

retain the manor, because of its remoteness from his residence and other estates.

THE MANOR OF BROCKLEY.

Brockley is situated in the southern extremity of the parish, a portion being in the parish of Lewisham. It was once accounted a manor, and granted with its appurtenances by Wakelin de Maminot in the latter end of the reign of King Henry II., to Michael de Turnham, to hold free and quietly to him and his heirs by the yearly rent of 12 pence, in lieu of all services, for which grant the said Michael became his feudatory tenant and paid him 40 shillings.

Michael de Turnham afterwards sold his land of Brocele, as his free gravilike and stocklike to the Countess Juliana, wife of Wakelin de Maminot, that she might found a religious house here, Stephen de Turnham, his nephew, consenting to it.

The religious of the Premonstratensian Order,* who were first settled at Ottham, in the County of Sussex, by Ralph de Dene, finding that place very inconvenient to them, resolved to quit it for one more suitable; and in all likelihood it was these to whom the Countess Juliana and Michael de Turnham

* The Premonstratensian Order was founded by Saint Norbert, Confessor and Archbishop of Magdebourg. He was born at Santen, in the Duchy of Cleves, in the year 1080, died in 1134, and canonized by Pope Gregory XII., in 1582.

St. Norbert built a monastery in the lonesome valley of Premontre in the forest of Coucy, in 1121.

The order of Premonstratensians, or Norbertins, according to Helyot, is divided into thirty provinces and contains 1300 monasteries of men, and 400 of women. In its primitive institution it was very austere. The religious never wore linen and observed a perpetual abstinence from flesh, and a yearly rigorous fast of many months. For Hubert de Romanis, the disciple of St. Dominic and general of his Order, writes that this holy foundation borrowed these observances from the Premonstratensian rule. But several mitigations were introduced into it, which gave occasion to various reformatations approved by Gregory IX. and Eugenius IV., and one in Spain of all others the most rigorous, confirmed by Gregory XII. The Premonstratensians were called by our ancestors White Canons, and had in England 35 houses according to Bishop Tanner.—*Butler*. (There are now but two houses of the Order in England, one near Spalding and the other near Doncaster, both in Lincolnshire.)

gave this place, in pure and perpetual alms, for an habitation, which gift was confirmed by Geoffrey de Say, the land being part of his barony.

But they did not remain here long; for Robert de Turnham,* nephew of Michael (with the consent of his lordship, Richard, Earl Clare), gave them an estate consisting of "all his lands of Begham, or Bayham," partly in Lamberhurst, in Sussex, "with all its appurtenances in pure and perpetual alms, free from all service and secular exactions, whereon to build an abbey in honour of St. Mary." They selected a spot in the two counties of Kent and Sussex for the site of their structure, on a point of land between two branches of water, a divided branch of the Medway, "where wood, water, and variety of ground and picturesque scenery were amply provided by nature"; a spot fully entitled to bear the name they gave it—"Beaulieu." Hither, after obtaining the consent of Ella de Sackville, the daughter of their founder, Ralph de Dene, they wholly removed on the Feast of the Annunciation, A.D. 1200.

King John, in the ninth year of his reign, confirmed the land at Brokele to the Abbot and Convent of Begham.

Edward III. in 1329 granted them free-warren in their lands at Brokele.

The lands at Brockley continued with the monks until the dissolution of their abbey in 1526, when, being one of those smaller monasteries which Wolsey had obtained from the king for the endowment of his college at Oxford, it was settled by him on Cardinal College. Wolsey, being cast in a præmu-

* This chivalrous and zealous knight accompanied King Richard Cœur de Lion in his crusade to the Holy Land, and concerning him the chronicler Gloucester sings:—

"King Richard with gud intent
To yat cité of Jafes went
On morn he sent after Sir Robert Sakvill,
Sir William Waterville,
Sir Hubert, and Sir Robert of Turnham,
Sir Bertram Brandes and John de St. John."

From this disastrous enterprise Robert de Turnham never returned.

"Robert de Turnham with his fauchion
Gan to crack many a crun;"

but, as it was observed by Weever, amidst this scene of blood and carnage, he could not save his own head from the frenzy of an army of enraged and offended Saracens.

nire in 1529, all the estates of this foundation, both real and personal, were forfeited to the king and continued in the hands of the Crown till 1532, excepting such as were begged from time to time by the hungry courtiers, which were not a few.

That part of this estate, situated in the Parish of Deptford, was granted by Queen Elizabeth by letters patent in the 10th year of her reign—May 4th—by the description of the site and capital messuage of the Manor of Brockill, to Philip Conway, but in 1608 it had again reverted to the Crown, where it seems to have remained till about the time of the Restoration, when the Manor Farm (or, as Hasted calls it in 1778, Hither, or Upper Brockley Farm) was vested in Sir John Cutler, Bart., who settled it, by deed in 1692, on Edmund Boulter, Esquire, who by will in 1767 left it to his brother William Boulter. In 1709 William Boulter made a settlement by which it passed to his grandson, Richard Wilkinson, and afterwards to William Wickham, Esquire, and Mary, his wife, sister to the said Richard Wilkinson. This, together with another considerable estate in the parish of St. Nicholas, Deptford, were carried by Mary and Anne—daughters and co-heiresses of the Rev. William Wickham of Garsington, Oxfordshire—into the family of Drake, of Shardeloes, Amersham, Bucks. Mary, the eldest daughter, married the Rev. John Drake, rector of Agmondesham, whilst her sister Anne espoused on August 8th, 1780, his eldest brother Thomas, who had assumed in 1776 the name of Tyrwhitt, in accordance with the testamentary injunction of Sir John de la Fountain-Tyrwhitt, Bart., the surname and arms of Tyrwhitt; but, upon inheriting the estates of his own family at the death of his father, 8th August, 1796, he resumed, in addition, his paternal name, and became Tyrwhitt-Drake.

The first ancestor of the Drake family, according to Burke, from whom lineal descent can be traced is John Drake, of Exmouth, Devonshire, “a man of great estate, and a name of no less antiquity” who lived in the time of Henry V.

ARMS—Quarterly, 1st and 4th, a wivern with wings displayed and tail nowed; gules, for Drake. 2nd and 3rd gules, three tirwhitts, or lapwings, or, for Tyrwhitt.

CRESTS.—For Drake, 1st a naked dexter hand and arm erect, holding a battle axe, sa headed arg. For Tyrwhitt, a savage man ppr cinctured and wreathed vert, holding in both hands a club.

BROCKLEY MONASTERY.—For very many years some grassy mounds, on which the ruin-loving nettle luxuriated, marked the spot, in a meadow belonging to Mr. Myatt, of Manor Farm, Deptford, where the monastery was supposed to be situated. Rubbish being required to form a roadway on the farm, one of the mounds was dug away, when the foundations of the refectory were brought to light. It was noticeable that each of the corners of the building pointed to one of the cardinal points. The length of the room was 34 ft. 6 in., whilst the width was 21 ft. 6 in. At the N.W. end was a recess 10 ft. by 9 ft. 6 in. from out to out—the whole of the walls were 2 ft. in thickness. On the south-west side was an entrance of 3 ft. 6 in. wide. The floor had been originally laid with large red tiles about 1½ in. thick, having bevelled edges by which they were enabled to be laid close together. A few white glazed tiles resembling the Dutch tiles were also found, together with fragments of glass with lead work still adhering to it from some of the windows, several coins of Charles I., and a number of coins, amongst which were two silver pennies of Edward IV., a shilling of Edward VI., one of Elizabeth, and one of Charles I., and Louis XIV., and a Deptford token, JOHN ANDREWS, *in the field*, an hemisphere, encircled with two zones. *Reverse*, DEPTFORD, 1665, *in the field the letters A and T T in two lines*. There were also found an antique key, an ancient buckle, and other trifles. When the foundations of St. Peter's Church were being dug, an old well was discovered, which is supposed to have belonged to the ancient monastery of the White Canons.

Little could the monks of Brockley have foreseen the changes which have taken place since they left their monastic home at Brockley, to seek the fairer lands of Bayham, now nearly seven centuries since; nor could it have possibly entered into their minds that their cherished gardens would have been bisected by iron roads, traversed by fiery horses; that inquisitive strangers should lay bare the very foundations of their home, and that a church, protesting against the errors of monastic life, should be planted in the midst of their domain. And yet all this has come to pass, and the last tangible evidence of the existence of the monks at Brockley has been swept away.

The Manor Farm was formerly held by Mr. William Edmonds, who also rented the land, afterwards occupied by

Mr. George Moore. He was succeeded by Mr. Tyler, at the yearly rent of £200 for the 200 acres, of which the two lands consisted. On Mr. Tyler relinquishing the ground, it was taken by Mr. Joseph Myatt, who was succeeded by his son William, the last occupier.



VIEW OF DEPTFORD FROM PLOW-GARLIC HILL, BROCKLEY, A.D. 1815.

Ecclesiastical History.



St. Nicholas Church.

THE Church of St. Nicholas—the mother church of the parish—is situated on the south side of Deptford Green, near the banks of the Thames. There are no records extant of the date of its erection, but that the church was in existence in the twelfth century is clearly proved by the grant of the advowson by the Countess Juliana de Vere, to the religious order of Premonstratensians, or White Canons. Soon afterwards, perhaps on the removal of the Order from Brockley to Begham, the patronage of the Church seems to have returned to the Lord of the Barony of Maminot, Geoffrey de Say, who granted it to the Knights Templars, in pure and perpetual alms. His son regained possession of it in exchange for the Manor of Saddlescombe in Sussex, and by his deed gave it to the Canons of Begham or Bayham.

“Gualeranus, Bishop of Rochester, appropriated this church about A.D. 1183 to the Abbot and Convent of Begham, which was confirmed by Pope Honorius III. by his bull dated the third year of his Pontificate, as well as by the Cardinal Legate in England, and afterwards by Benedict, Bishop of Rochester; Lawrence, Bishop of Rochester, 1256; the Prior and Chapter of Rochester; and in 1513 by Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury.” It remained in the possession of this Abbey till the dissolution of monasteries, when it was granted by the king to Cardinal Wolsey by writ dated 10th of May, 1526, “to appropriate, consolidate and annex to the deans and canons of the College of Thomas Wolsey, Cardinal of York, in the University of Oxford.”

By an ancient valuation taken in the reign of Edward I.,