

NOTES ON
THE EARLY HISTORY OF STONEHOUSE.

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A VERY important fragment of the early history of Stonehouse is embodied in its name. The first allusion to the place is found in *Domesday*, where it appears as Stanchys. This is, of course, simply an older form of the modern title, which indicates the presence at the spot, before the Conquest, of what was then a somewhat notable thing—a dwelling of the kind the old writers were fond of calling “stane and lime.” Hence, compared with the adjacent manors, Stonehouse, eight centuries since, possessed an important distinctive feature. Why so substantial a structure should have been erected there we may speculate, but cannot know; and it is only a suggestion which can have no definite authority, that the great natural strength of the duplex peninsula led to its selection for such a residence; while it must always have had a special importance from its nearness to the opposite shore, long ere that contiguity developed into the establishment of Crennill ferry.

And at this early date the site of what is now Stonehouse was far more peninsular than now. Stonehouse Pool, or Stonehouse Lake, extended along the western and northern boundary, as at present; but Millbay long afterwards stretched through an inner reach, under the name of Surpool, to the foot of the present Stoke Road, at the corner of the Royal Naval Hospital wall; and while its waters also extended westward, nearly on the line of Union Street, those of Stonehouse Pool expanded eastward on the same line. Thus the bold limestone hill to the south of Union Street was connected to the higher slate ridge of the North Road by a comparatively narrow isthmus, rising a very few feet above high-

water mark. Indeed, the time can hardly have been very remote, and barely prehistoric, that the limestone peninsula formed two complete islands. When *Domesday* was compiled, it was, however, an irregular narrow promontory, broadening out, as now, in two headlands towards Mount Edgcumbe and the Sound; and narrowing at two points, one near the south end of Durnford Street, where it was barely 150 yards wide, and the other, already noted, on the course of Union Street, about 400—a double peninsula with two low-lying isthmuses, not at all a promising piece of property at the outset, but one which certainly had great defensive capabilities.

For the first distinct evidence of human occupation of Stonehouse, we are indebted to a note made by Mr. Henry Woolcombe, who has recorded the discovery in 1815, near the old turnpike gate between Stonehouse and Plymouth, which stood at the corner of Phoenix Street, of a kistvaen. It was of an early type, consisting of six slabs of stone forming a chamber 3 feet 6 inches long, 2 feet 2 inches wide, and 2 feet 3 inches deep; and it contained some fragments of bones, and a rude urn of baked clay holding a quantity of ashes. From the position indicated it is clear that this find must have been made towards the eastern end of what is now called Battery Hill.

The Stanchvs¹ of *Domesday* was a very small manor. Before the Conquest it had gelded only for one ferling, which was the sixteenth of a hide; and as the Danegelt was six shillings on each hide, the rateable value of Stonehouse was therefore but fourpence halfpenny. It had, however, at the Survey one plough land. We may hence fairly presume that it had been greatly improved since the first imposition of the geld, for the Saxon hide and the Norman carucate may be regarded as practically equivalent, each including as much arable as one plough team could till in the course of a year, usually reckoned at 120 acres. Moreover, it had only one recorded inhabitant, a villcin, who rendered to the lord five shillings annually. This lord was one Robert the Bastard, who had succeeded to the Saxon Alwin, not only here but at Efford and in other properties in the neighbourhood.

The *Domesday* Stanchvs is also remarkable, not only for its smallness in extent and value, but for the fact that there is not

¹ The proper names throughout this paper are spelt as they occur in the documents cited, with all variations.

set down for it any stock, or any meadow, pasture, or woodland, and that no part of it was held in demesne. It was practically farmed by its villein at a fixed rent. Small as it was, there were less valuable manors in the district—Pithill, for example, was only worth two shillings to its lord annually, and some other moorland and upland manors reached but three shillings. With the one local exception, however, of Wederidge (Withyledge), Stonehouse has assigned to it the smallest stated area; and its exceptional relative value, therefore, is probably due to the conditions under which it was held. Though it passed from Saxon ownership at the Conquest, I have no doubt it remained in Saxon hands. As the present extent of the parish is 385 acres (including the lands added by reclamation since, and the addition of a portion of Sutton Valletort) allowing for waste, &c., its *Domesday* value must have been fully assessed.

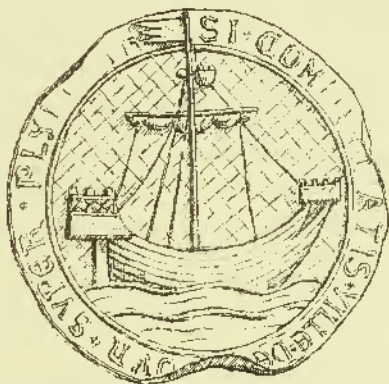
Passing from *Domesday*, and coming to times regarded as distinctly within the domain of recorded history, we notice two things: first, that our local topographers and historians have very little to say about Stonehouse at all; second, that what they do say is almost wholly incorrect. There is no need therefore to waste space in citation. One of the most prominent of the assertions which one writer has copied from another, and which appears to have originated with Sir William Pole, is that Stonehouse was anciently called Hepeston, and took its present name from the family who owned it. There is no existing trace known to me that Hepeston was ever the name of Stonehouse, or of any place in Stonehouse. The family had their name from the manor, which was called Stonehouse centuries before they were connected with it. Still, while Stonehouse has not an important it has an interesting history, and in dealing with that history we are traversing what is practically new ground.

In the endeavour to follow the record of Stonehouse on from *Domesday*, I have been much indebted to the kindness of the Earl of Mount Edgecumbe, who courteously gave me access to various sources of information among his family archives. These date back to the opening years of the thirteenth century; and the information contained therein I have been able to supplement from sundry other sources, among others from the ancient Churchwardens' Book, kindly placed at my disposal by the vicar, the Rev. P. Scott.

The Edgcombe muniments make the manorial connection of the Bastards with Stonehouse perfectly clear to its close, very nearly three hundred years after the date of *Domesday*. In 1317 (11 Edward II.) we have a grant from Baldwin Bastard, knight, to Henry Bastard,¹ his son, of all his land in Stonehouse, near Sutton, within "great diche," with the rents and services of William Stocke-legh, and the reversion of his lands after death. This great diche was the great dyke at Millbay which formed part of the Plymouth boundary, and the lands thus conveyed evidently adjoined Surpool.

Three years later, 1320 (14 Edward II.), Richard Bastard makes grant and quit claim to his brother Henry aforesaid, of land in Stonhouse, "within great diche."

Gonilda, the daughter of this Henry Bastard, married William Snapedone, and she was the last of the Bastard family who had any territorial connection with Stonehouse. In 1368 (42 Edward III.) she and her husband granted their property in Stonhouse to Stephen Durnford — as lands in Stonhouse near Sutton, within "great dyche," and the fishing and mulctures at mills of Sourepol, Stennistre, and Tolfri. This is a remarkably interesting deed for Plymouth folk, for there remains



attached in excellent preservation the only impression extant of the seal of the ancient corporation of Sutton, the device being a ship on the waves, and the legend, "SI COMMUNITATIS VILLE DE SVTTVN SVPER PLYMOUTH."

But Gonilda still retained certain rights. After the death of Snapedone she married one Walter Jardyn, and was again a widow in 1406 (7 Henry IV.). In that year, as Gonilda of Eststonhous,

¹ The *Inquisitiones Post Mortem* mention a Henry Bastard in 1243 (27 Henry III.), *qui utlagatus est*, and he was probably a member of the family. I am not so sure of the connection of Peter le Bastard, who was dead in 1278 (4 Edward I.), leaving a wife Emma, and a son John, then about eleven years old. Still it is quite possible that Peter was also one of the race. Henry was an accustomed family name.

widow, she granted to John Gorges, lord of Warleigh, in pure widowhood, her whole estate in the lordship of Eststonhous; and Gorges in turn granted to Stephen Durnford the elder, the estate in Eststonhous which he held of the grant of Gonilda, lady of the place, the Durnfords paying Gonilda £10 yearly for life. But even after this date there remained members of the Bastard family connected with Stonehouse, as tenants.

At the time of the transfer to Stephen Durnford, in 1368, the Bastards had, however, long ceased to be sole lords of Stonehouse. Reginald de Valletort was one of the most important Norman under-tenants in the district at the *Domesday* survey. His chief manor was at Trematon, whence he exercised rights over the waters of the Tamar; and among his estates was the Cornish Macreton, or Maker, which, with Trematon and many others, he held under the Count of Mortain. The Devonshire Maker, with Sutton, were subsequently given to the Valletorts by Henry I., and John de Vautort held them in 1281.

The succession of the Valletorts has never been clearly traced; and I cannot attempt the task now.¹ It will be enough for my present purpose to say that the family did not die out, as is often

¹ The following notes, chiefly drawn from the *Inquisitiones Post Mortem* may, however, be of interest and use. We have seen that the Valletort of *Domesday* was called Reginald. He had a son called Roger, who in his turn was father to a second Reginald. There was a second Roger living in 1195. We next get John de Valletort in the earliest dated of the Edgumbe muniments—1226.

In 1246 (30 Henry III.) there occurs in the *Inquisitiones* Ralph, heir of Reginald Valle Torta, being his brother, and these were sons of the second Roger. In 1255 (39 Henry III.) we have John de Valletort. In 1270 (54 Henry III.) there is Reginald de Vautort, alias Valetort, whose father, Ralph of 1246, died in 1259, whose mother was Johanna de Vautort, and whose heir was his uncle Roger. In 1283 (11 Edward I.) a Roger de Vautort is dead, but Roger the uncle, who gave Trematon to Richard Earl of Cornwall, is said to have died in 1289. In 1300 (27 Edward I.) there dies Hawisia, wife of Reginald de Valletort. In 1302 (29 Edward I.) the death is recorded of John de Valletort, son of John and Alice his wife. The father of Joan Valletort, the concubine of Richard, was Reginald or Roger de Valletort, son of John; and there was a Reginald who died *circa* 1315. Philip de Valletort is mentioned as a holder of property in Plymouth, in a deed *circa* 1150; lands of Robert the Bishop adjoining—the witnesses, Plymouth residents, being Roger de Fletehenda, Gilbert eycharista, William pistore, John Boscher, Reginald de veifer. There are some important references to the Valletorts in the Cornish *Biographical Notes* of Mr. G. C. Boase.

stated, in the thirteenth century with Roger de Valletort, deceased in 1289. Changes took place in their holdings, but the family continued to the reign of Henry VIII.; and we find them dealing with property at Sutton long after their extinction has been assumed. They retained also an interest in Maker; Richard Vautort is mentioned as lord of Maker, and as granting lands there in 1426 (4 Henry VI.); and John Vautort as dealing with lands in South Millbrook in 1433. As is well known, the Valletorts made certain grants of lands and rights in Sutton to the Priory of Plympton, and thus created what was afterwards called Sutton Prior, their own name remaining attached to their ownership of Sutton Vautort or Vautier. They had a residence at Sutton; for Ralph de Valletort in a grant mentions a way to Surpole by the corner of his garden of Sutton—*anglo gardini mei de Suthtona*. The site is very clearly indicated in a couple of Lord Mount Edgecumbe's deeds, dated 1370 (44 Edward III.) and 1373 (47 Edward III.). In the first of these James Vautort, lord of Sutton, releases in fee to Stephen Durnford, Vautordisparke atte Pole, at the west part of Churcherhull, the way from Sutton to Stonhous lying north, the meadow of William Cole south, and the land of Thomas Cok called Romisbery west. It had been previously leased to Stephen by the render of a rose at Midsummer. By the second deed John Vyncent and John Holcomb grant this same land to Stephen and his wife Cecilia, the boundaries being the same, with the important addition that the highway to Sourepolemyll lay to the east.

This enables us to fix the site with absolute precision. Churcherhull is Church hill—the hill on which stands St. Andrew Church. The highway to Stonehouse ran fairly along the line of what is now Bedford Street, Frankfort Street, King Street (a little north to avoid the edge of Surpool) to Fore Street, Stonehouse, where it turned sharply south to the ferry at Cremill—now Devil's Point—then, as long after, the chief thoroughfare from this part into Cornwall. Romisbery evidently indicates the existence of an old earthwork, probably near the end of the Western Hoe. William Cole's meadow must have lain on the northern slope of the Hoe, adjacent. The highway to Sourepolemyll—Millbay—is either that mentioned in various old deeds as running from Sutton Pool thither, or a branch thereto from the Old Town. The garden and park of the Valletorts thus lay between the two roads, on the

south side of Bedford Street, from Westwell Street on; and the residence would be closely adjacent to the church.

The earliest dated deed among the Edgecumbe muniments does not directly link itself with Stonehouse. It is a grant in 1226 (10 Henry III.) from John de Valletort to Thomas Fitz Ralph, of the lordship of Crimel, with an acre of Cornish land in Hynbecombe (Empacombe), and a piece of land which Godfrey Pleia held of the said John in the lordship of Crimel, with other lands.

Three undated deeds, which are associated with Stonehouse, seem to connect themselves, however, with this. By the first, Roger de Valletorta grants Ralph son of Richard, his whole land of Crimela and Machra, to hold in fee and inheritance by the service of the ninth part of a knight's fee. By the second, Reginald de Valletorta grants to Ralph son of Ralph the whole land of Crimell and Machra, with the passage of Crimell, &c., which Roger, Reginald's father, had granted to Ralph, Ralph's father, with the free passage and fishery of the water of Tamere, to hold as above. By the third, the same Ralph grants to his brother Thomas the whole land of Crimell and Maere.

These Ralphs and Thomases, and their descendants, are the family whom we subsequently find with the territorial surname of Stonehouse. Their origin is distinguished, though barred. Richard, the father of the first-mentioned Ralph de Stonehouse was no less a personage than Richard, Earl of Cornwall, son of King John, King of the Romans as he is best known in history; and since there is no Ralph among his legitimate descendants, there is some reason to infer that this son was the son of Richard's mistress, Joan de Valletort, and that the grant made was not without consideration of kinship.¹

We have Thomas, son of Ralph de Stonhous, mentioned in 1298 (26 Edward I.), probably the same (but they all seem to have been Ralphs and Thomases in turn), and we find him, in 1299, demising to Roger de Haston a moiety of land in Won-

¹ Some of the Valletort family had undoubtedly, however, previously taken name from Stonehouse; for example John or Joel de Stanhust, who gave the canons of Plympton the right of free fishery *per totam terram meam*, attaching a curious condition about the division of the fish: "qd si Batilli nostri pprij ædiuvire sibi obtenuerunt in piscando in terra meo per equalis porcus captura piscum inter nos dividati." He was probably grandson of the Reginald of *Domesday*.

wollyshylle; and in 1306 a moiety of land and premises to one Richard Garlond at Ymbacombe. He was dead, however, in 1311, and had left a son and heir under age; for in that year (5 Edward II.) William de Rous, lord of Little Modbiri, granted Matilda de Hywys the wardship and marriage of Ralph, son of Thomas, in respect of lands in "Stonhouse and Crimel."

In 1337 (11 Edward III.) there was an accord on a contention between the Prior and Convent of Plympton, and this later Ralph de Stonhouse, touching an annual rent in Schindelhall.

Ralph married a wife named Joan, and had a son Thomas, and he in turn had a son named Ralph, who married Sibil, daughter of William Smales, of Dartmouth. This confusion of Ralphs is enhanced by the fact that in 1345 we have Ralph de Valletorta granting land in Maker.

Sibil de Stonehouse makes a grant as a widow in 1371.

And now again we come to the Durnfords. Stephen Durnford, already noted as acquiring the land of the Bastards in Stonehouse in 1368, marries a certain Cecilia, somewhere between 44 and 47 Edward III. (1370 and 1373), and this Cecilia is believed to have been the daughter of Ralph and Sibil de Stonehouse, in whom that family therefore came to a territorial if not an absolute end.

The first mention of Stephen Durnford I have found is in 1366;¹ thence up to and including 1370 he is named alone; in 1373 and onward the deeds give Stephen and Cecilia. In 1368 Stephen Durnford takes the land of the Bastards in Stonehouse. In 1370 (44 Edward III.) James Vautort, lord of Sutton, grants the release in fee to Stephen Durnford, of Vautordisparke atte Pole already cited, and in the same year Stephen and Cecilia are

¹ There are, however, earlier references to the family in this locality. The earliest with which I am acquainted are contained in the Tavistock Church records. In the fourth year of Edward III., 1330, Robert Ffolke, of Tavistock, granted to Gerard de Durnforde, an annual rent of three pence and a silver halfpenny, issuing out of the lands of Peter de Langeforde, in Woddon; and about the same time Ffolke (as Ffolka) conveyed a garden in Tavistock to the same as Girardo de Durnaford. A Durnford, probably the same, also appears as a witness to a conveyance by Walter Golda to Lavinia, daughter of Robert Ffolke, in the twenty-first year of one of the Edwards, II. or III. There is no Durnford in Devon to give name to the race, and the probability seems to be that they came from Durnford, near Salisbury.

put in possession of a tenement in Sutton Vautort, which had belonged to John Austin.¹

Not long after we find the Durnfords extending their possessions in the other direction; for in 1386 (9 Richard II.) Sir John de Harpsden grants and demises to Stephen and Cecilia Derneford the whole manor of Rame for life, and this was followed up in 1393 (16 Richard II.) by a grant to Stephen of the same in tail.²

And thus at the end of the fourteenth century we find the Durnfords practically in possession of the estates in Stonehouse, Plymouth, Maker, and Rame, which afterwards passed to the Edgecumbes.

Stephen Durnford the elder had two sons, Stephen and John, and a daughter Isolda; and in 1394 (18 Richard II.) he executed an entail of his Bastard property—John Hele, chaplain, and William Honyton, granting it to Stephen the elder for life, with remainder to his children in succession in tail.

Stephen the younger married Radegund, daughter of Nicholas Cotterell (there is a statement that she was daughter of Sir William Fitzwalter); John married a certain Joan.

The Durnfords continued in possession of Stonehouse and their other estates until the marriage of their heiress, Joan or Jane Durnford, with Sir Piers Edgecumbe, *circa* 1493. She was daughter of James Duruford, who was the son of James Durnford and Margaret Bykerly (Bigbury),³ and grandson of Stephen the younger. Her mother was Jane, daughter of John Holland.

¹ Stephen Duruford had acquired the rents and services of John Golde and other tenants in Sutton Prior and Sutton Wanland, by grant of Walter Attepole, son of John Attepole, in 1367 (41 Edward III.)

² Stonehouse formed part of the honour of Plympton. As early as 1404 there was a dispute between the Earl of Devon and Stephen Durnford, touching the manor of Rame; and when he died, in 1410, his son paid the Earl 65s. 8d., a relief of a knight fee's, in respect of that manor. In 1458 James Durnford granted Margaret, daughter of Sir Hugh Courtney, an annual rent of 100 marks, in name of her dower; and in 1460 he did homage to the Earl of Devon for Stonehouse, Tenton (Kingsteignton), and Rame, which he held by knight service. The feudal superiority was maintained during the early ownership of the Edgecumbes; for in 1608 we find Alexander Maynard giving a receipt for 25s. relief on the death of Peter Edgecumbe, for the use of the lords of the Castle of Plympton.

³ In 1415 William Werthe and others gave seisin of the manor of Stonehouse and passage of Cremil, *inter alia*, to Sir William Hankford for William de Bykebury.

Joan Durnford was twice married—first to Charles Dinham, by whom, of course, she could have had no issue, or none that survived. The manor has now been in the Edgcumbe family just 400 years—as long as all its previous owners since the Conquest together.

It was under the Durnfords that Stonehouse began to develope from a hamlet into a village, and to progress from its small beginnings to the “conveniente bigge towne well inhabited,” which Pole describes it about the end of the sixteenth century. James Durnford the elder was particularly active, for in 1448 (26 Henry VI.) a dispute was settled which had arisen between him and the Abbot of Buckland, and which had its origin in the assertion by Durnford of territorial authority.

The Abbot of Buckland held the hundred of Roborough and view of frankpledge therein, and complained that Durnford had “caused to be set-up a certain pillory and tumbrel at Estonhouse and a certain court to be holden at Estonhous, within the precincts of the hundred aforesaid, and there had caused to be presented in his court aforesaid by his ministers the assize of bread and ale there levied, and effusion of blood and of arms and injuries done against the peace, and other articles, which ought to be presented in the view of frankpledge at the hundred aforesaid.” The dispute was referred to the Prior of Plympton and James Chudleigh, as arbitrators, and they gave judgment against Durnford, ordering the pillory and tumbrel to be destroyed; the abbot and his officers to have rule as theretofore, and that Durnford should pay the abbot £20 as costs.¹

Stonehouse was, however, distinctly recognised about this date as a part of what I may call the Duchy port of Plymouth, for there is a writ extant, July 28, 1479 (19 Edward IV.), in the name of Edward Prince of Wales, to the underbailiff of the water of Sutton Pole, directing the summoning of twelve men of Plymouth, six of Stonehouse, six of Yalm and Newton Ferrers, and six of horston (Oreston), for a court to be held on the 7th August following, before Nicholas Henscotte, *locum tenens*.

There are extant a few entries of manor courts of East Stone-

¹ Yet the value of the abbot's rights could not have been very much, seeing that they were granted in 1498 to Sir Peter Edgcumbe at an annual rent of 5s. ; even though another authority says 20s.

house in the reign of Henry VII., which give details of names of residents, and of the mode in which the manorial government was carried on when the Edgcumbes first came into possession. The jury at the court held June 26, 1493 (8 Henry VII.) were John Bastard, John Hunne, sen., Abraham William, Matthew Boyes, Nicholas Lucas, Philip Hoper, Walter Seyneler, Thomas Holand, John Yggon, John Blerek, Stephen Adam, John Jenyn, Thomas Bole, and Walter Matthewe.

The following were presented because their houses were ruinous (*domas suas esse ruinos*)—i.e. out of repair—and they appear to have been fined 1d. each: John Maye, Dionysius Guynne, Lawrence Durgan, William Hotewyn, Thomasine Roberd, Galfrid Grose, John Yggon, and Richard Symon.

Richard Denys, John Dorsett, and Richard Bonde were fined 3d. each for certain defaults.

Richard Wadam, jun., Thomas a Chamber and Johanna his wife, Philip Hurd, Hugh Walys, Robert Bastard, John Milet, John Guygge, Walter Wilcocke, Edward Purton (?), and John Thomas were presented for having dung on their premises near the quay, and fined 1d. each.

John Bastard, Nicholas Lucas, and Thomas a Chamber did homage to the lord.

Abraham William, Alice his wife, and John their son, had a tenement and a garden adjoining Newport Street—Henry Dartelet north, and Thomas Hole south, at 12s. 4d. a year rent.

John Wegge, Johanna his wife, and John their son, took a tenement that Isabell Skere had held.

Harward Richard, Johanna his wife, and Walter their son, took a tenement that Richard Denys had held.

The names of tenants mentioned at other courts held at this time include Richard Boyes, Philip Stoford, William Wyleske (under steward), William Hole, Serlo William, Shannan Mylle, Henry Snithond, jun., John Lawry, Richard Symons, jun., John Mayne, Richard Nogell, William Michell, Richard, John, and Roger Tamerton, William Whyte, John Wode, John Bleryoke and Alice his wife, Alice Perys, Peter Chynnow, John Mistow, John a Mayer, Peter Bassamy, John Morysh, and William Heryng, who had a gutter out of order.

The sanitary entries are set out clearly enough, the offence being stated in one case, "*Habent fannus iacent in regia strata apud la*

key . . . quod noc vicin—tocius ville ;” and “Habent fumus et alia vilia iacent in vico ad noc.”

Pleas of debt and other disputes were likewise settled at the court ; for example Stephen Adam and Alice his wife, were to satisfy John Hunne with 3s. 6d. for bread bought of him—“per pane ab eo empt.”

The general duties of the tenants of the manor are shown by an entry in the same year (8 Henry VII.) that a place called “le key” was out of repair ; and that it was the part of the tenants to repair the same—“Omnes tenentes de Eststonhouse repar tenenta.” So they had a day fixed, the octave of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, by which sufficient repair was to be made, under penalty of a fine of 40s.

The total receipts of the two courts held this year were—court fees 5s. 8d., fines of lands 16s. 4d., injuries 3s. ; while a silver cup, *cipheas argenti*, was taken as a heriot in the case of Philip Hurde, jun. The seneschal’s or steward’s expenses were 14s. 2d.

John Knebone was bailiff of East Stonehouse in the latter part of the fifteenth century ; and a note of his accounts from Michaelmas, 11 Henry VII., to Michaelmas, 12 Henry VII.—1495, 1496—has been preserved. The rents of assize were £41 0s. 2d. ; the customary works—“*de opibz custum*”—11s. 6d. ; total, £41 11s. 8d.

This shows a very considerable increase in the size and importance of the place relatively, not merely since *Domesday*, but much more recent times. What Stonehouse was under the Durnfords in the middle of the fifteenth century, is fairly indicated indeed by a deed of grant of James Durnford, in 1462 (1 Edward IV.), of arable land and waste in East Stonehouse, “except the village there, all messuages, &c., and a small close called Pese Park, otherwise Buthay, and except common of pasture for horses of fishermen on Wynrigg, Whyttor, and the hill near Horspool.”

Here we have Stonehouse called a village ; but we can get more than a century further back.

A record of the “fifteenth” paid in what we may call the Plymouth assessment district in a mayoralty of Thomas Clowter—1537, 1544, 1551, or 1556—supplies some indication of relative value at the time the assessment was first made. The four wards

of Plymouth town paid between them £22 19s. 2d.; Kingstamerton 10s.; Maker 10s.; Stonehouse 2s. 6d.; Vawtars ground 2s. 6d.; Houndiscombe 16d.; and Tangesland 8d. An extra £12 was then levied in Plymouth, in the same proportions in each ward as the old assessment; and Compton paid 6s. 8d.

Now this "fifteenth" had been a fixed amount payable as a composition by each community from 1334; and these figures therefore give us a clue to the very small importance of Stonehouse ere it came into the hands of the Darnfords. It was but a fourth the value of Maker; not double that of Houndiscombe; and as the "fifteenth" was a tax levied on moveables or personal property, it will be seen that the population of Stonehouse must have been very small, and its portable wealth very limited.¹

Under the Edgecumbes, Stonehouse made rapid strides. Its new owners proved themselves men of business tact and energy.

We are indebted to Mr. R. Dymond, F.S.A., of Exeter, for documentary facts touching the erection of the Stonehouse Mill Bridge, by Sir Piers Edgecumbe, about the year 1525. By deed dated May 8 (17 Henry VIII.), John Wise, of Sydenham, lord of the manor of Stoke Damerel, granted, demised and confirmed "to Peter Eggecomb Knight one parcel of our land in Estelake, otherwise called Dedlake within the manor aforesaid, containing in itself from the middle of the salt-water running between Este Stonehous and the manor of Stoke Damerell aforesaid, in length one hundred and sixty-four feet and in breadth forty feet, to erect, raise, construct, and build one wall or work called a causeway, for certain corn-mills to be newly built and constructed upon the said wall or work, together with a reasonable way of going and returning for all and singular the subjects of our Lord the King, with all carriages, on our land in Estlake or Dedlake aforesaid, that is to say, as well from the said mills unto a certain way leading from

¹ There has been preserved a curious entry of an inquest held at East Stonehouse, December 10, 1502 (18 Henry VII.), before John Bekette, coroner of the King in Devon, on the body of Robert Mathew, jun., of Eststonehous, fysher, on the oaths of Henry Elerycke, Walter Gawe (?) *alias* Synkeler, John John, John Sawter, Reginald Phyllypp, John Nounne (?), Stephen Adam, Reginald Carter, John Elerycke, jun., Thomas Chelway, Thomas Maryner, and Thomas Martyn, whose verdict was that on the 8th December, at 11 p.m., John Croste (or Creste), of Lypson, groom, stabbed Mathew in his belly at his house at Stonehouse; Elizabeth, Mathew's wife, being an accomplice.

the Parish Church of Stoke Damerell aforesaid towards Plymouth, as from the said way unto the Mills aforesaid—To have and to hold all the aforesaid parcel of land with the Mills aforesaid, together with the said reasonable way, to the aforesaid Peter Eggecomb for the term of his life, Paying therefore yearly unto me the aforesaid John Wise and to my heirs twelve pence sterling, to be paid at the feast of St. Michael the Archangel for all services and demands. And after the decease of the said Peter Eggecomb we will and grant that the aforesaid parcel of land with the mills and way aforesaid with their appurtenances absolutely remain to Richard Eggecomb, the son and heir of the said Peter, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten."

The deed goes on to confirm the grant in succession to the various members of the Edgcumbe family, children of Piers, and in their default to the right heirs of Joan Edgcumbe (Durnford), "late wife of the said Peter."

This causeway was made, as appears by a later grant of confirmation to Sir Richard Edgcumbe, son of Sir Piers, within three years of the date of the original deed; that is, about the year 1528. The later grant, dated July 6th, 34 Henry VIII., sets forth that John Wyse had granted "that hitt shuld be lafull for the sayd Sr Pyers & his heirs as afore ys sayd att all & every Place & Places Tyme & Tymes that they shuld thyngke moste mete & convenyent to sett fyx & make mills cawses werys ffryghts Brygges ways & Poolys & all other Comodytes to there moste Comodyte profitt and advauntage by reson whereof the sayd Sr Pyers wythyn iii yers next after the sayd xxii yers or nygh thereabowte to his no lytle cost charge & expenes dyd mke & cawse to be made a cawse mills & a Brydge over thawrtt the sayd water with a way to hie & goo from the sayd mills as there at this present Day more playnly apperith of all which Premysse the sayd Sr Pyers dyed seasyd of yn hys demene as of fee Taylle for whiche the seyde Sr Pyers duryng his Lyff & the seyde Sr Richard his son have yerely trewly contentyd and paided the sayd xii^d of rent of & for the Premysse. In Consyderacion whercof & because the sayd mills cawse Brydge & Way ar & be very comodious & pleasaunt for the sayd John Wyse and all his Tenaunts dwellyng yn Stoke Damerell aforsayd the sayd John Wyse by this present Indenture affyrmyth confirmyth coroboratyth every artycle clause & sentence yn the sayd wrcetyng made to the sayd Sr Pyers

& his heirs according to the trew meanyng & Intent thereof afore expressed for ever more. And Ferder the sayd John Wyse by thys present Indenture bargenyth gevith covenantith & grauntith to & with the said Sr Richard Eggecomb that he the sayd Sr Richard his heirs and assignes shall have hold occupy & ingoye the sayd Mills Cawse Were ffrythys brydges ways pooles and all other Comodytees by them made or to be made to there most proffytt comodytey & advauntage withoutt lett or interupcion of the sayd John Wyse or of his heirs for ever."

A lease of Peter Edgcomb, Esq., to John Robyns of Plympton in 1588 (30 Elizabeth) of premises north of the High Street, and south of the "Stronde of the Salte streame;" that is to say between the High Street and Stonehouse Lake, immediately above the present bridge, supplies us with interesting particulars of the more settled conditions of local government which the manorial constitution of the township had then assumed. Robyns agreed "to obaye pforme & fulfill all suche Rules & directions & orders as the said P[eter] E[dgcomb] & his heirs wth the consente & francke agrement of xij discrete & able psons of & wthin the said Towne and liberties either before this tyme have or shall at anye tyme or tymes hereafter agre on, & sett downe for the Weale good estate & government of the said Towne, & of the people wch for the tyme beinge shalbe resydent & abydinge wthin the same."

There are very few local place-names of this period extant that we are able clearly to identify. Wynrigg, Whyttor, and the hill near Horspool, have been mentioned. Wynrigg was unquestionably in part, if not altogether, what is now known as Battery Hill. To Whyttor there is no direct clue, but in all probability it is connected with the site long called Whitehall, possibly a corruption. The hill near Horspool must, I think, refer to some part of the ground on which the Royal Naval Hospital stands. We have, however, Northyll named in a grant in 1455 by James Durnford for life to William Durnford, bastard, of land that Janyn Carpenter held; and Southyll Street occurs in 1474. We get North Street in 1540, and two years later St. George Street.

East Stonehouse has been frequently named. The earlier documents mention Stonehouse only, without any distinctive epithet, and the first record I find of East Stonehouse is in 1369, under

the name of Esterestonhouse. At that date, therefore, there must not only have existed a West Stonehouse, but it must have grown so large as to make the need of distinction felt. Why the new village across the harbour should have been called Stonehouse at all, instead of Cremill, is open to speculation, but the fact may indicate its origin when the Stonehouse family were in possession; and it owed its existence no doubt to the ferry.

Almost the only historical allusion to West Stonehouse is found in Carew's *Survey*, where it is said:

"Certain old ruines yet remaining, confirme the neighbours report that neere the waters side, there stood once a towne, called *West stone house* until the French by fire and sword overthrew it."¹

Several references to West Stonehouse are found in the Edgcombe muniments. Thus in 1494 (9 Henry VII.) we have the final concord and agreement in which Peter Eggecomb and Joan his wife were deforciantes, and which refers, *inter alia*, to the manor of East Stonehouse, a moiety of the manor of West Stonehouse, and "a passage beyond the water of Thamer called Cremel Passage between West Stonehouse and East Stonehouse." In 1545 both West Stonehouse and Cremyll are named as manors in the county of Devon. It was in this year that the Royal license was granted to enclose and empark lands and premises in West Stonehouse and Cremel (with free warren and several fishery in West and Est Stonehouse, county of Devon, and Cuttele, county of Cornwall) which led in a short time to the building of Mount Edgcombe House.

The variation of names noticeable from time to time in dealing with these properties is very curious. Stonehouse itself only turns into East Stonehouse; but the original Macretone and Crimel develop into West Stonehouse, Cremil parish of Maker, Maker otherwise Makers within the parish of Maker otherwise St. Julyans, East Maker, West Maker, Mount Edgcombe, and the manor of Mount Edgcombe alias West Stonehouse. Mount Edgcombe, of course, took name from the fact and date of the erection of the mansion house there by Sir Piers Edgcombe *circa* 1553; and there was, and still partially is, an old name connecting it with the Valletort lords, as the tithing of Vawtersham, or Vaultershome.

¹ Folio 101a.

The early relations between Stonehouse and its important neighbour, Plymouth, seem to have been on the whole friendly.

"Jamys Durneford, late of Estonhouse, squyer," left a legacy of £20, which is recorded in 1480 as having been applied towards making the "southe Ilde" of St. Andrew Church.

A very interesting entry, the earliest of the kind, in 1494-5, shows the good feeling between the town of Plymouth and the Edgecumbe family, soon after they succeeded to the Durnford property, which then included in Plymouth itself the now extinct and forgotten manor of Sutton Radelyffe.

"Coste done to mast^r Eggscomb by advys of m^r mayr m^r Record the xij & the xxiiij when he was made knygt and shyryff.

"ffirst for ij Sug ^r loffe weyeng xli qrtr iiijli qrtr y ^e of at xviij ^d and y ^e vjli at ij v ^d sm ^a	iijs xi ^d
"It ij botells of Redde wyne pee	ix ^d
"It a potell of Malmsey	viii ^d
"It a Galon of Claret wyne & bayne wyne	viii ^d
"It a botell of bastard	v ^d
"Ib do dos of pownegarnarde a pownde sedo & a dos do of Orenge."	viiij ^d

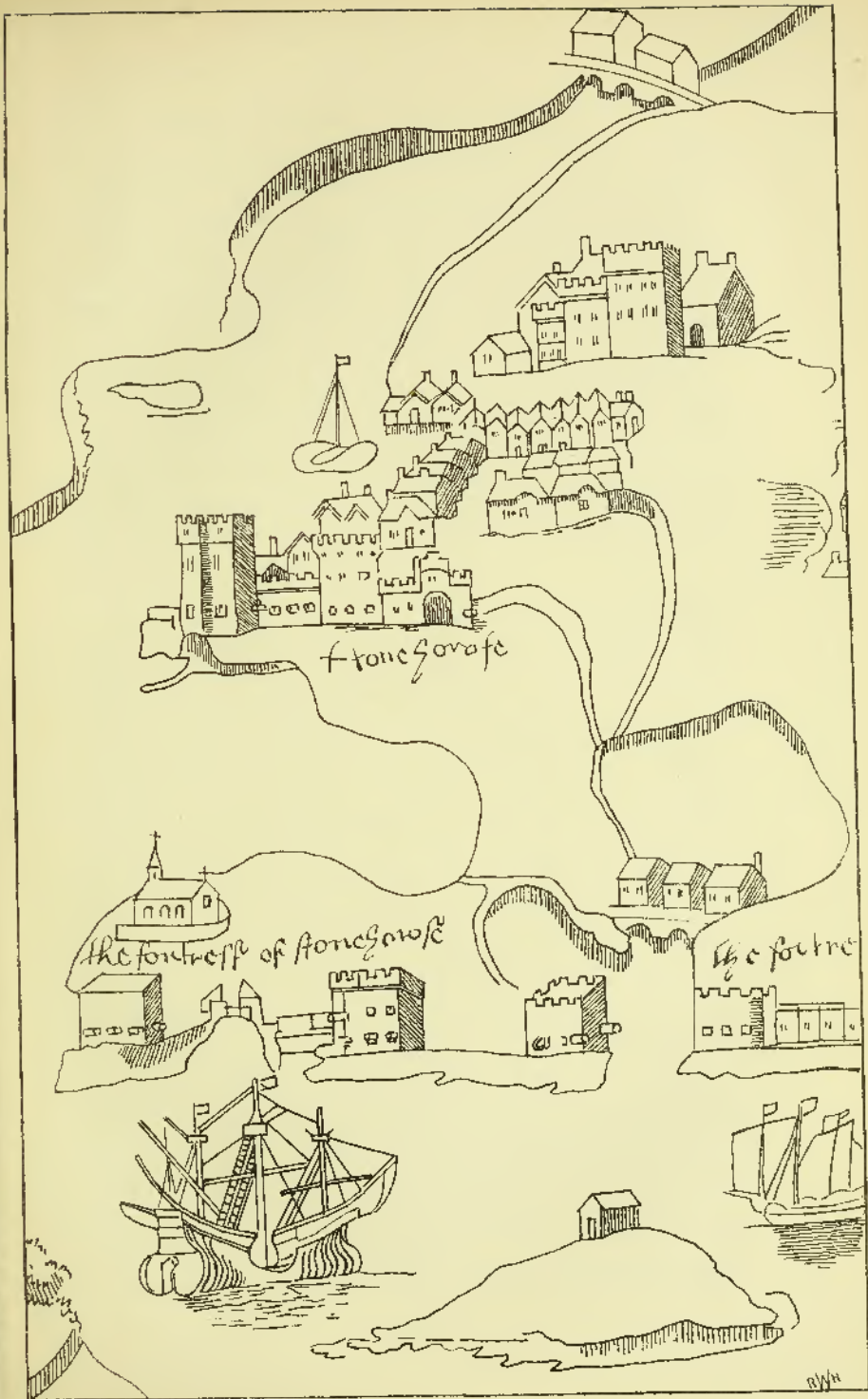
And so I may quote as illustrative samples of good fellowship between the towns the following :

"1512-13. Itm for a barell of ale & for bredde to make the men of Stonehouse to drynke when they were here at mavster	iiij ^d
"1530-31. It p ^d for Sr pyrse Eggecombs dynn ^r when he had Communycacion with master mayre & his Councell of o ^r libertye of o ^r water of soure pole mylls	x ^s
"1545-6. Itm pd for drynke on maye daye for the men of stonehouse	iijs iiij ^d

Forty years later there are less satisfactory entries. For example :

"1587-8. Itm for Conveyinge to Stonehouse of the dombe man that was made to speake."	ij ^d
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If this stood alone it might be imagined that the dumb man had been forwarded as a curiosity ; but unfortunately there are too many entries of regues and vagabonds being sent in the same



direction. Still it is pleasant to find that the discharge of moral rubbish did not altogether sever friendly ties. There are subsequent entries of not only drink but wine being given to the "Stonehousemen" on May-day. The town was also made the scene of occasional feasting. Thus when, in 1602, a dispute between Plymouth and Saltash was brought to a close, the mayors of the two boroughs dined together at Stonehouse, as neutral ground, at a cost of 26s. It was at Stonehouse that the commissioners of Devon and Cornwall sat in 1643, when they tried to patch up a peace between the two counties, while the rest of the kingdom fought it out. Stonehouse is said to have followed its owner in its Royalist proclivities during the civil war; but it was included within the defence and authority of Plymouth, and if the Churchwardens' accounts are any guide, Puritan feeling must have been predominant there also.

Valuable information on the extent and character of Stonehouse in the early part of the sixteenth century is afforded by the sketch bird's-eye map of the Cornish and Devon coasts in the British Museum, reproduced in sections by the Lysons, and a *fac-simile* of the local portion of which is appended. Stonehouse is there shown as a small town, somewhat bigger than Saltash, but barely a fifth the size of Plymouth. The quay is indicated near the present bridge, practically on the site of the present quay, with houses fronting on the water. High or Fore Street can be made out, and what is now Chapel Street. The most distinctive features of the town are, however, two large embattled buildings—one on the north of High Street, and the other next the water on the site occupied by Whitehall and Stonehall, and stretching some distance inland. The latter building has a high tower next the water, is fortified, and has a gatehouse. This is the old residence of the Durnfords, occupied as such by the Edgumbes until the erection of Mount Edgumbe. It was a structure of much pretensions, the most important in the locality, and in part of considerable age, dating no doubt originally to the occupation of the Stonehouses, though unquestionably improved by the Durnfords, and mainly their work. The embattled outer wall of the enclosure of this manor-house still in part remains on the south of St. George Churchyard.

The other building seems of later character, and less distinctly

defensive. Here too a massive square block forms the leading feature; but the impression given is rather that of an ecclesiastical edifice. It continued in existence up to about the middle of the last century, when it was known as the "abbey." It was removed when the Royal Naval Hospital was built, as it stood upon part of the western site of that establishment. The main building formed three sides of a quadrangle, and a gateway crossed the road on the south at its centre.¹ A large and well-planted garden adjoined, and what appears to be a remnant of the garden wall bounds the garden now occupied by Dr. Payne on the north.

There seems no trace of any ownership by the Priory of Plympton of lands in East Stonehouse, nor of the presence of any conventual establishment there, save the existence of this so-called "abbey." Plympton Priory had lands at Cremill, for in 1522 (14 Henry VIII.) there was a demise by John Ryle, Prior, and the Convent of Plympton to Sir Peter Eggecombe and his wife, of premises in Cremell within the parish of Maker; and in 1545 John Pope was licensed to alien lands in Cremil parish of Maker, late parcel of lands of Plympton Priory, to Peter Edgecombe. Sundry lands which had been ecclesiastical at Plymouth—"the hermitage of our Lady at Quarrywell"—once belonging to Plympton Priory; lands part of Jaybean's Chantry, lands of the Grey Friars, and other lands "dedicated to superstitious uses" in Plymouth, granted to Edmund Grimston, father and son, were eventually acquired by Sir Peter Edgecombe; but none of these can be connected with Stonehouse. It does not seem unlikely, however, that the "abbey" belonged to the Cistercians of Buckland, whom tradition reports to have had an establishment in Plymouth or its vicinity.

There is no church visible in the map in the town itself, but one is shown on the high land of Devil's Point, on ground since cut away for the Victualling Office. It is a little structure of distinctive character, quite unlike the other churches drawn—simply a nave and chancel, with a spired bell-turret at the west end, and standing in an enclosure. With the exception that the latter has a transept of Perpendicular date, this fabric corresponds very closely to the drawing of the church of St. Lawrence by Payne, reproduced by Mr. Brooking Rowe in his *Ecclesiastical History of Old Plymouth*.

¹ This gateway, and that of the manor-house, at the head of Chapel Street, were, I take it, the "barrier gates" recorded as removed in 1770; for Stonehouse was never walled.

That there was a chapel of St. Lawrence at Stonehouse is evident from a license granted in 1472 to Magister Johannes Stubbes, perpetual vicar of the parish of Plympton, to depute a priest to celebrate divine service in "*capella sancta laurencij apud Stonehowsse*," within the said parish of Plympton, without prejudice to the rights of the mother church. But as we shall see, there was a chapel of St. George at least in 1497, and I take it that this was the one replaced by the present hideous structure in 1789. When did the chapel of St. Lawrence disappear? It corresponded very closely in position as regarded Stonehouse to the chapel of St. Katherine on the Hoe, to Plymouth; and may have originated as a place to offer prayer for preservation from the perils of the dangerous ferry: for very dangerous Cremill Passage appears to have been regarded throughout the Middle Ages. And no doubt the transit was often attended with considerable risk, having regard to the strong set of the tide, the exposure to wind, and the frail character of the boats. That a chapel should be erected at such a place is just what we might anticipate from mediæval piety; and since the ferry as an accustomed passage certainly dates back to the thirteenth century, the chapel may have been originally the work of the Valletorts, and in all likelihood was.

The earliest reference to the establishment of religious worship at Stonehouse with which I am acquainted is, however, a license granted to Stephen Durnford and Radegund his wife, for their mansion of East Stonehouse in the parish of Plymouth, September 28th, 1414.

It is quite possible that this may have led to the erection of the chapel of St. George, hard by their residence; but however that may be, we find certain property which had been granted by the feoffees of James Durnford the elder (James Durnford the younger, William Carver of London, John Tanton, parson of the church of Rame, and William Derneford) in 1474 (13 Edward IV.) to John Bastard, made the subject of a grant, December 24, 1497, in favour of John Melett and Lawrence Serle, chapel wardens—"custod capell sci georgii martii de Est Stonhous"—for the use of the same chapel.¹ This shows that the chapel of St. George

¹ It was a garden in 'Southyll streteyshynde,' or the end of Southhill Street: Wynrech Down south, Calisparke east, king's highway west, tenement of Margareta Willyam north. Tenements of John Crokker and John Morser, subsequently Harman's and Seynteler's, are also mentioned as boundaries.

then existed, and that it had a quasi parochial status. St. Lawrence was so inconvenient for the bulk of the residents, that it may have been abandoned for St. George.

So far as I am aware this is the first time that contemporary evidence has been cited of the existence of two chapels at Stonehouse in the fifteenth century—St. Lawrence and St. George. It has been suggested that there was but one edifice, bearing the double name or dedication; but this hypothesis I think cannot be sustained. The map is certainly very good proof of the existence of a chapel at the Passage; but while the conditions under which the predecessor of St. George was removed in 1789 to give place to the present structure are fully known, it must be admitted we are wholly without information as to the disappearance of St. Lawrence. It is not to be identified in Northcote's view of the Long Room in 1769, though there is a building shown very near its site.

However, there is secondary collateral evidence which is worth consideration. The "Ruins" at Mount Edgecumbe, and the alcove at Picklecombe, contain fragments of mullions, tracery, doorways, and other details from Gothic buildings, which are usually assigned to ancient edifices at Stonehouse, and I believe correctly. Still it is not absolutely certain that this was their sole origin. Lord Mount Edgecumbe has kindly informed me that the field west of the avenue at Mount Edgecumbe is called Chapel Meadow, which seems to indicate the former existence of an ecclesiastical edifice there (and the fact that Plympton Priory had property at Cremill will be borne in mind), possibly in the first place connected with the ferry, and subsequently used by the dwellers in West Stonehouse. The old barn at Barnpool was also of Tudor character. Both these buildings, therefore, might have contributed to the collection of fragments.

There is, however, no tradition on record to this effect; and a examination of the remains points clearly in the other direction. Both at the "Ruins" and at Picklecombe I find distinct evidence of the demolition of two buildings, the one Early English, thirteenth-century, and the other Perpendicular, and in part late. The chief remains (and they only have any architectural interest) are Early English, cut in Roborough Down stone. The Perpendicular work is in granite, possibly from two localities. At the "Ruins" are deeply moulded jambs, window heads, cinquefoil and other, with mullions and quoins, of Roborough stone; and at

Picklecombe an elegant little piscina, in the same material, with bases, &c. The Perpendicular work at the "Ruins" consists of fragments of granite windows, with doorways, and a crocketted finial; while at Picklecombe the arch of the alcove is of the same date and material. The portions of the two buildings have been mixed up in a very odd way, parts of windows, moreover, being worked into doors, and those of doors into windows; while at Picklecombe the whole work was supplemented when the alcove was built, in Portland stone.

Now the Perpendicular remains seem too considerable in their way (knowing what we do of the old chapel of St. George, as set forth hereafter) to allow of the Early English having formed part of the same edifice. On the other hand the Early English are quite sufficient in themselves to account for such a fabric as that of St. Lawrence must have been, without the granite. Moreover, what we know of Stonehouse in the thirteenth century and well on into the fourteenth, forbids the idea that such an edifice as the Roborough stone fragments indicate would have been wanted for the inhabitants; while in the fifteenth century the need of such a place of worship as that to which the granite dressings belonged was undoubtedly pressing.

My belief, therefore, is that we have in the Park remains of both buildings. That Roborough stone was used for dressings in the locality generally, early in the thirteenth and on into the fourteenth century we have proof in the Transitional Norman arch in our Museum, no doubt part of the original St. Andrew Church; in the earlier dressings of the Friary, and in the little desecrated chapel of St. Anne at Hooe. It was never to my knowledge, however, used in our Perpendicular work—even when that replaced other buildings—granite being employed in its stead.

This brings us to the oldest public record of the community of East Stonehouse, an ancient Churchwardens' Book, commencing in 1594, and continuing with intervals down to the year 1779. The original intention was clearly to make this volume a record of all the public acts of the parish, and it was begun in a very methodical and careful fashion. Irregularities soon, however, crept in; entries were made casually as occasion served, and they are anything but complete. Moreover, the earlier pages are very decayed and fragmentary. Still the volume is of considerable historical value.

That it was intended to be a great deal more than a churchwardens' record, is evident from the title, "The booke of accom[ptes of the] towne of Eas[t stonehouse]."

The first entry is that of Robart Brockedon and Andrew Leate as wardens; and then follow in successive years James Barnes and William [ffric]; John Warren; George Moyle; John Dawe and Roger ffayrewether; John Warryn and John Lawry; Roger ffayrewether; Richard Spurrell and Edward Evaire (?); [Sidrak] jorie; . . . and Mr. Brocadon; . . . and William ffry; [G]eles Jest. To neither of these entries does any date now remain; but there seems no reason to doubt the endorsement of a later hand that the book commenced in 1594—in fact that date occurs—and that those persons were chapel-wardens in the closing years of the sixteenth and opening of the seventeenth century.

Associated with these are a few suggestive entries of a business character.

"It is agreed that the wardens shall pass their accompt yearly upon Saint James twenty shillings to the use of . . . "—evidently a penalty for non performance.

Under 1602 are the words "John Trevill Elected"—with subsequently a scratched-out account of John Trevill for "playes and other pfitts;" while in the same year (1602) we have "John Warren oweth to . . . his play."

An entry of which the date is gone sets forth that on the 18th November, Joseph Hallet and Petter . . . ett, "collectors for the water," had passed their accounts, and paid over to John Lawry, "Deput warden [for] James Barnes, deccased, 24s. 6d.," sundry allowances making the total 26s. 3d. The date is probably 1606, since elsewhere we find Lawry mentioned in that year as deputy for Barnes, and accounting for £3 1s. quarter pence; the quarter pence of the previous year (Richard Spurrell and Roger ffearwether) being £3 8s. Both Lawry and Rodger farewether are named as acting in 1607, and in this year there are notes of payments made on the church, for nursing the sick, and to "maydes at whitsonday!" whatever that may mean.

In the next dated entry—1612—ffearwether pays for two years rent of the chapel green, apparently 32s., and is acquitted in the book after a fashion which subsequently became usual, by the signatures of "Alex Ferrel, sidrake Jory, John . . . , Richard Browne, J. Hingston (who marks), Wm. By . . ."

The next entry is of peculiar interest, as showing the connection between the parish and the manor: "1613 Att a lawe court holden at Stonchowe, the [eighth] Aprile 1613, Sidrak Joary is chosen warden of . . . foresaid and at the same court Rodger ffeareweather hallet is chosen collectors for the Poore the Parker and John Deye is appoynted collectors the bringing home of the watter for [This is attested by the signatures of] alex Ferrel, Rodg . . . , John Hingston, John Challons, Philip . . . , Sidrake Joary, Thomas Hawker, Joseph Hallet [who marks with an H] . . ."

The only entry of definite payment on account of the water is in 1620, when Joseph Hallet and huchins report a receipt of 39s., of which part was from Lawry for the chapel green, and 28s. had been "gathered of the town." They had disbursed 32s. "to Mr. Beyle and William for bringing home the watter." It may be added that this was done under a special Act of Parliament obtained by Stonehouse for the purpose in 1593, in virtue of which the Stonehouse waterworks still exist, and portions of the original leat.

Other wardens named are :—1614, John Hingston; 1616, . . . Huchins; 1617, J. Hallet; 1618, James Phillips; 1719, Edward Jeffry; 1620, Francis Roe; undated—John Masters, whose account is the first perfect one; 1625, Richard Roe and Richard Spurrell; 1626, John Masters, in whose year great sickness is recorded; 1627, Richard Spurwell; 1628, Francis Roe; 1629, . . . Lawry; 1636, Robert Crees; undated, John ffearewether; 1639, George Ogle, who acknowledges money towards "the repayration of the chapell," which thus dates the enlargement of the fabric, hereafter noted as the "new chapel;" 1640, Roger Toope; 1641, Elize Randle—here the new chapel is first named as such. Randle is also warden in 1642, in which year £7 19s. 10d. are spent on the poor, partly collected, and partly taken out of the box and gathered on fast-days. Lawry follows, and then a warden whose name is lost; after which there is no entry until 1652.

During the Commonwealth the record is kept with exceptional regularity :—1652, Robert Cane, warden, John Gefferye, assistant. There is a curious touch of Puritanism in the entry—"Tho: Gefferye for ringine the Bell or rather towards his necessitie a shirt." 1653, Richard Tapson, chosen by the "Church of Plymouth," but of a Stonehouse family. 1654, John Adams,

chosen by the "Church of Plymouth;" he allotted 33 seats at payments varying from 6d. to 8s. 1656, John Gefferye and Thomas Conter "chosen wardens of the chapple;" a new bell turret and bell put up, the "pannon end" being plucked down to the window, and the bell cast at Exeter. 1656, William Matthew; 1657, Jacob Whiddon, "by the church of Plymouth for the chapel of Stonehouse." 1658, Richard Tapson, continuing on apparently until 1669. 1669-72, William Matthews. The next entry of appointment is in 1697. John Earle is then chosen chapel warden by the town, and continues in office until 1701, when he appoints Richard Crestopher and Reuben Dier his successors, handing to them one surplice, one silver chalice and cover, two pewter flagons, one plate, and a table cloth and napkins. The flagons and plate had been bought in 1697 for 8s. 6d. "Payd Mr. Pile the gooldsmith for a hole with a civer to itt of sillver 03—03—0." This, of course, was the chalice. In 1700 William Benett was constable, and James Axford overseer.

There is a memorandum of a long-forgotten charity. "Memo. that in 1631 Mr. Thomas Brockenton of Eastonhowse, merchant, left £ . . 3s. 6d. for the maintenance of the poor there, a band to be given for it by William Tapston, Richard Spurrell, [Robert] Merring, Edward Phillp, George Coffin, George Ongle, the interest to the poor." It is not certain what the amount is, as the end of the line before the figure 3 is gone; but accounts of the charity from 1639 to 1647, by Robert Merring, put the capital at £49, given by Thomas Brockenton and Mr. Edward Mann; the interest with one exception being £4. One item of expenditure is "making up the wall of the almshouse," but most of the money went in food and clothing and placing children out. After 1647 there is no mention of this fund.

A list of subscribers to the bell turret, put up with a new bell in 1655, at a cost of £26 19s. 9d., is worth quoting for the personal information given: "Daniell fish, 2s.; Hugh Hingsone, 5s.; Rd. ffoot, 3s.; Wm. Reth, 2s.; Jn. Martine, 2s.; James Leane, 2s.; Jn. Kitt, 2s.; Rt. Downman, 2s. 6d.; Cathern Birch, 6d.; Elias Randle, 1s.; Wm. Hunking, 5s.; Anthony Southard, 1s.; Edward Brooking, 1s.; Peter Addams, 4s.; Anthony Merrifield, 2s.; James Merrifield, 1s.; Eliza Wyat, 1s.; Kath. Cronton, 5s.; Mr. Rowes, £1; Capt. John Jefferye, £1; Dr. John Rombelow, £1; Jn. Lawrie, £1; John Gefferye, £1; Rt. Cave, £1; Wm.

Matthewes, £1; Rt. Merring, £2; Jacob Whiddon, 10s; Thos. Gefferye, 5s.; Rt. Cooper, 5s.; Gregory Bodie, 5s.; Jn. Clowter, 3s.; Rt. Kitt, 6d.; Jn. Sterman, 1s.; Eliza fairweather, 1s.; John Jenking, 1s.; Arthur Dawes, 2s. 6d.; Oliver Rogers, 1s.; James Seuckey (?), 5s.; (the amounts given by the remainder are worn away) Wm. Hawkings, John Lang, Thos. Halye, Nath. Coadd, Walter Stockman, Rt. Prout, J. Robens, Martyn Sonders, Js. Steevens, Jn. Chafe, Rd. Hex, Greg. Hooper, J. Marij (?), Alex. Ogle, Eliza Edgecomb, Eliza fforde, Rd. Daw, Margt. Herring, Markes Hunken, Rt. Hooper, Rd. Dunridge, Jorden Sprye, Jn. Tooker, Js. Peares, Js. Steevens, Joan Hooper, Mr. Vaughan, Adrian Anthony, Ben. Brocken, Jn. Steevens, Thomas Steevens. Rabish Stone and mother, Edward Browne, Jane Mangles, Joan Richards, Thos. Pitcher, Wm. Liscomb, John Masters, Edward Canter, Thos. Canter, Roger Kitt, George Orchard, Richard Tapsan (?), Edward Philp (?), Nicholas Langworthy (?).

Several of these names also occur in connection with the contemporary history of Plymouth, and the list as a whole clearly shows that however Royalist Stonehouse may at one time have been, it was by this date decidedly Puritan. I am inclined much to doubt, however, whether the strength of the Royalist element in Stonehouse has not been exaggerated.

The first ministers mentioned in the book are in 1656, when "Mr. Cortney, the minister," had £2 10s.; and "Mr. Code, the minister," £6. Ten shillings was spent on a journey to Brent to fetch £9 under a composition from Mr. Jellinger, minister of that place. He was at one time connected with Stonehouse, for his seat is mentioned. A Mr. Walmsley is said to have been minister in 1662, and to have conformed; but he is not named here. In 1701 Edmund Venning signs as "minister," and in the following year as "curate." Then we have—1711, "Peter Bollinger, minister;" 1712, "John Harris, minister;" 1715, "Red of Canon Gilbert out of his tithe for Mr. Hunt teaching nine Sundays at the Chapell £1 2s. 6d." Hunt was paid a half quarter's salary £3 15s., and £1 2s. 6d. for two Sundays more, March 28, 1716. Mr. Smart had £2 10s. April 21, 1715, so that he seems to have preceded Hunt. Next we have—1724-5, "George Williams, curate;" 1731-2, Mr. Stephens, minister, a quarter; 1732, Mr. Alcock, four quarters; 1733-35, Mr. Bedford, twelve quarters to Christmas, 1735. October 23, 1740, to March 25, 1751, Mr. Josias

Foot signs receipts as minister; July 14, 1751, to Jan. 24, 1752, Mr. John Baker. In April 11, 1752, Mr. Henry Lemoyne signs his first receipt as curate, and continues to give receipts down to December 2, 1772, when he signs, "Henry Lemoyne, minister." He continues curate, however, throughout the rest of the book. From April 24, 1732, to April 11, 1753, Nicholas Mansfield was warden, and paid the salaries of the clergyman.

The earliest definite ministerial salary mentioned is that of £30, at which Mr. Hunt was paid in 1715-16. We have the income for the two years ending April, 1715, set forth as follows: Rd. Eavins and Wm. Earle being wardens—seats (that is for their allotment), 5s. 6d.; first year's subscription, £18 17s.; second, £16 19s. 6d. Tithes—Mr. Davis, $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, £1 17s. 6d.; Mr. Delacomb, ditto for Colin's field, £1 5s.; Mr. Morrough, ditto for "Crimell pashig," £2; John Andrew, 2 years for "Mr. Wilyford ground," £3; John Andrew, $1\frac{1}{2}$ years for Mr. Master's ground; Mr. Delacomb, $2\frac{1}{2}$ years for his ground, 13s. 4d.; Mr. Jefford, ditto for his ground, 15s.; 2 years from Matthew Meddon, 12s.; Wm. Earle for his ground, £1. For breaking the ground—*i.e.* burials, £3; Reuben Dyer, £1 17s. 8d. "mencendunt book," ditto £1 5s. for $2\frac{1}{2}$ year's tithes; ditto half year's subscription, 10s. Total, £57 2s. 10d.

In 1717 the "small tithes due yearly to the minister" are set forth as follows: Mr. Kirkeet, Matthew's meadow, 6s.; Widow Willyford, Martin's ground, £1; Mr. Jefford, ground behind his house, 10s.; "ditto for y^e pool park and y^e hill," £1; Earle, 8s.; Dyer, 20s.; Mrs. Morrough for Collins field, 10s.; Mrs. Davis, 15s.; Mrs. Susan De Laconib for Tapson's ground, 13s. 4d.; Mrs. Morrough for passage-ground, 16s.; Mr. Jefford for mill field, 6s. Total, £6 16s. 4d.

The stipend was evidently fixed at £30 for some time. Mr. Alcock in 1732 signs for £7 10s. "for one quarter's subscription, tithes, and esqr Edgecombe's bounty;" but in the next year Mr. Bedford for £6 5s., exclusive of Mr. Edgecombe's bounty; and this continues the definite rate down to the date of Mr. Lemoyne's last entered receipt in December, 1772, the amount of the "Edgecombe bounty" not being stated. In 1724-5 Mr. Williams had the quarterly collections for the ministry—*i.e.* the subscriptions—given him quarterly, £4 11s. 5d. In 1713 there were 82 subscribers paying £18 17s., from 2s., up to 30s. for a "gallery."

No one matter occupies so much space in the book as the "setting of seats," which seems to have been the wardens' most important duty, and a matter of some revenue. Dr. Nichols and his wife paid 15s. in 1607; in 1624 there is the seating of "Mr. Rich Hall, Esq.;" in 1641 we find the name of the Plymouth merchant, Thomas Sherwill. In 1654 thirty-three seats were set, at prices varying from 6d. to 8s. each.

One remarkable feature of the book is that it gives no detail whatever of the joint occupation of the chapel by the Huguenot refugees of 1681-2 and the English inhabitants, which is stated to have led to much controversy until the former were provided with a special chapel of their own by the Edgecumbe family.¹ I am inclined to think that there must be some amount of exaggeration in the tradition. It is perfectly true that there is a long gap in the records between 1672 and 1697, and that the existing French registers begin in 1692; but it is equally clear that the recorded services at St. George must have been in English; and it is very remarkable that so few distinctly French names should occur in connection with the chapel. These are all I have been able to find: "John the Frenchman" is named in 1698. In 1702 Mrs. Mounier pays 6s. 8d. for erecting a tombstone in the chapel-yard. 1713—Joan Delacomb, S. Louson. In 1756-7, among the seat-holders, occur the names of Delacomb and Gilliard. 1772, among the seat-holders are the names of Guillard, Delacomb, Gruzelier, and widow Fouraille. To these we may possibly add that of Jefford. The names of Peter Bellingier and Henry Lemoyne as ministers, though French, can hardly be reckoned in this connection.

We can gather from this volume several particulars regarding the old chapel removed in 1789 to give place to the present edifice. The building stood in a yard planted with trees, and was enclosed by a wall wherein were stiles, which had to be mended to keep the hogs out. It originally consisted of chancel, nave, and western bell-turret. There was a screen between the nave and chancel, which may be held to give colour to the suggestion that it was of Perpendicular date. About 1640 it was enlarged by the addition of a south transept, in which was the "lord's seat," next

¹ *Vide* "Parish and Vicars of St. Andrew, Plymouth." J. BROOKING ROWE, F.S.A., F.L.S. *Trans. Plym. Inst.* v. 89.

the nave. There were also eventually a west gallery, and two private side galleries; and the chapel could not have held more than 250 to 300 people at its utmost capacity. It does not say much for the congregation that in 1756, "twelve sacraments" are stated to cost "3s. 1d. each."

We pass to the secular antiquities, which are the most important relics of the past the township has to show.

Standing on the southern face of the headland next the Sound, three buildings are shown in the old map, apparently drawn as square structures, armed with cannon, and collectively called "the fortress of Stonehouse." One is placed at what is now called Eastern King; another at Devil's Point, and the third nearly midway, where there was once a little cove used as a landing place. Naturally the existing castle at Devil's Point; the tower used as a policeman's residence near the Winter Villa; and the remains at Eastern King, are at once suggested. There can be no doubt that the ruins at the latter point are part of one of these structures; and as little that the other two fall into the same category. Here, therefore, we have the "antiquities of Stonehouse." It is quite true that the Eastern King fort was really square, and that the Devil's Point tower is not; but we can hardly expect minute accuracy on all details. What is more to the point is that there is apparently an attempt to indicate an octagonal plan for the central building; and that this structure is embrasured, while the Devil's Point tower is plain—a very notable distinction which exists between the present towers.

Any one who examines the Devil's Point and Winter Villa buildings can see that they are erected of precisely the same materials, and in the same style. The walls are of limestone in both, and the dressings of granite. The portholes are formed on one plan, of practically the same dimensions: and the entrance doorway is of the same character in each. They are clearly designed by the same head, and carried out by the same hands; and if their identification with the structures in the map is correct, instead of dating from the time of Elizabeth, as commonly suggested for the tower at the Point, they belong to the reign of Henry VIII., and are among the "blokehouses, castles, and platforms" he erected "upon divers frontiers of the Realme," guarding, in the two years 1537-39, every exposed spot along the coast by an

earthwork, or a fort, or blockhouse; while larger works such as the castles at Pendennis and St. Mawes were completed a little later. Pendennis is not shown on the continuation of this map, and St. Mawes noted as half made. This would give the date of the drawing about 1542. It certainly was before 1553, for there is no note of the house at Mount Edgcumbe.

The builder of Pendennis and St. Mawes, and other local defences of this period, was Mr. Treffrye, of Fowey; and the Plymouth records show that there was considerable expenditure on the bulwarks of the town and on their armament at this same time. The walls of a corresponding building of the period were preserved by being worked into the sea-face of the Citadel outworks.

The Eastern King structure may be even older. Bulwarks along the water's edge were erected for the defence of Plymouth by the townsfolk at as early a date as we have any detailed record—the early years of the fifteenth century. The remains here show that the rock was cut away to form an internal platform, a ridge being left where the foundation of the wall came, whilst on the outside the reef was stepped. The entrance was on the west, through a doorway some four feet in width—one of the holes in which the bar was placed to secure the door remains. Immediately on the north of the doorway was the fireplace with its chimney—the latter being 2 feet 2 inches by 1 foot 9 inches. The opening of the fireplace is now three feet in width, and its height 8 feet 6 inches. So far as can be made out, the lower chamber was about 29 feet from east to west, and 22 feet from north to south. In the northern wall an arched opening, three feet wide, led to a flight of steps by which the upper platform of the tower was reached. A fragment of the vaulting here still remains. There are thirteen steps in the thickness of the wall, each 2 feet 6 inches broad, 10 inches deep, and 10 inches tread. This northern wall was built to a large extent against the country, and a capacious vault was excavated in the hill, and entered by an opening at the foot of the steps, which is now walled up. The opening into this vault was 4 feet 8 inches wide by 6 feet 8 inches high. There was a much smaller vault under the steps; but the opening—4 feet by 3 feet—is also walled up. The width of the walls varies considerably, from 5 feet 6 inches to 3 feet 9 inches. Limestone only is now to be seen in the building; and the rock platform was covered by

a floor of rough concrete. The granite doorway was removed about a quarter of a century since by a marine named Morris, under the direction of Captain Wright, R.M., to the gun-drill battery at Long Room, where it still remains.

The tower at the Winter Villa is septangular, of very irregular plan. The two longer sides, the northern and the western, are at right angles; and the three seaward, or southern faces, are octangular in outline, or what would be octangular if the structure were symmetrical to correspond. Since the tower was built, the ground in the rear and on the west has been raised several feet. It is plain, not only from the old map, but from the nature of the locality, that there was a little creek landing-place on the west, which the building was evidently intended to some extent to protect.

The walls of the tower are of limestone, the dressings of granite, as in that at Devil's Point; but there is a kind of string course of slate immediately beneath the battlements. There are two floors, and the original entrance was through a massive granite doorway, deeply splayed, at the ground level, on the north. The modern entrance is by a recent doorway in the upper portion of the tower, on the existing ground level. The foundations are laid on the natural rock of the low cliff, which has been partially cut away for the purpose. The low battlements contain both embrasures and loops, the latter being composed of two pieces of granite, worked on the inner edges to give a round aperture.

Taking the seven faces in succession, sunways, we have:—1. The northern or landward face, containing the original door; two splayed and blocked square loops in the upper floor westward; and having three embrasures above with two loops alternating. 2. The north-eastern face, the narrowest of the series, containing the modern door, and the battlement having one embrasure and one loop. 3. The eastern face, containing one small square opening with granite dressings in the upper floor, a drain as if from an old garderobe, and having in its battlement one embrasure and one loop. 4. The south-eastern face, having one port-hole in the basement, with rebated dressings and holes for the hinges of the shutters, as in the tower at Devil's Point; in the upper floor a square opening as in No. 3; and above two embrasures. 5. The southern face, with a similar porthole in the basement, but a modern window in the upper floor replacing the old square

opening, and with one embrasure over. 6. The south-western face, exactly like No. 5, in original character and present condition, except that the battlement has two embrasures instead of one. 7. The western face, with no opening except a loop at the southern corner of the upper floor, and with two embrasures and two loops in the battlement. It will be noted that the heavier ordnance were planted seaward, and that loopholes command the landward approaches.

The tower at Devil's Point is octagonal, but very irregular. The longest side, that next the land on the east, in which the doorway is placed, is fifteen feet in length; the opposite side thirteen. On the north there are three faces—one thirteen feet, and two of six feet each. On the south there are also three faces—two of eight feet and the middle one seven. The walls batter somewhat. There are two portholes, paired, in each of two seaward faces, west and southerly. They are formed with granite dressings, divided by a granite block, each being 2 ft. 4 in. by 1 ft. 9 in., and the blocks being rebated $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches for shutters. The central block is 1 ft. 9 in. in width. The doorway is also formed with granite dressings, and has a low-pointed arch, the head of which is six feet from the top of the wall. The structure originally consisted of one chamber, with vaulted roof, and its purpose was evidently to guard the passage into the Hamoaze, and not to afford quarters for anything like a garrison.

So late as the early part of the last century Stonehouse appears to have consisted of only four streets, which met at the quay. These were Passage, now Newport Street, Chapel Street, a narrow street which has been widened into Edgcombe Street, and High Street. The ferry from Dock ran nearly at right angles to the present bridge into Passage Street, where there was a break in the line of buildings next the water at the landing-place. The whole town did not consist of 150 houses; but this was, of course, before it had been selected as the site of any government establishments. The first of these to be erected was the Royal Naval Hospital, in 1762, followed by the Marine Barracks, in 1795, and the Victualling Office, in 1825.

There are several points in the more recent history of Stonehouse that invite attention; but this paper deals only with its early times. Otherwise we might enlarge upon its interesting

Huguenot associations ; or we might recall the days when for a while the town assumed the character of a fashionable watering-place—when the Longroom was built, and the grounds about it laid out in gardens, walks, and bowling-greens, overlooking not only the Sound, but what was then the quiet tree-girdled inlet of Millbay ; when the assemblies of the neighbourhood were held there, and “society,” drawn thither by these attractions, made the township its resort. But these are matters of comparatively modern experience, and we have been dealing with the “restitution of decayed intelligence concerning antiquity.”

APPENDIX.

The following extract from the *Edinburgh Magazine and Review* of June, 1776, is at once so scarce and interesting that it is here cited by way of appendix :

"An account of a Subterranean Cavern lately discovered at Stonehouse, near Plymouth.

"To the Right Honourable Lord Edgecumbe.

"My Lord,

"Plymouth Dock, March 1, 1776.

"I HAVE the honour of communicating to your Lordship an account, which I took on the spot, of a subterranean cavern, lately discovered in your Lordship's demesne at Stonehouse. The place, at a considerable extent round, as your Lordship well knows, belonged formerly to the Monks. Part of the wall that enclosed their garden is still to be seen [This is an error ; the wall is that of the house of the Durnfords]. The cavern was accidentally discovered by some miners in blowing up a contiguous rock of marble. The aperture, disclosed by the explosion, was about four feet in diameter, and looked not unlike a hole bored with an auger. It was covered with a broad flat stone, cemented with lime and sand ; and twelve feet above it, the ground seemed to have been made with rubbish brought thither, for what purpose I know not, unless it were for that of concealment. Here indeed, but here only, we saw some appearance of art, and vestige of masonry. The hill itself, at the northern side of which this vault was found, consists for the most part of lime-stone, or rather marble.

"From the mouth of this cave (through which we descended by a ladder) to the first base, or landing-place, is twenty-six feet. At this base is an opening, bearing N.W. by W., to which we have given the name of Tent Cave. It resembles a tent at its base and in its circumference, and stretches upwards, somewhat pyramidically, to an invisible point. It is, as far as we can measure, about ten feet high, seven broad, twenty-two long : Though there is an opening, which, on account of its narrowness, we could not well examine, and in all probability it has a dangerous flexure. In each side of this Tent Cave is a cleft ; the right runs horizontally inwards ten feet, the left measures six by four. The sides of the cave are everywhere deeply and uncouthly indented, and here and there strengthened with ribs, naturally formed, which, placed at a

due distance from each other, give some idea of fluted pillars in old churches.

"In a direct line from this cave to the opposite point is a road thirty feet long. The descent is steep and rugged, either from stones thrown into it from above, since the discovery, or from fragments that have fallen off at different times, from different places below. This road is very strongly but rudely arched over, and many holes on both sides are to be seen, but, being very narrow, do not admit of remote inspection or critical scrutiny. Having scrambled down this deep descent, we arrive at a natural arch of Gothic-like structure, which is four feet from side to side, and six feet high. Here some petrifications are seen depending. On the right of this arch is an opening like a funnel, into which a slender person might creep; on the left is another correspondent funnel, the course of which is oblique, and the end unknown.

"Beyond this Gothic pile is a large space, to which the arch is an entrance. This space or inner room, (for so we have termed it) is eleven feet long, ten broad, twenty-five high. Its sides have many large excavations, and here two columns, which seem to be a mass of petrifications, project considerably. On the surface of these pillars below, are seen some fantastic protuberances, and on the hanging roofs above, some crystal drops that have been petrified in their progress. Between those columns is a chasm capable of containing three or four men.

"Returning from this room, we perceived on the left an avenue thirty feet long, naturally floored with clay, and vaulted with stone. It bears S.S.W., and before we have crept through it, we see a passage of difficult access and dangerous investigation. It runs forward twenty-five feet, and opens over the vault thirty feet high near the largest well. Opposite to this passage are two caverns, both on the right hand. The first bears N.W. by W., and running forward in a straight line about twenty feet forms a curve that verges somewhat N.E. Here we walk and creep in a winding course from cell to cell till we are stopped by a well of water, the breadth and depth of which are as yet not fully known. This winding cavern is three feet wide, some parts five feet high, in some eight. Returning to the avenue we find, adjoining to this cavern, but separated by a large and massy partition of stone, the second cavern running west; and by descending down some small piles of lime-stone or rather broken rocks, the bottom here being shelvy slate, or more properly a combination of slate and lime-stone, we discover another well of water. This is the largest. The depth of it is in one place twenty-three feet, the width uncertain. Opposite to this well, on the left hand, by mounting over a small ridge of rocks covered with wet and slippery clay we enter a vault eight feet broad, eighteen long, thirty high. Here, towards the S.E., a road, not easy of ascent, runs upwards of seventy-two feet towards the surface of the earth, and so near to it that the

sound of the voice, or of a mallet within, might be distinctly heard without : In consequence of which, a very large opening has been made into it. At the bottom of this vault, in a place not readily observed, is another well of water, the depth of which, on account of its situation, cannot be well fathomed, nor the breadth of it ascertained.

“While the miners were exploring those gloomy and grotesque regions, they were alarmed at a murmuring sound that seemed to come from the hollows of the cave ; and one of them, who chanced to be near the largest well with a candle in his hand, saw at that instant the water rise about half a foot. This phenomenon then could not be explained. But now we think that the several wells are nearly on a level, and that the waters shape their course towards the sea, and mix with it in Mill Bay, at the distance of four hundred and twelve feet. It is not certain whether those wells, though they lie below the extremity of the limestone, have a mutual communication or not ; but it is highly probable, as the bottom of the largest well is clay, and its sides are shelvy slate, that there are springs ; and it is certain that this shelvy vein of slate, nearly of the same kind and colour with some seen at Mount Edgecumbe, on the opposite shore, is continued even to the sea, where two openings at low water have been found, through which it is probable the water of the great well discharges itself. When the tide rises, it is presumed that the pressure of the sea without retards the course of the water within ; and this may account for the rise and fall so manifest at different times of sounding : And the same circumstance is observed also in a well near the old French prison, in the environs of Plymouth.

“Each cavern has its arch ; each arch is strong, and in general curious. The way to the largest well is, in one part, roofed with solid and smooth stone, not unlike the arch of an oven. No one seemed to be affected by the damps till he came hither, and then the candles grew dim, and one of the investigators, as well as myself, felt unusual and uneasy sensations. However, since an opening has been made near the arch of the great wall [*sic*], and the air has had a much freer access, no such symptoms have been perceived. It is very likely that the hill itself is hollow ; some of the caverns have reciprocal communications ; but the clefts are often too narrow for accurate inspection or minute inquiry. The water here and there is still dripping, and incrustations, usual in such grottos, coat the surface of the walls in some places. There are some whimsical likenesses, which the pen need not describe, nor the pencil delineate. Mr. Cookworthy of Plymouth, a very ingenious man, and an excellent chymist, has been so obliging as to analyze the water of the three wells, and has found, by many experiments, that it is very soft, and fit for every purpose.

“I therefore beg leave to congratulate your Lordship on the discovery of this water, which, though there was no want before, cannot fail to be

a valuable acquisition to your town of Stonehouse; a place very delightful, and superior to most for the beauty of its prospects, and the elegance of its situation, and, what is still better, for the goodness of the air; as the longevity of the inhabitants sufficiently evinces.

"I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient and obliged humble servant,

"FRANCIS GEACH."

SOME POPULAR SONG WRITERS OF IRELAND.

SYLLABUS OF PAPER BY THE REV. J. ERSKINE RISK, M.A.

(Read 18th November, 1887.)

THE officer, Wood, and his *nom de plume*, "Lanner de Waltram;" "The Spalpeen," Milliken, Bennett, and Toleken; Ned Lysaght; Callánan; Father Prout; the Right Hon. Arthur Ogle. Dr. MacDonnell and his flight from Limerick. Change in later Irish songs, and the cause; Sir Samuel Ferguson; Clarence Morgan; Thomas Davis; Dr. Ingram. Irish new nationality. French estimate of Irish Ballads and Poetry.