

Castle Cary.

BY THE REV. PREBENDARY MEADE.

THIS town was anciently called Carith, and Kari. It is situate on the brow of an elevated tract of land, which shelters it from the East, and which is part of that oolite chain which passes through England from the North East to the South West. The soil is a sandy loam, associated with the lower oolite, and was famous for the growth of potatoes before the occurrence of the fatal disease. On the hill above the town the quarries are worked, which supply the building-stone to this neighbourhood—a stone possessing that peculiar orange tint, which, in some localities, has given it the name of the “gingerbread rock.” Westward the descent leads immediately upon the extended level of the lias; and, as is usual, the junction of the upper with the lower strata is marked by a great fertility of soil.

The traveller who merely passes through the streets of Cary, or looks out of a carriage window at the station, can scarcely imagine how extensive and beautiful is the view from the eminence overhanging the town. Here the inhabitants have, of ancient usage, a pleasant and healthful resort; where, emerging from the streets below, they may

imbibe the purer breeze coming directly from the channel, and watch

“The golden sun
Gallop the zodiac in his glistening car.”

The objects presenting themselves to view from this point deserve, perhaps, more particular enumeration.

The eminence itself is called Lodgehill, probably from its having been formerly the site of some ranger's dwelling, or hunting box belonging to the lords of Castle Cary. Looking from hence Southwards, the hills of Corton-Denham, and the conical eminence of Cadbury Castle, crowned with its bold and complicated earthworks, meet the eye. To the South West are Lewesden and Pillesdon hills, in Dorsetshire; Montacute and Hampdon hills, in Somerset; the fortress on the latter forming an intermediate station between Cadbury and Castle Neroche. Westward the range of Blackdown, with Castle Neroche and the Wellington pillar; the Chatham monument at Burton Pynsent, the Poldon hill, and the Hood pillar, are all discernible with the naked eye. Immediately over the latter object the Quantock hills are conspicuous, bearing the camp of Dousborough on their Northern termination. In clear weather the Brendon hills are also visible. More Northward from the vale rise up the knolls of Glastonbury and Brent, both British stations. From few points, perhaps, is there a better opportunity for observing how judiciously the ancient engineers of this Island, before the invasion of the Romans, selected their posts for vigilance, communication, and defence.

On the Western side of Glastonbury Tor, at favourable times of the tide, the glistening surface of the Bristol Channel is clearly discernible. From this point, East-

ward, the eye is conducted along the Mendip range, with the beacon and other conspicuous points on its line. This line again is lost behind the bold acclivity of Creech hill, near Bruton, beyond which, further Eastward, the hills of Wiltshire terminate the view, on whose nearest projecting point stands Alfred's tower, pleasingly reminding the spectator from every part of this district of its association with an interesting passage in early English history, and with one of the greatest men and best of sovereigns who have adorned the annals of our country.

The pastures lying immediately under Cary hill are so well wooded, as to give the idea, from this point, of a continuous woodland; but yet are they not so thickly shaded as to interfere with the production of the best cheese, perhaps, in the world. The little stream, which is honoured with the name of the "River Cary," takes its rise from five springs issuing from under Lodgehill. One of these is called "the Lady's Spring," probably "Our Ladye's." Another, on the opposite of the sheet of water in which they rise, was found enclosed in solid masonry of hewn free-stone, with a covering on the top; this was probably a contrivance for the supply of the castle, which stood upon the adjoining bank. After forming the lake at the foot of Lodgehill, and turning the water-wheels of three mills, the rivulet pursues its course to Babcary, Cary-Fitzpaine, Lyte's Cary, and Cook's Cary, giving its name successively to these places, and thence by Somerton, and through the Sedgemoor, into the river Parrett.

The relics of antiquity at Castle Cary are few, and would be almost unworthy of notice but for some historical associations of which they are suggestive.

The name of the town itself indicates that there was once within its precincts a castle; but the observer must

look carefully to discover the few traces of baronial power and pride which time and man have spared.

Two large mounds, covered with grass, in the paddock immediately above the lake on the East side, defended on the South side by a deep ditch, and on the North West by a wall, built against the hill-side, are all that remain of that ancient fortress, where, for nearly 300 years, the lion banner of the Perceval Lovell waved, and which resisted the assaults even of royal armies, when the lords of Cary upheld against usurpation the cause of legitimate monarchy.

Barlow, in his *Peerage*, published A.D. 1773, and in the article on the Perceval family, states that "The castle of Cary consisted (according to the first construction of the Normans) of a mound with a great tower thereon, situate at one angle of a very extensive court, which was defended on the other points by several lesser towers at proper distances round the inclosure, and by a great gateway." Collinson mentions that in the intrenched area, which still marks the site of the old castle, "implements of war, and bolts of iron" have occasionally been dug up. I have not seen anything of the sort, nor do I believe they have been preserved in this neighbourhood.

There are remains of, probably, a more ancient fort on the hill above the site of the castle. These earthworks consist of a rampart, averaging 24 feet high, and conforming to the line of the hill. On the top of this rampart is a platform, about 40 feet wide at the Southern side, and diminishing to the breadth of 12 feet where the hill turns Northward, and the rampart terminates. A second and smaller agger bounds the platform conformably with the line of the outer agger; but, diminishing Northwards as described above, this agger does not exceed 8 feet in

height, and 16 feet in width. The trace of an old road leading into this fortress is clearly visible beneath the exterior rampart. It is probable that Collinson alludes to these works where he says, that "Henry de Tracy, during the siege of 1153, threw up strong works above the castle."

Having ascertained the position of the castle, the next question which suggests itself is who were its builders, and possessors?

Previous to the conquest the manor of Cary is said to have belonged to the Abbot of Glastonbury, being given to him by Kentwine, a king of the West Saxons, (A.D. 680). It was taken from the monastery by the Conqueror, who seems first to have allotted it to Walter de Donai.* Soon after the conquest we find it in possession of Robert Perceval de Breherval, Lord of Yvery, Montinny, and Vasse, in Normandy. In the hands of this noble family it continued for nearly 300 years, viz., to the 25th Edward III, 1351, when it passed by a female into the family of St. Maur; and again by an heiress to the Lord Zouche of Harringworth. When Lord Zouche was attainted by King Henry VII for assisting Richard III, this castle and manor were given to Lord Willoughby de Broke. The manor and lands

* The following are the words in Domesday Book, as quoted by Collinson and Phelps:—

"Walter holds Cari. Elsi held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for fifteen hides. The arable is 20 carucates, (a carucate was as much land as a team could plough in a year, about 100 acres). There are in demesne 8 hides and 6 ploughlands, with 6 servants, 33 villeins, and 20 cottagers, with 17 ploughs. There are three mills of 34 shillings rent, and 100 acres of meadow. A wood 1 mile in length, and half-a-mile in breadth, and one burgess in Givel-Chester (Ilchester), and another at Bruton, pay 16½d. When he received it, it was worth £16, now £15."

Domesday Book, vol. 1, p. 95.

were afterwards purchased by Edward, the first Duke of Somerset; and in 1675 they passed again by a female heir to Thomas Lord Bruce, eldest son of the Earl of Aylesbury. In 1684 they were sold to two individuals—Mr. Ettricke, of the Middle Temple, and Mr. Playter, of Gray's Inn. The estate and manor then became divided; till Henry Hoare, Esq., having purchased one portion in 1782, and the trustees of his grandson, Sir R. C. Hoare, another portion, the manorial rights, together with the largest estate in the parish, and the impropriate rectory, have descended to the present proprietor, Sir Henry Ainslie Hoare, Bart.

There are some circumstances connected with the early history of the castle and its proprietors, which should not be passed over without special notice.

The first Lord of Cary, to whom we have already alluded, Robert Perceval de Breherval, Lord of Yvery, &c., was a companion of William, Duke of Normandy, in his successful expedition against England, A.D. 1066. Soon after the battle of Hastings he quitted England, and, returning to Normandy, devoted himself to a religious life, in the Abbey of Bec. He had three sons, 1st, Ascelin, surnamed Gouel de Perceval; 2nd, Gouel; and 3rd, William. Ascelin, his father's eldest son and heir, being a fierce warrior, obtained the name of Lupus, or the wolf; besides the possessions of his father in Normandy, he succeeded to several manors in Somersetshire, which were fortified by the English, and allotted to the officers and friends of the Conqueror. Harptree, Easton, Weston in Gordano, Stawell, and Badcombe, were among those which fell to the share of Ascelin Gouel de Perceval, of Cary. He married, by a compact made according to the custom of those times, after a successful attack upon

the Earl of Bretteville, her father, Isabel de Bretteville, and by her had several sons ; Robert, who succeeded his father as Lord of Yvery, &c., in Normandy ; John, the youngest son, who received the manors of Farringdon and Harptree, and was ancestor of the Barons of Harptree Gournay ; and William Gouel de Perceval, the second son, who, by the death of his brother Robert in 1121, obtained the honours and estates of the family, both in England and Normandy. And here we may remark a curious instance of the capricious origin of surnames in those distant times. Ascelin de Perceval having been, from his fierce disposition, surnamed *Lupus*, the wolf, William de Gouel, his son, was called *Lupellus*, or the young wolf. Hence too his children in this kingdom, dropping the name of Perceval, assumed that of *Lupellus*, *Anglicé* Lupell, and Lovell ; and transmitted the same as the name of two great families of the ancient peerage of Great Britain.

This William Gouel de Perceval, who was the first *Lovell* of his race, added much to the nobility of his family by his marriage with Auberie de Bello Monte, daughter of the Earl of Mellent ; who, by her mother's side, was great grand-daughter of Henry, King of France, and of George, King of Russia, and descended directly from Hugh Capet and Charlemagne.

In the reign of King Stephen we are informed that the barons of England were permitted to construct castles, and that no less than 1200 of these provincial fortresses were raised about this period. Accordingly it has been conjectured that this William Gouel de Perceval, who lived during the reign of Stephen, was the individual who built the castle of Cary. That he enlarged and completed the fortress is very probable, and made it the head of his

barony; but the name of Cary seems to indicate the existence of a stronghold here, as at Caër-narvon, Caër-leon, Caër-philly, and Gaer-hill in this neighbourhood, in times anterior to the Norman Conquest. The earthworks on the hill-top, which I have already described, may possibly have been the site of the Caer, or original stronghold of Cary.

That a castle, however, existed in Norman times, and on the site already alluded to, which is denoted by the mounds above the lake, is quite certain. We hear of two different sieges which it sustained, one in the year 1138, and the other in the year 1153. In the civil wars which afflicted this country at the beginning of the reign of Stephen, William Perceval Lovell, then Lord of Cary, took the part of the Empress Maude, the daughter of the late King Henry I, and of her son, afterwards Henry II, against what they deemed the usurpation of Stephen. Stephen had seized the throne on the death of his uncle, King Henry, pretending a claim through his mother, Adela, Countess of Blois, a younger daughter of William the Conqueror, and putting aside the rights of the daughter of the late King Henry I, and of his grandson, Prince Henry. Among the barons who then confederated against Stephen with Lord Lovell of Cary, William de Mohun, and others, we find in the genealogy of the Hussey family (which was exhibited to the meeting at Bruton) the name of Godfrey Lord Hussey, an ancestor of Mr. Hussey Hunt, of Compton Castle.

Henry of Huntingdon (a writer of the 12th century) says that "In the third year of Stephen's reign, 1138, the rebellion of the English nobles burst forth with great fury. Talbot, one of the rebel lords, held Hereford castle in Wales against the king; which y^e king besieged and took.

Robert, the Earl of Gloucester, (natural son of Henry I, by the dr. of Rhys-ap-Tudor, prince of S. Wales, and therefore half brother of Maude) maintained himself in the strongly fortified castle of Bristol,* and in that of Leeds, in Kent; *Wm. Lovell held Castle Cary*; Payne held Ludlow; Wm. de Mohun,† Dunster castle; Robt. de Nichole, Wareham castle; Eustace Fitzjohn held Melton; and Wm. Fitzalan, Shrewsbury castle, which the king stormed.”

The author of the *Gesta Stephani*, or *Acts of Stephen*, a contemporaneous writer, whose chronicles are published in the same work as the extract from Henry of Huntingdon above quoted, but whose name is lost, gives some further account of the siege of Castle Cary; and, moreover, some particulars of the habits and pursuits of the inhabitants of Bristol in those days, which, as contrasted with what we know of the modern Bristolians, are too curious to be passed over in silence.

After stating that the friends of King Henry, deceased, who had sworn fealty to Matilda his daughter, (especially Baldwin de Redvers, of Exeter, Robert de Badington, the Earl of Gloucester, and others), kindled a great commotion in the West, especially in the neighbourhood of Bristol and Bath, he proceeds thus:—“The Bristolians having license for every sort of villainy, wherever they heard that y^e King (Stephen), or his adherents, had estates, or property of any description, they eargerly flocked to them, like hounds snatching rapidly at the carrion thrown into a kennel; yokes of oxen, flocks of sheep, whatever their

* See also Rapin's *History of England*, B. vi., A.D. 1138.

† Connected by marriage with the Lovells. See Barlow, p. 402, who says, “Richard, 5th son of Wm. Lovell, married the daughter of Wm. de Moion, or Mohun, Lord of Dunster.”

hearts coveted, or they cast their eyes on, were carried off, sold, or consumed. And when they had thrown into the lowest pit of destruction all that was immediately within their reach, and under their hands, they quickly found their way into every part of England where they heard there were men of wealth and substance, and either violently laid hold of them, or got them into their power by fraud; then bandaging their eyes and stopping their mouths, either by cramming something into them, or inserting a sharp and toothed bit, they conducted their captives, thus blinded, into the middle of Bristol—as we read of the robbers of Elisha—and there, by starvation and torture, mulcted them of their property to the last farthing. Others, pursuing a more crafty course, betook themselves to the quieter parts of the country, where peace and plenty prevailed, and the population lived in ease and security. They frequented the beaten and public highways in open day, disguising their names, their persons, and their business. They wore no kind of armour, nor any distinguishing dress; nor did they swear and use bad language, as robbers usually do. On the contrary, their appearance was humble, their gait gentle; and they entered into courteous conversation with all persons they met, wearing the mask of hypocrisy, until they chanced to light upon some wealthy man, or could steal upon him in a lone place; upon which he was hurried off to Bristol, the dry nurse of England. This kind of robbery, under colour of false pretences and hypocritical appearances, so prevailed throughout the greatest part of England, that there was scarcely a town or village where these frauds were not practised, or where traces of this abominable felony were not left. Thus, neither the King's highways were safe, nor was there the accustomed confidence between man and man; but as soon

as a traveller espied a stranger on the road, he trembled with apprehension; and fleeing from the alarming apparition, took refuge in a wood, or struck into a cross-road, until he recovered courage enough to continue his journey, with more resolution, and in greater security. Reports reaching the King's ears that the Bristolians were disturbing y^e kingdom by their open and secret robberies, though he had enough to do in other parts of the kingdom, he summon'd the militia from all parts of England, and came unexpectedly to Bath, meaning to lay siege to Bristol." On arriving at Bath he surveyed the city, raised the walls higher, constructed outworks, and leaving a strong body of soldiers to watch the Bristolians, marched on to that city to besiege it; but a council was held, and for certain reasons the siege was abandoned. The history then goes on:—"Swayed by these representations the King abandoned the proposed seige, and having laid waste the country round Bristol, and destroyed or carried off the plunder, he set on foot expeditions against two Castles, Carith and Harpetreu (Cary and Harptree), the one belonging to ———, named Luvel; the other to William Fitzjohn. Both were in close alliance with the Earl (of Gloucester,) and so confederated with him by oaths and leagues, and bound by their homage, that no sooner were they informed of his intention to make head against the Royal power, than they flew to arms to second his cause. Receiving also information that the King proposed to sit down before Bristol, and being of opinion that the siege would be long protracted, they agreed together faithfully to aid the Earl, by making hostile inroads, and harassing the inhabitants of all the neighbouring districts. But the King lost no time in besieging Carith (Cary), and pressing the siege with vigour; throwing, by his machines, showers of

missiles and fire, without intermission, among the garrison, and reducing them to starvation; so that at last he forced them to surrender on terms of submission and alliance. They could not hold out any longer, as they were weakened by want of food; neither had the Earl, their hope and refuge, arrived in England; nor could the Bristol men march to their relief, in consequence of the superiority of the Royal force. The terms of the treaty being ratified, the King marched to Harptree," &c., &c. The author then relates a stratagem by which the King, "at a subsequent period," got possession of Harptree Castle which belonged to John, 4th son of Ascelin Gouel de Perceval, and brother of the Lord of Cary. "When the King was passing this castle (Harptree), in his advance with a large force to lay siege to Bristol, the garrison sallied forth and hung on his rear; whereupon he instantly countermarched his troops, and spurring their horses they made a detour, and reached the castle in time to find it almost deserted. Without a moment's delay some set fire to the castle gates, others raised scaling ladders against the walls; and all being encourag'd by the King to the utmost exertions, the castle, having few defenders, was stormed, and left under a guard of his own troops, and the protection of Providence. After his success at Cary, the King's attention was called, without intermission, to the state of affairs in some part or other in England; and he was constantly in arms, leading his troops from one quarter to another. As it is fabled of the Hydra of Hercules, that as fast as one of the heads was lopped off more sprung forth; so it was, in a special manner, with the labours of King Stephen: one ended, others still more difficult succeeded; and like another Hercules, he applied himself to the task with invincible energy." The same author proceeds to say that in the year following

(1139), the King stormed Dunster castle, and put down effectually the barbarities of its owner, William de Mohun.*

It would appear that King Stephen, having taken possession of Cary Castle, held and garrisoned it for some time, till at length, in 1153, it was recovered to the Percevals, by the assistance of the Earl of Gloucester, of which circumstance the following is the account given by the same author of the *Acts of Stephen*, who was quoted before. Under the year 1153, (the last of Stephen's reign) he says "Robert, the great Earl of Gloucester, died (at Bristol) September 1147, and was succeeded by his son, William, who was somewhat advanced in years, but effeminate—a chamber knight, rather than a brave soldier. However, soon after coming to the earldom, he happened, for once, to obtain a more brilliant success than any one would have given him credit for; for Henry de Tracy, on the King's side, had fortified the castle of Cary,† to straighten more conveniently the Earl of Gloucester, and extend his own power in the district; upon which, the

* N.B.—From the *Gesta Stephani*, by an anonymous author of the period, translated from the original Latin by Mr. Forester, in *Bohn's Antiquarian Library*.

† Collinson and Phelps, in their account of this siege, represent de Traci as being the besieger, and not the besieged. It is scarcely reasonable to suppose that Stephen, having, after a protracted siege, possessed himself of the Castle of Cary, would immediately have given it up to his rebellious vassal again. Henry de Traci therefore held it, probably, in the king's interest, till, in this siege of 1153, it was recovered by the Earl of Gloucester, and restored to the Lovells. The original words of the *Gesta Stephani*, in the British Museum, are these:—"Henricus namque de Traicio, vir bellicosus, et in militari exercitio expertissimus, qui et regis partibus parebat, ante castellum quod Cari dicitur, et aliud firmabat, quo et Comitem Glaorriæ per hoc facilius arceret, (et) diffusioris provinciæ dominium possideret; cum, ecce, ipse Comes, talibus, famâ intimante, perceptis, cum immenso repente supervenit exercitu, inceptumque Henrici municipium fundo tenus, ipsumque, cum suis, inglorium cedere coegit."

P. 132, Sewell's edition.

Earl hearing of it, marched there suddenly with a large force, and demolished the works which Henry (de Tracy) had commenced, compelling him to make a retreat."

But to return to our notice of the Lovell family, so long the distinguished possessors of this manor and castle. It is a curious fact that the immediate descendants of *Lupus*, the *wolf*, assumed no less than five different coats of arms, four grandsons wearing each a different shield. Generally speaking, when a house branches off, they all keep the same coat of arms in the main, making some slight variation "for difference." But the noble family of which we are speaking, as if their object had been to puzzle genealogists, adopted coats perfectly different from one another.

Thus, the original arms of Robert Perceval de Breherval, and of the lords of Yvery, were: *or, three chevrons gules.*

John Perceval, Lord of Farringdon-Gournay and Harptree, ancestor of the barons of Harptree-Gournay, assumed a coat totally different from that of his father, Robert, Lord Yvery, viz., *argent, a cross coupé and flory at the ends, in saltire gules.*

In the next generation, Walleran, the eldest son of William Gouell de Perceval, surnamed Lupellus, took the Norman estates with the arms of the Percevals of Yvery, &c. *Henry Lovell*, the next son, Baron of Kary, took for his device, *or, semée of crosses crosslet; a lion rampant, azure.* In the collection of the late Col. Woodforde there is still to be seen a pane of ancient stained glass, which was taken from the parish church of Castle Cary, with the coat of the ancient lords of Cary emblazoned.

The fourth son of William Lord Lovell was the ancestor of the Lords Lovell of Titchmarsh, in Northamptonshire. They took for their coat: *barry nebuléé of six, or and gules.*

The fifth son, Sir Richard de Perceval, of Stawell and Batcombe, retained the name of Perceval, but took for arms a coat wholly different from the house of Yvery, represented by his brother Walleran, viz.: *argent, on a chief indented gules; three crosses patteé of the field.*

This nobleman was ancestor of the present Earl of Egmont, who is Lord Lovel and Holland in England, as well as Earl of Egmont in Ireland, and bears for his arms the coat of his ancestor, Richard Perceval, quarterly with that of the Lords Lovel of Titchmarsh.

Among the descendants of this noble family Richard Lovel, Lord of Kari, founded the priory of Stavordale, in the 47th Henry III, 1263, and obtained free warren for all his lands. Another Richard, (born 1550) descendant of the fifth son of William, Lord Lovel, of Cary, which house retained the name of Perceval, is well known for having performed a task of great service to his country. Having incurred the displeasure of his father, George Perceval, Lord of Tykenham, by his marriage with a younger daughter of the Youngs of Buckhorn-weston, he quitted England, and resided four years in Spain. In the year 1586, after his return to his native country, an English ship took from a Spanish vessel, certain letters which no one could decypher, but which were supposed to contain the secret of the Armada. Lord Burleigh, having had some introduction to Richard Perceval, and being well aware of his acquaintance with Spain and Spanish affairs, laid these letters before him. Perceval had the good fortune to decypher them, (see Barlow, p. 399) and thus made known to his country the designs of their enemies, and enabled them to make timely preparations against that formidable armament.

But some of the most remarkable individuals of this family were of the house of William, Lord Lovell, of Titch-

marsh. It was his descendant—the third who bore the title—who, in the 29th of Edward I, signed, with other barons, the memorable letter to Pope Boniface VIII, in answer to the bull of that Pope, which declared the sovereignty of Scotland to depend upon the see of Rome, and forbad Edward to make any pretensions to it; requiring the English sovereign to send ambassadors to Rome, there to receive sentence as to his claims. To this assumption of the Pontiff, the barons of England replied with much dignity, unanimously declaring that the Bishop of Rome had no right over the kingdom of Scotland, or to interfere in any temporal concern of the Crown of England, and that they would never suffer the King of England (was he even himself inclined thereto) to appear judicially, in any case whatever, before Pope Boniface or his successors.

Another Lord Lovel, of Titchmarsh (Francis, the ninth baron) and first Viscount Lovel, was a great favourite of King Richard III, and was appointed Chief Butler, and Lord High Chamberlain. It was of this Lord Lovel that those verses were written by the poet Collingbourne, in which he inveighs against Catesby, Sir Thomas Ratcliffe, and this Lord Lovel, in the following terms:—

“The cat, the rat, and Lovell our dog
 Doe rule all England under the hog;*
 The crook-back'd boar the way hath found
 To root out our roses from the ground;
 Both flower and bud will he confound,
 Till King of Beasts the swine be crown'd,
 And then the dog, the cat, the rat,
 Shall in his trough feed, and be fat.”

The poet lost his head for these verses. This Lord

* The hog was King Richard, the supporters of whose coat of arms were two hog-pigs.

Viscount Lovel; having been attainted by Henry VII, headed a rebellion against him, and was supposed to have been *killed* at the battle of Stoke, in 1487; but, according to another rumour, escaped by swimming the Trent, never appeared again, and was said to have been starved to death by treachery. A curious discovery was made at Minster Lovel, near Burford, in 1708, of an underground vault, in which was the skeleton of a man apparently sitting at a table, with book, pen, &c., before him—all much decayed—considered by this family to have been this Lord Lovel!

There is no mention made of the castle of Cary after the 12th century, and probably before it passed into the hands of the Lords Saint Maur, in 1351 (24th Edward III), it had fallen to decay. But a large manor house was erected, by some of the noble proprietors of the estate, not far from the site of the old castle. Collinson says that there were in his time, "fine arches and other remains" to be seen of this "stately edifice."

Within the memory of some now living there was a large arched gateway, connected with stabling on each side, and a groined room, probably a banqueting room, which was used in the time of the French war as a dépôt for military stores.

In this manor house it was that Charles II is said to have slept, on his escape into the West, after the disastrous battle of Worcester. He had safely pursued his journey from Col. Lane's, at Bentley, to Col. Norton's, at Leigh Court, near Bristol, disguised as Mrs. Jane Lane's postilion, that lady riding on a pillion behind the monarch, who went by the name of William Jackson. From Leigh Court the royal fugitive came to Castle Cary, on the 16th

September, 1651.* Here, according to the account given in the *Boscobel Tracts*, the king rested for the night at Mr. Edward Kirton's house; sending forward Lord Wilmot, one of his faithful companions, to Col. Wyndham's house at Trent, to prepare him for his reception there the next day. Mr. Edward Kirton is believed to have been the Steward of William Seymour, Marquis of Hertford, and afterwards Duke of Somerset, then the proprietor of the manor house of Castle Cary, in which house his steward probably received the king.†

* The following is the exact copy of the passage in the *Boscobel Tracts*:—First, as the king dictated to Mr. Phelps: "Accordingly the next morning (September 16, 1651) we went directly to Trent, to Frank Wyndham's house, and lay that night at Castle Cary, and next night came to Trent, where I had appointed my Lord Wilmot to meet me, &c."

Boscobel Tracts, p. 151.

Again, p. 244-5: "Lord Wilmot rode to Trent on Monday, to make way for his (ye king's) more private reception, &c. Tuesday morning, September 16, his majesty's ague being then (as was pretended) in ye recess, he repaired to the stable, and there gave order for making ready the horses, and then it was signified by Mrs. Lane (tho' before so agreed) that William Jackson (ye king) should ride single, and carry the portmanteau. Accordingly they mounted, being attended part of the way by one of Mr. Norton's men as a guide, and that day rode thro' the body of Somersetshire, to Mr. Edward Kirton's house, in Castle Cary, near Bruton, where his majesty lay that night, and next morning arrived at Col. Wyndham's said house, &c."

† N.B.—Edward, the first Duke of Somerset, is said to have bought the estate and manor of Castle Cary. It is certain they were now in possession of William, Marquis of Hertford and Duke of Somerset. See a MS. note of the Rt. Hon. H. Hobhouse, in Phelps's *Somerset*, ad locum.