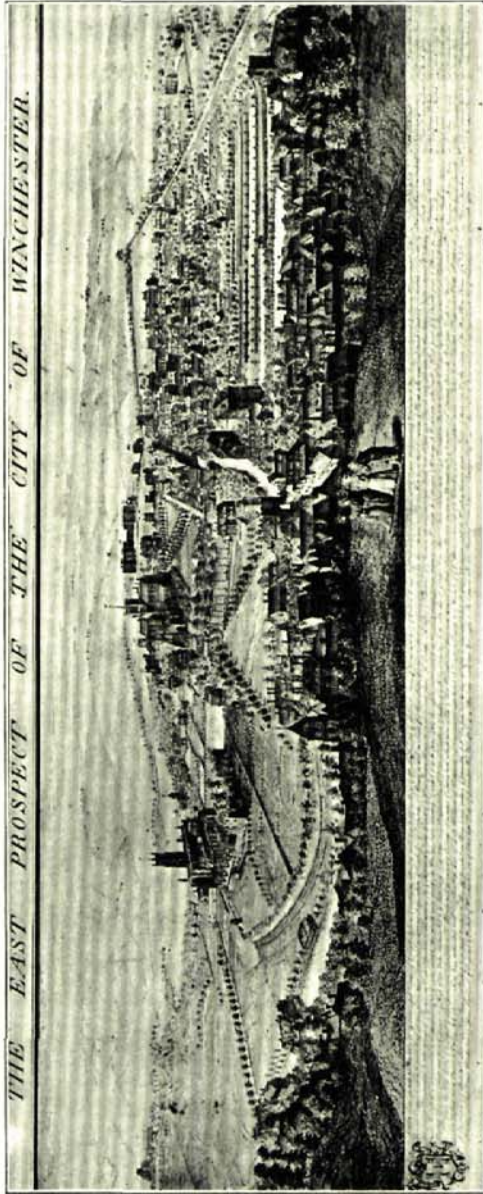


THE EAST PROSPECT OF THE CITY OF WINCHESTER.



TUDOR WINCHESTER FROM CIVIC MSS.

 BY W. H. JACOB.

Lovers of the past, who ride that delightful hobby, collecting Maps, Engravings, Woodcuts; &c., illustrating Winchester and Hampshire, are familiar with the somewhat scarce "Buck's East Prospect of the Old City, temp. Geo. II., from St. Giles' Hill." This shows us structures since swept away. Let us in imagination stand where Buck's group stood and try to recall Winchester as it was in the year of the Armada, when "Castile's black fleet" was sighted in the Channel. Fires blazed from our Beacon Hills, and to use Macauley's words there was experienced—

"Such night in England ne'er had been,
Nor ere again shall be."

Our County and City and its Port provided gallant soldiers, seamen and vessels for Howard, Drake and Hawkins. One such sailor is buried in the Church of St. Bartholomew, Hyde, where his memorial remains—a precious record. The inscription is:—"Here lyeth the bodye of Edmond Norton, of Tisted and Avington Houses descended, who had two shillings a daye pencion for hys good service by seae in Ano Dni., 1588. He desceased 10 Julie, 1600." The Dissolution of the minor Monasteries in 1536 and of the greater in 1539 deprived the City of much of her grand appearance, and in Elizabeth's reign the City must have been a scene of ruin and desecration. The Cathedral, College, St. Cross, the Leper Hospital of St. Mary Magdalene, on the Eastern Downs, and that of St. John the Baptist were unhurt. Henry de Blois' Fortress Palace and the Conqueror's Castle stood entire, as did Walls and Gates. These, however, even in the reign of Henry VII., were evidently defective. The Marquess of Winchester, High

Steward of the City and Lord Lieutenant of the County, on his creation by Edward VI., gave one hundred nobles for the repair of the Gates. The Churches standing in Elizabeth's time were SS. Thomas the Apostle, formerly St. Thomas-a-Beckett; Peter in Macellis, from the Tower of which Curfew rang; Maurice, Peter Colebrook, Mary of the Fraternity of Kelendre, Clement, Lawrence, Swithun on Kingsgate. "Extra muros" were SS. Bartholomew Hyde, John and Peter Chesil, the little Church of St. Martin Winal, and not far off the Norman Church of Chilcomb. Four of these edifices remain to us, the interesting edifices of the 12th century. The streets retained their ancient titles, the water-courses of St. Ethelwold flowed freely along the narrow streets north and south of High Street, and noteworthy in this street were the Plantagenet and later Guildhall fronting Godbeate, the High Cross, dating from the time of Henry VI., was just below—still a gem of Gothic taste—whilst there were the great Inns—the George, Chequers, Hart, Star, Bell—resting-places for pilgrims, travellers, merchants—of the Courtyard type, and "Black and White," like the Fountain at Ludlow (temp. Henry VII.), now an hotel.

The Cloth Trade is still recalled by "Rack Hills," "Rack Garden," and up to some 60 years ago, by the "Fulling Mills." Some of the above Churches were ruinous in 1588. The Dissolution left the City a wonderful mass of ruins, quarries then and long after for structures of various kinds. The fine mansion close to St. Peter's Chesil Church, shown in Buck's Prospect with its Tudor front (now Georgian), no doubt was built from these quarries. The interior and the Garden front are fine examples of Tudor style, and have an artistic and appreciative owner in Mrs. Evylyn Heathcote. Close by are the "Old Rectory," some medieval cellars, and here and there "Bits" of the old houses of woolstaplers and of the Bishop's Liberty of the Soke. The prison and stocks and whipping post of which, stood opposite the Rising Sun—"the Cellar House." Buck's view shows the Gates and Walls. We have spoken

of the Quarries as the Monastic ruins were called. The vastness of this material from desecrated structures is exemplified by statistics given in Miss R. F. Pennell's capital book on Hyde Parish, *e.g.*, John Ward had three loads of freestone from the Abbey for his house at Worthy Pauncefoot; Sir Walter Sands, of the Vyne, purchased 90 loads of freestone at 6s. 8d. a load, 100 loads of burrs and flints, 7d. a load, 40 of sand, 4d. a load, 9 of chalk 15d. a load; and in 1607, when the Law proceedings as to Peter Symond's Hospital permitted its erection, Thomas Clarke sold 100 loads of stone for use in the works.; moreover William Wickham "built a stone house" out of the ruins, the record of which is preserved on a tablet in the Parish Hall.*

The immensity of the Abbey is still in evidence in houses, in garden walls all over Hyde Parish, where the curious passer-by may find richly-carved statuettes, sculptured stones—mouldings which once graced the Abbey. In the Church, where were buried Alfred and his Queen and their son Edward the Elder, these precious historic relics remained undisturbed till the end of the 18th century, when the County Authorities, building a Bridewell on the site, found the coffins and their contents. Incredible as it may seem there was not a single person found to protect and remove the illustrious Saxons in their coffins to the Cathedral. Coffins were broken open, lead converted into beer, and the bones scattered. Curiously enough, the same cause and desecration befell at Reading the remains of Henry I. (Beauclere) The monks of old treasured such relics. What a source of attraction to every intelligent person would they have been in the Cathedral, where are Egbert and Ethelwulph, Alfred's grandfather and father.

We have wandered far away from Tudor times. A Chamberlain's Roll in 1588 affords us very interesting information as to Civic affairs. Thomas Newbolt was Mayor, John Paice ex-Mayor. The custom of presents to officials was very old. In 1588 two sugar loaves, 27lbs., cost 45s., were given to the Recorder, Thomas Fleming.

* William Wickham, II. Bishop of Winchester 1595. His episcopate was short. He died within ten weeks, after his appointment.

armiger, in December. This famous Hampshire man became Lord Chief Justice and presided at the trial of Guido Fawkes. There is a fine tomb to his memory in North Stoneham Church. Lord de la Warr was also given a Sugar Loaf, 12lbs. 6ozs., 20s. 8d. Corporations have always enjoyed savoury meat. The Marquess of Winchester sent half a doe on the New Year to the Mayor and there is this entry: "Baking divers pasties, 3s.," and there was a dinner at the house of Richard Cooke. On January 8th, the civic fathers gave the Marquess a bottle of sack, a gallon of claret, and 2lbs. of sugar, probably some confection, 8s. Soldiers did damage to a lock at Northgate costing 8d. to repair. The political and militant Puritan is met with in the next entry, "Paid to a pursuivant, 2s. 6d.," who brought down a proclamation against Martin Marpralate for sedition. The Justices of Assize always had presents:—This year, at the first Assize a fresh salmon, 11s., and at the second a fresh salmon, 8s., and a fat sheep, 8s. The Judges lodged in the Castle, and their Marshall was provided with a Chamber by Avice Potinger at a cost of 10s. each Assize. The Queen's Players in March and September rejoiced the citizens in the Courtyard of the Great Inn of the Chequers, receiving on each visit an *honorarium* of 20s., which was equal to £8 of modern money. The Rolls tell us nothing as to the performance. For Quadragesima, William Kingsmill, mil., Henry Gifford, arm., and other gentlemen were present as deputy Lieutenants. As to the musters they enjoyed a gallon of sack and a gallon of claret, 13s. Curiously enough the Armada excitement does not trouble the Chamberlains. The Town Clerk used two quires of paper in his work, 8d., and his fee was 20s. and a gown yearly.

The military force of Winchester is mentioned. The Town Fife-player received for arrears of pay 12d.; his name was John Chapington. He and the drummer, whose name is not recorded, at the Muster in June received 1s. 6d. Eighteen soldiers wore the City Armor for one day at 6d. each. Four pounds of gunpowder, 4s. 6d., three pounds and a quarter of match, 4½d., represent the drill on the

occasion. There was a further muster later in the year, when thirty soldiers of the City Guard wore the "armor" at 5d. each, and the drummer and piper received 1s. 6d. each.

The Butts for the practice of archery were in the *fosse* near Kingsgate and on the Castle Green; the repair of these with timber and turf cost 8s. 8d. There were refreshments for the officials of the muster at the house of Thomas Cooke, sen., 26s. 8d., and the Lord Lieutenant, the Marquess of Winchester, had a gallon of sack and also of claret and some sugar, 12s. 4d. The Mayor and others on the occasion of the array of the City forces refreshed themselves at a cost of 21s. 6d., and it would seem that the music of the musters necessitated an extra drummer. The Town Clerk rode to Basing to consult the Lord Lieutenant as to a writ of Gaol Delivery and the subsidy. Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex, Governor of Portsmouth, the garrison of which was largely composed of Hampshire Companies, was entertained by the Mayor with claret and sack, as were the Bishop of Winchester, Lord de la Warr, and several Justices in September. There is an entry for "horse meat" and other expenses incurred by Richard Cooke, Anthony Dawley, John Foster and the Town Clerk, riding to see the above Earl at Portsmouth, presumably about defensive matters. The cost was 6s. The Beadle, George Wilton, "weeded" the Town Walls from ivy, etc., 4s. 4d., rang the Curfew Bell for a year, 13s. 4d., and it was his duty to flog vagrants and beggars at the Whipping Post in the Market Place when requisite. This official and the Sergeant-at-Mace received annually a gown, which required 14 yards of broad cloth at 7s. a yard. There is this curious entry as to Wilton's successor, Thomas Porter, "bringing a strange ladye from Southampton, 3s. 4d." Query: Was she a Papist?

Some space as to the aid given to the Queen for the defence of the country against the Armada and its cost by means of writs of Privy Seal. "Noble's List of Names" is the authority on this matter. Writs were sent to the 36 English counties; Hampshire and the Isle of Wight furnished 87

subscribers, of whom 13 resided in the Isle. There were two who lent £100 each, twenty-one £50 each, sixty-four £25 each. There was no female subscriber. The two largest lenders were Robert Knaplake, gen., Wm. Peake, gen., of Adshott. Amongst ancestors of county families still flourishing in honor were Davie Bulbeck, of South Stoneham, George and John Kingsmill, of Eanham (Knights Enham). Earlsman—John Lee, Thos. Worsley, arm., and Thos. Urry, of the Isle of Wight. Also there were John Knight, gen., of Chawton, John Pesco, gen., Littleton, Robert White, arm., of Aldershot. The patriotic Winchester people were all of civic rank and honor; William Thomas, gen., Edward Cole, gen., William Badger, William Symonds, and William Button. One other name we mention because his descendant flourishes in America, and he called on us enquiring as to his genealogy. We were happy to help him successfully. His ancestor of Armada annals was William Neale, of Warnford, in the venerable Church of which are stately monuments of the family.

In our day when the title of "Esquire" has been assumed by "everybody" a digest of the social status of the Hampshire names in "Noble's Transcript" is valuable. Eighteen are described as "armiger," three as "merchants," one as "attorney," twenty as "generosus," and the remainder have no adjunct to their surname, and they no doubt ranked as Magister or Mr.

A Subsidy Roll of the period for Winchester is interesting as to this matter. Out of 388 persons assessed, 13 are "Mr.," three only are "Esquires," viz.: Walter Sands, William Walter, William Wright. The only "gent." or generosus was William Whitehead. The Subsidy Roll for the 31st year of Elizabeth gives an exact list of tax-payers in the six Aldermanries into which the City was divided. In the High Street there were 175, Tanner Street 57, Gold Street 34, Colebrook Street 54, Hyde 28, Jewry Street 40.

Sartorial and sanitary matters merit notice. The love of display in dress existed always, and "Queen Bess" was

altogether vain and liked her Court well dressed, hence fashion then as now was copied. In the Winchester ordinances, the Mayoress and her predecessor were to be provided with a scarlet gown to be worn on festival days and functions, failure in which mulcted the Mayor and ex-Mayor a noble (6s. 8d.). Every civic official was forbidden to wear in the streets white, green, yellow, red, blue, "weggett," or orange colored hose, nor was he to wear at Sessions or Sermons, Sundays or holidays any white, green, or yellow doublet on pain of 6s. 8d. The dignity of the judicial Bench and of the 24tie (the actual ruling power) was jealously guarded. Thus, the tradesfolk of this position were not to sell onions, garlic, parsnips, cherries, strawberries, apples, pears, plums, damsons, nuts, wardens, quinces, peaches, beans, hasletts (pigs' chitterlings), eggs, fresh butter, milk. Neither Mayor, ex-Mayor, or Alderman to go on the streets or markets in jerkins or coats; but must wear a cloak or gown unless riding or going a-shooting. They might walk before their doors or shops in jerkins.

The sanitation and state of the Tudor streets must have been pestilential and the Aldermen were quasi Inspectors of Nuisances for they were responsible for the cleanliness of the thoroughfares within their districts. The scavengers came round Wednesdays and Saturdays. Staple Garden was the appointed receptacle for the deposits, and was ordered "to be paled about," Dorothe Matthews having the key of admission. The frequent recurrence of the Plague is easily accounted for by the following regulations:— "It is agreed that all persons of or above the age of 12 who shall do his or her needs of easement meet to be done in privies or appointed latrines in any street or lane being taken in the fact, or if proved by lawful witness shall pay 6d. In default shall receive such punishment as the Mayor may order." (His Worship must often have needed a Juvenile Court with expenditure on Birch and Whipcord).

The pollution of the Itchen did not trouble the authorities much. Butchers were not to throw entrails into it at the Abbey Mill Bridge, unless they were cut into lengths of

four inches on pain of 3s. 4d. There was a special provision against throwing dead horses, dogs, or cats into the street, also that no person from henceforth lay any dead dog, cat or horse or any other dead carrion in the street, neither were pigs or horses to be at large. The householders aided the Aldermen Inspectors of Nuisances thus. "Every householder was to pave before his or her door and to provide and throw down the gutter every morning and evening before 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. five buckets of water, and shall carry away the filth of the gutter on pain of 3s. 4d."

Records such as we have given above explain the outbreaks of the Plague in Tudor and Stuart periods. The mortality is shown in the parish registers.

Presumably there were anglers in Tudor days; they knew nothing of the artificial fly; but were bottom fishers. The pollution of the stream must have been somewhat remedied by the number of flour and fulling mills which kept the water swift and the fish healthy. Eels must have flourished for they are scavengers. Trout must have had abundant insect life and provided good sport and eating in Lent and at other times. On such matters the Rolls are silent, neither do they refer to the ancient navigation made in King John's reign. It had fallen into decay in Elizabeth's reign, for in that of her successor we read of a surveyor called in to inspect the "water work" between the City and Southampton, and the entry that it "Went not forward." It was not attended to till Charles II. time.

Our Tudor Chapter has been long, but we hope not without interest in these days of perfect sanitation and river purity jeopardised perhaps by petrol and tarred roads. The picturesque bits of Tudor buildings are now jealously cared for, and Winchester yet possesses Godbegot and Hersent House and the Old Rectory (so-called), the leading survivals. Others there are hidden behind Stuart and Georgian and Victorian venues. These require seeking by the lovers of long ago, to whom we commend the words of Master Churchyard of Ludlow:—

" And who so lists to walk the town about
Shall find therein some rare and pleasant things."

" Godbegot " equals in beauty the Feathers Inn at
Ludlow.

We have walked the city about lovingly—many years—
and still find " pleasant things " and beautiful, which have
escaped that terrible monster—" up-to-date."

NOTE.—The Governing body of Winchester may use such a term
when at Corporation, or as it is styled the 24tie. There is no
indication of Municipal Elections. There are frequent entries of
gaining a seat on the twenty-fourtie by a gift of money or plate.
The Modern Corporation preserves the old 24tie numerically—
6 Aldermen, 18 Councillors—total 24.
