



The
History
— of —
Taddington.

By the
Rev. J. A. Adams, M.A.
(Of Taddington Rectory.)

To Miss Brazier
From the Author

Sept. 1896

THE

HISTORY

OF

TODDINGTON.

BY THE

REV. F. A. ADAMS, M.A.

(OF TODDINGTON RECTORY.)

In Remembrance

DEDICATED

BY THE AUTHOR

TO

THOMAS VERNON WENTWORTH, Esq., D.L.,

ETC., OF WENTWORTH CASTLE, YORKSHIRE,

A GENEROUS BENEFACTOR TO TODDINGTON CHURCH
RESTORATION FUND,

AND

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FORMER ILLUSTRIOUS
OWNERS OF TODDINGTON MANOR,

With its Interesting and Romantic Associations.

Toddington Rectory,
June, 1894.

INTRODUCTION.

This little volume does not pretend to be an Exhaustive History of Toddington. It is but a mere sketch. Nor can it be regarded as a thing "perfect in its generation." It was supplied to the Proprietor of the *Leighton Buzzard Observer*, at his urgent request, and at very short notice, being re-printed *immediately* from its columns. This must be the Author's apology, therefore, for any defects, and the little typographical errors which will be found here and there. It is re-printed in this cheap way in order that the profits of the sale of it may be the greater, and thus help to pay for the extensive alterations required by the Government to our National Schools. But whatever defects may be noted in the little book, it will probably be found to contain much that is interesting to many, and which they will be glad to have recorded.

THE AUTHOR.

NOTE : The author returns his heartiest acknowledgments to the Rev. H. Cobbe, rector of Maulden, for the extracts from the "Dunstable Chronicle," the story of Cecilia, and other notes of interest.

Toddington Rectory,
June, 1894.

TODDINGTON.

Probably few parishes can boast a more interesting history than Toddington, the *Tot-in-dun*, or "Hill on the downs," given by some as the origin of the name. The quiet life there of to-day must be in strange contrast to that of the days when its Great House—and it was a large one, indeed, as seen by the old drawings of it in the possession of Major Cooper Cooper, the present Squire of Toddington Manor—was maintained in the splendour which is implied in the record that Sir Paulinus Peyvre, steward of Henry III., in building his mansion here, paid his workmen higher wages than the King himself. But Sir Paulinus died in 1251, and the old mansion, the picture of which is possessed by the present Squire, is that of another grand house built on the same site by Lord Henry Cheney. [The first mansion of the Peyvres is believed to have been at Wadloes (or Wadlows), on the Harlington Road, in the field opposite the entrance to Red Hills.] If all the owners of Toddington lived on the same spot, the Manor Grounds must have been the scene of many a romance, followed by its grand festivity—and now and then its tragedy. As we think of it, our minds revert to that bright summer's day when the ill-fated Duke of Monmouth cut the initials of the beautiful

Henrietta, Baroness of Wentworth, on the oak tree still standing in the grounds, and, long before that, the sight rises up before our eyes (as continuing perhaps for centuries) of the gay cavalcade issuing forth from the court-yard of the stately mansion—the fair ladies on prancing palfreys, with their hooded hawks on their wrists, and the knights in command of the baying hounds, while the startled deer prick their ears and prepare for flight as the huntsman “sounds his cheerful horn.” Yes! there must have been many such a scene as this witnessed in the Manor grounds from the days when the Norman ancestors of the Marls of Porcho held the estate down to the time when the grandfather of the present Squire bought it, together with the “Manor of Youngs,” in 1806. The grand old Parish Church of St. George of England is in itself, and its monuments and registers, a witness to the magnificence which reigned in the “days of old” at Toddington. Sir Paulinus Peyvre, supposed to be descended from Roger Pauper, Bishop of Salisbury, became a very rich man and lived in great state here. He died in 1251, and, together with Lady Peyvre, is represented by a recumbent effigy (his heart only being buried at Toddington), in a recessed tomb in the wall of the south transept of the church. His body was buried in London. His son, Sir Nicholas, is also represented lying there, depicted as a knight in armour on a low altar-tomb. Neither Sir Paulinus nor his Lady are buried at Toddington. The following entry shows that the latter was buried at Woburn Abbey in 1252. It also shows that Kings had peculiar privileges, not generally known, with regard to their subjects in these days:—“The Lady Jane Peyvre (of a Toddington family) was interred at Woburn, about whose funeral” the Chronicle of Dunstable asserts “Her husband, John de Grey, shewed little honour and reverence.” But we may possibly abate this charge against him, by

supposing that some part of the anger arose from his deficiency in making splendid donations to the monastery, which were rather common on such occasions. Of this Johanna, one or two circumstances are previously recorded in the same chronicle, illustrative of the ancient rights of wardship in the feudal times, both on the part of the King and the nobles—"1251. In the same year Lady Johanna Pevre, being in seisin of all things which belonged to her husband Paulinus, her own guardianship being retained, sold the right of marrying her son to the Lord John de Grey for five hundred marks. And the Lord John took upon himself to justify the said Johanna herself to the King for that sum of money, but her son contracted a marriage, in the face of the Church, with the daughter of the same John, before the feast of St. Michael at Eton. The Lady Johanna, uneasy (*trædio affecta*) that the King had given the marriage of herself to a certain foreign soldier, Stephens de Satines, by the counsel of her friends, gave herself in marriage to the Lord John de Grey, and a marriage was contracted between them, on the Tuesday next after the fifteenth of St. Michael, at London, the King being at Westminster, and ignorant of this; at which, when it was made known to the King, being vehemently enraged, he took counsel what he should do to the Lord John for so great a fault; and at length, through the intervention of friends, he paid a fine to the King of fifty marks." It appears from the above that the Lord de Grey, of Wrest Park and Flitton (about eight miles off), wanted the son for his daughter and the widow for himself; and Lady Peyvre, being partial to the arrangement, had the courage to dispose of her own hand accordingly. In the same chapel there are five altar tombs to Lord Henry Cheney (1587), and the Ladies Anne and Jane Cheney. There is also a slab of splendid proportions—formerly richly ornamented with

brasses—to the memory of Sir John Broughton, and another to Lord Strafford. In the north transept lie buried thirteen persons of distinction (the raised floor of the transept being nothing more nor less than one great vault)—namely, Lady Maria Wentworth, 1633, *Æt* 18; Lucy, Countess of Cleveland, 1651; Thomas, Earl of Cleveland, 1667, *Æt* 76; Anne, Countess of Cleveland, 1638; Thomas, Colonel Lord Wentworth (the first Colonel of the Grenadier Guards), 1665, *Æt* 52; Henrietta Maria, Lady Wentworth, 1686, *Æt* 29; Philadelphia, Lady Wentworth, 1696; Thomas, third Earl of Strafford, 1739, *Æt* 65; Anne (Johnson), Countess of Strafford, 1754, *Æt* 70; William, fourth Earl of Strafford, 1791, *Æt* 69; Ann (Campbell), Countess of Strafford, and daughter of the Duke of Argyll, 1785, *Æt* 65; Lady Anne Conolly, 1797; and Sir Henry Johnson, M.P., 1719. How many minor members of these great families, the Peyvres, the Broughtons, the Cheneyes, the Wentworths, the Straffords, &c., lie buried in and around the church it is impossible to say, but the present circumscribed limits of the churchyard make it difficult to understand how a town once containing 2,500 inhabitants can have found sepulture there. In connection with the Duke of Monmouth's untimely end, Macaulay (*History of England*, chap. v.), says, "Yet a few months and the quiet village of Toddington, in Bedfordshire, witnessed a still sadder funeral. Near that village stood an ancient and stately hall, the seat of the Wentworths. The transept of the Parish Church had long been their burial-place. To that burial place, in the spring which followed the death of Monmouth, was borne the coffin of the young Baroness Wentworth of Nettlested. Her family reared a sumptuous mausoleum over her remains; but a less costly memorial of her was long contemplated with far deeper interest. Her name, carved by the hands of him whom she loved too

well, was, a few years ago, still discernible on a tree in the adjoining park." Sir Paulinus Peyvre having been steward to Henry III., and the neighbouring town of Dunstable having possessed a Royal residence, it is highly probable that Toddington, in its best days, received a fair proportion of the royal patronage. More especially would this appear to be the case when we remember how intimately connected with the Court the Lords of Toddington were. Lord Cheney was a great Court favourite; the Earl of Cleveland and his son, Lord Thomas Wentworth, not less so. The latter was appointed first Colonel of the "First or Grenadier" Guards, and was buried at the King's expense, though there is no monument to his memory. (What can that crack regiment, the Grenadiers, be thinking of, to have their first Colonel without a monument?) Queen Elizabeth visited Lord Cheney at Toddington, and is believed to have attended service in Toddington Church. James I. certainly did in 1608. Charles I. also, according to tradition, visited Toddington, and remained some time in hiding at Harlington House, where, too, John Bunyan was first brought up before Mr. Justice Wingate. Indeed, it seems that what with the romance of the Duke of Monmouth and Lady Henrietta Wentworth, King Charles and his great minister, Lord Strafford, the King's hiding at Harlington, and the incident of John Bunyan being impeached in the same house, Toddington possesses sufficient material on which to found a stirring Sir Walter Scott kind of novel. Would that we still had that famous and fascinating author to submit the materials to! Beyond this, the Earl of Cleveland managed to get impeached in the matter of the Great Rebellion, whereby his estates were forfeited. It is mentioned in the State records of the seizure of his goods at "Tuddington" Manor that there was a "Queen's Chamber" and "Leicester's Chamber," which again have their

own suggestive ideas. Was Toddington Manor the scene at times of part of that world-renowned romance between the maiden Queen Elizabeth and her favourite, Robert Earl of Leicester? The reference to the "Queen's Chamber" and "Leicester's Chamber" suggests it. Sir John Broughton built a hospital, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, in Toddington, in 1443. The Rev. William Grenefeld was warden of this in 1454; but Lord Henry Cheney, with the King's approval, presently suppressed it. It is believed that a part of the old hospital is still standing, being that quaint old building of brick and sand situated on the west boundary of the churchyard. It is still charity property, and used as a residence for poor and aged widows. It goes by the name of "The Cloisters," but is in a poor state of repair. Speaking of names, we are reminded of the "Sow and Pigs" Inn, so admirably conducted by Mr. T. Horley, whose family came to Toddington with Lord Strafford. This derives its name from one of the quaint carvings forming that remarkable frieze running the whole length of the north aisle of the Church, ending in the still more remarkable *three-storied* Priest's Chamber, which is believed to be almost unique. Reverting to names, we have also the Griffin Inn, now in the occupation of Mr. Birch, and whose sign of the Griffin represents the Strafford crest. But there are other names, the origin of which are less clear to us, though some of them are highly suggestive. Of these, "Tattle Bank," and "Tattler's Cottages," seem specially associated with idling groups of the purveyors of village gossip or "tattle," and "Tanner's End" owes its origin to a boggy field near the National Schools which was once full of tan-pits. Large quantities of cow and deer horns, &c., are occasionally revealed there even now, as was the case not long ago when a large tree was blown down. Beneath it was quite an assortment of these relics. Other names are more obscure, such as "Chickgroves,"

"Frog Hall," "Crow Bush," "Dropshort,"
 "Napkins Green," (it should be "Nappin's")
 "Alma Farm," "War Mark," "Frenchman's
 Way," "Happy Land," and "The Fancy."
 Among old houses that portion of the old
 Manor House which has been preserved and
 incorporated with the modern structure stands
 first. This represents what was once the old
 kitchen (with its fine stone arch to its capacious
 fire-place and chimney corner), and is now the
 dining-room. The present Squire is a very
 skilled collector of antiquities and, in addition
 to a well-filled and very interesting museum,
 possesses fine collections of old watches and
 violins, but the most beautiful thing of all (in
 the opinion of the writer) is a magnificent
 carving of Apollo and the Nine Muses, now
 hanging in the dining-room aforesaid. Any-
 thing more lovely can hardly be conceived.
 Contemporary, perhaps, with the portion of the
 ancient Manor House are the cloisters already
 referred to; and what was once another rather
 stately residence is the "Red House," now
 used as cottages, and as Messrs. Bassett's
 Bank, formerly called "Earl's Court." Of earth-
 works Bedfordshire possesses nothing finer than
 the remarkable "Conger Hill," a raised conical
 mound with a deep ditch around it, and to be
 found in the Griffin Meadow behind Conger
 House. Many suggestions have been made as
 to the derivation of the name, but the "Con-
 gressum" or place of assembly seems to be the
 best. Its antiquity is great, and it is possible,
 if not highly probable, that here the British
 King or chieftain assembled his people to decree
 justice, declare war, or proclaim peace, as the
 case might be; and that here the village council
 also sat in solemn conclave. But it may also be
 assumed for a certainty that, being about
 the highest point in Bedfordshire, it was also
 used as a beacon in times of war, and perhaps
 as a sort of Acropolis or citadel to which to
 retire for the last death struggle in times of

siege. The traces of the old Manor House, with its approaches, moats, and gateways, are also interesting. Roman pottery is occasionally found in the hamlet of Fancote, and cinerary urns on the rectory glebe and elsewhere. William the Conqueror granted the Manor of Toddington to Ernulfus de Heding (or Heding) the ancestor of the Earls of Perche, with whom it remained till 1216, when the Bishop of Chalons, the heir, sold the Manor to William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke. Not many years later—that is to say, early in the reign of Henry III., Sir Paulinus Peyvre (Peivre, or Piper) is found in possession. It continued with this family about 200 years. Sir Paulinus had five successors to his name at Toddington. Thomas, the sixth and last, died Sept. 22nd, 1429. Mary, his only daughter, preceded him by a few months, and, in her right, her husband, John Broughton, of Broughton, near Newport Pagnell, succeeded to the Manor. Of the Broughton successors there were five or six, and their tenure lasted just 100 years. The last of them, John Broughton, died in 1529, leaving as heiress his sister Anne, wife of Sir Thomas Cheney, K.G., of Sholland, Isle of Sheppy, Kent. This Sir Thomas owned a large estate in the latter county, and held a very high position at Court, being treasurer of the Royal Household, and a member of the Council. He was also Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and, at various times, Constable of Dover, Queenboro', and Rochester Castles. His eminence is manifest in his election as a Knight of the Garter in 1539. His son Henry was a man "of profuse expenditure." Hasted, the historian, says he was known as "the extravagant Lord Cheney." The palace of the Peyvres at Toddington having fallen into decay, this Lord Cheney replaced it by another grand mansion, and in 1563 Queen Elizabeth visited his lordship here. In speaking of what a Royal visit in those days meant, the "Early History of

Woburn" says—"Everything was transacted with ancient history, and mythology. When the Queen paraded through a country town, almost every pageant was a pantheon. When she paid a visit to any of her nobility at entering the hall, she was saluted by penates, and conducted to her private chamber by Mercury. Even the pastry cooks were expert mythologists. At dinner, select transformations were exhibited of Ovid's metamorphoses. In confectionary, and the splendid icing of an immense historic plum cake, was embossed with a delicious basso relievo of the destruction of Troy. In the afternoon, when she condescended to walk in the garden, the lake was covered with Tritons and Nereids. The pages of the family were converted into Wood Nymphs, who peeped from every bower, and the footmen gambolled over the lawns, in the figure of Satyrs" (Warton.) * In 1576 Her Majesty visited Lord Cheney again. In the *State Papers* we find that certain apartments went by the names of the "Queen's chamber," "the Queen's inner chamber;" and there was also a "Leicester's chamber," showing that the favourite Earl had been in attendance. Henry Lord Cheney died in 1587, his widow being Jane, the eldest of the

* "When Queen Elizabeth visited Coventry, the citizens determined to chime in with her ridiculous vanity. In supposing herself possessed of personal charms, and resolute in not minding the matter, addressed her through the mayor in the following conceited speech—

" We men of Coventry
Are very glad to see,
Your Royal Majesty,
Good Lord! How fair ye be!

To which the Queen answered extempore—

" My Royal Majesty
Is very glad to see
Ye men of Coventry,
Good Lord! What fools ye be!"

many daughters of the first Lord Wentworth of Nettledsted. There being no issue, the property was settled on the natural heir of Lady Cheney, her great-nephew Thomas, fourth Lord Wentworth of Nettledsted, afterwards Earl of Cleveland. In July, 1608, James I. and his Queen were the guests of the widowed Lady Wentworth, when his chaplain, the Rev. Thomas Archer, rector of Houghton Conquest, preached before him in Toddington Church. The principal apartments of the old Manor House are alluded to in a survey of 1719 under the names of the Great Hall, and the Great Staircase—lighted by a lanthorn; the Marble Gallery, the Great or Long Parlour, the Gilded Parlour, the Chapel, the Steward's and other Parlours, and, most interesting of all, the Lady's Parlour and the Duke of Monmouth's Parlour. On the first floor were the Long Gallery, the North Gallery, the Great Dining-room, the Great State Room, and many chambers. Leicester's Chamber was at the end of the Picture Gallery; and we are also told of "My Lady's Chamber;" "hanged with five pieces of arras;" "my little Lady's Chamber;" the "Old Nursery," the "Green Gallery," the "Fencing Room," and the "Huntsman's Chamber;" the tennis court is also mentioned. William, Earl of Strafford, on the death of Martha Lady Wentworth in 1745, demolished the grand old mansion, leaving only the great kitchen and some adjoining offices to serve as a residence for his steward. The townspeople expressed their indignation freely in an old ballad, yet remembered, running thus—

" If Lord Strafford had never been born,
Or in his cradle had died;
The old Manor House would always have stood,
And many a tree beside."

But it had fallen into a state of great dilapidation. It is scarcely probable that it had been inhabited since the death of the poor Henrietta Maria, Baroness Wentworth.

On the death of Henrietta Maria Wentworth in 1686, the Barony passed to her aunt, Anne, Lady Lovelace, the only surviving daughter of the late Earl of Cleveland, and on her death, May 7th, 1697, to her grand-daughter Martha, the only surviving child of her son, Lord Lovelace, deceased. This lady attended the coronation of Queen Anne as Baroness Wentworth of Nettledesd. She married Sir Henry Johnson, Knight, M.P. for Aldborough, Suffolk. There was no issue of this marriage, and the Barony passed to Sir Edward Noel, third in descent from Margaret Lovelace, daughter of Lady Anne Wentworth. Two Noels in succession held the Barony, which in 1815 fell into abeyance, and continued so for forty-one years, when Lady Byron, widow of the poet, established her claim to it. Sir Henry Johnson, the above-named, had married twice, so that, having no child by his wife Martha Lovelace, Toddington Manor passed to the child of his first wife, Anne Smithson (of the family of which some years later came the Earldom and Dukedom of Northumberland). This child was a daughter who in 1711 became the wife of Sir Thomas Wentworth, K.G., Earl of Strafford (2nd creation) of Stainborough, Co. York. Thus the estate reverted to the Wentworth family, though not to the Nettledesd branch, but that of Wentworth Castle, near Barnsley. William, fourth Earl Strafford (second Earl of the 2nd creation), died childless (how often has Toddington failed of an heir!) so that his estates were divided between his three sisters, or their heirs, for only one, Lady Anne Connolly, survived her brother. The Rt. Hon. Thos. Connolly had the Manor of Toddington, advowson of the Church, the Manor Farm, and the "Mansion House," and Henry Vernon, Esq., son of the third sister, had the Manor of Harlington, Old Park Farm, and Red House Farm. The whole was re-united by John Cooper, Esq., who bought it in 1806. His heiress

married her cousin, William Dodge Cooper, Esq., who built the present Manor House, preserving carefully what remained of the old mansion, one of the round towers or turrets of which still remains. The great kitchen has now become a very handsome dining-room, thirty-nine feet by twenty-six feet, and one of the old Tudor fireplaces (there were two) still remains. It measures seventeen feet in width by five feet in depth. It bears the legend which contrasts the past with the present, "*Olim Cubina, Nunc Conviva*." (formerly the kitchen, now for the guest.) There is a magnificent carving in this room, as we have said, representing Apollo and the Nine Muses. Its size is six feet by four feet, and it is treated in subdued and harmonious colouring. The date of its arrival in Toddington is not known, but it probably adorned the mansion of the Wentworths. In 1745 it went to Hockliffe, whence Major Cooper triumphantly bore it back as the result of a spirited bid at the sale of the late Sir Richard Gilpin's effects. Other carvings from the old mansion at Toddington are still to be seen in front of the White Horse Inn at Hockliffe, and are believed to be the work of Grinling Gibbons. We might fill a volume with historical references to the owners of Toddington Manor and their relations and most intimate friends. On the exposure of the Babington conspiracy to assassinate Queen Elizabeth, of which Mary was accused of being cognisant, the latter was brought to Fotheringay Castle, in Northamptonshire, and in Cobbett's *State Papers* we find that at the trial which followed the third Lord Wentworth was one of the panel of peers present to assist the judges. His son, the fourth Lord Wentworth, was an enthusiastic Royalist, and was created Earl of Cleveland in 1626. He was much distinguished as a cavalier officer in the reigns of Charles I. and II.; his career commencing in the reign of James I. He gained his military

experience with the great Generals, Maurice, Prince of Orange, in the Low Countries, and Count Mansfeldt, in Germany. He was one of the chief friends of Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, and was with him at Portsmouth when assassinated by Felton, A.D., 1628. Like the Duke, it is to be feared he was extravagant and reckless. His great kinsman, the Earl of Strafford, being impeached for having too well seconded the despotic rule of his Royal master, he stood by him loyally to the last. The Royal assent having been given to the execution of Strafford on the 10th of May, 1641, the journals of the House of Lords contain this entry: "*The Earl of Cleveland had leave to see the Earl of Strafford this afternoon.*" Two days later Cleveland was one of those attending "his chief" on the scaffold, to which the latter walked (Rushworth writes) "like a general at the head of an army." At the Restoration, May 29th, 1660, "when the King had his own again," the Earl of Cleveland "in his plain grey suit" was at the head of 300 noblemen in triumphant procession as the King made his entry into London. In *Evelyn's Dairy*, under date 4th July, 1663, occurs the following: "I saw His Majesty's Guards, being of horse and foot 4,000, led by the General, the Duke of Albemarle, in extraordinary equipage and gallantry, consisting of gentlemen of quality and veteran soldiers, excellently clad, mounted, and ordered, drawn up in battalion in Hyde Park, where the Old Earl of Cleveland trailed a pike, and led the right-hand file in a foot company, commanded by the Lord Wentworth, his son; a worthy spectacle and example, being both old and valiant soldiers." It was this son who became the first Colonel of the Life Guards, or Grenadiers. In 1638 a marriage was proposed between this Lord Wentworth and Barbara, daughter and heiress of Sir John Lambe, Dean of Arches, and, later, Chancellor to Queen Henrietta Maria. But questions arose about

the settlements, and the old Earl of Cleveland sent Sir John a rather curt letter declining to be dictated to in the matter. His son, Lord Wentworth, also pressed his suit but feebly. Hence a letter from Sir John to his daughter, dated June 17th, 1639, suggesting that she now had a chance of Lord Fielding (son of the Earl of Denbigh), should Lord Wentworth fail her, and urging her to make up her mind speedily, intimating that "it is not always May." Both this letter and the daughter's reply are extant. She married Lord Fielding, her fortune being £50,000 in lands and money, but she died in two years. There are slabs to the memory of the Lambes in Toddington Church. Lord Wentworth did not marry till long after. When the latter died the King showed his regard for his loyal servant by undertaking the funeral expenses. According to the *State Papers*, the sum expended appears to have been £537 8s. 7d., besides the charges of the Herald at Arms; and included £50 for embalming; £6 10s. for the coffin, £323 13s. 5d. for "cloth delivered at ready-money prices," probably for mourning cloaks and hangings. The register of the Parish Church records the interment thus: "*Honoratissimus D. D. Thomas, Baro Wentworth, praenobilis viri Thomae Ulenice clerice filius solemniter sepultus erat (in crypta) P. R. Kearsley. Cubicularius erat et Consiliarius serenissimo regi Carolo Secundo.*" This Lord Wentworth had married Philadelphia, daughter of Sir Fernando Carey, "a huge corpulent knight," who was shot through the body at the siege of Bergen-op-zoom, Sept. 1622. The bullet, entering his stomach, passed out at his back, and killed the man behind him, but Sir Fernando lived on. The Lady Philadelphia being left a widow proved to be a woman of splendid business capacity, and greatly relieved her late husband's estates of their encumbrances. Coming to the history of Henrietta Maria, the only child of Thomas Lord Wentworth, who

became the heiress of her grandfather the Earl of Cleveland, and lived as Baroness Wentworth at Toddington, we read that she was remarkable for her beauty and grace. The portrait of her is certainly a beautiful picture. She is chiefly remembered by reason of her faithful attachment of the ill-starred James, Duke of Monmouth. The young Baroness is first heard of at Court in December, 1674, as having taken part in a "masque" or comedy entitled "Calisto, or the Chaste Nymph." Evelyn, the diarist, went to see it. This probably commenced the intimacy with the Duke, for he also was one of the actors. He was then twenty-five, and she but seventeen. He had already been married, at the age of *fourteen*, to Anne Duchess of Buccleuch, a marriage which was without his consent, in order to secure so rich an heiress. The marriage was immature, unholy, and unreal, and ended in disaster. On the scaffold Monmouth stoutly vindicated the Baroness Wentworth, declaring his affection for her, and protesting that his child marriage had never received the approval of Heaven, but that his private union with the Baroness had. He died declaring his love for her, and there can be no doubt about her love for him, for on his death she immediately began to fade, and in nine months had re-joined him. Macaulay does not hesitate to say she died of a broken heart; hence the romantic interest which attaches to the "Monmouth Oak" (still standing) on which the Duke engraved her initials. When the Duke was captured an "album" was found on his person, which contained the following lines:—

"With joy we leave thee,
False world, and do forgive
All thy false treachery,
For now we'll happy live.
We'll to our bowers
And there spend our hours;
Happy there we'll be —
We no strife can see,

No quarrelling for crowns,
 Nor fear the great one's frowns ;
 No slavery of State,
 Nor changes in our fate.
 From plots this place is free,
 There we'll ever be ;
 We'll sit and bless our stars
 That from the noise of wars
 Did this glorious place give
 (or Did us Toddington give)
 'That thus we happy live.'

These may be but poor rhymes, but they clearly show that the Duke was literally dragged by his political friends from the side of her whom he loved so well, and really preferred Toddington and Henrietta Wentworth to the Crown of England.

THE RUSSELL FAMILY AND TODDINGTON.

In Appendix B to "Woburn and its Abbey," page 74, occurs the following:—Previous to the grant of Woburn, Lord Russell resided at Cheney's, in Buckinghamshire—a mansion which he had acquired in right of his wife, Lady Broughton, of Toddington." Which entry is enlarged at page 50, Appendix C, as follows:—
 "To account for this adjunct to the title (that is "*of Chenies*"), we must here mention that Lord Russell had some time before married Anne, widow of Sir John Broughton, of Toddington, and daughter and co-heir of Sir Guy Sapcote, nephew and heir to Dame Agnes Cheney, of a very ancient family in Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire. Thomas Cheney, or Cheyne, was shield-bearer to Edward III., who had a palace at this village, then called Isenhampstead, to which the appellation of Cheney's was afterwards added. Dame Agnes Cheney died in 1494. By this marriage Lord Russell obtained considerable estates in Buckinghamshire, which still belong to the family." Henry Flitcroft, the architect who in 1744, re-built the great quadrangle of Woburn Abbey, was buried at Toddington.

The following is the world-famed epitaph of Lady Maria Wentworth :—

“ Marie Wentworth Illustriss: Thomæ Comitiss
Cleveland filia præmortuæ prima animam Virgineam
Exhalavit Januar: Ano. Dni. MDCXXXII. Ætat.
Sue. xviii.

And here ye pretious Dust is layde,
Whose purelie tempered Clay was made
So fine, that it ye Guest betrayed ;
Else ye Soule grew so fast within
It broke ye outward shell of sinne,
And so was hatched a Oherubim.
In height it soar'd to God above,
In depth it did to knowledge move,
And spread in breadth in general Love.

Before, a pious Dutie shin'd
To Parents, Curtsie behinde,
On either side an equall mind.

Good to the Poor, to kindred deare,
To Servants kinde, to Friendshipp cleare,
To nothing but Herself severe.

See, though a Virgin, yet a Bride
To everie grace She justified
A chaste Poligamie and dyed.”

On what was once a very beautiful monument, costing £2,000, is this inscription :—

“ Lady Henrietta Maria Baroness Wentworth, who died unmarried Ap. 23, 1686, sole daughter and heir of ye Rt. Honbl. Thomas Ld. Wentworth. Buried here the 7th of March, 1664, by Philadelphia, his wife, daughter of Sir Fernando Carey, Knt., who was interred here by her husband 9th of May, 1696, and grand-daughter and heir of the Rt. Honbl. Thomas Earl of Cleveland. Lord Wentworth, and Lord Wentworth of Nettledes, &c., also buried here April 4th, 1667.”

(The first portion of the above is the inscription to the Lady of the Monmouth romance.)

The following is found on a slab in the chancel floor :—

“ Barabara, wife of Thomas Lambe, merchant, of London.

Died August 3rd, 1683 :

And her daughter, Elizabeth, 21 Sept., 1689.”

And under the altar these three :—

“ Here lieth interred the body of Thomas Pennington,
Gent., who died Anno Do. 1663.”

“ Isaac Bringham, Dr. of Divinity and Rector of
Toddington, was buried here ye 12th of Oct.,
1697.”

“ Thomas Claver, Rector, the 9th of Sept., 1654.”

Another, dated 1595, but illegible, is found at the chancel step.

Item: The north and south front of Lord Cheney's mansion, which was quadrangular, measured 210 feet. Its chapel was 30ft. by 24ft., and its marble gallery 58ft. in length, and its other chambers of corresponding stately proportions.

A market was formerly held at Toddington on Thursdays by charter of Henry III. bearing date 1218; in 1316 this was changed to Saturday, by grant of Edward II., and afterwards confirmed by Richard II., in 1385. In 1799 the Market House was pulled down, and the market itself is a thing of the past. There were five fairs—viz., April 25th; the first Monday in June; September the 4th; November 2nd; and December 16th. The area of the parish is 5,340 acres, and its rateable value (1894) £12,910. Its present population is 2,089, and twenty years ago, or so, was 2,464. Speaking of markets, the following items of information may be interesting :—

EXTRACT :— ANNO DOMINI. 1314.

“ In the eighth year of King Edward the II. the price of victuals became so excessive that the common people were not able to live. By Parliament at London, 3rd Feb., it was ordained, and the King's writs were published, for prices of victuals not to exceed as followeth—viz: An ox, stalled or cow fed, 24s.; a grasse-fed ox, 16s.; a fat stalled cow, 12s.; another, 10s.; a fat mutton, come-fed, or whose wool is well grown, 20d.; another fat mutton, shorne, 14d.; a fat hog of two years old, 3s. 4d.; a fat goose, 2½d.; a fat hen, 1d.; &c., &c.

A.D. 1315.

"The Londoners ordained that a gallon of the better ale should be sold for three-halfpence, and of small ale for one penny, not above.

A.D. 1317.

"The harvest was early, so that all the corne was inned before Saint Giles' Day, being the first of September; a bushel of wheat, which before was sold for 10s., was then sold for 10d.; and a bushel of oats, which before was sold for 8s., was then sold for 8d.

A.D. 1329.—A CORN LAW.

"In the 3rd year of Edward III. a statute was made prohibiting the importation of wheat, rye, or barley into this realm, unless the price of wheat exceeded 6s. 8d. the quarter; of rye, 4s.; of barley, 3s.; at that port or place where the same should be brought in, upon pain of forfeiture thereof."

A.D. 1369.

"In the 43rd year of Edward III. there was a great dearth of corne, so that a bushel of wheat in London was sold for 2s. 6d.; barley, 1s. 8d.; and oats, 1s.

A.D. 1379.

"In the 3rd year of Richard II. a bushel of wheat was sold for 6 pence, a gallon of white wine for 6 pence, of red for 4 pence."

A.D. 1387.

"In the beginning of the 10th year of Richard II., at Leicester, 100 quarters of barley were sold for 100 shillings!" (But nothing is said as to its condition.)

In 1433 the "Cellarer" of Woburn is specified among the gentry of the neighbourhood. This implies that there were two, and indicates the importance of the first. He was a sort of treasurer, and superintended the highways of the district, as well as being bursar of the Abbey. He was third in rank under the Abbot, and was "the father of the whole society." (When Margery therefore aspired to the hand of Simon the Cellarer (of the well-known song), it is lear that she was a little ambitious!)

TODDINGTON CHURCH.

This is a large and handsome cruciform structure of Gothic architecture. Its features, generally, are of the "Perpendicular" period,

but "Early English" work appears in the acutely-pointed arches sustaining the central tower and in the porches. The Peyvres of successive generations no doubt made it for the most part what it is; but good authorities who from time to time visit the church express the opinion that portions of it are of great antiquity. The south transept has always been the chapel of the Lords of the Manor. The north transept belongs to the Wentworth family, who have generously assisted in the restoration of the church. This great work has been going on at intervals for the last twenty years or so, under the Rev. John Clegg, M.A. (whose father repaired the handsome roof); the Rev. Charles Haslam, M.A.; and the Rev. F. A. Adams, M.A.; who between them have spent from £3,500 to £4,000 on the church. The frieze of carvings in stone, running the whole length of the north aisle, and the *three-storied* parvise or priest's chamber, are very remarkable features of the church. The roof of the south porch which has been copied in the north porch (rebuilt in 1893, "to the revered memory of their fathers," by "F. A. A. and C. M.") is also of very beautiful design. In this north porch there is a fine holy water stoup. There is in the upper priest's chamber a piscina, and also what is evidently a Communion Table, which probably belonged to one of the above-named chapels. It should be observed that the south chapel is dedicated to St. James, and the north probably to St. Paul, since there is an entry in the register, under date 1678—"Collected for St. Paul's Church in Toddington £2 3s. 6d." The church itself is dedicated to St. George of England, being the only church of this dedication in the county of Bedford. The monuments in the church have already been referred to; we therefore only give here the lines inscribed on the tomb of Lady Jane, wife of Lord Henry Cheyne, and daughter of Lord Thos. Wentworth, Lord

Chamberlain to Henry VI., who died April 16, 1614 :—

“ Here lies my bodie, corruption’s bed,
My soul by faith and hope to Heaven is led,
Imprisoned by life, death set me free,
Then welcome death, step to Æternite.”

The Cheyne (or Cheney) effigies, which are of alabaster, were found by Lysons early in the present century “much mutilated, and lying on the ground mingled with the broken ornaments of the tombs, and the dung of birds and bats.” They are now replaced on squared masses built of the fragments of the former tombs, and, when these have failed, of rough masonry. They are worthy of something better than this.

THE OLD REGISTERS.

These are five in number, and begin with the remarkably early date of 1540. The earliest is marked “The 4th Volume,” the covers being eleven by seven and a-half inches. This is strongly bound. Vol. I. (unbound) is sixteen inches long by six wide. All these are made of skin or parchment, as also Vol. 5, but Vol. 3 is of very poor paper, except the outer covers, which are of vellum. It is twelve by eight inches, while Vol. 5 (strongly bound) is slightly over twelve by nine. It would appear that the oldest register was either abandoned or lost about 1559, and recovered, or again adopted, about 1650, from which time to 1772 it serves again as a register. Vol. I. begins in 1562, and continues to 1710. Vol. II. picks up the record in 1624, and runs to 1637; while Vol. III. begins at 1639 and goes to 1653. Vol. II. (also unbound) is nearly nineteen inches long by seven wide. It will be observed that some years are unaccounted for. Probably a few of the outside leaves of the unbound volumes are missing. Indeed, this is quite evident. The indorsement or title of the oldest volume is as follows :—

"The
Register of the
Christnings
Weddings and
Burialls."

By 1654 these registers would appear to have proved very useful from a legal point of view, for we find in that year that the title changes, and instead of "Christnings" we have "Birth Dayes"—thus "July 26th, John Curtis the sonne of Tho' Curtis 1654." And again—

"Anne Lawford, the daughter of George Lawford was born the 1st Day of April." 1655.

Almost in the next entry not only the day but hour of birth is given thus :

"Susan Abbott, the daughter of John Abbott, was borne the 9th day of April, being Monday, about 5 in the morning." 1655.

In 1660 the authorities appear to have remembered the original purpose of the registers, and begin again to record the baptisms, which for six years are wholly omitted.

Under date of the first year of the registers—viz., 1540—we have, among others, "Robert Potts, son of Raphe Potts" baptized the 5th day of March.

In 1541 "Tymon Ffensam" (Fensome, it now is) "Joane Greenc," "Valentine Bonner," "Margaret Pettit," "Richard Clarke," "William Cook," "Elizabeth Lowin (Lowings)," "Isabella Lins (Lines)," "Alice Groome," Raphe "croo" (Rowe).

In 1542, "William Groome," "Elizabeth Baker," "Raphe Hopkins," "Anne Neile," "Thomas Potts," "Nicholas Nitingale.

In 1543 some of the above names are repeated.

In 1544, Robert Walters.

In 1546, "William Shelton," "John Newland."

In 1547, "Richard Baker," "William Abbis" or "Ehbis."

In 1548, "Elizabeth Taylour."

In 1549, "Elizabeth Taylor," "William Everett," "Thomas Ireland," or Okeland.

In 1550 "Elizabeth Collins," "John Shephard."

In 1551 "Thomas Smith," &c.

Among those married in 1559 occur the names of "John Cooper and Joane Stafford," "Richard Smith and Dorothe——;" "Valentine Crawley and Agnes Burgess," "William Nichols and Anne Childs."

No names appear more frequently than those of Potts, Shaw, and Fensome or Ffensam, though others are very often met with. "John Presson" was appointed registrar of births, deaths, and marriages in 1653.

In 1661 George Shaw and Edward Cook were churchwardens, this being the first time the names of the wardens are given.

In 1660 Richard Kearsley M.A. (whose entries are mostly in Latin) had to be, or was, instituted and inducted into the living twice, owing to the Sees of Canterbury and Lincoln being vacant.

In 1654 Thomas Claver, rector, "but unjustly sequestered," was buried.

In 1662 the name of Atkins, or Adkins, occurs.

In 1669 the name of Cumberland occurs.

In 1677 we have the extraordinary announcement that Sarah Potts and others are "certified buried in flannell" or in "woollen;" and "James Betty, dying unbaptized, was certified to be buried in flannell." "Francis Moriah Robinson" was buried on the 22nd of November, and "certified" on the 29th. It appears that this mode of burial was ordered by Parliament, with a view of assisting the woollen industry, which was then languishing. About this time the letter "p" seems to have fallen into great contempt, and the letter "b" to be proportionately in request. Hence for "Hopkins"

we read "Hobkins," and for "baptisings" "babbtings."

In 1681 we have the entry—"Thus far given in at the last visitation." This henceforth becomes a yearly entry.

In 1699 we read—"Mrs. Mary Flamminkin ye Lady Wentworth's gentlewoman, buried 5th July."

In 1705 "Samawell Astin" was buried.

TODDINGTON CXIV. "NOTES AND QUERIES."

The following is a translation of an ancient deed, dated 1454, relating to lands in this parish. The original, which is in the possession of the Rector, is in Latin, and has two seals pendant; one has a curious device like a rebus which I am unable to make out. It belongs I expect to Thomas Wykelwode, the rector, as on the inside of the slip of parchment to which it is attached is very plainly written—"Thomas Wykelwode Rector ecclie parochialis de Todingdon." The other seal has the monogram J. B. or T. B. As the deed contains many old field names, I have thought it worth transcribing in full. One word, "*chemcirs*," I am unable to make out the meaning of, and an application to *Notes and Queries* has not resulted in any information. "Bayley," "Pedder," "East" (Est), and "Smith" are names of families still resident in Toddington. (F. A. B.)

KNOW ALL MEN present and to come that WE Thomas Wykelwode Rector of the parish Church of Todyndon and William Grenefeld Warden of the Hospital of Saint John the Baptist of Todyndon aforesaid have demised leased and by this our present deed have confirmed to John Kegyll William Marchall William Baylly John Masou Thomas Baylly William Pedder John Bonde John Chamberlyn John Est and John Pekham, our one messuage with the croft adjoining in Fencote in the Parish of Todyndon aforesaid and other the lands and meadows feedings and pastures with their appurtenances lying dispersedly in the FIELDS of FENCOTE and TODYNDON aforesaid. Whereof two roods of land lie together in a Furlong

near Chalgrave Church-stile between the land of the Rector of Todyndon on the one side and the land of William Chamberleyn on the other side and abut upon the croft heretofore of the Vicar of Chalgrave. Also one half-acre of land lies upon the Longspert between the land of the Lord of Todyndon on each side and abuts east and west. Also four selions of land likewise lie upon the Hasels between the land of the Lord and the land of John Reve and abut east and west. Also two selions of land lie together there between the land of the Lord on each side and abut east and west. Also one rood of land lies there and is the headland near the land of William Pedder and abuts east and west. Also two roods of land lie together near Swynes-croft near the land of William Pedder and abuts east and west. Also one acre of land lies there between the land of William Pedder on each side and abuts east and west. Also one half-acre of land lies upon Otehill (Oathill) between the land of William Pedder and the land of John Chamberleyn and abuts south and north. Also three roods of land with the *Chemours* (?) lie together upon Crowelslade between the land of the Lord and the land of the Rector and abut south and north. Also one rood of land lies upon Crofthorne between the land of John Chamberlain on each side and abuts east and west. Also one acre of land lies upon Bysmereshill between the land heretofore of John Vale and the land of William Pedder and abuts south and north. Also one half-acre of land lies there between the land of John Chamberleyn and the land of Ralph Wellys. Also another half-acre of land lies there between the land of John Chamberleyn and the land of Ralph Wellys. Also one rood of land lies at the Eldernstuhbe between the land of Thomas Baylly and the land of William Pedder. Also one half-acre of land lies upon Tonfurlong between the Balke there and the land of Richard Twyrolt and abuts east and west. Also one other half-acre of land lies there between the land of John Chamberleyn and the way called Hitonway. Also one half-acre of land lies upon Bardenhill between the land of John Chamberleyn on each side and stretches beyond Bardenhilway. Also another half-acre of land lies there between the land of John Chamberlain and the land of William Pedder and stretches beyond Bardenhilway. Also another half-acre of land lies there between the land of John Chamberlain and the land of William Pedder and stretches beyond Bardenhilway. Also that half an acre of land lies upon Ryneshill between the Haaschehegge (Ash-hedge) and the land of John Chamberlain. Also another half-acre of land lies there between the land

of John Chamberleyn and the land of Thomas Baylly. Also one acre of land lies there between the land of William Pedder on each side. Also one rood of land lies upon the Rye between the land of John Chamberleyn and the land of William Mychell, *one of the Swineherds of Todnyndon.** Also one half-acre of land lies there between the land of John Chamberleyn and the land of William Pedder. Also another half-acre of land lies there between the land of Thomas Baylly on each side. Also another half-acre of land lies there between the land of John Chamberleyn on each side. Also one acre of land lies upon the Outwodefeld between the land of William Pedder on each side. Also three roods of land lie together there between the land of William Pedder on each side. Also one half-acre of land lies there between the land of John Chamberleyn and the land of William Pedder. Also one other half-acre of land lies there between the land of John Chamberlain and the land of William Pedder—Also one half-acre of land lies upon Woodfurlong between the land of John Chamberleyn and the land of William Pedder—Also one

* "A lively picture of a Saxon swineherd occurs at the beginning of the novel of 'Ivanhoe.' The greatest extent of pasture for swine in the county of Bedford was in the parish of Luton, where there occurs the entry of 'wood for 2,000 hogs.'"

The reader of Doomsday Book will be struck by the superior consideration then enjoyed by that useful animal of the class *Mammalia*, genus *Bellua*, species *Sus Domestica*, now recognised by the inharmonious and unhonoured monosyllabic cognomina of hog or pig. These seem to have formed a very material part of the wealth and means of our ancestors, the forests then being only specifically valued as they afforded *pannage* or pasturage to a certain number of them, being fed on the acorns and masts to be found there, and were guarded and watched by swineherds—a character more common then than that of shepherd at the present day. They were also led home at the approach of night to their pens, which were then only occupied at that time—in the same manner as we read, 2,000 years before, by the faithful Swineherd of Ithaca :

“ Thus communed these : while their lowly dome
The full-fed swine returned with evening home,
Compelled, reluctant, to their several styes,
With dim obstreperous and ungrateful cries.”

Odyssey, B. XIV.

half acre of land lies there between the land of John Chamberleyn and the land of William Pedder—Also one half acre of land lies upon Stonyham between the land of the Lord and the land William Pedder—Also one half acre of land lies there between the land of John Chamberleyn on each side—Also another half acre of land lies there between the land of William Pedder on each side—Also another half acre of land lies there between the land of John Chamberleyn and the land of William Pedder—Also one half acre of land lies upon the Oldedowne between the land of John Chamberleyn and the land of William Pedder—Also one acre of land lies near Blakeheggate between the land of the Lord and the land of John Reve—Also one half acre of land lies near the Quabbe between the land of William Marchall and the land of Thomas Wayte—Also another half acre of land lies there between the land of the Lord and the land of William Marchall—Also two roods of land lie upon the Grenehill between the land of William Marchall and the land of Thomas Smythe and abut upon Enle—Also two other roods of lands lie there between the land of Thomas Smythe on each side—Also threeselions of land with a parcel of meadow lie together at Deppytys near the land of William Marchall and abut upon the Rector's meadow—Also one selion of land lies upon Hewmorserse between the land of William Pedder on each side—Also another selion of land lies there between the land of William Pedder and the land of Thomas Baylly—Also one selion of land lies upon Shortbardenhill between the land of William Pedder on each side—Also one half acre of land lies at Endleslandes between the land of John Chamberleyn and the land of William Pedder—Also two selions of land lie near the Oldcros between the land of William Pedder on each side—Also half an acre of land lies there between the land of William Pedder and the Churchwey—Also another half acre of land lies there between the land of John Chamberleyn and the land of William Pedder—Also another half acre of land lies there between the land and meadow of John Chamberleyn and one acre of land lies at Frenshmanway between the land of the Lord and the Rector's land—ALSO we have demised to the aforesaid John William Marchall William Baylly John Thomas Baylly William Pedder John John John and John 12d of yearly rent, to wit, from the tenement called Pondes in TODYNGDON 6d yearly and from the tenement and one close late of William de Fancote in FANCOTE 4d yearly and from one acre of land lying near the Blakehegges late of Thomas Pulter now

of Agnes Welde 2d yearly and which messuage croft lands meadows feeding pastures and rent with their appurtenances were formerly of Simon Umfray at that time of Dunstaple. **MOREOVER** we have demised and leased to the said John William Marchall William Baylly John Thomas Baylly William Pedder John John John and John all those our lands and meadows which we have between a certain Plot of land called the Parsonsdowne and the Outwoodbridge to wit, in the field east of Todyngdon aforesaid as they lie between the ditch and bounds there placed **TO HAVE** and to **HOLD** all the aforesaid messuage croft land meadows feedings pastures and rents with all their appurtenances to the aforesaid John William Marchall William Baylly John Thomas Baylly William Pedder John John John and John their heirs and assigns for ever of the chief Lords of their Fees by the services therefore due and of right accustomed—**IN WITNESS** whereof we have to this our present deed affixed our seals—**THESE BEING WITNESSES** John Marchall William Chamberleya John Reve Thomas Snyth Thomas Est and others. **DATED** Todyngdon aforesaid on Sunday next after the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel in the 32nd year of the reign of King Henry the 6th after the Conquest of England.

TODDINGTON HOSPITAL.

From Dugdale's "Monasticon:" "John Broughton, by license from King Henry VI in the 28th year of his reign (1449-50) founded this hospital of St. John the Baptist for one chaplain and three poor men, to be a body corporate. The said King also granted the founder leave to assign a revenue of £8 per annum to the Nunnery of St. Margaret, Deptford, and that the said nuns when this hospital was built might grant the said revenue of £8, as also 100s. yearly of their own, to the said hospital."

PLACES, BUILDINGS, AND NOTES OF INTEREST.

In days gone by every parish of the size of Toddington had its awe-inspiring place of execution. It was invariably at some spot where roads met, in order that all travellers might be reminded of the fearful consequences of breaking the law. The spot

selected for the Toddington gallows was on the Harlington Road, where it branches off to Westoning. The spot used to be known by the name of *Gallows Knock* (or Knoll). The Westoning Road is still otherwise known as Gallows Lane. Happily, our registers (so far as I have read them) record nothing worse than a transportation.

Near the Griffin Inn the old Market House, is believed to have stood. It is said to have been built of materials obtained from the ancient Hospital of St. John, and to have been pulled down in 1779.

On the village green, opposite Conger House there formerly stood some houses. Old photographs show these. They were called the *Parish Bakehouses*. There are said to have been seven ovens connected with the fire-place. The public bakehouse is still an institution in some old-fashioned parishes. The writer remembers seeing one in Huntingdonshire, but mistook it for a "leek-up" until better informed.

There is the usual tradition that an underground passage exists between the Church and Manor. The same is also said of the Red House near the pond.

In olden times the road running round by Conger House and leading to Conger Hill was called 'Spital Road, in connection with the old hospital.

The Manor of Wadloes did not pass to the Wentworths. It is mentioned in connection with Dunstable Priory as being held by the abbot, but probably only rented. In the old registers it is distinctly mentioned as part of the rectory glebe. It was probably exchanged for some other property. Early in the 17th century it was in the family of Astrey, of whom it was inherited by Francis Peniston, Esq., who, reserving the manor, sold the farm to John Wingate Jennings, Esq., of Harlington.

The hamlet of Chalton came into the possession of Viscount Howe, of whom it was bought by Mr. Cox. It is now owned principally by Miss Cooper Cooper, Lord Monk-Bretton, Mr. Anstee, of the Tythe, and Messrs. Allen, of London.

It is observed that Leighton is referred to in the old registers as "Leighton Beaudesert," not *Bazzard*.

Until recently the old curfew bell was regularly rung here at four in the morning and eight at night.

The "pancake" bell is still rung on Shrove Tuesday.

A merry peal is always heard also from three to four o'clock on Oak-apple Day, or the 29th of May.

Another singular custom at Toddington is to declare the age and sex of a deceased person in tolling the bell on the occasion of a death.

Among distinguished rectors of Toddington we must place the Rev. Sir John Rowland (1396—1401) a great benefactor to St. Albans Abbey, where he is buried "in the Chapel of St. Mary, within an enclosure of iron, between the pillar and the wall."

Abraham Hartwell (1570) also attained distinction as a learned writer. I have mislaid the note, but one also became Dean of Gloucester.

Historical references to the neighbourhood from "Appendix A," *Early History of Woburn. Re Civil Wars*:—"In June 1644, the King (Charles I.) passed through this town (Woburn) on his way from Aylesbury, and slept at Bedford House (i.e. Woburn Abbey), the Earl of Bedford being then, as it is supposed, absent. The King's route was designed for Bedford, but he removed to Leighton."

"On the 26th of August, 1645, the King again passed through the town, on his route from Wales to Oxford, and, as before, slept at Bedford House."

“On Wednesday, Nov. 26th, a numerous body of horse (Royalists) came from Oxford to Leighton, where they remained for the night, and left at three in the morning for Woburn.” (The town had been elevated into a military post.)

“Early in January, 1646, the Royalists are said to have been about Brickhill, “Owbourne,” Stratford, and Leighton.”

“On the 20th of July, 1647, the unfortunate King, whose fortunes had been ruined by the battle of Naseby, passed through Woburn a third time, and stopped at the Earl of Bedford’s—a nobleman who had then left the service of Parliament for that of his Sovereign, and who, with an anxious interest in the welfare of both, used his best efforts to promote peace, and reconciliation; the *Earl of Cleveland* being there to receive him, with other noblemen.”

N.B. I have not as yet been able to definitely prove from authentic records that King Charles I., according to tradition, was for some time in hiding at Harlington House, but it can hardly be doubted that the tradition is well founded. It can easily be imagined that a quiet place of retreat like that would be safer than even Bedford House in case of a successful attack upon it. And nothing is more probable than that the Earl of Cleveland would suggest it, and keep the King well informed, and supplied with both necessaries and protection from Toddington Manor. Charles II. certainly visited his tutor, Mr. Wingate, at Harlington Manor, and this fact would quite support the belief that Charles I. took refuge there.

The following letters have been referred to in the foregoing history, and relate to the passage between Lord Thomas Wentworth and Barbara Lambe :—

“Sir John Lambe to his daughter Barbara.

“June 17th, 1639.”

“I perceive my Lord Feilding (son of the Earl of

Denbigh) has been with you. He is a noble worthy gent., whom Lord W(harton?) had told you of before, so that he came not altogether unexpected to you. But to like or dislike I leave to you, which you will do well not to defer too long, lest you stay to be the refuse and scorn of those who now desire you. For Lord Wentworth you know it (the match) is broken off with your own privity, and I shall account you lost if you have him. I hear that my lady, his mother, said that he had no great liking of you himself, but to give his father content. And my Lord of Suffolk said, this day, to me, that Lord Wentworth, as was avouched by a noble lady, had a letter or message from you, or perhaps from your comrade, to come down to marry you; but he swore he would not do it, and slighted you, as was said, with scorn enough. And indeed the common talk now is of your forwardness, I do not say fondness, and his backwardness and refusal. Consider well of it; it is not fit you bear both scath and scorn; my heart will not endure it. . . Lord W(entworth) must acknowledge, if he be ingenuous, your exceeding love and constancy to him, beyond measure, beyond reason, even to the near hazard of your utter ruin by the displeasure of your father. It (the match) breaks not off now on your part, nor your father's, but by most unreasonable terms on their part. There must be an end of things; there is neither reason, conscience, nor honesty, to make expectation to be endless, which if you would I will not endure. What can be expected more of you than you have done and endur'd to and for him. . . Consider of it as a discreet woman, and let me know your answer by the next. . . God send you His grace, and me more comfort.

“YOUR LOVING FATHER.”

“Barbara Lambé to her father, Sir John Lambé.

“July 1639.

“I have an extreme desire to see you for many causes, and I am so troubled, as I shall not be well till I am with you. There have been many professions and promises passed betwixt Lord Wentworth and myself, which I beseech you forgive me, that I would fain, if I could, come off quietly and honestly from, before I enter too far into treaty with any other; but I would not let Lord Feilding know so much. For Lord Wentworth being at Ohelmsford I cannot answer, because I am not certain; but for the other, if all the lords and ladies in England say it, yet I will assure you it is false, and I do assure you, out of my duty to you, I do not intend to marry him. I beseech you

that you would not be distrustful of me, for then I shall be afraid ever to marry for fear my husband learn of you to be jealous of me, . . . I do not doubt but you have heard tales enough, which when I come to town I shall show you to be false. (Endorsed by Sir John, to B.L. circa, July, 1639, from Feering, Essex.")

THE STORY OF CECILIA.

The following may be interesting: William Gorham left a widow Cecilia, of good family. The lady, having been well educated, was chosen in her younger days to the office of preceptress to Jane, sister of King Henry III., who became the wife and relict of William Marshall the younger, afterwards Earl of Pembroke, and was married to the Earl of Leicester, Simon de Montfort. Cecilia, together with the Countess of Pembroke, both being widows, made a vow to continue in their widowed state, and together, with the espousal ring, assumed that mournful garb then called "russet" from the colour and plainness. The Countess, being wooed by the Earl of Leicester, applied to the Pope to be absolved from her vow; which favour being obtained she left her companion alone. Cecilia continued single, and on her death-bed, the priest, who was Walter, Abbot of St. Martin's in London, spying a valuable ring on her finger, ordered the attendant to draw it off, as no longer necessary, and indeed superfluous to a dying person. Cecilia, though dying, recovered breath enough to say, "No, good father, I will never relinquish this ring either living or dead. I will carry this ring with me to the tribunal of God, as a pledge of that continence which I swore to my husband, and there demand the retribution which we covenanted for. For his sake I have refused many offers of high rank and great fortune." Then, grasping the ring, she breathed her last.

Among the "traditions" of the place is one to the effect that Toddington was the scene of a

Page missing

1244. Settled with James the Jew (!) about lands in Wadelow. Master Peter Peyvre built his chamber over his gate at Wadele, and on St. James' Day was presented to the Church of Studham (?) but his institution was delayed by the Pope's Nuncio.

1248. Exchanged with Mr. Paulinus de Pevre for land at Hares (Harne or Hearn in Toddington—or in Tebworth where there was another Haron (1286), or Hares, and where Paulinus had land) for £20 a year.

1249. He built a dwelling and grange at Wadelow.

1250. Joan Peyvre married Lord John de Grey against the King's wish. This Lord de Grey was of Water Eaton, whether of the Flitton or Wrest family (as previously stated) is uncertain.

1256. Joan Peyvre died, and was buried at Woburn. Immediately after her death Peter Peyvre obtained of Lord John de Grey for the custody and marriage of the heir of Sir Paulinus Peyvre 1000 marcs. He presently sold the marriage of his kinsman to Geoffrey de Langley * for 200 marcs. (This is quite a different account from that given by Lysons. Another somewhat different account has already been given.)

1275 "Settled with John Ye Clerk about land in Wadelow."

1286 "John Payvre sued me in Waddelowe by writ of consanguinity and we were discharged for 100 shillings."

1298 "Nicholai, Parson of Teddington."

"The Prior appeared before the judges appointed to try writ of new ejectment and alleged he was dispossessed of two parcels of land in Wadelow. An issue was granted (*assisa venit recognitura*) to try whether Richd. Maunsell & Co., had ejected him unjustly from his freehold in Thodingdone, as he complained. They said they were only natives of John Peivere, and that while he was under age the King had ward of it, and gave it to Queen Eleanor, whose officer let it to Simon our late Prior. The Prior replied that the inhabitants of Thodingdon were possessed of these tenements, and infeoffed Prior Simon in it for himself and his successors for ever. The jury brought in a verdict for me, and found that we were to pay sixpence a year in mowing time for the said tenements, and that this had been duly paid till the Prior was now ejected; the said Prior was therefore empowered to recover possession by new recognizance paying 2s. (*danda*

* Note the origin of the name of the well-known Langley fields.

sua quæ taxantur per eosdem ad 2s.) and Richard Maunsell &c., for forcible ejection, would be imprisoned, but he paid 10s. fine and the rest 20s. and 1 marc.

1294 " In July search was made by order of some about the King after the wealth laid up in monasteries, and certain of the clergy were deputed to do it. Our Priory was searched by Nicholai, Rector of Toddington, and his lay assistant (?); but though they searched all our secret places, and had the key of all the offices, they found only £40 deposited in the church by Walter Rudham, which they sealed up and afterwards returned him by writ from the exchequer."

TODDINGTON.

1562 27 March, J. Attwood; 23 April, Robt. Johnson.

TAXATIO PAPAL NICHOLAI IV. 1291.

The Prior of Dunstable had at Totvngdon apud Wadelow in land, meadows and pitance £1 6s. 0d., in fruits, flocks, and herds 13s.

The Abbot of Woburn in Toddington, the Grange of Harnoc, in land, rent, courts, and sale of wood, £3 0s. 10d., in fruit, flocks, and herds, £1 18s. 4d.

VALOR ECCLES.—1535.

Jno. Abb. de Dunstable—Wadelowe in rents and farms £4 13s. 4d. Woburn—in rent of farms in Harnoc, let to drivers tenants there, £9 19s. 2d.

These are probably the Hearn Farms, of which one belongs to Miss Synnot. It is called in 1543, in the Minister's accounts, "Heron." Robt. Cooke, being the bailiff for Milton Bryant, Harnoc, Tchworth, and Hockliffe.

TODDINGTON RECTORY.—VALUATION.

1291 £10.

1340 £10 13s. 4d.—viz, 120 acres—40s. Rent 30s, perquisites, alteraque £6 13s. 4d.—£10 13s. 4d.

1535 Gross, £29 14s. 4d. Deduct Archdeacon's fees, 10s 6d. Net value in the King's Book, £29 3s. 10d. Tenths, £2 18s. 3½d. Val Eccles.

RECTORS OF TODDINGTON.

1221. Hugo died 1222 — Chronicle of Dunstable. 1222. W. de Carva Harleian M.S.—Abbot of Cultura. 1293. Nicholai—Chron. Dau. Circa 1396-1401. Sir John Rowland, buried at St. Alban's Abbey, to which he was a great benefactor. St. Alban's M. Henry VI. Thos Wykelswode. In 1518. John Wylwarde (Dompne) "priest of Toddington," author

of "De pobstah Petri," chaplain of the Hospital. 1535. Rich. Gyll. 1546. (23 Sept.) Robt. Dawson. 1554. (26 Oct.) Thos. Kent. 1568. (2 Dec.) Thos. Withers. 1570. (27 Jan.) Abraham Hartwell, Rector of Tingrith. 1572, at Eton a learned writer, and left a library for the use of his successors (where is it now?) 1573. (28 Ap.) Mag. W. Sage, died 6 Aug., buried 7 Aug. 1598. publicus verbi dei consionator. 1598 (21 Nov.) Rich. Neale. 1609 (14 Feb.) Rich. Butler. 1613. (16 Feb.) Francis Rollenson, or Rawlinson, died 16, buried 18 Aug., 1630, mentioned in Lady Jane Cheyne's will, married Mary Pennington, in Toddington Church, 26 April, 1630. 1630. (17 Nov.) Thos. Cleaver unjustly sequestered, buried 9 Sept, 1654. 1653: Thos. Aspin. 1660. (30 June or July) Rich. Kearsley, M.A. 1661. (instituted again Jan. 31), buried 23 July, 1668. 1668. (2 Sept.) Dr. Isaac Bringhurst, D.D. Queen's Coll. Cam. A. M., 1660. S. T. P. 1675, Vicar of Kensworth, Herts., 1660-66. 1697. (17 Dec.) Thos. Gregory. 1713. (9 Dec.) J. Lord. 1757. (26 [30?] Nov.) George Jubb, D. D., died 12 Nov. 1787. 1788. (17 April) J. Dixon, died 6 March, buried 11 March, 1816. 1816. (4 Ap.) Edmund Burke Lewis, M.A., Ch. Ch., Oxon, died 1 Nov., 1845. 1846. (10 March), Jas. Lindsay Cooper Cooper, resigned May 24, 1862. 1862. (9 June) J. Clegg, M.A., Magdalen Hall, Oxford. 1876. Chas. E. Haslam, M.A. 1887. W. Brickwood, B.A. 1892. F. A. Adams, M.A.

The following record, occupying three closely-written pages in the old register, is interesting. The value of money was of course much greater than now. It begins in 1661, and runs thus:—

	£	s.	d.
Collected for the inhabitants of Fakenham,			
in Norfolk	0	3	11
" for the inhabitants of Pontefract,			
in Yorkshire	0	3	6
" for the repair of St. John the Bap-			
tist's Church, in Bedford.....	0	5	1
" for Henry Hamson, mariner	0	5	5
" for the sufferers by fire at Elmsley			
Castle.....	0	3	9
" for a fire at Bridgnorth, in Shrop-			
shire	0	3	6
" for the Collegiate Church of Ripon,			
in Yorkshire.....	0	3	0
" for Grimsby a port town in Lincoln-			
shire	0	5	1

Collected for the sick of the plague (Aug.
2nd, 1665) 0 14 0

As many as seven collections were made for these poor people during the year 1665. This also is note-worthy. Collected at three communions for the poor, March 15th, 22nd, and 29th, shewing that there was a weekly holy communion at this date.

As again :—

Collected for the poore of Toddington upon four communion days, April 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th.

This is especially interesting.

Collected for Wing in the county of Bucks (1677).

Collected for the captives of Algiers.

Collected for St. Paul's Church in Toddington (probably the north transept).

And so on for three pages, the benefactions going right and left throughout the country and beyond it, to any person or place which seemed to be in need.

This closing record is one of which the people of Toddington may justly be proud, since it shows that a world-wide charity was taught and responded to in the old Parish Church of those days. May the same doctrine ever be proclaimed from its pulpit, and find place in the hearts of the hearers !

[FINIS.]

Toddington Rectory,
June, 1894.