

THE MANOR OF
ANDREWES, AND LE MOTTE,

THE PRESENT HOME OF
THE GRESHAM LODGE OF FREEMASONS.

BEING AN
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF
CHESHUNT GREAT HOUSE,
FROM THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY,

WITH A VIEW OF THE BANQUETING HALL.

By F. D. REES COPESTICK,

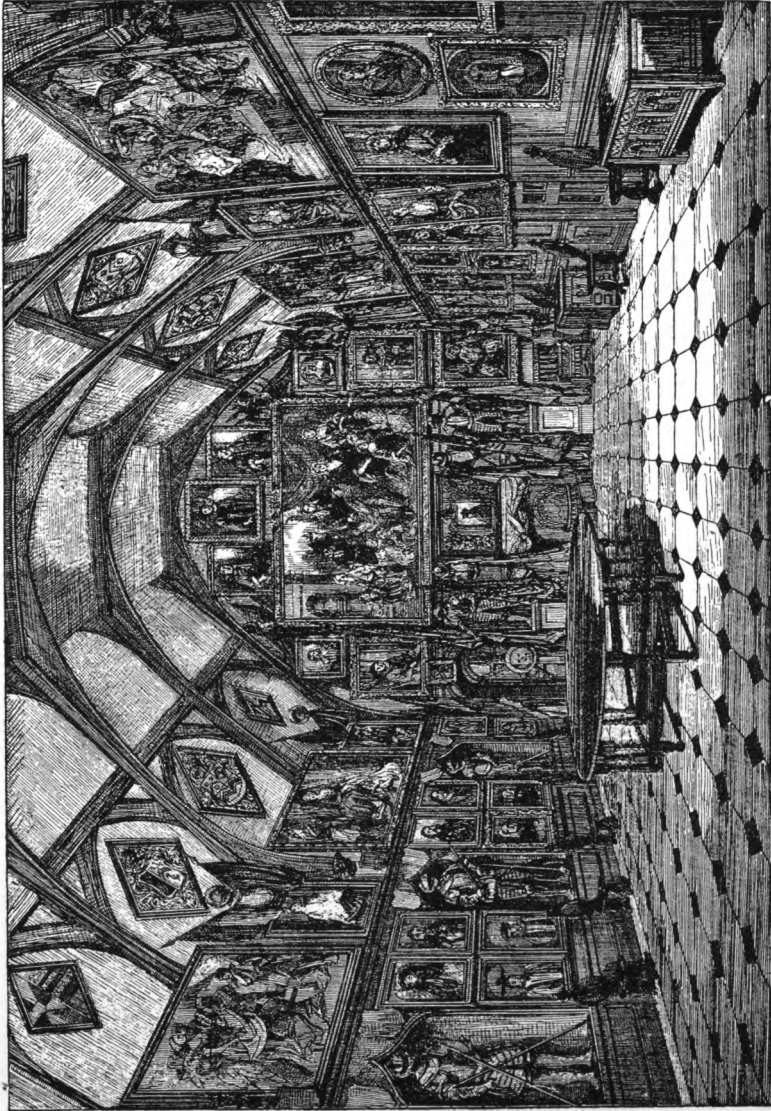
PAST MASTER AND TREASURER OF THE GRESHAM LODGE, 869; P.P.G.S.B. HERTS;
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BANQUETING HALL, CHESHUNT GREAT HOUSE.

ANY PROFIT ARISING FROM THE SALE OF THIS WORK WILL
BE DEVOTED TO THE MASONIC CHARITIES.

To

THOMAS FREDERICK HALSEY, ESQ., M.P.,

GRAND MASTER OF HERTFORDSHIRE,

&c., &c.,

These pages are (with permission) respectfully Dedicated,

in admiration of his untiring exertions to

promote the advancement and welfare of Freemasonry

in the Province over which he has the

honour to preside,

and which has been so happily crowned with success,

By

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E .

THE motives which actuated me to prepare from the records of the past an historical account of the Old Hall—in which, by the kind permission of the Rev. Chas. Erskine Mayo, they are permitted to celebrate their Masonic rites,—are well known to my brethren of the Gresham Lodge. A laudable desire to know something more of its history than local gossip could supply, appeared to influence the mind of each of its members, and although the information I have been able to place before them in these pages in response to that expressed desire is only what they might have obtained from the same sources, I trust I have in some measure anticipated their wishes by placing before them in an accessible form a collection of authenticated facts in relation thereto. Of the building which occupied the site of the present house before the time of Wolsey little is known, yet from the quaint appearance of the interior of that portion which still exists—its extensive vaults and subterranean passages—its wall cavities, in which human remains, without doubt immolated by the hand of man, are reported to have been found—seemed to point to its having been used more for purposes of an ascetic character than a secular one; unfortunately for the seekers after the sensational the facts that are here recorded are fraught with nothing that can in any way give the charm of romance to these pages, but the imaginative reader can carry his mind back to those periods of English history with which, without doubt, the spot in question is intimately associated. Its connection, as tradition asserts, with Waltham Abbey by means of a subterranean passage, will naturally recall those incidents so graphically portrayed by Lord Lytton, when Harold the king, made his last visit to that sacred shrine on the eve of the battle of Hastings; to the days of the stout Earl Warwick, the king maker (whose name is intimately associated with this Manor), when perhaps many a heart within its walls beat quicker at the

news of Barnet's battle and Warwick's fall, which for a time decided the fate of England's crown. Again, when Wolsey, the all powerful churchman and statesman, received the bluff King Hal at its gates, or later, when the ill-fated Charles, with Buckingham and his companions sported, on its verdant sward, and when the future monarch in childish frolic strode the rocking horse, which still finds habitation here to-day, and lastly he can invoke the shade of Richard Cromwell as evidence of the uncertainty of power and the mutability of human greatness. Let his mind revert to those periods and fill in the characters, and imagination will conjure many a knightly train on gallant deeds intent, and when the picture no longer charms the eye or elates the senses, the Old Hall will still present features worthy of remark. True, there are no longer the deeds of heroism before his gaze, but in their place he will see the representatives of a chivalry as great, as noble, and as illustrious as ever bore knightly shield or pointed lance, whose deeds are those of gentleness and love, whose creed is Charity, whose care is the widow and the orphan. May its portals long be open to hearts so good, to knights so true.

HAMPSTEAD, *16th February, 1884.*





The Manor of Andrewes, and le Motte.

THE Manor of Andrewes, and the Motte, or moat, as its name implies, must at a very early date in English history have occupied an important position in the county of Hertford, for although it was the custom in early times to take every precaution against the raids of outlaws and freebooters, few except the wealthiest of the nobles, resorted to the extreme measure of surrounding their habitations with a double moat or fosse, causing it to partake more of the nature of a fortification or stronghold than the residence of a county family.

Of the nature of the building which existed at that time we have little to guide us, nothing remains but the crypt or vaults beneath the old banqueting hall to give us a clue to that long past time when gallant knight and ladye faire graced the old baronial halls of Cheshunt.

That the original building was of vast extent is evident from its extensive foundations—surrounded by a double moat—parts of which may still be seen on the south side

of the public road, and which without doubt constituted the base of an important keep or outwork.

The present appearance of Cheshunt Great House, situated as it is in a field, the only approach to it being a footpath, possesses no other architectural pretension than what is conveyed by its mere bulk. It is a large brick building with two projecting turrets at the angles of its south front, the walls appear to be built on an older foundation ; in fact, a large portion of the north front forms part of the older building, which, judging from a mullion window therein, belongs to the Tudor period.

Though its exterior fails to present any striking features to arrest the attention, such cannot be said of the interior, which is full of interest, carrying the mind back to some of the most important periods of English history, this is particularly the case in the banqueting hall with its open timbered roof and tessellated floor. On the walls are portraits by Vandyke, Sir Peter Lely, and other artists of note. Arranged around armour of various dates, forest and cross bows, banners and flags of the Cromwellian period, others taken by Lord Nelson at the battle of the Nile, sculpture, quaint wooden chests of the 16th and 17th centuries, with its large open fireplace and antique grate with armorial bearings and other baronial features. This hall is evidently part of the older building, which, judging from the character of the principals of the roof, resting on corbels of the same period, point to the time of Henry VII., or earlier. This is borne out by the vaulting underneath. The

arches of which forming the ribs, and the octagonal piers which support them, with their moulded caps and bases, all point to the earlier portion of the 15th century. It is worthy of remark that some of these piers are built of clunch, while others are of brick, indicative of the great difficulty with which stone at this time could be transported from a distance. The stones are also small, some of them with vertical joints, while the floor of the crypt is paved considerably above its original level with encaustic tiles of various patterns.

Some years ago two skeletons, with a pitcher and lantern, were discovered enclosed in a cavity in the wall in a corner of the crypt or vault below the house.^(a)

The whole of the interior walls are pannelled throughout with wood of the time of Queen Anne. The staircase is a splendid specimen of joiner's work, also in carving and turning. There are three balusters to each tread, and each is of a different pattern. These, with the rich moulded handrails, are in oak, and are well worthy the attention of the observer.

The Minstrels' Gallery, which formerly occupied a place on the south side of the banqueting hall, has been removed, probably when the building underwent its last alteration in 1801.

In Walford's, "Greater London," the size of the banqueting hall is given as 27 ft. by 21 ft. This is an error—the actual measurement, taken recently by myself, is 40ft. by 23ft.

It is somewhat peculiar that this manor has never been absorbed by any of the great changes which have taken place in its immediate neighbourhood. The gorgeous palace of Theobalds, with its beautiful gardens, its marble fountains, its groves, its curious labyrinths, its avaries and menageries, have come and gone, but the old Manor house, sometimes called the "Haunted House," of Le Motte still stands a solitary monument of bygone greatness.

The first reference to this Manor of which we have any record occurs in an inquisition taken at Buntingford, co. Hertford, the 14th April, A.D. 1378, 51st Edward III.,^(b) when it was found that Marie de St. Paul,^(c) late Countess of Pembroke, held at the time of her decease the Manor de-la-Mote, at Cheshunt, for life, being jointly enfeoffed of the same with Aylmer (otherwise Aymer) de Valence^(d) (son of William de Valence, governor of Hertford Castle), her late husband, the reversion to the Manor being stated to belong to John^(e) son of John de Hastings, late Earl of Pembroke, and held of the Earl of Richmond, the Abbot of Waltham, Philip Darcy Knight, the Prior of St. Mary's Hospital in Bishopsgate Without, London, the heirs of John Andrew, and the Parish Church of Cheshunt, by the Annual Service of 66s. 8d. It was also found that the said countess died on the 16th day of March then last passed, and that John de Hastings, son and heir of the late Earl of Pembroke—a minor in ward

to the King—was cousin and heir to the said Aylmer de Valence.

In Henry VII.'s Chapel at Westminster there are monuments to both of these noblemen; the first, to William de Valence, who died in 1296, represents a recumbent figure, once beautifully enamelled; the second, also a recumbent figure, now somewhat defaced.

The next evidence relating to the Manor occurs in the Court Rolls under date the 16th year of the reign of King Henry VI., A.D. 1457-8, in which year Courts were held in the name of John Fray and others.

In the twentieth year of the same king's reign (A.D. 1461-2), Courts were held for the Manor of Andrewes in the name of Henry Beaufort,^(f) Cardinal of England and Bishop of Winchester; Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury (afterwards Earl of Warwick, the King Maker); William de la Pole (afterwards Duke of Suffolk); and others (probably as trustees).

In the nineteenth year of King Edward IV., Richard Glyn and John Pyke, yeoman of Cheshunt, conveyed by deed dated 22nd December, A.D. 1479, the Manor of Andrewes, with its appurtenances, consisting of one messuage, 20 acres of land, 20 acres of pasture, also the moiety of the Manor of Moatlands, with its appurtenances, to John Walshe, his heirs, and assigns for ever.

This John Walshe, by his deed, dated the 26th October, A.D. 1500, 16 Henry VII., conveyed his Manor of Andrewes, with its appurtenances in Cheshunt, also

one messuage, twenty acres of land, and half the Manor de la Moteland, also all his lands, tenements, rents, services, and appurtenances in Savoy Street, in the parish of St. Clement Danes and the Blessed Mary of Strand, without Temple Bar, London, in the county of Middlesex, and other property specified, to Sir John More, Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, John Josselyn, Thomas Underhill, Thomas Knyghton, gentlemen, Thomas Suare and Covando Clayton, as feoffees to the use of his last will and testament, dated the 10th of the same month.

The deed of feoffment, from some unexplained cause, was not enrolled on the Close Rolls until the 23rd November, A.D. 1519, 11th Henry VIII., when the said John Josselyn came into the Court of Chancery at Westminster by virtue of a Writ of Subpcena to bring into court the said deed, and delivered the same, and then and there deposed on oath, that the said John Walshe delivered the said deed unto him the said John Josselyn with his own hands at such time that he the said John Walshe departed and rode westward on his business.

The first three feoffees, viz., Sir John More, John Josselyn, and Thomas Knyghton—the others being deceased—by deed, dated the 24th November, A.D. 1519, 11th Henry VIII., conveyed the said Manor of Andrewes, with its appurtenances, one messuage, 20 acres of land, and half the Manor of Moatland, to the Right Honble. Henry Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire,^(s) the executor of the

last will and testament of the said John Walshe, and Lucas Longlond, in accordance with the directions contained in the said will. But prior to this, the said Earl of Wiltshire by virtue of his executorship had, by deed, dated the 31st July, A.D. 1519, 11th Henry VIII., bargained and sold unto Thomas Wolsey, by the style and title of the Most Reverend Father in God, Thomas, Earl Cardinal Legate to the Pope's Holiness, Archbishop of York, Primate and Chancellor of England,^(A) the whole of the premises and lands in Cheshunt, and the property in St. Clement Danes, the consideration for the same being £333 6s. 8d., viz., £196 13s. 4d. paid on sealing of the deed of sale, and the balance £136 13s. 4d. to be paid within twenty days after the said Earl should have proved the will.

This balance was paid the 6th March, A.D. 1520, 11th Henry VIII., the amount having been received by Lucas Longlond, servant to the said Earl (*i.e.* attorney), who came into court the same day and acknowledged the same.

Prior to the payment of the balance it appears that in completion of the purchase, the Right Honourable Henry Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire, and Lucas Longlond, gentleman, by deed, dated 29th November, A.D. 1519, 11th Henry VIII., granted and confirmed to the Cardinal, William ffitz-William and Richard Rokeby, knights, Hugh Asheton, clerk, Master Robert Tonny's, Thomas Heneage, William Elis, Richard Page, and William

Shelley, esquires, the said Manor of Andrewes, one messuage, 20 acres of land, and half the Manor de la Moteland, to hold for ever to the use of the Cardinal, his heirs, and according to his will.⁽ⁱ⁾ This deed the said Earl and Lucas Longlond came into court and acknowledged the 1st of December following.

It appears that under the will of the said John Walshe there were several persons interested in the before-mentioned property, and that it was necessary to relieve the estate of this liability to complete the title, for I find that one, John Tylar, by deed, dated the 28th November, A.D. 1519, 11th Henry VIII., releasing his right to the said Earl of Wiltshire and Lucas Longlond, of and in the said Manor of Andrewes and half of the Manor of Moteland, and also of and in all messuages, &c., in the county of Middlesex. This deed the said John Tylar acknowledged in court the following day.

One William Kelke for himself and his executors for ever in like manner by deed, dated the 26th November, A.D. 1519, 11th Henry VIII., released to the said Earl of Wiltshire and Lucas Longlond full and peaceable possession, and seisin of same estate. Again Michael Nevill, gentleman, cousin and one of the heirs of John Walshe, viz., son of Johan, sister of the said John, by deed, dated 28th November, A.D. 1519, 11th Henry VIII., joined with Sir John More, John Josselyn, and Thomas Knyghton, gentlemen—in satisfaction to the Cardinal—in confirming to Henry Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire and

Lucas Longlond, the Manor of Andrewes, one messuage, 20 acres of land and half the Manor of Moteland.

For the surrender in full satisfaction of all claim, right or title, in the said property he received £40, the acquittance to the Cardinal bearing date 1st December, 1519, 11th Henry VIII., William Chesill, gentleman, in like manner by deed, dated the 28th November, 1519, 11th Henry VIII., joined with the before-mentioned feoffees, in satisfaction to the Cardinal, in confirming to the said Earl of Wiltshire and Lucas Longlond all the said premises, for which surrender of his interest in the same he received a like sum of £40, the acquittance to the Cardinal being dated 1st December, A.D. 1519, 11th Henry VIII. John Rufford, gentleman, cousin, and one of the heirs of John Walshe, viz., son of Elizabeth, sister of the said John, also joined with the three feoffees before-mentioned, by deed, dated the 28th November, 1519, 11th Henry VIII., in confirming the said Earl of Wiltshire and Lucas Longlond, of and in the same estate, but it does not appear that he received any consideration for so doing.

Nicholas Cowper, clerk, vicar of the parish church of Cheshunt, and Henry Sowthwod, John Samond, and Richard Chare, guardians of the goods and ornaments of the said church, having received the pecuniary sum left by the said John Walshe to the use of the church by the hands of the said Earl, the executor, by deed dated the 27th November, A.D. 1519, 11th Henry VIII., quit

claimed the said Earl and Lucas Longlond in full possession of the said Manor, &c. It will thus be seen that no precaution was omitted to clear the title for the Cardinal.

Cardinal Wolsey is said to have frequently resided at this Manor House, which is not at all improbable, in consequence of its short distance from London, as well as from the fact that he held the offices of bailiff of the honour of Cheshunt^(j) and keeper of Brantingshay, otherwise Cheshunt Park,^(k) for the term of his life, by virtue of a grant from King Henry VIII., dated 24th October, in the eleventh year of his reign, A.D. 1519, at a salary of fourpence per day, issuing out of the king's Manor of Cheshunt.^(l) It is possible that he purchased this house in consequence of having received this appointment.

The Cardinal was not permitted to long enjoy this estate and the before-mentioned offices, for in the twenty-first year of the reign of Henry VIII. he was indicted under an Act of 16th of King Richard II., entitled "The Statute of Provisors or Provisions," for having procured a Bull from Rome appointing him Legate to the Pope, by which he incurred a *præmunire*, and consequently the whole of his vast estates and possessions became confiscated to the Crown. I must not omit to call attention to the portrait of Cardinal Wolsey in the panel of the chimney-piece, for although this house has undergone great alterations since his time, it is not improbable

that it was fixed there during his ownership, and consequently possesses great historical interest, and affords evidence of the antiquity of this noble hall.

According to most local accounts Cheshunt Great House was erected by this eminent man, and in a small history published for local circulation, this is stated to be the case, but a moment's consideration will prove this statement to be erroneous, unless, which is far from improbable, it was rebuilt during his ownership, though it is more probable, when we consider his love for architecture, and admiration of all that could please the eye, he beautified and embellished it.

The fact that a moat or fosse existed in 1378, and from which the Manor derives its name, points clearly to the existence of an important structure at that time.

A fine appears to have been levied A.D. 1520 between Thomas Wolsey, Cardinal, William Fitz William, Knt., Richard Rokeby, Knt., Hugh Ashton, Clerk, Master Robert Tonys, Thomas Heneage, William Elys, Richard Page, and William Shelly, demandents, Michael Nevill and Joan, his wife, John Rufford, and William Chesill and Alice, his wife, deforcients of the Manor of Andrewes, 40^(u) acres of land, 40 acres of pasture, 6 acres of wood, also of the moiety of the Manor of Moatlands, *alias* Manor of the Mote, and of 40s. rent, and the rent of four red roses.^(m)

After the fall of Wolsey this manor was granted by King Henry VIII., by letters patent, bearing date 13th

day of April, in the 22nd year of his reign, A.D. 1531, to Henry Somerset,⁽ⁿ⁾ the second Earl of Worcester, and Elizabeth, his wife, and the life of the survivor of either of them, to hold by fealty and the rent of £4 6s. 8d. The Earl of Worcester died the 26th day of November, A.D. 1549, and the Countess, his wife, survived him until A.D. 1565.

During the lifetime of the said Earl of Worcester, the King, by letters patent, dated 30th day of October, in the 30th year of his reign, A.D. 1538, granted the reversion of this Manor, after the death of Henry, Earl of Worcester, and Elizabeth, his wife, to Robert Dacres, to hold to him, his heirs, and assigns for ever.^(o) This gentleman was Sir Robt. Dacres, Master of Requests and Privy Councillor to King Henry VIII. Sir Robert died the 20th of October, A.D. 1543, and was succeeded by his son George, who held courts here in the year 1575, under the title of the united Manors of Andrewes and le Motte. From this gentleman, who died A.D. 1580, the estate passed to his son, Sir Thos. Dacres, Knt.,^(r) Sheriff of the county of Hertford, A.D. 1614, on whose death, in the following year, Sir Thos. Dacres, his son by his second wife, Dorothy, daughter of Thos. Pigot, Esq., succeeded to this estate, and dying, in A.D. 1668, was succeeded by Sir Thomas, his son.

The last owner of the Dacres family, Sir Robert Dacres, Knt., one of the band of Pensioners to King Charles II. and King James II., sold the estate by deed,

dated the 30th July, A.D. 1675, to James Cecil, third Earl of Salisbury, from whom it descended to his son, the fourth Earl, who conveyed it by deed in 1692, to Sir Edward des Bouverie, Knt., who died here on the 2nd day of April, A.D. 1694.

Sir Edward having directed in his will that the Manor should be sold, it was conveyed by his executors, A.D. 1694, to Sir John Shaw, second Baronet of Eltham, co. Kent.^(v) This gentleman was twice married, his first wife being Margery, daughter and sole heiress of Sir John Peake, Knt.,^(v) Lord Mayor of London, by whom he had two sons, the eldest, John succeeded to the title and the Eltham estates, and William, who died an infant. There were also two daughters by this marriage, viz., Sarah, who married William Smith, Esq., and Elizabeth, who married Stephen, son of Sir Abel Ram, of Dublin. Sir John married secondly Sarah, daughter and co-heiress of William Paggen, Esq., of London, by whom he had issue—three sons, William, Paggen,^(w) and Peter,^(w) and six daughters Judith, Catherine, Mary, Rebecca, Jane, and Anne.

Sir John died in December, A.D. 1721, when the Manor and estate descended by virtue of a settlement made the 2nd day of January, A.D. 1706, to William Shaw, his eldest son by his second marriage. This gentleman served the office of Sheriff of the county of Hertford, A.D. 1740. He married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Blandy, Esq., of Inglewood, in the county of Berkshire, by whom he had issue three sons and four

daughters, of these John Shaw, of Cheshunt, married Meliora Huxley, Blandy Shaw married Mary Fettyplace, and William Shaw married first Elizabeth Dorrell, and secondly, Anne Riley, Sarah married John Gwilt, Esq., Elizabeth died unmarried, and Fettyplace married the Rev. Francis Merreweather.

^(w) In Hilary Term, A.D. 1750, William Shaw, before mentioned, levied a fine, and suffered a recovery, cutting off the entail of this estate, and on the proposition of an intended marriage between his son John and Meliora Huxley, conveyed the estate to trustees for the use of the said John Shaw, his son, for life, with remainder to the use of Meliora Shaw for her life, with remainder to the use of the first and every other son successively in tail male, with remainder to the heirs and assigns of John Shaw for ever.

On the death of John Shaw, in the year 1772, this manor and estate devolved to Meliora Shaw, his widow by virtue of the before-mentioned settlement, but this John Shaw having died without issue, the reversion expectant on the death of his widow, Meliora, descended to his next brother, Blandy Shaw, who also dying without issue in the year 1783, devised the estate, by his will dated 23rd July, A.D. 1779, to his brother William and the heirs of his body, but failing such heirs to his sisters, Sarah, the wife of John Gwilt, and Fettyplace, the wife of the Rev. Francis Merreweather, and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder, failing such heirs, to Charles Mayo,

the second son of Herbert Mayo, D.D., by Mary, his wife, the daughter of George Coldham, Esq., and Rebecca, his wife, daughter of Sir John Shaw, by Sarah, his second wife, the daughter of William Paggen, Esq., and to the heirs and assigns of the said Charles Mayo for ever.

William Shaw having no issue, devised the manor and estate by his will dated the 15th day of February, A.D. 1783, to his widow, Anne Shaw, for her life, with remainder to his sisters, Sarah Gwilt, and Fettyplace Merreweather, for their joint lives and the life of the survivor of them, with remainder to Charles Mayo, before-mentioned for his life, with remainder to the first or other sons of the said Charles successively in tail male, with further remainder to Paggen William Mayo, eldest son of the before-mentioned Herbert Mayo, D.D., by Mary, his wife, for his life, with remainder to the right heirs of Charles Mayo for ever. At the death of Meliora Shaw, in the year 1788, the manor and estate descended, under the will of the before-mentioned William Shaw, Esq., of Englewood, in the county of Berkshire, to Anne Shaw, his widow.

Paggen William Mayo, M.D., had issue six children :

1st. William Herbert Mayo, eldest son of the above, who succeeded his uncle, the Rev. Chas. Mayo, in 1859. His estate at Cheshunt—according to the report of the names of owners of land, England, 1875, vol.1, page 12, Herts—being stated to comprise 887a. 2r. 39p., of the gross estimated rental of £1,975 per annum.

2nd. Francis Charles ; born 11th July, 1802 ; died at York 15th May, 1843, aged 41 ; unmarried.

3rd. Herbert ; born 30th May, 1803 ; married 16th March, 1830, at Cheshunt, Sarah, daughter of Ezekiel Harman, of Theobalds, in that Parish, and had issue seven children, viz., Herbert Harman, born 11th March, 1831 ; Frederick, born 27th October, 1832 ; Charles, born 12th August, 1834, died 27th January, 1841 ; John, born 18th June, 1836 ; Sarah Louisa, born 1st October, 1838 ; Arthur, born 18th May, 1840 ; and Edward, born 19th February, 1842.

4th. Mary Ann ; born 14th August, 1804.

5th. Jane Catherine ; born 11th September, 1805.

6th. Charles Erskine ; born 4th October, 1809. He entered Clare Hall, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1833 and M.A. 1837, and was ordained priest the next year. He was Vicar of Laneham, Notts, 1843-1856. He married 23rd January, 1838, at Holy Trinity, Hull, Elizabeth, daughter of John Mainprize. Their children are—1st, Theodosia Elizabeth, born 4th February, 1839, and was married 29th September, 1864, at Cheshunt, to Thos. Francis Leman, of Nottingham ; 2nd, Charles William, born 8th March, 1842, died 3rd January, 1873, having previously married 26th June, 1866, at Tattershall, Lincolnshire, Mary Ann, daughter of Chas. Blades, M.R.C.S., and left issue Edith, born 18th April, 1867 ; Henry, born 31st December, 1869 ; and Alice, born 15th May, 1872.^(*)

To enter further into the private affairs of the Mayo family would be foreign to my purpose. Suffice it to say, that to the Rev. Charles Erskine Mayo we are indebted for the many privileges which, as Freemasons, we enjoy at Cheshunt Great House—privileges unique from the fact that it is the only baronial hall in the kingdom which has ever been placed at the service of the brethren of the Mystic Tie. That they have been fully appreciated is evident from the present prosperity of the lodge, a short account of which is here appended.

(y) The Gresham Lodge of Freemasons, No. 869 on the register of the Grand Lodge of England, was consecrated on the 19th day of June, in the year 1861, at "Ye Olde Foure Swannes" Hostelrie, Waltham Cross, by Bro. Jeremiah How, Prov. G.D.C. (the consecrating vessels being lent by Bro. George Lambert), assisted by numerous important members of the Craft, and continued to hold its meeting there until October, 1875, when for the first time, its banner was unfurled in the Hall of Cheshunt Great House amidst the standards which had floated over many a well fought field and restless wave.

In conclusion, I cannot do better than quote a paragraph from Bro. Gompertz's interesting little work, because it illustrates truthfully the result of this happy change—"Here amidst fields and pastures, far from the rush of life and discordant sounds of revelry and strife unobserved by any save the All-Seeing Eye of the Great Architect of the Universe, we carry on our work of peace

and harmony with feelings elevated in adoration to Him by the beauties of the surrounding landscape and the melody of the varied feathered songsters of the grove.”

The following extract from Wm. Preston's illustrations of Masonry, page 173, as it relates to two important characters connected with this history, viz., Cardinal Wolsey and Sir Thomas Gresham, may be read with advantage :—

HISTORY OF MASONRY IN THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND FROM
1471 TO 1567.

“Masonry continued to flourish in England till the peace of the kingdom was interrupted by the Civil Wars between the two Royal Houses of York and Lancaster, during which it fell into almost total neglect, that continued until 1471, when it again revived under the auspices of Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Sarum, who had been appointed Grand Master by Edward IV.

“During the short reigns of Edward V. and Richard III., Masonry was on the decline, but on the accession of Henry VII., A.D. 1485, it rose again into esteem under the patronage of the Master and fellows of the Order of St. John at Rhodes, who assembled their Grand Lodge in 1500, and chose Henry their protector. Under the auspices of this prince, the Fraternity once more revived their assemblies, and Masonry resumed its pristine splendour.

“On the 24th June, 1502, a lodge of Master Masons was formed at the Palace, at which the king presided in person as Grand Master; and having appointed John Islip, Abbot of Westminster, and Sir Reginald Bray, K.G., his Wardens for the occasion, he proceeded in ample form to the east end at Westminster Abbey, where he laid the foundation-stone of that rich masterpiece of Gothic architecture known by the name of Henry VII.'s Chapel.

"Under the direction of Sir Reginald Bray, the Palace of Richmond was built, and many other stately works. Brazen-Nose College, Oxford, and Jesus and St. John's Colleges, Cambridge, were all finished in this reign.

"Henry VIII. succeeded his father in 1509, and appointed Cardinal Wolsey, Grand Master. This Prelate built Hampton Court, Whitehall, Christ Church College Oxford, and several other noble edifices, all of which, upon his disgrace, were forfeited to the Crown. A.D. 1530. Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, succeeded the Cardinal in the office of Grand Master; and employed the Fraternity in building St. James's Palace, Christ's Hospital, and Greenwich Castle. In 1534, the king and Parliament threw off allegiance to the Pope of Rome, and the king being declared supreme head of the Church, no less than 926 religious houses were suppressed. Under the direction of John Touchet, Lord Audley, who succeeded Cromwell as Grand Master, the Fraternity were employed in building Magdalene College, Cambridge, and several other structures.

"Edward VI., a minor, succeeded to the throne in 1547, and the Regent, Duke of Somerset, undertook the management of the Masons, and built Somerset House in the Strand, which, on his being beheaded in 1552, was forfeited to the Crown.

"The Masons remained without any nominal head till the reign of Elizabeth, when Sir Thomas Sackville accepted the office of Grand Master. Lodges were then held during this period in different parts of England, but the Grand Lodge was assembled at York.

"The following circumstance is recorded of Elizabeth: Hearing that the Masons were in possession of secrets which they would not reveal, and being jealous of all secret assemblies, she sent an armed force to York with intent to break up their annual Grand Lodge. This design, however, was happily frustrated by the interposition of Sir Thomas Sackville, who took care to initiate some of the chief officers. They joined in communication with the Masons, and made so favourable a report to the Queen, that she countermanded her orders, and never afterwards attempted to disturb them.

"Sir Thos. Sackville held the office of Grand Master till 1567, when he resigned in favour of Francis Russell, Earl of Bedford, and Sir Thos. Gresham, an eminent merchant. To the former the care of the brethren in the northern part of the kingdom was assigned, while the latter was appointed to superintend the meetings in the south. Notwithstanding this new appointment of a Grand Master for the south, the General Assembly continued to meet in the city of York as heretofore, where all the records were kept, and to this assembly appeals were made on every important occasion."

LIST OF PAINTINGS IN THE HALL.

1. Original Portrait of Cardinal Wolsey.
2. The second Sir John Shaw, Bart., his second wife and nine children.—By *Choeffer*.
3. Robert Shaw, Esq., grandfather of the above-named, at the age of 100. He died 1678. Aged 108.
4. Elizabeth, his wife, daughter of John Domelaw, Esq., of London.
5. Sir Hugh Myddelton.
- 6 & 7. Portraits by *Vandyke*.
- 8 & 9. Portraits.
10. Richard Cromwell.
11. James II.
12. William III., at the Battle of the Boyne.
13. Peter, third son of the second Sir John Shaw, by his second wife—in Turkish dress.
14. William Shaw (son of the second Sir John Shaw by his second wife), High Sheriff of Herts, 1740.
15. Elizabeth, wife of the above.
16. Portrait.
17. Earl of Orrery.
18. Earl of Radnor.
19. Portrait of a Lady—By *Sir Peter Lely*.
20. The second Sir John Shaw.
21. Belshazzar's Feast.
22. Margery, first wife of the second Sir John Shaw, daughter and heiress of Sir John Peake, Lord Mayor of London.
23. Queen Esther before King Ahasuerus.
24. Mr. Madox, a legal antiquary and historiographer—By *Sir Godfrey Kneller*.
25. Queen Mary.
26. King Philip of Spain.
27. Portrait.
28. Portrait.

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29. Queen Elizabeth.
 30. Mr. Madox's son—By *Sir Godfrey Kneller*.
Sir Godfrey Kneller was an eminent portrait painter, and was born in 1648. He was much patronised by Charles II., James II., and William III. He was painter of most of the beauties at Hampton Court.
 31. Solomon Idolatry—By *Carlo Loti*.
 32. Samson and Delilah.
 33. Sir John Shaw. First baronet (created 1665, died 1679).
 34. Mrs. Meliora Shaw, wife of John Shaw, Esq., and daughter of Thos. Huxley, Esq., of Eaton Park, Bedford.
 35. Queen Mary.
 36. William III.
 37. Charles II.
 38. Charles I.—By *Vandyke*.
 39. Lucius Cary, Lord Falkland—
A statesman and soldier in the reign of Charles I. Born 1610. Took an active part in politics, and espoused the cause of the Parliament. He subsequently joined the Royal cause, and was made Secretary of State. Was killed at the battle of Newbury, in 1643.
 40. Thomas Lord Fairfax. A distinguished commander in the Wars. Died 1671.
 41. Rev. Arnold King—By *Hudson*.
 42. Portrait.
 43. Queen Anne.
 44. Archbishop Juxon. Born 1582. Bishop of Hereford and London, afterwards raised to the See of Canterbury. Died 1663.
 45. Archbishop Laud. Born in 1573. Found guilty of treason, and executed 10th January, 1644. Aged 72.
 46. Dr. Hicks.
 47. Portrait.
 48. Portrait.
 49. Ann, wife of the first Sir John Shaw.
 50. Queen Henrietta Maria.
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The Hall also contains ten hatchments with armorial bearings—

- I. Quarterly, 1 and 4 Shaw ; 2 and 3, G., two chevronels, A., *Fettyplace*. Over all, on an escutcheon of pretence, ermine, a bena cottised G., charged with three crescents. O., *Huxley*.
- II. Gyronny of eight Az. and O. (an inescutcheon A., *Landon*, impaling O., two bars G. Each charged with three trefoils of the field, in chief a greyhound courant, *Palmer*.
- III. Az., a pale engrailed erminois between four unicorns' heads, erased A. *Gwilt* impaling Shaw.
- IV. O., a bordure engrailed G., and three griffins' heads erased of the second, impaling chevron S. and A.; three elephants' heads erased, counterchanged *Saunders*.
- V. *Shaw* ; on an escutcheon of pretence, *Huxley*.
- VI. Az., a lion rampant ; O., impaling S., a chevron between three escallops A.
- VII. *Landon* impaling *Palmer*.
- VIII. G., a lion passant regardant between two mullets, O., as many flanches, A., each charged with a lion rampant S., impaling, A. a chevron S., between three stocks proper.
- IX. Quarterly, 1 and 4 ; A. a chevron S., between three torteaux, each charged with an scallop of the first ; *Dacres* 2 and 3, A., a chevron cottised, S., charged with three escallops. Over all an escutcheon of pretence bearing quarterly 1 and 4 ; A., a fess between three —S., 2 and 3 ; S., on a bend ; O., between 2 —heads erased A. ; three —S.
- X. *Gwilt* impaling *Shaw*.

NOTES.

- (a) Cussan's His. of Hertfordshire, p. 217.
- (b) 51 Edward III., No. 28, preserved in the Public Record Office.
- (c) Third wife, daughter of Grey de Chastillon, Comte de St. Paul, but had no issue.—Burke's Dormant and Extinct Peerage, pp. 545—546.
- (d) Second Earl of Pembroke. Murdered 27th June, 1323.—Ibid, 545—546.
- (e) John Hastings, K.G., third Earl of Pembroke, son-in-law to King Edward III. Died 1389, when the earldom became extinct.

(f) Bishop of Lincoln, after Bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor of England, son of John of Gaunt.—Burke's *Dormant and Extinct Peerage*, p. 34.

(g) Younger son of Henry II., Duke of Buckingham, created Earl of Wiltshire, 1509, but dying without issue in 1523, the earldom became extinct.—Burke's *Dormant and Extinct Peerage*, p. 502.

(h) Close Rolls in Public Record Office.

(i) County Bag for co. Hertford, preserved in the Public Record Office.

(j) Fiddes's "Life of Cardinal Wolsey," p. 163, and collections at end of book. Book No. II., p. 23. See also note Brantynghay, otherwise Cheshunt Park.

(k) County Bag for co. Hertford, preserved in the Public Record Office.

(l) Fiddes's "Life of Cardinal Wolsey."

(ll) The exemplification of the fine, preserved in county bags, sets forth the lands as amounting to 20 acres of land, and 20 acres of pasture, which is probably the correct amount, and not 40 acres of each as here stated.

(m) Common Pleas, Hilary Term II., Henry VIII., No. 14. Preserved in Public Record Office.

(n) Henry Somerset, second Earl of Worcester married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Anthony Browne, Standard Bearer to Henry VII. from this marriage descends the Dukes of Beaufort.—Burke's *Peerage and Baronetage*.

(o) Patent 30, Henry VIII., p. 1, m. 5.

(p) Vide black marble slab in Cheshunt Church, above an altar-tomb of Purbeck Marble.

(s) The father of this Sir John Shaw appears to have received his title the 15th April, 1665, and other considerable rewards, including the appointment of one of the Farmers of Customs for the pecuniary assistance he rendered Charles II. whilst in exile.—Burke, p. 800.

(t) Citizen and mercer of London; Sheriff, 1676; Lord Mayor, 1686; Alderman of Billingsgate.

(u) Paggen Shaw, a merchant at Smyrna.—Burke's *P. and B.*, p. 899.

(v) Peter Shaw, merchant, Aleppo.—*Ibid*, 890.

(w) Genealogical account of the Mayo and Elton families, p. 90.

(x) Genealogical account of the Mayo and Elton Families, p. 93.

(y) For further particulars, see Gompertz's "History of the Gresham Lodge."

BRANTYNGSHAY, OTHERWISE CHESHUNT PARK.—This park was possessed in the reign of Henry VIII. by Henry Fitzroy, Duke of Richmond and Somerset, his natural son, who, on the 27th March, in the 22nd year of his reign, granted his letters patent to Thos. Heneage, Esq., for the keeping of the park. Upon the death of this nobleman, without heirs, in 1536, it reverted to the Crown, for we find that Cardinal Wolsey received from the Crown the appointment of bailiff of the honour of Cheshunt and keeper of the park, then called Brantingshay, for the term of his life at the salary of fourpence per day, issuing out of the King's Manor of Cheshunt. It was probably granted by Henry VIII. to the family of Denny; for, on the 31st October, 1567, Anno 9, Elizabeth, Henry Denny, Esq., conveyed to John Harrington and Isabella, his wife, "all his park Brantingshay, otherwise Cheshunt, together with all deer and wild beasts, &c., in the said park," which John Harrington and Isabella, his wife, afterwards conveyed by deed, dated the 2nd of May, 1570, to Sir William Cecil (afterwards Baron Burghley) and his heirs, from whom it descended in the same way as the Manor of Theobalds, to the family of Cromwell. Oliver Cromwell Esq., in 1795, built a mansion on this estate.—Clutterbuck's *His. Hertfordshire*, vol. 2, p. 99.

CHESHUNT NUNNERY.—This religious house was founded for Nuns of the Benedictine Order before the year 1183, and stood at the western extremity of the meadows, bounded on the east by the river Lea, and on the west by the turnpike road. The Prioress and Nuns continued in possession of this house until the time of the dissolution, when its revenues, which, according to Speed, amounted to £27 6s. 8d. per annum, were surrendered to the Crown. Report says that there was a communication between this establishment and Cheshunt great house, and the discovery of two skeletons, with pitcher and lantern, bricked up in the cellar walls of the latter, has no doubt given currency to it.

