

## DINTON HALL AND CHURCH.

BY THE REV. C. LOWNDES, M.A., F.R.A.S.

The road from Aylesbury to Thame passes through the parish of Dinton, and within a short distance of the Hall and Church. There are few manorial residences in the county of Buckingham that can have a greater claim on our admiration and interest than that of Dinton Hall. The memorials of such country houses are seldom so rich in incident as to make their history very attractive to the general reader; but as there are many of an interesting character relating to this Hall which have never appeared in the County Histories, I trust I may be excused for offering them to your notice, and for making this humble contribution towards promoting the object of our Society.

The parish of Dinton, with a population of 817, contains 4100 acres, and is 17 miles in circumference. It is on the Oolite formation, of excellent quality for building purposes, but has a great variety of soils—rich loam, a small quantity of grit and gravel, and an abundance of red and white sand which overlies the Purbeck and Portland beds. In many parts of the parish, between the surface and the rock, is a deposit of friable lime, varying from one to several feet in thickness, generally known as wych-earth, but commonly called "Dinton marble." When puddled with water and chopped straw, it is used for the walls of cottages and outhouses. It is in its nature very enduring, affording warmth in winter and coolness in summer. Dinton Vicarage is built of it. This picturesque house was erected for the Rev. John Harrison, M.A., J.P., Rural Dean, and for 33 years Vicar of Dinton. Sir G. Gilbert Scott was the Architect, and he mentions it in his "Secular and Domestic Architecture," page 140. The popular Author of "Recreations of a Country Parson," alludes also to Dinton Vicarage in the following terms:—"The material *mud* is one's ideal of the very shabbiest material for building which is

within human reach. *Hovel* is the word that naturally goes with *mud*. Yet Mr. Scott once built a large parsonage, which cost between two and three thousand pounds, of mud thatched with reeds. Warmth was the end in view. I have no doubt the parsonage proved a most picturesque and quaint affair; and if I could find out where it is, I would go some distance to see it."—First Series of "Recreations of a Country Parson," page 192.

The manor of *Danitone* (Dinton), and also that of *Wadrugge* (Walridge), were at the time of the Norman Survey in the possession of Odo, Bishop of Baieux, to whom his brother, the Conqueror, had given them, with other estates of Avelin, a thane or knight of King Edward's. They were held by Helto, who was probably a native Saxon left undisturbed as tenant. Dinton (which was the principal manor) had a mill of four shillings value, and contained the homage of the reputed manors of Westlington and Ford.

Domesday Book also records that the adjoining manor of *Opetone* (Upton), a village of Earl Harold's, answered for 18 hides. It had a mill of four shillings, a fishery for a thousand eels, and pannage for two hundred hogs. It was divided into Nether and Upper Upton. One was apportioned to William Peveril, the other to Miles Crispin. The small manor of Blomer was intermixed with Upton. The two other manors were Aston Mollins and Moreton.

According to the detailed account given by Lipscombe, Dinton passed through the families of Warine de Monte Chansey (or Monchensi), William de Valence, Sir John Devereux, Walter Fitzwalter, Whityngham, Montgomery, Verney, and Mayne. Simon Mayne resided in Dinton Hall 1606;\* and on his death, July 13th, 1617, his son Simon succeeded to the estates. This Simon Mayne, having declared himself a Republican, was returned at Aylesbury a member in the Long Parliament, was appointed one of the Judges of their Commission Court, and sat in the Painted Chamber at Westminster on the trial of the King, nine days out of the thirteen that the trial lasted, and in Westminster Hall every day

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\* Willis's MSS., and Parochial Register of Dinton.

excepting January the 22nd. He was one of those who signed the warrant for the execution of his Sovereign, and affixed his seal. During the Protectorate he continued to be one of the Committee for Bucks. On the restoration of Charles II. he concealed himself at Dinton Hall. His hiding-place was necessarily destroyed in 1857 when the Hall was repaired. The entrance to it was by a singular contrivance; the four bottom stairs of a flight leading to a small attic were raised by means of hinges, and underneath was an inclined plane, which led to a small room between two stacks of chimneys. Before its destruction there were the remains of tapestry and old carpets littering the place, probably used for deadening the sound. Mayne lay in concealment here until, in compliance with the proclamation which was issued, he surrendered himself to the authorities, and was committed to the Tower. Being excepted by name, he was tried with Waller and other regicides at the Old Bailey, October 16th, 1660.\* He was found guilty, and received sentence accordingly. He was confined in the Tower, and dying the following year, was buried at Dinton, April 18th, 1661, being 49 years of age. It is somewhat singular that two of the Judges of King Charles I. resided in the parish of Dinton: Simon Mayne at the Hall, and Sir Richard Ingoldsby at Walridge. This latter Judge having affirmed that he was *forcibly made* to sign the warrant for the execution of his sovereign, and being amongst the first to join the friends of the exiled king, received a free pardon, and was created a K.B. previous to the coronation.

In 1727, Simon Mayne, a descendant of the regicide, having succeeded to this manor on the decease of his father about two years before, sold all his estates at Dinton, Westlington, and Ford to John Vanhattem, Esq., a gentleman of Dutch extraction, whose ancestor, Liebert Vanhattem, was a naval officer in the fleet of the renowned Admiral de Ruyter, and came into England at the Revolution with William Prince of Orange. He held this manor until his death, in 1747, and left issue one son and two daughters. John Vanhattem, Esq., the son, was

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\* Lipscomb's History, part 3, page 139.

High Sheriff of the county in 1760 ; and on the presentation of an address of congratulation to King George the Third on his accession to the throne, received the honour of knighthood, January 23rd, 1761. On his death, December 4th, 1787, the manor and estates became vested in the Rev. William Goodall, Rector of Mearsham, county Norfolk, who married, at Great Berkhamstead, Rebecca, only daughter of Sir John Vanhattem. Their eldest surviving son, the Rev. John Joseph Goodall, is the present possessor.

The County Historians do not give any derivation of the name Dinton. The termination *ton* is undoubtedly derived from the Anglo-Saxon *tun*, a town. *Tun* originally meant "a plot of ground fenced round, or inclosed by a hedge." It afterwards meant "a dwelling with the inclosed land," and finally a village or town. The prefix *din* is probably from the Celtic *din*, or Saxon *dun*, a hill, or fortified place. Dinton, therefore, may be regarded as having been an Anglo-Saxon town on a hill. This suggestion is borne out by the fact of the discovery of several Anglo-Saxon remains, not only at Dinton, but in the neighbourhood. The site of the modern building called the castle, which was built in 1769 by Sir J. Vanhattem, is considered by J. Y. Akerman, Esq., late Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, to have been the burial-ground of an Anglo-Saxon chief and his dependants. When the foundations were excavated, several skeletons and Anglo-Saxon remains were discovered. Among the latter\* were the iron head of a spear, a knife and a vessel of thin green glass (see plate, which is two-thirds the size of the original), similar in form to the drinking-vessels used in Germany and the northern parts of Europe at the present day. The more ancient cups were made of the horns of animals, and the conical form might remain in use long after glass had been substituted in the stead of horn.†

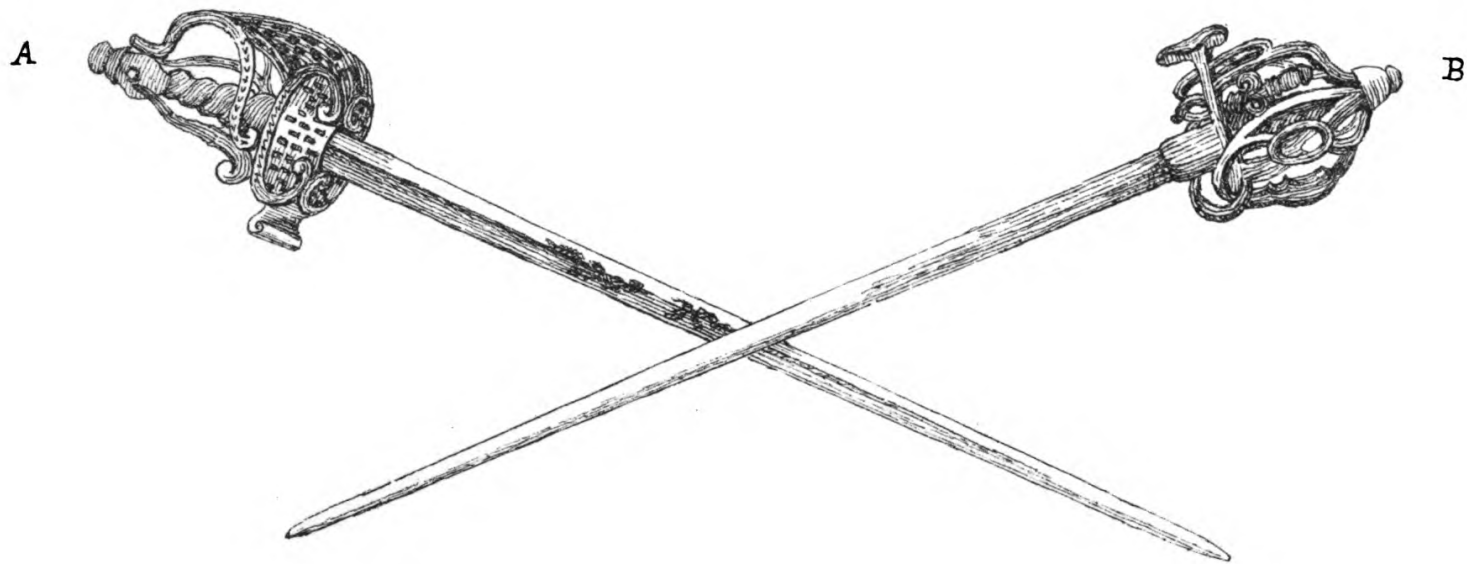
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\* See Douglas's "Nenia Britannica," and "Records of Buckinghamshire," vol. ii., p. 137.

† In the year 1858, the Rev. J. J. Goodall, assisted by Mr. Akerman, explored the ground immediately round the castle, and discovered several bodies about three feet from the surface, and a bronze spear-head broken in half, but in fine preservation. Their opinion that the Castle Hill is an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, was fully confirmed.







A. Sword used by Oliver Cromwell at the Siege of Drogheda.  
B. Sword used by Oliver Cromwell at Naseby.

Among the *vestigia* still preserved at the Hall is a cut-and-thrust sword called Old Noll's Naseby sword.\* The Rev. J. J. Goodall, in a letter to Admiral Smyth, printed in his "Addenda to the *Ædes Hartwellianæ*," page 246, gives the following account of it :—

"It is an heir-loom to Dinton Hall for ever, and passes from one owner of the Hall to another, simply as such, without regard to a particular family. In this light my father constantly spoke of it with unswerving confidence. . . . I have heard my father more than once say, that when he first knew it, it was in a corroded state, but carefully kept in a green silk cover, with a baize cap for the hilt. Attached to it was a long slip of vellum, the closely-written legend on which was beyond deciphering from damp, rust, and much handling ; but, whatever it may have been, it ought certainly to have been preserved.

"You are aware that Simon Mayne and Dick Ingoldsby were natives and residents in the parish of Dinton. It is recorded of Mayne, then the Lord of the Manor, that, besides being a regicide, he was greater as a Committee Man, in which office he contrived to 'lick his fingers' to good purpose. Cromwell slept at the Hall occasionally during the siege of Oxford. Putting these circumstances together, there seems at least great probability of intimacy and a bond of mutual usefulness between the said Simon Mayne and the Lord Protector, which might conduce to giving tokens of regard for each other."

This account refutes the statement made in "Murray's Handbook of Buckinghamshire," that "the estate is held by tenure of Cromwell's sword, the same which he used at Naseby."

In the accompanying plate is a drawing (B) of Cromwell's Naseby sword. The one marked A is an illustration of a basket-hilted cut-and-thrust sword used by Oliver Cromwell at the siege of Drogheda, September 10, 1649. The blade bears the marks of two musquet-balls. This sword was inherited by Joshua S. Simmons Smith, Esq., a collateral descendant of the Protector, and was presented by him to the United Service Institution. Admiral Smyth also mentions and has illustrated another of Cromwell's trusty swords, which he used at the battle of Marston Moor, and which is now preserved at Chequers Court.

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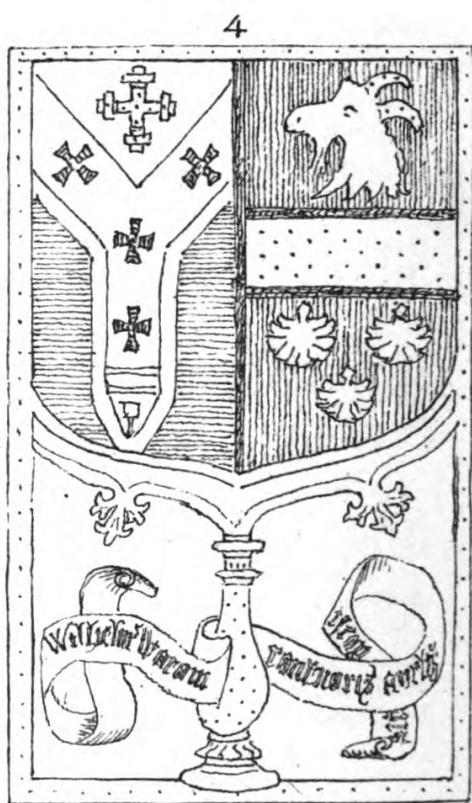
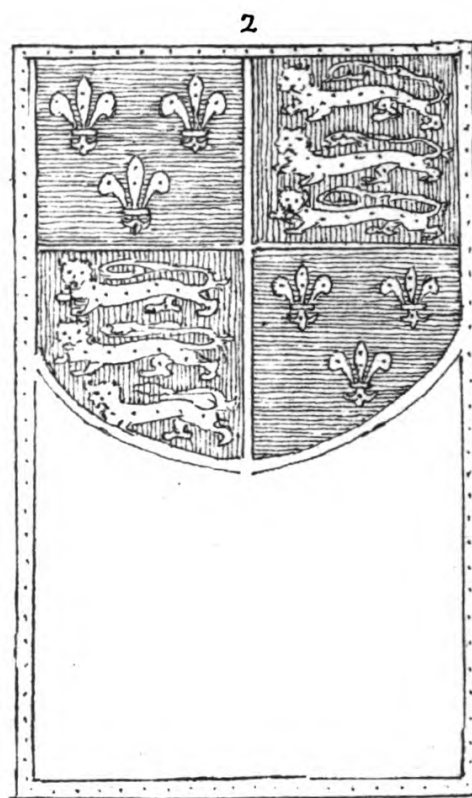
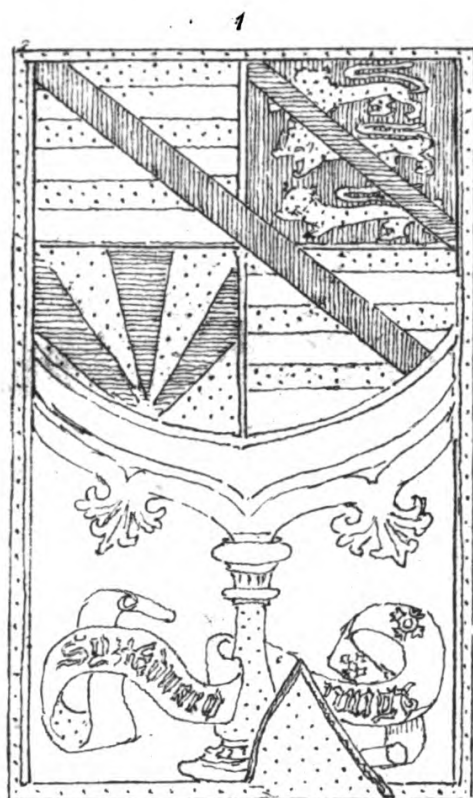
\* Mr. Wilkinson, an eminent sword-cutler in Pall Mall, London, in whose hands the sword was deposited during the restoration of the Hall, pronounced the weapon to be of first-rate quality, and drew attention to the fact, that "*Andrea Farrara*" engraved his name in full-length on both sides of the blade. He considered this worthy of remark, for it might lead to the inference that the expert Andrea looked upon this particular weapon as his *chef d'œuvre*.

There are also preserved at the Hall several spear and arrow-heads, swords, helmets and breast-plates, and three brass models of ancient guns. Also an ancient black bottle with a portrait of Edward III., and the royal arms on the other side. Also an ornamental spear-head, discovered during the restoration of the Hall in the year 1857. It is perforated in a fancy pattern, apparently of highly-polished steel, but much corroded. It was clearly not intended for deadly purposes, but more suited for the finish of a pennon, or something of that sort. Also many shoes from Henry VIII.'s time downwards. Some of them were in pattens or clogs; and these were evidently, in each case, stowed away in concealed places, as under hearthstones or cavities in the wall. There were about two dozen of them discovered; but in no instance a pair of shoes or a pair of pattens. Most of them met with a disastrous end, so that there are only three preserved at the Hall.

Dinton Hall is picturesquely situated near the Church, having an extensive view of the Chiltern Hills, and is surrounded by a garden second to none in the County, filled with a very choice collection of botanical flowers, and affording a pleasant sight to garden-lovers for all seasons of the year, and varying with every day of the year. It exhibits several phases of domestic architecture, having undergone many alterations and additions. The west end, with its substantially-built walls, bears evident marks of an edifice of very ancient date; while the north front, with its mullioned windows, gable ends, noble chimney shafts with a series of oversailing courses worked round the tops, and small cloisters leading to the Church, sufficiently indicate the date of its erection about the time of James. This front opened into a small court, now converted into a garden, and the entrance to the Hall is by a descent of several steps. The south front is more modern.

In feudal times every advantage was taken of displaying in stained or painted glass the heraldic insignia of the family of the founder and his connections. But here we have in the apparently original glass in the windows in the north front, coats of arms of several persons who were not, in any way that we are aware of, connected with Dinton. William of Waram was the immediate





*Stained glass in the windows of the North front of Dinton Hall.*

predecessor of Cranmer, and his initial W and coat of arms (Fig. 4), quartered with those of the see of Canterbury, occur in several compartments of the windows. The other part being filled with small quarries, having paintings in or of different birds in a great variety of positions, and other figures. It would seem he was accounted a man of great parts by our politic King Henry VII., for he was appointed ambassador by him to the Court of the Duchess of Burgundy, at that time a very powerful potentate, to endeavour to deter her from favouring the pretensions of Peter Warbeck, and if possible obtain the person of that pretender to the English throne. This Waram could not induce her to do, but his influence was such that work was found for the Burgundian Knights elsewhere, and after various delays only one or two small ships of the large fleet, collecting along the coasts of Flanders and Austrian Netherland which then was subject to Burgundy, and preparing for a descent upon England in his favour, left her ports. The King was so well satisfied with his agent's capacity and efforts, that in token of his approval he rewarded him, not from his own money-chests, of which he was avariciously fond, but by making him Lord High Chancellor and Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Dinton Album contains a statistical account of Dinton from the MSS. of Browne Willis and other sources, with paintings of many objects of natural history, and other memorabilia. It was commenced in the year 1772 by Sir John Vanhattem, and the paintings were done for him by Mr. Britten, an architect, those in the time of the Rev. William Goodall were painted by himself.

In it is an account of a celebrated character, John Bigg, the hermit, and also of his shoe; of which the following is a transcript:—

"Out of a letter wrote to me by Mr. Tho: Hearne, Keeper of the Anatomy School, and Sub-librarian of the Bodleian Library. Dated Feb. 12, 1712—13. Oxon.

"Mr. Prince told me you wanted some acct. of the Buckinghamshire shoe in our Bodleian Repository. You have seen it more than once, and heard the acct. of it. However, for better satisfaction, I shall repeat the story, viz., that the shoe is vastly large, made up of about a thousand patches of leather. It belong'd to John Bigg, who was clerk to Simon Mayne, of Dinton, one of the Judges that gave sentence on K.

Charles first. He liv'd at Dinton, in a cave underground, had been a man of tolerable wealth, was look'd upon as a pretty good scholar, and of no contemptible parts. Upon the Restoration he grew melancholy, betook himself to a recluse life; made all other cloths in the same manner as the shoe, lived by begging, but never ask'd for anything but leather (which he would immediately nail to his clothes), yet kept three bottles that hung to his girdle, viz., one for strong beer, another for small beer, and a 3rd for milk, which liquors us'd to be given, and sometimes brought to him, as was his other sustenance, notwithstanding he never ask'd for them.

"I have heard several acc<sup>ts</sup> of this man, from those who well knew him; some persons in the neighbourhood of Dinton have his picture drawn. He put off all his cloths at once, they being all fastened together, and so in like manner put them on. He was by relation very lewd, if he could entice women into his cave. (Mr. Grubb, of Horsington, tells me now that he well remembers him, and Sir Thomas Lee, of Hartwell, told me he had often been frighted by him when he was a little boy). In the summer time he dwelt some months in Kimbell woods, as I have been told. He was buried at Dinton, as I saw in that church register, Ap: 4, 1696.

"He was born April 22, 1629, and buried April 4, 1696."

This account is illustrated by paintings of John Bigg and his shoe, of which the accompanying plates are copies reduced one-half.

In the painting of John Bigg the shoes he wears are represented as having very thick soles, whereas the shoes themselves, and also the painting, have no conspicuous soles. One of the shoes is still preserved at the Hall, the other was given to the Ashmolean Library at Oxford, and an old shoe with patten of a different date was given in exchange.

According to common report, John Bigg was jointly employed as clerk or secretary by Simon Mayne and Colonel Dick Ingoldsby, who had two mansions in this parish, viz., Walridge, and Park End.

Among the paintings in the album is one of the *Fritillaria meleagris*, which has its habitat in Dinton. It has many local names, as Frogcup, Frocup, Crowcrop (perhaps the most common), Snake's-head, Chequered Daf-fodil, Chequered Tulip, Guinea Hen Flower, Common Fritillary. The vulgar belief is that the seed was carried from Ingoldsby's garden at Walridge by one of the small feeders (Ford brook) of the Tame along its whole course until its junction with the Isis, twelve miles below Oxford. The seed is of the lightest structure, and this of itself is sufficient to account for the plant being of wide extent, wherever it is localized. Its abundant growth has given rise to a special day for its gathering, which is on the





Vincent Brooks, Day & Son, lith.





first Sunday in May, called "Frogcup Fair." It forms a characteristic feature in the children's garlands on May-day.

The church dedicated to St. Peter was restored under the direction of G. E. Street, Esq., diocesan architect, in the year 1868, and was reopened December 8, by Samuel, Lord Bishop of Oxford. The present edifice was erected in the beginning of the thirteenth century, and has undergone many alterations. The earliest part is the south door, which is a fine specimen of early Norman work, while the west door under the tower is Early English, and many of the windows are Perpendicular. The chancel has been rebuilt with an open circular roof. It is paved with Godwin's encaustic tiles, and enriched with a handsome reredos in coloured marbles. The church throughout has been re-seated. The old pulpit of the time of James I. has been placed on a new stone base on the south side of the chancel arch. An ancient piscina has been discovered in the wall of the south aisle near the east end, where there was, doubtless, an altar. The old vestry has been screened off at the west end of the south aisle; and in it has been placed the former altar-table, which has an incised inscription on the top:—

FRANSIS HUNTTS GEVEN BY THE YOUTH  
OF UPTON,

And on the frame the date and following letters:—

16 IYSY SIIRPRP 06

Eight memorial windows have been put in the Church, all of a high character as works of art. The east window is a fine triplet of lancets, and has been filled with stained glass by Mr. O'Connor, of Berners Street, London. The one idea borne in mind by the artist is that of a summary of the whole history of the Church, as shown by our Lord himself and the generation of patriarchs, prophets, kings, apostles, and saints in one comprehensive cycle; and this point of view of design was taken on account of the special calling of the chief of the persons commemorated in this memorial. At



the base of the centre is shown a half figure of Jesse, with clasped hands, in the attitude of repose; above this David, as king and psalmist; next is Christ, the infant Saviour, lying in the manger, and on each side kneeling figures of his mother and St. Joseph in adoration. Above this our Lord is on the cross, and at the foot of the cross the kneeling Magdalene, with the Virgin Mary and St. John standing on either side; surmounting this and terminating the centre series is represented Christ in glory as King of kings, holding in one hand the orb, the other being raised in the act of benediction. At the base of the lancet on the dexter side the first figure is Abraham the patriarch with the knife and the vessel of fire; then Isaac bearing the wood; next Jacob and the ladder, emblematic of the vision; and above, Joseph bearing the staff of office. At the top of all, both in this light and that opposite, are angels bearing crowns. The sinister side consists of four figures of the royal generation of our Lord, showing—1st Obed, 2nd Rehoboam, 3rd Hezekiah, 4th Josiah, and (as before-named) the angel and crown; all these figures are regally vested. This description completes the iconography of the series at the east end. All the figures are enshrined in the richest tabernacle details, founded on an ancient work of early type, in all details and forms enclosing the figures, which latter are effectively drawn in a bold manner and coloured with judgment. Here it may be mentioned that the artist who designed and executed the painted glass of these and the other two chancel windows, has expressed himself much gratified and obliged by the kind advice and valuable hints and suggestions which he had the privilege of receiving from the beloved and honoured friend of the donor, Lady Eastlake, the accomplished author and critic upon Ancient Sacred Art. As pendants to these, the most important portion of the series, but still bearing the same impress in idea and intention, are two smaller lancets, by the same artist, one on the north, the other on the south side, having female saints for their *motif* in design—north, St. Elizabeth and the child John the Baptist, Anna the Prophetess and the Virgin Mary; opposite, St. Catherine, St. Agnes, and St. Euphemia. All these have the same beauty of drawing and glow of harmonious colour.

Simple inscriptions occur at the base of each compartment, as follows :—

“Henrietta Elizabeth Harrison, Obiit 2nd Dec., 1868.”

“John Harrison, Vicar, Obiit 17 Feb., 1865.”

“Margaret Mary Harrison, Obiit 29 March, 1856.”

“Elizabeth Harrison, Obiit 22 Nov. 1858.”

“Euphemia Gifford, Obiit 3 Dec., 1853.”

These windows have been presented by Mrs. Acton Tindal, of the Manor House, Aylesbury, only surviving child of the Rev. John Harrison, and of Henrietta Elizabeth his wife, in memory of her parents, her sister and aunt, who lie buried in Dinton Churchyard, and also of her cousin and godmother, Mrs. Euphemia Gifford, who died at Dinton Vicarage, in her 89th year.

The window at the west end (by Hardman) has been erected by Mr. Sackville Phelps, to the memory of his wife, daughter of the Rev. W. Goodall, “Matilda Phelps, died April 9th, 1867.” The figures are emblematic of Faith, Hope, and Charity. Another window, in the east end of the south aisle (beautifully designed by O'Connor) has been erected by Mrs. S. M. Clotilda Raper, in memory of her late husband, Charles Raper, Esq. The subject is a full-length figure of St. Clotilda.

A window in the north side of the chancel has been filled with stained glass by the Rev. Charles Henry and Lydia Helen Burton, to the memory of their daughter Emiline Lydia, who died July 23, 1871, and who is represented with the emblem of faith meeting her Saviour. Above these figures are two medallions, likenesses of two children who died early in life.

The old monuments which were in the chancel have been erected in the tower, and the brasses removed to the vestry. Among the latter is one to the memory of the father of the regicide.

“Here lye the bodies of Simon Mayne, Esq., and Colvbery his wife, who had issue, Simon and Colvbery, w<sup>ch</sup> Simon y<sup>e</sup> father dyed the 13th day of July, An<sup>o</sup> Dni 1617, and Colvbery the mother dyed y<sup>e</sup> 10th day of January, An<sup>o</sup> Dni. 1628.”

There is also a tablet in the north wall erected to his memory by his wife.

There are other brasses to the memory of the families



of Compton, Grenewey, John Lee of Morton, and William Lee, and Alice, his wife.

The font is Norman, and, no doubt, the remains of the cross on the churchyard opposite the porch are about the same date.

The inner doorway of the porch is also Norman. Over it is a carving of two evil spirits devouring the forbidden fruit. Underneath are two Latin lines in relief :—

PREMIA PRO MERITIS SI Q'S DESP'T HABENDA  
AVDIATHIC PREC'PTA SIBI QVE S'IT RETINSNDA

Immediately under this inscription is the figure of a winged dragon, with a fish's tail, opening its mouth, and an angel thrusting a cross down its throat.\* The billet and zig-zag ornaments plainly point out its date. There are similar doorways in Pedmore Church Worcestershire, Hales Owen Church Shropshire, and Barfreston Church Kent.

The advowson and church belonged to the nunnery of Godstowe, county Oxon, by the gift of Agnes de Monchensi, temp. Henry I., and her donation was confirmed by a charter of Richard II.† The abbess and convent of Godstowe, having appropriated this tithe to the use of their nunnery, a vicarage was ordained with an allowance of ten marks per annum, with altarage, the tenths of corn at Morton, Walridge, and Aston, and land called Bencroft, near the bridge. The Dinton Album mentions that—

“Sir Walter Pye held it about 1620, and sold it to Mr. Richard Serjeant, of Aston, in this parish, who conveyed it to Simon Mayne, Esq., on whose forfeiting it, being one of the King's Judges, it was, An<sup>o</sup> 1660, taken into the Crown, and hath belonged to the Crown ever since, and the patronage is in the Lord Chancellor to this day.”

The Dinton Album also contains—

“Inventory of church goods, A<sup>o</sup> 11 Hen. 8.

E. MSS. Eccl. de Dinton penes Vicar contin : Compot Gardean ejusd. Paroch incip. A<sup>o</sup> 7 Hen. 7 et fin A<sup>o</sup> 1602.

Memorandum. There remayneth in the custody of Richard Saunders the best challis, the best cope, and the best vestment of crymeson velvet and cloth of gold, the best crose cloth of crymeson sersennatt, the best stremer of St. George of green sersennatt. Also another stremer of St.

\* Sir Horace Marryat's Account of this Doorway, vol. i., page 45; and “Records of Buckinghamshire,” vol. iii., page 92.

† “Dugd. Monast.,” vol. iv., p. 364.

Christofere and Saynt George of linen cloth stayned. Also another stremer, new bought, of blue tabe of the Assumption of our Lady.

Itm. In the custody of John Sim another challis, which is daily occupied.

Itm. Remayneth in the church coffer and in the churche the best cross of copp and gylt, a cope and a vestment of red damaske, anoder cope, and a vestment of silk called cloth, a bodkyn, four new autur which were bought against Chrystmas besyde the old autur, cloths to every autur, two supples, and a wehete for the clark, wiche are very old and sere, and they remayne in the church in the custody of the clarke.

Itm. Remayneth in the sayd churche coffer of our Ladys divers fyne kerchays conteyning ..... peyces and a purce is a long payer of gete bedds, and upon them x ryngs of silver and gylt, and a stoppell of sylver for a sylver bottell, which Simon Mortimer gaff to the churche and our Lady.

Itm. In the same coffer ..... towells, and von grete new towell wiche John Warren gave to the church."

The communion plate at the present time consists of two large flagons, a salver, chalice and cover. The flagons have the following inscription:—"The gift of Sir John Vanhattem, Knt., 1772," with the arms above. The salver, "Thomas Ingoldsby, Vice Comite Benjamino Gatton Vicario Deo Sacrum Anno Domini 1721." The chalice is evidently more ancient.

The following extracts are from the parish register, and have been copied in the Dinton album:—

"Mdm. yt. upon the 23rd day of Febr., in the 6th yeare of the reign of our sovarigne Lord Charles of Englad a license to eat flesh on fish days was granted to Mrs. Jane Carter, and register'd in our church book upon ye 3<sup>d</sup> day of March, 1630. Tho. Carter, Vicar, and William Gramke,

× his mark."

"Mdm. yt. upon the 14th day of Februarii, 1631, a license to eat flesh this lent, by which Thomas Carter, vicr, of Dinto, granted unto his wife and three children w<sup>th</sup> Tho. Walter and Jerat, his brother, for the better recovery of their health, and register'd this 19th day of February aforesd."

A license to eat flesh was granted to Mr. Simon Mayne and his wife, March 6th, 1636, by Tho. Carter, vic. of Dinton, the tenor of which followeth:—

Whereas by reason of notorious sickness, Mr. Simon Mayne, Esq., and Mrs. Jane Mayne, wife of the said Mr. Simon Mayne, of Dynton Com Bucks, may not use a fish diet without much prejudice to their health, I therefore Tho. Carter, Vicr. of Dynton aforesaid, doe grant unto the said Mr. Simon Mayne and Mrs. Jane Mayne, his wife, license to eat flesh on fish days during the continuance of their sickness and weakness for the better recovery of their health, according to y<sup>e</sup> purport and true meaning of a statute made in the fifth year of Queen Eliz. In witness whereof I have hereunto subscrib'd my name this sixth day of March, Anno Dom., 1636.

THO. CARTER.

This license was enter'd in the church book by the said Thomas Carter, in the presence of Thomas Worster, churchwarden, March 26, Anno Dom. 1637.

THO. CARTER,  
THOMAS WORSTER."

"E testō condito A<sup>o</sup> 1519 in libro antedio.

In Dei nomine, Amen. I, John Gylby, &c., gyff unto the moder church of Lincoln £8. Item unto the hy autur of the Church of Donyngton half a quart of whete. Item, unto the rode lyth two bushells barley. Item, unto our Lady Lyght, Saint Nicholas Light, Mary Magdalen Lyght, and St. Petur Lyght, eyche of them two bushells of barley. Item, unto the parish church of Donnton too kene to be py'd for the soull of my wyff. Item, unto every poor body of the parishe havyne no plow a bushell of whete, &c.

Probatum fuit 10 Nov. An<sup>o</sup> Dom. 1519.

This is the last will of me, John Gylby, made the 28th day of July, in the yeare of our Lord God, 1519, &c. Itm, I give etc. to an honest preste, to syng for my soull in the church of Dnynton aforesaid by the space of two years next after the sale of my lands and tenents made twelve pounds sterlyng, for the Entent that the churchwardens schall then for the tyme being shall keep a yerely obit or anniversarie for my soull, and Johanna Gylby my wiff, and all christen solls for ever, &c.

N.B. This is a schedule to the will, and the legacys therein mention'd are conditionally that his children decease without issue."

"E. Reg<sup>o</sup> Eccl. Dinton incipien A<sup>o</sup> 1560.

Mdm. yt. Elizabeth Ladie Hoddesden, by her last will bearing date ye first day of November, An<sup>o</sup> Dom. 1637, did give fifteen pounds to be kept by the churchwardens of Dynton for the time being for a stock to remaine for ever to y<sup>e</sup> use of y<sup>e</sup> poor of Dynton, and y<sup>e</sup> benefit thereof to be yearly given upon y<sup>e</sup> day of the death of the said Dame Elizabeth Hoddesden, to ten or twelve poor old p'sons of y<sup>e</sup> said p'ish of Dynton, by the direction of the minister and churchwarden of Dynton of the time being, as by y<sup>e</sup> said will appeareth. And ye said Elizabeth Ladie Hoddesden dyed upon y<sup>e</sup> eleventh day of March in y<sup>e</sup> said yeare of our Lord one thousand sixe hundred thirtie and seven. And the said fiftene pounds was accordingly paid upon the 18th day of April, An<sup>o</sup> Dm. 1638, by Sir Thomas Sanders and Francis Sanders, executors of the said last will of y<sup>e</sup> said Dame Elizabeth Hoddesden, unto Francis Hunt y<sup>e</sup> elder, John Collins, and Alexander Farnbrowe, churchwardens of Dynton, the same yeare wherein ye said Lady Hoddesden dyed, as also this present year, 1638, by them to be employed for y<sup>e</sup> use of y<sup>e</sup> poor as aforesaid, and at y<sup>e</sup> end of their year to be by them deliver'd unto their successor, according to the true meaning of y<sup>e</sup> said will. In witness whereof, we y<sup>e</sup> minister of Dynton, and churchwarden aforesaid, have set to o<sup>r</sup>. hands, April 22nd, 1638.

THO. CARTER, Vic<sup>o</sup> de Dynton.

The mark of ++ Francis Hunt.

The mark of +++ John Collins.

ALEX. FARNBEROW.

N.B. The legacy is still paid.

I cannot conclude these historical remarks without expressing a hope that some of our members will be able, on reading them, to recall somewhat of the earlier aspect of the place. We may indeed imagine that we see the former possessors of this goodly Hall busily superintending its affairs, and bidding their friends welcome with an open-handed hospitality. Those days are passed, and many changes have taken place in the picturesque

details of olden times ; but nature is still as lovely, the trees, in whatever garb they are clothed, as beautiful ; the garden flowers, in whatever season they are seen, as sweet, but more numerous ; and the urbanity and kindness of the present possessor as cordial and frank as ever.

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