

CHAPTER VI.

Secundis usque laboribus.—HoR. CAR. iv. 4, 45.

The Town Hall.



HEN, at the commencement of the eighteenth century, the old Guildhall at the Church gate (*ante*, vol. i. p. 64) fell into decay, the corporation determined to erect a spacious and more commodious edifice in a central position; and for this purpose selected a site on the quay at the Furlong's *end*. The NEW HALL was completed in 1713; and long went by that name. It was designed to afford better accommodation for dinners, balls, and other entertainments.* The principal "Feast" given here was that on Michaelmas day by the newly-inaugurated mayor *f* to which he usually invited upwards of two hundred guests. It was generally attended by the high steward, the recorder, the members for

* The hospitality exercised by the corporation for centuries was of a profuse character. Not only were royal, noble, and eminent persons sumptuously entertained, but the corporation were in the constant practice of making presents to their lord high steward, the bishop, the recorder, the members, and others filling public positions in connection "with the town; and no services ever went unrewarded in this respect. Thus we find that Mr. Secretary Pepys¹ had for some years an annual present "for attending to our admiralty business," which consisted in sending a vessel of war to guard the fishing boats; or in occasionally providing a convoy for the Mediterranean. The corporation were fully alive to the advantages resulting, in those times, from having "a friend at court." See *Notes to Manship*, p. 263.

f Nothing less than death could prevent the dinner taking place. Notwithstanding the serious illness of Mr. Bernard, the newly-elected mayor in 1740, the customary feast was not postponed, for Ives has this entry, "Sept. 29—Father and I dined at the hall without the new elect, he being so bad could not swear him in as mayor;" and "Sept. 30—Mr. Bernard died this morning at two o'clock; about the time when revellers were going home.

¹ Palmer's Addenda: a family of this name, sometimes spelt Pepis and Peapes, flourished in Norfolk in 16th century. George Peapes of Yarmouth died in 1624. See pedigree in Norfolk Visitation. They bore *sa.*, a bend, *or.*, between two nag's heads erased, *arg.* Three fleur-de-lys of the field, and for a crest, a camel's head *or.*, ringed and gorged with a ducal coronet *sa.* In the parish church of Mileham in Norfolk, is the following quaint epitaph:

In memory of Mr Fermor Pepys, sometime of the Parish, of a worthy descent most happy nature, choicest educationa tried faith to God, a persecuted church, a banished Prince and his old friend. He was born and bred a gentleman, baptised and lived a Christian, died a believer and lives a Saint. Ob. Sept. 22nd, 1660, aged 79.

the county and borough, some of the neighbouring nobility and gentry, the principal inhabitants, and such military and naval officers as happened to be in the town. The high steward was accustomed to send a buck, and the members for the borough a turtle.* Another buck was usually presented by Lord Wodehouse, and sometimes a third from some other noble lord, while presents of game and fruit were received from Rainham, Holkham, *f*Wolterton, Kimberley, and other seats in the county. The corporation of Norwich frequently sent a cygnet. *j* It is said that until 1803 the wine (of which an enormous quantity was consumed) was placed on the table in the bottles in which it came from the cellar (what would Lord Cardigan have said?); but after that year it was decanted, "which not only added to the appearance of the table but saved a great deal of wine." It was the custom for the gaoler, who was the mayor's sword-bearer, to bring up the first dish, a large silver one filled with broiled herrings, unless a sturgeon could be procured, and place it before the mayor. The decoration of the tables was the province of the mayoress elect, who invited a number of her friends to assist, and they were frequently thus engaged for a week before the feast, dining every day at the hall and playing cards, with other diversions, in the evenings. These old customs gradually fell into disuse before the "feasts" finally ceased, which they did in 1834.

* "I have taken the liberty," writes Admiral Sir Thomas Trowbridge addressing the mayor elect in 1803, "of sending you a fine green turtle just arrived from the West Indies. Although it will reach you a few days before your dinner, a little salt water from the river will keep it in good order."

f"Mr. Coke presents his compliments to the Mayor Elect of Yarmouth, and requests his acceptance of a "basket of pine apples. Holkham, Sept. 1803."

j At these feasts the Michaelmas goose was never omitted. The custom of serving a goose for dinner on Michaelmas day, whether it arose from the accidental circumstance of Queen Elizabeth feeing in the full enjoyment of that savory bird when she was informed of the victory gained by Sir Francis Drake over the Spanish Armada, or from what other cause, was and still is very prevalent throughout Norfolk, where the goose for the table attains to a high degree of perfection. Alderman Partridge of Norwich, who died in 1816, by his will directed that a goose should be provided on Michaelmas day, annually for ever, for every four inmates of the Old Man's Hospital there. This was done in consequence of the economists of the day having proposed to discontinue the customary annual goose-feast.

When the dinner hour was three o'clock,* it was the custom for Mr. Charles Townshend (afterwards Lord Bayning), who during the thirty years he represented the borough usually attended the Michaelmas feast, at the close of the entertainment to invite the mayor and a large number of his supporters to sup with him at the *Wrestlers*, "and make a night of it;" but in more modern times a ball was held at the Bath rooms.

The old character of the town for hospitality was kept up not only on Michaelmas day but on other occasions. In 1719 the lord chief baron (Sir Thomas Bury) was entertained;f and in 1732 a dinner was

* At the commencement of the present century the usual dinner hour -was two o'clock, and it was customary to ask a casual acquaintance to take " pot luck," without fear of the consequences which now attend "taking a friend home to dinner." After dinner the guest was expected to depart; and as we see by the diaries of Dean Davies and Syllas Neville, he frequently drank tea in one place and supped at another, Occasionally however there were "drinking bouts." Hone, in his *Every Day Book*, mentions a drinking custom at Yarmouth, which certainly was in use forty years since (*Teste me ipso*). "When the glass had already gone freely round, one of the company began the game by singing—

"A pie sat on a pear tree,

"A pie sat on a pear tree,

"A pie sat on a pear tree,

"Heigh oh! Heigh oh! Hcigh oh!

The next person continued the strain by saying—

"And once so merrily hopped she," &c.; during which the first singer had to empty his glass. If he neglected or failed to do so, which was frequently the case from inexperience or laughter, he had to drink a bumper, and so the absurdity went round the table.

In 1730 the corporation hospitably entertained Joseph Abaisir and John Hammer, "two Princes of Libanon." and sent them away rejoicing. They produced an "authentic document that they and their predecessors had been christian princes, and had possessed part of the Turk's country for 700 years, and had erected many churches whereby several thousand Turks had been converted to the christian faith," which so enraged the Bashaws of Damascus, Sidon, and Tripoli, that they with "their forces surprised and burnt those churches and the princes' palaces, and destroyed their lands, so that these princes were utterly ruined and compelled to ask relief from christian countries." The corporation presented them with ten guineas, and paid the expenses of these "noble princes" and their servants from the time of their arrival in the town, and also their coach hire to Norwich and then expenses thither, and sent an officer with them to introduce them to the Mayor of Norwich where they stayed two days and then departed for Lynn. At Newcastle

given to the "Right Honorable Arthur Onslow, Speaker of the House of Commons,* and Sir Charles Turner; and in the same year Sir Robert Walpole was entertained, on the occasion of his "being sworn in as High Steward of the Borough,† The freedom of the borough had in 1728 been presented to him and Sir Charles Turner in silver boxes. This sagacious minister greatly deprecated, as is well known, the war against Spain, forced on him by the clamour raised throughout the nation in which "Jenkins' ears" played a prominent part. The supporters of the Walpole family were not warm in the cause. The Rev. Francis Turner, in a letter to the Craftsman under the signature of Garionensis, thus describes the Proclamation of War against Spain. "It was evening when the mayor received his majesty's declaration, and the next morning he summoned some of the members of the corporation to meet him at the Town hall, in order to the publication of it." Thence they proceeded in no sort of form, and without their gowns, "to the market, where it was read by the town clerk, neither music, drums, or anything of the usual companions of their cavalcade being allowed on the occasion. After a second reading of it at the bridge foot, the company all dispersed to their several habitations, nor was his majesty's health or success to his arms any where publicly drank," except by some gentlemen at a tavern who, ashamed of their magistrates' behaviour, and more loyal to their king than to his minister, "supplied, as far as they were able, what was wanting elsewhere, and toasted the welcome health of the day to a point of war from the drums of the militia, whose proffered service the mayor had refused, "The drummers were next day summoned before the mayor, and though neither his nor the corporation's servants, were severely reprimanded and menaced never to be more employed by him, unless they would submit to ask pardon. If people should ask for the

the mayor "gave them a handsome entertainment and a purse of twenty guineas;" and at Leicester they were passed on to Coventry with a purse of ten guineas, besides payment of their hotel charges. *Extracts from Corporation Books.*

* He was presented with the freedom of the borough in a silver box.

† There is a half-length picture of Sir Robert Walpole, adorned with the blue ribbon of the Bath, in the Record room. The annexed portrait is from an old print.



"reasons of this extraordinary behaviour, it has been rumoured here that *this is not Sir Robert's war.*" It must be borne in mind that at this time the son of the pacific minister was one of the Members for the Borough. The merchants of Yarmouth had soon good reason to lament over the miseries which war always produces. Their peaceful occupations were interrupted, their ships were frequently captured, and their townsmen imprisoned; and they called to remembrance the warning words of their high steward when he said, "They ring their bells now; but they will soon *wring* their hands."

When Samuel Killett was mayor in 1746 the Earl of Buckinghamshire dined at the feast, and was presented with the freedom of the borough in a silver box.*

For many years after the erection of the New Hall it was customary to hold evening assemblies there during the winter season, which were attended by most of the families in the town and immediate neighbour-

* The family of HOBART, one of the most illustrious in Norfolk, was long connected with the borough. Sir James Hobart, when Attorney General to Henry VII. settled and allowed the ordinances then made for the good government of the town. Sir Miles Hobart, in. 1588, busied himself about the fortifications and the means to be taken by the town to repel the Spanish Armada. In 1593 Sir Henry Hobart interceded with the queen for some relief in consequence of the extraordinary expenses to which the town had been put. He had been made under-steward in 1589, and in 1596 he was returned to parliament for the borough; and in that year he purchased the Clippesby estate, which is now in the possession of the Rev. J. H. Musket*. He died in 1600. Sir John Hobart, his son, built Kidding hall, Norfolk, one of the most perfect and interesting specimens of the architectural taste of the reign of James I. remaining in the kingdom. As one of the Deputy-Lieutenants for Norfolk he inspected the fortifications in 1625. It was Sir Miles Hobart who in 1629, foreseeing a dissolution, forcibly held the speaker in the chair until the doors of the house were locked and some strong resolutions were passed: and in 1642 he came to Yarmouth to advise as to putting the town, in a posture of defence. In 1728 Sir John Hobart of Blickling was created Baron Hobart, and in 1740 Earl of Buckinghamshire. He was the father of the above-named earl, who dying without heirs male in 1793 the Blickling estate, after the death of his daughter, Caroline, widow of the second Lord Suffield, passed to her nephew, the Marquis of Lothian, whose father had married Lady Harriet Hobart, the other daughter of the earl; in whose family it continues, but the present Earl of Buckinghamshire is the representative of the Hobarts of Norfolk. They bore *sa-* an estoile of eight rays *or.* betw. two flaunches *erm.*; and for a crest, a bull passant per pale *sa.*, and *gu.* bezantée, in the nose a ring *or.* *P. C.* pp. 201, 340.

hood; the young people dancing and the others amusing themselves with conversation and cards; tea and coffee being the only refreshments provided. Mrs. Bridget Bendish, the daughter of General Ireton and the granddaughter of Oliver Cromwell, who then resided in Southtown, was a constant attendant.

In 1787 a curious incident occurred. A young and handsome man, of gentleman-like appearance and good address, named Benjamin Gregson, came to Yarmouth, and was "received by the best families;" and among other houses he found his way to the Parsonage, where he was entertained by Dr. Cooper with his usual hospitality. Dancing one evening with a lady at the Town hall, he was, to the astonishment of all present, taken into custody on a charge of forgery, a crime then visited with certain death. He was committed to gaol. About nine o'clock one morning, in the absence of the keeper, Gregson, not without suspicion of connivance, wrenched the keys out of the hands of a woman to whom they had been entrusted, let himself out of prison, locked the door and put the keys in his pocket. His legs being ironed he could only walk with difficulty, but he managed to elude observation until he saw a gentleman coming to whom he was known, upon which he turned down a row. The gentleman seeing him disappear, quickened his pace in order to follow him, but meanwhile Gregson had entered a house, where falling upon his knees he prayed a woman to save the life of an unfortunate man. She, compassionating the handsome young fellow, took him upstairs, and secreted him beneath a feather bed with his face downwards to enable him to breathe between the cordage. Scarcely had this been done before the gentleman reached the house, and disregarding the denial of the woman, went upstairs, but could find no one. The escape from prison now became known, and a crowd of people gathered about the house. Many went upstairs and saw the bed, which had the appearance of having been slept on and was unmade, but there was no discovery, and at last it was believed that the man was not there. "When all was quiet Gregson got off his irons, put on a sailor's dress, disfigured his face, and with a pipe in his mouth, and a "south-wester" on his head, sauntered out of the house, listened to the tales of his own escape, and in this disguise got safely over to

Holland. After visiting Russia he went to Paris, where he had an intrigue with a married lady. The husband removed his wife to London whither the infatuated man followed, but in consequence of information which the former was able to give, Gregson was apprehended and committed to Newgate, where he was tried, condemned, and left for execution. Whilst lying under sentence of death he was visited by Mr. Cooper (afterwards Sir Astley), who had met him at his father's table. Gregson was then labouring under an infectious fever which, owing to the defective state of prisons at that time, was very prevalent in such places; and young Cooper, in consequence, contracted a dangerous illness. Having been furnished with, a change of apparel, Gregson sawed off his fetters and again escaped; but only to be retaken and hanged.

A scurrilous writer of " poetry " in the last century thus describes the above-mentioned *Reunions* at the Town hall:—

*" Soon as the sun descends the western shies, " And
 night's dark shadows gradually arise, " When all the
 world from daily toil are freed, " And taper lights to
 solar foams succeed, " Drawn from all parts by
 pleasure's cheerful call, " To join the warm diversions of
 the hall, " The gay, the vain, the aged, and the young, "
 As fancy prompts, in various parties throng; " Some in
 sedans, in coaches others move, " But chief to walk, the
 general part approve.*

* * * * *

*" The doors are op'd, the rooms are quickly filled, "And all to pleasure's mild
 suggestions yield; " Some taught by art, in mazy steps advance, " And lead with
 graceful ease the mystic dance; "In senseless prattle others most delight, " Or join
 the gay amusements of the night; " Some are more deeply bent to gain rewards, "
 And spend their moments o'er adventurous cards." The writer then proceeds to
 describe the "chief characters," but in language so insulting as to make it a
 matter of wonder he had a whole*

bone left in his body, and even at this distance of time it is not meet to repeat the libels on the persons alluded to, viz., Dr. Hunt, Abel Clifton, Scratton, Dade, Lacon, Symonds, Spurgeon, Rev. C. Taylor, the Urquharts, and "the young Mr. Fishers," as William and James Fisher were long called. The latter are however more favorably described. " *Simply good-natured, neither dull nor wise, " Th' Adelphi heaves next strike my wandering eyes, " Th' Adelphi beaux are ever of a mind, " Both to one object mutually inclin'd, "Both in their gardens their chief pleasure find. Their gardens only formed for pleasure, where " They cultivate with unremitting care" Heaven's last best gift, which Adam valued most, "The loveliest plant that paradise could boast."* The ladies find more favor with the poet; and he applies to them his "softest numbers." To Miss Barney (afterwards Countess of Home) he says—

" the muse shall not thy virtues slight,

" But owns thee cheerful, lovely, and polite." He

praises Miss Luson, but on others is coarse and severe.

On the 28th of August, 1812, a public ball took place at the Town hall, "Vice-Admiral Murray and Major Sibthorpe, stewards, "to celebrate "the most glorious victory (at Salamanca) obtained by the forces under " the Earl of Wellington." "Music to commence at eight o'clock, and " dancing at half-past."

The dominant party in the corporation did not hesitate to use the Town hall as an election committee room. This was done in 1796, when an attempt was made to upset the Townshend influence which had so long prevailed. Mr. Charles Townshend, the sitting member, having been promised a peerage, which was soon after conferred upon him, retired in favor of his relative, Lord Charles Townshend, fourth son of the Marquis Townshend. This young man was duly elected; and on the following evening he and his brother, Lord Frederick Townshend, posted to London in a carriage and four, travelling all night. At six o'clock, in the morning the postillions pulled up in Oxford street to enquire where the Bishop of Bristol lived, to whose house they

¹ Another example of Victorian and modern American English being the same.

had orders to drive. Lord Frederick jumped out of the carriage, struck one of the post boys, and offered to fight with the persons attracted to the spot; but being unable to provoke a contest he walked away towards Hanover Square. Upon looking into the carriage, the lifeless body of the newly-elected member was found shot through the head. Lord Frederick was immediately pursued and taken into custody. From the evidence of the postillions it was proved that when within about seven miles of London they heard a report, and Lord Frederick was seen to throw a pistol out of the window. Lord Frederick declared that his brother had shot himself, and that he had endeavoured to do the same, but failed. A pistol, which appeared to have been recently discharged, was found in the carnage. It appears that the conduct of these young men at Yarmouth had been so extraordinary that Sir Edmund Lacon followed them to town, fearing some accident would happen. Nothing further could be elicited, and the coroner's jury found "that the deceased had been killed by a pistol-ball, but from whose hands unknown."*

Sir Edmund Lacon was desirous that the vacant seat should be filled by Mr. Robert John Buxton of Shadwell lodge, with whom he had a slight family connection; *f* and the proceedings which then took place afford us an amusing example of how election matters were managed at that time. A committee was formed which met daily at the Town hall, from the 37th of June to the 18th of July, the number present varying from six to fourteen *j* and four young men attended as clerks (*viz.*), Abraham Preston, Thomas Rising, John Reynolds, jun., and Samuel Tolver, jun. Their first care was to dispatch William Smith, the hall-keeper, to Shadwell lodge, to secure the attendance of Mr. Buxton, for which service he received five guineas; *t* and on the same day some of the

* Lord Frederick survived this catastrophe forty years, He was Rector of *Morston* with *Stiffkey* in Norfolk, and died in 1836, aged 68.

f He married Juliana Mary, second daughter of Sir Thomas Beevor, Bart. The present Sir Robert J. Buxton, Bart., M.P., is his grandson.

t He was also paid two guineas for canvassing with Mr. Buxton; probably to point out the voters. The "mayor's officers" were paid five guineas for their services. "Old Billy Smith" had been butler in a nobleman's family, and his racy anecdotes of what he had seen in high life were extremely amusing.

committee journeyed to Hethel hall to consult with Sir Thomas Beevor. Mr. Buxton's address was printed and circulated; and great efforts were made to arouse popular feeling in his favor. A scarlet ensign was purchased of Mr. Travel Fuller, ship chandler, for £1. 1s.; and James Sandcroft was paid 6s. for 'lettering' the same. One thousand placards were printed by Downes (*ante*. vol. i. p. 310) and ten handbills, of which 5,500 copies were distributed; the church bells were rung "by order of Mr. Mayor," drums were beat, and colour men engaged, and a man was paid "for chalking." The outvoters were carefully canvassed; Mr. W. D. Palmer and Mr. Dover Colby, two of the committee, going for this purpose to Lowestoft. Mr. Richard Miller was allowed £9 10s. 6d. for "coach hire to and from Norwich and for canvassing the Yarmouth" freemen, and treating them to suppers at the *Waggon and Horses* and "*King's Head*." Mr. Richard Harley was paid ten guineas for horse hire to various places in Norfolk, and for "sundry expenses with different freemen;" and Mr. Samuel Paget, sen., was allowed £3. 2s. 3d. for expenses on a journey to Loddon, and for "liquor to the freemen there." Tea and coffee were the only refreshments indulged in at the Town hall; but this abstemiousness was amply compensated-for elsewhere. Thomas Brooks, of the *Half-Moon*, charged for beef-steaks and porter supplied to "the gentlemen on canvas;" and also for one hundred and twenty-one bottles of wine and fifteen bowls of punch which they had consumed to keep up their spirits. He had the audacity to charge 12s. for "glasses broken," but this was deemed an imputation upon the sobriety of the party, and was disallowed. At the *King's Arms*, ale was supplied to the freemen to the extent of £8 11s. Mr. Eldridge at the *Duke's Head* sent in a bill amounting to £20. 1s. for "red port" and punch, supplied on two days only; and Mr. Suckling at the *Wrestlers* charged £10. 14s. for dinners, wine, and "cyder cup." Mr. Shreeve at the *Star* and Mr. Robert Breeze at the *Fishing Boat* had bills of more moderate dimensions. In the midst of these proceedings, news arrived of the death of Colonel Stephens Howe, the sitting member, which caused both seats to be vacant. A compromise then took place. Sir Edmund Lacon and his friends withdrew Mr. Buxton, and substituted Mr. Joddrell, and agreed to support Lieut.-

General Loftus, who had married Lady Elizabeth. Townshend, and thus the influence of the Townshend family was, for some time longer, partially established; and in the election of 1812 the general was again returned, having Mr. Lacon, the eldest son of Sir Edmund Lacon, for his colleague. The expenses of this six weeks' canvas for Mr. Buxton amounted to £157. 17s. 2d., nearly all of which was expended in eating and drinking, no lawyer's bill having been incurred with the exception of one guinea paid to the town cleric, "for numerous searches after freedoms."*

The Town hall has, during the century and a half of its existence, been used for public meetings, and for political, social, or benevolent purposes. Here in 1843 Cobden declaimed against the corn laws; and here Joseph Hume held his court as a commissioner to enquire into the state of harbours. *f* In the area, to the west, of the hall were placed two large brass pieces of ordnance, taken by Nelson from the crown batteries at Copenhagen. *f* The illuminated clock on the north front of the Town hall was placed there in 1862; and a bell from the "Old Dutch Clock," removed from the Port Dues office, is suspended at the back of the Police court as an alarm bell.

* Freemen alone were at this time entitled to vote. They were dispersed over the country, many of them being shipwrights at Deptford, Sheerness, and other dockyards. There was no register of voters, and consequently great uncertainty prevailed as to the numbers entitled to the franchise.

f Joseph Hume, for nearly forty years an active and useful member of the British parliament, became acquainted with the inhabitants of Yarmouth in consequence of having acquired, in 1824, the Somerton estate. The hall, which was thenceforth called Burnley (the maiden name of Mrs. Hume), was built early in the 18th century, and was at the time of the above purchase in the occupation of Admiral Stephens, who succeeded for life to the estates of Sir Philip Stephens, (Some-time Secretary to the Admiralty, with remainder to the present Lord Ranelagh. Colonel Stephens Howe, who was the son of "William Howe, Esq., of Mistle Thorne in Essex, by Millicent his wife, second daughter of the Rev. Nathaniel Stephens and sister of Sir Philip Stephens, was returned to parliament for Yarmouth in 1795 in the Townshend interest. He died unmarried at Jamaica in 1796, when Brigadier-General of the Forces in the "West Indies. Joseph Hume died in 1856", aged 78, and was buried at Kensall Green, where a monument to his memory bears this inscription:— "*Keep innocency ; and take heed unto the thing that is right ; for that shall bring a man peace at the last,*"

t They were afterwards sold and the money distributed among the captors.

Adjoining the hall at the north-east corner, and now forming part of the building, is the POLICE COURT, where the magistrates hold Petty Sessions; the Police station being beneath.* It stands upon the site of a smaller building, formerly called the town clerk's office, which communicated with the hall parlour, where the mayor formerly sat to hear whatever cases might be brought before him, seldom assisted, by any other justice unless the law required, two; and although the public could not legally be excluded, very few insisted upon the right of being present unless personally interested in what was going on.

An office for the Town CLERK was provided in the Convent of the Grey Friars when those buildings came into the possession of the corporation; and when that property was sold, one of the church houses at the *Furlong's end* was hired for the purpose. Up to the year 1651 it had been customary for the town clerk to "read prayers" before the corporation proceeded to business, as is done in the House of Commons to this day; but in that year it was "forborn," being "offensive to divers members," and instead thereof four "ministers of the gospel" were called in "to pray with the members." At the restoration the corporation determined to revert to the ancient custom, and ordered Mr. Benjamin Bends, then town clerk, to read "the prayer to be used before assemblies," which he refused to do, and was dismissed. The corporation consulted their recorder, Sir Robert Baldock, as to his successor, and he named Mr. Ralph Pell, who produced letters of recommendation from Chief Justice Richardson and Sir William D'Oyley. Pell was elected, and presented with his freedom and also elected a member of the corporation.^f

In 1739, when Robert Perrier was elected town clerk, the office above named, adjoining the Town hall, was erected for his use, and

* Upon the organization of the police force in 1836, Captain Benjamin Laverock Love was appointed the first superintendent. He was the only child of Mr. Love, surgeon, of East Dereham and afterwards of Norwich. At an early age he entered the royal navy, and gave fair promise of future distinction; but his health failing, he quitted the service. He was subsequently for many years a Captain in the East Norfolk Regiment of Militia. Engaging in business for which he was unfit, the rapid loss of an ample fortune compelled him to accept the above situation, and that of High Bailiff when the County Court was first established. He died in 1863, aged 71.

^f He was of a Suffolk family, who bore *erm. on a canton org.*, a pelican vulning herself, *or.*

continued to be occupied by his successors until the passing of the Municipal Corporation Act in 1834, when it was pulled down. A list of town clerks from the earliest times will be found in P. C, p. 354. One name has to be added—Mr. Charles Diver, appointed in 1869.

Dr. Alexander Carlyle gives an amusing account of having been "ordered up before the mayor," then sitting in the Hall parlour. He had landed from a vessel in the Roads, on his way from Scotland to the Continent in 1745, and lodged at a small public house kept by a man named Robin Sad, and was suspected by the authorities of being a Jacobite attempting to escape. "I waited," says the doctor, "a little while in an anti-chamber, and overheard my landlord, Sad, under examination. He was very high and resentful in his manner, and had a tone of contempt for men, who, he said, were unfit to rule as they did not know the value of any coins but those of England," for Sad had been several years in the merchant service, had seen foreign countries, and was "vain, boastful, and presumptuous." When the mayor asked what expenses the doctor had incurred, Sad "answered, with a still more saucy pride, and told them exultingly that I had ordered him to buy "the best goose in the market for tomorrow's dinner," which confirmed their suspicions. The doctor was then called in and examined. "The mayor was an old grey-headed man of a mild address. After my examination, in which I had nothing to conceal, they told me as I was going abroad they were obliged to tender me the oaths or detain me. I objected to that, and offered to show them my diploma as Master of Arts of the University of Edinburgh, and a Latin letter from the University of Glasgow to any foreign university where I might happen to go. They declined looking at them, and insisted on my taking the oaths, which were administered and I was then dismissed."*

Rough justice sometimes met with coarse rebuffs. In the last century a mayor, who was by trade an anchor smith, caused a baker to be "ordered up" because he had disturbed the slumbers of two old ladies by his morning "hot-bread " horn. " What business have you

* Dr. Alexander Carlyle, better known from his good looks as Jupiter Carlyle, had witnessed the battle of Preston Pans from a church steeple; "but was no Jacobite. He was afterwards Minister of Inveresk near Edinburgh.

to blow your horn?" asked the mayor when the baker appealed before him. "As much business as you have to blow your bellows," was the surly reply. "Smith," said his indignant worship to the officer of the court, "hold that there fellow till I come and give him a kick."*

One of the most remarkable instances of the frustration of an intended fraud happened in 1855. A young man having the appearance of a commercial traveller, and giving his address at the *Angel*, called upon a firm of solicitors and instructed them to write to a person in London for the payment of a debt of about £70. He was asked for a "particular of demand," which he promised to furnish, but said he felt sure it would not be required as the debtor would probably pay as soon as he was threatened with proceedings, and that he, the creditor, would call within a week to learn the result. The letter was accordingly written, and in the course of a few days the money was sent down to the solicitors with an indignant reply from the debtor. The solicitors then wrote a note to the creditor informing him of their success, which they left for him at the *Angel*. It appeared that the young man was not staying there, but was accustomed to call for his letters, and this note was exhibited in the bar to be claimed. There it was seen and the handwriting recognized by another solicitor who had called at the *Angel* to speak with the creditor, and who had been surprised to learn that no such person, was there. He therefore applied to the first-named solicitors to know the address of their client, and they were mutually struck with the singularity of two firms of solicitors being employed in a similar manner by a stranger; and upon comparing notes it was found that although the applications were made to different persons stated as residing at distant parts of London, the answers were in the same handwriting and couched in the same language. The suspicion which this created was increased by its having transpired that a third solicitor had been employed by the same person in a similar-manner. It was then concluded that a fraud of some sort was intended which it was their duty to discover. They gave instructions that when the young man called for his letters at the *Angel* he should be followed, which was done, and it was discovered that he had for some weeks been.

* The noise of horns and the cry of "fresh fish this morning" still continue¹.

¹In 2007, there is fish on sale from a van on the Caister bypass. The sign proclaims "fresh cod, and mackerel" Fresh they seem indeed, but the vendor charges the full supermarket price, and I doubt notes the sale to the revenue.

In September 2007, there is a campaign against the Supermarkets, led by "Friends of the Earth", against monopolistic practices and price fixing by the Giant supermarket chains, *Tesco*, *Sainsburys* and *Asda*. It seems that they have a secret agreement to keep fix food prices low in the shops, such that milk prices for the dairyman are at zero profit except for very large enterprises with many thousand head of cattle. Most worrying is the effect on developing countries, where those producing the food are paying literally slave wages because the supermarkets have forced purchase prices at source so low, yet they make a profit themselves. This is similar to the supply of petrol, where virtually every non-supermarket petrol outlet, certainly all small independents throughout the UK have now been completely forced out of business by the buying and selling power of those same supermarkets.

living with a woman in an obscure lodging. When therefore the pretended creditor applied to the solicitors first named for his money, the bold step was adopted of giving him into custody; and upon his person were found various papers, one of which contained the names of several firms of eminence in Norwich, who had been employed by him to apply for the payment of debts in like manner. The prisoner's lodgings were searched, and whilst this was going on another man was observed lurking about the house, looking in at the window, and making signs to the woman. He was questioned, and required to attend the Police court; but on his way thither he so satisfied the policeman that he knew nothing of the prisoner, that he was allowed to go. He was a short, stout, middle-aged, jovial-looking man, dressed as and having the appearance of a farmer. He and his wife had been living at respectable lodgings for some weeks. On coming to Yarmouth, he lodged several hundreds of pounds at one of the local banks, drew cheques and referred to the bankers. He expressed himself so pleased with Yarmouth as to have some intention of buying property in the neighbourhood, and made many enquiries as to where a purchase could be made. The solicitors sent a description of the two men to Mr. Mullens, acting for the Association of London Bankers, and mentioned the suspicious circumstances; and he immediately informed them that these men were, as he believed, two of the most accomplished bank swindlers in London, for whom he had long been in search; especially the elder one, whom he desired to have apprehended at all hazards. The latter had not left Yarmouth, and was taken into custody on his return from his customary afternoon drive. "When brought before the magistrates he vehemently protested against the indignity put upon him, and asked whether that was the way in which respectable strangers were treated in Yarmouth. His bald head fringed with white hair, his round red face, honest appearance, and plausible address, won the hearts of the audience, who would at once have set him free; but the magistrates determined to detain him. His letters had been intercepted. They were written in slang, and the writer of one said he had heard that something had "gone wrong," and requested to be informed how it was. Mr. Mullens came down and explained the mystery. These

two men, with a notorious forger called "Jerri the penman," formed a gang of swindlers. The two former had been sent to Norwich and Yarmouth for the purpose of obtaining, by some means or other, blank cheques on bankers. The younger man then employed various attornies to apply for imaginary debts j whilst the other supplied the money and sent it down in each case. It was arranged that the amount should be more than a solicitor would keep in his cash box, so that when the money was called for he would give a cheque on his bankers. By these means the gang would, have possession for a time of the cheques, and all the money advanced would be returned. These, before presentation, would be sent to Jem the penman with the blank cheques previously obtained, and he would fill up the latter for such amounts as upon enquiry it was found would likely to be honored¹ without suspicion; forging the signatures of the several attornies. When all was ready the forged cheques would be presented simultaneously by the three men, who would then make off with the proceeds. These two men were sent to London, tried at the Old Bailey, and convicted. Jem the penman escaped for a time, but at last was captured; and at his trial the other two men gave evidence against him, and he also was convicted. The evidence upon the two trials proved the whole plot. Jem the penman was a man of education and talent, and it is said had been a barrister. Concealed in a bed at the lodgings occupied by "the major," as the elderly man was called, an exchequer bill for £1,000 was discovered and claimed by him. Sir Frederick Thesiger, afterwards Lord Chancellor Chelmsford, was counsel for the prosecution.*

At the southeast corner of the Town hall a Record Room has been erected, from a design by Morant, having a fire-proof apartment in which the most valuable of the muniments belonging to the town council are deposited. In this room now stands the HUTCH, already mentioned (*ante*. vol. i. p. 269). The corporation had been accustomed to use a chest of this description for the safe custody of their money (when banks were unknown), charters, and valuable effects, from a very early period, but the one above mentioned, of which an engraving is given, was, as we have seen, presented to them in 1601. It is of oak, completely covered

* See *Facts, Frauds, and Fictions*, p. 484.

¹More Victorian/American spelling

and "banded with iron; and admeasures 5 feet 6 inches in length, 2 feet 5 inches in breadth, and 2 feet 8 inches in depth. It is secured in front by seven iron hasps, four of which cover as many locks; and they are kept down by an iron bar running across them. Its four keys are very good specimens of mediaeval Iron-work.* Upon removing*, some years since, the thick coats of paint with which this Hutch had from time to time been covered, it was found that the Trinity banner was engraved on one of the hasps, and sacred symbols on the others; and it clearly appeared that the chest had originally been painted with bright colours in bands of a diaper pattern. The original painting was too obscure to be accurately restored; and the present decorations, *by* "Winter, are taken from ancient rood screens remaining in Norfolk churches, *f*

In 1612 Manship complained that many of the charters, evidences, and writings belonging to the town had "of longe tyme been in the custody of sondry psons," and had by that and other means been lost; and for their better preservation in future, he obtained the appointment of a committee by whom all the muniments then remaining were examined and a repertory made of them. In 1853 another committee was appointed to examine the charters, rolls, records, and muniments then belonging to the town, when it was found that a large majority of the documents mentioned in Manship's Repertory had been lost or destroyed; nor was this a matter of surprise for at that time some of them were kept in open drawers placed in the Hall kitchen, and others in closets where they were fast mouldering away. They had been

* Prints of all these keys appear in the Notes to Manship, p. 212. By an ordinance made in 1631 the churchwardens were to keep one key, the chamberlains another, the treasurer of the plate and money a third, and the town clerk held the fourth, so that all must be present whenever the Hutch was opened: and a "committee of the Hutch " was annually appointed.

f A further account of this Hutch will be found in *Norfolk Archaeology*,

t At Hereford, in 1329, the woman employed to light the fires at the Guildhall used the town records for that purpose, they being within easy reach. Emboldened by the impunity with which this was done, she began to dispose of them to the shopkeepers as waste paper, which led to the discovery of her proceedings. Nearly three sacksfull were recovered; but the loss was irreparable.

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kept in the Guildhall up to the time of its demolition. It is believed that many documents were lent to Blomefield when compiling his *History of Norfolk*, and were never returned.* Indeed it is said that some mischievous magpies once entered the open window of the historian's library at Fersfield, and made off with many of them. *f* In some respects the corporation were very careful, for Ives, writing to the Rev. Mr. Thomas in 1773, says "our foolish corporation will not permit me to take an impression of their seal, for fear I should make a bad use of it—and notwithstanding I endeavoured to explain my design (to have it engraved) and adapt it to their comprehension, they refused my request, not having found a precedent among their papers." *J* Some of the town documents were sold by auction in London 1809., and were purchased by Mr. Bentham who offered them to the corporation, and Mr. Jodrell (then, recorder) recommended their re-purchase.

* Blomefield married Mary, daughter of the Rev. Lawrence Womack, Rector of Caister *next* Yarmouth, cousin and heir to Dr. Lawrence Womack, Bishop of St. David's. She died in 1796, in her 90th year. The bishop was a native of Norfolk, and the son of the Rev. Lawrence Womack, Rector of Lopham and Fersfield in that county, who died in 1642. Soon after the restoration Dr. Womack was made Archdeacon of Suffolk and a Prebendary of Ely. He died in 1685. The arms of Womack are *arg.*, a lion ramp. *gu.* A sister of William Womack of Somerton married Mr. Branford of Caister, who built a good house there. They had three sons— William Womack Branford of Godwick, who died unmarried in 1870; Benjamin Branford of Flordon, who married Elizabeth, youngest child of Nathaniel Palmer; and Richard Branford,

f Probably they made their nests with them, as did the jackdaws of a cathedral town, the chapter of which had allowed their muniment room to fall into decay, heedless of its valuable contents. At last one spring-time a person looking through a crack in the outer wall, saw mysterious black objects flitting about; and having reported the circumstance, an examination of the long-neglected apartment was made, when a number of jackdaws were found helping themselves to fragments of charters and title deeds. The destruction of M.S.S. in former times is irreparable. Most of the waste books of the Yarmouth corporation have for covers leaves taken from illuminated missals and church books.

J This curious seal is a large oval one, bearing the figure of St. Nicholas on one side and a ship on the other; and is believed to be of a date anterior to the reign of Edward III., as the bishop is seated literally on a *bench* without any canopy, and the ship has no rudder, but is steered by a paddle. It is still preserved but disused. Engravings of it are given in F, p. 136, and in the *Appendix to Manship*, p. 336.

A Repertory of all Documents then in the Record room, was compiled in 1855, and one hundred copies were printed, prefixed by copies of Manship's Repertory. Notwithstanding their many losses, the present town council possess a collection of municipal records almost unequalled by any other in the kingdom; which is especially rich in a series of rolls* commencing in 1273, comprising the following—

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. The Borough Court | 7 Deeds, Wills, &c. |
| 2. The free fair court | 8. Kings' writs &c. |
| 3. Fines and ameracements | 6. 9. Chamberlains and other |
| 4. Customs | accounts. |
| 5. Leet Courts | |
| 6. Sessions and Gaol Delivery | |

Those of the Borough court, which commence with the reign of Edward 1., form the largest and most important division. Every action at common law is there entered, and can be traced step by step from the commencement to the close. *Many* of them are of considerable interest on account of the position of the parties engaged in the dispute, the subject matter, the then state of the law, and the changes which from time to time have taken place in it. They all afford a vast fund of information regarding the manners, customs, and habits of the people at a very early period, their laws and usages, their dress and food, the prices of commodities, their early intercourse with foreign nations, the gradual growth of commerce, and their struggles to maintain their free institutions, some of which were as old as the Saxons. They also contain a rich mine for genealogical purposes and for the study of the origin of names rarely to be met with elsewhere. *f* The proceedings of the

* They are better entitled to be called *volumes* than are modern, books, because the word is derived from *volvete*, the Romans having been accustomed to roll their writings round a wooden cylinder.

f Surnames were occasionally assumed before the Normans came into England, but they did not become general until nearly three centuries later. Originally every surname, assumed OR imposed, had a meaning derived from, its supposed fitness, or was applied from some accidental circumstance or mere caprice. As mentioned at p.5, vol. I, a large proportion of our ancient local names was derived from the neighbouring villages and other localities. Various occupations also furnished a distinguishing title, some of which are not now met with, such as *Wyndrawer*, *Heymonger*, *Glasswright*, and *Blodleter*. Nicknames were also applied and used as surnames, such as *Cakehead*, *Driefoot*, *Thickpeny*, *Pluckfarthing*, *Lickbeard*, *Pudding-*

Free Fair Court, when for forty days in every year the Bailiffs of the Cinque Ports exercised a concurrent jurisdiction with the Bailiffs of Yarmouth, are of peculiar interest, and afford much information as to those places in some instances prior to their own records. The Rolls of Customs give a true and lively picture of the trade of the port at different periods. The Records of the Court Leet give us information as to presentments for nuisances and encroachments j whilst the Enrolments of Deeds and Wills make us acquainted with names and localities, and the latter especially exhibit proofs of ecclesiastical influence. The Chamberlains and the Churchwardens' Accounts present a minute and curious record of their receipts and expenditure from a very early period; and in the matter of Kings' Writs we find the determination of the inhabitants to preserve their rights of self-government at all hazards. These documents were all carefully examined by the late Mr. Henry Harrod, FSA.,* and to him we are indebted for their elucidation so far as the same has taken place. They afford ample materials for a most interesting and valuable publication.

Beneath the Record room is a building erected in 1811 for the reception of the fire engines; previous to which they had been kept on, *Hog-Hill*. The application of science to social improvement is exemplified by the means used from time to time to extinguish fires, formerly this could only be done with water obtained in buckets from wells or the river, and passed from hand to hand. In 1583 every alderman was required to provide himself with two leather buckets, and every substantial householder with one leather bucket to be used in ease of fire; and in 1650 the number for each alderman was increased

wives, *Fourapenny*, *Shangleman* (1719), and others now lost or modernized, Fantastical compounds were also introduced and other names the origin of which it is difficult to guess, as *Allbird*, *Culpeek*, *Harridance* (1692), *Goscor*, *Doubleday*, *Vivens*, *Rain-morter* (1682), *Goodyear* (1726), and many others. It was formerly considered that a man could have but one christian name; and it was not until late in the last century that more were introduced. See Bowditch's *Suffolk American Surnames*, published privately at Boston in 1861.

* He was a native of Aylsham, and for some time practised as a solicitor at Norwich. He was one of the promoters of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society, and became one of the first secretaries. He published a valuable work entitled *The Castles and Convents of Norfolk*; and died in 1871, aged 53,

to four, and for every common councilman to two buckets, "to keep in their houses in case of fire," and the chamberlains had to provide twenty-four "for the use of the town." This number, in 1671, was increased to four dozen, "with, the town's arms painted on them;" and in 1697 "an engine for quenching fire was first introduced;" and in 1744 an, improved engine was purchased. Until recently the care of the fire engines was imposed upon the churchwardens. There was no brigade — but a few "firemen" were scattered about the town, who generally had their name and designation painted on their doors, one of whom, being of a poetical turn of mind, added—

*"If your chimney be on fire,
I'll put it out, at your desire.**

Now an efficient fire brigade is established, with the Superintendent of Police at its head. A fire escape is kept near the station, *f* the engines are of considerable power, and water is plentifully supplied from the Water-Works Company's mains free of charge.

Row No. 73 from *Howard Street* to *King Street*, formerly called the *Boatswain and Call South Row*. In 1680 Mrs. Judith Wilde devised a considerable amount of property in this and the adjoining rows to her son-in-law, Richard Ferrier, Esq., who sold some portion of it to John Cotman, Esq. At the north-east corner is a house which in the 18th century belonged to the Mitchell family. In 1804 it was, with other property extending westward, in the possession of Miss Frances Sarah Mitchell, who, in 1814, married Charles William Barlee, Esq., eldest son of the Rev. Charles Barlee then residing at Southtown. The eccentricities of this lady and her love of litigation were afterwards notorious. *J*

* Ives, sen., in his diary, mentions a primitive but not very humane way of extinguishing a fire in a chimney. Writing in 1736 he says, "Mr. Joseph Baker's chimney being on fire, they put a cat up which brought down a great quantity of soot."

f A policeman, named Shreeve, having ascended this escape (in 1870) in order to cleanse some windows, and omitting to block the wheels effectually, the machine rolled from under him, And he fell and was killed on the spot.

† William Pell of Thurlton in Norfolk, who died in 1790, married Anne, daughter of John Clarke of Henstead in Suffolk, by Honor, daughter and co-heir of Robert Hamond of Keswick in Norfolk, of which marriage there was issue one surviving

Row No. 75 from the *Hall Quay* to *Howard Street*; being the last row leading from this part of the quay. The house at the south-west corner was occupied by Jonathan Poppy, a broker and auctioneer,* who died in 1844, aged 70.

Row No. 76, from *South Quay* to *Middlegate Street.*, being the first row in this direction. All the houses on the north side of this row are built upon what, in former times, was called the *South Foreland* or *Furlong's End*. In 1568 The houses (except the *Royal Oak*) were given by William Garton to the town, for the use of the church; and the rents are to this day received by the churchwardens, and applied by them towards the support of the fabric. In 1622 the "bricks and stuff" obtained by taking down the old castle were used in building up the west end of the *South Foreland* houses;" and in 1674 the other houses were rebuilt, *f* The only house which remains unaltered in external appearance is the second from the west end, now a public house called the *Royal Oak*. Until recently a painted sign exhibited King Charles II. In the branches of a tree, wearing of course his crown and royal robes. *t* This house with another house on the north side

child, Frances, who married George Mitchell (only child of Richard Mitchell), and was the mother of the above-named Frances Sarah Barlee. The fondly of Clarke were of long standing at Henstead, descending from John Clarke who purchased lands there in 1575, and bore *arg., on a bend gu., three swans of the first, between three roundlets sa.* The arms of Mitchell are a chev. between three swans close. Suckling's *Suffolk*, ii. p. 376.

* He was a tall man (6 feet 3 inches), good tempered, not rashly courageous, and was sometimes sworn in as a special constable. This happened on the occasion of the "Queen's riots," when those who did not illuminate on the withdrawal of the Bill of Pains and Penalties against Queen Caroline had their windows broken. A large and noisy crowd, bent on mischief, assembled on the Church plain, when Poppy went amongst them with his staff as special constable. Towering over their heads and stretching out his arms, he exclaimed, "If you don't be quiet I'll take you *all* in custody." The effect was so ludicrous that the mob became good humoured.

f One was a public house called the *Keel*, afterwards, in 1769, the *Freemason's Arms*, and lastly the *Town Arms*.

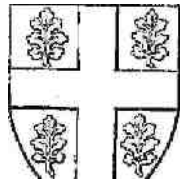
t To the king's escape at Boscobel we owe the *Royal Oak*, which became a popular sign after the restoration; and which, notwithstanding the lapse of two centuries and a change of dynasty, still continues a favorite.

of Row No, 76, with which it was connected by a chamber jutting over the same, was in the 17th century the property of William Hardware, merchant, and was in 1668 conveyed by his two daughters and co-heirs to John Hall, whose only daughter and heir, Lady Buckworth, sold it to Augustine Collyer, whose executor, Richard Ferrier, in 1726 conveyed it to Robert Ward., and it followed the fortunes of his brewery.

The house at the north-west corner of Row No. 76 was for many years in the occupation of Samuel Tolver, Esq., mayor in 1789, who died in 1804, aged 69. He was succeeded as lessee by his son, Samuel Tolver, Esq., for many years town clerk, upon whose death the residue of the lease was purchased by Mr. Jeremiah Barnes, solicitor, who died in 1871, aged 50. One parlour is still lined with oak.* This family of TOLVER came from Diss. Samuel Tolver, baptised at Diss in 1763, settled in Yarmouth. He married Martha Bailing, and died in 1746, aged 73. Samuel Tolver, his son, married Mary Thirkettle, and died in 1772, aged 65, leaving a son, the first-named Samuel Tolver, who, while following the business of an anchor smith, bound himself apprentice to Nathaniel Symonds to learn the art of a *Baking* merchant, and rendered him occasional services during the legal term of seven years. The corporation refused to admit him, alleging that the service was colourable. Tolver obtained a writ of *Mandamus* against the corporation, under which an issue was tried at Norwich in 1773, when Justice Ashton laid down, what appeared to the corporators, the astounding doctrine that a man in one branch of trade might desire to acquire knowledge in another, that restrictive and partial privileges in trading were injurious to the public, and that it was reasonable that all men carrying on business in the same borough should be allowed to do so with equal advantages. Tolver was sometime afterwards elected a member of the corporation; and, as we have seen, filled the office of mayor. He married, for his first wife, Martha Symonds, who died in 1763, aged 27; and secondly, Sarah, only daughter of John Miles of Burgh Castle, by Margareta Maria his wife, daughter of Robert Palgrave by Hannah Bacon his wife, by whom he had issue the town clerk, who married

* In 1764 as Jeremiah Barnes, butcher, was returning home, he fell off his horse into a ditch at Hopton, and dislocating his neck, was found dead next morning.

Harriet, only daughter of John Watson, Esq. In 1822 Mr. Tolver succeeded his father-in-law in the above office, which he held until the passing of the *Municipal Corporation Act* in 1835. His political opponents, who then obtained the supreme power in the borough, were so impressed with a conviction of his legal knowledge, sound judgment, and personal probity, that they re-appointed him (thereby saving the town the considerable annuity to which he would have been entitled if dispossessed), and Mr. Tolver continued to fill this important office until increasing years and their concomitant infirmities induced him to resign in 1848. In 1827 he had a piece of plate presented to him; and in 1834 he was presented with a service of plate by his fellow towns-men. He lived to attain the age of 85, and died in the above-mentioned house in 1865, when the name became *extinct*. Anthony, his son, having died unmarried in 1843, aged



29; and George Edward, his only surviving son, having died in 1848, aged 18. On the death of his sister, Sarah, the widow of Edward Dewing, Esq., of Guist in Norfolk,* he became possessed, by devise, of a considerable landed estate. The arms used by this family were *arg.*, a cross *gu.* between four oak leaves, *vert.*

At the south-west corner, having a frontage to the quay, is an old house depicted in Corbridge's Map as being then occupied by Richard Brightin, Esq. As originally built it was spacious and hand-some. The principal parlour facing the quay, lighted by three windows, was wainscotted throughout in panels, divided by pilasters, with a good pendant ceiling. The carved wooden chimney piece has been removed. In the upper front room the wainscotting is also gone, but the

* He married in 1791, and died in 1827, aged 59; his widow died in 1938, aged 69. There is an engraved portrait of him. Mr. Dewing was a great huntsman; and an elegy, written on his death, says—

" Now that his gallant spirit's gone,
" No more will yonder Tales rejoice,
"Nor answer to his echoing horn
" and trumpet voice."

Dewing of Norfolk bore *gu.*, on a chev. *arg.*, three cinquefoils sa. Papworth's *Ordinary*, p. 485.

original ceiling remains. In a back chamber, looking south, there is an original carved chimney-piece; and the walls are panelled with wainscot in the usual style of the period. All the woodwork has been painted. At the back of this house are large yards, forming what apparently had been an open court and communicating with Row No. 83. In the wall of the inner yard, fronting west, part of an arcade of pointed arches in brick may still be traced.

In the early part of the 17th century the above-mentioned house was in the possession of Major Thomas Wilde, who was of a family of old standing and great respectability at Lowestoft.* In 1648, when a troop of horse was raised for the defence of Yarmouth, Major Wilde was appointed lieutenant; and in 1665 he was "slayn by the Dutch, in the defence of his king and country," being then in his 58th year, and was buried at Lowestoft. His widow, "Mother Wilde," (as she was termed without any disrespect) survived him until 1680, when she died leaving two daughters—Judith, who married Richard Ferrier, Esq., and Elizabeth, who married Thomas Godfrey, Esq., twice bailiff and many years town clerk, who died in 1704, aged 63. In 1706 this property was conveyed to Samuel Wakeman, Esq., who had married Judith, daughter of the town clerk. Samuel Wakeman died in 1737, aged 72, leaving the above-mentioned house to his son, Brightin Wakeman.

In 1773 the above-mentioned house was conveyed to uses in favor of Mary, the wife of William Downes¹, an eminent surgeon, who resided in it for many years, having his surgery next the row. It was subsequently purchased by the late Isaac Preston, Esq., and was occupied by the Rev. Richard Turner from the time he resigned his incumbency in 1831 (after having held it for 31 years) 'till his death in

*He was among the Disclaimers at the Herald's Visitation in 1664.

^t He was the eldest son of the Rev. James Downes (see vol. i. p. 310). He died in 1808, and was buried at Filby, where his epitaph, in the church records that he was "beloved by his professional brethren, and respected by all classes of the community, for the urbanity of his manners and the excellency of his skill." His widow survived till 1817, when she died, aged 80. Mr. Downes was a fine, tall, striking looking man, commonly wearing a long plum-coloured coat, with the wig and cane usual in those days,

¹ Palmer's Addenda: 27th July 1774, Doctor Downes married to Miss Lucas, a portion of £10,000 or 12,000. Youell's Diary.

1835, aged 84.* He was the youngest son of the Rev. Francis Turner already mentioned (vol. 1, p, 305). When his elder brother, the Very Rev. Joseph Turner, was Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge, he entered himself at that college and proceeded to Holy Orders. On quitting the university he settled in Yarmouth where he continued to reside till his death. In 1779 the corporation revived the office of lecturer, which had been for some time discontinued, and conferred it on Mr, Turner, *f* On the death of Dr. Cooper in 1800 he was, as already stated (vol. 1, p. 169), presented by the Dean and Chapter of Norwich to the Incumbency of Great Yarmouth, and in 1813 they bestowed upon him the Vicarage of Ormesby with Scratby annexed. *J* Of Mr. Turner's literary abilities mention has already been made. He published nothing but he made considerable collections towards a history of his native town. In politics, Mr. Turner pursued a consistent and undeviating course. Syllas Neville calls him "a high church tory parson;" a designation of which he would probably be rather proud than otherwise. On his retirement the Dean and Chapter expressed "their strong sense of the ability, zeal, and fidelity with which, during a long series of years, Mr. Turner had discharged his duties." He was buried in the chancel of the Parish Church, § which also contains a mural monument to his memory. By his first wife, whose maiden name was Kentish, Mr. Turner had no family. He married, secondly, Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Thomas Rede, Esq., of Beccles, by Theophila his wife, one of the two daughters and co-heirs of William Leman of Beccles ; ¶ and by her, who died in 1805,

* Some account has been given of this family of Turner in vol. 1, p. 304. They voted at the Norfolk County Elections from 1714 to 1858 in respect of their estate at Kenninghain, which after having been in the family for three centuries was sold in 1865 to the late J. S. Muskett, Esq.

f See vol. 1, p. 39. ' For an account of this office and of the successive lecturers see Swindon p. 886, *M*, p. 59, and *P. C.* p. 160.

t Residence was not required; and in fact there was no vicarage house at Ormesby until the present one was erected in 1870.

§ There is a beautiful miniature of Mr. Turner when a young man, and several oil paintings, one by the younger Beechey, and another by Lane, from which the annexed engraving is taken. Also a drawing by Wageman, when more advanced in life, which has been lithographed.

¶ Sarah, second daughter of Thomas Rede, married the Rev. Samuel Lovick Cooper, of whom we shall have occasion to speak; as also of the Leman family.



REV. RICHARD. TURNER, B.D.
MINISTER OF GREAT YARMOUTH

aged 44, had twelve children. Mr. Turner married, thirdly, Sarah, eldest daughter of the Rev. Henry Parish, who died in 1828, aged 60, s.p. Richard Turner, the eldest son, was a judge at Agra. He died near Allahabad in 1816, aged 32, and in him the East India Company lost a valuable servant." He left several children, one of whom, Henry Scott Turner, Esq., of Acton Lodge, Middlesex, filled the office of High Bailiff of Westminster, and died in 1868, leaving a son, Major Henry Scott Turner, late of the 69th Regiment, who died in 1871, aged 34. Francis Turner, the second son of the Rev. R. Turner, an eminent conveyancer and a Bencher of the Inner Temple, married the eldest daughter of James Sayers, Esq., by whom he had a numerous family. * Joseph Turner, the fourth son, disappeared when travelling abroad, and his fate was never ascertained. Charles Robert Turner, the fifth son, married the second daughter of Charles Savile Onley, Esq., sometime M. P. for Norwich. He was for many years a Master in the Queen's Bench, and after retiring from that office in 1871 received the honor of knighthood. William Turner, the sixth son entered the Foreign Office, under the patronage of Mr. Canning, and rose to be Minister Plenipotentiary to Columbia. He published *Travels in Albania*, f The eighth and youngest son, was the Right

*There is a portrait of Mr. Francis Turner, by Hardie, engraved by Scriven. A mural monument has been erected to his memory in St. Nicholas' Church by some of his former pupils, "in graceful remembrance of his kindness towards them; and in testimony of their respect for his private worth and high legal attainments."

f He brought to England, as a servant, George Pardoli, a native of Rhodes, who died in 1818, aged 32 : and Mr. Turner placed the following verses on a sepulchral stone still standing near the parsonage wall in Yarmouth churchyard :—

" Early he left his native shore " O'er many a land to roam,
 " And entered, to return no more,
 " A foreign master's home.
 " The parents, Mends, that lov'd him most,
 " Caught not his latest "breath, "
 But pity fill'd abjection's part;
 "And smooth'd his bed of death. "
 "What recks it where his ashes hide ?"
 He who his soul receiv'd
 " Enquires not where the wanderer died,
 "But how the Christian lived."

Mr. Robert Andrews, Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, while taking a stroll on

¹ Palmer's Addenda: Rev. George Richard Turner of Kelshall, Royston, eldest son of Lord Justice Turner, died 10th April 1875, aged 50.

Honourable Sir George James Turner, Knt., who died Senior Lord Justice of the Court of Appeal in Chancery. He was born at Great Yarmouth in 1798, and was educated at the Charter House, then and for many years afterwards a favorite school for Yarmouth boys, and of which he was afterwards a governor. He graduated at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and being ninth wrangler was elected a fellow, his uncle, the Dean of Norwich, being then master. In 1821 he was called to the bar,* and soon obtained considerable practice in the Court of Chancery, In 1840 he became a Q.C.; and in 1847 was returned to Parliament for Coventry on liberal-conservative principles, and continued to represent that borough until 1851, when he was appointed a Vice-chancellor, and was sworn of the Privy Council; as a member of the judicial committee of which, he constantly sat to hear appeals during the rest of his career. In 1853 he became a Lord Justice of the Court of Appeal in Chancery; which court is understood to have been created under his advice. When in Parliament he procured the passing of the act known as *Sir George Turner's Act* which effected several important improvements in the practice of the Court of Chancery. Lord Justice Turner had the reputation, which his numerous printed judgments fully sustain, of being "a most able and profound lawyer" *j* and Lord Chancellor Chelmsford spoke of him as a "most amiable man and upright judge." He married in 1823 Louisa, daughter of Edward

the sands at Great Yarmouth in 1848, rendered this epitaph into the following latin:—

" Multa vagibundo pressurus litora gressu
 " Linquebat patrium jam puer ille solum; "
 Quodque erat in fati, alios subit inde Penates,
 "Additus externo, nec rediturus, hero.
 " Illius haud gemitus moribundaque vota, parentes,
 " Haud maesto arripuit pectore fidus amor, "
 Sola sed Officii Pietas suprema peregit,
 " Munera lethalem composuitque torum.
 " At quid enim refert cineres qua in sede quiescant ?
 " Nempe hominum manes qui capit emeritos, "
 Haud rogat Ille—Vago qua mors obrepserit ?—unum id—
 " Quatenus ex Christo vixerit ? Ille rogat."

A portrait of Mr. W. Turner, by Phillips, was engraved by Mrs. Dawson Turner.

Jones, Esq., of Brackley in Northamptonshire, by whom he left a numerous family. Sir George Turner died in 1867, having a short time previously paid a visit to his native town, and was buried at Kelshall near Royston, Herts.* His features bore a marked and strong resemblance to those of his uncle, the dean. On the mother's side, Sir George Turner descended from William Naunton, brother of Sir Robert Naunton, Secretary of State to James I. and author of *Fragmenta Regalia*; from Sir Edward Coke, Lord Chief Justice of England; and from the Pastons, of whom William Paston was an eminent Judge of the Common Pleas, *temp.* Henry VI. so that he had good legal blood in his veins, *f*

After Mr. Turner's death the above-mentioned house was occupied for about thirty years by the NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK, whose first manager at Yarmouth was Mr. Frederick Paget. On the removal of that establishment to the Hall plain, part of it was taken as an office by the HAVEN COMMISSIONERS. *t*

All the ground on the south side of Row No. 76, extending from the Quay to Middlegate street, was in the 15th century in the possession of John Peers, a man of considerable local importance, who filled the office of bailiff in 1463 and upon five subsequent occasions. In 1492 he conveyed this property to Robert Moore (heir to his brothers, Nicholas and Simon), who in 1502 conveyed it to John Garton and Cecilia his wife and Henry Bemond to hold to them, their heirs, and assigns " of the chief lord, &c." John Garton was bailiff in 1509 and 1517, and Henry Bemond filled that office in 1501 and 1509. John Garton was succeeded by John Garton, his son and heir, who conveyed this property

* There is an excellent portrait of him by Richmond, which has been engraved.

f Arthur "William Turner, youngest son of Lord Justice Turner, a Captain in the 56th Regiment, died at Poona in 1871, aged 35. Lady Turner died in 1872, aged 76.

J In the Notes to Manship's History, p. 287, there is some account of the legislation which has taken place respecting Yarmouth harbour. In 1868 an Act of Parliament was passed reconstituting the commission and giving powers to raise a further sum of money for the improvement of the haven. The commission now consists of thirteen persons, two elected by the Town Council of Great Yarmouth three by the Norwich Corporation, three by the Norfolk Justices, three by the Suffolk Justices, one by the Yarmouth Shipowners, and one by the Yarmouth Fishing-boat owners. The present income is about £10,000 a year

to his brother, William Garton, bailiff in 1550 and 1560.* He died in 1571 and the property was then sold by his executor, John Gostling, to John Bacon and Beatrice his wife; and in 1576 it was conveyed to Henry Ebbott, who built a fine house upon the site fronting Middlegate street, some remains of which were to be seen until about the middle of the present century. One of the apartments on the ground floor, latterly used as a kitchen, was panelled in wainscot and lighted by one of those long windows peculiar to the period in which the house was erected. Above the wainscotting was an elegant border of pomegranates and vine leaves in high relief. The ceiling was divided by graceful ribbon mouldings, with pendants at the intersections, into compartments, within which appeared the arms of Yarmouth, the date 1585, the rose and fleur de lis, each surmounted by an imperial crown, the portcullis, and other devices all in high relief. The same date appeared on the leaden water spouts. Ebbott probably out-built himself, for he first mortgaged this house to William Gooch and then sold it in 1608 to George Hardware, bailiff in 1612 and 1621, who settled it upon his wife, Margaret, the trustees being John Southwell, Esq., and John Bedingfeld, Esq. In 1658 these trustees sold the property to John Hall, Esq., a wealthy merchant, who was bailiff in 1663 and 1673. In 1664 Mr. Bailiff Hall received an intimation that the Lord High Steward, accompanied by his son, Lord Cornbury, intended to sup with him on the following day, whereupon the corporation requested him to give there lordships "as noble a reception "as could be; and ordered four barrels of gunpowder to be expended on the occasion. He died in 1684, aged 61,^f intestate, leaving a widow, already mentioned, and an only child, Elizabeth, his sole heir, who married Sir John

* At a period when much importance was attached to official costume, Mr. Garton's indifference on the subject was displeasing to the corporation, who fined him for not wearing a velvet doublet with his scarlet gown; but allowed him time to provide himself with one, and permitted him to wear satin in the meantime.

^f There is a mural monument to his memory in the Parish Church with a remarkable Latin inscription (given by Swinden), surmounted by his coat of arms—*sa.*, three talbot's heads, two and one, erased *arg.* impaling a shield of ten billets 4, 3, 2, and 1; and for a crest, a talbot's head erased.

Buckworth, Knt. and Bart.,* by whom in 1707 the property was conveyed to Augustine Collyer, Esq;. In 1726 Richard Ferrier, Esq., his executor, sold the property to Francis Saul, Esq., who took down the old Elizabethan mansion (except the part already mentioned) and built a new house on the site; and recorded his work on a beam in the north parlour. Saul died in 1769, and Thomas Pitt and John Bell, his executors, sold the house to Charles Hall, who died the following year, and John Smith and John Love, his executors, then sold the house to Francis Richards and Mary his wife. The latter survived her husband, and in 1796 sold the house to John Danby Palmer, Esq., who in 1799 conveyed it to Robert Cory, Esq., Jun. Sometime after Mr. Cory's death, the above-mentioned house was sold by his representatives for the purposes of a MEAT MARKET. The house erected in 1726 and the remains of the old house were then cleared away. The Meat Market did not succeed, and the premises have since been purchased by the Town council and a portion thrown into the street.

The CORYS of Norfolk derive their name from the village of Corie (or as in Domesday Book, Chori) near Launceston in Cornwall, where some of the family still remain. In the reign of Richard II., Robert Corie came into Norfolk, and *circa* 1399 purchased an estate at Bramerton near Norwich, where his descendants resided in the old hall there until 1682, when, on failure of the direct line, the estate passed by devise to the Houghtons. A branch of the Bramerton family settled at Norwich, where some of them filled important civic offices,^f Thomas Cory of

* Lady Buckworth died in 1737. Her husband "was a person of extraordinary parts and spoke Latin as fluent as he did English, though few spoke English better". "Having been," says "Wetton, "well grounded in classical learning, he travelled into Turkey and other places, where he unproved his natural and acquired abilities, and returning from abroad a complete gentleman, was universally esteemed by all that knew him." Lady Buckworth married, secondly, John Hiccocks, Esq., a Master in Chancery. By her first husband she was the mother of Sir John Buckworth, second baronet. The arms of Buckworth are—*sa.*, a chev. between three crosslets fiché *az.*

^f Thomas Corie, who died in 1590, was Town Clerk of Norwich and a benefactor to that city. Thomas Cory was an Alderman of Norwich in 1636. When Oliver Cromwell, at the head of his troop of horse, entered Lowestoft at the commencement of the civil war, he made prisoners of all the leading royalists there, among whom was Thomas Cory, and brought them away with him to Norwich where they were

Yarmouth died a prisoner of war at Havre de Grace in 1761.* Robert Cory, his eldest son, was Registrar of the Yarmouth Admiralty Court from 1787 to 1823. He filled the office of Mayor in 1803 as has been already stated; and died at Ormesby in 1840, aged 91. *f* Robert Cory, his eldest son, succeeded him in the office of registrar. He took an active part in municipal affairs, entering the corporation at an early age, *J* and serving most of the corporate offices until 1815 when he was elected mayor, not however without a contest, the inquest having been shut up for fifty-seven hours before they could agree. Through his exertions, and the influence of the Esher family, Viscount Sydney, who being a Townshend was "connected by blood and affinity to a noble family long and justly endeared to the town," was elected high steward, and he, accompanied by his daughters, paid a visit to the mayor. § Mr. Cory was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and much attached to archaeological pursuits. He published *a Narrative of the Festival held*

detained; as we learn by a letter addressed by John Cory to Sir John Potts of Mannington. Francis Cory, recorder of that city and one of its representatives in Parliament, died in 1678, and was buried at Bramerton. Francis Cory of Bramerton married Anne, one of the two sisters and co-heirs of Sir Thomas Corbet of Sprowston, the last baronet of that name, who, unlike his nephew the regicide, was a determined royalist, and suffered much on that account. He died s. p. m., and was buried at Ranworth, having sold his ancestral estate to Sir Thomas Adams, Bart., who descended from a Shropshire family, tilled the office of Lord Mayor of London in 1645, and died in 1667, aged 81. His four sons all dying s. p. m. the title became extinct; and the Sprowston estate was sold to Sir Lambert Blackwell, Bart. Adams bore— *erm.*, three cats passant *az.*; and Blackwell, paly of six *arg.* and *az.*, in a bordure, on a chief., a lion passant of the first. (See vol. i. p. 39). The Rev. James Cory, for sixty-seven years Rector of Kettlestone and of Shereford in Norfolk, died in 1864, aged 92.

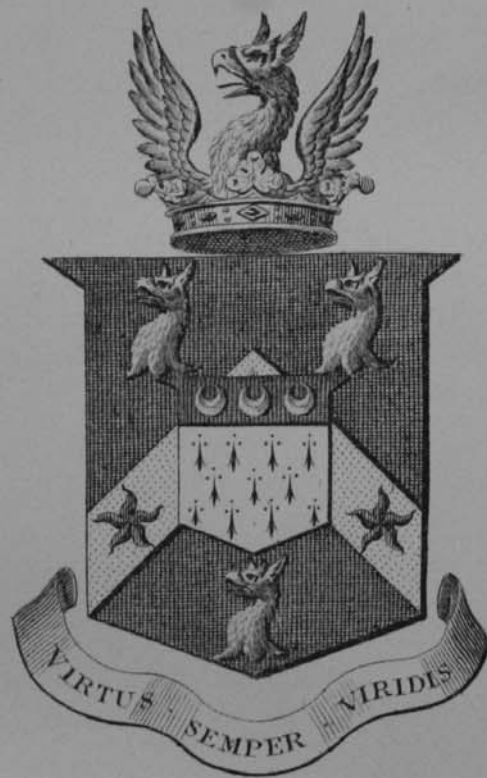
* He married Ann, daughter of John Crosskill by Sarah his wife, daughter of John Ebbetts of Norwich.

f Caroline, his daughter, married Philip Augustus Hanrott, Esq., of Great Ormond Street, London. Hanrott bears *, an eagle displayed *or.*

J He was also a Captain in the Local Militia in 1803.

§ When Lord Sydney came down to be sworn into office as high steward, he gave a dinner to fifty-four gentleman at the *Wrestlers*; where Lord and Lady Charles Townshend took up their quarters; and on this occasion Lieut.-General Loftus, then, one of the Members for the Borough, gave a ball at the Town. Hall.

¹ Palmer's Addenda: Lord Sondes, died 17th Decemember 1874, aged at Elmham Hall having nearly attained his 80th year. He entered the Royal Horse Guards, served with the British Army in the peninsular, and was presented at the crowning victory at Waterloo. In 1854, he was elected High Steward of Yarmouth.



R. G. Y. Junr.

at Yarmouth in 1814, and he issued proposals for publishing by subscription, in two volumes quarto, the *History and Antiquities* of that borough, towards which he had made considerable collections. During the last few years of his life he resided at Burgh Castle, in a house which had long been the property and the occasional residence of the Fisher family; but died in London in 1840, aged 64, and was buried in Lambeth Church, where there is a monument to his memory, as there is also in Yarmouth Church. There is a portrait of him (full length cabinet size) by J. P. Davies, representing him in his robes as mayor. There is also an engraved portrait, private plate. He bore *sa.* on a chev. betw. three griffins' heads, erased *or.*, as many estoiles *gu.* He married Anne, one of the three daughters of Isaac Preston, shipbuilder, of Southtown, by his first marriage. She died in 1840, aged 63, leaving a numerous family. Isaac Preston Cory, the eldest son, a distinguished scholar, was a Fellow of Caius College, Cambridge, and the author of many learned works.* He died at Blundeston Parsonage in 1842, aged 40, unmarried. *f* Horace Cory, the second son, was a physician practising in London, where he died in 1867, aged 65. *J* Charles Cory, the sixth son, was chosen town clerk of Great Yarmouth in 1851, and after filling that office with credit to himself and much benefit to the town for eighteen years, died at Lugano in Switzerland, while on a pleasure tour, in 1869, aged 56, and was buried there (see vol. 1, p. 54).

* Among these are *Ancient fragments of the Phoenician, Chaldean, Egyptian, Tyrian, Carthaginian, Indian, Persian, and other writers*, in Greek with English translations; *Mythological Inquiry into the Theology of the Heathens*; a *Metaphysical Inquiry*; and a *Treatise on Accounts*.

f He quartered—*erm.*, three annulets for Riches, and gyronny- of eight *sa.* and *or.*, on a chief. *sa.* two leopards' heads *or.* for Crowe, as may be seen in the annexed plate. He was interred in the family vault beneath the south porch of St. Nicholas' Church, Great Yarmouth, where his mother was buried; emulating those of old, who according to Chrysostom desired to be buried, that "although taken away from the holy service they were wont to love, their bodies even in the grave might be as door keepers for ever in the house of God."

J The widow of Dr. Cory married Thomas Woodthorpe, Esq., of Carlton Colville. See note at the bottom of page 155.

VOL. II.

Row No. 77, from *Middlegate Street* to *Howard Street*, was formerly called the *Three Feathers* Row*, from an ancient public house or Inn. so named, afterwards (in 1805) called the *Coach and Horses*. A small fragment of the old cut-flint front next Middlegate street may still be traced. The Inn yard, long called the *Three Feathers' Yard*, with some of the surrounding property was, early in the present century, purchased by Samuel Larlham, hackneyrnan. At the north-west corner there is a public house formerly called the *Fountain*,* and now the *Norfolk Tavern*.

South of the premises last mentioned, and fronting Middlegate street, stands a chapel lately erected by the Independents or Congregationalists from a design by Mr. Bottle, *f* of which an engraving, by their permission, is here given. It occupies the site of a square red-brick building erected in 1733, and removed in 1869, which was known as the *New Meeting* ¹ in contradistinction to a chapel in the same street farther south, which was thenceforth called the *Old Meeting*; and in order to understand the rise and spread of nonconformity in Yarmouth, it is necessary to anticipate the history of the latter building. Soon

* This was a favorite sign long after the reformation. Dean Davies says in his diary—"2nd Dec, 1689—In the evening I went with Mr. Bransby, Capt. Robins, "and Dr. Cotton to the *Fountain*, and spent four shillings which Mr. Crow sent by "mo for that purpose." And again—" 18th Jan., 1690—After dinner I went to the coffee house, and meeting Capt. Robins and Lieut. Ellys, we went with Alderman Stedman to the *Fountain*, and spent the shilling which Mr. Crow sent by me to him," Whether the above house be the one frequented by the Dean it is impossible now to say; but more probably a tavern so called in the *New Broad Row*. Springs of water or fountains, so beneficial to mankind, have been held in high esteem from the most ancient times. "Where a spring arises," says Seneca, "there let us build an altar." The Romans dedicated these temples to Arethusa; but the Christians made St. Chad the general patron of wells and fountains; although those places were frequently presided over by some local saint, as "St. Winifred's Well," and the "Wishing Wells" at Walsingham. The Gospel of Christ has been compared to pure water gushing from a rock and refreshing all who partake of it. By some the sign of the *Fountain* is connected with the martyrdom of St. Paul. A translation of Horace's *Fons in Acta* thus began:—

" Hail! noble *Fountain* in the Strand,
 " Whence liberty flows through the land,
 " With generous wine replete; and blest
 "With many an honourable guest.

f This name is derived from the German *buttel*, a village.

¹ There are some good illustrations of this building in RRH

after the accession of James I., the Book of Canons, sanctioned by the king, was rigidly enforced by the bishops. Richard Maunsell, a minister, and Thomas Lad, a merchant, both residing in Yarmouth, having been accustomed to meet together, with Mr. Jackler their late minister, on the Lord's day, to discuss the sermons which had been preached at the Parish Church, were cited before the Chancellor of the Diocese at Norwich, upon a charge of attending a conventicle. Lad was compelled to answer questions which he was not allowed to see until he had taken the oath. Having appeared twice before the Diocesan Chancellor; he was carried before the High Commission Court at Lambeth, where he was required to answer certain questions put to him by his judges. This he refused to do without first having a sight of his former answer, for which offence he was committed, as was also Maunsell. After suffering a year's imprisonment they obtained a writ of *habeas corpus*, and when brought up were ably defended by Nicholas Fuller¹, a learned bencher of Gray's Inn, who denied the authority of the court to imprison the subjects of the realm. He did not succeed in liberating the prisoners; but got himself cast into gaol, where, after a close confinement for twelve weary years, notwithstanding the intercession of his friends and his own supplication, he languished and died in 1619, being then in his 77th year.* In 1624 Thomas Cayme, who had gathered together a congregation of anabaptists, was sent to gaol by the bailiffs. He was enlarged by order of Sir James Leye, Chief Justice of England. Uryn, an inhabitant, and Jefferson a merchant frequenting the town, followers of Cayme, had been previously committed; and remained in gaol till 1620 when the town applied to have them removed. On the accession of Charles I. the terror inspired by the Courts of Star

* A distinguished name in the annals of Puritanism is that of John Robinson. He was a young clergyman holding a benefice in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth. The promulgation of his principles brought upon him the interference of his ecclesiastical superiors; he was cited before the Church Courts, and harassed with legal proceedings until he seceded from episcopacy and retired into Lincolnshire, where he became the pastor of a small flock of nonconformists, who in 1607, in order to avoid further persecution, passed over into Holland. Abandoning the old world for the new they crossed the Atlantic, and sought for civil and religious liberty in New England. They were the PILGRIM FATHERS of history.

¹ Palmer's Addenda: Nicholas Fuller was buried in Thatcham Church, Berks., where there is a Latin inscription to his memory thus translated:

*Law, Peace, Religion, People, mourn thy loss,
O pious Fuller, with one common voice,
Renowned for Fame, Truth, Knowledge, Justice, Love,
Now rais'd by Christ, Hope, Virtue, far above.
Below, thy services mankind enjoy;
Above, thy company the saints employ;
Thy body earth contains, and Heaven thy soul,
And Christ, a sheep has added to the fold.*

Chamber and High Commission, was increased. In 1628 the names of sixty-one separatists in Yarmouth were delivered to the Privy Council by Laud, who reported that they were daily increasing, some coming ten miles out of the country to attend the conventicles in the town. By a report to the Privy Council in 1630 they are described as (with one exception) very poor people; and several were committed to gaol where they lived "on the basket."* In 1633 Hugh Peters, being then at Rotterdam, wrote a letter to Mr. Phillips at Wrentham in which he refers to Ward, a noted puritan. It was intercepted and delivered to Bishop Corbet, who after taking a copy, which he sent to Laud, forwarded the original to Phillips by a sailor boy, hoping to intercept his answer, but, says the bishop, "the Right Reverend Phillips was too crafty."

" The urging of popish ceremonies and divers innovated injunctions in the worship and service of God by Bishop Wren, the suspending and silencing of divers godly ministers, and the persecuting of godly men and women, caused, says an entry in the church book kept by the independents, divers of the godly in Yarmouth and other places to pass over into Holland to enjoy the liberty of their conscience in God's worship; and to free themselves from human inventions." The position of Yarmouth afforded peculiar facilities for the escape of the persecuted to the opposite shores of Holland, where William Bridge¹ became their first pastor. This remarkable man and eloquent preacher was born, in Cambridgeshire, and educated for the church. He was entered at Emmanuel College in 1616, when sixteen years of age, and graduated as M.A. in 1626. He obtained a lectureship at Colchester, which he resigned for one at Norwich; receiving there a salary from the corporation. In 1636 he became Rector of St. Peter's per Hungate; but having refused to read the "Book of Sports," and his doctrine becoming inconsistent (as was considered) with that of the Church of England, he was silenced by Bishop Wren, and excommunicated. He remained at Norwich until he found that the bishop had obtained a writ *de capiendo* for his apprehension, and then, with several of his brethren,

*Meaning thereby voluntary contributions, by benevolent persons, of victuals put into a basket kept for that purpose for the use of prisoners.

¹ Palmer's Addenda: *Bridge* – Archbishop Laud was accustomed to send to the King an annual account of the state of his province, and we find that in 1635 he reported that the Norwich Diocese was "much out of order"; and in 1637 he informed his majesty that at Yarmouth there had been for many years "great division". But that one Mr. Bridge, rather than conform, had gone to Holland. To this, Charles I added this note – C. R. Let him goe. We are well Ridd of him. Bridge however was not to be so set aside, but returned to Yarmouth with renewed vigour and was a deep thorn in the side of the Episcopacy.



Rev. Bridge

He came to Yarmouth and took ship for Rotterdam, where he renounced episcopal ordination, and became the pastor of the English exiles.* When the "glad tidings" reached them of a "hopeful Parliament" having been called in England (as they styled the Long Parliament), and that they would have "liberty to serve God in that way which they conceived was most suitable to the precepts of the gospel," they prepared to return to England, and on their arrival went back to their former habitations in Yarmouth, and elsewhere. Bridge was invited to return, and to become their first pastor in East Anglia.^f The brethren, were however few in number and much scattered, so that although they conceived it to be their "indispensable duty to gather into a church," they met with many hindrances; but at last after numerous meetings and

* A sect of Brownists had established themselves in Rotterdam early as 1610. They took their name from their founder, Robert Brown, who had been Chaplain to the Duke of Norfolk. He commenced by preaching to a Dutch congregation at Norwich, and his followers, about the year 1580, formed a congregation which attracted the notice of Queen Elizabeth and her bishops. Brown, to escape persecution, sought refuge at Middleburgh in Zealand. In point of doctrine, the Brownists did not differ from the Church of England; but they maintained that the form of government in the church ought to be purely democratic, the jurisdiction of each church or society of christians being confined to the limits of such, society; and their fundamental principle was that each congregation should be *independent*, and free to act and govern itself without any external control.

^t Associated with Bridge was John Ward, who on his return to England was called to Colchester, where he gathered together a number of independents in church fellowship. In a broad sheet printed in 1641, when Wren ceased to domineere," which is preserved in the British Museum, there are some curious verses addressed to Archbishop Laud, in which among others Bishop Wren is mentioned.

" My little Lord, me thinks 'tis strange
 "That you should suffer such a change
 " In such a little space.

* * * * *

"The little Wren that soar'd sohigh,
 " Thought on his wings away to fly
 "Like Finch, I know not whither:
 " But now the subtle whirly Wind-
 "debank hath left that bird behind,
 " You two must flock together."

The articles of impeachment against Wren are set forth in the curious journal of Nehemiah Wallington, and are printed in his *Historical Notices*, i. p. 154.

deliberations they agreed "where most liberty was like to be, there the church should reside," and ultimately Yarmouth was considered "the safest and most convenient place," and thereupon ten of their number, namely, Christopher Stygold, John Eyre, John Heverington, Daniel Bradford, James Gidney, William Staffie, Samuel Alexander, John Balderstone, Francis Olley, and William Official, with William Bridge at their head, began "to built an house for God's service," and Bridge, having been called to the pastoral office, was on the 10th of September, 1643," being the Lord's day, ordained thereto, and afterwards administered the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper." This was a proceeding not yet sanctioned by law; and a petition was drawn up and carried about the town for signatures, praying Parliament to allow congregational assemblies in a church way; but when this came to the knowledge of the corporation, in which body the presbyterians predominated, they ordered the petition to be called in, and not suffered to go abroad without their approbation. Bridge was soon afterwards called to London to attend the celebrated assembly of divines, and it having "pleased God that Mr. John Oxenbridge* should come to Yarmouth," the latter joined the church, and was received as an assistant in the ministry,^f In the assembly of divines there was a

* This able, pious, and disinterested divine was descended from an old puritan Sussex family. He was born at Daventry in 1608, and both Oxford and Cambridge contributed to his liberal education. In 1641 he commenced preaching "very enthusiastically, travelling to and fro" before he settled down in Yarmouth. "Wood says that Oxenbridge's wife preached in the house "among her gossips and others," and that her husband "loved commonly to have her opinion upon a text before he preached it, she being a scholar beyond what is usual, in her sex, and of a masculine judgment in the profound points of theology." Oxenbridge became a fellow of Eton, but was ejected at the restoration, and silenced by the Act of Conformity. He then went to the West Indies, and thence to New England, where, says Cotton Mather, "he continued 'till his last remove, which was to the City of God" in 1669. In his will he mentions having "stood before the face of the Lord in the ministry of the gospel at Great Yarmouth and other places."

^f The officers of an independent congregation were the pastor, the ruling elder, teacher or assistant minister, the elders, and the deacons. The first two instructed the people, the elders took charge of the discipline, and the deacons of the temporalities; Deaconesses were also sometimes chosen. The first in Yarmouth were Alice Burgess and Johanna Ames, appointed in 1650.

majority of presbyterians who viewed with jealousy the growth of the independents; and in 1644 the latter received a check in the shape of a notice forbidding "the further gathering of churches and admitting to church fellowship," whereupon the Yarmouth congregation agreed "to desist from further admissions except those persons who were already propounded." But they were not to be restrained; for in the following year Bridge came to Yarmouth, and resisted an effort then made to "remove the church" to Norwich; and ultimately "the "brethren of Norwich united in church fellowship among themselves, " and had their admissions from this church in order to build one at Norwich."* A request was then made to the corporation that Oxenbridge might be allowed to preach at the Parish Church; and this was conceded, provided he ended his discourse by half-past eight o'clock in the morning. They at the same time resolved not to permit the public exercise of religion in private houses contrary to law, nor "the erection of particular churches in the town," and they required the bailiffs and justices to suppress the same. Oxenbridge preached in the Parish Church every Sunday before the ordinary service for several months* He then left and went into Yorkshire ; and the corporation presented him with £15. In the following year Edward Owner, the then leader of the presbyterians, was "greatly displeased" at a separate church having been set up; and he and Whitfield, the presbyterian minister, came to Bridge and remonstrated with him; and it was then arranged that the independents should "refrain from admitting any more to church fellowship." This restriction was a burthen which they could not long bear, for the independents were rapidly gaining strength both in the kingdom and the borough, and in the following year (1646) they gave the corporation notice that they could forbear no longer and began to admit to church fellowship all who would come to them. For this purpose persons travelled as many as fourteen miles; and being put to great distress for want of a lodging, such brethren as were able agreed to receive them into their houses. Cromwell having now obtained the chief power in the state, and his followers having become the ruling party in the borough, the

* Their descendants or successors founded the Octagon Chapel at Norwich.