgesses paid their ninths, amounting to £8. 11*s.* 11*d.* There were only twenty-two that paid at Weymouth. This inquisition respecting a taxation, occasioned the recording the first mention of injury done to the town by the sea. *Item*, as it occurs in the document, *Maxima pars terræ et ten' ville de Lym attract' est et destructa p. tempestatum et super undacom maris*,—The greatest part of the land and tenements of the town of Lyme have been destroyed by a storm and inundation of the sea. This is not the language of the burgesses, for the purpose of causing their rent to be lowered; but a piece of information given in a channel not liable to exaggeration, and so to be received as authentic. Researches have added nothing towards a more detailed account of extensive ravages committed by the sea. May not the genius and enterprise which planned and built the Cobb, have hazarded other triumphs of art over nature? We have, in our day, seen encroachments upon the sea which promised to continue, but yielded to the resistless attack of that element when supported by its auxiliary, a south-wester.

The mayor and bailiffs were ordered by the king, 15th of April, 1342, to send to the parliament two of the better and discreeter mariners of Lyme, to bestow their advice and counsel upon important matters. Many of the ports in England sent their

mariners to what may be styled, a "sailors' parliament." This is the first summons that appears in Rymer's Fœdera. In 1344 one mariner had to be sent, and again 15th of February, 1347, a mariner was required to consult about the safety of the coasts in the king's absence, and to keep off invasion, as the enemy was prepared with *galeis guerrinis*, ships of war.

The king sent orders, 15th of February, 1347, to the bailiffs to press all ships at Lyme and that might come there.* This was for the famous siege of Calais. Our town sent four ships and sixty-two mariners. The notice in the Nonæ Rolls, of the destruction of part of the town, &c., is very important. It happened so short a time before, that we may attribute our having sent four ships only to that calamity. It may not be uninteresting if we compare the numbers furnished by a few ports:—

	Ships.	*Mariners.*	
London	25	662	
Weymouth	15	263	
Portsmouth	5	96	
Plymouth	26	603	
Exmouth	10	193	
Sidmouth	3	62	
Seaton	2	25	
Whole Fleet	750	14,451	Military 26,804.†

Ships raised by the old tenure were sent forth equipped, manned with mariners, and victualled at the expence of the ports that supplied them, until their junction with the admiral, when they were taken into the king's immediate pay. In 13 Edw. III. the crown consented to be at half the first expence; yet such aid was not to be considered *en nomme de guges einz de grace œspeciall.* If the

* Rymer. † Cursory Sketch of the state of the Naval and Military Establishment, &c. by John Bree, A.M., 4to, London.

king had 750 ships, they consisted of merchant vessels only, gathered from different ports of England, or hired from foreign countries; those of England, on such emergencies, being pressed with their crews. Upon an average the ships at the siege of Calais must have had less than twenty men each for their crew; none more than forty. Not more than two or three ships were of 200 tons; most from 40 to 50. Anthony Doria is said to have taught at this time the fore and aft rig, and to turn to wind. (MS. of C. J. Harford, Esq.) The mariners received 3*d.* a-day, the sum paid to the best workmen, while inferior workmen had but a penny a-day. A master or captain had 6*d.* a-day, bowmen, 6*d.*, a man-at-arms, 12*d.* These details are rendered necessary that we may not institute comparisons between the navy of 1347 with that of the present day. Indeed, in 1406, when Henry IV. carried Philippa, his sister, queen of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway, to her home, his ship's equipment was two guns, forty pounds of powder, forty stones for guns, forty tampons, four touches, one mallet, two fire-pans, forty pavys, twenty-four bows, and forty sheaves of arrows.*

While this siege was in progress the king announced to the mayor, &c., 2nd of June, the imposition of a tax of 2*s.* a sack and 6*d.* a lb. on wool, for the maintenance of sixty *grosses navibus de guerra*, &c., and for the siege of Calais. The collectors were to be unmolested, and were directed to raise money by loan *(in viam mutui)*, to pay the wages.†

The year 1349 is marked as the memorable year of pestilence, which so many authors have treated

* Ellis's Letters, 2nd Series, vol. i. p. 67, who quotes Rymer, tom. viii. p. 47. † Rymer.

of, and particularly Boccaccio in his "Description of the Plague at Florence."

This great plague, as Fabyan and most historians relate, broke out at Cathay, in Asia, in 1346; from whence it was brought to Sicily, Pisa, and Genoa. In 1348 it crossed the Alps, and after spreading over France and Spain, reached our island, and made its first appearance on the coast of Dorsetshire, from which its ravages were communicated to Devon, and other parts of the kingdom. This plague came in the midst of great prosperity; and is supposed to have been greater than ever visited the world before or since. Seyer records that the grass grew several inches high in High street and Broad street, Bristol! This bespeaks a frightful depopulation. "The Sarum Registers," says Hutchins, "from August 8th, 1348, to Lady-day, 1349, contain the admission of seventy incumbents. The plague continued till Michaelmas." Walsingham says, that "scarce a tenth part of the people remained alive. In many towns all the inhabitants died; the houses fell down, and were never rebuilt." The symptoms were not every where the same. In the east a bleeding at the nose announced the pestilence and certain death. At Florence a swelling in the groin or arm-pits, larger than an egg, marked the disease; which, without fever, in most cases terminated life on the third day, resisting all the resources of medical skill. No astrologer could divine how or when it would cease.* In London 50,000 perished; nearly as many at Norwich; Avignon, then the seat of the popes, was nearly depopulated. Boccaccio attributes the plague to something corrupt in the air, and the history of the period is replete with accounts of atmospheric phe-

* Cantacuzenus, a Greek historian, translated by Joshua Barnes. See Gent.'s Mag. for Nov. 1831, and Aug. 1832.

nomena, of comets, meteors, fiery beams, and other coruscations. Famine, the usual attendant of great pestilence, closely followed. A great murrain of sheep happened at the same time. Animals wandered about without owners, and died for want of attention. The workmen who survived, rose their wages. The king made a statute that they should not take more than usual. This they disregarded, so the king fined the abbots, priors, and knights, for not observing his mandate. Some of the workmen were thrown into prison. The same was done in boroughs and towns.* Among other particulars Knyghton observes things were sold almost for nothing:—A horse, worth 40*s.*, was sold for 6*s.* 8*d.*; a good fat ox at 6*s.*; a cow at 1*s.*; a heifer or steer at 6*d.*; a mutton at 6*d.*; an ewe at 3*d.*; a lamb at 2*d.*; a hog at 5*d.* The inhabitants of towns fled into the country. The great pestilence had swept away so many priests that a chaplain could hardly be got to serve a church under ten marks, or ten pounds per annum; whereas they might have been had at two marks with their diet; and men would hardly accept of a vicarage at twenty marks per annum.

The king, by an order dated December 1, 1349, addressed to the bailiffs of Lyme and other seaports, pictures the distressing state of the country in expressive and startling language. He says, "A considerable part of the population has died of the present pestilence, and the exchequer is very exhausted. Understanding that very many daily go abroad with all the money they can collect, and are going; and that if such departure be tolerated the kingdom will soon be as destitute as well of men as

* Seyer's Hist. of Bristol. See Sir J. Mackintosh's Hist. of England, vol. i. p. 317, for the enfranchisement of villains in this country and France about this period.

of money; he, wishing to prevent the dangers which daily threaten those who travel in foreign parts, especially if they are Englishmen, and to provide for the safety of the kingdom and the people, orders the bailiffs to allow no one to go from this harbour without a special order, unless he be a merchant, or well-known messenger."

Rex Ballivis de Lyme salutem.

Quia non modica pars populi regni nostri Angliæ in præsenti pestilentiâ est defuncta, et thesaurus ejusdem regni plurimum exhaustus, et ut intelleximus, quamplures ejusdem regni nostri cum pecuniâ, quam in eodem regno habere poterunt, ad partes exteras indies se transferunt, et transferre proponunt;

Nos, advertentes quod, si hujusmodi transitus toleretur, idem regnum, tam de hominibus, quam de thesauro, infra breve destitueretur, et sic ex hoc, nobis et dicto regno grave periculum posset de facili evenire, nisi super hoc citius remedium apponatur opportunum;

Ac volentes proinde, et pro periculis evitandis, quæ transeuntibus et maxime Anglicis, in partibus transmarinis indies imminent, salvationi regni et populi prædictorum providere;

*Vobis mandamus, districtius injungentes, quod homines ad arma, vel peregrinos, aut aliquos alios de dicto regno nostro, vel aliunde, cujuscumque statûs vel conditionis fuerit, nisi fuerit mercator, notarius, aut nuncius notus, in dicto portu, clam vel palam, ex nunc nullatenus transire permittatis, sine mandato nostro speciali; talem et tantam diligentiam in hac parte apponentes, ne de ficto gestu vestro inde coram nobis puniri debeatis in futurum.**

The king ordered, 22nd of November, 1359, that

* Rymer, from the Close Rolls.

two of the most honest and law-worthy men should be chosen by the mayor, bailiffs, and community, to collect a subsidy of sixpence a pound on all goods imported and exported. This money was required for the expence of certain armed ships, employed to convoy and protect trade. May 24th, 1360, a truce with the king's cousin of France was notified.—June 26th, 1360, the collectors of sixpence a pound on all merchandize, two shillings on a sack of wool, and two shillings on a cask of wine, were directed to desist, owing to the truce.

In the absence of ample local data what can be said about the general trade of the town at this period? Nothing more than can be gleaned from sundry documents and the commercial history of the country. Salt, wine, and wool are mentioned as articles of trade and commerce here. Salt was probably made in large quantities, as in early times; wine was no doubt largely imported for the supply of a considerable extent of country, embracing parts of Dorset, Somerset, and Devon. In 1337 an act was passed that no wool should be exported, and that cloth-workers should be permitted to settle in England. To encourage our cloths, none were to wear foreign cloth except the king, queen, and privileged persons. Though the woollen manufacture was carried on with success in the reign of Henry II. and Richard I., it was afterwards wholly lost to us. We bought our cloths of the Flemings and others till the revival of the trade in 1331: these mostly made their cloths of our wool. This article was perhaps the principal one in the trade of Lyme: foreign goods of several descriptions may have been imported here.

Edward III., in 1364, directed that a strict search should be made for gold, silver, and jewels, which he found were exported contrary to his orders. In

1367 he ordered a proclamation to be made that no one with horse, arms, bows, and arrows should leave the kingdom. In 1369, October 26th, hearing of naval armaments, the king required the advice of two men, who had most experience of foreign parts, and understood the management of a ship, and were acquainted with trade and merchandize. In 1372, February 7th, all vessels of twenty tons and upwards were to be impressed for the king, and to assemble at Portsmouth. On April 4th, 1372, an order came to press seamen; who, under pretence of fishing, and for other reasons, withdrew from the ships about to go abroad.*

With these writs and orders, contained in the splendid edition of Rymer from the Close and Patent Rolls, an account of a flourishing period in the history of the town concludes. The French landed and fired part of the town for the first time in this reign; so that to be secure from their sudden attacks, the burgesses and others went from the town with their goods and chattels.† Richard II.'s reign commenced with a calamity of signal interest; and Lyme from that time is omitted in the writs addressed to the sea-ports. Its history is continued from other sources, principally from the rolls of parliament.

An event, the most fatal in our annals, is made known by a writ of enquiry directed to H. de Percehay, J. de Chideock, Wal. de Clopton, and three others, February 13th, 1 Richard II.‡ It recites, that Edward III., in the 5th year of his reign, granted the town in fee farm to his burgesses and their successors for ever at a yearly rent of 32 marks; that now the burgesses have petitioned and set forth that at the time of the grant the town was well and

* Rymer. † Rot. Parl. vol. iii. p. 640.
‡ Rot. Patent, 1 Rich. II. p. 3. m. 3.

competently built, and inhabited by many rich and able merchants, and other sufficient persons, from whom many various profits and emoluments arose in various ways for paying the fee farm ;—that now and for some time the town is in such a state that the greater part is carried away and laid waste by the fury and violence of the sea ; and the aforesaid rich merchants, who bore the burdens of the town, are now dead, and almost all the survivors, with the exception of six or eight, have left the town for the above reason ; and because a certain place called the Cobbe, or Conners, built by them and others of the adjacent country, at their own great cost and expence, to hold two or three barks, (*bargea*,)* bringing merchandize to the town, was so totally ruined and destroyed by a sudden storm last Martinmas, (Nov. 11,) that on account of the horrible flux and reflux of the deep sea rolling up to the town, goods will not be able to be brought to the town by water ;—that the inhabitants cannot pay their fee farm, nor their tenths and fifteenths, nor the other burdens, and so pray the king to take the town into his hands, and exonerate them from the fee farm, arrears, &c. The persons named were to swear in witnesses, and make a return, after having fully inspected the damage done and distress prevailing at Lyme.

The return was made after the holding of the inquisition, on Tuesday after the Annunciation, (March 25.)† Eleven men had given evidence upon oath that SEVENTY-SEVEN TENEMENTS in the town of Lyme were wasted and carried away : viz. of William Tuluse, 12 tenements ; Richard Long, 2 ; Gregory Charlemayne, 3 ; Edwd. Blower, 3 ; Jeffery Artour, 2 ; John Kempe, (?) John Manning,

* Vessels for carrying merchandize. † Coll. of L. Follet, Esq.

Wm. Rokes, John Tusset, John Dawe, Wm. Peverell, Wm. Willefre, Wm. Coke, 2; Wm. Bond, 2; Rob. Seaton, 2; Adrey Payne, 2; Philip Hodard, 2; Dionyse Bronyng, 2; Wm. Go, 3; Wm. Prenant, 3; Hen. Bereho, ——— Gold, John Sley, John Crogg, John Byshopp, John Cosyn, John Peynton, John Chernemuth, John Tolett, John Tidwell, John Bury, Wm. Semon, John Boyor, Rich. Royne, Steven Portland, Robert Lodre, John Vele, John Walter, John Boteler, John Membury, John Goldsmith the younger, which were *rich and able merchants,* and inhabiting in the town; that *fifteen large and great ships* and forty boats, whereof twenty for fishing, were also carried away and altogether destroyed; that some merchants likewise are dead, and the late inhabitants of the said tenements are dead, and some not residing, which tenements were assessed yearly at 78*s.*, to the help of the said town, besides tollage and helps of the tenants. They say also that *seventy-one tenements* are wasted, void, or altogether destroyed, owing to the death or driving away of the merchants in consequence of the intolerable burdens incident to the town, viz.: of Wm. Dar, Wm. Russell, Thos. Bauche, John Carey, John Rayon, Gregory Charlemayne, Michael Lynch, John Cook, Jeffery Artour, John Myryst, Abra. Cook, Rich. Pyrcombe, Stephen Vele, Rob. Mosber, Anthony Boterell, John Berd, 3 tenements; of John Goldsmith, Rich. Long, John Chermouth, John Kempy, Custon Cernce, Wm. Smyth, Rob. Bolemore, John Bacon, Agnes Atto Thornce, Philip Weisk, Agnes Bedman, John Serjeant, Agnes Touleance, Walter Ludd, Rich. Tredegold, John at Yate, John Keyn, Edw. atte Knoll, John Cary, Wm. Wolleworth, Wm. Byshopp, Wm. Abbot, Andrew Taylor, John Knygton, Margaret Kingeway, Rob. Mullence, Rob. Robemore,

John Ragon, Margaret ———, John Honemyte, Rich. Atteford, Rob. Gelyn, Jeffery Dodding, Rob. Partridge, Edmund Robe, Anthony Beteron, John Tring, Wm. Crossee, Nicholas Vode, Rich. Travaile, Jeffery Artowe, John Anthony, and John Vele. They say that the Cobb cannot be repaired in the state that it first was under £300 and upwards; that now there are but *eight burgesses*, viz., Rich. Tynham, Thos. Dorset, Rob. Membury, Adam Lytlemire, John Richeman, Roger Milwood, Philip le Bouche, and Edward Blower, and *twenty-one* poor tenants within the liberty; that the greater part of the town is down, and the Cobb likewise, from which the greater part of the rent did arise, and that they have only the toll of the market and of the fairs, and perquisites of court; that no relief can be afforded except the Cobb be rebuilt; that the remaining inhabitants pay but £3. 11*s.* 3*d.*, and the ruinous tenements £1. 8*s.* 1*d.*

This detailed account of familiar names and the losses of each person, gains credit for what might otherwise be ranked with fable.

Richard II., in the 13th year of his reign, granted the town to William de Merston, a townsman, for ten years, and in the 17th year reduced the tenths from £8. 10*s.* to 40*s.* Upon further complaint, a commission was directed to Mr. Humphrey Stafford, sir Thomas Brook, and others, who made a return that "the town is desolate," and that the burgesses could not pay more than 100 shillings fee farm instead of £21. 6*s.* 8*d.*, and for each tenth 13*s.* 4*d.* instead of £8. 10*s.**

It may be presumed that the fee farm was only reduced for a term of years, which being about to expire, our townsmen addressed the parliament to

* Coll. of L. Follet, Esq.

obtain an extension of the indulgence. The first petition extant of a series of curious ones in French, appears in the Rolls of Parliament, vol. iii. p. 515. It is dated 4 Henry IV., A. D. 1402, and sets forth that mischiefs and destructions have often happened to the town, and that many of the burgesses and others have left it, because the fee farm is so great that they should not be able to bear and pay it *(porter et performer)*. Among the reasons assigned is the great frontage of the town towards the open sea of all the country round, and what necessity exists to have the town inhabited, "to resist the malice of the *enemies*, if any purpose to *arm* here, which God forbid." This sentence becomes of signal interest from what afterwards occurred. The burgesses finally prayed for such a rent as they could fairly pay, and to be released from their arrears of fee farm, and tenths, and fifteenths, for God's sake, and as a deed of charity, as relief to the poor burgesses, and to cause the town to be more thickly inhabited, *ceo pur Dieu, et en overe de charite, et en relevement et socour des poveres ditz burgeys, et en eyde de faire le pluis meultz enhabitir la ville suisdite.* The answer to this was, that the king would do what should appear to be required.

In 1407 the grievous calamities of our townsmen are again set forth in startling language: *les rages du mer, come par autres arrivalx des enemys, arsures, pestilences, et par* autres destructions.* The rage of the sea and pestilence have been described; the "other destructions" appear from the list of casualties to be almost redundant. The French ravaged these coasts for several years, and landed, and burnt many towns on the shores of Dorset and Devon. They again landed and set fire

* Parl. Rot. vol. iii. p. 618.

to the town in Richard's reign, which accounts for the "other arrivals" of the enemy. The object of this petition was to secure the town for forty years at the easy rent settled by the last inquisition. The answer was, that the council should be empowered to examine this petition and the inquisition, and do what appeared necessary, or even to grant a new commission if required.

Another similar petition was sent in 1410, which, as occurs in many other documents, displays a retrospective view of what had been done in the case, and furnishes information that would in vain be sought for elsewhere. It concludes by a prayer that the town may be granted to the burgesses and their successors for ever, paying yearly 100 shillings, and for each tenth, 13*s.* 4*d.* "Considering that the port is quite destroyed, and the petitioners have begun to make a new port there, which cannot be accomplished without special favour from the king, and which, if it shall be completed, will be of great benefit to the king, the town, and all the neighbouring country." The answer was that the king granted the prayer of the petition for ten years. This appears by a Patent Roll, 11 Henry IV., tested May 8th.*

The civil wars between the houses of York and Lancaster being principally carried on at a distance, little affected this town.

In the reign of Henry VI., 1433, under the pretence of the country being overrun with robbers, four commissioners were empowered to summon and tender an oath to persons of quality to keep the peace, both themselves and their retainers. The real object in view was the detection of those who favoured the house of York. Hutchins observes,

* Rot. Pat. p. 2. m. 14. and Rot. Parl. vol. iii. p. 640.

that scarce a tenth part of the gentry are mentioned in the roll. In Lyme, the only persons who gave in their names were John Crogg, and Thomas Tinham: they are placed on the list as considerable men, who were able to dispense £12 per annum.

In the 22nd year of Edward IV., 1481, by a petition, it appears that the ravages of the sea had been renewed. The burgesses and inhabitants set forth, "that the town by the tides and overflowing of the sea was often wasted, and many inhabitants departed from it; and that the port was by tempests destroyed, to the damage of vessels and merchants, and more accidents like to happen for want of repairs." The king, on this report, granted the town and its liberties in fee-farm for sixty-five years, paying only five marks, *i. e.* £3. 6*s.* 8*d.* per annum.

Nothing is recorded till the reign of Henry VIII., who, A. R. 35, reciting the former grant, confirmed the same for fifty years after the end of the former term. The queen (C. Parr,) on the same consideration, granted the mayor and burgesses to hold the same, from the end of the term of fifty years, granted by the king, for sixty years more, and all liberties, &c., they to repair the Cobb during that time at their own charge. Henry VIII. confirmed the charter, A. R. 35, 25th June.

Leland visited the town, and in his peculiar style gives this description of it: "From Axmouth to Lime, about four miles by meatly good ground, but no plenty of wood. Lime is a praty market town, set in the rootes of a high rokky hille down to the hard shore. This town hath good shippes, and usith fishing and marchauntice. Marchaunts of Morleys in Britaine much haunt this town. There cummith a shalow broke from the hilles, about a three miles by north, and cummith fleting on great

stone, through a stone bridge in the botom. The tounesmen commonly call this water the *Buddel.** One Borough, a marchaunt man in time of minde, buildid a fair house in Lime, having a goodly tower at the entery of it. [Hutchins says it stood in the butter-market, but is now rebuilt.] There is but one paroch chirch in Lime. There is no haven at Lime; but a quarter of a mile by w.s.w. from the town is a great and———† in the sea for socour of shippes."

However great the fame of Leland and Camden deservedly is for their learning and researches, still their mention of places where no striking remains of antiquity existed, is very hurried, and scarcely amounts to description. Leland laughably enough took in a literal sense a noted proverb, *stabbed with a Bridport dagger*: "At Bridport," says he, "be made good daggers." These were hempen halters. The trade, which Leland speaks of, with Morlaix, continued for nearly two centuries. In Henry VII.'s reign, woad, alum, honey, raisins, madder, wax, saffron, oil, tallow, &c., are mentioned in the archives of the corporation,‡ with wine, canvass, iron, bow staves, &c., as articles of commerce here.

The bailiffs and burgesses of Bridport presented a petition to parliament in 1529, representing that the people of their town had been in use time out of mind, to make the most part of the great cables, halsers, ropes, and other tackling for the royal navy, and for the most part of all other ships within the realm, by which their town was right well maintained. But that of late years certain evil-disposed persons in the neighbourhood had begun to make

* The river runs under ground, by Sleechwood, and comes up above Middle mill. Coker notices this. *Buddled*, in the "Exmoor courtship," means *drowned*, suffocated.

† Defaced in the original. ‡ Coll. of L. Follet, Esq.

cables, &c., by which the town of Bridport was in danger of being ruined, and the price of cables, &c., very much enhanced. An act was made that all the hemp that grew within five miles of Bridport, should be sold only in that town; and that no person within five miles of Bridport should make any cables, halsers, ropes, hilters, &c., on pain of forfeiting all the goods they made—an act no less imprudent than it was unjust.—Dr. Henry's Hist. of England, vol. xii. p. 331.

Queen Mary, 14th June, 1553, granted on petition, a *market* on Friday in every week, and *two fairs*, one on 1st of Feb. and two following days, and the other on 20th Sept. and two following days, new style, Feb. 13, and Oct. 2; and all the tollage, piccage, toll and customs of the same fairs and markets; and also a court of *Piepouder* in the time of the fair, and all the search, amending and correction of all weights and measures, and all fines, amerciaments, forfeitures, issues and profits of and in the fairs, markets, piepouder, stallage, piccage and searches happening, coming, renewing, and growing for ever at fee farm, paying six shillings and eight pence every Michaelmas.

That no person coming to the said fairs for the cause of buying or selling shall be impleaded, arrested, or troubled during the fair, in any action, except in such action, plaints, and debates which shall happen to arise in the fair.* Provided always that this grant be not to the hurt or prejudice of any markets or fairs of the neighbouring places.

It is amusing to find, that not only was a belief in witches existing here, but that the court of hustings had formally to consider complaints made on

* The glove, or right hand of fellowship, is yearly extended from the Hall.

that score. In the hustings' book, 11 Elizabeth, 1569, is this entry:—

"*Item.* We do find that Johane Ellesdon, widow, upon her othe, hathe declared before us that Ellen Walker is a wytche, and that she will approve, and also that James Lugbase, uppon his othe hathe declared before us, that the said Ellen Walker did saie unto the saide Johane Elsdon, that she could witche her no more."*

A Remembrance for Sir Francis Walsingham to her Majesty, for the towne of Limme Regis, 28 Elizabeth, 1586. (Harleian Manuscripts, vol. 368, fol. 124.)

"A remembrance concerning a sute that the mayor, burgesses, and inhabitants of Lyme Regis have to your majesty:

First, the said inhabitants are at continual great charges yearly, in building and repairing both the old and new works of the Peere, or Cobb, there, situated in the main south sea, with great tymber trees and rocks.

The which continual charges, the said inhabitants are not able of themselves any longer to bear.

The maintenance of the said work, (as her majesty's honourable council upon occasion have heretofore truly certified,) hath cost above one hundred pounds yearly.

Towards which charges, in times past, the late king, Henry the eighth, gave *twenty* pounds a year, for ten years next before his death. After him, the late king, Edward the sixth, gave the like sum of twenty pounds during his life: both were paid out of the customs collected at Lyme aforesaid:

The which yearly sum of twenty pounds, the late queen Mary took away, for that the said inhabitants

* Coll. of L. Follet, Esq.

were then reputed as heretics for their religion. And after her, the queen's majesty that now is, did give the like sum of twenty pounds out of the customs at Lyme, which continued two years, and then ceased.

The land works of the said town, as also the new and old works of the said peer, do require a continual maintenance, which otherwise will in short time fall into utter ruin and decay through the violence of the sea, to the great loss both to her majesty in her yearly customs, and ferm there growing, as also to the townsmen and country people thereabouts, which receive great relief and commodity by the trade and intercourse of shipping there.

Two years' works of the new work of the said peer, were thrown down this last winter by violent storms, by reason that our workmen which did usually attend the said work, were taken from us by commission to serve in her majesty's works at Dover peer.

It is thought by those that are skilful, that two thousand pounds will not end and finish the old works, beside the maintenance of the new works of the peer and land there.

The said inhabitants do yearly maintain, at their own proper cost and charges, a platform, bulwark, great ordnance, powder, shot, and men to attend the same, for the defence of the enemy. And also have set up an exceeding number of great piles, to protect the said town and land there from the violence and fretting of the sea, which otherwise would in short time eat out both the town and land thereunto near adjoining.

Viv' La Reine.

The number of ships, masters, and mariners belonging to and using the peer and town there.

There are belonging to the said peer, and kept

going in voyages in the trade of merchandize by the merchants of the town and country thereabout, 23 barks and pinnaces.

There is belonging and dwelling in the town there of able and skilful mariners, besides masters of ships able to take charge, 108 mariners.

There are able masters to take charge of ships, 18 masters.

There are dwelling within four miles of the said town of Lyme, which are kept going in voyages by the shipping of Lyme, 80 mariners.

So there is maintained and kept going in voyages by the shipping there, within the town and without, 206 mariners."

Besides the valuable information to be derived from this document in other respects, the data which it affords to estimate the value and importance of our town in relation to the country at large, can scarcely be appreciated.

In Bree's work, it appears that the number of ships had declined since the reign of Edward III. He gives the number of ships, as they were then styled, in 1589.

	Above 100 tons.	Under 100 & above 80.	Under 80.
Dorset	9	1	51
Devon	7	3	109
London	62	23	44
All England			180

In Thompson's Illustrations of the History of England, the seamen of this country, in 1582, were computed at 14,295, and the vessels at 1232, only 217 being above 80 tons. Then it appears that about this time Lyme had a 53rd part of the number of *shipping* of all England, and with Charmouth, and a few parishes round, a 69th part of the *seamen*. Even London, that present mighty mart, had not six times as many vessels! In 1640, the number of

seamen in England was tripled; and in 1831, England and Scotland had 22,000 merchant vessels.

At the commencement of the following reign, when Camden travelled, the Cobb was well secured by rocks and tall trees, used as piles. He calls Lyme an *opidulum*, or little town, which could scarcely claim the name of sea-port, though much frequented by fishermen.

When the kingdom was threatened by the invincible Spanish armada, as it was termed, great attention was paid to the coasts. In the Lansdowne MSS. 113, No. 37, is a note of the probable places for landing of men in the county of Dorset.

"Chidioke and Charmouthe are two beaches to lande boates, but it must be very ffayre wether, and the wind northerly. Lym. A cobbe or peere, wherein shyppes may aryve, having fayre wynd and bringing the tyde with them, and no danger."

Lord Burleigh procured a plan of the Cobb, which was copied on the margin of a large map, now in the king's library. Sir John Norris, in his advice to the county [Harl. MS.], recommended, "that on the approach of the enemy the whole force should assemble at Weymouth, except such as are appointed for the guard of particular places, as at Lyme, sixty foot." He elsewhere asserts, what has been subsequently disproved, that Lyme "is not easy to be put in any manner of defence." Mr. Strangeways appointed the sixty men who were to guard Lyme, and keep a look-out for the enemy's fleet. The townsmen were not negligent in promoting the public safety: they sent two ships, the Jacob, of ninety tons, and the Revenge, Richard Bedford, of sixty tons, to serve under the lord admiral, who was about to sail against the armada. The decisive engagement between the two fleets was fought in sight of Lyme. The brave admirals,

having received reinforcements from the different ports, then ventured to engage the proud foe more closely. They went into action with their ships in sight of Lyme. When the Spaniards drew near Portland race, in their way to Flanders, they kept much closer together, having sustained considerable damage, and the English fleet gave over the pursuit.

Stephen Riddlesden disclaimed his right to measure salt, corn, grain, and coals,* in Lyme, as a grantee of the lord high admiral, having found that the mayor and burgesses had exercised and enjoyed their right as parcel of their farm. 24th Eliz.

The reign of Elizabeth was extremely favourable to the trade of England. Great inducements were offered to merchants for the extension of their commercial transactions, who began to be independent of foreign agents, and were enabled to emulate the successful voyages of the Spaniards and Portuguese to America, Guinea, &c. Although England claimed the sovereignty of the sea, navigation was but in its infancy, and voyages to distant parts attended with great risk, besides the danger of storms, from the little knowledge of foreign countries possessed by less experienced navigators.

The mayor, burgesses, and free-men, elected Robert Hassard to be member of parliament, 29th Jan., 1593-4, "and the other burgess, Zachary Bethel, was chosen by the marquess of Winchester," as an entry has it. In some counties, the lord lieutenants pretended to have a control over the elections, in the manner above described.

Some of the "Marchant Adventrers," first known by the title of the brotherhood of St. Thomas Becket, resided here, and traded with the spirit of that enterprising period. A small barque, called

* Collection of L. Follet, Esq.—First mention here of coals.

the Cherubim, of this port, is spoken of in the voyage of Richard Rainolds and Thomas Dassel, to the river Senegal and Gambia, in 1591. One of our vessels brought home an account of the sea-fight between sir Richard Grenville with fifteen Spanish ships, off the Azores.* This part of the bay was then called Lyme bay.

The George was the principal inn in the town: it had stabling to accommodate a great number of pack-horses, employed in conveying into the interior the merchandize purchased at Lyme. It was built of Dutch bricks, and the premises were so extensive that at night, after the gates were closed, it resembled a little town. Sir Walter Raleigh procured a licence from the queen, A. R. 30, for the sale of foreign wines without paying duty, in which were enumerated all the most rare and costly. This is now in the possession of the Rev. A. Tucker, rector of Wooton Fitzpaine. Elizabeth was lavish in her grants of monopolies such as this, which James I. inhibited by a proclamation drawn up with singular good sense and perspicacity. A man named Tresorer, having made the queen an instrument "musicall, sending forth the sound of flutes and recordes," she confirmed a grant of Mary to him, allowing the exportation of ashes and 400,000 pair of old shoes !†

When James ascended the throne many respectable individuals came to settle, and were admitted into the borough,—several were unconnected with commerce. That distinguished native of Lyme, sir George Summers, resided in the vicinity, at Barne. He was engaged, 1607, in transporting a colony to Virginia, and took with him persons, we

* Kerr's Collection of Voyages.
† Ellis's Letters, sec. ser. vol. iii. p. 202.

may presume, from Lyme and its vicinity, some of whom founded a trans-atlantic Lyme, in the interior of North America. They were, like the followers of Æneas, exposed to innumerable dangers, and of rather a novel character, being obliged to run ashore on a land which sailors were afraid to approach, and to navigate in a ship that had but one iron bolt. The Bermuda islands were considered as the abode of evil spirits. Having in a biographical notice of sir George Summers, alluded to the colony he had the direction of, the reader is referred to it for further particulars. A few years since, a native of Lyme, who happened to be on the quay at New York, was surprised to see two vessels sail by with "Lyme" marked on their sterns. Not ever having heard of a town of that name in America, he felt anxious to make some enquiries of the masters, and going on board, introduced himself by saying he was from Lyme, in Dorsetshire. One of the masters said he had never been there, but had often seen the name on maps of England, and asked if it were not near Portland? On being answered in the affirmative, he said, "We have a Portland too, in the river close by us." This, on enquiry, proved to be a head-land. They neither of them knew any thing of the origin of their town, not being natives, but had settled there in consequence of the extensive trade carried on in Lyme, which within a few years had, from a very inconsiderable place, become a populous town. It is in Grafton county, New Hampshire. There is another town of the same name, founded subsequently, in New London county, Connecticut, which contains, in three parishes, 4380 inhabitants.

Few Americans to be met with in this country, know much of the distant Lyme. "La Belle Assemblée" for 1818, p. 47, gives an epitaph to be

seen in one of the towns, written by the poet for whom it is inscribed :—

"A deacon aged 58—58
On earth no more is sarvin',
He for a crown no longer waits,
Lyme's Captain Renald Marvin."

Charter of Elizabeth, made 33rd of her reign, 26th June.*

Elizabeth, by the grace, &c., to all to whom, &c. *Preamble.*—" Whereas our burrough or town of Lyme Regis is an ancient and populous burrough of the ancient demesnes of the crown of England, and the mayor, burgesses, and inhabitants, time out of mind, have had and enjoyed divers lands, tenements, liberties, franchises, immunities, preheminences, and hereditaments, as well by our charters as by the charters of many of our progenitors and predecessors, to them and their predecessors heretofore made and granted, and also by reason of divers laudable prescriptions and customs in the same town, of ancient time used." The queen mentions the Cobb, and that the mayor, burgesses, and inhabitants, had petitioned for a new charter to " certify, confirm, approve, make, or of new create them into one body corporate and politique." " Wee, therefore, being willing that from henceforth for ever there may be continually had in the same burrough or town, a certain and undoubted manner of and for the keeping of the peace, and the ruling and government of the people there, and that the borough and town aforesaid may for ever be and remain a borough or town of peace and quietness, to the feare and terror of evil men, and for the reward of the good," &c.

* Collection of L. Follet, Esq.

Articles of the charter.—"Wee grant that the town be a *free borough* of itself; and that the burgesses of that borough or town, and their successors, from henceforth for ever, be one *body corporate and politique*, in deed, fact, and name, by the name of the *Mayor and Burgesses of the Borough of Lyme Regis;*" that they may have perpetual *succession;* that they may be able and capable to have, purchase, receive, and possess, *lands, tenements*, liberties, privileges, jurisdictions, franchises, and hereditaments of what quality, nature, or kind soever they be, to them and successors in fee and perpetuity, and all *goods* and *chattels*, and to *give, grant, demise, and assign, lands, tenements*, &c. and to do and execute all and singular other things, by the name aforesaid; that under that name they may *plead and implead* in any *courts* and before any judges, &c.; that they may have a *common seal*, and change it when they please; that the mayor, and six of the most honest and discreet burgesses, shall be called the *common council;* and shall be aiding and assisting the mayor for the time being, in all causes and matters; that the mayor and burgesses, or the greatest part of them, whereof the mayor and two of the council to be three, may make such *reasonable statutes and ordonances* whatsoever, as to them, according to their discretions shall seem to be good, wholesome, profitable, honest, and necessary, for the good ruling and government of the burgesses and inhabitants, and for a declaration in what manner and order the aforesaid mayor and burgesses, artificers, inhabitants, and residents in their offices, mistery, and affairs, shall behave and use, and for victualling the borough, and the disposing, placing, demising of lands, &c., and other causes and things; that they may *ordain such reasonable pains*, punish-

ments, penalties by imprisonment, fine, or both, against persons offending against the by-laws; that they may have and *levy* the fines imposed, so that the by-laws are not repugnant to the laws of the realm; that they shall be *one mayor and eleven other burgesses, at the least,* to be chosen as is hereunder specified, which shall be called *capital burgesses.* William Ellesdon to be mayor for the year ensuing, John Hassard, the elder, John Bellamy, Walter Harvey, John Davey, Richard Davy, Robert Barnes, John Hayes, and Richard Norris, to be the first eleven capital burgesses, and so to continue for their lives, unless expelled for misbehaviour; that whenever it shall seem fit to these, or the majority, they shall choose *other capital burgesses,* so that the number do not exceed *four,* that is with the mayor, the number do not exceed *sixteen capital burgesses;* that on the *death or removal* of a capital burgess, one other, or more, to be chosen from the burgesses of the town, to be capital burgess, and do take the corporal oath; that they may have a *guild* or *council house;* that they shall *choose* one of the burgesses to be *mayor,* on the Monday next after St. Bartholomew's-day, and that he *take a corporal oath* before the last mayor and three capital burgesses, on Monday next after the feast of St. Michael; that he shall continue mayor for one year: if he be removed or die, another capital burgess is to be appointed mayor for the rest of the year; that one honest and discreet man, learned in the law, is to be appointed *recorder,* and one *common clerk;* that George Wadham be the first recorder, and Richard Carpenter the first common clerk; that they may have power to appoint *inferior officers,* as have before been accustomed; that if any one chosen to be *mayor* or *burgesses* or other *inferior officer,* (except the recorder and com-

mon clerk,) shall *refuse* or despise the same, they may imprison him in the gaol till he comply, and *impose a fine*, such as shall seem reasonable to the mayor and council, and imprison him till it is paid; that there shall be *two serjeants at the club*, one appointed by the mayor, and the other by the mayor and capital burgesses; that these shall carry their clubs or maces, guilt with gold or silver; that the mayor shall be a *justice* so long as he continue in office, to keep, or cause to be kept, the statutes of artificers and labourers, to enquire of all contempts, trespasses, and misprisions, but not to proceed to the determination of any treason, murder, or felony touching the loss of life or limb; that *lands may be given or sold* to the mayor, so that they do not exceed the *yearly value of* £40; that the *court of hustings*, and all other liberties and franchises, may be enjoyed as by preceding grants. The queen recites the letters patent of her valiant great-grandfather, Edward IV., and of Henry VIII., and grants the town for sixty years more, at a yearly rent of five marks, and 13*s.* 4*d.* when a tenth or fifteenth is granted, provided that the mayor and burgesses keep up the Cobb. No fee was charged for this grant.

James I., in the second year of his reign, on June 25th,* after setting forth that Lyme is a seaport for the importation and exportation of merchandize, &c., and that certain privileges, &c. have been enjoyed for the maintenance of the Cobb, confirms these and further grants; that if any *strangers*, not being freemen of the borough, shall, without the license of the mayor, *between themselves sell and buy* within the borough, or the key, any merchandizes, the said merchandizes, so sold and bought

* Coll. of Lisle Follet, Esq.

between strangers, shall be forfeited to the mayor and burgesses; and if any freeman of the borough shall buy any merchandizes imported, at the key aforesaid, before they shall be landed, or by dissembling, shall buy or sell for any strangers any merchandize in his own proper name, and if they should be his own proper merchandizes, the said freeman offending shall *forfeit his freedom*, and be disfranchised; that the mayor and his ministers and successors may enter into the Cobb, and *search for any one* offending as above, or for any merchandize so forfeited, or to be forfeited, and seize and carry away to the use of the said mayor and burgesses, as anciently hath been accustomed within the borough; that every *mayor* shall be *justice of the peace* during his office, and such predecessor of every mayor who shall be the oldest, shall also be justice, and these severally and jointly shall have full power and authority to enquire of all contempts, &c. within the borough, as fully as any justice of any county, so that, nevertheless, they do not proceed to the determination of any treason, murder, or matter touching loss of life or limb. All preceding liberties, &c. confirmed by writ of privy seal.

James I., in his charter, 9th of his reign, 7th June,* in the preamble sets forth, among other things, that the mayor and burgesses have humbly beseeched, and chiefly for the better execution of justice in the borough, where divers seamen, mariners, and other inordinate persons do continually resort, and at the sessions of the county of Dorset, unless to their great strivings and contentions, cannot be punished by reason of their maritime business, oftentimes suddenly to be done, and

* Coll. of L. Follet, Esq.

the sessions in the said county are often kept by the space of thirty miles.

He grants that the *mayor*, during his mayoralty, and two years after he is out of office, so that he continues a capital burgess, the *recorder* for the time being, and the *coroner*, shall be *justices of the peace* for the borough and parish, the Cobb and the precincts thereof; that the mayor for the time being, his predecessors, as aforesaid, being justices, as aforesaid, the recorder and coroner for the time being, or any three or more, (whereof the mayor for the time being, or his last predecessor be one,) may have full power and authority to *enquire of any felonies, contempts*, &c., except of any treason, murder, or felony touching the loss of life or limb, within the borough; that the mayor for the time being, and two such last predecessors of the mayor, and the recorder and coroner for the time being, or any three or two of them, (whereof the mayor for the time being, or his last predecessor, or the recorder for the time being be one,) may hold in any convenient place a GENERAL SESSIONS OF THE PEACE for all matters and causes within the borough, in as ample a manner as any county or city, except for treason, misprision of treason, murder, or felony, or matters touching the loss of life or limb. The mayor is to *administer a corporal oath* to the recorder and coroner. That the mayor and capital burgesses shall not be put or impannelled to *appear in any jury, assize, or inquisition* whatsoever before the judges or justices in the county of Dorset; that the mayor and capital burgesses, or the greater part of them, may choose a *coroner;* and whereas we are informed that divers persons, being freemen of the same borough, little regarding the common good and defence of the same borough, have of late accustomed themselves to TAKE STONES for the

building and repairing of their tenements and houses within the borough and parish, in places unfit, to the great peril and danger of the said borough and port or haven to the same adjoining: we, desiring altogether to take away such inconveniences and damages, as well in this case as in all others, have ordained, constituted, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, do ordain, &c., and command, that no person, freeman or not, do TAKE, BREAK, OR CARRY AWAY, or presume to take, break, or carry away, ANY STONES to build or repair their tenements or houses, or for any use whatsoever, out of the sea, or sea-shore, near the borough or parish of Lyme Regis aforesaid, or to the said borough or parish adjoining, in any place or places, by the said mayor and capital burgesses, for the time being, or the greater part of them, forbidden, under the pain of our displeasure, and under such other pains and penalties as, by the laws and statutes of this realm for such offences, or contempt of our regal command, can or ought to be inflicted. All liberties, &c. confirmed. A fine of £10 was paid.

It appears by the old custom-house papers, that a lucrative trade was carried on with Guinea, from which were imported the usual commodities of elephants' teeth and gold dust. The duties paid to government from Lyme were very considerable: during the latter part of James's reign, they amounted some years to more than £5000 per annum. Valuable cargoes were imported from the West Indies, Spain, Portugal, and the Streights.

Charles I. in the tenth year of his reign, 20th June,* confirmed Elizabeth's grant of the town for a certain number of years, at fee-farm, paying annually five marks; and at the expiration of that

* Coll. of L. Follet, Esq.

time, grants the town to the mayor and burgesses FOR EVER, paying yearly for the town *five marks*, and for the Cobb, *half a mark*, remitting and discharging all former fee-farm rents upon these terms; and the aforesaid mayor and burgesses of the borough, and their successors, all and singular the structures, banks, sea shores, and all other rampiers and diches within the aforesaid borough of Lyme Regis, or in any wise belonging or appertaining to the said borough, or lying between the said borough and the sea, and also the said structure there, called the Peere key, or the Cobb, at their own proper costs and charges, henceforth for ever, from time to time, and as often as need shall be, shall well and sufficiently repair, sustain, and maintain. He grants the mayor to be *clerk of the market*, and to take all fines, &c., without any payment or return to the exchequer, for the benefit of the mayor and burgesses, for ever; that the mayor and burgesses and their successors may have full power, authority, and license for ever TO DIG STONES and rocks in any places within the borough and parish of the town, without the sea in the sea-shore, adjoining to the borough, and parish, for the reparation and new making of the port or haven, and structure aforesaid, called the Peere key, or Cobb, and other reparations and common works of the said town and borough and structure aforesaid.—A fine of £10 was paid.

Fish-jobbers, in this reign, took fish from Lyme to London, upon horses' backs, in *dorsers*, peds, or panniers! Fuller, the best authority on this curious fact, states it in his "Worthies," when explaining the phrase, a "Dorsetshire dorser."

The town continued to be a place of trade. In 1636, the sum of £40 was required from it for the building a ship of 200 tons burden. "The course fo events had rendered necessary a great change in

the condition of mankind throughout Europe," says Mr. d'Israeli; "for the social system was constructed on a scale which bore no relation to the increased and complicated interests of society." While the horrors of the struggle which this state of things induced, were being generally felt throughout the land, our borough had immensely more than its due share of war and bloodshed. The period might indeed be spoken of as "the troubles," as will appear in the following pages. The west of England was the chief theatre of war, and supplied some of the hardiest supporters of those political and religious principles that operated to effect the great change. One of their most marked features was an abhorrence of Roman Catholicism. Sir Henry Rosewell, of Ford abbey, is said to have been personified in Hudibras.

D'Israeli says, "Had Charles dared, which was out of his nature, to do a great *coup d'etat*, by banishing every Romanist from England, Charles would have become popular at the cost of his better feelings." Such was the aversion of the people to Catholics. In the early part of the year 1642, upon a proclamation of Charles I., commanding all priests to depart the realm by a certain day, the Reverend Hugh Green went upon the Cobb to embark. Being asked his name and business, he freely told both, when he was carried before a magistrate, as the day mentioned in the proclamation was past. He was committed to Dorchester gaol, owing to his unwary discovery of his character, and after five months' imprisonment, was tried, as in cases of high treason, barely for being a priest. The hangman behaved with great cruelty, the spectators insulted him—his body was quartered and burnt!!*

* Dr. Chaloner's memoirs of Missionary Priests, vol. ii. p. 217: quoted by Charles Butler.

The situation of Lyme early attracted the attention of the parliament. Sir Thomas Trenchard, and sir Walter Earle, which latter had represented the borough, took possession of it against the king in 1642.*

Being quite defenceless, the first care of the parliament was to fortify it against any attempts of the royalists. This was partially effected the same year: all classes labouring towards the erection of different works, in which the females not only joined, but encouraged the men, when desisting through fatigue, to renew their exertions. It is not apparent when the several commanders arrived or were appointed; but it seems that col. Thomas Ceeley was raised to the command, with the title of governor. Bury, the treasurer for the county, charged £10 for ammunition delivered Dec. 14th, 1642. This took place in consequence of an order from the parliament that the treasurer of the proposition moneys should detain 100 marks for fortifying Lyme.†

The town was now committed in the approaching struggle; may we conjecture without due consideration of consequences, very near at hand, or of its ability in reference to military means, to maintain such a position. The parliament, so soon as Jan. 2nd, 1643, had to consider the humble petition of the mayor, burgesses, and inhabitants, informing the house of the approach of sir Ralph Hopton and lord Poulett, with their forces, towards the town, and their own danger, having been already threatened for their good affections and hearty endeavours for the public. This petition set forth the consequence of the town in regard of the many ships then lying in the harbour, and the guns and ammunition

* Hutchins. † Commons' Journal, Dec. 6th, 1642.

there, the ships having lately come home laden with much goods and merchandize, an inducement to the royalists to come, and that the place was not able "by the strength in it, to make opposition or resistance." The parliament ordered sir Walter Earle, and the deputy lieutenants of Dorset, to send such forces as the occasion should require; and to better enable the town to defray the charge and expense of this great work, it was likewise ordered that they might take £200 out of their own subscription money.

The danger that threatened the town having been averted, the operations of a civil war commenced. The garrison intimidated those in the neighbourhood who were well affected to the royal cause, and excited the friends of the parliament to join them in "beating up the enemy's quarters," which they repeatedly did, with various success. No sooner were the large bodies of the king's forces removed to a distance from this part, than the troops under the command of col. Ceeley traversed the country round, and at different times made excursions of some miles in the counties of Dorset, Devon, and Somerset.

January 18th, 1643, intelligence was brought that a party went from Lyme to fix a garrison at lady Drake's house, at Ashe, being sent for by her. Lord Poulett (of whom much will be said) marched thither and took it before the fortifications were completed. The parliamentarians burnt down a fair house of Mr. Tubervil, and the king's forces, that of sir Walter Earle, where several rebels had retired.*

March 9th, 1643, sir William Waller sent colonel Ware, mentioned by Clarendon as a gentleman of

* Mercurius Aulicus.

Devon, who had a regiment of foot at Tiverton in 1642, his deputy, to raise men in Dorset; and got many officers and men from Lyme. But lord Poulett, sir John Berkeley, sir Richard Cholmondeley, col. Blewit, &c. attacked them at Hemyock castle, near Wellington, took the town, forced the rebels into the castle, who surrendered next morning. In the castle were 200 prisoners, ten officers, and eighty horse.*

Whitchurch castle, which remained in the king's hands, was a great check on the garrison of Lyme. Capt. Thomas Pyne, with a party from that town, took it March 12th, with 50 prisoners.

March 15th, intelligence came that colonel Ware, with a party from Lyme, was surprised, and most of his men taken prisoners and carried to Culliton. Captain Thomas Pyne went with a party of the garrison the same night, surprised them, took the colonel, several inferior officers, sixty soldiers, many horse, arms, &c., and recovered the prisoners.†

About March 16th, intelligence came that this garrison had taken Bridport. Soon after, Burley House, a mile from Bridport, [perhaps Chideock,] was taken by captain Pyne and a party of horse and dragoons, and in it fifty prisoners and two pieces of ordnance. He garrisoned it with 200 men, who compelled contributions from Bridport, and eleven parishes adjacent, which before had been paid by them to the king.‡

August 14th, 1643, there was a regiment, consisting of ten companies, commanded by the governor. At this time prince Maurice advanced into the west, took Dorchester, Weymouth, and Portland: his troops used great licence. He advanced to Lyme, "believed inconsiderable," which

* Mercurius Aulicus. † Whitlock, Vicars. ‡ Whitlock.

returned so peremptory a refusal, that he marched on to Exeter to join sir John Berkeley. "He had," says Clarendon, vol. ii. p. 349, "an unspeakable loss in the death of Mr. Rogers, of Bryanstone, who had a wonderful great influence upon the county of Dorset, of which he was knight, and had so well designed things, that Poole and Lyme, if he had lived, had been undoubtedly reduced." Sept. 7th, 1643, the parliament ordered twenty barrels of powder, a tun of match, and a tun of sacre and minion shot, to be sent by sea. In a collection of pamphlets in the royal library at the British museum, is "An ordinance of the lords and commons, for and concerning one tenth part more of customs and subsidies to be paid according to this ordinance; for the defence of the town and port of Plymouth, the isle of St. Nicholas, the towns of Poole and Lyme, and places near adjacent."—Dated Nov. 15th, 1643.

In the same collection, in a newspaper, the "Scottish Dove," for Dec. 8th, 1643, appears an account of the putting in execution the commission of array, condemned by Selden, "as without precedent and without law." Many men were procured for Hopton and the Oxford army. The commissioners sat at Totnes to raise men to march upon Lyme. Few appeared; and those who did, refused to act against this town. The commissioners would have hanged the first who refused, as an example to the rest, "but they all cryed, *Hang one and hang all*, and grew to a mutiny, that the commissioners were forced to shift for themselves." The king's affairs at this time were prosperous in the west. Plymouth, Poole, and Lyme, were with the parliament. Prince Maurice's forces were quartered at Beaminster, April 14th, 1644; but a fire breaking out, which Sprigge, in his Anglia Redi-

viva, says was occasioned by a quarrel between the French and Cornish in his army, who fired the town in five places at once, he advanced towards Lyme, and commenced a siege among the most remarkable that occurred during that unhappy period. He was assisted in his attempt by sir John Stowel, sir John Berkley, lord Poulett, col. Francis Bluet, sir John Borlace, and other brave officers, with an army principally composed of Irishmen. The courage of the townsmen was increased by the vehement harangues and violent rhapsodies of twenty-five puritanical preachers, as the Mercurius Aulicus relates, who confidently assured eternal salvation to those who should fall in the contest. The townsmen, aware of the approaching struggle, awaited the commencement of hostilities with firmness. Like the followers of Mahomet, they learned to look on death with diminished terror, the more they became inflamed by the powerful vapours of enthusiasm, and they fought with the united fury of civil and religious partisans.

One woman is said to have fired at one attack sixteen muskets. A maid, who had one of her hands cut off in the confusion attending the fight, being asked what course she would now take to live, —"Truly," said she, "I am glad with all my heart that I had a hand to lose for Jesus Christ, for whose cause I am willing to lose not only my other hand, but my life also." Vicars, who records this, exclaims,—"A sweet and most saint-like speech indeed. Such admirable courage it pleased the Lord to infuse into the hearts of all the inhabitants during all the time of that long and sharp siege."

In 1786 a MS. was discovered at White Lackington house, near Ilminster, the residence of the Speke family during the civil war, now the property of W. Hanning, Esq. It was a diary containing the oc-

currences of the siege, written by some one in the town, and entitled, " An account of the most remarkable passings that happened at the streight siege of Lyme Regis, by prince Maurice, from the time of his sitting down before it, being the 20th of April, in the twentieth year of king Charles, unto the 16th of June following, 1644." From this MS. and other sources the following narrative is drawn up:—

On the 20th of April the royalist army advanced from Axminster, and towards evening appeared on the brow of Uplyme hill, a commanding boundary of our valley, where the force was drawn up three or four troops abreast, to the number of 4500 men. The line of men, at which the perspective glasses of the townsmen were directed, extended a mile or about that distance. The garrison, consisting of only 500 men, not a jot dismayed, set up a shout, which the enemy answered; and the infantry, coming into the valley, drove out, after some skirmishing, two parties of thirty men each stationed at Haye and Colway houses. The prince took up his quarters in the former: the army lay partly in Uplyme and by fires on the side of the hill.

The Mercurius Aulicus states, that a very insolent answer was returned to the summons of the prince, bidding them to surrender, with a declaration that no quarter would be granted to any Irish or Cornish.

April 21.—At three, A. M., the besiegers were concentrated upon two points, Haye and Colway; and soon filed off to the west part of the town in order to occupy some cottages without the line, which the townsmen fired. The siege now commenced in earnest. The enemy came within pistol shot and continued a fire of musquetry all the day: forty of them were killed.

April 22. — During the night a battery was raised by the besiegers against the western fort, over the entrance of the town: this being slightly built the top of it was soon beat down. The enemy had mounted demy-culverins and culverins,* which played upon the western fort and the town, doing some execution on the houses. The fire of musquetry was incessant night and day, and the enemy had excellent marksmen. Capt. Davis, by his fire from the eastern fort, confined the enemy to their battery.

April 23.—The governor dispatched an express to capt. Syndingham of Pool, desiring him to inform sir William Waller of the condition of the town, that relief might be sent by sea and land. He, it appears, had hired a boat to obtain information. This boat had already hauled down her sails, and was making her way with oars, when the town sent a sloop and barge, then lying in the road, to meet her, lest she might be from Weymouth, about to land ammunition at Charmouth for the enemy. The boat perceiving these others making towards her, hoisted sail, and ran round Portland with this intelligence, that Lyme was besieged by sea and land; supposing the vessels in chase to be Dunkirk frigates. Sir W. Waller lay with 9000 men at Farnham castle. At six, A. M., a party of 190 men sallied out on the west, fell upon the enemy, whom they pursued, killing and slaying them, to the top of the hill, till obliged to retire with thirty-five prisoners, having killed 100, of which capt. Berkley was one. The besiegers raised a fort in Colway meadow, from which they dismantled the middle fort. Eight or ten men from the west part of the town, and a party of ten from Gaych's fort, sallied

* Demy-cannon, 30½ lb. shot; culverin, 17½ lb. shot; demy-culverin, 9½ lb. shot.

out without command, and slew and put to flight many of the enemy.

April 24.—Some Dunkirk frigates visited the coast.

April 25.—The enemy raised a new battery near the west gate. Powder and shot began to grow scarce in the town. The ship containing fifteen prisoners hoisted sail, having been betrayed or negligently guarded. The prisoners now became keepers of their keepers; brandished their swords, and stood for Weymouth.

April 26.—Two ships came in with letters of marque from the parliament. The enemy expected the earl of Marlborough. Capt. Marsh was slain by a musket shot.

April 27.—The enemy shot grenades into the town. They raised a new battery on the east side of the town, to the great terror of the townsmen, who feared for capt. Davis's fort, the stay of all. Capt. Newel was soon driven out of his fort at the eastern entrance of the town.

April 28.—The besiegers offered to storm the town: the foot being pressed men, would not come on. The horse were obliged to beat them on, slashing and hewing with their swords. The townsmen fired case shot, which killed sixty or eighty. Two ships, the "Mary Rose" and "Ann Joyce," arrived with ammunition and provisions.

April 29.—Fire-arrows were shot into the town, which, by good providence, did no harm; one hundred men landed from the ships.

April 30.—The townsmen, with the aid of some of the seamen, sallied out and spiked a cannon; killed fifty or sixty men, and two or three Irish women.

May 1.—The enemy alarmed the town and retired. The governor dispatched Mr. Pley to sir W. Waller.

May 2—5.—The enemy lay quiet. The weather being stormy, fear was entertained for the ships, which however rode safely.

May 6.—The enemy stormed the town in three places, coming on in a thick fog, while most of the soldiers were at supper. The enemy cried, 'Fall on, fall on, the town's ours: the day is ours.' The townsmen called them 'rogues,' and bid them come on. After an hour's conflict the besiegers retired, leaving their scaling ladders, &c. Eighty of the enemy slain on the spot, and 300 or 400 wounded. Col. Francis Blewet, or Bluet,* a celebrated royalist, was found dead, and his body was brought into the town. Two hundred arms, as musquets, pikes, and croslets, were taken. A letter was presented to the parliament from Plymouth respecting the valiant carriage of the garrison in this affair. £300 was granted and £300 lent, on part of sir Edw. Yates's estate.—*Journals.*

May 7.—The enemy craved a parley for the burial of the slain, and demanded the body of col. Blewet, which was granted. Lieut.-col. Blake,†

* Col. Francis Bluet was the second son of Richard Bluet, Esq., of Holcomb court, the ancient seat of the family. He, like other cadets of vigorous martial spirit, (as Prince has it in his Worthies of Devon, p. 84,) betook himself to that academy of war, the Low Countries, and returned to the civil war. He came to the siege when the commanders were so very confident of carrying Lyme, "as to say of it it would be but a breakfast work, and that they would not dine till they had took the town." Prince says they had reduced it to its last extremity, notwithstanding the *great assistance of their women,* and would have taken it in three days had not the earl of Warwick relieved them. The body of col. Bluet was conveyed to Holcomb Rogus, where "it lies under a plain stone without any inscription, to prevent (as is supposed) the indignities that might be offered his loyal ashes by the rebels."

† Robert Blake of Bridgewater, who failed to obtain a fellowship because he was not *tall* enough, as the warden, sir H. Savile, considered. At the age of 42 he commenced warlike

at the delivering over the body sent word to the prince, that the townsmen would pull down ten or twelve yards of the town line. The prince would not release Mr. Harvey, brother-in-law of the governor, who had been taken prisoner when conveying Mr. Alford, a merchant of the town, supposed to be a malignant and a desperate one, prisoner to Portsmouth.

May 8.—The town expected an attack. Capt. W. Pawlett, of Melplash,* (on the Bert,) taken prisoner at the storm, died of his wounds. A parliament ship of war arrived and supplied provisions.

May 9, 10.—A sally was made on the west.

May 11.—Six parliament ships arrived with 240 soldiers. Three men slain in capt. Davy's fort as they were singing a psalm.

May 12.—Mr. Pley was sent once more to sir W. Waller. Fire-balls shot into the town. The enemy raised two new batteries. Mr. Pley and capt. Jones went on to the parliament. On the 16th of May they were called into the house, and Mr. Speaker took notice of their good and faithful ser-

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pursuits. In July, 1643, when Fiennes surrendered Bristol, Blake would not give up his little fort, for which prince Rupert threatened to hang him. The soul of the defence of Lyme, he became immediately after governor of Taunton, and sustained a siege, says Godwin, still more memorable than that of Lyme. On the 19th of May, 1652, he vindicated British honour in the engagement with Van Tromp, performed prodigies in the Mediterranean, and humbled Algiers and Tunis in 1654, and died afloat in 1657. This surprising man was buried in Westminster abbey; but his body was disinterred at the Restoration. Nearly fifty years of age before he served at sea, he was the first man who declined the old track, and raised our navy to a pitch beyond what it had ever attained.

See Lives, English and Foreign, Life of Blake, &c.

* Sir Thomas More of Melplash married his daughter to sir Thomas Pawlett, second son to William Pawlett, (afterwards marquis of Winchester,) lord treasurer *temp.* Henry VIII.

vice, promising that the bills payable to capt. Jones, drawn by Mr. Prideaux and Mr. Rose, should be duly honoured; desired them to return thanks to the town, and to assure them that the house would not be wanting in any thing that may encourage them. It was resolved that a twentieth part of sir Edward Yates's estate should be applied to Lyme, and the money raised upon such delinquents as have exported wood and fullers' earth. The earl of Pembroke was thanked for supplies sent from the isle of Wight, and Mr. Owner for a contribution of £20.—*C. J.*

May 13.—Firing at each other. A demy-cannon landed.

May 14.—Two sallies made with indifferent success.

May 15.—A pious captain, named Chase, arrived with 120 soldiers. Both parties engaged in the formation of new works.

May 16, 17.—The usual operations. Sixteen guns fired on the vessels in the Cobb, with some injury to them.

May 18.—Taunting language used by the enemy to the townsmen on the line. A sally made on the east, when twenty were killed and thirty taken prisoners: another sally on the west. The enemy raised a battery on the west, surrounded by breast works to prevent the landing of provisions. At night a sally was made against the workmen: twenty were slain. The wounded lay crying, "Bloody men, bloody men!"

May 19.—Much firing at and from the new west battery.

May 20.—A boy of the enemy stole the townsmen's colours from the Cobb. A piece of ordnance in Deye's meadow found to have been spiked. At the storming of 6th May, some musquets had pins,

&c. in their touch-holes, "which argues the town, though little, is not clear of traitors."

May 21.—The assailants raised a new battery with cannon-baskets, on the very edge of the clift next the Cobb, midway between it and the town. The townsmen made a ditch and bank to protect themselves. The ships rode out a strong easterly wind.

May 22.—A fatal day for the shipping of the town. A vessel with malt and pease for the town was brought to the Cobb gate to be unloaded: the enemy sunk it. Half for half being offered, six soldiers and others began to unload; a ball struck out the brains of one, &c., and so they relinquished their work. About seven or eight o'clock in the evening, 50 or 60 of the enemy ran down from their battery into the Cobb, casting wild-fire among the barges, and that night burnt most of them; the townsmen's guard of 20 or 30 men saved themselves in a boat. The townsmen sallied while this was doing, and took the west clift battery. The enemy's horse forced on the foot, and compelled the townsmen to retreat; and so fell on again into the Cobb, firing other ships. Divers of the enemy were slain. The townsmen lost five or six: one more who was a principal instrument in the command of the town, and commanded the horse—capt. Pyne. "This disaster you cannot choose but think that it must trouble the town; and 'twas a sad spectacle to behold the burning of so many ships that formerly brought into the kingdom so great commodity, (though but a little town,) that the custom or import thereof brought into the king's exchequer yearly £4000 or £5000, £6000, and sometimes more. The loss of the ships was not so much lamented as capt. Pyne, yielded for dead, for more ships might be had again, but such a man is rarely to be found."

May 23. — The earl of Warwick, lord high admiral, with nine ships, arrived, and sent his surgeon to dress the wounds of capt. Pyne. The governor, lieut.-colonel Blake, and others, went aboard the admiral's ship, the James. Some mariners, induced by an offer of 2*s.* 6*d.* each, towed out a barge that remained unburnt in the Cobb: a shot went through the boat, and carried off a man's leg, &c. Sundry other accidents occurred. The "Mary Rose" sailed for Portsmouth, with prisoners and female passengers, and to re-victual. Mr. Peters, chaplain to the lord high admiral, sent a tedious letter to prince Maurice. (The journal sent by the admiral to parliament was kept by col. Were.)

May 24.—The enemy kept working at their new line and batteries.

May 25.—Two batteries west of the town now prevented any landing by day. The admiral gave a small vessel laden with coals, which he had taken; the mariners and soldiers aboard 30 pair of boots, beside many more of shoes. The admiral engaged to send 400 or 500 mariners to keep the town, while the garrison made a sally. Prince Maurice sent a message into the town to have his prisoners well dealt withal about their victuals, according as he should deal with townsmen, having an intimation they were scanted thereof.

May 26. — Capt. Thomas Pyne died of his wounds.

May 27.—About three o'clock in the morning, capt. Pyne was buried in the chancel of the church; and while his body was honoured with a volley round the town, presently the enemy blew up their trumpets, and appeared to storm the town, which had been arranged the day before. After battering the town, and having made a breach in the line, which

the townsmen repaired, they came on in two several quarters where they had battered all the forenoon. They came on thinly, but fiercely, and were soon repelled with a loss of sixteen on the spot. The bodies were refused to the prince, that they might lie and be a terror to the enemy, should they come on again in a day or two. The enemy's common soldiers did not behave well. Several of the commanders were slain. The town lost twelve men. Lieut.-col. Blake was wounded.

May 28.—The enemy continued to batter the line. Three hundred mariners came ashore as volunteers.

May 29.—The admiral sent some ships towards Chideock to cause the enemy to send their horse thither, that the townsmen might sally out in their absence. The enemy was cautious, expecting some design. About noon they came on with ladders six or eight abreast, towards a breach in the line: the fight continued eight hours very hotly; at last the enemy retired, leaving 42 dead, having withdrawn most of their slain nearly as fast as they fell. Many of these were of quality. The next evening the corpses were stripped, in whose pockets were found divers letters written from Exeter; one of a fugitive of the queen's bed-chamber, addressed to the duchess of Richmond, then about Oxford, a very wanton letter. The breaches in the town line were repaired. (The town water was coloured with blood. *Rushworth.)* Capt. Southern was killed, who wore lord Poulett's own armour.* The ad-

* John, first lord Poulett, engaged himself and eldest son in the royal cause, and having raised a regiment of 1500 foot, accompanied the marquis of Hertford into the west. Being overpowered, they retired into Wales from Devon. "Lord Poulett," says Fuller, "was an accomplished gentleman of quick and clear parts, and a bountiful housekeeper." He came

miral wrote to the parliament that 400 of the enemy were slain, and sent every day's proceedings.

May 30.—The enemy craved a parley for the burial of the dead, which was granted, the town to have the pillage of the field. More platforms erected by the town. A letter from the earl of Warwick of 30th May, from before Lyme, was received June 8th, relating every day's proceedings since the siege began; and stating that 400 of the enemy were slain in the last storming, &c. This is printed in Rushworth's Collection; it concludes thus :—" I hope some speedy course will be taken for their relief: their fidelity and courage God hath much honoured; and 'tis pity by delay to hazard the least blunting of their resolution. If Lyme be lost it will have a very ill influence, the inclination of these parts depending on the success of that town; which the enemy values, not so much for itself as for the men in it, who, if at liberty, will get a strength together, which the country will be well disposed to close with." It was ordered that a letter of thanks be written to the earl of Warwick, the commanders that have done such service for the relief of Lyme, and also to the town of Lyme, and the commanders-in-chief there, for their especial service done in the defence of that place. That an ordinance be brought in for the disposing and setting out of my lord Poulett's estate, a fit recompence on the corporation of Lyme; and also for a reward and recompence to the commanders and

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to assist the prince at the siege of Lyme, and paid dearly for his loyal services on this occasion. A very large painting of this nobleman, with his sons on horseback, and family standing to receive him, and a portrait, which latter has been more than once engraved, are to be seen in Hinton house. Lord Poulett was in Exeter at its surrender, 2nd May, 1646, and died in 1649.

soldiers that have so manfully defended that town; that the committee of the west do forthwith go to the committee of both kingdoms, and desire them with all speed to send forces to the relief of Lyme.—*Journals, 8th June.*

May 31.—Eight ships appeared about Portland point, and six others to the west, making for the town. Mr. Pley, who had been sent to sir W. Waller, brought word that a party of 500 horse was prepared to come to their relief, and that he had brought with him both ammunition and victuals. The ships in the west were prizes,—a Dutch hoy, with two statesmen of war for her convoy, worth £10,000. The enemy shot fire-arrows, which consumed some houses: the townsmen uncovered all their thatched houses.

June 1.—After remaining still till noon, the enemy set on fire the west end of the town in two or three places; and consumed twenty dwellings, firing all the time very briskly, and striking off both the hands of a woman as she was carrying water.

June 2.—Capt. Hawkes arrived by especial command of the committee of both kingdoms, with the following letter:—

GENTLEMEN,—We have received an account of your streights, and have appointed relief for you both by sea and land; and be assured, in a very short time, such forces shall march towards you as shall, by the blessing of God, raise the siege. We understand, by intercepted letters, that the enemy fear you will dispute with them from line to line, and that they have little ammunition left.

Signed in the name, and by warrant of the committee of both kingdoms, by your very loving friends, NORTHUMBERLAND.

Derby House, JOSHUA MAITLAND.

May 30*th*, 1644.

Edward and Thomas Ceeley sent a letter to the committee to hasten relief by land with all speed, or the town would be lost.

June 3—5.—The usual operations and casualties of a siege. This day came in a sergeant and a corporal from the enemy's quarters, being very weary of their employ on that side. In a conversation held over the line, some of the besiegers said they were poor deluded men brought out of Ireland, (being Englishmen who voluntarily went thither for the suppressing the rebellion there,) to fight against the parliament. These men assured the governor that the enemy did almost despair of ever taking the town; and therefore resolved to burn it if they could, and for this purpose they had procured a *witch*, who had undertaken to fire the stone healed houses; and further, could promise them to sink the lord admiral's squadron of ships, by devilish art and practice.

June 6—9.—The usual operations of a siege continued.

June 10.—Seventeen or eighteen vessels came from the east, and anchored by the lord admiral. These afterwards sailed for Plymouth. The committee of both kingdoms reported a letter from Edward and Thomas Ceeley, dated June 3rd, desiring relief with "all speed, or the town will be lost;" and a letter for my lord general, declaring his resolution to march with his army to the relief of Lyme. A letter from both houses to hasten him agreed to. It was ordered that the money of sir John Byron should be bestowed upon Plymouth and Lyme, and of sir Edward Yates, (£2000,) upon Lyme. Also the assessment of one-twentieth of the estate of Mr. Daniel Harvey, £1000.*

* Journals.

June 11.—The enemy fired red hot bullets and iron bars crooked at the end; one of which kindled a house containing the ammunition, and several thatched houses, which were saved by the diligence of the townsmen, who had all their vessels filled with water. Letters arrived from Pool, assuring of relief. The enemy raised another platform.

June 12.—A sally was made to remove the enemy from their new platform. Mr. Thomas Way, late a student at Oxford, mortally wounded, and several others.

June 13.—Some ships anchored, in which was the new governor of Plymouth, sir John Banfield. There came into the town from the enemy, a sergeant, who gave intelligence that it would not be long ere the enemy would raise the siege; which was agreeable news, and the sooner credited because they observed this day the removal of a certain tent, which they had for their court of guard. Lieut-col. Blake went aboard the James, to consult about landing more mariners on some design. The serjeant said the enemy had lost 125 officers, and 27 gunners. Sixteen or twenty mariners sallied out without command by capt. Davis's fort, and drove the enemy from a breast-work.

June 14.—Twenty-six officers and soldiers came over, and desired they might keep their swords. They brought word that the parliament forces were not far off, and that the enemy was preparing to raise the siege. The enemy, upon the entrance of the above party, shot fire-works, and set some houses on fire. The admiral sent three ships, with divers boats, towards Charmouth and Chideock, which caused the enemy to send some men. They now began to take down tents, and draw away their ordnance. A party sallied and drove the enemy into their great east battery; horse and foot were sent

from Colway to relieve their friends. Countrymen, escaped from Charmouth and Uplyme, came in and said that the enemy had loaded their carriages, and resolved to be gone with all speed.

June 15.—About two in the morning the enemy had quitted their line.—This being known, every one issued out, some for pillage, others to view the enemy's works, where they unexpectedly found a mine that they endeavoured to spring, in order to blow up their works on the south side, within pistol shot of the town. An express arrived that the earl of Essex would be at Dorchester that night with his forces, called by Vicars, "Christ's army royal." The soldiers went on to Colway and Hay house, and had a market for the arms they found there; others went into the fields and green meadows, to refresh themselves. The mariners finding a poor old Irish woman of the enemy, drove her through the streets to the sea side, knocked her on the head, slashed and hewed her with their swords, and having robbed her, cast her dead body into the sea, where it lay till consumed. The admiral's secretary says explicitly, that the women of the town slew and pulled the old woman to pieces. Whitlock writes much to the same effect. Tradition speaks of a hogshead stuck with nails having been prepared, into which the old woman was put and rolled into the sea.

June 16. Being Sunday, and the day for returning thanks for the town's deliverance, Mr. Peters preached in the forenoon, and chose the 23rd verse of the 136th Psalm for his text, and in the afternoon, the 7th verse of 1st of Luke.* Two messengers

* Hugh Peters related to the House of Commons all about Lyme.—*Whitlock.* His sermon and letter are lost to us. The Mercurius Elencticus for Nov. 19th, 1647, contains a specimen of his eloquence and style in a "silligisme he jumbled out."

brought word that the earl of Essex was come to Dorchester with 13,000 horse and foot.

Thus ended the ever memorable siege of Lyme. Clarendon states that the prince "retired to Exeter, with full 2500 foot and 1800 horse, with some loss of reputation for having lain so long, with such a strength, before so vile and untenable a place without reducing it." We have however the king's letter, ordering what course was to be pursued.

CHARLES R.

Most dear and entirely beloved nephew, wee greet you well. By the inclosed you will see the full state of our business here, and the several resolutions taken upon the motions of the rebels in these parts. Waller being now joined with Essex, it is probable that he will not looke westward, until they shall have tried what may be done upon our army here, or upon this towne.—— But howsoever, wee desire you to keep

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Whatsoever man or thing is beloved, adored, or worshipped as an idoll, ought by the law of God to be pulled downe, trampled upon, and utterly destroyed from the face of the people: But king Charles (that dead dog) ever hath beene, and still is (and like to be) beloved, adored, and worshipped by the malignant party, in their drinking of healths unto him, and that upon their unsanctified knees.

Ergo, it behoveth you, and us, and all of us, to pull him downe, tread and trample upon him; that he be no farther cause of the abominations of that idolatrous people.

In his tract, "Good Work for a good Magistrate, or a short Cut to great Quiet," he proposed the extirpation of the whole system of our laws, and recommended that the records in the Tower should be burnt as the monuments of tyranny. He declared that the commonwealth would never be at peace till they got rid of the three L's, lords, levites, and lawyers. He suggested, it is said, iron staples and ropes being driven into the scaffold, to bind the king if he resisted. Some suspicion seemed to exist that he was the executioner of Charles. See Ellis's Original Letters, 2nd series, vol. iii. He was among the early detectors of Cromwell's ambition. He was executed in 1660, and died with wonderful firmness. See a Note in Burton's Diary, vol. iii.

forth scouts and intelligencers, to give you timely advertisement if he shall advance westward. As soon as you shall have finished what can be done upon Lyme, or shall plainly see that it is not to be taken, wee desire you to draw with all your forces to Bristol, to be there in a readiness to meet with, or come to us, as there shall be occasion, whereof wee shall send you notice. And so wee bid you most heartily farewell. Given at our Court at Oxford, 28th May, 1644.

By His Majesty's command,
EDWARD NICHOLAS.

This is of so much importance for my service, that I desire you to take notice, that this is not an ordinary dispache from a secretary, but a particular direction from me,* upon mature deliberation.

To Prince Maurice.† C. R.

No baptisms, marriages, or burials were registered during the siege. The anniversary of this deliverance was afterwards observed by the inhabitants as a day of public thanksgiving, and a stipend was paid by the corporation for the preaching a sermon.‡

The joy of the parliamentarians knew no bounds. Maurice was compared in "BERACHA, or England's Memento to Thankfulnesse," &c. to Sennacherib, 2 Chron. xxxii. 21. The preservation was declared

* MS. Harl. 6988, art. 107. The postscript is in the king's hand. Ellis's Original Letters, Sec. Series, vol. iii. p. 316.

† Maurice, Prince Palatine of the Rhine, was the son of Frederick and Elizabeth, king and queen of Bohemia, and brother of prince Rupert,—all which names belong to history. His elder brother Lewis espoused the parliament cause. His sister Elizabeth was the only person Descartes knew who perfectly understood his works: Penn conferred with her on the system of his new colony and sect. Maurice and Rupert, upon the ruin of their cousin's cause, after their uncle's death made war upon the parliament in the West Indies, where the besieger of our town perished in a storm, A. D. 1652.

‡ Hutchins. Ed. 1796.

to be little less than a miracle. On comparing the works of the two parties, it was remarked by Wm. Jesop, Esq., the admiral's secretary, "the defence of heaven hath been their munition of rocks."

The royalists confessed they lost more men than before Exeter or Bristol; still it is only the other side that estimates the loss at 2000. Their dead are reported to have been interred near Colway. If the siege was the loss of the campaign to the royalists, it was no less occasion of serious consequences to their opponents. The earl of Essex's army laid down their arms in Cornwall; and he retired by sea to Plymouth, 1st Sept., disapproved of by some members for having advanced so far west, who alleged that Lyme might have been relieved by a party of horse. Essex answered pretty warmly, and concluded one of his letters thus—*Your innocent but suspected servant*, whereupon a committee was appointed to draw up a letter to him.—*Rushworth*, p. 683.

The parliament, on receiving the intelligence, 17th June, ordered Mr. Prideaux and Rose, the members for Lyme, to prepare a letter, to represent the good acceptance of the faithful services of that town; that *the ministers in and about London and Westminster, and the parishes within the bills of mortality, do on the next Lord's day take notice of the great blessing of God in preserving the town of Lyme, and raising the siege.* The lieut. of the tower to give notice of this order to the lord mayor, and to desire him that notice may likewise be given hereof to the several parishes within the bills of mortality; that 26 doz. pr. of shoes be bestowed on Poole and Lyme; that £2000 of the first £4000 raised in Dorset, be employed in the service and for the advantage of Lyme. (C. J.) On the 19th June, it was further ordered, that a collection should be made

in all the parish churches, and all other chapels, within the bills of mortality, for the relief of the poor ruined people of Lyme.—*Journals.*

It is hardly to be expected that men so enthusiastic in any cause as the townsmen were, would cease to exert those energies which had been so triumphant; we accordingly find that the withdrawal of the prince's army, was a prelude to a farther exercise of zeal and martial daring.

Soon after the siege col. Blake and sir Robert Pye took Taunton.

July 28.—Intelligence came that, on the king's march into the west, lord Henry Percy's regiment, quartered at Colyton, alarmed Lyme and retired. That night 120 horse under captains Hercules Pyne, Earle, and Bragg, beat up their quarters. took 120 horse, the major, 55 men, and 100 arms, and dispersed the regiment. About the same time a party from Lyme entered Chard immediately as the king, with the main body of the army, marched out, and took eleven horses with rich saddles, supposed to be the king's, and several prisoners.

Clarendon, Whitlock, Vicars.

August 5.—To reward and encourage the valour of the inhabitants, it was ordered that there shall be a garrison of 600 foot and a troop of 100 horse in the town.—*Commons' Journal,* vol. iii.

In *September*, after Essex's defeat,* the king returned to Exeter, when some of the garrison of that city were assigned to block up the troops in Lyme, grown, as Clarendon says, more insolent by the success they had had, and who made incursions to the very gates of Exeter. The queen came to Exeter to be confined in April.

October 3.—Upon a report that 600 foreign troops

* Essex's army had surrendered 1st September.

near Shaftesbury were levying heavy contributions on the inhabitants, and fines to a large amount if not paid, all the fat cattle were driven into Lyme and other garrison towns.—*Hutchins.*

The mayor, on *October* 10, sent to the parliament a letter relating the necessity of supplying this garrison. The matter was referred to the "committee for the safety of Plymouth, Lyme, and Poole;" who had likewise to consider how Mr. Harvey might be reimbursed for the moneys he had laid out on the garrison, and in bringing up Mr. Alford.—*Commons' Journal*, vol. xiv.

In the troubles now being related, it seemed insufficient that two great parties only should carry on war. Who would narrate the transactions of that period must introduce some account of the club-men, so called from their association, or the weapons they used. These persons were inhabitants of the country, who, from the licentiousness and real wants of the soldiery, suffered from both the contending parties, when the law was dormant and could afford no protection. They united to defend themselves, and at first assumed the guise of impartiality, and professed self-preservation as their object; subsequently numbers, success, and opportunity had upon them all the effect which these usually produce upon mankind. Their motto was,

> If you offer to *plunder* and take our cattle,
> You may be sure we'll give you battle.*

Their hostilities were first directed against lord Goring's force, in consequence of the barbarities of that royalist. Subsequently their numbers and importance so increased that Cromwell, in his march to Shaftesbury in 1645, met 10,000, and afterwards

* Plunder, a term first introduced by the club-men into our language; it was brought from Germany.
D'Israeli's Commentaries, vol. v. p. 13.

2000, who said they expected lord Hopton, and were evidently averse to the parliament cause. Agents from the club-men asked Fairfax for a pass to parliament and to the king the same year, having proposals for a new treaty of peace and a cessation of arms. They proposed that the garrisons of Dorset and Wilts should be put into their hands, to which Fairfax refused to accede, because, as he said, 10,000 men were expected from France. In our neighbourhood they appear to have prevented provisions from being conveyed to the parliament garrisons; but on the taking of Bridgewater it was determined in a council of war to reduce them. Clarendon mentions that so early as July 8 the Lyme garrison encountered a party of club-men, and slew fifty; Whitlock says one of Goring's officers led these club-men.* Hutchins, in his introduction, Rushworth, and Whitlock, convey much information of the proceedings of the club-men. It is, however, only in the king's library among that collection presented to the British Museum by George IV. that I could find a copy of a halfpenny song, published in March, 1645, curious as an historical document, and as a specimen of the dialect then in use.

THE WESTERN HUSBANDMAN'S LAMENTATION.

Uds bodykins! chill work no more:
Dost think chill labour to be poor?
No, ich have more a do:
If of the world this be the trade,
That ich must break zo knaves be made,
Ich will a blundering too.

Chill zell my cart and eke my plow,
And get a zword if ich know how,
For ich mean to be right:

* Sprigge speaks of Major Ceeley, a stout man, hardly escaping.

Chill learn to zwear, and drink, and rore,
And (gallant leek) chill keep a * * * * *,
No matter who can vight.

God blesse us! what a world is here!
It ne'er can last another year,
Vor ich can't be able to zoe:
Dost think that ever chad the art,
To plow the ground up with my cart?
My beasts be all a go.

But vurst a warrant ich will get
From master captain, that a vet
Chill made a shrewd a do:
Vor then chave power in any place,
To steal a horse without disgrace,
And beat the owner too.

Ich had zix oxen tother day,
And them the Roundheads vetcht away,
A mischief be their speed!
And chad zix horses left me whole,
And them the Cabballeeros stole:
Chee voor men be agreed.

Here ich do labour, toyl, and zweat,
And dure the cold, with dry and heat;
And what dost think ich get?
Vaith, just my labour vor my pains,
The garrisons have all the gains,
Vor thither all's a vet.

There goes my corn, and beans, and pease,
Ich do not care them to displease,
They do so zwear and vaper:
When to the governour ich do come,
And pray him to discharge my zum,
Chave nothing but a paper.

Uds niggs! dost think that paper will
Keep warm my back, and belly vill?
No, no, go vange thy note:
If that another year my vield
No profit do unto me yield,
Ich may go cut my throte.

When any money chave in store,
Then strait a warrant comes therefore,
Or ich must blundred be:

And when chave shuffled out one pay
Then comes another without delay,
Was ever the leek a zee?

If all this be not grief enow,
They have a thing cald quarter too,
O 'tis a vengeance waster!
A pox upon't, they call it vree!
Cham zure they make us slaves to be,
And every rogue our master.

October 25.—Col. Ceeley, the governor, went with a party to attack sir Richard Cholmondeley, son-in-law to lord Poulett, who commanded 300 men, posted near Colyton and Axminster. He took 12 officers and 56 men, with their horses and arms. The other part of sir Richard's forces were routed and dispersed, and he died of a wound received in the shoulder. This force was intended to fortify Axminster and streighten Lyme.

Whitlock.

A few days after another party fell in with some of the royalist army, took several officers, 160 musquets, three barrels of powder, two colours, and five drums. Col. Bret and major Hinkley were mortally wounded.—*Whitlock and Vicars.*

November 8.—Sir Anthony Ashley Cooper took Abbotsbury, which was an ill neighbour to Lyme.

Hutchins.

November 29.—A ship out of Topsham having been driven into the Cobb by stress of weather, the parliament ordered, that if it belonged to delinquents it should be confiscated and given to the town.

December 18.—Major-general Holburn, at the head of a party of the king's forces, re-took Whitchurch castle from the Lyme garrison.—*Hutchins.*

1645.—Sir Gilbert Talbot, the governor of Tiver-

ton, captured there by Fairfax in 1645, was sent prisoner to Lyme, and thence to Weymouth. He it was who, residing at Venice, corresponded with Charles, and communicated the Doge's tender of assistance, &c.

Ellis's Orig. Let. 2nd Series, vol. iii. p. 318.

About the beginning of July forces were marching from the king's quarters to blockade Lyme. Fairfax's success with his army, and Goring's retreat from Taunton, disappointed it.—*Hutchins.*

Tradition speaks of the exploits of the women, and the services they rendered in carrying ammunition to the soldiers, and keeping the lines, disguised as men. The besiegers, deceived by this artifice, lay close, when they might have taken the principal batteries that defended the town. Their determined zeal, resolute perseverance, and frantic heroism under their several privations, have caused a comparison to be drawn between them and the celebrated Joan d'Arc. Not only have these feats been mentioned in several publications of that day, but a poem honours them by an exclusive attention. The following is the title of a poem, now very rare, taken from a copy in the Bodleian library, Oxford, left by Browne Willis, the antiquary :—

"Joanereidos, or Feminine Valor; eminently discovered in Western Women at the siege of Lyme, as well by defying the merciless enemy at the face abroad, as by fighting against them in garrison towns; sometimes carrying stones, anon tumbling of stones over the works on the enemy, when they have been scaling them, some carrying powder, others charging of pieces to ease the souldiers, constantly resolved for generality, not to think any one's life dear, to maintain that Christian quarrel for the LONG PARLIAMENT. Whereby, as

they deserve commendation in themselves, so they are proposed as example unto others. By James Strong, batchelor," &c.*

* The poem consists of more than 200 lines. It was reprinted in 1674 with additions, laughable notes, and burlesque complimentary verses to the author. He appears from the first of these, to have been the son of a tailor at Chardstock, in this county, educated by Dr. Pitts, rector there, afterwards warden of Wadham college, Oxford, who sent him to Oxford, where he continued as a poor scholar a year or two, and left it to turn extempore preacher, and at last turned the doctor out of his rectory, sequestered his living, and carried his goods and books to his own living at Bettescomb, which he obtained simonically with his wife, who was niece to Mr. Brown, of Frampton, whom Oliver Cromwell used to call the *Old Roman*, for giving his vote to bring king Charles to trial. He took the font out of the church, and made it his pig-trough, and preached a funeral sermon for Row, the sequestrator, who hanged himself, and was son of a committee man in this county. His wife, tired of his peevish temper and ill-usage, left him and went home to her father; and after her death, he took to his second wife a rich widow at Ilminster, where he took the sequestration of the vicarage belonging to Mr. Tarlton, bought an estate, and built a house, which, upon his removing to it, the porch of the vicarage house fell down. *See Hutchins.* 1796.

If the heroes of Homer were assailed by a Zoilus, Strong's heroines experienced similar treatment from the pen of a cavalier, who mocks their achievements and their poetical admirer.

"Alas! who now keepes Lyme? poore female cattel,
Who wake all night, labour all day in battel;
Geese, as a man may call them, who do hisse
Against the opposers of their countrie's blisse,
And by their seasonable noyse discover
Our foes, when they the workes are climbing over.
And shall such acts as these forgotten die
Unrecommended to posteritie?
No, whilst I have a *Muse* that can afford
One verse, their names shall stand upon record;
Nor shall the cankred tooth of envious *Time*
Devoure the storie of besieged *Lyme*.

In the prologue are the following lines :—

"Who could see, &c.
A garrison in part defended
By women, till the quarrel's ended,
And worn-out men to be supply'd,
By second strength of women try'd,
And not acknowledge that 'tis true?
I give west women what is due."

JAS. STRONG.

The poet, fully impressed with the importance of the services the heroines had rendered, soon launches into a strain of the highest panegyric :

"Here's now a subject worth his pains; who sings
Had need carouse of all the Muses' springs:
A saint-like sort of females, as before
Earth's broad horrison till now ne're bore,
From heaven are fallen; oh, let's not be dull
To write their worth whereof the west is full.
New natured are they and their grace divine,
Come, let's embalm their faces, and eke enshrine
Their worth with honour, which doth claim the lays,
And round their heads let's deck the Daphnean bays.

* * * *

Strong takes leave of his subject and heroines thus :—

"Farewell, rare paramours, I must confess
Virtue's perfection claims a purer dress.
Stand fast awhile, the nuptial chambers sweeping,
To welcome those to joy that now stand weeping."

After the taking of Bridgewater, July 22nd, Lyme was essentially serviceable to the parliament, as it terminated a line of garrisons extending over the isthmus from this to the Bristol channel, by Bridgewater and Langport. The whole of Cornwall and Devon, then (excepting Plymouth) devoted to the king, was blocked up from all intercourse with the eastern parts.*

* Hutchins.

Whitchurch castle, belonging, says Whitlock, to count Arundel, which was in the hands of the royalists, much annoyed the neighbourhood. This garrison took it July 29th, with 100 prisoners, 30 horses, powder, arms, and provisions. They held it till Oct. 1st, when col. Ceeley charges £1. 19*s.* for "work about demolishing it." Hopton's army laid down their arms before Fairfax, 4th March, 1646.

2nd May, 1646.—Upon a division that lord Poulett be admitted to composition, the petition of the mayor, burgesses, and inhabitants, was read. It was ordered that it be referred to the committee at Goldsmiths' hall, to make such composition with lord Poulett, that the corporation may have reparation in lands, to remain to the said body for ever, as a mark and testimony of this house, conferred upon them for their fidelity and constancy to the liberties of the kingdom of England, and the true Protestant religion. Dame Ellen Drake, of Ashe, petitioned for reparation. Ordered that col. Ceeley, late governor of Lyme, be referred to the committee at Goldsmiths' hall, to consider of his losses and damages, and of a reparation and fit recompence for his faithful services.*

July 13th, 1647.—It was ordered that the works made about Lyme, since these troubles, should be dismantled, and the town disgarrisoned.

August 14th.—The house resolved that the garrison of . . . . and Lyme should be slighted and dismantled. The men to be disbanded or sent to Ireland.

Sept. 25th, 1647.—The house ordered the ammunition and provisions to be disposed of for the service of Ireland.

* Journals.

August 5th, 1648.—The humble petition of the distressed inhabitants of Lyme having been read, it was ordered, in consequence of their great losses, that two thousand oaks be and are hereby given to the mayor and corporation for re-edifying and building of their houses and ships, mills, and fulling racks for cloth, burnt and lost in the siege by prince Maurice, out of the woods of the lord Poulett and sir John Poulett: and that the mayor, for the time being, and the corporation, or the greater part of them, and their assignees, do fell, cut down, and from time to time carry away with horse and plough, all such timber and wood so felled, and that the mayor for the time being, and the burgesses of the corporation, have all the rents and profits of the sequestered lands of the said lord Poulett and sir John Poulett, his son, (excepting £1500, unpaid, and bestowed and granted to the lady Drake, of Ashe,) towards the reparation of their losses and damages, sustained by the said great siege, and the sequestrators of the several counties are to take notice hereof, and to give obedience thereunto. The sequestrators, &c. to be indemnified by the house. (C. J.)

Governor Ceeley's accompt from August 25th, 1642, to March 25th, 1646, appears in Rushworth.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Received in 1643 - -	3982	17	2
1644 - -	438	18	6
1645 - -	12,957	18	10

Whereof £2825 was for linen cloth taken in the Speedwell, of Topsham. Received for the use of the parliament, in that garrison, during the time above mentioned, £17,380. 2*s.* 8*d.* Disbursed, £17,458. 16*s.* 5*d.*

Vain would be the attempt to guage the human suffering of the period now imperfectly described.

Death and wounds, dealt by the hand of fellow-countrymen, houses and shipping mercilessly consumed by fire, poverty visiting those with whom prosperity had promised ever to dwell, and who pined away at the change of guests,—the petty tyranny of the base and despicable—are features which a narrative of transactions in this vicinity incessantly holds up to view. Stedcombe house was destroyed by the royalists; Whitchurch castle by the parliamentarians; Ashe, the seat of the Drakes, by the king's party; Colway and other houses by our garrison!

Those who appear, by Dring's catalogue, to have compounded, "after the troubles," for their estates here, were:—

	£	*s.*	*d.*
Gregory Alford - -	10	0	0
Nicholas Deye - -	46	0	0
William Ellesdon -	33	6	8

That the Restoration did not release all the royalists from their pecuniary obligations incurred in the troubles, appears very clearly from entries in the Order book of this borough:—

1661, *July* 16*th*.—"Whereas the sum of £100 has been lately received from the right hon. John lord Poulett, (as a part of that sum which by agreement made in August last, was by him to be paid to the use of the town.) This sum to be laid out on the public works of the town, now in hand. Nevertheless, to be reimbursed to the town stock, whereof it is a part, together with interest at six per cent. In 1662, by an order respecting a work-house or brew-house, for the poor in Coomb-street, it appears that the late mayor, Amyell Hart, had received £200, by virtue of a composition lately made with the said lord Poulett on the town's behalf." Again, in 1663, the appropriating certain

moneys arising from lands, occasions an entry, by which it appears, that lord Poulett and his lady, and the lord Poulett deceased and his lady, had made over lands to Edmund Prideaux, Esq., and divers feoffees for the use of the mayor and burgesses of Lyme. A sum of £40 per annum is mentioned as arising from these lands.

In the Harleian MSS., vol. 368, p. 123, is an "Argument concerning Lord Poulett," which discovers how alert the townsmen had been for their interests. At his lordship's composition, 24th May, 1646, our burgesses insisted upon having £200 per annum of inheritance settled upon Lyme. His lordship claimed to compound according to the articles of Exeter, in which case he might not have had to pay so much as the townsmen demanded; yet notwithstanding, he and sir John Poulett, his son, agreed to settle £200 per annum. However, it appears that in a "strained sense" his lordship was expected to pay his fine, £13,155, and settle lands upon Lyme besides; which occasioned this argument, which is without any date; in it is denied any particular damage to Lyme.

King Charles the Second, after the battle of Worcester, 1651, lay concealed at Trent, near Sherborne, from which place of retreat his friends frequently dispersed themselves over the country, for the purpose of procuring a vessel to convey his majesty out of reach of danger. This undertaking was attended with great risk, as parties of soldiers were patrolling the country in every direction, with the hopes of seizing the person of his majesty, who was known to be still in England, and of obtaining the reward offered in the proclamation to whoever should be so fortunate as to secure him. Colonel Wyndham, his hospitable host, informed his neighbour, sir George Strangeways, of the important guest he

then entertained at his house; but he told him "that he knew not any one master of a ship, or so much as one mariner that he could trust; all that were formerly of his acquaintance in Weymouth being for their loyalty banished beyond sea, and in Pool and Lyme he was a mere stranger, not having one confidant in either."

Mrs. Ann Wyndham published, after the Restoration, a little work descriptive of the dangers the king had been exposed to, entitled "Boscobel; or the complete History of the most miraculous preservation of King Charles the Second after the battle of Worcester; to which is added, Claustrum Regale Reseratum, or the King's Concealment at Trent."* From the latter part of this publication has been selected the following passage:—

"About this time, the forces under Cromwell were retreated from Worcester into the several quarters of the country. Some of them coming to Trent, proclaimed the overthrow of the king's army, and the death of the king, giving out that he was certainly killed; and one of them affirmed that he saw him dead, and that he was buried among the rest of the slain, no injury being offered to his body, because he was a valiant soldier and a gallant man. This welcome news so tickled the sectaries, that they could not hold from expressing their joy by making bonfires, firing of guns, drinking, and other jollities; and for a close of all, to the church they must, and there ring the king's knell. These rude extravagancies moved not his majesty at all, but only (as if he were more troubled for their madness than his own misfortune,) to this most Christian and compassionate expression, 'Alas, poor people!'

* Collinson, in his History of Somerset, says it was col. Wyndham's sister, not his wife, who wrote this work. His wife was Ann, heiress of the Gerards of Trent house.

"Now, though the king valued not the menaces of his proud enemies, being confident they could do him no hurt, yet he neglected not to try the faithfulness of his friends, to convey him out of their reach. Thus the former design proving unsuccessful, and all hopes of transfretation that way being laid aside, the colonel [Wyndham] acquainted his majesty that one captain William Ellesden, of Lime, (formerly well known unto him,) with his brother John Ellesden, (by means of colonel Bullen Reymes, of Wadden in Dorsetshire,) had conveyed over into France sir John Berkly (afterwards lord Berkly) in a time of danger. To this captain therefore his majesty sends the colonel, who lodging at his house in Lime, took an opportunity to tell him that the lord Wilmot had made his escape from Worcester, that he lay privately near to him, and that his lordship had earnestly solicited him to use his utmost endeavours to secure him from the hands of his pursuers. To this purpose he was come to town, and assured the captain, if he would join in this affair, his courtesy should never be forgotten. The captain very cordially embraced the motion, and went with the colonel to Charmouth, (a little place near Lime,) where, at an inn, he brought to him a tenant of his, one Stephen Limbry, assuring the colonel that he was a right honest man, and a perfect royalist. With this Limbry colonel Wyndham treated, under the name of captain Norris, and agreed with him to transport himself and three or four friends into France. The conditions of their agreement were, that before the two and twentieth day of that instant, September, Limbry should bring his vessel near Charmouth road, and on the said two and twentieth, in the night, should receive the colonel and his company into the long-boat from the beach near Charmouth, from thence carry

them to his ship, and so land them safe in France. This the colonel conjured Limbry to perform with all secrecy, because all the passengers were of the royal party, and intended to be shipped without leave, to avoid such oaths and engagements which would otherwise be forced upon them; and therefore privacy in this transaction would free him from danger, and themselves from trouble, the true cause why they so earnestly thirsted (for some time) to leave their native country. Limbry's salary was sixty pounds, which the captain engaged to pay at his return from France, upon sight of a certificate under the passengers' hands of their landing there. To the performance of these covenants, Limbry, with many vows and protestations, obliging himself, the colonel, with much satisfaction and speed, came back to his majesty and the lord Wilmot to Trent, who at the narration of these passages, expressed no small contentment.

"The business being thus far successfully laid, the king consults how it might be prudentially managed, that so there might be no miscarriage in the prosecution. Necessary it was that his majesty and all his attendants, (contrary to the use of travellers,) should sit up all the night in the inn at Charmouth, that they ought to have the command of the house, to go in and out at pleasure, the tide not serving till twelve at night. To remove, therefore, all suspicion and inconvenience, this expedient was found out:—Henry Peters, colonel Wyndham's servant, was sent to Charmouth inn, who inviting the hostess to drink a glass of wine, told her that he served a very gallant master, who had long most affectionately loved a lady in Devon, and had the happiness to be well beloved by her; and though her equal by birth and fortune, yet so unequal was

his fate, that by no means could he obtain her friends' consent; and therefore it was agreed between them that he should carry her thence, and marry her among his own allies. And for this purpose his master had sent him to desire her to keep the best chambers for him, intending to be at her house upon the two and twentieth day of that month, in the evening, where he resolved not to lodge, but only to refresh himself and friends, and so travel on either that night or very early next morning. With this love story, thus contrived and acted, together with a present delivered by Peters from his master, the hostess was so well pleased, that she promised him her house and servants should be at his master's command, all which she very justly performed.

"When the day appointed for his majesty's journey to Charmouth was come, he was pleased to ride before Mrs. Julia Coningsby, the lady Wyndham's niece, as formerly before Mrs. Lane. The colonel was his majesty's guide, whilst the lord Wilmot with Peters kept at a convenient distance, that they might not seem to be all of one company.

"In this manner travelling, they were timely met by captain Ellesden, and by him conducted to a private house of his brother's, among the hills near Charmouth. There his majesty was pleased to discover himself to the captain, and to give him a piece of foreign gold, in which, in his solitary hours, he made a hole to put a ribbon in. Many like pieces his majesty vouchsafed the colonel and his lady, to be kept as records of his majesty's favour, and of their own fidelity to his most sacred person in the day of his greatest trial, all which they have most thankfully treasured up as the chiefest jewels of their family."

Here let us leave Mrs. Wyndham, to attend to

Colonel Ellesdon's own account of this affair, which Hughes considers in his work* to have been written after the Restoration.†

The col. lived in Lyme, looking upon it as some protection to him, as he says, "in those times to live in that town. I sent to the custom-house to know who had entered his vessel as bound to France. News was brought that one Stephen Limbry of Charmouth had lately entered his bark, and intended a speedy voyage to St. Malo. This Limbry was a tenant of mine, and had repute of being well affected to his majesty. We (col. Wyndham and myself) rode to Charmouth by the sea-side to speak to Limbry. We told him the object was to get off a gentleman who had a finger in the pye at Worcester. We sent down one Harry Peters, col. Wyndham's servant, to secure two rooms at Charmouth by an earnest of five shillings. Lord Wilmot was to be Mr. Payne, the king his servant, and rather to say he was shipped from Charmouth, because Lyme being a town corporate he feared arrest, his factor at St. Malo having broken him in his estate through unfaithfulness. The master, through weakness of judgment, or else through fear of discovery, had utterly forborne to acquaint his wife with his intentions to go to sea, until it was almost time to go aboard. Whereupon he no sooner called for his chest, but his wife asked him why he would go to sea, having no goods aboard. The master now thought himself necessitated to tell her Mr. Ellesdon

* The *Boscobel Tracts* relating to the escape of Charles the Second after the battle of Worcester, and his subsequent adventures. Edited by J. Hughes, Esq., A. M. Edinburgh and London, 1830. 8vo., plates.

† Col. William Ellesdon's letter to the earl of Clarendon is printed in the folio edition of the Clarendon state papers. Oxford.

had provided him a freight, which would be much more worth to him than if his ship were full loaden with goods, he being to transport a gentleman, a friend of his. His wife having been at Lyme fair that day, and having heard the proclamation read, wherein £1000 was promised as a reward for the discovery of the king, and in which the danger of those also was represented that should conceal his majesty, or any of those that were engaged with him at Worcester, and apprehending that this gentleman might be one of the party, forthwith locked the door upon him, and by the help of her two daughters kept him in by force, telling him that she and her children would not be undone for ever a landlord of them all; and threatened him that if he did but offer to stir out of doors, she would instantly go to Lyme, and give information to capt. Macy, who had then the command of a foot company there. Here the master shewed his wisdom not a little, by his peaceable behaviour; for had he striven in the least, it is more than probable his majesty and his attendants had been suddenly seized upon in the inn.

"But I must needs awhile leave the master a prisoner in his own house, his wife and daughters being now become his keepers, whilst I render an account of the actings of col. Wyndham, who with his man Peters, at the time appointed, went to the place agreed upon to expect the landing of the boat; but no boat coming, after several hours waiting, (because he saw the tide was spent,) he resolves upon returning to the inn. In his way thither he discovers a man coming towards him, dogged at a small distance by two or three women. This indeed was the master of the vessel, who by this time had obtained liberty (yet still under the eyes of his over-jealous keepers) to walk towards the sea side, with an intention to make known to those that waited there

for him, the sad tidings of this unexpected disappointment, together with the causes. The col. (when they met) though he conceived it might be the master, yet being not certain of it, and seeing the women at his heels, passed him by without enquiring into the non-performance of his promise."

"The king's horse wanted a shoe. The hostler had been a republican soldier. Hammet, the smith, a shrewd artisan, said the horse had but three shoes, which had been set in different counties, and one in Worcestershire. The hostler communicated this hint and comment to the puritan minister, Wesley.* The preacher made all speed to the inn, preparing in his mind the most successful mode of entrapping the hostess into a confession. 'Why how now, Margaret,' quoth he, 'you are a maid of honour.' 'What mean you by that, Mr. Parson?' rejoined Margaret, tartly. 'Why Charles Stuart lay last night at your house, and kissed you at his departure; so that now you cannot but be a maid of honour.' The woman then began to be very angry, and told him he was a scurvy-conditioned man to go about to bring her and her house into trouble. 'But,' said she, 'if I thought it was the king, as you say it was, I should think the better of my lips all the days of my life; so, Mr. Parson, get you out of my house,

* This Wesley was no less than Bartholomew Wesley, the intrusive minister of Charmouth, great grandfather of the famous John Wesley. Having applied himself to the study of physic as well as divinity, while in the university, he was often consulted as a physician while he was in his living; and after his ejectment in 1662, he applied himself chiefly to the practice of physic, though he continued to preach occasionally. He pined away at the death of his son, the ejected minister of Whitchurch, a schoolmaster and good oriental scholar. See Calamy, and Beal's "Fathers of the Wesley family." 1833. The latter says he was not popular as a preacher, in consequence of his peculiar plainness of speech; and justifies the part he took as above described at Charmouth.

or I'll get those shall kick you out.' The minister took the hostler before a magistrate, (Mr. Butler, of Commer,) who disregarded the matter. This hostler did not tell his capt. Macy till twelve o'clock, who gallopped off on the London road in pursuit. He went on to Dorchester: the fugitives took the Yeovil road, and got to Broadwindsor.

"Col. Wyndham introduced lord Wilmot as col. Reymes, a prisoner like himself on parole, and procured a lodging for the party in the upper story. Before long, a party of 40 soldiers, on their way to Jersey, came to be billeted. The confusion in the narrow kitchen was presently soon increased by the screams of one of the female camp followers, who was suddenly taken in labour, and by the squabble which ensued between the troopers and the parish officers, who came down to resist this unwelcome addition to their population. The greater part of the night was spent in this brawl, which, though it effectually deprived the king of rest, tended to his security by occupying the attention of the soldiers till the time for marching had arrived."

The king says in his account, dictated to Mr. Pepys, that he was called William Jackson.

The old inn still remains, and is now part of the endowment of the Independent meeting-house of Charmouth. A washerwoman lives in the part which has not been modernized; and persons go to see the inn kitchen, now her principal room. A party who went over in 1829 was told that the last individual who came to see the house, a gentleman, sat in the chimney corner and cried! Some one wittily remarked that he must have been the last of the Jacobites. The history of the period, however, omitting family reminiscences, would justify so striking an instance of personal interest. Let any one about to sit in the kitchen, reflect a little

on the history of the times, and when there repeat Sir Walter Scott's lines in reference to the absence of the banished monarch :—

Though he wanders through dangers
Unaided, unknown,
Dependent on strangers,
Estranged from his own;
Though 'tis under our breath,
Amidst forfeits and perils,
Here's to honour and faith,
And a health to King Charles!

Let such honour abound
As the time can afford,
The knee on the ground,
And the hand on the sword;
But the time shall come round,
When 'mid lords, dukes, and earls,
The loud trumpets shall sound
Here's a health to King Charles!

More respecting the inn when Charmouth is described.

The journals of the House of Commons contain a curious piece of information relative to the close of the interregnum, which no other records elucidate in any way.

Jan. 2nd, 1659.—"A letter from the mayor and burgesses of Lyme, of 30th Dec., 1658, was read; when it was resolved that the parliament doth approve of what hath been done by the mayor and burgesses in disarming the forces raised against the parliament, and in taking away their arms and ammunition; and that thanks be given for their faithful service done for the parliament. The letter was ordered to be referred to the council of state, and the gentlemen who brought the letter to be thanked." (C. J.)

Godwin quotes Carte, vol. ii. p. 122, to show that the malcontents had prepared a formidable rising

in the west. The Anabaptists in 1655 had a plot against Cromwell, when Taunton was one of the towns depended upon as favourable to the plot. Dr. Russell, in his life of Cromwell, states that this proceeded from the royalists, who expected king Charles in the spring, attended by a powerful fleet and army. The earl of Ormond came over about it. Lingard writes that Ostend was selected for the place of embarkation; that the king of Spain furnished an aid of 150,000 crowns, &c.

The parish register contains some curious entries of marriages during the protectorate. See one in 1658;—"Richard Tomson and Mary Fillbrooke, both of this parish, were published three several *market days* in the market place!"

It is deserving of notice that the Restoration gave occasion to Mr. Short, the vicar, to preach a sermon replete with loyal sentiments, which was printed by particular desire of the magistrates.*

A great trade was carried on with the merchants of Morlaix in serges and linens, great part of which was manufactured at Lyme, or purchased at inland towns, Bridgewater, &c. The Rev. A. Tucker, rector of Wooton, has a letter-book handed down in the family, containing a correspondence between his ancestor and a son, who was his factor at Morlaix. This branch of our export trade was totally extinguished at the breaking out of the French war in the reign of William III. A correspondence arose between our merchants' agents at Morlaix and the *prefêt*, who finally, as I have seen, announced that their letter should be burned by the common hangman at a certain hour! From the reign of William III. the town declined. I speak of this reign in allusion only to trade, and revert to the reign of Charles II.

* Calamy.

It may not be amiss to remark, that after the civil wars there were many persons in Lyme and the neighbourhood who differed from the established church: the Baptists were numerous during the protectorate. Mr. Short, the vicar, was in 1662 sequestrated for nonconformity, and immediately formed a society of Independents. It is very clear that the sufferers during the rebellion, after the Restoration avenged themselves upon the dissenters, who began to experience their oppressive treatment as soon as the conspiracies, for which that reign was remarkable, afforded them an excuse for the rigorous execution of the laws against that class of persons. Mr. Gregory Alford was particularly distinguished: owing to his interference Mr. Short was obliged to absent himself. Forbidden by the law to assemble, the dissenters of Lyme are said to have stolen away on particular occasions unperceived, and meeting in the solitudes of Pinney, to have offered up their prayers in a dell between two high rocks, which have ever since retained the name of Whitechapel rocks. On removing a partition some years since in an old house, there was discovered an ingeniously concealed oak staircase, capable of admitting one person at a time, which led to a small apartment that had been used as a chapel: on the wall was printed, in large letters, a text of Scripture.

The mayor and burgesses paid for the fee-farm rent of the town and Cobb, £1; at the exchequer, for all fines and issues, 6*s*. 8*d*. A farthing was issued in 1667, with an impression of the arms of Lyme.

According to the commission returned into the exchequer, Lyme is a member of the port of Poole. That part of the road leading from the custom-house to the beach, once formed a portion of the key with-

out the Cobb-gate; and measured, in length, 72 feet on the east side, and on the west, 99—in breadth, at the north end, 27, and at the south, 63 feet. The sea washed the base on the east, and on the west it was bounded by the houses and warehouses of Samuel Whetcombe, merchant. The customs for some years amounted to £16,000 per annum.

In 1672 a naval engagement was fought in sight of Lyme, between the English and Dutch fleets, when the latter being defeated, retired to the coast of France.

The corporation appear to have anticipated coming evils with respect to the charter, for at a meeting, Aug. 28, 1684, about surrendering it before a *quo warranto* issued, it was put to the vote and carried that it should be surrendered. Oct. 18, capt. Alford and Mr. Solomon Andrew were to be furnished with £100, to wait upon his majesty and get a new charter. Corp. Or. B.

Charles II., December 22, 36th year of his reign, only six weeks before his death, granted a new charter; but without calling in or taking a surrender of any of the former charters. This was the only charter which contains any thing about the election of representatives in parliament. It directs that "the burgesses to sit in parliament for ever hereafter shall be elected by the mayor, capital burgesses, and freemen, or greater part, as heretofore in times past has been used and accustomed." Some novelty was introduced respecting the swearing in of the mayor.

The visit of the lord-keeper Guildford, with his biographer's account of the packhorses, are detailed in the description of the Cobb.

Hutchins states the arms of Lyme are two bars wavy azure, on a chief gules, a lion passant gardant,

or. The arms on one of the maces are two bars wavy vert, between a bordure engrailed; in chief a lion passant gardant, or.



A degree of interest, or even importance, attaches itself, more or less, to every spot where rebellion first rears its head, dependent in a great measure upon the final result. Lyme was the scene of that ill-fated expedition of the duke of Monmouth, to use a local and mild term for it. Before entering upon the most memorable, distressingly so, occurrence in our annals, it may be proper to observe that several facts are differently related. In a larger work such discrepancies might be compared and detailed; in this the narrative of facts, collected from numerous sources, must proceed uninterruptedly, while the reader reposes or refuses confidence in the author for a due exercise of caution and discernment in giving a preference to one authority over another.

That interesting portion of the history of England, the reign of Charles II., contains a striking picture of society. The asylum for the extraordinary characters who figured in that reign, and whose principles of the most daring republicanism had brought them into difficulties, was the United Provinces. There were assembled Ayloffe the lawyer, Rumbold the maltster, Fletcher of Saltoun, and others, who looked upon themselves as martyrs in the

cause of religion and liberty; who gave credence to Titus Oates's revelations; believed a conspiracy existed to eradicate the profession of Protestantism, and establish, as a necessary consequence, arbitrary power. These men believed Charles had been poisoned by papists, who had raised James to the throne, and concluded that no time was to be lost. (*Lingard*, vol. viii. p. 319.) James, duke of Monmouth, of whom so much will have to be said, the natural son of Charles II. by Lucy Walters, was connected with individuals of the principles already alluded to. To enter upon the early career of this unfortunate man would require much consideration of the history of the period. Monmouth was early a courter of popularity, and a favourite with the people. In the British Museum is a hand-bill, fol., London, 1680, entitled, "His grace the duke of Monmouth honoured in his progress in the West of England, in an account of a most extraordinary cure of the king's evil: given in a letter from Crookhorn, (Crewkerne,) in the county of Somerset, from the minister of the parish, and many others." The story may be abridged thus:—Elizabeth Parcet was dreadfully afflicted with the king's evil, which the surgeons could not cure, nor even a seventh son, to whom she had travelled a distance of ten miles. The duke was at Mr. Speke's, at Lackington, and sir John Sydenham intending to treat the duke at White lodge, in Hinton park, the girl made a rush at the duke and touched his hand. All her wounds were healed in two days. The document lay at the Amsterdam coffee-house, Bartholomew lane. It was signed by Henry Clark, minister of the parish, two captains, a clergyman, and four others! In those times of excitement Monmouth had attended processions on the 5th of November, which went to burn Guy Fawkes, or, as it is styled, the

"old pope." And Dalrymple, in his Memoirs, speaks of his tour, in 1682, through the discontented counties, with a retinue of more than a hundred persons, when most of those that came out to meet him were armed—the ancient manners not having been yet laid aside. Monmouth lived at the Hague in great familiarity with the prince and princess of Orange. He expected to be recalled; but at the accession of James his prospects changed, and he retired to a private life at Brussels with lady Henrietta Wentworth. From this he was called into active operations by messengers from the disaffected: he offered to go with the English to England, or serve Argyle as a volunteer. We know that he led a party to our town. Dr. Lingard, who is very full on this subject, says, that "In no part of England had the fanatical and anti-monarchical principles, which prevailed during the commonwealth, taken deeper root than in Dorsetshire and Devonshire. If their growth had been checked by the Restoration they were still kept alive by religious persecution; and it was well known that the great body of the inhabitants, a hardy and turbulent race, cherished a strong antipathy to the existing government, and were ready to rise at the call of any man who should profess to fight the battle of the Lord against popery and arbitrary power. Hence it was to them that the council of six, in the last reign, had looked for their principal support in the event of an insurrection, and among them that Monmouth had now determined to seek an army of resolute and enthusiastic followers." In all the information this work has occasioned my obtaining, it appears that the populace of Lyme was in a state of the highest religious and political excitement.

Before the party in the United Provinces would move, Monmouth was obliged to promise not to

assume the title of king, or if he did so, for their common success, to resign it afterwards.—*Lingard.* Monmouth pawned his jewels, and means were procured in the spring of the year 1685 for an expedition to Lyme. A frigate of 32 guns, and four tenders, were procured. Our envoy having complained, one was detained by the Dutch authorities; the rest sailed May 24th, O. S., the frigate carrying most of the men, and the others equipments for 5000 men, cavalry and infantry. The wind proving most of the time contrary, the fleet did not arrive at Lyme till June 11th, O. S. When a short distance from land, those on board Monmouth's vessel called to Samuel Robins, a poor fisherman of Charmouth, then engaged in his occupation, and purchased what fish he had taken; but though he desired to go ashore they would not permit him till after the duke was landed, which eventually cost the poor man his life.

Monmouth had been for some time expected to land, and very narrowly escaped being intercepted by the king's fleet. His friends on shore, when they discovered the ships making for the Cobb, could not conceal their satisfaction: they embraced one another with every mark of joy, congratulating themselves that they should at last escape the dreaded effects of popery. Great numbers assembled to welcome the duke's arrival and enlist under his standard, and Lyme became the scene of rebellion. The duke selected the sands at the back of the Cobb as the place of landing. The Cobb did not then join the shore, nor were there any houses in front of it by the water's edge: the beach continued from this to the town in a gentle curve, without interruption. I conclude that the Folly public house was afterwards erected.

The duke could not step from the boat to the shore without wetting his legs; and lieut. Bagster,

of the navy, who happened to be close to the beach in a boat, jumped into the water, and presented his knee for the duke to step on, which he did; and then reached the shore without inconvenience. He then turned to lieut. Bagster, and familiarly striking him on the shoulder, said, "Brave young man, you will join me?" His intrepid answer is worth recording,—"No, Sir! I have sworn to be true to my king, and no consideration shall move me from my fidelity." This anecdote has been carefully preserved by the members of the Bagster family. The duke now "call'd for silence, and then," says the narrator, "desired we would joyn with him in returning God thanks for that wonderful preservation we had met with at sea, and accordingly fell on his knees on the sand, and was the mouth of us all in a short ejaculation, and then immediately, well armed, as many as we were, entered the town."* (An account of Monmouth's expedition, written by one of his followers, appended in the life of Jefferys, to the Martyrology, or Bloody Assizes. London, 1693.)

Bishop Burnet, in the History of his own Time, vol. i. p. 641, says Monmouth came ashore with some order, but with too much daylight, which discovered how few his numbers were. Eighty followers, attended by an equal number of servants or inferior attendants, made up his whole force. No

* Had Monmouth succeeded, an historical painting would have ennobled the spot where he landed; banners and glittering armour must have graced the men of manly port, his followers, while crowds of enthusiastic townsmen would by their gestures have expressed their joy. The prince of Orange prospered; and Northcote has made a magnificent picture, called the landing of King William III. Blewett, in his Panorama of Torquay, describes in a few but satisfactory words, a scene which the painter has indeed dignified. The king in broken English addressed a few fishermen, one of whom, a diminutive man, walked into the water and carried the prince ashore!

MS. calendar exists that contains any particulars of the local proceedings, a circumstance much to be regretted. An old woman named Curtis, lately deceased, said her grandfather was obliged to fly for having broken open the town-hall door, in order to give the duke possession, and never more returned. The mayor, Mr. Gregory Alford, set off to Exeter, where the duke of Albemarle, sent in haste, had arrived with a strong force the Sunday before, and dispatched messengers to the king, who received the intelligence on the 13th. James sent a message to both houses, acquainting them of the duke of Monmouth's landing. Whereupon, after an examination of the men from Lyme, they resolved to stand by him with their lives and fortunes against the duke and all other rebels and traitors, and passed a bill for attainting the duke of high treason. Many of the principal inhabitants no doubt fled at the same time. Grose, in his edition of the Antiquarian Repertory, vol. iv. p. 665, gives a rare tract in 4to., published in 1685, in which it is stated, that divers of the principal inhabitants were imprisoned because they refused to join the party, and that the duke's friends took what they thought convenient with them. Monmouth proceeded to the George, then the principal inn of the town.



The lower classes were summoned round a blue flag in the market-place, to hear the declaration or manifesto read. At that time the people could not read for themselves. A copy was stuck up in the night at Weymouth, which, says Ellis, in his history of that town, attracted the people's attention. A clever lad who read to the crowd, was afterwards nearly whipped to death for having done so.

The declaration had been printed in Holland. In it was explained at some length the cause of the duke's landing in this kingdom to be the recovery of his natural rights, asserting the validity of the late king's marriage with his mother, and to free the nation from the despotism of the duke of York, whom he accused as the author of the dreadful conflagration, by which the greater part of London was laid in ashes—of the late popish plot for taking away the life of the king—of the murder of Essex in the Tower—and of having poisoned the king, his brother. At the same time it represented that his religion incapacitated him from swaying the sceptre of England, which could never hope for peace while a papist and a tyrant sat upon the throne. It concluded with, "Now let us play the men for our people, and for the cities of our God, and the Lord do that which seemeth good unto him."

Fox, in his history of the life of James II., says, "This was by far the most guilty act of this unfortunate man's life, his lending his name to the declaration published at Lyme, which was advised and penned by Ferguson. The guilt of calumny of the most atrocious kind was heightened when we observe, that from no conversation of Monmouth, nor indeed from any other circumstance whatever, do we collect, that he himself believed the horrid accusations to be true. Monmouth set his hand to whatever Ferguson recommended."

Monmouth was joined by no nobleman or gentleman of great opulence. It was not till Friday, the day after his arrival, that Mr. Hewling, col. Holmes, col. Churchill, and Mr. Battiscomb, came in. The officers went into the neighbourhood to collect recruits: an excited populace readily furnishes these. Numbers kept flocking in; companies were formed and officers appointed. The arrival of an important addition to the force, from Taunton, caused a serious commotion. Burnet and the earl of Buchan differ in their account of this affair. Dr. Lingard quotes Wade, in Miscellaneous State Papers, ii. 317. Heywood Dare, of Taunton, once a goldsmith, afterwards a broker at Amsterdam, who had conducted the correspondence for the duke, by whom he was made secretary and paymaster, having induced forty horsemen to join, rode in at their head on a spirited and beautiful charger. The celebrated Fletcher of Saltoun, considering this animal better adapted for the use of a military officer than a civilian, seized and claimed it. Dare resisted, and in the struggle was shot with a pistol through the head. The new levies instantly assembled and demanded the punishment of the assassin; and Monmouth, to screen him from their vengeance, placed Fletcher under an arrest, sent him aboard one of his vessels, and ordered the captain to sail to the coast of Spain. Dalrymple agrees only in the last particulars: he calls Fletcher the only soldier, and almost the only man of parts in the army, with whom all Monmouth's chance of success in war left him.

Violent characters are ever to be found in such enterprises. Commenced professedly to oppose tyranny and oppression, these are often unusually rife. Mr. Matthew Bragg, a lawyer of good family, returning from a gentleman's house for whom he

kept courts, was met by a party of Monmouth's horse, then going to search a Roman Catholic's house for arms, at about two miles distance. They insisted upon his accompanying them to show them the way; which he was unwilling to do, saying it was none of his business. He was forced to proceed, and never dismounted while they entered the house. After refusing to engage in the design, his horse was seized for the duke's service, and he was eventually executed for having been seen in such company.—*Martyrology*.

Three horses were taken from the steward of some gentleman, who had land in Lyme. The former applied to have them restored, but could only obtain one, the others remaining with his party. This was afterwards construed into assisting the duke. A present of £400 saved the man. Among the arrivals, must not be omitted Daniel de Foe, the author of that delightful book, "Robinson Crusoe." Men continued to come in on Saturday. About ten o'clock that night, 300 men were sent to Bridport, which they carried in the morning. The soldiers fell to plundering the place, when some of the king's troops that had been routed, a part of the army of lord Feversham, a Frenchman, nephew of the great Turenne, compelled them to retreat with a loss of three or four, but carrying off eight prisoners. Edward Coker and Wadham Strangeways, Esquires, were killed at the Bull inn, and Mr. Harvey wounded.* Lord Grey, who was appointed to lead this party, left it, and sought his own personal safety in Lyme. Monmouth, aware

* In Bridport church, on a brass plate—"In memory of Edward Coker, gent., second son of Captain Robert Coker, of Mapouder, slain at the Bull inn, in Bridport, June 14th, A.D. 1685, by one Vener, who was an officer under the late duke of Monmouth, in that rebellion."

of this act of cowardice, was reminded by his attendants, that no other general in Europe but himself would have hesitated to dismiss him.*

Sunday and Monday morning were spent in enlisting men. The duke's partizans wore a green bough in their hats. Fourteen thousand offered their services.† The party, which had only amounted, says the authority before stated, to not fully a hundred men, was now nearly 2000 foot and 300 horse. With this force Monmouth marched from Lyme on Monday afternoon, after a stay of four whole days in a town whither his expedition had been all along destined and his force collected. Females scattered flowers before him; and as he marched he was worshipped by an adoring crowd, who, in the excitement, saw in the future local as well as political advantages about to accrue. This was indeed short-sightedness. Omitting all consideration of the result of the enterprise, and of those who marched from Lyme, let us for an instant picture the state of the town a few days after Monmouth left.

Captain Trevanion, of the Suadadoes, seized in the Cobb a pink and a dogger in the duke's service, together with a considerable quantity of powder and armour in the town, which the duke of Albemarle secured by placing in it three companies! —*Scarce Tract.*

The duke of Albemarle's army, amounting to

* Lord Grey seduced his sister-in law, lady Henrietta Berkeley. He was created by king William, earl of Tankerville, and appointed to the office of first lord of the admiralty and lord privy seal. He sent to James in the summer a written confession of the Rye-house plot, and of the invasions of Monmouth and Argyle. James was satisfied. Grey received a pardon and became a legal witness.

† History of England during the reigns of the royal house of Stuart, by the author of the Critical History of England. London, fol. 1738.

4000 men, was intended to besiege Lyme. It was seen by Monmouth when about two miles from the town, who led his force into Axminster, and prepared for an attack. The duke of Albemarle came on; but on finding the militiamen of Devonshire would not do their duty, retired. Monmouth was advised to pursue, but he said it was not his business to fight yet, till his men had been a little disciplined, but rather to make up into the country as fast as possible, to meet his friends, not questioning but there would have been in several parts of the kingdom, some action, on the news of his success. "Missing this opportunity, we marched on for Taunton, lodging at several small towns by the way, which still received us as kindly as possible, and all the way met with the loud acclamations of the country, praying God to succeed our arms.

"Thursday we came to Taunton, about twenty miles from Lyme. To give a particular account of our reception here would be too tedious: the streets thronged with people, we could scarce enter, all endeavouring to manifest their joy at his coming; and their houses, doors, and streets garnished with green boughs, herbs, and flowers,—all the emblems of prosperity.

"The next day, twenty-six young gentlewomen, virgins, with colours ready made at the charge of the townsmen, presented them to his grace; the captain of them went before, with a naked sword in one hand, and a small curious Bible in the other, which she presented, also making a short speech, at which the duke was extremely satisfied, and assured her 'he came now into the field with a design to defend the truths contained therein, and to seal it with his blood, if there should be any occasion for it.'

"Nothing now would content the country, but he must be proclaimed king, which he seemed averse

to, and really I am of opinion from his very heart. They said, 'the reason why the gentry of England moved not was because he came on a commonwealth principle.' This being the cry of all the army, he was forced to yield to it, and accordingly Saturday morning he was proclaimed.* In the afternoon came out three proclamations: one setting a sum of money on the king's head, as he had done before on the other; the second declaring the parliament of England a seditious assembly, and if they did not separate before the end of June, to give power and authority to any that would attempt to lay hold of them as rebels and traitors; the third to declare the duke of Albemarle a traitor, (who now lay within six miles of us, having had time to rally his men,) if he laid not down his arms. Forthwith a message was sent to command him; but he sent word, 'that he was subject to James II., the late king's brother, and that he knew no other lord.'

"We tarried here till Sunday morning, and then marched for Bridgewater, seven miles from thence. We were now between four and five thousand men, and had we not wanted arms, could have made above ten thousand. We were received here as in other places, but did little more than read our declaration, which we did also in all other towns, the magistrates standing by in their gowns, and likewise our proclamation, and so marched forwards for Glastonbury. From Glastonbury designed for Bristol, three days' march from that place, designing to attack it. Accordingly we arrived at Canshum, [Keynsham Bridge,] a little town three English miles from Bristol, intending to enter next morning, the duke of Beaufort being there with a garrison of about four thousand men. Being there

* He now touched to cure the king's evil. See preceding statement of a girl who had touched him.

lodged in the town, we were on a sudden alarmed with the noise of the approach of the enemy. Being in no small confusion on this unexpected news, the duke sent one up to the tower to see whether he could discover them marching; as soon as he came up, he saw them at the very entrance into the town, fighting with our men. Here we had a small skirmish, our men being in the fields adjoining the town refreshing themselves; but it lasted not long, for before he could bring word, they were fled, being not above sixty horsemen. They did us mischief, killed and wounded above twenty men; whereas we killed none of theirs, only took four prisoners and their horses, and wounded my lord Newburgh, that it was thought mortal. They came hither thinking it had been their own forces; and had not our undisciplined fellows been a little too eager, and suffered them to come a little further on, they would have entered the town, and we must have had every man of them: their infantry was following, but on their return came not forward. These forces being so near, and Bristol being so well manned also, the duke was loth to pass the bridge for Bristol, though some gentlemen that came over with us, and were prosecuted upon the account of the former plot, being Bristol men, and knew the hearts of the townsmen, begged him heartily to proceed towards it, offering themselves to go in the head of them into the town by some private ways which they knew, assuring him they would make no resistance, but could not persuade him; which had we been possessors of, we could not have wanted money nor arms, the only things needful for us in that juncture, for had we but had arms, I am persuaded we had by this time, at the least, twenty thousand men; and it would not then have been difficult for us to have marched to London

with the recruit of Bristol, the king not being able to make seven thousand men, for the gaining of so many kingdoms; but God saw it not fit for us, and overruled our consultations to our own ruin, for this was in the top of our prosperity, and yet all the while, not a gentleman more than went over with us came to our assistance. So we marched on to Bath. We lay before it in the afternoon, and sent in our trumpeter to demand the town; but they refused to give us entrance, having a strong garrison, it being a stout people and a strong place. Having no mind to spend time in laying sieges, we marched on that day to a little town called Philips-Norton, and there lay that night, being now Sunday the 26th of June.

"Saturday morning, preparing for Frome, we were drawing out our baggage for our march, and on a sudden were alarmed by the appearance of the enemy, who had entered the town, and had lined all the hedges, and had begun to fire on us. Here he began the briskest encounter we had yet had, and for an hour or more a brisk skirmish; but at last we beat them back, killing about thirty, which lay in the place, and we lost about ten in all, and a few wounded. They retreating with their whole army, pitched within a mile of the town; and we went out also and pitched near them, but out of musket shot, playing cannon one on another for some time: they killed of us but one man all the while, but with ours we did great execution, having the advantage of the ground; so at last they retreated, and I have been told lost some hundreds of men in the battle, both killed and wounded. So we marched on for Frome, a town where we were as beloved as at Taunton, where we wanted for nothing but arms, which were by a stratagem taken from them a few days before our entrance. Here came

the unexpected news of Argyle's being defeated, and likewise of the advance of the king's forces from London with considerable baggage, and thirty field-pieces. On this news, together with our want of money and arms, (not seeing which way to avoid these forces,) we were at a stand, and not a little *nonplus'd*. 'Twas at last agreed on that we that came with the duke should get good horses that night, and so for Pool, a little sea-port town not far off, where we were to seize a ship, and set forth for Holland again, leaving our infantry to the mercy of the country.

"This was much like that resolution of the Hollanders in the time of the civil war with Spain. Being, as we then were, in despair of making better terms, and not daring to enter Salisbury plain, because their horse being so much better than ours, their men being disciplined, ours not, we could not face them in so plain and open a country, so that we retreated backward, in the mean time resolving to see what London would do, having a good opportunity offered there. The soldiers being called forth, and not two thousand men to be had for their defence if they had but attempted any thing, this disheartened our men, and several of them coming home to their own country, having felt by experience the hardships of war, withdrew from us.

"We came well back again to Bridgewater, and were received with wonted love. We arrived here on Friday the 3rd of July, and resolved here to fortify so as to hold our ground till we heard from London.

"Saturday, in the afternoon, news was brought of the approach of the king's forces within a mile and a half of the town where they had encamped. The duke went up to the tower, and there took a view of them, and seeing them so careless, and their horse at some distance from the army, in a little

town, the infantry being in Sedgemoore, he called a council on it, and it was concluded on that we should fall on them in the dead of the night. Accordingly, having a guide to conduct us on in a private way, we marched out at about eleven o'clock in the night, and about one fell on them in their tents. There was a ditch between us, and the guide promised to conduct them over an easy fordable place; but our men seeing the enemy just before them, ran furiously on, and lost the guide; so that while they endeavoured to recover that place, the enemy got on their legs, and put themselves in order. And now began as fierce a battle as perhaps ever was fought in England in so short a time. Our foot fought as well as ever foot fought, but not a horse came up: had our horse but assisted we must have beat them out of the field; but our horses would not stand at the noise of drums and guns, so that we lost two of our pieces of ordnance, and we had but four in all, and then but one more in the field. Our foot flung most of their shot over, so that their men for the most part were killed in the rear, and that ran, but the first stood still; and had we done as much execution in the front as we did in the rear, the day had been our own. But God would not have it,—their time was not yet come. By this time their horses came up, and having six or eight hundred good disciplined men, well mounted and well armed, ours neither, our foot having shot away all their ammunition, and our baggage not being then in the field, they were forced to retreat, being all in confusion. Having no money left, and our party thus unexpectedly repulsed, the duke, seeing he could not hold it any longer, fled with my lord Grey.*

* Three detachments of horse had been sent to Minehead, in Somersetshire, to bring cannon to the army, at the very in-

"The duke's party was said to be about three thousand foot and a thousand horse. We had more: at least five thousand men and horse, but not well armed, yet in the field. 'Tis said we lost not above three hundred, and they foot; but after, when we were routed, in our retreat, lost a great many more, though they pursued not for some hours after. After the field was clear of the duke's men, the earl of Feversham marched with five hundred foot and a party of horse and dragoons, to Bridgewater, where he found the duke's forces that were left there fled, and dispersed into several places. When his lordship, having left these men in the town under the command of colonel Kirke, and hearing that the duke of Monmouth was fled with about fifty horse, the greatest number of the duke's men that were left together, he sent out divers parties in pursuit of him and others that fled the field, when, on the seventh of July, about five in the morning, some of the lord Lumley's men seized the lord Grey and another person, near Holt lodge, in Dorsetshire, four miles from the west of Ringwood; and the said lord Lumley making further enquiry among the cotts, was informed, by one Anna Ferrant, that two men went over a hedge, proving to be the outbounds of many enclosures, some of which were overgrown with fern, others with peas and oats; but guards being set upon the avenues, after divers attempts to escape, the Brandenburgh, one of the parties observed to enter the ground, was taken on the 8th of July, about five in the morning, who, confessing he departed from the late duke of Monmouth about one of the clock that morning, in the outbounds, diligent search was made, when, about eleven of the clock

stant the duke engaged the king's forces, and did not return till after the battle. Being the most resolute men, their absence seriously affected the fate of that battle.

the same morning, he was found, by one Henry Parking, hid in a ditch covered with fern, who calling others to assist him, the said late duke, together with the lord Grey and the Brandenburgh, with a strong guard, were brought by easy journeys to Whitehall."

Thus suddenly terminated this ill-fated expedition. Independent of the decided superiority regular troops must necessarily exercise over undisciplined countrymen, Monmouth had to encounter superior numbers. His troops were indifferently armed; the nobility and gentry never joined his standard; and without their assistance in, and concurrence to promote such designs, it is imagined they can never be crowned with success. Wellwood observes, "If Monmouth's ill-fate had not placed a battalion of Dumbarton's regiment in his way, he had in all probability surprised the king's army in their camp, and perhaps at that single blow decided the fortune of England at once."

After the defeat, those who had favoured Monmouth in the smallest degree were involved in proscription. Some in the moment of terror fled their country and their household gods, seeking a refuge in other climes.

Impelled by a desire of revenge for injuries received from that party during their short stay at Lyme, the former sufferers laid constant informations against those connected with the expedition, and in consequence, numbers were daily committed to prison. At this period, according to the opinion most generally adopted, Jones exercised his cruelty and oppression. The lower classes never, to this day, speak of him but with horror. Probably this individual permitted none of Monmouth's adherents to return to their families without causing their arrest.

The unfortunate duke of Monmouth was taken from the Tower on the 15th of July, and, pursuant to a warrant signed for his execution, upon attainder of high treason, was delivered to the sheriffs of London and Middlesex, about ten in the morning, and conducted to the scaffold on Tower hill, where his head being struck off by the executioner, was placed in a velvet coffin, in order to its interment.*

The duke of Monmouth being lodged in his grave, James resolved to punish the people of the west for siding with his capital enemy. That moderation which would have fixed his power, he disregarded, as though he wished to depopulate rather than to punish. The instruments of his barbarity were two of the most unprincipled and ferocious miscreants that ever disgraced the annals of English judicature. It will be scarcely necessary to add, that the callous Jeffries and Kirke, accompanied by *his lambs*, are here alluded to.† In consequence

* The sprightly Saint Foix printed at Amsterdam, 1762, a small pamphlet to prove that the duke of Monmouth was the famous man with the iron mask. Mr. Hume having observed that the duke's party flattered themselves that somebody else was executed in his stead, the French writer asserts, with more confidence than authority, that one of his officers, taken after the battle, was his substitute; and that a great lady, having gained certain persons to open his coffin, after viewing his right arm, exclaimed, "'Tis not he!" Some other vague reports, with the tradition of Provence, that the person confined at St. Marguerite was a Turkish prince, named *Macmouth*, a name easily corrupted for Monmouth, are the only authorities for this new system.—*Note to Hutchins's Dorset.* Voltaire, Age of Lewis XIV., says this man was confined twenty years before Monmouth's expedition.

† General Sir Henry Torrens, January 31st, 1825, on the occasion of restoring the third colour to the second (Queen's Royal) regiment of foot, which had been lost or deposited in Dublin hospital, used unpalatable language to the people of the west, at least it would have been so a few years ago:— "The discipline and valour of the regiment were then so cele-

of the former being at Tunbridge, the trials in the west were delayed for some time. He commenced his *campaign*, as James denominated these Satanical proceedings, at Winchester, and arrived at Dorchester on the 3rd of September, assisted in his special commission of oyer and terminer by four judges and a party of horse, of which he became the general. To that town were conveyed all the unfortunate objects intended as lasting instances of his malignity. About eighty were speedily ordered for execution, and most of their quarters fixed in conspicuous places about the country, to the dread of spectators and annoyance of travellers. The most trifling circumstances were sufficient to excite the unnatural severity of that monster, who, with the greatest apparent good humour, determined punishments at which human nature recoils with horror. When John Bennett, of Lyme, was at the bar, some persons observed that he received alms of the parish; to which the judge in a facetious manner replied, "Do not trouble yourselves, I will ease the parish of that burden."

An instance of his severity to the female sex is recorded, which, for so trifling an offence, has scarcely ever been exceeded. Mrs. Brown, of Lyme, jokingly said to the officer of excise then at her house, "I will pay my excise to King Monmouth." This being sworn to before the judge, he sentenced her to be dragged from the bosom of her family, and publicly whipped in several market-towns—a punishment that was rigidly inflicted.

This monster appeared to triumph in brutality. One day, in conversation, he was told by an officer who had been engaged in hunting down the fugi-

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brated, that the very name of *Kirke's lambs* conveyed a sound of terror," &c.—*Newspaper of that date.*

tives, that he had killed a thousand of them. "Why," said Jeffries (as if the other had not used the sword with proper effect), "I believe I have *hanged* as many myself." One poor fellow suffered for having "spared Monmouth's horse three-pennyworth of hay."

A writer of that day, who witnessed the executions, breaks out in the following terms:—"Had those persons who suffered about Monmouth's business fallen into the hands of *cannibals*, some of them at least had 'scaped better than they did from Jeffries. Those more tame and civil creatures would have spared the *old* and *withered*, though they devoured the young and tender. But no age, no sex, made any difference here; and as those who were just in the world, children of ten years old, were refused pardon, so those who were half out of it would not be suffered to tumble into their graves entire, though, as Juvenal says of Priam, they had scarce blood enough left to tinge the knife of the sacrifices.*

* It would be considered the height of incredulity to disbelieve the following stories, current among the lower orders at Lyme, on which the aged living in 1813 used to dwell with unfeigned pleasure, as they thought a strong proof was afforded by them of the Omnipotent's anger against Jones, of the "Great house," for his horrid persecutions of the martyrs.

They say when Jones lay dead, a tremendous noise was heard in the air, and all the atmosphere was illuminated; that the gable end of the house fell in, and that the devil entered *in propriâ personâ* and carried him away.

The next account ascertains, in a satisfactory manner, the place of his destination.

The master of a vessel sailing near the coast of Sicily saw something in a thick fog, which he hailed. Judge of his surprise when, on a nearer approach, he discovered myriads of devils. The leader of them answered his enquiries in a loud voice, like a naval commander, "Out of Lyme, bound for

From among the eighty persons sentenced to death at Dorchester twelve were destined to be executed at Lyme, on the very spot where some of them had landed a short time previously, with the hope of placing their beloved duke on the throne. On the 12th September the unfortunate captives were conveyed from the county gaol to the place of destination, attended by the tears and blessings of the afflicted multitude. The most interesting particulars connected with the executions are here cursorily detailed as they occurred to each individual, or more properly, to use the western term, *martyr*. Their names were as follow: Mr. William Hewling, Mr. Christopher Battiscombe, colonel Holmes, Dr. Temple, Mr. Sampson Larke, captain Madders, Mr. Josias Askew, captain Kidd, captain Matchett, Messrs. John Hays, Leonard Jackson, and Henry Watts.

Mr. William Hewling* was the son of a great Turkey merchant, and is described as having been a young man of some acquirements. On finishing his education he went to Holland, from whence he returned with the duke as lieutenant of foot. He and his brother, who was executed at Taunton, engaged with the duke of Monmouth, as their own words declared, for the English liberties and the Protestant religion. After the defeat of the duke's army they fled and put to sea, but were driven back again, and with great danger got on shore over dangerous rocks, to see the country filled with soldiers. No way of defence or escape remaining, and fearing lest they should be apprehended by the

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mount Etna, with Jones!" Since that time, Jones and the burning mountain are names generally inseparable.

* These memoirs of the sufferings are abridged from the "New Martyrology" of Thomas Pitts, gent. Ed. 1693.

populace, they surrendered themselves prisoners to a neighbouring gentleman, and were sent to Exeter gaol on the 12th of July. While there they conciliated the affections of all by their engaging behaviour. The subject of this memoir was afterwards removed to Dorchester. As he passed through that town for Lyme, he excited the pity of an immense concourse of spectators, by his deportment at parting with his interesting and inconsolable sister, who applied to Jeffries; and an intimate acquaintance of the Hewlings, a relation of the lord chief justice, from whose fortune he had formed expectations, protested that the continuance of their friendship depended entirely upon his using every endeavour to save them. Jeffries repeatedly protested that he tried, but declared the king was inexorable.

Before the execution, he prayed for three quarters of an hour with the greatest fervency. An officer who had called the prisoners devils while guarding them down, afterwards said he was never so much affected as by his cheerful behaviour and earnest prayer; and that if the lord chief justice had been there he could not have suffered him to die. Although the body was brought from the Cobb without any notice being given, yet nearly two hundred people came to accompany it; "and several young women, of the best of the town, laid him in his grave in Lyme church-yard, the 13th of September, 1685." See under the head "Church," his epitaph.

He was of a very sweet and obliging temper; somewhat tall, his face fresh and lively as his spirits, being of an extraordinary vivacity and briskness of temper; and met his untimely end before he was twenty.* Hannah Hewling, May 28th, 1686, about

* Mr. Kyffin, an eminent merchant of London, the maternal grandfather of this young man, was left to take care of him

a year after the execution of her brothers, married major Henry Cromwell, second son of Henry Cromwell, lord lieutenant of Ireland, and younger son of the Protector.

The misfortunes her family experienced from the severity of James II., and zeal for her religious tenets, set her mind against the established form, and led her into some unwarrantable warmth. She turned out the family clergyman, and entertained in his stead an anabaptist minister. To gain proselytes to her opinion, she led her husband into pecuniary

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and his brother by the father. When Hannah Hewling, the sister, presented a petition to the king in behalf of her brothers, she was introduced by lord Churchill (afterwards duke of Marlborough); and whilst she was waiting in the anti-chamber for admittance, his lordship assured her that she had his hearty wishes of success to her petition: "but, madam," added he, "I dare not flatter you with any such hopes, for the marble is as capable of feeling compassion as the king's heart." James afterwards felt, when in trouble he applied in a fawning manner to Mr. Kyffin, the grandfather, for his assistance in supporting a tottering crown. "Sire," said the affected old gentleman, "I am a very old man, and have withdrawn myself from all kinds of business for some years past, and am incapable of doing any service in such an affair to your majesty; besides, Sire," fixing his eyes stedfastly upon the king, while the tear of anguish trickled down his cheeks, he added, "the death of my grandsons gave a wound to my heart, which is still bleeding, and will never close but in the grave!" James was deeply struck by the manner, the freedom, and the spirit of this unexpected rebuke. A total silence ensued, while the galled countenance of James seemed to shrink from the horrid remembrance.—*Beauties of England, from Noble.* 85.

James also applied for assistance to Hugh Speke, Esq., who had been a great sufferer, and whose brother was executed. How services could be expected from that family, appears surprising. The part Mr. H. Speke took is detailed in a work of 80 pages, published in 1715, entitled the "Secret History of the Happy Revolution," which contains a singularly striking picture of the manners and politics of that period.

inconveniences, that obliged him to part with Spinney abbey. She had eight sons and two daughters, all extinct. She died March 26th, 1732, aged 70.-*Gough's edition of Hutchins's Dorset.*

Mr. Christopher Battiscomb was another young gentleman of a good family, and very great hopes, and of a fair estate, which lay in Dorsetshire, between Dorchester and Lyme. He had studied some time at the Temple, and having occasions in the country about the time of my lord Russell's business, he was there seized, on suspicion of being concerned in it, and clapped into the county gaol at Dorchester. He was at last liberated.

On the arrival of the duke, he joined him, and served with valour. After the rout he fled with the rest, but was seized in a disguise, and brought to his old place, the prison at Dorchester. He behaved himself there the second time in the same courteous, obliging manner as he did at the first, though now he seemed more thoughtful and in earnest than before, as knowing nothing was to be expected but speedy death. At his trial, Jeffries railed at him with so much earnestness and barbarity, that he was observed almost to foam upon the bench. He was very angry with him because he was a lawyer, and could have been contented all such as he should be hanged up without any trial; and truly 'twas no great matter whether they had that formality or no. He was divers times sent for to the chamber of the lord chief justice, and promoted with offers of life by such indirect means, and he accordingly chose death rather than life; seeing it could not be purchased but by such unworthy means.

Several young ladies in the town, among which one is particularly mentioned, went to Jeffries to beg his life, who railed at them at such a brutish

rate as nothing with one spark of humanity would have been guilty of, and in a manner too uncivil to be mentioned.

Colonel Holmes, concerning whom little is now known, had the title of "brave" generally prefixed to his name. On the scaffold he addressed the spectators, to whom he related every particular of his connection with the duke's expedition, "in which it pleased God to frustrate his and other good men's expectations." He dwelt much on the little doubt he entertained that others would meet with better success. Beginning to speak on the duke's title, he was interrupted, and instantly began by prayer to prepare for his dissolution.

The traditional account respecting this person's speech near the Cobb-gate agrees very nearly with the description of the singular circumstances that caused it, detailed in a little publication of that period. The prisoners waited at an inn in the town till the gallows and attendants were prepared. The jailor speaking to colonel Holmes to have his irons knocked off, he said, "Great men of state wear chains, and 'tis accounted for their honour;" and expressed a wish they might continue on. "The sledge being in readiness, they prepared to enter it; but, alas! who should draw such men to execution, though men were so bloody? The very beasts refused to draw them; and instead of going forward they went backwards, and could by no means be made to do it, which so enraged some persons, that they took the coach-horses out of the coach, and placed them to the sledge, but presently the sledge broke in pieces. Then spoke this worthy, good man: 'Pray, gentlemen, you see all your strivings will not do to draw us to execution—I verily believe there is more in it than you are aware of;—pray read about the prophet that went out of

God's way—the beast saw that he could not. Give us leave, and we will walk to the place.'"

He required assistance to mount the gallows, having lost one arm in the service.

Dr. Temple met his death with the same resignation as his fellow-sufferers. In his speech he informed the spectators of his being a gentleman of Nottingham; that he was induced to accompany the duke as surgeon, with the sole intention of serving him in the West Indies, where he thought they were bound. On the faith of a dying man, he entreated them to believe he knew nothing whatever of the expedition being intended for Lyme, and that he was privately told of it two days after their departure from the Texel. On landing, the country was so surrounded by soldiers that he could not escape, while on the other hand, if the duke succeeded, he might raise his fortunes beyond his most sanguine expectations. Begging pardon of all he might ever have offended, he commenced a pious and fervent supplication.

Mr. Sampson Larke was an old man, and had formerly been the minister of an Anabaptist congregation in Lyme. He served under the duke as captain of horse. To him the duke renewed his promise of not aspiring to be more than general.

He had begun to speak, but was told he could not expect much time, as there was so much to be done; on which he suddenly concluded, saying, "I will now speak a few words to Him who I am sure will hear me," and commenced his prayer. Shortly after ascending the ladder he was turned off, to the great grief of the townsmen, who had a great respect for him, owing to the uprightness of his character. He left an aged wife to mourn his violent end.

Mr. Josias Askew wrote some remarkably pious

and affectionate letters previously to his execution. Captain Kidd, Captain Matchett, Messrs. John Hays, Leonard Jackson, and Henry Watts, persons of minor consequence, each spoke on the scaffold.

Captain Madders, or Marder, the twelfth person who suffered at Lyme, was constable of Crewkerne, and procured horses for the gentlemen from Lyme who were proceeding to acquaint the king of Monmouth's landing; he afterwards joined the duke, and was taken soon after the defeat. Some friends, at his trial, represented to the judge what a good character he had always borne, and among other things urged in his behalf, mentioned that he was a good Protestant. "Oh, then," said he, "I'll hold a wager with you he's a Presbyterian—I can smell them forty miles."

Of the inhabitants of Lyme who suffered in other places for being concerned with Monmouth, there remain only the names of the following :—

John Bennett, executed at Bridport. His eldest son went to the judge and offered to die for his father, which act of filial affection was admired by all the county.

Henry Boddy, who suffered at Bath, in his last speech said he was born at Lyme, and, being bred up a seaman, had served Charles II. in his wars with the Dutch and French. He justified the attempt, and his following the duke, by declaring he believed him to be his lawful sovereign. In his last moments he was troubled with questions, put to him by the minister, touching his opinion of the doctrine of non-resistance.

John Holway suffered at Wareham. He was an inhabitant of Lyme, and appeared in arms when the duke landed, but deserted him on hearing the proclamation issued by the king, which offered a pardon to whoever would lay down their arms in four

days. This he did on the fifth day, as was stated to the judge, who passed sentence on him immediately.

I can find no account of the quartering of any who were executed here. Stukeley says there were quarters hung about. The old inhabitants say their parents used to point out several places where many were exhibited, to the terror and disgust of all classes: the situations they mention, are Cox's lodging house, then a coach-house, and the corner of the Rooms, then the Cobb-gate.* Jones is reported to have procured two heads of the massacred adherents of Monmouth, for the purpose of placing them on pedestals in the garden, to have the satisfaction of beholding them in his morning walks. The quarters were taken down at the Revolution.

No documents at Lyme, with one exception, make mention of this rebellion. It was doubtless considered dangerous to chronicle such matters. After the duke's execution, an entry was made in the corporation order book to receive the signatures of the capital burgesses; but as they did not agree to it, probably with prudence in those unsettled times, these were not affixed :—

"1685, 12th October. Whereas John Bowdidge, taylor; Joseph Gaich, mariner; James Pitts, mercer; Richard Dammer, fuller; and Richard Snooke, merchant, all freemen, fell into the late rebellion with James Scott, late duke of Monmouth; therefore it is thought fit they be all disfranchised.

It has been already observed that Monmouth re-

* In the records of Weymouth there appears an entry made at a hall held 14th Sept., 1685. The sheriff orders the mayor to erect a gallows for the execution of some of Monmouth's followers. The entry goes on to state that twelve persons were executed, and their heads and quarters disposed of by the mayor according to the sheriff's precept—"To Upway, four quarters and one head; to Sutton Points, two quarters and one head," &c.—*Ellis's Original Letters*, vol. iii. p. 347.

sided during his stay in Lyme, at the George inn, where the room he slept in to this day remains, and is not unfrequently visited by the curious. An excellent carving in oak is preserved in Lyme, said to have ornamented the head of the bed in which he slept.

Monmouth was the favourite of the people: the aged living at the beginning of this century spoke of him with a feeling bordering upon veneration. The town has, however, so much increased of late years, which has caused such an influx of strangers, that the traditions are fast wearing out.

Monmouth professed himself a great admirer of Lyme, and expressed his determination in verse of increasing its importance. All the old people repeat these lines, which are presented without comment, or the slightest intention to libel the poetical genius of that unfortunate personage :—

"Lyme, although a little place,
I think it wondrous pretty ;
If 'tis my fate to wear the crown,
I'll make of it a city."

An elegy on Monmouth, printed shortly after his death, was read with painful reflections by the people of the west, even by those who had opposed his enterprise, on which subsequently the evident bias of James towards Roman Catholicism had caused them to look with different sentiments: his followers began to receive from their former enemies the softened term of "misguided."*

"Come, mortals, come, now set yourselves to weep,
Is not your glorious Monmouth gone to sleep ?
Send us some tears, you Indians, from your shore,
For it's our grief that we can weep no more," &c.

* The arbitrary monarch, James, caused two medals to be struck on this occasion. On the first was his own head, *Aras*

James II., in council, made an order, and issued a proclamation on the eve of the revolution, for the abolition of the new charters for new modelling boroughs, which were the subject of great complaint, and for the restoration of all officers and magistrates under the old charters. This proclamation was made at Lyme, Nov. 2nd, 1688, three days before the landing of William III. The corporation was restored to, and has since continued in its former and original state.* Since Charles II.'s reign only £1 has been paid to the king annually. It is presumed that a remission of the five marks was purchased of that king.† The mayor paid 6*s.* 8*d.* for fines and recoveries.

In 1688 a few troops landed at the Cobb, and speedily marched to join the prince of Orange's forces near Exeter, where they had arrived from Torbay. The following year, as used to appear on the old single sheet almanack, an earthquake was felt. This was probably some large slip of the clift.

William III. granted a confirmation of former charters and privileges.‡

The subject insensibly draws to that period which numerous individuals, of different grades, remembered, who were living about 1820, when inquiries were directed to procure materials for this work. About the year 1750 the town was, generally speak-

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ad sceptra tuemur. Reverse—Two headless trunks of Monmouth and Argyle, *Ambitio malesuada ruit.*—Second medal: Obverse—Monmouth's head, without any inscription. Reverse—A young man falling in the attempt to climb a rock with three crowns on it, under which was the following truly ridiculous motto, *Superi risere.*

* Coll. of L. Follet, Esq.

† Communication of a gentleman who has the custody of some of the public records.

‡ Hutchins.

ing, in a very low state. Some might think this has been exaggerated, when it appears there was no *want* felt. However, nearly the whole population was engaged in the manufacture of serges, which was then carried on by a few individuals of respectability, and at that time conducted in a manner quite different from that of the present day, as men took home work which they wove at their own houses. These men were poor; there was little shipping; no influx of strangers, and very few respectable inhabitants. Houses were of little value; purchasers could scarcely be procured on any terms, and some were literally given away, while others are known to have been offered, but refused! The lower street had large high buildings, some of which projected at each story, which had been the abode in the former century of rich families, but from the effects of time, and neglect of the poorer occupiers, were in a state of extreme decay. The population had dwindled to less than a thousand inhabitants, so that a great many houses remained unoccupied, and were so neglected that it is an incontestable fact, that no one could walk with safety in the streets during a high wind, which frequently blew down parts of the most tottering buildings.

The decline of the town, from what it had been at the close of the preceding century, may be collected from a petition of the mayor and inhabitants to parliament, Feb. 11, 1772. This set forth that when the *land tax* was established, in the fourth year of William and Mary's reign, the borough contained many good houses, inhabited by substantial merchants, who manifested their zeal for the government by assessing on the houses, lands, salaries, and personal estates within the borough, at the rate of 4*s*. in the pound, £407. 8*s*. and for Colway tithing besides this, £120. 10*s*.; that from

1692 to 1772 above 118 houses had *fallen to ruin*, besides many others burnt down, and never rebuilt, and washed away by the sea! The land tax fell on the remaining houses at the rate of 6*s*. in the pound upon the full rack rents, which the inhabitants could not pay about this period, and so were returned *insuper* by the receiver-general in various sums, amounting in 15 years to £1365. Process issued out of the exchequer half yearly, &c.; but as the inhabitants could not pay the land tax, nor the *insupers*, they prayed relief. The petition was laid on the table, see Commons' Journals, vol. xxxviii.; but must in some measure have had the desired effect, as in 1795 the borough was only assessed £269. 6*s*.*

The only ways out of the town were narrow and deep lanes, having causeways by the side, full of deep ruts. These were scarcely passable in carriages. Lyme was not then in the line of road from Charmouth to Exeter. There was no vehicle of any description; when a carriage chanced to pass it proved a great source of attraction. The tradesmen, a homely class, who, as often as they had occasion to visit London for a stock of goods, walked in small parties for mutual protection with a bundle on their shoulders, and generally reached the metropolis in a week. So great an undertaking was it considered, that no one ever thought of departing without having previously made his will. The judges, who went the circuit on horseback, used to sleep at Morcombe lake. The *fly* coach from London to Exeter *slept*, as it is termed, the fifth night at the same inn. In the morning it proceeded towards Exeter, stopped at Axminster, where the

* The corporation, upon the death of the king, pay a fine to stay process. About 1803 an additional sum was assessed on the town towards the arrears.

passengers breakfasted, and had the services of a woman barber; and reached its place of destination at the end of the SIXTH DAY! The journey is now performed, on the same road, in 23 hours.

As the old houses fell down, or having become dangerous were removed, poor people built themselves, with the materials, tenements of little value. The old buildings were repaired in such an excessively clumsy manner, as to entirely destroy all vestiges of former proportions.

There were no houses at the Cobb; few out of Broad street westward, and those only cottages. In fact, there were no environs, as at present. The great house in Broad street, and Mr. Burridge's, in the butter-market, were the only best houses remaining. Broad street was inhabited by lace-makers, who worked at their doors in summer. That occupation, as it presented no obstacle to free conversation, has decidedly been a great promoter of those numerous traditions, which would of themselves fill a volume. Seated in the shade, or collected round the fire, they repeated the stories they had learned from their parents, of valiant deeds performed by Lyme men in the "troublesome times," or rehearsed elegies on their darling Monmouth, who said, when he mounted the throne, Lyme should join Axminster and Charmouth; thus causing it to regain, or rather exceed, its former splendour, when, as the old people of 1750 say, it contained as many thousands as it did, at the period we allude to, hundreds. Stories of ghosts and apparitions were not wanting to heighten the interest of their discourse. Most of the houses in Broad street had porches. An old person described, among other things, how ladies in the decline of life used to sit and stand in their porches on summer evenings, to talk to their friends and also to inferiors, in full dress—a white apron in-

stead of a checked one, ruffles, &c. Two or three ladies of the principal families were styled "madame." No strangers ever came in the summer. When the members of the Fane family attended elections, &c., they were received by a gentleman named Lisle, at his house in the butter-market. The London letters were forwarded from this place to Axminster upon a mule! This animal was remarkably obstinate, and was sometimes got on with considerable difficulty.

The shops were so ill supplied, that, excepting at fairs, very few articles, not of ordinary consumption, could be procured. The old houses rapidly disappeared, and hovels succeeded in their places. No white bread was sold. The labourers worked for four-pence per diem. The women, in the manufacture of Lyme lace, which was made as high as four and five guineas per yard, and from its superior durability and elegance, acquired great repute, and rivalled that of Brussels, took in work from Honiton and Colyton: they fabricated a splendid lace-dress for the late lamented queen Charlotte, which gave great satisfaction at court. The starch-mill was vacated, and a lapidary rented it for several years. During a scarcity of corn in the vicinity, a report was current, among the poorer classes, that it had been all bought up for the manufacture of starch. A mob from the country entered Lyme, with an intention to destroy the mill, which was, by timely precaution, prevented.

May 31, 1759, the sea flowed three times in one hour.

Several large vessels have been wrecked near the town within the recollection of persons now living. One French brig, from the West Indies, went ashore near the eastern jetty, upon which the crew

saved their lives. All the poor people contrived, by plundering, to lay by a stock of coffee and sugar.

The serges made here, at this period, were shipped from Exeter to Ancona. At the introduction of machinery, and changes that ensued in the manner of doing business, the manufacturers of the north of England, by getting the start, by superiority in the machinery, and by the greater industry of their workmen, took away all the trade of the west of England in serges.

The account of Lyme, as a commercial town, is concluded, for after the year 1760 little trade was carried on: it lay for a certain time in a state of torpor; then revived under the metamorphosed appearance of a watering-place.

Watering-places every where started up about this time with their peculiar habits, which have had so much influence on society at large. During the season this town, like others, was the centre of gaiety; in winter it was deserted, and the townspeople visited among themselves, and appeared like one great family, in which only the distinction between a few grades was preserved. Some were richer than their neighbours; but riches, in most of the concerns of life, failed to produce that distance between individuals which is now so marked. Every one felt an *interest* in the private concerns of those above and below him, and petty feuds were never wanting of those who felt concerned, and so became ready to engage in them. The leading inhabitants, who espoused different sides in the local politics, when these raged high, had their retainers, as at present; but there was a familiarity now entirely unknown. The rich and the poor sent their children to the same day school; and when a journey had been performed, a match settled, some loss

sustained, &c., congratulation or condolence was made personally by numerous inferiors. If an inhabitant was but a few miles distant, and met one of the same town, he knew him personally, his character, and employment: the two spoke, and were ready to assist each other if there was need.

The dinner hour at the mayor's feast was two o'clock. The viands were plain but substantial: pipes and punch were introduced immediately after the cloth was removed. Most of the company departed about midnight. The hospitality of this period is described in a number of the Edinburgh Review: a gentleman is spoken of as returning late over bad roads; footman drunk, coachman more drunk, master most drunk! There was not a piano in the town. The ringers and singers spent Christmas eve at the clergyman's house with the vicar. The sisters and friends of some of the most respectable inhabitants had stalls in the shambles at the fair,—the very shambles now in existence; and the young ladies, "of the best of the town," raffled there for ribbons! The old people here are loud in their praises of this period—not only the humble but the rich. The *strangers* who came to visit had different tastes and pursuits, which did not accord with many of those of their equals; they knew the humble neither personally nor by name. "When they strangers came," (not visitors) said an old woman upwards of ninety, "then the town was a spoiled." This feeling no doubt prevails wherever a town has increased by the great influx of strangers; but here a great change took place in the class of persons who came to extend the town. Persons settled who derived their income independently of the town and neighbourhood, who felt no ancestral attachment to particular families—whose grandfathers had worked for theirs, and no tie which bound them to support the welfare of

the town. *Family pride* among the POOR began to decline, and is now nearly extinct! That is the great preservative against all the evils that blight the salutary operation of the poor's laws. A family enjoying the countenance of the Tuckers, the Coades, &c., who had served them and their fathers before them, would have scorned parochial aid unless oppressed by severe calamity. Now, no shame whatever is felt on applying whenever imprudence or outward causes have produced temporary inconvenience. The change of system in this respect has been productive of marked disadvantage on the lower classes, and furnishes a lamentable contrast to what obtained at the period now treated of, when an *old* and *feeble* woman, who had sent out into the world a large family, having been informed that the parish intended to allow her two shillings a week to keep her from want, burst into tears at the misfortune of being unable to maintain herself, and the disgrace of being a burden on the parish!

Lyme was famous for smuggling, as was indeed this coast. About the year 1780, the laws were such as allowed smugglers a latitude that will be scarcely credited. Nothing could be seized *above* high-water mark; so that pipes of wine have actually been landed close to the Custom-house here, and allowed to remain on the beach and Cobb-gate leading to the custom-house!! Vessels have come along shore: if no officer was on the spot the goods were landed; if there was any interruption the craft went elsewhere, or returned another time to the same spot. Vessels of about one hundred tons were employed, called tonnagers. The papers were made out from Cherburg to Ostend. One of these was boarded off the Cobb, and found to be full of wine: her papers were inspected. The next day she entered the Cobb, without a single pipe of wine. Mr. Raymond,

of the Custom-house, seized her, as he said she could not have gone to Ostend and back in one night. The smugglers stood trial at Dorchester. The solicitor for the customs came down. The evidence was complete to prove that the vessel was laden with wine one day, and the next was empty. The smugglers pleaded their having thrown overboard the cargo, to prevent the vessel from sinking. The judge having questioned one of the custom-house officers who boarded the vessel, as to her condition at the time, the man, who had been bribed, answered, that he said to another officer, "Let us be off, or we shall share the fate of poor admiral Kempenfelt." This saved the smugglers.

Persons engaged in smuggling-ventures used to go round the country like mercantile travellers, and ask gentlemen what they would "give to have a pipe or hogshead of wine put into their cellar." The price being agreed on, it was only a question of conveyance. In a store at Bridport, there were hundreds of pipes of wine at a time not seizable. Some man, named Gulliver, had forty or fifty men constantly employed, who wore powdered hair and smock frocks, and were from this called "the Whitewigs." They did not care for the officers, though the laws were somewhat changed, and smugglers were liable to interruption. At the great change in the laws some gave up smuggling, and others who continued lost large sums of money. There were several cruizers here that belonged to private individuals, which were fitted out to capture smugglers, which they did with their crews. This was a speculation, as the owners were remunerated in proportion to the success of the vessels they fitted out, like privateers to cruize upon an enemy. Capt. Lisle had several of these vessels. Many persons who were in business here made money by smuggling; and even in the

present century some have embarked trifling sums with advantage. At the period before described a smuggler was more like a merchant. An inspecting commander of the preventive service is stationed here: men patrol the coast, one would imagine in such a manner, that smuggling would be put an end to, yet any quantity of smuggled spirits can be purchased at the usual rate in town or country. Smuggling appears to be generally considered as a venial offence by all classes. At present much is done in French bottoms, which bring over the liquor and sink it, when the other parties come after it as opportunity occurs.

The celebrated John Cartwright, the reformer, commanded the *Sherborne* revenue cutter off Lyme in 1766, when a circumstance arose, which it is stated in his life,* probably gave the colour of his future fate. He was invited to dine at the mayor's feast here, where, after the wine had circulated freely, many of the company pestered the patron for places for themselves and friends. The nobleman, wearied and irritated by their importunity, uttered a sentence, which major Cartwright heard and never forgot.

During the summer months a few invalids occasionally came to enjoy the sea-air; but as machines were unknown, any one wishing to court the embraces of Neptune was obliged to undress on the beach: the accommodations in other respects were equally bad. Till after the construction of the turnpike road from Charmouth through Lyme to Exeter, in 1758, strangers in their journey westward had no opportunity of viewing it. The innkeeper first procured a bathing-machine for the accommodation of

* 8vo., London, 1831, distributed at the erection of his statue in Burton crescent.

travellers, who were enabled to take a dip in a comfortable manner, before proceeding on their journey. It is a curious fact that he placed it at the mouth of the river, where it remained for several years. Bathing soon became a favourite, or rather fashionable prescription, with medical practitioners. Many a lovely creature, whose tender frame was shaken by an insidious malady beyond hope of cure, shivered at each plunge; and those in robust health were daily seen in numbers playing mermaids and tritons. Nearly every visitor of the coast was a bather; now, (1833,) comparatively few take the cold bath, excepting as a luxury. The warm baths are in greater request.

Housekeepers near the sea began to fit up two or three front rooms in a homely manner, which is the first indication at Lyme of the lodging-house system, now so generally pursued on the whole line of coast: they met with encouragement, others were procured, and it soon happened, as it is somewhere expressed, that the invalids who came in search of health "found the goddess propitious to their prayers, and returning to pay their vows, brought beauty and elegance in their train."* An agreeable society was formed in the summer months. Some families professed themselves partial to Lyme; and a few gentlemen, animated by public spirit, caused the Assembly-rooms to be erected, which, conducted on the most liberal plan of any in England, may be considered to have rescued the town from impending ruin. Before that time the respectable inhabitants and visitors occasionally met to dance in the alcove on the walk. This was then glazed. The graceful couples went down the middle to some lively tune; for such indeed was needed, as they danced on pave-

* See the Memoir of Miss Anning for further remarks.

ment. The whole extent of window was lined with spectators, who were stationed to "gaze on the fair," and see the strangers. Are we to be surprised that some lookers on of imitative powers learned to dance well? Six o'clock was the hour of assembling.

Families of good fortune regularly came for the season, and many of the first visitors built houses near the sea, in spots which till then had been entirely neglected. In the course of a few years great changes took place. There were two prices for articles, one for inhabitants, another for visitors. Persons of county family put a sum of money in their trunk, and went to the sea to spend it. Some "land sharks" followed; and amusing adventures might be recorded. Such sharpers no longer come along the coast: the beat became unprofitable. Houses began to be wholly appropriated to strangers, though none of those pretty cottages which now grace the environs had been erected, and few buildings in a more elevated situation were in existence. A boarding house was opened. The terms for board and lodging were 10*s.* 6*d.* per week. Butter was then 3*d.* a lb.; beef, 4*d.*; a large loaf, 4½*d.*

The earl of Chatham was exceedingly partial to, and often visited Lyme, where he resided in different houses, most frequently at the "great house" in Broad street. His son, the celebrated William Pitt, was then a little boy. The stone which he made his pound when playing at marbles, remains in the porch of that house, now divided into three, in Broad street. The earl's only medical attendant, Mr. Carpenter, a very clever and well-bred man, was one day conversing with him respecting his sons, when they entered. The earl directed Mr. Carpenter's attention to the younger son, by emphatically remarking that he would "prove to be the earl of Chatham." On another occasion, when the same

gentleman was taking tea, master William came in with an oration, which he had prepared from a theme given him in the course of the day. His father made him stand up in a chair, when he spouted away in admirable style. It would appear almost incredible that to learn the scandalous history of Lyme at this period, we must have recourse to the Works of Augustus Toplady, 6 vols. 8vo. 1797, the great *Calvinistic writer*, and antagonist of John Wesley. In a letter to Mrs. Macaulay, he writes:—"Your old acquaintance and admirer, Mr. Hollis, has, I am told, received some disgust at Lyme Regis, and is very seldom there. Lord Chatham, however, still professes to affect that romantic sea-port; though it does not promise to yield him (as, if fame say true, he once hoped it would) a second sir William Pinsent; it were a pity a second should ever fall to his share." Vol. vi. p. 209. "Mr. Hollis was not of stuff to be moulded by a lord."

The principal inns were the Three Cups and Lion: the former was the occasional residence of the celebrated Mr. Thomas Hollis; at the latter the freemasons held a lodge. A ludicrous and rather unusual circumstance occurred at one of these meetings. Two inquisitive young females, who nearly despaired of finding out the secrets of the freemasons, determined upon secreting themselves in a large corner closet before the time of assembling, which they actually carried into execution, without being perceived, fully expecting, by the aid of observations they might make, that in future they should understand the nods, winks, and other peculiarities of that fraternity. Unconscious of intrusion, the ceremonies began, and were proceeding, when something irresistibly droll exciting the risible faculties of the young women, they burst into a loud fit of laughter, which caused them a rather unceremonious

removal by the astonished assembly. From the circumstance of their never being very communicative on the subject, some persons with confidence affirm that they were sworn to secresy.

For many years Bunter's castle, a summer villa, near the site of the present Belmont, was the scene of festivities.

The cliffs eastward of the town have experienced great changes. The former road, or more properly lane, to Charmouth, fell by degrees into the sea. On the Church cliffs were many gardens, and a foot-path led to that pleasant village. An old woman, living in 1755, said she remembered, when an apprentice, milking her master's cows three fields farther towards the south than the land now extends behind the Cobb. Some exaggeration must be allowed for in this account.

The month of April, 1786, is marked by the discovery of a large sum of money. The narrative here presented, collected from the most authentic sources, it is trusted will not prove entirely devoid of interest. An occurrence which falls under the observation of several hundred individuals, must necessarily give rise to various, and often contradictory statements, to avoid which recourse has been had to a pamphlet, which will be noticed in the sequel.

Immediately to the right, in ascending Long Entry from the butter market, stood a large house, which went to decay and fell down, before a dispute concerning the right heir to the property was decided; and the site, covered with the ruins, remained some time without being converted to any use. A builder sunk a saw-pit by some circular stone steps, which once led to the cellar, but the noise proving a nuisance to the widow of general Worge, who resided opposite, it was ordered to be filled up. Accordingly

a labourer, employed for that purpose, proceeded very early one morning in the month of April to throw in the surrounding rubbish. Mrs. Worge's lady's maid having some work that drew her to the window, observed him busily engaged in picking up something, with which he filled his pockets, and then departed, supporting them with both hands, as if he feared they would be unable to bear the weight of their contents. This circumstance forcibly arrested her attention. She immediately went to Mrs. Langford, who resided in the next house, and mentioned what she had just witnessed, remarking that the man must have been engaged in carrying away money. Mrs. Langford was induced to direct her views to the saw-pit where the man had been working, unaccompanied by the servant, in hopes, if any money had been discovered, to collect a few scattered pieces. Nothing particular being observable, she returned to her door, when, seeing a pick-axe, she determined to proceed with it once more to the spot, where, striking the tool into the fresh earth, there came out the cover of a rotten box, which disclosed to her view a large collection of gold and silver coins. While filling her apron, the string of which broke with the weight, she had the presence of mind to tell a man who was regarding her with attention, that she was picking up a few chips to light her fire. Hastening to her husband, then in bed ill, who had recently lost his vessel, she deposited the rich contents of her apron, to his utter astonishment; and thinking she had secured the whole stock, her first care was to inform the neighbours of her good fortune.

Then commenced a general rush. Without waiting to hear further particulars, all ran to the saw-pit. The old and lame appeared to forget their infirmities, and hastened to the general scramble, which was

not long retarded, for on their arrival more coins were found. Those who were in bed, awakened by the noise, hastily put on their clothes, in order to join the busy group. Enterprise increased with numbers: implements were speedily procured, with which they began to dig around the spot in every direction, when the most solid parts of the foundation were shortly overturned, and every corner examined. Mr. Domett became apprehensive for the safety of his house, to which near approaches were made by the mining assemblage, who had conducted themselves peaceably till the arrival of some soldiers, who were quartered in the town, when a general fray commenced. The constables called the commanding officer, whose presence was effectual in restoring order. Kelaway, the labourer, returned to find his treasures were discovered: in the fight he received a blow on the head, which felled him to the ground, and he was carried senseless to his house. The greatest part of the day was spent in digging, towards the close of which numbers of the country people from Uplyme and the vicinity arrived.

A person in reduced circumstances, (a *poor* poet,) who was then sojourning here, wrote a poem entitled "Antient Coins," in two parts, containing 314 lines. The first part is descriptive; the second pictures and holds up to detestation Charles Roe, who plundered Kelaway of his money, and is very didactic. The following lines are a specimen:—

"From morn to eve, of a long summer's day,
No mortal from the ruin seemed to stray;
And had not doubt, by slow degrees, begun
To seize the route, before the setting sun,
The darkest night that ever rob'd the sky,
Had never caus'd them from the work to fly.
Now in the streets and lanes, with dreadful fuss,
Men, women, boys, the matters do discuss;

Whose was the wealth? by what king was it coin'd?
How old the dates? by whom was it purloin'd?
Some from their sides the massy pieces draw,
These old and black, and those without a flaw;
From Edward Sixth, to Second Charlie's reign,
By date arrang'd; they from their pockets drain
The gold and silver, that from mother earth,
By action strange, that day had come to birth," &c.

The boxes containing the coins were made of handsome wood, lined with velvet; they were placed in the corner of the stone staircase, near the surface of the earth. There is no possible means of ascertaining the quantity or value of the money, some of which was black with age, but the crown pieces appeared to have never been in circulation. Mrs. Langford disposed of the gold and silver coins for £200, which enabled her husband to support the expences of an action he brought against the commander of a revenue cruizer, for the illegal detention of his vessel. Kelaway's money was stolen from him. A female, with the produce of the scattered pieces only, redeemed a mortgage on her house. Many received from £10 to £40 each, others more. Some are said to have secured large sums, but sedulously concealed the real amount, fearing a claim would be laid for a share by the lord of the manor. The old people said a cooper lived on the spot, who joined Monmouth, and fell at Sedgemoore.

At present there are a few coins in Lyme, either purchased or found by the possessors. Some estimate the total value found as high as £2000, which is an exaggeration; probably there was not more than £500 discovered.

Poor Kelaway, who was an honest farmer in reduced circumstances, found himself duped of his money. He continually dreamed of digging up treasures, and at length the "lady," whom we have elsewhere described, appeared to him. Having

obtained permission to dig in Sherborne-lane, like the weaver in the popular tales of the Ettrick shepherd, he commenced operations, and after excavating to the depth of ten feet, was compelled to desist by the proprietor of an adjoining garden-wall, at a time he was most sanguine in his expectations.

Persons of independent fortune came to settle, being attracted by the beauty of the situation,—others in the capacity of tradesmen, mechanics, &c. By a census, taken in the year 1788, the population appears to have amounted to 1248 souls; a short time previously it was not more than 1000; in 1800 there were 1535, and in 1810, 1925 inhabitants, which plainly indicates what a rising place Lyme is.

Electioneering contests—the bane of domestic peace and the tranquillity of towns, kept the town for several years in a state of excitement.

The inhabitants had little to do with privateering. They fitted out at the commencement of hostilities, two privateers, the Chance and the Achilles, at a considerable expence. Every article was good in the latter, and expectations were raised to a high pitch: these a paltry economy blighted. When she was ready for sea, some guns lying about at Weymouth, were offered for sale. A *plumber and glazier* gave them a character, and proved them. They were purchased and shipped, when the Lyme privateer sailed on a cruize. She fell in with an American letter of marque, which she came up with, and poured in a broadside. But for an accident she would have captured this sail—several of the guns burst, and killed, wounded, and disabled most of the crew!

Many have laughed at the anecdote of a gentleman's insisting to be forwarded, when the landlord had no horses in, who caused a yoke of oxen to be

put to, with which he proceeded. The gentleman was no other than judge Buller, better known to many by the appellation of judge *Thumb*, a nick-name he obtained from having laid it down in some case, that a man might beat his wife with a stick not thicker than a man's thumb.

In 1793 came into the Cobb, and was taken, a very singular fish of the following dimensions: extreme length, fourteen feet; breadth of the tail, three feet; circumference, six feet. It had long jaws, in neither of which were any teeth discoverable.

August 18th, 1797, the sea flowed three times in one hour, attended with lightning.

January 26th, 1799, the sea as above, about four o'clock, A.M.

Several persons lost their lives by a flash of lightning, August 19th, 1800, which is detailed in the memoir of Miss Mary Anning.

At an equestrian exhibition in the same field, about twelve years afterwards, it again happened to thunder. The remembrance of the former accident was not effaced from the minds of many then present, who retired from the ground in the greatest possible confusion.

The "great fire" broke out at Crossman's, a baker, near the George inn, on the evening of the 5th of November, 1803, which was caused by the negligence of a servant, who went into the attics with a lighted candle for some dry furze, in order to sell it to a boy for a bonfire. Having by accident communicated the flame to that inflammable substance, she secretly went for water to extinguish it, without giving the alarm to her master. In a short time the flames broke out at the top of the house, and, impelled by a strong gale of wind from the southward, almost instantly set fire to the adjoining houses, which burnt with incredible rapidity. The gale was

so violent that it carried the flakes of fire across to Mill green, which, as well as the cloth manufactory, was entirely destroyed. By great exertions the Independent chapel was preserved. Forty-two houses fell a sacrifice to the devouring element. Being chiefly tenanted by the lower orders, great distress prevailed, to alleviate which a subscription was entered into, and a furnace was speedily erected in the church-porch, where the sufferers cooked their dinners for many weeks afterwards. This accident, as it caused the destruction of many close, unhealthy houses, may be considered to have been attended with beneficial results.

The late sir George Baker, physician to the king, during a residence, analyzed the sea-water, and particularly mentions that its specific gravity exceeded that of the same quantity to be found on any part of the coast, consequently that it contains a greater number of saline particles in a given measure than any other. From this and other circumstances Lyme has acquired considerable repute: the visits of the company have been constant; and surely they can no where pass the summer in a more pleasant or recreative manner. Large capitals have been lately applied to the fitting up of lodging-houses.

The prince of Orange, during his stay in England, visited the west *incog.*, in company with two gentlemen, to view the spot where his ancestor landed, and Monmouth commenced his attempt upon the crown. Lyme was unusually full, so that Mr. Manning, who kept the Three Cups inn, could only accommodate the strangers in a room just vacated by a party of gentlemen, after a public dinner, while he went to procure beds in the town. By a singular coincidence the prince could only have a bed at Mrs. Beere's, near the George, so that in the same

street are now "Monmouth's" and the "Orange room."

The year 1811 was marked by an enthusiastic attempt to render Lyme superior in its attractions as a watering-place. The prospect of a speedy influx of company, with gaiety, wealth, and universal prosperity, was indulged in by most of the inhabitants. The "tide being taken at its flood," no less a sum than £2500 was raised to erect a walk from the fort, west of the rooms, to the Cobb-houses, upon which a marine walk was constructed. The money was completely thrown away; for the whole being erected too near the sea, it was destroyed in the ensuing winter.

In May, 1816, after having been observed at sea, came ashore a fish of the following dimensions, which was exhibited at the Cobb:—length, 27 feet 4 inches; circumference, 11 feet 10 inches; dorsal fin, 4 feet 3 inches; pectoral fins, 4 feet 6 inches each; width, 3 feet 10 inches; spread of the tail, 8 feet 8 inches; mouth, round, 4 feet 5 inches; teeth, 50. The blubber was made into oil, which did not prove good, from some mismanagement in the process.

Till the cessation of hostilities between this country and France, a contractor resided at Lyme, who supplied the garrisons of Guernsey, Jersey, and Alderney, with cattle. From the particular situation of the Cobb, the vessels, of about 75 tons each, which carried guns to beat off the enemy's row-boats, were enabled to sail with every wind, and occasionally, when there was no means of getting out of other ports, conveyed a most seasonable relief. The voyage in winter was perilous: many were taken, wrecked, and entirely lost. This trade only exists in time of war.

Some merchant craft from 70 to 180 tons, positively as handsome vessels as ever swam, used to be built here. After the peace, full as many continued to be built as before; and about the year 1820 there were a great many in the seeking trade, the property of the tradesmen of the town and neighbourhood. The returns were then adequate; but as the shipping interests became more and more depressed, the owners were unwilling to take shares in new schooners and smacks. Most of the towns in the West bay had ship-yards, and the supply became far beyond the demand. Here the carpenters went, mostly, to sea; the masters were ruined. No vessels are now built here.

On Nov. 23rd, 1824, Lyme and the south-western coast were visited by a dreadful storm, whose ravages were here very considerable, and will be remembered by the destruction of a great part of the Cobb. A particular account of this visitation is given under the head "Cobb." The sum of £352. 15*s.* 6*d.* was subscribed in the town to relieve those persons who had been sufferers, and the committee for managing the county subscription, sent £184; so that £536. 15*s.* 6*d.* was laid out at Lyme. One individual had a large sum raised for him alone. Others sustained great loss, who were not remunerated. The loss of life and destruction of the sea-walls, produced general consternation. Most persons absolutely desponded, as if the town was ruined.*

Grief is said to have no old age. A wise provision this is for human nature, as our sufferings would

* The destruction of some sea-walls by the gun-cliff, has given rise to a very expensive law suit between the lord of the manor, H. H. Henley, esq., since dead, and the corporation, which is now awaiting a decision in the House of Lords.

else obtrude themselves long after they were past, upon our attention, and blight the gay present, or render us anxious for the future, lest what we have once experienced might again recur. Scenes of desolation and misery in a short time vanish from the memory, not altogether, but the harsher features are lost. After such a storm as that of 1824, every one is determined to get away from the reach of the sea; to let injured property go to ruin; never more to have any thing nearer than a certain line, quite out of the reach of the sea in the heaviest gale. As to vessels, no one would ever take a share in any, if built. The weather becomes fine,—the spring sets in,—the beach, which was hauled down by the under tow, is again thrown up,—the high water mark is at a distance,—the proprietor's recollection of the gale becomes daily more and more indistinct. Like most persons who have made up their mind, he *reasons*, and concludes that there never will be such another gale—at all events not for a hundred years. He rebuilds; but in fixing the line, as the beach has increased, he encroaches a little; and some years after, when Neptune again puts in a claim to his demesne, and lays prostrate some frost-bitten, blue lias wall, a stranger would suppose from the reproaches used towards the stormy god, that he had been *over-reaching*.

Mr. Coade obtained permission some years since from the corporation, at a time when a high beach had lodged by the Cobb, to build a wall round and secure a great space. Upon this he built all the southern range of houses. In the great storm, the best house, and a great portion of the eastern part of the wall, were swept away. The sea struggled for its former boundary, and was victorious. Horace, in his first Ode, beautifully pictures the merchant's fear of storm and his forgetfulness of it :

" Luctantem Icariis fluctibus Africum
Mercator metuens, otium et oppidi
Laudat rura sui: mox reficit rates
Quassas, indocilis pauperiem pati."

In 1830 Lyme was made a bonding-port, by a Treasury warrant, dated 8th December. Mr. J. Drayton erected a very extensive warehouse at the Cobb for the accommodation of the public, who had in 1791 petitioned in vain for the privilege now conceded.

The dread cholera reached Bridport early in the summer of 1832; and in August three cases occurred at Charmouth, though, as was found in other places, many would not allow that the disease was the frightful Asiatic cholera. Bridport ceased to be a creek dependent upon the Custom-house here, as it had been before this year.

In the same year Lyme lost the privilege of returning two members to parliament. The parish of Charmouth was united to the parish of Lyme, so as to form a borough containing, by the census of 1831, 3345 souls, with the privilege of returning one representative. A contested election ensued.

Charmouth and Lyme were honoured by the presence of their royal highnesses the duchess of Kent and the princess Victoria, who embarked from the *Victoria steps*, at the Crab-head, August 1st, 1833, and sailed in the Emerald yacht, towed by a steamer, the first that ever anchored here, to the westward.

PRESENT CONDITION

AND

ADVANTAGES OF LYME.

Je vous demande pardon, si je vous entretiens de toutes ces misères; j'aime mon pays, et je saisis l'occasion d'en faire les honneurs.—La Petite Ville, Comédie de Picard. Scène iv.

Lyme now contains a resident population of 2621 souls, as appears by a census taken in May and June, 1831, when 56 houses were unoccupied.* These months used to be the height of the season, when bathing was the fashion: now persons bathe much later, and the season scarcely begins till the end of June. The town itself and environs are eminently picturesque. It is supported by the resident gentry, summer visitors, and an extensive cloth manufactory, carried on by the firm of Glyde and Co. Notwithstanding the increase of the town by a number of well-built houses erected in it and the immediate vicinity, there is still a great want of accommodation felt at particular seasons. Fifty families, in 1832, failed to find room, and went elsewhere.

Broad street, that had no shops some time since, now exhibits excellent shops. The London Constant trading company consists of three vessels of about 80 tons burden, one of which sails every fortnight to and from Carpenter and Smith's wharf, Tooley street, London. The other vessels owned

* Inhabited houses, 423. Families, 542, thus divided:—Employed in agriculture, 13,—in trade and manufacture, 157,—all other families, 372. Males, 1161. Females, 1460. Lyme Regis with Charmouth, in 1811, 2376 souls; 1821, 2876; 1831, 3345. Real value, £7130.

by persons of the town, are in the Irish, coal, culm, and seeking trade. The Lim, though so very inconsiderable a stream, is rendered highly beneficial: within a mile of the sea it turns the wheels of three cloth manufactories, two grist, and a fulling mill.

Every watering-place has some distinct character, which attracts a particular class of persons in particular, and firmly attaches them to it. To frequenters of towns on the coast the peculiar features of many places of resort are well known; destitute of discrimination must those indeed be who could not soon mark the difference. Lyme is not an exception to this rule: it is a place of genteel resort, where *good society* is enjoyed in a fuller extent at a much *cheaper* rate than at any town of this description. A genteel person, who is at all known, needs no expensive appearances to insure notice or respect; and the very rich and very moderately so, go a round of visiting in which no dazzling display, or marked intentional distinction, furnishes a contrast rather wounding to the feelings of the person not possessed of large means. The Assembly rooms are not conducted so as speedily to enrich the proprietors at the expense of the public, which, on a perusal of the terms in the sequel, will be evident. The regulations are essentially contributive to the gratification and ease of the company, who, at a comparatively trifling expense, enjoy the advantages of good society, and have access to the principal daily papers.

Persons live here to a great age. In 1833, among persons of a certain class, were living seventeen individuals nearly 80 years of age,—twenty-nine nearly 90,—and one above 90. The excellence of our climate is proved in an article expressly on that important subject.

Few towns centre in themselves so many various inducements to visit them as Lyme. Viewed as a

watering-place, it offers the fairest prospect of restored health and spirits to the *invalid*, and a round of visiting and good company to those whose constitution and fortune permit an indulgence in them. The *fossilist* and *geologist* look upon this place as the sportsman does upon Melton Mowbray. A resident physician, and medical gentlemen, and schools for either sex, must be mentioned as inducements to those of only moderate health, and such as have a family. To invalids who require to bathe, a residence at Lyme is rendered highly favourable: bathing is rarely prevented by the prevalence of strong westerly winds, which prove such impediments in situations exposed to that quarter, owing to the shelter afforded by the Cobb. Pleasure-boats are kept for hire. Aquatic excursions to the romantic cliffs and western coast are delightful, and there are several points of peculiar interest. Pic-nic parties in the cliffs are frequent during the summer. Ford abbey, the most perfect remains of a monastic structure in the kingdom, as Maton describes it, with its cloisters, tapestry, &c., at a distance of twelve miles, proves another source of attraction.

Provisions are very reasonable in price. Besides the Tuesday and Friday markets, the country people daily supply an abundance of poultry, eggs, &c. Several vessels engaged in the trawle fishery bring in a profusion of the finest fish. Coals sell at a reasonable price,—now at 1*s*. 4*d*. the double bushel. At the distance of two miles is the Char, in which are taken trout of fine flavour: the river Axe affords excellent diversion to the lovers of fishing. During the season a pack of harriers turns off in the vicinity. Mr. Webster, the lecturer on experimental philosophy, analyzed the water which supplies the town, and pronounced it to be excellent.

The winters are exceedingly mild: snow lies on the ground but a day or two, and invalids feel less the rigours of that season than is generally experienced in other situations. An ague was never known to begin in Lyme; and it would be very difficult to find a frog in the parish, such is the absence of all stagnant waters, or unhealthy vapours. The shops are provided with extensive assortments of goods: our milliners do not, like those in "La Petite Ville," introduce the fashions *trois mois après l'explosion.*

Gentlemen who have been abroad say Lyme has greatly the appearance at a distance of a Turkish town, from the intervention of trees and gardens, and irregularity of the houses. It is observable that this resemblance will not be at all diminished on entering, to meet such groups of *Grecian* beauties who have been not *captives*, but *captors*. The walks in the immediate vicinity are truly beautiful and picturesque: the higher situations enjoy an unequalled extent of sea and land view. A ramble on the shore in search of fossils unites both exercise and recreation. Though the uninitiated can seldom meet with success in quest of the grander specimens, yet any person, at all acquainted with fossils, may easily find Belemnites, Ammonites, Stella Marina, &c.

The "Cups hotel" is the principal inn. Hiscott's boarding-house is in Broad street. The London coaches and mail come no nearer than Charmouth. The Bath coaches and London coaches, which run through Sherborne and Shaftesbury, come only to Axminster. A Bath coach has run from the Cups hotel, during the last year, to Bath and back to Lyme the next day, through Axminster, Chard, Wells, &c., and has met with encouragement; a coach from Weymouth to Exeter, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. A wide field lies open for a

spirited attempt to accommodate the inhabitants in this particular, which has undoubtedly been more neglected than any other. A vessel sails to Guernsey and Jersey every ten days.

There is a delivery of letters at two, P. M., and the post goes out at a quarter to eleven, A. M.

The impartial writer of the "Guide to the Watering-Places" speaks of Lyme long before most of our greatest improvements took place, in the following high terms of approbation:—"Lyme, upon the whole, may perhaps be regarded, when compared with other sea-bathing places, as one of the most eligible and best adapted for answering the various purposes for which it has long been the rage, to make annual excursions to the coast;" and concludes by an allusion to the purity of the sea-water.

As soon as the season at Bath is over, of which Lyme has been humorously considered as a safety-valve, the company who have houses in Lyme return from their brumal migration, when gaiety soon commences, and continues without intermission till the end of autumn. It is scarcely necessary to remark, that the various itinerant performers who visit, and often enliven watering-places in the season, do not omit to exhibit at Lyme.

To conclude, the variety of the amusements, the beauty and salubrity of its romantic situation, and moderate charges, all conspire to render Lyme a most agreeable residence. The town improves upon acquaintance, and only requires to be once visited to convey an idea of the recreative mode of life that accompanies a summer, and the sociability of a winter residence. The general features furnish a comparison with those of Marseilles, as described by Tacitus in his life of Agricola:—*locum Græcâ comitate et provinciali parcimoniâ mistum ac bene compositum.*

PUBLIC OFFICES AND BUILDINGS.

The *Custom house* is situated opposite the rooms, immediately over the fish-market, of old called the "walk."

The *Guildhall*, an old building, is now near the edge of the cliff by the *Gun-cliff*. Connected with it is the *gaol*, which has received the singular name of *Cockenwhile*, a mode of pronouncing Cockmoile, which has reference to "cock-crowing" and "labour." A stranger ingeniously considered the word to be a corruption of *incog.-a-while*. The *shambles*, built in 1750, upon the site of a former market-house, are in Broad street.

BATHS AND BATHING MACHINES.

Jefferd's baths were erected in 1805, at an enormous expence, by Mr. Giles Davie, whose name they long retained, and were conducted so as to appear a rival establishment to the rooms. A daily paper was taken in, and the reading-room was well attended; but the walls that kept up the walks gave way, and the building appeared to be endangered. After the proprietor's death they remained unattended to till purchased by Mr. Jefferd, who has excellent apartments for the hot, cold, and shower baths.

Bennett's baths have been established ten years, and are well conducted. *Mr. J. England* has now erected new baths on the Marine parade.

The bathing machines are placed between the rooms and the Cobb, where are to be found the advantages of an excellent situation, a smooth bottom of sand, and a distance from fresh water. Four machines are the usual number, which are drawn in and out by a horse, the descent being

almost imperceptible. When first in use they belonged to several proprietors; now exclusively to Mr. J. England.

THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS.

The "Rooms," a term generally applied to this establishment for the sake of brevity, are situated in front of the hotel. To their erection* have justly been attributed the revival and popularity Lyme has acquired, which is stated in the historical sketch to have taken place in 1777,— a memorable era in the annals of fashion,—when the property consisted of twelve shares. The direction of the rooms has been entrusted to several individuals, one of whom retained the management nearly forty years. Material alterations and improvements have been effected of late years, and several offices further tend to the accommodation of subscribers, who have access to the ball-room, card and billiard rooms. The general appearance of the first, which is of large dimensions, containing three chandeliers and neat orchestra, is on particular nights usually heightened by the addition of ornamental decorations. In the card-room, a capacious apartment, are several daily and most of the country newspapers; over it is the billiard-room.

The rooms remain open the whole of the year. The public nights are Tuesday and Thursdays; during the season the regular weekly ball takes place on Tuesdays. No *arbiter elegantiarum* has ever been chosen, but his place is supplied by stewards appointed for the night, who superintend the dancing, introduction of partners, regulations,

* Part of the rooms are built upon the site of the Cobham warehouse. Lord Cobham held lands here in the reign of Elizabeth and James I.

&c. The following terms of subscription are taken from the printed regulations :—

" Subscriptions, 15*s.* 6*d.*—Subscribers to pay for balls, 2*s.*, for card assemblies, 1*s.*; on other nights, for tea and coffee, 6*d.*, for cards, 6*d.*—Non-subscribers to pay for balls, 4*s.*, for card assemblies, 2*s.*; on other nights for tea and coffee, 1*s.*, for cards, 1*s.*—Each player of backgammon or chess in the evening to pay 6*d.*—A ball on the 18th of June, and a Christmas ball on the last day of the year; also to commemorate his present majesty's accession and birth-day.—Tea and coffee on card assembly nights at seven o'clock; the card and other tables to break up before eleven o'clock.—On ball-nights tea and coffee for the card players at seven o'clock in the card-room.—The music will be ready at eight o'clock.—Tea in the ball-room for dancers after the first set.—Subscribers can engage the rooms for parties."

The other regulations are nearly similar in their nature to those of other establishments.

The manager's benefit, in August, is not unfrequently attended by two hundred fashionables.

The superiority over similar establishments, and social intercouse at the rooms, are universally allowed by visitors. The writer of the " Guide to the Watering-places" has observed, " that as happy countenances are to be met there as at the Bath-rooms." Any person acquainted with the manner in which they are conducted will not disallow the justice of his remark.

WALKS.

The walks about the town are extremely beautiful in every direction, and the varied scenes, produced by the romantic situation of the environs, inexhaustible. The sea-view, from the contiguity of the Cobb, and different positions of the vessels, is always changing. The cliffs take a different hue at every alteration of the weather,—a summer shower is sufficient to paint a fresh tint on the blue lias that constitutes the greater part of them, while the smallest

cloud that interrupts the rays of the "bright orb," equally affects the appearance of the white and yellow.

The visitor may here enjoy the busy scene on the walk fronting the rooms, and in five minutes convey himself to the delightful scenery near Middle mill, where the sylvan accompaniments of woods and copses, with a rookery, heighten the beauty of the situation.

The *Walk*, a name by which the Marine parade from the Cobb to the rooms is known, is always kept neatly gravelled. Not being on the beach, but on a terrace immediately adjoining, it commands extensive views. Formerly the higher part of the beach was levelled for the convenience of walking, but about twelve years since a subscription was entered into for the purpose of defraying the expenses of a wall from the rooms to the Cobb-houses. The money, £2500, was subscribed, and the wall erected; but, by a great want of foresight, too near the sea, which in the ensuing winter destroyed a great part of it. Since that time a terrace has been built inside the old work, which is perfectly out of the reach of storms. There was, till of late years, an alcove, which I have shown to have been the scene of festivities on summer evenings before the erection of the rooms: being found a nuisance, it has been closed.

The *Church cliffs* and *Stile walks* are both elevated to some height from the level of the beach. On a clear day the town of Chesil, in the island of Portland, is visible, as is also Wyke church, in the immediate vicinity of Weymouth, which appears above that stupendous collection of pebbles, named the Chesil bank, extending from Portland to Burton, on which the Alexander East Indiaman was lost.

Middle Mill fields. This walk is greatly fre-

quented. It consists of a range of fields, extending from the back of the town to Middle mill, about a mile up the valley, where the scene is truly picturesque. A thick wood and rookery adjoin the ruins of the old Colway house, famous for having been, with Hay farm opposite, the head-quarters of prince Maurice. From this spot the visitor may continue his ramble in many directions.

Ware cliffs are at a short distance west of the town. Chimney rock (which takes its name from a near resemblance to a house with a chimney on it) appears to the right, projecting from the cliff, and is covered with ivy of the most luxuriant growth. Parties, in their rambles, frequently call in at the dairy-house to take syllabubs, &c.

The *Pinney cliffs* are a little beyond the former. A short walk leads to a very high cliff at the side green to the summit, which elevates its white front to the sea; the base, covered with woods and orchards, extends to the precipice that overhangs the beach.

A path, running in a parallel direction with the edge of the cliff, conducts us to a spot from which a view may be obtained of the western coast as far as Start point, and of the scenery immediately contiguous, which abounds with a peculiar wildness of feature and romantic character, constituting the most picturesque objects that the country exhibits, or can well be imagined. Under the cliff a path conducts to some detached rocks, venerably mantled with ivy and moss, which run from the plain with a bold perpendicularity, and are the building places for thousands of daws, who are frequently disturbed by the hilarity of the pic-nic parties.

A deviation from the path, in order to attain different points of view, exposes one to inequalities of a fatiguing character, but every step is on romantic

ground—new embellishments, features, and combinations, continually rise into view, causing a rapture that almost renders one insensible to fatigue. A party of soldiers, quartered at Stedcombe house, in 1644, engaged a body of prince Maurice's forces in those cliffs, and forced their way into Lyme without much loss.

CLIMATE OF LYME. BY GEORGE HOLLAND, ESQ.

Obligingly written expressly for this Work.

There is probably no part of the coast on which the climate is precisely the same as on another. The causes of these various differences are only to be found in the study of meteorology. They principally consist of, 1st, the position of the ocean in regard to a place, as to whether the prevalent winds blow off the land or the sea; whether the warm or cold, damp or dry winds, blow off the sea: 2nd, the ranges of hills in the neighbourhood; their elevation, effecting the accumulation of vapour, and various electrical circumstances incident to such accumulation: and 3rd, the presence or absence of marshes, stagnant water, rich and luxuriant vegetation of extensive flats, large rivers, running either in deep channels, or leaving at low water extensive plains of mud for the sun and atmosphere to act upon.

Lyme occupies the bottom and sides of a remarkably narrow comb or valley, so narrow indeed as only to leave room for one street in the bottom, while all the rest of the town stands on an acclivity, either on the east or the west; but like other places on the coast, there are houses along the shore close to the sea, and nearly on a level with it. The principal part of the town is situated on the western side of the valley, and on so steep an acclivity that water cannot remain on the ground, but quickly passes off, leaving a dry surface; nor are there any places of

lodgment for the waters that stream down the sides of the hills in wet weather, such as lakes, ponds, marshes, or shallow and slow rivers: all is rapidly carried off by a narrow and deep rivulet, which passes through the centre of the town to the sea. This is an advantage that entirely relieves Lyme from a formidable class of complaints, that of intermittent and remittent fevers in the spring and summer; and however much children may be exposed to the external air in their recreations, they are never attacked by formidable complaints like those who play on muddy banks, marshy swamps, and the borders of standing water. The quantity of rain at Lyme is less than what falls at many places in the neighbourhood, in consequence of the clouds being drawn off by an amphitheatre of hills about two miles inland, which commences at Charton cliffs, three miles to the west, and terminates in Lambert's castle, Pilsdon, and Lewesdon hills, to the north-east of Lyme, on which line of hills a great deal of rain falls, with occasional thunder, while the sky at Lyme is clear and brilliant. Complaints have been made of the climate's being damp and relaxing; but it may be said with truth that those who require a very bracing, sharp air are the only persons who are not most materially benefited by a residence at Lyme, and the extreme west of England. The depressing effects of fresh water exhalations, inducing various forms of malaria, are unknown here; but no person coming down to the south coast could rationally expect the same degree of atmospheric dryness as he would experience on elevated inland situations. All small towns situated on a coast exposed to a heavy sea must necessarily be damp, from the mechanical mixture of sea salt with the lower atmosphere in gales of wind blowing on the coast; this making its way through streets, passages, doors, and windows, attaches itself to the walls, and

ever after attracts moisture from the atmosphere. Salt has been found on the windows of Townly in Lancashire after hard N.W. gales, which is upwards of 40 miles from the sea. But that this does not affect the health is pretty clear, by the fact that people coming down to the south coast feel a great and speedy relief from all complaints, except perhaps rheumatism, and the debility arising from excessive relaxation. The most prevalent wind here is the S.W., which blows off the sea, bringing no rank vegetable exhalation, but a pure, unadulterated stream of atmosphere, in summer moderating the heat, from its blowing off the cooler ocean on to the heated land, and in winter affording a genial warmth, from the sea's giving out the heat that it had acquired in summer. It should however be observed, that the coldness of the sea in spring brings fogs which are confined to the coast. This arises from the condensation of the moisture of a sea wind blowing on shore, both from the temperature of the sea and the compression of the current of air, thrown upwards by a wall of coast 500 feet in height. This is common to all coasts in the spring and early part of the summer; which, when there is any tendency to, the heat being abstracted rapidly from the surface of the body, it should never be encountered without additional clothing, whatever the thermometer may indicate on land. This is the cause of such sudden differences in the sensations during the same day, as frequently occur at the above periods, on and in the neighbourhood of all coasts, when the sea wind blows on shore in the spring and early part of the summer. Oftentimes a light air blows from the S. and S.W., without the slightest indication of damp by the hygrometer; but this is not a true southerly wind, as it only is drawn on to the land for a few hours during

the day, by the greater heat of the land; a true southerly wind, such as indicates a moist atmosphere, is known by its continuing at night, which the day wind of fine weather never does. There is not a single wind at Lyme but what blows from either over a dry hilly country, or from off the sea. There is no part of Europe free from the disastrous effects of spring easterly winds, and the great and rapid alternations of temperature from sudden eruptions of westerly gales. It is a well-known fact, that the plague seasons in the Levant take place always at the time when the greatest difference prevails in the temperature of the days and nights: and if any invalid curious on this subject, were to keep a tabular view of the temperature of his bed-room every night at the hour of his retiring to rest, he might, on looking over it at the end of the year, tell at a glance which had been the unhealthy periods throughout the year, by the suddenness and extent of the changes in the temperature; for it is no matter how great the heat may be in summer, or the cold in winter, provided the temperature be equable in general; that is, not moving in sudden leaps and alternations one night after another; it is at the breaking up of long periods of heat or of cold, that pestilence, fevers, and violently irregular health occur. I may perhaps be allowed to instance the first half of the present year, 1833. During the months of Dec. Jan. and Feb. the temperature at night was very equable or gradual in its motion, when at the end of the first week in March there occurred a sudden and remarkable descent of the thermometer, with an unsteady temperature for a fortnight. Multitudes of people immediately had their heads and faces bound up with ear-ache, tooth-ache, rheumatism of the face and head, and sore throats, &c. These were terminated by an equable

advance in the temperature towards the end of March, which continued through April, when May set in with violent alternations of temperature; which introduced influenza, rheumatism, and gout, and violent colds, which now, on 14th of June, continue with the same alternations of temperature, though in a less degree than in May. I have adduced these facts to show that much caution is requisite in the spring, in order to maintain tolerable health in any place; and probably there is not one place in England that has any very great advantage over another in point of salubrity at this season, and where any person without such caution would not experience some loss of health, or uneasy sensations.

The mean annual temperature for Lyme, from six years' observation, is 51.78, which is 3.28 higher than the neighbourhood of London, and 0.28 higher than Paris, and only 0.38 lower than Penzance, the mildest temperature in Great Britain.

The distribution of temperature is such that, when compared with that of London, it is more equable, as might be expected. The great influence the warmer temperature of the sea, which is here pretty deep, has in autumn and winter, is obvious.

Mean Temperature, according to Howard.

JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APL.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
NEAR LONDON.											
34.16	39.78	41.51	46.89	55.79	58.66	62.40	61.35	56.22	50.24	40.93	37.66
LYME.											
40.16	42.83	46.75	47.50	54.40	57.91	61.21	60.91	58.13	55.13	49.20	45.33

The severest frost we have had during six years, was on the 3rd of Jan. 1830, when the night register thermometer stood at 18°; and the highest temperature experienced in the same time was in the summer of 1825, when the thermometer for a few hours stood at 86°. As the thermometers used were Newman's, no one will doubt their accuracy, and

their situation faces the N.E. Thus the extreme range of temperature is very moderate at Lyme compared with inland parts of the country. The difference of range in the thermometer is ordinarily thus: when the temperature is from 75° to 80° at Lyme, in the country and about London it is between 84° and 90°; and in frosts, when the temperature at Lyme is from 18° to 26°, the thermometer near London usually indicates from 3° to 12°.

While it appears the months of May, June, July, and August are warmer in the neighbourhood of London than at Lyme, the remaining months are warmer at Lyme, and the autumnal and winter months greatly so. The difference of monthly extremes near London amounts to 28.24, while at Lyme it does not exceed 21.5.

The number of nights' frost at Lyme in a year, on the average of six years, is 28; the average number for six years near London, is 80. The average period of the first frost at Lyme, is on the 26th of November, the same for London is the 15th of October. The average period for the last frost in spring, for Lyme, is the 31st of March; the same for London, the 5th of May.

The preceding observations point out the evident reason why almost all complaints assume a very mild character here; and it has been frequently remarked that the animal spirits of the inhabitants of this town are above par with places in general. To sum up the general character of the climate and situation of Lyme.—In summer the heat is moderate: the transition in autumn from heat to cold, is tempered in the greatest degree by the high temperature of the sea, which continues gradually decreasing till the spring, (when it is at the lowest,) imparting that warmth to our winters indicated by the preceding thermometrical results. There is no flat country

near; no marsh, or pond of stagnant water; no bed of mud, left to exhale under a hot sun for many hours in a day during a receding tide; the soil, though abounding in springs, from its rapid declivity quickly discharges all superfluous moisture, and presents a dry surface. The sea is particularly salt; the shore composed of sand, pebbles, and rocks; the country and cliffs very charming and romantic, so that it is difficult to conceive a greater combination of advantages under this climate than this small town possesses.

THE NAMES OF THE STREETS.

The original names of all the streets do not appear to have been preserved. Coomb street received its name at a period of remote antiquity, and means the street in the *bottom* or *valley*. Broad street was called West street. Church street, Mill green, the Butter market, Long Entry, and Bridge street, may be referred to an early period. Sherborne lane took its name, no doubt, from the lands belonging to the church of Sherborne. St. Nicholas's street is now called Monmouth street; Pound street, so called from its leading to a pound, has been improperly named St. Michael's street; Cobb street is only known by tradition; Charmouth lane has only a short piece at each end now remaining; the rest has all fallen into the sea; Lynch took its name from a family; Silver street, at the western entrance of the town from Uplyme, is a name of frequent occurrence in the vicinity of Roman stations, and is considered to be a corruption of *via silvestris*, the woody way, or road to the wood. A great part of the country this side of Axminster was all wooded till within a few centuries.

RIDES AND DRIVES.

Large sums have been recently applied to improve the access to Lyme. The roads, since 1822, have been broken up, and relaid upon the plan of M'Adam, and the streets have received great improvement by the removal of the pitching. The turnpike road was made through the town in 1758; and in 1770, an act was passed to repair the road from Uplyme hill to Three Ashes, leading to Crewkerne, over which a Bath coach travels during the summer.

Charmouth lane, which commenced by the Almshouses in Church street, led directly to the road a little above Charmouth. This lane had been slipping down, or the turnpike road never would have been made round the west part of the hill, and thus so greatly increasing the distance: it at length went into the sea. The turnpike-road over Rhodehorn, the summit of our Plinlimmon, was continually the subject of complaint. The ascent from Charmouth was, without exaggeration, tremendous. In December, 1824, the commissioners, after great opposition, commenced some excessively deep cutting between the old road on the summit of the hill and the sea, to form a new road, which was completed in June, 1825. On January 14th, 1828, the new road to Charmouth, after one of the wettest seasons perhaps ever remembered, began to subside, together with the little valley over which it was constructed. At the west end it sunk 20 feet; 8 at the eastern. As the road then remained firm, a few pounds restored it to the public. The cutting at the east end, between the cliff, is famed for the force which the wind exercises there in westerly gales: it nearly answers to the famous "Bellows passage" of North America. The mail-road from Charmouth to Mor-

combe lake has been carried round the north side of the hill, by which an improvement has been effected that cannot well be estimated. This, as well as the recently made line, west of the village, is on the southern mail-road from Exeter to London. In the latter improvement the road has been cut round the hill, and through a ridge by means of a tunnel. (See the map.)

The dreaded Uplyme hill between Axminster and Lyme has been at length avoided. A line of road two miles in length commences from Hunter's Lodge inn by the three-mile-stone from Lyme, and terminates at the Uplyme turnpike gate, scarcely a mile distant from the town. The new line is to the west of the old road. (See the map.)

OLD ROADS CONNECTED WITH LYME.

An elderly gentleman has described the existence of an old plan of the town, which was in tatters many years ago. That plan was perhaps the last, and was destroyed. The opinions here submitted are formed from information obtained and compared with great care from very aged persons, and from documentary evidence supported by tradition.

In early history the way, not to say high-road, more properly high-lane, from London to Exeter, was continued from Chideock to Charmouth upon the Roman road. The lane remains upon Stonebarrow hill, and was in a straight line with Charmouth bridge; thence it continued over Rhode-horn, Colway hill, down Colway lane, up Clappentail lane, upon the hill to Colyford, &c. to Exeter.

Charmouth lane was not then in the high-road: it was a nearer way to come into the town. Horn tavern, now a tucking mill, was an inn by the road side. It is between the avenue leading to Colway farm house, and Colway bridge. From this little

bridge to Mill green, is a lane, once a principal way out of the town, and the nearest line to the high-road. Our ancestors, at all events, had a road out of the town without any hill. This lane is called in an old deed, "the king's high-way." In 1824 there was much contention as to whether it was a parish road, or a path to be repaired by the proprietors of lands adjoining. When the town had declined, this road had been neglected, and the renter of the mill, since the oil mill, did some repairs that there might be a way for his customers. This is a romantic spot, and its nomenclature is singular: there are a Jericho, a Jordan, and a Paradise. By the latter the Baptists used to immerse their converts.

Charmouth lane was entire when the fathers of our present aged persons were living. Hay lane appears to have been the line of way to Axminster at some period; when it became so is not certain. This led into Uplyme parish, and by the bounds of the county stood the "Black Dog" inn. Axminster was then a place of much inferior importance to that of Lyme. Silver street was nearly impassable.

SITUATION OF THE FORMER FORTS POINTED OUT.

But a few years have elapsed since the forts near the sea have been converted into pleasant platforms, which retain not the slightest vestige of the use to which they were once applied. The time of their first erection is not apparent. In Athelstan's reign there was an *arx* or strong-hold, for protection against the Danes; and in Elizabeth's reign guns were mounted seaward.

The *fort* contiguous to the jetty, constitutes a portion of the public walk, which, half a century ago, terminated there. Out of it were steps leading to the beach. Five guns commanded the entrance of the Cobb.

Bell cliff, still so termed, was also a fort containing a large bell, used to call men to their posts, as it is conjectured. A stone parapet and pavement have been supplanted by rails and pitching. The *Eastern fort* or *Gun cliff*, is the third battery by the sea, which washes the base of it, and is in an elevated situation. The embrasures are walled up. Four guns were mounted here. There were besides guns on the Church cliffs.

These batteries were our defence against sea-borne foes. When our countrymen turned their arms against each other in the civil wars, there were others constructed.

Davey's fort, in the Church cliffs, spoken of in the narrative of the siege as "the stay of all," was situated near East cliff cottage. Farther east, (the site now fallen into the sea,) was *Newel's fort*, which guarded the entrance of the town by Charmouth lane. *Gaytch's fort*, called also the Middle fort: exact situation unknown. The *Western fort*, in which capt. Marsh met his death, guarded the entrance of the town in that direction. Was it placed to guard the entrance by the Middle mill lane, or the entrance by some road higher up the hill, such as Hay lane? When recently removing a bank in a piece of ground called Hatchet's, for the erection of some cottages, a hatful of balls was picked up by the workmen. This spot is just above the right bank of the river.

The great depth of the bay, and consequent risk attending an entrance, were considered complete safeguards to the town during the late war. Some of the guns were conveyed to Portsmouth, others were removed to the Cobb, where they became serviceable as moorings.

MANORS.

Before the Conquest there were three manors in Lyme, which have been treated of in the annals, as to the manner in which they probably came to the crown, &c. The royalty of the manor is now vested in the corporation. In 1620, sir J. Strangways signed his name, with others of the corporation, thus, senescall,—elsewhere steward. In the court of hustings book for 1584 appears the following curious entry:—

"Item. It was argued by Mr. W. Gibbs, the steward, that Person's home, or the lord of Person's home, can keep no leet there; for that there is no leet there, but it maketh constables and such like, and hath within it stocks, pillory, and tumbrull, whch are the sure marks of a leet; but Person's home hath no mayor, constables, &c., nor tumbrull, &c., and therefore they owe suit to this court; and further, the constables of the borough have always made search in the Person's home, and the serjeants have divers times made arrests there; all which do prove the tenants of Person's home to be of this leet." This *Parson's holme* must be what was sometimes styled *Sherborne holme*, or *Lyme Abbotts*, that part of the parish without the bounds of the borough which belonged to the church of Sherborne, whence Sherborne lane.

In 1595—1597, courts baron were held with the courts leet. By the oldest papers of the corporation it appears that fines of land were levied and wills were proved at Lyme, which it is imagined must have been done in a court baron; and in the reign of Henry VIII. a grant was made (extant in 1785) by the corporation, as lords of the manor. No late traces of a manor are to be met with.* 17 Edward IV.,

* Hutchins.

Edward Courteney, Esq. released all his right in the manors of Colway and Lyme, to Thomas Clapham, clerk. 39 Elizabeth, the manor belonged to Wm. Brook, lord Cobham.*

Colweigh, Colbeigh, Colway, Colbeigh juxta *Lym*, or, as it is called in some feodaries of Glaston, *Lym*, gelded to the king's service for 3 hides, and was parcel of the inheritance of Alured de Nichole, and held of the abbot of Glaston by knight's service. (Lib. Glaston, ix. 5, D 3, B 4, C 6, E.) Robert Fitz-pain afterwards held it as purparty of his inheritance. The other tenants in demesne held immediately of him. Radolph Bloyn had granted him, Edward III., a charter of free warren in all his demesne lands on his manor of Colweheys.† 20 Edward III., Walter de Carmino held half a fee in Colweigh. 10 Richard II., Ralph de Carmino held half the manor. 9 and 14 Henry IV., and 4 Henry VI., the Bonviles of Chuton were connected with it. 21 Henry VI., Thomas Carmino, Esq. held the manor of the duke of York; Margaret, wife of Hugh Courteney, Esq., Joan, wife of Thomas, son of Richard Carew, knt., his daughters and heirs. Since that time it has become the property of the Henley family, who lived there in great style for many years. The house was large, and a road between two rows of stately trees, which have been long since cut down, led to the church, to which some affirm there is now a subterraneous passage. The house is gone to decay,—some of the ruins are visible at the back of the present farm-house. No courts are held, nor any symbols of a manor preserved. Capt. Henley is the present possessor. It is a tything, in the hundred of Whitchurch Canonicorum.

* So stated at the trial in 1785. † Rot. Pat.

CHURCH LANDS.

The church of Salisbury, and the abbey of Glastonbury, held lands in Lyme at the time domesday book was compiled. These two, the church of Sherborne and the abbey of Abbotsbury, held lands here when the famous taxation was made, called pope Nicholas's taxation. This pope, Nicholas IV., granted the tenths to Edw. I. for six years, towards defraying the expence of an expedition to the Holy Land. It was begun in 1298. (Folio pub. by Record Com.)

The prebend of Lyme with the chapel of Halstock, was valued at £16. 13*s.* 4*d.*, *i. e.* 25 marks. Lyme, apart from Halstock, 14 Edw. III., 4*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.** The temporality of the archdeacon of Dorset was valued thus:—Abbotsbury, abbey lands in Lyme, 4*s.*; Sherborne, 1*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; Glastonbury, 4*s.*; Salisbury, 4*s.* The tenth of these sums amounted to 3*s.* 10¼*d.*

In the survey made 26 Henry VIII., (Taxatio Eccles. vol. i. p. 234,) the glebe of the vicarage was valued at 35*s.* yearly: tithes, 40*s.* 6*d.*: offerings and other emoluments, 7*l.*: *in porc' and penc'*, nihil. Total, 10*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* Deduct therefrom what is paid by the mayor and his successors annually, arising from the glebe, 10*s.* Net amount, 10*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* Tenth, 1*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

In the 36 Henry VIII., a burgage and garden belonging to Ford abbey, and another to Newenham abbey, were granted to John Pope; also lands in the parish of Lyme Abbots, alias Sherborne Holme, a parcel of Sherborne abbey, value 3*l.* 16*s.*, were granted to Thomas Goodwin, who had license to alienate to John Hassard and heirs. 3 Edward VI.,

* Inquisitiones Nonarum. Same authority,—Oblaciones obvent mortuar et alia benefia quæ valent, lxs.; Tithe of fish, ls.; Rector's land, xs.

a tenement, given for the maintenance of a priest in the church, was granted to sir Michael Stanhope, and John Bellow. 1 Elizabeth, John Hassard held four messuages in Lyme Abbots.—*Hutchins.*

THE PREBEND, OR RECTORY.

This county was first under the jurisdiction of the see of Dorchester in Oxfordshire, where Birinus, about 624, erected his see. This was removed to Winchester about 677. The see was moved to Sherborne in 705, where it continued till 1056, and was then transferred to Salisbury. In the year 1542 the county was annexed to the diocese of Bristol. Lyme is, however, though in Bridport deanery, in the diocese of Bristol, a peculiar of Sarum; and in conjunction with Halstock, denominates a prebend in that cathedral.—*Hutchins.*

In bishop Osmund's register is the archdeacon of Dorset's formal resignation to the prebendary, of his jurisdiction in the churches of Lyme and Halstock, *præterquam in denariis beati Petri*, excepting the blessed Peter's pence. There is no date to this document; but Hubert Walter was bishop between the years 1189 and 1193. See under Church Lands.

The dean has jurisdiction for six months in the space of three years: the prebendary for the remainder.

Churchwardens usually stand three years. They must be sworn every year. The prebendary must come, or send some one to swear them in. The prebendal house is now in the hands of S. Culverwell, Esq., a relative of Mr. Coade, held under lives from the prebendary of Lyme and Halstock. The lessee tenant of the great tithes, till recently, used to be bound by his lease to furnish good accommodation to the prebend and his suite for two days and two

nights. The present tenant has left Dr. Disney, the owner of the great tithes, to pay for this reception.

THE VICARAGE.

The patron is the prebendary, but the lessee tenants have sometimes presented. It is a discharged living, the real value, £45. In 1291 it was valued at 100*s*. It is presumed that from 1405 to 1534, the time of the Ellesdons, the prebendaries for the time being presented. *(Hutchins.)* During the episcopal power the vicarage was worth £50. The vicarage house has been let down. Lyme and Halstock, says Hutchins, value £10, are subject to archdiaconal, he should have said decanal, jurisdiction. The value of the living is very inconsiderable. The Rev. W. Evans offered to agree with the parish to receive £100 per annum. To this the parish would not accede, and at his death the next vicar took what was his due, £300! An agreement was made by the parish with the Rev. Mr. Jones in 1825, which was unhandsomely broken by the parish. In 1826, forty-two persons paid tithes, and ninety Easter offerings, leaving 2400 who did not contribute to the church, excepting some of them to its repair by a church rate. The living is at present below £200 per annum. The corporation held the living for some time by renting it of the prebendary; but parted with it in consequence of pecuniary difficulties occasioned by the state of the Cobb. In the Corp. Order Book are these entries:—

1692. A chancery suit carried on against Richard Hart, Gregory Alford, and Anne his wife, to recover £800 with interest, advanced upon the security of the livings of Halstock and Lyme.

1692. The mayor to lease the glebe and tithes. The lessor and lessee to be indemnified against any

action. N. B.—1693. The tithes of Halstock belonged to the corporation at this time.

1700. All tithes to be taken in kind by the mayor.

An extract from the *register of John Chandler*, dean of Sarum, anno 1405. Monday, 20th July, 1405, the said dean visited the prebendal church of Lyme, with the chapel of Halnestoke adjoining the same, in the presence of the clergy and people.

John Dorset, Ralph Styklane, John Crowe, Roger Crogge, of the said parish, being cited, appeared personally, and say that the said church is dedicated in honour of saint Michael the archangel, and that the said prebend is endowed with twenty-seven acres of arable land, and three acres of meadow; and with the tithes of the sheaves (of corn) arising from the vill of Lyme, and that it has all kinds of tithes of fish recently caught in the same, and two parts of the tithes of salt fish; and that the vicar holds the third part; and that there are eleven tenants of the said prebend, who pay annually 20*s*.; and that every tenant whatsoever of the same who shall die shall give to the said rector one heriot; and there is also belonging to the said rectory one orchard, and no more houses; and the vicar of the said place receives every other kind of tithes. It having been also found that the said vicarage shewed defects in regard to repairs and fitting, from the omission of the vicar, he himself appeared, 26th Nov. of the same year, in the church of Netherbury, and intimated that he would amend the same before the day of St. John the Baptist, under the penalty of 20*s*. Also, that the same vicar has his abode in his lay fee out of his vicarage, *(habet moram in laico feodo extra vicar. su.)* It was also found that the said vicar has acquired, in the time in which he has been vicar of the same, a tenement in the town of Lyme, and as he says, in the feoffment of his daughter Johanna. Also

John Boucher of Lyme pays annual tithes to the said church, &c., 3*s*. 4*d*.

PATRONS AND VICARS OF THE CHURCH OF LYME.

From Hutchins.

PATRONS.	VICARS.
	Roger Danyell, 1375. Deed possessed by J. Davidson, Esq.
	William Baron, 1405.*
	John Herte, 1408.*
	Thomas Shapplegh.†
	Peter Greve, (by resig.) Oct., 1425.
	Laurence Odam occurs 1534.
	Robert Palfry.
Laurence & Jno. Ellesdon.	John Tollett, or Toller, (by death,) inst. 26th Aug., 1564.
	Thomas Washington, (by death,) 31st March, 9 Elizabeth.
William Ellesdon.	George Elkin, inst. 17th Sep. 1573.
	Simon Norrington, inst. 1574.
Joan & Anthony Ellesdon.	John Geere, (by death,) inst., 18th March, 1608.
	Amos, or Amias Short, 1650.
Gregory Alford.	Emanuel Sharp, on the deprivation of Short, inst., 19th Feb. 1662.
	Timothy Hallett, (by cession,) inst. 10th Feb. 1663.
Thomas Burnet, D. D. Prebendary.	Hugh Key, (by death,) inst. 10th Feb., 1729.
	David Symes, (by resig.,) inst. 1st July, 1731.
	James Davies.
	John Jones.
	Joseph Domett.
	William Evans.
Robert Holmes, D. D.	Wm. Jones, (by death,) 1804.
Rev. E. Fane.	Charles Randolph, (by resig.,) June 6th, 1826.
	Frederick Parry Hodges, fellow of New College, (by resig.,) March 23rd, 1833.

THE CHURCH,

Dedicated to St. Michael, is a large, light, pleasing building, which stands on a rising ground in the east

* Reg. Chaundler. † Reg. Sydenham.

part of the town. The exterior presents a general uniformity of style; the interior is much admired. From the west end, by the tower to the chancel, twelve steps occur, so that this part of the church is much elevated.

The bishop of Sarum, in 1298, *id. Dec.*, by letter to the locum tenens of the dean, informs him that the prebendal church of Lyme, and others not named, in the archdeaconry of Dorset, lately built, were not consecrated. He ordered this ceremony to be performed pursuant to a constitution of Otho and Ottobon.*

This structure is of blue lias, a perishable material, with battlements of Beer stone, which does not resist the weather like that of Ham hill, with which the south battlements have since been supplied. The walls were so weather-worn about sixty years since, that the whole were covered with stucco. It does not appear that structures of any kind were formerly protected by stucco, without which the elements soon wear away our stone, and the absence of architectural antiquities here is accounted for.

No vestige of the church built about 1298 exists, except a semicircular arch in the basement of the tower. This rests externally on two shafts, one of them cylindrical, with plain capitals and an impost moulding, adorned also on the south side apparently with the moulding called the triangular fret.† The structure was greatly in want of repair in 1503, and a legacy was left to rebuild part of it.‡ Probably the church had not been completed, for the roof under the leads was not continued of the same pattern, and two capitals to this day remain without having been worked.

The structure was probably entirely rebuilt about the end of the fifteenth century; at all events exten-

* Reg. Gaunt. † MS. of J. Davidson, Esq. ‡ Hutchins.

sively altered or enlarged to its present appearance and dimensions. On the south side of the capital of a column, lately cleared of whitewash, in a shield, are the initials W. D.: William Daye was mayor in 1491. On the same column are the Lyme arms; in a shield engrailed, (if the bordure be not a decoration of the stone cutter,) two cramp irons in saltier, a crescent of difference; and on a shield engrailed, three goats' heads. On the next column is the Harrington knot. This again affords evidence as to the date. William Bonvile, lord Harrington, who lived at Shute, and was connected with the manor of Lyme, was killed at the battle of Wakefield, in 1460. His daughter, Cicely Bonvile, lady Harrington in her own right, was then a year old, and became one of the richest heiresses in the country. She died in 1480. Having perhaps contributed to the rebuilding of this church, like other rich persons of the neighbourhood, her arms were affixed.*

The total length of the building within the walls, is about 133 feet, including the tower and porticus, or ante chapel, the principal entrance. The nave is 61 feet long, by 16½ wide; the chancel 32 feet by 16½ wide; the north and south aisles each 85 feet long, by 16½ wide. The nave and chancel are separated from the aisles by five columns and two halves on each side, consisting of four shafts with intervening hollow mouldings, the latter continued round the low pointed arches. The capitals are in bold relief, and represent foliage, fruit, human heads, &c. The windows are large, with six, some five and four lights, with cinquefoil heads and plain labels on the outside, which are in the low pointed style.

A gallery with carving in a debased Roman style, at the west end of the nave, has this inscription in capitals:—

* Pedigree in MS. by J. Davidson, Esq.

"John Hassard bvilt this to the glorie of Almightie God in the eightieth year of his age, Anno Domini, 1611."

On the south side appears,

"John Hassard, seven times maior, deceased the seventh day of November, 1612."

The pulpit is of oak, and in the same style as the organ gallery. There are several in churches near Lyme, of the same period and workmanship. The sounding board bears this inscription:—

"To God's glory. Richard Harvy of London, mercer and marchant adventvrer, 1613. Faith is by hearing."

This pulpit has been removed from a column near the south door, and placed at the entrance of the chancel upon a very handsomely carved pedestal. The date 1833 is placed at the back.

The tower contains a clock and six bells, thus inscribed:—

"O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands. T. B. f. 1770.—Pro religione, pro patriâ, pro libertate, 1770." "Harmony in soul and sentiment, T. B. f. 1770." "Dear Britannia, hail!" "This peal of bells was erected partly by rate and part by subscription, in the year 1770."—"1804."

A lectern remains; but the books, a folio bible, Fox's Martyrs in black letter, the works of Erasmus and Jewel, Andrew Willet's Controversies on Religion, Perkins's Commentary on the Galatians, and others, are nearly destroyed. The register of baptisms begins 35 Henry VIII. The first part appears to be a copy.

In the chancel a brass plate commemorates the death and virtues of Ralph Ellesdon, Thomas, son of the said Ralph, William, son of the said Thomas, Anthony, son of the said William, which said Anthony deceased 12th Sept. 1655.

Men, piovs, jvst, and wise, each many a yere
The helme of this toun's government did steere;
Beyond base envious reach, whose endles name
Lives in all those that emvlate their fame.

On a yellow stone in the north aisle are to be seen the few remaining letters of an epitaph, which from its concluding line has given currency to many erroneous accounts. The late Dr. Tucker caused the stones which formed a tomb, much decayed, over the grave of Mr. W. Hewling, in the south-west part of the church-yard, to be removed into the porch. The masons have made away with one stone, containing the following inscription;—

Here lieth the body of William Hewling, son of William Hewling, merchant of London, and grandson to William Kyffin, Esq., alderman of London, who suffered martyrdom before he was full 20 years of age, engaging with the duke of Monmouth for the Protestant religion, and English liberty, against popery and slavery, September 12th, 1685.

The stone, now in the north aisle, contained these lines:—

Brave yovth! could vows have charmed Fate's partial dart,
Death had missed thine, and reached the tyrant's heart;
Thou worthier far to live, whose blooming yovth
By honor gvarded and secvred by trvth,
Gave early hopes, when hastning years came on,
To find in thee the perfect, gallant man:
No more we'll thy untimely loss regret,
Jvst was thy cavse, and gloriovs was thy fate.
Thvs Cvrtius, when no other means were fovnd
To make Rome safe, leaped bravely underground;
Scorning his covntry's rvin to survive,
Chose to be bvried in the breach alive.

Near the mayor's seat. Solomon Andrew, merchant, died 5th March, 1696, aged 47. Florence, his wife, died 6th July, 1712, aged 66. Solomon Andrew, their son, died 20th April, 1712, aged 29. His two sons, viz. William, died 6th March, 1713, aged 2, and Solomon, 10th May, 1714, aged 3. Solomon Andrew, sen., three times mayor, died 28th

Feb. 1684; Mary his wife, 17th June, 1698. Mary their daughter, wife of Bonham Strangwaies, died 31st July, 1670.

Mary Baker, wife of Lieut. Baker, 5th Regiment of Foot, and daughter of John Tucker, Esq., of Nash, in this county, died 14th Jan. 1766. Florence Tucker, daughter of Solomon and Florence Andrew, and relict of Andrew Tucker, merchant in Lyme, died 25th March, 1768. Sarah Andrew Tucker, daughter of the Rev. D. Tucker and Sarah his wife, died 14th March, 1776, aged 6 weeks.

In the nave. Hic jacet sepulta Elizabetha, uxor Richardi Roze, gener et filia Henrici Henley de Leigh, armig. quæ mater fuit sex filiorum et quatuor filiarum, ob. 19th Aug. 1639, æt. suæ 35. Elizabeth Rose, Anag. Ohe, blest, arise!

Oh! blest in fayth, in life, in death,
In husband and posterytye,
Aryse to everlasting joye,
And blessed immortalitie.

Edward Rose, gent., died 28th November, 1723, aged 52.

Robert Burridge, merchant, ob. March 20th, 1675. Mrs. Elizabeth Burridge, his wife, died 16th Nov. 1688.

Great storms of sighs thy death this March uprears,
And April antedates by showers of tears;
Where thou wert known, to praise thee were all one
To light a candle to the noon-day sun.
Here lyes God's servant, all in short together,
The widow's patron, and the orphan's father.

John Burridge, their son, died 6th Sept., 1733, aged 82. He represented this borough in the convention parliament, 1688, and in divers succeeding parliaments with great honour and faithfulness, and was also chosen thrice mayor of this town. On a stone defaced, Burridge quartering Tucker—

Robert Burridge, their grandson, died 21st May, 1752, aged 69. ——, daughter of Robert and Mary Burridge, died 7th July, 1717, aged 30. Frances, wife of Walter Burridge, died

1st Aug. 1777, in the —— year of her age. Mary, wife of James Killiker, daughter of the said Walter and Frances Burridge, died 10th July 1787, aged 25.

Nicholas Newell, sometime mayor, died 16th April, 1722, aged 72. Elizabeth Newell, his second wife, died 18th Feb., 1698, aged 42.

John Newell, their son, died 6th March, 1755, aged 69, Elizabeth Newell, their daughter, died 1st May, 1755, aged 67. Elizabeth Puddicombe died 11th December, 1787, aged 70. John Puddicombe, twice mayor, died 13th August, 1789. aged 71.

Andrew Tucker, Esq., once high sheriff of the county of Dorset, and twice mayor of this corporation, died 7th April, 1695. Mrs. Susanna Tucker, his widow, died 20th June, 1725. Robert Fowler Coade, Esq., died April 1st, 1773. Sarah his wife died Sep. 18th, 1775. Margaret Tozer, sister of Robert Fowler Coade, Esq., died Sep. 5th, 1796; also Samuel Coade, brother of R. F. Coade, March 26th, 1808, all aged.

A brass plate elevated on a rail, now removed.—William Smyth, merchant, twice mayor, died Aug. 16th, 1677. Dorothy, his wife, 8th July, 1695. Arms, two bars between three martletts, a crescent for difference. Crest on a wreath, a greyhound sejant.

In Dec. 1833, a causeway and steps, parallel to those now existing, were removed, and the space they occupied thrown into the road. The workmen discovered the remains of the vicar's kitchen, at the south-west corner of the church-yard. The oven, built of Dutch tiles, was to the left of the hearth, and a place for the furnace on the right. The workmen were very sanguine of finding a treasure. Old inhabitants said that steps formerly led from the street to the west door, which were removed in order to widen the turnpike, then little more than enough to allow a cart to pass. A great part of the porch was

removed, and the remaining part finished to correspond with the church. In the wall were two heads in stone,—the spoils, it may be presumed, of old tombs. On one was a curious indentation to represent a scar. Both were of freestone. Having been carted to the beach they were placed in a wall, their scar, eyes, nose, &c., painted black! The workmen took an old tomb of the Tucker family, of the date of James I., and used the stones for repairing the porch! In the south wall of the porch or ante-chapel was a door way, and in the north wall were two cylindrical columns supporting arches, from what I can collect, something similar to those of the church. Outside the north-western point of the porch were discovered traces of the foundations and pavement of what the architect in his plan (now in a book commenced by the Rev. W. Jones and myself,) called the "old church." In the end of the porch, removed in 1824, was a stone marked Will. P. Hill, Will. Carswell, churchwardens, 1700. This part is supposed to have fallen down, and to have been rebuilt by these persons.

The present commodious pews were set up about 1773. A gallery on the north side, that had fallen into decay, was taken down. For several years in the present century, private individuals having succeeded in getting pews into their possession, either by purchase or otherwise, let them out. Some persons who were churchmen, others not, succeeded in deriving a larger rental by this means than would be readily credited. Occupiers of pews at a yearly rental received notices to quit, *rents* were raised, &c., just in the same manner as obtains with private property. The abuse has ceased. Though two extensive galleries were erected in 1825, many families are destitute of sittings. Two other galleries are being erected.

The church yard is interesting, and is now partly enclosed with iron railing. Its contiguity to the sea has occasioned my introducing some remarks upon this circumstance. As a proof how tradition wears out and is lost in a rapidly rising town like Lyme, it may be instanced, that scarcely any one knows that a rising mound in the centre of the churchyard marks the burial place of those who died of the plague. In the memory of persons now living, workmen would not have broken the ground for fear of infection, so clear was the tradition.*

Arms lately painted round the altar at the vicar's expence. On the *left*, on ascending to the altar, those of the vicar, prebendary, Bristol, Salisbury, and Sherborne. To the right, Burridge, Summers, Tucker, Harvy, and Henley.—The families of this town are those who have contributed to the charities. On the singing gallery are the arms of the cathedral of Sarum, and those of the borough of Lyme.

The following are several curious particulars respecting the church.

1514.—John Daye of Lyme, by will dated Jan. 28, 1514, orders his body to be buried under the same stone that his brother the vicar was buried, within the church of Lyme. He gives to the fraternity of Our Lady within the same church, 20*s.*; to the cathedral church of Sarum, 12*d.*; item, St. Michael, "hed seynte" of the church of Lyme, 6*s.* He gives his land to Joan Perrott for life, after her decease to the heirs of the body of his son Robert Daye; in default of issue to the mayor of Lyme and his brethren, on condition that they should cause his soul to be prayed for by the fraternity of Our Lady within the said church.

1543.—Register of baptisms begins. The first

* Private communication of Major Clarke.

part seems to be a copy. (Hutchins, last ed. vol. i. 406, from the archives of the corporation.)

1552.—The mayor and his brethren grant to John Coke £5 yearly, in consideration of the good service that he hath performed in the church of King's Lyme from time to time, in singing and playing at organs, and which the said John Coke was to continue during his life in the best manner he could, as God had endued him to do.—*Idem.*

1617.—The corporation seats in the church to be enlarged, and the expence to be out of the private and public funds of that body.—*Corp. Order Book.*

1638.—Book of martyrs, homilies, &c., with a lectern, left.*

1644.—Three of the largest bells cast into cannon. After the siege these were placed in the porch.†

1660.—New galleries erected. The corporation lent £30. The money was not repaid in 1671.—*Corp. Order Book.*

1661.—The king's arms put up. 1701.—Two hour-glasses.*

1729.—Fine for breaking ground in the church, 6*s.* 8*d.*

1770.—New ring of six bells set up in the room of the two old ones, partly by rate, partly by subscription.

1791.—New chandelier, by subscription.*

1825.—Two new galleries erected. Each pew sold for 5*l.* 5*s.* The society for the enlargement of churches gave £100 to provide free sittings.

1828.—A new organ erected by subscription, which cost 350 guineas.

1833.—The Rev. F. P. Hodges, vicar, at his *own*

*Memoranda collected from the Registers.

† Doubtful authority. A MS. in the Augmentation Office contains a return in 1550 of church utensils:—this has "Lyme, two bells!"

expence, had the chancel restored, and the altar cleared of sundry deformities which were in the worst possible taste. The capitals of the pillars were cleared of the collected whitewash; the east window lengthened, and real taste displayed where preceding efforts were apparently made with a view to disfigure. The pulpit was removed by subscription to the centre of the church, at the beginning of the chancel. As yet the parish have not continued what the vicar has so generously and tastefully begun. If the walls are not stuccoed and the pillars scraped, the vicar's restoration will appear, though acknowledged to be admirable, to have failed as a stimulus to the beautifying our neat church.

WASTING OF THE LAND AND ENCROACHMENT OF THE SEA NEAR THE CHURCH, &c.

This subject, which might appear quite foreign to the church or religious matters, is from local circumstances placed in immediate connection.

The nature of *lias* appears to be inclined to crumble and fall before the operation of the weather; and in every part of the world, eminences, composed of lias, are subject to avalanches, and slide down into the lower grounds.

Springs lodge large masses of water, which, at length, burst forth: the incumbent earth falls upon the wet soil, and slides away. Occasionally large portions of the cliff have, from these causes, crumbled and settled down upon the shore. The effect observed is singular: the eye can distinguish no motion unless fixed intensely on one inconsiderable spot; when little particles are seen to be changing place, and the eye can, upon being directed to other points, detect an uninterrupted movement towards the lowest situation. Some of these "rougements," a local term for avalanche in our vicinity, have been

extensive. The sea is much too frequently blamed for doing, as a principal, that which it only aided in a secondary manner. The sea quickly washes away the fallen masses, which would otherwise act as a buttress to what remained above.

Great exaggeration may be expected upon this subject. Let us trace the fall of the church cliffs, with reference to certain facts as data, and many statements current among the old inhabitants will appear at once to be divested of exaggeration, or even a semblance of it.

In former years, before there was any "marine walk," the great place of resort, the mall of Lyme, where the belles of the place and the sons of the aristocracy enjoyed the sea breeze and displayed their persons, was the Church cliffs, generally called the Church cleeves, or the Cleeves. It was very extensive; and rose with a gentle acclivity from Church street and Charmouth lane. The beauty of the view and situation can be now estimated by taking a walk on the narrow strip that remains. In the year 1803 the late T. C. Carpenter, M. D., and two other gentlemen set up three seats, each three feet distant from the precipice. The site of all three has fallen into the sea: the centre seat was ninety feet from the corner of the hedge in the middle, and at the narrowest part of the present Church cliffs; and this in thirty years? Beyond all contradiction, ninety feet in breadth of the church cliffs have fallen in that inconsiderable space of time; and what is more, without any great slide, but by a gradual mouldering, slipping, and crumbling away of the soil. Can we any longer doubt of persons walking to Charmouth by a footpath ninety years ago? This part of our coast has gone down as rapidly as any; perhaps more so. East and west of the town immense changes must have taken place

in five centuries; and calculable ones, admitting an uniformity in the decrease, at the rate of three feet per annum.* The Cobb may have been differently situated with respect to the land than it appears to be at present. Where the site of Cobb street should be placed, is another problem. But a truce with speculation, while we turn our thoughts to present circumstances. These will not require our views only as to the wasting of pasture or corn land; but demand our attention to a subject of most powerful interest—the *desecration of our church-yard* and the *destruction of our church.* The action of the sea upon the base of our cliffs, when agitated by gales, always tended to their downfall. In spite of a long space of shallow and broken water, many a billow lashed and shook the cliff it reached. Within the last five years, many a stout labourer has been employed east of the town to make deep water near the shore; and so to hasten by the readiest means that art could devise, except that of actually setting workmen to throw down the cliff, the evils prognosticated in the few preceding lines. A demand for stucco in London, to cover the deformities of innumerable erections, has caused thousands of tons of lime-stone, the very ledges round our shore, to be shipped off. Whole ledges have disappeared, that were broken up with great labour; and by men who were not well remunerated for their toil. A ledge, within a few feet of the eastern jetty, has actually been partly broken up, and the Table-rock and Horse-pond, names familiar to the natives of Lyme, and which bring fond recollections and associations of youth, are no more. The eventual result of all this is, that the sea will be made a

* In situations where the soil is harder, say one foot per annum.

principal instead of a secondary agent in the destruction of our cliffs; and the ground, where lie in repose the bones of many generations, and the dust of more,—the remains of hundreds whom the actual inhabitants once tenderly loved, under the endearing ties of parents, brothers, and children, will be at no inconsiderable distance of time thrown down upon the beach, and swept away at the next flood tide!

It is customary for those who descant on evils present or to come, to propose some plan; more particularly when the harm may be deferred or averted. In accordance with this practice I suggest that subscriptions should be entered into, towards the formation of a fund, to be applied, when sufficient, to the erection of a substantial wall of Portland stone, backed with cow stone, to extend along the cliff, the breadth of the church yard. In August, 1833, after a sermon in aid of the building a church in Newfoundland, £16 were collected at the church door. If, during the last ten years, a similar collection had been annually made, £160 would have been provided; but numerous persons would have doubtlessly contributed largely, and our church and church yard would have been, ere this, in a state of security gratifying to the best feelings of our nature. A descriptive publication of thirty years' standing contains a sneer at our townsmen, who, though neither deficient in religion or loyalty, take no steps to save their church. May no one be able to repeat this language in future years!

RISE AND HISTORY OF DISSENTING PLACES OF WORSHIP.

The *Baptist* congregation, or, to use the language of an old deed, "the assembly of Protestant dissenters, who scrupled the baptizing of infants,"

existed at an early date. It formed part of one of the first Baptist congregations in our country, that of Kilmington. The latter was the parent of the interests at Lyme, Honiton, Colyton, Stockland, and Axminster, which were at first only branches of that congregation. The "church-book," as it is styled, now in perfect preservation at Lyme, commences 7th September, 1653, with a letter "touching dividing." The subject furnished much matter for discussion; but it was finally agreed to divide, 15th of October, 1653. There is no mention of how long an union had existed. Kilmington was exposed to the visits of persecutors, and the "interest" was removed to Lough wood, a romantic spot in the parish of Dalwood, close upon the borders of Dorset and Devon; which, within the last seventy years, was the most woody spot about these parts. This seclusion, together with the boundary of the counties being close to the chapel, caused Lough wood to be chosen as a spot where it was easy to evade writs. During the protectorate there were nearly 100 members. A lease exists for the premises at Lough wood, drawn in 1677: the removal from Kilmington took place about 1658. In the parish of Shute are two closes of eight acres, the rent of which is divided between the ministers of the congregations at Lyme and Lough wood. Aged members of the latter congregation relate stories of pursuit and loss of life which they heard from their parents. In 1653 there were seventy-three members at Lyme.

The dwelling-house, where the meetings were held, in Broad street, was purchased in 1699, and was converted into a chapel about the middle of the last century.

The old book contains many curious questions, proposed for the consideration of the ministers,

who met in convocation at different towns in the west. At a meeting at Bridgewater, in 1655, one subject, to which attention was called, was pride in dress and the use of "Points or ribbons, and more laces than are required on garments."

Query. That, whereas it hath been judged by the churches that the wearing of gold, pearles, and costly array is contrary to the rule of the gospel, and if brethren and sisters refuse to reform herein, what course may a church take in this matter?—*Ans*. We judge that those who wilfully refuse, be dealt with all as transgressors of the law of Christ, 2 Tym. ii. 9, 1 Peter iii. 3, 4. Yet we desire that persons in this case may be proceeded against with all sweetnesse, and tendernesse, and long-suffering, it being not so clearly and generally understood among saints as other things that are more contrary to the light of nature.

Meeting at Tiverton, in 1657. *Query*. Whether a man, in any case, in ruling over his wife, may lawfully strike her?—*Ans*. Hee ought so to rule over his wife in wisdom, as that the ordinances of God in point of rule may be performed, if it may bee by any means without striking of her, such proceedings being without any precept or precedent that wee know of in the Holy Scripture.

Query. Whether a beleeven man or woman, being head of a family in this day of the gospell, may keepe in his or her house an instrument or instruments of musicke, playing on them or admitting others to play thereon?—*Ans*. We answer, it is the duty of saints to abstaine from all appearance of evill, and not to make pensioners for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof, to redeeme the tyme, and to do all they do to the glory of God; and though we cannot conclude the use of such instruments to be unlawfull, yet we desire the saints to be very cautious lest

they transgresse the aforesaid rules in the use of it, and do that which may not bee of good report, and so give offence to their tender brethren.

Mr. T. Hollis gave two houses to the chapel. There is an organ and a burying-ground attached to the chapel. Minister, Rev. A. Wayland.

The *Independents' Chapel* is in Coomb street. In Palmer's edition of Calamy's Nonconformists' Memorial is to be found all that is known of the establishment of the then Presbyterian interest.

The *Rev. Amos Short, A. M.*, of Ex. Coll. Oxford, was the third son of Mr. J. Short, who having a living in his own gift, designed his son for the ministry. He was "under good impressions" at college; and on leaving it, became chaplain to lady Clark of Suffolk. In 1645 he settled at Topsham; and in 1646 was ordained by the seventh classical presbytery. In 1650 he accepted an invitation to Lyme. While at Topsham, a very loose man, thinking himself alluded to by his sermon, threatened to kill him, and way-laid him to shoot him with a pistol;—however, his heart failed. He was ejected by the Bartholomew Act in 1662, though he had preached a sermon at the Restoration which was printed at the request of the magistrates, with a long epistle preceding it written by the Rev. John Hodder, a great loyalist, the ejected rector of Hawkchurch, who usually preached at Mr. Henley's at Colway house. Notwithstanding his loyalty his father left him nothing; being exasperated at his nonconformity, for which he was a great sufferer, as will appear by this account. He established the first *Independent* chapel in George's court, where he preached to a small congregation, for whom, at his first coming to Lyme, he had drawn up " articles for the right ordering their conversation." Mr. Gregory Alford, one of the magistrates, sent these to the king and council

in 1668. About the time of the Rye-house plot, the county troops came to Lyme to seize him and Mr. Kerridge, the ejected schoolmaster of Lyme, " a sober, learned, and honest man," afterwards pastor of a dissenting congregation at Colyton. The populace got into the meeting-house, pulled down the pulpit, and were breaking up the seats; but the commander, —— Strode, Esq., prevented them from committing further violence. In 1682 he was seized at Exon, and imprisoned under the Conventicle Act for six months. In 1685 he was convicted at Lyme, under the same act, and imprisoned for five months in Dorchester gaol. Upon Monmouth's landing, he and others were sent to Portsmouth, and there laid in a dungeon. Solomon Andrew, Esq., was his friend, and advised his wife to urge him to conform. That gentleman, on his way to Dorchester assizes, where he was to be foreman of the grand jury, and intended to befriend Mr. Short, died of apoplexy. Mr. Short outlived his troubles, and after liberty was granted to dissenters established a public chapel. He died of apoplexy, July 15, 1697, aged 81. He was a genteel, well-bred man, grave and serious, yet pleasant in conversation. His son educated young men for the ministry here.

The old chapel having become ruinous, the present meeting-house was built on a larger plan, in 1755.* The ministers have been Rev. Amos Short, (Short's son ?) Gay, Whitty, Pearson, Harris, Wheaton, Gleed,—now, Rev. Ebenezer Smith. Mr. Harris was an Arian, and so were many of his congregation. There are no endowments.

The *Methodist Chapel*, in Sherborne lane, is of a very recent erection. Though much smaller than

* Mr. John Whitty, a native of Axminster, related to the proprietor of the carpet manufactory, was elected minister. His sermons, in four volumes octavo, are deservedly esteemed.

the other two, it is by no means the least elegant; it has an organ, but no regular minister.

The *Quakers' Meeting-house*, in Coomb-street, near the river, was taken down several years since, and at present none of that persuasion remain in Lyme. It appears that it was once attended by a numerous congregation. The precise time when it was first erected is not known. The burying-ground, inclosed by a high wall, is situated in Stile lane.

THE COBB.

Adjacet undis
Facta manu moles: quæ primas æquoris iras
Frangit; et incursus quæ prædelassat aquarum.
Ovid, Ceyx and Halcyone.

THE most prominent feature in Lyme is the Cobb, which from its singular construction, utility, and great antiquity, possesses no small degree of interest. None of the great antiquaries have ever directed their individual attention to this structure. Laurels were to be acquired in the pursuit of other more promising subjects. A committee of the House of Commons called for returns in 1825, when directed to examine particulars touching the grants of public money for the support of the Cobb. The scent lay not beyond 1634: three centuries furnished nothing.

The precise year of the first erection of the Cobb does not appear. Referring the reader to the annals for Lhuyd's Lhonborth, or city of ships, we must not suppose that anything but trade created such a structure, whenever that took place. In Edward I.'s reign, when the town was made a free borough, belonged to the king, and was visited by the sovereign, the townsmen, with others of the neighbouring country, to which Lyme was an outlet, most probably built the Cobb—a name that no where occurs as applied to a pier except at Swanage, in this county. The neighbouring country is an indefinite expression; we may include Axminster, Chard, Crewkerne, Ilminster, and Taunton.

In the year 1313, the Cobb appears to have been destroyed; and Edward III. granted a keyage of

one penny in the pound, equivalent to 8*s*. 4*d*. per cent., towards restoring it. What its form was, is not mentioned, neither its extent; but in the document it is stated, that the work was built of wood and rocks *(maeremio et petris)*. Limited in extent it must have been: its distance from the shore and depth of water, like the hardy seamen that first moored their craft in it, rest in oblivion. Many who suppose that because the town furnished ships of war at different times to the king, the water in the Cobb must have been deeper at that period, are led into error, from not considering how small vessels formerly were. A conclusive argument is, the inconsiderable depth of the foundation below the surface of the sand. At the siege of Calais the complement of each ship upon an average must have been under twenty men. The largest ship sent from this port to oppose the Spanish armada, was but of ninety tons burthen. An inconsiderable piece of masonry at the end of the ledges, nearly in a line with the church and the bluff-end of Portland, made to enclose fish or some such purpose, gave rise to conjectures, some of which gained currency as tradition, that a pier had once existed or at least been begun there.

Great is the curiosity to ascertain what could have given rise to such a singular term as Le Cobbe, now the Cobb. After giving a few suppositions entertained on the subject, it will be left to the reader to judge which seems the most probable or consistent, if indeed consistency can be supposed in conjectural etymology.

In many old documents this structure is called the Cobb, Conners, Connor, and Connors; and in one of 1594, the Obb or Cobb. That beautifully variegated little fish that frequents rocks, from the colour of which it generally takes its name, as the

red rock, &c., to this day retains the name of the Cobb, round which they play, and by which they are generally known—that of *Conners*. One circumstance deserves mention; that no stranger seems to have any notion what the *Cobb* is, till informed that it is the harbour. Who does not ask what the word means? Some favour an idea of its having derived its name from a resemblance in bulk to the heavy mud-walls, in some parts called *Cob*-walls, derived from the Greek word Κοπτω, or, according to others, from the Latin word *copulare*, to botch, to join together. Cob-stones are described by Grose, in his Provincial Dictionary, to be "stones that may be thrown," also, "large stones." North, in his life of the lord keeper Guildford, says it derives its name from the *Cobble*-stone of which it is composed. Thomas Northmore, esq., of Cleve, says that in the Celtic *Gwb* is a mound or dam, of which Cob is a corruption. In archdeacon Nares's Glossary, Cob is defined to be a herring; also a rich, covetous person; likewise said to be an Irish coin. Of the derivation of Conners I have nothing that appears satisfactory.

Holinshed styles the Cobb "A great and costly jetty;" Leland, "A great and . . . . in the sea, for the socour of shippes;" Camden says, "It was well defended from the winds by rocks and tall trees." I perceived at the repair of the Cobb in 1825, that some part of it was built of piles once unprotected by a wall. These piles were the tall trees spoken of by Camden: they were in three rows, and were supported by large rocks.

They were just inside the outer line of the wall, which was, after they were found insufficient, built over them, as the worms called "Artes," had made sad havoc with the wood at one time: see petition temp. Elizabeth. Dr. Good, in his "Book of

Nature," vol. ii. p. 13, speaks of the *Teredo Navalis*, styled *artes* by our townsmen. It is gregarious. These worms appeared in 1731-2, in great numbers on the banks of Zealand, and considerably alarmed the Dutch, lest the piles by which those banks were supported should have been suddenly destroyed. They never, however, staid long enough to commit mischief, the climate perhaps being too cold for them.

An inhabitant of this town tells me he saw in 1825, at an inn in London, in some periodical, the title of which he did not remember, and which I cannot discover, a suggestion for repairing the Cobb, or making a new work for the security of shipping, in a situation quite unprotected, as at Lyme, by setting upright a line of iron pillars properly supported, and between which the sea might play. This is precisely the plan that was once adopted, with the exception of wood having been used instead of iron! Wood failed—so would iron, excepting of stupendous weight and size. The entrance to the great sea lock on the canal, destined to make Norwich a port, is protected by iron piles. Coker, in his history, describes the Cobb as "A massy pile of building, composed of great rocks, piled up together, which at low water they weighed up with empty casks." Queen Elizabeth adverts to the "great and sumptuous structure, built with mighty stones and rocks." Charles II. named it *Le Pere, Key*, or *le Cob.*

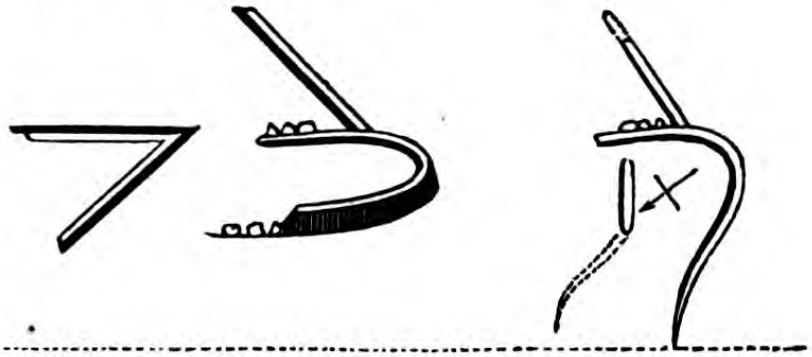
The genius that planned the Cobb deserves a place among the worthies of Lyme. No one has been found to perpetuate the name of that man who, in front of the ocean itself, without any natural assistance, if we except a ledge, planned and executed a work for the early protection of shipping. The Cobb has been the great source of the early

prosperity of the town, and the surest test of its welfare. The dilapidations from the thirteenth century have been too numerous to be described here: they were constantly alluded to in the petitions of the *poveres burgeys*. A few dates are appended of injuries received by storms:—

Destroyed	. . . .	A.D. 1329
ditto	. . . .	1376
Injured	. . . .	1703
ditto	. . . .	1722
ditto	. . . .	1744
ditto	. . . .	1762
Outer pier demolished	. .	1792
Centre breach effected Jan. 20,	.	1817
Centre breach in the great storm, Nov. 23,		1824

In 1817 a breach of 192 feet was made in the south-west part of the Cobb, and several vessels were driven out and sunk. The gale was moderate here, but furious in the chops of the channel. This sent the sea home to us.

No. 1. No. 2. No. 3.



Since the first erection of the Cobb, it has undergone several changes in form and construction. Three plans are here submitted and arranged so as to show at one view the most probable relation the several works bore to each other. No. 1. The Cobb

from Harris's fine six-sheet map of England, 1700, taken from lord Burleigh's map, about 1587, now in the king's library. In the above hypothetical arrangement this is placed as far from the shore as the main body of the present Cobb. This was probably the earliest form. It must have been invulnerable to a south-wester, and exposed to damage from south-easterly winds. No. 2. From Dr. Stukeley's plan, taken in 1723. The outer pier was then at its greatest length. The extreme length of the Cobb, though it did not join the shore, was 1000 feet. No. 3. The plan in 1833. The outer pier is much shorter than it was during the Commonwealth, and from that time till 1792. A northern wall protects craft from violent northerly winds. From this a low wall, intended to create a scour, treads away to the shore. A causeway, constructed about 1756, unites the shore and the Cobb. The quay is now very broad, but has not been so more than about 25 years. It was before that time very narrow, and extended but a few feet in front of the warehouses, though there was a narrow and low causeway that ran along its whole extent, that was never dry except at nearly low tide. The present quay covers this causeway. Electioneering disputes in 1780, prevented the carrying out of the pier to its original extent.

Dimensions of the Cobb in 1833.

	FT.
From the shore near the preventive station, to the extreme point	1179
Length of the parapet or upper walk .	879

N.B. Three turns make just a mile.

Length of the quay	360
Length of the northern wall . . .	206

	FT.
Depth of the water at the Crab-head (the mouth of the harbour) in calm weather	12
Ditto during strong winds . . .	14
Height of the Cobb from the lowest foundation, just	30
Ditto from the ledge	23
Extreme breadth	35

With respect to the repairs of the Cobb at various periods, the expenses have been great. The townsmen, and those of the neighbourhood, erected it. The kings remitted the subsidies due from the town, and abated the actual rent of the town, then their demesne land, from time to time, so that we may correctly say the kings of England, from the date of the first erection of the Cobb, have contributed towards the maintenance of this harbour, as being a national work. The townsmen, aided by "collections of the devotion of the country thereabouts," did the rest. 27th Elizabeth, an act was made for the maintenance of it, and renewed anno reg. 35. It was enacted that it should continue in force ten years.* This was confirmed 1st and 21st of James I., and further provision was made by that king for its repair. The act establishing the grant was made perpetual 3rd Charles I. By an act of parliament 1st James I., and 14th Charles II., the town of Lyme was exempted from contributing towards the support of Dover harbour, on account of this pier, and expense of maintaining it. By 32nd George III., the like immunity was granted with respect to Ramsgate. The charter of Charles I. was granted on express condition of the mayor and capital burgesses maintaining and repairing the Cobb and sea-walls. The mayor was constituted clerk of the market, and had power to dig stones or

* Keeble's Statutes.

rocks on the neighbouring shore for the repair of the Cobb.

The return made to the House of Commons, 31st March, 1825 (See *Papers* 1825 (326) xxi. 261 [71]) gives nothing before 1634. All before that period was collected for this work. (See in the Annals for remission of tenths, fee-farm, &c.)

Annual sum allowed by the sovereigns of England by letters patent.

£20 from 1537 to 1553.

Mary discontinued this allowance.

£20 resumed in 1558, then stopped, which caused the remembrance addressed to Sir F. Walsingham, already inserted.

£20 from 1634 to 1641.

£100 from 1684* to 1806.

£200 from 1806 to 1833, the present time.

Annual grant by his majesty's bounty.

£100 from 1719 to 1806. (See above.)

Additional grants on extraordinary occasions.

	£.	s.	d.
1644	800	0	0†
1646	1000	0	0‡
1647	1000	0	0
1709	1000	0	0
1742	371	18	3
1746	1200	0	0
1748	400	0	0
1763	1988	14	0
1765	133	4	11

* Out of the Civil List, granted for 21 years, continued by every subsequent sovereign.

† Loan of £300 out of the estate of sir Edward Yates, a royalist.

‡ For the repair of the Cobb and other *sea walls* of Lyme.

	£.	s.	d.
1766	1500	0	0
1784	3106	2	11
1794	10,002	5	0
1796	486	7	8
1817	208	6	0
1818	5334	6	4
1819	9718	11	9
1820	4576	5	0
1825	13,000	0	0

N. B. From the year 1719, besides the *annual sum*, there was a *grant by his majesty's bounty* made every year till 1806, when, by sign manual of George III., the annual sum was made £200, and the additional grant discontinued, or it may be more intelligibly expressed, that the two were united in one sum of £200, payable out of the Civil List. This has been discontinued since 1832.

The distance the work extends from the shore, and elevation above the water, break the tremendous swell that would otherwise reach the town, between which and the Cobb, in westerly storms, the sea is comparatively tranquil. A foundation considerably above low water, to which at one time the pier was continued, extends two hundred feet farther into the sea. Should this ever be rebuilt, vessels of considerable tonnage, if caught in this fearful bay, and unable to keep the sea, might run on the ground at the back of the new work, and save the lives of the crew, and the vessel might be got off by lightening her when the weather moderated. This is an important consideration, as there is no part of this extensive coast, from Exmouth bar to Portland, on which a vessel that went ashore would not go to pieces.

The committee of repairs in the House of Commons were engaged, 1818, in enquiries respecting the repairs then required, and entered into examina-

tions as to considering the pier a national work. The result was that this harbour was the best in the bay; that in spring tides, at high water, it is open to vessels of 120 to 150 tons, and with a draught of fourteen feet; that notwithstanding the circumstance of its being a dry harbour, it is in some respects preferable to the bar harbours on the coast, some of which no vessel dare run for with the wind blowing violently on shore, accompanied by a high sea, for, should a vessel strike on the bar at the entrance of a harbour, she might pass over the bar and sink in deep water; but when a vessel strikes the ground at Lyme, she must be under circumstances of shelter and comparative security, being then protected by the outermost part of the Cobb, unless her draught of water be very great. Round the outermost part of the stones at the end of the Cobb which break the sea, there is, at low water, spring tides, twelve feet. It has proved the means, in many instances, of saving vessels with their crews, which would otherwise have been inevitably lost. The regularity of the cattle trade between the west of England and the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, (a trade in time of war of great importance,) depends on the peculiar position of this harbour, which makes it accessible with winds that prevent entrance into other ports of the West bay.—*Report of Committee.*

Mr. Thomas Walker, master of the Active, made four passages to the islands in November, 1815, when no vessel from other ports could go to sea.

The Hon. Roger North, in his life of the lord keeper Guildford, vol. i. p. 243, describes his visit to Lyme about the end of Charles II.'s reign. Besides visiting the nobility, "his lordship took the opportunity to join thereunto an inspection of such curiosities as were famed in the several counties he passed through: as in particular the Cob at Lyme,

a small port in Dorsetshire, that is situate in the cod, (as they term it,) of a bay where there is no river or land-lock, provided by nature to prevent the certain loss of ships at anchor there; and of all places upon the coast of England, least to be suspected for a good port. But art and industry will do wonders; for all the requisites of a safe harbour are supplied by this Cob. The small vessels which serve the trade of the town, consisting chiefly in woollen manufactures of that country, carry on the trade outwards, which is very beneficial. And, in that respect, king Charles II. allowed, out of the customs of that port, £100 per annum towards the charge of maintaining the Cob; but whether the sum be continued or begged off I know not. The Cob is a mole built in the sea, about two furlongs from the town, and named from the cobble-stone of which it is compiled. There is not any one like it in the world: for though it is an immense mass of stone, of the shape of a demilune, with a bar in the middle of the concave, no one stone that lies there was ever touched with a tool, or is bedded in any sort of cement; but all being pebbles of the sea, are piled up, and hold by their bearings only, and the surge plays in and out through the interstices of the stone, in a wonderful manner. That this must often decay is certain: for the best cemented square stone will scarce hold against the surge. But there is warning enough to alarm the town to repair, and thereby to prevent any great ruin of it. For sometimes a swamp will appear in the flat top where they walk; and when it is perceived, they go to work, and take down all that part, and build it up from the bottom; and nothing less will prevent the downfall of much more, sooner or later, as the seas rage more or less against it. And it may happen that some new foundation stones are to be laid: these

are of the largest sort that can be got; and they search them out upon the coast, and mounting them upon casks chained together, with but one man mounted upon them, he with the help of a pole, conducts it to the place where it is to lie, and then, striking out an iron pin, away go the casks, and the stone falls in its place. The vessels of burthen are laden and unladen by horses, turning and returning upon the sand, between the Cobb and the town; and they have no drivers, but are charged with bales, for instance, at the warehouse, and away they trot to the ship's side, and stand fair, sometimes above the belly in water, for the tackle to discharge them; and then they gallop back to the warehouses for more: and so they perform the tide's work, and know by the flood when their labour is at an end. I must own I could scarce have believed this description, if I had not seen the place and the poor horses at work; and I cannot but wonder that our topographers have taken no more notice than they have done of it. And it is not the only obvious curiosity in England that the best of them have left out."

Those who have only known Lyme since 1822, have seen nothing of that kind of repair which North so fully describes. Before the storm of 1817, the greater part of the Cobb was built as he mentions. The parapet from the Gin-shop, a niche so called, to the outer pier, was too rough for a promenade. North omits to speak of the application of wedges, which were driven in when any part of the wall began to bulge out. The Cobb, like the bridge at Babylon, over the Euphrates, was always giving way; and had the present plan of erecting our fine old structure been adopted centuries ago, thousands of pounds would have been saved.

The outer pier, swept away by a storm in 1792,

was replaced to within some distance of its original extent, but not on the old plan. Portland cap-stone, in blocks, some weighing five tons, were used for the exterior, and the interior was filled up with cow-stone, or, as North called it, cobble-stone; which is found on the shore in round masses, as they appear to have rolled from the green sand formation. Fourteen solid feet of cow-stone, sixteen of cap-stone, make a ton. The large blocks were united to each other by pieces of iron fixed in a groove, and cemented by having boiling lead poured at the ends, to fasten the iron cramp. Great was the admiration excited by this triumph of *modern art*. Unfortunately for the claim to originality assumed in this instance, Diodorus Siculus and Herodotus mention that Semiramis practised what was so much praised. No bridge across the Euphrates could be made to stand against the rapidity of the floods of that impetuous stream, till Semiramis succeeded in having one built of *large stones* champed together, as described above. Herodotus, book 1, art. 186, speaks of her work thus:—

ἐτάμνετο λίθους πέριμηκεας . . . . . τοῖσι λίθοισι τοὺς ὠρύξατο, οἰκοδόμεε γέφυραν, δέουσα τους λίθους σιδήρῳ τε καὶ μολίβδῳ.

This extreme part was repaired by major d'Aubant; the rest by captain d'Arcy. This is recorded by the following inscription on a stone in the parapet wall:—

The work extending 273 feet west of this stone was erected by James Hamilton, builder and contractor with the honourable Board of Ordnance, to repair the breaches made in the Cobb in January, 1792, under the direction of captain D'Arcy, engineer, 1795.

On the 20th January, 1817, a tremendous sea from the south-west, destroyed that part of the old wall from a little east of the slip to the present steps by the brass plate. Several vessels were wrecked there, and on the beach. A grant was made by government, and col. Fanshawe, royal engineers, rebuilt the body of the work in that style of masonry I shall have to praise so highly; but from an economy similar to that which was in vogue in military expeditions at the early part of the late war, the parapet was left to be built from time to time as the corporation found means. That body had laid two courses of the heaviest Portland-stone for the parapet, when the awful 23rd Nov., 1824, the era of the *great storm*, arrived.

The autumn of 1824 had been fine; but in November the weather changed to wild and stormy. On Monday, 22nd Nov., the wind blew a hurricane from the south. At one, A.M. on Tuesday, 23rd, the tide was flowing, though it ought not by the tide-table to have been *low* water till two. At three the tide came up to high water mark, neap tides:—this was *five* hours before the time of high water! Before four it had risen to a great height; and some persons who were about, to look after their boats, as is usual in sea-ports when the weather is tempestuous, forewarned individuals at the Cobb-houses of the danger. Soon after, the sea broke over the walls, and the inmates were with difficulty taken out. The sea-walls which protect several houses in the lowest part of the town, near the mouth of the river, and on the walk, were destroyed. Between the showers the gusts of wind were tremendous, and were accompanied by thunder and lightning. Chimneys were blown down, and other mischief done. At day-break I saw the sea from the

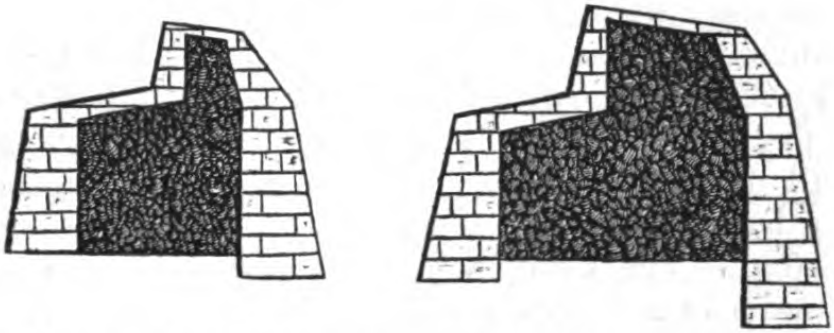
Bell-cliff, and clearly distinguished a violence in the gale, and in the height of the water, beyond any thing I had before witnessed. About six or seven a great breach took place in the Cobb, when the sea ran through in a manner truly appalling, and soon swept every vessel out. Two men in the revenue tender were drowned. The *Unity*, a London trader ready for sea, was driven with her crew to Charmouth beach: the crew were lashed in the shrouds, and were saved at low water. All the stones laid by the corporation in the parapet, and part of col. Fanshawe's upper courses, were swept away. All the old work, between the new work to near the Gin-shop, in length 232 feet, was thrown down; the northern wall, the Crab-head, and the quay, were much injured, and a scene of devastation was presented that defies description. Persons ran about, after seeing the ruin at low water, exclaiming that Lyme was ruined, and that the injuries could never be repaired. Accounts came of what other neighbouring towns had suffered; which, excepting the Cobb, was greater than our own. Ellis, in his history of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, gives a terrific account, and says, "Melcombe was nearly swept from the face of the earth." The warehouses on the Cobb suffered much. The largest was destroyed. An old man and his wife were in their little dwelling-house near the Crab-head. Their situation was dreadful. They saw the death of the men in the revenue vessel. They saved themselves by getting out at the back of their dwelling, and then into a window of the watch-house belonging to the customs, where the man scuttled the floor and saved the house: his dwelling was destroyed. There was no staying on the quay for the sea.

During the prevalence of strong westerly winds

at the mouth of the channel, the difference of level in the water between the Lizard and Dover, is ten feet. This run and the tide were checked by the furious gale from S.S.E., and the wind veering to S. and S.W., drove it directly upon the coast, where its ravages were felt from Cornwall to Kent. From the day of the gale to Christmas, the tides neither ebbed nor flowed so high as usual. On Sunday, January 9th, 1825, the sea receded farther than had been remembered for years. Many of these particulars have been extracted from an account of the storm, reprinted at Lyme, by J. Jessep, price 6*d.* from a letter that appeared in the "Sherborne Mercury," written by myself.

Col. Fanshawe, royal engineers, having made a report to the Board of Ordnance, capt. H. J. Savage, of the same corps, came, and the work commenced 19th April, 1825. On June 3rd, 1825, opposition was shown in the Commons, then in a committee of supply, to a grant of £13,000 towards the repair, it being understood that the corporation would in addition raise £6000 upon the Cobb dues. On a division there appeared for the dissentients, ayes, 15; noes, 66: majority, 51. The work proceeded with great spirit, and was completed Nov. 18th, 1826. The weather was favourable beyond all precedent. For some time the work was continued by torch-light.

The plan on which the work has been constructed will better appear by two sections: one near the shore, the other at the widest part. The foundation is laid very deep, particularly outside, and the exterior every way is of solid Portland cap-stone, laid in courses. These courses are united by iron-bolts, let down into the blocks; each block in a course is bound to the next one by dovetails of heart of oak, now preferred to the iron cramps.



The interior is composed of cow-stone, worked and carefully laid, with occasional bonding courses of cap-stone. The slope of the parapet is of infinite service in causing a vast quantity of water in heavy gales to run back, and not fall over upon the causeway. The general excellence of the whole of the new work, is indisputable. A brass plate (which is being scratched in a shameful manner) contains the following inscription :—

BY ORDER OF THE
MASTER-GENERAL AND BOARD OF ORDNANCE.

The repair of this Cobb was commenced and finished under the direction of lieut.-col. Fanshawe, royal engineers, by order of the master-general, dated April 2nd, 1825, and under the immediate superintendence of captain Savage, of the same corps.

Length of pier, rebuilt . . . 232 feet.
Length of parapet, rebuilt . . 447 feet.
Amount of estimate . £19,193. 19s. 10d.
Amount of expenditure £17,337. 0s. 9¼d.
Date of commencement of the work, 19th April, 1825.
Date of completion of the work, 18th November, 1826.

CURIOUS EXTRACTS FROM THE CORPORATION ORDER BOOK.

Coll. of L. Follet, Esq.

1633.—Mr. Richard Alford having built a house on the Cobb without any leave or direction of the mayor, or payment of fine or rent, is to take a lease

upon three lives of his own nomination, and to pay a fine of £5, and 4*s*. yearly rent, or else the house is to be pulled down. Mr. Richard Davy, as above, to pay £1 fine, and 1*s*. yearly rent. If Mr. Roze shall build a house on the Cobb, he shall accept of a lease.

1690.—The Cobb being in a bad state, the remainder of a collection for redeeming captives from slavery at Algiers, £51. 19*s*. 2*d*., to be applied to it; the captives being either dead or redeemed some other way.

Constitutions renewed, A.D. 1490.

Keyage on all manner of small boats that enter the Cobb and abide a tide - -	1*d*.
If they land any goods - - -	2
All boats that have a cock-boat, or are above 20 tons - - - - -	4
If they land goods - - -	8

OLD ORDERS TOUCHING THE COBB, CONFIRMED BY JOHN HASSARD, MAYOR, &c. 1594.

Old Order Book of Corporation.

1. It is ordered, that none take ballast of the Chesell in the Obb or Cobb, of any stone above 4lb. weight, upon pain of 3*s*. 4*d*., to be forfeited to the use of the corporation.

2. Persons letting ballast fall by the ship's side, in loading, to remove the same next tide, or to pay 3*s*. 4*d*. for every tide it lies there.

3. Ropes not veered out, that impede a vessel coming in, may be cut if the party refuse to veer.

4. If any moor upon the top of any post, the magistrate or receivers may cut or loose the cable: 3*s*. 4*d*. to be forfeited for every offence.

5. If any burn or set on fire a Cobb post in heating pitch, or otherwise, he shall forfeit 3*s*. 4*d*.

6. If any heat pitch aboard a vessel in the Cobb, to pay 3*s*. 4*d*.

7. (Defaced) If any dig a dock for his vessel, (he shall fill up the same) next tide, or pay 3*s*. 4*d*.

4th December, 1594.—That as the owners and masters of the shipping of this place have broken the ancient order of payment of money upon their average unto the receivers, to *the use of the poor*, which was by the mayor distributed every Christmas and Easter, that henceforth they shall pay Cobb duties for keelage, like foreigners, till they conform to the ancient orders for the payment of the poor.

That owners of every bark or ship of this harbour, shall take out of their bends all dangerous bolts with limpet heads, &c.

Orders touching the Cobb, 10th Oct. 1825, when Thos. Coulson Carpenter, esq., M.D., was mayor:—

1. All persons having command of a vessel, to moor and place his ship as the Cobb warden orders or directs, else to pay a sum not exceeding *five pounds*.

2. Persons leaving goods, limestone, rubbish, &c., on the quay or at the Cobb-gate, to pay not exceeding *five pounds*. The mayor recites some articles in the act passed in 1st George IV. Persons wilfully cutting, &c. any rope, to pay not exceeding *twenty pounds*. Throwing ballast into the Cobb, *ten pounds*. Taking ballast at an improper place in the harbour, or on the shore between the Cobb and eastern sea-wall, *ten pounds*.

An act for the maintenance of the Peere and Cobbe of Lyme Regis, in the countie of Dorset:—

The preamble sets forth, "Whereas the maior and burgesses, and other the inhabitants, be at importable charges of themselves, in the yerely mantenance and defence, as well of the sayd towne and borough bordering upon the maine sea, as also

of the peere, commonly called the Cobbe, beyng a harbour for ships, made and enforced in the maine sea," &c. The said peer was partly maintained in time past by a yearly rent of £20, paid to the mayor by the king and queens of this realm for certain years now determined, and "partly by the *good devotion* and charges of divers wealthy merchants heretofore inhabiting in the said town, whereof some are deceased and some decayed, and sometyme by collections of the *devotion of the country thereabouts*," and partly by certain Cobb dues. These being so low, a great part of the old works being "set with piles of great oaks, and not yet thoroughly defenced and repaired," and the old works eaten with worms called "artes," and fall into decay through age, as do likewise the new works, and the mayor and burgesses are obliged to fetch the rocks with casks, two miles further than they used, and the prices of things are higher. The queen grants the mayor permission to take as dues, for every pack of woollen cloth brought into or carried from the town, 3*d.*; fardell of linen cloth, 3*d.*; ton of sweet wine, oil, and sacks, 8*d.*; other wines or gross wares (first excepted), 6*d.*; keelage of every ship, vessel, &c., 6*d.*; every ton of merchandize, 4*d.*; to be applied to the repair of the Cobb. If the dues be refused, they may be levied by distress. Two sufficient persons of the town to be chosen yearly for the collection and employment of the duties aforesaid, who are to deliver their accounts at the Leet, at Michaelmas. This act is not to interfere with persons of the Cinque Ports, or other towns, havens, &c., who have particular privileges. The justices of peace for Dorset shall yearly, at the Michaelmas quarter sessions, appoint one justice of that county, not being a freeman of Lyme, and also the merchants and inhabitants of Taunton and Chard,

shall for each town appoint one merchant. The two persons so appointed, and the justice, together with the mayor of Lyme, shall yearly receive and take an account from the collectors and receivours upon their oaths, who, if they refuse to give in an account, shall be each fined £10, to be recovered by either of the four auditors by action for debt. This act to continue for five years.—Passed 27 Eliz.

35 Elizabeth, cap. 7, sec. 29, continued for ten years.

1 James I., cap. 25, sec. 33, 10 years.

3 Char. I. cap. 4, sec. 3, made perpetual.

1655, Privy Seal, 27th Sept.—Cromwell, upon petition of the mayor and burgesses, referred to the commissioners of customs the consideration of an allowance to be made to the Cobb. They certified that the Long Parliament gave £2000; and that if Cromwell would grant the mayor and burgesses the sum of £1000, to be paid by way of imprest out of the customs several years by equal portions, the pier could be carried further out into the sea, and so make the harbour capable of receiving ships of greater burthen. This sum was to be paid by £100 per annum: the first payment to be made 29th Sept., 1655. Edmund Prideaux, Henry Henley, esquires, &c., to consent as to the laying out of the money.

An act for improving and maintaining the Cobb, 8th June, 1821. (2nd George IV.) Preamble refers to act of 27th Elizabeth, for increasing the Cobb duties for five years; and to 35th Elizabeth for the renewal of former act; 1st James, idem; 3rd Charles I., made perpetual: in it is set forth that the ancient duties are inconsiderable and insufficient. The act permits the duties to be increased as by schedule A and B: authorises the borrowing money to pay for the act; the Cobb duties to be applied in repairing the Cobb, and paying off interest and debt contracted for the same; any accumulation of dues beyond £500 to be laid out in 3 per cent. consoli-

dated bank annuities; lawful for mayor and burgesses to appoint collectors of the dues; offices of clerk and treasurer not to be held by one person; rates may be lowered; commander of vessel and boat to show the register of tonnage, or lawful for mayor and burgesses, or collectors, to measure; power to distrain ship and tackle, &c. upon refusal to pay dues; persons obstructing in the collection of the dues, or in measurement, to pay not exceeding £5; custom-house officers not to discharge any vessel till dues are paid; persons maliciously cutting ropes or moorings, to pay not exceeding £5 and the damage; ballast thrown into the Cobb to be removed, the parties to pay for the same, and forfeit not exceeding £10; taking ballast without leave, to forfeit not exceeding £10. Books of account to be kept, and produced every Michaelmas sessions held at Bridport before the justices: if the mayor and burgesses, or receivers, fail to do so, to forfeit £100; proceedings of the mayor in pursuance of this act to be done at the weekly court of hustings; mayor, &c., to have power to make bye-laws, to be set up in legible characters at the Cobb; penalties to be recovered by distress, and applied to the repair of the Cobb; his majesty's vessels exempted from payment of dues; appeal against any order of the magistrates to lie to the sessions for the county.

Schedule (A.)

	s.	d.
Tonnage for every ship, hoy, bark, &c., above 10 tons, per ton	0	2
Tonnage for every ship, hoy, bark, and laid up in the Cobb, for every month, per ton	0	2

Schedule (B.)

Load of fir timber (50 feet a load)	2	0
Hundred running feet of deals	3	0
Fathom of lathwood	1	6
Staves, spokes, oars, per ton	1	6
Last of wheat, rye, &c.	1	0
Ton of potatoes	1	0
Cwt. of wheat, flour, or meal	0	1
Ton of rice biscuit	1	0
Barrel of salted beef or provisions	0	4
Pipe of wine	2	0
Hogshead of ale, beer, &c.	0	6
Puncheon of sugar or molasses	2	0
Ton of cotton, flax, or hemp	1	0
Four-wheeled carriage	2	0
Two ditto ditto	1	0
Pair of coach wheels	0	6

	s.	d.
Every passenger coming or going	1	0
Horse, mule, cow, or ox	0	6
Sheep, pig, or other small animal	0	3
Ton of copper, lead, tin, iron	1	0
Chaldron of coals, Winchester measure	0	8
Wey of salt	0	1
1000 bricks or tiles	1	0
1000 common slates	0	6
Rag, 1*s.*; scantel, 1*s.*		
100 feet dressed free-stone or paving	1	0
Ton rough free-stone, lime-stone, &c.	0	6
Trunk, chest, box	0	4
Ton of butter or cheese	1	0
Ditto oil	2	0
Barrel of tar, pot-ashes, &c.	0	4
Ton of cordage or plaister hair	1	0
Empty pipe, 4*d.*; hogshead, 2*d.*; barrel, 1*d.*		
Gross of bottles	0	6
Score of hides and skins	1	0
Ton of oil cake	1	0
Truss of sail cloth	0	6
Ton of sand taken within the Cobb	0	4
Ditto outside ditto	0	6
All packages not ascertained as to size and weight, to pay a sixth part of the freight. All weighable articles not enumerated in the above schedule, to pay per ton	1	0

Before the passing of this act the harbour dues were unusually low, and about one-fourth of what was paid at Bridport. An officer, styled Cobb-warden, is appointed to see that vessels are moored in proper situations, &c. Formerly the Cobb-wardens (then there were two) made the assessment, as the work was supported by the inhabitants. A district called the liberty of the Cobb, once existed, but the boundary is not now known.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS, 1825 (218) xxi. 275. [71.]

Abstract of the aggregate tonnage of vessels that cleared inwards, outwards, and coastwise, at Lyme Regis Cobb, in the years 1822—1824.

Years.	Aggregate tonnage.	Number of ships above 100 tons.	Number of ships under 100 tons.
1822	22,899	38	543
1823	25,163	33	580
1824	28,893	43	680

Abstract of the aggregate tonnage of sixty-six vessels which have sought refuge from stress of weather in the Cobb, at Lyme Regis, in the three years, 1822, 1823, and 1824.

Years.	Amount of Tonnage.	Tonnage of the largest vessel.	Tonnage of the smallest vessel.
1822	872	107	16
1823	794	106	10
1824	907	87	13

From Office of Register-Gen. of Shipping,
Custom House, London,
13*th April*, 1825. *(Signed)* T. E. WILLOUGHBY.

From 1810 to 1816 the average number of vessels that entered the Cobb was 318.

The Cobb is no longer considered a national work. It cannot receive ships of war, and is not able to contain large merchantmen or small traders in great numbers. It has been usual to suppose this would be the case if the outer pier were extended to its original extent. The utility of Lyme Cobb is proved from time to time upon particular occasions. In Sept., 1826, it blew a very violent gale from the southward, when no less than *eight vessels*, some square-rigged, sought and found shelter, which must otherwise have been lost. This is frequently the case, and much property is preserved in this manner. In time of war the Cobb becomes a national work, from its use in reference to victualling the garrisons of Guernsey, Jersey, and Alderney. In the Channel directions, published by the Admiralty, it is stated to be a bar-harbour !

The Cobb, as a promenade, is allowed to be unrivalled, excepting by the chain-pier at Brighton, where company pay for permission to walk. When

the wind is high, the under walk is quite sheltered. Beyond the steps, where the plate is fixed, is the commencement of the whispering gallery;—a person whispering close to the side of the parapet wall, may maintain a conversation with another, who stands by the slip, at a considerable distance. Immediately at the back of the Cobb are the Cobb-houses, Drayton's bonding store, the preventive station, and to the west, the spot where Monmouth landed.

COINS.

Lyme is remarkable for the quantity of money, rings, and other valuables found here at different times, and in various situations; which are supposed to have been deposited in the earth during the unsettled periods of the civil wars and Monmouth's expedition, when many of the proprietors being slain, the treasures remained either to enrich or amuse the present inhabitants.

The removal of the old houses caused the discovery of many hidden treasures; and in the rubbish thrown, or carried down by the town gutters, into the sea, was contained a large quantity of smaller articles, which, from their minuteness, escaped notice.

At the mouth of the river, within the last twenty years, have been found numerous tradesmen's tokens, brass rings and keys, silver buttons, and other trifling articles. The constant reaction of the surf in winter draws back the large gravel, and discovers a finer mixture of gravel and sand, containing metal of different kinds, small pieces of lead, brass coins, and great numbers of pins, which give it a blackish colour.

Many handsome gold and silver rings have been discovered in that situation.

Near the Church cliffs, among the ledges, in holes formed by the pholades, or hack-fish, are found many musket-balls and large shot, which are washed from the fallen fragments of the cliff.

When building a house in a field called Hatchets, in 1830, the workmen found as many balls as would fill a bucket.

We have already described the discovery of the gold and silver coins. Several of the former kind have been since dug up in a garden; and as there still remain many old houses in the back streets, we may with probability advance that much money, or, to use a frequent expression at Lyme, "a power of money," is yet to be discovered.

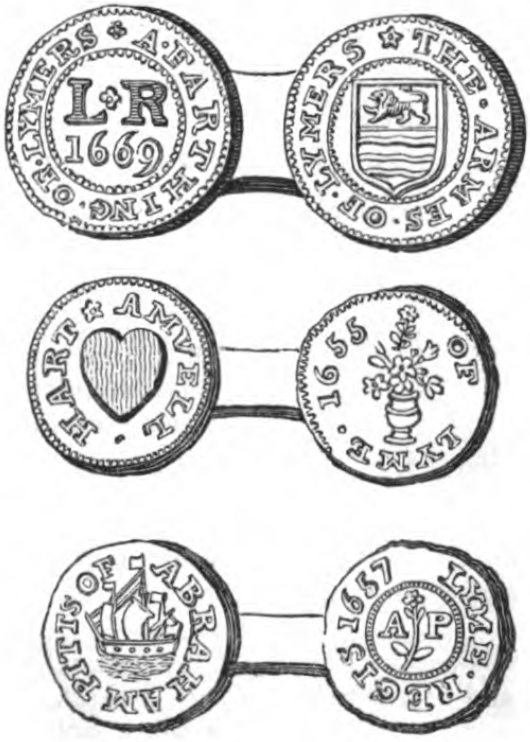
The credulous say that those spots which contained money were invariably haunted by a lady habited in a stiff silk dress, who appeared to several persons that subsequently, by observing the exact spot where she vanished, dug and secured the treasures. It is asserted that Long Entry (the name given to the path leading to the Church cliffs from the butter market) was particularly troubled. Washington Irving, in his "Tales of the Alhambra," says, "I have remarked that the stories of treasure buried by the Moors are most current among the poorest people. It is thus kind nature consoles with shadow for the lack of substance."

After the discovery of the coins in 1786, if any one appeared to be in rising circumstances, it was surmised he had been "digging:" many dreamed of money, and actually did so, which gave rise to many ludicrous stories that we dare not repeat. A tradesman in Broad street has informed me that he found more than £500 in money.

Coins have been found which are supposed to be Roman; but those picked up on the beach are usu-

ally considerably worn, and the inscriptions illegible. One piece of money, nearly the size of a halfpenny, now in the possession of a gentleman of Lyme, is of a very singular character. The obverse exhibits a grotesque representation of a man in the act of counting out pieces of money on an old table, or abacus, without any legend. In a square on the reverse are the letters of the alphabet, in Roman characters, with the D reversed, the V for a U, and two Zs in succession. The same gentleman possesses a piece of pure gold, on the concave side of which appears a portion of a very neatly executed design that has suffered by the action of the pebbles. From two perforations, it appears to have been used as an ornament.

There have been, and still are, found coins of every country with which Lyme traded at different periods, particularly Spanish, Portuguese, and French, and tokens of almost every town in the west of England,



where those small pieces were struck. The farthings have usually on one side the tradesman's sign, and on the other its value; occasionally the name of his wife and trade. The legend is the name of the person and place of residence. The farthings generally weigh from thirteen to fifteen grains, and are mostly of brass or copper. Mr. Hollis possessed some of the finest specimens of these tokens, no fewer than two thousand of which are known.

A VOCABULARY OF PROVINCIAL WORDS, SOME FREQUENTLY, OTHERS OCCASIONALLY HEARD; WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE WEST COUNTRY DIALECT, AS IT OBTAINS AT LYME AND CHARMOUTH.

———Un barbare amas de vices d'oraison,
De mots estropiés, cousus par intervalles,
De proverbes trainés dans les ruisseaux des halles.
MOLIERE.—*Les Femmes Savantes.*

This alphabetical list was begun by extracting from a vocabulary those words I had heard here, and continued by inserting from time to time such as attracted my attention. Some are Devonian, others of the counties of Somerset and Dorset. See the "Exmoor Courtship" for several words that occur here.

Ains, as.
Affeard, afraid.
Aneest, near.
Aquott, squatted.
Arg, to argue, dispute.
Argify, *idem*.

Banging, large.
Barton, a demesne.
Be, for am.
Beegum and *beegummers*, an interjection and corruption of an oath.
Betwit or *twit*, to mention in a taunting manner some past occurrence, not to any one's credit.
Blid, blood.
Blid and ouns, an exclamation.
Bulbagger, a scarecrow, the evil spirit.

Cast, canst.
Cham, I am.
Chell, I shall.
Combe, a hollow or flat be-

tween two hills: more commonly called "bottom;" in some counties, "dingle."
Clitty, close: "clitty bread."
Clome, earthenware.
Clum, to handle, to pull about awkwardly.
Coad, unhealthy; "coad sheep."
Comfortable stuff, wine or spirit begged for a sick person.
Cort, caught.
Couchy, awkward.
Crazed, cracked; "I've crazed the tea-pot."
Creem, a sudden shivering.
Crewnting, grunting, complaining.
Croom, a little; "stap a croom."
Crowd, a fiddle.
Cruel, very; "cruel ill, kind."
Cleves, clifts; "church cleves."
Chimmer, chamber.
Cutter, to talk privately, to plot.
Cutty, short.

Dab, an adept.
Dearnes, door posts.
Deef, rotten, corrupted; "deef nut."
Dizzen, a dozen.
Don and doff, to put on and off.
Doodle, to trifle, dawdle.
Drang, a narrow passage.
Drashel, threshold.
Dreuling, drivelling away time.
Dring, a crowd.
Drow, to dry. *Drowy*, to dry.
Dubbed, blunt.
Dumps, twilight.
Ellem, elm.
En, him, it; "I twold en so."—I told him so.
Eth, earth.

Fags, indeed.
Fadge, to fare; "How do it fadge wi' ye?"
Fang, to earn.
Fitpence, fivepence.
Fitty, well fitted, proper; "'tis all fitty:" "a fitty fellow."
Floshed out, put out violently; "floshed out the candle."
Fore-right, plain, honest; "Hegh did it fore-right," he did it intentionally.
Forrel, cover of a book.

Gamesum, playful.
Ganmer, mistress, old woman.
Gatfer, old man.
Genteel, proper, suitable.*
Grammer, grandmother.
Gramfer, grandfather.
Goile, ground where springs rise; such a place in Uplyme is called "Wolley goile."
Gallied, frightened.
Girts, groats.

* A drunken quarrel having occurred, in which an individual was much oppressed, he tripped up his assailant, and drew his knife. A by-stander observes that this was "very genteel, sure," *i. e.* very well done, proper. So in Italian, *fu gentil guerra*, it was a brave war.—*Navagero.*

Kex, and *kexies*, dry stalks.
Kit, a tribe, collection.

Longful, long (time).
Leat, a water-course; the town leat.

Mawmet, an effigy.
Munch, to chew.
Meech, to play truant.

Nash, tender.
Neeshum, very; "neeshum cross."

Ort, any thing.

Pank, and *pankie*, to pant.
Pig's looze, a pig's stye.
Pixies, fairies.
Pope of a thing, pronounced pwup, &c., some oddly dressed person, or odd thing, like the figure of the pope, carried about Nov. 5.
Popples, pebbles.

Quarrel, a square of glass.

Sar, to serve.
Scatt, a shower.
Shoard, a piece of broken earthenware.
Slat, to throw.
Soce, souls, friends; "Come on, soce."
Suent, even, smooth, plain.
Smeech, fine dust raised in the air.

Timmersome, timorous.
Tilty, easily offended.
Tine to, to shut fast.
Trallops, or *trapes*, a slut.

Vang, to earn.
Vinnid, mouldy; "vinned cheese," "blue vinned;" also cross, fretful as applied to children: "a vinned cheeld."

Want, a mole.
Whop, a heavy blow.
Whopping, unusually large of its kind.
Whopper, something unusually large.

You'm, for you are.

Monosyllables are many of them lengthened into dissyllables by the addition of *y*; as bake, cook, baky, cooky. Dissyllables, if it be possible, are lengthened into three or four syllables. This is quite Dorsettian: e. g.—Cromlech pronounced *Crimmel croch*, or *Crimble crockie*. *By*, as a termination, is generally made *berry*. *Ow*, as a termination, is pronounced *er*, thus, *feller* for fellow. *St*, as a final, takes, in its plural form, another syllable: thus post, forest, beast, are pronounced in the plural, *postes*, *forestes*, *beastes*. *Ar* final assumes *d*, as, a *liard* for a liar. A *w* was, by the old inhabitants, introduced on all occasions. *Coade*, the

name of an old family, is pronounced as if spelt *Cwerd; toad* as if spelt *twud.* The disposition to change the pronunciation of words, and introduce labials, is marked. *Robert* is pronounced *Robbit; Pulsford, Spilford; parcel, passel. V* does the work usually assigned to *f.* The Saxon termination *en*, and that of *th*, are also frequent: *Cot-housen* for *cot-houses;* it *warpeth;* he *seeketh.*

The letter *a* is used as a kind of augment to some tenses of verbs. Thus, "it have *a*-boiled," it has boiled; the "bell have *a*-ringed." Objective cases of pronouns find their places supplied by a nominative, as in other parts. *Down a long* and *up a long* are used for upwards and downwards. Speaking of broth it is said, "*They* are salt enough; I have tasted *them;* give me a *few.*"*

A few sentences of the genuine Doric, occasionally heard from some old Lymites.

Hode still thee tongue; be quiet, silent. Shat never cum mwur; you shall never come more. Dwunt thee tonguey so; don't you talk so. Shatten hay t'other mug o' drink; you shall not have the other mug of liquor. Have ye seed the passon? have you seen the clergyman? Her dwunt boily, her do baky; she does not boil, she bakes. Luk e zee—there be two rabbin redbreastesses; look, there are two robin redbreasts. Rat thick there cheeld! her's zo vinnid, her will go uppen chimmer; plague take that child! she is so fretful, she will go up in the bed-room. Hurn, thick cheeld's a-falled down flop; run, that child is fallen down, and given itself a good blow.

* The Neapolitans, in speaking of what we should style a "little maccaroni," always use the numeral *four:* for other eatables they apply the number *two*:—thus, "*ho mangiato due quaglie,*"—not *two,* but *some* of the birds called "quails." (See Penny Mag.)

It is but justice to say that, within the last thirty years, a very great advancement has been made towards a more modern and correct diction and pronunciation. Perhaps the children of our townspeople may run into the other extreme. Whenever we chance to hear a provincial word, let us say, with the character in the play:—

Je vis de bonne soupe, et non de beau langage,
Vaugelas n'apprend point à bien faire un potage;
Et Malherbe et Balzac, si savants en beaux mots,
En cuisine peut être auroient été des sots.

MOLIERE.—*Les Femmes Savantes. Acte II.*

Young men are called *masters* after they are grown up, and single men, if their fathers are alive, to advanced life.

PARTICULAR CUSTOMS, SUPERSTITIONS, &c.

The learned Mr. Brand would have found Lyme an unfavourable scene for the observation of popular antiquities, customs, &c. The commonwealth men, during their long reign here, laboured successfully in the eradication of such games as prevailed: they did not distinguish between the right use and abuse of the entertainments of the people. As Stow foresaw, *open* pastimes being suppressed, worse practices obtained in lieu of them. In the present day, no money transaction takes place among the lower orders, let the sum that changes hands be never so small, without recourse being had to the public house or beer-shop. Shows and sports were, as Mr. Brand observes, sometimes prostituted to riot and debauchery: yet the morals of our population have not improved by their desuetude. Randolph, in his poems, published in 1646, says of the puritans,

"These teach that dancing is a Jezebel,
And barley-break the ready way to hell;
The morrice idols, Whitsun ales, can be
But prophane reliques of a jubilee;

These, in a zeal t'expresse how much they do
The organs hate, have silenced bag-pipes too;
And harmless May-poles all are railed upon,
As if they were the towers of Babylon."

It must not be forgotten, though there are many who inherit the puritans' dislike or hatred of dancing that are ignorant of the fact, that there was a certain kissing dance, called a *brawl*, which was danced in those days. It was this that made Stubbes break out into this indignant strain: "What clipping, what culling, what kissing, and bussing, and smouching one of another!"

When lace-making was carried on here, lovers had their initials entwined, worked on a piece of ornamental lace. Old Catherine Power, the last of the lace-makers, and likewise a fortune-teller, came to me some time before her death, to request a copy of certain initials to be worked in lace. I understood that, on taking home the order, she would just "cut the cards"—a modified term for telling a fortune.

It was formerly a custom for a woman to brew a barrel of beer, called "groaning drink," for the use of the family and the gossips during her confinement. An anecdote was told me of a woman during the siege, who was nearly killed in bed by a ball at the storming of the town. Her enthusiasm was such that, instead of praying to be removed, she called out to those about her to carry the barrel of groaning drink, to inspire the town soldiers with courage.

A Dorsetshire gentleman (says Hone, in his Every Day Book, vol. i. p. 206) communicated a custom which he witnessed at Lyme in his juvenile days: to what extent it prevailed he is unable to say, his knowledge being limited to the domestic circle in which he was included. "The wood ashes of the

family being sold through the year as they were made, the person who purchased them annually sent a present on Candlemas day (2nd Feb.) of a large candle. When night came, this candle was lighted, and, assisted by its illumination, the inmates regaled themselves with cheering draughts of ale, and sippings of punch, or some other animating beverage, until the candle had burnt out. The coming of the Candlemas candle was looked forward to by the young ones as an event of some consequence; for, of usage, they had a sort of right to sit up that night, and partake of the refreshment, till all retired to rest, the signal for which was the self-extinction of the Candlemas candle."

It was customary, some years since, for persons to ride into the country with a party to be married. An anecdote is told of a party who rode out and pulled up at Musbury, and waited in the church while the clergyman was being called. He at length arrived, was informed by the bridegroom of the reason for the call, and a question was asked respecting the fee. What answer was given does not seem clear; but the bridegroom demurred, and told the clergyman he would ride farther to be married. All left the church, and remounted; when the bride elect declared she would never enter any church with her intended bridegroom, turned her horse's head towards Lyme, and kept her vow. She married some other man, who had learnt, no doubt, if of a penurious turn, not to show any signs of it at so critical a time, when Hymen's presence should banish all consideration but of one fond object.*—See Burn's Fleet Registers.

Morris dancing and waits we know not at Lyme.

* An old gentleman told some one now living, that courtships commenced by the young man talking *broad* to the young woman,—and this among the first persons of the town.

In 1827 some waits came from the country early in December, and played through the principal streets in the middle of the night. The inhabitants did not approve of any such interruption of their slumbers, except at Christmas eve; and the party was near being put into the watch-house. Mummers go round at Christmas. It may not be out of place to mention that statues are not viewed with any degree of complacency. The leaden Mercury on Jefferd's baths was near driving the matrons into faction: the owner, to pacify them, consigned the messenger to his present bleak station.

The practice of decorating the doors of houses with oak boughs, on May 29, has within the last few years somewhat grown into disuse, owing to the means adopted by the proprietors of land to prevent depredations from being committed on their trees by the apprentices, &c. Fifteen years ago scarcely a door was without its branch. At the doors of some persons might be seen, early in the morning, a bunch of nettles, which was of course removed by the inmates when they arose. Dissenters, who in Charles the Second's reign did not celebrate his restoration by putting up oak boughs, or pay those who had put them up during the night, were served in this manner. I have not seen any nettles at doors for several years: party feeling as to the Restoration seems now extinct. None save the lower orders wear oak leaves in their hats; the boys continue to gild their oak apples, and apply an opprobrious name to those who have not an oak leaf displayed, or who wear it after twelve o'clock. For the origin of this appellation, by which nonconformists were commonly distinguished, Granger accounts, vol. iii. p. 316, in a truly ludicrous manner. The fastidious reader will approve of my only alluding to his anecdote.

Skimmington riding still continues to hold its ground. In an account I gave of it to the late sir Walter Scott, in 1828, is the information I have embodied in this narrative.

Skimmington riding is a great moral agent, not perhaps so much in restraining the vicious as in causing them to shun public observation, thereby not holding out bad examples to the rising youth of both sexes;—in a word, it checks those instances of openly profligate and licentious conduct which might else become too prevalent among the lower orders, who cannot, like their superiors, have recourse to legal proceedings against the person who has injured them, or divorce;—it brands with infamy all gross instances of licentiousness, and exposes to lasting ridicule those couples who by their dissensions disturb the quiet and order of their neighbourhood, and so set a bad example, either by struggles for domestic ascendancy, or arising from quarrelsome dispositions. A Skimmington riding makes many laugh; but the parties for whom they ride never lose the ridicule and disgrace which it attaches. So far it is a punishment, like the visit of Mumbo Jumbo in Africa. The following are the principal causes for riding the Skimmington:

1. When a man and his wife quarrel, and he gives up to her. 2. When a woman is unfaithful to her husband, and he patiently submits without resenting her conduct. 3. Any grossly licentious conduct on the part of married persons.

The first cause appears to answer that recorded in Hudibras, canto ii. line 685. The knight, having mistaken a Skimmington for some other procession, is undeceived as follows:

> Quoth Ralpho, "You mistake the matter;
> For all th'antiquity you smatter

Is but *a riding used of course,*
When the grey mare's the better horse.
When o'er the breeches greedy women
Fight to extend their vast dominion,
And in the cause impatient Grizzle
Has drubbed her husband with ———,
And brought him under covert-baron,
To turn her vassail with a murrain;
* * * *
* * * *
And they, in mortal battle vanquished,
Are of their charter disenfranchised."

About dusk, two individuals, one armed with a skimmer, the other with a ladle, come out of some obscure street, attended by a crowd, whose laughter, huzzas, &c., emulate the well-known *charivari* of the French. The two performers are sometimes in a cart, at other times on a donkey; one personating the wife, the other the husband. They beat each other furiously with the culinary weapons above described, and, warmed by the applause and presence of so many spectators (for all turn out to see a Skimmington), their dialogue attains a freedom, except in using surnames, only comparable with their gestures. On arriving at the house of the parties represented in this moving drama, animation is at its height: the crowd usually stay at that spot some minutes, and then traverse the town. The performers are remunerated by the spectators: the parties that parade the streets with the performers sweep with besoms the doors of those who are likely to require a similar visitation. See Dr. King's Miscellany.

When the young people ride the Skimmington,
There is a general trembling in the town;
Not only he for whom the party rides
Suffers, but they sweep other doors besides;
And by that hieroglyhic does appear
That the good woman is the master there.

Mr. Douce derives *Skimmington* from the *skim-*

ming-ladle used in the procession. Mr. Brand says none of the commentators on Hudibras have attempted an elucidation of the ceremony. Hogarth has illustrated it.

The following letter from sir Walter Scott will prove, I doubt not, highly interesting.

To Mr. George Roberts.

"SIR,—I am obliged by your curious letter upon the subject of the Skimmington. We had, or perhaps I might say, still have, a similar ritual of popular interference in Scotland, in case of gross scandal, or nuptial transgressions and public quarrels in a household. It is called "riding the stang," the peccant party being seated across a pole (or stang) in no very comfortable position. You will find some notice of the custom in Jamieson's Scottish Dictionary, voce stang. I think the Doctor does not mention that men and women also were sometimes exposed to ride the stang on account of incontinence. Burns made some clever verses (not in his collected works) on a comrade of his who had been accessary to such a Saturnalian scene of punishment, in which the exposed female had suffered bodily injury, upon which account the regular police had looked out after the parties who had interfered with their vocation. I have read in Brand's Popular Antiquities, or some such authority, that scholars in the English universities were subjected to the stang when they neglect prayers. You will find a poem on the Skimmington among Prior's poems—not the folio edition, where it is omitted, but in the large collection. When they ride the Skimmington, it would seem they swept the doors of those whom they threatened with similar discipline. * * * * * * * * * *

I am, Sir, your much-obliged servant,

Abbotsford, Melrose, WALTER SCOTT.
August 2nd, 1828."

There appears to be at Lyme a feeling almost as sensitive as that found to exist in Normandy, with respect to disproportionate marriages. Let no Polypheme lead up the butter-market to church a bride of pigmy form, nor a man of diminutive stature be dragged by a Penthesilea, unless callous to jeers. Marriage processions in which the parties have passed the autumn of life, are wont to be preceded by a noisy band of tin-kettles; and occasionally the happy pair in the crowd have been molested by the pulling of coat and gown, as they walked home to pass that day, when younger couples judge that "Phœbus' steeds are foundered." An elderly vicar told me, that he would ensure immunity from riotous attendance and interruption. This must have been said when an old couple returned from the church, much as if they had there entered into a league offensive and defensive. The bridegroom and his hoary bride marched at steady pace, each armed with missiles; the former with a brickbat in each hand, his spouse carrying a supply in case of need, or treatment similar to that experienced in going to church.

Reapers send forth great shouts on carrying the last sheaf. Lord North, when chancellor of the exchequer, soon after his attempt to tax cider, was going through Uplyme one evening to visit lady Drake, when the customary cheering was rife. His lordship felt persuaded that mobs were assembling, to greet his arrival, and wait upon him personally: the horses' heads were turned, and lady Drake, through the exercise of a custom of our part of the country, lost her visitor.

Of superstitious belief in witches and evil spirits, there still appear some traces. Our vessels, and many houses, have an old horse-shoe nailed up. No one now likes to own a belief in evil spirits or

witches, but considers it would be a pity to receive harm from neglecting so easy a precaution!! In some chimneys a piece of bacon stuck with pins used to be suspended, to interrupt witches in their descent, and so prevent their visit. Toads that gained access to a cellar or house were ejected with the greatest care, and no injury was offered, because these were regarded, as being used as *familiars* by witches, with veneration or awe.

It is believed that a seventh son can cure diseases, but that a seventh son of a seventh son can cure the king's evil. Such a favoured individual is really looked on with veneration. When at a farm-house four miles from Lyme, in 1828, engaged in taking a view, though the other children were made to stand off, one little urchin was allowed to lay hold of my pencils, &c. I saw that there was something particular in this child, and addressed his mother as follows: "This little man appears to be a favourite; I presume he is your little Benjamin." "He's a seventh son, Sir," said the mother. Affecting an air of surprise, I expressed myself at the instant as being one very anxious to know what a *seventh* son could do? The mother, a very civil woman, told me that "she did think, to cure all diseases, should be the seventh son of a seventh son; but *many folk do come to touch my son.*" In April, 1826, a respectably looking woman was engaged in collecting a penny from each of thirty young women, unmarried; the money to be laid out in purchasing a silver ring, to cure her son of epileptic fits. The money was to be freely given, without any consideration, or else the charm would have been destroyed. The young women gave their pence, because it would have been a *pity* for the lad to continue afflicted *if* the charm would cure him. Persons who have lost property, been charged with

theft, or had very ill luck, go from Lyme to West Leigh, on the Tiverton and Wellington canal,—a distance of thirty miles, to consult a famous *white witch* practising there!!! In 1828, this man, who trades in common chairs manufactured in that neighbourhood, misdirected a letter to a tradesman here, which contained some ridiculous advice about continuing some charm. Unlucky days, omens, are talked of, if not much depended on; fortune-telling and consulting the white witch are indulged in, at the expense of both money and time;—a pernicious and wicked practice, whose effects are attended with very injurious consequences.*

Certain houses are spoken of as being "troublesome," or haunted. Noises,—the crowing of the cock by night, and the death-watch, are fancied to have been heard before the death of any person. The Rev. George Oliver concludes an article in the Gentleman's Magazine, for Dec. 1822, thus: "Such, and so various, are the superstitions with which a short and precarious life is embittered; and by such empty practices do timid mortals amuse and terrify themselves. They serve, however, to remind us of the imperfection of our nature, unable, by its own unassisted exertions, to disentangle itself from the grovelling weaknesses of matter, to avert the evils of a probationary state, or to govern or control effectually the passions and affections of the mind."

* Was not the ancient chronicler Higden premature in his assertions respecting a change in superstitious practices? He thus sings in his *Polychronicon*:—

Hos consuevit fallere
Et ad bella impingere
Merlini vaticinium,
Et frequens sortilegium;
Jam ex convictu Saxonum
Commutantur in melius
Ut patet luce clarius.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF THE

WORTHIES OF LYME.

The task has been gratifying. The researches incident to the subject have not led to the archives of the noble in descent, nor of those exalted by high title; but to facts and circumstances in the lives of several individuals, whose well-applied energies raised them in the world to distinction and fame. Our townsmen, to use the words of Broom, were "heralds to themselves." May the examples here recorded prove a stimulus to the rising youth of our town, in whatever sphere they may move. Commanding talent, the result of thought, active exertion, and a steady doing their duty "in that station of life in which it has pleased God to call them," cannot but lead to real respectability,—probably to eminence.

Sir George Summers, as his name is spelt in the parish register, received his birth here of respectable parents, in the year 1554. His father, John Summers, was in trade in the town. The subject of this memoir entered the navy, in which he was destined to be a conspicuous character. Serving under the noted commanders of that time, he greatly signalized himself. The honour of commanding a naval expedition first devolved upon him in 1595. Performing his trust with credit, another expedition was entrusted to his direction in 1600, and two others fitted out the two succeeding years. In order to show his sense of these services, James conferred the honour of knighthood upon him in 1604, when

he was styled " of Boxholm." He served Lyme in parliament in the first year of James I., and was mayor in 1604. Actuated by a love of the place of his nativity, he came, for a while, when disengaged from the active employment of a sea life, to reside in the neighbourhood. In Mr. Coker the historian's time, at Berne, a hamlet of Whitchurch, and from which a fine view of the Cobb and lower part of the town is to be obtained, was a house " late the residence of sir George Summers."

The next information to be obtained about sir George Summers leads to an interesting narrative, gleaned from many works, and eighteen publications of that day, some of them in black letter. The following connected history of his adventures is extracted from what was published in the works above mentioned. What interest their perusal inspired may be conjectured when it is stated, that from the incidents therein described, Shakspeare took the title, and part of the story, for his play of the *Tempest*. Particularly striking passages, the substance of which he adopted, will be marked in italics, from " An Account of the incidents from which the title and part of the story of Shakspeare's Tempest were derived, and its true date ascertained; by Edmund Malone. 8vo. London, 1808." Published privately.

Shakspeare's great patron, the earl of Southampton, and lord Arundel, sent out in 1605 capt. Weymouth, to make discoveries on the coast of Virginia. His stay was short, and he brought home five Indians as hostages. This voyage, and that of captain Harlow, must have attracted Shakspeare's notice, from having been undertaken partly at the charge of lord Southampton.

In May, 1609, a new charter was granted for making a plantation and settlement in Virginia, to

the earl of Southampton, and twenty other peers, to the lord mayor of London, and ninety other knights, and to a multitude of gentlemen, merchants, and companies of London. So many persons of consequence gave weight to the undertaking: lord de la Ware was appointed captain-general, sir T. Gates, of Colyford, lieutenant-general, sir George Summers admiral, and capt. Newport vice-admiral. Unsuccessful adventurers had propagated unfavourable reports; yet notwithstanding, these three officers mustered at Falmouth with seven ships, a ketch and a pinnace, having on board five hundred people. Each had a commission; he who first arrived to call in the old. Not being able to agree about precedence, they sailed all three in one ship, the Seaventure, of 300 tons, from Falmouth, June 8, 1609, taking two Indians brought to this country by capt. Weymouth.

On the 25th July, the admiral's ship, with the other commanders and their commission, and 150 men, parted company in the tail of a hurricane. The ship worked so much, and became so leaky, that the water rose in the hold above two tier of hogsheads. With all hands baling and pumping for three days and nights without intermission, still the water seemed to increase. At last, all being spent with labour, and seeing no hope, *they resolved to shut down the hatches.* In this extremity, those who had "comfortable waters" drank to one another as *taking their last leaves*, till a more joyful and happy meeting in the other world. Sir G. Summers, the skilful seaman, sat all this time on the poop, scarce allowing himself leisure to eat or sleep, steering the ship to keep her upright, or she must have foundered. He unexpectedly descried land: upon the news all ran up, and from ceasing to bale nearly caused their destruction. They spread all sail,

though they knew the land to be *Bermudas*,—the land of devils and spirits, then dreaded and shunned by all men. The ship soon *struck* upon a rock, but a surge of the sea cast her off, and so from one to another, till she was *most luckily* thrown up between two, *as upright as if she had been on the stocks*. The wind having calmed, they got out, people, goods, and provisions, in their boats, and *arrived in safety without the loss of a man;* though some say a league, others half a mile from the shore.

Fallen into a land of plenty and pleasantness, the strangers were lavish in their praise of it. Sir George Summers, like another Æneas, procured food for the whole company by catching fish with hook and line. They killed thirty-two hogs, which abounded there, said to have swam ashore from a Spanish ship, called the Bermudas, which was carrying hogs to the West Indies.

Before proceeding further with the narrative, it seems better to subjoin the lines from the *Tempest* which are quoted in Mr. Malone's pamphlet, to prove that Shakspeare had sir George Summers's expedition and shipwreck, and not the great tempest of 1612, in view. A writer in the British Critic for 1808 considers that Mr. Capell suggested, though Mr. Malone has demonstrated this discovery. Mr. Douce assigns the same origin to the play of the Tempest.

Prospero. Hast thou, spirit,
Performed to point the tempest that I bade thee?
Ariel. To every article.
I boarded the *king's ship;* now on the beak,
Now in the waist, the deck, in every cabin,
I flamed amazement.
Prospero. Why that's my spirit.
But was not this *nigh shore*?
Ariel. Close by, my master.
Prospero. But *are they*, Ariel, *safe*?

Ariel. *Not a hair perished.*
On their sustaining garments not a blemish,
But fresher than before; and as thou bad'st me,
In troops I have dispers'd them 'bout the isle.
* * * * * * * *
Prospero. Of the *king's ship*
The mariners, say how thou hast disposed,
And all the rest o'the fleet?
Ariel. *Safely in harbour*
Is the king's ship; in the deep nook * *
* * * * *There she's hid,*
The mariners all under hatches stowed,
Whom with a charm, *join'd to their suffered labour,*
I've left asleep; and for the rest o'the fleet
Which I dispersed, they all have met again,
And are upon the Mediterranean flote,
Bound sadly home for Naples;
SUPPOSING THAT THEY SAW THE KING'S SHIP WRECK'D,
AND HIS GREAT PERSON PERISH'D.

ACT I. *Scene 2.*

In several passages of the second act, allusion is made to the extraordinary escape of sir George Summers. Dryden, probably on the authority of sir William D'Avenant, tells us that the Tempest was a very popular and successful play: it had the adventitious merit of temporary allusion, in addition to its intrinsic merit.

To proceed with the narrative. Risdon, speaking of Gates, describes his adventure as follows:—"Being bound to Virginia, 1609, the God of heaven, making choice of men and times to compass his ends, by shipwreck, like another Jonas, cast on shore, made him and sir George Somers the first possessors of the island Burmudos, now called Somers' island, which was formerly by all navigators supposed not habitable, yea, a very purgatory, is now by this strange means planted with English, and the gospel there preached, whereby we are taught in our dangers to give God the greater glory."

Sir George thus diverted from his course, the seven ships arrived in Virginia and landed the

settlers, and then set sail for England. Two were lost on the point of Ushant: the rest of the fleet returned in 1610, ship after ship, with nothing but bad reports. The council of Virginia issued a pamphlet, in Dec. 1609 or Jan. 1610, stating how many had reached their destination, and that they doubted not but that the admiral had by that time arrived.

The settlers, in number about 400, thus landed in Virginia without their leaders, appear to have been " youths of a most leaud and bad condition," who lived in riot and debauchery, no one acknowledging a superior. After some little time they returned to England, with the exception of about sixty persons.

Sir George Summers and sir Thomas Gates employed their followers in building two cedar vessels, and, after a residence in Bermuda of ten months, arrived at Virginia in May 1610. A fortnight after, on the ninth of June, when the whole of the colony was on board, and had sailed for England, they met lord de la Ware with new settlers,—at whose persuasion they returned with them; and from that time we may date the effectual settlement of Virginia. The council prepared a pamphlet, but Silvester Jourdan, who, by the name, was probably a townsman of ours, anticipated them, and published in 1610, in black letter, " A Discovery of the Bermudas, otherwise called the Isle of Devils," &c. Lord de la Ware, who had the supreme command, dispatched sir George Summers to Bermuda in quest of provisions, where he died the same year, Nov. 9, 1610, aged 56, as appears by an inquisition taken at Dorchester (Escaet. 10 James I., p. 2, n. 127), leaving orders to his crew to return to Virginia with a cargo of black hogs.

This, some say, they did not choose to execute,

but returned with capt. Matthew Summers, nephew to sir George, in their cedar vessel to Lyme, where the body was landed and interred, with many volleys of shot and the rites of a soldier, at Whitchurch Canonicorum, 4th June, 1611. The nephew and his crew did their utmost in relating all these passages to their countrymen and relations, but experienced the fate of other travellers, and what they narrated was looked upon as travellers' tales. My researches to find an epitaph have been crowned with success. It appears in a work from which the information of the last few lines was extracted.*

Hei mihi Virginia quod tam cito præterit æstas
Autumnus sequitur, sæviet inde et hiems:
At ver perpetuum nascetur, et Anglia læta
Decerpet flores Florida terra tuas.

Alas! Virginia's summer so soone past,
Autumne succeeds and stormy winter's blast;
Yet England's joyfull spring with joyfull showers,
O Florida! shall bring thy sweetest flowers.

Capt. Nathaniel Butler, governor of Bermuda in 1619, finding accidentally a little crosse erected in a by place amongst a many of bushes, understanding there was buried the heart and intrailes of sir George Summers, hee resolved to have a better memory for so worthy a souldier than that. So finding also a great marble stone, brought out of England, hee caused it by masons to bee wrought handsomely and laid over the place, which hee invironed with a square wall of hewen stone, tombe-like; wherein he caused to bee graven this epitaph, he had composed and fixed upon the marble stone:—

* The General History of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles, with the names of the Adventurers, Planters, and Governors from their first beginning, anno 1584, to this present 1626, &c., in six books, by Capt. John Smith, sometime Governor of those countries, and Admiral of New England. Fol. London, 1632.

In the yeere 1 6 11,
Noble sir George Summers went hence to heaven;
Whose well-tried worth that held him still imploid,
Gave him the knowledge of the world so wide.
Hence, 'twas by heaven's decree, that to this place
He brought new guests, and name to mutuall grace.
At last his soule and body being to part,
He here bequeathed his entrails and his heart.

In the printed journals of the House of Commons, vol. i. p. 392, 14th Feb. 1609, is the following curious extract:—

"Sir Geo. Sommers—Opinion not to be removed. Case of ambassadors;—disgrace,—injustice:—If he return, and challenge, privilege, upon arrest, to be granted; therefore—

"Hassard, —69, incurable, bedrid.—A new writ."

"Sir Geo. Moore:—That sir Geo. Summers not to be removed. No disgrace, but a grace, to be a governor in Virginia. No injustice, but injustice to the town, and to this house, not to chuse." [The same day a little beyond.] "Sir Geo. Summers like to sir James Lee in Ireland." [A little beyond.] "Q. Whether a warrant for sir Geo. Summers.—A new member to be elected."

Fuller characterizes Summers as "a *lamb* on the *land*, so patient that few could anger him; and (as if entering a ship he had assumed a new nature) a *lion* at *sea*, so passionate that few could please him."

A box containing his papers, left in the custody of the mayor, was delivered to Richard Hody, James Seaward, and John Somers the elder, pursuant to a superscription on the said box. *Corp. Order Book.**

George Bellamy, M. D. of Plymouth, who by marriage is connected with sir George Summers, the Andrews and Roses of Lyme, has portraits of sir

* The latter was sir George's brother, and proved his will, dated 23rd April, 1609, as sole executor, 16th Aug. 1611.

George and his lady, and the loadstone with which he used to touch his needle before going upon his voyages. His arms were vert, a fess dancette ermine.

See Fuller, Lidiard, Monson's Naval Tracts, Heylin, and particularly the Rev. W. Stith's History of the first discovery and settlement of Virginia, 8vo. Williamsburg, 1747.

IGNATIUS JOURDAN occurs in the register, "the sonne of William Jourdan," August 17, 1561. His father had a large family, and was in narrow circumstances. Ignatius left Lyme at an early age, and settled in Exeter, where, in a servile occupation he acquitted himself so as to attract the notice of his superiors, and subsequently met with that preferment which is the appropriate reward of assiduously cultivated natural abilities, united to personal worth. He rose to be an opulent merchant of that city, which he twice represented in parliament, and Izaacke says, was sheriff for the county. In his prosperity troubles came upon him, which in a humbler station would have been avoided. Owing to some act in the administration of justice, when mayor, in which he went somewhat beyond the strict letter of the law, in punishing some heinous offender, he attracted the notice of the star chamber, before which he was cited to appear. He was soon however acquitted by the lord keeper. (See Hutchins, last edition, by Gough.) In the great plague of 1625, being *locum tenens* for the mayor of Exeter, he wrote letters to many towns in Devon, Dorset, and Somerset, to procure money to relieve the wants of the numerous poor. He laboured hard for a bill against *adultery*, which was brought in afterwards by the name of "Jourdan's bill;" and he was the first who promoted the bill for the observance of the *Lord's day*, and against *swearing*. He died July 15th, 1640, aged 79, and left, besides several legacies to the poor of

Guernsey and Jersey, £5 to the poor of Lyme. His active and prolonged life furnished ample matter to F. Nicholls, minister of St. Mary Arches, Exon, who wrote his life, which was published in 1653.

Arthur Gregory, who had his birth at Lyme, about the latter part of the reign of Edward VI., or Mary, has to labour under a species of historical injustice, if it may be so styled. His line of life, or profession, as it is somewhere termed, once no doubt valued, and his dexterity viewed as patriotic, is now despised, and deemed inconsistent with honour or principle. Time effects many such changes in our views, tastes, and opinions about honour. In the present day, instead of quarrelling and struggling to obtain the right-hand quarter of a powerful traitor, great towns would rather submit to a heavy fine, in order to avoid the exposure of so disgusting an object.

The name of Gregory is of frequent occurrence in the records of the town about the period alluded to, but not as being of any consequence. Arthur Gregory at an early age acquired a talent of opening letters, in such an ingenious manner, that no person could perceive the seal had ever been touched; or, in the language of Fuller, "had the admirable art of forcing the seal of a letter, yet so invisibly, that it still appeared a virgin to the exactest beholder." Sir Francis Walsingham, about the time he first began, by his abilities in the house, to attract the notice of queen Elizabeth, represented Lyme in parliament. While here, Arthur Gregory probably first came under his notice: when he was made minister in that eventful era, he took Arthur to London, and procured him apartments in his own house. Every packet from abroad for the foreign ambassadors was opened by him, its contents perused by the minister, then resealed and forwarded. *(Fuller.)*

It has been remarked that no minister had ever possessed such an intimate knowledge and presentiment of the affairs, plots, and schemes of continental powers, and consequently applied such effectual means to disconcert them, as sir Francis Walsingham. He must assuredly be said to owe a considerable part of his fame to Gregory. We are informed, on the authority of Fuller, that the packets from abroad for Mary, queen of Scots, were invariably treated in the same manner by him. The contents, being confidential communications not always friendly to the English government, were exposed to the observation of Elizabeth, and determined her, in a great measure, on the execution of that unfortunate captive. Fuller says Gregory had a pension for his services. This writer having lived near Lyme, is good authority, independently of his general talents for biography. Gregory's name first occurs at Lyme in the corporation order book, in 1614, when he appears to have obtained the situation of searcher of the customs. In 1619 he became mayor, the corporation having agreed to defend any action that might be brought against him for taking the office. On Aug. 26th, 1620, he was fined 6*s*. 8*d*. for taxing Mr. Kerridge, the mayor, with malice, and denying him justice.—*Corp. Order Book.* One Edward Gregory appears to have been collector of Cobb dues in 1653.

In the anonymous Life of sir Philip Sydney, prefixed to his "Arcadia," wherein is mentioned the accurate intelligence sir Francis Walsingham possessed from all parts of Christendom, occurs the following passage:— He had a key to unlock the pope's cabinet; as if master of some invisible whispering-place, all the secrets of princes met at his closet. Does the anonymous writer allude to Gregory, or must we consider his remark in the light of a casual observation upon that minister?—are

questions that naturally present themselves without a probability of being satisfactorily answered. I esteem myself fortunate in having found the following letter in the British Museum. It discovers how ardent Gregory was in his line. Do the journeys to Dover imply that he went there to open letters?

Mus. Brit., Harl. MSS. No. 286, fol. 78.

To the Right Honourable his singular good master, sir Francis Walsingham, knt., her Majesty's principal Secretary.

May it please your honour. After the trial of many ways to discover the secret writing on white paper, I prepared a singular piece of the usual mettal, with intent to shew the same to your honour; but a sudden swelling in one of my eyes did prevent me, which caused this my boldness; not doubting yet of your honour's pardon, for that the practice is somewhat to the purpose, being intended that matters shall pass by ordinary means under these colours. The writing with allome is dissolved divers ways—with fire and with water, which they use, but most apparently by rubbing of cole dust thereon, which bringeth it forth white.

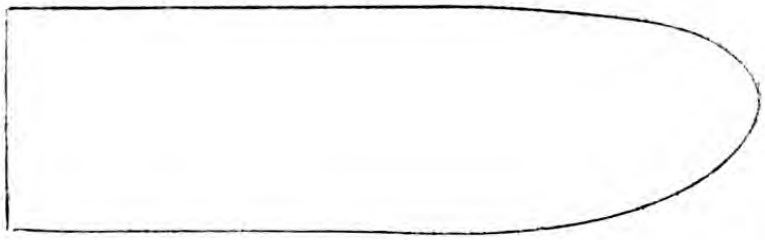
The substance which aquavitæ and gal discovereth is coperass, which I found, knowing the force they mutually work with each other; your honour may write contrarily, by writing with gal water, and discovering it with coperass. This is but my first practice herein. There is an old cover of a desk at Bassett's, the joiner; the iron work would serve for a glaste, to counterfeit which I should want, in case any thing be discovered that your honor would have hidden again, and also for the speedy copying of any cipher letter, and other purposes. The care to sustain my poor family, lately increased, calleth me from this exercise, whereof I most humbly desire your honor to have consideration at this instant, only by obtaining Welborne's bill, in Mr. Miller's hands, as an honourable and bountiful recompense of your honor's promise, for my several plates, and journeys to Dover, and the last plate of Ireland, and for these mettals, which are somewhat chargeable also, with my instruments, &c. Your honor's good acceptance hereof, by causing the bill to be donne by Mr. Nicasans, will encourage me for ever to seeke to serve such secret turns. And so, humbly craving pardon for this my tediousness upon these small and trifling occasions, I humbly commit your ho-

nor to the protection of the Almighty. From my poor house, half blinde, this [day omitted] —— of February, 1586,

Your honor's most bounden servant,

ARTHUR GREGORYE.

Allome Water.



If your honor rub the powder within this black lyne the letters will appear white.

Within the above mark were, in the original, several lines of writing, that answered the description and result promised by Gregory. Bound up in the same volume are many curious ciphers and secret writings, belonging to sir F. Walsingham.

Gregory was not the last of state-letter openers. In D'Israeli's Commentaries, vol. i. p. 153, is the following curious account of a practice illustrated in this memoir, which proves that our townsman had successors in his craft. "Charles I., when in Spain, told his father, that 'by the French ambassador's means, the Spanish ambassador had seen all the letters that we have written to you; you are betrayed in your bed-chamber.' This, however," says Mr. D'Israeli, "was trivial compared with the magnificence of our ambassador's doings at Madrid; for lord Bristol declared there was not a letter sent by the king of Spain to any other state, of which James had not a copy before it came to the place of its destination. The earl even got at the papers in the king of Spain's private cabinet, and took notes."

Lansdowne MSS., 113, art. 67.

Reasons to move your lordship to deale with her majestie for me.

First, the uncertain tyme of his imployment (happening always unexpected,) constrayeth him to attend continually, which being a kind of imprisonment, maketh him the more fit for the Tower; [*i. e.* some place he asked for in the Tower.]

So, besides your lordship being acquainted with his services, he wanteth that general recommendation which others obtaine for private respects, though not so sufficient as himself for the place that is granted them.

He demandeth no allowance for many great charges whereunto his manifold services do usually draw him, which expence, if he should spare, the services could not be performed, and being allowed him, would amount unto more than the moity of his annuity.

He hath been imployed in her majesty's service only these 18 years, and is tyed to continuance during his lyfe, which late takes away all other meanes to provide for his poor children after him, and therefore her majestye in honor ought to regard him while his stipend doth not finde foode only to sustain his poor familie.

Her majesty taking knowledge of his assured loyalty and tried fidelity, he desireth to be placed in office, not because he hathe done her former service, or shall do in that sort, as her majestye knoweth, but in respect that he can do her better service in the place he sueth for than any that can be nominated besides; wherein he is content to be tried by those that are sutors for others, and by the lieutenant of the ordnance, wherein he thinketh it the more reasonable he should be differently dealt withall, being her majesty's servant.

There is no engen of warre, ammunition, or other furniture of the navy remaining of store in the Tower, whereof he cannot well judge or perform the same mechanically with his own hand, and give order for better.

He will receive the reversion of Bedwell's place, or the first that shall fall voyd of that nature, for an absolute gratification and satisfaction, and never crave other recompence for all the services which he shall be able by his best industry and diligence to do her majesty during his lyfe.

If this cannot be obtayned, he will be as well content with the present reversion of the comptroller's place of the household, for the which no man can disable him.

ARTHUR GREGORY.

Commending his own services done to her majesty, and his ability to do her more.—*Title at the back.*

JOHN CASE, also a native of Lyme, and noted practitioner in physic and astrology, flourished about the time of James the Second. It appears that he was quite an original in his way. Granger says, "that he was looked upon as the successor of the famous Lilly, whose magical utensils he possessed. These he would sometimes expose in derision to his intimate friends, and particularly the dark chamber and pictures, whereby Lilly used to impose upon persons, under pretence of showing them persons who were absent."

Over his door in London was the following distich, which is said to have procured him more solid advantage than Dryden obtained by all his works:—

Within this place
Lives Doctor Case.

He was doubtless well remunerated for composing the lines affixed to his pill-boxes:—

Here's fourteen pills for thirteenpence,
Enough in any man's own conscience.

He was living in the reign of queen Anne. An anecdote is related, which occurred when he was at supper with Dr. Maundry and Dr. Radcliffe. The latter drank to Case,—"Here, brother Case, to all the fools your patients." "Thank you, good brother," replied Case, "let me have all the fools, and you are welcome to the rest of the practice." The doctor's skill and attention were rewarded by the ample fortune he realised by his profession. On setting up his carriage, over his arms was affixed this quaint, but appropriate motto, "*The Case is altered.*"

He was author of the "Angelical Guide, showing men and women their lot and chance in this elementary life," in four books, 8vo., 1627. Granger says, "it is one of the most profound astrological

pieces that the world ever saw." The diagrams would probably have puzzled Euclid, though he had studied astrology. He had seen the doctor's head pasted in a portfolio, amidst these strange diagrams, with the following motto, "Throned in the centre of his dark designs."

The following curious question and three answers appear to be singularly appropriate to this brief notice of our eccentric townsman. The passage is in the MS. "church book" of the Baptist congregation of Lyme for the year 1655, upon occasion of a meeting of ministers at Bridgewater.

"*Q.* Whether astrology in physike be lawful?

"*A.* We cannot at present determine this question, but desire to wayte upon the Lord for light in this matter: nevertheless, we desire brethren may be very cautious how they meddle with the practice of it, because if prosecuted to the utmost, it leads to an eare to that which is evill, and such evill work as it is judged the scripture most eminently condemneth. 2nd. Because severall brethren have knowne and practised the same formerly, have lefte the practice thereof, upon the account of evill work they saw in the same. 3rd. Because it is very hard to practise any part thereof, without bringing damage to the profession of the gospell by an evill report."

Mr. Thomas Coram, born at Lyme in 1688, was the master of a merchant vessel that traded to Virginia in the pitch and tar trade. He is described as a man endowed with every benevolent affection. One peculiar trait in his character was an excessive fondness for children. His philanthropy overcame all the disabilities which his comparatively obscure station in life presented, and enabled him to display those abilities, by the assistance of which, after years

of toil and difficulty, he succeeded in an undertaking of the most arduous character, the establishment of the truly humane institution—the *Foundling Hospital.* He was beneficially concerned in the settlement of Georgia and Nova Scotia, and made considerable progress in uniting the Indians of North America more closely to the British interest, by an establishment for the education of Indian girls.

Capt. Coram's thoughts were first directed to this object, during the most active period of his public life, by some distressing incident that engaged his attention, when in the east part of London, his occasional residence. He commenced his exertions, rendered doubly severe by having in an eminent degree to combat popular prejudice. He derived considerable assistance from the active part many of the female nobility took in forwarding the execution of his good intentions: his own perseverance was displayed in a most laudable manner for seventeen years. The principal feature in his character, says a cotemporary, was his rugged integrity. Free from all hypocrisy, he spoke what he thought with vehemence; but his zeal did not rest in words,—it was no less visible in his actions. If he wanted certain accomplishments,—if he was deficient in some things which are thought necessary to form a successful solicitor, he had other talents which supplied these defects. He had an honesty which, though it was a little rough, carried such apparent marks of its being genuine, that those who conversed with him but for a short time, lost all apprehension of being deceived. His logic was plain sense, and his eloquence the natural language of the heart. Horace Walpole said that he was "the honestest, the most disinterested, and the most knowing person about the plantations he

ever talked with. Our townsman's name is happily introduced in some lines written by one of the highest dignitaries of the bench :—

The ship sailed smoothly o'er the sea,
By gentle breezes fanned,
When Coram, musing at the helm,
This happy fabric planned:—
Not in the schools by sages taught,
To woo fair virtue's form;
But nursed on danger's flinty lap,
And tutored by the storm.

The charter of incorporation bears date the 17th Oct., 1739.

The reward of reaping to the full the success of this institution, which he had reared and fondly fostered, fell not to the lot of capt. Coram, and is a remarkable instance that we not only cannot always receive good things in this life to bless our pious love of suffering humanity, but often meet with causes of bitter grief and dissatisfaction. When capt. Coram thought he had accomplished his purpose, he found that some of those whom he had called into his assistance had designs of their own which, though originating in a similar feeling of benevolence, tended to subvert the spirit of his original intention. His entreaties were not attended to, and rather than continue the sanction of his name to an institution over which he had only a negative control, he left the management to those who had framed a system of government with which he could not agree. He declined interfering during the last nine years of his life: how wisely we shall see. To what ends his project was converted, the feeling will learn with horror, and all with surprise.

The directors, assured of the friendly disposition of George II., obtained a considerable grant by petition from parliament, upon condition that they were to receive *all* children that might be offered, under

a certain age. The Foundling Hospital became a national establishment.* One hundred and seventeen children were left at the door the first day of general admission. A basket was hung at the gate, the bell being rung gave notice to the nurses, and no ceremonies were used. Parish officers now emptied their workhouses of the infant poor, and it was a practice sometimes, in conjunction with the brutal father, to rob the helpless mother of her new-born infant. Prosecutions failed to put a stop to this practice, and benefits so tempting became irresistible to country towns. "There is set up in our corporation," says a writer in a town three hundred miles from the hospital, "a new and uncommon trade, namely, the conveying children to the Foundling Hospital. The person employed in this trade is a woman of notoriously bad character. She undertakes the carrying of these children at so much per head. She has, I am told, made one trip already, and is now set upon her journey with two of her daughters, each with a child on her back." The writer then very properly suggests that it ought to be ascertained "whether or not these poor infants do really arrive at their destination, or what becomes of them." At Monmouth a person was tried for the murder of his child, which was found drowned with a stone about its neck; when he proved that he delivered it to a travelling tinker, who received a guinea from him to carry it to the Foundling Hospital. It was asserted in the House of Commons that one man who had charge of five children, in baskets, got intoxicated, and lay all night asleep on a common, and that in the morning, three of the five children were dead! Of eight children sent up in a waggon, seven died: the mother of the survivor followed it on foot, occa-

* A poll tax on bachelors was proposed to go to the support of this institution.

sionally affording it nourishment. A man on horseback with two panniers, each holding two children, used to go from Yorkshire, receiving eight guineas a trip; an opposition caused the charge to be lowered one-half. This practice was condemned by a distinct resolution of the House of Commons; but as no bill was passed, these horrors continued. The barbarous wretches who carried the tender babes, not content with the gratuity they had received, in some cases stripped the poor infants, leaving them naked in the basket!

Indiscriminate admission continued nearly four years. Our townsman's hospital had become a vast charnel-house: many of those children that were taken from the basket never lived to be carried into the wards; and, of the 14,934 received, *ten thousand five hundred and thirty-four died* before the time for being apprenticed out: being a mortality of 70 per cent.*

Capt. Coram was so strenuous in various works of charity, and with so little regard to private economy, that he distributed the greater part of his income, the hard-earned fruit of early toil, to the poor and destitute. Towards the latter part of his life, he was supported by a pension of rather more than £100 per annum, procured for him by the late Dr. Brocklesby and sir Sampson Gideon. This sum was raised by some of the principal nobility, at the head of which was Frederick, prince of Wales.

In what a truly amiable light did capt. Coram appear, when on the doctor applying to the good old man to know if the setting on foot a subscription

* The information on the abuse of the institution is derived from a little work, price 3*s.* 6*d.*, entitled "Hans Sloane, a tale illustrating the history of the Foundling Hospital, by John Brownlow, London, 1831." Mr. B. holds a situation in the establishment.

would offend him, he nobly answered, "I have not wasted the little wealth of which I was formerly possessed in self-indulgence, or vain expences, and I am not ashamed to confess that in my old age I am poor."

Children can only be received at the Foundling upon the personal application of their mothers, and these must have previously borne a good character in every respect. Any deception is fatal to admission. No money must be given.

Capt. Coram died 29th March, 1751, aged 84. He was buried at the Foundling Hospital, where a long epitaph embodies much of the information here given.

NATHANIEL GUNDRY, of Lincoln's Inn, Esq., king's counsel in 1743, justice of the king's bench 1750. He died on the circuit at Launceston, March 30th, 1754, and was buried at Musbury.

Turn we now to a living worthy, Miss MARY ANNING, whose name is already well-known in every part of the world where persons read of the discoveries and progress of science, and concerning whom brief mention is made in many works, though little that is correct has appeared. In this biographical sketch, something more than a dry detail of birth, parentage, and pursuits in life is designed; not from a desire to indulge in digression, but with a view to illustrate more fully Miss Mary Anning's sphere of excellence, and the state of things at Lyme when she emerged, and became so conspicuous a character. Every such person is connected with the history of her place of residence; and where, indeed, can be introduced with greater propriety an account of the early sea-side visitors and fossilists than here?

There appears to be no subject so worthy the attention of a contemplative mind as the incessant

change in the pursuits of persons in all the several spheres of life, without regard to country or character. Some one individual from time to time starts into notice, attracts attention to some new theory, science, or commercial enterprise, which from that moment engages the time of numberless votaries, becomes firmly established, or is no more heard of, after being the mania of the day.

A very few years since there were no frequenters of watering-places on the coast,—few fossilists! It is intimately connected with this memoir to trace the change that has been effected.

It is highly entertaining to listen to octogenarians who have spent their life in some town by the sea-side. They give an interesting account of the *first* visitors to the coast, of a race of perambulators that, swallow-like, set out in settled weather, to enjoy the sea-breezes and ramble along the shore, till, fatigued with their toilsome and rough walk over the pebbles and ledges, they returned to recruit their strength, and arrange specimens of sea-weed and shells in the homely parlour of some sea-faring man, whose thrifty wife added to his little gain by letting out three rooms to "summer visitors." Persons who came in halcyon days expected little more than cleanliness and attention. Much taste was displayed in the arrangement of shells, pebbles, and sea-weed,—much energy in the search after them.* In every sitting-room might be seen some tasteful and fantastic nick-nack of the marine school, a pebble painted to represent the head of a Chinese,

* The following lines appeared under a bouquet of sea-weed, in an album, and were written by a lady, long a resident:—

Oh call us not weeds, but flow'rs of the sea,
For lovely, and gay, and bright-tinted are we;
Our blush is as deep as the rose of thy bowers,
Then call us not weeds,—we are ocean's gay flow'rs.

with a polished limpet shell for a hat—baskets made of shells, containing different kinds of sea-weed, and all such trifles, which ladies of great taste so well know how to arrange.

A few years from the period alluded to, families began to move about more, and persons who had pretty pebbles and shells found purchasers in those who could not stay to go in search of them on the beach. Miss Mary Anning's father, Richard Anning, was one of the first sellers of such things. He was by trade a carpenter, and, being a dissenter, went on the beach on Good Friday and church holidays. If he found any thing worth purchasing, it was usually exposed in front of his shop, near the prison, on a little table. He occasionally went out on other days, at which his wife was very angry, and was wont to ridicule his pursuit of such things.

Though the first seller, yet Mr. John Crookshanks, coal-merchant, 7, Bolton-row, Piccadilly, was the first collector of *curiosities* at Lyme.* These were then called *curosities*. He went upon the shore in search of them, with a long pole like a garden-hoe, and had found many vertebræ, called here *verterberries*, and *fragments of jaws*, &c. This person resigned his business for a consideration of a yearly stipend to be paid. This being discontinued, he committed suicide, by jumping off the gun-cliff wall into the sea, in 1802. Richard An-

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Not nurs'd like the plants of the summer parterre,
Whose gales are but sighs of an evening air;
Our exquisite, fragile, and delicate forms
Are the prey of the ocean, when vex'd with his storms.

* Before either, there was a man at Charmouth who sold his ammonites, &c., to the passengers of the coaches. His real name was Lock, though better known as Capt. *Cury*, a local term for curiosity. Dr. Maton styles him *Curi-man*.

ning used occasionally to accompany Mr. Crookshanks. The fragments of fossils they found were considered to be, and so named, *bones of crocodiles' backs and jaws, ladies' fingers, John Dories, salmon,* &c.* Richard had a daughter named Mary, who was taken by her nurse, Aug. 19, 1800, to the Rack field, where some equestrians were to perform. In consequence of an extraordinary display of vaulting on the preceding evening, the spectators were very numerous. The weather was intensely hot and sultry; the clouds seemed to indicate the approach of a thunder-storm, but did not deter the multitude from staying to witness the conclusion of the performance. At about a quarter to five, P. M., a passing cloud discharged a heavy shower, which caused those assembled to effect a hasty retreat. Many betook themselves to the adjoining linhays; others went home; but the less prudent sought shelter under cover of some lofty elms that stood in the field. A vivid discharge of the electric fluid shortly ensued, followed by the most awful clap of thunder that any present ever remembered to have heard. All appeared deafened by the crash: after a momentary pause, a man gave the alarm, by pointing to a group that lay motionless under a tree. Some persons instantly ran to the spot, where there appeared three women and a child lying on the ground.

* This curious nomenclature was on a par with the progress of geology. At Whitby, the ammonites were considered to be petrified serpents, which became so by the miraculous power of lady Hilda, first abbess of that abbey. It was observed that these innumerable serpents, in their rush over the cliff, had their heads broken off by the fall. See Marmion, canto ii.

"And how, of thousand snakes, each one
Was changed into a coil of stone,
When holy Hilda pray'd;
Themselves within their holy bound
Their stony folds had often found."

The head of an ammonite was long a desideratum here.

All the grown persons were dead: the infant, Mary Anning, upon being put into warm water, revived: she had sustained no injury. She had been a dull child before, but after this accident became lively and intelligent, and grew up so.

Richard Anning fell a victim to consumption, in 1810. Some time before, he fell over the cliff by night, when on his way to Charmouth. Having diverged from the path in a field on the summit of the hill, he went over where the new road now is, on the west side of the deep cutting. Thus ended the career of two of the earliest fossilists,—at least the earliest professed fossilists, of this part of England.

After her father's death, Mary Anning went down one day to look for *curosities*, the circumstances of the family not being good. She found an ammonite, then called by corruption, *cornemonius*. Her age was now about ten. Something occurred as she was returning which decided at once her future destinies. A lady in the street, seeing the fossil in her hand, offered her half-a-crown for it, which she accepted, and from that moment fully determined to go down "upon beach" again. She did as she had resolved, and in four months after, in the year 1811, saw among the ledges a projecting bone of some animal. This crocodile (so it was considered) was traced as it lay by her, and dug out by men she hired. It was purchased by H. H. Henley, esq., the lord of the manor, then a collector for a private museum, at a cost of about £23. This gentleman presented it to Bullock's museum, and was much hurt at its having been sold with the other articles, at the breaking up of that collection. It was purchased by the managers of the British museum, and has been for many years an object of great interest there.

In 1814, sir Everard Home published an account of some bones found at Lyme, 30 or 40 feet above

the level of the sea. He was quite at a loss respecting the species of animal to which these bones had belonged, as the skeleton was far from being complete. At Lyme, and elsewhere, these bones were said to have belonged to a crocodile: he thought the shoulder-bone resembled that of a crocodile, but some parts of the head and back-bone were more like the corresponding parts of fishes. In 1816, having been supplied with more fragments of bone, he could determine the manner in which the ribs, shoulder-blade, and the whole of the fore-paddle, had been united in the original skeleton. This fore-paddle had some resemblance to the fin of a shark, and now he thought the creature must be a fish. In 1818, Professor Buckland, who assisted sir Everard, showed him, from other bones, that the breast-bone, the collar-bone, and some others, resembled those of the lizard. Sir Everard then gave up the idea of the animal having been a fish. In 1819, an entire skeleton was discovered by col. Birch, a great frequenter of Lyme, and Mr. De la Beche, a resident. Sir Everard was now convinced that his Ichthyosaurus, or fish-lizard, a name invented by Mr. Ure, had four feet, if feet they might be called, which more resembled fins or paddles. In 1820, col. Birch supplied sir Everard with further materials, from which he ascertained the composition of the back-bone, and the singular structure of the fins. Then, after SIX YEARS of careful observation, he enjoyed the honour of being the first who gave an account to the world of this extraordinary creature. Mr. Conybeare and De la Beche then took up the subject, and entered into minuter detail, describing its lower jaw, muzzle, &c. At length Cuvier being in possession of all these discoveries, Miss Anning continually bringing something fresh to light, and aided by various drawings and fragments sent to

him for the purpose, supplied some remaining deficiencies in the descriptions previously given, and confirmed the relationship of the animal to the tribe of lizards. The progressive discovery of the structure of the Ichthyosaurus appears to have occupied about the same number of years as the siege of Troy. Miss Anning figured throughout,—was in fact a Helen to the geologists.*

The grand specimens, those relics of a primeval world, to be seen in the great collections in this and other countries, found at Lyme, have been discovered and extricated by our townswoman, at intervals, since the year 1811. A genius for discovering where the Ichthyosauri lie imbedded, is but a part of the gift possessed by the subject of this memoir: great judgment in extracting the animals, and infinite skill and manipulation in their development, must be superadded. Under the head Geology appears a list of all that is found here. Miss Anning, on visiting the several great museums, may exclaim,

Quæ regio in terris nostri non plena laboris!

Though the subject of this notice would not be disparaged by a description more strictly personal, yet such might be unpleasant. We conclude by mentioning that Miss Anning has a fossil *depôt*, where all the specimens are sold at a very reasonable rate. A stranger will seldom fail to see some of the large fossils there, and this always without any charge.

John Eveleigh, born 1773, the son of a tradesman, was so fortunate as to interest Mr. Addington, since lord Sidmouth; who, in 1788, obtained for him the patronage of sir Alexander Hood, afterwards lord Bridport. The latter sent him as midshipman to the Drake sloop that same year. In 1801, the subject of our memoir was in the Invincible, which

* Altered from Maria Hack.

was lost on a sand-bank north of Yarmouth, in the month of March, when 400 souls perished; but the admiral and about 200 were saved. Attention and ability did not go unrewarded. In 1814, *capt.* Eveleigh commanded the Astrea frigate; and, in company with the Creole, fell in with, and engaged two French frigates of the island of St. Iago, western Africa. The action was very severe: the enemy sheered off, having sustained great damage. Capt. Eveleigh was mortally wounded by a musket ball, and died at night in Porto Praya, St. Iago, 23rd January, 1814, aged 42 years. An inscription near his tomb, in Fort Joseph, records capt. Eveleigh's worth. It happily concludes thus:—

> How sleep the brave, who sink to rest,
> By all their country's wishes blest.

Timothy Scriven, the son of the facetious landlord of the "Three Cups," who, as landlord of an inn at Weymouth, afterwards afforded much amusement to king George III., was sent to sea about the same time as the preceding, and became a gallant officer.

Mr. Nathaniel Carpenter, the skilful geographer and general scholar, fellow of Exeter college, Oxford, was born at Uplyme.

The following, though not natives, were intimately connected with Lyme, so that some account of their lives will afford additional information respecting the town.

Dr. Nicholas Gibbon, a distinguished physician, practised at Lyme in the latter part of the seventeenth century. His father, Nicholas Gibbon, d. d., was a celebrated divine, sequestrated for his attachment to Charles I. He was turned out of his living, with eleven small children, to provide food for whom he rented a piece of land, and drove the

plough himself, while his son, afterwards the physician, held it.

The distinguished Mr. Thomas Hollis, though not a native, is so well known as an early visitor of Lyme, that it seemed desirable some mention should be made of him here. After the decline of the town, he was the person who principally laboured towards its revival, not only by his own personal endeavours, but by encouraging others to pursue the same line of conduct. From the fatigue of continual study, to which at times he was intently devoted, he found relaxation in the comparatively tranquil retreat of "Liberty hall,"—the name given by himself to the apartments he occupied at the Three Cups inn, formerly purchased by him, over which, in large letters, was thus expressed the character of its inmate.*

He was born at London, April 14th, 1720. His ancestors were originally from the north, but settled in London during the civil wars. The family separated in the reign of Henry the seventh: from one branch sprung Denzil, lord Hollis. The subject of the present sketch was educated at Newport, in Shropshire, till he was nine years old, after which he was under the care of Dr. John Ward, professor of rhetoric in Gresham college. From Dr. Hunt, Dr. Forster, and other eminent persons, he imbibed that ardent love of liberty, and freedom of sentiment, which strongly marked his character through life. In February, 1739, he went to chambers in Lincoln's Inn, but does not appear to have studied law as a profession, though he continued there till 1748, when he set out on his travels for the first time, accompanied by Thomas Brand,

* Having one day invited a carpenter to dine with him, the man had dressed himself out rather finely: he was reminded that the carpenter, not the gentleman, had been invited.

esq., of Hyde, in Essex. In his first and second tour, he completed his visit to almost every country in Europe. Twice were fine collections of books, intended as presents to Harvard college, destroyed by fire. He published, or procured to be published, many excellent works of literary reputation. At the time such curiosity was excited to discover the concealed author of "Junius's Letters," Mr. Hollis was publicly mentioned as the probable writer of them.

The imputation of being an unbeliever of revelation has fallen upon him, from scarcely ever having visited places of worship; he is however described as having acted the good Samaritan all his life,—as a man possessed of a large fortune, more than half of which he devoted to charities. He gave money to repair our church; the candlesticks at the Independent meeting; and was still more liberal to the Baptist chapel, which he partly endowed. In order to preserve the memories of those patriots for whom he had a veneration, he called many of his fields by their names, and by which they are still distinguished at Corscomb. While in his field at that place, giving directions to his workmen, previously to his departure for Lyme, January 1st, 1774, he suddenly fell down in a fit, and expired. He was interred, according to his express orders, in the middle of a field, in a grave ten feet deep; the field was immediately ploughed over, that no trace of his burial-place might remain. He bequeathed his property to Thomas Brand, esq., who took the name of Hollis: he left it to Dr. Disney, a celebrated dissenting minister.*

* Archdeacon Blackburne wrote Mr. Hollis's life in 2 vols. 4to, "with republican fierceness," says J. D'Israeli, esq., in his anecdotes of the literary character. See that work, p. 472, for a curious account of Blackburne, whose daughter married Dr. Disney.

At the time Mr. Hollis was here, there were poo tenements standing in all directions. A gentleman tells me, Mr. Hollis had a mania for buying and pulling them down. Arthur Young, in his Farmer's Letters, says that " persons pull down cottages to prevent poor men from marrying and burdening the parish." Hollis purchased a whole row in Pound street, and destroyed them. Large sums have of late years been laid out in Lyme, expressly to build for a working population and weekly tenantry. If Hollis had this object in view, others have frustrated it.

The old people who remember Mr. Hollis, speak in affectionate terms of him ;—his charitable actions are their favourite theme : he was at once the patron of the industrious, and dread of the idle.

MERCHANTS AND DISTINGUISHED FAMILIES.

Some account of the most distinguished families of Lyme, with the period of their settling, stay, and departure from the town ; interesting facts connected with them, arms, &c.

Of our earliest representatives and mayors nothing is known but their names, and the dates when they served these several offices; for which, see the lists appended to this work.

Alford.—Richard Alford, merchant, was mayor in 1627 ; the fifth time in 1652. Gregory Alford fought against the parliament, and compounded for his estates at £10. He returned to Lyme, where he was very severe in his treatment of dissenters, at that period all politicians as well as religionists.

During his second and last mayoralty, Monmouth landed. The family soon after left Lyme.

Andrew.—The family is said to have descended from John Andrew, of Awston, in Devon, clerk of the green cloth to king Henry VII.

Solomon Andrew, merchant, occurs 1655. The individuals of this family were of great respectability, and acquired a large fortune. Solomon Andrew, esq., a gentleman of extensive property, had two children, a son and a daughter: the former died in 1712. At the father's death, Sarah Andrew, a rich heiress, was left under the guardianship of Ambrose Rhodes and Andrew Tucker, esqrs., and resided at Lyme with the latter gentleman, her uncle, till Henry Fielding, whose distinguished works have placed him so high on the list of eminent writers, from his visits to Lyme, became most violently enamoured of her. The connexion met the decided disapprobation of her guardians, and the young lady was sent off to Mr. Rhodes's at Modbury, in Devonshire, to whose son, then an Oxonian, she was very soon afterwards married. Fielding is said to have written his "Tom Jones" after this disappointment, in which his inimitable Sophia Western was supposed to pourtray the excellences of Miss Andrew.

In Heavitree church is a tablet to the memory of Ambrose Rhodes, who died 1777, and his wife Sarah, who died in 1783, aged 73.

Dr. Bellamy, of Plymouth, has a pedigree of the Andrew family, with which he was connected by his lady's side. *Arms*—Sable, a saltier, argent, between four cross croslets, or. *Crest*—a buck's head, erased.

Burridge.—The family is stated, in Collinson's Somerset, to have come over with William I. A descendant settled here about 1656. John Burridge represented the borough in divers parliaments,

from 1688 to 1704. He was lord of the manor of Thorn Faulcon, in Somerset, but became at length embarrassed in circumstances; and it appears by a hearsay story current in the family, that at the time of an election at Lyme, some sheriff's officers lay in ambush to arrest him, which being known, the townspeople went to his house in a body, beat off the sheriff's officers, and escorted him to the Guild-hall, where he was unanimously elected a member of the parliament, when he became privileged from an arrest. John, his son, afterwards elected, married an heiress in 1705. Francis Burridge, esq., formerly of Thorn Faulcon, nephew of Robert Burridge of Lyme, married Miss Hannah Doble, of Stoke house, near Taunton, A.D. 1679. Descendants of this branch are still remaining. *Arms*—Gules, a fess wavy between three bows, the metal unknown. *Crest*—a bow and arrows.

Ceeley.—Robert Ceeley, merchant, was mayor in 1640. Probably the governor of the town during the siege, and mayor in 1644, was the son of this individual. This Thomas Ceeley, or Seeley, appears among "The great champions of England that have stood right to this parliament," published 1646. Edward and Thomas Ceeley sent a letter to the parliament, 3rd June, 1644, praying for assistance. Col. Ceeley and col. Pyne had regiments given to them by the commissioners, at Taunton, in 1650.

In a MS. of J. Tucker, esq., the arms of families of different counties of the date of 1677, those of Celey or Sealey appear without colour: thus a fess crenellé between three wolves' heads.

Coade.—Robert Coade first occurs in 1669. John Coade, merchant, the last of that name, was also the last of the old merchants who continued to carry on business after the decline of the town. He manufactured serges and did business with the

West Indies, in connexion with a house of his relative at Exeter. He was mayor in 1780. Miss E. Coade, his cousin, introduced the patent stone, now so extensively used, of which the front of Belmont is constructed. The property went to female heirs. *Arms*—Argent, a chevron between three coots, all sable. *Crest*—a coot, sable.

Davey, *Davie*, or *Davis*.—Already settled in Lyme in Henry the Eighth's reign. Robert Davey, mariner and owner, was several times mayor. Individuals now living, of the same name.

Edwards.—Many of this name were opulent merchants. Edward Edwards was mayor 1668.

Ellesdon.—One of the most distinguished families here for many years, from about the close of Henry VII.'s reign. They had a short pedigree in the Visitation books, 1623. Several of the name were chosen mayors four or five times each, and represented Lyme in parliament. The impropriation of Charmouth belonged to them. They removed to Charmouth and other places about 1670. Anthony Ellesdon, the last of the male line [*in quo stirps mascula defecit familia de Ellesdon*], who died 1737, lies interred there. He bought Newlands estate of J. Jefferys, esq., in 1649. It was sold by the Henvils to Mr. Coade. Richard Henvil, esq., of Bristol, merchant, married a daughter, and the estates devolved upon him. One of the Henvil family is possessed of the coin given to William Ellesdon by Charles II.; it is said to be in the West Indies. *Arms*—Argent, on a chevron sable, three fleurs de lis, or, between three cross croslets, gules. *Crest*—two balls.

Gundry.—Nathaniel Gundry occurs mayor, 1700; again 1719. See account of Justice Gundry, in the biographical notices. *Arms*—Argent, two lions passant gardant, azure.

Harvey.—Originally of London; came to Lyme about 1582. Walter was mayor four times; his son, Richard, three times. Left Lyme soon after the civil wars.

Hassard.—To be traced about the same time as the Ellesdons, and were merchants. Several individuals represented Lyme in parliament. Departed from Lyme about 1650, for county Fermanagh, in Ireland. Garden hill is the seat of one of the family. Rainold Hazard was the first prepositor of Bristol, *temp.* Hen. III. John Hasard was coroner in 1312.—*Seyer's Bristol.* From a seal, the arms appear to be quarterly, one and four, five bars; in chief three, apparently torteauxes: two and three, barry wavy of six. *Crest*—an escallop: colours unknown to me. *Fortuna viam ducit.*

Jones.—Robert Jones, merchant, was mayor in 1683. This individual, or some member of his family, was a great persecutor of dissenters. In Uplyme church are epitaphs to the memory of John Jones, of Ware, *ob.* 1718, aged 87; and of John Jones, of Cannington, *ob.* 1651, aged 66. Also of the widow of the last mentioned, who was the daughter of Edmund Fortescue, of Winston, in the parish of Modbury, *ob.* 1633. The Jones' had the "Great house" in Broad street. The famous water brought over the river from a conduit in the garden of that house, is still called *Jones's shoot.* Inigo Jones of 1780, was a stranger.

The celebrated Jones the persecutor, left a daughter. She, as old Mrs. Bazley, who died nearly at the age of 100, used to say, married a person named Jourdan. Nothing this man did ever prospered. He left his widow and a son, who were reduced to extreme poverty. This man, like Œdipus, appeared to be *Apollinis reus*, and could do no good; while his fellow-townsmen attributed all his

misfortunes to the wickedness of his grandfather. *Arms*—On the field, a lion passant between three crosses fitchee, a chief. *Crest*—a lion rampant, supporting an anchor. None of the colours are expressed on the brass plate in Uplyme church.

Newell.—The name occurs in the register in 1556. John Newell, merchant, occurs about 1625. Capt. Newell was a gallant defender of the town during the siege. A Miss Newell married one of the Puddicombes at the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Rose or *Roze.*—John Rose came from St. Burlado (St. Brelade ?) in Jersey, and was elected mayor in 1611. He shortly after married Fayth, daughter of Ralph Ellesdon, esq. Richard, his son, married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Henley, esq., of Leigh, and represented Lyme in parliament from the year 1639 to 1655. He occurs the first possessor of Wooton Fitzpaine about that time. Thomas Rose, esq., sheriff for the county in the reign of George I., left an only daughter, who married Francis Drewe, esq., of Grange, in the county of Devon. *Arms*—sable, on a pale or, three roses slipt gules, leaved proper.

Smyth or *Smith.*—William Smyth, merchant, came to Lyme about 1660. He was said to be of the family of sir George Smith, who was sheriff of Devon, temp. Elizabeth (see sir W. Pole's Antiquities), and whose daughter married sir George Monk, by whom she had issue the famous George Monk, the restorer of royalty in this kingdom. William Smith became alderman of London, and stood candidate for Lyme, but lost his election, and was knighted 1744. The family held a very considerable property in the town. None now remains. The seat is at Sydling, St. Nicholas, and the Down house, near Blandford. *Present arms*—Sable, a fess erminois, cotized, or, between three martlets of the

last, each charged with an ermine spot. *Crest*—a greyhound sejant, gules collared, and a line reflexed over the back, or, charged on the shoulder with a muscle, argent. *Motto—Semper fidelis.*

Tucker.—Walter Tucker, merchant, settled in Lyme about 1604; he was mayor in 1607, and served five times. Andrew Tucker, esq., was sheriff for the county in 1690, and resided principally at Nash, the family estate. John Tucker, esq., of Lyme, is a descendant. *Arms*—Barry wavy of six, argent and azure; over all a chevron, embattled, between three sea horses, azure. See Prince's Worthies of Devon, p. 735, for an account of the celebrated William Tucker, or Tooker, grandson of Robert Tooker, who as Izaacke mentions, entertained at Exeter the Spanish ambassador and his whole retinue for three days. The pedigree is in the Westcote MS.

Whetcomb.—The name occurs in 1553. John Whetcomb, gent., was mayor in 1733, and shortly after left the town. Samuel Whetcomb, esq., was sheriff of this county in 1747. Dr. John Whetcomb was created bishop of Clonfert and Kilmacduagh, in 1735. The family mansion was at Lillington, says Hutchins. *Arms*—Paly argent and sable, three spread eagles, or. *Crest*—a demi-eagle rising with displayed wings, out of a mural coronet, or.

Pyne.—Some individuals of this family were living till about 1770; these were females, and were in reduced circumstances. The rev. J. Puddicombe informed me that they were connected with the Churchill family, from which they received a stipend of twenty pounds. In the church are inscriptions for Allizey, widow of Mr. W. Pyne, died 1730, aged 60 years. Also for Thomasin Pyne, who died 1761. The females were of the same family as the valiant capt. Thomas Pyne, one of the heroes here

during the civil wars; though of a different family to that of a gentleman now residing (1834), who is a lineal descendant of the famous "John Pyne." See D'Israeli's Commentaries. Some of this name were the representatives for Weymouth in the reigns of James I. and Charles I.

The names of Case and Jourdan are frequent in the register temp. Henry VIII. Bagster and Pitts occur since that reign.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE CHARITIES OF LYME REGIS, AS TENDERED TO THE COMMISSIONERS, MAY 5TH, 1834.

Collected from Deeds, &c., and Boswell's Civil Division.

	Annual Produce. £. s. d.
SIR MATTHEW HOLWORTHY, by will, dated 9th May, 1677, gave £100 in money, the interest to be paid to the poor; vested in the churchwardens and overseers.	
Edward Edwards, mayor, by will, dated 15th Jan. 1684, gave £10.	
The sum of £110 was laid out in 1690 in the purchase of Honeycomb tenement, in the parish of Broadwinsor.	4 8 0
N.B. Given to the poor in sixpences and shillings—a bad mode of distributing.	
John Tucker of Exon, by will, dated ——, gave in money, £10.	
Henry Henley of Leigh, by will, dated 13th August, 1695, gave in money, £40. The interest to be mainly employed in the schooling and maintenance of young children, and binding them out to handicraft trades; and maintenance and support of ancient people past their labour.	
John Hallett of St. Michael's, Barbadoes, called col. Hallett, by will, dated 16th Jan. 1698. . .	20

	Annual Produce. £. s. d.
Richard Marsh of London, merch. by will, dated 6th Jan. 1710. . .	150
John Burridge, by will, dated —— 1710, added	30

With this money an estate, consisting of three closes, was purchased at Westford, within the parish of Thorncombe, Devon: vested in the mayor and burgesses, churchwardens, overseers, and feoffees. . . 24 0 0

Timothy Hallett, clerk, by will, dated 20th Nov. 1728.	20
John Edwards, gent., by will, dated 1st Nov. 1732.	12
	£32

The profits for the poor. At a vestry, 4th Nov. 1771, Mr. W. Peterson agreed to purchase with this money a deed poll, for £50, including £20 of his own money, in the Lyme turnpike, Crewkerne branch. His executors hold the deed. Nothing is received, as the trust is bankrupt.

John Burridge, mercht., by will, dated 11 Sept. 1732.
Mary Burridge, his wife, by will, dated 2nd Sept. 1736.
Robert Burridge, mercht., by will, dated 21st Jan. 1744
} gave £100

With this sum was purchased 3 per cent consol. Bank Annuities, amounting to £154. 18*s*. 8*d*. Mr. John White of Stoke, in this county, turned over the same to Messrs. Benjamin, John, and Benjamin (jun.) Follet. In April, 1834, Thomas Lisle Follet, and John Tucker, esqrs., Rev.

	Annual Produce. £. s. d.
Andrew Tucker, and the Rev. Richard Pennel, were appointed trustees upon the restoration of the charity, when £65. 18*s.* 11*d.*, accumulated interest, was added, making £220. 17*s.* 7*d.*	6 12 6

Interest to be distributed among the poor, with special regard to the aged and infirm, and such as generally receive the sacrament in the public church, and Presbyterian and Anabaptist way; and some part of it for the teaching of two poor children to read; and some part of it in books, to wit, the Assembly's Catechism, a small treatise on the doctrine of Being Born Again, and another on the Great Concern of Human Life, both by Samuel Wright, D. D.

Sir George Summers, by will, dated 23rd April, 1609.	10
Walter Tucker, ditto, 1st Nov. 1632.	40
	£50

No account can be given of this sum. Perhaps the first bequest was never paid. The last sum was to be lent to decayed merchants and craftsmen, upon good security, for two years, at the rate of 2*d.* per pound in such portions as the mayor and burgesses think fit. The interest to be bestowed on a breakfast for the said mayor and burgesses.

John Tudbold, by will, dated 11th Oct. 1548, gave two alms-houses for the use of the poor. Vested in the mayor, burgesses, and parish officers.

Walter Tucker, by will, dated 1st Nov.

Annual Produce.
£. s. d.

1632, gave two rooms for two single poor women of good repute and condition, after the death of Florence Tutchin, and Mary Combe, his servant. Vested as above. Nothing is known of this bequest. The siege in 1644 was destructive of many houses.

Since 30th Sept. 1754, the corporation allow £10 per annum for the education of twelve poor boys; now £20 per annum.—A gratuity.

CHARMOUTH.

Charmouth parish adjoins that of Lyme, to which it forms the eastern boundary, and includes a part of that hill between the two places, which Hutchins styles the *Plinlimmon* of Dorset. On attaining the summit in going from Lyme, or after having passed the deep cutting of the "New passage," the view is splendid. Lewesdon and Pillesdon, the sister hills, are seen towering over the vale of Marshwood, which continues from them to the sea, only interrupted by the circular and romantic mounds of Cunnigar and Catherston. Lewesdon hill has been the subject of a poem by orator Crowe. Charmouth village appears below the spectator, extending upon the slope of the hill down to the river; which is seen to meet the sea between rugged cliffs about a quarter of a mile from the village. As Drayton, in his Poly-olbion, has pourtrayed his entrance by this route into Dorset, his poetical but quaint effusion may be interesting:

Thro' the Dorsetian fields that lie in open view,
My progress I againe must seriouslie pursue,
From Marshwood's fruitfull vale my journey on to make:
(As Phœbus getting up out of the easterne lake,
Refresht with ease and sleep, is to his labour prest,
Even so the labouring muse, heere baited with this rest;)
Whereas the little Lim along doth easilie creep,
And Car, that coming down unto the troubled deepe,
Brings on the neighbouring Bert, whose batning mellowed banke
From all the British soyles, for hemp most hugely rank,
Doth bear away the best; to Bert-pool, which hath gain'd
That praise from every place, and worthilie obtain'd, &c.

No-man's land, at the back of Morcombe lake, appears from this spot. The sailors of Lyme say that an ancestor of the earl Poulett and of the present cardinal Weld met on the hill to fix a boundary line, which was however not done without a dispute that ended in a duel. As the boundary was not decided on, this spot acquired the name of No-man's land, which it retains.

So much has been said of the history of Charmouth, as connected with Lyme, that it only remains to describe some particulars that refer to it individually.

Baxter, in his Glossary, supposes this place to be the Carixa of Ravennas. He derives it from the British *Car ise*, the head or mouth of a river; *Car* or *Cor*, importing mouth.

Charmouth is found in Domesday, under the earl of Moriton or Mortaign's lands. He was maternal brother to William the Conqueror, and elder brother of Odo, bishop of Bayeux: he took his title from a little city about seven leagues from Avranches.

Robert holds CERNEMUDE* of the earl. Algar held it in the time of king Edward, and gelded for hides. It is arable land, three carucates. In the domain are two carucates, three slaves, three villains, with two carucates. There are sixteen saltmen, and sixteen acres of meadow. The pasture land is three furlongs in length, and one in breadth. The wood is eight furlongs in length, and one in breadth. It is worth sixty shillings.

After this, Charmouth came to the abbey of Ford. In a plea of assize before the justices itinerant at Sherborne, 8 Edw. I., (Rot. 31,) it was shewn that the abbot of Ford claimed a weekly market on Mon-

* These other modes of spelling the word occur: Cermue, Cernemude, Cernmuth, Chernemue, Chernemouth, Carrum, according to the Saxon Chronicle, Huntingdon, &c.

day, at his manor here, and a fair on the eve, day, and morrow of St. Matthew the evangelist, with all liberties and free customs belonging to the said market and fair, by charter of Edw. I., a. 2, 7; that he found his church seised of them, and that his predecessors had and used these liberties; that the knights chosen for that purpose found that the abbot had the liberties claimed in that charter, and used them. 14 Edw. I., the abbot of Ford held of John Beauchamp, one knight's fee of mortaigne here, belonging to the barony of Hache, Somerset. In 1293, the lands of the abbot were valued at £4. 10*s.**

Charmouth was made a borough about the year 1320: we are not to understand a royal borough, but by grant of brother William, abbot of Ford. Desiring the improvement of the manor of Charmouth, he granted permission to buy and sell within certain limits; quite in the style of the kings of England. The bounds were from Sevenakra, (Seven-acres,) by the river under the road that comes by Charrery-stone, to the road which leads to Bridport, and thence, by the water-course to the mill belonging to the monks, to the sea by the river, to the church, by the road ascending to the Pillory, and then up to the cross which is in the road to Lyme, above Badehorn in the west, to *la Scheote* (the shoot) by the corner; and so as the ditch runs to Seven-akra by the river side. In this charter, persons were invited to build within these bounds upon advantageous terms. They were to take, upon view of the bailiff, four perches in breadth, and twenty in length; paying for each parcel of land *six-pence* yearly, in payments of *three-pence* each. It was stipulated that the tenants should not attend the abbot's court more than twice a year, *i. e.* Tuesday after Hocktide, and

* Hutchins.

Tuesday after Michaelmas, except in the guildhall of Charmouth; though each burgess was to have his corn ground at the abbot's mill. Furthermore, every burgess residing in the borough might turn a horse and bullock *(averium et afrum)* into the common land, viz. from the road where Geoffrey Heyrum lives westward, and so to Stephen Payn's, and to the ditch which was Rob. Rosels to Langesmoresgeth, *(Langmoor-gate;)* and then to the Steps, paying yearly for each beast *one* penny.*

What resulted from this grant is not known. The portions of land, however, on which the houses on the north side of the village are built, appear to be of singular uniformity in breadth and depth. Leland, two centuries after, writes, "From Colington to Charmouth, by metely good ground, a good fischer town." This latter expression is very indefinite. Charmouth is probably much larger now than it ever was. The Rev. B. Jeanes has heard that there were once houses by what is now the sea side.

This manor and advowson, 6 Elizabeth, a rent of 6*s.* in Newlands, land in Bridport and Lyme, parcel of Ford abbey, were granted to Robert and William Caldwell, gents., and their heirs, to be held of the queen in chief, by service of the 100th part of a fee, value £25. 5*s.* 1*d.* They the same year alienated it to sir W. Petre, knt., and his heirs, whose son John, 14 Eliz. conveyed it to the Coletons, then to the Ellesdons, then to the Henvills. The manor now belongs to Mrs. Liddon, who, however, has no right to wrecks, which are taken by J. Bullen, Esq., lord of the paramount manor of Marshwood.†

The church is dedicated to St. Matthew, and has

* From the original in the archives of the corporation of Exeter, furnished James Davidson, Esq. by the Rev. George Oliver.

† Hutchins.

a neat tower with three bells. Hutchins says it seems to have been rebuilt about 1503, a legacy being then given for that purpose. A crucifix overgrown with ivy is at the east end.

Charmouth is a chapelry to Whitchurch Canonicorum. The rectory is not mentioned in the valour of 1291. It is a discharged living in the Bridport deanery. Hutchins says it was augmented in 1723, by Anthony Ellesdon, with £200, and in 1732, by lot, with another £200. The present rector, the Rev. J. D. Hales, receives nothing from these sums. He made a return in 1834, that the tithes are worth £89. 2*s*. 6*d*. There are about four acres of glebe. The first patrons were the abbot and convent of Ford : the present one is Isaac Cooke, Esq. The last rector was the Rev. W. L. Glover : before him Audain, now living, quite a hero of romance. For his versatility as auctioneer, paid preacher to Episcopalians, Methodists, and Catholics, &c., in the same day, privateerer, &c., see Coleridge's *Six Months in the West Indies*, and also the *West India Sketch Book*. In the latter work is an account of his leaving the pulpit to go to sea in his privateer, in chase of an enemy's vessel, which he carried by boarding, before a frigate that was in chase came up. He fought a battle at Lyme with an Irish chaise-driver, and preached with his usual energy. His preaching carried every one with him : his fighting was good and manly, but not so successful, for the knight of the whip eventually beat him. In front of the side gallery are the twelve apostles, and an Ecce Homo, painted by lieut. Gabriel Bray, R. N. Inside the seats by the screen, are nine grotesque carvings in oak, done with great effect, of undoubted antiquity. Some of the designs are infinitely ludicrous.

In the chancel are several monuments. One to

the memory of Anthony Ellesdon, the last of that name, who died 13th November, 1737, ætatis 79, erected by Richard Henvil, to whom the property went in default of male issue. He was a benefactor to the church, as appears by an inscription on the north wall, around the arms of Ellesdon, "Re-edifyed and beautifyed by Anthony Ellesdon, Esq., 1732."

Rev. Mr. Bragge, M. A., late rector, ob. March 3rd, 1769, æt. 68. *Arms*, or, a chevron gules between three bulls passant regardant, sable. A pretty design to the memory of master Joseph Hodges.

In the church-yard, on a raised tomb, much defaced, Mrs. Margaret Stackey, or Stuckey, the daughter of John Limbry. On a large tomb, railed in, to the memory of James Warden, Esq., who fell in a duel the 28th of April, 1792, in the 56th year of his age. His services are described in another compartment. Again, Elizabeth Newell Warden died 11th June, 1798, aged 48. The wife apostrophises the husband in verse composed by Mr. Puddicombe of Lyme :—

Dear victim of imperious honour's laws !
  Those impious laws inexorably stern,
Whose horrors friendship views with shuddering pause,
  And love connubial shall for ever mourn.

Lamented victim of th' embodied mind,
  Aught of the world it left should haply know ;
And watch with tenderest sympathy refined,
  The friends it loved, the scenes it prized below.

What pleasure mixed with sadness must be thine,
  To see thy own Eliza's faithful tears
Profusely bathing the memorial shrine
  Which to thy name unfeigned affliction rears.

Adieu : in one alarming moment torn,
  By ruffian rage, from her thy soul held dear,
Until the dawning of that awful morn,
  When the roused dead their Saviour's voice shall hear.

Lieut.-general Jenkinson of Alvestone, co. Warwick,

died 17th June, 1830, aged 75. Three mounds called the "cholera graves." A new rectory house of good dimensions has been lately erected.

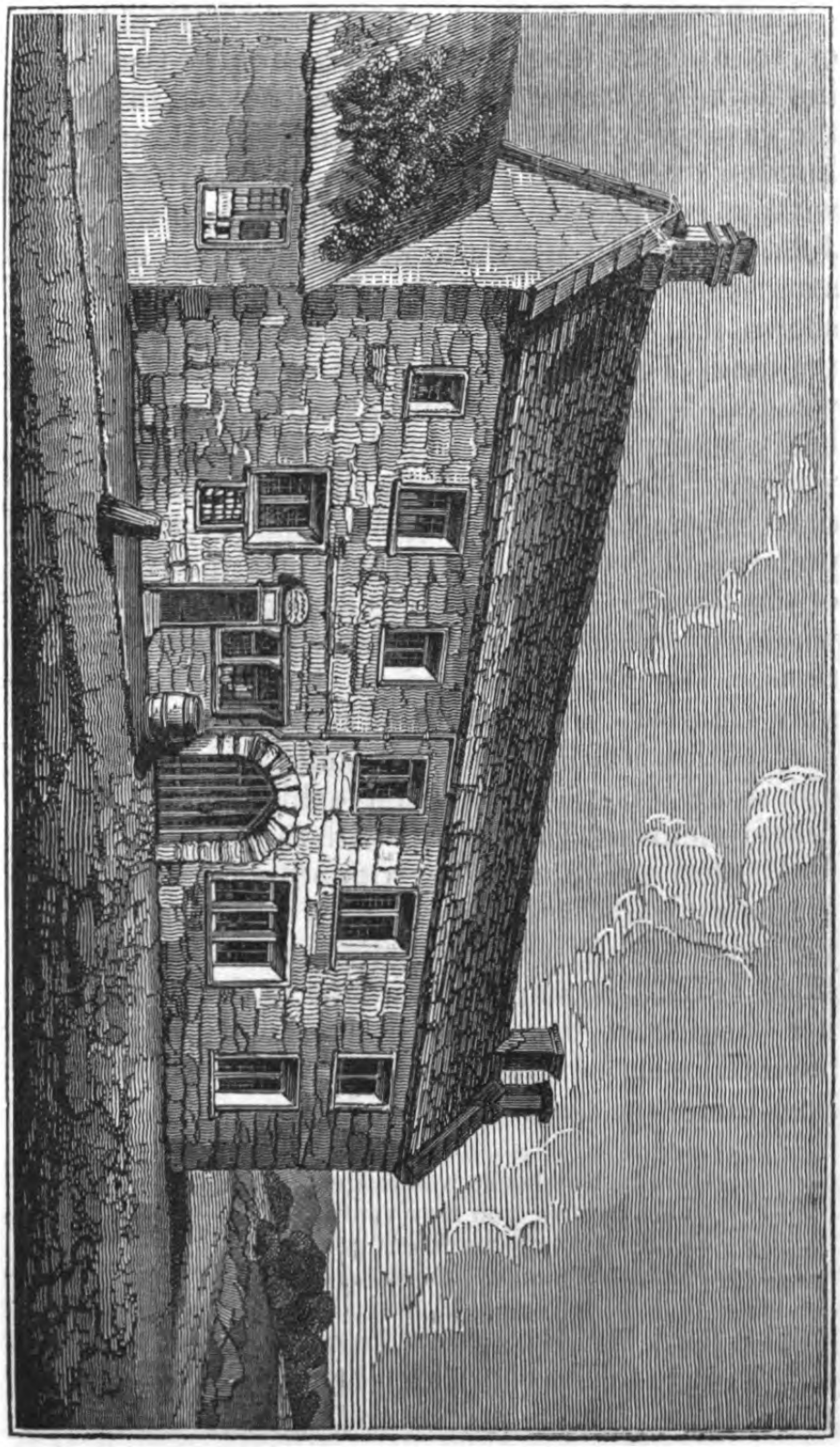
In 1785, a sword much rusted was found in digging a grave in Charmouth church, supposed to be Danish, though of modern make, as Hutchins states, and sold by the sexton to Mr. James Bagster, undertaker, Piccadilly, London, for five shillings. Attending another funeral there shortly after, he was required by the parishioners to return it, the sexton having no right to sell. No one now knows what has become of it.

The dissenting interest of Charmouth, as at Lyme, originated with an ejected minister. The Rev. John Brice of Mag. coll. Oxford, was born at Netherbury, 1636, and was educated at the free-school of that parish. Upon quitting the university, he was assistant to Mr. Thorne of Weymouth. He was episcopally ordained by Dr. Ironside, bishop of Bristol. In 1659, he settled at Marshwood, a hamlet of Whitchurch Canonicorum, where was a church which has since gone to ruin,* and continued there till Aug. 1662. After his ejectment, he met with a great deal of trouble, and was twice in Dorchester gaol for nonconformity. When he came to Charmouth does not appear. Martha Bradford, an old member of the chapel there, used to relate the services of her grandmother, a servant of Mr. Brice. One morning before he was up, she opened to some one who knocked, and found a constable from Lyme with a warrant to apprehend her master for preaching, by which he had offended against the Oxford or five-mile act. The domestic, in an instant, closed the ponderous door, upon the threshold of which

* What large sums are annually collected at Lyme, Charmouth, and Bridport for very remote objects, while no single effort is made to rebuild a church which is so much wanted by a population close at our doors!

the man stood, and so shut him out. The master, speedily informed of what was passing, hurried to a hiding-place, supposed to be still in existence, though pains have been taken, without success, to discover it. Mr. Brice became possessed, in right of his wife, of the old premises, once the inn. To the east end were attached a thatched cottage with mud walls; this was converted into a chapel in the shape of a T. At the end of one of the galleries were folding-doors leading into the dwelling-house: these, when all the congregation had assembled, were opened, and he preached. Upon the appearance of an informer he retired, and the doors were closed. There was no penalty for assembling, unless service was performed. The old meeting was standing so late as 1815, when it was pulled down, and the present substantial one of stone erected nearly on the site of the preceding. After the revolution, Mr. Brice publicly opened his chapel, and continued preaching there till his death, in 1716, which Calamy states took place March 15th, though he signed a deed in October. In his latter days, he married Mrs. Floyer, a gentlewoman of good family of Berne, adjoining Charmouth. He died in affluence. He brought up two of his nephews to the ministry, and left about £200 for pious purposes. (See Palmer's Nonconformists' Memorial, vol. ii. p. 139.)

* The local information contained in this memoir was partly communicated by the late Rev. J. Crook, the dissenting minister, to his successor, the Rev. B. Jeanes, the present minister, but for whom many of the particulars would have been lost. Though others knew much, none appear to have made notes but Mr. Jeanes. He felt an interest in the history of the chapel and endowments at the head of which he is now placed, and has obligingly taken much trouble in the production of deeds and memoranda connected with this branch of the subject, and assisted Mr. Galpin in drawing the old premises, by furnishing the necessary information. This gentleman at one time contemplated a history of Charmouth.



In the annals mention has been made of the old inn, or, to use the language of Clarendon, "the small inn kept by a man who was reputed honest, to which the cavaliers of the country often resorted, and the London road passed that way, so that it was seldom without company;" and in the memoir of the Rev. John Brice, the purchase of it and other circumstances have been detailed. It now remains to be shown that the whole of the premises constituted the inn. That part to the left of the cask in the woodcut is the only portion not modernised; which has occasioned it, since 1815, to be exclusively visited. Mr. Galpin, the well-known artist and drawing-master of Charmouth, has restored the premises to the right of the cask, now the residence of the Rev. B. Jeanes, having copied the doors and windows, which are now preserved in other situations. The upper window to the right is that of king Charles's room, the best chamber. After the Restoration, an old-fashioned chimney-piece of Ham-hill stone was put up, which exhibited a circle in relief, enclosing an oak tree with the king's initials, C. R., and a date, together with other initials, which are now covered with stucco, and papered over, as the broad fire-place has been divided and modernised since 1815. So important a visit to this house was not neglected by a succeeding landlord, who mounted a sign-board, on which were the following lines under the *Queen's Arms:*

> Here in this house was lodged king Charles,
> Come in, sirs, you may venture;
> For here is entertainment good
> For churchman or dissenter.

The Rev. Mr. Bragg of Charmouth had this sign in his study for years, which he preserved as confirmation that this house, and not the one across

the road, was that where Charles put up. The old part was afterwards a little inn by the sign of the "Anchor." Tradition assigns this house to Ford abbey, and this too at a period long prior to that in which it was erected.

Near Berne, in the parish of Whitchurch, is a farm-house which was famous a century ago, when the small-pox made great ravages here, for being the residence of a man who used to receive children for some time into his house. He professed to insure them, by a certain line of treatment, against ever catching the small-pox! This man undoubtedly vaccinated the children. The late T. C. Carpenter, M. D., knew a man at Bridport living at the beginning of this century, at a great age, who remembered to have been sent there, but quite forgot what treatment was adopted. He never had the small-pox.

ANTHONY TUTCHEN, mariner, by deed dated 1661, gave a freehold house and field belonging thereto, containing one acre, in this parish, for the benefit of seamen, seamen's wives and children, originally given in stockings and shoes: whence denominated the stocking and shoe charity; vested in the rector for the time being. Present annual produce, £5. 10*s*.

ROBERT SALTER, by will dated 1642, gave £300 in money, since laid out in lands called Cattle-bury or borough, in the parish of Whitchurch Canonicorum; the share to this parish is £9. 6*s*. 8*d*.—*Boswell*.

This is paid to the second poor.

There is an almshouse which is devoted to the reception of paupers, entirely a misapplication.

Charmouth consists of but one street, which is the turnpike road. It contains many interesting cottages and gardens in front, and is generally admired. The sea lane, about a quarter of a mile in length, leads to the beach, where there are two bathing machines. The scenery is very fine, and a good view of the coast, the town, and the Cobb of Lyme, is to be obtained.

There is good fishing in the Char and the Wooton river: in the season, salmon peel ascend the stream in great numbers. Every place has its distinct features: those of Charmouth are striking and attractive. The population now amounts to 724. The village is not increasing much by the erection of new houses, though several were built a few years since. Just as occurs in this part of the twin borough, genteel families make it their place of residence, though the summer months form the season, which begins earlier than with us.

GEOLOGICAL NOTICE, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF OUR FOSSILS.

The coast, when viewed at a short distance from the shore, is observed to be formed by a series of hills of nearly uniform elevation, of about five hundred feet, with valleys of equal depth, abruptly terminated by the sea. The faces of the lofty and perpendicular cliffs, display the various rocks of which they are composed, and the inclination of the strata, as in a map. There is an almost exact correspondence in the structure of the hills enclosing each valley; so that whatever bed or stratum is found on one side, the same is discoverable on the other side, upon the prolongation of its plane.

The *lias* of Calvados, in France, makes its first appearance on this side of the Channel, near Golden Cap, and extends thence to the coast west of the town. The geologist, as he gazes on the scene, mentally traces the course of the lias by Bath, Evesham, Melton Mowbray, and Lincoln, to its final termination in the sea at Whitby. The *inferior oolite* forms its eastern boundary from the coast of Dorsetshire to that of Yorkshire. The *red marl*, which, though it is to be seen at Humble, where it is thrown out

by a fault for a short space, may be said to rise five miles west of Lyme, is the western boundary of the lias. These remarks refer to the surface of the country.

The sectional view of the country will be now considered. The *chalk*, which is the uppermost of the beds observable on this part of the coast, makes its first appearance at Ware cliffs, and forms the caps of the hills between Lyme and Axmouth. It rests upon green sand, and contains many fossils and an abundance of flints. It appears from Beer head to Dunscombe hill, east of Sidmouth, where it gradually diminishes in thickness. Seven miles south of the Cobb, beneath the sea, are high chalk rocks, known to sailors by the name of "Tennants," at the depth of fifteen fathoms. At Ware, stone is dug at the junction of the chalk and green sand, which cannot be distinguished from the stone of Beer-quarries, that have been worked for centuries, and occupy the same geological position. The arches of our church are probably of Ware-stone. The *green sand* appears on Down cliff, west of Bridport harbour, on the top of the hill, resting upon beds of inferior oolite; westward it forms the cap of every hill as far as Black Ven, where it rests on the blue lias, and contains regular, compact, and unbroken beds of chert. On Shorne cliff and Golden Cap, the chert occurs in the form of loose angular shattered fragments; but between Lyme and Sidmouth it frequently constitutes regular beds in the green sand. Between Axmouth and Sidmouth the green sand occupies an intermediate position between the chalk and red marl, and disappears from the coast at High peak, west of Sidmouth. The summits of the hills contain angular flints, and chert gravel, the remains of former superincumbent chalk and green sand. The green sand

contains numerous and various fossils; and in compact nodules of it, called cow-stones by the masons of the country, there are found occasional remains of the crustacea, the most characteristic of which is the *astacus longimanus*.

The *inferior oolite* appears in the vicinity of Bridport, extends to the eastern side of Shorn cliff, and occupies the central part of Golden Cap, being in an intermediate position between the green sand and lias of that cliff.

Lias. — Rising from under beds of inferior oolite at the base of Down cliff, west of Bridport harbour, first appears the blue lias, which is last seen in some very low cliffs to the westward of Culverhole point, a little east of Axmouth. Its general dip in the vicinity of Lyme is gently towards the south-west; several small faults occur in it to the E. and W. of the town, and are probably of the same geological age as those which traverse all the rocks, up to the chalk exclusive, of this part of the country. At the eastern base of Pinhay cliffs a small portion of white lias rises from beneath the blue, but is soon thrown down by a fault; not far from the commencement of the red marl west of Culverhole point it reappears, when a few strata of blue lias separate them. The passage of the inferior oolite into lias, is well seen in the parts marked yellow in the map.

The lias is an argillaceous and calcareous deposit, in which sometimes one substance predominates, sometimes the other, whether marls, clays, or limestones.

The lias consists of three portions. The *first* portion, which is the uppermost, principally contains beds of the marl. The *second*, to which the denomination of lias has usually been confined, consists of thin beds of limestone alternately with clay. The

third is chiefly composed of marl beds, immediately incumbent upon the red marl.

The *first* portion occupies a large space of the coast, and at Golden Cap contains beds of belemnites. In the *second* the lias limestones may be said to commence with a series of thin beds varying from earthy to compact, and alternately with thin beds of marl. Mr. de la Beche has (Geol. Trans. vol. i. second series) described the character and thickness of 72 beds of limestone near Lyme, with an equal number of marl beds.

Mr. de la Beche says, in his Geological Manual, p. 310, "Taken as a whole, the lias seems very persistent in its characters throughout a considerable part of France, England, and Germany, pointing to a somewhat common origin. In the lias of Lyme Regis there would appear evidences of slow deposit in some parts, while in others, the animals entombed seem to have been suddenly killed and preserved, so that the animal substances had not time to decay. The ink-bags of fossil sepiæ, noticed by Prof. Buckland, afford perhaps the best evidence we can adduce of this fact; for had the animal substances which contained ink, been exposed but for a short time to decomposition or the attacks of other animals, the ink must have flowed out of the bags.

"Now the actual forms of the fossil ink are precisely those of the ink-bags found in the sepiæ and other animals possessing organs of a similar description at the present day; and therefore they appear to have been preserved entire and suddenly in a soft deposit." The surface on which the oolitic group, in which the lias is classed, was deposited, was probably at very various depths beneath that of the sea; and that, even during the deposit itself, the sea varied in depth over the same point, in consequence of movements of the land.

In August, 1751, after very hot weather, followed by sudden rains, the lias cliffs near Charmouth began to smoke, and soon after to burn with a visible but subtile flame. This continued at intervals, especially after rain, till the winter. The cliffs appeared by day, when viewed at a distance, as if covered with pieces of glass; at night the flames was visible, though only smoke appeared on a near approach. Hutchins mentions the circumstance, and refers to vol. 52 of the Philosophical Trans., in which are some curious remarks on the phenomenon by John Stephens, M. A. Mr. Smith, in his history of Kerry, p. 220, gives an account of a like phenomenon at the mouth of the river Shannon, which had been misrepresented as a volcano. The cliff near Weymouth took fire spontaneously in 1827, and continues burning; portions of the lias cliff near Whitby fall upon the beach, become moistened, and then spontaneously ignite. Bakewell, in his Introduction to Geology, p. 367, says the lias clay here and at Whitby, is much intermixed with bituminous and carbonaceous matter, and the sulphuret of iron, called iron pyrites. Lemery imitated artificially this spontaneous combustion.

There is a submarine forest at the mouth of the Char.

How truly interesting a spot Lyme is to the geologist, cannot perhaps be better shown than by the list of organic remains which are found here by Miss Anning. By this list it appears that the treasures of an antediluvian world are stored in a far greater proportion than in any other part.

ORGANIC REMAINS OF THE LIAS.

REPTILIA.

1. Pterodactylus macronyx, *Buckland.*
   Crocodilus?
1. Plesiosaurus dolichodeirus, *Conybeare.*





2. Plesiosaurus macrocephalus, *Conybeare.*
1. Ichthyosaurus communis, *De la Beche.*
2. ——————— platyodon, *De la Beche.*
3. ——————— tenuirostris, *De la Beche.*
4. ——————— intermedius, *Conybeare.*

PISCES.

1. Dapedium politum, *De la Beche.*

Several undescribed species of fish.

Ichthyodorulites, *Buckland* and *De la Beche*, several kinds.

Fish, teeth, palates, &c.

CRUSTACEA.

Several species not yet described.

MOLLUSCA.

Rhyncolites, or Sepia Beaks.

1. Ammonites heterophyllus, *Sowerby.*
2. ——————— Henleii, *Sowerby.*
3. ——————— communis, *Sowerby.*
4. ——————— fimbriatus, *Sowerby.* &c.

The fossils under the first division, *reptilia*, are principally discovered at Black Ven, between Lyme and Charmouth, and most commonly in the slaty or marly part of the lias.

The *Ichthyosaurus platyodon*, in the possession of Thomas Hawkins, esq. F.G.S., measures twenty-four feet in length; and must have been an immense creature. It is the largest that has been found entire; though fragments of animals equally large have been discovered from time to time by Miss Anning, who found the specimen in question, but turned it over when embedded in the cliff to the present possessor. "The ichthyosaurus platyodon may," says Mr. de la Beche, "have braved the waves of the sea, dashing through them as the porpoise now does; but the plesiosaurus, at least the species with the long neck, would be better suited to have fished in the shallow creeks and bays, defended from heavy breakers. The crocodiles were probably, as their congeners of the present day are,

lovers of rivers and estuaries, and, like them, destructive and voracious. Of the various reptiles of this period, the ichthyosaurus, particularly the *ichthyosaurus platyodon*, seems to have been best suited to rule in the waters, its powerful and capacious jaws being an overmatch for those of the crocodiles and plesiosauri."

The plesiosaurus differs materially from the ichthyosaurus, in being provided with a long neck and small head. Two species are described. It has four paddles, like the ichthyosaurus. The extremities, four in number, are like those of the cetacea, the head that of a lizard, and a neck resembling the body of a serpent. (*Cuvier.*) In man, and other mammalia, there are exactly seven joints, or vertebræ, in the neck; and so strict is the adherence to this rule, that there is precisely the same number in the short, stiff neck of the whale, and the long, flexible neck of the giraffe. Reptiles have from three to eight joints,—birds many more; the swan, which has the most, is enabled to make the graceful curves of its neck by being provided with twenty-three of these separate vertebræ; but the plesiosaurus had no less than forty-one.* The duke of Buckingham purchased a grand specimen here, for 120 guineas.

General characters of the ichthyosaurus.—A marine quadruped, nearly resembling the crocodile in the osteology of its mouth, and its mode of dentition. Vertebræ having both faces of the body deeply concave, as in fishes. Extremities having no distinct radius and ulna, but the humerus immediately supporting a very numerous series of small polygonal bones, forming a very flexible paddle. Anterior extremities much larger than the posterior.

* Penny Magazine.

Osteology of the head. Teeth.—These bear a near resemblance in form to those of the crocodile; and the mode of dentition, by the young tooth growing up in the interior cavity of the old one, and when matured splitting and causing it to fall, is exactly similar.

The teeth are more numerous than in the crocodile: there cannot be less than thirty on a side in either jaw. They are placed in a long sulcus, or furrow, like that in the jaw-bones of some fishes, not in separate alveoli, as in the crocodile.

Lower jaws.—The lower jaw in the ichthyosaurus, in common with the lacerta family, instead of having, like other quadrupeds, a single bone on either side, exhibits no less than six. The general form of the jaw differs from that of the crocodile in being much more lengthened, and acutely angular. Its termination is indeed almost as sharp as the beak of a bird. The bones of the upper part of the head have the same marked coincidence with those of the crocodile.

The *eye* of this animal, which is extremely large, is placed rather lower than in the crocodile, the bottom of the orbit being nearly in a line with the opening of the jaws. It has its sclerotica, composed of a substance subdivided into thirteen plates.

Vertebræ.—These resemble the vertebræ of fishes, having like them, in consequence of the double concave form of their bodies, the intervertebral joint deeply cupped. The total number occurring in place, in one specimen, amounted to 144, not including the atlas and axis.

Sternum.—The whole form and apparent position of this is very analogous to the bone commonly called the merry-thought in birds. Its whole structure is such as to impart great strength to the chest, enabling the animal to breast the most disturbed

waters, and affording an extensive surface for the attachment of powerful muscles.

The *paddle* is formed so as to possess a great propelling power.*

The ichthyosaurus (says Cuvier) has the snout of a dolphin, the teeth of a crocodile, the head and sternum of a lizard, the extremities of cetacea (being however four in number), and the vertebræ of fish.

These two genera have disappeared from the surface of our planet; and, as the student may have collected from the various lists of organic remains in the Manual of Geology, even previous to the deposit of the supercretaceous rocks,—at least as far as regards Europe.

Coprolites.—Numerous small bodies had been long known to fossilists here, which were called bezoar-stones, from their external resemblance to the concretions in the gall-bladder of the bezoar-goat, once so celebrated in medicine. These long, rounded, stony bodies, like oblong pebbles or kidney potatoes, were imagined to be recent concretions of clay, as they occur as loose pebbles upon the shore and in the lias shale, near the remains of the saurians. Dr. Buckland found these bezoars to be the fæces of the saurian reptiles, in a fossil state. The Professor followed up the discovery, always assisted by the handmaid of geological science, Miss Mary Anning, and named these stones *coprolites*. They are found within the ribs, or near the pelvis, of almost every perfect skeleton of ichthyosaurus discovered by our townswoman. Some of the coprolites contain vertebræ, teeth, scales of the *dapedium politum*, and rings derived from the loligo, or other cephalopodes. After describing the existence of coprolites in many formations, lias, oolite,

* Rev. W. Conybeare, and H. de la Beche, esq., &c., 371.

&c., the Professor states that "in all they form records of warfare waged by successive generations of inhabitants of our planet on one another; and the general law of nature which bids all to eat and be eaten in their turn, is shown to have been co-extensive with animal existence upon our globe; the carnivorous animals, in each period of the world's history, fulfilling their destined office,—to check excess in the progress of life, and maintain the balance of creation." (See Dr. Buckland's paper in the Geological Transactions, 2nd series, vol. iii.)

PTERODACTYLE.—Miss Anning discovered, in 1828, the first skeleton of an unknown species of that most rare and curious of all reptiles, the pterodactyle; "an extinct genus," says Professor Buckland,* "which has yet been recognized only in the upper Jura lime-stone of Aichstadt and Solenhofen, in the lithographic stone, which is nearly coeval with the upper part of the oolitic group of England."

Cuvier has minutely detailed two perfect specimens that have been found, and pronounced them to be incontestably the most extraordinary of all the extinct animals which have come under his consideration, and such as, if we saw them restored to life, would appear most strange, and most dissimilar to any thing that now exists; "ceux qui, si on les voyait vivans, paraîtraient les plus étrangers à toute la nature actuelle." In size and general form, and in the disposition and character of its wings, this fossil genus, according to Cuvier, somewhat resembled our modern bats and vampyres, but had its beak elongated like the bill of a woodcock, and armed with teeth like the snout of a crocodile; its vertebræ, ribs, pelvis, legs, and feet, resembled those of a lizard; its three anterior fingers termi-

* Geological Transactions, vol. iii. 2nd series.

nated in long hooked claws, like that on the forefinger of the bat; and over its body was a covering,—neither composed of feathers as in the bird, nor of hair as in the bat, but of scaly armour like that of an iguana;—in short, a monster resembling nothing that has ever been seen or heard of upon earth, excepting the dragons of romance and heraldry. Moreover, it was probably insectivorous, and in this respect resembled the bat; but differed from it, in having the most important bones in its body constructed after the manner of reptiles.

The Professor named the species found here *macronyx*, or long-clawed; it had a powerful paw, wherewith the animal was enabled to creep, or climb, or suspend itself from trees. Mr. de la Beche, in his Geological Manual, p. 365, enumerates eight species, and at page 372, gives a drawing of an insect found in the quarries of Solenhofen, where pterodactyles are discovered. The individual described by Professor Buckland, from whose paper this account is mainly extracted, must have been about the size of a raven.

Belemnites.—These fossils appear to have been among the earliest noticed, and have given rise to extraordinary fictions, which procured them singular names, such as lapides lyncis.—See Ovid's Metam. The northern nations called them *devil's fingers*, and here they were believed to be petrified fingers, and so called *ladies' fingers*. In late times they were supposed to be produced by electricity, and were called by the appellation of lapis fulminans, or thunderbolt.*

Belemnites, from *βελεμνον, a dart*, are supposed to have been the shell of some sepia-like animal, the buoyancy of which was provided for by the cham-

* See Geol. Trans. 1823, for a paper by T. S. Miller, communicated by the Rev. W. D. Conybeare.

bered shell; the position of the latter, however, with respect to the living creature, is not known. In its powers of rising to the surface of the water, or sinking to any depth, the belemnite is analogous to the nautilus.

The destruction of the belemnites, says Mr. de la Beche, was exceedingly great here. When the upper part of the lias was deposited, multitudes seem to have perished simultaneously, as is attested by a bed composed of little else, beneath Golden Cap. Not only are millions entombed in this bed, but in the upper part of the lias generally. The production of such a bed would seem by no means difficult; for we have only to consider the occurrence of some circumstance destructive to molluscous creatures in the fluid containing, or otherwise carrying, the belemnites,—such as might happen to those swarms of moluscæ which sometimes surround the navigator in warm latitudes,—and the floating animal mass, if not immediately, would eventually descend to the bottom; at least all those that escaped the predaceous animals, which indeed might be driven away by the circumstance, whatever it was, that destroyed the belemnitic creatures. Suppose a multitude of the common cuttle-fish to be suddenly killed by their entrance into water charged with carbonic acid.*

Ichthyodorulites. There occur also in the lias at this place singular bodies, which appear to have been the external defensive radii of some fish, and to have been used in the same manner with similar bones of the Balistes tribe. They are longitudinally grooved from the apex nearly to the other extremity, which appears to have been the part that protruded out of the body of the fish, and the part imbedded in the body is hollow. Some specimens are armed with

* Geol. Manual, 374.

teeth, like bony processes, in two rows, placed so as to give a zigzag appearance; in others, several of these bones are placed side by side, from which it might be inferred the fish had several of them. There is a variety of this bone, which differs from the former in being much narrower, and covered with tubercles instead of longitudinal grooves.

Dapedium.—The lias of Lyme contains a fish remarkable for having rectangular scales, seldom more than a quarter of an inch thick, most commonly not one-eighth. It is a beautiful fossil, from the jet black lustre of its scales. Where the fish is fractured, the vertebræ and ribs may be discovered on the inside. The pectoral fins are in general finely preserved. Dr. Leach has given it the name of *Dapedium politum (δαπεδον, pavimentum).* From one of the short sides of these rectangular scales there is a triangular projection, which fits into a corresponding depression in the adjoining scale. On the outside of the fish the projection is not visible, the interior part only of the scales being thus provided. These fossils are by no means common, and vary from seven to eighteen and twenty inches in length.

There is another fossil-fish, longer considerably in comparison with its breadth than the preceding; the scales are not rectangular, except towards the head. These fish are found much compressed, seldom exceeding the thickness of drawing-paper, and are generally of uniform size, never much more than seven or eight inches in length. There are at least five other species of fossil-fish.

"The *Vegetables* of the lias occur in two different states: the one showing that they have been scarcely injured before they were imbedded; the other seeming to point to the fracture of wood into junks, the small branches truncated, as if they had been broken

either during or previous to their drift. These latter most frequently occur in argillo-calcareous nodules, often of large size; but the nodules are not concentric concretions; on the contrary, both these nodules, and those that frequently envelope the Ammonites and Nautili in the argillaceous beds, are fissile, the line of the laminæ being parallel to that of the general stratification; so that though the nodules, particularly those containing Ammonites and Nautili, are spheroidal, their fracture is lamellar; and a successful blow in the line of the laminæ, through the centre, discloses a fossil, which is sometimes a fish."—*Manual of Geology*, p. 374. The wood does not burn, and is traversed by veins of sulphate of barytes, or carbonate of lime.

Fine specimens of pentacrinite occur in seams parallel to the strata of the lias at Golden Cap hill. Of the genus Pentacrinites, or Pentacrinus, as described by T. S. Miller in his "Crinoidea, or Lily-shaped Animals," the following species are found at Lyme:—

Species 2. Pentacrinites Briareus.—Briarean five-angled lily-shaped animal, found in the lias.

——— 3. ——— Subangularis.—Subrotund five-angled lily-shaped animal, found also in Wirtemburg.

——— 4. ——— Basaltiformis.—Basaltiform five-angled lily-shaped animal. Columns of four and five feet long occur in this species. Met with both in the lias and chalk.

Terebratulæ occur in abundance. The Gryphea incurva is not very common. Small casts of turbines are found composed of iron pyrites,* which enters largely into the composition of many fossils of the lias, particularly the Ammonites.

* Mr. Hill, of London, held the beach for several miles, in a lease from the several lords of the manor, for the purpose of procuring the iron pyrites, which he used in the manufacture of oil of vitriol.

Some immense molar teeth of the elephant and rhinoceros have been found at the Church cliffs, and at Charmouth. Small substances, from their exact resemblance to leeches generally called by that name, which are, however, parts of the *palate* of some creature, are found both in the lias and chalk.—Lumps or nodules of pyrites, very much resembling mushrooms, are met with in great quantities.

A very beautiful pyritical substance is found, in figure much like a flower, with its petals fully expanded, and diverging from a raised centre, which may be imagined its receptaculum, or germen. It has been fancifully named, by Thomas Aveline, Esq., "Cupid's wing." It is generally considered to be a crystallization.

To gaze on fossil remains without indulging in any consideration of the state of the world at the earliest periods, when these animals had life, and without being carried back to the infancy of creation, would be very unprofitable.

The fossil remains are wrecks of a former state of nature, thus wonderfully preserved, (like ancient medals and inscriptions in the ruins of an empire,) and afford a sort of rude chronology, by whose aid the successive depositions of the strata in which they are found may be marked out in epochs more or less definitively terminated, and each characterized by some peculiarity, which enables us to recognize the deposits of any period, in whatever part of the world they may be found.* During the formation of the lias here, there was a great change in animal life. The animals and shells in the upper part of our cliff, differ in the mass from those in the lower portion.† While contemplating the several specimens, we must remember that the animals of the

*J. F. W. Herschel, Esq., A. M. †De la Beche's Manual.

antediluvian world were not monsters; there was no lusus or extravagance. Hideous as they appear to us, and like the phantoms of a dream, they were adapted to the condition of the earth when they existed. They are found among reeds and grasses of gigantic proportions, algæ and fuci, and a great variety of mollusca of inordinate bulk compared with those of the present day, as ammonites and nautili. Every thing declares that these animals inhabited shallow seas and estuaries, or great inland lakes, when our climate was tropical; that the surface of the earth did not rise up in peaks and mountains, or that perpendicular rocks bound in the seas; but that it was fat, slimy, and covered with a loaded and foggy atmosphere.*

Time elapsed in the preparation of the minerals, the precious metals, the coal, and other subterraneous treasures,—all of them useful, some absolutely necessary, to the purposes of man. The earth appears, after its first dispositions were accomplished, to have been completely remoulded, before it was deemed fit to be his residence. The shallow seas, the slimy abodes of the ichthyosaurus, the rank grasses, the dense and unwholesome vapours, had disappeared. The mountains had raised their heads, and assisted to purify the atmosphere; the sea had been assigned its limits; the climates had been determined; and the woods, and valleys, and green fields, with their garniture of bright streams, and birds, and flowers of a thousand hues, contributed all their charms to form that paradise which received the first born of our kind. These inferences, justified as they are by the organic remains, exactly coincide with the narrative of Genesis. The waters were first commanded to bring forth "the moving

* Sir Charles Bell, K. C. H. Bridgewater Treatise.

creature that hath life." Birds were next created, then the land animals, and finally man, who, it is agreed by all geologists, is, as compared with all other races of animated nature, but a recent sojourner on earth.*

A LIST OF THE MORE RARE BIRDS IN THE VICINITY.

The scientific names are those of Latham's Index Ornith.; the English, those of Pennant's British Zoology, edit. 1812. The arrangement is also that of the latter work.

LAND BIRDS.—Sec. 1. RAPACIOUS.

Falco Cyaneus.	Hen-harrier and Ring-tail.
Lanius Collurio.	Red-backed Shrike.

Sec. 2. PIES.

Yunx Torquilla.	Wryneck.
Picus Major.	Great Spotted Woodpecker.
Upupa Epops.	Hoopoe.

Sec. 3. GALLINACEOUS.

Otis Œdicnemus.	Thick-kneed Bustard.

Sec. 4. PASSERINE.

Ampelis Garrulus.	Waxen Chatterer.
Loxia Curvirostra.	Cross Bill.
————	Mountain Finch.
Muscicapa Grisola.	Spotted Fly-Catcher.
Silvia Salicaria.	Sedge-Warbler.

WATER BIRDS.—Sec. 1. CLOVEN-FOOTED.

Charadius Hiaticula.	Ringed Plover.
———— Calidris.	Sanderling.
Hœmatopus Ostralegus.	Oyster Catcher.

Sec. 2. FIN-FOOTED.

Podiceps Cristatus.	Tippet Grebe.

Sec. 3.—WEB-FOOTED.

Alca Arctica.	Puffin Awk.

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* Quarterly Review, XCIX.

Alca Torda.	Razor Bill.
Uria Troile.	Foolish Guillemot.
Colymbus Stellatus.	Speckled Diver.
Sterna Hirundo.	Common Tern.
Anas Fusca.	Velvet Duck.
Pelecanus Carbo.	Cormorant.

A CATALOGUE OF THE MORE RARE PLANTS.

Monandria.

Hippuris Vulgaris.	Common Mare's Tail.

Diandria.

Veronica Officinalis.	Common Speedwell.
Orchis Bifolia.	Butterfly Orchis.
——— Pyramidalis.	Pyramidal Orchis.
——— Conopsea.	Red-handed Orchis.
——— Apifera.	Bee Orchis.
Serapias Palustris.	Marsh Helleborine.
——— Grandiflora.	White Ditto.
Circœa Lutetiana.	Enchanter's Nightshade.

Triandria.

Iris Fœtidissima.	Stinking Flag.
Shœnus Nigricans.	

Tetrandria.

Sherardia Arvensis.	Little Field Madder.
Asperula Odorata.	Sweet Woodroop.
Rubia Tinctorum.	Wild Madder.
Plantago Coronopus.	Buckthorn Plantain.
Galium Cruciatum.	Cross Wort.

Pentandria.

Lithospermum Officinale.	Common Gromwell.
Lysimachia Nemorum.	Wood Loosetrife.
Atropa Belladonna.	Deadly Nightshade.
Crithmum Maritimum.	Sea Samphire.
Viburnum Lantana.	Way-faring Tree.
Sambucus Ebulus.	Dwarf Elder.
Jasione Montana.	Hairy Sheep's Scabious.
Rhamnus Catharticus.	Buckthorn.

Hexandria.

Narcissus Pseudo Narcissus.	Common Daffodil.
Narthesium Ossifragum.	Lancashire Asphodel.

Octandria.

Chlora Perfoliata.	Yellow Centaury.
Erica Tetralix.	Cross-leaved Heath.
Daphne Mezereum.	Mezereon.
Polygonum Bistorta.	Great Snakeweed.
Adoxa Moschatellina.	Tuberous Moschatel.

Decandria.

Chrysosplenium Oppositifolium.	Golden Saxifrage.
Saponaria Officinalis.	Soapwort.
Silene Maritima.	Sea-Catch Fly.
Cotylidon Umbilicus.	Navelwort.
Stellaria Uliginosa.	Fountain Chickweed.

Dodecandria.

Reseda Lutea.	Rocket.
Euphorbia Exigua.	Dwarf Spurge.

Icosandria.

Rosa Spinosissima.	Burnet Rose.

Polyandria.

Clematis Vitalba.	Virgin's Bower.

Didynamia.

Teucrium Scorodonia.	Wood Sage.
Nepeta Cataria.	Cat Mint.
Galeopsis Ladanum.	Red Hemp Nettle.
Galeobdolon Luteum.	Yellow Archangel.
Melampyrum Arvense.	Purple Cow Wheat.

Tetradynamia.

Bunias Cakile.	Sea Rocket.
Crambe Maritima.	Sea Kale.

Monadelphia.

Malva Moschata.	Musk Mallow.

Diadelphia.

Spartium Scoparium.	Common Broom.
Anthyllis Vulneraria.	Kidney Vetch.
Lathyrus Nissolia.	Crimson Grass Vetch.
Hedysarum Onobrychis.	Saintfoin.

Polyadelphia.

Hypericum Androsæmum.	Tutsan.
——— Elodes.	Marsh St. John's Wort.
——— Pulchrum.	Small upright ditto.

SYNGENESIA.

Picris Echioides.	Bristly Ox-Tongue.
Hieracium Umbellatum.	Bushy Hawkweed.
Carduus Tenuiflorus.	Slender-flowered Thistle.
——— Acaulis.	Dwarf Thistle.
Onopordon Acanthium.	Cotton Thistle.
Tanacetum Vulgare.	Tansy.
Conyza Squarrosa.	Great Flea Bane.
Solidago Virgaurea.	Common Golden Rod.

CRYPTOGAMIA.

Equisetum Sylvaticum.	Wood Horse Tail.

Foxes are numerous in the cliffs: in the winter they descend to the shore in quest of dead gulls. Whortleberries (vaccinia) were so plentiful in Fuller's time, about Axminster, that children earned eightpence a day for a month together in gathering them.

GENTLEMEN'S SEATS AND HOUSES AT A SHORT DISTANCE FROM LYME.

High-Cliff House, on the brow of the hill, on the Sidmouth road; the property of J. Stein, esq.

Nouvelle Villa, occupied by T. L. Follet, esq.; the property of Robt. Wrey, esq.

Pinney House, the property of O. Edye, esq.

Rhode Hill, the seat of admiral sir John Talbot, bart., K. C. B.

Summer Hill, the property of Mr. Poole.

Langmore House, the property of Mrs. Liddon.

Fairfield, the property of R. Symons, esq.

At the distance of a pleasant drive are—

Wooton House, the charming residence of Mrs. Drewe.

Sadborrow House, the seat of John Bragge, esq.

Shute House, the superb residence of sir William Templar de la Pole, bart.

Coryton House, the seat of W. Tucker, esq.

Stedcombe House, the seat of John Hallet, esq.

Ford Abbey, ten miles from Lyme, is spoken of by Dr. Maton as being "one of the most perfect monastic structures that time, depredation, and fanaticism, have left in the kingdom." It was founded in 1141, by Adelicia, sister of Fitzbaldwin de Brioniis, one of William the conqueror's followers, for Cistercians. The refectory is in fine preservation: and in compartments round the saloon are five pieces of tapestry, of unusual beauty,—the subjects from Raphael's cartoons. The monks' walk, and one chair, are remains of the seclusion and severity of that institution. There are many paintings that attract attention.

Ford abbey is now the residence of John Francis Gwyn, esq., who undoubtedly possesses one of the most interesting places of residence in the kingdom. Ford abbey richly repays the trouble of a visit. Pic-nic parties go there from Lyme in the summer, take their dinner with them and put up at a little inn kept by a very old pair, who are both originals. Visitors will perceive an alteration in the words of the sign: they stood thus—

Here's the
old
Knap Inn,
Please to walk in
And you'll find
A good thing.

The last line is now a "A good *King*," the name of the aged landlord; who begged permission of a county gentleman to alter his composition, as thieves had entered by night and helped themselves to many good things. He was allowed to make the change described.

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