

HISTORICAL NOTICES.

A.D. 1066. In the reign of Edward the Confessor this Manor was held under Edith, Queen Consort, by Eddeva wife of Wlnuard, who had the power of selling¹ it.

A.D. 1084, 18 Will. I. At this time "Wermelle" was held by the Bishop of Constance, and under him by Robert.²

A.D. 1100—35. After the forfeiture of the lands of the Bishop of Constance, this Estate is said to have been given by Henry I. to his natural son, Robert Mellent, who likewise held Great Marlow and other lands in Bucks; and this appropriation of it seems to be countenanced by the Manor being afterwards included in the Honor of Gloucester.³

A.D. 1159, 6 Hen. II. Pope Alexander III. confirmed to the Monastery of St. Frideswide in Oxford the Church of Wormenhall (ecclesiam de Wrmhala), by a Bull dated "Tusculani XIII. Kal Jun;" but the name of the donor is not mentioned.⁴

A.D. 1199, 1 John.⁵ Sometime previous to this date, William Fitz-Elys, with the consent of his wife Emma, gave to the Church of St. Frideswide in Oxford and the Priors and Canons there serving God, the Church of Wormehalle, with all its appurtenances in wood and in plain, in meadows and in pastures, with the pence and tenths of the demesnes, and six acres of land, and two acres which Josceus (gave), with all their appurtenances, etc., upon condition of being received into their fraternity, and being buried in their Church.⁶

William Fitz-Elys also confirmed to the said Monastery one virgate of land and six acres (with consent of his wife Emma), which Otwell Lisle held and gave at the dedication of the Church of Wormenhall.⁷ This donation was afterwards confirmed by his wife Emma—

¹ Domesday Survey, f. 155.

² Ibid.

³ Rev. Ed. Cooke's MSS., ap. Lipscombe's Bucks.

⁴ Bp. Kennett's Parochial Antiquities, vol. i., p. 161.

⁵ Rot. Cart. 1 John, No. 9, p. 23 b. A royal confirmation of the Church of Wormenhall to the Monastery of St. Frideswide, in Oxford.

⁶ Wyrley's MS., Ash. Mus., ap. Lipscombe's Bucks.

⁷ W. Wyrley's MS. Bp. Kennett, vol. i., p. 466.

called Emma de Peri—from her residence at the neighbouring village of Waterpery.¹

She was the daughter of Fulk Luvel, from whom she inherited the Manors of Waterpery, Wormenhall, and Oakley, and was the grand-daughter of Lupellus de Brai.²

Other confirmations were afterwards granted by descendants of the Fitz-Elys' family, who retained the above-named possessions for above three hundred years.

A.D. 1272, 1 Edward I. In the Hundred Rolls is the following notice:—

“Dominus Thomas de Donniton de Villâ de Wrme-hale habet placita de visu franciplegii. Et Dominus filius Helye in eodem modo in eadem villâ.”

A.D. 1274, 3 Edward I. In this year took place the decease of Gervase, Perpetual Vicar of Wormenhall.³

The Vicarage had been ordained by the authority of a Council, shortly before the presentation of his predecessor, William de Estin, by the Prior and Convent of St. Frideswide, in the year of our Lord 1229.

A.D. 1296, 24 Edward I. Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, died, seised of fees in Wormenhall.⁴

A.D. 1315, 8 Edward II. The Manor of Wormenhall was held by John de la Rivere,⁵ who obtained a charter for a weekly market on Thursday; and annually on the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, June 29, a fair and free warren.⁶

A.D. 1341, 14 Edward III. Robert Fitz-Elys obtained a grant of free warren in Waterpery, Oxon; Wormenhall, and Okele, Bucks; and Nethercote, Wilts.⁷

¹ In the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, at Waterpery, which was given to Oseney Abbey, in Oxford, by the same William Fitz-Elys and his wife Emma, is a stone effigy of Robert Fitz-Elys, a descendant of this family, who departed this life A.D. 1376, representing him in the “*cuir boulli*,” or leathern armour, which prevailed in the time of Ed. III.; and there is also an obituary window, representing Robert Fitz-Elys (who deceased A.D. 1470) with his wife Margaret and only daughter Margeria.

² For a full account of the family of Fitz-Elys and their monuments in Waterpery Church, see “*Guide to Architectural Antiquities*,” part iii. J. H. Parker, Oxford, 1845.

³ So called in the Ledger Book of Knights' Templars, at Sandford. Wood's MSS., 10 f., 18 b.

⁴ *Inquis. post mortem*, vol. i., p. 133.

⁶ *Rot. Chart.*, 32 Ed. I. p. 135.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 175.

A.D. 1363, 37 Edward III. The Abbot of Abyngdon and others were seised of the Manor of Wormenhall with other lands in Oxfordshire, in right of the Warden and Scholars of Canterbury Hall.¹

In the same reign, Sir William Tracey, Knt., had a writ of entry of two parts of the Manor of Wormenhall, with appurtenances.² These rights did not operate to the exclusion of the Fitz-Elys' family, although their interests were more or less affected by them.

A.D. 1470, 9 Edward IV. The Manors of Waterpery, Wormenhall, and Oakley, with possessions in Berks (Aldermaston, Englefield, and Reading) passed into the family of the Ingletons of Thornton, near Buckingham, by the marriage of Sibilla, sole heiress of Robert Fitz-Elys, Esqre., of Waterpery, to George Ingleton, Esqre.³

A.D. 1519, 10 Hen. VIII. Jane, sole heiress of Robert Ingleton, Esqre., was married to Humphrey Tyrell, Esqre., son of William Tyrell, Esqre., of South Ockingden, Essex, who accordingly had livery of the lands of his wife's inheritance, and took up his residence at Thornton, Bucks.

The Manor of Wormenhall, however, and other Fitz-Elys' possessions, were for some time held in dower by Sibilla, widow of George Ingleton, Esqre.⁴

From Sir George Tyrell, sole heir of Humphrey and Jane Tyrell, the estate passed to Thomas Typpling, Esqre., of Shabbington; and in 1720 to Edward Rudge, Esqre., of Wheatfield, Oxon, who, about 1772, sold his estate in Wormenhall to Samuel Horne, Esqre., from which family it passed by purchase in A.D. 1827 to the Right Honourable Henry, Lord Clifden, Baron Mendip.

NOTICES OF THE KING FAMILY.

Of all the families formerly connected with Wormenhall that of King have most effectually perpetuated their memory by charitable bequests.

They do not appear to have held the manor or any considerable part of the property in the parish. The

¹ Esch., 37 Ed. III.

² Rot. fin. Buck, 17 Ed. III., p. 64.

³ Esch. in Tower of London, 9 Ed. IV.

⁴ See "Guide to Architectural Antiquities," part iii., p. 260.

first of the family who settled at Wormenhall was William¹ King, of Devonshire, brother of Robert Kynge, the first Bishop of Oxford, and brother-in-law to John Lord Williams, of Thame, having married Anne, daughter of Sir John Williams, of Burfield.

The issue of this marriage was Philip King, who, in his minority, was page to King Henry VIII., was educated with great care by his uncles, Robert, Bishop of Oxford, and John Lord Williams, of Thame, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Edmund Conquest, Esq., of Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire. He departed this life Jan. 12, A.D. 1592, and was buried at Wormenhall, where a brass remains on the south wall of the chancel, representing him with his wife and twelve children.

The most distinguished of these children was John King, who was born at Wormenhall about A.D. 1559, was educated in grammar learning at Westminster School, became student of Christchurch in 1576, was made Chaplain to Queen Elizabeth, as he was afterwards to King James, and upon the 12th of August, 1590, was installed Archdeacon of Nottingham, being at that time a preacher in the City of York. Afterwards he was made Chaplain to Egerton, Lord Keeper, proceeded Doctor of Divinity in 1602; and, in 1605, was promoted to the Deanery of Christchurch by King James, who thus acceded to a petition signed by twenty-two of the students in the name of the rest, and describing Dr. John King as "one of the brightest lights of the English Church." He was afterwards for several years Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford; in 1611 he had the Bishopric of London bestowed upon him, being consecrated on the 8th of September. "At this time" (says Anthony à Wood²) he was had in great reverence by all people; he was a solid and profound divine, of great gravity and piety, and had so excellent a volubility of speech that Sir Edward Coke, the famous lawyer, would often say of him, "that he was the best speaker of the Star Chamber in his time," and

¹ Anthony à Wood calls him "Thomas."—"Athenæ Oxon."

² In the "Athenæ Oxonienses," written about A.D. 1660, whence these particulars of the King family are principally taken, with several additions from "Biographical Notices of Bishop Henry King," prefixed to his poems, edited by the Rev. J. Hannah, M.A., Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford.—1843. F. Macpherson.

King James commonly called him the "king of preachers." He paid his last debt to nature 30th March, A.D. 1621, and was buried in the cathedral church of St. Paul, in London. He earnestly requested that no other memorial might be set up for him than a plain tomb, with the single word, "Resurgam," inscribed upon it, which was accordingly done; but his zealous relations and admirers departed from the spirit of his last directions by hanging near the tomb a tablet with an inscription of more than a hundred lines of Latin verse, setting forth the orthodoxy of his doctrines, the virtues of his life, and the illustriousness of his descent.¹

Henry King, the eldest son of Dr. John King, by Joan, his wife, daughter of Henry Freeman, of Staffordshire, was born in the same house and chamber at Wornal, Bucks, wherein his father had received his first breath, in the month of January, 1591, and was baptized there on the 16th of the same month. He was educated partly in grammar learning in the free school at Thame, in Oxfordshire, and partly in the college school at Westminster, where he was elected a student of Christchurch, in 1608. After taking his degree, he entered into Holy Orders and became a most florid preacher, and successively Chaplain-in-Ordinary to King James I. of pious memory, Archdeacon of Colchester, Residentiary of St. Paul's Cathedral, Canon of Christ's Church, and Chaplain-in-Ordinary to King Charles I., Doctor of Divinity, and Dean of Rochester, in which dignity he was installed Feb. 6, 1638. In 1641 he was made Bishop of Chichester, upon which occasion he is mentioned by the Earl of Clarendon as a man "of great eminency in the Church, peculiarly free from those faults ascribed to the governing clergy, a frequent preacher, and one against whom not the least objection could be made."²

However great a favourite he may have been beforehand with all parties, the following notice of him in an account of the siege of Chichester, in 1642, shows how much he fell in the estimation of the Puritans on being raised to the Episcopal Bench:—"Dr. King, also, then Bishop

¹ See the Inscription at length in Dugdale's "History of St. Paul's Cathedral." See also in Stowe's "London."

² Clarendon's "History of the Great Rebellion."

of Chichester (a proud prelate, as all the rest are, and a most pragmatical malignant against the Parliament, as all his catercapt companions also are) was there also taken prisoner."¹

Another writer, of opposite sentiments to the one last quoted, informs us that, during the disastrous siege of Chichester by Sir William Waller, the cathedral was dilapidated, the palace and goods of Dr. King ransacked and destroyed, and his person treated with cruel indignity by the fanatical soldiery.² After being restored to his Bishopric in 1660 he departed this life 30th Sept. 1669, leaving behind him the character of one who was the epitome of all honours and virtues, and generous nobleness, and a person never to be forgotten by his tenants and by the poor.³ His will, which was proved 16th November, 1669, contains the following passage:—"Item. I give to the poore of Wornhalt, in Buckinghamshire—where myself and my father before me were borne, the somme of one hundred pounds, wherewith my will is that land be purchased, the yearly revenues whereof to be added to that which my father and my uncle, Philip King, gave to buy bread every Sunday, distributed to six poore people of that parish, and also some money with large loaves every Good Fryday, according as my executors shall find the rent to allow."⁴

John King, Esq., of Boycote, Kent, the eldest son of Henry King, Bishop of Chichester, was matriculated at Christchurch, Oxford, on the 16th of December, A.D. 1637. He afterwards married Anne Hannah Russell, daughter of Sir William Russell, of Strensham, Worcestershire. He died the 10th of March, A.D. 1671, and was buried near his father in Chichester Cathedral. His will, dated 20th and 24th of May, A.D. 1670, and proved on the 5th of April in the following year, provides that the rents of his lands in Kent should be left untouched for four years, and the income to be thus applied:—£1500 to build an

¹ Vicar's "Jehovah-Jireh, or English Parliamentary Chronicle," pages 234-240. Also see note 7 in Memoranda.

² Dallaway's "History of Sussex," from Walker's "Sufferings of the Clergy."

³ "Athenæ Oxon."

⁴ "Biographical Notices of Bishop Henry King," prefixed to his poems; edited by Rev. J. Hannah, Oxford, 1843. F. Macpherson, page cxiii.

Almshouse either at "Wormhalt or Ulcombe" (but he prefers the former) "to sustaine six poore old men and foure old women, with gownes of 20s. a-piece once in two yeares, with (his) armes and quarters on their sleeve." The rental of the fourth year to be laid out to supply a fund for repairs, etc.¹ The Almshouses built at Wormenhall in consequence of this charitable bequest have the following inscription over each entrance, surmounted by the arms of King,² impaling those of Russell:—

TO GOD AND THE POORE.
 JOHN KING, ESQ., SONN OF HENRY
 KING, BISHOP OF CHICHESTER, AND
 GRANDSONN OF JOHN KING,
 LATE LORD BISHOP OF LONDON,
 AND ANNE HIS WIFE, DAUGHTER OF
 SIR WILL. RUSSELL, OF STRENSU,
 BARONET, DEDICATES THIS
 FOUNDATION
 FOR SIX POORE SINGLE MEN
 AND FOWER WOMEN
 ANNO DNI.
 1675.

To these six poor single men and four women, according to village tradition, seats were appropriated in the chancel of Worminghall Church, against the north wall of which is still hung an oaken tablet (Pl. 4, Fig. 1), having carved upon it the arms of the above-named Bishop, John King, impaled with those of the see of London.

The Almshouse is built in the shape of the letter H, in memory of Bishop Henry King, father of the pious founder.

At Christchurch College, Oxford, are some interesting memorials of the King family.

In the south aisle of the Cathedral is a plain monument of Dr. Robert King, last Abbot of Oseney and first Bishop of Oxford, removed from the choir, with the fol-

¹ Register of Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 48, Duke, quoted by Rev. J. Hannah.

² The arms here represented, Pl. 4, Fig. 2, are taken from a window in Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford.

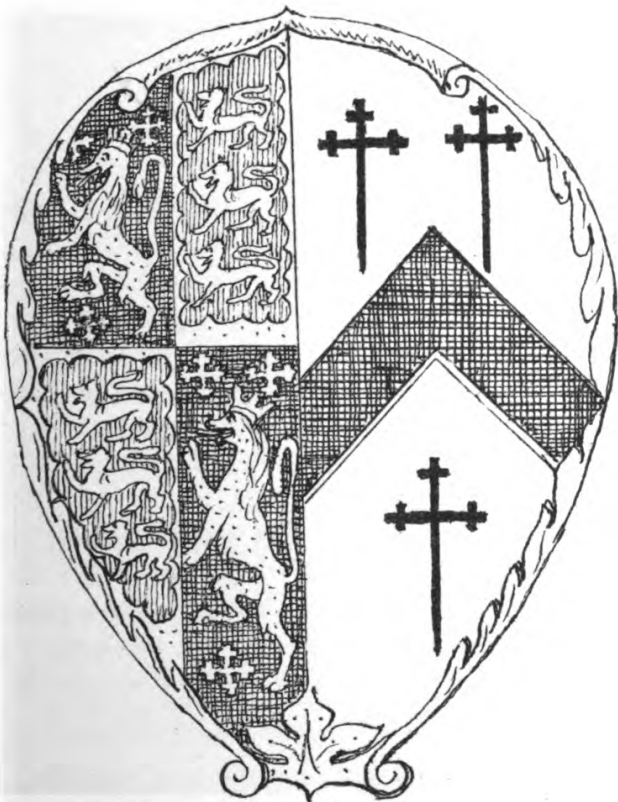


PLATE IV.
B.



lowing inscription:—"Hic jacet Robertus Kyng sacre theologie professor et primus Epus Oxon qui obiit quarto die decembris anno Domini MDLVII." When this monument was removed to its present place, a painted window was placed over it by Henry and John King, Canons of Christchurch, containing a representation of Bishop Robert King in his full episcopal robes, with the ruins of Oseney Abbey in the background. In this window, which was taken down by a member of the family, and preserved from destruction during the great rebellion, are, above the figure, the arms of King, sable, a lion rampant ducally crowned between three cross crosslets or. Quartering: gules, three lions passant argent, within a border, engrailed or. On the right of the bishop are these same arms impaled with those which are still borne by the Bishops of Oxford; and on the left the same coat of King, with one quartering, is impaled with or, two bendlets azure; the arms of Oseney Abbey, or rather of D'Oyly, the founder, whose arms were usually borne by the Abbey, reversed in colour, viz.: azure, two bendlets or.¹ In the hall of Christchurch are portraits of John King, Bishop of London, and Henry King, Bishop of Chichester.