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SMALLHYTHE CHURCH.

BY THE REV. FRANCIS HASLEWOOD.

THIS church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is about three miles from Tenterden. According to Hasted, it was first licensed by Archbishop Warham, 5 May 1509, on the petition of the inhabitants on account of the distance from their parish church, the badness of the roads, and the danger from floods. Power was also then given of burying in this chapel-yard the bodies of those who were cast by shipwreck on the shore of the sea "infra predictum oppidum de Smallhythe:" from this it appears that the sea, or an estuary at least, came up to this place so lately as the year 1509. There is also reference to Smallhythe as a haven as early as Edward III (Furley, ii., 338).

The chapel is an interesting specimen of brickwork, the mullions of the windows are of the same material, its chief feature being the two stepped gables, east and west of the building. There is a stoup within the porch, and a wooden screen which forms the chancel. The roof is well formed, though this, as well as the rest of the building, sadly needs the restorer's hand.

Walker, in his 'Sufferings of the Clergy' (p. 378), relates how Thomas Tournay, rector of Wittersham, was sequestered from his living. He suffered a great deal of persecution, and being called to Tenterden to answer some accusations against him, was obliged to borrow a horse, which was unbroken and unmanageable. The man who furnished the animal advised Mr. Tournay not to ride with spurs. He was acquitted on certain charges, and sent home. After his departure messengers were despatched to overtake him, the noise of whose approach set the young horse running down a hill called Small Hith Street; his bridle broke, and his horse threw him, just opposite the church.

This furnished his enemies with grounds for certain imputations against him, the charge being "that at such a time he got drunk at Tenterden, and coming home, as he came by Small Hith Church, he alighted from his horse, and fell down on the ground, and worshipped the church."

Over the porch at the west-end is a small niche, possibly in this was placed some image, before which Tournay was unjustly accused of prostrating himself.

CHAPEL AT HORNE'S PLACE, APPLEDORE.

