

## VISITATION OF THE RURAL DEANERY OF COLCHESTER IN 1633.

BY GEORGE RICKWORD, F.R.Hist.S.

THE document printed in the following pages gives a graphic picture of the condition of the churches in the town of Colchester just prior to the Civil War. Its perusal may lead one to doubt whether the cannon of Fairfax are responsible for all that has been laid to their account.

From the parochial registers it would seem that Colchester at this date was a town of from 8,000 to 10,000 inhabitants, of whom some 3,000 were of alien descent, mainly Flemings and Walloons, collectively known as Dutch. With the exceptions of Bristol and Norwich, it is probable that no town in the kingdom greatly exceeded it in population; while as the centre of a large district stretching some twenty miles in all directions, occupied in cloth-weaving, fulling, and incidental trades, it was as busy a locality as could then be found. Nor is there any reason to suppose it was not prosperous. Some twenty-five years earlier it was said that the place was so populous that no house could be had for love or money. Many bay and say merchants, such as the Tayspills and the Rebows, of Dutch descent, the Savilles and the Reynolds, of native birth, accumulated fortunes which raised their owners to wealth and affluence, enabled them to intermarry with the landed aristocracy and to found families, whose representatives are still honoured among us.

The Visitation, the details of which follow, was not by the diocesan or the archdeacon in person, but apparently by the surrogates. The Bishop of London at this date was the famous Dr. Laud, who three weeks later was elected to the Primacy. The archdeacon appointed in 1617 was Dr. Henry King, rector of Chigwell, who in 1642 was appointed to the bishopric of Chichester, held some few years earlier by Dr. Samuel Harsnett, one of Colchester's most famous sons. The archdeacon, an "orator parum vehemens," has been variously described by contemporaries as "the epitome of all honours, virtues and generous nobleness, and a person never to be forgotten by his tenants and by the poor," and as "a proud prelate and most pragmatical malignant." As neither the bishop nor the archdeacon were personally concerned in this Visitation, it is not necessary to follow out their further careers here, but it is as well to place their

names on record in order that the responsibility for the five years' episcopate of the former, and for the seventeen years of the archidiaconal supervision of the latter, may be estimated.

The Visitation took place on Saturday, August 31st, 1633, and the following Monday, September 2nd, ten parishes being visited by Mr. Roberts, rector of St. Nicholas, one by Mr. Tailcott, and two others by Dr. Gabriel Honyfold, of St. Mary Magdalen. The town parishes are placed in topographical order, under their dates, as, in the transcript in the possession of the Colchester Public Library, their sequence is somewhat uncertain, owing to the copy being made on loose leaves.

In Ecclia p̄oli S̄ci Buttolphi.  
 31<sup>o</sup> die Augusti Anno Dñi 1633.  
 Coram M. Theophilo Roberts,<sup>1</sup> Clīcō Surro<sup>o</sup> etc.  
 M<sup>r</sup> Wittus Eyres,<sup>2</sup> R̄cōr.  
 Johes Stampe<sup>3</sup>  
 Phineas Burlingham<sup>4</sup> } Gard.

The steeple stayres are very ruinous and want repayinge.  
 Their belsollers want bordinge in the bottomes.  
 Their belfrey walles are decayed and want repayinge and the church windows want glazinge.  
 The east window of the belfrey wants boardinge at the topp.  
 They want a plate and a napkyn for the Coion and a faire lynnene cloth for their Coion table.  
 They want the Bookes of Homilies.  
 They want a table of the p'hited degrees of marriage.  
 They want a decent carpett for their Coion table, of silke or broadecloth.

<sup>1</sup> Theophilus Roberts, M.A., rector of St. Nicholas, on presentation of King James, 30. 4. 1609. The last recorded incumbent, Will. Bickerstaffe, died in 1546. Roberts was licensed to the benefice of Berechurch 28th June, 1633. He signed the Conformists' petition to Laud in 1629; and was severely lampooned by some of his Puritan parishioners in connection with the railing in of the Communion tables.

<sup>2</sup> Will. Eyres, rector (*sic*) of St. Botolph. Newcourt gives this as a donative, or curacy, but the incumbent is here styled rector. No institutions here are noted by him, but William Eyre, S.T.D., was appointed rector of Great Horkesley 20th January, 1618, on the presentation of Thomas Lucas, esq. His death is recorded in 1642. He was succeeded here by Thos. Eyre, M.A., probably his son, on the presentation of Sir John Lucas (?); having been in the previous September appointed rector of Myland by John, Lord Lucas. He died in 1683. The hereditary connection of the families was kept up by the appointment of another William Eyre, M.A., to the latter benefice in 1673, by Antony, Earl of Kent. He resigned in 1686. William Eyre is with probability identified by a Wood with a correspondent of Archbishop Usher's, educated at Emanuel College, Cambridge.

<sup>3</sup> John Stampe was a cooper. Another John Stampe had been prior of St. Botolph's inter 1497-1514, and the family had filled the office of bailiff several times in the preceding century.

<sup>4</sup> Phineas Burlingham, blacksmith. Will proved P.C.C. 1652.

The walles and buttresses of the south and north sides of their church want repayringe and plastrynge.

The walles and windowes on the south side of their church are annoyed with dyvers vynes growing against the same, wch stand in the garden of Edward Legge, gent, in thoccupacon of Xfofer Walker.

There are div<sup>rs</sup> doores openinge into the churchyard at the west end thereof, viz<sup>t</sup> out of the houses in the occupacon of Jeremy Daniell,<sup>1</sup> Jeremy Lowne and John Board, wch doe very much annoy the churchyard by reason they doe sett and laye tymber bordes and other ymplem<sup>ts</sup> in the churchyard, and div<sup>rs</sup> of them and their children do their easements in the churchyard, to the annoyance of the p'ishioners there.

There is a howse of office belonginge to the howse in occupacon of Xfofer Walker, blacksmyth, wch is open into the churchyard and doth annoy the said churchyard and the said p'ishioners there.

The churchwardens are admonished to p'vide the ornamt<sup>s</sup> aforesaid and to doe the repacons abovesaid before Hallowmas daye next and to certelie therof the next Co<sup>rs</sup> then followinge.

And they are admonished to acquaint the said Jeremy Lowne, Jeremy Daniell, John Board w<sup>th</sup> these annoyances conc'ninge the back doores and outletts abovesaid, and to admonish them to stopp upp the said back doores and soe to keep them stopped before Hallowmas next cominge, otherwise they are to p'sent the defaulters and . . . therein at the next Co<sup>rs</sup>e then followinge.

Also they are admonished to acquaint the said Xfofer Walker w<sup>th</sup> this order, and write him that he doe, before Hallowmas next, cutt upp the said vynes, to stopp upp the hole in his sd howse of office before Hallowmas next, w<sup>ch</sup> if he shall not doe then they are to p'sent him for the same at the next Co<sup>rs</sup>e then followinge.

The chauncelle walles and buttresses are decayed and want repayringe and plastringe and the east windowe thereof is annoyed w<sup>th</sup> a vyne growinge against the same, w<sup>ch</sup> vyne groweth in the garden in the occupacon of Richard Wright.

Mr. Eyres hath Xtmas next for repayringe the chauncell.

The churchwardens are likewise to admonish the said Richard Wright to cutt upp his said vyne before Hallowmas next, wch if he shall not doe, then they are admonished to p'sent him for the same at the next Co<sup>rs</sup>e then followinge.

<sup>1</sup> Jeremy Daniell, will proved P.C.C. 1667. Father of Jeremiah Daniell, whose benefactions to the parish are still distributed annually. He was a prominent member of the Puritan party, and entered the Council in 1650. Elected in 1660, he resigned his position as alderman in 1663, after the Restoration. The family, which first appears in the Borough records in 1521, is still well known locally.

In Ecclesia p̄oli S̄ci Egidii ville Colcestrie.  
 31<sup>o</sup> die Augusti Anno D̄ni 1633.  
 Coram M. Theophilo Roberts, Clic̄o Surr<sup>o</sup> etc.  
 M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Cocke,<sup>1</sup> R̄c̄or.  
 Joh̄es Symons } Gard.  
 Joh̄es Woodroofe<sup>2</sup> }

Their church wants glazinge.

The pillers of the windowes on the north side of the church are broken and want repayringe.

The walles on the south side of their church wante repayringe and plaisteringe.

The seates in their churche want bordinge in the bottomes.

They want the Books of Homilies and the Booke of Canons.

They want a hood for their minister.

The chauncell walls want repayringe and plaistringe on the south side and at the east end.

The chauncell wants pavinge.

The seates in the chauncell want pavinge or bordinge in the bottoms.

The churchwardens are admonished to p'vide the ornam<sup>t</sup> and bookes abovesaid before Hallowmas next and to do the repacons abovesaid before Easter daye next and to c'tify thereof the next c'te followinge.

M<sup>r</sup> Cocke hath the same Easter tyme for his chauncell.

In Ecclesia p̄oli S̄ci Jacobi ville Colcestrii.  
 Die Sab̄ti 31<sup>o</sup> die Augusti 1633.  
 Coram M. Theophilo Roberts, Clic̄o Surr<sup>o</sup> etc.  
 M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Otway, R̄c̄or.  
 Jo. Merridale<sup>3</sup> } Gard.  
 Tho. Bloyse }

Their steeple is decayed and wants repayringe and plaisteringe on the outsides.

Their belfrey wants plaisteringe and it wants bordinge and pavinge in the bottome.

The seats in the church doe divrs of them want bordinge in the bottomes.

<sup>1</sup> Samuel Cock was possibly son of William Cock, rector of St. Giles 1585-1619, who suffered for nonconformity under Elizabeth.

<sup>2</sup> John Woodroofe, common councilman 1645, expelled by Puritan majority 1648.

<sup>3</sup> Samuel Otway, rector of St. James 1622?-1642, sequestrator of St. Martin's.

<sup>4</sup> John Merridale, haymaker, common councilman and assistant 1645-54.

They want Bishopp Jewells' works and the Bookes of Homilies and the Booke of Canons.

They want a plate for the settinge of the Coion bread on.

Their church walls want plaistringe on the south side w<sup>th</sup>out.

Their church wants glazing.

Their steeple stayres want repayinge.

The churchwardens are admonished to p'vide the ornamts and bookes wanting and to doe the repacons abovesaid, that are wanting before Xfmas daye px and ad cerd in px pt. apud Cole.

In Ecclia pōli Sēi Nicēi ville Colē.  
 31<sup>o</sup> die Augusti 1633.  
 Coram M. Theophilo Roberts, Clicō Surrō *etc.*  
 M<sup>r</sup> Theophilus Roberts, Rcōr.  
 Barthus Ward } Gard.  
 Daniell Scowldinge }

The pillars of the west windowes or their church want repayinge.

Their church walls want plaistringe on the outside.

They want a plate for the Coion and a napkyn for the Coion.

They want the Booke of Canons.

There are divs doores or outlettes belonginge to the howse of Mrs. Greenerice, in the occupation of Thomas Graye, cordwayner, and Richard Bloys, w<sup>ch</sup> doe annoy the churchyard.

The churchwardens are admonished to provide the ornam<sup>ts</sup> abovesaid and to doe the repacons afores<sup>d</sup> before Xfmas px and ad cerd in px pt.

And they are to admonish the said Graye and Bloys that they stopp upp the sd doores and outletts before Xfmas next, or els yf they doe it not, then they are to p'sent the said annoyance at the next Co<sup>m</sup> then followinge.

In Ecclia pōli Sēe Trinitat ville Colcestř.  
 31<sup>o</sup> die Augusti Anno Dñi 1633.  
 Coram M<sup>r</sup> Theophilo Roberts, Clicō Surro<sup>o</sup> *etc.*  
 M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Newcomen,<sup>1</sup> Rcōr.  
 Nathaniel Crosse } Gard.  
 Riçus Stone<sup>2</sup> }

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Newcomen, rector of Holy Trinity from 1628; chaplain to Sir John Lucas, and arrested with him 22nd August, 1642, and sent prisoner to London. Son of Rev. Stephen Newcomen, vicar of St. Peter's, who signed Conformists' petition. He was sequestered for his conformity, and at the Restoration made a D.D. and Prebend of Lincoln, as a recognition of his loyalty and orthodoxy. Matthew Newcomen, lecturer of Dedham, and one of the foremost Puritan divines, was his brother.

<sup>2</sup> Elected to the Council 1662.

Their steeple is very ruinous and cracked in such manner that the same is in danger of fallinge.

Their steeple stayres are ruinous and want repayringe.

Their church wants pargettinge on the outside.

The seates in their church want bordinge in the bottomes.

The buttresses of their church want repayringe.

They want a decent surplice.

They want twoe locks and keyes to their church chest.

M<sup>r</sup> Mott's tenants viz<sup>t</sup> Tho: Lapwidge and George Wallington doe use the churchyard as a milking yard.

Their chauncell walls are annoyed w<sup>th</sup> ivie and want plaistringe on the outsides.

The seats of their chauncel want pavinge.

The churchwardens are admonished to p'vide the surplice and other ornamts and to do the repacons about their church before Xfmas next and to certifie in px p'.

M<sup>r</sup> Newcomen hath the same time for the chauncell.

And for the steeple they are forthw<sup>th</sup> to advise w<sup>th</sup> workman about the repayringe thereof and to repayre the same before Easter daye next and ad cerd in px p'.

In Ecclia pōli Sēi Martini ville Cot.  
Eod die coram eod.  
M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Warner,<sup>1</sup> Cuř.  
Jo Wemishe } Gard.  
Jacobus Miller<sup>2</sup> }

Their steeple is fallen downe and wants new buildinge.

They want a hood for their minister.

They want Bishopp Jewells' works, the Bookes of Homilies and the Boke of Canons and a plate and a napkyn for the Coion.

Their chauncell wants pavyng and the pillers of the east window want repayring.

The churchwardens are admonished to doe the repacons and p'vide the ornam<sup>t</sup> before o' Ladie daye px and ad cerd in px p' and they have Midsomer next for their steeple.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Warner, curate-in-charge of the sequestered living; rector of All Saints, an Audley living—but presentee and date not noted, resigned 1638; rector of Abberton, another Audley living, on presentation of Dr. Aylett, 1635-1644, when he was ejected by the Puritans.

<sup>2</sup> James Miller issued a trader's token.

In Ecclia p̄oli Sci Petri ville Colcestr.  
 31 die Augusti Anno Dni 1633.  
 Coram M. Theophilo Roberts, Clicō Surro<sup>o</sup>, *etc.*  
 M<sup>r</sup> Robtus Mercer,<sup>1</sup> Vicar.  
 Jacobus Brackett als Abrathat<sup>2</sup> } Gard.  
 Johes Hewes<sup>3</sup>

They want a newe cushion and a cushion cloth for the pulpitt.

They want a hood for their minister.

Their bells, vizt the second bell and the treble, are loose in the stocks.

They want new belropes for one of their bells.

Their belsoller wants bordinge and one of the joysts thereof broken.

The churchwardens are admonished to p'vide the hood before Hallomas daye next and to p'vide the other orna<sup>n</sup> (except the pulpitt cloth and cushion) and doe the repacons before Xfmas px and ad cerd in px p' sepalit. And to p'vide the pulpitt cloth and cushion before Midsomer px and to certifie in px p'.

S<sup>t</sup> Michaell Milend.  
 31<sup>o</sup> die Augusti 1633.  
 Coram M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Tailcott,<sup>4</sup> Clicō Surr<sup>o</sup> *etc.*  
 M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Tailcott, R<sup>c</sup>ōr.  
 M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Smyth } Gard.  
 Robtus Bacon

They want a hood for their minister.

They want a decent and faire newe surplice.

They want a decent and faire lynnyn cloth for their Coion table.

They want the Bookes of Homilies and the Booke of Canons.

They want a great bible of the new translation.

They want a faire chest with three [locks] and keyes.

The lead of the font wants mendinge.

They want a napkyn and a plate for the Coion.

The churchwardens have our Lady daye px for the repacons and orna<sup>n</sup> abovesaid and ad cerd in px p'.

<sup>1</sup> Robert Mercer, vicar 1632-1663, presented by Thomas Raishleigh, for Sir Henry Audley, possibly by reason of the continued adhesion of the Audley family to the old religion.

<sup>2</sup> James Abrathat, merchant, councillor and assistant 1635-1647.

<sup>3</sup> John Hewes, common council 1635.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Tailcott, rector, on the presentation of the Lucas family, date unknown. He was born 1573, and died in 1641. He preceded Mr. Warner as rector of All Saints, and was also rector of St. Mary-at-the-Walls; entries in the registers note that Lady Lucas stood sponsor for his children. Another branch of the Tailcott family were prominent Puritans and early Quakers.

In Ecclesia p̄oli Omn̄i S̄ctor' ville Colcestrie.  
 Die lune s̄do die Septembris 1633.  
 Coram M. Theophilo Roberts, Clico Surr<sup>o</sup>, etc.  
 M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Warner,<sup>1</sup> R̄c̄or.  
 Robtus Leech<sup>2</sup> } Gard.  
 Ricus Wright }

Their church walles want pargettinge on the outsides towards the north.

The leade of the steeple wants repayringe.

Their bell wheels are broken and want repayringe and the second bell wants a rope.

Their church wants pavinge.

Div<sup>n</sup> of the seats in their church want bordinge in the bottomes.

Their church wants glazinge.

The particon betweene the church and the belfry wants repayringe.

They want a new booke of Comon Prayer.

They want the Bookes of Homilies and Bpp Jewells' workes and the Booke of Canons.

They want a napkyn and a plate for the Coion.

There are twoe postes sett upp in the churchyard for dryinge of yarne, w<sup>ch</sup> are forthw<sup>ch</sup> to be pulled downe.

Their church portch wants plancheringe (*sic*).

Their chauncel wants glazinge.

The churchwardens are admonished to doe the repacons aforesdand to p'vide the ornam<sup>ts</sup> abovesaid wantinge and to remove the sd posts before Xfmas px and ad cerd in px pt.

M<sup>r</sup> Warner hath the same daye for the chauncell.

In Ecclesia p̄oli S̄c̄e Marie Magdalene ville Colcestrie.  
 2<sup>de</sup> die Septembris Anno Dni, 1633.  
 Coram M. Theophilo Roberts, Clico Surr<sup>o</sup>, etc.  
 M<sup>r</sup> Gabriel Honyfold,<sup>3</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Hospitał.  
 Thomas Hill } Gard.  
 Moses Groome }

Their steeple wants repayrine.

Their church wants repayringe on the outside.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Warner, see note on p. 41 *supra*.

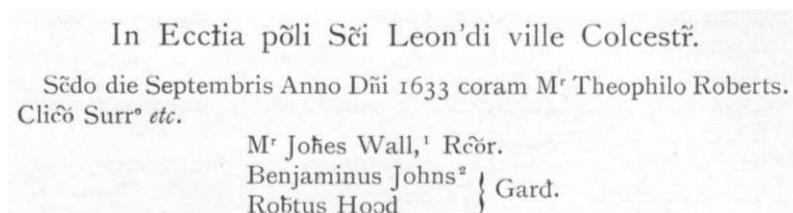
<sup>2</sup> Robert Leech. One of this name was bailiff in 1531, and the same, or another, in 1549.

<sup>3</sup> Gabriel Honyfold, S.T.P., vicar of Ardeleigh, another victim of the Puritan mob in 1642, when he barely escaped with his life.

They want a great new bible of the new translacon.  
 They want a napkyn and a plate for the Coion.  
 They want the Bookes of Homilies and Booke of the Canons.  
 The seats in their church want paving [or] bordinge in the  
 bottomes.

There is a grave in the chauncell which lies uncovered.

The churchwardens are admonished to repayre the decays  
 abovesaid and to p'vide the foresd ornam<sup>te</sup> and bookes wantinge  
 before Xfmas px et ad cerd in px p'.



The belsoller wants bordinge.  
 They want a decent Coion table.  
 They want decent Coion carpett of silke or broad cloth for the  
 Coion table.

They want a plate and a napkyn for the Coion.

Their church wants pavinge.

Some of the seats in their church want bordinge and repayinge  
 in the bottomes.

There is a gate openinge into the churchyard at the west end w<sup>ch</sup>  
 doth annoy the churchyard very much, w<sup>ch</sup> outlett or gate leadeth  
 out of the yard belonginge to the house of Elizabeth Wood, widowe,  
 in the occupacon of Thomas Backwell and George Gray.

The churchwardens are admonished to do the repacons and  
 pvide the ornm<sup>te</sup> abovesd before Xfmas next and ad cerd in  
 px pt.

And they are admonished to present the gate abovesaid and  
 the annoyance that cometh thereby, the next Co<sup>n</sup> after Xfmas  
 px, yf in the meanetye it be not stopped and shutt up and  
 soe kept.

The said Elizabeth Wood is alsoe in pson admonished to  
 stopp and shutt upp the sd gate before Xfmas next.

<sup>1</sup> John Wall, B.D., omitted by Newcourt, should be placed between Thos. Hawes, appointed by King James 1615, and William Jenkyn, appointed by Charles I. on Wall's resignation in 1641.

<sup>2</sup> Benjamin Johns, a member of the Common Council, an assistant of the Corporation.

In Ecclia p̄oli S̄ci Runwaldi ville Colcestrie.  
 2<sup>de</sup> die Septembris Anno Dñi, 1633.  
 Coram M<sup>r</sup> Gabriel Honyfold, Clieō Surr<sup>o</sup>, *etc.*  
 M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Newcomen,<sup>1</sup> R̄c̄or.  
 Georgius Harrison<sup>2</sup> } Gard.  
 Joħes Furley,<sup>3</sup> }

Their church walles on the north side want repayinge.  
 The east side of their steeple wants repayinge.  
 The seates in their chauncell are narrowe and are to be enlarged and made wider.  
 Their chauncell wants pavinge, glazinge and whitinge.  
 They want a decent pulpitt cloth and a new pulpitt cushion.  
 They want a decent carpett of silke or broadclth for their Coion table.  
 They want the Bookes of Homilies, the Booke of Canons and Bishopp Jewells' workes.  
 The west window of their church wants repayinge in the bottomes.  
 There are div<sup>r</sup> shoppes w<sup>th</sup> doe annoy the church and chauncell.  
 There are div<sup>r</sup> hookes fixed to the portch of the church on the south side w<sup>th</sup> are forthw<sup>th</sup> to be pulled of.  
 They want a decent cover for their font.  
 Their church wants glazinge.  
 Their font is stopped so that the water that is put therein cannot passe awaye.

Which the churchwarden, John Furley, is admonished to repayre and p'vide the ornaments before Xfmas next and to repaire the churche before Easter.

In Ecclia p̄oli de Greensted.  
 Die lune viz<sup>t</sup> s̄c̄do die Septembris Anno Dñi 1633.  
 Coram M<sup>r</sup> Gabriell Honyfold, Clieō Surr<sup>o</sup> *etc.*  
 M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Baldock,<sup>4</sup> R̄c̄or.  
 Joħes Rayland } Gard.  
 Joħes Rye }

Their church wants tylinge and glazinge.  
 The buttress on the south side of their church is fallen downe and wants repayinge.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Newcomen, see note on p. 40 *supra*.

<sup>2</sup> George Harrison, clothier, an assistant of the Corporation, expelled by the Cromwellian party in 1648; possibly connected with Ralph Harrison, bailiff 1634, mayor 1642.

<sup>3</sup> John Furley, one of the leaders of the Puritan party in Colchester. Mayor 1638 and 1650.

<sup>4</sup> Samuel Baldock, rector of Stanway 1630, on presentation of Miles Willan, patron *pro hac vice*. The date of his presentation to Greenstead does not appear, but he resigned in 1638. He held Stanway till his death in 1668.

They want a hood for their minister.  
 Their steeple window wants glazinge.  
 They want a plate and a napkyn for the Coion.  
 They want Bishop Jewell's work, the Booke of Homilies and the Book of Canons.  
 They want a decent pulpitt cushion.  
 Their churchyard pale wants repayringe.  
 They want twoe locks and keyes for their towne che[st].  
 Their church wants eves bordinge or seilinge under the eves.  
 Their belwheele and belstocke want repayringe.  
 Their chauncell wants bordinge or pavinge.  
 The buttress of the south side of their chauncell is fallen downe and wants repayringe.  
 Their chauncell wants eves bordinge.  
 The churchwardens are admonished to doe the repacons abovesaid and pvide the bookes and ornamts abovesaid before Xfmas px and ad cerd in px.  
 M' Baldocke hath the same day for the chauncell.

The general impression formed on perusing this list is somewhat depressing, but on analysis one sees that perhaps, bearing in mind the conditions under which it was taken, it is not altogether unsatisfactory ; favourable points are naturally unnoticed.

The state of the fabrics account for at least half the complaints, and the defects range from the untidy condition of the plastering and the state of the floors in eight instances up to the more serious condition of the towers of Holy Trinity and St. Martin's. The bells would seem to have been in fair condition, and with Miles Graye's foundry in full work it is probable they were all right.

The ornaments of the churches were all passed as sufficient with the exception, in nine cases out of thirteen, of the plate and napkin necessary for the reverent celebration of the Holy Communion. In two cases the 'fair linen cloth' of the rubric was wanting; and St. Leonard's seems to have needed both Communion table and the 'decent carpet of silk or stuff' prescribed by the Canons. St. Runwald's seems to have been reprehensible in this respect, and also in the dirty and neglected condition of its font. Bearing in mind the permanence and violence of the vestiarian controversy, it is interesting to note that only two churches, Holy Trinity and Mile End, needed surplices, and these were both in the hands of clergy whose sympathies were certainly not Puritan. In five cases hoods were deficient, and no mention occurs of the Geneva gown. All Saints is the only church where a new Book of Common Prayer

was necessary, but both Mile End and St. Mary Magdalene, again not Puritan parishes, were admonished to provide each 'a great bible of the new translation.' That the Homilies contain doctrines 'necessary for these times' has always been asserted by Article xxxv., but nine churches appear to have got on very well without them; and the same number appear to have been indifferent to the Canons of 1603. Bishop Jewel's *Apology for the Church of England*, which the late Primate Bancroft had ordered to be placed in all churches, was only wanting in five cases.

The condition of politico-religious opinion in Colchester at this time can perhaps hardly be dealt with fittingly here, though it must have partaken in no small degree of the confusion then prevalent. If the plots of the Jesuit mission, so far as we know, failed to secure partizans in North Essex, yet undoubtedly the adhesion of the Darcys at St. Osyth, the Audleys at Berechurch, the Mannocks at Great Bromley, and many another Essex family of mark, to the old religion, points to the hold it must still have had on those to whom tradition and heredity appealed. That a strong Anglican party, including the families of Lucas and Shaw, and the loyalist mayor, Buxton, were inclined to the position of Archbishop Harsnett, who, two years before, wrote: "I die in the ancient faith of the true Catholick and Apostolick church, called the Primitive Church . . . renouncing from my heart all modern Popish superstitions and all novelties of Geneva, not accordant with the maxims of the Primitive renowned Church,"—is also probable; while the dying ejaculations of Sir Charles Lucas attest their personal piety.

There can, however, be little doubt that the middle class were tending slowly towards the Puritan position, though, between the more tolerant of the latter, influenced by men of the high culture and practical common sense of Sir Harbottle Grimston and the men of the school of Andrewes, there need have been little dissension.

In *Strena Christiana*, cap. v., published in 1644, Sir Harbottle advises his son and heir "to show submission and reverence in divine worship, to see that divine service is conducted with order, to attend to the performance of sacred rites, and cherish the comeliness of the House of God." He exhorts him "to ornament churches, procure books, chalices, vestments and other ornaments, more especially in poor parishes, and to prize highly pious rites and established ceremonies."

On the other side of the shield we have the ejection of all the clergy of the town, the rabbling of those specially noted for Royalist sympathies; the riotous assemblies of the Colchester mob, led by

prominent townsmen, at St. Osyth and Long Melford; and the rifling of the Lucas mansion at St. John's.

About this date Steven Crisp, the famous Quaker apostle, born here in 1628, 'lent his ears to the discourses and disputations of the times, which were very many, and one while let in one thing and one while another,' so that he grew 'a very persevering hearer and regarnder of the best ministers, as they were reputed.'

On the whole the times were hardly favourable to much attention to externals. Families, which a century earlier would have built or endowed chantries, now founded lectures, or put up ornate memorials to their own honour and glory; while the uncertainty as to which way the current of the religious life of the nation would ultimately run, showed its evidence in the neglected fabrics and the malodourous encroachments of careless neighbours on the half secularized graveyards.

It is useless to speculate on what evolution would have come had peace not been broken. The deluge came which swept away both throne and altar, and with the Restoration the problem was as different as was probably the condition of the buildings here under consideration.

The obscurity of church life in Colchester at this period is very great. Almost all the registers are complete blanks from 1642 to long after the Restoration—in most cases till the passing of the Act for Burials in Woollen in 1678. This fact throws great obstacles in the way of tracing descent from burgesses of the early part of the seventeenth century, so perhaps the accompanying notes on the various churchwardens may not be deemed too trivial to place on record.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES.

**Heads of Essex Religious Houses.**—The lists of these in the second volume of the *Victoria History*, though considerably in advance of earlier ones, are still nearly all incomplete. Some additions have already been noted in the *Transactions*, and more will doubtless be discovered from time to time. Those given below have been collected from various sources; in some cases the whole name is new, in others only the surname or date. Unless the contrary is stated, the date is merely that of occurrence.

### PRIORS OF BLACKMORE.

James, 1360 [*Close*, 34 *Edw. III* 28rf.]  
William, 1421 [*De Banco. Mich.* 9 *Hen. V.* 186d.]  
William Manypeny, 1451 [*Ibid.*, *Hil.* 29 *Hen. VI.* 39d.]  
Thomas Wold, 1452 [*Ibid.*, *Hil.* 30 *Hen. VI.* 254.]  
Thomas Basset, 1480 [*Ibid.* *Eas.* 20 *Edw. IV* 312.]

### PRIORS OF CHELMSFORD.

Adam de Malmesbiry, 1282 [*Feet of Fines*].  
Robert, circa 1510 [*Early Chant. Proc.* 343(23).]

### ABBOTS OF COGGESHALL.

William, 1348 [*Exch. Acc.* 79(21).]  
Roger, 1349 [*Coram Rege, Mich.* 25 *Edw. III* 32], 1354 [*Close*, 28 *Edw. III.* 18d.]  
John, 1390 [*Exch. Acc.* 80(26).]  
John Taseler, 1437 [*De Banco, Trin.* 15 *Hen. VI.* i28d.]  
John, 1446 [*De Banco, Eas.* 24 *Hen. VI.* 27.]  
Thomas Neylond, 1446 [*Pardon Roll*, 24-5 *Hen. VI.* 14.]  
William, 1455 [*Ibid.*, 33-4 *Hen. VI.* 13]

### PRIORS OF ST. BOTOLPH'S, COLCHESTER.

Thomas Colman, 1440 [*De Banco, Eas.* 18 *Hen. VI.* 325], 1454 [*Pat.* 33 *Hen. VI.* p. 2 m. 5.]  
John Wardous, 1455 [*Ibid.*], 1462 [*De Banco, Inn.* 2 *Edw. IV.* 279d.]  
John Flyngaunt, 1472 [*Pardon Roll*, 11 *Edw. IV.* 22.]

### WARDEN OF ST. CROSS, COLCHESTER.

Robert Ayston, appointed 1485 [*Pat.* 1. *Hen. VII.* p. 2. m. 9 (17).]

### MASTER OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN, COLCHESTER.

John Kyng, 1583 [*Exch. of Pleas, Plea Roll, Eas.* 25 *Eliz.* 30.]

### PRIORS OF COLNE.

John Oklee, 1415 [*Pardon Roll*, 2-5 *Hen. V.* 39.]  
William Thaxstede, 1449 [*De Banco, Eas.* 27 *Hen. VI.* 187.]

## PRIORS OF DUNMOW.

John, 1416 [*De Banco, Mich. 4 Hen. V. 9d.*]  
 Robert, 1421 [*Ibid, Eas. g Hen. V. 311*]  
 John Canon, 1452 [*Ibid, Eas. 30 Hen. VI. 291.*]  
 John Orwell; 1453 [*Ibid, Mich. 32 Hen. VI. 486d.*]  
 Roger Bulcotes, 1476 [*Clerical Subs. 43(243).*]

## MASTER OF HALSTEAD.

John Spilman, 1490 [*De Banco, Mich. 6 Hen. VII. 162.*]

## PRIORS OF HATFIELD PEVEREL.

John, 1370 [*Coram Rege, Eas. 44 Edw. III. 7d'*]  
 John Bepsete, 1413 [*Exch. Acc. 214(5).*]  
 John Turk, 1432 [*De Banco, Hil. 10 Hen. VI. 315* ]  
 William Westgate, 1437 [*Pardon Roll, 15 Hen. VI. 24.*]  
 Gregory, 1441, 1457 [*DeBanco, Eas. 19 Hen. VI. 151d; Mich. 36Hen. VI. 74d.*]  
 John, 1460 [*Ibid. Mich. 39 Hen. VI. 67d.*]  
 John, 1507 [*Ibid. Inn. 22 Hen. VII. 374.*]

## PRIORS OF HATFIELD REGIS.

Roger de Cristeshale, 1288, 1292 [*B.M. Add. Ch. 28534, 28530.*]  
 Andrew May, 1460 [*De Banco, Eas. 38 Hen. VI. 241.*]

## PRIORRESSES OF HEDINGHAM.

Agnes, 1340 [*Harl. Ch. 51. D. 6.*]  
 Agnes, 1406 [*De Banco, Mich. 8 Hen. IV. gd.~*]  
 Margaret, 1420 [*Ibid, Eas. 8 Hen. V. 345.*]  
 Cecily, 1452 [*Ibid, Hil. 30 Hen. VI. 84.*]

## PRIORS OF HORKESLEY.

Roger, 1235 [*Anc. Deed A. 14039.*]  
 John Horkeslegh, 1408 [*De Banco, Mich. 10 Hen. IV. 161d*], 1416 [*Pardon Roll, 2-5 Hen. V. 18.*]

## MASTERS OF ILFORD.

Stephen Chaumber, 1452 [*De Banco, Eas. 30 Hen. VI. 445.*]  
 Richard Edon, appointed 1513, occurs 1538 [*Aug. Off. Misc. Booh 96f. 103d*]  
 Sir Arthur Harris, 1625 [*Exch. Depos. 5 Chas. I. Eas. 11, Mich. 28*]

## PRIORS OF LATTON.

John, 1357 [*Close, 31 Edw. III. 8d.*]  
 William de Tylebury, 1417 [*Pardon Roll, 2-5 Hen. V. 2.*]  
 Thomas, 1453 [*De Banco, Mich. 31 Hen. VI. 29d.*]

## PRIORS OF LEIGHS.

Hugh, 1351 [*Coram Rege, Mich. 25 Edw. III. 83d, 99d.*]  
 Richard, 1402, 1409 [*De Banco, Mich. 4 Hen. IV. 325 ; Mich. 11 Hen. IV. 65.*]  
 John Grene, 1439 [*Aug. Off. Carle Misc. 3(191).*]  
 John, 1451 [*De Banco, Mich. 30 Hen. VI. 464.*]  
 Richard, 1455 [*Ibid, Mich. 34 Hen. VI. 221d.*]  
 John Webbe, 1488 [*Ibid, Mich. 4 Hen. VII. 79.*]

## PRIOR OF ST. GILES, MALDON.

Seman, 1262 [*Essex Fines.*]

## PRIOR OK MALDON CARMELITES.

Richard Long, 1431 [*De Banco, Hil. 9 Hen. VI 155*]

## PRIOR OF MERSEA.

Stephen Foukes, 1377 [*Originalia Roll, 51 Edw. III. m. 4.*]

## MASTERS OF NEWPORT.

John Spencer, parson of Widdington, 1446 [*Pardon Roll, 24-5 Hen. VI. 41.*]  
 John Manyngham, 1485 [*De Banco, Midi. 1 Hen. VII. 98*], 1491 [*Pardon Roll, 1-20 Hen. VII. 34.*]

## MASTERS OF PLESHEY.

Paul Kyrton, 1413 [*Close, 1 Hen. V. 37.*]  
 Nicholas Mylys, 1420 [*Exch. K. R. Mem. Roll. 7 Hen. V. 1.*]  
 John Burton, 1433 [*De Banco, Trin. 11 Hen. VI. 393d.*]  
 John Scotte, died 1524 [*L. and P. Hen. VIII. IV. 297(13).*]  
 William Strachey, elected 1524 [*Ibid.*]  
 Christopher Johnson, elected 1526 [*Ibid. 1945(30).*]

## PRIORS OF PRITTLEWELL.

Laurence Bristowe, 1460 [*De Banco, Hil. 38 Hen. VI. 298.*]  
 John Pritwell, 1492, 1497 [*Ibid. Mich. 8 Hen. VII. 61d.; Mich. 13 Hen. VII. 88d.*]

## ABBOTS OF ST. OSYTH'S.

Thomas Byot, 1468 [*Pardon Roll, 8-9 Edw. IV. 22.*]  
 John Vyn-toner, 1508 [*De Banco, Hil. 23 Hen. VII. 255*]

## ABBOTS OF STRATFORD.

William Berkyng, 1432 [*De Banco, Hil. 10 Hen. VI. 65d.*]  
 Hugh Watford, 1487 [*L. T. R. Mem. Roll, 24 Hen. VIII. Mich. 30* ]  
 William Etherway, died 31 August, 1523 [*Ibid. 28.*]  
 William Huddleston, elected 21 September, 1523 [*Ibid.*]

## PRIOR OF THOBY.

John Ponde, 1408 [*De Banco, Mich. 10 Hen. IV. Attorneys.*]

## PRIOR OF THREMHALL.

John Rokeby, 1416 [*Pardon Roll, 2-5 Hen. V. 19.*]

## WARDENS OF TILBURY.

William de Stowe, resigned 1324 [*Pat 18 Edw. II. pt. 1 m. 36.*]  
 Robert de Wygornia, appointed 1324 [*Ibid.*]

## ABBOTS OF TILTEY.

John, 1415 [*De Banco, Mich. 3 Hen. V. 418.*]  
 John Thaxted, 1485 [*Ibid. Mich. 1 Hen. VII. 9.*]  
 Thomas, 1495 [*Ibid. Mich. 11 Hen. VII. 164d.*]  
 Richard, 1497 [*Ibid. Mich. 13 Hen. VII. 89.*]  
 John Rigby *alias* Roys *alias* Dagnall *alias* Oxenford, 1509 [*Pardon Roll, 1 Hen. VIII. p. 2. m. 23.*]  
 John Oxford, 1514 [*Ibid. 6-7 Hen. VIII. 8.*]

## ABBOTS OF WALDEN.

John de Hatfeld, 1415 [*Pardon Roll, 2-5 Hen. V. 34.*]  
 John Halstede, 1468 [*Ibid. 8-9 Edw. IV. 13.*]

## ABBOT OF WALTHAM.

John, 1452 [*Pardon Roll*, 30-31 *Hen. VI.* 26.]

## RECTOR OF BROOK STREET, SOUTH WEALD.

John Yonge, 1507 [*Harl. Ch.* 43. A. 50.]

## PRIORESSES OF WIX.

Idonia de Ruly [*Ant. Deed A.* 13673.]

Petronilla [*Ibid.* 13892.]

Constance de Braham [*Ibid.* 13863.]

Basilia de Welferaham [*Ibid.* 13692.]

Isabel de Braham, 1291 [*Ibid.* 13952.]

Sarah, 1338 [*Ibid.* 13734.]

Maud, 1416 [*De Banco, Eas.* 4 *Hen. V.* 87d.]

Katherine Pepyr, 1453 [*Ibid. Hil.* 31 *Hen. VI.* 94d.]

R. C. F.

**A Colchester Indulgence.**—Volume 50 of the *Sussex Archaeological Collections* contains a description and photograph of an indulgence printed by Richard Pynson in 1523 for sale by John Dryver, prior of the Crossed Friars of Colchester, and now in the possession of the dean and chapter of Chichester. This particular copy appears never to have been issued, the name of the purchaser and the day and month not being filled in; but we know that the friars did a good trade in these indulgences, making above 4*l.* yearly in the diocese of Norwich alone. The name of this prior is given without date by Morant and the *Victoria History*. A copy of the photograph has recently been presented to the Society by the dean and chapter.

R. C. F.

**The Maison Dieu at Booking.**—This foundation deed [*B.M. Add. Ch.* 13551] of this house, dated 1 September, 1455, has been overlooked in the account in the *Victoria History*. In it John Doreward recites that he has built the Maison Dieu on two acres of his land for seven poor men and appointed one of them as provost and granted to them the manor of Tendring and 10*l.* yearly rent from the manor of Hawkwell, lands called Harryes and Bradfordes in Booking, the manor called Coggeshall Hall and the manor called Olyveres in Stanway. But they are to repay the rent if it be proved by oath of the chaplains of the chantries of St. Mary and St. Nicholas and St. Katharine in Booking and two other good men that they have been disobedient to his ordinances.

John Wayprowe, provost of the house or mansion called le Measondiu of Booking, occurs on 3 January, 1456 [*Pardon Roll*, 33-4 *Hen. VI. m.* 6].

R. C. F.