

CHAPTER VIII.

Continued



HERE stood until the close of the last century, at the south-east corner of *Middlegate Street* and fronting *Friars' Lane*, an ancient house in which the youth of Dr. FRANK SAYERS was passed. "It was, he says, "a stately old-fashioned mansion, surrounding three sides of a gloomy court; the hall was paved with chequered marble; the large parlour was wainscotted with cedar, and a spacious staircase of shallow steps led up to the drawing room, which was a long narrow gallery lighted by seven windows. A Flemish folding screen, covered with gilt leather, inclosed a private nook round the chimney, in which the family sat when by themselves.

This house was the residence of John Morris, who "departed this life," says Ives, sen., in his journal, "on the 8th of March, 1729, to the great grief of all who knew him. Three days after, he was buried at midnight as the custom then was. "My father," continued Ives, "was a bearer, and had a ring, hatband, and gloves." He was succeeded by John Morris, his son; and Syllas Neville in his *Diary* records having supped with him, and been "very agreeably entertained." He died in 1778, aged 72; and John, his only son, having died in 1759, aged 24, the family became extinct in the male line.* Morris left four daughters.

*They claimed to have descended from the family of Morris of Chepstowe in Monmouthshire, and bore their arms—sa., a cross saltire or., with an escutcheon of pretence arg., a cross gu. Sarah, daughter of John Morris, sen., married John Dowson, and died in 1729, aged 64; and Martha, another daughter, married Simon Bendy and died in 1759 aged 23.

Sarah, the eldest, married John Meek; Mary, the second, married James Alric (of whom hereafter); Rachel, the third, married Erasmus Jary, and afterwards John Hunter of Lisbon; and Anne, the youngest, married Francis Sayers, whose handsome person was it is said, more agreeable to the daughter than his slender patrimony was to the father. Sayers is described as a man of gaiety, wit, and talent, singing a good song, and fond of prolonging to a late hour the pleasures of the table; characteristics which were not unknown to other and later members of his family. Shortly before the marriage he established himself in London as an insurance broker; superintending the shipping concerns of his Yarmouth connections. Soon after the birth of his son, baptised "Frank", in 1763, the father died; and the widowed mother with her child returned to Yarmouth, and went to reside with her father at the old-fashioned house in Friars' Lane.

"This building," says the biographer of *Sayers*, "so like the palaces of chivalrous romance, was probably not without its effect in impressing the young poet's imagination with a taste for the lofty, the beautiful, and the antique. Comic poets and artists have usually "been, low born, and accustomed to the world in its undress; but those who have excelled in sublime composition, have mostly originated amid the statelier monuments of art and nature." In a snug corner within the Flemish screen little Frank received his first lessons in reading and writing. When, old enough he was put to school under the Rev. John Whitesides, a man of learning, but, as we have seen (vol. ii., p. 132), sadly given to hypochondriasis, which may have had a baneful influence on this child's mind. In 1778 young Sayers was removed to the Grammar School at North Walsham, where among his fellow pupils was Horatio Nelson, destined within a few years to make the world resound with his exploits. Sayers however remained there but a short time, for the Rev. Rochemont Barbauld,*¹ a unitarian preacher,

* He was descended from a family of French protestants. During the persecutions under Louis XIV, his grandfather, then a boy, was carried on board a ship concealed in a cask, and conveyed to England where he settled, and had a son, a clergyman of the Church of England, who on the marriage of one of the daughters of George II. to the Elector of Hesse, attended her to Cassel as private chaplain; and in that capital young Rochemont was born and passed his childhood. Having been

¹Palmer's addenda: Rochemont Barbauld – see an account of his melancholy end in the Memoirs of Mrs Barbauld, published in 1874 by her great neice, Anna Letitia Le Breton. Mrs Breton thus describes Mrs Beecroft of Norwich (mentioned in vol i, p.263) "very good also has my dear and amiable Mrs. Beecroft been to me, whose lively sweetness and agreeable conversation has at times won me to forget that my heart is heavy"



Opie, pin.

C. W. W. litho.

Frank Sayers, M.D.

having opened a school of great reputation at Palgrave in Suffolk, in the house which, had been inhabited by "Honest Tom Martin," so often referred to in these pages, the lad was removed there. Among his school fellows at Palgrave was William Taylor of Norwich; and the latter was frequently invited to pass his holidays at the quaint old house in Friars' Lane. Between these two boys a friendship sprung up which was only terminated by death. Mrs. Barbauld, herself a distinguished authoress, took infinite pains to instruct the pupils in their own language, by reading to them a fable or short story, and then sending them into the schoolroom to write it out from memory in their own words. Each exercise was afterwards looked over by her, the faults of grammar corrected, the vulgarisms chastened, the idle words spelled, and a distinct reason assigned for every alteration; so that the arts of indicting and criticising were in some degree learnt together, to the no small advantage of her scholars.* In 1778 Frank Sayers was removed from school and placed in the counting house of Mr. William Manning; and in the same year his grandfather died leaving him an estate at Pakefield. Sayers erected a mural monument to the memory of Mr. Morris and Ann his wife (who had died in 1774, aged (68), which still remains in the north aisle of St. Nicholas' Church; and upon a sculptured scroll beneath are some musical notes, with the words—

Hark from the tombs a doleful sound! "
My ears attend the cry;
Ye living men come view the ground, "
Where you must shortly lie;"

sent to Warrington to complete his education, he there in 1776 married Anna Letitia, the highly-talented daughter of Dr. Aikin and sister of Dr. Aikin of Yarmouth already mentioned (vol. ii., p. 141). Her mother was Jane, daughter of the Rev. John Jennings of Kibworth, descended on her mother's side from the ancient family of Wingate of Hurlington in Bedfordshire. Barbauld on his marriage relinquished his previous intention of taking orders in the church; and embracing the tenets of his father-in-law became a Unitarian preacher and opened the above-mentioned school with great success, having among his pupils the first Lord Denman, Sir William Gell, the Earl of Selkirk, and others, many of whom afterwards distinguished themselves. In 1785 the school was relinquished; and husband and wife devoted themselves principally to literature. He died in 1808, and his widow in 1825, aged 81 years.

* It was also customary for the boys to perform, a play shortly before the vacation. On these occasions young Sayers excelled all his companions. He had an unflinching memory, recited with much feeling and pathos, and was throughout life a fine reader.

and, beneath was the signature, "F. Sayers," which he some years afterwards ordered to be erased, but it is still there.

Literary and philosophic pursuits had already such, an influence over young Sayers that the occupations of the counting house became distasteful; and soon after his grand father's death he placed himself with Mr. Rix, a skilful agriculturist at Blundeston in Suffolk, with the view, of acquiring such knowledge as would enable him to farm his own estate; and the Yarmouth, house was then sold. In 1783 all thoughts of farming were abandoned, and Sayers took a house at Thorpe, in which picturesque village his mother was then residing to be near her sister Mary married to Mr. Alric, a native of Geneva, who having acquired a fortune while a partner in the house of Messrs. Harveys, master manufacturers, had then retired from business.* Mr. Alric had in 1780 exerted himself to secure the return of Mr. John Thurlow^f as Member for Norwich, and when his brother, the Rev. Dr. Thurlow, was elevated to the See of Lincoln, Mr. Alric had the offer of the bishop's patronage if his nephew would enter the church; but bred up as he had been among diss enters) and an attendant at the Octagon Unitarian Chapel at Norwich, young Sayers declined the offer. In 1783 he went to Edinburgh, where he studied medicine in company with Dr. Lubbock (afterwards a physician of some celebrity at Norwich), and in the following year we find him in London attending the lectures of that eminent surgeon, John Hunter¹. There he enjoyed the friendship of his cousin, James Sayers (see vol i., p. 369, and vol. ii, p. 84), who was then a man well known in society and in the zenith of his celebrity.

* On the death of Mrs. Alric, Dr. Sayers received a considerable addition to his fortune. Mrs. Hunter, his aunt, also resided at Norwich, where she died in 1812. She was the authoress of several novels and tales. To her he addressed some of his fugitive and sportive pieces, one of which on the loss of a pair of slippers ends with:

----- so vain,
 " To hope to see your goods again.
 Whether in man's or woman's power
 " Be sure to thee they come no more;
 For who's so proud as not to choose,
 " To tread in Mrs. Hunter's shoes."

^f John Thurlow, second brother of the Lord Chancellor, was an Alderman of Norwich, and married Josepha, daughter of John Morse, Esq., of Norwich, and died in 1782 leaving an only son, the Rev. Edward South Thurlow. See vol, i., p. 285.

¹For once, we can really agree that John Hunter was indeed a truly eminent surgeon!

After a second residence in Edinburgh young Sayers went abroad, and obtained a diploma from the not very famous or scrupulous University of Harderwijk and after a continental tour and a residence for some months in France, during which Dr. Sayers acquired a ready and exact use of the French language, he returned to Norwich; and having abandoned all intention of following the medical profession, gave himself up to literature for the remainder of his life. His *Dramatic Sketches of Northern Mythology* at once established his fame as a poet. The *Ode to Aurora*, which speedily followed was also greatly admired. After the death of his mother, Dr. Sayers removed to an old-fashioned house in the Lower Close, Norwich, where he passed the remainder of his days. From the time of his mother's death he ceased to discuss, as he had previously done, the fundamental doctrines of faith, and betook himself to the study of the English divines, in whose works he found arguments which convinced his judgment and satisfied, his heart; and renouncing the philosophy of his youth, he became a churchman and was a constant attendant at cathedral worship.* In 1793 he published his *Disquisitions Metaphysical and Literary*, which greatly increased his reputation both at home and abroad. Under the title of *Nugæ Poeticæ* he published several of his minor poems. His prose works, which had appeared separately, were in 1808 published in a collected form, enriched by many learned notes. Archaeological pursuits also occupied, his time. He was in frequent, communication with the Society of Antiquaries, and in 1803 his *Miscellanies Antiquarian and Historical* made their appearance, and displayed considerable research and knowledge. He was most intimate with Thomas Amyot, the treasurer of the above society, who had resided in Norwich, and with whom Dr. Sayers kept up a correspondence.^f Amyot, who was well able to judge, considered his letters

* There is, as Mr. Taylor aptly expresses it, in chanted prayer a something which by concealing the articulate phraseology, sheathes from notice any controversial sentiments, and lends to the soul an harmonious expression for its own interior worship. It was with satisfaction that Dr. Sayers found himself reconciled to a church into which he had been baptized, and which had been that of his paternal ancestors.

^f When a young man Amyot practised as a solicitor at Norwich, and attracted the attention of Mr. Windham by the zeal and ability which he displayed at a con-

models of excellence. " They have more ease," says he, "than Gibbon's, more variety than Cowper's, they have the gaiety of Horace Walpole without his arrogance; and the learning, taste, and spirit of Gay without his fastidiousness," His conversational powers were very great; and there was no table in or near Norwich whose host was not proud to seat him among his guests; but Dr. Sayers always preferred a small and select party, often repeating the opinion of Atheæus that the number should vibrate between the graces and the muses.* Translations of his works having appeared abroad, his fame became known, on the Continent, and especially in Germany; and no literary stranger ever appeared in Norwich without coveting an introduction to Dr. Sayers. Walter Scott esteemed him as one who "united the patience of the antiquary with the genius of the poet;" and Bowles declared that his *Descent of Frea* was far above anything in Gray.^f Handsome in person, with a melodious voice, and having the bearing and manners of a well-bred gentleman, Dr. Sayers was formed to shine in society; but he was not destined to be long lived. He had scarcely completed his 50th year before his health began to decline. He continued his literary occupations, but was much afflicted with hypochondriasis¹, from which he was only relieved by his death, which took, place on the 16th of August, 1817, aged 55. He was buried in the south aisle of Norwich Cathedral, where there is a long Latin inscription to his memory composed by the Rev. Francis Howes. His books were bequeathed to the Dean and Chapter of Norwich, and now form the greater portion of

tested election for that city. Windham rewarded him, with a place which required his residence in London, where he lived highly esteemed especially by antiquaries. He wrote and published a *Life of Windham*.

* He wrote to a friend—*

*" Dinners of form I vote a bore,
 " Where folks, who never met before,
 " And care not if they ne'er meet more, "
 Are brought together.
 Packed close as herrings in their places,
 " They eat with Chesterfieldian graces,
 " Drink wine—and talk with sapient faces "
 About the weather."*

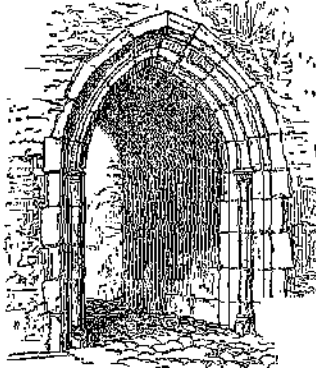
^f *Freia*, the goddess of beauty, in the mythology of the Scandinavians, descended to the dwelling of *Hela*, the goddess of the shades below, in search of her lover.

¹Since the poor man died of his evident illness, it seems more than a little unfair to label him a hypochondriac. I have though come across many who cried "Wolf" too often, and when the great event came, were then entirely ignored. Equally, even those in evident pain and distress, especially in those days of quackery in medicine, may not have benefited at all from constant moaning, and most medical attention in those days did more harm than good.

that collection. His papers he left to Mr. William Taylor, his literary executor, by whom the collective works of Dr. Sayers, prefixed by some biographical particulars, were published in 1823.*

Soon after the sale of the house in Friars' Lane by Dr. Sayers it was pulled down; and no vestige remains, unless it be an early

English archway which still stands, leading from Middlegate Street to a back court, of which a sketch is here given. A portion of the site upon which the old house stood has been added to *Friars' Lane*.



NATHANIEL ASHBY *f* rebuilt his house in Friars' Lane in 1651, and was allowed to enclose void ground east and west of the same, and to erect a porch; probably in anticipation of municipal honors, *J* for in 1653 he was elected bailiff, and during his year of office an event occurred of singular significance.

Cromwell, in pursuance of the 7th

Article of the *Protectorate Constitution*, called a Parliament. The bailiffs, Nathaniel Ashby and Isaac Preston, received the precept from the high sheriff with a command to proclaim the election on the next

* There is a portrait of *Dr. Sayers* by Opie now in the possession of H. Amyot, Esq., of Newcastle, which has been engraved; and from which the annexed portrait is *taken*. *Dr. Sayers bore* the arms mentioned Vol. ii., p. 87, quartered with those of Morris (*ante* p. 1).

f The name is derived from the Parish of Ashby in Suffolk. A family so *called* flourished at Lowestoft in the 17th century, of whom was Admiral Sir John Ashby already mentioned (*vol. i.*, p. 270). After proving his bravery and skillfulness in naval affairs, he was made "Commander-in-chief of the Royal Navy" and General of *Marines*. He died in 1603, and was buried in Lowestoft Church. The Ashbys bore a chev. betw. three eagles displayed; and for a crest, on a wreath an eagle displayed.

j Ashby had been an alderman previous to the breaking out of the civil war; but when the news arrived of the execution of Charles I. he resigned his gown. He was, however, with others reinstated by a special order of the "Committee of Parliament for Indemnity."

market day. This was resented as an infraction of the ancient custom under "which the writs was sent direct from, the crown, office to the bailiffs; and moreover it had been the practice, as we have seen, of electing members by the votes of the corporation alone, and that body resolved not to proclaim the election, but to proceed to a choice by themselves. They were not however unanimous; for there was a party, small in number but strong in resolution, who taking advantage of the re-action which had already begun, advocated the rights of the freemen at large to vote; and Benjamin Sayers, one of the corporation, "in contempt of the assembly and contrary to their will, in a violent manner pulled open the hall door and let in divers persons" for which he was dismissed, and Francis Spendlove elected in his place.* The assembly

* A family of this name had long resided in Yarmouth; and in the 17th century it was to be found in different parts of Norfolk. They bore *arg.*, a cross potent betw. four cornish cloughs *sa.* John Spendlove, Rector of Stratton Strawless, was ejected by the sequestrators in the time of the commonwealth, and was allowed only 2s. 6d. per week for his maintenance, for which pittance he had to wait upon one Samuel Cowthorn, a cutler, "a vile wretch, though much in the confidence of the then prevailing party," and often had "to bear with his insolence." Soon after the restoration, Spendlove was arrested for debts contracted during the sequestration and thrown into prison, where he languished 'till 1666 when he died. He was a Prebendary of Norwich Cathedral; and his wife dying in 1656 during the sequestration he wrote this epitaph over her grave:—

Dean Suckling's daughter, *for afar better*
Prebend Spendlove's wife, *Chang'd this mortal life."*

Christopher Spendlove was appointed lecturer in succession to Brinsley, and died in 1665, aged 69. Christopher Spendlove, his son, was Minister of the Parish from 1665 to 1679. Christopher Spendlove, "apothecary," youngest son of the minister, died in 1711, aged 37. Ann his widow married, first, William Manthorpe, and afterwards John Grant, who died in 1756, aged 84. She died in 1730, aged 53. Spendlove was succeeded in the incumbency by the Rev. Luke Milbourne of Scole, who was appointed by the corporation after having "preached six very learned sermons" on approval. He was a man "of good learning and excellent parts," who had been lecturer at Shoreditch (*P.C.*, p. 176). Among the M.S.S. in the collection of W. R. Baker, Esq., of Bayford in Hertfordshire, is a letter from Luke Melbourne, dated from Yarmouth, 24th Nov., 1690, in which he sends to Tonson, the bookseller, a poem which he had made on Dryden's *Amphitrye*, and asks Tonson to send others of Dryden's works. He resigned the incumbency in the following year. A family of this name, settled at Long Melford in Suffolk, bore per pale *or.* and *gu.*, a, fesse betw. three leopards' heads, all counterchanged; of which family was John Milbourne, father of Sir John Milbourne, Lord Mayor of London in 1521.

adjourned till the following day (July 6th), when "at nine before noon " three aldermen and twenty-six common council men elected Colonel William Goffe, one of the regicides, and Thomas Dunne, one of their body, to be the new members; the remainder of the corporation refraining from voting. Ashby refused to sign their return as illegal; and Bailiff Preston therefore alone signed it and sent the return to the sheriff. Ashby, the prime bailiff, insisted that the freemen at large had the right of voting and made a separate return; and the matter was referred by the House of Commons to a committee of privileges, who decided that the "commonalty" meant the "corporation," and declared Goffe and Dunne duly *elected** Ash by was summoned by the serjeant-at-arms to appear at the bar of the House of Commons, where Lenthall the speaker told him that he had "omitted his duty" and compelled him to sign the return of Goffe and Dunne. Not content with this triumph, the majority in the corporation dismissed Ashby from his place as an alderman "for his perfidious misdemeanours; not thinking him," as they said, "worthy of any farther trust therein;" but they had got the wrong sow by the ear," for Ashby quickly applied for a writ of restitution, alleging that he had "behaved and governed himself well, quietly, and honestly," and had been removed "without any just or reasonable cause," and the judges to their honor, for they acted in opposition to the governing power, granted the writ, and Ashby was reinstated, the corporation having to pay the costs.* In the charter of

* *Goffe* publicly thanked the *corporation for ignoring the freemen*; and General Desborough, Cromwell's brother-in-law, had probably some hand in the matter, as the corporation voted him a congratulatory address. Goffe and Dunne, nevertheless, hesitated to subscribe to Cromwell's authority; and when the title of king was offered to the protector, Goffe went to him and entreated him not to accept it. This Parliament was dissolved in 1655, and Goffe offered himself again; but Cromwell would not then call another; so the corporation thanked Goffe for his past services and presented him with a silver tankard. At the restoration Goffe retired into Holland, where it is said he was one of the plotters who vowed their intentions of "forcing Charles II. to perform the promises made at Breda, to obtain liberty of conscience to all but Romanists, to abolish excise, chimney money, and other taxes, and to restore a gospel magistracy and ministry." These conspirators were sworn "to be secret and to destroy all who opposed them, without mercy;" says the government spy, who in a subsequent letter reports that Goffe, Whalley, and others, were living at Vivay on the borders of the lake of Geneva, where they charmed the Swiss by their

Charles II., Ashby was named to remain an alderman. When bailiff in 1653 he procured a warrant from General Monk, then in Aldborough Bay, freeing the Yarmouth fishermen from impressment; and when in 1664 one of the bailiffs died of the plague, Ashby was elected to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the year.

On the south side of *Friars' Lam* there is an old house, now divided into three occupations, the original stack of round chimneys still remaining, which was in the 17th century the property and residence of JOHN GAYFORD, who in 1664 was admitted a freeman on "condition" that he furnished a substantial clock with a figure without and a bell as big as could swing in the turret, and fix and place the same in the turret upon the workhouse, and keep the same clock, bell, and dial in good reparation gratis during his life." On the surrender of the charter of Charles II. he was selected to fill the office of bailiff from the 8th of November, 1688, to the 29th of September, 1689. He died in 1703, aged 69.* A branch of this family settled at Wretham in Norfolk. Frederick



Gayford, son of John Gayford of West Wretham (who died in 1855), had a grant of arms— sa., three goats' heads erased *arg.*, armed *or.* (two and one); and for a crest, a goat's head as in the arms. In 1663, when a controversy was carried on between the corporation and the Dean and Chapter of Norwich as to the right of appointment to the incumbency, Dr. John Gayford was, on the recommendation of Lord Chancellor Clarendon, then High Steward of the Borough, accepted by the former and allowed to officiate "during the pleasure of the House," and the chancellor was thanked for his services. Dr. Gayford died in 1665, and the corporation allowed his widow £100 in consideration of the pains he had taken in the discharge of his pastoral duties. In 1770 John

devotion."—*State Papers*. It is a singular fact that all the regicides who signed the warrant for the execution of Charles I, sealed with their respective coats of arms. Goffe's seal bears *arg.*, a cross lozengy betw. four eagles displayed *sa.*

* John Gayford of Yarmouth was married at Norwich Cathedral in 1709 to Mary Morley, also of Yarmouth. The above-mentioned house descended to Thomas Gayford, whose only child, Mary, sold it in 1771. Mary, widow of Thomas Gayford, died in 1749, aged 87 years.

Gayford was "desired to get passage at his conveniency for Holland, " and there buy such an engine as he should think fit for to dydall or "deepthen the haven." From that time a didling engine has been worked for this purpose, first by hand, afterwards by horse, and lastly by steam power, and in the mud brought up from time to time have been found weapons, rings, and other articles.*

The two houses at the south-west corner of *Friars' Lane*, fronting the Quay, No. 70 and 71, were erected early in the 18th century, and were severally occupied by the Rev. James Hannot, already mentioned (vol. ii., p. 44), and Mr. Samuel Wakeman, a member of the numerous and wealthy family of whom some notice has been given. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Christopher Brightin, Esq., "by whom he had one son and seven daughters who all died in their infancy. He died in 1749, aged 56; and on the death of Giles Wakeman in 1775, aged 68, the family became **extinct**.

At the south-west corner of Friars Lane there was a small public house called the *Hogarth's Head*, and afterwards *the Britannia*. It has been recently rebuilt¹.

In 1795 the first of the above two houses was in the occupation of Mr. Nathaniel Palmer, a shipbuilder, who launched from his yard in 1806 the *Cygnets* and *Ariel*, sloops of war, and also built many other vessels for government.

Further south is a fine old Jacobian house, now divided into two occupations, erected at the commencement of the 17th century by ROGER DRURY, who, as we have seen, obtained the greater part of the possessions of the Black Friars². It has a front of squared smooth-faced flints, with stone dressings; and in the centre is a porch with a room over it, and above the latter were formerly the figures of three, naked boys cast in lead, whose behaviour in rainy weather was not decorous. This house is depicted in Corbridge's map, with an avenue of trees in front leading down to the river, the Quay as fair as the South Gate being then an open space.

In the early part of the last century the above-mentioned house



* The editor has in his possession a small gold *signet ring* obtained in this manner, tearing a fleur-de-lis. The Pastons sealed with a similar device.

¹ Friar's Lane was then quite narrow, and this building would now be within the roadway. See RRH.

² The only surviving part of Drury House or "Flint" house, is the staircase, which is now adjacent to the tea-rooms at Blickling Hall. Flint from the house was used to dress the face of the post office at Gorleston. See RRH.

was occupied by Major Ferrier, who has already been mentioned (vol. i., p. 237), as having played a leading part in local politics.* To this house he brought his bride, as mentioned in vol. i. p. 302.*f* It was usual in former times to reward political and other services by sinecure offices in the customs and other public departments. Richard Ferrier, the younger, enjoyed the place of "one of the waiters in the Port of London."*j* He died, said Ives in his Diary, "very much lamented by all who knew him;" and there is a highly-laudatory

* He left one son, already mentioned vol. ii., p. 238, on whom the following satirical epitaph was written:—

*Here lies the body of Richard II.,
Whose genius and Manners of life being reckon'd;
We all must allow was daddy's own son,
As witness my hand—Tom Missenden.*

The Rev. Thomas Missenden was appointed lecturer in 1731, and died in 1744. Doubtless "an unwarrantable use" was made of his name. The father's commission as "Major of the Battalion of Fusiliers of Militia of Great Yarmouth" in 1713 was granted by James, Duke, Marquis, and Earl of Ormonde, Earl of Ossory and Brecknock, Viscount Thurles, Baron of Arklow, Dingwell, Langtheny, and Moore Park, Lord of the Regalities and Liberties of the County Palatine of Tipperary, one of Her Majesty's most Honorable Privy Council, Knight of the most Noble Order of the Garter, Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Somerset, Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotalorum of the County of Norfolk, Chancellor of the Universities of Oxford and Dublin, High Steward of the Cities of Westminster, Bristol, and Exeter, Colonel of the 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, Captain General and Commander-in-Chief of all Her Majesty's forces, &c." Such were the honors and offices accumulated by this great man; and set forth in the above-mentioned commission.

f The name of Ferrier appears among the earliest entries on the registers of this and the neighbouring parishes. In 1630 there was an appeal to the Privy Council as to the right of Mary, the wife of Robert Ferrier, to sit in a pew in St. Nicholas' Church appropriated to the wives of aldermen. Such were the trifles about which people quarrelled, and with which the Lords of the Privy Council were at that time troubled.

J On the accession of George I. this office was confirmed to him, "with all the profits, perquisites, advantages, and emoluments" to the same belonging. The patent in Latin, beautifully engrossed on vellum, with the king's portrait and a border elaborately engraved, as also the commission last quoted, were in the possession of Richard Ferrier, Esq., who died in 1868, aged 72 (not 68 as mentioned in vol. i., p. 239), and afterwards of his eldest son, Richard Ferrier, Esq., who died at Boughton Manor House, Chester, on the 1st of January, 1874, aged 51, s.p., leaving two brothers, the Rev. Edward Ferrier, Incumbent of St. Mary's, Castleton, Isle of Man, and Mr. F. W. Ferrier of Yarmouth.

Latin inscription to his memory in St. Nicholas' Church; but here were those who decried him, and by them "a free translation" was circulated, of which the following are some of the verses : —

" *Beneath this stone lies Richard Ferrier, Esquire,*
 " *Of this Borough the ornament and the desire;*
 " *Who in sweetness of manners, and genrous o'er flowing,*
 " *Was in all that belongs to a gentleman,—knowing.*
 " *His acquaintance this vouch,—for his politic skill*
 " *We refer to his votes on, the French commerce bill.*
 " *The posts he enjoyed, tho' quite different in, kind,*
 " *Could not be more varied than was his own mind;*
 " *The Mayor,—the Member,—the Placeman being proof,*
 " *Till his country cried out he has liv'd long enough ;*
 " *How transient is popular honour and glory,*
 " *May be learn' d from the sum of this famous man's story."*

In 1777 this house was occupied by R. Hales, Esq.; subsequently by Anthony Taylor, Esq.; and in the latter part of the last century it was purchased by JACOB PRESTON, Esq., who filled the office of mayor in 1793, and again in 1801.* In 1813 he was again elected mayor, not however without a severe struggle. Eight of the inquest were for choosing him; but four were determined if possible to prevent his election. After being shut up all night, they at ten o'clock the next morning agreed to make a double return, coupling the name of William Palgrave, Esq., jun., with that of Mr. Preston. This verdict the mayor refused to receive, and the inquest were informed that they could not be discharged until nine of the twelve were agreed. After a while one of the four went over to the majority, and so the election was made.^f

* In this year the Marquis Townshend, Lord Bayning, Sir J. H. Astly, Bart., Admiral Dickson, General Albemarle, General Bertie, General Loftus, and Sir Roger Kerrison were among the guests at the Michaelmas dinner; and Captain Sheene, R.N., entertained the company with some "admirable singing."

^f This opposition was not directed personally again at Mr. Preston, the matter in difference being the old question as to whether upon St. John's day the mayor should name all the commoners upon the inquest, or whether they should be appointed by the aldermen *seriatum* (see vol. i., p. 282). To try this question a *quo warranto* was filed against the newly-elected mayor which led to an arrangement, and a bye-law was passed giving the power of nomination to the aldermen. The vacancies in the

In other respects his year of office was an eventful one. On the day of his inauguration, Mr. Preston had the satisfaction of opening *Regent Street*, the formation of which was justly considered a great public improvement, and the ceremony attracted many visitors to the town.* Before quitting office the Peace Festival was held, of which mention has already been made. The mayor, although 74 years of age, occupied the chair on that occasion. He died in 1827, aged 87.^f

A family of the name of PRESTON flourished in Yarmouth in the 17th century. Isaac Preston filled the office of bailiff in 1653 when Oliver Cromwell was declared Lord Protector of the Commonwealth, on which occasion the church bells "sounded forth;" the ringers receiving the then usual fee of 13s. 4d.^J He probably came from the county and settled in Yarmouth, as he had to purchase his freedom, which he did in 1642 for £25, but got off for £8. 6s. 8d. When bailiff

corporation "which had been suffered to accumulate were then filled up by the friends of the respective parties; after which there was no "lay" of any great continuance until the custom was abolished. The annual allowance and emoluments of office at this time amounted to £400, and the mayor was expected to disburse about as much more beyond his ordinary expenditure. In former times the bailiffs, and after them the mayor, had (as was the case elsewhere) numerous fees and petty emoluments, all of which have disappeared. Down to the present time the Mayor of Weymouth claims as his due, two "bushels from every cargo of grain discharged in that harbour.

* The "Feast" on this occasion was attended by the Marquis Townshend, the Hon. Charles Townshend, and Lord Broome, eldest son of the Marquis Cornwallis; the Marchioness Townshend, and the Hon. Mrs. Townshend with her two daughters at the same time visited Yarmouth.

^fThere is a portrait of him in the possession of his grandson, Isaac Preston, Esq., and one also of his wife, a lady whose maiden name was Abbot. His grandson, Mr. E. H. L. Preston, already mentioned (vol. i., p. 256), died in 1872 while filling for a second time the office of mayor, in which capacity he received the Prince of Wales when His Royal Highness visited Yarmouth in June, 1872. He took his third baptismal name from Dr. Lushington, who at the time of Mr. Preston's birth was returned as one of the Members for Great Yarmouth, and was for many years Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, and died in 1873, aged 91.

^JSome account of the bells in St. Nicholas' Church from the earliest period will be found in *P. C.* p. 141. The church books, still preserved, record all payments with great minuteness. One of the earliest entries is for ringing the bells when Parkhurst, Bishop of Norwich, visited the town in 1464. "Our fifty bell," says this record, was sent to Darby of Ipswich in 1662, by water, "to be new run." Ringing vigorously for the restoration seems to have cracked it,

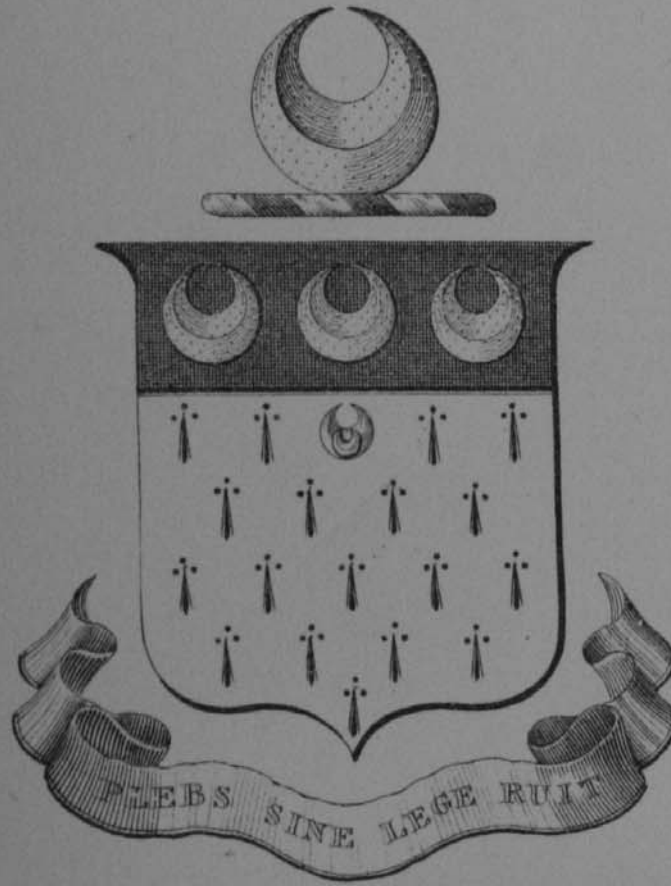
he refused to supply the "Windsor herrings" according to ancient custom to Col. Sparrow, who had purchased this perquisite of the state; whereupon Preston was arrested by a serjeant-at-arms, and the chief magistrate would have been carried to London in custody if the corporation had not paid £50, with £10. 13s. 4d. the messenger's fees and £1 8s. 6d. the colonel's costs. To understand this matter it is necessary to state that in 1362 the corporation made a grant of a last of red herrings to be delivered in perpetuity to the college at Windsor, then recently established by Edward III., "that they might take the corporation into their prayers," which were needed, if it be true that a magistrate had then recently been killed in a fray. Preston probably considered that as the college had been deprived of this payment in kind, which the state had sold to a private person whose prayers the town did not care for, he was justified in withholding the contribution; and he certainly had reason if not law on his side. After this contest the herrings continued to be delivered to the Dean and Chapter of Windsor, who had obtained a restitution of this grant, until 1718 when it was commuted to a yearly money payment of £8, which continues to be made to this day.* It was through the influence of Preston that in 1654 Colonel William Goffe, one of the regicides, was returned to Parliament for the borough by the corporation, in spite of the claim of the freemen

* In the *Liber Feodorum* is this entry :— "William Fitz Ralph and William of Carcun hold a certain serjeanty in Carlton, by the service of carrying to the Lord the King, wheresoever he may be in England, about the Feast of St. Michael, "twenty-four pasties of fresh herrings, on behalf of the Bailiffs of Norwich." The Borough of Yarmouth, says Blount in his *Frag. Antig.*, 197, was bound to send one hundred herrings to the Sheriff of Norfolk, whose duty it was to have them baked into twenty-four pasties. He probably consigned them to William Fitz Ralph and his coadjutor. Blount adds, "they are still sent to the Clerk of Kitchen's Office in St. James'." The herring pies, which it was customary for the Corporation of Norwich to send to the king (see *M*, i., p. 356), were seasoned with "half-an-ounce of grains of paradilly." This condiment is supposed to be the same as "grains of paradise," which are the seeds of a species of cardanum (*amomum melequeta*) imported from the coast of Guinea, where they are held in great esteem as a spice for seasoning food, and are considered extremely wholesome. They are now used in veterinary medicines, and for the purpose of imparting a fictitious appearance of strength to malt and spirituous liquors. In 1816 the Sheriff of Norwich delivered to the Lord in Waiting at Windsor the customary four-and-twenty herring pasties to his no small bewilderment,

to vote; Nathaniel Ashby, his co-bailiff, as we have seen, refusing to sign the return. Goffe, at the invitation of Preston, came to the town and had the freedom of the borough conferred up on him. Preston was a member of "Bridge's Church," and in 1655 he became one of the ruling elders. At the restoration he was displaced for refusing, with more consistency than some of his political friends, to take the oaths.* Mr. Jacob Preston was, however, the founder of the present family of that name. He had an elder brother, John Preston, who died in 1809, aged 70; and Isaac, younger brother, born in 1744, of whom we shall have occasion to speak; and one sister who married Mr. John Neale of Coltishall.^f Mr. Jacob Preston had three sons, John, of whom hereafter, and Isaac and Edmund, already mentioned (vol. i., p. 220, and vol. ii., p. 82), and two daughters, Anne, who married F. R. Reynolds, Esq., and died in 1848, and Elizabeth, who became the second wife of Mr. Nathaniel Symonds, and died in 1787, at the early age of 21.

* Of the above family was probably Thomas Preston, who was buried in St. Peter's (Mancroft), Norwich, in 1665, and had a monument erected there to his memory by John, his youngest son, a "Chyrurgion in Yarmouth" in 1698. *Harl. M.S.S.*, No. 6762. By the 3 Henry VIII., c. xi., no person could practice as a physician or chirurgeon without a "letter testimonial" under the seal of the Bishop of the Diocese. In 1661 the Bishop of Norwich granted a license to Thomas Betts to "practise chirurgerie," and so late as 1785 the statute was not obsolete, as appears by a licence printed in the *Eastern Counties Collectanea*, p. 252. Widows of physicians "left experienced in the art and mystery of physic" were sometimes allowed to practice.

^f She died at Christ-Church, Surrey, in 1820, aged 79, having survived her husband twenty-one years. Their son, John Preston Neale, born at Worstead in Norfolk, being when a lad on a visit to his maternal uncle, attracted by the excellence, of his pencil drawings the notice of a gentleman then in Yarmouth on the business of the General Post Office, who offered young Neale an appointment in that government department, in which he ultimately rose to fill an important position. Fortunately for the public he did not neglect the art through which he had thus attained the first step in the business of life, as is fully evinced by those numerous and beautiful works in which his drawings have been, so exquisitely engraved by Le Keux. At a stall in Yarmouth Market place was sold in 1871, for 8d., a pocket book containing numerous sketches in pencil made by Neale in different parts of England in 1825 and 1826, which display the marvellous facility with which, by a few telling strokes, he transferred to paper whatever caught his attention, to he afterwards worked into elaborate drawings. He died in 1848, aged 68. There is an engraved portrait of him. His son, the Rev. Edward Pote Neale, was for many year Vicar of Horsey in Norfolk, and died there in 1871, aged 70,



Preston.

There is a portrait, of her. John Preston, the eldest son, who succeeded his father in the occupation of the above-mentioned house, was for many years Comptroller of Customs at the Port of Yarmouth. In 1816 he published a *Picture of Yarmouth* illustrated by engravings of public buildings from drawings by himself. He filled the office of mayor in 1828, and again in 1831, and died in 1855, aged 83. He married, first, in 1795, Mary, daughter of John Kerrison of Panxworth, who died in 1803, aged 32, leaving one son; and secondly, in 1805, Anne, daughter of John Bloom of Wells, who died in 1854, aged 75, leaving issue. A family of the name of Preston settled in Londonderry, and aided in the memorable defence of that city in 1689. John Preston married Elizabeth, daughter of Colonel James Patton of Donegal, and having passed over to the United States in 1740, settled in the State of Virginia, and founded a family which has greatly flourished there. A pamphlet entitled "Memoranda of the Preston family" was published at Albany, U.S., in 1864, for private distribution.

On the north side of the house lastly described as having been built by Roger Drury, were some warehouses (now taken down and dwelling-houses erected on the site), which early in the last century were the property of James Ward, and in 1736 were conveyed by his two daughters, Susan and Mary, to Thomas Morris, already mentioned.*

All the ground between Drury's house and the town wall, also parcel of the dissolved house of Black friars, was in 1671 acquired by John Berney^f on his marriage with Susan, daughter of John Steynes of Great Yarmouth; and was sold in 1707 by their sons,

* Joseph Ward, who was town clerk from 1639 to 1661, married Lydia, a sister of John Cosin D.D., Dean of Peterborough and Bishop of Durham from 1660 to 1672, when he died, aged 77. The bishop was a native of Norwich. There is an *engraved* portrait of him. A pedigree of Cosin of Norfolk will be found in Surtees' *Durham*, vol. i. p. 114. The town clerk left a son, Samuel Ward, and two daughters, Lydia Ward and Ellen Locke.

^f The name is derived from Berney near Walsingham, Norfolk; where the family have held an estate from the time of the conquest. Branches of this family had large possessions at Reedham, Morton, and other parishes in Norfolk. They bore *gu.*, and *az.*, over all a cross engrailed *erm.*; and for a crest, a plume of six ostrich feathers alternatively *az.*, and *gu.* Sir Hanson Barney, the eighth baronet, died in 1870, aged 90 years.

John Berney, Esq., of Westwich, and Richard Berney, Esq., of Norwich, to Robert Scrutton. The last house next the town wall has for upwards of a century been a public house, called in 1772 the *Dolphin*, after that the *Ship on the Stocks*, and now the *First and Last*, being the first house in one direction and the last in the other within the walls.* In that year it was with some adjacent property purchased by ROBERT LANCASTER, Esq., who filled the office of mayor in 1768. While entertaining some friends at his house in 1783, "to see the old year out and the new year in," and having drawn the cork of a bottle of wine, and being in the act of giving a toast, he fell back and expired, being then 70 years of age. His four sons left Yarmouth, where the name became **extinct**.

* A landlord of a house so called put up as a sign a cradle and a coffin.

f Elizabeth, his widow, married in 1794 the Rev. Thomas Martin of Colkirk; and Elizabeth, one of his two daughters, married Edmund Tate. Mr. B. Lancaster (a highly-esteemed member of the *Friendly Society*) was found drowned in the river in 1792, Capt. Richard Lancaster, a common councilman, died in 1794, aged 51. Families of this name flourished in Norfolk and Suffolk.

CHAPTER IX.

The Town Wall

"*Fernemutha urbs est murata.*"—CAMDEN.

"*The firmest fence this town can have
"From dangers best to save;
"Is not the flinty walls so strong,
" But men both wise and brave.*"

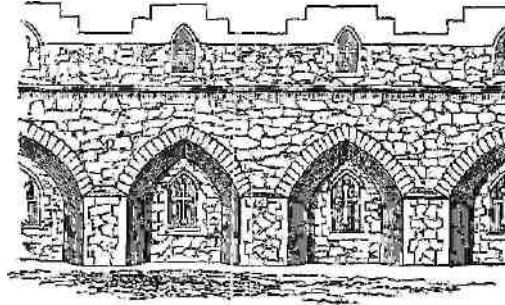


HE fortifications of our towns on the east coast have usually been the work, and they have remained the property, of the inhabitants.* On the petition of the burgesses a licence was granted to them by Henry III. to enclose their town with a wall and fosse. The works were not however commenced until 1275 at the north end of the town; and a considerable period elapsed before the same were finished. To enable them to carry on so expensive an undertaking, the inhabitants were empowered by royal grant to collect during limited periods certain duties under the name of *murage*, upon all commodities imported and exported. These grants were renewed from time to time, as occasion required, up to the year 1390; and the funds of the muragers, annually elected, were augmented by legacies and voluntary contributions.^f The wall when completed encircled the old town, except on the west side which was bounded by the river. It admeasured 2,238 yards, was twenty-three feet

* The frontier town, of Berwick-upon-Tweed is the only exception. There the Government some years ago granted a long lease of the fortifications for the use of the inhabitants. At Hull during the civil war the citadel was seized by order of Parliament, and has ever since the restoration been vested in the crown.

^f The muragers had a distinct office for the transaction of their business. They kept very exact accounts, which were audited yearly. Some of these accounts have been printed by Swindon, and are curious as illustrating the prices of labour and materials. Muragers continued to be elected down to 1835, although their duties and their revenues had alike ceased. Among the Exchequer records may be found the accounts of Ed. Widewell and Alex. Brigate of payments for the fortification and defence of the inhabitants in 1457.

high, and was defended at intervals by sixteen towers. There were two principal gates, north and south, with several smaller intermediate gates along the east wall, "to let in her friends and keep out her enemies," quoth Manship. These fortifications were faced with smoothed Norfolk flints, interspersed with occasional courses of hard thin bricks; Caen stone being used for the loop-holes and ornamental work. Internally the wall was sustained by a series of arches, within each of which was a splayed loop-hole for the use of the cross-bowmen. These arches supported a walk for those who defended the walls, and enabled them to shoot from the upper and smaller loop-holes, and to pass from tower



to tower. The annexed engraving shews the interior of "the wall in its original state, with the double row of loop-holes.*

The embattlement of Caen stone surmounted only a portion of the wall.

After the introduction

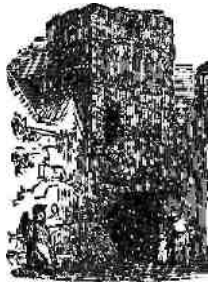
of cannon, and when the Duke of Norfolk was sent down by Henry VIII. to put the town into a better state of defence, the lower arches were all filled up with earth, the walls being "rampired" and rendered impervious up to the above-mentioned walk; evidence of which remains to this day.

Let us now take a survey of these fortifications, commencing at the south end of the town. The first defence was a boom thrown across the river, supported by a jetty on each side. This boom was kept closed during the night, and the passage strictly guarded. The wall commenced from the river at this point; and behind it was a high mound of earth, called the *South Mount*, which commanded a view of

* The late Mr. Harrod compared the old wall at Yarmouth, as seen from the town side, to that of Rome, as it appears from Monte Testaceo, in the vicinity of the pyramid of Caius Cestius¹.

¹see also, some Roman aspects of Yarmouth in RRH.

the river and South Denes down to the haven's mouth. In later times a look-out was erected on this mount, which was not finally removed until 1867. The mount has now been so much cut away that but little of it remains. Fifty-eight yards from the river, and to the east of the mount, stood the South Gate, called also the *Great Gate*. The portal, twelve feet wide, was long and narrow, and was defended by a portcullis. Above was an apartment having an embattled roof. It was flanked on each side towards the south by a round projecting and embattled tower, the walls of which were 3 feet 9 inches thick. The total breadth was 66 feet.* This gate was wholly pulled down in 1812, except the base of the West TOWER which was converted into a stable, and above it a cottage was erected. In this fragment there remained a loop-hole for raking the entrance with the crossbow, and the groove in which the portcullis worked might also be seen. These slight remains were wholly removed in 1867 when the road was widened. This gateway, which was extremely picturesque, especially from the outer or south side, was built of flints and bricks strongly cemented, and a considerable portion of the exterior was formed into parallelograms, the squares being filled alternately with smoothed flints and plaster, giving the whole a chequered appearance. It was through this gate that William III. entered



the town in 1692.^f Forty-two yards from the South Gate, in a direct line eastward, was a tower 18 feet in breadth; the upper part of which has been taken down, and a sloping-tiled roof placed upon it. Ninety yards further, in the same direction, is the Friars' Tower, which is 16 feet in breadth. It is still standing, but roofless, and completely gutted. This tower

* When the deputy-lieutenants advised on the defence of the town in 1625, they considered the East Tower of this gateway to be a very convenient place upon which to plant a "murdering piece." In later times a telegraph was erected on the West Tower.

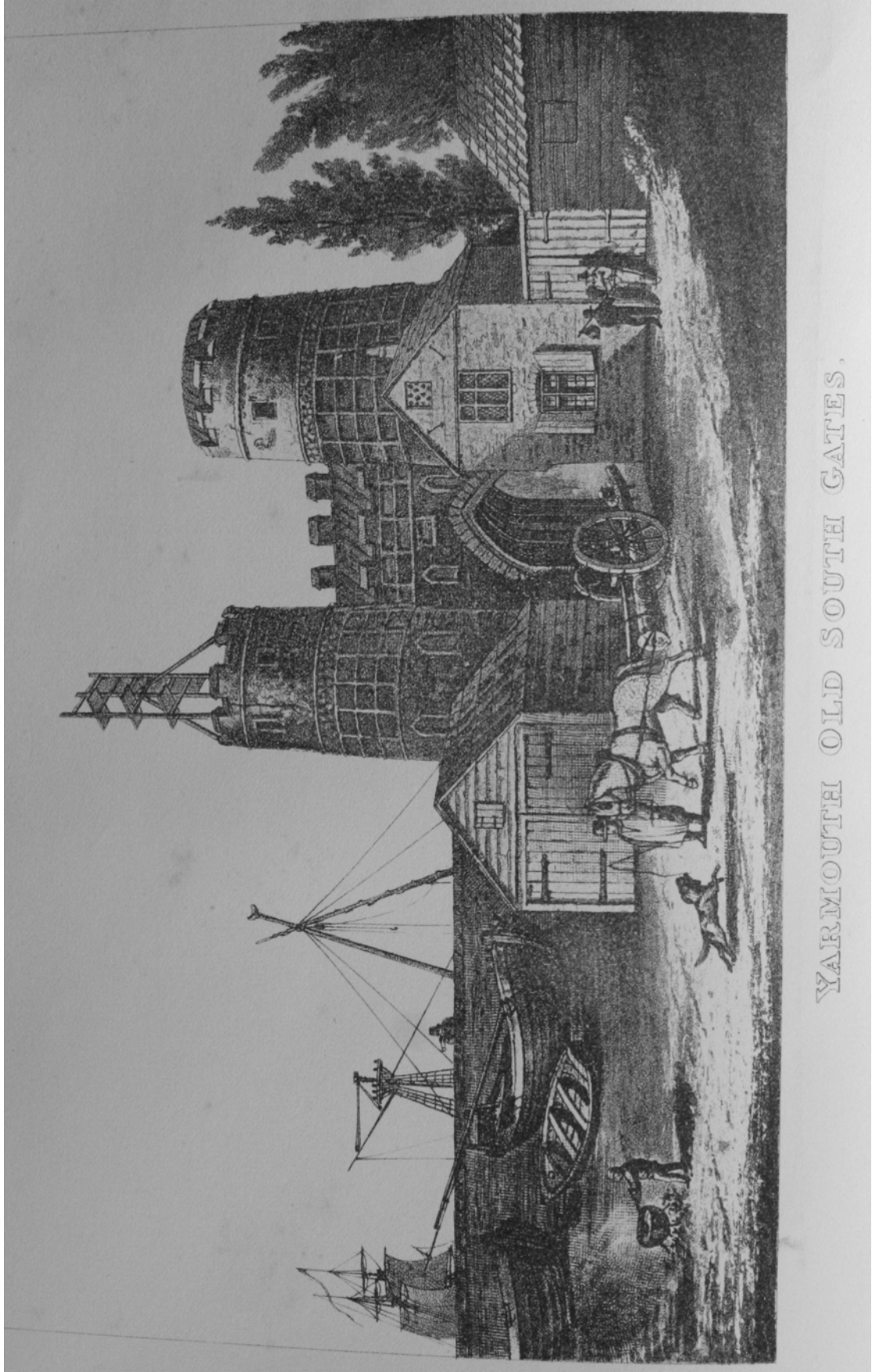
^f The ceremony of shutting this gate every night was continued down to the last century, for in 1724 an order was made "to pay Goody Ely 35s. a year for cleansing, opening, and shutting the South Gate."

has a flat face towards the town; on which side the remains of an external staircase can still be traced leading to a door opening into the guard chamber on the first floor. From this tower the wall runs due north for 109 yards;* it then makes an oblique angle, and runs northeast for 70 yards when it reaches the South-east Tower, which is a large one, admeasuring 21 feet in breadth. It still remains standing entire; and is inhabited. From the North-east Tower the wall is continued almost due north for 70 yards, at which distance there was a small gate, 6 feet wide, called Garden Gate, having a tower. It was afterwards called Moyses's Gate, Colby's Gate, and Stevenson's Gate, and was pulled down in 1776. The wall is then continued for 178 yards further, where there was another gate, also 6 feet wide, called Ropemakers' Gate. It was also called Symonds' Gate and White-Lion Gate, and was demolished in 1785 when Mr. William Norfor had leave to pull it down^f. At the distance of 66 yards is another tower, 30 feet in breadth, called Harris' Tower, the base of which only remains, the upper part having been demolished and rooms belonging to a modern house erected upon the base. Further north, at the distance of 61 yards, was another gate, which, according to Ames the antiquary, writing in 1745, was called Ames' Gate, in honor of his grandfather, Capt. Ames, mentioned vol. *ii.*, p. 118, *J* who after retiring from the public service set up a brewery in

* Within, the wall at this spot, about 70 yards south of Friars' Tower, some workmen employed in 1850 in levelling the earth with which the walls had been strengthened or "rampired" on the west side, came upon ten skeletons lying about 15 feet from the wall and about 2 feet below the original level of the soil; and beneath them was fine sand. They were found lying in a space of about 6 yards in two tiers, each body being surrounded by the mouldering remains of wooden coffins, secured by large iron nails much oxidised; the space between the coffins being filled with rubbish, in which were many fragments of tiles and two Nuremberg counters.

^f In 1775 the corporation made an order for the demolition of Moyses's Gate, Norton's Gate, Colby's Gate, and Steel's Gate, giving as a reason that they were "very hurtful to the fishing nets going on and off the Denes on account of the nails in those gates projecting out." Surely if there had been no better reason, the nails might have been removed.

J Following the example of his gallant commander, Capt. Ames asserted that "state affairs were not his province, and that it was his business to do his duty to his country, whatever irregularities there might be in the counsels at home." He commanded the ship which brought Charles II. to England, and which was thenceforth called the *Happy Return*. He descended from Lancelot Ames of Norwich,



YARMOUTH OLD SOUTH GATES.

Yarmouth. John Ames, his son, the father of the antiquary, was, says the latter, "a master of several ships." He dwelt in Yarmouth, and made some "small notes relating to that town."* It was also called Harris' Gate, having a tower called Harris' Tower, the upper part of which was taken, down in 1642 and a platform, made for the planting of ordnance;f also Little Mount Gate and Appleby's Gate (1677), and

whose son, John, died in 1647, aged 70, the latter being the father of Capt. Ames, instead of John Ames, an officer in the Trained Bands, as mentioned in vol. ii., p.p. 118, 401, the latter being probably the captain's elder brother.

* See a letter from Ames the antiquary to Blomfield the historian, published in the appendix to the *Foundation and Antiquity of Great Yermouthe*, p. 120. His daughter, Mary, married Capt. Edward Dampier, Deputy-Surveyor of Shipping to the Honorable East India Company, The name of Ames was find is to be found in many of the villages of Norfolk. In a chapel on the south side of Barton Church is a quaint epitaph to the memory of Thomas Amys, commencing with—

" Here are laid under this stone,—in clay,

" Thomas Amys—and his wife Margery."

"Sometimes," observes the antiquary, "they spelt the sir-name *Amyas*" but bore the same arms. Dr. William Ames, a puritan Calvinistic divine, born in 1576, graduated at Cambridge, and being turned out of his fellowship retired to Holland and became a professor at Rotterdam, where he died in 1538. His sister, Elizabeth married the Rev. John Phillips of Wrentham, mentioned vol. ii., p. 36. Br. Ames married Joan Burgess, daughter of the chaplain to the English troops at The Hague. She and her children went to New England, but returned with her son, William Ames, who became a minister at Wrentham, was ejected in 1662, and died there in 1682. An old family of Ames has for many generations been seated in Somersetshire, and there is strong; presumptive evidence of a connection between them and those of the same name in Norfolk; but the former bear *arg.*, on a bend cottised *sa.*, three roses of the field; and for a crest, a rose *arg.*, stalked and leafed *vert.* *ex. Inf. Reginald Ames, Esq., of Cote House, Westbury-on-Wyn.*

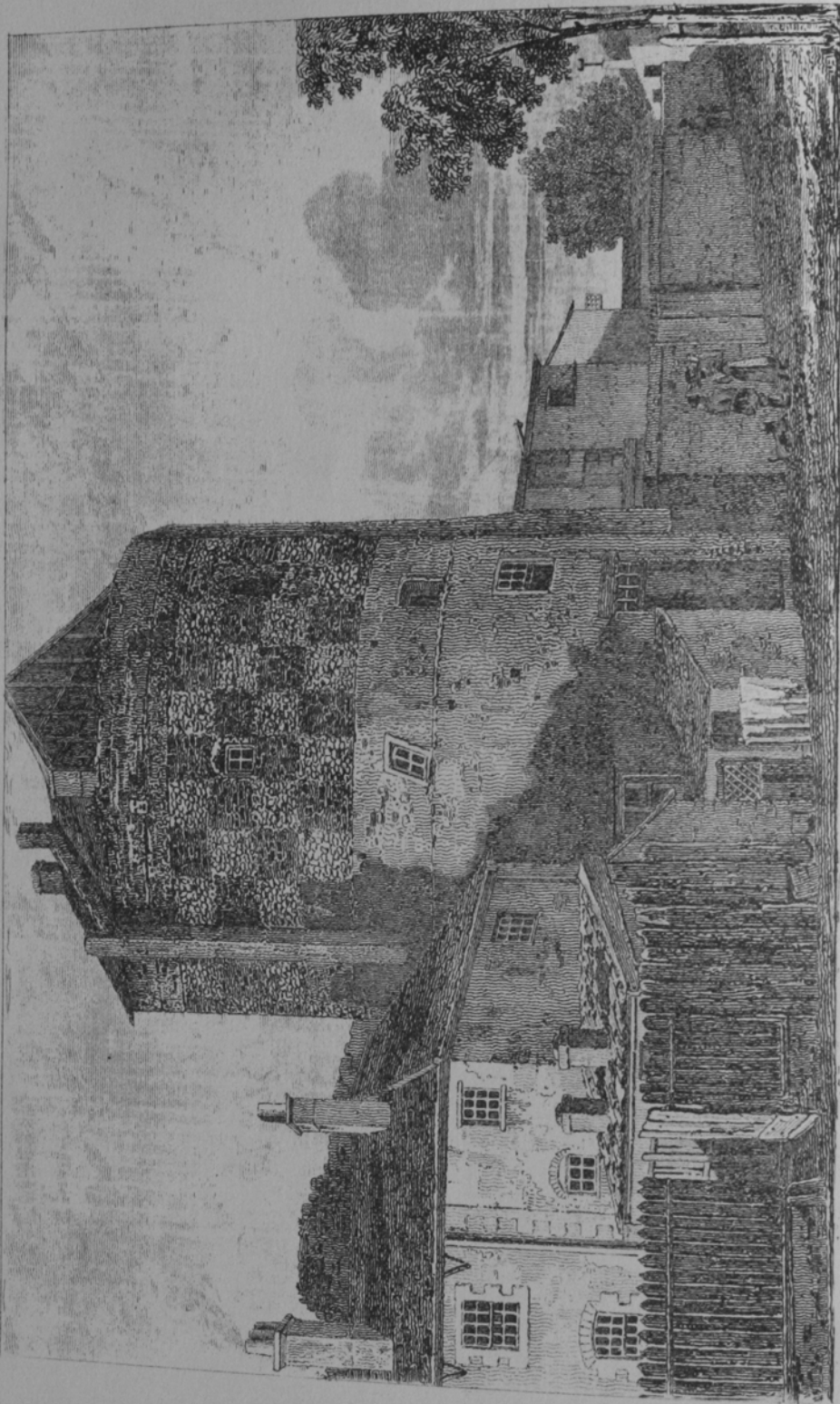
f Thomas Harris was bailiff in 1581; John Harris in 1590; and Ezechias Harris in 1620. The latter served again in 1631, when having assisted in committing the Minister of the Parish to Gaol, he was himself ordered to be sent there by the Privy Council, but upon submission "the messenger was stayed." (See vol. i., p. 36.) In 1740 John Harris lost his ship on the bar on the 10th of January, and two of the crew were frozen to death. So severe was the frost that all inland navigation was stopped, and coals had to be sent to Norwich in carts and waggons. Ives says he saw "three score and seven" loading at one time. Frosts are never so severe at Yarmouth as further inland; but occasionally the rivers are frozen, and in 1830 the Yare could be crossed on the ice as low as the crane. In 1789 the pumps were all frozen. "We buy water by the pail", says a private letter of the time. In April, 1799, so great was the scarcity of coals on account of the frost that the price rose to four guineas a chaldron.

when demolished in 1804 was called Norfor's Gate.* Further on, at the distance of 121 yards, is what was called the NEW MOUNT, which was commenced in 1569 and was constructed by the labour of the inhabitants, Manship himself, then "a grammar scholar," assisting; being, as he says, "more willing to help in carrying a mound of earth in my hand than a satchel of book on my shoulder." It was in length 222 feet, and in breadth without the wall 32 feet. An additional mount was formed in 1577, and when the arrival of the Spanish Armada was expected in 1588, Sir Thomas Leighton, an officer much trusted by the queen, was sort down to attend to the defences; and by his advice the mount was enlarged and surrounded by a wall measuring 500 feet and 20 feet high.^f In 1590 an inner wall was erected higher than the town wall; and upon the mount and on this wall "great pieces of ordnance" were placed "to scour the roads at the time of the enemy's approaching." A sharp look out was kept, and when some vessels were discovered off the coast near Yarmouth, sounding the depth of water, the suspicious circumstance was reported by Sir Edward Clere to the Privy Council, at the same time strong measures were taken to secure a supply of provisions. *J* In more peaceful times and until the passing

* Subsequently this outlet was called *Moyse's Opening*, and also *Drum Opening* from the sign of a neighbouring public house; and it is now called *York Gate*.

^fThe Lords of the Queen's Council addressed letters to the Deputy-Lieutenants for Norfolk and Suffolk, requiring them to procure assistance towards defraying the very heavy expenses to which the inhabitants of Yarmouth were subjected," seeing," say their lordships, "that being neighbours, the people of Norfolk, Suffolk, and the City of Norwich, are interested in the fortunes of the town, and that the charge "of a common benefit should be borne by all." Norwich immediately subscribed £100; and upon the representation of Sir Edward Clere, Sir William Heydon, and Sir John Peyton, three deputy-lieutenants, the city agreed to find 300 soldiers, for the defence of Yarmouth, each man being provided with a coat and arms, and paid vjs. viijd. The Yarmouth people at the same time fitted out a ship-of-war called the *Grace of God*, which, under the command of Capt. Musgrave, was sent to join the royal fleet; and it was arranged that any prize-money obtained should be divided into thirds, one for the ship, one for the town, and one for the adventurers.

J "William Smythe, collector, and Henry Manship, comptroller of customs, at this time reported to the Privy Council that they had "stayed two ships laden with corn for Rotterdam;" and Capt. Musgrave of Yarmouth offered to supply victuals for a vessel-of-war at hit own cost.—*State Papers*,



S. E. TOWER.

of the *Municipal Corporation Act* in 1835, the corporation were accustomed to use this mount for the stowage of anchors; for, up to that period, they exercised the same jurisdiction in regard to derelict goods as is now vested in the Board of Trade.

On the south side of the mount there was a gate, which was walled up some time prior to 1643; and 41 yards to the north was another gate, 21 feet wide, having a tower on the north side. It was called New Gate, because it was newly made through the town wall in the reign of Elizabeth. It was also named Mount Gate from the adjoining mount; and after the erection of St. George's Chapel it was called Chapel Gate or St. George's Gate. The lower part of the tower may still be seen; all the rest of the gate was removed in 1776, and in 1789 the opening was further enlarged by the space of six feet. The wall is then continued for 82 yards, where there is another tower, 27 feet in breadth, the upper part of which is used as a dwelling, and is covered with a conical, tiled roof, surmounted by a vane bearing the date 1680. Eighty-three yards further north was another gate, anciently called Oxney's Gate,* and in 1643 Steele's Gate.^f It was also called Mitchelson's Gate. After the erection of the Theatre on the adjoining plain

* After the family of that name already mentioned vol. i., p. 100. In 1376 William Oxney represented the town in a Parliament summonsed to meet at eight o'clock in the morning for the purposes of providing for the good government of the kingdom, its defence against all enemies by sea and land, and to provide the means for carrying on the war against France. The supplies they refused to give, unless certain reforms were made and abuses corrected. They charged Richard Lyons, one of the Privy Council, with having, to serve his own purposes, removed the staple from Calais, and of so raising the prices of commodities that the common sort of people could scarcely live." Lyons, "fearing for his skin," sent the Black Prince £1,000 in a barrel "as if it had been a barrel of sturgeon," but the bribe was sent back and Lyons condemned to imprisonment. The Commons then attacked William Ellis of Great Yarmouth, Lyons' deputy, accusing him with extorting money from the master of a Scotch vessel, and also from the captain of a Prussian ship laden with wax, iron, and other merchandize, both having been driven by stress of weather into port. (*Rol. Parl.* m. 5, 31-32.) Ellis appears however not to have lost the confidence of his townsmen, for he was returned to Parliament the very next year and several times subsequently. (*P. C.* p. 191.)

^f Probably so called from William Steele, a member of the corporation *temp.* Charles II.

it was called Theatre Gate or Playhouse Gate, although the gate itself had then disappeared. Its tower, of the breadth altogether 21 feet, was pulled down in 1776.* From this tower to the next, which is called the Guard Tower, there is a distance of 76 yards. The latter tower admeasures 24 feet in breadth, and upon it is built a private residence. Behind, it, and extending to Market Gate,^f which had a "four-square tower," admeasuring altogether 54 feet. In 1797 Richard Miller, Lessee of the Guard Yard, had permission to take down the top of the Market Gate; and in 1830 it was demolished. Some of the original stone-work might be seen on the south side until 1874, when it was entirely removed. At a distance of 78 yards northward is another tower, 24 feet wide, called Hospital Tower, because it, with the adjoining wall, bounded the grounds of St. Mary's Hospital. Within the wall between the Market Gate and the last-mentioned tower is a Burial Ground obtained, by the dissenters; and within its area lie interred many of the most eminent among the local *nonconformists* of the last generation. The town wall which forms the east boundary of this cemetery is in a very perfect state of preservation. From Hospital Tower to Pudding Gate ^J the distance is 78 yards. This latter had a tower and admeasured 24 feet. It was the last, which remained; not being pulled down until 1837. At that time its oaken and iron-bound

* In 1740 John Wallis, a common councilman, had liberty to use the tower as a chaise house. On the Denes, opposite the above-mentioned gate, in 1550, and again in 1579, booths were erected in the herring season for the convenience and safety of the fishermen, the plague then raging in the town. Swinden, p. 442.

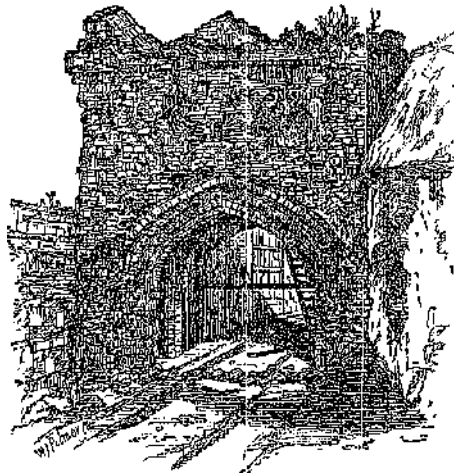
^f It led from the Market Place to the Denes. The excellence of Yarmouth Market has already been mentioned, vol. i., pp. 28, 83, but there is one peculiarity which has not been noticed. In it butter is sold by the pint; which, despite the old distich which says

*A pint's a pound
All the year round;*

is somewhat in excess of that quantity.

^J Why so called is unknown. The name appears at an early period, but is sometimes spelt "Poding." The open space to the north, within the wall and adjoining the precincts of the Priory, was called Pudding Yard.

folding doors remained sound and perfect, having in them, a small grated



wicket through which the warden could inspect all who sought admittance. In the arch above the gate might be seen the groove for the portcullis, and inside the gate a turret stair led to the ramparts.* In 1607 the corporation allowed Thomas Lacey to have the rooms over this gate, he first making them habitable. The wall then takes a north-east direction for 198 yards, at which distance there was another tower called St,

Nicholas' Tower, having a gate, and being in breadth together 30 feet. This gate was bricked up at an early period *j* and in 1642 Nicholas Wyn had liberty to take down, the upper part of the tower, retaining the materials for his pains, and the lower part was filled with earth. Outside the wall, between Hospital Tower and Pudding Gate, those who died of the plague in 1579 were buried.*f* Between St. Nicholas' Tower and King Henry's Tower the wall crosses the churchyard, dividing the old burial ground from the new. The wall is demolished but its foundation can be distinctly traced. In 1648 Walter Bullard had granted to him as "a place of store" for the defence of the town, the "Little Vestry" in the churchyard; which was the place appointed for the "cannoneers."

KING HENRY'S TOWER stands at the north-west corner of the churchyard, and was in breadth, "with the compass of the east side," 60 feet.

* The engraving here given is from a drawing by Mrs. Bowyer Vaux, taken immediately before the demolition of this gateway.

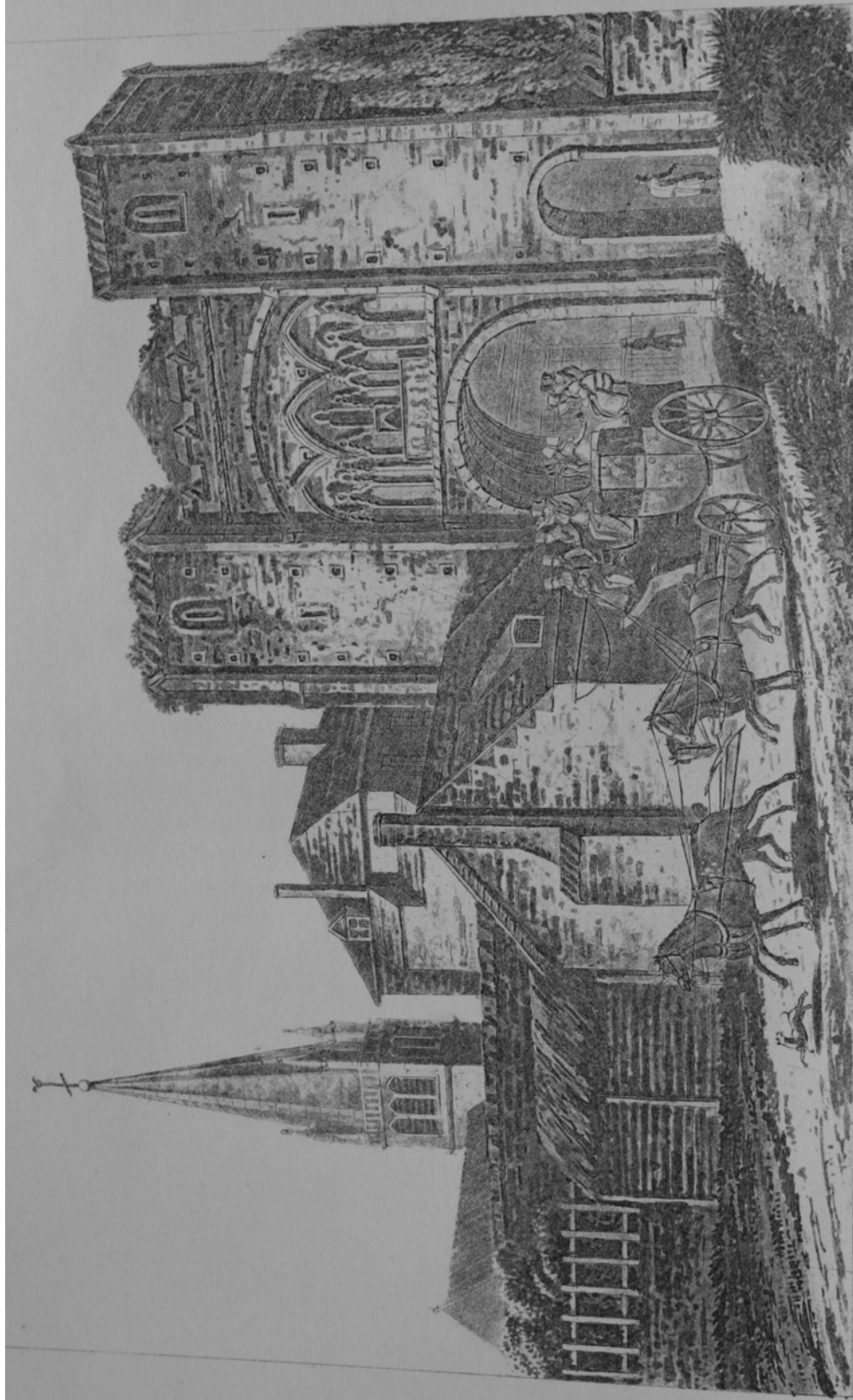
f Their bones have been frequently disturbed by the sinking of wells and digging foundations.

It was named, in honor of Henry III., who, as we have seen, first permitted the burgesses to fortify their town.* This tower was octagonal, the corners decorated with dressings of Caen stone; and so lofty that in the 16th century it was a good sea-mark. The lower chamber had a vaulted roof, and the springing stones of the groining ribs still remain, but the arches which supported the floor are gone; and the tower is now unroofed, and the interior open to the sky. The lower part, forming as it were a huge well, is filled with human bones, collected for centuries from the adjoining churchyard. Here at least there is no distinction of persons, and we are reminded of the saying of Diogenes who, when searching a charnel-house, declared he could find no difference between the skull of King Philip and that of "any other man." *f* From King Henry's Tower the wall takes a course due west, bounding the churchyard on the north for 136 yards. It there makes an acute angle, and again takes a northerly direction for 86 yards to a corner tower, which is 24 feet in breadth. The wall then again runs due west for 42 yards, at which distance was the NORTH GATE, built principally of flints, which externally were smoothed and squared, the quoins and dressings being of stone. In the upper part some bricks were used; and the whole firmly set in cement. Over the portal, which was 12 feet wide, was a room surmounted by an embattled parapet, the north front of which was ornamented with a canopied arcade of some architectural pretention, having a niche in the centre. The gateway was defended by stout doors and a double portcullis. On each side was a loopholed rectangular tower, and the whole admeasuring 66 feet in breadth. *J* There is a tradition that this gate was erected at the expense of those who enriched themselves during the time of the great plague in 1348 by following the loathsome employment of burying the dead. In 1804 a passage was cut through the base of the West Tower for the con-

* Attached to the Parish Church was King Henry's Chapel; and in the Churchwardens' accounts payments are recorded in respect of it, 1607, to Friar William for keeping King Harry's Chapel, xij. iiij. Tanner's M.S.

*f*The ancient Chantry or Mortuary Chapel has been already mentioned (vol. i., p. 55). It is described in the "Particulars for Grants," 2 Ed. 6, remaining in the Augmentation Office.

J There is a very old engraving of this gate published by Hixon, 440, Strand.



OLD NORTH GATE & ORIGINAL SPIRE OF ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH.

venience of foot passengers; and in 1807, when a rage for demolition had set in, the whole structure was taken down, but its exact position may be seen by the remains of the town wall on each side. From the North Gate the wall is continued straight to the river, being a distance of 196 yards. About midway was another tower, the base of which may still be seen in *Ramp Row*; and within 11 yards of the "North Water" is the last tower, called the NORTH-WEST TOWER. It is still standing with a high-conical roof, surmounted by a vane, and having a most picturesque appearance especially when viewed from the river; it has long been a favorite subject with painters and engravers. There was no gateway, but a passage has been cut through the adjoining wall to allow the passage of carts.

In ancient times gardens were made within the lofty walls, and being by them well protected on the east became very agreeable for the inhabitants and extremely productive, until "grim-visaged war" doomed them all to destruction. When hostilities were proclaimed both against France and Scotland by Henry VIII, the Duke of Norfolk came down to Yarmouth to look to the defences. He "disgardened" these pleasant places, and then caused the wall from the Market Gate to Black Friars to be "rampired" by heaping up earth against it to the extent of forty feet, until the earth reached to within a few feet of the top, thus rendering it almost indestructible. These works were commenced in 1544, and were not finished until 1587, "which was in the year before the Spanish intended invasion;"* and by arching over the roadway behind each gate a pleasant and continuous walk was made along the rampired wall, principally by the exertions of Mr. Greenwood, whereby several persons could proceed abreast and enjoy an extensive sea view.^f Although in process of time the gates were "unram-

* Several very large vessels belonging to the Armada, were lost on the coast of Argyle. Of their crews about five hundred were saved, who reached Edinburgh in a manner naked; and out of charity were clothed by the inhabitants, who then shipped them off for Spain. Their misfortunes however were not ended; for the ships in which they had embarked were forced by stress of weather into Yarmouth, and here the Spaniards were detained until the queen in council, considering what miseries they had already endured, sent down an order permitting them to continue their voyage.

^f It is to be regretted that this walk was not preserved. An attempt was made to do so in 1621, when the corporation passed a resolution that "the inhabitants

pired" and the earth heaped against the walls greatly lowered, yet it may be seen to this day that the level of the ground within the walls is very considerably above that without the walls. The wall throughout its entire length was "compassed with a mighty main ditch passable with boats and keels," as Manship informs us; traces of which might have been, seen until within the last few years.*

For the safe-keeping of the town all the gates were watched day and night by the inhabitants, who were compelled to serve in turn upon, what was called "*watch and ward*"^f and in pursuance of the 3 Ed. I. c. 23 (1275), the gates were closed from sun setting to sun rising. Upon extraordinary occasions additional assistance was obtained. Thus in 1386, an invasion being apprehended, Sir Henry Percy and Sir Vaux Percy were sent down, to man the walls with 300 men-at-arms and 600 archers; and in 1457 the French having fitted out two fleets with, it was said, a design upon Yarmouth (*Hol.*, vol. ii., fo. 645), proclamation was made at Norwich for all men to arm themselves according to their degree, and 200 men were sent to Yarmouth to assist in defending the town, and an aid was levied on the city for their maintenance. In 1542, on the requirement of the Duke of Norfolk, forty men, "well trymmed in ev'y behalf," were sent from Norwich to assist in the defence of the town. They came by water, and were placed under the command of Sir John Clere.^J In 1585 the town was required by the Privy

"should have the walks round the town walls as anciently, and fill places stopped should be opened, notwithstanding; which the encroachers prevailed. The towers also should never have been allowed to pass into private hands.

*Great care was taken to keep the moat in a navigable state; and the rolls of the leet record many fines inflicted on persons for throwing rubbish therein.

^f Ward-penny was a contribution made to defray the expenses of the watch. In a petition to Henry VII., in which the inhabitants complain of the great charges to which they were subjected for the defence of the town, they state in time of war the night watch consisted of thirty persons.

^J The ancient family of Clere has been already mentioned. (See vol. i., p. 11.) They had a town house in Middlegate Street. Sir Robert Clere of Ormesby, High Sheriff of Norfolk in 1501, attended Henry VIII. to the Field of the Cloth of Gold. Sir Edward Clere, who claimed "Yarmouth Island" (see vol. i., p. 316), was knighted at Norwich by Queen Elizabeth in 1578. Abigail, his grandchild and sole heiress, married Col. John Cromwell, third son of Sir Oliver Cromwell, and cousin to the Lord Protector,—an unhappy match. (See *Commons' Journal*, vol. iv., pp. 532, 709.)

¹Just because rubbish was thrown into the moat, does not mean that it was navigable or indeed ever had water in it. See RRH.

Council to provide ships to transport 400 soldiers to the low countries. Each alderman subscribed £5, and each common councilman £2. 1ds., and the rest of the money was raised by assessment. In 1591 two ships were required to carry out 150 soldiers to Normandy. In 1625 the fortifications were inspected, and the walls, gates, and towers put into a state of defence. In the towers flat roofs of lead were made, whereon were placed "sachets," "culverins," and "murdering pieces," as the ordnance then in use were termed.* Mention is also made of "slyngs" and "hagbushes." John Shaw, a gunner from London, was hired in 1526 for three years, at £ 16 a year, to instruct the inhabitants; and when in 1626 there was a fear of an invasion from Dunkirk, 100 "musketeers" were employed nightly in guarding the walls. When, in 1642, the town declared for the Parliament, the defences were again strengthened, especially towards the north; and a "court, of guard," or guard house, was established in each tower, and the peaceable inmates expelled. A large sum of money, raised by a rate on the inhabitants, was at that time expended on the fortifications. To see that the works were properly done, four members of the corporation personally attended by turns daily to inspect them. During the civil war the gate-houses and towers were used as prisons for captured royalists; and were often very much crowded. This was especially the case when, in 1642, the bailiffs seized a ship laden with gunpowder, arms, and ammunition for the service of the king (which had been compelled by stress of weather to put into port in a leaky state), and made prisoners of her crew and 150 soldiers.

* Cannon were first cast in England of iron about 1450, and of bronze in 1535. Eight pieces of iron ordnance were sent to the town in 1569; and in 1597 the town purchased for £45 two brass cannon of Sir Robert Southwell, which had been brought from Cadiz. In 1625 the deputy-lieutenants found in Yarmouth, thirteen pieces of ordnance, five being of braes and eight of iron. Swinden (p. 113) gives the weight. The largest is called a "curtall." Soon afterwards Government sent down seventeen pieces, thus increasing the number to thirty; but the town being without powder the bailiffs petitioned the Privy Council, praying that an order might be made for them to have of the patentee, Mr. Evelyn, fifty barrels "out of his majesty's at his majesty's price." It was ordered to be supplied at 10d. per lb.; and the clerk of the council, Mr. Becher, wrote a private note to Mr. Evelyn "entreating" him to comply "rather," says the writer, "for my sake, which I shall ever be ready to acknowledge." Such was the way of transacting public business in those days!

The vigorous proceedings of the bailiffs were commended by the Parliament, who requested them to "search for and disarm all persons in Yarmouth, Southtown, and Gorleston, suspected of having passed over from beyond sea to assist the king in this unnatural war." Again in 1646 so many prisoners were sent to Yarmouth by the "Sea Captains," and also by the "Standing Committee" at Norwich, that the gate-houses and towers were filled with them, and application was made to Parliament for the means of their maintenance.* In 1650 the town received from the Treasurers of Casualties at Norwich Quarter Sessions £100 toward disbursements for sea prisoners in the towers. "When the Scottish Clans rose in 1715 the "fortifications" were examined and repaired; five barrels of gunpowder were bought, and a better system of watching was organized. It was with joy that the corporation afterwards expended 18s. "for ringing the bells for the good news that the rebels in Scotland were dispersed, and the pretender fled out of that country."

A traveller, writing from Yarmouth in 1796, says,—"On July 10, a violent firing was all at once heard from the Russian ships in the Roads, which raised an alarm truly diverting when the cause was known. It was the coronation day of the Empress. The bustle it occasioned was extraordinary. In five minutes the old walls and platforms were filled with people; and we all thought of nothing less than a French engagement."

Southey, writing in 1798, when he visited Yarmouth, says,—"The old walls and gates are yet standing." Since that time all the gates, as we have seen, have been removed; but the remains of the wall and towers can still be traced from one end of the town to the other.

* In the following year Miles Corbet addressed a letter to Speaker Lenthall, "with an account of the prisoners sent up from Yarmouth. *Tanner M.S.S.* Lxii. 213.