Somersetshire Sequestrations.

BY JOHN BATTEN ESQ.

Part II.

THE following paper (read at the Wincanton Meeting) is a continuation of one published in the Society's volume for the year 1853, detailing from the original MS. the proceedings of Edward Curl, one of the Parliamentary Sequestrators for the Hundred of Catsash in this county, in executing the ordinance against Royalist delinquents and their property in that Hundred.

Of the Somersetshire Royalists none paid more dearly for his strenuous adherence to King Charles than *Sir John Stawell* of Cothelstone—the head of one of the most ancient families in the county—originally seated at Stawell near North Petherton. He was Knight of the Bath and Knight also of the Shire in the Long Parliament, from which he was dismissed in 1642, for putting in force the Commission of Array in this county. Lord Clarendon characterizes him as "a gentleman of the largest estate that any man possessed in the west, who, from his very great affection for the person of the King and for the Government that was settled both in Church and State, engaged with

singular courage both his own person and two sons in the most active part of the war, and had rendered himself as odious to the Parliament as any man of that condition had done." So odious indeed was he, that although by the Articles on the surrender of the city of Exeter, in the defence of which he had been engaged, he was fully entitled to compound for his delinquency, he was not permitted to do so unless he took the Negative Oath and Covenant which was a condition expressly repugnant to the terms of the Articles; and refusing, when brought before the House, to kneel at the bar in admission of its authority, he was ordered to be indicted for High Treason, kept close prisoner for nearly four years, and on several occasions brought to trial, but fortunately for him without any decisive result. In the meantime sad havoc was made with his property. His fine mansion at Cothelstone was despoiled and demolished, woods to the value, as he says, of £3000 to £4000 felled, and many of his estates sold. He survived however to witness the restoration, and was one of the 100 Knights who at Charing Cross welcomed Charles II on his first entry into London. His eldest son was created Lord Stawell of Somerton, but the title is now extinct.

By his wife, daughter and heiress of Sir David Hext of Low Ham, near Somerton, Sir John Stawell acquired that manor, and there he died; but he was buried in the church of Cothelstone, where his monument records of him—"Grassante perduellione magnas equitum peditumque copias suis sumptibus in auxilium regis paravit. Post perditam rem familiarem ædium ruinam carceres aliasque calamitates exoptatissimo Regis Caroli secundi redditu lætans diem obiit 21 die Feb 1661 ann æt 61."

Of the horse and foot so raised by him, some probably

were those mentioned in the following entries in Mr. Curl's Diary—

"Thos. Cole of Kingstowne gave a mare worth £15 to Sir John Stawell when he was governor of Taunton, and required Matthew Stile to come to Taunton and bring what weapon he could and go against Lime. And further said to Richard Bennett about three months since, that some would come ere long that would make his shoulders hang downwards, meaning that they would hang him." And again "John Bickham of Kingstowne came with four souldiers to Matthew Stiles' house, pulled his sonne out of bedd to goe against Lime, being then sick, and because he could not goe, plundered his father's house, and besides sett out a horse worth £10 under Sir John Stawell."

We may gather too how Mr. Curl obtained his information, as further on he says, "Paid Matthew Stiles of or near Taunton, his expence and paines in discovering malignant estates, 4s."

Sir John Stawell's property seized in this Hundred was only the Manor of Babcary. He was also entitled to one moiety of the neighbouring Manor of Blackford, and from Curl's Diary it appears that his estates in Cothelstone, Bagboro', Bishops Lydeard, Michaelchurch, Durston, Somerton, High Ham, Low Ham, Evercreech, Pressly, Pury, and Littleton, were all under Sequestration.

In collecting the rents of Babcary, Curl says he was obliged to have extraordinary assistance "because of the malignancy of the place." Perhaps this may be attributable to the influence of the *Overton Family* resident at Babcary, or in the neighbourhood, three members of which —*Mr. Andrews Overton*, a Captain in the King's Army, and Lord of the Hundred of Catsash; *Mr. William Overton*, who was "against the Parliament," and who had "a fair

dwelling-house and 50 acres of land in Queen Camel," and "another fair house and about 160 acres of land in Keinton;" and *Mr. Christopher Overton*, who refused to acknowledge the Title of the Parliament—were all treated as malignants. The Overtons came into this county from Staffordshire, and there is a pedigree of the family in the Somersetshire Visitation of 1623. A descendant of Mr. Andrews Overton was Vicar of Queen Camel.

Mr. Thomas Gollop's estate at Keinton was sequestered because he was in arms against the State, being a Major in the King's Army. Mr. Curl says, "I received nothing from it, Mr. Gollop producing unto me Articles of the surrender of Portland under Captain Batten's hand, by which he was to enjoy the profits of his estate." This gentleman therefore, must have been "Colonel Thomas Sidney Gollop, Governor for the King of the Castle and Isle of Portland," which he surrendered on the 4th April 1646, to "Captain William Batten, Vice-Admiral and Commissioner in Chief of all the forces by sea for King and Parliament," and the Article referred to is the 5th, which stipulated that the best endeavours should be used with both Houses of Parliament for the speedy taking off the Sequestrations if any on the estates of the officers and soldiers then in the Island and Castle of Portland.*

Papists—and especially Papists in arms were expressly denounced by the Ordinance and seldom escaped Sequestration. How they and their widows and children were hunted out and treated we learn from several entries in the Diary.

One is, "This night at Wellington, received information that Mrs. Cheeke, the relict of Mr. George Cheeke, deceased, is a Papist." In another Curl accounts for rent

* Hutch. Dors. 3rd ed. vol. II. p. 814.

received for a tenement belonging to the children of John Morris, a Papist deceased. And in a third he complains that the receiver of a Crown Rent chargeable on lands of one Margaret Norris, a Papist, which was under Sequestration, refused to distrain upon Mrs. Norris's goods for it, saying "he would not," and further said "what! shall the poor woman starve? the State is best able to pay and so levied it on the tenant."

Mr. William Gawen, of Horsington, was charged with being "a Papist in arms against the Parliament." He was one of the Gawens or Goweynes of Norrington, Wilts, where they had been seated from the reign of Richard II, and had only recently removed to Horsington. His mother was Gertrude, daughter of Richard Bluet, of Holcombe Rogus, Devon. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, his grandfather was subjected to a fine of £1380 for absenting himself for 60 months from his Parish Church of Alvediston. One of the editors of the History of Modern Wilts, speaking of this family, alludes to the high and dignified offices held by them in that county, and eulogizes them for the "unmerited sufferings they endured for their attachment to the religion they professed, and for their loyalty to the House of Stuart previous to, and at the time of, the Commonwealth."

There is a pedigree of this family also in the Visitation of 1623. Their arms were—Erm, on a saltire engr. az, 5 fleurs de lys, or.—*Wood* in his Athenæ mentions a Thomas Gawen, fellow of New College in 1632, a learned man who became Rector of Exton, Hants, and was deprived of his living, and as he could not accept the preferment offered him on the restoration by reason of his being a Roman Catholic, we may safely conclude he was of this family.

The property of Mr. Gawen in this Hundred consisted of lands at Hatherley in the parish of Mapperton, but his Manor of Horsington was also under Sequestration. The tenant of Hatherley was allowed amongst his disbursements, "5s paid to the pulling down of Sherborne Castle." This was after the surrender to Fairfax in 1645, and from the entry it appears that the expence was defrayed by a levy or rate not confined to property in the county in which the Castle stood. It took upwards of two months to complete the demolition so far as it extended.

Three other Papists were subjected to Sequestration in the Hundred—*Mrs. Green* of Sparkford; and her son *Gabriel Green*; and *Edward Keynes* of Compton Pauncefoot. Mr. Keynes was the owner of "the Manor House, and one half the demesnes worth in the best of times per ann £100, viz.

	£	s	d
The House, Garden, and Orchards containing about five acres of ground worth per ann.			
The two Burrow Hills	12	0	0
Broad Meadowe and Kingston Meadowe	7	10	0
Moore Meadowe	7	0	0
Pines Close	4	0	0
In Long Meadowe	5	0	0
North Waddon	9	0	0
The Warren	12	0	0
The Hier East Orchard	7	0	0
The Lower East Orchard, and the Milles	24	0	0
The Hop Garden Meadowes ..	6	0	0
The Coppice 20 acres, felling every year two acres at ten years growth			
	93	10	0

And the Coppice, and House, and Orchard I conceive

cannot be less worth than £6 10s, which makes up the sum of £100 per annum."

Then comes this entry—"But part of the grounds is conceived to be Mr. Godolphin's, who married Sir Henry Berkeley's daughter, who lived in the house and did carry from the house to Yarlington to Sir Henry Berkeley's house 16 feather beds not yet seized."

The Keynes family were originally from Compton Martin in this county, and afterwards Lords of Stoke Wake, and Candel Wake, Dorset. Their arms were—az, a bend wavy cotized ar.

The estate of *Mr. Robert Hunt* of Speckington, the owner of the Manor of Compton Pauncefoot and part of the demesnes, was seized "for that being a member of the Parliament he deserted his trust and went to Oxford to the Ante-Parliament," and "The Survey of his Estate" is

	£	s	d
Impr. th'old rents of ye Mannor of Compton Pauncefoot being per ann.	17	17	11
It'm demeasnes in Compton Pauncefoot and Blackford worth in the best of times per ann.	100	0	0
Due from Wm. Plucknett of Compton Pauncefoot, for an arrear of fine	250	0	0

"The land being claymed by Mr. John Hunt, who promised to make it appeare before ye Coñitte, and in the meane time the Sequestration taken off by order frō Goldsmith's Hall as I was told."

The successful claimant was, no doubt, John Hunt, the father of Robert, who probably had an estate for life in the property, and who enjoyed it to the extraordinary age of 94.

The Hunts were from Forston in Dorsetshire, where this gentleman was born. I have not been able to ascertain

what place he represented ; and I may mention that a correct list of the members of the Somersetshire boroughs is a desideratum, Collinson, in his History, only giving us the Knights of the Shire, and those not accurately. For instance, he states that in 1614 Sir Robert Phelips and Sir Francis Hastings were elected ; whereas Sir Maurice Berkeley and John Poulet were returned.

Phelps traces the descent of Compton as an entire property from Sir Walter Pauncefote, in the time of Hen. VII, to Edward Keynes, in this reign, and states that it was sold to John Hunt about the year 1630.* This account we see is inaccurate, the demesnes being held in moieties, Mr. Keynes being the owner of one moiety with the Manor House, and Mr. Hunt of the other, with the manorial rents and rights. This is very intelligible when we observe that Sir Walter Pauncefote left two daughters his co-heiresses, between whom the inheritance was divided. Mr. Hunt, however, bought Mr. Keynes' moiety pending the Sequestration, for in enumerating the goods in the house Mr. Curl says—"Mem. There is in the maulting house a great lead cistern that will wet sixty bushels of barley, which I seized. I desire to know whether I shall dispose of it, and to have warrant for it, because Mr. Hunt hath now bought the house." Mr. Hunt was evidently not to be unwarrantably interfered with, for Curl adds—"One close 18a. estimated worth £9 a year, not let or sown this year, Mr. Hunt gave such threatening words that those that desire to have it durst not meddle with it." The fact of Mr. Hunt's purchase is confirmed by the following entry in the Catalogue of Compositions, "Edward Keynes Recusant per Henry Hunt purchaser £37." Henry Hunt was of Oxford, a brother of

* Phelps' History of Somerset, vol. I.

Robert, and the purchase was advisedly taken in his name to avoid risk of forfeiture.

An inaccuracy occurs in Collinson with reference to the Manors of North and South Cadbury. He says that Sir Francis Hastings having no children these estates were sold by some family arrangement to Richard Newman Esq. High Steward of Westminster, who, we may mention, was a zealous Royalist, rewarded after the restoration with an honourable augmentation of his coat of arms. We are enabled to correct this account by interposing before Mr. Newman another Lord of these Manors, as eminent as he was in his attachment to the royal cause in its adversity (or it may be its obstinacy), although not surviving as he did to share the honours attending its restoration. This was *Arthur Ducke*, Doctor of Civil Law, simply designated by Mr. Curl, "as a known delinquent," his offence being, as we find from the Royalist Composition Papers in the Record Office, "that he left his habitation and went to Oxford, and was there at its surrender," which he justifies in his petition for leave to compound, on the ground that he was bound to attend on his Majesty's person as Master of Requests. Dr. Ducke was a wealthy man, and his property here was extensive. The ancient demesnes (*i.e.* the lands in hand) in North and South Cadbury were let "15 years agone" at £220 a year, and the reserved rents on tenements still outstanding on lives amounted to £72 1s 1d. He was also, as he says in the Particulars of his Estate, tenant by the curtesy of one moiety of the Manor of Wyke Champflower, the other moiety belonging to William Bull of Shapwick, who married his wife's sister. Dr. Ducke did not reside in Somersetshire, but at Chiswick near London—the Manor House at North Cadbury being in the occupation of his

tenant, Mrs. Willoughby, who must have been distracted by the frequent raids of Parliamentary troopers, detachments being constantly billeted on her, as her bill of charges for quartering them amounting to £49 16s 6d proves.

It may be mentioned in passing, that there is an entry in Mr. Curl's account which enables us to fix the date of the old wall inclosing the Cadbury Castle, as he says, "Imprimis abated Elizabeth Laver for three acres of ground which Dr. Ducke took into the Castle *when he walled it in*, 6d a quarter, the sum is 2s."

Arthur Ducke was a native of Heavitree, near Exeter, and a younger brother of Nicholas Ducke, Recorder of that city. He was first of Exeter College, Oxford, but afterwards Fellow of All Souls, and graduated as LL.D. in 1612. His connection with this county originated in his friendship with Dr. Lake, Bishop of Bath and Wells, by whom he was made Chancellor of this Diocese; and his duties at Wells introduced him to his future wife Margaret, one of the two daughters and co-heiresses of Henry Southworth, Esq. of that place, to whom he was married by the Bishop—the only marriage, it is said, the Bishop ever solemnized. Dr. Ducke was afterwards Chancellor of the Diocese of London, and sat as Member for Minehead in the Parliament of 1640. In the troubles which followed, he took the side of the King, to whom he was a firm friend—advancing him as a free gift at least £6000. So high an opinion had the King both of his loyalty and his learning, that he was selected as one of the two civilians to represent his Majesty in settling the futile treaty of Newport in 1648. He effected his composition in 1646, and the touching appeal with which he winds up his Petition to the Committee will bear repetition. "And lastly, I offer to the consideration of this Honourable Committee,

that I have spent above 40 years in the study of Civil Laws, hoping thereby I might become in some measure serviceable to the Commonwealth, and before these troubles the profit thereof was the better part of my yearly income and livelyhood, all which I have now not only lost, but all further hope of any considerable advantage thereby is now extinguished in England, which, in any other part of the Christian world, would produce to me a comfort, and livelyhood, and respect, after so many years study."*

Dr. Ducke did not long survive the downfall of his Royal Master, and died at Chiswick, in May 1649, leaving by his will £10 to the poor of North Cadbury. He was the author of a Treatise on the Civil Law, and of a Life of Archbishop Chicheley, the founder of his college.† He bore for his arms—or, on a fesse wavy sab, three lozenges of the field.

The next delinquent on the list, is *Mr. Thomas Cary* of Castle Cary, whose offence is detailed very minutely, viz :

"That he was in actual arms against the forces raised by the Parliament at Brewton and at Ivelchester.

"That he rayled at the Parliament calling them traytors and rebels.

"That when the country did rise and take one Fish, Provost Martiall at Wells, for the violence he did by night unto one William Paine of Weston Bampfylde, he was a means to rescue him from them, by being bound for his appearance to Sir Henry Berkeley.

"That when the country did rise upon the souldiers of Sir Francis Dodington, for wounding of Stephen Ashford of North Cadbury, and Mr. Williams of Barrow, and had

* Royalist Comp. Papers.
† See Wood's Ath. Oxon. Princes' Worthies of Devon.

taken some of them and their horses at Castle Cary, he was a means to rescue them by promising to pay for the healing of their wounds, which he never did.

"That he was always active for the King's part and against the Parliament."

His estate was inconsiderable, as he compounded for £38 10s. But Mr. Curl retained as "spolia opima," one carbine, one sword, and one pike, "to be disposed of as the Committee shall please." I cannot trace any connection between this gentleman and the ancient family of Cary, the original seat of which according to Westcote, the Devonshire Topographer, was at Castle Cary, but at any rate he seems to have been animated by the same spirit as Sir John Cary of that place, Chief Baron of the Exchequer in the reign of Richard II, who forfeited his estate and was banished from the kingdom for refusing to transfer his allegiance to Henry IV.

We will pass over *Mr. James Kyrton* of Ansford, a Captain in the King's army—who was leniently dealt with by the Committee, "he having proved that he did much service in saving the goods of well affected persons to the Parliament, and because he seemed to the Committee to be a distracted man"—and come to his name-sake, and probably brother, *Mr. Edward Kyrton* of Castle Cary. The charge against him was—"That he being a Member of Parliament, did desert it, and was a Commissioner for the King." He was lessee* of the park at Castle Cary under the Marquis of Hertford, (noticed in my previous paper) and of the Rectory and Parsonage of the same place under the Bishop of Bath and Wells, both worth as Mr. Curl says, £180 a year, but which he was glad to let to William Oram at £82. It appears from the Compo-

* Royalist Comp. Papers.

sition Papers that Kyrton attempted to justify his desertion by reason of his attendance on the Prince and having taken the Negative Oath and National Covenant. He made his Composition in 1646, at a reduced fine in consideration of settling £20 a year out of the Rectory for the augmentation of the maintenance of the minister of Castle Cary, and subsequently the remainder of the fine was remitted on his agreeing to increase the augmentation to £50 a year. But Mr. Kyrton's troubles were not ended. In 1649, one Benjamin Avery of Frome, had recovered judgment against Kyrton in an action of false imprisonment who complained of being sued after making his Composition, which by the Articles of Exeter indemnified him from all past transactions, and prayed the Committee to stay further proceedings in the action. Avery made a long statement in justification, alleging that he engaged his life and fortune for the Parliament, and being in arms before Sherborne Castle was there shot by the enemy, and lay in danger of his life; nevertheless he was seized by command of Kyrton, one of the King's Commissioners, and cast into prison, and not released until he had paid him a considerable sum of money, otherwise he would have perished in prison,—such was the cruelty and violence of Kyrton and his party; and since it had pleased God to give the Parliament the victory over these merciless enemies, and Parliament not being able to make good their engagements for the repair of his sufferings and losses, he had brought the action against Kyrton and others and recovered some compensation. The Committee declined to interfere, and moreover saddled Kyrton with all the expences of hearing the case.*

Edward Kyrton is believed to have been the Marquis of

* Royalist Comp. Papers.

Hertford's steward. He was a Wiltshire man, and no doubt intimately connected with the Seymour Family, as he sat in the Parliament of 1623 for Ludgershall, and in that of 1628 for Great Bedwyn ; but before this he sat for Newcastle-under-Lime. In the Parliament of 1640, he was Member for Milborne Port. Down to the time of open rupture between the King and the Parliament he strenuously opposed the aggressions of the Crown often speaking with great spirit and effect, and supporting Sir John Eliot, Sir Robert Phelips, and other advocates of the popular cause ; and he reaped the fruits of it as early as 1626, being with Sir Robert Phelips displaced from the Commission of the Peace for this county. The warrant from Lord Keeper Coventry to the Clerk of the Peace for doing so is dated 8th July, 1626, Sir Walter Earl and Sir John Strangeways being at the same time struck out of the Commission for Dorset.

It was Kyrton who, when the House in 1628 resolved itself in the absence of the Speaker, into a Committee of Safety, exclaimed, evidently referring to the Duke of Buckingham—"The King is as good a Prince as ever reigned ; it is the enemies of the Commonwealth that have so prevailed with him, therefore let us aim now to discover them and I doubt not God will send us hearts, hands, and swords to cut his and our enemies throats"—Strong language this, for which he was at the instance of the Privy Council called to answer for the next morning at the Bar, but adjudged to have said nothing beyond the bounds of duty and allegiance, the House declaring "they all concurred with him therein."

On the actual breaking out of the war we find him one of the King's Commissioners of Array for this county, and Charles II in his escape from the battle of Worcester to

Trent in 1651, had sufficient confidence in his fidelity to make his house at Castle Cary a resting place for the night. Lord Clarendon says that the King and Lord Wilmot rode into Castle Cary together, and that Mr. Kyrton who happened to meet them knew Lord Wilmot but not the King. This is not quite correct, as Lord Wilmot, according to the King's own account, had gone on to Trent to prepare for his reception ; but that Kyrton did not recognise the King may be readily believed if we recollect the complete disguise which concealed him. Mr. Kyrton died in 1653, and was buried at Easton, Wilts, the entry in the Register being "Edward Kerton, officer to Ld. Marquis of Hertford, was buried Jan. 30.*

At Kingweston, besides Dr. Godwin the Rector, noticed in my first paper, we have *Mr. Smith* of Long Ashton, the Lord of the Manor, a known delinquent in arms against the Parliament, *Mr. John Hutton*, "who sate in the Co. Co. at Ilchester and did give his approbation to proclaiming divers gentlemen that adhered to the Parliament outlaws," and *Mr. Butt*, Dr. Godwin's son-in-law, who had served as a Captain in the King's army, and since he came home from Exeter, "did threaten the well affected of the estate." Mr. Smith was Thomas Smith of Long Ashton, one of the Members for the County with Sir Ralph Hopton, in the Parliament of 1639, and a great Royalist. But as he died in 1642, and his son Hugh was only 16 years old, I am unable to account for the continuance of the Sequestration.

The estate of *Mr. Edward Beaton* of Weston Bampfield, consisting of demesnes worth £127 a year, and goods appraised at £306 18s. 8d. was seized upon a grave charge against him, deposed to by two witnesses—"That

* Coll. Top. and Gen. vol. 1, p. 39.

he presented his neighbours to the King's Commissioners for paying money to Colonel Strode.—That he said whoever paid money to Colonel Strode was a rebel.—That he said he had a horse in the King's service against the Parliament.—That his son was in arms against the Parliamentary forces under Sir John Horner and Colonel Strode.—That he said he would give £20 freely to the King's party and would not be fined as a malignant." He was fined however, though moderately, there being some point in his favor, of which the Committee gave him the benefit, and he and Edward his son compounded for the sum of £142.

The composition might not perhaps have been so easily effected had the attention of the Committee been called to a note of Mr. Curl's, "Item taken in the barn shed—three muskets, one sword, and one pistole all denyed" till, as Mr. Curl slyly adds, "they were found."

At this stage of the narrative Mr. Curl mentions an unexpected windfall. One Richard Clothier of Holton, hanged himself, and his goods being forfeited were seized as a Crown Right and sold for the use of the State for £24 6s 8d, the only deduction being £1 1s 8d for the Coroner and the Burial—a charge so moderate that I record it for imitation.

The lands of *Mr. Thomas Bennet* of Pythouse, Wilts, at Hatherley, in the parish of Mapperton, were seized because he had been a known delinquent in arms against the Parliament and a chief actor in the Dorset Club business.

The Clubmen in the Western Counties of Dorset, Somerset, and Wilts, were volunteer bands of country people, who, finding their petitions and remonstrances disregarded, and the power of the law paralyzed, assumed a kind of armed neutrality and enrolled themselves, as they professed, solely for the protection of their property from the plunder and rapine of the soldiers of both the contend-

ing parties. But although they avowed themselves neutrals it is probable they acted under royal influence; at any rate the Parliament thought their number and aspect so formidable, that after pretended negotiations for redressing their grievances, Cromwell himself attacked and routed them at Hamildon Hill, in the parish of Shroton, Dorset, and soon after the taking of Sherborne, which quickly followed, their forces were entirely suppressed.

These complaints of our Somersetshire yeomen were not only narrated in prosy petitions—they were "said or sung" in vernacular ballads. One of them, "The Somersetshire Man's Complaint," which is preserved in the British Museum* is worthy of the attention of the editors of the intended Somersetshire Glossary.

They carried their poetic taste also to the field, for on one of the colours taken was this motto—

"If you offer to plunder our cattle
Be assured we will give you battle."

The estate of *Nicholas Pitman*, of North Cadbury, was sequestered in September 1645, "for that he was in arms against the State, being a Quartermaster in the King's army and was in arms at Weymouth and Wimborne." He had lands of inheritance in North Cadbury worth £20 a year, and goods and debts due to him £127 18s 6d.

Of this property Curl says "there hath been nothing made for the use of the State and it is now ordered not to be meddled with for the service Lieut.-Col. Pitman did in delivering up Corfe Castle." The Colonel was no doubt a brother of Nicholas Pitman. The Corfe Castle story is a very dark one. The place had been long ineffectually besieged by the Parliament but so stoutly defended by

* Lansd. MSS. No. 674.

the gallant Lady Bankes that success was almost hopeless. At this juncture Col. Pitman who was an officer in the garrison, being, it is said, weary of the King's service, offered to deliver the place up to the Parliament provided he had his protection. Having obtained a promise of it, he first proposed to Col. Anketil the Governor of the castle, to introduce a reinforcement of 100 men out of Somersetshire, pointing out to him that he could get leave of Col. Bingham, the Commander of the besieging force, to pass through the lines under the pretence of procuring the exchange of his brother, then a prisoner in the Parliament quarters, for one of the King's officers who was prisoner in the castle. Col. Anketil quite fell into the plan, and Pitman went direct to Col. Bingham but instead of treating for the exchange, he arranged to convey 100 picked men into the castle by night, the besiegers undertaking to make an assault as soon as the men had entered. Accordingly upwards of 100 men were selected out of neighbouring garrisons and led by Pitman to an entrance to the Castle where Col. Anketil was posted to receive his promised reinforcement. When 50 had passed in, Anketil getting perhaps uneasy at their appearance, and seeing more behind, ordered the gate to be shut, saying he had no room for more, upon which Pitman expostulated with the Colonel for using him so ill, bringing men so far at the hazard of their lives and then leaving them exposed to the cold and the enemy. In the meantime those who had entered took up advantageous positions in the King's and Queen's towers and the besiegers advancing at the same time, the garrison soon saw that they were betrayed, and after some resistance a parley was demanded and a capitulation agreed on for the surrender of the castle.

Sir Humphrey Mildmay, Lord of the Manor of Queen

Camel, did not reside at Hazelgrove, his seat in that parish, but at Danbury, in Essex. Hazelgrove was occupied by *Mr Henry Rose*. Both the landlord and his tenant were under Sequestration. The former was a known delinquent. His two sons were officers in the King's service, and the eldest fell in an action in 1644. Mr. Rose too, "set forth horse and arms against the Parliament. He stood up and called divers to go against the Parliament forces at Bruton, and gave money to John Stokes of Marston Magna, for his journey to Bruton." His goods were valued at £400, and his case shews the resistance the Sequestrators often encountered. The goods were all secured, including a fowling piece and musket which were left with Mrs Rose, upon her entreaty, in order to guard the house, her husband not being at home, but (as might have been expected) she soon conveyed them away. Upon Mr. Curl's proceeding to dispose of the goods he met with such resistance that he says "I had troops to assist me, and at night the cattle were all driven away. The next day I overtook 110 sheep one mile beyond Sherborne, and brought them back to Little Marston (which was also in Mr. Rose's possession) where I kept men to guard them." The old rents of Sir Humphrey Mildmay's Manor of Queen Camel were £75 12s 8d, 2 lbs. of pepper, 1 lb. of cinnamon, and one clove,—besides which there was the fair, to which a tolsey court was incident. Some leasehold tenements fell into hand during the Sequestration: amongst them was one third part of Camel Hill, "which contains 127 acres of pasture and arable land, and one quarre of stone"; and in one case the best beast of the tenant seized for a heriot, was an ox appraised at £5, and in another a cow valued at £3 19s. Collinson tells us that an ox,

in the same manor, 14 Hen. III, was reckoned worth 8s., and a heifer 3s. 4d.

Sir Humphrey effected his composition for £1275. He claimed to be charged only on the value of his life interest in the estate alleging that he had settled it after his decease on his youngest son. But the committee requiring the settlement to be produced, found that Sir Humphrey had reserved a power of revocation at his pleasure and consequently valued his interest as in fee simple.

The last delinquent to be noticed is *Sir Robert Banister, Kt.* one of the Commissioners of Array, and Lord of the Manor of Sparkford. He was of Bosenham, in Northants, but neither of our county histories informs us of his connection with Sparkford. He must have been a large landowner as his composition amounted to £5195.

A loan negotiated for the King gives us an insight into the difficulty he must have experienced in raising money for his service. Mr Curl tells us that when in London, in May 1649, he received information that Mr. Alderman Hooke, of Bristol, had agreed to lend his Majesty £2000 on the bonds of twenty-two knights and esquires, (as Mr. William Walronde, one of them told him) but only ten of them signed the bond, viz—Sir J. Stawell, Sir E. Berkeley, Sir Edward Rodney, Sir Thomas Bridges, Mr. W. Walronde, Mr. Edward Kirton, Mr. Speke, Mr. Warre, and Mr. Wyndham. Returning home by way of Bristol, Curl received orders from Captain Latimer Sampson to secure the money in those gentlemen's hands, that is, to require them to pay it to the Parliament and not to Hooke. Accordingly he summoned several of them ; but the Alderman a true Bristolian, had not been asleep, for on Curl going to Mr. George Speke's house at Dillington, on the 11th of June to serve him and

Mr. Thomas Warre, he found they had been outlawed for the money by Hooke; nevertheless, he says, "I left summonses for both, with old Mrs. Speke and Mrs. Warre, their mothers as I conceive." Curl subsequently states that he was ordered to stay all proceedings in this case, and a letter from Cromwell to Mr. Speaker Lenthall, dated 20th June, 1650, explains this. After stating that at the siege of Bristol in the year 1645, for something considerable done in order to its reduction by Humphrey Hooke, Alderman of that place—which for many reasons is desired to be concealed—General Fairfax and himself had given Hooke an engagement that he should be secured and protected by the authority of the Parliament in the enjoyment of his life, liberty, and estate, he proceeds—"I understand that lately an order is issued out to sequester him whereby he is called to composition, I thought it meet therefore, to give the Honorable Parliament this account that he may be preserved from anything of that nature, for the performance of which, in order to the good of the Commonwealth we stand engaged in our faith and honour." This Sir Humphrey Hooke was of Kingsweston, and married in 1633 Florence, eldest daughter of Thomas Smith Esq. of Long Ashton.

I really feel an apology due to the Society for detaining it so long with a narrative of such a local and trifling character, which has no historical pretensions and little, if any, Archæological interest. At the same time, as it is a fair example of what was going on, not only in every part of this county, but in every other county, these minute details and incidents, relating to places and persons whose names are familiar to us, convey vivid impressions of the scenes of anarchy and confiscation which were the deplorable results of an intestine and unnatural war. But al-

though we may deprecate these results, we are bound to remember that the sturdy and successful opponents of the encroaching prerogative of the Crown, were the pioneers who cleared the way and laid the foundation for that form of government, which we prize as *The English Constitution*, which has resisted successfully trials more severe, and attacks more insidious than those of violence, and which, I trust, it will never be our lot as Archæologists to investigate as a relic of the past.