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Presidential Address

by Lord Sherborne
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INAUGURAL ADDRESS

BY THE RIGHT HON. LORD SHERBORNE, *President.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It was not without considerable diffidence that I undertook the office of President of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archæological Society for this year, for my knowledge of Archæology is not sufficient to justify my doing so. It occurred to me, however, that I had something to say which this Society might like to hear, namely, some account of the present contents of the Muniment Room at Sherborne. In the year 1830, what *I* shall always regard as a great calamity, befel our family. My grandfather decided to pull down the old home of the Duttons and replace it by what he doubtless considered an improved house on the same site. The old house, by all accounts, was much handsomer than the new one, and it was so solidly built that the greatest difficulty was experienced in pulling it down. It may be worth while to note in passing, what I must call shameless inaccuracy of the representations of the old Sherborne House both in Atkyns and Fosbrooke.

In *Atkyns' Gloucestershire* the two ends of the house facing the spectators are represented as finished off with columns and windows, much as they are now. In point of fact they were left unfinished, and ended in a plain rough-cast wall. Moreover, the foreground of courts, gardens, and plantations only existed in the imagination of the artist.

Fosbrooke's plate of Sherborne represents the house with a balustrade which masks the roof. This, too, never existed. Inigo Jones' plan, in which the tiles came down to the gutter, was the real and far handsomer arrangement. But, I suppose, that in Fosbrooke's time a roof was considered a disfigurement. My grandmother always considered the present heavy parapet which

conceals the roof of modern Sherborne as one of the chief glories of the new house, and then used to cite the *Palace of the Tuileries*, now, unhappily, no more, as an instance of how a handsome building could be utterly spoiled by its high roofs. It will thus be seen that even down to the beginning of the present century the artist did not draw what he actually saw, but rather what he thought ought to be there, and consequently representations of old houses must not be taken for granted.

To resume, when the old house was pulled down all the books and papers were taken to Windrush Vicarage, and put under the care of Mr. Davies, the then vicar, who took no care of them at all. This worthy man, who died about 7 years ago, aged 96, had been tutor to my father, but seems to have regarded books much as a grocer's boy regards figs. Indeed I have been informed that previously to the removal, he and the housekeeper laid their heads together and made a bonfire of a lot of old papers and rubbish, as they then deemed it, which lay loose in one of the top rooms at Sherborne. He, mainly instigated thereto by observing that the parchments were, many of them, on sacred subjects, and so wished to preserve things divine from coming down to base uses. A Mahomedan, we are told, never destroys a scrap of paper lest the name of Allah should be written on it. In this case a similar reason led the Christian divine to an opposite conclusion. He burnt all the scraps.

During the time the books and parchments remained at Windrush, a servant, it is supposed, sold them to whoever would buy; at any rate many black letter folios and parchments found their way to the village shoemaker who used the large leaves for cutting out shapes for shoes. I preserved what remained about thirty years ago, and had rebound what books were worth re-binding—*The Sermones Meffreth*, *The Apostillæ of Cardinal Hugo*, *A Summary of the Sext and the Clementines*, *Sententiæ*, and such like works. Also the first collected edition of Ben Johnson's works, and a MS. common-place book of Thomas Dutton, the purchaser of the Manor of Sherborne, filled with what would now be considered common-place observations; perhaps they were not so stale in those days. Of the MSS. that returned to Sherborne I

now propose to give you a short account, and I must here premise that whatever value my remarks may have is entirely owing to the researches of the Rev. David Royce, Vicar of Netherswell, who kindly undertook to look through the records. It has, I trust, been a labour of love. The account is necessarily imperfect, as there has not been time to arrange and classify the deeds as thoroughly as I could wish, and as I hope some day to see done, but to the best of my belief nobody has examined the muniments since they were placed in their present room some fifty years ago : to give you an idea of what remains is now the object of my present address.

The first deeds I shall mention are those that came from Winchcombe Abbey, beginning with the two Cartularies called *Liber A and Liber B*, which disappeared at the rebuilding of the house, and were never heard of again for fifty years. When I questioned my grandmother, Lady Sherborne, concerning them, she told me what I have just told you about the books at Windrush Vicarage, and we always feared they had found their way to the glue-pot. Happily this was not the case. Mr. Newmarch, of Cirencester, had been my grandfather's agent. Messrs. Sewell and Son, also of Cirencester, succeeded to his business, and in his strong room the books were discovered on the occasion of the first excursion of this Society to that town. The Cartularies had been required to be produced in the Court of Exchequer, in a law-suit relating to Charlton Kings, and so had been preserved. What are these Registers ?

1. From the Cartulary itself, it is certain that the earliest charters of Winchcombe Abbey perished in a fire in King Stephen's time. The abbey and its records were then destroyed by the very means adopted for their protection, namely, by the burn of the cottages built around for defence against incursions of marauders.
2. Of subsequent Registers, Anthony a' Wood states that "The Registers of Winchcombe containing at least 5 books or parts, came, after the Dissolution of the Abbey, into obscure hands. At length, it being produced by an ordinary farmer at an

assize, held at Gloucester, for the proof of some matter then in question at which Sir William Morton, lord of the site of Winchcombe Abbey, was present, he, by some device, got it out of the farmer's hands, as belonging more properly to him, and kept it some time in his house at Kidlington, in Oxfordshire, and sometimes in his lodgings at Serjeant's Inn. But so it was that the said Sir William, who was one of the Justices of the King's Bench, being on his Norfolk Circuit, at what time the conflagration in London happened, the said book with others of his goods, and the Inn itself, was totally consumed to ashes."—*Wood's Ath. Oxon.*, Vol. I., c. 61, ed. Bliss.

It is said that Dr. Fell, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, had this work transcribed, but of this transcript no discovery has been made.

Atkyns narrows this statement of Wood's down, saying that Richard Kiderminster wrote a very valuable history of the foundation of the Abbey. Rudder adds, "but this book was unfortunately burnt by the fire."

Another statement.—"The abridgement of the Cartulary (*i.e.* Sir W. Norton's, which perished in the fire of London) by Richard Kedermynster, was copied by Dodsworth.¹ Kedermynster, however, was Abbot from 1488-1531, whilst John Cheltenham, Abbot from 1423-1454 is the Author and Collector of the large Register *Liber A*. It is most probable Kedermynster abridged whatever Cartularies he found existing in the Monastery: *Liber A*, as well as the smaller, earlier and more valuable *Liber B*. We know that Abbot Cheltenham did so.

Sir Thomas Phillips, in his *Index of Cartularies*, mentions four volumes, A, B, C, D, as in the hands of Lord Sherborne in 1820. What C and D were I know not. I never heard them mentioned by the late Lady Sherborne. Tanner, as we shall see, appears only to have known of *Liber A*, Abbot Cheltenham's Registers, or as he styles him, Chettingham. I quote the passage from Nasmyth's edition of 1787.

¹ Dodsw. MSS. Vol. II., p. 304. Marshall's Eustone, p. 10.

- I. Registrum dom. Joannis Chettingham abbatis Wynchcombe factum per eundem Abbatem A.D. 1422 continens cartas 515 paginas 505 (509 really) in foliis pergamenis MS.
- II. Rentale maneriorum monasterii Wynchcombe factum A.D. 1355. This is safe.
- III. Rentalia dominiorum, maneriorum, rectoriarum, firmarum, terrarum et tenementorum pertinentium ecclesie B. Marie Virginis et S. Kenelmi regis et martyris de Wynchcombe, renovata ad festum S. Michaeli Archangeli anno Regis Hen. VIII. primo MS. (This has not turned up.)

These three last MSS. are in the hands of Sir John Dutton, of Shirburn, in Gloucestershire. Sir Thomas Phillips also possessed an abridgement of these Cartularies, entitled *Cartularium Monasterii de Winchcombe* in com. Glouc. Abbreviatum per Joh. Prynne. This abridgement Sir Thomas Phillips had lithographed at Middle Hill in 1854, and he prized it highly, for he died in the belief that the originals were irrecoverably lost. Clear, careful, and valuable as this abridgement is, it is but an abridgement still. It would seem, therefore, that the Cartularies described by Ant. a' Wood, as burnt in the fire of London, were those of Abbot Kedermynster, and, doubtless, were in Wynchcombe Abbey at the time of the dissolution, while those we are treating of were earlier ones which happened to be in the grange or cell of Sherborne at the same epoch, and remained there ever since.

As for a bare description of them—

Liber B is really the first, the oldest, the most valuable, and the smallest. It is referred to by Fosbrooke (who had both A and B at his full disposal, and made good use of them) as "Registrum Parvum." It measures $7\frac{1}{4}$ ins. by 10 ins., contains 136 leaves of vellum. The handwriting varies according to the different types in different reigns from Henry III. to Edward III., 126 pages are in the fine bold black character of Hen. III. This date is corroborated by the fact that in this same style of writing, on the first leaf, is penned a list of Kings before and after the Conquest, terminating with Hen. III., and the bias of the scribe appears. Stephen is described as "miles fortissimus"; Matilda

was a scourge to the abbey; Richard I. is "strennus miles"; John is "Santerc." Then with a space between, and by the same hand, but, seemingly, grown feebler, is Henricus Rex (56) quinquaginta sex annos et viginti dies.

The contents of this Cartulary consists of Royal Confirmations, Papal Bulls, Charters of Individuals, noble and simple, and *cruce signati* (crusaders)—an infinite number of messages and small estates aliened to the abbey, to all which charters the names of witnesses are attached, and, at the end, a number of *corrodies*, or grants of board, lodging, robes, grooms, rooms, candles, fuel, *prebends* for horses, sepulture, masses for the departed, &c., in return for services or benefactions to the monastery. On the last leaves there is a list of the several servants of the abbey, and their salaries, a code of decrees, a statement of the number of parish churches, towns, Knights' fees, tithes of the church, and a litany of the Blessed Virgin, with notes which would puzzle 19th century singers. Both Cartularies appear to have been bound at the same time, about the middle of the 16th century, in thick oaken lids covered with vellum.

Cartulary A, "Registrum Magnum," is larger in size 11½ ins. by (4¾ ins.) and thicker, containing 515 charters and 509 pages. It is written, for the most part, by one hand. The scribe painting, as it were, words which he could not decipher. It begins with the fact that it was made by John Cheltenham, A.D. 1422, and with his election, confirmation, benediction, and installation into the monastery. The deeds relating to these are followed by what shows that all was not peace between the parish church and the abbey. There is an appeal to the Pope. The bells of the former were chimed in the night to the disturbance of the abbot and monks at their nightly devotions or hours. Then follows a proof of the wearisomeness of proceedings in the Roman Curia in a protracted suit between the Vicar of the Parish and the Abbey respecting the repair of the chancel and windows. The account of the proceedings fills 22 pages. The all-pervading jurisdiction of the Pope is evidenced by Bulls, as of Boniface IX. confirming to Abbot William the mitre, ring, pastoral staff, and other insignia,

and of Pope Martin granting to Abbot John the use of a portable altar. There is a Bull likewise of Pope Nicholas allowing the monks to use their caps (pilleos) in church "propter ingens frigus in eorum partibus," coming down on their tonsured heads, excepting in reading the Gospel or elevation of the host. There are instances of the intervention of the *temporal* power, as in the warrant of King Edward to allow Richard Busshel, of Brodmerston, to give five messuages and several lands to find two wax candles of 12lbs. weight to burn every day before the High Altar. There is an apparent collision between the Abbot of Winchcombe and his neighbour the Abbot of Hayles, recorded in the only entry in English, and all in red ink, in the Cartulary.

At a court at Wynchcombe, on Monday the morrow of St. Nicholas, 15th Edw. I. (1287) "Johannes Yonge de Longebarrow wytnneseth that hit is geldable from the lordes leyton (?) wall of Langbarrow to the court yate, Thos. Viekers stode withynne the Church yard and threw his staff at Thos. Shepd. (Shepherde) and breke his hed. Wherefore he was amercyde in the Kinge's Court at Kyftesgate vid. Thos Eed was bayley the same tyme and the same tyme came Richard Busschell the Abbot's steward of Hayle, that was that tyme, and claymed hit for fraunchesse and it was provud (proved) afore him the same tyme that hit was none."

The greater part of A consists of Charters and settlements of matters, all with names of witnesses attached. This Cartulary is remarkable as having been worked thoroughly by Prynne. There are numerous marginal notes in his neat hand, whereas in B there is not one. In every place where the word *Papa*, or its abbreviation, or the word *Bulla* comes, it is erased. The very first words on B, relating to the appearance of Ethelwulf before Pope Leo, have likewise been abraded by the knife of Puritanism, overmatching even the zeal of the archæologist.

A singular instance of how in early days surnames had their origin in nicknames and their fluctuating character occurs in *Liber B*. In a deed relating to land in Bekestreet, Winchcombe, it says: "which Godwin Greahundenose sometimes held and after

him his son Frewene ‘Porenose,’” We can easily picture to ourselves the sort of face the father must have had and the appearance of its leading feature, which, however, he failed to transmit to his offspring, and his neighbours marked their contempt for the substitute by the disparaging epithet they applied to it. Whether John le Mous (Johannes Mus) was so called from his outward appearance or his mental attitude, we cannot now determine. One other surname, “Buckbarde,” must, I suppose, have been goatsbeard from “Bouc,” the French, *he goat*.

II, The “Rentale,” a contrast to the Cartularies in bulk and size (1 foot by 8 inches), but very beautifully and neatly written, is very interesting both for inspection and information. It styles itself a “*quatermun*,” *i.e.*, 4 squares of parchment doubled in half, thus making 8 leaves, those stitched into 2 other squares, doubled with half a square besides, make in all a book of 29 leaves. The heading gives the date A.D. 1355. But the first page is of expenses, 1358. First come pensions and pensioners (one surviving from the corrodies of Edward II.), then a sliding scale of the “Robe cum furrurâ. To the clergy and steward for a robe, each 12 shillings. To the servants of the sub-cellarer, cook, bailiff, &c., 8s. each. To the grooms, 5s. To the abbot’s cellarers, cooks, pages, 10s. for a robe each. This robing of these members of the monastery cost the house this year £8 19s. *Provisions* for the abbot’s and cellarer’s dining room for guests (hospitium) £10 0s. 8d., *i.e.* 4s. a day, but it must be remembered that the manors sent in their quota besides. Travelling expenses 60s. Small expenses for salt, candles, horse shoes, &c., 66s. 8d. Corn and malt, £20.

The outgoings of the abbey, it is stated at the foot of this page, were on an average annually, £203 6s. 2½d., besides 40 marks assigned to the kitchen, the expenses exceeding the *receipts* by £18 6s. 6d.

Of the fourteen manors, the names of the tenants and their holdings occupy the left pages. Their payments are given in five columns, mostly for the terms of St. Andrew, Lady day, St. John Baptist, St. Kenelm and Michelmas. This book testifies

to the division of land into small holdings and small farms in the 14th century. Take *Sherborne*, which was the largest of the manors. There were 91 messuages, 82 tenants holding amongst them 103 yardlands, and 6 pieces of domain, 4 *quarterns* (?) 42 acres (arable), 9 closes, 9 crofts, and a feuger piece (*i.e.* covered with fern). There were 4 mills. A water and fuller mill, Bury mill, and Staggenmill. One mill only now exists in the parish of Sherborne, and that is disused.

The prevailing holding is 1 messuage and 1 yardlard; the rent varying from 8s. to 4s. a year. Occasionally there is a special payment as of multones (muttons or sheep); 12d. for a *mutton*. Honeybourne has a special column for the term *Cathedra Petri* and for "Visch penny." I suppose fishpenny or Peter-pence.

On the margin of the left hand column are customary feudal charges—written against each tenant liable—*i.e.* for bedripes (day's work), *haymaking* and for *washing* and *shearing* sheep, which, at Sherborne, appears to have been a great day and festive season. The Abbot of Wynchcombe always came to it. Yanworth and Charlton Abbot's are remarkable for the rent of *cocks*, *hens*, and *eggs* assessed to most of the tenants. John Cosyn, of Yanworth, besides his rent of 12s. for a messuage and 2 woodlands, paid 1 cock, 10 eggs and gave 6 bedripes. Henry Symonds, of Charlton Abbot's, for one messuage and yardland (besides 7 shillings), rendered 1 cock, 1 hen, 24 eggs, 1 bedripe, and one day at mowing. John at Halle held at Hazelton 2 messuages, 4 cottages, 11 yardlands, by the rendering of a "pair of spurs" on St. John Baptist's day. Under Marston Sicca, to each holding are attached 1, 2, or 3 *Chepacres* (?).¹ Stanton, Honeybourne and Adelmynton are each charged with 11s. and 9d. for "*Wikewerk-selver*."

The sum of all the rents in this book in gross for A.D. 1358 is £142 5s. 6¼d. The total of the Sherborne quota, £33 18s. 4d. and 160 bedripes, and 20 "fernhennes," the latter a customary rent peculiar to Sherborne. Robert Heynes, of Sherborne, for 1 messuage, 2 yardlands and 4 acres at Caldwelllake and Burrimanneway with one piece *l'ewgere* paid 4 bedripes, 6 Fernhennes

¹ Inferior land let at a low rent?—ED.

and 2d. fishpenny. They cannot interpret "fern hennes" at the Record Office, but say that it is a local term. Yet these fern-hennes, (or vernhennes, as it is written) the *f* not having lost the Saxon *v* sound), to judge from the analogy of moorhen, greyhen, must have been some kind of wild fowl, and if so could hardly have been anything else than partridges.

The names in the church shot are some of them very remarkable, many christian names continue to be Saxon or English—Algarus, Aldwinus, Osgodus, Erlicus, Wolmarus, Godricus, Godwinus, &c. Some surnames are singular, such as "Hungar," "Dogge," "David *Dolutel*," "Wisdom," "Parsons," "Midniht," "Grim," "Red," &c. Many are drawn from their owner's occupations, as if men were beginning to have more to do than to call one another nicknames. Personal peculiarities, such as "greyhound nose," "Porenose, or "Merrymouth," cease, but we have John la Havekar, Humfrey le Cowherd, John le Wheolare, Walter le Hayward, John le Hogherde, and at Sherborne a Richard le Eweherde. Also names from localities—Henry atten Elme, William Abovetoun. Margeria atte Ashe, Thomas atte Water, William atte Wolde, Henry at Boxe, John atte Barne, John in the Lane, Richard atte Croyz (at Haselton, where there was a cross). A few still descriptive as John le Whistlar, William Spitefisher,¹ Richard la Frend existing in our surnames still, although no longer in the humble circumstances of their forefathers.

Another series of interesting documents is the Court Rolls of the Manor of Sherborne. Seven have as yet turned up, from 15th Hen. VI. (1437) to 1st Ric. III. (1483). The first is a long *Comptus* Roll, containing a very minute account of the Income and Expenditure of the Manor of Sherborne, and most interesting as furnishing a list of prices of that day:—1. Sale of milk, 38s. per ann. from 9 cows, *i.e.* 4s. 2d. each. One cow's milk was set apart for the servants. 2. Sale of hay £5 for 23 cartloads. 3. Agestment of cattle, cattle taken in on tack, as we now say. 4. Receipts from acts of husbandry done for the Abbot threshing,

¹ More likely "heath-fowl."—Ed.

² I suppose a man who fished with a spit, an eel-spearer

winnowing, &c. Such were the items of income. Under outlay, we find cost of (1) ploughs, (2) shoeing horses, (3) waggons, nails, grease, axles. (4) Housekeeping expenses, salt for cheese, treats for servants, harness, agricultural implements. 5. mowing and carrying 16 acres of corn, cost £4 6s. 8d. The comptos of the collector, Walter Bette, contains some interesting items. Allowances are made for "Sedpycher" and "Teyng pycher." These words are unknown at the Record Office, but they may possibly still be intelligible to some ancient inhabitant of a sequestered nook in the Cotswolds. There was also delivery of a bushel of corn for the eucharist at Easter to the parish clerk. Allowance for candles in lambing time. Malt for beer, corn to fugatores, or drivers of ox teams, carters, swincherds, cowherd, dairymaid, shepherd and a certain Shepherde called "Tripherde" ¹ Then comes a long list of stock, including Swans, and allowances of eggs, e.g. 100 eggs were given to the servants at Christmas. In other comptos are expenses for the packing and le Trynding of wool. One entry is of special interest. The annuity of £10 to the custodian of the goods and ornaments of the Parish Church of St. John, Cirencester. Allowances of 6d. for expenses at Stow fair. A woman received 8d. for driving a cart 8 days. 178 quarters of mixed corn (draget) are sold to the brewer of the monastery for £20, and as she is called Pandoxatrix, she must have been a woman. 4 oxen are sold for 38s. 20 pullets for 20d., and 300 pigeons for 8s. 4d. 20s. worth of beer comes from Northleach for the Abbot at the sheep shearing. Payment for shoeing oxen in the forefect, *racione duritie petrarum et gelicidii hiemalis*, the *gelicidium* being what the French call Verglas; when the roads are covered with a sheet of ice. Slates are 3s. a thousand. 12 pairs of gloves cost only 18 pence, which certainly seems most reasonable. There is a charge for carrying salt fish from London to Winchcombe. There is a charge for a newly married couple, friends of the Abbot, entertained at Sherborne. Richard Heynes pays 20s. for licence to marry his daughter Agnes, who was a serf of the Abbot's, to Henry Pope, but Alice daughter of William

Can "Trip" here be the German "treiben," to drive, so a person who drives cattle to pasture?

Cowherde, has to pay 40s. for license to marry whom she pleases. Finally, William Dawes, of Sherborne, was fined 20s. for withdrawing his daughter Agnes, a serf of the Lord Abbot from the lord's service at Charlton Abbots from the office of a "Dere" (dairy) there.

1. The last series of deeds which hang on to Winchcombe Abbey is that connected with the transfer of Sherborne from Allen to Dutton. It begins with a document which has a certain melancholy interest as marking the beginning of the end of the great monastic system of England. Schemes of plunder were in the air, and doubtless the Abbot and monks of Winchcombe thought it prudent to get what cash they could, so that when the robber came he might find as little as possible to rob. Accordingly on December 14th, 1533, the Abbot and convent of Winchcombe granted a lease of the Manor of Sherborne for 99 years to Sir John Alleyn, Mayor of London, and Privy Councillor to Hen. VIII. What ready money they received for the lease does not appear, probably neither Knight nor Abbot wished it to be known. The rent named is a "corne of pepper, if asked for." This is signed by the Abbot, Prior, and 23 monks by their names in religion. Their real names can be mostly identified by their signatures at the time of their surrender, "Ego Richardus Anselmus Abbas Winchcombensis propriâ manu." Johannes Augustinus prior are respectively Richard Mounslow and John Hancock. On the dorse are the names of 36 tenants who did not attorne until February 28th, 1537. Sir John Allen leased the demesne to Robert Taylour, whose daughter Mary married Thomas Dutton, first Dutton of Sherborne.

2. The King having robbed the monks, next tried to rob Sir John Alleyn. He "amoved" him and commanded his chancellor to "travell" with him for the surrender of the lease for £1200 to £1400, to which Sir John Alleyn would not consent.

3. Sir John Alleyn made his will August 3rd, 1545, leaving the bulk of his property to his brother Christofer, who was also his executor with John Ayscoughe, Sir John's cousin.

4. The executors continue the suit for the lease, and are restored in possession May 18th, 1550.

5. Christofer Alleyn, the "elder," "for causes moving his conscience," grants the Manor of Sherborne to Xtofer Allen the younger.

6. Christopher the younger marries Etheldreda, or Awdry, daughter of Lord Paget.

7. This same Christopher grants the remainder of the term of the Abbot's lease, 82 years, to Lord Paget, apparently in trust as Etheldreda's dower.

8. King Edward VI. grants the *manor* to Etheldreda with remainder to Christopher for 1000 marks.

9. Christopher Allen and Etheldreda his wife, having obtained a licence of alienation from the King, sell the manor to Thomas Dutton, Esq., by Indenture dated March 21st, 1551. There are two deeds to effect this, William Paget assigns his interest in the lease to Lawrence Wynnington of the Hermitage, Cheshire, and Richard Harper of the Inner Temple, then these latter grant the Manor of Sherborne to Thomas Dutton and Mary his wife for 21 years, April 20th, 1551. However, on April 27th, 1551, a license to pass the Manor of Sherborne, and property in Wynrich, to Thomas Dutton and his heirs having been obtained from the King on May 8th, 1551. Wynnington and Harper lease the manor at pepper corn rent for 60 years to Thomas Dutton. Finally, May 9th, 1551, Christopher Allen and Etheldreda his wife sell the reversion of the Manor of Sherborne for £3240, to be paid in instalments of £500 and £40 rent annually at Lord Paget's house, St. Clement's, outside Temple Bar, London.

Easter, 1551, there was final concord between Christofer and Etheldreda Alleyn and Thomas Dutton and his heirs. The sum at the foot of the fine is £1600. There are various bye deeds connected with this transaction, Defeasances, Recognizances, and also receipts for the payment of the instalments. A large deed, beautifully engrossed (Nov. 17th, 1555) with portraits of Philip and Mary, gives the whole history of the transaction from the Abbot's lease up to date.

Lastly comes a curious document, primo Elizabethe. A general pardon to Thomas Dutton, of Sherborne, Esq., called

Thomas Dutton de Westwelle, Oxon. It contains an appalling list of crimes, which Thomas Dutton could not possibly have committed, and if he had, richly deserved to be hung.¹ It begins with treason, rebellion, homicide, felony, robbery, forgery, perjury, tampering with rolls and records, false weights and measures, and finally comes down to such trifles as "not sowing flax and hemp, which was then incumbent on every possessor of 60 acres tillage, and "not keeping great horses." Every possessor of a deer park was then bound to keep a stallion over 13 hands high. Alienation without royal license. Lastly, offences connected with the town of Calais and the Queen's late imprisonment. This must, of course, have been a formal document, and it looks as if the lawyers piled up the agony in order to increase their fees. But still the charge is reasonable. Thomas Dutton might, apparently, commit all these iniquities with impunity if he applied for the pardon before June 20th, 1659, and paid 26s. therefor.

Other deeds require only a passing notice. The Francombe obit of the 6th Henry VII., in which Anneys Francombe makes such a portentous fuss about the disposal of the income arising from the investment of 40 marks, or £20 13s. 4d. of our money, has been published *in extenso* in the last number of Gloucestershire Notes and Queries. I possess the Prior of Lanthony's copy. I presume it came to Sherborne along with the Standish deeds. I have also a few deeds relating to Northamptonshire, beginning with one of Richard the 1st, of the Mauleverer family (*mala opera*, as he appeared in Latin), down to one of 1st Elizabeth. How they came to Sherborne I have no notion, as we never had any connection with Northamptonshire that I know of.

Some deeds mark a curious application of a bygone custom. It is well known that Lucy Dutton married Thomas Pope, Earl of Downe. How this came about was as follows:—The Earl of Downe was a minor, and one William Murray, groom of his Majesty's bedchamber, purchased his wardship for £3500. After divers bargainings, Mrs. Elizabeth Dutton, who possessed two daughters, purchased this chattel (for so the young Earl of Downe seems, practically, to have been considered) May 16th,

¹ This is the usual character of a general pardon.

1635, and as she eventually married her youngest daughter to the said Earl of Downe, she, no doubt, considered that she had made a profitable investment of her money. I trust the marriage turned out happily, but the transaction partakes of the nature of what would now be called a "plant." Doubtless many mothers must regret that this means of finding eligible husbands for their daughters is no longer open to them.

Having now given some account of what is in the Sherborne Muniment Room, I will conclude by saying what is not there. The Court Rolls of the manor of Stow-on-the-Wold, which Fosbrooke mentions as being preserved at Sherborne, and being so entertaining, have not yet turned up, and I greatly fear they are lost. I trust my audience are not wishing that a like fate had befallen many other documents, and will forgive the necessarily dry character of the present address.
