

MATERIALS FOR THE HISTORY OF
THE PARISH OF CLIFTON REYNES, BUCKS.

By JOHN L. MYRES.

THE materials which follow, for a fuller history of Clifton Reynes, were collected in the first instance to illustrate the fabric and monuments of the Church, at the Annual Excursion of 1890, but have been now much amplified in detail, with the special object of supplementing the elaborate but very imperfect account of Lipscomb ("History of Buckinghamshire," Part vii. (large paper), pp. 99 to 121), and of furnishing an independent outline, by which his statements may in some degree be checked. The most important errors of that History will be noticed under the proper heads; but, as Lipscomb's work is fairly accessible, it has not seemed worth while to multiply statements of the facts for which he gives his authority, when the space may be better filled with new evidence in departments which he ignores altogether.

The most important independent History of Clifton is a manuscript in the possession of the Rector, of which the dedication is as follows :—

TO THE REVEREND WILLIAM TALBOT, A.M., RECTOR OF
CLIFTON REYNES.

"HAVERSHAM RECTORY,
"28th November, 1821.

"DEAR SIR,—I have at length sent you the long promised account of the Parish over which you preside. The descents of the two Manors in Clifton you may rely on as being correct. I have personally consulted the public Records of the Realm as far as they throw any light on the history of Clifton to the end of the 13th century, and from that period MSS., deemed authentic, have been chiefly relied on. I could have added more particulars of the owners of these estates, but should then have exceeded the limits of this little volume. If I might presume to request of you a favour for the book, I would ask that, instead of considering it a private chattel, you would permit it to go down to future Rectors of Clifton Reynes, with the Registers of the Parish. But that this period may be far distant is amongst the nearest wishes of—Your obliged Friend and Servant, EDWARD COOKE."

This account was used by Lipscomb, and is often quoted verbally in the "History of Buckinghamshire." It contains (1) a general sketch of the Parish in 1821; (2) an account of the Reynes Manor, and (3) of Wake's Manor; (4) of the (foundation of the) Church, (5) the Advowson, (6) the Fabric, (7) the Rectory, (8) the Rector (endowment and privileges); and (9, 10) a list of Rectors, and a statement of Charities, which are incorporated by Lipscomb entire; with, here and there, a few notes in the handwriting of the Rector, the Rev. W. Talbot. This authority will be quoted hereafter as the "Cooke MS." It has been twice reprinted; in the "Portfolio," Vol. ii, pp. 35 to 38 (London, 1823), and again with additions up to date, by the present Rector, as a small 8vo pamphlet of 23 pages (Brighton: Eyles and Son, 1883), of which only 200 copies were printed, and sold in aid of the church restoration of that year. A printed schedule, filled up by the same Rector in 1826, and preserved among the parish documents of Clifton, gives some additional particulars, and promises that "a more full and complete historical account of the Parish of Clifton Reynes, than can be comprised in this paper, shall be transmitted to his Grace the Duke of Buckingham at as early a period as possible." But no further clue to the existence or whereabouts of this document has been found; nor to the fate of Edward Cooke's collections, from which his MS. was compiled.

Of the other documents of importance in the Church Chest of Clifton, mention will be made hereafter in detail; they are quite unusually numerous, but there is nothing earlier than 1653, when the extant Registers begin.

* "Clifton Reynes is situated in the northern part of the County of Buckingham, about a mile eastward from Olney. It derives its name of Clifton from the hill or cliff on the east bank of the Ouse, on which it stands, and had the distinctive appellation of Reynes from a family of that name, who held the principal manor from the time of Edward the First to that of Henry the Eighth. The parish consists partly of old inclosures, which now

* This, and other paragraphs thus marked, are printed from the Cooke MS.

(1821) chiefly belong to Richard Hurd Lucas, Esquire, in right of his wife, and partly of open fields, which now chiefly belong to Charles Higgins, Esquire, of Turvey, in the County of Bedford. The whole parish was assessed to the Property Tax in 1815, at an annual value of £1872. The population was returned to the Bishop of Lincoln in 1712 as consisting of 200 souls; at the enumeration taken in 1801, it consisted of 221 persons; at that taken in 1811 of 238; in 1821 of 230; in 1831 of 247; and in 1881 of only 181 persons.

* "Clifton Reynes is bounded on the north by the river Ouse, which separates it from Lavendon and Brayfield; on the east, by Newton Blossomville; on the south, by Petso (now depopulated) and Emberton; and on the west, by the river Ouse, separating it from Emberton and Olney; and, according to the civil divisions of the County of Buckingham, it is reckoned in the Hundreds of Newport. In the time of Edward the Confessor, Osulf, a Thane of that king, held a manor in Clifton (which at that time, as well as the time of the Conqueror's survey, included Newton Blossomville). Alli, another Thane of the same king, held also a manor here, and smaller portions of land were held by Alric Fitz-Goding, and the tenants of Wulvi, Bishop of Dorchester. The manor and lands which had belonged to Osulf were given by King William the Conqueror to Robert de Todeni, one of the companions of his expedition into England. The manor and lands which had belonged to Alli were at the same time given to Geoffry, Bishop of Constance (or Coutance), in Normandy; and the lands of Alric were given to the Conqueror's niece, Judith, Countess of Huntingdon. Wulvi's lands were shared between the Bishop of Constance and the Countess (see Domesday Book). The manor of Robert de Todeni was the principal manor in Clifton, and was afterwards called **Reynes Manor**. The manor of the Bishop of Constance became Wake's Manor. The lands of the Countess were in Newton Blossomville, and will be no further noticed in this account of Clifton."

The last paragraph is followed in the Cooke MS. by a very full account of the Reynes Manor and Wake's Manor. The former is elaborately, and, on the whole, accurately discussed by Lipscomb; the latter meagrely

and badly. The writer hopes to be able shortly to put together a satisfactory account of the Wake family and manor, but it would be too long to be included in the present paper.

There were no chapels or meeting-houses in the parish in 1826; nor are there now; nor any abbatical or monastical remains (Rev. W. Talbot's Schedule).

"Belonging to the Parish Church of Clifton Reynes is the undermentioned land, the rent whereof is yearly received by the churchwardens and expended about the repairs or ornaments of it, and other charges belonging to their office, viz.:—" (here follows a specification of the land.) (Terrier of 1812.)

"The maintenance of a bull and boar is at the charge of John Higgins, Esq." (Terrier of 1812), and of the Earl of Peterborough (1706 and 1724); it was therefore a charge upon the Wake Manor.

Clifton Reynes has the unusual fortune to possess two dovecotes. The largest, standing in Dovehouse Close, behind the Wake Manor House (numbered 90 in the Tithe Award), in the property of Queen's College, Oxford, has been allowed to fall into decay, and has collapsed; it was of stone, about twenty feet square at the base, and had a small door in the middle of the side away from the farm house. The other is still standing (in field No. 74) and is tenanted by pigeons, though it is in bad repair. It is round, and somewhat conical, built, like the former, of local Cornbrash rubble, with a low conical thatched roof: the door is very small, and set below the ground level. It is now in the possession of Mr. Thomas Wright, Master of Cowper School, Olney, who writes that the earliest deed in his possession is dated 1752, and describes the dovecote as situated, "in that close or pightle called Dovehouse pightle." The cottages round it were built after 1812. The right of erecting and keeping dovecotes was in England formerly a privilege of manors, and was rigorously protected by law; it is probable, therefore, that the round dovecote was the appendage of the estate on which it was built, namely, the Reynes Manor; and the square one similarly of the Wake Manor.

There was formerly a dovecote in Olney*, attached

* Wright "Town of Cowper," pp. 270 & 271.

to the reputed Manor House of Dagnell, which was situated on the north side of Dagnell Street (now Weston Road), where it abuts on the High Street; and another at Astwoodbury, which also "long survived the old mansion." The poet Cowper had leave to help himself as he pleased to the pigeons of Mr. Throckmorton's Dovehouse at Weston Underwood.

In the same Close with the square dovehouse is a shallow trench enclosing three sides of a square. Within the memory of man it was a path sheltered by shrubberies, belonging to the rector, and called the Parson's Walk; but very little is known of its history. There are other irregular hollows in the further part of the field, but it would be unsafe to give any explanation of them at present.

The parish church of Clifton Reynes stands at the west end of the village, on the brow of the high ground overlooking Olney and the Ouse. It consists of a chancel with the Reynes chapel or chancel on the north side; nave with north and south aisles; south porch, and western tower. The earliest part of the church is the south aisle, with its porch, which is of massive Early English work. The porch is entered by three steps downward, under a roughly chamfered arch; it has stone benches, and opens into the church by an arch with shallow, perhaps later, jamb mouldings, with a further descent of three steps. This corner of the buildings must always have been some feet below the ground level, for it fronts the slope of the ground, which is towards the north east; so that whereas the nave floor at the porch is six steps down, it is only three steps down from the chancel door. The east and south eastern parts of the aisle have been rebuilt,* but between the porch and the tower the original wall is intact; it contains one southward and one westward lancet, with narrow lights, and widely splayed through the thick wall. It has been suggested that this aisle was the nave of the first church of Clifton, that the Early Decorated window at its east end was the east window of the church, and that the very rude cubical piscina near it, chamfered like the arch

* Perhaps more than once, for there are tombstones in the foundations of the S.E. angle.



G. F. Tugwell del.

of the porch, is of the same age. But the comparative size of the porch, and the absence of any distinct trace of a gable on the west wall, make the theory very doubtful; whereas the entire disappearance of the remainder of a larger building is amply accounted for by the repeated demolition of the nave; and the early piscina may very well have belonged to a Manorial Chapel in the south aisle.

The next addition which can be traced is the east window of this aisle, above mentioned, of three lights of the interlaced type of Decorated tracery, quite simply executed.

Rather earlier than the period of the great Northamptonshire Churches, fine specimens of which remain so far south as Olney and Milton Keynes, a church was built at Clifton by a good Decorated architect. Probably we may connect this event with the transference of the Borard Manor of Clifton to Thomas Reynes, of Statherne in Leicestershire, by his marriage with Joan, sister and heiress of Robert Borard, who is recorded as Lord of Clifton in 1293 and 1296. It consisted of chancel, nave and tower, with manorial chancel or chapel, and nave aisle on the north, and incorporated part of the earlier building on the south side.

Of this church the two chancels and the tower remain. The north aisle has been entirely rebuilt, and the only remains of the nave are the bases of the piers of the tower arch, sadly battered, but still contrasting strongly, by their fine rounded mouldings, with the shallow grooving and angular outline of the piers and bases of the present nave arcades.

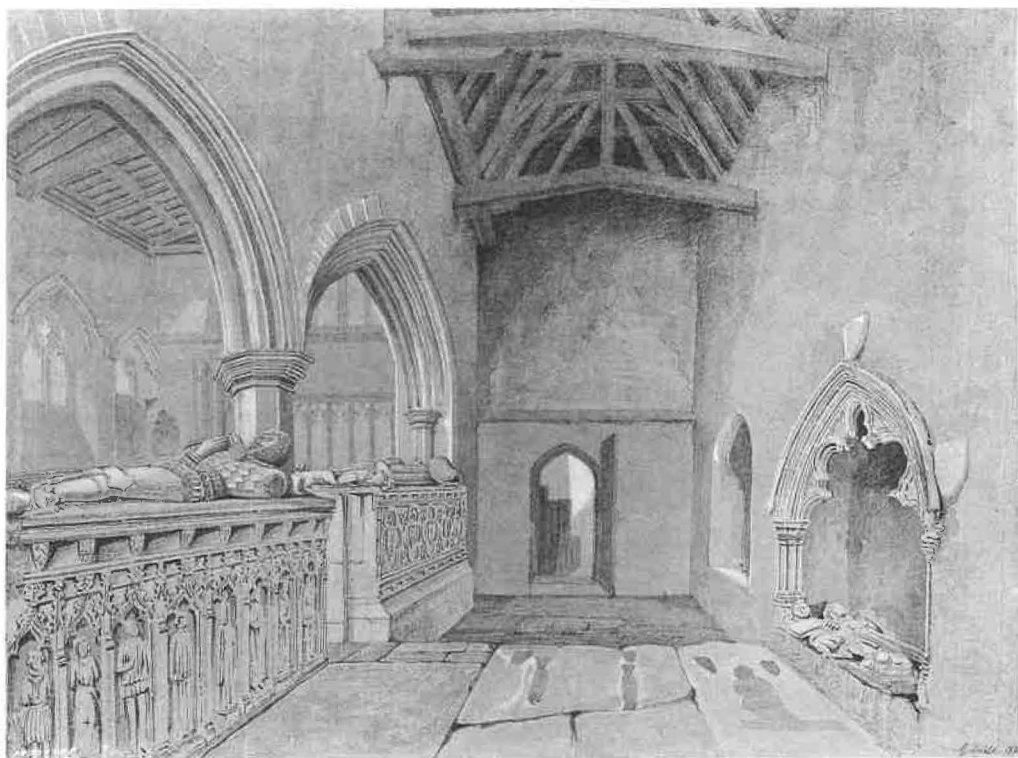
The chancel has on the south side two two-light Decorated windows and a priest's door, with a descent of three steps, of which only the uppermost is a later addition. Under the eastern of the two south windows are a piscina and three graduated sedilia, very like those at Olney and in the south aisle of Turvey Church close by. The arcade above them is very fine, but has been much mutilated, for a whole column is marked as missing in Mr. Tarver's fabric plans, and the cusps and brackets restored in 1883 have, very wisely, been left unwrought for the present. Of the three original bracket-heads which remain, the westernmost appears to be of Purbeck marble; but in its

present unpolished state it is difficult to be certain of the point. The other two, the first and second from the east, are of local materials. The only other Gothic ornamental stones in the church are the Purbeck slabs of the brasses in the Reynes Chapel, for the stone effigy is not of alabaster, as Cooke states, but of admirable Totternhoe stone.* North of the east window are two square brackets in the east wall, one just above, the other well below the string course which follows the window sills. The lower bracket is set a little south of the upper, and both are very rudely executed. They probably supported a statue of the Virgin, to whom the church is dedicated, and a lighted lamp, for the maintenance of which an annual sum of money was formerly assigned.

The Reynes Chapel was built as the mausoleum of the family which held the principal manor from 1296 to 1556, and gave its name to the village. Such manorial chapels or chancels are not uncommon, as, for example, at Whaddon, of about the same date; at Bakewell, in a transept aisle; at Diddington, Hunts, and, at Marlow, the Impropiator's chancel of the old church; and the aisle chapels were frequently devoted to the same purposes: for instance, here the Wake Manor carried with it a seat in the east end of the south aisle even in this century, a right which certainly represents a more exclusive appropriation before the Reformation. But very few such buildings contain a series of monuments comparable with this at Clifton Reynes.

The east wall has been somewhat roughly rebuilt quite out of line with the rest of the building (see the fabric plans of 1883), so as to face somewhat north of east, and contains only a two-light window inserted perhaps as late as 1801. On the north side of the chapel there are no windows, but an Early Decorated tomb canopy with three blank shields; the tomb slab has disappeared, and the recess now contains the earlier of the pairs of wooden effigies, which will be described in detail later. There are traces in the same wall, further west, of another recess, which is indicated more clearly in the drawing reproduced

* Cooke's mistake is perhaps accounted for by the fact that he saw the effigies through a coat of whitewash which was not removed till 1845.



opposite. In the same sketch, made in 1837, there appears a rood screen, completely filling the chancel arch. This was taken down soon after and has completely disappeared, unless the wooden bracket on the eastward face of the southern spring of the arch was one of its supports on that side. From the recollections of an old inhabitant, it appears that the lower part was an oaken arcade-screen of the usual type of Perpendicular workmanship, surmounted by a plain and much later partition, carrying a board, on which the Lord's Prayer was painted. There was no trace of a rood-loft, and if a rood-stair ever existed in connection with a former screen, it was not replaced when the present Perpendicular nave was built. The fine Perpendicular screen at Maids Moreton is similarly unprovided with a rood-stair.

The Reynes Chapel is now cut off from the north aisle by a late partition, traversed by a small door, and probably built in 1801. But the mouldings of the first nave column are continued right round under the blocked arch, which should certainly be thrown open at the first opportunity.

This arch, like that of the chancel, was formerly filled by a similar wooden screen, to which we may attribute the wooden door and frame now in the west wall of the north aisle, built in 1801.

The nave, as before mentioned, replaces a Decorated structure, and is of rather late Perpendicular work. It is markedly narrower than the chancel, a feature which, combined with its great height of thirty-one feet, has a very striking effect. It is of three bays, and is separated from the aisles by an arcade of slender columns of octagonal type with shallow mouldings and angular bases and capitals. The chancel and tower arches are of the same pattern, and also that between the Reynes Chapel and north aisle; so that we may presume that the latter was largely remodelled at the same time. That it was not entirely altered may be inferred from the fact that the present windows, of 1801, are pointed, and represent Decorated work. The architects of that period already began to appreciate Gothic forms, and flat-headed Perpendicular windows, like that in the south aisle, would have been replaced by square-headed openings in 1801. There are also indications that Decorated masonry has

been worked up again in the restoration. Whether the arches between the chancel and Reynes Chapel are of the same date is a question of some difficulty; the type of moulding is similar, but the proportions are different, and apparently the material is not quite the same. The clerestory is very lofty, and presents indications of some modification of the design; it has an east window of two lights over the chancel arch, round which may be traced, outside, the outline of a lower high pitched gable, referable to the old Decorated nave. The north and south clerestory windows are only four in number, two on each side, set over the columns, not the arches, of the nave arcade. Between the middle and western arch on the south side is a small square moulded recess in the spandrel, with sockets for two vertical and horizontal bars, as though it had been closed by a grating. Its purpose is quite unknown. The embattled parapets of the nave, chancel, and south aisle are all of the same date,* and are supported by a series of well wrought corbels. About the time when the nave was rebuilt, a three-light flat-headed window was inserted in the south aisle, and a large hagioscope in the southern jamb of the new chancel arch. Close to the hagioscope is a one-light cinquefoiled priest's window in the chancel, with a "low side window" below it, separated by a stone transom. Both of these openings are now filled with fragments of Decorated glass, chiefly white, with foliage, grotesques, and inscriptions in enamel and yellow stain; one fragment of brown glass has **S E D M** in Lombardic capitals; and another is a figure of a bishop in yellow stained white glass, nearly perfect, and very elegantly done.

This glass, and some other fragments in the eastern clerestory window, is said to have been brought from Emberton.

The other clerestory windows were formerly filled with heraldic glass, recording the alliances of the family of Reynes, down to the Booth marriage in the sixteenth century; but only one Reynes coat and a few fragments remain. Lipscomb gives a full and self-contradictory list

* Originally; but the parapets of the chancel were new at the restoration, 1833.

of the lost devices, which do not, however, add much to our knowledge of the family history.

In the west wall of the Tower, at about the height of the clerestory windows, is a plain round-headed opening, blocked now on the belfry side; flush with the nave plaster, and open towards the belfry in 1834; but no doubt originally open in both directions and intended as a Sanctus belfry. Indeed, even into this century the "Saints' Bell" lay there with its fittings; but about 1830 it fell "by accident" into the nave, and the ringers took up the pieces, sold them at Olney Fair, and got drunk with the proceeds. The parish, however, refused to prosecute, for some of the ringers were married men, and their families would have been "upon the rates" in case of a conviction.

The other bells are five in number, re-cast out of three in 1690—as the six at Olney were, somewhat later, out of four. Numerous entries respecting them occur in the churchwardens' accounts; for these and other details, reference should be made to the full account in Mr. A. H. Cocks' forthcoming monograph.

To continue the history of the fabric after the Reformation. The nave roof appears to have been repaired and releaded in 1775; the present roof is of oak of a dark colour, and bears recent symbolic shields in colours on its brackets; these were painted by Mr. Evetts in 1845.

The chancel roof has been repeatedly patched and lowered; its condition in 1882, and the questions which arise from this, are discussed in the following paragraphs of the architect's report:—

"The outer roofs of the two chancels are steep-pitched and tiled, the Reynes chancel having a flat plain-plastered ceiling beneath, and the main chancel having an inner sloping roof divided up into plastered panels by oak ribs and principals, which are evidently ancient.

"There are tie-beams under these principals which, at first sight, appear to be of the same date; but the westernmost one is fourteen inches below the apex of the chancel arch, a mistake which would never have been committed by the builders of the ancient roof.

"How can such an unsightly misfit be accounted for?

"A visit to the space between the inner and outer roofs explains all.

"Over the chancel arch there is a regular set back of three

inches in the masonry across the western wall shewing exactly the pitch of the ancient roof, the apex of which was two feet four inches above the present apex, so that it rose clear above the chancel arch.

"The feet of the roof timbers had probably become decayed, and had to be cut off. The result is by no means uncommon. These shortened timbers, having to cover the same space as before, were re-laid at the lower pitch that we now see, and the old 'principals,' not being up to their work, were assisted by the insertion of tie beams beneath them, which also steadied the side walls that are said to have fallen into decay.

"These tie beams have all the appearance of age, but may have been simply brought here from some other part of the church when the alteration was made.

"The ancient roof had undoubtedly been covered with lead; why, therefore, was not this lead re-laid upon it?

"The answer, probably, is that it was found cheaper to sell the lead, and with the proceeds erect the present tiled roof."^{*}

Hitherto almost no mention has been made of the north aisle, for its previous history was almost entirely obliterated by its complete reconstruction in 1801. The two windows and north door, perhaps, give a clue to its former appearance; but the door is meaningless, and the windows, though arched, have quadrangular wooden frame tracery and square glazing. It appears to have been fitted with square pews, one of which, near the east partition wall, was reserved to the Small family, after the floor of the Reynes Chapel had been disturbed to make the Small vault. This pew passed with the manor to Mr. Robinson, and is shown in the fabric plan of 1882. Another family pew, attached, as above-mentioned, to the Wake Manor, stood in the east angle of the south aisle.

Before this century the sedilia, priest's window, and hagioscope had been blocked and mutilated; a column is missing from the former in the plans of 1882, and the Reynes monuments, wood and stone alike, had been repeatedly whitewashed. Some time before 1830 a plaster ceiling was put in below the open roof of the Reynes Chapel, perhaps in 1826, when the Reynes Chapel was repaired by Mr. Lucas, and the Chancel by the Rector, Rev. William Talbot. The nave must have been attacked some years later, for there are payments

^{*} "Report on the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Clifton Reynes," by Edward J. Tarver, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., Nov. 18, 1882.

for carting sand and stone in the parish accounts of 1829, and two large bills are discharged: £100, "pd. Mr. Herbert for repairing the church," and "Mr. Brooke's Account" £120 1s. 6d. There is also a payment of £4 17s. 6d. for repairing the weathercock (25th Jan., 1839).

In the year 1845, the Rev. Thomas Evetts, now Rector of Monks Risborough, was appointed Curate-in-charge of Clifton Reynes, and during his residence here reseated the church and effected many improvements. He cleaned the effigies with admirable care, and inserted some coloured glass in the window heads of the south aisle. He also enlarged the rectory house and built a national schoolroom.

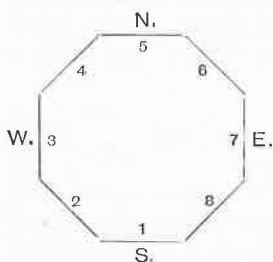
In the winter of 1859-60, there is an account of £151 6s. 9d. for stone, but no further details. In 1862 a harmonium appears, and a new stove in 1876. But before 1883 the church had already fallen again into disrepair, and in that year a very careful restoration was begun; under the direction of Edward J. Tarver, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., whose report on the fabric is full of valuable material, and has been already alluded to; and with the personal supervision of the present Rector.

The east window has been filled with stained glass, depicting the Three Maries, executed by Messrs. Heaton, Butler, and Bayne, presented to the church by Mrs. Thos. Revis.

The interior of the building has been as elaborately painted as is usual; but very few traces remain, and nothing at all intelligible. The westward cusped arch of the hagioscope shows a good deal of the usual chocolate tint, and the same can be detected in several other places. Over the chancel arch is the ghost of a large fresco, which tradition records to have been a "Procession of Crusaders"; its extension beyond the line of the old gable, traceable from outside, and the character of its tints, prove it to be not older than the present nave. Sheaham notices some "texts on scrolls" upon the walls; they were painted on zinc in 1845, under Mr. Evetts; but nothing remains of these, for the chancel and Reynes chancel were stripped to the rubble in 1883, and the nave and aisles were replastered at the same time. There is a later ornamented dado in the baptistery, but

it is already much disfigured by the damp. Mr. Kelke* believed that at least the escutcheons on the Reynes monuments were completed in heraldic colour. I can see no trace of it; but if such colouring ever existed, it would hardly have withstood the removal of the white-wash in 1845.

The font is of very fine Perpendicular workmanship, and apparently by the same hand as the tomb of Sir John Reynes. It is octagonal, with panelled stem, and reliefs on the sides of the bowl. The figures represent: (1) the



Trinity, supported by (2) St. Peter and (8) St. Paul; opposite is St. Mary the Virgin, the patroness of the Church, (5), with St. Margaret, apparently, (4), and St. Catherine (6); on the remaining sides are St. Mary Magdalene (3) and St. Michael (7). The font stood under the tower arch before the restoration of 1883 (*vide* plans), but is

now placed in the western part of the south aisle, which was cleared of the seats, and serves as a baptistery; the representation of the Trinity now faces the south; in its original position it must have been set either eastward or westward, and probably the latter. An elaborate pyramidal canopy is suspended above the font; it was presented by Mr. Evetts, in 1845.

The communion plate includes a chalice of beaten silver 6 inches high, $3\frac{3}{4}$ across the brim, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ across the foot, with a bowl $4\frac{1}{16}$ deep. Its weight is 6.65 oz. av. It has no ornament whatever, but bears upon the brim the plate marks: (1) The maker's mark; (2) a leopard's head crowned; (3) a lion passant; (4) a small black letter p, for 1692. (3) is repeated inside the foot of the cup. The paten, also of silver, is circular, $4\frac{1}{16}$ inches over all, with a rim an inch broad, and foot $\frac{1}{2}$ high. Both foot and rim are ornamented with turned lines on both sides. Its weight is 3.85 oz. av., and it has the same maker's mark as the chalice.

* See the paper quoted under the next head.

There is also an old alms-basin of beaten pewter, imperfectly stamped with a heraldic device and maker's mark ; on an escutcheon per chevron engrailed azure and argent (? ermine), three griffins' heads erased. Above is a shell ornament, and below the word LONDON, in Roman capitals, on a scroll.

A plated flagon and plate were presented by the Rev. William Talbot, Rector of Clifton, between 1805 and 1832.

THE REYNES MONUMENTS.

The monuments in the Reynes Chancel have all been referred to the family whose name it bears ; but one at least is certainly of earlier date than their first connection with Clifton. They are five in number : two pairs of oaken effigies, a pair of stone effigies, and two Purbeck marble slabs, with brasses. The former have been already so admirably described by Rev. W. Hastings Kelke* ["Archæological Journal," vol. xi. (1854), pp. 149-156], that it is unnecessary to do more than summarise his arguments with a few criticisms of some of the points in detail.

1. The earlier pair of wooden monuments lies in the recess above mentioned, in the north wall of the Reynes chancel. Mr. Kelke attributes it, justly, to Simon Borard, who died shortly before 1267, and Margaret, his wife, daughter of Sir Asceline Sydenham, of Titchmerch, by whom he became possessed of part of that manor. He held the Manor of Clifton, and was the father-in-law of Thomas Reynes, of Statherne, to whom the property came from him indirectly in 1296. Mr. Kelke infers that Simon Borard built the "Decorated" parts of Clifton church ; but the effigies are almost certainly not in their original position, and are very probably older than the chancel, which has been already ascribed in this paper to the early part of the Reynes period, that is, after 1296.

* A short account of the wooden effigies, with the same woodcuts, was also written by Mr. Kelke for the Bucks Archæological Society.—RECORDS OF BUCKS, iii. pp. 11 and 12.

2. The second pair of effigies lies on an altar tomb under the western of the two arches which separate the Chancel and Reynes Chapel. It is probable that the stone tomb is of the same date as the figures which rest upon it, so that the shields upon it may be taken as evidence in assigning names to them. These shields are as follows :— On the north side, from left to right, (1) Three arches (for Seyton, according to Kelke; perhaps Chamberlain); (2) a chevron chequy between three escallops; (3) a chevron between three escallops, impaling (4)*; (4) chequy, or and azure, a canton ermine (Reynes); (5) two lions passant, a label of three points for difference.

On the south, also from left to right, (1) Eleven bezants, a canton ermine (Zouch); (2) a saltire engrailed (Tyringham) impaling Reynes; (3) ermine, on a fess three crosses fleury† (Brisley, according to Kelke); (4) three bucks trippant (Green); (5) (argent)‡, a cross engrailed (gules,‡ Drayton).

Chamberlain of Petso, and Tyringham of Tyringham, were neighbouring families, and are known to have married into the Reynes family, just as Reynes marries here into them. Amabel, daughter to Sir Henry Green, of Broughton, was the first wife of Ralph de Reynes (who died before 1310), and brought the arms of Drayton (perhaps Vere of Drayton) through her mother.

On the east end of this tomb are three double roses of ten petals each, one above the other, in low relief, and not quite in the middle of the end. No explanation has been suggested yet of the *raison d'être* of this ornament in this position.

3. A stone altar tomb with recumbent effigies of a knight and his lady, dated, by the armour, and the architectural detail, about 1400, and certainly to be ascribed to Sir John Reynes, who died in 1428, and his first wife, Catharine Scudamore, whose arms appear on one of the shields in the cornice. The remaining fifteen shields, however, raise so many problems that further considera-

* It has been suggested that the bearings of 2 and 3 are the same coat; chequy being omitted on the smaller chevron.

† So Kelke; but they may be cross-crosslets.

‡ The tinctures in brackets are supplied from the Mordaunt arms on the monuments in Turvey Church, Beds.

tion of this monument is postponed for the present. There is a good account of it in Mr. Kelke's paper.

4. A floor slab of Purbeck marble, with a brass effigy, inscription, and four shields, close to the north wall of the chapel, and partly thrust under the low stone bench in the recess, on which the earlier wooden effigies rest.*

It is thus described in "Haines' Manual of Monumental Brasses," part ii. :—

"Sir John Reynes, 1428. Legs lost."

The figure in armour represents a knight of the Lancastrian period (1399–1461), when for the first time all-plate armour came into use. On this effigy, except perhaps under the arms, there are no signs of mail at all.

He wears a nearly circular helmet, ornamented over the forehead; the former pointed ones (such as that on the earlier stone effigy of the same Sir John) having by this time gone quite out of use. Below it is the gorget which replaces the camail of chain, or banded mail, and is somewhat shorter, and necessitates a greater number of plates to form the epaulières, which in this case consist of as many as seven plates overlapping each other. Roundels are still worn over the armpits. The cotes at the elbows are as usual fan-shaped. The gauntlets are ornamented similarly to the helmet. The waist is very small, and the beginning of the narrow sword belt, ornamented with quatrefoils, may be seen crossing the hip in a transverse direction. Unfortunately the rest of the figure is lost down to the feet, except the lower portion of the right leg, which remains. But it would very easily be restored from the matrix which remains. There are distinct traces of a long dagger hilt projecting upwards and outwards from the right hip.

The pointed feet rest upon the back of a lion, and

* The description given above of monuments (4) and (5) is very largely from the pen of Mr. R. H. Russell, ex-President of the Cambridge University Brass Collectors' Society. Mr. Russell adds :—"The arms at the four corners are Reynes, from which we may infer that Sir John was never married," but there is very little doubt that the Sir John who died in 1427 was three times married. (See the genealogy of Reynes in Cooke, & Lipscomb.) His only son, John, however, who was born in 1427, died unmarried, in 1451.

altogether the figure is most elegantly drawn, and is an admirable example of the work of the period.

The inscription, correctly given by Lipscomb, is as follows:—

Hic iacet Joh^{es} Reynes Miles qui obiit x^o die
 Marcij Anno | dⁿⁱ Millimo CCCC^o xxiij^o Cuius
 a^{te} p^{ro}picietur deus Amen.

5. The fifth extant monument, in point of date, is a slab of Purbeck marble, with brasses, in the middle of the chapel. It is thus described in Haines:—

“A man and wife, c. 1500, in shrouds, inscription lost. Perhaps John Reynes and second wife, Agnes, dau. of John Tyringham, Esq.”

These two shrouded figures have unfortunately lost their inscription. But to judge from the arms, which impale those of Tyringham, they represent members of the Reynes family. Cooke assigns them to Thomas Reynes, who died between 1330 and 1353, and who married a Tyringham; but the arms are impaled as if a daughter of Reynes had married into the family of Tyringham, and the workmanship indicates a much later date. The effigies represent a man and a woman, presumably his wife. The shrouds are tied in a bunch above the head, and below the feet, being sufficiently opened to display the head, waist, and hands of the figures, and again to show the feet. John Reynes, to whom Haines assigns the monument, presented to Clifton in 1498, but died before 1509.

6. Lipscomb mentions that “in the middle of the pavement,” of the north aisle, apparently, “is an ancient stone which has been deprived of its brasses, and another in the middle of the chancel.” This was probably written after 1832, for Rev. Harry Alexander Small, who was instituted in that year, is described as “the present incumbent.” But the schedule filled in by Mr. Talbot, and dated July 4, 1826, describes a slab with two female figures; and Cooke, compiling his account in 1821, says:—“If a conjecture be allowed to be formed from the costume of two female figures in brass yet

remaining in the *north chancel* of Clifton, they are two of the wives of this John Reynes," the original of monuments (4) and (5), "*for the costume is the same which was worn by married women in the reign of Henry VI.*" (1422—1461.)

It would be comical to refer this description to the two shrouded figures of (5), especially as the left-hand one of them is certainly male, and one of them by birth a Tyringham; and Cooke himself assigns that monument to Thomas Reynes, the grandfather of this John.

It is most reasonable then to assume that Cooke saw and described a monument of which only the slab remained in Lipscomb's time, and of which no traces or reminiscences have been recovered hitherto; and if so, we may accept at least his very definite description, if not also the inference which he has drawn from it. It will follow also that the stone monument (3) of Sir John Reynes was completed after the death of his first wife, who is alone commemorated upon it, and of whom no other monument remains. Moreover, the stone effigy of Sir John wears a pointed helmet, while the brass of 1427, as Mr. Russell points out, has the round-topped one of a somewhat later period.

The later monuments to members of the family of Nicoll, Pryor, Pepys, Underwood, Small, and others have been sufficiently described by Lipscomb.

* "The rectory was valued in the taxation made by order of Pope Nicholas in 1291 (19. E. I.) at £8 13s. 4d. per annum; and in that record no lands in Clifton are noticed as the property of any religious house whatever. In the valuation of Church property made in the reign of Henry VIII. (1534), the yearly value of Clifton Rectory is stated to be £13 6s. 10½d., and according to this value tenths are now paid to the Crown. In the minister's accounts of the property of Lavendon Abbey, while in the hands of the Crown, of the twenty-ninth year of Henry VIII. (1537), it is stated that a yearly rent of fifteen shillings and fourpence was received for lands in Clifton Reynes, which had formerly belonged to Lavendon Abbey. And this Abbey being of the privileged Order of Premonstratensian Monks, their lands were

* Cooke MS., substantially reproduced by Lipscomb.

exempted from paying tithes to the Church, by Papal authority. The lands were granted by King Edward VI. to the then Earl of Bedford. The quantity is not mentioned in the grant, but the annual rent paid to the Court of Augmentations indicates that they could not exceed thirty acres, and were probably much less. (Rot. Pat. 7 Ed. 6, p. 13, Test. 29. June.)

* "The rector, by right of his church, enjoys a comfortable and convenient parsonage house, situate in a garden on the south side of the churchyard, with out-houses and other buildings; two small closes of enclosed sward, besides about ten acres of glebe dispersed in the open fields. (The glebe consists of two small closes of sward, a spinney, about three acres and a half in the open fields, and a close in the parish of Newton Blossomville; in all about eleven acres. W. Talbot, Rector.)"

The oldest part of the rectory still corresponds with the description in the Terrier of 1693, but has been partly rebuilt and enlarged at various times.

* "The rector of Clifton Reynes is also entitled to tithes in kind throughout the whole parish, except only from the lands which belong to Lavendon Abbey and which were afterwards granted to the Earl of Bedford, and has received an ancient yearly composition of twelve shillings from the Rector of Newton Blossomville for out tithes, as the Terriers express it."†

All tithes within the said parish of Clifton Reynes are paid to the Rector by a Composition as mutually agreed upon by himself and the respective Tenants of Tithes. All small tithes are payable. There is a Modus of Ten Pounds per Annum paid by Alex^r. Small Esquire for the woods and ancient enclosed lands belonging to him in the Parish of Clifton Reynes. (Terrier of 1812.)

In the last item the words "woods and" are inserted in ink by Alex. Small, above the line. It will be

* Cooke MS., substantially reproduced by Lipscomb.

† A payment of £10 per annum for tithes of old enclosures has no legal foundation, being more than the whole value, 1291.—*Cooke MS.*

remembered that he held the Reynes Manor from 1752 to 1816.

On the front cover of the Register for 1715 occur these entries:—

Tythe for the Spinney or wood belonging to Olney Feoffees in this Parish may be demanded, because modus a non decimando cannot be pleaded in any case, tho' Modus Decimandi can^{*} in several Tythe may jure Communi be demanded, and tis incumbent on them by proper evidence to show their total exemption.

EDWARD ALANSON.

Memorandum pro Successori.

Then in another hand below:—

One pound one shilling **thought** y^e full value for Tythes for the Wood or Spinney belonging to Olney Feoffees have been paid by them to the present incumbent.

WM. GARDNER.

And therefore no dispute for y^e nonpayment of Tythes can now arise.

Then in Mr. Talbot's writing:—

The Rectory of Clifton Reynes exonerated from land tax from Michaelmas, 1806.

WILLIAM TALBOT, Rector.

The exemption, dated 12 Dec., 1806, covered the parsonage and appendages, great and small tithes, modus, and ten acres of glebe, £13 0s. 8d. in all; another, of 4 Oct., 1806, covering the glebe in Newton Blossomville. A copied schedule, of 25 March, 1871, gives a summary of exemptions up to date:—

		£	s.	d.
24 June, 1803.	Messrs. Perry & Reynolds	1	13	0
+29 Sept. 1806.	Clifton Reynes Rectory	13	0	6
29 Sept. 1825.	J. H. Talbot, a close of land	0	6	0
29 Sept. 1871.	Bedford & Northampton Railway Co.	1	12	6

* The word "can" is a slip of the pen. Alanson was rector, 1723-1745; Gardner, 1765-1791; Talbot, 1805-1832.

† This is not inconsistent with the date given above, which is that of the retrospective deed; these dates are the quarter days from which exemption was calculated.

The last item is on occasion of the transfer of part of the glebe, for the new railway.

* "The rector of Clifton also holds Kite's Close, a pasture ground containing ten acres, which had been formerly given to support a lamp* burning in the church of Clifton, but which was subject to the charge of finding bread and cheese and ale for the parishioners when they went the parish boundaries in Rogation week. (Kite's land consists of four contiguous enclosures, containing seventeen acres, and now (1821) lets for £18 per annum. W. Talbot, Rector.)

*i. "This close became vested in Edward VI. by the statute giving to the Crown all lands dedicated to superstitious uses, and in the twelfth year of Queen Elizabeth was granted out by her to Nicholas Yatwert and Bartholomew Brokesby (vide Rot. Pat., 12 Eliz., p. 10), and was soon after annexed to the rectory, but by whom has not been discovered. It is, however, presumed to be still subject to the charge of finding refreshments for the parishioners on procession days, the same as it was before it came to the Crown, for it is conceived that such a purpose is not comprehended in the statute abolishing superstitious uses. (One small loaf, a piece of cheese, a pint of ale to every married, and half a pint to every unmarried person resident in Clifton, is given.)"

A similar custom formerly obtained at Cumner, Berks, where the Vicar, on Ascension Day and the following day, goes "in procession" with his parishioners. On the first day the sum of £1 13s. 10d., on the second day £1 2s. 6d., are brought to set places on the boundary and distributed in bread, cheese, and beer, to those who attend the procession.

ii. This land is mentioned in the rector's copy of the Terrier of 1693 as follows:—

Item. One Close, called Kite Close, conteyning by estimate Eight Acres, or thereabouts, lying on the South Side of Turvey Parke.

* This lamp is that above mentioned as burning on the lower of the two brackets in the chancel, before the image which stood upon the upper one.

Here the name occurs in its simplest form, and refers to the largest of the four enclosures. Turvey Parke, if it be not a misreading for Parish, must refer to the Park Farm in Newnton Blossomville, which lay in the Earl of Peterborough's estate. Note that no mention is made here of the use of the close: it occurs among the rest of the rectorial lands.

iii. "It was returned to Bp. Wake of Lincoln in 1712 that there were no charities in this Parish." *Cooke MS.* The Close was, therefore, not distinct from the Rectory land at this time.

iv. In 1786 Kite's Close was returned to the House of Commons as charity land, the gift of Sir Hugh Kite, and of the value of £12 per annum, and used by custom to treat the inhabitants on boundary processions.

v. The original of the Terrier of 1812 develops the question as follows:—

"Moreover, there are four closes called Kite's Closes, with a Barn boarded and thatched, out of the rent of which a certain proportion of Bread, Cheese, and Ale is given yearly at or about St. Stephen the Martyr, Old Stile, to all the Parishioners of Clifton Reynes, and the Rector by long usage retains the residue of Rent for his own use, vizt:—"

(Here follows a specification of the four closes, which contain 9 acres 33 roods 2 perches in all.)

The words "by long usage" are inserted between the lines, first in pencil, in Alexander Small's writing, then in ink, in a hand which appears to be that of the rector, Rev. Wm. Talbot.

The insertion is explained by the following document, of which the original is in the parish chest of Clifton. It is an autograph letter from Alexander Small to Rev. Wm. Talbot:—

SATURDAY EVENING,

23rd May, 1812.

DEAR SIR,—I have an Antient Terrier, of which I give you a copy. You will observe no mention to be made of the Rector's right to the surplus of rent arising from Kite's Closes after distribution of Bread, Cheese, and Ale; consequently, it would be improper for me as Patron to sign the Terrier you favoured me with to-day asserting those Closes as appendages to the Benefice.

Usage unquestionably has long establish'd a right in the Rector; but I have no other authority for confirming it.

I am, Dear Sir, faithfully yours,

A. SMALL.

Then follows, on the second, third and fourth pages, what purports to be a copy of Terriers of 1706 and 1724, apparently based upon an earlier document, and collated with one or both of these, for the name of Sir John Hobart is repeatedly written over the cancelled name of Sir John Maynard, who died in 1690. How Alexander Small came into possession of the "antient Terrier," and what the date of the document really was, cannot at present be made out, as the original has not been traced. Nor does the Terrier, as copied, prove anything at all, for no mention is made in it of the charity, or even of the closes themselves.

vi. The Squire gained his point, however; for in the Terrier of 1825 the words "by long usage" are written in the ordinary line, the clause being otherwise an exact copy of that of 1812, except that the words *Old Stile* are omitted.

vii. The distribution of bread, cheese, and ale still continues without restriction, except that bona fide residence is required; though the bounds have not been beaten for so long that hardly any reminiscence of the custom remains.

Quite recently land tax has been levied upon Kite's Closes, on the ground that they are not rectorial property, and therefore not covered by the exemption of 1806.

The Registers begin in 1653, and are continuous down to the present time. They present few peculiarities, almost the only noteworthy entries being those which record that a marriage was performed March 5th, 1753, "By Licence from Doctor's Commons;" that an adult was "baptised and christened" in 1803; and that Alexander Small stood godfather to his own son in 1812. And there is on the fly-leaf in one of the volumes a copy of a Pastoral of the Bishop of Lincoln, dated Bugden (Buckden, co. Hunts), March 6th, 1736. The registers are kept quite distinct from the parish accounts, and it is in the latter that all the special entries have been made.

These accounts begin in 1665, in the days of Samuel Pepys, and are written for many years in his fine and beautiful hand. They contain a very unusual number of references to briefs and letters of request throughout his time, beginning with the entry :—

“Aug. 2, 1665.

“Collected then at Clifton Reines for the reliefe of such
“poore people as are visited with the plague the sume of ten
“shillings and ninepence.”

10s. more on September 6, 8s. 11d. on Oct. 4, and 6s. 2d. on Nov. 8.

On Oct. 4.

“pd. of this to Willm. Swaine, one of the
“overseers for the poore, Oct. 20, 1665, for the poore
“infected people at Lavendon, 7s,”

and 1s. 1d. on Nov. 8 for the same special object.

In the twelve months following, there are briefs for Gravesend, Salvington, Harwich, Hexham, Warborough (Oxon), Bishop's Waltham, Bradwinch (Devon), and for John Ellis.

Then on Oct. 10, 1666 :—

“Collected at Clifton Reynes for the reliefe of the poor
sufferers by the fire in London, the sume of three pounds
three shillings and ten pence.

“SAM. PEYYS, Rector et m.

“JOSEPH GALE

“JOHN SHARPE } Churchwardens.

“pd. to the Chiefe Constable Thomas Godfrey of
Ravenston according to His Majestyes p.clamation. Jan. 23,
1668.”

In the same year are briefs for Bicester, Flookburgh in Lancashire (1s. 8d.), and Worksopp, in Nottinghamshire (“rec^d. by Robt. Beverley”), Cockhurst (Salop), Hinxton (Cambs.), Poole (Montg.), Melcombe Regis (Dorset), Elfing (Notts.), Stillingfleet (York); for Roger Rogers, of Dover, and John Osburne, merchant; and a letter of request for Newport Pagnel.

In 1669, with briefs for Tiverton and Grindle (Salop), for Little Livermoon and for John Pickering, of Broughton, comes a letter of request for a fire at Stony Stratford; and in 1677 for a fire in Southwarke. It is possible to connect these special appeals in the case of fire,

with the early custom of meeting losses of this kind from the common fund of the village community.

In 1669-70, £2 8s. 5d. was collected in all "for redeeming the captives" after the Dutch war. Then briefs* for Winslow (May 23, 1671), "Refiners of sugar in London," 1672. St. Catherine's in London, 1674. "To Paul's brief, 10s." (for the new Cathedral, 1677); for French Protestants, £2 10s. (1681-2 and 1686); for "Captives in Turkey," 6s. 6d. (1692); "People from Flanders" (1694); "Vander's brief," £1 4s. 6d. (1699); "to her maiestties brief," 10s. (8 Feb. 1703), also "given to poore people with passes," 6d. (167 $\frac{3}{4}$).

In 1669 comes the first item for glazing, 7s. 3d.; another, 4s. 11d., in 1681. Seats, bells, and plumbers' work at the windows in 1675; "hooks and hinges about the Church Steeple, 5s." and "mending Church chest, locks, and key, 2s." A north door key cost sixpence in 1682, showing that that door was used at that time. There is no path to it now. "For laying down 2 paved stones in the middle space" (aisle) in 1680, was paid 3d., and the church porch was paved in 1684. The roof was repaired in 1686, and 1s. 6d. toll was paid at Olney Bridge for a load of stone in the same year. Most of the stone in the church, however, seems to be local, and that required for the repairs of 1883 came from a pit on the Glebe. 1708, "paid to Samuel Aspray, for shooting a new Bell Rope," 8d., and in 1710 and 1712, "shooting a new piece to the Great Bell Rope," 1s. 6d. 1701, "for 2 plates for y^e steeple door," 4d., and 1707, "hinges and nails for the same, 8d."

Other items in connection with the Church are for a "Common Prayer Booke," 8s. 6d. (1682). "Paid for the Hood and Typpet, 15s. 6d. (20 Dec., 1686). "Paid upon exchange of the Communion Cup," 19s. (Nov. 5, 1692); for rebinding the Church Bible, 11s. (1694). The Pulpit cushion was repaired in 1697, 1700, and 1711. 1699, "Mending Bier and Church Cheste, 2s. 8d."

The Apparitor's Fees are frequent after 1688, in which year (May 26), "Paid ye Apparitor for bringing the Declaration of Liberty of Conscience, 1s." June 25,

* There is another brief for Winslow in 1697, conveyed "by me Peter Parker."

"Paid for a book of Prayers and Thanksgivings for the Birth of the Prince of Wales," 1s. 6d. "Direction to pray for the Prince of Wales," 6d.

Several missing Terriers, etc., can be dated by the scrivener's fee in the accounts. The earliest is 1671, "For writing a bill of Presentments: Robert Wright, Ch. W." 6d. Then, 1679, "Paid for writing the Terrier," 1s. 2d. 1680, "For making a certificate about hearth money, and expenses about the same," 2s. 6d. 1693, "To Rich^d. Kitchener for writing a Terrar of the Glebe," 1s. 6d. Another Terrier, 1697; and in 1700, 2s. 1709, "To Rich^d. Kitchiner for writing answer to the Bishop's Queries," 3s. 6d.

December 26, 1668.

Memorandum. It was then agreed upon by us whose names are hereunto subscribed inhabitants of Clifton Reynes in the County of Bucks, that James Laughton in consideration of money due unto him from the Town shall quietly hold enjoy and possesse the Towne bulke in the upper Feild which abutteth upon a rood had-land of John Cardwell's on the South and a rood had-land of John Hoddle's on the North for the space of five years from and after the day of the date hereof. In Witnesse whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names the day and yeare first above written,

JAMES LOWE (the Lord of
Reynes Manor).

JOHN HODDELL.

SAM. PEPYS Rector et M(inister).

JOHN SHARPE.

JOSEPH GALE.

JAMES CARDWELL.

JAMES CHANDEFLOWER.

JOHN HODDEL.

THOMAS X INGERSOLE,
his mark.

ROBERT X WRIGHT,
his mark.

RALPH X REDDY,
his mark.

But in 1715, this Town Bulke, or had-land, was in the hands of the Gale family, who paid £1 4s. 6d. rent to the town.

The usual payments for vermin begin with a hedge-

hog, in 1669; the bird catcher appears in 1673-4, and the "mould and rax catcher" gets 4s. 6d. in the same year. "Pd. to the sparrow catchers 2s. 3d.," in 1675, and 1s. for a Fox. 1686, "To James Brierly, in arrears for powder for field keeping," 2s. 4d. 1690, "A polecat," 4d.; and 1700, "To Mr. Farrer's man for an otter's foot which he brought," 2s. 6d. Mr. Farrer had Wake's Manor at this time.

The "Clarke's wages" were 10s. quarterly in 1679, but in 1861 his Ladyday "quarteridge" was only 6s. In 1698, however, "my wages is 12s.," exclusive of "my labour in helping the Tilors," 1s. The next year, "My own wages due at Ladyday, 1699, 16s.,"; but perhaps this includes arrears.

Brief money at Waterstratford Visitⁿ 1795.—N.B. Sometimes the Visitations were held at Newport Pagnel.

About 1720. Gathering stone in Churchyard.

1693. For two sticks for studds in the Darke
house 2d.

Of this no explanation has been suggested yet.

1692.	To the Ringers for a Victory over French at Sea	2s. 6d.
1697.	Ye Ringers for the news of Peace	2s. 6d.
1694.	Tolling at the Queen's Burial	1s.

These are very moderate ringing fees.

From 1729 to 1824 the accounts are missing, and when they begin again they contain little which calls for comment. Sparrow- and other vermin- money, and charity to paupers and wayfarers are the rule; and the entries which elucidate the history of the church fabric have been quoted already under that head.

For the reconstruction of the agricultural history of Clifton Reynes we have unusual materials; for besides a very full and suggestive list of field names in the Tithe Award of 1842, and the Enclosure Schedule, there is in existence an eighteenth century map of a large part of the parish before the Enclosure Act, drawn on parchment, on a scale of thirty-five chains to three inches, and

entitled "A Map of the Estate of Alexander Small, Esq., in the old enclosures of Clifton Reynes, otherwise Clifton, Olney, and Emberton; and also of the Estate in the Open Fields of Clifton Reynes aforesaid, and Newton Blossomville in the County of Bucks. 1792." In this map all the fields of the estate are named, and exhibit some variations from those of the Tithe Award.

Of the old "open fields," a large number still bear the old names of "Furlong," "Leys," "Lands," and "Pieces," with a few "Furrows" and "Doles." In the Estate Map they are all divided into from two, or three, to nine, ten, or fourteen leys or strips, across the ends of which would run the baulk or adland, which belonged by right to the town. The "old enclosures" in the south part of the parish towards the steep slope of the Ouse valley are mostly "Closes," "Meadows," or "Grounds," with a set of three "Dusts" (Upper, Lower, and Long); and "Ox Leys," "Ram Close," and "Bull's Parlor" explain themselves. "The Seeds" was laid down as temporary pasture when it received its name. There is a "Knave's Castle," which is perhaps analogous to "Hancombe's Folly" at Newport Pagnell, "Adstock Folly," etc., and the two "Folly Closes" in this parish (44, 73). "Wake's Hill," "Wake's Holmes," and "Reynes Wood," represent the two manors; "Revel Meadow," and the "Feoffee's Spinney" by the causeway beyond the river, indicate relations with the town of Olney below. The present footbridge exactly crosses the old Mill-race, and the foundations of the buildings can still be traced with difficulty. "Hall Piece," by the churchyard, marks the site of Clifton Hall, built in 1753, and pulled down in 1850;* "Dog Kennel Close," hard by, recalls the hounds which were kept, and "Water Hills," between the rectory and the river cliff, which bounds the parish westwards, is still full of the springs which follow the lower margin of the Cornbrash, where it rests upon impervious Oxford Clay below.

In concluding this paper I am bound to acknowledge most heartily the help which I have received from many

* *Vide Catalogue of Building Materials, etc.* 1858. (Gough, "Bibliotheca Buckinghamiensis," p. 23.)

more experienced investigators; notably to Mr. Wright, of Olney, for much local information; to Rev. Thomas Williams, of Aston Clinton, for liberal contributions, some not yet incorporated, from his genealogical treasury; to Mr. Russell, for his notes on the monuments; and, above all, to the Rector of Clifton Reynes, to whose hospitable welcome and most willing co-operation the collection of what is of value in this essay is very largely due.
