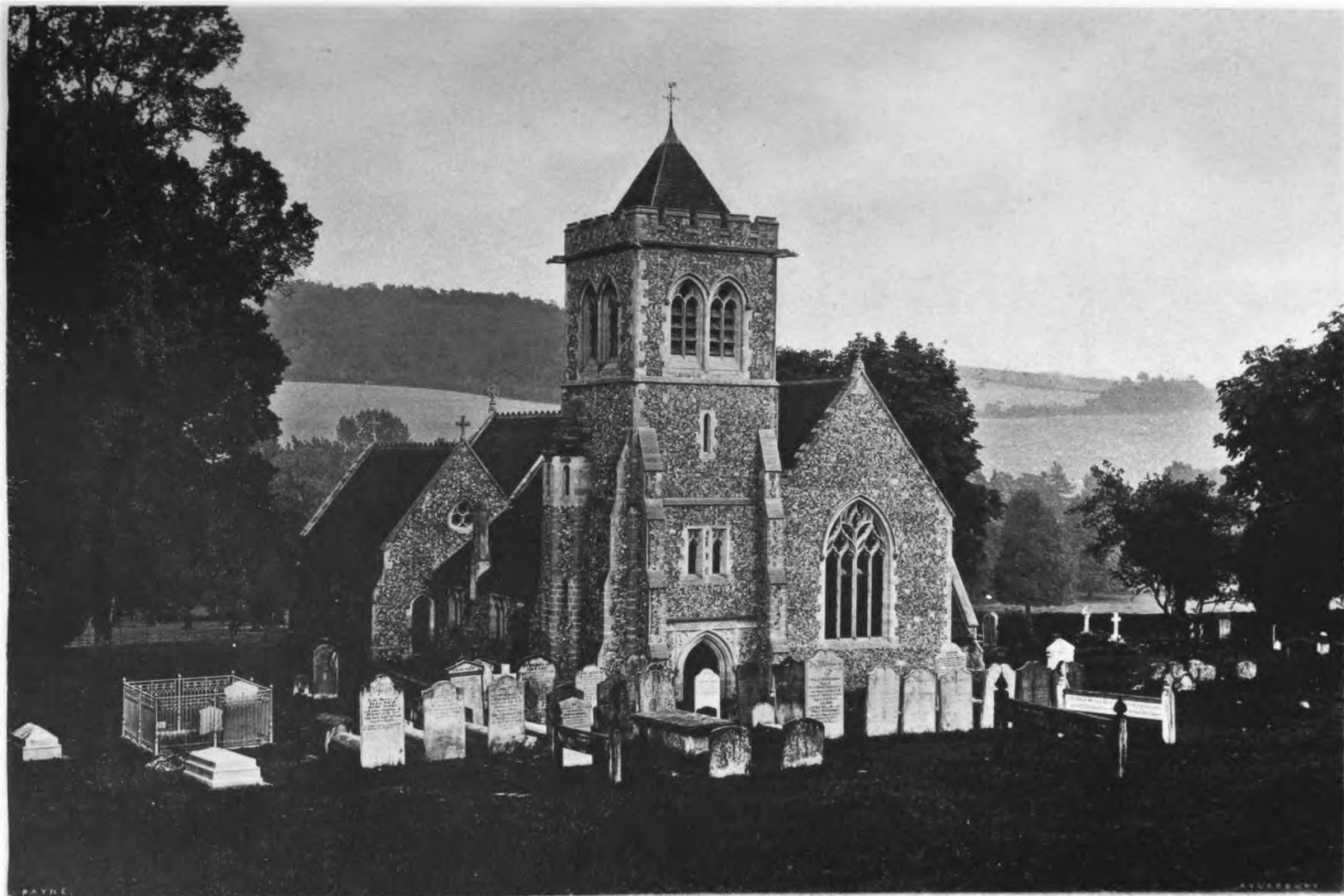


THE HISTORY OF HUGHENDEN.

BY MR. R. S. DOWNS.

Hughenden is an extensive parish situated to the north of High Wycombe, the Church being distant about two miles on the road between that town and Aylesbury. The parish is about five miles long and three-and-a-half miles wide. Its Saxon name, which has been variously written Huchenden, Hochenden, Hychendene, Hutchingdon, Hitchenden, and which is now permanently fixed as Hughenden, very aptly describes its physical aspect, that is, an elevated plain pierced by valleys.

There is strictly speaking no village of Hughenden, the only houses near the Manor, besides the Vicarage, being the almshouses in the Churchyard; the rest are scattered in detached groups in different parts of the parish. The principal hamlets are Naphill, Kingshill, and North Dean, all situated at some considerable distance from each other, and from the Church. The boundary of the parish touches upon Hampden, Missenden, Penn, High Wycombe, West Wycombe, Bradenham, and Princes Risborough. Its eastern portion is in the Hundreds of Aylesbury; but the western part, including the Church, Vicarage, and Manor House, is situated in Desborough Hundred. The area of the parish, inclusive of a portion of Brand's Fee, is 5751 acres, and it contains a population of about 1800. Langley puts the extent at 7200 acres, and says that in his time, nearly a hundred



HUGHENDEN CHURCH.

years ago, there were 5,500 acres of arable land, 200 pasture, 1100 woodland, and 400 common, and that there were then 160 houses and about 900 inhabitants. The population 800 years ago was probably about 180.

The surface is undulating throughout, the country rising gently from the Wycombe valley, as we proceed northward, until we reach the table-land of Naphill, on a spur of the Chilterns, which attains an elevation of over 600 ft. above the sea level. Tinker's Wood, which crowns the hill on the western side of the valley towards Downley, obtained its designation from its having been chosen as a camping ground by those itinerant artizans, or, as some affirm, from the circumstance of a tinker having been found murdered there. Some years ago a silver penny of Offa, surnamed the Terrible, King of Mercia (757-796), was found in this wood, and another was picked up in West Wycombe Park. The wife of King Offa belonged to the family from which descended Geoffrey de Clyntone, on whom Henry I. bestowed the Manor of Hughenden.

The Hughenden Brook rises beyond Mr. Lee's farm, from several springs supplied from the hill above. It flows by the church, through the park, by Temple Farm, into the Wye in Oxford Road. The following reference to it from the *Itinerary* of Leland, the antiquary (1538) will be read with interest. He says—"Another Use or Ise as of one principal arme risith abowt Westewikam owt of one of the Chilterne Hills, and so comith to Wikam, the Market Towne. The lesse arme is cawllid Higdenbrooke, and risith also in one of the Chilterne Hills, a mile above Wikam. Bothe these streames meate at the West Ende of Wikam, and thens the hole botom with one water goith to Hedser, so to Owburne, wher the B. of Lincolne hath a fayre howse, and thes a mile and more into the Tamise."

Before the Norman Conquest, Hughenden formed part of the possessions of Edith, the Queen of Edward the Confessor. She was the daughter of Godwin, Earl of Kent, and consequently sister of King Harold, slain at Hastings (1066). Her father's history is one of those which fill the pages of the past with romantic incident. From a humble position he rose first by accident and afterwards by his own genius and valour to an equality

with monarchs, and he shares with the great Earl of Warwick the title of "King-maker." Queen Edith is universally represented as possessing great beauty and accomplishments. She had been brought up in the monastery at Wilton, and while there became remarkable for her acquirements. Ingulphus, the Croyland Chronicler, whose father resided at Court, tells us that when he was a boy she would stop him as he came from school, make him repeat his lesson, and ask him questions in grammar and logic. Bromton, another old writer, tells us that "her breast was a storehouse of all liberal science;" and Malmsbury calls her "a woman whose bosom was the school of every liberal art, though little skilled in earthly matters," and praises her for "the purity of her mind and the beauty of her person."

King Edward and Edith were married in 1044, according to the Saxon Chronicle, "ten days before Candlemass." They were both much beloved by the people; and the old monkish historians are profuse in their praises of them for their generosity to the Church. It is to the Confessor we are indebted for the glorious old Abbey church of St. Peter at Westminster. Edith appears to have had considerable property in England for her own private use, so that she was able to indulge her wishes in respect to pious donations and charities. Her estates were very numerous, and situated in almost every county in England. In this neighbourhood she held, besides Hughenden, High Wycombe and Little Marlow. As Brill was at that time a favourite resort of King Edward's, there can be I think very little doubt that the Queen might have paid a visit to this place, especially as the Mercian princes had a residence or hunting station in the vicinity, the tradition of which is still perpetuated in the name of the adjoining hamlet of Kyngeshall. Edith died at Winchester, 1074, and was buried at Westminster Abbey by the side of her husband. Hughenden was granted by the Conqueror to Odo, Bishop of Baieux, and when Domesday Survey (1) was taken it was held under him by William Fitz-Oger. According to that return the Manor was taxed for ten hides (about 1200 acres), the lord himself holding two carucates in demesne, while the other eight were distributed among three cottagers and fifteen villeins,

besides whom there were five bondsmen or slaves. There were also at that time about 200 acres of pasture land, forming most probably the original portion of the present park, and the woods, which were then more extensive than now, afforded pannage for six hundred hogs. Its value was £10, when received £6, and in the reign of Edward the Confessor, when held by Edith, £7.

Odo, Bishop of Baieux, first Lord of Hughenden after the Conquest, was the son of Herleve (Arlotte) the mother of the Conqueror, by Herluin de Couteville, whom she married after the death of Duke Robert, William's father, and was thus his half-brother. He attended William to England, and by his advice and example was instrumental in procuring the success of the Normans at Hastings, and William in return for these services raised him to the Earldom of Kent, the first office of trust and dignity conferred after the Conquest. He was likewise a Count Palatine, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, and Grand Justiciary of England. In his county of Kent he held 184 lordships, and 255 in other counties, 26 being in Buckinghamshire. He died at Palermo, in Sicily, 1096, and was buried there in St. Mary's church by his nephew, Robert Curthose, who was on his way home from the Crusades. The seal of Odo in Domesday Book, on which he is represented as an earl on horseback, is supposed by Sir Henry Ellis to be the earliest specimen of a baronial seal in England.

Through the disgrace and forfeiture of the lands of Odo, the manor of Hughenden became vested in the Crown, and remained so until Henry I. granted it to Geoffrey de Clinton. This Geoffrey, who was Chamberlain to the King, is supposed to have been descended from the royal family of Mercia, and to have been the ancestor of the present Lord Clinton. He built the famous Castle of Kenilworth, immortalized by Sir Walter Scott, and having founded near it a priory for Black Canons, he gave *inter alia* the manor of Hughenden, *cir.* 1122, as part of the endowment to that house; although a (3) charter of confirmation of lands, etc., given to that establishment, *temp.* Henry II., enumerates the Church of Hughenden as being granted to it by Nicolas de Hughenden.

Since the Priors of Kenilworth continued to be Lords of the Manor of Hughenden, until the Dissolution, I subjoin a list of them:—

Hugh, temp. Henry I.
 Bernard.
 Robert, 1150.
 Lawrence, temp. Stephen.
 Walter, temp. Henry II.
 Sylvester, 1202.
 David, 1239, 23 Henry III.
 Robert de Esteley, elected by Congè d'elire, Nov. 2, 1273, and had the temporalities restored to him Dec. 22nd following. Resigned 1277.
 Richard de Tyncolesford, Feb. 18, 1280.
 Robert de Salle, Sept. 8, 1293.
 Thomas de Wormyngton, June 13, 1332.
 John de Peyto, April 2, 1335.
 Henry de Bradwey, 1361. In 1387 the Prior de Kenilworth had a grant of free warren in his lands at Hughenden.
 Thomas de Merston, 1395.
 William de Brayls, 1400.
 Thomas Kidderminster, 1402.
 Thomas Holygrave, 1439.
 John Yerdeley, May 2, 1458.
 Ralph Maxfield, 1494.
 William Wall, 1519.
 Simon Jekys, the last prior, elected 1538, not long before the Dissolution, when, with sixteen monks, he surrendered his monastery to the King's visitors, April, 14, 1539, and had a pension of £100 per ann. allowed him.

Hughenden Manor and Rectory were granted by Henry VIII., Jan. 20, 1540, to Sir Robert Dormer, Knt., for the sum of £387. The Dormers are a very ancient family, and are descended from Thomas D'Ordmer, or Dormer, a Norman, who attended King Edward the Confessor on his return from Normandy in 1042. William son of this Thomas, subsequently came over with the Conqueror, from whom descended Sir William Dormer, Knt., who served Edward III. in his French wars. The family were tenants under the Bishops of Winchester at West Wycombe, from a very early period. Geoffrey Dormer, who lived temp. Henry VI., had a family of twenty-six, chiefly sons, who entered into Holy Orders, and the same Geoffrey had by Eleanora, his wife, *inter al.* a son also named Geoffrey, who married Judith, daughter of Robert Baldington, Lord of Thame. The issue of that marriage was another Geoffrey, who married Ursula, daughter and heiress of Bartholomew Colling-

ridge, the heir-general of Arundel, and descendants of the Fitz-Alans, of Hughenden. He left five sons, all of them possessing considerable estates in this county. One of them, William, who was his eldest son and heir, married, Agnes, daughter of Sir John Launcelyn, Knt., and had issue Robert and four daughters, and by will dated Sept. 12, 1506, directed his interment in the Church of West Wycombe, before the image of S. Lawrence, bequeathing £40 to the poor, £40 to the Church to buy a cope and vestment, &c., and £40 to mend the highway.

Robert Dormer, on whom Henry VIII. bestowed the Manor of Hughenden in 1540, was Sheriff of Bucks and Beds in 14, 23, and 30 Henry VIII., and received the honour of knighthood in the thirty-fifth year of the same reign, and several manors and estates by favour of that monarch. By his will, dated June 20th, 1552, he granted *inter al.* to Jane and Ann, his grand-daughters, £20 per annum each, out of his manors of Hughenden and Ravensmere for the term of their lives. William, his son and heir, was M.P. for Bucks in 1553, and was made one of the Knights of the Bath at the coronation of Queen Mary. He died October 2nd, 1575, and was buried at Wing. Robert Dormer was knighted in 1591, and made a baronet by James I., June 10th, 1615, and soon after advanced to the peerage by the title of Baron Dormer of Wenge (Wing). He died in 1616, and was succeeded by Robert, who married Sophia, daughter of Philip, Earl of Pembroke, and in 1628 was created Viscount Ascot (of Wing, in Bucks) and Earl of Carnarvon. During the Puritan rebellion he showed himself a brave and loyal subject of King Charles I., and was slain at the battle of Newbury, 1643. At the death of Charles, second Earl of Carnarvon, Nov. 29, 1709, Hughenden passed with his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, in marriage to Philip Dormer Stanhope, fourth Earl of Chesterfield. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Philip, in 1713, whose younger son, Sir William Stanhope, sold the estate in 1738, to Charles Savage, Esq., who bequeathed it in 1763 to his brother Samuel, who at his death in 1772, was succeeded by his nephew, John Norris, Esq., Sheriff of Bucks in 1775. At his death in 1786 the manor came into the possession of Ellen, Countess of Conyngham, widow of the first Earl

of Conyngham and niece of the above-mentioned Charles and Samuel Savage. The Countess was succeeded in 1816 by her nephew, John Norris, Esq., who died in 1845, and from whose executors it was purchased by the late Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield and Viscount Hughenden, who died April 19th, 1881, and by his will dated December 16th, 1878, bequeathed the estate to his nephew Coningsby, son of Ralph Disraeli.

The Manor, now called Brand's Fee, from the family of Brand, who held it in the thirteenth century, was anciently called Tilleberie, which signifies a stronghold on a tree crested height. This manor formed part of the vast possessions of Leofric, the powerful Earl of Mercia, whose wife was the famous Lady Godiva, so well known in connection with the story of Peeping Tom of Coventry. He died August 31st, 1057. Algar, the son of Leofric, had four children—a daughter, Aldith, who was married first to Griffith, a Welsh Prince, and at his death to Harold, the last Saxon king of England; and three sons—Edwin, who succeeded his father in the Earldom of Mercia; Morcar, who became Earl of Northumbria on the deposition of Tostig in 1066; and Burchard, buried in the Abbey of St. Remigius, at Rheims, in 1061. After the death of Harold, Edwin and Morcar appeared as candidates for the difficult post of King of England; but finding their claims disregarded, they took their sister Aldith, Harold's widow, from the Palace of Westminster, and repaired to York, with the intention of defending the northern provinces to the death against the Norman invaders; but upon hearing of the surrender of London, and William's coronation, they deemed it prudent to offer him their allegiance. The Conqueror, in order to secure their fidelity, promised Edwin one of his daughters in marriage, but failing to fulfil his promise, the two brothers suddenly left the Court and betook themselves once more to the north, and thence escaped to the Camp of Refuge in the Isle of Ely. After enduring incredible hardships, and wandering from place to place for six months, Morcar was treacherously seized and thrown into prison, and Edwin while attempting to rescue his brother, was betrayed by three of his officers and surprised by the Normans. Overpowered by superior numbers, he for a long time bravely defended himself against a host of assailants, but

was at last cut down—dying without fear as he had fought without hope. Thus perished in 1071 the last of a noble race, which for six centuries had given kings and war-chiefs to one of the most extensive and powerful kingdoms of the Heptarchy.

On account of the strenuous and protracted opposition which the Mercian nobles had offered to the Norman invaders, William seized their possessions and bestowed this part of Hughenden on a celebrated warrior who had accompanied him to England, and greatly distinguished himself at Hastings. His name was Nigel D'Albini, the founder of one of the most powerful and opulent families in England during the earlier portion of the Plantagenet period. Under him as his subfeudatory was one Roger, but who he was or who were his descendants, it is impossible even to conjecture.

From the account of this Manor in Domesday Book (2) we learn that Nigel D'Albini held, and Roger of him, Tilleberie, which was taxed for five hides; that there were altogether eleven plough lands, three being held by the lord himself, seven held by thirteen villeins and one copy-holder, and another might be made. There was pannage sufficient for twenty hogs. Altogether it was worth £7, when obtained, 100s.; in the reign of Edward the Confessor, when Turbert, a vassal of Earl Algar held it, £7. Earl Algar died in 1059; and was therefore succeeded by his son Edwin before the Norman Conquest. Edwin's lands were not forfeited till 1071; but since no reference is made to him in Domesday Book, it is evident that William's Commissioners, when they compiled that survey, must have consulted an anterior record as well as admitted oral testimony.

Nigel D'Albini was the younger son of Roger D'Albini by his wife Amicia, who was of the family of Mowbray. He is supposed to have adopted his surname from the venerable esteem in which he held the British proto-martyr, St. Alban, who suffered at Verulam, A.D. 303.

The D'Albinis were great benefactors to the Abbey of St. Alban, and a list of Religious Houses and Manors bestowed by them upon that establishment may be seen in an old MS. still preserved in the British Museum (Lib. Cot. Nero. D. 7). Richard D'Albini, fifteenth Abbot of St. Alban's (1097–1119), built the Chapel of St. Cuthbert

in the Conventual Church, and the Priory of Wymondham, founded by William D'Albini, Cupbearer to Henry I., was conferred upon the monastery during his Abbacy. The Cell of Beaulieu in Bedfordshire and the Chapel of St. Macutus were given to the Abbey by Robert, son of Henry D'Albini, and grandson of William, the Cupbearer.

Nigel D'Albini accompanied the Conqueror on the terrible expedition into Northumbria in 1069, when, on account of a rebellion which had been raised in that part of the kingdom, he laid waste the whole country between the Humber and the Tweed. After this rigorous suppression of the Northumbrian rebellion, William was crowned at York, D'Albini being present among other barons at the ceremony.

Upon the death of William I., in 1087, Rufus, his second surviving son, seized the throne, and at his death in 1100, Henry, the youngest son, succeeded; thus Robert, the eldest, was twice disappointed in his expectation to mount the throne his father had gained. Henry was not content with the possession of England, but coveted his brother's duchy of Normandy. He at first desired to purchase it, but Robert declined the proposal with disdain, and Beauclerc at once prepared to seize Normandy by force of arms. A battle was fought, Sept. 28, 1106, at Tinchebrai, about nine miles from the town of Mortain, whose castle Henry had besieged with a vast army. In the commencement of the battle the English were thrown into confusion, and bearing down all opposition, William Crispin, Count D'Evreux, fought his way to the English standard, and dealt the King so violent a blow on the head, that blood gushed from his mouth; while Curthose fought with equal courage and prowess. At Beauclerc's side, however, was the renowned Nigel D'Albini, bow-bearer to the King, who rushed forward to save his royal master, and having killed the horse of Duke Robert, he seized him and conducted him to his victorious brother. Henry, instead of making some friendly arrangement with his brother, ordered him to be forthwith conveyed to England. Here he was treated with great indignity, and confined for the rest of his life, a period of twenty-eight years, in Cardiff Castle. He died in 1135, and was buried in Gloucester cathedral, where his tomb may still be seen. For the great services

which Nigel had rendered him, Henry I. bestowed upon him the estates forfeited by Robert de Mowbray, Earl of Northumberland. Nigel died full of years and honour in 1134, and was succeeded by his eldest son Roger, who by command of the King, took the surname of Mowbray. He died soon after, and was succeeded by his son William.

William, grandson of Nigel D'Albini, known in history as "William the Strong Hand," was butler or cup-bearer to William II. and Henry I., from which office he obtained the name of Pincerna, and became the possessor of Arundel, by his marriage with Adelicia, daughter of Godfrey, Duke of Brabant, and widow of Henry I. After the death of Henry I., Adelicia resided chiefly at her seat at Arundel Castle, in Sussex, which had been conferred upon her as dower after the forfeiture of Robert de Belèsme in 1102, and it was there that she consented to become the wife of the Strong Handed D'Albini, one of the most chivalrous peers in Europe, and noted as much for his handsome personal appearance as for his doughty deeds of valour.

Roger D'Albini had before the Conquest been the chief butler or cup-bearer of the Duchy of Normandy, and William appointed him to the same office in England at his coronation in Westminster Abbey. The honour continued in his family, and by hereditary custom has descended to the Duke of Norfolk, his rightful representative, so that at her coronation banquet, the golden cup from which her Gracious Majesty, our present Queen, drank the health of her loving subjects, was presented to her by the descendant of the cup-bearer of William the Conqueror, whose family was for so many generations connected with this same village of Hughenden, that has been twice honoured by a visit from her Majesty.

It appears that D'Albini and Adelicia had been affianced some time previous to their marriage: for when he won the prize at the tournament held at Bruges in 1137, in honour of the nuptials of Louis VII. of France and Eleanor of Aquitaine, Adelicia, the gay Queen Dowager of France, fell passionately in love with him, and wooed him to become her husband, but he replied, "That his troth was pledged to Adelicia, Queen of England." The rejected and indignant Frenchwoman lured the

unsuspecting D'Albini into her garden, and pushed him into a cave or dungeon, where she had secreted a fierce lion to become the minister of her jealous vengeance. The redoubtable knight, if we are to credit Dugdale, thrust his hand into the mouth of the lion, and tore out his heart, which must have been conveniently situated for his purpose in a place where no anatomist would have thought of feeling for it. This exploit gained for him the surname of Strong Hand. There is another version of this popular romance in which the hero is said to have deprived the lion, not of his heart, but only of his tongue; and this is doubtless the true version of the tradition relating to William of the Strong Hand, since the Albini lion, on the ancient armorial bearings of that house, is tongueless, and is, by-the-by, one of the most good-tempered looking beasts ever seen. William D'Albini was not only a knight stout in combat and constant in loyalty and love, but history proves him to have been one of the greatest and best men of that age. He assumed the title of Earl of Arundel, and was created Earl of Sussex in 1155, and was Sheriff of Bucks and Beds in 10 Ric. I. and 1 Johan. Besides the princely Howards, Dukes of Norfolk, two of the most unfortunate Queens of England, Anne Boleyn and Catherine Howard, wives of Henry VIII., were direct descendants of Adelia, by her second marriage with William D'Albini. He left seven surviving children—William, Earl of Arundel, who succeeded to the honours and estates, Reynier, Henry, Godfrey, Alicia, married to the Count D'Eu, Olivia, and Agatha.

William D'Albini of the Strong Hand was succeeded by his son, William Earl of Arundel, who married Maud, widow of Roger de Clare, surnamed the Good, by whom he had issue two sons—William, who succeeded him, and Hugh—and four daughters. William, third Earl of Arundel, was one of the confederated barons who gained Magna Charta from the tyrant, King John, and his name occurs fourth in order of the lay barons who attested that famous document. He was besieged in Rochester Castle by King John and his forces in 1217, and a curious incident that occurred during the siege is related in the Chronicle of Matthew Paris: While King John and his counsellor, Savaric de Mauleon, were reconnoitring the Castle, they

were discerned by a bowman of great repute, who immediately addressed himself to William D'Albini, and besought his permission to aim at the sanguinary tyrant. "Nay, nay," exclaimed the baron, "far from me be the heavy guilt of compassing the death of the Lord's Anointed." "He would not spare thee," replied the archer, "if thou wert in like case." Then rejoined the baron, "That would be as the Lord pleases; the Lord disposes, and not I." In this did D'Albini resemble David, who in similar manner spared Saul when he might have slain him. At length, to quote Holinshed's Chronicle, "they within for want of vittels, were constrained to yield it up unto the king after it had been besieged the space of three-score daies. Thus the king spared William de Albiney and the other nobles and gentlemen, and sent them to Corfe Castle, and other places, to be kept as prisoners." His estates were not confiscated, and we accordingly find that the next lord of Hughenden, and last in the direct male line of this family that held the manor, was Hugh D'Albini, who succeeded his brother in 1196, and died in 1243 without heirs, when the estate passed by marriage with his sister Isabel to John Fitz-Alan, Lord of Clun.

The Fitz-Alan family derives its descent from Alan Fitz-Flaald, whom Henry I. made Sheriff of Shropshire upon the death of Hugh, son of Guarine the Bald, without issue. It is a disputed point among antiquaries who this Fitz-Flaald was; but it is supposed that he was the son of Fleance, son of Banquo by Guenta, daughter of Griffyth, King of North Wales, with whom he had sought refuge when fleeing from the vengeance of Macbeth. He married a daughter of Guarine, and from his second son Walter descended the royal house of Stuart. Alan Fitz-Flaald died in 1114, and was succeeded by his eldest son William Fitz-Alan, who married a niece of Robert, Earl of Gloucester. When the civil war, consequent upon the usurpation of Stephen, broke out, Fitz-Alan loyally adhered to the cause of the Empress Matilda, and was besieged by Stephen in Shrewsbury Castle in 1138, but making his escape he remained in exile till 1152. Upon the accession of Henry II., he was restored to his estates and the Sherifdom of Shropshire, and the king conferred upon him in marriage Isabel de Say, the wealthiest heiress in that county. He died in

1160, and was buried in Shrewsbury Abbey, being succeeded by his son and heir William Fitz-Alan II., who died in 1210, leaving by his wife, a daughter of Hugh de Laci, his estates and honours to his son William Fitz-Alan III.

He was succeeded by his brother, John Fitz-Alan, the first of the family who held the Manor of Tilbury in Hughenden. By his marriage with Isabel, sister of Earl Hugh D'Albini, he became Earl of Arundel. He was succeeded in 1243, by his son, John Fitz-Alan II. who fought on the side of Henry III. at the battle of Lewes in 1264, and was taken prisoner by the victorious barons. He died towards the close of the year 1267, and was buried in the Abbey of Haughmond, leaving as his son and heir by Matilda de Verdon, John Fitz-Alan III. who married Isabel de Mortimer, and dying in the prime of life, he was succeeded in 1272 by his son Richard Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, described in the Feodary of 1284 as possessor of this manor in Hughenden. He married an Italian lady by whom he had Edmund Fitz-Alan, who succeeded his father about the end of the 13th century. This Edmund married Alice Plantagenet, by which union his descendants became entitled to the Earldom of Warren and Surrey. During the civil commotions of the reign of Edward II. he was taken prisoner and beheaded by the barons at Bristol in 1326. He was succeeded by his son Richard Fitz-Alan II. whose brother John was Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Chancellor. Richard Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, being with Edward III. in Scotland in 1335, and claiming to be Steward of Scotland by hereditary right, sold his title and claim to Edward for 1000 marks. So anxious was Edward to possess the title to the Stewardship of Scotland that he subsequently obtained a confirmation of this purchase from Edward Baliol. But neither his purchase of the title nor the confirmation of it were of any service to him, for Richard Fitz-Alan had himself no right to the Stewardship of Scotland. Walter, who was the first purchaser of this hereditary office, was the younger brother of William, the son of Alan, the progenitor of Richard Fitz-Alan, the claimant; and until all the descendants of the first holder of this office had failed, the claim could not ascend to the common father of the two families,

Robert the Stewart, son of Walter the Stewart and Marjory Bruce, being then in possession of the hereditary office of Stewart by lineal descent. Richard Fitz-Alan was beheaded at Cheapside in the presence of Richard II., and his spectre ever after haunted the monarch's dreams, so that he would start up in his sleep shrieking the name of Arundel. He married Philippa, widow of the Earl of Pembroke, and was succeeded by his son Thomas, eleventh Earl of Arundel, K.B., Lord Treasurer, whose wife was Beatrix, daughter of John, King of Portugal. His sister and co-heiress married her cousin, Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, who was banished by Richard II. in 1398, on his challenging Henry Bolingbroke at Coventry, and died at Venice of the plague; his son was beheaded at York for conspiracy against the King. In the reign of Henry VI. this manor passed to Geoffrey Dormer, of West Wycombe, by his marriage with Ursula, daughter and heiress of Bartholomew Collingridge, the heir-general of Arundel and a descendant of the Fitz-Alans. The Dormer family has already been noticed.

There were several other manors in this parish which were incorporated with the principal manor in 1857, as far as manorial rights are concerned, when the waste lands and commons were enclosed. The Abbey of Missenden had a manor here, probably Uphall or Moseley, the former of which belonged to the Lanes in the early part of last century. In 1575 Henry Kynwellmershe had a grant of a cottage and meadow adjoining to the same in Hitchenden, parcel of the possessions of the Abbey of Great Missenden.

The Manor of Overhall and Piggotts is not distinguished in Domesday Book, or if it is, it has not been identified, nor is it mentioned in any very ancient records. In 1480 Dame Margaret Leynham sold it to John Morton, afterwards Bishop of Ely. In 1486 this prelate was raised to the Primacy, and in the following year made Legate of the Apostolic See, and appointed Lord Chancellor of England and Chancellor of Oxford; created a cardinal by Alexander VI., and died in 1500. He was succeeded by his nephew Thomas Morton, in whose family the estate remained a long time. In 1674 it was rated in a parochial survey, as in the possession of one of the Mortons, a descendant of

the Archbishop's family. Previous to this, however, it appears that the Manor of Piggotts had passed into the possession of the Windsors, and Edward, Lord Windsor of Bradenham, who died June 24, 1574, bequeathed it to his son and successor Frederick. After the alienation of the lands of the Mortons it was in the Sydenham family, and Richard Sydenham, Esq., was sheriff of Bucks in 1726. After his decease it passed by purchase to John Hampden, Esq., the 24th hereditary lord of Great Hampden, and last in the direct male line of that ancient family. After his death, February 4, 1754, it passed to Lord Trevor, created June 8, 1776, Viscount Great and Little Hampden. He died August 22, 1783, leaving his son Thomas, second Viscount, lord of this manor. It is now united with the principal manor.

Upon Pigot Common, in May, 1795, a labourer, in throwing up a bank, discovered 24 Roman copper coins in an earthen vessel about 18 inches below the surface. Some of them belonged to the reigns of Trajan (A.D. 98 to 117), Hadrian (A.D. 117 to 138), Marcus Aurelius (A.D. 161 to 180).

I think there can be little doubt that the present mansion occupies the site of the ancient Manor House of the old lords of Hughenden. The church was built by the lord of the Manor within his own demesne, which accounts for its situation in the park. Although the present house has a modernised appearance, increased by its being uniformly whitened on all sides, yet the forms of its architecture suggest that some portions of the edifice are much older than others. It is a square building with two square wings, and stands on a gentle eminence commanding an excellent view towards Wycombe. On either side of the mansion the lawns are very tastefully laid out and planted, and it is here that the peacocks of which Lord Beaconsfield was so fond strut and scream. The lawns are planted with choice flowers, exotic shrubs, and a great variety of the pinus tribe. The entrance to the private grounds is by the "Golden Gate." Here may be seen some specimens of the Cedars of Lebanon, produced from seed brought by Lord Beaconsfield from Palestine. On the northern side of the house is a tree planted by the Prince of Wales during his two days' visit last year, and on the south lawn are two fir trees planted respectively by the Queen

and Princess Beatrice on the occasion of Her Majesty's visit to Hughenden in December, 1877. From the north front a path leads past the east wing to the terraced side of the house, through an arch cut in a screen of yew trees. The entrance hall has a groined ceiling and communicates with the library and the drawing room. In the dining room, which is a fine spacious apartment, there is a very curious arch formed by the intermixture of the pointed and horizontal styles. This arch is a reproduction of one, unique in its character, at Magdalen Hall, Oxford—to which foundation a former proprietor of Hughenden, the elder John Norris, was a benefactor. The drawing room contains a half-length portrait of Her Majesty, which she presented to Lord Beaconsfield on his seventieth birthday, and in a panel of the chimney-piece a portrait of the Viscountess Beaconsfield surmounted by her coronet. But the library is the room upon which the great interest of the house is centred. It is a large gaily decorated apartment opening upon a delightful lawn, and contains an extensive library of historical and classical works. It was here that Earl Beaconsfield passed the greater portion of his time after the completion of his morning's work in the study, which is situated in the upper part of the house. The walls are adorned with two drawings in Indian ink by the wife of one of the Professors, illustrating the late Earl's reception at Glasgow University, of which he was installed Lord Rector in 1873. The hall and staircase are thickly studded with portraits of the friends and colleagues of the late statesman, including the late and present Lord Derby, the Marquis of Salisbury, Earl Cairns, Sir Stafford Northcote, Lord Rowton, &c. The present house was probably erected by the Dormers, and much enlarged by the elder John Norris about a century ago; but without destroying its chief Tudor characteristics.

One portion of the wooded ground, called the German Forest—so named by the late Earl—is specially worthy of notice. This spot is backed by Hughenden Wood, one of the most extensive in the county. There are also in the vicinity Great and Little Tinker's Wood, and another called Millfield Wood. The little bright "babbling brook" which meanders through the park, though too small to be entitled to the name of a river, yet, with its

little cascades and rustic bridges, lends a pleasing charm to the landscape, as it races on its way to join the Wye at Wycombe. Upon its banks formerly stood the old "Flint Mill." It is well known that the late Earl had a great partiality for high sounding titles, and accordingly was wont to designate this brook "the ancient river Kishon." In a clear open spot between the two Tinker's Woods stands an obelisk erected by the late Viscountess Beaconsfield to the memory of Isaac Disraeli, her husband's father, and the author of "Curiosities of Literature." There is also at the base an inscription to the memory of her ladyship, the other two sides being still vacant.

There was formerly a considerable extent of common land in Hughenden; but a greater portion of it, comprising several hundred acres, was enclosed at Kingshill in 1853, and at Naphill in 1859, which has consequently greatly increased the value of the manor.

Kingshill (formerly spelled Kyngeshall and Kings-hull) is a small but increasing hamlet situated upon a considerable elevation, about three miles from High Wycombe. The principal residence in the neighbourhood is *Uplands*, a large semi-castellated Gothic building erected in 1859. About a mile distant, on the verge of Wycombe Heath, formerly stood the old mansion belonging to the Montforts, called *Rockhols* (so written in the parochial register of Hughenden). Langley calls it *Wreck Hall*, and says that it had long been in the possession of the family of Widmer. The name is derived from the Norman family de Roquille, and the house, pulled down about the end of last century, was a fine old building surrounded by a moat. The only portions of this ancient and historic edifice are some shields bearing the family arms. Rockhol's farm now belongs to *Brand's House*, a neat modern villa residence, situated among well-disposed park-like grounds. When the ancient mansion of Rockhols was pulled down several remnants of antiquity were removed, and some of them were used in the erection of a cottage called Sladmere House, in which was the inscription in brass confirming the memorandum that two children of Richard Wellesburne of Kingshill were buried at Hitchenden more than 300 years previously to the statement so made in the parish

register. Langley mentions numerous armorial bearings which were formerly in the house, although in his time only one—that of France and England, quarterly, remained in good preservation. Some of them were in the hall window, some in the chamber window, some carved on the mantelpiece, and others on the stones of the tower. Among them was the griffin and a lion rampant with two tails, holding a child in his mouth, found upon the effigies in the Montfort Chapel in Hughenden Church.

The most populous district in the parish is *Naphill*, which adjoins West Wycombe parish. Its name is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Nap*, the peak or summit of a hill, and is sometimes written *Napple*. A National School (mixed) was erected here in 1862, and enlarged in 1873, providing accommodation for about 100 children. The building is a neat Gothic structure comprising school and class-rooms, with a residence for the mistress adjoining. *Walter's Ash*, a continuation of *Naphill Common*, is the extremity of the parish in this direction, and is distant three miles from the church. Here an excellent, hard, finely-grained stone is quarried, which is used for building and paving purposes. *North Dean*, as its name indicates, is pleasantly situated between two wooded hills, about two miles from the church. On or near a manor in this parish called *Overhall*, there has doubtless been a chapel, though the existing notices of it are very slight. There is a meadow still bearing the name of *Chapel Platt*, and an eminence that of *Chapel Hill*, and the name of "*Chapellhill*" occurs in the Hughenden Court Roll of A.D. 1654. A chapel of ease standing on a hill here would have been very conveniently situated for the hamlet of *North Dean*. The schoolrooms at *Naphill* and *Kingshill* are used for weekday services and on Sunday evenings during the winter months.

Deadman-Danes Bottom is the name applied to a deep valley between two clay covered chalk hills near *Wycombe Heath*. In 1831 a battle axe was found here with several human bones. These relics certainly do seem to give some support to the story that a skirmish took place here, in which both sides fought with great vigour and determination; and although the English maintained the struggle with fortitude and some show of

success at first, they were finally overpowered and slaughtered to a man. There is another version which I will give presently. The head of the axe, mentioned above, is much eaten with rust, and its edge blunted as if having been brought into violent contact with skulls of extraordinary thickness. It is said, but with little degree of probability, that there was a goodly castle called Berrypit about a quarter of a mile from the hollow causeway, wherein dwelt men of mighty stature, who possessed instruments of torture to punish invaders on their domain. The locality, like all others associated in the popular mind with the ferocious Danes, must of necessity have its legends of enormous and cruel giants, who delighted in deeds of blood, intermixed with the reports of horrifying stories of ghosts and goblins and unearthly noises.

Some ancient traditional appellations, which appear to have connected the vicinity of this place with the Danes, have been immemorially preserved here. At various periods, but more particularly in the years 1826, 1827, and 1828, a considerable number of Roman coins have been discovered here; few of them of great scarcity or value, or which could help to elucidate the period of history to which they more especially belong, and were deposited in the collections of Mr. John Norris, of Hughenden House, and other gentlemen in the neighbourhood.

In 1826, a labourer, in trenching a piece of garden ground which had been reclaimed from the common near Hazlemere turnpike-gate, brought to light a small urn containing four small silver coins in good preservation, and three copper coins much defaced. Within a stone's throw of the spot, about six months afterwards, the brother of the said labourer in digging up some mould for his garden, hit upon an arch of flints, supported by two side walls, about the size of a common grave. The arch was not more than three feet long, and near it were several more side walls, similarly constructed. Several portions of broken Roman tiles were found, pieces of urn, some of burnt and some of unburnt pottery, and fragments of millstones, which had been thrown out by the labourer from the places he had opened. Some of the tiles were square, like paving tiles, others had one edge turned up

about an inch. There can be but little doubt that the place had been a Roman burial ground.

On April 25th, 1828, one Cox, a labourer living at Hazlemere, found an old iron battle axe much corroded, in digging at Deadman Danes Bottom. He struck accidentally upon the crown of an arch of flints without mortar, about eight feet long. The side walls were about eighteen inches high, the floor quite level, and covered with a dark coloured substance. Upon this floor lay a human jaw bone with teeth in it, a shoulder blade, and a hip bone, an iron battle axe with a wooden handle about six feet long. Upon exposure to the air the wood crumbled to dust, and four or five inches of the iron handle broke off in lifting it up.

This interesting discovery was made within a quarter of a mile from Deadman Danes Bottom, in the parish of Hughenden, bordering on Penn Wood, where there exists a tradition that a company of Cambo-Britons, journeying southward, gave their assistance to the inhabitants of the district in a skirmish with the Danes, so as to turn the victory in their favour, and that the Welsh subsequently claimed by prescriptive right to depasture their herds of cattle near this valley, when proceeding to the metropolitan markets. The solitary interment of the Pict, having no relation whatever to the presumed battle on the verge of Penn Wood, in no degree diminishes the value of the suggestion that the conflict here might have been between the Danes and the Saxons.

Another version of this discovery was given in the *Bucks Chronicle* of May 10, 1828, in which, after describing a grave of flints about eight feet long, four wide, and three deep, it is stated that they found the remains of a skeleton, the bones of the clavicles and pelvis appearing to be perfect; but upon exposure to the air soon crumbled into dust, that eight molars remained perfect in the upper jaw (whence the subject was inferred to be not much past the middle age), and that a large battle axe lay by the side of the skeleton, of which the handle appeared entire until it was exposed to the air, when it also crumbled into dust; but that a large stone, supposed to be a personal ornament, weighing more than a pound, with the iron head of the battle axe, was purchased and deposited by Mr. Norris in his collection at Hitchenden

House; the inference being that this was an ancient British interment, and the stones called portions of mill-stones, that most formidable weapon of the ancient British or Pictish warriors, appended to a staff, spear, or battle axe, of the aboriginal inhabitants.

The chief historical associations of Hughenden are undoubtedly those which cluster round the honoured name of Simon De Montfort, Earl of Leicester, whose youngest son, Richard, settled here some little time after the battle of Evesham, 1265. The tradition connecting Hughenden with that great family to which England owes so much has been faithfully preserved here.

Simon de Montfort was the son of Simon, Count de Montfort, and Amicia, heiress of the Earldom of Leicester. His father was chosen by Innocent III. to be the leader of the persecution directed against the unfortunate Albigenses, and was slain at the siege of Toulouse, June 25th, 1218. The eldest son Almeric, was heir of the county of Montfort, and for some time Simon, the second son, remained portionless—the Earldom of Leicester having been forfeited on account of the adherence of the family to the party of Louis the Lion in the wars which followed the signing of Magna Charta. In 1232 Simon came to England to recover his mother's inheritance, and by his graceful manners soon ingratiated himself into the favour of the king, Henry III. In 1238 he married the king's sister Eleanor, widow of the stout Earl of Pembroke. By royal favour, and the formal cession of his brother Almeric, he obtained the Earldom of Leicester, and became a leader among the barons as well as a favourite with the King; and in 1239, when Edward, heir to the Crown, was baptized, Simon was one of the nine godfathers. Montfort's popularity seems to have rendered the fickle King jealous, and he was expelled from the kingdom. Having placed his wife in safety in France, he proceeded to the Holy Land, where he greatly distinguished himself, and when he returned the King had apparently forgotten his displeasure. The next ten years were passed in peace by the Earl and his Countess at the castles of Kenilworth and Odiham, and in attending to the affairs of Gascony, of which province Simon was governor. Their five sons were brought up as play-fellows with their royal cousins under the tutorship of the greatest scholar of the age and

a bishop of this diocese (Lincoln), Robert Groteste ; while the noble Earl stood equally well in the affections of the sovereign and of the people.

In 1252 the Earl of Leicester was summoned from Gascony, to answer various charges of maladministration. A quarrel ensued between him and the King, and he was forced to give up his government of that province, which was conferred upon Prince Edward, then only fourteen years of age. In 1258 the Mad Parliament assembled, by which a council of twenty-four barons was appointed to govern the country ; and another at Oxford passed the celebrated *Acts of Oxford*, by which the King was bound to respect the Charters of Liberty. For four years the Committee of Twenty-four held power with few fluctuations, until they attacked the property of Henry's brother, the popular Richard, King of the Romans. The dispute was referred to Louis IX. of France, whose judgment, though perfectly just and moderate, was rejected by the barons, and open war commenced soon after between them and the royal party. The King and Prince Edward marched to seize the Cinque Ports, and while in Sussex Leicester followed them, and a battle ensued at Mount Harry, near Lewes, May 13th, 1264. The army of the Barons advanced from their camp at Fletching in three divisions under De Segrave, De Clare, and De Montfort, whom Henry proudly challenged with the words, "Simon, je vous defye." During the battle Prince Edward fiercely charged upon a body of Londoners, and having put them to rout, pursued them with great slaughter to Croydon. This hot pursuit had lost the day, for, when Edward returned, he found the royalists defeated, and the King of the Romans a prisoner, Montfort threatening to strike off his head if the attack were renewed. To save his life a treaty, called the *Misse of Lewes*, was agreed to by which Prince Edward and Henry D'Almayne, son of the King of the Romans, gave themselves up to the Barons as hostages for their fathers, and were confined in Dover Castle. In the next year Edward contrived his escape ; and, gathering the royal forces together, met the Barons at Evesham. In the battle which followed, Henry De Montfort was slain at his father's feet, and the Earl, seeing that, grasped his sword with both hands, rushed into the thickest of the fight, and was struck down and slain. Edward caused

Montfort and his son to be brought to the Abbey Church of Evesham, and there they were buried, and a splendid tomb was erected over their remains.

“Hail! Simon de Montfort, hail!
 Knighthood's fairest flower;
 England doth thy death bewail,
 Whom thou didst shield with power.”—*Old Ballad.*

Thus perished “Sir Simon the Righteous,” a man of the highest endowments and principles of rectitude uncommon in his age. He was enthusiastically beloved by the English people, especially by the Commonalty, who delighted to call him their “Darling.” He was indeed a noble character, but unable to resist the great temptations which his power and influence placed in his hands. Let the poet point for us all a moral from the history of his life:—

“If ever in temptation strong,
 Thou left'st the right path for the wrong;
 If every devious step there trode,
 Still led thee further from the road;
 Dread thou to speak presumptuous doom
 On noble Montfort's lowly tomb;
 But say he died a gallant knight,
 With sword in hand, for England's right.”

There were two distinct families of Montforts and two of Wellesbourne. The De Montforts, Earls of Leicester, were descended from Robert, King of France, by Agnes Noyon, his concubine; and did not come into England until King John's time. The Montforts of Beldesert were descended from Thurstan de Bastenberg, whose son Hugo de Montforte came over with William the Conqueror. Simon de Montfort, slain at Evesham in 1265, had six sons, Henry, Simon, Almeric, Guy, Richard, and Edward, who died young, and a daughter, Eleanor. Henry, the eldest son, was slain at his father's feet at Evesham. Simon, Earl of Oxford, the second son, after holding Kenilworth Castle for a time against the royal forces, was obliged to surrender, and being excepted from claiming any benefit under the *Dictum de Kenilworth*, finally fled to the Continent in 1266. Almeric, Amaury, or Aymer, the third son (fourth according to Dugdale), was at first a priest at York and afterwards chaplain to the Pope; he embraced the military profession, became a knight and died abroad about 1283. Guy the fourth son (third

according to Dugdale) was taken prisoner after the battle of Evesham, and having escaped, fled into Italy to join his brother. Eleanor was married at Worcester in 1278 to Llewellyn, the last King of Wales, but died two years after at the birth of her daughter, named Gwendolin, and was buried at Llandmais. After the battle of Evesham, Montfort's widow was generously treated by the King and Prince, and retired beyond sea to the monastery of Montargis, with her sons Almeric and Richard, and her only daughter Eleanor. Simon and Guy appear to have been of a very turbulent disposition, and after leaving England they wandered about the Continent brooding over revenge for their father's death. Simon married a French lady, and was Count of Bigorre in France, where he became the founder of a family bearing his patrimonial name. Guy married in 1270 the daughter and heiress of Aldobrandini, an Italian, Count di Ruvo, and resided at Viterbo, where he and Simon murdered the brave and accomplished Henry D'Almayne, eldest son of the King of the Romans, then on his return from the Crusades, 1271. He had entered the church of St. Sylvester to hear mass, when the two sons of Montfort rushed upon him and slew him at the foot of the altar; then dragged the corpse to the door of the church, and rode off. D'Almayne's body was conveyed to England, and interred in the Abbey of Hales. Before Prince Edward returned to England, he obtained from Pope Gregory X. justice upon the murderers of his cousin. Simon was dead; but Guy was excommunicated and outlawed. His sentence was, however, afterwards changed at his own request to imprisonment, and after a confinement of eleven years he was liberated, and returned to his wife's estate, 1282. He subsequently joined the wars in Sicily, but what became of him afterwards is not known. He was Count of Anglezia, and progenitor of the Montforts of Tuscany.

There is a curious legend concerning Henry de Montfort, which asserts that he was not killed at Evesham, but only deprived of his sight by the blow which felled him at his father's feet; and being found by a baron's "fayre daughter," she conveyed him secretly to a place of safety, and having nursed him back to health, became at length his wife, and the happy mother of one child, the "prettie Bessee" of ballad lore. Some say that they removed to

the neighbourhood of London, where Henry was known for years as the Blind Beggar of Bethnal Green ; while others, with quite as much probability, assert that he came to live here at Hughenden with his brother. "Bessee" grew up to be a very beautiful young lady, and of course was courted by many suitors, who, however, appear to have thought more of the setting than of the gem, and upon learning that she was a blind beggar's daughter, they in turn took their departure.

"Nay, then," quoth the merchant, "thou art not for me ;"
"Nor," quoth the inn-holder, "my wife shalt thou be ;"
"I lothe," said the gentle, "a beggar's degree,"
"And, therefore, adewe, my pretty Bessee."

Still matters were not so bad as they seemed, for at length "Bessee" found a gentle knight whose love was stronger than his scruples, and proof against both the discovery of her father's condition and the entreaties of his friends. The gallant knight, in modern phraseology, proposed and was accepted ; and to his surprise the blind beggar counted out so large a sum as a dowry for his daughter that the knight, upon being challenged to do so, could not double it. On the wedding day the beggar revealed his own high birth, and declared his identity with Henry Montfort, supposed to have been slain at Evesham, to the general joy and consternation of all present. Trusting that pretty Bessee and her gallant knight lived "happy for ever after," we will bid her and her noble father "adewe," simply remarking that it seems almost a shame to have to confess that such a simple, touching narrative has no real foundation in fact. A very interesting little work founded upon this story has been written by Miss Yonge, entitled "The Prince and the Page."

Richard, the youngest son, appears to have inherited the better qualities of his father, and to have avoided the extravagances of his three elder brothers. The last Crusade was preached at Northampton, June 25th, 1269, by Cardinal Ottobon, brother of Percival de Lavinia, Archdeacon of Buckingham, after which he gave the cross to Henry III., the Princes Edward and Edmund, Henry D'Almayne, and many others. Edward sailed from Dover August 20th, 1270, and hastened to join the forces of St. Louis of France, under whose flag Richard



EFFIGY OF RICHARD WELLESBOURNE. Date 1286.

From "Notes on the Effigy of Richard Wellesbourne Montfort in Hughenden Church."
By kind permission of A. Hartshorne, Esq.

de Montfort had taken the cross. At the conclusion of the Crusade Richard returned to France, and thence to England in 1274. He assumed the name of Wellesbourne and retired to this secluded spot at Rockhols, on the verge of Wycombe Heath, away from the political turmoils which had made his father the leader of a popular party, and, subsequently, of a civil war. As before mentioned, it is to the Earl of Leicester that we owe the origin of our present House of Commons. In 1265 he called a Parliament to which two elected members from every county and borough were to be sent, and thus was the originator of the principle of a representative Senate to regulate the affairs of the State, upon the same plan as had been adopted by the Church in her Synods and Convocations from time immemorial. The boroughs in Buckinghamshire at that time entitled to send representatives to Parliament were Amersham, Aylesbury, Buckingham, High Wycombe, Marlow, and Wendover. Wycombe is the only one which has sent them continuously from the beginning to the present time.

The history of Richard de Montfort, otherwise Wellesbourne, is very confused. Dugdale makes no mention of him whatever, and in Brooke's "Catalogue of Nobility" it is stated that both he and his brother Edward died young. There is no mention of him in any of the Inquisitions nor in the Patent Rolls; but from the Close Rolls of 1264 we find that the King granted to Richard de Montfort, son of Simon, Earl of Leicester, fifteen head of deer in Sherwood Forest to stock his park. Although the precise locality of Richard's estate is not known, the reference clearly proves the existence of such a person, and that he was alive in the same year that the battle of Lewes was fought; and in favour with the King at the very time when his father and elder brothers were in open war with the crown. Langley supposes that Richard assumed the name of Wellesbourne from a place in Warwickshire belonging to the Montforts of Beldesert, called by Dugdale "Wellesborne-Montfort." This conjecture possesses some degree of probability, and is supported by the heraldry on his effigy in the church. But if this Richard had nothing to do with the Manor of Wellesbourne, and as he assumed not only a name, but also a coat of arms, it is far more likely that he married

an heiress of that name, who brought with her the property upon which they resided in this parish; for his father's property had been confiscated on account of his rebellion. There is ample proof that the family of Wellesbourne did settle in this neighbourhood, and had property in High Wycombe as well as Hughenden. The house in Church Side, Wycombe, now called the Priory, was formerly the residence of members of this family, and long known as Wellysborne House. There is a charter (4) printed in Nichol's "History of Leicester," which shows that a son of Simon de Montfort had property in Hughenden, and that the consent of his wife was deemed necessary to the validity of the deed, which seems to indicate that he obtained his property by marriage. It is worthy of notice that the Wellesbourne and Montfort seals are both appended to this deed, which confirms the supposition that Richard married a Wellesbourne heiress. The deed is witnessed *int. al.* by Simon de Hughenden and William Brand.

The following is a copy of an entry in one of the old parish registers of Hughenden:—

"Memorandum, Nov. 1, 1690. Yt in ye Isle or Chancell belonging to Mr. Richard Widmer, of Hitchenden House, there was a brasse inscription taken of one of ye tomb stones, wch certified yt 2 children of Richard Wellesbourne, of Kingeshall, were buried there above three hundred years agoe, whose names were formerly Montfords, as ye inscription specified.

"Witness my Hande,

"JOHN JENKINS, Vicar.

"The brasse was stolen away in October, 1690."

I think it will be patent to every one who reads the above account of Richard de Montfort that Simon, Earl of Leicester, had a son named Richard, that he had property upon which he resided at Hughenden, and that he assumed the name of Wellesbourne. But if we consider the arms on the seals affixed to the deeds I have mentioned, and compare them with those on the effigies in the church, we are enabled to establish more clearly the identity between the Montfort-Wellesbourne family, and the persons there commemorated. I subjoin a list of the Wellesbourne family mentioned in history:—

Richard Wellesbourne, the youngest son of Simon de Montfort. He fled to Hughenden after the battle of Evesham, and resided at Rockhols, having assumed the name and arms of Wellesbourne.

Richard Wellesbourne, mentioned 1 Edward II., 1307 (5). He is thought to have been either the son or grandson of the former.

John Wellesbourne, M.P. for High Wycombe in the 8th, 25th, and 27th years of the reign of Henry VI.

Thomas Wellesbourne, M.P. for High Wycombe in the 17th year of Edward IV.

Edward Wellesbourne, became Master of the Hospital of St. John the Baptist, in High Wycombe, in 1493.

Humphrey Wellesbourne, Mayor of High Wycombe in the 11th, 12th and 13th of Henry VII.

Oliver Wellesbourne, of West Hannay, in Berkshire, son of the above-named Thomas, who was the last of the family that resided at Hughenden.

THE CHURCH.

The venerable edifice is, from its historical associations, one of the most interesting in the whole of this "historic county." Its connection with the family and descendants of the great Earl of Leicester, who lie buried within its sacred precincts, invests it indeed with a national importance, and recent events have given it almost a cosmopolitan character. Most intimately are its memories interwoven with the name of the great statesman whose social qualities procured for him the name of Sir Simon the Righteous, whose patriotism and keen foresight conceived and carried into execution the most astounding political innovation England or any other country ever witnessed, and which has left its mark upon every civilized nation of the world: and though he did not live to see realized in fact the new principle in the English Constitution which his writ summoning the Commons to Parliament introduced, his name will nevertheless be handed down to future generations as inseparably connected with the constitution and the origin of our House of Commons. In a vault at the east end of this church now repose the remains of Lord Beaconsfield, one of the greatest statesmen this present age has produced, whose successful Parliamentary career will be chiefly remembered in connection with that very assembly originated by the immortal De Montfort.

The church is dedicated to SS. Michael and All Angels, the only one so named in this deanery, although there are altogether twelve in other parts of the county, mostly situated in the northern and central districts. It stands on a gentle slope in a quiet secluded spot in the Park, corresponding in that respect with another celebrated Buckinghamshire church—Stoke Poges—"the country churchyard" where Gray wrote his beautiful and graceful "Elegy." On entering the churchyard, where "the rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep," everything speaks of the most reverent care being bestowed upon this "God's Acre," this field sown with immortal seed, this "garden of the Lord" planted with flowers—the fittest and most lovely emblem of the Resurrection. The whole tone of the spot is one of beauty and calm serenity, "all the air a solemn stillness holds."

As we enter the churchyard from the west the first object that arrests our attention is an old yew tree on the left of the path as we descend. This is probably one of the two yews which we learn from the Parish Register were planted by John Jenkins, Vicar, in 1691.

A stranger, seeing the Church now for the first time, would at once conceive the idea that it was an entirely modern edifice, so thorough and extensive was the restoration, or rather, I should say, rebuilding, which it underwent a few years ago. Langley, in 1797, thus describes it—"The church is an ancient irregular building, consisting of a nave and chancel of one pace, about 90 feet long and 18 feet wide, and has nothing in it worthy of notice. Between the church and chancel stands the tower, in which are four bells. In the burial ground, adjoining the chancel, are some very ancient monuments." The remainder of his account is taken up with inscriptions, and a short description of the Montfort effigies. In *Ecclesiastical Topography of Great Britain*, published in 1849, is the following from the pen of W. Caveler, Esq., Architect, compiled especially for that work:—"Chancel, north aisle, nave, with south porch, tower on north side. Some parts of the tower are E.E., but some of the windows and other portions are P.; there is a plain N. doorway in the porch. At the east end are two curious three-light D. windows, and at the west end a very good P. window of four lights; there are also one

or two single-light E.E. windows remaining. There are some good effigies of knights, supposed descendants of Simon de Montfort. A good brass of a priest (Robert Thurloe), A.D. 1493."

The following is a description of the building, which I wrote in 1874 just before the work of restoration was commenced, and will afford a pretty accurate idea of the appearance and condition of the old church at that time. I omit all particulars relative to windows, monuments, etc., which still remain unaltered:—"the sacred edifice consists of a porch, nave, without aisles, chancel, north chapel, and a low massive tower, with walls of extraordinary thickness. It is a very ancient structure, and by some asserted to have been of Saxon architecture, cruciform with a central tower: but without leaning to the susceptibilities of those who are inclined to assign an extraordinary high antiquity to any object which they describe, we may pronounce it to be a Norman edifice of about the middle of the twelfth century, with alterations and additions of subsequent dates. It was without doubt erected by the lord of the manor, whose residence crowned the hill to the westward; either by Geoffrey de Clyntone, on whom Henry I. bestowed the manor; or by a certain Nicolas of this parish, who is said to have given the Church to the priory of Kenilworth, founded by the aforesaid Geoffrey. The oldest part of the church is the nave, which still retains many of its Norman features, as for instance, the font, arches, and doorways; but the Montfort Chapel and the Tower are in the Early English style of the thirteenth century, and coeval with the transept-like portion between the original nave and the present chancel. The original chancel was entered by a low rounded arch, and probably was not so deep as the present one, and was doubtless removed at the time of the erection of the Montfort Chapel, the nave being at the same time continued eastward by the quasi-transept, the place of the chancel arch being occupied by an ugly beam covered with stucco, and the chancel deepened to the level of the Chapel. The declination of the chancel from a straight line with the nave is symbolical of the bowing of our blessed Lord's head upon the cross, and is a feature of many old churches. The Tower, though in the same style throughout, appears to have been erected

at two different periods, the lower story being considerably older than the upper. It stands at the north-east angle of the nave, between that part of the Church and the Montfort Chapel: it contains a peal of four bells, and is about 20 feet square. The roofs are tiled, except that portion of the nave adjoining the tower, which is covered with lead. The building is 92 feet long by $18\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide.

"The entrance to the Church is by a plain Norman doorway, above which there is a square sundial, bearing date 1837. On either side of the inner door of the porch were plain columns with ribbed capitals; but at present only one remains—on the right-hand side. The large font is Norman, circular in shape, and sculptured with a series of trefoiled arches, and above them a border of foliage. It has been subjected to a whitewashing process; but most of it has been removed. The Chancel is on the same level as the Nave, and contains three good windows filled with stained glass by Williment. The Sanctuary is small, and raised only one step above the Chancel, from which it is divided by ugly wooden railings. There are no structural sedilia, their place being supplied by two fine old oaken chairs placed on the south side of the Sanctuary. The Altar is of oak, and the window sill at the back is utilized as a re-table, on which are placed a cross, two vases of flowers, and the Two Lights. The west window is a very good Perpendicular one of four lights: there are two double-light windows in the same style on the south side of the Nave, and a small one, blocked up: on the opposite side two very small Early English windows of a single light. The pulpit is plain, and of wood. Above the Tower arch is an old tablet with the royal arms in brass. The side chapel, in which the organ is placed, contains many interesting memorials of the great Montfort family. The window in this chapel is a decorated one of somewhat peculiar pattern. A large archway leading from this chapel has been blocked up."

I have not been able to discover the ancient monuments adjoining the Chancel mentioned by Langley; but there are a few very old and quaintly-worded tombstones remaining, and as their inscriptions are nearly obliterated, it will be well to place them on record before they become

past deciphering. To the west of the Church on the headstone—

Here lieth the Body of
Robert Terry, sen., of ye Parishe
of Little Missenden, who
Died Octo. ye 20th,
1720. Aged 86 yeares.

On the footstone of the same, probably written by his son, who lies near—

Death Vncontrold Summons
who can fly,
Youth may escape perhaps,
but old must dye.
O aged Father who so much
Thy friend,
As death who brought Thee
to thy sudden end.

The headstone of the next grave is gone. It probably contains the remains of the wife of the above. At the foot is the following—

Reader Redeem thy Time,
take home this line,
The grave yt next is opend
may be thine.

On the headstone of the next grave—

Here lieth the Body of
Robert ye son of Robert
Terry, who dyed in ye Parish
of Wadsdon, Sept. ye 14, 1774,
Aged 44 yeares.

At the foot—

Death stalks behind thee reader each hour
Does soon close the remnant of thy power ;
Live thee so well yt thou maist die so too.
To live well is all thou hast to do.

There are two small slabs at the entrance to the porch bearing the dates 1694 and 1775, probably the footstones of some old graves. I noticed only one of that hideous type which has the crossbones and death's head displayed above the inscription. It is on the south side of the Church, and commemorates a former churchwarden—

Here lyeth the Body of Mr.
William Russell
of Widmer End in this Parish
who died in September 1694.
Aged about 73 yeares.

There is not much of that churchyard doggerel so often met with in some places ; but on a rail near the yew tree,

which commemorates Martha Louch, who died in 1827, we read—

I in life afflicted was
With grief and painfull sore ;
But hope to find a place of rest,
With Christ for evermore.

Nearly opposite the Tower door there are two unhewn blocks of stone with this brief inscription—

J. M. (Joseph Mason)
1797.

Another stone commemorates a Romish Priest of the Order of S. Francis—

Hic Jacet
R. P. Antonius Parkinson
O.S.F. Obijt July,
1766. R.I.P.

There are several inscriptions commemorative of the Guy family. One of them to the memory of John Guy, of Icomb, Gloucestershire, who died in 1837, contains these curious lines—

In coffin made without a nail,
Without a shroud his limbs to hide,
For what can pomp or show avail,
Or velvet pall to swell the pride ?
Here lies John Guy beneath the sod,
Who loved his friends and feared his God.

He had his coffin made and kept it in his house several years before his death. In the south part of the Churchyard are several neat crosses to the memory of members of the families of Young, Atty, and Hussey ; and nearly opposite the south door a plain marble stone is inscribed to " Little Aubrey," infant son of the Rev. J. R. Piggott, a former vicar of Hughenden. The adjacent yew tree was planted by Mr. Piggott in 1838. Cedric Henchman Clubbe, the infant son of the late Vicar, is commemorated by a neat cross a little further to the west. There are no graves visible on the north side of the Church. People had, and I suppose many still have, a dread of being buried in that part of the Churchyard—the Devil's side, as it used to be called.

There are two pieces of garden ground at the western extremity of the Churchyard and divided from it by low hedges. They are both portions of the consecrated burial ground, and ought properly to be included with the rest of the churchyard. Hughenden is the last place where

we should have expected to find part of God's Acre enclosed and planted with cabbages and potatoes. Yet so it is ; and it came about in this way. On May 1, 1693, John Jenkins, who was then Vicar, gave a portion of the Churchyard to the parish clerk for a garden, and this was succeeded by a similar act of desecration in 1814, when Matthew Booker, Vicar, on Nov. 7th of that year, following the evil example set him by his predecessor, gave another portion of the Churchyard to another parish clerk ; and so it has continued. It is satisfactory to know, however, that this matter has not been allowed to pass unnoticed by the authorities ; for we find Archdeacon Justly Hill directing that these portions of consecrated ground should be restored to the Churchyard in June, 1828, and again in May, 1831.

Having thus surveyed the Churchyard and noted a few of the principal inscriptions, it is time now to turn our attention to the church itself. The earliest known mention of it occurs in one of the old registers of Missenden Abbey, in the time of Henry II., and in an old Latin deed of the same reign. In the "*Taxatio Ecclesiastica Angliæ*" of Pope Nicholas IV. (1291) are the following entries respecting this Church and Vicarage :—

Ecclesia de Huchendene, Val. xxx. marc. (£20).

Vicar' ejusd., Val. vi et dim. marc. (£4 6s. 8d.)

In 30 Henry VIII. the advowson was granted to Robert Dormer, his heirs and assigns for ever, for the tenth part of a knight's fee and 43d. In the following year Hughenden Manor, Farm, and Rectory were returned as part of the possessions of the late monastery of Kenilworth, and estimated at £20 per annum. The living is a discharged Vicarage, in the gift of the Lord of the Manor, and rated in the *Liber Regis* at £8 17s. 6d. Langley states that the living in his time was worth £68. The vicarial tithes have been commuted for £339 13s. 11d. which is the present annual value of the living. The Countess of Conyngham left £3333 stock, from the dividends of which the Vicar of Hughenden and four poor clergymen of this county, whose livings were below £100 a year, should receive the sum of £20 annually. It is generally stated that the Rectory was, from the time of Henry I. to the dissolution of the Monasteries, part of the possessions of the Priory of Kenilworth, to which it is said

to have been granted by the founder of that establishment, Geoffrey de Clinton. But I am inclined to think from the evidence of the document previously quoted, temp. Henry II., and from the fact that the first Vicar of whom we have any record as being presented by the Prior of Kenilworth does not occur till 1275, that the Manor of Hughenden only was granted by Geoffrey de Clinton to the Priory of Kenilworth, and that the church was the gift of a subsequent benefactor to that house. However that might be, it is certain that the Rectory, as well as the Manor did belong to that monastery, and were returned at the Dissolution as part of its possessions.

In the will of Thomas Gregory of Peterley, in Great Missenden, who died June 6, 1689, is the following:—
 “I give and bequeath unto the Poore Howsekeepers of the Parish of Hitchenden, that live not of the Parish Collection, ye sum of 40s. a year for ever, to be payd duely out of my messuage, house and land, at Knife’s Lane in Brandsfee, in ye Parish of Hitchenden, by my executors; whereas I appoint, and my will is that my said messuage, house, and land belonging thereto, called Knife’s, shall stand ingaged for the payment of the said money as aforesaid for ever. Dated 20 Jan. 1689, proved at Aylesbury, 29 March following. Entered into the Register of Hitchenden, ye 7th of April, 1691, by me, John Jenkyns, Vicar.”

A monumental effigy in this Church is engraved in Stothard’s *Monuments of Great Britain*, p. 36; the font, an early gravestone, with cross, and four effigies in Lipscombe’s *Bucks*, Vol. III., pp. 588-591; the five Wellesbourne Tombs and the “Fasting Monk” in Langley’s *Desborough Hundred*; the effigy of Richard Wellesbourne in A. Hartshorne’s notes upon the same, and in *RECORDS OF BUCKS*, Vol. III., p. 17, with descriptions; while the engravings of the church, lately given in the *Graphic* and *Illustrated News*, have made it generally known.

The names of the incumbents of this church, which have been preserved to us are as follow:—

RECTORS.

Richard de Alesberie, occurs in the Missenden Register, in 1190.

Robert, 1246.

Robert de Fremingham, the last rector, succeeded by

VICARS.

Richard de Sadyngton, presented March, 1275, by the Prior of Kenilworth

Robert Bowles, presented July 1, 1299, by the same. Resigned 1307.

Everard de Campden (? Hampden), presented Feb. 7th, 1307.

Walter de Hutchingdon, pres. Dec. 3, 1317.

William.

John de Horwoode, pres. Sep. 12, 1349.

Thomas Hearne, resigned 1415.

William Sanerval, pres. Dec. 9, 1415; exchanged for Piddinghoe, Sussex, with

Aunger Timberland, pres. April 5, 1419; exchanged for Ratcliffe, with

William Thede, Dec. 2, 1421.

John Trafford, res. 1447.

John Woburne, pres. Oct. 30, 1447.

John Kynge, pres. March 13, 1452, res. 1454.

William Reyson, LL.B., pres. Feb. 26, 1454, res. 1455.

William May, pres. Nov. 28, 1455.

Robert Thursbey, pres. March, 22, 1465. Died Jan. 15, 1493, and was buried here before the Altar.

William Keeting, A.M., pres. March 30, 1493.

Robert Coe, pres. Feb. 4, 1540, by Sir Robert Dormer, Kt.

William Green, collated Jan. 13, 1559, by the Bishop on lapse.

Robert Lane, pres. 1569, by Sir William Dormer. Buried here.

Hugh Lane, pres. April 4, 1574, by Sir William Dormer. Buried here.

Samuel Land, pres. 1611.

Robert Burkett, pres. April 11, 1617. Buried here, in wool, according to Act of Parliament.

James Phillips, pres. 1657. *Intravit 1658, quando Oliverus tyrannus obiit.*

Clement Cheney, A.B., pres. Sep. 26, 1681, by the Earl of Carnarvon. Resigned 1687.

John Jenkyns, A.M., pres. Nov. 16, 1687, by Philip, Lord Stanhope.

John Batchelor, A.M., pres. Aug. 11, 1713, by Philip, Lord Stanhope. (Also Rector of Radnage, to which he was presented by George I., Jan. 22, 1725.)

Thomas Dolben, LL.B., pres. Jan. 3, 1765, by Samuel Savage, Esq. (He was Rector of Ipsley, in Warwickshire, but held this living till within a short period of his death.)

Matthew Booker, pres. Aug. 19, 1795, by George III.

Robert Eyres Landor, A.M., inducted Sep. 22, 1817, on presentation of John Norris, Esq.

Frederick Vincent, pres. 1825, by the same. Resigned 1835.

Henry Stebbing, A.M., pres. Nov. 21, 1835, by the same. Resigned.

John Robert Piggott, A.M., pres. April 26, 1836, by the same. Resigned 1851.

Charles Whishaw Clubbe, pres. 1851, by Benjamin Disraeli, Esq. Resigned Nov. 13, 1868.

Henry Blagden, pres. Jan. 30, 1869, by the same.

In the reign of Henry VII., the Vicar of Hughenden had a town house in High Wycombe. It stood in the High Street, on the side where Mr. Leadbetter's wine vaults are now. Robert Thursbey is the only Vicar interred here, of whom any monument remains.

The Parish Register begins Feb. 4, 1559. The earlier portions have apparently been re-copied. In 1875 the Parish Clerk (W. Hussey) found in the churchyard an ancient bronze candlestick with three legs, two of which, however, unfortunately got broken off. Candlesticks were formerly what the name really indicates, that is, they were constructed with a sharp point on which to stick the candle, and not, as at present, with a hollow for its insertion. The late clerk held office for nearly half a century, from March 1, 1833, to Dec. 18, 1879.

The old church had been for many years in sore need of restoration; the hand of Time had made sad havoc with the fabric during the seven hundred years it had existed, and although it was not actually tumbling to pieces, it was certainly in a most deplorable and dilapidated condition—the nave especially. The old massive tower used to project into the church, and necessitated the erection of unsightly supports in the interior, interrupting the view and spoiling the general effect; whilst a wooden beam, that at some former restoration had been substituted for the ancient chancel arch, and according to the tastes of the times duly stuccoed, with various additions of brickwork, completely marred and obscured the original design. The old floor was paved with red brick, much worn, and very uneven. In fact, the fabric required a thorough restoration from floor to roof, and in 1873 it became evident that something must be done. Mr. Blomfield, architect, of London, was consulted, and he recommended that the tower should be removed, and the nave rebuilt throughout, as, after a careful and minute inspection, he found it to be beyond repair. A munificent offer from J. Searight, Esq. (Mrs. Blagden's father), in reference to the necessary expenses of the undertaking, enabled the Vicar to commence active steps towards attaining so desirable an end.

The Feast of SS. Michael and All Angels, 1875, will long be remembered as a red letter day in the annals of Hughenden, and in the history of its parish church, as the day on which the restored and beautified shrine was re-opened. The Bishop of Oxford was celebrant, and preached the Sermon in the morning, and there was Evensong and Sermon by the Archdeacon of Buckingham (Purey-Cust) at 3 p.m. After Morning Service there

was a public luncheon in the temporary building, at which the late Lord Beaconsfield presided as lord of the manor and patron of the living.

During the progress of the demolition of the old walls, traces of two previous rebuildings were discovered, probably alterations introduced in the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries, with additions of more modern work. The church as it now stands is a very different structure from the older edifice, although the restoration was carried out in the most conservative spirit possible under the circumstances, and, as far as the proposed alterations would permit, upon the old lines. The Montfort Chapel and the Chancel were not rebuilt, but the walls were restored and strengthened. The portions of the church which were obliged to be entirely rebuilt were of Norman and Early English architecture. The other part being of Decorated Gothic, the restored portion was made to assimilate to that style of architecture, that the new parts of the building might the more harmoniously blend with the old. The style adopted in rebuilding is that known as the Flamboyant or later Geometrical Gothic. The stained glass which formerly filled the window over the altar was removed into the Montfort Chapel, and new tracery inserted in its place. But the window which claims the most admiration is the noble one at the west end of the nave, in which every effort that skill and art could bring into requisition has been laid under contribution to produce a mass of elaborate and beautiful tracery, which, although the figures do not assimilate so decidedly as in some older examples of the same style, may be pronounced a most successful reproduction in design of the tracery of that period when English architecture was exhibited in its most magnificent and stately beauty. In the south wall of the nave there are two double-light windows, and one of three lights. In the north aisle the windows are of the same design, but square-headed.

The principal entrance is now, as before, by a south porch ; but another entrance has been added at the west, under the tower. The tower is square and massive, and, like the rest of the building, flint with stone dressings, and is surmounted by a small spire. It has an embattled parapet, eight two-light belfrey windows and gurgoyles

at the four angles, and a stair turret at the north-east. The height to the battlements is fifty-six feet, and the spire eight feet more. There is now a peal of eight bells. Four of them were removed from the old tower, two were added when the church was restored, and two are the gift of Robert Warner, Esq., Bell Founder to Her Majesty. Two of the bells are ancient, and although they bear no date, it is evident from the style of the lettering of their inscriptions, and the coins engraved upon them, that they must be at least five hundred years old. The following table shows the date and weight of the bells:—

Tenor	Edward III.	12 cwt.
Seventh.....	"	8 "
Sixth	1663	6½ "
Fifth	"	6 "
Fourth	1875	5½ "
Third	"	5½ "
Second	1881	5½ "
Treble	"	5 "

They all bear inscriptions. On the tenor, "Christi Baptista Campana gaudeat ista;" on the seventh, "Sancta Maria ora pro (n) obis;" on both, "R. L." probably the founders' initials. The sixth and fifth have only the names of the churchwardens, "Annanias Wright and William Rusel," and the founders' initials, "H. K.," with the date. The third and fourth bells have the founders' names alike on both—"Mears et Stainbank, London, Fecerunt, 1875." On the third bell the inscription is "Laudate Dominum omnes eius angeli;" on the fourth, "Dominum campanæ clangore laudate." On the second and treble bells is this inscription in raised letters—"Cast by John Warner & Sons, London, 1881. In memory of the Earl of Beaconsfield. Presented by Robert Warner, Esq., bell founder to Her Majesty Queen Victoria." On one bell the following lines are inscribed:—

"Year by year the steeple music
O'er the tended graves shall pour,
Where the dust of saints is garnered
Till the Master comes once more"

On the other:—

"Christian men shall hear at distance
In their toil or in their rest,
Joving that in one communion
Of one Church, they too are blest."

These two new bells were dedicated on 20th August of the present year, by a special service in the Tower Porch, conducted by the Vicar, Rev. H. Blagden.

The roofs are all tiled, the old material (as far as circumstances would permit) being replaced. Above the door in the tower there is a scroll bearing the following sentence in Gothic characters:—"The Lord is in His holy Temple." Of the two carved heads, which are placed one on either side of the door, that on the north side represents the Bishop of Oxford. Above the south entrance is the sacred monogram, where, in the old porch, the sundial was fixed, and on the gable is a stone cross. There is a seat on each side within the porch. The ancient Norman font, repaired and cleaned, still occupies its former position opposite the entrance from the porch. The nave is paved with Godwin's encaustic tiles in black and red, and seated throughout with open seats of varnished deal. An arcade of three pointed arches upon octagonal pillars with plain capitals divides the north aisle from the nave. The roof is open, of varnished deal. The pulpit stands in the nave on the south side: it is of oak, and has a very handsome dependium of cloth of gold, the gift of Miss Aldridge, formerly of Hughenden Vicarage. The very handsome brass lectern on the other side was the gift of G. H. Hussey, Esq. The Bible was the gift of Mrs. John Norris, of Clifton. The building is warmed in winter by a heating apparatus constructed by Messrs. Haden, of Trowbridge.

The chancel is raised one step above the nave, from which it is entered under a beautiful lofty arch of Bath stone through a light iron screen, by Shrivell, of London, the jambs of the old arch being retained. This portion of the church has been very judiciously and tastefully renovated. The places of the ugly old pews formerly here are now occupied by neat oaken choir stalls, and the floor is laid with plain encaustic tiles. Lord Beaconsfield's seat was at the west end on the north side. A single rail of oak supported by iron work encloses the sacrarium, which is raised two steps above the rest of the chancel, and paved with ornamental tiles of the most elegant description. There is a sedile and stone credence on the south side of the sanctuary. The chancel roof is of wood divided into square panels, and the portion immediately

over the sanctuary is ornamented with conventional roses and lilies, the rest being stained in black and red, relieved with sage green. This ornamentation was executed by Messrs. Heaton and Butler, of London, and was the gift of the present Archdeacon of Buckingham. In fact, in point of number and completeness of the ornaments of the church, and their elegant and costly character, this is second to none in the whole county; everything is good and in perfect taste, and as far as an earthly temple can be, worthy of Him to Whose honour and glory it is dedicated.

Three stained glass windows have been inserted on the south of the nave since the restoration. As the church is dedicated to SS. Michael and All Angels, the series of designs which have been prepared for the new windows all contain subjects connected with the appearances of angels recorded in Holy Scripture. The whole of them were decided upon at the time of the restoration, and had the approval of Lord Beaconsfield. It is hoped that the west window, illustrating the appearance of angels in the Old Testament, will be completed during the present month. The remaining window on the south is also promised by the Undergraduates of Oxford, and it is proposed to place the patron saints of the United Kingdom in the windows of the north aisle—SS. George (England), Andrew (Scotland), David (Wales), and Patrick (Ireland)—with their appropriate emblems.

The new windows are by Clayton and Bell, and are soft and subdued in colour, and graceful and reverent in treatment. The window nearest the pulpit depicts a series of events in connection with the history of S. Peter. In the head of the window, contained in separate divisions of the tracery, beginning from the top—(1) the letters S. P. entwined, (2 and 3) the two keys, (4) S. Peter with the keys, (5) with the sword. The scenes illustrated are (1). The miraculous draught of fishes. Our Blessed Lord is standing on the shore; Peter and Andrew in a boat near in an attitude of wonder and amazement. Beneath the figures is the text, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (2). Our Lord's pastoral charge to S. Peter—"Feed My lambs; feed My sheep," which is written below. Jesus stands with the two keys in His left hand, His right hand extended, and

resting upon Peter's shoulder, who is kneeling before his Divine Master. On Peter's right are seen James and John. (3). The deliverance of Peter from prison into which he had been cast by Herod, as related in Acts xii. The angel has Peter by the right hand, and is urging him forward. Below is the legend "Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me." Along the bottom of the window runs this inscription—"To the Glory of God this window is placed as a memorial of affectionate gratitude to James and Sarah Elizabeth Searight, by their children and sister. January IV., MDCCCLXXX."

The window nearest the porch is of two lights and depicts:—(1). The Annunciation of our Lady. The Blessed Virgin is seen kneeling before a prayer desk upon which lies an open book; a light is streaming down from the Holy Dove upon her head; at her feet springs the Lily. Her head is turned towards Gabriel, who appears on her right bearing the Angelic Salutation on a scroll, "Hail thou that art highly favoured." (2). Beneath is the appearance of the same angel to S. Joseph in a dream, with the legend "Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife." (3). In the other light is depicted the appearance of Gabriel to Zacharias in the Temple, who is kneeling before the altar with a censer in his hand. (4). Underneath this is the appearance of the heavenly host to the Shepherds on the Plains of Bethlehem. On a neat brass plate is this inscription—"To the Glory of God and in loving memory of James Williams, Esq., of High Wycombe, who died May 30th, 1853, aged 68. Also of Henrietta Catherine, his wife, who died June 27, 1855, aged 78. Also of Ann, wife of James Walker Williams, Esq., of St. John's, High Wycombe, who died November 23, 1872, aged 37."

The new east window just inserted is of a Decorated design of three lights. In the centre of the head there is a triangle containing the sacred monogram, and upon the sides of this figure there are three other triangles, each containing an angel with a scroll inscribed "Sanctus." On these latter triangles are described three circles containing emblems of the Holy Trinity—the sacred Hand, Agnus Dei, and the Holy Dove. All these figures are enclosed within a circle of glory. Contained within another circle, in the central light is depicted our

Blessed Lord crowned, and seated upon His throne, His right hand raised in blessing, His left holding the orb of sovereignty. At His feet are the Seven Spirits before the throne. The side lights contain a series of subjects from the Te Deum, in which the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, and Doctors of the Church are represented in a posture of adoration before the God Incarnate. Along the bottom of the window is the following inscription :—" In affectionate remembrance of the Right Hon. Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield, K.G., this window was erected by his devoted friends, Lord Rowton, Sir Nathaniel de Rothschild, Bart., and Sir Philip Rose, Bart. 1881." Special services were held in connection with dedication of this window on Sunday, Sept. 4th, 1881, when appropriate sermons were preached morning and evening by the Rev. Father Congreve.

THE MONTFORT EFFIGIES.

The most interesting remains of antiquity which this church contains are the sepulchral monuments in the north chancel aisle, commonly known as the Montfort Chapel. They consist of five effigies of members of the Wellesbourne family of Hughenden, and an emaciated figure in the south-west corner. We may safely affirm that no other church in this county, and very few throughout the whole kingdom, contains such important memorials of the past as we have here in these five effigies. Besides the historical points involved, they exhibit an interesting display of heraldic bearings scarcely to be equalled in any parish church, and present an almost unique example of the development and growth of heraldic devices, extending over a period of more than a century and a half. We have here, too, a very striking delineation of ancient costumes and the different kinds of armour worn at the time when the figures were executed. These monuments apparently retained their original positions until 1818, when John Norris, Esq., of Hughenden Manor, had them cleaned and placed where they were before the late restoration, when some further alterations were made once more as to their disposition.

No. I.—The most striking of these monuments is that attributed to Richard Wellesbourne. It formerly lay

in the north wall, under a pointed arch. Mr. Norris, in 1818, removed it, and had it placed in the middle of the chapel, on a sort of altar tomb, upon which was the following inscription: "The ancient sepulchral monuments in this chancel are supposed to commemorate a younger branch of the family of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, who married Eleanor, daughter of King John, and was slain at the battle of Evesham, 1265. Eleanor and her four sons were banished; but history says that Richard, the youngest, returned to England, and took the name of Wellesbourne, and an entry in an old register in this parish, signed by the then Vicar, states that in October, 1690, a brass inscription was stolen off one of the tombstones in this chancel which recorded the burial of two children of Richard Wellesbourne, of Kingshall, above three hundred years ago, whose names were formerly Montfort. The effigy of the crusader probably represents the first-named Richard, whose paternal arms were a lion rampant with two tails; why the child, cross, and crosslets, as sculptured on this shield, were added, does not appear. The arms on its breast, a griffin with a child in its claw and chief cheque, belong to the name of Wellesbourne; and as they have descended to his posterity, it may fairly be inferred that he married an heiress of that name, and of the property on which they resided here, although we have no other evidence of the fact. Another opinion is that Richard assumed the name from the manor of Wellesbourne, in Warwickshire; but it is quite clear that this manor belonged to the Montforts of Beldesert—a totally different family. Yet their arms occur on several of these tombs, although no intermarriage appears in Dugdale's pedigree of the Beldesert family—a puzzling circumstance. The two families were great friends and allies in the Civil Wars, in the time of Henry III., and Peter, the head of the Beldesert family, was killed in the battle of Evesham with the Earl of Leicester. A John Wellesbourne was Member for Wycombe in the 8th, 25th, and 27th of Henry VI., and Thomas in the 17th of Edward IV., who, it appears from Ashmole's "History of Berkshire," left this place and resided in West Hannay. Their ancient mansion was pulled down about fifty years since, and four stone shields of arms which belonged to the old

house, and have been built up into the new one at Four Ashes, seem to be all that remains without these walls to tell the story of these descendants of the Plantagenets. J. Norris, F.F., 1835."

Langley asserts that this tomb represents Henry de Montfort, who re-obtained the manor of which his father had been deprived by Henry I. in 1107, for that family resided at Bel-desert, near Henley-in-Arden, in Warwickshire; although according to Dugdale they had different arms, viz., Bendè of ten Or and Az., and were of a different family. The above-named Henry de Montfort was grandfather to Peter, who was slain at Evesham, and had his estates forfeited. His eldest son, likewise named Peter, however, was allowed to take advantage of the "Dictum de Kenilworth," and to redeem his estates. He was taken into favour by Henry III. and Edward I., and attended the latter in his wars for the subjugation of Wales.

The figure is executed in light red stone, and is the most life-like and best cut of the whole series, and is justly admired for its striking delineation of expression and the combination of vigour and repose which it exhibits. It has its legs crossed, which, together with the three crescents sculptured at its feet, point to the fact that the person here commemorated was a crusader.

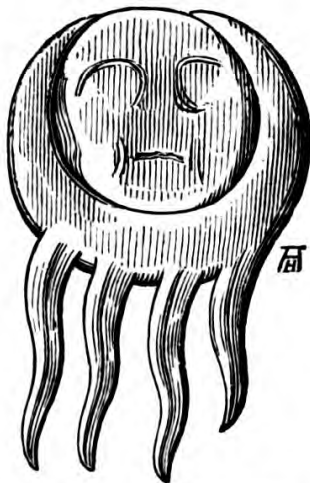
The tomb on which the above inscription was cut was very properly removed during the late restoration, as it formed no part of the original monument. The figure represents a man in the usual military costume of the end of the thirteenth century. He has on his head a skull-cap or helmet of iron, over which is the coif extended below the chin on to the breast, where a portion of the gambeson is displayed on the right side, the other portion being covered by the shield. He wears a ponderous, long, broad-bladed sword, with seven shields of arms upon the scabbard. In his right hand he grasps a dagger, attached by a thin cord to the cingulum or belt, which confines the surcoat at the waist, where it fastens with a buckle. Another belt passes from the right hip over the sword to the left. The surcoat is open nearly from the waist, showing almost the whole of the right leg. In Meyrick's "Ancient Armour" this figure is quoted as the earliest example of the dagger and sword

being worn together, and he gives 1286 as the date of the tomb. He wears a mail hauberk of the usual kind. The principal shield is of a large size, as usual in these early effigies, and bears the arms of Montfort, Earl of Leicester, viz., a lion rampant with double tail, devouring a male child, contained within an orle of cross-crosslets. On the right breast of the surcoat are the arms of Wellesbourne, viz., a griffin segreant, holding a child in its left fore paw. The head rests between two shields of arms; that on the dexter side containing the arms of Betun, viz., a Bendè of ten, a chief; the other being entirely defaced. Baldwin de Betune was Earl of Albemarle in right of his wife Hawisa, widow of Mandeville, Earl of Essex. Alice, the daughter and heiress of this Baldwin, was first wife of William Mareschall, Earl of Pembroke, and his second wife was Eleanor, daughter of King John, who was afterwards married to Simon de Montfort, second Earl of Leicester, and father of Richard Wellesbourne here commemorated.

Besides the arms of Montfort and Wellesbourne on the principal shield and surcoat, there are upon the scabbard of the sword which the knight grasps with his left hand seven small shields of arms; but as the colours are unknown it is difficult to ascertain to whom they belong. Counting the shields downwards, No. 1 is defaced, and now quite plain. No. 2: Bendè of ten, a canton. (If Or and Az. and canton Ermine it would represent the arms of the Bishopsdens. Juliana de Montfort, daughter of Peter of Beldesert, married William de Bishopsden, who possessed property at Wellesbourne.) No. 3: A chevron. (If Or and the Chevron Gu. the arms of Stafford.) No. 4: Cross of St. George. (Bigod, Earl of Norfolk.) No. 5: A Chequè. (The old arms of Robert Mellent, Earl of Gloucester, a natural son of Henry I., from whom through the Beaumonts and by females, these Montforts were descended, Amicia, wife of Simon, first Earl of Leicester, being his granddaughter. The Warrennes also bore the same arms.) No. 6: Quarterly. (If Or and Gu. might be the arms of Mandeville, Earl of Essex. Isabel, daughter of William, Earl of Gloucester, married Geoffrey de Mandeville. She was the sister of the above-named Amicia, and therefore aunt to Simon de Montfort.) No. 7: A Pale. (If Gu. a pale Or, it was

the arms of Hugh Grantmesnil, Lord of Hinckley, whose heiress Petronilla married Robert Beaumont, Earl of Leicester, and their daughter was the above-mentioned Amicia.) This effigy is now placed near the sanctuary at the south of the east window of the Montfort chantry. I have not been able to trace the connection of the families of Stafford and Bigod (3 and 4) with the Montforts.

EFFIGY No. II. probably represents Richard Wellesbourne, son of No. 1, who is mentioned in a deed of 1307 (1 Edw. II.) This monument was originally placed near the centre of the chapel, level with the floor, as the lid of a coffin. When Mr. Norris ejected No. 1 from the arched recess in the north wall, this was taken up from its former position in the floor, and placed upright in the northern splay of the chapel window. But at the late restoration, the present Vicar had it removed, and deposited in the vacant niche, upon a low modern tomb, where it still remains—the proper occupant (Effigy No. 1) being shifted nearer the screen and his feet turned eastward. The mark of the stolen brass may still be traced on the wall under the arch. The effigy represents a knight rudely sculptured in low relief in Purbeck marble, upon a slab narrowing to the feet, where some portion of it has been broken off. The figure has a plain round helmet on the head, a collar of roundlets on the neck, and a gamboised coat with a decoration of roundlets round the bottom of the skirt, which exhibits the peculiar quilting of the coat in parallel lines. A large shield on the breast covers both arms and the right hand. The shield is quartered, and bears in the first quarter the arms of Montfort, the lion and child; in the second some bends are visible, of Montfort of Beldesert; the third is obliterated, and was so in Langley's time, nearly a century ago; in the fourth, the Wellesbourne griffin and child. There are two shields on each side of the head, containing on the dexter side (1) a Chevron, (2) Bendè; on the sinister side (1) a cross of S. George, (2) a Saltire. The figure holds a sword in his right hand, which is hidden by the shield; and a cross in his left hand, which appears just above the upper edge of the shield. Upon the breast there is a heart and a shield close to it, with the arms entirely obliterated. In front of the right leg is a second



"CURIOUS CREST—A CRESCENT."
Containing the face of a lion on Effigy No. III.

sword, not suspended in any way, piercing some animal at his feet, which has been variously described as an owl, a lion, and a dog. In Langley it is engraved as a man's face, in Lipscombe as a cherub, but it probably represents the head and forequarters of the king of beasts. This effigy is thought to be the only example of a cote gamboisée ornamented with roundels on a military figure. Some have considered this figure to be the earliest of the series.

EFFIGY No. III. is one of the best preserved of these figures, and is a very striking monument. The slab is somewhat longer than No. 1, and of uniform breadth, and carved in limestone. The figure now reposes upon the ledge of the window, his head being to the north. It represents a knight in a pointed helmet, and mixed plate and chain armour of the time of Edward III. It probably commemorates the grandson of Richard Wellesbourne, No. 1. The figure is well executed, but its symmetry has been partially destroyed by the original fore-arms and hands having been broken off, and the present ones rudely carved out of the body. This must have been done some time ago, as the figure presented the same appearance in Langley's time as it does now. On each side of the head, which reposes on two griffins with a child in their claws, the Montfort lion and child are repeated on the slab, and the Wellesbourne griffin and child occur again at the feet. At the left elbow of the figure are the arms of the Bel-desert Montforts, and on the other side those of the Bishopsdens. These two coats are found on most of the later monuments. On the breast just below the camail and above the hands is a heart, and on the jupon, below the waist, the arms of Montfort and Wellesbourne. On each side of the legs, just above the knee, there is a curious crescent, containing the face of a lion.

EFFIGY No. IV. is very rudely sculptured in limestone, and much worn. The figure has no helmet on the head, and therefore exhibits the whole of the face. He holds a sword in his right hand, and a large shield on his left arm. There is a shield on each side of the head, defaced, and the crescent between them. At the feet is a representation of some quadruped courant, probably a dog. This monument now stands against the east wall of the

chapel. The arms on the shield are similar to those on the last figure, viz., Quarterly. 1. Lion and child (Montfort of Leicester.) 2 and 3. Bendè of ten (Montfort of Bel-desert). 4. Griffin and child (Wellesbourne). In the centre an inescutcheon. It probably represents Thomas Wellesbourne, M.P. for Wycombe, 1478.

EFFIGY No. V. formerly lay on the floor of the chancel. It is carved in limestone, and represents a man in armour, and is a much better executed figure than the last. He wears a close helmet, and holds a mace or masuel in his right hand and a shield on his left arm, bearing the griffin and child, a chief chequè, over all a bendlet dexter, charged with three cross crosslets fitchées. This stone is about nine inches thick, and bears these arms on its edges: (1) a saltire with a base from which rises a cross crosslet fitché. (2) Cross of S. George with an inescutcheon. (3) On a chief three pellets. (4) Bendè a Canton. (5) A Chevron between three crosses pattées. (6) Bendè of ten, a chief chequè. On the opposite side the same arms recur, but in different order. Stothart fixes the date of this tomb at about the end of the fifteenth century. In all probability it commemorates Humphrey Wellesbourne, Mayor of High Wycombe in 1496 and two following years, and who appears to have been the last of the family residing at Rockhols: for we learn from Ashmole's "Berkshire" that his son Oliver lived at West Hanney, where several of his descendants were interred in later times, he having been the first of the family who discarded the Montfort arms. As regards the mace it is a disputed point whether it represents a weapon or a symbol of office. If this figure commemorates a former mayor of Wycombe, it is undoubtedly the latter, though the kind of helmet worn supports the former view. This is probably the only instance in this country of such a weapon occurring upon a monumental effigy.

When Mr. Norris, in 1818, re-arranged these monuments, a stone coffin, with a handsome cross botonè sculptured on the lid, was discovered. At that time all these effigies were lying on the floor, and getting more and more damaged, until the three last mentioned were affixed to the east wall.

Upon an altar tomb in a circular arched recess at the south-west corner of the Montfort Chapel is an effigy of

an emaciated figure, which, judging from the tonsure, is that of a Priest. It represents a full-size corpse stretched upon a winding sheet, or shroud, which is grasped by the left hand, and partly envelopes the body. The figure, though much mutilated, exhibits considerable power of sculpture, and an intimate knowledge of anatomy, and bears upon the breast eight incised crosses. The sternum or breast bone is hollowed out, and, in the oval cavity thus formed, is a little figure with outstretched hands, symbolical of the departing spirit. In the Abbey Church of S. Sexburga, Minster, in the Isle of Sheppy, Kent, there is a similar representation on the tomb of a knight in the Nun's Choir. This figure is of the date of the sixteenth century, and was dug up in the churchyard in 1833. There is, however, this difference in the treatment of the subject. In the case of the one at Minster, which I examined myself a short time back, the departing soul is in the hands of the knight, significant not merely of death, as in the case of the one here at Hughenden, but also of a conscious offering of the spirit to God who gave it.

These ghastly representations of death are often met with in cathedrals, but rarely in parish churches. They are an outward expression of that feeling of terror with which the Grim Tyrant was associated in the minds of our forefathers, and which developed in later times into the skull and cross-bones so frequently seen upon tombstones of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The symbolism of the grave, and the true nature of death, are best shown, as they are here in the beautiful churchyard at Hughenden, by the figure of that which has destroyed the sting of death—the Cross; and by the most expressive emblems of a new life—natural flowers.

The effigy in Hughenden Church is generally, I believe, known by the name of the "Fasting Monk," and the legend connected with it is, that one Lent he attempted to abstain altogether from food during the whole of the forty days, and that he so far accomplished his insane purpose as to have reached the fortieth day, when he succumbed and expired.

Nothing is known with certainty in reference to the date of the figure, or the person whom it represents. It has been suggested that it might suit Almeric, fourth

son of Simon de Montfort, who was a Priest at York and afterwards Chaplain to the Pope, and is supposed to have resided here with his brother Richard. This, however, is improbable, since Almeric died in Italy, and these emaciated figures were not introduced till the middle of the fifteenth century, that is, some 150 years after his death. On the arch in which this figure lies are three shields; but since the bearings of all of them have been obliterated they are of no value in determining the identity of the person here commemorated. I believe it might with greater propriety be referred to Edward Wellesbourne, who was a priest and became Master of the Hospital of S. John Baptist in Wycombe in the year 1493.

Affixed to the east wall near the Crusader there is a good brass of a former Vicar of Hughenden, that lay in the chancel previous to the late restoration. The figure is well executed, and shows a Priest vested in the amice, chasuble, maniple, stole, and alb, with orphrey. Beneath is a Latin inscription in Gothic characters as follows:—

Orate pro Anima Roberti Thursbe, Capellani, qui obiit decimo quinto die mensis Januarii A.D. MCCCCLXXXIII. Quius Anime Propicietur Deus. Amen.

The stained glass which now fills the window in the Montfort Chapel was removed from the chancel window during the restoration, when new tracery was inserted in the latter. In the head of the central light appears the Holy Dove; above the side lights Alpha and Omega. The central compartment of the window shows our Blessed Lord under a canopy, with the cross in His left hand, and the right raised in benediction, and at His feet are the words "I am the Resurrection and the Life." On a label at the foot of the lights—"In memory of John Norris, Esq., of Hughenden House in this parish, who died October 2nd, 1845, aged 71 years, and Louisa Douglas, his wife, who died July 29th, 1842, aged 63." At the bottom of the central light—"This window was erected by their six surviving daughters and the husband of one deceased, A.D. 1846." In the side lights are depicted the four Evangelists, SS. Matthew and Luke being on our Lord's right hand, with SS. Mark and John on the left; at the bottom the initials "J. N." and

"L. D." The octagonal pillar, which supports the two pointed arches that divide the chancel from the Montfort Chapel, has its capital ornamented with eight shields of arms painted on paper, probably placed there by Mr. Norris. Near the piscina is a marble tablet representing a young man kneeling at a prayer desk with an open book before him. Inscription:—

"Here resteth ye body of Thomas Lane,
ye only sonne of Thomas Lane, Esq.,
and Frances, his wife, whose sovre
was translated ye 17 day of
October An. 1621. Aged 14 years.

Hee pleased god and was beloved of him, who made him so perfect in a short time, that he fulfilled a long time, for his sovre loved ye Lord, wherefore hasted hee to take him; this his young yeares weh. was so willing to go to his god, may condemn ye many yeares and ovld age of ye vngodly, that cannot love to heare of death."

On the south side of the sanctuary is a window in memory of Lucy Jane, first wife of T. J. Reynolds, Esq., of Totteridge, "born 30th June, 1833, died 13th June, 1853." It is of two lights, and depicts, in one, the Nativity, with S. Joseph in the background, and our Lady in an attitude of adoration before the Infant Saviour, behind whom are seen the heads of the traditional ox and ass; in the other, our Lord's Ascension in the presence of his Apostles. Between the points of the two lights is a figure of our Lord on a cross of an anchor shape with the words "For in Thee, O Lord, do I hope." On one side the Paten—on the other the Chalice. Another window of two lights in the same side is a memorial of Sir William Norris Young, Bart., of the 23rd Fusiliers, who was slain in the battle of the Alma during the Crimean War, Sept. 20th, 1854, aged 21; and of Sir George John Young, Bart., his brother, of the Royal Artillery, who died of cholera before Sebastopol later in the same year, October 22nd, aged 19. The window represents in the head a cross and scroll, with "By Thy cross and passion, Good Lord, deliver us," and in the lights the Agony in the Garden, with the words of resignation, "Not My will but Thine be done;" and the Resurrection, with the words of triumph, "O grave, where is thy victory?" Lower in the window are the flags of the above-named regiments, with the motto, "Ubique quo fas et gloria ducunt." These two windows

and the one in the Montfort Chapel are by Williment. In the tower there is an elegant mural monument, which was formerly in the chancel, by G. Garrard, R.A., of London, to that benevolent lady, Ellen, Countess of Conyngham, of Hughenden Manor. It is of white marble, a representation of Charity in basso-relievo, holding in her right hand a cross, her left hand pressing an infant to her breast, and in the background, an hospital in building. Inscription:—

“ Sacred to the memory of
Ellen, Countess of Conyngham,
Widow of Henry, first Earl of Conyngham.

It were needless to enumerate the many virtues which adorned her character. They will be fondly cherished in the memory of her surviving friends; and her liberal bequests to various charitable institutions in the counties of York, Buckingham, and Middlesex, will call forth blessings on her name in time to come. She died the death of the righteous, venerated and beloved, on the 15th of June, 1816, in the 92 year of her age, happily retaining to the last the full vigour of her superior understanding, and was buried in the vault beneath amongst her paternal ancestors.”

On a stone in the floor of the Tower—*Arms*, three rams trippant, *Crest*, a ram's head,

“ Here lies the body of Richard Sydenham, Esq.,
late of Piggotts in this parish,
who departed this life
the 21st day of September, 1737.

On the north wall of the tower a mural monument—a widow's lozenge; quarterly Az. and Gu. in 2 and 3 a fret Or, on a fess sable three mullets of the first (Norris). Inscription—“ In a vault near this place are deposited the remains of Charles and Samuel Savage, Esqrs., their sister, Mrs. Ellen Norris, and her son John Norris, Esq., of Hitchenden, who died the 29th June, 1786; and by his last will and testament bequeathed 5,000 pounds to Magdalen College, Oxford. The right hon. Ellen, Countess Conyngham, has caused this monument to be erected to the memory of her two uncles, aunt and cousin.”

There were formerly achievements to Lady Conyngham, John Norris, and Richard Sydenham, in the chancel. The family vault of Lord Beaconsfield is entered from the

churchyard, and was constructed for the reception of the remains of Mrs. Willyams. This lady was an ardent admirer of the late Earl, and testified her esteem by bequeathing to him all her property, amounting to £40,000. Under the east window of the Montfort Chapel is an inelegant but costly semi-mural monument of three arches, the centre a trefoil, the side ones lancet shaped, enclosing three recessed slabs of red Scotch granite. The arches are supported by short shafts of Devon marble with ornamental capitals. The cornice is finely sculptured to represent lilies, roses, etc. The arches are of Portland stone. The following inscription is incised on the central panel in gilt letters—

“In memory of Mary Anne Disraeli, Viscountess Beaconsfield in her own right, for thirty-three years the wife of the Right Hon. Benjamin Disraeli, Lord of this Manor. Ob. Dec. 15th, 1872.”

On the slab to the right—

“In memory of James Disraeli, Esq., one of her Majesty's Commissioners of Inland Revenue, and third son of Isaac Disraeli, Esq., of Bradenham, in this county, author of ‘Curiosities of Literature.’ Ob. Dec. 3, 1868.”

On the left-hand slab—

“In memory of Sarah Brydges Willyams, relict of James Brydges Willyams, of Carnanton, in the County of Cornwall, and Colonel of the Royal Cornish Militia. She died at Torquay, 11th Nov., 1863, and was buried, at her desire, in this vault.”

It will be noticed that no ages are mentioned in these inscriptions, nor is Lord Beaconsfield's in the inscription on his coffin—“The Right Honourable Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield and Viscount Hughenden, born December 21st, 1804, died April 19th, 1881.”

The circumstances connected with the interment of the late Earl of Beaconsfield in this vault have been so recently detailed in the public press, that it is needless for me to make more than a passing reference to it. But as no history of Hughenden would be complete without some account of Lord Beaconsfield, I subjoin a brief notice of his career. The Disraelis belong to a Jewish family of the Sephardim race who flourished in Spain and afterwards in Italy. The first of the family who settled in England was Benjamin Disraeli, a Venetian

merchant, who came to this country in 1748, and died at Enfield in 1817, aged 90 years. His son Isaac was born at Enfield in 1766, married in 1802, Maria, daughter of George Bassevi, Esq., by whom he had four children, and died at Bradenham in 1848. His eldest son, Benjamin, was born in the Adelphi, London, December 21st, 1804. His first literary work, "Vivian Grey," was published in 1825; he unsuccessfully contested High Wycombe, 1832; again in 1835; first returned to Parliament for Maidstone, 1837; M.P. for Shrewsbury, 1841; for Bucks, 1847, which he continued to represent till raised to the peerage in August, 1876; leader of Protectionist party on the death of Lord George Bentinck, 1842; Chancellor of the Exchequer and leader of the House of Commons, 1852; again in 1858-9; Prime Minister, 1868; again 1874-80; D.C.L. of Oxford, 1853; Lord Rector of Glasgow University, 1873-4; attended Berlin Congress in 1878; died at 19, Curzon-street, London, April 19th, 1881. In 1839 he married Mary Anne, widow of Wyndham Lewis, Esq., his colleague in the representation of Maidstone, and only daughter of Captain John Viney Evans, R.N., of Bampford-Speke, near Exeter, created Viscountess Beaconsfield in her own right, November, 1868. Among his numerous publications since his entrance on political life are "Coningsby," "Sybil," "Tancred," "A Vindication of the English Constitution," "Biography of Lord G. Bentinck," "Lothair," and "Endymion," published at the beginning of the present year.

As far as his connection with Hughenden is concerned, he was everywhere spoken of as a kind and generous landlord; and, though for a long time far from being a rich man (the annual value of Hughenden Manor being only £1,494), he will long be remembered for many unostentatious acts of charity among the poor; as Squire, ready both with his purse and advice to further the good of the parish. As patron of the living he evinced great interest in the church, which he attended regularly while staying at Hughenden, and when it was being rebuilt showed his anxiety that it should be restored, for, as he himself expressed it, "it was not to the honour of any parish that the house least honoured in it should be the House of God."

“Brilliant as were his qualities as a Statesman, they were equalled by his simplicity and love of home. It was at Hughenden we best knew him in the tender and affectionate part of his nature, which the outer world could not so well discern in the light of his sparkling wit and dazzling genius. As we gaze round our lovely hills, our eyes rest upon the scene on which he loved to gaze, and each turn recalls his favourite view or peep:—the sunny slopes, the ancient river Kishon, the German Forest, Italy, all humorously named by him in accordance with the varied characteristics of each spot. A mind stored with such depth of resource could never experience the sensation of solitude; indeed, he was in the best society when alone. In a rapture of devotion to his home he exclaimed, ‘How is it possible to be dull at Hughenden? I have all I love, trees and books. I have trees in the summer and books all the year round.’ The advance of spring reminds us with what zealous enjoyment he basked in this season last year, when his freedom from office released him to yield himself up to the uninterrupted happiness of revelling in the verdant luxury of his woods and slopes. Time may efface the desolation of the nation, but Time will only quicken within us in Hughenden the bitter pang of separation! The scene around us reminds us of him; the varying light and shade over the undulating park, the sparkling river, the stately peacocks, the song of the birds, rouse an aching sense of desolation. In this beloved spot he desired his body might rest beside that of his devoted wife. In spite of the universal expression of the nation to pay the country’s tribute of honour by interment amongst the Great of the earth, a sacred recognition of his wishes was accorded by his Sovereign, with which the nation complied with unqualified acquiescence.” (“Hughenden Parish Magazine,” May, 1881.)

The funeral took place on April 26, 1881, the Burial Office being read by the Rev. H. Blagden, Vicar, and among the mourners were the Prince of Wales and the Dukes of Connaught and Albany, and a large number of the political friends and admirers of the deceased statesman. The coffin was covered with beautiful flowers; two wreaths—one of primroses and the other of bay leaves and everlasting flowers—being from her Majesty the Queen.

ADDENDA.

The accounts given in Domesday Book of the manors in this parish are as follow:—

(1). Tra Epi Baioc.

M. Wills filius Ogeri ten de epo Huchedene p x hid se defd. Tra e x car. In dnio sunt ii 7 xv villi cu iii bord hnt viii car. Ibi v servi ptu ii car. Silva sexcent porc. In totis valent val x lib. Qdo recep vi lib. T. R. E. vii lib. Hoc M. tenuit Eddid regina.

(2). Tra Nigel de Abingi.

In Dustenberg Hd.

M. Nigellus de Abingi ten et Roger de eo Tilleberie p v hid se defd. Tra e xi car. In dnio sunt iii 7 xiii villi cu i bord hnt vii car 7 viii va pot fieri. Silva xx porc. In totu val vii lib. Qdo recep C sol. T. R. E. vii lib. Hoc M. tenuit Turbt ho Algari com 7 vende pot.

Rendered into English:—

The land of the Bishop of Baieux.

Manor. William Fitz-Oger holds of the Bishop, Huchendene, and was assessed for 10 hides. There is land for (or sufficient to employ) 10 ploughs (or ox teams). In demesne there are 2, and 15 villains with 3 bordars (or cottagers), have 8 ploughs. There are 5 slaves, two carucates of pasture land, and pannage for 600 hogs. For all dues it is worth £10; when received £6; in the time of King Edward (the Confessor) £7, when Edith his queen held this manor.

The Land of Nigel de Albini.

In Dustenberg (Desboro') Hundred.

Manor. Nigel de Albini holds and Roger of him, Tillebury (Brands Fee) and is taxed for 5 hides. There is land sufficient for 11 ploughs. In demesne there are 3 and 13 villains with 1 bordar have seven ploughs, and an 8th can be made. There is pannage for 20 swine. In the whole it is worth £7; when received 100s.; in the time of King Edward £7. Turbert, a vassal of Algar, Earl (of Mercia) held this manor and could sell it.

(3). A charter of confirmation of lands, etc., given to the Priory of Kenilworth, *temp.* Henry II., enumerates the church of Huchenden:—

“Ex dono Nicholai de Hychendena ecclesiam ejusdem Villæ de Hychendena sicut ipsius carta testatur.”

(4). The following is a copy of the deed from Nichol's “History of Leicester”:—

“Sciant presentes et futuri quod Ego Wellysbourne filius comes Symonis de Monteforte unus filiorum domina Alianora filia Johannis Regis Angliæ, dedi concessi, et hac presenti carta mea et concessione Mariæ ux' mei, Ricardo de la Rosehulles, unum messuaguim cum gardimo et cum tilag' et cum aliis pertinet supra Kingshull in parochia de Huchenden. Hiis testibus Symone de Huchenden, Galfrido Tykfer, Ricardo Terc, Willielmo

Brand et aliis." (Quoted as from Vincent's MSS. p. 40, b. ; but the reference appears to be incorrect. There are copies of this deed, varying slightly in orthography from the above, in Langley and Lipscombe).

There are two seals appended to this deed. On one side of the larger seal is the lion rampant with a double tail, holding a child in its mouth, with the legend, "S. Wellisburne de la Monteforte;" on the reverse the griffin segreant and chief chequè. The other seal represents a warrior in armour, wearing the coif, hauberk, and gambeson, holding a banner of the Cross of S. George in his right hand, and on his left arm a shield charged with the lion rampant with double tail and a child in its mouth, a fleur-de-lis on each side of him. The legend is, "† S. Wellisburne Bellator Fil Simonis de Monteforte." Both of these seals are engraved in Nichol's "Leicestershire." A copy of the document quoted above occurs in the Cotton MSS. (Julius cvii., Plut. xviii., D fol. 141), with a remark, signed "W. Camden Clar.," that "it is thought to be a forged deed by reason of the false Latin, the character new, and the style absurd both in deed and seal." As regards this note of Camden's, it does not appear that he could have compared the arms of these seals with those on Richard Wellesbourne's effigy in the church, the only difference being that the lion rampant on the shield is contained within an orle of cross crosslets, which are not found on the shield, and the griffin on the surcoat holds a child in its paws, which that on the seal does not. In reference to the genuineness of the deed, Lipscombe remarks, "No one would forge a grant from persons who did not possess the property granted: it at least shows that a son of Simon de Montfort and his wife Mary possessed lands in this parish, and it is remarkable that true seals were annexed to the deed;" and Stothard says that the faulty Latin of the deed "is perhaps no proof of its being fictitious." And as regards the style and execution of the seals, there is nothing to lead anyone to doubt that they are of the period to which they profess to belong. It is very probable that Richard Wellesbourne married a daughter of Henry de Montfort of Beldesert, who possessed property at Wellesbourne; and if so, it would account for the frequent recurrence of the arms of those three families upon the effigies in the Montfort Chapel.

(5.) The following is a copy of the deed of 1307, from Nichol's "Leicestershire" :—

"Ricardus Dominus de Wellesburne, miles, nuper de villa de Wellesburne Montefort, in com' Warwyke Dat' apud Wellesburne in com' War', anno 1 Edw. II."

On the seal attached to this deed there is a shield bearing the griffin segreant and chief chequè, with the addition of a bendlet dexter over all. It is worthy of notice that the griffin on this seal is without the child in its paws—a somewhat puzzling circumstance when it is remembered that this peculiar addition is found in every example of this coat sculptured upon or about the effigies in the church.

(6.) In his Appendix to the "History of the Hundred of Desborough," Langley remarks: "I must question upon high authority the skeleton under the arch being a priest, on account of the shields of arms, which are at least unusual, if not unprecedented. I conceive this to be Peter, son of Peter de Montfort, killed at the battle of Evesham. This Peter went on a pilgrimage to Gallicia, and died 15th Edw. I. The arms probably would have determined this point, as he changed his coat from bendè of six to bendè of ten. There was another Peter, grandson of the pilgrim, who was first in holy orders, but after his brother's decease enjoying a large inheritance, by dispensation became a knight, and died 42 Edw. III.; but he is said to have been buried at Warwick, or otherwise this circumstance might account for this singular representation."

Langley seems to have been mistaken as regards the family to which the Wellesbournes of Hughenden belonged. For instance, he says: "Henry de Montfort, who re-obtained the manor of Wellesbourne in Warwickshire the 2nd of Richard I., probably died here, and was buried in the chancel; over whom is the effigy of a knight templar under a pointed arch." This Henry de Montfort was not a knight templar. He belonged to the Beldesert family, and his father had been deprived of the manor of Wellesbourne in 1107 by Henry I. Yet he continues in the very next sentence, "The posterity of Richard, son of Simon Montfort, Earl of Leicester, are said to have assumed the name of Wellesburne, and to have resided at a place called Wreck Hall, in this parish." In reference

to the arms on the monuments, he says, "they clearly point out that they are Wellesburne Montforts, descended from those of Beldesert," and yet the Beldesert coat does not appear at all on the effigy of Richard Wellesbourne, although it is found on the later monuments. I have before remarked that the Montforts of Leicester, from whom the Wellesbournes of Hughenden were descended, were a distinct family from the Montforts of Beldesert, in Warwickshire.

(7). Royal Visits to Hughenden.

(From the *Court Circular*.)

"WINDSOR CASTLE, *Saturday, December 15, 1877.*

"The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, went to Hughenden Manor to-day, and visited the Earl of Beaconsfield.

"Her Majesty left Windsor at twenty minutes to one o'clock, and travelled by a special train on the Great Western Railway to High Wycombe. The Queen was met at the Railway Station by the Earl of Beaconsfield and Mr. Montagu Corry.

"The Mayor of High Wycombe (Mr. William Phillips) and the Corporation received the Queen on the platform, and presented her Majesty with an address. A bouquet was likewise presented to her Majesty by Miss Phillips.

"The Earl of Beaconsfield having expressed her Majesty's acknowledgments, the royal party entered a carriage and four which was in waiting, and drove through the borough of High Wycombe, preceded by the Earl of Beaconsfield in his carriage, to Hughenden Manor.

"Guards of honour from the Royal Bucks (King's Own) Militia, and from the Buckinghamshire Volunteers, were on duty near the Station.

"The Queen planted a tree at Hughenden in commemoration of her Majesty's visit. Princess Beatrice also planted a tree.

"Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice honoured the Earl of Beaconsfield with their presence at luncheon, and returned by the same route through High Wycombe to the Railway Station.

"On passing through the triumphal arch formed of chairs (the chief manufacture of the borough) her Majesty directed the carriage to stop, so as to carefully inspect it.

"Lord Carington had the honour of receiving her Majesty at the Station.

"The Queen, having entered the train, returned to Windsor at a quarter before five p.m.

"The Dowager Marchioness of Ely, Lieutenant-General H. Ponsonby, and Colonel Du Plat were in attendance."

"WINDSOR CASTLE, *May 1, 1881.*

"The Queen, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, and attended by the Dowager Marchioness of Ely and Lieutenant-General Lord Charles Fitzroy, C.B., drove yesterday afternoon through Rayner's Park, the residence of Sir Philip Rose, to Hughenden Church.

"The royal party was received by Lord Rowton, and the Rev. Henry and Mrs. Blagden, who conducted her Majesty and the Princess to the

tomb of the late Earl of Beaconsfield, where they placed a wreath and cross of flowers.

"The Queen afterwards proceeded to Hughenden Manor, drove back to Windsor through High Wycombe, and arrived at the Castle at seven o'clock."

(8.) Population of Hughenden according to the Census of 1881, is as follows:

- (a) Houses—inhabited, 381; uninhabited, 14; building, 0.
- (b) Persons enumerated who abode therein—
males, 904; females, 899; total, 1803.
Population in 1871—1792, showing an
increase of 11 during the decade.

This is one of the few places where the number of females is less than that of the male population.

(9) I find that the De Montforts had been connected with this locality some time before the date of the battle of Evesham. Almeric de Montfort, elder brother of the Earl of Leicester, who became possessed of the Honour of Gloucester, by marriage with Mabel, eldest daughter of William, Earl of Gloucester, gave, cir. 1226, to the Canons of Missenden, a mark of silver and a hundred eels out of his rents at Great Marlow, from Gosenham Mill. A copy of the deed by which this grant was made, is still preserved in the Missenden Register, and is witnessed by the well-known local names of Hugh de Gurnay, William (Leys?), Archdeacon of Buckingham, Robert de Burnham, and Nicholas, the Earl's Chaplain. The Abbey itself was built upon land belonging to Robert, Earl of Gloucester, a natural son of Henry I., from whom, through female heirs, the Montforts are descended.

(10) While these sheets have been in the press, new stained glass by Clayton and Bell, has been inserted in the west window to the memory of the late Earl of Beaconsfield, out of the funds subscribed by his Lordship's friends and admirers. This is the finest window in the church, and its beautiful Geometric tracery is now seen to perfection with the subdued light transmitted by the soft tints of the painted glass. The subjects illustrated are the four archangels in the upper part of the lights, with the appearances of angels recorded in the Old Testament below, as follow:—(1) St. Gabriel, and the angel calling

out of heaven to Abraham at the offering up of Isaac. (2.) St. Michael with the angels appearing to Jacob in a dream at Bethel. (3) St. Raphael and the appearance of the angel to Gideon. (4) St. Ariel and the angel at Manoah's sacrifice.

The central window on the south side of the nave, has been filled with stained glass by the Undergraduates of the University of Oxford, in recognition of the high esteem in which they held the late Lord Beaconsfield. The scenes depicted in this window are in the upper part of the lights: (1) Angels ministering to our Blessed Lord after His Fasting and Temptation. (2) The angel appearing to Him after His Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. In the lower compartment: (3) The Angel at the Holy Sepulchre after the Resurrection. (4) Angels appearing to the Apostles after our Lord's Ascension.

When the Silk Banner and Badges of Knighthood of the Garter were taken down from Lord Beaconsfield's stall in St. George's Chapel at Windsor, Her Majesty was graciously pleased to forward them to his Lordship's executors to be placed over his seat at the west end of the north side of the Choir in Hughenden Church.

R. S. D.