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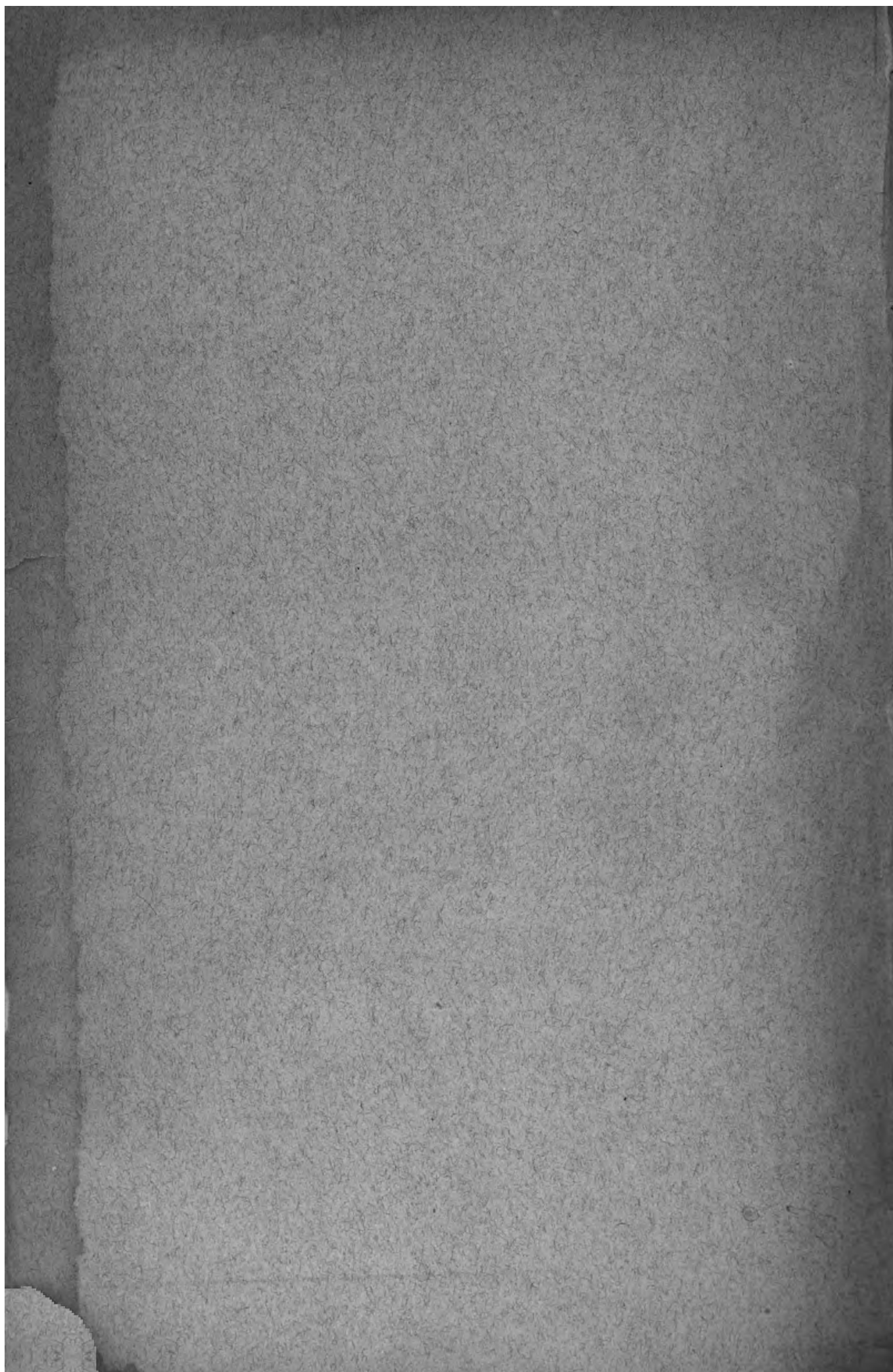
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Oxfordshire
Archæological Society.

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE NOTICES
OF THE
PARISH OF SOULDERN,
OXFORDSHIRE.

Banbury:

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY (*late the* NORTH OXFORDSHIRE),
BY JOHN POTTS, 51, PARSON'S STREET.

1887.

FOR THESE NOTICES OF THE PARISH OF SOUDERN THE
SOCIETY IS INDEBTED TO MR. AND MRS. GOUGH,
OF SOULDERN LODGE.

Chapter II.

EARLY HISTORY.

THE earliest notice to be found of this parish is in A.D. 778, when Offa, King of the Mercians, in his desire to carry the limits of his kingdom beyond the banks of the Thames and Cherwell, led an army across the boundaries of Souldern. To this period may be assigned the erection of the earthwork known as Aves-ditch (Offa's ditch), Wattlebank, or Ashbank, which half-a-mile southward from the village branches off from the Portway. This Portway, one of the nine so-called Roman roads in England, crossed Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire, and can still be distinctly traced from Walton Grounds, through Aynho Park, to the turnpike gate east of Souldern, whence it runs along the present road towards Fritwell, passing on its way the ancient barrow called Ploughley Hill,* which has been within the last 60 years partially levelled. "The portions of the vallum which still exist are yet in places 5ft. in height and from 5 to 10 yards in breadth." †

In levelling the ground on the line of the Portway in Aynho Park the workmen disinterred a skeleton, supposed to be British from its position, *i. e.*, the knees being gathered up towards the breast. It was enclosed in a cistvaen composed of four stone slabs, placed at right angles; and Mr. Beesley (*Hist. of Banbury*) mentions another skeleton, with a knife by its side, being found in 1849, at the declivity of the hill between Aynho and Souldern, probably Saxon. About 70 years ago, in the carpenter's yard at the western extremity of our village, some Roman coins and a bead necklace‡ were dug up; and more recently, upon a farm the property of Mr. John Rowland Crook, were discovered the

* "Ploughley Hill, a curious Saxon barrow neatly turned like a bell, small and high."
—*Stukeley*. Supposed by some antiquarians of repute to have been a mere exploratory mound, but in 1845 three skeletons (one of large stature) were found in the level of the ground beneath it; these bones were subsequently buried in a garden close by.—*T. Beesley*.

† Beesley's *History of Banbury*, pp. 37—38.

‡ Possibly Anglo-Saxon. Roman coins are often found with such remains.—*T. Beesley*.

following coins:—(Carausius, A.D. 289—293 (one of the thirty tyrants* of Britain); Valens, (son of Gratian) A.D. 364—378; Claudius Gothicus, A.D. 268—270 (probably Emperor after Gallienus, another of the 30 tyrants, who reigned in Britain and Gaul); Tetricus, A.D. 267—272 (a Roman senator, saluted Emperor in the reign of Aurelius); as well as some tesseræ, and a small bronze figure. "There have also been found in the parish a bronze coin of the second size of the Emperor Probus, some Nuremberg tokens, and a groat of the reign of Henry VII."—(*M. Dolman.*)

The following notice of sepulchral remains discovered in 1844, is abridged from an account by Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., which is printed in _____ and to which we refer our readers for the full details:—

"In 1844, having heard that remains had recently been found at Souldern, I visited the spot, which is a garden on the W. side of the narrow road leading out of the main street down the hill southwards. The ground falls from the garden on all sides but the west. A skeleton and urn were discovered by workmen who were digging stone, from whose information and a compass I made out their relative positions. The soil was about two feet thick on a deep rock of limestone; the skeleton, of a man's stature, judging from the teeth about 30 or 34 years of age, stretched out at full length on its back, W. by S. and E. by N., head to the former, rock hollowed out to receive it, the bones being three feet under the surface. On the right hand side of its head, lay a pair of bone ornaments two inches long, in shape four-sided cones, having on each side nine small engraved circles; at the small end of each is inserted an iron rivet, probably the remains of a hook, for suspension, perhaps, from the ear by another brass ring. About the head were many fragments of brass, which, when collected and put together, form parts of two bands, the first of which is seven inches long and three-fourths wide, and has encircled the lower part of a leathern skull cap.† Nothing else, according to my informant, was found with the skeleton, but about seven feet N. of its head was an urn containing bones, about the same depth under the surface as the skeleton. The urn was in fragments when discovered but has since been restored; it is of rather coarse black pottery, averaging about three-sixteenths of an inch in thickness, and imperfect in the lip. What remains is seven and three-quarter inches high and eight and three-quarter inches in diameter. It is ornamented

* "Thirty tyrants," a poetical rather than historical appellation.—*T. Beesley.*

† The supposed fastenings for the strap of a helmet are undoubtedly the fastenings of the handle of a bucket, an article often found in Anglo-Saxon and Danish graves. When the famous Danish antiquary, Worsaae, was in England he saw the Souldern remains (in Sir Henry Dryden's hands) and at once recognised them as Danish.—*Id.*

on the upper part by two horizontal bands of dancetted pattern. At about two-thirds up the sides are four roundish projections at equal distances from each other and between them semicircular bands of ornament. The workmen soon stopped digging, but some months afterwards began again to get stone in the same garden, and found about two-and-a-half-feet below the surface two more urns," which contained fragments of bone and an infant's skull, too large to have been admitted through the mouth of the urn. "The skeletons discovered north of Aynho village lay N. and S., but we are not informed to which point the heads were laid. Most of the skeletons found in these parts, accompanied by pottery of this class, have the heads between S. and W. From the pottery found at Souldern I am inclined to attribute these remains to the Romanized Britons of the fifth or sixth century, but in the opinion of some antiquaries they belong to the Saxons of the eighth century. The three urns, brass straps, and one of the two bone ornaments are now in my possession; having been given to me by the Rev. Dr. Stephenson and others."

Chapter II.

DERIVATION OF PLACE-NAME, AND DESCRIPTION OF THE VILLAGE.

“THE etymology of ‘Souldern’ is a subject of much speculation. The earliest record we have upon the subject, and this was written subsequently to the Norman Conquest, renders the name as ‘Sul-thorne.’ It is evident that this name is of Saxon origin, as no Norman scribe could have corrupted any anterior name into ‘thorne’ as the *th* was unknown to the Norman vocabulary, except in such Saxon expressions as ‘thane,’ ‘theft-book,’ &c. About two-thirds of the Saxon place-names are composed of two elements, each member being a noun, although the first is used as an adjective. This is in accordance with the genius both of the Saxon and English languages. The word *grass-field*, for instance, will serve as an example. The question then arises as to the relationship the component parts bear to each other. ‘Sul,’ besides signifying ‘a plough,’ denoted ‘plough-land,’ as may be seen from the Saxon word ‘Sul-uicle,’ a small portion of plough-land—‘uicle,’ a little piece of anything. ‘Thorn’ might have denoted a brake of thorns; Dorn-burg in Germany corresponding to Thornbury in England. Ainsworth in his Dictionary gives ‘Sul’ as a current English word in the last century for a plough, although it is used now only locally. It is perhaps derived from ‘Sulcare,’ to plough or furrow.”*

Another contributor to these “Notes,” to whom we are also much indebted, writes—“the name of Souldern, I think, is probably derived from ‘Sulod,’ or sylod, ‘acru,’ a *ploughed place*: exactly corresponding to the name given to the supposed *tumulus* (?) “Ploughley Hill.” Whilst the Rural Dean, the Rev. J. C. Blomfield, has suggested the derivation from “Sel”-thorn, “the great thorn,” as distinguishing it from Blackthorn and Highthorn, two places in the neighbourhood, and also in the line of the Portway.

The name appears in all public documents until 1469 as *Sul-thorn*, with rare and very occasional variations of *Suldren* or *Sul-phorne*, *ph* being a mis-reading for the A.S. *th*.

* Contributed by Marmaduke Dolman, Esq.

The present village is in the Hundred of Ploughley, Deanery, Union, and County Court District of Bicester, in the Diocese and County of Oxford. It is bounded on the N. by Aynho (Northamptonshire), on the W. by the Cherwell, on the E. by Fritwell, and on the S. and S.W. by Fritwell and Somerton. The elevation of the high ground above Souldern is a little over 500 feet above the sea.

* "Souldern is mostly situated upon the lower beds of the *Great Oolite*. Below this, on the slope at the eastern end of the village, the ferruginous sandy beds of the *Inferior Oolite* crop out. These surround the village in the form of a ring, a quarter of a mile wide. Exterior to this, and on still lower ground, the clays of the *Upper Lias* make an outer broken ring of about the same width, open to the east; one limb turning south towards Ploughley Hill. Above, towards the old tollgate, the *lower* beds of the *Great Oolite* again come in; and are well shown in the old quarries in Mr. Crook's field, where a good section of the flags and shells may be seen. In the "Memoir of the Geological Survey of Great Britain," to accompany map 45, a drawing of this section is given, showing—

- 1—Vegetable soil resting on a band of clay.
- 2—Rubble.
- 3—White Marl.
- 4—Freestone.

The stone is strongly jointed and dips 4° to S.E. Many fossils may be seen; and Mr. Crook has some fine slabs with *fucoids* from this place. Numerous species from somewhat higher beds are scattered about the field to the S.W. On the north side of the road leading to the Tower Farm, just within the allotment ground, a quarry, now apparently disused, shows the same beds dipping strongly to the north. A third of a mile to the N.E. there is another quarry with higher beds showing the commencement of a roll which once carried the continuation of these beds over there about the tollgate. The white limestones have been largely quarried about here for building purposes and road stone, and are still used for these purposes. The country between Souldern and Aynho is much broken by 'faults'; two cross Aynho Park from N.E. to S.W., the more southerly one coinciding with the county boundary; another runs from 'Inland's Farm,' skirts the village on the N.E., and is lost in the last-mentioned fault. They complicate the surface-geology, though the displacements are not very considerable. The following fossils were collected from the *Great Oolite* beds two years ago:—

Chemnitzia Lonsdalei, M. & L.
Ostrea cistata, Sow.

* Kindly contributed by Mr. Beesley.

Ostrea Sowerbyi, M. & L.
Pecten vagans, Sow.
 ——— sp.
Modiola imbricata, Sow.
 ——— *Lonsdalei*, M. & L.
Macrodon Husoriensis, D'Arch.
Pteroperua costatula, Disl.
Cardium Stricklandi, M. & L.
Unicardium variosum.
Trigonia denticulata.
Lucina crassa.
Cypicardia Barthonica.
 ——— *Islipensis*.
Ceronya Bajociana, D. orb.
 ——— *undulata*, M. & L.
Homomya ventricosa, Ag.
Myacites decurtatus, Goldf.
 ——— *securiformis*, M. & L.
 ——— *unioniformis*, M. & L.
Pholadomya Heraulti, Ag.
Rhynchonella concinna, Sow.
Stomatopora antiqua, T. & R.
Clypeus.
 ——— *Mülleri*.
Echinobrissus clunicularis, Lloyd.
 ——— *Woodwardi*, Wr.

(Alga)

Many others might have been found." (Mr. Crook.)

The area is 2270 acres. The population (1887) is about 500. In 1879 there were 117 houses and 498 inhabitants: of these 262 were members of the Church of England, 63 "Exclusive Methodists," 66 attended Church and Chapel indiscriminately, 39 were Roman Catholics, and 62 ignored every form of religion. There are the Church, a Roman Catholic Chapel, and a Wesleyan Meeting House, in the village. The Rector, the Rev. Dr. Stephenson, states that before the opening of the Oxford and Birmingham Canal, which runs through the parish, the inhabitants of Souldern only numbered 160 to 200 souls. The nearest point whence coals could be obtained was from the adjoining county of Bucks, and it was almost impossible for the poor to get any fuel. The Canal having removed this difficulty, numerous families of labourers settled in the place, and in a few years the population more than doubled.

Souldern is 16 miles from Oxford, 3 from Deddington, 8 from Banbury, and 7 from Brackley and Bicester. The nearest Station is Aynho on the Great Western line, within 4 miles distance.

From the want of capital or of energy, or more probably of both, on the part of the inhabitants, no successful attempt has been made to obtain a more direct route. The modern *town* is pleasantly situated on the outskirts of Aynho Park, and slopes down so abruptly from the turnpike house (well known to members of the Bicester Hunt as Souldern Gate) that little of it can be seen from the high road. After the short and abrupt descent to the town-well, whence a road branches off to the Church and Rectory, the village extends upwards and onwards in a westerly direction until it ends in the Manor House belonging to Col. Cox, which stands on the brow of the hill overlooking the valley of the Cherwell. In the main street are several substantial looking houses, built of the white stone of the neighbourhood; thatched cottages with apricot trees on most of the walls; and two Elizabethan buildings, occupied respectively by Mr. Thomas Merry and John Boddington. About 1851 Mr. James Minn gave a piece of land and 2 cottages adjoining, for the accommodation of school-teachers. Since the recent Education Act the school has been much altered and enlarged, a good house has been erected in place of the cottages, and a clock has recently been put up. Mr. and Mrs. Tingey (1887) are the present worthy master and mistress.

The supply of water in Souldern is abundant. A never failing stream rises in a field called "Bove-well," which after supplying the town pond, passes the Rectory, and finally finds its way into the county brook, which divides Oxfordshire from Northamptonshire. Prior to the enclosure of 1856—7 there was another spring in that part of the common land called "Chadwell," where the water was collected in a stone tank dedicated to St. Chad; unfortunately this well is now stopped up.

The population is chiefly agricultural. Until recently nearly every cottager had her lace pillow, but modern education has closed the doors of the three schools formerly devoted to the teaching of this industry in the parish. Souldern could at one time boast of its three crosses; but during the period of miserable Vandalism which succeeded the Reformation, and reached its height at the Great Rebellion, these were almost entirely destroyed. The steps and base of one, however, may still be seen in the churchyard; the base of another only, called Cole's Cross, in Col. Cox's field (see Charities); but of the third not a vestige is left. There are no remains of Butts in the parish, though probably these at one time existed, as by an ordinance of the 5th year of Edward IV, it was required that "Butts should be made in every township, at which the inhabitants were to shoot up and down upon all feast days, under the penalty of a half-penny for every time any one of them neglected to perform this exercise." We are inclined to think that the Butts at Souldern were placed where the bowling-green

was afterwards established. Remains of the latter are to be traced on the right hand side of the road leading from the village to old Souldern Gate. The remains of the stocks are also to be seen at the corner near the Fox Inn.

The only days now kept with special customs in the village are 14 Feb., 29 May, the Feast Day, and Christmas. On Valentine's Day the children come round shouting—with outstretched hands, and laying great accent on the last line of the distich—

“ Good morrow, Valentine !
I be yours and you be mine,
Plaze give us a Valentine.”

May Day, although shorn of some of its glories by the intolerance of the Puritans, is still May Day, for groups of children, dressed in their Sunday best, go from door to door with their pretty and often most tastefully arranged garlands, bright with kingcups and daisies and all the bravery of spring flowers, chanting the following quaint old ditty—

“ Gentlemen and Ladies,
We wish you happy May,
We come to show our May Garland
Because it is May Day.
Chorus—Because it is May Day, &c.

A branch of May we bring to you
And at your door it stands,
It is but a sprig, but it prospers a bough,
The work of our LORD's hands.
Chorus—Gentlemen and ladies,” &c.,
repeat 1st verse.

On the 29th of May, the anniversary of the restoration of King Charles II., a large branch of oak is displayed in the principal street, and oak apples are extensively worn. On this day also the annual meeting of the Souldern Club or Friendly Society is held. This Club was originally established in 1816, but has been worked under a new system with great success for the last few years. There are at present (1886) 84 actual members who pay an admission fee of 5s., and 4s. per quarter, and 12 honorary members, who subscribe from 10s. to one guinea per annum. Michael Blencowe and Jesse Lake are the stewards, and James Tingey treasurer and secretary ; trustees, Messrs. Hill and Welford. The allowance during illness is nine shillings per week for one year, and half pay for any time of sickness afterwards. At the end of every five years the surplus fund, with the exception of £1 per head, is divided in proportion among the members. Those who have received more than the amount in sick pay, forfeit all claim in the division.

The Village Feast or Wake is kept on the first Sunday after the 18th of September. In all probability it was originally held on the first Sunday after the 8th, that day being the anniversary of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, to whom the Church is dedicated. We are told that as late as the middle of the present century Souldern feast was looked forward to from September to September. Open house was kept from Saturday till Monday; rich plum puddings were made and joints of beef cooked by all who could afford them, and the poorest cottage had its cake and bottle of home-made wine. Relations and friends from all parts flocked in, old friendships were renewed, and old differences made up.

The observance of the 5th of November has almost become a thing of the past; a contemptible bonfire just serves the purpose of collecting a few roughs.

Christmas is still kept up in somewhat of the olden style; carol singers and mummers come round to all the houses for more than a week beforehand. These mummers are said to be the representatives of the secular players, of whom John of Salisbury wrote in the 12th century that "their plays had little to do with morality . . . they consisted of comic tales, dialogues and stories, to which were added coarse and indecent jests." Whether this description were true or not, it is an undoubted fact that mummers were welcome Christmas visitors in the halls and castles of England, and that the pieces performed by them were of a secular character as distinguished from the miracle and mystery plays of the monks. What the plot of the modern performances may be we are at a loss to say, but as far as we can gather old John of Salisbury's description still holds good. There is a female called "Molly," always represented by the biggest young man who can be found; a fight in which some-one is killed, and the doctor comes in on his hobby-horse to bring the deceased to life. Then "Molly" has the tooth-ache and the doctor operates on her, and extracts a tooth the size of a decanter stopper. His man "Jack" is in active attendance, and the Clown or Jack-pudding introduces himself in the following terms—

"Ear comes I, as never come yet,
With my gret yead, and my little wit;
My yead is gret, my wit is small,
I'll do my dooty to plaze you all."

As to costumes, the actors appear to have robbed every scarecrow in the parish; and as to the play, it is difficult to say which is most to be wondered at—its intense stupidity or extreme vulgarity.

The greater part of the following biography was communicated to the late Mr. W. Wing, and may be found in his excellent work, "Annals of the Bicester Union." Of Souldern worthies there are

no records extant. The only individual of whom any notice remains is one Daniel Brown, surnamed 'Belcher,' a poor half-silly creature, the butt of the village, who is said to have performed many eccentric feats, among others that of riding on the back of a bull into the town pond. Being strictly honest he was often employed as a messenger, and at other times amused himself by wandering about the country. On one occasion he found his way as far as London, and feeling somewhat hungry after the long journey, he invested his *all* in the purchase of a lemon. This having failed to satisfy the cravings of hunger, and being too proud to beg, he found himself in Cheapside in a state of complete destitution. Fortunately Mr. Cartwright's carriage was passing at the time, Belcher hailed the coachman with delight, and although our hero looked anything but a creditable acquaintance, the man acted the part of a good Samaritan, took him to his own lodgings, gave him a meal, and sent him back to his native village by the next waggon with this ticket on his back, "Belcher Brown—Souldern Town—pass him on." Whether he again visited the metropolis is not known; we hear nothing more of him but his will, which runs as follows—

"My soul I leave unto the Lord,
My body to the ground;
My 'bacca box to Master Ned,
My clothes back to the Town.
Unto my old friend Shepherdless (*sic*)
To him I leave my knife;
I think it best to make my will
Whilst I have strength and life;
But if the Shepherd should be dead,
My knife goes back to Master Ned."

The Master Ned here referred to was one of the Clifford family, who had evidently shown Belcher some kindness. This document (the will) and the 'bacca box are in the possession of the present Mr. Clifford.*

* The following anecdote has been related to us of another Souldern man. Having gone up in 1851 to London to see the Great Exhibition, he was, when inside the Palace, naturally enough, staring and gazing about him, when suddenly a fair specimen of the Yankee hailed him with "Wal, stranger, what are you looking for?" The Souldern man was equal to the occasion, for he answered without hesitation, "Well, I was looking for a bigger fool than myself, and I think I've found un!"

Chapter XXX.

CHURCH HISTORY.*

SOME time after the Conquest Jordan de Sai gave the Church of Sulethorne to the Abbey of Eynsham, or Ensham, in the following terms :—"I, Jordan de Sai, for the soul of my son William, on the day in which I have committed him to the tomb at Egnesham, have given up to the said monastery the Church of Sulethorn." The witnesses are "Ranulph my son" and others. (From a Chartulary of Ensham, Cotton MS., Claudius A. VIII. fol. 135, in the British Museum). This gift was confirmed by Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, who also confirmed a pension of two marks of silver† yearly from the Church of Sulethorn. In 1218 William de Warres, nephew of Robert, Abbot of Eynsham, was admitted to the vicarage, when the monks had got their pension up to 100 shillings. Somewhat later, Robert de Hay, rector of Sulthorn, claimed from Oseney Abbey a certain measure of corn for their demesne lands in Mixberie, and fourpence yearly of their demesne lands at Fulwell, by virtue of an old custom called "Church Scot." However, by consent of the Abbot and Convent of Eynsham, patrons of the said Church of Sulthorne, the said rector agreed to an annual pension of five shillings in full satisfaction for the said corn and money. (MS. Osn. Reg., fol. 121.)

In 1233 there is the following notice :—"To all sons of our Holy Mother the Church, to whom the present writ shall come, the Priors of St. John and St. James send greeting," and recite a mandate from Pope Gregory, wherein it is stated that the Prior and Convent of St. Frideswide, of Oxford, have by a plaint shown that Robert of Sulthorn, Nicholas of Beckell, a trusty knight, and divers others, do, in the matter of tithes and holdings, wrong the said Prior and Convent, and further that his Holiness has ordered the Dean of Northampton and the Priors of St. John and St. James, or any two of them, to summon the parties before

* For much of the following information the compilers are indebted to the kindness of F. Madan, Esq., late Fellow of Brasenose College, Sub-Librarian of the Bodleian, and also to the Rev. Dymock Fletcher.

† A mark of silver, 13s. 4d.

them, and decide the question at issue without appeal. Further reciting that, upon parties being so summoned, Robert, rector of Sulthorn, confessed in court that the tithes of one hide of land, which is called the "Hide of Sulthorne," is within the bounds of the parish of Frettwelle, and so by common right belonging to the Church thereof, and by the same right to the Canons of St. Frideswide. Whereupon it was adjudicated that the said tithes should belong to the said Prior of Frideswide, and be *alienated* from the said Robert and his Church of Sulthorn for ever. The priest of Sulthorn renewed this suit the following year, and the Pope appointed three more commissioners, other than those before mentioned. These confirmed the former sentence, but the priest appealed to Rome again, and ultimately won his cause, subject to a yearly payment of 10 shillings to the Priory.* "The rector of the Church of Sulthorne holds (by the same fee) one hide of land which was formerly given to the Church of Sulthorne in perpetual alms."—(Testa de Nevill.)

In 1291 John de Bernewelle, parson of the Church of Sulthorn, had recovered his seisin against Thomas de Lewknore and Lucy, his wife, of his common of pasture in Sulthorn, belonging to his freehold.—(*Abbreviatio Rotulorum originalium*, Ed. I.) And in 1297 the same John de Bernewelle has a letter of protection against further taxation by patent dated 2nd March of that year.† Also in the *Abbreviatio Rotulorum* it is stated that the Rector, Adam de Kereseye, had recovered his seisin in the King's Court at Oxford, against Lucy, who had been wife of Thomas de Lewknore, of 40s. rent in Sulthorn, and in the *Testa de Nevill*, temp. Henry III. and Ed. I., it is said that Lucia de Arderne holds the whole village as her free marriage dowry.

In the 33rd of Ed. I. (1305) there are the following pleadings before Ralph de Hengham and his fellow justices of the bench of our Lord the King, in Trinity Term:—Thomas, Abbot of Egnesham, by his attorney, appeared against Lucia, wife of Thomas de Lewknore and against Peter of Schevyndon, to hear an assize of *darrein presentment*, of which the said Thomas did here in the court arraign the assize (that is, bring the cause into court) against them, about the advowson of the Church of Soulthorn, which is vacant. The report goes on to state that the said Lucia and Peter defended the suit against the said abbot, but not appearing, judgement was claimed by him upon their default. The jury find that the vacancy occurred upon the death of one John de Bernewelle, and those who have been consulted upon the rights of the abbot affirm that in the 20th Henry III. (1236) an agreement was made

* A great portion of the glebe, now called "Inlands Farm," is in the parish of Fritwell.

† In *Post mortem Inq.*, 22nd Ed. 1., "Joh'es de Bernewelle, Sulthorne Villa, de cursu aquae divertendo ibidem."

between Nicholas, then Abbot of Egnesham, and one Lucia de Arderne (grandmother of Lucia de Lewknore), by which she acknowledged that the advowson belonged to the aforesaid Abbey of Egnesham, and that when a vacancy in the office of abbot happened, the Bishop of Lincoln, as patron of the said office, did confer the Church on Geoffrey de Stokes, one of his clergy. And those who have been consulted about collusion between the parties as to the value of the Church, find there was no collusion—that the Church is of the value of 20 marks yearly, and that the period of six months for presentment has not elapsed. Therefore, it was allowed that the aforesaid Abbot Thomas should have a writ to the Bishop of Lincoln, and that upon its presentation he (the Bishop) should admit a fit person to the aforesaid Church, and the Abbot was allowed 10 marks from the defendant in compensation for his losses.*

We hear of no further lawsuits after this, only of the constant change of the clergy in the earlier centuries, as will be seen from the following list, and which may probably be accounted for by the alienation of the tithes to Eynsham Abbey.

LIST OF CLERGY.

- 1218.—William de Warres.—William, rector in 1207; Muniments of Magdalen College, Oxford, *Brackley*, 62.
- 1233 (about).—Robert de Hay. One of the family of Nichola de Hay, widow of Gerard and mother of Richard de Camville, late Lord of Middleton.—(*White Kennett*, vol I, p. 262.)
- Date uncertain.—Geoffrey de Saye.
- Date uncertain.—Adam de Keresaye.
- 1288.—John de Bernewelle.
- 1305.—Geoffrey de Stokes.
—William de Dalderby.
- 1335.—Peter de Dalderby.
- 1340.—John Dalderby, an acolyte.
- 1349.—Master Richard Selby, a priest
- 1350.—Thomas de Soliers, or Solers, clerk.
- 1361.—Simon de Lamborne.
- Date uncertain.—Sir Wm. Person.
- 1397, 8th January.—Simon Hohe (?) priest.
- 1397, 21st January.—Master Walter Bullock, clerk, on the resignation of Simon Hohe(?)
- 1397, 11th February.—Simon Hohe (?) presented again by the Abbot and Convent on the resignation of Master Walter Bullock. And in 1400, 9th February, Simon Hohe (?) again changed livings with Thos. Preston, Rector of Smerdon.—(*White Kennett*, vol. II, p. 169.)

* See *White Kennett's Antiquities*, &c., vol. I., p. 500.

- 1400.—Thos. Bentley ; who in
 1404.—Exchanged with John Whyteby or Whitby.
 1415, 21st April.—Alan Kyrketon exchanged with John Whitby.
 1415, 18th May.—Will Robyn, on the resignation of Alan Kyrketon.
 1416, 16th May.—Thos. Wyssop, *alias* Chesterfield, on the resignation of Will. Robyn.
 1417.—John Pagrave de Offord, priest.
 1422.—William Carles, in exchange.
 Sir Thomas Nesshe.
 1462.—Master Robert Darcy, on the death of Sir Thos. Nesshe.
 1465-6.—Master Walter Bate.
 Date uncertain.—Master Thomas Gage.
 1505.—Master Thomas Warne, presented by John Lyhynde, of Fifield, for this one turn by an alleged concession granted by the Abbot and Convent of Eynsham.
 1514.—John Barrat, Fellow of New College, "from Sowthorne," in 1506 ; Fellow of Winchester in 1513 ; died 14 May, 1524.—(*University Register*, 1885, pp. 71, 304.)
 1518.—Edmund Gledhill.
 All the above, except where otherwise mentioned, were presented by the Abbot and Convent of Eynsham.
 1562.—Edward Yonge, admitted by the Lord Archbishop, presented by Wm. Holte, Esq. (In the Register of Archbishop Parker.)
 1571.—Lawrence Giles, on the presentation of Hugh Throgmorton, of Souldern, Knight. (Register of Archbishop Parker, page 12.)
 The living afterwards became Crown property, and the only Rectors whose names we can find between this date 1571 and 1647 are Thos. Norbury, as appears from a petition in Chancery (elsewhere referred to) of the year 1613, and Thos. Hardinge. The Rev. J. W. Pieters, sometime Bursar of St. John's College, Cambridge, kindly sent us the following extracts from the College books. "The advowson of Soulderne, in Oxfordshire, together with three other benefices, was given to St. John's College, Cambridge, by Archbishop Williams, under letters patent, dated 30th December, 1623. The grant was ratified by the King, 1625." (See also Hackett's *Life of Archbishop Williams*, and Baker's *History of St. John's College*, edited by Mayor.)
 Thomas Hardinge was Rector between 1622-1648. [For further particulars see Monuments.]
 Thomas Hodges, B.D. Admitted Fellow on Mr. Ashton's Foundation, 19th June, 1644, by order of the Duke of Manchester, in place of Thomas Thornton, who refused the Covenant.

Oct. 28th, 1647, presented to the living of Souldern, but afterwards ejected, and again presented in 1662. Elsewhere we find this notice—"Oct. 22, 1647. Application for an order for Dr. Aylett to institute and induct Thomas Hodges to the Rectory of Souldern, Oxon. *Lords' Journals*, IX., 490. Certificate annexed, from the Assembly of Divines that Hodges has been approved for the cure. 20 Oct." (Calendar of House of Lords' MSS. in 6th Report of Royal Commission on Historical MSS., p. 203.)*

William Twyne, B.A., Fellow on Lady Margaret's foundation, presented 3rd March, 1663-4, in place of Thos. Hodges, resigned. (His monument is destroyed or concealed.)

Bryan Turner, B.D., Fellow on Hibblethwaite's foundation, 4th April, 1665, presented on the death of Wm. Twyne. (See Monuments.)

Geoffrey Shaw, B.A. 1679, M.A. 1683, B.D. 1691, admitted Fellow on Lady Margaret's foundation, 1698. (For further account see note at end of this history.)

Matthew Pearson, B.A. 1686, B.D. and D.D. 1688. Fellow on Lady Margaret's foundation, presented 1706.

John Russell, B.A. 1716, M.A. 1719, B.D. 1729. Fellow on Lady Margaret's foundation, presented Nov. 6th, 1735.

1772.—John Horseman, B.A. 1735, M.A. 1758, B.D. 1776. Fellow on Lady Margaret's foundation. This man, evidently intended by nature for a road surveyor, pulled down the original chancel and built the present barn-like substitute.

1806.—Robert Jones, B.A. 1791, M.A. 1794, B.D. 1802. Fellow on Dr. Gywne's foundation, presented 15th November, 1806. (A friend of the poet Wordsworth, who often stayed at the rectory.)

1835.—Lawrence Stephenson, B.A. 1823, M.A. 1826, B.D. 1838, D.D. 1844. Fellow on Lady Rokeby's foundation, presented 11th July, 1835.

The Curates in Charge at different times within the present century, are as follows :—

Francis Clerke, M.A., Fellow of All Souls', College, Oxford, Curate from September, 1822, to the end of July, 1826. On leaving Souldern he became Senior Proctor at Oxford, in 1832. A relative (we believe brother) of the late Arch-deacon of Oxford.

J. A. Walpole, B.A., also of All Souls' College. At Souldern from September, 1826, to the end of 1827.

* In our possession (given by Mr. Beesley, of Banbury) is a pamphlet entitled "The Hoary Head Crowned; a Sermon preached at Brackley at the Funeral of Fran. Wallbank, a very aged and religious Matron; by Thomas Hodges, B.D., Rector of Souldern, and lately one of the Sen. Fellows of St. John's Coll., Cambridge." 1664.

Wm. Cotton Risley, Fellow of New College, Oxford ; afterwards Vicar of Deddington. A man universally and deservedly esteemed. Curate in charge from March, 1828, to August, 1836.

John Edward Wharton Rotton, D.D., LL.D., of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Late Senior Chaplain of the Bengal Ecclesiastical Establishment, and Chaplain of the Forces at the siege of Delhi (1857) ; appointed May 21st, 1876, and is still (1887) in charge.

Chapter IV.

THE CHURCH.*

In Parker's *Eccles. & Architect. Topography of Oxfordshire*, published in 1850, is this description :—

"Souldern, St. Mary, Chancel, Nave, with S. aisle and Tower. The Chancel is modern, the Aisle windows are good early Decorated,† the Nave has a clerestory and retains some ancient carved seats.‡ The Tower is early Norman, having walls of great thickness. A cornice of this Church is engraved in Rickman, p. 163."

To this we may add that the Tower is very much out of the perpendicular, as is also the massive western arch. The font, which Mr. Parker does not notice, stands near the S. door, and is evidently very ancient, of the simplest form, without any sculpture, and large—but whether Saxon or Norman has not been determined. It has been roughly used, and pieces, the size of a man's hand, have been knocked out of it. The Tower contains five bells in all: four large bells, and a small prayer-bell; the dates range from A.D. 1631 to 1635, and one Bagle claims to be their maker, and has inscribed his name as such on each bell.

1st Bell, or treble, "Cantate Domino Cantecum Novum. Henry Bagle made me 1635."

2nd Bell (inscription illegible).

3rd Bell, "Preservor (?) H.B. 1631 Cum voce jucundissima."

4th Bell, or Tenor, "Vobiscum coerdo [concorde?] Deum Laudare."

In September, 1877, the Church was inspected by Arthur Hodgson, Esq., of Bloxham (architect), who made the following report :—

"The Church of St. Mary, Souldern, is a very picturesque and interesting structure. It is at the present time sadly in want of a thorough restoration, and the Chancel is such a bad piece of modern

* Nearly the whole of the following notice is communicated by the Rev. Dr. Rotton, being abridged from a paper read by him before the members of our Society in 1882.

† In one of these windows were these arms (Rawl. MS., B. 400 C.), "or, a lyon ramp., sab.—or, a cross engr, sab.—St. George's armes —Gules, a castle or."

‡ These seats were removed in 1855, when the Church was re-pewed.

work that it would be quite impossible to do anything but pull it down, and build a new one of the same size as the original, and, if possible, upon the old foundations—at the same time turning the fine old arch again to its proper use.* The Nave is parted from the S. aisle by three pointed arches resting on round columns, the capitals and bases of which are early Norman, and appear to have been turned upside down. The N. and S. clerestory windows are very poor, merely square openings. Some of the windows of the aisle are elaborate and curious specimens of early Decorated work. The porch is also about the same date, and there is a well moulded doorway, without capitals to the jambs, and the labels terminate in heads leading from it into the aisle."

Since this report of Mr. Hodgson's there has been a most strenuous effort, headed by the venerable Rector (Dr. Stephenson) and his family, to carry out all the improvements it was possible to make. In 1878 a "faculty" was obtained to remove the hideous gallery (partly erected in 1815, as a thank-offering) which blocked out the Norman arch above mentioned and two of the best windows in the aisle. The pillars and arches in the nave were scraped, the whole building cleaned, and the church fittings and furniture greatly improved by a series of gifts, up to the year 1883, which are entered in the register, including altar table, brass desk, oak lectern, service books, &c. from Dr. Rotton, brass cross from Mr. J. Cobbin, stained window-lights from the Rector, pulpit from Fred. Stanton, Esq. and his wife, curtains, &c.

The list of Vessels for the Holy Communion belonging to the church in August, 1880, is as follows:—

I.—Silver Flagon, given Christmas Day, 1879, by J. H. Gough, Frederick Stanton, and George Stratton, Esqs.

II.—Silver Paten (a thank-offering), 1880.

III.—Electro-plate cruet (Dr. Rotton).

The original Holy Vessels, made of the white silver of former days, are—

I.—A Paten of 1634.

II.—A Chalice, dated 1654.

"This," as Dr. Rotton remarks, "is a standing historical witness of the parish's loyalty, in a time of general disloyalty, to the ancient faith and England's own old church."

The following is an inventory of church goods, etc., removed from the church, in 6 Edw. VI., preserved amongst the records of the Exchequer.

* This act of vandalism in dismantling the fair medieval Chancel, destroying its arch and substituting the present monstrosity of a characterless window, was perpetrated between the years 1772 and 1806, during the incumbency of the Rev. John Horseman, B.D., Fellow of St. John's, Cambridge, and Rector of Souldern for 34 years. The area of the present Chancel is at least 8ft. less in length than the original one, and its breadth has also been considerably diminished.

"This inventory indented made the 2nd day of May the 6th in year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Edward the 6th, of all the goods, plate, jewels, bells, and other ornaments pertaining to the parish church of Souldern, in the County of Oxford, between Sir William Reynolds, Knight, Thomas Breedy, and Thomas Cowsford, amongst others, Commissioners appointed in the said County, for the survey of the said goods with the premises, of the one part, and Thomas Bond and Thomas Symes, of Souldern, aforesaid, of the other part : Witnesseth that all the goods and other like premises hereafter written belonging to the said Church were committed by the said Commissioners to the custody of Thomas Bond and Thomas Symes, with the sure undertaking that they will at all times be forthcoming and to be answered :—

Imprimis. Three pair of vestments of satin of Bridges (Bruges).

Item. Six pair of white vestments, on[e] satin of Bridges, and the other white fustian.

Item. One chalice of silver, parcel gilt.

Item. Six copes of satin of Bridges.

Item. Six candlesticks of brass.

Item. One censer.

Item. Six bells and a sanctus bell."

In an appeal to the public for funds towards the restoration of the church, Dr. Rotton quoted the following lines from the "Miscellaneous Sonnets" of Wordsworth, which were written during one of the poet's visits to the Rectory as the guest of his College friend, the Rev. Robert Jones, then Rector of the Parish :—

A Parsonage in Oxfordshire.

"Where holy ground begins, unhallowed ends,
Is marked by no distinguishable line ;
The turf unites, the pathways intertwine,
And whereso'er the stealing footstep tends,
Garden, and that domain where kindred friends
And neighbours rest together, here confound
Their several features, mingled like the sound
Of many waters, or as evening blends
With shady night ; soft airs from shrub and flower
Waft fragrant greetings to each silent grave ;
And while these lofty poplars* gently wave
Their tops, between them comes and goes a sky
Bright as the glimpses of Eternity
To saints accorded in their mortal hour."

* These poplars, which stood in a field now (1887) occupied by Mr. Rigby, were cut down some years ago.

When the above lines were written the Rectory garden came up to the north side of the Church, and was only parted from the churchyard by an invisible fence. A line of shrubs was afterwards put in which completely divided the two, but the grounds were recently (1885) restored to their original condition by Dr. Rotton, to whom is also due the planting and adornment of God's Acre with choice pines and flowering trees.

The Rectory itself is a well-built and picturesque looking gabled house—said to be a good specimen of the Parsonage of days gone by. From the appearance of the garden upon the north and west side, there must at one time have been good fish-ponds on the premises.

The only tombstones of any interest in the churchyard are the following, of which notes have been made by Dr. Rotton in the Register of 1667 :—

Headstone :—Ann, daughter of John Neale and Catherine his wife, died April 1, 1682. On the foot-stone :—“Kathern the wife of John Neale lying buried with her daughter in her grave, departed this life the laste day of April 1716 aged 75.”

On another headstone :—“Here lyes interred the body of John the ever dutiful and obedient son of John and Catherine Neale who departed this life the 11 day of July 1682 and in the yeare of his age 21.

Pray doe not disturb his bones.”

Altar-tomb, about which Dr. Rotton writes :—“On the morrow of St. Bartholomew, 1882, I refixed at my own cost the Neale monument, which had sunk from soil subsidence, and on cleaning away the gathering moss the following inscription appeared :—

“In full and certain hope of the second coming of Christ resteth here the body of John Neale who departed this life the 7 day of June, 1662, and yeare of his age 51. Mary his beloved wife and widow lying buried within this grave departed this life Aug. 4, 1705, in the yeare of her age 89.”

Old men report a tradition that Neale made his own tomb with his own hand. I believe his to be the oldest standing monument in the churchyard.” On the tombstone are engraved the arms of the Masons' Company, granted by William Hancheston, Clarencieux King at Arms, in the year 1474, incorporated by letters patent of 29 Charles II., 17 September, 1677.

Rawlinson says (in his MS. before referred to) :—“In the churchyard 2 tombs against ye wall; i., plain stone, inscribed in front thus :—‘Here lyes interred the body of John King, gent., who departed this life December 24th Anno Domini 1712, in the year of his age 71.’ On the second thus :—“Here lyes interred the body of Esther the wife of John King, who departed this life November 16 1709, in the yeare of her age 78.”

Several members of the Hill family (see list of Churchwardens) are buried on the south side of the churchyard.

Monumental Inscriptions in the Church.

The following notices are all that remain of the BIGNELLS, who for many years were landowners in Souldern ("In the S. ile," Rawl. B. 400, MS. Bodl. Libr.):—Elizabeth, wife of Rob. Bignell, died March 10th, 1700; Mary, d. April 30th, 1708; Elizabeth, wife of Dodwell Colegrave, and d. of Robt. Bignell, February 26th, 1712; Jane, d. August 13th, 1713. On a slab over the south door of the Church is this inscription:—"Underneath this aisle lie interred the remains of the Bignell family for many generations past. This stone is erected to record also the interment of Thomas, son of Thomas and Mary Bignell, who died April 7th, 1796, aged 71 years, and of Sarah, his wife, who died March 5th, aged 72 years." There is still an old parishioner of 92 years, whose maiden name was Bignell, and whose father was related to the late Miss Westcar.

BOWERS.—John, d. 5th October, 1611; William and Sarah, September 3rd, 1620; Anne, d. of the above William and Sarah, died March 5th, 16—(*date erased*); Willielmus filius Will. et Sar. uxoris, 1685; Sarah, June 11th, 1687; Thos., January 19th, 1689-90; Thomas, April 25th, 1694; George, January 16th, 1695; William, January 13th, 1695; Luce, d. of Will., August 26th, 1709; Mary, July 8th, 1729; Anne, October 29th, 1730; George, s. of Thos. and Elizabeth, December 26th, 1731.

BUCHANAN.—Lydia, the elder d. of John Hill, of Manchester, and Mary, his wife, who died 19th May, 1879, aged 80 years. This monument is erected by her nephew, John Hill Gough.

COLEGRAVE.—Elizabeth, d. February 26th, 1712 (Rawl. MS., B. 400).

DODWELL.—John Dodwell, d. February 3rd, 1669; Anne Dodwell, d. of John Dodwell, junr., August 13th, 1679; Philip Dodwell (*'senex di Litt Oxoniensis'* [?]), February 4th, 1683; John Dodwell, *senex*, October 11th, 1683-4; Isabella Dodwell, May 21st, 1686; Thomas Dodwell, 4th son of Richard Dodwell, of Oxford, and Anne, his wife, d. 3rd January, 1694-5. A tablet to Mary, wife of John Dodwell, gent., who died 14th March, 1702, aged 67. Also the said John Dodwell, April 4th, 1723, aged 82 years, and Mary, his second wife, June 1720, aged 70. Thomas Dodwell, *senex sepultus*, September 16th, 1704. William Dodwell, June 6th, 1720; William Dodwell, April 6th, 1723.

GOUGH.—On a stone slab now (1886) in the Tower are the following lines to the memory of Ferdinando Gough.

“ Friend, here thou seest my body in earth,
 And how my life is now cut of by death ;
 But know my soule is now at rest with Him
 Who from everlasting death did it redeem.
 T’will not be long before that thou must dye,
 And then in grave thyself will lye ;
 Be wise now, therefore, while that thou hast tyme,
 That grace and CHRIST and glory may be thine.
 Thyself deceive not with a Christian name,
 Unless thou also be in heart the same ;
 Love GOD in truth, believe in CHRIST His Sonne,
 Bid farewell sin, let vague delight be gone.
 To be for heaven now, while still thou can,
 Set on the work, and then, O happy man ! ”

Dr. Richard Rawlinson says (Rawl. MS., B. 400) :—“ On a free-stone gravestone, in the middle Ile, in capitals :—Here lyeth the body of Ferdinando Gough, who died the 11th day of November, in the year of our LORD 1664, and is now buried in the chancel. Of Richard Gough, his father, who died about the 20th day of March, in the year of our LORD 1638. Next unto him, near lyeth the body of Anne Gough, his beloved wife, now buried in the grave of Elizabeth Gough, her mother, who dyed the 7th day of May, in the year of our LORD 1664. Both Father and Mother, husband and wife, are gone from hence to an eternal life.” Ferdinando Gough, buried January 23rd, 1671 ; Elizabetha (*infans*), March 13th, 1671 ; Sarah (*virgo*), May 29th, 1684 ; Richard Gough, gent., died May 13th, 1717 ; *Sarah, his wife, March 12th, 1755, aged 68. Drope Gough, Esq., who departed this life 3rd February, 1761 ; Ann, his wife, who died 5th July, 1793, aged 76. Also to the memory of Mary, d. of the third Drope Gough and Ann, his wife widow of the Rev. Henry Gabell, formerly Rector of Standlake in this county, who died November 1810, aged 71.

These inscriptions appear upon two united diamond-shaped marble tablets.

“ In memory of Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Gough, by Sarah, his wife, who died 1772, aged 61.” (A portrait of this lady is extant, and her prayer book is preserved in the family.)

There are also inscriptions on stones in the south aisle to Richard, Francis, and William Gough (dates illegible).

On a slab over the old family pew, “ erected by Mrs. Mary Longe as a memorial of her affection,” are the following names :—Richard Drope Gough, Esq., died May 18th, 1818, aged 63 ; Ann,

* Sarah Eccles.

his widow, died December 7th, 1825, aged 69. Mary, their daughter, died March 14th, 1792, aged 10. Harriett, their daughter, died July 10th, 1803, aged 16. And three of their children, who died in infancy. Francis Penrose, died November 11th, 1796, aged 52. Sarah, his widow (sister of the above R. D. Gough), died March 7th, 1814, aged 72.

Immediately under this is a carved marble and stone tablet, to the memory of John Moxon Hill, the only child of John Hill Gough and Anne Penrose, his wife, born June 4th, 1871, fell asleep October 8th, 1875.

And nearer the porch, a tablet to the memory of Sarah Drake (daughter of Francis and Sarah Penrose), who departed this life January 22nd, 1852, aged 74 years, relict of the late Mr. John Drake, of Woburn, Beds.

Other members of the Gough family lie buried on the N. side of the church, where there are memorial slabs to Richard Drope Gough, Esq., eldest son of the above R. D. Gough and Ann, his wife, who died July 12th, 1838, aged 58 years; Caroline, his sister, died July, 1836, aged 38; and of Emma Gough (his sister), who died in 1856, aged 67.

On another marble slab is an inscription to the memory of Charles Gough (brother of the above), who died November 3rd, 1863, aged 70; and Sarah (younger daughter of John Hill, of Manchester), his wife, who died December 30th, 1867, aged 67.

And a monument has recently been erected to the memory of Sarah and Louisa, the last surviving daughters of R. D. Gough (the elder); Louisa died January 30th, 1880, aged 82; Sarah, January 26th, 1882, in the 88th year of her age.

HURLSTONE.—“In memory of Caroline Ada, d. of Michael and Ann Hurlstone, 5th January, 1846, aged 7 years and 9 months;” also “In memory of Thos. Herbert, son of Thomas Page and Elizabeth Hurlstone, who was drowned on his return from the West Coast of Africa, aged 28.”

KILBYE AND COX.

Frances, uxor Ricardi Kilbye
obiit Dec., 1672.

Ricardus Kilbye, infans, fil. Ricardi, Aug. 21, 1677.

Ricardus Kilbye, armiger, senex, obiit Sep. 11, 1693,
ætatis suæ 84. Requiescat in pace. Amen.

And also here lyeth the body of A . . . Cox, daughter of Richard

Kilbye, who departed this life 7th April, 1729, ætatis suæ 53.

Mrs. Jane Kilbye, December 19th, 1714, in the year of her age 66.

Mary Kilbye, October 22nd, 1725. Alice or Alicia, wife of Richard

Kilbye (gent.) d. Dec. 1st, 1714. Alice Reynolds, “vidua vetula,
sepulta secundum ritus ecclesiæ Anglicanæ,” August 7th, 1694.

Also Jane Reynolds (mother and daughter, died at Water Perry,
buried at Souldern on the same day).

And, "Here lyes the body of William Reynolds (gent.) son of Alice Reynolds, who departed this life, February ye 23rd, 1718, aged 71."

Helen, d. of Mr. Francis Bienfait, of London, and Eliza his wife, February 28th, 1771. Samuel Cox, March 18, 1781.

[The family of Reynolds, of Cassington, was founded by Edmund Rainolds, a younger son of Richard Rainolds, of Pinhoe, or Pinhawes, near Exeter,* who purchased the estate at Cassington from the Coventry family towards the end of the reign of Elizabeth. Of this Edmund, Anthony à Wood remarks, "he was educated at Corpus Chr. Cöllege, of which he was a Fellow, but leaving that house because he was popishly affected, retired to Gloster Hall, where being a noted tutor for 60 years or thereabouts, he grew very rich." He died November 21, 1630, aged 92, and was buried in the chancel of Wolvercot. Edmund Rainolds left his estate at Cassington to his nephew, William, who seems to have married Alice d. of Thomas Whitgreave, Esq., of Moseley, in Staffordshire, and by her was the father of Alice Reynolds, who named Richard Kilbye, of Souldern. Another of the Reynolds married a Penrose. It may be remarked that a brother of Mr. Kilbye, named Francis, was at Moseley as a pupil under Father Huddleston when Charles II. arrived there after the battle of Worcester, and he assisted his uncle Whitgreave in sheltering the King. There is a very old house close to the Church at Cassington which is still known as "Reynolds," though it is evidently only part of a larger building. The family has long since disappeared from the place.]

Here lyeth the body of Anne, or Annette, the wife of Robert Kilbye (gent.), who died September 8th, 1754, aged 84 years.

Here lieth the body of Robert Kilbye (senior), who died March 12th, 1757.

(Some of these are from the Register, and are not to be traced on the stone).

Here lyeth the body of Helen Blewen, who departed this life on the 3rd day of October, in the year of our Lord 1765, aged 60 years.

MITCHELL.—"Here lyeth the body of Edward Mitchell, who departed this life the day of January, Anno Domini, 1753, aged 74."

MINN.

Mary Mynne, 1659,	} Rawl. MS.,
Gulielmi Minn, 1665,	
	} B. 400. f.

* Camden in his "Britannia" writes: "The next parish is Pinhoe, remarkable for bringing forth the two Rainolds (John and William), brothers, zealous maintainers both of the Reformed and the Popish Religion in their turns."

On a stone in the S. aisle is the following inscription : —

“ Sacred to the memory of William James Minn, seaman, son of Robert and Hannah Minn, of Shrewsbury, who perished at sea on the night of the 19th June, 1849, in 30 deg. S.E. and 10·30 deg W. longitude, aged 18 years and 10 months, to the great grief of all who knew him.”

And,

“ To the memory of James Minn, soldier, brother of the above-named Robert. He likewise died at sea on his voyage to Canada, in the year 1831, aged 44 years. He served fourteen years in the Hussars, under the Marquis of Anglesey, and two years in the Peninsula, in the 3rd Regt. of Lancers, and had an honourable discharge from both Regts. His first action was Corunna, his last Waterloo.—“ The sea shall give up her dead.”

William and James Minn (mentioned at p. 9 in these *Notes* as a benefactor to the School) are buried in the churchyard.

ROUSBY.—James Henry, son of James Edwards Rousby, Esq., and Caroline, his wife. He died 18th October, aged 5 years.

TABRAM.—“ To the memory of James Frederick Tabram, born 21st March, 1834, died 23rd November, 1838 ” (nephew of the Rev. Dr. Stephenson).

THROCKMORTON.—In the Chancel is a brass bearing a heart supported by two hands, with three scrolls issuing from the heart. The following words are written on the scrolls :—“ Credo quod Redemptor meus vivit et in novissimo die de tra surrectur' sū et in carne mea videbo Deū Salvatorē meū.” Inscribed upon the heart are the words, “ Ihū mey,”—and below the brass—“ Here lyeth buried John Throckmorton, the sonne of Heugh Throckmorton (gent.) and Elizabeth his wife, who dyed 6 day of Oct. in the yere of our Lord, 1573.”*

WEEDON.—It will be seen hereafter that the Weedons purchased the manor of Souldern from the descendants of the Throckmortons and bequeathed the same to Samuel Cox in 1710.

The following members of the Weedon family were buried in the body of the Church :—Bernard Weedon, Esq., 1679 ; Ignatius

* With reference to this interesting brass, we have been favoured with the copy of a letter from the Rev. Henry Burgess to Dr. Rotton, in which it is said that “ Hearts are usual on brasses before the Reformation, and held in hands. They are sometimes inscribed with “ Mercy ” or “ Jesu Mercy,” (as at Souldern.) The passage from Job xix., 25 26, is frequently found in connection with the heart, the latter being inscribed “ Credo,” and the scrolls, three in number, continuing the text. Sometimes the heart is held by two hands issuing from clouds (as at Souldern also). It is said that such memorials indicate that the deceased was enabled to perform a vow which he had made, but better still, I think, they are intended to embody the ancient invitory “ Sursum corda,” and to express a firm trust in the promises of God. I am also told that the heart was often interred in a different church from that in which the body was buried.” The attention of the present Sir Nicholas Will Throckmorton having been called, in 1881, to the dilapidated state of this interesting family memorial, by the Rev. Dr. Rotton, he at once caused it to be restored.

Another brass, also in the chancel, bears the effigy of a girl of apparently 16 or 17 years of age. This has been recently (1882) cleaned and replaced at the expense, and by the direction, of Dr. Rotton.

Weedon, 1683; Mary Weedon, widow of Bernard Weedon, Oct. 17th, 1691.—(Rawl. MS. B. 400); Frances Weedon, wife of John Weedon, Esq., 1701. The said John Weedon, 1702; Elizabeth, wife of Bernard Weedon, jun., 1708; John Weedon, Esq., 1710; Bernard Weedon, 1713; Mary Weedon, 1728; William Weedon, 1741; and Widow Weedon, 1744.

Nearly all the Weedons seem to have been Roman Catholics. Their monuments may still be seen near the N. door. One of them has the Weedon arms, carved as an escutcheon empaled with the arms of the wife. There is another stone, on the other side of the church, with the names of Weedon and Gough upon it.

WESTCAR.—The Westcars are mentioned further on in these *Notes* as being benefactors of the Parish. Of this family the following are buried in the church:—Samuel, died May 11th, 1793, aged 33; Thomas, died March 1st, 1809, aged 53; Mary, died June 20th, 1793, aged 35; Elizabeth, died March 31st, 1820, aged 65; children of Thomas Westcar (gent.) and Elizabeth his wife. Thomas Westcar (gent.), died September 27th, 1788, aged 72; Elizabeth, his wife, died August 10th, 1805, aged 88.*

The Rectors are buried in the Chancel. The first in date is commemorated on a brass, recently restored by Dr. Rotton. "Of your charitie p̄y for the soul of Maister Thom[a]s Warne, late person of this Church, which decesed XI die Aprilis, anno M°vexiiij°." There is a full length effigy of the priest in his vestments on this slab.

Hardinge.—"Here lies interred the body of the learned and reverend Thomas Hardinge, Batchelour of Divinity, sometime one of the Masters of Westminster School; commonly called the Grecian, for his excellency in that tongue; Rector of Soulderne 26 years, and author of the great Ecclesiastical Historiet. His better monument he erected himself where his memorie and his successors live together, in the faire parsonage house, where he was not only eminent for his holy and pious conversation but for his hospitality and charitie to the poore. His epitaph is legible in the large volumes of his works. He suffered his mortal change October 10th, 1648, in the tyme of the great Revolution and change of Church and State: Living and dying himself in the same constancy of obedience, a true sonne of the Church and professor of the auncient Catholique faith.

Anima mea cum patribus."

* Mr. John Rowland Crook is the only descendant of the Westcar family now living in the parish, though we believe Hill House Farm is still possessed by another branch.

† "A judgment of Archbishop Ussher, Thomas Gataker, and others commending a 'History of the Church' to the time of Charles I., by the Rev. Thomas Hardinge, B.D., late Rector of Souldern." (The history seems never to have been printed, but Ussher and Gataker had read part of it). Bodleian MS. Tanner 89, fol. 4.

Mr. Hardinge's armorial bearings, a dolphin naiant impaling a lion ramp. (Stapleton), are engraved on the monument.

Twyne.—"Here lyeth the body of Mr. Wm. Twyne for divers yeares fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, Bachelour in Divinity, and late Rector of this Church, whose exemplar and conversation in both places, for solid learning and true piety, deservedly recommends him to the memory of others. He departed this life the last day of January, 1665-6, and in the 41st yeare of his age. 'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.—Ps. 116, ver. 15.'—Rawl. MS. B. 400 c.

Turner.—On another black marble at the entrance into the Chancel. "Hic jacet Bryanus Turner, S.T.P., e com. Lancast. oriundus, Coll. St. Joh., apud Cantab. socius, hujus eccl. annis xxx Rector, Eccl. Cath. Hereford canonicus, ejusdem demum archidiaconus nominatus. Qui vitam et munera summa laude gessit. Obiit Feb. xx MDCXCVII., anno ætatis LXV." And "in the chancel on a white freestone gravestone—Hic jacent fratres gemelli, Isaack et Willielmus, filii Briani Turner, S.T.P., hujusce Ecclesie Rectoris, Nat. x Aug. MDXCVI.—Isaack XXI. Aug. obiit MDCXCVI.; Will. xxvi. Aug." (Rawl.B. 400. c.)

Shaw.—"Here lies the body of Jeffery Shaw, B.D., Rector of this Church, who fell down dead while he was reading Divine Service therein on Sunday, Nov. 17th, 1706. 'Blessed is that servant whom the Lord when He cometh shall find so doing.'"

Russell.

"M. S.
Reverendi viri
Joannis Russell, S. T. B.
Divi Joan. Evangel. apud Cantab. Socii,
Dein hujus parochiæ annos
ultra 36 rectoris,
qui obiit 5° die mensis Martii
año { salutis, 1772
 { ætatis, 79.
Juxta jacet
Elizabetha, J. R. uxor,
quæ obiit die 26° m. Martii,
anno { salutis 1791
 { ætatis 84."

Horseman.—"Rev. John Horseman, B.D., June 25th, 1806, aged 73," and "Ursula, wife of the Rev. John Horseman, rector of Souldern, d. Apr. 19th, 1803, aged 66 years."

THE REV. GEOFFREY SHAW.

The following account of an apparition alleged to have been seen by him is found in Nichol's *Illustrations of Lit. Hist. of the 18th cent.*, 1822, iv., 119.

Part of a letter from Mr. Edward Walter, Fellow of St. John's College, Camb., to a friend in the country; dated Dec. 6th, 1706 :—

"I should scarce have mentioned anything of the matter on my own account, but since you have given yourself the trouble of an enquiry, I am, I think, obliged in friendship to relate all that I know of the matter, and that I do the more willingly because I can so soon produce my authority.

"Mr. Shaw, to whom the apparition appeared, was Rector of Souldern, or Souldern, in Oxfordshire, late of St. John's College, [Cambridge], aforesaid, on whom Mr. Grove, his old fellow-collegiate, called July last, in his journey to the west, where he staid a day or two and promised to see him again in his return, which he did, and staid three days with him. In that time, one night after supper, Mr. Shaw told him that there happened a passage which he could not conceal from him, as being an intimate friend, and one to whom this transaction might have something more relation to than another man. He proceeded therefore and told him that about a week before that time, viz., July 28th, 1706, as he was smoking and reading in his study, about 11 or 12 at night, there came to him the apparition of Mr. Naylor, formerly fellow of the said College and dead some years ago, a friend of Mr. Shaw's, in the same garb he used to be in, with his hands clasped before him. Mr. Shaw, not being much surprized, asked him how he did, and desired him to sit down, which Mr. Naylor did. They both sat there a considerable time, and entertained one another with various discourses. Mr. Shaw then asked after what manner they lived in the separate state? He answered, "Far different from what they do here, but that he was very well." He enquired farther whether there was any of their old acquaintance in that place where he was? He answered, "No! not one;" and then proceeded and told him that one of their old friends, naming Mr. Orchard, should die quickly, and that he himself (Mr. Shaw) should not be long after. There was mention of several people's names, but who they were or upon what occasion Mr. Grove cannot or will not tell. Mr. Shaw then asked him whether he would not visit him again before that time. He answered, no, he could not; he had but three days allowed him, and farther he could not go. Mr. Shaw said, "Fiat voluntas Domini," and the apparition left him.

This is word for word as Mr. Shaw told Mr. Grove, and Mr. Grove told me.

What surprized Mr. Grove was, that as he had, in his journey homewards, occasion to ride through Clopton or Claxton, he called upon Mr. Clark, fellow of our College aforesaid, and curate there, when enquiring after College news, Mr. Clark told him Arthur Orchard* died that week, August 6th, 1706, which very much shocked Mr. Grove, and brought to his mind the story of Mr. Shaw afresh. About three weeks ago Mr. Shaw died of an apoplexy, in the desk, of the same distemper poor Arthur Orchard died of. Since this strange completion of matters Mr. Grove has told this relation, and stands to the truth of it, and that which confirms the narrative is, that he told the same to Dr. Baldiston, the present Vice-Chancellor, and Master of Emanuel College, above a week before Mr. Shaw's death, and when he came to the College he was no way surprized as others were. What fartherers my belief of its being a true vision, and not a dream, is Mr. Grove's incredulity of stories of this nature. Considering them both as men of learning and integrity, the one would not first have declared nor the other have spread the same were not the matter itself serious and real.—Yours etc., EDWARD WALTER."

There is also another letter, from "the Rev. J. Hughes to the Rev. Mr. Borariker," virtually giving the same narrative. And in an extract from a letter "from the Rev. Mr. Turner to Mr. Bonwicke," we read:—"There is a circumstance relating to the story of this apparition which adds great confirmation to it. There is one, Mr. Cartwright, a member of Parliament, a man of good credit and integrity, an intimate friend of Mr. Shaw's, who told the same story with Dr. Grove's (which he had from Mr. Shaw at the Archbishop of Canterbury's table), but he says further that Mr. Shaw told him of some great revolutions in the State, which he will not discover, being either obliged to silence by Mr. Shaw, or concealing upon some prudent and politic reasons." These letters are dated November, 1706, and MSS. copies are in the possession of the writers of these *Notes*.†

* Of St. John's College, Cambridge, B.A. 1662, M.A. 1666, B.D. 1673.

† For possession of a scarce tract entitled, "Sermon by William Offley on the death of the Rev. Geoffrey Shaw, Rector of Southerne, Oxfordshire, who died whilst he was in the Church at evening prayer," 4to. (1707), the compilers are indebted to the kindness of Mr. Madan. The Mr. Naylor, Vicar of Enstone, spoken of in this narrative, is mentioned in Jordan's "History of Enstone," pp. 191 192, where we learn that he died in 1704, and was buried July 1st of the same year. "Affidavit (of his being buried in woolen) was made before Mr. Brideoake, Rector of Swerford. On a corner buttress of the church porch there is a small diamond-shaped white marble slab to his memory," bearing an inscription of which the following is a translation:—"Near this spot is deposited John Naylor, Master of Arts, Fellow of University College, and Vicar of this Church. He died June 29th, A.D. 1704, in the 49th year of his age, grievously dispirited (*abjectus*) in the house of the Lord."

Chapter V.

THE MANOR OF SOULDERNE.

About 1066, Jordan de Sai (whose name appears on the roll of Battle Abbey) appears to have obtained a grant of the manor of "Sulethorn."

39 Hen. III., 1254-5.—"Sulthorn. Dominus Radulphus de Erderne tenet man. de Sulthorn de honore Castelli Ricardi, quod Will. de Stotewile tenet per servicium dimidii militis: libertatem habet, set nescimus quo waranto, nisi quod vicecomes recipit quatuor solidos de visu. De aliis capitulis nil sciunt, nisi default. dom. Radulphi.—*Rotuli Hundredorum*, 1818, vol. II., p. 44.

In 1261, or earlier, Philip Basset sold the said manor to Ralph de Bray for 40 marks of silver.—(White Kennett's *Parochial Antiquities*, Vol. I., p. 387).

Edw. I.—Thomas de Lewknore* holds the manor of Sulthorne of Thomas de Arderne by the service of one pound of cummin yearly, and the said Thomas holds from the heirs of Say, and it is a manor free in itself, and has a view of frank pledge from the first Conquest of England, and the bailiffs of our lord the King have no entrance unless by writs of our lord the King. And it has an ancient warren from the first conquest of England. And the sheriff of Oxford has 4s. yearly from the time of John de Tywe formerly sheriff of Oxford, who levied those four shillings unjustly. And it has a right to waifs (*wayvium*) from the Conquest aforesaid. And he holds in his lordship three carucates of land and the meadow and pasture adjoining, and he has there a free fishery, from the head of the meadow of Goldenham, as far as the meadow of Fretewelle. And the said lord of Sulthorne at his will, or his attorney, shall come to the two Great Hundred Courts yearly to demand the liberty of his men belonging to the manor, and by this they shall be free and at liberty to withdraw with-

* Thomas de Lewknore married Lucy, heiress of Thomas de Arderne, who inherited from the de Sais. She is said (s e "Testa de Nevill," *temp.* Hen. III. and Ed. I.) to hold the whole township of "Solphorne" in frank marriage.

out any amercement or fine, and this freedom has been in use from the aforesaid Conquest.—(*Rotuli Hundredorum*, temp. Edw. 1., 1818, Vol. II., p. 823.)

John de Luvetot (senior).—Sulthorne manor, Oxon (with many more in other counties).—Calendar of Inquis. Post Mortem, 22nd Ed. I.

Thomas de Abbresbury.—“Sulthorne maner’ extent. Oxon.”—*Ibid.* temp. Ed. I.

“Will’us de Tyngewick.—Sulthorne maner’ extent. ut de Castro Ricardi.”—*Ibid.*, 10th Ed. II.

John de Abberbury, chivaler.—“Sulthorne maner, extent.” *Ibid.*, 20th Ed. III.

In 1357, in a Patent Roll of the 31 Ed. III., there occurs the entry of a writ, “about the Hamlet of Foresmore, belonging to Roger de Cottesford, and (about) the enclosed road between Cottesford and Sulthorne, and a license to enclose the said hamlet.”—White Kennett, Vol. II., p. 115 (note).

“Ric’us de Abberbury, Sulderne maner’ Oxon.”—Cal. Rot. Chartarum, temp. Rich. II.

In the Inquisitions of Henry VI., William Duke of Suffolk, held, in the County of Oxford, land in Thorp, Cudlynton, Sulthorne, etc. And in Napier’s *History of Swyncombe and Ewelme* it appears that after the murder of the said Duke, Alice his widow was seized of the said lands. (p. 104, note B).

In 36 Hen. VI., “Joh’es Dynham, miles,” holds the manor with twelve others in the county (Cal. Inquis. post mortem). This John Dynham apparently became possessed of Souldern through a marriage with one of the de la Poles.

In the reign of Elizabeth a son of the aforesaid John Dynham, married, first, Elizabeth, d. of Sir John Dormer, and secondly Penelope, d. of Sir Rich. Wenman. During the same reign, the manor of Souldern was purchased by the Weedons from the Right Hon. H. Compton, Sir John Arundel, John Dormer, and Paul Tracy, who were seized of the estate in right of their wives. It continued in the Weedon family until the year 1710 when John Weedon died and left his manor and estate to Samuel Cox and Alicia *née* Kilby, his wife; and their direct descendant Col. Sneyd Cox, of Broxwood Court and Eaton Bishop, in the county of Hereford, is the present lord.

Chapter VI.

THE CHARITIES.

Dodwell's Charity for Clothing.

Thomas Dodwell, of Souldern, by indentures dated 17th and 18th August, 1694, conveyed $3\frac{1}{4}$ acres of meadow grounds lying in Souldern, upon trust, for payment to the Overseers and Churchwardens for the time being, of the sum of 30s. yearly, to be laid out in the clothing of such two of the poor inhabitants of Souldern as the major part of the landowners of Souldern, being Protestants, and having the quantity of a quarter of a yardland or more within the parish, should, from time to time, nominate and appoint, and to no other use or purpose whatever. In 1826, when the report of the Charity Commissioners was made, the sum of £1 10s. was annually paid by Mr. John Merry, the owner of the premises charged, and laid out by the Overseers in cloth, which was given at a Vestry among five or six poor and industrious Protestants not receiving parish relief. In the years 1824–25 three men and three women received a sufficient quantity of cloth to make them a jacket or petticoat. The oldest resident parishioners, being married persons, receive it in succession.

Dodwell's Bread Charity.

The same Thomas Dodwell, also by deed, dated 18th August, 1694, and 12th March, 1699, conveyed two closes in this parish, containing, by estimation, 20 acres, called the "Millsedges," and a small close called "Little Millsedge," upon trust, for distribution weekly on Sunday in the forenoon, in the Parish Church of Souldern, to four poor persons, inhabitants of Souldern, to be from time to time nominated by the major part of the freeholders, qualified as in the preceding case, of one threepenny loaf of baker's bread apiece. In 1826 the above premises were the property of Will Minn, of Souldern, and he supplied the four threepenny loaves a week—given at the Church on Sunday morning, to four poor widows of the parish, nominated by the Vestry as any vacancies occurred.

Cartwright's Charity.

The sum of £2 3s. 4d. is paid annually by F. W. Cartwright, Esq., of Aynho, the proprietor of land in Souldern, as part of a rent charge of £9 19s. 4d., given to the poor of Aynho, Crowton, and Souldern, for bread, by the will of Rich. Cartwright, dated 1st Feb., 1633. With this sum of £2 3s. 4d., five eightpenny loaves are provided, which are given by the Overseers in the Church, to five poor widows, who are appointed in the same manner as those who receive Dodwell's bread.

Westcar's Charity.

Elizabeth Westcar, of Hill House, in the parish of Souldern, by will dated 19th Feb., 1820, gave certain property for sale, upon trust, to invest £400, part of the proceeds, and to lay out one half of the dividends in the purchase of clothing, and the other half in the purchase of bread, for the poor of Souldern, to be given and distributed, yearly, on Christmas Day, in such proportions as the trustees should think fit; and in like manner to invest £200 for payment of the dividends to the School Master for the time being of the National School. These legacies were laid out by the executors in the purchase of what is now £544 8s. 6d. four per cents., producing an annual dividend of £21 15s. 6d., which is distributed as ordered.

The actual receipts from the Souldern Charities in the year 1881 amounted to a little more than £47, and the accounts were fully audited and approved by the Charity Commissioners.

Charity Land.

The following is a brief abstract of the account given in the report of the Commissioners for Charities in 1826:—

By a decree in Chancery, 29 June, 10 Jas. I. (1612), an assignment was confirmed of 7 acres of land at Cole's Cross, 5 acres called "The Green," and 1 acre called "The Pits" and "Bowling Green," for the use of the poor inhabitants of Souldern, as also an annual payment of 5s. from the Incumbent of the parish for a piece of waste ground adjoining the Parsonage. Up to 1814 this land remained unenclosed, and was used by the villagers as common grazing-ground, and was the subject of constant contention amongst the poor. In that year a petition was presented in Chancery upon the matter, and in 1815 Trustees were appointed; and the land at Cole's Cross with part of the Green was leased to Rob. Kilbye Cox., Esq., for 99 years, from 7 May, 1819, at a yearly rent of £1, in consideration of his paying the costs of the Chancery settlement, amounting to £236 7s. 6d. The annual value of this land was then estimated at £12.

Upon the remaining portion of the Green and the Bowling Leys there were in 1826 17 cottages built partly by the parish and partly by the poor themselves, with gardens attached; and 40 gardens besides. Each one who had a house and garden then paid yearly to the Trustees 1s. 6d., and each occupant of a garden alone, 1s.; but these payments now vary considerably.

The remainder of the land at the Bowling Green and the Pits, amounting to about half an acre, was let in 1826 at a yearly rent of £1 1s.

The five shillings for the land adjoining the Parsonage is paid yearly.

All the rents (including some for the feeding of different lanes) are distributed under the direction of the Vestry in various proportions among all the poor of the parish, none being omitted.

Certain lands in Souldern amounting to 26 acres are included among the Charity Lands belonging to Bicester.

