

THE WORTHIES

OF

ENGLAND.

LINCOLNE-SHIRE.

THIS County, in fashion, is like a *bended bowe*, the Sea making the *back*, the Rivers Welland and Humber the *two horns* thereof, whiles Trent hangeth down from the latter like a *broken string*, as being somewhat of the *shortest*. Such persecute the Metaphor too much, who compare the River Witham (whose Current is crooked) unto the *arrow* crossing the middle thereof.

It extendeth 60 miles from South to North, not above 40 in the middle and broadest part thereof. Being too *volluminous* to be managed entire, it is divided into *three* parts, each of them corrvial in quantity with some smaller Shires; *Holland* on the South-East, *Kesteven* on the South-West, and *Lindsey* on the North to them both.

Holland, that is, *Hoyland* or *Hayland*, from the plenty of *hay* growing therein, may seem the reflection of the opposite *Holland* in the Neatherlands, with which it *sympathyzed* in the fruitfulness, *lowe* and *wet scituation*. Here the *brakishnesse* of the *water*, and the *grossenesse* of the *ayre*, is recompenced by the *goodnesse* of the *earth*, abounding with *deries* and *pasture*. And as “God hath” (to use the Apostle’s phrase) “*tempered the body together*”¹, not making it *all eye* or *all ear* (*nonsense* that the *whole* should be but *one sense*), but assigning each member the proper office thereof; so the same Providence hath so wisely blended the benefits of this County, that take *collective* Lincolne-shire, and it is *defective* in nothing.

NATURAL COMMODITIES.

PIKES.

They are found plentifully in this Shire, being the *fresh-water Wolves*, and therefore an *old Pond-pike* is a dish of more state than profit to the Owners, seeing a *Pike’s* belly is a little Fish-pond, where lesser of all sorts have been contained. Sir Francis Bacon² alloweth it (though Tyrants generally be short-lived) the Survivor of all Fresh-water Fish, attaining to *forty* years; and some beyond the Seas have trebled that term. The flesh thereof must needs be fine and wholesome, if it be true what is affirmed, that in some sort it *cheweth the cud*; and yet the less and middle size *Pikes*³ are preferred for sweetnesse before those that are greater. It breedeth but once⁴ (whilest other Fishes do often) in a year; such the providence of Nature, preventing their more multiplying, least the Waters should not afford *Subjects* enough for their Tyranny. For want of other Fish, they will feed one on another; yea what is *four-footed* shall be *Fish* with them, if it once come to their jaws (biteing sometimes for cruelty and revenge, as well as for hunger); and because we have publickly

¹ 1 Cor. xii. 24.

² Mr Walton, in his Compleat Angler, p. 197.

³ In his History of Life and Death.

⁴ Idem, p. 199.

A *Cub-Foxe*, drinking out of the River Arnus in Italy, had his head seised on by a mighty *Pike*, so that neither could free themselves, but were ingrapled together. In this contest a young man runs into the water, takes them out both alive, and carrieth them to the Duke of Florence, whose Palace was hard by. The Porter would not admit him, without promising of sharing his full half in what the Duke should give him; to which he (hopelesse otherwise of entrance) condescended. The Duke, highly affected ith the Rarity, was in giving him a good reward; which the other refused, desiring his Highnesse would appoint one of his Guard to give him an hundred Lashes, that so his Porter might have fifty, according to his composition. And here my Intelligence leaveth me how much farther the jest was followed.

**“Witham Pike
England hath nene like.”**

“Thus to her proper Song, the Burden still she bare :
Yet for my dainty *Pikes* I am without compare.”

WILD-FOULE.

1. *Plenty* ; so that sometimes, in the month of August, *three thousand Mallards*, with *Birds* of that *kind*, have been caught at one draught, so large and strong their *nets* ; and the like must be the Reader's belief.
2. *Variety* ; no man (no not Gesmar himself) being able to give them their proper names, except one had gotten Adam's *Nomenclator* of Creatures.
3. *Deliciousnesse* ; *Wild-foule* being more *dainty* and *digestable* then *Tame* of the same kind, as spending their *grossie* humours with their *activity* and constant motion in flying.

^a Bishop Godwin, in his Catalogue of the Bishops of York.

DOTTERELLS.

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DOTTERELLS.

This is *Avis γηλόποϊος*, a *mirth-making* Bird, so *ridiculously mimical*, that he is easily *caught* (or rather *catcheth himself*) by his *over-active imitation*. There is a sort of Apes in India, caught by the Natives thereof after this manner: They dress a little boy in his sight, undresse him again, leave all the Child's apparel behind them in the place, and then depart a competent distance. The Ape presently attireth himself in the same garments, till the Child's *cloaths* become his *chains*, *putting off his feet by putting on his shoos*, not able to run to any purpose, and so is soon taken.

The same *humour*, otherwise pursued, betrayeth the *Dotterells*. As the Fowler stretcheth forth his *arms* and *legs* going towards the Bird, the Bird extendeth his *legs* and *wings* approaching the Fowler, till surprised in the net. But it is observed, that the foolisher the *Fowl* or *Fish* (*Woodcocks, Dotterels, Codsheads, &c.*) the finer the flesh thereof.

FEATHERS.

It is pity to part Lancashire Ticking (lately spoken of) and Lincoln-shire *Feathers*, making so good Beds together. I cannot find the first beginning of *Feather-beds*. The Latine word *Pulvinar* for a *Cusheon, Pillowe, or Bolster*, sheweth, that the entrals of such *utensils* amongst the Romans were made but of *Dust*; and our English plain Proverb, *de Puerperis*, "they are in the *Straw*," shows *Feather-beds* to be of no ancient use amongst the common sort of our Nation; and Beds of *Down* (the Cream of Feathers) are more modern then they. The Feathers of this County are very good (though not so soft as such as are imported from Bardeaux in France); and although a *Feather* passeth for the emblem of Lightnesse it self, they are heavy enough in their prises to such as buy any quantity; and daily grow dearer.

PIPPINS.

With these we will close the stomach of the Reader, being concluded most cordial by Physicians. Some conceive them to be of not above a *hundred* years seniority in England: However, they thrive best, and prove biggest (not Kentish excepted) in this County, particularly in Holland, and about Kirton therein, whence they have acquired addition of *Kirton Pippins*, a wholesome and delicious Apple; and I am informed, that *Pippins* grafted on a *Pippin* stock are called *Renates*, bettered in their generous nature by such *double extraction*.

FLEET-HOUNDS.

In Latine called *PETRONII*, or *Petrunculi*, from *Petra*, a *Rock*, either because their feet are *sound* and *solid* (and therefore named *Ἐπὸδες* by Xenophon), or from the hard and rocky ground whereon they were accustomed to hunt. These, with much certainty of scent, and quicknesse of feet, will run down a *Hare* in a short time.

Janus Ulitius, a Dutchman, some 15 years since came into England; and, though a *man of the Gown* (employed in publick affairs), for diversion he went down into this County, to spend one Winter; where, conversing with some young Gentlemen, he hunted twice a week with so great content, that the season (otherwise unpleasant) was past before he perceived how it went. Hear him expressing himself: "*Sed & Petrunculi illi, qui vestigiis eorum non minus celeriter quam sagaciter instant, haud facile trihorio minus leporem aliquem defatigant, ut in Lincolnensi montium æquijugi tractu aliquoties ipse vidi.*" And yet, I assure you, the Hares in this County on Ancaster-Heath do (though lesser) far exceed in swiftnesse and subtilty of doubling those of the Vallyes and Plains.

Such a *Petronius*, or *Fleet-hound*, is two Hounds in effect.

*Sed premit inventas, non inventura latentes.
Illa feras, quæ Petroniis bene gloria constat.
"To the Petronian, both the praise is due,
Quickly to find, and nimbly to persue."*

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GREY-HOUNDS.

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GREY-HOUNDS.

In *Latin* termed VELTRAGA, or VERTRAGUS, or VERTAGUS, derived, it seems, from the Dutch word, VELT a *Field*, and RACH or BRACH a *Dog*. And of how high esteem the *former*, and *these*, were amongs^t the Ancients, the Reader may infer from the old Burgundian Law: “Siquis Canem Veltraum, aut Segutium vel Petrunculum præsumpserit involare, jubemus ut convictus coram omni populo posteriora ipsius osculetur.”

Martial, speaking of these *Greyhounds*, thus expresseth himself:

*Non sibi sed Domino venatur Vertragus acer;
Illæsum Leporem qui tibi dente feret.*
“For’s Master, not Himself, doth *Greyhound* toyl,
Whose *teeth* to thee return the *unhurt spoyl*.”

I have no more to observe of these *Greyhounds*, save that they are so called (being otherwise of all colours) because originally employed in the hunting of *Grays*; that is, *Brocks* and *Badgers*.

MAS-TIFFES.

Known to the Romans by the name of *Molossi*, from *Molossia*, a County in Epirus, whence the fiercest in that kind were fetched at first, before better were brought out of Britain.

Gratius, an Ancient Poet, contemporary with Virgil, writing his *Cynegeticon*, or Poem of Hunting, giveth great praise to our English Mastiffes, highly commending their valour; only taxing them, that they are not handsomly made:

Hæc una est Catulis jactura Britannis.
“The *Brittish Whelps* no blémish know,
But that they are not shap’d for *show*.”

Which *thing* is *nothing* in my mind, seeing beauty is no whit material to a Souldier.

This County breedeth choice *Mastiffes* for the *Bull* and *Bear*; and the sport is much affected therein, especially about Stamford, whereof hereafter. What remaineth concerning *Mastiffes* is referred to the same topick in Somerset-shire.

Thus the *three* kinds of *ancient hunting*, which distinctly require *fleetnesse*, *scent*, and *strength*, are compleatly performed in this County, by a *breed* therein, which are answerably qualified. This I have inserted, because as to my *Native Country* in *general*, so to this here in *particular*, I would not willingly do *lesse right* then what a *Stranger* hath done thereunto.

Before we come to catalogue the WORTHIES of this County¹, it is observable, that as it equalled other Shires in all ages, so it went beyond it self in one generation, viz. in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, when it had Natives thereof,

1. *Edward Clinton*, Lord Admiral;
2. *William Cecil*, Lord Treasurer;
3. *Sir Edmund Anderson*, Lord Chief Justice;
4. *John Whitgift*, Arch-bishop of *Canterbury*;
5. *Peregrine Bartu*, Lord General in *France*;
6. *Tho. Wilson*, Doctor of Law, and Secretary of State.

All Countrymen and Contemporaries². Thus Sea and Land, Church and Camp, Sword and Mace, Gospel and Law, were stored with prime Officers out of this County. Nor must it be forgotten, though born in the same Shire, they were utterly unrelated in kindred, and raised themselves independently (as to any mutual assistance) by God’s blessing, the Queen’s favour, and their own deserts.

¹ Reader, pardon this *true* but (*abortive*) notation casually come in before the due time thereof. F.
² Here I mention not Sir Thomas Heneage, at the same time a grand Favorite, and Privy Councillor to Queen Elizabeth. F.

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THE BUILDINGS.

Here the complaint of the Prophet taketh no place, taxing men to live “in ceeled Pallaces, whilst the Temple of God lay wast¹,” no County affording *worse Houses*, or *better Churches*. It addeth to the wonder, that, seeing in this soft County a *Diamond* is as soon found as a *Flint*, their Churches are built of *polished stones*; no *natives*, but *naturalized* by importation from forreign parts.

I hope the Inhabitants of this Shire will endeavour to disprove the old Proverb, “the nearer to the Church, the further from God;” because they have substituted a better in the room thereof: *viz.* “The further from Stone, the better the Churches.”

As for the Cathedral of Lincoln, whose *Floor* is higher then the *Roof* of many Churches, it is a magnificent Structure, proportionable to the Amplitude of the Diocesse. This I dare boldly say, that no Diocesse in Christendome affordeth *two* such *Rivers*, Thames and Trent; for the Southern and Northern Bounds, and *two* such *Universities*, Cambridge and Oxford, both in the content thereof, before *three* smaller *Bishopricks*², were carved out of it.

Amongst the Houses of the Nobility, I take signal notice of *two*. *One* I may call a *pre-meditate Building*, *viz.* *Tattershall* (belonging to the Right Honourable the Earl of Lincolne), advanced by degrees at several times to the modern magnificence thereof. But Grimsthorp I may term an *extempore Structure*, set up on a suddain by Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk, to entertain King Henry the Eighth, in his Progress into these parts. The Hall therein was fitted to a fair suit of Hangings, which the Duke had by his Wife Mary the French Queen, and is now in the possession of the Right Honourable Montague Earl of Lindsy.

THE WONDERS.

At Fishtoft in this County, no Mice or Rats are found, insomuch that Barns built *party per pale*, in this and the next Parish; on one side are annoyed, on the other side (being Fishtoft moiety) are secured from this Vermin. Surely no Piper (what is notoriously known of Hamell in Westphalia) did ever give them this *Mice-delivery* by his musick.

It is easier to *conjure up* many, then *allay* one difficulty; other places in England affording the like. At one of the Rodings in Essex, no *Hogs* will *root*. In another Common, no *Mole* will *cast*. In Lindley in Leicestershire, no *Snakes* are found³. I believe they *over-shoot* the mark, who make it a *Miracle*; they *under-shoot* it, who make it *Magick*; they come the nearest to Truth, who impute it to occult qualities. If some men will swound at some meat, yea but smelling it unseen, by their disaffection thereunto; why may not whole *species* and kinds of creatures have some *antipathetical places*, though the reason thereof cannot be rendred? Surely, as Sampson at his Marriage propounded a Riddle to his Companions to try their wits thereon; so God offereth such *Ænigmæes* in Nature, partly that men may make use of their *admiring* as well as of their *understanding*; partly that Philosophers may be taught their distance betwixt *themselves*, who are but the *Lovers*, and God, who is the *Giver* of Wisdome.

Let it also passe (for this once) for a wonder, that some *seven score* years since, nigh Harlaxton in this Shire, there was found (turned up by one ploughing the ground) a *golden Helmet* of *antick fashion*⁴; I say, *cassis non aurata, sed aurea*, “a helmet not *guilt*, but of *massive gold*,” studded with *precious stones*, probably of some prime Roman Commander. Whence I observe; first, that though no *edge tool* to offend may be made of *Gold* and *Silver*; yet defensive Weapons may thereof be compounded. Secondly, that the poetical fiction of Glaucus’s *golden arms* is founded on History; for (not to speak of Solomon’s *golden Sheilds*) great Commanders made use of *arms* of that *mettal*, if not for strength, for *state* and *ornament*. Lastly, it was presented to Queen Katharine, first wife to King Henry the Eighth, who, though not knowing to use it as a *Helmet*, knew how to employ it as made of *Gold* and *rich Jewells*.

¹ Haggai, i. 4.² Ely, Peterborough, and Oxford.³ Burton, in his Description of Leicestershire.⁴ Camden’s Britannia, in this County.

PROVERBS.

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PROVERBS.

“Lincolne-shire-Bagpipes.”]

I behold these as most *ancient*, because a very *simple sort* of Musick, being little more then the *Oaten Pipe* improved with a *Bag*, wherein the imprisoned wind pleadeth melodiously for the enlargement thereof. It is incredible with what agility it inspireth the heavy heels of the Country Clowns, overgrown with *hair* and *rudenesse*, probably the groundwork of the poetical fiction of *dancing Satyrs*. This *Bagpipe*, in the judgement of the Rural Midas's, carryeth away the credit from the *Harp* of Apollo himself; and most persons approve the *blunt Bagpipe* above the *Edge-tool Instruments* of *Drums* and *Trumpets* in our civil dissentions.

“As loud as Tom of Lincoln.”]

This Shire carries away the Bell for *round-ringing* from all in England, though other places may surpasse it for *Changes*, more pleasant for the variety thereof; seeing it may be demonstrated that *twelve* Bells will afford more *changes* than there have been *hours* since the Creation, *Tom of Lincoln* may be called the *Stentor* (*fifty lesser-bells* may be made out of him) of all in this County. Expect not of me to enter into the discourse of Popish *baptizing* and *naming* of Bells, many charging it on them for a *prophane*, and they confessing enough to make it a *superstitious*, action.

“All the Carts that come to Crowland are shod with Silver.”]

Venice and Crowland, *sic Canibus Catulos*, may count their Carts alike; that being sited in the Sea, this in a morasse and fenny ground, so that an horse can hardly come to it. But whether this place since the draining of the Fenns hath acquired more firmnesse than formerly is to me unknown¹.

“Tis height makes Grantham Steeple stand awry².”]

This Steeple seems crooked unto the beholders (and I believe will ever do so, until our age erect the like by it for height and workmanship) though some conceive the *slendernesse* at such a distance is all the obliquity thereof. Eminency exposeth the uprightest persons to exception; and such who cannot find faults *in* them, will find faults *at* them, envying their advancement.

“As mad as the Baiting Bull of Stamford.”]

Take the Original hereof. William Earl Warren, Lord of this Town in the time of King John, standing upon the Castle Walls of Stamford, saw *two Bulls* fighting for a *Cow* in the Meadow, till all the *Butchers Dogs*, *great* and *small*, persued one of the Bulls (being maddened with noyse and multitude) clean through the Town. This sight so pleased the said Earl, that he gave all those meadows³ (called the Castle Meadows) where first the *Bull duel* began, for a Common to the Butchers of the Town (after the first grasse was eaten) on condition that they find a mad Bull, the day *six weeks* before Christmas day, for the continuance of that sport every year. Some think that the *Men* must be *mad* as well as the *Bull*, who can take delight in so dangerous a *Wast-time*; whereby that no more Mischeif is done, not *man's cure*, but *God's Providence* is to be praised.

“He looks as the Devil over Lincoln⁴.”]

Lincolne Minster is one of the stateliest Structures in Christendome. The South-side of it meets the Travellers thereunto twenty miles off, so that their *Eyes* are there many hours before their *feet*.

The Divel is the *Map of Malice*, and his *envy* (as *God's mercy*) is over all his works. It grieves him what ever is given to God, crying out with that *Flesh-Divel*, *Ut quid hæc*

¹ There are now good roads to Croyland. N.

² Mr. John Cleiveland.

⁴ See the Proverbs in Oxfordshire.

³ R. Butcher, in his Survey of Stamford, p. 40.

perditio ?

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perditio ? What needs this wast¹ ?” On which account he is supposed to have overlook’d this Church, when first finished, with a torve and tetrick countenance, as maligning men’s costly devotion, and that they should be so expensive in God’s service. But, it is suspicious, that some who account themselves *Saints* behold such fabricks with little better looks.

“ He was born at Little Wittham².”]

This Village in this County by orthography is *Witham*, near which a River of the same name doth rise. But such nominal Proverbs take the advantage of all manner of spelling as due unto them. It is applyed to such people as are not overstock’d with acutenesse. The best is, all men are bound to be honest, but not to be witty.

“ Grantham Gruel, nine Grits and a Gallon of Water.”]

Gruel (though homely) is wholesome spoon-meat physick for the sick, and food for persons in health. Water is the *matter*, Grits the *form* thereof, giving the being thereunto. Now *Gruel* thus imperfectly mix’d is *Wash* rather, which one will have little heart to eat, and get as little heart thereby. The Proverb is applicable to those who in their speeches or actions multiply what is superfluous, or (at best) less necessary ; either wholly omitting, or lesse regarding, the essentials thereof.

“ They held together as the Men of Marham³ when they lost their Common.”]

Some understand it *ironically* ; that is, *they were divided with several factions*, which Proverb, *mutato nomine*, is used in other Counties. Yea, long since, Virgil said the same in effect of the men of Mantua, when they lost their lands to the soldiers of Augustus :

—————“ *En quo discordia, Cives,
Perduxit miseros ? En queis consecimus Agros* ⁴ ?”

“ See, Townsmen, what we by our jars are grown ;
And see for whom we have our tillage sown.”

Indeed, when a *common danger* calls for a *union* against a *general Enemy*, for any then to prosecute their *personal quarrels*, and *private grudges*, is a folly always observed, often reproved, sometimes confessed, but seldome reformed.

Others use this Proverb only as an *expression of ill successe*, when men strive to no purpose, though plotting and practising together to the utmost of their power, being finally foiled in their undertakings.

PRINCES.

HENRY eldest [surviving] Son of John of Gaunt Duke of Lancaster, was born at the Castle of Bullingbrook in this County, and bred (according to the discipline of those days) in Camp and Court, in both which he proved a good proficient. By Nature, he was made more to command than obey, being ambitious, cholerick, and withal couragious, cunning to catch, careful to keep, and industrious to improve all advantages.

Being netled with some injuries received from King Richard the Second, he complotted with a good party of the Nobility to depose him. *Miscarriages* in his Government (many by *mismanaging*, more by the *missucceeding* of matters) exposed him to just exception, besides his own *debauchery* ; and how easily is a *dissolute* Government dissolved !

Having by the murder of King Richard atchieved the Government to himself, he reigned with much difficulty and opposition. Though his Father was a great Patron, *He* was a great Persecutor of the Wickliffites ; though not so much out of hatred to them, as love to himself, thereby to be ingratiated with the Clergy, then potent in the Land.

¹ Matth. xxvi. 8.

² Heywood, in his Epigrams, cent. 5. num. 19.

³ Though this Proverb be frequent in this Shire, Marham is in Norfolk. F.

⁴ Eglogue the first.

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When Duke, he wore on his head an *antick hood*, which he cast not off when King, so that his Picture is generally known by the Crown superadded thereon. Lying on his death-bed, he was rather *querulous* then *penitent*, much complaining of his *sufferings* in *keeping*, nothing bewayling his *sin* in *getting* the Crown. Fire and faggot was first kindled in his Reign in England, to burn (pardon the *prolepsis*) poor Protestants; and happy had it been, had they been quenched at his death, which happened anno Dom. 1413.

This Henry was the only Prince born in this County since the Conquest, though a good Author by mistake entituleth this County to another, an ancients Henry; yet so that he giveth him with *one hand* to it in his Book of Maps, and takes him away with *the other* in his Chronicle.

J.Speed, in his Description of Lincolne-shire, J. Speed, in his Chronicle in the life of W. I. parag. 7. pag. 436.

“This Shire triumpheth in the Birth of Beauchamp King Henry the First, whom Selby brought forth.” “Henry fourth and youngest Son of King William was born at Selby in Yorkshire.”

I believe Mr. Speed the *Chronicler*, before Mr. Speed the *Chorographer*, because therein concurring with other Authors. Besides, consult the Alphabetical Index of his Map, and there is no *Selby* in this Shire. We have therefore placed King Henry the First in Yorkshire; and thought fit to enter this observation, not to *reprove* others, but least I be *reproved* my self.

SAINTS.

Here I make no mention of St. *Botolph*, because there is no *constat* (though very much *probability*) of his English Nativity, who lived at, and gave the name to, *Botolph's town* (corruptly *Boston*) in this County.

GILBERT DE SEMPRINGHAM, there born in this County, was of noble extraction, Joceline his Father being a Knight, to whom he was eldest Son, and Heir to a great Estate¹ In Boddy he was very deformed, but of subtile wit and great courage. Travelling over into France, there he got good learning, and obtained leave from the Pope to be Founder of those *Epicæne* and *Hermaphrodite* Convents, wherein Monks and Nuns lived together, as under one roof, but with partitions betwixt them.

Sure it was to him a comfort and credit (which is confidently related by credible Authors) to see 13 Convents, 700 Monks, 1100 Nuns (*Women* out-superstition *Men*) of his order, being aged *one hundred* and *six* years. He appointed the fair Convent at Sempringham (his own rich inheritance) to be *mother* and prime residence of his new-erected order. He dyed anno 1189.

HUGH was a Child, born and living in Lincoln², who by the impious Jews was stoln from his Parents, and in derision of Christ and Christianity (to keep their cruel hands in ure) by them *crucified*, being about *nine* years old. Thus he lost his *life*, but got a *Saintship* thereby; and some afterwards perswaded themselves that they got their cures at his *Shrine*³ in Lincoln.

However, this made up the measure of the sins of the Jews in England, for which not long after they were ejected the land, or (which is the truer) unwillingly willing they departed themselves. And whilst they retain their old manners, may they never return, especially in this *giddy and unsettled age*, for fear more Christians fall sick of Judaisme, then Jews recover in Christianity. This Hugh was martyred anno Dom. 1255, on the 27th of July.

MARTYRS.

ANNE ASKEWE, Daughter of Sir William Askewe Knight, was born at Kelsey in this County. Of her *piety* and *patience*, when first *wracked* in the Tower, then *burnt*

¹ Bale, de Scriptoribus Britannicis, cent. 3. n. 25. and Camden's Britannia, in Lincolnshire.
² Jo. Capg. in SS. Ang. Matth. Westm. & Paris. ann. 1255.
³ I was in 1792 a witness to the opening of this young Saint's Shrine; and saw the Coffin and Skeleton, delineated and described in Mr. Gough's "Sepulchral Monuments of Great Britain," vol. II. Introd. pp. lxi. lxx. N. in

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in Smithfield, I have largely treated in my “Church History.” She went to Heaven in a *chariot of fire*, July 16, 1546.

CARDINALS.

[AMP.] ROBERT SOMMERCOT. There are two Villages, North and South Sommercot, in this County (and, to my notice, no where else in England); from one of which, I presume, he took his *Nativity* and *Name*. Yet, because Bale affirmeth Lawrence Sommercot his Brother or Kinsman, born in the South of England¹, we have affixed our note of dubitation. But out of doubt it is, he was a right learned man, to whom Matthew Paris gives this *short* but *thick* commendation; “Vir fuit discretus, & circumspectus, omnibus amabilis meritò & graciosus²: By Pope Gregory the Ninth, he was made Cardinal of St. Stephen’s, anno 1231.

He was a true lover of his Countrymen, and could not abide to hear them abused; the cause that his choler was twice raised, when the Pope said in his presence, “that there was not a faithful man in England³,” though wisely he repressed his passion.

After this Pope Gregorie’s death, he was the formost of the *three Elects* for the Papacy, and, on fair play, the most probable person to carry the place; but he was double barr’d: First, because an *honest man* as any in that age. Secondly, because an *English-man*, the Italians desiring to monopolize the choice to themselves. Hereupon, in the Holy Conclave (*the better place the better deed*) he was made away by poison; to make room for Celestine to succeed him, who sate that skittish place but a short time, dying 17 days after our Somercot’s death, which happened anno Domini 1241.

PRELATES.

WILLIAM of GANESBOROUGH was born in that fair Market Town, which performeth more to the *eye*, then Fame hath reported to the *ear* thereof. He was bred a Franciscan in Oxford, and became the Twenty-fifth Lecturer of his Order. He was afterwards sent over by King Edward the First, with Hugh of Manchester, to Philip King of France, to demand reparation for some dammagages in Aquitaine.

He was a mighty Champion of the Pope’s Infallibility; avowing that what David indulged to his Son Adonijah, never saying unto him, “Why didst thou so⁴?” ought to be rendred by all to his Holynesse; being not to be called to an account, though *causing the damnation of thousands*.

I remember, when I was in Cambridge, some *thirty* years since, there was a flying, though false report, that Pope Urban the Eighth was cooped up by his Cardinals in the Castle of St. Angelo. Hereupon a waggish Scholar said, *Jam verissimum est, Papa non potest errare*, “it was then true (according to their received intelligence) that the Pope could not *straggle* or *wander*.”

But our Ganesborough stoutly defended it in the literal sense against all opposers, for which his good service, Pope Boniface the Eighth preferred him Bishop of Worcester, where he sate 6 years, and dyed 1308.

WILLIAM AYRMIN was descended of an ancient Family in this County, still extant in great eminency of estate at Osgodby therein. He was for some time Keeper of the Seal and Vice-Chancellour to King Edward the Second; at what time, anno 1319, the following misfortune befell him; and take the original thereof out of an anonymall croniclering manuscript.

<i>Episcopus Eborum, Episcopus Elie, The- saurarius, Abbas Beate Marie Eborum, Abbas de Selbie, Decanus Eborum, Domi- nus Willielmus Aijmanee Vice-Cancellarius</i>	“The Arch-bishop of York, the bishop of Ely, Lord Treasurer, the Abbot of St. Maries in York, the Abbot of Selby, the Dean of York, Mr. William Arymanee
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¹ De Scriptoribus Britannicis, Cent. 4. num. 2.	³ In anno 1241, pag. 576.
² Idem, in anno 1240, pp. 524 & 542.	⁴ 1 Kings i. 6.

Anglie, ac Dominus Johannes Dabeham, cum 8000 fermè hominum, tam equitum quam peditum, & Civibus, properanter Civitatem egredientes, quoddam flumen Swale nuncupatum sparsis cuneis¹ transeuntes, & indispositis seu potiùs confusis ordinibus, cum Adversariis congressi sunt. Scoti siquidem in Marte gnari amplitudinem eorum exercitus cautè regentes, in nostris agminibus strictis audacter irruerunt; nostrorum denique in brevi laceratis cuneis atque dissipatis, corruerunt ex nostris, tam in ore gladii quam aquarum scopulis suffocati, plusquam 4000; & capti sunt Domini Johannes de Papeham, & Dominus Willielmus de Arymanee, ut prefertur, de Cancellaria, &c.

Vice-Chancelour, and Mr. John Dabehame, with almost 8000 men, as well Horse as Foot, and Citizens, hastily going out of the City, passing over a certain River called Swale, with scattered parties¹, and with disordered or rather confused ranks, encountered the Enemy. The Scotch, cunning in war, warily ruling the greatnesse of their Army, boldly rushed on our men with well-ordered troops, and afterwards in short time having broken, and scattered our parties, there fell of our men, with the mouth of the sword, and choked with the water, more then 4000; and Mr. John de Pabehame, and Mr. William Arymane of the Chancery, as aforesaid, were taken Prisoners."

Afterwards recovering his liberty, he was made Chancelour of England, and Bishop of Norwich, in the 18th year of King Edward the Second. He gave two hundred pounds, to buy land, to maintain Priests to say Masse for his soul. He dyed anno Domini 1337, at Charing Cross nigh London, when he had been eleven years Bishop. I am credibly informed, that he bestowed the mannor of Silk Willoughby in this County on his Family, which, with other fair lands, is possessed by them at this day.

WILLIAM WAYNFLET was born at Waynflet in this County, whence he took his denomination, according to the custome of Clergymen in that age: for otherwise he was eldest Son to Richard Pattin, an ancient Esquire in this County; and I understand that at this day they remain at Barsloe in Darbyshire, descended from the said Knight. But of this worthy Prelate, founder of Magdalen-Colledge in Oxford. abundantly in my "Church-History."

WILLIAM LYNWOOD was born at Lynwood in this County², and proceeded Doctor of the Laws (probably rather by *incorporation* then constant *education*) in Oxford, long living a Commoner in Gunvil Hall in Cambridge. He was Chancellor to the Arch-bishop of Canterbury, Keeper of the Privy Seal to King Henry the Sixth, and was employed in several Embassies into Spain and Portugall. He wrote a learned Comment on the English Provincial Constitutions, from Stephen Langton to Archbishop Chichley; and his pains at last was rewarded with the Bishoprick of St. David's, where he dyed 1446.

WILLIAM ASCOUGH was descended of a worshipful and very ancient Family now living at Kelsey in this County, the variation of a letter importing nothing to the contrary. I have seen at Sarisbury his Arms, with *allusion* to the arms of that House, and some Episcopal addition. Such *likeness* is with me a *better evidence* then the *sameness*, knowing that the Clergy in that age delighted to disguise their *Coats* from their *paternal bearing*. He was bred Doctor of the Laws, a very able man in his profession; became Bishop of Sarum, Confessor to King Henry the Sixth, and was the first (as T. Gascoigne relateth) of Bishops who discharged that office, as then conceived beneath the place. Some will say, if King Henry answered the character commonly received of his sanctity, his Confessor had a very easie performance. Not so; for always the most *conscientious* are the most scrupulous in the confession of their sins, and the particular enumeration of the circumstances thereof.

It happened that Jack Cadell with his cursed crew (many of them being the Tennants of this Bishop) fell fowl on this Prelate at Frinton in this Shire. Bishop Godwin saith, "Illi quam ob causam infensi non habeo compertum;" he could not tell "why they should be so incensed against him." But, I conceive, it was because he was *learned*, *pious*, and *rich*, three *capital crimes* in a Clergyman. They plundered his carriages, taking *ten thousand marks* (a mine of money in that age) from him; and then, to secure their riot and felony, by *murder* and *high-treason*, dragged him as he was *officiating* from the High Altar. And

¹ Fashioned in form of a Wedge. F.

² Harpsfield, in his History.

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