

GROSE, DELT., 1773.

ST. DENY'S PRIORY, WEST FRONT.

J. TOWNSEND PHOTO. LITH. KETTER.

THE PRIORY OF ST. DENYS.

BY A. H. SKELTON.

The Priory of Saint Dionysius or Denys, near Southampton, belonged to the Canons regular of the Order of St. Augustine, and was situated on the western bank of the river Itchen, about two miles north of the walls of Southampton. The Prior and Canons were lords of the manors of Northam and Portswood, both within the liberties although outside the walls of the town. As the Canons were endowed with the chapelries of All Saints, Holy Rood, St. Lawrence, and St. Michael, Southampton, and were responsible for the services therein, they were possibly more immediately associated with the religious life of the town than the rector of St. Mary's, the mother church of Southampton, which then stood surrounded by fields, amidst the traces of the deserted Saxon town of Hampton, from which the inhabitants had migrated in the eleventh century, and founded a new town around the King's castle, in a more defensible position, on the western shore, abutting on the river Test.

The Prior and Convent of St. Denys were also holders of property in Southampton, and owing to this connection, both civil and religious, the Priory, although comparatively a small foundation, has engaged the attention of topographers and local historians, among whom may be mentioned Grose, Warner, Duthy, Woodward, Wilks, and the Rev. J. Silvester Davies, who, in his "History of Southampton," gives many interesting details relating to this house, but for the purposes of this notice it will suffice briefly to summarise these authorities.

The Priory was founded in 1124 by King Henry I., who endowed it with lands at Portswood, and to the eastward of Southampton. King Stephen confirmed certain grants made to the Canons. Henry II. confirmed to them the manor of Northam, and also granted the chapels of Saint Michael, Holy Rood, Saint Lawrence, and All Saints, belonging to him. Richard I. gave further lands at Portswood—the men of Portswood thereafter performing for the Church of St. Denys, the customary work which they had hitherto done for the King. King John confirmed some gifts of land at Portswood and Kingsland.

Among private benefactors we find the names of Gundreda de Warren, Humphrey Bohun, William Musard, Walter de Chalke, and Beatrice his wife, William Aliz, Walter de Limesey, and others. Their gifts consisted chiefly of lands, rents, and quit rents. That of William Musard is noticeable, his wife Isabella having been buried in the convent church, and the condition of the gift being that a wax taper should "for ever" be kept burning before the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary there.

In 1225 a controversy arose between Philip de Lucy, rector of the church of St. Mary, and the prior and convent of St. Denys, with regard to their respective rights and privileges. The matter was brought before the Pope (Honorius) and a settlement was arrived at in the chapter house, at Salisbury, the honour of the ancient parish church of St. Mary was preserved, two wax tapers were to be annually presented to that church by the Prior and Convent of St. Denys, and a division of the tithes and dues in dispute was agreed upon.

In 1332, King Edward III., granted to the convent a pipe of red wine annually for the celebration of Mass, to be delivered by the King's butler at Southampton. The liability of the town in this respect continued till the time of James I., who, in the year 1609, granted a perpetual exemption.

In consequence of the losses sustained by the convent at the burning of the town in 1338, a respite of taxation was granted by Parliament.

In 1339 the safe custody of the town of Southampton was entrusted to certain guardians appointed by the King, and

a force of thirty men at arms was stationed at or near the priory in readiness against foreign attack. The convent being holders of house property in Southampton, had to contribute towards its defence, and the tower at the N.E. angle of the walls, which was the nearest to the priory, was called St. Denys tower. It was partially demolished in the year 1828.

The leper hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, Southampton, founded in the twelfth century, was in 1347, with all its possessions, assigned by Edward III. to the convent of St. Denys, in consideration of the poverty of the canons, still suffering from the losses occasioned by the burning of the town in 1338, upon condition that the canons should be responsible for the duties of the hospital. This gift may denote that the spread of leprosy in this country was then stayed, and that the necessity for such a hospital no longer existed. Amongst the possessions thus acquired were the Magdalen fields, subsequently known as the East and West Marlands, and now forming part of the public parks.

By an indenture, dated 1396, the Prior and Convent agreed that their tenants at Portwood should submit to the jurisdiction of the town and attend the Court Leet. The fines and forfeitures at Portwood were to be divided in certain proportions between the town and the convent. Portwood was also to be rated with the town for the King's supplies.

The convent was visited by William of Wykeham, who laid down regulations for the conduct of the canons. In 1404 they received a legacy of twenty marks, bequeathed to them by that prelate, for the repair of their church.

Many references to this priory occur in the records of the Corporation of Southampton. In the Register of Burgesses Admissions is the following:—"Walter Maye, Prior of the priory of Sainte Denys, by the towne of Southampton, 2 April, 3 Henry VIII." This prior held office at the time of the dissolution, and was the last of the series. A complete list is given by Mr. Davies.

The condition of the house on the eve of the suppression appears to have been one of poverty and ruin. Of the six brethren there was no complaint, but having their choice

three elected to abide by their profession, and three to adopt other capacities. The report is as follows :—

" PRIORY SEINT DIONYSE.

A hedd-house of chanons regular of the order of St. Augustyn. Former valuation, £80 11s. 6d.; present valuation, £95 12s. 2½d., with £13 6s. 8d. for the demaynes. Religious 6, all being preestes of a good conversation, whereof desyren to contynue in religion 3, and to have capacities 3. Servants, &c., 9, viz. :—Officers in household, 4, and waiting servants, 5. Church, mansion, and housynge in extreme ruyn and decaye. Leade and bells viewed and estemed to be sold to £22. Goods, £17, viz. :—Plate and juells, 6os.; ornaments, £8 17s. 8d., and stuff, 102s. 4d. Owing by the house as particularly apperith, £27. Owing to the house, £52 12s. Great woods being very thynne sette 90 acres, esteemed to be sold to £36 13s. 4d."¹

The house was surrendered in 1536, under 27 Henry VIII., cap. 28. The estimated value of the revenues as given by Dugdale is £80 11s. 6d.; by Speed, £91 9s.

In 1538 the site of the priory, together with the manors of Portswood and Northam, was granted on the 26th August (30 Henry VIII.) to Francis Dautrey, esquire, who had previously been enrolled among the burgesses of Southampton, (27, Henry VIII.), his name appearing in the register after those of several abbots. He was afterwards knighted (2, Edward VI.), became sheriff of the county, and resided at Portswood.

It appears from a deed lately in the possession of Mr. Charles Golding, of Colchester, dated 29th Oct., 3 and 4, Philip and Mary (1556), that the possessions of the Priory of Dionysius, of Southampton, at Shirley, were sold to John Reynolds, of London, goldsmith; but it has not been ascertained into whose hands this deed has passed.

In 1563, Thomas Gardiner petitioned for leave to purchase the free chapel of "St. Mary de Graces," late of the possessions of St. Denys Priory. The chapel was on the western shore of the river Itchen, and has given the name of "Chapel" to the district in which it was situate.

A curious and interesting map of "The Priory of St. Dionis and Manor of Portswood," dated Dec. 10th, 1658, on vellum, was presented by the writer's brother, Major T. A. Skelton, J.P., to the Hartley Institution at Southampton, and is there preserved. At that date the site of the priory is shewn as

¹ Extracts from Papers by Father Gasquet, *Dublin Review*, April, 1894.

belonging to John Knight. By permission of the Hartley Council a reproduction of this map on a reduced scale is here given.¹

One royal visit to St. Denys may be claimed, viz., on the occasion of the visit of Charles II. to Southampton, in 1669, when the King and the Duke of York took boat, Sir Robert Horne being steersman, and they rowed up the river Itchen as far as St. Denys.

An examination of the deeds of the Portswood Estate to which the above-mentioned map was formerly attached, afforded the following list of subsequent owners, viz. :—

- 1693. Richard Morgan the elder.
- 1716. Richard Morgan, junior.
Thomas Wood took under Morgan's will.
- 1776. Thomas Wood.
- 1778. General Stibbert.
- 1812. W. S. Wakeford.
- 1813. William Baring.
- 1815. Alex McKinnon.
- 1825. Mr. Lawrence.
- 1828. Mr. Woodham.
- 1834. George Jones.
- 1857. T. A. Skelton.

In 1878 Mr. T. A. Skelton, sold the site of the priory to Mr. W. H. Baigent, who has recently disposed of it for building purposes, but it is hoped that the small existing remains may be preserved. While the place was devoted to the purposes of a farm a superstition prevailed that when any part of the ruin was pulled down a murrain broke out amongst the cattle. This belief may have arrested the work of destruction, and the preservation of the last remaining fragment of the priory church will be anxiously looked for by those who regard with interest the ancient memorials of our local history.

Mr. Davies tells us that in the year 1730, the site of the Priory came into the possession of the celebrated Charles Mordaunt, 3rd Earl of Peterborough, but the manorial map before referred to, shows portions only of the estate marked off as "sold to Lord Peterborough," the site of the Priory not being so described.

¹ From a tracing kindly made by Mr. E. Cooper Poole, A.M.I.C.E., a member of the Club.

The state of the ruins in the year 1774 is shewn by Grose's view (Plate I.) which gives the west front as it then existed. He observes that "nothing more of the Priory remains than what is here shewn. On the site is a farm house, at which there were some time ago many stone coffins entire, then used for troughs." At that date, the property belonged to Thomas Wood, of Grosvenor street, London.

In 1778 the Portswood Estate with the priory passed into the possession of General Stibbert. That gentleman carried out extensive building operations, erecting on the site now known as Lawn Road, a mansion called Portswood House, demolished in the year 1852. He also erected farm buildings at St. Denys, superseding the old farm house known as "The Cottage" which was suffered to fall into decay and which is shewn in the following view reproduced from the "Antiquarian Cabinet."



THE COTTAGE.

This building it appears to have been of a domestic character, erected after the dissolution, materials of the old priory being used in its construction. A son of General Stibbert's bailiff, when re-visiting St. Denys some years ago, informed the writer that at the end of last century "The Cottage" was inhabited by French refugees. Also that a

number of stone coffins were found in excavating stones for the foundations of the new farm buildings. One of those coffins was used as a foundation stone of General Stibbert's lodge, a castellated stucco building still standing at Portswood.

Hassell in his "Tour of the Isle of Wight" (1790), thus records a visit to the Priory of St. Denys.

"It exhibits a pile of antique ruins that are hastening to decay; scarcely any part of the chapel is standing, and if the remains of the house are not shortly secured from the depredations of its inhabitants and from the incessant ravages of a great number of hogs, both that and the chapel will soon share the fate of many an ancient fabric and leave not a trace of its existence."

Hassell's drawing of the ruins, engraved in "Britton's Beauties of England and Wales" in 1804 was taken from nearly the same point of view as that shewn by Plate II., which is reduced from a water color by J. C. Barrow, dated 1796, purchased at Sir George Hewett's sale at Freemantle House, about the year 1851 and now in the writer's possession. Another view from Britton's publication shews the west front as then still standing, but at what date that and the old domestic buildings were destroyed has not been ascertained. Duthy in 1839 describes the remains of the priory as consisting "of scarcely more than one ruined wall. In the centre is a gothic window, the sides of which have a beaded ornament, and which internally has a deep bevel. In the south side of this wall was an arched doorway, now bricked up, on the outside is a dripstone. On the inside at a distance of about nine feet from the ground, runs a fillet, below the window and above the doorway. In the wall at the side of the doorway was a font for papal holy water (*sic*). This is much mutilated below, but the upper part presents a well cut trefoil-headed arch in good preservation. Remains of the foundations of other walls are covered by the soil, the portions which stood above the ground having been pulled down a few years since to build a garden wall at the farm. Some years back there were several stone coffins lying near the ruins, which were used as troughs, and for other domestic purposes, but only one is now left, and that is broken."¹

When as a lad the writer first visited St. Denys, Mr. Jones of Manchester, the owner, was having the site trenched and

¹ Duthy's Sketches of Hampshire 1839.

the foundations excavated. The stone obtained was used in building a wall abutting on the river. Several more stone coffins were disinterred and the remains of tile pavement were broken up and scattered over the ground. The site was then let as allotment gardens but shortly afterwards the Portswood estate including St. Denys farm was laid out for building purposes. The buildings erected by General Stibbert were pulled down, excepting two of the farmhouses afterwards known as Abbotsbury and Priory House. A large stone coffin in a perfect state was then doing duty as a cattle trough in the farmyard, believed to be one of those found during the destruction of the foundations. It was, with two broken stone coffins and sundry lids, removed to the garden of Priory House, where they still remain. The writer and his brother collected several early English bases and broken columns, some large stones carved with quatrefoils, fragments of window tracery, corbel heads, two small holy water stoups, and a quantity of encaustic tiles. A selection of these remains was transferred to the Hartley Institution and some to Mr. Baigent. The fragments of stonework were again mostly buried in the garden of Priory House by a subsequent owner.

In the Priory ground there is a large sculptured stone, much decayed, probably of the Roman period, and brought from the station of Clausentum on the opposite side of the river, for the erection of the conventual buildings. Fragments of Roman tiles have been frequently found at St. Denys, but no remains of any Norman work have been observed, the earlier buildings, if any, being temporary and of wood.

Owing to destruction of foundation it has not been possible to form a plan of the buildings, but during a dry summer the extent of the southern side of the church and its eastern end was plainly evident. From which it may be conjectured there were five window spaces similar to one entire and the reveal of another now existing. The church was aisleless, as was usual with the Augustinian canons. The thirteenth century monastic churches at Hamble and Monk Sherborne in this county afford an idea of what St. Denys may have been. The cloister was on the south side of the church and the roof of the cloister appears to have been raised at some later period, the existing window being partly

blocked below. The stoup referred to by Duthy is of the Perpendicular period and still exists, built into the wall where it is obviously an interpolation.

Plates A, B, C, indicate the patterns of encaustic tiles collected on the spot. They are mostly of thirteenth century date. From the thinness and rudeness of make some of the tiles may belong to the transitional period.

A few of the examples here given appeared in an excellent paper by Mr. B. W. Greenfield, F.S.A., published in our Proceedings (Hants Field Club Papers. Vol. II., p. 141), which gives much information on the history and symbolical meaning of some of the patterns found on encaustic tiles.

Among the articles found on the site were a few coins, both Roman and mediæval; and many jettons or abbey pieces with the legends AVE. MARIA.—AVE. MARIA. GRACIA. PLENA—AVE. MARIS. STELLA. MATER. D.

The subjoined sketch shews all that now remains of the Priory of St. Denys.

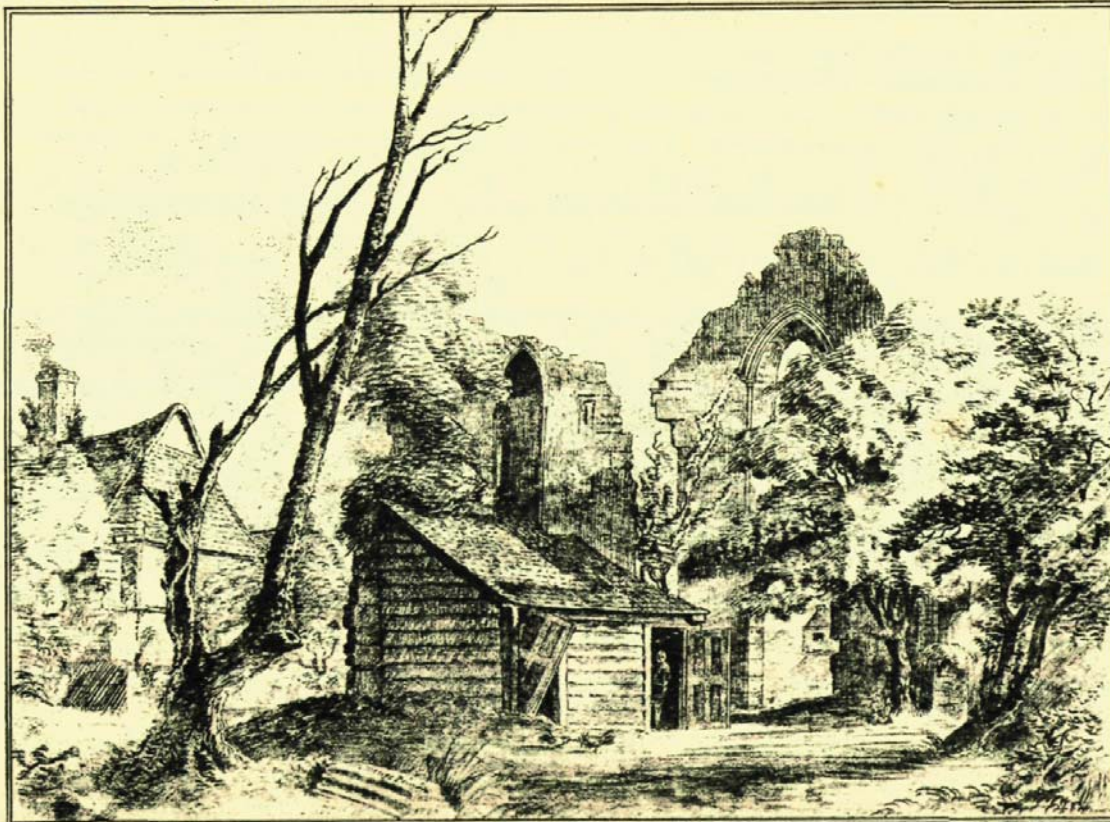


"A SOLITARY FRAGMENT OF GREY RUINED WALL."

The following description of the ancient map, and notes on the possessions of St. Denys Priory and Manor of Portswood, have been communicated by the Editor, the Rev. G. W. Minnis, F.S.A. :—

HANTS FIELD CLUB, 1895.

PLATE II.



J. G. BARROW, DELT ST. DENY'S PRIORY, NAVE OF CHURCH, S.W. VIEW, 1796.

J. TOWNSEND PHOTO. LITH. EXETER.

THE MAP.

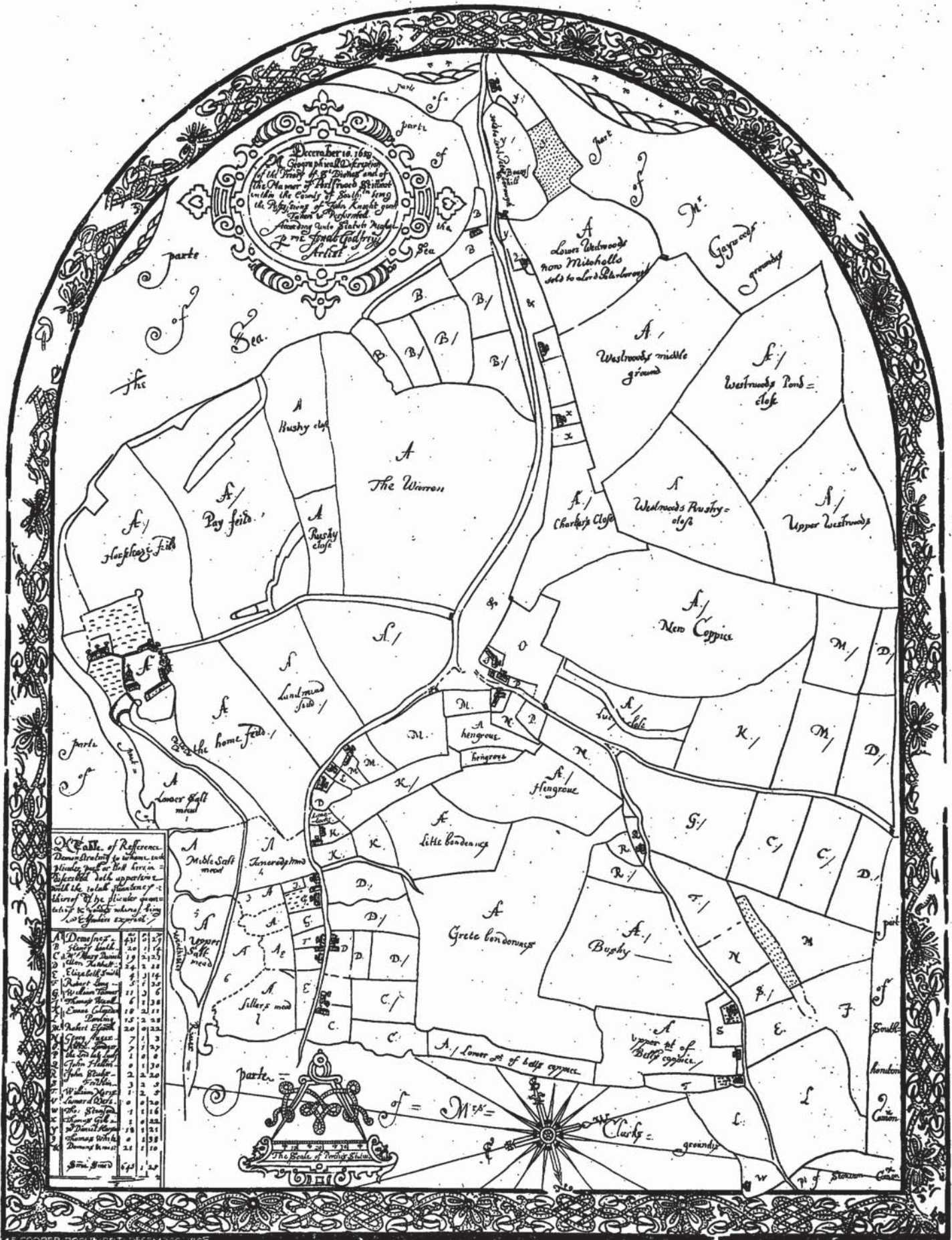
The original of the facsimile map which accompanies this notice came into the possession of Mr. T. A. Skelton with other papers, when he acquired the site of St. Denys Priory in 1857. As being a document of great local interest, it was generously presented by him to the Hartley Institution, Southampton, where, appropriately framed and glazed, it hangs in the secretary's room. The map is on vellum and measures 26in. by 34in.; the tints of colour have nearly disappeared, and where it has been folded the writing is somewhat obscured. It is surrounded by an ornamental border, and may be regarded as a good specimen of penmanship of the period. The title, date, and name of the artist appear in an ornamental cartouche at the top left-hand corner. The inscription reads as follows:—

"Dec. 10th 1658. A Geographical Description of the Priory of St. Diones and of the Manor of Portswood scitteat within the County of Southampton, being the Possessions of John Knight, gent. Taken and performed According unto Statute Measure per me Jonat Godfrey, Artist."

In 1570 a Mr. John Knight is mentioned in connection with Portswood Manor and a claim to pasturage rights on Southampton Common. In this claim he is associated with Lady Dautrey. Her husband, Francis Dautrey, at the Dissolution was the original grantee of the Priory in 1538, and from him or his heirs it must soon after have been acquired by the Knight family, since from the Muster Book in the possession of the Corporation of Southampton it appears that in 1544 Polymond's or St. Denys Tower, for the defence of which the prior and convent had been responsible, was assigned to the charge of William Knight. Thus it appears that the manor of Portswood remained in the same hands at least from 1544 until 1658.

Of the "artist," Jonatn. Godfrey, we have been unable to find any record, but the name of Godfrey is of frequent occurrence in the municipal archives of Southampton. In 1506 John Godfrey served the office of mayor, and in 1718 one of the same name was appointed to act as town clerk, and afterwards succeeded to the post.

The map does not appear to be the result of an accurate scientific survey. At the foot the scale, in perches, is



MAP OF THE PRIORY OF ST. DENYS AND MANOR OF PORTWOOD (1658).

THE COOPER POOL - 1895 DECEMBER 1895

J. TOWNSEND PHOTO. LITH. EXECUTED

indicated by a pair of compasses and we may estimate the extreme length of the manor from north to south to have been about two miles; its width from east to west about one mile. Its total area is given as 645 acres, 1 rood 25 perches. At the left hand corner will be found "a Table of Reference demonstrating to whome each particular percell or Plott herein discribed doth appertenie with the totall quantetey thereof. The particular quanteties and values whereof being elsewhere exprest."

Further details were doubtless contained in the Account Book of the Manor Court, but we have here given the extent of the demesne, and of the several plots, with reference letters to the names of tenants and their holdings, as follows:—

	A.	R.	P.
A—Demesnes	431	0	29
B—Henry Heath	20	1	14
C—Mrs. Mary Daniell	19	2	23
D—Ellen Retchett	24	2	28
E—Elizabeth Smith	4	3	14
F—Robert Long	5	1	35
G—William Tanner	11	3	6
I—Thomas Wauil	6	1	38
J—Evane Culverden	18	2	11
L— — Powling	15	2	28
M—Robert Elcock	20	0	22
N—George Auger	7	1	3
O—Allix Lander	7	1	27
P—The Lord late Lucks	1	0	0
Q—John Hellin	0	1	30
R—John Stubs	2	2	20
S— — Franklin	3	2	5
T—William Moris	1	2	5
V—Leonard Mere	0	0	20
W—Stanford	1	1	16
X—Thomas Gill	1	0	22
Y—Mr. Daniel Hersin	15	1	21
Z—Thomas White	0	1	38
&—Demesne and Wart	21	1	10
Summa Summorum	645	1	25

The Desmene, or lands held by the Lord, is shown to comprise the Priory site with the buildings thereon, which included the Church, and a long building probably the *cellarium* extending at right angles to the southern wall, and

abutting on the Cloister. A conduit and other constructions are also shown, and immediately adjoining the precinct are two cultivated plots, probably the garden and orchard. The "Home Field" and "Horseleaze Field,"¹ or paddock adjoin, and to the south-east of the Church by the river, may be seen the weir for the taking of fish for the supply of the convent.

Various meadows are denominated; *e.g.*, "Tancred's Mead," "Siller's Mead," while "Grete Bondownes" and "Little Bondownes" indicate down pasture for sheep. On these lands the "men of Portswood" would render "customary" work to the Lord of the Manor, carrying hay, storing the harvest, and performing other agricultural operations.

The enclosures marked "Rushy Close" to the south² and near the river, indicate the locality where were grown the rushes which on the vigil of Easter and other festivals were presented as dues to the Reeve of Southampton. The woods to the west afforded a supply of fuel and provided pannage for swine. In the "coppices" were grown the withs from which hurdles for the flocks were made, and the "Warren" served as a preserve for game.

Among the obligations to the Lord of the Manor the "men of Portswood" had to repair the "King's weir." This service formerly due to the King, had to be rendered to the Prior, and subsequent lords. The weir appears to have been formed with stakes set in the stream and placed at the entrance of a fleet which at high water flowed around the "salt meads" and re-entered the river a little higher up the stream. It is noticeable that the Itchen is not thus named but is called the "Winchester River." The little bay to the south-east is described as "parte of the sea." On the north-west is "parte of Southampton Common" and "part of Stoneham Common" with "parte of Mrs. Clarke's³ groundes."

The extent of the desmene was 431 acres, exclusive of waste lands about 21 acres. The holdings of the tenants vary from twenty-four acres to less than one acre. In almost every

¹ Lease or leaze—a pasture. Halliwell's Dictionary.

² It will be observed that the top of the map is towards the south.

³ Widow of Edmund Clerke, Esq., buried at South Stoneham 1632, aged 48. He married Anne, daughter of James Frampton, Esq., of Buckland Ripers, Dorset. Duthy's Sketches of Hants, p. 401.

case a house will be found attached to the site, but among the holders no names of any note are found, except perhaps "Mr." Daniel Hersin, who appears to have been of some importance and an active partisan of the Commonwealth, as he is included with Richard Cromwell and others in a Committee appointed by the "Counsell of State" 26th October, 1653, for "supplying several void churches in the County of Southampton."¹

A plot of land to the south, marked "Sir Bevois Hill" adjoining the land of Mr. Hersin is inscribed as "sold to Lord Peterborough," together with "Lower Westwood." The note of the transfer of these sites is of course of much later date than the map. Of this spot Dr. Speed writes; (in 1770).

"Opposite to Bitterne on the west side of the river is a hill called Bevois Hill, from a legendary tradition that Sir Bevois of Southampton lies buried under it. It is now part of the beautiful gardens of the late Earl of Peterborough. Where the summer house now stands was a barrow, and in digging the foundations of the summer house a human skeleton with bones of large size was found."

This site came in 1730, into the possession of the Earl of Peterborough;² who here made his seat, known as "Bevois Mount." He writes of it in his letters as, "the wild, romantic cottage where I pass my time." Here he spent the last days of his life with his second wife, Anastasia Robinson,³ and made great additions to the house and grounds—according to Pope.

¹ It was by this Committee that Mr. Nath. Robinson was appointed lecturer in "Rhodes" (Holy Rood) Church in the place of the Vicar, Mr. Bernard. Davies' Southampton, p. 360.

² Charles Mordaunt 3rd Earl of Peterborough was the nephew of Henry, 2nd Earl of Peterborough, born about 1658 and succeeded to the title in 1697. He served under William III. during the campaign in Flanders. By Queen Anne he was appointed commander-in-chief of the forces sent to Spain, and joint admiral of the fleet with Sir Cloudesley Shovell. In 1710 he was employed as ambassador at Turin, and made a Knight of the Garter. In the reign of George I. he was General of all the Marine Forces and held the same commission under George II. He was a dilettante author and was the friend of Pope, Swift, Arbuthnot and other men of letters. He died at Lisbon, October 25th, 1735, aged 77. See Walpole's "Royal and Noble authors," vol. iv. p. 177.

³ Anastasia Robinson was the daughter of a portrait painter, she became an eminent singer and accepted an engagement at the Opera but quitted the stage on her marriage with the Earl of Peterborough. She died 1750. Rose's Biog. Dict.

"Taming the genius of the stubborn plain
Almost as quickly as he conquered Spain."

From Bevois Mount Pope and Lord Peterborough went to Winchester to the distribution of prizes at the College. The poet paid a last visit to his friend in the autumn of 1735. In one of his letters to Pope, Lord Peterborough writes: "I am under the greatest impatience to see Dr. Swift at Bevois Mount." The visit subsequently took place, and we have the witty Dean's description of the personal appearance of his host,

"A skeleton in outward figure
His meagre corpse, though full of vigour."¹

At high water the tide formed a bay at the foot of Bevois Mount, opposite to Bittern Manor, the Roman Clausentum. The beauty of the prospect was then so much increased that the Earl of Peterborough would never suffer his grounds to be inspected by strangers, unless the river was at its full height.

Bevois Mount was afterwards sold by a successor Sir John Mordaunt, nephew of the Earl, to William Sotheby, the poet, who lived here and penned a sonnet entitled "Farewell to Bevois Mount." In 1794 it was known as "Padwell," the seat of Edward Horne, Esq., from whom the property passed to his relative Mrs. Hulton, wife of Henry Hulton, Esq., of Lincoln's Inn. At her death in 1840, it passed to their son Edward Horne Hulton, Esq., and was shortly after sold by him to Mr. Betts, a railway contractor. Many of the fine trees of Lord Peterborough's planting remained till 1859, when the property was broken up and the greater portion sold off in small lots, is now known as Bevois Town.

The carriage entrance to Bevois Mount is still marked by "Stag Gates" which exist in the Avenue, Southampton, while "Mordaunt Road" and "Padwell Road" remind us of former owners. On each of the piers are cut in the stone preteritious shields of arms, viz.:—On a bend sinister, three cinquefoils pierced, all within a bordure engrailed *Crest*. Out of a ducal coronet a buck's head and neck attired (antlers), gorged (neck) with a collar, and the motto *Ostendo non ostento*. These heraldic insignia were doubtless a usurpation, with a differ-

¹ Swift's Works; xiv. p. 71.

ence, of the arms, of the family of James Betts, gentleman, of Southampton, who bore sab on a bend or, cotticed argent, three cinquefoils of the field. *Crest* out of a ducal coronet, a buck's head, both argent. See Berry's Hants Pedigrees, p. 244.

Mr. B. W. Greenfield writes: "I recollect these gates being built about 1845-1850, and the removal of the modest and appropriate lodge of Lord Peterborough's time, on the site of which this most pretentious affair was raised by Mr. Betts, a railway contractor, who purchased the Bevois Mount House and Park on its sale after the death of Mr. Hulton the previous owner. Betts soon after failed, when the property again fell into the market, the beautiful and ancient trees were cut down and the land sold in lots and built over."

P.S.—Since writing the above a fate similiar to that which has befallen Bevois Mount threatens the site of St. Denys Priory, which has recently fallen into the hands of the builder. A road has been made to the river, thus affording frontages for villas of which some are already erected. There remains at present (February, 1896) unappropriated, a small plot next to Priory Road, on which stands the fragments of ruined wall above described. For this remaining portion the present owner asks a sum exceeding that for which the whole could have been purchased a few years ago. Like the Sibyl's books—as the quantity becomes less, the value changes in an increasing ratio. It is due to the late proprietor, Mr. W. H. Baigent, to mention that he tried in vain to secure a purchaser who would preserve the ruin and devote the site to some public purpose. The Hants Field Club have also made efforts to avert the hand of the destroyer by endeavouring to negotiate an arrangement for its transfer to the Southampton Corporation. A subscription was opened with this view, but as the sum now demanded is altogether out of proportion to the historic and architectural importance of this relic of antiquity, we fear that the project must fail, and that shortly no trace of St. Denys Priory will be found on its ancient site.

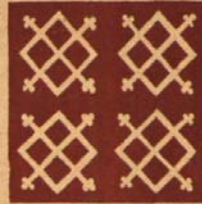
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DRAWN BY A. H. & T. A. SKELTON.

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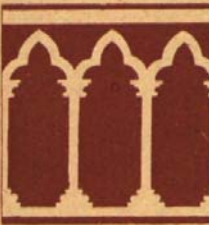
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