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ROMNEY, OLD AND NEW.

THE SAXON VILLE OF ST. MARTIN.

THE various writers who have dealt with the history of Romney have failed to gather, and put before their readers, the records of New Romney's most ancient Ville of St. Martin, which was a limb of the manor of Aldington.

Aldington manor had several outlying members, and among the most important of them were Lydd, St. Martin de Northene, and Southne. Their relative antiquity, it is difficult to determine. The actual name of Lydd is not mentioned, in extant records, until King Offa, in A.D. 774, gave to Archbishop Jambert, and to Christ Church, three sulings of land, in the western part "*regionis quæ dicitur Mersuare, ubi nominatur ad Liden.*"* Yet we find that Lydd's nucleus, Bishopswic, and its adjunct the Ripe, are named in an earlier charter by which, in A.D. 740-1, King Æthilberht granted, to Christ Church, a fishery at the mouth of the river Liminaea, "*et partem agri in qua situm oratorium Sancti Martini, cum edibus piscatorum.*"†

The situation of this oratory of St. Martin, at the mouth of the river Liminaea, connects it with the name of Romney as first mentioned in a charter of King Wihtraed, dated circa A.D. 700, or 715. By it, he granted to St. Mary's Basilica, at Liminge, four ploughlands, called Pleghelместun, "*juxta notissimos terminos, id est Bereueg et Meguines-pæth et Stretleg; terrulæ quoque partem eiusdem, di' genetrici beatæ Mariæ similiter in perpetuum possidendam per dono, cuius uocabulum est Ruminingseta, ad pastum uidelicet ouium trecen-torum, ad australe' quippe fluminis quæ appellatur Liminaea;*

* Kemble's *Codeæ Diplomaticæ*, Cart. 122.

† *Ibidem*, Cart. 86 and 1003.

*terminos uero huius terrulæ ideo non ponimus, quoniam ab accolis undique certi sunt.** In the latter site, among the Ruminigseta, on the south side of the river, we probably have that member of Aldington manor which was afterwards called *Southme*, and Old Romney. St. Martin's oratory was on the north side of the river.

The site which was, in the seventh and eighth centuries, identified with the oratory of St. Martin, appears in later records as the Ville of St. Martin; and from it the Hundred of St. Martin derived its name.

On page 4^a of the Kent portion of Domesday Book, part of the survey of Aldington, in Limowart Lath, runs thus:

"The archbishop himself holds the Ville called St. Martin's; it belongs to Estursete, and lies in that hundred; it was taxed for one suling and an half. The arable land is . . . In desmesne, there are two carucates, and thirty-six borderers. To this land there belong seven burgesses in Canterbury, paying eight shillings and four pence. There are five mills of 20s., and a small wood."

"In this ville, Radulphus† holds half a suling of the Archbishop, and there he has two carucates and a half. In the time of King Edward the Confessor, the half suling of St. Martin was worth £7, and the other half suling was worth £4."

"In Romenel there are [quater xx] four score and five burgesses who belong to Aldinton, the Archbishop's manor; and they were, and are now, worth to the lord £6."

This description, of the Ville of St. Martin, occurs in the midst of the detailed survey of Aldington; after the mention of its church, its fisheries, and its wood; and before the enumeration of its burgesses in Romney, and of its limbs in Stowting (*Estotinges*) and Lympne (*Limes*, now Wilhope).

It should be remarked that Midley, and the Ville of St. Martin, at Romney, are both within one Hundred, namely the Hundred of St. Martin. The Domesday Survey does not give it that name; but, when speaking of Midley, it calls

* Kemble's *Codex Diplomaticus*, vol. i., p. 54, Cart. 47, endorsed in later Anglo-Saxon hand, "*rumening seta inn to liming mynster.*" The name of the town would be more correctly spelt if written Rumney.

† Probably Ralph de Curbespine, *alias* Crook'dthorne, whose name clung for centuries to the manor of Crowthorne, in Hope All Saints, where there was a manorial Free Chapel of St. Mary during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

this Hundred "*Estrei*;"* and, when speaking of the Ville of St. Martin, the survey calls this Hundred "*Estursete*."

With reference to a different locality, Hasted has pointed out that a similar name was probably derived from the Latin *Estuarium*, an estuary. In the cases of Midley, and of Romney (St. Martin), which were situated upon an estuary, it is only needful to mention such a derivation; its fitness and probability will at once be acknowledged. This incidental matter becomes interesting, because it seems to shew that the name of the Hundred of St. Martin was not generally used until after the Norman Conquest. As there was a manor called Esture, near Chilham; a Lath and a Hundred called Estrei, near Sandwich; and a Hundred in the lath of Borowart (now St. Augustine's), then called Estursete, now named Westgate, beside Canterbury; we can understand that convenience required the substitution of a different name for this Hundred in the Lath of Limowart (now Shipway) in which Midley and Romney St. Martin were situated. Nothing could have been more appropriate than the new name which was adopted, that of St. Martin.

Hasted, being perplexed by the Domesday mention of the Ville of St. Martin, and being ignorant of the ancient foundation of St. Martin's Oratory, near the estuary at Romney, has fallen into a curious error. He has not endeavoured to identify the Ville of St. Martin, by its surroundings, in the Domesday Survey, which places it in Limowart Lath and connects it with Aldington Manor, with Estursete hundred, and with burgesses in Romenel as well as in Canterbury. Ignoring all these points, he has suggested that the entry alludes to a manor of Caldicot,† or Calcott, at the east end of Canterbury. As this manor had no connection whatever with Aldington, and as it was not in the Lath of Limo-

* Land called *Estretone* is mentioned in the Domesday Survey as lying in Newchurch Hundred, within Limowart Lath. Its name suggests some connection with the name *Estrei*. Domesday says "the hundred and the burgesses of Dover, and the tenants of the Abbot of St. Augustine and *Estrea* Lest testify this, that the land of *Estretone*, which the Canons of St. Martin of Dover claimed against Hugo de Montfort, that Ulwile Wilde held it in fee simple in the time of King Edward the Confessor, and it was taxed at one yoke, and there he has one carucate in demesne, and five borderers with one carucate, and one mill of 20s. It is, and was, worth £10."

† There is an estate of this name in Lydd also.

wart, we are surprised that he should have permitted himself to be so misled. No doubt he was thrown off his guard by the statement that to this Ville, of the Archbishop of Canterbury, appertained seven burgesses in Canterbury (ad hanc terram pertinent 7 burgenses in Cantuaria, reddentes 8 sol., et 4 den.). The next words, alone, might have preserved him from this error. "Ibi 5 molendina de 20 sol., et parva silva."* The manor of Calcott in Canterbury could not well have had five mills, and a little wood, in the year 1086.

At Romney, five mills are mentioned, in the town records, for the years 1390-98; three in Hope ward, and two in High Mill ward. Two other mills are, in 1408, mentioned in Hospital ward; viz: Spitlemelle and Loverotismelle. As to the little wood, in St. Martin's Ville, we know that the name of one ward in Romney was Hamersnoth, a name which must have been derived from a wood; and very strict regulations were made by the Jurats of New Romney against the unlawful cutting of trees. The district around Romney was not always so bare as it now is. In A.D. 740 King Æthilberht's charter describes "a wood called Ripp or Rhip," as bounding, on the Sussex side, a pasture near Bishopswic, in Lydd; and other records state that trees have been found buried, in the Sompe, at Old Romney. During the course of eleven centuries, the surface soil here has been entirely changed in character.

We do not find, extant, any further record of St. Martin's Ville, or Hundred, until we come to the List of Holders of Knights' Fees in Kent, in 38 Henry III, A.D. 1254. Therein, we read this description of the *Lestus*, or Lath, of Schipweye:—"In eodem Lesto sunt Hundreda, scilicet Oxenal, Aloluesbrugge, Hundredum de Sancto Martino, Langeport, Wurthe, Newecherche, Hamme, Strate, Aldyntone, Stutingtone, Hean, Nonyberghe, ffolke-

* These particulars are omitted from a manuscript, (printed as No. XL in the Appendix to Somner's *Antiquities of Canterbury*, Part I), which purports to give extracts from Domesday book. In that manuscript, this entry is both mutilated and separated from its true context. It is inserted among the details of the manor of Stursæte, instead of standing in the midst of the details of Aldington manor as it does in Domesday book. Hasted may perhaps have been misled by this manuscript, yet he has himself printed the entry correctly in his account of Aldington (*Hist. of Kent*, vol. viii., 318).

stane.”* When, however, the particulars† of Knights’ Fees in each Hundred are given, we find no mention made of the Hundreds of St. Martin, and Aldyntone; while that of Stutyingtone is placed after Nonyberghe. Between Stutyingtone Hundred, and that of Folkestane, there is inserted an entry respecting Bircholte, which we must suppose to be equivalent to the Hundred of Aldyntone. Thus St. Martin’s, and it alone, escapes all detailed notice.

We find further mention of the Hundred of St. Martin, in the Hundred Roll‡ of 3 Edward I (1274-5), which speaks of Langport as a Half Hundred only. This Hundred Roll states that the Archbishop of Canterbury had the return of writs, within St. Martin’s Hundred, and it complains of a bailiff who took money from five men, as fines, to free each of them from serving as reeve of Aldington. Complaint was also made that men of Romenale, who were of the Cinque Ports, had unduly distrained upon some men who were not of the Ports.

St. Martin’s Hundred seems not to have been named in

* *Archæologia Cantiana*, XII., 210.

† The enumeration of “*Borge*,” or boroughs, in each Hundred is interesting.

IN OXENAL.	IN ALOLUESBREGGE.	IN LANGEPORT.
Palstre	Chasthame	Northone
Knokke	Betlinghope	Oswardstone
Cristinmunde	Homobild	Langeport
Bregge	Snaues	Lyde
Ouenhamme	Broke	Dengemersse
Westricheshamme	flothame	
	Misteshamme	
	Beneqwike	

IN WORTHE.

Wydeflete
Borwarmersse
Dunemersse
Orgareswyke
Blakemanstone
Eastbregge minor
Eastbregge major

IN NEWECHEROHE.

Honichilde
Westacre de fraxino
Bylsyntone
Hamyngherst
Rokyngne
Bocheborgh

‡ The Roll mentions that, in the Half Hundred of Langport there were, then, in the hands of the King, one-fourth of the Borough of Bletching, half of the borough of Esewarestun, and the entire borough of Northene; but in the borough of Northeneth there was a tenement, called Stapelteche, which was withdrawn by Thomas de Normanville from the farm of the sheriff’s tourn. The Abbot of Battle had withdrawn half the borough of Dengemerais from doing suit at the Hundred Court; the relict of Hubert de Burgh, Countess of Kent, had withdrawn one-fourth of the borough of Bletching; and one-half of each of three boroughs, Langport, Esewareston, and Lide, was then of the Liberty of the Archbishop.

Kirkby's Inquest, held in 1282 (10 Edward I), but Middele is therein mentioned under the Hundred of Langport.

When a subsidy, of one twentieth, was granted to Edward III, in 1327, we hear, more fully, of the Hundred of St. Martin. This Subsidy Roll records the names of all persons in that Hundred who were assessed within three townships, or boroughs, called Northene,* Yvecherche and Heantry. As this list, of names, is of earlier date than any preserved among the Municipal Archives, at Romney, it may be well to give it in full.

HUNDRED OF ST. MARTIN.†

Township of Northene.

	s.	d.		s.	d.
William Elys	9	2½	Henry Couper	21	d
John Mahew	9	8	Relict of Clement Snelgar . .	6	2½
Hamo Landryke	4	8½	John Suno'		9
William ate Cherche	3	7½	John Fyrthynden		8
Adam Wastychar	4	0	Richard Muriele		7½
William ate Cherche jun ^r . .		18 ^d	William Bryce	9	3
John Mahew jun ^r		21 ^d	John Phylipun	2	4½
Robert de Wyveneford . . .	4	6½	Peter de Aghene		14½
William Wyveneford		15 ^d	Adam Kyterel		9½
John Godworks		13½	William Lowys		15
William Godworks		11½	William Wyneday		21 ^d
Robert Sampson	7	11	John ate Curt'	2	3½
Thomas Muryele	2	10½	James Keneweld		13½
Peter Muryele	2	11½	Thomas Messedey		14
Edmund Rabel	2	7	Richard Elys	5	6½
John Fryland		10½			
William Kynet		19½	Sum	£4	19 10½
John Oram	2	0			

We get another glimpse of the Ville of St. Martin, in the year 1347, when Edward the Black Prince was made a Knight. In the Assessments, for raising the aid paid by Kent, on that occasion, we read these entries:—

HUNDRED OF ST. MARTIN.‡

From Robert Furneaux, John ate Wode, and Thomas Tutewyse, for the eighth part of one Fee, which Nicholas de Bere and Robert ate Wode's heirs held, at Wymundessee, in Old Romene, Ivecherche and in the Ville of St. Martin, of the Archbishop, . . . 5s.

* It should be noticed that the borough of Northene had, in former records, been reckoned as part of the Hundred of Langport. Similar instances of confusion of boundaries, probably occasioned the modern amalgamation of the two hundreds, under the name of the Hundred of St. Martin Longport.

† Lay Subsidy Kent, 123-19, Membrane 20^a in Public Record Office.

‡ *Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. X., 125.

From Fulk Payfrere, for one-eighth of a Fee, which Richard Payfrere held, in St. Mary Cherche, of the Fee of Hastynges 5s.

Sum (*from this Hundred*) 10s., for the fourth part of one Fee.

St. Martin's Hundred was bound to supply two watchmen, for the beacon at the Helmes. Three ancient Watch-posts were maintained for this coast; one, at the Helmes in Romney, within Langport Hundred;* a second, at Broadhull in Dymchurch, and the third at Seabrook, *alias* Shornelyff, both in the Hundred of Worth. The *Book of Notte*, among the New Romney records, contains a statement, written in 1571 by the Common Clerk, Arthur Bee, which recites that, in the eleventh year of Edward III, the watch at the Helmes was ordered to consist of seven men; of whom, two were to be furnished by the Hundred of St. Martin; two by that of Oxney; two by that of Aloesbridge; and one apiece, by those of Langport and Hamme. By this Ordinance, we see that a larger proportion of the burden was laid upon the Hundred of St. Martin, than upon that of Langport.

It seems then to have been a wealthy Hundred; but especially valuable was the Ville of St. Martin. An Inquisition, held at the time when Richard II caused Archbishop Arundel to be attainted, and his estates forfeited, gives much information respecting the limbs of the manor of Aldington. Amongst its other revenues, were the following annual rents :†—

The tenants of LYDE ought to pay £7 5s. 4d., rents of assise; in addition to Romescot, and two hens, at Christmas, worth 3d. each.

The tenants of ST. MARTIN DE NORTHE ought to pay £11 4s. 6½d. rents of assise.

Also from the *Forland* 8s. 2½d.

Also from rents "pp'ango" of *Walengeham* 11s. 9½d.

Also the tenants of SOUTHE should pay, etc., etc.

The final words are mutilated, as they occupy the last remaining portion of the time-worn membrane, upon which the record is written. It is not at all clear, to the reader,

* *Archæologia Cantiana*, VIII., 306.

† Inquisitio post mortem, 21 Richard II, Forfeiture Bundle, No. 7 x.

whether SOUTHNE* was, or was not closely connected with ST. MARTIN DE NORTHNE. Probably it was. New Romney parish lies, mainly, on the north side of what once was the Rhee; and Old Romney parish lies, mainly, on the south side of that waterway; whether the terms, NORTHNE and SOUTHNE, have reference to this fact, it is not possible to affirm with certainty; but probably they have. The assised rents payable to the lord of Aldington Manor by St. Martin de Northne, in 1398, were valuable, and greater than those paid to him by Lydd.

Within two centuries later, however, we find that the assessment of the Ville of St. Martin seems suggestive of its decay, and of a very subordinate position. Lambarde has printed, in his *Perambulation of Kent*, the particulars of an assessment, made in the thirteenth year of Queen Elizabeth (1570-1) for the payment, by Kentish viles and boroughs, of a fifteenth and tenth to the Crown.† The same list is transcribed in a Romney Book of Records, called *The Booke of Notte*; and as the grouping of the viles, in their several hundreds, is of importance, I will insert a portion of that Subsidy List. Each "ville" is therein called a "towne."

HUNDRETH OF S. MARTINE.

	£	s.	d.
The towne of Newchurche‡	1	0	3
The towne of S. Maries	2	9	0
The towne of Hope	12	7	10½
The towne of S. Martine	14	2	
The towne of S. Clement	2	10	4½
The towne of Ivechurche	3	8	1
The towne of Medley	4	2	

Sum of the Hundreth of S. Martine £22 13 11

* In 34 Henry III (1250), Alulf de Roking died seised of 43 acres in the Ville of SUTHENE. Of these, 21 were held by him, at 14d. per annum, of the Fee of Roger de Markeshale. The remaining 22 acres were gavel-kind land, held at 7s. per annum, of John Fitz-Bernard. (*Archæologia Cantiana*, Vol. II., 301.)

† *Perambulation*, pages 24, 29.

‡ Newchurch is assessed in four Hundreds (St. Martin, Aloesbridge, Newchurch, and Worth); Ivechurch in two (St. Martin's, and Aloesbridge); St. Mary's in two (St. Martin's and Newchurch).

HUNDRETH OF LANGPORT.

	£	s.	d.
The towne of S. Nicholas		16	0
The towne of Lyd	9	2	4
The towne of Rompney		13	4
The towne of Hope	1	9	0

Sum of the Hundredth of Langport. £12 0 8

In this Subsidy List, we remark that the ancient Ville of St. Martin is classed with the Ville of St. Clement (Old Romney), in the Hundred of St. Martin. On the other hand, the Ville of St. Nicholas, New Romney, and an unnamed ville of Rompney (probably St. Lawrence) appear, together with Lydd, in a different Hundred, that of Langport. How the boundary line between the Hundreds could have run we cannot tell; one fact however is quite clear, viz.:—that the paramount antiquity, and independence, of St. Martin's Ville continued to be vindicated, in the territorial division into Hundreds, notwithstanding what we may call its ecclesiastical degradation, in being subordinated as a chapelry to the newer foundation of St. Nicholas. St. Martin's gave the name to its own hundred; St. Nicholas was in the Hundred of Langport.

I think it probable that, in this Subsidy List, no account is taken of that land, in Romney (New and Old), which lies within the Cinque Port Liberty of New Romney. If so, we can understand the boundary of St. Martin's Hundred, in 1570. It would run beside the eastern bounds of Midley, and Old Romney, would cross the Rhee Wall near Iles Bridge, and skirting Spitalchurch Lane would embrace, northward, a large portion of Hope and of St. Mary's. That being the case, we should find that all the north-western portion of New Romney would be included within the Hundred of St. Martin. Respecting this we cannot be certain; but it will be well to note the consequence, which is that St. Martin's Hundred would include all that part of New Romney which lies to the north of the Cinque Port Liberty, and all that part of Old Romney which lies to the south of the Cinque Port Liberty. Thus we may find an explanation of the terms, *Northne* and *Southne*, which occur

in mediæval records, respecting St. Martin's Ville, and Old Romney.

Any idea that New Romney was a mere late development towards the sea of a decayed town called Old Romney, which has been supposed to have been ruined and deserted by the retreating of the tide, is a mistake which careful study of a good Ordnance Map will at once dissipate. New Romney parish extends inland, that is westward, not only as far as does the parish of Old Romney, but actually further. New Romney overlaps Old Romney in that direction, and it has a limb which runs down beside, and west of, the western boundary of Old Romney. Whatever development has taken place, since the seventh century, has been a development of the Saxon Ville of St. Martin.

In the territorial classification into Hundreds, we find St. Martin's Ville (New Romney), taking precedence of St. Clement's Ville (Old Romney), but linked with it, in the same Hundred. Be it observed, that St. Clement's Church stands on the north side of the Rhee wall, near the extreme northern boundary of Old Romney and remote from the mass of that parish. The village around it is of very late date. Several of the houses of Old Romney street, south of St. Clement's Church, actually stand upon the site of the Rhee, where, 500 years ago, the water channel ran. It seems to me that the mediæval terms *Northne* and *Southne* tell the whole story of the original settlements; a story which agrees with our experience elsewhere. St. Martin's Ville, and consequently what we call New Romney, seems to be especially associated with the term *Northne*. The manor of Old Romney seems to have been especially connected with the term *Southne*.* I believe the truth to be that, of these two sites

* *Southne* was a member of the Archbishop's manor of Aldington, as we learn from *Inquisitio post mortem*, 21 Ric. II, *Forfeiture Bundle*, No. 7 x. That Old Romney manor, with that of Langport, was, in like manner, held of the Archbishop's manor of Aldington, we are told by *Inquisitio post mortem*, 6 Henry V, No. 38. Coming down from the chief lord to the *mesne* lord, we find that, in 1250, John Fitz-Bernard was *mesne* lord of gavel-kind land in the ville of Suthene, twenty-two acres of which were held under him, by Alulf de Roking (*Ing. p. m.*, 34 Henry III, *Archæologia Cantiana*, II. 301.). Other records shew that John Fitz-Bernard's mother before him, and his descendants after him, were *mesne* lords of Old Romney, and owners of the advowson of St. Clement's Church. The latter is said in an *Ing. ad quod damnum*, 16 Ed.

that on the south of the Rhee was occupied in Pre-Christian times by Britons and by Romans; while the site on the north of the Rhee, beside the church of St. Martin, was first occupied by a Christian settlement of the Saxons, made about the seventh century. St. Clement's was a much later offshoot. With the more ancient, the pagan, settlement on the south, the name of the river Rumenea had been associated of old, ere the later Christian settlement was made, at St. Martin's, on the north. Consequently, the southern would be entitled to the name "Old"; and the northern, when it came to be qualified by any epithet, would be "New."

The ancient Saxon Charters support this theory. The northern settlement, at the mouth of the river, is described, in Æthilberht's charter, as that part of the country in which St. Martin's Oratory was situated; while the southern settlement is described, in the earlier charter of Wihtraed, as *Ruminingseta*, "ad australem . . . fluminis . . . Liminaea." In the name *Ruminingseta*, much information is contained, if we can rightly read it. We must connect it with the name *Rumen-ea*, by which the river here was sometimes designated. Both these names were formed by our Anglo-Saxon forefathers; therefore, in view of the varied interpretations given to the name of Romney, I determined to obtain the opinion of the highest living authority, upon the Anglo-Saxon language, Professor Skeat of Cambridge. He informs me that an Anglo-Saxon scholar cannot well doubt respecting these names. They contain Saxon affixes, following a Celtic root as prefix. *Ea* is the true Saxon word for a river; *ing-seta* is good Saxon for a meadow-settler. The river *Rumenea*, and the meadow-settlers, *Ruminingsetas*, alike occupied a district which was fitly characterised by the prefix *Rumin*. What that prefix meant, we may learn from the Irish and

II, No. 60, to have been appendant to the Fitz-Bernard's manor of Sibeton in Liminge. Thus the lords of Southne were identical with the lords of Old Romney. From Southene a certain man of influence in the reign of Edward I took his name. Thomas de Suthene for two years farmed the Lath of Shipwey as bailiff of the Sheriff of Kent, paying a rent of £32 per annum for it, whereas it had not been worth more than £14 (Furley's *Weald of Kent*, ii. 139), consequently his oppression of the inhabitants is much complained of, in the Hundred Roll, 3 Ed. I. In a grant of Aldington manor, in the reign of Charles I, this ville has the more distinctive name of Southre (Hasted, viii. 319), as if meaning south of the Rhee; while Northne is therein called Northsture.

Gaelic languages; both of them Celtic in origin. The Irish names for a "marsh" are *rum-ach* and *ruimin-each*; the Gaelic word for "marsh" is, like the former, *rum-ach*; and in each of these words the final syllable is a mere suffix. The substance of both is the same root, *rum*, meaning marsh; respecting which, the Anglo-Saxons have themselves told us that it was, by the Celtic Britons, applied to the marshy Isle of Thanet.*

The names, *Rumenea* and *Ruminingseta*, thus stand forth as silent witnesses to the fact that our Anglo-Saxon forefathers found this district bearing a descriptive name, which the Celtic Britons had given it. According to their custom, they adopted that name, but added to it their own Saxon affixes. Professor Skeat informs me that the Saxons, when they adopted a Celtic British name, invariably used it as the prefix of the new name which they gave to the place. The Celtic prefix has survived to the present day, in the first syllable of Romney, which would be more correctly written, as it is by Lambarde, Rumney. That syllable *Rom* or *Rum* still testifies that, before the Roman occupation, there was in this great estuary sufficient land, uncovered by water, to be denominated by the Britons, *Rum*, or *Ruimin*; probably this land formed many small islands.

Some writers have suggested that the first syllable, of "Romney," was derived from the Saxon's desire to testify that the Romans inned the marsh, and made Romney an island; *insula Romanorum*. Professor Skeat says that any derivation founded upon such a word as Roman, or Romanus, is unlikely. Among Anglo-Saxons, the use of *Romane*, for Romans, was very rare and unusual. If they had desired to designate this place as the Roman Island, or Island formed by the Romans, they would have called it *Rom-war-ig*.

From the foregoing considerations, we seem to gather that the width of the river Rhee or Rumenea, of the Britons and Romans, caused a very marked distinction between the settlements upon its two banks; one on the south, the other

* A.D. 694, Carta de terra iv aratrorum in Thaneto, Britannice "Ruym." *Chronologia Augustinensis* in Hardwick's *Hist. Monast. S. Augustini*, p. 7. Compare also *Chron. Floren. Wigorn.* ad annum 853.

on the north near its mouth. Probably in that part of its course, at which old Romney village and St. Clement's Church now stand, the Rhee began to widen more than we imagine. Possibly, also, nearer its mouth, at what we call New Romney, it may have flowed in early times between the Church of St. Martin, and the site of the existing church of St. Nicholas. The latter site may have been insular. Upon these points, however, we can find no accurate or decisive evidence.

On the south side of the Rhee, where the Romans seem to have occupied the sites of the modern parishes of Lydd and old Romney, such names as Cold-harbour, White-hall, Trygges-street, still remain. After the departure of the Romans, the southern site of Old Romney was not much favoured by subsequent settlers; it never became populous.

On the north side of the Rhee, the early settlement of the Saxons, in the sixth or seventh century, seems to have been continuously developed. Thus the Ville of St. Martin was expanded into the important and populous town of Romney, which, without much doubt, we suppose to have contained three churches in the time of William the Conqueror, or of his son. That this town was the Romenel of Domesday Book, the Rumenal or Romene of the Middle Ages, and the New Romney of later times, we now proceed to shew.

MEDIÆVAL ROMNEY.

LAMBARDE, the venerable "Perambulator" of Kent, was right in his premises, but wrong in his conclusion, respecting Mediæval Romney. Under the heading "*Rumney*, called in Saxon *Rumen ea*, that is to say *The large watrie place*," he wrote thus:—"There be in Kent two townes of this name, the Olde and the New Rumney; as touching the latter whereof I minde not to speak, having not hitherto founde, eyther in Recorde or Hystorie, anything pertaining thereunto; but that little whiche I have to say, must be of *olde Rumney*."

Lambarde's premises are quite correct; ancient records and histories do not speak of any placenamed New Romney;

the Domesday Survey, and all records for three centuries later, constantly speak of Romenel, or Rumene, or Rumenale, without any prefix. Had Lambarde, however, taken an opportunity of examining these old records, so closely as to identify the sites, described as being in Romenel, or Rumenale, he would have discovered that they were, all of them, in what we call New Romney. When the ancient records deal with matters connected with the insignificant place called Old Romney, they always give that place its proper name, and insert its prefix.

Lambarde, however, is so accurate and useful an authority, that anyone who denies a conclusion drawn by him must produce good evidence. Fortunately, in this case, it abounds; and if an inquirer will select any land, or any building, which existed in New Romney during the twelfth, thirteenth, or fourteenth centuries, and will examine the records respecting it, he will find that it is invariably spoken of as being in Romene, or Rumenal, without prefix. Let him take, for instance, the church of St. Nicholas, New Romney, which is known to have been appropriated to the Abbey of Pontigny. He can read a copy of the charter, by which Archbishop Boniface granted that church, and its profits, to the abbey; it has been printed by Edmund Martene, in his *Thesaurus Novus Anecdotorum*, vol. iii., p. 1255. The church is therein described as the church of Rumenal, without any prefix; this charter is dated at Pontigny, on the day of St. John the Evangelist, A.D. 1264. Again, let us turn to the register of Archbishop Peckham, the earliest of the registers now existing at Lambeth, and see how the vicarage of St. Nicholas is described, of which Pontigny Abbey was the patron. It is therein mentioned at three different dates, but always as the vicarage of the church of Romenale, without any prefix. Thus, on the 17 kal. April, 1282, at Bristol, the Archbishop admitted John de Honningtone to the vicarage of the church of Romenale, on the presentation of Brother Lambert, a monk, the Proctor-General in England for the abbey of Pontigny.* Similarly, in February, 1285, Hugh de Harpelee,† priest; and, on 18 kal. September, 1289, Dominus Robert de Bramton,‡ chaplain,

* *Peckham's Register*, folio 53a. † *Ibidem*, folio 30a. ‡ *Ibidem*, fol. 40a.

were admitted to the vicarage of the church of Romenale, on the presentation of the abbey of Pontigny.

Take another example. Early in the thirteenth century, the barons of the Cinque Port now called New Romney, granted to the hospital of St. Thomas of Eastbridge, in Canterbury, certain land called Guildhall land. The charter is printed by Duncombe, in his *History of the Three Archiepiscopal Hospitals*, pages 314-5. It commences thus:—"Omnibus hoc scriptum visuris, vel audituris, *barones portūs de Romeny salutem.*" There is no prefix, neither Old nor New, to the name of the port. It describes the land as "Gildehalle land in *villā de Romeney*"; without any prefix to the name of the town. While Edmund Rich was Archbishop of Canterbury, between 1234 and 1242, this land was sold, by the hospital, with that Archbishop's consent, to Thomas the son of Humphrey. It was then defined as "all that land, in Romney, upon which Guildhall stood, which lies over against the Church of St. Laurence, toward the north east."* Upon these words Duncombe prints in a note this remark, "St. Laurence's church was in New Romney."

The Plea Roll of 39 Henry III, A.D. 1255, speaks of the hospital of lepers at Romenal; and the numerous records of that hospital extending down to the middle of the fifteenth century, invariably speak of it in the same way, never introducing the prefix *New*. The Hundred Rolls; the early Patent Rolls; Inquisitions during the reigns of Henry III and the three Edwards; and all the various records of the middle ages speak, not of New Romney, but of Romney without prefix, when they allude to that port, and that town, to which we prefix the misleading epithet "*New*." Not until the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries does that epithet occur. Thus the more ancient records shew that at, and after, the time of the Conquest, the only town which could claim by its position to be called "the town of Romney," was that town of which St. Nicholas was the parish church, that town in which stood St. Laurence Church, and the Hospital for Lepers. The town of Rumenal, which King John visited, not merely

* Duncombe's *History of the Three Hospitals*, p. 315.

on the one occasion mentioned by Mr. Furley, but twice, was New Romney. The king came there on horseback, no doubt, from Dover, on the 4th of April, 1206; remained at Romney during the 5th, and went on to Battle upon the 6th of April. Ten years later, in 1216, he came again, from Dover on the 12th of May, and went back to Folkestone the same day. The chronicles, of the same century, narrating the warlike visit to this town of Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, on the 9th of July, 1263, when he and Sir Roger de Leybourne came hither, from Dover, with their forces, to make a raid upon the goods and lands of all foreign mercenaries, favoured by Henry III and his Queen, say (*Cotton MS. Julius. D. v. fol. 38*) "*Comes porrexit apud Romenal.*"

Several grants made by King Edward I, when at Romney, on the 2nd and 3rd of July, 1276, are likewise dated at *Romenal*. Among them was the concession to Matthew de Horne of land, measuring one hundred feet by fifty, which stood between his house here and the port. He was thereon to construct a quay.*

OLD ROMNEY.

When early mediæval records are concerned with the insignificant village of Old Romney, they never fail to say so, very plainly. Archbishop Peckham's Register, which always speaks of the vicars of St. Nicholas, presented by Pontigny Abbey, as vicars of *Romney*, speaks as plainly and distinctly, likewise, of the rectors and rectory of *Old Romney*, of which the Fitz Bernards were patrons,† in the thirteenth century.

The descent of the manor of Old Romney to its successive owners, has never yet been traced by any historian. As the records, of this descent, illustrate the care taken by mediæval writers to distinguish between the town of Romney and the village of Old Romney, it may be well to summarize them here.

From the reign of Henry III to that of Henry VIII, the

* *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, ii. 138.

† *Archbishop Peckham's Register*, fol. 37^a, 40^a, A.D. 1287 and 1289.

manors of Old Romney and of Langport in Lydd went together. Probably they had ever done so, but this I cannot affirm positively, because I have as yet failed to find any distinct mention of Old Romney manor prior to the reign of Henry III. I believe, however, that it previously passed under another name.

In A.D. 1086, when the Domesday Survey was taken, Robert de Romenel held "Lampport" of the Archbishop, as one suling and a half; and, adds the survey, "to this manor belong twenty-one burgesses who are in Romenel." The same owner then possessed another suling, called Afettune, in "Lampport" hundred, which he held of Odo, bishop of Baieux. This latter property is entirely overlooked by Hasted, who does not mention it. Somner says that it was otherwise called Offetane,* and his statement may be verified by referring to the Hundred Roll of 3 Ed. I, where the name is written as "Offeton." The *Testa de Nevill* mentions it three times† as Effeton (printed Esseton), and states that Aubrea de Jarpenville held it by the special service, or serjeanty, of acting as Marshal of the king's falcons.

From a charter of St. Augustine's Abbey, numbered 368,‡ we learn that this Aubrea, whose name is also written as Albrea, Albritha, Aubretha, Albreda, or Aubreda, was a descendant, and ultimately the heiress, of Robert de Romenel. She had inherited the marshalship of the king's birds, and had married William de Jarpenville, or Gerpennvill, who died before, or soon after, A.D. 1200. The sole issue of this marriage was a daughter, named Alice, who must have been born during the reign of Henry II. This young lady married Thomas Fitz-Bernard, to whom, at the request of the widowed Aubrea de Jarpenville, King John, in March, 1204,‡ granted

* *The Roman Ports and Forts in Kent*, p. 47 note.

† pp. 216^a, 217^a, 219^b. In dimidio hundredo de Langeport Aubrea de Jarpennvill tenet quandam serjantiam que vocatur Effeton per servicium quod sit mariscallus de falconibus domini Regis et valet per annum C solidos (pp. 216^a, 217^a).

Albreda de Jarpennvill tenet Effeton in serjantia et valet lx solidos et debet servire Regem de ostrecheria sua et dicunt quod serviunt per Henricum le Tuschet (p. 219^b).

‡ Cotton. MS. Faustina, A. i., folio 298^b; and *Liber de Antiquis Legibus*, p. xxxij note.

the office of Marshal of the king's birds.* Before A.D. 1212, Thomas Fitz-Bernard died, leaving a son named Ralph, who seems to have already then arrived at man's estate. Both mother and daughter being now widows, it became needful to obtain the royal sanction for some gentleman to act, in Aubrea's stead, as Marshal of the birds. She nominated, for the year 1212, her grandson (*nepos*) Ralph Fitz-Bernard, and with him she named John Fitz-Bernard, who may have been Ralph's son. For nominating this new deputy she was mulcted in a fee, or fine to the King, of two palfreys, for that year.† The *Testa de Nevill* mentions that during another year Henry le Tuschet acted as her deputy.‡

The old lady, Aubrea de Jarpenville, heiress of De Romenel, survived until about A.D. 1226, when her daughter Alice, widow of Thomas Fitz-Bernard, paid to King Henry III a fine of five marks, upon receiving seisin of all her mother's lands in Kent, and in Bucks.§ Alice herself did not long survive her mother. Dying, she desired to be buried within the Abbey of St. Augustine's, at Canterbury; and for that purpose, she granted to the Abbot and Convent an annual pension of £12, which was to commence from the day of her interment in the Abbey. The charter, thus given by her to St. Augustine's, contains the earliest mention I have seen of the name of Old Romney (*Vetus Rumenellum*).|| The pension of £12 was charged, by her, upon her lands "de Veteri Rumenello et de Langeport." It was to be paid by Stephen de Audinton and his heirs, or by any others who should thereafter hold the said lands of Old Romney and Langport.

Thus we see that as Robert de Romenel, in 1086, held conjointly Langport manor, and the land called Affeton; so his descendant Alice Fitz-Bernard possessed, and linked in name together, Langport and Old Romney. Thenceforward the name Affeton, Effeeton, or Offeton, falls gradually out of

* Cotton. MS. Faustina, A. i., folio 298^b; and *Liber de Antiquis Legibus*, p. cxxxij note.

† *Maj. Rot.*, 13 John, rot. 5^a Kent; Madox, *Hist. of Exchequer*, i. 462 note n.

‡ *Testa de Nevill*, p. 219^b.

§ *Fine Roll*, 11 Henry III, memb. 10.

|| *Cart. Sancti August.*, No. 370, Cotton. MS. Faustina A. i., folio 299 (or at foot 289).

use. It is mentioned in the Royal Patent which directs a new course for the Rhee to be cut, in 1258, from the Romney Hospital Cross (near Aghenepend) to Effeton, and from Effeton to Melepend and the Port.* Again in the Hundred Roll of 3 Ed. I (1275) we hear of it, under the half-hundred of Langport. Therein we read that the heirs of Roger de Romenal then held, from Fitz-Bernard, the land called Offeton, which Fitz-Bernard held of the King *in capite*, by the serjeanty of keeping one falcon for his grace. The last mention of it, that I have seen, occurs in Kirkby's Inquest, taken about A.D. 1281. Therein it is recorded that Ralph Fitz-Bernard held Effetone, of the king, by the service of keeping one falcon; and that Stephen de Romeny was Fitz-Bernard's tenant there.† From that period, we cease to hear of Effeton or Offeton, and we begin to hear constantly of Old Romney.

In taking leave of the name *Offeton*, we may perhaps do well to make a suggestion respecting its origin. In the year 771, Offa, king of Mercia, is said (by Simeon of Durham) to have subdued those people, in Sussex, whose name still clings to the town of Hastings. He had likewise been aggressive in Kent, fighting a pitched battle at Otford in 773, or 774. Mr. Thomas Kerslake, of Bristol, believes that Offa then founded the church of St. Helen at Ore, by Hastings. He also says, respecting Offa, "he has, as was his practice in many parts of England, left his own name along the line, in *Offham* near Lewes, *Offington* near Worthing, *Offham* close to Arundel Park."‡ May we not also suppose that the same king left similar traces, of his march through Kent, in *Offeton* by Romney, *Offham* by Maidstone, and *Ufton* in Tunstall? Mr. Kerslake believes that Offa founded the church of St. Helen, in Cliffe-at-Hoo.

We know that Offa granted land here in at least two different charters. By one, dated in 774, he gave to Archbishop Jambert and Christ Church, three sulings in that western part of the Merscware which was called Hliden

* *Rot. Pat.*, 42 Hen. III, memb. 7, No. 20.

† *Archæologia Cantiana*, XI., 366.

‡ *Vestiges of the Supremacy of Mercia in Eighth Century*, p. 58.

(Lydd).* Hasted (viii. 425) suggests that this grant included the manor of Old Langport. By another charter, dated 791, Offa made grants of land in Andred forest, in Ruckinge, and between the stream called Northburn and Hagena-treon.† Could Northburn have been any part, or branch, of the Rhee? In Lydd, the name *Northlade* still marks the site of a "north-mouth," of that or of some other stream. This grant of A.D. 791 included Agene, or Hagene, in Old Romney and Midley; and it also included Orgarswick, near Hope and Dymchurch. But we will now take leave of *Offeton*, or *Effeton*, and notice the growing mention of *Old Romney*.

In A.D. 1250, Thomas Fitz-William, *de Veteri Rumena*l', with his three brothers Andrew, Bartholomew, and Paulinus, paid to the King one mark for the issue of a writ of Assize.‡

In the Fine Rolls (*Pedes Finium*) for 47 Henry III (1263-4) there is record of a suit, urged by Richard Fitz-Audony, against William Fitz-Godefrid and Emma his wife, for thirteen acres of land, one seventh part of two kedylys, and annual rents amounting to seven shillings and six hens, in Lyde and *Old Rumenhale*.§ Other Fines record the sale of lands, at *Old Rumena*le, by Margaret de Pencestre, widow, to Thomas and Matilda de L'Isle, at Michaelmas 1308;|| also, the transfer of the manor of Sibeton and the advowson of *Old Romene* Church, to Thomas and Bona Fitz-Bernard, in January, 1313¶ (both of which had been inherited by Thomas from his grandfather, Ralph Fitz-Bernard);** and the sale of sixty-seven acres, at Middele and *Old Romenal*, by James and Lucy Godfrey, to Edmund de Passeleye, in July, 1313.†† The Assessment of Knights' Fees, in Kent, A.D. 1347, names *Ealde Romene*.‡‡ During the reign of Edward III, Old Romney is mentioned, in various Inquisitions.

* Kemble's *Codex Diplomaticus*, vol. i., cart. 122.

† *Ibidem*, vol. v., 53, cart. 1014.

‡ *Rot. Finium*, 34 Hen. III, memb. 7.

§ *Brit. Mus. Lansdowne MS.*, No. 267.

|| *Archæologia Cantiana*, XI., 315.

¶ *Ibidem*, XI., 354.

** *Inquisitio post mortem* 34 Edward I, No. 53.

†† *Archæologia Cantiana*, XII., 299.

‡‡ *Ibidem*, X., 125.

Following again the descent of the manors of Old Romney and Langport, we find that Alice Fitz-Bernard's son and heir, Ralph, married Alianora, a daughter of Stephen de Thurnham, and died in or before 1249.* He was succeeded by his son John Fitz-Bernard, who died in 1260.† As John's son and heir Ralph was then a minor, aged 13, the king permitted Robert de Kokefeud, in February, to purchase for 200 marks the right of finding a wife for the young heir. In the previous November, the king had granted the custody of the minor's lands to Imbert Pugeys, upon condition that, from their proceeds, he should pay 100 marks per annum to Frederick de Lavannia. Eleven years later, it was found that during the minority of Ralph Fitz-Bernard, some prisoners had escaped from his gaol at Kingsdown, near Wrotham, for which escape Imbert Pugeys and his executors were held responsible.‡ Ralph Fitz-Bernard, who is mentioned in Kirkby's Inquest, A.D. 1281, as holding Effeton or Offeton by the serjeanty of keeping a falcon for the king, died in 1306.§ His next heir, John, had died before him. Ralph left a widow, named Agatha;|| and his heir was his (*nepos*) grandson Thomas (son of John), who was then 18 years old. Although so young he had a wife named Bona.

Respecting this Thomas Fitz-Bernard, the historians are not quite clear. Hasted (who erroneously calls him the son of Ralph) says he died, without issue, in 6 Ed. II (1312-13). In the following year, however, a Thomas Fitz-Bernard was concerned in a Final Concord respecting part of the family estates.¶ This may have been a first cousin of that Thomas whose wife was named Bona. Banks, Nicolas, and Courthope state** that a Thomas Fitz-Bernard was summoned, as a Peer, to Parliament from 8th of January, 6 Ed. II, to 14 March, 15 Ed. II, and that he left a son and heir, John Fitz-Bernard, who died without issue in 1361 (35 Ed. III). Twelve years

* *Rot. Finium*, 33 Hen. III, m. 7.

† *Rot. Finium*, 44 Hen. III, m. 10 and 11. *Inq. p.m.* 44 Hen. III, No. 22. Essex and Hereford.

‡ *Inq. p.m.* 55 Hen. III, No. 5. *Archæologia Cantiana*, VI., 237.

§ *Inq. p.m.* 34 Ed. I. O. Roberts' *Calendarium Genealogicum*, i., 716.

|| Perhaps a daughter of Robert le Noreys.

¶ *Archæologia Cantiana*, XII., 303.

** Banks' *Barones Rejetti*, Nicolas' *Historia Peerage*, ed. Courthope.

before his death, this John Fitz-Bernard was in possession of the manors of Langport and Old Romney, for the term of his life.* The fact of his tenure being for life only, and the nature of the Final Concords in which he and his father are mentioned, seem to suggest that they were cousins of the Thomas Fitz-Bernard whose wife was named Bona, and who, as Hasted says, probably died without issue in 1313. Bona the widow died in the 8th year of Edward II.

The ultimate heirs, of the Fitz-Bernard estates, were the descendants of Margaret Fitz-Bernard. She is by Hasted called the daughter of Ralph, and the sister (more correctly aunt) of Thomas, whose wife was Bona. By Nicolas and Courthope, she is described as the aunt of the Baron Thomas Fitz-Bernard, and great aunt of his son John. She married Guncelin de Badlesmere, and was the mother of the great, but unfortunate, Bartholomew Lord Badlesmere, who was beheaded in 1322. To this nobleman the lordship of the manors and advowsons of Tonge and Sibeton passed, in 1313, upon the death of Thomas Fitz-Bernard, whose wife was Bona. But the Old Romney manor remained for fifty years with the other branch of the Fitz-Bernards, until after Bartholomew and his son Giles de Badlesmere were both dead. The daughters of Bartholomew, sisters of Giles, then became coheirresses of the Badlesmere and Fitz-Bernard Estates. In A.D. 1350, it was arranged, by a "Final Concord,"† that the manors of Langport and Old Romney should pass to the second sister, Maud or Matilda de Badlesmere, and her husband John de Veer, Earl of Oxford. This Earl and his wife, however, both died before John Fitz-Bernard; consequently these manors passed to Thomas de Veer, the next earl, in 1361-2, when Fitz-Bernard died.

In 1372, Thomas de Vere, Earl of Oxford (son of John, Earl of Oxford, by his wife Maud, sister and coheirress of Giles de Badlesmere), died seised of the manor of Old

* *Pedes Finium*, Kent, 23 Ed. III, No. 838.

† Between John de Veer, Earl of Oxford, and Matilda his wife, plaintiffs, and William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton, and Elizabeth his wife, defendants, . . . of the manors of Langeport and Olderomeney, which John Fitz-Bernard, chivaler, holds for the term of his life. (*Pedes Finium*, Kent, 23 Ed. III, No. 838.)

Romney, and the advowson of Old Romney Church.* The first Patent Roll of 17 Richard II narrates the forfeiture of the manors of Old Romney and Langport, in 1393, by the attainder of his son Robert de Vere, Duke of Ireland. The Duke's mother, Maud or Matilda (widow of Thomas Earl of Oxford), who had a life interest in those manors, was permitted to buy their reversion, in 1394, by paying to the king 1000 marks.† Three years later, in 1397-8, the countess seems to have sold these, and other manors to certain trustees.‡ Other Patent Rolls and Inquisitions, of the fifteenth century, tell us that the manors of Langport and Old Romney, being held of the Archbishop as of his manor of Aldington, were in 1406 the property of Elizabeth, wife of John Hende, citizen of London,§ who surviving him married, in 1419, Ralph Botiller,§ and lived until 1462 (2 Edward IV), when she died seised of these manors.|| Her son John Hende inherited them, but in less than fifty years his male heirs were extinct. Gresilda Hende's nephew, Edward Belknap, son of her brother Henry, received livery of these manors from Henry VIII, in the first year of his reign.¶ Previously they had belonged to John

* *Inquisitio post mortem* 45 Edward III, No. 45.

† *Rot. Pat.* 17 Richard II, No. 1, memb. 27.

‡ *Pedes Finium*, Kent, No. 1059 of Ric. II, anno 20 and 21.

§ *Inquisitio post mortem*, 6 Henry V, No 38; *Rot. Patentium*. 3 Hen. V, part 2, memb. 6.

|| *Inquisitio post mortem* 2 Edward IV, No. 14.

¶ *Rot. Pat.* 1 Henry VIII, Part 2, memb. 20. This patent, dated Nov. 26th, 1509, states that the manors were in the king's hands by reason of the death of Juliana, daughter and heir of John Wretyll, junior (son and heir of John Wretyll), who himself had died while yet a minor. His widow, Ethelred, daughter of Sir John Shaa, married William Ayloff, as her second husband. She held in dower for life the manors of Ringwold and Kingsdown, the advowson of Ringwold Church, and certain lands in Essex at Ramsey, and at Wrabness. Of these, therefore, the king could grant only the reversionary rights. The actual possessions, of which the king delivered seisin to Edward Belknap, were the manors of Langport *alias* Old Langport, Old Romney, Charlton-by-Dover, with the advowson of Charlton Church, and lands in the parishes of Lydd (spelt Leed), Romney, Charlton and Dover, together with estates in Essex which included the manor of Staundon Hall, and lands in Colchester lately John Aleyn's.

Probably all these lands had belonged to John Hende and his wife Elizabeth, conjointly, a century earlier. The *Inquisitio p.m.* 6 Hen. V, No. 38, states that they jointly held the manors of Langport, Old Romney, Ringwold, and Charlton-by-Dover, and the advowson of Charlton Church by the concession of Wm. Efield made in the 8th year of Henry IV upon a Final Concord. Henry Belknap was a nephew and subsequently an heir of Ralph Boteler of Sudeley, the second husband of Elizabeth Hende.

Wretyll, a minor, whose sole daughter and heir, Juliana, had died under age in or before 1509. Hasted says that, in the reign of Henry VI, the Septvans manor of New Langport also passed into the hands of John Writtle, who probably was the father of this younger John.

Edward Belknap, to whom king Henry VIII granted the Old Romney and Langport manors, died without issue in 1520-1. About one hundred years later, from the heirs of his sisters, Mrs. Dannett and Lady Wotton, two third-parts of these manors were purchased by Thomas Godfrey of Lydd, who died in February, 1623-4. The remaining third part was acquired, from the heirs of Lady Cooke (another sister of Edward Belknap), by Mr. Mann of Canterbury. From William Mann it passed, in 1616, to his brother George Mann, and from him to his nephew Sir William, son of Sir Christopher Mann. Sir William Mann seems likewise to have obtained the portion formerly owned by the Godfreys.

Among the title-deeds delivered to Thomas Godfrey, when he purchased two-thirds of the manors, was a rent-roll of Old Langport, dated 4 Henry IV (A.D. 1403). Amongst the tenants, therein named, was his ancestor Thomas Godfrey, who was buried at Lydd in August, 1430. In a later rent-roll, dated 3 Henry VI (A.D. 1425), he was charged with an annual rent of £1 6s. 7½d., for eighty-four acres of land in the manor of Old Langport.*

In the eighteenth century the manor belonged to the family of Mascall, first of New Romney, and afterwards of Ashford.

The evidence that Old Romney's name was never mentioned without its prefix, in and after the thirteenth century, is quite as clear as that the name of the neighbouring town and port was, for several centuries, used without any qualification whatever. The important town and port was ROMNEY, proper. The reason, of this difference, is made perfectly clear by the poll-tax returns, for 1377 and 1382. In 1377, there were in Old Romney only eighty-nine adults, of both sexes, above the age of fourteen, for whom the poll-tax of 4d. was paid.

* *Domestic Chronicle of Thomas Godfrey, Esquire* (1608-55), in *The Topographer and Genealogist*, vol. ii., pp. 466-7.

This implies a total population, at that time, of one hundred and thirty-three in the village of Old Romney. In 1382, there were in Romney, the town, no less than nine hundred and forty-one adults above fifteen years of age, for whom poll-tax was paid. This implies a population of one thousand four hundred and twelve, in addition to priests and beggars. These figures at once account for the fact, that the populous town and port was called Romney proper, without prefix; while the insignificant village was distinguished as Old Romney. Even Dymchurch was, in 1377, more populous than Old Romney. One hundred and two adults, male and female, above the age of fourteen years, paid the poll-tax in Dymchurch, in 1377. This implies a total population of about one hundred and fifty-three. It may be interesting to record such other poll-tax returns for Romney Marsh, as I find preserved among the public records. The adults in Snave were seventy, in Bilsington eighty-one, in Midley forty-three, in Oxney twenty-three, in Blackmanstone eight. These numbers of adults shew that, in 1377, the total population of those parishes must have been, Snave about one hundred and five, Bilsington one hundred and twenty-two, Midley sixty-five, Oxney thirty-four, Blackmanstone twelve.

Respecting the manor of Old Langport, Hasted has misunderstood the record of an Inquisition, held in the 32nd year of Edward III. He states that John Ikin then died possessed of that manor;* and the *Calendar Inquis. post mortem* suggests a similar idea. The record, however, shews that neither assertion is correct. It states that John Jekin then remained, alive, in possession of some land, which he held as a tenant under John Fitz-Bernard, the lord of the manor of Old Langport. Jekin was never lord of that manor, nor was it, at any time, possessed by any member of the family of Ikin, or Jekin.

W. A. SCOTT ROBERTSON.

* *Hist. of Kent*, viii., 426.