

Tyttenhanger.

BY THE REV. H. FOWLER, M.A.

The interesting house, which, by courteous permission, we have the pleasure of visiting, has attractive historical associations. Its predecessor, as is well known, was a favourite residence of the Abbots of S. Albans; the estate was probably one of their early acquisitions. I will beg first to offer some remarks on the mediæval portion of our subject.

The early history of the Manor of Tyttenhanger in connection with the Monastery is involved in some obscurity. In the list of "Secular Benefactors admitted to the Fraternity of S. Alban," we find "Ulfwin de Tydenhangre" and "Lifget de Tidenhanger,"* clearly belonging to Saxon times; but their benefactions are not specified. The Manor does not appear under this name in the monastic records until the reign of King Stephen,† but it is highly probable (as Mr. Cussans has shown in his careful description) that it is identical with the Abbey estate described in the Domesday Survey as *Shenley*, and therefore acquired before A.D. 1086. In the Book of Benefactors‡ we read that "a certain pious matron, Thurefleda [certainly before the Conquest] gave to S. Alban in perpetual alms Scenlea and Bridela." Then "Domesday" states, "the Abbot holds Scenlai; it is rated at 6 hides, &c. The Manor lay and lies in the demesne of the Church of S. Alban." It is reckoned in the Hundred of Albaneston (*i.e.*, Cassio Hundred). In the same record the main portion of the Manor of Shenley (Scenlai), rated at 8 hides, and held by Geoffry de Mandeville, is set down under the Hundred of Danais (*i.e.*, Dacorum).

This dividing of the Hundreds here is important to note; it shows that the Abbot's Manor lay eastward of the main territory of Shenley; it also indicates that the Abbot's land, being in a different Hundred from Shenley, was situated in a different parish, one belonging to the Church of S. Alban. An inspection of the map shows us that this is the present parish of Ridge, which comprises the Manor of Tyttenhanger. The parish is of a

* Liber Benefactorum. Cott MSS. Nero D.VII. fol. 118.

† In a charter, undated, but to be assigned to this period.

‡ Ibid. fol. 90.

peculiar shape, being a long strip of land, less than a mile in average width, and extending about nine miles north and south, wedged in, as it were, between the parishes of North and South Mimms on the east and Shenley on the west. It was not constituted a separate parish till some time after 1291, for in the taxation of Pope Nicholas IV., made at that date, Ridge is described as a Chapelry belonging to the parish of S. Peter (as are also Flamstead and Northaw). Clearly at the time of the Domesday Survey this land was in the parish of S. Peter (pertaining to the Abbots). Our inference is that the description of the Survey applies to Tyttenhanger. The abbot ruling at that date (1086) was Richard de Albini. The manor is designated by this name among the possessions of the Abbey recited in the charter of Henry III. (incorporated in the confirming charter of Edward IV.) [given *in extenso* by Clutterbuck, vol. I., appendix, p. 4]. In this document "Tidehangra" is named next to "Bridella." In Thurefleda's grant it is "Scenlea and Bridela." It would appear that in the charter *Tidehangra* takes the place of *Scenlea*, as another name of the same manor.

I have already alluded to the fact that Tyttenhanger (or Tidenhangre), as the name of a manor, first appears in the records in the reign of Stephen.* The document referred to shows that an estate here known as "Blakhide" was then in the possession of a Norman proprietor. This does not involve any inconsistency with the above account. Whether "Blakhide" was among the lands that had been alienated or lost soon after the Conquest there is no evidence to determine. The document states that it was in the Soke of Tidenhangre (Tyttenhanger) and was bestowed by Richard de Tany on the Nuns of Sopwell. The words are: "I, Richard de Tany, with the consent and good will of my heir, have granted, and by my present charter confirmed, to God and S. Mary, and the Nuns of Sopwell in pure and perpetual alms, the whole of that land which Roger Niger held of the Soke of Tidenhangre, which land is called 'La Blakhida' &c., the Witnesses being Reginald my son and heir, and others."†

* N.B.—This part of my paper has been re-written, my attention having been called to this point since the meeting.

† See Dugdale's *Monasticon Angl.*, Vol. I. p. 348. Ed. 2d., 1682. "Ex Registro S. Albani in Bib. Cott. fol. 198."

In the Monastic Register (given by Dugdale) the entry follows the charter of the Founder (or first Benefactor) of the Nunnery, Henry de Albeney,* and other grants made by his son and grandson; it appears therefore to be subsequent in date to these. In reference to this we may observe that the foundation of the Nunnery is ascribed by Matthew Paris to Abbot Geoffrey de Gorham (who ruled from 1120 to 1146), but it is clear, as Clutterbuck remarks, that this account is not strictly accurate. Henry de Albeney's charter, in which he grants two hides of land in the Manor of Cotes to the Cell of S. Mary near S. Albans, states that the Cell had been rebuilt by Roger the Hermit. This must have been in the Abbacy of Richard d'Albini. The grant by Robert de Albeney (son of Henry), which confers one virgate of land in Cotes, belongs to the time of Abbot Geoffrey, he being a witness to it.

It appears that Geoffrey completed the establishment by his ordinances, placing the sisters under the rule of S. Benedict and assigning them their cemetery, and for this reason was reputed the founder, although the Cell had been constituted and endowed in the time of his predecessor. It is to be noted that the manor of Cotes is situated in Bedfordshire. The Pontage of Bedford is named in the grant† as an impost to which the Nuns' land was subject.

These endowments (of the Nunnery) by the Albeney family, not being in the Soke of Tyttenhanger, do not concern our subject. The grant of Blakhide by Richard de Tany may have been made before the death of Abbot Geoffrey, or later in the reign of Stephen. The donor was probably of the baronial family, who were benefactors to the Priory of Bermondsey. Reginald de Tany (or Tanney) (3rd Baron) gave to the monks of Bermondsey the Manor of Richmond, A.D. 1151.‡ Peter de

* This Baronial family, from which came the Earls of Arundel, were great benefactors to the Abbey in the times of Abbots Paul and Richard d'Albini; the latter was probably of their kindred. Their benefactions, however, have nothing to do with Tyttenhanger or the parish of Ridge.

† The charter of Robert de Albeney, grandson of Henry de Albeney. The latter gave to S. Albans, in the time of Abbot Richard d'Albini, the tithes of Cotes and the church of Clopphille. Clophill is a place in Bedfordshire, 3 miles east of Ampthill. (Lib. Benefact. fol. 94; also Matt. Paris, Vitæ Abbat).

‡ Annales Monastici. Ed. Luard. Vol. III. p. 439.

Thany, of Hunsdon, was Sheriff of Herts in 1236. He is not named as a Benefactor to the Monastery. The land of Blakhide, it appears, is situated in the north of the Manor or "Soke" of Tyttenhanger, for "Corsers," which is another appellation of the estate (in the 16th century) has given its name to a farm (now commonly called "Coursers") lying about a mile to the east of Tyttenhanger House.

In the taxation of Edward I., for his Scottish wars (A.D. 1301), the Nuns' land here is named "Blakenhide."* It appears to be estimated at half-a-hide in the Register of hidage made in 1259, the Almoner holding one virgate.† After the Dissolution of the House, the Nuns' land here came to the Crown and was leased to Sir Richard Lee, the grantee of Sopwell.

When Ridge was constituted a parish the Abbot's Rectorial tithes were appropriated to the office of the Almoner. The Vicarage was probably ordained at the same time. There is no mention of the Vicars till the fifteenth century. The Church (S. Margaret's) in which they ministered, still possesses features of the 13th century; the walls are probably of an earlier date. The Almoner's tithes in Tyttenhanger were leased out by Abbot Robert Catton in 1538. These afterwards came to the Crown.

We have seen that in early times the appellation of the locality was Tidenhanger (or Tydenhangre). What does the name mean? The County historians offer no explanation; I will venture to suggest one. In the Charters it is spelt *Tidehangra*. In the Book of Benefactors it is *Tytynghangre*. The last part of the word is clear. *Hanger* is the old English name for a hanging wood—one growing on a declivity. Such woods exist still about the village of Ridge (Rugge), which, as the name denotes, is the high land of the manor. Many place-names are formed by attaching *hanger* to a prefix, e.g., "Pans-hanger" (near Hertford), which is perhaps a corruption of "Pagans-hanger" the hanging wood which was the resort of Pagans. "Poles-hanger" in Beds, probably denotes a wood overhanging a *pool*. "Rishanger"‡ in Norfolk (which gave its name to the S. Albans Chronicler, William of Rishanger), appears to

* Gest. Abb. Vol. II., p. 46.

† See Matt. Paris. Chron. Maj. Ed. Luard. Vol. VI., p. 436.

‡ In modern times corrupted into "*Rishangles*."

denote a locality where a wood grows on a *rushy slope*; *Ris* or *rish* (Anglo Saxon *risce*) is the old English word for a *rush*. In "Tyttenhanger" the meaning of the prefix may be inferred from the forms "Tide-hangra" and "Tytynhangre"—*tide* and *tytyng* are nearly identical with *tithe* and *tythyng* (or *tithing*)—[The Anglo Saxon forms are *teotha* and *teothung*]. Thus the name means the "*Tithehanger*," or "*tithing-hanger*." We may compare "Tithe-cote" (in Devonshire), and "Titehurst" the ancient form of Tite-berst (also written Tib-hurst), the appellation of a manor in the parish of Aldenham, signifying the *Tithe Wood*. The "*tithing*" prefix in "Tyttenhanger" perhaps has reference to the proximity of a tithe-barn; or Tything-hanger may denote the Wood, in, or near, which the village Tything met, the Tything (or Freeborg) being a band of ten men who, according to Saxon institutions, were to be mutually bail for the loyalty of each.

One feature of the lord's demesne, situated in the northern part of the manor, is the extensive moorland or heath. The name "Colney Heath," signifying "the heath of the Colne Island," intimates its marshy character; it is still subject to floods. The abundant supply of water for forming fishponds was one of the advantages which attracted the notice of the Abbots to this spot; others were the fertility of the soil, the richness of the pastures, and the beauty of the woods. For these reasons, it is stated, Abbot John Moot designed to erect here a sumptuous country residence, about A.D. 1400.* Some of his predecessors had shown a partiality for Tyttenhanger. Abbott Hugh de Eversden acquired 100 acres here, with two-thirds of one messuage, from John de Rammesden, before 1326.† Abbot Richard de Walyngford rebuilt the manor house about 1335. His successor, Abbot Michael de Mentmore, when spending his leisure here, found himself invaded by crowds of visitors, owing to the proximity of his residence to the high road to the north. (The ancient pack-horse road which passed near). Consequently he removed to the manor house of Bradeway, which he put in repair, with the Chapel.‡ The Abbot then demolished Tyttenhanger

* Gest Abb. v. III., p. 441.

† Gest Abb. II., 122.

‡ Mr. Cussans conjectures this to be another name for "Maudelyns," in the parish of Northchurch, where the ruins of the chapel still remain.

and sold the materials. *c* 1340.* The house seems to have risen again soon after, for Abbot Thomas de la Mare lodged here in 1350, on his return from Rome, and before his installation in the Abbey Church. The annalist reckons it among the faults of this Abbot that he allowed this manor house to fall into decay. His successor, Abbot John Moot (as I have already stated) commenced the erection of a manse on a larger scale (and perhaps on a new site) suitable for the accommodation of his retinue and guests. He had previously erected two granges here. Part of the old house was habitable till his death in 1401, for the Abbot was here in his last illness, and was removed in a litter to die in the monastery. He had done little more than lay the foundations, on which he expended £360 2s. Abbot William Heyworth continued the work, and completed it in six years† (about 1408). The Chronicler states that it was reputed to be the finest Monastic Country residence in the kingdom. It is probable that it was constructed of flint and Totternhoe stone. The vestiges of brick buildings of so early a date are exceedingly rare. The precinct was, perhaps, enclosed by a moat. Brayley states that the moat was filled up about the beginning of the present century. Its existence is now forgotten. Abbott Heyworth stocked the fish-ponds. His successor, John of Wheathampstead, added to the fame of the mansion. In his first Abbacy he enlarged the Chapel, and inserted stained glass windows, which cost £16 (perhaps equivalent to £200 in present money). Wever informs us (on the authority of a destroyed M.S.) that on the walls (perhaps the wainscot) "he caused to be painted the similitudes of all the saints of his own Christian name, John, with his own picture, which seemingly thus prayeth:—

‘ Cum fero par nomen, par ferre precor simul omen ;
Tum paribusque pari, licet impar, luce locari.’ ”

He also repaired the study, wherein, says Wever, he inscribed these verses:—

“ Ipse Johannis amor Whethamstede ubique proclamar,
Ejus et alter honor hic hucis in ange reponor.”

A considerable portion of the ancient wainscotting is to be seen in the present house.

* Gest. Abb. II., 371.

† Gest. Abb. III., 495.

The Abbot transacted a good deal of business here in his hours of retirement. In 1462, July 3, he signed a presentation to the Vicarage of Rudge (Ridge) having collated James Waleys chaplain, on the recommendation of Henry Frowyk, Esq. The previous Vicar, John Bernard,* had been indicted for treason, and taken to flight. This was during the wars of the Roses. In 1429 he brought to a happy termination a controversy with a powerful neighbour about the Manor rights. Thomas Knollys, lord of the Manor of North Mymms, had long claimed to exercise in alternate years the right called "The Indrove of Cattle" on Colney Heath (otherwise called Tyttenhanger Heath). The *Indrove* was the driving the cattle grazing on the Common into the Manor pound for the purpose of ascertaining whether any of the owners were subject to a fine on account of their not having grazing rights. The claim seriously affected the Abbot's prerogative, but he had an object in view for which he thought it worth while to make some sacrifice. Accordingly at an interview held here he offered Knollys a compromise. His speech was a very polite one. The business part of it was to this effect—"Sir, I will concede your claims, and also allow you to enclose ten acres of wood, called 'Le Hoke,' provided you will make no opposition to my enclosing 30 acres of the heath; I refer to that angular plot which adjoins the grove, which we call 'Conyngher,' opposite to my mansion." The offer was accepted. The indenture, which contained other minor stipulations, was drawn up and signed in the Chapter-house of the Abbey, April 1st, 1430. The Abbot's purpose was to form a deer park, which he now effected, after compensating his tenants, whom he removed out of the enclosure.† His satisfaction was expressed in a poetic effusion, which we may entitle "The delights of rural seclusion at Tyttenhanger." The limits of the deer-park to the north-west appear to be marked by a place which retains the name of "Park-gate Corner."

In 1470 Abbot William Albone, while staying here, presented to the Vicarage of S. Margaret de Rudge, Thomas Thikthorpe, Chaplain,‡ Oct. 12. His successor,

* Regist. J. W., II., 12.

† Amundesham, I., 260.

‡ Possibly an Honorary Chaplain to the Pope. Monks who obtained such Chaplaincies by purchase were entitled to accept benefices. See Amund. Ann. Vol. II., Introduc.

William Walyngford, was frequently in residence, and signed many documents here—marriage licences, grants of presentations, and various monastic appointments, *e.g.*, the grant to Lord William Hastings to be Seneschal of the Abbey, dated “at our usual residence of Tyttenhanger, Dec. 20, 1479.” In July, 1478, the Abbot entertained here for six days the Papal Collector, Master John Giglis, Canon of Wells, with his chaplain and six attendants; his visit was one of compliment and recreation. (Regist. II., 211.)

In 1483 (8th March), William Dyxwell, Prior of Bynham, paid a visit to Abbot Walyngforde at Tyttenhanger, during which he persuaded him to grant to Nicholas Boston, Prior of Tynemouth, a life-tenure of his office.* It appears that King Richard III. had interposed on behalf of Prior Boston, who was undergoing some persecution on account of the favour he shewed to the Franciscan Friars. This had been a cause of variance between the Priors. The next year both the Priors came to Tyttenhanger, and made an oath of reconciliation before the Abbot and other witnesses.† (Sept. 12.)

After this the Monastic Annals fail to afford information, with the one meagre exception of a record of Rental of lands acquired (here) by Abbot Ramryge, in 1506, viz., “From Robert Nycols for 5 crofts of land and the wood called ‘Prior’s,’ and two crofts called Mylgrove, and two lofts called Ragys in Ruge, lately belonging to Thomas Deyer, 16s. 8d., also ‘Rent of a tenement and lands in Ruge, lately John Asheley’s, 21s. 0d.’” (Amund. II. 251.)

The last incident of Monastic times I have to relate is taken from Holinshed’s Chronicle. The date is 1528, the 20th Henry VIII., when Wolsey was Abbot. The following is the Chronicler’s account:—“In the end of Maie began in the Citie of London the disease called the Sweating Sicknesse, which afterwards infected all parts of the realme, and slue manie within five or six houres after they sickened. This sicknesse for the manner of taking the patients was an occasion of remembring that great Sweat which raged in the reign of this king’s grandfather (Edward IV.); and happile men caused the same remedie then used to be reniued. By reason of this

* Regist. J. Whethamstede, v. II., p. 254.

† Ibid., p. 273.

sicknesse the tearme was adjourned, and the Circuit of the Assizes also. There died diverse of the Court of this sicknesse, as Sire Francis Poins, who had been ambassador in Spain. The King for a space removed almost every daie till he came to Tintinhangar, a place of the Abbat of Saint Albons, and there he with the Quene and a small companie about them remained till the sicknesse was past. In this great mortality died Sir William Compton, K^t, and William Carew, Esq., which were of the King's Privie Chamber."

Further particulars of considerable interest are supplied by the King's correspondence at Tyttenhanger (edited in "State Papers, Henry VIII.," Part I., Vol. I.).

It appears that on June 20th, 1528, the King with "his company" was lodged at Waltham Abbey. The next day he removed to Hunsdon House, where his "Counsailor, Master Bryan Tuke," Treasurer of the Privy Chamber, was employed in writing out "his last will"—a significant incident. Before June 25th he was at Hertford Castle, whence Sir John Russell* wrote to Wolsey, "The Kingis Majestie is moche troubled with the disease of the swet." Seven members of the household had fallen sick the previous night, and Sir Francis Poyntz (esquire of the King's body) had succumbed. The next day the King removed to the palace of Hatfield, "having very few with him, noon but the Prevy Chamber† and Master Kyngeston" (Sir William Kingston, Constable of the Tower of London and Captain of the Guard).

After one night passed at Hatfield, the removal to Tyttenhanger took place, on Saturday, June 27th. The company probably travelled on horseback, the ladies being perhaps conveyed in litters. Henry was accompanied by Queen Catherine, and, probably, the Princess Mary.‡ Among the members of the Court were "My Lorde Marquys" (Henry Courtney, Marquis of Exeter, the King's first cousin, with whom he had been educated),§

* Sir John Russell was appointed Controller of the Household in 1537 and Lord Privy Seal under Edward VI. He was ancestor of the ducal house of Bedford.

† By the "Ordinance of Eltham" the Privy Chamber was limited to fifteen persons. See "State Papers," Note.

‡ She was in the royal party at the next stage of the "Progress."

§ His mother being Catherine (Plantagenet), second daughter of Edward IV. Ten years later he was cruelly attainted of treason on frivolous pretexts, and beheaded December, 1538. His wife (who was

“My Lady Marques” (Gertrude [Blount] Marchioness of Exeter, in attendance on the Queen), Dr. John Bell (King’s Chaplain and Secretary, afterwards raised to the See of Worcester), Thomas Heritage (Chaplain and Surveyor of the King’s works at Westminster), a staff of physicians (including, probably, the noted Doctor William Butts and Dr. G. Owen), also Thomas Heneage,* a Lincolnshire esquire, who had been Gentleman Usher to Wolsey.

Heneage was acting as the King’s amanuensis in his correspondence with the Cardinal. The latter had taken up his abode at Hampton Court about the 30th of June, several members of his household being prostrated by the sickness. From the letters written at Tyttenhanger we work out the following journal:—

June 30th. The King wished Wolsey to remove with a small number of “his folkes” to S. Albans (the Monastery) that he might be under the care of the King’s physicians, and communicate with him hourly. His Highness was in excellent spirits, and had given Master Heritage directions to make a window in the Abbot’s Oratory to enable the company assembled in the hall to see and hear the daily Mass.

July 1st. Two cases of the sickness having occurred, the King requests the Cardinal to send the “bill” (prescription) of his physician, Master Fynche, who had “done very well in bringing the infected to their sweat again, when they fell out, and in assuaging the burning heat.” The Cofferer had been ordered to make preparation for removal to Ampthill at one stage in case of contingencies.

July 5th, Sunday. His Highness is so much delighted with the Abbot’s pleasant house, and the air of Tyttenhanger, that he will prolong his visit. Hearing of Wolsey’s proposal to join him on July 6th, he puts him off to a more propitious time, fearing the consequences of the mingling of their retinues in one house. He desires the Lord Legate to “cause general processions”

the daughter of William Blount, Lord Mountjoy, and Lady Elizabeth Say) was also attainted and imprisoned, but restored to her honours by Queen Mary at her accession. Their son, the unfortunate Edward Courtney (Earl of Devonshire), was liberated from his long captivity in the Tower of London on the same occasion.

* Some extracts from Heneage’s letters, which are literary curiosities, are given in an appendix to this paper.

(litanies) to be made throughout the realm for good harvest "weatherings," and for "the plague that now reigneth."

July 7th. Dr. Bell informs the "Cardinal's Grace" that the "plague is well ceased, so that for three days none do swet bott (except) Master Butt.*

July 9th. Heneage conveys the unwelcome intelligence, that "My Lady Marques" has been stricken with the common sickness, and that the Marquis and his company are ordered to depart and disperse. The Court will remove to Ampthill the following Saturday. The King is glad to hear that Wolsey "has determined and made his will." A copy of the royal "will" is to be sent to him shortly in token of his Highness's unbounded confidence.

July 10th. Dr. Bell writes that nine or ten of the household have sickened. The Court departs on the morrow.

On the Saturday morning the King finds time to give Master Heritage instructions about some buildings† which he wished to be erected at Tyttenhanger: "a plate" of which (working drawing) was prepared; he laments that his mason, Master Redman, has fallen a victim to the plague.

It is to be presumed that the long day's journey to Ampthill Castle‡ (about 30 miles) was accomplished on July 11th. Exactly a fortnight had been spent at Tyttenhanger.

The allusions to the excellent Queen Catherine in the correspondence imply that she received all outward honour. That she was being treated with proper candour will hardly be believed. She was probably at this time not informed of the purport of the Pope's Bull, which had been issued to Wolsey on the 13th of the previous April.

Our Tittenhanger diary ends here. We may, however, add that the epidemic appears to have died out before the middle of August, for on August 4th Heneage

* Perhaps Sir William Butt, the famous Founder of the College of Surgeons.

† It would seem to be implied that the King contemplated visiting Tyttenhanger again.

‡ N.B.—The patronage of the Church of Ampthill (Hamptehulle) (S. Andrew's) was given to the Abbots of S. Albans in very early times by Nigel de Wast. (Lib. Benef. fol. 94).



INK-PHOTO. SPRAGUE & CO LONDON.

Tyttenhanger House. Erected 1654.

writes from Ampthill* :—"The King's Highnes, the Quene's Grace and My Ladye Princess,† with all other here in the Courte are in good helth, and no sycknesse nor diseasis here abouts." The Cardinal is informed that the King purposes to be at Windsor by the Feast of the Assumption (August 15th) and to meet him there.

My attention has been directed to the fact that Wolsey was staying at S. Albans (*i.e.*, the Monastery) in October, 1524, having addressed from thence a letter to the Duke of Norfolk‡ (October 3rd); it is most probable that he visited his own house at Tyttenhanger on that occasion.

The Abbot's Mansion, which must have been very spacious, continued to exist till about 1654.

The annexed illustration of the present house [erected by Sir Henry Pope Blount at the above date] is produced from a photograph for which I am indebted to the kindness of Lady Jane C. E. Van Koughnet.

The second part of my paper is reserved for a future opportunity.

APPENDIX.

STATE PAPERS. HENRY VIII. PART I. VOL. I.

The King's Correspondence at Tyttenhanger.

No. CXLIX. Hennage to Wolsey. 29 June, 1528. (Monday).

"Humely sewythe unto your Grace, that I have recevyd Mr. Arundell's letters, where in he wrytyth, that for the extreme daynger of the vehement infection & sykenes that ys fallen amonges youre Grace's folkes this last nyte, Youre Grace entendythe to remove to Hampton Cowerte : which I sewyd unto the kynges Hynes, where of the kyng is very sory, especyally to have you so far from hym : notwithstanding Hys Hynes ys content, and wold have you to goe to Hampton Cowerte, owte of that Aere. * * * *

Wryten in hast this Sent Peters day by your most humele and bowyndyn Servant.—Thomas Hennege."

CL. Tittenhanger. 30 June, 1528.

"Humely sewyth unto youre Grace the Kynges Hynes hartly recommendythe hym unto you & preyythe you to be of good cowymford & to do as he doyth ; and sory he ys that Your Grace ys so far from hym, and wold, that yf hit plese God to vicete any mo of youre

* It will be remembered that Queen Catherine was residing at Ampthill Castle when Cranmer pronounced the decree annulling the marriage, at Dunstable (May 23, 1533). This was reversed by Act of Parliament in October, 1553, and appears never to have been reaffirmed.

† Mary, then in her thirteenth year.

‡ State Papers, Henry VIII., Vol. IV., Letter 46.

folkes abowte you, that then Your Grace shold cum to Sent Albang with a smale numbre with you ; there every howre on of you myghte here of the other, and that his physytions myghte be aswell for Your Grace as for hym, yf any chans shold fortune. This morneyng knowlege came to the Kynges Hynes of the deythe of Sir Wylliam Comptone, and that he shoulde be lost by necligens in lettynge hym slepe in the begynnyng of his swete. * * *

Thankyd be God, this nygthe ther ys never on in the Cowerte, ne ny abowte the Cowerte, fallyn syke, and they that sykenyd on Sunday nygthe, be recoveryd, and perfectly hole agene, so that with good kepyng, there nys no daynger. And I esewer Your Grace, the Kyngge regeysythe myche that he ys as myry this morneyng as I have syen Hys Hynes. * * *

Wryten in hast this Twesday, at 11 of the klok, &c. * * *
This present hower, as the Kyng was at Mas, the Kyng send for Mr. Herytage for the makynge of a new wynde in youre closet there, as his folkes may stand in youre grete chambre and here Mas, and not to cum in to youre closet, bycause hit ys so lytle ; which shalbedoyne with dyligens. * * *

No. CLII. Dated 1st July, 1528.

“ Humely sewythe unto Your Grace, that, thankyd be Jhesu, the Kynges Hynes ys very well and myry, and all his howsold here excep on of his Warderape, and a gentleman’s servant, which two fell syke this nyte. * * *

After the wrytyng of the premissis, I recevyd Your Grace’s letters and sewyd the kyngge the tenor of them. As for such offeces as Sir Wylliam Compton had of the Quene’s gyfte, His Hynes wol not speke to the Quene, but woll that she shal bestow them at hir plesur to hir owyn servaunts ; excepte on that he haythe gotten for the servant of his, Sheler, whyche ys the kepyng of Odyham Parke.

This morenyng, as His Hynes was in makynge hym redy, he haythe geve in commawynment to the Cofferer, to make provysion at Amptyll, in cause that any thyng shold fortune, he mygthe, withowt let, goo thether at on removynge.

Sir, the Kyngge desyrethe you to send hym the byll, that Mr. Fynche made for the remedy of all suche as have fallyn syke in youre howse ; for as His Hynes ys enformyd, he haythe doyne very well, boythe to bryng them to there swheyte ageine, when they fall owte, and allso to swayge the grete hete and burnyng.

Wensday, 8 of cloke, &c.

CLIII. Dated 4th July, 1528.

* * * Hys Hynes lykyth youre mynyon Howse so well that he perposythe not to departe so shortly from thens as he apoyntyd, and as I late wrote unto Your Grace. * * *

CLIV. Dated 5th July, 1528.

Please it your Grace to understand, that the Kynges Hynes this mornynge, being advertised Your Grace purposed to have com, and visited Hym as to morow, commaunded me to write unto your Grace, and after his moost hartie commendations, to desire your Grace to differ your saide comyng untill the tyme be more propiciouse : for as yet he feareth, and thinketh not mete Your Grace’s Company and

hys shuld joyne in oon howse : and is mervelouse gladd that he is so nighe unto your Grace, saying, " I am right glad my Lorde's Grace is so nere hand, for now if any casualtie shuld happen, I may have redy and spedy word from hym ; " assuring Your Grace that His Hynes is so well contented, in all poyntes, with his lodgynges, with the aire and site of this your place, as ever I sawe hym ellswere to be. Furthermore His Highnes willed me by these letters to desire Your Grace to cause generall processions to be made unyversally thorough the realme, as well for the good wetheringes, to thencease of corne and fruyte, as also for the plage that now reignethe. * * *

From Titten Hanger, this Sunday, &c.

CLVI. Dr. Bell to Wolsey. Dated Tittenhanger, 7 July, 1528.

(Contents) The King directs some promotions in the Church—is anxious for Wolsey's health—the sickness has abated.

CLVII. Hennege to Wolsey. Dated 9 July, 1528.

* * * " This morneyng he (the King) hath word, that my Lady Marques of Exeter ys syke of the comon sykenes, whiche causythe His Hynes to apoynt to remove upon Seterday, from hens to Amptyll ; and hathe comawyndyd that all suche as where in my seyde Lord Marquys Compeny, and my seyde Lady to departe in severall parcells, and so not contynue to gether ; and so he desyreth Your Grace to do, yf any suche case shall fortune, as God forbede. And glad he ys to here, that Your Grace hathe so good a hart, and that you have determyned and made your will, and orderyd yourselfe anenst God, as you have doyne, as His Highnes haythe semable doyne ; which wyll he contendythe shortly to send unto Your Grace, where in Your Grace shall se and perseve the trusty and harty mynd that he haythe unto you above all men lyvyng. * * *

And also he desyrethe Your Grace, that he may here every second day frome you, how you doo ; for I esewer you, every morneyng, assone as he comythe from the Quene, he haskythe, whether I here any thyng from Your Grace. And this day he apoyntythe to sew his mynd to Mr. Herytage* of suche thynges as His Hynes wold have buyldyd here, where of Your Grace send hym word you would be content to doo, by Mr. Herytage. And thus Owre Lord preserve Your Grace.

Wryten at Your Grace's howse at Tytnangre, this Thursday, the 9th of July, &c.

No. CLIX. Dated 11th July. At Tyttenhanger.

* * * " The kyng hathe sewyd Mr. Herytage hys plesur for such boyldynges as he desyreth to have at Tytnangre, and hath mad a plate of the same ; and very sorry he ys for the deythe of Mr. Redman, his mason." * * * T. Hennege.

No. CLX. Heneage to Wolsey. Ampthill, July 14.

* * * " I humbly beseche your Grace to take this my fowle wrytyng in good part." * * *

* Thomas Heritage, Chaplain to Henry VIII., had been presented to the Rectory of Broughton, Northants, by Sir John Spencer in 1513. (Parker's Churches of the Archdeaconry of Northampton).

N.B.—In some of the peculiarities of Thomas Heneage's "fowle" spelling we may detect a north country dialect. (*e.g.* comawyndyd for commanded). He was a son of John Heneage, of Hainton, Lincolnshire. He was knighted by Henry VIII. in 1537, and was enriched by many grants of lands from the dissolved monasteries. His brother, George Heneage, was Chaplain to Cardinal Wolsey, was made Dean of Lincoln in 1528, and Archdeacon in 1542, retired to Islington and died in 1549. Sir Thomas Heneage, who married Katherine Skipwith, died in 1553; his memorial brass is in Hainton Church. Interesting notices of the family are contained in a paper on "The Parish of S. Mary Mag., Lincoln," by the Rev. Edmund Venables, late Precentor of Lincoln.

GLOSSARY.

chans—chance	mynyon—pleasant, agreeable. (<i>Fr.</i>)
cowymford—comfort	semable—semblably, in like manner. (<i>Fr.</i>)
doyth—doeth, doth	haskythe—asketh
vicete—visit	bowyndyn—bounden
cowerte—court	hole—whole
csewer—assure	doyn—done
syen—seen	warderape—wardrobe
wynde—window	swheyte—sweat
regeysythe—rejoiceth	owte—out
assone—as soon	