

## THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES CHALFONT.

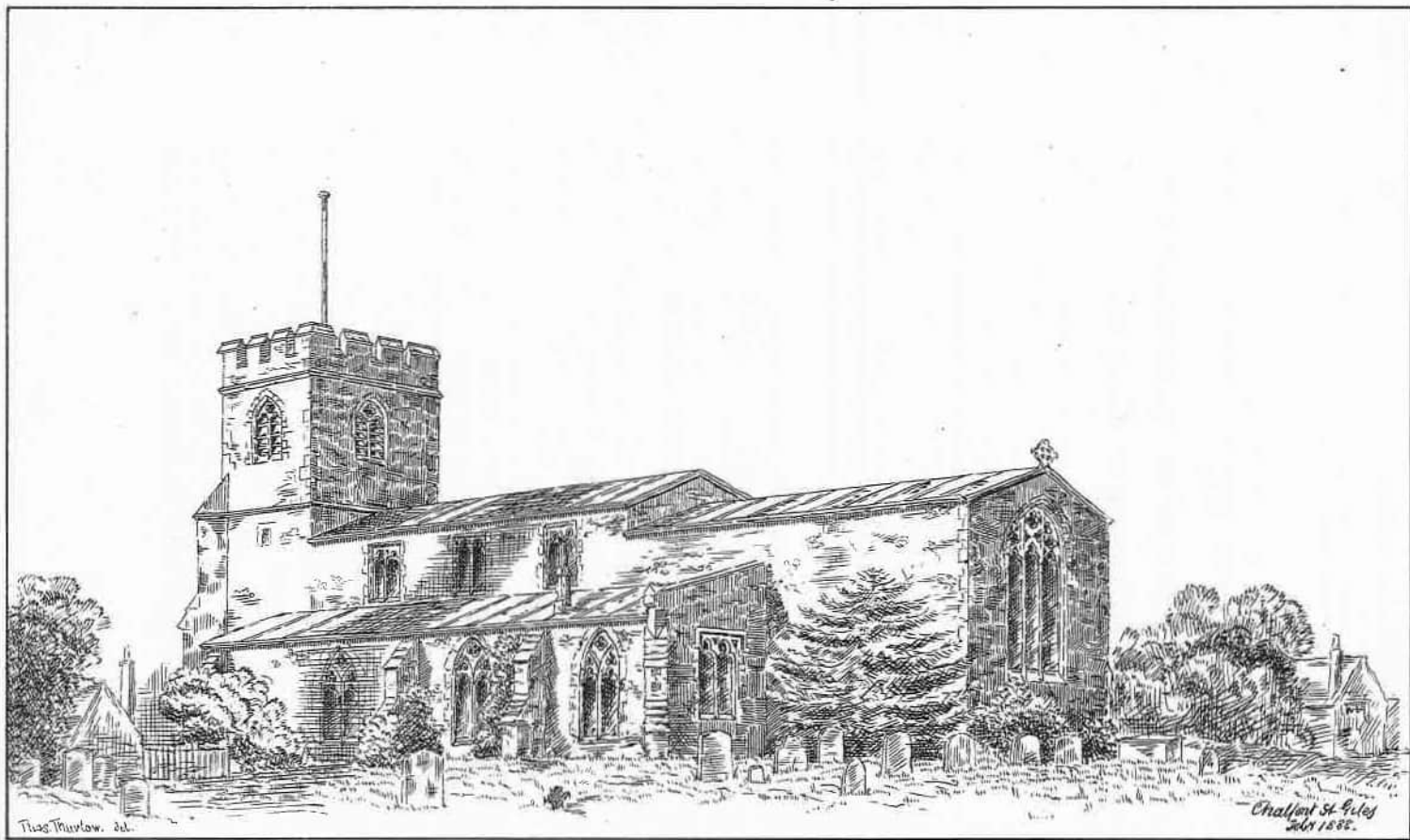
By POWNOIL W. PHIPPS, M.A.

THE parishes of Chalfont St. Giles and Chalfont St. Peter adjoin and run into one another; Chalfont St. Giles lying to the north-west of St. Peter's. The name of Chalfont (in Domesday, Celfunte) has been thought to be derived from the old English *cealc*, chalk, and *funt*, fountain or spring—the wells of the parish being thickly impregnated with chalk. It is, however, more probably an abbreviation of Coldenes-funtan (as it occurs in ninth century writings), Chiltern Springs; Celdenes, or in the original Celtic, Celyddon, being the early form of Chiltern.

St. Giles Chalfont is very picturesquely situated, and is divided by a valley running from north to south, watered by the stream Miss or Misbourne. The lower parts of the parish are about 240 feet above the sea, while the hills, or higher table-lands, which bound the valley, are from 400 to 500 feet.

The church is dedicated to St. Ægidius, English St. Giles, a very popular saint formerly in England and Scotland, most of our principal cities having eleventh or twelfth century churches dedicated to him. He was the patron saint of cripples, and churches dedicated to him are usually outside the walls of towns.

The church, which stands on low ground close to the river, has a special interest from the variety of styles which it embraces, marking its continuous growth to the present day. The walls are of great thickness, and are composed of flint stone and square blocks of chalk or clunch, and the roof is covered with lead. The church consists of a chancel and nave with two aisles, and a western tower, with the recent additions of a vestry on the north and an organ chamber on the south of the chancel. A little observation shows that the church consisted originally of a chancel, nave, south aisle, and western tower, all built in Norman times. The square



bases of the Norman pillars, two of which, with the base or foot ornaments, still remain in the south arcade, the lowness of the chancel arch with its square bases, the date of the font, and some evidences of Norman work found in the tower, all point to the same conclusion. The arches must have been very wide in proportion to their height—the space between the centres of adjoining columns measuring 11 feet 1 inch, and the square bases 3 feet on each side.

During the Early English period, probably about the year 1220, the chancel was lengthened to its present extent, viz., 40 feet, making it long in proportion to the nave, which measures 51 feet. It will be observed that the chancel inclines towards the south at a considerable angle, which gives a striking feature to the church. This addition is marked by the fine Early English lancet window still preserved in the south wall of the chancel. The double piscina with a central shaft on the south side of the chancel belongs to this same Early English period.

Some years later, about the commencement of the fourteenth century, a still greater structural alteration was made, a northern aisle was added to the nave, and the sturdy circular piers of the four arches of the south arcade were altered to harmonize with the octagonal piers and Early Decorated work of the new north arcade opposite. In carrying this out, the original square Norman bases were left, but the pillars and capitals were transformed by being rudely hacked and pared down to their present shape, the marks of the process being still apparent. At the same time the south aisle was rebuilt, and the chancel arch was heightened and enlarged to its present size. To this Early Decorated period belong notably a very graceful single-light window with a trefoil in its head in the north wall of the chancel, and the low recessed tomb without effigy in the south wall of the south aisle, which probably is the founder's tomb of the Groves or Gardyners, who had a chantry chapel close by this spot. In the restoration of the church in 1863, a small helmeted head was found and placed on the wall immediately over the apex of this tomb, and from its size and apparent date it probably formed one of the terminations of the drip moulding above the arch of the tomb. Under the arch has been placed a stone with a cross in low relief. The head

of the cross is made in the simplest manner by the interstices formed by four circles. It was discovered during the repairs of the south aisle under the Gardynor altar monument, and very probably belonged to the Groves.

We must place somewhat later, about 1350, the south door ornamented with a fine series of rose and ball flowers, the porch of which is said to have been removed in 1760, having fallen into decay.

The large east window of three lights in the chancel, probably dates from about the years 1360-80. Its tracery is an interesting example of the transition from Decorated to Perpendicular forms. The arch is decorated in outline. The subarcuated side-lights have good flowing tracery in their heads. The centre light, much loftier than the others, gives quite an early character to the window, but the two centre mullions run all perpendicularly into the window arch, and in the tracery of the centre the straight line is supreme.

Not much later than the east window, and like it, possessing a considerable proportion of the grace of the earlier style, are the two-light windows in the north wall of the north aisle, which distinctly show the vertical line on each side of the quatrefoil. The east window of this aisle is considerably later.

The corbel heads in the clerestory of the nave over the chancel arch supporting the roof may represent the then reigning King and Queen. Can these be intended as portraits of Henry IV. and his Queen?

When the nave was restored in 1863 by Mr. Street, he found the remains of stairs leading from the east of the south aisle to the rood screen, but they had to be built up as the chancel arch was weakened by them. The eastern portions of the north and south aisles were used as chantries or chapels, and that on the south has its trefoil-headed piscina still remaining. Two large squints or hagioscopes in a somewhat reckless fashion were cut through the walls beyond the chancel arch, one on each side, enabling the occupants of either chapel to see the elevation of the host at the principal or high altar. There is reason for believing that the chantry on the north side, belonged to the owners of the Vache, the Lords of the Manor, whose pews are still to the north of the

chancel in the nave and north aisle. The unusual position of the door, which is placed so much to the east in the north aisle, looks as if it may have been the entrance of the Lord of the Manor to the church or chantry. The chantry on the south was attached to the Groves, and their successors, the Gardyners of the Grove, anciently known as Grove Place, for under the above-named piscina a marble altar tomb holds the brasses of a Gardyner and his wife (1558-60).

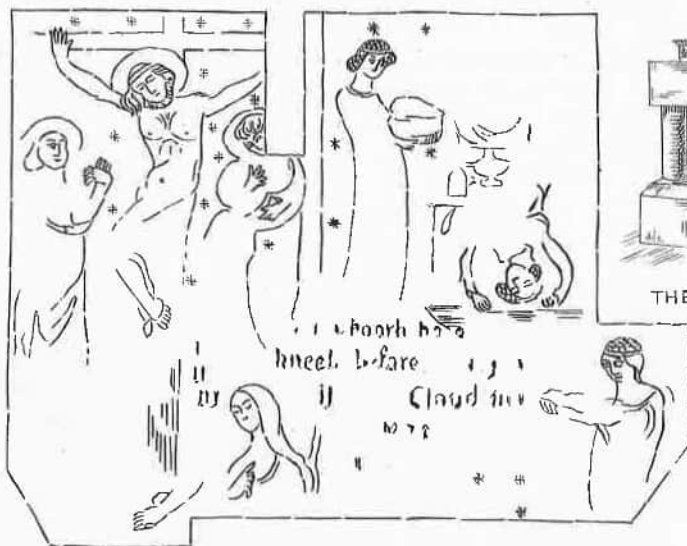
The walls of the church were painted with frescoes, of which several still remain. The battlemented drawing over the chancel arch is curious. The Ten Commandments were painted across it, probably in 1564, and on their removal this early fresco was discovered. On the south wall of the Gardyner Chantry Chapel a painting remains of a lady, presenting to the Blessed Virgin a document with a large seal attached to it, no doubt the deed of dedication. It may be noted that the Rectory and advowson of the church were conveyed by deed in 1259 by the Prior and Convent of Bradwell, near Stony Stratford, to the Bishop of Lincoln, and such a deed, with a beautiful seal attached, exists in the Registry of the Bishop of Lincoln, and a copy in a manuscript volume of index to the papers at Lincoln in the University Library at Cambridge. The earlier ecclesiastical patronage appears to have been given by the early possessors of the manor to the Prior of Bradwell, and this donation or deed of gift may be represented in the fresco. Evidently in connection with this gift to the church, the adjoining painting represents the Blessed Virgin in the act of extricating a soul from purgatory. The face of the figure who is being saved is very bright and clear, and the black oven and the brickwork of purgatory are very distinct, but, unfortunately, these and all the frescoes are fading. In the south wall of this aisle, close to the Gardyner Chantry, is a low recessed arch of Early Decorated character referred to previously, and this may have formed the tomb of the donor by whose benefactions the aisle was rebuilt or altered. The frescoes have every appearance of being contemporary with the rebuilding of the aisle, that is, of fourteenth century date, and this is borne out by the use of the net head-dress, used about 1350, by the female figures.

CHALFONT ST GILES CHURCH. BUCKS.



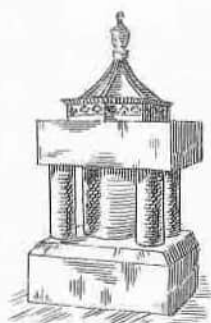
A

B



C

D



THE FONT.

SKETCHES FROM FRESCOES IN SOUTH AISLE

Near the south door there is a representation of the Crucifixion, with the figures of St. Mary and St. John. To the right of this are other paintings, the chief of which has been supposed to represent the daughter of Herodias in two attitudes, carrying a charger, and also dancing before a table which is spread for a banquet. It will be observed that she is drawn with her legs in the air, and supporting herself upon her hands. In the earlier part of the fourteenth century this was the usual mode of representing her dance, copied, no doubt, from the wandering Jongleurs, as may be seen in illuminated manuscripts in the British Museum. See MSS. Reg. 2, B. vii., and Harleian MSS. No. 1527. Across these frescoes may still be perceived traces of the scriptural texts ordered by Queen Elizabeth in 1564 to be written on the walls of churches after the so-called "Popish images" had been obliterated. (See also Canon 82.)

The clerestory, the roof of the nave, and of the aisles, whose pendant posts have ruthlessly cut into and obliterated parts of the earlier frescoes, the roof of the chancel, and the blank wall over the chancel arch, are all evidently later than the east window of the chancel, and probably date from the fifteenth century. These roofs are nearly flat, only being sloped enough to throw water off.

Several ancient encaustic tiles, which were found when the church was restored, have been preserved, and are now placed on the floor of the recessed tomb in the south aisle and on the bottom of the holy water stoup under the tower, to the south of the western doorway. The stoup itself is always an object of considerable rarity, as such things have usually been destroyed. Here, too, under the tower, stand six old oak benches, with poppy heads at their ends, the only relics of mediæval furniture of the church. The old alms box, supported by a baluster shaft, now standing in front of the stoup, and also the font cover, are Jacobean work of 1580—1620, as also probably is the vestry table, which may have been used as the holy table. The altar rails are of fine old wainscot oak of the time of Wren, 1632—1723, with richly-carved foliage instead of balusters. They were the gift of Bishop Hare, Dean of St. Paul's, who lived



at the Vache, and is buried here, and they are said to have come from St. Paul's Cathedral. Within them stand two handsomely carved chairs of the seventeenth century.

In 1844, the north doorway was blocked up, and recently six old pikes have been placed there, found in the ringing chamber of the tower. Others have been given away. The pike heads are triangular, and are thought to be made of old files. They have been called Cromwell Pikes, but were probably served out as arms during some civil commotions or fear of invasion.

In 1861 the chancel was restored by the Rev. Charles Lloyd, rector of the parish, under the care of Mr. Street, and the present timber roof, of good Perpendicular character, was uncovered. The stone work in the east window was renewed, and the angle buttresses rebuilt at the east end of the chancel. On repairing the east window a number of perforations in the stonework were discovered, which had been caused by small iron cannon-balls. The balls themselves were also found, as well as a number of lead shot in the old oak roof, their position showing that they had been fired through the east window. This points to the wanton act of the troops of Cromwell when they encamped in the Silsden Meadow opposite, and close to the church, after the battle of Aylesbury, on which occasion Cromwell himself was entertained by the Radcliffes, in the old Stone House adjoining. At the same time, in 1861, the present vestry was built, and the wainscot in it was taken from the old high Vache pew, and from the ringing chamber in the tower. During the restoration in 1861, the Clayton tomb (date, 1714), which stood in the south-east corner of the chancel, was broken up, and the slab laid upon the ground. Portions of the tomb are now in the vestry; two small statues of weeping boys are in the south aisle; and the marble slab of the credence was taken from that tomb. The Fleetwood tomb opposite was being similarly removed, when Sir Hesketh Fleetwood, the present representative of the family, interfered, and it has happily been preserved.

In building the new vestry an arch was found in the north wall of the chancel, close to the Fleetwood tomb, which appeared to have been intended originally for a



doorway or a Leper window. It was closed externally, the marble slab above mentioned was placed at the bottom of it, and it has since been used as a credence.

In 1863 the rest of the church was restored under Mr. Street, and the exterior was completed in 1867. Mr. Street took out the Perpendicular windows from the south aisle, which corresponded with those in the north aisle, and he made those which are there at present. The tower was restored and raised and the battlements rebuilt. The west window and belfry windows were restored in the style of the Early Perpendicular period. At the same time, Mr. Street made the four short marble shafts now seen under the corners of the ancient Norman font. He asserted that such shafts must have stood there originally, and his opinion was subsequently confirmed by the discovery of one of the ancient shafts, broken and buried in the wall, and it may still be seen. The font is of the well-known Norman type, a square stone forming the basin, supported by a thick centre column, with four smaller corner shafts. The shafts are without bases or capitals. The font has always stood beneath a low-pointed arch, which pierces the wall in the part where the west end of the south arcade joins the tower. Through this arch was formerly an entrance to the vestry, for which purpose the end of the south aisle was used, until the present vestry was built in 1861. It was walled off from the rest of the aisle by a four-inch wall, and the walls of this part of the aisle were covered with frescoes, which it was found impossible to preserve.

The last alteration made to the church was in 1884, when an organ chamber was added as a memorial to the late Canon Lloyd. It is an extension of the south aisle, with an arch opening into the chancel, and in it were placed the windows removed from the walls which were taken down. This was done from the designs of Mr. J. P. Seddon.

APPROXIMATE DATES OF PORTIONS OF THE CHURCH AFTER  
RICKMAN'S CLASSIFICATION.

Bases of Columns and foot ornaments, }	Late Norman,
Font, and perhaps part of Tower . }	circa 1150-80.
Piscina and Lancet Window, south side }	Early English,
of Chancel . . . . . }	1230.

One light window, North Chancel . . .	{ Geometrical Decorated, 1280-1300.
Arcade of North Aisle, Founder's Tomb, Alteration of South Arcade, and South Aisle, South Doorway . . .	{ Flowing Decorated, 1320-50.
East Window, Chancel . . . . .	{ Transition to Perpen- dicular, 1360-80.
Roof of Chancel, Poppy head seats, Clerestory and roof of Nave and Aisles, Windows in North Aisle . . . . .	{ Perpendicular, 1430-1500.
Font Cover, Alms-box, and Vestry Table	{ Elizabethan or Jaco- bean, 1580-1620.
Altar rails . . . . .	{ Later classical Revival, 1700-1720.
Seating in Nave, South Aisle Windows, Floor Tiling, and Restoration gene- rally, by Mr. Street . . . . .	{ Gothic Revival, 1861-63.
Prolongation of South Aisle to join Organ Chamber by Mr. Seddon . . .	{ Gothic Revival, 1884.

## INTERNAL DIMENSIONS OF CHURCH.

	Ft.	in.
Chancel, length to W. side of Base of Chancel		
Arch Piers. . . . .	40	0
" breadth . . . . .	16	0
Nave, length to W. side of Tower Arch . . .	51	0
" breadth, in clear . . . . .	16	1
N. Aisle, breadth, in clear . . . . .	12	9
S. Aisle, breadth, in clear . . . . .	12	2
Tower, North to South . . . . .	12	1
" East to West . . . . .	12	6
" Height . . . . .	54	0
Extreme length, with Tower . . . . .	103	6
Extreme width, with Aisles . . . . .	44	9
Tower, width of Walls . . . . .	3	10

There are six bells. The tenor weighs 11cwt., and there is a little Sanctus bell, termed a Saint's bell in the Old Terrier, which has no marks, but is merely banded, and is now used with a hammer for the clock.

The following are the inscriptions :—

Treble : Lester and Pack, of London, fecit. 1764,  
raised by Voluntary subscription.

2 Bell : R. and C., fecit. 1742.

" Tho' I am but small ; I will  
Be heard among you all."

3 Bell: 1764, Lester and Pack, of London, fecit.

4 Bell: T. Mears, London, 1820.

5 Bell: Decimus Reynolds, Rector, R. Catlin, 1742.

Tenor: Tillears, of London, fecit. 1820.

The clock, 1710, by J. Austin, of Watford, had only one hand originally. It was repaired in 1869 by C. Goodman, of Chalfont St. Giles, the old wrought-iron case being used, with some fresh wheels.

A very ancient custom is still observed in this parish, of a short ringing of the Sanctus bell at the conclusion of the celebration of the Holy Communion, no doubt in some form a continuance of the old use of this bell.

The entrance to the churchyard and church from the west is through an ancient and picturesque archway, framed in oak, passing under an old, half-timbered range of buildings in the village street. This archway, or lich gate, takes its name (*Leiche*, German, a corpse) from its being the place where the coffin was set down to await the priest at a funeral. The old oak lich gate, or lich stile, a wide, low, double gate, turning on a massive centre pivot, is still in its place, as is also the pulley wheel, but the weight and rope that passed over this and kept the gate closed, have been removed, as they were found dangerous to children. Similar gates are found at Hayes and Heston, in Middlesex.

The Registers date from 1584, and are in good condition. They contain entries of the baptisms, marriages, and burials of the Gardyners of the Grove, the Godolphins, Osbornes, Reddings, who lived at Austens, Radcliffes of the Stone, Grimsdales of Bottrells and Claytons of the Vache, as well as of the Russells and Fleetwoods.

Concerning these latter families, the following interesting entry occurs in the Registers at Amersham:—

"1656. October y<sup>e</sup> 12. Edward Cutler, the late Register then died, and was buried the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the same month."

"October y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup>. Paul ford was then lawfully elected Register, and sworn by ffancis Russell, Esq<sup>r</sup>. Justice of the Peace, the 20<sup>th</sup> of the same month. This Francis Russell lived at y<sup>e</sup> Hill Farm, in y<sup>e</sup> Parish of Chalfont St. Giles, and on y<sup>e</sup> confines of this Parish; he was one of Oliver's Justices, and a fit man for y<sup>e</sup> times. I

knew his son, a kind of Non. Con., who came to poverty and sold y<sup>e</sup> Farm. General Fleetwood lived at y<sup>e</sup> Vache, and Russel on y<sup>e</sup> opposite Hill, and Mrs. Cromwel, Oliver's wife, and her daughters, at Woodrow, High House, where afterwards lived Captain James Thomson, so y<sup>e</sup> whole country was kept in awe, and became exceeding zealous and very fanatical, nor is y<sup>e</sup> poison yet eradicated. But y<sup>e</sup> (Whartons?) are gone, and y<sup>e</sup> Hampdens agoing.—B. R., 1730." (Benjamin Robertshaw, Rector.)

Selecting roughly a few of the more interesting entries in the Chalfont St. Giles Register, we may notice that of the baptism of George Fleetwood, son of Charles Fleetwood, 15th February, 1622. This was one of the regicides who signed the death warrant of King Charles I. In 1622 also occurs this entry:—

"Thomas Radcliff Esq<sup>r</sup>, was buryed the one and twentieth day of Febr<sup>y</sup>. An<sup>o</sup>. p. dicto. Received of his widow, relict, 10s., as a mortuary upon y<sup>e</sup> death of y<sup>e</sup> said Thomas Radcliff, Esq<sup>r</sup>. I say received of me, Will Rolls."

This Radcliff is the person mentioned previously, as having entertained Oliver Cromwell at the old Stone House after the battle of Aylesbury.

In 1665, when Milton was at Chalfont, the two following entries occur:—

"Aug. 26. A stranger was buried out of y<sup>e</sup> Vatch family, suppost to die of y<sup>e</sup> Plague."

"Sep. 3. John, y<sup>e</sup> son of Obadiah Heywood, was burried, 'tis suppos'd he died of y<sup>e</sup> sickness."

In 1667, "The Lady Honora Watkins, of Tower Hill, London, was brought thence, and buried in y<sup>e</sup> chancel of Chalfont St. Giles, Wednesday, Feb. 5."

In 1724, "Samuel, y<sup>e</sup> son of Isaac Cannon, was put in y<sup>e</sup> ground, June 20."

In the overseers' accounts, for 1697, occurs this entry—

"Nov. 1. When y<sup>e</sup> King came hom from flanders, and brought peace hom with him, given the Ringers 00. 08. 00."

This refers to the return of William III. after the Peace of Ryswick.

The Registers of this Parish have a special interest

also, from the fact that they contain entries of the burials of the Quakers, at the Quakers' burial ground of Jordans in this Parish, from which the following are selected :—

“ John Penington, of Amersham, Woodside, was buried y<sup>e</sup> 12 day of May, 1710, at Jordans.”

“ Tho. Ellwood, of y<sup>e</sup> Parish of Amersham, was buried at Jordans, May 7, 1713.”

“ W<sup>m</sup>. Penn, Esq<sup>re</sup>. was buried August 5, 1718, Jordans.”

This was the Governor of Pennsylvania.

“ Lady Hannah Penn, bur. Jordans, Dec. 26, 1726.”

There are regular acknowledgments by the Rectors, of the receipt of the mortuary fee of 10s., and they contain two agreements, one in 1664, signed by Thos. Valentine, Minister, and the Churchwardens, by which Wm. Grimsdale is allowed to erect a pew in the church for the annual payment of 7s.; and one is in 167 $\frac{1}{2}$ , signed by W. Rolls, Rector, consenting to the enclosure of a piece of land out of the churchyard, by Sir. Thos. Clayton, for the annual payment of 1d.

#### THE ANCIENT GLASS, BRASSES, AND MONUMENTS.

A special value attaches to the fragments of ancient Glass, together with the Brasses and Monuments, in the Church of St. Giles Chalfont, because, when placed in order, they tell the story of the history of the Parish, and enable us to realize how many and strangely varied interests are congregated here.

We know, on the authority of the Herald's Visitation, 1634, given in the Harleian MSS., and printed in the “Topographer” for the year 1790, iii. 47, under “Chalfont St. Giles,” that there were in the East Window these two coats :—

1. Azure. A spread eagle, or, talons g., over a bend g.
2. Ermine. A fess lozengy, or and gules.

In the North Side of the Chancel, these two coats :—

- 1 B. Six lions ramp. 3, 2, 1, or.
- 1 Att : A chevron gu. = charged with 3 quarter foils, or.

In the South Side of the Chancel these two coats :—

1. Or, on a chief, two hands displayed, az.
2. Three lions ramp, 2 and 1.

It is believed that those described as in the south side of the chancel (1. Or, on a chief, two hands displayed, az.) exactly agree with the arms belonging either to Manfelin, Baron of Wolverton, who founded Bradwell Priory in Wolverton, or to Bradwell Priory itself. The rectory and advowson of this parish did belong to the Prior and Convent of Bradwell, near Stoney Stratford, and were conveyed by them, in 1259, to the Bishop of Lincoln and his successors, with whom (now the Bishops of Oxford) they have continued to this day.

In 1815 this window had fallen into disrepair, and the new Rector, the Rev. J. H. B. Mountain, had the old stained glass removed, and after making good the three cinquefoil heads with fragments of it, as we now see them, he allowed the glazier to take the rest away. The glazier placed them in a summer-house in his garden, where they remained for more than fifty years, when they were restored to the church, and placed in the heads of some of the windows in the north aisle, where they may still be seen.

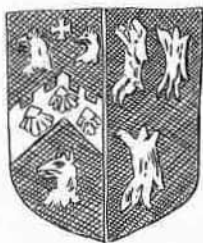
From the same Harleian MSS. ("Topographer," iii. 48) we learn that the following inscriptions were at that time found on stones in the nave of the church, two brasses being missing:—

"Hic jacet Rogerus Graindorge Armiger qui obiit 2 die Julii 1461, cujus anime propitiatur Deus. Amen."

"Hic jacet Richardus Wardylt Armiger, qui obiit 24 Aprilis, Anno Dom. 1463, cujus anime propitiatur Deus. Amen."

"Hic jacet Isabella Graindorge, quondam uxor Rogeri Graindorge; quæ obiit 15 die Novembris, Anno Dom. 1484, quor. etc."

The above inscriptions have since disappeared; but, on the other hand, some brasses have been found which are not mentioned in these MSS., nor in Haines' "Brasses." They consist of one man and two females and a child, and have been placed against the wall under the recessed founder's tomb arch in the south aisle. These brasses have been commonly called the Graindorge Brasses, but it is obvious that they are really of the Gardyner family, to be mentioned subsequently, for the coat of arms which seems to belong to them is that of



Here under this stone lyeth buried the body of Wyllyam Gardiner Esquier and Anne his wyfe which Wyllyam decessed the xviij day of October in the yere of our lord God 1552 and the land Anne dyed the xviij day of October 1552



The Gardiner Brass from Chalfont St Giles



the Gardyners, quartered with another bearing three mallets.

The stone from which they were removed may still be seen lying in front of the south door, within the south aisle. Beside them has been placed the brass of a lady, referred to by Haines as C. 1510, which brass appears to have been removed from a stone still lying on the floor of the south aisle.

The next brass in the order of time is that of a Priest, with inscription lost, stated by Haines to be about 1470. It has recently been placed on the north wall of the chancel, beneath the credence arch, but the matrix may still be seen in the stone from which it was removed, on the floor of the north aisle.

The next is a Palimpsest brass, placed against the wall of the north aisle, near the closed door, in a hinged frame, so that both sides may be read. It is obvious that the engraver used a fragment of a former brass, only five years old, for the second inscription. On one side are the words: "Of y<sup>r</sup> charitie pray for the soules of John Salter and Elizabeth his wyf, the whiche John decessed the xv. day of April, yn the yere of our Lord God mvxxvi., on whose soules I.H.V. have mercy. Amen." On the other side, the ends of which have been cut off: ". . . y ffor the soules of Thomas Bredham, of the perisshe of . . . ing, and Anne his wyf, wich Thomas, decessed the xi. day . . . the yer of O<sup>r</sup> Lord mv<sup>c</sup>xxi. on whose soules I.H.V. have mer . . ." This brass was for some time nailed against the Stone House, in this parish, but was restored to the church by Miss Saunderson.

The next in order are the brasses on the Gardyner tomb, at the east end of the south aisle. They represent William Gardyner in armour, and his wife Anne; and below him five sons, and below her four daughters. The inscription was reversed by a mistake of the workmen in 1863, when the church was restored. It is as follows: "Here under this tombe lyeth buried the bodey of William Gardyner, Esquyer, and Anne his wife, which William decessyd y<sup>e</sup> xiii. day of October, in the yere of our Lorde God mccccclviij; and the sayd Anne dyed y<sup>e</sup> — day of —, A<sup>o</sup> D<sup>omi</sup> mccccclx."

The arms are on a chev. embattled between three

griffins' heads erased, three escallop shells across paté in chief, for Gardynere; impaling gules, three lions' paws erased. Arg., for Newdigate. The same arms are repeated on the sides of the tomb.

With this brass begins the monumental story of the owners of the two chief estates in the parish, the De la Groves and the de la Vaches. Of these two the De la Groves appear to have been the earlier residents, as Adam de la Grove is recorded to have paid to the King two marks for certain lands in Chalfont St. Giles, early in the reign of Edward II. (1307), and it was not until 1360 that Richard de la Vache acquired half the manor in this parish, and gave his name to his place. In 1363, King Edward III. granted to Sir Richard de la Vache, Knt., of Bigenhall, in the parish of Burcester, Co. Oxon, free warren in all his demesne lands in Chalfont St. Giles. The de la Vaches were a distinguished family, who owned property in Shenley Mansel in 1277, and in Aston Clinton in 1279, where certain lands are still called The Vaches. Their principal residence was, however, at Chalfont St. Giles, and they were buried in this church. No memorial of them now remains; but when the tomb of William Gardynere was moved during the restoration of the church, there were discovered remains of a more ancient tomb, evidently pulled down and used as materials for this one. The surname had been obliterated with a chisel, but the Christian name, Richardus, was left; and it is considered probable that this may have been the tomb of Richard de la Vache. Sir Philip de la Vache, K.G., is supposed to have been a Wickliffite, or Lollard. He directed by his will, 25th April, 1407, that his body should be buried in the Church of Chalfont St. Giles, and on his death he left his wife (a daughter of Sir Lewis Clifford, K.G.) thirty-six silver dishes marked with his crest of the cow's foot, one of which dishes had been given him by Isabel, late Queen of England, and another on his marriage, by Joan, wife of the Black Prince, the Fair Maid of Kent. His eldest daughter married Lord Grey de Wilton, an ancestor of the present Duke of Westminster. In 1505 the de la Vaches sold their property in this parish to the Crayfords, and about 1530 the Crayfords sold it to William Gardynere. This William Gardynere died 14th October, 1535. A younger son of his,

named Robert Gardynier, married Agnes de la Grove, daughter and sole heiress of the estates of the Grove, or Grove Place, in this Parish (see "Visitation of Bucks," 1575 and 1634; and for pedigree of Gardyniers of Grove Place, Harleian MSS., 1533), and the name of Gardynier thus passes from the Vache to the Grove. The family of the Groves removed from this Parish to Zeals, in Wiltshire, but some of the family have continued to hold property in Bucks.

Robert Gardynier's granddaughter, Elizabeth, who was born at the Grove, married twice—first, to John Dudley, Lord of Stoke Newington, a relation of the Earl of Warwick, who was beheaded in 1553, and whose son, Lord Guildford Dudley, married Lady Jane Grey. She was well known to Queen Elizabeth at this time, and the Queen once took from her hair a jewel of value and gave it to their daughter, Anne, when visiting them. Secondly, she married, in 1582, Thomas Sutton, founder of the Charter House.

It is Robert Gardynier's great grandson, William Gardynier, of Grove Place, who lies buried in this tomb. He married Anne, daughter of John Newdigate, of Harefield, in Middlesex, not far from this parish. William Gardynier's son, John, removed to Fulmer, and, as is shown by the Herald's Visitation, was there in 1575, while a younger brother, named Thomas, is described by the same authority as residing at Ashwells, which lies near the Vache. The family seem to have left this neighbourhood, and in 1634 are described as of Blandford, Dorset.

The next brass in order of time is that on the well-known altar tomb of the Fleetwoods, standing against the north wall of the chancel, a large drawing of which is given in "Lipscomb," iii. 235. It represents Thomas Fleetwood with his two wives and eighteen children. The inscription is: "Here lyeth Thomas Fleetwoode, Esquier, borne at Heskyne, in the Countye of Lancashire, Lord of the Vache, Treasurer of the Mynte, Knight of the Parliament for the Shire of Buckingham, and late Sheriff of the Counties of Bucks and Bedford, who had two wives, Barbara the first, and Bridget the seconde, being daughter of Sir John Springe, Knight. He had eightene children, foure by the fyrst wife, and fourtene by the seconde. Aged fyftie-two yeares, deceased the first

day of November, in the yere of Our Lorde God M.CCCCLXX."

This brass records that the Vache had by this time passed from the Gardyners to the Fleetwoods, this Thomas Fleetwood having purchased it in 1564. One of Thomas Fleetwood's daughters, named Joyce, married Sir Henry Osborne, and had a son from whom the Dukes of Leeds trace their descent. The Duke has an estate adjoining this parish, which has been in the family from time immemorial.

On the south wall opposite is a monument to Sir George Fleetwood, son of Thomas Fleetwood above mentioned. The inscription is: "George Fleetwood, K<sup>nt.</sup>, and Dame Katharine his wife, daughter of Henry Denny, of Waltham, in the county of Essex. Sir George died 21st December, 1620. They had issue eight sonnes, viz., Arthur, Edward, Charles, George, Thomas, Henry, James, and William; and six daughters, viz., Sibill, Bridget, Ann, Elizabeth, Honoria, and Joyce. Dame Katharine Fleetwood departed this life the 9th March, 1634."

The third son, Charles, above mentioned, married Bridget, daughter of Oliver Cromwell, and widow of General Ireton, about 1653. He became Commander-in-Chief of the Parliamentary Armies, and died at Stoke Newington, 4th October, 1692, aged 74.

George Fleetwood, son of Charles, and grandson of the Sir George Fleetwood above named, was attainted of high treason at the Restoration, for having signed the death warrant of King Charles I. He thus lost the property of the Vache, and died in America, 1661.

King Charles II., to whom the estate reverted on the attainder, bestowed it upon his brother, James, Duke of York, who sold it in 1665 to Sir Thomas Clayton, M.D., Warden of Merton College, Oxford, and related by marriage to the Fleetwoods. He was the well known Justice Clayton, who was very severe upon the Quakers in this neighbourhood, who used to hold meetings in the hall of the Grove in this parish.

A memorial tablet recently placed in the east wall of the south aisle records that it was in this year, 1665, the Poet Milton sought refuge from the plague in London in a cottage in this village belonging to the Fleetwoods, which had been taken for him by his pupil and friend,

Thomas Ellwood, the Quaker. Ellwood had been living as tutor to the Peningtons at times at the Grange at Chalfont St. Peter, and at other times at Bottrells at Chalfont St. Giles, but when Milton arrived he found Ellwood had been sent to Aylesbury jail by Justice Clayton. It will be remembered how, upon his release, Ellwood visited Milton in the cottage and received from him the MS. of *Paradise Lost*, upon which the poet had been engaged, and returned it with the question why he had not spoken of *Paradise regained*, a suggestion upon which Milton afterwards stated that he immediately acted. Thomas Ellwood himself, with W. Penn, the Penningtons, and other Quakers, upon their deaths, were brought to this parish and buried at Jordans, which was secured by the Quakers for a burial place in 1671; the conveyance being from William Russell to Thomas Ellwood and others.

After a stormy career as Warden of Merton, stirring incidents in which are related by Anthony Wood, Sir Thomas Clayton died at the Vache, and was succeeded by his son and heir, James Clayton, whose very large tomb once stood in the south-east corner of the chancel, and was a conspicuous object in the church. It was, however, unhappily broken up when the chancel was restored in 1861, but portions of it may still be seen in the vestry, while two small statues of weeping boys, now placed in the south aisle, belonged to it. The slab now lies upon the ground on the spot where the tomb stood. The inscription is: "James Clayton, of the Vache in this parish, Lord of the Mannor of Chalfont St. Giles, in this County of Bucks, who dyed November the 28, 1714, in the 65 year of his age."

On his death, James Clayton left the estate to his wife, and she left it to her niece, Margaret Alston, eldest daughter of Joseph Alston, Esq., of Edwardstone. She married Dr. Francis Hare, Bishop of Chichester, and Dean of St. Paul's, and thus the property passed to the Hare family, several of whom, with the Bishop, are buried in a vault outside the south wall of the chancel, entered from the chancel.

Bishop Hare was chaplain to the great Duke of Marlborough, whom he accompanied to Blenheim and Ramillies. He died 26th April, 1740, and, as before

mentioned, is buried here. The south window of the chancel has been filled with modern stained glass to his memory, and on a slab placed against the south wall of the chancel, the names of the members of the family who are buried here are recorded, copied from the inscriptions on the coffins before the vaults were finally closed. They are as follows :—

In a vault beneath this stone lie the remains of the Rt. Reverend Dr. Francis Hare, Lord Bishop of Chichester and Dean of St. Paul's, ob. Ap. 26, 1740. *Æt.* 70 years.

Laurentia Hare, ob. Sept. 4, 1760. *Æt.* 31 years

Mrs. Sarah Hare, ob. Sep. 4, 1763. *Æt.* 29 years.

Harriet Hare, ob. Mar. 18, 1773. *Æt.* 4y. 3ms.

Emily Hare, ob. Feb. 3, 1776. *Æt.* 4ms. & 18 days.

Laurentia Hare, buried Mar. 8, Anno 1787.

Mrs. Margaret Hare, ob. Dec. 6, 1784. *Æt.* 83 years.

Robertus Hare, A.M., ob. Anno 1797. *Æt.* 67 years.

Sarah, wife of James Bulkeley, and daughter of the

Rev. R. Hare, ob. Nov. 12, 1810. *Æt.* 51 years.

Anna Maria Bulkeley, daughter of Colonel and Sarah

Bulkeley, ob. July 14, 1822. *Æt.* 24 years.

The Rev. Robert Hare, above named, succeeded to the property of the Vache on the death of his father, Bishop Hare, and held it 1740—1771. He was a Prebendary of Winchester. He gave the three almshouses to this parish, called the Church Houses, previously known as Dame Clayton's Almshouses.

In 1771 the Vache was sold by the Hares to Admiral Sir Hugh Palliser, Bart., whose monument stands against the north wall of the chancel. The inscription is as follows :—“Near this place are deposited the remains of Sir Hugh Palliser, Bart., of the Vache, in this parish, who formerly represented the Boroughs of Scarborough and Huntingdon in Parliament, was Comptroller of the Navy, one of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Lieut.-General of Marines, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Ships at Newfoundland, Governor of that Island, and died the 19th March, 1796, Admiral of the White Squadron, an Elder Brother of the Trinity House, Governor of Scarborough Castle, and of the Royal Hospital for Seamen at Greenwich, aged 74 years.”

This Admiral Palliser is notorious for his quarrel with Admiral Keppel, who, in consequence of Palliser's

accusation as to his conduct in the attack on the French fleet off Ushant, was tried by court-martial in 1779. The question was embittered by party feeling, as Keppel was in the Opposition, and it was thought that the Government were endeavouring to crush him. Keppel was defended by Erskine, and Burke, Fox, and Sheridan attended the trial, together with many illustrious persons. Admiral Palliser's charges were declared to be malicious and ill-founded, and Keppel was honourably acquitted; on which the mob, who sympathized with Keppel, tore down the Admiralty gates, gutted Sir H. Palliser's house in Pall Mall, and burnt the contents in St. James' Square.

Admiral Sir H. Palliser lived subsequently in some retirement at the Vache, where he erected a monument to Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, of whom he was the earliest patron and friend. This monument was visited, in 1865, by Queen Emma of the Sandwich Islands. Sir H. Palliser left a charity for the education and clothing of poor children in this parish, which still bears his name.

To preserve continuity we have adhered to the monuments of the owners of the Vache, the Lords of the Manor; and for the same reason it may here be stated that Admiral Sir H. Palliser left the Vache to his natural son, George, who in 1825 sold it to Thomas Allen, Esq., of Newlands, who removed to the Manor House at the Vache, and died in 1829, when he was succeeded by his only son, Thomas Newland Allen, Esq., the present owner.

We must not, however, omit to notice the achievements, one of which is of special interest, as it is of the year 1660. It is fixed to the north wall of the north aisle, and bears the following inscription:—

“Underneath this place lieth interred Katherine, ye 2<sup>nd</sup> daur. of Anthony Radcliffe, Esq<sup>r</sup>. of this Parish. Shee departed this transitory life, June 7, 1660, aged 21 years 6 month 3 da.

“From thy quick death conclude we must,  
The fairest flowers are gathered first.”

Amongst the more modern achievements is one of the Palliser family of the Vache:—*Party per pale sa.*



and arg., 3 lions rampant countercharged, the canton of Ulster-in-Chief. Crest—A demi-phoenix rising out of a ducal coronet. And another of the Saunders' family of Newlands, in Chalfont St. Peter:—Party per chevron sa. and arg., 3 elephants' heads erased, args. impaling several quarterings. Crest—A buck's head attired proper coupe at the neck.

One strange epitaph may, in conclusion, be recorded here. It is from the tombstone of Timothy Lovett, who died 20th day of December, 1728, and lies buried in the churchyard at the south-east corner of the church:

Italy and Spain,  
Germany and France,  
Have been on earth  
My weary dance.

So that I own,  
Ye grave's my greatest friend,  
That to my travels  
All has put an end.

It is not known who he was, but it has been suggested that he may have been a soldier.

In conclusion, to recapitulate, what a rich store of interest our parish possesses in the monuments of its little church, and how manifold and diverse the historical events to which they refer us! The old monastic work, with its rights and responsibilities, rises before us, and then the priest of the parish before the Reformation. The de la Vaches, the courtly favourites of the Edwards, tell us of their gifts from their Royal masters, and from Queen Isabel, and the Princess of Wales, the Fair Maid of Kent; while the hapless Lady Jane Grey, Queen Elizabeth, and the founder of the Charter House, are introduced to us by the Gardyners. Then come the Fleetwoods, and Oliver Cromwell and the regicides, and these in their turn give place to the Claytons, the persecutors of the Quakers and of the friends of Milton, as he takes refuge in our village, completing his "Paradise Lost" and commencing his "Paradise Regained," in one of our cottages, over which the Fleetwood arms may still be seen. Not in our churchyard, but in the near burying ground of Jordans in our parish, we are reminded by our Parish Register, where these same Quakers lie, Penn and Pennington, and Ellwood, with their families, in picturesque and appropriate seclusion—the ideal of the peace they sought. Then suddenly we are hurried to the scenes of the great Marlborough's victories, Blen-

heim and Ramillies, in the person of his chaplain, Bishop Hare; and onwards as suddenly to the political contests of the days of Burke and Fox and Sheridan, with the forensic powers of Erskine sending us Sir H. Palliser to live and die at Chalfont, till we end, strangely, with Captain Cook, and Queen Emma of the Sandwich Isles. Short and imperfect as such a statement must necessarily be, it helps us to realize what a library of history is condensed in the records of our parish church, and enforces the lesson of the need there is to preserve and prize such memorials of the past.

#### A LIST OF THE RECTORS OF CHALFONT ST. GILES.

(*Extracted, with additions, from Lipscomb's "Antiquities of Buckinghamshire."*)

William de Nevill was presented circ. 1217, by John Prior, of Bradwell Monastery.

William de Engleby, presented 1220.

William de Ingleham, presented in 1228, by William de Engleby, Rector Sc'i Ægidii de Chaufant, with consent of Patrons.

Simon de Mepham, resigned about 1266.

William de Gar, collated 9 June, 1266, by the Bishop of Lincoln. He died 1290, and was buried at Coringham, near Gainsboro', where he was Prebendary. He was also Archdeacon of Lincoln.

Robert de Pratellis, collated by the Bishop, 4 Dec., 1291.

William Winge, presented by the Bishop in 1320. He exchanged for Waldegrave Rectory, Co. Northampton, with Roger de Wenge.

Roger de Wenge, 1 Dec., 1339.

William de Houton, or Houghton, was collated 10 Sep. 1349, and exchanged for Woodhall Rectory with

Richard de Wynkyngeston, 6 July, 1355.

Alanus de Sudbury, succeeded circ. 1362. He exchanged for Chevening, in Kent, with

Richard de Evesdon, 8 Feb., 1366,

Matthew Edenham, collated 12 Nov., 1400, but exchanged for the Prebend of Bedford Moher, Lincolnshire (Willis MSS.), with

William Norton, 1401, who exchanged for Compton Rectory, Hants, with

John Caumpeden, 1 Dec., 1405, and occurs in 1418.

Thomas Donecan, resigned in 1449.

Robert Roke, admitted 10 Dec., 1449.

John Seymour, resigned in 1475.

John Veysey, collated 8 Oct., 1475. He exchanged for St. James Garlick-hithe, with

John Seymour, 28 July, 1488, died Canon of Windsor, 1550, and was buried there.

- Robert Wydowe, collated 18 Nov., 1493, died about 1505, Sub-Dean of Wells; was a famous grammarian and poet, and is celebrated by Leland.
- Thomas Sparke, LL.B., in 1508. He resigned in 1518.
- William Wilter, LL.D., collated 15 Feb., 1518.
- Richard Mabot, S.T.P., was collated 16 Oct., 1519. He exchanged for a Prebend in Lincoln with
- Thomas Stanly, who was collated in May, 1528, afterwards Bishop of Man. He resigned, and
- Thomas Westby was collated, Dec., 1529. He exchanged for Haydon Prebend, in Lincoln, with
- William Franklin, B.D., presented, according to Ant. Wood, by William Scotbold. He was a native of Bledlow, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, 15 Nov., 1540. In one account he is stated to have been Archdeacon of Durham in 1515, and to have been in 1536 promoted to the Deanery of Windsor about the same time that he became Rector of Chalfont St. Giles. He is said to have alienated the Manor of Iver from his Deanery, and to have been, in 1545, Master of St. Giles Hospital, at Kewyer, which, with the greater part of the revenues of Windsor, he surrendered into the King's hands, but in consequence of complaints thereupon preferred against him in 1553, he was compelled to quit his Deanery, though he kept his other ecclesiastical preferments, and dying circ. 1555, was buried obscurely at Chalfont.—(Willis' "History of Cathedrals," Vol. I., page 259.)
- Thomas Slytherst, collated 15th Feb., 1556, on the death of Franklin. He was the first President of Trinity College, Oxford, but deprived by Queen Elizabeth in 1559 of all his preferments.
- Richard Yardly, presented in 1559.
- Gregory Garth, collated 1562. He died in 1608, Chancellor of Lincoln Cathedral.
- Thomas Light, A.M., collated 17 June, 1585.
- Richard Smith, B.D., admitted 20 May, 1588, and occurs Rector, 1616. He was buried 11 May, 1625.
- Thomas Valentine, A.M., Chaplain of the Alms House at Watford, was collated in 1623 or 1624, and paid his first fruits for it in that year. He occurs Rector in 1650, when it was valued at £150. He was a famous Puritan Divine, author of "Christ's Counsell to Poore and Naked Soules, that they might be well Furnished with Pure Gold and Richly Clad with White Raiment," 4to, 1647; "Sermon to the House of Commons at their Fast," 4to, 1643. He was deprived in 1661 for Nonconformity (see "Canterbury's Doom,") and died circ. 1665.
- William Rolles, S.T.B. of Jesus College, Oxford, was instituted 8 Sep., 1662, on the Archbishop of Canterbury's presentation. At his death,
- John Hammond, S.T.P., Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, was instituted 14 May, 1701. He resigned, and
- Thomas Terry, S.T.P., Canon of Christ Church, Oxon, was

instituted 19 June, 1723, on the death of Dr. Hammond, on the Crown's presentation on the vacancy of the See of Lincoln. He was Greek Professor of the University of Oxford, and Chaplain-in-Ordinary to His Majesty. He was buried in the Cathedral Church of Oxford, 17 Sept., 1735.

Decimus Reynolds, A.M., was collated by the Bishop of Lincoln, and inducted 10 March, 1735. He held, by dispensation, the Vicarage of Aylesbury, and also the living of Clophill, Bedfordshire, where he was buried.

George Moore, A.B., was inducted 6 April, 1791. He was made Prebendary of Lincoln in Sept., 1793, and died 1814.

George Thomas Pretyma, A.B., was inducted 13 May, 1814, son of the Bishop of Lincoln.

Jacob Henry Brooke Mountain, A.M., 15 Dec., 1814, was instituted, but resigned at Lady Day, 1817.

George Thomas Pretyma, A.B., collated a second time, by his father, the Bishop of Lincoln, and inducted 21 June, 1817. He was also Chancellor and Canon Residentiary of Lincoln Cathedral, Prebendary of East Stoke, Rector of Wheat-hamstead, Herts, Vicar of Harpenden, Herts, Prebendary of Winchester, Perpetual Curate of Nettleham, etc. Being thus a Pluralist, he did not reside in this parish, and there was thus no resident Rector for forty-two years.

Charles Lloyd, A.M., collated 9 July, 1859, previously Rector of Great Hampden and Great Kimble, afterwards Hon. Canon of Christ Church, Oxon, and Chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford. He died 1883, and was buried at Chalfont.

Edward Barber, A.M., collated 1883. He had been Diocesan Inspector of Schools. He resigned in 1886, on appointment to be Archdeacon of Chester, Canon Residentiary of Chester Cathedral, and Rector of St. Bridget's, Chester.

Pownoll William Phipps, A.M., collated June, 1886. He was previously Vicar of Napton-on-the-Hill, Warwickshire, and Rector of Upton-cum-Chalvey, Bucks, 1873-86.

There were four Rectors from 1735 to 1859, and four Parish Clerks from 1703 to 1853.

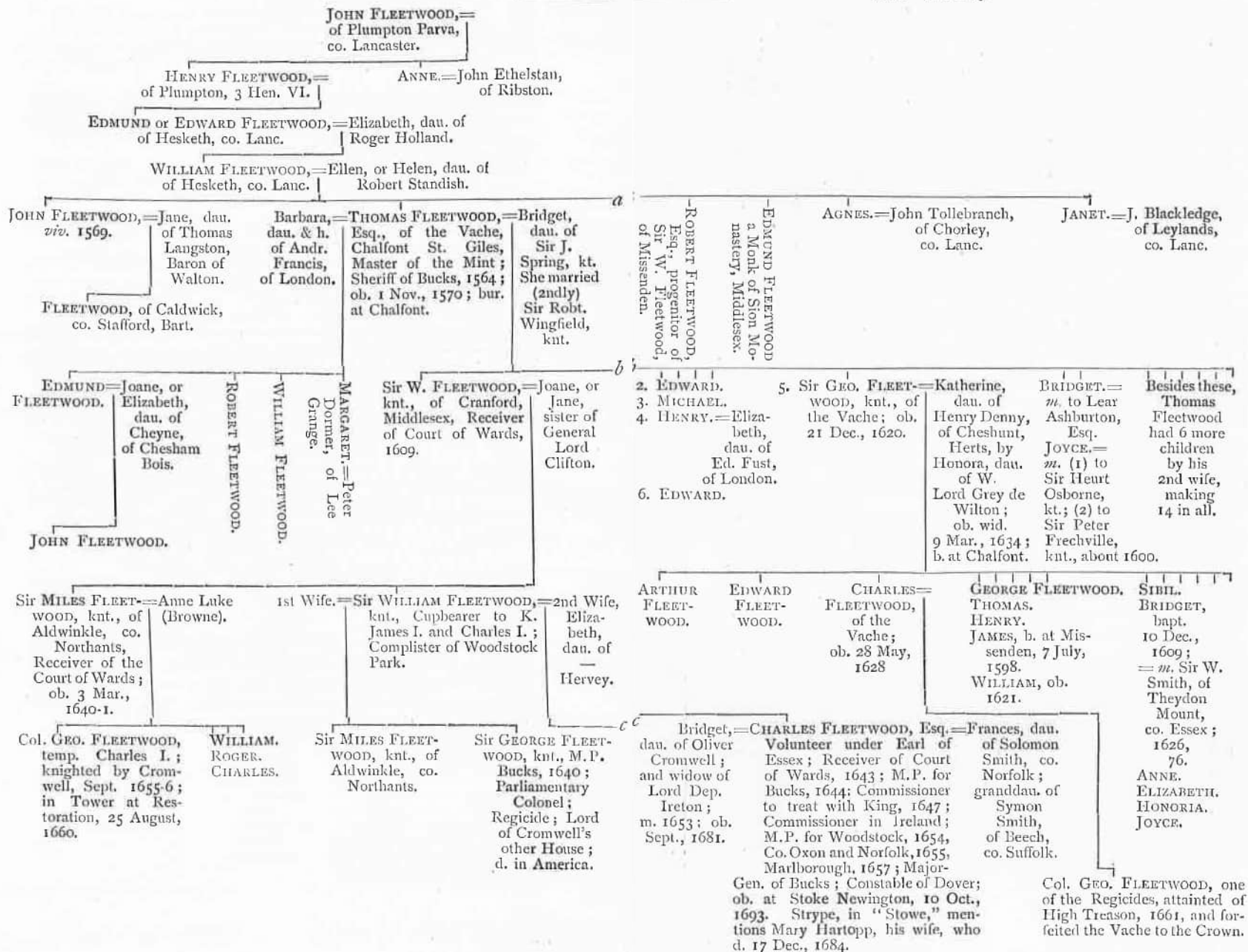
[NOTE.—I desire to express the obligations I am under to Mr. Samuel Sandars, of the Grove, Chalfont St. Giles, who not only placed at my disposal the information supplied by his valuable collections, but also himself kindly assisted in drawing up this paper.]

# PEDIGREE OF THE FLEETWOODS, OF THE VACHE, IN CHALFONT ST. GILES.

*From Harleian MSS., 1391 and 1533.*

ARMS.—Partly per pale nebule az and or, six martlets, 3 and 3 counter charged.

CREST.—A wolf trippant regardant or, vulned in shoulder, proper, erm. 2 bars wavy.—S. Barley.



PEDIGREE OF THE GARDYNERS OF THE GROVE, OR GROVE PLACE, CHALFONT  
ST. GILES. (*Harleian MSS., No. 1533. Herald's Visitations of Co. of Buckingham, 1575 & 1634.*)

ARMS OF GARDYNER.—Gu. a chevron or, between 3 griffins, heads erased, arg., a chief crenellé of the 2nd.  
CREST.—A griffin's head bendy, or, and azure, impaling grove, erm. on a chevron gules, 3 escallops, argent.

