

St. Mary's Church,

ASHFORD, KENT;

VICAR,

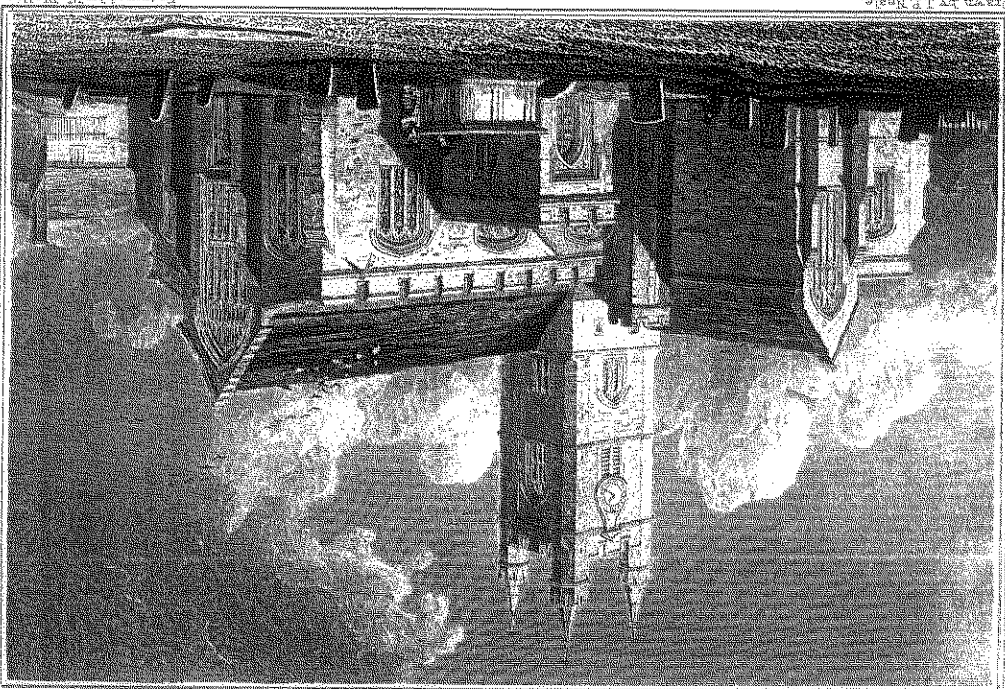
THE REV. JAMES BOND.

The town of Ashford is situated on rising ground, near the confluence of the upper branches of the River Stour, overlooking the celebrated Weald of Kent, a wonderfully rich and level tract, interspersed with very gentle eminences, highly cultivated and adorned with numerous seats and villages, scattered amongst towering oaks and other trees, within the distance of fifty-four miles from the metropolis, and about fourteen from the city of Canterbury. Its large and beautiful Church, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, is of very remote origin, but was entirely rebuilt about the latter end of the reign of Edward IV., chiefly at the expense of Sir John Fogge, Knt., who resided at Repton, about a mile from this town. He died about the year 1490, and was buried under a tomb, which stands on the north side of the Altar, in the Chancel. The Monument is now greatly defaced, but contains on one side of it a brass plate with these lines:

Plenus hic sequitur quod fecerat ille Johannes
 Sumptibus ex propriis, hanc ecclesiam renovavit
 Cum campanule quod funditus aedificavit.
 Pluribus atque libris chorus hic per eum veneratur,
 Ac ornamentis altari Dei veneratur.
 Vestibulum ditans, et plura jocalia donans
 Ut patet intuitu, pro posteribus memoranda
 Ad laudem Domini, cui laus sit nunc et in aevum.—*Amen.*

Sir John Fogge was Comptroller of the Household, and Privy Counsellor to King Edward IV., and also founded a College in this town, with a small establishment appointed to pray for the souls of the king and several persons of distinction, and also those of his majesty's liege subjects who were slain in the battles of Northampton, St. Albans, and Sherborne, in defence of his right and title.

In a vault underneath the tomb near the altar, which is called Fogge's vault, but belongs to the Lord of the Manor, a great many of the Fogge family have been buried: there is a tradition that above twenty knights of that family have been deposited there. From an old MS. one in-



Engraved by W. Wallis

ASHFORD CHURCH, KENT.

Printed by T. G. B. King

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scription relative to a member of this family is given in *Parsons's East Kent*, as having formerly been in this Church.

Here, under this stone, lyeth the bodie of Thomas Fogg, Esquire, late Sergeant Porter unto the most famous Princes, King Henry VII. and VIII., and Elleanor, his wyf, the wythe Thomas deceased the xvth day of August, the yere of our Lord 1512, and Elleanor deceased the day of , the yere of our Lord one thousand five hundred and on whose saules Iesus have mercy.

On labels issuing from the mouths of two figures now gone, are these sentences :

Pater de Celis miserere nobis.

Spiritus Sancte Deus miserere nobis.

The family of Fodge, in after times, suffered much in their estate at the period of the Civil Wars, and according to the vicissitude of human affairs, were reduced to a very small property at the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Captain Christopher Fodge, a descendant of this ancient family, was made prisoner by the Turks, and redeemed from slavery with a considerable ransom. He afterwards went to sea as commander of the *Rupert* man of war, and died on board of his own ship in the River Thames, soon after his last voyage, about the year 1707. At his death the family was most probably extinct.

The Church consists of a Nave, with aisles on the north and south sides, two transepts and a chancel, with a very noble embattled tower at the intersection of the nave and transepts. It is finely proportioned, and rises to the height of two stories above the body of the Church, and is ornamented with mullioned windows, rising to a pointed arch upon each face. Four octangular turrets, one at each corner of the Tower, are crowned with small spires, and terminate in vanes.—Vide Exterior View, Plate 1.

The effect of the interior of the fabric is considerably injured by the many pews and galleries that have been introduced for the convenience of the numerous inhabitants of the town, by which much of the original beauty of the structure is lost; there is now no painted glass in the windows; but Weever, in his curious work, speaks of *many goodly portraitures*—as of King Edward III.; the Black Prince; Richard, Duke of Gloucester; Richard, Earl Rivers; the Lord Hastings; the Lord Scales; Sir William Hawte; Valoins, and his two wives; the first, the daughter of Hawte, the second of Fodge, &c. &c.

The Church, however, still contains a great many monuments deserving attention; the principal of which are in the South Transept, chiefly in memory of the family of Smyth, Lords of Westenhanger, and formerly owners of the Manor of Ashford, now represented by the Lord Viscount

Strangford. All these tombs are now in excellent preservation, and remain fine specimens of the taste prevalent in Monumental Architecture during the sixteenth, and in the earlier part of the seventeenth century; they were repaired by the late Chief Baron Sir Sidney Stafford Smyth, a descendant, whose great grandmother was the Lady Dorothy Sydney, so celebrated by the poet Waller as Saccharissa.

The Monument of Thomas Smith, Esq. composed of various-colored marble, represented in Plate II. stands against the south wall of the Chapel, and bears the following inscription :

Memorie Sacrum.

Hic certa spe beate resurrectionis conditur clarissimus vir, Thomas Smith, de Westenhanger, Armiger, qui ob spectatum in principem fidem et observantiam dignissimus habebatur. Qui porro vegetalibus in Londini portubus predicetur, que postea triginta milium librarum annua pensatione a principe redemtur, et singulari in nobiliores liberalitate et amore in mercatores prestitit opes quibus illum Deus opt. max. beavit ad Dei gloriam pauperes sublevando, vere religiosus professor foveendo, bonasque literas promovendo et ad reipublice usum linguas navigationes instituendo novas terras detegendo, et aerarias fodinas aperiendo libens lubensque erogavit. Jamque annorum plenus cum sexagesimum nonum an'um implevisset, filiosque sex, sex etiam filias ex Alicia clarissima conjuge sexagenaria, filia et herede Andrei Iudæ militis D'ni hujus Villæ de Ashford suscepisset; qui in clariore familia matrimonio colligantur, ex hac vita firma in Christo fide demigravit junii septimo.

Anno Salutis 1591.

Johannes Smyth filius primogenitus, optimo patri matrisq' clarissima careris filius filibus collocantibus, ad officiosæ pietatis et posteritatis memoriam moestissimus posuit.

The figures of Thomas Smith, and his wife Alice, are represented lying at full length under an arched canopy, composed of a rich entablature supported by two Corinthian columns, surmounted by a compartment filled with the arms of Smyth. Argent, a chevron engrailed between three lions passant sable. Crest, a leopard's head erased, argent gorged with a collar and chain sable. Two other shields, with impalements and quarterings of the family, and small obelisks on pedestals at the angles. On the base of the tomb are the six sons and six daughters of the deceased, kneeling at Prie Dieu, with an open book upon each.

On the west side of this Chapel is the monument of Sir Richard Smyth, Knt., of Leeds Castle, fourth son of the above, who is represented in armour, lying upon a cushion and mat; in front are his three wives and five children. Upon the monument is the following inscription :—

Here lyeth the body of Sir Richard Smyth, of Leeds Castle, Kent, fourth son of Thomas Smyth, of Ostenhanger, in the county of Kent, Esq.

He married three wives, who were widows. By the first of them, being a daughter of Sir Thomas Scott, of Scott's Hall, he had his only son, Sir John Smyth, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Alice; and by his second wife he had his

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ASHFORD, KENT.

daughter, Mary; and by his last wife, who survived him, he had his daughter Margaret. He was Receiver of the Duchy of Cornwall, and Surveyor General and Commissioner for the Revenues assigned to Prince Charles, for many years. He was a just officer in his accounts, which he perfected with much contentment, where he was trusted. His love to his wife's children and friends was extraordinary, and he tenderly did respect them. His bounty to the poor was very great. He lived piously, and having an assured hope of a joyful resurrection by a lively faith in the merits of Jesus Christ. He rested from his labors on the 21st July, 1628, in the 63d year of his age.

The other Monument to this ancient family is upon the east side of the Chapel, and commemorates Sir John Smyth, Kent., only son of the latter, who died in 1609, and Elizabeth, his wife, who are represented kneeling on cushions at a letter or reading desk. The former is in armour, with a ruff, the latter has also a ruff and large hoop. In front of the Monument are portraits of their three surviving children; and on a black marble tablet is this inscription:

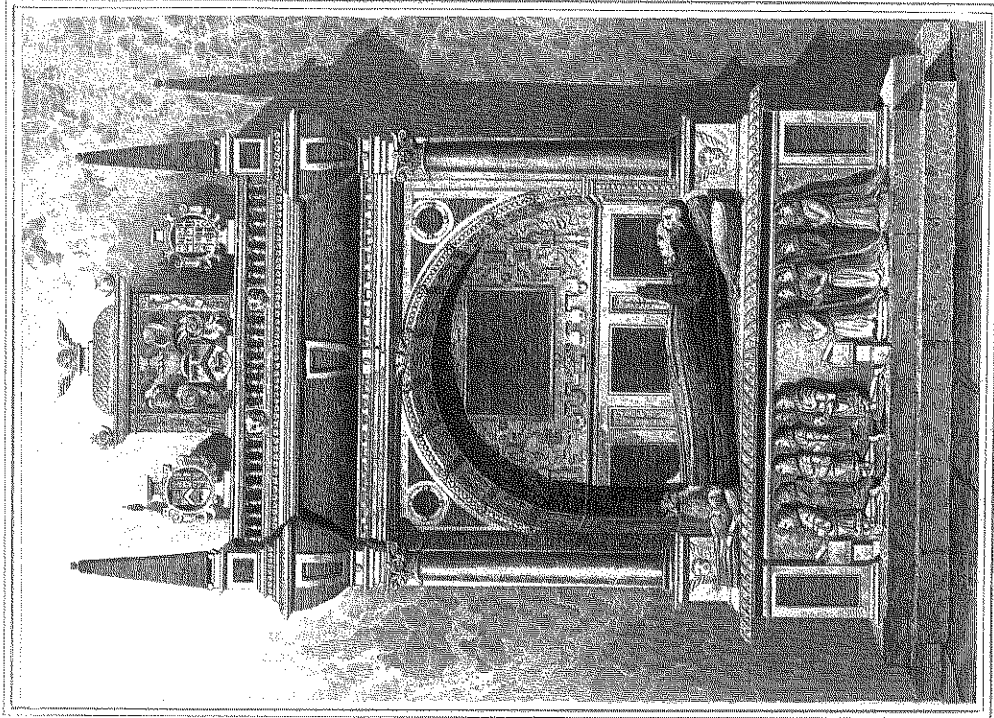
To the Memory

of Sir John Smyth, of Ostenhanger, Knight, and Elizabeth, his wife, daughter and sole heyr of John Finaux, of Heme, in the County of Kent, Esq., who lived married together about 30 yeares, and had issue two sons and six daughters, whereof three only survived them at the time of their death, whose portraits are here presented, *videlicet*, Thomas Smyth, Esq., his sennet and heyr; Katharine, married to Sir Harry Baker, of Sissinghurst, in the county of Kent, Knight; and Elizabeth, married to Harry Nevill, the younger, of Billingbere, in the County of Berk. Knight.

Erected by Sir John Scott, Sir Rich. Smyth, and Christopher Tolderve, the executors to the said Sir John Smyth.

The last of this family that was buried in the vault underneath this Chapel, was Philip Smyth, Viscount Strangford, in 1708; a great estate in this county formerly belonged to the family. Thomas Smyth, commonly called Customer Smyth, was remarkable for his great riches. Westenhanger, in the parish of Stanford, between this town and Hythe, their usual place of residence, was a noble and magnificent structure; a small part of it that still remains, has been converted into a farm-house.

On a slab, in front of the Altar steps, is a curious full-sized brass, in memory of Elizabeth, daughter to Henry, Lord Ferrers, of Groby, and wife to David le Strabolgie, the fourth of that name, Earl of Athol; she died in the year 1375, and is represented in the old French round dress, closely buttoned from the waist, her hair in three rows of curls, surrounding her face, and hanging over her shoulders: she held a square banner in each hand, that in the dexter *party*, that in the sinister charged with seven *maeles*, the arms of Quincy; over her head, within a square, the arms of France and England, quarterly, and under her feet, a heater-shaped shield, charged with a *cross*, impaling *three chevrons*, all within a *border guitee*, and originally bore this inscription: "Icy gist



Engraved by W. Wallis.

ASHFORD CHURCH.

THE MONUMENT OF SIR THOMAS SMYTH IN THE SOUTH CHANCEL.

London, Published 1794, by J. E. Neale, 16, Bennett St. Blackfriars Road.

so decent an enterprize, have and do hereby promise to pay the several sums of money to our several and respective names here under written annexed, to encourage and carry on so good and commendable a work.
 " Witness our hands this five and twentieth day of July, Anno Domini, 1695."

Then follows a list of subscribers to the amount of seventy pounds.

The following Account of some of the Vicars of Ashford is also from *Parsons's East Kent*, p. 537, where the order of succession is traced from the Parish Register.

Rev. John Wallis, Vicar, father to the famous Dr. Wallis, the learned Mathematician of Oxford, was buried, Dec. 4, 1622.

On a flat stone in the Archbishop's Court, within the Church, are the following inscriptions relating to him and his family :

Here lieth the body of the faithful servant of Jesus Christ, late painful and loving Pastor of this Congregation, Mr. John Wallis, who departed this life, November 30, 1622, being of age 55 years, and Mr. Henry Wallis, son of Mr. John and Joanna Wallis, who lived a godly, prudent, just, and useful man, and died much lamented, Sept. 3, 1666, aged 46 years; and is here interred in his father's grave : Mrs. Joanna Wallis, a prudent, grave, and pious matron, sometime wife of Mr. John Wallis, Pastor of this Church, daughter of Mr. Henry and Sarah Chapman, sometime of Godmersham, died September 26, 1643, aged --- years, and is here interred by her husband. Also Mrs. Rebecca Wallis, widow of Mr. Henry Wallis, and daughter of Mr. Howell, of Rye, who died September 20, 1677.

Rev. Edmund Hayes, Vicar, father to Mr. Hayes, Printer to the University of Cambridge, was buried Sept. 3, 1638.

Rev. Mr. Mackbee succeeded Mr. Hayes; in his time were great confusion both in church and state.

Rev. Richard Whitlock, Vicar, a man of wit and learning, was buried October 24, 1666.

Rev. Thomas Risden, Vicar, succeeded Mr. Whitlock. He was minister in Bread Street, London, and was burnt out of his habitation by the great fire, anno 1666; he then came to Ashford, and was here buried May 20, 1673.

The Rev. Samuel Warren, Vicar, succeeded, and died in 1720, aged 84. On a black marble slab in the Chancel is the following inscription to his memory :

M.S.

Sanctis Warren hujus Ecclesie Ashfordiensis nuper Vicarii, viri et vite sanctimonix, et puritate fidei et morum suavitate vere venerandi. Numeroso Gregi XLVIII annos summa fide, summaque constantia invigilavit pastor incunpatus, et quo erat ingenio ad omnia humanitatis officia prompto non tantum profuit omnibus, sed et placuit. Ad minus sacerdotale licet indiesenter attentus, rei famen familiari administrandae non prorsus defuit. Quinimo rationes domesticas tam accurate ad calculum vocavit, et facultates suas tam provide et prudenter dispensavit ut ex redditibus satis modicus nunquam non suppeteret usque liberis suis

Elizabeth, Comtesse D'Athols, la fille de Sign Ferraers, Dieu assoile que mourut le xx. jour d'Octobre, l'an de Grace MCCC."—Vide Le Neve's Church Notes, Add. MS. 5479, in the British Museum. The figure is now much mutilated, and of the fillet of brass, round it, the following only remains :

Joy gigt—Caunterst—quz mmur'.

The original Altar of the Church was pulled down during the Civil War, and the names of the Churchwardens, cut in stone, were placed in the Chancel; but in the year 1697, this tablet was removed, and the present altar-piece erected by subscription; the following is the curious preamble to the List of the Subscribers to the new work.

" Whereas the ancient Altar and Altar-piece of the Parish Church of Ashford, having been both decent and ornamental, rising with a fine ascent, and the same railed in after a decent manner, were in the time of rebellion, in the reign of our truly pious and martyred sovereign, King Charles the First, of blessed memory, in the year of our Lord, 1644, sacrilegiously defaced and removed, the Altar razed even with the ground, and some of the materials converted to their own private uses, by men as well of factious and rebellious principles and practices as sacrilegious; and to perpetuate this their infamous act and sacrilegious depredations, the then Churchwardens, *Joy Starr* and *William Worsley*, two of the actors in so great and villainous a profanation and profuse wasters of the churches treasure, had their names cut in stone, which they placed in the wall where the ancient Altar-piece stood, as a monument thereof, but is now taken out and broken to pieces, it being a shame to our church that the names of such men should remain there, already too long, who under the hypocritical mask and disguise of abhorring idolatry, dared be guilty of so bold a sacrilege as to violate God's altar.

" We, therefore, the Parishioners of the Parish of Ashford, and affectionate members of our truly apostolical and established Church of England, abhorring, as we are bound in duty, so sacrilegious an act, and to testify our sincerity and due regard to the order and decent appendices of our church, and that place where peace and reconciliation is made between God and man, may no longer continue as it is now, to our shame, the place of brawls and contentious disputes of the parishioners, but that a fair and decent Altar and Altar-piece, pavement, and rails, may be raised and placed again in its ancient place and order, being thereunto encouraged and moved by the exemplary and pious offer of a generous contribution by our very good lord, the Earl of Thanet, and the Reverend Sir George Wheeler, and being well assured of the further pious and concurrent contribution of our very good Lord Strangford, and divers other devout persons of honour and quality, for the completing

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Here also lieth interred the body of Thomas Apsley, of this Town, who out of his filial duty and brotherly affection erected this Monument to their memory.

Here lies the Body of James Reader, late of this Town, who departed this life August 24, 1727, aged 52.

Near him also lieth interred the body of Elizabeth, relict of the said James Reader, and daughter of Arthur Apsley: she died October 17, 1741, aged 64 years. Mary Handfield, relict of Thomas Handfield, ob. June, —38, aged 79.

Thomas Apsley, son of Thomas and Ann Apsley, died the 23rd of January, 1774, in the 38th year of his age.

Elizabeth Apsley, his widow, died the 22nd day of July, 1791, in the 73rd year of her age.

Thomas, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Apsley, died the 8th of October, 1767, in the 28th year of his age.

Upon a slab of marble in the Vestry is the following inscription:

Hoc sub Marmore.

Conducitur cineres Johannis Femer generosi, hujus oppidi non ita pridem incole et ornamenti, qui obiit XV die Julii Anno D'ni MDCCH. etatis sue XXXVI. Viverat multis certe nominibus memorandus utpote qui fidelis Ecclesie Anglicane filius orthodoxæ, fidei pietatem adjunxit vitæque integritatem, quietiam, quod illi omnino dandum est laudi, feliciter monstravit benignam ingenii venam sermonem festivum, moresque faciles non tantum cum religionis gravitate convenire, sed virtutem ipsam gratiorum reddere et magis amabilem. Uzorem duxit Saram Thomæ Bull de Mersham generosam filiam nata maximam, feminam sane fali viro dignam quæ obiit V. die Aprilis MDCXXV et hic juxta jacet sepulta. Ex hac septem suscepit liberos, quorum tres præmature fato abreptos pater moestus ploravit quatuor superstitis Mariam, Franciscam, Saram, Elizabetham, et Priscillam, mortuorum testamento reliquit heredes. Elizabetha anno etatis undecimo virginitatem expleto variolis occubuit; tres reliquæ marmor hoc pietatis et gratitudinis ergo posuere Anno Domini MDCXXXIV.

In the Archbishop's Court is a Monument inscribed with the following:

Memoria Sacrum

Baptista Figott, filii Baptistæ Figott de Dartford, Clerici, primique Scholæ Ashfordiensis Moderatoris, qui summis doctrinæ ornamentis, eximique docendi facultate instructissimus, numerosem eruditorum cœtum et ecclesie et republice dedit, E prima uxore, relicta Georpii Symons, clerici, filia vero Henrici Stacey de Ash generosi duos filios Baptistam et Gervasium, totidemque filias, Helenam et Mariam tulit. Ex alteris etiam nuptiis cum Jana filia Johannis Spencer et Franciscæ conjugis de Feversham Armigeri, duos iidem suscepit filios Spencerum et Edwardum, quatuor vero filias Franciscam, Elizabetham, Janam, et Annam. Et cum ultra quatuor Instra huic scholæ præfuisset, anno etatis 70 pietate juxta ac annu maturus, maritus et pater indulgentissimus de discipulis at et oppido etiam ingrato optime meritus Decem. quint. Calend. Feb. 1657. obiit.

H. J. E. P.

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bene multos honeste educaret et liberaliter. Nec in suos solum benignus erat vir optimus, utpote qui erga omnes se semper benevolentiam præstitit et propensum, indigentibus vero summe beneficium, vera significatio animi generosi.

Quippe cum pietique omnes magnificum ducunt si non invitati id erogent quod satisfaciat superferunt, hic vel a semetipso antè sustinuit, quo alios Posses beare.

Senectæ potius quam morbo confectus

Christi meritis plene confusus

Deo placide animam reddidit

Martii XVI an'o D'ni MDCCXX

Ætatis suæ LXXXIV.

Hic etiam juxta jacet desideratissimi viri conjux dilectissima Sara, Joannis Stafford Rectoris de Lagershall in agro Sussexie filia, natu minima; femina tam venustate corporis quam præcellentibus animi dotibus vere spectabilis. Quæ statim post decimum partum variolis oppressa in Christo obdormivit Sept'bris XX. Anno D'ni MDCLXXXVII. etatis sue XL.

His son, Dr. William Warren, made antiquities his favourite study, and wrote a history of this Church, many extracts from which are given in "Parsons's Account of Monuments, &c. in the churches of East Kent," 1794, 4to. He died at Canterbury, but was buried at Ashford. In the Churchyard is a tomb erected to his memory, with this inscription:

H. S. E.

Gulielmus Warren, LL.D.

Aul. Trin. Cantabr. Socius.

Reverendi Viri Samuelis Warren,

Hujus Ecclesie vicari

Filius

Obiit III Jan. MDCCXLIV.

Ætatis suæ LXII.

In different parts of the Church are monuments with these inscriptions:

In a Vault beneath lieth interred the body of John Norwood, late of this Town, and Mary his wife, by whom he had seven children, six of whom are in the said Vault with him, in memory of whom their surviving son Edward has erected this monument, 1743.

Near this place are deposited the remains of Thomas Hussey, Esq. who died July 3, 1779, aged 56 years. Also three of his Children, who died infants.

Beneath this Monument lies interred the small remainder of Arthur Apsley, of this Town, Esq. who near twenty years with loyalty, courage, and good conduct, discharged the especial trust reposed in him by their Majesties King William and Queen, Anne as Cornet, Lieutenant, and Except of their first troop of Horse Guards. He married Mary, youngest daughter of George Evelyn, of Godstone, in Surrey, Esq. by whom he left no issue. He died Dec. 29, 1719, in the 50th year of his age.

Near him also is interred the body of Arthur Apsley, father of the aforesaid Arthur, who died Dec. 4, 1743, aged 80.

THE TOWN AND PARISH OF ASHFORD

is the next adjoining to *Motfield*, eastward, and called in Domesday both *Estefort* and *Essetesford*, and in other records *Eshtetesford*. A small part of this parish only is in the borough of Henwood, which extends into that of Willesborough, the whole being within the liberty of the manor of Wye, and the borough of Rudlow, which adjoins *Kingsnoth* and *Great Chart*. Ashford, at the time of taking the general survey of Domesday, was part of the possessions of Hugo de Montfort, under the general title of whose lands it was entered. Upon the exile of Robert, his grandson, it came to the crown, when it appears to have been possessed by a family bearing the name of *Asshetesford*, when it passed to the Criol's, who held it *in capite*. In the reign of Henry III. William de Criol alienated this estate to Roger de Leyborne, whose son, William, died possessed of it in the reign of Edward II. leaving his daughter, Juliana, heir to all these lands, who has been styled the Infanta of Kent. She died without issue, and in the reign of Edward III. these estates were escheated to the crown, till Richard II. vested them in feoffees for the performance of certain religious ceremonies; and they were then, by the king's licence, purchased, with *those of Wall and Esture*, of the crown, towards the endowment of St. Stephen's chapel, in the king's palace, at Westminster. The whole was confirmed by King Henry IV. and VI.; after which, Edward IV. granted a fair to this town yearly, on the feast of St. John Port Latin. In the reign of Edward VI. this collegiate chapel was, with all its possessions, surrendered into the king's hands, who soon after granted the manor of Esshetford, with those of Wall and Esture, to Sir Anthony Acher, of Otenden, to hold *in capite*, who, in the reign of Philip and Mary, sold them to Sir Andrew Judd, of London. His daughter then conveyed them in marriage to Thomas Smith, esq. of Westenhanger; in which family it continued down to Sir John Smith,

who dying in 1609, his son, Sir Thomas, was, in 1628, created viscount Strangford, of Ireland. In 1709, Henry lord Teynham marrying his eldest daughter, he became possessed of the manors of Ashford, Wall, and Esture; and in that family they remained through several successions, when, in 1765, they were sold to Francis Hender Foote, of Bishopsborne, who, in 1768, parted with the *manor of Wall, otherwise Court at Wall*, to John Toke, esq. of Great Chart, whose son, John, died possessed of the manors of Ashford and Esture in 1773. A court-leet and court-baron is held regularly here.

THE FARM OF DEMESNELANDS, however, of the *Manor of Esture*, or *Eastoner*, were, many years back, alienated by one of the Smyth's, viscounts Strangford, and have been from that time in the possession of separate owners, from those of Ashford manor. It was afterwards the property of the heirs of Mr. Rooke.

THE MANORS OF GREAT AND LITTLE REPTON, called in Domesday *Rapentone*, formerly belonged to St. Augustine's monastery, and are entered under the title of the bishop's lands. The manor of Rapentone was divided into two, called *Great* and *Little*, as above, and was held by knight's service of the family of Valoigns. Ruellon de Valoigns held them in the reign of Stephen, and Henry de Valoigns afterwards held them under Edward III. His descendant, Waretius de Valoigns left two daughters, one of whom marrying Sir Francis Fogge, he, upon a division of their patrimony, acquired this as his wife's dower. He died possessed of these manors, and was buried in Cheriton church, the figure on his tomb being habited in armour, and represented cross legged, with his arms on the surcoat, imitating those of Valoigns. His descendant, Sir John, being attainted in the reign of Richard III. for his attachment to Edward IV. his lands became forfeited, though King Richard gave his royal word for the protection of his person. He lived to be restored by a reversal of the above Act, on the accession of Henry VII. and his figure is represented in the church, under a handsome tomb, with his arms quartered with those of De Valoigns. He founded a *college* therein, and became a great benefactor to the same. In his descendants the manors of *Great* and *Little Repton* continued down to Sir John Fogge, of Repton, who, on the dissolution of the college of Wye, in the

reign of Henry VIII. had a grant of the *manor of Licktopp*, in this parish. He died in 1564, and was succeeded by his heir, Edward Fogg, esq. whose uncle sold them to Sir Michael Sondes; and he alienated them to John Tufton, esq. of Hothfield, afterwards earl of Thanet. In his descendants, earls of Thanet, these manors of Great and Little Repton and Licktopp continued down to Sackville, earl of Thanet. A court-baron is held for the manor of Great Repton, and another for that of Licktopp.

The town of Ashford is pleasantly situated, the houses being mostly modern, and the High street of considerable width, the inhabitants being of genteel rank in life. At the east end of the town is a seat called *Brooke place*, formerly held by the family of the Woodward's. John died possessed of it in 1757, when it was purchased by the widow of Moyle Breton, esq. whose heirs alienated it to Josias Pattenson, esq. of Biddenden; and it afterwards passed to Mr. Henry Dering, gent. of this parish. That branch of the river Stour which rises at Lenham, continues its course at the east end of the town, where there is a stone bridge of four arches. On the south side of the river, next to Kingsnoth, within the borough of Rudlow, is the yoke of Beavor, with the hamlet and farm of that name, possessed, in very early times, by a family so called, John, being descended from an ancestor who came over with William the Conqueror. In the summer of 1625, the plague ravaged this town in a dreadful manner. The family of Osborne, duke of Leeds, was of this place; and Robert Glover, esq. Somerset herald, a laborious antiquary, was also born here.

William III. in 1696, created Arnold Joost Van Keppel, baron Ashford, and earl of Albermarle, whose great grandson, William, afterwards enjoyed those titles.

Sir Norton Knatchbull, in the reign of Charles I. began the foundation of a *free grammar school* in this town, and allowed the master a salary of £30 per annum.

Ashford is within the ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION of the *diocese* of Canterbury and *deanery* of Charing. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is a large handsome building, consisting of three aisles, with a transept and three chancels. In the high chancel is the tomb of Sir John Fogge, founder of the college here, who died in 1490, together with his two wives. In Weever's time there were six achievements to this family, whose

burials had been attended by the heralds at arms, with other ceremonies suited to their rank. On the pavement is a very ancient grave-stone, bearing the figure of a woman in brass, holding in her left hand a banner, with the arms of the Ferrer's, and formerly, in her right, another, with the arms of the Valoigns's; while over her head were those of England and France quarterly. Weever says, she was the wife of David de Stralbolgie, earl of Athol, and daughter of Henry lord Ferrers, of Groby. In the north chancel lay three of the family of the Tufton's. The south cross is parted off for the family of the Smith's, lords of Ashford manor, who lie in a vault beneath. Here are three superb monuments, which, some few years past, were beautified by the late chief baron, Smith, a descendant of this family. There was formerly much curious painted glass in the windows, particularly the figures of one of the family of the Valoigns's, with his two wives and children; and in the south window of the cross aisle, as well as other windows, the figures of King Edward III. the Black Prince, Richard duke of Gloucester, Lord Hastings, Sir William Haute, Lord Scales, Richard earl Rivers, the Duchess of Bedford, his wife, Sir John Fogge, &c.; none of which are now remaining.

This church was re-beautified by Sir John Fogge in the reign of Edward IV. who built the sumptuous tower, and founded, by his licence, a college and choir, and obtained an endowment of lands sufficient for the support thereof, in this county, as well as Essex and Sussex, all of which grants were confirmed by the king. That monarch, however, dying before the whole was legally completed, and Sir John Fogge being attainted, nothing further was done towards the same. Notwithstanding this, the founder, by his will, took care to leave sufficient for the repairs of the church, by devising a legacy in trust for that purpose, consisting of a tenement and lands, in Asshetisford, which he had purchased, that the same might continue so for evermore.

The church of Ashford was once part of the possessions of the priory of Horton, having been given at the first foundation of that establishment by Robert de Vere, which gift was confirmed by King Stephen. It then became part of the possessions of the priory of Leeds, where it remained till the dissolution, when, devolving to the crown, Henry VIII. settled them

on his new erected dean and chapter of Rochester, part of whose possessions they remained.

This vicarage was valued in the king's books at £18 4 2, and the yearly tenths at £1 16 5. In 1640 the estimation was £100, and the communicants 630; whereas, in 1649, the valuation was only £50.

In 1821 there were 469 dwellings in the parish of Ashford; and, at the same period, when the last census of the population was taken by order of Parliament, the numbers of inhabitants were as follow: males 1328, females 1445, making a total of 2773 souls.